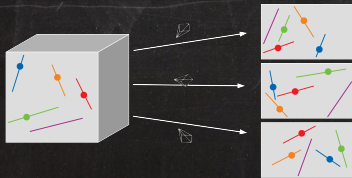
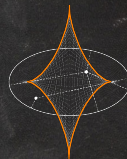


# Algebra & Geometry in Data Science & AI



Kathlén Kohn



# data science & AI require a vast math toolbox

optimization

machine learning

statistics

algebra & geometry

scientific computing

analysis

...

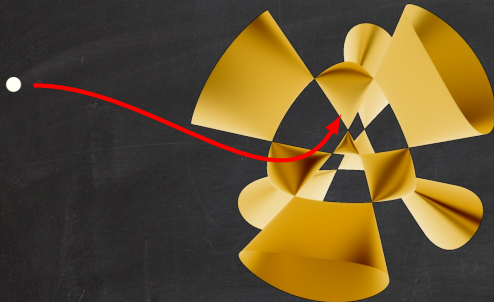
# The world is non-linear!

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.

# Varieties in data science & AI

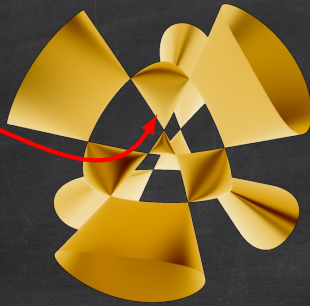


## **algebraic optimization**

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

# Varieties in data science & AI

•



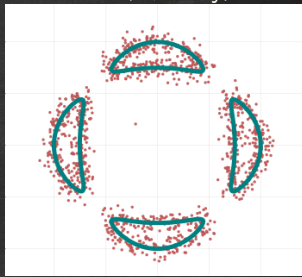
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## manifold hypothesis

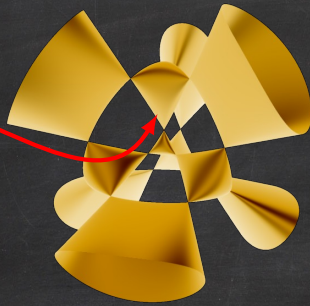
### variety hypothesis

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



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

# Varieties in data science & AI



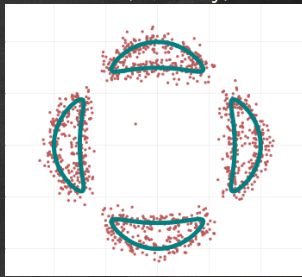
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## algebraic inverse problems



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



Guess: This matrix should be of low rank!

Alice	1			4	
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Underlying variety is

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

What is  $r$  ??

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Complete the matrix such that it has rank  $r$  !

inverse problem

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inverse problem

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

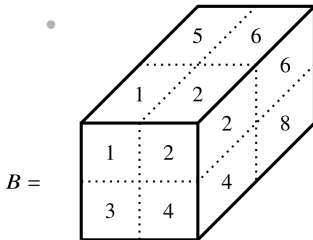
optimization

# Big Data & Tensors

Often, data has many dimensions to it!

$A =$

1	2
3	4

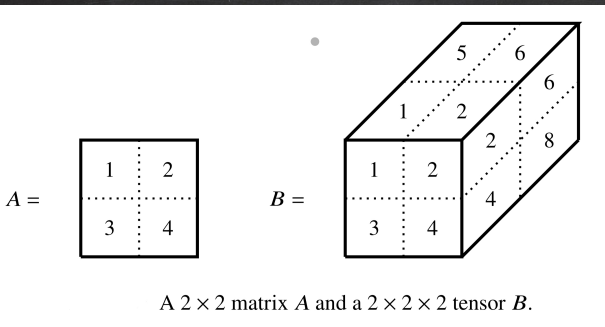


A  $2 \times 2$  matrix  $A$  and a  $2 \times 2 \times 2$  tensor  $B$ .



# Big Data & Tensors

Often, data has many dimensions to it!



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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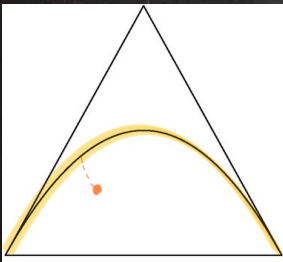
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The possible distributions of the experiment outcome are parametrized by

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

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

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



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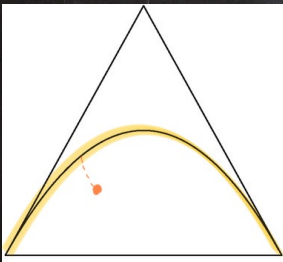
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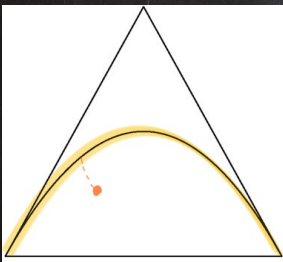
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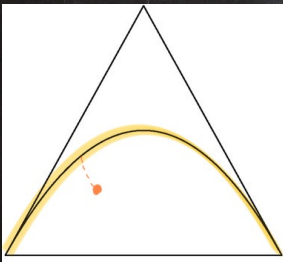
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The  $p$  maximizing this most likely gave rise to  $u$ . It is called the **maximum likelihood estimate (MLE)**.

# MLE of matrix normal distributions

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

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

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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  $G \subseteq GL_m$  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  $\ell_Y$  !



# 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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**Algorithms from invariant theory that compute the capacity**

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

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  $\mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$  (Duttilleul 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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$\text{mlt}_e$

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$\text{mlt}_u$

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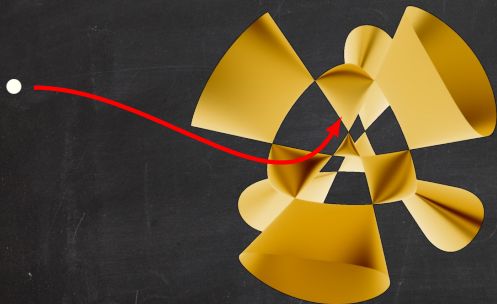
$\text{mlt}_b$

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

Let  $d := \text{gcd}(m, n)$  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  $\text{mlt}_e = \text{mlt}_u = \lceil (m^2 + n^2)/(mn) \rceil$ .

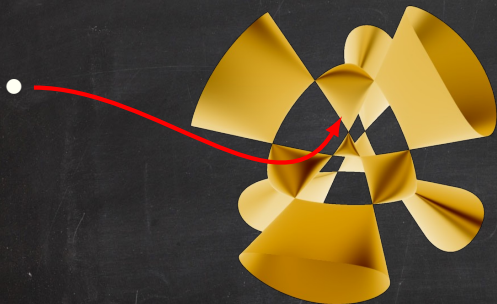


### **algebraic optimization**

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

### **Examples:**

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



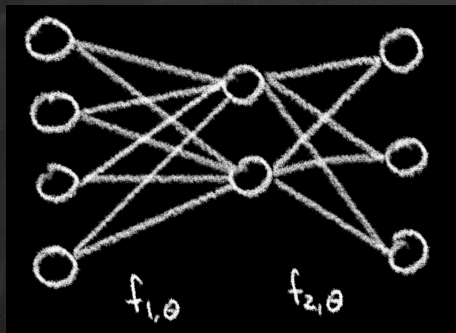
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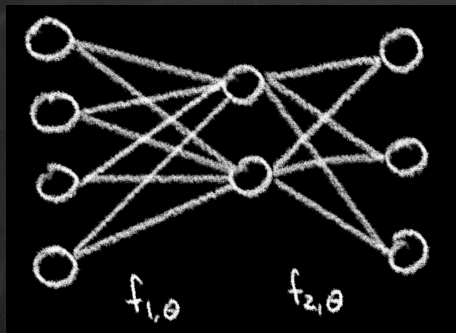
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- ◆ machine learning with neural networks

# feedforward neural networks



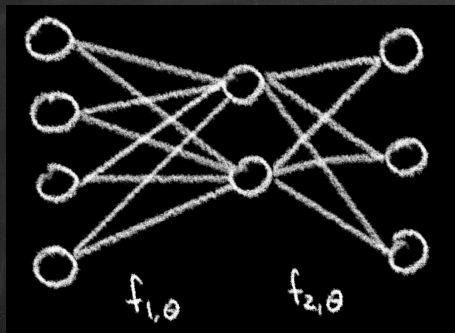
# feedforward neural networks



are parametrized families of functions

$$\begin{aligned}\mu : \mathbb{R}^N &\longrightarrow \mathcal{M}, \\ \theta &\longmapsto f_{L,\theta} \circ \dots \circ f_{1,\theta}\end{aligned}$$

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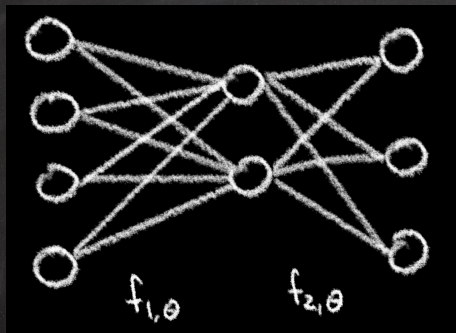


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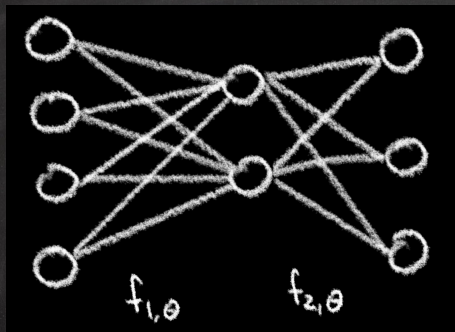


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 $\sigma_i : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  **activation**,  $\alpha_{i,\theta}$  affine linear

# feedforward neural networks



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

it is a manifold with boundary and singularities

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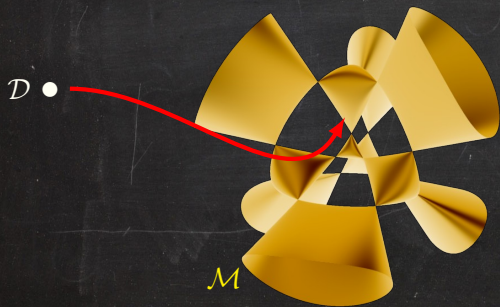
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# training a network

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

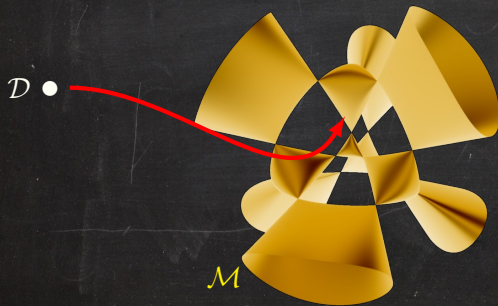
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## Geometric questions:

- ◆ 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

**activation**

**network structure**

**loss**

identity

ReLU

polynomial

# understanding networks via algebraic optimization

## Algebraic settings:

network architecture

**activation**

**network structure**

**loss**

identity

fully-connected

ReLU

convolutional

polynomial

attention

# understanding networks via algebraic optimization

## Algebraic settings:

network architecture

**activation**

**network structure**

**loss**

identity

fully-connected

squared-error loss

= Euclidean dist

ReLU

convolutional

Wasserstein distance

= polyhedral dist.

polynomial

attention

cross-entropy

$\cong$  KL divergence

# understanding networks via algebraic optimization

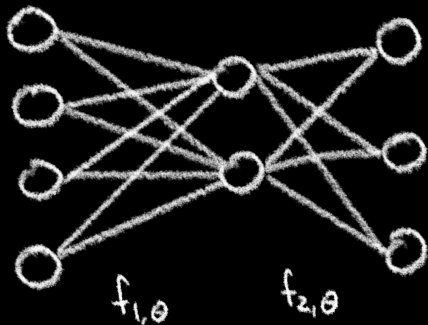
## Algebraic settings:

network architecture			
activation	network structure	loss	
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 defined by polynomial equalities and inequalities



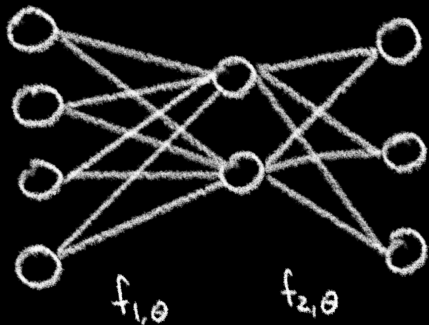
## example: linear fully-connected networks



In this example:

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

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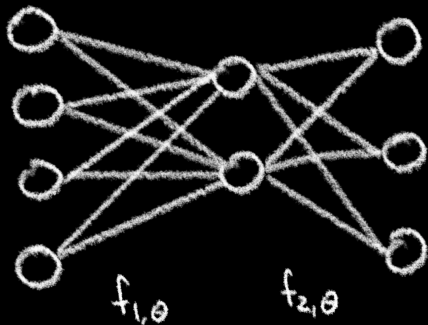


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In general:

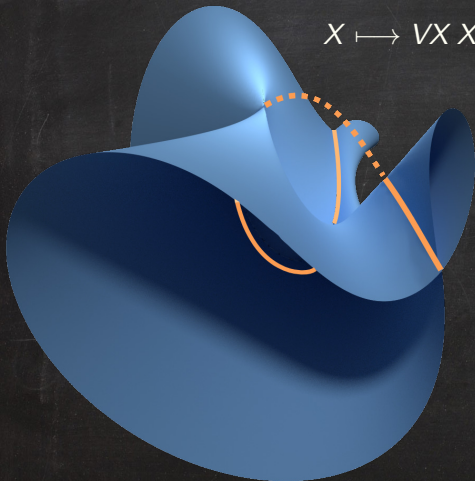
$$\mu : \mathbb{R}^{k_1 \times k_0} \times \mathbb{R}^{k_2 \times k_1} \times \dots \times \mathbb{R}^{k_L \times k_{L-1}} \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}^{k_L \times k_0},$$
$$(W_1, W_2, \dots, W_L) \longmapsto W_L \cdots W_2 W_1.$$

$\mathcal{M} = \{W \in \mathbb{R}^{k_L \times k_0} \mid \text{rank}(W) \leq \min(k_0, \dots, k_L)\}$  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

$$\mathbb{R}^{d \times t} \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}^{d' \times t},$$
$$X \longmapsto VX X^T K^T QX.$$



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  $\mathcal{M}$ .

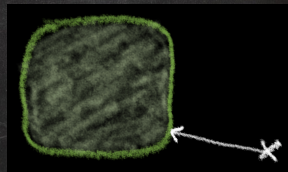
# understanding networks via algebraic optimization

## 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	$\approx$ KL divergence

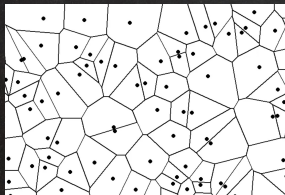
neuromanifold = semi-algebraic set

its boundaries and singularities can be especially exposed during training



# Voronoi cells

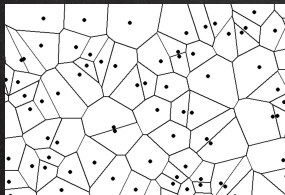
Given a set  $\mathcal{M} \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$ , the **Voronoi cell** of  $x \in \mathcal{M}$  consists of all  $u \in \mathbb{R}^n$  such that  $x$  is “closest” among all points in  $\mathcal{M}$ .



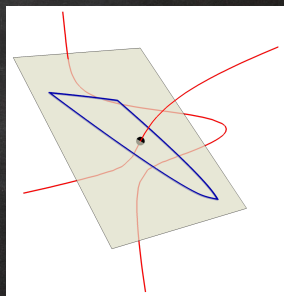
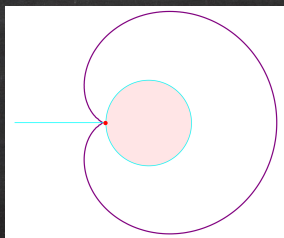
$\mathcal{M}$  might be finite

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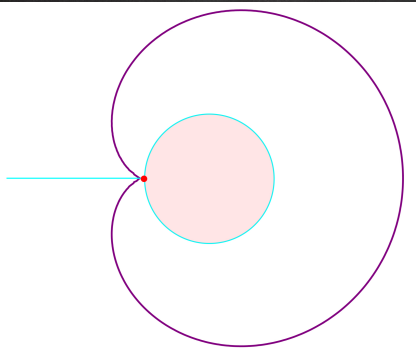


$\mathcal{M}$  might be finite



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

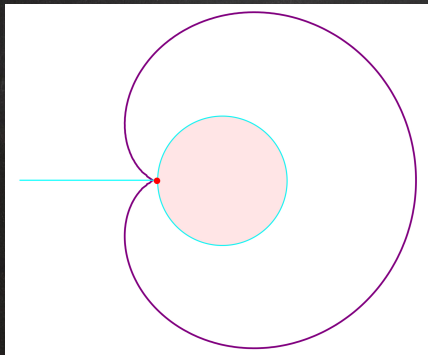
## Voronoi cells with respect to Euclidean distance



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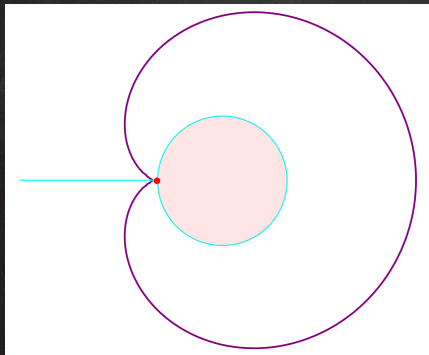
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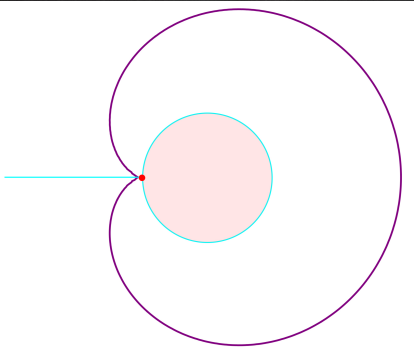


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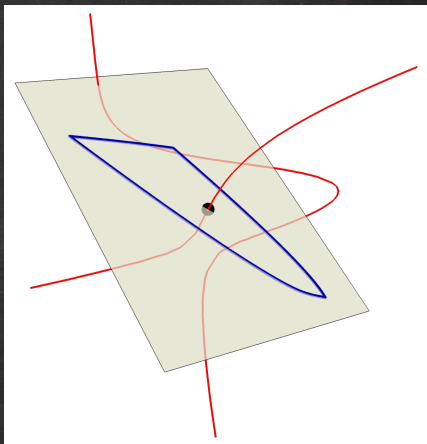
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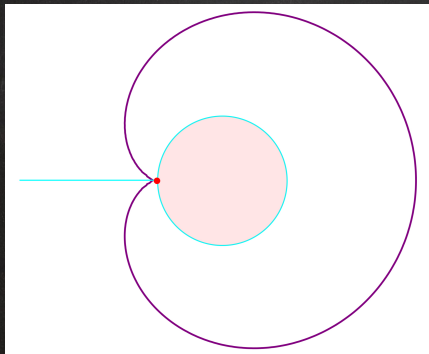


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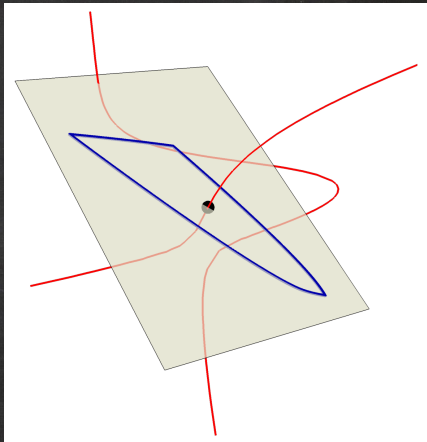
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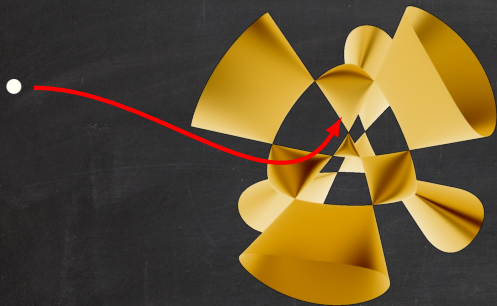
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$\mathcal{M} \subseteq \mathbb{R}^3$  is the red curve

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



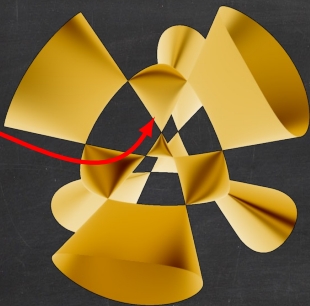
### algebraic optimization

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

### Examples:

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

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



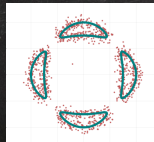
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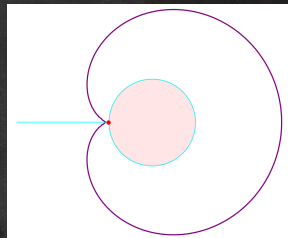


Can we learn something from samples?

# medial axis & reach

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

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

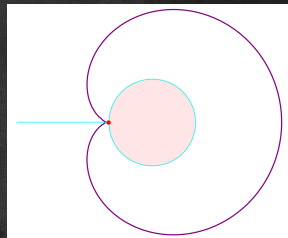


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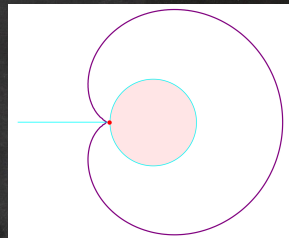


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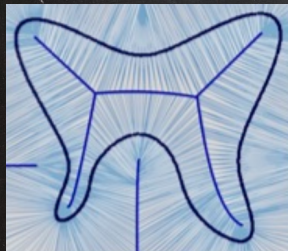
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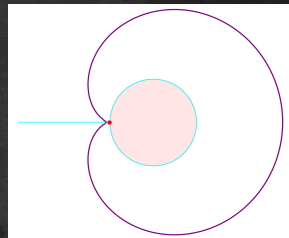


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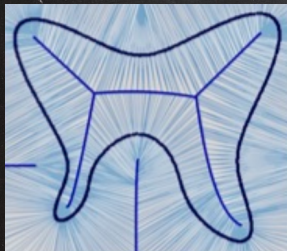
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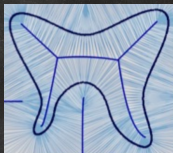
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This distance is the **reach** of  $\mathcal{M}$ .





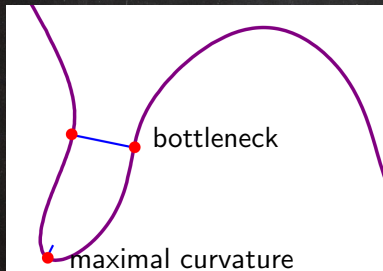
$\mathcal{M} \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$  smooth variety

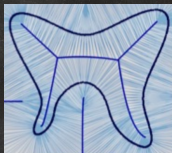
$$\Rightarrow \text{reach}(\mathcal{M}) = \min \left\{ \text{smallest bottleneck width}, \frac{1}{\text{maximal curvature}} \right\}$$



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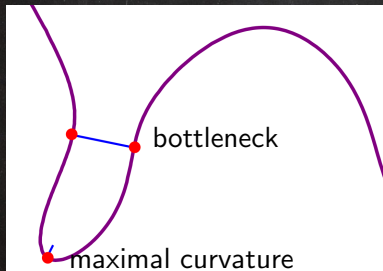
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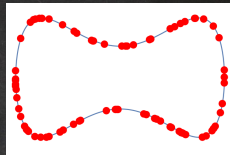
$\{x, y\} \subset \mathcal{M}$  is a **bottleneck**  
if  $x - y$  is normal to both tangent  
spaces  $T_x\mathcal{M}$  and  $T_y\mathcal{M}$

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,  $0 < \varepsilon < \sqrt{\frac{3}{20}} \text{reach}(\mathcal{M})$

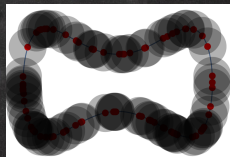
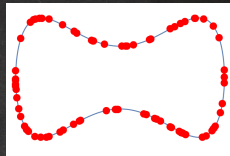
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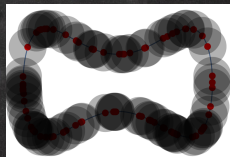
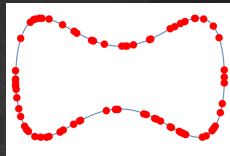


$U =$  union of all  $\varepsilon$ -balls around all points in  $S$

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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



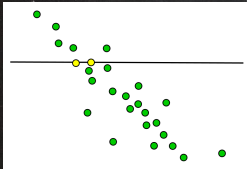
3d modell

Observations are often noisy, and can even be corrupted with outliers.  
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- 1) Randomly select a subset of the data
- 2) Fit a model to the selected subset
- 3) Determine the number of outliers
- 4) Repeat steps 1-3 to find a consensus (& outliers)

Example: fitting a line to points

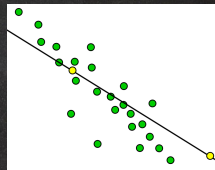
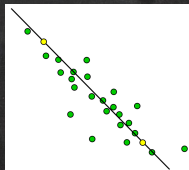
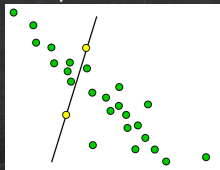
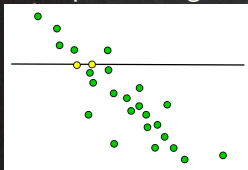


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2d pictures



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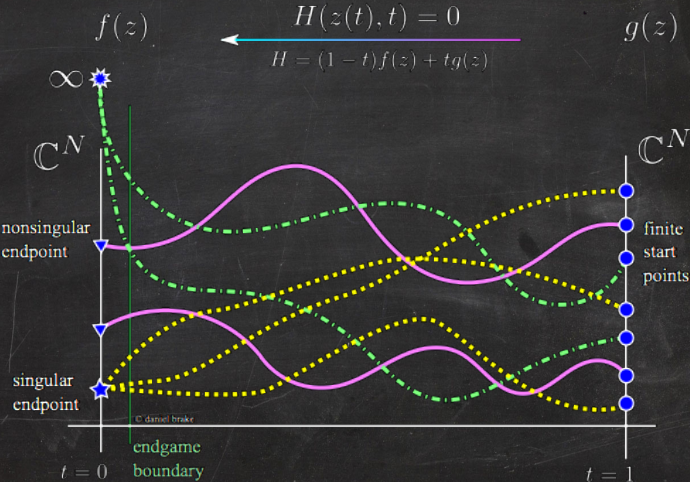
3d modell

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

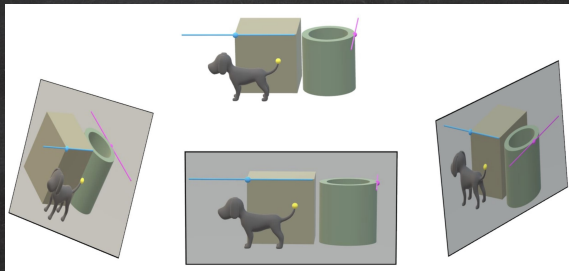
can solve polynomial systems via Gröbner bases

can solve polynomial systems via Gröbner bases or homotopy continuation





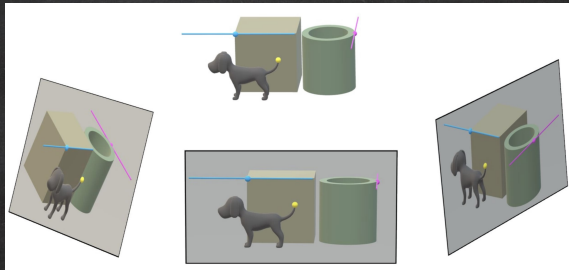
example: 3d reconstruction from unknown cameras



## example: 3d reconstruction from unknown cameras

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

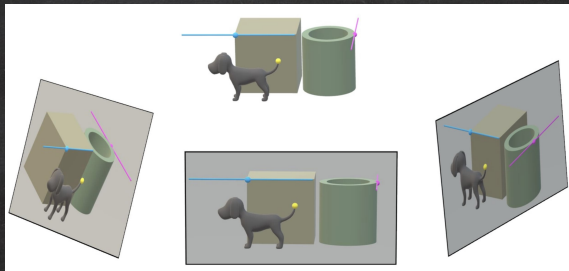
Goal: compute point, point on line & point on line in 3-space, and positions  $c_1, c_2, c_3 \in \mathbb{R}^3$  & orientations  $R_1, R_2, R_3 \in SO(3)$  of cameras



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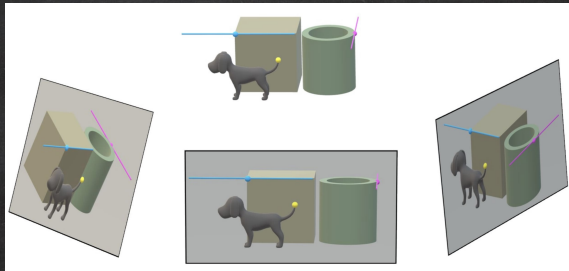


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Generally has 312 complex solutions (modulo the appropriate group action).

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  $\Rightarrow$



Bernd Sturmfels

Kathlén Kohn

Paul Breiding

# Metric Algebraic Geometry



## Historical Snapshot

- Polars
- Facet
- 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

## Curvature

- Kullback-Leibler Divergence
- Maximum Likelihood Degree
- Scattering Equations
- Gaussian Models

## Reach and Offset

- Medial Axis and Bottlenecks
- Offset Hypersurfaces
- Offset Discriminant

## Voronoi Cells

- Voronoi Basics
- Algebraic Boundaries
- Degree Formulas
- Voronoi meets Eckart-Young

## Condition Numbers

- Errors in Numerical Computations
- Matrix Inversion and Eckart-Young
- Condition Number Theorems
- Distance to the Discriminant

## Machine Learning

- Neural Networks
- Convolutional Networks
- Learning Varieties

## Maximum Likelihood

- Kullback-Leibler Divergence
- Maximum Likelihood Degree
- Scattering Equations
- Gaussian Models

## Tensors

- Tensors and their Rank
- Eigenvalues and Singular Vectors
- Volumes of Rank-One Varieties

## Computer Vision

- Multiview Varieties
- Grassmann Tensors
- 3D Reconstruction from Unknown Cameras

## Volumes of Semialgebraic Sets

- Calculus and Beyond
- D-Modules
- SDP Hierarchies

## Sampling

- Homology from Finite Samples
- Sampling with Density Guarantees
- Markov Chains on Varieties
- Chow goes to Monte Carlo

Oberwolfach Seminars

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