

# SDP Approximation of K-means Clustering

Reference: Approximating K-means-type clustering via semidefinite programming, Jiming Peng & Yu Wei

Yuan Qu

# Main Idea

- Clustering: assign  $n$  points into  $k$  clusters, based on the minimal sum-of-squares (MSSC)
- MSSC  $\rightarrow$  0-1 SDP
- Extract feasible solution of 0-1 SDP

# Clustering

- Given a set  $S$  of  $n$  points in  $d$ -dimensional Euclidean space.

$$S = \{s_i = (s_{i1}, s_{i2}, \dots, s_{id})^T \in R^d, i = 1, 2, \dots, n\}$$

- $k$  disjoint clusters  $M = (M_1, M_2, \dots, M_k)$  centered at cluster center (centroid)  $c_j$  based on the total sum-of-squares

$$f(S, M) = \sum_{j=1}^k \sum_{i=1}^{|M_j|} \|s_i^{(j)} - c_j\|^2$$

- $s_i^{(j)}$  — the  $i$ -th point in  $M_j$

# Clustering

$$f(S, M) = \sum_{j=1}^k \sum_{i=1}^{|M_j|} \|s_i^{(j)} - c_j\|^2$$

- If cluster centers are known...

$$\min f(S, M) = \min_{c_1, \dots, c_k} \sum_{i=1}^n \min\{\|s_i - c_1\|^2, \dots, \|s_i - c_k\|^2\}$$

- If the points in cluster are fixed...

$$\arg \min_{c_j} f(S, M) = \frac{1}{|M_j|} \sum_{i=1}^{|M_j|} s_i^{(j)}$$

# K-means

- Algorithm
  1. Choose  $k$  cluster centers randomly generated in a domain containing all the points
  2. Assign each point to the closest cluster center
  3. Recompute the cluster centers using the current cluster memberships
  4. If a convergence criterion is met, stop; Otherwise go to step 2.

# K-means

- Set the assignment matrix:  $X = [x_{ij}] \in R^{n \times k}$ ; if  $s_i$  is assigned to  $M_j$  then  $x_{ij} = 1$ , otherwise  $x_{ij} = 0$
- The cluster center of the cluster  $M_j$  as the mean of all the points in the cluster:

$$c_j = \frac{\sum_{l=1}^n x_{lj} s_l}{\sum_{l=1}^n x_{lj}}$$

# K-means

$$\min_{x_{ij}} \sum_{j=1}^k \sum_{i=1}^n x_{ij} \left\| s_i - \frac{\sum_{l=1}^n x_{lj} s_l}{\sum_{l=1}^n x_{lj}} \right\|^2$$

$s.t.$   $\sum_{j=1}^k x_{ij} = 1, \quad i = 1, \dots, n$  each point is assigned to only one cluster

$\sum_{i=1}^n x_{ij} \geq 1, \quad j = 1, \dots, k$  each cluster contains at least one point

$x_{ij} \in \{0,1\}, \quad i = 1, \dots, n, j = 1, \dots, k$

# 0-1 SDP

$$\begin{array}{ll}\textbf{SDP:} & \min \quad \text{Tr}(WZ) \\ & s.t. \quad \text{Tr}(B_i Z) = b_i, \quad i = 1, \dots, m \\ & \quad \quad Z \succeq 0\end{array}$$

If we replace SD constraint by the requirement that  $Z^2 = Z$

$$\begin{array}{ll}\textbf{0-1 SDP:} & \min \quad \text{Tr}(WZ) \\ & s.t. \quad \text{Tr}(B_i Z) = b_i, \quad i = 1, \dots, m \\ & \quad \quad Z^2 = Z, Z = Z^T\end{array}$$



# Reformulation

$$\begin{aligned}
 \sum_{j=1}^k \sum_{i=1}^n x_{ij} \|s_i - c_j\|^2 &= \sum_{j=1}^k \sum_{i=1}^n x_{ij} \left[ \|s_i\|^2 + \|c_j\|^2 - 2s_i \cdot c_j \right] \\
 &= \sum_{j=1}^k \sum_{i=1}^n x_{ij} \|s_i\|^2 + \sum_{j=1}^k \sum_{i=1}^n x_{ij} \|c_j\|^2 - \sum_{j=1}^k \sum_{i=1}^n 2x_{ij} s_i \cdot c_j \\
 &= \sum_{i=1}^n \|s_i\|^2 \left( \sum_{j=1}^k x_{ij} \right) + \sum_{j=1}^k \sum_{i=1}^n x_{ij} \frac{\left\| \sum_{l=1}^n x_{lj} s_l \right\|^2}{\left( \sum_{l=1}^n x_{lj} \right)^2} - \sum_{j=1}^k 2 \frac{\left( \sum_{l=1}^n x_{lj} s_l \right)^2}{\sum_{l=1}^n x_{lj}} \\
 &= \sum_{i=1}^n \|s_i\|^2 - \sum_{j=1}^k \frac{\left\| \sum_{i=1}^n x_{ij} s_i \right\|^2}{\sum_{i=1}^n x_{ij}}
 \end{aligned}$$

# Reformulation

Let  $W_S \in R^{n \times d}$  denote the matrix whose  $i$ -th row is  $s_i^T$ .

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{j=1}^k \sum_{i=1}^n x_{ij} \|s_i - c_j\|^2 &= \sum_{i=1}^n \|s_i\|^2 - \sum_{j=1}^k \frac{\left\| \sum_{i=1}^n x_{ij} s_i \right\|^2}{\sum_{i=1}^n x_{ij}} \\ &= \text{Tr}(W_S W_S^T) - \sum_{j=1}^k \frac{\left\| \sum_{i=1}^n x_{ij} s_i \right\|^2}{\sum_{i=1}^n x_{ij}} \end{aligned}$$

# Reformulation

Since  $X$  is an assignment matrix, we have

$$X^T X = \text{diag}\left(\sum_{i=1}^n x_{i1}^2, \dots, \sum_{i=1}^n x_{ik}^2\right) = \text{diag}\left(\sum_{i=1}^n x_{i1}, \dots, \sum_{i=1}^n x_{ik}\right)$$

Let  $Z = X(X^T X)^{-1}X^T$

$Z$  is a projection matrix that  $Z^2 = Z$  with nonnegative elements

e.g.

$$X = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad Z = \begin{pmatrix} 0.5 & 0 & 0.5 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0.5 & 0 & 0.5 \end{pmatrix}, \quad Z^2 = Z, \quad ZX = X, \quad \text{Tr}(Z) = k$$

eigenvalues are either 0 or 1

# Reformulation

$$\text{Tr}(W_S W_S^T) - \sum_{j=1}^k \frac{\left\| \sum_{i=1}^n x_{ij} s_i \right\|^2}{\sum_{i=1}^n x_{ij}}$$

$$\Rightarrow \text{Tr}[W_S W_S^T (I - Z)] = \text{Tr}(W_S^T W_S) - \text{Tr}(W_S^T W_S Z)$$

For any integer  $m$ , let  $e^m$  be the all one vector in  $R^m$ , we have

$$\sum_{j=1}^k x_{ij} = 1 \quad \Rightarrow \quad X e^k = e^n$$

It follows  $Z e^n = Z X e^k = X e^k = e^n$

# 0-1 SDP Model

$$\begin{aligned} \min_{x_{ij}} \quad & \text{Tr}[W_S W_S^T (I - Z)] \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & Ze = e, \text{Tr}(Z) = k \\ & Z \geq 0, Z = Z^T, Z^2 = Z \end{aligned}$$

- THEOREM 2.2:

Solving the 0-1 SDP problem is equivalent to finding a global solution of the original K-means integer programming problem.

# 0-1 SDP Model

$$\begin{aligned} \min_{x_{ij}} \quad & \text{Tr}[W_S W_S^T (I - Z)] \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & Ze = e, \text{Tr}(Z) = k \\ & Z \geq 0, Z = Z^T, Z^2 = Z \end{aligned}$$

- Note that for a given data set  $S$ , the trace  $\text{Tr}(W_S W_S^T)$  becomes a fixed quantity, therefore we can solve the MSSC model via following problem

$$\begin{aligned} \max_{x_{ij}} \quad & \text{Tr}(W_S W_S^T Z) \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & Ze = e, \text{Tr}(Z) = k \\ & Z \geq 0, Z = Z^T, Z^2 = Z \end{aligned}$$

# Algorithms for 0-1 SDP

- Algorithm
  1. Choose a relaxation model
  2. Solve the relaxed problem for an approximate solution
  3. Use a rounding procedure to extract a feasible solution from the approximate solution.

# Relaxation

$$\begin{aligned} \min \quad & \text{Tr}[W_S W_S^T (I - Z)] \\ s.t. \quad & Ze = e, \text{Tr}(Z) = k \\ & Z \geq 0, Z = Z^T, Z^2 = Z \end{aligned}$$

Replacing  $Z^2 = Z$  by  $I \succeq Z \succeq 0$ ,  $I \succeq Z$  can be waived

$$\begin{aligned} \min \quad & \text{Tr}(W(I - Z)) \\ s.t. \quad & Ze = e, \text{Tr}(Z) = k \\ & Z \geq 0, Z \preceq I \end{aligned}$$

Could be solved by interior-point methods



# Relaxation

$$\begin{aligned} \min \quad & \text{Tr}[W_S W_S^T (I - Z)] \\ s.t. \quad & Ze = e, \text{Tr}(Z) = k \\ & Z \geq 0, Z = Z^T, Z^2 = Z \end{aligned}$$

Replacing  $Z^2 = Z$  and nonnegative requirement by  $I \succeq Z \succeq 0$

$$\begin{aligned} \min \quad & \text{Tr}(W(I - Z)) \\ s.t. \quad & Ze = e, \text{Tr}(Z) = k \\ & I \succeq Z \succeq 0 \end{aligned}$$

We will discuss how to solve it, denoted by P.

# Relaxation

If  $Z$  is a feasible solution for  $P$ , then we have

$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{n}}Ze = \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}}e,$$

which implies  $e/\sqrt{n}$  is an eigenvector of  $Z$  corresponding to its largest eigenvalue 1. For any feasible solution of  $P$ , define

$$Z_1 = Z - \frac{1}{n}ee^T$$

It's easy to see that

$$Z_1 = (I - \frac{1}{n}ee^T)Z = (I - \frac{1}{n}ee^T)Z(I - \frac{1}{n}ee^T)$$

$Z_1$  is the projection of the matrix  $Z$  onto the null space of  $e$

$$\text{Tr}(Z_1) = \text{Tr}(Z) - 1 = k - 1$$

# Relaxation

If  $W_1$  is the projection of the matrix  $W$  onto null space of  $e$

$$W_1 = (I - \frac{1}{n}ee^T)W(I - \frac{1}{n}ee^T)$$

Here we could reduce  $P$  to

$$\begin{aligned} \min \quad & \text{Tr}(W_1(I - Z_1)) \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & \text{Tr}(Z_1) = k - 1 \\ & I \succeq Z_1 \succeq 0 \end{aligned}$$

Let  $\lambda$  be the eigenvalues of the  $W_1$  listed in decreasing order. The optimal solution of this problem can be achieved if and only if

$$\text{Tr}(W_1 Z_1) = \sum_{i=1}^{k-1} \lambda_i$$

# Relaxation Algorithm

1. Calculate the projection  $W_1$  via  $W_1 = (I - \frac{1}{n}ee^T)W(I - \frac{1}{n}ee^T)$
2. Compute the first  $k-1$  largest eigenvalues of  $W_1$  and their corresponding eigenvectors  $v$ .
3. Set  $Z = \frac{1}{n}ee^T + \sum_{i=1}^{k-1} v^i v^{iT}$

## Theorem 3.1

If  $Z^*$  be the global optimal solution of 0-1 SDP, then

$$\text{Tr}(W(I - Z^*)) \geq \text{Tr}(W) - \frac{1}{n}e^T W e - \sum_{i=1}^{k-1} \lambda_i$$

# Thanks