

# A generalization of Kruskal's theorem

What happens when you replace the Kruskal ranks with standard ranks in Kruskal's theorem?

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Auburn Algebra Seminar

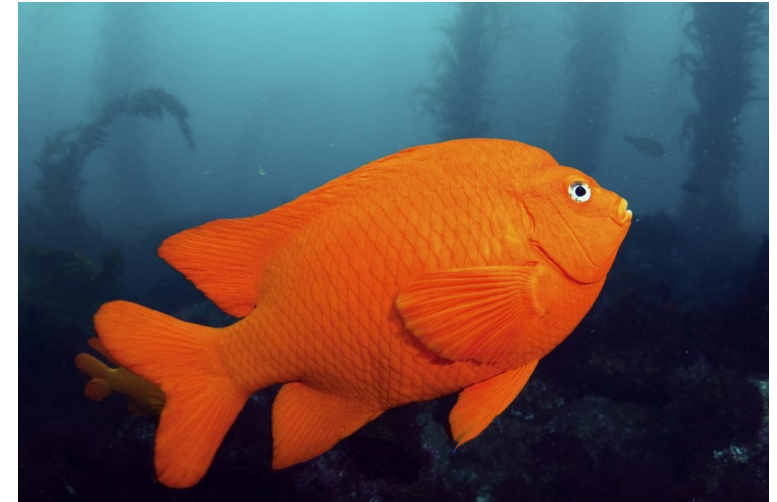
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[arXiv:2103.15633](https://arxiv.org/abs/2103.15633)

Slides available at [www.benjaminlovitz.com](http://www.benjaminlovitz.com)

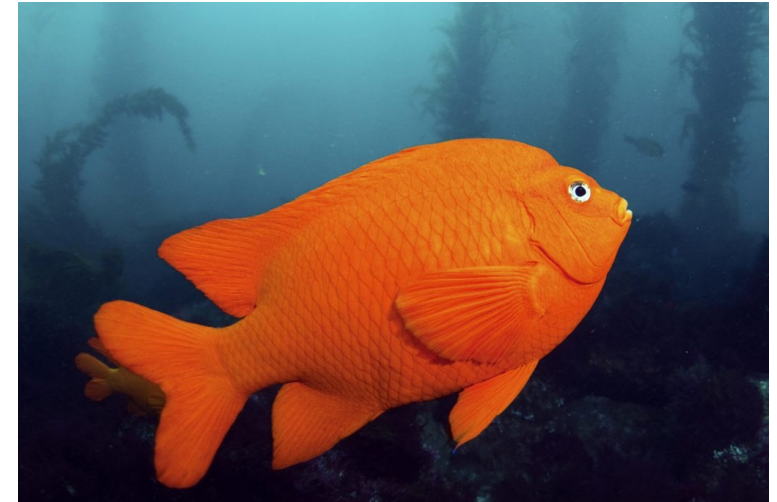
# Outline

- Uniqueness of tensor decompositions
- Kruskal's theorem
- A generalization of Kruskal's theorem
- Splitting theorem



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Let  $\mathbb{F}$  be a field, and let  $X, Y, Z$  be  $\mathbb{F}$ -vector spaces of dimension at least 2.

For  $T \in X \otimes Y \otimes Z$ , an expression  $T = \sum_{a \in [n]} x_a \otimes y_a \otimes z_a \in X \otimes Y \otimes Z$

is called a **decomposition** of  $T$  into product tensors

$\text{rank}(T) := \min\{n: \text{there exists a decomposition of } T \text{ into } n \text{ product tensors}\}$

# Uniqueness of tensor decompositions

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there is a permutation  $\sigma \in S_n$  such that  $x_a \otimes y_a \otimes z_a = x'_{\sigma(a)} \otimes y'_{\sigma(a)} \otimes z'_{\sigma(a)}$  for all  $a \in [n]$ .

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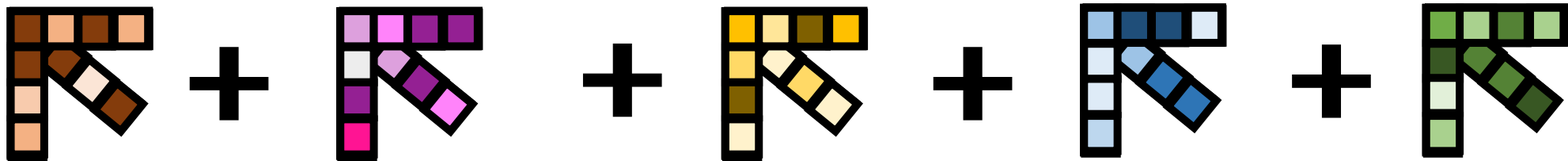
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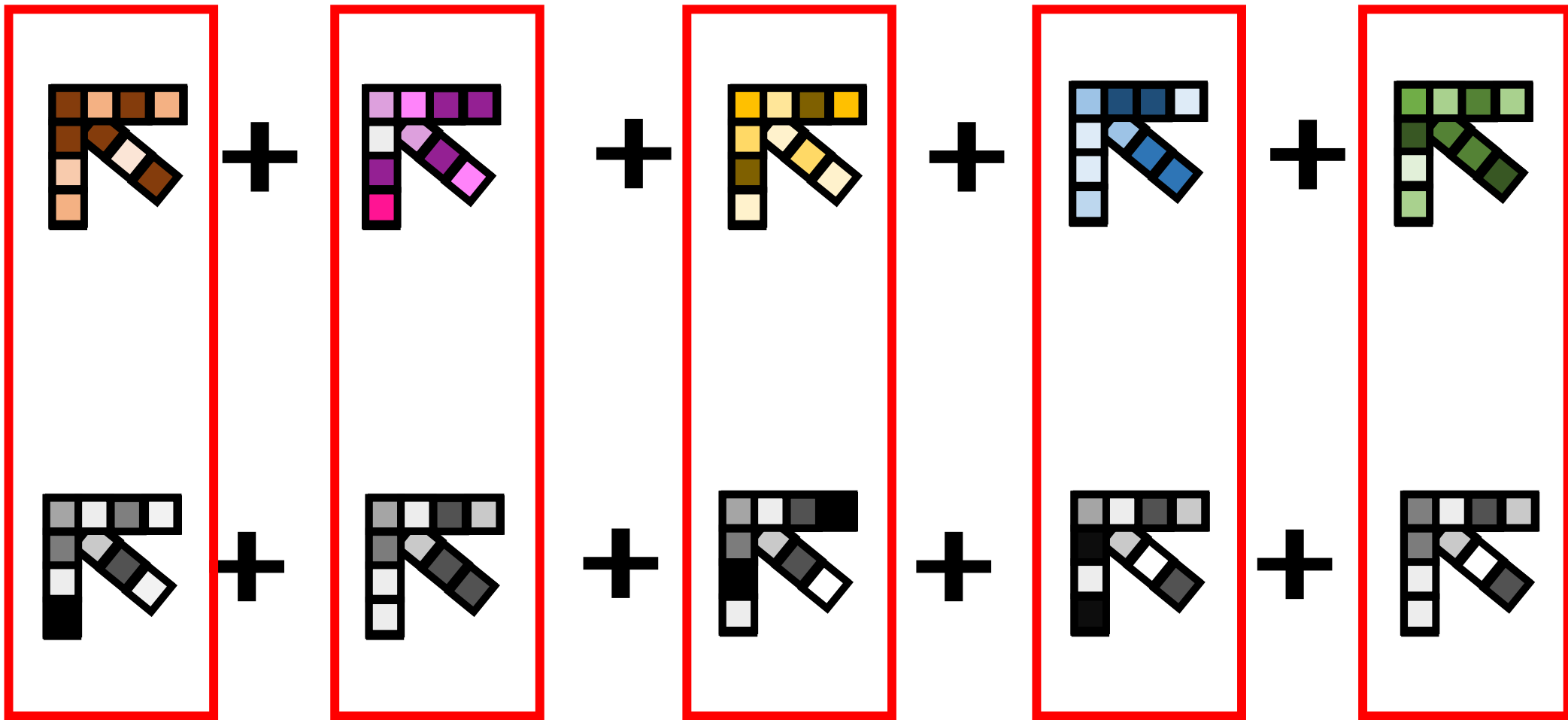
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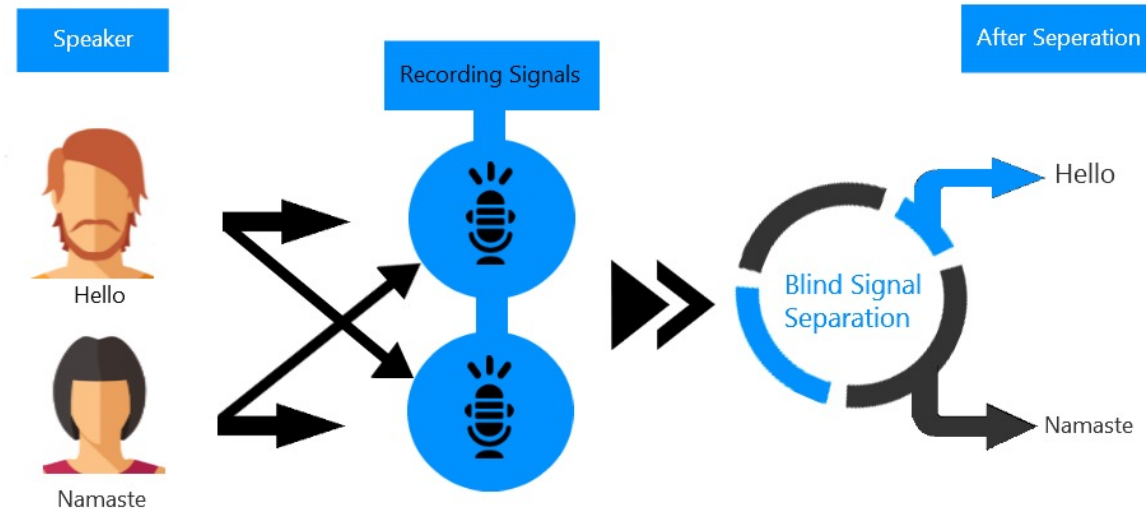
# Applications

- Tensors  $\leftrightarrow$  Physical data
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## Blind Signal Separation

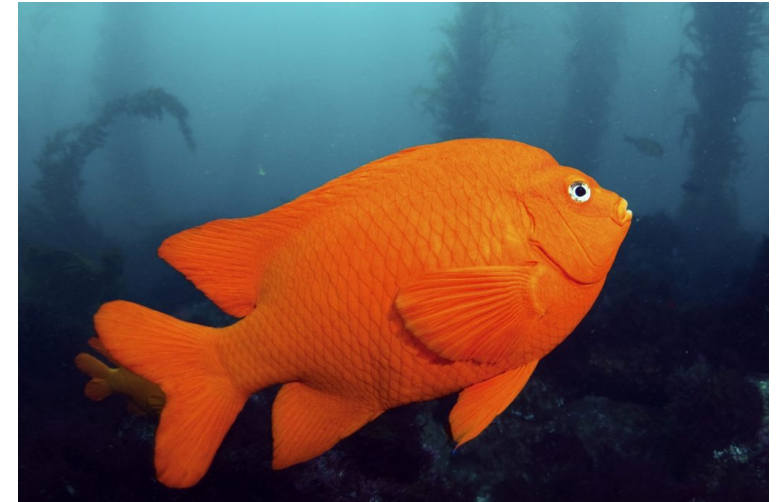


Goal: Separate mixed signals + determine mixing process

Method: Decompose tensor arising from measurement data

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# Kruskal's theorem

$$T = \sum_{a \in [n]} x_a \otimes y_a \otimes z_a \in X \otimes Y \otimes Z \quad (1)$$

Notation: When  $S \subseteq [n]$ ,  $d_x^S := \dim \text{span}\{x_a : a \in S\}$

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Example:

$$T = e_1^{\otimes 3} + e_2^{\otimes 3} + e_3^{\otimes 3} + e_4^{\otimes 3} + (e_1 + e_2) \otimes (e_2 + e_3) \otimes (e_1 + e_4)$$

$x_1 \otimes y_1 \otimes z_1 \quad \dots \quad x_5 \otimes y_5 \otimes z_5$

For  $S = \{1, 2, 5\}$ ,  $d_x^S = 2$ ,  $d_y^S = 3$ ,  $d_z^S = 3$

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Definition: The **Kruskal rank** of  $\{x_1, \dots, x_n\} \in X$  is the largest integer  $k_x$  such that for every subset  $S \subseteq [n]$  of size  $|S| = k_x$ , it holds that

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$$\underbrace{x_1 \otimes y_1 \otimes z_1}_{x_1} \quad \dots \quad \underbrace{x_5}_{x_5} \quad \otimes \quad \underbrace{y_5}_{y_5} \quad \otimes \quad \underbrace{z_5}_{z_5}$$

$$\{x_1, \dots, x_5\} = \{e_1, e_2, e_3, e_4, e_1 + e_2\}, \quad k_x = 2, \quad d_x^{[5]} = 4.$$

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Example [Jennrich's Theorem]:

$\{x_1, \dots, x_n\}$  and  $\{y_1, \dots, y_n\}$  are linearly independent, and  $k_z \geq 2$ .

$$k_x = k_y = n$$



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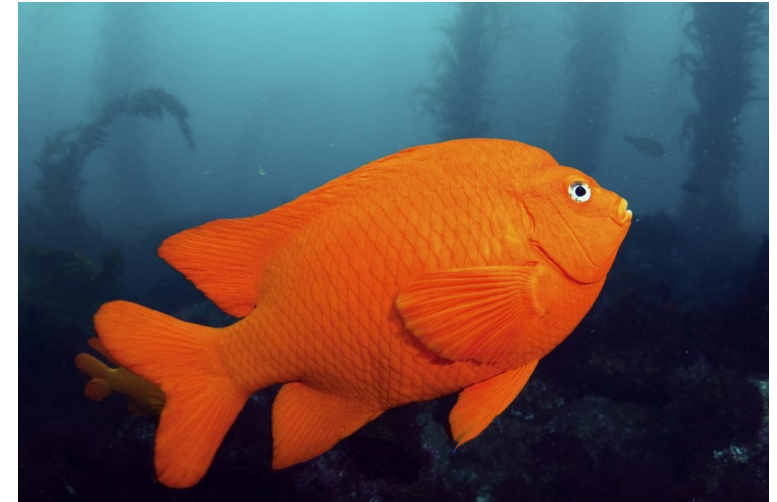
Weakness: If T is unique under Kruskal's theorem, then so is

$$T' = \sum_{a \in [n]} x_{\sigma(a)} \otimes y_a \otimes z_a \in X \otimes Y \otimes Z$$

for any  $\sigma \in S_n$ .

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# Our generalization

$$T = \sum_{a \in [n]} x_a \otimes y_a \otimes z_a \in X \otimes Y \otimes Z \quad (1)$$

Idea: Replace Kruskal ranks  $k_x$  with standard dimspans  $d_x^{[n]}$ .

Theorem [Gubkin-L-Petrov]: If

$$d_x^{[n]} = \text{dimspan}\{x_1, \dots, x_n\}$$

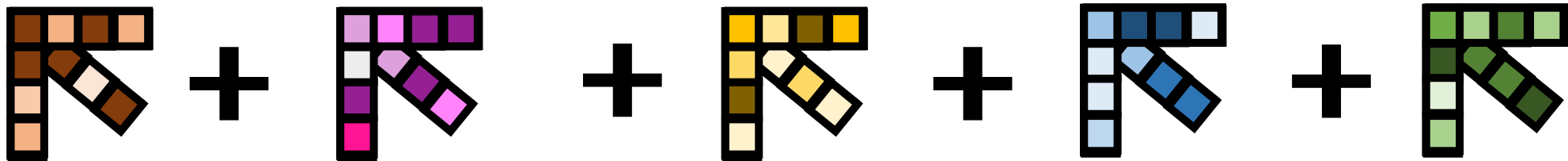
$$2n \leq d_x^{[n]} + d_y^{[n]} + d_z^{[n]} - 2,$$

then for any other decomposition

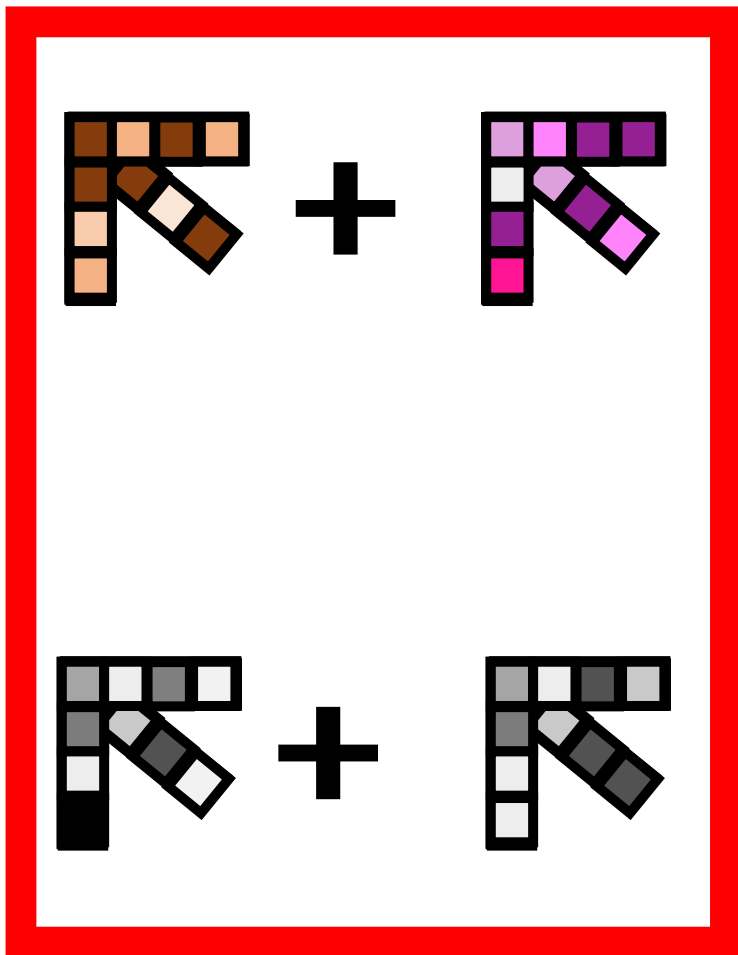
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there exist non-trivial subsets  $S, R \subseteq [n]$  such that

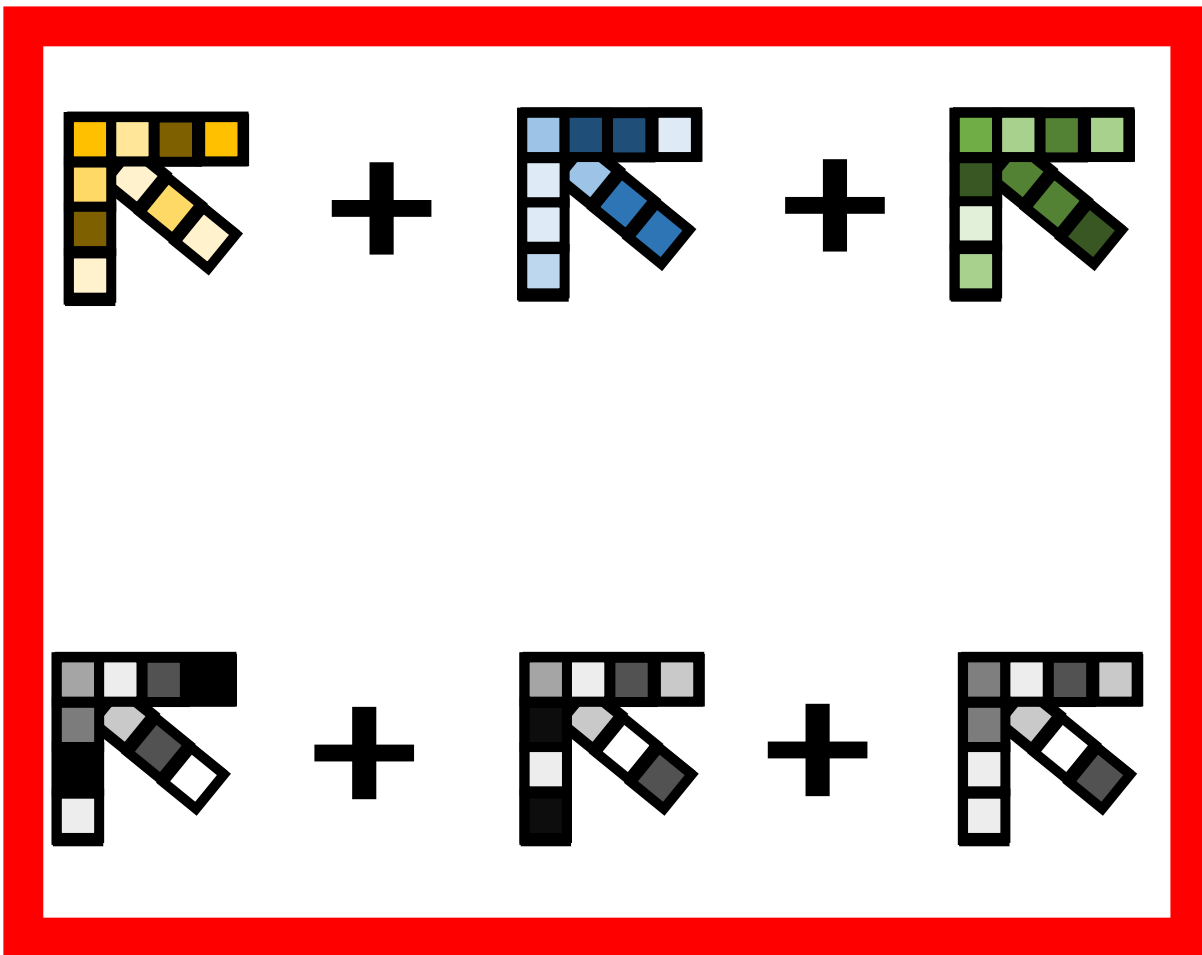
$$\sum_{a \in S} x_a \otimes y_a \otimes z_a = \sum_{a \in R} x'_a \otimes y'_a \otimes z'_a$$



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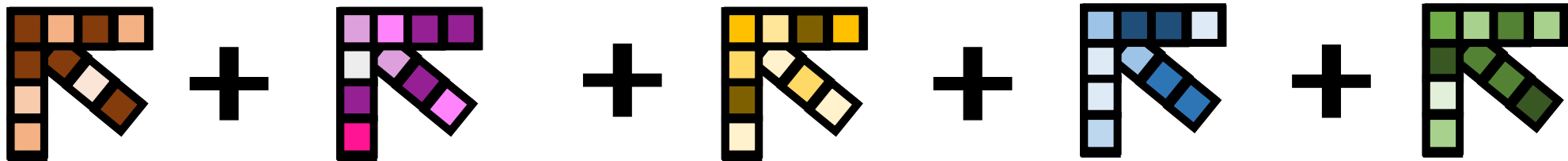
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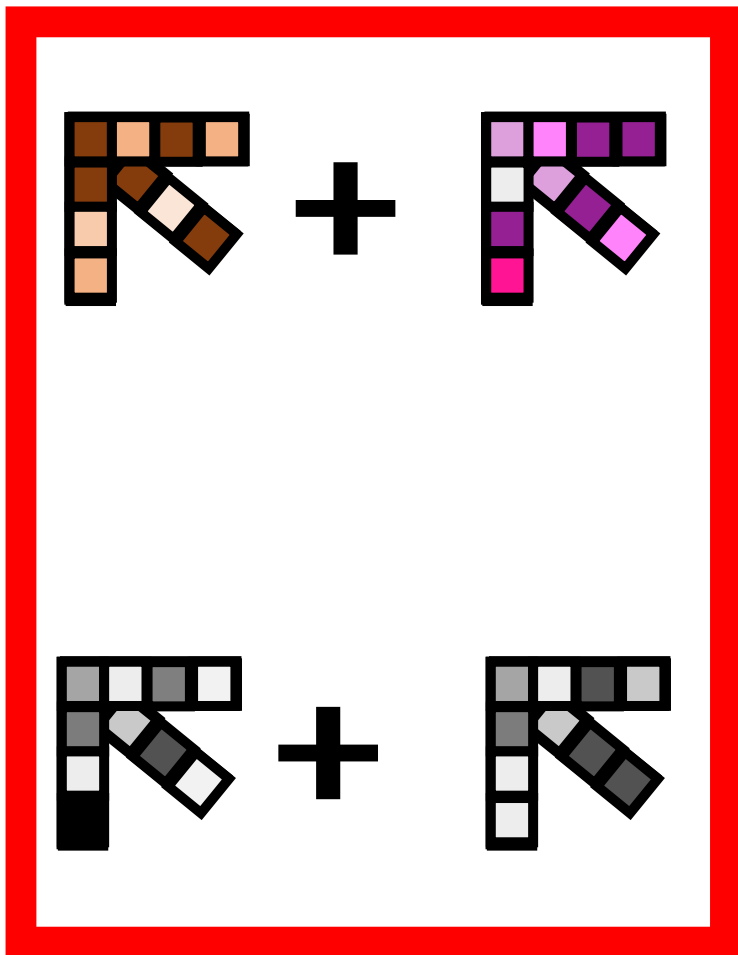
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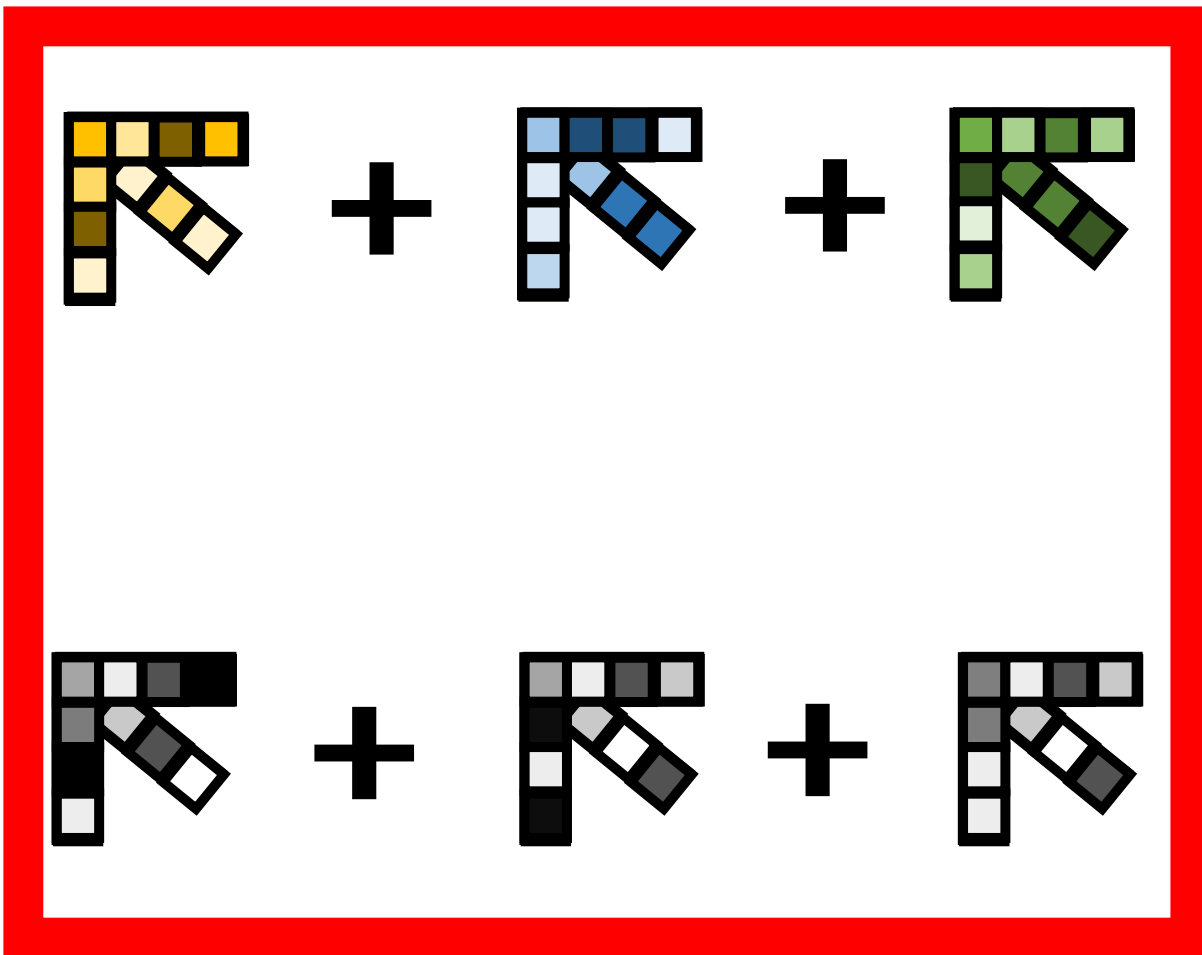
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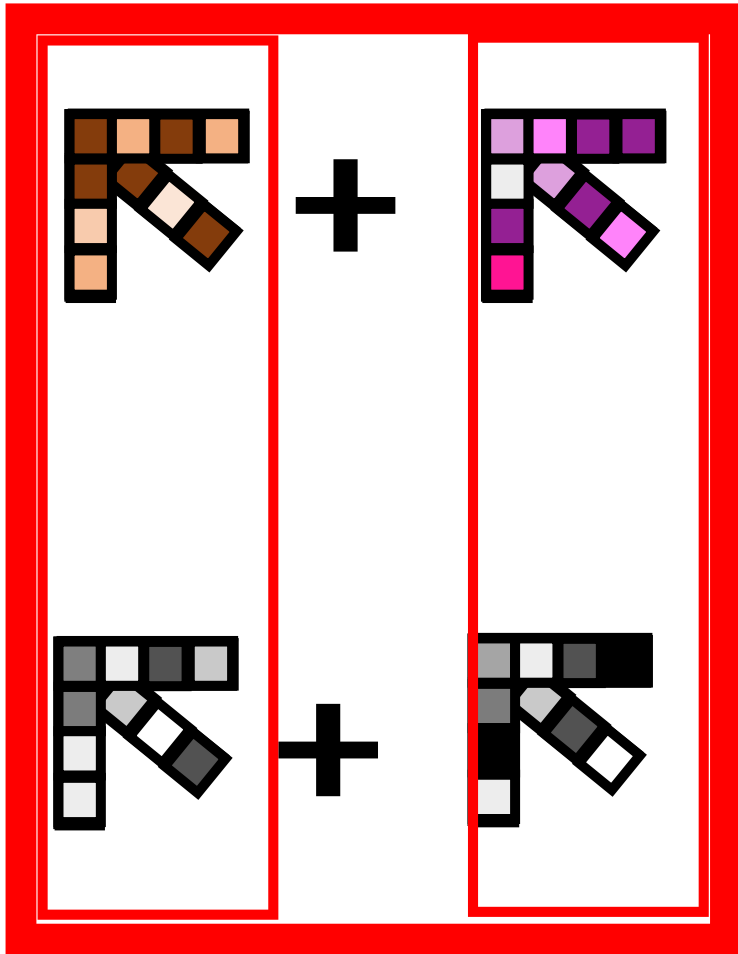


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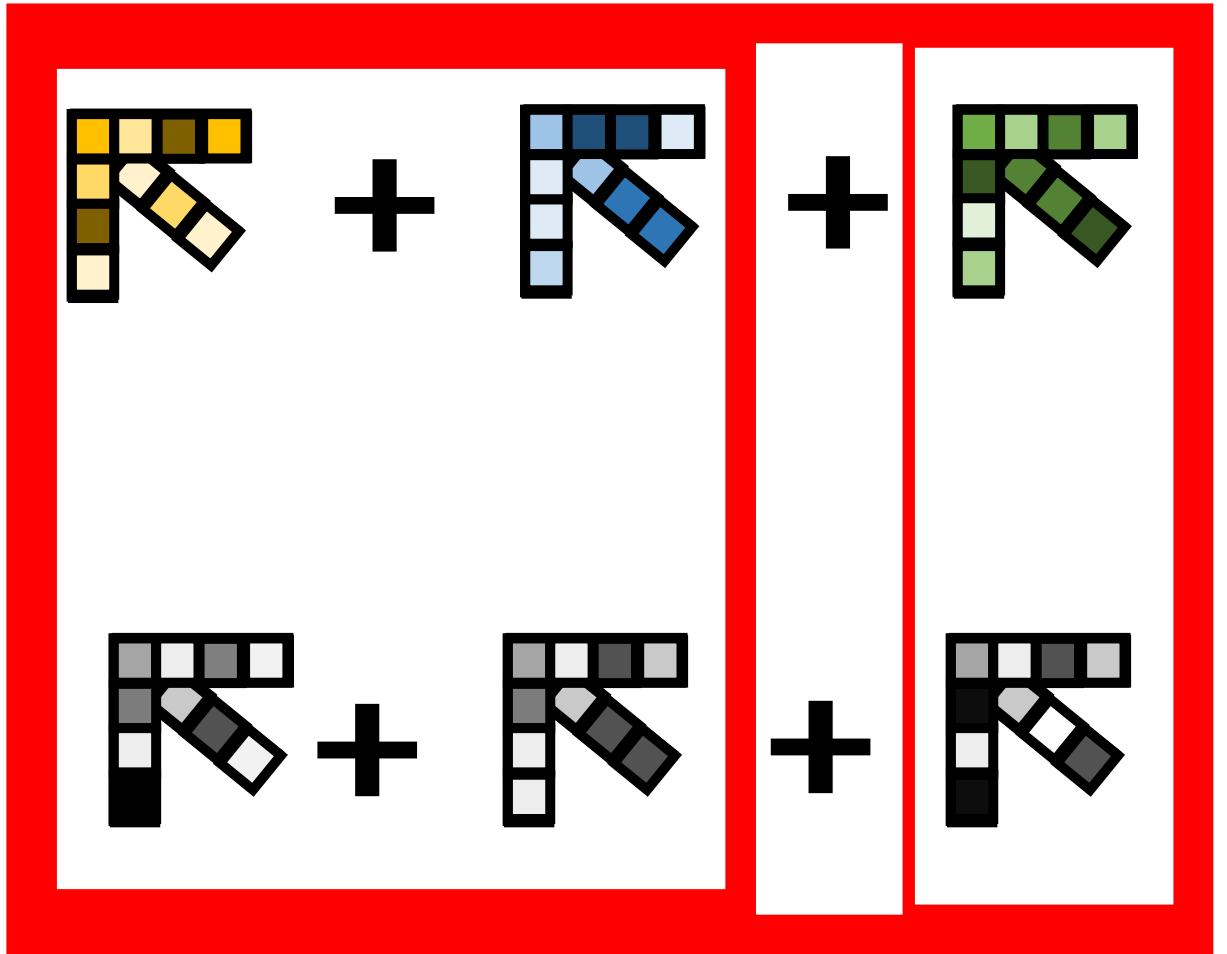




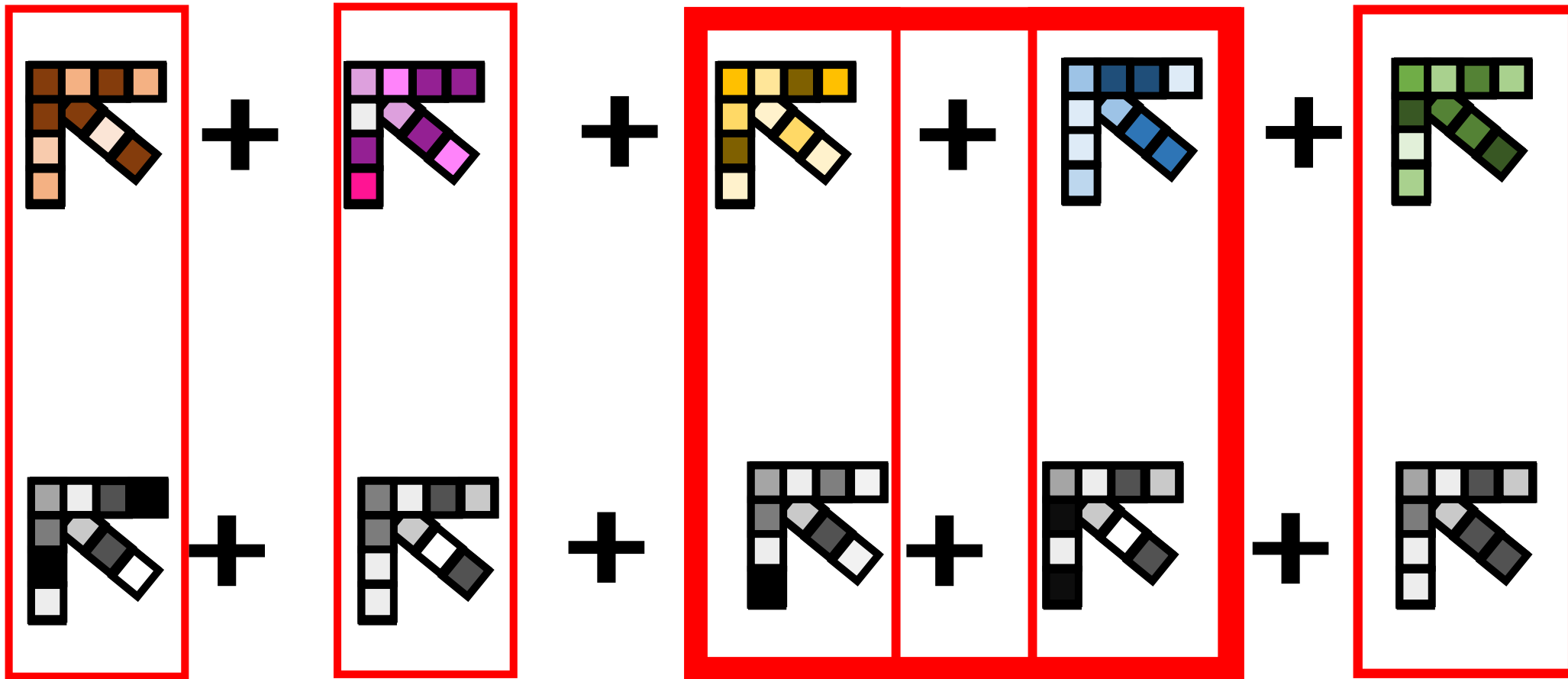
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Kruskal's theorem does not certify uniqueness

$$10 = 2n \not\leq k_x + k_y + k_z - 2 = 2 + 2 + 2 - 2 = 4$$

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$$\text{For } S = \{1,2,5\}, \quad 6 = 2|S| \leq d_x^S + d_y^S + d_z^S - 2 = 2 + 3 + 3 - 2 = 6$$

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$x_1 \otimes y_1 \otimes z_1$       ...       $x_5 \otimes y_5 \otimes z_5$

Theorem [Gubkin-L-Petrov]: If for every subset  $S \subseteq [n]$  of size  $|S| \geq 2$ , it holds that  $2|S| \leq d_x^S + d_y^S + d_z^S - 2$ ,

then (1) is the unique decomposition of T.

$$10 = 2|[n]| \leq d_x^{[n]} + d_y^{[n]} + d_z^{[n]} - 2 = 4 + 4 + 4 - 2 = 10 \quad \checkmark$$

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By symmetric arguments for other  $S \subseteq [n]$ ,  
this is the unique decomposition of T



# Example

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$x_1 \otimes y_1 \otimes z_1 \quad \dots \quad x_5 \otimes y_5 \otimes z_5$

Unique by [Gubkin-L-Petrov], but

$$T' = \sum_{a \in [5]} x_{\sigma(a)} \otimes y_a \otimes z_a$$

not unique for  $\sigma = (13) \in S_5$

# Other uniqueness results

$$T = \sum_{a \in [n]} x_a \otimes y_a \otimes z_a \in X \otimes Y \otimes Z \quad (1)$$

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Fact [D-De L]: If Condition U holds, then  $\min\{k_y, k_z\} \geq n - d_x^{[n]} + 2$ .

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Theorem: If Condition U holds, and any one of the following conditions hold then (1) is the unique decomposition of T.

1.  $k_1 = \min\{k_2, k_3 - 1\} \geq n + 1$ .
2. It holds that  $k_2 \geq 2$  and for all  $a \in \mathbb{F}^n$ ,
 
$$\text{rank}\left[\sum_{a \in [n]} \alpha_a x_{a,1} \otimes x_{a,3}\right] \geq \min\{\omega(a), n - d_2 + 2\}.$$
 (Note that this is just Condition U with the first subsystem replaced by the second.)
3. There exists a subset  $S \subseteq [n]$  with  $0 \leq |S| \leq d_1$  such that the following three conditions hold:
  - (a)  $d_1^{|S|} = |S|$ .
  - (b) For any linear map  $\Pi \in L(V_1)$  with  $\ker(\Pi) = \text{span}\{x_{a,1} : a \in S\}$ , scalars  $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n \in \mathbb{F}$ , and index  $b \in [n] \setminus S$  such that
 
$$\sum_{a \in [n] \setminus S} \alpha_a \Pi x_{a,1} \otimes x_{a,3} = \Pi x_{b,1} \otimes z$$
 for some  $z \in V_{(3)}$ , it holds that  $\omega(b) \leq 1$ .
  - (c) There exists a permutation  $\tau \in S_n$  for which the matrix
 
$$X_1^\tau = (x_{\tau(1),1}, \dots, x_{\tau(n),1})$$
 has reduced row echelon form
 
$$Y = \left[ \begin{array}{c|c} 1 & \\ \vdots & \\ 1 & Z \end{array} \right],$$
 where  $Z \in L(\mathbb{F}^{n-d_1}, \mathbb{F}^{d_3})$  and the blank entries are zero. Furthermore, for each  $a \in [d_1 - 1]$ , the columns of the submatrix of Y with row index  $\{a, a+1, \dots, d_1\}$  and column index  $\{n, a+1, \dots, n\}$  have  $k$ -rank at least two.
5.  $k_1 = d_1$ .
6. For all  $a \in \mathbb{F}^n$ ,
 
$$\text{rank}\left[\sum_{a \in [n]} \alpha_a x_{a,2} \otimes x_{a,3}\right] \geq \min\{\omega(a), n - k_1 + 2\}.$$
 (Note that this is a stronger statement than Condition U, as it replaces the quantity  $n - d_1 + 2$  with the possibly larger quantity  $n - k_1 + 2$ .)

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$$T = \sum_{a \in [n]} x_a \otimes y_a \otimes z_a \in X \otimes Y \otimes Z \quad (1)$$

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Theorem: If Condition U holds, and any one of the following conditions hold then (1) is the unique decomposition of T.

*Proof sketch*: By Kruskal's permutation lemma, Condition U implies that the  $x_a$ 's are unique. Use extra assumptions to prove full uniqueness.

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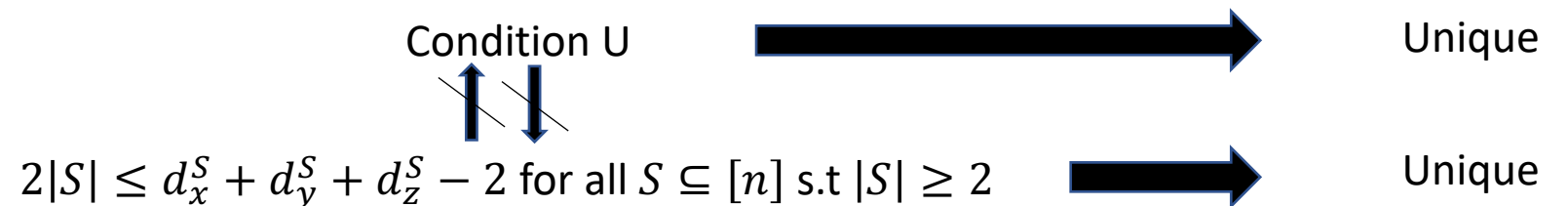
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Summary [Gubkin-L-Petrov]:



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- Does not apply in 3-factor case
- Our splitting theorem (coming next!) reproduces key lemma

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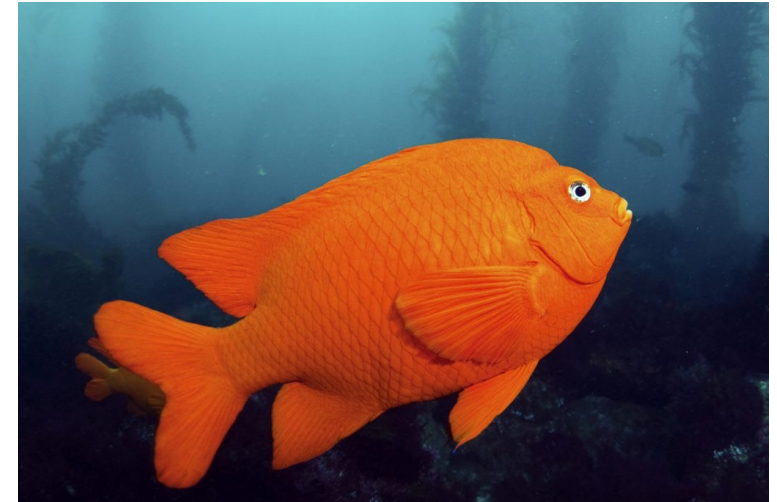
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Related: Uniqueness of symmetric decompositions, generic uniqueness, uniqueness for low rank tensors, finite decompositions,...

# Outline

- Uniqueness of tensor decompositions
- Kruskal's theorem
- A generalization of Kruskal's theorem
- **Splitting theorem**



# Splitting

Definition: A set of vectors  $E = \{v_1, \dots, v_n\}$  **splits** if there exists a non-trivial subset  $S \subseteq E$  such that

$$\text{span}(E) = \text{span}(S) \oplus \text{span}(E \setminus S). \quad (2)$$

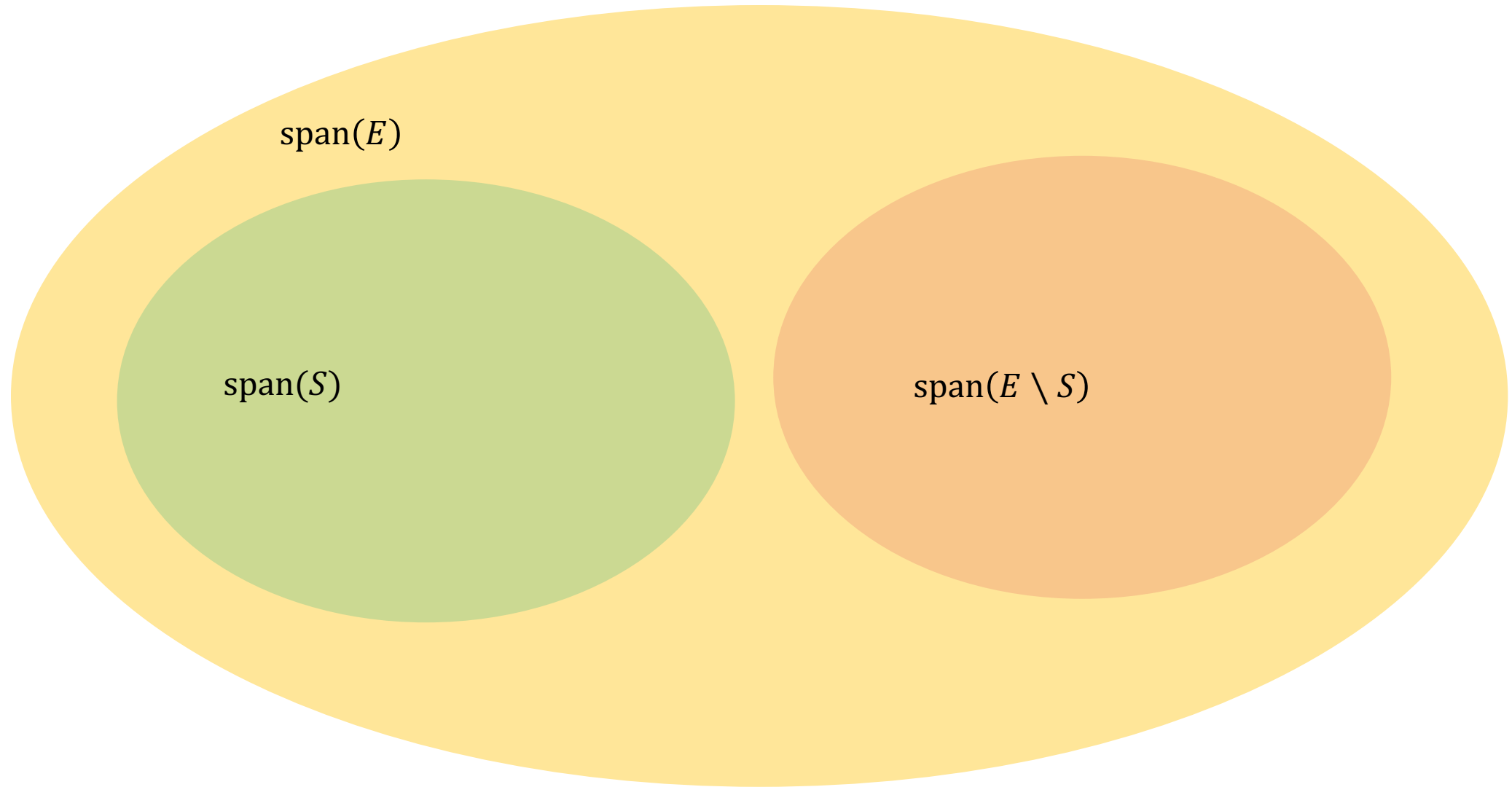
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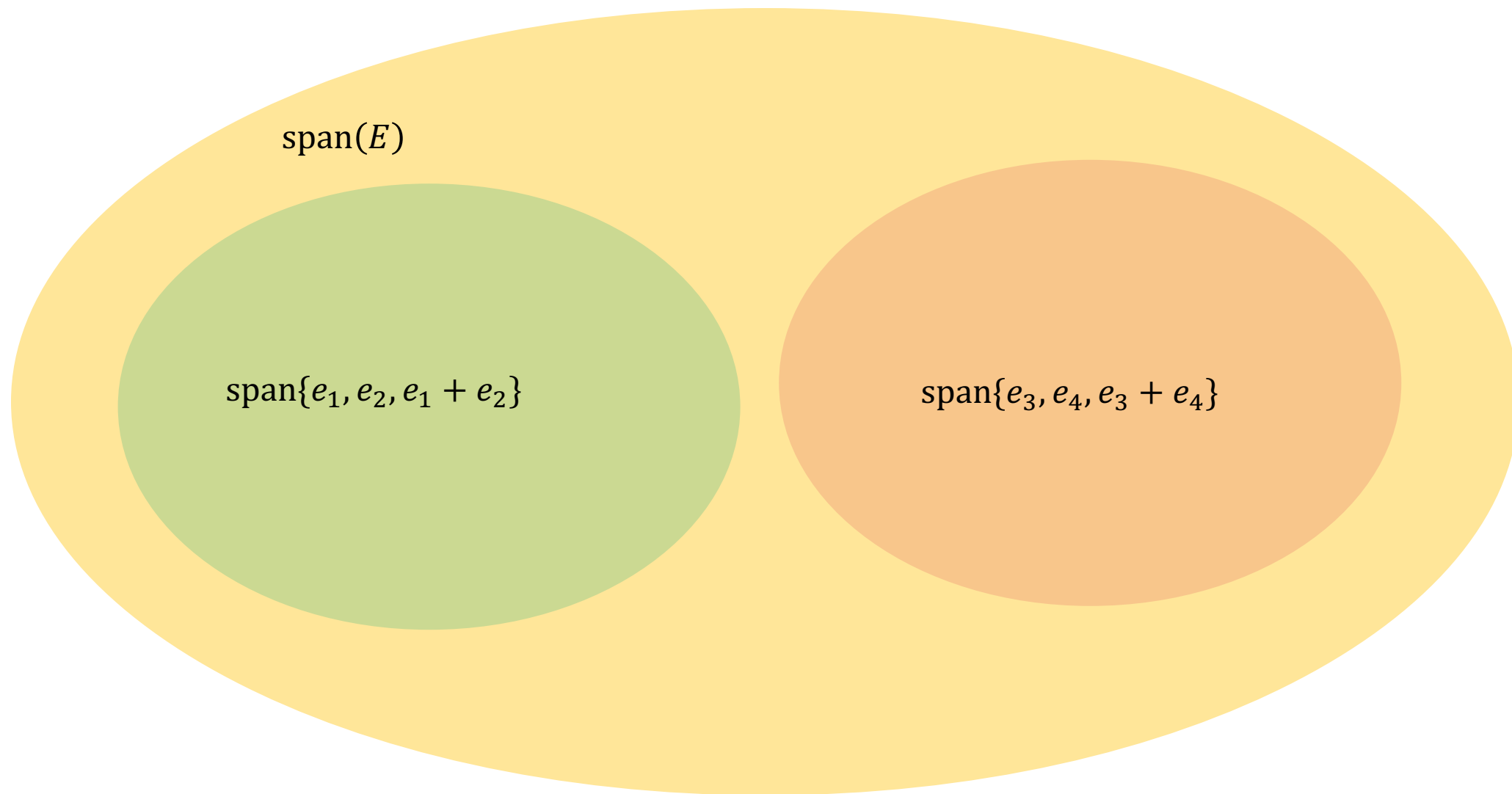
$$\Leftrightarrow \text{span}(S) \cap \text{span}(E \setminus S) = \{0\}$$

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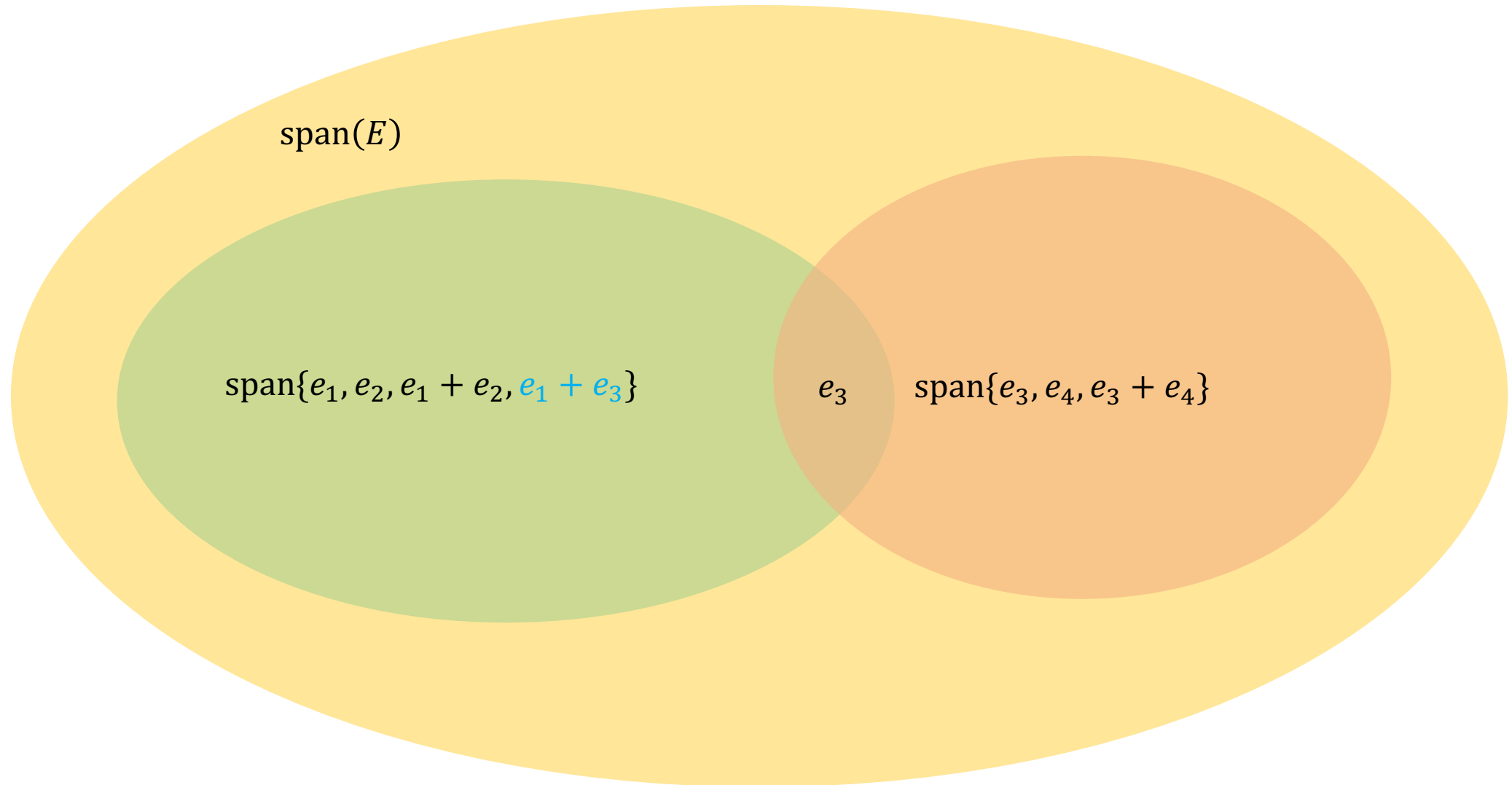
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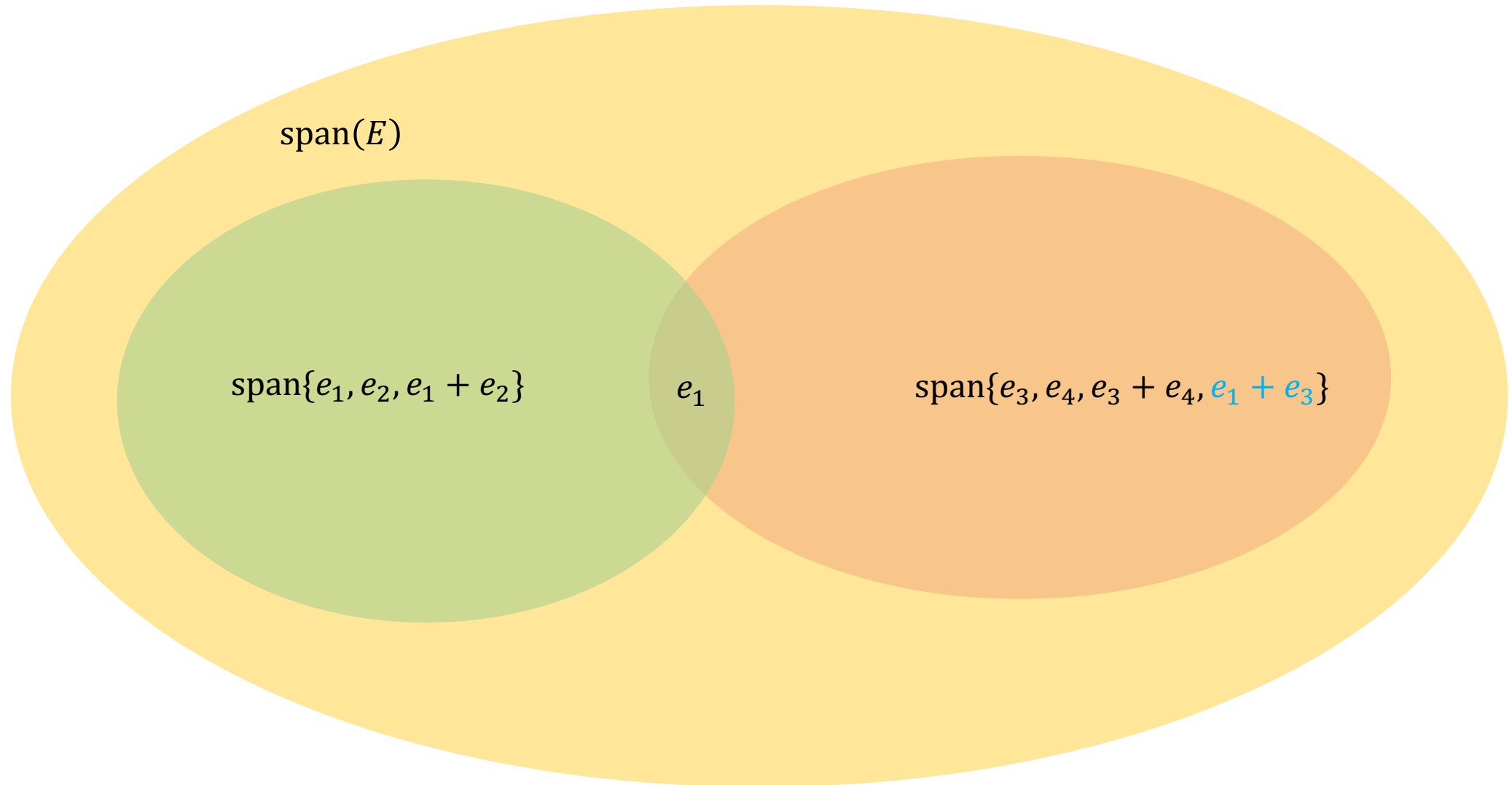
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Fact: If (2) holds, and  $\sum(E) = 0$ , then  $\sum(S) = \sum(E \setminus S) = 0$

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Fact: If (2) holds, and  $\sum(E) = 0$ , then  $\sum(S) = \sum(E \setminus S) = 0$

*Proof:*  $\sum(E) = 0 \Rightarrow \sum(S) = -\sum(E \setminus S) \in \text{span}(S) \cap \text{span}(E \setminus S) = \{0\}$  

# Splitting theorem

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Splitting theorem [Gubkin-L-Petrov]: Let  $E = \{x_a \otimes y_a : a \in [n]\}$ .

If

$$\text{dimspan}(E) \leq d_x^{[n]} + d_y^{[n]} - 2$$

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$$d_x^{[n]} = \text{dimspan}\{x_1, \dots, x_n\}$$

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(Our generalization of Kruskal's theorem is a corollary to this)

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Sylvester's rank inequality:  $n \leq d_x^{[n]} + d_y^{[n]} - \text{rank}(XY^T)$

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Example:  $E = \{e_1 \otimes e_1, e_2 \otimes e_2, e_3 \otimes e_2, (e_2 + e_3) \otimes e_2\}$  splits.

$$4 = n \leq d_x^{[4]} + d_y^{[4]} - 1 = 3 + 2 - 1 = 4$$

# Splitting theorem

$E$  **splits** if there exists  $S \subseteq E$  such that  $\text{span}(E) = \text{span}(S) \oplus \text{span}(E \setminus S)$

Splitting theorem [Gubkin-L-Petrov]: Let  $E = \{x_a \otimes y_a : a \in [n]\}$ .

If

$$\text{dimspan}(E) \leq d_x^{[n]} + d_y^{[n]} - 2$$

then  $E$  splits.

$d_x^{[n]} = \text{dimspan}\{x_1, \dots, x_n\}$

Corollary: If

$$n \leq d_x^{[n]} + d_y^{[n]} - 1,$$

then  $E$  splits.

*Splitting theorem*  $\Rightarrow$  *Corollary*: If  $E$  is linearly independent, then it splits.

Otherwise,

$$\text{dimspan}(E) \leq n - 1 \leq d_x^{[n]} + d_y^{[n]} - 2,$$

so  $E$  splits by splitting theorem.



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Corollary: If

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Corollary: If

$$2n \leq d_x^{[n]} + d_y^{[n]} + d_z^{[n]} - 2,$$

then for any other set of product tensors  $E' = \{x'_a \otimes y'_a \otimes z'_a : a \in [n]\}$ ,  $E \cup E'$  splits.


Corollary  $\Rightarrow$  Kruskal generalization

$$T = \sum_{a \in [n]} x_a \otimes y_a \otimes z_a \in X \otimes Y \otimes Z \quad (1)$$

Suffices to prove:

Theorem [Gubkin-L-Petrov]: If

$$2n \leq d_x^{[n]} + d_y^{[n]} + d_z^{[n]} - 2,$$

$d_x^{[n]} = \text{dimspan}\{x_1, \dots, x_n\}$   


then for any other decomposition  $T = \sum_{a \in [n]} x'_a \otimes y'_a \otimes z'_a \in X \otimes Y \otimes Z$

there exist non-trivial subsets  $S, R \subseteq [n]$  such that  $\sum_{a \in S} x_a \otimes y_a \otimes z_a = \sum_{a \in R} x'_a \otimes y'_a \otimes z'_a$


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*Proof:*

By previous corollary,  $\{x_a \otimes y_a \otimes z_a, x'_a \otimes y'_a \otimes z'_a : a \in [n]\}$  splits



2

0

The top row of the box contains two L-shaped figures. The first is composed of brown and tan squares, and the second is composed of pink and purple squares. A plus sign is placed between them. The bottom row contains two L-shaped figures made of gray and white squares, also with a plus sign between them. A large black '0' is positioned at the bottom left of the box.

+

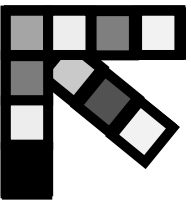
0

The top row of the box contains three L-shaped figures. The first is composed of yellow and tan squares, the second of blue squares, and the third of green squares. Plus signs are placed between each figure. The bottom row contains three L-shaped figures made of gray and white squares, also with plus signs between them. A large black '0' is positioned at the bottom left of the box.

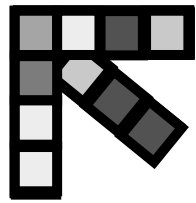
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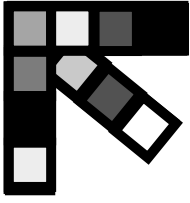
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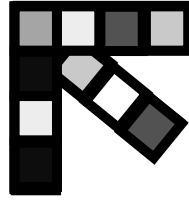
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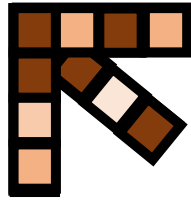
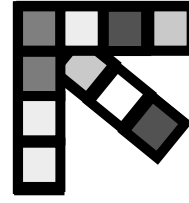
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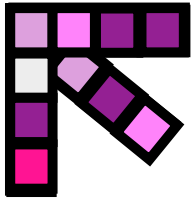
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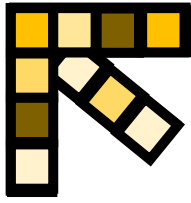
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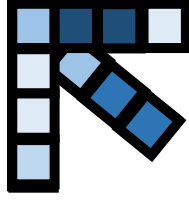
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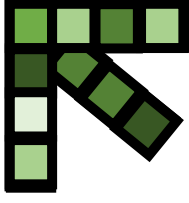
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# Conclusion

- Uniqueness of tensor decompositions
- Kruskal's theorem
- A generalization of Kruskal's theorem
- Splitting theorem
- More matroid theory for product tensors?

