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# Rec-KAN: Recursive KAN of KANs

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# Recursive KAN: KAN of KANs

Gary Nan Tie, Oct 3, 2024

## **Abstract**

Schematically, the architecture of a Kolmogorov-Arnold neural network (KAN) has sum operations on nodes and learnable activation functions on edges. We introduce Rec-KAN, recursive KANs, by having learnable sparse KANs on edges. Rec-KANs are interpretable, parallelizable, enjoy compositional sparsity, and have sub-quadratic runtime.

Let KAN have shape  $[n_0, n_1, \dots, n_L]$

$$x_{l+1,j} \triangleq \sum_{i=1}^{n_l} \varphi_{l,j,i}(x_{l,i}), \quad \varphi_{l,j,i}: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \quad \text{and}$$

$$l=0, \dots, L-1 \quad i=1, \dots, n_l \quad j=1, \dots, n_{l+1}$$

in matrix form:

$$x_{l+1} = \Phi_l x_l, \quad (n_{l+1} \times n_l) \quad \Phi_l = [\varphi_{l,j,i}]$$

Schematically, the KAN architecture has sum operations

on the nodes and learnable activation functions  $\varphi$

on the edges. We propose Rec-KAN, recursive KANs,

by having learnable sparse KANs on edges.

$$\text{Rec-KAN}(x) = (\Phi_{L-1} \circ \dots \circ \Phi_0) x$$

$$\text{where } \Phi_l \triangleq \Psi_1^l + \dots + \Psi_M^l$$

$$\text{with KAN layer } \Psi_k^l = [\psi_{k,j,i}^l], \quad \psi_{k,j,i}^l: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$$

$$i=1, \dots, n_l \quad j=1, \dots, n_{l+1} \quad k=1, \dots, M$$

Without loss of generality, let Rec-KAN have shape

$$[n_0, N, \dots, N, n_L] \quad (\text{otherwise let } N = \max\{n_1, \dots, n_{L-1}\}).$$

Note that the intermediate layers  $l = 1, \dots, L-2$

$$\Phi_l = \gamma_{\mathbf{f}_1}^l + \dots + \gamma_{\mathbf{f}_M}^l \quad \text{have } MN^2 \text{ activation functions}$$

to learn! To make Rec-KAN tractable we sparsify

$$\text{the } \Phi_l \text{ by defining } \gamma_{\mathbf{f}_k}^l = D(\mathbf{f}_k^l) C(\mathbf{h}_k^l) D(\mathbf{g}_k^l)$$

where  $D(\mathbf{f})$  is a  $N \times N$  diagonal matrix with diagonal

$$\mathbf{f} = (f_1, \dots, f_N) \text{ and } C(\mathbf{h}) \text{ is a } N \times N \text{ circulant matrix}$$

with generator  $\mathbf{h} = (h_1, \dots, h_N)$ .

In terms of number of activation functions to learn:

- sparse Rec-KAN  $\Phi_l$  has  $M \leq N$
- Rec-KAN  $\Phi_l$  has  $MN^2$
- unstructured KAN  $\Phi_l$  has  $N^2$

If  $N > 3$  and  $N > 3M$  then sparse Rec-KAN  $\Phi_L$

have the fewest activation functions to learn.

Note that  $\Phi_L = \gamma_{\Phi_1}^L + \dots + \gamma_{\Phi_M}^L$  can be computed

in parallel and that  $\gamma_{\Phi_k}^L(x) = (D(f_k^L) C(h_k^L) D(g_k^L)) x$

can be computed using a Fast Fourier Transform.

Case by case, there is a tradeoff between accuracy

and runtime (sparsity) to be determined.

Sparse recursive KAN,  $(\Phi_{L-1} \circ \dots \circ \Phi_0) x$

with  $\Phi_L = \sum_{k=1}^M D(f_k^L) C(h_k^L) D(g_k^L)$  are:

- 1) interpretable
- 2) parallelizable
- 3) compositionally sparse with sub-quadratic runtime.

Layers  $L$ , nodes  $N$ , and number of DCDs  $M$

are hyperparameters to be chosen.

## References

KAN:Kolmogorov–Arnold Networks

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Sparse Kolmogorov-Arnold Networks

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