#### STAResNet

A Network in Spacetime Algebra to solve Maxwell's PDEs

Alberto Pepe<sup>1</sup>, Sven Buchholz<sup>2</sup>, Joan Lasenby<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>University of Cambridge, Signal Processing & Communications Lab, Engineering Department, Cambridge, UK

<sup>2</sup>Technische Hochschule Brandenburg, Fachbereich Informatik und Medien, Brandenburg, Germany

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### Outline



2 Problem Definition

#### 3 Experiments



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2 Problem Definition

#### 3 Experiments



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Geometric Algebra (GA) Networks have been gaining significant momentum in the past two years  $^1$ .

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(a) ...solve PDEs

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#### Motivation

Geometric Algebra (GA) Networks have been gaining significant momentum in the past two years<sup>1</sup>. We have employed them to...



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A key step in GA Networks is the embedding in a given algebra



Examples:

<sup>1</sup>Clifford Neural Layers for PDE Modeling, Brandstetter et al.,  $\exists CLR \exists 2023 \equiv i \in i = 100$   $i \in [1, 1]$ 

A key step in GA Networks is the embedding in a given algebra



Examples:



Figure 3: Two examples of GA embedding

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#### Question

How does the choice of the algebra impact learning in Geometric Algebra Networks?

We address it by studying Maxwell's equations and solving them in Spacetime Algebra (STA).

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- $\bullet~$  Up to 2.6 $\times~$  lower MSE with 6 $\times~$  fewer trainable parameters compared to Clifford ResNet
- First implementation of a network entirely in STA

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#### 3 Experiments



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Problem Definition

# Problem Definition: Describing Maxwell's PDEs

Maxwell's Equations in Differential Form

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{E} = \rho$$
  $\nabla \cdot \mathbf{B} = 0$   $\nabla \times \mathbf{E} = -\frac{\partial \mathbf{B}}{\partial t}$   $\nabla \times \mathbf{B} = \frac{\partial \mathbf{E}}{\partial t} + \mathbf{J}$ 

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Maxwell's Equations in GA -  $G_{3,0,0}$ 

$$\left(\frac{\partial}{\partial t} + i\nabla\right)F = \mathbf{J} - i\rho, \text{ with}$$
$$F = \mathbf{E} + i\mathbf{B} = E_1e_1 + E_2e_2 + E_3e_3 + B_1e_{23} + B_2e_{13} + B_3e_{12}$$

Image: A math a math

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#### Maxwell's Equations in STA - $G_{1,3,0}$

 $\begin{aligned} \nabla \mathbf{F} &= J \text{, with} \\ \mathbf{F} &= \mathbf{E} + I \mathbf{B} = E_1 \gamma_{10} + E_2 \gamma_{20} + E_3 \gamma_{30} + B_1 \gamma_{13} + B_2 \gamma_{13} + B_3 \gamma_{12} \text{,} \\ J &= (\rho - \mathbf{J}) \gamma_0 \\ \nabla &= \gamma^i \frac{\partial}{\partial x_i} \end{aligned}$ 

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Problem Definition

# Problem Definition: Describing Maxwell's PDEs

Maxwell's Equations in STA

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- From Prof. Lasenby's presentation, *A new language for Physics* at GAME 2020:

"The advantage here is not merely notational [...] the geometric product with the vector derivative is invertible [...] where the separate divergence and curl operators are not"

"This led to the development of a new method for calculating EM response of conductors to incoming plane waves [...] it was possible to change the illumination in real time"

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Problem Definition

# Problem Definition: Architecture

GA - G<sub>3,0,0</sub>

$$\left(\frac{\partial}{\partial t}+i\nabla\right)F=\mathbf{J}-i\rho$$

STA -  $G_{1,3,0}$   $abla {f F}=J$ 

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# Problem Definition: Architecture

GA - 
$$G_{3,0,0}$$
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# Problem Definition: Architecture



(a) Clifford ResNet (GA)  $^1$ 

(b) STAResNet (STA) [ours]

Figure 4: The two approaches to the solution of Maxwell's PDEs

<sup>1</sup>Clifford Neural Layers for PDE Modeling, Brandstetter et al.,  $\exists CLR \exists 2023 \equiv \flat \iff \equiv \flat \implies = 0$ 

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2) Problem Definition





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To validate the claim that STA is a better suited space to work in when dealing with Maxwell's PDEs...

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We look at:

- 2D EM fields
- 3D EM fields

Generated through a FDTD solver.

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- Number of trainable parameters
- Rollout error

### **Metrics**

#### Three metrics to assess the quality of the PDEs solution

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• Mean squared error

$$\mathcal{L} = \frac{1}{LMN} \sum_{j+x,y,z} \sum_{l=0}^{L} \sum_{m=0}^{M} \sum_{n=0}^{N} (E_{jlmn,i+2\Delta t} - \hat{E}_{jlmn,i+2\Delta t})^2 + (B_{jlmn,i+2\Delta t} - \hat{B}_{jlmn,i+2\Delta t})^2$$

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### Metrics

#### Three metrics to assess the quality of the PDEs solution

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• Structural Similarity Index Measure

$$\mathsf{SSIM}(\mathbf{F}^2, \hat{\mathbf{F}^2}) = \frac{(2\mu_{\mathbf{F}^2}\mu_{\hat{\mathbf{F}^2}} + C_1)(2\sigma_{\mathbf{F}^2\hat{\mathbf{F}^2}} + C_2)}{(\mu_{\mathbf{F}^2}^2 + \mu_{\hat{\mathbf{F}^2}}^2 + C_1)(\sigma_{\mathbf{F}^2}^2 + \sigma_{\hat{\mathbf{F}^2}}^2 + C_2)}$$

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### Experiments: 2D fields, varying $\Delta t$



Figure 5: Training and validation losses versus number of epochs for 2D Maxwell's PDEs.

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Figure 5: Training and validation losses versus number of epochs for 2D Maxwell's PDEs.



Figure 6: MSE between estimated and GT EM\_fields\_vs  $\Delta t_{...}$ 

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### Experiments: 2D fields, varying $\Delta t$

 $\mathbf{F}^2 = (\mathbf{E} + I\mathbf{B})^2 = (E_1\gamma_{10} + E_2\gamma_{20} + E_3\gamma_{30} + B_1\gamma_{13} + B_2\gamma_{13} + B_3\gamma_{12})^2$ 

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#### Experiments: 2D fields, varying $\Delta t$

 $\mathbf{F}^2 = (\mathbf{E} + I\mathbf{B})^2 = (E_1\gamma_{10} + E_2\gamma_{20} + E_3\gamma_{30} + B_1\gamma_{13} + B_2\gamma_{13} + B_3\gamma_{12})^2$ 



Figure 7: Squared magnitude of the Faraday bivector  $\mathbf{F}^2$  for varying  $\Delta t$ .

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### Experiments: impact of obstacles



Figure 8: The 5 different obstacle configurations. The 3 unseen geometries are highlighted.

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### Experiments: impact of obstacles



Figure 8: The 5 different obstacle configurations. The 3 unseen geometries are highlighted.



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### Experiments: impact of obstacles



Figure 10: Squared magnitude of the Faraday bivector  ${\bf F}^2$  over the test set with seen and unseen obstacles configurations.

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#### Experiments: impact of trainable parameters

STA is a (n + 1)D space compared to nD GA: for the same number of channels or for the same size of the convolutional filters, STAResNet will have a larger number of trainable parameters.

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Number of trainable parameters

Figure 11: Test error over the estimated EM fields in the presence of seen and unseen obstacle geometries versus the number of trainable parameters.

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#### Experiments: rollout error

*Rollout* refers to the process of using the model's own predictions as inputs to generate future predictions.

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(a) MSE ( $\downarrow$ ) versus rollout steps.

(b) SSIM ( $\uparrow$ ) versus rollout steps.

Figure 12: (a) Mean squared error and (b) correlation between estimated and ground truth EM fields over test set versus rollout steps m for the 2D case.

# Experiments: rollout error - visualizing $\mathbf{F}^2$

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#### Experiments: 3D fields



Figure 13: MSE between estimated and GT EM fields vs rollout steps m for the 3D case.

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# Experiments: 3D fields - visualizing $\mathbf{F}^2$

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# Conclusion



#### With STAResNet, we:

• Shed light on the importance of the right algebra in which to embed data

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### Conclusion



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#### Why does it matter?

• Many problems in ML deal with geometrical data

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- Very few models can capture the geometry of data like GA networks

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#### Why does it matter?

- Many problems in ML deal with geometrical data
- Very few models can capture the geometry of data like GA networks
- Growing interest in industry: Huawei, Microsoft, ...

Acknowledgements: Joan Lasenby, Sven Buchholz, Christian Hockey, David Bowie

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