

How to truncate big Hilbert spaces?

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- Motivation
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Motivation

N sites, each is a spin-1/2. Find ground state of:

$$\mathcal{H} = -J \sum_{i=1}^N \sigma_i^z \sigma_{i+1}^z - h \sum_{i=1}^N \sigma_i^x$$

Hilbert space dimension $\sim 2^N$

Exact diagonalization O.K. for $N \lesssim 20$ on laptop

$N \rightarrow \infty$ (thermodynamic limit): needle in the haystack

!! For most relevant Hamiltonians, haystack \ll full Hilbert space
e.g. haystack \sim subspace of states with low entanglement entropy
 \implies Clever parameterization + efficient algorithms = 😊?

Compressing $|\Psi\rangle$ with SVD

Theorem (Singular value decomposition)

blah

Low-rank approximation:

Theorem (Low-rank approximation)

Applications: image compression

Compressing $|\Psi\rangle$ with SVD

Idea: represent $|\Psi\rangle$ as a matrix, then SVD

Split N spins on a 1d chain into $L + R$:

$$|\Psi\rangle = \sum_{l,r} \psi_{lr} |l\rangle |r\rangle, \quad |l\rangle \in \mathbb{H}_L$$

ψ_{lr} has two indices \implies treat as a matrix (NOT an operator!)

Apply SVD: $\psi_{lr} = [\mathbf{U} \mathbf{D} \mathbf{V}]_{lr}$

\mathbf{U}, \mathbf{V} are unitary. $\mathbf{D} = \text{diag}(\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots)$:

λ_i 's = singular values of ψ_{lr}

= eigenvalues of $\sqrt{\psi^\dagger \psi} = \sqrt{\rho} \implies \lambda_i^2 = \text{eigenvalues of } \rho$

Compressing $|\Psi\rangle$ with SVD

After SVD:

$$\begin{aligned} |\Psi\rangle &= \sum_{l,r} \sum_i \mathbf{U}_{li} \mathbf{D}_{ii} \mathbf{V}_{ir} |l\rangle |r\rangle \\ &= \sum_i \sum_{l,r} \mathbf{U}_{li} \mathbf{D}_{ii} \mathbf{V}_{ir} |l\rangle |r\rangle \\ &= \sum_i \lambda_i |i\rangle_L |i\rangle_R \leftarrow \text{Schmidt decomposition} \end{aligned}$$

Normalization:

$$\text{Tr}(\psi^\dagger \psi) = \sum_i \lambda_i^2 = 1 \implies \lambda_i^2: \text{probability for } i^{\text{th}} \text{ Schmidt state pair}$$

Compressing $|\Psi\rangle$ with SVD

Why SVD and Schmidt decomposition?

SVD compression \equiv make states with low entanglement entropy
von Neumann entanglement entropy between L and R :

$$S(\rho_L) = -\text{Tr}[\rho_L \ln \rho_L] = -\text{Tr}[\rho_R \ln \rho_R] = S(\rho_R)$$

$$[\rho_L]_{ll'} = \sum_r \psi_{lr}^* \psi_{l'r} \quad [\rho_R]_{rr'} = \sum_l \psi_{lr}^* \psi_{l'r}$$

Fact: Eigenvalues of ρ_L, ρ_R are exactly the λ_i 's. So,

$$S = S(\rho_L) = S(\rho_R) = - \sum_i^{\sim 2^{N/2}} \lambda_i^2 \ln \lambda_i^2 \rightarrow - \sum_i^m \lambda_i^2 \ln \lambda_i^2$$

Drop small λ_i 's \implies reduce S and exponential compression, $m \sim \mathcal{O}(100)$

Compressing $|\Psi\rangle$ with SVD

Example:

$$|\Psi\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (|\uparrow\uparrow\rangle - |\uparrow\downarrow\rangle)$$

Matrixify and SVD:

$$|\Psi\rangle = \sum_{ij} \psi_{ij} |i\rangle |j\rangle \quad \text{with} \quad [\psi_{ij}] = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} & -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$
$$[\psi_{ij}] = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}}_D \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} & -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \\ \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} & \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \end{pmatrix}$$

Entanglement entropy is 0 \implies not entangled (makes sense)

But wait...

We need $|\Psi\rangle$ to compress. But we want to find/approximate such a $|\Psi\rangle$.

Insert chicken and egg here.

Solution:



MPS and DMRG

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