



# Exploring Einsum as a Universal Inference Language

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# Abstract

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# Contents

<b>Abstract</b>	<b>iii</b>
<b>1 Introduction</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1 Some Section . . . . .	1
1.2 Some Other Section . . . . .	1
<b>2 Einsum</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>3 Nested Expressions</b>	<b>7</b>
3.1 Simple Nested Expressions . . . . .	8
3.2 Introducing Duplications . . . . .	9
3.3 Removing Duplications . . . . .	12
3.4 General Nested Expressions . . . . .	17
<b>4 Translating Inference</b>	<b>19</b>
4.1 Computational Advantages . . . . .	19
4.2 Fully Connected Feed-Forward Net . . . . .	19
4.3 Attention . . . . .	22
4.4 Discrete Fourier Transform . . . . .	23
4.5 Hadamard Transform . . . . .	24
4.6 Convolution . . . . .	25
4.7 Max-Pooling . . . . .	28
<b>5 Results</b>	<b>29</b>
5.1 Some Section . . . . .	30
5.2 Some Other Section . . . . .	31
<b>6 Discussion</b>	<b>33</b>
6.1 Some Section . . . . .	33
6.2 Some Other Section . . . . .	34
<b>7 Conclusion</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>Proofs</b>	<b>41</b>
<b>Selbständigkeitserklärung</b>	<b>43</b>



# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Some Section

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## 1.2 Some Other Section

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## 2 Einsum

Given two third-order tensors  $A \in \mathbb{R}^{3 \times 4 \times 5}$  and  $B \in \mathbb{R}^{3 \times 3 \times 5}$ , and a vector  $v \in \mathbb{R}^4$ . Consider the following computation resulting in a matrix  $C \in \mathbb{R}^{3 \times 3}$ :

$$\forall i \in [3] : \forall j \in [4] : C_{ij} = \sum_{k=1}^5 A_{ijk} B_{iik} v_j$$

The original Einstein-notation for summation removes redundant formalism ("boilerplate") from this expression:

$$C_{ij} = A_{ijk} B_{iik} v_j$$

where it is assumed that  $C$  is defined for all possible  $i, j$ . We sum over all indices that are not used to index the output. In this example, we therefore have to sum over all possible values of  $k$ , because it is not used to index  $C_{ij}$ . Note how it is clear what the shape of  $C$  is, because  $i$  and  $j$  were used to index the tensors  $A$ ,  $B$ , and  $v$ , for which we defined the dimensions on every axis.

This notation is essentially the inspiration for Einsum, which might be apparent given the name Einsum. Einsum is just an adaptation of this style, which makes it easier to use in programming. With it, we can write the above expression like this:

$$C := (ijk, iik, j \rightarrow ij, A, B, v)$$

Through the following definition, we hope to clear up why this Einsum expression results in the computation above, and what computation is the result of a general Einsum expression.

**Definition 1.** Einsum expressions specify how several input tensors are combined into a single output tensor. Let  $T^{(1)}, \dots, T^{(n)}$  be our input tensors, where  $T^{(i)}$  is an  $n_i$ -th order tensor for  $i \in [n]$ . The core of the Einsum expression are index strings. For this, we first need a collection of symbols  $S$ . The respective index string for a tensor  $T^{(i)}$  is then just a tuple  $\mathbf{s}_i \in S^{n_i}$ , composed of symbols  $s_{ij} \in S$  for  $j \in [n_i]$ . The index string that is right of the arrow ( $\rightarrow$ ) belongs to the output tensor  $T$  and is referred to as output string  $\mathbf{s}_t$ .

In our example this could be  $S = \{i, j, k\}$ . The tensor  $T^{(1)} = A$  has the index string  $\mathbf{s}_1 = ijk$ ,  $T^{(2)} = B$  has  $\mathbf{s}_2 = iik$ ,  $T^{(3)} = v$  has  $\mathbf{s}_3 = j$ , and the output string is  $\mathbf{s}_t = ij$ . The individual symbols are  $s_{11} = i$ ,  $s_{12} = j$ ,  $s_{13} = k$ ,  $s_{21} = i$ ,  $s_{22} = i$ ,  $s_{23} = k$ ,  $s_{31} = j$ ,  $s_{t1} = i$ ,  $s_{t2} = j$ .

In order to refer to individual tensor axes, let us numerate them with  $a_{ij} \in \mathbb{N}$ , where  $a_{ij}$  denotes the  $j$ -th axis of the tensor  $i$ -th tensor  $T^{(i)}$ . The actual value of  $a_{ij}$  does not matter. These variables are just used as unique identifiers for the axes. Note that we can combine the axes to describe the set of axes of a tensor  $T^{(i)}$  with  $\mathbf{a}_i = \{a_{ij} \mid j \in [n_i]\}$ . In contrast to  $\mathbf{s}_i$ , this is a set and not a tuple. This is because tensors can reuse symbols as indices, but cannot reuse axes.

The next step in the definition is to speak about axis sizes. If we want to iterate over shared indices, it is necessary that the axes, that these indices are used for, share the same size. In our example,  $A_{ijk}$  and  $v_j$  share the symbol  $s_{12} = s_{31} = j$ . This means that the respective axes  $a_{12}$  and  $a_{31}$  have to have the same size, which happens to be four. Let us express this formally.

Let  $d_{ij} \in \mathbb{N}$  denote the size of the axis  $a_{ij}$  for  $i \in [n], j \in [n_i]$ . Then it must hold that  $s_{ij} = s_{i'j'} \implies d_{ij} = d_{i'j'}$  for all  $i, i' \in [n], j \in [n_i], j' \in [n_{i'}]$ .

Therefore we can also denote the size of all axes, that a symbol  $s \in S$  corresponds to, as  $d_s := d_{ij}$  for all  $i \in [n], j \in [n_i]$  with  $s = s_{ij}$ . Note that not all same size axes have to be assigned the same symbol. For instance a square matrix could have index strings  $\mathbf{s} = (i, i)$  or  $\mathbf{s} = (i, j)$ .

The next step of the definition is figuring out which symbols are used for summation and which symbols are used for saving the result of the computation. In order to do this, it is useful to know which symbols are in an index string, because symbols can occur more than once in just one index string (as seen in  $B_{iik}$  in our example). Therefore, let  $\sigma(\mathbf{s})$  denote the set with all symbols used in an index string  $\mathbf{s}$ . That is, in our example  $\sigma(\mathbf{s}_2) = \sigma(iik) = \{i, k\}$ .

All symbols to the right of the arrow ( $\rightarrow$ ) are used as an index for the result of the computation. These symbols are called *free* symbols  $F = \sigma(\mathbf{s}_t)$ . All other symbols used in the expression are called *bound* symbols  $B = \bigcup_{i \in [n]} \sigma(\mathbf{s}_i) \setminus \sigma(\mathbf{s}_t)$ . The reasoning behind this name is, that these symbols are bound by the summation symbol in the original computation. In Einsum, we sum over all axes that belong to bound symbols. It follows that the multi-index space that we iterate over is  $\mathcal{F} = \prod_{s \in F} [d_s]$  and the multi-index space we sum over is  $\mathcal{B} = \prod_{s \in B} [d_s]$ . In our example, the free symbols are  $F = \{ij\}$  and the bound symbols are  $B = \{k\}$ . The multi-index space we iterate over is  $d_i \times d_j = [3] \times [4]$ . The multi-index space we sum over is  $d_k = [5]$ .

From the definition of  $\mathcal{F}$ , it follows that  $d_s$  has to be defined for all symbols  $s \in F$ . This means we have to add the constraint  $\sigma(\mathbf{s}_t) \subseteq \bigcup_{i \in [n]} \sigma(\mathbf{s}_i)$ .

However, we do not use every symbol in the multi-index spaces to index every input tensor. Instead, we use the index strings  $\mathbf{s}$  to index the tensor. To formally express this, we need a projection from a multi-index  $(\mathbf{f}, \mathbf{b}) \in \mathcal{F} \times \mathcal{B}$ <sup>1</sup> to another multi-index, which includes only the indices, that are represented by the symbols used in  $\mathbf{s}$ , in the same order as present in  $\mathbf{s}$ . We denote this as  $(\mathbf{f}, \mathbf{b}) : \mathbf{s}$ . Notice how this still allows

<sup>1</sup>Here, we use  $(\mathbf{f}, \mathbf{b})$  as the notation for concatenating the tuples  $\mathbf{f}$  and  $\mathbf{b}$ . This means,  $(\mathbf{f}, \mathbf{b})$  is not a tuple of multi-indices, but another multi-index.

duplication of indices given in  $(\mathbf{f}, \mathbf{b})$ . This is needed, as can be seen in our example for  $B_{iik}$ , where a multi-index, e.g.  $(i = 1, j = 4, k = 2) \in \mathcal{F} \times \mathcal{B}$ , is projected onto a different multi-index, by the index string  $iik$ . With this index string, the index that is represented by the symbol  $i$  is projected onto the first and second position, and the index that is represented by the symbol  $k$  is projected onto the third position. Therefore, the resulting multi-index is  $(i = 1, j = 4, k = 2) : iik = (1, 1, 2)$ .

In our example, we used the standard sum and multiplication as operators for computing our result. But with Einsum, we allow the more general use of any semiring  $R = (M, \oplus, \odot)$ . With this, we can finally define a general Einsum expression

$$T := (\mathbf{s}_1, \dots, \mathbf{s}_n \rightarrow \mathbf{s}_t, T^{(1)}, \dots, T^{(n)})_R$$

in terms of semiring operations. Namely,  $T$  is the  $|\mathbf{s}_t|$ -th order tensor

$$\forall \mathbf{f} \in \mathcal{F} : T_{\mathbf{f}:\mathbf{s}_t} = \bigoplus_{\mathbf{b} \in \mathcal{B}} \bigodot_{i=1}^n T_{(\mathbf{f}, \mathbf{b}):\mathbf{s}_i}^{(i)}.$$

Because we also project the indices  $\mathbf{f}$  with the output string  $\mathbf{s}_t$ , we allow to iterate over duplicate indices, e.g.  $\text{diag}(v) = (j \rightarrow jj, v)$ . This leaves some entries of the result undefined. We define these entries to be the additive neutral element in the given semiring  $R$ . This may sound arbitrary at first, but will be useful later.

There are still some special cases which need to be considered. If there are no bound symbols in the expression, then the sum in the original definition would be empty. But the definition is still meaningful. It boils down to computing the product of the tensor entries, without summing over them. Therefore, if  $F = \emptyset$ , then

$$T := (\mathbf{s}_1, \dots, \mathbf{s}_n \rightarrow \mathbf{s}_t, T^{(1)}, \dots, T^{(n)})_R$$

results in the computation of a  $|\mathbf{s}_t|$ -th order tensor  $T$  with

$$\forall \mathbf{f} \in \mathcal{F} : T_{\mathbf{f}:\mathbf{s}_t} = \bigodot_{i=1}^n T_{\mathbf{f}:\mathbf{s}_i}^{(i)}.$$

If there are no free symbols, we will sum over all axes given by the symbols in the expression. Therefore, if  $B = \emptyset$ , then

$$T := (\mathbf{s}_1, \dots, \mathbf{s}_n \rightarrow, T^{(1)}, \dots, T^{(n)})_R$$

results in the computation of a scalar  $T$  with

$$T = \bigoplus_{\mathbf{b} \in \mathcal{B}} \bigodot_{i=1}^n T_{\mathbf{b}:\mathbf{s}_i}^{(i)}.$$

In case the semiring can be derived from the context, or if it is irrelevant, it can be left out from the expression.

All following examples use the standard semiring  $R = (\mathbb{R}, +, \cdot)$ .

- matrix-vector multiplication: Let  $A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$ ,  $v \in \mathbb{R}^n$ . Then

$$A \cdot v = (ij, j \rightarrow i, A, v)$$

- matrix-matrix multiplication: Let  $A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times r}$ ,  $B \in \mathbb{R}^{r \times n}$ . Then

$$A \cdot B = (ik, kj \rightarrow ij, A, B)$$

- trace: Let  $A \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ . Then

$$\text{trace}(A) = (ii \rightarrow, A)$$

- squared Frobenius norm: Let  $A \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ . Then

$$|A|_2^2 = (ij, ij \rightarrow, A, A)$$

- diagonal matrix: Let  $v \in \mathbb{R}^n$ . Then

$$\text{diag}(v) = (i \rightarrow ii, v)$$

### 3 Nested Expressions

In practice, concatenations of operations come naturally, e.g. computing the squared norm of a matrix-vector product  $|A \cdot v|_2^2$  for  $A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}, v \in \mathbb{R}^n$ . This would lead to a nested Einsum expression  $|A \cdot v|_2^2 = (i, i \rightarrow, (ij, j \rightarrow i, A, v), (ij, j \rightarrow i, A, v))$ . This expression dictates the order of evaluating the expression. In the example of the norm, the expression  $(ij, j \rightarrow i, A, v)$  has to be evaluated before squaring and summing over the results of this computation.

This is limiting, because the order of evaluation might not yield optimal runtime. This can be seen with a simple matrix-matrix-vector multiplication, which can be written as follows:

$$(A \cdot B) \cdot v = (ij, j \rightarrow i, (ik, kj \rightarrow ij, A, B), v)$$

which is clearly worse than the optimal contraction order

$$A \cdot (B \cdot v) = (ij, j \rightarrow i, A, (ij, j \rightarrow i, B, v))$$

for  $A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times r}, B \in \mathbb{R}^{r \times n}, v \in \mathbb{R}^n$ .

But fortunately, all nested Einsum expressions can be compressed into a single Einsum expression, if they are computed over the same semiring. For instance,

$$\begin{aligned} |A \cdot v|_2^2 &= (i, i \rightarrow, (ij, j \rightarrow i, A, v), (ij, j \rightarrow i, A, v)) \\ &= (ij, j, ij, j \rightarrow, A, v, A, v) \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} (A \cdot B) \cdot v &= (ij, j \rightarrow i, (ik, kj \rightarrow ij, A, B), v) \\ &= (ik, kj, j \rightarrow i, A, B, v). \end{aligned}$$

This leaves the path of contraction up to the implementation. In the following theorems, we assume that the computations are all over the same semiring  $R = (M, \oplus, \odot)$ .

### 3.1 Simple Nested Expressions

In the following, we will explore how to compress such expressions as

$$\underbrace{(ij, j \rightarrow i, \overbrace{(ik, kj \rightarrow ij, A, B)}^{\text{inner expression}}, v)}_{\text{outer expression}}$$

for  $A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times r}$ ,  $B \in \mathbb{R}^{r \times n}$ ,  $v \in \mathbb{R}^n$ .

**Theorem 1:** For  $i \in [m+n]$ , let  $T^{(i)}$  be an  $n_i$ -th order tensor with index strings  $\mathbf{s}_i \in S^{n_i}$ . Let  $\mathbf{s}_u, \mathbf{s}_v$  be index strings. Let

$$U := (\mathbf{s}_{m+1}, \dots, \mathbf{s}_{m+n} \rightarrow \mathbf{s}_u, T^{(m+1)}, \dots, T^{(m+n)})$$

and

$$V := (\mathbf{s}_1, \dots, \mathbf{s}_m, \mathbf{s}_u \rightarrow \mathbf{s}_v, T^{(1)}, \dots, T^{(m)}, U)$$

where the bound symbols of the second Einsum expression share no symbols with the first Einsum expression. Then

$$V = (\mathbf{s}_1, \dots, \mathbf{s}_{m+n} \rightarrow \mathbf{s}_v, T^{(1)}, \dots, T^{(m+n)})$$

*Proof.* Let  $F, F', B, B'$  be the free and bound symbols of the outer and inner Einsum expression respectively. W.l.o.g. they are all non-empty. From them we can derive the multi-index spaces  $\mathcal{F}, \mathcal{F}', \mathcal{B}, \mathcal{B}'$  as in the definition. Then

$$\begin{aligned} V &= (\mathbf{s}_1, \dots, \mathbf{s}_m, \mathbf{s}_u \rightarrow \mathbf{s}_v, T^{(1)}, \dots, T^{(m)}, U) \\ \iff \forall \mathbf{f} \in \mathcal{F} : V_{\mathbf{f}:\mathbf{s}_v} &= \bigoplus_{\mathbf{b} \in \mathcal{B}} \bigodot_{i=1}^m T_{(\mathbf{f}, \mathbf{b}):\mathbf{s}_i}^{(i)} \odot U_{(\mathbf{f}, \mathbf{b}):\mathbf{s}_u} \\ &= \bigoplus_{\mathbf{b} \in \mathcal{B}} \bigodot_{i=1}^m T_{(\mathbf{f}, \mathbf{b}):\mathbf{s}_i}^{(i)} \odot \left[ \bigoplus_{\mathbf{b}' \in \mathcal{B}'} \bigodot_{i'=m+1}^{m+n} T_{(\mathbf{f}, \mathbf{b}, \mathbf{b}'):\mathbf{s}_{i'}}^{(i')} \right] \\ &= \bigoplus_{\mathbf{b} \in \mathcal{B}} \bigoplus_{\mathbf{b}' \in \mathcal{B}'} \bigodot_{i=1}^m T_{(\mathbf{f}, \mathbf{b}):\mathbf{s}_i}^{(i)} \odot \bigodot_{i=m+1}^{m+n} T_{(\mathbf{f}, \mathbf{b}, \mathbf{b}'):\mathbf{s}_i}^{(i)} \\ &= \bigoplus_{\mathbf{b} \in \mathcal{B} \times \mathcal{B}'} \bigodot_{i=1}^{m+n} T_{(\mathbf{f}, \mathbf{b}):\mathbf{s}_i}^{(i)} \\ \iff V &= (\mathbf{s}_1, \dots, \mathbf{s}_{m+n} \rightarrow \mathbf{s}_v, T^{(1)}, \dots, T^{(m+n)}) \end{aligned}$$

where the third equality follows from the definition of  $U$ :

$$\forall \mathbf{f}' \in \mathcal{F}' : U_{\mathbf{f}':\mathbf{s}_u} = \bigoplus_{\mathbf{b}' \in \mathcal{B}'} \bigodot_{i'=m+1}^{m+n} T_{(\mathbf{f}', \mathbf{b}'):\mathbf{s}_{i'}}^{(i')}$$

and from the fact, that the symbols in  $\mathbf{s}_u$  are used in the outer expression as an input string, and in the inner expression as the output string, and therefore  $F' \subseteq B \cup F$ . Additionally, because of the stated requirement  $(B \cup F) \cap B' = \emptyset$ , the symbols representing  $\mathbf{b}'$  do not clash with the symbols representing  $(\mathbf{f}, \mathbf{b})$ , and therefore  $(\mathbf{f}, \mathbf{b}, \mathbf{b}') : \mathbf{s}_{i'}$  is well-defined and projects on the same indices as  $(\mathbf{f}', \mathbf{b}') : \mathbf{s}_{i'}$ . The fourth equality follows from the distributivity in a semiring.  $\square$

This means that we can compress all nested Einsum expressions, where the output string of the inner expression, which is used to compute  $U$ , is exactly the same as the respective input string in the outer expression, where  $U$  is used as an input tensor. This is already helpful for some naturally occuring expressions in linear algebra, e.g.

$$\begin{aligned} |A \cdot v|_2^2 &= (i, i \rightarrow, (ij, j \rightarrow i, A, v), (ij, j \rightarrow i, A, v)) \\ &= (ij, j, ij, j \rightarrow, A, v, A, v) \end{aligned}$$

for  $A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$ ,  $v \in \mathbb{R}^n$ , or

$$\begin{aligned} A \cdot B \cdot v &= (ij, j \rightarrow i, (ik, kj \rightarrow ij, A, B), v) \\ &= (ik, kj, j \rightarrow i, A, B, v) \end{aligned}$$

for  $A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times r}$ ,  $B \in \mathbb{R}^{r \times n}$ ,  $v \in \mathbb{R}^n$ . However, sometimes we need to access a different multi-index set than the one we computed, e.g.

$$\text{trace}(A \cdot B) = (ii \rightarrow, (ik, kj \rightarrow ij, A, B))$$

or

$$A \cdot \text{diag}(v) = (ik, kj \rightarrow ij, A, (i \rightarrow ii, v))$$

for  $A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$ ,  $B \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times m}$ ,  $v \in \mathbb{R}^n$ . For this, we need more general ways of compressing nested Einsum expressions.

## 3.2 Introducing Duplications

The following example is another expression, which we cannot compress with the previous theorem:

$$(ij, jjj \rightarrow i, A, (kl, lo \rightarrow kko, B, C))$$

for  $A \in \mathbb{R}^{a \times b}$ ,  $B \in \mathbb{R}^{b \times c}$ ,  $C \in \mathbb{R}^{c \times b}$ . In the following, we will explore how to compress such expressions. Note that, for the theorem, we use disjoint sets of symbols for the inner and outer expression. This helps in the proof, and is not a real constraint in practice, because we can just rename the symbols in different scopes. For example, we could also write the above expression as

$$(ij, jjj \rightarrow i, A, (ik, kj \rightarrow iij, B, C)),$$

because the scope of each symbol does not reach into nested expressions, and therefore the  $j$  used in the outer expression and the  $j$  used in the inner expression are treated as different symbols.

**Theorem 2:** For  $i \in [m + n]$ , let  $T^{(i)}$  be an  $n_i$ -th order tensor with index strings  $\mathbf{s}_i \in S^{n_i}$ . Let  $\mathbf{s}_u$  be an index string for the  $n_u$ -th order tensor  $U$ , which is defined as follows:

$$U := (\mathbf{s}_{m+1}, \dots, \mathbf{s}_{m+n} \rightarrow \mathbf{s}_u, T^{(m+1)}, \dots, T^{(m+n)})$$

Also let  $\hat{\mathbf{s}}_u$  be alternative index strings for  $U$  with  $s_{uj} = s_{uj'} \implies \hat{s}_{uj} = \hat{s}_{uj'}$  for all  $j, j' \in [n_u]$ , which means that  $\hat{\mathbf{s}}_u$  can only introduce new symbol duplications, and cannot remove any. The index string  $\mathbf{s}_u$  corresponds to the output string of the inner expression, and the index string  $\hat{\mathbf{s}}_u$  corresponds to the input string that is used for the input tensor  $U$  in the outer expression.

In our example,  $\mathbf{s}_u = kko$  and  $\hat{\mathbf{s}}_u = jjj$ . This does not break the symbol duplication of the first and second index, and introduces a new duplication on the third index.

Let  $s_v$  be an index string and

$$V := (\mathbf{s}_1, \dots, \mathbf{s}_m, \hat{\mathbf{s}}_u \rightarrow \mathbf{s}_v, T^{(1)}, \dots, T^{(m)}, U)$$

such that the first and second Einsum expression share no symbols. Then these nested Einsum expressions can also be compressed into a single Einsum expression.

In contrast to [Theorem 1](#), we cannot just replace the input index string  $\hat{\mathbf{s}}_u$  by all the input index strings in the inner Einsum expression  $\mathbf{s}_{m+1}, \dots, \mathbf{s}_{m+n}$ . Instead, we first need to apply a symbol map to the input strings of the inner expression. Let  $\nu : S \rightarrow S$  such that

$$\nu(s) := \begin{cases} \hat{s}_{uj} & \text{if } \exists j \in [n_u] : s_{uj} = s \\ s & \text{else} \end{cases}$$

which maps symbols in  $\mathbf{s}_u$  to the symbol at the same index in  $\hat{\mathbf{s}}_u$  and all other symbols to themselves.

This symbol map holds information about which symbols will be iterated over at the same time in the outer expression. In our example, we have the following symbols on the same positions:

- $s_{u1} = k$  and  $\hat{s}_{u1} = j$ ,
- $s_{u2} = k$  and  $\hat{s}_{u2} = j$ ,
- $s_{u3} = o$  and  $\hat{s}_{u3} = j$ .

Therefore these are the important mappings:

$$\begin{aligned} k &\rightarrow j, \\ o &\rightarrow j. \end{aligned}$$



This means that  $k$  and  $o$  will be iterated over at the same time.

The symbol map  $\nu$  can be extended, such that it maps entire index strings instead of just symbols, by setting  $\nu(\mathbf{s}_i) \in S^{n_i}, \nu(\mathbf{s}_i)_j := \nu(s_{ij})$ . Then we can write the substituted index strings by setting  $\hat{\mathbf{s}}_i := \nu(\mathbf{s}_i)$  for  $i \in [m+1, m+n]$ .

The compressed Einsum expression now becomes the following:

$$V = (\mathbf{s}_1, \dots, \mathbf{s}_m, \hat{\mathbf{s}}_{m+1}, \dots, \hat{\mathbf{s}}_{m+n} \rightarrow \mathbf{s}_v, T^{(1)}, \dots, T^{(m+n)})$$

which helps us to compress the example:

$$(ij, jjj \rightarrow i, A, (kl, lo \rightarrow kko, B, C)) = (ij, jl, lj \rightarrow i, A, B, C).$$

*Proof.* The fundamental idea behind this theorem is, that by using the index string  $\hat{\mathbf{s}}_u$ , we only iterate over a sub-space of the indices that we defined for the computation of  $U$ . The way in which we iterate over this sub-space is determined by the outer expression. It could either be the sum over bound indices or the universal quantifier over free indices. To formulate this, we need some idea of which multi-indices we iterate over. Therefore, let  $\mathcal{I} : \mathbf{s} := \{\mathbf{i} : \mathbf{s} \mid \mathbf{i} \in \mathcal{I}\}$  for an index string  $\mathbf{s}$  and a multi-index space  $\mathcal{I}$ .

Let  $F', B'$  be the free and bound symbols of the inner Einsum expression. W.l.o.g. they are both non-empty. From them we can derive the multi-index spaces  $\mathcal{F}', \mathcal{B}'$  as in the definition. Let  $\hat{F}' = \sigma(\hat{\mathbf{s}}_u)$  and  $\hat{B}' = \prod_{s \in \hat{F}'} [d_s]$ . Then  $\hat{F}' : \hat{\mathbf{s}}_u \subseteq \mathcal{F}' : \mathbf{s}_u$ . This follows from  $d_{s_{uj}} = d_{\hat{s}_{uj}}$  for  $j \in [n_u]$ , and the amount of symbols in the projection of  $\hat{F}' : \hat{\mathbf{s}}_u$  being smaller or equal to the amount of symbols in the projection of  $\mathcal{F}' : \mathbf{s}_u$ . The first fact is true per the definition of Einsum. The second fact can be rewritten as  $|\sigma(\hat{\mathbf{s}}_u)| \leq |\sigma(\mathbf{s}_u)|$  and follows directly from the constraint  $s_{uj} = s_{uj'} \implies \hat{s}_{uj} = \hat{s}_{uj'}$  for all  $j, j' \in [n_u]$ .

Then

$$\forall \mathbf{f}' \in \mathcal{F}' : U_{\mathbf{f}':\mathbf{s}_u} = \bigoplus_{\mathbf{b}' \in \mathcal{B}'} \bigodot_{i=m+1}^{m+n} T_{(\mathbf{f}', \mathbf{b}'): \mathbf{s}_i}^{(i)}$$

and therefore

$$\forall \hat{\mathbf{f}}' \in \hat{\mathcal{F}}' : U_{\hat{\mathbf{f}}':\hat{\mathbf{s}}_u} = \bigoplus_{\mathbf{b}' \in \mathcal{B}'} \bigodot_{i=m+1}^{m+n} T_{(\hat{\mathbf{f}}', \mathbf{b}'): \hat{\mathbf{s}}_i}^{(i)}$$

because of the previous observation, and because the bound symbols of the expression, which are used in  $\mathbf{b}'$ , do not occur in  $\mathbf{s}_u$ , and are therefore not changed by the symbol map  $\nu$ . Therefore

$$U = (\hat{\mathbf{s}}_{m+1}, \dots, \hat{\mathbf{s}}_{m+n} \rightarrow \hat{\mathbf{s}}_u, T^{(m+1)}, \dots, T^{(m+n)})$$

and we can use [Theorem 1](#) for

$$V = (\mathbf{s}_1, \dots, \mathbf{s}_m, \hat{\mathbf{s}}_{m+1}, \dots, \hat{\mathbf{s}}_{m+n} \rightarrow \mathbf{s}_v, T^{(1)}, \dots, T^{(m+n)})$$

because the bound symbols of the inner expression have not been mapped to any of the symbols used in the outer expression.  $\square$

With this theorem, we can prove a property of the trace in a relatively simple manner, namely that for  $A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$ ,  $B \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times m}$ , it holds that

$$\text{trace}(A \cdot B) = \text{trace}(B \cdot A).$$

*Proof.*

$$\begin{aligned} \text{trace}(A \cdot B) &= (ll \rightarrow, (ik, kj \rightarrow ij, A, B)) \\ &= (lk, kl \rightarrow, A, B) \\ &= (kl, lk \rightarrow, B, A) \\ &= (kk \rightarrow, (il, lj \rightarrow ij, B, A)) \\ &= \text{trace}(B \cdot A) \end{aligned}$$

where the second and fourth equality hold because of [Theorem 2](#), and the third equality holds because of the commutativity of multiplication in the standard semiring.  $\square$

This is already a useful tool for compressing nested expressions, but there are still some naturally occurring expressions we cannot compress with this, e.g.:

$$A \cdot \text{diag}(v) = (ik, kj \rightarrow ij, A, (i \rightarrow ii, v))$$

for  $A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$ ,  $v \in \mathbb{R}^n$ . This is because the symbol duplication  $ii$  is broken by the index string  $kj$ , and therefore we access more entries than the ones we computed.

### 3.3 Removing Duplications

The following example is an expression, which we cannot compress with the previous theorems:

$$(ij, kl, mn, ijklmn \rightarrow ijk, A, B, C, (abc \rightarrow aabbcc, D))$$

for  $A \in \mathbb{R}^{x \times x}$ ,  $B \in \mathbb{R}^{y \times y}$ ,  $C \in \mathbb{R}^{z \times z}$ ,  $D \in \mathbb{R}^{x \times y \times z}$ . This is because duplications in  $\mathbf{s}_u = aabbcc$  are removed by the input string  $\hat{\mathbf{s}}_u = ijklmn$ . In the following theorem, we will explore how to compress expressions such as this one. Again, we use disjoint sets of symbols for the inner and outer expression to help us in the formulation and the proof.

**Theorem 3:** For  $i \in [m + n]$ , let  $T^{(i)}$  be an  $n_i$ -th order tensor with index strings  $\mathbf{s}_i \in S^{n_i}$ . Let  $\mathbf{s}_u$  be an index string for the  $n_u$ -th order tensor  $U$ , which is defined as follows:

$$U := (\mathbf{s}_{m+1}, \dots, \mathbf{s}_{m+n} \rightarrow \mathbf{s}_u, T^{(m+1)}, \dots, T^{(m+n)})$$

Also let  $\hat{\mathbf{s}}_u$  be alternative index strings for  $U$  with  $s_{uj} \neq s_{uj'} \implies \hat{s}_{uj} \neq \hat{s}_{uj'}$  for all  $j, j' \in [n_u]$ , which means that  $\hat{\mathbf{s}}_u$  can only remove symbol duplications, and cannot introduce any. Note that this is the converse of the constraint in [Theorem 2](#).

In our example,  $\mathbf{s}_u = oopp$  and  $\hat{\mathbf{s}}_u = jklm$ . This removes the symbol duplication of the first and second index, as well as the symbol duplication of the third and fourth index.

Let  $s_v$  be an index string and

$$V := (\mathbf{s}_1, \dots, \mathbf{s}_m, \hat{\mathbf{s}}_u \rightarrow \mathbf{s}_v, T^{(1)}, \dots, T^{(m)}, U)$$

where the first and second Einsum expression share no symbols. Then these nested Einsum expressions can also be compressed into a single Einsum expression.

As in [Theorem 2](#), we need to apply a symbol map before substituting  $\hat{\mathbf{s}}_u$ . Interestingly, the symbol map is not applied to the index strings of the inner expression  $(\mathbf{s}_{m+1}, \dots, \mathbf{s}_{m+n})$ , but to the index strings of the outer expression  $(\mathbf{s}_1, \dots, \mathbf{s}_m$  and  $\mathbf{s}_v)$ . Similarly, it does not map  $\mathbf{s}_u$  to  $\hat{\mathbf{s}}_u$ , but  $\hat{\mathbf{s}}_u$  to  $\mathbf{s}_u$ .

Let  $\nu : S \rightarrow S$  such that

$$\nu(s) := \begin{cases} s_{uj} & \text{if } \exists j \in [n_u] : \hat{s}_{uj} = s \\ s & \text{else} \end{cases},$$

which can be extended to map entire index strings as in [Theorem 2](#). In our example, these are the important mappings:

$$\begin{array}{lll} i \rightarrow a, & k \rightarrow b, & m \rightarrow c, \\ j \rightarrow a, & l \rightarrow b, & n \rightarrow c. \end{array}$$

This means that  $i$  and  $j$  will be iterated over at the same time,  $k$  and  $l$  will be iterated over at the same time, and  $m$  and  $n$  will be iterated over at the same time.

Let  $\hat{\mathbf{s}}_i := \nu(\mathbf{s}_i)$  for  $i \in [m]$ ,  $\hat{\mathbf{s}}_v := \nu(\mathbf{s}_v)$ , then the compressed Einsum expression is the following:

$$V = (\hat{\mathbf{s}}_1, \dots, \hat{\mathbf{s}}_m, \mathbf{s}_{m+1}, \dots, \mathbf{s}_{m+n} \rightarrow \hat{\mathbf{s}}_v, T^{(1)}, \dots, T^{(m+n)})$$

which helps us to compress the example:

$$\begin{aligned} & (ij, kl, mn, ijklmn \rightarrow ijk, A, B, C, (abc \rightarrow aabbcc, D)) \\ & = (aa, bb, cc, abc \rightarrow aab, A, B, C, D). \end{aligned}$$

Note how the index string for the output  $\mathbf{s}_v$  was changed into  $\hat{\mathbf{s}}_v$ . This will become apparent in the proof.

*Proof.* The key idea behind this proof, is that the entries of  $U$ , which were not defined in the computation, are set to the additive neutral element  $\mathbb{0}$ . This is useful, because in a semiring over some set  $M$ , the additive neutral element *annihilates*  $M$ . This means, that for any  $a \in M$ ,  $a \cdot \mathbb{0} = \mathbb{0} \cdot a = \mathbb{0}$ . Therefore, for any multi-index where  $U$  is set to  $\mathbb{0}$ ,  $V$  is

also set to  $\mathbb{0}$ . This means, that in the computation of  $V$ , only the indices which respect the duplications in  $\mathbf{s}_u$  are defined.

Let  $F, F', B, B'$  be the free and bound symbols of the outer and inner Einsum expression respectively. W.l.o.g. they are all non-empty. From them we can derive the multi-index spaces  $\mathcal{F}, \mathcal{F}', \mathcal{B}, \mathcal{B}'$  as in the definition. Then  $U_{(\mathbf{f}, \mathbf{b}) : \hat{\mathbf{s}}_u}$  is only non-zero for multi-indices  $(\mathbf{f}, \mathbf{b}) \in \mathcal{F} \times \mathcal{B}$  with  $(\mathbf{f}, \mathbf{b}) : \hat{s}_{uj} = (\mathbf{f}, \mathbf{b}) : \hat{s}_{uj'}$ , where  $j, j' \in [n_u]$  are indices of  $\mathbf{s}_u$  where the symbols are duplicated, i.e.  $s_{uj} = s_{uj'}$ . In our example, this means that  $(op \rightarrow oopp, B)$  is only non-zero for  $(j, k, l, m) \in [d_j] \times [d_k] \times [d_l] \times [d_m]$  with  $j = k$  and  $l = m$ , because  $s_{u1} = s_{u2} = o$  and  $s_{u3} = s_{u4} = p$ .

Therefore, when  $U$  is multiplied with the other tensors, the resulting entry

$$\bigodot_{i=1}^m T_{(\mathbf{f}, \mathbf{b}) : \mathbf{s}_i}^{(i)} \odot U_{(\mathbf{f}, \mathbf{b}) : \hat{\mathbf{s}}_u}$$

is only non-zero for multi-indices  $(\mathbf{f}, \mathbf{b}) \in \mathcal{F} \times \mathcal{B}$  that respect the same conditions. In our example, this is equivalent to

$$A_{ij} B_{kl} C_{mn} \odot U_{ijklmn} = \begin{cases} A_{ij} B_{kl} C_{mn} \odot U_{ijklmn} & \text{if } i = j, k = l, m = n \\ \mathbb{0} & \text{else} \end{cases}.$$

Now, this already looks like not all symbols are needed for this computation. But to see, in which way we can replace symbols, we need to consider the three ways in which duplications can be broken. Either a duplication is broken only by free symbols, only by bound symbols, or by a combination of both. In our example, we have all of these cases. The duplication  $aa$  is broken by  $i$  and  $j$ , which are both free symbols. The duplication  $cc$  is broken by  $m$  and  $n$ , which are both bound symbols. The duplication  $bb$  is broken by  $k$  and  $l$ , where  $k$  is a free symbol and  $l$  is a bound symbol. Every one of these cases leads to the same result, but in a slightly different way.

First let us consider the case where a duplication is broken only by free symbols. In this case, the free symbols that break the duplication can be replaced by a single symbol, because all entries of  $V$ , with a multi-index that does not respect the duplication, is  $\mathbb{0}$ . In our example, this is equivalent to replacing  $i$  and  $j$  by a single symbol  $a$ :

$$\begin{aligned} \forall i, j, k : V_{ijk} &= \bigoplus_{l, m, n} A_{ij} B_{kl} C_{mn} \odot U_{ijklmn} \\ \iff \forall a, k : V_{aak} &= \bigoplus_{l, m, n} A_{aa} B_{kl} C_{mn} \odot U_{aaklmn} \end{aligned}$$

For the next two cases, we need to use that  $a \oplus \mathbb{0} = a$  for any  $a \in M$ . This means, that only those summands that respect the duplications will be summed over, because all summands which do not respect the summation are  $\mathbb{0}$ . This affects the remaining two cases in different ways. If a duplication is broken only by bound symbols, then we need a single symbol to sum over all the multi-indices that respect the duplication. In our example, this is equivalent to replacing  $m$  and  $n$  by a single symbol  $c$ :

$$\bigoplus_{l, m, n} A_{aa} B_{kl} C_{mn} \odot U_{aaklmn} = \bigoplus_{l, c} A_{aa} B_{kl} C_{cc} \odot U_{aaklcc}$$

Now, if a duplication is broken by free symbols and by bound symbols, then the free symbols can again be replaced by a single symbol, as in the first case. In our example, this is useless, because there is already only one symbol  $k$  where this can be applied. Let us do it anyway, because it might clear up what needs to be done in this step.

$$\begin{aligned} \forall a, k : V_{aak} &= \bigoplus_{l,c} A_{aa} B_{kl} C_{cc} \odot U_{aaklcc} \\ \iff \forall a, b : V_{aab} &= \bigoplus_{l,c} A_{aa} B_{bl} C_{cc} \odot U_{aablcc} \end{aligned}$$

Then, the values held by the breaking bound symbols are already defined by the value held by the now only breaking free symbol. Therefore, the summation over the values of this symbol is useless, because there is only one combination of indices, which respects the duplication. Therefore, the breaking bound symbols need to hold the same exact value as the breaking free symbol, and these symbols can be replaced by the same symbol, that was used to replace the free symbols. Because of this, the occurrence of the symbol also needs to be removed from the sum. In our example, this is equivalent to replacing  $l$  by  $b$  and removing it from the sum:

$$\begin{aligned} \forall a, b : V_{aab} &= \bigoplus_{l,c} A_{aa} B_{bl} C_{cc} \odot U_{aablcc} \\ &= \bigoplus_c A_{aa} B_{bb} C_{cc} \odot U_{aabbcc} \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, in all three cases, the symbols, that break a duplication, can simply be replaced by a single symbol. Conveniently, as a replacing symbol, we can just use the symbol that defined the duplication in the first place, because the inner expression shares no symbols with the outer expression. This yields exactly the symbol map  $\nu$ . Therefore  $\hat{\mathbf{s}}_{\mathbf{u}}$ , which is the index string of  $U$  that was used in the outer expression, will be replaced by  $\mathbf{s}_{\mathbf{u}}$ , which is the index string of  $U$  that was used in the inner expression. Just as convenient is, that replacing the breaking symbols that include a combination of free and bound symbols, already removes the breaking bound symbols from the sum, because the bound symbols are by definition only those symbols, which are not free. In our example, this means that replacing  $k$  and  $l$  by  $b$  already removes  $l$  from the sum, because  $b$  is now a free symbol as well.

For the final steps, we need to define new multi-index sets to iterate and sum over. For this, let  $\hat{F} := \sigma(\hat{\mathbf{s}}_{\mathbf{v}})$  and  $\hat{B} := \left( \bigcup_{i \in [m]} \sigma(\hat{\mathbf{s}}_{\mathbf{i}}) \cup \mathbf{s}_{\mathbf{u}} \right) \setminus \sigma(\hat{\mathbf{s}}_{\mathbf{v}})$ . Let  $\hat{\mathcal{F}} = \prod_{s \in \hat{F}} [d_s]$  and  $\hat{\mathcal{B}} = \prod_{s \in \hat{B}} [d_s]$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned} V &= (\mathbf{s}_1, \dots, \mathbf{s}_m, \hat{\mathbf{s}}_{\mathbf{u}} \rightarrow \mathbf{s}_{\mathbf{v}}, T^{(1)}, \dots, T^{(m)}, U) \\ \iff \forall \mathbf{f} \in \mathcal{F} : V_{\mathbf{f}:\mathbf{s}_{\mathbf{v}}} &= \bigoplus_{\mathbf{b} \in \mathcal{B}} \bigodot_{i=1}^m T_{(\mathbf{f}, \mathbf{b}):\mathbf{s}_{\mathbf{i}}}^{(i)} \odot U_{(\mathbf{f}, \mathbf{b}):\hat{\mathbf{s}}_{\mathbf{u}}} \\ \iff \forall \hat{\mathbf{f}} \in \hat{\mathcal{F}} : V_{\hat{\mathbf{f}}:\hat{\mathbf{s}}_{\mathbf{v}}} &= \bigoplus_{\hat{\mathbf{b}} \in \hat{\mathcal{B}}} \bigodot_{i=1}^m T_{(\hat{\mathbf{f}}, \hat{\mathbf{b}}):\hat{\mathbf{s}}_{\mathbf{i}}}^{(i)} \odot U_{(\hat{\mathbf{f}}, \hat{\mathbf{b}}):\mathbf{s}_{\mathbf{u}}} \\ \iff V &= (\hat{\mathbf{s}}_1, \dots, \hat{\mathbf{s}}_m, \mathbf{s}_{\mathbf{u}} \rightarrow \hat{\mathbf{s}}_{\mathbf{v}}, T^{(1)}, \dots, T^{(m)}, U) \end{aligned}$$

where the second equivalence holds because of the previously discussed symbol replacements. Then we can use [Theorem 1](#) for

$$V = (\hat{s}_1, \dots, \hat{s}_m, s_{m+1}, \dots, s_{m+n} \rightarrow \hat{s}_v, T^{(1)}, \dots, T^{(m+n)})$$

because the symbols of the outer expression have not been mapped to any of the bound symbols of the inner expression.  $\square$

With these theorems, we can write every naturally occurring complex expression from linear algebra as a single Einsum expression. The reason for this is, that in linear algebra, only up to two indices are used for a single tensor, which means that with two index strings, it cannot happen that a duplication is removed and another duplication is introduced simultaneously. Here are some more complex expressions as examples:

- squared norm of matrix-vector multiplication: Let  $A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$ ,  $v \in \mathbb{R}^n$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned} |A \cdot v|_2^2 &= (i, i \rightarrow, (ij, j \rightarrow i, A, v), (ij, j \rightarrow i, A, v)) \\ &= (ij, j, ij, j \rightarrow, A, v, A, v) \end{aligned}$$

- trace of matrix-matrix multiplication: Let  $A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$ ,  $B \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times m}$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned} \text{trace}(A \cdot B) &= (ii \rightarrow, (ik, kj \rightarrow ij, A, B)) \\ &= (ik, ki \rightarrow, A, B) \end{aligned}$$

- matrix multiplication with a diagonal matrix: Let  $A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$ ,  $v \in \mathbb{R}^n$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned} A \cdot \text{diag}(v) &= (ik, kj \rightarrow ij, A, (i \rightarrow ii, v)) \\ &= (ij, j \rightarrow ij, A, v) \end{aligned}$$

But to write every expression from linear algebra as a single Einsum expression respectively was already possible before, with (TODO: quote Julien). With these theorems, we just derived a different way of achieving that. For this, we can state a very simple procedure. First, every function is translated to their respective Einsum expression, which results in a nested Einsum expression. Then, the nested expressions are compressed from the bottom up.

But we still do not have a way of compressing general nested Einsum expressions, where duplications might be removed and introduced simultaneously. If we could do that, then we could build a compiler that is able to compress every possible nested Einsum expression, regardless of duplications.

### 3.4 General Nested Expressions

In the final generalisation of compressing nested Einsum expressions, all duplication breaking is allowed. This has no application for linear algebra, as all the previous theorems had, because this first comes into play with third order tensors. But it still serves as a useful tool, because with it, we are able to compress every nested Einsum expression, if the nested expressions are over the same semiring.

The following example is an expression, which we cannot compress with the previous theorems:

$$(a, b, c, d, e, abbde \rightarrow bc, v^{(1)}, v^{(2)}, v^{(3)}, v^{(4)}, v^{(5)}, (i, j, k, l \rightarrow iijkkkl, v^{(6)}, v^{(7)}, v^{(8)}, v^{(9)}))$$

for  $v^{(i)} \in \mathbb{R}^{d_{vi}}$  with  $i \in [9]$  and

$$\begin{aligned} d_{v1} &= d_{v2} = d_{v6} = d_{v7}, \\ d_{v2} &= d_{v3} = d_{v8}, \\ d_{v5} &= d_{v9}. \end{aligned}$$

This is because, from the output string  $\mathbf{s}_u = iijkkkl$  to the input string  $\hat{\mathbf{s}}_u = abbde$ , duplications are simultaneously removed and introduced. For example, the duplication  $ii$  is removed by the symbols  $ab$ , and a new duplication  $bb$  is introduced on the second and third index, which holds the symbols  $ij$  in the output string. In the following theorem, we will explore how to compress such expressions. Again, we use disjoint sets of symbols for the inner and outer expression to help us in the formulation.

**Conjecture 4:** For  $i \in [m+n]$ , let  $T^{(i)}$  be an  $n_i$ -th order tensor with index strings  $\mathbf{s}_i \in S^{n_i}$ . Let  $\mathbf{s}_u$  be an index string for the  $n_u$ -th order tensor  $U$ , which is defined as follows:

$$U := (\mathbf{s}_{m+1}, \dots, \mathbf{s}_{m+n} \rightarrow \mathbf{s}_u, T^{(m+1)}, \dots, T^{(m+n)})$$

Also let  $\hat{\mathbf{s}}_u$  be alternative index strings for  $U$ .

Let  $\mathbf{s}_v$  be an index string and

$$V := (\mathbf{s}_1, \dots, \mathbf{s}_m, \hat{\mathbf{s}}_u \rightarrow \mathbf{s}_v, T^{(1)}, \dots, T^{(m)}, U)$$

where the first and second Einsum expression share no symbols. Then these nested Einsum expressions can also be compressed into a single Einsum expression.

Once again, a map  $\nu : S \rightarrow S$  has to be applied to the index strings before substituting index strings. The definition of the map this time is somewhat more complex. As in the previous two theorems, this map holds information about which symbols are essentially used together as one index.

For the definition of the map  $\nu$ , we first construct an undirected graph  $G = (V, E)$  that we call *symbol graph*. In the symbol graph, the nodes consist of all symbols from both expressions. The edges are  $E = \{\{s_{uj}, \hat{s}_{uj}\} \mid j \in [n_u]\}$ , which connects all

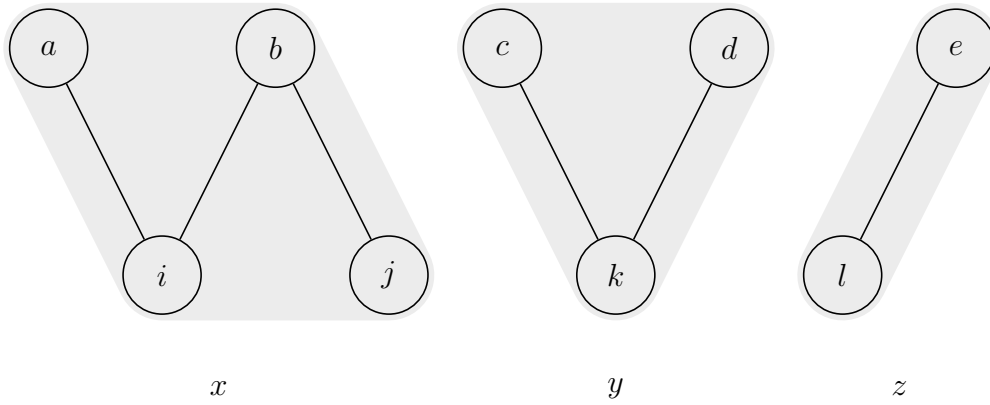
symbols from  $\mathbf{s}_u$  and  $\hat{\mathbf{s}}_u$  that share an index. The symbol graph for our example is displayed in Figure 3.1.

In the symbol graph, if two symbols are connected, then they need to be iterated over at the same time in the compressed expression, because they are essentially the same index. Therefore, it makes sense assigning a symbol  $s_C \in S \setminus V$  to each of the graphs components  $C$ . Then we can define  $\nu$  as follows:

$$\nu(s) := \begin{cases} s_C & \text{if } s \in C \\ s & \text{else} \end{cases},$$

which can be extended to map entire index strings as in Theorem 2. In our example, the components are  $\{a, b, i, j\}$ ,  $\{c, d, k\}$ , and  $\{e, l\}$ . Therefore we could use

$$\nu(s) := \begin{cases} x & \text{if } s \in \{a, b, i, j\} \\ y & \text{if } s \in \{c, d, k\} \\ z & \text{if } s \in \{e, l\} \\ s & \text{else} \end{cases}.$$



**Figure 3.1:** Symbol graph for the example

In this general form, this map is applied to all index strings from both expressions before the substitution. Let  $\hat{\mathbf{s}}_i := \nu(\mathbf{s}_i)$  for  $i \in [m + n]$ ,  $\hat{\mathbf{s}}_v := \nu(\mathbf{s}_v)$ , then the compressed Einsum expression is the following:

$$V = (\hat{\mathbf{s}}_1, \dots, \hat{\mathbf{s}}_{m+n} \rightarrow \hat{\mathbf{s}}_v, T^{(1)}, \dots, T^{(m+n)})$$

which helps us to compress the example:

$$\begin{aligned} & (a, b, c, d, e, abbde \rightarrow bc, v^{(1)}, v^{(2)}, v^{(3)}, v^{(4)}, v^{(5)}, (i, j, k, l \rightarrow iijkkkl, v^{(6)}, v^{(7)}, v^{(8)}, v^{(9)})) \\ & = (x, x, y, y, z, x, x, y, z \rightarrow xy, v^{(1)}, v^{(2)}, v^{(3)}, v^{(4)}, v^{(5)}, v^{(6)}, v^{(7)}, v^{(8)}, v^{(9)}). \end{aligned}$$



## 4 Translating Inference

### 4.1 Computational Advantages

Query Language, faster inference, stuff like that. How can it be faster?

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### 4.2 Fully Connected Feed-Forward Net

A single layer of a fully connected Feed-Forward Neural Net with ReLU activations can be expressed as a nested Einsum expression, with the use of multiple semirings. For this, let

- $R_{(+,\cdot)}$  be the standard semiring  $(\mathbb{R}, +, \cdot)$ ,
- $R_{(\max,+)}$  be the tropical semiring  $(\mathbb{R} \cup \{-\infty\}, \max, +)$ ,
- $R_{(\min,\max)}$  be the minimax semiring  $(\mathbb{R} \cup \{-\infty, +\infty\}, \min, \max)$ .

Let  $\nu : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$  be the function that computes the output of the layer for a given input vector  $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ , with weights  $A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$  and biases  $b \in \mathbb{R}^m$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned}\nu(x) &= \max(Ax + b, 0) \\ &= (i, i \rightarrow i, 0, (i, i \rightarrow i, b, (ij, j \rightarrow i, A, x)_{R_{(+, \cdot)}})_{R_{(\max, +)}})_{R_{(\min, \max)}}.\end{aligned}$$

A multi-layer network can be achieved by nesting the respective Einsum expressions of each layer.

Because each level of nesting needs a different semiring, we can not use the theorems from [Chapter 3](#) to compress the expression. But if we could find a way of compressing the massively nested expressions of deeper neural networks despite of that, then we could benefit from the advantages mentioned in [Section 4.1](#) such as the optimisation of contraction paths. Unfortunately, it is unlikely that this is possible, because we found that expanding the matrix multiplication, that transforms the outputs of another layer, results in an exponentially big term.

To see this, we use the tropical semiring  $(\mathbb{R}, \oplus, \odot)$ , where  $a \oplus b = \max(a, b)$  and  $a \odot b = a + b$ . We do this because tropical semiring can naturally express all the operations used in a fully connected neural network. For this we need to define the tropical power:

$$a^{\odot n} = \underbrace{a \odot a \odot \dots \odot a}_{n \text{ times}}$$

for  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . The following property of the tropical power is also needed:

$$(a^{\odot b})^{\odot c} = a^{\odot(b+c)}.$$

The tropical semiring also allows us to use the distributive law of maximization and addition

$$a \odot (b \oplus c) = a \odot b \oplus a \odot c,$$

as well as the distributive law of addition and multiplication

$$(a \odot b)^{\odot n} = a^{\odot n} \odot b^{\odot n},$$

and the distributive law of maximization and multiplication, which is restricted on natural numbers

$$(a \oplus b)^{\odot n} = a^{\odot n} \oplus b^{\odot n}.$$

Let  $\nu : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^l$  be the function that computes the output of a two-layer fully connected neural network ( $n \rightarrow m \rightarrow l$  neurons) with ReLU activations, which maps inputs  $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$  to outputs  $\nu(y) \in \mathbb{R}^l$ , with parameters  $A^{(0)} \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$ ,  $A^{(1)} \in \mathbb{R}^{l \times m}$ ,  $b^{(0)} \in \mathbb{R}^m$ ,  $b^{(1)} \in \mathbb{R}^l$ . Then the computation of the neural network is:

$$\nu(x) = \max(A^{(1)} \max(A^{(0)}x + b^{(0)}, 0) + b^{(1)}, 0)$$

In order to reasonably work with matrix multiplication in the tropical semiring, we can only view matrices with positive integer entries. This is not a limitation,

because making the entries integers does not impact the strength of the neural network, because [...] (quote the paper).

In order to only use positive valued matrices, we can rewrite the expression of computing the next layer from a previous layer:

$$\begin{aligned}\max(Ax + b, 0) &= \max(A_+x - A_-x + b, A_-x - A_-x) \\ &= \max(A_+x + b, A_-x) - A_-x\end{aligned}$$

where  $A_+ = \max(A, 0)$ ,  $A_- = \max(-A, 0)$  and therefore  $A = A_+ - A_-$ . This turns the network output into a tropical rational function (quote):

$$\begin{aligned}\nu(x) &= \max(\overbrace{A_+^{(1)} \max(A_+^{(0)}x + b^{(0)}, A_-^{(0)}x)}^z + A_-^{(1)}A_+^{(0)}x + b^{(1)}, \\ &\quad A_-^{(1)} \max(A_+^{(0)}x + b^{(0)}, A_-^{(0)}x) + A_+^{(1)}A_+^{(0)}x \\ &\quad - [A_-^{(1)} \max(A_+^{(0)}x + b^{(0)}, A_-^{(0)}x) + A_+^{(1)}A_+^{(0)}x])\end{aligned}$$

We focus on the subexpression  $z$ , which makes the calculation a bit simpler, but keeps the point.

Now, if we want to avoid switching semirings, we need to apply the distributive law multiple times.

$$\begin{aligned}z &= A_+^{(1)} \max(A_+^{(0)}x + b^{(0)}, A_-^{(0)}x) \\ z_i &= \bigodot_{j=1}^m \left( b_j^{(0)} \odot \bigodot_{k=1}^n x_k^{\odot A_{jk+}^{(0)}} \oplus \bigodot_{k=1}^n x_k^{\odot A_{jk-}^{(0)}} \right)^{\odot A_{ij+}^{(1)}} \\ &= \bigodot_{j=1}^m \left( \left( b_j^{(0)} \right)^{\odot A_{ij+}^{(1)}} \odot \bigodot_{k=1}^n x_k^{\odot (A_{ij+}^{(1)} + A_{jk+}^{(0)})} \oplus \bigodot_{k=1}^n x_k^{\odot (A_{ij+}^{(1)} + A_{jk-}^{(0)})} \right) \\ &= \bigoplus_{J \in 2^{[m]}} \bigodot_{j \in J} \left[ \left( b_j^{(0)} \right)^{\odot A_{ij+}^{(1)}} \odot \bigodot_{k=1}^n x_k^{\odot (A_{ij+}^{(1)} + A_{jk+}^{(0)})} \right] \odot \bigodot_{j \in [n] \setminus J} \left[ \bigodot_{k=1}^n x_k^{\odot (A_{ij+}^{(1)} + A_{jk-}^{(0)})} \right]\end{aligned}$$

Where the second equality is just the first equality written with the operations of the tropical semiring, the third equality follows from the distributive law of standard addition and multiplication and the distributive law of maximization and multiplication, and the last equality follows from the distributive law of maximization and addition.

This expression maximizes over a number of subexpressions that grows exponentially in the width of the inner layer. Which subexpressions can be removed before the evaluation remains an open question. Note that it depends on the non-linearities of the neural network, which might make it hard to find a general answer to this question.

### 4.3 Attention

For  $Q \in \mathbb{R}^{d_v \times d_k}$ ,  $K \in \mathbb{R}^{d_v \times d_k}$ ,  $V \in \mathbb{R}^{d_v \times d_v}$ , the attention mechanism is the following:

$$\text{Attention}(Q, K, V) = \text{softmax} \left( \frac{QK^\top}{\sqrt{d_K}} \right) V.$$

It is comprised of multiple steps, which can all be expressed with Einsum expressions and element-wise operations:

- matrix multiplication  $QK^\top$ :

$$\begin{aligned} (QK^\top)_{ij} &= \sum_{k \in [d_k]} Q_{ik} K_{jk} \\ QK^\top &= (ik, jk \rightarrow ij, Q, K) \end{aligned}$$

- scaling by  $\sqrt{d_k}$  (no Einsum needed)
- normalizing with softmax: Let  $X \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$ , then

$$\text{softmax}(X)_{ij} := \frac{\exp(X_{ij})}{\omega_i}$$

where

$$\omega_i := \sum_{j \in [n]} \exp(X_{ij}).$$

Therefore

$$\text{softmax}(X) = (ij, i \rightarrow ij, \exp(X), 1/(ij \rightarrow i, \exp(X)))$$

- another matrix multiplication with  $V$ . Let  $X \in \mathbb{R}^{d_v \times d_v}$ :

$$XV = (ik, kj \rightarrow ij, X, V)$$

Then the whole attention mechanism can be expressed with Einsum expressions and

the use of element-wise operations:

$$\begin{aligned}
\text{Attention}(Q, K, V) &= \text{softmax} \left( \frac{QK^\top}{\sqrt{d_K}} \right) V \\
&= (ik, kj \rightarrow ij, (ij, i \rightarrow ij, \exp(\frac{1}{\sqrt{d_k}} \cdot (ik, jk \rightarrow ij, Q, K))), \\
&\quad 1/(ij \rightarrow i, \exp(\frac{1}{\sqrt{d_k}} \cdot (ik, jk \rightarrow ij, Q, K))))), V) \\
&= (ik, kj, k \rightarrow ij, \exp(\frac{1}{\sqrt{d_k}} \cdot (ik, jk \rightarrow ij, Q, K)) \\
&\quad 1/(ij \rightarrow i, \exp(\frac{1}{\sqrt{d_k}} \cdot (ik, jk \rightarrow ij, Q, K))))), V)
\end{aligned}$$

## 4.4 Discrete Fourier Transform

Let  $T$  be an  $n$ -th order tensor where all axes have size  $m$ . Then the Discrete Fourier Transform  $\text{DFT}(T)$  is the  $n$ -th order tensor where all axes have size  $m$  with:

$$\text{DFT}(T)_{x_1, \dots, x_n} = \sum_{y_1, \dots, y_n \in [m]} T_{y_1, \dots, y_n} \cdot \prod_{j+k \leq n+1} \exp \left( -i2\pi \frac{(x_j - 1)(y_k - 1)}{m^{n-j-k+2}} \right)$$

for  $x_1, \dots, x_n \in [m]$ . This formulation of the DFT is slightly rewritten form of the formulation by (author) in [quote].

To write the DFT as an Einsum expression, we need to define  $\binom{n+1}{2}$  matrices  $T^{(j,k)} \in \mathbb{C}^{m \times m}$  for  $j+k \leq n+1$  in the following way:

$$T_{x_j y_k}^{(j,k)} := \exp \left( -i2\pi \frac{(x_j - 1)(y_k - 1)}{m^{n-j-k+2}} \right)$$

for  $x_j, y_k \in [m]$ . Then

$$\text{DFT}(T)_{x_1, \dots, x_n} = \sum_{y_1, \dots, y_n \in [m]} T_{y_1, \dots, y_n} \cdot \prod_{j+k \leq n+1} T_{x_j y_k}^{(j,k)}$$

for  $x_1, \dots, x_n \in [m]$ . Therefore the DFT can be written as an Einsum expression with index strings consisting of symbols  $s_{x_i}$  and  $s_{y_j}$  for  $j, k \in [n]$ :

- $\mathbf{s}_x = s_{x1} \dots s_{xn}$
- $\mathbf{s}_y = s_{y1} \dots s_{yn}$
- $\mathbf{s}_{j,k} = s_{xj} s_{yk}$  for  $j, k \in [n]$

With these index strings, the Einsum expression for a general DFT over any number of dimensions is the following:

$$\text{DFT}(T) = (\mathbf{s}_y, \mathbf{s}_{1,1}, \dots, \mathbf{s}_{1,n}, \mathbf{s}_{2,1}, \dots, \mathbf{s}_{2,n-1}, \dots, \mathbf{s}_{n,1} \rightarrow \mathbf{s}_x, \\ T, T^{(1,1)}, \dots, T^{(1,n)}, T^{(2,1)}, \dots, T^{(2,n-1)}, \dots, T^{(n,1)})$$

Because this notation is hard to read, we will explore an example of the DFT of a third-order tensor with axes of size 32. In this example, we have to define 6 matrices  $T^{(1,1)}$ ,  $T^{(1,2)}$ ,  $T^{(1,3)}$ ,  $T^{(2,1)}$ ,  $T^{(2,2)}$ , and  $T^{(3,1)}$ . We will use  $a, b, c$  as symbols for the indices of  $T$ , and  $x, y, z$  as the symbols for the indices of  $\text{DFT}(T)$ . Then the matrices are defined in the following way:

$$\begin{aligned} T_{xa}^{(1,1)} &= \exp\left(-i2\pi \frac{(x-1)(a-1)}{32^3}\right) & T_{xc}^{(1,3)} &= \exp\left(-i2\pi \frac{(x-1)(c-1)}{32}\right) \\ T_{xb}^{(1,2)} &= \exp\left(-i2\pi \frac{(x-1)(b-1)}{32^2}\right) & T_{yb}^{(2,2)} &= \exp\left(-i2\pi \frac{(y-1)(b-1)}{32}\right) \\ T_{ya}^{(2,1)} &= \exp\left(-i2\pi \frac{(y-1)(a-1)}{32^2}\right) & T_{za}^{(3,1)} &= \exp\left(-i2\pi \frac{(z-1)(a-1)}{32}\right) \end{aligned}$$

for  $x, y, z, a, b, c \in [32]$ . Then the Einsum expression is the following:

$$\text{DFT}(T) = (abc, xa, xb, xc, ya, yb, za \rightarrow xyz, \\ T, T^{(1,1)}, T^{(1,2)}, T^{(1,3)}, T^{(2,1)}, T^{(2,2)}, T^{(3,1)})$$

The inverse transform is analogue with

$$\hat{T}_{x_j y_k}^{(j,k)} := \exp\left(i2\pi \frac{(x_j-1)(y_k-1)}{m^{n-j-k+2}}\right).$$

## 4.5 Hadamard Transform

Let  $T$  be an  $n$ -th order tensor where all axes have size  $m$ . Then the Hadamard Transform  $H(T)$  is the  $n$ -th order tensor where all axes have size  $m$  with:

$$H(T)_{x_1 \dots x_n} = \sum_{y_1, \dots, y_n \in [m]} T_{y_1 \dots y_n} (-1)^{x_1 y_1 + \dots + x_n y_n}$$

for  $x_1, \dots, x_n \in [m]$ .

Then we can define  $n$  matrices  $T^{(i)} \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times m}$  for  $i \in n$ :

$$T_{x_i y_i}^{(i)} = (-1)^{x_i y_i}$$

for  $x_i, y_i \in [m]$ . Then

$$H(T)_{x_1 \dots x_n} = \sum_{y_1 \dots y_n \in [m]} T_{y_1 \dots y_n} \cdot \prod_{i \in [n]} T_{x_i y_i}^{(i)}$$

for  $x_1, \dots, x_n \in [m]$ . Therefore the Hadamard Transform can be written as an Einsum expression with index strings consisting of symbols  $s_{xi}$  and  $s_{yj}$  for  $j, k \in [n]$ :

- $\mathbf{s_x} = s_{x1} \dots s_{xn}$
- $\mathbf{s_y} = s_{y1} \dots s_{yn}$
- $\mathbf{s_i} = s_{xi} s_{yi}$  for  $i \in [n]$

Then

$$H(T) = (\mathbf{s_y}, \mathbf{s_1}, \dots, \mathbf{s_n} \rightarrow \mathbf{s_x}, T, T^{(1)}, \dots, T^{(n)}).$$

## 4.6 Convolution

Let  $F$  and  $G$  be two  $n$ -th order tensors where all axes of  $F$  have size  $d_F$  and all axes of  $G$  have size  $d_G$  with  $d_F < d_G$ . Let  $d_O = d_G - d_F + 1$ . Then the convolution  $F * G$  is defined in the following way:

$$(F * G)_x := \sum_{y \in [d_F]^n} F_y \cdot G_{x+d_F-y}$$

for all  $x \in [d_O]^n$ , where  $x+d_F-y$  indicates the element-wise addition  $(x+d_F-y)_i = x_i + d_F - y_i$  for  $i \in [n]$ . Let

$$G'_{(x,y)} := G_{x+d_F-y}$$

for  $x \in [d_O]^n, y \in [d_F]^n$ . Then

$$(F * G)_x = \sum_{y \in [d_F]^n} F_y G'_{(x,y)}.$$

Let

$$P_{(x,y,z)} = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } z = x + d_F - y \\ 0 & \text{else} \end{cases}$$

for  $x \in [d_O]^n, y \in [d_F]^n, z \in [d_G]^n$ . Then

$$G'_{(x,y)} = \sum_{z \in [d_G]^n} P_{(x,y,z)} G_z.$$

Therefore, convolution can be expressed as an Einsum expression:

$$(F * G) = ((\mathbf{s_x}, \mathbf{s_y}, \mathbf{s_z}), \mathbf{s_y}, \mathbf{s_z} \rightarrow \mathbf{s_x}, P, F, G)$$

where  $\mathbf{s}_x, \mathbf{s}_y, \mathbf{s}_z \in S^n$  use distinct symbols.

The manual computation of the design tensor  $P$  is quite expensive, and therefore this expression could be inefficient. It could lead to a more efficient computation, if this design tensor could be expressed as an *outer product* of 2 or more smaller tensors. Sadly, this is not possible.

*Proof.* To prove this, we will first show that, if  $P$  can be expressed as an outer product, then the factors also have to be scaled design tensors. Then we will give an example of a convolution, where  $P$  can not be expressed as an outer product of design tensors.

Let  $U$  be an  $m$ -th order tensor, and  $V$  an  $(3n - m)$ -th order tensor for  $1 \leq m < 3n$ . Let  $\mathbf{s}_u \in S^m$  be the index string for  $U$ , and let  $\mathbf{s}_v \in S^{3n-m}$  be the index string for  $V$  such that  $\mathbf{s}_u$  and  $\mathbf{s}_v$  use distinct symbols. Then  $P$  being the outer product of  $U$  and  $V$  means

$$P = (\mathbf{s}_u, \mathbf{s}_v \rightarrow (\mathbf{s}_u, \mathbf{s}_v), U, V)$$

up to reordering of axes.

Let  $u$  and  $v$  be entries of  $U$  and  $V$  respectively, and let  $\mathbf{i}_u$  and  $\mathbf{i}_v$  be a multi-index of  $U$  and  $V$  respectively, where this value occurs. Then the value  $u \cdot v$  occurs in  $P$  at the multi-index  $(\mathbf{i}_u, \mathbf{i}_v)$ . Therefore, if the sets of values contained in  $U$  and  $V$  are not of the form  $\{0, c\}$  and  $\{0, \frac{1}{c}\}$  for some  $c \in \mathbb{R}$ , then we can produce more values than 0 and 1 in  $P$ . Therefore  $U$  and  $V$  must be design tensors that were scaled by  $c$  and  $\frac{1}{c}$  respectively for some  $c \in \mathbb{R}$ .

W.l.o.g. we now assume that  $U$  and  $V$  are both unscaled design tensors, because if

$$P = (\mathbf{s}_u, \mathbf{s}_v \rightarrow (\mathbf{s}_u, \mathbf{s}_v), cU, \frac{1}{c}V)$$

then

$$\begin{aligned} P &= c \cdot \frac{1}{c} \cdot (\mathbf{s}_u, \mathbf{s}_v \rightarrow (\mathbf{s}_u, \mathbf{s}_v), U, V) \\ &= (\mathbf{s}_u, \mathbf{s}_v \rightarrow (\mathbf{s}_u, \mathbf{s}_v), U, V). \end{aligned}$$

Consider a convolution  $F * G$  of vectors  $F \in \mathbb{R}^2$  and  $G \in \mathbb{R}^3$ . Then

$$(F * G)_x = \sum_{y \in [2]} F_y G_{x+2-y}$$

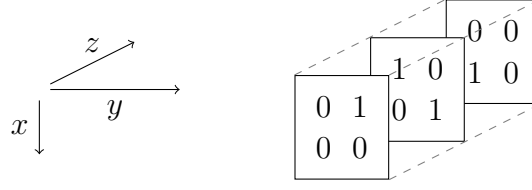
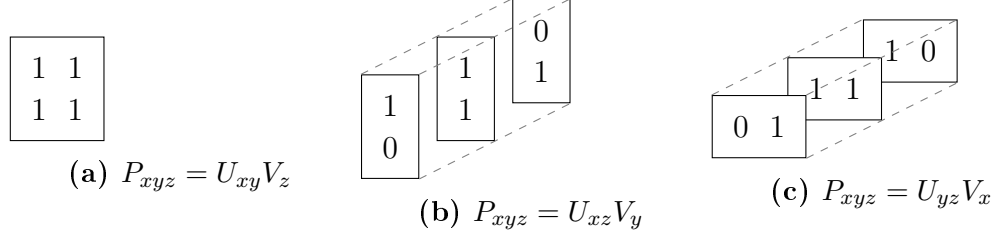
for  $x \in [2]$ , and

$$P_{(x,y,z)} = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } z = x + 2 - y \\ 0 & \text{else} \end{cases}$$

for  $x \in [2], y \in [2], z \in [3]$ . This is illustrated in [Figure 4.1](#).

Now, the only two possibilities for  $m$  are  $m = 1$  and  $m = 2$ , because  $n = 1$  and therefore  $1 \leq m < 3$ . This means,  $U$  and  $V$  are a matrix and a vector. W.l.o.g. we assume that  $U$



**Figure 4.1:**  $P$  for  $F \in \mathbb{R}^2$  and  $G \in \mathbb{R}^3$ **Figure 4.2:** Possibilities for  $U$  in the factorization of  $P$ 

is a matrix and  $V$  is a vector. Then for  $U$  to be a matrix and a factor of  $P$ , there are only three possibilities:

$$\begin{aligned} P_{xyz} &= U_{xy}V_z, \\ P_{xyz} &= U_{xz}V_y, \\ P_{xyz} &= U_{yz}V_x. \end{aligned}$$

In the first case, it has to hold that  $U_{xy} = 1$  where  $P_{xyz} = 1$  for any  $z \in [3]$ , because otherwise, no design tensor  $V$  could produce the entry  $P_{xyz} = 1$ . For the other two cases, the analogue fact holds: all the entries, where missing index exists such that  $P_{xyz} = 1$ , have to hold one as well. And unless  $V$  is full of zeros (which it cannot be), the converse is true as well, meaning if all entries of the missing index hold  $P_{xyz} = 0$ , then the entry in  $U$  also has to hold zero. Therefore there is only possibility for  $U$  for each of the cases, which are illustrated in Figure 4.2:

$$\begin{aligned} P_{xyz} &= U_{xy}V_z & U &= \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \\ P_{xyz} &= U_{xz}V_y & U &= \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \\ P_{xyz} &= U_{yz}V_x & U &= \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, the multiplication with  $V$  has to spread out the ones across different values of the missing index, which is not possible, because depending on the entries of  $V$  on the missing index:

- if  $V$  is one at a value of the missing index, then  $P$  is a copy of  $U$  at this value of the missing index, and
- if  $V$  is zero at a value of the missing index, then  $P$  is zero at this value of the missing index.

Therefore, there is no factorization of  $P$  when  $F \in \mathbb{R}^2$  and  $G \in \mathbb{R}^3$ , which means  $P$  can not generally be expressed as an outer product of two lower-order tensors.  $\square$

## 4.7 Max-Pooling

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## 5 Results

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## 7 Conclusion

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# List of Figures

3.1	Symbol graph for the example . . . . .	18
4.1	$P$ for $F \in \mathbb{R}^2$ and $G \in \mathbb{R}^3$ . . . . .	27
4.2	Possibilities for $U$ in the factorization of $P$ . . . . .	27



## List of Tables



# Proofs





# Selbstständigkeitserklärung

Ich erkläre, dass ich die vorliegende Arbeit selbstständig und nur unter Verwendung der angegebenen Quellen und Hilfsmittel angefertigt habe. Seitens des Verfassers bestehen keine Einwände die vorliegende Bachelorarbeit für die öffentliche Benutzung im Universitätsarchiv zur Verfügung zu stellen.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Wenig', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Jena, 29.06.2023