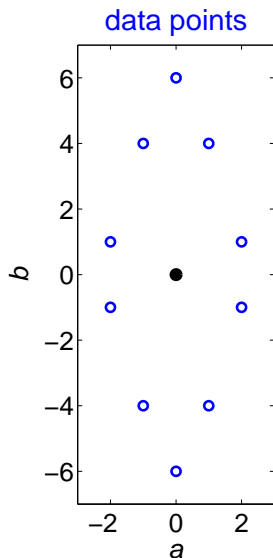


# Low-rank approximation and its applications for data fitting

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## A line fitting example



**Classical problem:** Fit the points

$$d_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 6 \end{bmatrix}, d_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 4 \end{bmatrix}, \dots, d_{10} = \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 4 \end{bmatrix}$$

by a line passing through the origin.

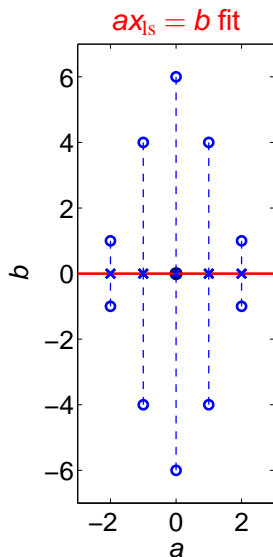
**Classical solution:** Define  $d_i =: \text{col}(a_i, b_i)$  and solve the **least squares problem**

$$\text{col}(a_1, \dots, a_{10})x = \text{col}(b_1, \dots, b_{10}).$$

The LS fitting line is given by  $ax_{\text{ls}} = b$ .

It minimizes the **vertical distances** from the data points to the fitting line.

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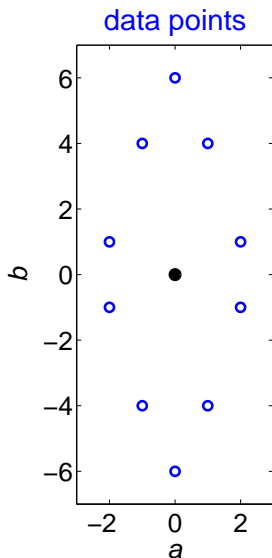
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## A line fitting example (cont.)



Minimizing vertical distances does not seem appropriate in this example.

Revised LS problem:

$$\text{col}(a_1, \dots, a_{10}) = \text{col}(b_1, \dots, b_{10})x$$

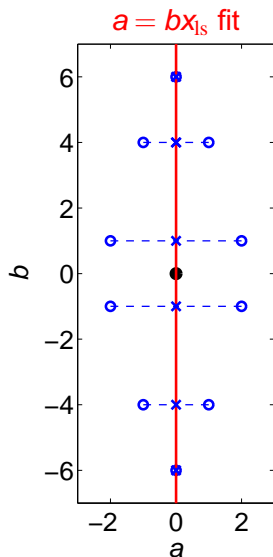
minimize the horizontal distances

The fitting line is now given by  $a = bx_{ls}$ .

Total least squares fitting:

minimize the orthogonal distances

## A line fitting example (cont.)



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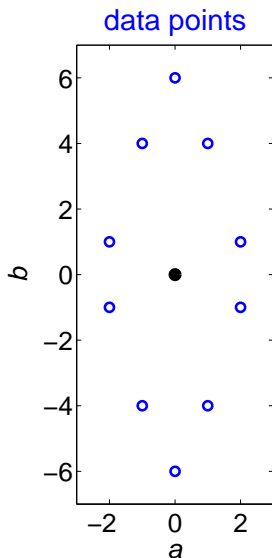
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Total least squares fitting:

minimize the orthogonal distances

## A line fitting example (cont.)



Total least squares problem:

$$\min_{x, \hat{a}_i, \hat{b}_i} \sum_{i=1}^{10} \left( (a_i - \hat{a}_i)^2 + (b_i - \hat{b}_i)^2 \right)$$

$$\text{subject to } \hat{a}_i x = \hat{b}_i, \quad i = 1, \dots, 10$$

However,  $\mathbf{x}_{\text{tls}}$  **does not exist!** ( $\mathbf{x}_{\text{tls}} = \infty$ )

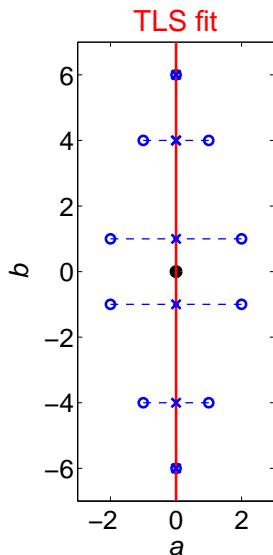
If we represent the fitting line as an

$$\text{image } d = P\mathbf{l} \quad \text{or} \quad \text{kernel } R\mathbf{d} = 0$$

TLS solutions do exist, e.g.,

$$P_{\text{tls}} = \text{col}(0, 1) \quad \text{and} \quad R_{\text{tls}} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}.$$

## A line fitting example (cont.)



Total least squares problem:

$$\min_{x, \hat{a}_i, \hat{b}_i} \sum_{i=1}^{10} \left( (a_i - \hat{a}_i)^2 + (b_i - \hat{b}_i)^2 \right)$$

$$\text{subject to } \hat{a}_i x = \hat{b}_i, \quad i = 1, \dots, 10$$

However,  $x_{\text{tls}}$  **does not exist!** ( $x_{\text{tls}} = \infty$ )

If we represent the fitting line as an

$$\text{image } d = P1 \quad \text{or} \quad \text{kernel } Rd = 0$$

TLS solutions do exist, e.g.,

$$P_{\text{tls}} = \text{col}(0, 1) \quad \text{and} \quad R_{\text{tls}} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}.$$

## What are the issues?

- **LS** is representation **dependent**
- **TLS** is representation **invariant**
- **TLS** using I/O representation might have **no solution**

The representation is a matter of convenience and should not affect the solution.

⇒ Orthogonal distance minimization combined with image or kernel representation is a better concept.



## In this talk ...

In fact, line fitting is a **low-rank approximation (LRA) problem**:

approximate  $D := [d_1 \ \cdots \ d_{10}]$  by a rank-one matrix,

... a representation free concept applying to general multivariable static and dynamic linear fitting problems.

LRA is **closely related to**:

- principle component analysis **PCA**
- latent semantic analysis **LSA**
- **factor models**

# Outline

Low-rank approximation as data modeling

Applications

Algorithms

Related problems

# Low-rank approximation

## Given

- a matrix  $D \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times N}$ ,  $d \leq N$
- a matrix norm  $\|\cdot\|$ , and
- an integer  $m$ ,  $0 < m < d$ ,

## find

$$\hat{D}^* := \operatorname{argmin}_{\hat{D}} \|D - \hat{D}\| \quad \text{subject to} \quad \operatorname{rank}(\hat{D}) \leq m.$$

## Interpretation:

$\hat{D}^*$  is optimal rank- $m$  (or less) approximation of  $D$  (w.r.t.  $\|\cdot\|$ ).

## Why low-rank approximation?

$D$  is low-rank  $\iff D$  is generated by a linear model  
 so that LRA  $\iff$  data modeling

Suppose

$$m := \text{rank}(D) < d := \text{row dim}(D).$$

Then there is a full rank  $R \in \mathbb{R}^{p \times d}$ ,  $p := d - m$ , such that  $RD = 0$ .

The columns  $d_1, \dots, d_N$  of  $D$  obey  $p$  independent **linear relations**  $r_i d_j = 0$ , given by the rows  $r_1, \dots, r_p$  of  $R$ .

$Rd = 0$  is a kernel representation of the **model**  $\mathcal{B} := \{d \mid Rd = 0\}$ .

# LRA as data modeling

## Given

- $N$ ,  $d$ -variable observations  $[d_1 \ \cdots \ d_N] := D \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times N}$
- a matrix norm  $\|\cdot\|$ , and
- model complexity  $m$ ,  $0 < m < d$ ,

## find

$$\hat{\mathcal{B}}^* := \operatorname{argmin}_{\hat{\mathcal{B}}, \hat{D}} \|D - \hat{D}\| \quad \text{subject to} \quad \begin{aligned} \operatorname{colspan}(\hat{D}) &\subseteq \hat{\mathcal{B}} \\ \dim(\hat{\mathcal{B}}) &\leq m \end{aligned}$$

## Interpretation:

$\hat{\mathcal{B}}^*$  is optimal (w.r.t.  $\|\cdot\|$ ) approximate model for  $D$   
with bounded complexity:  $\dim(\hat{\mathcal{B}}) \leq m \iff \# \text{ inputs} \leq m$ .

# Structured low-rank approximation

## Given

- a vector  $p \in \mathbb{R}^{n_p}$ ,
- a mapping  $\mathcal{S} : \mathbb{R}^{n_p} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$  (structure specification)
- a vector norm  $\|\cdot\|$ , and
- an integer  $r$ ,  $0 < r < \min(m, n)$ ,

## find

$$\hat{p}^* := \arg \min_{\hat{p}} \|p - \hat{p}\| \quad \text{subject to} \quad \text{rank}(\mathcal{S}(\hat{p})) \leq r.$$

## Interpretation:

$\hat{D}^* := \mathcal{S}(\hat{p}^*)$  is optimal rank- $r$  (or less) approx. of  $D := \mathcal{S}(p)$ ,  
within the class of matrices with the same structure as  $D$ .

## Why structured low-rank approximation?

$D = S(p)$  is low-rank and (Hankel) structured  $\iff$   $p$  is generated by a LTI dynamic model

**Example:**  $D = \mathcal{H}_{1+1}(w_d)$  block Hankel and rank deficient  
 $\exists R$ , such that  $R\mathcal{H}_{1+1}(w_d) = 0$ . Taking into account the structure

$$[R_0 \quad R_1 \quad \cdots \quad R_1] \begin{bmatrix} w_d(1) & w_d(2) & \cdots & w_d(T-1) \\ w_d(2) & w_d(3) & \cdots & w_d(T-1+1) \\ \vdots & \vdots & & \vdots \\ w_d(1+1) & w_d(1+2) & \cdots & w_d(T) \end{bmatrix} = 0$$

we have a **vector difference equation for  $w_d$  with 1 lags**

$$R_0 w_d(t) + R_1 w_d(t+1) + \cdots + R_1 w_d(t+1) = 0 \quad \text{for } t = 1, \dots, T-1.$$

## SLRA as time-series modeling

### Given

- $T$  samples,  $w$  variables, vector time series  $w_d \in (\mathbb{R}^w)^T$ ,
- a signal norm  $\|\cdot\|$ , and
- model complexity  $(m, 1)$ ,  $0 \leq m < w$ ,

### find

$$\hat{\mathcal{B}}^* := \operatorname{argmin}_{\hat{\mathcal{B}}, \hat{w}} \|w_d - \hat{w}\| \quad \text{s.t.} \quad \begin{array}{l} \hat{w} \in \hat{\mathcal{B}}, \\ \dim(\hat{\mathcal{B}}) \leq T_{m+1}(w-m) \end{array} \quad (*)$$

### Interpretation:

$\hat{\mathcal{B}}^*$  is optimal (w.r.t.  $\|\cdot\|$ ) model for the time series  $w_d$   
with a bounded complexity: # inputs  $\leq m$  and lag  $\leq 1$ .



## Kernel, image, and input/output representations

A **static model**  $\mathcal{B}$  with  $d$  variables is a subset of  $\mathbb{R}^d$ .

How to represent a linear model  $\mathcal{B}$  (a subspace) by equations?

Representations:

- **kernel:**  $\mathcal{B} = \ker(R), \quad R \in \mathbb{R}^{p \times d}$
- **image:**  $\mathcal{B} = \text{colspan}(P), \quad P \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times m}$
- **input/output:**  $\mathcal{B}_{i/o} = \mathcal{B}(X), \quad X \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times p}$

$$\mathcal{B}_{i/o}(X) := \{ d := \text{col}(d_i, d_o) \in \mathbb{R}^d \mid d_i \in \mathbb{R}^m, d_o = X^\top d_i \}$$

In terms of  $D$ , the I/O repr. is  $AX \approx B$ , where  $\begin{bmatrix} A & B \end{bmatrix} := D^\top$ .

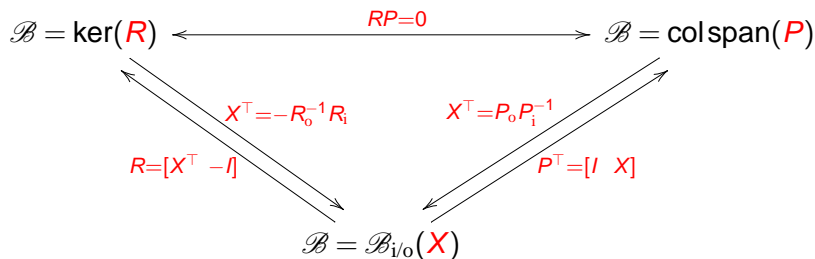
$\implies$  Solving  $AX \approx B$  approximately by LS, TLS, ...  
is LRA using I/O representation

# Links among the parameters $R$ , $P$ , and $X$

Define the partitionings

$$R =: [R_i \quad R_o], \quad R_o \in \mathbb{R}^{p \times p} \quad \text{and} \quad P =: \begin{bmatrix} P_i \\ P_o \end{bmatrix}, \quad P_i \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times m}.$$

We have the following links among  $R$ ,  $P$ , and  $X$ :



## LTI models of bounded complexity

A **dynamic model**  $\mathcal{B}$  with  $w$  variables is a **subset of**  $(\mathbb{R}^w)^{\mathbb{Z}}$ .

$\mathcal{B}$  is **LTI** :  $\iff$   $\mathcal{B}$  is a **shift-invariant subspace** of  $(\mathbb{R}^w)^{\mathbb{Z}}$ .

Let  $\mathcal{B}$  be LTI with  $m$  inputs,  $p$  outputs, of order  $n$  and lag  $1$ ,

$$\dim(\mathcal{B}|_{[0,T]}) = mT + n \leq mT + p1, \quad \text{for } T \geq 1.$$

$\dim(\mathcal{B})$  is an indication of the **model complexity**.

$\implies$  The complexity of  $\mathcal{B}$  is specified by  $(m, n)$  or  $(m, 1)$ .

**Notation:**  $\mathcal{L}_{m,1}^w$  — LTI model class with bounded complexity  
**# inputs  $\leq m$  and lag  $\leq 1$ .**

## LTI model representations

- **Kernel representation** (parameter  $R(z) := \sum_{i=0}^1 R_i z^i$ )

$$R_0 w(t) + R_1 w(t+1) + \dots + R_1 w(t+1) = 0$$

- **Impulse response represent** (parameter  $H: \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{p \times m}$ )

$$w = \text{col}(u, y), \quad y(t) = \sum_{\tau=-\infty}^t H(\tau) u(t-\tau)$$

- **Input/state/output representation** (parameter  $(A, B, C, D)$ )

$$w = \text{col}(u, y), \quad \begin{aligned} x(t+1) &= Ax(t) + Bu(t) \\ y(t) &= Cx(t) + Du(t) \end{aligned}$$

Transitions among  $R, H, (A, B, C, D)$  are classic problems, e.g.,

$R$  or  $H \mapsto (A, B, C, D)$  are **realization** problems.

# Applications

- System theory
  1. Approximate realization
  2. Model reduction
  3. Errors-in-variables system identification
  4. Output error system identification
- Signal processing
  5. Output only (autonomous) system identification
  6. Finite impulse response (FIR) system identification
  7. Harmonic retrieval
  8. Image deblurring
- Computer algebra
  9. Approximate greatest common divisor (GCD)

# System theory applications

$\mathcal{B}$  “true” (high order) model

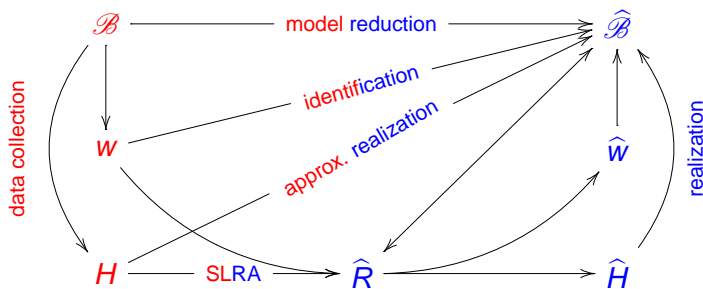
$w$  observed response

$H$  observed impulse resp.

$\hat{\mathcal{B}}$  approximate (low order) model

$\hat{w}$  response of  $\hat{\mathcal{B}}$

$\hat{H}$  impulse resp. of  $\hat{\mathcal{B}}$



## Generic problem: structured LRA

The applications are special cases of the SLRA problem:

$$\hat{p}^* := \underset{\hat{p}}{\operatorname{argmin}} \|p - \hat{p}\| \quad \text{subject to} \quad \operatorname{rank}(\mathcal{S}(\hat{p})) \leq r$$

for specific choices of  $p$ ,  $\mathcal{S}$ , and  $r$ .

⇒ Algorithms and software for SLRA can be readily used.

### Notes:

- In many applications,  $\mathcal{S}(\cdot)$  is composed of blocks that are: (H) block Hankel, (U) Unstructured, or (F) Fixed.
- Of interest is the model  $\hat{\mathcal{B}}^*$ , given, e.g., by  $\operatorname{leftker}(\mathcal{S}(\hat{p}^*))$ .
- The algorithms compute  $\hat{R}$ , such that  $\hat{R}\mathcal{S}(\hat{p}^*) = 0$ .

## Errors-in-variables identification

Statistical name for the fitting problem (\*) considered before.

Given  $w_d \in (\mathbb{R}^w)^T$  and complexity specification  $(m, 1)$ , find

$$\hat{\mathcal{B}}^* := \underset{\hat{\mathcal{B}}, \hat{w}}{\operatorname{argmin}} \|w_d - \hat{w}\|_{l_2} \quad \text{subject to} \quad \hat{w} \in \hat{\mathcal{B}} \in \mathcal{L}_{m,1}.$$

SLRA with  $\mathcal{S}(p) = \mathcal{H}_{1+1}(w_d)$ ,  $\mathbb{H}$  structure, and  $r = p$ .

**EIV model:**  $w_d = \bar{w} + \tilde{w}$ ,  $\bar{w} \in \bar{\mathcal{B}} \in \mathcal{L}_{m,1}^w$ ,  $\tilde{w} \sim \text{Normal}(0, \sigma^2 I)$

$\bar{w}$  — true data,  $\bar{\mathcal{B}}$  — true model,  $\tilde{w}$  — measurement noise

$\hat{\mathcal{B}}^*$  is a maximum likelihood estimate of  $\bar{\mathcal{B}}$ , in the EIV model

consistent and assympt. normal  $\implies$  **confidence regions**



## Statistical vs. deterministic formulation

The EIV model gives a **quality certificate** to the method.

The method works “well” (**consistency**) and is optimal (**efficiency**) under certain specified conditions.

However, the assumption that the data is generated by a true model with additive noise is sometimes not realistic.

Model-data mismatch is often due to a restrictive (LTI) model class being used and not (only) due to measurement noise.

⇒ **The approximation aspect is often more important than the stochastic estimation one.**

# System theory $\leftrightarrow$ Signal proc. $\leftrightarrow$ Computer algebra

The Toeplitz matrix–vector product  $y = \mathcal{T}(H)u = \mathcal{T}(u)H$  is equivalent to (may describe):

$$\begin{array}{ccc} (u, y) \in \mathcal{B}(H) & \iff & y = H \star u \\ \text{FIR sys. traj.} & & \text{convolution} \\ & & \iff & & y(z) = H(z)u(z) \\ & & & & \text{polyn. multipl.} \end{array}$$

**Multivariable case:** block Toeplitz structure

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \text{multivariable} & \iff & \text{matrix valued} & \iff & \text{matrix valued} \\ \text{systems} & & \text{time series} & & \text{polynomials} \end{array}$$

**2D case:** block Toeplitz–Toeplitz block structure

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \text{multidim.} & \iff & \text{function of several} & \iff & \text{polyn. of} \\ \text{system} & & \text{indep. variables} & & \text{several var.} \end{array}$$

(F) Forward problem    define     $y := \mathcal{T}(u)H$

(I) Inverse problem    solve     $y = \mathcal{T}(u)H$     for  $H$

	System theory	Signal proc.	Computer algebra
F	FIR sys. simulation	convolution	polyn. multipl.
I	FIR sys. identification	deconv.	polyn. division

Typically  $y = \mathcal{T}(u)H$  is an overdetermined system of eqns

$\implies$  With “rough data  $w_d = (u_d, y_d)$ ”, there is **no exact solution**.

$\rightsquigarrow$  approximate identification, deconvolution, polyn. division.

**SLRA:** find the smallest modification of the data  $w_d$  that allows the modified data  $\hat{w}$  to have an exact solution.

# Outline

Low-rank approximation as data modeling

Applications

**Algorithms**

Related problems

## Unstructured low-rank approximation

$$\hat{D}^* := \operatorname{argmin}_{\hat{D}} \|D - \hat{D}\|_F \quad \text{subject to} \quad \operatorname{rank}(\hat{D}) \leq m$$

### Theorem (closed form solution)

Let  $D = U\Sigma V^T$  be the SVD of  $D$  and define

$$U =: \begin{bmatrix} U_1 & U_2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{matrix} m & p \\ d & \end{matrix}, \quad \Sigma =: \begin{bmatrix} \Sigma_1 & 0 \\ 0 & \Sigma_2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{matrix} m & p \\ m & p \end{matrix} \quad \text{and} \quad V =: \begin{bmatrix} V_1 & V_2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{matrix} m & p \\ N & \end{matrix}.$$

An optimal LRA solution is

$$\hat{D}^* = U_1 \Sigma_1 V_1^T, \quad \hat{B}^* = \ker(U_2^T) = \operatorname{colspan}(U_1).$$

It is unique if and only if  $\sigma_m \neq \sigma_{m+1}$ .

## Structured low-rank approximation

**No closed form solution** is known for the general SLRA problem

$$\hat{p}^* := \arg \min_{\hat{p}} \|\rho - \hat{p}\| \quad \text{subject to} \quad \text{rank}(\mathcal{S}(\hat{p})) \leq r.$$

**NP-hard**, consider solution methods based on local optimization

Representing the constraint in a kernel form, the problem is

$$\min_{R, RR^T = I_{m-r}} \left( \min_{\hat{p}} \|\rho - \hat{p}\| \quad \text{subject to} \quad R\mathcal{S}(\hat{p}) = 0 \right)$$

**Note:** Double minimization with bilinear equality constraint.

There is a matrix  $G(R)$ , such that  $R\mathcal{S}(\hat{p}) = 0 \iff G(R)p = 0$ .

## Variable projection vs. alternating projections

Two ways to approach the double minimization:

- **Variable projections (VARPRO):**  
**solve the inner minimization analytically**

$$\min_{R, RR^T = I_{m-r}} \text{vec}^T (R \mathcal{S}(\hat{p})) \left( G(R) G^T(R) \right)^{-1} \text{vec} (R \mathcal{S}(\hat{p}))$$

$\rightsquigarrow$  a nonlinear least squares problem for  $R$  only.

- **Alternating projections (AP):**  
**alternate between solving two least squares problems**

VARPRO is globally convergent with a super linear conv. rate.

AP is globally convergent with a linear convergence rate.

## Software implementation

The structure of  $\mathcal{S}$  can be exploited for **efficient**  $O(\dim(p))$  cost function and first derivative evaluations.

**SLICOT library** includes high quality FORTRAN implementation of algorithms for block Toeplitz matrices.

SLRA C software using I/O repr. and VARPRO approach  
<http://www.esat.kuleuven.be/~imarkovs>

Based on the Levenberg–Marquardt alg. implemented in **MINPACK**.



# Variations on low-rank approximation

- **Cost functions**
  - weighted norms  $(\text{vec}^\top(D)W\text{vec}(D))$
  - information criteria  $(\log \det(D))$
- **Constraints and structures**
  - nonnegative
  - sparse
- **Data structures**
  - nonlinear models
  - tensors
- **Optimization algorithms**
  - convex relaxations

# Weighted low-rank approximation

In the EIV model, LRA is ML assuming  $\text{cov}(\text{vec}(\tilde{D})) = I$ .

**Motivation:** incorporate prior knowledge  $W$  about  $\text{cov}(\text{vec}(\tilde{D}))$

$$\min_{\hat{D}} \text{vec}^\top(D - \hat{D}) W \text{vec}(D - \hat{D}) \quad \text{subject to} \quad \text{rank}(\hat{D}) \leq m$$

Known in **chemometrics** as **maximum likelihood PCA**.

**NP-hard problem**, alternating projections is effective heuristic

## Nonnegative low-rank approximation

**Constrained LRA** arise in Markov chains and image mining

$$\min_{\hat{D}} \|D - \hat{D}\| \quad \text{subject to} \quad \text{rank}(\hat{D}) \leq m \quad \text{and} \quad \hat{D}_{ij} \geq 0 \quad \text{for all } i, j.$$

Using an image representation, an **equivalent problem** is

$$\min_{P \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times m}, L \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times N}} \|D - PL\| \quad \text{subject to} \quad P_{ik}, L_{kj} \geq 0 \quad \text{for all } i, k, j.$$

**Alternating projections algorithm:**

- Choose an initial approximation  $P^{(0)} \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times m}$  and set  $k := 0$ .
- Solve:  $L^{(k)} = \arg \min_L \|D - P^{(k)}L\|$  subject to  $L \geq 0$ .
- Solve:  $P^{(k+1)} = \arg \min_P \|D - PL^{(k)}\|$  subject to  $P \geq 0$ .
- Repeat until convergence.

## Data fitting by a second order model

$$\mathcal{B}(A, b, c) := \{d \in \mathbb{R}^d \mid d^\top A d + b^\top d + c = 0\}, \quad \text{with } A = A^\top$$

Consider first **exact data**:

$$d \in \mathcal{B}(A, b, c) \iff d^\top A d + b^\top d + c = 0$$

$$\iff \left\langle \underbrace{\text{col}(d \otimes_s d, d, 1)}_{d_{\text{ext}}}, \underbrace{\text{col}(\text{vec}_s(A), b, c)}_{\theta} \right\rangle = 0$$

$$\{d_1, \dots, d_N\} \in \mathcal{B}(\theta) \iff \theta \in \text{leftker} \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} d_{\text{ext},1} & \cdots & d_{\text{ext},N} \end{bmatrix}}_{D_{\text{ext}}}, \quad \theta \neq 0$$

$$\iff \text{rank}(D_{\text{ext}}) \leq d - 1$$

Therefore, for **measured data**  $\rightsquigarrow$  **LRA of  $D_{\text{ext}}$** .

**Notes:**

- Special case  $\mathcal{B}$  **an ellipsoid** (for  $A > 0$  and  $4c < b^\top A^{-1} b$ ).
- Related to **kernel PCA**

## Consistency in the errors-in-variables setting

Assume that the data is collected according to the EIV model

$$d_j = \bar{d}_j + \tilde{d}_j, \quad \text{where } \bar{d}_j \in \mathcal{B}(\bar{\theta}), \quad \tilde{d}_j \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma^2 I).$$

LRA of  $D_{\text{ext}}$  (kernel PCA)  $\rightsquigarrow$  **inconsistent estimator**

$$\tilde{d}_{\text{ext},j} := \text{col}(\tilde{d}_j \otimes_s \tilde{d}_j, \tilde{d}_j, 0) \text{ is not Gaussian}$$

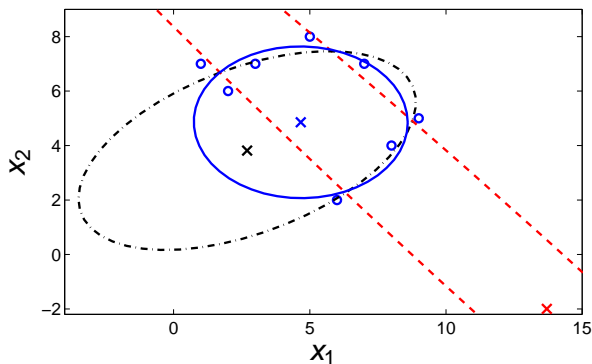
**proposed method** — incorporate bias correction in the LRA

### Notes:

- works on the sample covariance matrix  $D_{\text{ext}} D_{\text{ext}}^\top$
- the correction depends on the noise variance  $\sigma^2$
- the core of the proposed method is the  $\sigma^2$  estimator  
(possible link with methods for choosing **regularization par.**)

## Example: ellipsoid fitting

benchmark example of (Gander *et.al.* 94), called “special data”



dashed — LRA    solid — proposed method

dashed-dotted — orthogonal regression (geometric fitting)

o — data points    × — centers

# Summary

- LRA  $\iff$  **linear data modeling** (in the behavioral setting)
- rank and behavior  $\rightsquigarrow$  **representation-free problems**
- however, **different repr.** are convenient for **different goals**
- $AX \approx B$  is LRA with fixed I/O repr.  $\rightsquigarrow$  **lack of solution**
- **applications** in system theory, signal processing, and computer algebra
- **links** with rank minimization, structured pseudospectra, and positive rank

Thank you