

Analysis of
high-resolution transmission
electron microscopy images
by deep learning:

Example of AgCo nanoalloys

Daniel Förster

Convolutional neural networks for HRTEM analysis

Image classification, regression, or denoising

requires large number of examples with known categories, values, perfect images



3 6 8 1 7 9 6 6 9 1
6 7 5 7 8 6 3 4 8 5
2 1 7 9 7 1 2 8 4 5
4 8 1 9 0 1 8 8 9 4
7 6 1 8 6 4 1 5 6 0
7 5 9 2 6 5 8 1 9 7
2 2 2 2 2 3 4 4 8 0
0 2 3 8 0 7 3 8 5 7
0 1 4 6 4 6 0 2 4 3
7 1 2 8 9 6 9 8 6 1

Proc. of the IEEE **86**, 2278 (1998)

Nanosystems

realistic large-scale data thanks to simulations

inverse problems: structure determination from experimental characterization techniques

machine learning can add value: reduction of search space when informed by physical models

Advantages: fast, enables thus statistical analysis

Disadvantages: limited scope of applicability, requires validation

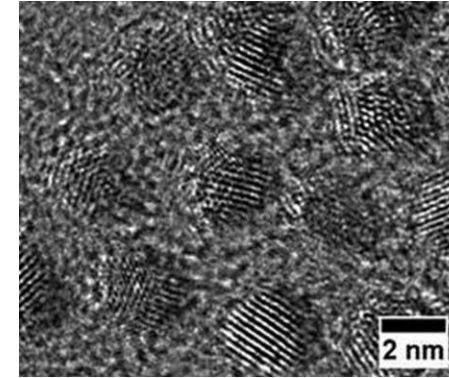
Why nanoalloys, why HRTEM?

Nanoalloys

- catalysis
- plasmonics
- magnetic particles for biomedical applications

Advantages

- new properties due to alloy effect
- reduced cost
- encapsulation of toxic elements



PdPt nanoalloy

Faraday Discuss., **181**, 19 (2015)

HRTEM

- analysis of individual objects
- atomic resolution

Difficulties

- image noise, long exposure may affect objects
- aberrations, defocus, Z-insensitivity

Dataset generation: Molecular dynamics

Interatomic model

Tight-binding second moment approximation for Ag-Co

J. Comput. Theor. Nanosci. **6**, 841 (2009)

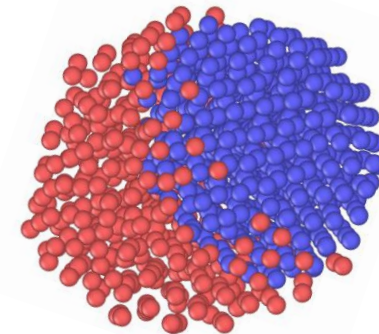
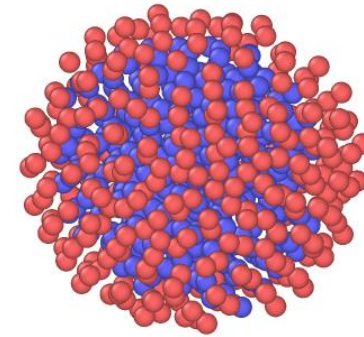
Random system size (up to 1 000 atoms), and composition

Rapid quench

- **Core-shell:** gas mixture 7500 K to 300 K
- **Janus:** droplets 800 K to 300 K

Thermalization at 300K

200.000 simulations, side effect: enables statistical analysis



Dataset generation: HRTEM images

Multi-slice technique

several software packages available, here Dr. Probe
Ultramicroscopy **193**, 1 (2018)

200 keV electrons, 20 slices
resolution: ~ 23 px/nm

Variability

- random *defocus* and aberration coefficients
- random position and orientation
- addition of shot noise

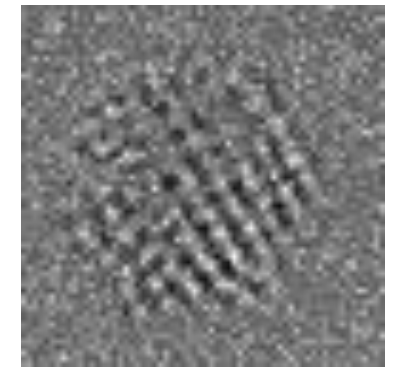
5 images per configuration \rightarrow 2M images

\rightarrow **realism and diversity are key**

Pairs of clean and noisy images



Core-shell

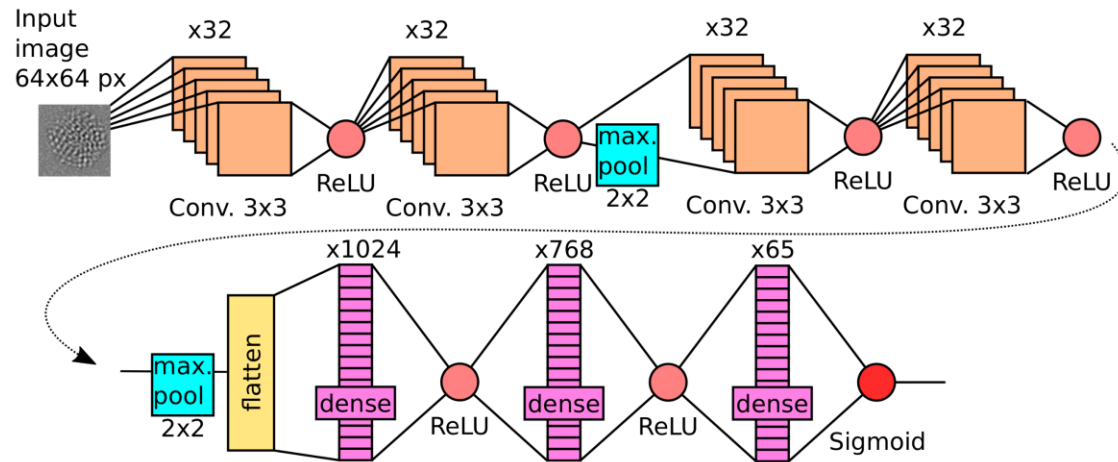


Janus



Classification in terms of chemical ordering

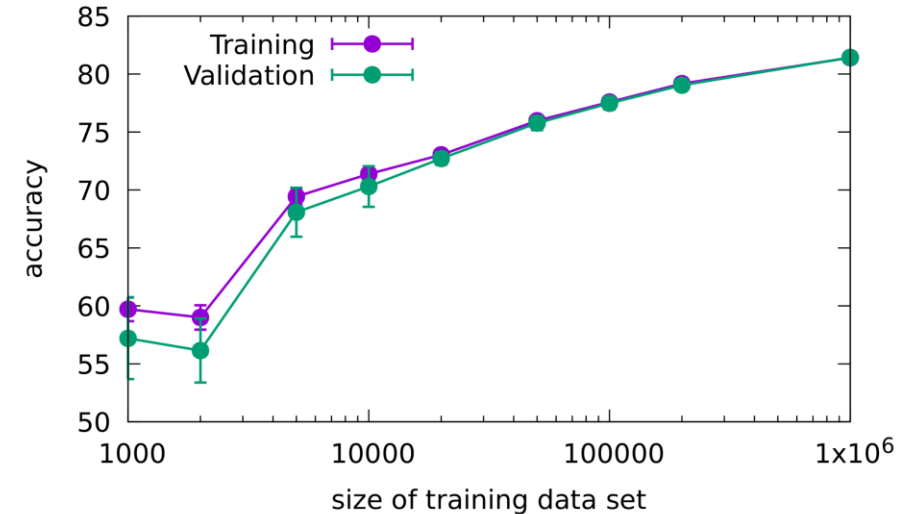
Network architecture



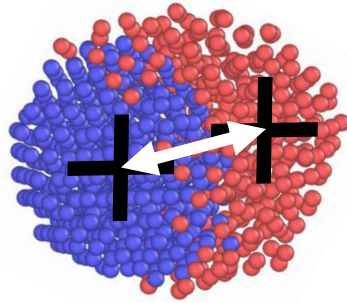
Output value

- **class:** core-shell or Janus
- **size:** number of atoms
- **composition:** $N_{\text{Ag}}/N_{\text{tot}}$

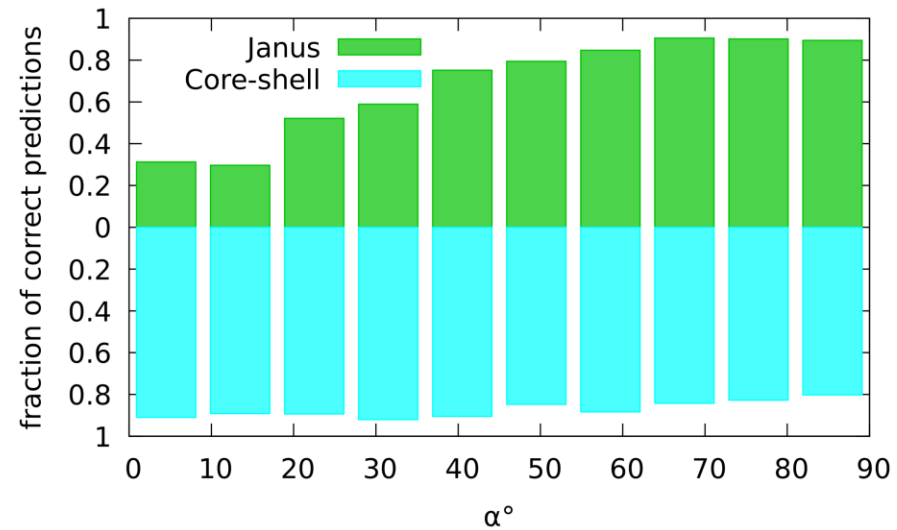
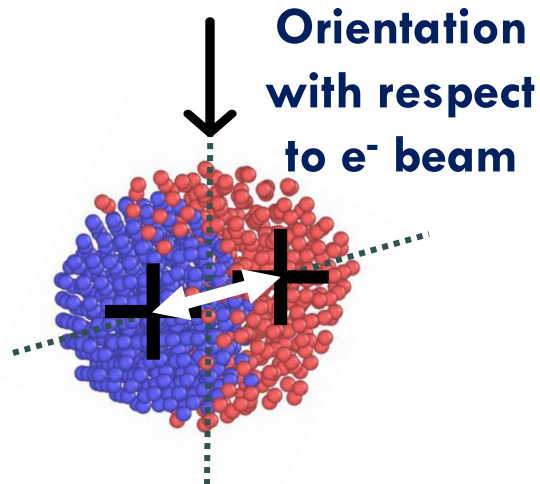
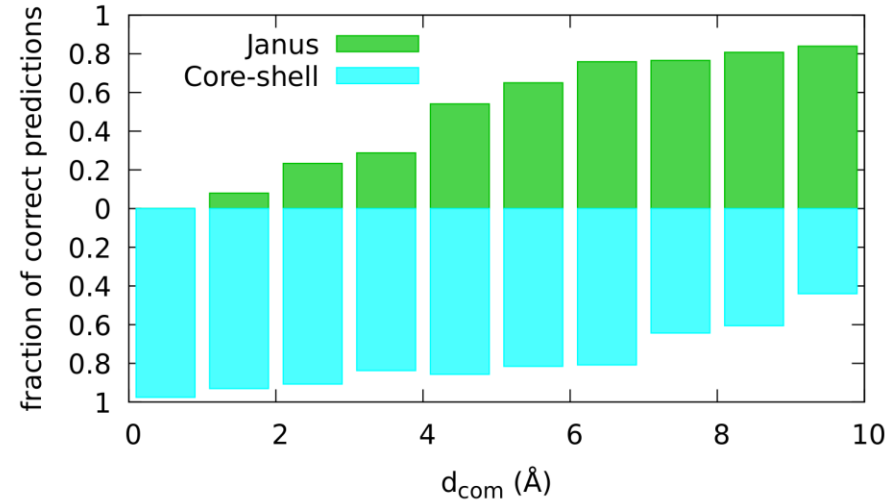
Influence of dataset size



Evaluation of classification accuracy

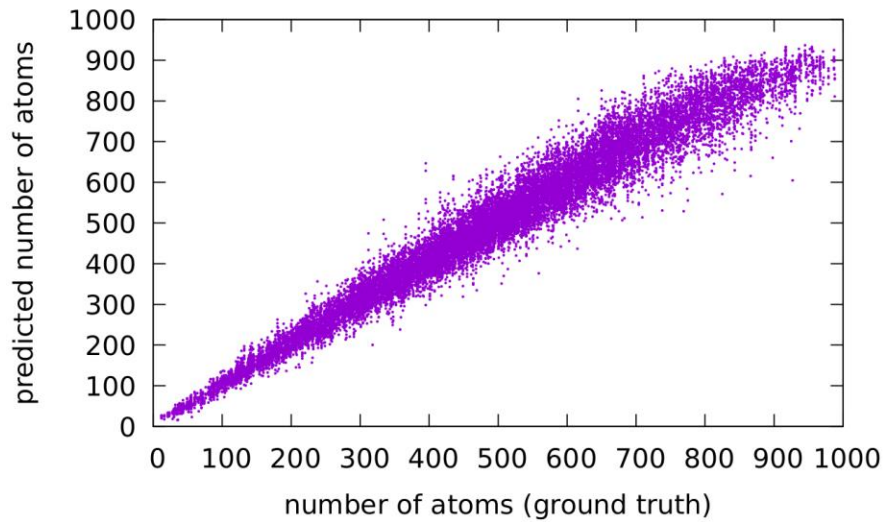


Distance Ag-Co centers of mass



Estimation of particle size and composition

Number of atoms



Average error: ± 33 atoms

Particle composition

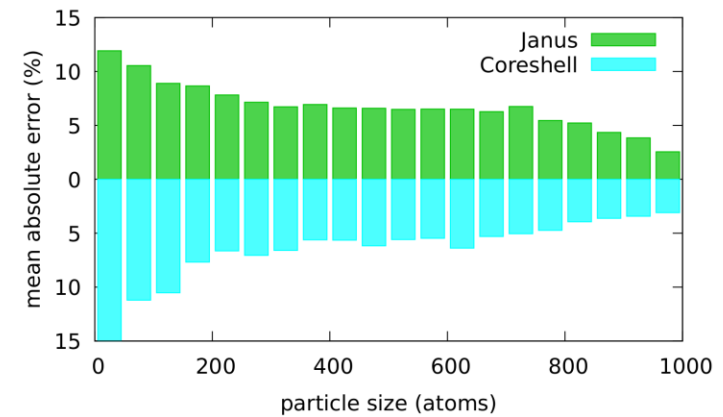
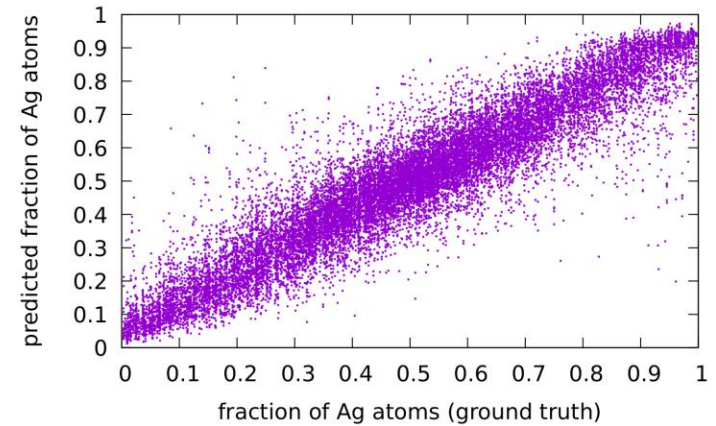
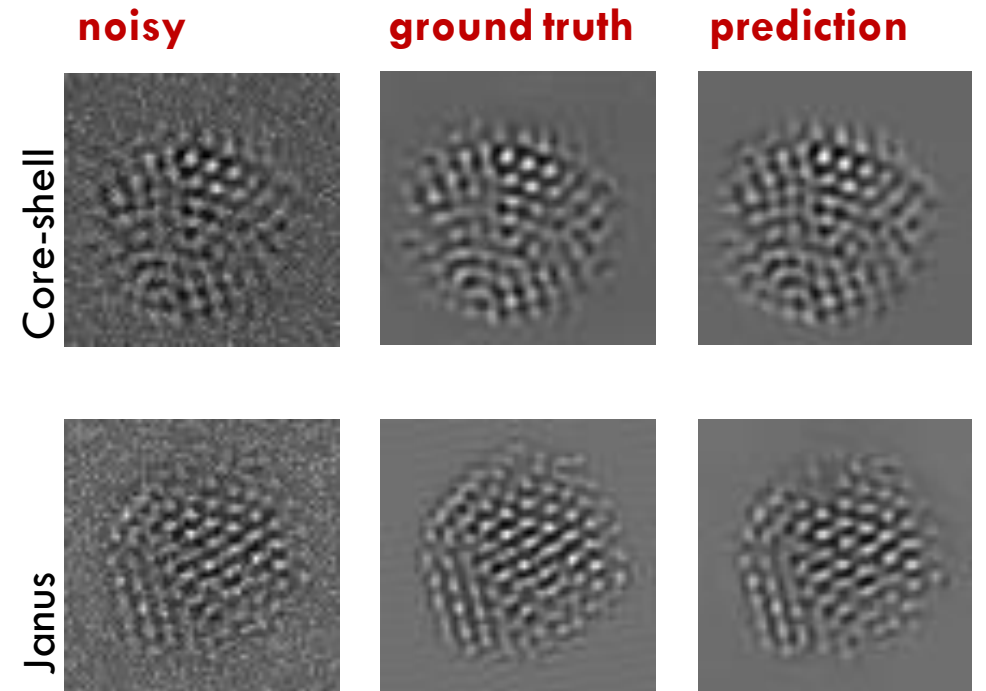
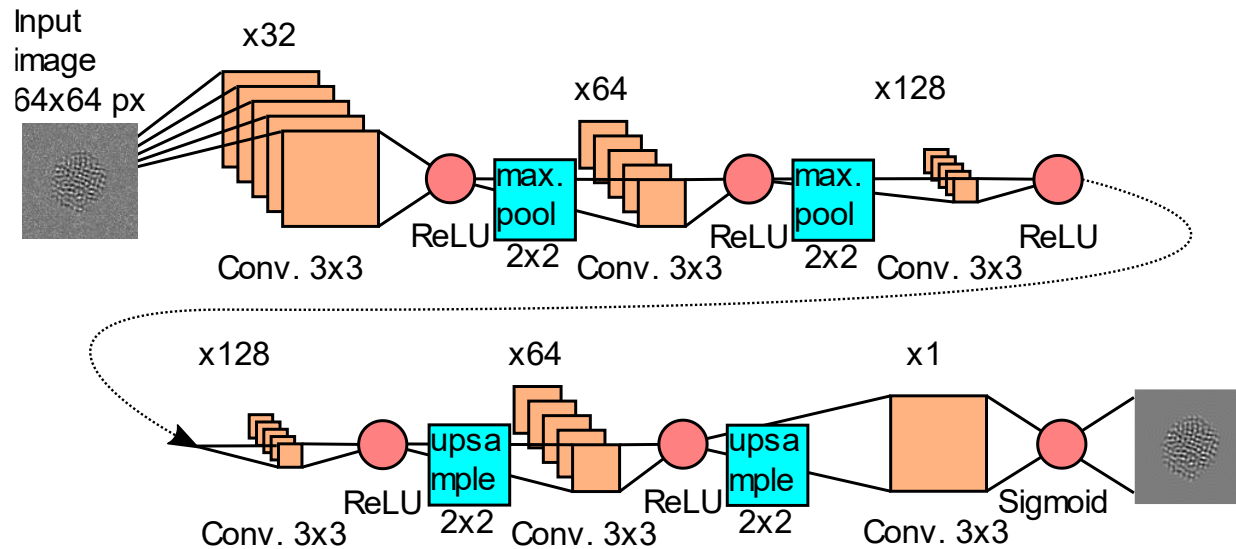


Image denoising

Autoencoder network



→ almost perfect noise suppression
perspective: **super-resolution**

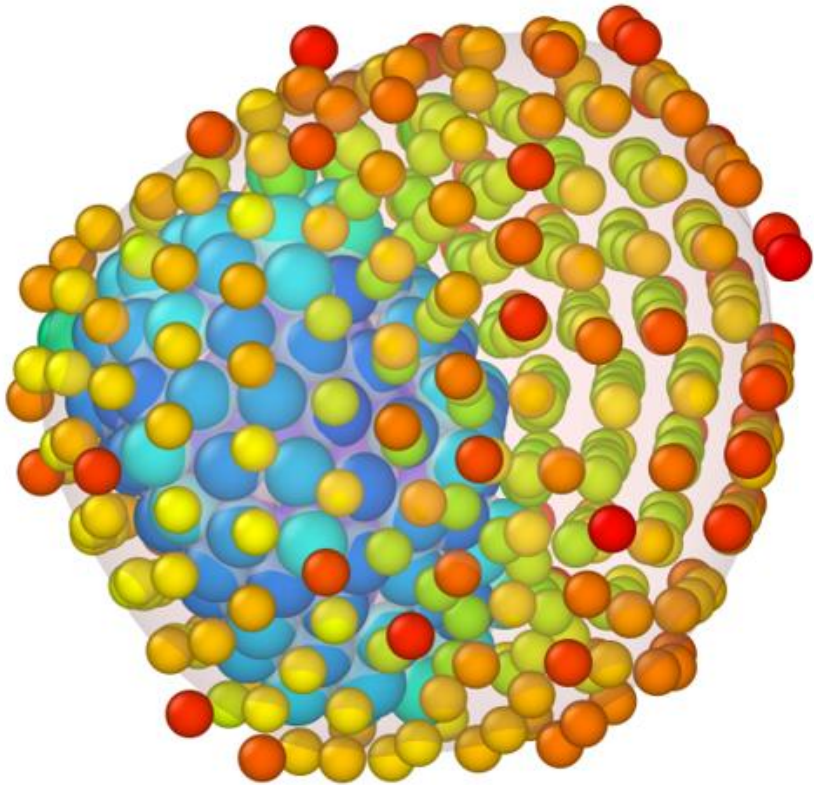
Conclusion and perspectives

Results

- Classification in terms of chemical ordering: 81%
- Size estimation of particles: ± 33 atoms
- Almost perfect noise suppression

Outlook

- Application to images from experiments
- Other types of analysis, e.g. estimation of microscopy parameters
- Other experimental characterization techniques, such as HAADF STEM, X-ray diffraction, Raman spectroscopy



Many thanks to our collaboration



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Riccardo Ferrando
University of Genoa

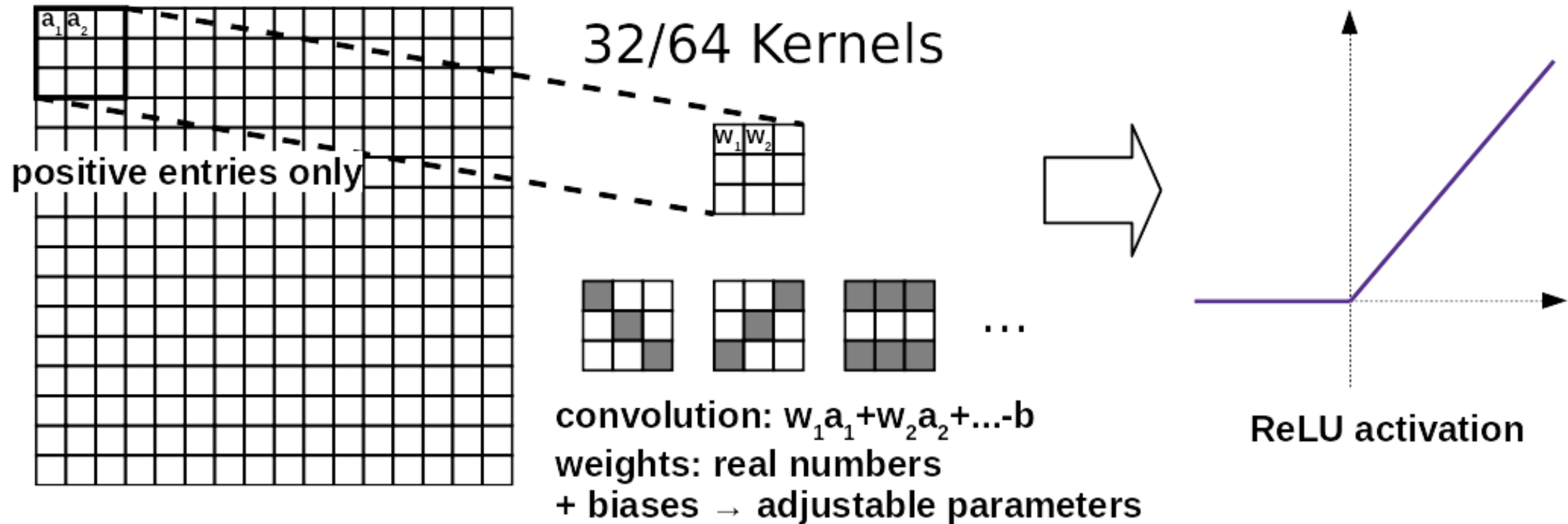
Thank you for your attention

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GDR IAMAT 31 May 2022

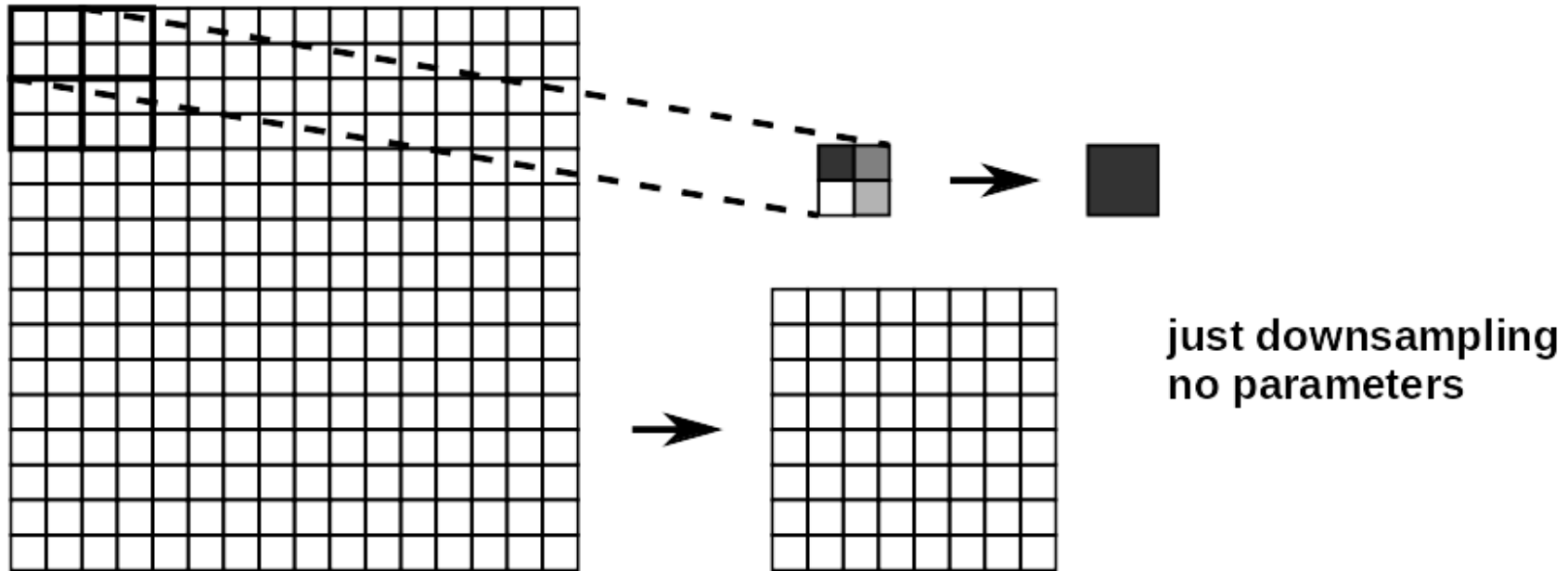
Convolutional neural networks

Convolutional layer



Convolutional neural networks

Max. pooling layer



Convolutional neural networks

Fully connected layers

