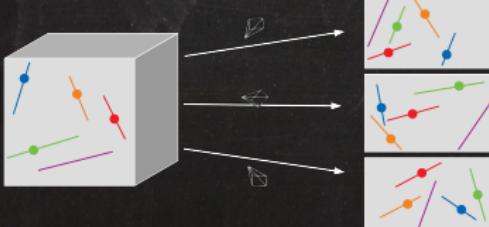
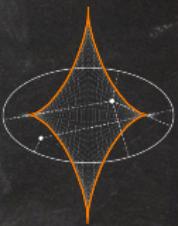


Algebra & Geometry in Data Science & AI

Kathlén Kohn



data science & AI require a vast math toolbox

optimization

machine learning

statistics

algebra & geometry

scientific computing

analysis

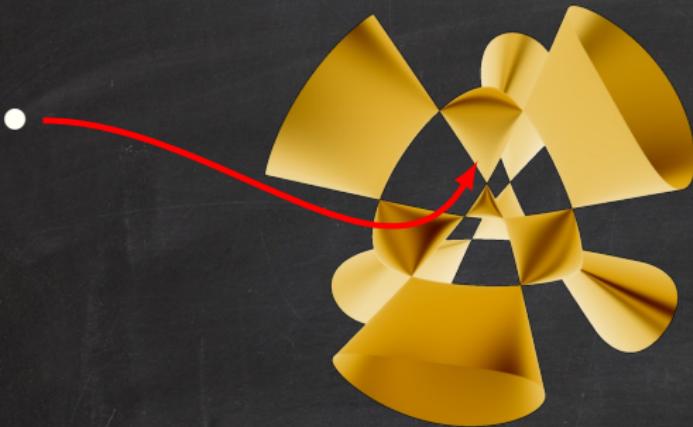
...

The world is non-linear!

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



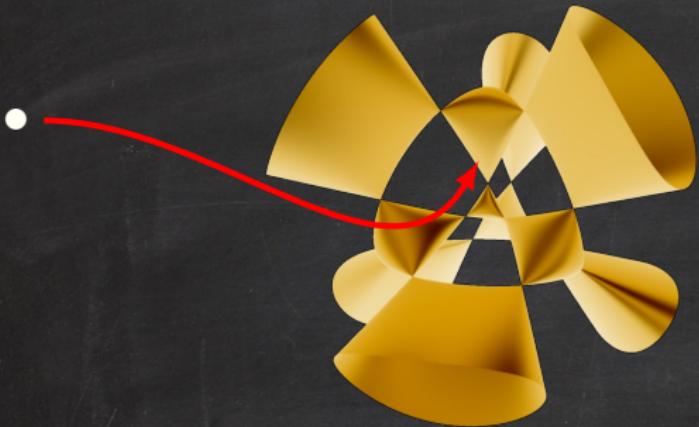
Varieties look like manifolds almost everywhere, but typically have singularities.



algebraic optimization

given \bullet , find best point on (possibly unknown) manifold, variety, etc.

Varieties in data science & AI

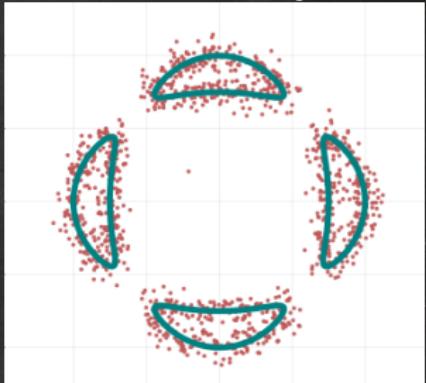


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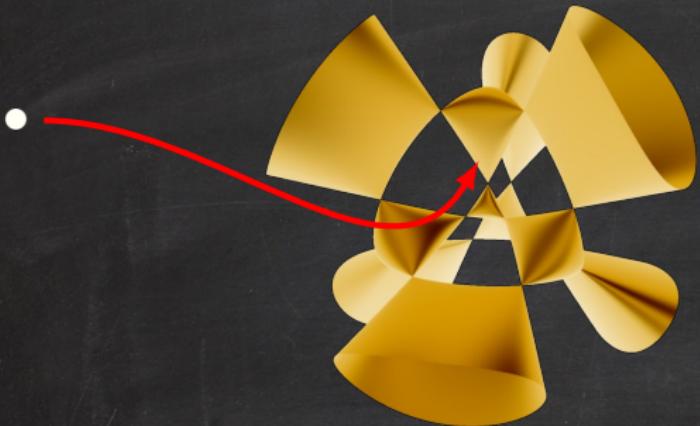
manifold hypothesis variety hypothesis

data comes from low-dimensional manifold, variety, etc.



want to infer information about underlying manifold, variety, etc.

Varieties in data science & AI

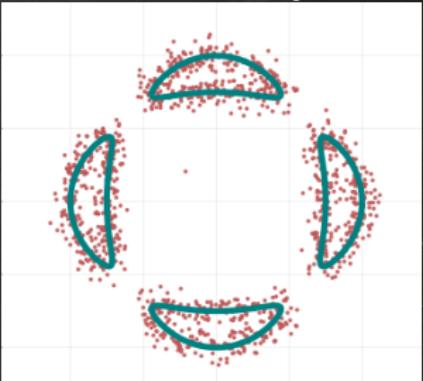


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want to infer information about underlying manifold, variety, etc.

algebraic inverse problems



given observations, want to recover ground truth



Netflix problem



Alice	1		4	
Bob		2	5	
Carol			4	5
Dave	5			4
⋮				

What are the unknown ratings?

Netflix problem

						...
Alice	1			4		
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Carol			4	5		
Dave	5				4	
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Guess: This matrix should be of low rank!

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$$\{A \in \mathbb{R}^{\#\text{users} \times \#\text{movies}} \mid \text{rank}(A) \leq r\}.$$

What is r ??

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Complete the matrix such that it has rank r !

inverse problem

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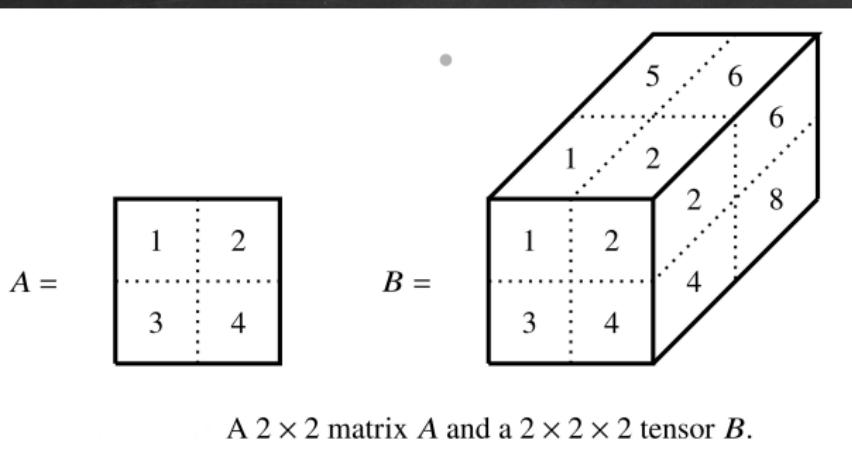
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inverse problem

Complete the matrix such that it is close to a rank- r matrix ! optimization

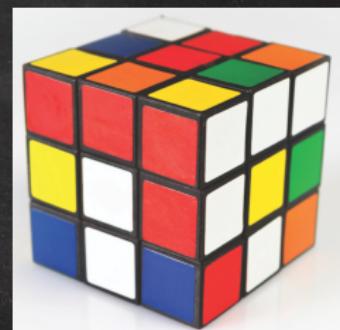
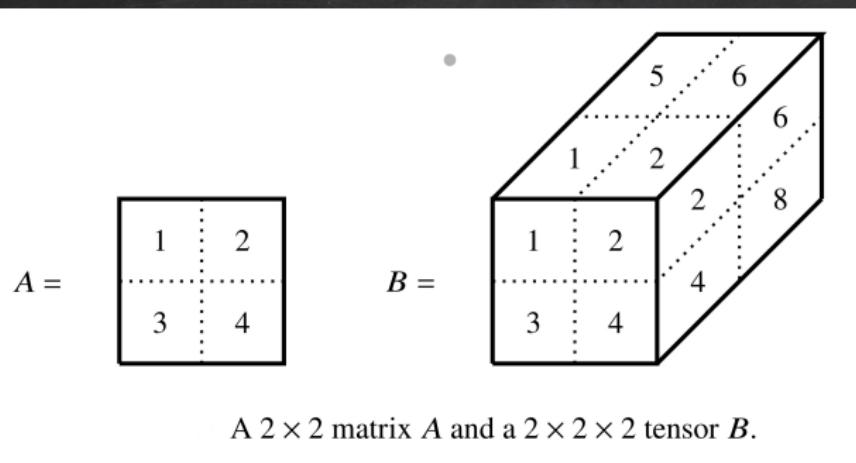
Big Data & Tensors

Often, data has many dimensions to it!



Big Data & Tensors

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Big data gives rise to huge, high-dimensional tensors.

~ need to understand **tensor rank**, their **eigenvectors**, etc.

Maximum Likelihood Estimation

Experiment: Toss a biased coin twice, and record the total number of heads

Task: From many such experiments, recover the bias of the coin

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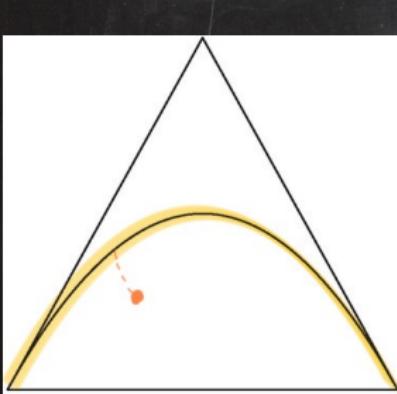
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The possible distributions of the experiment outcome are parametrized by

$$[0, 1] \longrightarrow \Delta_2 := \{(P_0, P_1, P_2) \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}^3 \mid P_0 + P_1 + P_2 = 1\},$$

$$p \longmapsto (p^2, \quad \quad \quad 2p(1-p), \quad \quad \quad (1-p)^2)$$

head-head head-tail & tail-head tail-tail



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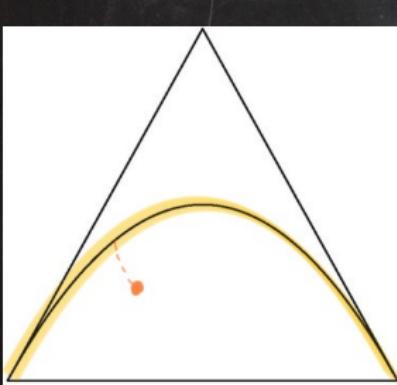
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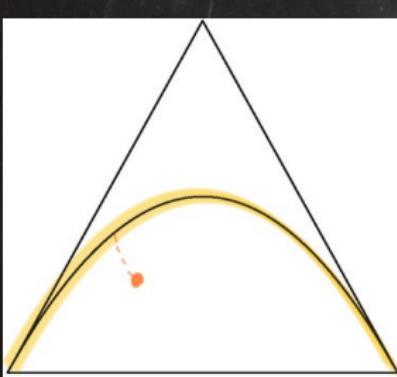
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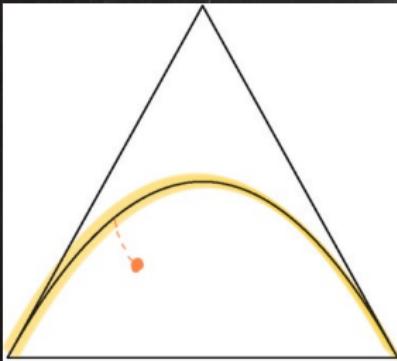
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The p maximizing this most likely gave rise to u . It is called the **maximum likelihood estimate (MLE)**.

MLE of matrix normal distributions

Multivariate normal distribution for matrix-valued random variable X of format $m \times n$ has probability density function

$$\frac{\exp(-\frac{1}{2}\text{tr}[V^{-1}(X - M)^\top U^{-1}(X - M)])}{(2\pi)^{\frac{mn}{2}} \det(V)^{\frac{m}{2}} \det(U)^{\frac{n}{2}}},$$

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Equivalently, the vectorization $\text{vec}(X)$ is distributed as the standard multivariate normal distribution with mean vector $\text{vec}(M)$ and covariance matrix

$$V \otimes U := \begin{bmatrix} v_{11}U & \cdots & v_{1n}U \\ \vdots & & \vdots \\ v_{n1}U & \cdots & v_{nn}U \end{bmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^{mn \times mn}.$$

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All such covariance matrices are parametrized via the group $\text{GL}_m \times \text{GL}_n$:

$$g_1^\top g_1 \otimes g_2^\top g_2 = (g_1 \otimes g_2)^\top (g_1 \otimes g_2), \quad \text{for } g_1 \in \text{GL}_m, g_2 \in \text{GL}_n$$

Gaussian group models

The **Gaussian group model** of a group $G \subseteq \mathrm{GL}_m$ is the set of a normal distributions on \mathbb{R}^m with covariance matrices in

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We want to find an MLE, i.e., a maximizer $g \in G$ of ℓ_Y !

MLE of Gaussian group models

Proposition

Under mild assumptions (satisfied by e.g. matrix normal distributions),

$$\sup_{g \in G} \ell_Y(g) = - \inf_{\tau \in \mathbb{R}_{>0}} \left(\tau \left(\inf_{h \in G \cap \text{SL}_m} \|h \cdot Y\|_2^2 \right) - nm \log \tau \right).$$

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An MLE can be computed in 2 steps:

- 1) Find a point of minimal norm in the orbit $H \cdot Y$.
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The MLE is $\tau h^\top h$.

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Algorithms from invariant theory that compute the capacity

$$\mathrm{cap}_H(Y) := \inf_{h \in H} \|h \cdot Y\|_2^2$$

can be used to compute MLEs ! [algorithmic papers by Bürgisser, Franks, Garg, Oliveira, Walter, Wigderson, ...]

Maximum Likelihood Thresholds

Given a family of distributions, how many data samples are needed for an MLE to exist almost surely?

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These have been open questions for the family of all matrix normal distributions on $\mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$ (Dutilleul 1999; Lu, Zimmerman 2004; Srivastav, von Rosen, von Rosen 2008; Werner, Jansson, Stoica 2008; Rós, Bijma, de Munck, de Gunst 2016; Soloveychik, Trushin 2016; Drton, Kuriki, Hoff 2021)

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mlt_e

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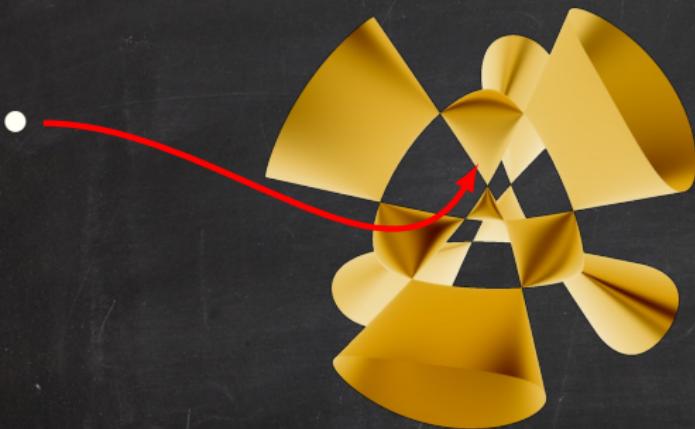
mlt_b

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Theorem [invariant theorists Harm Derksen & Visu Makam, 2021]

Let $d := \gcd(m, n)$ and $r := (m^2 + n^2 - d^2)/(mn)$. The ML thresholds of the matrix normal model satisfy $\text{mlt}_b = \text{mlt}_e$, and

- ◆ If $m = n = 1$, then $\text{mlt}_e = \text{mlt}_u = 1$.
- ◆ If $m = n > 1$, then $\text{mlt}_e = 1$ and $\text{mlt}_u = 3$.
- ◆ If $m \neq n$ and $r \in \mathbb{Z}$, then $\text{mlt}_e = r$.
 - If $d = 1$, then $\text{mlt}_u = r$, otherwise $\text{mlt}_u = r + 1$.
- ◆ If $m \neq n$ and $r \notin \mathbb{Z}$, then $\text{mlt}_e = \text{mlt}_u = \lceil (m^2 + n^2)/(mn) \rceil$.

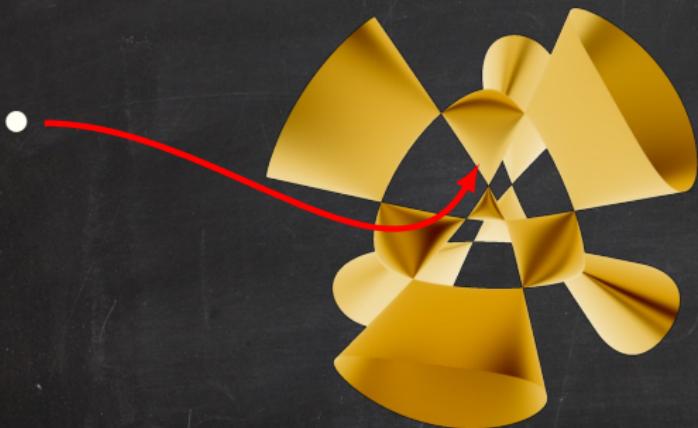


algebraic optimization

given \bullet , find best point on (possibly unknown) manifold, variety, etc.

Examples:

- ◆ low-rank matrix approximation
- ◆ maximum likelihood estimation



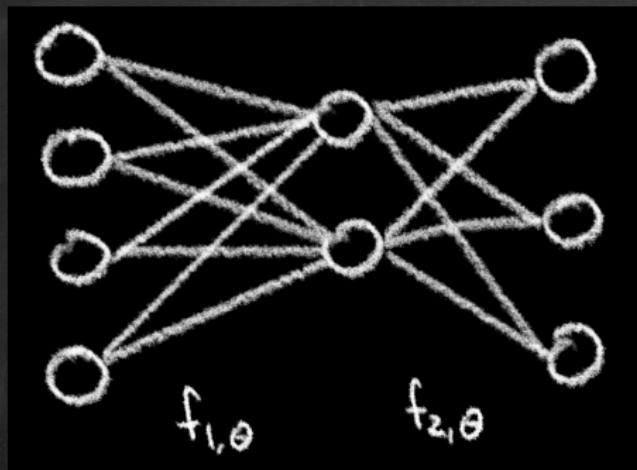
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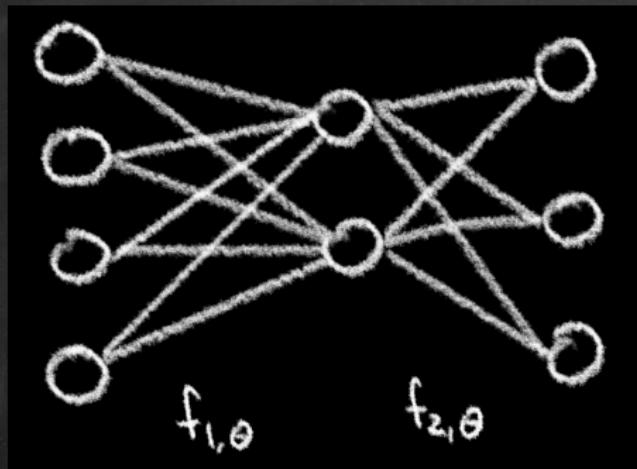
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- ◆ machine learning with neural networks

feedforward neural networks



feedforward neural networks

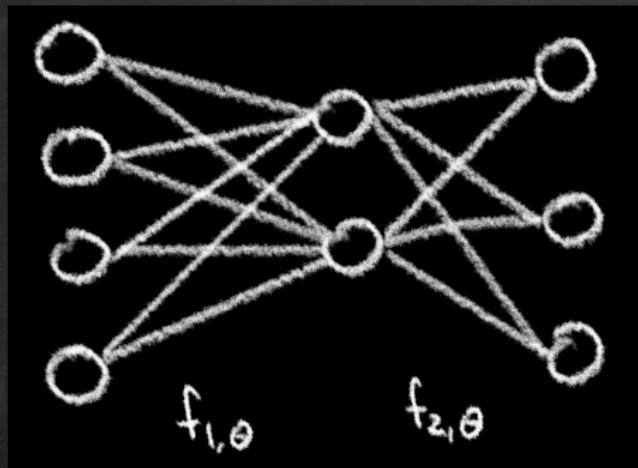


are parametrized families of functions

$$\mu : \mathbb{R}^N \longrightarrow \mathcal{M},$$

$$\theta \longmapsto f_{L,\theta} \circ \dots \circ f_{1,\theta}$$

feedforward neural networks



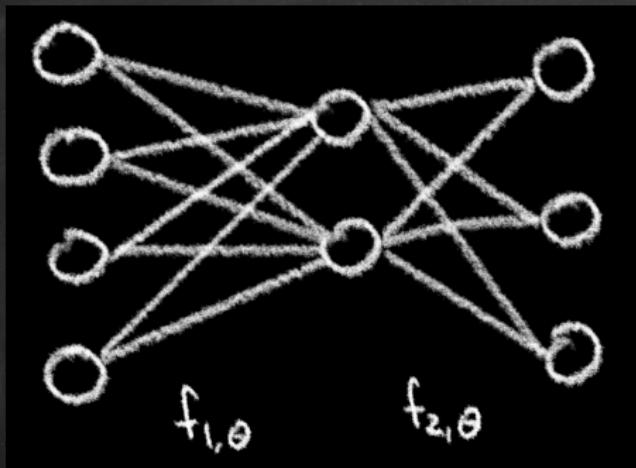
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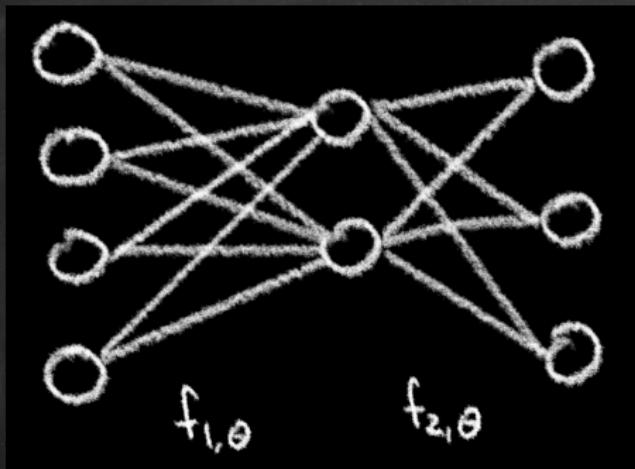
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feedforward neural networks



$$\mathcal{M} = \text{im}(\mu) = \text{neuromanifold}$$

it is a manifold with boundary
and singularities

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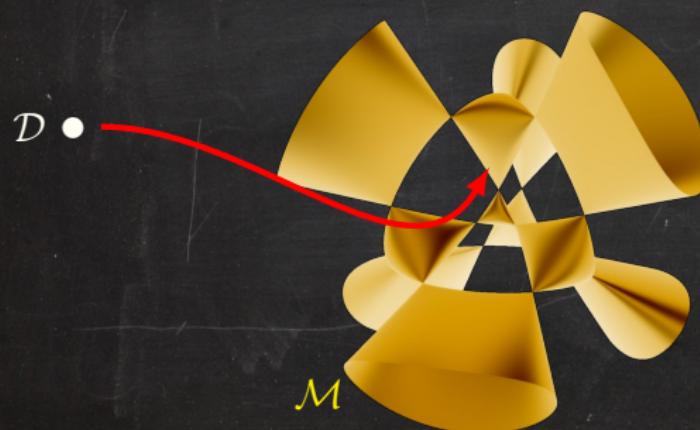
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training a network

Given training data \mathcal{D} , the goal is to minimize the **loss**

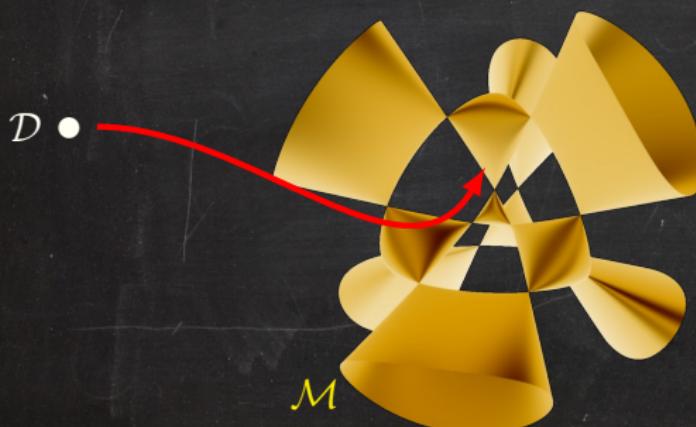
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Geometric questions:

- ◆ How does the network architecture affect the geometry of the function space?
- ◆ How does the geometry of the function space impact the training of the network?

understanding networks via algebraic optimization

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Algebraic settings:

	network architecture	
activation	network structure	loss

understanding networks via algebraic optimization

Algebraic settings:

	network architecture	loss
activation	network structure	
identity		
ReLU		
polynomial		

understanding networks via algebraic optimization

Algebraic settings:

activation	network architecture	loss
network structure		
identity	fully-connected	
ReLU	convolutional	
polynomial	attention	

understanding networks via algebraic optimization

Algebraic settings:

	network architecture		
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identity	fully-connected	squared-error loss	= Euclidean dist
ReLU	convolutional	Wasserstein distance	= polyhedral dist.
polynomial	attention	cross-entropy	\cong KL divergence

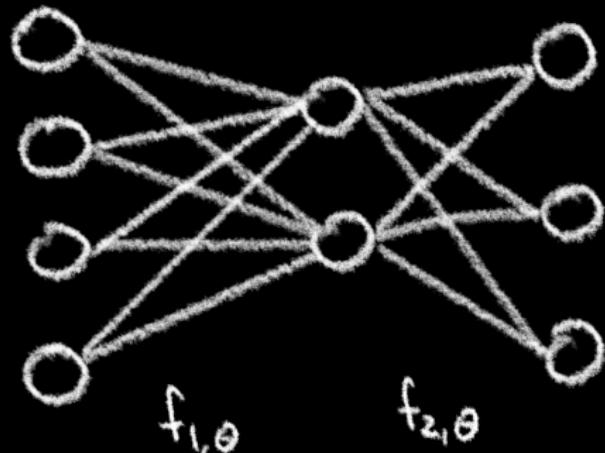
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neuromanifold = semi-algebraic set defined by polynomial equalities
and inequalities

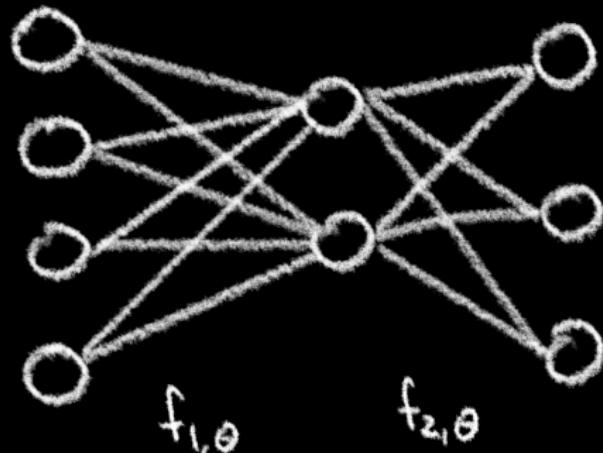
example: linear fully-connected networks



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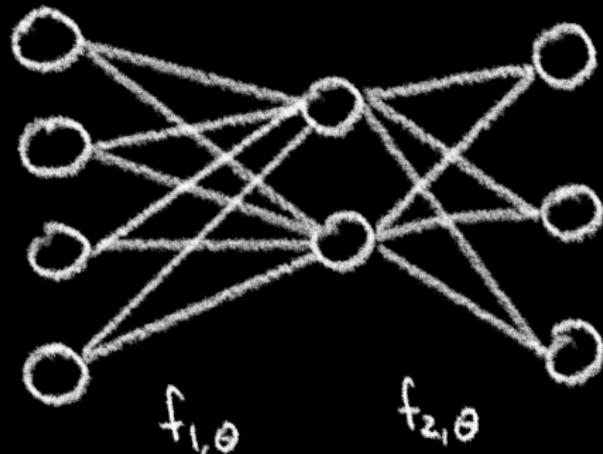


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$$\mathcal{M} = \{W \in \mathbb{R}^{3 \times 4} \mid \text{rank}(W) \leq 2\}$$

example: linear fully-connected networks



In this example:

$$\begin{aligned}\mu : \mathbb{R}^{2 \times 4} \times \mathbb{R}^{3 \times 2} &\longrightarrow \mathbb{R}^{3 \times 4}, \\ (W_1, W_2) &\longmapsto W_2 W_1.\end{aligned}$$

$$\mathcal{M} = \{W \in \mathbb{R}^{3 \times 4} \mid \text{rank}(W) \leq 2\}$$

In general:

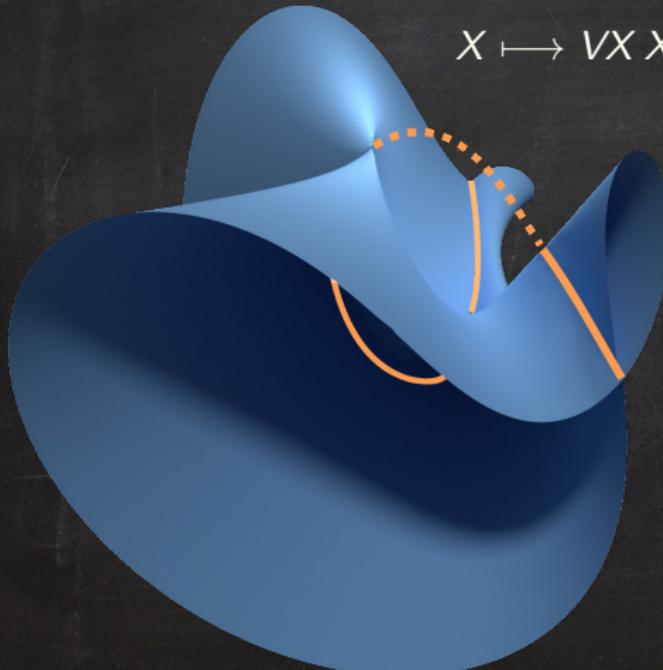
$$\begin{aligned}\mu : \mathbb{R}^{k_1 \times k_0} \times \mathbb{R}^{k_2 \times k_1} \times \dots \times \mathbb{R}^{k_L \times k_{L-1}} &\longrightarrow \mathbb{R}^{k_L \times k_0}, \\ (W_1, W_2, \dots, W_L) &\longmapsto W_L \cdots W_2 W_1.\end{aligned}$$

$\mathcal{M} = \{W \in \mathbb{R}^{k_L \times k_0} \mid \text{rank}(W) \leq \min(k_0, \dots, k_L)\}$ is an **algebraic variety** and we know its singularities etc.

example: attention networks

A single-layer lightning self-attention network with weights $Q, K \in \mathbb{R}^{a \times d}$ and $V \in \mathbb{R}^{d' \times d}$ is

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbb{R}^{d \times t} &\longrightarrow \mathbb{R}^{d' \times t}, \\ X &\longmapsto V X X^\top K^\top Q X.\end{aligned}$$



A slice of the 5-dimensional neuromanifold \mathcal{M} for $a = d = t = 2, d' = 1$.

It is singular along the orange curve, and has boundary points where the curve leaves/enters \mathcal{M} .

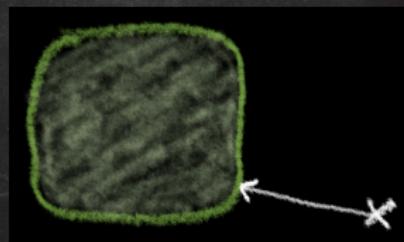
understanding networks via algebraic optimization

Algebraic settings:

network architecture		loss	
activation	network structure		
identity	fully-connected	squared-error loss	= Euclidean dist
ReLU	convolutional	Wasserstein distance	= polyhedral dist.
polynomial	attention	cross-entropy	\cong KL divergence

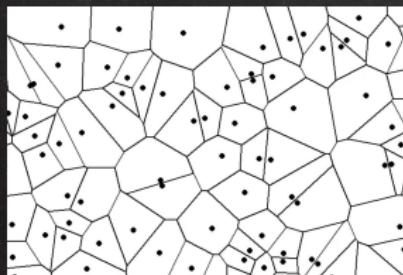
neuromanifold = semi-algebraic set

its boundaries and singularities can be especially exposed during training



Voronoi cells

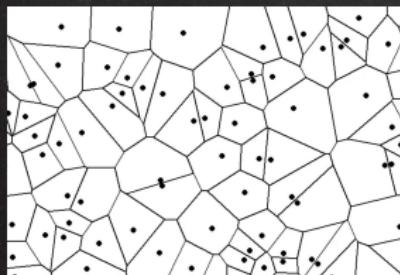
Given a set $\mathcal{M} \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$, the **Voronoi cell** of $x \in \mathcal{M}$ consists of all $u \in \mathbb{R}^n$ such that x is “closest” among all points in \mathcal{M} .



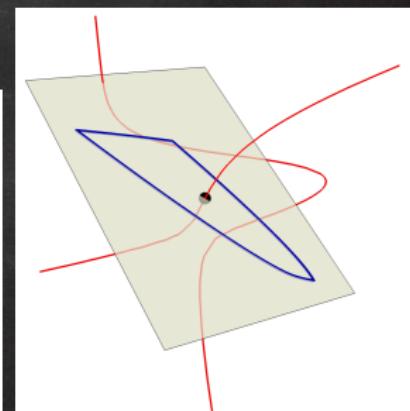
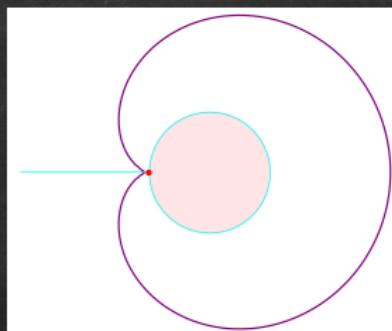
\mathcal{M} might be finite

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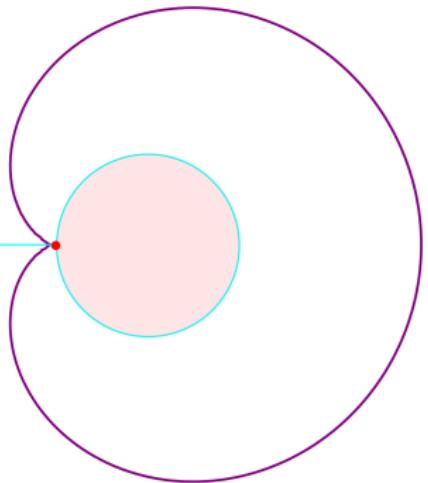


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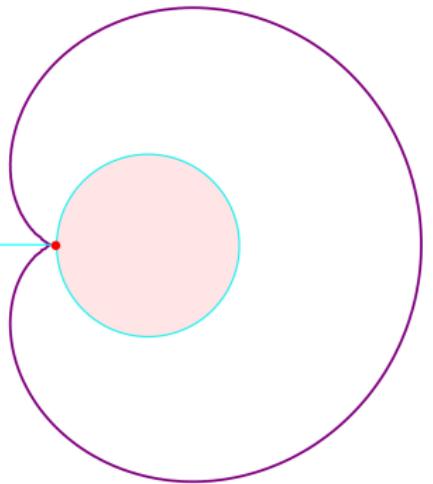
or a manifold, variety, semi-algebraic set, etc.

Voronoi cells with respect to Euclidean distance



$\mathcal{M} \subseteq \mathbb{R}^2$ is the purple curve

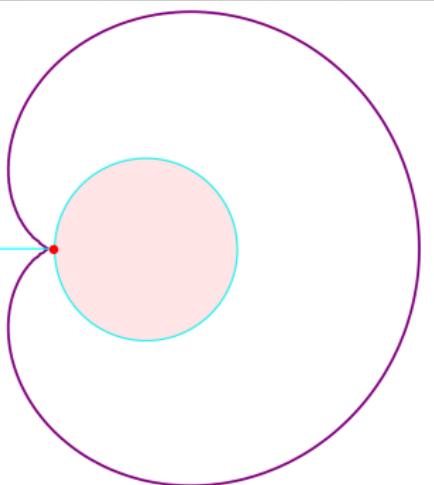
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at all smooth points $x \in \mathcal{M}$, the
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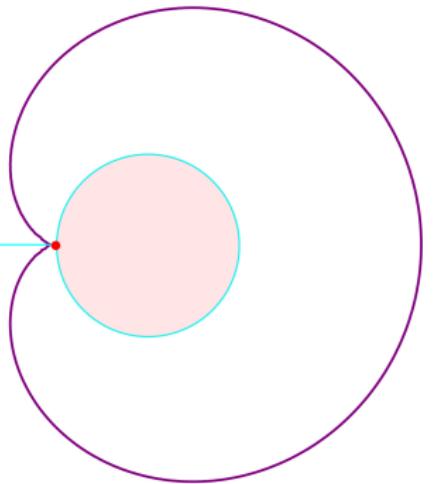


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the Voronoi cell at the singularity is
2-dimensional, i.e., that point is the
closest with **positive probability**

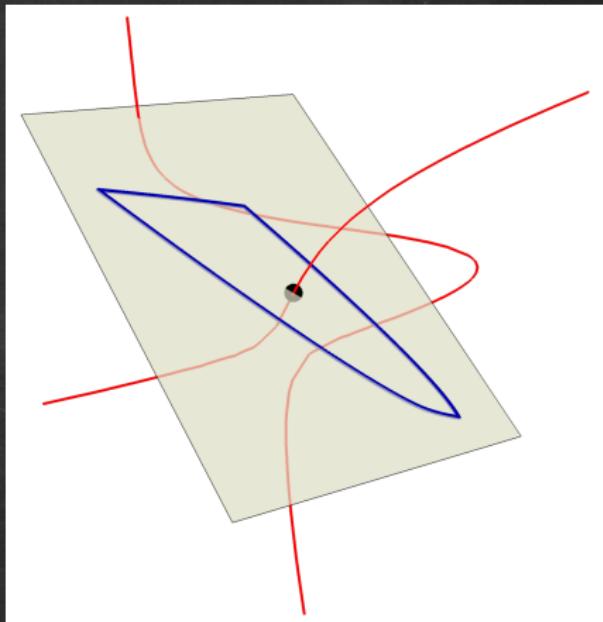
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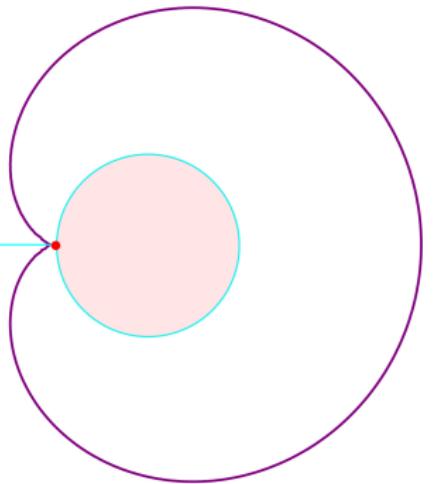
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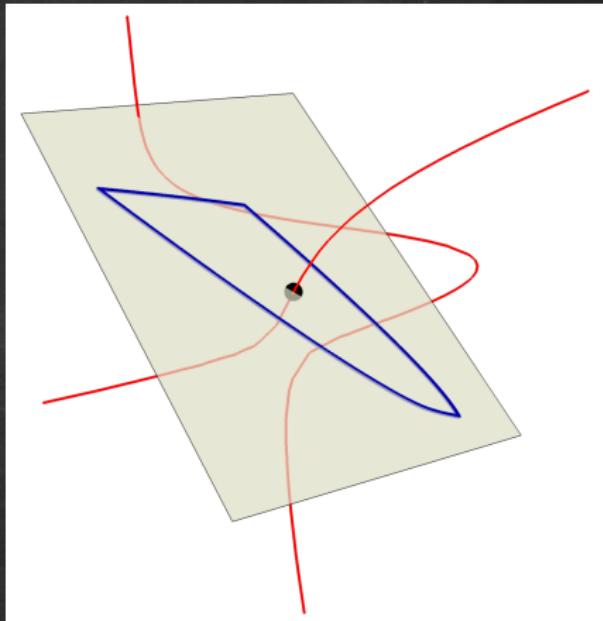
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the Voronoi cell at the singularity is 2-dimensional, i.e., that point is the closest with positive probability



$\mathcal{M} \subseteq \mathbb{R}^3$ is the red curve

at smooth points, the Voronoi cell is a convex, semi-algebraic, 2-dimensional subset of the normal plane



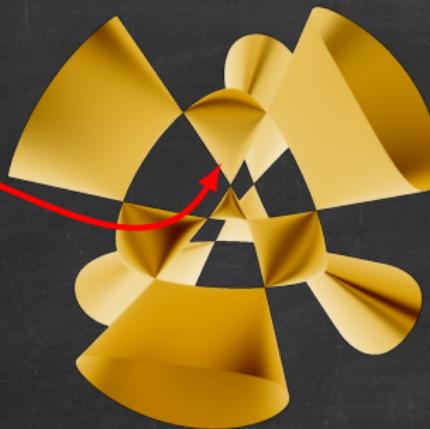
Examples:

- ◆ low-rank matrix approximation
- ◆ maximum likelihood estimation
- ◆ machine learning with neural networks

algebraic optimization

given \bullet , find best point on (possibly unknown) manifold, variety, etc.

Often, the manifold / semialgebraic set is unknown or hard to understand!



Examples:

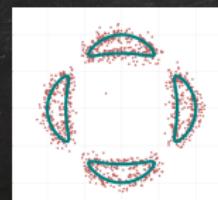
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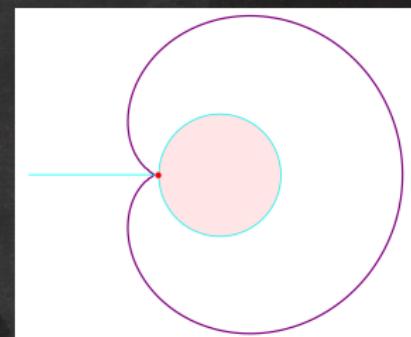
Can we learn something from samples?



medial axis & reach

$$\mathcal{M} \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$$

The union of the boundaries of all Voronoi cells is the **medial axis** of \mathcal{M} .

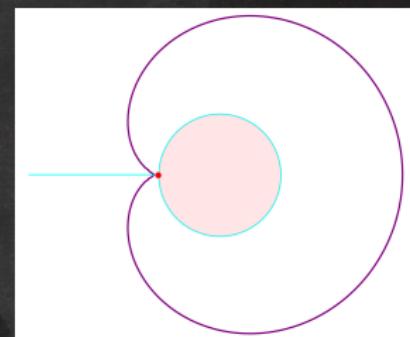


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It consists of all points in \mathbb{R}^n that have two “closest” points on \mathcal{M} .

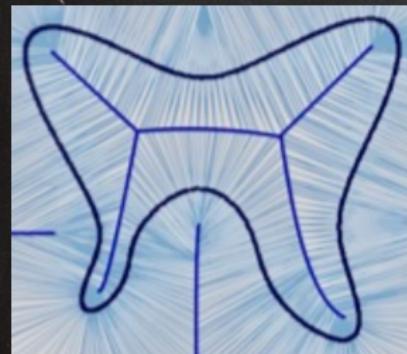
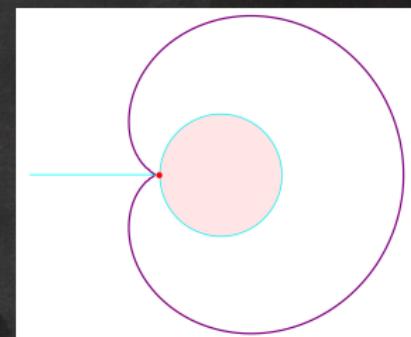


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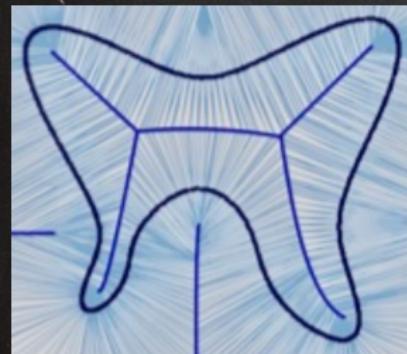
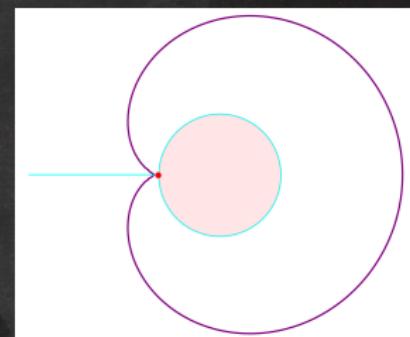
If \mathcal{M} is a smooth variety, its medial axis with respect to Euclidean distance has positive distance from \mathcal{M} .

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If \mathcal{M} is a smooth variety, its medial axis with respect to Euclidean distance has positive distance from \mathcal{M} .

This distance is the **reach** of \mathcal{M} .



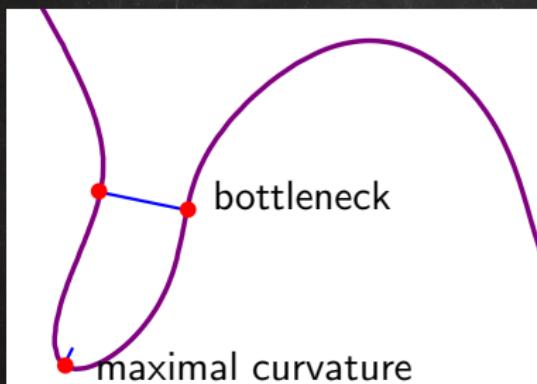
$\mathcal{M} \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$ smooth variety

$$\Rightarrow \text{reach}(\mathcal{M}) = \min \left\{ \text{smallest bottleneck width}, \frac{1}{\text{maximal curvature}} \right\}$$



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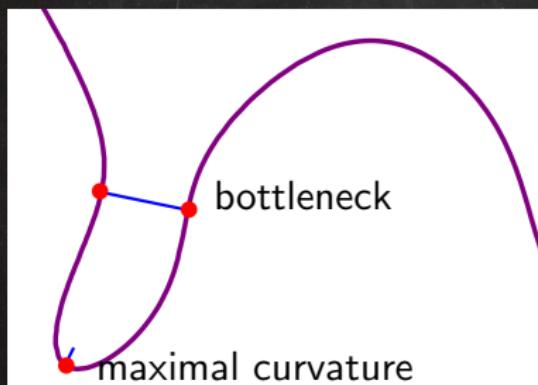
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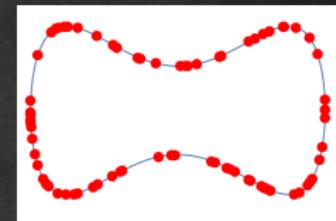
$\{x, y\} \subset \mathcal{M}$ is a **bottleneck**
if $x - y$ is normal to both tangent spaces $T_x \mathcal{M}$ and $T_y \mathcal{M}$

its **width** is $\frac{1}{2}\|x - y\|_2$

reach & sampling

$\mathcal{M} \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$ smooth variety, $S \subseteq \mathcal{M}$ finite sample, $0 < \varepsilon < \sqrt{\frac{3}{20}} \text{ reach}(\mathcal{M})$

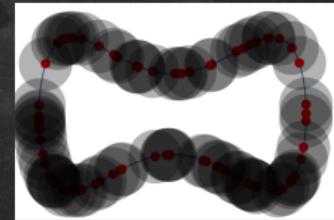
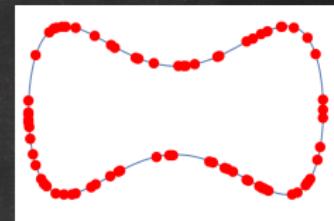
For all $x \in \mathcal{M}$, there is $s \in S$ with $\|x - s\|_2 < \varepsilon$



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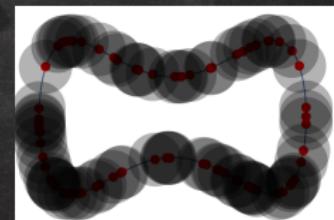
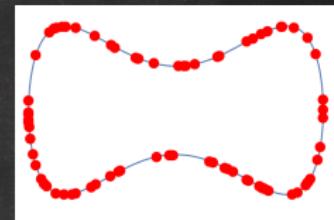


$U = \text{union of all } \varepsilon\text{-balls around all points in } S$

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Theorem [Niyogi, Smale, Weinberger]

\mathcal{M} is a deformation retract of U .

They have the same homology!

Homology of U is computable from the associated Čech complex

How to actually solve **algebraic inverse problems** ?



2d pictures

given observations, want
to recover ground truth



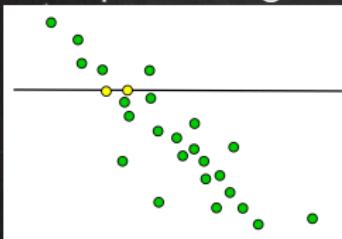
3d modell

Observations are often noisy, and can even be corrupted with outliers.
RANSAC (RANdom SAmple Consensus) provides robust estimation !

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- 1) Randomly select a subset of the data
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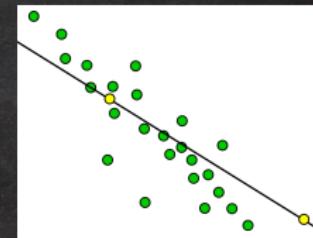
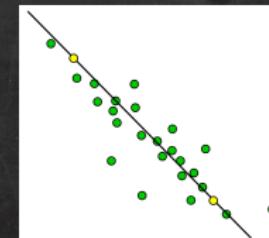
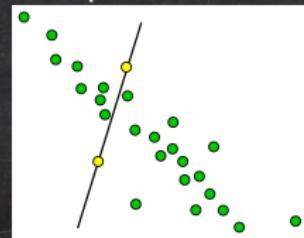
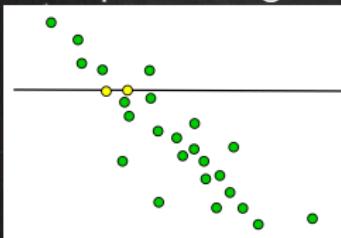
Example: fitting a line to points



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Example: fitting a line to points



few outliers!

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2d pictures

3d modell

for general algebraic inverse problems, step 2) means to solve a system of polynomial equations!

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2d pictures



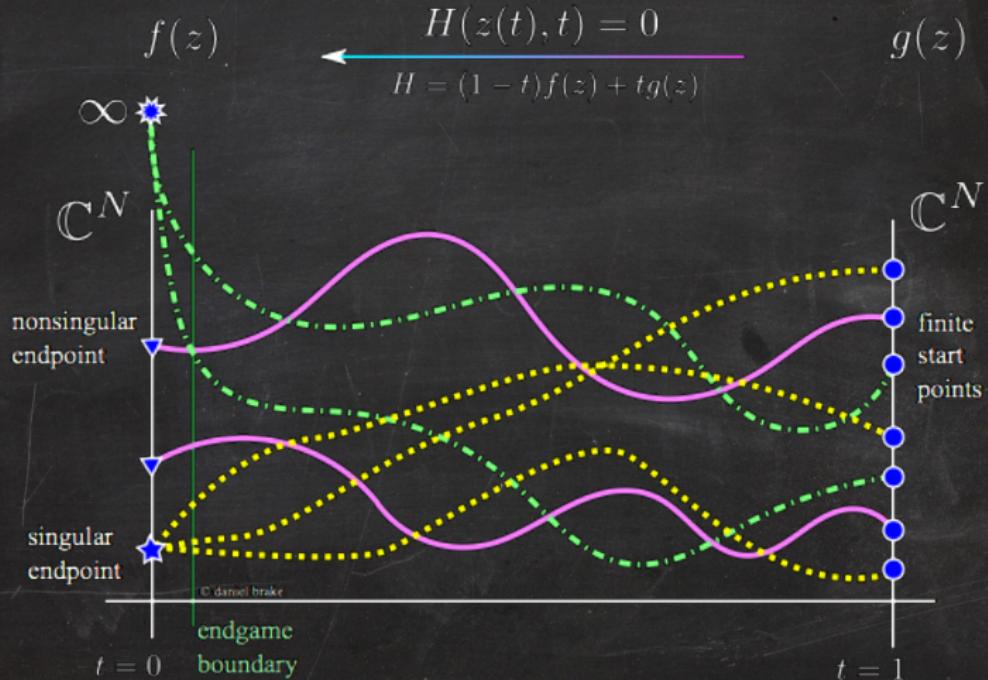
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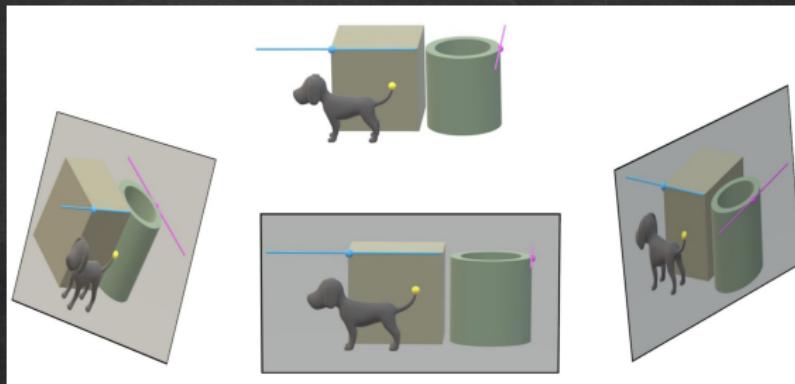
need to do this very fast! (due to step 4))

can solve polynomial systems via Gröbner bases

can solve polynomial systems via Gröbner bases or homotopy continuation



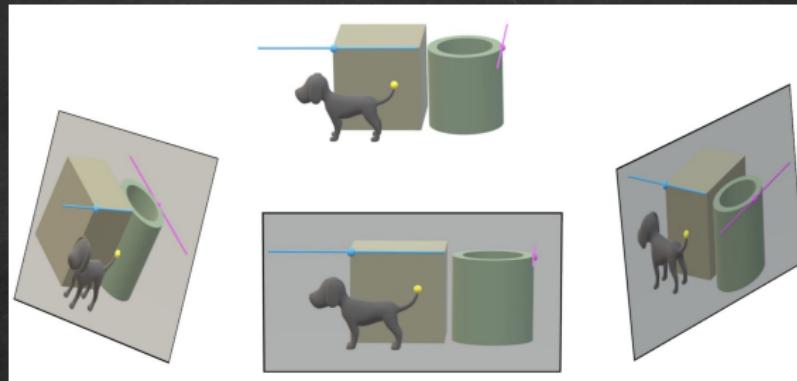
example: 3d reconstruction from unknown cameras



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Given: point, point on line & point on line on each 2d-image

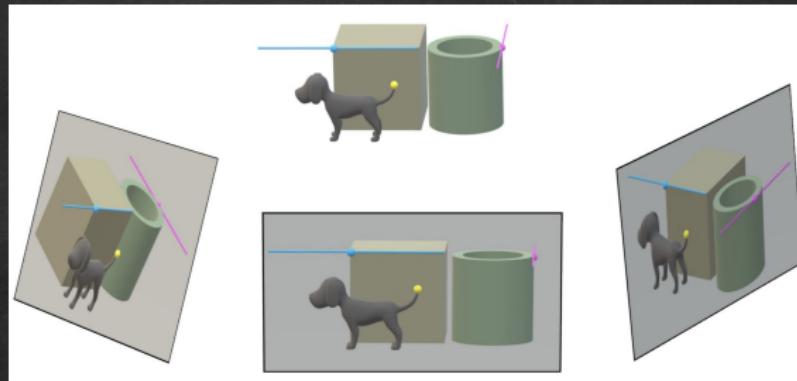
Goal: compute point, point on line & point on line in 3-space, and positions $c_1, c_2, c_3 \in \mathbb{R}^3$ & orientations $R_1, R_2, R_3 \in \text{SO}(3)$ of cameras



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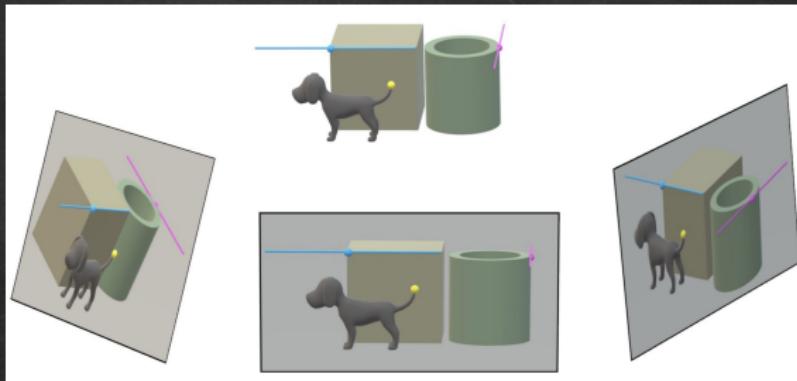


Generally has 312 complex solutions (modulo the appropriate group action).

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Generally has 312 complex solutions (modulo the appropriate group action).

Gröbner basis methods won't terminate ...

Homotopy continuation can solve in 660ms on average on Intel core i7-7920HQ processor with 4 threads Fabbri et. al.: TRPLP – Trifocal Relative Pose from Lines at Points, CVPR 2020

Data science requires us to rethink the schism between mathematical disciplines!

differential geometry \Rightarrow
algebraic geometry \Rightarrow
data science \Rightarrow

open access :)



Bernd Sturmfels

Kathlén Kohn

Paul Breining

Metric Algebraic Geometry



Historical Snapshot

Polars
Foci
Envelopes

Critical Equations

Euclidean Distance Degree
Low-Rank Matrix Approximation
Invitation to Polar Degrees

Computations

Gröbner Bases
Parameter Continuation Theorem
Polynomial Homotopy Continuation

Polar Degrees

Polar Varieties
Projective Duality
Chern Classes

Wasserstein Distance

Polyhedral Norms
Optimal Transport &
Independence Models
Wasserstein meets Segre–Veronese

Oberwolfach Seminars

Curvature

Plane Curves
Algebraic Varieties
Volumes of Tubular Neighborhoods

Reach and Offset

Medial Axis and Rottenecks
Offset Hypersurfaces
Offset Discriminant

Veronoi Cells

Veronoi Basics
Algebraic Boundaries
Degree Formulas
Veronoi meets Eckart–Young

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Errors in Numerical Computations
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Volumes of Semialgebraic Sets

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