

## Lecture 7: Matrix Sampling

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## 1 Ashwede-Winter inequality

In their work [1] Ashwede and Winter give an incredibly useful bound for the sums of independent random symmetric matrices. Here we recap the lemma statement. A short proof due to Roman Vershynin [2] is given as a reference.

**Lemma 1.1.** Let  $X_i$  be independent random  $d \times d$  symmetric matrices with mean zero s.t.  $\|X_i\| \leq 1$ . Let  $S_n = \sum_{i=1}^n X_i$ , let  $\sigma_i^2 = \|\text{Var}[X_i]\|$  and  $\sigma^2 = \sum_{i=1}^n \sigma_i^2$ , then:

$$\Pr[\|S_n - \mathbb{E}[S_n]\| \geq t] \leq d \cdot \max\{e^{-\frac{t^2}{4\sigma^2}}, e^{-\frac{t}{2}}\}$$

## 2 Rank-k approximation

Here we try to approximate  $AA^T$  by sampling columns of the matrix  $A$ . From this point onwards we assume, w.l.o.g. that  $\|A\|_{fro} = 1$ .

Define  $n$  unit norm matrices  $C_i = A_{(i)}A_{(i)}^T / \|A_{(i)}\|^2$  where  $A_{(i)}$  is the  $i$ 'th column of  $A$ . Also define the random matrix valued variable  $Z$  which takes values  $C_i$  w.p.  $p_i = \|A_{(i)}\|^2$ . Note that  $p$  is a distribution since  $\sum_{i=1}^n p_i = \sum_{i=1}^n \|A_{(i)}\|^2 = \|A\|_{fro}^2 = 1$ . Let us compute the expectation of  $Z$ :

$$\mathbb{E}[Z] = \sum_{i=1}^n p_i C_i = \sum_{i=1}^n \|A_{(i)}\|^2 (A_{(i)}A_{(i)}^T / \|A_{(i)}\|^2) = \sum_{i=1}^n A_{(i)}A_{(i)}^T = AA^T$$

We will therefore try to approximate  $AA^T$  by averaging  $r$  independent copies of such variables  $\frac{1}{r} \sum_{i=1}^r Z_i$ .

$$\Pr\left[\left\|\frac{1}{r} \sum_{i=1}^r Z_i - AA^T\right\| > \varepsilon \|AA^T\|\right] = \Pr\left[\left\|\sum_{i=1}^r (Z_i - AA^T)\right\| > r\varepsilon \|AA^T\|\right] \quad (1)$$

$$= \Pr\left[\left\|\sum_{i=1}^r X_i\right\| > r\varepsilon \|AA^T\|/2\right] \quad (2)$$

where we define  $X_i = (Z_i - AA^T)/2$ . To apply the matrix chernoff bound above we need to make sure that the variables  $X_i$  meet the conditions. First, they are clearly independent since  $Z_i$  are. Also, they have mean zero since  $\mathbb{E}[Z_i] = AA^T$ . Finally,  $\|X_i\| = \|(Z_i - AA^T)/2\| \leq \|Z_i\|/2 + \|AA^T\|/2 \leq 1$ . Thus, to apply the bound above we only need to compute  $\sigma^2 = \sum_{i=1}^r \mathbb{E}[X_i^2]$ .

$$\sigma_i^2 \leq \mathbb{E}[X_i^2] \leq \mathbb{E}[(Z_i - AA^T)^2]/2 \quad (3)$$

$$= \mathbb{E}[Z_i^2 - ZAA^T - AA^T Z + (AA^T)^2]/2 \quad (4)$$

$$= \|AA^T - (AA^T)^2\|/2 \leq \|AA^T\|/2 \quad (5)$$

This gives that  $\sigma^2 \leq r\|AA^T\|/2$ .

$$\Pr\left[\left\|\sum_{i=1}^r X_i\right\| > r\varepsilon\|AA^T\|/2\right] \leq m \cdot e^{-\frac{r\varepsilon^2\|AA^T\|}{8}}$$

This gives us an  $\varepsilon$  approximation in the spectral norm with probability at least  $1 - \delta$  if  $r \geq \frac{8}{\|AA^T\|\varepsilon^2} \log(m/\delta)$ . Another trivial observation is that  $1 = \|A\|_{fro} = \text{tr}(AA^T) \leq m\|AA^T\|$  which gives that  $\frac{1}{\|AA^T\|} \leq m$ . To recap, for any matrix, sampling  $r = \frac{8m}{\varepsilon^2} \log(m/\delta)$  columns is sufficient in order to approximate  $AA^T$  in the 2-norm up to multiplicative factor  $\varepsilon\|AA^T\|$ .

### 3 Rank-k Approximation

What does this tell us about the SVD. Note that the matrix resulting from the sampling above can be thought of the matrix  $\hat{A}\hat{A}^T$  where  $\hat{A} \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times r}$  contains rescaled sampled columns of  $A$ . More accurately,  $\hat{A}_{(i)} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{r}\|A_{(j)}\|} A_j$  if in step  $i$  we picked column  $j$  from  $A$ .

We want to say that  $\hat{A}$  somehow represents  $A$  well. One way to say this is that the left singular vectors of  $\hat{A}$  and  $A$  are “similar” (the right singular vectors are not in the same dimension) To make this more accurate we recap the property of the best rank- $k$  approximation of  $A$

$$\|A - P_k A\| = \sigma_{k+1}$$

Where the projection matrix  $P_k = U_k U_k^T$  contains the top  $k$  left singular vectors of  $A$ . Now consider projecting  $A$  on the top left singular vectors of  $\hat{A}$  instead, how much do we “lose” by that?

A lemma 4 from [3] makes this exact.

**Lemma 3.1.** *Let  $\hat{P}_k$  be the projection on the top  $k$  left singular vectors of  $\hat{A}$ , then*

$$\|A - \hat{P}_k A\|^2 \leq \sigma_{k+1}^2 + 2\|\hat{A}\hat{A}^T - AA^T\|$$

*Proof.* To see this lets compute the supremum over values  $\|x(A - \hat{P}_k A)\|$ , clearly  $x$  is such that  $x\hat{P}_k = 0$ .

$$\|A - \hat{P}_k A\|^2 = \langle AA^T x, x \rangle \tag{6}$$

$$= \langle (AA^T - \hat{A}\hat{A}^T)x, x \rangle + \langle \hat{A}\hat{A}^T x, x \rangle \tag{7}$$

$$\leq \|AA^T - \hat{A}\hat{A}^T\| + \hat{\sigma}_{k+1}^2 \tag{8}$$

Where  $\hat{\sigma}_{k+1}$  is the  $k+1$ 'th singular value of  $\hat{A}$ . Since,  $\hat{\sigma}_{k+1}^2 \leq \sigma_{k+1}^2 + \|AA^T - \hat{A}\hat{A}^T\|$  we get the lemma.  $\square$

Finally, the SVD of  $\hat{A}$  is a good approximation to the SVD of  $A$  in the sense that

$$\|A - \hat{P}_k A\| \leq \sigma_{k+1} + 2\varepsilon\|A\|_2$$

### References

- [1] Rudolf Ahlswede and Andreas Winter. Strong converse for identification via quantum channels. *IEEE Transactions on Information Theory*, 48(3):569–579, 2002.
- [2] Roman Vershynin. A note on sums of independent random matrices after ahlsweide-winter. *Lecture Notes*.
- [3] Petros Drineas and Ravi Kannan. Pass efficient algorithms for approximating large matrices, 2003.