On the extension of trace norm to tensors

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Convex low-rank tensor completion



Conventional formulation (nonconvex)

 $\underset{\mathcal{X}}{\operatorname{minimize}} \|\Omega \circ (\mathcal{Y} - \mathcal{X})\|_{F}^{2} \quad \text{s.t.} \quad \operatorname{rank}(\mathcal{X}) \leq (r_{1}, r_{2}, r_{3}).$

Alternate minimization

Have to fix the rank beforehand

Our approach

Matrix

Tensor

Estimation of *low-rank matrix* (hard)



Trace norm minimization (tractable) [Fazel, Hindi, Boyd 01]

Generalization



Estimation of *low-rank tensor* (hard) Rank defined in the sense of Tucker decomposition

Extended trace norm minimization (tractable)

Trace norm regularization (for matrices)

$$X \in \mathbb{R}^{R \times C}, \quad m = \min(R, C)$$

$$\|\boldsymbol{X}\|_{\mathrm{tr}} = \sum_{j=1}^{m} \sigma_j(\boldsymbol{X})$$

Linear sum of singular-values

- Roughly speaking, L1 regularization on the singular-values.
- Stronger regularization --> more zero singular-values --> low rank.
- Not obvious for tensors (no singular-values for tensors)

Mode-k unfolding (matricization)



Elementary facts about Tucker decomposition

$$\mathcal{X} = \mathcal{C} \times_1 \boldsymbol{U}_1 \times_2 \boldsymbol{U}_2 \times_3 \boldsymbol{U}_3$$

Mode-1 unfolding $X_{(1)} = U_1 C_{(1)} (U_3 \otimes U_2)^\top$ rank $\leq r_1$

Mode-2 unfolding $X_{(2)} = U_2 C_{(2)} (U_1 \otimes U_3)^\top$ rank $\leq r_2$

Mode-3 unfolding $X_{(3)} = U_3 C_{(3)} (U_2 \otimes U_1)^\top$ rank $\leq r_3$ The rank of $X_{(k)}$ is no more than the rank of $C_{(k)}$

 r_2

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What it means

• We can use the trace norm of an unfolding of a tensor *X* to learn low-rank *X*.

Tensor X is
low-rank
$\exists k, r_k < l_k$



Unfolding X_k is a low-rank matrix

Tensorization

Approach 1: As a matrix

 Pick a mode k, and hope that the tensor to be learned is low rank in mode k.

$$\min_{\mathcal{X} \in \mathbb{R}^{I_1 \times \cdots \times I_K}} \quad \frac{1}{2\lambda} \| \Omega \circ (\mathcal{Y} - \mathcal{X}) \|_F^2 + \| \mathbf{X}_{(k)} \|_*,$$

Pro: Basically a matrix problem
→ Theoretical guarantee (Candes & Recht 09)
Con: Have to be lucky to pick the right mode.

Approach 2: Constrained optimization

• Constrain so that each unfolding of X is simultaneously low rank.

$$\min_{\mathcal{X} \in \mathbb{R}^{I_1 \times \cdots \times I_K}} \quad \frac{1}{2\lambda} \| \Omega \circ (\mathcal{Y} - \mathcal{X}) \|_F^2 + \sum_{k=1}^K \gamma_k \| \mathbf{X}_{(k)} \|_*.$$

Pro: Jointly regularize every mode Con: Strong constraint

 γ_k : tuning parameter usually set to 1.

See also Marco Signoretto et al.,10

Approach 3: Mixture of low-rank tensors

• Each mixture component Z_k is regularized to be low-rank only in mode-k.

$$\underset{\mathcal{Z}_1,\ldots,\mathcal{Z}_K}{\text{minimize}} \quad \frac{1}{2\lambda} \left\| \Omega \circ \left(\mathcal{Y} - \sum_{k=1}^K \mathcal{Z}_k \right) \right\|_F^2 + \sum_{k=1}^K \gamma_k \| \mathcal{Z}_{k(k)} \|_*,$$

Pro: Each Z_k takes care of each mode Con: Sum is not low-rank

Numerical experiment

- True tensor: Size 50x50x20, rank 7x8x9. No noise (λ =0).
- Random train/test split.



Computation time

• Convex formulation is also fast



Phase transition behaviour

• Sum of true ranks = $\min(r_1, r_2r_3) + \min(r_2, r_3r_1) + \min(r_3, r_1r_2)$



Summary

- Low-rank tensor completion can be computed in a convex optimization problem using the trace norm of the unfoldings.
 - No need to specify the rank beforehand.
- Convex formulation is more accurate and faster than conventional EM-based Tucker decomposition.
- Curious "phase transition" found → compressive-sensingtype analysis is an on-going work.
- Technical report: Arxiv:1010.0789 (including optimization)
- Code:
 - http://www.ibis.t.u-tokyo.ac.jp/RyotaTomioka/Softwares/Tensor

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