

# Literature Draft

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Peter Adema  
14460165

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## 1 Problem statement

Modern Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs) often use linear convolutional layers to process images and max-pooling layers to condense information and shrink the feature space. However, it can be shown that both of these operations are equivalent to a semifield convolution: the first in the linear field (with a learned kernel) and the second in the tropical-max field (with a step-function-like kernel). More semifields have been examined in the domain of continuous (PDE) CNNs, but (to the best of my knowledge) this has not yet been done for discrete CNNs. This project aims to examine the use of other semifields in semifield convolutions within the context of kernels parameterised as quadratic forms ( $x^T Q^{-1} x$ , with  $Q$  positive semi-definite). The performance (accuracy and training/inference speed) of various CNN architectures modified to use semifield convolutions will be evaluated. Additionally, some theoretical assumptions regarding how the semifields should behave will be verified (e.g. scaling the image should increase the learned quadratic form scales, and log-semifields should approximate tropical min- and max-fields in the limits).

## 2 Keywords

convolution, semifield, quadratic form, dilation, morphology, pooling, CNN

### 3 Some relevant literature

1. Bellaard, Sakata, Smets, and Duits (2024)  
This paper provides a very useful overview of semifield theory as it pertains to PDE-CNNs, with a sizeable portion also being usable for this (discrete) case.
2. Geusebroek, Smeulders, and van de Weijer (2002)  
This paper shows how an anisotropic Gaussian filter can be efficiently calculated by using one axis-aligned convolution and one off-axis convolution, with relatively low approximation error. It would be interesting to apply something similar for this project, but I fear the reverse-mode AD would be very painful.
3. Smets, Portegies, Bekkers, and Duits (2023), and Cohen and Welling (2016)  
These two papers provide more background material on group-invariant operations in CNNs, both in the discrete and continuous case. They are mainly relevant for better understanding the project and Bellaard et al. (2024).
4. Blankenstein (2022)  
My predecessor in this project has some useful notes regarding how the isotropic version of the quadratic pooling layer should behave, and the experiments will serve as a good starting point and baseline.
5. Paszke, Johnson, Frostig, and Maclaurin (2021)  
This paper presents some useful concepts for efficient differentiation for various second order functions: in particular, the differentiation rule for `reduce` is relevant for computing the gradient in an arbitrary field correlation  $\star$ .
6. Mantini and Shah (2021) / Jiang et al. (2019)  
These two papers propose using a quadratic function  $x^T W x$  as the kernel in the standard convolutional layers of a CNN. This is very similar to the original project proposal, if we use the *log*-PDF of the Gaussian as our kernel.

## References

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