

MA3113: Topics in Mathematical Image Processing I

Sparse Representation and Dictionary Learning



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Part I

Sparse Representation and Dictionary Learning

Sparse representation problem

Terms: Sparse Representation (稀疏表現)/Sparse Coding (稀疏編碼)

SR problem: *Given a signal vector $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^m$ and a dictionary matrix $\mathbf{D} \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$, we seek a sparse coefficient vector $\mathbf{z}^* \in \mathbb{R}^n$ such that*

$$\mathbf{z}^* = \arg \min_{\mathbf{z}} \left(\frac{1}{2} \|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{D}\mathbf{z}\|_2^2 + \lambda \|\mathbf{z}\|_0 \right),$$

where $\lambda > 0$ is a penalty parameter and $\|\mathbf{z}\|_0$ counts the number of nonzero components of $\mathbf{z}$.

Remarks:

- In the matrix-vector multiplication $\mathbf{D}\mathbf{z}$, the components of $\mathbf{z}$ are the coefficients with respect to columns (also called *atoms*) of $\mathbf{D}$.
- We call $\|\mathbf{z}\|_0$ the ℓ^0 norm of $\mathbf{z}$, even though ℓ^0 is *not* really a norm, since the *homogeneity property* fails, $\|\alpha\mathbf{z}\|_0 \neq |\alpha| \|\mathbf{z}\|_0$.
- It is inefficient to compute $\|\mathbf{z}\|_0$ directly when n is large. In practice, we will use the ℓ^1 norm instead of the ℓ^0 norm.

Two dual ℓ^0 minimization problems

In [Sharon-Wright-Ma 2007], they studied the following two *dual* ℓ^0 minimization problems:

- **Sparse error correction (SEC):** *Given $\mathbf{0} \neq \mathbf{y} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ and $\mathbf{A} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times p}$ with $n > p$ and $\text{rank}(\mathbf{A}) = p$, we seek $\mathbf{w}^* \in \mathbb{R}^p$ such that*

$$\mathbf{w}^* = \arg \min_{\mathbf{w}} \|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{A}\mathbf{w}\|_0. \quad (1)$$

- **Sparse signal reconstruction (SSR):** *Given $\mathbf{D} \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$ with $m < n$ and $\mathbf{0} \neq \mathbf{x} \in C(\mathbf{D})$ the column space of $\mathbf{D}$, we seek $\mathbf{z}^* \in \mathbb{R}^n$ such that*

$$\mathbf{z}^* = \arg \min_{\mathbf{z}} \|\mathbf{z}\|_0 \quad \text{subject to} \quad \mathbf{x} = \mathbf{D}\mathbf{z}. \quad (2)$$

Note that (1) is a *decoding problem*, while (2) is a *sparse representation problem*. These two problems are *dual* in the sense that we can convert one problem to the other, see page 8 below.

Existence and uniqueness of solution

1 Existence:

- Existence of w^* : If $\exists w \in \mathbb{R}^p$ s.t. $\|y - Aw\|_0 = 0$, then $w^* = w$. Otherwise, define

$$\mathcal{S} := \{k \in \mathbb{N} : \exists w \in \mathbb{R}^p \text{ s.t. } \|y - Aw\|_0 = k\}.$$

Then $\emptyset \neq \mathcal{S} \subseteq \mathbb{N}$. By the well-ordering principle, $\exists k_0 \in \mathcal{S}$ the minimum of $\mathcal{S}$. i.e., $\exists w^*$ such that $w^* = \arg \min_w \|y - Aw\|_0$.

- Existence of z^* : It can be shown in a similar way!

2 Uniqueness: It will generally be true that these two dual problems have a unique solution if

- $\exists w_0$ such that the error $e := y - Aw_0$ is sparse enough.
The proof needs the “null space property” and the “restricted isometry property.”
- $\exists z_0$ sparse enough such that $x = Dz_0$.
e.g., if any set of $2T$ columns of D are linearly independent, then any $z_0 \in \mathbb{R}^n$ with $\|z_0\|_0 \leq T$ such that $Dz_0 = x$ is the unique solution to SSR problem (2).

Why we require matrix A full rank p in the SEC problem?

Note that A is of size $n \times p$ and $n > p$.

Suppose that A is not full rank p . Then $\text{rank}(A) < p$.

Since $\dim N(A) + \text{rank}(A) = p$, we have $\dim N(A) > 0$.

Thus, nullspace $N(A) \neq \{\mathbf{0}\}$ and $\exists \tilde{w} \neq \mathbf{0}$ such that $A\tilde{w} = \mathbf{0}$.

If w^* is a solution of the SEC problem, then

$$\|y - A(w^* + \tilde{w})\|_0 = \|y - Aw^*\|_0.$$

Hence, $w^* + \tilde{w}$ is also a solution of the SEC problem.

Therefore, in order to ensure the uniqueness, we require A full rank p .

How to convert problem (2) to problem (1)?

- The decoding problem (1) can be converted to the sparse representation problem (2). [Candès *et al.* 2005, IEEE Symposium on FOCS]
- **Converting (2) to (1):** Let $p = n - \text{rank}(\mathbf{D}) > 0$ and $\mathbf{A}$ be a full-rank $n \times p$ matrix whose columns span the nullspace of $\mathbf{D}$, i.e., $\mathbf{D}\mathbf{A} = \mathbf{0}$. Find any $\mathbf{y} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ so that $\mathbf{D}\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{x}$ and define $f(\mathbf{w}) = \mathbf{y} - \mathbf{A}\mathbf{w}$. Then

$$\underbrace{\arg \min_{\mathbf{z} \ \& \ \mathbf{D}\mathbf{z}=\mathbf{x}} \|\mathbf{z}\|_0}_{\mathbf{z}^*} = f\left(\underbrace{\arg \min_{\mathbf{w}} \|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{A}\mathbf{w}\|_0}_{f(\mathbf{w}^*)}\right). \quad (3)$$

Proof: First, note that for all $\mathbf{w} \in \mathbb{R}^p$, we have

$$\mathbf{D}f(\mathbf{w}) = \mathbf{D}(\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{A}\mathbf{w}) = \mathbf{D}\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{D}\mathbf{A}\mathbf{w} = \mathbf{D}\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{x} \implies \|f(\mathbf{w})\|_0 \geq \|\mathbf{z}^*\|_0.$$

Claim: $\exists \tilde{\mathbf{w}} \in \mathbb{R}^p$ such that $f(\tilde{\mathbf{w}}) = \mathbf{y} - \mathbf{A}\tilde{\mathbf{w}} = \mathbf{z}^*$.

$$\because \mathbf{D}\mathbf{z}^* = \mathbf{x} \text{ and } \mathbf{D}(\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{A}\mathbf{w}) = \mathbf{x}, \forall \mathbf{w} \implies \mathbf{D}(-\mathbf{z}^* + \mathbf{y} - \mathbf{A}\mathbf{w}) = \mathbf{0}$$

$$\therefore \exists \tilde{\mathbf{w}} \text{ such that } \mathbf{A}\tilde{\mathbf{w}} = -\mathbf{z}^* + \mathbf{y} - \mathbf{A}\mathbf{w} \implies \mathbf{z}^* = \mathbf{y} - \mathbf{A}(\mathbf{w} + \tilde{\mathbf{w}}) := f(\tilde{\mathbf{w}})$$

Claim: $\tilde{\mathbf{w}} = \mathbf{w}^* := \arg \min_{\mathbf{w}} \|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{A}\mathbf{w}\|_0$, and then $f(\mathbf{w}^*) = \mathbf{z}^*$.

$$\because \|f(\mathbf{w}^*)\|_0 \leq \|f(\tilde{\mathbf{w}})\|_0 = \|\mathbf{z}^*\|_0 \leq \|f(\mathbf{w}^*)\|_0 \implies \|f(\mathbf{w}^*)\|_0 = \|f(\tilde{\mathbf{w}})\|_0$$

By the uniqueness of $\mathbf{w}^*$, we obtain $\tilde{\mathbf{w}} = \mathbf{w}^*$ and then $f(\mathbf{w}^*) = \mathbf{z}^*$.

The ℓ^1 - ℓ^0 equivalence problem

- In general, the ℓ^0 minimizations (1) and (2) are *NP-hard problems*:

$$\mathbf{w}^* = \arg \min_{\mathbf{w}} \|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{A}\mathbf{w}\|_0, \quad (1)$$

$$\mathbf{z}^* = \arg \min_{\mathbf{z}} \|\mathbf{z}\|_0 \quad \text{subject to} \quad \mathbf{x} = \mathbf{D}\mathbf{z}. \quad (2)$$

- The equivalence between ℓ^0 and ℓ^1 minimizations is conditional.

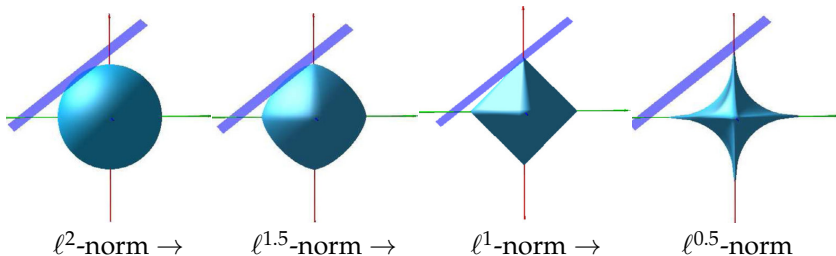
David L. Donoho, *For most large underdetermined systems of linear equations the minimal ℓ_1 -norm solution is also the sparsest solution*, CPAM, 59 (2006), pp. 797-829.

If the error $\mathbf{e} := \mathbf{y} - \mathbf{A}\mathbf{w}^$ and the solution $\mathbf{z}^*$ is sufficiently sparse, then the solutions to (1) and (2) are the same as (4) and (5), respectively.*

$$\mathbf{w}^* = \arg \min_{\mathbf{w}} \|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{A}\mathbf{w}\|_1, \quad (4)$$

$$\mathbf{z}^* = \arg \min_{\mathbf{z}} \|\mathbf{z}\|_1 \quad \text{subject to} \quad \mathbf{x} = \mathbf{D}\mathbf{z}. \quad (5)$$

3-D ball in different ℓ^r norms and the constraint $Dz = x$



3-D ball in the different ℓ^r norms for $r = 2, 1.5, 1, 0.5$

$$z^* = \arg \min_z \|z\|_1 \quad \text{subject to} \quad \underbrace{x}_{\text{given}} = D \underbrace{z}_{\text{many}} \quad (5)$$

The sparse representation problem

- We have introduced some ideas about the ℓ^1 - ℓ^0 equivalence. In what follows, we don't consider the original SR problem. We consider the following ℓ^1 minimization problem instead:

SR problem: *Given a signal vector $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^m$ and a dictionary matrix $\mathbf{D} \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$, we seek a coefficient vector $\mathbf{z}^* \in \mathbb{R}^n$ such that*

$$\mathbf{z}^* = \arg \min_{\mathbf{z}} \left(\frac{1}{2} \|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{D}\mathbf{z}\|_2^2 + \lambda \|\mathbf{z}\|_1 \right), \quad \lambda > 0. \quad (\star)$$

The existence (and uniqueness) of solution of the SR problem $(\star)$ can be ensured because matrix $\mathbf{D}^\top \mathbf{D}$ is symmetric (+ positive definite) and the second term $\lambda \|\cdot\|_1$ is a *convex function*.

- Problem $(\star)$ is also a regression analysis method in statistics and machine learning. It is the so-called *least absolute shrinkage and selection operator (LASSO)*.

R. J. Tibshirani, The lasso problem and uniqueness, *Electronic Journal of Statistics*, 7 (2013), pp. 1456-1490 $\oplus$ A. Ali, 13 (2019), pp. 2307-2347.

Alternating direction method of multipliers (ADMM)

We will use the “*Alternating Direction Method of Multipliers*” to solve the above ℓ^1 -norm SR problem.

- ADMM is an iterative scheme for solving the following equality constrained convex optimization problems:

$$\min_z f(z) \quad \text{subject to} \quad Az = b.$$

- ADMM consists of three steps:
 - adding an auxiliary variable y and a dual variable (multipliers) v and then scaled as u
 - separating the new cost function into a sum of $f(z)$ and $g(y)$
 - using an iterative method to solve the problem
- Then the optimization problem can be re-posed as

$$\min_{z, y} (f(z) + g(y)) \quad \text{subject to} \quad Az + By = c.$$

Derivation of the ADMM: augmented Lagrangian

First, we formulate the *augmented Lagrangian*

$$L_\rho(\mathbf{z}, \mathbf{y}, \mathbf{v}) := f(\mathbf{z}) + g(\mathbf{y}) + \underbrace{\mathbf{v}^\top (\mathbf{A}\mathbf{z} + \mathbf{B}\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{c})}_{\text{multipliers}} + \underbrace{\frac{\rho}{2} \|\mathbf{A}\mathbf{z} + \mathbf{B}\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{c}\|_2^2}_{\text{penalty term}},$$

where $\rho > 0$ is the penalty parameter. Then the iterative scheme of the *augmented Lagrangian method* (ALM) is given by

$$\begin{aligned}(\mathbf{z}^{(i+1)}, \mathbf{y}^{(i+1)}) &= \arg \min_{\mathbf{z}} L_\rho(\mathbf{z}, \mathbf{y}, \mathbf{v}^{(i)}), \\ \mathbf{v}^{(i+1)} &= \mathbf{v}^{(i)} + \rho(\mathbf{A}\mathbf{z}^{(i+1)} + \mathbf{B}\mathbf{y}^{(i+1)} - \mathbf{c}).\end{aligned}$$

In ADMM, $\mathbf{z}$ and $\mathbf{y}$ are updated in an alternating or sequential fashion, which accounts for the term *alternating direction*.

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{z}^{(i+1)} &= \arg \min_{\mathbf{z}} L_\rho(\mathbf{z}, \mathbf{y}^{(i)}, \mathbf{v}^{(i)}), \\ \mathbf{y}^{(i+1)} &= \arg \min_{\mathbf{y}} L_\rho(\mathbf{z}^{(i+1)}, \mathbf{y}, \mathbf{v}^{(i)}), \\ \mathbf{v}^{(i+1)} &= \mathbf{v}^{(i)} + \rho(\mathbf{A}\mathbf{z}^{(i+1)} + \mathbf{B}\mathbf{y}^{(i+1)} - \mathbf{c}).\end{aligned}$$

Scaled form of the augmented Lagrangian

The ADMM can be written in a slightly different form, which is often more convenient, by combining the linear and quadratic terms in the augmented Lagrangian and scaling the dual variable (multipliers) $\mathbf{v}$.

Define the residual $\mathbf{r} := \mathbf{A}\mathbf{z} + \mathbf{B}\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{c}$. Then

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{v}^\top (\mathbf{A}\mathbf{z} + \mathbf{B}\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{c}) + \frac{\rho}{2} \|\mathbf{A}\mathbf{z} + \mathbf{B}\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{c}\|_2^2 \\ = \mathbf{v}^\top \mathbf{r} + \frac{\rho}{2} \|\mathbf{r}\|_2^2 = \frac{\rho}{2} \|\mathbf{r} + \frac{1}{\rho} \mathbf{v}\|_2^2 - \frac{1}{2\rho} \|\mathbf{v}\|_2^2. \end{aligned}$$

Set $\mathbf{u} = \frac{1}{\rho} \mathbf{v}$. Then $L_\rho(\mathbf{z}, \mathbf{y}, \mathbf{v}) = L_\rho(\mathbf{z}, \mathbf{y}, \mathbf{u})$, and

$$L_\rho(\mathbf{z}, \mathbf{y}, \mathbf{u}) = f(\mathbf{z}) + g(\mathbf{y}) + \frac{\rho}{2} \|\mathbf{A}\mathbf{z} + \mathbf{B}\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{c} + \mathbf{u}\|_2^2 - \frac{\rho}{2} \|\mathbf{u}\|_2^2.$$

ADMM: scaled form

The ADMM in the scaled form is given by

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{z}^{(i+1)} &= \arg \min_{\mathbf{z}} \left(f(\mathbf{z}) + g(\mathbf{y}^{(i)}) + \frac{\rho}{2} \|\mathbf{A}\mathbf{z} + \mathbf{B}\mathbf{y}^{(i)} - \mathbf{c} + \mathbf{u}^{(i)}\|_2^2 - \frac{\rho}{2} \|\mathbf{u}^{(i)}\|_2^2 \right), \\ \mathbf{y}^{(i+1)} &= \arg \min_{\mathbf{y}} \left(f(\mathbf{z}^{(i+1)}) + g(\mathbf{y}) + \frac{\rho}{2} \|\mathbf{A}\mathbf{z}^{(i+1)} + \mathbf{B}\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{c} + \mathbf{u}^{(i)}\|_2^2 - \frac{\rho}{2} \|\mathbf{u}^{(i)}\|_2^2 \right), \\ \mathbf{u}^{(i+1)} &= \mathbf{u}^{(i)} + \mathbf{A}\mathbf{z}^{(i+1)} + \mathbf{B}\mathbf{y}^{(i+1)} - \mathbf{c}, \end{aligned}$$

where $\rho > 0$ is the *penalty parameter* which is related to the convergent rate of the iterations.

Note that the terms in blue can be omitted in practical computations!

Reference: S. Boyd, N. Parikh, E. Chu, B. Peleato, and J. Eckstein, Distributed optimization and statistical learning via the ADMM, *Foundations and Trends in Machine Learning*, 3 (2010), pp. 1-122.

ADMM for the ℓ^1 -norm SR problem

- For the ℓ^1 -norm SR problem,

$$\mathbf{z}^* = \arg \min_{\mathbf{z}} \left(\frac{1}{2} \|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{D}\mathbf{z}\|_2^2 + \lambda \|\mathbf{z}\|_1 \right), \quad \lambda > 0, \quad (\star)$$

we set

$$f(\mathbf{z}) := \frac{1}{2} \|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{D}\mathbf{z}\|_2^2, \quad g(\mathbf{y}) := \lambda \|\mathbf{y}\|_1, \quad \mathbf{A}\mathbf{z} + \mathbf{B}\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{c} \Leftrightarrow \mathbf{z} - \mathbf{y} = \mathbf{0}.$$

- The ADMM for the ℓ^1 -norm SR problem is given by

$$\mathbf{z}^{(i+1)} = \arg \min_{\mathbf{z}} \left(\frac{1}{2} \|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{D}\mathbf{z}\|_2^2 + \frac{\rho}{2} \|\mathbf{z} - \mathbf{y}^{(i)} + \mathbf{u}^{(i)}\|_2^2 \right), \quad (6_1)$$

$$\mathbf{y}^{(i+1)} = \arg \min_{\mathbf{y}} \left(\lambda \|\mathbf{y}\|_1 + \frac{\rho}{2} \|\mathbf{z}^{(i+1)} - \mathbf{y} + \mathbf{u}^{(i)}\|_2^2 \right), \quad (6_2)$$

$$\mathbf{u}^{(i+1)} = \mathbf{u}^{(i)} + \mathbf{z}^{(i+1)} - \mathbf{y}^{(i+1)}, \quad (6_3)$$

where $\rho > 0$ is *penalty parameter* related to the convergent rate of the iterations.

Solving minimization problem (6₁)

Define

$$F_1(\mathbf{z}) := \frac{1}{2} \|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{D}\mathbf{z}\|_2^2 + \frac{\rho}{2} \|\mathbf{z} - \mathbf{y}^{(i)} + \mathbf{u}^{(i)}\|_2^2.$$

Then F_1 is a quadratic function in variables $z_1, z_2, \dots, z_n$ and $F_1(\mathbf{z}) \geq 0 \forall \mathbf{z} \in \mathbb{R}^n$. To solve “ $\min_{\mathbf{z}} F_1(\mathbf{z})$ ”, first we compute

$$\begin{aligned} \nabla F_1(\mathbf{z}) &= -\mathbf{D}^\top (\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{D}\mathbf{z}) + \rho \mathbf{I} (\mathbf{z} - \mathbf{y}^{(i)} + \mathbf{u}^{(i)}) \\ &= (\mathbf{D}^\top \mathbf{D} + \rho \mathbf{I}) \mathbf{z} - (\mathbf{D}^\top \mathbf{x} + \rho (\mathbf{y}^{(i)} - \mathbf{u}^{(i)})). \end{aligned}$$

Letting $\nabla F_1(\mathbf{z}) = \mathbf{0}$, we have

$$(\mathbf{D}^\top \mathbf{D} + \rho \mathbf{I}) \mathbf{z} = (\mathbf{D}^\top \mathbf{x} + \rho (\mathbf{y}^{(i)} - \mathbf{u}^{(i)})).$$

Therefore, we obtain the solution

$$\mathbf{z}^{(i+1)} = (\mathbf{D}^\top \mathbf{D} + \rho \mathbf{I})^{-1} (\mathbf{D}^\top \mathbf{x} + \rho (\mathbf{y}^{(i)} - \mathbf{u}^{(i)})).$$

Solving minimization problem (6₂)

Using the *soft-thresholding function* $\mathcal{S}_{\lambda/\rho}$, the solution of problem (6₂) has the closed form (see next few pages):

$$\mathbf{y}^{(i+1)} = \mathcal{S}_{\lambda/\rho}(\mathbf{z}^{(i+1)} + \mathbf{u}^{(i)}),$$

where

$$\mathcal{S}_{\lambda/\rho}(\mathbf{v}) = \text{sign}(\mathbf{v}) \odot \max(\mathbf{0}, |\mathbf{v}| - \lambda/\rho),$$

and $\text{sign}(\cdot)$, $\max(\cdot, \cdot)$, and $|\cdot|$ are all applied to the input vector $\mathbf{v}$ component-wisely, and $\odot$ is the Hadamard product.

Finally, the iterative scheme can be posed as follows:

$$\mathbf{z}^{(i+1)} = (\mathbf{D}^\top \mathbf{D} + \rho \mathbf{I})^{-1} (\mathbf{D}^\top \mathbf{x} + \rho(\mathbf{y}^{(i)} - \mathbf{u}^{(i)})), \quad (7_1)$$

$$\mathbf{y}^{(i+1)} = \mathcal{S}_{\lambda/\rho}(\mathbf{z}^{(i+1)} + \mathbf{u}^{(i)}), \quad (7_2)$$

$$\mathbf{u}^{(i+1)} = \mathbf{u}^{(i)} + \mathbf{z}^{(i+1)} - \mathbf{y}^{(i+1)}. \quad (7_3)$$

Details of the solution of problem (6₂)

Recall the problem (6₂),

$$\mathbf{y}^{(i+1)} = \arg \min_{\mathbf{y}} \left(\lambda \|\mathbf{y}\|_1 + \frac{\rho}{2} \|\mathbf{z}^{(i+1)} - \mathbf{y} + \mathbf{u}^{(i)}\|_2^2 \right). \quad (6_2)$$

Let $\mathbf{v} := \mathbf{z}^{(i+1)} + \mathbf{u}^{(i)} \in \mathbb{R}^n$. Then we have

$$\mathbf{y}^{(i+1)} = \arg \min_{\mathbf{y}} \left(\lambda \|\mathbf{y}\|_1 + \frac{\rho}{2} \|\mathbf{v} - \mathbf{y}\|_2^2 \right).$$

Define a real-valued function $F_2(\mathbf{y})$ as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} F_2(\mathbf{y}) &= \lambda \|\mathbf{y}\|_1 + \frac{\rho}{2} \|\mathbf{v} - \mathbf{y}\|_2^2 \\ &= \left(\lambda |y_1| + \frac{\rho}{2} (v_1 - y_1)^2 \right) + \cdots + \left(\lambda |y_n| + \frac{\rho}{2} (v_n - y_n)^2 \right) \\ &:= f_1(y_1) + \cdots + f_n(y_n), \end{aligned}$$

where we define

$$f_j(y) := \lambda |y| + \frac{\rho}{2} (v_j - y)^2 \quad \forall j = 1, 2, \dots, n.$$

Analysis of functions f_j

For simplicity of the presentation, we consider the function

$$f(y) = \lambda|y| + \frac{\rho}{2}(v - y)^2.$$

Computing the derivative of $f(y)$ for $y \neq 0$, we have

$$f'(y) = \begin{cases} \lambda - \rho(v - y) & y > 0, \\ -\lambda - \rho(v - y) & y < 0, \end{cases}$$

Let $f'(y) = 0$. Then we have the critical number $c \neq 0$,

$$c = \begin{cases} v - \frac{\lambda}{\rho} & \text{if } v > \frac{\lambda}{\rho}, \quad (y > 0) \\ v + \frac{\lambda}{\rho} & \text{if } v < -\frac{\lambda}{\rho} \quad (y < 0). \end{cases}$$

In order to find the minimum of f , we consider the following three cases:

$$v > \frac{\lambda}{\rho}, \quad v < -\frac{\lambda}{\rho}, \quad |v| \leq \frac{\lambda}{\rho}.$$

Case 1: $v > \frac{\lambda}{\rho}$

In this case, the critical number is $c = v - \frac{\lambda}{\rho} > 0$, and

$$\begin{aligned} f(c) = f\left(v - \frac{\lambda}{\rho}\right) &= \lambda\left(v - \frac{\lambda}{\rho}\right) + \frac{\rho}{2}\left(v - \left(v - \frac{\lambda}{\rho}\right)\right)^2 \\ &= \frac{\rho}{2}\left(v^2 - \left(v - \frac{\lambda}{\rho}\right)^2\right) < \frac{\rho}{2}v^2 = f(0). \end{aligned}$$

For $y \geq 0$, since f is a quadratic polynomial in y with positive leading coefficient, we can conclude that $f(c) \leq f(y)$ for all $y \geq 0$.

For $y < 0$, $f(y)$ is monotone decreasing since

$$\begin{aligned} f'(y) &= -\lambda - \rho(v - y) = -\lambda - \rho v + \rho y \\ &< -\lambda - \lambda + \rho y = -2\lambda + \rho y < 0, \end{aligned}$$

which implies $f(y) > f(0)$ for all $y < 0$.

Therefore, f has a minimum at $c = v - \frac{\lambda}{\rho} > 0$.

Case 2: $v < -\frac{\lambda}{\rho}$

In this case, the critical number is $c = v + \frac{\lambda}{\rho} < 0$, and

$$\begin{aligned}f(c) = f\left(v + \frac{\lambda}{\rho}\right) &= -\lambda\left(v + \frac{\lambda}{\rho}\right) + \frac{\rho}{2}\left(v - \left(v + \frac{\lambda}{\rho}\right)\right)^2 \\&= \frac{\rho}{2}\left(v^2 - \left(v + \frac{\lambda}{\rho}\right)^2\right) < \frac{\rho}{2}v^2 = f(0).\end{aligned}$$

For $y \leq 0$, since f is a quadratic polynomial in y with positive leading coefficient, we can conclude that $f(c) \leq f(y)$ for all $y \leq 0$.

For $y > 0$, $f(y)$ is monotone increasing since

$$\begin{aligned}f'(y) &= \lambda - \rho(v - y) = \lambda - \rho v + \rho y \\&> \lambda + \lambda + \rho y = 2\lambda + \rho y > 0,\end{aligned}$$

which implies $f(y) > f(0)$ for all $y > 0$.

Therefore, f has a minimum at $c = v + \frac{\lambda}{\rho} > 0$.

Case 3: $|v| \leq \frac{\lambda}{\rho}$

In this case, the only critical number is $y = 0$. For $y > 0$, $f(y)$ is monotone increasing since

$$\begin{aligned} f'(y) &= \lambda - \rho(v - y) = \lambda - \rho v + \rho y \\ &\geq \lambda - \lambda + \rho y = \rho y > 0, \end{aligned}$$

which implies $f(y) > f(0)$ for all $y > 0$.

For $y < 0$, $f(y)$ is monotone decreasing since

$$\begin{aligned} f'(y) &= -\lambda - \rho(v - y) = -\lambda - \rho v + \rho y \\ &\leq -\lambda + \lambda + \rho y = \rho y < 0, \end{aligned}$$

which implies $f(y) > f(0)$ for all $y < 0$.

Therefore, f has a minimum at 0.

Solution of problem (6₂)

By the above discussions, we have

$$\arg \min_y f(y) = \begin{cases} v + \frac{\lambda}{\rho}, & \text{if } v < -\frac{\lambda}{\rho}, & \text{(case 2)} \\ 0, & \text{if } |v| \leq \frac{\lambda}{\rho}, & \text{(case 3)} \\ v - \frac{\lambda}{\rho}, & \text{if } v > \frac{\lambda}{\rho}. & \text{(case 1)} \end{cases}$$

In other words, we have

$$\arg \min_y f(y) = \mathcal{S}_{\lambda/\rho}(v) = \text{sign}(v) \max(0, |v| - \lambda/\rho).$$

Therefore,

$$\mathbf{y}^{(i+1)} = \arg \min_{\mathbf{y}} F_2(\mathbf{y}) = \mathcal{S}_{\lambda/\rho}(\mathbf{v}) = \mathcal{S}_{\lambda/\rho}(\mathbf{z}^{(i+1)} + \mathbf{u}^{(i)}).$$

where the soft-thresholding,

$$\mathcal{S}_{\lambda/\rho}(\mathbf{v}) := \text{sign}(\mathbf{v}) \odot \max(\mathbf{0}, |\mathbf{v}| - \lambda/\rho),$$

and $\text{sign}(\cdot)$, $\max(\cdot, \cdot)$, and $|\cdot|$ are all applied to the input vector $\mathbf{v}$ component-wisely, and $\odot$ is the Hadamard product.

Application to signal denoising

- First, we construct a random dictionary matrix $D \in \mathbb{R}^{512 \times 2048}$ and a random sparse vector $z \in \mathbb{R}^{2048}$ with $\|z\|_0 = 32$. We then have the true signal $x := Dz$.
- Define the noise signal $x_n := x + n$, where $n \in \mathbb{R}^{512}$ is a random white Gaussian noise with noised powers $P = 0.5, 1, 5$. We then consider $\lambda = 5, 10, 20, 30$ for the minimization problem.
- *Peak signal-to-noise ratio (PSNR)*: We define the mean squared error (MSE) and then the PSNR as follows:

$$MSE := \frac{1}{512} \sum_{i=1}^{512} (\text{true}(i) - \text{approx}(i))^2,$$

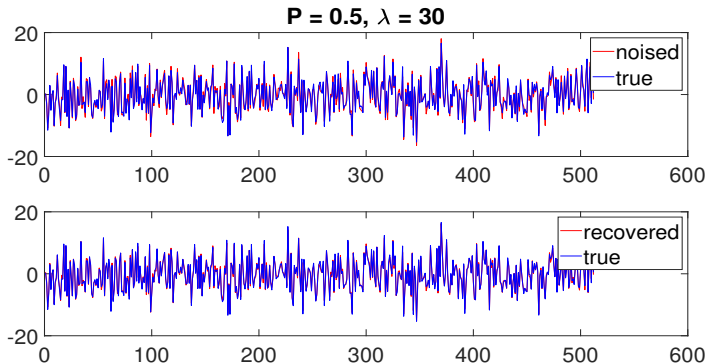
$$PSNR := 10 \times \log_{10} \left(\frac{\max^2}{MSE} \right),$$

where “max” is the maximum amplitude of the true signal.

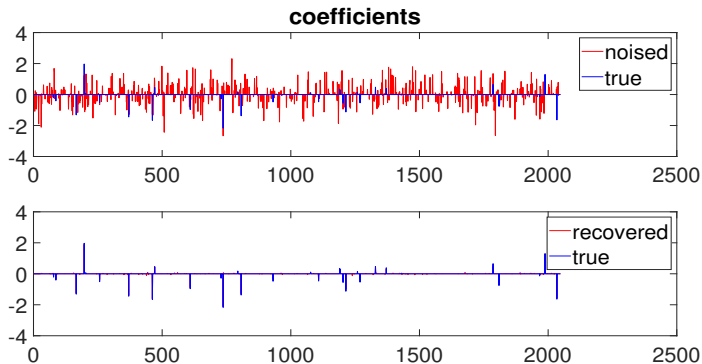
- Source of matlab code:

<http://brendt.wohlberg.net/software/SPORCO/>

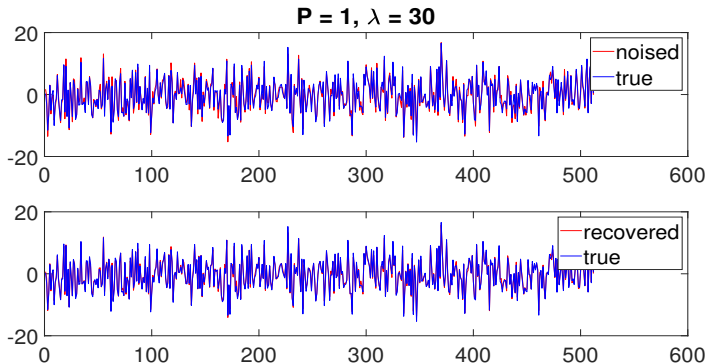
Numerical results for $P = 0.5$ and $\lambda = 30$



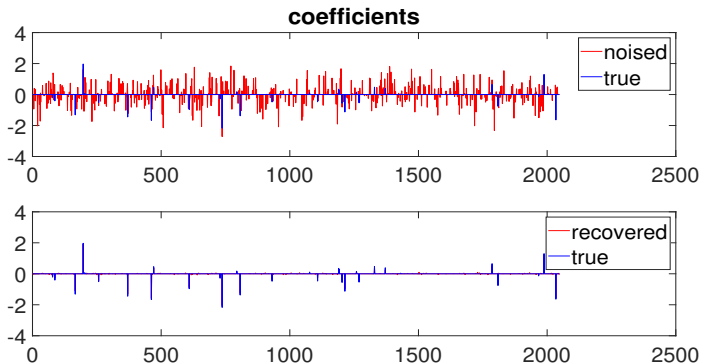
Coefficients for $P = 0.5$ and $\lambda = 30$



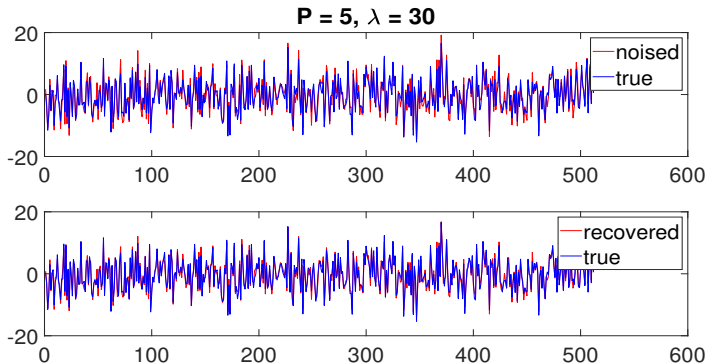
Numerical results for $P = 1$ and $\lambda = 30$



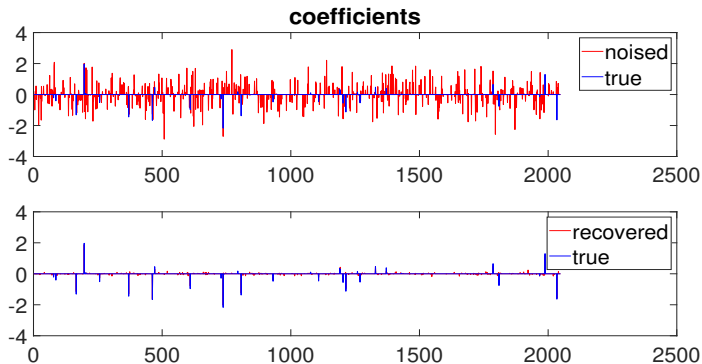
Coefficients for $P = 1$ and $\lambda = 30$



Numerical result for $P = 5$ and $\lambda = 30$



Coefficients for $P = 5$ and $\lambda = 30$



PSNR values and iteration numbers

In general, the higher the value of PSNR the better the quality of the recovered signals.

PSNR values

P	0.5	0.5	1	1	5	5
λ	noised	rcvered	noised	rcvered	noised	rcvered
5	29.51	30.36	29.71	30.41	25.57	26.11
10	29.51	31.16	29.71	31.10	25.57	26.63
20	29.51	32.55	29.71	32.23	25.57	27.62
30	29.51	33.45	29.71	32.77	25.57	28.50

Iteration numbers of ADMM

$\lambda \backslash P$	0.5	1	5
5	550	664	569
10	301	303	320
20	172	169	186
30	129	130	154

Sparse dictionary learning problem

In the SR problem, the solution of interest $\mathbf{z}^$ is the coefficient vector of a linear combination of over-complete basis elements (columns) from a given dictionary $\mathbf{D}$ under some sparsity constraint. Therefore, it is typically accompanied by a dictionary learning mechanism.*

We are going to study a more general problem. The dictionary $\mathbf{D}$ is unknown and needed to be sought together with the sparse solution.

SDL problem: *Let $\{\mathbf{x}_i\}_{i=1}^N \subset \mathbb{R}^m$ be a given dataset of signals. We seek a dictionary matrix $\mathbf{D} = [\mathbf{d}_1, \mathbf{d}_2, \dots, \mathbf{d}_n] \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$ together with the sparse coefficient vectors $\{\mathbf{z}_i\}_{i=1}^N \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ that solve the minimization problem:*

$$\begin{aligned} \min_{\mathbf{D}, \{\mathbf{z}_i\}} & \left(\frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^N \|\mathbf{x}_i - \mathbf{D}\mathbf{z}_i\|_2^2 + \lambda \sum_{i=1}^N \|\mathbf{z}_i\|_1 \right) \\ & \text{subject to } \|\mathbf{d}_k\|_2 \leq 1, \forall 1 \leq k \leq n, \end{aligned}$$

where $\lambda > 0$ is a penalty parameter.

Problem formulation in a more compact form

To simplify the formulation of the SDL problem, we define

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{X} &= [\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2, \dots, \mathbf{x}_N] \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times N}, \\ \mathbf{Z} &= [\mathbf{z}_1, \mathbf{z}_2, \dots, \mathbf{z}_N] \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times N}.\end{aligned}$$

Then the SDL problem can be posed as follows: *Given a training data matrix $\mathbf{X}$, find a dictionary matrix $\mathbf{D}$ and a coefficient matrix $\mathbf{Z}$ such that*

$$\min_{\mathbf{D}, \mathbf{Z}} \left(\frac{1}{2} \|\mathbf{X} - \mathbf{D}\mathbf{Z}\|_F^2 + \lambda \|\mathbf{Z}\|_{1,1} \right) \quad (**)$$

$$\text{subject to } \|\mathbf{d}_k\|_2 \leq 1, \forall 1 \leq k \leq n,$$

where $\|\cdot\|_F$ denotes the Frobenius norm and $\|\mathbf{Z}\|_{1,1}$ is the $L_{1,1}$ -norm which is defined as

$$\|\mathbf{Z}\|_{1,1} := \sum_{i=1}^N \|\mathbf{z}_i\|_1.$$

An iterative approach for solving the SDL problem

In the SDL problem ($\star\star$), we have two unknown matrices D and Z . We will use a simple iterative approach together with the ADMM to solve ($\star\star$), though it is more complicated.

Given an initial guess $D_{(0)}$, for $j = 0, 1, \dots$, we solve the following two sub-problems alternatingly:

$$Z_{(j)} = \arg \min_Z \left(\frac{1}{2} \|X - D_{(j)} Z\|_F^2 + \lambda \|Z\|_{1,1} \right), \quad (8)$$

$$D_{(j+1)} = \arg \min_D \left(\frac{1}{2} \|X - D Z_{(j)}\|_F^2 + \lambda \|Z_{(j)}\|_{1,1} \right) \\ \text{subject to } \|d_k\|_2 \leq 1, \forall 1 \leq k \leq n. \quad (9)$$

We iterate (8) and (9) until convergence is achieved. As we have introduced previously, problems (8) and (9) will be solved by ADMM.

ADMM for solving problem (8)

- Adding an *auxiliary variable* $\mathbf{Y}$ and a *dual variable* $\mathbf{U}$, we define

$$f(\mathbf{Z}) := \frac{1}{2} \|\mathbf{X} - \mathbf{D}_{(j)} \mathbf{Z}\|_F^2, \quad g(\mathbf{Y}) := \lambda \|\mathbf{Y}\|_{1,1}, \quad \mathbf{Z} = \mathbf{Y}.$$

- Then the ADMM for solving (8) is given by

$$\mathbf{Z}^{(i+1)} = \arg \min_{\mathbf{Z}} \left(\frac{1}{2} \|\mathbf{X} - \mathbf{D}_{(j)} \mathbf{Z}\|_F^2 + \frac{\rho}{2} \|\mathbf{Z} - \mathbf{Y}^{(i)} + \mathbf{U}^{(i)}\|_F^2 \right), \quad (8_1)$$

$$\mathbf{Y}^{(i+1)} = \arg \min_{\mathbf{Y}} \left(\lambda \|\mathbf{Y}\|_{1,1} + \frac{\rho}{2} \|\mathbf{Z}^{(i+1)} - \mathbf{Y} + \mathbf{U}^{(i)}\|_F^2 \right), \quad (8_2)$$

$$\mathbf{U}^{(i+1)} = \mathbf{U}^{(i)} + \mathbf{Z}^{(i+1)} - \mathbf{Y}^{(i+1)}. \quad (8_3).$$

- Similar to the SR problem, we will use the same methods to solve the sub-problems (8₁) and (8₂).

Solving minimization problem (8₁)

Define

$$F_1(\mathbf{Z}) := \frac{1}{2} \|\mathbf{X} - \mathbf{D}_{(j)}\mathbf{Z}\|_F^2 + \frac{\rho}{2} \|\mathbf{Z} - \mathbf{Y}^{(i)} + \mathbf{U}^{(i)}\|_F^2.$$

To solve “ $\min_{\mathbf{Z}} F_1(\mathbf{Z})$ ”, first we compute

$$\begin{aligned} \nabla F_1(\mathbf{Z}) &= -\mathbf{D}_{(j)}^\top (\mathbf{X} - \mathbf{D}_{(j)}\mathbf{Z}) + \rho \mathbf{I} (\mathbf{Z} - \mathbf{Y}^{(i)} + \mathbf{U}^{(i)}) \\ &= (\mathbf{D}_{(j)}^\top \mathbf{D}_{(j)} + \rho \mathbf{I})\mathbf{Z} - (\mathbf{D}_{(j)}^\top \mathbf{X} + \rho(\mathbf{Y}^{(i)} - \mathbf{U}^{(i)})). \end{aligned}$$

Letting $\nabla F_1(\mathbf{Z}) = 0$, we have

$$(\mathbf{D}_{(j)}^\top \mathbf{D}_{(j)} + \rho \mathbf{I})\mathbf{Z} = (\mathbf{D}_{(j)}^\top \mathbf{X} + \rho(\mathbf{Y}^{(i)} - \mathbf{U}^{(i)})).$$

Therefore, we obtain the solution

$$\mathbf{Z}^{(i+1)} = (\mathbf{D}_{(j)}^\top \mathbf{D}_{(j)} + \rho \mathbf{I})^{-1} (\mathbf{D}_{(j)}^\top \mathbf{X} + \rho(\mathbf{Y}^{(i)} - \mathbf{U}^{(i)})).$$

Solving minimization problem (8₂)

Using the component-wise soft-thresholding function, the solution of problem (8₂) has the closed form:

$$\mathbf{Y}^{(i+1)} = \mathcal{S}_{\lambda/\rho}(\mathbf{Z}^{(i+1)} + \mathbf{U}^{(i)}),$$

where

$$\mathcal{S}_{\lambda/\rho}(\mathbf{V}) = \text{sign}(\mathbf{V}) \odot \max(\mathbf{0}, |\mathbf{V}| - \lambda/\rho),$$

with $\text{sign}(\mathbf{V})$ and $|\mathbf{V}|$ are element-wisely applied to the matrix $\mathbf{V}$ and $\odot$ is the Hadamard product.

Therefore, the iterative scheme can be posed as follows:

$$\mathbf{Z}^{(i+1)} = (\mathbf{D}_{(j)}^\top \mathbf{D}_{(j)} + \rho \mathbf{I})^{-1} (\mathbf{D}_{(j)}^\top \mathbf{X} + \rho(\mathbf{Y}^{(i)} - \mathbf{U}^{(i)})), \quad (10_1)$$

$$\mathbf{Y}^{(i+1)} = \mathcal{S}_{\lambda/\rho}(\mathbf{Z}^{(i+1)} + \mathbf{U}^{(i)}), \quad (10_2)$$

$$\mathbf{U}^{(i+1)} = \mathbf{U}^{(i)} + \mathbf{Z}^{(i+1)} - \mathbf{Y}^{(i+1)}. \quad (10_3)$$

Solving minimization problem (9)

Recall that

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{D}_{(j+1)} = \arg \min_{\mathbf{D}} & \left(\frac{1}{2} \|\mathbf{X} - \mathbf{D}\mathbf{Z}_{(j)}\|_F^2 + \lambda \|\mathbf{Z}_{(j)}\|_{1,1} \right) \\ & \text{subject to } \|\mathbf{d}_k\|_2 \leq 1, \forall 1 \leq k \leq n. \end{aligned} \quad (9)$$

Since the term $\lambda \|\mathbf{Z}_{(j)}\|_{1,1}$ is a fixed number when $\mathbf{Z}_{(j)}$ is given, problem (9) can be replaced by

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{D}_{(j+1)} = \arg \min_{\mathbf{D}} & \frac{1}{2} \|\mathbf{X} - \mathbf{D}\mathbf{Z}_{(j)}\|_F^2 \\ & \text{subject to } \|\mathbf{d}_k\|_2 \leq 1, \forall 1 \leq k \leq n. \end{aligned} \quad (9')$$

Next, we introduce an *auxiliary variable* $\mathbf{G}$ and a *dual variable* $\mathbf{H}$ in ADMM for solving (9').

ADMM for solving problem (9')

Define

$$\begin{aligned}g(\mathbf{G}) &:= \{[\mathbf{d}_1, \mathbf{d}_2, \dots, \mathbf{d}_n] : \|\mathbf{d}_k\|_2 \leq 1, \forall 1 \leq k \leq n\}, \\ \mathbf{G} &:= \mathbf{D}.\end{aligned}$$

The ADMM for solving problem (9') is given by

$$\mathbf{D}^{(i+1)} = \arg \min_{\mathbf{D}} \left(\frac{1}{2} \|\mathbf{X} - \mathbf{D}\mathbf{Z}_{(j)}\|_F^2 + \frac{\rho}{2} \|\mathbf{D} - \mathbf{G}^{(i)} + \mathbf{H}^{(i)}\|_F^2 \right), \quad (9_1)$$

$$\mathbf{G}^{(i+1)} = \text{proj}_{g(\mathbf{G})} \{\mathbf{D}^{(i+1)}\}, \quad (9_2)$$

$$\mathbf{H}^{(i+1)} = \mathbf{H}^{(i)} + \mathbf{D}^{(i+1)} - \mathbf{G}^{(i+1)}. \quad (9_3)$$

For solving problem (9₁), we define

$$F_2(\mathbf{D}) := \frac{1}{2} \|\mathbf{X} - \mathbf{D}\mathbf{Z}_{(j)}\|_F^2 + \frac{\rho}{2} \|\mathbf{D} - \mathbf{G}^{(i)} + \mathbf{H}^{(i)}\|_F^2.$$

Solving minimization problem (9₁)

Computing $\nabla F_2(D)$, we have

$$\begin{aligned}\nabla F_2(D) &= (X - DZ_{(j)})(-Z_{(j)}^\top) + \rho I_m(D - G^{(i)} + H^{(i)}) \\ &= D(\rho I_n + Z_{(j)}Z_{(j)}^\top) + XZ_{(j)}^\top - \rho(G^{(i)} - H^{(i)}).\end{aligned}$$

Letting $\nabla F_2(D) = \mathbf{0}$, we have

$$D(Z_{(j)}Z_{(j)}^\top + \rho I_n) = XZ_{(j)}^\top - \rho(G^{(i)} - H^{(i)}).$$

Therefore, we obtain the solution

$$D^{(i+1)} = (XZ_{(j)}^\top - \rho(G^{(i)} - H^{(i)}))(Z_{(j)}Z_{(j)}^\top + \rho I_n)^{-1}.$$

Finally, the ADMM for problem (9') is given by

$$D^{(i+1)} = (XZ_{(j)}^\top - \rho(G^{(i)} - H^{(i)}))(Z_{(j)}Z_{(j)}^\top + \rho I_n)^{-1}, \quad (11_1)$$

$$G^{(i+1)} = \text{proj}_{g(G)}\{D^{(i+1)}\}, \quad (11_2)$$

$$H^{(i+1)} = H^{(i)} + D^{(i+1)} - G^{(i+1)}. \quad (11_3)$$

Convergence and stopping criterion

- In [Boyd *et al.* 2010], there are more details about convergence results of the ADMM.
- In the iterative scheme $(10_1), (10_2), (10_3)$, we define

$$\mathbf{R}_z = \mathbf{Y}^{(i+1)} - \mathbf{Y}^{(i)}, \quad \mathbf{S}_z = \mathbf{U}^{(i+1)} - \mathbf{U}^{(i)}.$$

If $\mathbf{R}_z$ and $\mathbf{S}_z$ less than the tolerances ε_{R_z} and ε_{S_z} , then we say that the iteration of coefficients $\mathbf{Z}^{(i+1)}$ converges.

In the iterative scheme $(11_1), (11_2), (11_3)$, we define

$$\mathbf{R}_d = \mathbf{G}^{(i+1)} - \mathbf{G}^{(i)}, \quad \mathbf{S}_d = \mathbf{H}^{(i+1)} - \mathbf{H}^{(i)}.$$

If $\mathbf{R}_d$ and $\mathbf{S}_d$ less than the tolerances ε_{R_d} and ε_{S_d} , then we say that the iteration of dictionary $\mathbf{D}^{(i+1)}$ converges.

References and source codes

ℓ^1 - ℓ^0 equivalence problem:

- [1] D. L. Donoho, For most large underdetermined systems of linear equations the minimal ℓ_1 -norm solution is also the sparsest solution, *Communications on Pure and Applied Mathematics*, 59 (2006), pp. 797-829.
- [2] Y. Sharon, J. Wright, and Y. Ma, Computation and relaxation of conditions for equivalence between ℓ^1 and ℓ^0 minimization, *UIUC Technical Report UILU-ENG-07-2008*, 2007.

ADMM:

- [1] S. Boyd, N. Parikh, E. Chu, B. Peleato, and J. Eckstein, Distributed optimization and statistical learning via the ADMM, *Foundations and Trends in Machine Learning*, 3 (2010), pp. 1-122.

Sparse dictionary learning:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sparse_dictionary_learning

Matlab codes: <http://brendt.wohlberg.net/software/SPORCO/>

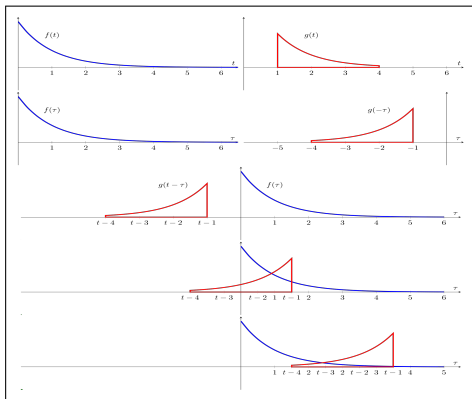
Part II

Convolutional Sparse Representation and Dictionary Learning

Convolution of two functions

Let f and g be two integrable functions with compact supports in $\mathbb{R}$. Then the convolution of f and g is defined as a function in variable t ,

$$(f * g)(t) := \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(\tau)g(t - \tau) d\tau, \quad t \in \mathbb{R}.$$



Convolution of two vectors

Definition: Let $\mathbf{u} = [u_1, \dots, u_n]^\top \in \mathbb{R}^n$ and $\mathbf{v} = [v_1, \dots, v_m]^\top \in \mathbb{R}^m$. The convolution of $\mathbf{u}$ and $\mathbf{v}$, denoted by $\mathbf{u} * \mathbf{v}$, is defined as follows:

$$\mathbf{u} * \mathbf{v} := \begin{bmatrix} u_1 v_1 \\ u_1 v_2 + u_2 v_1 \\ u_1 v_3 + u_2 v_2 + u_3 v_1 \\ \vdots \\ u_{n-2} v_m + u_{n-1} v_{m-1} + u_n v_{m-2} \\ u_{n-1} v_m + u_n v_{m-1} \\ u_n v_m \end{bmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^{m+n-1}.$$

More specifically, for $i = 1, 2, \dots, (m + n - 1)$, the i -th component of $\mathbf{u} * \mathbf{v}$ is given by

$$(\mathbf{u} * \mathbf{v})_i = \sum_{j=\max(1, i-m+1)}^{\min(i, n)} u_j v_{i-j+1}.$$

Remark: Convolutional operator $*$ is commutative, i.e., $\mathbf{u} * \mathbf{v} = \mathbf{v} * \mathbf{u}$.

Convolutional sparse representation (CSR) problem

CSR problem: Given a signal $x \in \mathbb{R}^m$ and a dictionary $D = [d_1, \dots, d_n] \in \mathbb{R}^{\ell \times n}$, we seek a sparse matrix $Z = [z_1, \dots, z_n] \in \mathbb{R}^{k \times n}$, $m = \ell + k - 1$, which solves the following minimization problem:

$$\min_Z \left(\frac{1}{2} \|x - \sum_{j=1}^n d_j * z_j\|_2^2 + \lambda \sum_{j=1}^n \|z_j\|_1 \right),$$

where $\lambda > 0$ is a penalty parameter.

Remarks:

- In SR, we use Dz to recover the signal x ,

$$x \approx Dz = d_1 z_1 + d_2 z_2 + \dots + d_n z_n = \sum_{j=1}^n d_j z_j.$$

In CSR, we use $\sum_{j=1}^n d_j * z_j$ instead,

$$x \approx d_1 * z_1 + d_2 * z_2 + \dots + d_n * z_n = \sum_{j=1}^n d_j * z_j.$$

- Convolution is a way to regulate $d_j * z_j$ such that $x \approx \sum_{j=1}^n d_j * z_j$. It is more flexible than $x \approx \sum_{j=1}^n d_j z_j$, but indeed more expensive!

Toeplitz matrix

We define an $(m + n - 1) \times m$ matrix $\mathbf{U}$ in terms of u_i , which is called a *Toeplitz matrix*, as follows:

$$\mathbf{U} := \begin{bmatrix} u_1 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & 0 \\ u_2 & u_1 & \ddots & 0 & 0 \\ \vdots & u_2 & \ddots & 0 & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & u_1 & 0 \\ u_{n-1} & \vdots & \vdots & u_2 & u_1 \\ u_n & u_{n-1} & \vdots & \vdots & u_2 \\ 0 & u_n & \ddots & \vdots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \ddots & u_{n-1} & \vdots \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & u_n & u_{n-1} \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & u_n \end{bmatrix}$$

Then one can check that $\mathbf{u} * \mathbf{v} = \mathbf{U}\mathbf{v}$, where $\mathbf{u} = [u_1, \cdots, u_n]^\top \in \mathbb{R}^n$ and $\mathbf{v} = [v_1, \cdots, v_m]^\top \in \mathbb{R}^m$.

CSR problem using Toeplitz matrices

With the help of Toeplitz matrix, we can rewrite the CSR problem as

$$\min_{\tilde{\mathbf{z}}} \left(\frac{1}{2} \|\mathbf{x} - \tilde{\mathbf{D}}\tilde{\mathbf{z}}\|_2^2 + \lambda \|\tilde{\mathbf{z}}\|_1 \right), \quad (12)$$

with

$$\tilde{\mathbf{z}} = [\mathbf{z}_1^\top, \mathbf{z}_2^\top, \dots, \mathbf{z}_n^\top]^\top_{nk \times 1} \quad \text{and} \quad \tilde{\mathbf{D}} = [\mathbf{D}_1, \mathbf{D}_2, \dots, \mathbf{D}_n]_{(\ell+k-1) \times nk},$$

where $\mathbf{D}_j$ is a Toeplitz $(\ell + k - 1) \times k$ matrix associated with the column vector $\mathbf{d}_j \in \mathbb{R}^\ell$, and $\ell + k - 1 = m$.

Remarks:

- We can use the same way for SR problem to solve the CSR problem (12). We can employ the ADMM, but it is too expensive since the matrix size of $\tilde{\mathbf{D}}$ is too large.
- *The discrete Fourier transform $\mathcal{F} : \mathbb{C}^N \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^N$ can help us to address this computational issue.*

Discrete Fourier transform (DFT) and its inverse (IDFT)

- $\hat{\mathbf{x}} = \mathcal{F}(\mathbf{x})$: The DFT $\mathcal{F} : \mathbb{C}^N \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^N$ transforms a finite vector $\mathbf{x} = [x_1, x_2, \dots, x_N]^\top$ into another vector $\hat{\mathbf{x}} = [\hat{x}_1, \hat{x}_2, \dots, \hat{x}_N]^\top$, which is defined by

$$\hat{x}_k = \sum_{n=1}^N x_n e^{-\frac{i2\pi}{N}(k-1)(n-1)}.$$

Then DFT is an invertible linear transformation.

- $\mathbf{x} = \mathcal{F}^{-1}(\hat{\mathbf{x}})$: The inverse discrete Fourier transform (IDFT) $\mathcal{F}^{-1} : \mathbb{C}^N \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^N, \hat{\mathbf{x}} \mapsto \mathbf{x}$, is given by

$$x_n = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{k=1}^N \hat{x}_k e^{\frac{i2\pi}{N}(k-1)(n-1)}.$$

- Euler's formula: $e^{i\theta} = \cos \theta + i \sin \theta, \forall \theta \in \mathbb{R}$.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Discrete_Fourier_transform

Hadamard product

- Let $\mathbf{u} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ and $\mathbf{v} \in \mathbb{R}^m$. Then $\mathbf{u} * \mathbf{v} \in \mathbb{R}^{m+n-1}$ and

$$\mathcal{F}(\mathbf{u} * \mathbf{v}) = \mathcal{F}(\mathbf{u}') \odot \mathcal{F}(\mathbf{v}'),$$

where $\mathcal{F}$ denotes the DFT, $\mathbf{u}'$ and $\mathbf{v}'$ are respectively *the zero padding of $\mathbf{u}$ and $\mathbf{v}$ with the same size of $\mathbf{u} * \mathbf{v}$* , i.e.,

$$\mathbf{u}' = [\mathbf{u}^\top, 0, \dots, 0]^\top, \quad \mathbf{v}' = [\mathbf{v}^\top, 0, \dots, 0]^\top \in \mathbb{R}^{m+n-1},$$

and $\odot$ is the Hadamard product.

- The Hadamard product $\odot$ of two vectors is a component-wise product. Let $\mathbf{u} = [u_1, u_2, \dots, u_n]^\top$, $\mathbf{v} = [v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n]^\top \in \mathbb{R}^n$,

$$\mathbf{u} \odot \mathbf{v} := [u_1 v_1, u_2 v_2, \dots, u_n v_n]^\top.$$

We can define a diagonal matrix $\mathbf{U}$ such that $\mathbf{u} \odot \mathbf{v} = \mathbf{U}\mathbf{v}$, where

$$\mathbf{U} := \begin{bmatrix} u_1 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & u_2 & \cdots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & u_n \end{bmatrix}.$$

Recalling the CSR problem

CSR problem: Given $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^m$ and $\mathbf{D} = [\mathbf{d}_1, \dots, \mathbf{d}_n] \in \mathbb{R}^{\ell \times n}$, we seek $\mathbf{Z} = [\mathbf{z}_1, \dots, \mathbf{z}_n] \in \mathbb{R}^{k \times n}$ with $m = \ell + k - 1$ solving

$$\min_{\mathbf{Z}} \left(\frac{1}{2} \|\mathbf{x} - \sum_{j=1}^n \mathbf{d}_j * \mathbf{z}_j\|_2^2 + \lambda \sum_{j=1}^n \|\mathbf{z}_j\|_1 \right).$$

To solve the above minimization problem, we first use the ADMM algorithm to split it into three subproblems:

$$\mathbf{Z}^{(i+1)} = \arg \min_{\mathbf{Z}} \left(\frac{1}{2} \|\mathbf{x} - \sum_{j=1}^n \mathbf{d}_j * \mathbf{z}_j\|_2^2 + \frac{\rho}{2} \sum_{j=1}^n \|\mathbf{z}_j - \mathbf{y}_j^{(i)} + \mathbf{u}_j^{(i)}\|_2^2 \right),$$

$$\mathbf{Y}^{(i+1)} = \arg \min_{\mathbf{Y}} \left(\lambda \sum_{j=1}^n \|\mathbf{y}_j\|_1 + \frac{\rho}{2} \sum_{j=1}^n \|\mathbf{z}_j^{(i+1)} - \mathbf{y}_j + \mathbf{u}_j^{(i)}\|_2^2 \right)$$

$$\mathbf{U}^{(i+1)} = \mathbf{U}^{(i)} + \mathbf{Z}^{(i+1)} - \mathbf{Y}^{(i+1)}.$$

Using discrete Fourier transform for $\mathbf{Z}$

We will use the discrete Fourier transform and Hadamard product to solve the subproblem of $\mathbf{Z}$. We can rewrite these subproblems as

$$\hat{\mathbf{Z}}^{(i+1)} = \arg \min_{\hat{\mathbf{Z}}} \left(\frac{1}{2} \|\hat{\mathbf{x}} - \sum_{j=1}^n \hat{\mathbf{d}}'_j \odot \hat{\mathbf{z}}'_j\|_2^2 + \frac{\rho}{2} \sum_{j=1}^n \|\hat{\mathbf{z}}'_j - \hat{\mathbf{y}}_j^{(i)} + \hat{\mathbf{u}}_j^{(i)}\|_2^2 \right),$$

$$\mathbf{Y}^{(i+1)} = \arg \min_{\mathbf{Y}} \left(\lambda \sum_{j=1}^n \|\mathbf{y}_j\|_1 + \frac{\rho}{2} \sum_{j=1}^n \|\mathcal{F}^{-1}(\hat{\mathbf{z}}_j'^{(i+1)}) - \mathbf{y}_j + \mathbf{u}_j^{(i)}\|_2^2 \right),$$

$$\mathbf{U}^{(i+1)} = \mathbf{U}^{(i)} + \mathcal{F}^{-1}(\hat{\mathbf{Z}}^{(i+1)}) - \mathbf{Y}^{(i+1)},$$

where

$$\mathcal{F}^{-1}(\hat{\mathbf{Z}}) = [\mathcal{F}^{-1}(\hat{\mathbf{z}}'_1), \mathcal{F}^{-1}(\hat{\mathbf{z}}'_2), \dots, \mathcal{F}^{-1}(\hat{\mathbf{z}}'_n)].$$

Why can we use the discrete Fourier transform?

Note that the discrete Fourier transform $\mathcal{F}$ is linear. Thus, we have

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{1}{2} \|\mathbf{x} - \sum_{j=1}^n \mathbf{d}_j * \mathbf{z}_j\|_2^2 &= \frac{1}{2m} \|\mathcal{F}(\mathbf{x} - \sum_{j=1}^n \mathbf{d}_j * \mathbf{z}_j)\|_2^2 \quad (\text{Plancherel theorem}) \\ &= \frac{1}{2m} \|\mathcal{F}(\mathbf{x}) - \mathcal{F}(\sum_{j=1}^n \mathbf{d}_j * \mathbf{z}_j)\|_2^2 \\ &= \frac{1}{2m} \|\widehat{\mathbf{x}} - \sum_{j=1}^n \mathcal{F}(\mathbf{d}_j * \mathbf{z}_j)\|_2^2 = \frac{1}{2m} \|\widehat{\mathbf{x}} - \sum_{j=1}^n \widehat{\mathbf{d}}'_j \odot \widehat{\mathbf{z}}'_j\|_2^2.\end{aligned}$$

Similarly, the second term of subproblem $\mathbf{Z}$ can be rewritten as

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{\rho}{2} \sum_{j=1}^n \|\mathbf{z}_j - \mathbf{y}_j^{(i)} + \mathbf{u}_j^{(i)}\|_2^2 &= \frac{\rho}{2} \sum_{j=1}^n \|\mathbf{z}'_j - \mathbf{y}'_j{}^{(i)} + \mathbf{u}'_j{}^{(i)}\|_2^2 \\ &= \frac{\rho}{2m} \sum_{j=1}^n \|\widehat{\mathbf{z}}'_j - \widehat{\mathbf{y}}'_j{}^{(i)} + \widehat{\mathbf{u}}'_j{}^{(i)}\|_2^2.\end{aligned}$$

Note: $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^m$, $\mathbf{d}_j \in \mathbb{R}^\ell$, $\mathbf{z}_j \in \mathbb{R}^k$, $\mathbf{d}_j * \mathbf{z}_j \in \mathbb{R}^{\ell+k-1} = \mathbb{R}^m$, $\mathbf{d}'_j, \mathbf{z}'_j \in \mathbb{R}^m$.

The subproblem of $\hat{\mathbf{Z}}$

We first define

$$\hat{\mathbf{D}}_j = \text{diag}(\hat{\mathbf{d}}'_j). \quad (m \times m \text{ diagonal matrix})$$

Then the subproblem in the Fourier domain can be posed as:

$$\hat{\mathbf{z}}^{(i+1)} = \arg \min_{\hat{\mathbf{z}}} \left(\frac{1}{2} \|\hat{\mathbf{x}} - \hat{\mathbf{D}}\hat{\mathbf{z}}\|_2^2 + \frac{\rho}{2} \|\hat{\mathbf{z}} - \hat{\mathbf{y}}^{(i)} + \hat{\mathbf{u}}^{(i)}\|_2^2 \right),$$

where

$$\hat{\mathbf{D}} = [\hat{\mathbf{D}}_1, \hat{\mathbf{D}}_2, \dots, \hat{\mathbf{D}}_n]_{m \times mn}, \quad \hat{\mathbf{z}} = [\hat{\mathbf{z}}'_1{}^\top, \hat{\mathbf{z}}'_2{}^\top, \dots, \hat{\mathbf{z}}'_n{}^\top]_{mn \times 1}^\top,$$

and

$$\hat{\mathbf{y}} = [\hat{\mathbf{y}}'_1{}^\top, \hat{\mathbf{y}}'_2{}^\top, \dots, \hat{\mathbf{y}}'_n{}^\top]_{mn \times 1}^\top, \quad \hat{\mathbf{u}} = [\hat{\mathbf{u}}'_1{}^\top, \hat{\mathbf{u}}'_2{}^\top, \dots, \hat{\mathbf{u}}'_n{}^\top]_{mn \times 1}^\top.$$

Note that we drop the scalar factor $1/m$ in the subproblem.

Rewriting the subproblems of ADMM

Using the above definitions, we can rewrite the subproblems of ADMM as:

$$\hat{\mathbf{z}}^{(i+1)} = \min_{\hat{\mathbf{z}}} \left(\frac{1}{2} \|\hat{\mathbf{x}} - \hat{\mathbf{D}}\hat{\mathbf{z}}\|_2^2 + \frac{\rho}{2} \|\hat{\mathbf{z}} - \hat{\mathbf{y}}^{(i)} + \hat{\mathbf{u}}^{(i)}\|_2^2 \right), \quad (13_1)$$

$$\mathbf{y}^{(i+1)} = \min_{\mathbf{y}} \left(\lambda \|\mathbf{y}\|_1 + \frac{\rho}{2} \sum_{j=1}^n \|\mathcal{F}^{-1}(\hat{\mathbf{z}}^{(i+1)}) - \mathbf{y} + \mathbf{u}^{(i)}\|_2^2 \right), \quad (13_2)$$

$$\mathbf{u}^{(i+1)} = \mathbf{u}^{(i)} + \mathcal{F}^{-1}(\hat{\mathbf{z}}^{(i+1)}) - \mathbf{y}^{(i+1)}, \quad (13_3)$$

where

$$\mathbf{y} = [\mathbf{y}'_1{}^\top, \mathbf{y}'_2{}^\top, \dots, \mathbf{y}'_n{}^\top]^\top_{mn \times 1}, \quad \mathbf{u} = [\mathbf{u}'_1{}^\top, \mathbf{u}'_2{}^\top, \dots, \mathbf{u}'_n{}^\top]^\top_{mn \times 1}.$$

Solving minimization problem (13₁)

First we define

$$F(\hat{\mathbf{z}}) = \frac{1}{2} \|\hat{\mathbf{x}} - \hat{\mathbf{D}}\hat{\mathbf{z}}\|_2^2 + \frac{\rho}{2} \|\hat{\mathbf{z}} - \hat{\mathbf{y}}^{(i)} + \hat{\mathbf{u}}^{(i)}\|_2^2.$$

To solve $\min_{\hat{\mathbf{z}}} F(\hat{\mathbf{z}})$, we compute

$$\begin{aligned} \nabla F(\hat{\mathbf{z}}) &= -\hat{\mathbf{D}}^\top (\hat{\mathbf{x}} - \hat{\mathbf{D}}\hat{\mathbf{z}}) + \rho \mathbf{I} (\hat{\mathbf{z}} - \hat{\mathbf{y}}^{(i)} + \hat{\mathbf{u}}^{(i)}) \\ &= (\hat{\mathbf{D}}^\top \hat{\mathbf{D}} + \rho \mathbf{I}) \hat{\mathbf{z}} - (\hat{\mathbf{D}}^\top \hat{\mathbf{x}} + \rho (\hat{\mathbf{y}}^{(i)} - \hat{\mathbf{u}}^{(i)})). \end{aligned}$$

Letting $\nabla F(\hat{\mathbf{z}}) = \mathbf{0}$, we have

$$(\hat{\mathbf{D}}^\top \hat{\mathbf{D}} + \rho \mathbf{I})_{mn \times mn} \hat{\mathbf{z}} = \hat{\mathbf{D}}^\top \hat{\mathbf{x}} + \rho (\hat{\mathbf{y}}^{(i)} - \hat{\mathbf{u}}^{(i)}).$$

Therefore, we obtain the solution

$$\hat{\mathbf{z}}^{(i+1)} = (\hat{\mathbf{D}}^\top \hat{\mathbf{D}} + \rho \mathbf{I})^{-1} (\hat{\mathbf{D}}^\top \hat{\mathbf{x}} + \rho (\hat{\mathbf{y}}^{(i)} - \hat{\mathbf{u}}^{(i)})).$$

Solving minimization problem (13₂)

The way to solve minimization problem (13₂) is similar to that for solving problem (6₂).

Finally, we obtain the ADMM iterative scheme as follows:

$$\hat{\mathbf{z}}^{(i+1)} = (\hat{\mathbf{D}}^\top \hat{\mathbf{D}} + \rho \mathbf{I})^{-1} (\hat{\mathbf{D}}^\top \hat{\mathbf{x}} + \rho(\hat{\mathbf{y}}^{(i)} - \hat{\mathbf{u}}^{(i)})), \quad (14_1)$$

$$\mathbf{y}^{(i+1)} = \mathcal{S}_{\lambda/\rho}(\mathcal{F}^{-1}(\hat{\mathbf{z}}^{(i+1)}) + \mathbf{u}^{(i)}), \quad (14_2)$$

$$\mathbf{u}^{(i+1)} = \mathbf{u}^{(i)} + \mathcal{F}^{-1}(\hat{\mathbf{z}}^{(i+1)}) - \mathbf{y}^{(i+1)}. \quad (14_3)$$

Next, we will introduce the *Sherman-Morrison formula* which can be applied to solve $\hat{\mathbf{z}}^{(i+1)}$ in a more efficient way.

The Sherman-Morrison formula: a special case

Let A and B be two $n \times n$ matrices. In general, $(A + B)$ is not invertible, even though A is invertible. However, if A is invertible and B has some certain structure, then $(A + B)^{-1}$ exists.

A special case of the Sherman-Morrison formula: *Let I be the $n \times n$ identity matrix and u, v be two given vectors in $\mathbb{C}^n$. If $1 + v^\top u \neq 0$, then $I + uv^\top$ is invertible and*

$$(I + uv^\top)^{-1} = I - \frac{uv^\top}{1 + v^\top u}.$$

Proof: We check that

$$\begin{aligned} (I + uv^\top) \left(I - \frac{uv^\top}{1 + v^\top u} \right) &= I - \frac{uv^\top}{1 + v^\top u} + uv^\top - \frac{uv^\top uv^\top}{1 + v^\top u} \\ &= I + \frac{-uv^\top + uv^\top + v^\top u uv^\top}{1 + v^\top u} - \frac{uv^\top uv^\top}{1 + v^\top u} \\ &= I + \frac{v^\top u uv^\top}{1 + v^\top u} - \frac{uv^\top uv^\top}{1 + v^\top u} = I. \quad (v^\top u : \text{scalar}) \quad \square \end{aligned}$$

How to derive the inverse?

Given $\mathbf{b} \in \mathbb{C}^n$, we consider the linear system $(\mathbf{I} + \mathbf{u}\mathbf{v}^\top)\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$. Assume that $\mathbf{I} + \mathbf{u}\mathbf{v}^\top$ is invertible. Then the unique solution $\mathbf{x}$ exists.

Let $k = \mathbf{v}^\top \mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{C}$. Then $\mathbf{x} + k\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{b} \Rightarrow \mathbf{v}^\top \mathbf{x} + k\mathbf{v}^\top \mathbf{u} = \mathbf{v}^\top \mathbf{b} \Rightarrow k + k(\mathbf{v}^\top \mathbf{u}) = \mathbf{v}^\top \mathbf{b}$, which implies

$$k = \frac{\mathbf{v}^\top \mathbf{b}}{1 + \mathbf{v}^\top \mathbf{u}}, \quad \text{if } 1 + \mathbf{v}^\top \mathbf{u} \neq 0.$$

Therefore, we know that

$$\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b} - k\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{b} - \frac{\mathbf{v}^\top \mathbf{b}}{1 + \mathbf{v}^\top \mathbf{u}} \mathbf{u} = \mathbf{b} - \frac{\mathbf{u}\mathbf{v}^\top}{1 + \mathbf{v}^\top \mathbf{u}} \mathbf{b} = \underbrace{\left(\mathbf{I} - \frac{\mathbf{u}\mathbf{v}^\top}{1 + \mathbf{v}^\top \mathbf{u}} \right)}_{\text{inverse of } \mathbf{I} + \mathbf{u}\mathbf{v}^\top} \mathbf{b}.$$

The Sherman-Morrison formula: Suppose that $\mathbf{A} \in \mathbb{C}^{n \times n}$ is an invertible matrix and $\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v} \in \mathbb{C}^n$. Then $\mathbf{A} + \mathbf{u}\mathbf{v}^\top$ is invertible if and only if $1 + \mathbf{v}^\top \mathbf{A}^{-1} \mathbf{u} \neq 0$. In this case, we have

$$(\mathbf{A} + \mathbf{u}\mathbf{v}^\top)^{-1} = \mathbf{A}^{-1} - \frac{\mathbf{A}^{-1} \mathbf{u} \mathbf{v}^\top \mathbf{A}^{-1}}{1 + \mathbf{v}^\top \mathbf{A}^{-1} \mathbf{u}}.$$

How to compute (14₁)?

Recall that

$$(\widehat{\mathbf{D}}^\top \widehat{\mathbf{D}} + \rho \mathbf{I}) \widehat{\mathbf{z}}^{(i+1)} = (\widehat{\mathbf{D}}^\top \widehat{\mathbf{x}} + \rho(\widehat{\mathbf{y}}^{(i)} - \widehat{\mathbf{u}}^{(i)})), \quad (14_1)$$

where matrix $\widehat{\mathbf{D}}$ has the following structure:

$$\begin{aligned} \widehat{\mathbf{D}} &= [\widehat{\mathbf{D}}_1, \widehat{\mathbf{D}}_2, \dots, \widehat{\mathbf{D}}_n]_{m \times mn} \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} \widehat{d'_{1,1}} & 0 & \cdots & 0 & \widehat{d'_{2,1}} & 0 & \cdots & 0 & \cdots \\ 0 & \widehat{d'_{1,2}} & \ddots & \vdots & 0 & \widehat{d'_{2,2}} & \ddots & \vdots & \cdots \\ \vdots & \ddots & \ddots & 0 & \vdots & \ddots & \ddots & 0 & \cdots \\ 0 & \cdots & 0 & \widehat{d'_{1,m}} & 0 & \cdots & 0 & \widehat{d'_{2,m}} & \cdots \end{bmatrix}, \end{aligned}$$

where

$$\widehat{\mathbf{D}}_j = \text{diag}(\widehat{\mathbf{d}}'_j) \quad (m \times m \text{ diagonal matrix}).$$

The structure of matrix $\hat{\mathbf{D}}^\top \hat{\mathbf{D}} + \rho \mathbf{I}$

Note that

$$\begin{aligned}\hat{\mathbf{D}}^\top \hat{\mathbf{D}} + \rho \mathbf{I} &= \begin{bmatrix} \hat{\mathbf{D}}_1^\top \\ \hat{\mathbf{D}}_2^\top \\ \vdots \\ \hat{\mathbf{D}}_n^\top \end{bmatrix} [\hat{\mathbf{D}}_1, \hat{\mathbf{D}}_2, \dots, \hat{\mathbf{D}}_n] + \rho \mathbf{I} \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} \hat{\mathbf{D}}_1^\top \hat{\mathbf{D}}_1 + \rho \mathbf{I}_m & \hat{\mathbf{D}}_1^\top \hat{\mathbf{D}}_2 & \cdots & \hat{\mathbf{D}}_1^\top \hat{\mathbf{D}}_n \\ \hat{\mathbf{D}}_2^\top \hat{\mathbf{D}}_1 & \hat{\mathbf{D}}_2^\top \hat{\mathbf{D}}_2 + \rho \mathbf{I}_m & \cdots & \hat{\mathbf{D}}_2^\top \hat{\mathbf{D}}_n \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \hat{\mathbf{D}}_n^\top \hat{\mathbf{D}}_1 & \hat{\mathbf{D}}_n^\top \hat{\mathbf{D}}_2 & \cdots & \hat{\mathbf{D}}_n^\top \hat{\mathbf{D}}_n + \rho \mathbf{I}_m \end{bmatrix}_{mn \times mn}.\end{aligned}$$

By re-ordering the equations, the $mn \times mn$ system $(\hat{\mathbf{D}}^\top \hat{\mathbf{D}} + \rho \mathbf{I}) \hat{\mathbf{z}}^{(i+1)} = \mathbf{R}$ can be replaced by m independent linear systems of size $n \times n$, each of which consists of a rank one component plus a diagonal component, then solved by the Sherman-Morrison formula, see [Wohlberg 2016, Appendix A].

Convolutional sparse dictionary learning problem

We now consider the convolutional sparse dictionary learning problem, where the dictionary $\mathbf{D}$ is unknown and needed to be sought together with the convolutional sparse solution.

Convolutional SDL problem: *Let $\{\mathbf{x}_i\}_{i=1}^N \subset \mathbb{R}^m$ be a given dataset of signals. We seek a dictionary matrix $\mathbf{D} = [\mathbf{d}_1, \mathbf{d}_2, \dots, \mathbf{d}_M] \in \mathbb{R}^{\ell \times M}$ and the coefficient matrices $\{\mathbf{Z}_i\}_{i=1}^N \subset \mathbb{R}^{k \times M}$ with $\mathbf{Z}_i = [\mathbf{z}_{1,i}, \mathbf{z}_{2,i}, \dots, \mathbf{z}_{M,i}]$ and $m = \ell + k - 1$ such that $\mathbf{D}$ and $\{\mathbf{Z}_i\}_{i=1}^N$ solve the following minimization problem:*

$$\begin{aligned} \min_{\{\mathbf{d}_j\}_{j=1}^M, \{\mathbf{z}_{j,i}\}_{j=1, i=1}^{M,N}} & \left(\frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^N \left\| \mathbf{x}_i - \sum_{j=1}^M \mathbf{d}_j * \mathbf{z}_{j,i} \right\|_2^2 + \lambda \sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{j=1}^M \left\| \mathbf{z}_{j,i} \right\|_1 \right) \\ & \text{subject to } \left\| \mathbf{d}_j \right\|_2 \leq 1 \quad \forall j = 1, 2, \dots, M, \end{aligned}$$

where $\lambda > 0$ is a given penalty parameter.

Toeplitz matrix

- Define $\tilde{D} = [D_1 \ D_2 \ \cdots \ D_M]$ with each D_j is the *Toeplitz matrix* defined with respect to d_j as before.

Define $z_i = [z_{1,i}^\top \ z_{2,i}^\top \ \cdots \ z_{M,i}^\top]^\top$ for $i = 1, 2, \dots, N$, where each z_i is the coefficient vector with respect to the data x_i .

Define $Z = [z_1 \ z_2 \ \cdots \ z_N]$ and $X = [x_1 \ x_2 \ \cdots \ x_N]$.

- The convolutional SDL problem can be simplified as

$$\begin{aligned} \min_{\tilde{D}, Z} & \left(\frac{1}{2} \|X - \tilde{D}Z\|_F^2 + \lambda \|Z\|_{1,1} \right) \\ & \text{subject to } \|d_j\|_2 \leq 1 \quad \forall j = 1, 2, \dots, M, \end{aligned}$$

where $\|Z\|_{1,1}$ is defined as before.

How to solve the convolutional SDL problem?

Though we can still use the ADMM iterative scheme to solve

$$\begin{aligned} \min_{\tilde{D}, Z} & \left(\frac{1}{2} \|X - \tilde{D}Z\|_F^2 + \lambda \|Z\|_{1,1} \right) \\ \text{subject to } & \|d_j\|_2 \leq 1 \quad \forall j = 1, 2, \dots, M, \end{aligned}$$

the sizes of the involved matrices are too large. Thus, we will use the DFT and the Sherman-Morrison formula to deal with this problem. The steps are similar to the CSR problem, but more complicated.

Recall the convolutional SDL problem:

$$\begin{aligned} \min_{\{d_j\}_{j=1}^M, \{z_{j,i}\}_{j=1,i=1}^{M,N}} & \left(\frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^N \|x_i - \sum_{j=1}^M d_j * z_{j,i}\|_2^2 + \lambda \sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{j=1}^M \|z_{j,i}\|_1 \right) \\ \text{subject to } & \|d_j\|_2 \leq 1 \quad \forall j = 1, 2, \dots, M. \end{aligned}$$

For solving this problem, we split it into two parts.

Step 1: Solving the coefficient $\mathbf{Z}$

For solving the convolutional SDL problem, we first give an initial dictionary $\mathbf{D} = [\mathbf{d}_1, \mathbf{d}_2, \dots, \mathbf{d}_M]$ to solve coefficient $\mathbf{Z}$ and then further use ADMM algorithm to split this problem into three subproblems:

$$\widehat{\mathbf{Z}}^{(i+1)} = \arg \min_{\widehat{\mathbf{Z}}} \left(\frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^N \|\widehat{\mathbf{x}}_i - \sum_{j=1}^M \widehat{\mathbf{d}}'_j \odot \widehat{\mathbf{z}}'_{j,i}\|_2^2 + \frac{\rho}{2} \sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{j=1}^M \|\widehat{\mathbf{z}}'_{j,i} - \widehat{\mathbf{y}}'_{j,i}^{(i)} + \widehat{\mathbf{u}}'_{j,i}^{(i)}\|_2^2 \right)$$

$$\mathbf{Y}^{(i+1)} = \arg \min_{\mathbf{Y}} \left(\lambda \sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{j=1}^M \|\mathbf{y}_{j,i}\|_1 + \frac{\rho}{2} \sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{j=1}^M \|\mathcal{F}^{-1}(\widehat{\mathbf{z}}'_{j,i}) - \mathbf{y}_{j,i} + \mathbf{u}'_{j,i}\|_2^2 \right),$$

$$\mathbf{U}^{(i+1)} = \mathbf{U}^{(i)} + \mathcal{F}^{-1}(\widehat{\mathbf{Z}}^{(i+1)}) - \mathbf{Y}^{(i+1)},$$

with

$$\mathcal{F}^{-1}(\widehat{\mathbf{Z}}) = \begin{bmatrix} \mathcal{F}^{-1}(\widehat{\mathbf{z}}'_{1,1}) & \cdots & \mathcal{F}^{-1}(\widehat{\mathbf{z}}'_{1,M}) \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \mathcal{F}^{-1}(\widehat{\mathbf{z}}'_{N,1}) & \cdots & \mathcal{F}^{-1}(\widehat{\mathbf{z}}'_{N,M}) \end{bmatrix}.$$

Rewritten in a compact form

For convenience, we can rewrite these subproblems as follows:

$$\begin{aligned}\widehat{\mathbf{Z}}^{(i+1)} &= \arg \min_{\widehat{\mathbf{Z}}} \left(\frac{1}{2} \|\widehat{\mathbf{X}} - \widehat{\mathbf{D}}\widehat{\mathbf{Z}}\|_F^2 + \frac{\rho}{2} \|\widehat{\mathbf{Z}} - \widehat{\mathbf{Y}}^{(i)} + \widehat{\mathbf{U}}^{(i)}\|_F^2 \right), \\ \mathbf{Y}^{(i+1)} &= \arg \min_{\mathbf{Y}} \left(\lambda \|\mathbf{Y}\|_{1,1} + \frac{\rho}{2} \|\mathcal{F}^{-1}(\widehat{\mathbf{Z}}^{(i+1)}) - \widehat{\mathbf{Y}} + \widehat{\mathbf{U}}^{(i)}\|_F^2 \right), \\ \mathbf{U}^{(i+1)} &= \mathbf{U}^{(i)} + \mathcal{F}^{-1}(\widehat{\mathbf{Z}}^{(i+1)}) - \mathbf{Y}^{(i+1)},\end{aligned}$$

with

$$\widehat{\mathbf{X}} = [\widehat{\mathbf{x}}_1, \widehat{\mathbf{x}}_2, \dots, \widehat{\mathbf{x}}_N], \quad \widehat{\mathbf{D}} = [\widehat{\mathbf{D}}_1, \widehat{\mathbf{D}}_2, \dots, \widehat{\mathbf{D}}_M],$$

and

$$\mathbf{Y} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{y}'_{1,1} & \cdots & \mathbf{y}'_{1,M} \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \mathbf{y}'_{N,1} & \cdots & \mathbf{y}'_{N,M} \end{bmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{U} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{u}'_{1,1} & \cdots & \mathbf{u}'_{1,M} \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \mathbf{u}'_{N,1} & \cdots & \mathbf{u}'_{N,M} \end{bmatrix}.$$

Using the similar ways as that for solving CSR problem, we can solve the above subproblems.

Step 2: Solving the dictionary D

Recall the convolutional SDL problem:

$$\min_{\{\mathbf{d}_j\}_{j=1}^M, \{\mathbf{z}_{j,i}\}_{j=1,i=1}^{M,N}} \left(\frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^N \|\mathbf{x}_i - \sum_{j=1}^M \mathbf{d}_j * \mathbf{z}_{j,i}\|_2^2 + \lambda \sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{j=1}^M \|\mathbf{z}_{j,i}\|_1 \right)$$

subject to $\|\mathbf{d}_j\|_2 \leq 1 \quad \forall j = 1, 2, \dots, M.$

When the coefficient $\mathbf{Z}$ is obtained, the blue term is a given number.
Solving the dictionary D is equivalent to solve

$$\min_{\{\mathbf{d}_j\}_{j=1}^M} \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^N \|\mathbf{x}_i - \sum_{j=1}^M \mathbf{d}_j * \mathbf{z}_{j,i}\|_2^2 \quad \text{subject to } \|\mathbf{d}_j\|_2 \leq 1, \quad \forall j = 1, 2, \dots, M.$$

Using ADMM algorithm to solve Step 2

We use the ADMM algorithm to solve the above problem:

$$\mathbf{D}^{(i+1)} = \arg \min_{\mathbf{D}} \left(\frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^N \|\mathbf{x}_i - \sum_{j=1}^M \mathbf{d}_j * \mathbf{z}_j\|_2^2 + \frac{\rho}{2} \sum_{j=1}^M \|\mathbf{d}_j - \mathbf{g}_j^{(i)} + \mathbf{h}_j^{(i)}\|_2^2 \right),$$

$$\mathbf{G}^{(i+1)} = \text{proj}_{\mathbf{g}_{(G)}} \{\mathbf{D}^{(i+1)}\},$$

$$\mathbf{H}^{(i+1)} = \mathbf{H}^{(i)} + \mathbf{D}^{(i+1)} - \mathbf{G}^{(i+1)},$$

and then use the Fourier transform and similar ways as before,

$$\hat{\mathbf{D}}^{(i+1)} = \arg \min_{\hat{\mathbf{D}}} \left(\frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^N \|\hat{\mathbf{x}}_i - \sum_{j=1}^M \hat{\mathbf{d}}'_j \odot \hat{\mathbf{z}}'_j\|_2^2 + \frac{\rho}{2} \sum_{j=1}^M \|\hat{\mathbf{d}}'_j - \hat{\mathbf{g}}'_j^{(i)} + \hat{\mathbf{h}}'_j^{(i)}\|_2^2 \right),$$

$$\mathbf{G}^{(i+1)} = \text{proj}_{\mathbf{g}_{(G)}} \{\mathcal{F}^{-1}(\hat{\mathbf{D}}^{(i+1)})\},$$

$$\mathbf{H}^{(i+1)} = \mathbf{H}^{(i)} + \mathcal{F}^{-1}(\hat{\mathbf{D}}^{(i+1)}) - \mathbf{G}^{(i+1)},$$

where

$$\mathcal{F}^{-1}(\hat{\mathbf{D}}) = [\mathcal{F}^{-1}(\hat{\mathbf{d}}'_1), \mathcal{F}^{-1}(\hat{\mathbf{d}}'_2), \dots, \mathcal{F}^{-1}(\hat{\mathbf{d}}'_M)].$$

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