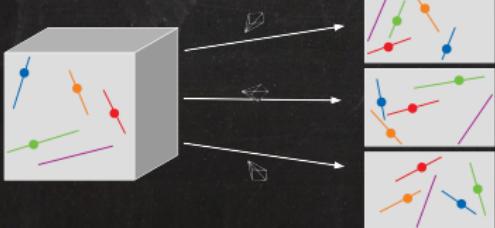


What is Nonlinear Algebra?

Kathlén Kohn

KTH Stockholm

June 10, 2020



Linear algebra

All undergraduate students learn about Gaussian elimination, a general method for solving linear systems of algebraic equations:

Input:

$$x + 2y + 3z = 5$$

$$7x + 11y + 13z = 17$$

$$19x + 23y + 29z = 31$$

Output:

$$x = -35/18$$

$$y = 2/9$$

$$z = 13/6$$

Solving very large linear systems is central to applied mathematics.

Non-linear algebra

Lucky students also learn about **Gröbner bases**, a general method for non-linear systems of algebraic equations:

Input:

$$x^2 + y^2 + z^2 = 2$$

$$x^3 + y^3 + z^3 = 3$$

$$x^4 + y^4 + z^4 = 4$$

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Output: $3z^{12} - 12z^{10} - 12z^9 + 12z^8 + 72z^7 - 66z^6 - 12z^4 + 12z^3 - 1 = 0$

$$\begin{aligned} & 4y^2 + (36z^{11} + 54z^{10} - 69z^9 - 252z^8 - 216z^7 + 573z^6 + 72z^5 \\ & \quad - 12z^4 - 99z^3 + 10z + 3) \cdot y + 36z^{11} + 48z^{10} - 72z^9 \\ & \quad - 234z^8 - 192z^7 + 564z^6 - 48z^5 + 96z^4 - 96z^3 + 10z^2 + 8 = 0 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} & 4x + 4y + 36z^{11} + 54z^{10} - 69z^9 - 252z^8 - 216z^7 \\ & \quad + 573z^6 + 72z^5 - 12z^4 - 99z^3 + 10z + 3 = 0 \end{aligned}$$

This is very hard for large systems, but ...

The world is non-linear!

Many models in the sciences and engineering are characterized by polynomial equations. Such a set is an algebraic variety $X \subset \mathbb{R}^n$.

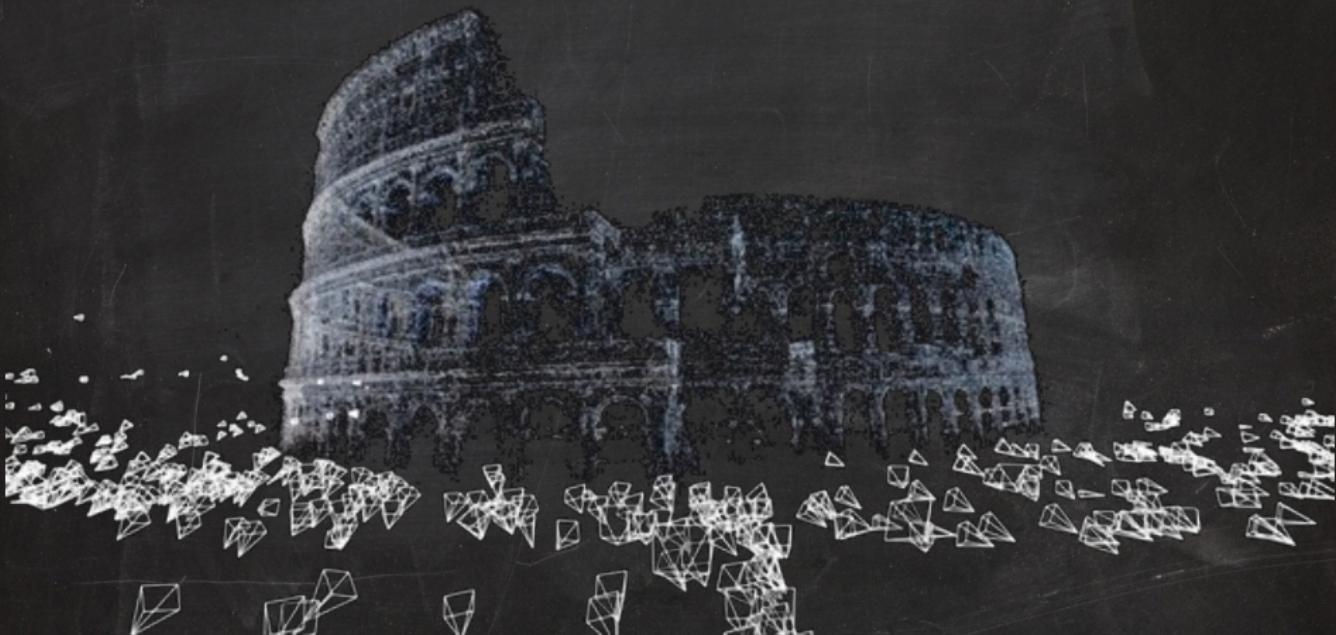
- ◆ computer vision
- ◆ algebraic statistics
- ◆ machine learning
- ◆ optimization
- ◆ ...



Computer Vision

Structure from Motion

Reconstruct 3D scenes and camera poses from 2D images



Rome in a Day: S. Agarwal, Y. Furukawa, N. Snavely, I. Simon, S. Seitz, R. Szeliski

Reconstruct 3D scenes and camera poses from 2D images

- ◆ Step 1: Identify common points and lines on given images



- ◆ Step 2: Reconstruct coordinates of 3D points and lines as well as camera poses

Reconstruct 3D scenes and camera poses from 2D images

- ◆ Step 1: Identify common points and lines on given images



- ◆ Step 2: Reconstruct coordinates of 3D points and lines as well as camera poses

⇒ This is an algebraic problem!

 What is a camera? 

A **camera** is a 3×4 matrix C which takes pictures of points in projective 3-space via

$$\mathbb{P}^3 \longrightarrow \mathbb{P}^2,$$

$$P \longmapsto CP.$$

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 What is a camera? 

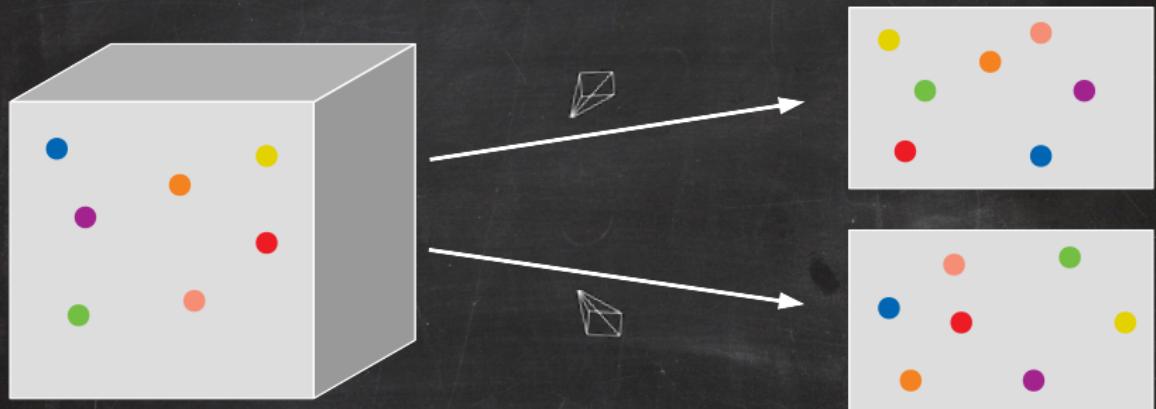
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- ◆ Each camera matrix C is a point in \mathbb{P}^{11} .
- ◆ There can be restrictions on the camera matrix C , e.g. by assuming that the focal length of the camera is known.

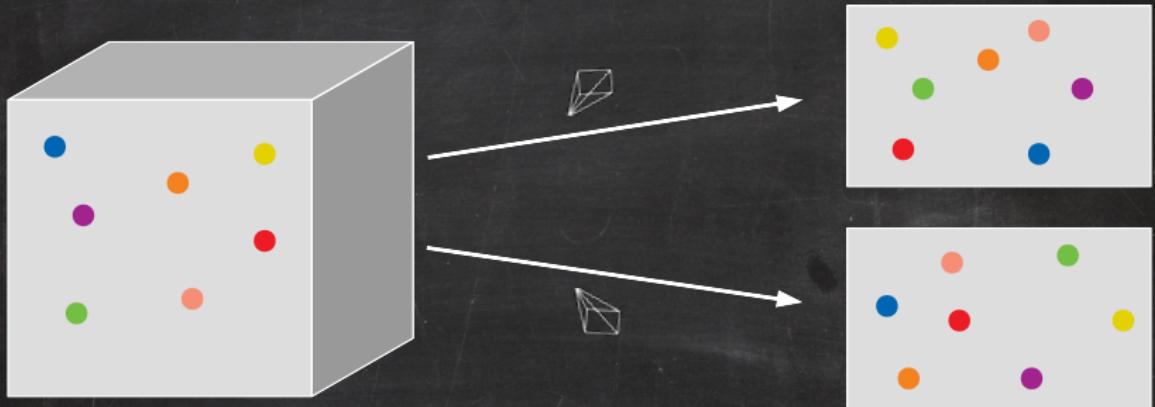
7-point problem

Given 2 images of 7 points,
can we recover the 7 points in 3D and the 2 cameras?



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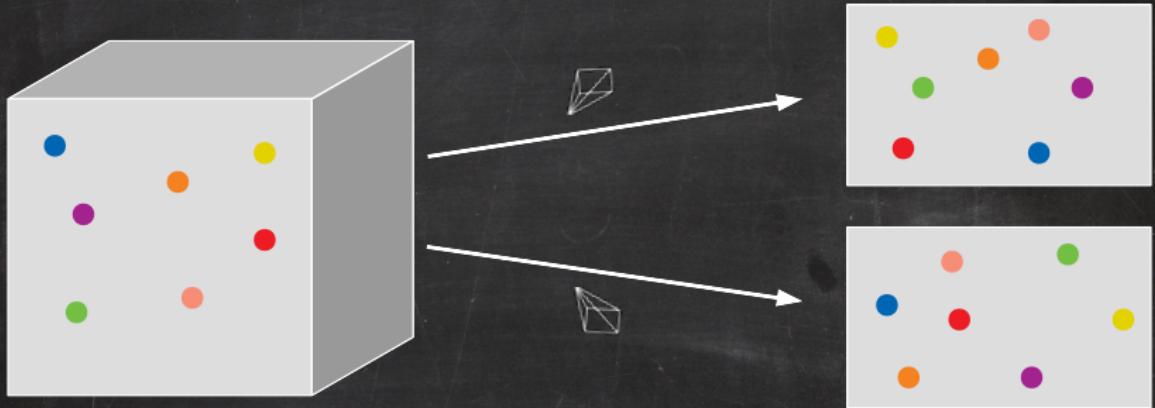
Formally, we study the **joint camera map**

$$\Phi : (\mathbb{P}^3)^7 \times (\mathbb{P}^{11})^2 \dashrightarrow (\mathbb{P}^2)^{14},$$

$$(P_1, \dots, P_7, C_1, C_2) \longmapsto (C_1 P_1, \dots, C_1 P_7, C_2 P_1, \dots, C_2 P_7),$$

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and given a point in its image $x \in (\mathbb{P}^2)^{14}$ we ask for its **fiber** $\Phi^{-1}(x)$.

7-point problem

The projective linear group $\mathrm{PGL}(4)$ acts on the fibers $\Phi^{-1}(x)$ via

$$g \cdot (P_1, \dots, P_7, C_1, C_2) = (gP_1, \dots, gP_7, C_1g^{-1}, C_2g^{-1}).$$

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- ◆ we can adapt the joint camera map:

$$\Phi : \left((\mathbb{P}^3)^7 \times (\mathbb{P}^{11})^2 \right) / \mathrm{PGL}(4) \dashrightarrow (\mathbb{P}^2)^{14}$$

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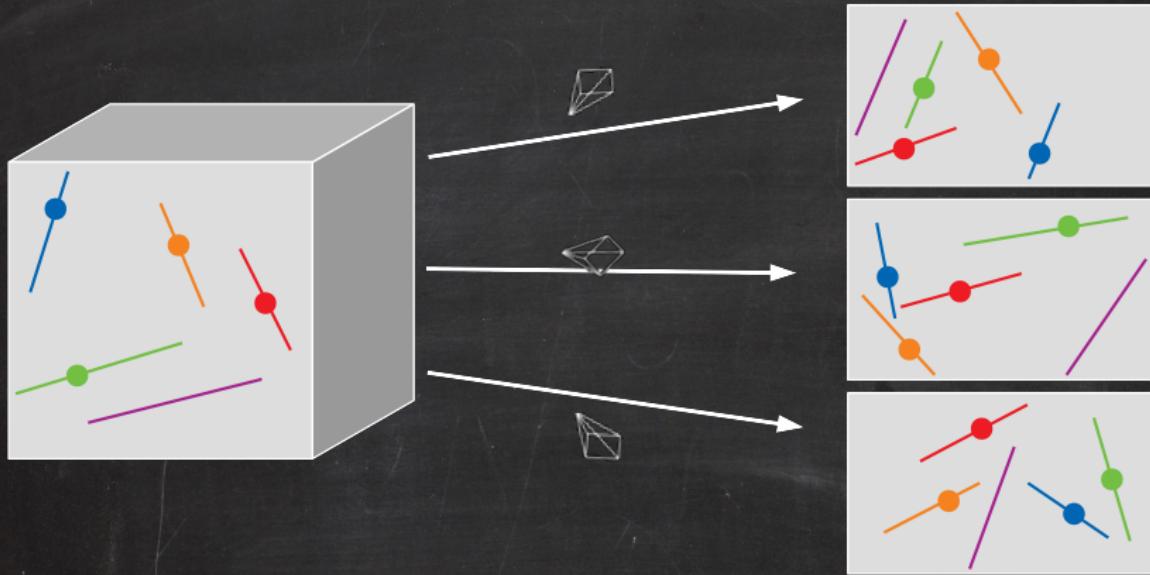
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- ◆ its fibers are **generically finite!**
in fact, over \mathbb{C} , there are generically **3** solutions to the 7-point problem
- ◆ solving naively: **28** quadratic equations in **28** unknowns

A more complicated finite problem



Incidences are modeled by **flag varieties**: $\mathcal{F}_k := \{(P, L) \in \mathbb{P}^k \times \text{Gr}(1, \mathbb{P}^k) \mid P \in L\}$

joint camera map:

$$\Phi : \left(\text{Gr}(1, \mathbb{P}^3) \times (\mathcal{F}_3)^4 \times (\mathbb{P}^{11})^3 \right) / \text{PGL}(4) \dashrightarrow \text{Gr}(1, \mathbb{P}^2)^3 \times (\mathcal{F}_2)^{12}$$

Algebraic Statistics

Reconstruct probability distributions from moments

Central question:

Let $\{\mu_\theta \mid \theta \in \Theta\}$ be a family of probability distributions on \mathbb{R}^d . Can we recover a distribution in the family if we know enough of its **moments**?

$$m_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_d}(\mu_\theta) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} w_1^{i_1} w_2^{i_2} \cdots w_d^{i_d} d\mu_\theta \quad \text{for } i_1, i_2, \dots, i_d \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$$

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Example:

Let $\Theta = \{(a, b) \in \mathbb{R}^2 \mid a \leq b\}$ be the space of **line segments** in \mathbb{R} .

Let $\mu_{(a,b)}$ be the uniform probability distributions on the line segment (a, b) .

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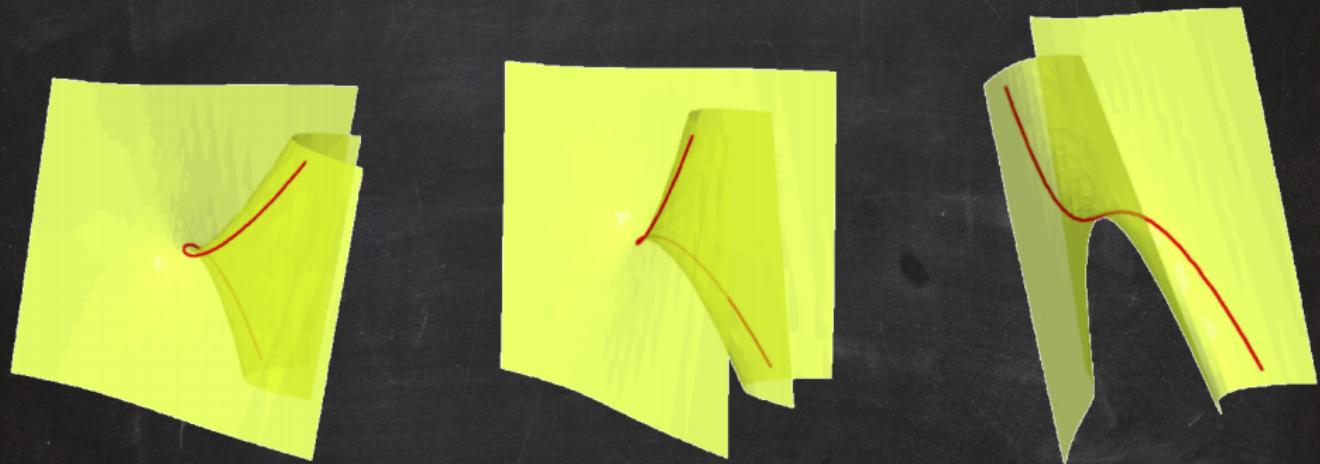
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The first two moments m_1, m_2 yield two solutions (a, b) ,
but only one with $a \leq b$.

Example: line segments

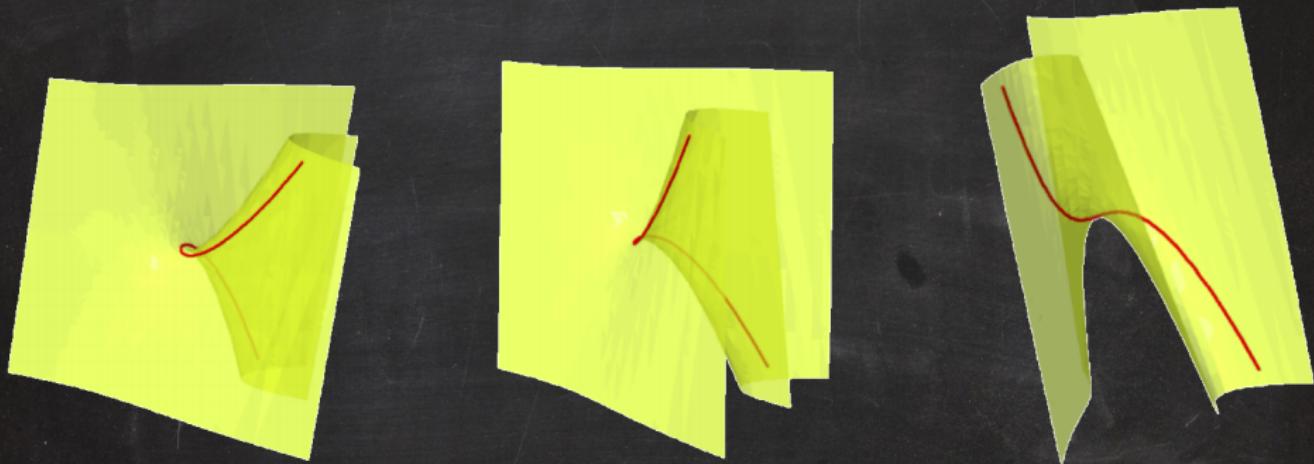
The moments m_1, m_2, \dots, m_r of a line segment (a, b) are not algebraically independent! **The lie on a surface in \mathbb{R}^r .**



- ♦ for $r = 3$, the surface is defined by $2m_1^3 - 3m_1m_2 + m_3 = 0$

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- ♦ for $r = 3$, the surface is defined by $2m_1^3 - 3m_1m_2 + m_3 = 0$
- ♦ it contains the **twisted cubic curve** corresponding to degenerate line segments (a, a) of length 0

Example: line segments

The moments m_1, m_2, \dots, m_r of a line segment (a, b) are not algebraically independent! **The lie on a surface in \mathbb{R}^r .**

Practical meaning:

If the given moments have **noise**, we cannot recover the line segment!

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⇒ **We need to understand the moment surface, i.e. the algebraic dependencies among the moments.**

Example: line segments

The moment surface in \mathbb{R}^r of the first r moments m_1, m_2, \dots, m_r

- ◆ has degree $\binom{r}{2}$
- ◆ and its prime ideal is generated by the 3×3 minors of

$$\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 2m_1 & 3m_2 & 4m_3 & \cdots & (r-1)m_{r-2} \\ 1 & 2m_1 & 3m_2 & 4m_3 & 5m_4 & \cdots & rm_{r-1} \\ 2m_1 & 3m_2 & 4m_3 & 5m_4 & 6m_5 & \cdots & (r+1)m_r \end{pmatrix}.$$

- ◆ These cubics form a Gröbner basis.

Intermezzo: Optimization

finding a closest point on an algebraic variety

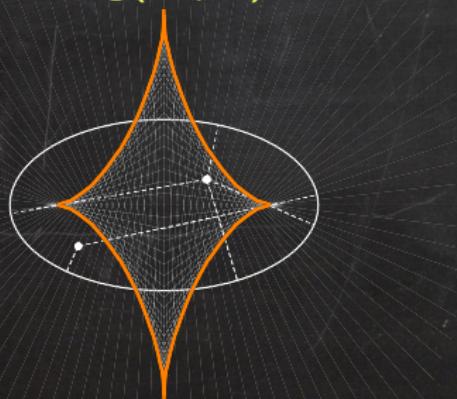
Euclidean distance degree

The **ED degree** of an algebraic variety $X \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ is the number of critical points (over \mathbb{C}) of the Euclidean distance

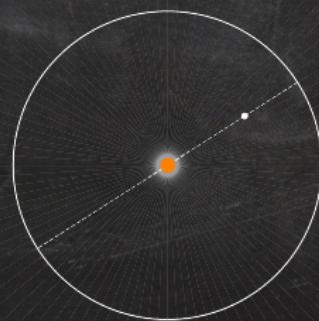
$$\begin{aligned} X &\longrightarrow \mathbb{R}, \\ x &\longmapsto \|x - u\|^2 \end{aligned}$$

between a generic point $u \in \mathbb{R}^n$ and the variety X .

$$\text{EDdeg(ellipse)} = 4$$



$$\text{EDdeg(circle)} = 2$$



back to
Algebraic Statistics

Reconstruct probability distributions from moments

Central question:

Let $\{\mu_\theta \mid \theta \in \Theta\}$ be a family of probability distributions on \mathbb{R}^d . Can we recover a distribution in the family if we know enough of its **moments**?

Similarities to reconstruction in computer vision:

Instead of the **joint camera map**, we study the **moment map**

$$\begin{aligned}\Phi : \Theta &\longrightarrow \mathbb{R}^{\mathcal{I}}, \\ \theta &\longmapsto m_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_d}(\mu_\theta),\end{aligned}$$

where $\mathcal{I} \subset \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ is a finite index set, and ask for its fibers.

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Typical settings in practice:

1. the fibers of Φ are generically finite and non-empty
→ can solve reconstruction problem for any generic input
2. $\text{im}(\Phi)$ lies in a proper subvariety
→ need to denoise input before reconstructing

Example: quadrilaterals

Let $\Theta = \{\square \subset \mathbb{R}^2\} \subset (\mathbb{R}^2)^4$ be the space of **quadrilaterals** in \mathbb{R}^2 .

Let μ_{\square} be the uniform probability distribution on the quadrilateral \square .

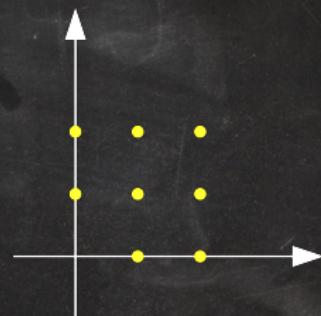
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The fibers of $\Phi : \Theta \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^8$ are generically finite,
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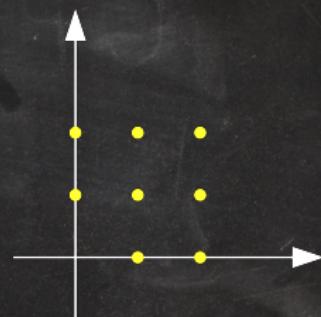
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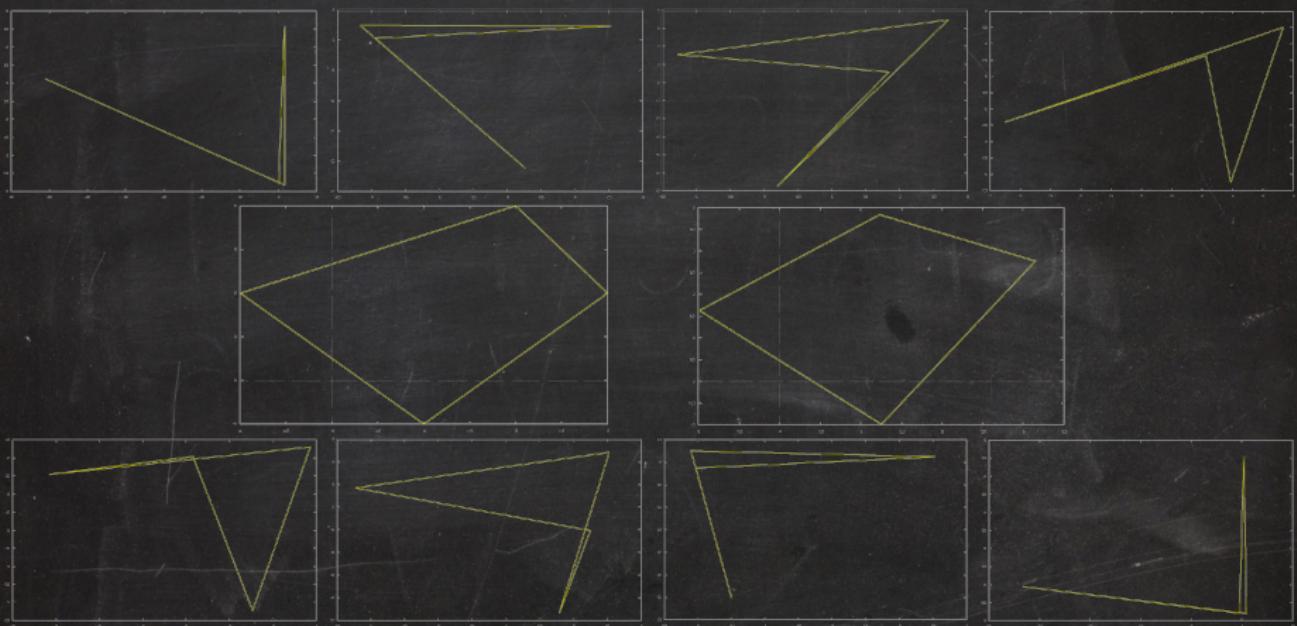
The fibers of $\Phi : \Theta \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^8$ are generically finite,
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The dihedral group of order 8 acts on each fiber.

~ Each fiber consists of 10 “quadrilaterals”.



Example: quadrilaterals



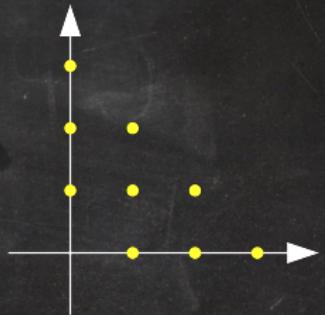
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The Zariski closure of the image of $\Phi : \Theta \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^9$
is a hypersurface.

We can compute it using the **invariant ring**
of the **affine group** $\text{Aff}(\mathbb{R}^2)$.



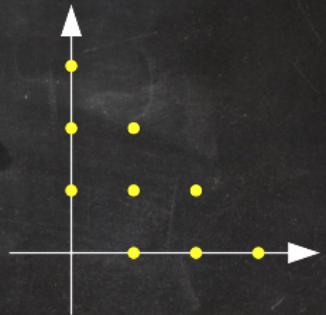
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The moment hypersurface has degree 18.
Its defining polynomial has 5100 terms.

Example: quadrilaterals

6 12 3 2 12 2 4 12 5 11 4 11 2 2 11 2 3 11
 2125764m02 m10 - 1574640m00*m02 m03 m10 + 291600m00 m03 m10 - 25569168m01*m02 m10 m11 + 9447840m00*m02 m03*m10 m11 + 9447840m00*m01*m02 m03 m10 m11 - 349920m00 m02*m03 m10 m11 +
 2 4 10 2 5 10 2 3 16 2 2 10 2 2 2 2 11 2 3 16 2
 127545840m01 m02 m10 m11 + 8030664m00*m02 m10 m11 - 75582720m00*m01*m02 m03*m10 m11 - 18895680m00*m01*m02*m03 m10 m11 + 7523280m00 m02 m03 m10 m11 + 6998400m00 m01*m03 m10 m11 -
 3 3 9 3 4 9 3 2 2 9 3 2 3 9 3 3 2 9 3 2 2 9 3
 340122240m01 m02 m10 m11 + 88306640m00*m01*m02 m10 m11 + 226748160m00*m01*m02 m03*m10 m11 + 30443040m00 m02 m03*m10 m11 + 12597120m00*m01*m02 m03*m10 m11 - 30093120m00 m01*m02*m03 m10 m11 -
 3 3 9 3 4 2 8 4 2 3 8 4 2 4 8 4 3 8 4 2 2 8 4
 46656000m00 m03 m10 m11 + 510183360m01 m02 m10 m11 + 321226560m00*m01 m02 m10 m11 + 85030560m00 m02*m10 m11 - 302330880m00*m01 m02*m03*m10 m11 - 182658240m00 m01*m02 m03*m10 m11 +
 2 2 2 8 4 3 2 8 4 5 7 5 3 2 7 5 6 6 6 4 6 6
 30093120m00 m01*m03 m10 m11 + 27643680m00 m02*m03 m10 m11 - 408146680m01 m02*m10 m11 - 642453120m00*m01 m02 m10 m11 - 68824440m00 m01*m02 m10 m11 + 151165440m00*m01 m03*m10 m11 +
 2 2 7 5 3 2 7 5 3 2 7 5 6 6 6 4 6 6 2 2 2 6 6
 365316480m00 m01*m02*m03*m10 m11 + 25894080m00 m02*m03*m10 m11 - 55287360m00 m01*m03 m10 m11 + 136848890m01 m10 m11 + 642453120m00*m01 m02*m10 m11 + 204073344m00 m01 m02 m10 m11 +
 3 3 6 6 2 3 6 6 3 6 6 4 2 6 6 5 5 7 2 3 5 7
 186624m00 m02 m10 m11 - 243544320m00 m01*m03*m10 m11 - 103576320m00 m01*m02*m03*m10 m11 + 19215300m00 m01*m03*m10 m11 - 256981248m00*m01 m10 m11 - 272097792m00 m01 m02*m10 m11 -
 3 2 5 7 3 2 5 7 4 5 7 2 4 4 8 3 2 4 8 4 2 4 8
 1119744m00 m01*m02 m10 m11 + 103576320m00 m01*m03*m10 m11 - 518400m00 m02*m03*m10 m11 + 136048890m00 m01*m10 m11 + 2239488m00 m01*m02*m10 m11 - 2985984m00 m02*m10 m11 +
 4 4 8 3 3 3 9 4 3 9 5 3 9 4 2 2 10 5 2 10 5 11
 10368000m00 m01*m03*m10 m11 - 1492992m00 m01*m10 m11 + 119439360m00 m01*m02*m10 m11 - 4423680m00 m03*m10 m11 - 119439360m00 m01*m10 m11 - 663552m00 m02*m10 m11 + 1327164m00 m01*m10*m11 -
 5 11 3 11 2 2 2 11 2 3 11 4 10 2 2 10
 9447840m00*m02 m10 m12 + 9447840m00*m01*m02 m03*m10 m12 + 349920m00 m02*m03 m10 m12 - 349920m00 m01*m03 m10 m12 + 66134880m00*m01*m02 m10 m11*m12 - 56687840m00*m01*m02 m03*m10 m11*m12 -
 2 2 10 2 2 10 3 3 10 2 3 9 2 2 4 9 2
 30443040m00 m02*m03*m10 m11*m12 + 17496000m00 m01*m02*m03 m10 m11*m12 + 349920m00 m03 m10 m11*m12 - 151165440m00*m01*m02 m10 m11*m12 - 22517352m00 m02*m10 m11*m12 +
 3 9 2 2 2 9 2 3 2 9 2 3 2 8 3
 113374080m00*m01*m02*m03*m10 m11*m12 + 137518560m00 m01*m02*m03*m10 m11*m12 - 4898880m00 m01*m03*m10 m11*m12 - 19245600m00 m02*m03*m10 m11*m12 + 75582720m00*m01*m02*m03*m10 m11*m12 +
 2 3 8 3 4 8 3 2 2 8 3 3 2 8 3 3 2 8 3
 8880969m00 m01*m02*m10 m11*m12 - 75582720m00*m01*m03*m10 m11*m12 - 184757760m00 m01*m02*m03*m10 m11*m12 - 56337120m00 m02*m03*m10 m11*m12 + 8048160m00 m01*m03*m10 m11*m12 +
 4 7 4 2 2 2 7 4 3 3 7 4 2 3 7 4 3 7 4 4 2 7 4
 151165440m00*m01*m02*m10 m11*m12 + 75582720m00 m01*m02*m10 m11*m12 - 5388768m00 m02*m10 m11*m12 + 62985600m00 m01*m03*m10 m11*m12 + 59486400m00 m01*m02*m03*m10 m11*m12 - 38002400m00 m03*m10 m11*m12 +
 5 6 5 2 3 6 5 3 2 6 5 3 2 6 5 4 6 5 2 4 5 6
 151165440m00*m01*m10 m11*m12 - 375394176m00 m01*m02*m10 m11*m12 - 45349632m00 m01*m02*m10 m11*m12 + 106375680m00 m01*m03*m10 m11*m12 - 4043520m00 m02*m03*m10 m11*m12 + 370355328m00 m01*m10 m11*m12 +
 3 5 6 2 4 5 6 4 5 6 3 3 4 7 4 4 7 5 4 7
 2460637440m00 m01*m02*m10 m11*m12 + 13281408m00 m02*m10 m11*m12 - 107285120m00 m01*m03*m10 m11*m12 - 2676188160m00 m01*m10 m11*m12 - 51570432m00 m01*m02*m10 m11*m12 + 19388160m00 m03*m10 m11*m12 +
 4 2 3 8 5 3 8 5 2 9 6 10 2 3 10 2 2 4 10 2
 50015232m00 m01*m02*m03*m10 m11*m12 + 3981312m00 m02*m10 m11*m12 + 5308416m00 m01*m10 m11*m12 - 663552m00 m10*m11*m12 - 14171760m00*m01*m02*m10 m11*m12 + 17575230m00 m02*m10 m11*m12 -
 2 2 10 2 3 2 10 2 3 2 9 2 4 4 7 2 3 9 2
 20995280m00 m01*m02*m03*m10 m11*m12 + 15746400m00 m01*m03*m10 m11*m12 - 2624400m00 m02*m03*m10 m11*m12 + 85830560m00*m01*m02*m10 m11*m12 - 49128768m00 m01*m02*m10 m11*m12 -
 2 2 9 3 2 9 2 4 8 2 2 2 2 2 8 2 2

Find distribution best explaining data

Central question:

- ◆ Let $\{\mu_\theta \mid \theta \in \Theta\}$ be a family of probability distributions.
- ◆ Let $Y = (Y_1, \dots, Y_n)$ be n samples of observed data.

Can we find a distribution in the family that best fits the empirical data Y ?

Find distribution best explaining data

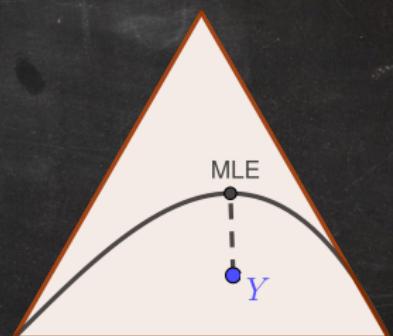
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Approach: maximize the **likelihood function**

$$L_Y(\theta) := \mu_\theta(Y_1) \cdots \mu_\theta(Y_n), \quad \text{where } \theta \in \Theta.$$



A **maximum likelihood estimate (MLE)** is a distribution in the family that maximizes the likelihood L_Y .

Example: (conditional) independence

Consider two random variables X and Y having m and n states.

Their joint probability distribution is an $m \times n$ matrix

$$P = \begin{bmatrix} p_{11} & p_{12} & \cdots & p_{1n} \\ p_{21} & p_{22} & \cdots & p_{2n} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ p_{m1} & p_{m2} & \cdots & p_{mn} \end{bmatrix}$$

whose entries are non-negative and sum to 1.

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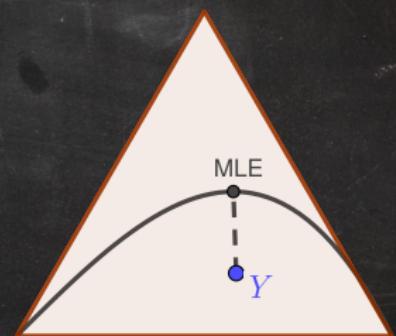
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Let \mathcal{M}_r be the variety of rank- r matrices in the probability simplex Δ_{mn-1} .

Matrices P in \mathcal{M}_1 represent **independent distributions**.



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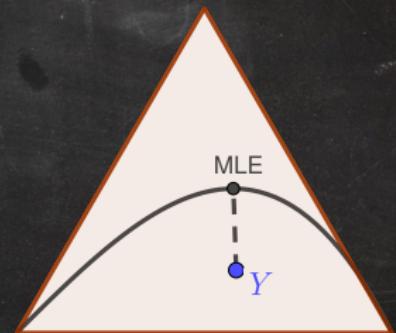
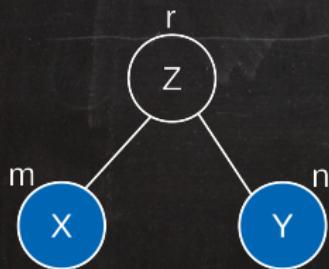
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\mathcal{M}_r comprises mixtures of r independent distributions. Its elements P represent **conditionally independent distributions**.

Example: (conditional) independence

Suppose i.i.d. samples are drawn from an unknown distribution.
We summarize these data also in a matrix

$$Y = \begin{bmatrix} y_{11} & y_{12} & \cdots & y_{1n} \\ y_{21} & y_{22} & \cdots & y_{2n} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ y_{m1} & y_{m2} & \cdots & y_{mn} \end{bmatrix}.$$

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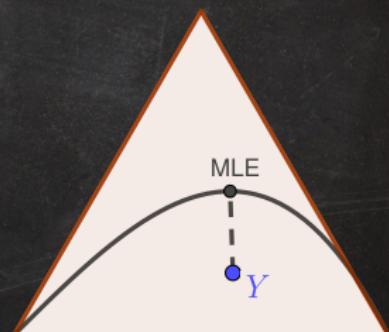
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The likelihood function is the monomial

$$L_Y(P) = \prod_{i=1}^m \prod_{j=1}^n p_{ij}^{y_{ij}}.$$

An MLE for data Y is a rank- r matrix $P \in \mathcal{M}_r$ maximizing $L_Y(P)$.



ML degree

The **ML degree** of a family of distributions is the number of critical points (over \mathbb{C}) of the likelihood function for generic data.

some known¹ ML degrees of the rank varieties \mathcal{M}_r :

	$(m, n) =$	(3, 3)	(3, 4)	(3, 5)	(4, 4)	(4, 5)	(4, 6)	(5, 5)
$r = 1$		1	1	1	1	1	1	1
$r = 2$		10	26	58	191	843	3119	6776
$r = 3$		1	1	1	191	843	3119	61326
$r = 4$					1	1	1	6776
$r = 5$								1

¹Hauenstein, Rodriguez, Sturmfels: *Maximum likelihood for matrices with rank constraints*, Journal of Algebraic Statistics 5 (2014) 18–38.

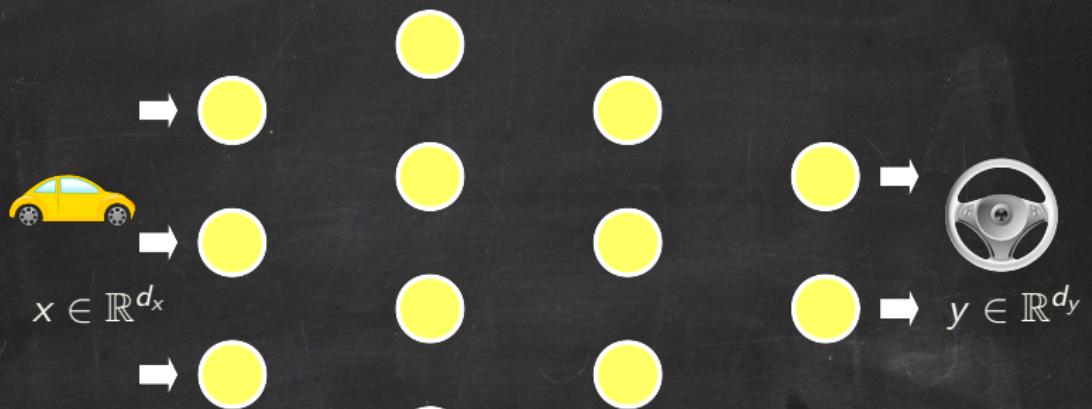
Machine Learning

Neural networks

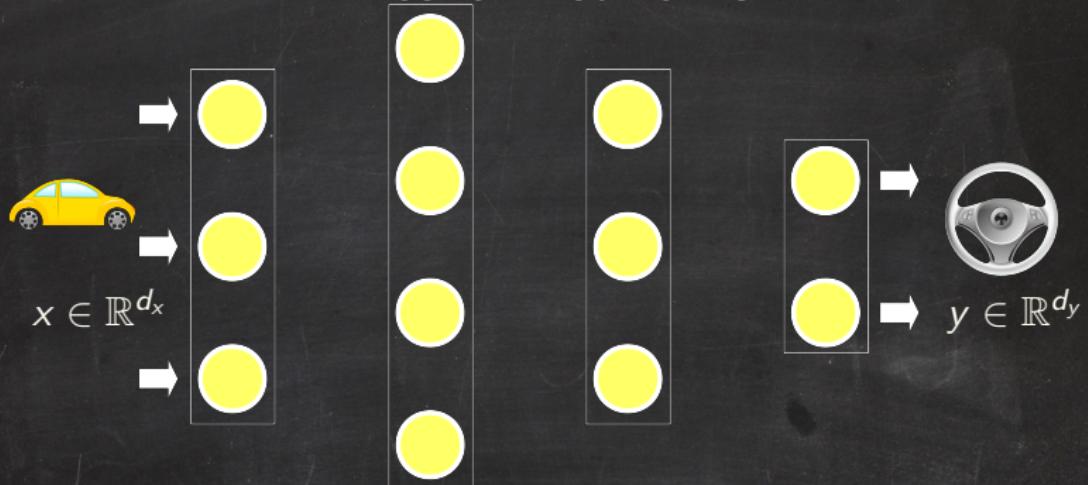
Neural networks



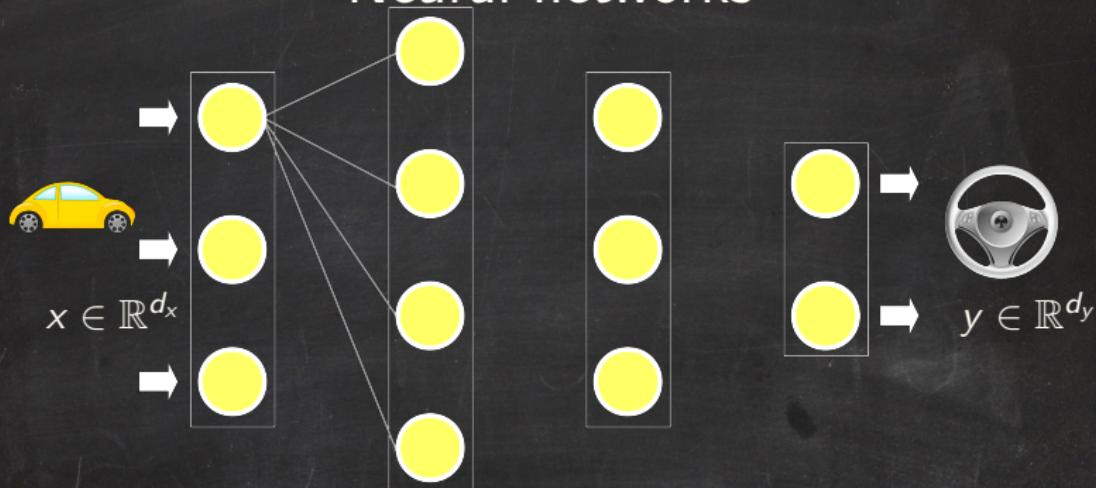
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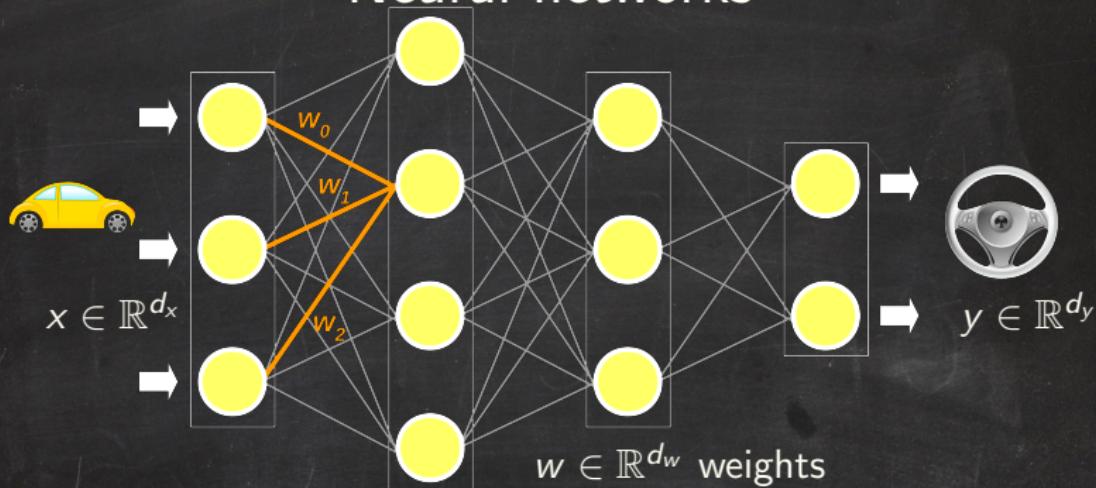
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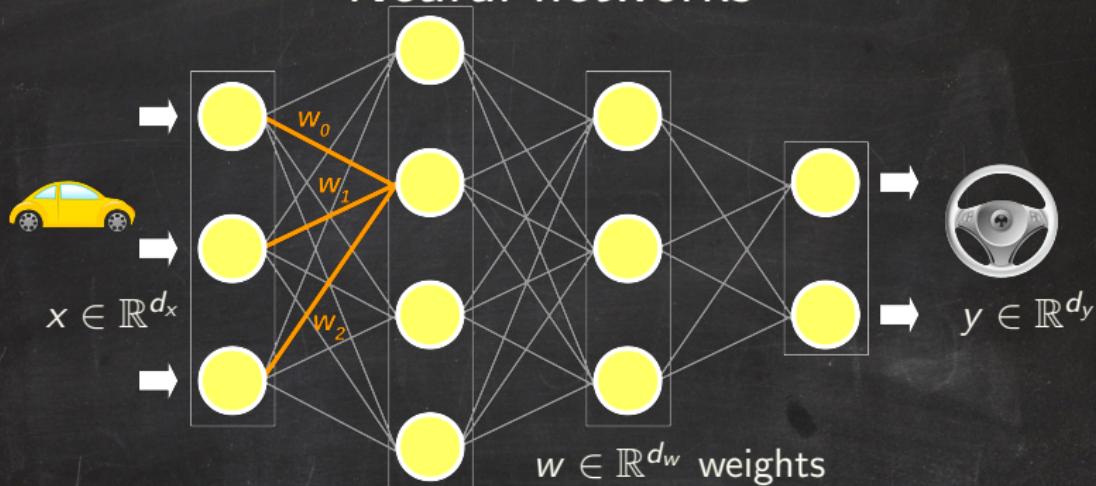
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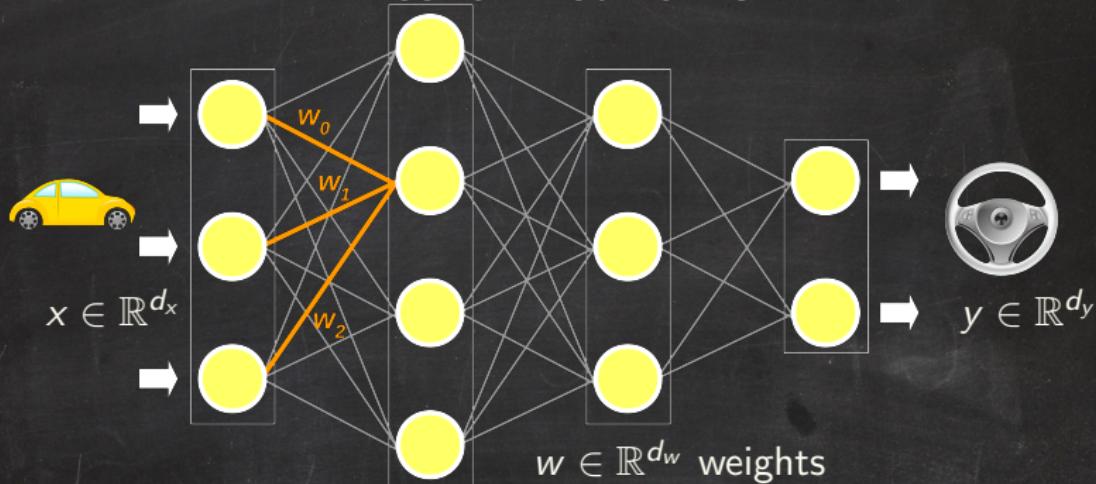


Neural networks



A neural network is defined by a continuous mapping $\Phi : \mathbb{R}^{d_w} \times \mathbb{R}^{d_x} \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}^{d_y}$.

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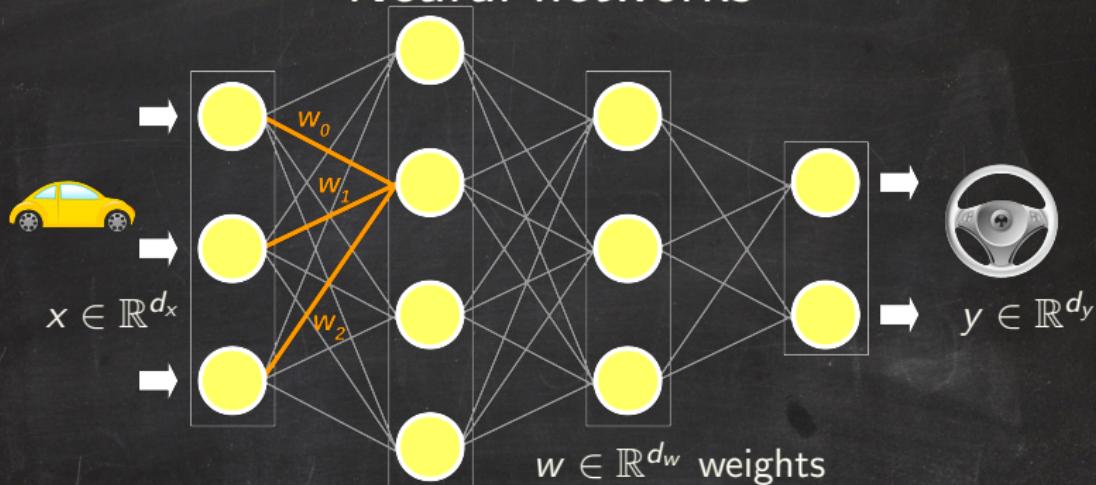


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Definition $\mathcal{M}_\Phi := \left\{ \Phi(w, \cdot) : \mathbb{R}^{d_x} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{d_y} \mid w \in \mathbb{R}^{d_w} \right\}$

is called the **neuromanifold** of Φ .

Neural networks



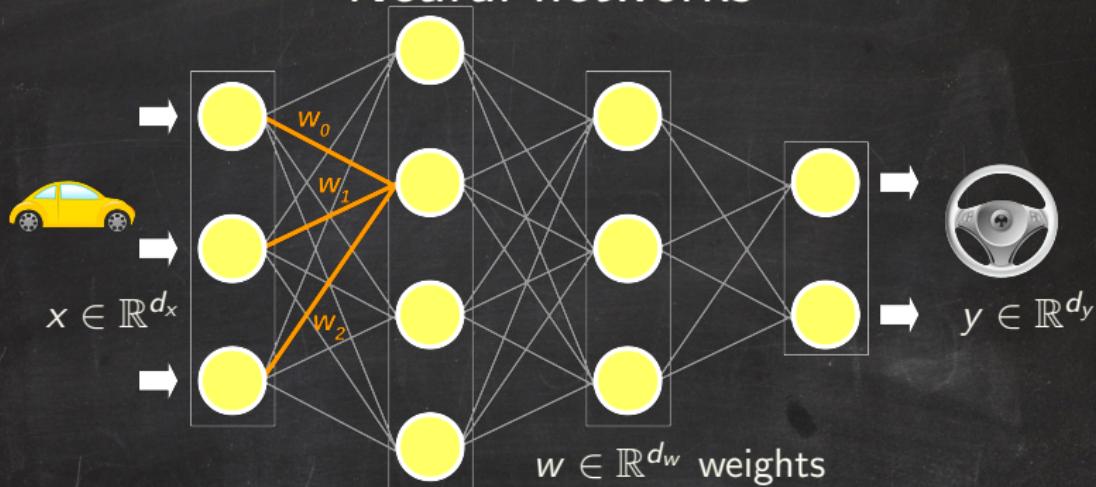
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Observation

1. Φ piecewise smooth $\Rightarrow \mathcal{M}_\Phi$ manifold with singularities
2. $\dim \mathcal{M}_\Phi \leq d_w$

Linear networks

A **linear network** is defined by a map $\Phi : \mathbb{R}^{d_w} \times \mathbb{R}^{d_x} \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}^{d_y}$ of the form

$$\Phi(w, x) = W_h W_{h-1} \dots W_1 x,$$

where $w = (W_h, \dots, W_1)$ and $W_i \in \mathbb{R}^{d_i \times d_{i-1}}$,

(so $d_w = d_h d_{h-1} + \dots + d_1 d_0$, $d_x = d_0$ and $d_y = d_h$).

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Example

The neuromanifold of the linear network Φ is the **bounded rank variety**

$$\mathcal{M}_\Phi = \left\{ M \in \mathbb{R}^{d_h \times d_0} \mid \underbrace{\text{rk}(M)}_{=:r} \leq \min\{d_0, d_1, \dots, d_h\} \right\}.$$

Loss landscapes

A **loss function** on a neural network $\Phi : \mathbb{R}^{d_w} \times \mathbb{R}^{d_x} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{d_y}$ is of the form

$$\begin{array}{ccc} L : \mathbb{R}^{d_w} & \xrightarrow{\mu} & \mathcal{M}_\Phi & \xrightarrow{\ell|_{\mathcal{M}_\Phi}} \mathbb{R}, \\ w & \longmapsto & \Phi(w, \cdot) \end{array}$$

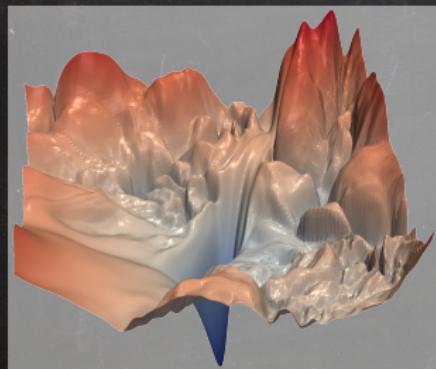
where ℓ is a functional defined on a subset of $C(\mathbb{R}^{d_x}, \mathbb{R}^{d_y})$ containing \mathcal{M}_Φ .

Loss landscapes

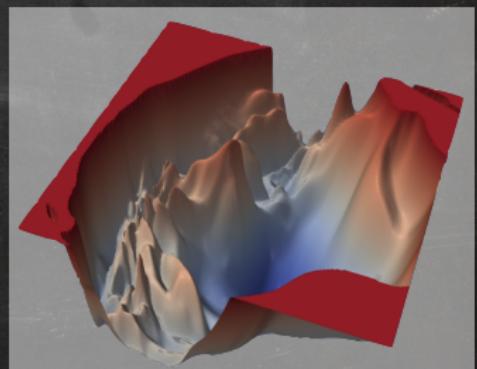
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Visualizations
of L



Source: Li, Hao, et al. "Visualizing the loss landscape of neural nets." Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems. 2018.

Quadratic loss on linear networks

Fixed data matrices $X \in \mathbb{R}^{d_0 \times s}$ and $Y \in \mathbb{R}^{d_h \times s}$ define a **quadratic loss**

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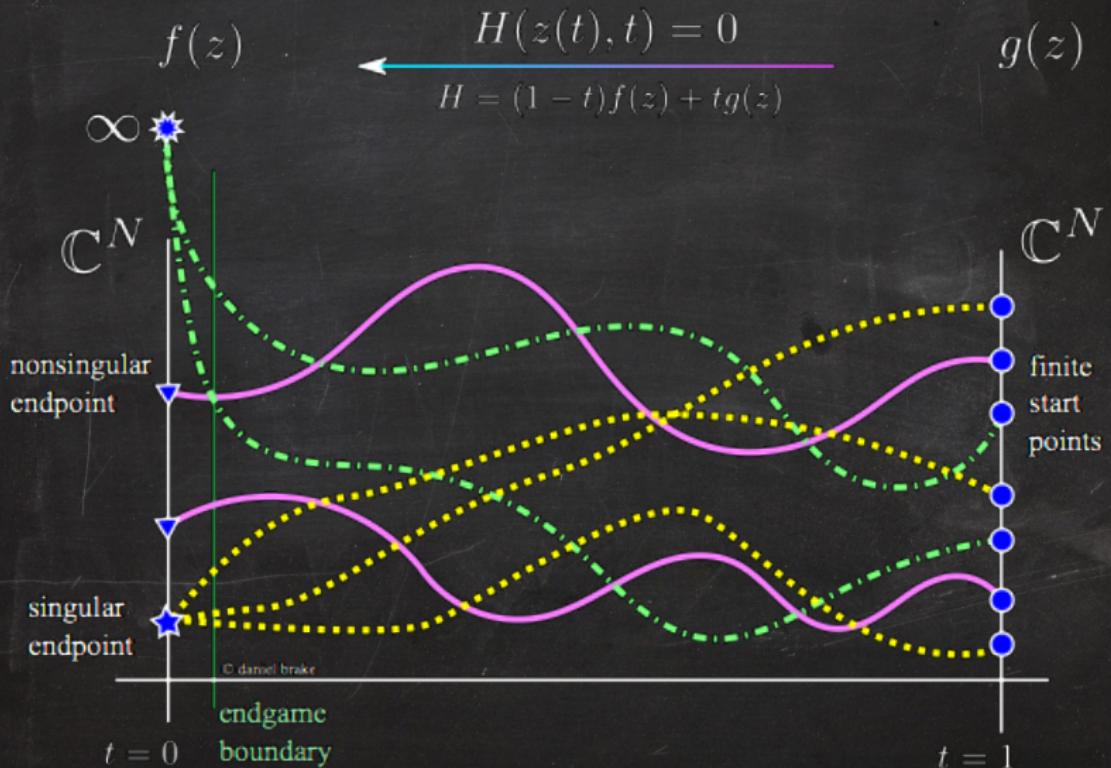
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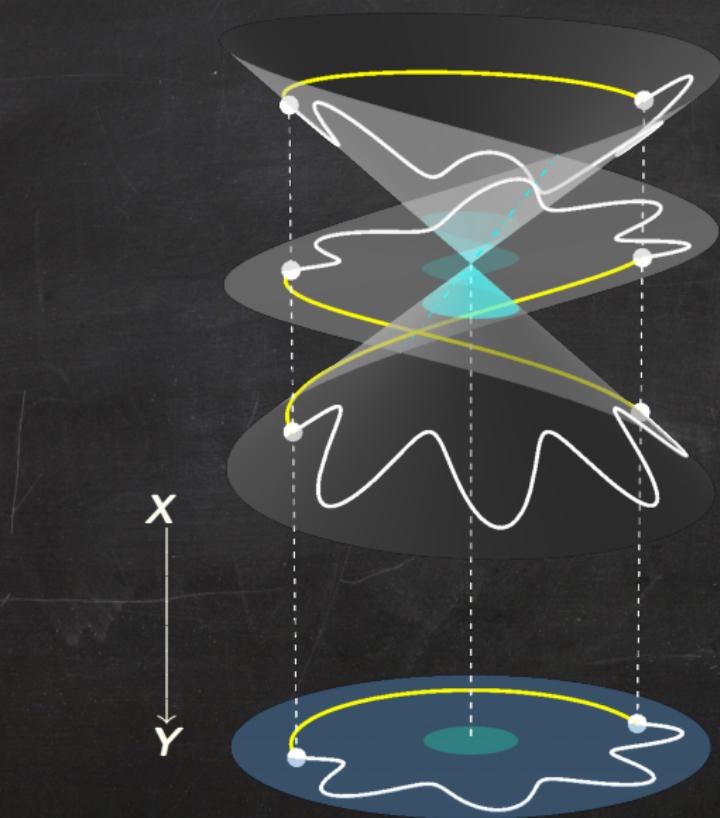
Minimizing $\ell_{X,Y}$ on the bounded rank variety $\mathcal{M}_\Phi = \{M \mid \text{rk}(M) \leq r\}$ is equivalent to minimizing the Euclidean distance of YX^T to \mathcal{M}_Φ .

**How to
solve systems of polynomial equations?
(besides Gröbner bases)**

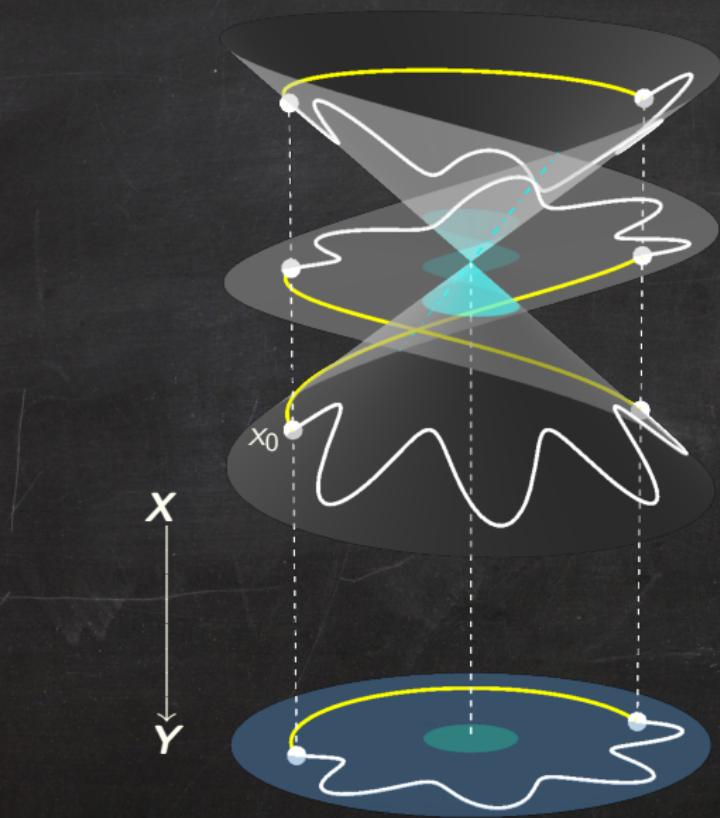
Numerical algebraic geometry homotopy continuation



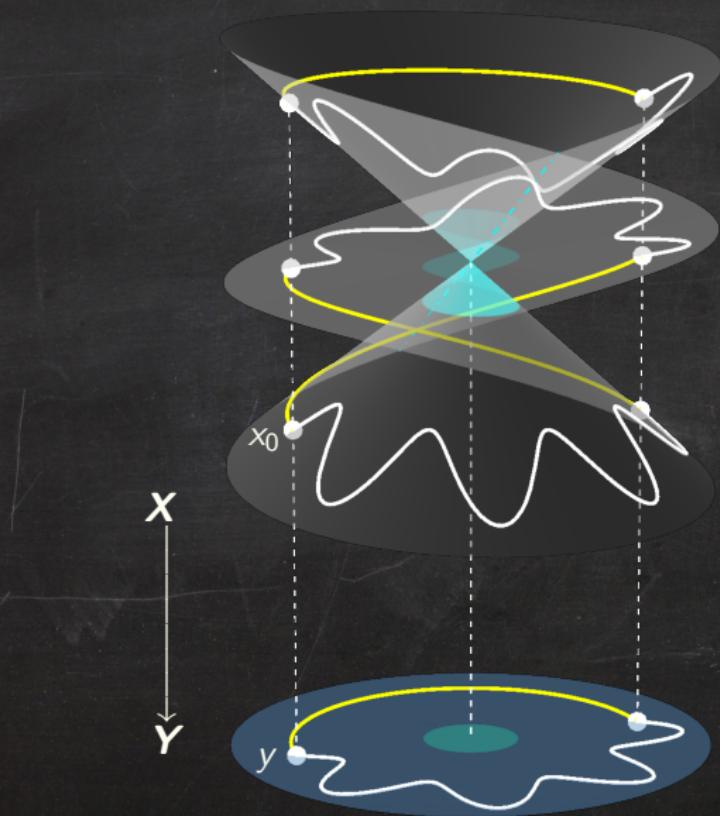
Numerical algebraic geometry monodromy



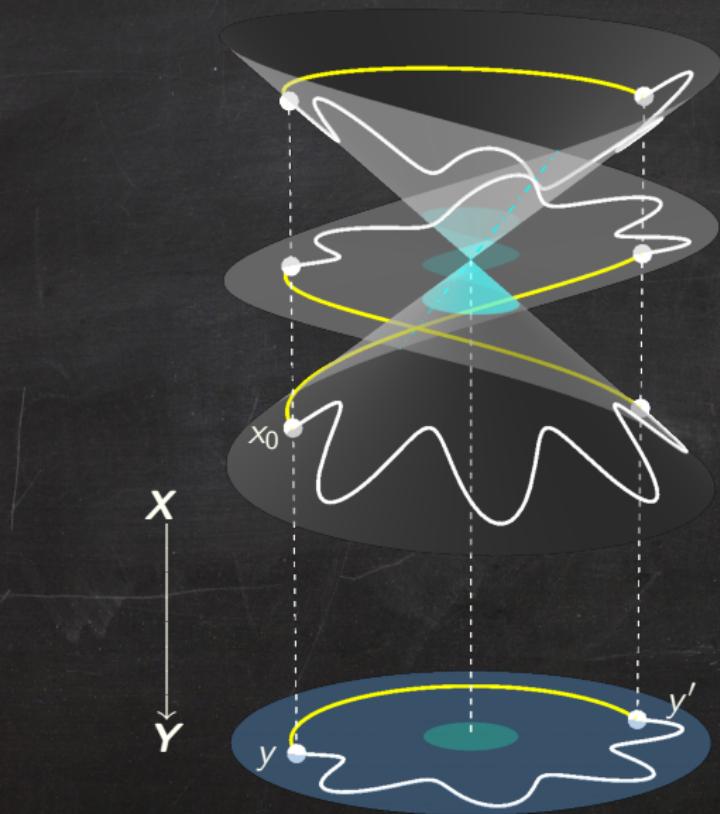
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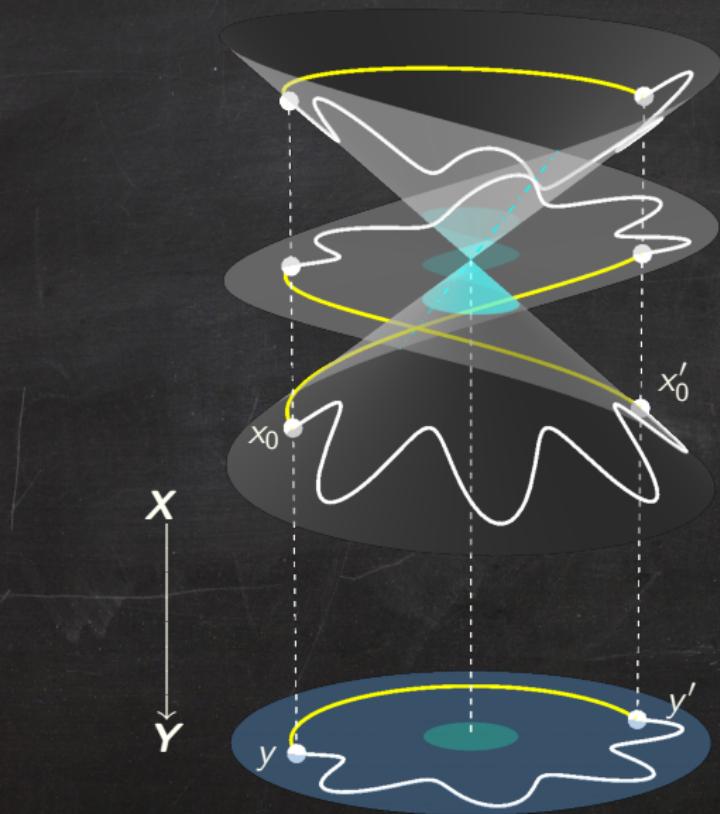
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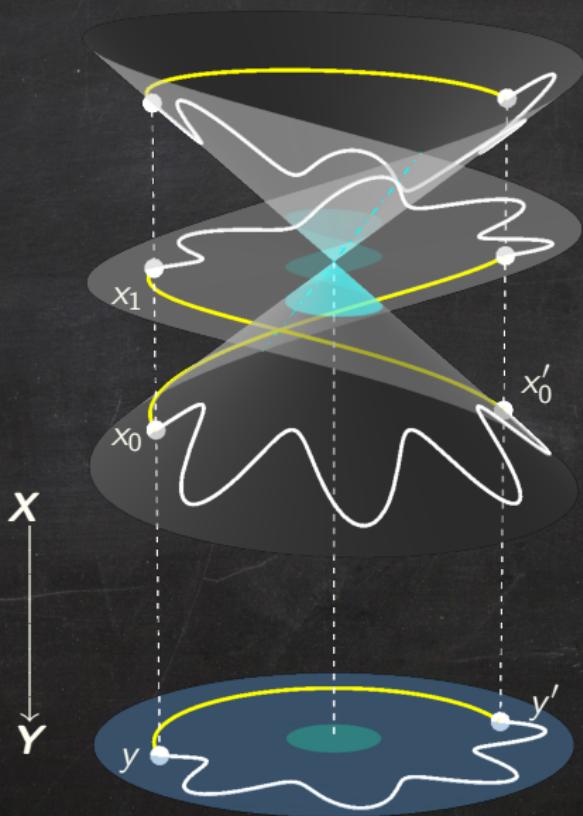
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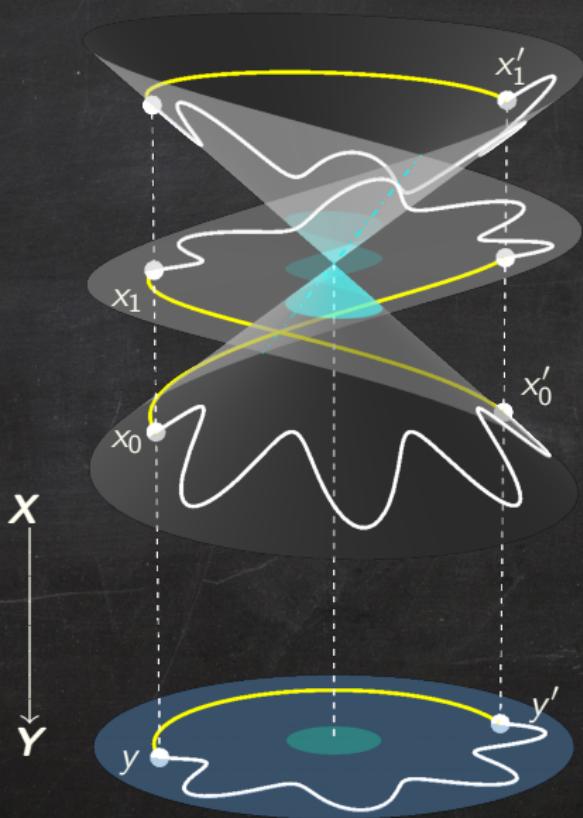
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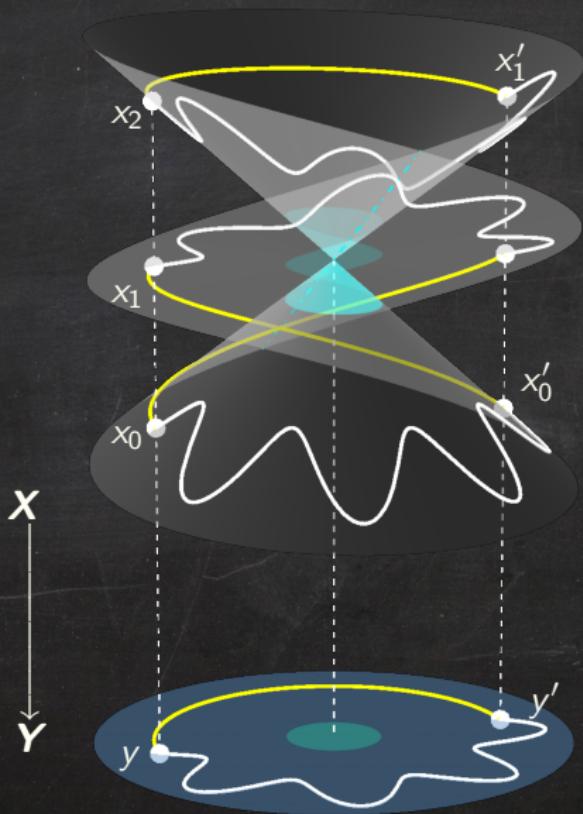
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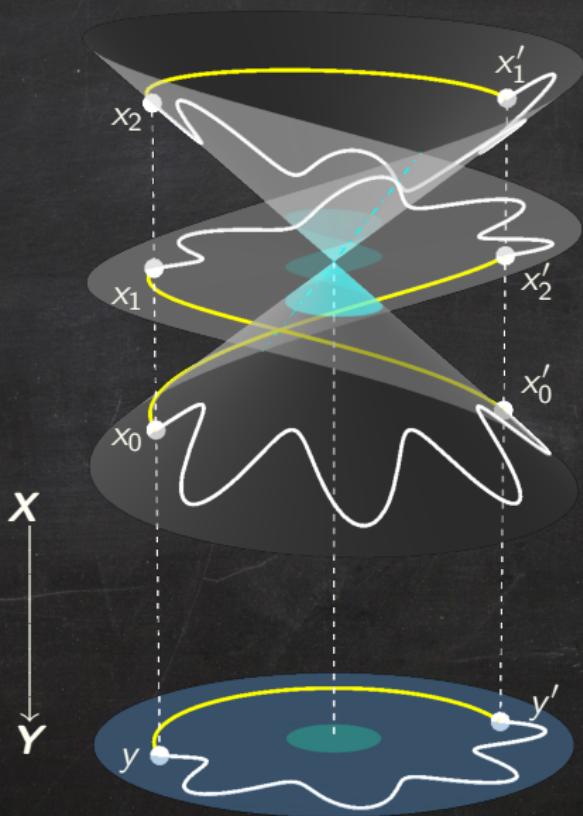
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Numerical algebraic geometry monodromy



Application areas

- ◆ computer vision
- ◆ algebraic statistics
- ◆ machine learning
- ◆ optimization
- ◆ robotics



- ◆ complexity theory
- ◆ biochemistry
- ◆ music
- ◆ ...

The world is non-linear!

Toolbox

- ◆ algebraic geometry
- ◆ combinatorics
- ◆ convex and discrete geometry
- ◆ representation theory
- ◆ symbolic and numerical computations
- ◆ tropical geometry



◆ ...

