An introduction to Nonnegative Matrix Factorisation

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Introduction to NMF

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Introduction

- NMF models
- Algorithms for solving NMF
- ► Applications
- Conclusion

Explaining data by factorisation General formulation



$$\mathbf{v}_n \approx \sum_{k=1}^K h_{kn} \mathbf{w}_k$$

Illustration by C. Févotte

Explaining data by factorisation General formulation



Data is often nonnegative by nature¹

- pixel intensities;
- amplitude spectra;
- occurrence counts;
- food or energy consumption;
- user scores;
- stock market values;

• ...

For the sake of **interpretability** of the results, optimal processing of **nonnegative data** may call for processing under **nonnegativity constraints**.

¹slide adapted from (Févotte, 2012).

The Nonnegative Matrix Factorisation model

NMF provides an unsupervised linear representation of the data:



Illustration by N. Seichepine

Explaining face images by NMF^2

Image example: 49 images among 2429 from MIT's CBCL face dataset



²slide adapted from (Févotte, 2012).

Explaining face images by NMF Method



NMF outputs

Image example



Illustration by C. Févotte

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Notations I

- V : the F × N data matrix:
 - F features (rows),
 - N observations/examples/feature vectors (columns);
- v_n = (v_{1n}, ··· , v_{Fn})^T: the *n*-th feature vector observation among a collection of N observations v₁, ··· , v_N;
- \mathbf{v}_n is a column vector in \mathbb{R}^F_+ ; \mathbf{v}_n is a row vector;
- W : the F × K dictionary matrix:
 - w_{fk} is one of its coefficients,
 - \mathbf{w}_k a dictionary/basis vector among K elements;

Notations II

- **H** : the *K* × *N* activation/expansion matrix:
 - \mathbf{h}_n : the **column vector** of activation coefficients for observation \mathbf{v}_n :

$$\mathbf{v}_n pprox \sum_{k=1}^{K} h_{kn} \mathbf{w}_k$$
 ;

- $\mathbf{h}_{k:}$: the **row vector** of activation coefficients relating to basis vector \mathbf{w}_k .

Introduction

NMF models

- Cost functions
- Weighted NMF schemes
- Algorithms for solving NMF
- Applications

► Conclusion

NMF optimization criteria

NMF approximation $\mathbf{V}\approx\mathbf{WH}$ is usually obtained through:

 $\min_{\mathbf{W},\mathbf{H}\geq 0} D(\mathbf{V}|\mathbf{W}\mathbf{H}),$

where $D(\mathbf{V}|\widehat{\mathbf{V}})$ is a separable matrix divergence:

$$D(\mathbf{V}|\widehat{\mathbf{V}}) = \sum_{f=1}^{F} \sum_{n=1}^{N} d(v_{fn}|\hat{v}_{fn}),$$

and d(x|y) defined for all $x, y \ge 0$ is a scalar divergence such that:

- d(x|y) is continuous over x and y;
- $d(x|y) \ge 0$ for all $x, y \ge 0$;
- d(x|y) = 0 if and only if x = y.

Popular (scalar) divergences

Euclidean (EUC) distance (Lee and Seung, 1999)

$$d_{EUC}(x|y) = (x-y)^2$$

Kullback-Leibler (KL) divergence (Lee and Seung, 1999)

$$d_{KL}(x|y) = x \log \frac{x}{y} - x + y$$

Itakura-Saito (IS) divergence (Févotte et al., 2009)

$$d_{IS}(x|y) = \frac{x}{y} - \log \frac{x}{y} - 1$$

Cost functions

Convexity properties

Divergence $d(x y)$	EUC	KL	IS
Convex on x	yes	yes	yes
Convex on y	yes	yes	no



Cost functions

Scale invariance properties³

$$d_{EUC}(\lambda x | \lambda y) = \lambda^2 d_{EUC}(x | y)$$

$$d_{KL}(\lambda x | \lambda y) = \lambda d_{KL}(x | y)$$

$$d_{IS}(\lambda x | \lambda y) = d_{IS}(x | y)$$

The IS divergence is scale-invariant \rightarrow it provides higher accuracy in the representation of data with large dynamic range (*e.g.* audio spectra).

³slide adapted from (Févotte, 2012).

Weighted NMF

Conventional NMF optimization criterion:

$$\min_{\mathbf{W},\mathbf{H}\geq 0}\sum_{f=1}^{F}\sum_{n=1}^{N}d(v_{fn}|\hat{v}_{fn}).$$

Weighted NMF optimization criterion:

$$\min_{\mathbf{W},\mathbf{H}\geq 0}\sum_{f=1}^{F}\sum_{n=1}^{N}b_{fn}d(v_{fn}|\hat{v}_{fn}),$$

where b_{fn} (f = 1, ..., F, n = 1, ..., N) are some nonnegative weights representing the contribution of data point v_{fn} to NMF learning.

Weighted NMF application example I

Learning from partial observations (e.g., for **image inpainting** as in (Mairal et al., 2010)):



Weighted NMF application example II

Face feature extraction (example and figure from (Blondel et al., 2008)):



Introduction

NMF models

Algorithms for solving NMF

- Preliminaries
- Difficulties in NMF
- Multiplicative update rules

Applications

Conclusion

Optimization problem

An efficient solution of the NMF optimization problem

$$\min_{\mathbf{W},\mathbf{H}\geq 0} D(\mathbf{V}|\mathbf{W}\mathbf{H}) \Leftrightarrow \min_{\boldsymbol{\theta}} C(\boldsymbol{\theta}); \ C(\boldsymbol{\theta}) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} D(\mathbf{V}|\mathbf{W}\mathbf{H})$$

where $\theta \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \{W, H\}$ denotes the NMF parameters, must cope with the following difficulties:

- the nonnegativity constraints must be taken into account;
- the solution is **not unique**...

NMF is ill-posed

The solution is not unique

Given V = WH; $W \ge 0$, $H \ge 0$; any matrix Q such that:

- WQ ≥ 0
- $\mathbf{Q}^{-1}\mathbf{H} \ge 0$

provides an alternative factorisation $\mathsf{V}=\tilde{\mathsf{W}}\tilde{\mathsf{H}}=(\mathsf{W}\mathsf{Q})(\mathsf{Q}^{-1}\mathsf{H}).$

In particular, Q can be any nonnegative generalised permutation matrix; e.g., in \mathbb{R}^3 :

$$\mathbf{Q} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 2 \\ 0 & 3 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

This case is not so problematic: merely accounts for scaling and permutation of basis vectors w_k .

Geometric interpretation and ill-posedness

NMF assumes the data is well described by a simplicial convex cone C_w generated by the columns of W:



$$\mathcal{C}_{\mathbf{w}} = \left\{ \sum_{k=1}^{K} \lambda_k \mathbf{w}_k; \, \lambda_k \ge 0 \right\}$$

Geometric interpretation and ill-posedness

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Problem: which C_w ?

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Problem: which C_w ?

 $\rightarrow\,$ Need to impose constraints on the set of possible solutions to select the most "useful" ones.

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Alternating optimization strategy

The problem is usually easier to optimize over one matrix (say H) given the other matrix (say W) is known and fixed.

Indeed, for several divergences D(V|WH) is even convex separately w.r.t. H and w.r.t. W, but not w.r.t. $\{W, H\}$.

For this reason many state-of-the-art NMF optimization algorithms rely on the following iterative alternating optimization strategy.

Alternating optimization a.k.a block-coordinate descent (one iteration):

- update W, given H fixed,
- update H, given W fixed.

Multiplicative update rules

A heuristic approach introduced by (Lee and Seung, 2001) to solve $\min_{\theta} C(\theta)$

Multiplicative update (MU) rule for H (similarly for W) is defined as:

$$h_{kn} \leftarrow h_{kn} \left[\nabla_{h_{kn}} C(\boldsymbol{\theta}) \right]_{-} / \left[\nabla_{h_{kn}} C(\boldsymbol{\theta}) \right]_{+},$$

where

$$\nabla_{h_{kn}} C(\boldsymbol{\theta}) = \left[\nabla_{h_{kn}} C(\boldsymbol{\theta}) \right]_{+} - \left[\nabla_{h_{kn}} C(\boldsymbol{\theta}) \right]_{-} ,$$

and the summands are both nonnegative.

NOTE: The nonnegativity of W and H is guaranteed by construction.

Intuitive explanation

We consider for simplicity $\nabla_h C(h) = \nabla_+ - \nabla_-$



Discussion

The only two things guaranteed by this approach:

- the newly updated value lies in the **direction of partial derivative decrease**;
- the newly updated value is always nonnegative.

Nothing more can be guaranteed in general, and all the other algorithm properties depend on the "positive-negative" decomposition chosen:

$$abla_{h_{kn}} \mathcal{C}(oldsymbol{ heta}) = \left[
abla_{h_{kn}} \mathcal{C}(oldsymbol{ heta})
ight]_+ - \left[
abla_{h_{kn}} \mathcal{C}(oldsymbol{ heta})
ight]_- \, .$$

For many divergences and certain "positive-negative" decompositions each MU rule can be interpreted as a Majorisation-Minimisation (MM) procedure (Hunter and Lange, 2004):

To minimise C(s), e.g., $s = w_{fk}$ or $s = h_{kn}$:

• build $G(s|\tilde{s})$ such that $G(s|\tilde{s}) \ge C(s)$ and $G(\tilde{s}|\tilde{s}) = C(\tilde{s})$;

• optimize iteratively $G(s|\tilde{s})$ instead of C(s).



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- optimize iteratively $G(s|\tilde{s})$ instead of C(s).

 NOTE: The MM procedure guarantees the cost is non-increasing at each iteration:

$$C(s^{(t+1)}) \leq G(s^{(t+1)}|s^{(t)}) \leq G(s^{(t)}|s^{(t)}) = C(s^{(t)}).$$

Summary

Multiplicative Update rules:

Advantages:

- easy to implement;
- non-negativity of W and H is guaranteed.

Drawbacks:

- monotonicity is not always guaranteed;
- among other algorithms the convergence rate is not the highest one.

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Applications

- Text analysis
- Music transcription
- Video structuring

Conclusion

Text analysis

Topics recovery

Assume $\mathbf{V} = [v_{fn}]$ is a **term-document** co-occurrence matrix: v_{fn} is the frequency of occurrences of word m_f in document d_n ;



Text document analysis example

After sklearn topics extraction demo (Pedregosa et al., 2011)

Analysing the 20 newsgroups dataset with NMF, the following topics are automatically determined:

- **Topic** #0: god people bible israel jesus christian true moral think christians believe don say human israeli church life children jewish
- **Topic** #1: drive windows card drivers video scsi software pc thanks vga graphics help disk uni dos file ide controller work
- **Topic** #2: game team nhl games ca hockey players buffalo edu cc year play university teams baseball columbia league player toronto
- **Topic** #3: window manager application mit motif size display widget program xlib windows user color event information use events values
- **Topic** #4: pitt gordon banks cs science pittsburgh univ computer soon disease edu reply pain health david article medical medicine

Topics described by most frequent words in each dictionary element W_k .

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NMF-based music transcription

Demo slide courtesy of C. Févotte (Fevotte et al., 2009)



Three representations of the data.

Music transcription

Spectral analysis Short-Term Fourier Transform (STFT)



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NMF-based music transcription demo

Demo slide courtesy of C. Févotte (Fevotte et al., 2009)



Three representations of the data.

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Music transcription demo

Demo slide courtesy of C. Févotte (Fevotte et al., 2009)

NMF decomposition with K = 8



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The video structuring problem

Goal: automatically extract a **temporal organization** of a document into units conveying a homogeneous type of (audio/video) content.



Video Structuring

Using NMF for temporal segmentation and soft-clustering (Essid and Fevotte, 2013)

Discovering the video editing structure (Essid and Fevotte, 2012)





"Participant 1"



"Participant 3"





"Participant 4"





"Participant 2"



"Participant 5"



Performing speaker diarization

(Seichepine et al., 2013)

"Who spoke when?"



illustration by N. Seichepine

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Challenge: perform the task in a non-supervised fashion. Proposed approach: a generic structuring scheme using NMF (Essid and



 create a low-level (visual/audio) vocabulary and use it to extract histogram of (visual/audio) words from the sequence of observation frames;

Challenge: perform the task in a non-supervised fashion. Proposed approach: a generic structuring scheme using NMF (Essid and Fevotte, 2013):



2. apply a variant of **smooth NMF** using the **Kullback-Leibler** divergence to extract **latent structuring events** and their **activations** across the duration of the document.

Challenge: perform the task in a non-supervised fashion. Proposed approach: a generic structuring scheme using NMF (Essid and Fevotte, 2013):



Challenge: perform the task in a non-supervised fashion. Proposed approach: a generic structuring scheme using NMF (Essid and Fevotte, 2013):



Activations should be **temporally smooth**: structuring events naturally exhibit a "certain" temporal continuity.

Smooth KL-NMF

Using the Kullback-Leibler (KL) divergence as a measure of fit

Given histogram data (whose columns are frame-wise descriptors), we seek a factorization $\mathbf{V} \approx \mathbf{WH}$; $w_{fk} \ge 0$; $h_{kn} \ge 0$ that minimises

 $C(\mathbf{W},\mathbf{H}) = D(\mathbf{V}|\mathbf{W}\mathbf{H}) + \beta S(\mathbf{H});$

- $D(\mathbf{V}|\mathbf{WH}) = \sum_{fn} d_{KL}(v_{fn}|\sum_k w_{fk}h_{kn})$: fit-to-data term such that $d_{KL}(x|y) = x \log \frac{x}{y} x + y$;
- *S*(*H*) is a **regularisation** term that controls the **temporal smoothness** of the activation coefficients:

$$S(H) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{k=1}^{K} \sum_{n=2}^{N} (h_{kn} - h_{k(n-1)})^2.$$

Video structuring

Applications

Onscreen person-oriented structuring

Discover the video editing structure: label the video frames as follows in a non-supervised fashion:

"Full group"



"Participant 1"





"Participant 2"



"Participant 2"



"Participant 3"



"Participant 4"





"Participant 5"



Using the Canal9 political debates database (Vinciarelli et al., 2009).

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Visual features



Visual vocabulary creation

- PHOW features (Bosch et al., 2007): histograms of orientation gradients over 3 scales, on 8-pixel step grid; extracted from faces and clothing regions, determined automatically for current video;
- quantization over 128 bins using K-means.



Results

Visualising the activations



Experimental validation

Canal9 political debates database (Vinciarelli et al., 2009)

- broadcasts featuring a moderator and 2 to 4 guests;
- moderators, guest and background vary;
- 7 hours of video content: 10 minutes from each of the first 41 shows;
- 189 distinct persons; 28521 video shots.

Results

Shot-type classification error rates



Take-home messages I

- NMF is a versatile data decomposition technique that has proven effective for diverse applications across numerous disciplines,
 - it tends to provide "meaningful" and "natural" part-based data representations,
 - it can be used both for feature learning, topic extraction, clustering, segmentation, source separation, coding...
- For NMF to be successful, it has to be estimated using **appropriate cost-functions** reflecting prior knowledge about the data.

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Take-home messages II

- Many algorithms are available to estimate NMF, mostly alternating updates of **W** and **H**; variants include:
 - **multiplicative updates:** heuristic, simple and easy to implement, but slow and instable,
 - majorisation-minimisation: well-founded for a variety of cost functions, stable, still slow,
 - gradient-descent and Newton: fast but unstable.
- NMF is a state-of-the-art technique for a number of audio-processing tasks (transcription, source separation...),
- it has a great potential for video analysis tasks, especially temporal structure analysis.

Ongoing and future research

- How to properly estimate the model-order K?
- How to achieve better and faster "convergence"?
- How to perform **non-linear** data decompositions?
- How to handle **big data**?

A selection of NMF software

Software	Language	Main features	
beta_ntf	Python	Weighted tensor decomposition, all	
		eta-divergences, MM	
sklearn.decomposition.NMF	Python	ℓ_2 -norm, gradient-descent, sparsity	
IMM DTU NMF toolbox	Matlab	ℓ_2 -norm, MM, gradient-descent, ALS	
Févotte's matlab scripts	Matlab	$\ell_2\text{-norm, KL}$ and IS-div, MM, probabilistic	
Seichepine's matlab	Matlab	Soft co-factorisation , ℓ_2 -norm, KL and IS-div,	
scripts	Matiab	ℓ_1/ℓ_2 -norm temporal smoothing, MM	
svmnmf	Matlab	Geometric SVM-based NMF, kernel-based	
		non-linear decompositions, fast	
libNMF	С	ℓ_2 -norm, MM, gradient-descent, ALS,	
		multi-core, fast	

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