

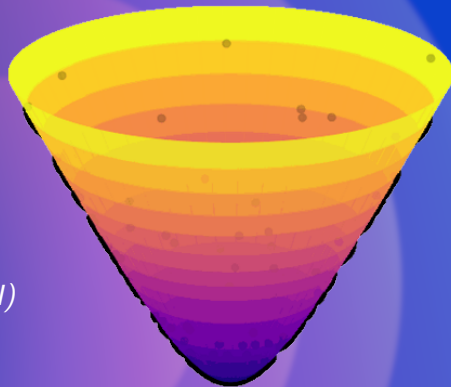
Hyperbolic Learning for Medical Imaging

Deep Learning in Hyperbolic Space

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& SIMONE LIONETTI

*International Conference on Medical Image
Computing and Computer-Assisted Intervention (MICCAI)*

23 September 2025



Website and material:

<https://hyperbolic-miccai.github.io>



- ▶ MNM: Multi-level Neuroimaging Meta-analysis with Hyperbolic Brain-Text Representations — B41 (Wed-PM)
- ▶ Is Hyperbolic Space All You Need for Medical Anomaly Detection? — A292 (Thu-AM)
- ▶ HyperPath: Knowledge-Guided Hyperbolic Semantic Hierarchy Modeling for WSI Analysis — A326 (Wed-PM)
- ▶ Hyperbolic Kernel GCN with Structure-Function Connectivity Coupling for Neurocognitive Impairment Analysis — B205 (Fri-PM)
- ▶ Fine-Grained Rib Fracture Diagnosis with Hyperbolic Embeddings: A Detailed Annotation Framework and Multi-Label Classification Model — C128 (Thu-PM)

Embedding Space Choices

The embedding space is crucial for a model to faithfully represent relationships between data points.

Should Euclidean geometry remain the de facto choice for deep learning models

Issues with Euclidean Embeddings: Distorsion

Euclidean space leads to **significant distorsion** regardless of the embedding dimension.

Theorem

(Informal; Lee, Naor, and Peres, “Trees and Markov Convexity”) There is a lower bound in the minimal distorsion of embedding hierarchical structures (e.g. token relationships) into Euclidean space ($\mathbb{R}^n$)

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*“There is a **performance bottleneck** on how well Euclidean models can represent complex token relationships”*

Issues with Euclidean Embeddings: Distorsion Dilemma

Euclidean space face the dilemma of **dimension-distorsion tradeoffs**.

High dimensionality is often required to embed complex token relations in Euclidean space with (relatively) low distorsion.

Theorem

(Informal; *Lectures on Discrete Geometry*) The dimension required when embedding unweighted graphs (in the form of token relationships/self-attention) grows **near-quadratically** w.r.t. to distorsion.

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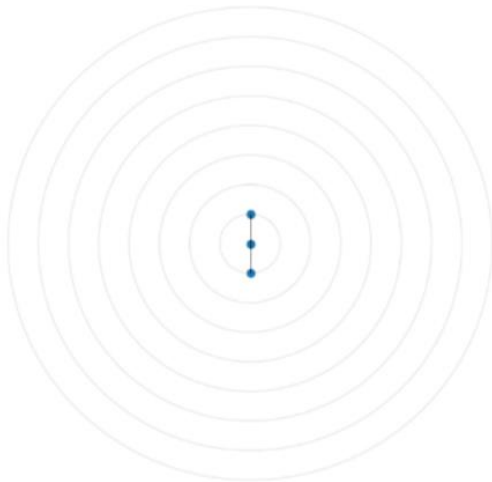
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Theorem

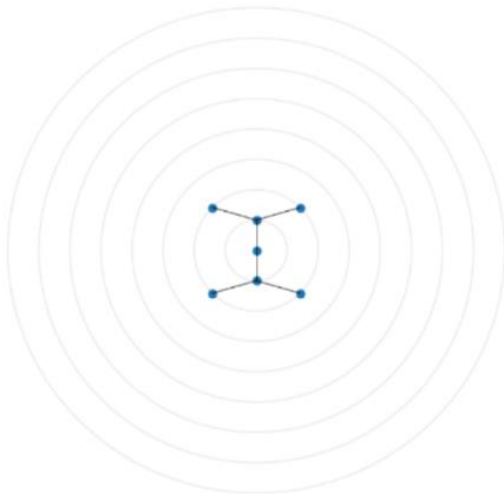
(Informal; *Lectures on Discrete Geometry*) The dimension required when embedding unweighted graphs (in the form of token relationships/self-attention) grows **near-quadratically** w.r.t. to distorsion.

*“Euclidean models have **limited scalability**”*

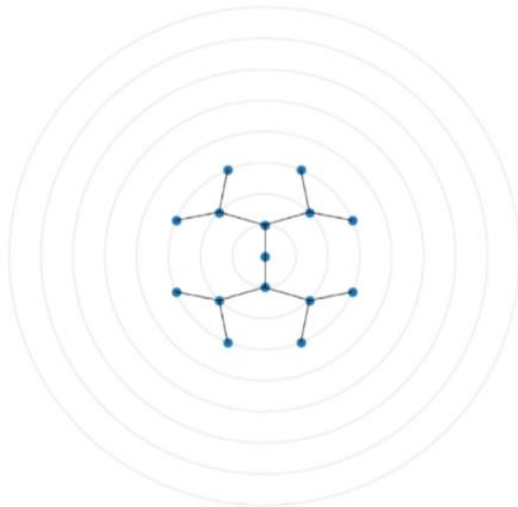
Example: Embedding Tree-structured Data



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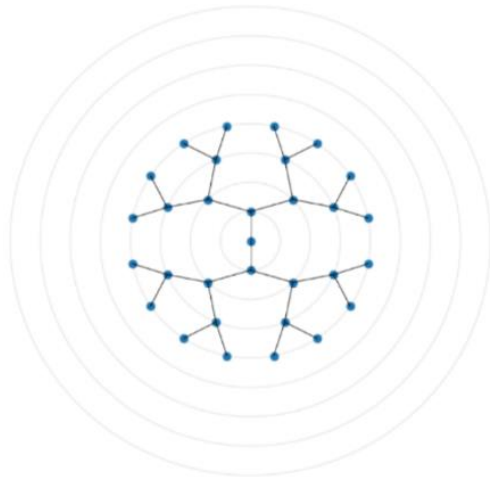


Example: Embedding Tree-structured Data

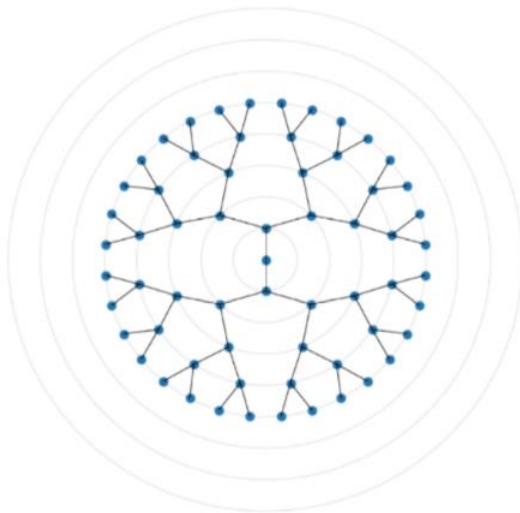


So far, so good. Nodes are close **i.f.f. they are connected by an edge.**

Example: Embedding Tree-structured Data



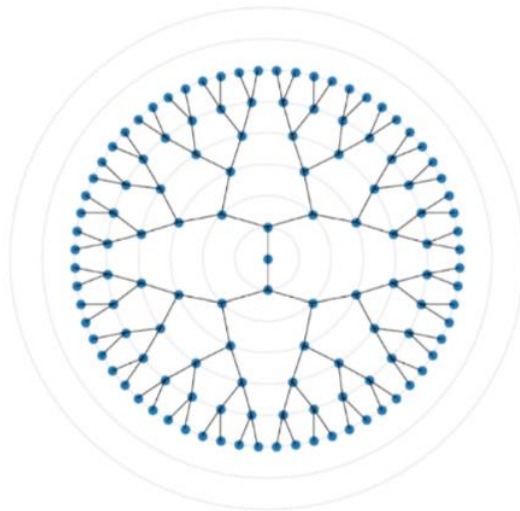
Example: Embedding Tree-structured Data



But the outermost nodes are becoming increasingly close to one another.

Even though they are not connected by an edge in the graph

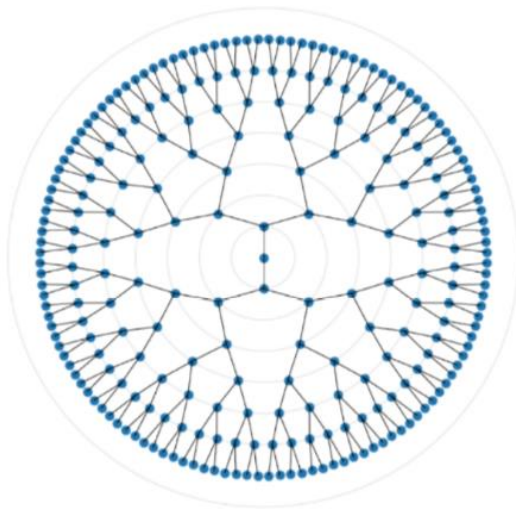
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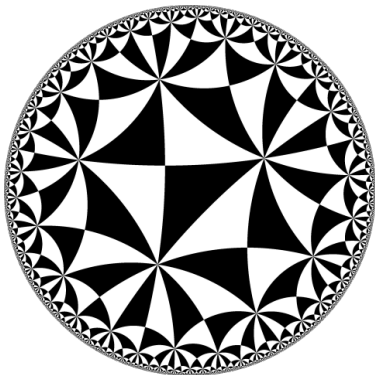
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Example: Embedding Tree-structured Data

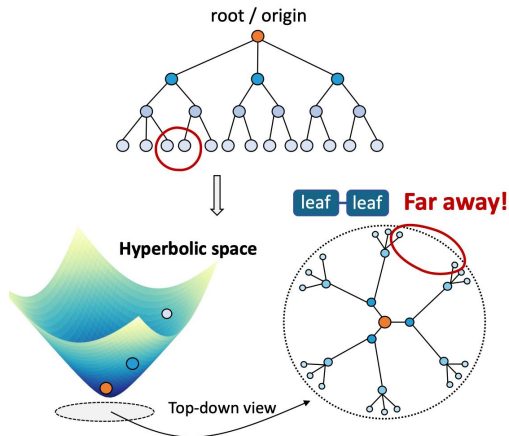


Things only get worse!
We have lost our
property
“close i.f.f share edge”

Potential Solution: Hyperbolic Embedding Space



The volume of a ball in the hyperbolic space grows **exponentially** with its radius

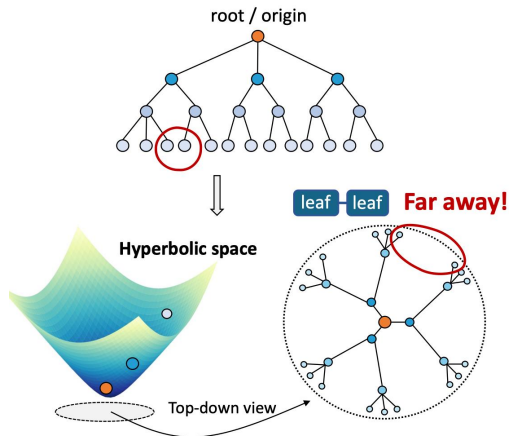


Hyperbolic Geometry for Deep Learning

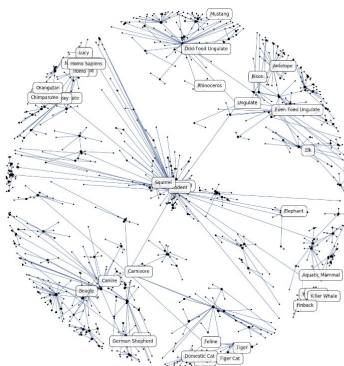
We need an embedding space that can **better represent token relationship**

- ▶ The distance between low-level tokens on different branches should be maximized and far away
- ▶ The distance between a high-level token and a low-level token should be minimized and close.

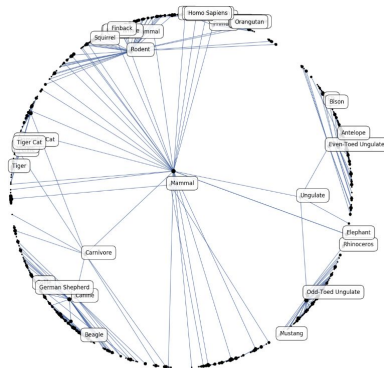
Solution: any tree (i.e. hierarchical distribution) can be embedded into **hyperbolic space** with **arbitrarily low distortion**.



Poincaré Embeddings



(a) Intermediate embedding after 20 epochs



(b) Embedding after convergence

Nickel and Kiela, *Poincaré Embeddings for Learning Hierarchical Representations*

Optimizing Poincaré Embeddings

Nodes:

$$\mathcal{S} = \{x_i\}_{i=1}^n$$

Parent-child relations:

$$\mathcal{D} = \{(u, v)\}$$

Non-Parent-child relations:

$$\mathcal{N}(u) = \{v' \mid (u, v') \notin \mathcal{D}\} \cup \{v\}$$

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Hyperbolic representation of nodes: $\Theta = \{\theta_i\}_{i=1}^n$

$$\Theta' \leftarrow \operatorname{argmin} \mathcal{L}(\Theta) \quad \text{s.t.} \forall \theta_i \in \Theta : \|\theta_i\| < 1 \quad (1)$$

Pull parent-child nodes, push others.

$$\mathcal{L}(\Theta) = \sum_{(u,v) \in \mathcal{D}} \log \frac{e^{-d(\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v})}}{\sum_{\mathbf{v}' \in \mathcal{N}(u)} e^{-d(\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v}')}} \quad (2)$$

$$d(\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v}) = \operatorname{arcosh} \left(1 + 2 \frac{\|\mathbf{u} - \mathbf{v}\|^2}{(1 - \|\mathbf{u}\|^2)(1 - \|\mathbf{v}\|^2)} \right) \quad (3)$$

Optimizing Poincaré Embeddings

$$\theta_{t+1} = \Re_{\theta_t}(-\eta_t \nabla_R \mathcal{L}(\theta_t)) \quad (4)$$

Optimize node embeddings with Riemmanian gradient descent.

$$\theta_{t+1} \leftarrow \text{proj} \left(\theta_t - \eta_t \frac{(1 - \|\theta_t\|^2)^2}{4} \nabla_E \right) \quad (5)$$

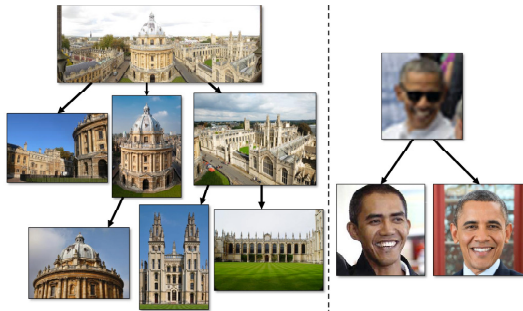
Riemmanian gradient descent = Standard gradient + scaling + projection.

Poincaré Embeddings

			Dimensionality					
			5	10	20	50	100	200
WORDNET Reconstruction	Euclidean	Rank	3542.3	2286.9	1685.9	1281.7	1187.3	1157.3
		MAP	0.024	0.059	0.087	0.140	0.162	0.168
	Translational	Rank	205.9	179.4	95.3	92.8	92.7	91.0
		MAP	0.517	0.503	0.563	0.566	0.562	0.565
	Poincaré	Rank	4.9	4.02	3.84	3.98	3.9	3.83
		MAP	0.823	0.851	0.855	0.86	0.857	0.87
WORDNET Link Pred.	Euclidean	Rank	3311.1	2199.5	952.3	351.4	190.7	81.5
		MAP	0.024	0.059	0.176	0.286	0.428	0.490
	Translational	Rank	65.7	56.6	52.1	47.2	43.2	40.4
		MAP	0.545	0.554	0.554	0.56	0.562	0.559
	Poincaré	Rank	5.7	4.3	4.9	4.6	4.6	4.6
		MAP	0.825	0.852	0.861	0.863	0.856	0.855

		Dimensionality							
		Reconstruction				Link Prediction			
		10	20	50	100	10	20	50	100
ASTROPH N=18,772; E=198,110	Euclidean	0.376	0.788	0.969	0.989	0.508	0.815	0.946	0.960
	Poincaré	0.703	0.897	0.982	0.990	0.671	0.860	0.977	0.988
CONDMAT N=23,133; E=93,497	Euclidean	0.356	0.860	0.991	0.998	0.308	0.617	0.725	0.736
	Poincaré	0.799	0.963	0.996	0.998	0.539	0.718	0.756	0.758
GRQC N=5,242; E=14,496	Euclidean	0.522	0.931	0.994	0.998	0.438	0.584	0.673	0.683
	Poincaré	0.990	0.999	0.999	0.999	0.660	0.691	0.695	0.697
HEPPH N=12,008; E=118,521	Euclidean	0.434	0.742	0.937	0.966	0.642	0.749	0.779	0.783
	Poincaré	0.811	0.960	0.994	0.997	0.683	0.743	0.770	0.774

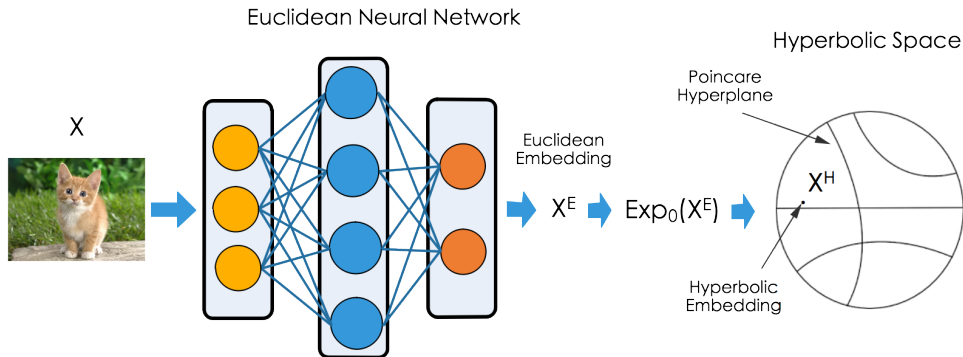
Hyperbolic Image Embeddings



Encoder	Dataset			
	CIFAR10	CIFAR100	CUB	MiniImageNet
Inception v3 [49]	0.25	0.23	0.23	0.21
ResNet34 [14]	0.26	0.25	0.25	0.21
VGG19 [42]	0.23	0.22	0.23	0.17

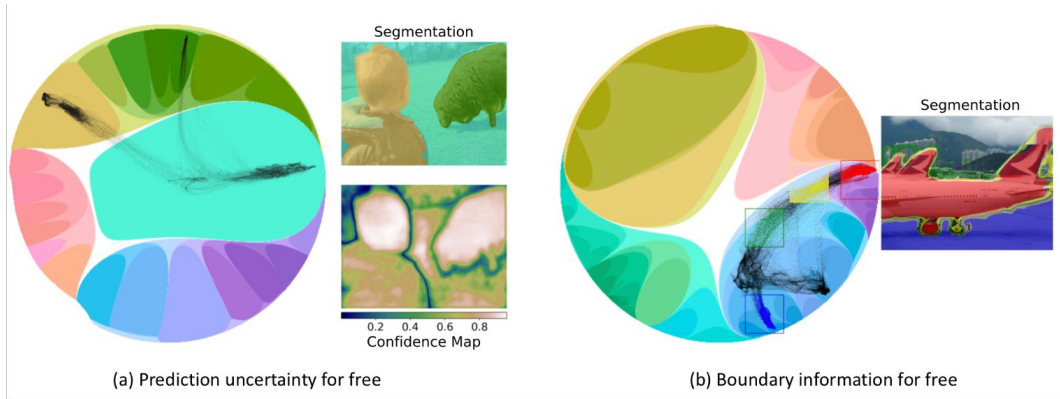
Khrulkov et al., *Hyperbolic Image Embeddings*

Convolutional Networks with Hyperbolic Embeddings



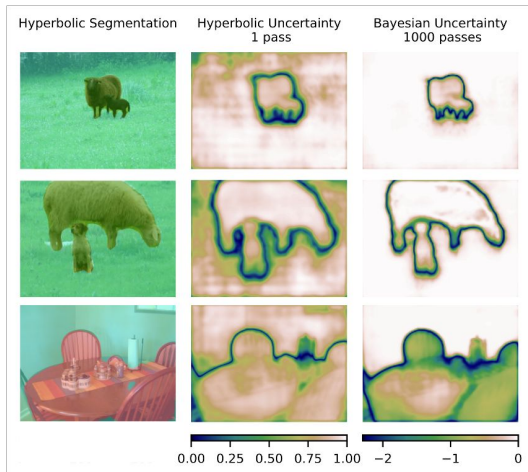
Guo et al., "Clipped Hyperbolic Classifiers Are Super-Hyperbolic Classifiers"

Hyperbolic Segmentation



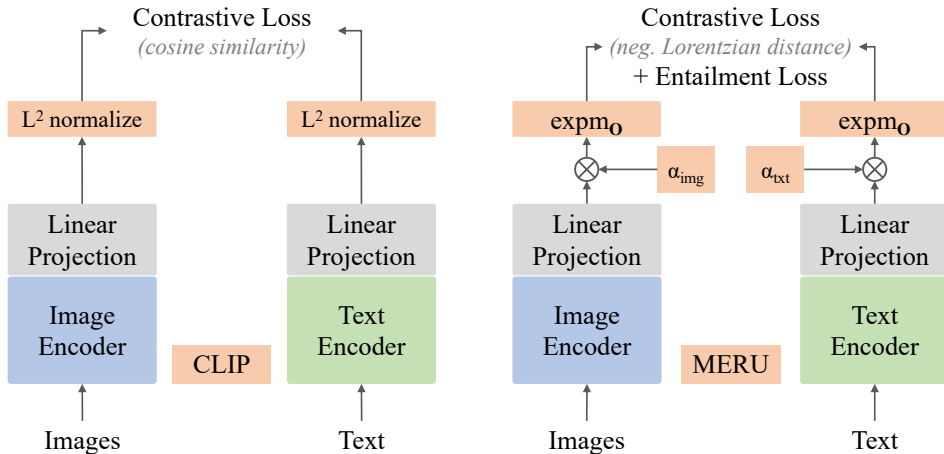
GhadimiAtigh et al., *Hyperbolic Image Segmentation*

Uncertainty and boundary information for free



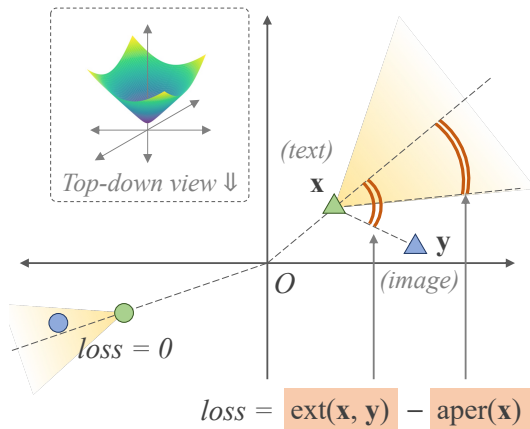
GhadimiAtigh et al., *Hyperbolic Image Segmentation*

Hyperbolic Image-Text Representations



Desai et al., "Hyperbolic Image-text Representations"

Entailment Cones

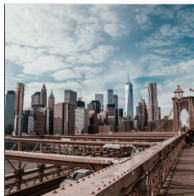


Desai et al., "Hyperbolic Image-text Representations"

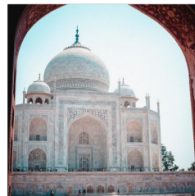
MERU



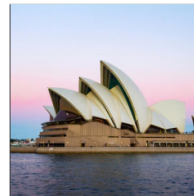
MERU	CLIP
<i>avocado toast</i>	<i>avocado toast</i>
<i>healthy</i>	<i>delicious</i>
<i>breakfast</i>	
<i>delicious</i>	↓
<i>homemade</i>	↓
<i>fresh</i>	↓
[ROOT]	[ROOT]



MERU	CLIP
<i>brooklyn bridge</i>	<i>photo of brooklyn bridge, new york</i>
<i>new york city</i>	<i>new york city</i>
<i>city</i>	<i>new york</i>
<i>outdoors</i>	↓
<i>day</i>	↓
[ROOT]	[ROOT]



MERU	CLIP
<i>taj mahal</i>	<i>taj mahal through an arch</i>
<i>monument</i>	<i>travel</i>
<i>architecture</i>	<i>inspiration</i>
<i>travel</i>	↓
<i>day</i>	↓
[ROOT]	[ROOT]

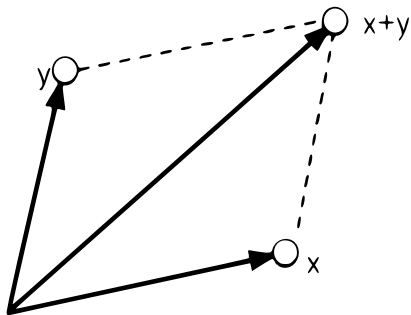


MERU	CLIP
<i>sydney opera house</i>	<i>sydney opera house</i>
<i>opera house</i>	<i>opera house</i>
<i>holiday</i>	<i>gift</i>
<i>day</i>	<i>beauty</i>
[ROOT]	[ROOT]

Desai et al., "Hyperbolic Image-text Representations"

Hyperbolic Operations: Difficulties

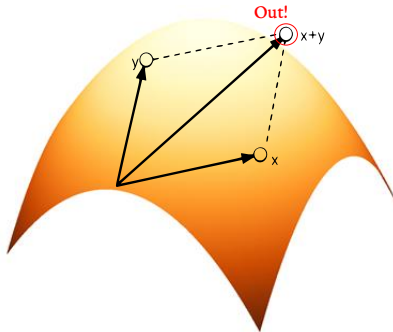
Addition in Euclidean Space



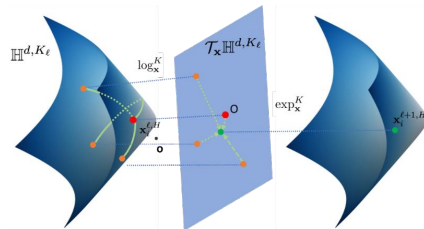
Considerations:

1. Satisfy manifold constraints.
2. Satisfy neural operation properties.

Addition in Hyperbolic Space?



Strategy 1: Tangent-Space Based Operations



Idea:

Map input to the tangent space at the origin, so f is a valid operation. Then perform Euclidean operation and finally lift the output back to $\mathbb{H}^{d,K}$:

$$f^{T,K}(x) = \exp_O^K \left(f \left(\log_O^K(x) \right) \right) \quad (6)$$

Chami et al., "Hyperbolic Graph Convolutional Neural Networks"

Strategy 1: Cons

Computational Inefficiency

The repeated mappings to and from the tangent space cause significant computational overhead.

Numerical Instability

The mappings could cause numerical stability issues. e.g. in the logarithmic map:

$$\log_x^K(y) = \mathcal{D}_{\mathbb{L}}^K(x, y) \frac{y + \frac{1}{K} \langle x, y \rangle_{\mathbb{L}} x}{\|y + \frac{1}{K} \langle x, y \rangle_{\mathbb{L}} x\|_{\mathbb{L}}} \quad (7)$$

if the points are close together, we risk dividing by or calling arccosin on 0.

Strategy 2: Fully Hyperbolic Operations

Solution: operate directly on the manifold “Fully Hyperbolic”

Two strategies: *Pseudo Lorentz Rotation* vs *Pseudo Lorentz Boost*

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Two strategies: *Pseudo Lorentz Rotation* vs *Pseudo Lorentz Boost*

Pseudo Lorentz Boost

1. Use euclidean function $f : \mathbb{R}^{d+1} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{d+1}$ e.g. Linear transformation $f(x) = Wx + b$.
2. Perform f on $x \in \mathbb{H}^{d,K} \rightarrow$ Transformation on **both** time and space components.
3. Compute the associating time-like dimensions $\rightarrow$ Impose Lorentzian constraints.

$$f^{F,K}(x) = \left(\underbrace{\sqrt{\|Wx_{\text{time, space}}\|^2 - \frac{1}{K}}}_{\text{time-like dim}}, \underbrace{Wx_{\text{time, space}}}_{\text{space-like dim}} \right) \quad (8)$$

Strategy 2: Fully Hyperbolic Operations

Solution: operate directly on the manifold “Fully Hyperbolic”

Two strategies: *Pseudo Lorentz Rotation* vs *Pseudo Lorentz Boost*

Pseudo Lorentz Rotation

1. Use euclidean function $f : \mathbb{R}^{d+1} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{d+1}$ e.g. $f(x) = \text{ReLU}(x)$.
2. Perform f on the space-like dimension of $x \in \mathbb{H}^{d,K} \rightarrow$ Transformation on **only** space dimension.
3. Compute the associating time-like dimensions $\rightarrow$ Impose Lorentzian constraints.

$$f^{F,K}(x) = \left(\underbrace{\sqrt{\|Wf(x_{\text{space}})\|^2 - \frac{1}{K}}}_{\text{time-like dim}}, \underbrace{f(x_{\text{space}})}_{\text{space-like dim}} \right) \quad (9)$$

Strategy Comparison

Pseudo Lorentz Rotation: Transformation on without time and space interaction.

$$\begin{pmatrix} \frac{\sqrt{\|f(x_{\text{space}})\|^2 - 1/K}}{x_{\text{time}}} & 0 \\ 0 & f(\cdot) \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x_{\text{time}} \\ x_{\text{space}} \end{pmatrix}$$

Off-diagonal values are zero

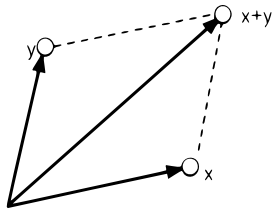
Pseudo Lorentz Boost: Transformation on both time and space-like dimension.

$$\begin{pmatrix} \sqrt{\|W_X\|^2 - 1/K} \mathbf{e}_0, & W_{0,:} \\ \sqrt{\|W_X\|^2 - 1/K} \mathbf{e}_{1:d'}, & W_{1,:} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x_{\text{time}} \\ x_{\text{space}} \end{pmatrix}$$

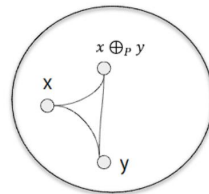
Non-zero off-diagonal values

Hyperbolic Residual Connection & Addition

Vector space formulation



Gyrovector space formulation



Mobius Addition

Tangent-Space based method: Mobius addition based on parallel transport:

$$x \oplus_P y = \exp_x^K(P_{\mathbf{0} \rightarrow x}(\log_{\mathbf{0}}^K(y))) \quad (10)$$

Generalized Lorentz Weighted Sum

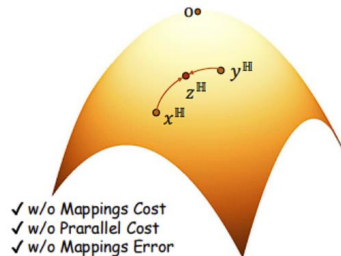
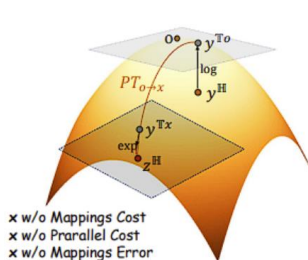
More efficient, stable and expressive.

$$x \oplus_L y = \alpha x + \beta y$$

$$\text{where } \alpha = \frac{W_x}{\sqrt{-K} \|W_x x + W_y y\|_{\mathbb{L}}}, \quad \beta = \frac{W_y}{\sqrt{-K} \|W_x x + W_y y\|_{\mathbb{L}}}$$

with $W_x, W_y > 0$

(11)



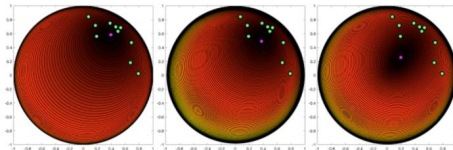
Hyperbolic Midpoint Operations

Hyperbolic midpoints have closed-form expressions in the Lorentz, Poincaré, and Einstein models, and are **equivalent under isometric mappings**.

$$\text{LMid}_K(x_1, \dots, x_N; v_i) = \frac{\sum_j v_j x_j}{\sqrt{-K} \left\| \sum_j v_j x_j \right\|_{\mathbb{L}}}$$

$$\text{PMid}_K(x_1, \dots, x_N; v_i) = \frac{1}{2} \otimes_K \frac{\sum_j v_j \lambda_{x_j}^K x_j}{\sum_j |v_j| (\lambda_{x_j}^K - 1)}$$

$$\lambda_x^K = \frac{2}{1 + K \|x\|^2}$$



a

^aLaw et al., “Lorentzian Distance Learning for Hyperbolic Representations”

Hyperbolic Self-Attention

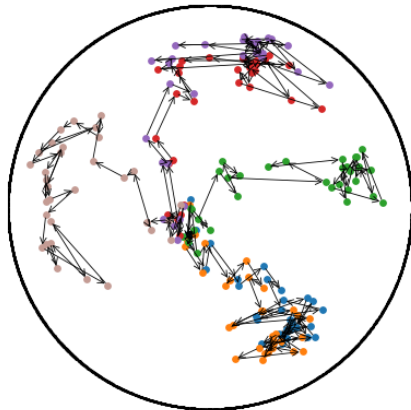
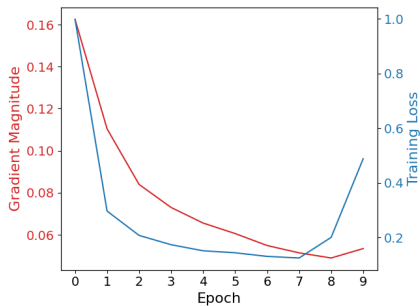
Hyperbolic self-attention can be formulated with hyperbolic midpoint operations and similarity score computed using the negative hyperbolic distance.

$$\text{LAtten}(Q, K, V) = \text{LMid}(v_1, \dots, v_N, \{\alpha_{i,j}\}_{j=1})$$

$$\text{PAtten}(Q, K, V) = \text{PMid}(v_1, \dots, v_N, \{\alpha_{i,j}\}_{j=1})$$

$$\alpha_{i,j} = \frac{\exp(-d_{\mathbb{H}}^2(q_i, v_j))}{\sum_l \exp(-d_{\mathbb{H}}^2(q_l, v_l))}$$

Gradients Vanishing



Guo et al., "Clipped Hyperbolic Classifiers Are Super-Hyperbolic Classifiers"

Summary

- ▶ Euclidean embeddings struggle with distortion and scalability in hierarchical settings.
- ▶ Hyperbolic embeddings boost performance in tasks like image classification and segmentation.
- ▶ Fully hyperbolic models avoid tangent-space mappings but require specialized operations.
- ▶ Gradient vanishing and numerical instability remain open challenges in hyperbolic learning.

References I

-  Chami, Ines et al. “Hyperbolic Graph Convolutional Neural Networks”. In: *Neural Information Processing Systems* (2019).
-  Desai, Karan et al. “Hyperbolic Image-text Representations”. In: *Proceedings of the 40th International Conference on Machine Learning*. PMLR, July 2023, pp. 7694–7731. (Visited on 02/05/2025).
-  GhadimiAtigh, Mina et al. *Hyperbolic Image Segmentation*. Mar. 2022. DOI: 10.48550/arXiv.2203.05898. (Visited on 02/05/2025).
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-  Khrulkov, Valentin et al. *Hyperbolic Image Embeddings*. Mar. 2020. DOI: 10.48550/arXiv.1904.02239. (Visited on 02/05/2025).

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