

# Positive Collaborative Representation for Subspace Clustering

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## Abstract

## 1 Introduction

## 2 Motivation

- Positive collaborative representation could achieve sparse representation since similar points are sparse while dissimilar points are dense.
- Positive supports are positive to self-representation while negative supports are negative to self-representation.
- Better performance. Faster?

## 3 LSR Model

The least squares regression (LSR) model [1] is proposed by Lu et al. can be formulated as follows:

$$\min_{\mathbf{A}} \|\mathbf{X} - \mathbf{XA}\|_F^2 + \lambda \|\mathbf{A}\|_F^2 \text{ s.t. } \text{diag}(\mathbf{A}) = \mathbf{0}. \quad (1)$$

Here we denote by  $\text{diag}(\mathbf{A})$  both a diagonal matrix whose diagonal elements are the diagonal entries of  $\mathbf{A}$  and the vector consisted of the diagonal elements. According to [1], the above problem has the optimal solution as

$$\hat{\mathbf{A}} = -\mathbf{Z}(\text{diag}(\mathbf{Z})) \text{ s.t. } \text{diag}(\hat{\mathbf{A}}) = \mathbf{0}, \quad (2)$$

where  $\mathbf{Z} = (\mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{X} + \lambda \mathbf{I})^{-1}$ .

The constraint of  $\text{diag}(\mathbf{A}) = \mathbf{0}$  in (1) could be removed and the LSR model achieves similar performance.

## 4 Collaborative Representation based Clustering with Constraint $\text{diag}(\mathbf{A}) = \mathbf{0}$

The LSR model can be reformulated as a collaborative representation model [2] for subspace clustering with an additional constraint of  $\text{diag}(\mathbf{A}) = \mathbf{0}$ . The constraint of  $\text{diag}(\mathbf{A}) = \mathbf{0}$  is used to avoid the samples to represent themselves.

By introducing auxiliary variables into the optimization program, we can set  $\mathbf{C} = \mathbf{A}$ . The LSR model (1) can be transformed into

$$\begin{aligned} \min_{\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{C}} & \|\mathbf{X} - \mathbf{XA}\|_F^2 + \lambda \|\mathbf{C}\|_F^2 \\ \text{s.t. } & \mathbf{C} = \mathbf{A} - \text{diag}(\mathbf{A}), \end{aligned} \quad (3)$$

whose solution for  $\mathbf{A}$  coincides with the solution of Eq. (1). By introducing a Lagrangian multipliers  $\mathbf{\Delta}$  and a penalty parameter  $\rho$ , the Lagrangian function of the Eq. (3) can be written as

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}(\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{C}, \mathbf{\Delta}, \rho) = & \|\mathbf{X} - \mathbf{XA}\|_F^2 + \lambda \|\mathbf{C}\|_F^2 \\ & + \langle \mathbf{\Delta}, \mathbf{C} - (\mathbf{A} - \text{diag}(\mathbf{A})) \rangle + \frac{\rho}{2} \|\mathbf{C} - (\mathbf{A} - \text{diag}(\mathbf{A}))\|_F^2 \end{aligned} \quad (4)$$

Denote by  $(\mathbf{C}_k, \mathbf{A}_k)$  the optimization variables at iteration  $k$ , by  $\mathbf{\Delta}_k$  the Lagrangian multipliers at iteration  $k$ , and by  $\rho$  the penalty parameter at iteration  $k$ . Taking derivatives of  $\mathcal{L}$  with respect to the variables and setting the derivatives to be zeros, we can alternatively update the variables as follows:

(1) Obtain  $\mathbf{A}_{k+1}$  by minimizing  $\mathcal{L}$  with respect to  $\mathbf{A}$ , while fixing  $(\mathbf{C}_k, \mathbf{\Delta}_k)$ . This is equivalent to solve the fol-

lowing problem:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{A}_{k+1} &= \mathbf{J} - \text{diag}(\mathbf{J}), \\ \mathbf{J} &= (\mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{X} + \frac{\rho}{2} \mathbf{I})^{-1} (\mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{X} + \frac{\rho}{2} \mathbf{C}_k + \frac{1}{2} \mathbf{\Delta}_k) \end{aligned} \quad (5)$$

(2) Obtain  $\mathbf{C}_{k+1}$  by minimizing  $\mathcal{L}$  with respect to  $\mathbf{C}$ , while fixing  $(\mathbf{A}_{k+1}, \mathbf{\Delta}_k)$ . This is equivalent to solve the following problem:

$$\mathbf{C}_{k+1} = \arg \min_{\mathbf{C}} \frac{\rho}{2} \|\mathbf{C} - (\mathbf{A}_{k+1} - \rho^{-1} \mathbf{\Delta}_k)\|_F^2 + \lambda \|\mathbf{C}\|_F^2 \quad (6)$$

This is a least squares regression problem which has a closed-form solution as

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{C}_{k+1} &= \mathbf{H} - \text{diag}(\mathbf{H}), \\ (\mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{X} + \mathbf{I}) \mathbf{H} &= \mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{P}_k + \mathbf{Q}_k, \end{aligned} \quad (7)$$

where  $\mathbf{P}_k = \mathbf{X} - \mathbf{E}_k - \rho^{-1} \mathbf{\Delta}_k$  and  $\mathbf{Q}_k = \mathbf{A}_{k+1} - \rho^{-1} \mathbf{\delta}_k$ .

(3) Obtain  $\mathbf{E}_{k+1}$  by minimizing  $\mathcal{L}$  with respect to  $\mathbf{E}$ , while fixing  $(\mathbf{C}_{k+1}, \mathbf{A}_{k+1}, \mathbf{\Delta}_k, \mathbf{\delta}_k)$ . This is equivalent to solve the following problem:

$$\min_{\mathbf{E}} \frac{1}{2} \|(\mathbf{X} - \mathbf{X} \mathbf{C}_{k+1} - \rho^{-1} \mathbf{\Delta}_k) - \mathbf{E}\|_F^2 + \rho^{-1} \|\mathbf{E}\|_1. \quad (8)$$

The solution of  $\mathbf{E}$  can be computed in closed-form as

$$\mathbf{E}_{k+1} = \mathcal{S}_{\rho^{-1}}(\mathbf{X} - \mathbf{X} \mathbf{C}_{k+1} - \rho^{-1} \mathbf{\Delta}_k), \quad (9)$$

where  $\mathcal{S}_\tau(x) = \text{sign}(x) * \max(|x| - \tau, 0)$  is the soft-thresholding operator.

(4) Obtain the Lagrangian multipliers  $(\mathbf{\Delta}_{k+1}, \mathbf{\delta}_{k+1})$  while fixing  $(\mathbf{C}_{k+1}, \mathbf{A}_{k+1}, \mathbf{E}_{k+1})$ :

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{\Delta}_{k+1} &= \mathbf{\Delta}_k + \tau \rho (\mathbf{E}_{k+1} - \mathbf{X} + \mathbf{X} \mathbf{C}_{k+1}), \\ \mathbf{\delta}_{k+1} &= \mathbf{\delta}_k + \tau \rho (\mathbf{C}_{k+1} - \mathbf{A}_{k+1}), \end{aligned} \quad (10)$$

where  $\tau \in (0, \frac{\sqrt{5}+1}{2})$  is the dual step size and is usually set as  $\tau = 1$ .

(5) Update the penalty parameter  $\rho$  as  $\rho = \mu \rho$ , where  $\mu > 1$ .

## 5 Non-Negative Collaborative Representation

This model enforces non-negative representation and hence produce sparse solutions, in the sense that it results only a few non-negative coefficients.

## 6 Large Scale Subset Selection Via Woodbury Identity

The Woodbury Identity is

$$(\mathbf{A} + \mathbf{U} \mathbf{C} \mathbf{V})^{-1} = \mathbf{A}^{-1} - \mathbf{A}^{-1} \mathbf{U} (\mathbf{C}^{-1} + \mathbf{V} \mathbf{A}^{-1} \mathbf{U})^{-1} \mathbf{V} \mathbf{A}^{-1}. \quad (11)$$

We can also restrict that  $\text{diag}(\mathbf{A}) = \mathbf{0}$  to avoid the samples to be self-represented. However, I want to mention that the proposed model solved by ADMM algorithm with three variables and does not have convergence results.

Then the model above can be

$$\min_{\mathbf{A}} \|\mathbf{X} - \mathbf{X} \mathbf{A}\|_F^2 + \lambda \|\mathbf{A}\|_{p,1}. \quad (12)$$

By introducing an auxiliary variable  $\mathbf{C}$  into the optimization program, we can get

$$\min_{\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{C}} \|\mathbf{X} - \mathbf{X} \mathbf{A}\|_F^2 + \lambda \|\mathbf{C}\|_{p,1} \text{ s.t. } \mathbf{C} = \mathbf{A}, \quad (13)$$

whose solution for  $\mathbf{A}$  coincides with the solution of Eq. (31). By introducing two Lagrangian multipliers  $\mathbf{\Delta}$ , the Lagrangian function of the Eq. (31) can be written as

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}(\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{C}, \mathbf{\Delta}, \rho) &= \|\mathbf{X} - \mathbf{X} \mathbf{A}\|_F^2 + \lambda \|\mathbf{C}\|_{p,1} \\ &+ \langle \mathbf{\Delta}, \mathbf{C} - \mathbf{A} \rangle + \frac{\rho}{2} \|\mathbf{C} - \mathbf{A}\|_F^2 \end{aligned} \quad (14)$$

Denote by  $(\mathbf{C}_k, \mathbf{A}_k)$  the optimization variables at iteration  $k$ , by  $\mathbf{\Delta}_k$  the Lagrangian multipliers at iteration  $k$ , and by  $\rho$  the penalty parameter at iteration  $k$ . Taking derivatives of  $\mathcal{L}$  with respect to the variables and setting the derivatives to be zeros, we can alternatively update the variables as follows:

(1) Obtain  $\mathbf{A}_{k+1}$  by minimizing  $\mathcal{L}$  with respect to  $\mathbf{A}$ , while fixing  $(\mathbf{C}_k, \mathbf{\Delta}_k)$ . This is equivalent to solve the following problem:

$$\min_{\mathbf{A}} \|\mathbf{X} - \mathbf{X} \mathbf{A}\|_F^2 + \frac{\rho}{2} \|\mathbf{A} - (\mathbf{C}_k + \rho^{-1} \mathbf{\Delta}_k)\|_F^2, \quad (15)$$

which is equivalently to solve the following problem

$$\mathbf{A} = (\mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{X} + \frac{\rho}{2} \mathbf{I})^{-1} (\mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{X} + \frac{\rho}{2} \mathbf{C}_k + \frac{1}{2} \mathbf{\Delta}_k) \quad (16)$$

Since the matrices  $\mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{X}$  is of  $N \times N$  dimension. It is computational expensive when  $N$  is very large. By employing the Woodbury Identity mentioned above, we can have

$$(\frac{\rho}{2} \mathbf{I} + \mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{X})^{-1} = \frac{2}{\rho} \mathbf{I} - (\frac{2}{\rho})^2 \mathbf{X}^\top (\mathbf{I} + \frac{2}{\rho} \mathbf{X} \mathbf{X}^\top)^{-1} \mathbf{X}. \quad (17)$$

and transform this problem as

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{A} = & (\frac{2}{\rho} \mathbf{I} - (\frac{2}{\rho})^2 \mathbf{X}^\top (\mathbf{I} + \frac{2}{\rho} \mathbf{X} \mathbf{X}^\top)^{-1} \mathbf{X}) \\ & * (\mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{X} + \frac{\rho}{2} \mathbf{C}_k + \frac{1}{2} \mathbf{\Delta}_k) \end{aligned} \quad (18)$$

which will save a lot of computational costs.

(2) Obtain  $\mathbf{C}_{k+1}$  by minimizing  $\mathcal{L}$  with respect to  $\mathbf{C}$ , while fixing  $(\mathbf{A}_{k+1}, \mathbf{\Delta}_k)$ . This is equivalent to solve the following problem:

$$\min_{\mathbf{C}} \frac{1}{2} \|(\mathbf{A}_{k+1} - \rho^{-1} \mathbf{\Delta}_k) - \mathbf{C}\|_F^2 + \frac{\lambda}{\rho} \|\mathbf{C}\|_{p,1}. \quad (19)$$

Since the  $\ell_{p,1}$  norm is separable with respect to each row, we can write the above problem as

$$\min_{\mathbf{C}} \sum_{i=1}^M \frac{1}{2} \|(\mathbf{A}_{k+1})_{i*} - \rho^{-1} (\mathbf{\Delta}_k)_{i*} - \mathbf{C}_{i*}\|_2^2 + \frac{\lambda}{\rho} \|\mathbf{C}_{i*}\|_p, \quad (20)$$

where  $\mathbf{F}_{i*}$  is the  $i$ th row of the matrix  $\mathbf{F}$ . Since this step is separable w.r.t. each row, we can employ parallel processing resources and reduce its computational time.

(3) Obtain the Lagrangian multipliers  $(\mathbf{\Delta}_{k+1})$  while fixing  $(\mathbf{C}_{k+1}, \mathbf{A}_{k+1})$ :

$$\mathbf{\Delta}_{k+1} = \mathbf{\Delta}_k + \rho(\mathbf{C}_{k+1} - \mathbf{A}_{k+1}). \quad (21)$$

(5) Update the penalty parameter  $\rho$  as  $\rho = \mu\rho$ , where  $\mu > 1$ .

## 7 Robust Large Scale Subset Selection via Dissimilarity based Outlier Detection

We can also introduce a dissimilarity based matrix  $\mathbf{D}$  to replace the  $\ell_p$  or  $\ell_{2,1}$  norms to ensure robustness. This can also remove the additional term  $\mathbf{Z}$  on modeling the outliers with the restriction of  $\ell_1$  norm. The matrix  $\mathbf{D}$  should better be diagonal matrix. How to design the matrix  $\mathbf{D}$  is another problem need to be solved.

Then the proposed model can be formulated as

$$\min_{\mathbf{A}} \|(\mathbf{X} - \mathbf{X} \mathbf{A}) \mathbf{D}\|_F^2 + \lambda \|\mathbf{A}\|_{p,1}. \quad (22)$$

By introducing an auxiliary variable  $\mathbf{C}$  into the optimization program, we can get

$$\min_{\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{C}} \|(\mathbf{X} - \mathbf{X} \mathbf{A}) \mathbf{D}\|_F^2 + \lambda \|\mathbf{C}\|_{p,1} \text{ s.t. } \mathbf{C} = \mathbf{A}. \quad (23)$$

By introducing a Lagrangian multiplier  $\mathbf{\Delta}$ , the Lagrangian function of the Eq. (31) can be written as

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}(\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{C}, \mathbf{\Delta}, \rho) = & \|(\mathbf{X} - \mathbf{X} \mathbf{A}) \mathbf{D}\|_F^2 + \lambda \|\mathbf{C}\|_{p,1} \\ & + \langle \mathbf{\Delta}, \mathbf{C} - \mathbf{A} \rangle + \frac{\rho}{2} \|\mathbf{C} - \mathbf{A}\|_F^2 \end{aligned} \quad (24)$$

Denote by  $(\mathbf{A}_k, \mathbf{C}_k)$  the optimization variables at iteration  $k$ , by  $\mathbf{\Delta}_k$  the Lagrangian multiplier at iteration  $k$ , and by  $\rho$  the penalty parameter at iteration  $k$ . Taking derivatives of  $\mathcal{L}$  with respect to the variables and setting the derivatives to be zeros, we can alternatively update the variables as follows:

(1) Obtain  $\mathbf{A}_{k+1}$  by minimizing  $\mathcal{L}$  with respect to  $\mathbf{A}$ , while fixing  $(\mathbf{C}_k, \mathbf{\Delta}_k)$ . This is equivalent to solve the following problem:

$$\min_{\mathbf{A}} \|(\mathbf{X} - \mathbf{X} \mathbf{A}) \mathbf{D}\|_F^2 + \frac{\rho}{2} \|\mathbf{A} - (\mathbf{C}_k - \rho^{-1} \mathbf{\Delta}_k)\|_F^2, \quad (25)$$

which is equivalently to solve the following problem

$$\mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{X} \mathbf{A} \mathbf{D} \mathbf{D}^\top + \frac{\rho}{2} \mathbf{A} = \mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{X} \mathbf{D} \mathbf{D}^\top + \frac{\rho}{2} (\mathbf{C}_k - \rho^{-1} \mathbf{\Delta}_k) \quad (26)$$

Since the matrices  $\mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{X}$  and  $\mathbf{D}^\top \mathbf{D}$  are positive semi-definite and positive definite, respectively. The above

equation is a standard Sylvester equation which has a unique solution.

(2) Obtain  $C_{k+1}$  by minimizing  $\mathcal{L}$  with respect to  $C$ , while fixing  $(A_{k+1}, \Delta_k)$ . This is equivalent to solve the following problem:

$$\min_C \frac{1}{2} \| (A_{k+1} + \rho^{-1} \Delta_k) - C \|_F^2 + \frac{\lambda}{\rho} \| C \|_{p,1}. \quad (27)$$

Since the  $\ell_{p,1}$  norm is separable with respect to each row, we can write the above problem as

$$\min_C \sum_{i=1}^M \frac{1}{2} \| (A_{k+1})_{i*} + \rho^{-1} (\Delta_k)_{i*} - C_{i*} \|_2^2 + \frac{\lambda}{\rho} \| C_{i*} \|_p, \quad (28)$$

where  $F_{i*}$  is the  $i$ th row of the matrix  $F$ . Since this step is separable w.r.t. each row, we can employ parallel processing resources and reduce its computational time.

(3) Obtain the Lagrangian multipliers  $(\Delta_{k+1})$  while fixing  $(C_{k+1}, A_{k+1})$ :

$$\Delta_{k+1} = \Delta_k + \rho(C_{k+1} - A_{k+1}). \quad (29)$$

(5) Update the penalty parameter  $\rho$  as  $\rho = \mu\rho$ , where  $\mu > 1$ .

## 8 Large Scale Subset Selection Via Row-Column Separation

We can also restrict that  $\text{diag}(A) = \mathbf{0}$  to avoid the samples to be self-represented. However, I want to mention that the proposed model solved by ADMM algorithm with three variables and does not have convergence results.

Then the model above can be

$$\min_A \| X - XA \|_F^2 + \lambda \| A \|_{p,1} \quad \text{s.t.} \quad \text{diag}(A) = \mathbf{0}. \quad (30)$$

By introducing an auxiliary variable  $C$  into the optimization program, we can get

$$\begin{aligned} \min_{A,C} & \| X - XC \|_F^2 + \lambda \| A \|_{p,1} \\ \text{s.t.} & C = A - \text{diag}(A), \end{aligned} \quad (31)$$

whose solution for  $A$  coincides with the solution of Eq. (31). By introducing two Lagrangian multipliers  $\Delta$ , the Lagrangian function of the Eq. (31) can be written as

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}(A, C, \Delta, \rho) &= \| X - XC \|_F^2 + \lambda \| A \|_{p,1} \\ &+ \langle \Delta, C - (A - \text{diag}(A)) \rangle + \frac{\rho}{2} \| C - (A - \text{diag}(A)) \|_F^2 \end{aligned} \quad (32)$$

Denote by  $(C_k, A_k)$  the optimization variables at iteration  $k$ , by  $\Delta_k$  the Lagrangian multipliers at iteration  $k$ , and by  $\rho$  the penalty parameter at iteration  $k$ . Taking derivatives of  $\mathcal{L}$  with respect to the variables and setting the derivatives to be zeros, we can alternatively update the variables as follows:

(1) Obtain  $A_{k+1}$  by minimizing  $\mathcal{L}$  with respect to  $A$ , while fixing  $(C_k, \Delta_k)$ . This is equivalent to solve the following problem:

$$\begin{aligned} A_{k+1} &= J - \text{diag}(J), \\ J &= \arg \min_J \frac{1}{2} \| C_k + \rho^{-1} \Delta_k - J \|_F^2 + \frac{\lambda}{\rho} \| J \|_{p,1}. \end{aligned} \quad (33)$$

(2) Obtain  $C_{k+1}$  by minimizing  $\mathcal{L}$  with respect to  $C$ , while fixing  $(A_{k+1}, \Delta_k)$ . This is equivalent to solve the following problem:

$$\min_C \| X - XC \|_F^2 + \frac{\rho}{2} \| C - A_{k+1} + \frac{1}{\rho} \Delta_k \|_F^2 \quad (34)$$

This is a least squares regression problem which has a closed-form solution as

$$C_{k+1} = (X^\top X + \frac{\rho}{2} I)^{-1} (X^\top X + \frac{\rho}{2} A_{k+1} - \frac{1}{2} \Delta_k). \quad (35)$$

(3) Obtain the Lagrangian multipliers  $(\Delta_{k+1})$  while fixing  $(C_{k+1}, A_{k+1})$ :

$$\Delta_{k+1} = \Delta_k + \rho(C_{k+1} - A_{k+1}). \quad (36)$$

(5) Update the penalty parameter  $\rho$  as  $\rho = \mu\rho$ , where  $\mu > 1$ .

## References

- [1] Can-Yi Lu, Hai Min, Zhong-Qiu Zhao, Lin Zhu, De-Shuang Huang, and Shuicheng Yan. Robust and efficient subspace

segmentation via least squares regression. *ECCV*, pages 347–360, 2012. [1](#)

- [2] Lei Zhang, Meng Yang, and Xiangchu Feng. Sparse representation or collaborative representation: Which helps face recognition? *ICCV*, pages 471–478, 2011. [1](#)