A dual framework for low-rank tensor completion

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Abstract
One of the popular approaches for low-rank tensor completion is to use the latent trace norm regularization. However, most existing works in this direction learn a sparse combination of tensors. In this work, we fill this gap by proposing a variant of the latent trace norm that helps in learning a non-sparse combination of tensors. We develop a dual framework for solving the low-rank tensor completion problem. We first show a novel characterization of the dual solution space with an interesting factorization of the optimal solution. Overall, the optimal solution is shown to lie on a Cartesian product of Riemannian manifolds. Furthermore, we exploit the versatile Riemannian optimization framework for proposing computationally efficient trust region algorithm. The experiments illustrate the efficacy of the proposed algorithm on several real-world datasets across applications.

1 Introduction
Tensors are multidimensional or K-way arrays, which provide a natural way to represent multi-modal data [8][9]. Low-rank tensor completion problem, in particular, aims to recover a low-rank tensor from partially observed tensor [2]. This problem has numerous applications in image/video inpainting [25][24], link-prediction [12], and recommendation systems [35], to name a few.

In this work, we focus on trace norm regularized low-rank tensor completion problem of the form

$$\min_{W \in \mathbb{R}^{n_1 \times n_2 \times \ldots \times n_K}} \|W_{\Omega} - Y_{\Omega}\|_F^2 + \frac{1}{\lambda} R(W),$$

(1)

where $Y_{\Omega} \in \mathbb{R}^{n_1 \times \ldots \times n_K}$ is a partially observed K-mode tensor, whose entries are only known for a subset of indices $\Omega$. $(W_{\Omega})(i_1,\ldots,i_K) = W(i_1,\ldots,i_K)$, if $(i_1,\ldots,i_K) \in \Omega$ and 0 otherwise, $\|\cdot\|_F$ is the Frobenius norm, $R(\cdot)$ is a low-rank promoting regularizer, and $\lambda > 0$ is the regularization parameter.

Similar to the matrix completion problem, the trace norm regularization has been used to enforce the low-rank constraint for the tensor completion problem. The works [37][38] discuss the overlapped and latent trace norm regularizations for tensors. In particular, [38][41] show that the latent trace norm has certain better tensor reconstruction bounds. The latent trace norm regularization learns the tensor as a sparse combination of different tensors. In our work, we empirically motivate the need for learning non-sparse combination of tensors and propose a variant of the latent trace norm that learns a non-sparse combination of tensors. We show a novel characterization of the solution space that allows for a compact storage of the tensor, thereby allowing to develop scalable optimization formulations. Concretely, we make the following contributions in this paper.

- We propose a novel trace norm regularizer for low-rank tensor completion problem, which learns a tensor as a non-sparse combination of tensors. In contrast, the more popular latent trace norm regularizer [37][38][41] learns a highly sparse combination of tensors. Non-sparse combination helps in capturing information along all the modes.
We propose a dual framework for analyzing the problem formulation. This provides interesting insights into the solution space of the tensor completion problem, e.g., how the solutions along different modes are related, allowing a compact representation of the tensor.

Exploiting the characterization of the solution space, we develop a fixed-rank formulation. Our optimization problem is on Riemannian spectrahedron manifolds and we propose computationally efficient trust-region algorithm for our formulation.

Numerical comparisons on real-world datasets for different applications such as video and hyperspectral-image completion, link prediction, and movie recommendation show that the proposed algorithm outperforms state-of-the-art latent trace norm regularized algorithms. The proofs of all the theorems and lemmas and additional experimental details are provided in the longer version of the paper [28]. Our codes are available at https://pratikjawanpuria.com/

2 Related work

**Trace norm regularized tensor completion formulations.** The works [25] [38] [33] [30] [7] discuss the overlapped trace norm regularization for tensor learning. The overlapped trace norm is motivated as a convex proxy for minimizing the Tucker (multilinear) rank of a tensor. The overlapped trace norm is defined as: 

\[ R(W) := \frac{1}{n^k} \left( \sum_{k=1}^{K} \| W_k \|_F^2 \right), \]

where \( W_k \) is the mode-\( k \) matrix unfolding of the tensor \( W \) [23] and \( \| \cdot \|_F \) denotes the trace norm of the matrix. \( W_k \) is an \( n_k \times 1 \) matrix obtained by concatenating mode-\( k \) fibers (column vectors) of the form \( W(i_{i_{k-1}+1} \cdots i_k) \) [23].

**Latent trace norm** is another convex regularizer used for low-rank tensor learning [37] [39] [38] [41] [15]. In this setting, the tensor \( W \) is modeled as sum of \( K \) (unknown) tensors \( W(1), \ldots, W(K) \) such that \( W(k) \) are low-rank matrices. The latent trace norm is defined as:

\[ R(W) := \inf_{\sum_{k=1}^{K} W(k) = W} \sum_{k=1}^{K} \| W_k \|_*, \]

A variant of the latent trace norm (\( \| W(k) \|_* \) scaled by \( 1/\sqrt{n_k} \)) is analyzed in [41]. Latent trace norm and its scaled variant achieve better recovery bounds than overlapped trace norm [38] [41]. Recently, [15] proposed a scalable latent trace norm based Frank-Wolfe algorithm for tensor completion.

The latent trace norm \( \| \cdot \|_* \) corresponds to the sparsity inducing \( \ell_1 \)-norm penalization across \( \| W(k) \|_* \). Hence, it learns \( W \) as a sparse combination of \( W(k) \). In case of high sparsity, it may result in selecting only one of the tensors \( W(k) \) as \( W \), i.e., \( W = W(k) \) for some \( k \), in which case \( W \) is essentially learned as a low-rank matrix. In several real-world applications, tensor data cannot be mapped to a low-rank matrix structure and they require a higher order structure. Therefore, we propose a regularizer which learns a non-sparse combination of \( W(k) \). Non-sparse norms have led to better generalization performance in other machine learning settings [10] [34] [20].

We show the benefit of learning a non-sparse mixture of tensors as against a sparse mixture on two datasets: Ribeira and Baboon (refer Section 5 for details). Figures [3] and [4] show the relative sparsity of the optimally learned tensors in the mixture as learned by the \( \ell_1 \)-regularized latent trace norm based model [2] [38] [41] [15] versus the proposed \( \ell_2 \)-regularized model (discussed in Section 6). The relative sparsity for each \( W(k) \) in the mixture is computed as \( \| W(k) \|_F / \sum_k \| W(k) \|_F \). In both the datasets, our model learns a non-sparse combination of tensors, whereas the latent trace norm

![Figure 1](image-url)
The optimal solution of (3) is given by $W = W_\Omega$. We begin by discussing how to obtain the dual formulation of (3). Later, we explain how the insights from the dual framework motivate us to propose a novel fixed-rank formulation. As a first step, we exploit the following variational characterization (due to trace norm) to an auxiliary variable $\Theta \in P^d$. It is well known that positive semi-definite matrix $\Theta$ with unit trace constraint implies the $\ell_1$-norm constraint on the eigenvalues of $\Theta$, leading to low-rankedness of $\Theta$. The result (4) has also been recently employed to obtain new factorization insights for structured low-rank matrices [18].

Using the result (4) in (3) leads to $K$ auxiliary matrices, one $\Theta_k \in P^{n_k}$ corresponding to every $W_\Omega^{(k)}$ (mode-$k$ matrix unfolding of the tensor $W_\Omega^{(k)}$). It should also be noted that $\Theta_k \in P^{n_k}$ are low-rank matrices [18]. We now present the following theorem that states an equivalent minimax formulation of (3).

**Theorem 1** An equivalent minimax formulation of the problem (3) is

$$\min_{\Theta_1, \ldots, \Theta_K \in P^{n_k}} \max_{Z \in C} \langle Z, Y_\Omega \rangle - \frac{1}{4} \|Z\|_F^2 - \sum_k \frac{\lambda_k}{2} \langle \Theta_k, Z_k Z_k^\top \rangle,$$

where $Z$ is the dual tensor variable corresponding to the primal problem (3) and $Z_k$ is the mode-$k$ unfolding of $Z$. The set $C = \{Z \in R^{n_1 \times \cdots \times n_K} : Z(i_1, \ldots, i_K) = 0, (i_1, \ldots, i_K) \notin \Omega \}$ constrains $Z$ to be a sparse tensor with $|\Omega|$ non-zero entries. Let $\Theta_1^s, \ldots, \Theta_K^s, Z^s$ be the optimal solution of (5).

The optimal solution of (3) is given by $W^* = \sum_k W_\Omega^{(k)*}$, where $W_\Omega^{(k)*} = \lambda_k(Z^s \times_k \Theta_k^s)$ $\forall k$ and $\times_k$ denotes the tensor-matrix multiplication along mode $k$. 

3 Non-sparse latent trace norm and duality

We propose the following formulation for learning the low-rank tensor $W$

$$\min_{W \in R^{n_1 \times \cdots \times n_K}} \left\| \sum_k W_\Omega^{(k)} - Y_\Omega \right\|_F + \frac{1}{4} \|W_k^{(k)}\|_2^2,$$

where $\Omega = \sum_k W_\Omega^{(k)}$ is the learned tensor. It should be noted that the proposed regularizer in (3) employs the $\ell_2$-norm over $\|W_k^{(k)}\|_2$. In contrast, the latent trace norm regularizer (2) has the $\ell_1$-norm over $\|W_k^{(k)}\|_2$.

While the existing tensor completion approaches [22, 15, 24, 25, 38, 33] mostly discuss a primal formulation similar to (1), we propose a novel dual framework for our analysis. The use of dual framework for learning low-rank matrices [42, 18], multi-task problems [29, 19, 17], etc., often leads to novel insights into the solution space of the primal problem.

We begin by discussing how to obtain the dual formulation of (3). Later, we explain how the insights from the dual framework motivate us to propose a novel fixed-rank formulation. As a first step, we exploit the following variational characterization of the trace norm studied in [3], Theorem 4.1. Given $X \in R^{d \times K}$, the following result holds:

$$\|X\|_F^2 = \min_{\Theta \in P^d, \text{range}(X) \subseteq \text{range}(\Theta)} \langle \Theta^\dagger, XX^\top \rangle,$$

where $P^d$ denotes the set of $d \times d$ positive semi-definite matrices with unit trace, $\Theta^\dagger$ denotes the pseudo-inverse of $\Theta$, $\text{range}(\Theta) = \{\Theta z : z \in R^d\}$, and $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$ is the inner product. The expression for optimal $\Theta^* = \sqrt{XX^\top/\text{trace}(XX^\top)}$ [3], and hence the ranks of $\Theta$ and $X$ are equal at optimality. Thus, (4) implicitly transfers the low-rank constraint on $X$ (due to trace norm) to an auxiliary variable $\Theta \in P^d$. It is well known that positive semi-definite matrix $\Theta$ with unit trace constraint implies the $\ell_1$-norm constraint on the eigenvalues of $\Theta$, leading to low-rankedness of $\Theta$. The result (4) has also been recently employed to obtain new factorization insights for structured low-rank matrices [18].

Based on these results, we conclude that $X$ is a low-rank matrix $X = W_\Omega$. The proposed non-sparse tensor combination also leads to better generalization performance, as can be observed in the Figures (c) and (d). In the particular case of Baboon dataset, the latent trace norm essentially learns $W$ as a low-rank matrix ($W = W_\Omega$) and consequently obtains poor generalization.

**Other tensor completion formulations.** Other approaches for low-rank tensor completion include tensor decomposition methods like Tucker and CP [23, 8, 9]. They generalize the notion of singular value decomposition of matrices to tensors. Recently, [24] exploits the Riemannian geometry of fixed multilinear rank to learn factor matrices and the core tensor. They propose a computationally efficient non-linear conjugate gradient method for optimization over manifolds of tensors of fixed multilinear rank. [22] further propose an efficient preconditioner for low-rank tensor learning with the Tucker decomposition. [45] propose a Bayesian probabilistic CP model for performing tensor completion. Tensor completion algorithms based on tensor tubal-rank have been recently proposed in [44, 26].
We next present the following result related to the form of the optimal solution of (3).

\[ u = \ell \]

where \( u \) is a smooth loss and \( \lambda \) and \( \epsilon \) are the regularization parameter and tolerance, respectively. It should be noted that though (7) is a non-convex problem in \( u \) for a given \( \Theta_k \) and has a two-fold advantage. First, the search space dimension drastically reduces from \( n_k(n_k+1)/2 \), which is \( O(n_k^2) \) in tensor dimensions, to \( n_k(r_k - 1)/2 \), which is \( O(n_k r_k) \), costs \( O(n_k r_k) \), which is \( O(n_k^2) \) in tensor dimensions and is computationally much cheaper than enforcing \( \Theta_k \in \mathcal{P}^{n_k} \) that costs \( O(n_k^3) \).

Employing the proposed fixed-rank parameterization (6), we propose a scalable tensor completion dual formulation.

**Fixed-rank dual formulation.** The first formulation is obtained by employing the parameterization (6) directly in (5). We subsequently solve the resulting problem as a minimization problem as follows:

\[
\min_{u \in S_{r_1} \times \ldots \times S_{r_K}} g(u),
\]

where \( u = (U_1, \ldots, U_K) \) and \( g : S_{r_1} \times \ldots \times S_{r_K} \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \) is the function

\[
g(u) := \max_{\mathcal{Z} \in \mathcal{C}} \langle \mathcal{Z}, \mathcal{Y}_u \rangle - \frac{1}{2} \| \mathcal{Z} \|^2 - \sum_k \lambda_k \left\| U_k^\top Z_k \right\|^2.
\]

It should be noted that though (7) is a non-convex problem in \( u \), the optimization problem in (8) is *strongly* convex in \( u \) for a given \( \mathcal{Z} \) and has *unique* solution.

**4 Optimization algorithm**

The optimization problem (7) is of the form

\[
\min_{x \in \mathcal{M}} \ell(x),
\]

where \( \ell : \mathcal{M} \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \) is a smooth loss and \( \mathcal{M} := S_{r_1} \times \ldots \times S_{r_K} \times \mathcal{C} \) is the constraint set.
We implement the Riemannian TR (second-order) algorithm for (9). To this end, we require the

A key requirement in Lemma 1 is to efficiently solve (8) for a given A. The Riemannian TR algorithm solves a Riemannian trust-region sub-problem in every iteration [1, Chapter 7]. The TR sub-problem is approximately solved with an iterative solver, e.g., the truncated conjugate gradient (9). Algorithm 1 summarizes the key steps of the TR algorithm for solving (9).

Computational complexity: the per-iteration computational complexity of Algorithm 1 scales linearly with the number of known entries YΩ, denoted by |Ω|. In particular, the per-iteration computational cost depends on the following ingredients.

- \( U_k^T Z_k \): it involves computation of \( n_k \times r_k \) matrix \( U_k \) with mode-k unfolding of a sparse \( Z \) with \(|\Omega|\) non-zero entries. This costs \( O(|\Omega| r_k) \). It should be noted that although the dimension of \( Z_k \) is \( n_k \times \prod_{i=1,i\neq k}^K n_i \), only a maximum of \(|\Omega|\) columns have non-zero entries. We exploit this property of \( Z_k \) and have a compact memory storage of \( U_k^T Z_k \).
- Computing the solution \( \hat{Z} \) of the linear system (10): an iterative solver for (10) requires computing the left hand side of (10) for a given candidate \( \hat{Z} \). This costs \( O(|\Omega| \sum_k r_k) \).
We work with the following datasets for predicting missing values in multi-media data: 

- **TR-MM**

We denote our algorithm as **TR**. We evaluate the generalization performance and efficiency of our proposed TR algorithm against state-of-the-art algorithms in several tensor completion applications. Table 1 summarizes the trace norm regularized baseline algorithms. FFW is a recently proposed state-of-the-art large scale tensor completion algorithm. Table 1 are the closest to our approach. FFW is a recently proposed state-of-the-art large scale tensor completion algorithm.

### Table 1: Summary of the baseline low-rank tensor completion algorithms.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trace norm regularized algorithms</th>
<th>Other algorithms</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FFW</td>
<td>Topt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hard</td>
<td>Fixed multilinear rank + conjugate gradients (CG)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HaLRTC</td>
<td>BayesCP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latent</td>
<td>geonCG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scaled overlapped trace norm + ADMM</td>
<td>Riemannian CG + fixed multilinear rank + fixed multilinear rank</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latent</td>
<td>T-svd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latent trace norm + ADMM</td>
<td>Tensor tubal-rank + ADMM</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Computation of** $g(u)$: it relies on the solution of (10) and then explicitly computing the objective function in (6). This costs $O(|\Omega| \sum r_k + K|\Omega|)$.
- **$\nabla_u g(u)$**: it requires the computation of terms like $\hat{Z}_k (\hat{Z}_k^\top U_k)$, which cost $O(|\Omega| \sum r_k)$.
- Computing the solution $\hat{Z}_k$ of the linear system (11): similar to (10), (11) is solved with an iterative solver. The computational cost of solving (11) requires computing terms like $U_k^\top \hat{Z}_k$ and $U_k^\top \hat{Z}_k$, which costs $O(|\Omega|r_k)$. It should be noted that both $\hat{Z}$ and $\hat{Z}$ share the same sparsity pattern.
- **$D\nabla_u g(u)[v]$**: it costs $O(|\Omega| \sum r_k)$.
- Retraction on $S^n_{rk}$: it projects a matrix of size $n_k \times r_k$ on to the set $S^n_{rk}$, which costs $O(n_k r_k)$.
- $S^n_{rk}$ manifold-related ingredients cost $O(n_k r_k^2 + r_k^3)$.

Overall, the per-iteration computational complexities of our algorithm is $O(m(|\Omega| \sum r_k + \sum n_k r_k^2 + \sum r_k^3))$, where $m$ is the number of iterations needed to solve (10) and (11) approximately. The memory cost for our algorithm is $O(|\Omega| + \sum n_k r_k)$. We observe that both computational and memory cost scales linearly with the number of observed entries ($|\Omega|$), which makes our algorithms scalable to large datasets.

**Convergence.** The Riemannian TR algorithms come with rigorous convergence guarantees. [11] discuss the rate of convergence analysis of manifold algorithms, which directly apply in our case. For trust regions, the global convergence to a first-order critical point is discussed in [11] Section 7.4.1 and the local convergence to local minima is discussed in [11] Section 7.4.2. From an implementation perspective, we follow the existing approaches [24, 22, 15] and bound the number of TR iterations.

**Numerical implementation.** Our algorithm is implemented using the Manopt toolbox [5] in Matlab, which has off-the-shelf generic TR implementation.

## 5 Experiments

We evaluate the generalization performance and efficiency of our proposed TR algorithm against state-of-the-art algorithms in several tensor completion applications.

**Trace norm regularized algorithms.** Scaled latent trace norm regularized algorithms such as FFW [15] and Latent [38], and overlapped trace norm based algorithms such as HaLRTC [25] and Hard [33] are the closest to our approach. FFW is a recently proposed state-of-the-art large scale tensor completion algorithm. Table 1 summarizes the trace norm regularized baseline algorithms.

We denote our algorithm as TR-MM (Trust-Region algorithm for MiniMax tensor completion formulation). We set $\lambda_k = \lambda r_k \forall k \in [7]$. Hence, we tune only one hyper-parameter $\lambda$, from the set $\{10^{-3}, 10^{-2}, \ldots, 10^3\}$, via five-fold cross-validation of the training data.

**Video and image completion**

We work with the following datasets for predicting missing values in multi-media data: a) **Ribeira** is a hyperspectral image [14] of size $1017 \times 1340 \times 33$, where each slice represents the image measured at a particular wavelength. We re-size it to $203 \times 268 \times 33$ [33, 24, 22]; b) **Tomato** is a video sequence dataset [25, 6] of size $242 \times 320 \times 167$; and c) **Baboon** is an RGB image [45], modeled as
Table 2: Generalization performance across several applications: hyperspectral-image/video/image completion, movie recommendation, and link prediction. Our algorithm, TR-MM, performs significantly better than other trace norm based algorithms and obtain the best overall performance. The symbol ‘−’ denotes the dataset is too large for the algorithm to generate result.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Applications</th>
<th>TR-MM</th>
<th>FFW</th>
<th>Rprecon</th>
<th>geomCG</th>
<th>Hard</th>
<th>Topt</th>
<th>HaLRTC</th>
<th>Latent</th>
<th>T-svd</th>
<th>BayesCP</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RMSE reported</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ribeira</td>
<td>0.067</td>
<td>0.088</td>
<td>0.083</td>
<td>0.156</td>
<td>0.114</td>
<td>0.127</td>
<td>0.095</td>
<td>0.087</td>
<td>0.064</td>
<td>0.154</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tomato</td>
<td>0.041</td>
<td>0.045</td>
<td>0.052</td>
<td>0.052</td>
<td>0.060</td>
<td>0.102</td>
<td>0.202</td>
<td>0.046</td>
<td>0.042</td>
<td>0.103</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baboon</td>
<td>0.121</td>
<td>0.133</td>
<td>0.128</td>
<td>0.128</td>
<td>0.126</td>
<td>0.130</td>
<td>0.247</td>
<td>0.459</td>
<td>0.146</td>
<td>0.159</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ML10M</td>
<td>0.840</td>
<td>0.895</td>
<td>0.831</td>
<td>0.844</td>
<td>−</td>
<td>−</td>
<td>−</td>
<td>−</td>
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<td>−</td>
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<tr>
<td>AUC reported</td>
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<tr>
<td>YouTube (subset)</td>
<td>0.957</td>
<td>0.954</td>
<td>0.941</td>
<td>0.941</td>
<td>0.954</td>
<td>0.941</td>
<td>0.783</td>
<td>0.945</td>
<td>0.941</td>
<td>0.950</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YouTube (full)</td>
<td>0.932</td>
<td>0.929</td>
<td>0.926</td>
<td>0.926</td>
<td>−</td>
<td>−</td>
<td>−</td>
<td>−</td>
<td>−</td>
<td>−</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FB15k-237</td>
<td>0.823</td>
<td>0.764</td>
<td>0.821</td>
<td>0.785</td>
<td>−</td>
<td>−</td>
<td>−</td>
<td>−</td>
<td>−</td>
<td>−</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 2: (a) Evolution of test RMSE on Ribeira; (b) & (c) Evolution of test AUC on FB15k-237 and YouTube (full), respectively. Our algorithm, TR-MM, obtains the best generalization performance in all the three datasets. In addition, TR-MM converges to a good solution is fairly quick time; (d) Variation of test AUC as the amount of training data changes on FB15k-237. TR-MM performs significantly better than baselines when the amount of training data is less.

a 256 × 256 × 3 tensor. Following [22], we train on a random sample of 10% of the entries and test on another 10% of the entries for all the three datasets. Each experiment is repeated ten times.

Results. Table 2 reports the root mean squared error (RMSE) on the test set, averaged over ten splits. Our algorithm, TR-MM, obtains the best results, outperforming other trace norm based algorithms on all the three datasets. Figure 2(a) shows the trade-off between the test RMSE and the training time of all the algorithms on Ribeira. It can be observed that TR-MM converges to the lowest RMSE at a significantly faster rate compared to the other baselines. It is evident from the results that learning a mixture of non-sparse tensors, as learned by the proposed algorithm, helps in achieving better generalization performance compared to the algorithms that learn a sparse mixture of tensors.

Link prediction

The aim in link prediction setting is to predict missing or new links in knowledge graphs, social networks, etc. We consider FB15k-237 and YouTube datasets, discussed below.

FB15k-237: this is a subset of FB15k dataset [4, 40], containing facts of the form subject-predicate-object (RDF) triples from Freebase knowledge graph. FB15k-237 contains 14,541 entities and 237 relationships. The task is to predict the relationships (from a given set of relations) between a pair of entities in the knowledge graph. It has 310,116 observed relationships (links) between pairs of entities, which are the positive samples. In addition, 516,606 negative samples are generated following the procedure described in [4]. We model this task as a 14,541 × 14,541 × 237 tensor completion problem. \( Y_{(a,b,c)} = 1 \) implies that relationship \( p \_a \) exists between entity \( a \) and entity \( c \), and \( Y_{(a,b,c)} = 0 \) implies otherwise. We keep 80% of the observed entries for training and the remaining 20% for testing.

YouTube: this is a link prediction dataset [36] having 5 types of interactions between 15,088 users. The task is to predict the interaction (from a given set of interactions) between a pair of users. We model it as a 15,088 × 15,088 × 5 tensor completion problem. All the entries are known in this case. We randomly sample 0.8% of the data for training [15] and another 0.8% for testing.
Table 3: Rank sets at which the proposed TR-MM algorithm and the Tucker decomposition based tensor completion algorithms (Rprecon, geomGC, Topt) achieve best results across datasets. It should be noted that the notion of rank in trace norm regularized approaches (such as TR-MM) differs from the Tucker rank.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dataset</th>
<th>TR-MM rank</th>
<th>Tucker rank</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ribeira</td>
<td>(5, 5, 5)</td>
<td>(15, 15, 6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tomato</td>
<td>(10, 10, 10)</td>
<td>(15, 15, 15)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baboon</td>
<td>(4, 4, 3)</td>
<td>(4, 4, 3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ML10M</td>
<td>(20, 10, 1)</td>
<td>(4, 4, 4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YouTube (subset)</td>
<td>(3, 3, 1)</td>
<td>(5, 5, 5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YouTube (full)</td>
<td>(3, 3, 1)</td>
<td>(5, 5, 5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FB15k-237</td>
<td>(20, 20, 1)</td>
<td>(5, 5, 5)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

It should be noted that Hard, HaLRTC, and Latent do not scale to the full FB15k-237 and YouTube datasets as they need to store full tensor in memory. Hence, we follow [15] to create a subset of the YouTube dataset of size $1509 \times 1509 \times 5$ in which 1509 users with most number of links are chosen. We randomly sample 5% of the data for training and another 5% for testing.

Each experiment is repeated on ten random train-test splits. Following [27] [15], the generalization performance for link prediction task is measured by computing the area under the ROC curve on the test set (test AUC) for each algorithm.

**Results.** Table 2 reports the average test AUC on YouTube (subset), Youtube (full) and FB15k-237 datasets. The TR-MM algorithm achieves the best performance in all the link prediction tasks. This shows that the non-sparse mixture of tensors learned by TR-MM helps in achieving better performance. Figures 2(b) & 2(c) plots the trade-off between the test AUC and the training time for FB15k-237 and YouTube, respectively. We observe that TR-MM is the fastest to converge to a good AUC and take only a few iterations.

We also conduct experiments to evaluate the performance of different algorithms in challenging scenarios when the amount of training data available is less. On the FB15k-237 dataset, we vary the size of training data from 20% to 80% of the observed entries, and the remaining 20% of the observed entries is kept as the test set. Figure 2(d) plots the results of this experiment. We can observe that TR-MM does significantly better than the baselines in data scarce regimes.

**Movie recommendation**

We evaluate the algorithms on the MovieLens10M (ML10M) dataset [16]. This is a movie recommendation task — predict the ratings given to movies by various users. MovieLens10M contains 10,000,054 ratings of 10,681 movies given by 71,567 users. Following [22], we split the time into 7-days wide bins, forming a tensor of size $71,567 \times 10,681 \times 731$. For our experiments, we generate ten random train-test splits, where 80% of the observed entries is kept for training and the rest 20% for testing.

**Results.** Table 2 reports the average test RMSE on this task. It can be observed that our algorithm, TR-MM, outperforms state-of-the-art scaled latent trace norm based algorithm FFW.

**Results compared to other baseline algorithms**

In addition to the trace norm based algorithms, we also compare against algorithms that model tensor via Tucker decomposition with fixed multilinear ranks: Rprecon [22], geomCG [23], and Topt [13]. Large scale state-of-the-art algorithms in this multilinear framework include Rprecon and geomCG. We also compare against tensor tubal-rank based algorithm T-svd [44] and CP decomposition based algorithm BayesCP [45]. Table 1 summarizes these baselines.

As can be observed from Table 2, TR-MM obtains better overall generalization performance than the above discussed baselines. In the movie recommendation problem, Rprecon achieves better results than TR-MM. It should be noted that Topt, T-svd, and BayesCP are not scalable to large scale datasets.

**Rank of solutions of TR-MM algorithm**

Table 3 shows the rank sets at which the proposed TR-MM and Tucker decomposition based tensor completion algorithms (Rprecon, geomGC, Topt) achieve best results across datasets. The latent
We present a dual framework to analyze the proposed tensor completion formulation. This leads to a novel fixed-rank formulation, for which we exploit the Riemannian framework to develop scalable trust region algorithm. In experiments, our algorithm TR-MM obtains better generalization performance and is more robust to outliers than state-of-the-art low-rank tensor completion algorithms.

**Results on outlier robustness**

We also evaluate TR-MM and the baselines considered in Table 1 for outlier robustness on hyperspectral image completion and link prediction problems. In Ribeira dataset, we add the standard Gaussian noise \(N(0, 1)\) to randomly selected \(x\) fraction of the entries in the training set. The minimum and the maximum value of entries in the (original) Ribeira are 0.01 and 2.09, respectively. In FB15k-237 dataset, we flip randomly selected \(x\) fraction of the entries in the training set, i.e., the link is removed if present and vice-versa. We experiment with \(x = 0.05\) and \(x = 0.10\).

The results are reported in Table 4. We observe that our algorithm, TR-MM, obtains the best performance and is more robust to outliers than state-of-the-art low-rank tensor completion algorithms.

**Discussion and conclusion**

In this paper, we introduce a variant of trace norm regularizer for low-rank tensor completion problem which learns the tensor as a non-sparse combination of tensors. The number of tensors in this combination is equal to the number of modes \((K)\). Existing works \([37, 38, 41, 15]\) learn a sparse combination of tensors, essentially learning the tensor as a low-rank matrix and losing higher order information in the available data. Hence, we recommend learning a non-sparse combination of tensors in trace norm regularized setting, especially since \(K\) is typically a small integer in most real-world applications. In our experiments, we observe better generalization performance with the proposed regularization. Theoretically, we provide the following result on the reconstruction error in the context of recovering an unknown tensor \(\mathbf{W}^*\) from noisy observation.

**Lemma 2** Let \(\mathbf{W}^*\) be the true tensor to be recovered from observed \(\mathbf{Y}\), which is obtained as \(\mathbf{Y} = \mathbf{W}^* + \mathbf{E}\), where \(\mathbf{E} \in \mathbb{R}^{n_1 \times \cdots \times n_K}\) is the noise tensor. Assume that the regularization constant \(\lambda\) satisfies \(\lambda \leq 1/(\sum_{k=1}^{K} \|\mathbf{E}_k\|_F^2)^{1/2}\) then the estimator

\[
\hat{\mathbf{W}} = \arg\min_{\mathbf{W}} \left( \frac{1}{2} \|\mathbf{Y} - \mathbf{W}\|_F^2 + \frac{1}{\lambda} \sum_k \|\mathbf{W}^{(k)}\|_F^2 \right),
\]

satisfies the inequality \(\|\hat{\mathbf{W}} - \mathbf{W}^*\|_F \leq \frac{2}{\lambda} \sqrt{\sum_k n_k}.\) When noise approaches zero, i.e., \(\mathbf{E} \to 0\), the right hand side also approaches zero.

A similar result on the latent trace norm, which learns a sparse combination of tensors, is presented in [38].
References


