

Solution to Problem 1.

(a)

- i A vector $\mathbf{v} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ is an eigenvector of \mathbf{M} if $\mathbf{M}\mathbf{v} = \lambda\mathbf{v}$ where $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$ is the corresponding eigenvalue. [1]
- ii The i^{th} eigenvector and eigenvalue of $\mathbf{B} = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{A}^T$ are given by \mathbf{u}_i and σ_i^2 respectively. This can be justified by

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{B}\mathbf{u}_i &= \mathbf{A}\mathbf{A}^T\mathbf{u}_i = \mathbf{U}\Sigma\mathbf{V}^T\mathbf{V}\Sigma^T\mathbf{U}^T\mathbf{u}_i \\ &= \mathbf{U}\Sigma\Sigma^T\mathbf{U}^T\mathbf{u}_i = \mathbf{U}\Sigma\Sigma^T\mathbf{e}_i \\ &= \sigma_i^2\mathbf{U}\mathbf{e}_i = \sigma_i^2\mathbf{u}_i, \end{aligned}$$

where \mathbf{e}_i is the standard basis vector. [2]

- iii Let r be the rank of \mathbf{A} . Define $\mathbf{U}_r = [\mathbf{u}_1, \dots, \mathbf{u}_r]$, $\Sigma_r = \text{diag}([\sigma_1, \dots, \sigma_r])$, and $\mathbf{V}_r = [\mathbf{v}_1, \dots, \mathbf{v}_r]$. Then $\mathbf{A}^\dagger = \mathbf{V}_r\Sigma_r^{-1}\mathbf{U}_r^T$. [1]
- iv $\text{proj}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{A}) = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{A}^\dagger\mathbf{x}$. [1]
- v The orthogonality can be verified as

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{A}^T\mathbf{x}_r &= \mathbf{A}^T\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{A}^T(\mathbf{A}\mathbf{A}^\dagger)\mathbf{x} = (\mathbf{A}^T - \mathbf{A}^T(\mathbf{A}\mathbf{A}^\dagger))\mathbf{x} \\ &= (\mathbf{V}_r\Sigma_r\mathbf{U}_r^T - \mathbf{V}_r\Sigma_r\mathbf{U}_r^T(\mathbf{U}_r\mathbf{U}_r^T))\mathbf{x} \\ &= (\mathbf{V}_r\Sigma_r\mathbf{U}_r^T - \mathbf{V}_r\Sigma_r\mathbf{U}_r^T)\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}. \end{aligned}$$

[2]

vi Note that

$$\begin{aligned} \|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{v}\|_2^2 &= \|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_p + \mathbf{x}_p - \mathbf{v}\|_2^2 = \|\mathbf{x}_r + \mathbf{x}_p - \mathbf{v}\|_2^2 \\ &= \|\mathbf{x}_r\|_2^2 + 2\mathbf{x}_r^T(\mathbf{x}_p - \mathbf{v}) + \|\mathbf{x}_p - \mathbf{v}\|_2^2 \\ &= \|\mathbf{x}_r\|_2^2 + \|\mathbf{x}_p - \mathbf{v}\|_2^2, \end{aligned}$$

where the last equality comes from the orthogonality between \mathbf{x}_r and $\mathbf{x}_p - \mathbf{v}$. Since $\|\mathbf{x}_p - \mathbf{v}\|_2^2 \geq 0$, it is clear that $\|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{v}\|_2 \geq \|\mathbf{x}_r\|_2$. [3]

(b)

i

$$\begin{aligned}\operatorname{tr}(AB) &= \sum_i (AB)_{i,i} = \sum_i \sum_j A_{i,j} B_{j,i} \\ &= \sum_j \sum_i B_{j,i} A_{i,j} = \sum_j (BA)_{j,j} = \operatorname{tr}(BA).\end{aligned}$$

[2]

ii

$$\begin{aligned}\|A\|_F^2 &= \sum_{i,j} A_{i,j}^2 = \operatorname{tr}(A^T A) = \operatorname{tr}(V \Sigma^2 V^T) \\ &= \operatorname{tr}(\Sigma^2 V^T V) = \operatorname{tr}(\Sigma^2) = \sum_i \sigma_i^2.\end{aligned}$$

[2]

iii $\|A\|_2 = \sigma_{\max} = \sigma_1$. This can be proved as follows.

$$\begin{aligned}\|Ax\|_2^2 &= x^T A^T A x = x^T V \Sigma^2 V^T x \\ &= \sum_i \sigma_i^2 (x^T v_i)^2 \\ &\leq \sigma_1^2 \sum_i (x^T v_i)^2 = \sigma_1^2 x^T V V^T x \\ &= \sigma_1^2 x^T x = \sigma_1^2.\end{aligned}$$

[3]

iv Since $A = A^T$ and $A \geq 0$, the singular value decomposition of A can be written as $A = U \Sigma U^T$. Then

$$\begin{aligned}\operatorname{tr}(A) &= \operatorname{tr}(U \Sigma U^T) = \operatorname{tr}(\Sigma U^T U) = \operatorname{tr}(\Sigma) \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^{\min(m,n)} \sigma_i = \|A\|_*.\end{aligned}$$

[3]

Solution to Problem 2.

(a)

i

A. The soft-thresholding function is of the form

$$x^* = \eta(z; \lambda) = \begin{cases} z - \lambda & \text{if } z \geq \lambda, \\ 0 & \text{if } -\lambda < z < \lambda, \\ z + \lambda & \text{if } z \leq -\lambda. \end{cases} \quad [1]$$

B. The IST algorithm is an iterative algorithm where in the k^{th} iteration the variable \mathbf{x}^k is updated by

$$\mathbf{x}^k = \eta(\mathbf{x}^{k-1} + t_k \mathbf{A}^T (\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{A} \mathbf{x}^{k-1}); \lambda t_k),$$

and $t_k > 0$ is an appropriately chosen step size. [1]

ii

A. Given an input vector \mathbf{z} , the hard thresholding function $H_S(\mathbf{z})$ sets all but the largest (in magnitude) S elements of \mathbf{z} to zero. It is designed to solve the non-convex optimisation problem

$$\min_{\mathbf{x}} \frac{1}{2} \|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{z}\|_2^2 \text{ subject to } \|\mathbf{x}\|_0 \leq S. \quad [2]$$

B. The IHT algorithm is an iterative algorithm where in the k^{th} iteration the variable \mathbf{x}^k is updated by

$$\mathbf{x}^k = H_S(\mathbf{x}^{k-1} + t_k \mathbf{A}^T (\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{A} \mathbf{x}^{k-1})),$$

and $t_k > 0$ is an appropriately chosen step size. It is designed to solve the non-convex optimisation problem

$$\min_{\mathbf{x}} \frac{1}{2} \|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{A} \mathbf{x}\|_2^2 \text{ subject to } \|\mathbf{x}\|_0 \leq S. \quad [2]$$

(b)

i Define the soft thresholding function $\eta_\sigma(\mathbf{Z}; \lambda)$ as

$$\mathbf{X} = \eta_\sigma(\mathbf{Z}; \lambda) = \sum_i \mathbf{u}_i \eta(\sigma_i; \lambda) \mathbf{v}_i^T,$$

where σ_i is the i^{th} singular value of \mathbf{Z} , \mathbf{u}_i and \mathbf{v}_i are the corresponding singular vectors. The IST algorithm to solve the low-rank matrix recovery problem is an iterative algorithm where in the k^{th} iteration the matrix \mathbf{X}^k is updated by

$$\mathbf{X}^k = \eta_\sigma(\mathbf{X}^{k-1} + t_k \mathcal{A}^*(\mathbf{y} - \mathcal{A}(\mathbf{X}^{k-1})); \lambda t_k),$$

and $t_k > 0$ is an appropriately chosen step size. [2]

ii Define the hard thresholding function $H_r(\mathbf{Z}; \lambda)$ as

$$\mathbf{X} = H_r(\mathbf{Z}) = \mathbf{U}_r \text{diag}([\sigma_1, \dots, \sigma_r]) \mathbf{V}_r^T,$$

where σ_i is the i^{th} singular value of \mathbf{Z} , $\mathbf{U}_r = [\mathbf{u}_1, \dots, \mathbf{u}_r]$ and $\mathbf{V}_r = [\mathbf{v}_1, \dots, \mathbf{v}_r]$. The IHT algorithm to solve the low-rank matrix recovery problem is an iterative algorithm where in the k^{th} iteration the matrix \mathbf{X}^k is updated by

$$\mathbf{X}^k = H_r(\mathbf{X}^{k-1} + t_k \mathcal{A}^*(\mathbf{y} - \mathcal{A}(\mathbf{X}^{k-1}))),$$

and $t_k > 0$ is an appropriately chosen step size. [2]

iii

A. Since \mathbf{X} is of rank 1, $\mathbf{X} = \mathbf{u}\mathbf{v}^T$ and \mathbf{u} must be of the form $\mathbf{u} = [1, 1, -2]^T$. Hence $\mathbf{v} = [1, -1, -2]^T$ and

$$\mathbf{X} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 & -2 \\ 1 & -1 & -2 \\ -2 & 2 & 4 \end{bmatrix}.$$

[3]

B.

$$\mathbf{A} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

$$\mathbf{y} = [1, 1, -1, 2, 4]^T, \text{ and}$$

$$\mathcal{A}^*(\mathbf{y}) = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 & 4 \end{bmatrix}.$$

[3]

(c) Write

$$\mathbf{y} = \mathcal{A} \left(\begin{bmatrix} h(1) \\ h(2) \\ h(3) \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x(1) \\ x(2) \\ x(3) \end{bmatrix}^T \right) = \mathcal{A} \left(\begin{bmatrix} h(1)x(1) & h(1)x(2) & h(1)x(3) \\ h(2)x(1) & h(2)x(2) & h(2)x(3) \\ h(3)x(1) & h(3)x(2) & h(3)x(3) \end{bmatrix} \right).$$

Clearly the matrix presentation of \mathcal{A} is given by

$$\mathbf{A} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Possible convex optimisation formulations for blind deconvolution include

$$\min_{\mathbf{X}} \frac{1}{2} \|\mathbf{y} - \mathcal{A}(\mathbf{X})\|_2^2 + \lambda \|\mathbf{X}\|_*,$$

and

$$\min_{\mathbf{X}} \|\mathbf{X}\|_* \text{ subject to } \mathbf{y} = \mathcal{A}(\mathbf{X}).$$

[4]

Solution to Problem 3.

(a)

i A set $\mathcal{S} \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ is convex if

$$\lambda \mathbf{x} + (1 - \lambda) \mathbf{y} \in \mathcal{S},$$

for all $\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \in \mathcal{S}$ and all $\lambda \in [0, 1]$.

[2]

ii A function $f : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is convex if

$$f(\lambda \mathbf{x} + (1 - \lambda) \mathbf{y}) \leq \lambda f(\mathbf{x}) + (1 - \lambda) f(\mathbf{y})$$

for all $\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ and all $\lambda \in [0, 1]$.

[2]

iii The standard form of a convex optimisation problem is

$$\begin{aligned} \min_{\mathbf{x}} f(\mathbf{x}) \\ \text{subject to } h_i(\mathbf{x}) \leq 0, \quad i \in \{1, \dots, m\} \\ \ell_j(\mathbf{x}) = 0, \quad j \in \{1, \dots, p\} \end{aligned}$$

where $f(\mathbf{x})$, $h_i(\mathbf{x})$ are convex and ℓ_j is affine.

[2]

iv The corresponding Lagrangian is given by

$$L(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u}) = \frac{1}{2} \mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{Q} \mathbf{x} + \mathbf{c}^T \mathbf{x} + \mathbf{u}^T \mathbf{A} \mathbf{x}.$$

Minimise the Lagrangian with respect to \mathbf{x} gives

$$\mathbf{Q} \mathbf{x} + \mathbf{c} + \mathbf{A}^T \mathbf{u} = \mathbf{0}.$$

Combine this with the constraints $\mathbf{A} \mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}$. One has

$$\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{Q} & \mathbf{A}^T \\ \mathbf{A} & \mathbf{0} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{x} \\ \mathbf{u} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -\mathbf{c} \\ \mathbf{0} \end{bmatrix}.$$

Hence the optimal \mathbf{x} can be computed by

$$\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{x} \\ \mathbf{u} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{Q} & \mathbf{A}^T \\ \mathbf{A} & \mathbf{0} \end{bmatrix}^{\dagger} \begin{bmatrix} -\mathbf{c} \\ \mathbf{0} \end{bmatrix}$$

[3]

(b)

i For any $\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \in \mathcal{C}_\alpha$, it holds that $\forall \lambda \in [0, 1]$,

$$\begin{aligned} f(\lambda \mathbf{x} + (1 - \lambda) \mathbf{y}) &\leq \lambda f(\mathbf{x}) + (1 - \lambda) f(\mathbf{y}) \\ &\leq \lambda \alpha + (1 - \lambda) \alpha = \alpha. \end{aligned}$$

Hence $\lambda \mathbf{x} + (1 - \lambda) \mathbf{y} \in \mathcal{C}_\alpha$. [2]

ii The sublevel set $\mathcal{C}_0 = \{\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n : \|\mathbf{x}\|_2 = \sqrt{y}\}$ which gives the shell of the ball with radius \sqrt{y} . Pick arbitrary two points on the shell. The line segment between these two points is not on the shell (in the ball defined by the shell). Hence the sublevel set \mathcal{C}_0 is not convex and f is not convex. [2]

(c)

i Note that $(\mathbf{a}_i^T \mathbf{x})^2 = (\mathbf{a}_i^T \mathbf{x})(\mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{a}_i) = \mathbf{a}_i^T \mathbf{x} (\mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{a}_i) = \text{tr}(\mathbf{x} (\mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{a}_i) \mathbf{a}_i^T) = \text{tr}(\mathbf{X} \mathbf{A}_i)$. One has $f(\mathbf{x}) = \sum_i (y_i - (\mathbf{a}_i^T \mathbf{x})^2)^2 = \sum_i (y_i - \text{tr}(\mathbf{X} \mathbf{A}_i))^2$. [2]

ii

A. It is sufficient to show that the objective function is convex and the constraint set is convex.

The first term in the objective function is a quadratic function of \mathbf{X} and hence convex. In fact, it can be written as $\sum_i (y_i - \mathcal{A}(\mathbf{X}))^2$ where \mathcal{A} is a linear operator. The second term in the objective function is a linear function of \mathbf{X} and hence convex.

The first constraint is essentially to say $x_{i,j} - x_{j,i} = 0$. It is an equality constraint involving linear functions of \mathbf{X} and hence defines a convex set.

The only non-trivial part is to verify that the constraint $\mathbf{X} \geq 0$ gives a convex set. To show that, note that $\mathbf{X} \geq 0$ if and only if $\mathbf{v}^T \mathbf{X} \mathbf{v} \geq 0$ for all \mathbf{v} . Let $\mathbf{X}_1 \geq 0$ and $\mathbf{X}_2 \geq 0$. Then for all $\lambda \in [0, 1]$,

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{v}^T (\lambda \mathbf{X}_1 + (1 - \lambda) \mathbf{X}_2) \mathbf{v} &= \lambda \mathbf{v}^T \mathbf{X}_1 \mathbf{v} + (1 - \lambda) \mathbf{v}^T \mathbf{X}_2 \mathbf{v} \\ &\geq 0. \end{aligned}$$

Hence the constraint $\mathbf{X} \geq 0$ gives a convex set. [3]

B. The goal of using the optimisation problem (3.4) is to find an \mathbf{X}

such that $\mathbf{X} = \mathbf{x}\mathbf{x}^T$. The first term in the objective function is for data consistency. The second term in the objective function is to promote low-rank matrices as solutions: the matrix $\mathbf{x}\mathbf{x}^T$ has rank 1 and $\text{tr}(\mathbf{X}) = \|\mathbf{X}\|_*$, under the constraints given in (3.4). The two constraints are motivated by the fact that the matrix $\mathbf{x}\mathbf{x}^T$ is symmetric and non-negative definite. [2]

Solution to Problem 4.

(a) The mutual coherence is defined as

$$\mu(A) = \max_{i \neq j} |\langle \mathbf{a}_i, \mathbf{a}_j \rangle| = \max_{i \neq j} |\mathbf{a}_i^T \mathbf{a}_j|. \quad [1]$$

(b)

i A matrix $A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$ is said to satisfy the RIP with parameters (K, δ) , if for all $\mathcal{T} \subset \{1, \dots, n\}$ such that $|\mathcal{T}| \leq K$ and for all $\mathbf{q} \in \mathbb{R}^{|\mathcal{T}|}$, it holds that

$$(1 - \delta) \|\mathbf{q}\|_2^2 \leq \|A_{\mathcal{T}} \mathbf{q}\|_2^2 \leq (1 + \delta) \|\mathbf{q}\|_2^2.$$

The RIC δ_K is defined as the smallest constant δ for which the (K, δ) -RIP holds, i.e.,

$$\delta_K = \inf \left\{ \delta : (1 - \delta) \|\mathbf{q}\|_2^2 \leq \|A_{\mathcal{T}} \mathbf{q}\|_2^2 \leq (1 + \delta) \|\mathbf{q}\|_2^2 \right. \\ \left. \forall |\mathcal{T}| \leq K, \forall \mathbf{q} \in \mathbb{R}^{|\mathcal{T}|} \right\}. \quad [3]$$

ii It holds that

$$|\langle A_{\mathcal{I}} \mathbf{a}, A_{\mathcal{J}} \mathbf{b} \rangle| \leq \delta_{k+\ell} \|\mathbf{a}\|_2 \|\mathbf{b}\|_2,$$

that is, $c = \delta_{k+\ell}$. [1]

iii Suppose that there exists another S -sparse vector $\mathbf{x}' \neq \mathbf{x}_0$ such that $\mathbf{y} = A\mathbf{x}'$. Then

$$A(\mathbf{x}_0 - \mathbf{x}') = \mathbf{y} - \mathbf{y} = \mathbf{0}.$$

Note that $\mathbf{x}_0 - \mathbf{x}'$ has sparsity level at most $2S$. By the definition of RIP,

$$\|A(\mathbf{x}_0 - \mathbf{x}')\|_2 \geq (1 - \delta_{2S}) \|\mathbf{x}_0 - \mathbf{x}'\|_2 > 0.$$

We have a contradiction. The S -sparse solution of $\mathbf{y} = A\mathbf{x}$ must be unique. [3]

(c) The diagonal elements of M are 1 and off-diagonal elements are bounded by μ by the definition of mutual coherence constant, i.e., $|M_{i,j}| < \mu$ for $i \neq j$.

By the Gershgorin circle theorem,

$$\lambda(M) \in \left[1 - \sum_{j \neq i} |M_{i,j}|, 1 + \sum_{j \neq i} |M_{i,j}| \right] \subset [1 - S\mu, 1 + S\mu].$$

Hence,

$$\delta_S \leq S\mu.$$

[3]

(d)

i Suppose that $i \notin \mathcal{T}$.

$$\begin{aligned} |\mathbf{a}_i^T \mathbf{y}| &= |\mathbf{a}_i^T \mathbf{A} \mathbf{x}| = |\mathbf{a}_i^T \mathbf{A}_{\mathcal{T}} \mathbf{x}_{0,\mathcal{T}}| \\ &\leq \delta_{S+1} \|\mathbf{x}_{0,\mathcal{T}}\|_2 = \delta_{S+1} \|\mathbf{x}_0\|_2. \end{aligned}$$

[3]

ii Suppose that $i \in \mathcal{T}$.

$$\begin{aligned} |\mathbf{a}_i^T \mathbf{y}| &= \left| \mathbf{a}_i^T \mathbf{a}_i x_{0,i} + \mathbf{a}_i^T \sum_j \mathbf{a}_j x_{0,j} \right| \\ &\geq |x_{0,i}| - |\mathbf{a}_i^T \mathbf{A}_{\mathcal{T} \setminus \{i\}} \mathbf{x}_{0,\mathcal{T} \setminus \{i\}}| \\ &\geq |x_{0,i}| - \delta_{S+1} \|\mathbf{x}_{0,\mathcal{T} \setminus \{i\}}\|_2 \\ &\geq |x_{0,i}| - \delta_{S+1} \|\mathbf{x}_0\|_2. \end{aligned}$$

At the same time,

$$\max_{i \in \mathcal{T}} |x_{0,i}| \geq \frac{1}{\sqrt{S}} \|\mathbf{x}_0\|.$$

Hence

$$\max_{i \in \mathcal{T}} |\mathbf{a}_i^T \mathbf{y}| \geq \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{S}} - \delta_{S+1} \right) \|\mathbf{x}_0\|_2.$$

[3]

iii To guarantee that $i^* \in \mathcal{T}$, one needs

$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{S}} - \delta_{S+1} > \delta_{S+1}.$$

Or equivalently

$$\delta_{S+1} \leq \frac{1}{2\sqrt{S}}.$$

[3]