

# Symmetry-Preserving Neural Networks for Scientific Computing

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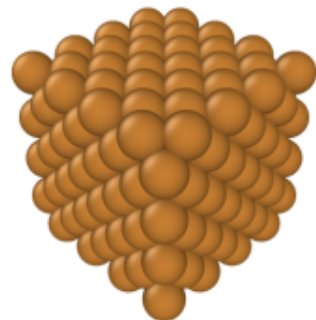
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# Example Problem 1: Potential Energy

Given coordinates of a group of atoms  $\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2, \dots, \mathbf{x}_n$ , find its potential energy  $E = E(\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2, \dots, \mathbf{x}_n)$

Physical Symmetries

- Translation  $E = E(\mathbf{x}_1 + \Delta\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}_2 + \Delta\mathbf{x}, \dots, \mathbf{x}_n + \Delta\mathbf{x})$
- Rotation  $E = E(R\mathbf{x}_1, R\mathbf{x}_2, \dots, R\mathbf{x}_n)$
- Permutation  $E = E(\mathbf{x}_{\sigma(1)}, \mathbf{x}_{\sigma(2)}, \dots, \mathbf{x}_{\sigma(n)})$



# Example Problem 2: Transport Equation

$$\Delta c(\mathbf{x}) - \nabla \cdot (\mathbf{u}(\mathbf{x})c(\mathbf{x})) + S(c(\mathbf{x})) = 0$$

Spatial discretization:  $\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2, \dots, \mathbf{x}_n, \mathbf{u}_1 = \mathbf{u}(\mathbf{x}_1), \mathbf{u}_2 = \mathbf{u}(\mathbf{x}_2), \dots, \mathbf{u}_n = \mathbf{u}(\mathbf{x}_n),$

Consider the quantity  $I := \int_{\Omega} c(\mathbf{x})d\mathbf{x} \approx I(\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2, \dots, \mathbf{x}_n, \mathbf{u}_1, \mathbf{u}_2, \dots, \mathbf{u}_n)$

Physical Symmetries

- Translation  $I = I(\mathbf{x}_1 + \Delta\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}_2 + \Delta\mathbf{x}, \dots, \mathbf{x}_n + \Delta\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u}_1, \mathbf{u}_2, \dots, \mathbf{u}_n)$
- Rotation  $I = I(R\mathbf{x}_1, R\mathbf{x}_2, \dots, R\mathbf{x}_n, R\mathbf{u}_1, R\mathbf{u}_2, \dots, R\mathbf{u}_n)$
- Permutation  $I = I(\mathbf{x}_{\sigma(1)}, \mathbf{x}_{\sigma(2)}, \dots, \mathbf{x}_{\sigma(n)}, \mathbf{u}_{\sigma(1)}, \mathbf{u}_{\sigma(2)}, \dots, \mathbf{u}_{\sigma(n)})$

# Problem Setup

A function  $f$  maps a set of coordinates to a scalar output

$$y = f(\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2, \dots, \mathbf{x}_n)$$

*Supervised learning*: fit this function from data and **preserve all the symmetries simultaneously**

Why **symmetry-preserving**?

- respect the physics
- better data efficiency
- better accuracy

# Related Work

- Handcrafted features, kernel method: Gaussian Approximation Potentials (GAP), Smooth Overlap of Atomic Positions (SOAP), etc.
- Behler-Parrinello neural network (BPNN)
- Learned features: **Deep Potential/Vector Cloud Neural Network**, SchNet, etc.
- Group representation: Group Equivariant Convolutional Networks, Steerable Convolutional Neural Networks, Clebsch–Gordan Nets, etc.

# Translation and Rotation Symmetry

Translation: always use relative coordinates

$$(\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2, \dots, \mathbf{x}_n) \mapsto (\mathbf{x}'_1, \mathbf{x}'_2, \dots, \mathbf{x}'_n) = (\mathbf{x}_1 - \bar{\mathbf{x}}, \mathbf{x}_2 - \bar{\mathbf{x}}, \dots, \mathbf{x}_n - \bar{\mathbf{x}})$$

Rotation:

$$D'_{ij} = \mathbf{x}'_i \cdot \mathbf{x}'_j \quad \text{or} \quad D' = X^\top X \quad \text{with} \quad X = [\mathbf{x}'_1, \mathbf{x}'_2, \dots, \mathbf{x}'_n]^\top$$

However, it lacks permutational invariance

# Permutation Symmetry

Deep Sets: a function  $f$  operating on a set  $\{x_i\}_{i=1}^n$  can be represented by

$$\rho\left(\sum_{i=1}^n \phi(x_i)\right)$$

Example:  $z_1^2 + z_2^2 + z_1 z_2 = \frac{1}{2}(z_1 + z_2)^2 + \frac{1}{2}(z_1^2 + z_2^2)$

Let  $\phi(z) = [z, z^2]^\top$  and  $\rho([a, b]^\top) = a^2/2 + b/2$

Ansatz: parameterize  $\phi, \rho$  with neural networks

# All Symmetries Simultaneously

Introduce a set of  $m$  embedding functions  $\{\phi_k(\cdot)\}_{k=1}^m$

$$L_{kj} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \phi_k(|\mathbf{x}'_i|) \mathbf{x}'_{ij}, \quad k = 1, \dots, m, \quad j = 1, 2, 3$$

$$\text{or } L = \frac{1}{n} G^\top X \text{ with } G_{ki} = \phi_k(|\mathbf{x}'_i|)$$

This leads to **symmetry-preserving feature** matrix  $D = LL^\top = \frac{1}{n^2} G^\top XX^\top G$

Map to the final output through a general function  $\rho(\text{vec}(D))$

Ansatz: parameterize  $\phi, \rho$  with neural networks



# Extensions

- Guarantee equivariance if the output is

$$\text{vector: } \mathbf{r} = f(\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2, \dots, \mathbf{x}_n) \rightarrow R\mathbf{r} = f(R\mathbf{x}_1, R\mathbf{x}_2, \dots, R\mathbf{x}_n)$$

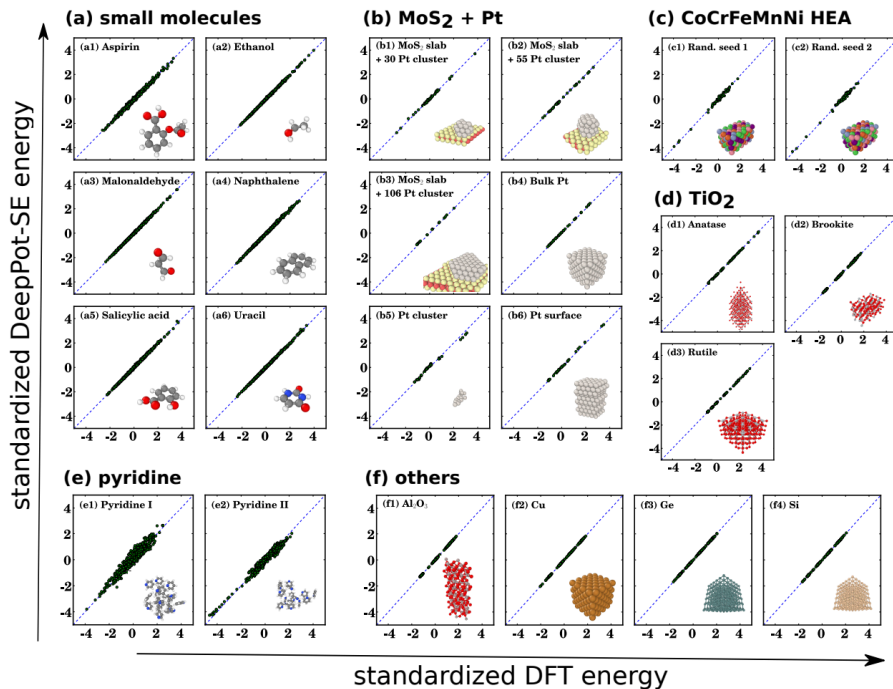
$$\text{or tensor: } Q = f(\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2, \dots, \mathbf{x}_n) \rightarrow RQR^\top = f(R\mathbf{x}_1, R\mathbf{x}_2, \dots, R\mathbf{x}_n)$$

- Guarantee invariance and equivariance if we have additional scalar/vector/tensor features attached to each point
- Use high-order information to do embedding

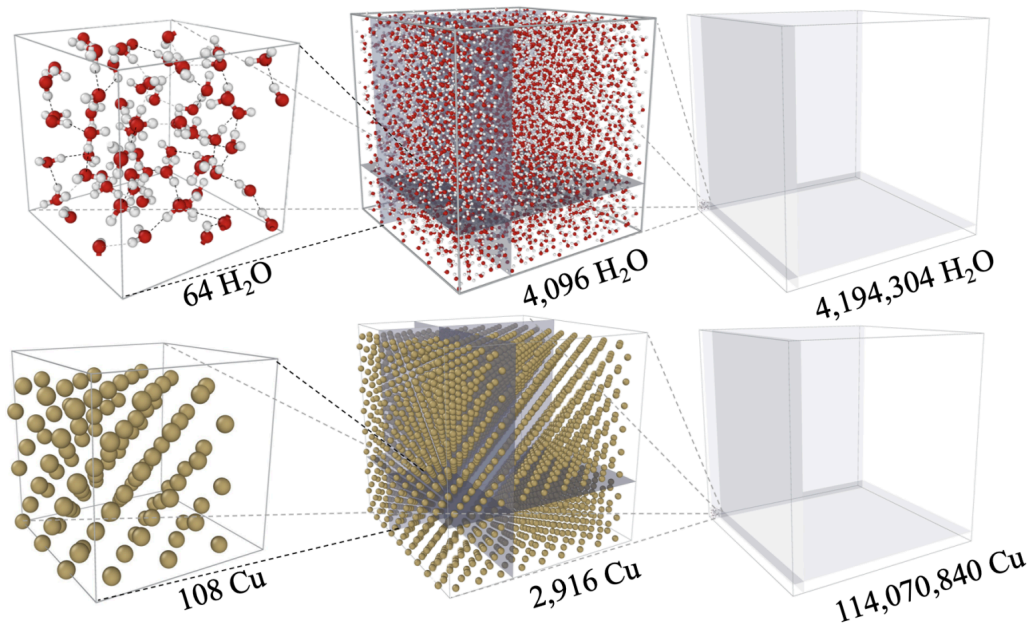
Open question: universal approximation property with practical optimality and scalability

# Application: Molecular Dynamics

## Deep Potential for molecular dynamics



# Application: Molecular Dynamics



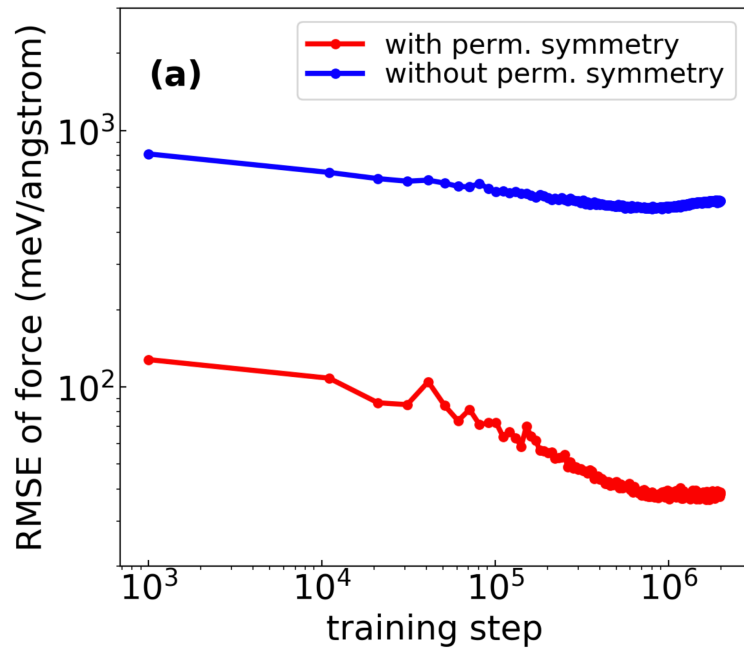
(a) AIMD + HPC;

(b) DeePMD+1  
GPU @ Home;

(c) DeePMD+27360  
GPUs @ Summit.

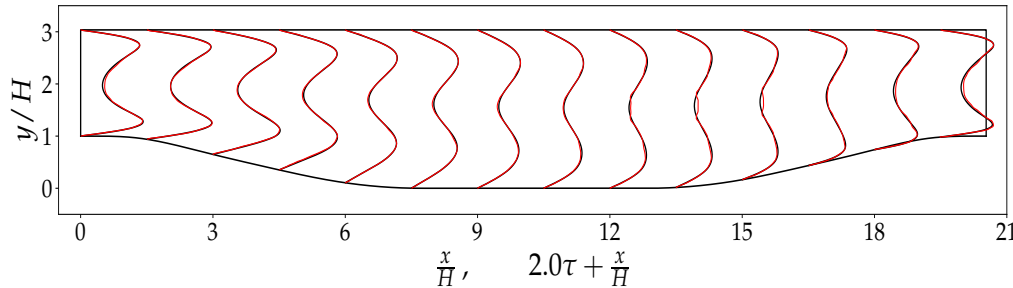
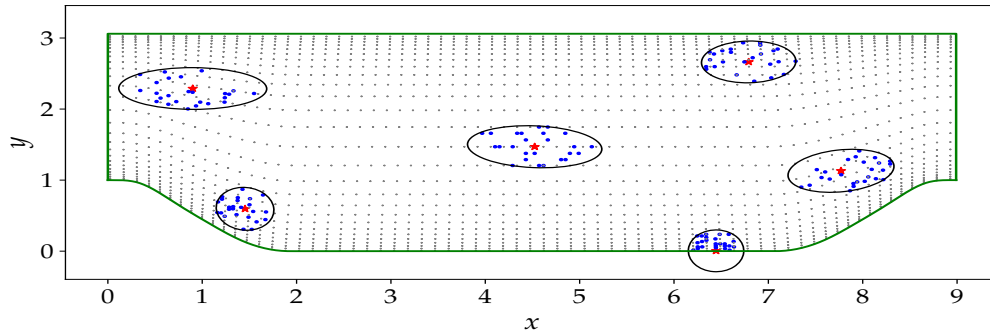
*n* is bounded as system size  
increased by short-range effect

# Importance of Symmetry



# Application: Transport Equation

Vector-Cloud Neural Network (VCNN) for nonlocal modeling

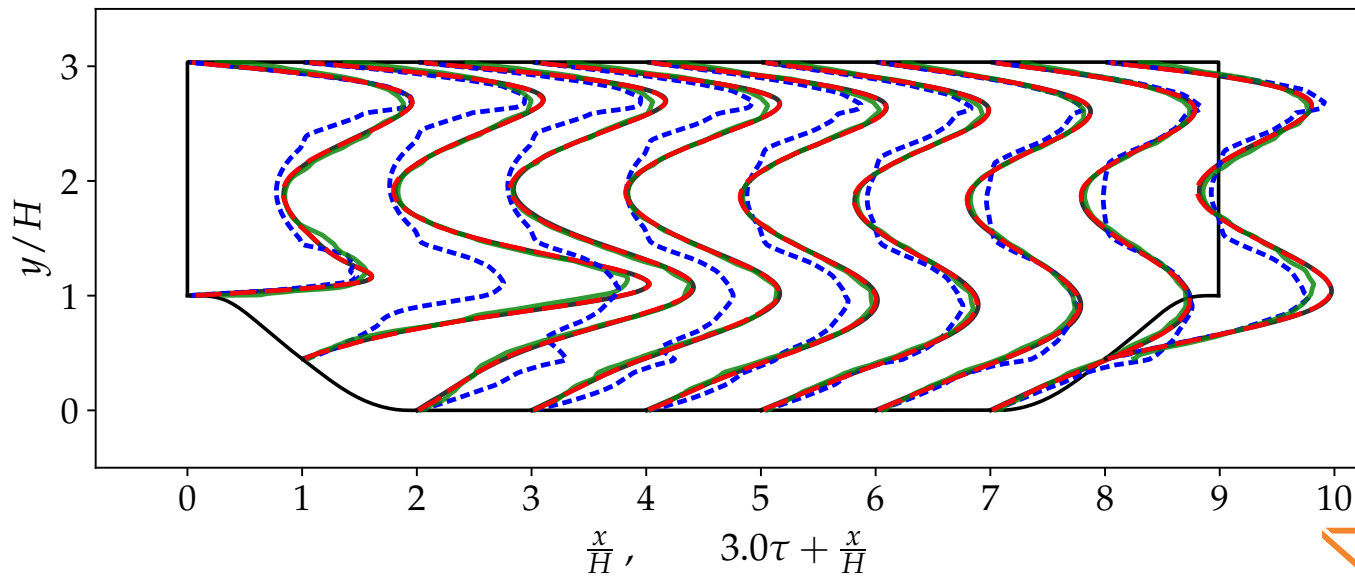


$$\Delta c(\mathbf{x}) - \nabla \cdot (\mathbf{u}(\mathbf{x})c(\mathbf{x})) + S(c(\mathbf{x})) = 0$$

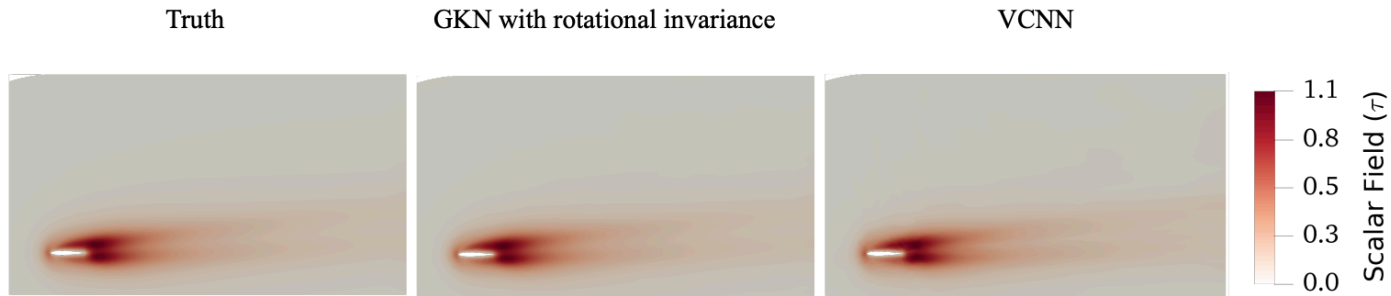
Solve  $c(\mathbf{x})$  at any point  $\mathbf{x}_0$  from the velocity field  $\mathbf{u}(\mathbf{x})$  around  $\mathbf{x}_0$  (nonlocal relationship)

# Adaptivity to Different Sizes

— ground truth    - - - local ( $n = 1$ )    — coarse nonlocal ( $n = 25$ )    - - - baseline nonlocal ( $n = 150$ )



# Evaluation in Different Frames



(a) AOA=5°

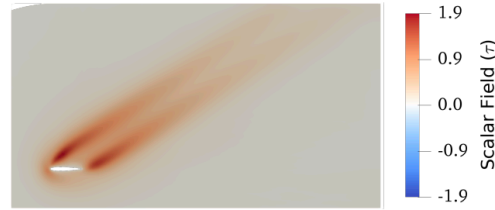


(b) AOA=35°

# Importance of Frame Invariance



(a) True concentration field



(b) Reference frame rotation =  $0^\circ$



(c) Reference frame rotation =  $35^\circ$



(d) Reference frame rotation =  $70^\circ$



(e) Reference frame rotation =  $90^\circ$



(f) Reference frame rotation =  $180^\circ$

*Prediction by an operator based on graph neural networks **without rotation symmetry**. The results are highly sensitive to the angles of the reference frame.*



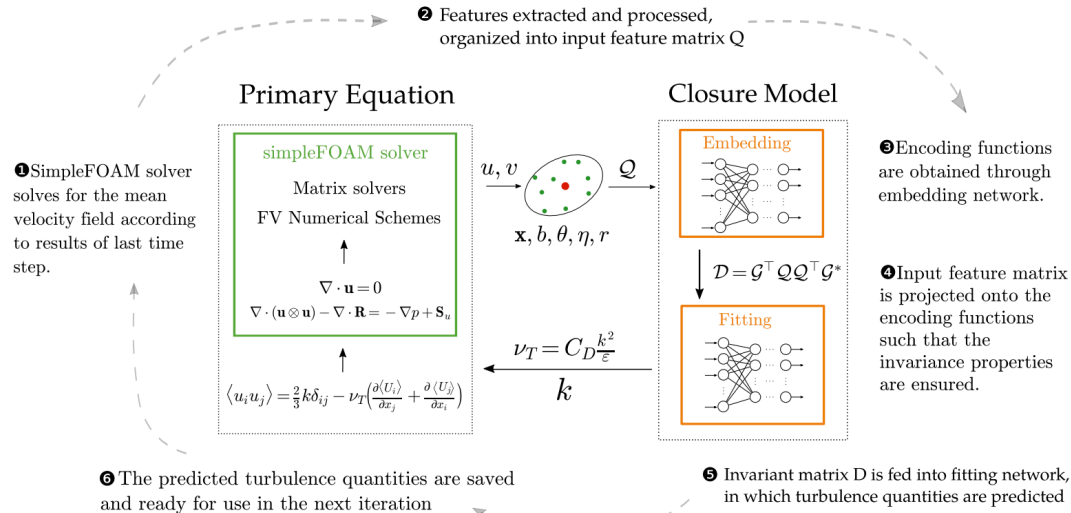
# Closure Model for RANS equations

$$\frac{\overline{D}\langle U_j \rangle}{\overline{Dt}} = \nu \nabla^2 \langle U_j \rangle - \frac{\partial \langle u'_i u'_j \rangle}{\partial x_i} - \frac{1}{\rho} \frac{\partial \langle p \rangle}{\partial x_j},$$

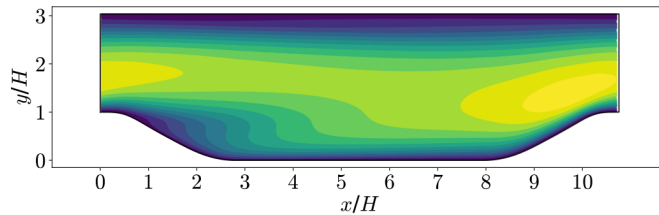
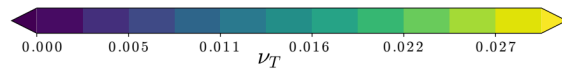
Constitutive relationship for  $k$ ?

$$\langle u'_i u'_j \rangle = \frac{2}{3} k \delta_{ij} - \nu_T \left( \frac{\partial \langle U_i \rangle}{\partial x_j} + \frac{\partial \langle U_j \rangle}{\partial x_i} \right),$$

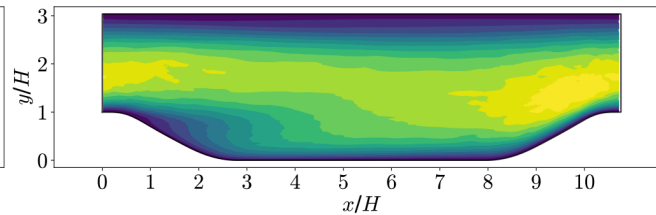
Use vector-cloud neural network to model  $k$



# Closure Model for RANS equations

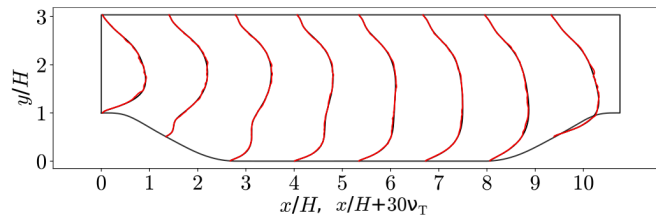


(a)  $k-\epsilon$  model,  $\alpha = 1.45$



(b) neural network prediction,  $\alpha = 1.45$

— neural network —  $k-\epsilon$  model



(c) neural network prediction,  $\alpha = 1.45$

# References

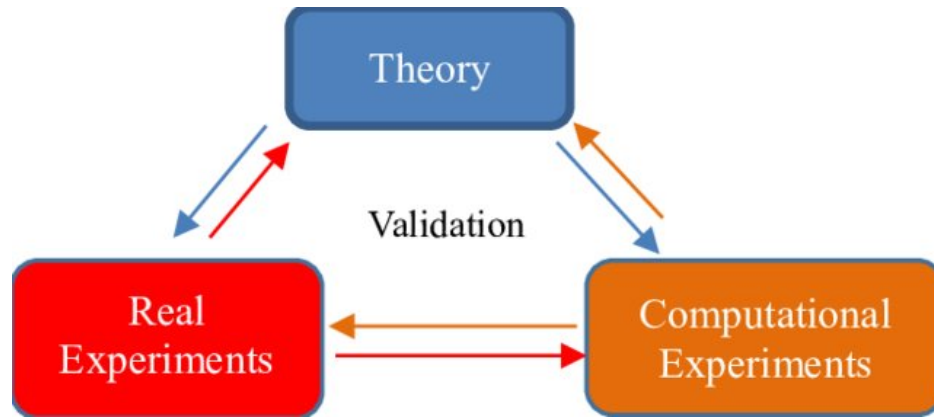
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*Thank You*

# “Third Pillar” of Science

Together with theory and experimentation, computational science now constitutes the “third pillar” of scientific inquiry.

– President’s Information Technology Advisory Committee report (2005)



# About Flatiron Institute

*The institute, an internal research division of the Simons Foundation, is a community of scientists who are working to use modern computational tools to advance our understanding of science, both through the **analysis of large, rich datasets** and through the **simulations of physical process**.*

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