

# Signature matrices of membranes

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ACPMS Seminar  
November 2024

# Contents

1. The signature of a path
2. The signature of a membrane
3.  $\mathcal{P}_{d,m,n}$ : a variety of signature matrices
4. The dimension of  $\mathcal{P}_{d,m,n}$
5. Open questions and outlook

# The signature of a path

- ▶ A *path* is a continuous map  $X : [0, 1] \rightarrow V$  into some finite dimensional real vector space  $V \cong \mathbb{R}^d$  such that all coordinate functions are piecewise continuously differentiable.
- ▶ Its *iterated integral signature*, introduced in the 1950s by Chen<sup>1</sup>, is the linear form

$$\sigma(X) : T(V^*) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$$
$$\alpha_1 \otimes \dots \otimes \alpha_w \mapsto \int_{\Delta_w} \partial(\alpha_1 X)(t_1) \dots \partial(\alpha_w X)(t_w) d\mathbf{t}$$

where  $d\mathbf{t} = dt_1 \dots dt_w$  and  $\Delta_w$  is the  $w$ -simplex

$$\{(t_1, \dots, t_w) \mid 0 \leq t_1 \leq \dots \leq t_w \leq 1\}$$

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<sup>1</sup>K.-T. Chen (1954). "Iterated Integrals and Exponential Homomorphisms". In: *Proceedings of The London Mathematical Society*, pp. 502–512.

## Properties of the path signature

- ▶ The signature  $\sigma(X)$  **uniquely determines the path**  $X$  up to reparametrisation, translation and tree-like equivalence.
- ▶ There is a commutative product on  $T(V^*)$  (called the shuffle product  $\sqcup$ ) such that for every  $X$  the linear form  $\sigma(X)$  defines an **algebra homomorphism**  $(T(V^*), \sqcup) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ .
- ▶ Chen's identity: The signature is **compatible with concatenation** of paths:

$$\sigma(X \sqcup Y) = (\sigma(X) \otimes \sigma(Y)) \circ \Delta_{\otimes}$$

Here  $\Delta: T(V^*) \rightarrow T(V^*) \otimes T(V^*)$  is the *deconcatenation coproduct* of  $T(V^*)$ .

- ▶ Signatures of paths are central to the theory of rough paths. They are also commonly used in data science/machine learning as features for time series.

## Signature matrices of paths

- ▶ The *second level signature* is the restriction  $\sigma^{(2)}(X)$  of  $\sigma(X)$  to  $V^* \otimes V^*$ . After choosing a basis of  $V$ , we can view this as a matrix  $S(X)$ .
- ▶ The sets

$$\{S(X) \mid X \text{ **polynomial path** in } \mathbb{R}^d \text{ of degree } \leq m\}$$

and

$$\{S(X) \mid X \text{ **piecewise linear path** in } \mathbb{R}^d \text{ with } \leq m \text{ segments}\}$$

agree<sup>2</sup>.

- ▶ Their *Zariski closure*  $\mathcal{P}_{d,m}^{\text{path}} \subseteq \mathbb{R}^{d \times d}$ , that is, the zero set of all polynomials in the matrix entries vanishing on this set, is the *variety of path signature matrices* studied by Améndola, Friz, and Sturmfels in loc. cit..

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<sup>2</sup>C. Améndola, P. Friz, and B. Sturmfels (2019). “Varieties of signature tensors”. In: *Forum of Mathematics, Sigma* 7.

## Signature matrices of paths

- ▶ For  $m \leq d$ ,  $\mathcal{P}_{d,m}^{\text{path}}$  agrees with the determinantal variety of matrices  $A$  such that  $A^{\text{sym}}$  has rank 1 and

$$\text{rk} \begin{pmatrix} A^{\text{sym}} & A^{\text{sk}} \end{pmatrix} \leq m.$$

Its dimension is  $md - \binom{m}{2}$ .

- ▶ For  $m \geq d$ ,  $\mathcal{P}_{d,m}^{\text{path}}$  stabilises and is called the *universal variety*. Its dimension is  $\binom{d+1}{2}$  and it is cut out by the relation  $\text{rk } A^{\text{sym}} = 1$ .

→ Question: does this generalize to membranes?

# Signature matrices of membranes

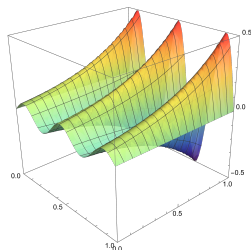
1. The signature of a path
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# The signature of a membrane

- ▶ A membrane is a continuous map  $X : [0, 1]^2 \rightarrow V$  into some f.d. real vector space  $V$  such that  $\alpha X$  is a piecewise<sup>3</sup> continuously differentiable function for all  $\alpha \in V^*$ .

## Example

$$[0, 1]^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3, (s, t) \mapsto \left(s, t, \frac{1}{2e^2} \sin(5\pi s) \exp(2t)\right)$$



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<sup>3</sup>here: on a rectangular partition of  $[0, 1]^2$



# The signature of a membrane

- ▶ There are different generalizations of the iterated-integral signature from paths to membranes.<sup>45</sup>
- ▶ We studied the most “naive” such generalization, which was introduced as the **id-signature** by Diehl, Ebrahimi-Fard, Harang, and Tindell in loc. cit..
- ▶ The main advantage of this approach is that the signature is still just a linear form on the same tensor algebra as for paths, simplifying calculations.

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<sup>4</sup>J. Diehl, K. Ebrahimi-Fard, F. Harang, and S. Tindell (2024). *On the signature of an image*. arXiv: 2403.00130 [math.CA].

<sup>5</sup>C. Giusti, D. Lee, V. Nanda, and H. Oberhauser (2025). “A topological approach to mapping space signatures”. In: *Advances in Applied Mathematics* 163, p. 102787. ISSN: 0196-8858.

## Definition (The (id-)signature<sup>6</sup>)

Let  $V$  be a f.d. real vector space and  $X : [0, 1]^2 \rightarrow V$  a membrane.  
Let  $\partial_{12} := \frac{\partial^2}{\partial s \partial t}$ .

Then the **(id-)signature** of  $X$  is the linear form

$$\sigma(X) : T(V^*) \rightarrow \mathbb{R},$$

$$\alpha_1 \otimes \dots \otimes \alpha_w \mapsto \int_{\Delta_w^p} \partial_{12}(\alpha_1 X)(s_1, t_1) \dots \partial_{12}(\alpha_w X)(s_w, t_w) \, ds dt$$

where  $dt = dt_1 \dots dt_w$ ,  $ds = ds_1 \dots ds_w$  and  $\Delta_w^2 = \Delta_w \times \Delta_w$ .

The *second level signature* is the restriction of  $\sigma(X)$  to  $V^* \otimes V^*$ , and after choosing a basis of  $V$  we can view this as a matrix  $S(X)$  which we call the **signature matrix** of  $X$ .

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<sup>6</sup>J. Diehl, K. Ebrahimi-Fard, F. Harang, and S. Tindel (2024). *On the signature of an image*. arXiv: 2403.00130 [math.CA].

## Some easy observations

Some features of this definition are:

- ▶ **Equivariance:** If  $X: [0, 1]^2 \rightarrow V$  is a membrane and  $A: V \rightarrow W$  is a linear map then

$$\sigma(A \circ X) = \sigma(X) \circ T(A^*)$$

In particular,  $S(A \circ X) = AS(X)A^\top$ .

- ▶ If two membranes only differ by a function in  $s$  or a function in  $t$ , they have the same signature. Thus, for any membrane  $X$  there is a *reduced membrane*  $X^{red}$  with  $\sigma(X) = \sigma(X^{red})$  and  $X^{red}([0, 1] \times \{0\} \cup \{0\} \times [0, 1]) = 0$ .

## An example

- ▶ Consider the bilinear membrane  
 $X : [0, 1]^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^d, (s, t) \mapsto st \cdot u$  for  $u \in \mathbb{R}^d$ .
- ▶ The integrand in the integral associated to  $(e_{i_1})^* \otimes \dots \otimes (e_{i_k})^*$  under the signature is the constant

$$u_{i_1} \dots u_{i_k}.$$

- ▶ This is integrated over  $\Delta_k^2$ . The simplex  $\Delta_k$  has volume  $\frac{1}{k!}$  and thus

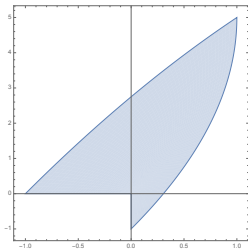
$$\langle \sigma(X), (e_{i_1})^* \otimes \dots \otimes (e_{i_k})^* \rangle = \frac{1}{(k!)^2} u_{i_1} \dots u_{i_k}$$

- ▶ In particular,

$$S(X) = \frac{1}{4} u \cdot u^\top$$

E.g., consider the membrane

$$[0, 1]^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2, (s, t) \mapsto (2st - s^2, 6st - t^2).$$



Its reduced membrane is  $[0, 1]^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^d, (s, t) \mapsto st \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 6 \end{pmatrix}$ . Thus, its signature matrix is

$$\frac{1}{4} \begin{pmatrix} 2 \cdot 2 & 2 \cdot 6 \\ 6 \cdot 2 & 6 \cdot 6 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 3 \\ 3 & 9 \end{pmatrix}$$

A property which is special to the id-signature is the following:

### Lemma (Product membranes)

Let  $X : [0, 1] \rightarrow V$  and  $Y : [0, 1] \rightarrow W$  be two paths and  $V, W$  finite dimensional. Let  $X \boxtimes Y$  denote the induced membrane

$$[0, 1]^2 \rightarrow V \times W \rightarrow V \otimes W$$

Then, choosing a suitable basis for  $V \otimes W$ , we have

$$S(X \boxtimes Y) = S(X) \otimes S(Y)$$

where  $\otimes$  denotes the Kronecker product.

Remark: in fact, the whole signature can be factored into the signatures of the two paths.

## Example: a product membrane

Let  $m : [0, 1] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$ ,  $t \mapsto (t, t^2)$  be the moment path. Its signature matrix is

$$\begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{2} & \frac{2}{3} \\ \frac{1}{3} & \frac{1}{2} \end{pmatrix}.$$

The product membrane  $m \boxtimes m$  can be viewed as the map  $[0, 1]^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{2 \times 2}$  mapping  $(s, t)$  to  $(st, st^2, s^2t, s^2t^2)$ . We obtain its signature matrix:

$$\begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{4} & \frac{1}{3} & \frac{1}{3} & \frac{4}{9} \\ \frac{1}{6} & \frac{1}{4} & \frac{2}{9} & \frac{1}{3} \\ \frac{1}{6} & \frac{2}{9} & \frac{1}{4} & \frac{1}{3} \\ \frac{1}{9} & \frac{1}{6} & \frac{1}{6} & \frac{1}{4} \end{pmatrix}$$

It follows that e.g.  $[0, 1]^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ ,  $(s, t) \mapsto (st + s^2t^2)$  has signature matrix  $(\frac{1}{4} + \frac{4}{9} + \frac{1}{9} + \frac{1}{4}) = (\frac{19}{18})$ .

## Downsides of the id-signature

- ▶ There is a large class of membranes with vanishing signature; this includes for example the 2-sphere, parametrized spherically.
- ▶ An important property of the path signature is that it is an algebra homomorphism once  $T(V^*)$  is equipped with the shuffle product. This is not true for membranes. In fact, in general the entries of signature matrices satisfy no algebraic relations at all ( $\rightarrow$  later in this talk).



# Signature matrices of membranes

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# A tale of two membranes

We focus on two classes of membranes:

- ▶ A **polynomial membrane** of order  $(m, n)$  is a membrane  $X : [0, 1]^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^d$  that is polynomial in both  $s$  and  $t$  with bidegree  $\leq (m, n)$ .
- ▶ A **piecewise bilinear membrane** of order  $(m, n)$  is a membrane  $X$  such that there are  $s_0 = 0 \leq s_1 \leq \dots \leq s_m = 1$  and  $t_0 = 0 \leq t_1 \leq \dots \leq t_n = 1$  with  $X$  bilinear on all squares  $[s_i, s_{i+1}] \times [t_j, t_{j+1}]$ .

# A polynomial membrane

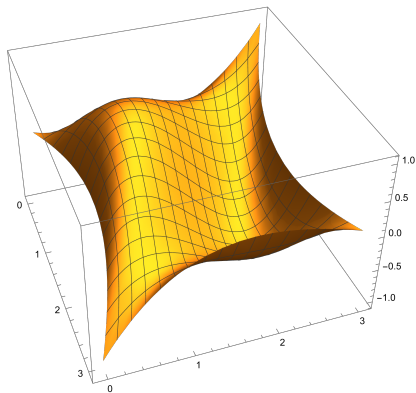
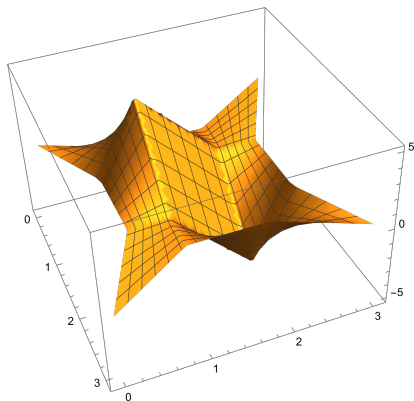


Figure: A Bezier surface with  $4 \times 4$  control points is a polynomial membrane of order  $(3, 3)$ .

## A piecewise bilinear membrane



**Figure:** A piecewise bilinear membrane with  $4 \times 4$  control points, that is, of order  $(3, 3)$ .

## Another Bezier surface

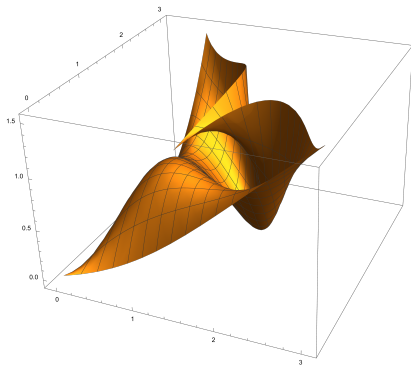


Figure: A membrane does not have to be the graph of a function.

# Sets of signature matrices

Proposition (L., Schmitz '24)

*The sets of signature matrices*

$$\{S(X) \mid X \text{ **polynomial membrane** in } \mathbb{R}^d \text{ of degree } \leq (m, n)\}$$

*and*

$$\{S(X) \mid X \text{ **piecewise bilinear membrane** in } \mathbb{R}^d \text{ of order } (m, n)\}$$

*agree.*

- ▶ For the proof, we use the notion of *dictionaries*, introduced by Pfeffer, Seigal, and Sturmfels<sup>7</sup>.

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<sup>7</sup>M. Pfeffer, A. Seigal, and B. Sturmfels (2019). "Learning Paths from Signature Tensors". In: *SIAM Journal on Matrix Analysis and Applications*.

## Dictionaries for membranes

- ▶ Given a set of membranes  $\mathcal{S}$  in a space  $W$ , a membrane  $D : [0, 1]^2 \rightarrow V$  is called a dictionary for  $\mathcal{S}$  if

$$\mathcal{S} = \{A \circ D \mid A: V \rightarrow W \text{ linear}\}$$

- ▶ If  $\mathcal{S}$  admits a dictionary  $D$ , then by equivariance of the signature, the signature of any  $X \in \mathcal{S}$  can be expressed in terms of the signature of  $D$ . Indeed, recall that

$$S(A \circ D) = AS(D)A^\top.$$

$S(D)$  is called the *core matrix*.

- ▶ In particular, if  $D: [0, 1]^2 \rightarrow V$  and  $E: [0, 1]^2 \rightarrow V$  are dictionaries for sets  $\mathcal{S}_D$  and  $\mathcal{S}_E$  of membranes and there is some automorphism  $A: V \rightarrow V$  with  $S(E) = AS(D)A^\top$ , then  $\mathcal{S}_D = \mathcal{S}_E$ .

## Dictionaries for membranes

- ▶ Key observation: there are dictionaries for polynomial membranes of order  $(m, n)$  as well as dictionaries for piecewise bilinear membranes of order  $(m, n)$ , and they are obtained as products of dictionaries for polynomial paths or piecewise linear paths, respectively!
- ▶ For  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ , let  $\text{Mom}^k$  denote the path  $t \mapsto (t, \dots, t^k)$ . The **moment membrane** of order  $(m, n)$  is defined as

$$\text{Mom}^{m,n} := \text{Mom}^m \boxtimes \text{Mom}^n : [0, 1]^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m \otimes \mathbb{R}^n$$

### Proposition

$\text{Mom}^{m,n}$  is the dictionary for (reduced) polynomial membranes of order  $(m, n)$ . In particular,

$$S(\text{Mom}^{m,n}) = S(\text{Mom}^m) \otimes S(\text{Mom}^n)$$



# The axis membrane

- ▶ For  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ , let  $\text{Axis}^k$  denote the piecewise linear path with control points  $(\sum_{i=1}^j e_i \mid 0 \leq j \leq k)$ . The **axis membrane** of order  $(m, n)$  is defined as

$$\text{Axis}^{m,n} := \text{Axis}^m \boxtimes \text{Axis}^n: [0, 1]^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m \otimes \mathbb{R}^n$$

## Proposition

*$\text{Axis}^{m,n}$  is the dictionary for (reduced) piecewise bilinear membranes of order  $(m, n)$ . In particular,*

$$S(\text{Axis}^{m,n}) = S(\text{Axis}^m) \otimes S(\text{Axis}^n)$$

## Proposition

*The set of signature matrices of polynomial membranes of order  $(m, n)$  agrees with the set of signature matrices of piecewise bilinear membranes of order  $(m, n)$ .*

## Proof.

Améndola, Friz, and Sturmfels<sup>8</sup> show that there is an invertible matrix  $A_m$  with  $A_m S(\text{Axis}^m) A_m^\top = S(\text{Mom}^m)$ . Thus

$$(A_m \otimes A_n) S(\text{Axis}^{m,n}) (A_m \otimes A_n)^\top = S(\text{Mom}^{m,n}),$$

implying the claim. □

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<sup>8</sup>C. Améndola, P. Friz, and B. Sturmfels (2019). “Varieties of signature tensors”. In: *Forum of Mathematics, Sigma* 7.

# The variety of signature matrices

- ▶ The set of signature matrices of polynomial membranes is the image of the morphism

$$\mathbb{R}^{d \times mn} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{d \times d}$$
$$A \mapsto A S(\text{Axis}^{m,n}) A^T.$$

As this is a polynomial map (even homogenous of degree 2) the image will be a semi-algebraic subset of  $\mathbb{R}^{d \times d}$ .

- ▶ Tensoring with  $\mathbb{C}$ , we obtain a map

$$\phi : \mathbb{C}^{d \times mn} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^{d \times d}$$

We denote the Zariski closure of its image by  $\mathcal{P}_{d,m,n}$ . That is,  $\mathcal{P}_{d,m,n}$  is the zero set of all polynomials in the matrix entries vanishing on the image. We call it the **variety of (membrane) signature matrices** (w.r.t.  $(d, m, n)$ ).

# The variety of signature matrices

## Example

The variety  $\mathcal{P}_{4,2,2}$  is the subvariety of  $\mathbb{C}^{4 \times 4}$  parametrised by the signature of piecewise linear membranes of order  $(2, 2)$  in  $\mathbb{C}^4$ .

More precisely, it is the Zariski closure of the image of

$$\phi_{4,2,2} : \mathbb{C}^{4 \times 4} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^{4 \times 4}$$

$$A \mapsto A \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{4} & \frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} & 1 \\ 0 & \frac{1}{4} & 0 & \frac{1}{2} \\ 0 & 0 & \frac{1}{4} & \frac{1}{2} \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \frac{1}{2} \end{pmatrix} A^{\top}.$$

It has dimension 14 and agrees with the common zero set of two homogeneous polynomials in the matrix entries of  $X \in \mathbb{C}^{4 \times 4}$ : the Pfaffian of the skew-symmetric matrix  $X - X^{\top}$  and the quartic  $\det(X) - \frac{1}{2} \det(X + X^{\top})$ .

# The variety of signature matrices

Question: What is the dimension, degree and vanishing ideal of  $\mathcal{P}_{d,m,n}$ ?

# Signature matrices of membranes

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# The dimension of $\mathcal{P}_{d,m,n}$

- ▶ The dimension of a complex variety is just the dimension of its regular points as a complex manifold.
- ▶ By Chevalley's theorem, the image of

$$\begin{aligned}\phi : \mathbb{C}^{d \times mn} &\rightarrow \mathbb{C}^{d \times d} \\ A &\mapsto A S(A \text{axis}^{m,n}) A^T.\end{aligned}$$

is a constructible set. Thus, it is dense in its Zariski closure.

## The case $n = 1$ (or $m = 1$ )

Proposition (L., Schmitz '24)

*For  $n = 1$ , the variety  $\mathcal{P}_{d,m,n}$  agrees with the variety  $\mathcal{P}_{d,m}^{\text{path}}$  of signature matrices of piecewise linear paths with  $m$  segments in  $\mathbb{R}^d$  (or polynomial paths of degree  $\leq m$ ).*

Proof.

We have

$$S(\text{Axis}^{m,1}) = S(\text{Axis}^m \otimes \text{Axis}^1) = S(\text{Axis}^m) \otimes S(\text{Axis}^1) = \frac{1}{2} S(\text{Axis}^m)$$

and  $S(\text{Axis}^m)$  is the core tensor for piecewise linear paths with  $m$  segments. □

- ▶ In particular, if  $m = 1$  or  $n = 1$ , the dimension of  $\mathcal{P}_{d,m,n}$  will just be  $\binom{d+1}{2}$ .



# The dimension for $mn \leq d$

## Theorem (L., Schmitz '24)

For  $mn \leq d$  the dimension of  $\mathcal{P}_{d,m,n}$  is

- ▶  $d mn - \frac{1}{2} m^2 n^2 + m^2(n-1) + (m-1)n^2 - \frac{7}{2} mn + 4(m+n) - 4$   
for even  $m, n$ .
- ▶  $d mn - \frac{1}{2} m^2 n^2 + m^2(n-1) + (m-1)n^2 - \frac{3}{2} mn + m + n$  for  
even  $m$ , odd  $n$ .
- ▶  $d mn - \frac{1}{2} m^2 n^2 + m^2(n-1) + (m-1)n^2 - \frac{7}{2} mn + 3(m+n) - 2$   
for odd  $m, n$ .

*The case  $m$  odd,  $n$  even is omitted due to symmetry.*

All polynomials agree with  $md - \binom{m}{2}$  if  $n = 1$ , in accordance with the analogous result for paths<sup>9</sup>.

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<sup>9</sup>C. Améndola, P. Friz, and B. Sturmfels (2019). "Varieties of signature tensors". In: *Forum of Mathematics, Sigma* 7.

# The dimension for $mn \leq d$

Proof (sketch).

- ▶ After reducing to the case  $d = mn$ , one can use a theorem of De Terán and Dopico on the dimension of congruence orbits<sup>10</sup>. However, one needs to determine the *canonical form for congruence* of the matrix  $S(\text{Axis}^m \boxtimes \text{Axis}^n)$ .
- ▶ For this, one makes use of equivariance and the fact that  $S(\text{Axis}^m \boxtimes \text{Axis}^n) = S(\text{Axis}^m) \otimes S(\text{Axis}^n)$  to reduce to the problem of finding the canonical form for congruence of  $S(\text{Axis}^m)$ , which is easily calculated.

□

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<sup>10</sup>F. D. Terán and F. M. Dopico (2011). “The solution of the equation  $XA + AX^T = 0$  and its application to the theory of orbits”. In: *Linear Algebra and its Applications* 434.1, pp. 44–67.

## The dimension for $m, n \gg d$

Contrary to the path case,  $\mathcal{P}_{d,m,n}$  attains the full dimension  $d^2$  for  $m, n \gg d$ . In fact:

**Proposition (L., Schmitz '24)**

*We have  $\mathcal{P}_{d,d,2} = \mathbb{R}^{d \times d}$ , that is, the image of  $\phi$  is Zariski-dense.*

**Proof.**

Here,  $\phi$  can be identified as the map  $\mathbb{C}^{d \times 2d} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^{d \times d}$  mapping two  $d \times d$  matrices  $T$  and  $U$  to

$$TS(\text{Axis}^d)T^\top + TS(\text{Axis}^d)U^\top - US(\text{Axis}^d)T^\top.$$

Its Jacobian at  $(Id, Id)$  is the linear map sending  $T$  and  $U$  to

$$2TS(\text{Axis}^d) + S(\text{Axis}^d)U^\top - US(\text{Axis}^d).$$

The kernel of this map has dimension  $d^2$  and the domain has dimension  $2d^2$ , so the Jacobian at  $(Id, Id)$  has full rank. □

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## Mysterious zeroes

Computational data suggests that already  $\mathcal{P}_{d,d-1,2}$  has full dimension. Something even stronger seems to be true:

### Conjecture

*The codimension of  $\mathcal{P}_{d,m,n}$  is 0 whenever  $m, n > 1$  and  $m + n = d + 1$ .*

|    |          |           |          |          |          |          |          |
|----|----------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| 56 | 49       | 43        | 38       | 34       | 31       | 29       | 28       |
| 49 | 34       | 21        | 12       | <b>4</b> | <b>2</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> |
| 43 | 21       | <b>12</b> | <b>1</b> | <b>1</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> |
| 38 | 12       | <b>1</b>  | <b>1</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> |
| 34 | <b>4</b> | <b>1</b>  | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> |
| 31 | <b>2</b> | <b>0</b>  | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> |
| 29 | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b>  | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> |
| 28 | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b>  | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> |

Figure: The codimensions of  $\mathcal{P}_{8,m,n}$  for  $m, n = 1, \dots, 8$ .

## Degree and vanishing ideal?

We do not understand the equations that cut out the varieties  $\mathcal{P}_{d,m,n}$  in general, or even their degree. Using `NumericalImplicitization.m2` and `MultigradedImplicitization.m2` one can study special cases: we observed e.g. that the variety  $\mathcal{P}_{5,3,2}$  has dimension 24 and is cut out by a single quintic with 999 terms.

## $GL$ -invariants in the tensor algebra

- ▶ As the signature of a membrane is equivariant under the diagonal  $GL_d$  action on  $T(\mathbb{R}^d)$ ,  $GL$ -equivariants for paths will be  $GL$ -equivariants for membranes. In particular, one would still expect them to have a geometric interpretation.
- ▶ → What is the geometrical meaning of the “signed volume” for membranes?

# Algebraic relations in the id-signature

We showed that the entries of signature matrices for membranes satisfy in general no algebraic relations.

In fact, we expect this to be true for the whole id-signature, not just the second level.

## Conjecture

*For any  $d, k \in \mathbb{N}$  and every polynomial  $p \neq 0$  in the coordinates of  $(\mathbb{R}^d)^{\otimes k}$  there is a membrane  $X : [0, 1]^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^d$  such that  $p(\sigma^{(k)}(X)) \neq 0$ .*



arXiv:2409.11996

