Finance Data Science
Lecture 5: Generalized Low-Rank Models

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Notes

Outline

Motivation

Extending PCA
- Overview of GLRMs
- PCA and variants
- Abstract data types

Missing Entries
- Matrix completion problem
- Basic matrix completion
- Advanced models

Summary and References

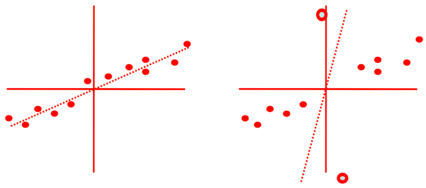
Notes

Motivation

PCA has many restrictions, including

- it works only on fully known matrix (no missing entries);
- it cannot handle different data types, such as Boolean, categorical, non-negative, etc;
- it is very sensitive to outliers.

Gross errors of even one/few points can completely throw off PCA



Reason: Classical PCA minimizes ℓ_2 error, which is susceptible to gross outliers

PCA can be very sensitive to outliers. This is an artefact due to the squared ℓ_2-norm (variance) being the basic metric used.

Notes

In this lecture

- describe a generalization of the low-rank idea, to more general data sets, loss functions, and penalties.
- examine how the approach can handle missing data.

Finance Data Science
5. Generalized Low-Rank
MFE 230P, Summer 2017
Motivation
GLRMs
Overview
PCA and variants
Abstract data types
Missing Entries
Matrix completion problem
Basic matrix completion
Advanced models
Summary and References

Notes

Low-rank models and alternate minimization

For $X \in \mathbf{R}^{p\times m}$, ordinary rank-$k$ model solves

$$\min_{L,R} \|X - LR^T\|_F \ : \ L \in \mathbf{R}^{p\times k}, \ \ R \in \mathbf{R}^{m\times k},$$

by minimization over L, R alternatively. This is essentially PCA, if wwe work with a column-centered data matrix.

Note that $(LR^T)_{ij} = l_i^T r_j$, where

$$L = \begin{pmatrix} l_1^T \\ \vdots \\ l_p^T \end{pmatrix}, \quad R = \begin{pmatrix} r_1^T \\ \vdots \\ r_m^T \end{pmatrix},$$

Thus we can write the above problem as

$$\min_{L,R} \sum_{i,j} \mathcal{L}(X_{ij}, l_i^T r_j) \ : \ l_i \in \mathbf{R}^k, \ \ i = 1,\ldots,p, \ \ r_j \in \mathbf{R}^k, \ \ j = 1,\ldots,m,$$

with $\mathcal{L}(a,b) = (a-b)^2$.

Motivation
GLRMs
Overview
PCA and variants
Abstract data types
Missing Entries
Matrix completion problem
Basic matrix completion
Advanced models
Summary and References

Notes

Generalization

Generalized low-rank model [2] solves

$$\min_{L,R} \sum_{i,j} \mathcal{L}(X_{ij}, l_i^T r_j) + \sum_i p_i(l_i) + \sum_j q_j(r_j),$$

where $\mathcal{L}$ is convex, and functions p_i, q_j are convex penalties.

- The problem is not convex—but it is with respect to X, R (resp. X, L) when L (resp. R) is fixed.
- We can solve the problem by alternative minimization over L, R.
- In most cases, there is no guarantee of convergence to a global minimum.
- Playing with different losses and penalties we can model a lot of useful situations.

Finance Data Science
5. Generalized Low-Rank
MFE 230P, Summer 2017

Motivation
GLRMs
Overview
PCA and variants
Abstract data types
Missing Entries
Matrix completion problem
Basic matrix completion
Advanced models
Summary and References

Notes

Convex model

An alternative to the alternating minimization method is based on the following idea:

> *In order to minimize the rank of a matrix, we may try to minimize the sum of the singular values.*

This leads to a convex model of the form

$$\min_{L,R} \sum_{i,j} \mathcal{L}(X_{ij}, Z_{ij}) + \lambda \|Z\|_*,$$

where $\|Z\|_*$ is the nuclear norm (sum of the singular values.

Although convex, the problem is challenging due to its size; in practice, alternative minimization is a very good heuristic (when squared regularization is included). For many finance application, the data size is not too big, and the convex model is a reliable alternative.

Notes

Regularized PCA

In regularized PCA we solve the problem

$$\min_{L,R} \|X - LR^T\|_F^2 + \gamma \left(\|L\|_F^2 + \|R\|_F^2 \right) \; : \; L \in \mathbf{R}^{p \times k}, \;\; R \in \mathbf{R}^{m \times k},$$

with $\gamma 0$ a regularization parameter.

Closed-form solution: Given the SVD of $X = U \Sigma V^T$, we set

$$\tilde{\Sigma}_{ii} = \max(0, \Sigma_{ii} - \gamma)), \;\; i = 1, \ldots, k$$

and $L = U_k \tilde{\Sigma}^{1/2}$, $R = V_k \tilde{\Sigma}^{1/2}$, with U_k, V_k the first k columns in U, V.

Interpretation: we truncate and threshold the singular values.

Finance Data Science
5. Generalized Low-Rank
MFE 230P, Summer 2017
Motivation
GLRMs
Overview
PCA and variants
Abstract data types
Missing Entries
Matrix completion problem
Basic matrix completion
Advanced models
Summary and References

Notes

Robust PCA

In robust PCA we seek to decompose the input data matrix X into a sum of a sparse and a low-rank component:

$$X = LR^T + S, \quad L \in \mathbf{R}^{n \times k}, \quad R \in \mathbf{R}^{m \times k}, \quad S \text{ sparse.}$$

We can model this with

$$\mathcal{L}(a, b) = |a - b|,$$

leading to

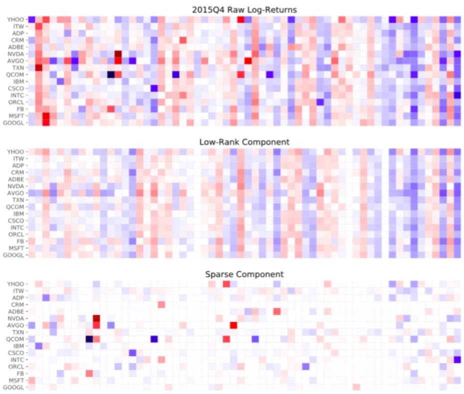
$$\min_{L,R} \sum_{i,j} |X_{ij} - l_i^T r_j| = \|X - LR^T\|_1,$$

where $\|Z\|_1$ is the sum of the absolute values of the entries of matrix Z.

The l_1-norm is chosen as a heuristic to make the matrix in the norm sparse.

Notes

Example



Data: 2015 Q4 raw log-returns for a number of tech companies. For an example in video, see https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BTrbow8u4Cw

Finance Data Science
5. Generalized Low-Rank
MFE 230P, Summer 2017

Motivation
GLRMs
Overview
PCA and variants
Abstract data types
Missing Entries
Matrix completion problem
Basic matrix completion
Advanced models
Summary and References

Notes

Sparse PCA

In sparse PCA we seek to approximate a matrix by a low-rank one, each factor being sparse:

$$X = LR^T, \text{ wth } L, R \text{ sparse.}$$

We can model this with

$$\mathcal{L}(a, b) = |a - b|,$$

leading to

$$\min_{L,R} \sum_{i,j} (X_{ij} - l_i^T r_j)^2 + \|L\|_1 + \|R\|_1.$$

Again the l_1-norm is chosen as a heuristic to make the matrix in the norm sparse.

Notes

Non-negative matrix factorization

Non-negative matrix factorization (NNMF) is a variant on PCA where the factors are required to be non-negative:

$$X = LR^T, \text{ with } L \geq 0, \quad R \geq 0,$$

with inequalities understood component-wise. This problem arises when the data matrix is itself non-negative.

We can model this with

$$\min_{L,R} \sum_{i,j} (X_{ij} - l_i^T r_j)^2 \; : \; L \geq 0, \quad R \geq 0,$$

corresponding to penalties p_i, q_j all chosen to be equal to

$$p(z) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } z \geq 0 \\ +\infty & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Finance Data Science
5. Generalized Low-Rank
MFE 230P, Summer 2017
Motivation
GLRMs
Overview
PCA and variants
Abstract data types
Missing Entries
Matrix completion problem
Basic matrix completion
Advanced models
Summary and References

Notes

Boolean data

Sometimes entries in the data are Boolean, that is, $X_{ij} \in \{0, 1\}$. We can model these entries with

$$\mathcal{L}(a, u) = \max(0, 1 - au) = (1 - au)_+.$$

For example, if $X \in \{0, 1\}^{n \times m}$ is entirely Boolean, we obtain

$$\min_{L,R} \sum_{i,j} (1 - X_{ij} l_i^T r_j)_+.$$

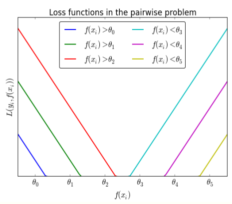
Notes

Categorical data

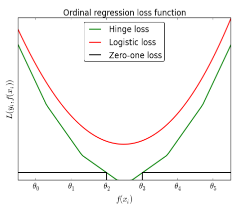
In ordinal PCA we wish to handle data that is categorical, for example stars in ratings, or

Strong Buy, Buy, Hold, Underperform or Sell

We encode all these in a set of thresholds θ_i, $i = 1, \ldots, K-1$, with K the number of categories; say $\theta_i = i$, $i = 1, \ldots, K$. Each level corresponds to one part of the loss function; the overall loss is a sum of all of these.



Loss functions for each level.



Combining loss functions.

Notes

Categorical data: model

We can model categorical data with

$$\mathcal{L}(a, u) = \sum_{b=1}^{a-1}(1 - u + b)_+ + \sum_{b=a+1}(1 + u - b)_+.$$

Note: This approach assumes that every increment of error is equally bad: for example, that approximating"Strong Buy" by "Buy" is just as bad as approximating "Buy" by "Hold". There is a more flexible approach to this [2].

Notes

Matrix completion problem

Matrix completion is the problem of filling unknown entries of a partially known matrix.

The classical assumption is that the completion should be made so that the completed matrix has the lowest rank prossible.

Finance Data Science
5. Generalized Low-Rank
MFE 230P, Summer 2017
Motivation
GLRMs
Overview
PCA and variants
Abstract data types
Missing Entries
Matrix completion problem
Basic matrix completion
Advanced models
Summary and References

Notes

PCA-based completion

Basic approach based on regularized PCA:

$$\min_{L,R,X\in\mathcal{X}} \|X - LR^T\|_F^2 + \gamma\left(\|L\|_F^2 + \|R\|_F^2\right) \ : \ L \in \mathbf{R}^{n\times k}, \ \ R \in \mathbf{R}^{m\times k},$$

with X a variable, and $\mathcal{X}$ the set of $n \times m$ matrices that have the required given entries.

- Alternating minimization works the same! Just add missing entries in X as variables.
- Some theoretical results show that if missing entries' locations are randomly distributed, convergence to the global minimum is guaranteed [1].
- In practice, for this to work, missing entries should not follow a clear pattern (*e.g.*, they should not all be located at the bottom in a time-series matrix).

Notes

Categorical data

With categorical data the filled entries should belong tto the category. To do this, we use

$$\hat{X}_{ij} = \arg\min_a \ L_{ij}(a, l_i^T r_j),$$

with L, R the final values delivered by the algorithm.

For example, with Boolean data, $X_{ij} \in \{0, 1\}$, and we have

$$L_{ij}(a, u) = \max(au - 1, 0),$$

so that

$$\hat{X}_{ij} = \arg\min_a \ \max(0, al_i^T r_j - 1).$$

Notes

Summary

- Generalized low-rank models offer a very flexible way to model data.
- It is always based on the key low-rank assumption, and generalizes standard PCA in many directions.
- In general, GLRMs are not convex, and convergence is not guaranteed.
- It is always a good idea to add a squared penalty to the loss function.

Notes

References

Finance Data Science
5. Generalized Low-Rank

MFE 230P, Summer 2017

Motivation

GLRMs
Overview
PCA and variants
Abstract data types

Missing Entries
Matrix completion problem
Basic matrix completion
Advanced models

Summary and References

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