

ADMM for snapshot foreground-background separation

1 Problem formulation

Our goal is to solve

$$\begin{aligned} & \underset{\mathbf{S}_1, \dots, \mathbf{S}_F}{\text{minimize}} && \|\mathbf{S}_1\|_1 + \dots + \|\mathbf{S}_F\|_1 + r(\mathbf{B}, \mathbf{S}_1, \dots, \mathbf{S}_F) \\ & \text{subject to} && \mathbf{Y}_S = \mathcal{H}(\mathbf{S}_1, \dots, \mathbf{S}_F), \end{aligned} \quad (1)$$

where r is a prior that depends on the known background \mathbf{B} and sparse foreground frames $\mathbf{S}_1, \dots, \mathbf{S}_F$. Once we find a solution $(\hat{\mathbf{S}}_1, \dots, \hat{\mathbf{S}}_F)$ of (1), the final scene can be recovered as

$$(\widehat{\mathbf{X}}_1, \dots, \widehat{\mathbf{X}}_F) = \mathbf{1}_{1 \times F} \otimes \mathbf{B} + (\hat{\mathbf{S}}_1, \dots, \hat{\mathbf{S}}_F) = (\mathbf{B} + \hat{\mathbf{S}}_1, \dots, \mathbf{B} + \hat{\mathbf{S}}_F).$$

2 ADMM

The ADMM algorithm [1] solves problems with the format

$$\begin{aligned} & \underset{\mathbf{y}, \mathbf{z}}{\text{minimize}} && f(\mathbf{y}) + g(\mathbf{z}) \\ & \text{subject to} && \mathbf{F}\mathbf{y} + \mathbf{G}\mathbf{z} = \mathbf{0}, \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

where f and g are closed, proper, and convex functions, and \mathbf{F} and \mathbf{G} are given matrices. Associating a dual variable $\boldsymbol{\lambda}$ to the constraints of (2), ADMM iterates on k

$$\mathbf{y}^{k+1} = \underset{\mathbf{y}}{\text{argmin}} f(\mathbf{y}) + \frac{\rho}{2} \|\mathbf{F}\mathbf{y} + \mathbf{G}\mathbf{z}^k + \boldsymbol{\lambda}^k\|_2^2 \quad (3a)$$

$$\mathbf{z}^{k+1} = \underset{\mathbf{z}}{\text{argmin}} g(\mathbf{z}) + \frac{\rho}{2} \|\mathbf{F}\mathbf{y}^{k+1} + \mathbf{G}\mathbf{z} + \boldsymbol{\lambda}^k\|_2^2 \quad (3b)$$

$$\boldsymbol{\lambda}^{k+1} = \boldsymbol{\lambda}^k + \mathbf{F}\mathbf{y}^{k+1} + \mathbf{G}\mathbf{z}^{k+1}, \quad (3c)$$

where $\rho > 0$ is the augmented Lagrangian parameter. The augmented Lagrangian is

$$L_\rho(\mathbf{y}, \mathbf{z}; \boldsymbol{\lambda}) = f(\mathbf{y}) + g(\mathbf{z}) + \boldsymbol{\lambda}^\top (\mathbf{F}\mathbf{y} + \mathbf{G}\mathbf{z}) + \frac{\rho}{2} \|\mathbf{F}\mathbf{y} + \mathbf{G}\mathbf{z}\|_2^2. \quad (4)$$

Note that ADMM (3) consists of iteratively minimizing L_ρ w.r.t. \mathbf{y} , then w.r.t. \mathbf{z} (with \mathbf{y} fixed at the new value), and updating the dual variable $\boldsymbol{\lambda}$ (gradient ascent on the dual function).

3 Application of ADMM

To apply ADMM to (1), we need to rewrite it in the same format as (2). To do so, we introduce two copies of the variables \mathbf{S}_f : \mathbf{U}_f and \mathbf{V}_f , $f = 1, \dots, F$. Problem (1) is thus equivalent to

$$\begin{aligned} & \underset{\{\mathbf{S}_f, \mathbf{U}_f, \mathbf{V}_f\}_{f=1}^F}{\text{minimize}} && \sum_{f=1}^F \|\mathbf{U}_f\|_1 + r(\mathbf{B}, \mathbf{V}_1, \dots, \mathbf{V}_F) \\ & \text{subject to} && \mathbf{Y}_S = \mathcal{H}(\mathbf{S}_1, \dots, \mathbf{S}_F) \\ & && \mathbf{S}_f = \mathbf{U}_f, \quad f = 1, \dots, F \\ & && \mathbf{S}_f = \mathbf{V}_f, \quad f = 1, \dots, F. \end{aligned} \quad (5)$$

We establish the following correspondence between (1) and (5):

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{y} &\leftarrow \{\mathbf{S}_f\}_f \\ \mathbf{z} &\leftarrow (\{\mathbf{U}_f\}_f, \{\mathbf{V}_f\}_f) \\ f(\mathbf{y}) &= \mathbf{i}_{\mathcal{H}}(\mathbf{S}_1, \dots, \mathbf{S}_F) \\ g(\mathbf{z}) &= \sum_{f=1}^F \|\mathbf{U}_f\|_1 + r(\mathbf{B}, \mathbf{V}_1, \dots, \mathbf{V}_F), \end{aligned}$$

where $\mathbf{i}_{\mathcal{H}}$ is the indicator function of the first constraint of (5), i.e.,

$$\mathbf{i}_{\mathcal{H}}(\mathbf{S}_1, \dots, \mathbf{S}_F) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } \mathbf{Y}_S = \mathcal{H}(\mathbf{S}_1, \dots, \mathbf{S}_F) \\ +\infty & \text{if } \mathbf{Y}_S \neq \mathcal{H}(\mathbf{S}_1, \dots, \mathbf{S}_F). \end{cases}$$

Writing the correspondences for the matrices \mathbf{F} and \mathbf{G} is cumbersome, since the variables are matrices in (1) and vectors in (2). The easiest way to apply ADMM to (5) is to first write the corresponding augmented Lagrangian (4), using $\langle \mathbf{A}, \mathbf{B} \rangle = \text{tr}(\mathbf{A}^\top \mathbf{B})$ as the matrix inner product between two matrices \mathbf{A} and \mathbf{B} , and the corresponding induced Frobenius norm $\|\mathbf{A}\|_F := \sqrt{\langle \mathbf{A}, \mathbf{A} \rangle} = \sqrt{\text{tr}(\mathbf{A}^\top \mathbf{A})}$. Using the shorthand notation $\bar{\mathbf{S}} := \{\mathbf{S}_f\}_{f=1}^F$, $\bar{\mathbf{U}} := \{\mathbf{U}_f\}_{f=1}^F$, and $\bar{\mathbf{V}} := \{\mathbf{V}_f\}_{f=1}^F$ and associating the matrices $\bar{\mathbf{\Lambda}} = \{\mathbf{\Lambda}_f\}_f^F$ and $\bar{\mathbf{\Gamma}} = \{\mathbf{\Gamma}_f\}_f^F$ to the second and third constraints of (5), this yields

$$\begin{aligned} L_\rho(\bar{\mathbf{S}}, \bar{\mathbf{U}}, \bar{\mathbf{V}}; \bar{\mathbf{\Lambda}}, \bar{\mathbf{\Gamma}}) &= r(\mathbf{B}, \bar{\mathbf{V}}) + \mathbf{i}_{\mathcal{H}}(\bar{\mathbf{S}}) + \sum_{f=1}^F \left[\|\mathbf{U}_f\|_1 + \text{tr}(\mathbf{\Lambda}_f^\top (\mathbf{S}_f - \mathbf{U}_f)) + \text{tr}(\mathbf{\Gamma}_f^\top (\mathbf{S}_f - \mathbf{V}_f)) \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \frac{\rho}{2} \|\mathbf{S}_f - \mathbf{U}_f\|_F^2 + \frac{\rho}{2} \|\mathbf{S}_f - \mathbf{V}_f\|_F^2 \right]. \end{aligned} \quad (6)$$

As observed for (3)-(4), ADMM iteratively minimizes L_ρ w.r.t. the first set of variables $\bar{\mathbf{S}}$; then, with $\bar{\mathbf{S}}$ fixed at the new value $\bar{\mathbf{S}}^{k+1}$, minimizes L_ρ w.r.t. the second set of variables $(\bar{\mathbf{U}}, \bar{\mathbf{V}})$ [which will decompose into two sets of problems that can be solved in parallel]; then, it updates the Lagrange multipliers $\bar{\mathbf{\Lambda}}$ and $\bar{\mathbf{\Gamma}}$.

More concretely, starting with arbitrary $(\bar{\mathbf{U}}^0, \bar{\mathbf{V}}^0)$ and $(\bar{\mathbf{\Lambda}}^0, \bar{\mathbf{\Gamma}}^0)$, ADMM iterates for $k = 0, 1, \dots$,

$$\bar{\mathbf{S}}^{k+1} = \arg \min_{\bar{\mathbf{S}}} \mathbf{i}_{\mathcal{H}}(\bar{\mathbf{S}}) + \sum_{f=1}^F \left[\text{tr}((\mathbf{\Lambda}_f^k + \mathbf{\Gamma}_f^k)^\top \mathbf{S}_f) + \frac{\rho}{2} \|\mathbf{S}_f - \mathbf{U}_f^k\|_F^2 + \frac{\rho}{2} \|\mathbf{S}_f - \mathbf{V}_f^k\|_F^2 \right] \quad (7a)$$

$$\begin{aligned}
(\bar{\mathbf{U}}^{k+1}, \bar{\mathbf{V}}^{k+1}) = \arg \min_{\bar{\mathbf{U}}, \bar{\mathbf{V}}} \sum_{f=1}^F & \left[\|\mathbf{U}_f\|_1 - \text{tr}(\mathbf{\Lambda}_f^k \mathbf{U}_f) + \frac{\rho}{2} \|\mathbf{U}_f - \mathbf{S}_f^{k+1}\|_F^2 \right] + r(\mathbf{B}, \bar{\mathbf{V}}) \\
& + \sum_{f=1}^F \left[\frac{\rho}{2} \|\mathbf{V}_f - \mathbf{S}_f^{k+1}\|_F^2 - \text{tr}(\mathbf{\Gamma}_f^k \mathbf{V}_f) \right] \quad (7b)
\end{aligned}$$

$$(\bar{\mathbf{\Lambda}}^{k+1}, \bar{\mathbf{\Gamma}}^{k+1}) = (\bar{\mathbf{\Lambda}}^k, \bar{\mathbf{\Gamma}}^k) + \rho(\bar{\mathbf{S}}^{k+1} - \bar{\mathbf{U}}^{k+1}, \bar{\mathbf{S}}^{k+1} - \bar{\mathbf{V}}^{k+1}). \quad (7c)$$

We now elaborate on how to solve each problem in (7).

Solving (7a). Problem (7a) is a projection onto the set of feasible solutions in (1), i.e., onto the set defined by $\mathbf{Y}_S = \mathcal{H}(\mathbf{S}_1, \dots, \mathbf{S}_F)$. Note that the second term of (7a) can be rewritten as

$$\rho \sum_{f=1}^F \left\| \mathbf{S}_f - \left[\frac{1}{2} \mathbf{U}_f^k + \frac{1}{2} \mathbf{V}_f^k - \frac{1}{2\rho} (\mathbf{\Lambda}_f^k + \mathbf{\Gamma}_f^k) \right] \right\|_F^2 + \dots,$$

where we omitted terms that do not depend on \mathbf{S}_f . Let us define

$$\mathbf{P}_f^k := \frac{1}{2} \mathbf{U}_f^k + \frac{1}{2} \mathbf{V}_f^k - \frac{1}{2\rho} (\mathbf{\Lambda}_f^k + \mathbf{\Gamma}_f^k), \quad f = 1, \dots, F, \quad (8)$$

and just like for the other variables, let $\bar{\mathbf{P}}^k$ denote the set of all the \mathbf{P}_f^k s: $\bar{\mathbf{P}}^k := \{\mathbf{P}_f^k\}_{f=1}^F$. If we vectorize $\mathbf{s} := \text{vec}(\bar{\mathbf{S}})$, $\mathbf{p} := \text{vec}(\bar{\mathbf{P}})$ and $\mathbf{y}_S := \text{vec}(\mathbf{Y}_S)$, problem (7a) can be written as

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathbf{s}^{k+1} = \arg \min_{\mathbf{s}} & \quad \frac{1}{2} \|\mathbf{s} - \mathbf{p}^k\|_2^2 \\
\text{s.t.} & \quad \mathbf{y}_S = \mathbf{H} \mathbf{s}, \quad (9)
\end{aligned}$$

where \mathbf{H} implements the operator \mathcal{H} when its input and output are vectorized. Assuming that \mathbf{H} has full row-rank, i.e., $\mathbf{H}\mathbf{H}^\top$ is invertible, (9) has the closed-form solution

$$\mathbf{s}^{k+1} = \mathbf{p}^k - \mathbf{H}^\top (\mathbf{H}\mathbf{H}^\top)^{-1} (\mathbf{H}\mathbf{p}^k - \mathbf{y}_S). \quad (10)$$

When the snapshot measurement operator \mathcal{H} implements no shifts, i.e., it just sums all the frames (possibly with a mask), the matrix $\mathbf{H}\mathbf{H}^\top$ is diagonal (see [2, eq.19]). In that case, (10) can be implemented efficiently.

Question: is it the same for the one-pixel shift operator?

Solving (7b). The problems in $\bar{\mathbf{U}}$ and $\bar{\mathbf{V}}$ in (7b) are decoupled: the first term in its objective depends only on $\bar{\mathbf{U}}$, and the second one depends only on $\bar{\mathbf{V}}$. Thus, (7b) decouples into two sets of problems that can be solved in parallel.

Problem in $\bar{\mathbf{U}}$. To simplify the problem, we first notice that for each $f = 1, \dots, F$,

$$\begin{aligned}
& \|\mathbf{U}_f\|_1 - \text{tr}(\mathbf{\Lambda}_f^k \mathbf{U}_f) + \frac{\rho}{2} \|\mathbf{U}_f - \mathbf{S}_f^{k+1}\|_F^2 \\
= & \|\mathbf{U}_f\|_1 + \frac{\rho}{2} \left[\|\mathbf{U}_f\|_F^2 - 2\text{tr} \left(\mathbf{S}_f^{k+1} - \frac{1}{\rho} \mathbf{\Lambda}_f^k \right)^\top \mathbf{U}_f \right] + \dots \\
= & \|\mathbf{U}_f\|_1 + \frac{\rho}{2} \left\| \mathbf{U}_f - \left(\mathbf{S}_f^{k+1} - \frac{1}{\rho} \mathbf{\Lambda}_f^k \right) \right\|_F^2 + \dots,
\end{aligned}$$

where we omitted terms not depending on \mathbf{U}_f . Let

$$\mathbf{Q}_f^k := \mathbf{S}_f^{k+1} - \frac{1}{\rho} \mathbf{\Lambda}_f^k. \quad (11)$$

The problem in $\bar{\mathbf{U}}$ in (7b) is thus

$$\bar{\mathbf{U}}^{k+1} = \arg \min_{\bar{\mathbf{U}}} \sum_{f=1}^F \|\mathbf{U}_f\|_1 + \frac{\rho}{2} \|\mathbf{U}_f - \mathbf{Q}_f^k\|_F^2,$$

which decomposes independent problems not only across frames, but also across pixels. Denoting by u (resp. q) a generic entry from $\bar{\mathbf{U}}$ (resp. $\bar{\mathbf{Q}}^k := \{\mathbf{Q}_f^k\}_{f=1}^F$), each problem has the format

$$\begin{aligned} u^{k+1} &= \arg \min_u |u| + \frac{\rho}{2} (u - q)^2 \\ &= \begin{cases} q + \frac{1}{\rho} & , \quad q < -\frac{1}{\rho} \\ 0 & , \quad |q| \leq \frac{1}{\rho} \\ q - \frac{1}{\rho} & , \quad q > \frac{1}{\rho} \end{cases} \end{aligned} \quad (12)$$

that is, a soft-thresholding solution.

Problem in $\bar{\mathbf{V}}$. Given the similarity between the quadratic+linear terms in \mathbf{U}_f and \mathbf{V}_f in (7b), simplify the problem in a similar way, i.e., we first write

$$-\text{tr}(\mathbf{\Gamma}_f^{k\top} \mathbf{V}_f) + \frac{\rho}{2} \|\mathbf{V}_f - \mathbf{S}_f^{k+1}\|_F^2 = \frac{\rho}{2} \left\| \mathbf{V}_f - \left(\mathbf{S}_f^{k+1} - \frac{1}{\rho} \mathbf{\Gamma}_f^k \right) \right\|_F^2 + \dots,$$

where, again, we omitted terms independent from \mathbf{V}_f . Defining

$$\mathbf{R}_f^k := \mathbf{S}_f^{k+1} - \frac{1}{\rho} \mathbf{\Gamma}_f^k, \quad (13)$$

the problem in $\bar{\mathbf{V}}$ in (7b) is

$$\bar{\mathbf{V}}^{k+1} = \arg \min_{\bar{\mathbf{V}}} r(\mathbf{B}, \bar{\mathbf{V}}) + \frac{\rho}{2} \sum_{f=1}^F \|\mathbf{V}_f - \mathbf{R}_f^k\|_F^2. \quad (14)$$

When r is the nuclear norm of the matrix whose columns are patches extracted from the entire snapshot sequence, this problem corresponds to problems (7)/(14)/(24) in [2] and thus can be solved using similar techniques.

4 Resulting algorithm

Notice that the dual variables $\mathbf{\Lambda}_f^k$ and $\mathbf{\Gamma}_f^k$ in (8), (11), and (13) always appear multiplied by $1/\rho$. If we multiply both sides of (7c) by $1/\rho$, all their appearances in the algorithm is multiplied by that factor. Hence, we redefine them as

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{\Lambda}_f^k &\leftarrow \frac{1}{\rho} \mathbf{\Lambda}_f^k \\ \mathbf{\Gamma}_f^k &\leftarrow \frac{1}{\rho} \mathbf{\Gamma}_f^k. \end{aligned}$$

The resulting algorithm is described in Algorithm 1. See an example of the implementation of ADMM to solve a simpler problem in [Github](#).

Algorithm 1 ADMM applied to (5)

Input: measurements $\mathbf{Y}_S \in \mathbb{R}^{M \times (N+F-1)}$, initial $\rho > 0$, dimensions (M, N, F) , matrix \mathbf{H} (or function handles for matrix-vector products), background $\mathbf{B} \in \mathbb{R}^{M \times N}$, maximum # of iterations K , and stopping tolerance $\epsilon > 0$

Initialization: Set $\mathbf{U}_f^0, \mathbf{V}_f^0, \mathbf{\Lambda}_f^0, \mathbf{\Gamma}_f^0 \in \mathbb{R}^{M \times N}$, for $f = 1, \dots, F$, arbitrarily

1: **for** $k = 0, 1, \dots, K$ **do**

2: Set $\mathbf{P}_f^k = \frac{1}{2}\mathbf{U}_f^k + \frac{1}{2}\mathbf{V}_f^k - \frac{1}{2}(\mathbf{\Lambda}_f^k + \mathbf{\Gamma}_f^k)$, for $f = 1, \dots, F$

3: Find

$$\mathbf{s}^{k+1} = \mathbf{p}^k - \mathbf{H}^\top (\mathbf{H}\mathbf{H}^\top)^{-1} (\mathbf{H}\mathbf{p}^k - \mathbf{y}_s),$$

where \mathbf{s}^{k+1} , \mathbf{p}^k , and \mathbf{y}_s are vectorizations of $\bar{\mathbf{S}}^{k+1}$, $\bar{\mathbf{P}}^k$, and \mathbf{Y}_S

4: Set, for all $f = 1, \dots, F$,

$$\mathbf{Q}_f^k = \mathbf{S}_f^{k+1} - \mathbf{\Lambda}_f^k$$

$$\mathbf{R}_f^k = \mathbf{S}_f^{k+1} - \mathbf{\Gamma}_f^k$$

5: Each entry of \mathbf{U}_f^{k+1} is computed via soft-thresholding (12), using \mathbf{Q}_f^k and ρ , $f = 1, \dots, F$

6: The variables \mathbf{V}_f are updated by solving (14), using \mathbf{B} , \mathbf{R}_f and ρ

7: Update dual variables, for all $f = 1, \dots, F$,

$$\mathbf{\Lambda}_f^{k+1} = \mathbf{\Lambda}_f^k + \mathbf{S}_f^{k+1} - \mathbf{U}_f^{k+1}$$

$$\mathbf{\Gamma}_f^{k+1} = \mathbf{\Gamma}_f^k + \mathbf{S}_f^{k+1} - \mathbf{V}_f^{k+1}$$

8: Compute primal and dual residuals, and update ρ [1, §3.4.1]

9: **if** dual + primal residuals $< \epsilon$ **then**

10: Break

11: **end if**

12: **end for**

References

- [1] S. Boyd, N. Parikh, E. Chu, B. Peleato, and J. Eckstein, “Distributed optimization and statistical learning via the alternating method of multipliers,” *Foundations and Trends in Machine Learning*, vol. 3, no. 1, pp. 1–122, 2011.
- [2] Y. Liu, X. Yuan, J. Suo, D. J. Brady, and Q. Dai, “Rank minimization for snapshot compressive imaging,” *IEEE Trans. Pattern Analysis and Machine Intelligence*, vol. 41, no. 12, pp. 2990–3006, 2019. DOI: [10.1109/TPAMI.2018.2873587](https://doi.org/10.1109/TPAMI.2018.2873587).