

# The Geometry of Linear Convolutional Networks

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# Linear Convolutional Network (LCN)

with 1D convolutions

= family of functions  $\mathbb{R}^{d_0} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{d_L}$

$$x \mapsto Wx, \quad \text{where } W = W_L \cdots W_1$$

and  $W_i$  = **convolutional matrix** in the  $i$ -th layer

$$= \left[ \begin{array}{ccccccccc} w_{i,0} & \cdots & w_{i,s_i} & \cdots & w_{i,k_i-1} & & & & \\ & & \downarrow \text{filter } w_i \text{ of size } k_i & & & & & & \\ & & w_{i,0} & \cdots & w_{i,k_i-1} & & & & \\ & \underbrace{\hspace{1cm}}_{\text{stride } s_i} & & \ddots & & & & & \\ & & & & & & \ddots & & \\ & & & & & & & \ddots & \\ & & & & & & & & w_{i,0} \cdots w_{i,k_i-1} \end{array} \right] \in \mathbb{R}^{d_i \times d_{i-1}}$$

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**Example:**  $d_i = 3, k_i = 3, s_i = 2 : W_i = \begin{bmatrix} w_{i,0} & w_{i,1} & w_{i,2} \\ & w_{i,0} & w_{i,1} & w_{i,2} \\ & & w_{i,0} & w_{i,1} & w_{i,2} \end{bmatrix}$

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The **LCN architecture** is  $(\mathbf{d}, \mathbf{k}, \mathbf{s})$

where  $\mathbf{d} = (d_0, \dots, d_L)$ ,  $\mathbf{k} = (k_1, \dots, k_L)$ ,  $\mathbf{s} = (s_1, \dots, s_L)$ .

- I The geometry of the function space
- II Optimization
- III Summary / Comparison to fully-connected networks

# Expressivity

The **function space** of an LCN is

$$\mathcal{M}_{d,k,s} = \left\{ W \in \mathbb{R}^{d_L \times d_0} : W = \prod_{i=1}^L W_i, \quad W_i \in \mathbb{R}^{d_i \times d_{i-1}} \text{ convolutional} \right\}.$$

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**Obs.:**  $W$  is a convolutional matrix with filter size  $k = k_1 + \sum_{i=2}^L (k_i - 1) \prod_{m=1}^{i-1} s_m$  and stride  $s = \prod_{i=1}^L s_i$ .

**Cor.:**  $\mathcal{M}_{d,k,s} \subseteq \mathcal{M}_{(d_0, d_L), k, s}$

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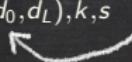
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 vector  
space

An architecture  $(\mathbf{d}, \mathbf{k}, \mathbf{s})$  is **filling** if  $\mathcal{M}_{\mathbf{d}, \mathbf{k}, \mathbf{s}} = \mathcal{M}_{(d_0, d_L), k, s}$ .

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When does this happen?

# Stride 1

$$s = (1, \dots, 1)$$

We identify convolutional matrices with polynomials:

$$\begin{bmatrix} w_0 & w_1 & \cdots & w_{k-1} \\ w_0 & w_1 & \cdots & w_{k-1} \\ \vdots & & & \ddots \\ w_0 & w_1 & \cdots & w_{k-1} \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow[\pi]{\sim} w_0 x^{k-1} + w_1 x^{k-2} y + \cdots + w_{k-1} y^{k-1} \in \mathbb{R}[x, y]_{k-1}$$

↑  
homogeneous  
polynomials  
of degree k-1

Note:  $\pi(W_L \cdots W_1) = \pi(W_L) \cdots \pi(W_1)$ .

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- 1)  $W \in \mathcal{M}_{d,k,s} \Leftrightarrow \pi(W)$  has at least  $e := |\{k_i : k_i \text{ is even}\}|$  real roots  
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finite union of solution sets  
to finitely many polynomial  
equations and inequalities

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- 3) The architecture  $(d, k, s)$  is filling (i.e.,  $\mathcal{M}_{d,k,s} = \mathcal{M}_{(d_0, d_L), k, s}$ )  $\Leftrightarrow e \leq 1$ .

2 even filter sizes

$$s = (1, \dots, 1)$$

$$\pi(\mathcal{M}_{d,k,s}) = \{P \in \mathbb{R}[x,y]_{k-1} : P \text{ has } \overset{\text{even}}{\curvearrowleft} \geq 2 \text{ real roots}\}$$

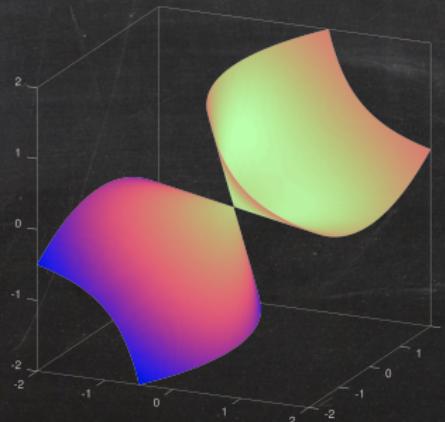
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$$\begin{aligned}\mathbb{R}[x, y]_{k-1} \setminus \pi(\mathcal{M}_{\mathbf{d}, \mathbf{k}, \mathbf{s}}) &= \{P \in \mathbb{R}[x, y]_{k-1} : P \text{ has no real roots}\} \\ &= \{\text{positive polynomials}\} \cup \{\text{negative polynomials}\}\end{aligned}$$

↑  
↑  
convex cones



# The boundary of the function space

$$s = (1, \dots, 1)$$

$P \in \mathbb{R}[x, y]_{k-1}$  has **real root multiplicity pattern**, short **rrmp**,

$(\rho | \gamma) = (\rho_1, \dots, \rho_r | \gamma_1, \dots, \gamma_c)$  if it can be written as

$$P = p_1^{\rho_1} \cdots p_r^{\rho_r} q_1^{\gamma_1} \cdots q_c^{\gamma_c},$$

multiplicities

where

$p_i \in \mathbb{R}[x, y]_1$  and  $q_j \in \mathbb{R}[x, y]_2$  are irreducible and pairwise linearly independent.

↑  
real roots      ↑  
complex roots

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↑  
Euclidean boundary

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- 4) The Zariski closure of  $\partial \mathcal{M}_{d,k,s}$  is the discriminant hypersurface.

$\hookrightarrow = \{ \text{polynomials with}$   
 $\text{(complex) double roots} \}$

# Example

$$\mathbf{k} = (2, 2, 2), \mathbf{s} = (1, 1, 1)$$

$$[A \ B \ C \ D] = [a \ b] \begin{bmatrix} c & d & 0 \\ 0 & c & d \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} e & f & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & e & f & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & e & f \end{bmatrix}$$

$$Ax^3 + Bx^2y + Cxy^2 + Dy^3 = (ax + by) (cx + dy) (ex + fy)$$

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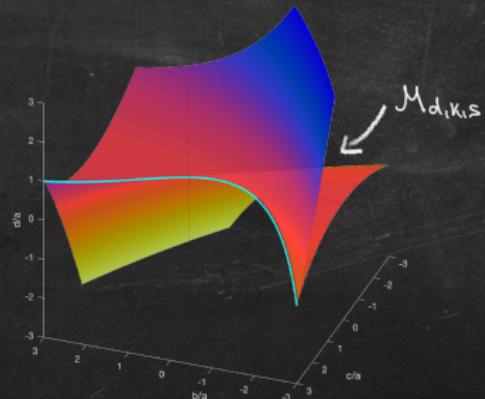
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Possible rrmp:

111		0	M <sub>d,k,s</sub>
12		0	
3		0	
1		1	



# Example

$$s = (1, \dots, 1)$$

$$\mathbf{k} = (3, 2, 2)$$

$$\mathbf{k} = (4, 2)$$

$$\frac{(ax^2 + bxy + cy^2) \cdot (dx + ey) \cdot (fx + gy)}{(a'x^3 + b'x^2y + c'xy^2 + d'y^3) \cdot (e'x + f'y)}$$

$$= Ax^4 + Bx^3y + Cx^2y^2 + Dxy^3 + Ey^4$$

Both architectures have the same function space.

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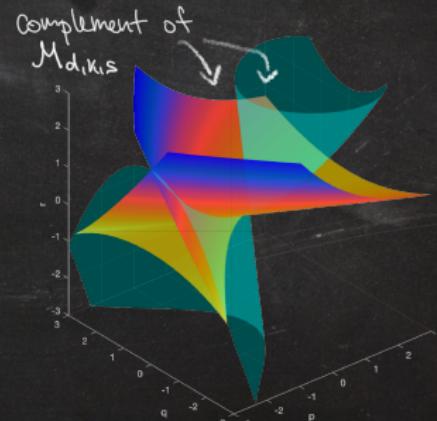
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Possible rrmp:

1111		0	$M_{d,k,s}$
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22		0	
13		0	
4		0	
11		1	
2		1	
0		11	
0		2	



# Larger strides

$$\begin{bmatrix} w_0 \cdots w_{\textcolor{blue}{s}} \cdots w_{k-1} \\ w_0 & \cdots & w_{k-1} \\ \vdots & & \ddots \\ w_0 & \cdots & w_{k-1} \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow[\pi_{\textcolor{blue}{s}}]{\sim} w_0 x^{\textcolor{blue}{s}(k-1)} + w_1 x^{\textcolor{blue}{s}(k-2)} y^{\textcolor{blue}{s}} + \cdots + w_{k-1} y^{\textcolor{blue}{s}(k-1)} \in \mathbb{R}[x^{\textcolor{blue}{s}}, y^{\textcolor{blue}{s}}]_{k-1}$$

Note:  $\pi(W_2 W_1) = \pi_{\textcolor{blue}{s}_1}(W_2) \pi(W_1)$ .

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## Theorem:

If  $k_L > 1$  and  $s_i > 1$  for some  $i \leq L - 1$ , then  $\mathcal{M}_{d,k,s}$  is a lower-dimensional semialgebraic subset of  $\mathcal{M}_{(d_0, d_L), k, s}$ . In particular, the architecture is not filling.

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## Lemma:

- 1) If  $\mathbf{k} = (k_1, \dots, k_{L-1}, 1)$  and  $\mathbf{k}' = (k_1, \dots, k_{L-1})$ , then  $\pi(\mathcal{M}_{d,k,s}) = \pi(\mathcal{M}_{d,k',s})$ .

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- 2) If  $\mathbf{s} = (s_1, \dots, s_L)$  and  $\mathbf{s}' = (s_1, \dots, s_{L-1}, 1)$ , then  $\pi(\mathcal{M}_{d,k,s}) = \pi(\mathcal{M}_{d,k,s'})$ .

# $D$ -dimensional convolutions

stride 1

- ◆ input  $x$ : tensor of order  $D$
- ◆ filter  $w$ : tensor of format  $k^{(1)} \times \dots \times k^{(D)}$
- ◆ **convolutional tensor**  $W$  of order  $2D$

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$$\pi(W) \in \mathbb{R}[x_1, y_1, \dots, x_D, y_D]_{(k^{(1)}-1, \dots, k^{(D)}-1)}$$

that is homogeneous of degree  $k^{(j)} - 1$  in each pair  $x_j, y_j$ .

Note:  $\pi(W_L \circ \dots \circ W_1) = \pi(W_L) \cdots \pi(W_1)$ .

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$$\pi(W) \in \mathbb{R}[x_1, y_1, \dots, x_D, y_D]_{(k^{(1)}-1, \dots, k^{(D)}-1)}$$

that is homogeneous of degree  $k^{(j)} - 1$  in each pair  $x_j, y_j$ .

Note:  $\pi(W_L \circ \dots \circ W_1) = \pi(W_L) \cdots \pi(W_1)$ .

$$\text{degree } k^{(j)} - 1 := \sum_{i=1}^L (k_i^{(j)} - 1)$$

$\uparrow$                        $\uparrow$                        $\uparrow$   
in  $x_j, y_j$               in  $x_j, y_j$               in  $x_j, y_j$

# $D$ -dimensional convolutions

stride 1

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## Theorem:

Given an LCN with  $D > 1$ ,  $L > 1$  and non-trivial filter sizes, the function space is a **lower-dimensional** semialgebraic subset of  $\pi^{-1}\mathbb{R}[x_1, y_1, \dots, x_D, y_D]_{(k^{(1)}-1, \dots, k^{(D)}-1)}$ . In particular, the architecture is not filling.

- I The geometry of the function space
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# Critical points of the loss

Assume: 1D convolutions with stride 1

A **loss** of an LCN is a function  $\mathcal{L} = \ell \circ \mu$  where

- ◆  $\mu : (W_1, \dots, W_L) \mapsto W = W_L \cdots W_1$  and
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# Fibers in parameter space

**Scaling equivalence classes:**

$$(W_1, \dots, W_L) \sim (W'_1, \dots, W'_L) \text{ if } \exists \alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_L \in \mathbb{R} : \alpha_1 \cdots \alpha_L = 1, W'_i = \alpha_i W_i$$

**Proposition:** Let  $W \in \mathcal{M}_{d,k,s} \setminus \{0\}$ . Then

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$$\Rightarrow \pi(W) = p_1^{\rho_1} \cdots p_r^{\rho_r} q_1^{\gamma_1} \cdots q_c^{\gamma_c},$$
$$p_i \in \mathbb{R}[x,y]_1, q_j \in \mathbb{R}[x,y]_2$$

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$$\pi(W_L) \in \mathbb{R}[x,y]_{k_L-1}, \dots, \pi(W_1) \in \mathbb{R}[x,y]_{k_1-1}$$

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# Numerical experiments

square loss & gradient descent

If  $W \in \text{Crit}(\ell|_{\mathcal{M}_{d,k,s}})$ , then  $\mu^{-1}(W) \subset \text{Crit}(\mathcal{L})$ .

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$$\mathbf{k} = (4, 2)$$

target	% of interior	initialization 1111 0		
		solution	%	mean loss
1111 0	5.28	1111 0	100	3.04e-15
11 1	72.6	112 0	15.5	0.228
		11 1	83.2	1.94e-15
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0 11	22.1	112 0	7.85	0.347
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interior of  $\mathcal{M}_{d,k,s}$

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$k = (4, 2)$		initialization 1111 0			$k = (3, 2, 2)$		initialization 1111 0		
target	%	solution	%	mean loss	target	%	solution	%	mean loss
1111 0	5.28	1111 0	100	3.04e-15	1111 0	4.82	1111 0	99.6	4.68e-15
11 1	72.6	112 0	15.5	0.228	11 1	72.9	112 0	27.1	0.221
		11 1	83.2	1.94e-15			22 0	1.28	0.992
		2 1	1.36	0.54			13 0	25.8	0.798
0 11	22.1	112 0	7.85	0.347			11 1	45.5	1.78e-15
		2 1	92.2	0.231			2 1	0.381	0.446
interior of $\mathcal{M}_{d,k,s}$		not in $\text{Crit}(\ell _{\mathcal{M}_{d,k,s}})$			0 11		0 11	22.3	0.374
$\partial\mathcal{M}_{d,k,s}$		i.e., critical point induced by parametrization $\mu$			112 0		112 0	11.2	0.855
complement of $\mathcal{M}_{d,k,s}$					22 0		22 0	25.5	0.895
					13 0		13 0	7.1	0.224
					2 1		2 1	56.2	

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 $(W_1, \dots, W_L) \in \text{Crit}(\mathcal{L})$ .
- 3) For the square loss with generic training data, 2) becomes an “if and only if”.

# Finding all critical points in parameter space

for the square loss with generated data

- 1) List all rrmp ( $\rho | \gamma$ ) of polynomials of degree  $k - 1$ .

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aggregate into  
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In particular:

$\text{Crit}(\mathcal{L})$  consists of finitely many scaling equivalence classes.

# Example

Compatible architectures with factorizations:

$\rho \gamma$	1111 0	112 0	22 0	13 0	4 0	11 1	2 1	0 2	0 11
$\mathbf{k} = (3, 2, 2)$	$p_1 p_2 \cdot p_3 \cdot p_4$	$p_1 p_2 \cdot p_3 \cdot p_3$	$p_1 p_2 \cdot p_1 \cdot p_2$	$p_1 p_2 \cdot p_2 \cdot p_2$	—	$q_1 \cdot p_1 \cdot p_2$	$q_1 \cdot p_1 \cdot p_1$	—	—
$\mathbf{k} = (4, 2)$	$p_1 p_2 p_3 \cdot p_4$	$p_1 p_2 p_3 \cdot p_3$	—	—	—	$p_1 q_1 \cdot p_2$	$p_1 q_1 \cdot p_1$	—	—

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		initialization 1111 0		
target	%	solution	%	mean loss
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		initialization 1111 0			
target	%	solution	%	mean loss	
1111 0	4.82	1111 0	99.6	4.68e-15	
13 0		13 0	0.429	0.71	
11 1	72.9	112 0	27.1	0.221	
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# Invariants of gradient flow

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**Theorem:** Let  $w_i \in \mathbb{R}^{k_i}$  be the filter of  $W_i$ . If  $\omega(t) = (w_1(t), \dots, w_L(t))$  is an integral curve for the negative gradient field of  $\mathcal{L}$  (i.e.,  $\dot{\omega}(t) = -\nabla \mathcal{L}(\omega(t))$ ), then

$$\delta_{ij}(t) := \|w_i(t)\|^2 - \|w_j(t)\|^2 \quad \text{for } 1 \leq i, j \leq L$$

remain constant for all  $t \in \mathbb{R}$ .

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remain constant for all  $t \in \mathbb{R}$ .

*known from initialization*

**Corollary:** Let  $\delta_{ij} \in \mathbb{R}$  be fixed for  $1 \leq i, j \leq L$ .

For any  $(W_1, \dots, W_L)$ , there are only finitely many  $(\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_L) \in \mathbb{R}^L$  such that  $\alpha_1 \cdots \alpha_L = 1$  and the invariants of  $(\alpha_1 W_1, \dots, \alpha_L W_L)$  are the  $\delta_{ij}$ .

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## fully-connected linear network

LCN

function space  $\mathcal{M}$

= { rank-bounded matrices }

= algebraic variety

defined by polynomial equations

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If  $\ell$  convex:

$\mathcal{L}$  has non-global minima

$\Leftrightarrow \ell|_{\mathcal{M}}$  has non-global minima.

$\mathcal{L}$  can have non-global minima

even if  $\mathcal{M}$  is a vector space

and  $\ell$  is convex.

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Reason:

critical points induced by the  
parametrization  $\mu$  are always saddles

$\mathcal{L}$  can have non-global minima  
even if  $\mathcal{M}$  is a vector space  
and  $\ell$  is convex.

Reason:

critical points induced by the  
parametrization  $\mu$  can be non-global minima

due to different structure  
of the fibres  $\hat{\mu}^{-1}(w)$