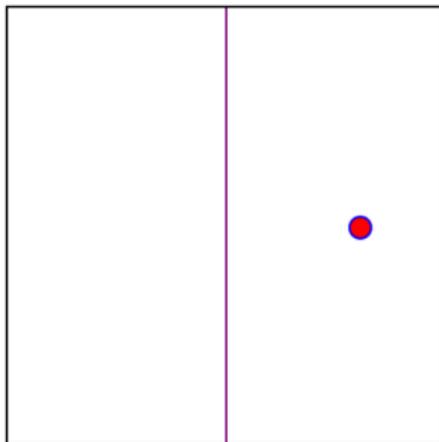


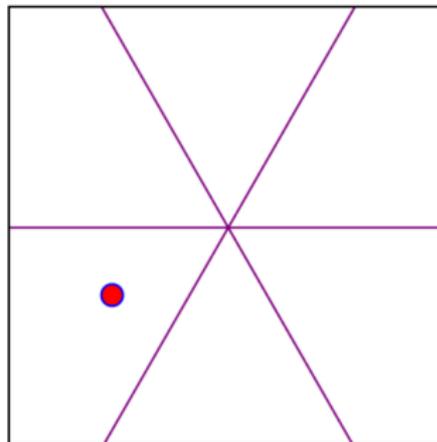
# Piecewise linear representation theory

Or: Non-linear, but still rep theory

Accept **Change** what you cannot **change** **accept**



$$L_0 = L_{triv}, \text{ord}(a) = 1$$



$$L_1, \text{ord}(a) = 3$$

I report on work of Joel Gibson and Geordie Williamson

July 2023

Problem involving

an action

$$G \curvearrowright X$$

new  
insights?

.....→

Problem involving

a linear action

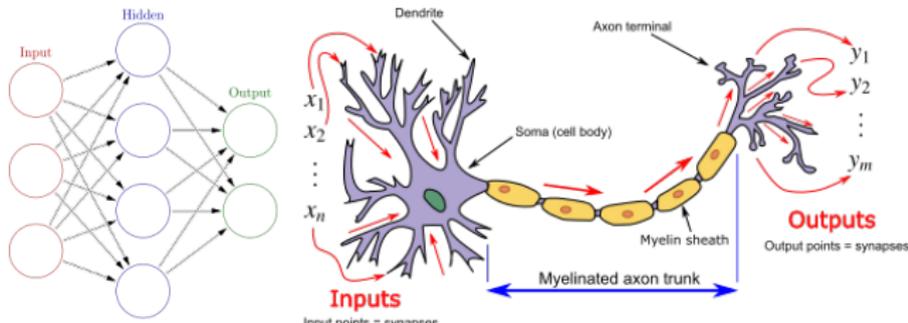
$$\mathbb{K}[G] \curvearrowright \mathbb{K}X$$

“Decomposition of  
the problem”

$$\mathbb{K}[G] \curvearrowright \bigoplus V_i$$

- ▶ Representation theory approach Decompose a problem into simples and take it from there
- ▶ Today Representation theory applied to machine learning

# Learning with piecewise linear maps



Vanilla neural net:

$$\phi: \mathbb{R}^{n_1} \xrightarrow{\phi_1} \mathbb{R}^{n_2} \xrightarrow{\phi_2} \mathbb{R}^{n_3} \xrightarrow{\phi_3} \mathbb{R}^{n_4} \xrightarrow{\phi_4} \mathbb{R}^{n_5} \xrightarrow{\phi_5} \mathbb{R}^{n_5}$$

"ReLU"

Each "layer" is:  $\mathbb{R}^{n_i} \xrightarrow[\text{(or affine linear)}]{\text{linear}} \mathbb{R}^{n_{i+1}} \xrightarrow[\text{max}(0, -)]{\text{coordinatewise}} \mathbb{R}^{n_{i+1}}$

▶ Neural network "=" a sequence of maps  $\mathbb{R}^{n_1} \xrightarrow{\phi_1} \mathbb{R}^{n_2} \xrightarrow{\phi_2} \dots \xrightarrow{\phi_k} \mathbb{R}^{n_{k+1}}$

▶ Deep = many layers Crucial 1 #layers  $\leftrightarrow$  accuracy of the result

Example (picture recognition)



Are we seeing ice cream? Yes, maybe or no?

Neural ice cream network:

$f: \mathbb{R}^{\#pixels} \rightarrow \text{layers} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  and  $f(\mathbb{R}^{\#pixels}) \rightsquigarrow$  probability of seeing ice cream

▶ Neural network = a sequence of maps  $\mathbb{R}^{n_1} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{n_2} \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$

Crucial 1 #layers  $\rightsquigarrow$  accuracy of the result

▶ Deep = many layers  $\rightsquigarrow$  accuracy of the result

Example (picture recognition with group action)

## $S_n$ permutes the birds



If our problem at hand has some group symmetry  
then we should be able to use the representation theory approach, right?

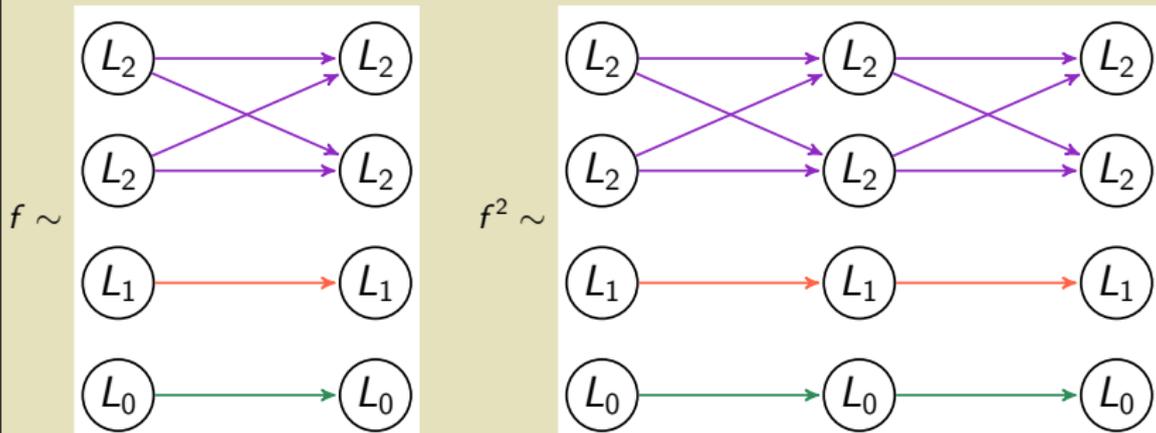
► **Deep** — many layers    **Crucial 1** #layers  $\leftrightarrow$  accuracy of the result

# Learning with piecewise linear maps

Why is that potentially amazing? Well:

Assume we want to know  $f^k$  for linear  $G$ -equivariant  $f: V \rightarrow V$

The representation theory approach plus Schur's lemma give

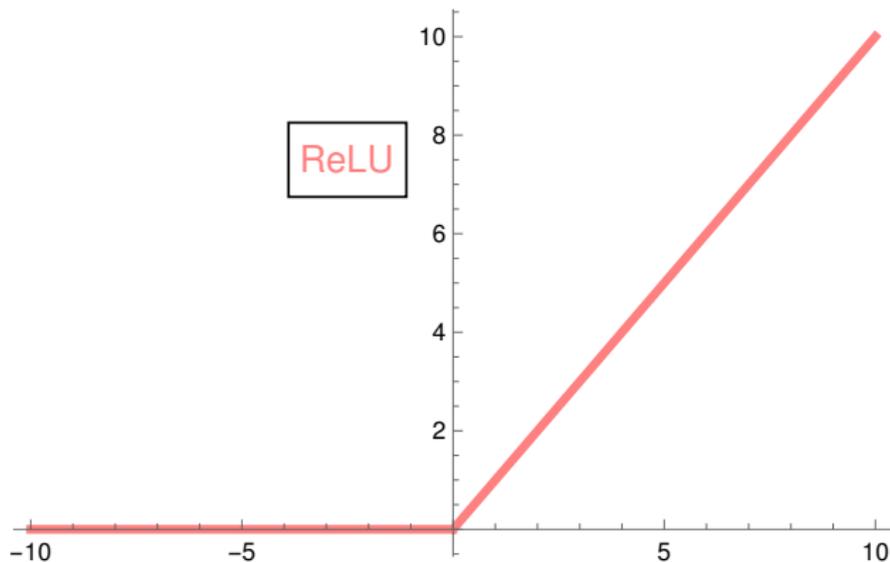


$\Rightarrow f^k$  is pretty easy to compute

► Neural network = a sequence of maps  $\mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$

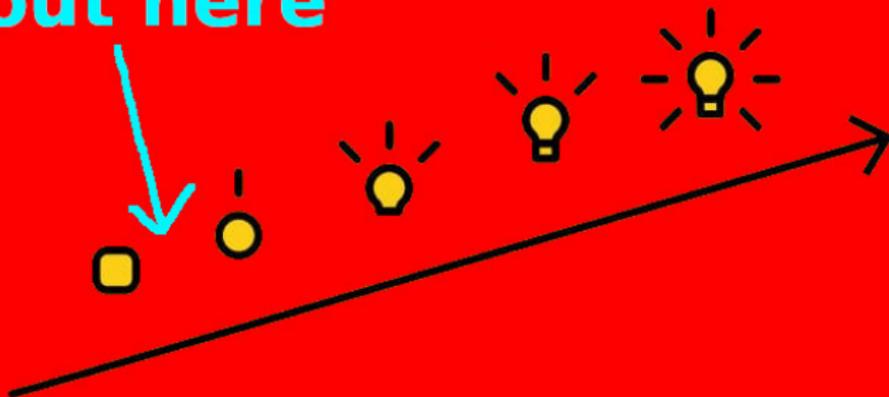
► Deep = many layers Crucial 1 #layers  $\leftrightarrow$  accuracy of the result

## Learning with piecewise linear maps



- ▶  $ReLU: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}, x \mapsto \max(x, 0)$  is the most popular activator map in machine learning
- ▶ Linear maps are not working [Play live at https://playground.tensorflow.org](https://playground.tensorflow.org)
- ▶ Crucial 2 Machine learning likes piecewise linear but non-linear maps

# We are about here



Crucial 1 #layers  $\leftrightarrow$  accuracy of the result

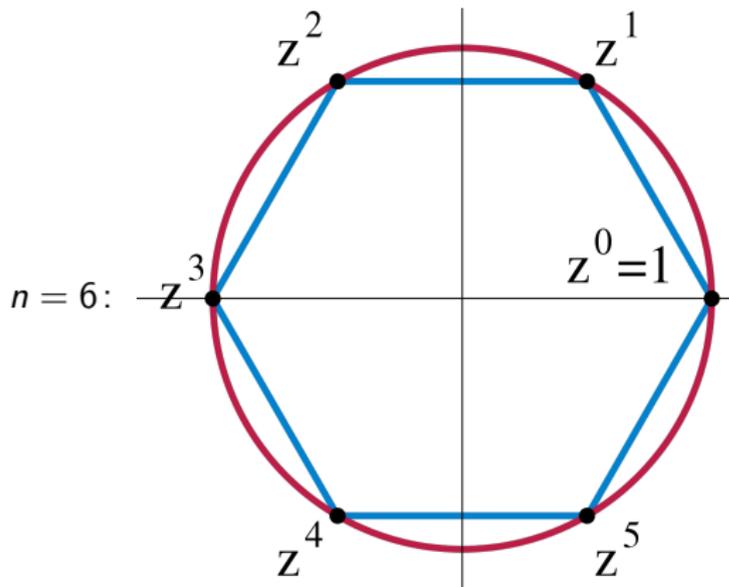
▶ Crucial 2 Machine learning likes piecewise linear but non-linear maps

▶  $\Rightarrow$  study piecewise linear representation theory

▶ I show you a few teeny-weeny steps in this direction!

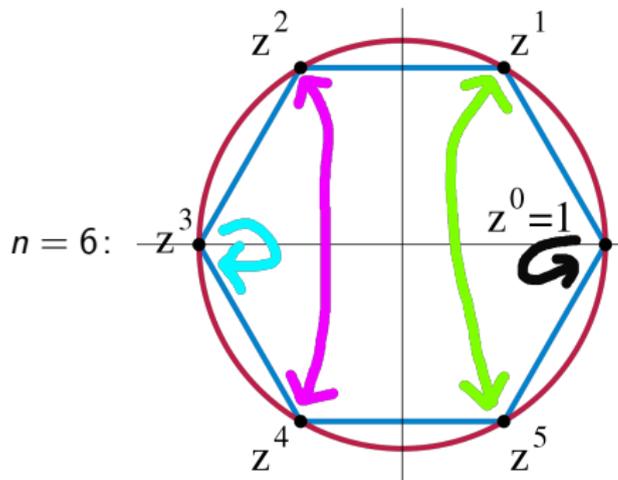
## Let us study cyclic groups

---



- ▶ Let  $C_n = \mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z} = \langle a \mid a^n = 1 \rangle$
- ▶ The simple complex  $C_n$ -reps are given by the  $n$ th roots of unity  $L_{z^k}$
- ▶ What about the simple **real**  $C_n$ -reps?

## Let us study cyclic groups

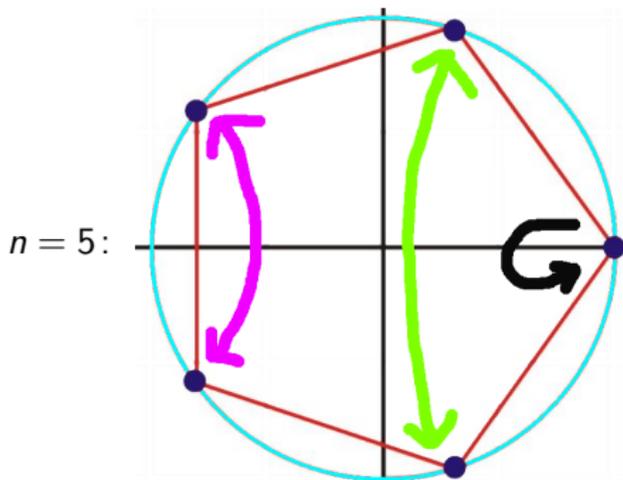


► For  $\Theta = 2\pi/n$  observe that

$$\begin{pmatrix} \exp(ik\Theta) & 0 \\ 0 & \exp(ik\Theta) \end{pmatrix} \sim_{\mathbb{C}} \begin{pmatrix} \cos(k\Theta) & -\sin(k\Theta) \\ \sin(k\Theta) & \cos(k\Theta) \end{pmatrix}$$

►  $\Rightarrow$  the simple **real**  $C_n$ -reps are  $L_0 = L_{z^0}$ ,  $L_1 = L_{z^1} \oplus \overline{L_{z^1}}$ , etc.

## Let us study cyclic groups



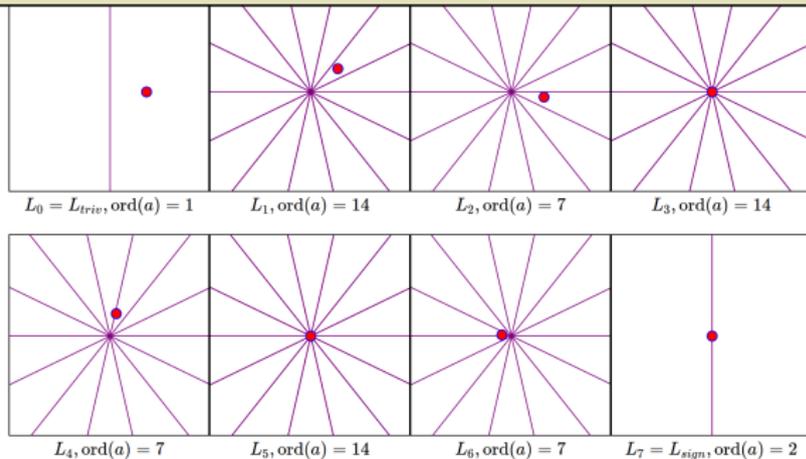
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# Let us study cyclic groups

Play live at <https://www.dtubbenhauer.com/pl-reps/site/index.html>

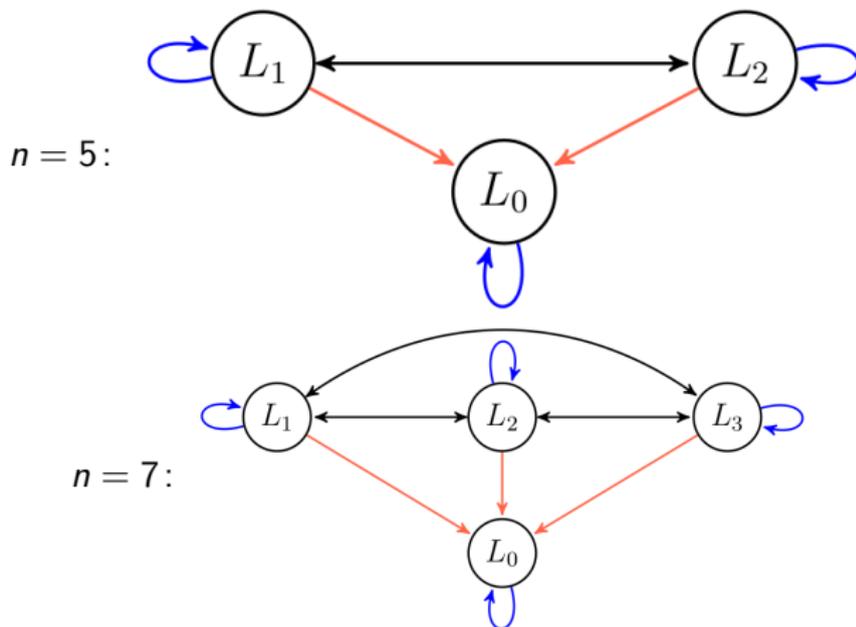


Thus, we can (explicitly) decompose  $\mathbb{R}[C_n] \cong L_0 \oplus L_1 \oplus \dots$  and compute

$$L_i \xrightarrow{\text{incl.}} \mathbb{R}[C_n] \xrightarrow{\text{ReLU}} \mathbb{R}[C_n] \begin{array}{l} \xrightarrow{\text{proj.}} L_0 \\ \xrightarrow{\text{proj.}} L_1 \\ \xrightarrow{\text{proj.}} \vdots \end{array}$$

## Let us study cyclic groups

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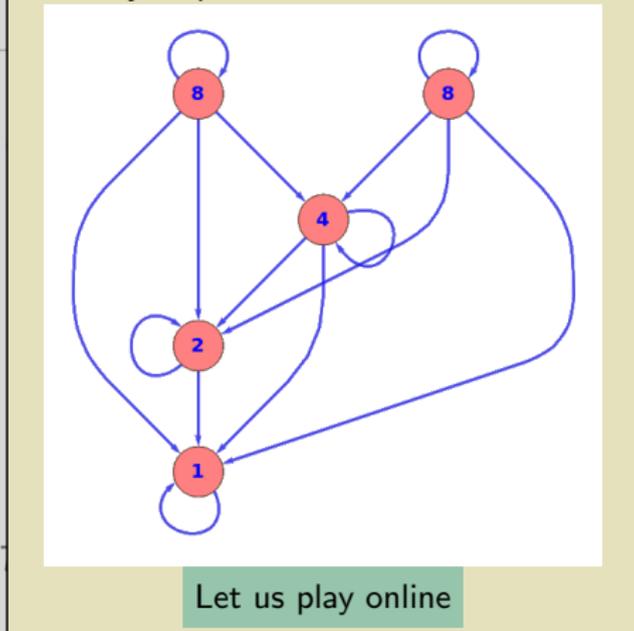


- ▶ Interaction graph  $\Gamma$  vertices = simples, edges = nonzero maps  $L_i \rightarrow L_j$
- ▶ This is a measurement of difficulty : a lot of ingoing arrows = hard

## Let us study cyclic

It is easy to produce these with a machine

$n = 5$ :



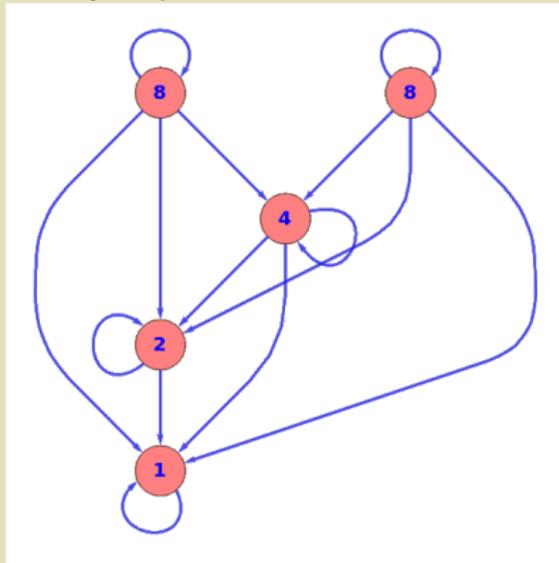
$n =$

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# Let us study cyclic

It is easy to produce these with a machine

$n = 5$ :



$n =$

Let us play online

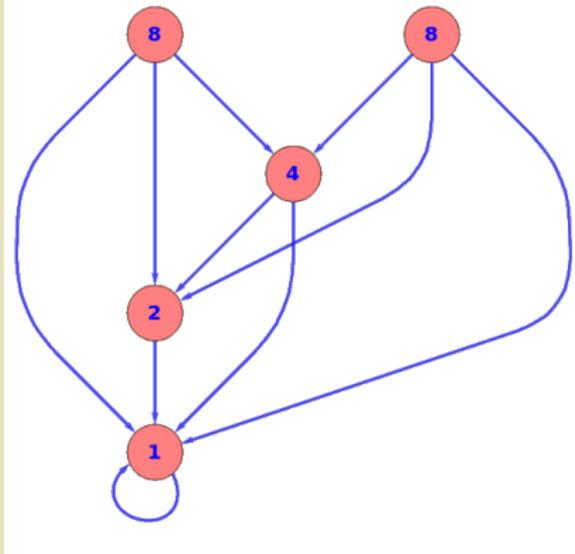
$ord(L_i)$  = order of the action of  $a$   
 $ord'(L_i)$  = same but divide by two if  $ord(L_i)$  is even

## Theorem (for ReLU)

Every vertex has a loop and there is a non-loop edge from  $L$  to  $K$  in  $\Gamma$  if and only if  $ord(K)$  divides  $ord'(L)$

Let us study

It is easy to produce these with a machine – for any map



This is now the absolute value

$ord(L_i) =$  order of the action of a  
 $ord'(L_i) =$  same but divide by two if  $ord(L_i)$  is even

**Theorem** (for Abs)

There is a non-loop edge from  $L$  to  $K$  in  $\Gamma$   
if and only if  $ord(K)$  divides  $ord'(L)$

► Interaction

► This is a m

aps  $L_i \rightarrow L_j$

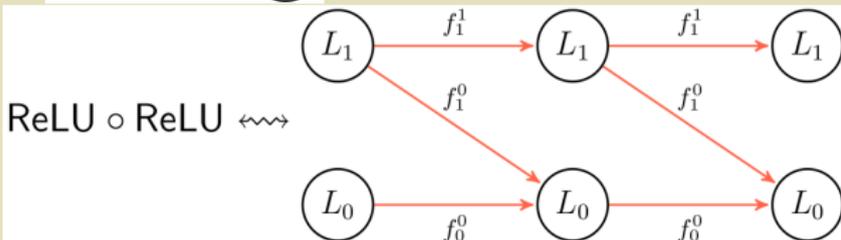
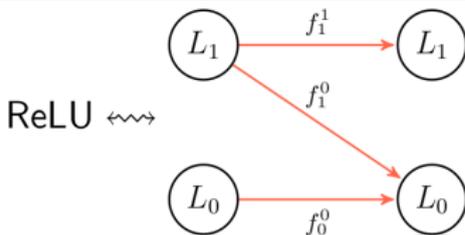
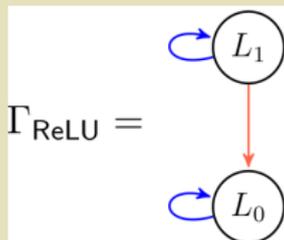
= hard

# Let us study cyclic groups

Calculation complexity is captured in  $\Gamma$  :

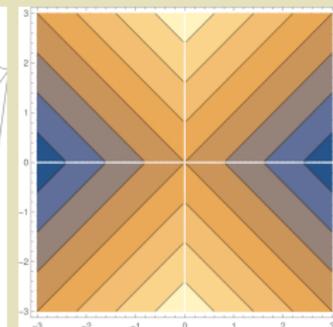
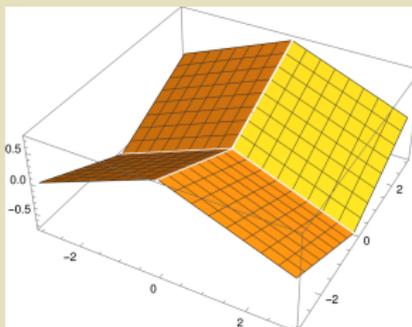
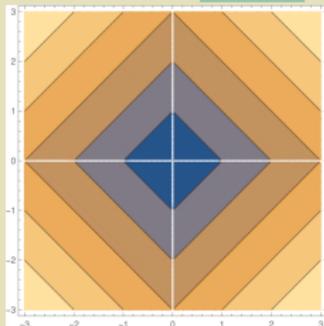
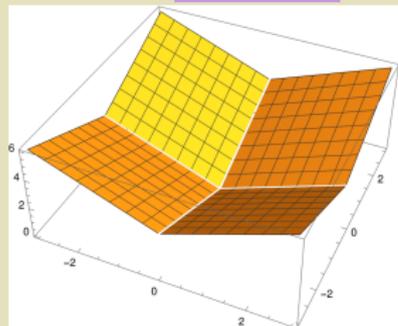
## Theorem

# calcs needed to evaluate  $f^k$  on  $L_i$  = number of length  $k$  path ending at  $L_i$  in  $\Gamma_f$



- ▶ Interaction graph  $\Gamma$  vertices = simples, edges = nonzero maps  $L_i \rightarrow L_j$
- ▶ This is a measurement of difficulty : a lot of ingoing arrows = hard

The piecewise linear but **non-linear** maps from  $L_1$  to **trivial** and **sign** are:

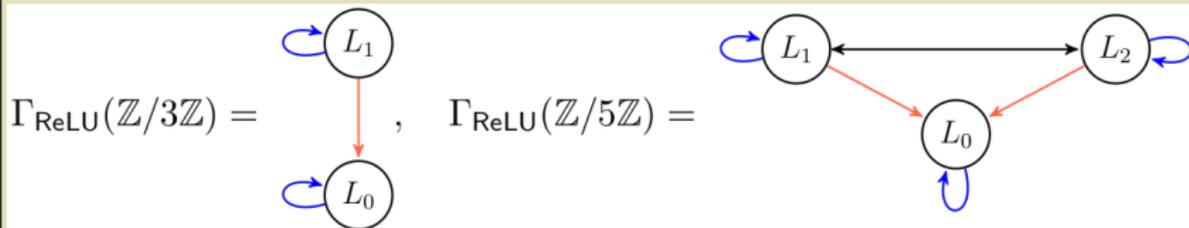


Let us play online

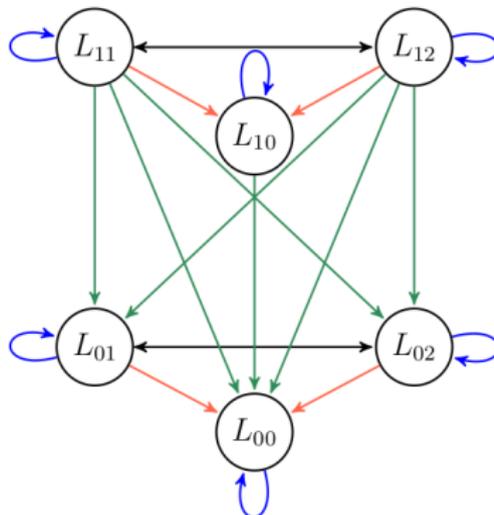


- 
- ▶ Finite abelian groups
  - ▶ Dihedral groups
  - ▶ Symmetric groups
  - ▶ Products of these

# Finite abelian group = products of cyclic groups



$\Rightarrow \Gamma_{\text{ReLU}}(\mathbb{Z}/3\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}/5\mathbb{Z}) =$



Its just the product

## Honorable

### Theorem

For a general piecewise linear map  $f: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ :

(a) If  $f$  is linear, then  $\Gamma$  is trivial

(b) If  $f = \text{Abs}$ , then  $\Gamma$  is as before

(c) Otherwise  $\Gamma$  is as for *ReLU*

▶ Finite abelian groups

▶ Dihedral

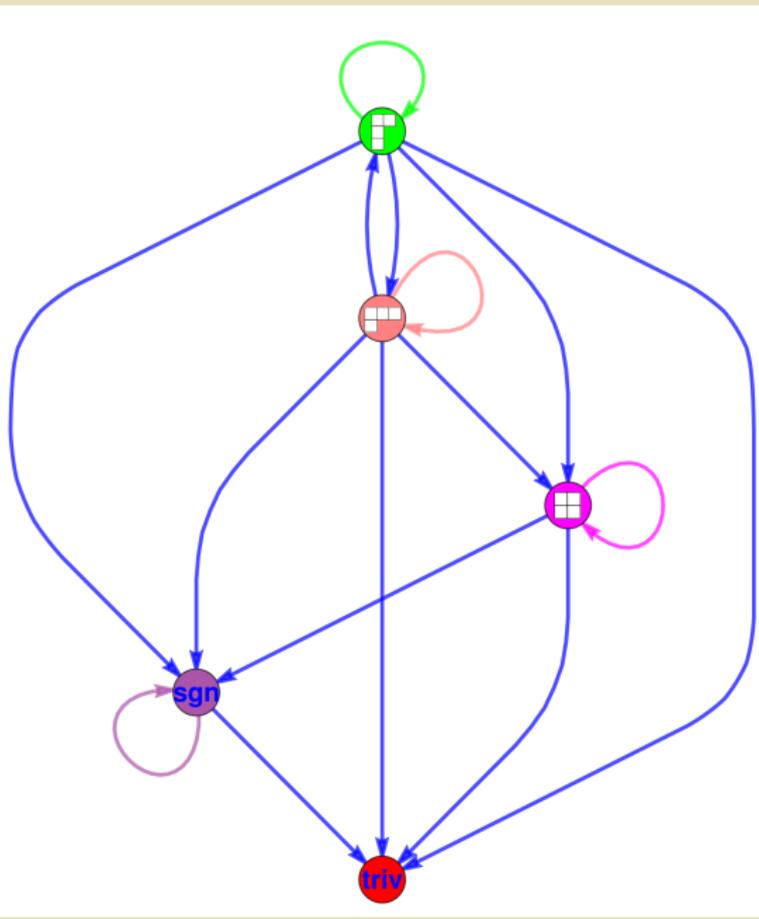
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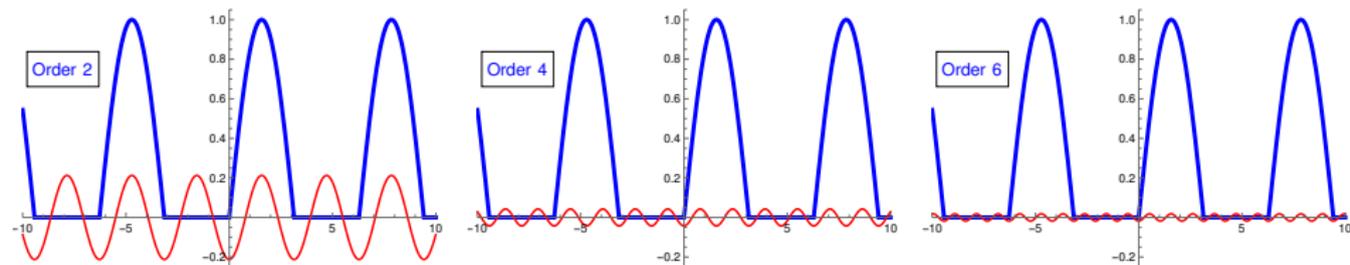
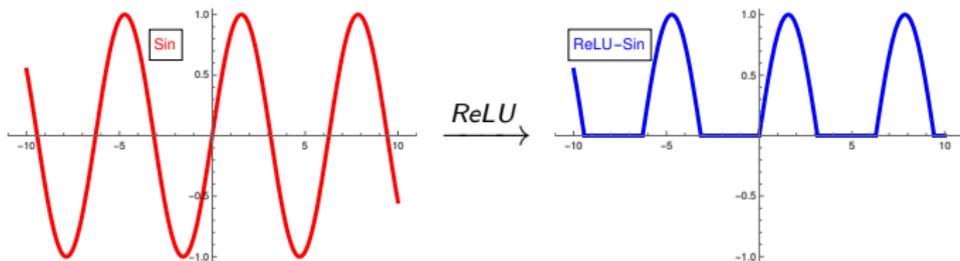
$\Gamma$  for *ReLU* can thus  
be considered as an invariant of the group  $C_n$   
or more generally for any finite group one gets an invariant

Let us study

$\Gamma$  for the symmetric group  $S_4$  (on isotypic components):

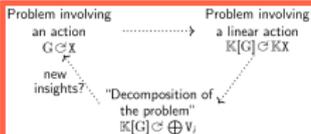


# Let us study cyclic groups



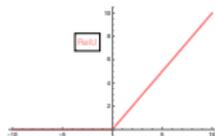
- ▶ Linear map representation theory  $\leftrightarrow$  Fourier approximation of sin
- ▶ Piecewise linear map representation theory  $\leftrightarrow$  Fourier approximation of  $ReLU \circ \sin$
- ▶ Higher frequencies  $\leftrightarrow$  simplices with a lot of ingoing arrows

### Learning with piecewise linear maps



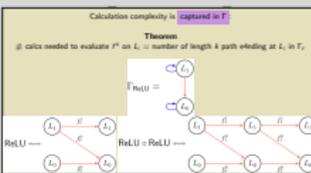
- The **representation theory approach** Decompose a problem into simples and take it from there
- **Today** Representation theory and machine learning

### Learning with piecewise linear maps



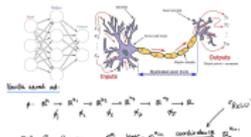
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- Linear maps are **not** doing the job **Let us play fun**
- **Crucial 2** Machine learning likes piecewise linear but non-linear maps

### Let us study cyclic groups



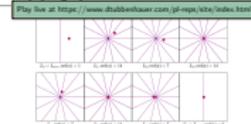
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### Learning with piecewise linear maps

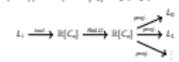


- **Neural network** "is" a sequence of maps  $\mathbb{R}^{n_1} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{n_2} \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{n_r}$
- **Deep** = many layers

### Let us study cyclic groups

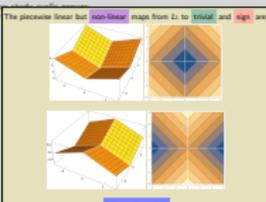


Thus, we can (explicitly) decompose  $\mathbb{R}[C_n] \cong L_0 \oplus L_1 \oplus \dots$  and compute



Play live at <https://www.danielbaehner.com/jf-maps/rlr/index.html>

### Let



**Let us play online**

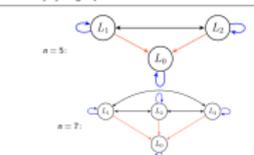
There is still much to do...

### Learning with piecewise linear maps



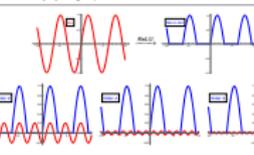
- If our picture has some group symmetry then we should be able to use the **representation theory approach**, right?

### Let us study cyclic groups



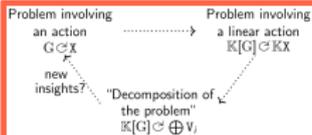
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### Let us study cyclic groups



- Linear map representation theory **green** Fourier approximation of sin
- Piecewise linear map representation theory **red** Fourier approximation of  $\text{ReLU} \otimes \sin$
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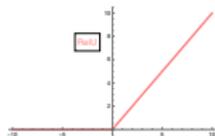
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Picewise linear maps & representation theory © M. Neukirch, but with my theory July 2023 7 / 24

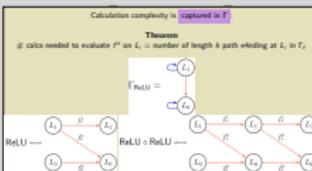
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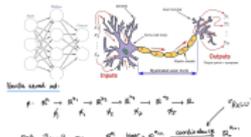
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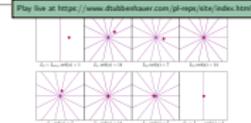
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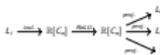
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### Let us study cyclic groups

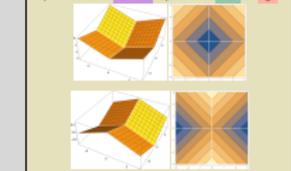


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### Let



**Let us play online**

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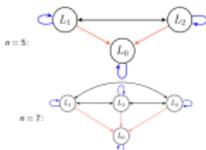
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- If our picture has some group symmetry then we should be able to use the **representation theory approach**, right?
- **Representation theory approach**

Picewise linear maps & representation theory © M. Neukirch, but with my theory July 2023 7 / 24

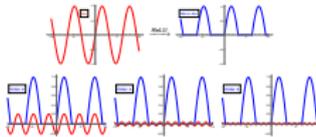
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Thanks for your attention!