

Group-invariant tensor train networks for supervised learning

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1. Introduction

A key task in supervised machine learning is determining a good **model** from a class of **parameterized models**.¹ That is, find the element from

$$\mathcal{M} = \{ f_{\alpha} : \mathbb{R}^m \to \mathbb{R}^n \mid \alpha \in \mathbb{R}^p \}$$

that maximizes some **performance criterion** p, given suitable amounts of **data** $\mathbf{d} \in \mathbb{R}^m \times \mathbb{R}^n$:

$$\max_{f_{\alpha}\in\mathcal{M}} p(f_{\alpha},\mathbf{d}).$$

Examples of model classes include:

- Iinear, quadratic, logistic, whateveryoulikebest regression
- graphical models
- oneural networks

and the performance criterion could be maximizing prediction accuracy on a set of data.

¹Bishop, Pattern Recognition and Machine Learning, Springer, 2006

In recent years, researchers in machine learning recognized that convolutional neural networks contain a powerful **inductive bias**; their outputs are invariant under translations:



So mathematically, if S is a shifting map, and f is the convolution map, then we have

 $f(S\mathbf{x}) = Sf(\mathbf{x})$

That is, the diagram on the left commutes. (Since both maps are linear, this states that S and f are commuting matrices.)

²Figure from Kayhan (2020). URL: https://medium.com/@oskyhn77789/current-convolutional-neural-networks-are-not-translation-equivariant-2f04bb9062e3

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This realization led to the desire to incorporate additional constraints **explicitly** into machine learning models $f : \mathbb{R}^m \to \mathbb{R}^n$, such as

- **1** invariance: $f(A\mathbf{x}) = f(\mathbf{x})$, and
- **2** equivariance: $f(A\mathbf{x}) = Bf(\mathbf{x})$.

Herein A and B are usually linear maps. See Cohen³ for an introduction to this area.

Many **data augmentation** strategies also try to realize these properties **implicitly**. These come with an additional computational cost, as each training example could be subjected to multiple transformations *A*.

³Cohen, *Equivariant convolutional networks*, PhD thesis, 2021.

In this talk, we focus on simple tensor-based models for supervised learning.⁴⁵

Here, the input data is first passed through a feature map

 $\Phi:\mathbb{R}^m\to\mathbb{R}^{n_1}\times\mathbb{R}^{n_2}\times\cdots\times\mathbb{R}^{n_k},$

as in a kernel method, and then supplied as input to a multilinear map

 $f:\mathbb{R}^{n_1}\times\mathbb{R}^{n_2}\times\cdots\times\mathbb{R}^{n_k}\to\mathbb{R}^{n_{k+1}}$

By imposing suitable structures on f, this map can be computed efficiently, comprising its **kernel trick**.

⁴Stoudenmire, Schwab, *Supervised Learning with Tensor Networks*, 30th Conference on Neural Information Processing Systems, 2016.

⁵Novikov, Trofimov, Oseledets, *Exponential machines*, Bull. Polish Acad. Sci.: Tech. Sci., 2018.

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Central question

How can we parameterize the multilinear maps

$$f: V_1 imes V_2 imes \cdots imes V_k o V_{k+1}$$

invariant under the action of chosen invertible linear maps $M_g^i: V_i \to V_i$:

$$f(M_g^1 \mathbf{x}_1, M_g^2 \mathbf{x}_2, \dots, M_g^k \mathbf{x}_k) = M_g^{k+1} f(\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2, \dots, \mathbf{x}_k), \quad g = 1, \dots, s$$

for all $\mathbf{x}_i \in V_i$.

Most of the work presented stems from our desire to understand prior work by Finzi, Welling and Wilson. 6

⁶Finzi, Welling, Wilson, *A practical method for constructing equivariant multilayer perceptrons for arbitrary matrix groups*, Proceedings of the 38th International Conference on Machine Learning, 2021.

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2. Group-invariant tensors: Tensors

Let us first recall how multilinear maps could be parameterized.

Recall that a multilinear function is a map

$$f: V_1 \times V_2 \times \cdots \times V_k \to V_{k+1}$$

from the vector spaces V_i to the vector space V_{k+1} which is linear in each of its arguments:

$$f(\mathbf{x}_1,\ldots,\mathbf{x}_{i-1},\alpha\cdot\mathbf{x}_i+\beta\cdot\mathbf{y}_i,\mathbf{x}_{i+1},\ldots,\mathbf{x}_k) = \alpha \cdot f(\mathbf{x}_1,\ldots,\mathbf{x}_k) + \beta \cdot f(\mathbf{x}_1,\ldots,\mathbf{x}_{i-1},\mathbf{y}_i,\mathbf{x}_{i+1},\ldots,\mathbf{x}_k), \qquad i=1,\ldots,k.$$

Because of the universal property of the tensor product,⁷ there is a bijection between multilinear functions f and order-(k + 1) tensors

 $\mathcal{F} \in (V_1^* \otimes V_2^* \otimes \cdots \otimes V_k^*) \otimes V_{k+1}.$

The notation V_i^* means the **dual space** of V_i , i.e., the linear space of functions from V_i to the base field (\mathbb{R}).

⁷Greub, *Multilinear Algebra*, Springer, 1978.

By exploiting the multilinearity of f and the tensor product \otimes , it can be shown that

$$\mathcal{F} = \sum_{j_1}^{n_1} \cdots \sum_{j_d=1}^{n_k} \mathbf{e}_{j_1}^{1*} \otimes \cdots \otimes \mathbf{e}_{j_k}^{k*} \otimes f(\mathbf{e}_{j_1}^1, \dots, \mathbf{e}_{j_k}^k),$$

where $\mathbf{e}_1^i, \ldots, \mathbf{e}_{n_i}^i$ forms an orthonormal basis of the n_i -dimensional vector space V_i , and \mathbf{e}_j^{*i} denotes the dual basis vector of \mathbf{e}_i^i ; that is,

$$\mathbf{e}_{j}^{*i}(\mathbf{e}_{j'}^{i})=\delta_{jj'}=egin{cases} 1&j=j'\ 0& ext{otherwise} \end{cases}.$$

(This is completely analogous to how a matrix represents a linear map.)

One can represent this tensor \mathcal{F} by a (k+1)-array

You can think of \mathcal{F} as containing the function evaluation $f(\mathbf{e}_{i_1}^1, \ldots, \mathbf{e}_{i_k}^k)$ at position (i_1, \ldots, i_k) in this array.

Hence, the unconstrained model space of multilinear functions can be parameterized as

$$\mathcal{M} = \{f: V_1 \times \cdots \times V_k \to V_{k+1} \text{ multilinear}\} \simeq \mathbb{R}^{n_1 \times \cdots \times n_k \times n_{k+1}} \simeq \mathbb{R}^{n_1 \cdots n_{k+1}}$$

2. Group-invariant tensors: Invariant multilinear maps

For neural networks, Cohen and Welling⁸ introduced the concept of G-invariance for groups G. In our setting, we want to consider the maps f that satisfy

$$orall \mathbf{x}_i \in V_i: \quad f(M_g^1 \mathbf{x}_1, \dots, M_g^k \mathbf{x}_k) = M_g^{k+1} f(\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2, \dots, \mathbf{x}_k), \quad g = 1, \dots, s,$$

for the fixed tuples, which we call invariance relations,

$$M_g := (M_g^1, \ldots, M_g^{k+1}) \in \operatorname{Aut}(V_1) \times \cdots \times \operatorname{Aut}(V_{k+1})$$

for $g = 1, \ldots, s$.

Recall that $Aut(V_i)$ is the subspace of bijective linear maps from V_i into itself.

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⁸Cohen, Welling, *Group equivariant convolutional networks*, Proceedings of the 33rd International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML), 2016.

Lemma

Let G denote the set of **all** invariance relations satisfied by f subject to the previously imposed invariance relations. Then, (G, \circ) is a group.

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Indeed, if $M_g, M_h \in G$, then

$$f(M_h^1 M_g^1 \mathbf{x}_1, \ldots, M_h^k M_g^k \mathbf{x}_k) = M_h^{k+1} f(M_g^1 \mathbf{x}_1, \ldots, M_g^k \mathbf{x}_k) = M_h^{k+1} M_g^{k+1} f(\mathbf{x}_1, \ldots, \mathbf{x}_k),$$

so that $M_h \circ M_g := (M_h^1 M_g^1, \dots, M_h^{k+1} M_g^{k+1}) \in G.$

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so that $M_h \circ M_g := (M_h^1 M_g^1, \dots, M_h^{k+1} M_g^{k+1}) \in G$.

Moreover, we have for all $M_g \in G$ that

$$M_g^{k+1}f((M_g^1)^{-1}\mathbf{x}_1,\ldots,(M_g^k)^{-1}\mathbf{x}_k) = f(M_g^1(M_g^1)^{-1}\mathbf{x}_1,\ldots,M_g^k(M_g^k)^{-1}\mathbf{x}_k) = f(\mathbf{x}_1,\ldots,\mathbf{x}_k),$$

which implies that $M_g^{-1} := \left((M_g^1)^{-1}, \ldots, (M_g^{k+1})^{-1} \right) \in G.$

Moreover, it is immediately verified that the projection maps

$$\pi_i: \mathcal{G}
ightarrow \operatorname{Aut}(V_i), \quad (M^1, \dots, M^{k+1}) \mapsto M^i$$

are group homomorphisms. That is,

•
$$\pi_i((\operatorname{Id}_{V_1},\ldots,\operatorname{Id}_{V_{k+1}})) = \operatorname{Id}_{V_i}$$
, and
• $\pi_i(M_h \circ M_g) = M_h^i M_g^i = \pi_i(M_h) \pi_i(M_g)$.

A map $\rho: G \to Aut(V)$ that maps an abstract group G homomorphically into the group of automorphisms on a vector space V is called a **group representation of** G **on** V.

All of the foregoing entails that multilinear maps satisfying

$$f(M_g^1 \mathbf{x}_1, M_g^2 \mathbf{x}_2, \ldots, M_g^k \mathbf{x}_k) = M_g^{k+1} f(\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2, \ldots, \mathbf{x}_k), \quad g = 1, \ldots, s,$$

are *G*-invariant (with representations $\rho_i : G \to V_i$) for the group $G = \langle M_1, \ldots, M_s \rangle$.⁹ That is, the above equation holds for all $M_g \in G$, not only for the generators.

Note that conversely one could start from an abstract group along with suitable representations and impose G-invariance in this way on f.

⁹Lang, *Algebra*, 3rd ed., Springer, 2002.

2. Group-invariant tensors: Invariant tensors

We saw that a natural way of imposing invariance relations on a multilinear map f leads to f's G-invariance. What does this entail for the associated tensor \mathcal{F} ?

Assume we have linear maps $U_i^*: V_i^* \to V_i^*$, $i = 1, \dots, k$, and $U_{k+1}: V_{k+1} \to V_{k+1}$. Let

$$\mathcal{F} = \sum_{j_1=1}^{n_1} \cdots \sum_{j_{k+1}=1}^{n_{k+1}} \mathcal{F}_{j_1,\dots,j_{k+1}} \mathbf{e}_{j_1}^{1*} \otimes \cdots \otimes \mathbf{e}_{j_k}^{k*} \otimes \mathbf{e}_{j_{k+1}}^{k+1}.$$

Then, the **multilinear multiplication** of these maps with \mathcal{F} is defined as¹⁰

$$(U_1^* \otimes \cdots \otimes U_k^* \otimes U_{k+1})(\mathcal{F}) := \sum_{j_1=1}^{n_1} \cdots \sum_{j_{k+1}=1}^{n_{k+1}} \mathcal{F}_{j_1,\dots,j_{k+1}}(U_1^* \mathbf{e}_{j_1}^{1*}) \otimes \cdots \otimes (U_k^* \mathbf{e}_{j_k}^{k*}) \otimes (U_{k+1} \mathbf{e}_{j_{k+1}}^{k+1}).$$

¹⁰Greub, *Multilinear Algebra*, Springer, 1978

Proposition (Sprangers, Vannieuwenhoven, 2022)

Let $f : V_1 \times \cdots \times V_k \to V_{k+1}$ be a multilinear map, $\mathcal{F} \in V_1^* \otimes \cdots \otimes V_k^* \otimes V_{k+1}$ the associated tensor, $G = \langle g_1, \ldots, g_s \rangle$ a finitely-generated group, and $\rho_i : G \to \operatorname{Aut}(V_i)$ representations. Then, f is G-invariant if and only if

 $\mathcal{F}=(
ho_1^*(g)\otimes\cdots\otimes
ho_k^*(g)\otimes
ho_{k+1}(g))(\mathcal{F}),\quad orall g\in\{g_1,\ldots,g_s\},$

where $\rho^*(g) = (\rho(g))^{-\top}$ is the dual representation.

Note that the inversion and transposition make sense in the dual representation¹¹ because if $f: V \to W$ then

$$f^{-1}: \mathcal{W} o \mathcal{V}, \quad f^{ op}: \mathcal{W}^* o \mathcal{V}^*, \quad ext{so } f^{- op}: \mathcal{V}^* o \mathcal{W}^*$$

¹¹Lang, *Algebra*, 3rd ed., Springer, 2002.

Example

Consider the case of a **linear map** $\mathcal{F}: V \to W$ that satisfies the following equality

$$orall \mathbf{v} \in oldsymbol{V}$$
 : $egin{array}{cc} L \mathcal{F} \mathbf{v} = \mathcal{F} oldsymbol{M} \mathbf{v} \end{array}$

for $L \in Aut(W)$ and $M \in Aut(V)$.

As this holds for all \mathbf{v} , we have equality of linear maps: $L\mathcal{F} = \mathcal{F}M$. Hence, equivalently,

$$\mathcal{LF}M^{-1}=\mathcal{F}.$$

Vectorizing, this is equivalent to

$$(M^{-\top}\otimes L)(\operatorname{vec}(\mathcal{F})) = \operatorname{vec}(\mathcal{F}),$$

having used a standard property of the Kronecker product.

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3. Efficiently constructing group-invariant tensors

Inspecting the definition of G-invariant tensors, we see that for all $g \in G$:

$$egin{aligned} \mathcal{F} &= (
ho_1^*(g),\ldots,
ho_k^*(g),
ho_{k+1}(g),\ldots,
ho_d(g))\cdot\mathcal{F} \ &:= (
ho_1^{- op}(g)\otimes\cdots\otimes
ho_k^{- op}(g)\otimes
ho_{k+1}(g)\otimes\cdots\otimes
ho_d(g))(\mathcal{F}), \end{aligned}$$

where \otimes can be interpreted as the Kronecker product.

This is an interesting **simultaneous eigenvector problem** in which \mathcal{F} is the common eigenvector corresponding to eigenvalue 1 of the tensor-structured matrices

$$ho_1^{- op}(g)\otimes\cdots\otimes
ho_k^{- op}(g)\otimes
ho_{k+1}(g)\otimes\cdots\otimes
ho_d(g), \hspace{1em} g\in G$$

Corollary

The G-invariant tensors form a linear subspace of $V_1^* \otimes \cdots \otimes V_k^* \otimes V_{k+1} \otimes \cdots \otimes V_d$.

In the remainder, we consider orthogonal group representations. The results can be extended to **normal group representations** as well.

Orthogonal representation

Let *h* be an inner product on *V*. A representation is **orthogonal** if $\rho(g) : V \to V$ is an isometry $\forall g \in G$.

For orthogonal representations $\rho^{-\top}(g) = \rho(g)$, so we can simplify the notation.

Returning to our eigenvalue problem, we have

$$ho_1(g)\otimes\cdots\otimes
ho_d(g)=(U^1\otimes\cdots\otimes U^d)(\Lambda^1\otimes\cdots\otimes\Lambda^d)(U^1\otimes\cdots\otimes U^d)^H$$

where U^i is a unitary matrix and Λ^i is a diagonal matrix containing the (complex) eigenvalues such that

$$\rho_i(g) = U^i \Lambda^i (U^i)^H$$

Let

$$U^1_\star \odot \cdots \odot U^d_\star = [\mathbf{u}^1_{i_1} \otimes \cdots \otimes \mathbf{u}^d_{i_d}]_{i_1,\ldots,i_d}$$

be the matrix of eigenvectors corresponding to eigenvalue 1, i.e.,

$$\Lambda^1_{i_1,i_1}\cdots\Lambda^d_{i_d,i_d}=1.$$

The space of *G*-invariant tensors is a subspace of $U^1_\star \odot \cdots \odot U^d_\star$, so that

$$\mathcal{F} = (U^1_\star \odot \cdots \odot U^d_\star)$$
v

for some \mathbf{v} . Plugging this into our eigenvalue problem, we get

$$\mathbf{v} = \underbrace{(U^1_\star \odot \cdots \odot U^d_\star)^H}_{U^H_\star} \underbrace{(\rho_1(g) \otimes \cdots \otimes \rho_d(g))}_{B_g} \underbrace{(U^1_\star \odot \cdots \odot U^d_\star)}_{U_\star} \mathbf{v}, \quad \forall g \in G.$$

This tensor-structured matrix can be computed efficiently.

Our key result is that the projected simultaneous eigenproblem can be reduced to a single eigenproblem. This result can be viewed as a version of the **first projection formula** in representation theory more suitable for tensor product representations.¹²

Proposition (Sprangers, Vannieuwenhoven, 2022)

Let $B_g \in \mathbb{C}^{m \times m}$ be unitary matrices whose rightmost eigenvalue is real. Let $U_* \in \mathbb{C}^{m \times n}$ be a matrix with orthogonal columns, i.e., $U_*^H U_* = I_n$. Let $A_g = U_*^H B_g U_*$. Then,

$$A_1 \mathbf{v} = \lambda_1 \mathbf{v}, \ \dots, \ A_s \mathbf{v} = \lambda_s \mathbf{v}$$

if and only if $\frac{1}{s}(\frac{1}{\lambda_1}A_1 + \cdots + \frac{1}{\lambda_s}A_s)\mathbf{v} = \mathbf{v}$.

¹²Fulton, Harris, *Representation Theory: A First Course*, Springer, 2004.

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With these ingredients, we propose the following algorithm.

Input: Normal representation matrices B_i^k of $\rho_k(g_i)$ for $G = \langle g_0, g_1, \ldots, g_s \rangle$.

() Compute for k = 1, ..., d the small-scale eigendecompositions

$$\rho_k(g_0) = B_0^k = U^k \Lambda^k (U^k)^H.$$

- So Find all indices (i_1, \ldots, i_d) such that $\Lambda^1_{i_1, i_1} \cdots \Lambda^d_{i_d, i_d} = 1$ and set $U^k_{\star} = [\mathbf{u}^k_{i_k}]_{i_k}$.
- Compute

$$A = \frac{1}{s} \sum_{i=1}^{s} \left((U^1_\star)^H B^1_i U^1_\star \right) \circledast \cdots \circledast \left((U^d_\star)^H B^d_i U^d_\star \right).$$

• Compute a Schur decomposition $A = QTQ^{H}$, where T is upper triangular, and extract the eigenspace Q corresponding to eigenvalue 1.

Output: The orthonormal basis $(U^1_{\star} \odot \cdots \odot U^d_{\star})Q$.

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4. Group-invariant tensor train networks

Recall our supervised learning setup where we compose

$$\Phi: \mathbb{R}^m \to \mathbb{R}^{n_1} \times \cdots \times \mathbb{R}^{n_k} \simeq \mathbb{R}^{n_1 + \cdots + n_{k+1}} \quad \text{and} \quad f: \mathbb{R}^{n_1} \times \cdots \times \mathbb{R}^{n_k} \to \mathbb{R}^{n_{k+1}}$$

where Φ was called a **kernel map** and f is multilinear. Mathematically, this is equivalent to

$$f \circ \Phi = \mathcal{F} \circ \otimes \circ \Phi,$$

where \mathcal{F} is the tensor representing f. This emphasizes that $\otimes \circ \Phi$ maps into a high-dimensional space. And $\mathcal{F} \in (\mathbb{R}^{n_1 \times \cdots \times n_k})^* \otimes \mathbb{R}^{n_{k+1}}$ is a **linear map** $\mathcal{F} : \mathbb{R}^{n_1 \times \cdots \times n_k} \to \mathbb{R}^{n_{k+1}}$.

This has all the hallmarks of a **kernel method**. Except: we need a **kernel trick** because applying a linear map to vectors in $\mathbb{R}^{n_1 \times \cdots \times n_k}$ is too costly (in memory and time)!

We say that $\mathcal{F} \in \mathbb{R}^{n_1 \times n_2 \times \cdots \times n_{k+1}}$ admits a **tensor trains decomposition**¹³ with **bond dimensions** (r_1, \ldots, r_k) if each entry of the tensor is a contracted **matrix chain multiplication**, like so



Graphically, the above is represented as



¹³Fannes, Nachtergaele, Werner, Comm. Math. Phys. 144, pp. 443–490, 1992.

In the case where $\mathcal{F} \in (V_1^* \otimes \cdots \otimes V_k^*) \otimes V_{k+1}$ represents a multilinear function with one output vector space V_{k+1} , we have



Note that you can play with the location of the output vector space V_{k+1} .

To impose *G*-invariance on multilinear maps that correspond to tensor trains decompositions with small bond dimensions no new theoretical developments are needed. Singh, Pfeifer, and Vidal¹⁴ namely proved the following result.

Proposition (Singh, Pfeifer, Vidal, 2010)

There exists a tensor trains decomposition with minimal bond dimensions of a G-invariant tensor in which all core tensors are themselves G-invariant.

¹⁴Singh, Pfeifer, Vidal, Phys. Rev. A: At. Mol. Opt. Phys., 82, 2010.

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5. Experimental results: Basis construction performance



5. Experimental results: Basis construction performance



5. Experimental results: G-invariant networks for transcription prediction

We applied group-invariant tensor train networks to a supervised learning task: Binary prediction whether a **transcription factor (protein) will bind to a DNA sequence.**

A data set with 3 transcription factors (MAX, CTCF, SPI1) was curated by Zhou, Shrikumar and Kundaje,¹⁵ along with 10,000 DNA strands per transcription factor. The dataset is already partitioned 40%/30%/30% into a training, test, and validation set.

DNA strands are reverse complement symmetric (Zhou, Shrikumar, Kundaje, 2020):

- Complement invariance arises from the nucleobase pairings in the double helix (A \leftrightarrow T, and G \leftrightarrow C).
- **Reverse invariance** occurs because if a transcription factor binds to a DNA strand, then it also binds on the same strand rotated by π radians by rotating the protein likewise.

¹⁵Zhou, Shrikumar, Kundaje, Benchmarking reverse-complement strategies for deep learning models in genomics, bioRxiv:2020.11.04.368803, 2020.

The tensor trains network has 1001 cores with output in the middle. All cores have bond dimension b. The nucleobases are one-hot encoded as a length-4 binary vector.



The complement invariance can be modeled as the group $G(G,*)=(\mathbb{Z}_2,+_2)$



The training setup was as follows:

- 100 epochs with batch size of 100,
- binary cross-entropy loss and 2-regularization on the variational parameters,
- softmax activation function at output node,
- stochastic gradient descent with Nesterov momentum with a fraction of 0.2

The optimal hyperparameters (found by non-exhaustive manual experimentation) vary depending on the prediction task:

\mathbf{Task}	Bond dimension	$\mathbf{Regularization}$	\mathbf{Epochs}	Learning rate
MAX	3	0.005	100	0.001
CTCF	8	0.005	100	0.01
SPI1	8	0.003	100	0.01

Average* results over 5 runs of our model together with the results from the state-of-the-art convolutional neural network introduced by Mallet and Vert¹⁶, which in addition to reverse complement symmetry also takes into account a translation invariance, are as follows:

Dataset	\mathbf{Model}	AUROC	Standard deviation
CTCF	Ours Benchmark	94.10% 98.84%	$0.21\%\ 0.056\%$
SPI1	Ours Bechmark	96.53% 99.26 %	$0.030\%\ 0.034\%$
MAX	Ours Benchmark	97.06 % 92.80%	$0.011\%\ 0.26\%$

¹⁶Mallet, Vert, Reverse-Complement Equivariant Networks for DNA Sequences, NeurIPS, 2021.

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6. Conclusions

Invariance relationships are naturally modeled with groups, leading to the concept of group-invariant tensor train networks. A new algorithm was proposed for constructing a basis of G-invariant tensors, outperforming the state of the art by several orders of magnitude.

For more details, see:

B. Sprangers and N. Vannieuwenhoven, Group-invariant tensor train networks for supervised learning, arXiv:2206.15051, 2022.

