

3-Tensors: ranks and approximations

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2 3-Tensors

$\mathbb{F} = \mathbb{R}, \mathbb{C}$.

3-Tensor Space $\mathbb{F}^{m_1 \times m_2 \times m_3} := \mathbb{F}^{m_1} \times \mathbb{F}^{m_2} \times \mathbb{F}^{m_3}$

Tensor $\mathcal{T} = [t_{ijk}]_{i=j=k=1}^{m_1, m_2, m_3}$ or simply $\mathcal{T} = [t_{ijk}]$.

Abstractly $U := U_1 \otimes U_2 \otimes U_3$

$\dim U_i = m_i, i = 1, 2, 3, \dim U = m_1 m_2 m_3$

Tensor $\tau \in U_1 \otimes U_2 \otimes U_3$

Rank one tensor $t_{ijk} = x_i y_j z_k,$

$(i, j, k) = (1, 1, 1), \dots, (m_1, m_2, m_3)$

or decomposable tensor $\mathbf{x} \otimes \mathbf{y} \otimes \mathbf{z}$

$[\mathbf{u}_{1,j}, \dots, \mathbf{u}_{m_j,j}]$ basis of $U_j, j = 1, 2, 3$

$\mathbf{u}_{i_1,1} \otimes \mathbf{u}_{i_2,2} \otimes \mathbf{u}_{i_3,3}, i_j = 1, \dots, m_j, j = 1, 2, 3,$

basis of U

$$\tau = \sum_{i_1=i_2=i_3=1}^{m_1, m_2, m_3} t_{i_1 i_2 i_3} \mathbf{u}_{i_1,1} \otimes \mathbf{u}_{i_2,2} \otimes \mathbf{u}_{i_3,3}$$

Rank τ denoted $\text{rank } \tau$ is the minimal k :

$$\tau = \sum_{i=1}^k \mathbf{x}_i \otimes \mathbf{y}_i \otimes \mathbf{z}_i \text{ (CANDEC, PARFAC)}$$

3 Inequalities for the rank of 3-tensor

For $\tau = \mathcal{T} = [t_{ijk}]$ let

$$T_{k,3} := [t_{ijk}]_{i,j=1}^{m_1,m_2} \in \mathbb{F}^{m_1 \times m_2}, k = 1, \dots, m_3$$

$$\mathcal{T} = \sum_{k=1}^{m_3} T_k e_{k,3} \text{ (convenient notation)}$$

$$R_3 := \dim \text{span}(T_{1,3}, \dots, T_{m_3,3}).$$

Claim $\text{rank } \tau \geq R_3$

Reason $U_1 \otimes U_2 \sim \mathbb{F}^{m_1 \times m_2} \equiv \mathbb{F}^{m_1 m_2}$

View $U_1 \otimes U_2 \otimes U_3$ as

$$((U_1 \otimes U_2) \otimes U_3) \sim \mathbb{F}^{m_1 m_2 \times m_3}$$

So \mathcal{T} is viewed as $A \in \mathbb{F}^{m_1 m_2 \times m_3}$, $R_3 = \text{rank } A$

$x \otimes y \otimes z$ viewed as $(x \otimes y) \otimes z \in \mathbb{F}^{m_1 m_2 \times m_3}$,

$\text{rank}(x \otimes y) \otimes z = 1$ if $x \otimes y \otimes z \neq 0$

So any CANDEC of \mathcal{T} induces a decomposition of A as a sum of rank one matrices

Similarly one can define R_1, R_2

$\text{rank } \tau \geq \max(R_1, R_2, R_3)$ (WELL KNOWN)

Note: R_1, R_2, R_3 are easily computable.

4 Rank 3-tensor characterization

OBS: $\exists U_i \subset \mathbb{F}^{m_i}, \dim U_i = R_i, i = 1, 2, 3$ s.t.
 $\tau \in U_1 \otimes U_2 \otimes U_3$.

PRP : For $\tau = \mathcal{T} = [t_{ijk}]$ let

$T_{k,3} := [t_{ijk}]_{i,j=1}^{m_1,m_2} \in \mathbb{F}^{m_1 \times m_2}, k = 1, \dots, m_3$.

Then rank \mathcal{T} dimension of subspace $L \subset \mathbb{F}^{m_1 \times m_2}$
spanned by rank one matrices containing

$T_{1,3}, \dots, T_{m_3,3}$.

PRF: Suppose $\tau = \sum_{i=1}^p \mathbf{x}_i \otimes \mathbf{y}_i \otimes \mathbf{z}_i$ (1). Write

$\mathbf{z}_i = \sum_{j=1}^{m_3} z_{ij} \mathbf{e}_{j,3}$ then each

$T_{k,3} \in \text{span}(\mathbf{x}_1 \otimes \mathbf{y}_1, \dots, \mathbf{x}_p \otimes \mathbf{y}_p)$.

Vise versa suppose

$T_{k,3} = \sum_{i=1}^p a_{ki} \mathbf{x}_i \otimes \mathbf{y}_i, k = 1, \dots, m_3$.

Then (1) holds with $\mathbf{z}_i := \sum_{k=1}^{m_3} a_{ki} \mathbf{e}_{k,3}$.

5 Generic rank of 3-tensor

Basic results of algebraic geometry imply:

THM 1: A randomly chosen tensor $\mathcal{T} \in \mathbb{C}^{m_1 \times m_2 \times m_3}$ with probability one has a fixed rank denoted by $\text{grank}(m_1, m_2, m_3)$, called the **generic rank**.

That is, there exists an algebraic variety

$\mathbf{X} \subsetneq \mathbb{C}^{m_1 \times m_2 \times m_3}$ such that for any

$\mathcal{T} \in \mathbb{C}^{m_1 \times m_2 \times m_3} \setminus \mathbf{X}$

$\text{rank } \mathcal{T} = \text{grank}(m_1, m_2, m_3)$.

RMK: Usually there exist a subvariety $\mathbf{Y} \subsetneq \mathbf{X}$ such that for any $\mathcal{T} \in \mathbf{Y}$ $\text{rank } \mathcal{T} > \text{grank}(m_1, m_2, m_3)$.

RMK: $\text{grank}(m_1, m_2, m_3)$ is easily computable (See later)

RMK: For $\mathcal{T} \in \mathbb{R}^{m_1 \times m_2 \times m_3}$ usually there will be open \mathbf{Z} , (semi-algebraic set), where $\text{rank } \mathcal{T} > \text{grank}(m_1, m_2, m_3)$ for $\mathcal{T} \in \mathbf{Z}$.

6 An example

Claim: $\text{grank}(m, m, 2) = m$ for any $m \geq 2$.

Proof: $\tau = \mathcal{T} = [t_{ijk}]_{i,j,k}^{m,m,2}$, in standard bases of $U_1 = U_2 = \mathbb{C}^m$, $U_3 = \mathbb{C}^2$ is represented by $A := [t_{ij1}]$, $B := [t_{ij2}] \in \mathbb{C}^{m \times m}$.

If we change the bases of $U_1 = \mathbb{C}^m$, $U_2 = \mathbb{C}^m$ using matrices P, Q then τ represented by $A' = PAQ^\top$, $B' = PBQ^\top$

For randomly chosen \mathcal{T} , A is invertible and $A^{-1}B$ is diagonalizable over \mathbb{C} , (that defines X). So

$$A^{-1}B = \sum_{i=1}^m \lambda_i \mathbf{u}_{i,2} \otimes \mathbf{u}_{i,2},$$

$$I_m = \sum_{i=1}^m \mathbf{u}_{i,2} \otimes \mathbf{u}_{i,2}.$$

Choose a new basis in $[\mathbf{u}_{1,1}, \dots, \mathbf{u}_{m,1}]$ in $U_1 = \mathbb{C}^m$ given by A^{-1} and leave other bases as is. Then in new bases \mathcal{T} represented by

$$\mathcal{T}' = I_m \mathbf{e}_{1,3} + A^{-1}B \mathbf{e}_{2,3} =$$

$$\sum_{i=1}^m \mathbf{u}_{i,2} \otimes \mathbf{u}_{i,2} \otimes \mathbf{e}_{1,3} + \lambda_i \mathbf{u}_{i,2} \otimes \mathbf{u}_{i,2} \otimes \mathbf{e}_{2,3} =$$

$$\sum_{i=1}^m \mathbf{u}_{i,2} \otimes \mathbf{u}_{i,3} \otimes (\mathbf{e}_{1,3} + \lambda_i \mathbf{e}_{2,3}).$$

So $\text{rank } \mathcal{T} \leq m$. Easy $R_1 = R_2 = m$ for \mathcal{T}' .

Hence $\text{rank } \tau = m$.

If B is not diagonalizable then $\text{rank } \tau > m$ (over \mathbb{C}).

The variety of all $B \in \mathbb{C}^{m \times m}$ which are not diagonalizable is essentially the variety of all complex matrices with one eigenvalue of multiplicity 2. Hence its codimension is 1.

The case $\mathbb{R}^{2 \times 2 \times 2}$

$$0 \neq \tau = \mathcal{T} = [t_{ijk}] \in \mathbb{R}^{2 \times 2 \times 2}$$

$$\mathcal{T} = A\mathbf{e}_1 + B\mathbf{e}_2, A, B \in \mathbb{R}^{2 \times 2}.$$

Suppose A invertible

If $A^{-1}B$ has two distinct real eigenvalues, or

$$A^{-1}B = aI_2 \text{ then } \text{rank } \tau = 2.$$

If $A^{-1}B$ has two distinct complex eigenvalues or it is not diagonalizable $\text{rank } \tau = 3$.

If the subspace spanned by A, B does not contain an invertible matrix then $\text{rank } \tau = 1, 2$.

(This can happen if either $\dim \text{span}(A\mathbb{R}^2, B\mathbb{R}^2) = 1$ or $\dim \text{span}(A^\top \mathbb{R}^2, B^\top \mathbb{R}^2) = 1$.)

For example $\tau = \mathbf{u} \otimes \mathbf{v} \otimes \mathbf{e}_1 + \mathbf{u} \otimes \mathbf{w} \otimes \mathbf{e}_2, \mathbf{u} \neq 0$

If \mathbf{v}, \mathbf{w} linearly independent $\text{rank } \tau = 2$

7 Algebraic geometry & tensor rank

View tensor one rank matrices as the map

$$f : \mathbb{C}^{m_1} \times \mathbb{C}^{m_2} \times \mathbb{C}^{m_3} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^{m_1 \times m_2 \times m_3}$$

$$f(x, y, z) = x \otimes y \otimes z \text{ note}$$

$$(ax, by, cz) \mapsto (abc)x \otimes y \otimes z, \text{ 2-parameters lost}$$

$$f_k : (\mathbb{C}^{m_1} \times \mathbb{C}^{m_2} \times \mathbb{C}^{m_3})^k \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^{m_1 \times m_2 \times m_3}$$

$$f_k(x_1, y_1, z_1, \dots, x_k, y_k, z_k) :=$$

$$\sum_{i=1}^k f(x_i, y_i, z_i).$$

$$f_k((\mathbb{C}^{m_1} \times \mathbb{C}^{m_2} \times \mathbb{C}^{m_3})^k) \text{ the irreducible}$$

quasi-variety of all 3-tensors of rank k at most. I.e. there exists an irreducible variety X_k and a strict subvariety

$$Z_k \subsetneq X_k \text{ s.t.}$$

$$f_k((\mathbb{C}^{m_1} \times \mathbb{C}^{m_2} \times \mathbb{C}^{m_3})^k) = X_k \setminus Z_k$$

$\dim_{\mathbb{C}} X_k$ = the maximal rank of the Jacobian matrix of

$J(f_k)(x_1, \dots, z_k)$, which is equal to $\dim_{\mathbb{C}} X_k$ for any random choice of (x_1, \dots, z_k) .

THM 2: $\text{rank } J(f_k) = \dim \text{span}\{e_{i_1,1} \otimes x_{l,2} \otimes$

$x_{l,3}, x_{l,1} \otimes e_{i_2,2} \otimes x_{l,3}, x_{l,1} \otimes x_{l,2} \otimes e_{i_3,3}, i_j = 1, \dots, m_j, j = 1, 2, 3, l = 1, \dots, k\}$.

COR : $r(k, m_1, m_2, m_3) := \dim X_k$ dimension of the subspace given in **THM 2**, for a randomly chosen $x_1, y_1, z_1, \dots, x_k, y_k, z_k$.

COR : $\text{grank}(m_1, m_2, m_3)$ minimal k s.t. $\dim X_k = m_1 m_2 m_3$.

COR : For $k = 1, \dots, \text{grank}(m_1, m_2, m_3) - 1$ $\dim X_k < \dim X_{k+1}$. Furthermore $\dim X_k = m_1 m_2 m_3$ for $k \geq \text{grank}(m_1, m_2, m_3)$.

CLM:

$k := \text{grank}(m_1, m_2, m_3) \geq \lceil \frac{m_1 m_2 m_3}{m_1 + m_2 + m_3 - 2} \rceil$
and (1): $X_k = \mathbb{C}^{m_1 \times m_2 \times m_3} \setminus X$

PRF Fact: Any quasi-variety in \mathbb{C}^m of dimension m is of the form $\mathbb{C}^m \setminus X$ for some subvariety $X \subsetneq \mathbb{C}^m$. Hence (1).

Each factor $x \otimes y \otimes z$ has $m_1 + m_2 + m_3 - 2$ parameters. If all the parameters are independent we need at least $\lceil \frac{m_1 m_2 m_3}{m_1 + m_2 + m_3 - 2} \rceil$ to obtain $m_1 m_2 m_3$ parameters of $\mathbb{C}^{m_1 \times m_2 \times m_3}$.

$\text{grank}(m_1, m_2, m_3) \geq \text{grank}(l_1, l_2, l_3)$ for $m_1 \geq l_1, m_2 \geq l_2, m_3 \geq l_3$

8 Maximal tensor rank

Lemma: $f_{k-1}((\mathbb{C}^{m_1} \times \mathbb{C}^{m_2} \times \mathbb{C}^{m_3})^{k-1}) \subsetneq$
 $f_k((\mathbb{C}^{m_1} \times \mathbb{C}^{m_2} \times \mathbb{C}^{m_3})^k)$ for
 $k = 1, \dots, \text{mrank}(m_1, m_2, m_3)$ and
 $f_k((\mathbb{C}^{m_1} \times \mathbb{C}^{m_2} \times \mathbb{C}^{m_3})^k) = \mathbb{C}^{m_1 \times m_2 \times m_3}$ for
 $k \geq \text{mrank}(m_1, m_2, m_3)$.

$\text{mrank}(m_1, m_2, m_3)$ maximal (tensor) rank

(of $\mathcal{T} \in \mathbb{C}^{m_1 \times m_2 \times m_3}$)

$\text{grank}(m_1, m_2, m_3) \leq \text{mrank}(m_1, m_2, m_3)$

(usually $<$)

$\text{mrank}(m_1, m_2, m_3) \geq \text{mrank}(l_1, l_2, l_3)$ for

$m_1 \geq l_1, m_2 \geq l_2, m_3 \geq l_3$

The computation of $\text{grank}(m_1, m_2, m_3)$ difficult,

probably NP-hard

9 Max.& gen. rank upper estimates

THM 3: Any subspace $L \subset \mathbb{C}^{m \times n}$

$\dim L = (m - k)(n - k) + 1$ has A s.t.

$$1 \leq \text{rank } A \leq k.$$

Generic L has exactly $\gamma_{k,m,n} :=$

$$\prod_{j=0}^{n-k-1} \frac{\binom{m+j}{m-k}}{\binom{m-k+j}{m-k}} = \prod_{j=0}^{n-k-1} \frac{(m+j)! j!}{(k+j)! (m-k+j)!},$$

which span L .

COR: for $m \geq 2$: $\text{grank}(m, m, 2) = m$

$$m + 1 \leq \text{mrk}(m, m, 2) \leq 2m - 1$$

for $m, n \geq 3$:

$$\text{grank}(n, m, m) \leq m + (n - 2)(m - \lfloor \sqrt{n - 1} \rfloor)$$

if $m \geq 2 \lfloor \sqrt{n - 1} \rfloor$

$$\text{grank}(n, m, m) \leq n(m - \lfloor \sqrt{n - 1} \rfloor) \text{ if}$$

$$m < 2 \lfloor \sqrt{n - 1} \rfloor < 2(m - 1),$$

$\text{grank}(n, m, m) = n$ if

$$n \in [m^2 - 2m + 2, m^2 - 1]$$

$$\text{mrk}(n, m, m) \leq \sum_{i=1}^{\lfloor \sqrt{n-1} \rfloor} (2i - 1)(m - i + 1) + (m - \lfloor \sqrt{n - 1} \rfloor)^2 (m - \lfloor \sqrt{n - 1} \rfloor)$$

10 Theoret. bounds & explanations

$$4 \leq \text{grank}(3, 3, 3) \leq 5, \text{mrank}(3, 3, 3) \leq 7$$

$$\text{grank}(3, 3, 4) = 5 \leq \text{mrank}(3, 3, 4) \leq 9$$

$$\text{grank}(3, 3, 5) = 5 \leq \text{mrank}(3, 3, 5) \leq 13$$

$$6 \leq \text{grank}(3, 4, 4) \leq 7, \text{mrank}(3, 4, 4) \leq 10$$

$$7 \leq \text{grank}(4, 4, 4) \leq 10, \text{mrank}(4, 4, 4) \leq 13$$

$$8 \leq \text{grank}(4, 4, 5) \leq 10, \text{mrank}(4, 4, 5) \leq 15$$

$$7 \leq \text{grank}(3, 5, 5) \leq 9, \text{mrank}(3, 5, 5) \leq 13$$

$$9 \leq \text{grank}(4, 5, 5) \leq 13, \text{mrank}(4, 5, 5) \leq 16$$

$$10 \leq \text{grank}(5, 5, 5) \leq 14, \text{mrank}(5, 5, 5) \leq 20$$

Expl. $\text{grank}(3, 3, 4) \geq \frac{3 \times 3 \times 4}{3+3+4-2} = 4.5$ Consider a

generic subspace spanned by $T_{1,3}, \dots, T_{4,3} \in \mathbb{C}^{3 \times 3}$.

Add generic T_5 . $\text{span}(T_{1,3}, \dots, T_{4,3}, T_5)$ contains 6 rank 1 matrices spanning L . So $\text{grank}(3, 3, 4) \leq 5$.

If $\text{span}(T_{1,3}, \dots, T_{4,3}, T_5)$ a invertible matrix then

$\det T_{1,3} \neq 0$ and $\det T_{k,3} = 0, k > 1$, so

$$\text{mrank}(3, 3, 4) \leq 3 + 3 \times 2 = 9.$$

Fact: $\text{mrank}(3, 3, 4) = 5$

11 Numerical results

Normalize: $2 \leq m_1 \leq m_2 \leq m_3 (\leq 10)$

$\text{grank}(m_1, m_2, m_3) = m_3$ for

$m_3 = (m_1 - 1)(m_2 - 1) + 1, \dots, m_1 m_2$ (a)

($\text{mrank}(m_1, m_2, m_3) = m_1 m_2, m_3 \geq m_1 m_2$)

$\text{grank}(m_1, m_2, m_3) = \lceil \frac{m_1 m_2 m_3}{m_1 + m_2 + m_3 - 2} \rceil$ for

$m_3 = m_2, \dots, (m_2 - 1)(m_3 - 1) + 1$ (*)

nonincreasing sequence

(m_1, m_2, m_3) exceptional if for (*)

$\text{grank}(m_1, m_2, m_3) - \lceil \frac{m_1 m_2 m_3}{m_1 + m_2 + m_3 - 2} \rceil > 0$

exceptional triples $(3, 2p + 1, 2p + 1)$ $p = 1, \dots, 8$.

Excess equal 1 (See conjecture below)

For nonexceptional (m_1, m_2, m_3)

$r(k, m_1, m_2, m_3) = k(m_1 + m_2 + m_3 - 2)$ for

$k < \text{grank}(m_1, m_2, m_3)$. Hence generic rank k

tensor is represented in a finite number of ways

$(N(k, m_1, m_2, m_3))$ as k -tensor. (True if

$\text{grank}(m_1, m_2, m_3) = \frac{m_1 m_2 m_3}{m_1 + m_2 + m_3 - 2}$)

Probably not in a unique way!

12 Results and Conjectures

THM [5]: **Normalize:** $2 \leq m_1 \leq m_2 \leq m_3$ then
 $\text{grank}(m_1, m_2, m_3) = m_3$ for
 $m_3 = (m_1 - 1)(m_2 - 1) + 1, \dots, m_1 m_2$ (a)

CONJ:

- $\text{grank}(3, 2p, 2p) = 3p$ ($= \lceil \frac{12p^2}{4p+1} \rceil$) for
 $p = 1, \dots$, (nonexceptional triples)
- $\text{grank}(3, 2p + 1, 2p + 1) = 3p + 2$
($= \lceil \frac{3(2p+1)^2}{4p+3} \rceil + 1$)
for $p = 1, \dots$ (exceptional triple)

(The conjecture was verified numerically for $p \leq 8$)

Bold Conjecture: The only exceptional triples are
 $(3, 2p + 1, 2p + 1)$ for $p \in \mathbb{N}$

Remark: Compare to the results in this lecture to [1] (see
corrections in [2])

13 k -rank approximation of 3-tensors

Fundamental problem in applications:

Approximate well and fast $\mathcal{T} \in \mathbb{C}^{m_1 \times m_2 \times m_3}$ by rank k 3-tensor.

Probably the best rank k approximation of \mathcal{T} is a hard optimization problem.

Can we use SVD (Linear Algebra) to simplify the approximation problem?

$\mathbb{C}^{m_1 \times m_2 \times m_3}$ has a standard inner product

$\langle s_{ijk}, t_{ijk} \rangle := \sum_{i,j,k} s_{ijk} \bar{t}_{ijk}$ induced by the standard inner products on \mathbb{C}^{m_p} , $p = 1, 2, 3$.

Given subspaces $U_i \subset \mathbb{C}^{m_i}$,

$\dim U_i = l_i$, $i = 1, 2, 3$, let $V = U_1 \otimes U_2 \otimes U_3$,

orthogonal projection $P_V(\mathcal{T})$ is given by having an

orthonormal basis $f_{1,p}, \dots, f_{l_p,p} \in \mathbb{C}^{m_p}$,

$\text{span}(f_{1,p}, \dots, f_{l_p,p}) = U_p$

Auxiliary Problem (AP): Find U_1, U_2, U_3 each of dimension k with maximal $\|P_V(\mathcal{T})\|$.

14 Algorithms using SVD

Approximation to (AP):

View \mathcal{T} as a matrix in $\mathbb{F}^{m_1 m_2 \times m_3}$. Then \mathcal{T} has best rank approximation:

$$\sum_{i=1}^k A_i \otimes \mathbf{w}_i, A_i \in \mathbb{F}^{m_1 \times m_2}, \mathbf{w}_i \in \mathbb{C}^{m_3}$$

Then $U_3 = \text{span}(\mathbf{w}_1, \dots, \mathbf{w}_k)$.

a. Similarly find U_1, U_2 .

b. The first left k singular vectors of $[A_1 \ \dots \ A_k], [A_1^\top \ \dots \ A_k^\top]$ span U_1, U_2 respectively

Next possible step: find best k -rank k -approximation of $P_V(\mathcal{T})$ in V .

15 Acknowledgement

Makio Tamura programmed the software for computing $\text{grank}(m_1, m_2, m_3)$ and $r(k, m_1, m_2, m_3)$.

Random vectors were chosen to be vectors with integer entries in $[-99,99]$ using Matlab.

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