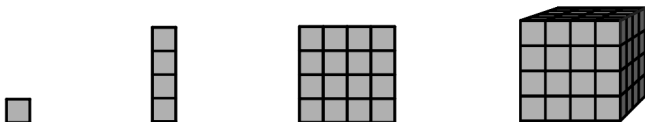


from linear algebra to multi-linear algebra



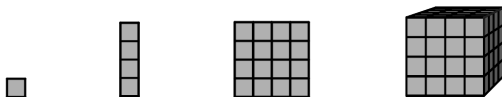
Anna Seigal

University of Oxford

9th March 2021

overview

- extending linear algebra to multi-linear algebra
 - ▶ challenges
 - ▶ algebraic properties of tensors



- focus: aspects of the singular value decomposition
 - ▶ singular vectors
 - ▶ notions of rank
 - ▶ low-rank approximation
 - ▶ analogues for symmetric tensors

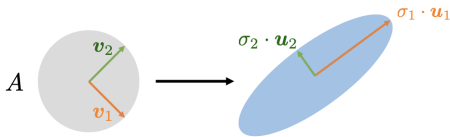
the singular value decomposition

decomposes a matrix $A \in \mathbb{R}^{n_1 n_2}$ as

$$A = U \Sigma V^T,$$

$U \in \mathbb{R}^{n_1 n_1}$, $V \in \mathbb{R}^{n_2 n_2}$ orthogonal, $\Sigma \in \mathbb{R}^{n_1 n_2}$ diagonal, non-negative.

singular vector pair (u_i, v_i) with singular value σ_i .



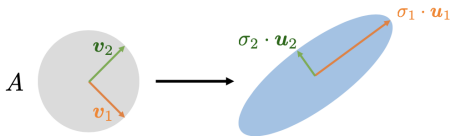
in tensor product notation: $A \in \mathbb{R}^{n_1} \otimes \mathbb{R}^{n_2}$

$$A = \sum_{i=1}^n \sigma_i u_i \otimes v_i^*.$$

¹A. Edelman, Y. Wang (2020).

properties of the SVD

- finds (orthogonal) basis so that A is diagonal
- matrix A is linear map $\mathbb{R}^{n_2} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{n_1}$, $v \mapsto Av$.



$$v_i \mapsto \sigma_i u_i.$$

- **rank** of A is number of non-zero singular values $\sum_{i=1}^n \sigma_i u_i \otimes v_i^*$
- best rank r approximation is truncation to top r singular values²

$$\sum_{i=1}^r \sigma_i u_i \otimes v_i^*$$

²C. Eckart, G. Young. "The approximation of one matrix by another of lower rank." (1936).

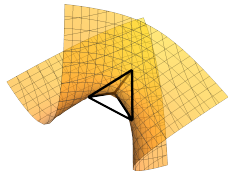
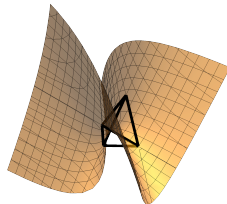
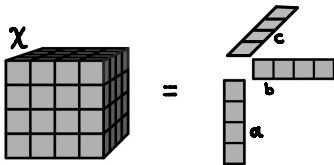
tensor rank

$X = (x_{ijk})$ order three tensor, $X \in V_1 \otimes V_2 \otimes V_3$.

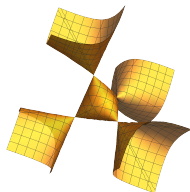
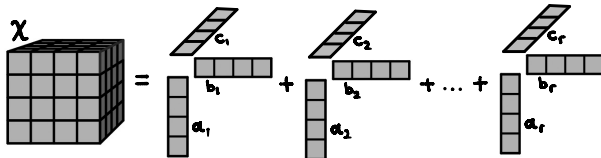
X has **rank 1** if

$$X = a \otimes b \otimes c$$

i.e. $x_{ijk} = a_i b_j c_k$.



X has **rank r** if it is the sum of r rank 1 tensors, $X = \sum_{i=1}^r a_i \otimes b_i \otimes c_i$.



[later: different types of rank]

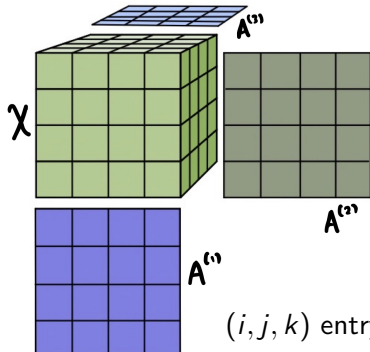
change of basis

tensor $X \in V_1 \otimes V_2 \otimes V_3$

(or $V_1 \otimes \cdots \otimes V_d$)

multiply by matrix $A^{(\ell)}$ in each vector space V_ℓ .

$\llbracket X; A^{(1)}, A^{(2)}, A^{(3)} \rrbracket$



$$\sum_{\alpha, \beta, \gamma} x_{\alpha\beta\gamma} a_{i\alpha}^{(1)} a_{j\beta}^{(2)} a_{k\gamma}^{(3)}$$

multi-linear map

matrix $A \in V_1 \otimes V_2$ gives linear and bi-linear maps

$$\begin{array}{lll} V_2^* & \rightarrow & V_1 \\ v & \mapsto & Av \\ & & \sum_j a_{ij} v_j \\ & & \llbracket A; I, v \rrbracket \end{array} \qquad \begin{array}{lll} V_1^* & \rightarrow & V_2 \\ w & \mapsto & A^T w \\ & & \sum_i a_{ij} w_i \\ & & \llbracket A; w, I \rrbracket \end{array} \qquad \begin{array}{lll} V_1^* \times V_2^* & \rightarrow & \mathbb{K} \\ (w, v) & \mapsto & w^T A v \\ & & \sum_{i,j} a_{ij} w_i v_j \\ & & \llbracket A; w, v \rrbracket \end{array}$$

tensor $X \in V_1 \otimes \cdots \otimes V_d$ gives multi-linear maps

e.g.

$$\begin{array}{lll} V_d^* & \rightarrow & V_1 \otimes \cdots \otimes V_{d-1} \\ v & \mapsto & \llbracket X; I, \dots, I, v \rrbracket = \sum_j x_{i_1, \dots, i_{d-1}, j} v_j \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{lll} V_2^* \times \cdots \times V_d^* & \rightarrow & V_1 \\ (v^{(2)}, \dots, v^{(d)}) & \mapsto & \llbracket X; I, v^{(2)}, \dots, v^{(d)} \rrbracket = \sum_{j_2, \dots, j_d} x_{i, j_2, \dots, j_d} v_{j_2}^{(2)} \cdots v_{j_d}^{(d)} \end{array}$$

singular vectors

matrix $A \in V_1 \otimes V_2$.

(w, v) singular vector pair: $\llbracket A; w, I \rrbracket = \sigma v$ and $\llbracket A; I, v \rrbracket = \sigma w$.

tensor $X \in V_1 \otimes \cdots \otimes V_d$.

$(v^{(1)}, \dots, v^{(d)})$ **singular vectors tuple**: critical point³ of

$$\text{maximize } \llbracket X; v^{(1)}, \dots, v^{(d)} \rrbracket$$

$$\text{subject to } \|v^{(1)}\| = \cdots = \|v^{(d)}\| = 1.$$

equivalently,

$$\llbracket X; v^{(1)}, \dots, v^{(k-1)}, I_k, v^{(k+1)}, \dots, v^{(d)} \rrbracket = \sigma v^{(k)}, \quad \text{for all } k = 1, \dots, d.$$

singular value $\sigma = \llbracket X; v^{(1)}, \dots, v^{(d)} \rrbracket$.

how many singular vectors?⁴

³Lek-Heng Lim "Singular values and eigenvalues of tensors: a variational approach." (2005)

⁴S. Friedland, G. Ottaviani. "The number of singular vector tuples and uniqueness of best rank-one approximation of tensors." (2014)

best rank one approximation

matrix $A \in V_1 \otimes V_2$. best rank one approximation: $\sigma_1 w_1 \otimes v_1$
(w_1, v_1) singular vector pair with largest singular value σ_1 .

tensor $X \in V_1 \otimes \dots \otimes V_d$. singular vector tuple $(v^{(1)}, \dots, v^{(d)})$ with
singular value σ gives rank one tensor

$$\sigma v^{(1)} \otimes \dots \otimes v^{(d)}.$$

Theorem: best rank one approximation of X is singular vector tuple with
largest singular value

proof.

minimise $\|X - \sigma v^{(1)} \otimes \dots \otimes v^{(d)}\|^2$

i.e. maximise $\langle X, v^{(1)} \otimes \dots \otimes v^{(d)} \rangle = \llbracket X; v^{(1)}, \dots, v^{(d)} \rrbracket$.

⁵L. De Lathauwer, B. De-Moor, J. Vandewalle. "On the Best Rank-1 and Rank-(R1 R2... RN) Approximation of Higher-order Tensors." (2000)

⁶Liqun Qi, Ziyang Luo. Tensor analysis: spectral theory and special tensors. (2017)

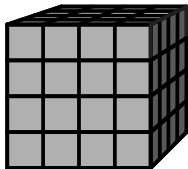
challenges for higher ranks

not true:

- best rank r approximation of **tensor** X is the sum of the singular vector tuples with top r singular values
- rank of **tensor** X is number of non-zero singular values

problems

1. *set of rank r tensors not closed.*
2. *tensor rarely expressibly as a sum of orthogonal rank one tensors*
those that are: **orthogonally decomposable (odeco)**
3. *best rank r approximation not given by successive best rank one approximations*



low-rank approximation

recall: limit of rank r matrices has rank $\leq r$

limit of rank r tensors can have rank $> r$

example

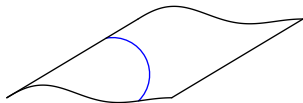
$$\begin{aligned} & \lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{2\epsilon} \left(\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ \epsilon \end{bmatrix} \otimes \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ \epsilon \end{bmatrix} \otimes \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ \epsilon \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ \epsilon \end{bmatrix} \otimes \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ \epsilon \end{bmatrix} \otimes \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ \epsilon \end{bmatrix} \right) \\ &= \lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{2\epsilon} \left(\left[\begin{array}{cc|cc} 1 & \epsilon & \epsilon & \epsilon^2 \\ \epsilon & \epsilon^2 & \epsilon^2 & \epsilon^3 \end{array} \right] + \left[\begin{array}{cc|cc} -1 & \epsilon & \epsilon & -\epsilon^2 \\ \epsilon & -\epsilon^2 & -\epsilon^2 & \epsilon^3 \end{array} \right] \right) \\ &= \left[\begin{array}{cc|cc} 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{array} \right] \end{aligned}$$

border rank r : limit of rank r tensors

set of border rank r tensors is an algebraic variety⁷ (secant variety of Segre variety)

(given by vanishing of some polynomials)

dimension⁸ and approximation⁹



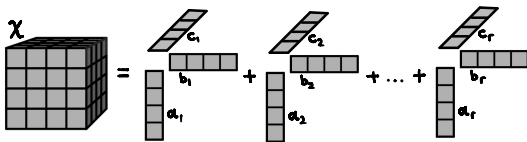
⁷ JM Landsberg, "Tensors: geometry and applications." (2012).

⁸ James Alexander, André Hirschowitz: Polynomial interpolation in several variables. (1995).

⁹ Y. Qi, M. Michałek, L-H. Lim. "Complex tensors almost always have best low-rank approximations." (2017)

real rank

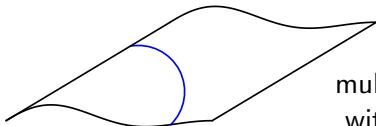
for real problems, usually require real vectors in decomposition



tensor has $\begin{cases} \text{complex} \\ \text{real} \end{cases}$ rank r : sum of r $\begin{cases} \text{complex} \\ \text{real} \end{cases}$ rank 1 tensors

example: complex rank 2, real rank 3

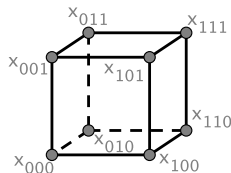
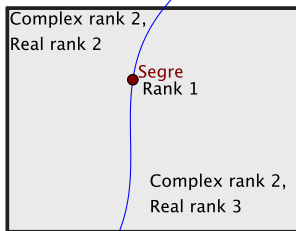
$$\begin{aligned} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{bmatrix} \parallel \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -1 \\ -1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} &= \frac{1}{2} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & i \\ i & -1 \end{bmatrix} \parallel \begin{bmatrix} i & -1 \\ -1 & -i \end{bmatrix} + \frac{1}{2} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -i \\ -i & -1 \end{bmatrix} \parallel \begin{bmatrix} -i & -1 \\ -1 & i \end{bmatrix} \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ i \end{bmatrix} \otimes \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ i \end{bmatrix} \otimes \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ i \end{bmatrix} + \frac{1}{2} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -i \end{bmatrix} \otimes \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -i \end{bmatrix} \otimes \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -i \end{bmatrix} \end{aligned}$$



multiple real ranks occur
with positive probability

$2 \times 2 \times 2$ tensors

eight-dimensional space



real rank two \iff hyperdeterminant $\mathbf{h}(X) \geq 0$.

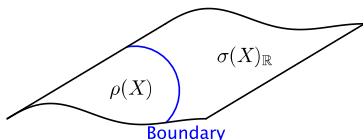
$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{h}(X) = & x_{000}^2 x_{111}^2 + x_{001}^2 x_{110}^2 + x_{010}^2 x_{101}^2 + x_{011}^2 x_{100}^2 + 4x_{000}x_{011}x_{101}x_{110} + 4x_{001}x_{010}x_{100}x_{111} \\ & - 2x_{000}x_{001}x_{110}x_{111} - 2x_{000}x_{010}x_{101}x_{111} - 2x_{000}x_{011}x_{100}x_{111} \\ & - 2x_{001}x_{010}x_{101}x_{110} - 2x_{001}x_{011}x_{100}x_{110} - 2x_{010}x_{011}x_{100}x_{101}. \end{aligned}$$

$$\lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{2\epsilon} \left(\left[\begin{array}{cc|cc} 1 & \epsilon & \epsilon & \epsilon^2 \\ \epsilon & \epsilon^2 & \epsilon^2 & \epsilon^3 \end{array} \right] + \left[\begin{array}{cc|cc} -1 & \epsilon & \epsilon & -\epsilon^2 \\ \epsilon & -\epsilon^2 & -\epsilon^2 & \epsilon^3 \end{array} \right] \right).$$

stopping at ϵ : badly conditioned, no solution.

real rank approximation

set of tensors of real rank $\leq r$ is **semi-algebraic set**:
described by polynomial equations and inequalities.



- restrict set of tensors
- different notion of rank
- study closure of real rank r .
best approximation is closest critical point to **set** and **boundary**.
e.g. real rank two: **secant variety** and **tangential variety**¹⁰.

¹⁰ AS, Bernd Sturmfels. "Real rank two geometry." (2017)

orthogonally decomposable tensors

$X \in \mathbb{R}^{n_1 \times \dots \times n_d}$ is **odeco**¹¹ if

$$X = \sum_i \sigma_i v_i^{(1)} \otimes \dots \otimes v_i^{(d)},$$

$v_1^{(j)}, \dots, v_n^{(j)} \in \mathbb{R}^{n_j}$ orthonormal for every $1 \leq j \leq d$, $\sigma_i \in \mathbb{R}$.

which tensors are odeco?¹² what are singular vectors?¹³

best rank r approximation: keep the top r terms. generalisations:

- for which tensors does such a truncation property hold?¹⁴
- DSVD: weaker orthogonality of summands¹⁵
- X is a linear combination of its singular vectors¹⁶

¹¹ T. Zhang, G.H. Golub. Rank-one approximation to high order tensors (2001).

¹² A. Boralevi, et al. "Orthogonal and unitary tensor decomposition from an algebraic perspective." (2017).

¹³ E. Robeva, AS. "Singular vectors of orthogonally decomposable tensors." (2017).

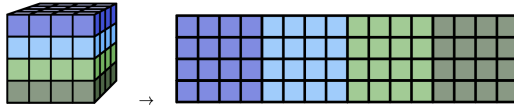
¹⁴ N. Vannieuwenhoven, et al. "On generic nonexistence of the Schmidt–Eckart–Young decomposition for complex tensors." (2014).

¹⁵ Derksen, Harm. "On the nuclear norm and the singular value decomposition of tensors." (2016).

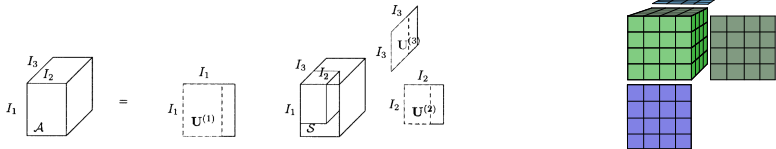
¹⁶ J. Draisma, G. Ottaviani, A. Tocino. "Best rank- k approximations for tensors: generalizing Eckart–Young." (2018)

other extensions of the SVD

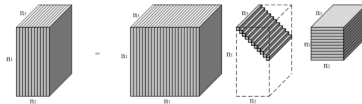
flattening



higher-order singular value decomposition¹⁷ (special Tucker decomposition)



t-SVD (tubal rank)¹⁸



...tensor networks

¹⁷ L. De Lathauwer, B. De Moor, and J. Vandewalle. "A multilinear singular value decomposition." (2000)

¹⁸ Z. Zhang, S. Aeron. "Exact tensor completion using t-SVD." (2016).

symmetric tensors

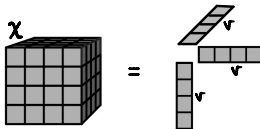
matrix A is symmetric if $A = A^T$ (i.e. $a_{ij} = a_{ji}$).

tensor X **symmetric** if its entries are the same under permuting indices:

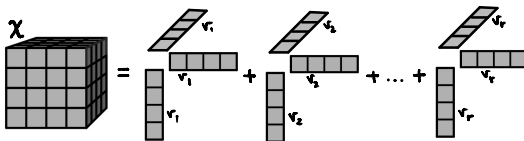
$$x_{ijk} = x_{ikj} = x_{jik} = x_{jki} = x_{kij} = x_{kji}.$$

e.g. moments, cumulants, partial derivatives of smooth functions.

symmetric rank 1: $X = v \otimes v \otimes v$ i.e. $x_{ijk} = v_i v_j v_k$.



symmetric rank r : sum of r tensors of symmetric rank 1.

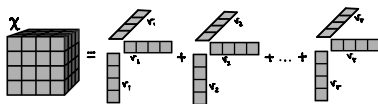
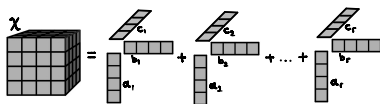


eigenvectors: critical points of $\llbracket X; v, \dots, v \rrbracket$, $\|v\|^2 = 1$.

rank vs. symmetric rank

recall: symmetric matrix of rank r has symmetric rank r

Comon's conjecture¹⁹: symmetric **tensor** of **rank r** has **symmetric rank r** .



true in some cases
but false in general:

example: rank 903, symmetric rank ≥ 904
rank 761, symmetric rank 762

(complex)
(real)

¹⁹Comon P, Golub G, Lim LH, Mourrain B. Symmetric tensors and symmetric tensor rank. SIAM Journal on Matrix Analysis and Applications. 2008;30(3):1254-79.

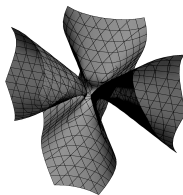
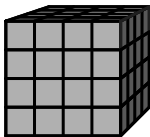
²⁰Yaroslav Shitov: A counterexample to Comon's conjecture, SIAM J. Appl. Algebra Geometry, 2 (2018) no. 3, 428-443.

tensors and polynomials

symmetric tensors \leftrightarrow homogeneous polynomials
size $n \times \cdots \times n$ (d times) degree d in n variables

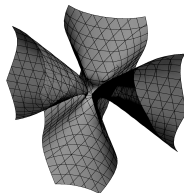
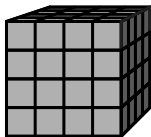
$$T \leftrightarrow \sum_{i,j,\dots,k=1}^n T_{ij\dots k} x_i x_j \cdots x_k.$$

symmetric matrix $M \leftrightarrow$ quadratic form $\mathbf{x}^T M \mathbf{x}$, $\mathbf{x} = (x_1, \dots, x_n)$
order three sym tensor \leftrightarrow cubic polynomial
rank one tensor $\mathbf{v}^{\otimes d} \leftrightarrow$ linear power $\ell^d = (v_1 x_1 + \cdots + v_n x_n)^d$
 $\sum_{i=1}^r \mathbf{v}_i^{\otimes d} \leftrightarrow$ Waring rank decomposition $\sum_{i=1}^r \ell_i^d$



$4 \times 4 \times 4$ sym tensors \leftrightarrow cubic surfaces.

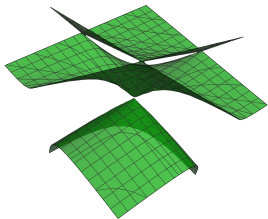
classical tensor decomposition



$4 \times 4 \times 4$ sym tensors \leftrightarrow cubic surfaces.

Theorem (Sylvester's Pentahedral Theorem, 1851)

a generic cubic surface can be decomposed uniquely as the sum of five cubes of linear forms, $f = \ell_1^3 + \ell_2^3 + \ell_3^3 + \ell_4^3 + \ell_5^3$.



proof. $\text{Hessian}(f) = \det \left(\frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x_i \partial x_j} \right)_{ij}$

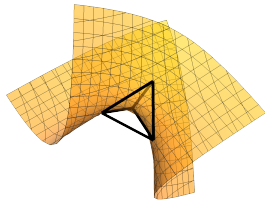
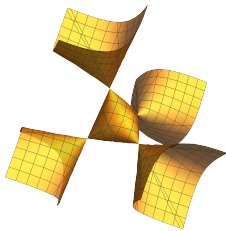
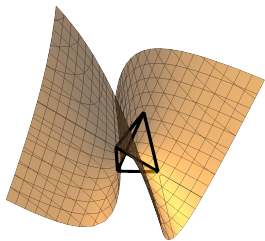
find ℓ_i from Hessian.

\rightarrow 10 lines, where $\ell_i = \ell_j = 0$

\rightarrow 10 singular points, $\ell_i = \ell_j = \ell_k = 0$.

outlook

- *can* extend aspects of linear algebra to tensors
- *but* need to choose most important properties for some context (orthogonality, low rank, ...)
- encourages us to think about the structure we really need
- vast space of tensors divides into semi-algebraic subsets on which properties of interest hold



Thank you!