

# Low-rank and sparse methods for high-dimensional approximation and model order reduction

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## Lecture 7

Higher-order singular value decompositions and related  
tensor truncation schemes

In this lecture, we consider a tensor  $u$  in a tensor product of Hilbert spaces  $V = V^1 \otimes \dots \otimes V^d$  and we assume that  $u$  is given as a full tensor or in a certain low-rank format.

We present truncation schemes for finding a low-rank approximation of  $u$  with reduced complexity, relying on the standard singular value decomposition of order-two tensors.

Although most of the ideas naturally extend to the case of infinite-dimensional tensors, we consider that the tensor space  $V$  is finite dimensional.

- 1 Singular value decomposition of order-two tensors
- 2 Truncation schemes for order-two tensors
- 3 Truncation schemes for higher-order tensors
- 4 Hard and soft singular values thresholding

# Outline

- 1 Singular value decomposition of order-two tensors
- 2 Truncation schemes for order-two tensors
- 3 Truncation schemes for higher-order tensors
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# Singular value decomposition of matrices

A matrix  $u \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times m}$  admits a singular value decomposition (SVD)

$$u = \sum_{k=1}^N \sigma_k v_k w_k^T,$$

where  $N = \min\{n, m\}$ ,  $\sigma_k \in \mathbb{R}^+$  are the singular values, and  $v_k$  and  $w_k$  are the associated singular vectors, which are orthonormal vectors. It can be equivalently written

$$u = VSW^T$$

where  $V \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times N}$  and  $W \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times N}$  are orthogonal matrices, and  $S = \text{diag}(\sigma_1, \dots, \sigma_N) \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times N}$  is a diagonal matrix.

The set of singular values of  $u$  is denoted  $\sigma(u) = \{\sigma_k(u)\}_{k=1}^N$ .

## Singular values of matrices and related matrix norms

The rank of  $u$  is the number of **non-zero singular values**,

$$\text{rank}(u) = \|\sigma(u)\|_0 = \#\{k : \sigma_k(u) \neq 0\}.$$

The canonical norm of  $u$  is

$$\|u\| = \sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^m u_{i,j}^2} = \sqrt{\sum_{k=1}^N \sigma_k^2} = \|\sigma(u)\|_2,$$

which corresponds to the Frobenius norm.

It is a particular case of Schatten  $p$ -norms which are defined for  $1 \leq p \leq \infty$  by

$$\|u\|_{\sigma_p} = \|\sigma(u)\|_p.$$

## Singular value decomposition of order-two tensors

The notion of singular value decomposition can be extended to the case of Hilbert tensor spaces  $\overline{V \otimes W}^{\|\cdot\|}$ , where  $V$  and  $W$  are Hilbert spaces (e.g. spaces of functions), even infinite-dimensional, and where  $\|\cdot\|$  denote the canonical norm on  $V \otimes W$  (the Frobenius norm for  $u$  a matrix).

A tensor  $u \in \overline{V \otimes W}^{\|\cdot\|}$  admits a singular value decomposition

$$u = \sum_{k=1}^N \sigma_k v_k \otimes w_k,$$

with  $N = \min\{\dim(V), \dim(W)\} \in \mathbb{N} \cup \{\infty\}$ , where  $v_k$  and  $w_k$  are orthonormal vectors.

The canonical norm

$$\|u\| = \|\sigma(u)\|_2$$

is also called the [Hilbert-Schmidt norm](#).

## Singular value decomposition of order-two tensors

## Example 1 (Proper Orthogonal Decomposition)

For  $\Omega \times I$  a space-time domain and  $V$  a Hilbert space of functions defined on  $\Omega$ , a function  $u \in L^2(I; V)$  admits a singular value decomposition

$$u(t) = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \sigma_k v_k w_k(t)$$

which is known as the Proper Orthogonal Decomposition (POD).

## Example 2 (Karhunen-Loeve decomposition)

For a probability space  $(\Omega, \mu)$ , an element  $u \in L^2_{\mu}(\Omega; V)$  is a second-order  $V$ -valued random variable. If  $u$  is zero-mean, the singular value decomposition of  $u$  is known as the Karhunen-Loeve decomposition

$$u(\omega) = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \sigma_k v_k w_k(\omega)$$

where  $w_k : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  are uncorrelated (orthogonal) random variables.



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- 2 Truncation schemes for order-two tensors
- 3 Truncation schemes for higher-order tensors
- 4 Hard and soft singular values thresholding

# Truncated singular value decomposition for order-two tensors

Let  $u$  be an order-two tensor in the Hilbert space  $V \otimes W$ , where  $V$  and  $W$  are Hilbert spaces, and let  $\|\cdot\|$  denote the canonical norm on  $V \otimes W$  (the Frobenius norm for  $u$  a matrix).

Let consider a tensor  $u$  in  $V \otimes W$  with singular value decomposition

$$u = \sum_{k=1}^N \sigma_k v_k \otimes w_k,$$

where the singular values  $\sigma(u) = \{\sigma_k\}_{k=1}^N$  are sorted by decreasing order.

An element of best approximation of  $u$  in the set of tensors with rank bounded by  $r$  is provided by the [truncated singular value decomposition](#)

$$u_r = \sum_{k=1}^r \sigma_k v_k \otimes w_k,$$

such that

$$\|u - u_r\|^2 = \min_{\text{rank}(v) \leq r} \|u - v\|^2 = \sum_{k=r+1}^N \sigma_k^2.$$

## Truncated singular value decomposition for order-two tensors

An approximation  $u_r$  with relative precision  $\epsilon$ , such that

$$\|u - u_r\| \leq \epsilon \|u\|,$$

can be obtained by choosing a rank  $r$  such that

$$\sum_{k=r+1}^N \sigma_k^2 \leq \epsilon \sum_{k=1}^N \sigma_k^2.$$

**Remark.**

The complexity of computing the singular value decomposition of a tensor  $u$  is  $O(n^3)$  if  $\dim(V) = \dim(W) = O(n)$ . If  $u$  is given in low-rank format  $u = \sum_{k=1}^R a_k \otimes b_k$ , with a rank  $R < n$ , the complexity breaks down to  $O(R^3 + 2Rn^2)$ .

# Truncated singular value decomposition for order-two tensors

The truncated singular value can be interpreted as an **orthogonal projection onto linear spaces generated by singular vectors**.

Denoting by  $V_r = \text{span}\{v_k\}_{k=1}^r$  and  $W_r = \text{span}\{w_k\}_{k=1}^r$  the dominant singular spaces of  $u$ , and by  $P_{V_r} : V \rightarrow V$  and  $P_{W_r} : W \rightarrow W_r$  the **orthogonal projections** onto  $V_r$  and  $W_r$  respectively, we have

$$u_r = (P_{V_r} \otimes P_{W_r})u = (P_{V_r} \otimes I)u = (I \otimes P_{W_r})u.$$

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# Higher-order tensors as order-two tensors...

For a non-empty subset  $\alpha$  in  $D = \{1, \dots, d\}$ , a tensor  $u \in V^1 \otimes \dots \otimes V^d$  can be identified with its matricisation

$$\mathcal{M}_\alpha(u) \in V^\alpha \otimes V^{\alpha^c},$$

an order-two tensor which admits a singular value decomposition

$$\mathcal{M}_\alpha(u) = \sum_{k \geq 1} \sigma_k^\alpha v_k^\alpha \otimes w_k^{\alpha^c}.$$

The set  $\sigma^\alpha(u) := \{\sigma_k^\alpha\}_{k \geq 1}$  is called the set of  $\alpha$ -singular values of  $u$ . The  $\alpha$ -rank of  $u$  is the number of non-zero  $\alpha$ -singular values

$$\text{rank}_\alpha(u) = \|\sigma^\alpha(u)\|_0.$$

# Higher-order tensors as order-two tensors...

By sorting the  $\alpha$ -singular values by decreasing order, an approximation  $u_r$  with  $\alpha$ -rank  $r$  can be obtained by retaining the  $r$  largest singular values, i.e.

$$u_r \text{ such that } \mathcal{M}_\alpha(u_r) = \sum_{k=1}^r \sigma_k^\alpha v_k^\alpha \otimes w_k^{\alpha^c},$$

which satisfies

$$\|u - u_r\|^2 = \min_{\text{rank}_\alpha(v) \leq r} \|u - v\|^2 = \sum_{k>r} (\sigma_k^\alpha)^2.$$

There are  $2^{d-1}$  different binary partitions  $\alpha \cup \alpha^c$  of  $D$ , to each of which corresponds a singular value decomposition and a way to truncate a higher-order tensor !

# Truncation scheme for the approximation in Tucker format

For each  $\nu \in \{1, \dots, d\}$ , we consider the singular value decomposition of the matricisation  $\mathcal{M}_\nu(u)$  of a tensor  $u$

$$\mathcal{M}_\nu(u) = \sum_{k \geq 1} \sigma_k^\nu v_k^\nu \otimes w_k^\nu.$$

Let  $U_{r_\nu}^\nu = \text{span}\{v_k^\nu\}_{k=1}^{r_\nu}$  be the subspace of  $V^\nu$  generated by the  $r_\nu$  dominant left singular vectors of  $\mathcal{M}_\nu(u)$ , and by  $P_{U_{r_\nu}^\nu}$  the orthogonal projection from  $V^\nu$  to  $U_{r_\nu}^\nu$ .

The tensor

$$u_r = (P_{U_{r_1}^1} \otimes \dots \otimes P_{U_{r_d}^d})u$$

is a projection of  $u$  onto the **reduced tensor space**

$$U_{r_1}^1 \otimes \dots \otimes U_{r_d}^d$$

and therefore,  $u_r$  is an element of the subset  $\mathcal{T}_r$  of tensors with Tucker rank bounded by  $r = (r_1, \dots, r_d)$ ,

$$\mathcal{T}_r = \{v \in U^1 \otimes \dots \otimes U^d : U^\nu \subset V^\nu, \dim(U^\nu) = r_\nu, 1 \leq \nu \leq d\}.$$

The sequence of approximations  $u_r$  is called a **higher-order singular value decomposition** (for Tucker format).



## Higher-order singular value decomposition for Tucker format

The operator

$$\mathcal{P}_{r_\nu}^\nu = \mathcal{M}_\nu^{-1} P_{U_{r_\nu}^\nu} \mathcal{M}_\nu = I \otimes \dots \otimes P_{U_{r_\nu}^\nu} \otimes \dots \otimes I$$

is the orthogonal projection from  $V$  onto

$$V^1 \otimes \dots \otimes U_{r_\nu}^\nu \otimes \dots \otimes V^d,$$

which is such that

$$\|u - \mathcal{P}_{r_\nu}^\nu u\| = \min_{\text{rank}_\nu(v) \leq r_\nu} \|u - v\| = \sum_{k \geq r_\nu + 1} (\sigma_k^\nu)^2.$$

The approximation  $u_r$  can then be written

$$u_r = \mathcal{P}_{r_1}^1 \dots \mathcal{P}_{r_d}^d u,$$

and satisfies

$$\|u - u_r\|^2 = \sum_{\nu=1}^d \|u - \mathcal{P}_{r_\nu}^\nu u\|^2 = \sum_{\nu=1}^d \min_{\text{rank}_\nu(v) \leq r_\nu} \|u - v\|^2,$$

from which we deduce the quasi-optimality property

$$\|u - u_r\| \leq \sqrt{d} \min_{v \in \mathcal{T}_r} \|u - v\|.$$

# Truncation scheme for the approximation in Tucker format

Also, from

$$\|u - u_r\|^2 = \sum_{\nu=1}^d \|u - \mathcal{P}_{r_\nu}^\nu u\|^2 = \sum_{\nu=1}^d \sum_{k_\nu > r_\nu} (\sigma_{k_\nu}^\nu)^2,$$

we deduce that if we select the ranks  $(r_1, \dots, r_d)$  such that for each  $\nu$

$$\sum_{k_\nu > r_\nu} (\sigma_{k_\nu}^\nu)^2 \leq \frac{\epsilon^2}{d} \sum_{k_\nu \geq 1} (\sigma_{k_\nu}^\nu)^2 = \frac{\epsilon^2}{d} \|u\|^2,$$

then the truncated singular value decomposition  $\mathcal{P}_{r_\nu}^\nu u$  has a relative precision  $\epsilon/\sqrt{d}$  and we finally obtain an approximation  $u_r$  with relative precision  $\epsilon$ ,

$$\|u - u_r\| \leq \epsilon \|u\|.$$

Note that the definition of  $u_r$  is independent on the order of the projections  $\mathcal{P}_{r_\nu}^\nu$ .

# Truncation scheme for tree-based tensor formats

For tree-based (hierarchical) low-rank tensor formats

$$\mathcal{T}_r^T = \{v : \text{rank}_\alpha(v) \leq r_\alpha, \alpha \in T\},$$

where  $T$  is a dimension partition tree over  $D = \{1, \dots, d\}$ , a **higher order singular value decomposition** (also called **hierarchical singular value decomposition**) can also be defined from singular value decompositions of matricisations  $\mathcal{M}_\alpha(u)$  of a tensor  $u$ .

# Truncation scheme for tree-based tensor formats

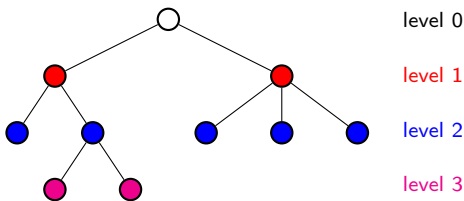
Letting  $U_{r_\alpha}^\alpha$  be the subspace generated by the  $r_\alpha$  dominant left singular vectors of  $\mathcal{M}_\alpha(u)$ , and letting  $P_{U_{r_\alpha}^\alpha}$  be the orthogonal projector from  $V^\alpha$  to  $U_{r_\alpha}^\alpha$ , we define the orthogonal projection

$$\mathcal{P}_{r_\alpha}^\alpha = \mathcal{M}_\alpha^{-1} P_{U_{r_\alpha}^\alpha} \mathcal{M}_\alpha.$$

Then, an approximation with tree-based rank  $r = (r_\alpha)_{\alpha \in \mathcal{T}}$  can be defined by

$$u_r = \mathcal{P}_r^{T,(L)} \mathcal{P}_r^{T,(L-1)} \dots \mathcal{P}_r^{T,(1)} u \quad \text{with} \quad \mathcal{P}^{T,(\ell)} = \prod_{\substack{\alpha \in \mathcal{T} \\ \text{level}(\alpha) = \ell}} \mathcal{P}_{r_\alpha}^\alpha$$

where we apply to  $u$  a sequence of projections ordered by increasing level in the tree (from the root to the leaves). Here  $L = \max_{\alpha \in \mathcal{T}} \text{level}(\alpha)$ .



## Truncation scheme for tree-based tensor formats

## Remark.

The definition of the projection  $\mathcal{P}^{T,(\ell)}$  is independent of the ordering of the projections  $\mathcal{P}_{r_\alpha}^\alpha$  of the same level  $\ell$ . Subsets  $\alpha \in T$  with level  $\ell$  form a partition of  $D$ , and  $\mathcal{P}^{T,(\ell)} = \bigotimes_{\substack{\alpha \in T \\ \text{level}(\alpha)=\ell}} \mathcal{P}_{r_\alpha}^\alpha$

is the orthogonal projection from  $V$  onto  $\bigotimes_{\substack{\alpha \in T \\ \text{level}(\alpha)=\ell}} U_{r_\alpha}^\alpha$ .

# Truncation scheme for tree-based tensor formats

The obtained approximation  $u_r$  is such that

$$\|u - u_r\|^2 = \sum_{\alpha \in T \setminus D} \min_{\text{rank}_{\alpha}(v) \leq r_{\alpha}} \|u - v\|^2 = \sum_{\alpha \in T \setminus D} \sum_{k_{\alpha} > r_{\alpha}} (\sigma_{k_{\alpha}}^{\alpha})^2,$$

from which we deduce that  $u_r$  is a quasi-optimal approximation of  $u$  in  $\mathcal{T}_r^T$  such that

$$\|u - u_r\| \leq C(T) \min_{v \in \mathcal{T}_r^T} \|u - v\|,$$

where  $C(T) = \sqrt{\#T - 1}$  is the square root of the number of projections applied to the tensor. The number of nodes of a dimension partition tree  $T$  being bounded by  $2d - 1$ ,

$$C(T) \leq \sqrt{2d - 2}.$$

Also, if we select the ranks  $(r_{\alpha})_{\alpha \in T \setminus D}$  such that for all  $\alpha$

$$\sum_{k_{\alpha} > r_{\alpha}} (\sigma_{k_{\alpha}}^{\alpha})^2 \leq \frac{\epsilon^2}{C(T)^2} \sum_{k_{\alpha} \geq 1} (\sigma_{k_{\alpha}}^{\alpha})^2 = \frac{\epsilon^2}{C(T)^2} \|u\|^2,$$

we finally obtain an approximation  $u_r$  with relative precision  $\epsilon$ ,

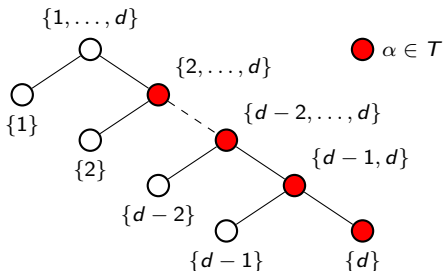
$$\|u - u_r\| \leq \epsilon \|u\|.$$

# Truncation scheme for TT format

The procedure for general tree-based formats also applies to the particular case of the **TT-format**  $\mathcal{TT}_r$ , which corresponds to  $\mathcal{T}_r^T$  for

$$T = \{\{\nu + 1, \dots, d\} : 1 \leq \nu \leq d - 1\},$$

which is a subset of a linearly structured tree.



Here, since  $\#T = d - 1$ , the resulting approximation satisfies the quasi-optimality property with

$$C(T) = \sqrt{d - 1}.$$

# Sequential higher-order singular value decomposition

For  $T$  (a subset of) a dimension partition tree, a sequential higher-order singular value decomposition can be defined recursively [Hackbusch 2012, section 11.4.2.3].

Letting  $T \setminus D = \{\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_M\}$  with  $\text{level}(\alpha_{k+1}) \leq \text{level}(\alpha_k)$ , we start from  $u^{(0)} = u$  and we define a sequence of approximations  $u^{(k)}$

$$u^{(k)} = \mathcal{P}_{r_{\alpha_k}}^{\alpha_k} u^{(k-1)}$$

for  $1 \leq k \leq M$ , where  $\mathcal{P}_{r_{\alpha_k}}^{\alpha_k}$  is the projection associated with the dominant  $\alpha$ -singular vectors of  $u^{(k-1)}$  (and not  $u$ ).

Finally, we obtain an approximation  $u_r := u^{(M)}$  in  $\mathcal{T}_r^T$  which satisfies the quasi-optimality property

$$\|u - u_r\| \leq C(T) \min_{v \in \mathcal{T}_r^T} \|u - v\|.$$

where  $C(T) = \sqrt{\#\mathcal{T} - 1}$  is the square root of the number of projections applied.

For another version of a sequential higher-order singular value decomposition, see [Hackbusch 2012, section 11.4.2.2].



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- 4 **Hard and soft singular values thresholding**

# Hard thresholding of singular values

The **hard singular value thresholding operator**  $\mathcal{HT}_\tau$  is defined for an **order-two tensor**  $u$  with singular value decomposition  $\sum_{k=1}^N \sigma_k v_k \otimes w_k$  by

$$\mathcal{HT}_\tau(u) = \sum_{k=1}^N \mathcal{HT}_\tau(\sigma_k) v_k \otimes w_k,$$

where  $\mathcal{HT}_\tau(t) = t \mathbf{1}_{|t| > \tau}$  is the **hard thresholding function** such that

$$\mathcal{HT}_\tau(\sigma_k) = \begin{cases} \sigma_k & \text{if } \sigma_k > \tau \\ 0 & \text{if } \sigma_k \leq \tau \end{cases}.$$

The error after hard thresholding is

$$\|u - \mathcal{HT}_\tau(u)\|^2 = \sum_{k=1}^N \sigma_k^2 \mathbf{1}_{\sigma_k \leq \tau}.$$

$\mathcal{HT}_\tau(u)$  is a solution of the problem

$$\min_v \|u - v\|^2 + \tau^2 \text{rank}(v)$$

where  $\text{rank}(v) = \|\sigma(v)\|_0$ .

# Soft thresholding of singular values

The **soft singular value thresholding operator**  $ST_\tau$  is defined for a tensor  $u$  with singular value decomposition  $\sum_{k=1}^N \sigma_k v_k \otimes w_k$  by

$$ST_\tau(u) = \sum_{k=1}^N ST_\tau(\sigma_k) v_k \otimes w_k,$$

where  $ST_\tau(t) = (|t| - \tau)_+ \text{sign}(t)$  is the **soft thresholding function**, such that

$$ST_\tau(\sigma_k) = (\sigma_k - \tau)_+ = \begin{cases} \sigma_k - \tau & \text{if } \sigma_k \geq \tau \\ 0 & \text{if } \sigma_k < \tau \end{cases}.$$

The error after soft thresholding is

$$\|u - ST_\tau(u)\|^2 = \sum_{k=1}^N (\sigma_k - (\sigma_k - \tau)_+)^2 = \sum_{\sigma_k \leq \tau} \sigma_k^2 + \sum_{\sigma_k > \tau} \tau^2.$$

# Soft thresholding of singular values

$ST_\tau(u)$  is a solution of the problem

$$\min_v \frac{1}{2} \|u - v\|^2 + \tau \|\sigma(v)\|_1$$

where  $\|\sigma(v)\|_1$  is the nuclear norm of  $v$ , which is the convex regularization of the functional  $v \mapsto \text{rank}(v)$ .

In convex analysis,  $ST_\tau$  is known as the **proximal operator** of the convex function  $v \mapsto \tau \|\sigma(v)\|_1$ .

The operator  $ST_\tau$  is **non-expansive**, that means for all  $u, v$ ,

$$\|ST_\tau(u) - ST_\tau(v)\| \leq \|u - v\|,$$

which is an important property for the analysis of algorithms with tensor truncations.

## Hard and soft singular values thresholding for higher order tensors

For a higher order tensor  $u$ , we can naturally define **hard and soft singular values thresholding operators**  $\mathcal{HS}_\tau^\alpha$  and  $\mathcal{ST}_\tau^\alpha$  associated with the **singular value decomposition of the matricisation**  $\mathcal{M}_\alpha(u)$  of  $u$ .

These operators are such that

$$\mathcal{HS}_\tau^\alpha(u) = \arg \min_v \|u - v\|^2 + \tau^2 \text{rank}_\alpha(v),$$

and

$$\mathcal{ST}_\tau^\alpha(u) = \arg \min_v \frac{1}{2} \|u - v\|^2 + \tau \|\sigma^\alpha(u)\|_1.$$

# Hard and soft singular values thresholding for higher order tensors

For a [tree-based format](#) associated with a dimension partition tree  $T$  (or a subset  $T$  of a dimension partition tree), hard and soft thresholding operators  $\mathcal{HT}_\tau^T$  and  $\mathcal{ST}_\tau^T$  can be defined as [compositions of hard and soft thresholding operators](#),

$$\mathcal{HT}_\tau^T = \mathcal{HT}_\tau^{\alpha_M} \circ \dots \circ \mathcal{HT}_\tau^{\alpha_1}$$

and

$$\mathcal{ST}_\tau^T = \mathcal{ST}_\tau^{\alpha_M} \circ \dots \circ \mathcal{ST}_\tau^{\alpha_1}$$

where the set of nodes  $\{\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_M\} = T \setminus D$  is sorted according to

$$\text{level}(\alpha_{k+1}) \geq \text{level}(\alpha_k).$$

The [soft-thresholding operator](#)  $\mathcal{ST}_\tau^T$  is [non-expansive](#), i.e.

$$\|\mathcal{ST}_\tau^T(u) - \mathcal{ST}_\tau^T(v)\| \leq \|u - v\|$$

for all tensors  $u, v$ .