

Two Dimensional Phase Retrieval from Local Measurements

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ABSTRACT

2D or not 2D, that is the tribe called question

Keywords: Phase Retrieval, Local Measurements, Two Dimensional Imaging, Ptychography

1. INTRODUCTION

In this paper we consider the problem of approximately recovering an unknown two dimensional sample transmission function $q : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ with compact support, $\text{supp}(q) \subset [0, 1]^2$, from phaseless Fourier measurements of the form

$$|(\mathcal{F}[aS_{x_0, y_0}q])(u, v)|^2, \quad (u, v) \in \Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^2, \quad (x_0, y_0) \in \mathcal{L} \subset [0, 1]^2 \quad (1)$$

where \mathcal{F} denotes the 2 dimensional Fourier transform, $a : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ is a known illumination function from an illuminating beam, S_{x_0, y_0} is a shift operator defined by $(S_{x_0, y_0}q)(x, y) := q(x - x_0, y - y_0)$, Ω is a finite set of sampled frequencies, and \mathcal{L} is a finite set of shifts. When the illuminating beam is sharply focused, one can further assume that a is also (effectively) compactly supported within a smaller region $[0, \delta']^2$ for $\delta' \ll 1$. This is known as the *ptychographic imaging problem* and is of great interest in the physics community (see, e.g., Rodenburg¹). Herein we will make the further assumption that all the utilized shifts of q also have their supports contained in $[0, 1]^2$. That is, that

$$\bigcup_{(x_0, y_0) \in \mathcal{L}} \text{supp}(S_{x_0, y_0}q) \subseteq [0, 1]^2$$

holds. Note that an analogous assumption can always be achieved by dilating $[0, 1]^2$.

Discretizing (1) using periodic boundary conditions we obtain a finite dimensional problem aimed at recovering an unknown matrix $Q \in \mathbb{C}^{d \times d}$ from phaseless measurements of the form

$$\left| \frac{1}{d^2} \sum_{j=1}^d \sum_{k=1}^d A_{j,k} (S_\ell Q S_{\ell'}^*)_{j,k} e^{\frac{-2\pi i}{d}(ju + kv)} \right|^2 \quad (2)$$

where $A \in \mathbb{C}^{d \times d}$ is a known measurement matrix representing our illuminating beam, and $S_\ell \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times d}$ is the discrete circular shift operator defined by $(S_\ell \mathbf{x})_j := x_{j-\ell \bmod d}$ for all $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{C}^d$ and $j, \ell \in [d] := \{1, \dots, d\}$. Herein we will make the simplifying assumption that our original illuminating beam function a is not only sharply focused, but also separable. In particular, we assume that the weighted measurement matrix takes

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the form $\frac{1}{d^2}A := \mathbf{a}\mathbf{b}^*$ where $\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b} \in \mathbb{C}^d$ both have $a_j = b_j = 0$ for all $j \in [d] \setminus \{1, \dots, \delta\}$. Here $\delta \in \mathbb{Z}^+$ is much smaller than d .

Using the small support and separability of $\frac{1}{d^2}A := \mathbf{a}\mathbf{b}^*$ we can now rewrite the measurements (2) as

$$\left| \sum_{j=1}^{\delta} \sum_{k=1}^{\delta} a_j \overline{b_k} (S_{\ell} Q S_{\ell'}^*)_{j,k} e^{\frac{-2\pi i}{d}(ju+kv)} \right|^2 = \left| \sum_{j=1}^{\delta} \sum_{k=1}^{\delta} \overline{a_j} e^{\frac{2\pi i ju}{d}} b_k e^{\frac{2\pi i kv}{d}} (S_{\ell} Q S_{\ell'}^*)_{j,k} \right|^2 = |\langle S_{\ell} Q S_{\ell'}^*, \mathbf{a}_u \mathbf{b}_v^* \rangle_{\text{HS}}|^2 \quad (3)$$

where $\mathbf{a}_u, \mathbf{b}_v \in \mathbb{C}^d$ are defined by $(a_u)_j := e^{\frac{-2\pi i ju}{d}} a_j$ and $(b_v)_k := e^{\frac{2\pi i kv}{d}} b_k$ for all $j, k \in [d]$. Continuing to rewrite (3) we can now see that our discretized measurements will all take the form of

$$|\langle S_{\ell} Q S_{\ell'}^*, \mathbf{a}_u \mathbf{b}_v^* \rangle_{\text{HS}}|^2 = |\text{Trace}(\mathbf{b}_v \mathbf{a}_u^* S_{\ell} Q S_{\ell'}^*)|^2 = |\text{Trace}(S_{\ell'}^* \mathbf{b}_v (S_{\ell}^* \mathbf{a}_u)^* Q)|^2 = |\langle Q, S_{\ell}^* \mathbf{a}_u (S_{\ell'}^* \mathbf{b}_v)^* \rangle_{\text{HS}}|^2 \quad (4)$$

for a finite set of frequencies $(u, v) \in \Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^2$ and shifts $(\ell, \ell') \in \mathcal{L} \subseteq [d] \times [d]$.

Motivated by ptychographic imaging we propose a new efficient numerical scheme for solving general discrete phase retrieval problems using measurements of type (4) herein. After a brief discussion of notation, we will outline our proposed method in §2 below. A preliminary numerical evaluation of the method is then presented in §3.

Notation and Preliminaries

For any $k \in \mathbb{N}$, we define $[k] := \{1, 2, \dots, k\}$. For $i, j \in \mathbb{N}$, e_i represents the standard basis vector and $E_{ij} = e_i e_j^*$; the dimensions of such an E_{ij} will always be clear from context. For a matrix $A \in \mathbb{C}^{m \times n}$,

$$\vec{A} := (a_{11}, a_{21}, \dots, a_{m1}, \dots, a_{mn})$$

denotes the column-major vectorization of A . $A \otimes B$ for arbitrary matrices denotes the standard Kronecker product. We remark that $\overrightarrow{\mathbf{a}\mathbf{b}^*} = \vec{\mathbf{b}} \otimes \vec{\mathbf{a}}$, and in particular

$$\overrightarrow{E_{jk} E_{j'k'}^*} = \overrightarrow{e_j e_k^* e_{j'} e_{k'}^*} = (e_k \otimes e_{j'})(e_{k'} \otimes e_j)^* = (e_k e_{k'}^*) \otimes (e_j e_{j'}^*) = E_{kk'} \otimes E_{jj'}. \quad (5)$$

We let $\langle A, B \rangle_{\text{HS}} := \text{Trace}(A^* B) = \langle \vec{A}, \vec{B} \rangle$ denote the Hilbert-Schmidt inner product on $\mathbb{C}^{n \times n}$ and remark that, for $\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \in \mathbb{C}^n$,

$$|\langle \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \rangle|^2 = \langle \mathbf{x}\mathbf{x}^*, \mathbf{y}\mathbf{y}^* \rangle_{\text{HS}}. \quad (6)$$

2. AN EFFICIENT METHOD FOR SOLVING THE DISCRETE 2D PHASE RETRIEVAL PROBLEM

Our recovery method, outlined in Algorithm 1, aims to approximate an image $Q \in \mathbb{C}^{d \times d}$ from phaseless measurements of the form (4). Specifically, we consider the collection of measurements given by

$$y_{(\ell, \ell', u, v)} := |\langle Q, S_{\ell}^* \mathbf{a}_u (S_{\ell'}^* \mathbf{b}_v)^* \rangle_{\text{HS}}|^2 \quad (7)$$

for all $(\ell, \ell', u, v) \in [d]^2 \times \Omega^2$ where $\Omega \subset [d]$ has $|\Omega| = 2\delta - 1$. Thus, we collect a total of $D := (2\delta - 1)^2 \cdot d^2$ measurements where each measurement is due to a vertical and horizontal shift of a rank one illumination pattern $\mathbf{a}_u \mathbf{b}_v^* \in \mathbb{C}^{d \times d}$. We assume that our measurements are *local* in the sense that $\text{supp}(\mathbf{a}), \text{supp}(\mathbf{b}) \subset [\delta]$. Recall that $\delta \ll d$, so the total number of measurements D is essentially linear in the problem size.

Algorithm 1 consists of first rephrasing the system (7) as a linear system on the space of $d^2 \times d^2$ matrices (following Candes, et al.²), and then estimating a projection $\mathcal{P}(\vec{Q} \vec{Q}^*)$ of the rank one matrix $\vec{Q} \vec{Q}^*$ from this system. Next, we estimate the magnitudes of the entries of Q directly from $\mathcal{P}(\vec{Q} \vec{Q}^*)$ and their phases

Algorithm 1 Two Dimensional Phase Retrieval from Local Measurements

Input: Measurements $\mathbf{y} \in \mathbb{R}^D$ as per (7)

Output: $X \in \mathbb{C}^{d \times d}$ with $X \approx e^{-i\theta} Q$ for some $\theta \in [0, 2\pi]$

- 1: Compute the Hermitian matrix $P = \left((\mathcal{M}|_{\mathcal{P}})^{-1} \mathbf{y} \right) / 2 + \left((\mathcal{M}|_{\mathcal{P}})^{-1} \mathbf{y} \right)^* / 2 \in \mathcal{P} \left(\mathbb{C}^{d^2 \times d^2} \right)$ as an estimate of $\mathcal{P} \left(\vec{Q} \vec{Q}^* \right)$. \mathcal{M} and \mathcal{P} are as defined in (8) and §2.1.
 - 2: Form the matrix of phases, $\tilde{P} \in \mathcal{P} \left(\mathbb{C}^{d^2 \times d^2} \right)$, by normalizing the non-zero entries of P . We expect that $\tilde{P} \approx \tilde{Q}$.
 - 3: Compute the principal eigenvector of \tilde{P} and use it to compute $U_{j,k} \approx \text{sgn}(Q_{j,k}) \ \forall j, k \in [d]$ as per §2.2.
 - 4: Use the diagonal entries of P to compute $M_{j,k} \approx |Q_{j,k}|^2$ for all $j, k \in [d]$ as per §2.3.
 - 5: Set $X_{j,k} = \sqrt{M_{j,k}} \cdot U_{j,k}$ for all $j, k \in [d]$ to form X
-

using an eigenvector approach. Together, the magnitude and phase estimates provide an approximation of Q .

Toward producing the linear system of step 1, we observe that

$$\begin{aligned} y_{(\ell, \ell', u, v)} &= \left| \langle Q, S_{\ell'}^* \mathbf{a}_u (S_{\ell'}^* \mathbf{b}_v)^* \rangle_{\text{HS}} \right|^2 = |\langle \vec{Q}, S_{\ell'}^* \overline{\mathbf{b}_u} \otimes S_{\ell'}^* \mathbf{a}_v \rangle|^2 \\ &= \left\langle \vec{Q} \vec{Q}^*, S_{\ell'}^* \overline{\mathbf{b}_u} \otimes S_{\ell'}^* \mathbf{a}_v (S_{\ell'}^* \overline{\mathbf{b}_u} \otimes S_{\ell'}^* \mathbf{a}_v)^* \right\rangle, \end{aligned}$$

which allows us to naturally define $\mathcal{M} : \mathbb{C}^{d^2 \times d^2} \mapsto \mathbb{R}^D$ as the linear measurement operator given by

$$(\mathcal{M}(Z))_{(\ell, \ell', u, v)} := \left\langle Z, S_{\ell'}^* \overline{\mathbf{b}_u} \otimes S_{\ell'}^* \mathbf{a}_v (S_{\ell'}^* \overline{\mathbf{b}_u} \otimes S_{\ell'}^* \mathbf{a}_v)^* \right\rangle_{\text{HS}} = \left\langle Z, S_{\ell'}^* \overline{\mathbf{b}_u} \mathbf{b}_u^* S_{\ell'} \otimes S_{\ell'}^* \mathbf{a}_v \mathbf{a}_v^* S_{\ell'} \right\rangle_{\text{HS}}, \quad (8)$$

so that $\mathbf{y} = \mathcal{M}(\vec{Q} \vec{Q}^*)$. Our new objective is to solve for $\mathcal{P}(\vec{Q} \vec{Q}^*)$, the projection of $\vec{Q} \vec{Q}^*$ onto the rowspace of \mathcal{M} using our measurements \mathbf{y} . Once we have solved for $\mathcal{P}(\vec{Q} \vec{Q}^*)$, we show that finding its principal eigenvector suffices to compute \vec{Q} (and therefore Q) up to a global phase multiple.

2.1 Inverting the Linear Measurement Operator \mathcal{M}

Recall that $D = (2\delta - 1)^2 \cdot d^2 \ll d^4$ from above so that our number of measurements (8) is severely underdetermined for arbitrary $Z \in \mathbb{C}^{d^2 \times d^2}$. Toward circumventing the generally underdetermined nature of our measurements we observe that the local supports of both \mathbf{a}_u and \mathbf{b}_v ensure that $\mathcal{M} \left(\overrightarrow{E_{j,k}} \left(\overrightarrow{E_{j',k'}} \right)^* \right) = \mathbf{0}$ whenever either $|j - j'| \geq \delta$ or $|k - k'| \geq \delta$ holds (this is clear from (8) and (5)). As a result we can see that $\mathcal{M}(\mathcal{P}(Z)) = \mathcal{M}(Z)$ holds for all $Z \in \mathbb{C}^{d^2 \times d^2}$ where $\mathcal{P} : \mathbb{C}^{d^2 \times d^2} \mapsto \mathbb{C}^{d^2 \times d^2}$ is the orthogonal projector onto the span of $\mathcal{B} := \left\{ \overrightarrow{E_{j,k}} \left(\overrightarrow{E_{j',k'}} \right)^* \mid |j - j'| < \delta, |k - k'| < \delta \right\}$.^{*} Furthermore, the dimension of $\mathcal{P} \left(\mathbb{C}^{d^2 \times d^2} \right) = \text{span}(\mathcal{B})$ is D by construction. As a result, it is conceivable that the composition of \mathcal{M} and \mathcal{P} restricted to $\mathcal{P} \left(\mathbb{C}^{d^2 \times d^2} \right)$, $\mathcal{M}|_{\mathcal{P}} : \text{span}(\mathcal{B}) \mapsto \mathbb{R}^D$, is invertible on $\text{span}(\mathcal{B})$. Indeed, numerical experiments indicate this turns out to be the case for many different choices of local pairs $\{(\mathbf{a}_u, \mathbf{b}_v) \mid (u, v) \in \Omega^2\} \subset \mathbb{C}^d \times \mathbb{C}^d$ as long as $|\Omega| \geq 2\delta - 1$. Moreover, in this paper we prove the following proposition, a corollary of which identifies pairs \mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b} which produce an invertible linear system:

PROPOSITION 1. Let $T_{\delta} : \mathbb{C}^{d \times d} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^{d \times d}$ be the operator given by

$$T_{\delta}(X)_{ij} = \begin{cases} X_{ij}, & |i - j| < \delta \pmod{d} \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}.$$

^{*}Note that \mathcal{P} can also be described as a restriction operator onto the indices associated with the elements of \mathcal{B} . Our periodic boundary conditions also imply that, e.g., $|j - j'| < \delta \Leftrightarrow \exists h \in \mathbb{Z}$ with $|h| < \delta$ s.t. $j' + h \equiv j \pmod{d}$.

If the space $T_\delta(\mathbb{C}^{d \times d})$ is spanned by the collection $\{a_j a_j^*\}_{j=1}^K$, then $\mathcal{P}(\mathbb{C}^{d^2 \times d^2})$ is spanned by

$$\{(a_j \otimes a_{j'}) (a_j \otimes a_{j'})^*\}_{(j,j') \in [K]^2} = \{(a_j a_j^*) \otimes (a_{j'} a_{j'}^*)\}_{(j,j') \in [K]^2}.$$

Proof. By (5), it suffices to show that

$$(e_k e_{k'}^*) \otimes (e_j e_{j'}^*) \in \text{span}\{(a_n a_n^*) \otimes (a_{n'} a_{n'}^*)\}_{(n,n') \in [K]^2}$$

for any $|j - j'|, |k - k'| < \delta$. Indeed, we have that $\{E_{jj'} : |j - j'| < \delta \bmod d\}$ forms a basis for \mathcal{B} , so $E_{jj'}, E_{kk'} \in \text{span}\{a_n a_n^*\}_{n \in [K]}$ and

$$(e_k e_{k'}^*) \otimes (e_j e_{j'}^*) \in \text{span}\{(a_n a_n^*) \otimes (a_{n'} a_{n'}^*)\}_{(n,n') \in [K]^2}.$$

□

In theorem 4 of,³ an illumination function $\mathbf{a} \in \mathbb{C}^d$ with $\text{supp}(\mathbf{a}) \subset [\delta]$ is offered such that $\{S_\ell \mathbf{a}_u \mathbf{a}_u^* S_\ell^*\}_{(\ell,u) \in [d]^2}$ spans $T_\delta(\mathbb{C}^d)$; by proposition 1, we have the following corollary.

COROLLARY 1. Choose a constant $a \in [4, \infty)$ and let the vectors \mathbf{a}_ℓ be defined by $(\mathbf{a}_\ell)_k = \frac{e^{-k/a}}{\sqrt[4]{2\delta-1}} \cdot \mathbb{1}_{k \leq \delta}$. Then if $2\delta - 1$ divides d (with $d = k(2\delta - 1)$), we have that

$$\{S_\ell^* \overline{\mathbf{a}_u} \mathbf{a}_u^* S_\ell \otimes S_{\ell'}^* \mathbf{a}_v \mathbf{a}_v^* S_{\ell'}\}_{(u,v,\ell,\ell') \in [d]^2 \times k[2\delta-1]^2}$$

spans \mathcal{P} .

We remark that the condition $2\delta - 1 | d$ may be met by zero padding the matrix Q .

2.2 Computing the Phases of the Entries of Q after Inverting $\mathcal{M}|_{\mathcal{P}}$

Assuming that $\mathcal{M}|_{\mathcal{P}}$ is invertible so that we can recover $\mathcal{P}(\vec{Q} \vec{Q}^*)$ from our measurements \mathbf{y} , we are still left with the problem of how to recover \vec{Q} from $\mathcal{P}(\vec{Q} \vec{Q}^*)$. Our first step in solving for \vec{Q} will be to compute all the phases of the entries of \vec{Q} from $\mathcal{P}(\vec{Q} \vec{Q}^*)$. Thankfully, this can be solved as an angular synchronization problem⁵ using the variant utilized by BlockPR.^{4,6} Let $\mathbb{1} \in \mathbb{C}^{d^2 \times d^2}$ be the vector of all ones, and $\text{sgn} : \mathbb{C} \mapsto \mathbb{C}$ be

$$\text{sgn}(z) = \begin{cases} \frac{z}{|z|}, & z \neq 0 \\ 1, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}.$$

We now define $\tilde{Q} \in \mathbb{C}^{d^2 \times d^2}$ by $\tilde{Q} = \mathcal{P}(\text{sgn}(\vec{Q} \vec{Q}^*))$; as we shall see, the principal eigenvector of \tilde{Q} will provide us with all of the phases of the entries of \vec{Q} .

Working toward that goal we may note that

$$\tilde{Q} = \text{diag}(\text{sgn}(\vec{Q})) \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{1} \mathbb{1}^*) \text{diag}(\overline{\text{sgn}(\vec{Q})}) \quad (9)$$

where sgn is applied component-wise to vectors, and where $\text{diag}(\mathbf{x}) \in \mathbb{C}^{d^2 \times d^2}$ is diagonal with $(\text{diag}(\mathbf{x}))_{j,j} := x_j$ for all $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{C}^{d^2}$ and $j \in [d^2]$. After noting that $\text{diag}(\text{sgn}(\cdot))$ always produces a unitary diagonal matrix, we can further see that the spectral structure of \tilde{Q} is primarily determined by $\mathcal{P}(\mathbb{1} \mathbb{1}^*)$. The following theorem completely characterizes the eigenvalues and eigenvectors of $\mathcal{P}(\mathbb{1} \mathbb{1}^*)$.

THEOREM 1. Let $F \in \mathbb{C}^{d \times d}$ be the unitary discrete Fourier transform matrix with $F_{j,k} := \frac{1}{\sqrt{d}} e^{2\pi i \frac{(j-1)(k-1)}{d}} \forall j, k \in [d]$, and let $D \in \mathbb{C}^{d \times d}$ be the diagonal matrix with $D_{j,j} = 1 + 2 \sum_{k=1}^{\delta-1} \cos\left(\frac{2\pi(j-1)k}{d}\right) \forall j \in [d]$. Then,

$$\mathcal{P}(\mathbb{1} \mathbb{1}^*) = (F \otimes F) (D \otimes D) (F \otimes F)^*.$$

In particular, the principal eigenvector of $\mathcal{P}(\mathbb{1}\mathbb{1}^*)$ is $\mathbb{1}$ and its associated eigenvalue is $(2\delta - 1)^2$.

Proof. From the definition of \mathcal{P} we have that

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{P}(\mathbb{1}\mathbb{1}^*) &= \sum_{j=1}^d \sum_{|j-j'| < \delta} \sum_{k=1}^d \sum_{|k-k'| < \delta} \overrightarrow{E_{j,k}} (\overrightarrow{E_{j',k'}})^* \\ &= \sum_{j=1}^d \sum_{|j-j'| < \delta} \sum_{k=1}^d \sum_{|k-k'| < \delta} E_{kk'} \otimes E_{jj'} \\ &= \left(\sum_{k=1}^d \sum_{|k-k'| < \delta} E_{kk'} \right) \otimes \left(\sum_{j=1}^d \sum_{|j-j'| < \delta} E_{jj'} \right) \\ &= T_\delta(\mathbb{1}\mathbb{1}^*) \otimes T_\delta(\mathbb{1}\mathbb{1}^*)\end{aligned}$$

Thankfully the eigenvectors and eigenvalues of T_δ are known (see Lemma 1 of Iwen, Preskitt, Saab, and Viswanathan⁴). In particular, $T_\delta = FDF^*$ which then yields the desired result by Theorem 4.2.12 of Horn and Johnson.⁷ \square

Theorem 1 in combination with (9) makes it clear that $\text{sgn}(\vec{Q})$ will be the principal eigenvector of \tilde{Q} .

As a result, we can rapidly compute the phases of all the entries of \vec{Q} by using, e.g., a shifted inverse power method⁸ in order compute the eigenvector of \tilde{Q} corresponding to the eigenvalue $(2\delta - 1)^2$.

2.3 Computing the Magnitudes of the Entries of Q after Inverting $\mathcal{M}|_{\mathcal{P}}$

Having found the phases of each entry of \vec{Q} using $\mathcal{P}(\vec{Q}\vec{Q}^*)$ it only remains to find each entry's magnitude as well. This is comparably easy to achieve. Note that the set \mathcal{B} above always contains $\overrightarrow{E_{j,k}}(\overrightarrow{E_{j,k}})^*$ for all $j, k \in [d]$. As a result, $\mathcal{P}(\vec{Q}\vec{Q}^*)$ is guaranteed to always provide the diagonal entries of $\vec{Q}\vec{Q}^*$ for all $\delta \geq 1$, and the diagonal entries of $\vec{Q}\vec{Q}^*$ are exactly the squared magnitudes of each entry in \vec{Q} . Combined with the phase information recovered above in §2.2 we are finally able to reconstruct every entry of \vec{Q} up to a global phase. See Algorithm 1 for complete pseudocode.

3. NUMERICAL EVALUATION

We will now demonstrate the efficiency and robustness of Algorithm 1.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This work was supported in part by NSF DMS-1416752.