# Algorithm for hDCBM

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#### 1 Uniform framework

To analyze the models in (Gao et al., 2018), (Ke et al., 2019), (Han et al., 2020), we state an uniform higher-order degree-corrected block model(hDCBM). Consider the observation  $\mathcal{Y} \in \mathbb{R}^{p_1 \times \cdot \times p_d}$ . Let  $r_k, k \in [d]$  denote the number clusters in the k-th mode,  $z_k \in [r_k]^{p_k}$  denote the corresponding clustering assignment,  $\theta_k = (\theta_{k,1}, ..., \theta_{k,p_k}) \in \mathbb{R}^{p_k}$  denote the degree-corrected parameters on k-th mode, where  $\theta_{kj} > 0, j \in [p_k], k \in [d]$ . We have following hDCBM model

$$\mathcal{Y} = \mathcal{S} \times_1 \Theta_1 M_1 \times_2 \cdots \times_d \Theta_d M_d + \mathcal{E},$$

where  $S \in \mathbb{R}^{r_1 \times \cdots \times r_d}$  is the core tensor whose entries refer to the interactive connections among the group,  $\Theta_k = \operatorname{diag}(\theta_k) \in \mathbb{R}^{p_k \times p_k}$  is a diagonal matrix generated by  $\theta_k$ ,  $M \in \mathbb{R}^{p_k \times r_k}$  is the membership matrix generated by  $z_k$ , and  $\mathcal{E}$  has independent sub-Gaussian noise entries. Let  $\mathcal{X} = \mathcal{S} \times_1 \Theta_1 M_1 \times_2 \cdots \times_d \Theta_d M_d$  denote the true signal.

- 1. Biclustering model in (Gao et al., 2018): let  $\mathcal{Y}$  is symmetric and follows Bernoulli distribution, d = 2, and  $\Theta_1 = \Theta_2$ ,  $M_1 = M_2$ .
- 2. Tensor-SCORE in (Ke et al., 2019): let  $\mathcal{Y}$  is symmetric and follows Bernoulli distribution, and  $\Theta_1 = \cdots = \Theta_d = \Theta, M_1 = \cdots = M_d = M$ .
- 3. TBM in (Han et al., 2020): let  $\mathcal{Y}$  follows Gaussian distribution, and  $\Theta_k = \mathbf{1}_{p_k}$ .

## 2 Algorithm comparison

Table 1 summarizes the algorithm comparison of these three methods. Here are few points need to be noticed:

- 1. In degree-corrected models, Biclustering and Tensor-SCORE, the algorithms use SCORE normalization to avoid estimating the degree-corrected parameters  $\theta$ . Similar techniques may be useful for other hDCBM algorithms.
- 2. For block models (hard membership models), spectral methods do not lead to optimal classification rate. It is consistent to the theoretical results: 1) In Biclustering, without the last

refinement step, the loss of  $\tilde{z}$  decays polynomially (Lemma 1); 2) tensor-SCORE, a spectral-based method, indicates a polynomial error (Theorem 1); 3) in TBM, the HSC initialization  $\hat{z}^{(0)}$  indicates a polynomial error (Theorem 2).

3. The refinement step in Biclustering and the HLloyd in TBM improve the accuracy from polynomial to exponential. Both of these procedures take the advantages of the hard membership structure. I believe that may be the key to achieve the optimal rate.

Hence, a possible optimal algorithm for hDCBM should: 1) use SCORE normalization techniques to avoid the estimation of  $\theta$ ; 2) use hard membership structure in iteration or refinement.

Therefore, I would like to extend the TBM algorithm to a degree-corrected version. We consider the Gaussian model at this point. The detailed procedures are in Algorithm 1 and Algorithm 2. The SCORE normalization function h(x) satisfies h(ax) = ah(x). We have multiple choices of h, such as  $\|\cdot\|_{\max}$ ,  $\|\cdot\|_{L}$ ,  $\|\cdot\|_{F}$ .

In Algorithm 1, we use SCORE normalization to allow the marginal k-means on each mode, which is natural.

In Algorithm 2, note that the estimation of S is related to the clustering on all modes. Thus, we need to remove the heterogeneity on all modes, which is highlighted in blue. To illustrate why the blue part works, we consider the noiseless tensor  $\mathcal{X} = S \times_1 \Theta_1 M_1 \times_2 \cdots \times_d \Theta_d M_d$ . Suppose k = 1 and  $h(x) = ||x||_F$ . We have

$$X_1 = \Theta_1 M_1 \mathcal{M}_1(\mathcal{S}) \left(\Theta_2 M_2 \otimes \cdots \otimes \Theta_d M_d\right)^T$$

which implies for  $j \in [p_1]$  such that  $(z_1)_i = u, u \in [r_1]$ 

$$\boldsymbol{X}_{1j} = \theta_j v_u = \tilde{\theta}_j b_u,$$

where  $v_u = \left[\mathcal{M}_1(\mathcal{S}) \left(\Theta_2 \mathbf{M}_2 \otimes \cdots \otimes \Theta_d \mathbf{M}_d\right)^T\right]_u$  and  $b_u = v_u / \|v_u\|$ . Let  $\mathbf{X}_{1j}^s = \mathbf{X}_{1j}^s / h(\mathbf{X}_{1j}^s)$ ,  $\mathbf{V}_1 = \operatorname{diag}(\|v_1\|, ..., \|v_{r_1}\|)$ , and  $\mathcal{M}_1(\tilde{\mathcal{S}}) = \mathbf{V}_1 \mathcal{M}_1(\mathcal{S})$ . We have

$$X_1^s = M_1 \mathcal{M}_1(\tilde{S}) (\Theta_2 M_2 \otimes \cdots \otimes \Theta_d M_d)^T$$
.

Then, we remove the effect of  $\Theta_1$ . Fold back  $X_1^s$  to tensor  $\mathcal{X}^s$  and repeat the steps with  $\mathcal{X}_s$  for the other modes. We finally obtain

$$\mathcal{X}^s = \tilde{\mathcal{S}} \times_1 M_1 \times \cdots \times_d M_d.$$

If we apply the above de-heterogeneity procedures to the noisy observation  $\mathcal{Y}$ , the only thing we need to worry about is the noise. Obviously, the independence of the noise tensor still holds, but the variance for each entry may change. We need to check it more.

| Biclustering   | Tensor-SCORE  | TBM  |
|--|---|--|
| <b>Input</b> : Adjacency matrix $\mathcal{Y}$ , # of clusters $r$ , tuning para $\tau$   | <b>Input</b> : Adjacency tensor $\mathcal{Y}$ , # of clusters $r$ , tuning paras $\delta$ , $T$ | Input: Observation $\mathcal{Y}$ , # of clusters $(r_1,, r_d)$ , tuning para $M$                 |
| Output: Estimated assignment $\hat{z}$   | Output: Estimated assignment $\hat{z}$  | Output: Estimated assignment $\hat{z}$   |
| Initialization:  | Initialization:   | Initialization:  |
| 1. Obtain truncated $\mathcal{Y}$ , $T_{\tau}(\mathcal{Y})$  | 1. Apply HOSVD or randomized graph projection to $\mathcal{Y}$                                  | 1. Obtain singular space $\hat{U}_k$ via matrix SVD  |
| 2. Obtain estimated rank-r signal $\hat{\mathcal{X}} = \arg\min_{\operatorname{rank}(\mathcal{X}) \leq r} \ T_{\tau}(\mathcal{Y}) - \mathcal{X}\ _F^2$ | 2. Obtain initial factor matrix $\hat{U}^{(0)}$   | 2. Obtain initial $\hat{z}^{(0)}$ by applying relaxed (with para $M$ ) $k$ -means to $\hat{U}_k$ |
| Iteration:   | Iteration:  | Iteration:   |
|  | 1. Apply regularized (with para $\delta$ ) HOOI with $\hat{U}^{(0)}$                            | 1. Apply HLloyd with $\hat{z}^{(0)}$   |
|  | 2. Obtain $\hat{U}^{(t)}$   | 2. Obtain estimated assignment $\hat{z} = z_k^{(t)}$   |
| Post-iteration:  | Post-iteration:   | Post-iteration:  |
| 1. Obtain SCORE normalized $\hat{\mathcal{X}}$ , $\tilde{\mathcal{X}}$   | 1. Obtain truncated (with para T) SCORE normalized $\hat{U}^{(t)}$ , $\tilde{U}$                |  |
| 2. Apply k-median clustering to $\tilde{\mathcal{X}}$ and obtain $\tilde{z}$   | 2. Apply k-means to $\tilde{\boldsymbol{U}}$ and obtain $\hat{z}$                               |  |
| 3. Apply refinement procedures to $\tilde{z}$ and obtain $\hat{z}$ :   |   |  |
| $\hat{z}(i) = \arg\max_{u \in [r]} \frac{1}{ \{j: \bar{z}_j = u\} } \sum_{\{j: \bar{z}_j = u\}} \mathcal{Y}_{ij}$                                      |   |  |
| Guarantee:   | Guarantee:  | Guarantee:   |
| $\ell(\hat{z}, z^*) = \mathcal{O}(\exp\{-n\})$   | $\ell(\hat{z}, z^*) = \mathcal{O}(n^{-d+2})$  | $\ell(\hat{z}, z^*) = \mathcal{O}(\exp\{-n^{d-1}\})$   |

Table 1: Algorithm comparison of three methods.

**Input:** Observation  $\mathcal{Y} \in \mathbb{R}^{p_1 \times \cdots \times p_d}$ ,  $(r_1, ..., r_d)$ , relaxation factor in k-means M > 1, SCORE normalization function h

- 1: Compute  $\tilde{U}_k = SVD_{r_k}(\mathcal{M}_k(\mathcal{Y}) \text{ for } k \in [d]$
- 2: for  $k \in [d]$  do
- 3: Estimate the singular space  $\hat{U}_k$  via

$$\hat{U}_k = SVD_{r_k}(\mathcal{M}_k(\mathcal{Y} \times_1 \tilde{\boldsymbol{U}}_1^T \times \cdots \times_{k-1} \tilde{\boldsymbol{U}}_{k-1}^T \times_{k+1} \tilde{\boldsymbol{U}}_{k+1}^T \times \cdots \times_d \tilde{\boldsymbol{U}}_d^T))$$

- 4: end for
- 5: for  $k \in [d]$  do
- 6: Calculate  $\hat{Y}_k$  via  $\hat{Y}_k = \hat{U}_k \hat{U}_k^T \mathcal{M}_k (\mathcal{Y} \times_1 \hat{U}_1^T \times \cdots \times_{k-1} \hat{U}_{k-1}^T \times_{k+1} \hat{U}_{k+1}^T \times \cdots \times_d \hat{U}_d^T)$
- 7: Let  $\hat{Y}_{kj}$  denote the rows of  $\hat{Y}_k$  for  $j \in [p_k]$ . Obtain the SCORE normalized  $\hat{Y}_k^s$  via  $\hat{Y}_{kj}^s = \frac{\hat{Y}_{kj}}{h(\hat{Y}_{kj})}$
- 8: Find the initial assignment  $z_k^{(0)} \in [r_k]^{p_k}$  and centroids  $\hat{x}_1, ..., \hat{x}_{rk} \in \mathbb{R}^{r_{-k}}$  such that

$$\sum_{j=1}^{p_k} \left\| (\hat{\mathbf{Y}}_{kj}^s)^T - \hat{x}_{(z_k^{(0)})_j} \right\|^2 \le M \min_{x_1, \dots, x_{r_k}, z_k} \sum_{j=1}^{p_k} \left\| (\hat{\mathbf{Y}}_{kj}^s)^T - x_{(z_k^{(0)})_j} \right\|^2$$

9: end for Output:  $\left\{z_k^{(0)} \in [r_k]^{p_k}, k \in [d]\right\}$ 

### Algorithm 2 High-order degree-corrected Lloyd Algorithm (HDCLloyd)

**Input:** Observation  $\mathcal{Y} \in \mathbb{R}^{p_1 \times \cdots \times p_d}$ , initialization  $\{z_k^{(0)} \in [r_k]^{p_k}\}$ , iteration number T, SCORE normalization function h

- 1: Let  $\mathcal{Y}^s = \mathcal{Y}$ .
- 2: for  $k \in [d]$  do
- 3: Let  $Y_k^s$  denote the k-th model matricization of  $\mathcal{Y}^s$ . Apply SCORE normalization to  $Y_k^s$  and obtain  $\tilde{Y}_k^s$  via

$$\tilde{\boldsymbol{Y}}_{kj}^{s} = \boldsymbol{Y}_{kj}^{s}/h(\boldsymbol{Y}_{kj}^{s})$$

- 4: Fold  $\tilde{\mathbf{Y}}_k^s$  back to tensor  $\tilde{\mathcal{Y}}^s$ . Update  $\mathcal{Y}^s = \tilde{\mathcal{Y}}^s$ .
- 5: end for
- 6: Apply HLloyd with  $\mathcal{Y}^s$ , initialization  $\{z_k^{(0)} \in [r_k]^{p_k}\}$ , and iteration number T.

Output: 
$$\left\{z_k^{(T)} \in [r_k]^{p_k}, k \in [d]\right\}$$

### References

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