

# Randomized Short-Recurrence Iterative Methods for Approximate Low-Rank Factorizations

Workshop on  
Computational and Mathematical Methods in Data Sciences  
Technical University of Chemnitz

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# Introduction

## Low-rank matrix approximation — the "What?"

- Given a matrix  $X \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$ , we seek some factor matrices  $U \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times r}$  and  $V \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times r}$ , with  $r \leq \min(m, n)$ , s.t.  $X - UV^T$  is small in some sense:

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- In this talk, we aim at minimizing the Frobenius residual norm:

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- regularization terms can be added to  $f$  to promote sparsity, orthogonality, balanced norms, or else, in the factors; making the problem convex, ...

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► Applications in multiple fields:

- Pre-training of LLMs, recommendation systems, regularization of DNNs, pattern (e.g., face or signal) recognition, preconditioning of challenging numerical problems, approximating dynamical systems, ...

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- ▶ In those cases, gradient descent algorithms and other first-order iterative methods are often the best alternative.
- ▶ In this work, we propose enhanced gradient descent algorithms for the computation of approximate low-rank matrix factorizations.

## Gradient descent algorithms

- ▶ Gradient descent algorithms are defined upon setting search directions of a block coordinate descent along the gradients of the objective function:

$$\nabla_U f(U, V) = -2RV \text{ and } \nabla_V f(U, V) = -2R^T U \text{ where } R := X - UV.$$

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Given a pair of initial approximate low-rank factors  $U_0 \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times r}$  and  $V_0 \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times r}$ , 2-block gradient descent (2BGD) iterates are defined as follows:

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### Algorithm 2 2BGD( $X, U_0, V_0$ )

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- 1:  $R_0 := X - U_0 V_0^T$
  - 2: **for**  $t = 0, 1, \dots$  **do**
  - 3:    $P_t := -R_t V_t$
  - 4:    $Q_t := -R_t^T U_t$
  - 5:    $U_{t+1} := U_t + \eta_t P_t$   $\triangleright \eta_t \in (0, \infty)$  is learning rate
  - 6:    $V_{t+1} := V_t + \eta_t Q_t$
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Properly decreasing learning rates guarantee convergence to stationary points of  $f$ , but we want to try and achieve faster convergence.

# Alternating 2-block subspace coordinate descent methods

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### Definition (A2BSCD methods)

- Given  $X \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$ ,  $U_0 \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times r}$ ,  $V_0 \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times r}$  and  $r \leq \min(m, n)$ , a sequence of A2BSCD with search directions  $P_t \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times r}$  and  $Q_t \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times r}$  is defined by:

$$\begin{cases} U_{t+1} \in U_t + \text{span}\{P_t\} & \text{s.t.} \quad \nabla_U f(U, V_t)|_{U_{t+1}} \propto \tilde{R}_t V_t \perp \text{span}\{P_t\} \\ V_{t+1} \in V_t + \text{span}\{Q_t\} & \text{s.t.} \quad \nabla_V f(U_{t+1}, V)|_{V_{t+1}} \propto R_{t+1}^T U_{t+1} \perp \text{span}\{Q_t\} \end{cases}$$

where  $\tilde{R}_t := X - U_{t+1} V_t^T$  and  $R_{t+1} := X - U_{t+1} V_{t+1}^T$ .

- Proper descent algorithms are s.t.  $f(U_{t+1}, V_{t+1}) \leq f(U_{t+1}, V_t) \leq f(U_t, V_t)$ .

## Optimality of A2BSCD iterates

- ▶ Particular A2BSCD methods are instantiated by the definition of update formulae for the search directions  $(P_t, Q_t) \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times r} \times \mathbb{R}^{n \times r}$  for the iterates  $U_{t+1}$  and  $V_{t+1}$ , respectively, for  $t = 0, 1, \dots$

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- ▶ All A2BSCD iterates are characterized as follows:

### Theorem (Optimality of A2BSCD iterates)

*Irrespective of the choice of search directions  $(P_t, Q_t) \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times r} \times \mathbb{R}^{n \times r}$ :*

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- all non-trivial A2BSCD methods are proper block descent algorithms, i.e., s.t.  $f(U_{t+1}, V_{t+1}) \leq f(U_t, V_t)$ , and converge to stationary points of  $f$ .

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### Proof.

Based on the theorem of orthogonal projections. □

## Alternating 2-block subspace gradient descent

- A natural instance of A2BSCD method is obtained by setting the search directions  $P_t$  and  $Q_t$  along gradient directions of  $f$ :

### Definition (A2BSGD method and iterates)

- Given  $X \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$ ,  $U_0 \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times r}$ ,  $V_0 \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times r}$  and  $r \leq \min(m, n)$ , a sequence of alternating 2-block subspace gradient descent (A2BSGD) iterates is defined by setting the search directions of the A2BSCD algorithm to:

$$P_t := R_t V_t \propto \nabla_U f(U, V_t)|_{U_t} \quad \text{and} \quad Q_t := \tilde{R}_t^T U_{t+1} \propto \nabla_V f(U_{t+1}, V)|_{V_t}.$$

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for  $t = 0, 1, \dots$ , in which the optimal step sizes  $\alpha_t, \gamma_t \in \mathbb{R}$  are:

$$\alpha_t := \frac{\|P_t\|_F^2}{(P_t V_t^T V_t, P_t)_F} \quad \text{and} \quad \gamma_t := \frac{\|Q_t\|_F^2}{(Q_t U_{t+1}^T U_{t+1}, Q_t)_F}.$$

## Alternating local optimality

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$$P_t \in \text{span}\{P_{t-1}, R_t V_t\} \quad \text{and} \quad Q_t \in \text{span}\{Q_{t-1}, \tilde{R}_t^T U_{t+1}\}. \quad (1)$$

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### Theorem (Alternating local optimality)

Given  $X \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$ ,  $U_0 \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times r}$ ,  $V_0 \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times r}$ , and  $r \leq \min(m, n)$ , with search directions satisfying Eq. (1),  $P_{-1} := 0_{m \times r}$  and  $Q_{-1} := 0_{n \times r}$ , we have:

$$\begin{cases} \min_{U \in U_t + \text{span}\{P_{t-1}, R_t V_t\}} f(U, V_t) \leq \min_{U \in U_t + \text{span}\{R_t V_t\}} f(U, V_t) \\ \min_{V \in V_t + \text{span}\{Q_{t-1}, \tilde{R}_t^T U_{t+1}\}} f(U_{t+1}, V) \leq \min_{V \in V_t + \text{span}\{\tilde{R}_t^T U_{t+1}\}} f(U_{t+1}, V) \end{cases}$$

for  $t = 0, 1, \dots$ .

Andrew Knyazev (2001). Toward the optimal preconditioned eigensolver: Locally optimal block preconditioned conjugate gradient method. SIAM journal on scientific computing, 23(2):517–541.

# Alternating 2-block subspace locally optimal gradient descent

## Definition (A2BSLOGD method and iterates)

- Given  $X \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$ ,  $U_0 \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times r}$ ,  $V_0 \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times r}$  and  $r \leq \min(m, n)$ , a sequence of A2BSLOGD iterates is defined by:

$$\begin{cases} U_{t+1} &:= \arg \min_{U \in U_t + \text{span}\{R_t V_t, P_{t-1}\}} \|X - UV_t^T\|_F \\ V_{t+1} &:= \arg \min_{V \in V_t + \text{span}\{\tilde{R}_t^T U_{t+1}, Q_{t-1}\}} \|X - U_{t+1} V^T\|_F \end{cases} \quad \text{for } t = 0, 1, \dots$$

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and the corresponding search direction is updated by:

$$P_t := R_t V_t + (\beta_t / \alpha_t) P_{t-1} \quad \text{for } t = 0, 1, \dots$$

# Alternating 2-block subspace locally optimal gradient descent

## Definition (A2BSLOGD method and iterates, cont'd)

- The main right iterates of the A2BSLOGD method are given by:

$$V_{t+1} := V_t + \gamma_t \tilde{R}_t^T U_{t+1} + \omega_t Q_{t-1} \quad \text{for } t = 0, 1, \dots$$

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# Simultaneous 2-block subspace coordinate descent methods

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### Definition (S2BSCD methods)

- Given  $X \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$ ,  $U_0 \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times r}$ ,  $V_0 \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times r}$  and  $r \leq \min(m, n)$ , a sequence of simultaneous 2-block subspace coordinate descent iterates is defined by:

$$\begin{cases} U_{t+1} \in U_t + \text{span}\{P_t\} \\ V_{t+1} \in V_t + \text{span}\{Q_t\} \end{cases} \quad \text{s.t.} \quad \begin{cases} R_{t+1}V_t \perp \text{span}\{P_t\} \\ R_{t+1}^T U_t \perp \text{span}\{Q_t\} \end{cases}$$

where  $P_t \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times r}$  and  $Q_t \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times r}$  are given search directions.

- Proper descent algorithms are s.t.  $f(U_{t+1}, V_{t+1}) \leq f(U_t, V_t)$ .

## Simultaneous 2-block subspace gradient descent

- A natural instance of S2BSCD method is obtained by setting the search directions  $P_t$  and  $Q_t$  along gradient directions of  $f$ :

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$$P_t := R_t V_t \propto \nabla_U f(U, V_t)|_{U_t} \quad \text{and} \quad Q_t := R_t^T U_t \propto \nabla_V f(U_t, V)|_{V_t}.$$

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- The main left iterates are given by:

$$\begin{cases} U_{t+1} := U_t + \alpha_t R_t V_t + \beta_t P_{t-1} \\ V_{t+1} := V_t + \gamma_t \tilde{R}_t^T U_{t+1} + \omega_t Q_{t-1} \end{cases} \quad \text{for } t = 0, 1, \dots$$

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# Randomization

## Random subspace embeddings

- The main building block of randomization is subspace embedding:

### Definition $((\varepsilon, \delta, d)$ -oblivious embedding)

A random linear map  $x \in \mathbb{R}^n \mapsto \Theta x \in \mathbb{R}^k$  is an  $(\varepsilon, \delta, d)$ -oblivious subspace embedding (OSE) of dimension  $k < n$  with some  $\delta \in (0, 1)$  if, for any  $d$ -dimensional subspace  $\mathcal{S} \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ , we have:

$$\Pr \{(1 - \varepsilon)\|x\|_2 \leq \|\Theta x\|_2 \leq (1 + \varepsilon)\|x\|_2\} \geq 1 - \delta \quad \forall x \in \mathcal{S}.$$

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  - Sketching, i.e., the linear map  $x \mapsto \Theta x$ , can be applied efficiently.
- Common sketching strategies include:
  - CountSketch, scaled random Gaussian matrices, sub-sampled fast transforms, random sign matrices.

## Randomization of simultaneous 2-block coordinate descent

- ▶ All the block subspace coordinate descent algorithms presented thus far may be recast to make use of randomization in order to reduce FLOP counts and data movement while minimally impacting convergence.

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- ▶ For example, we have:

### Definition (RS2BSCD methods)

Given a matrix  $X \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$  with approximate factors  $U_0 \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times r}$ ,  $V_0 \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times r}$  of rank  $r \leq \min(m, n)$ , and two random subspace embeddings:

$$x \in \mathbb{R}^m \mapsto \Theta_1 x \in \mathbb{R}^k \quad \text{and} \quad y \in \mathbb{R}^n \mapsto \Theta_2 y \in \mathbb{R}^\ell,$$

a sequence of randomized simultaneous 2-block subspace coordinate descent (RS2BSCD) iterates is defined by:

$$\begin{cases} U_{t+1} \in U_t + \text{span}\{P_t\} \\ V_{t+1} \in V_t + \text{span}\{Q_t\} \end{cases} \quad \text{s.t.} \quad \begin{cases} \Theta_1(R_{t+1}V_t) \perp \text{span}\{\Theta_1 P_t\} \\ \Theta_2(R_{t+1}^T U_t) \perp \text{span}\{\Theta_2 Q_t\} \end{cases}$$

where  $P_t \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times r}$  and  $Q_t \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times r}$  are given search directions.

# Summary of methods

## Summary of FLOPs per iteration

- Methods for general matrices:

Method	FLOPs per iteration (dense $X$ )
2BGD	$(6r + 3)mn + 2r \cdot (m + n)$
A2BSGD	$(8r + 4)mn + (4r^2 + 6r)(m + n)$
RA2BSGD	$(8r + 4)mn + (2r^2 + 2r)(m + n) + (2r^2 + 4r)(k + \ell)$
A2BSLOGD	$(8r + 4)mn + (6r^2 + 16r)(m + n)$
RA2BSLOGD	$(8r + 4)mn + (2r^2 + 6r)(m + n) + (4r^2 + 10r)(k + \ell)$
S2BSGD	$(6r + 3)mn + (10r^2 + 10r)(m + n)$
RS2BSGD	$(6r + 3)mn + (4r^2 + 2r)(m + n) + (6r^2 + 8r)(k + \ell)$
S2BSLOGD	$(6r + 3)mn + (22r^2 + 42r)(m + n)$
RS2BSLOGD	$(6r + 3)mn + (6r^2 + 6r)(m + n) + (16r^2 + 36r)(k + \ell)$

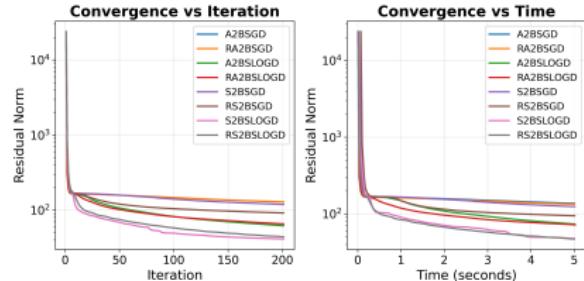
- Methods for symmetric positive semi-definite matrices:

Method	FLOPs per iteration (dense $X$ )
1BGD	$(4r + 3)n^2 + 2r \cdot n$
S1BSGD	$(4r + 3)n^2 + (10r^2 + 9r)n$
RS1BSGD	$(4r + 3)n^2 + (4r^2 + 2r)n + (6r^2 + 7r)k$
S1BSLOGD	$(4r + 3)n^2 + (22r^2 + 33r)n$
RS1BSLOGD	$(4r + 3)n^2 + (6r^2 + 6r)n + (16r^2 + 27r)k$

# Numerical experiments

# Toy example

- ▶ Rank-100 approximation of a 800-by-1,200 grayscale image:



- ▶ Low-rank approximations achieved in 5 seconds:



- ▶ We observe that:
  - Simultaneous schemes converge faster than alternating ones,
  - Local optimality accelerates convergence,
  - Randomization minimally impacts convergence.

# Closing remarks

## Conclusion

- ▶ Findings:

First-order short-recurrence iterations are introduced for the approximation of low-rank matrix factorizations based on Galerkin projections:

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- Local optimality, i.e., enriching the search and orthogonality spaces with previous search directions, achieves the fastest convergence behaviors.

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- Find this presentation at:  
[venkovic.github.io/research](https://venkovic.github.io/research)

## Related ongoing and future work

- ▶ Locally optimal sort-recurrence iterative methods for sparse approximate for sparse approximate inverses (SPAIs) of SPD matrices:

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- ▶ Related ongoing work:
  - Locally optimal short-recurrence iterative methods for SPAIs of general matrices.
- ▶ Related future works:
  - SPAIs:
    - Parallelization.

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- ▶ Related future works:
  - SPAIs:
    - Parallelization.
  - Low-rank approximation:
    - Application to matrix recovery (completion and sensing problems).
    - Non-negative matrix factorizations.
    - Tensor factorizations.