# Learning with Low Rank Approximations 

or how to use near separability to extract content from structured data

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1 Introduction: separability and matrix/tensor rank

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## Separability: a fundamental property

## Definition: Separability

Let $f: \mathbb{R}^{m_{1}} \times \mathbb{R}^{m_{2}} \times \mathbb{R}^{m_{3}} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}, m_{i} \in \mathbb{N}$. Map $f$ is said to be separable if there exist real maps $f_{1}, f_{2}, f_{3}$ so that

$$
f(x, y, z)=f_{1}(x) f_{2}(y) f_{3}(z)
$$

Of course, any order (i.e. number of variables) is fine.
Examples:

$$
\begin{aligned}
& (x y z)^{n}=x^{n} y^{n} z^{n}, e^{x+y}=e^{x} e^{y}, \\
& \int_{x} \int_{y} h(x) g(y) d x d y=\left(\int_{x} h(x) d x\right)\left(\int_{y} g(y) d y\right)
\end{aligned}
$$

Some usual function are not separable, but are written as a few separable ones!

- $\cos (a+b)=\cos (a) \cos (b)-\sin (a) \sin (b)$
- $\log (x y)=\log (x) \mathbb{1}_{y \in \mathbb{R}}+\mathbb{1}_{x \in \mathbb{R}} \log (y)$


## Some tricks on separability

A fun case: exponential can be seen as separable for any given order.
Let $y_{1}(x), y_{2}(x), \ldots, y_{n}(x)$ s.t. $x=\sum_{i}^{n} y_{i}(x)$ for all $x \in \mathbb{R}$,

$$
e^{x}=\prod_{i=1}^{n} e^{y_{i}(x)}
$$

Indeed, for any $x$, setting $y_{1}, y_{n}$ as new variables,

$$
e^{x}=e^{y_{1}+y_{2}+y_{3}+\ldots+y_{n}}:=f\left(y_{1}, \ldots, y_{n}\right)
$$

Then $f$ is not a separable function of $\sum_{i} y_{i}$, but it is a separable function of $y_{i}$ :

$$
f\left(y_{1}, y_{2}, \ldots, y_{n}\right)=e^{y_{1}} e^{y_{2}} \ldots e^{y_{n}}=f_{1}\left(y_{1}\right) f_{2}\left(y_{2}\right) \ldots f_{n}\left(y_{n}\right)
$$

Conclusion: description of the inputs matters !

## Separability and matrix rank

Now what about discrete spaces? $(x, y, z) \rightarrow\left\{\left(x_{i}, y_{j}, z_{k}\right)\right\}_{i \in I, j \in J, k \in K}$
$\rightarrow$ Values of $f$ are contained in a tensor $\mathcal{T}_{i j k}=f\left(x_{i}, y_{j}, z_{k}\right)$.

Example: $e^{x_{i}}$ is a vector of size $I$. Let us set $x_{i}=i$ for $i \in\{0,1,2,3\}$.

$$
\left[\begin{array}{c}
e^{0} \\
e^{1} \\
e^{2} \\
e^{3}
\end{array}\right]=\left[\begin{array}{c}
e^{0} e^{0} \\
e^{0} e^{1} \\
e^{2} e^{0} \\
e^{2} e^{1}
\end{array}\right]:=\left[\begin{array}{c}
e^{0} \\
e^{2}
\end{array}\right] \otimes_{K}\left[\begin{array}{c}
e^{0} \\
e^{1}
\end{array}\right]
$$

Here, this means that a matricized vector of exponential is a rank one matrix.

$$
\left[\begin{array}{ll}
e^{0} & e^{1} \\
e^{2} & e^{3}
\end{array}\right]=\left[\begin{array}{l}
e^{0} \\
e^{2}
\end{array}\right]\left[\begin{array}{ll}
e^{0} & e^{1}
\end{array}\right]
$$

Setting $i=j 2^{1}+k 2^{0}, f(j, k)=e^{2 j+k}$ is separable in $(j, k)$.

Conclusion: A rank-one matrix can be seen as a separable function on a grid.

## Tensor rank??

We can also introduce a third-order tensor here:

$$
\left[\begin{array}{c}
e^{0} \\
e^{1} \\
e^{2} \\
e^{3} \\
e^{4} \\
e^{5} \\
e^{6} \\
e^{7}
\end{array}\right]=\left[\begin{array}{c}
e^{0} e^{0} e^{0} \\
e^{0} e^{0} e^{1} \\
e^{0} e^{2} e^{0} \\
e^{0} e^{2} e^{1} \\
e^{4} e^{0} e^{0} \\
e^{4} e^{0} e^{1} \\
e^{4} e^{2} e^{0} \\
e^{4} e^{2} e^{1}
\end{array}\right]=\left[\begin{array}{c}
e^{0} \\
e^{4}
\end{array}\right] \otimes_{K}\left[\begin{array}{c}
e^{0} \\
e^{2}
\end{array}\right] \otimes_{K}\left[\begin{array}{c}
e^{0} \\
e^{1}
\end{array}\right]
$$

By "analogy" with matrices, we say that a tensor is rank-one if it is the discretization of a separable function.

## From separability to matrix/tensor rank

From now on, we identify a function $f\left(x_{i}, y_{j}, z_{k}\right)$ with a three-way array $\mathcal{T}_{i, j, k}$.
Definition: rank-one tensor
A tensor $\mathcal{T}_{i, j, k} \in \mathbb{R}^{I \times J \times K}$ is said to be a [decomposable] [separable] [simple] [rank-one] tensor iff there exist $a \in \mathbb{R}^{I}, b \in \mathbb{R}^{J}, c \in \mathbb{R}^{K}$ so that

$$
\mathcal{T}_{i, j, k}=a_{i} b_{j} c_{k}
$$

or equivalently,

$$
\mathcal{T}=a \otimes b \otimes c
$$

where $\otimes$ is a multiway equivalent of the exterior product $a \otimes b=a b^{t}$.

What matters in practice may be to find the right description of the inputs !! (i.e. how to build the tensor)


## ALL tensor decomposition models are based on separability

CPD:
$\boldsymbol{\mathcal { T }}=\sum_{q=1}^{r} a_{q} \otimes b_{q} \otimes c_{q}$


Tucker:
$\mathcal{T}=\sum_{q_{1}, q_{2}, q_{3}=1}^{r_{1}, r_{2}, r_{3}} g_{q_{1} q_{2} q_{3}} a_{q_{1}} \otimes b_{q_{2}} \otimes c_{q_{3}}$
Hierarchical decompositions: for another talk, sorry :(
Definition: tensor [CP] rank (also applies for other decompositions)
$\operatorname{rank}(\boldsymbol{\mathcal { T }})=\min \left\{r \mid \boldsymbol{\mathcal { T }}=\sum_{q=1}^{r} a_{q} \otimes b_{q} \otimes c_{q}\right\}$
Tensor CP rank coincides with matrix "usual" rank! (on board)


If I were in the audience, I would be wondering:

- Why should I care??
$\rightarrow$ I will tell you now.
- Even if I cared, I have no idea how to know my data is somehow separable or a low-rank tensor!
$\rightarrow$ I don't know, this is the difficult part but at least you may think about separability in the future.
$\rightarrow$ It will probably not be low rank, but it may be approximately low rank!


## Making use of low-rank representations

Let $A=\left[a_{1}, a_{2}, \ldots, a_{r}\right], B$ and $C$ similarly built.

## Uniqueness of the CPD

Under mild conditions

$$
\begin{equation*}
\operatorname{krank}(A)+\operatorname{krank}(B)+\operatorname{krank}(C)-2 \geq 2 r \tag{1}
\end{equation*}
$$

the CPD of $\mathcal{T}$ is essentially unique (i.e.) the rank-one terms are unique.
This means we can interpret the rank-one terms $a_{q}, b_{q}, c_{q}$
$\rightarrow$ Source Separation!

## Compression (also true for other models)

The CPD involves $r(I+J+K-2)$ parameters, while $\mathcal{T}$ contains $I J K$ entries.
If the rank is small, this means huge compression/dimentionality reduction!

- missing values completion, denoising
- function approximation
- imposing sparse structure to solve other problems (PDE, neural networks, dictionary learning. . .)


## Approximate CPD

- Often, $\mathcal{T} \approx \sum_{q}^{r} a_{q} \otimes b_{q} \otimes c_{q}$ for small $r$.
- However, the generic rank (i.e. rank of random tensor) is very large.
- Therefore if $\mathcal{T}=\sum_{q}^{r} a_{q} \otimes b_{q} \otimes c_{q}+\mathcal{N}$ with $\mathcal{N}$ some small Gaussian noise, it has approximatively rank lower than $r$ but its exact rank is large.


## Best low-rank approximate CPD

For a given rank $r$, the cost function

$$
\eta(A, B, C)=\left\|\mathcal{T}-\sum_{q=1}^{r} a_{q} \otimes b_{q} \otimes c_{q}\right\|_{F}^{2}
$$

has the following properties:

- it is infinitely differentiable.
- it is non-convex in $(A, B, C)$, but quadratic in $A$ and $B$ and $C$.
- its minimum may not be attained (ill-posed problem).

My favorite class of algorithms to solve aCPD: block-coordinate descent!

## Example: Spectral unmixing for Hyperspectral image processing



1 Pixels can contain several materials $\rightarrow$ unmixing!
2 Spectra and Abundances are nonnegative!
3 Few materials, many wavelengths

## Spectral unmixing, separability and nonnegative matrix factorization

One material $q$ has separable intensity:

$$
I_{q}(x, y, \lambda)=w_{q}(\lambda) h_{q}(x, y)
$$

where $w_{q}$ is a spectrum characteristic to material $q$, and $h_{q}$ is its abundance map.

Therefore, for an image $M$ with $r$ materials,

$$
I(x, y, \lambda)=\sum_{q=1}^{r} w_{q}(\lambda) h_{q}(x, y)
$$

This means the measurement matrix $M_{i, j}=\tilde{I}\left(\right.$ pixel $\left._{i}, \lambda_{j}\right)$ is low rank!
Nonnegative matrix factorization

$$
\underset{W \geq 0, H \geq 0}{\operatorname{argmin}}\left\|M-\sum_{q=1}^{r} w_{q} h_{q}^{t}\right\|_{F}^{2}
$$

where $M_{i, j}=M\left(\left[x \otimes_{K} y\right]_{i}, \lambda_{j}\right)$ is the vectorized hyperspectral image.

## ProblemS

(1) How to deal with the semi-supervised settings?

- Dictionary-based CPD [C., Gillis 2017]
- Multiple Dictionaries [C., Gillis 2018]

2 Blind is hard! E.g., NMF is often not identifiable.

- Identifiability of Complete Dictionary Learning [C., Gillis 2019]
- Algorithms with sparse NMF [C., Gillis 2019]
(3) What about dealing with several data set (Hyper-Multispectral, time data)?
- Coupled decompositions with flexible couplings. (Maybe in further discussions)

Semi-supervised Learning with LRA

## A boom in available resources

## Nowdays, source separation may not need to be blind!

Hyperspectral images:

- Toy data with ground truth: Urban, Idian Pines...
- Massive ammount of data: AVIRIS NextGen
- Free spectral librairies: ECOSTRESS

How to use the power of blind methods for supervised learning?

## This talk <br> Pre-trained dictionaries are available

Many other problems (TODO)

- Test and Training joint factorization.
- Mixing matrix pre-training with domain adaptation.
- Learning with low-rank operators.


## Using dictionaries guaranties interpretability





Idea: Impose $A \approx D(:, \mathcal{K}), \# \mathcal{K}=R$.

$$
\square=\begin{array}{|l|l|l|l|l}
\hline & & & & \\
& & \\
\\
\hline
\end{array}
$$

## sparse coding and 1-sparse coding

1st order model (sparse coding):

$$
\begin{aligned}
m & =\sum_{q=1}^{r} \lambda_{q} d_{s_{q}} \\
& =D(:, \mathcal{K}) \lambda \\
& =D \tilde{\lambda}
\end{aligned}
$$

for $m \in \mathbb{R}^{m}, s_{q}$ in $[1, d], \lambda_{q} \in \mathbb{R}$

and $d_{s_{q}} \in D, \mathcal{K}=\left\{s_{q}, q \in[1, r]\right\}$.

2d order model (collaborative sparse coding):

$$
\begin{aligned}
M & =\sum_{q=1}^{r} d_{s_{q}} \otimes b_{q} \\
& =D(:, \mathcal{K}) B \\
& =D \tilde{B}
\end{aligned}
$$



## Tensor sparse coding

Tensor 1-sparse coding [C., Gillis 17,18]

$$
\mathcal{T}=\sum_{q=1}^{r} d_{s_{q}} \otimes b_{q} \otimes c_{q}
$$

- Generalizes easily to any order.
- Alternating algorithms can be adapted easily. Low memory requirement.
- Can be adapted for multiple atom selection (future works).

Theorem: Matrix factorization is identifiable
If $\operatorname{spark}(D) \geq r, r=\operatorname{rank}(M), \# \mathcal{K}=r$, and if there exist $M=D(:, \mathcal{K}) B$, then this factorization is unique up to permutations.

Theorem: Tensor factorization is often identifiable
If $\operatorname{spark}(D) \geq r, r=\operatorname{rank}(M), \# \mathcal{K}=r$, and if there exist $\mathcal{T}=\sum_{q=1}^{r} d_{s_{q}} \otimes b_{q} \otimes c_{q}$, then the following holds:
( $B \odot C$ ) is full rank $\Rightarrow$ the factorization is unique.
Theorem: 3d order best low-rank approximation exists
If $\operatorname{spark}(D) \geq r, r=\operatorname{rank}(M)$ and $\# \mathcal{K}=r$, then the minimum of

$$
\eta(\mathcal{K}, B, C)=\left\|\mathcal{T}-\sum_{q=1}^{r} d_{s_{q}} \otimes b_{q} \otimes c_{q}\right\|_{F}^{2}
$$

always exists.

Earlier results for Multiple Measurements Vectors: [Cotter 05, Chen 06]

$$
\underset{A, B, C, \mathcal{K}}{\operatorname{argmin}}\left\|\mathcal{T}-\sum_{q=1}^{r} a_{q} \otimes b_{q} \otimes c_{q}\right\|_{F}^{2}+\lambda\|\mathbf{A}-\mathbf{D}(:, \mathcal{K})\|_{F}^{2}
$$

## MPALS

Iterate until convergence:

1. Factors are updated by any well-known algorithm (ALS, gradient-based methods...).
2. $\mathcal{K}$ is obtained by finding the closest atom in $D$ for each column of $A$.
3. Increase $\lambda$ if necessary.
tricks:

- To impose that no atom is selected twice, solve an assignment problem.
- If factors are constrained, simply use any off-the-shelf solver.
- Parameter $\lambda$ may be tuned for naive flexible dictionary constraint.


## Tentative application : Spectral unmixing

$$
M=M(:, \mathcal{K}) B, \quad B \geq 0
$$




Figure: Spectral signatures and abundance maps identified using MPALS for the Urban data set with $r=6$.

## Extensions

Flexible dictionary constraint: Using known/learnt $p(A \mid D)$.


Multiple Dictionaries: [C., Gillis 2018]
$A=\Pi\left[D_{1}\left(:, \mathcal{K}_{1}\right), \ldots, D_{N}\left(:, \mathcal{K}_{n}\right)\right], \quad \# \mathcal{K}_{i} \leq d_{i}, \quad \sum_{i} d_{i} \geq r$

Sources $a_{i}$
Libraries $D_{k}$


Multiple atoms selection: $A=D S, \quad\left\|s_{i}\right\|_{0} \leq k$

Complete Dictionary Learning: Uniqueness and Algorithms with nonnegativity

## Complete Dictionary Learning

Given $M \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times n}$ and fixed $r \leq d<n$, find $D \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times r}$ and $B \in \mathbb{R}^{r \times n}$ such that

$$
\left\{\begin{array}{l}
M=D B=\sum_{q=1}^{r} d_{q} \otimes b_{q} \\
\left\|b_{i}\right\|_{0} \leq k<r, \forall i \in[1, n]
\end{array}\right.
$$



Problem: Deterministic conditions for the (essential) uniqueness of CDL.
other name: Low-rank Sparse Component Analysis

## Our main results [C., Gillis, 2019, accepted]

Sparsity may be enough to ensure uniqueness, even with a tractable number of samples!

## Theorem (Simplified version)

If each hyperplaned spanned by all but one columns of $D$ contain more than $\frac{r(r-2)}{r-k}$ columns of $M$ with full spark, then CDL is essentially unique.

This implies $\mathcal{O}\left(\frac{r^{3}}{(r-k)^{2}}\right)$ data points are sufficient for ensuring uniqueness.

Tightness: The result is tight if $k=1$ or $k=r-1$ or $k=\alpha r$ with fixed $\alpha \in] 0,1[$.

- Contredicts [Georgiev et. al., 2005], see counter examples.
- Improves w.r.t. previously known combinatorial bounds [Aharon 2005].

Algorithms for nonnegative Dictionary Learning [C., Gillis, ICASSP 2019]
Or algorithms for $k$-sparse NMF.

$$
\underset{A \geq 0, B \geq 0,\left\|b_{i}\right\|_{0} \leq k}{\operatorname{argmin}}\left\|M-\sum_{q=1}^{r} a_{q} b_{q}^{t}\right\|_{F}^{2}
$$

Ideas:

1. If $k$ and $r$ are small, trying all $\binom{r}{k}$ zero patterns is tractable.
(2) We can try a variant of $k$-means.

## ESNA

1. Update $A$ with fixed H by nonnegative least squares.
2. Update $B$ with fixed W by trying all patterns of zeros (solving $\binom{r}{k}$ nonnegative least squares).

ESNA should (?) be better than any nonnegative sparse coding techniques (NNOMP, Lasso with nonnegativity constraints, ...).

## NOLRAK

1. Compute $A$ and $B$ with known zeros in $B$ (averaging step)
2. Compute the zero positions of $B$ (affectation step)

## Some experimental results

## Experimental Setup:

- Goal: Solve exact NDL (identifiable)
- $r=4, k=(2 ; 3), n=(300 ; 200), d \in[4,125]$
- Uniformly sampled $D$ and $B, B$ sparsified to ensure identifiability.
- Results averaged over $N=100$ trials.





$$
\text { top: } k=2 \text {; bot: } k=3
$$

## There is room left for algorithmic improvement!

Also, result on uniqueness of Nonnegative CDL? Overcomplete? Noisy?

Joint factorization models: some facts, and the linearly coupled case.

## Joint factorizations and CPD

$$
\mathcal{T}=\sum_{q=1}^{r} a_{q} \otimes b_{q} \otimes c_{q}
$$

is equivalent to:

$$
M_{k}=A \Sigma_{k} B^{T}=\sum_{q=1}^{r} c_{q k} a_{q} \otimes b_{q}
$$

with $\mathcal{T}_{:: k}=M_{k}, A=\left[a_{1}, \ldots, a_{r}\right], B=\left[b_{1}, \ldots b_{r}\right], \Sigma_{k}=\operatorname{diag}\left(C_{: k}\right)$


Closing the gap between matrix and tensor factorization: flexible coupling

Several Matrix Factorizations:

$$
\forall k \in[1, K], M_{k}=A_{k} B_{k}^{T}
$$

Joint Matrix Factorizations $=$ Matrix Factorizations:

$$
\left[M_{1}, \ldots, M_{K}\right]=A B^{T}=A\left[B_{1}^{T}, \ldots, B_{K}^{T}\right]
$$

$\rightarrow$ same $A$ but different $B_{k}$.
Example: Various hyperspectral images with same materials.
Flexible Coupling: linearly coupled factors
For all $k \in[1, K]$,

$$
\begin{aligned}
M_{k} & =A \Sigma_{k} B_{k}^{T} \\
0 & =\mathcal{L}_{k}\left(B_{k}, H\right)
\end{aligned}
$$

where $\mathcal{L}_{k}$ is a bilinear matrix operator and $\mathcal{L}_{k}\left(B_{k}, H\right) \in \mathbb{R}^{p_{3} \times p_{4}}, H \in \mathbb{R}^{p_{1} \times p_{2}}$ for some integers $p_{i}$.
$\mathcal{L}_{k}$ and $H$ can be given, or learned under some structural constraints!

## Some particular cases

## PARAFAC2

$\mathcal{L}_{k}\left(B_{k}, H\right):=B_{k}-P_{k} H$ with $P_{k}^{T} P_{k}=I$ and $P_{k} \in \mathbb{R}^{J \times r}($ if $r<J)$.

- PARAFAC2 supposes $B_{k}^{T} B_{k}$ is constant.
- $P_{k}$ can be learnt.
- Constrained version can be difficult to deal with. [C., Bro 2018][Schenker, C., Acar, ongoing work]


## Partially coupled factors

$\mathcal{L}_{k}\left(B_{k}, H\right)=B_{k} \Sigma_{k}-H$ where $\Sigma_{k}$ is a square diagonal matrix with $r_{k}$ nonzeros.

By choosing the numbers $r_{k}$, one can choose how many components are related in each matrix.

Many models to explore!
Shift PARAFAC [Harshman 2003], Conv PARAFAC [Morup 2008], Registered PARAFAC [C., Cabral-Farias, Rivet 2018]

## Separability/LRA + Machine Learning

## nice research

$$
f(x, y)=f_{1}(x) f_{2}(y)
$$

Unsupervised Learning or Blind Separation

$$
M=A B,(A, B) \in \mathcal{C}^{2}
$$

Structured approximations

## Supervised Learning

Neural networks

