On Subspaces and Missing Data

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We have lots of data



And we want to analyze it.

That's all very nice, but... often data is missing!

• Example: Vision.



Image: Hopkins 155 Dataset

Often data is missing!

Other example: Network topology estimation



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Other example: Network topology estimation



Often data is missing!

Other example: Network topology estimation



Often data is missing!

Other example: Drug-target interactions





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What am I telling you?



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How?

Data is often well-modeled by linear subspaces.

Linear Algebra is one of our favorite tools.





How?

Data is often well-modeled by linear subspaces.

- Linear Algebra is one of our favorite tools.
- We want to extend linear algebra to incomplete datasets.

 $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 4 & 1 & 3 & 3 & 1 & 2 & 1 & 2 & 1 \\ 2 & 4 & 2 & 6 & 3 & 2 & 2 & 2 & 4 & 1 \\ 3 & 4 & 3 & 9 & 3 & 3 & 2 & 3 & 6 & 1 \\ 1 & 8 & 1 & 3 & 6 & 1 & 4 & 1 & 2 & 2 \\ 2 & 8 & 2 & 6 & 6 & 2 & 4 & 2 & 4 & 2 \\ 3 & 8 & 3 & 9 & 6 & 3 & 4 & 3 & 6 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$



What am I telling you?



Low-Rank Matrix Completion:

 Given a subset of entries in a rank-r matrix, exactly recover all of the missing entries.

$$\mathbf{X}_{\mathbf{\Omega}} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & \cdot & 3 & \cdot \\ 1 & 2 & \cdot & \cdot \\ \cdot & 2 & 3 & \cdot \\ \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & 4 \\ \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & 4 \end{bmatrix} \qquad \qquad \Rightarrow \qquad \mathbf{X} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 \\ 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 \\ 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 \\ 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 \\ 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 \end{bmatrix}$$

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 \blacktriangleright \sim Identifying the subspace spanned by the columns, $S^{\star}.$ Here

$$S^{\star} = \operatorname{span} \begin{bmatrix} 1\\1\\1\\1\\1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Notation

Ω will indicate the observed entries:

$$\mathbf{X}_{\mathbf{\Omega}} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & \cdot & 3 & \cdot \\ 1 & 2 & \cdot & \cdot \\ \cdot & 2 & 3 & \cdot \\ \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & 4 \\ \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & 4 \end{bmatrix} \qquad \qquad \mathbf{\Omega} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Existing theory (e.g. Candès and Recht, '09):

• Under some conditions on Ω (e.g., uniform sampling):

If the columns of \mathbf{X} lie in an r-dimensional subspace $S^* \\ \Downarrow \\ S^*$ is the only r-dimensional subspace that agrees with \mathbf{X}_{Ω} .

Existing theory (e.g. Candès and Recht, '09):

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In practice, we hardly ever know whether our matrix lies in a subspace.



We need to turn things around:

- Say I have an incomplete matrix X_{Ω} .
- Say I find an *r*-dimensional subspace S that agrees with $\mathbf{X}_{\mathbf{\Omega}}$.
- ▶ Is X truly in S?



We need a converse to LRMC:

• Under some conditions on Ω :

If there is an r-dimensional subspace S that agrees with \mathbf{X}_{Ω} $\underset{\mathsf{V}}{\Downarrow}$ The columns of \mathbf{X} truly lie in S.



















(Pretty bad secondary effect!)

So, is there really a subspace?

- \blacktriangleright We needed to know when will a set X_Ω of incomplete vectors define a subspace.
- What are the conditions on Ω?
What am I telling you?



What am I telling you?



Notation

• For any matrix Ω' formed with a subset of the columns in Ω :

$$\Omega' = \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}}_{n(\Omega') := \# \text{columns}} \operatorname{m}(\Omega') := \# \text{nonzero rows}$$

- Assume without loss of generality:
 - Ω has r+1 nonzero entries per column.
 - Ω has r(d-r) columns.

Technical detail (so there are no secrets between us):

$$\mathbf{X} = \underbrace{\mathbf{U}^{\star}}_{d imes k} \underbrace{\mathbf{\Theta}^{\star}}_{k imes N}.$$

- $\nu_{\rm G} = {\sf Uniform\ measure\ on\ } {\rm Gr}(k, \mathbb{R}^d).$
- ν_{Θ} = Lebesgue measure on $\mathbb{R}^{k \times N}$.
- Our results hold almost surely w.r.t. product measure $\nu_G \times \nu_{\Theta}$.

Theorem (P.-A., Boston, Nowak (Allerton '15)) For almost every \mathbf{X} , at most finitely many *r*-dimensional subspaces can agree with \mathbf{X}_{Ω} if and only if every matrix Ω' formed with a subset of the columns in Ω satisfies

$$m(\mathbf{\Omega}') \geq n(\mathbf{\Omega}')/r + r.$$

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$$\mathbf{X}_{\mathbf{\Omega}} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & \cdot & 3 & \cdot \\ 1 & 2 & \cdot & \cdot \\ \cdot & 2 & 3 & \cdot \\ \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & 4 \\ \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & 4 \end{bmatrix} \qquad \qquad \mathbf{X}_{\mathbf{\Omega}} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot \\ 1 & 2 & \cdot & \cdot \\ \cdot & 2 & 3 & \cdot \\ \cdot & \cdot & 3 & 4 \\ \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & 4 \end{bmatrix}$$

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$$\mathbf{X}_{\Omega} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & \cdot & 3 & \cdot \\ 1 & 2 & \cdot & \cdot \\ \cdot & 2 & 3 & \cdot \\ \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & 4 \\ \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & 4 \end{bmatrix} \qquad \qquad \mathbf{X}_{\Omega} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot \\ 1 & 2 & \cdot & \cdot \\ \cdot & 2 & 3 & \cdot \\ \cdot & 2 & 3 & \cdot \\ \cdot & \cdot & 3 & 4 \\ \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & 4 \end{bmatrix}$$
$$\underbrace{m(\Omega')}_{3} \not\geq \underbrace{n(\Omega')/r + r}_{4} \qquad \qquad \underbrace{m(\Omega')}_{4} \ge \underbrace{n(\Omega')/r + r}_{4}$$

For almost every \mathbf{X} , at most finitely many *r*-dimensional subspaces can agree with X_{Ω} if and only if every matrix Ω' formed with a subset of the columns in Ω satisfies

 $m(\mathbf{\Omega}') \geq n(\mathbf{\Omega}')/r + r.$

There is a set of measure zero of bad matrices for which this theorem does not apply.

$$\mathbf{X} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \qquad \qquad \mathbf{X}_{\mathbf{\Omega}} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & \cdot & \cdot \\ 0 & 0 & \cdot \\ \cdot & 0 & 0 \\ \cdot & \cdot & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

For almost every X, at most finitely many *r*-dimensional subspaces can agree with X_{Ω} if and only if every matrix Ω' formed with a subset of the columns in Ω satisfies

```
m(\mathbf{\Omega}') \geq n(\mathbf{\Omega}')/r + r.
```

This is the answer!

Every subset of n columns of Ω has at least n/r + r nonzero rows.

$$\mathbf{\Omega} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \qquad \Rightarrow \ \mathsf{Check:} \ \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Now we know when there are at most finitely many completions.

- ► Then what?
- Just a few additional entries give us the converse we were looking for.

Theorem (P.-A., Boston, Nowak (Allerton '15)) Suppose \mathbf{X}_{Ω} has an additional (d-r) columns observed on $\hat{\Omega}$, such that every matrix Ω' formed with a subset of the columns in $\hat{\Omega}$ satisfies

 $m(\mathbf{\Omega}') \geq n(\mathbf{\Omega}') + r.$

If there is an r-dimensional subspace S that agrees with \mathbf{X}_{Ω} \Downarrow The columns of \mathbf{X} truly lie in S.

What am I telling you?



A column with r+1 samples imposes one restriction on what S^{\star} may be.



More precisely:

Take a basis of S:

$$S = \operatorname{span}\left[\underbrace{\mathbf{U}}_{r}\right] \left\} d.$$

• Then $\mathbf{x}_{\boldsymbol{\omega}_i} \in S$ is equivalent to:

$$r+1\left\{\left[\mathbf{x}_{\boldsymbol{\omega}_{i}}\right]=\left[\mathbf{U}_{\boldsymbol{\omega}_{i}}\right]\boldsymbol{\theta}_{i}.\right.$$

We can split this as:

$$r\left\{ \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{x}_{\Delta_i} \\ \vdots \\ \mathbf{x}_{\nabla_i} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{U}_{\Delta_i} \\ \vdots \\ \mathbf{U}_{\nabla_i} \end{bmatrix} \boldsymbol{\theta}_i.$$

• We can use the top block to solve for θ_i :

$$\boldsymbol{\theta}_i = \mathbf{U}_{\boldsymbol{\Delta}_i}^{-1} \mathbf{x}_{\boldsymbol{\Delta}_i}.$$

Plug this in the last row:

$$\mathbf{x}_{\nabla_i} = \mathbf{U}_{\nabla_i} \mathbf{U}_{\Delta_i}^{-1} \mathbf{x}_{\Delta_i}.$$

Or equivalently

$$\underbrace{\mathbf{x}_{\nabla_i} - \mathbf{U}_{\nabla_i} \mathbf{U}_{\Delta_i}^{-1} \mathbf{x}_{\Delta_i}}_{f_i(\mathbf{U}_{\omega_i} | \mathbf{x}_{\omega_i})} = 0.$$

An other column with r + 1 samples imposes an other restriction.



• A subspace S agrees with $\mathbf{x}_{\boldsymbol{\omega}_2} \iff f_2(\mathbf{U}_{\boldsymbol{\omega}_2}|\mathbf{x}_{\boldsymbol{\omega}_2}) = 0$.

Each column with r + 1 samples imposes one restriction.



We thus obtain a set of polynomials:

 $f_1, f_2, \ldots, f_N.$

• U has r(d-r) degrees of freedom:

$$\mathbf{U} = \left[\begin{array}{c} \mathbf{I} \\ \mathbf{V} \end{array} \right] \begin{cases} r \\ d - r. \end{cases}$$

• We want r(d-r) algebraically independent polynomials.

Recall:

$$\Omega' = \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}}_{n(\Omega') := \# \text{columns}} \operatorname{and}_{n(\Omega') := \# \text{columns}}$$

- ► f_i(U_{ωi}|x_{ωi}) only involves the variables corresponding to the nonzero rows of ω_i.
- $\mathfrak{F}'(\mathbf{U}_{\Omega'}|\mathbf{X}_{\Omega'}) =$ subset of polynomials corresponding to Ω' :
 - $n(\Omega')$ polynomials.
 - $r(m(\Omega') r)$ variables.

$$\mathbf{U} = \left[\frac{\mathbf{I}}{\mathbf{V}} \right] \begin{cases} r \\ m(\mathbf{\Omega}') - r \end{cases}$$

 $\underbrace{n(\mathbf{\Omega}')}_{} > \underbrace{r(m(\mathbf{\Omega}') - r)}_{}$ unknowns equations

- \Rightarrow Polynomials are dependent.
 - (That is the easy direction)

Our results hold a.s. w.r.t.



▶ ∃ Bijection between dense open subset of $Gr(k, \mathbb{R}^d)$ and $\mathbb{R}^{(d-k) \times k}$ via

$$S = \operatorname{span} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{I} \\ \mathbf{V} \end{bmatrix} \frac{k}{d - k}$$

Our results hold a.s. w.r.t.



Recall:

$$\mathbf{X} = \mathbf{U}^{\star} \mathbf{\Theta}^{\star} = \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{I} \\ \mathbf{V}^{\star} \\ d \times k \end{bmatrix}}_{d \times k} \underbrace{\mathbf{\Theta}^{\star}}_{k \times N}$$

$$\Rightarrow \ \mathfrak{F}'(\mathbf{U}_{\Omega'}|\mathbf{X}_{\Omega'}) = \mathfrak{F}'(\mathbf{U}_{\Omega'}|\mathbf{V}^{\star}_{\Omega'}, \Theta^{\star}).$$

• The elements of $\mathbf{V}^{\star}_{\Omega'}, \Theta^{\star}$ are *generic* real numbers.



 \Rightarrow Polynomials are a algebraically independent.



 \Rightarrow Polynomials are a algebraically independent.

After this, deep algebraic geometry results do the heavy lifting:

- \Rightarrow Polynomials are a regular sequence.
- \Rightarrow Polynomials define a zero-dimensional variety.
- $\Rightarrow\,$ At most finitely many solutions (subspaces) will agree with ${\bf X}_{\Omega}.$

▶ How do we know X truly lies in S?



We need a few additional *checksum* polynomials (consistency check):



Full-data case:

- ► How can I know if X truly lies in S?
- With one generic column (consistency check):

What do I mean generic?



Full-data case:

- How can I know if X truly lies in S?
- With one generic column (consistency check):





Missing-data case:

Something similar:

$$\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{x}_{\boldsymbol{\omega}} \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ \cdot \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\mathbf{x}_{\boldsymbol{\omega}} \in S \iff S_{\boldsymbol{\omega}} = S_{\boldsymbol{\omega}}^{\star}.$$



So the question is:

- If $S_{\boldsymbol{\omega}_i} = S_{\boldsymbol{\omega}_i}^{\star}$ for every i...
- ► Can we guarantee that S = S^{*}?



Suppose I don't tell you $S^*...$ but I give you a set of canonical projections of $S^*.$



Suppose I don't tell you $S^\star...$ but I give you a set of canonical projections of $S^\star.$



Can you uniquely determine S^{\star} from this set of projections?

Well... sometimes you can, sometimes you can't.



We characterized when you can, and when you can't.

The columns of $\hat{\Omega}$ will index the given projections.

Assume without loss of generality:

- $\hat{\Omega}$ has r+1 nonzero entries per column.
- $\hat{\mathbf{\Omega}}$ has d r + 1 columns.

Theorem (P.-A., Boston, Nowak, ISIT '15)

For almost every S^* , S^* is the only subspace that agrees with the given projections if every matrix Ω' formed with a proper subset of the columns in $\hat{\Omega}$ satisfies

$$m(\mathbf{\Omega}') \geq n(\mathbf{\Omega}') + r.$$
What am I telling you?



If a matrix does not satisfy our sampling conditions, then you cannot find its subspace.

$$\mathbf{X}_{\Omega} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & \cdot & 3 & \cdot \\ 1 & 2 & \cdot & \cdot \\ \cdot & 2 & 3 & \cdot \\ \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & 4 \\ \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & 4 \end{bmatrix}$$



The Answer in Words

If a matrix satisfies our sampling conditions, then you can find its subspace up to finite choice.

$$\mathbf{X}_{\mathbf{\Omega}} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 3 & \cdot \\ 1 & 2 & \cdot & 1 \\ 3 & \cdot & 5 & 4 \\ \cdot & 7 & 6 & 5 \end{bmatrix}$$

Sometimes finite choice = unique choice (e.g., rank= 1), but sometimes not.

The Answer in Words

With just a few additional samples we can make sure that

- **X** really is in an subspace.
- > You found the right subspace.

$$\mathbf{X}_{\mathbf{\Omega}} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 3 & \cdot & -1 & 1 \\ 1 & 2 & \cdot & 1 & \cdot & -1 \\ 3 & \cdot & 5 & 4 & 3 & \cdot \\ \cdot & 7 & 6 & 5 & 5 & -2 \end{bmatrix}$$



The Big Picture



What am I telling you?



Implications on LRMC

P.-A., Boston, Nowak (Allerton '15):

- ► For almost every matrix, O(max{r, log d}) uniform random entries per column are sufficient for completion.
- Regardless of coherence! (at least theoretically)

Implications on LRMC

- P.-A., Boston, Nowak (Allerton '15):
 - ► For almost every matrix, O(max{r, log d}) uniform random entries per column are sufficient for completion.
- Regardless of coherence! (at least theoretically)
- But coherence seems to come at a price in practice



Validation criteria:

- Suppose you observe the right entries.
- Try to complete the matrix using any method.
- ▶ If you find a rank-*r* completion, then it is the right completion.
- ► In lieu of coherence assumptions.
- In lieu of uniform sampling assumptions.
- With probability 1 (as opposed to *with high probability*).

Implications

- Our results tell us exactly which entries to observe.
 - We can now design Adaptive LRMC Algorithms.

Implications

Help answer an important open question:

 The Sample Complexity of Subspace Clustering with Missing Data.







Samples per column







Long Story Short





Conclusions

Now we know:



This has important implications on:

- LRMC.
- SCMD.
- Adaptive strategies
- Related problems.

