

Motivating example: Linear Convolutional Networks (LCNs)

$$\psi_{\text{LCN}}: \mathbb{R}^2 \times \mathbb{R}^3 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^5$$

$(w, v) \mapsto$

w_0 w_1

 $\cdot$

v_0	v_1	v_2		
		v_0	v_1	v_2

layer 2layer 1

How many linear maps does this 2-layer network parametrize?

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layer 2
layer 1

5 parameters:

- w_0
- w_1
- v_0
- v_1
- v_2

$$\dim(\text{im}(\varphi_{\text{LCN}})) = 4$$



This dimension measures the exact expressivity of the network.

How many linear maps does this 2-layer network parametrize?

$$\text{im}(\varphi_{\text{LCN}}) = \left\{ (a, b, c, d, e) \mid \begin{aligned} &ad^2 + b^2e = bcd \text{ \& } c^2 \geq 4ae \end{aligned} \right\}$$

2
How to compute the dimension of the image of $\varphi: X \rightarrow Y$ in general?

① Directly study $\text{im}(\varphi)$.

E.g., for $\varphi_{LU}: \left(\begin{array}{c} \text{upper triangular} \\ L \end{array}, \begin{array}{c} U \\ \text{upper triangular} \end{array} \right) \mapsto L \cdot U \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$,
show that almost every $A \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ has a LU decomposition } $\dim(\text{im}(\varphi_{LU})) = n^2$

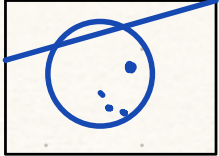
② Fiber-dimension theorem

③ Jacobian check

What is the dimension of a (semi)algebraic set?

 $K \in \{\mathbb{R}, \mathbb{C}\}$

A variety $X \subseteq K^n$ is **irreducible** if it is not the union of 2 proper subvarieties,
i.e., there are no varieties $X_1, X_2 \subseteq K^n$ s.t. $X = X_1 \cup X_2$
& $\emptyset \neq X_i \subsetneq X$

Ex.: $\mathbb{R}^2$  is reducible into 6 irreducible components

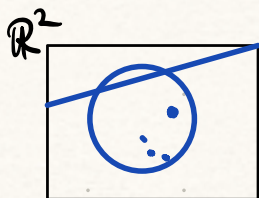
Fact: There is a subvariety $\Delta \subsetneq X$ such that $X \setminus \Delta$ is a smooth manifold of dimension k .
If X is irreducible, k is the same for all such Δ : k is the **dimension** of X .

$$\dim(\bigcirc) = 1, \quad \dim(\bullet) = 0$$

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Zariski open in X

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In general: $X = \bigcup X_i$ ^{irreducible varieties}
 $\rightarrow \dim(X) := \max \dim(X_i)$

For a $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{semialgebraic set } X \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n \\ \text{constructible set } X \subseteq K^n \end{array} \right\}$, define $\dim(X) := \dim(\overline{X})$ ^{Zariski closure}

$$\dim \left(\text{blue circle with dotted boundary} \right) = \dim \left(\text{blue square} \right) = 2$$

Dimension of Image

 $\mathbb{K} \in \{\mathbb{R}, \mathbb{C}\}$

Let $\varphi: X \rightarrow \mathbb{K}^n$ morphism between irreducible varieties.

Exercise: $Y := \overline{\varphi(X)}$ is irreducible

Zariski closure
↙

Dimension of Image

 $K \in \{\mathbb{R}, \mathbb{C}\}$

Let $\varphi: X \rightarrow K^m$ morphism between irreducible varieties.

Exercise: $Y := \overline{\varphi(X)}$ is irreducible

$\swarrow$ Zariski closure

Let us first consider the case $X = K^n$.

It is sufficient to compute the image dimension over $\mathbb{C}$:

If $K = \mathbb{R}$, φ is a polynomial map with real coefficients.

Exercise: $\dim_{\mathbb{R}} \varphi(\mathbb{R}^n) = \dim_{\mathbb{C}} \varphi(\mathbb{C}^n)$

$\uparrow$ $\mathbb{R}^m$ $\uparrow$ $\mathbb{C}^m$

Dimension of Image

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 $\quad \quad \quad \uparrow \quad \quad \quad \uparrow$
 $\quad \quad \quad \mathbb{R}^m \quad \quad \quad \mathbb{C}^m$

Important Principle:
 Complex AG
 often easier than
 real AG

AG = algebraic geometry

Solve real problem
 over $\mathbb{C}$ first!

Fiber-Dimension theorem: Let $\varphi: \mathbb{C}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^m$ be a polynomial map, $Y := \overline{\text{im}(\varphi)}$.

a) $\dim Y \leq n$

b) For all $y \in \text{im}(\varphi)$, every irreducible component of the fiber $\varphi^{-1}(y)$ has dimension $\geq n - \dim Y$.

c) There is a subvariety $\Delta \subsetneq Y$ s.t. $\dim(\varphi^{-1}(y)) = n - \dim Y$ for all $y \in \text{im}(\varphi) \setminus \Delta$.

We can compute $\dim(Y)$ by computing the dimension of a generic fiber!

Do you know this from linear algebra?

Linear Algebra

$\varphi: \mathbb{C}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^m$ linear map

$Y := \text{im}(\varphi)$ vector space

every fiber over Y has same dimension

Nonlinear Algebra

$\varphi: \mathbb{C}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^m$ polynomial map

$Y := \overline{\text{im}(\varphi)}$ variety

fibers over Y vary in dimension,
but almost all fibers have same dimension

Example

$$\begin{aligned}\varphi: \mathbb{C}^2 &\rightarrow \mathbb{C}^2 \\ (x, y) &\mapsto (x, xy)\end{aligned}$$

Compute $\varphi'(a, b)$:

Example

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Compute $\bar{\varphi}'(a, b)$:

$$\textcircled{1} a \neq 0: \quad \bar{\varphi}'(a, b) = \left\{ (a, \frac{b}{a}) \right\}$$

1 point

$$\textcircled{2} a = 0, b \neq 0: \quad \bar{\varphi}'(0, b) = \emptyset$$

$$\textcircled{3} a = 0, b = 0: \quad \bar{\varphi}'(0, 0) = \{ (0, y) \mid y \in \mathbb{C} \}$$

1 line

Example

$$\begin{aligned} \varphi: \mathbb{C}^2 &\rightarrow \mathbb{C}^2 \\ (x, y) &\mapsto (x, xy) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{im}(\varphi) &= (\mathbb{C}^2 \setminus L) \cup \{(0, 0)\} \\ L &= \{0\} \times \mathbb{C} \text{ line in } \mathbb{C}^2 \end{aligned}$$



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1 line

Almost every fiber is a single point.

Linear Algebra

$\varphi: \mathbb{C}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^m$ linear map

$Y := \text{im}(\varphi)$ vector space

every fiber over Y has same dimension

rank-nullity theorem:

$$n = \dim \ker(\varphi) + \dim Y$$

Nonlinear Algebra

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fiber-dimension theorem:

$$n = \dim \varphi^{-1}(y) + \dim Y$$

for almost all $y \in Y$

Linear Algebra

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every fiber over Y has same dimension

rank-nullity theorem:

$$n = \dim \ker(\varphi) + \dim Y$$

works over $\mathbb{R}$ as well

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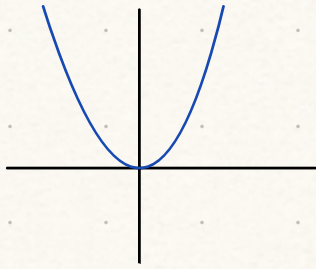
does not work over $\mathbb{R}$

Example

$$\varphi: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$$

$$x \mapsto x^2$$

$$\text{im}(\varphi) = \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$$



$$y > 0 \Rightarrow \varphi^{-1}(y) = 2 \text{ points}$$

$$y = 0 \Rightarrow \varphi^{-1}(y) = 1 \text{ point}$$

$$y < 0 \Rightarrow \varphi^{-1}(y) = \emptyset$$

$$\varphi: \mathbb{C} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$$

$$x \mapsto x^2$$

$$\text{im}(\varphi) = \mathbb{C}$$

For almost all $y \in \mathbb{C}$, $\varphi^{-1}(y) = 2 \text{ points}$.
 $\forall y \neq 0$

What is the generic fiber of

$$\psi_{\text{LCN}}: \mathbb{C}^2 \times \mathbb{C}^3 \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^5$$

$$(w, v) \mapsto$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} w_0 & w_1 \end{bmatrix}$$

layer 2

$$\begin{bmatrix} v_0 & v_1 & v_2 \\ & & v_0 & v_1 & v_2 \end{bmatrix}$$

layer 1

=

$$\begin{bmatrix} w_0 v_0 & w_0 v_1 & w_0 v_2 + w_1 v_0 & w_1 v_1 & w_1 v_2 \end{bmatrix}$$

?

In other words: Which network parameters give the same function?

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layer 2 layer 1

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?

$$(w_0 + w_1 x^2) \cdot (v_0 + v_1 x + v_2 x^2) = w_0 v_0 + w_0 v_1 x + (w_0 v_2 + w_1 v_0) x^2 + w_1 v_1 x^3 + w_1 v_2 x^4$$

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A quartic polynomial has 4 complex roots & there are *finitely many* ways, *up to scaling*,

to combine those roots to the 2 layer factors.

$$\begin{array}{cc} \begin{array}{c} \textcircled{a_1 + b_1 x} \\ \textcircled{a_2 + b_2 x} \end{array} & \begin{array}{c} \textcircled{a_3 + b_3 x} \\ \textcircled{a_4 + b_4 x} \end{array} \\ \downarrow \quad \downarrow & \downarrow \quad \downarrow \\ \boxed{w_0 + w_1 x^2} & \boxed{v_0 + v_1 x + v_2 x^2} \end{array}$$

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1-dimensional fibers
over image

Each of these ways has a **1-dimensional** scaling ambiguity: $\lambda (w_0 + w_1 x^2) \cdot \frac{1}{\lambda} (v_0 + v_1 x + v_2 x^2)$

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fiber-
dim. thm. $\rightarrow$

$$\dim(\text{im}(\varphi_{LCN})) = \dim(\mathbb{C}^2 \times \mathbb{C}^3) - 1 = 4$$

Jacobian check: Let $\varphi: \mathbb{K}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{K}^m$ be a polynomial map, $Y := \overline{\text{im}(\varphi)}$.

There is a subvariety $\Delta \subsetneq \mathbb{K}^n$ s.t. for all $p \in \mathbb{K}^n \setminus \Delta$,
the rank of the **Jacobi matrix** $J_\varphi(p)$ equals $\dim Y$.

$$\begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial \varphi_1}{\partial x_1} & \frac{\partial \varphi_1}{\partial x_2} & \dots & \frac{\partial \varphi_1}{\partial x_n} \\ \vdots & \vdots & & \vdots \\ \frac{\partial \varphi_m}{\partial x_1} & \frac{\partial \varphi_m}{\partial x_2} & \dots & \frac{\partial \varphi_m}{\partial x_n} \end{bmatrix} (p)$$

Practical test:

- ① Choose a random point $p \in \mathbb{K}^n$
- ② compute $\text{rank}(J_\varphi(p))$
- ③ repeat until confident

works over
 $\mathbb{R}$ & $\mathbb{C}$

Let $\varphi: \mathbb{K}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{K}^m$ be a polynomial map, $Y := \overline{\text{im}(\varphi)}$.

Exercise: $\text{rank}(\mathcal{J}_\varphi(p)) \leq \dim Y$ for all $p \in \mathbb{K}^n$

Corollary: Finding a single point $p \in \mathbb{K}^n$ with $\text{rank}(\mathcal{J}_\varphi(p)) = m$ is enough to show that $Y = \mathbb{K}^m$ (e.g., for LU decomposition).

$$\varphi_{LCN}: \mathbb{R}^2 \times \mathbb{R}^3 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^5$$

$$(w, v) \mapsto \begin{matrix} \boxed{w_0 \ w_1} \\ \text{layer 2} \end{matrix} \cdot \begin{matrix} \begin{matrix} v_0 & v_1 & v_2 \\ & v_0 & v_1 & v_2 \end{matrix} \\ \text{layer 1} \end{matrix} = \boxed{w_0 v_0 \mid w_0 v_1 \mid w_0 v_2 + w_1 v_0 \mid w_1 v_1 \mid w_1 v_2}$$

Jacobi matrix: $J_{w,v} =$

v_0	0	w_0	0	0
v_1	0	0	w_0	0
v_2	v_0	w_1	0	w_0
0	v_1	0	w_1	0
0	v_2	0	0	w_1

Exercise: a) Check that $\text{rank}(J_{w,v}) \leq 4$ for all w, v .

b) For which w and v do we have $\text{rank}(J_{w,v}) \leq 3$?

What about $\text{rank}(J_{w,v}) \leq 2$ and $\text{rank}(J_{w,v}) \leq 1$?

What about morphisms $\varphi: X \rightarrow \mathbb{A}^n$?

↑ irreducible variety

Ex: $M_1^{2 \times 2} \rightarrow \mathbb{A}^3$
 $\begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{bmatrix} \mapsto \begin{bmatrix} b \\ c \\ d \end{bmatrix}$

What about morphisms $\varphi: X \rightarrow K^n$?

↑ irreducible variety

$$\text{Ex: } \begin{array}{ccc} M_2^{\mathbb{C}} & \longrightarrow & K^3 \\ \begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{bmatrix} & \longmapsto & \begin{bmatrix} a \\ b \\ c \end{bmatrix} \end{array}$$

For a fiber-dimension theorem to hold, we need to work again over $\mathbb{C}$.

If $K = \mathbb{R}$ and $X \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$, we consider

$X_{\mathbb{C}} :=$ Zariski closure of X inside $\mathbb{C}^n$ (i.e., the smallest variety in $\mathbb{C}^n$ containing X)

Fact: $\dim_{\mathbb{R}} \varphi(X) = \dim_{\mathbb{C}} \varphi(X_{\mathbb{C}})$

Fiber-Dimension theorem: Let $\varphi: X \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^m$ be a polynomial map,
 $X \subseteq \mathbb{C}^n$ irreducible variety, $Y := \overline{\varphi(X)}$.

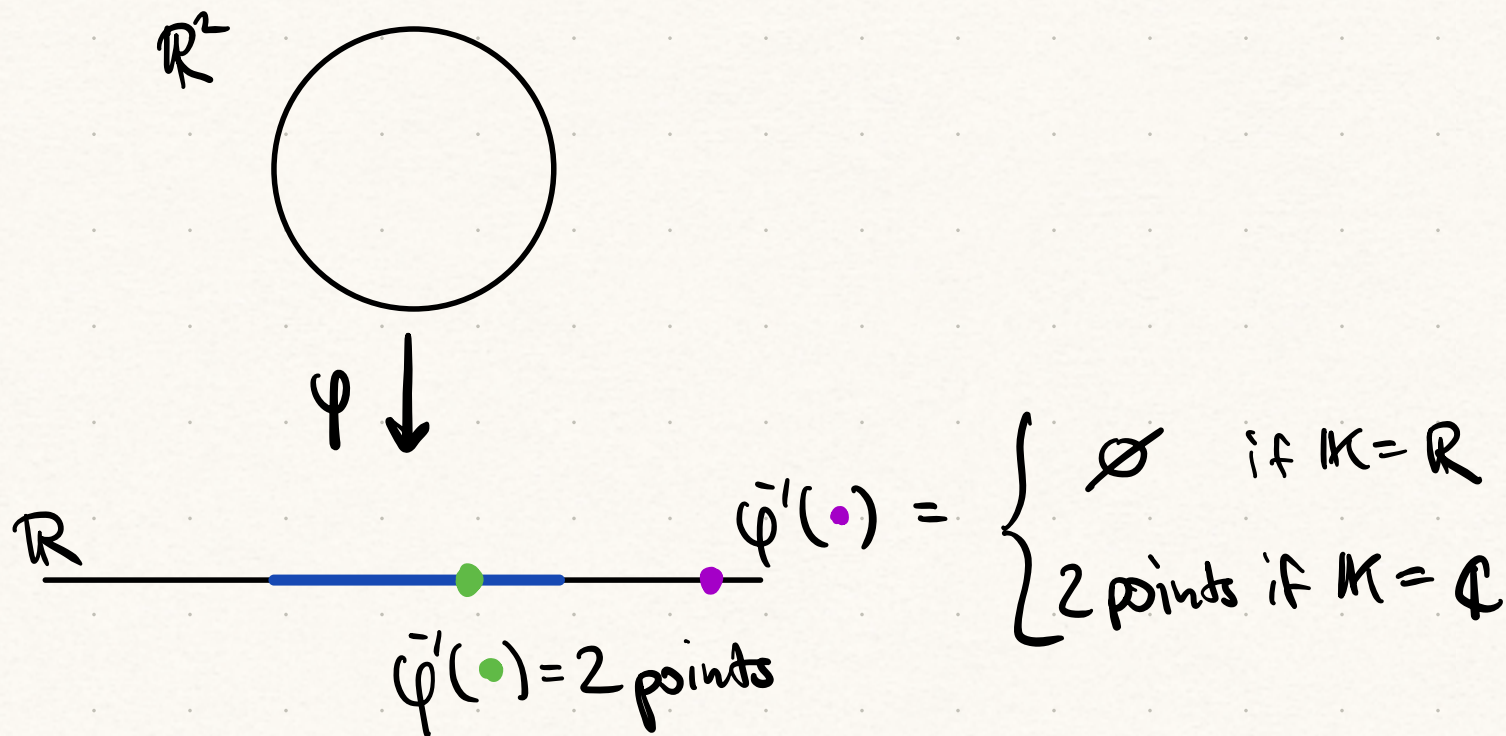
a) $\dim Y \leq \dim X$

b) For all $y \in \text{im}(\varphi)$, every irreducible component of the fiber $\varphi^{-1}(y)$ has dimension $\geq \dim X - \dim Y$.

c) There is a subvariety $\Delta \subsetneq Y$ s.t. $\dim(\varphi^{-1}(y)) = \dim X - \dim Y$
 for all $y \in \text{im}(\varphi) \setminus \Delta$.

This theorem also holds for irreducible projective varieties $X \subseteq \mathbb{P}_{\mathbb{C}}^n$
 and homogeneous polynomial maps $\varphi: X \rightarrow \mathbb{P}_{\mathbb{C}}^m$.

Example: $\varphi: \{(x, y) \in \mathbb{K}^2 \mid x^2 + y^2 - 1 = 0\} \rightarrow \mathbb{K}$
 $(x, y) \mapsto x$



In fact, for $\mathbb{K} = \mathbb{C}$:

$$\varphi^{-1}(x) = \begin{cases} 2 \text{ points} & \text{if } x \neq \pm 1 \\ 1 \text{ point} & \text{if } x = 1 \text{ or } -1 \end{cases}$$

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Example: $\varphi: \{(x:y:z) \in \mathbb{P}_K^2 \mid x^2 + y^2 - z^2 = 0\} \rightarrow \mathbb{P}_K^1$
 $(x:y:z) \mapsto (x:z)$

↑
one-dimensional curve in projective plane

↑
one-dim. projective space

Exercise: For $K = \mathbb{C}$:

- $\varphi^{-1}(1:1) = \{(1:0:1)\},$
- $\varphi^{-1}(1:-1) = \{(1:0:-1)\},$
- $\varphi^{-1}(x:z) = 2 \text{ points if } (x:z) \notin \{(1:1), (1:-1)\}$

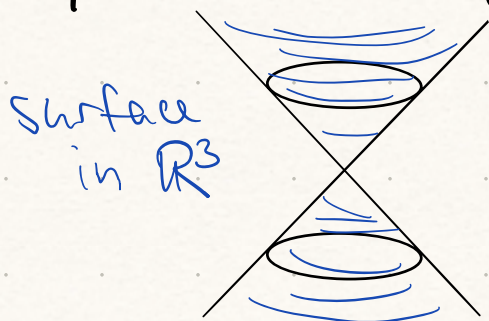
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one-dimensional curve in projective plane

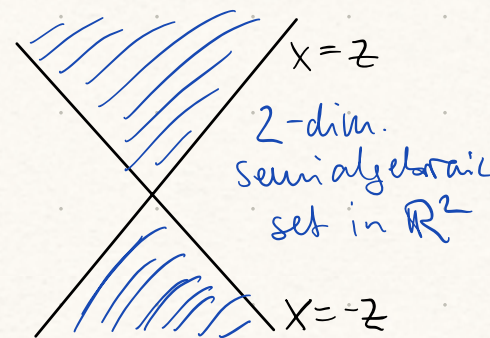
one-dim. projective space

Exercise: For $\mathbb{K} = \mathbb{C}$: $\varphi^{-1}(1:1) = \{(1:0:1)\}$,
 $\varphi^{-1}(1:-1) = \{(1:0:-1)\}$,
 $\varphi^{-1}(x:z) = 2 \text{ points if } (x:z) \notin \{(1:1), (1:-1)\}$

Also when working with affine cones, the generic complex fiber is 2 points:

$$\{(x,y,z) \in \mathbb{K}^3 \mid x^2 + y^2 - z^2 = 0\} \rightarrow \mathbb{K}^2$$


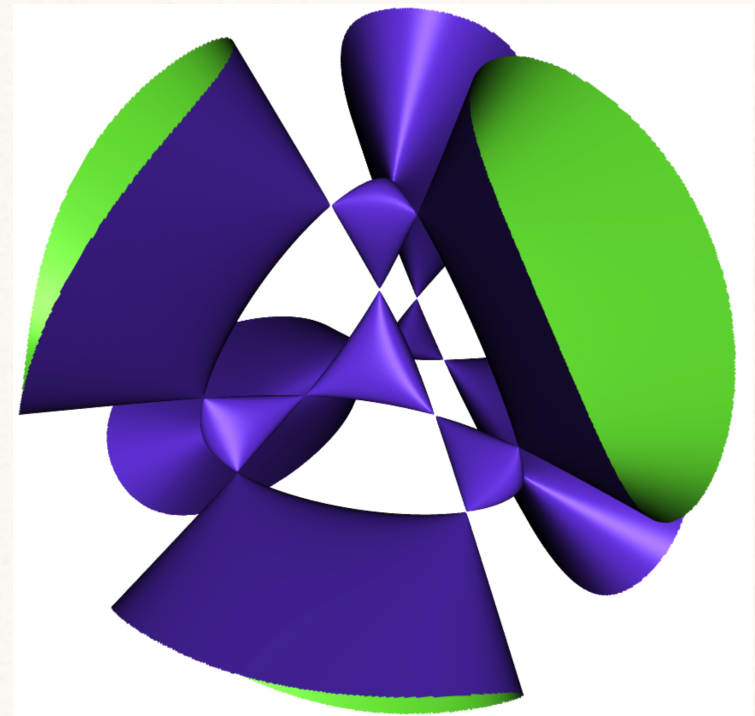
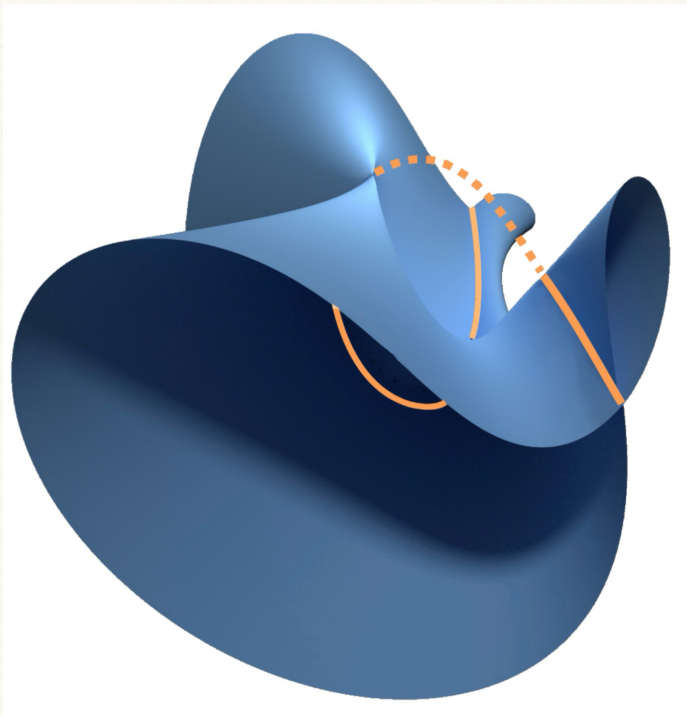
$$(x,y,z) \mapsto (x,z)$$



$\mathbb{K} = \mathbb{R}$:

For a *Jacobian check*, we need to restrict the Jacobi matrices to the tangent spaces of X .

Issue: In general, varieties have *singularities*.



Singularities & Tangent Spaces

- $X \subseteq \mathbb{K}^n$ irreducible variety

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- $X \subseteq \mathbb{K}^n$ irreducible variety
- $\mathcal{I}(X) := \{f \in \mathbb{K}[x_1, \dots, x_n] \mid \forall p \in X: f(p) = 0\}$ vanishing ideal

Singularities & Tangent Spaces

- $X \subseteq \mathbb{K}^n$ irreducible variety
- $I(X) := \{f \in \mathbb{K}[x_1, \dots, x_n] \mid \forall p \in X: f(p) = 0\}$ vanishing ideal
- Fix a generating set $\mathcal{F} = \{f_1, \dots, f_s\}$ such that $\langle f_1, \dots, f_s \rangle = I(X)$

↙ finite by Hilbert's basis theorem

Singularities & Tangent Spaces

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- Fix a generating set $\mathcal{F} = \{f_1, \dots, f_s\}$ such that $\langle f_1, \dots, f_s \rangle = I(X)$
finite by Hilbert's basis theorem
- Compute jacobian matrix $J_{\mathcal{F}} := \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial f_1}{\partial x_1} & \dots & \frac{\partial f_1}{\partial x_n} \\ \vdots & & \vdots \\ \frac{\partial f_s}{\partial x_1} & \dots & \frac{\partial f_s}{\partial x_n} \end{bmatrix}$

Singularities & Tangent Spaces

- $X \subseteq \mathbb{K}^n$ irreducible variety
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- Fix a generating set $\mathcal{F} = \{f_1, \dots, f_s\}$ such that $\langle f_1, \dots, f_s \rangle = I(X)$
finite by Hilbert's basis theorem
- Compute jacobian matrix $J_{\mathcal{F}} := \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial f_1}{\partial x_1} & \dots & \frac{\partial f_1}{\partial x_n} \\ \vdots & & \vdots \\ \frac{\partial f_s}{\partial x_1} & \dots & \frac{\partial f_s}{\partial x_n} \end{bmatrix}$

Fact: There is a subvariety $\Delta \subsetneq X$ s.t. $\text{rank } J_{\mathcal{F}}(p) = n - \dim(X)$ for all $p \in X \setminus \Delta$.

Singularities & Tangent Spaces

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independent of choice of $\mathcal{F}$

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↑ can be taken as a definition of $\dim(X)$

Singularities & Tangent Spaces

Definition: Points $p \in X$ with $\text{rank } J_{\mathcal{F}}(p) = n - \dim(X)$ are called **regular** or **smooth**.
All other $p \in X$ are called **singular**.

Fact: At singular points $p \in X$: $\text{rank } J_{\mathcal{F}}(p) < \underbrace{n - \dim(X)}_{=: c}$.

Corollary: The set of singular points on X is a proper subvariety defined by the polynomials in $I(X)$ and the $c \times c$ minors of $J_{\mathcal{F}}$.

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Definition: The **tangent space** at a smooth point $p \in X$ is

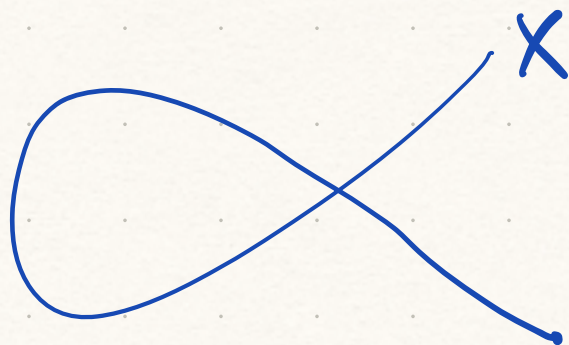
$$T_p X := \ker J_{\mathcal{F}}(p) \subseteq K^n$$

$$\dim(T_p X) = \dim(X)$$

← independent of choice of $\mathcal{F}$

Example

$$y^2 - x^2(x+1) = 0$$

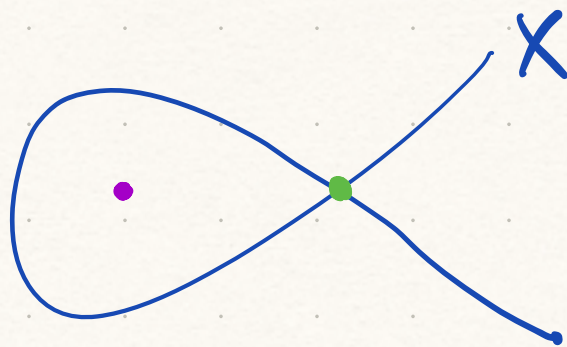


$$\mathcal{I}(X) = \langle y^2 - x^2(x+1) \rangle$$

$$\mathcal{J} = \begin{bmatrix} -2x(x+1) - x^2 & 2y \end{bmatrix}$$

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$$\text{rank}(J) = 0$$

 $\Leftrightarrow$

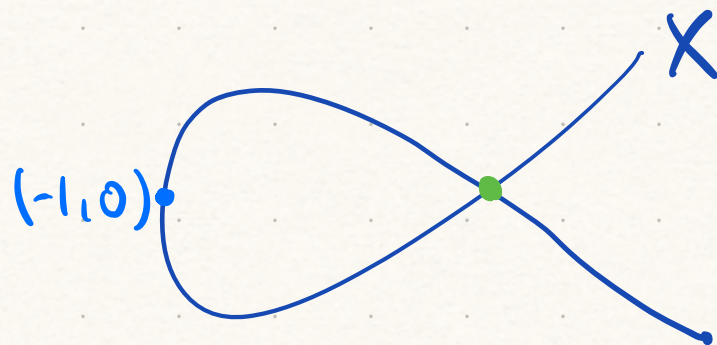
$$(x, y) \in \left\{ \underset{\substack{\uparrow \\ \text{lies on } X}}{(0, 0)}, \left(-\frac{2}{3}, 0\right) \right\}$$

↑ does not lie on X

The only singularity of the curve X is the origin $(0, 0)$.

Example

$$y^2 - x^2(x+1) = 0$$



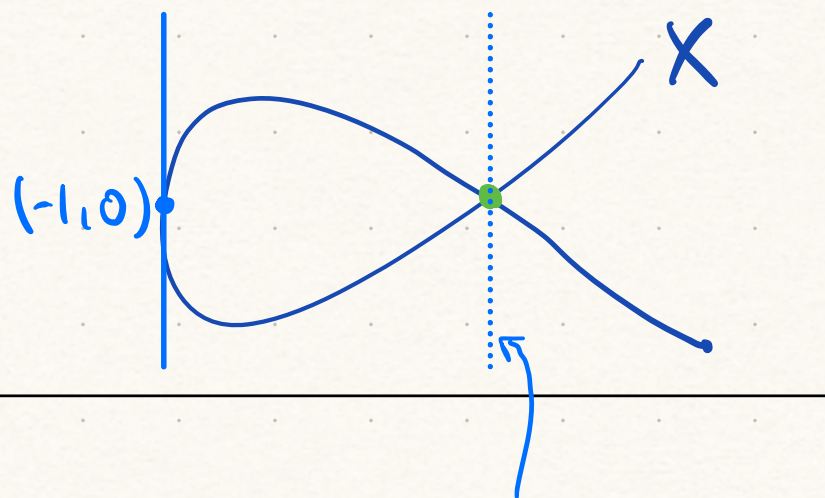
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$$T_{(-1,0)} X = \ker J((-1,0)) = \{ (0, y) \mid y \in K \}$$

Jacobian check: Let $\varphi: X \rightarrow \mathbb{K}^m$ be a polynomial map,
 $X \subseteq \mathbb{K}^n$ irreducible variety, $Y := \overline{\varphi(X)}$.

- For $p \in X$, $J_\varphi(p)$ defines a linear map $\mathbb{K}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{K}^m$.

$$\begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial \varphi_1}{\partial x_1} & \frac{\partial \varphi_1}{\partial x_2} & \cdots & \frac{\partial \varphi_1}{\partial x_n} \\ \vdots & \vdots & & \vdots \\ \frac{\partial \varphi_m}{\partial x_1} & \frac{\partial \varphi_m}{\partial x_2} & \cdots & \frac{\partial \varphi_m}{\partial x_n} \end{bmatrix} (p)$$

- If p is a smooth point, the restriction of $J_\varphi(p)$ onto the tangent space $T_p X$ is the first-order approximation of φ around p .

There is a subvariety $\Delta \subsetneq X$ s.t. for all $p \in X \setminus \Delta$,

p is a smooth point of X &

the rank of $J_\varphi(p)|_{T_p X}$ equals $\dim Y$.

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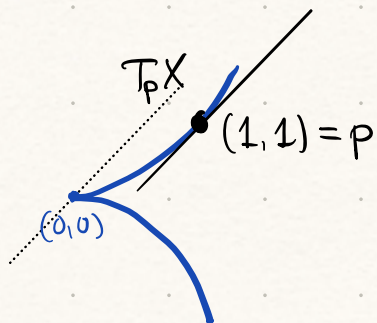
$$\begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial \varphi_1}{\partial x_1} & \frac{\partial \varphi_1}{\partial x_2} & \cdots & \frac{\partial \varphi_1}{\partial x_n} \\ \vdots & \vdots & & \vdots \\ \frac{\partial \varphi_m}{\partial x_1} & \frac{\partial \varphi_m}{\partial x_2} & \cdots & \frac{\partial \varphi_m}{\partial x_n} \end{bmatrix} (p)$$

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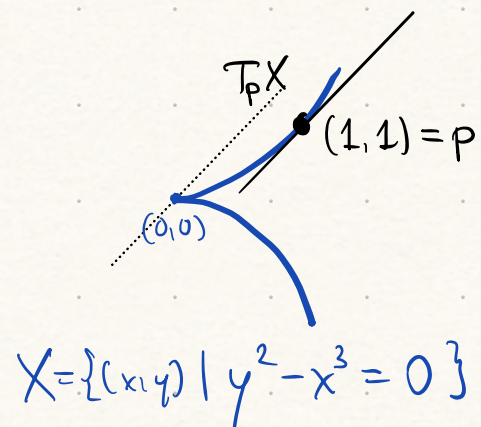
The image of the
 linear map $d_p \varphi$ is
 $T_{\varphi(p)} Y$ if $\varphi(p)$ is
 a smooth point of Y .

Example

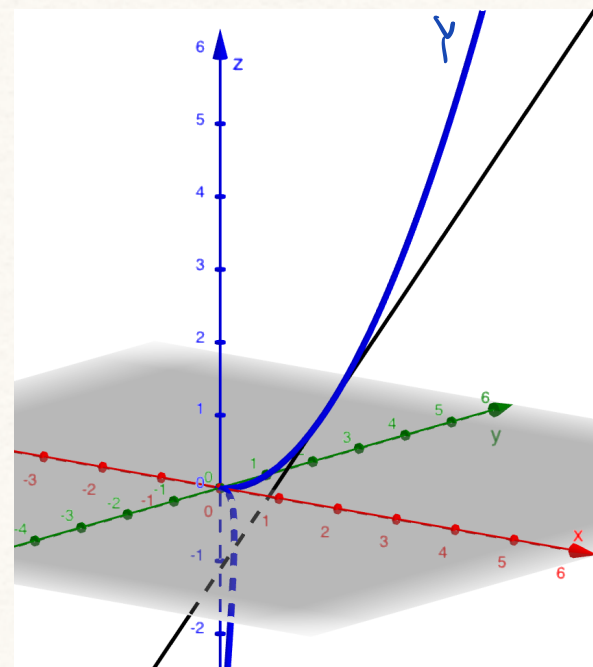


$$X = \{(x, y) \mid y^2 - x^3 = 0\}$$

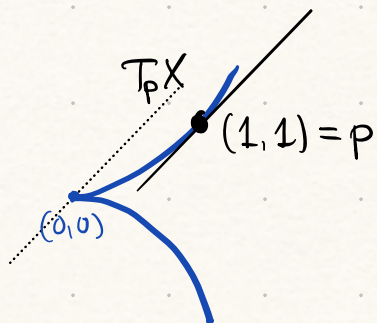
Example



$$\varphi: (x, y) \mapsto (x, y, xy)$$

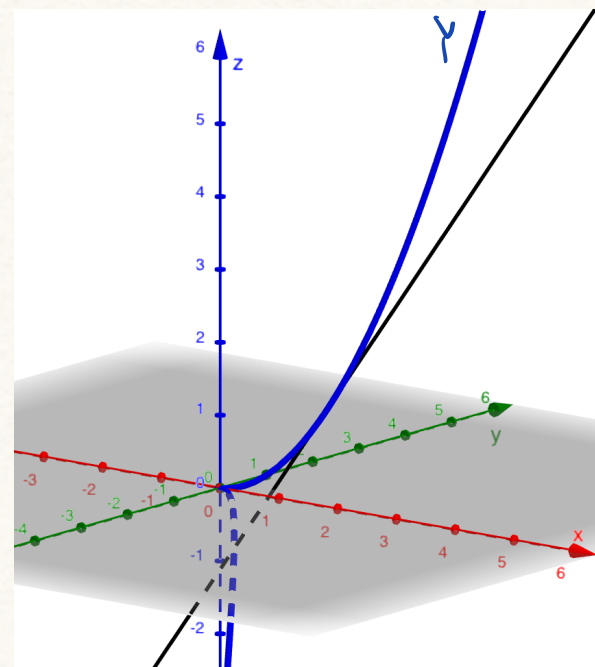


Example



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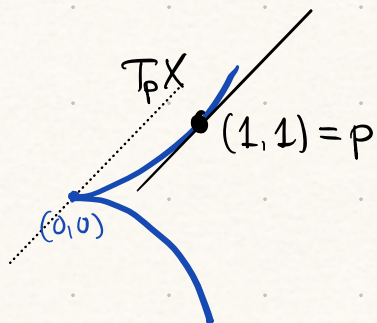
$$J_f = [-3x^2 \ 2y]$$

$$J_f(p) = [-3 \ 2]$$

$$T_p X = \ker J_f(p)$$

$$= \{(2t, 3t) \mid t \in K\}$$

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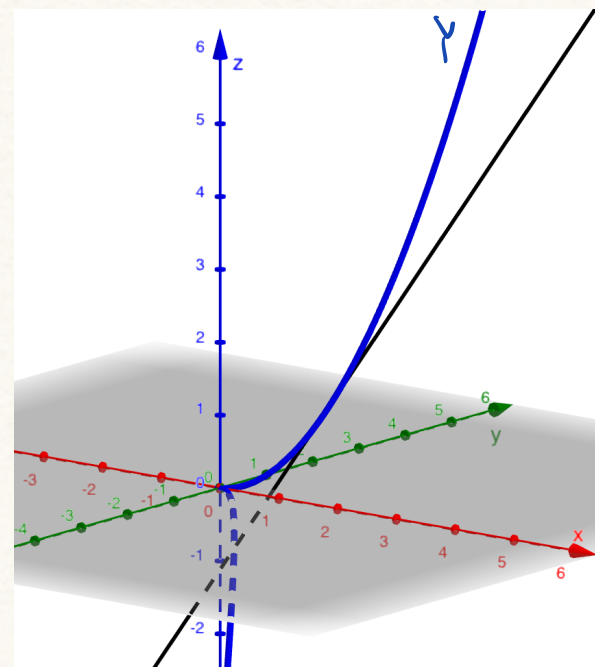
$$\begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{\varphi} \\ (x, y) \mapsto (x, y, xy) \end{array}$$

$$J_\varphi = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \\ y & x \end{bmatrix}$$

$$J_\varphi(p) = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \text{ has rank 2}$$

but restricted to $T_p X$ it

has rank 1 with image $T_{(1,1,1)} Y = \{(2t, 3t, 5t) \mid t \in K\}$



How to compute the dimension of the image of $\varphi: X \rightarrow Y$ in general?

① Directly study $\text{im}(\varphi)$.

E.g., for $\varphi_{LU}: \left(\begin{array}{c} \text{upper triangular} \\ L \end{array}, \begin{array}{c} \text{upper triangular} \\ U \end{array} \right) \mapsto L \cdot U \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$,
 show that almost every $A \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ has a LU decomposition $\left. \vphantom{\begin{array}{c} \text{upper triangular} \\ U \end{array}} \right\} \dim(\text{im}(\varphi_{LU})) = n^2$

② Fiber-dimension theorem

③ Jacobian check