



tractable probabilistic modeling with probabilistic circuits

antonio vergari (he/him)

 @tetraduazione

2nd Apr 2025 - **Neuro-explicit retreat** Saarbruecken

april

`april-tools.github.io`

april

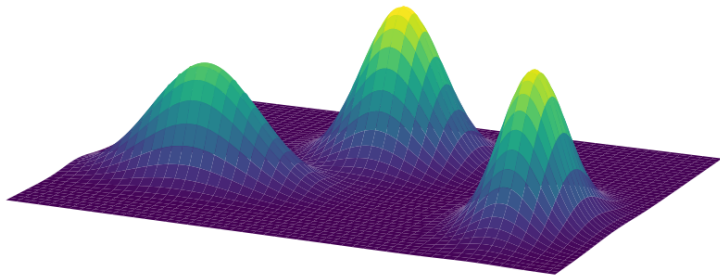
about
probabilities
integrals &
logic

deep generative models
+
flexible and reliable
(logic &) probabilistic reasoning?

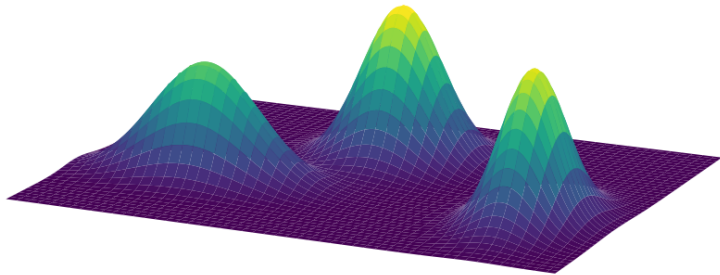
i) probabilistic circuits: syntax and semantics

ii) reliable and efficient neuro-symbolic AI

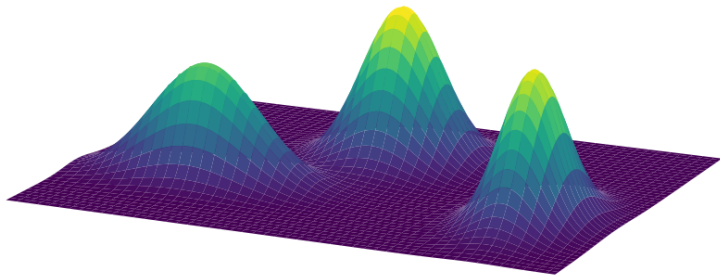
iii) you talk: use cases from your research



who knows mixture models?



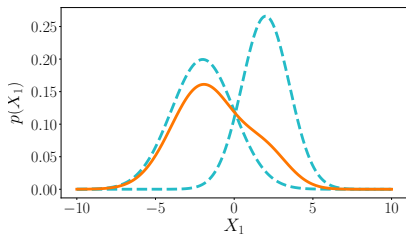
*who **loves** mixture models?*



$$c(\mathbf{X}) = \sum_{i=1}^K w_i c_i(\mathbf{X}), \quad \text{with } w_i \geq 0, \quad \sum_{i=1}^K w_i = 1$$

GMMs

as computational graphs

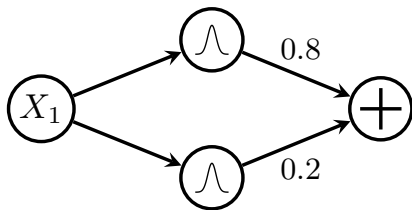


$$p(X) = w_1 \cdot p_1(X_1) + w_2 \cdot p_2(X_1)$$

$\Rightarrow$ *translating inference to data structures...*

GMMs

as computational graphs

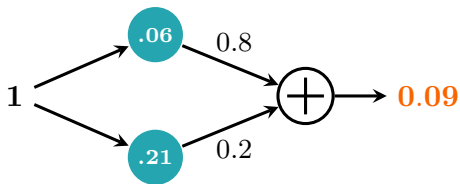


$$p(X_1) = 0.2 \cdot p_1(X_1) + 0.8 \cdot p_2(X_1)$$

$\Rightarrow$...e.g., as a weighted sum unit over Gaussian input distributions

GMMs

as computational graphs

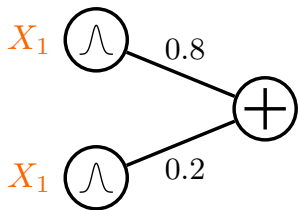


$$p(X = 1) = 0.2 \cdot p_1(X_1 = 1) + 0.8 \cdot p_2(X_1 = 1)$$

$\Rightarrow$ inference = feedforward evaluation

GMMs

as computational graphs

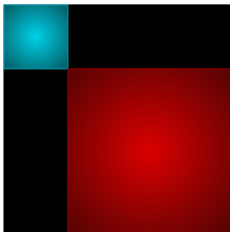


A simplified notation:

$\Rightarrow$ **scopes** attached to inputs
 $\Rightarrow$ edge directions omitted

GMMs

as computational graphs

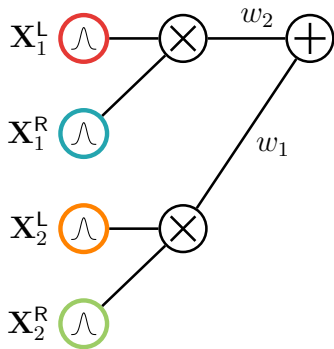


$$p(\mathbf{X}) = w_1 \cdot p_1(\mathbf{X}_1^L) \cdot p_1(\mathbf{X}_1^R) + \\ w_2 \cdot p_2(\mathbf{X}_2^L) \cdot p_2(\mathbf{X}_2^R)$$

$\Rightarrow$ local factorizations...

GMMs

as computational graphs



$$p(\mathbf{X}) = w_1 \cdot p_1(\mathbf{X}_1^L) \cdot p_1(\mathbf{X}_1^R) + w_2 \cdot p_2(\mathbf{X}_2^L) \cdot p_2(\mathbf{X}_2^R)$$

$\Rightarrow$...are product units

probabilistic circuits (PCs)

a grammar for tractable computational graphs

I. A simple tractable function is a circuit

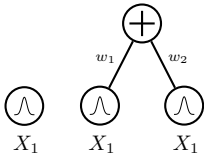
$\Rightarrow$ e.g., a multivariate Gaussian or
orthonormal polynomial



probabilistic circuits (PCs)

a grammar for tractable computational graphs

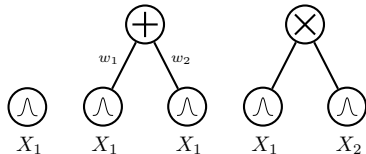
- I. *A simple tractable function is a circuit*
- II. *A weighted combination of circuits is a circuit*



probabilistic circuits (PCs)

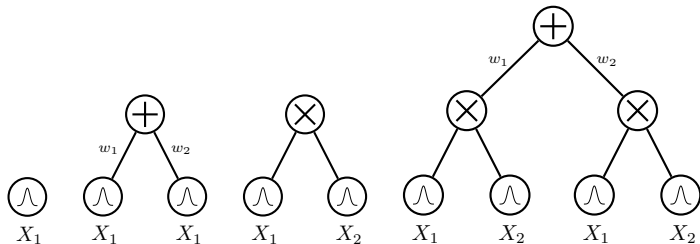
a grammar for tractable computational graphs

- I. A simple tractable function is a circuit
- II. A weighted combination of circuits is a circuit
- III. A product of circuits is a circuit



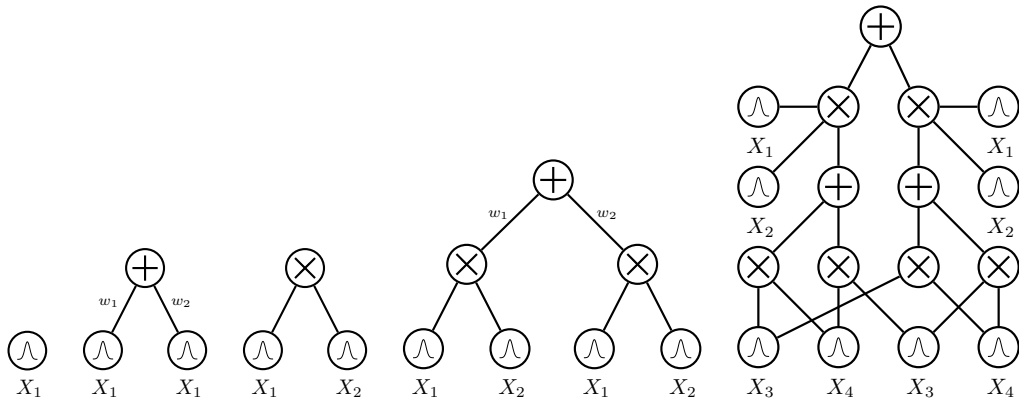
probabilistic circuits (PCs)

a grammar for tractable computational graphs



probabilistic circuits (PCs)

a grammar for tractable computational graphs



probabilistic circuits (PCs)

a tensorized definition

I. *A set of tractable functions is a circuit layer*



probabilistic circuits (PCs)

a tensorized definition

- I. A set of tractable functions is a circuit layer
- II. A linear projection of a layer is a circuit layer

$$c(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{W}l(\mathbf{x})$$



probabilistic circuits (PCs)

a tensorized definition

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probabilistic circuits (PCs)

a tensorized definition

- I. A set of tractable functions is a circuit layer
- II. A linear projection of a layer is a circuit layer
- III. The product of two layers is a circuit layer

$$c(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{l}(\mathbf{x}) \odot \mathbf{r}(\mathbf{x}) \quad // \text{Hadamard}$$



probabilistic circuits (PCs)

a tensorized definition

- I. A set of tractable functions is a circuit layer
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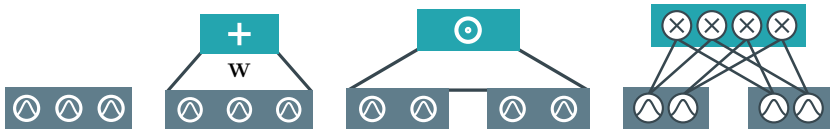


probabilistic circuits (PCs)

a tensorized definition

- I. A set of tractable functions is a circuit layer
- II. A linear projection of a layer is a circuit layer
- III. The product of two layers is a circuit layer

$$c(\mathbf{x}) = \text{vec}(\mathbf{l}(\mathbf{x})\mathbf{r}(\mathbf{x})^\top) \quad // \text{Kronecker}$$



probabilistic circuits (PCs)

a tensorized definition

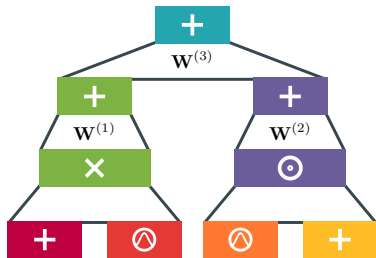
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probabilistic circuits (PCs)

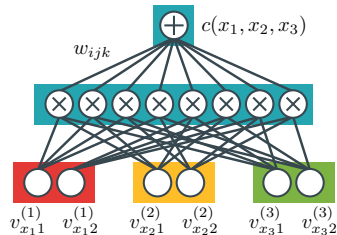
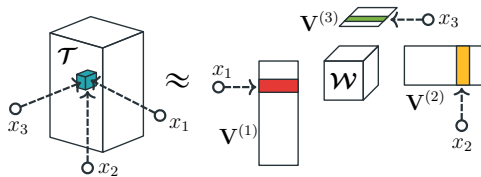
a tensorized definition



- I. A set of tractable functions is a circuit layer
 - II. A linear projection of a layer is a circuit layer
 - III. The product of two layers is a circuit layer
- stack layers to build a deep circuit!***

tensor factorizations

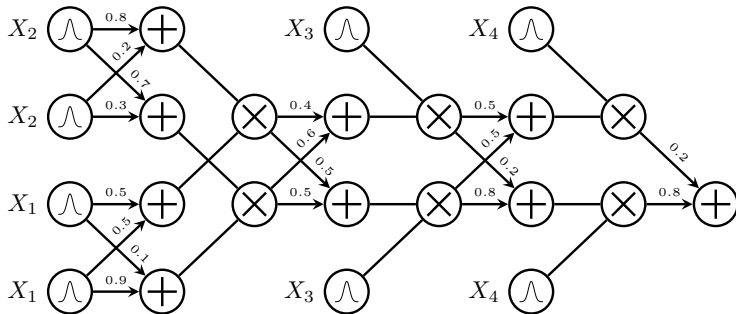
as circuits



Loconte et al., "What is the Relationship between Tensor Factorizations and Circuits (and How Can We Exploit it)?", TMLR, 2025

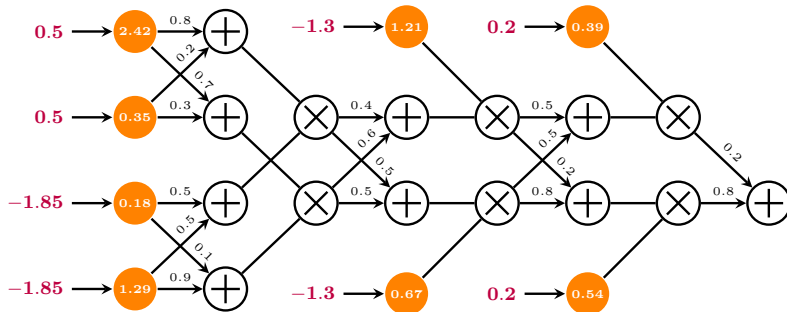
Probabilistic queries = **feedforward** evaluation

$$p(X_1 = -1.85, X_2 = 0.5, X_3 = -1.3, X_4 = 0.2)$$



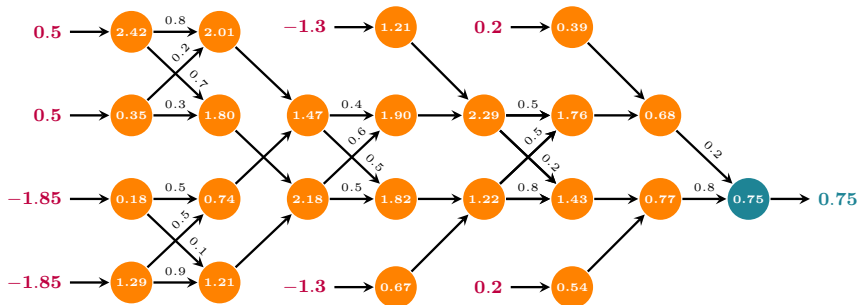
Probabilistic queries = ***feedforward*** evaluation

$$p(X_1 = -1.85, X_2 = 0.5, X_3 = -1.3, X_4 = 0.2)$$



Probabilistic queries = feedforward evaluation

$$p(X_1 = -1.85, X_2 = 0.5, X_3 = -1.3, X_4 = 0.2) = 0.75$$





learning & reasoning with circuits in pytorch

`github.com/april-tools/circuit`

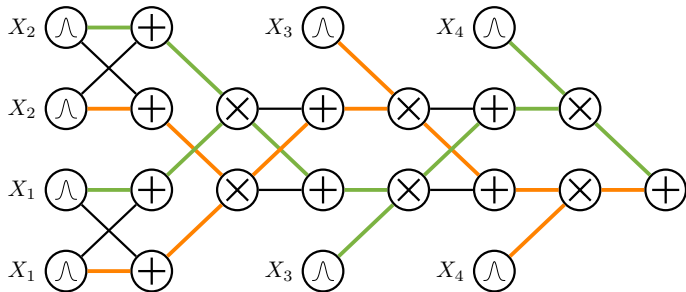

```
1  from cirkit.templates import circuit_templates
2
3  symbolic_circuit = circuit_templates.image_data(
4  (1, 28, 28),          # The shape of MNIST
5      region_graph='quad-graph',
6      input_layer='categorical',    # input distributions
7      sum_product_layer='cp',      # CP, Tucker, CP-T
8      num_input_units=64,          # overparameterizing
9      num_sum_units=64,
10     sum_weight_param=circuit_templates.Parameterization(
11         activation='softmax',
12         initialization='normal'
13     )
14 )
```

```

1  from cirqkit.pipeline import compile
2  circuit = compile(symbolic_circuit)
3
4  with torch.no_grad():
5      test_lls = 0.0
6      for batch, _ in test_dataloader:
7          batch = batch.to(device).unsqueeze(dim=1)
8          log_likelihoods = circuit(batch)
9          test_lls += log_likelihoods.sum().item()
10     average_ll = test_lls / len(data_test)
11     bpd = -average_ll / (28 * 28 * np.log(2.0))
12     print(f"Average LL: {average_ll:.3f}") # Average LL:
        ↪ -682.916
13     print(f"Bits per dim: {bpd:.3f}") # Bits per dim: 1.257

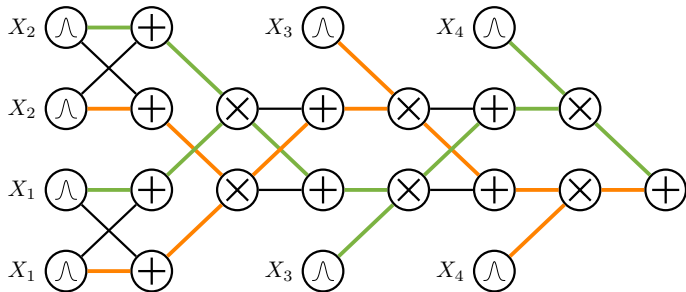
```

deep mixtures



$$p(\mathbf{x}) = \sum_{\mathcal{T}} \left(\prod_{w_j \in \mathbf{w}_{\mathcal{T}}} w_j \right) \prod_{l \in \text{leaves}(\mathcal{T})} p_l(\mathbf{x})$$

deep mixtures



an exponential number of mixture components!

...why PCs?

1. A grammar for tractable models

One formalism to represent many probabilistic models

⇒ #HMMs #Trees #XGBoost, Tensor Networks, ...

...why PCs?

1. A grammar for tractable models

One formalism to represent many probabilistic models

⇒ #HMMs #Trees #XGBoost, Tensor Networks, ...

2. **Tractability** == **structural properties**!!!

Exact computations of reasoning tasks are certified by guaranteeing certain structural properties. #marginals #expectations #MAP, #product ...

structural properties

smoothness

decomposability

compatibility

structural properties

property A

property B

property C

structural properties

smoothness

decomposability

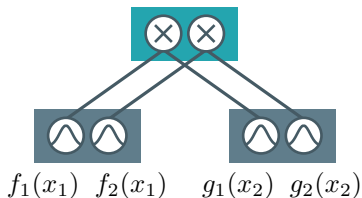
property C

smoothness $\wedge$ **decomposability**

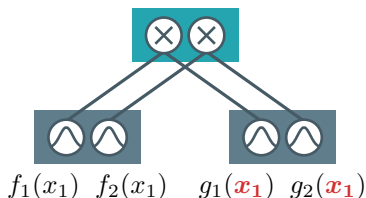
$\implies$ **multilinearity**

Multilinearity in circuits

the inputs of product units are defined over disjoint sets of variables



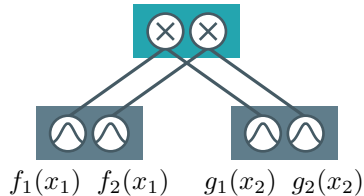
✓ **multilinear**



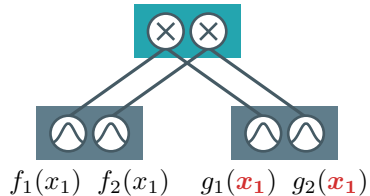
✗ **not multilinear**

Multilinearity in circuits

the inputs of product units are defined over disjoint sets of variables



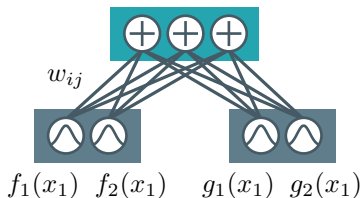
decomposable circuit



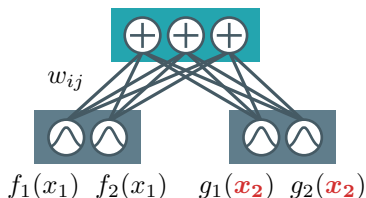
non-decomposable circuit

Multilinearity in circuits

the inputs of sum units are defined over the same variables



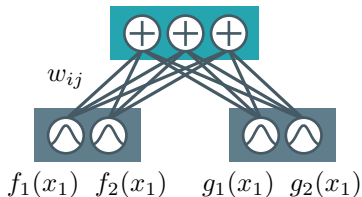
✓ **multilinear**



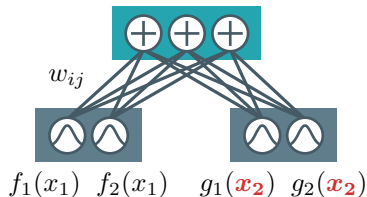
✗ **not multilinear**

Multilinearity in circuits

the inputs of sum units are defined over the same variables



smooth circuit



non-smooth circuit

structural properties

smoothness

decomposability

property C

smoothness $\wedge$ **decomposability**

$\implies$ **multilinearity**

structural properties

smoothness

decomposability

property C

tractable computation of **arbitrary integrals**
in probabilistic circuits

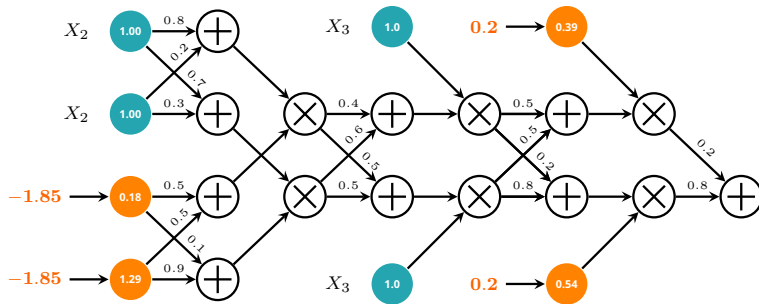
$$p(\mathbf{y}) = \int p(\mathbf{y}, \mathbf{z}) \, d\mathbf{z}, \quad \forall \mathbf{Y} \subseteq \mathbf{X}, \quad \mathbf{Z} = \mathbf{X} \setminus \mathbf{Y}$$

$\implies$ tractable partition function

$\implies$ also any conditional is tractable

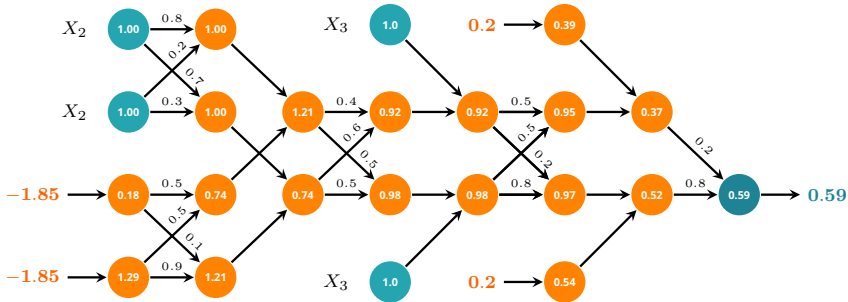
Probabilistic queries = feedforward evaluation

$$p(X_1 = -1.85, X_4 = 0.2)$$



Probabilistic queries = **feedforward** evaluation

$$p(X_1 = -1.85, X_4 = 0.2)$$



smooth + ***decomposable*** **circuits** = ...

Computing arbitrary integrations (or summations)

$\Rightarrow$ *linear in circuit size!*

E.g., suppose we want to compute Z:

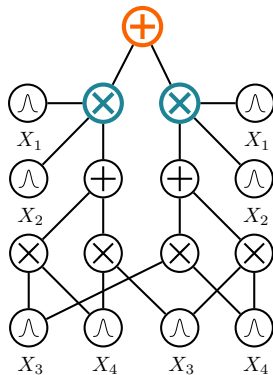
$$\int p(\mathbf{x}) d\mathbf{x}$$

***smooth* + *decomposable* circuits = ...**

If $\mathbf{p}(\mathbf{x}) = \sum_i w_i \mathbf{p}_i(\mathbf{x})$, (*smoothness*):

$$\begin{aligned}\int \mathbf{p}(\mathbf{x}) d\mathbf{x} &= \int \sum_i w_i \mathbf{p}_i(\mathbf{x}) d\mathbf{x} = \\ &= \sum_i w_i \int \mathbf{p}_i(\mathbf{x}) d\mathbf{x}\end{aligned}$$

⇒ integrals are “pushed down” to inputs

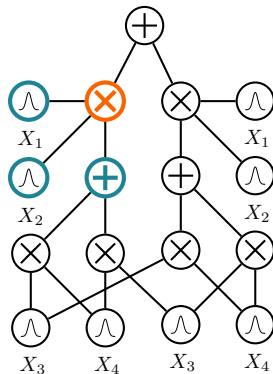


smooth + **decomposable** circuits = ...

If $\mathbf{p}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}, \mathbf{z}) = \mathbf{p}(\mathbf{x})\mathbf{p}(\mathbf{y})\mathbf{p}(\mathbf{z})$, (*decomposability*):

$$\begin{aligned} & \int \int \int \mathbf{p}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}, \mathbf{z}) d\mathbf{x} d\mathbf{y} d\mathbf{z} = \\ &= \int \int \int \mathbf{p}(\mathbf{x})\mathbf{p}(\mathbf{y})\mathbf{p}(\mathbf{z}) d\mathbf{x} d\mathbf{y} d\mathbf{z} = \\ &= \int \mathbf{p}(\mathbf{x}) d\mathbf{x} \int \mathbf{p}(\mathbf{y}) d\mathbf{y} \int \mathbf{p}(\mathbf{z}) d\mathbf{z} \end{aligned}$$

$\Rightarrow$ integrals decompose into easier ones



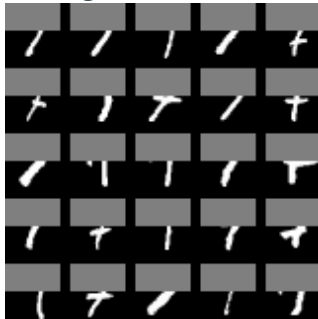
```
1  from cirqit.backend.torch.queries import IntegrateQuery
2  marginal_query = IntegrateQuery(circuit)
3
4  with torch.no_grad():
5      test_marginal_lls = 0.0
6
7      for batch, _ in test_dataloader:
8          batch = batch.to(device).unsqueeze(dim=1)
9          marginal_log_likelihoods = marginal_query(batch,
10             ↪ integrate_vars=vars_to_marginalize)
11          test_marginal_lls +=
12             ↪ marginal_log_likelihoods.sum().item()
13
14  marg_ll = test_marginal_lls / len(data_test)
15  print(f"marg LL: {marg_ll:.3f}") # marg LL:: -378.417
```

tractable marginals on PCs

Original

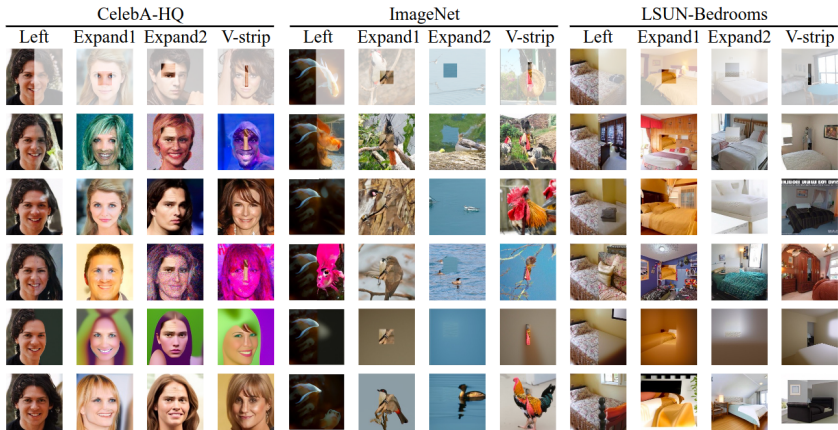


Missing



Conditional sample





structural properties

smoothness

decomposability

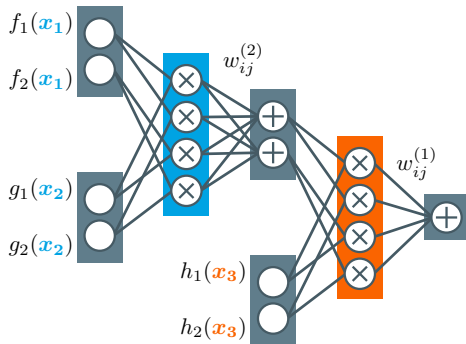
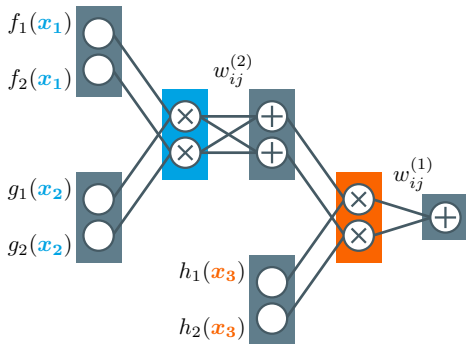
compatibility

Integrals involving two or more functions:
e.g., expectations

$$\mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{x} \sim p} f(\mathbf{x}) = \int p(\mathbf{x}) f(\mathbf{x}) d\mathbf{x}$$

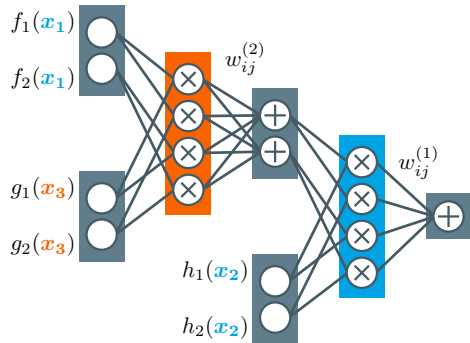
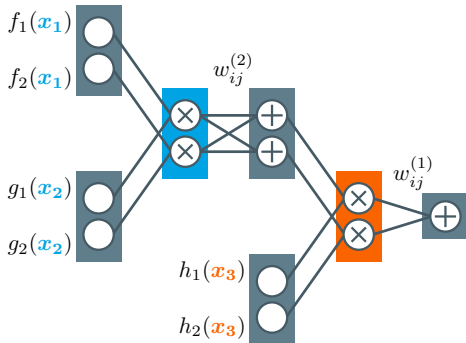
when both $p(\mathbf{x})$ and $f(\mathbf{x})$ are circuits

compatibility



compatible circuits

compatibility



non-compatible circuits

structural properties

smoothness

decomposability

compatibility

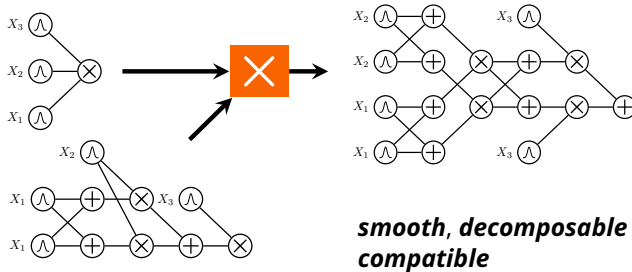
compatibility



smoothness $\wedge$ **decomposability**

compatibility $\Rightarrow$ tractable expectations

Tractable products



$$\text{compute } \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{x} \sim p} f(\mathbf{x}) = \int p(\mathbf{x}) f(\mathbf{x}) \, d\mathbf{x} \text{ in } O(|p| |f|)$$



```
1 from cirq.symbolic.circuit import Circuit
2 from cirq.symbolic.functional import (
3     integrate, multiply)
4
```

```
5 # Circuits expectation \int [p(x) f(x)]dx
```

```
6 def expectation(p: Circuit, f: Circuit) -> Circuit:
7     i = multiply(p, f)
8     return integrate(i)
9
```

```
10 # Squared loss \int [p(x)-q(x)]^2dx = E_p[p] + E_q[q] - 2E_p[q]
11 #           = \int p^2(x)dx + \int q^2(x)dx - 2\int p(x)q(x)dx
```

```
12 def squared_loss(p: Circuit, q: Circuit) -> Circuit:
13     p2 = multiply(p, p)
14     q2 = multiply(q, q)
15     pq = multiply(p, q)
16     return integrate(p2) + integrate(q2) - 2 * integrate(pq)
```

...why PCs?

1. A grammar for tractable models

One formalism to represent many probabilistic models

⇒ #HMMs #Trees #XGBoost, Tensor Networks, ...

2. **Tractability** == **structural properties**!!!

Exact computations of reasoning tasks are certified by guaranteeing certain structural properties. #marginals #expectations #MAP, #product ...

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3. **Reliable neuro-symbolic AI**

logical constraints as circuits, multiplied to probabilistic circuits

```

1  from cirkit.templates import circuit_templates
2
3  symbolic_circuit = circuit_templates.image_data(
4  (1, 28, 28),          # The shape of MNIST
5      region_graph='quad-graph',
6      input_layer='categorical',    # input distributions
7      sum_product_layer='cp',      # CP, Tucker, CP-T
8      num_input_units=64,          # overparameterizing
9      num_sum_units=64,
10     sum_weight_param=circuit_templates.Parameterization(
11         activation='softmax',
12         initialization='normal'
13     )
14 )

```


learning probabilistic circuits

learning probabilistic circuits

Probabilistic circuits are (peculiar) neural networks...***just backprop with SGD!***

learning probabilistic circuits

Probabilistic circuits are (peculiar) neural networks...***just backprop with SGD!***

...end of Learning section!

learning probabilistic circuits

Probabilistic circuits are (peculiar) neural networks...***just backprop with SGD!***

wait but...

which loss?

how to learn normalized weights?

how to exploit structural properties?

maximum likelihood

the go-to objective in ProbML

Given a dataset $\mathcal{D} = \{\mathbf{x}^{(i)}\}_{i=1}^N$ and your parametric model $p_{\theta}(\mathbf{X})$ solve

$$\hat{\theta}_{\text{ML}} = \max_{\theta} \prod_{i=1}^N p_{\theta}(\mathbf{x}^{(i)}) = \min_{\theta} - \sum_{i=1}^N \log p_{\theta}(\mathbf{x}^{(i)})$$

$\Rightarrow$ *minimize the negative log-likelihood (NLL)*

```
1 from cirkit.templates import circuit_templates
2
3 symbolic_circuit = circuit_templates.image_data(
4     (1, 28, 28),          # The shape of MNIST
5     region_graph='quad-graph',
6     input_layer='categorical', # input distributions
7     sum_product_layer='cp',    # CP, Tucker, CP-T
8     num_input_units=64,        # overparameterizing
9     num_sum_units=64,
10    sum_weight_param=circuit_templates.Parameterization(
11        activation='softmax',
12        initialization='normal'
13    )
14 )
```

which parameters?

how to reparameterize circuits

Input distributions.

Sum unit parameters.

which parameters?

how to reparameterize circuits

Input distributions. Each input can be a different parametric distribution

⇒ *Bernoullis, Categoricals, Gaussians, **exponential families**, small NNs, ...*

Sum unit parameters.

which parameters?

how to reparameterize circuits

Input distributions. Each input can be a different parametric distribution

Sum unit parameters. Enforce them to be non-negative, i.e., $w_i \geq 0$ but unnormalized

$$w_i = \exp(\alpha_i), \quad \alpha_i \in \mathbb{R}, \quad i = 1, \dots, K$$

and renormalize the loss

$$\min_{\theta} - \left(\sum_{i=1}^N \log \tilde{p}_{\theta}(\mathbf{x}^{(i)}) - \log \int \tilde{p}_{\theta}(\mathbf{x}^{(i)}) d\mathbf{X} \right)$$

or just renormalize the weights, i.e., $\sum_i w_i = 1$

$$\mathbf{w} = \text{softmax}(\boldsymbol{\alpha}), \quad \boldsymbol{\alpha} \in \mathbb{R}^K$$

```
1 from cirkit.templates import circuit_templates
2
3 symbolic_circuit = circuit_templates.image_data(
4     (1, 28, 28),          # The shape of MNIST
5     region_graph='quad-graph',
6     input_layer='categorical', # input distributions
7     sum_product_layer='cp',    # CP, Tucker, CP-T
8     num_input_units=64,        # overparameterizing
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10    sum_weight_param=circuit_templates.Parameterization(
11        activation='softmax',
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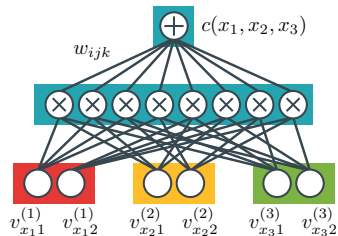
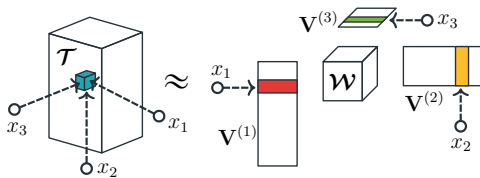
Probabilistic Circuits (PCs)

the layer-wise definition



circuits layers

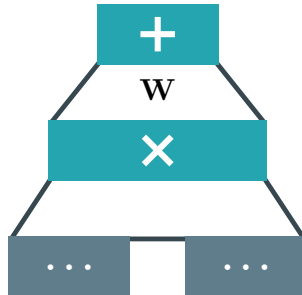
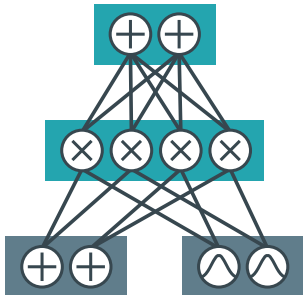
as tensor factorizations



loconte2024relationship, loconte2024relationship, loconte2024relationship,
loconte2024relationship

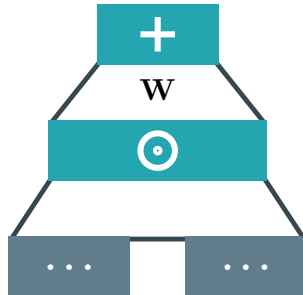
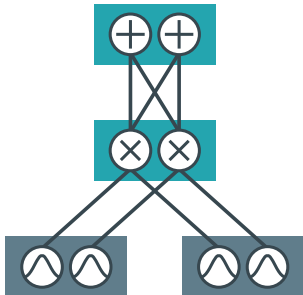
more layers

Tucker decomposition

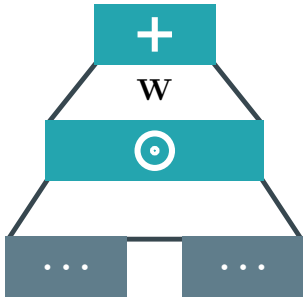


more layers

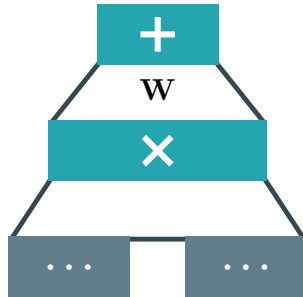
Candecomp Parafac (CP) decomposition



more layers



CP layer

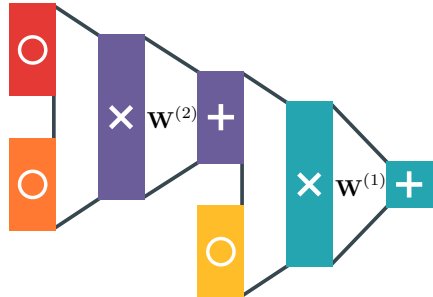
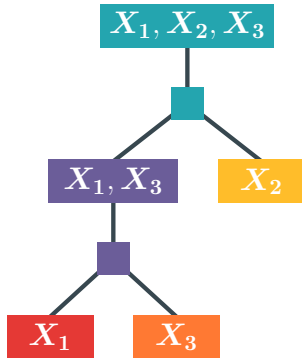


Tucker layer

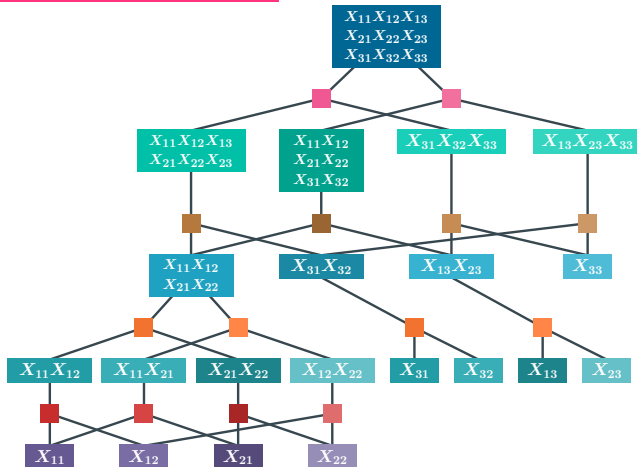
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region graphs

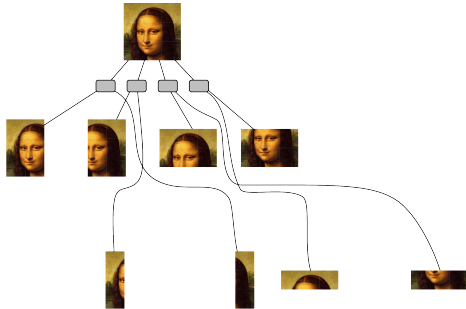
a template for smooth&decomposable PCs

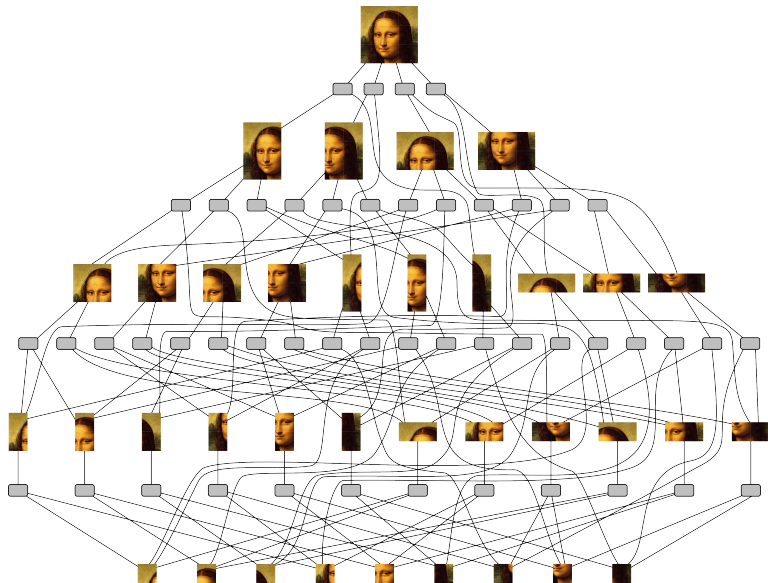


which region graph?





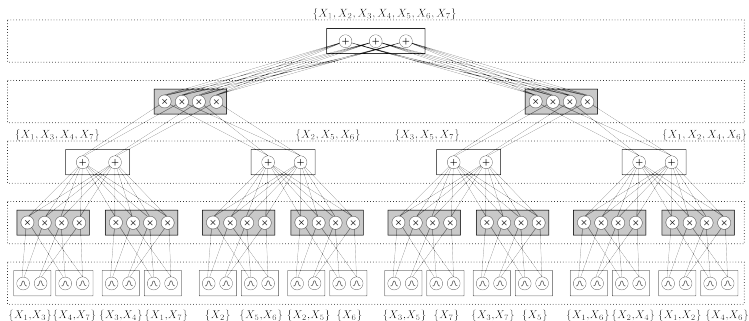




random regions graphs

The “no-learning” option

Generating a random region graph, by recursively splitting $\mathbf{X}$ into two random parts:



 main ▾

cirkit / notebooks / region-graphs-and-parametrisation.ipynb 

 Go to file

 loreloc updated notebooks with respect to API changes  e3e7e80 · 2 days ago 

Preview | Code | Blame | 1082 lines (1082 loc) · 793 KB

Raw  

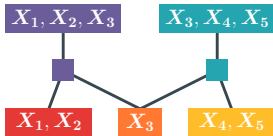
Notebook on Region Graphs and Sum Product Layers

Goals

By the end of this tutorial you will:

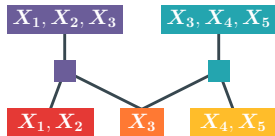
- know what a [region graph](#) is
- know how to [choose between region graphs](#) for your circuit
- understand how to parametrize a circuit by [choosing a sum product layer](#)
- build circuits to **tractably** estimate a [probability distribution over images](#)¹

learning recipe

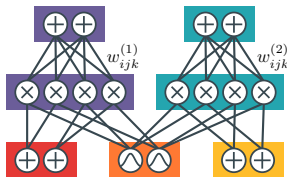


1) Build a *region graph*

learning recipe



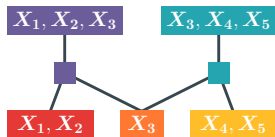
1) Build a *region graph*



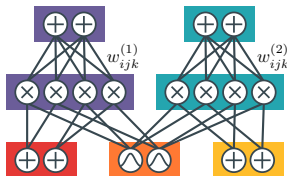
2) Overparameterize

- 2.1)** pick a (composite) layer type
- 2.2)** choose how many units per layer

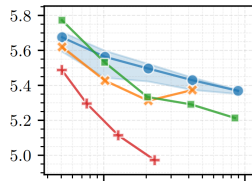
learning recipe



1) Build a *region graph*



2) Overparameterize



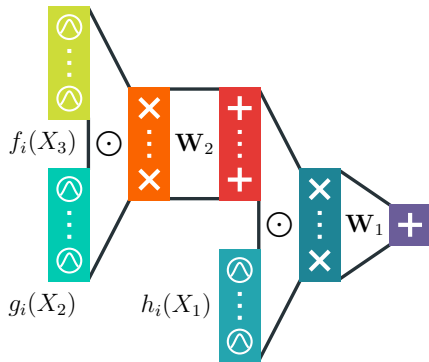
3) Learn parameters

use any optimizer in pytorch



learning & reasoning with circuits in pytorch

`https://github.com/april-tools/circuit`



questions?