

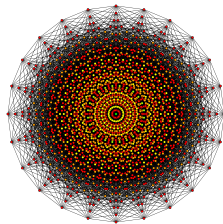
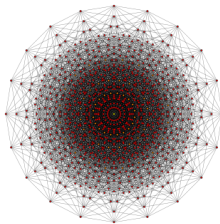
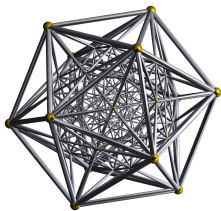
Computational Principles for High-dim Data Analysis

(Lecture Nine)

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Convex Methods for Low-Rank Matrix Recovery (Random Measurements)

- 1 Motivating Examples
- 2 Representing Low-Rank Matrix via SVD
- 3 Recovering a Low-Rank Matrix

“Mathematics is the art of giving the same name to different things.”
– Henri Poincaré

Problem

Recovering a sparse signal x_o :

$$\underset{\text{observation}}{\mathbf{y}} = \mathbf{A} \underset{\text{unknown}}{\mathbf{x}_o}, \quad (1)$$

where $\mathbf{A} \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$ is a linear map.

Recovering a low-rank matrix X_o :

$$\underset{\text{observation}}{\mathbf{y}} = \mathcal{A} \left[\underset{\text{unknown}}{\mathbf{X}_o} \right], \quad (2)$$

where, $\mathcal{A} : \mathbb{R}^{n_1 \times n_2} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$ is a linear map.

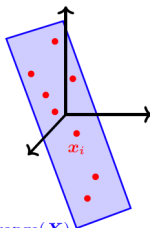
Examples of Low-rank Modeling

Multiple images of a Lambertian object with different light:

$$Y = \mathcal{P}_\Omega[NL].$$

$X = NL$ has rank 3.
(Details in Chapter 14)

Data space $\mathbb{R}^{n_1}$

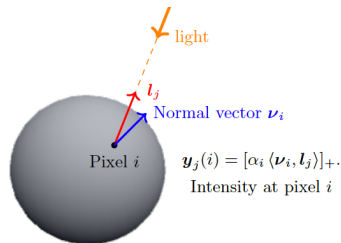
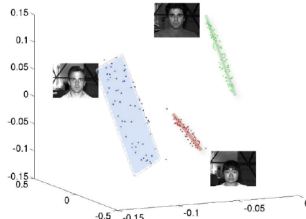


$\text{range}(X)$
dimension = $\text{rank}(X)$

Images y_j under different lighting l_j



Object shape and albedo



Examples of Low-rank Modeling

Recommendation Ratings:

The diagram illustrates the relationship between observed (incomplete) ratings $\mathbf{Y}$ and complete ratings $\mathbf{X}$. On the left, $\mathbf{Y}$ is represented as a matrix where rows are users (indicated by smiley faces) and columns are items (indicated by book icons labeled 'Stats', 'GPR', and 'Geometry'). The matrix contains observed ratings (5, 3, ..., ?) and missing ratings (?). This matrix is equal to the projection operator $\mathcal{P}_\Omega$ applied to the complete ratings matrix $\mathbf{X}$. The matrix $\mathbf{X}$ contains all ratings, including the missing ones (5, 4, ..., 3).

$$\begin{array}{c} \text{Users} \end{array} \begin{bmatrix} 5 & 3 & \dots & ? \\ ? & 2 & \dots & 4 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 5 & ? & \dots & ? \end{bmatrix} = \mathcal{P}_\Omega \left(\begin{array}{c} \text{Complete Ratings } \mathbf{X} \end{array} \begin{bmatrix} 5 & 3 & \dots & 5 \\ 4 & 2 & \dots & 4 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 5 & 5 & \dots & 3 \end{bmatrix} \right)$$

Items
Observed (Incomplete) Ratings $\mathbf{Y}$

We observe:

$$\begin{array}{c} \mathbf{Y} \\ \text{Observed ratings} \end{array} = \mathcal{P}_\Omega \left[\begin{array}{c} \mathbf{X} \\ \text{Complete ratings} \end{array} \right],$$

where $\Omega \doteq \{(i, j) \mid \text{user } i \text{ has rated product } j\}$.

Examples of Low-rank Modeling

Many other examples:

- Euclidean Distance Matrix Embedding
- Latent Semantic Indexing
- ...

Singular Value Decomposition

Theorem (Compact SVD)

Let $\mathbf{X} \in \mathbb{R}^{n_1 \times n_2}$ be a matrix, and $r = \text{rank}(\mathbf{X})$. Then there exist $\mathbf{\Sigma} = \text{diag}(\sigma_1, \dots, \sigma_r)$ with numbers $\sigma_1 \geq \sigma_2 \geq \dots \geq \sigma_r > 0$ and matrices $\mathbf{U} \in \mathbb{R}^{n_1 \times r}$, $\mathbf{V} \in \mathbb{R}^{n_2 \times r}$, such that $\mathbf{U}^* \mathbf{U} = \mathbf{I}$, $\mathbf{V}^* \mathbf{V} = \mathbf{I}$ and

$$\mathbf{X} = \mathbf{U} \mathbf{\Sigma} \mathbf{V}^* = \sum_{i=1}^r \sigma_i \mathbf{u}_i \mathbf{v}_i^*. \quad (3)$$

Properties of the SVD:

- The left (or right) singular vectors $\mathbf{u}_i$ are the eigenvectors of $\mathbf{X} \mathbf{X}^*$ (or $\mathbf{X}^* \mathbf{X}$).
- The nonzero singular values σ_i are the positive square roots of the positive eigenvalues λ_i of $\mathbf{X}^* \mathbf{X}$ (or $\mathbf{X} \mathbf{X}^*$).

Singular Vectors via Nonconvex Optimization

To compute singular vector, say $\mathbf{u}_1$, consider the optimization problem:

$$\min \varphi(\mathbf{q}) \equiv -\frac{1}{2}\mathbf{q}^*\mathbf{\Gamma}\mathbf{q} \quad \text{s.t.} \quad \|\mathbf{q}\|_2^2 = 1 \quad (4)$$

with $\mathbf{\Gamma} \doteq \mathbf{X}\mathbf{X}^*$.

$\mathbf{q}$ is a critical point of $\varphi(\mathbf{q})$ over the sphere $\mathbb{S}^{n-1}$ if and only if (**why?**):

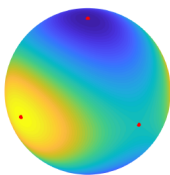
$$\nabla\varphi(\mathbf{q}) \propto \mathbf{q}. \quad (5)$$

The critical points are precisely the eigenvectors $\pm\mathbf{u}_i$ of $\mathbf{\Gamma}$:

$$\mathbf{\Gamma}\mathbf{q} = \lambda\mathbf{q} \quad \text{for some } \lambda. \quad (6)$$

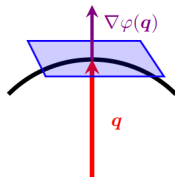
All $\pm\mathbf{u}_i$ are unstable critical points of φ over $\mathbb{S}^{n-1}$ except $\pm\mathbf{u}_1$!

Singular Vectors via Nonconvex Optimization



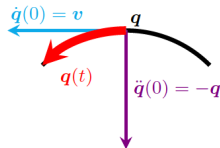
Objective:

$$\varphi(\mathbf{q}) = -\frac{1}{2} \mathbf{q}^* \mathbf{\Gamma} \mathbf{q}$$



Critical point:

$$\nabla \varphi(\mathbf{q}) = \lambda \mathbf{q}$$



Curvature:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d^2}{dt^2} \varphi(\mathbf{q}(t)) \Big|_{t=0} &= \mathbf{v}^* \nabla^2 \varphi(\mathbf{q}) \mathbf{v} \\ &+ \langle \nabla \varphi(\mathbf{q}), -\mathbf{q} \rangle \|\mathbf{v}\|_2^2. \end{aligned}$$

A great circle (a *geodesics*) on $\mathbb{S}^{n-1}$: $\mathbf{q}(t) = \mathbf{q} \cos(t) + \mathbf{v} \sin(t)$ with $\mathbf{v} \perp \mathbf{q}$ and $\|\mathbf{v}\|_2 = 1$. The 2nd directional derivative of $\varphi(\mathbf{q}(t))$ at $\bar{\mathbf{q}} = \pm \mathbf{u}_i$:

$$\frac{d^2}{dt^2} \varphi(\mathbf{q}(t)) \Big|_{t=0} = \underbrace{\mathbf{v}^* \nabla^2 \varphi(\mathbf{q}) \mathbf{v}}_{\text{Curvature of } \varphi} - \underbrace{\langle \nabla \varphi(\mathbf{q}), \mathbf{q} \rangle \mathbf{v}^* \mathbf{v}}_{\text{Curvature of the sphere}} = \mathbf{v}^* \underbrace{(-\mathbf{\Gamma} + \lambda_i \mathbf{I})}_{\text{"Hessian"}} \mathbf{v}.$$

Best Low-Rank Matrix Approximation

Theorem (Best Low-rank Approximation)

Let $\mathbf{Y} \in \mathbb{R}^{n_1 \times n_2}$, and consider the following optimization problem

$$\min \|\mathbf{X} - \mathbf{Y}\|_F \quad \text{s.t.} \quad \text{rank}(\mathbf{X}) \leq r. \quad (7)$$

The optimal solution $\hat{\mathbf{X}}$ has the form $\hat{\mathbf{X}} = \sum_{i=1}^r \sigma_i \mathbf{u}_i \mathbf{v}_i^*$, where $\mathbf{Y} = \sum_{i=1}^{\min(n_1, n_2)} \sigma_i \mathbf{u}_i \mathbf{v}_i^*$ is the singular value decomposition of $\mathbf{Y}$.

The same solution (truncating the SVD) applies to minimizing the rank of the unknown matrix $\mathbf{X}$, subject to a data fidelity constraint:

$$\min \text{rank}(\mathbf{X}) \quad \text{s.t.} \quad \|\mathbf{X} - \mathbf{Y}\|_F \leq \epsilon. \quad (8)$$

General Rank Minimization

Problem: recover a low-rank matrix $\mathbf{X}$ from linear measurements:

$$\min \text{rank}(\mathbf{X}) \quad \text{subject to} \quad \mathcal{A}[\mathbf{X}] = \mathbf{y} \quad (9)$$

where $\mathbf{y} \in \mathbb{R}^m$ is an observation and $\mathcal{A} : \mathbb{R}^{n_1 \times n_2} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$ is a linear map:

$$\mathcal{A}[\mathbf{X}] = (\langle \mathbf{A}_1, \mathbf{X} \rangle, \dots, \langle \mathbf{A}_m, \mathbf{X} \rangle), \quad \mathbf{A}_i \in \mathbb{R}^{n_1 \times n_2}. \quad (10)$$

Since $\text{rank}(\mathbf{X}) = \|\boldsymbol{\sigma}(\mathbf{X})\|_0$, the problem is equivalent to the (NP-hard) ℓ^0 minimization:

$$\min \|\boldsymbol{\sigma}(\mathbf{X})\|_0 \quad \text{subject to} \quad \mathcal{A}[\mathbf{X}] = \mathbf{y}. \quad (11)$$

Convex Relaxation of Rank Minimization

Replace the rank, which is the ℓ^0 norm $\sigma(\mathbf{X})$ with the ℓ^1 norm of $\sigma(\mathbf{X})$:

$$\text{Nuclear norm: } \|\mathbf{X}\|_* \doteq \|\sigma(\mathbf{X})\|_1 = \sum_i \sigma_i(\mathbf{X}). \quad (12)$$

This is also known as the *trace norm* (for symmetric positive semidefinite matrices), the *Schatten 1-norm*, or the *Ky-Fan k -norm*.

Nuclear norm minimization problem:

$$\min \|\mathbf{X}\|_* \quad \text{subject to} \quad \mathcal{A}[\mathbf{X}] = \mathbf{y}. \quad (13)$$

Nuclear Norm – Convex Envelope of Rank

Why $\|X\|_*$ is a norm (hence convex)?

Theorem

For $M \in \mathbb{R}^{n_1 \times n_2}$, let $\|M\|_* = \sum_{i=1}^{\min\{n_1, n_2\}} \sigma_i(M)$. Then $\|\cdot\|_*$ is a norm. Moreover, the nuclear norm and the spectral norm are dual norms:

$$\|M\|_* = \sup_{\|N\| \leq 1} \langle M, N \rangle, \quad \text{and} \quad \|M\| = \sup_{\|N\|_* \leq 1} \langle M, N \rangle. \quad (14)$$

Why $\|X\|_*$ is tight to approximate $\text{rank}(X)$?

Theorem

$\|M\|_*$ is the convex envelope of $\text{rank}(M)$ over

$$\mathcal{B}_{op} \doteq \{M \mid \|M\| \leq 1\}. \quad (15)$$

Nuclear Norm – Variational Forms

How to compute besides SVD?

$\|X\|_*$ is equivalent to the following variational forms:

- ① $\|X\|_* = \min_{U,V} \frac{1}{2}(\|U\|_F^2 + \|V\|_F^2), \text{ s.t. } X = UV^*.$
- ② $\|X\|_* = \min_{U,V} \|U\|_F \|V\|_F, \text{ s.t. } X = UV^*.$
- ③ $\|X\|_* = \min_{U,V} \sum_k \|u_k\|_2 \|v_k\|_2, \text{ s.t. } X = UV^* \doteq \sum_k u_k v_k^*.$

These are useful in parameterizing low-rank matrices and finding them numerically, say via optimization.

Success of Nuclear Norm – Geometric Intuition

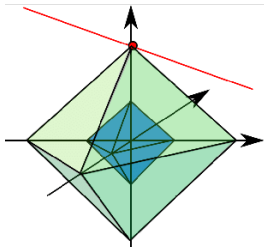
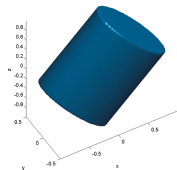
Nuclear norm ball: consider the set of 2×2 symmetric matrices, parameterized as

$$\mathbf{M} = \begin{bmatrix} x & y \\ y & z \end{bmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^{2 \times 2}.$$

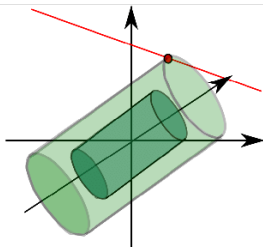
The nuclear norm (unit) ball

$$\mathbf{B}_* = \{\mathbf{M} \mid \|\mathbf{M}\|_* \leq 1\}$$

is a cylinder in $\mathbb{R}^3$. The two circles at both ends of the cylinder correspond to matrices of rank 1.



(a)



(b)

Rank-RIP

Definition (Rank-Restricted Isometry Property)

The operator $\mathcal{A}$ has the rank-restricted isometry property of rank r with constant δ , if $\forall \mathbf{X}$'s that satisfy $\text{rank}(\mathbf{X}) \leq r$, we have

$$(1 - \delta)\|\mathbf{X}\|_F^2 \leq \|\mathcal{A}[\mathbf{X}]\|_2^2 \leq (1 + \delta)\|\mathbf{X}\|_F^2. \quad (16)$$

The rank- r restricted isometry constant $\delta_r(\mathcal{A})$ is the smallest δ such that the above property holds.

Theorem (Uniqueness)

If $\mathbf{y} = \mathcal{A}[\mathbf{X}_o]$, with $r = \text{rank}(\mathbf{X}_o)$ and $\delta_{2r}(\mathcal{A}) < 1$, then $\mathbf{X}_o$ is the unique optimal solution to the rank minimization problem

$$\min \text{rank}(\mathbf{X}) \quad \text{subject to} \quad \mathcal{A}[\mathbf{X}] = \mathbf{y}. \quad (17)$$

Rank-RIP for Nuclear Norm Minimization

Theorem (Nuclear Norm Minimization Success)

Suppose that $\mathbf{y} = \mathcal{A}[\mathbf{X}_o]$ with $\text{rank}(\mathbf{X}_o) \leq r$, and that $\delta_{4r}(\mathcal{A}) \leq \sqrt{2} - 1$. Then $\mathbf{X}_o$ is the unique optimal solution to the nuclear norm minimization problem

$$\min \|\mathbf{X}\|_* \quad \text{subject to} \quad \mathcal{A}[\mathbf{X}] = \mathbf{y}. \quad (18)$$

Let $\mathbf{X}_o = \mathbf{U}\mathbf{\Sigma}\mathbf{V}^*$ be the SVD of the true solution $\mathbf{X}_o$.

“Support” of $\mathbf{X}_o$ (compared to $\mathbf{I}$ of $\mathbf{x}_o$):

$$\mathbb{T} \doteq \{\mathbf{U}\mathbf{R}^* + \mathbf{Q}\mathbf{V}^* \mid \mathbf{R} \in \mathbb{R}^{n_2 \times r}, \mathbf{Q} \in \mathbb{R}^{n_1 \times r}\} \subseteq \mathbb{R}^{n_1 \times n_2}. \quad (19)$$

“Sign” of $\mathbf{X}_o$ (compared to σ of $\mathbf{x}_o$):

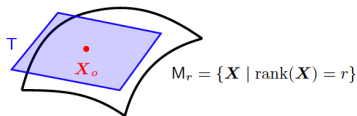
$\mathbf{U}\mathbf{V}^*$ plays the role of the “signs” of $\mathbf{X}_o$ since $\mathbf{U}\mathbf{V}^* \in \mathbb{T}$ and

$$\langle \mathbf{X}_o, \mathbf{U}\mathbf{V}^* \rangle = \|\mathbf{X}_o\|_*. \quad (20)$$

Rank-RIP for Nuclear Norm Minimization

Proof Ideas: very similar to certifying optimality of $\mathbf{x}_o$ for the ℓ^1 minimization.

Let $\hat{\mathbf{X}} = \mathbf{X}_o + \mathbf{H}$ be any optimal solution to our problem (18). Then $\mathbf{H} = \hat{\mathbf{X}} - \mathbf{X}_o \in \text{null}(\mathcal{A})$ must satisfy the following **cone restriction**:



$$\|\mathcal{P}_{T^\perp}[\mathbf{H}]\|_* \leq \|\mathcal{P}_T[\mathbf{H}]\|_* . \quad (21)$$

Rank-RIP for Nuclear Norm Minimization

Definition (Matrix Restricted Strong Convexity)

The linear operator $\mathcal{A}$ satisfies the matrix *restricted strong convexity* (RSC) condition of rank r with constant α if for the support T of every matrix of rank r and for all nonzero $\mathbf{H}$ satisfying

$$\|\mathcal{P}_{T^\perp}[\mathbf{H}]\|_* \leq \alpha \cdot \|\mathcal{P}_T[\mathbf{H}]\|_*, \quad (22)$$

with some constant $\alpha \geq 1$, we have

$$\|\mathcal{A}[\mathbf{H}]\|_2^2 > \mu \cdot \|\mathbf{H}\|_F^2, \quad \text{for some } \mu > 0. \quad (23)$$

Rank-RIP for Nuclear Norm Minimization

Theorem (Rank-RIP Implies Matrix RSC)

If a linear operator $\mathcal{A}$ satisfies rank-RIP with $\delta_{4r} < \frac{1}{1+\alpha\sqrt{2}}$, then $\mathcal{A}$ satisfies the matrix-RSC condition of rank r with constant α .

Theorem (Rank-RIP of Gaussian Measurements)

If the measurement operator $\mathcal{A}$ is a random Gaussian map with entries i.i.d. $\mathcal{N}(0, \frac{1}{m})$, then $\mathcal{A}$ satisfies the rank-RIP with constant $\delta_r(\mathcal{A}) \leq \delta$ with high probability, provided $m \geq Cr(n_1 + n_2) \times \delta^{-2} \log \delta^{-1}$, where $C > 0$ is a numerical constant.

Proofs precisely emulate those of ℓ^1 minimization for sparsity!

Matrices with Rank-RIP

Theorem

Let us assume $\{U_1, U_2, \dots, U_n\} \subset \mathbb{C}^{n \times n}$ be a unitary basis for the matrix space $\mathbb{C}^{n \times n}$ and with $\|U_i\| \leq \zeta/\sqrt{n}$ for some constant ζ . Let $\mathcal{A}$ consists of m randomly selected $A_i = \frac{n}{\sqrt{m}}U_i$. Then if

$$m \geq C\zeta^2 \cdot rn \log^6 n, \quad (24)$$

then w.h.p., $\mathcal{A}$ satisfies the rank-RIP over the set of all rank- r matrices.

Example: Pauli observables of quantum states.

$U_i = P_1 \otimes \dots \otimes P_k$ where $\otimes$ is the tensor (Kronecker) product and each $P_i = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\sigma$ where σ is a 2×2 matrix of the four possibilities:

$$\sigma_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \sigma_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \sigma_3 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -i \\ i & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \sigma_4 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Noisy Measurements - Worst Case

Theorem (Stable Low-rank Recovery via BPDN)

Suppose that $\mathbf{y} = \mathcal{A}[\mathbf{X}_o] + \mathbf{z}$, with $\|\mathbf{z}\|_2 \leq \epsilon$, and let $\text{rank}(\mathbf{X}_o) = r$. If $\delta_{4r}(\mathcal{A}) < \sqrt{2} - 1$, then any solution $\hat{\mathbf{X}}$ to the optimization problem

$$\min \|\mathbf{X}\|_* \quad \text{subject to} \quad \|\mathcal{A}[\mathbf{X}] - \mathbf{y}\|_2 \leq \epsilon. \quad (25)$$

satisfies

$$\|\hat{\mathbf{X}} - \mathbf{X}_o\|_F \leq C\epsilon \quad (26)$$

for some numerical constant $C > 0$.

Noisy Measurements - High Probability

Theorem (Stable Low-rank Recovery via Lasso)

Suppose that $\mathcal{A} \sim_{iid} \mathcal{N}(0, \frac{1}{m})$, and $\mathbf{y} = \mathcal{A}[\mathbf{X}_o] + \mathbf{z}$, with $\mathbf{X}_o$ of rank r and $\mathbf{z} \sim_{iid} \mathcal{N}(0, \frac{\sigma^2}{m})$. Solve the matrix Lasso

$$\min \frac{1}{2} \|\mathbf{y} - \mathcal{A}[\mathbf{X}]\|_2^2 + \lambda_m \|\mathbf{X}\|_*, \quad (27)$$

with regularization parameter $\lambda_m = c \cdot 2\sigma \sqrt{\frac{(n_1+n_2)}{m}}$ for a large enough c . Then with high probability,

$$\|\hat{\mathbf{X}} - \mathbf{X}_o\|_F \leq C' \sigma \sqrt{\frac{r(n_1 + n_2)}{m}}. \quad (28)$$

Inexact Low Rank

Theorem (Inexact Low-rank Recovery)

Let $\mathbf{y} = \mathcal{A}[\mathbf{X}_o] + \mathbf{z}$, with $\|\mathbf{z}\|_2 \leq \epsilon$. Let $\hat{\mathbf{X}}$ solve the denoising problem

$$\min \|\mathbf{X}\|_* \quad \text{subject to} \quad \|\mathbf{y} - \mathcal{A}[\mathbf{X}]\|_2 \leq \epsilon. \quad (29)$$

Then for any r such that $\delta_{4r}(\mathbf{A}) < \sqrt{2} - 1$,

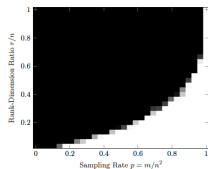
$$\left\| \hat{\mathbf{X}} - \mathbf{X}_o \right\|_2 \leq C \frac{\|\mathbf{X}_o - [\mathbf{X}_o]_r\|_*}{\sqrt{r}} + C' \epsilon \quad (30)$$

for some constants C and C' .

Phase Transition

Let D be the descent cone of the nuclear norm at $\mathbf{X}_o \in \mathbb{R}^{n_1 \times n_2}$ of rank r :

$$D \doteq \{\mathbf{H} \mid \|\mathbf{X}_o + \mathbf{H}\|_* \leq \|\mathbf{X}_o\|_*\}. \quad (31)$$



Theorem (Phase Transition in Low-rank Recovery)

Let $\mathbf{G}$ be an $(n_1 - r) \times (n_2 - r)$ matrix with entries i.i.d. $\mathcal{N}(0, 1)$. Set

$$\psi(n_1, n_2, r) = \inf_{\tau \geq 0} \{r(n_1 + n_2 - r + \tau^2) + \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{G}} [\|\mathcal{D}_\tau[\mathbf{G}]\|_F^2]\}. \quad (32)$$

Then there is a phase transition at $m^* = \delta(D)$:

$$\psi(n_1, n_2, r) - 2\sqrt{n_2/r} \leq \delta(D) \leq \psi(n_1, n_2, r). \quad (33)$$

Summary

Parallel developments for sparse vectors and low-rank matrices.

Sparse v.s. Low-rank	Sparse Vector	Low-rank Matrix
Low-dimensionality of	individual signal $\mathbf{x}$	a set of signals $\mathbf{X}$
Compressive sensing	$\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}$	$\mathbf{Y} = \mathcal{A}(\mathbf{X})$
Low-dim measure	ℓ^0 norm $\ \mathbf{x}\ _0$	$\text{rank}(\mathbf{X})$
Convex surrogate	ℓ^1 norm $\ \mathbf{x}\ _1$	nuclear norm $\ \mathbf{X}\ _*$
Success conditions (RIP)	$\delta_{2k}(\mathbf{A}) \geq \sqrt{2} - 1$	$\delta_{4r}(\mathbf{A}) \geq \sqrt{2} - 1$
Random measurements	$m = O(k \log(n/k))$	$m = O(nr)$
Stable/Inexact recovery	$\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{z}$	$\mathbf{Y} = \mathcal{A}(\mathbf{X}) + \mathbf{Z}$
Phase transition at	Stat. dim. of descent cone: $m^* = \delta(\mathbf{D})$	

Assignments

- Reading: Sections 4.1-4.3 of Chapter 4.
- Programming Homework # 2.