

# SOLUTIONS OF ORTHOGONAL PROCRUSTES PROBLEMS UNDER PARTIALLY KNOWN COLUMNS

JUN XU AND DAVID ZHANG

DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTING, THE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY

## Abstract

The orthogonal Procrustes problem aims to find an orthogonal matrix  $\mathbf{T}$  which transforms one given matrix  $\mathbf{A}$  into another one  $\mathbf{B}$  by minimizing the residual difference under Frobenius norm of matrix, i.e.,  $\min \|\mathbf{B} - \mathbf{TA}\|_F^2$ . This problem can be applied in factor analysis, dictionary learning, camera calibration, and robotics *etc.* In many real applications, some certain factors may have been partially known previously, some dictionary items could be partially learned beforehand [16], and the Z-axis is usually fixed before the calibration of camera [14], *etc.* All these prior information could be formulated as partially known columns and would influence the solution of the whole orthogonal transformation matrix, and hence makes the original orthogonal Procrustes problem more difficult. In this paper, we studied the solution of orthogonal Procrustes problem under partially known columns, which includes the original orthogonal Procrustes problem as a special case.

Key words: Orthogonal Procrustes problem, partially known columns

## 1. Introduction

Let  $\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{B} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times m}$  be two given matrices of observed data, we consider the problem of transforming the matrix  $\mathbf{A}$  into the matrix  $\mathbf{B}$  by an orthogonal matrix  $\mathbf{T} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$  so that the residual difference between  $\mathbf{B}$  and  $\mathbf{TA}$  is minimized under the least square sense. This is the classical orthogonal Procrustes problem [1] which can be formally stated as follows:

$$\min_{\mathbf{T}} \|\mathbf{B} - \mathbf{TA}\|_F^2 \quad \text{s.t.} \quad \mathbf{T}^\top \mathbf{T} = \mathbf{I}_{n \times n}, \quad (1)$$

where “ $\top$ ” means the transpose operation. As Schönemann pointed out in [3], the solution of the orthogonal transformation matrix  $\mathbf{T}$  for problem (1) is  $\hat{\mathbf{T}} = \mathbf{UV}^\top$ , where  $\mathbf{U} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$  and  $\mathbf{V} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$  are obtained by performing singular value decomposition (SVD) on  $\mathbf{BA}^\top$  via  $\mathbf{BA}^\top = \mathbf{U}\mathbf{\Sigma}\mathbf{V}^\top$ .

Many researchers have studied this problem in different perspectives. Green [2] derived the solution of problem (1) when the matrices  $\mathbf{A}$  and  $\mathbf{B}$  are of full column rank. Schönemann [3] generalized the solution of problem (1) to matrices  $\mathbf{A}$  and  $\mathbf{B}$  of arbitrary rank and further studied the two-sided orthogonal Procrustes

problems [4]. Lissitz *et al.* [5] and Koschat [6] studied the weighted orthogonal Procrustes problems, in which the weights are arranged in a diagonal matrix. More details about weighted orthogonal Procrustes problems can be found in Viklands's PhD thesis [7]. Higham [8] studied the symmetric Procrustes problem by replacing the orthogonal restriction of  $\mathbf{T}^\top \mathbf{T} = \mathbf{I}_{n \times n}$  with the symmetric restriction of  $\mathbf{T}^\top = \mathbf{T}$ . Later, Watson *et al.* studied the solutions of orthogonal Procrustes problems under general matrix norms such as orthogonally invariant norms [9] and the special  $\ell_1$  norm [10]. The generalized problems could not be solved in closed-form but in iterative manner involved in techniques such as projected gradient methods [11] and the famous Newton's method. In [10], the weighted orthogonal Procrustes problem is also solved by projected gradient methods [11]. Berge [12] further discussed the rigid rotation problem which requires the determinant of the orthogonal transformation matrix  $\mathbf{T}$  to be 1 (i.e., eliminating the possibility of reflection or flip).

The classical orthogonal Procrustes problem [1] has wide applications in different research fields, such as factor analysis [2], rigid rotation [12] in robotics, dimensional reduction [13] in machine learning, camera calibration [14] and point matching [15] in computer vision, dictionary learning [16] in signal processing, *etc.* The extended two-sided orthogonal Procrustes problem has been applied into matrix perturbation problem [4].

In this paper, we study the solution of the orthogonal Procrustes problem when partial columns of the orthogonal transformation matrix  $\mathbf{T}$  are known. This is possibly emerged in many practical applications. For examples, in the point matching problem [15], if a part of the points have already been matched, the matched data could be used to guide the matching of the remaining points. In signal processing problems, dictionary learning [16] is widely used for image recovery. If the dictionary items learned from external clean images are employed to guide the learning of the dictionary items for the internal degraded image, the overall learned dictionary items would be more adaptive to the degraded image being processed. We presented a new proof on the sufficiency condition of the solution by using the generalized Kristof's Theorem [17], which is clearly different from the proof in [3]. We also give the number of solutions when the product of the matrices  $\mathbf{A}$  and  $\mathbf{B}$  are singular.

## 2. Definition of the Problem and Solution

Assume  $\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{B} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times m}$  be two given data matrices. Let  $\mathbf{X} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times p}$  and  $\mathbf{P} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times q}$  ( $p + q = n$ ), where  $\mathbf{X}$  is the partially known guidance employed to guide the solutions of  $\mathbf{P}$ . From the Section 1, we can see that  $[\mathbf{X} \ \mathbf{P}] = \mathbf{T} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$  is the orthonormal matrix which transform the matrix  $\mathbf{A}$  to best fit the matrix  $\mathbf{B}$  under the least square sense. Instead of obtaining  $\mathbf{T}$  in classical orthogonal Procrustes problem, we need to obtain part of  $\mathbf{T}$  with partially known guidance in the guidance version. For simplicity, we assume  $n \geq m$  and the other cases could be analyzed in a similar way. We formulate the orthogonal Procrustes problem with partially known priors as:

$$\hat{\mathbf{P}} = \arg \min_{\mathbf{D}} \|\mathbf{B} - [\mathbf{X} \ \mathbf{P}] \mathbf{A}\|_F^2 \quad \text{s.t.} \quad \mathbf{P}^\top \mathbf{P} = \mathbf{I}_{q \times q}, \mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{P} = \mathbf{0}_{p \times q}. \quad (2)$$

Note that the original orthogonal Procrustes problems is a special case of the problem discussed in this paper. When there is no guidance at all, i.e.,  $\mathbf{X} = \emptyset$ , we have  $p = 0, q = n$  and the studied problem is reduced to the classical orthogonal Procrustes problem.

When the partially known guidance  $\mathbf{X} \neq \emptyset$ , we crop the matrix  $\mathbf{A}$  into two parts:  $\mathbf{A}_X \in \mathbb{R}^{p \times m}$  and

$\mathbf{A}_P \in \mathbb{R}^{q \times m}$  to interact with  $\mathbf{X}$  and  $\mathbf{P}$ , respectively. Then we have

$$\begin{aligned} \|\mathbf{B} - [\mathbf{X} \ \mathbf{P}]\mathbf{A}\|_F^2 &= \|\mathbf{B} - [\mathbf{X} \ \mathbf{P}][\mathbf{A}_X^\top \ \mathbf{A}_P^\top]^\top\|_F^2 = \|\mathbf{B} - [\mathbf{X} \ \mathbf{P}][\mathbf{A}_X^\top \ \mathbf{A}_P^\top]^\top\|_F^2 \\ &= \|\mathbf{B} - \mathbf{X}\mathbf{A}_X^\top - \mathbf{P}\mathbf{A}_P^\top\|_F^2 = \|\mathbf{B} - \mathbf{X}\mathbf{A}_X^\top - \mathbf{P}\mathbf{A}_P^\top\|_F^2 \end{aligned} \quad (3)$$

The  $\mathbf{B} - \mathbf{X}\mathbf{A}_X^\top$  is a known data matrix and we replace it with  $\mathbf{B}^* = \mathbf{B} - \mathbf{X}\mathbf{A}_X^\top$ . In the following Results 1, we remove the notation  $*$  and use  $\mathbf{B}$  as the finally known data matrix.

**Results 1:** Let  $\mathbf{A} \in \mathbb{R}^{q \times m}$ ,  $\mathbf{B} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times m}$  be two given data matrices, given partially known prior of  $\mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{X} = \mathbf{I}_{p \times p}$ . Then the sufficiency and necessary conditions of

$$\hat{\mathbf{P}} = \arg \min_{\mathbf{P}} \|\mathbf{B} - \mathbf{P}\mathbf{A}\|_F^2 \quad s.t. \quad \mathbf{P}^\top \mathbf{P} = \mathbf{I}_{q \times q}, \mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{P} = \mathbf{0}_{p \times q} \quad (4)$$

is  $\hat{\mathbf{P}} = \mathbf{U}\mathbf{V}^\top$ , where  $\mathbf{U} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times q}$  and  $\mathbf{V} \in \mathbb{R}^{q \times q}$  are the orthogonal matrices obtained by performing economy (a.k.a. reduced) SVD:

$$(\mathbf{I}_{n \times n} - \mathbf{X}\mathbf{X}^\top)\mathbf{B}\mathbf{A}^\top = \mathbf{U}\Sigma\mathbf{V}^\top \quad (5)$$

*Proof:* Since  $\mathbf{P}^\top \mathbf{P} = \mathbf{I}_{q \times q}$ , we have

$$\hat{\mathbf{P}} = \arg \min_{\mathbf{P}} \|\mathbf{B} - \mathbf{P}\mathbf{A}\|_F^2 = \arg \min_{\mathbf{P}} \|\mathbf{B}\|_F^2 + \|\mathbf{P}\mathbf{A}\|_F^2 - 2\text{Tr}(\mathbf{B}^\top \mathbf{P}\mathbf{A}) = \arg \max_{\mathbf{P}} \text{Tr}(\mathbf{A}\mathbf{B}^\top \mathbf{P}). \quad (6)$$

We can use Lagrange multiplier method and define the Lagrange function as:

$$\mathcal{L} = \text{Tr}(\mathbf{A}\mathbf{B}^\top \mathbf{P}) - \text{Tr}(\Gamma_1(\mathbf{P}^\top \mathbf{P} - \mathbf{I}_{q \times q})) - \text{Tr}(\Gamma_2(\mathbf{P}^\top \mathbf{X})), \quad (7)$$

where  $\Gamma$  is the Lagrange multiplier. Take the derivative of  $\mathcal{L}$  with respect to  $\mathbf{P}$  and set it to 0, we can get

$$\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \mathbf{P}} = \mathbf{B}\mathbf{A}^\top - \mathbf{P}(\Gamma_1 + \Gamma_1^\top) - \mathbf{X}\Gamma_2^\top = 0. \quad (8)$$

Since  $\mathbf{P}^\top \mathbf{P} = \mathbf{I}_{q \times q}$  and  $\mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{P} = \mathbf{0}_{p \times q}$ , by left multiplying the Eq. (7) by  $\mathbf{X}^\top$ , we have

$$\mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{B}\mathbf{A}^\top = \Gamma_2^\top. \quad (9)$$

Put the results back to Eq. (7), we have

$$\mathbf{B}\mathbf{A}^\top - \mathbf{P}(\Gamma_1 + \Gamma_1^\top) - \mathbf{X}\mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{B}\mathbf{A}^\top = 0. \quad (10)$$

Or equivalently,

$$(\mathbf{I}_{n \times n} - \mathbf{X}\mathbf{X}^\top)\mathbf{B}\mathbf{A}^\top = \mathbf{P}(\Gamma_1 + \Gamma_1^\top). \quad (11)$$

Right multiplying Eq. (10) by  $\mathbf{P}^\top$ , we have

$$(\mathbf{I}_{n \times n} - \mathbf{X}\mathbf{X}^\top)\mathbf{B}\mathbf{A}^\top \mathbf{P}^\top = \mathbf{P}(\Gamma_1 + \Gamma_1^\top) \mathbf{P}^\top. \quad (12)$$

This shows that  $(\mathbf{I}_{n \times n} - \mathbf{X}\mathbf{X}^\top)\mathbf{B}\mathbf{A}^\top \mathbf{P}^\top$  is a symmetric matrix of order  $n \times n$ . Then we perform economy (or reduced) singular value decomposition (SVD) on  $(\mathbf{I}_{n \times n} - \mathbf{X}\mathbf{X}^\top)\mathbf{B}\mathbf{A}^\top$  and get  $(\mathbf{I}_{n \times n} - \mathbf{X}\mathbf{X}^\top)\mathbf{B}\mathbf{A}^\top = \mathbf{U}\Sigma\mathbf{V}^\top$ . Since  $(\mathbf{I}_{n \times n} - \mathbf{X}\mathbf{X}^\top)\mathbf{B}\mathbf{A}^\top \mathbf{P}^\top$  is symmetric, we have

$$(\mathbf{I}_{n \times n} - \mathbf{X}\mathbf{X}^\top)\mathbf{B}\mathbf{A}^\top \mathbf{P}^\top = \mathbf{U}\Sigma\mathbf{V}^\top \mathbf{P}^\top = \mathbf{P}\mathbf{V}\Sigma\mathbf{U}^\top \quad (13)$$

and hence we have  $\mathbf{U} = \mathbf{P}\mathbf{V}$  and equivalently  $\hat{\mathbf{P}} = \mathbf{U}\mathbf{V}^\top$ . Note that we can also employ the property of symmetric matrix that every symmetric matrix could be diagonalized to obtain this result. The necessary condition is proofed.

Now we proof the sufficiency condition. If  $\hat{\mathbf{P}} = \mathbf{U}\mathbf{V}^\top$ , then  $\hat{\mathbf{P}}$  satisfies that  $\hat{\mathbf{P}}^\top \hat{\mathbf{P}} = \mathbf{I}_{q \times q}$  and  $\mathbf{X}^\top \hat{\mathbf{P}} = \mathbf{0}_{p \times q}$ . The first is obvious and now we consider the second one. From the Eq. (4), since  $\mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{X} = \mathbf{I}_{p \times p}$ , we have

$$\mathbf{X}^\top (\mathbf{I}_{n \times n} - \mathbf{X}\mathbf{X}^\top) \mathbf{B}\mathbf{A}^\top = \mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{B}\mathbf{A}^\top - \mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{X}\mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{B}\mathbf{A}^\top = \mathbf{0}_{p \times n}. \quad (14)$$

It means that  $\mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{U}\Sigma\mathbf{V}^\top = \mathbf{0}_{p \times p}$  and hence  $\mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{U} = \mathbf{0}_{p \times p}$ . Then  $\mathbf{X}^\top \hat{\mathbf{P}} = \mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{U}\mathbf{V}^\top = \mathbf{0}_{p \times q}$ .

Besides, since

$$\|\mathbf{B} - \mathbf{P}\mathbf{A}\|_F^2 = \|\mathbf{B}\|_F^2 + \|\mathbf{P}\mathbf{A}\|_F^2 - 2\text{Tr}(\mathbf{B}^\top \mathbf{P}\mathbf{A}), \quad (15)$$

Until now, if we want to proof that  $\hat{\mathbf{P}} = \mathbf{U}\mathbf{V}^\top$  is the solution of problem (3),  $\text{Tr}(\mathbf{B}^\top \hat{\mathbf{P}}\mathbf{A})$  has to be a maximum if  $\|\mathbf{B} - \hat{\mathbf{P}}\mathbf{A}\|_F^2$  is to be a minimum, as long as  $\mathbf{P}$  satisfying the conditions in Eq. (3). Note that by cyclic perturbation which retains the trace unchanged and due to  $\mathbf{X}^\top \hat{\mathbf{P}} = \mathbf{0}_{p \times q}$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Tr}(\mathbf{B}^\top \hat{\mathbf{P}}\mathbf{A}) &= \text{Tr}(\mathbf{B}\mathbf{A}^\top \hat{\mathbf{P}}^\top) \\ &= \text{Tr}((\mathbf{I}_{n \times n} - \mathbf{X}\mathbf{X}^\top) \mathbf{B}\mathbf{A}^\top \hat{\mathbf{P}}^\top) \\ &= \text{Tr}(\mathbf{U}\Sigma\mathbf{V}^\top \mathbf{V}\mathbf{U}^\top) \\ &= \text{Tr}(\Sigma). \end{aligned} \quad (16)$$

Now we need to proof that  $\text{Tr}(\Sigma) \geq \text{Tr}(\mathbf{B}^\top \mathbf{P}\mathbf{A})$  for every  $\mathbf{P}$  satisfying that  $\mathbf{P}^\top \mathbf{P} = \mathbf{I}_{q \times q}$ ,  $\mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{P} = \mathbf{0}_{p \times q}$ . Since  $\text{Tr}(\mathbf{B}^\top \mathbf{P}\mathbf{A}) = \text{Tr}((\mathbf{I}_{n \times n} - \mathbf{X}\mathbf{X}^\top) \mathbf{B}\mathbf{A}^\top \mathbf{P}^\top) = \text{Tr}(\mathbf{U}\Sigma\mathbf{V}^\top \mathbf{P}^\top \mathbf{U}) = \text{Tr}(\Sigma \mathbf{V}^\top \mathbf{P}^\top \mathbf{U}) \leq \text{Tr}(\Sigma)$ . The last inequality can be obtained by using a generalization version [17] of the Kristof's Theorem [18]. The equality is obtained at  $\mathbf{V}^\top \mathbf{P}^\top \mathbf{U} = \mathbf{I}_{q \times q}$ , i.e.,  $\mathbf{P} = \mathbf{U}\mathbf{V}^\top = \hat{\mathbf{P}}$ . This completes the proof. ■

Note that if the partially known prior were not present, the solution is clearly the solution of the original orthogonal Procrustes problem, i.e.,  $\hat{\mathbf{P}} = \mathbf{U}\mathbf{V}^\top$ , where  $\mathbf{U}$  and  $\mathbf{V}$  are the orthogonal matrices obtained by performing economy (a.k.a. reduced) SVD:  $\mathbf{B}\mathbf{A}^\top = \mathbf{U}\Sigma\mathbf{V}^\top$ . The difference between the solutions of the original orthogonal Procrustes problem and its partially known prior version quantify the effect on the residual of requiring  $\mathbf{P}$  to be orthogonal to the external prior  $\mathbf{P}^\top \mathbf{X}$ .

### 3. Uniqueness of Solution $\hat{\mathbf{P}}$

Now we discuss the uniqueness of the solution  $\hat{\mathbf{P}}$ . Our discussion is according to the rankness of the  $\Sigma$  generated in the SVD. We first give a lemma describing the rank of  $\mathbf{X}\mathbf{X}^\top$  where  $\mathbf{X} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times p}$  is the partially known orthogonal matrix.

*Lemma 1:* Let  $\mathbf{X} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times p}$  be orthogonal matrix with  $\mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{X} = \mathbf{I}_{p \times p}$ , then  $\text{rank}(\mathbf{I}_{n \times n} - \mathbf{X}\mathbf{X}^\top) \geq n - p$ .

*Proof:* We firstly proof that  $\text{rank}(\mathbf{X}\mathbf{X}^\top) = p$ . The upper bound of the  $\text{rank}(\mathbf{X}\mathbf{X}^\top)$  can be determined by  $\text{rank}(\mathbf{X}\mathbf{X}^\top) \leq \min\{\text{rank}(\mathbf{X}), \text{rank}(\mathbf{X}^\top)\} = p$ . The lower bound of the  $\text{rank}(\mathbf{X}\mathbf{X}^\top)$  can be determined by Sylvester's inequality as  $\text{rank}(\mathbf{X}\mathbf{X}^\top) \geq \text{rank}(\mathbf{X}) + \text{rank}(\mathbf{X}^\top) - p = 2p - p = p$ . Hence, we have  $\text{rank}(\mathbf{X}\mathbf{X}^\top) = p$ . Then,  $\text{rank}(\mathbf{I}_{n \times n} - \mathbf{X}\mathbf{X}^\top) \geq \text{rank}(\mathbf{I}_{n \times n}) - \text{rank}(\mathbf{X}\mathbf{X}^\top) \geq n - p$ . ■

The rank of  $\Sigma$  largely depends on the rank of  $\mathbf{I}_{n \times n} - \mathbf{X}\mathbf{X}^\top$ ,  $\mathbf{B}$  and  $\mathbf{A}$ . Note that the rank of  $\mathbf{B}$  and  $\mathbf{A}$  are not larger than  $m$  and  $q$ , respectively. The rank of  $\mathbf{I}_{n \times n} - \mathbf{X}\mathbf{X}^\top$  is at least  $n - q = p$  (since

$\text{rank}(\mathbf{I}_{n \times n} - \mathbf{X}\mathbf{X}^\top) \geq \text{rank}(\mathbf{I}_{n \times n}) - \text{rank}(\mathbf{X}\mathbf{X}^\top) \geq n - p = q$ ). From above observations, we can see that the rank of  $\Sigma$  can be equal to or less than  $q$ .

**Results 2:** If  $(\mathbf{I}_{n \times n} - \mathbf{X}\mathbf{X}^\top)\mathbf{B}\mathbf{A}^\top$  is nonsingular, then  $\text{rank}(\Sigma) = q$ , and  $\Sigma$  may have distinct or multiple non-zero singular values. In the SVD of  $(\mathbf{I}_{n \times n} - \mathbf{X}\mathbf{X}^\top)\mathbf{B}\mathbf{A}^\top = \mathbf{U}\Sigma\mathbf{V}^\top$ , the singular vectors in  $\mathbf{U}$  and  $\mathbf{V}$  can be determined up to orientation. Hence, we can reformulate the SVD as

$$(\mathbf{I}_{n \times n} - \mathbf{X}\mathbf{X}^\top)\mathbf{B}\mathbf{A}^\top = \mathbf{U}^*\mathbf{K}_u\Sigma\mathbf{K}_v(\mathbf{V}^*)^\top, \quad (17)$$

where  $\mathbf{U}^* \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times q}$  and  $\mathbf{V}^* \in \mathbb{R}^{q \times q}$  are arbitrarily orientated singular vectors of  $\mathbf{U}$  and  $\mathbf{V}$ , respectively.  $\Sigma \in \mathbb{R}^{q \times q}$  are diagonal matrix with singular values are arranged in weak descending order along the diagonal, i.e.,  $\Sigma_{11} \geq \Sigma_{22} \geq \dots \geq \Sigma_{qq} \geq 0$ . The  $\mathbf{K}_u$  and  $\mathbf{K}_v$  are diagonal matrices with  $+1$  or  $-1$  as diagonal elements in arbitrary distribution. If we fix  $\mathbf{K}_u$ , then  $\mathbf{K}_v$  is uniquely determined to meet the requirement that the diagonal elements of  $\Sigma$  should be nonnegative. And the orientations of the singular vectors of  $\mathbf{U}^*$  is fixed, then the  $\mathbf{U} = \mathbf{U}^*\mathbf{K}_u$  is determined, so does the orientations of the singular vectors of  $\mathbf{V}^*$  and  $\mathbf{V}^\top = \mathbf{K}_v(\mathbf{V}^*)^\top$ . In this case, the solution of  $\hat{\mathbf{P}} = \mathbf{U}\mathbf{V}^\top = \mathbf{U}^*\mathbf{K}_u\mathbf{K}_v(\mathbf{V}^*)^\top$  is unique. The case that the  $\Sigma$  have multiple singular values also has unique solution of  $\hat{\mathbf{P}}$ , which can be discussed in a similar way.

If  $(\mathbf{I}_{n \times n} - \mathbf{X}\mathbf{X}^\top)\mathbf{B}\mathbf{A}^\top$  is singular, then  $0 \leq \text{rank}(\Sigma) = r < q$ , and there is  $q - r$  (at least one) zero singular values. The previous discussion on non-degenerative case still can be applied to the singular vectors related to the nonzero singular values, and this part is still unique. However, the singular vectors related to the zero singular values could be in arbitrary orientations as long as they satisfy the orthogonal conditions that  $\mathbf{U}^\top\mathbf{U} = \mathbf{V}^\top\mathbf{V} = \mathbf{V}\mathbf{V}^\top = \mathbf{I}_{q \times q}$ . Note that  $\mathbf{U} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times q}$ , so  $\mathbf{U}\mathbf{U}^\top$  no longer equals to the identity matrix of order  $n$ . From Eq. (12), we can get

$$\mathbf{U}\Sigma\mathbf{V}^\top\mathbf{P}^\top = \mathbf{P}\mathbf{V}\Sigma\mathbf{U}^\top \quad (18)$$

Right multiplying each side by  $\mathbf{P}\mathbf{V}$  and then left multiplying each side by  $\mathbf{U}^\top$ , we can get

$$\Sigma = \mathbf{U}^\top\mathbf{P}\mathbf{V}\Sigma\mathbf{U}^\top\mathbf{P}\mathbf{V} \quad (19)$$

Hence, we can define a diagonal matrix  $\mathbf{D} = \mathbf{U}^\top\mathbf{P}\mathbf{V} \in \mathbb{R}^{q \times q}$ , the diagonal elements of which are

$$\mathbf{D}_{ii} = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } 1 \leq i \leq r; \\ \pm 1 & \text{if } r < i \leq q. \end{cases}$$

Thus, we obtain that  $\mathbf{P} = \mathbf{U}\mathbf{D}\mathbf{V}^\top$ , where  $\mathbf{D}$  is defined above. Hence, once we get the solution of  $\hat{\mathbf{P}} = \mathbf{U}\mathbf{V}^\top$  in problem (3), the final solution for  $\mathbf{P}$  when  $\text{rank}(\Sigma) < q$  is not unique since the matrix  $\mathbf{D}$  is not uniquely determined. In fact, since the number of  $\mathbf{D}$  with different diagonal combinations is  $2^{q-r}$ , the number of solutions for  $\mathbf{P}$  is  $2^{q-r}$  given fixed  $\mathbf{U}$  and  $\mathbf{V}$ .

#### 4. Concluding Remarks

In this paper, we studied the classical orthogonal Procrustes problem and gave the solution of this problem under partially known guidance, which included the original orthogonal Procrustes problem as a special case (i.e., when there is no guidance at all). Since the orthogonal Procrustes problem had been generalized to two-sided version [4] and weighted version [5, 6], we are highly motivated to study these generalized problems under partially known guidance.

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