

# The many faces of degeneracy in conic optimization

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**COCA16** Continuous Optimization: Challenges and Applications  
Celebrating Ronny Ben-Tal's 70th Birthday  
Technion, Haifa, Israel

## \*\* Motivation: Loss of Slater CQ/Facial reduction

- Slater condition – existence of a strictly feasible solution – is at the heart of convex optimization.
- Without Slater: first-order optimality conditions may fail; dual problem may yield little information; small perturbations may result in infeasibility; many software packages can behave poorly.
- a pronounced phenomenon: though Slater holds generically, surprisingly many models arising from relaxations of hard nonconvex problems show loss of strict feasibility, e.g., Matrix completions/compressive sensing, sensor network localization, SNL, EDM, POP, Molecular Conformation, QAP, GP, strengthened Max-Cut
- We concentrate on appl. of Semidef. Progr., **SDP**.  
We look at various reasons and how to take advantage using  
two views of **FACIAL REDUCTION, FR**

*Main Ref: (in progress)*

*“The many faces of degeneracy in conic optimization”,  
Drusvyatskiy, Wolkowicz '16 ;*

## \*\* Facial Reduction/Preprocessing for LP

Primal-Dual Pair:  $A$  onto,  $m \times n$ ,  $\mathcal{P} = \{1, \dots, n\}$

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{(LP-P)} & \max \quad b^\top y \\ & \text{s.t.} \quad A^\top y \leq c \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{(LP-D)} & \min \quad c^\top x \\ & \text{s.t.} \quad Ax = b, \\ & \quad x \geq 0. \end{array}$$

Slater's CQ for (LP-D) / Theorem of alternative

Exactly One is True:

$$\text{(I)} \quad \exists \hat{x} \text{ s.t. } A\hat{x} = b, \hat{x} > 0 \quad (\hat{x} \in \text{ri } F, \text{ feas. set})$$

Slater point

$$\text{(II)} \quad 0 \neq z = A^\top y \geq 0, b^\top y = 0 \quad (\langle z, F \rangle = 0)$$

exposing vector

# Linear Programming Example, $x \in \mathbb{R}^5$

$$\begin{aligned} \min & \quad (2 \ 6 \ -1 \ -2 \ 7) x \\ \text{s.t.} & \quad \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & -1 & -1 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} x = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} \\ & \quad x \geq 0 \end{aligned}$$

Sum the two constraints (multiply by:  $y^T = (1 \ 1)$ ):

get:  $2x_1 + x_4 + x_5 = 0 \implies x_1 = x_4 = x_5 = 0$

i.e., equiv. simplified problem/smaller face/ **fewer** constr.

$$\begin{aligned} \min & \quad 6x_2 - x_3 \quad \text{s.t.} \quad x_2 + x_3 = 1, x_2, x_3 \geq 0, \\ & \quad (x_1 = x_4 = x_5 = 0) \end{aligned}$$

Slater's CQ for (LP-P) / Theorem of alternative

$$\exists \hat{y} \text{ s.t. } c - A^T \hat{y} > 0, \quad ((c - A^T \hat{y})_i > 0, \forall i \in \mathcal{P} =: \mathcal{P}^I)$$

iff

$$Ad = 0, \quad c^T d = 0, \quad d \geq 0 \implies d = 0 \quad (*)$$

implicit equality constraints:  $i \in \mathcal{P}^e$

Find  $0 \neq d^*$  to (\*) with max number of non-zeros  
(exposes minimal face containing feasible slacks)

$$d_i^* > 0 \implies (c - A^T y)_i = 0, \forall y \in \mathcal{F}^y \quad i \in \mathcal{P}^e$$

(where  $\mathcal{F}^y$  is primal feasible set)

$k = 1!$ ; we only need one step of FR for LP

$d^*$  here exposes the minimal face (of slacks)

# Make implicit-equalities explicit/ Regularizes LP

Facial Reduction:  $A^T y \leq_f c$ ; minimal face  $f \trianglelefteq \mathbb{R}_+^n$   
proper primal-dual pair; dual of dual is primal

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{(LP}_{\text{reg-P}}) & \max \quad b^T y \\ & \text{s.t.} \quad (A^l)^T y \leq c^l \\ & \quad \quad (A^e)^T y = c^e \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{(LP}_{\text{reg-D}}) & \min \quad (c^l)^T x^l + (c^e)^T x^e \\ & \text{s.t.} \quad \begin{bmatrix} A^l & A^e \end{bmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x^l \\ x^e \end{pmatrix} = b \\ & \quad \quad x^l \geq 0, x^e \text{ free} \end{array}$$

Generalized Slater CQ holds - And!

after deleting redundant equality constraints!

Mangasarian-Fromovitz CQ (MFCQ) holds

$$\left( \exists \hat{y} : (A^l)^T \hat{y} < c^l, (A^e)^T \hat{y} = c^e \right) \quad (A^e)^T \text{ is onto}$$

MFCQ holds iff dual optimal set is compact

Numerical difficulties if MFCQ fails; in particular for interior point methods!      Modelling issue!

# \*\* Convex Programming

## Ordinary convex programming, (OCP)

$$(OCP) \quad \sup_y b^\top y \text{ subject to } g(y) \leq 0$$

$$b \in \mathbb{R}^m; g(y) = (g_i(y)) \in \mathbb{R}^n, g_i : \mathbb{R}^m \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \text{ convex, } \forall i \in \mathcal{P}$$

## Slater's CQ; strict feasibility

$$\exists \hat{y} \text{ s.t. } g_i(\hat{y}) < 0, \forall i \quad (\text{implies MFCQ})$$

Slater's CQ fails  $\iff$  implicit equality constraints exist

$$\mathcal{P}^e := \{i \in \mathcal{P} : g(y) \leq 0 \implies g_i(y) = 0\} \neq \emptyset$$

Let  $\mathcal{P}^I := \mathcal{P} \setminus \mathcal{P}^e$  and

$$g^I := (g_i)_{i \in \mathcal{P}^I}, \quad g^e := (g_i)_{i \in \mathcal{P}^e}$$

Minimal face  $f$ 

$$f = \{z \in \mathbb{R}_+^m : z_i = 0, \forall i \in \mathcal{P}^e\} \triangleleft \mathbb{R}_+^m$$

(OCP) is equivalent to  $g(y) \leq_f 0$ 

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{(OCP}_{\text{reg}}) & \sup \quad b^\top y \\ & \text{s.t.} \quad g^l(y) \leq 0 \\ & \quad y \in \mathcal{F}^e \end{array}$$

where  $\mathcal{F}^e := \{y : g^e(y) = 0\}$ .Then  $\mathcal{F}^e = \{y : g^e(y) \leq 0\}$ , so is a convex set!!Slater's CQ holds for (OCP<sub>reg</sub>)

$$\exists \hat{y} \in \mathcal{F}^e : g^l(\hat{y}) < 0$$

(Ben-Israel, Ben-Tal, Zlobec: BBZ Conditions '76-80)



$$(\text{ACP}) \quad \inf_x f(x) \text{ s.t. } g(x) \preceq_K 0, x \in \Omega$$

where:

- $f: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  convex;  $g: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$  is  $K$ -convex
  - $K \subset \mathbb{R}^m$  closed convex cone;  $\Omega \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$  convex set
  - $a \preceq_K b \iff b - a \in K$ ,  $a \prec_K b \iff b - a \in \text{int} K$
  - $g(\alpha x + (1 - \alpha)y) \preceq_K \alpha g(x) + (1 - \alpha)g(y)$ ,  
 $\forall x, y \in \mathbb{R}^n, \forall \alpha \in [0, 1]$

Slater's CQ:  $\exists \hat{x} \in \Omega$  s.t.  $g(\hat{x}) \in -\text{int} K$  ( $g(x) \prec_K 0$ )

- guarantees strong duality  
(zero duality gap **AND** dual attainment)
- (near) loss of strict feasibility, **nearness to infeasibility**,  
correlates with number of iterations & loss of accuracy
- Recall that Slater (M-F) is equivalent to a nonempty bounded dual optimal set.

Face of  $C$ ,

$$F \trianglelefteq C$$

- $F \subseteq C$  is a **face of  $C$**  if  $F$  contains any line segment in  $C$  whose relative interior intersects  $F$ .
- A convex cone  $F \subseteq K$  is a **face of a convex cone  $K$** ,  $F \trianglelefteq K$ , if (simplified)

$$x, y \in K \text{ and } x + y \in F \implies x, y \in F$$

Polar (Dual) Cone/Conjugate Face

- polar cone  $K^* := \{\phi : \langle \phi, k \rangle \geq 0, \forall k \in K\}$
- If  $F \trianglelefteq K$ , the **conjugate face** of  $F$  is

$$F^c := F^\perp \cap K^* \trianglelefteq K^*$$

# Properties of Faces

## General case

- A face of a face is a face
- intersection of a face with a face is a face.
- Let  $C \subseteq K$ , then  $\text{face}(C)$  denotes the minimal face (intersection of faces) containing  $C$ .

$F \trianglelefteq K$  is an **exposed face** if there exists  $\phi \in K^*$  with

$$F = K \cap \phi^\perp$$

$F^\circ$  is always exposed by  $x \in \text{ri } F$ .

The SDP cone is **facially exposed**, all its faces are exposed.  
(In fact like  $\mathbb{R}_+^n$ :  $\mathcal{S}_+^n$  is a proper closed convex cone, self-dual and facially exposed.)

in memorium: Jonathan Borwein 20 May 1951 - 2 Aug 2016,

jonborwein.org

$$(ACP) \quad \inf_x f(x) \text{ s.t. } g(x) \preceq_K 0, x \in \Omega$$

(Borwein-W.'78-79 )

$$(ACP_R) \quad \inf_x f(x) \text{ s.t. } g(x) \preceq_{K^f} 0, x \in \Omega$$

where:  $K^f$  is the minimal face

Like LP, it is simple if we use the minimal face  $K^f$ .

We get a proper primal-dual pair!!

# General Theorem of Alternative

Lemma (Facial Reduction (FR)); find **EXPOSING** vector  $\phi$

Suppose  $\bar{x}$  is feasible. Then the LHS **system**

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} (\Omega - \bar{x})^* \cap \partial \langle \phi, g(\bar{x}) \rangle \neq \emptyset \\ \phi \in K^*, \quad \langle \phi, g(\bar{x}) \rangle = 0 \end{array} \right\} \text{ implies } K^f \subseteq \phi^\perp \cap K,$$

where:  $\partial$  is subgradient;  $\langle \cdot \rangle$  is inner-product.

Generally more than one step is needed to find  $K^f$

**Restrict** to smaller face  $\phi^\perp \cap K$ ;  
repeat till Slater is obtained

## \* SDP Case/Replicating Cone/Faces

### SDP case/Replicating cone

- Let  $X \in \mathcal{S}_+^n$  with spectral decomposition,

$$X = [P \ Q] \begin{bmatrix} D_+ & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} [P \ Q]^T, \quad D_+ \in \mathcal{S}_{++}^r \quad (\text{rank } X = r)$$

- Then

$$\text{Range}(X) = \text{Range}(P), \quad \text{Null}(X) = \text{Range}(Q)$$

$$\text{face}(X) = P\mathcal{S}_+^r P^T = (QQ^T)^\perp \cap \mathcal{S}_+^n.$$

( $Z = QQ^T$  exposing vector/matrix for face.)

- 

$$\text{face}(X)^c = Q\mathcal{S}_+^{n-r} Q^T$$

### Range/Nullspace representations

$$\text{face}(X) = \{ Y \in \mathcal{S}_+^n : \text{Range}(Y) \subseteq \text{Range}(X) \}$$

$$\text{face}(X) = \{ Y \in \mathcal{S}_+^n : \text{Null}(Y) \supseteq \text{Null}(X) \}$$

$$\text{ri face}(X) = \{ Y \in \mathcal{S}_+^n : \text{Range}(Y) = \text{Range}(X) \}$$

$K = \mathcal{S}_+^n = K^*$ : nonpolyhedral, self-polar, facially exposed

$$\text{(SDP-P)} \quad v_P = \sup_{y \in \mathbb{R}^m} b^\top y \text{ s.t. } g(y) := \mathcal{A}^* y - c \preceq_{\mathcal{S}_+^n} 0$$

$$\text{(SDP-D)} \quad v_D = \inf_{x \in \mathcal{S}^n} \langle c, x \rangle \text{ s.t. } \mathcal{A}x = b, x \succeq_{\mathcal{S}_+^n} 0$$

where:

- PSD cone  $\mathcal{S}_+^n \subset \mathcal{S}^n$  symm. matrices
- $c \in \mathcal{S}^n, b \in \mathbb{R}^m$
- $\mathcal{A} : \mathcal{S}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$  is an onto linear map, with adjoint  $\mathcal{A}^*$
- $\mathcal{A}x = (\text{trace } A_i x) = (\langle A_i, x \rangle) \in \mathbb{R}^m, \quad A_i \in \mathcal{S}^n$   
 $\mathcal{A}^* y = \sum_{i=1}^m A_i y_i \in \mathcal{S}^n$

# Regularization Using Minimal Face

Borwein-W.'78-79 ,  $f_p = \text{face } \mathcal{F}_p^s$ ; min. face of feasible slacks

(SDP-P) is equivalent to the regularized

$$(\text{SDP}_{\text{reg-P}}) \quad v_{RP} := \sup_y \{ \langle b, y \rangle : \mathcal{A}^* y \preceq_{f_p} c \}$$

$f_p$  is minimal face of primal feasible slacks

$$\{ s \succeq 0 : s = c - \mathcal{A}^* y \} \subseteq f_p \triangleleft S_+^n$$

Lagrangian dual of regularized problem satisfies strong duality:

$$(\text{SDP}_{\text{reg-D}}) \quad v_{DRP} := \inf_x \{ \langle c, x \rangle : \mathcal{A} x = b, x \succeq_{f_p^*} 0 \}$$

$v_P = v_{RP} = v_{DRP}$  and  $v_{DRP}$  is attained.

regularized PROPER primal-dual pair

dual of dual is primal

If we take the dual of (SDP<sub>reg-D</sub>) we recover the primal regularized problem (SDP<sub>reg-P</sub>).



Assume feasibility:  $\exists \tilde{x}$  s.t.  $\mathcal{A} \tilde{x} = b, \tilde{x} \succeq 0$ .

Exactly one of the following alternatives holds/is consistent:

$$(I) \quad \exists \hat{x} \text{ s.t. } \mathcal{A} \hat{x} = b, \hat{x} \succ 0 \quad (\text{Slater})$$

or

$$(II) \quad 0 \neq z = \mathcal{A}^* y \succeq 0, \langle b, y \rangle = 0, \quad (**)$$

(II) finds exposing vector:  $0 \neq z \succeq 0$

$z$  exposes a proper face containing all the dual feasible points

$$\mathcal{A} x = b, x \succeq 0 \implies zx = 0. \quad (\text{equiv. trace } zx = 0)$$

# Regularization of Dual Using Minimal Face

Borwein-W:78-79 ,  $f_D = \text{face } \mathcal{F}_D^x$ ; min. face of dual feasible set

(SDP-D) is equivalent to the regularized

$$\text{(SDP}_{reg}\text{-D)} \quad v_{RD} := \inf_x \{ \langle c, x \rangle : \mathcal{A}x = b, x \succeq_{f_D} 0 \}$$

$f_D$  is minimal face of dual feasible set

$$\{x \succeq 0 : \mathcal{A}x = b, x \succeq 0\} \subseteq f_D \triangleleft S_+^n$$

Lagrang. dual of regulariz. dual problem satisfies strong duality:

$$\text{(SDP}_{reg}\text{-DD)} \quad v_{DRD} := \sup_y \{ \langle b, y \rangle : \mathcal{A}^*y \preceq_{f_D^*} c \}$$

$v_D = v_{RD} = v_{DRD}$  and  $v_{DRD}$  is attained.

regularized primal-dual pair

If we take the dual of (SDP<sub>reg</sub>-DD) we recover the dual regularized problem (SDP<sub>reg</sub>-P).

# View One for FR in SDP

$$(SDP_D) \quad \min\{\text{trace } CX \text{ s.t. } \mathcal{A}X = b, X \in \mathcal{S}_+^n\}$$

Step 1: Let  $0 \neq Z \succeq 0$  be an exposing vector.

add constraint  $\text{trace } ZX = 0$ . (Equivalently  $ZX = 0$ )  
from spectral decomposition of  $Z$ , with  $\text{Range } P = \text{Null } Z$ :

substitute:  $X = PS_+^{t_1}P^T, \quad t_1 = \text{nullity}(Z)$

We get the equivalent smaller problem

$$(SDP_{D1}) \quad \begin{array}{ll} \min & \text{trace}(P^T C P)R \\ \text{s.t.} & \text{trace}(P^T A_i P)R = b_i, i = 1, \dots, m \\ & R \in \mathcal{S}_+^{t_1} \end{array}$$

Remove/delete redundant linear constraints; repeat Step 1.  
minimum number of steps is called the singularity degree

(ref. Sturm below)

## Lemma: Using exposing vectors

Let

$$Z_i \succeq 0, F_i = \mathcal{S}_+^n \cap Z_i^\perp, i = 1, \dots, m.$$

Then

$$\bigcap_{i=1}^m F_i = \mathcal{S}_+^n \cap \left( \sum_{i=1}^m Z_i \right)^\perp$$

intersection of faces is exposed by sum of exposing vectors □

# Singularity Degree $d$ - Minimal Number of FR Steps

## Sturm's error bounds Theorem for SDP, 2000

Given an affine subspace  $\mathcal{V}$  of  $\mathcal{S}^n$ , the pair  $(\mathcal{V}, \mathcal{S}_+^n)$  is  $\frac{1}{2^d}$ -Holder regular,  $\gamma = \frac{1}{2^d}$ , with displacement, where  $d$  is the singularity degree of  $(\mathcal{V}, \mathcal{S}_+^n)$  with displacement.

( e.g., for intersecting sets, for all compact sets  $U$  there exists a constant  $c > 0$  such that

$$\text{dist}(x, \mathcal{V} \cap \mathcal{S}_+^n) \leq c (\text{dist}^\gamma(x, \mathcal{V}) + \text{dist}^\gamma(x, \mathcal{S}_+^n)), \quad \forall x \in U$$

## Cgnce rate alternating directions (MAP) for SDP

Theorem (Drusvyatskiy, Li, W. 2015) If the sequence  $X_k, Y_k$

converges,  $d > 0$ , then the rate is  $\mathcal{O}\left(k^{-\frac{1}{2^d+1-2}}\right)$

(If Slater holds then cgnce is R-linear.)

(Paper includes Empirical Confirmation)

# Applications?

- preprocessing is essential in commercial LP software.
- Can we do facial reduction **in general**?
- Is it **efficient/worthwhile**?
- **important applications**?
  - relation to feasibility questions, e.g., for matrix completion
  - iterative methods? convergence rates? (DR, MAP)

### Highly (implicit) degenerate/low-rank problem

- high (implicit) degeneracy translates to low rank solutions
- take advantage of degeneracy; fast, high accuracy solutions

### SNL - a Fundamental Problem of Distance Geometry; easy to describe - dates back to Grassmann 1886

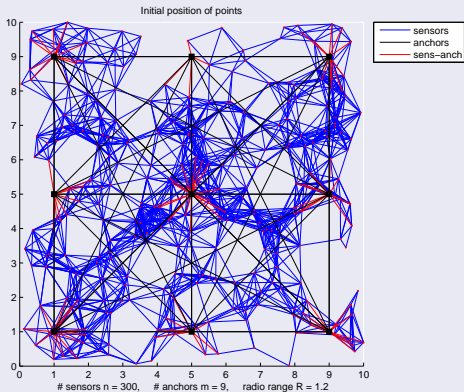
- $r$  : embedding dimension
- $n$  ad hoc wireless sensors  $p_1, \dots, p_n \in \mathbb{R}^r$  to locate in  $\mathbb{R}^r$ ;
- $m$  of the sensors  $p_{n-m+1}, \dots, p_n$  are anchors (positions known, using e.g. GPS)
- pairwise distances  $D_{ij} = \|p_i - p_j\|^2, ij \in E$ , are known within radio range  $R > 0$



$$P^T = [p_1 \ \dots \ p_n] = [X^T \ A^T] \in \mathbb{R}^{r \times n}$$

# Sensor Localization Problem/Partial EDM

## Sensors $\circ$ and Anchors $\blacksquare$





## Nearest, Weighted, SDP Approx. (relax/discard rank $B$ )

- $\min_{B \succeq 0} \|H \circ (\mathcal{K}(B) - D)\|$

$$\text{rank } B = r; \quad H_{ij} = \begin{cases} 1/\sqrt{D_{ij}} & \text{if } ij \in E, \\ H_{ij} = 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

- with rank constraint: a non-convex, NP-hard program
- SDP relaxation is convex

BUT: expensive/low accuracy/implicitly highly degenerate

cliques restrict ranks of feasible  $B$

- 2.16 GHz Intel Core 2 Duo, 2 GB of RAM
- Dimension  $r = 2$
- Square region:  $[0, 1] \times [0, 1]$
- $m = 9$  anchors
- Using only Rigid Clique Union and Rigid Node Absorption
- Error measure: Root Mean Square Deviation

$$\text{RMSE} = \left( \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \|p_i - p_i^{\text{true}}\|^2 \right)^{1/2}$$

# Results - Large $n$ (SDP size $O(n^2)$ )

$n$  # of Sensors Located

$n$ # sensors \ $R$	0.07	0.06	0.05	0.04
2000	2000	2000	1956	1374
6000	6000	6000	6000	6000
10000	10000	10000	10000	10000

CPU Seconds

# sensors \ $R$	0.07	0.06	0.05	0.04
2000	1	1	1	3
6000	5	5	4	4
10000	10	10	9	8

RMSD (over located sensors)

$n$ # sensors \ $R$	0.07	0.06	0.05	0.04
2000	$4e-16$	$5e-16$	$6e-16$	$3e-16$
6000	$4e-16$	$4e-16$	$3e-16$	$3e-16$
10000	$3e-16$	$5e-16$	$4e-16$	$4e-16$

# Results - $N$ Huge SDPs Solved

## Large-Scale Problems (results from 2010)

# sensors	# anchors	radio range	RMSD	Time
20000	9	.025	$5e-16$	25s
40000	9	.02	$8e-16$	1m 23s
60000	9	.015	$5e-16$	3m 13s
100000	9	.01	$6e-16$	9m 8s

Size of SDPs Solved:  $N = \binom{n}{2}$  (# vrbls)

$\mathcal{E}_n(\text{density of } \mathcal{G}) = \pi R^2$ ;  $M = \mathcal{E}_n(|E|) = \pi R^2 N$  (# constraints)

Size of SDP Problems:

$M = [3,078,915 \quad 12,315,351 \quad 27,709,309 \quad 76,969,790]$

$N = 10^9 [0.2000 \quad 0.8000 \quad 1.8000 \quad 5.0000]$

## View 2: Details with Exposing Vector/Numerics

Thm D.P.W. '15:  $\mathcal{M} : \mathbb{E} \rightarrow \mathbb{Y}$ ,  $K$  proper convex cone

$\emptyset \neq F = \{X \in K : \mathcal{M}(X) = b\}$ . Then a vector  $v$  exposes a proper face of  $\mathcal{M}(K)$  containing  $b$  if, and only if,  $v$  satisfies the auxiliary system

$$0 \neq \mathcal{M}^*v \in \mathcal{K}^*, \quad \langle v, b \rangle = 0.$$

Let  $N = \text{face}(b, \mathcal{M}(K))$  (smallest face containing  $b$ ). Then:

- $K \cap \mathcal{M}^{-1}(N) = \text{face}(F, K)$
- $v$  exposes  $N$  IFF  $\mathcal{M}^*(v)$  exposes  $\text{face}(F, K)$ .

### Corollary

If Slater's condition fails, then  $d = 1$  IFF the minimal  $\text{face}(b, \mathcal{M}(K))$  is exposed.

## Using exposing vectors

Successful numerics recently Drusvyatskiy/Krislock/Vronin/W.  
2015.

## \* FR for Low-Rank Matrix Completion, LRMC, (Huang-W.'16)

Intractable (nonconvex) minimum rank completion

Given partial  $m \times n$  real matrix  $Z \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$ .

$$\begin{aligned} (LRMC) \quad & \min \quad \text{rank}(M) \\ & \text{s.t.} \quad \|M_{\hat{E}} - Z_{\hat{E}}\| \leq \delta, \end{aligned}$$

$\hat{E}$  sampled indices;  $Z_{\hat{E}} \in \mathbb{R}^{\hat{E}}$ ;  $\delta > 0$  tuning parameter

convex nuclear norm relaxation

$$\begin{aligned} & \min \quad \|M\|_* \\ & \text{s.t.} \quad \|M_{\hat{E}} - Z_{\hat{E}}\| \leq \delta, \end{aligned}$$

where  $\|M\|_* = \sum_i \sigma_i(M)$ .

## Trace minimization

$$\begin{aligned} \min \quad & \|Y\|_* = \text{trace}(Y) \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & \|Y_{\bar{E}} - Q_{\bar{E}}\| \leq \delta \\ & Y \in \mathbb{S}_+^{m+n}, \end{aligned}$$

$$Q = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & Z \\ Z^T & 0 \end{bmatrix} \in \mathbb{S}_+^{m+n} \text{ and } \bar{E} \text{ indices in } Y \text{ corresponding to } \hat{E}$$

Noiseless case: strict feasibility trivially holds

$$Y_{\bar{E}} = Q_{\bar{E}}$$

choose diagonal of  $Y$  sufficiently large, positive.  
(strict feas. holds for dual as well)

Why consider this here?

It has been shown recently by Huang-W. that one can exploit the structure at the optimum and efficiently apply FR.



# Associated Undirected Weighted Graph $G = (V, E, W)$

node set  $V = \{1, \dots, m, m+1, \dots, m+n\}$  Let:

$$E_{1,m} := \{ij \in V \times V : i < j \leq m\}$$

$$E_{m+1,m+n} := \{ij \in V \times V : m+1 \leq i < j \leq m+n\}$$

edge set

$$E := \bar{E} \cup E_{1,m} \cup E_{m+1,m+n}.$$

weights for all  $ij \in E$

$$w_{ij} := \begin{cases} Z_{i(j-m)}, & \forall ij \in \bar{E} \\ 0, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Corresponding adjacency matrix  $A$ ; cliques  $C$

nontrivial cliques of interest (after row/col perms) corresp. to full (specified) submatrix  $X$  in  $Z$ ;  $C = \{i_1, \dots, i_k\}$  with cardinalities

$$|C \cap \{1, \dots, m\}| = p \neq 0, \quad |C \cap \{m+1, \dots, m+n\}| = q \neq 0.$$

Clique -  $X$ ; generically rank  $r$  by lsc of rank

$X \equiv \{Z_{i(j-m)} : ij \in C\}$ , specified  $p \times q$  submatrix.

let  $\text{rank } X = r_X$ . Wlog

$$Z = \begin{bmatrix} Z_1 & Z_2 \\ X & Z_3 \end{bmatrix},$$

full rank factorization  $X = \bar{P}\bar{Q}^T$  using SVD

$$X = \bar{P}\bar{Q}^T = U_X \Sigma_X V_X^T, \Sigma_X \in \mathbb{S}_{++}^{r_X}, \bar{P} = U_X \Sigma_X^{1/2}, \bar{Q} = V_X \Sigma_X^{1/2}.$$

$$C_X = \{i, \dots, m, m+1, \dots, m+k\}, \quad r < \max\{p, q\},$$

target rank  $r$ .

(From HW ) rewrite optimality conditions SDP as

$$0 \preceq Y = \begin{bmatrix} U \\ P \\ Q \\ V \end{bmatrix} D \begin{bmatrix} U \\ P \\ Q \\ V \end{bmatrix}^T = \left[ \begin{array}{c|c|c|c} UDU^T & UDP^T & UDQ^T & UDV^T \\ \hline PDU^T & PDP^T & PDQ^T & PDV^T \\ \hline QDU^T & QDP^T & QDQ^T & QDV^T \\ \hline VDU^T & VDP^T & VDQ^T & VDV^T \end{array} \right].$$

## Lemma ( Basic FR)

Let  $r < \min\{p, q\}$  and  $X = PDQ^T = \bar{P}\bar{Q}^T$  as above. We find a pair of exposing vectors using

$$\text{FR}(\bar{P}, \bar{Q}) : \bar{P}\bar{P}^T + \boxed{\bar{U}\bar{U}^T} \succ 0, \bar{P}^T\bar{U} = 0,$$

$$\bar{Q}\bar{Q}^T + \boxed{\bar{V}\bar{V}^T} \succ 0, \bar{Q}^T\bar{V} = 0.$$

# Numerics LRMC/average over 5 instances

Table: noiseless:  $r = 2$ ;  $m \times n$  size  $\uparrow$ .

Specifications			Time (s)	Rank	Residual (%Z)
$m$	$n$	mean( $p$ )			
700	2000	0.30	9.00	2.0	4.4605e-14
1000	5000	0.30	28.76	2.0	3.0297e-13
1400	9000	0.30	77.59	2.0	7.8674e-14
1900	14000	0.30	192.14	2.0	6.7292e-14
2500	20000	0.30	727.99	2.0	4.2753e-10

Table: noiseless:  $r = 4$ ;  $m \times n$  size  $\uparrow$ .

Specifications			Time (s)	Rank	Residual (%Z)
$m$	$n$	mean( $p$ )			
700	2000	0.36	12.80	4.0	1.5217e-12
1000	5000	0.36	49.66	4.0	1.0910e-12
1400	9000	0.36	131.53	4.0	6.0304e-13
1900	14000	0.36	291.22	4.0	3.4847e-11
2500	20000	0.36	798.70	4.0	7.2256e-08

# Numerics LRMC/average over 5 instances

Table: noiseless:  $r = 3$ ;  $m \times n$  size  $\uparrow$ ; noise  $\uparrow$ ; density  $\downarrow$ .

Specifications				Time (s)		Rank		Residual (%Z)	
$m$	$n$	% noise	$\rho$	initial	total	initial	refine	initial	refine
700	1000	0.00	0.40	2.22	1.82	2.40	2.40	3.961e-14	3.961e-14
700	1000	0.01	0.40	4.16	8.79	3.20	3.20	9.242e-01	9.360e-01
700	1000	0.15	0.40	3.64	6.32	2.40	2.40	9.416e-01	9.517e-01
700	1000	0.30	0.40	3.46	7.09	8.40	8.40	9.862e-01	9.862e-01
700	1000	0.45	0.40	3.45	4.26	3.80	3.80	9.539e-01	9.539e-01
1500	2000	10.00	0.40	14.07	19.13	2.40	2.40	9.281e-01	9.360e-01
1600	2100	10.00	0.35	13.85	18.03	2.40	2.40	9.535e-01	9.535e-01
1700	2200	10.00	0.30	10.48	30.81	11.00	11.00	8.000e-01	8.000e-01
1800	2300	10.00	0.25	4.22	15.22	4.60	4.60	4.000e-01	4.000e-01
1900	2500	10.00	0.40	21.39	29.03	2.20	2.20	9.506e-01	9.546e-01
2000	2600	10.00	0.35	18.58	50.70	10.20	10.20	9.894e-01	9.894e-01
2100	2700	10.00	0.30	22.75	40.97	6.40	6.40	9.759e-01	9.759e-01
2200	2800	10.00	0.25	6.61	26.14	5.20	5.20	4.000e-01	4.000e-01

### Preprocessing







- Though strict feasibility holds **generically**, failure appears in many applications. Loss of strict feasibility is directly related to ill-posedness and difficulty in numerical methods.
- Preprocessing based on structure can both *regularize* and simplify the problem. In many cases one gets an optimal solution without the need of any SDP solver.

### Exploit structure at optimum

For low-rank matrix completion the structure at the optimum can be exploited to apply FR even though strict feasibility holds.

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Thanks for your attention!

## The many faces of degeneracy in conic optimization

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Wed. Sept. 7, 2016, 16:00-16:30

**COCA16** Continuous Optimization: Challenges and Applications  
Celebrating Ronny Ben-Tal's 70th Birthday  
Technion, Haifa, Israel