

Complexity of Deciding Injectivity and Surjectivity of ReLU Networks

Math Machine Learning Seminar

November 8, 2025

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Introduction

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- ▶ **Surjectivity** is closely related to network verification.
- ▶ **Network verification**: Given $P \subseteq \mathbb{R}^d$, $Q \subseteq \mathbb{R}^m$, does it hold that $\phi_\theta(P) \subseteq Q$? Important in safety-critical applications.

Overview

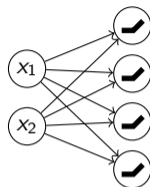
ReLU-Layers and their Geometry

Computational Complexity of Injectivity

Computational Complexity of Surjectivity

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ReLU-layer with d input and m output neurons given by weight matrix $\mathbf{W} \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times d}$, bias vector $\mathbf{b} \in \mathbb{R}^m$

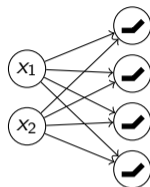


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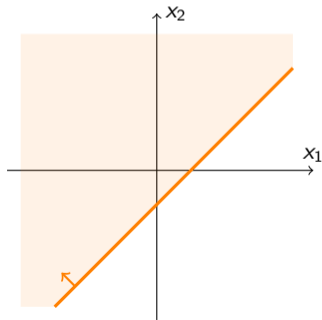
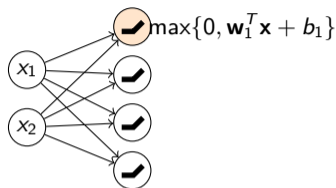
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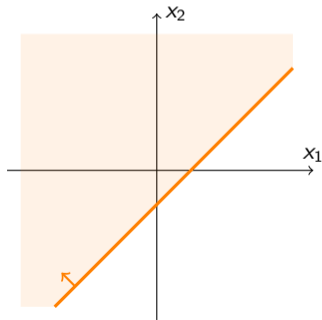
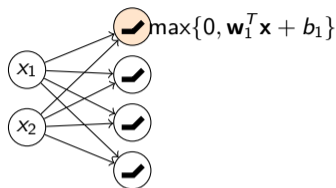
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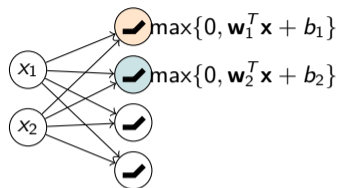


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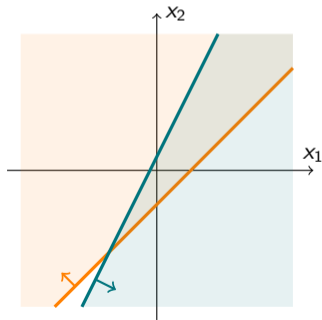
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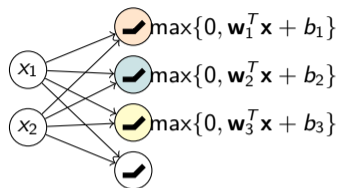


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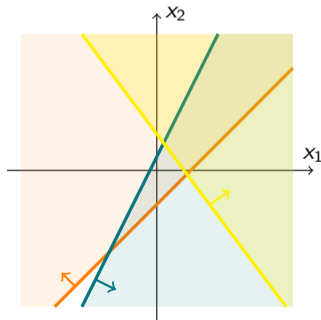
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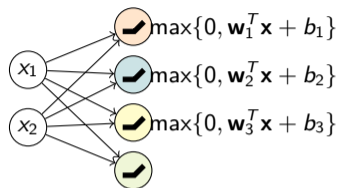


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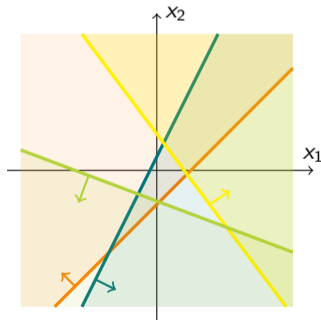
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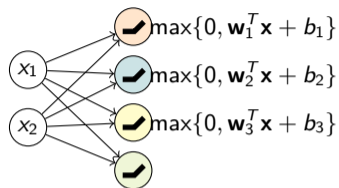


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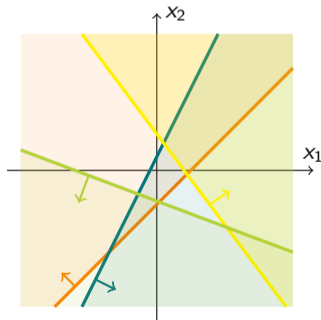


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- ▶ they partition \mathbb{R}^d into **polyhedral cells**, corresponding to subsets of active neurons

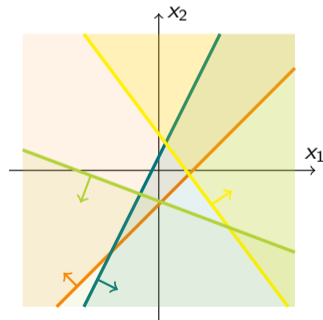
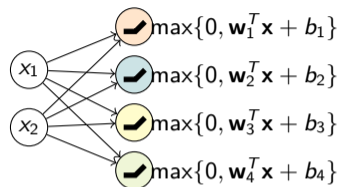


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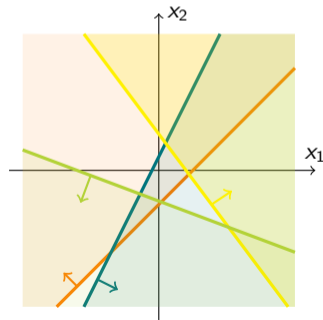
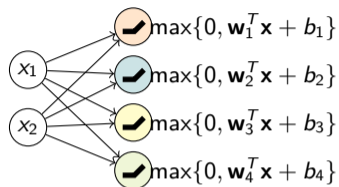
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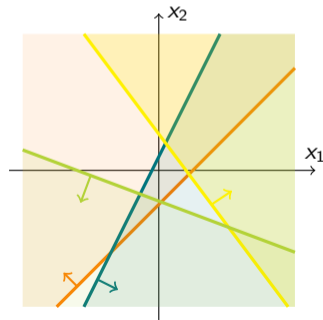
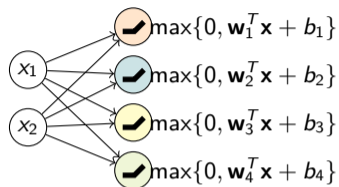
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- ▶ number of cells in $O(\min\{2^m, m^d\})$ [Zaslavsky, 1975]



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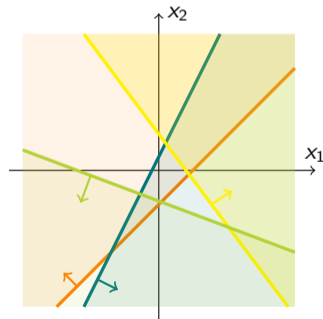
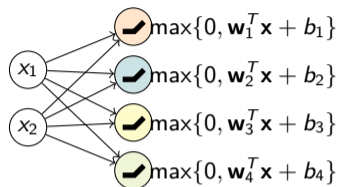
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- ▶ algorithm with runtime $O(\text{poly}(m) \min\{2^m, m^d\})$



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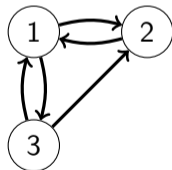
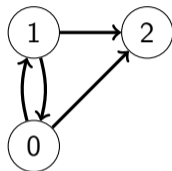
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Input: A digraph $D = (V, A)$.

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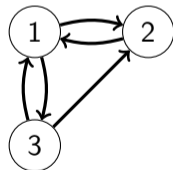
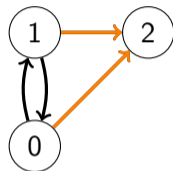
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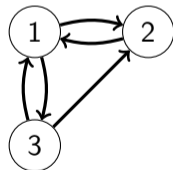
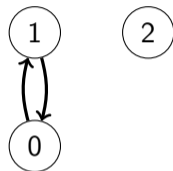
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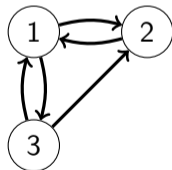
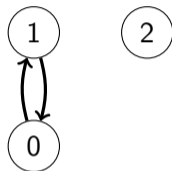
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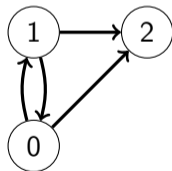
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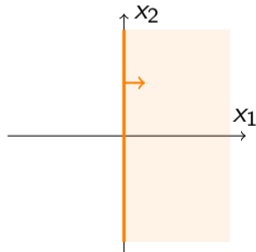
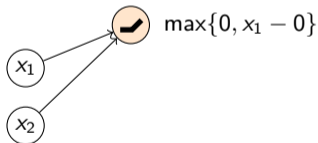
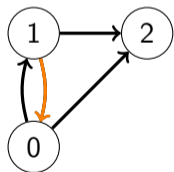


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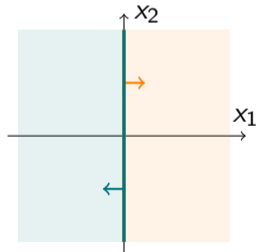
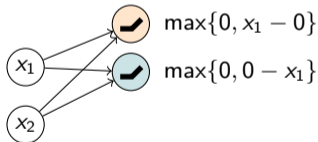
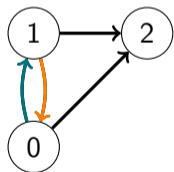


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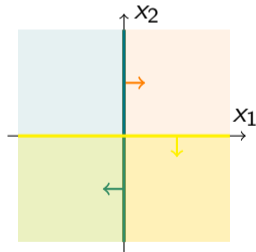
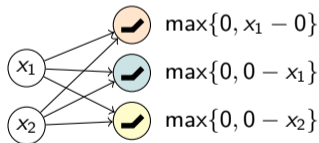
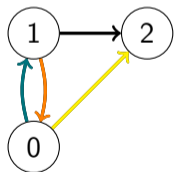


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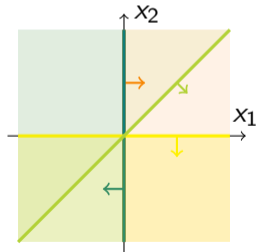
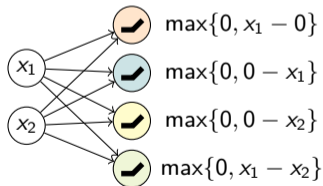
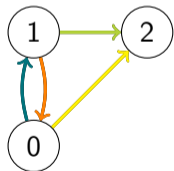


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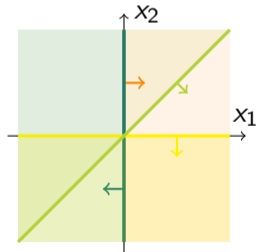
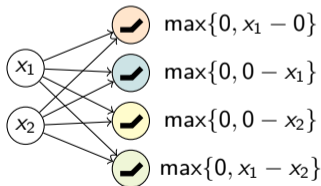
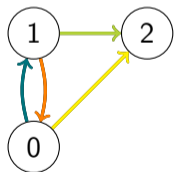


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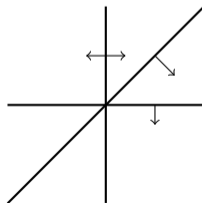
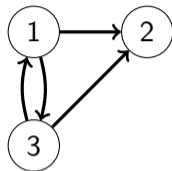
where $\mathbf{x}_0 := 0$.



- ▶ All hyperplanes are of the form $\{\mathbf{x}_i = \mathbf{x}_j\}$ for $i, j \in [d + 1]$

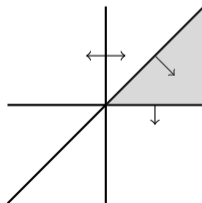
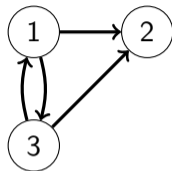
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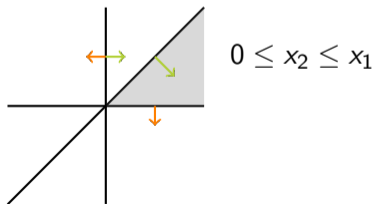
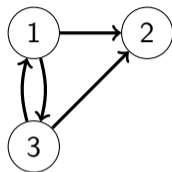
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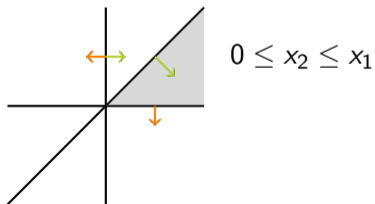
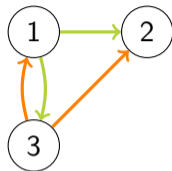
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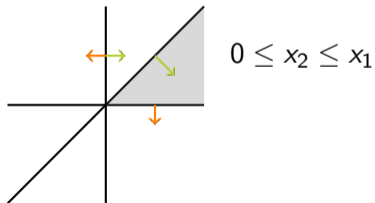
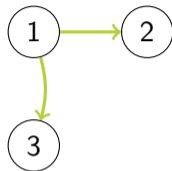
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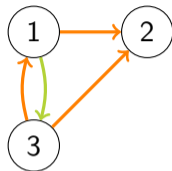
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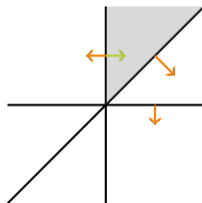


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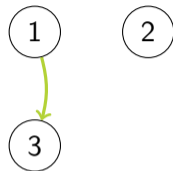


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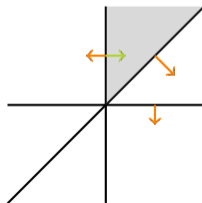


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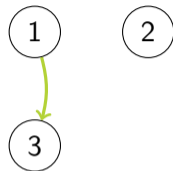


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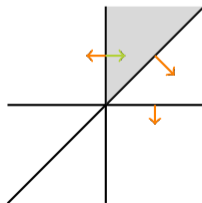


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- ▶ $D_\pi = (V, A \setminus A_\pi)$ is weakly connected $\iff \mathbf{W}_{C_\pi}$ has full rank.



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Not Injective $\iff \exists$ Acyclic Disconnection

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- ▶ there is $A' \subseteq A$ such that (V, A') is acyclic and $(V, A \setminus A')$ is not weakly connected.

An FPT-Algorithm

- ▶ Can we do better than $O(m^d)$?

An FPT-Algorithm

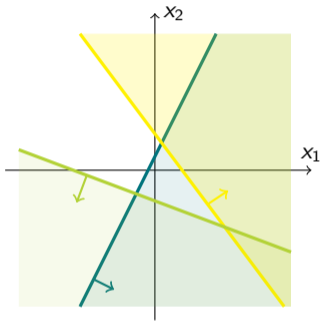
- ▶ Can we do better than $O(m^d)$?
- ▶ Yes!

Theorem [Froese, G., Skutella. 2024]

ReLU-Layer Injectivity can be solved in $O(\text{poly}(m)(d+1)^d)$ time (i.e., FPT for dimension d).

FPT $O(\text{poly}(m)(d+1)^d)$ Algorithm for ReLU-Layer Injectivity

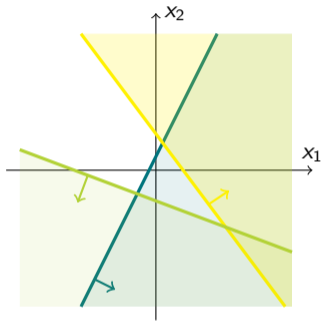
Task: Find cell whose active neurons have rank $< d$ or decide that no such cell exists



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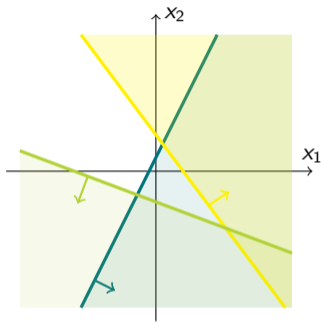


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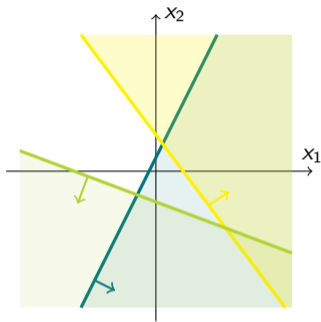
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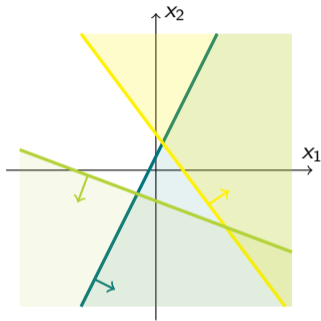
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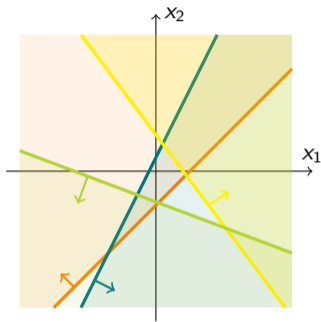
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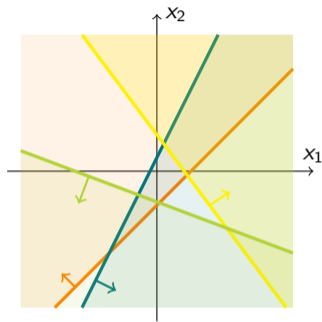
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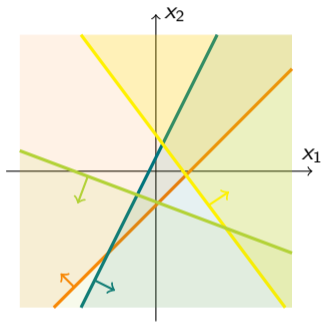
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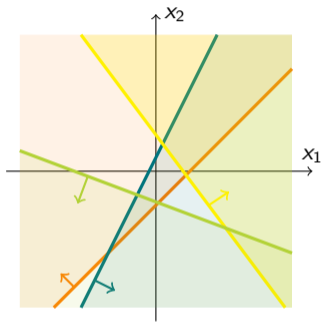
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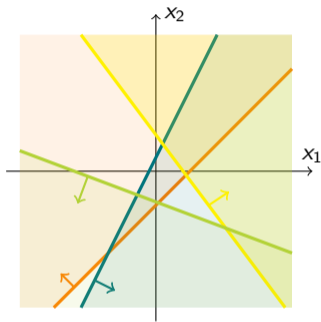
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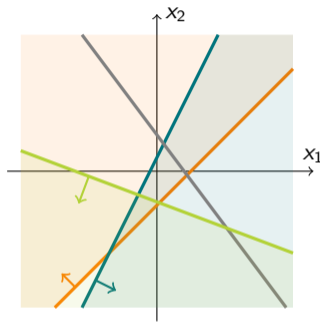
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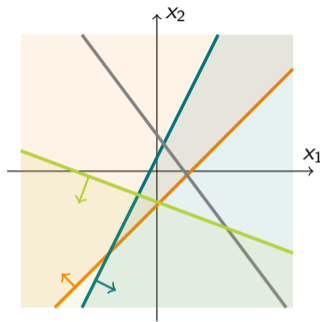
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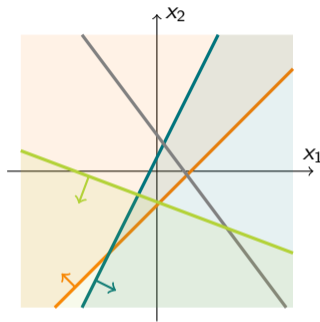
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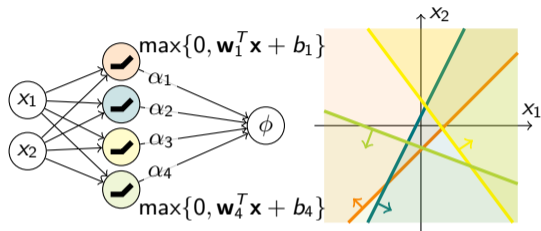
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- ▶ branching strictly increases rank of active neurons → depth of branching at most d

ReLU-Layer: Surjectivity and Positivity

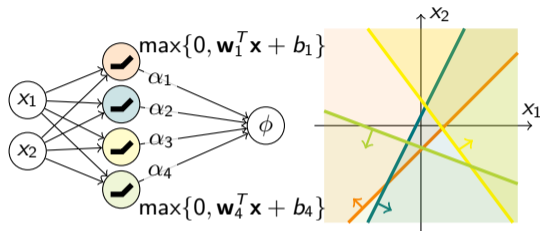


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Question: is map $\phi : \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ with

$$\phi(\mathbf{x}) := \sum_{i=1}^m \alpha_i \max\{0, \mathbf{w}_i^T \mathbf{x} + b_i\}$$

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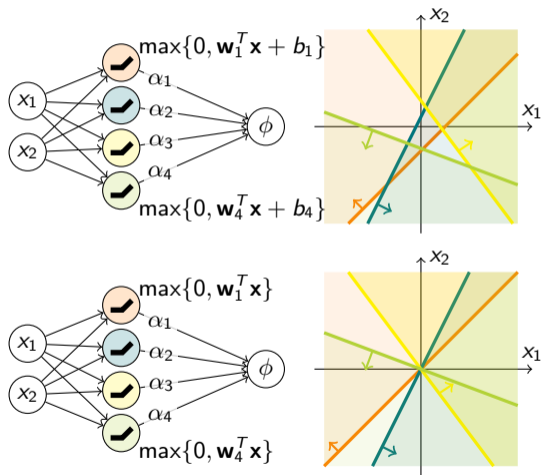
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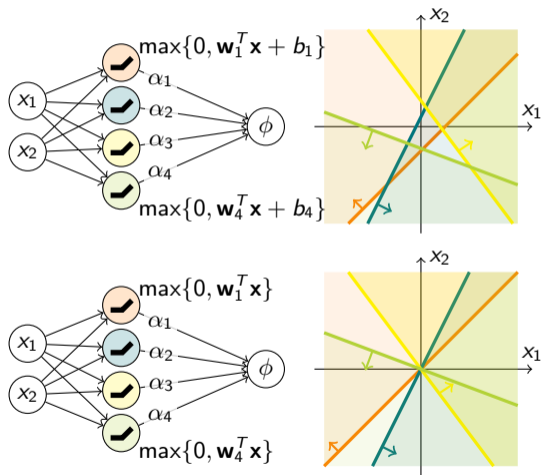
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Observation 2. The problem is
equivalent to:

$$\exists \mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^d : \phi(\mathbf{x}) > 0 ?$$



NP-Completeness of 2-LAYER RELU-POSITIVITY

Theorem [Froese, G., Skutella]

Deciding if there exists $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^d$ such that $\phi(\mathbf{x}) > 0$ is NP-complete.

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Proof.

Reduction from NP-complete problem:

POSITIVE CUT

Input: A graph $G = (V = \{1, \dots, n\}, E)$ and a weight function $c: E \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$.

Question: Is there a subset $S \subseteq V$ such that $\delta(S) := \sum_{\substack{\{u,v\} \in E \\ v \in S, u \notin S}} c(u, v) > 0$?

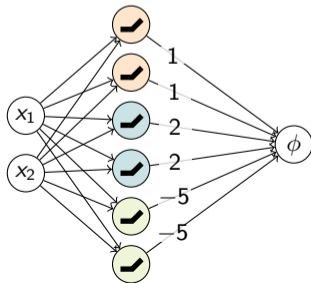
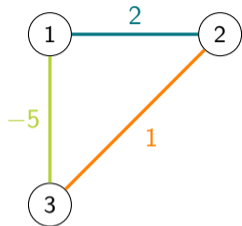


Proof idea

- Define the 2-layer ReLU neural network

$\phi: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ with

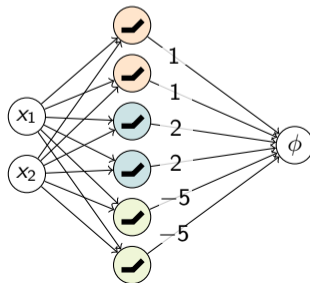
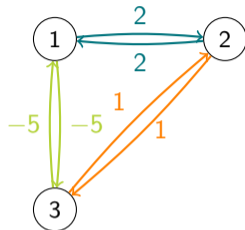
$$\phi(\mathbf{x}) = \sum_{\{i,j\} \in E} c(\{i,j\}) \cdot ([\mathbf{x}_i - \mathbf{x}_j]_+ + [\mathbf{x}_j - \mathbf{x}_i]_+)$$



Proof idea

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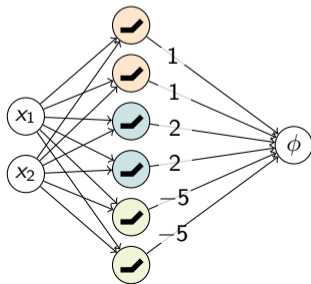
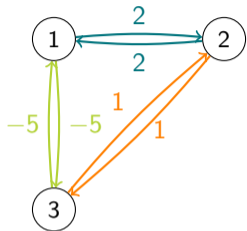
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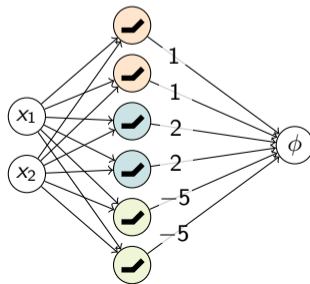
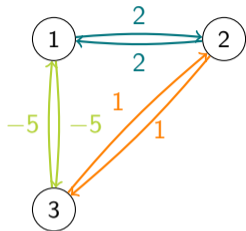
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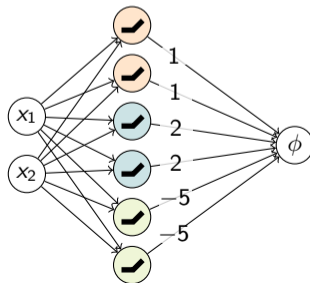
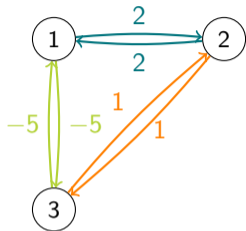
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- Remark: ϕ is Lovász extension of $\delta: 2^V \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$.



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ReLU-Layer Positivity equivalent to complement of Zonotope Containment

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Thank you for your attention!