



# ***tractable probabilistic modeling with probabilistic circuits***

**antonio vergari** (he/him)

 @tetraduzione

2nd Apr 2025 - Neuro-explicit retreat Saarbruecken

*april*

april-tools.github.io

# *april*

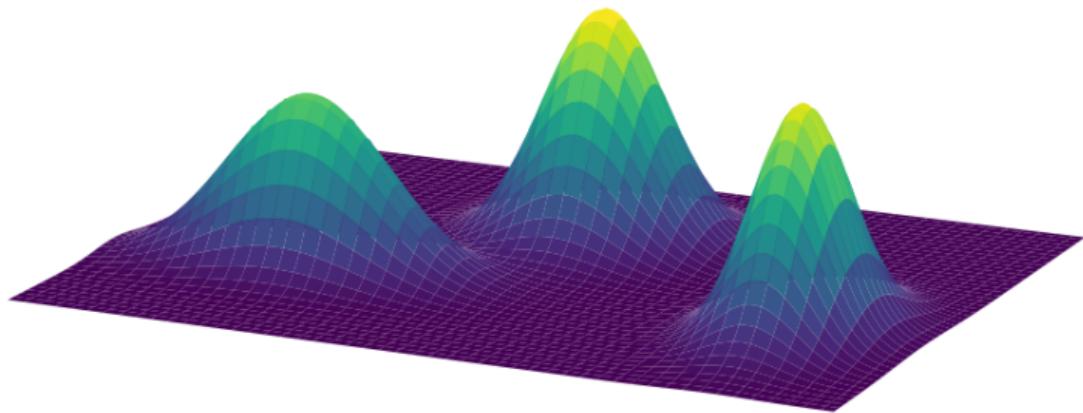
*about  
probabilities  
integrals &  
logic*

*deep generative models*

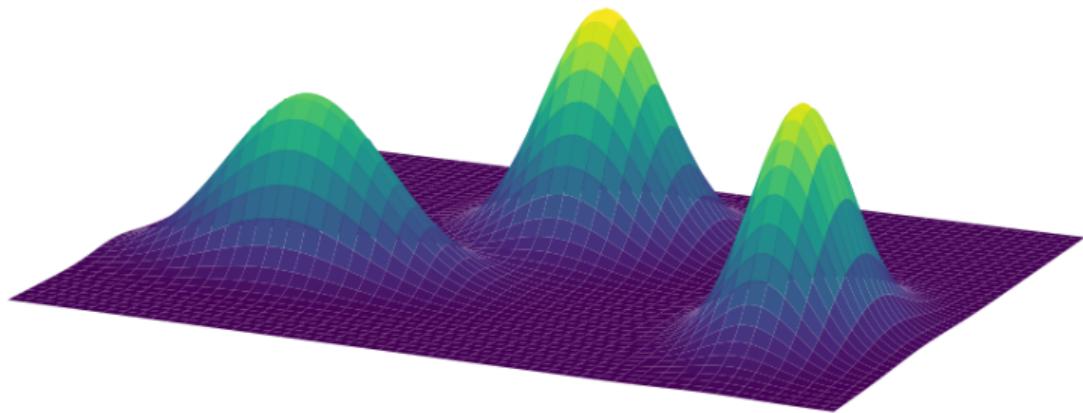
+

*flexible and reliable  
(logic &) probabilistic reasoning?*

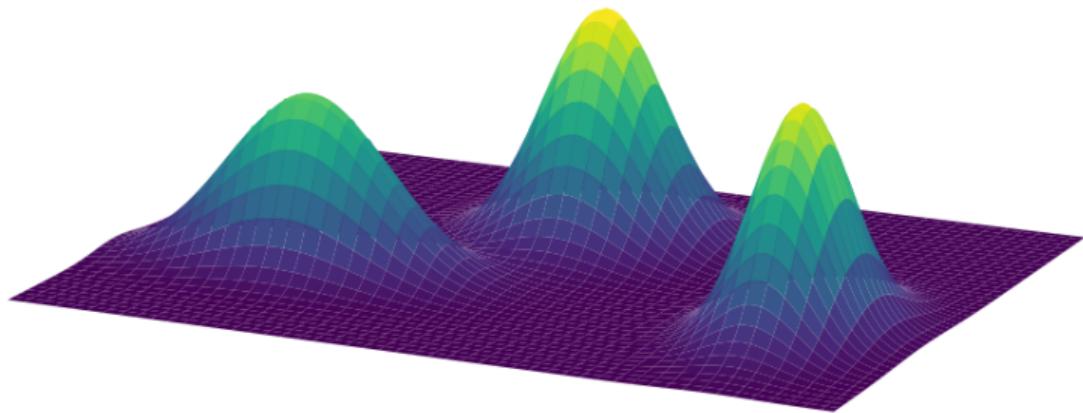
- i) probabilistic circuits: syntax and semantics*
- ii) reliable and efficient neuro-symbolic AI*
- iii) you talk: use cases from your research*



***who knows mixture models?***



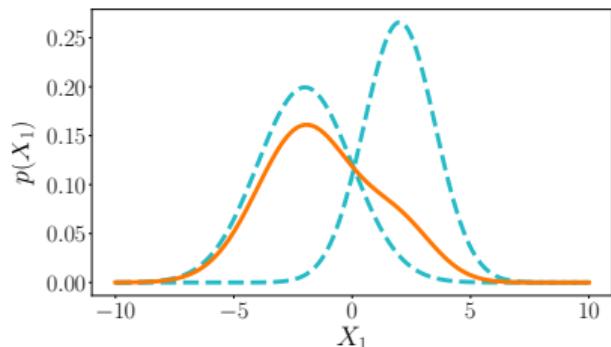
***who loves mixture models?***



$$c(\mathbf{X}) = \sum_{i=1}^K w_i c_i(\mathbf{X}), \quad \text{with} \quad w_i \geq 0, \quad \sum_{i=1}^K w_i = 1$$

# GMMS

as computational graphs

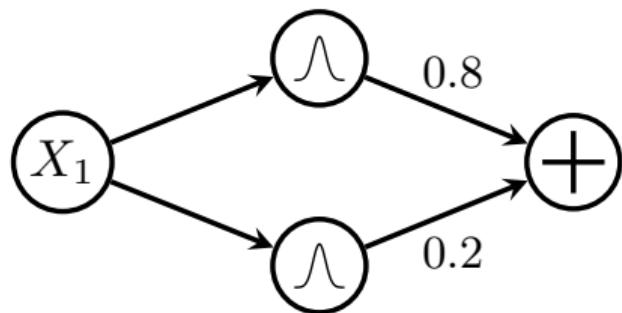


$$p(X) = w_1 \cdot p_1(X_1) + w_2 \cdot p_2(X_1)$$

⇒ translating inference to data structures...

# GMMs

as computational graphs

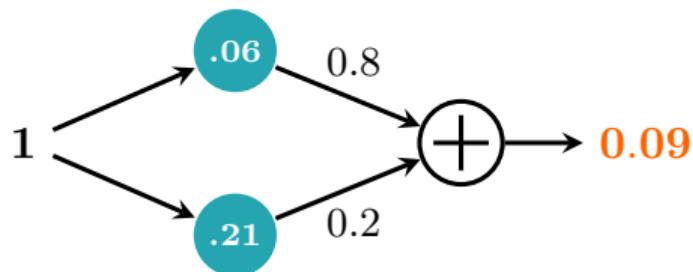


$$p(X_1) = 0.2 \cdot p_1(X_1) + 0.8 \cdot p_2(X_1)$$

⇒ ...e.g., as a weighted sum unit over Gaussian input distributions

# GMMS

as computational graphs

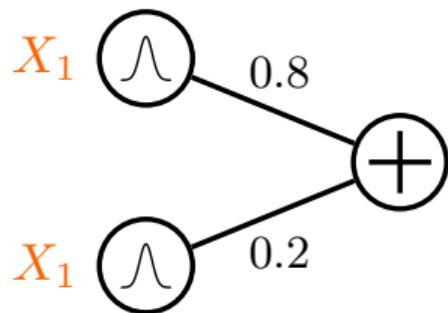


$$p(X = 1) = 0.2 \cdot p_1(X_1 = 1) + 0.8 \cdot p_2(X_1 = 1)$$

⇒ inference = feedforward evaluation

# GMMs

as computational graphs

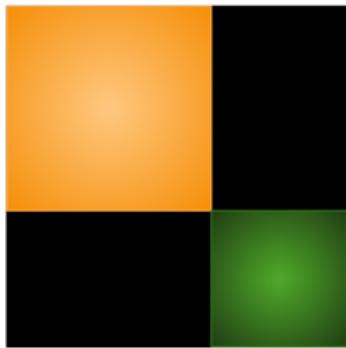
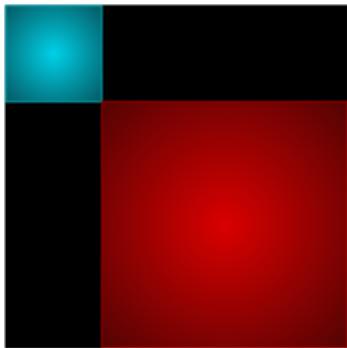


A simplified notation:

- ⇒ **scopes** attached to inputs
- ⇒ edge directions omitted

# GMMS

as computational graphs

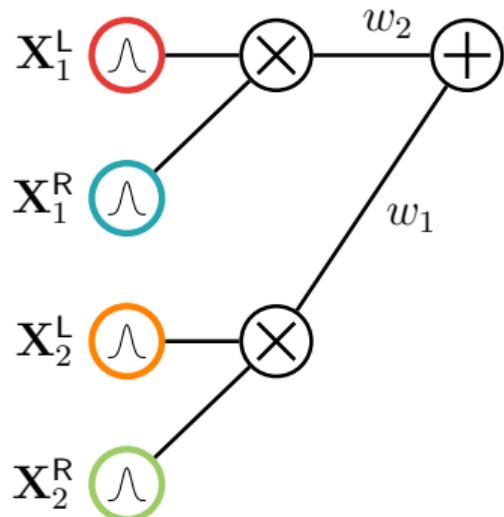


$$p(\mathbf{X}) = w_1 \cdot p_1(\mathbf{X}_1^L) \cdot p_1(\mathbf{X}_1^R) + \\ w_2 \cdot p_2(\mathbf{X}_2^L) \cdot p_2(\mathbf{X}_2^R)$$

⇒ local factorizations...

# GMMs

as computational graphs



$$p(\mathbf{X}) = w_1 \cdot p_1(\mathbf{X}_1^L) \cdot p_1(\mathbf{X}_1^R) + \\ w_2 \cdot p_2(\mathbf{X}_2^L) \cdot p_2(\mathbf{X}_2^R)$$

⇒ ...are product units

# **probabilistic circuits (PCs)**

*a grammar for tractable computational graphs*

I. A simple tractable function is a circuit

⇒ e.g., a multivariate Gaussian or  
orthonormal polynomial



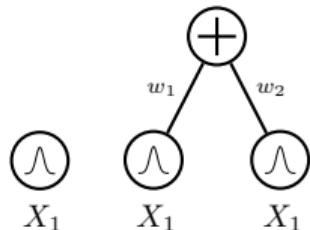
$X_1$

# **probabilistic circuits (PCs)**

*a grammar for tractable computational graphs*

I. A simple tractable function is a circuit

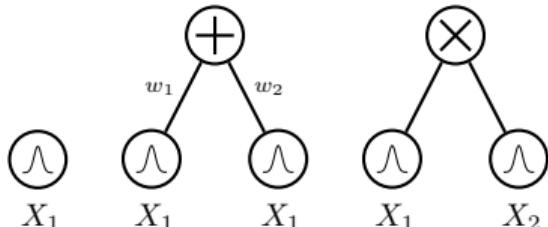
II. A weighted combination of circuits is a circuit



# **probabilistic circuits (PCs)**

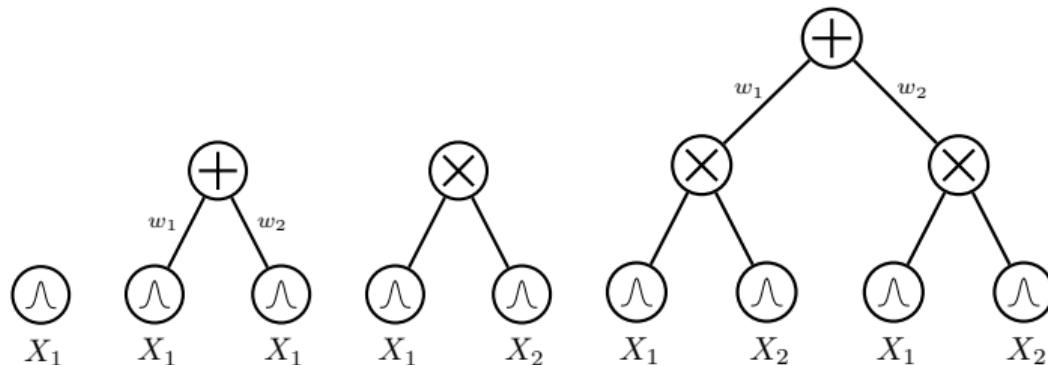
*a grammar for tractable computational graphs*

- I. A simple tractable function is a circuit
- II. A weighted combination of circuits is a circuit
- III. A product of circuits is a circuit



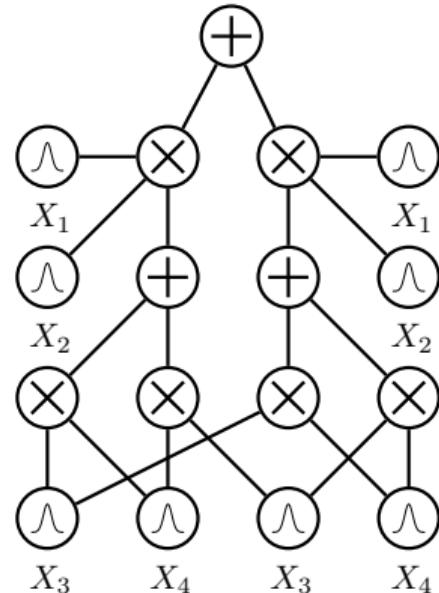
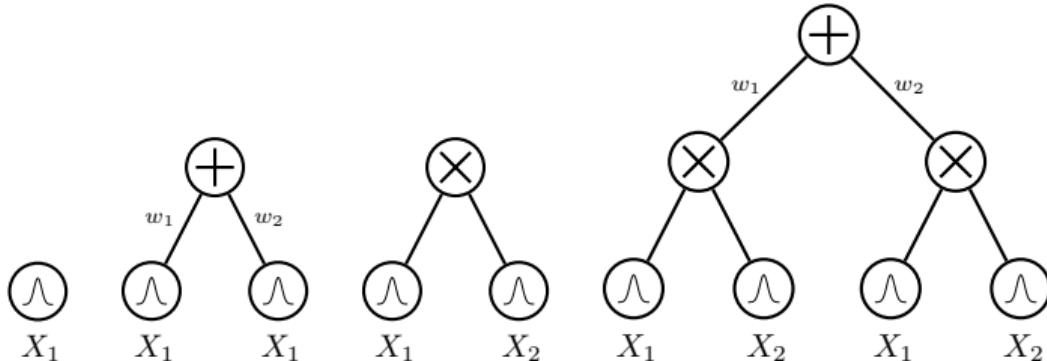
# **probabilistic circuits (PCs)**

*a grammar for tractable computational graphs*



# **probabilistic circuits (PCs)**

*a grammar for tractable computational graphs*



# **probabilistic circuits (PCs)**

*a tensorized definition*

- I. A set of tractable functions is a circuit layer



# **probabilistic circuits (PCs)**

*a tensorized definition*

- I. A set of tractable functions is a circuit layer
- II. A linear projection of a layer is a circuit layer

$$c(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{W}l(\mathbf{x})$$



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$$c(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{l}(\mathbf{x}) \odot \mathbf{r}(\mathbf{x}) \quad // \text{ Hadamard}$$



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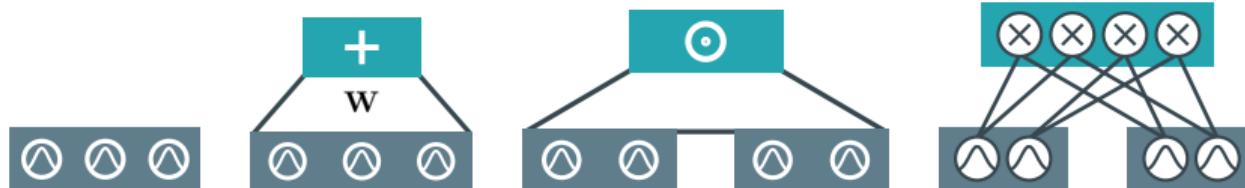


# **probabilistic circuits (PCs)**

*a tensorized definition*

- I. A set of tractable functions is a circuit layer
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$$c(\mathbf{x}) = \text{vec}(\mathbf{l}(\mathbf{x})\mathbf{r}(\mathbf{x})^\top) \quad // \text{ Kronecker}$$

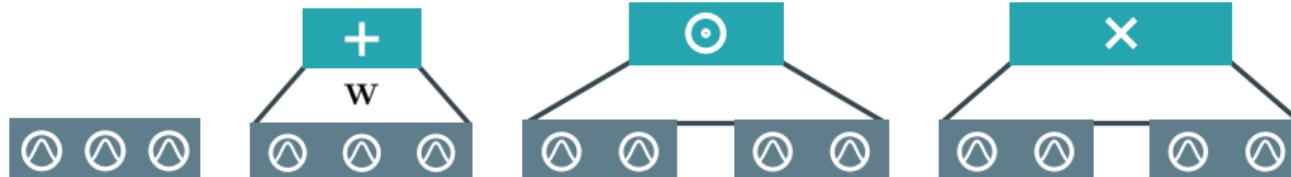


# **probabilistic circuits (PCs)**

*a tensorized definition*

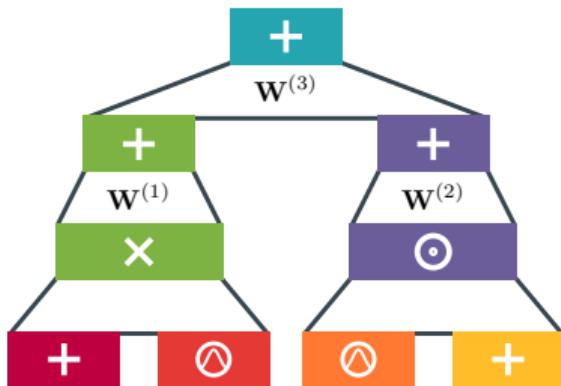
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# **probabilistic circuits (PCs)**

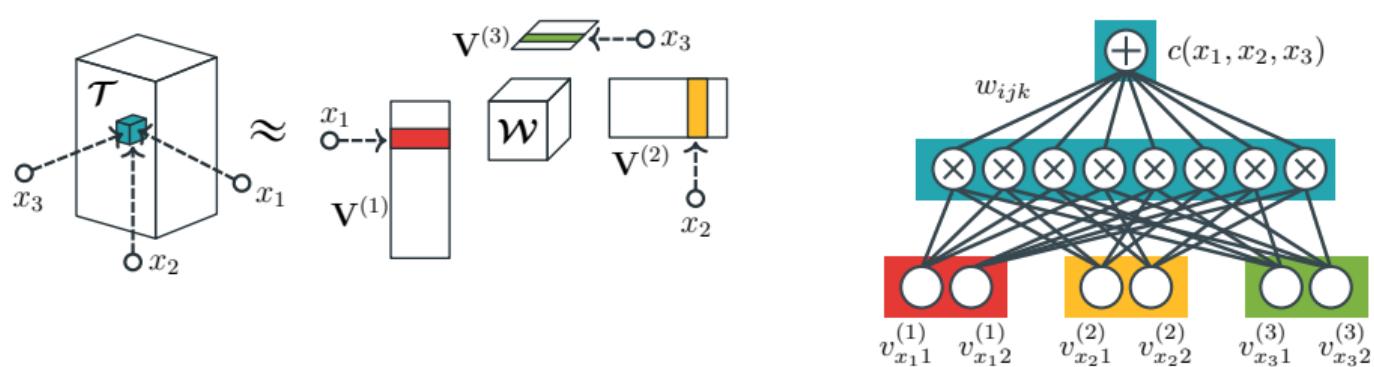
*a tensorized definition*



- I. A set of tractable functions is a circuit layer
  - II. A linear projection of a layer is a circuit layer
  - III. The product of two layers is a circuit layer
- stack layers to build a deep circuit!***

# *tensor factorizations*

*as circuits*

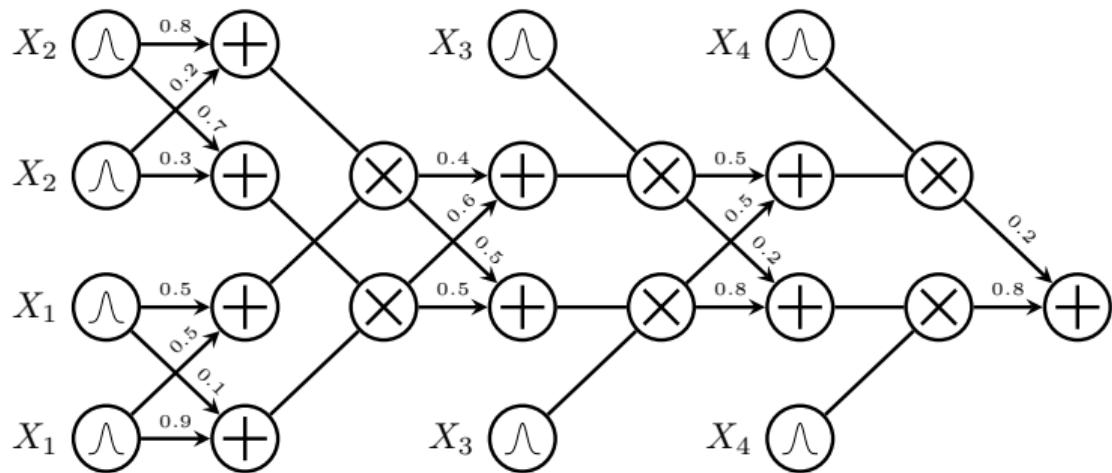


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Loconte et al., "What is the Relationship between Tensor Factorizations and Circuits (and How Can We Exploit it)?", TMLR, 2025

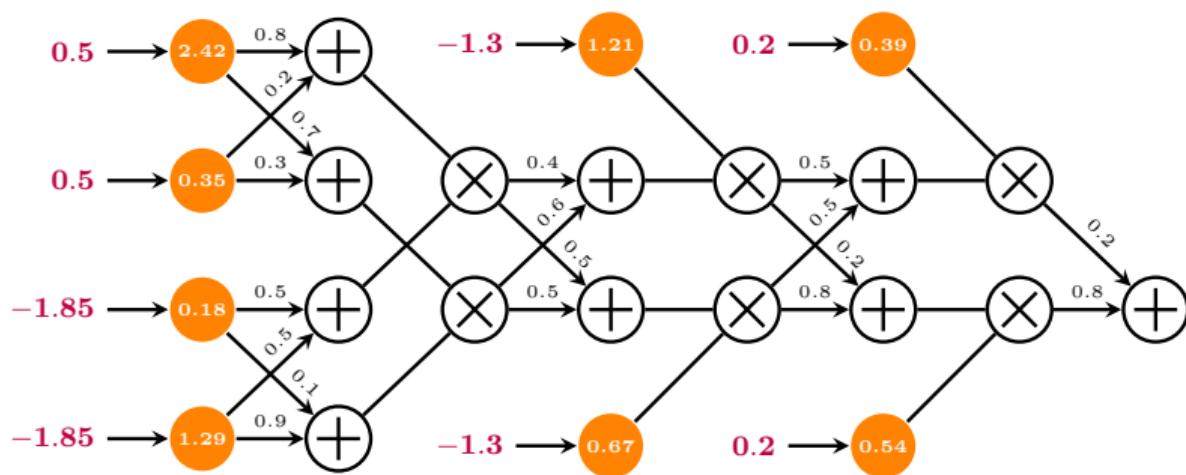
## Probabilistic queries = feedforward evaluation

$$p(X_1 = -1.85, X_2 = 0.5, X_3 = -1.3, X_4 = 0.2)$$



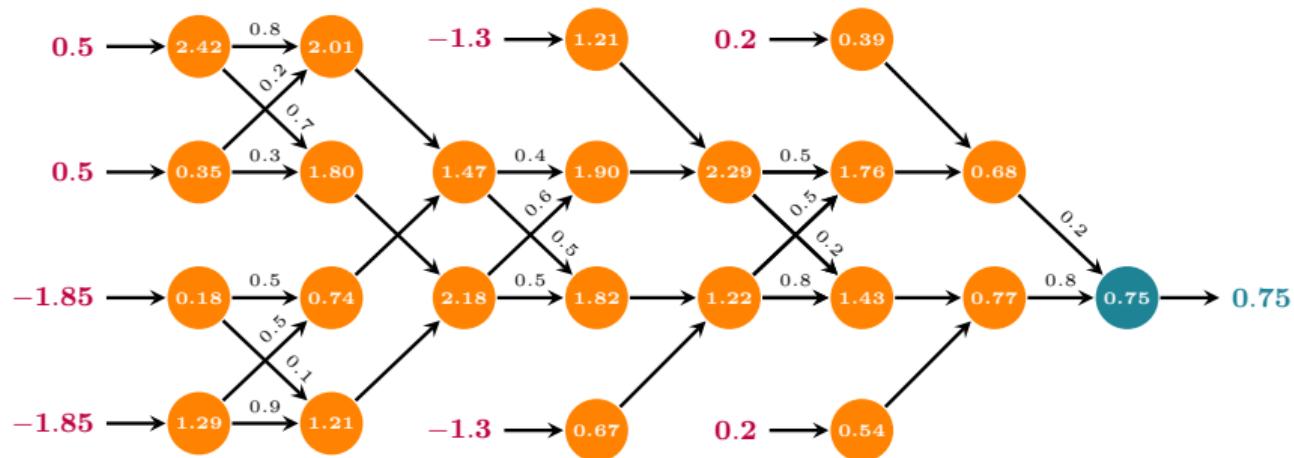
**Probabilistic queries** = **feedforward** evaluation

$$p(X_1 = -1.85, X_2 = 0.5, X_3 = -1.3, X_4 = 0.2)$$



## Probabilistic queries = feedforward evaluation

$$p(X_1 = -1.85, X_2 = 0.5, X_3 = -1.3, X_4 = 0.2) = 0.75$$





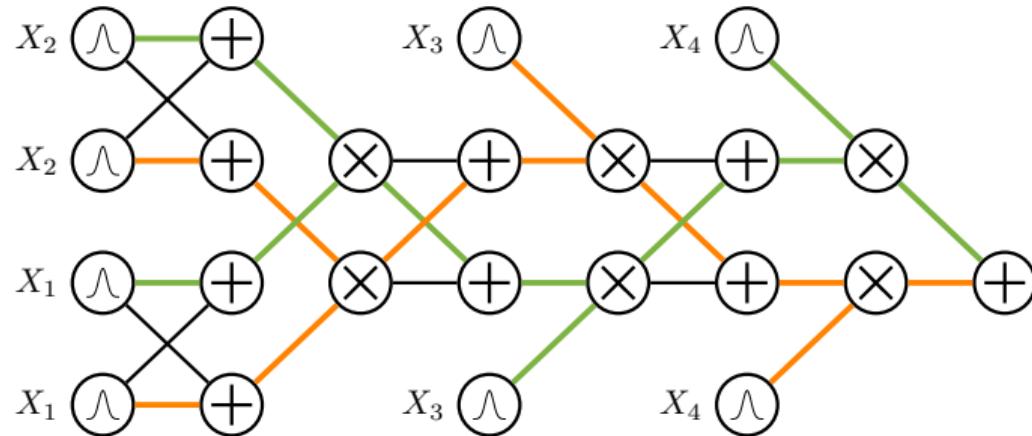
***learning & reasoning with circuits in pytorch***

[github.com/april-tools/cirkit](https://github.com/april-tools/cirkit)

```
1 from cirkit.templates import circuit_templates  
2  
3 symbolic_circuit = circuit_templates.image_data(  
4     (1, 28, 28),                      # The shape of MNIST  
5     region_graph='quad-graph',  
6     input_layer='categorical',          # input distributions  
7     sum_product_layer='cp',            # CP, Tucker, CP-T  
8     num_input_units=64,                # overparameterizing  
9     num_sum_units=64,  
10    sum_weight_param=circuit_templates.Parameterization(  
11        activation='softmax',  
12        initialization='normal'  
13    )  
14 )
```

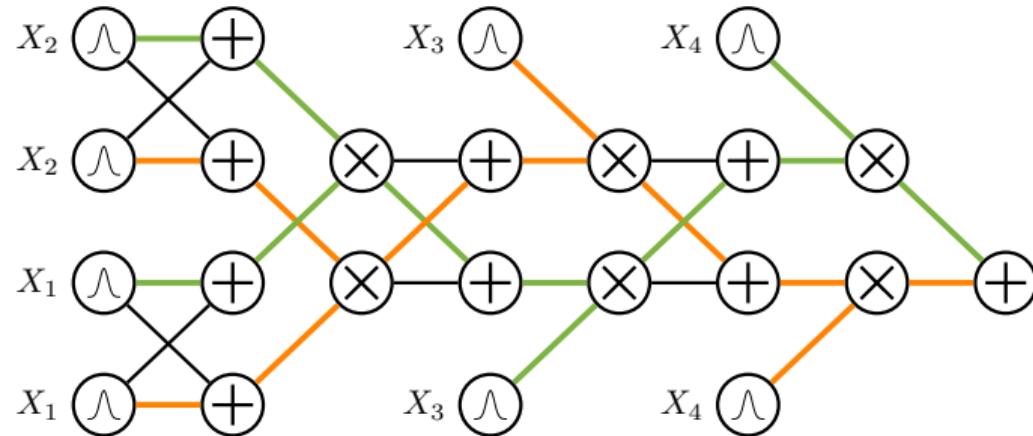
```
1 from cirkit.pipeline import compile
2 circuit = compile(symbolic_circuit)
3
4 with torch.no_grad():
5     test_lls = 0.0
6     for batch, _ in test_dataloader:
7         batch = batch.to(device).unsqueeze(dim=1)
8         log_likelihoods = circuit(batch)
9         test_lls += log_likelihoods.sum().item()
10 average_ll = test_lls / len(data_test)
11 bpd = -average_ll / (28 * 28 * np.log(2.0))
12 print(f"Average LL: {average_ll:.3f}") # Average LL:
13     → -682.916
14 print(f"Bits per dim: {bpds:.3f}") # Bits per dim: 1.257
```

## deep mixtures



$$p(\mathbf{x}) = \sum_{\mathcal{T}} \left( \prod_{w_j \in \mathbf{w}_{\mathcal{T}}} w_j \right) \prod_{l \in \text{leaves}(\mathcal{T})} p_l(\mathbf{x})$$

## *deep mixtures*



*an exponential number of mixture components!*

# **...why PCs?**

## **1. A grammar for tractable models**

One formalism to represent many probabilistic models

⇒ #HMMs #Trees #XGBoost, Tensor Networks, ...

# **...why PCs?**

## **1. A grammar for tractable models**

One formalism to represent many probabilistic models

⇒ #HMMs #Trees #XGBoost, Tensor Networks, ...

## **2. Tractability == structural properties!!!**

Exact computations of reasoning tasks are certified by guaranteeing certain structural properties. #marginals #expectations #MAP, #product ...

# *structural properties*

*smoothness*

*decomposability*

*compatibility*

# *structural properties*

*property A*

*property B*

*property C*

# *structural properties*

**smoothness**

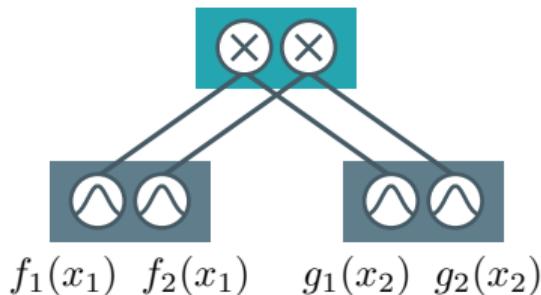
**decomposability**

**property C**

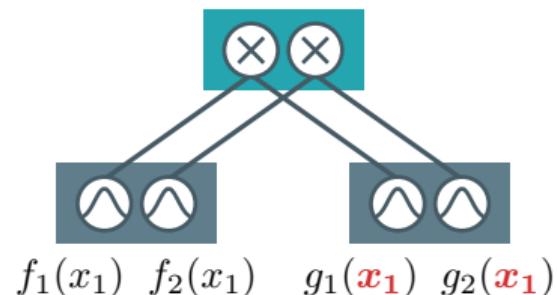
smoothness  $\wedge$  decomposability  
 $\implies$  multilinearity

# Multilinearity in circuits

the inputs of product units are defined over disjoint sets of variables



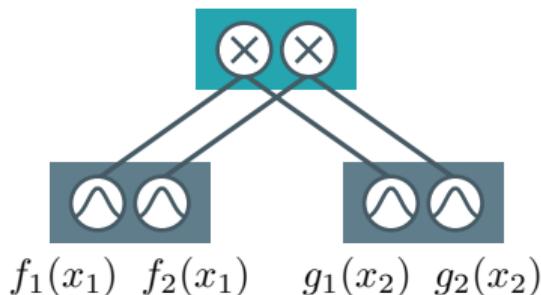
✓ **multilinear**



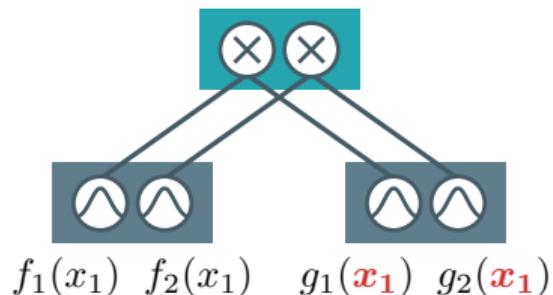
✗ **not multilinear**

# Multilinearity in circuits

the inputs of product units are defined over disjoint sets of variables



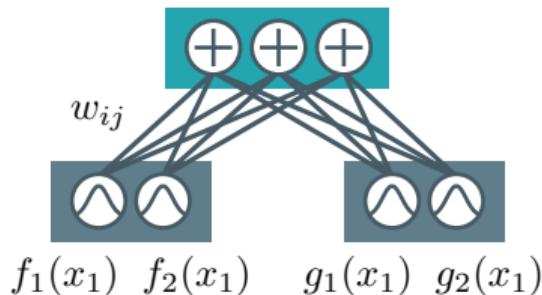
**decomposable circuit**



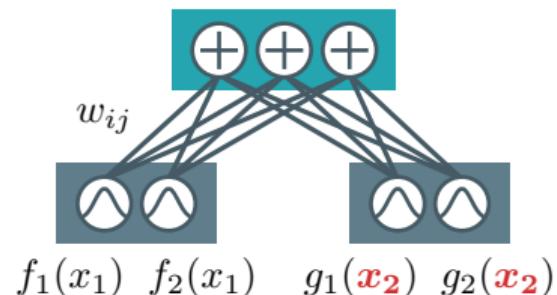
**non-decomposable circuit**

# Multilinearity in circuits

the inputs of sum units are defined over the same variables



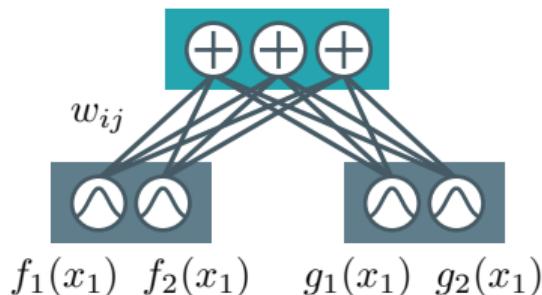
✓ **multilinear**



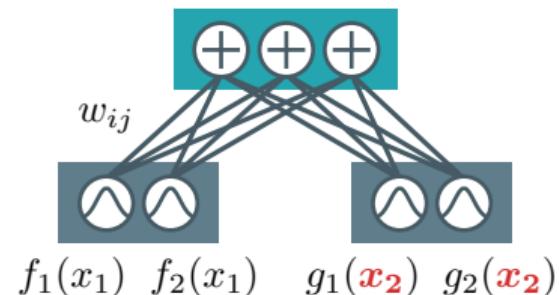
✗ **not multilinear**

# Multilinearity in circuits

the inputs of sum units are defined over the same variables



**smooth circuit**



**non-smooth circuit**

# *structural properties*

**smoothness**

**decomposability**

**property C**

smoothness  $\wedge$  decomposability  
 $\implies$  multilinearity

# *structural properties*

**smoothness**

tractable computation of arbitrary integrals  
in probabilistic circuits

**decomposability**

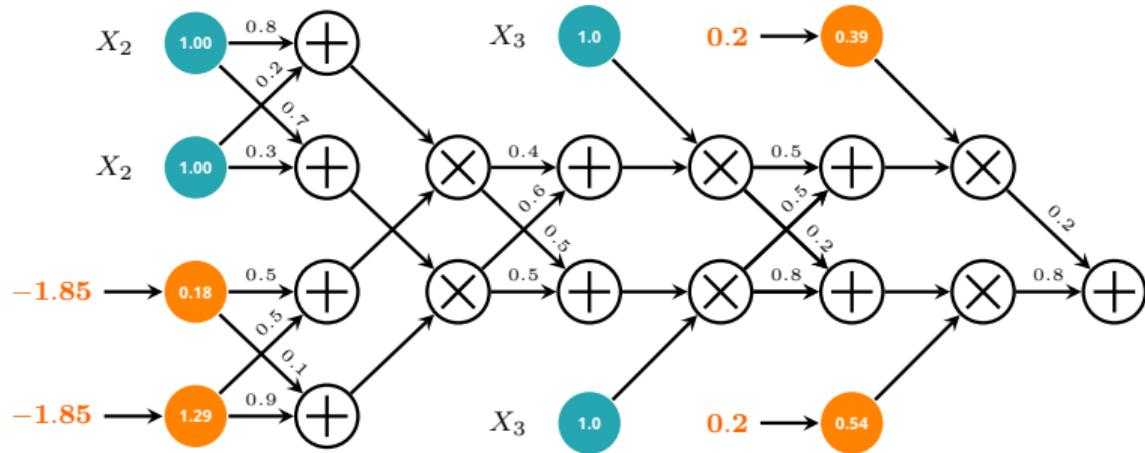
$$p(\mathbf{y}) = \int p(\mathbf{y}, \mathbf{z}) d\mathbf{z}, \quad \forall \mathbf{Y} \subseteq \mathbf{X}, \quad \mathbf{Z} = \mathbf{X} \setminus \mathbf{Y}$$

**property C**

⇒ tractable partition function  
⇒ also any conditional is tractable

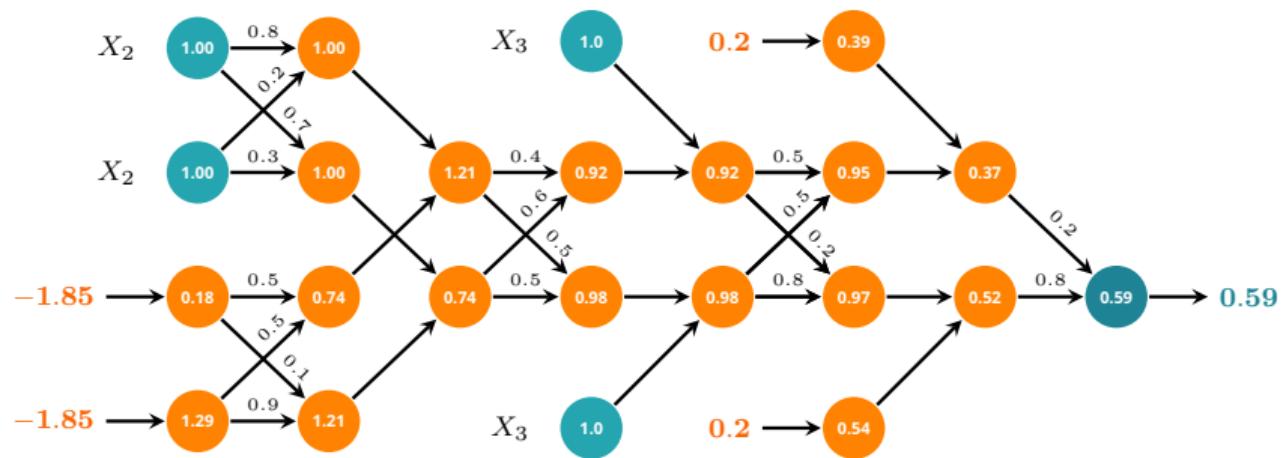
## Probabilistic queries = feedforward evaluation

$$p(X_1 = -1.85, X_4 = 0.2)$$



**Probabilistic queries** = *feedforward* evaluation

$$p(X_1 = -1.85, X_4 = 0.2)$$



***smooth* + *decomposable* circuits = ...**

Computing arbitrary integrations (or summations)

⇒ *linear in circuit size!*

E.g., suppose we want to compute Z:

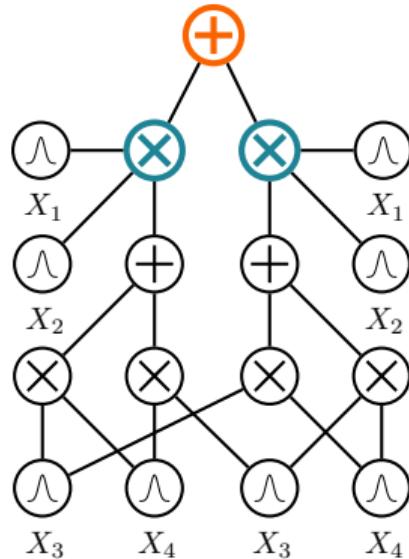
$$\int p(\mathbf{x}) d\mathbf{x}$$

## ***smooth* + *decomposable* circuits = ...**

If  $\mathbf{p}(\mathbf{x}) = \sum_i w_i \mathbf{p}_i(\mathbf{x})$ , (*smoothness*):

$$\begin{aligned}\int \mathbf{p}(\mathbf{x}) d\mathbf{x} &= \int \sum_i w_i \mathbf{p}_i(\mathbf{x}) d\mathbf{x} = \\ &= \sum_i w_i \int \mathbf{p}_i(\mathbf{x}) d\mathbf{x}\end{aligned}$$

⇒ integrals are “pushed down” to inputs

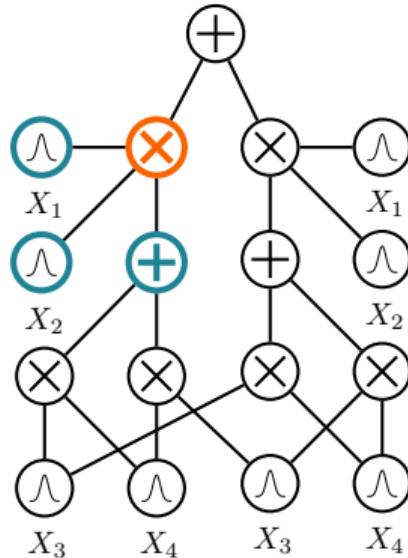


## ***smooth + decomposable*** circuits = ...

If  $\mathbf{p}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}, \mathbf{z}) = \mathbf{p}(\mathbf{x})\mathbf{p}(\mathbf{y})\mathbf{p}(\mathbf{z})$ , (*decomposability*):

$$\begin{aligned}& \int \int \int \mathbf{p}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}, \mathbf{z}) d\mathbf{x}d\mathbf{y}d\mathbf{z} = \\&= \int \int \int \mathbf{p}(\mathbf{x})\mathbf{p}(\mathbf{y})\mathbf{p}(\mathbf{z}) d\mathbf{x}d\mathbf{y}d\mathbf{z} = \\&= \int \mathbf{p}(\mathbf{x}) d\mathbf{x} \int \mathbf{p}(\mathbf{y}) d\mathbf{y} \int \mathbf{p}(\mathbf{z}) d\mathbf{z}\end{aligned}$$

⇒ integrals decompose into easier ones



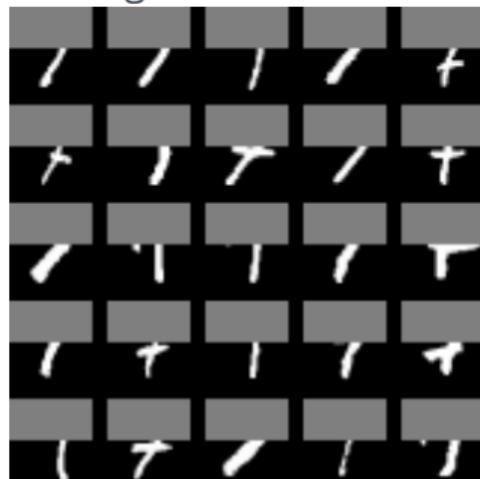
```
1 from cirkit.backend.torch.queries import IntegrateQuery
2 marginal_query = IntegrateQuery(circuit)
3
4 with torch.no_grad():
5     test_marginal_lls = 0.0
6
7     for batch, _ in test_dataloader:
8         batch = batch.to(device).unsqueeze(dim=1)
9         marginal_log_likelihoods = marginal_query(batch,
10             ↪ integrate_vars=vars_to_marginalize)
11         test_marginal_lls +=
12             ↪ marginal_log_likelihoods.sum().item()
13
14     marg_ll = test_marginal_lls / len(data_test)
15     print(f"marg LL: {marg_ll:.3f}") # marg LL:: -378.417
```

## *tractable marginals on PCs*

Original

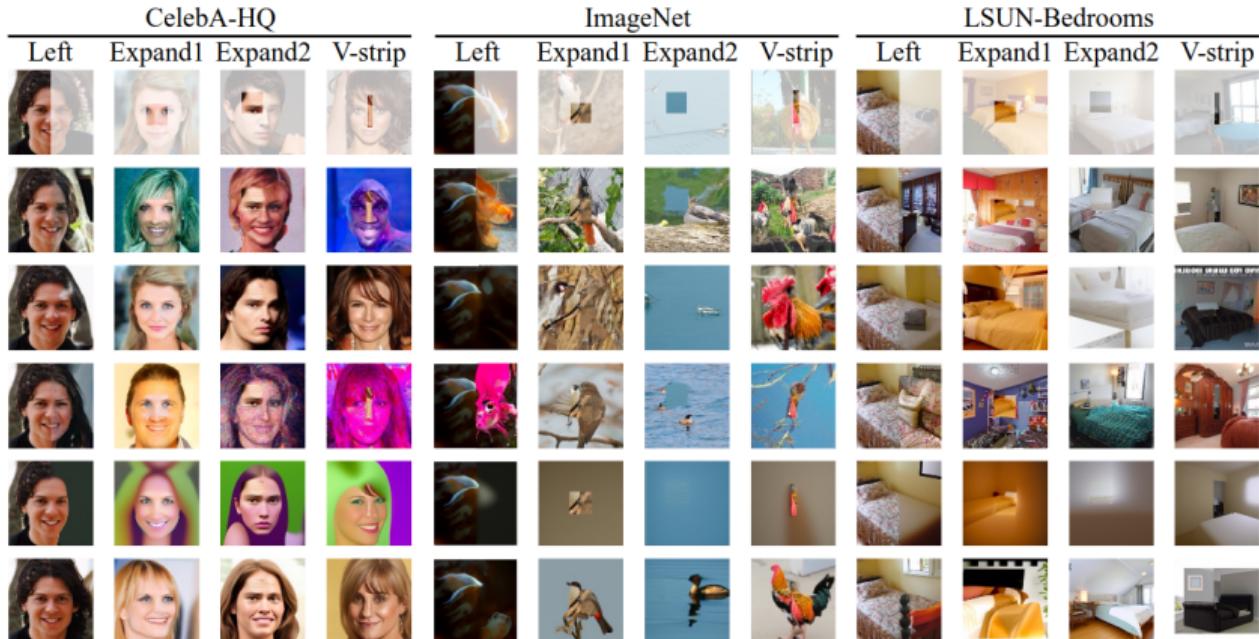


Missing



Conditional sample





# *structural properties*

***smoothness***

Integrals involving two or more functions:  
e.g., expectations

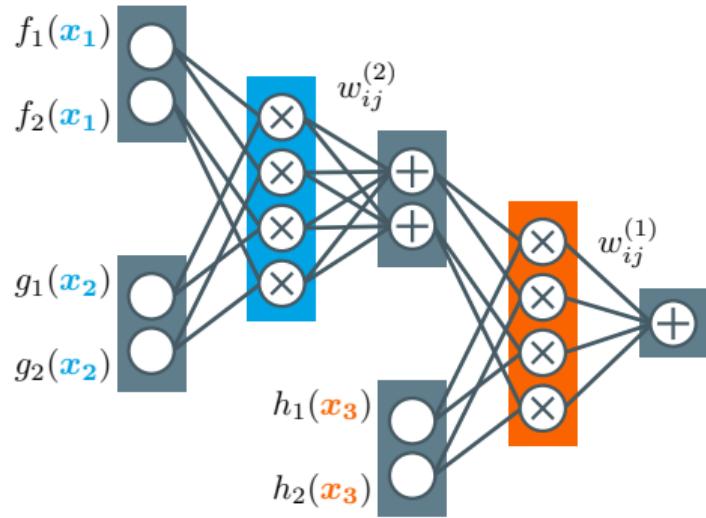
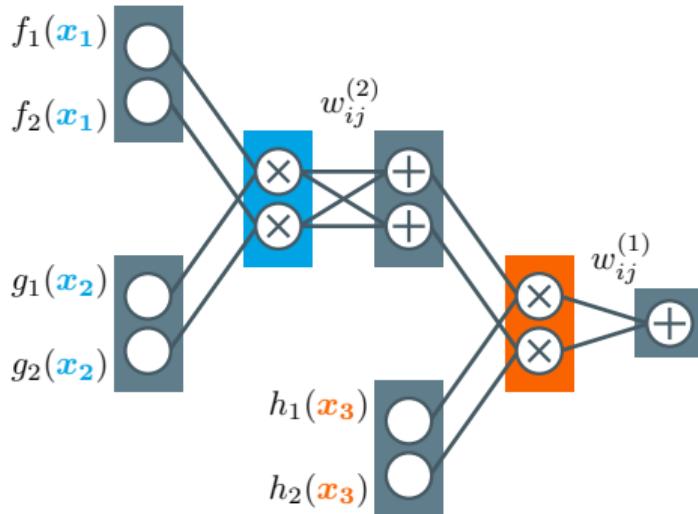
***decomposability***

$$\mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{x} \sim p} [f(\mathbf{x})] = \int p(\mathbf{x}) f(\mathbf{x}) d\mathbf{x}$$

***compatibility***

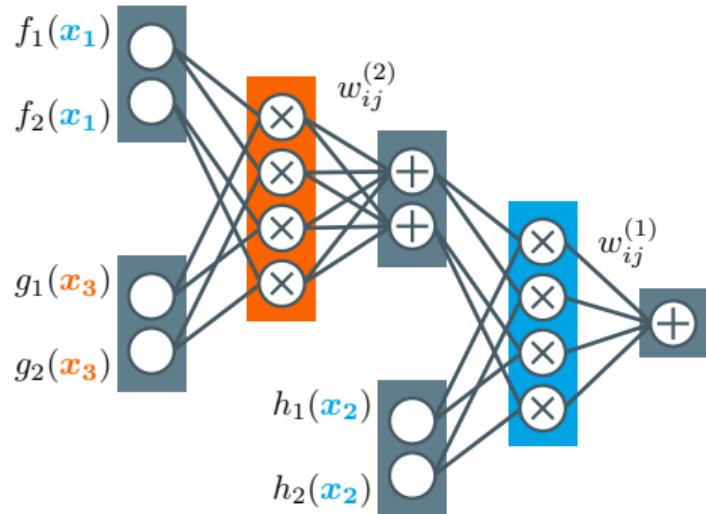
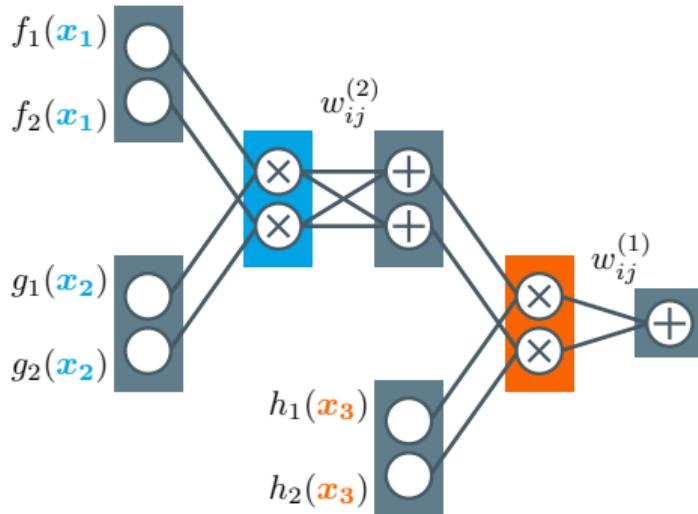
when both  $p(\mathbf{x})$  and  $f(\mathbf{x})$  are circuits

# *compatibility*



**compatible circuits**

# *compatibility*



**non-compatible circuits**

# *structural properties*

**smoothness**

**decomposability**

**compatibility**

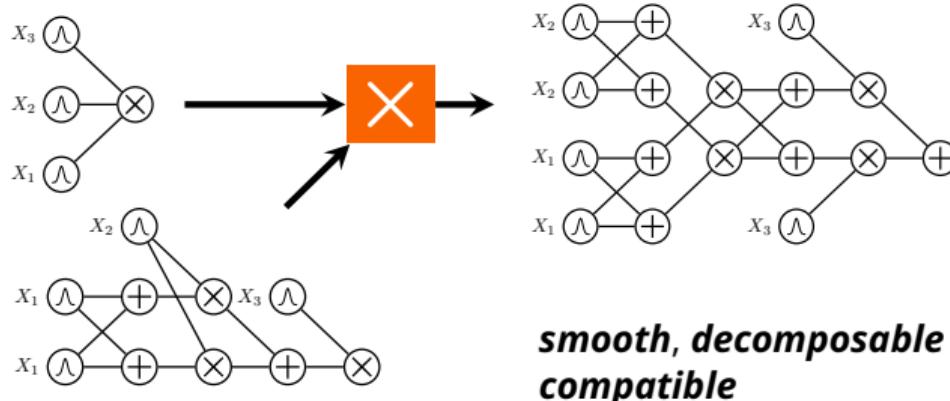
**compatibility**



**smoothness  $\wedge$  decomposability**

**compatibility**  $\Rightarrow$  tractable expectations

# Tractable products



**compute**  $\mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{x} \sim p} f(\mathbf{x}) = \int p(\mathbf{x}) f(\mathbf{x}) \mathrm{d}\mathbf{x}$  in  $O(|p| |f|)$

```
1 from cirkit.symbolic.circuit import Circuit
2 from cirkit.symbolic.functional import (
3     integrate, multiply)
4
5 # Circuits expectation  $\int [p(x) f(x)] dx$ 
6 def expectation(p: Circuit, f: Circuit) -> Circuit:
7     i = multiply(p, f)
8     return integrate(i)
9
10 # Squared loss  $\int [p(x)-q(x)]^2 dx = E_p[p] + E_q[q] - 2E_p[q]$ 
11 #           =  $\int p^2(x) dx + \int q^2(x) dx - 2\int p(x)q(x) dx$ 
12 def squared_loss(p: Circuit, q: Circuit) -> Circuit:
13     p2 = multiply(p, p)
14     q2 = multiply(q, q)
15     pq = multiply(p, q)
16     return integrate(p2) + integrate(q2) - 2 * integrate(pq)
```

# **...why PCs?**

## **1. A grammar for tractable models**

One formalism to represent many probabilistic models

⇒ #HMMs #Trees #XGBoost, Tensor Networks, ...

## **2. Tractability == structural properties!!!**

Exact computations of reasoning tasks are certified by guaranteeing certain structural properties. #marginals #expectations #MAP, #product ...

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## **3. Reliable neuro-symbolic AI**

logical constraints as circuits, multiplied to probabilistic circuits

```
1 from cirkit.templates import circuit_templates  
2  
3 symbolic_circuit = circuit_templates.image_data(  
4     (1, 28, 28),                      # The shape of MNIST  
5     region_graph='quad-graph',  
6     input_layer='categorical',          # input distributions  
7     sum_product_layer='cp',            # CP, Tucker, CP-T  
8     num_input_units=64,                # overparameterizing  
9     num_sum_units=64,  
10    sum_weight_param=circuit_templates.Parameterization(  
11        activation='softmax',  
12        initialization='normal'  
13    )  
14 )
```

# *learning probabilistic circuits*

# ***learning probabilistic circuits***

Probabilistic circuits are (peculiar) neural networks...***just backprop with SGD!***

# ***learning probabilistic circuits***

Probabilistic circuits are (peculiar) neural networks...*just backprop with SGD!*

*...end of Learning section!*

# ***learning probabilistic circuits***

Probabilistic circuits are (peculiar) neural networks...*just backprop with SGD!*

*wait but...*

*which loss?*

*how to learn normalized weights?*

*how to exploit structural properties?*

# **maximum likelihood**

*the go-to objective in ProbML*

Given a dataset  $\mathcal{D} = \{\mathbf{x}^{(i)}\}_{i=1}^N$  and your parametric model  $p_\theta(\mathbf{X})$  solve

$$\hat{\theta}_{\text{ML}} = \max_{\theta} \prod_{i=1}^N p_\theta(\mathbf{x}^{(i)}) = \min_{\theta} - \sum_{i=1}^N \log p_\theta(\mathbf{x}^{(i)})$$

$\Rightarrow$  minimize the negative log-likelihood (NLL)

```
1 from cirkit.templates import circuit_templates  
2  
3 symbolic_circuit = circuit_templates.image_data(  
4     (1, 28, 28),                      # The shape of MNIST  
5     region_graph='quad-graph',  
6     input_layer='categorical',          # input distributions  
7     sum_product_layer='cp',            # CP, Tucker, CP-T  
8     num_input_units=64,                # overparameterizing  
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13    )  
14 )
```

# **which parameters?**

*how to reparameterize circuits*

Input distributions.

Sum unit parameters.

# **which parameters?**

*how to reparameterize circuits*

**Input distributions.** Each input can be a different parametric distribution

⇒ *Bernoullis, Categoricals, Gaussians, exponential families, small NNs, ...*

**Sum unit parameters.**

# which parameters?

how to reparameterize circuits

**Input distributions.** Each input can be a different parametric distribution

**Sum unit parameters.** Enforce them to be non-negative, i.e.,  $w_i \geq 0$  but unnormalized

$$w_i = \exp(\alpha_i), \quad \alpha_i \in \mathbb{R}, \quad i = 1, \dots, K$$

and renormalize the loss

$$\min_{\theta} - \left( \sum_{i=1}^N \log \tilde{p}_{\theta}(\mathbf{x}^{(i)}) - \log \int \tilde{p}_{\theta}(\mathbf{x}^{(i)}) d\mathbf{X} \right)$$

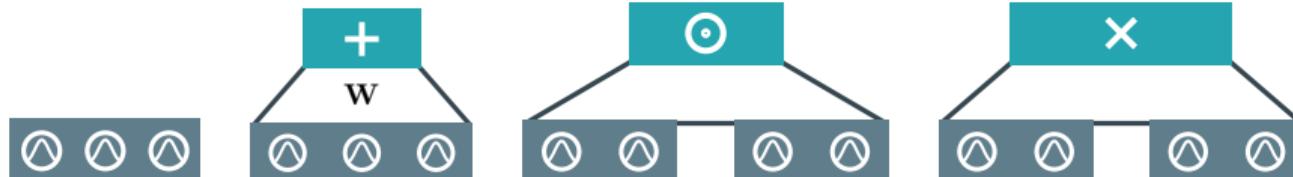
or just renormalize the weights, i.e.,  $\sum_i w_i = 1$

$$\mathbf{w} = \text{softmax}(\boldsymbol{\alpha}), \quad \boldsymbol{\alpha} \in \mathbb{R}^K$$

```
1 from cirkit.templates import circuit_templates  
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3 symbolic_circuit = circuit_templates.image_data(  
4     (1, 28, 28),                      # The shape of MNIST  
5     region_graph='quad-graph',  
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13    )  
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```

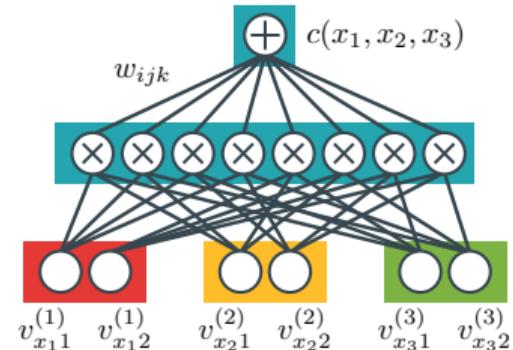
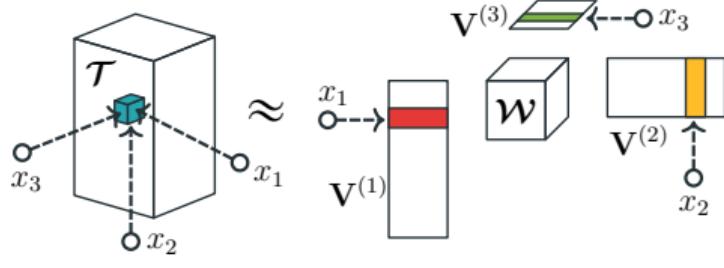
# Probabilistic Circuits (PCs)

*the layer-wise definition*



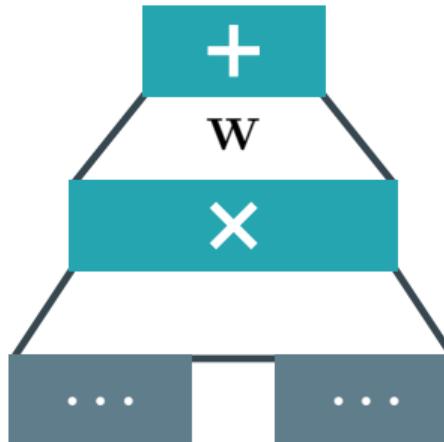
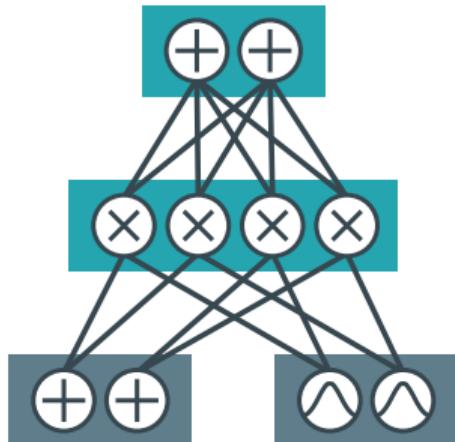
# *circuits layers*

*as tensor factorizations*



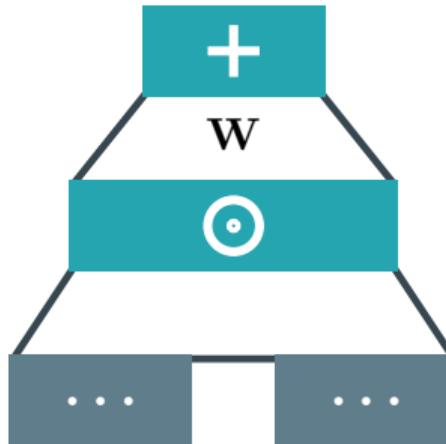
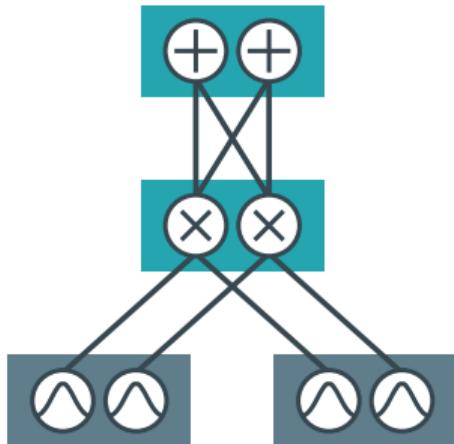
# **more layers**

*Tucker decomposition*

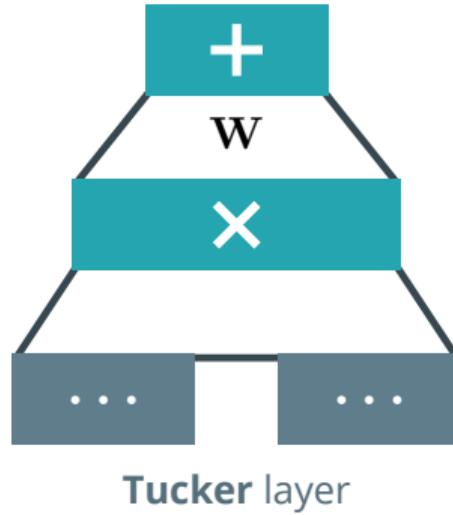
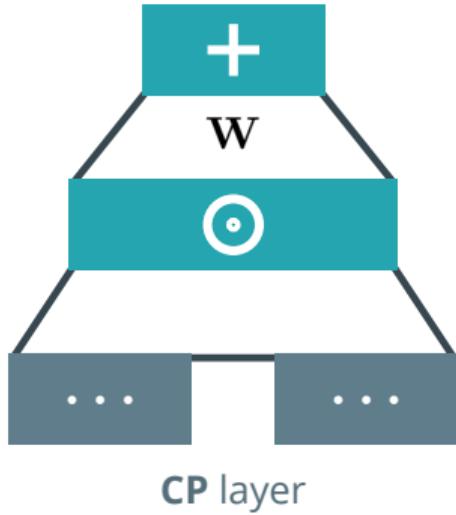


# **more layers**

*Candecomp Parafac (CP) decomposition*



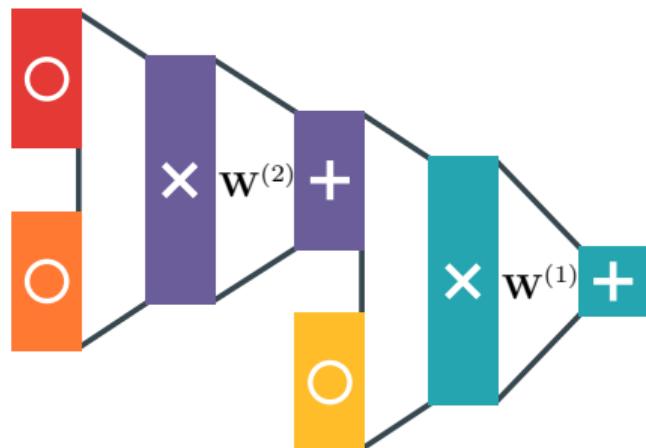
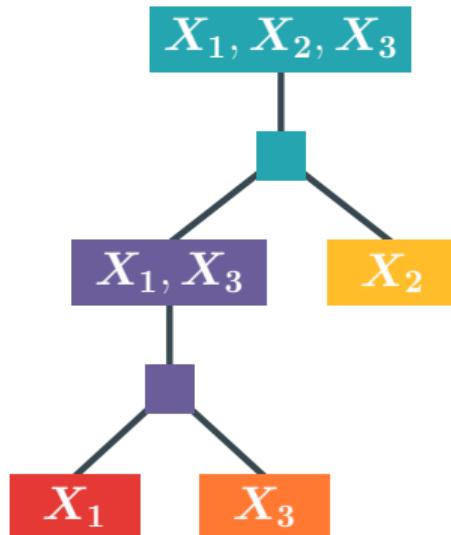
## *more layers*



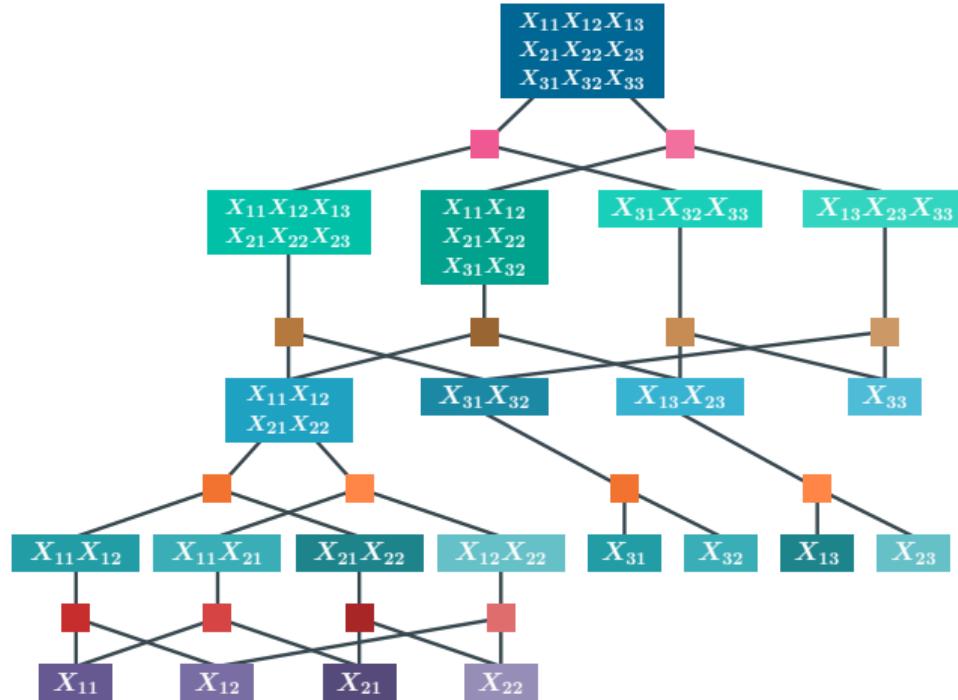
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11        activation='softmax',  
12        initialization='normal'  
13    )  
14 )
```

# *region graphs*

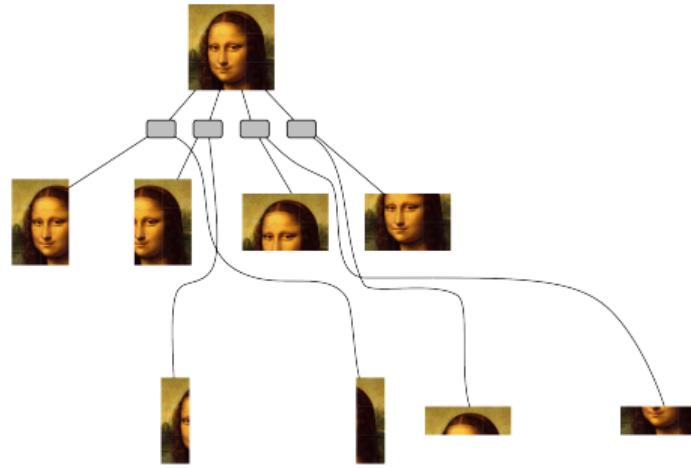
*a template for smooth&decomposable PCs*

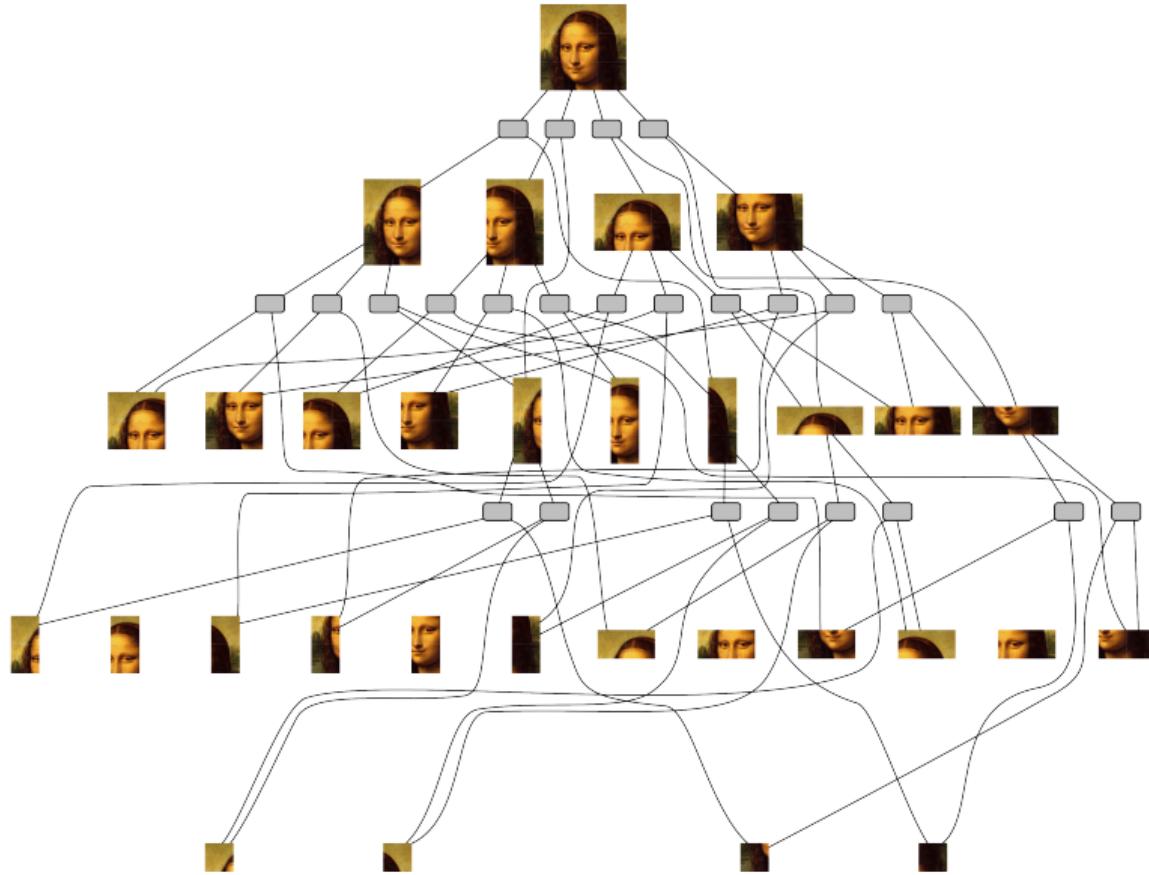


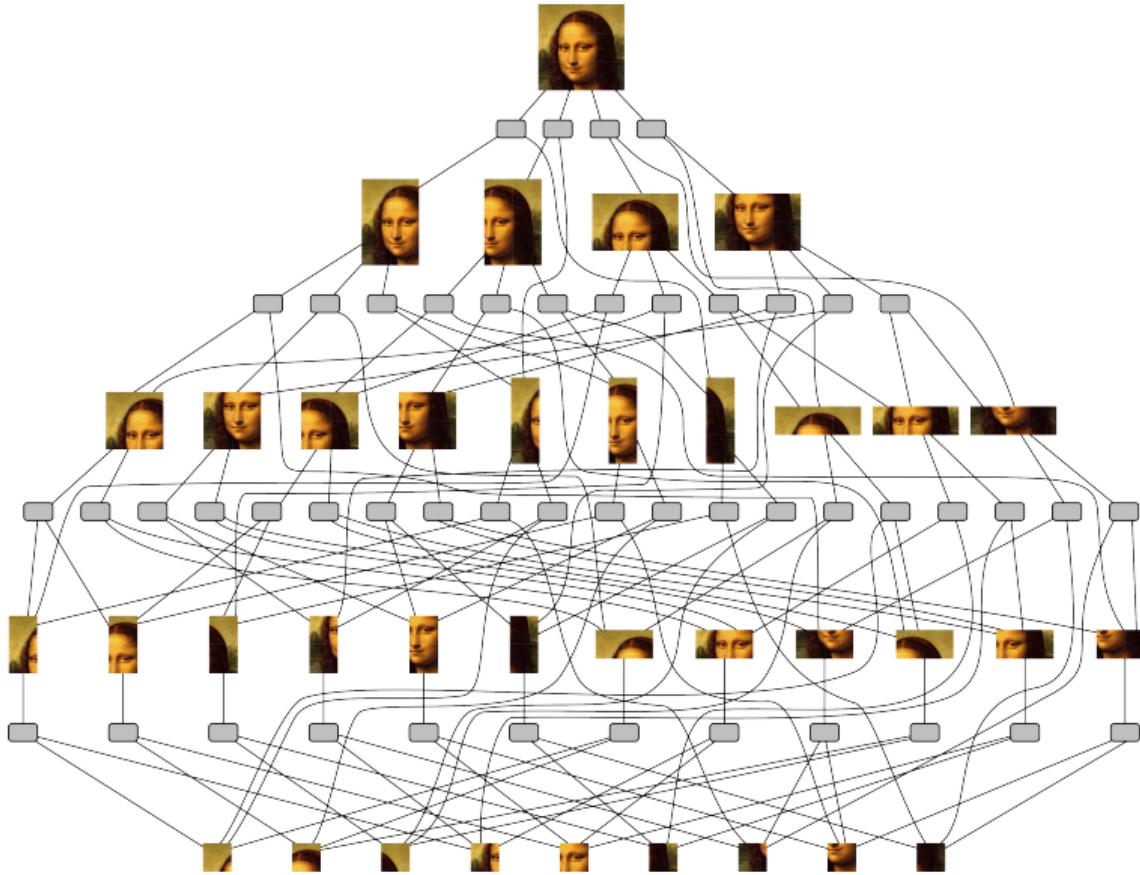
# *which region graph?*







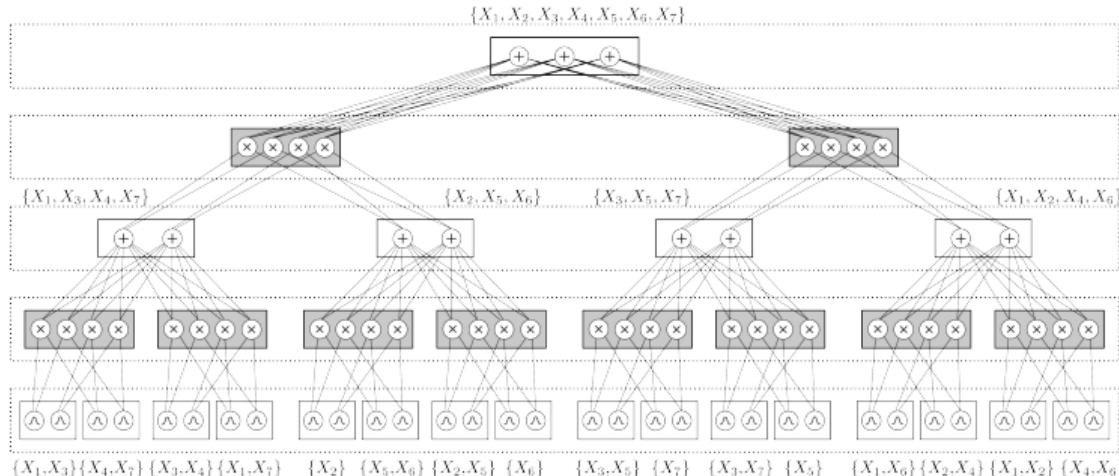




# *random regions graphs*

The “no-learning” option

Generating a random region graph, by recursively splitting  $\mathbf{X}$  into two random parts:



The screenshot shows a Jupyter Notebook interface. At the top, there's a header bar with a file icon, a dropdown menu labeled "main", and the path "cirkit / notebooks / region-graphs-and-parametrisation.ipynb". To the right of the path is a search bar with the placeholder "Go to file" and a refresh icon. Below the header, a commit message from "loreloc" is displayed: "updated notebooks with respect to API changes" with a timestamp "e3e7e80 · 2 days ago" and a clock icon. At the bottom of the header, there are buttons for "Preview", "Code", "Blame", and "Raw", along with download icons.

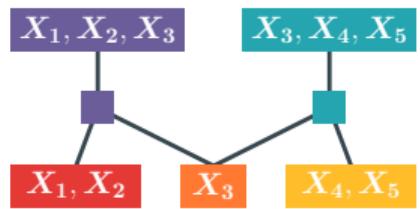
# Notebook on Region Graphs and Sum Product Layers

## Goals

By the end of this tutorial you will:

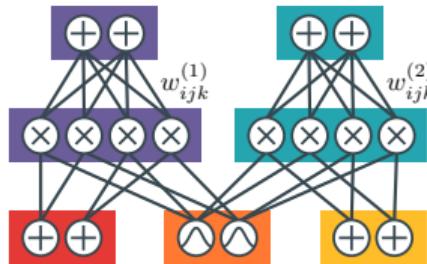
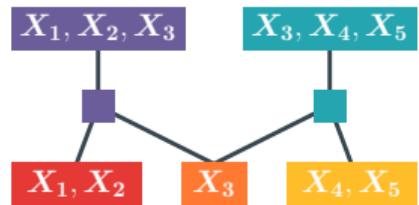
- know what a region graph is
- know how to choose between region graphs for your circuit
- understand how to parametrize a circuit by choosing a sum product layer
- build circuits to tractably estimate a probability distribution over images<sup>1</sup>

# *learning recipe*



1) Build a *region graph*

# *learning recipe*

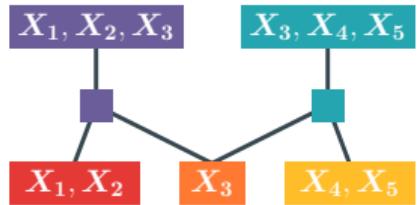


1) Build a *region graph*

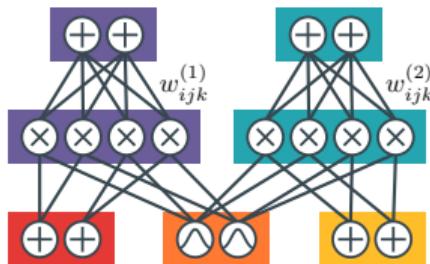
2) Overparameterize

- 2.1) pick a (composite) layer type**
- 2.2) choose how many units per layer**

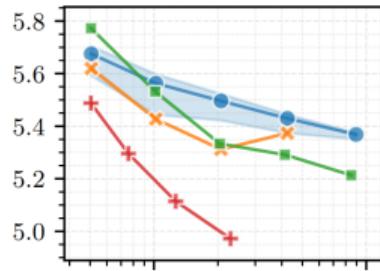
# *learning recipe*



1) Build a *region graph*



2) Overparameterize



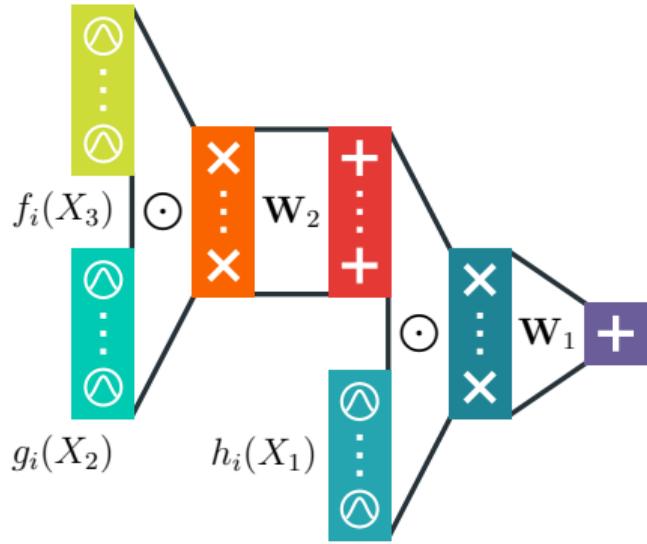
3) Learn parameters

*use any optimizer in pytorch*



***learning & reasoning with circuits in pytorch***

<https://github.com/april-tools/cirkit>



**questions?**