

Topic 18: Eigenvalue and Spike Models

by Sai Zhang

Key points: .

Disclaimer: The note is built on Prof. *Jinchi Lv*'s lectures of the course at USC, DSO 607, High-Dimensional Statistics and Big Data Problems.

18.1 Motivation

Consider n independent observations $\mathbf{X}_i \in \mathbb{R}^p$ drawn from a $\mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, \Sigma)$, then the covariance can be decomposed into 2 parts, white noise and low rank

$$\Sigma = \text{Cov}(\mathbf{X}_i) = \mathbf{I} + \sum_{k=1}^M \theta_k \mathbf{v}_k \mathbf{v}_k' = \Sigma_0 + \Phi$$

where M denotes the **number of spikes** in the distribution of eigenvalues. The idea is: spikes deviate from a reference model along a **small fixed number** of unknown directions. If $\Phi = \mathbf{0}$, then none of the sample eigenvalues is separated from the bulk.

Why a spike model is interesting? A spike model can help determine the latent dimension of the data, some examples being

- Principal component analysis (PCA): spikes are related to the directions of the most variations of the data, i.e., the principal components
- Clustering model: M spikes is equivalent to $M + 1$ clusters
- Economic significance: M is related to the number of factor loadings

Then the question is threefold:

- How to determine M
- How to estimate \mathbf{v}_k
- How to test θ_k

Under rank one alternative, we would like to test the hypothesis

$$H_1 : \Sigma = \mathbf{I}_p + \theta \mathbf{v} \mathbf{v}', \theta > 0$$

against the null

$$H_0 : \Sigma = \mathbf{I}_p$$

with the key assumptions:

A1 Gaussian error

A2 large p : $p \leq n$ but allows $p/n \rightarrow \gamma \in (0, 1)$

Under these assumptions, for the $n \times p$ data matrix $\mathbf{X} = (\mathbf{X}'_1 \cdots \mathbf{X}'_n)'$, $\mathbf{X}'\mathbf{X}$ has a p -dimensional **Wishart** distribution $W_p(n, \mathbf{\Sigma})$ with the degree of freedom n and covariance matrix $\mathbf{\Sigma}$, which is a *random matrix*.

If $\mathbf{Y} = \mathbf{M} + \mathbf{X}$, that is, the sum of the *random matrix* \mathbf{X} and a *deterministic matrix* \mathbf{M} (also $n \times p$)

References