

Using Conditional GANs for Convergence Map Reconstruction with Uncertainties

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Understanding the large-scale structure of the Universe and unravelling the mysteries of dark matter are fundamental challenges in contemporary cosmology. Reconstruction of the cosmological matter distribution from lensing observables, referred to as ‘mass-mapping’ is an important aspect of this quest. Mass-mapping is an ill-posed problem, meaning there is inherent uncertainty in any convergence map reconstruction. The demand for fast and efficient reconstruction techniques is rising as we prepare for upcoming surveys. We present a novel approach which utilises deep learning, in particular a conditional Generative Adversarial Network (cGAN), to approximate samples from a Bayesian posterior distribution, meaning they can be interpreted in a statistically robust manner. By combining data-driven priors with recent regularisation techniques, we introduce an approach that facilitates the swift generation of high-fidelity, mass maps. Furthermore, to validate the effectiveness of our approach, we train the model on mock COSMOS-style data, generated using Columbia Lensing’s κ TNG mock weak lensing suite. These preliminary results showcase compelling convergence map reconstructions and ongoing refinement efforts are underway to enhance the robustness of our method further.

1 Introduction

Incoming photons from distant galaxies travel along geodesics. Gravitational lensing refers to the phenomenon where these geodesics are perturbed due to intervening matter along the line of sight. Weak gravitational lensing is the regime where the geodesics are greater than one Einstein radius away from intervening matter at all times. Within this regime, lensing effects are small, and to observe the effect the aggregate over many galaxies must be taken.

To first order, weak lensing manifests in two ways: (i) the shear, $\gamma = \gamma_1 + i\gamma_2$: an anisotropic stretching of the source galaxy, (ii) the convergence, κ : isotropic magnification of the galaxy brightness. The convergence is unobservable directly, as there is no way to know the *a priori* brightness of a galaxy, however, it contains a lot of useful information for cosmology. In particular, it traces the intervening matter distribution, and therefore is a way to probe dark matter. The shear, on the other hand, is an observable quantity. The problem of mass mapping is, therefore, how to calculate the convergence from the shear. This is an ill-posed inverse problem of the form $\gamma = \mathbf{A}\kappa + \mathbf{n}$, where \mathbf{A} is the lensing operator, and \mathbf{n} represents systematic and instrumental noise. As we do not know the value of \mathbf{n} , calculating κ is not a trivial task.

We propose using a conditional generative adversarial network (cGAN) for mass-mapping (for reviews of GANs see: Goodfellow et al. 2014; Goodfellow et al. 2020; Creswell et al. 2018). Deep learning methods have already proven to be promising when applied to mass-mapping¹. Our aim is to provide a method with uncertainty quantification which has improved speed while maintaining high-quality reconstructions.

