



# FFTs in Graphics and Vision

Rotational and Reflective  
Symmetry Detection



# Outline

Representation Theory

Symmetry Detection

- Rotational Symmetry
- Reflective Symmetry



# Representation Theory

## Recall:

A group is a set of elements  $G$  with a binary operation (often denoted “ $\cdot$ ”) such that for all  $f, g, h \in G$ , the following properties are satisfied:

- Closure:

$$g \cdot h \in G$$

- Associativity:

$$f \cdot (g \cdot h) = (f \cdot g) \cdot h$$

- Identity: There exists an identity element  $1 \in G$  s.t.:

$$1 \cdot g = g \cdot 1 = g$$

- Inverse: Every element  $g$  has an inverse  $g^{-1}$  s.t.:

$$g \cdot g^{-1} = g^{-1} \cdot g = 1$$



# Representation Theory

## Observation 1:

Given a group  $G = \{g_1, \dots, g_n\}$ , for any  $g \in G$ , the (set-theoretic) map that multiplies the elements of  $G$  on the left by  $g$  is invertible.

(The inverse is the map multiplying the elements of  $G$  on the left by  $g^{-1}$ .)



# Representation Theory

## Observation 1:

In particular, the set  $\{g \cdot g_1, \dots, g \cdot g_n\}$  is just a re-ordering of the set  $\{g_1, \dots, g_n\}$ .

Or more simply,  $g \cdot G = G$ .

Similarly, the set  $\{g_1^{-1}, \dots, g_n^{-1}\}$  is just a re-ordering of the set  $\{g_1, \dots, g_n\}$ .

Or more simply,  $G^{-1} = G$ .



# Representation Theory

## Recall:

A Hermitian inner product is a map from  $V \times V$  into the complex numbers that is:

1. Linear: For all  $u, v, w \in V$  and any scalar  $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}$

$$\langle u + v, w \rangle = \langle u, w \rangle + \langle v, w \rangle$$

$$\langle \lambda v, w \rangle = \lambda \langle v, w \rangle$$

2. Conjugate Symmetric: For all  $v, w \in V$

$$\langle v, w \rangle = \overline{\langle w, v \rangle}$$

3. Positive Definite: For all  $v \in V$

$$\langle v, v \rangle \geq 0$$

$$\langle v, v \rangle = 0 \Leftrightarrow v = 0$$



# Representation Theory

## Observation 2:

Given a Hermitian inner-product space  $V$ , and vectors  $\{v_1, \dots, v_n\} \subset V$ , the vector minimizing the sum of squared distances is the average:

$$\frac{1}{n} \sum_{k=1}^n v_k = \arg \min_{v \in V} \left( \sum_{k=1}^n \|v - v_k\|^2 \right)$$



# Representation Theory

Recall:

A unitary representation of a group  $G$  on a Hermitian inner-product space  $V$  is a map  $\rho$  that sends every element in  $G$  to an orthogonal transformation on  $V$ , satisfying:

$$\rho_{g \cdot h} = \rho_g \cdot \rho_h$$

for all  $g, h \in G$ .





# Representation Theory

## Definition:

A vector  $v \in V$  is invariant under the action of  $G$  if:

$$\rho_g(v) = v$$

for all  $g \in G$ .

We denote by  $V_G$  the set of vectors in  $V$  that are invariant under the action of  $G$ :

$$V_G = \{v \in V \mid \rho_g(v) = v, \forall g \in G\}$$



# Representation Theory

## Observation 3:

The set  $V_G$  is a vector sub-space of  $V$ .

If  $v, w \in V_G$ , then for any  $g \in G$ , we have:

$$\rho_g(v) = v \quad \text{and} \quad \rho_g(w) = w$$

And for all scalars  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  we have:

$$\begin{aligned} \rho_g(\alpha \cdot v + \beta \cdot w) &= \alpha \cdot \rho_g(v) + \beta \cdot \rho_g(w) \\ &= \alpha \cdot v + \beta \cdot w \end{aligned}$$

So  $\alpha \cdot v + \beta \cdot w \in V_G$  as well.



# Representation Theory

## Observation 4:

Given a finite group  $G$  and given a vector  $v \in V$ ,  
the average of  $v$  over  $G$ :

$$\text{Average}(v, G) = \frac{1}{|G|} \sum_{g \in G} \rho_g(v)$$

is invariant under the action of  $G$ .



# Representation Theory

## Observation 4:

Let  $h$  be any element in  $G$ .

We would like to show that  $h$  maps the average back to itself:

$$\text{Average}(v, G) = \rho_h(\text{Average}(v, G))$$



# Representation Theory

## Observation 4:

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Average}(v, G) &= \rho_h(\text{Average}(v, G)) \\ &= \rho_h\left(\frac{1}{|G|} \sum_{g \in G} \rho_g(v)\right) \\ &= \frac{1}{|G|} \sum_{g \in G} \rho_h \cdot \rho_g(v) \\ &= \frac{1}{|G|} \sum_{g \in G} \rho_{h \cdot g}(v) \\ &= \frac{1}{|G|} \sum_{g \in h \cdot G} \rho_g(v) \\ &= \frac{1}{|G|} \sum_{g \in G} \rho_g(v) \\ &= \text{Average}(v, G)\end{aligned}$$



# Representation Theory

## Observation 5:

Given a finite group  $G$  and given a vector  $v \in V$ , the average of  $v$  over  $G$  is the closest  $G$ -invariant vector to  $v$ :

$$\text{Average}(v, G) = \arg \min_{v_0 \in V_G} (\|v_0 - v\|^2)$$



# Representation Theory

## Observation 5:

$$\begin{aligned}\|v_0 - v\|^2 &= \frac{1}{|G|} \sum_{g \in G} \|\rho_g(v_0) - v\|^2 \\ &= \frac{1}{|G|} \sum_{g \in G} \|v_0 - \rho_g^{-1}(v)\|^2 \\ &= \frac{1}{|G|} \sum_{g \in G} \|v_0 - \rho_{g^{-1}}(v)\|^2 \\ &= \frac{1}{|G|} \sum_{g \in G^{-1}} \|v_0 - \rho_g(v)\|^2 \\ &= \frac{1}{|G|} \sum_{g \in G} \|v_0 - \rho_g(v)\|^2\end{aligned}$$



# Representation Theory

Observation 5:

$$\|v_0 - v\|^2 = \frac{1}{|G|} \sum_{g \in G} \|v_0 - \rho_g(v)\|^2$$

Thus,  $v_0$  is the  $G$ -invariant vector minimizing the squared distance to  $v$  if and only if it minimizes the sum of squared distances to the vectors:

$$\{\rho_{g_1}(v), \dots, \rho_{g_n}(v)\}$$

So  $v_0$  must be the average of these vectors:

$$v_0 = \frac{1}{|G|} \sum_{g \in G} \rho_g(v) = \text{Average}(v, G)$$





# Representation Theory

Note:

Since the average map:

$$\text{Average}(v, G) = \frac{1}{|G|} = \sum_{g \in G} \rho_g(v)$$

is a linear map returning the closest  $G$ -invariant vector to  $v$ , it is the projection map from  $V$  to  $V_G$ .



# Outline

Representation Theory

## Symmetry Detection

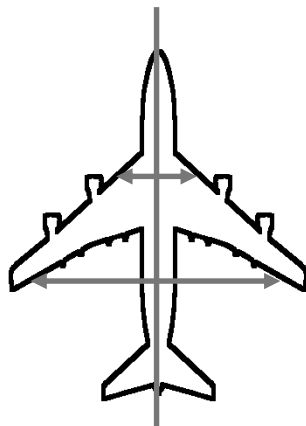
- Rotational Symmetry
- Reflective Symmetry



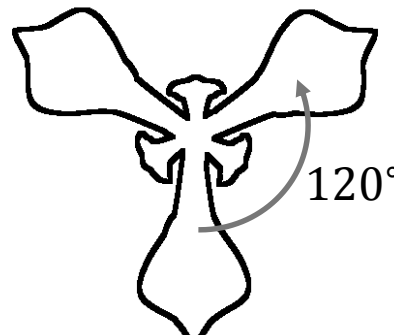
# Symmetry Detection

For functions on a circle, we defined measures of:

- Reflective Symmetry: for every axis of reflective symmetry.
- Rotational Symmetry: for every order of rotational symmetry.

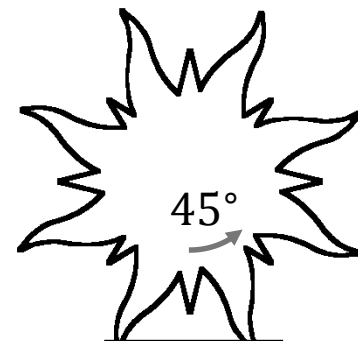


Reflective



3-Fold

Rotational



8-Fold

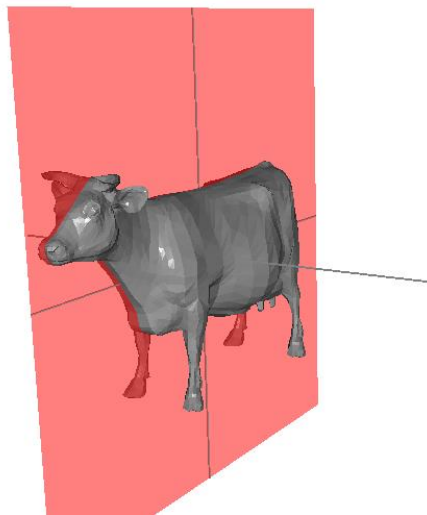
Rotational



# Symmetry Detection

For functions on a sphere, we would like to define a measure of:

- Reflective Symmetry: for every plane of reflective symmetry.

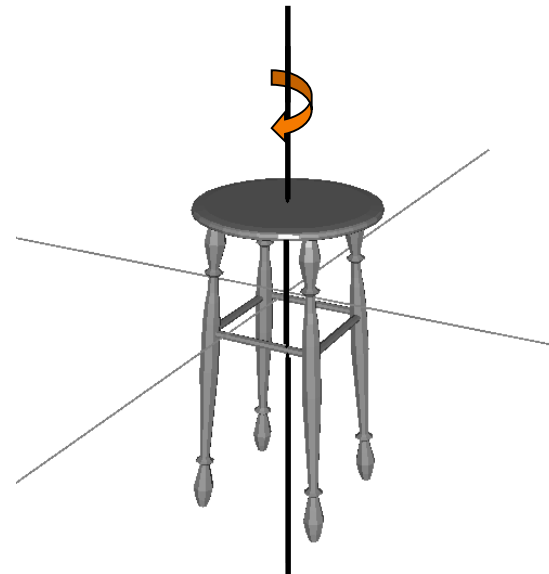
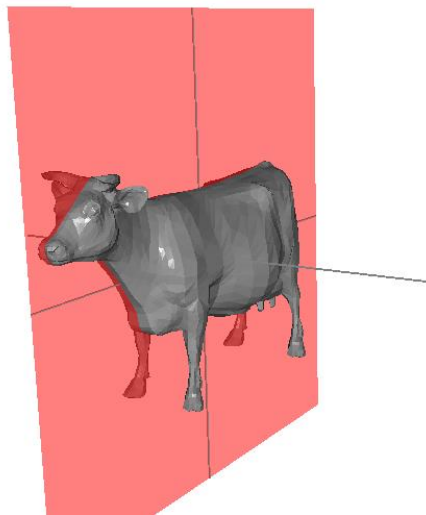




# Symmetry Detection

For functions on a sphere, we would like to define a measure of:

- Reflective Symmetry: for *every* plane of reflective symmetry.
- Rotational Symmetry: for *every* axis through the origin and *every* order of rotational symmetry.





# Symmetry Detection

## Goal:

### Reflective Symmetry:

- Compute the spherical function giving the measure of reflective symmetry of every plane passing through the origin.

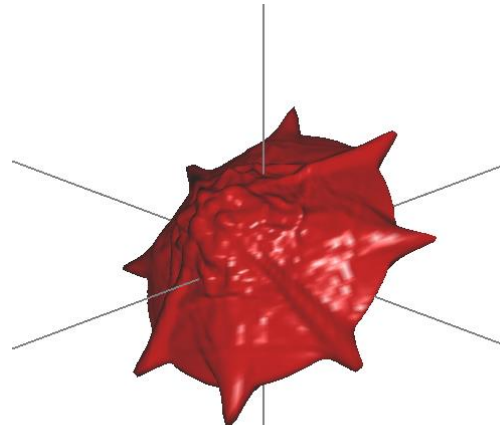
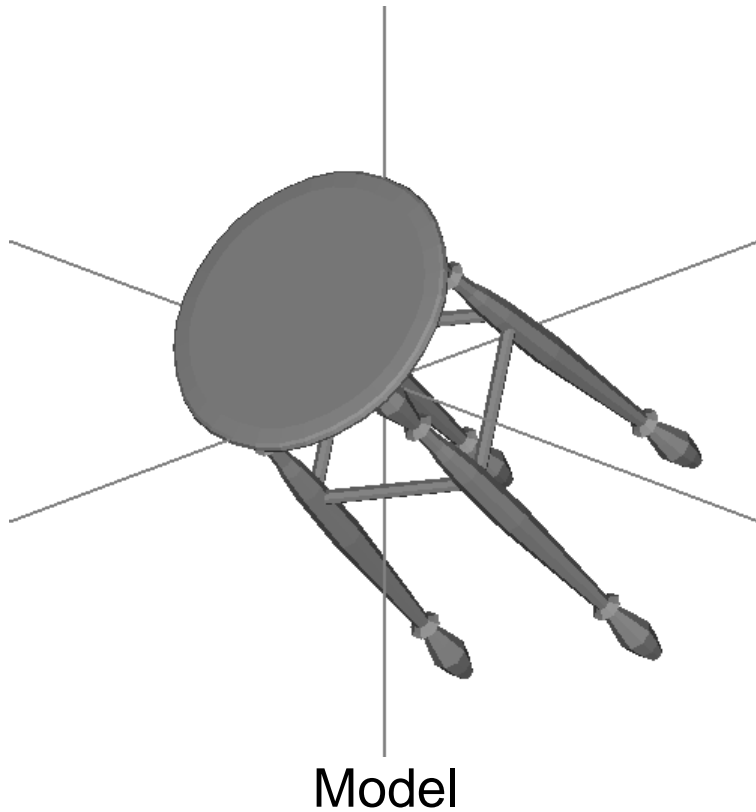
### Rotational Symmetry:

- For every order of rotational symmetry  $k$ :
  - » Compute the spherical function giving the measure of  $k$ -fold symmetry about every axis through the origin.

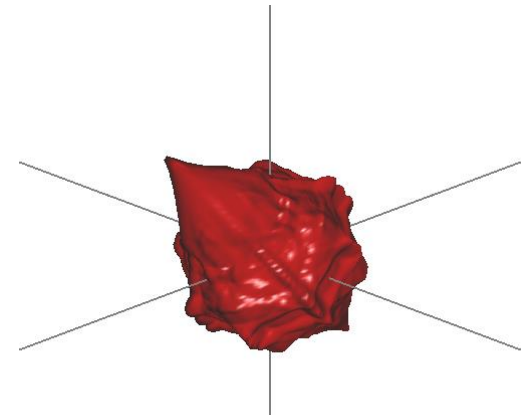
# Symmetry Detection



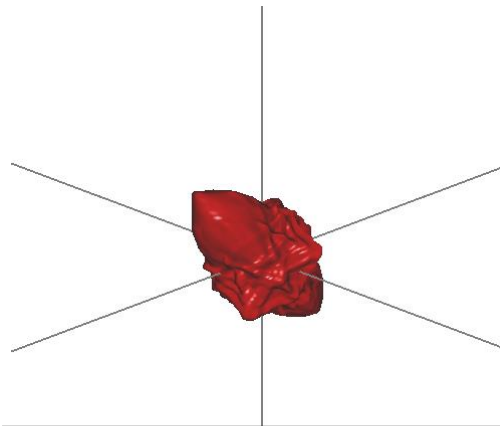
Goal:



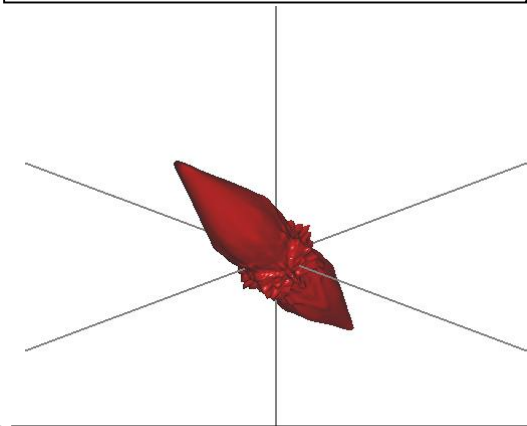
Reflective Symmetries



2-Fold  
Rotational Symmetries



3-Fold  
Rotational Symmetries



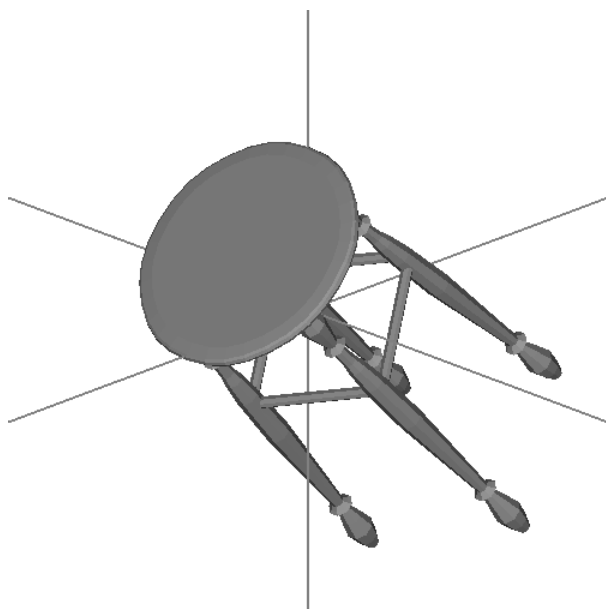
4-Fold  
Rotational Symmetries



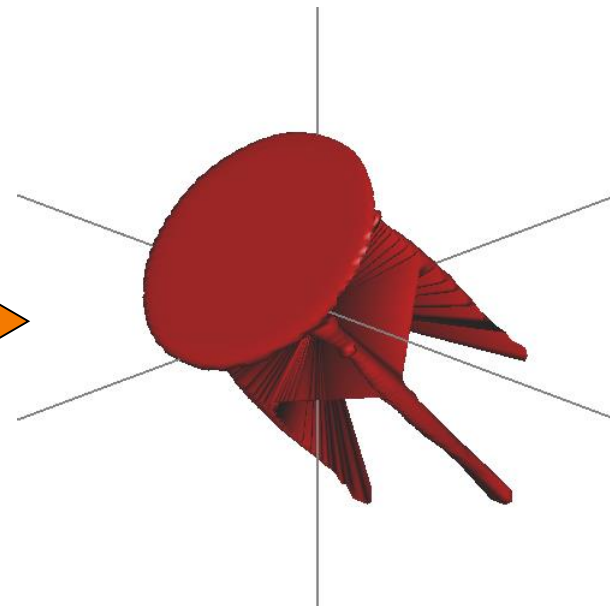
# Symmetry Detection

## Approach:

As in the 1D case, we will compute the symmetries of a shape by representing the shape by a spherical function.



Model



Spherical Extent Function





# Symmetry Detection

## Recall:

To measure a function's symmetry we:

- Associated a group  $G$  of transformations to each type of symmetry
- Defined the measure of symmetry as the size of the closest  $G$ -invariant function:

$$\text{Sym}^2(f, G) = \|\pi_G(f)\|^2$$

Since the nearest symmetric function is the average under the action of the group, we got:

$$\text{Sym}^2(f, G) = \left\| \frac{1}{|G|} \sum_{g \in G} \rho_g(f) \right\|^2$$



# Outline

Representation Theory

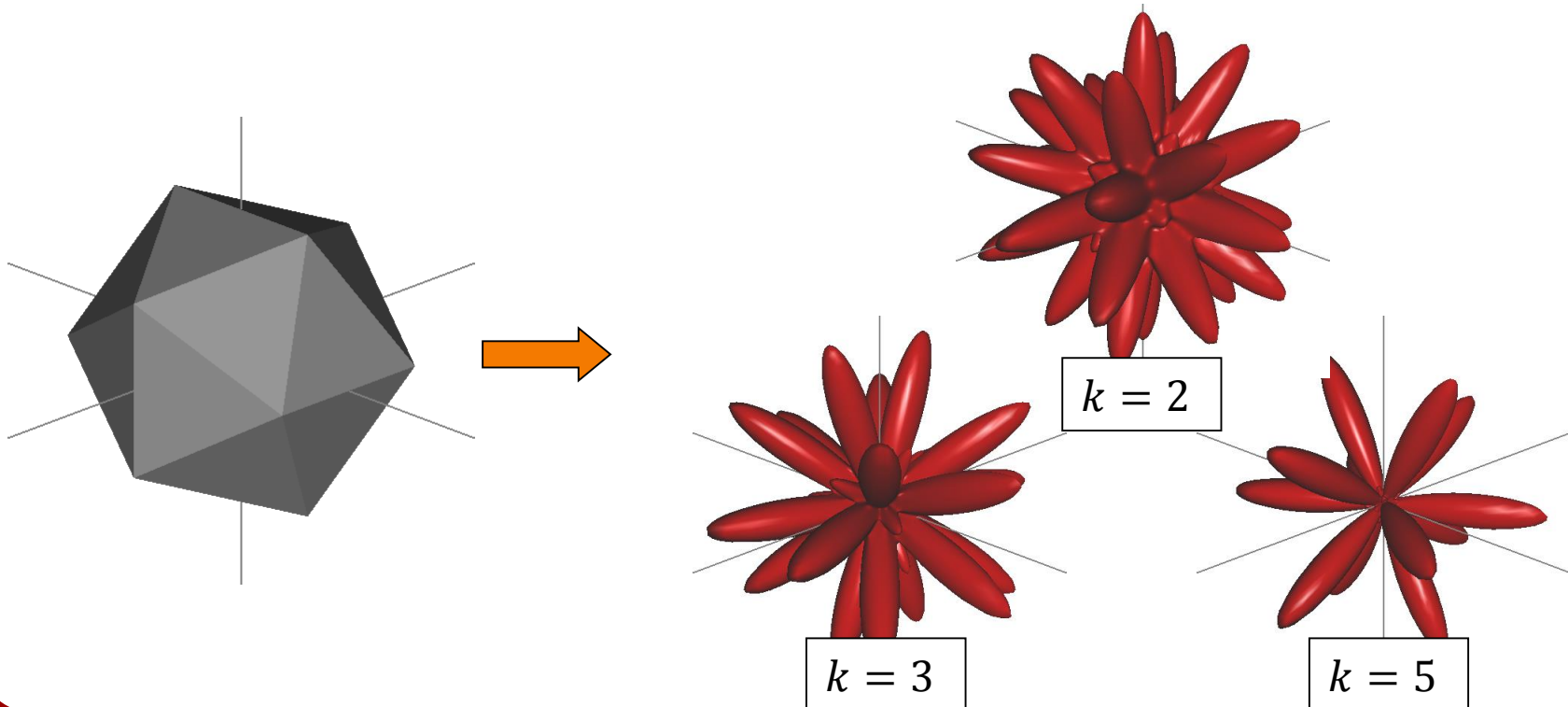
## Symmetry Detection

- Rotational Symmetry
- Reflective Symmetry



# Rotational Symmetry

Given a function on the sphere, and given a fixed order of rotational symmetry  $k$ , define a function whose value at a point is the measure of  $k$ -fold rotational symmetry about the associated axis.





# Rotational Symmetry

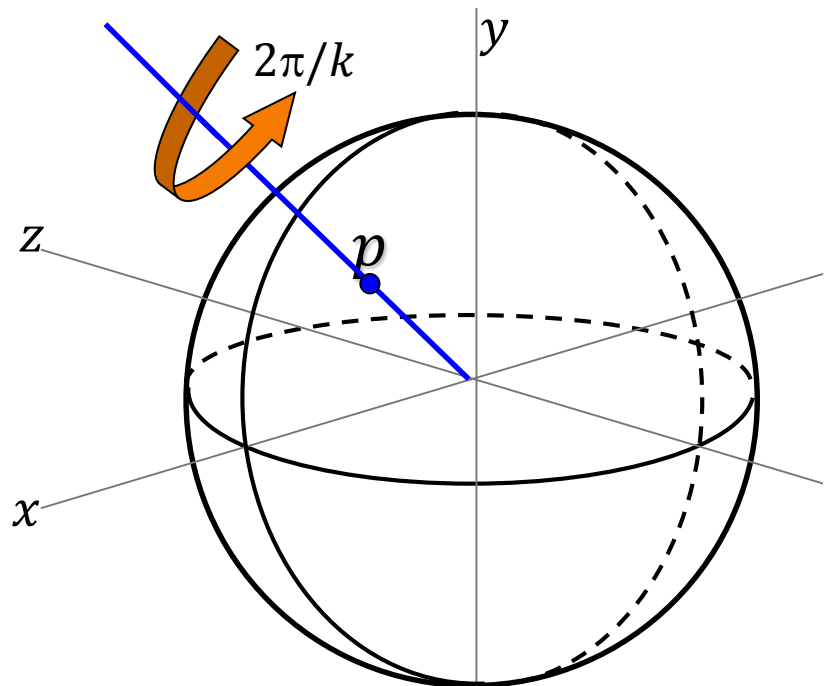
To do this, we need to associate a group to every axis passing through the origin.

We denote by  $G_{p,k}$  the group of  $k$ -fold rotations about the axis through  $p$ .

The elements of the group are the rotations:

$$g_j = R\left(p, \frac{2j\pi}{k}\right)$$

corresponding to rotations about  $p$  by the angle  $2j\pi/k$ .



# Rotational Symmetry



$$\begin{aligned}\text{Sym}^2(f, G_{p,k}) &= \left\| \frac{1}{k} \sum_{j=0}^{k-1} \rho_{g_j}(f) \right\|^2 \\ &= \frac{1}{k^2} \left\langle \sum_{i=0}^{k-1} \rho_{g_i}(f), \sum_{j=0}^{k-1} \rho_{g_j}(f) \right\rangle \\ &= \frac{1}{k^2} \sum_{i,j=0}^{k-1} \langle \rho_{g_i}(f), \rho_{g_j}(f) \rangle \\ &= \frac{1}{k^2} \sum_{i,j=0}^{k-1} \langle f, \rho_{g_{j-i}}(f) \rangle \\ &= \frac{1}{k} \sum_{j=0}^{k-1} \langle f, \rho_{g_j}(f) \rangle\end{aligned}$$



# Rotational Symmetry

$$\text{Sym}^2(f, G_{p,k}) = \frac{1}{k} \sum_{j=0}^{k-1} \left\langle f, \rho_{g_j}(f) \right\rangle$$

The measure of  $k$ -fold rotational symmetry about the axis  $p$  can be computed by taking the average of the dot-products of the function  $f$  with its  $k$  rotations about the axis  $p$ .



# Rotational Symmetry

$$\text{Sym}^2(f, G_{p,k}) = \frac{1}{k} \sum_{j=0}^{k-1} \langle f, \rho_{g_j}(f) \rangle$$

So computing the measures of rotational symmetry reduces to the problem of computing the correlation of  $f$  with itself:

$$\text{Dot}_{f,f}(R) = \langle f, \rho_R(f) \rangle$$

And this is something that we can do using the Wigner  $D$ -transform from last lecture.



# Rotational Symmetry

$$\text{Sym}^2(f, G_{p,k}) = \frac{1}{k} \sum_{j=0}^{k-1} \left\langle f, \rho_{g_j}(f) \right\rangle$$

## Algorithm:

Given a function  $f$ :

- Compute the auto-correlation of  $f$ .
- For each order of symmetry  $k$ :
  - » Compute the spherical function whose value at  $p$  is the average of the correlation values at rotations  $R\left(p, \frac{2\pi j}{k}\right)$ , with  $0 \leq j < k$ .





# Rotational Symmetry

$$\text{Sym}^2(f, G_{p,k}) = \frac{1}{k} \sum_{j=0}^{k-1} \left\langle f, \rho_{g_j}(f) \right\rangle$$

## Complexity:

- Compute the auto-correlation:  $O(n^3 \log^2 n)$
- For each order of symmetry  $k$ :
  - Compute the spherical function:  $O(n^2 k)$

Giving a complexity of  $O(n^2 k^2 + n^3 \log^2 n)$  to compute all rotational symmetries.

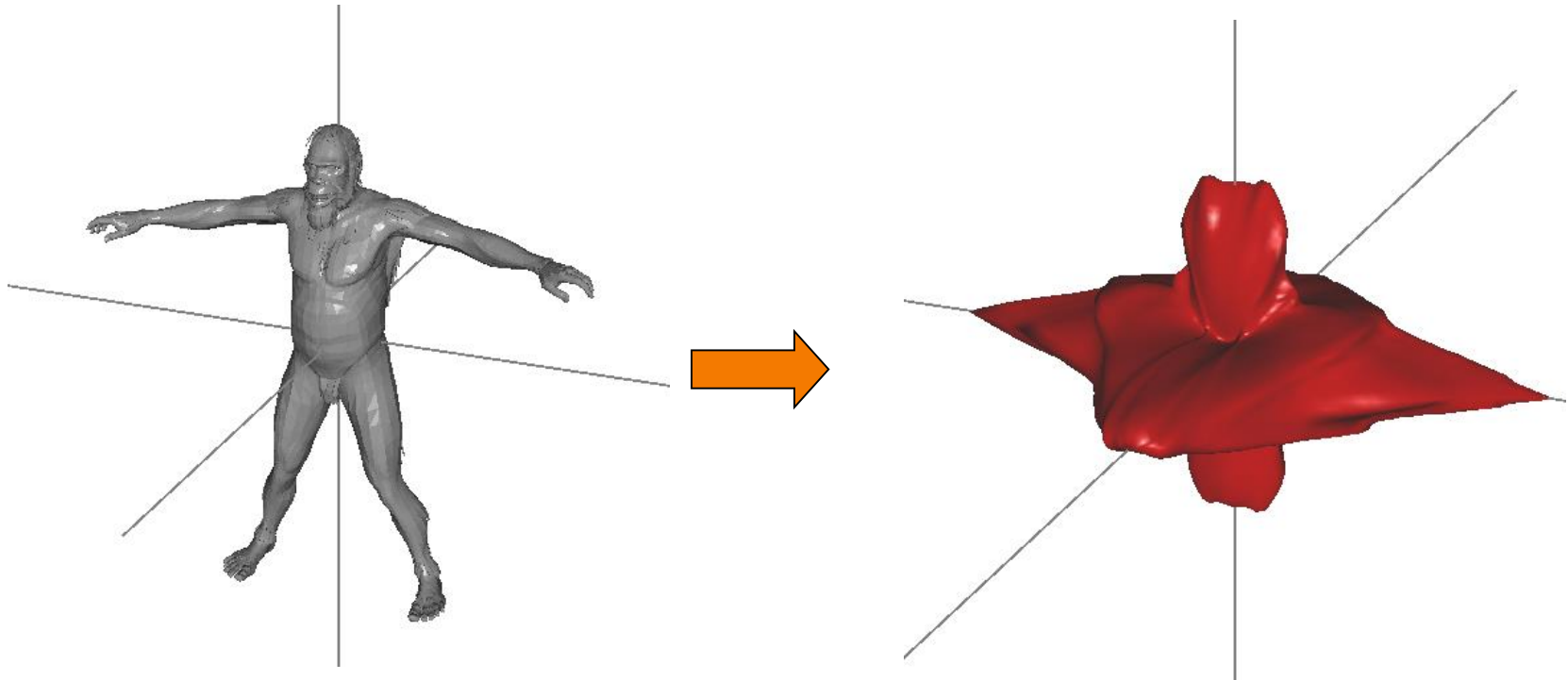


# Outline

Representation Theory

## Symmetry Detection

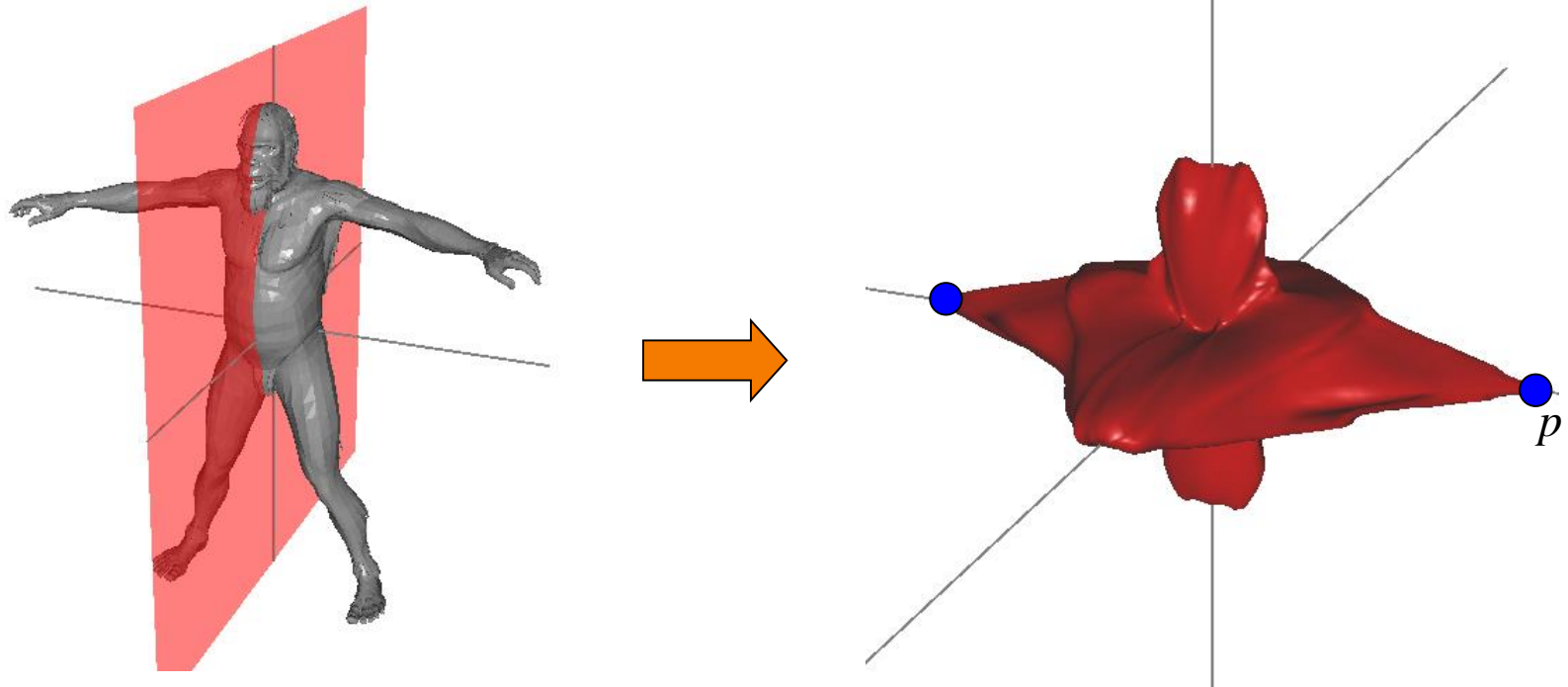
- Rotational Symmetry
- **Reflective Symmetry**





# Reflective Symmetry

Given a spherical function  $f$ , we would like to compute a function whose value at a point  $p$  is the measure of reflective symmetry with respect to the plane perpendicular to  $p$ .

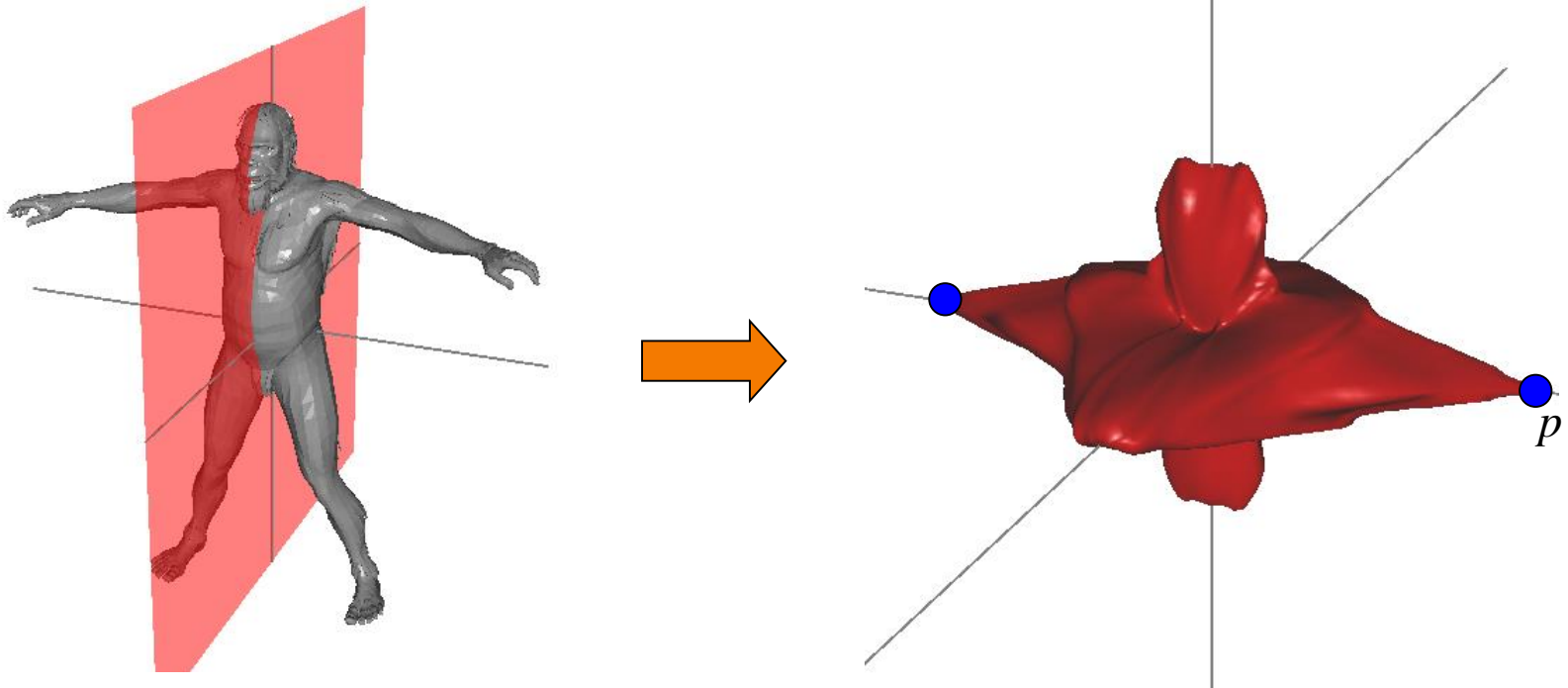




# Reflective Symmetry

Reflections through the plane perpendicular to  $p$  correspond to a group with two elements:

$$G_p = \{\text{Id}, \text{Ref}_p\}$$





# Reflective Symmetry

Reflections through the plane perpendicular to  $p$  correspond to a group with two elements:

$$G_p = \{\text{Id}, \text{Ref}_p\}$$

So the measure of reflective symmetry becomes:

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Sym}^2(f, G_p) &= \frac{1}{2} \left( \langle f, f \rangle + \langle f, \rho_{\text{Ref}_p}(f) \rangle \right) \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \left( \|f\|^2 + \langle f, \rho_{\text{Ref}_p}(f) \rangle \right)\end{aligned}$$



# Reflective Symmetry

How do we compute the dot-product of the function  $f$  with the reflection of  $f$  through the plane perpendicular to  $p$ ?

Since reflections are not rotations we cannot use the auto-correlation (directly).



# Reflective Symmetry

## General Approach:

If we have two reflections  $S$  and  $T$ , we can set  $R$  to be the transformation:

$$R = T \cdot S$$

Since  $S$  and  $T$  are both orthogonal, the product  $R$  must also be orthogonal.

Since both  $S$  and  $T$  have determinant  $-1$ ,  $R$  must have determinant  $1$ .



# Reflective Symmetry

## General Approach:

If we have two reflections  $S$  and  $T$ , we can set  $R$  to be the transformation:

$$R = T \cdot S$$

Thus,  $R$  must be a rotation and we have:

$$T = R \cdot S^{-1} = R \cdot S$$

$\Rightarrow$  Any reflection  $T$  can be expressed as the product of a fixed reflection  $S$  with some rotation.





# Reflective Symmetry

## General Approach:

If we compute the correlation of  $f$  with some reflection  $\rho_S(f)$ :

$$\text{Dot}_{f, \rho_S(f)}(R) = \langle f, \rho_R(\rho_S(f)) \rangle$$

Then we can get the dot-product of  $f$  with its reflection through the plane perpendicular to  $p$ :

$$\begin{aligned} \langle f, \rho_{\text{Ref}_p}(f) \rangle &= \langle f, \rho_{\text{Ref}_p \cdot S}(\rho_S(f)) \rangle \\ &= \text{Dot}_{f, \rho_S(f)}(\underbrace{\text{Ref}_p \cdot S}_{\text{Rotation}}) \end{aligned}$$



# Reflective Symmetry

$$\text{Sym}^2(f, G_p) = \frac{1}{2} \left( \|f\|^2 + \text{Dot}_{f, \rho_S(f)}(\text{Ref}_p \cdot S) \right)$$

## Algorithm:

Given a function  $f$ :

- Compute the correlation of  $f$  with  $\rho_S(f)$
- Compute the spherical function whose value at  $p$  is the average of the size of  $f$  and the dot-product of  $f$  with the rotation of  $\rho_S(f)$  by  $\text{Ref}_p \cdot S$ .



# Reflective Symmetry

$$\text{Sym}^2(f, G_p) = \frac{1}{2} \left( \|f\|^2 + \text{Dot}_{f, \rho_S(f)}(\text{Ref}_p \cdot S) \right)$$

## Complexity:

- Compute the correlation:  $O(n^3 \log^2 n)$
- Compute the spherical function:  $O(n^2)$

Giving a complexity of  $O(n^3 \log^2 n)$  to compute all reflective symmetries.



# Reflective Symmetry

$$\text{Sym}^2(f, G_p) = \frac{1}{2} \left( \|f\|^2 + \text{Dot}_{f, \rho_S(f)}(\text{Ref}_p \cdot S) \right)$$

## Complexity:

- Correlation computation is  $O(n^3 \log^2 n)$
- Correlation computation is overkill as we don't use most of the correlation values.

Giving a complexity of  $O(n^3 \log^2 n)$  to compute all reflective symmetries.



# Reflective Symmetry

There are many different choices for the reflection  $S$  we use to compute:

$$\text{Dot}_{f, \rho_S(f)}(R)$$

A simple reflection is the antipodal map:

$$S = \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$$

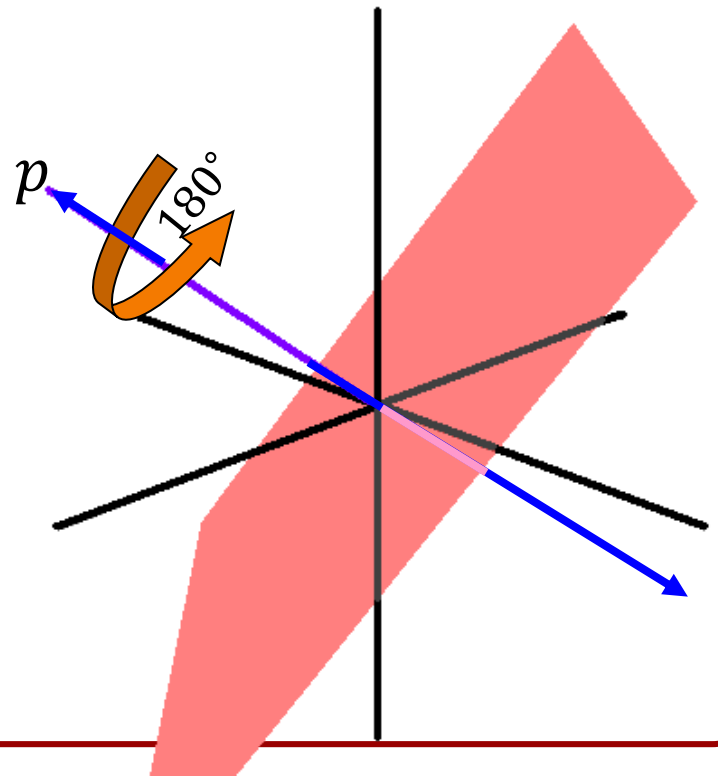


# Reflective Symmetry

The advantage of using the antipodal map is that it makes it easy to express  $\text{Ref}_p \cdot S$ .

Fixing a point  $p$ ,  $S$  is the composition of two maps:

- A reflection through the plane perpendicular to  $p$ , and
- A rotation by  $180^\circ$  about the axis through  $p$ .

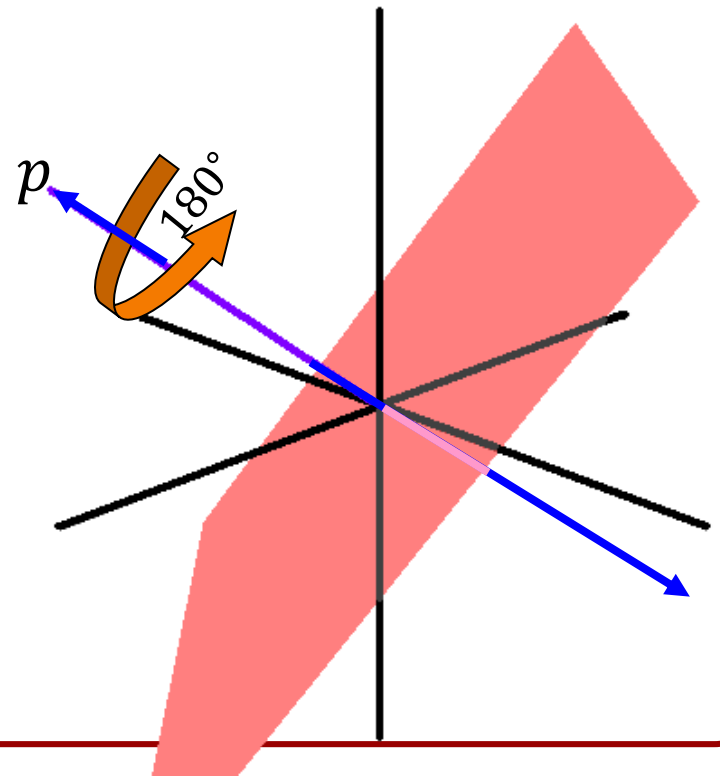




# Reflective Symmetry

So a reflection through the plane perpendicular to  $p$  is the product of the antipodal map and a rotation by  $180^\circ$  around the axis through  $p$ :

$$\text{Ref}_p = R(p, \pi) \cdot S$$





# Reflective Symmetry

Setting  $S$  to be the antipodal map, we get:

$$\text{Sym}^2(f, G_p) = \frac{1}{2} (\|f\|^2 + \langle f, \rho_{R(p, \pi)}(\rho_S(f)) \rangle)$$

Note that evaluating reflective symmetry only requires knowing the correlation values for  $180^\circ$  rotations.



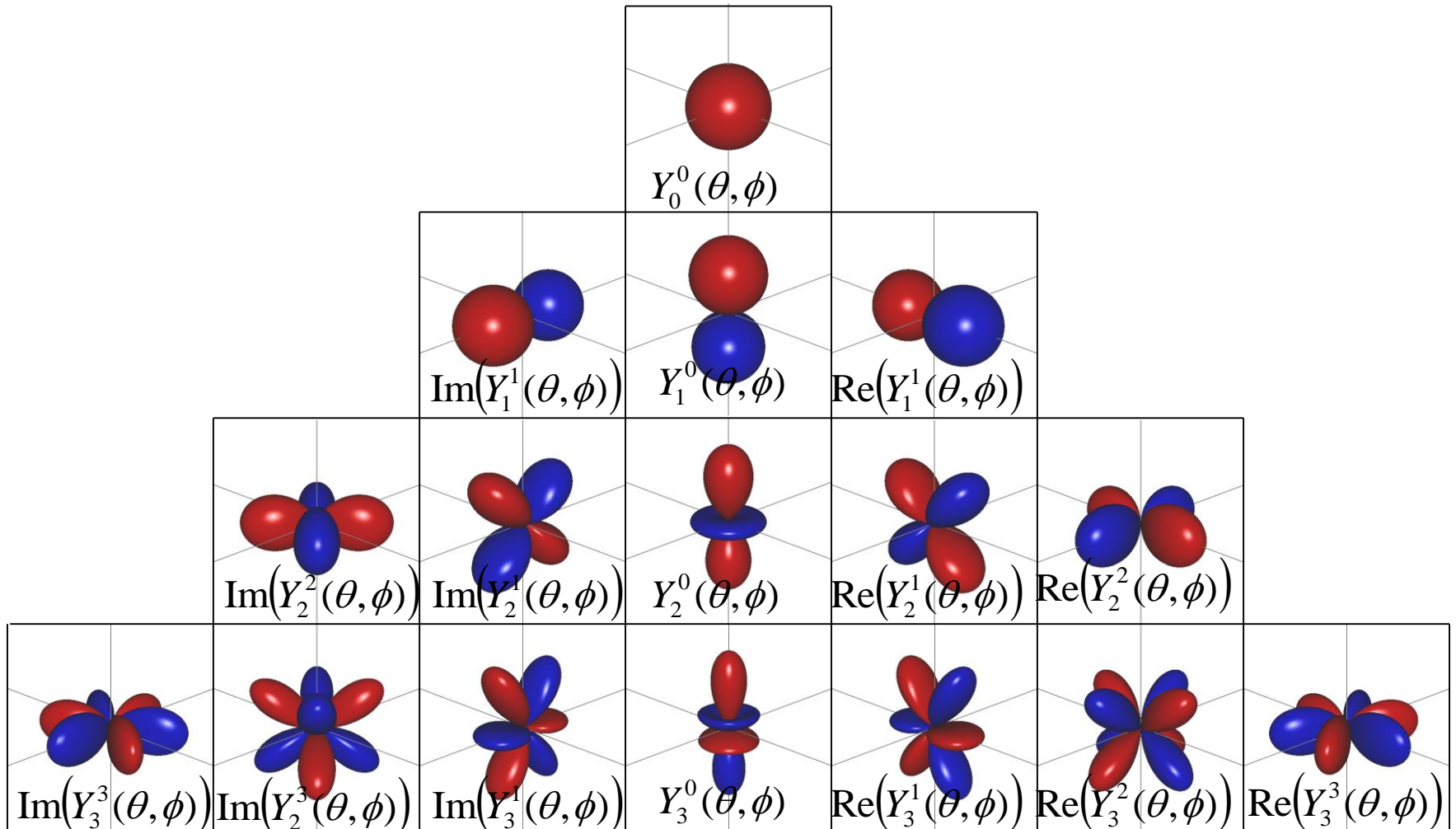


# Reflective Symmetry

Since the spherical harmonics of degree  $l$  are homogenous polynomials of degree  $l$ , we get a simple expression for  $\rho_S(f)$ :

$$\rho_S(f) = \sum_l (-1)^l \sum_{m=-l}^l \hat{f}(l, m) \cdot Y_l^m$$

# Reflective Symmetry





# Reflective Symmetry

In particular, if  $f$  is antipodally symmetric:

$$\rho_S(f) = f$$

we have:

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Sym}^2(f, G_p) &= \frac{1}{2} (\|f\|^2 + \langle f, \rho_{R(p,\pi)}(\rho_S(f)) \rangle) \\ &= \frac{1}{2} (\|f\|^2 + \langle f, \rho_{R(p,\pi)}(f) \rangle) \\ &= \text{Sym}^2(f, G_{p,2})\end{aligned}$$



# Reflective Symmetry

That is, if  $f$  is antipodally symmetric, the 2-fold rotational symmetries of  $f$  and the reflective symmetries of  $f$  are the same.

