

# Tensor methods with applications in system identification

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The logo of KU Leuven, consisting of a dark blue rectangle with the text "KU LEUVEN" in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters.

**KU LEUVEN**


Scalars:  $\mathbb{R}$

4

67

3.23

-45.8

14.4 

$\sqrt{2}$

$-14/8$


$-339/7534$

-4.397534

Vectors:  $\mathbb{R}^n$

4  
15  
-45.3  
12.345

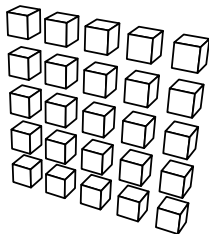
11.1  
12.5  
13.0  
14.4  
12.2



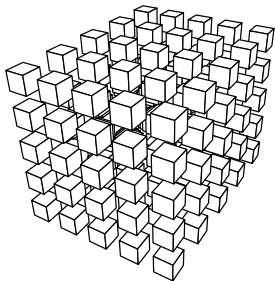
65  
-15  
-23.44

Matrices:  $\mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$

10.2	11.1	9.0	9.2	10.5
12.1	12.5	10.2	11.1	12.4
15.1	13.0	10.7	11.7	12.7
19.4	14.4	11.2	12.0	13.1
15.3	12.2	10.9	11.1	12.3

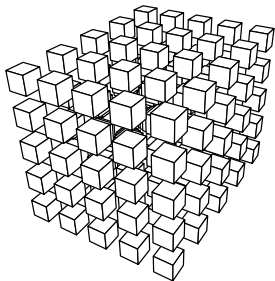


# What are tensors?



Elements of the tensor  
product of  $N$  vector spaces

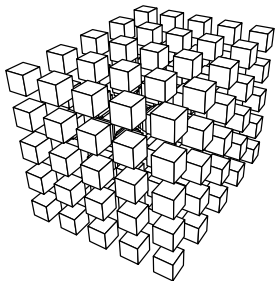
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Elements of the tensor  
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Multi-way arrays

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Elements of the tensor  
product of  $N$  vector spaces

Multi-way arrays

A way to represent data

# Tensor methods for system identification

Tensor methods

Block-oriented methods with tensors

Volterra models with tensors

Systems of polynomial equations



# Matrix decompositions are being replaced by tensor decompositions

## Multi-way (multi-index) data

are naturally processed by tensor methods instead of (artificially) 'rearranging' them into a matrix.

## Multiple data sets

can be processed simultaneously.

## "Simple" data

can be tensorized similarly to Hankelizing vector data.

# The 'tensor SVDs' generalize the matrix SVD

## Singular value decomposition (SVD)

$$\begin{array}{c} I_2 \\ \boxed{\mathbf{F}} \\ I_1 \end{array} = \begin{array}{c} I_1 \\ \boxed{\mathbf{U}} \\ I_1 \end{array} \begin{array}{c} I_2 \\ \boxed{\mathbf{S}} \\ I_1 \end{array} \begin{array}{c} I_2 \\ \boxed{\mathbf{V}^T} \\ I_1 \end{array} = \lambda_1 \begin{array}{c} \overline{\mathbf{V}_1^T} \\ | \\ U_1 \end{array} + \lambda_2 \begin{array}{c} \overline{\mathbf{V}_2^T} \\ | \\ U_2 \end{array} + \dots + \lambda_R \begin{array}{c} \overline{\mathbf{V}_R^T} \\ | \\ U_R \end{array}$$

## Multilinear SVD

$$\begin{array}{c} I_3 \\ I_2 \\ \boxed{\mathcal{A}} \\ I_1 \end{array} = \begin{array}{c} I_1 \\ \boxed{\mathbf{U}^{(1)}} \\ I_1 \end{array} \begin{array}{c} I_3 \\ I_2 \\ \boxed{\mathcal{S}} \\ I_1 \end{array} \begin{array}{c} I_3 \\ \boxed{\mathbf{U}^{(3)}} \\ I_2 \end{array}$$

## Canonical polyadic decomposition (CPD):

$$\mathcal{A} = \llbracket \lambda; U^{(1)}, U^{(2)}, U^{(3)} \rrbracket$$

$$\begin{array}{c} \boxed{\mathcal{A}} \end{array} = \lambda_1 \begin{array}{c} U_1^{(3)} \\ \swarrow \quad \searrow \\ U_1^{(2)} \quad U_1^{(1)} \end{array} + \lambda_2 \begin{array}{c} U_2^{(3)} \\ \swarrow \quad \searrow \\ U_2^{(2)} \quad U_2^{(1)} \end{array} + \dots + \lambda_R \begin{array}{c} U_R^{(3)} \\ \swarrow \quad \searrow \\ U_R^{(2)} \quad U_R^{(1)} \end{array}$$

# Tensor decompositions have useful properties

- ▶ Interpretability of the factors (uniqueness)
- ▶ Suitability for dimensionality reduction
- ▶ Ability to solve the 'curse of dimensionality' of high-dimensional data
- ▶ Ability to combine multiple data sets (data fusion)
- ▶ etc.

Choose the decomposition carefully!

Not all decompositions have all properties.

# Tensor decompositions are applicable in various domains

- ▶ Higher-order statistics
- ▶ Chemometrics
- ▶ Image processing
- ▶ Signal processing
- ▶ etc.
- ▶ Under-represented in system identification

# Tensor methods for system identification

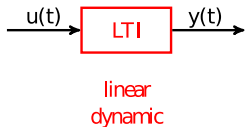
Tensor methods

Block-oriented methods with tensors

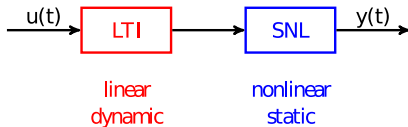
Volterra models with tensors

Systems of polynomial equations

Block-oriented models provide a good trade-off between simplicity and descriptive power



Block-oriented models provide a good trade-off between simplicity and descriptive power

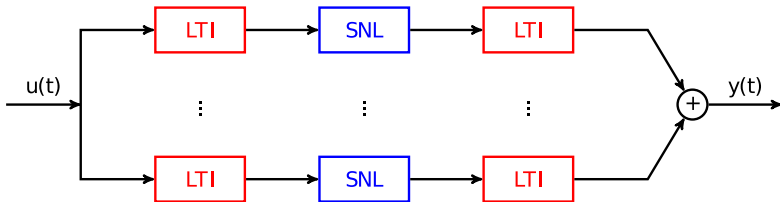


Block-oriented models provide a good trade-off between simplicity and descriptive power

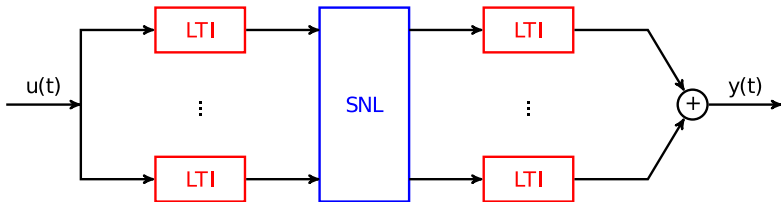




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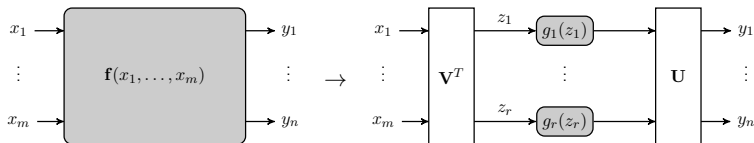


Block-oriented models provide a good trade-off between simplicity and descriptive power



# Decoupling multivariate vector functions

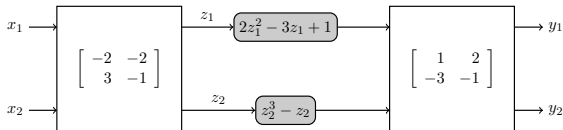
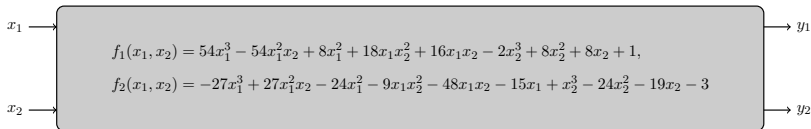
$$\mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{U}\mathbf{g}(\mathbf{V}^T\mathbf{x})$$



Obtain physical insight

Simplification (number of parameters)

# A toy example



We compute the NL SVD by a first-order approach

$$\mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{U}\mathbf{g}(\mathbf{V}^T\mathbf{x})$$

We compute the NL SVD by a first-order approach

If  $\mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{U}\mathbf{g}(\mathbf{V}^T\mathbf{x})$  ,

then 
$$\underbrace{\left[ \frac{\partial f_i(\mathbf{x})}{\partial x_j} \right]}_{\mathbf{J}_f(\mathbf{x})} = \mathbf{U} \begin{bmatrix} g'_1(\mathbf{v}_1^T \mathbf{x}) & & \mathbf{0} \\ & \ddots & \\ \mathbf{0} & & g'_r(\mathbf{v}_r^T \mathbf{x}) \end{bmatrix} \mathbf{V}^T.$$

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- Collect Jacobian matrices  $\mathbf{J}_f^{(1)}$ ,  $\mathbf{J}_f^{(2)}$ ,  $\mathbf{J}_f^{(3)}$ ,  $\mathbf{J}_f^{(4)}$ ,  $\mathbf{J}_f^{(5)}$ , ... and diagonalize them simultaneously

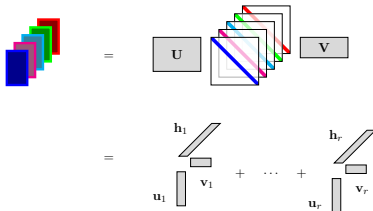
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Tool: Canonical Polyadic Decomposition (CPD)





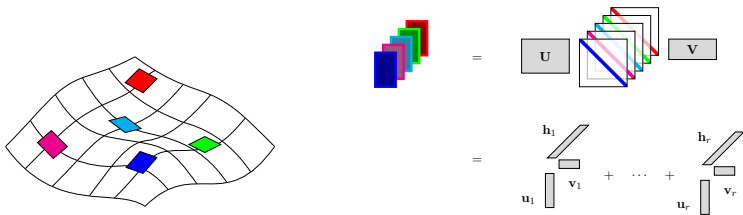
# Algorithm

1. Construct tensor of Jacobians

$$\mathcal{J}_{\mathbf{f}} = \left\{ \mathbf{J}_{\mathbf{f}}^{(1)}, \mathbf{J}_{\mathbf{f}}^{(2)}, \mathbf{J}_{\mathbf{f}}^{(3)}, \mathbf{J}_{\mathbf{f}}^{(4)}, \mathbf{J}_{\mathbf{f}}^{(5)}, \dots \right\}$$

2. CPD of  $\mathcal{J}_{\mathbf{f}}$  gives  $\mathbf{U}$ ,  $\mathbf{V}$  and  $\mathbf{H}$

3. Retrieve coefficients of  $g_i(\cdot)$  from  $\mathbf{y}^{(k)} = \mathbf{U} [g_i(\mathbf{v}_i^T \mathbf{x}^{(k)})]$   
(solving linear system)



# Variations of the main problem are useful in various contexts

- ▶ Scalar functions
  - second-order (Hessian) approach
- ▶ Uniqueness, noise reduction
  - parametrization of the internal functions
  - Joint decompositions (combining Jacobians and Hessians)
- ▶ Meaningful multivariate internal functions
  - block-term decomposition

# Tensor methods for system identification

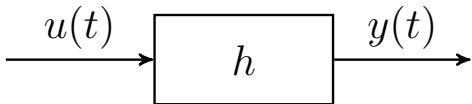
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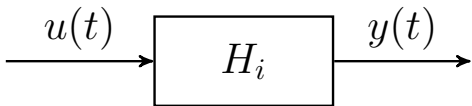
The impulse response completely characterizes *linear* dynamical systems



A diagram illustrating the convolution relationship between the input  $u(t)$ , the impulse response  $h$ , and the output  $y(t)$ . The output waveform  $y(t)$  is shown as a complex, high-frequency oscillation. This is equal to the impulse response  $h$ , which is a sharp, high-frequency oscillation, convolved (indicated by an asterisk  $*$ ) with the input waveform  $u(t)$ , which is a smooth, low-frequency oscillation.

$$y(t) = h * u(t)$$

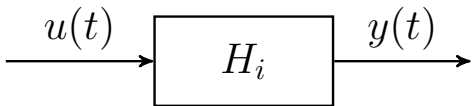
The Volterra kernels completely characterize *nonlinear* dynamical systems



$$y(t) = \sum H_i * ( \overset{u}{\sim} , \dots , \overset{u}{\sim} ) \quad (t)$$

A 3D surface plot of a Volterra kernel  $H_i$ . The surface is colored with a gradient from blue (low values) to yellow (high values), showing a non-linear, wavy shape over a grid of two dimensions.

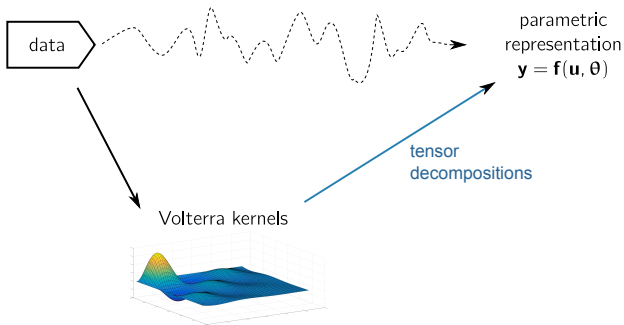
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Volterra series are polynomials  
of time-shifted input signals

$$y(k) = \sum_i \sum_{\tau_1, \dots, \tau_i} \underbrace{H_i(\tau_1, \dots, \tau_i)}_{\text{kernels}} \underbrace{u(k - \tau_1) \cdots u(k - \tau_i)}_{\text{time-shifted inputs}}$$

To simplify and give meaning to the Volterra kernels we process them by tensor techniques



WH systems can be identified  
through structured tensor decompositions

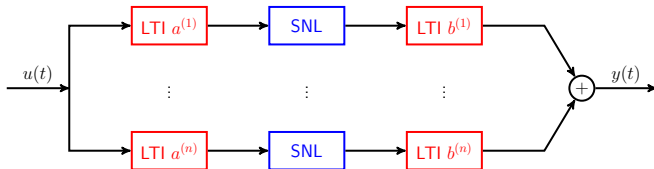


$$H_3 = \llbracket A, A, A \text{diag}(b) \rrbracket$$

$$\rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} a_0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ a_1 & a_0 & \ddots & \vdots \\ \vdots & \ddots & \ddots & 0 \\ & & & a_0 \\ a_m & & & \\ 0 & a_m & & \\ \vdots & \ddots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & \cdots & 0 & a_m \end{bmatrix}$$



Parallel WH systems can be identified through structured tensor decompositions



$$H_3 = \llbracket A, A, A \text{diag}(b) \rrbracket$$

$$\searrow \left[ A^{(1)} \mid \dots \mid A^{(n)} \right]$$

To increase robustness to noise  
kernels of different orders are decomposed simultaneously

$$H_3 = \llbracket A, A, A, b^T, c_3^T \rrbracket$$

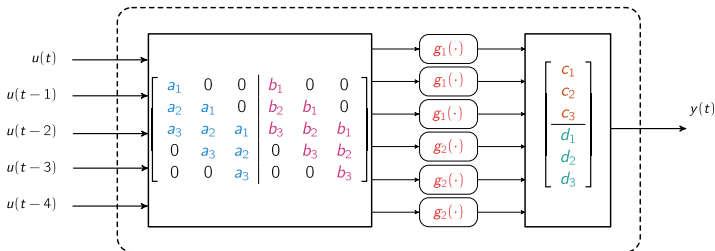
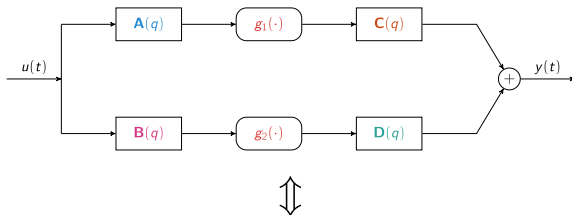
$$H_2 = \llbracket A, A, b^T, c_2^T \rrbracket$$

$$H_1 = \llbracket A, b^T, c_1^T \rrbracket$$

Computation: structured data fusion

Matlab toolbox for tensor computations: Tensorlab

# Decoupling Volterra representations



# Tensor methods for system identification

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Can you solve such systems in 5 min?

$$\begin{aligned}x + 3y &= 8 \\ 2x + 6y &= 16\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}x + 3y &= 8 \\ 2x + 6y &= 10\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}x + 3y &= 8 \\ 2x + y &= 6 \\ 3x + 2y &= 10\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}x + 3y + z &= 4 \\ 2x + 6y - z &= 10\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}x + 3y + z + t &= 4 \\ 2x + y + 2z - t &= 3 \\ x - y + 2z - 3t &= 2 \\ -x + 2y - 3z + t &= 1\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}x + 3\sqrt{xy} + \cos(x^2) &= 8 \\ 2x^3 \sin y + y^x &= 6\end{aligned}$$

Can you solve such systems in 5 min?

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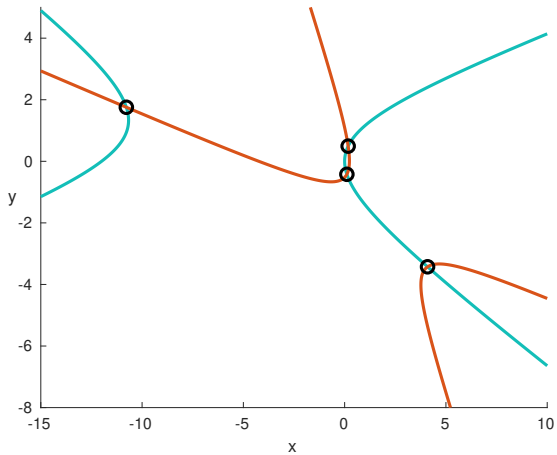
$$\begin{aligned}x + 3\sqrt{xy} + \cos(x^2) &= 8 \\ 2x^3 \sin y + y^x &= 6\end{aligned}$$

Let us try to solve this system in 5 min

$$-x^2 + 2xy + 8y^2 - 12x = 0$$

$$2x^2 + 8xy + \frac{7}{2}y^2 + 8x - 2y - 2 = 0$$

# Our goal





Step 1: rewrite the system in a tensor form

$$-x^2 + 2xy + 8y^2 - 12x = [x \ y \ 1] \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 1 & -6 \\ 1 & 8 & 0 \\ -6 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = 0$$

$$2x^2 + 8xy + \frac{7}{2}y^2 + 8x - 2y - 2 = [x \ y \ 1] \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 4 & 4 \\ 4 & \frac{7}{2} & -1 \\ 4 & -1 & -2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = 0$$

$$\rightarrow \mathcal{T} \bullet_1 \mathbf{u}^T \bullet_2 \mathbf{u}^T = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \text{with } \mathbf{u}^T = [x \ y \ 1]$$

## Step 2: rewrite the system by decomposing the tensor

Decompose the tensor  $\mathcal{T}$  in (partially-symmetric) rank-1 terms,

$$\mathcal{T} = \llbracket \mathbf{V}, \mathbf{V}, \mathbf{W} \rrbracket,$$

with  $\mathbf{V} \in \mathbb{R}^{3 \times r}$  and  $\mathbf{W} \in \mathbb{R}^{2 \times r}$ , ( $r$  is the rank of the tensor).

$$\mathbf{V} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & -1 & 2 \\ 2 & -2 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{W} = \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 1 & 2 \\ \frac{1}{2} & -1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

$$\mathcal{T} \bullet_1 \mathbf{u}^T \bullet_2 \mathbf{u}^T = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad \rightarrow \quad \llbracket \mathbf{u}^T \mathbf{V}, \mathbf{u}^T \mathbf{V}, \mathbf{W} \rrbracket = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

Next: two subproblems (two systems of linear equations!)

$$\mathcal{T} \bullet_1 \mathbf{u}^T \bullet_2 \mathbf{u}^T = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow \underbrace{\llbracket \mathbf{u}^T \mathbf{V}, \mathbf{u}^T \mathbf{V}, \mathbf{W} \rrbracket}_{\mathbf{z}^T} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

- ▶ Given  $\mathbf{W}$ , find  $\mathbf{z}$  (Step 3)
- ▶ Given  $\mathbf{V}$ , find  $\mathbf{u}$  (Step 4)

The rank of  $\mathcal{T}$  is 3.

(Typical ranks of a  $3 \times 3 \times 2$  tensor:  $\{3, 4\}$  in  $\mathbb{R}$  and 3 in  $\mathbb{C}$ .)

Step 3: find  $\mathbf{z}$

$$\underbrace{\llbracket \mathbf{u}^T \mathbf{V}, \mathbf{u}^T \mathbf{V}, \mathbf{W} \rrbracket}_{\mathbf{z}^T} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

►  $\mathbf{W}\mathbf{z}^2 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$  ( $\mathbf{z}^2$  contains the squared elements of  $\mathbf{z}$ )

► Linear system of equations for  $\mathbf{z}^2$

$$\mathbf{z}^2 = \begin{bmatrix} 0.8242 \\ 0.5494 \\ 0.1374 \end{bmatrix}$$

► Four essentially different solutions for  $\mathbf{z}$

$$\mathbf{z}^{(1)} = \begin{bmatrix} 0.9078 \\ 0.7412 \\ 0.3706 \end{bmatrix}, \mathbf{z}^{(2)} = \begin{bmatrix} -0.9078 \\ 0.7412 \\ 0.3706 \end{bmatrix}, \mathbf{z}^{(3)} = \begin{bmatrix} 0.9078 \\ -0.7412 \\ 0.3706 \end{bmatrix}, \mathbf{z}^{(4)} = \begin{bmatrix} 0.9078 \\ 0.7412 \\ -0.3706 \end{bmatrix}$$

Step 4: find  $\mathbf{u}$  (find  $x$  and  $y$ )

$$\mathbf{z}^T = \mathbf{u}^T \mathbf{V} \quad \rightarrow \quad \mathbf{V}^T \mathbf{u} = \mathbf{z}$$

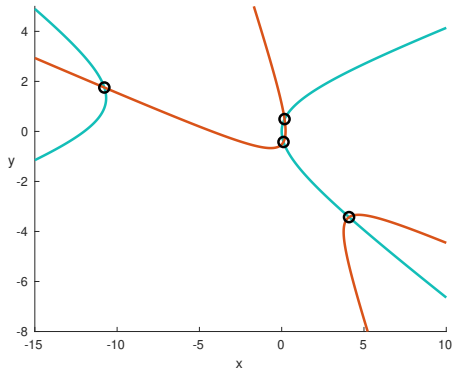
$$\mathbf{u}^{(1)} = \begin{bmatrix} 0.5497 \\ -0.0895 \\ -0.0510 \end{bmatrix} = -0.0510 \begin{bmatrix} -10.7766 \\ 1.7553 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} x^{(1)} \\ y^{(1)} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -10.7766 \\ 1.7553 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\mathbf{u}^{(2)} = \begin{bmatrix} -0.0555 \\ 0.2131 \\ -0.5049 \end{bmatrix} = -0.5049 \begin{bmatrix} 0.1100 \\ -0.4220 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} x^{(2)} \\ y^{(2)} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0.1100 \\ -0.4220 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\mathbf{u}^{(3)} = \begin{bmatrix} 0.0555 \\ 0.1575 \\ 0.3196 \end{bmatrix} = 0.3196 \begin{bmatrix} 0.1737 \\ 0.4929 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} x^{(3)} \\ y^{(3)} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0.1737 \\ 0.4929 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\mathbf{u}^{(4)} = \begin{bmatrix} 0.5497 \\ -0.4602 \\ 0.1343 \end{bmatrix} = 0.1343 \begin{bmatrix} 4.0929 \\ -3.4263 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} x^{(4)} \\ y^{(4)} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 4.0929 \\ -3.4263 \end{bmatrix}$$

# The solutions



$$\begin{bmatrix} x^{(1)} \\ y^{(1)} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -10.7766 \\ 1.7553 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} x^{(2)} \\ y^{(2)} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0.1100 \\ -0.4220 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} x^{(3)} \\ y^{(3)} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0.1737 \\ 0.4929 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} x^{(4)} \\ y^{(4)} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 4.0929 \\ -3.4263 \end{bmatrix}$$

# Solving a system of polynomial equations via tensor decomposition

**Given:** 2 polynomial equations of degree 2 (in 2 variables)

**Find:** The solutions  $(x^{(i)}, y^{(i)}), i = 1, \dots, 4$  of the system

1. Reformulate the problem as  $\mathcal{T} \bullet_1 \mathbf{u}^T \bullet_2 \mathbf{u}^T = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$ .
2. Decompose the tensor  $\mathcal{T}$  in rank-1 terms:  $\mathcal{T} = \llbracket \mathbf{V}, \mathbf{V}, \mathbf{W} \rrbracket$ .
3. Solve the linear system  $\mathbf{W}(\mathbf{z}^2) = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$  for  $\mathbf{z}^2$ .  
Find the 4 (essentially different) solutions  $\mathbf{z}^{(i)}, i = 1, \dots, 4$ .
4. Solve the linear systems  $\mathbf{V}^T \mathbf{u}^{(i)} = \mathbf{z}^{(i)}$  for  $\mathbf{u}^{(i)}$ .  
Rescale  $\mathbf{u}^{(i)}$  (the last entries become 1s) and remove the 1s.  
 $\rightarrow (x^{(i)}, y^{(i)}), i = 1, \dots, 4$ .

# Generalizations

1. Roots:  $\mathbb{R}$ ,  $\mathbb{C}$ , roots at infinity
2. Polynomials of higher degree
3. More unknowns and more equations



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2. Polynomials of higher degree: 4th order tensor
3. More unknowns and more equations: longer  $\mathbf{u}$

However, the rank of the tensor might increase! (2. and 3.)

## Systems with tensors of higher rank: future work

Problem if  $r$  is large: since  $\mathbf{W} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times r}$ ,  
the solution of  $\mathbf{W}\mathbf{z}^d = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$  lies in a higher dimensional space.

A possible direction to consider:  
reformulate the problem as

$$\mathbf{W}(\mathbf{V} \odot \mathbf{V})^T(\mathbf{u} \otimes \mathbf{u}) = \mathbf{0}$$

and solve for  $\mathbf{u} \otimes \mathbf{u} \dots$

Homework: solve in 5 min!

$$x^2 + 4xy + y^2 - 2x + 2y = 0$$

$$x^2 + 5xy + 6x - 2y + 1 = 0$$

# Tensor methods for system identification

Tensor methods

Block-oriented methods with tensors

Volterra models with tensors

Systems of polynomial equations

## Joint work with

Philippe Dreesen

Johan Schoukens

Konstantin Usevich

David Westwick

Gabriel Hollander, Jeroen De Geeter, Thomas Goossens



# Tensor methods are useful

## For multi-way (multi-index) data

Use tensor methods instead of (artificially) 'rearranging' the data into a matrix.

## For multiple data sets

Process related data sets simultaneously.

## For other data

Tensorize 'simple' data in the same way as, for example, vector data can be Hankelized.

# Tensor methods with applications in system identification

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