

## Connecting the Dots: Exploring the Fundamental Underpinnings of Deep Learning

Habib Hamam<sup>1,2,3,4</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Faculty of Engineering, Uni de Moncton, Moncton, NB E1A3E9, Canada

<sup>2</sup>School of Electrical Engineering, University of Johannesburg, Johannesburg 2006, South Africa

<sup>3</sup>International Institute of Technology and Management (IITG), Av. Grandes Ecoles, Libreville BP 1989, Gabon

<sup>4</sup>Bridges for Academic Excellence - Spectrum, Tunis, Centerville, Tunisia

### ABSTRACT

Deep learning has transformed various sectors, introducing new applications and opportunities. However, the underlying physical mechanisms or mathematical theories responsible for its success remain fundamental questions. This inquiry explores the connection between deep learning algorithms and established scientific principles with the aim of uncovering the mysteries behind their remarkable capabilities. By bridging the gap between deep learning, neural networks, and scientific knowledge, we can develop robust and interpretable models with enhanced capabilities. This ongoing research involves collaboration across diverse fields to unveil the hidden intricacies of deep learning algorithms and their links to physical phenomena. The ultimate goal is to contribute to the potential of the journal by examining the theory, design and application of neural networks and machine learning, focusing on the effectiveness of neural network paradigms for deep learning and their connections to physical events. By examining the intersection of deep learning, neural networks, and physical phenomena, we aim to advance our understanding and use of neural networks and machine learning in many areas of space, pushing the boundaries of excellence in science and engineering.

### \*Corresponding author

Habib Hamam, Faculty of Engineering, Uni de Moncton, Moncton, NB E1A3E9, Canada.

**Received:** April 19, 2025; **Accepted:** April 25, 2025; **Published:** May 02, 2025

**Keywords:** Deep Learning, Diffraction, Neural Networks, Talbot Effect, Wavelet Transforms, Wave Propagation

### Introduction

Deep learning has a long history dating back to the 1940s and 1950s, when Warren McCulloch and Walter Pitts developed the first mathematical models of neural networks [1]. Their model forms the basis of artificial neural networks and their ability to perform the task effectively. However, progress in this field was stalled in the 1960s due to hardware and software limitations [2]. Despite these setbacks, research continued and eventually led to major advances in the 1980s, including the development of reverse engineering techniques for training neural networks.

Deep learning emerged as a renaissance in the 1990s with the emergence of many different neural network architectures and increased computing power [3]. The development of the backpropagation algorithm made it possible to train deep neural networks, and various deep neural networks began to operate.

An important milestone occurred in 2006 when Geoffrey Hinton, Yann LeCun, and Yoshua Bengio co-authored a seminal paper introducing the Deep Belief Network (DBN), reigniting interest in deep learning [4].

A transformative moment for deep learning came in 2012 with the development of AlexNet, a deep convolutional neural network that decisively won the ImageNet Large Scale Visual Recognition Challenge (ILSVRC). AlexNet, crafted by Alex Krizhevsky, Ilya Sutskever, and Geoffrey Hinton, marked a pivotal juncture in the history of deep learning, thrusting the field into the limelight and attracting increased attention and investment [5].

Since then, deep learning has thrived and achieved remarkable success across a myriad of applications and related fields. It has demonstrated cutting-edge performance in tasks such as pattern analysis, computer vision, image understanding, visual search, document analysis, medical image analysis, and content-based retrieval of images and videos [6-11].

To accomplish these tasks, researchers used deep learning techniques, which provide powerful tools for analyzing and interpreting complex data.

Deep learning has its roots in neural networks and is inspired by the structure and function of the human brain. Deep neural networks, composed of many layers of interconnected artificial neurons, have a hierarchical representation of information, allowing them to reveal complex patterns and relationships. This eliminates the

need for an engineering manual and provides a deep learning model that can be adapted to a variety of tasks and materials.

The main results of our study can be summarized as follows. First, we aim to evaluate the effectiveness of deep learning and explore its potential and effectiveness in different contexts. Second, we focus on uncovering the mechanisms underlying deep learning and seek to understand the fundamental concepts and processes that make it successful. Third, we seek to identify physical phenomena that exhibit processes similar to those observed in deep learning, establishing connections between the principles that govern nature at this layer and the operation of deep learning models. There are many variations of deep learning algorithms, but we focus on the main points for each, such as extensive use of data, multiple layers, weights, and associations with personal details. Finally, we delve into the analytical method, which offers methods similar to deep learning, exploring the similarities in their approaches to processing and extracting insights from hard data.

Through these contributions, our work seeks to promote the understanding and use of deep learning techniques in a variety of research areas, including but not limited to the previously mentioned areas.

The research presented here provides new and innovative contributions to deep learning research, which includes many applications such as pattern analysis and machine intelligence. First, we aim to demystify deep learning by delving into its inner workings, revealing its methods and providing insight into its extraordinary capabilities. We aim to find connections and similarities by exploring similarities between natural events with deep learning, inspired by the sky and the physical. In particular, we explore the similarities between deep learning and phenomena such as Fresnel diffraction and reveal their inherent properties. We also investigate the role of wavelet transforms in deep learning, uncovering their importance and using them to improve our understanding of learning. Through this research, we go beyond traditional methods to reveal objects, objects, and similar results in deep learning. By connecting the differences between neural networks and the natural world, we saw the difference between deep learning and wave propagation and deciphered the complex processes involved. This research combines deep learning and wave phenomena in a complex way, providing insight into their patterns and similarities.

The structure of the present article is as follows: Section 1 pertains to the introduction and background of our study, while subsequent sections are outlined as follows. Section 2 elucidates the relevance of this study for future endeavors in Neural Networks and Learning Systems. Section 3 delineates the deep learning process. Section 4 expounds upon the connection between deep learning and physical phenomena. Section 5 delves into the correlation between deep learning and wavelet-based phenomena in nature. Section 6 highlights the primary findings of this work in the form of a comparison. Finally, Section 7 provides concluding remarks.

### Relevance of the Neural Networks

This article highlights the importance of understanding the inner workings of deep learning and its connection to effective physical systems in neural networks and learning concepts. The main focus is again on the benefits brought by this understanding, including increased computational efficiency, reduced workload and efficient use of memory resources.

### To Elaborate Further on the Benefits

**Computing Time:** Grasping the fundamental physical mechanisms of deep learning can pave the way for the creation of more efficient algorithms and architectures. By harnessing this understanding, researchers can craft neural networks that are computationally more streamlined, thereby diminishing the time required for model training and inference. This aligns closely with the journal's core focus on the theory, design, and applications of neural networks and learning systems.

**Effort:** The development of deep learning models often demands considerable effort, including architectural design, hyperparameter selection, and performance optimization. Gaining insights into the nexus between deep learning and physical phenomena empowers researchers to formulate methodologies and techniques that streamline the model development process. This reduces the amount of manual work required to fine-tune the model, making the entire development process more efficient.

**Memory Requirements:** Deep learning models tend to use a lot of memory and need a lot of storage resources to store comparisons and average operations. A better understanding of the connection between deep learning and physical events is leading researchers to improve modeling and compression techniques. This optimization can help reduce memory requirements without impacting model performance, making it easier to deploy deep learning models into hardware or large applications.

In line with the focus of the journal, this article highlights the advantages of understanding the deep learning process and its emerging connections to the body. The knowledge gained from this research should be developed by promoting the effective and efficient use of informatics. It also reduces design effort while optimizing memory.

### A Network Inspired by Nature

Deep Learning draws inspiration from interconnected networks found in various aspects of nature, which serve as models for its underlying processes:

#### Networks in Nature

- **Brain Network:** The human brain serves as a complex network comprising interconnected neurons, facilitating intricate cognitive functions and information processing. The patterns of connectivity within the brain network play a pivotal role in enabling communication and coordination across different regions of the brain.
- **Ecological Networks:** Ecological networks provide insights into the interactions among diverse species within ecosystems. These networks vividly portray the interconnectivity of species through relationships such as predator-prey dynamics, mutualistic interactions, and the flow of energy and nutrients within the ecosystem.
- **Neural Networks in Animals:** Many animals possess neural networks that enable sensory information processing, movement control, and essential functions. Examples include the neural networks present in the nervous systems of insects, birds, and other animal species.
- **Food Web Networks:** Food web networks illustrate the interactions between organisms in an ecosystem, focusing on feeding relationships. They elucidate the flow of energy and matter through the interlinked food chains present within an ecosystem.
- **Metabolic Networks:** Metabolic networks delineate the interconnected biochemical reactions occurring within living organisms. These networks depict the flow of metabolites and

the intricate interplay of biochemical pathways that sustain essential life processes.

- **Communication Networks in Plants:** Plants employ networks of chemical signals and interconnected root systems to communicate and coordinate various processes. These networks facilitate the exchange of resources, defense mechanisms, and mutual support among plants.
- **The Universe Itself:** On the grandest scales, the distribution of matter in the universe forms an expansive cosmic web. This cosmic web encompasses interconnected filaments, voids, and clusters, housing galaxies and galaxy clusters at the intersections of these cosmic threads. The cosmic web embodies the universe's large-scale structure, with matter and energy flowing along its interwoven pathways. The universe operates under the influence of diverse physical interactions and forces, including electromagnetism, the strong and weak nuclear forces, and gravity. These interactions enable the exchange of energy and matter across cosmic distances, shaping the behavior and evolution of celestial objects and structures. Additionally, the universe can be perceived as a network of information and causality, where events and phenomena propagate through both space and time, exerting influence and being influenced by neighboring regions. Cause-and-effect relationships weave a tapestry of interconnected influences that shape the universe's evolution and dynamics.

The interconnected networks observed in nature and diverse domains serve as a source of inspiration and valuable insights for comprehending the mechanisms and dynamics of intricate systems, including those within the realm of deep learning networks.

### Networks in Nature

In the realm of deep learning networks, several fundamental components come into play, each playing a crucial role in the network's operation. These components work in unison to process data and facilitate predictive tasks. Their interactions are as follows:

- **Input:** The input component represents the data fed into the neural network. This data can take various forms, such as images, text, audio, or structured and unstructured data. Typically, the input is represented as a vector or a multi-dimensional array.
- **Nodes or Neurons:** Nodes, also referred to as neurons, serve as the fundamental computational units within a neural network. Each node receives input either from the previous layer or directly from the input layer. It conducts a weighted summation of the received inputs, factoring in the associated weights and biases.
- **Layers:** A deep learning model comprises multiple layers of nodes. The initial layer is the input layer, which directly receives the input data. Subsequent layers are known as hidden layers, while the ultimate layer is the output layer responsible for generating predictions or model outputs.
- **Weights:** Weights represent the parameters tied to the connections between nodes in the neural network. Each connection possesses a weight value that determines the strength or significance of that specific connection. During training, these weights undergo adjustments to optimize the model's performance and minimize the loss function.
- **Bias:** Bias serves as an additional parameter affiliated with each node in the neural network, taking the form of a constant value. It empowers the network to learn and model relationships even when input values are zero or close to zero. The bias term introduces flexibility by shifting the output of

the activation function.

- **Sum of Contributions:** The sum of contributions pertains to the weighted summation of inputs computed by a node. It is computed by multiplying each input by its respective weight and aggregating all the weighted inputs, including the bias term.
- **Activation Function:** The activation function, a non-linear function, is applied to the sum of contributions produced by a node. It introduces non-linearity into the neural network, allowing it to discern intricate patterns and relationships within the data. Common activation functions encompass sigmoid, ReLU (Rectified Linear Unit), tanh (hyperbolic tangent), and softmax (typically used in the output layer for classification tasks).

These components collectively constitute the foundation of artificial neural networks, enabling them to process and extract valuable insights from data, mimicking the workings of interconnected networks found in nature and various domains.

### Error Propagation and Backpropagation

In the domain of deep learning, the process unfolds by guiding input data through layers of nodes. At each node, a sequence of operations occurs: a weighted summation of inputs, the incorporation of a bias term, application of an activation function, and passing the outcome to the subsequent layer. This forward propagation culminates in the generation of predictions or outputs. Notably, during the training phase, the critical process of backpropagation comes into play. Backpropagation involves computing gradients, which are subsequently utilized to adjust the weights and biases, ultimately optimizing the model's performance.

Through a repetitive cycle of weight and bias adjustments, the deep learning model acquires the capability to make precise predictions or classifications based on the input data provided. In the course of this learning journey, the model unveils intricate patterns and representations. This entire process is commonly referred to as the training phase.

The training procedure for a deep learning model encompasses the provision of labeled training data, the forwarding of this data through the network, calculation of the loss, and the subsequent backpropagation of gradients to fine-tune the weights. This iterative process continues over multiple iterations or epochs until the model reaches convergence, exhibiting satisfactory performance on the training data.

### Propagation Analogies in Nature

While there isn't a direct physical phenomenon that perfectly mirrors the forward propagation process within deep learning, intriguing analogies and connections can be drawn to certain phenomena in the realm of physics. Here are a few illustrative examples:

- **Wave Propagation:** One frequently drawn analogy likens the forward propagation of signals in deep learning to the propagation of waves in various physical systems. In wave propagation, whether it's electromagnetic waves or acoustic waves, energy travels through a medium or space. Similarly, in deep learning, information traverses through layers of nodes, with each layer modifying and transmitting the signal to the subsequent layer. We will delve into this phenomenon in more detail later.
- **Neural Oscillations:** Within neuroscience, we encounter phenomena known as neural oscillations or brain waves. These

entail rhythmic patterns of electrical activity that propagate through neural networks in the brain. While the mechanisms behind neural oscillations differ from those in deep learning, they share the overarching concept of information flow and processing through interconnected units.

- **Quantum Phenomena:** Efforts have been made to establish connections between quantum computing and deep learning, although these analogies are not direct. Quantum phenomena, such as quantum entanglement and superposition, entail the coherent interaction of quantum states. In deep learning, computations typically rely on classical systems and do not directly relate to quantum phenomena. Nevertheless, ongoing research in quantum machine learning explores potential synergies between deep learning and quantum computing.

It is crucial to recognize that these analogies should be viewed as conceptual links rather than precise one-to-one correspondences. Deep Learning operates on abstract mathematical principles, whereas physical phenomena exhibit their unique characteristics dictated by the laws of physics.

Drawing analogies between Deep Learning and physical phenomena can be valuable for building intuition or providing inspiration when seeking to comprehend complex systems. However, these analogies should not be misconstrued as literal representations of each other.

### The Potency of Deep Learning

Deep learning stands out in prediction tasks owing to its remarkable capacity to discern intricate data patterns and relationships [12]. By autonomously assimilating knowledge from extensive training data, deep neural networks exhibit the ability to generalize effectively, delivering accurate predictions for novel, unseen instances [13]. Several key facets contribute to the formidable prowess of deep learning in prediction:

- **Representation Learning:** Deep learning models possess the inherent capability to acquire hierarchical data representations. Each stratum within a deep neural network captures progressively intricate features and abstractions, empowering the model to unearth high-level representations conducive to prediction. This hierarchical representation learning enables deep learning models to autonomously uncover pertinent features and patterns, negating the need for explicit feature engineering.
- **Feature Extraction:** Deep learning models can automatically distill pertinent features from raw input data. This proves especially advantageous when handling unstructured data like images, audio, or text. Rather than relying on manually crafted features, deep learning models acquire the skill to directly extract features from the data, thus optimizing their performance for the specific prediction task.
- **Non-Linear Relationships:** Deep neural networks excel at capturing non-linear connections between input attributes and the forecasted outcome. By harnessing activation functions and incorporating multiple layers, deep learning models can model intricate dependencies and capture nuanced patterns that may elude traditional linear models. This adaptability in modeling non-linear relationships empowers deep learning models to furnish accurate predictions across a wide spectrum of intricate tasks.
- **Large-Scale Data Handling:** Deep learning models thrive in scenarios replete with extensive datasets. The greater the volume of training data available, the more proficiently the model can acquire knowledge and generalize. Deep learning

exhibits particular prowess in addressing big data scenarios, where vast troves of training examples support the training of complex models. This data-centric approach enables deep learning models to unearth subtle patterns and correlations pivotal to accurate predictions.

- **Transfer Learning:** Deep learning models effectively harness the concept of transfer learning, whereby knowledge gleaned from one task can be applied to another closely related endeavor. By undergoing pretraining on expansive datasets or tasks akin to the target prediction task, deep learning models amass a reservoir of generalized knowledge, which they can subsequently fine-tune for precise prediction tasks. This transference of learned representations empowers deep learning models to achieve superior prediction performance even with limited data or within novel domains.

These elements collectively contribute to the formidable predictive capabilities of deep learning. Whether it entails forecasting disease outcomes from medical images, predicting stock prices, or offering personalized content recommendations, deep learning's knack for autonomously extracting knowledge from data and unraveling intricate patterns establishes it as a potent instrument for delivering precise and dependable predictions across diverse domains.

However, it's important to note that the ability to make predictions doesn't necessarily equate to a deep understanding of the underlying mechanisms, a concept we'll explore further in the next sub-section.

### The Natural Limitations of Deep Learning

Deep learning, primarily geared toward prediction, does not inherently entail a comprehensive grasp of the intricate mechanisms underlying the events it forecasts. To illustrate this concept, consider the following five diverse examples:

- **Pregnancy and Childbirth:** The observation of a pregnant woman allows us to predict that she will give birth to a child. However, the complex biological processes governing the development of the fetus within the womb continue to elude complete understanding by medical science. Similarly, deep learning can predict outcomes based on patterns and correlations in data, all without necessarily delving into the intricate details of the underlying biological mechanisms.
- **Day and Night:** In the shroud of night, one can anticipate the arrival of light and the onset of day. Yet, the precise interplay between the Earth's movements and its relationship with the Sun, along with the intricate processes involved in generating light, may not be fully comprehended by those making such predictions. Deep learning, in parallel, centers on predicting outcomes grounded in observed patterns, sidestepping the provision of an exhaustive understanding of the underlying physical phenomena.
- **Medical Diagnosis:** A physician might foretell a specific health development in a patient based on observed symptoms, even if medical science has yet to completely elucidate the mechanisms governing the particular health condition. This highlights how predictions can be made devoid of a comprehensive understanding of the complex biological processes unfolding within the patient's body. Deep learning similarly leans on patterns and correlations in medical data to predict health outcomes, often without an exhaustive grasp of the intricate mechanisms driving the observed symptoms.
- **Traffic Flow Prediction:** Deep learning models can predict traffic flow patterns based on historical data and real-time information. However, these predictions do not necessarily

encompass a detailed understanding of the complex interactions between factors such as traffic signals, driver behaviors, road conditions, and urban planning. Deep learning excels in forecasting traffic outcomes but may not offer a complete comprehension of the intricate dynamics within a city's transportation system.

- **Weather Forecasting:** Meteorologists use deep learning and other predictive models to forecast weather conditions. While these models can make reasonably accurate predictions, they do not offer a comprehensive understanding of the multitude of atmospheric phenomena, such as cloud formation, air pressure systems, and ocean currents, that contribute to weather patterns. Deep learning focuses on predicting weather outcomes but may not encompass a full understanding of the underlying meteorological processes.
- **Rainfall Prediction:** A farmer scanning the sky can predict imminent rain, even in the absence of a thorough comprehension of the atmospheric processes triggering rainfall. Such predictions rely on patterns and observations of cloud formations, air humidity, and various environmental factors. Deep learning operates along analogous lines, utilizing data patterns and correlations to forecast forthcoming events, all while bypassing an explicit understanding of the underlying mechanisms governing rain formation.
- **Earthquake Prediction:** Scientists can employ historical seismic data and patterns to forecast the probability of an earthquake in a specific region. However, the precise mechanisms triggering earthquakes and the intricacies of tectonic plate movements may remain incompletely understood. In this context, deep learning can leverage patterns and correlations in seismic data to make predictions about earthquake occurrence, often without comprehensive knowledge of the underlying physical processes.

These examples serve to underscore that deep learning's strength lies in prediction, rather than in delivering comprehensive insights into the multifaceted mechanisms governing the phenomena it forecasts.

In this context, deep learning aligns with the natural order of predictive mechanisms. Its strength resides in its capacity to deliver precise predictions rooted in observed data patterns and correlations. Notably, it does not mandate a comprehensive grasp of the intricate mechanisms underpinning the anticipated events. This mirrors the way predictions unfold in diverse natural phenomena, where outcomes can be foreseen based on observed patterns, even when a full comprehension of the underlying processes remains elusive. Deep learning, at its core, operates in harmony with the foundational principles of logic, mathematics, and physics that govern nature's predictive mechanisms.

**Bridging Deep Learning with Mathematical and Physical Models**  
While deep learning and other computational techniques are fundamentally grounded in abstract mathematical principles, there are substantial advantages to anchoring them in mathematical models applicable to physical phenomena. The laws of physics themselves are elegantly encapsulated using mathematical equations and principles, and the integration of these models can yield more efficient and effective computational methods. Here are several compelling reasons underpinning the value of incorporating physical models:

- **Enhanced Efficiency and Optimization:** Physical models frequently encapsulate the underlying principles and constraints inherent in a given system. By integrating these models into computational methods, it becomes possible to craft algorithms

that harness the specific characteristics of the problem domain. The result is more streamlined computations and optimized solutions, particularly pertinent for tasks involving the simulation of physical systems, process optimization, or the resolution of intricate equations.

- **Knowledge Transfer:** Over time, physical models have evolved to accurately represent diverse phenomena in the natural world. By leveraging these models, computational methods can draw upon the extensive knowledge and insights garnered through scientific inquiry and experimentation. This facilitates the transfer of profound insights and principles from the realm of physics, thereby augmenting the capabilities and performance of computational techniques.
- **Interpretability and Explanatory Power:** Mathematical models rooted in physics often offer lucid interpretations and furnish explanations for observed phenomena. The utilization of these models within computational methods yields results that are more interpretable and amenable to explanation. This proves particularly valuable in domains where interpretability and transparency hold significance, such as in medical diagnosis, autonomous systems, or critical decision-making processes.
- **Validation and Verification Mechanisms:** The inclusion of physical models serves as a means to validate and verify the outcomes derived from computational methods. By comparing the results of a model or simulation with empirical data or established physical laws, it becomes feasible to gauge the accuracy and trustworthiness of the computations. This validation process ensures that the computational methods align harmoniously with the underpinning physics and can be relied upon for subsequent analyses or real-world applications.

Nevertheless, it's crucial to recognize that not all computational methods necessitate a direct reliance on physical models. Across various domains, abstract mathematical models and techniques have proven to be effective and efficient, often without the explicit representation of physical phenomena. The decision of whether to integrate physical models should be contingent upon factors such as the particular problem domain, the accessibility of data and resources, and the intended objectives of the computation

### **Role of Physical Laws, Mathematical Models, and Deep Learning in Understanding the Universe**

The universe functions according to a set of immutable laws of nature, observable by humanity. Scientists, with a particular focus on physicists, endeavor to construct physical models rooted in these observations. These models serve the purpose of comprehending and elucidating the inner workings of the cosmos.

One illustrative example pertains to the phenomenon of objects falling towards the Earth. Sir Isaac Newton proposed a physical model grounded in the concept of gravitation. His model postulated that every point mass exerts a force on every other point mass, a force directly proportional to their masses and inversely proportional to the square of the distance between them. While this mathematical law did not provide an exact depiction of reality, it yielded a highly accurate approximation.

Nonetheless, Albert Einstein presented a challenge to Newton's model with his groundbreaking theory of relativity. Einstein questioned the existence of gravitational forces and introduced a fresh physical model founded on the curvature of spacetime. According to Einstein's theory, mass and energy induce the fabric of spacetime to warp, leading to the motion of objects along curved

paths known as geodesics. This innovative model was accompanied by a rigorous mathematical framework.

Quantum physics further pushed the boundaries of earlier models by introducing the notion that particles could manifest wave-like attributes and occupy multiple positions or trajectories simultaneously, described by their wave function. However, when measured, a particle's position or trajectory would collapse into a definite state. Quantum mechanics supplied a mathematical model to elucidate these intricate phenomena.

It is imperative to acknowledge that physical and mathematical models do not constitute flawless representations of reality; rather, they serve as approximations that aid in our understanding and explanation of natural phenomena. These models are constructed based on empirical observations and experiments, continuously evolving as our comprehension deepens. Each succeeding model builds upon its predecessors, refining and extending our insights into the enigmas of the natural world.

Thus, physical and mathematical models function as indispensable tools employed by scientists to approximate and elucidate the laws of nature observable in our universe. While they may not capture the entirety of reality's complexity, they provide invaluable insights, enabling predictions and facilitating our continued exploration of the mysteries inherent in the natural world. The question arises: Given that physical and mathematical models are employed to explicate the operation of our universe, should deep learning harness these same tools to generate solutions beneficial within this universe? Our inclination leans toward an affirmative response. Subsequently, we shall explore the ensuing landscape to better understand the scenario.

### **Bridging the Gap Between Deep Learning and Physical/Mathematical Models**

Deep learning is a field that draws upon mathematical models with relevance to physical phenomena. This synergy is evident through various operations and properties, as outlined below:

- **Structured Data in Deep Learning and the Universe:** Deep learning is predicated on structured data, encompassing diverse forms like images and audio, which serve as representations of phenomena in our universe. To ensure the accuracy of deep learning outcomes, it becomes imperative to establish a coherent link between deep learning models and mathematical approximations that faithfully mirror the underlying realities of our universe. In this regard, the incorporation of mathematical models into deep learning emerges as a pivotal element.
- **Normalization and Energy Conservation:** Normalization, a prevalent technique within deep learning algorithms, can be construed as a manifestation of energy conservation principles. By incorporating mathematical models grounded in the bedrock of physical laws, such as normalization, deep learning algorithms align themselves with the fundamental tenets observed in the natural world. This alignment not only solidifies the reliability of deep learning models but also augments their effectiveness in various applications.

In the forthcoming sections, we shall delve into further dimensions where deep learning and physical/mathematical models converge, elucidating their interplay and the implications for scientific endeavors.

- **Backpropagation in Deep Learning and its Parallels to Natural Stability:** In the realm of deep learning, the algorithmic

technique of backpropagation, renowned for its pivotal role, can be illuminated when seen in conjunction with the innate proclivity of natural systems to gravitate towards equilibrium or stability.

Across an array of scientific disciplines encompassing physics, chemistry, and biology, one recurring phenomenon is the observation of patterns and mechanisms that underpin stability and equilibrium within the natural world. A few illustrative examples include:

- **Physics:** Systems within the purview of physics exhibit a penchant for transitioning towards states of diminished energy, thus actively pursuing stable configurations. This principle, manifest in the minimization of energy, encapsulates a core facet of physical behavior.
- **Ecology:** Ecosystems, as integral components of our natural world, consistently endeavor to uphold equilibrium by orchestrating a harmonious interplay among various species and resources. The objective is to secure long-term sustainability and ecological balance.
- **Homeostasis:** Within the biological realm, the concept of homeostasis prevails as an exemplification of internal stability. Organisms, whether simple or complex, exhibit the remarkable capacity to maintain equilibrium within their internal environments, ensuring optimal functioning and adaptability.

In the context of deep learning, the concept of backpropagation acquires a new dimension. Backpropagation can be regarded as a strategic maneuver, an algorithmic adaptation designed to emulate the proclivity of natural systems for stability-seeking behavior. This emulation is achieved through iterative parameter adjustments grounded in error signals.

The overarching aim of backpropagation is to navigate the deep learning model towards a state of heightened optimality, harmonizing with the underpinning principle of stability and equilibrium evident in the natural world. By recognizing this parallel between deep learning and the intrinsic behaviors of natural systems, we gain deeper insights into the dynamics of neural networks and their ability to harness stability-driven mechanisms for enhanced performance.

- **Spatial and Temporal Invariance: A Unifying Principle in Deep Learning and Natural Phenomena:** The principle of spatial and temporal invariance, a cornerstone of understanding in both the world of diffraction patterns and deep learning, underscores the remarkable consistency observed in the face of spatial and temporal shifts.

In the realm of diffraction patterns, an intriguing phenomenon known as "spatial shift invariance" emerges. This phenomenon dictates that a spatial shift in the input field corresponds to a proportional shift in the resulting diffraction pattern. Put simply, altering the input field's position leads to an equivalent adjustment in the direction and extent of the ensuing diffraction pattern. Moreover, when coherent monochromatic light illuminates a diffractive element, the observed diffraction pattern remains unaltered over time, thereby unveiling the concept of "temporal shift invariance."

In the grand framework of special relativity, spatial and temporal invariances find their interconnectedness through the profound concept of spacetime. Special relativity, as articulated by Albert Einstein, serves as a theory that harmoniously unites spatial and

temporal dimensions, ensuring that physical laws retain their consistency across diverse frames of reference. The fusion of spatial and temporal components within spacetime weaves a tapestry of fundamental principles that underpin our understanding of the universe.

In the realm of deep learning, we discern a striking parallel to this concept of spatial shift invariance. When subjected to spatial shifts, be it in the form of a displaced input image or data of another ilk, the values residing within the strata of a neural network gracefully shift in tandem. This innate property bestows upon deep learning models a remarkable capacity: the ability to navigate and accommodate variations and transformations within input data without introducing significant perturbations to the ultimate outcome. In embracing spatial shift invariance, deep learning models endow themselves with enhanced robustness and an expanded domain of applicability.

The overarching significance of this principle, both in the context of diffraction patterns and deep learning, resides in its ability to usher invariance—a feature that transcends the specifics of spatial location, orientation, or temporal timing. This potent attribute empowers systems, whether computational or natural, to dissect and interpret data in a manner that remains steadfastly independent of the particularities of their surroundings. The result: outcomes characterized by heightened reliability and adaptability.

In our exploration of the interplay between deep learning and natural phenomena, this principle of spatial and temporal invariance stands as a testament to the deep-seated similarities and synergies that underlie the two domains. In the forthcoming sections, we shall continue to unearth these parallels, shedding light on their implications for computational modeling and our comprehension of the natural world.

- **Probabilistic Modeling:** Bridging the Gap Between Deep Learning and the Universe: Probabilistic models lie at the heart of both deep learning and our quest to understand the natural universe. These models act as the bridge that connects the predictive prowess of deep neural networks with the intricate, often enigmatic behaviors observed in the cosmos.

In the realm of deep learning, the remarkable efficacy of neural networks stems from their ability to unveil complex symmetries and patterns hidden within vast datasets. By delving into these concealed relationships, neural networks can not only make predictions but also yield invaluable insights. It is this knack for capturing and harnessing intricate symmetries that distinguishes deep neural networks as a potent tool in the scientific arsenal.

However, it is essential to underscore a pivotal distinction: the predictive power of deep learning does not equate to complete comprehension. Predictions made by neural networks are founded on mathematical extrapolation from historical data—a process grounded in regression operations. In essence, deep learning algorithms can foresee future outcomes without delving into the underlying mechanisms or proffering theoretical explanations for the phenomena under scrutiny.

In the arena of scientific inquiry, the pursuit of understanding transcends mere prediction. Science strives to unearth the fundamental laws and principles that govern natural phenomena, endeavoring to furnish theoretical explanations for observed behaviors. While deep learning's forte lies in prediction, it may not directly contribute to the establishment of scientific theories or the provision of comprehensive explanations.

However, an intriguing commonality emerges—science's embrace of probabilistic notions as a means to elucidate intricate phenomena. Quantum physics, an exemplar of this paradigm, showcases how probabilistic principles permeate both the microscopic and macroscopic realms. Quantum phenomena, often characterized by seemingly random behaviors, find their foundation in principles such as entropy and the second law of thermodynamics. Even the formidable Schrödinger's equations, which seamlessly integrate probabilistic elements, find utility in describing intricate systems like graphene, comprising millions of interacting atoms. Remarkably, these equations serve as a tangible physical formalism, yielding exact solutions in less complex scenarios, such as the hydrogen atom.

The incorporation of probabilistic notions transcends the confines of deep learning; it forms an integral facet of the broader scientific endeavor. Fields like quantum physics, where deterministic explanations may falter, wholeheartedly embrace probabilistic concepts. While deep learning emerges as a formidable tool replete with predictive capabilities, it ought to be situated within the broader scientific landscape—a landscape where probabilistic modeling acts as a unifying force, uniting the predictive strengths of deep learning with the eternal quest to decipher the profound laws of nature.

As we delve deeper into the interplay between deep learning and the intricate tapestry of natural phenomena, this intersection of probabilistic modeling serves as a beacon—a testament to the harmonious synergy between computational prowess and the profound mysteries of the universe.

- **Unveiling the Symmetry Between Nature and Deep Learning:** The Role of Prior Knowledge: Nature and deep learning, seemingly disparate domains, share a profound similarity in their dependence on the characteristics of input or source. This inherent source dependence underpins the behavior of both natural phenomena and artificial intelligence, revealing a fundamental symmetry that shapes our understanding of the world.

In the realm of natural phenomena, source (input) dependence is a ubiquitous phenomenon. Nature's responses vary, contingent on the characteristics of the input or source. Consider the behavior of optical setups: when illuminated with coherent or incoherent light, they manifest distinct behaviors. Furthermore, the effects of polychromatic and monochromatic sources differ significantly, showcasing how nature's intricate dance is orchestrated by the nuances of input. This theme resonates across various domains, from the distinct properties and behaviors exhibited by acoustic and electromagnetic waves to the divergence between optical diffraction and quantum or acoustic diffraction. Even the optical aberrations observed in the Earth's atmosphere are distinctly different from those encountered in the human eye. These examples underscore a profound truth: nature's response is intrinsically bound to the specific input or situation it encounters.

Remarkably, this principle of source dependence finds resonance in the domain of deep learning. Here, the behavior of algorithms, including deep neural networks, is intricately influenced by the input and the specific problem at hand. Deep learning algorithms are not blank slates; they harbor a subtle form of prior knowledge embedded within their very architecture. While not overtly explicit, this prior knowledge emerges from the design choices meticulously crafted by scientists and engineers tasked with tailoring neural networks to address particular scientific challenges.



The architecture of a neural network plays a pivotal role in encoding this prior knowledge. Scientists and engineers wield the power to dictate critical factors such as the number of layers, the abundance of neurons within each layer, the connectivity patterns that govern the network's structure, and the activation functions that impart dynamism to its computations. These decisions are not arbitrary but are artfully guided by an understanding of the problem's characteristics and the nature of the available data. For instance, in the realm of computer vision, convolutional neural networks (CNNs) find favor for their aptitude in capturing spatial hierarchies and translation invariance. This architectural preference reflects prior knowledge concerning the spatial nature of the data and the significance of local features. In a similar vein, natural language processing tasks gravitate toward recurrent neural networks (RNNs) or transformer architectures, tailored to account for the sequential and contextual intricacies of language.

Moreover, deep learning affords scientists and engineers control over an array of hyperparameters that exert considerable influence over the learning process. Choices such as the learning rate, regularization techniques, and optimization algorithms are not arbitrary but are guided by domain-specific insights, empirical knowledge, and insights garnered from rigorous experimentation.

The training regimen of a deep neural network constitutes yet another dimension of prior knowledge. Providing the network with labeled training data imparts yet another layer of understanding, allowing the model to discern intricate patterns and correlations within the data during its training phase. This acquired knowledge subsequently equips the model to make predictions or undertake tasks informed by the wealth of insights gleaned from the training data.

It results that while deep learning algorithms glean knowledge from data, they do not commence their journey devoid of guidance. Instead, the scientist's deft hand in shaping the neural network's architecture, choosing pertinent components, and configuring hyperparameters introduces a reservoir of prior knowledge into the algorithm. This wellspring of knowledge is pivotal, steering the learning process and empowering the network to adeptly navigate the intricacies of the scientific problem at hand. By virtue of this prior knowledge, deep learning algorithms emerge as formidable tools, capably unraveling complex challenges and illuminating vast troves of data with profound insights.

- **Bridging the Gap:** Exploring the Analogies and Distinctions between Deep Learning and Natural Systems: While the analogy between deep learning and natural systems holds immense potential, it is essential to acknowledge its inherent limitations. Deep learning models, as they exist today, are meticulously crafted based on mathematical abstractions and computational processes. These abstractions, while powerful, may not seamlessly mirror the rich complexities and intricacies of the natural world. It is crucial to tread carefully, recognizing both the promises and pitfalls of incorporating mathematical models inspired by nature into deep learning.

Present deep learning models, as remarkable as they are, operate within a realm of abstraction. They are designed to function within the confines of mathematical formulations and computational algorithms. While these models excel in various tasks, from image recognition to natural language understanding, they do so within the context of human-defined parameters and structures. This stark contrast highlights one of the key distinctions between deep learning and natural systems: the former relies on explicit human

guidance, while the latter is shaped by the unyielding laws of the physical universe.

Moreover, deep learning models are not impervious to vulnerabilities. They can be susceptible to adversarial attacks, wherein carefully crafted perturbations in input data can lead to incorrect or unexpected outputs. This susceptibility, although being an active area of research and mitigation, underscores the challenges in achieving the robustness exhibited by natural systems. Natural systems have evolved over eons to withstand a myriad of environmental pressures and adversities, a level of resilience that current deep learning models are yet to fully attain.

Thus, the analogy between deep learning and natural systems is a compelling avenue for enhancing the reliability and performance of artificial intelligence. By drawing inspiration from the mathematical models that approximate natural phenomena, such as structured data, normalization, backpropagation, spatial and temporal invariance, and probabilistic notions, deep learning can undoubtedly benefit. However, this exploration should be accompanied by a keen awareness of the distinctions that set deep learning apart from the intricate dynamics of natural systems. The human-designed abstractions and computational foundations of deep learning models must be carefully considered and applied, always with the goal of achieving accurate and robust results in mind. In doing so, we can continue to unlock the immense potential of deep learning while respecting the nuanced boundaries that separate it from the boundless complexities of the natural world.

### Deep Learning's Synergy with Wavelets

Deep learning, a formidable force in modern artificial intelligence, finds intriguing parallels and insights when considered in conjunction with wavelet-based phenomena and mathematical tools. In this section, we explore the symbiotic relationship between deep learning and wavelets, shedding light on how these seemingly distinct domains converge to enhance our understanding and problem-solving capabilities.

### Fresnel Diffraction: A Natural Wavelet Phenomenon

Fresnel diffraction, a captivating natural phenomenon, provides a remarkable analogy to the inner workings of deep learning. By dissecting this intricate process, we uncover intriguing connections between wavelet propagation in diffraction and the neural networks that power deep learning.

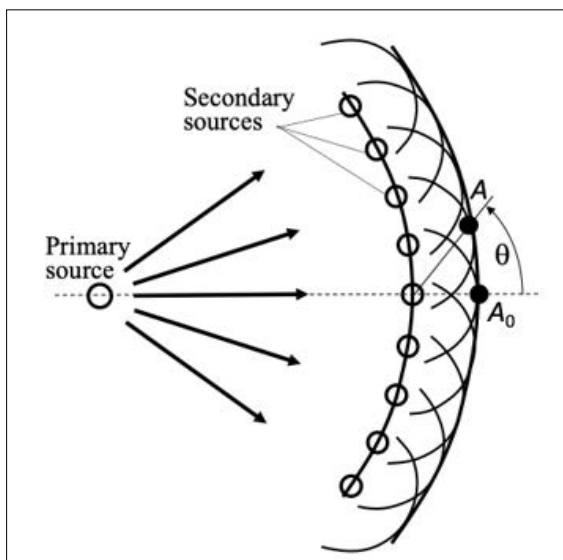
- **Nodes as Sources:** In Fresnel diffraction, nodes take on the role of point sources or origin points for wavelets. These nodes act as the genesis of the diffraction process, much like the initial nodes in a neural network.
- **Wavelet Propagation:** The propagation of wavelets, as articulated by Huygens' principle, mirrors the flow of information through connections in a neural network. Just as information spreads across neural network layers, wavelets carry the attributes of the initial disturbance as they radiate through space.
- **Wavefront as a Layer:** Wavelets coalesce to form wavefronts, akin to hidden layers in neural networks. These wavefronts encapsulate information about interference and diffraction effects, much like how hidden layers capture and transform data in deep learning.
- **Creation of New Nodes:** At the wavefront, secondary disturbances or points of interaction emerge as new nodes. These nodes serve as additional hidden units in our neural network analogy, symbolizing the impact of the wavelets' journey.



- **Weights of Segments:** Analogous to Fresnel's formulation, segments of the wavefront arriving with specific phase relationships evoke destructive interference. This angle-dependent factor aligns with the concept of weights in neural networks, influencing the flow of information.
- **Repeating the Process:** The iterative nature of Fresnel diffraction, where new nodes continuously generate wavelets, mirrors the training and propagation of information through successive layers in a neural network. Both processes are marked by ongoing refinement and adaptation.

This exploration underscores the fascinating synergy between deep learning and wavelets, demonstrating how insights from natural phenomena like Fresnel diffraction can inspire and inform the advancement of artificial intelligence. In the following sections, we delve further into the implications of this convergence, unveiling the profound influence of wavelet transform as a mathematical tool in the realm of deep learning.

By considering this analogy, we gain insight into the dynamic and interconnected nature of wavelet propagation in Fresnel diffraction. This process can be visualized as a network of nodes, with each wavefront representing a distinct layer of information in the overall phenomenon.



**Figure 1:** Fresnel Diffraction: Continuous Generation of Wavelets and Amplitude Variation of the Wavelet Concerning the Direction

As depicted in Figure 1, Huygens' principle, a foundational concept in wave optics, suggests that secondary wavelets can propagate backward from a wavefront and extend into the region behind an obstacle. This concept implies the possibility of bright regions appearing within the geometrical shadow cast by the obstacle [14].

However, observations from the Grimaldi experiment, which studied the phenomenon of diffraction, contradicted the expectation of uniformly bright regions throughout the geometrical shadow [14]. Instead, the experiment revealed that bright regions only manifest in the intermediate vicinity of the edge of the obstacle.

To address this apparent inconsistency, Augustin-Jean Fresnel introduced an extension of Huygens' principle, now known as Fresnel's version [14]. According to Fresnel's interpretation, in regions well beyond the boundaries of the geometrical shadow,

secondary wavelets arriving from various parts of the wavefront exhibit a specific phase relationship. This phase relationship depends on the angle at which the wavefront interacts with the obstacle [14]:

$$A = \frac{A_0}{2}(1 + \cos(\theta)) \quad (1)$$

Here A is the complex amplitude of the wavelet produced at the angle  $\theta$  to the propagation direction and  $A_0$  is the complex amplitude of the wavelet in the longitudinal direction as is depicted in Figure 1. We call the angle-dependent factor A of Equation (1) "Fresnel weight".

This explanation provides a more nuanced understanding of Fresnel diffraction, particularly in the context of wavelet-based phenomena. It highlights the significance of the phase relationship between secondary wavelets and their angle-dependent behavior, shedding light on the intricate dynamics of this optical phenomenon.

The angle-dependent factor, as introduced by Fresnel, plays a crucial role akin to a weight in the context of a neural network. It effectively regulates the contributions of secondary wavelets to the overall interference pattern. Specifically, when certain phase relations are met, destructive interference occurs. This phenomenon arises when wavelets combine in a manner that leads to cancellation, resulting in areas of darkness or reduced intensity.

In the context of the Grimaldi experiment, Fresnel's adaptation of Huygens' principle provides a comprehensive explanation for the occurrence of bright regions exclusively near the edge of the geometrical shadow. As secondary wavelets disperse farther away from the obstacle, their specific phase relations induce destructive interference. Consequently, this interference gives rise to diminished intensity or areas of darkness in regions well beyond the confines of the geometrical shadow.

By delving into the wave nature of light and incorporating Fresnel's version of Huygens' principle, we acquire a more profound comprehension of the diffraction phenomenon witnessed in the Grimaldi experiment. This refined interpretation not only clarifies the presence of bright regions in the immediate vicinity of the obstacle's edge but also accounts for the absence of similar brightness throughout the geometrical shadow. It underscores the intricate interplay of wavelets and their phase relationships in shaping the observed diffraction patterns.

#### Talbot Effect as a Wavelet Based Physical Phenomenon

The Talbot effect, when viewed as a wavelet-based physical phenomenon, offers valuable insights into the wave-like behavior of light and the intricate world of interference patterns. This captivating effect occurs when a coherent wave, such as a plane wave or a periodic wave, encounters a diffraction grating or a periodic structure.

To appreciate the Talbot effect in terms of wavelets, we can draw a compelling analogy with wavelet analysis and wavelet transforms. In wavelet analysis, a signal is meticulously decomposed into a series of wavelets, each designed to capture distinct frequency components at varying scales. In a similar vein, within the context of the Talbot effect, the periodic structure assumes the role of a grating, effectively decomposing the incident wave into an array of wavelets.

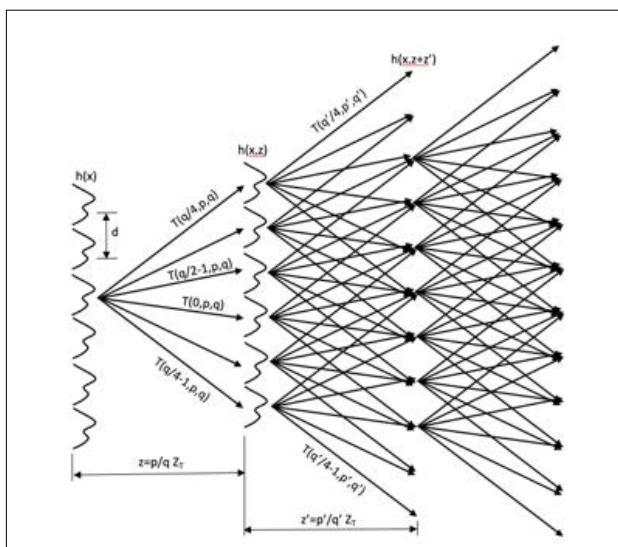
When the incident wave engages with the periodic structure, the wavelets stemming from different segments of the structure engage in a captivating dance of interference. This intricate interplay of wavelets gives birth to a mesmerizing phenomenon known as the Talbot effect. At specific distances from the grating, the wavelets gracefully reunite, conjuring a pattern that strikingly mirrors the original structure.

Understanding this self-imaging phenomenon within the Talbot effect hinges on grasping the subtleties of wavelet interference and superposition. As the wavelets embark on their journey from the grating, they accumulate distinctive phase shifts contingent upon their precise position in relation to the structure. These phase shifts orchestrate an exquisite symphony of constructive and destructive interference patterns, ultimately culminating in the emergence of a periodic self-image of the grating at precise intervals.

The Talbot effect, as we delve into its wavelet-based essence, accentuates the critical role of wavelet interference and coherence in unraveling the enigmatic behaviors of light. It elegantly illustrates how the synergy and intermingling of wavelets can engender self-imaging patterns and the formation of periodic structures. This profound phenomenon finds applications in diverse fields, spanning optics, diffraction phenomena, and the realm of optical metrology.

By scrutinizing the Talbot effect from a wavelet perspective, we embark on a journey of deeper comprehension, uncovering the intricate wave-like nature of light and the captivating phenomenon of self-imaging, all brought to life through the mesmerizing interplay of interference and wavelet superposition.

**Fractional Talbot Effect as a Wavelet Based Physical Phenomenon**  
The fractional Talbot effect, when observed through the lens of a wavelet-based physical phenomenon, brings to light a remarkable phenomenon where periodic structures exhibit self-imaging at fractional distances from the light source. To grasp the essence of this phenomenon, we delve into the wavelet nature of light and the concept of wavelet propagation.



**Figure 2:** Fraction Talbot effect: The diffracted field  $h(x, z)$  of a periodic object at a fractional Talbot distance  $z$  is the result of a superimposition of shifted and complex weighted replicas of the original object.

In the realm of wavelet analysis, signals undergo a meticulous dissection into a series of wavelets, each with the unique capacity to capture distinct frequency components at varying scales. Similarly, within the context of the fractional Talbot effect, the incident wave can be envisioned as a harmonious superposition of wavelets.

When a coherent light source illuminates a periodic structure, the incident wave embarks on a journey of diffraction and self-interference. As this wave propagates, it engenders the creation of secondary wavelets, each venturing forth at distinct distances. These secondary wavelets engage in a mesmerizing dance of interference, weaving a tapestry of periodic light and dark regions.

In the captivating realm of the fractional Talbot effect, the magic unfolds at fractional distances from the source, a departure from the conventional multiples of the Talbot distance. This fractional behavior arises as a consequence of the intricate interplay among wavelets boasting diverse spatial frequencies and scales.

Figure 2. visually encapsulates the essence of the fractional Talbot effect, showcasing the diffracted field  $h(x, z)$  of a periodic object at a fractional Talbot distance  $z$ . This mesmerizing field is the outcome of a harmonious superimposition of shifted and intricately weighted replicas of the original object.

As we explore the fractional Talbot effect within the framework of wavelet-based understanding, we gain deeper insights into the fascinating interplay of wavelets, diffraction, and self-imaging. This phenomenon, with its fractional allure, emerges as a testament to the rich and intricate wavelet nature of light, offering intriguing avenues for exploration and applications in fields such as optics and wavelet-based analysis.

The wavelet perspective provides us with a powerful lens through which we can unravel the intricacies of the fractional Talbot effect. This effect, when viewed as the interference and superposition of wavelets characterized by varying phases and spatial frequencies, unveils its mesmerizing secrets. At its core, the self-imaging phenomenon at fractional distances is a consequence of the specific amalgamation of these wavelets, each bearing fractional phase shifts.

The implications of the fractional Talbot effect reverberate across multiple domains, from optics to diffraction and optical metrology. It furnishes us with a method to craft periodic patterns and achieve self-imaging at non-integer distances. This capability, in turn, empowers precise measurements and the fine-tuning of optical properties, opening up a realm of possibilities for technological advancements.

By scrutinizing the fractional Talbot effect through the wavelet perspective, we embark on a journey to comprehend the wave-like essence of light and the intricate dance of interference patterns that emerges from the superposition of wavelets. This vantage point underscores the pivotal role played by wavelet propagation, interference, and the spatial frequency components in unravelling the enigma of fractional self-imaging.

Now, let us delve into the mathematical model that encapsulates this captivating physical phenomenon. Consider a periodic field  $h(x)$ , initially observed at a distance  $z=0$ , characterized by a period of  $d$ . Figure 2. offers a visual representation of this scenario. The diffracted field at a distance  $z$  can be mathematically expressed as the sum provided by Equation (2):

$$h(x, z) = \sum_{a=0}^{q/2-1} T(a, p, q) h\left(x - \frac{d}{2} + \frac{2a}{q}d\right) \quad (2)$$

This equation serves as the key to deciphering the intricate interplay of wavelets and their contributions to the observed diffracted field at a given distance. It encapsulates the essence of the fractional Talbot effect, offering a mathematical foundation for further exploration and analysis of this captivating phenomenon. In this equation, the Talbot coefficients  $T(a, p, q)$  are determined by relation (3):

$$T(a, p, q) = \frac{q}{2} \sum_{b=0}^{q/2-1} \exp\left(-i\pi\left(\frac{2a}{q}b^2 - b\right)\right) \exp\left(i2\pi\frac{2a}{q}b\right) \quad (3)$$

The Talbot distance, denoted as  $Z_T$ , is a function of the wavelength  $\lambda$  and the period  $d$ :

$$Z_T = 2 \frac{d^2}{\lambda} \quad \text{and} \quad z = \frac{p}{q} Z_T \quad (4)$$

The coefficients  $p$  and  $q$  are integers with no common factor [19]. Without loss of generality, we focus on even values of  $q$ . Odd values of  $q$  are covered by reference [20].

To express the diffracted field  $h(x, z)$ , we can use the convolution product, as shown in Figure 2:

$$h(x, z) = k_T(x, p, q) \otimes h(x) \quad (5)$$

The Talbot kernel, denoted as  $k_T(x)$ , is given by the sum expressed in equation (6).

$$k_T(x, p, q) = \sum_{m=0}^{q/2-1} T(m, p, q) \delta\left(x - \frac{d}{2} + \frac{2m}{q}d\right) \quad (6)$$

The diffracted field, denoted as  $h(x, z)$ , at a fractional Talbot distance  $z$ , as expressed by Equation (4), offers a fascinating insight into the complex interplay of wavelets. This field is the result of a captivating process where shifted replicas of the original periodic object are superimposed. These replicas, characterized by complex weights, contribute to the resulting field at various positions, forming a mesmerizing pattern of light and dark regions. The intricate dance of these replicas is vividly depicted in Figure 2. and is eloquently described by Equation (5).

However, the elegance of this phenomenon goes even further with the introduction of Talbot coefficients, as elegantly expressed by Relation (7) [21]:

$$T(mp, p, q) = (-1)^m \exp\left(-i2\pi\frac{p}{q}m^2\right) \quad (7)$$

These Talbot coefficients, as referenced, play a pivotal role in describing how different components of the wavelets interact, leading to the mesmerizing patterns observed in the fractional Talbot effect. They capture the intricate phase relationships and interference patterns that give rise to the fractional self-imaging phenomenon, providing a rigorous mathematical foundation for understanding this wavelet-based physical phenomenon.

Figure 2 presents a captivating visualization of the fractional Talbot effect, akin to a neural network with layers, nodes, and weights. This analogy beautifully captures the essence of the phenomenon, showcasing how the interaction of wavelets and their specific properties forms a dynamic network of interconnected nodes, each contributing to the intricate self-imaging patterns observed at fractional distances. The neural network analogy adds another layer of understanding to this mesmerizing wavelet-based physical phenomenon, highlighting its complexity and beauty [21].

The fractional Talbot effect, viewed through the lens of wavelets and the mathematical elegance of Talbot coefficients, not only deepens our appreciation for the wave-like nature of light but also provides a powerful tool for precise measurements and control of optical properties. It is a testament to the intricate and fascinating behavior of light when analyzed through the lens of wavelet-based phenomena.

### Quantum Diffraction: Exploring Wavelet-Like Behaviour

Quantum diffraction, when viewed as a wavelet-based physical phenomenon, unveils intriguing parallels with wavelet behavior observed in Fresnel diffraction. Both phenomena revolve around the propagation of wave-like entities and share common traits related to interference and diffraction patterns.

In the context of Fresnel diffraction, a wave, when confronted with an obstacle or passed through a narrow aperture, undergoes a fascinating transformation. At this point, every individual point on the wavefront becomes a source of secondary wavelets. These secondary wavelets, in turn, engage in constructive or destructive interference with one another, ultimately forming intricate interference patterns on a nearby screen.

Quantum diffraction, on the other hand, introduces us to the intriguing world of subatomic particles like electrons or photons, which possess wave functions. These wave functions can be aptly likened to wavelets. When these particles encounter obstacles or traverse through slender slits, their wave functions gracefully unfurl, much like the waves in Fresnel diffraction. These wave functions then embark on a journey of self-interference, creating intricate patterns of probabilities that dictate the likelihood of locating these particles at various positions on a detection screen.

This captivating analogy between quantum diffraction and wavelet behavior sheds light on the wave-like attributes of quantum particles and their remarkable ability to exhibit interference patterns. The wavelet-like behavior observed in quantum diffraction offers a profound glimpse into the world of quantum mechanics, where particles showcase both particle-like and wave-like characteristics. This duality, as captured by wave functions, continues to be a central aspect of quantum physics and plays a crucial role in understanding the behavior of particles at the smallest scales of the universe.

By exploring quantum diffraction through the lens of wavelet-like behavior, we gain a deeper appreciation of the elegant and enigmatic nature of quantum particles. This perspective underscores the essential role played by wave functions in quantum mechanics and highlights the enduring fascination with the wave-particle duality that defines the quantum realm.

The fascinating analogy between Fresnel diffraction and quantum diffraction hinges upon the wavelet-like nature inherent in both phenomena. In the realm of Fresnel diffraction, the emergence of

secondary wavelets from different points along the wavefront is a striking characteristic. These secondary wavelets collaborate, effectively creating an intricate interference pattern as they combine their contributions. This pattern, as observed on a nearby screen, manifests as regions of brightness and darkness, reflecting the complex interplay of these wavelets.

Quantum diffraction, in its own mesmerizing way, exhibits wave-like behavior through the concept of wave functions. Much like the wavelets in Fresnel diffraction, quantum particles possess wave functions that define their probabilistic behavior. When these particles encounter obstacles or navigate through narrow passages, their wave functions unfurl and extend, akin to the wavelets in wave optics. What ensues is a remarkable self-interference phenomenon, where the wave functions of these particles overlap and interact with themselves, giving rise to interference patterns.

The beauty of this analogy becomes even more apparent when we examine the resulting patterns. Just as Fresnel diffraction produces characteristic patterns marked by areas of brightness and darkness, quantum diffraction offers its own unique gift—interference fringes. These fringes represent the probabilities of locating quantum particles at different positions on a detection screen. They are the direct outcome of the constructive and destructive interference of the wave functions, echoing the patterns observed in Fresnel diffraction.

By regarding quantum diffraction as a wavelet-based phenomenon analogous to Fresnel diffraction, we are granted a profound glimpse into the wave-like tendencies of particles at the quantum level. This perspective underscores a fundamental aspect of quantum mechanics: its inherently probabilistic nature. It also places a spotlight on the significance of interference and diffraction effects as indispensable tools for describing and understanding the behavior of quantum particles. The analogy, therefore, serves as a bridge between the classical and quantum worlds, reminding us of the ever-present interplay between wave-like and particle-like characteristics in the enigmatic realm of quantum physics.

### **Optical Metrology: Harnessing Wavelet-Based Techniques for Precise Analysis**

Optical metrology, when viewed through the lens of a wavelet-based technique, emerges as a powerful approach for performing precise measurements and in-depth analysis of optical properties. This methodology harnesses the fundamental principles of wavelet analysis to dissect optical signals into their constituent wavelets, each characterized by distinct frequencies and scales. Through this process, optical metrology achieves a detailed and comprehensive understanding of various optical parameters and phenomena.

In the realm of wavelet analysis, signals undergo a transformation where they are broken down into a series of wavelets, each responsible for capturing specific frequency components at varying scales. Optical metrology adopts a parallel strategy by subjecting optical signals to wavelet transforms. This transformative step allows for the extraction of valuable insights regarding both the light itself and its interactions with the objects it encounters.

One of the standout features of this wavelet-based approach is its capacity to capture minute intricacies and fluctuations within optical signals. The wavelets essentially function as localized oscillations, adept at representing diverse features and structures that manifest within the optical signal.

The adoption of wavelet-based techniques within optical metrology brings forth several noteworthy advantages. Firstly, it empowers practitioners to detect and analyze specific frequency components inherent in the optical signal, facilitating the identification of distinctive characteristics or phenomena. Secondly, it offers the capability to scrutinize signals at multiple scales simultaneously, ushering in a realm of multi-resolution analysis. This capability allows for the concurrent examination of fine details and large-scale variations within the optical data.

By embracing the wavelet-based approach, optical metrology stands at the forefront of precision measurement and analysis in the realm of optical science. It grants scientists and engineers the tools needed to unravel the intricacies of optical phenomena, paving the way for groundbreaking advancements in fields such as optics, photonics, and materials science. This convergence of wavelet analysis and optical metrology represents a synergy between mathematical rigor and experimental finesse, underpinning progress and innovation in the world of optics and light-based technologies.

Wavelet-based optical metrology techniques offer significant advantages in terms of sensitivity, precision, and enhanced measurement capabilities across various optical parameters. These techniques excel in characterizing optical phenomena, including wavefront distortions, surface roughness, optical aberrations, and thickness variations, with a heightened level of accuracy and reliability.

One of the primary strengths of wavelet-based optical metrology lies in its ability to extract essential information from complex optical signals. This extraction process, based on wavelet analysis, not only enhances measurement accuracy but also enables a finer level of detail to be captured in the data. This advantage proves crucial in precisely quantifying minute variations or distortions present in optical systems.

Furthermore, the localized nature of wavelets plays a pivotal role in detecting and characterizing specific features or anomalies within optical signals. This localization feature facilitates the identification of localized changes or irregularities, which is invaluable for tasks such as defect detection, quality control, and comprehensive surface characterization of optical components and systems.

The adoption of wavelet-based techniques in optical metrology contributes to a more thorough and nuanced comprehension of optical properties and phenomena. This analytical approach serves as a robust tool for signal decomposition, feature extraction, and achieving heightened measurement accuracy. Consequently, it empowers advancements in diverse fields like precision manufacturing, materials science, and optical engineering.

Thus, wavelet-based optical metrology, with its precise and sensitive measurement capabilities, is poised to revolutionize the way optical systems are characterized and analyzed, opening doors to new realms of precision and understanding in optical science and technology.

**The Wavelet-Based Analysis of Talbot-Lau Interferometer: Complex Interference Patterns through Wavelet Superposition**  
The Talbot-Lau interferometer presents a fascinating avenue for exploration when viewed through the lens of wavelet-based analysis. This physical process amalgamates the fundamental

principles of the Talbot effect and the Lau effect, orchestrating intricate interference patterns. A rigorous understanding can be forged by delving into the wavelet nature of light and the profound implications of superposing wavelets from multiple sources.

Within the confines of the Talbot-Lau interferometer, a coherent light source embarks on a journey through a diffraction grating, birthing an array of wavelets. These wavelets, akin to ripples in a pond, propagate through space, encountering one another en route. This congregation of wavelets gives rise to a symphony of interference fringes—a phenomenon emblematic of the Talbot effect.

However, the saga continues as these diffracted wavelets proceed to engage with a second grating, often dubbed the transmission grating or the Lau grating. This secondary grating operates as yet another wellspring of wavelets, each carrying its distinct signature. The narrative crescendos as these fresh wavelets amalgamate with their predecessors from the initial grating. Their union orchestrates a mesmerizing tapestry of light and shadow—a complex interference pattern that is emblematic of the Lau effect.

The crux of understanding the Talbot-Lau interferometer as a wavelet-based process resides in appreciating how these interference patterns transpire from the intricate interplay and superposition of wavelets, each stemming from different sources. Each grating in the setup acts as a conductor, summoning its own ensemble of wavelets, all poised to join the cacophony of light and darkness. The outcome is a unique and intricate interference pattern—an intricate dance of light that invites exploration and analysis from the perspective of wavelet phenomena.

In the realm of science and optical instrumentation, this perspective unlocks avenues for in-depth analysis and potential advancements in precision measurement techniques, paving the way for novel applications in various fields.

Indeed, the wavelet perspective grants us a powerful analytical tool for deciphering the intricacies of the interference pattern within the Talbot-Lau interferometer. By examining this phenomenon through the prism of wavelets, we unveil a spectrum of spatial frequencies and scales that collectively contribute to the formation of complex interference fringes.

The rich diversity of these wavelets, each characterized by its unique spatial frequency and scale, becomes the driving force behind the captivating dance of light and darkness observed in the interference pattern. As these wavelets intertwine, they bring forth a symphony of constructive and destructive interference, painting a vivid tapestry of intricate fringes.

The utility of the Talbot-Lau interferometer, when perceived as a wavelet-based physical process, extends far and wide across various scientific domains. In metrology, this technique emerges as a reliable tool for achieving precise measurements, offering a window into the world of optical properties through its exploitation of light's wave-like nature and the intricate superposition of wavelets originating from diverse sources.

In microscopy, the Talbot-Lau interferometer holds the potential to unlock new dimensions of detail and clarity, enabling researchers to delve deeper into the microcosmos of specimens under study. The coherent interplay of wavelets opens doors to coherence-based imaging techniques, enhancing our ability to visualize and analyze samples with unprecedented accuracy.

It results that embracing the wavelet perspective in understanding the Talbot-Lau interferometer elevates our comprehension of the underlying physical processes. It underscores the pivotal role played by wavelet interference and superposition in crafting the mesmerizing tapestry of complex interference patterns. Through this lens, the Talbot-Lau interferometer emerges not merely as an instrument of inquiry but as a gateway to deeper insights and enhanced precision in the realms of metrology, microscopy, and coherence-based imaging.

## Heat Conduction

One natural phenomenon that shares similarities with deep learning in terms of layers, weights, and propagation is Heat Conduction. Heat conduction involves the transfer of thermal energy (heat) through a material or substance, and it can be analogously related to neural networks as follows:

- **Layers:** In a neural network, the concept of layers is fundamental. Similarly, in heat conduction, we can think of the material through which heat is being conducted as having layers or sections. Each layer can be seen as having different thermal properties, just as each layer in a neural network has different sets of weights and activations.
- **Weights:** In heat conduction, the thermal properties of a material are quantified by parameters like thermal conductivity. These parameters can be thought of as analogous to the weights in a neural network. Different materials have different thermal conductivities, which determine how efficiently heat is transferred through them. Just as weights in a neural network influence the flow of information, thermal conductivities influence the flow of heat.
- **Propagation:** Heat conduction involves the propagation of heat from a region of higher temperature to a region of lower temperature. This propagation can be compared to the forward propagation of information in a neural network. The rate and direction of heat propagation depend on the thermal properties of the material, similar to how the output of a neuron in a neural network depends on the weighted sum of inputs and activation functions.
- **Equilibrium:** Just as neural networks seek to reach an equilibrium state during training where the output matches the desired target, heat conduction tends to reach an equilibrium state where the temperature throughout the material becomes uniform. This equilibrium state can be seen as analogous to the convergence of a neural network during training.
- **Boundary Conditions:** Heat conduction often involves considering boundary conditions, such as insulated or heat source boundaries, which affect how heat propagates within a material. In neural networks, boundary conditions can be related to input data or constraints applied to the network, which influence how information is processed.
- **Mathematical Equations:** Heat conduction is described by mathematical equations, such as the heat equation (a partial differential equation). These equations govern how heat is distributed over time and space within a material. Similarly, neural networks are described by mathematical equations that dictate how information is transformed as it passes through the layers.

It results that heat conduction shares similarities with neural networks in terms of layers, weights, propagation, reaching equilibrium, boundary conditions, and the underlying mathematical equations. This analogy provides a way to relate the behavior of neural networks to the physical phenomenon of heat conduction.

## **Analogies and Implications: Exploring the Intersection of Wavelet Transform and Deep Learning**

The convergence of deep learning and the wavelet transform brings forth a fascinating intersection of mathematical tools and computational paradigms, shedding light on the analogies and implications that underlie their relationship. In particular, a noteworthy parallel emerges when we scrutinize the front layers of a deep learning model and the low-scale analysis employed in the wavelet transform, offering insights into how both systems process and extract information.

At the heart of this analogy is the concept of scale. In the realm of the wavelet transform, the low-scale analysis serves as the initial lens through which a signal or image is examined. This process dissects the input into its fundamental constituents, spotlighting the coarse details and overarching trends inherent within. In essence, it captures the rudimentary characteristics that define the essence of the data, analogous to a painter outlining the basic shapes and contours of a canvas.

Drawing an intriguing parallel, the early layers of a deep learning network operate in a similar vein. They embark on a journey of feature extraction from the input data, tirelessly searching for the elementary building blocks that constitute the information at hand. Much like the low-scale analysis in the wavelet transform, these layers are dedicated to detecting fundamental elements, including edges, simple shapes, and rudimentary patterns. They lay the foundation for the network's understanding, establishing a basis upon which higher-level comprehension can be constructed.

Yet, the parallel between the wavelet transform and deep learning extends beyond this initial resemblance. As the wavelet transform progresses to higher scales or frequencies, it unfurls the tapestry of finer details and high-frequency components concealed within the data. In this journey, it unveils the intricacies that were previously obscured, enriching our comprehension of the signal's complexity. This process mirrors the evolution within a deep learning model, where the network ascends through its layers to extract increasingly abstract and sophisticated patterns. As it advances, it navigates the terrain of higher-level features, encompassing intricate relationships and nuanced insights.

This alignment suggests a dynamic continuum within deep learning models, akin to the wavelet transform's capacity to transition from the broader strokes of low-scale analysis to the nuanced exploration of high-scale frequencies. The layers of a deep learning model can be envisioned as hierarchies of analysis, each delving deeper into the data's richness. In essence, they operate at different scales or frequencies of information, just as the wavelet transform seamlessly navigates through the spectrum of detail.

Thus, the analogies between the wavelet transform and deep learning, particularly in their low-scale analysis and feature extraction processes, underscore the interplay between mathematical tools and computational systems. This parallel offers a fresh perspective on the mechanisms driving deep learning's capacity to unravel intricate patterns and highlights the synergy between mathematical techniques and artificial intelligence paradigms. As these fields continue to evolve, exploring their harmonious convergence promises to yield valuable insights into the nature of information processing and pattern recognition.

The analogy between the wavelet transforms and deep learning extends to their hierarchical structures, offering valuable insights

for enhancing deep learning methodologies. Both frameworks exhibit a hierarchical nature that enables multi-resolution analysis and progressively abstract feature extraction.

In the wavelet transform, different scales correspond to varying levels of detail, facilitating a multi-resolution approach to signal or image analysis. Similarly, deep learning models are characterized by their multi-layered architecture, with each layer operating at a distinct level of abstraction. This hierarchical organization enables the network to capture increasingly complex and sophisticated features as information flows through its layers. The alignment between multi-resolution analysis in the wavelet transform and the hierarchical nature of deep learning underscores the systematic progression from low-level to high-level representations.

Researchers can leverage this analogy to inform and improve deep learning model design, optimization, and interpretability. Drawing upon the principles of wavelet analysis, such as multi-resolution analysis and feature extraction, offers a framework for enhancing the effectiveness of deep learning architectures. The wavelet transform's capacity to capture diverse scales of information and unveil intricate details can guide the development of deep learning models that excel in extracting and representing intricate patterns within data.

Thus, the connection between the wavelet transform and deep learning underscores shared principles related to information extraction, feature representation, and hierarchical learning. By delving into this analogy from a scientific perspective, researchers can deepen their comprehension of deep learning networks and leverage the robust foundations of wavelet analysis to advance the field of deep learning.

## **Discussion**

### **Natural vs Artificial Deep Learning**

In retrospect, the exploration of various physical phenomena and processes, including Fresnel diffraction, the Talbot Effect, Fractional Talbot Effect, Quantum Diffraction, Optical Metrology, and the Talbot Lau interferometer, has revealed profound structural parallels with neural networks and deep learning. These examples have illuminated that deep learning, characterized by its intricate layering, shares fundamental resemblances with the intricate processes observed in nature. This observation suggests that the essence of deep learning is firmly rooted in the underlying principles governing natural phenomena.

Moreover, our journey has delved into the Wavelet Transform, a robust and versatile mathematical tool deeply intertwined with the realm of deep learning. This intimate connection serves to dispel the notion that deep learning operates as a mysterious "black box" or an arbitrary process. Instead, it underscores the solid mathematical foundation that underpins deep learning—a foundation that can be dissected and comprehended. The Wavelet Transform emerges as an efficient and widely adopted technique within deep learning, highlighting the seamless integration of mathematical models into the fabric of this framework.

By recognizing the ubiquitous presence of wavelets in both deep learning and the natural world, we have established a shared platform bridging these domains. The concept of wavelets serves as a unifying thread, weaving together the mathematical tool, the intricate processes of deep learning, and the fundamental phenomena of the physical world. This connection spotlights the natural and mathematical principles that underlie deep learning,



emphatically asserting that it is not an arbitrary or isolated concept but one firmly rooted in the fundamental workings of our universe.

In summary, the inclusion of physical phenomena and processes intertwined with neural networks and deep learning, coupled with their intrinsic relationship with the Wavelet Transform, underscores the profound insight that deep learning constitutes a natural and mathematically grounded framework. This realization underscores the depth and sophistication of the mathematical models underpinning deep learning, ultimately dispelling the notion that it is a mere enigmatic "black box." Instead, it emerges as a well-established approach with profound connections to both the natural world and the realm of mathematics.

Let's explore the comparison between phenomena in nature, like Fresnel diffraction, and deep learning, considering the following 12 aspects:

### Input

- **Natural Phenomena:** In natural phenomena like Fresnel diffraction, the behavior is intricately linked to the characteristics of the input sources. For instance, whether the incident light is coherent or incoherent, monochromatic or polychromatic, significantly influences the resulting diffraction patterns. Coherent light sources lead to the formation of interference patterns, while incoherent sources produce a broader and less structured diffraction.
- **Deep Learning:** In deep learning, the concept of input is analogous. The deep learning model's behavior is profoundly influenced by the specific input data it receives. These inputs can vary widely, encompassing images, text, numerical data, or any information relevant to the task at hand. The nature and quality of this input data profoundly affect how the model learns and makes predictions.

### Layers

- **Natural Phenomena:** In the realm of natural phenomena, the concept of layers is often manifested as the complexity of the system or the interaction of waves with various obstacles or media. Depending on the intricacies of these interactions, phenomena like Fresnel diffraction can involve an infinite number of layers.  
Each layer corresponds to a specific phase of the disturbance's propagation, and the superposition of these layers results in intricate patterns.
- **Deep Learning:** In deep learning, layers are integral components of neural networks. Deep neural networks, in particular, employ a substantial number of layers. These layers serve as hierarchical levels of abstraction, with each layer capturing and representing increasingly higher-level features. They enable the network to learn complex and abstract representations of the input data. Much like layers in natural phenomena, the layers in deep learning play a pivotal role in shaping the model's behavior.

### Nodes

- **Natural Phenomena:** In natural phenomena such as Fresnel diffraction, the concept of nodes can be likened to the sources that contribute to the overall effect. These nodes represent point sources of light or disturbances that emit wavelets. The behavior of the phenomenon is influenced by the specific characteristics and positions of these nodes.
- **Deep Learning:** In deep learning, nodes refer to the individual computational units within each layer of a neural

network. These nodes process and transmit information, playing a pivotal role in the network's learning and inference processes. Nodes can be thought of as computational entities that contribute to the network's ability to extract features and make predictions based on the input data.

### Wave

- **Natural Phenomena:** The concept of waves, exemplified by wavelets in phenomena like Fresnel diffraction, is fundamental. Wavelets carry information about the structure and patterns within the system. The behavior of these wavelets, such as their interference, diffraction, or propagation, is central to understanding natural phenomena.
- **Deep Learning:** In deep learning, the analogy to wave behavior lies in how the network processes and extracts information at different scales or resolutions. Much like wavelets, the network captures both coarse and fine details from the input data. It operates with the ability to discern various features and patterns in the data, akin to how waves carry information about the system they interact with.

### Propagation

- **Natural Phenomena:** Propagation in natural phenomena refers to how waves move through different media, interact with obstacles, and undergo diffraction or interference effects. The propagation of waves is influenced by the properties of the medium and the specific characteristics of the waves.
- **Deep Learning:** In deep learning, data propagation refers to the flow of information through the layers of the neural network. Each layer transforms and refines the data to extract meaningful representations. This propagation of information is akin to how waves propagate through different environments and interact with various elements, leading to changes in their behavior.

### Weights

- **Natural Phenomena:** In phenomena like Fresnel diffraction, specific weights or coefficients, such as Fresnel weights and Talbot coefficients, are inherent to the system and affect interference or diffraction patterns. These weights depend on the nature of the waves and the geometry of the system.
- **Deep Learning:** In deep learning, weights are adjustable parameters within the neural network. They determine the strength of connections between nodes and are learned during the training process. These weights play a crucial role in shaping the network's behavior, as they dictate how information flows through the network and how features are combined and processed.

### Normalization

- **Natural Phenomena:** Natural phenomena often exhibit inherent normalization mechanisms, such as energy conservation, where the overall energy remains constant despite transformations or interactions. These mechanisms help maintain equilibrium and stability in dynamic systems.
- **Deep Learning:** In deep learning, artificial normalization techniques are applied to ensure that the network's computations are well-scaled and do not lead to numerical instability. Techniques like batch normalization are employed to standardize the inputs to each layer, enhancing the network's training efficiency and performance. These normalization methods aim to bring the network's activations into a suitable range for effective learning.



## Contributions

- **Natural Phenomena:** In natural phenomena like interference, multiple sources or elements contribute to the overall effect or pattern observed. These contributions can either reinforce or cancel each other out, leading to complex interference patterns. The interactions and contributions of various components are crucial for understanding the system's behavior.
- **Deep Learning:** In deep learning, the contributions from different nodes or layers are combined through weighted sums. Each node processes information and contributes to the network's output. The network aggregates these contributions to make predictions or perform tasks. Just as in natural phenomena, the interactions and contributions of individual components (nodes) are central to the network's functioning.

## Activation

- **Natural Phenomena:** Natural phenomena typically do not exhibit explicit activation functions. However, they may involve nonlinear processes or transformations that affect the behaviour of the system. These nonlinearities can arise from interactions between waves, materials, or forces.
- **Deep Learning:** In deep learning, activation functions are applied to the output of each node or layer to introduce nonlinearities. Activation functions enable the network to model complex relationships between inputs and outputs. They allow the network to learn and represent intricate patterns and decision boundaries. Activation functions are a key component in deep learning for introducing flexibility and expressiveness into the network's computations.

## Bias

- **Natural Phenomena:** In natural phenomena, bias can refer to systematic errors or deviations from the expected behavior. These biases may arise due to various factors, such as imperfections in measurements or incomplete understanding of the underlying processes. Understanding and correcting for biases are essential in scientific investigations.
- **Deep Learning:** In deep learning, bias is a numerical parameter added to each node. It serves as an additional learnable parameter that helps the network capture and model systematic discrepancies or tendencies present in the data. Bias terms provide flexibility to the model, allowing it to account for variations in the data that are not explained by the weights alone.

## Dependence on Input/Situation

- **Natural Phenomena:** The behavior of natural systems often varies depending on the specific input or situation. Different sources, conditions, or environments may lead to distinct patterns or effects. Understanding this input dependence is crucial for predicting and explaining the behavior of natural systems.
- **Deep Learning:** Similarly, in deep learning, the design and configuration of the network can vary depending on the input data and the specific problem at hand. Different input data may require different network architectures, hyperparameter settings, or optimization strategies to achieve optimal performance. Adapting the network to the input data and problem context is essential for its effectiveness.

## Probabilistic Process

- **Natural Phenomena:** In natural phenomena, especially at the quantum level, probabilistic processes play a fundamental role in determining the outcomes of interactions or measurements.

Quantum mechanics, for example, is inherently probabilistic, and it describes the behavior of particles and waves in terms of probability distributions.

- **Deep Learning:** In deep learning, certain algorithms and models incorporate probabilistic components, such as variational autoencoders or Bayesian neural networks. These components allow the network to capture uncertainty or generate probabilistic predictions. Probabilistic deep learning is particularly useful in scenarios where uncertainty in predictions is crucial, such as in medical diagnosis or autonomous driving.

## Explainable AI: Bridging Understanding and Interpretation

While deep learning models exhibit formidable predictive capabilities, their inherent opacity has long sparked concerns in high-stakes domains such as healthcare, climate modeling, and scientific discovery. This "black-box" nature challenges their trustworthiness and limits their adoption where transparency is critical. Explainable Artificial Intelligence (XAI) addresses this limitation by providing interpretability to model decisions, thereby enabling human users to understand, trust, and act on AI-generated outcomes.

This manuscript, grounded in exploring the physical and mathematical underpinnings of deep learning, naturally converges with XAI's mission. Scientific inquiry has always valued interpretability—Newton's laws, Einstein's equations, and Schrödinger's wave functions each offered not just predictions but explanations. Similarly, XAI provides tools to map the internal behavior of deep neural networks onto intelligible representations.

Recent studies have demonstrated the power of XAI in practical domains. For instance, in environmental science, XAI has been used to assess the smog contribution of individual vehicles by employing Random Forest and Explainable Boosting Classifier models. This approach not only yielded high prediction accuracy but also provided human-understandable explanations through agnostic and model-specific interpretability tools [22].

However, it is essential to distinguish the ontological depth of your study from the epistemological orientation of XAI. This article demonstrates that deep learning shares profound structural and functional analogies with natural systems—from wave propagation and heat conduction to Talbot effects and probabilistic physical models. These are not metaphors but suggest that deep learning, as a computational paradigm, is embedded in the same logic that governs the physical universe.

XAI, in contrast, does not delve into the nature of deep learning. It does not seek to uncover why deep neural networks behave the way they do in terms of physical causality, conservation laws, or energy landscapes. Instead, it operates at the level of interpretability heuristics—feature attribution, saliency maps, surrogate models, or post-hoc explanations. These methods are descriptive, not explanatory in the physical or mathematical sense. They enhance user trust, regulatory compliance, and debugging but stop short of offering foundational insight into the mechanics of deep learning itself.

Thus, while XAI is invaluable for external transparency, it should not be confused with the internal intelligibility grounded in physics, mathematics, and nature. The core argument of this work is that the success of deep learning is not accidental or purely empirical—it is deeply rooted in the same structures that govern

the behavior of waves, thermodynamic equilibria, and hierarchical systems in nature. This contrasts sharply with the operational, model-agnostic focus of most explainability techniques.

In short, Explainable AI explains to us; the physics of deep learning explains what it is. Both are necessary, but only one addresses the fundamental question of origin and principle.

### Conclusion

In conclusion, the perception of deep learning as an opaque and arbitrary process has been dispelled through our exploration of its intricate connections with the natural world, particularly the realm of physics. This journey has unveiled the profound similarities and shared principles that underlie deep learning algorithms and the behavior of natural phenomena.

First and foremost, we've come to understand that deep learning is not a one-size-fits-all solution but a domain-specific tool. Just as scientific investigations require tailored approaches guided by hypotheses and observations, deep learning algorithms are designed with structured inputs and logical pathways to address specific problem domains, whether it's image recognition, natural language processing, or other applications.

Moreover, the mathematical and physical properties exhibited by deep learning algorithms resonate strongly with the principles governing natural phenomena. Concepts such as wave propagation, temporal dynamics, and probabilistic reasoning are equally applicable in both the virtual realm of deep learning and the physical world. This revelation underscores that deep learning operates within the well-established framework of mathematical and physical laws, reinforcing its efficacy as a versatile tool for modeling and understanding complex systems.

By acknowledging these parallels between deep learning and physics, we unlock a wealth of opportunities and perspectives. Future endeavors may involve the development of hybrid models that seamlessly integrate physical priors and domain-specific knowledge into deep learning architectures. This integration promises more interpretable and explainable models while enhancing their adaptability and resilience.

Furthermore, exploring how deep learning can contribute to advancing our comprehension of intricate physical phenomena, such as quantum systems or astrophysical data, opens up exciting cross-disciplinary avenues for research. These pursuits hold the potential to yield transformative technologies and profound insights that extend beyond the realm of mobile computing.

It results that deep learning emerges not as an isolated enigma but as a domain intricately intertwined with physics and the fundamental principles governing the natural world. This recognition paves the way for continued exploration, innovation, and collaboration, with the promise of driving breakthroughs, expanding our knowledge, and shaping the future of both deep learning and scientific exploration.

### Acknowledgment

The authors thank the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) and New Brunswick Innovation Foundation (NBIF) for the financial support of the global Project. These granting agencies did not contribute to the study design and collection, analysis, and interpretation of data. The authors also thank IITG (Gabon) for giving access to its premises and for its logistical support.

### References

1. McCulloch WS, Pitts W (1943) A logical calculus of the ideas immanent in nervous activity. The bulletin of mathematical biophysics 5: 115-133.
2. Minsky ML, Papert SA (1969) Perceptrons: An Introduction to Computational Geometry. MIT Press.
3. LeCun Y, Bengio Y, Hinton G (2015) Deep Learning. Nature 521: 436-444.
4. Hinton GE, Osindero S (2006) A Fast-Learning Algorithm for Deep Belief Nets. Neural Computation 18: 1527-1554.
5. Krizhevsky A, Sutskever I, Hinton GE (2012) Classification with Deep Convolutional Neural Networks. In Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems 1097-1105.
6. Bishop CM (2006) Pattern Recognition and Machine Learning. Springer, New York.
7. Szeliski R (2010) Computer Vision: Algorithms and Applications. Springer, London, UK.
8. Lowe DG (2004) Distinctive Image Features from Scale-Invariant Keypoints. International Journal of Computer Vision 60: 91-110.
9. Khadhraoui M (2022) Survey of BERT-base models for Scientific Text Classification: Covid19 case study. Applied Science doi.org/10.3390/app12062891.
10. Lepcha DC (2022) Multimodal Medical Image Fusion Based on Pixel Significance Using Anisotropic Diffusion and Cross Bilateral Filter. Human-centric Computing and Information Sciences 12.
11. Smeulders AW, Worring M, Santini S, Gupta A, Jain R (2000) Content-Based Image Retrieval at the End of the Early Years. IEEE Transactions on Pattern Analysis and Machine Intelligence 22: 1349-1380.
12. Siddiqui S (2022) Quality Prediction of Wearable Apps in the Google Play Store. Intelligent Automation & Soft Computing 32: 877-892.
13. Ali R (2022) Financial Hazard Prediction Due to Power Outages Associated with Severe Weather-Related Natural Disaster Categories. Energies 15.
14. Goodman JW (1968) Introduction to Fourier optics. Ed. MacGraw-Hill.
15. Hamam H (1997) A two-way optical interconnection network using a single mode fiber array. Optics communications 150: 270-276.
16. Hamam H (2017) Measuring time at very high speed. Physics Essays 30: 399-404.
17. Jean-Louis De Bougrenet De La Tournaye (1997) Light diffraction device using reconfigurable spatial light modulators and the fractional talbot effect. US Patent <https://idiyas.com/patent/badge/5617227>.
18. Hamam H (1996) Simplified linear formulation of diffraction. Optics communications 144: 89-98.
19. Hamam H (2003) Talbot imaging and unification. Applied Optics 42: 7052-7059.
20. Hamam H, de Bougrenet de la Tournaye JL (1995) An Efficient Fresnel Transform Algorithm based on fractional Fresnel diffraction. J of the Optical Society of America A 12: 1920-1931.
21. Hamam H (1998) Design of array illuminators operating under spherical illumination. Applied Optics 37: 1393-1400.
22. Ghadi YY (2025) Explainable AI analysis for smog rating prediction. Scientific Reports 15: 8070.

**Copyright:** ©2025 Habib Hamam. This is an open-access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License, which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited.