

- **What is Rank?**

- Rank is the number of linearly independent variables in a matrix
- Essentially the rank is the number of variables that are not accounted for by other variables
 - This means that the linearly independent variables need to be inputted into any sort of equation or formula
- The fact that the rank is the number of linearly independent variables is very similar to the communication complexity problem, since the communication complexity is the number of variables/data that **needs** to be sent. The dependent variables do not need to be sent, only the independent variables, hence how Rank correlates to Communication Complexity

- **Properties of Rank**

- Given a matrix A and matrix B:
 - If matrix A is a subset of matrix B: $\text{rank}(A) \leq \text{rank}(B)$
 - $\text{rank}([A \ C, \ 0 \ B]) \geq \text{rank}(A) + \text{rank}(B)$
 - $|\text{rank}(A) - \text{rank}(B)| \leq \text{rank}(A+B) \leq \text{rank}(A) + \text{rank}(B)$
- The constants used to represent function $g(i, j)$ do not change the rank
- All monochromatic rectangles are submatrices with $\text{rank}=1$
- **OTHERS**
 - The largest possible rank of an $m \times n$ matrix is the $\min\{m, n\}$
 - $\text{rank}(M) \leq \text{number of rank 1 matrices}$

- **Tensors**

- The tensor product of two matrices is essentially the projection of one matrix onto another resulting in a $n \times n'$ dimensional space
- The tensor product also has the property of multiplying rank, so given matrix A and B, and tensor product C, $\text{rank}(C) = \text{rank}(A) * \text{rank}(B)$
 - This intuitively makes sense because as we project onto different dimensions, the rank increases linearly

- **Lower Bounds Using Rank**

- The logarithm of rank always gives a lower bound on communication complexity
 - Since given c bits, there are at most 2^c monochromatic rectangles
 - Since $2^c \geq \text{rank}(M)$, we can rearrange such that $c \geq \log_2(M)$ giving us the lower

- **Non-Negative Rank**

- **Definition.** The following are equivalent for M of size $m \times n$:
 - The smallest number of non-negative rank 1 matrices that sum to M

- The smallest integer r such that $M = AB$ where A is a non-negative $m \times r$ matrix and B is a non-negative $r \times n$ matrix.
 - The smallest number of non-negative vectors sized $m \times 1$ such that every column of M is the non-negative coefficient linear combination of these vectors.
- **Example.** The matrix $M = [1 \ 1 \ 0 \ 0; \ 1 \ 0 \ 1 \ 0; \ 0 \ 1 \ 0 \ 1; \ 0 \ 0 \ 1 \ 1]$ has $\text{rank}(M) = 3$ but $\text{rank}^+(M) = 4$.
 - **Lemma.** If a matrix is 3×3 or smaller, $\text{rank}(M) = \text{rank}^+(M)$.
 - **Lemma (Fact 2.12).** Notice that $\text{rank}(M) \leq \text{rank}_+(M) \leq \min\{m, n\}$.
 - **Remark.** Non-negative rank always equals regular rank when $\text{rank}(M) \leq 2$. But as rank increases it is possible for the non-negative rank to be far greater than the regular rank.
 - **Conjecture.** Determining rank is $O(n^3)$ using SVD or Gaussian Elimination. Determining non-negative rank is believed to be NP-hard, and checking if $\text{rank}(M) = \text{rank}^+(M)$ is also NP-hard.

• Non-Negative Rank Bounds

- **Remark.** Despite the difficulty, non-negative rank can give us much better lower and upper bounds. Why? Because they can differ greatly.
- **Theorem (2.13).** If M is not the all ones matrix, the CC of M is at least $\log(\text{rank}^+(M) + 1)$. Follows from 2.2.
- **Lemma (2.15).** If a boolean matrix M has a 1-cover of size 2^c then the CC of M is at most $O(c \cdot \log(\text{rank}(M)))$.
- **Remark.** Notice there is an exponential difference between the bounds.
- **Log-Rank Conjecture (Conjecture 2.16).** There is a constant α such that the communication complexity of a non-constant matrix M is at most $\log^\alpha(\text{rank}(M))$.
- **Theorem (2.14).** The CC of a boolean matrix M is at most $O(\log^2(\text{rank}^+(M)))$.
- **Proof (2.14).** Split $M = [R \ A; \ B \ C]$ where R is a 1-rectangle. WLOG, if Alice sees her input is in R and not B , she can send c bits to Bob to communicate this. Then

they remove the need to search the other part of the matrix. Bob can do the same by symmetry.

Each iteration reduces $\text{rank}(M)$ by a constant factor. Thus, this can continue for only $O(\log(\text{rank}(M)))$ steps by “binary search” depth.

- **Lemma (2.18).** Any $m \times n$ matrix that has 0/1 entries and rank $r \geq 0$ must contain a monochromatic submatrix of size at least $mn \cdot 2^{-O(\sqrt{r} \log(r))}$.
- **Theorem (2.17).** If the rank of a matrix is $r > 1$, then its CC is at most $O(\sqrt{r} \log^2(r))$.
- **Proof (2.17).** Similar to 2.14. Binary chop the rectangles, which each reduces the matrix by a factor of $1 - 2^{-O(\sqrt{r} \log(r))} = 1 - 2^{-k}$.
- **Remark.** Professor Lovett proved a tighter bound, $O(\sqrt{r} \log(r))$, in 2014.

• Properties of Boolean Matrices

- **Claim (2.19).** If at least half of the entries in M are 0s, then there is a submatrix T of size at least $mn \cdot 2^{-O(\sqrt{r} \log(r))}$ such that the fraction of 1s in T is at most $1/r^3$.
- **Claim (2.20).** If T is a 0/1 matrix of rank $r \geq 2$, where at most $1/r^3$ of the entries are 1s, then there is a submatrix consisting of at least half of the rows and half of the columns of T that only contains 0s.
- **Lemma (2.22).** Any boolean matrix M of rank r can be expressed as $M = AB$ where A is an $m \times r$ matrix whose rows are vectors of length at most \sqrt{r} , and B is an $r \times n$ matrix whose columns are vectors of length at most 1.
- **Theorem (2.21).** Let $K \subseteq R^r$ be a symmetric convex body such that the unit ball is the most voluminous of all ellipsoids contained in K . Then every element of K has Euclidean length at most \sqrt{r} .
- **Proof Sketch (2.22).** Notice that $M = A'B'$ is not unique; I can scale A, B by scalar multiples. Hand-waving, we can scale A such that it is a convex set of vectors that denote a convex polytope. By 2.21, the length of all rows of A is at most \sqrt{r} .

Since M is boolean, we know that the dot product of any row of A with any

column of B satisfies $0 \leq \text{row}(A) \cdot \text{col}(B) \leq 1$. Applying the 2-norm, and that $|\text{row}(A)|_2 \leq 1$ with equality is achieved when $r = 1$, we get by the triangle inequality that $|\text{col}(B)|_2 \leq 1$, as desired.

- Some interesting exercises

- **Ex 2.1.** Show that there is a matrix whose rank is 1, yet its communication complexity is 2. Conclude that $+1$ is necessary in “The communication complexity of M is at most $\text{rank}(M) + 1$.”
- **Solution.** Take $M = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$.
- **Ex 2.6.** For any symmetric matrix $M \in \{0, 1\}^{n \times n}$, with ones in diagonal entries, show that $2^c \geq n^2/|M|$ where $|M|$ is the number of ones in M and c is the deterministic communication complexity of M .
- **Solution.** The protocol partitions the matrix into at most $R \leq 2^c$ monochromatic rectangles. Consider only the 1-rectangles, labelling them R_1 to R_t where $t \leq R$.

For each 1-rectangle R_i , let its row set be A_i and column set B_i . The diagonal entries are all 1, so they are exactly the $d_i := |A_i \cap B_i|$. There are n diagonals so

$$\sum_{r=1}^t k_r = n.$$

If $i, j \in A_r \cap B_r$, then (i, j) is in R_r and evaluates to 1. There must be at least k_r^2 of these entries. Hence $|M|$ must be at least the sum of all these:

$$\sum_{r=1}^t k_r^2 \leq |M|.$$

We can apply Cauchy-Schwarz $(\sum k_r)^2 \leq t \sum k_r^2$ to get

$$n^2 = \left(\sum_{r=1}^t k_r \right)^2 \leq t \sum_{r=1}^t k_r^2 \leq t|M|.$$

Since $t \leq R \leq 2^c$, we have $2^c \geq n^2/|M|$ as desired.