## <span id="page-0-0"></span>Introduction to Tensors

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#### CR12: October 2024 https://surakuma.github.io/courses/daamtc.html

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- Neuroscience: measure of calcium fluorescence in a particular pixel during a time step of a single trial (Pixel  $\times$  Time  $\times$  Trial)
- **Combustion simulation**: value of a variable in a spatial grid during a time step (Grid length  $\times$  Grid width  $\times$  Grid height  $\times$  Variable  $\times$  Time)
- Media: rating of a movie by a user during a time slice (User  $\times$  Movie  $\times$ Time)
- Molecular/quantum simulations: interaction of electrons in  $d$  orbitals with a 4 $^d$  tensor

Notation convention: Matrix A, tensor A

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#### <span id="page-2-0"></span>1 [Tensor notations and some definitions](#page-2-0)

**[Tensor decompositions](#page-11-0)** 

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## Tensor notations (following [Kolda and Bader, 2009])

Let  $A$  be a d-dimensional tensor of size  $n_1 \times n_2 \times \cdots \times n_d$ ,  $A \in \mathbb{R}^{n_1 \times n_2 \times \cdots \times n_d}$ .

- $\bullet$   $d = 1$ . first order tensors: vectors
- $\bullet$   $d = 2$ , second order tensors: matrices

The element of A is denoted as  $\mathcal{A}(i_1, i_2, \ldots, i_d)$ .

• Fibers: defined by fixing all indices except one



Mode-1 (column) fibers:  $A(:, j, k)$ , Mode-2 (row) fibers:  $A(i, :, k)$  and Mode-3 (tube) fibers:  $A(i, j, :)$  of a 3-dimensional tensor A.

Figures from [Kolda and Bader, 2009].

• Slices: defined by fixing all indices except two



Horizontal slices:  $A(i, :, :)$ , Lateral slices:  $A(:, i,:)$  and Frontal slices:  $A(:, :, k)$  of a 3-dimensional tensor A.

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## Tensor preliminaries

The norm of a tensor  $\mathcal{A} \in \mathbb{R}^{n_1 \times n_2 \times \dots \times n_d}$  is analogous to the matrix Frobenius norm, and defined as

$$
||\mathcal{A}|| = \sqrt{\sum_{i_1=1}^{n_1} \sum_{i_2=1}^{n_2} \cdots \sum_{i_d=1}^{n_d} \mathcal{A}^2(i_1, i_2, \cdots, i_d)}
$$

The inner product of  $\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{B} \in \mathbb{R}^{n_1 \times n_2 \times \cdots \times n_d}$  is

$$
\langle \boldsymbol{\mathcal{A}},\boldsymbol{\mathcal{B}}\rangle=\sum_{i_1=1}^{n_1}\sum_{i_2=1}^{n_2}\cdots\sum_{i_d=1}^{n_d}\boldsymbol{\mathcal{A}}(i_1,i_2,\cdots,i_d)\boldsymbol{\mathcal{B}}(i_1,i_2,\cdots,i_d)
$$

We can note that  $\langle \mathcal{A}, \mathcal{A} \rangle = ||\mathcal{A}||^2$ .

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## Specific tensors

A rank one tensor  $\mathcal{A} \in \mathbb{R}^{n_1 \times n_2 \times \cdots \times n_d}$  can be written as the outer product of d vectors,

 $A = u_1 \circ u_2 \circ \cdots \circ u_d$ 

$$
\mathcal{A}(i_1,i_2,\cdots,i_d)=u_1(i_1)u_2(i_2)\cdots u_d(i_d) \text{ for all } 1\leq i_k\leq n_k
$$

A cubical tensor  $\mathcal{A} \in \mathbb{R}^{n_1 \times n_2 \times \cdots \times n_d}$  has same size in every mode,

$$
n_1=n_2=\cdots=n_d
$$

- A supersymmetric (or symmetric) tensor has the same element for any permutation of the indices
- A diagonal tensor  $\mathcal{A}\in\mathbb{R}^{n_1\times n_2\times\cdots\times n_d}$  has  $\mathcal{A}(i_1,i_2,\cdots,i_d)\neq 0$  only if  $i_1 = i_2 = \cdots = i_d$

## Matricization or Unfolding of a tensor into a matrix

- The mode-j unfolding of  $\mathcal{A} \in \mathbb{R}^{n_1 \times n_2 \times \cdots \times n_d}$  is represented by a matrix  $A_{(j)} \in \mathbb{R}^{n_j \times n}$ , where  $n = n_1 n_2 \cdots n_{j-1} n_{j+1} \cdots n_d$
- Tensor element  $\mathcal{A}(i_1,i_2,\cdots,i_d)$  maps to matrix element  $A_{(j)}(i_j,k)$ , where  $k=1+\sum_{\ell=1,\ell\neq j}^d (i_\ell-1)N_\ell$  with  $N_\ell=\prod_{m=1,m\neq j}^{\ell-1} n_m$

Example with the frontal slices of  $\mathcal{A} \in \mathbb{R}^{4 \times 2 \times 3}$ :

$$
\mathcal{A}(:,:,1)=\begin{pmatrix}1&5\\2&6\\3&7\\4&8\end{pmatrix},\ \mathcal{A}(:,:,2)=\begin{pmatrix}9&13\\10&14\\11&15\\12&16\end{pmatrix},\ \mathcal{A}(:,:,3)=\begin{pmatrix}17&21\\18&22\\19&23\\20&24\end{pmatrix}
$$

The three mode- $i$  unfoldings are:

$$
A_{(1)} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 5 & 9 & 13 & 17 & 21 \\ 2 & 6 & 10 & 14 & 18 & 22 \\ 3 & 7 & 11 & 15 & 19 & 23 \\ 4 & 8 & 12 & 16 & 20 & 24 \end{pmatrix}, A_{(3)} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 & 6 & 7 & 8 \\ 9 & 10 & 11 & 12 & 13 & 14 & 15 & 16 \\ 17 & 18 & 19 & 20 & 21 & 22 & 23 & 24 \end{pmatrix},
$$
  

$$
A_{(2)} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 9 & 10 & 11 & 12 & 17 & 18 & 19 & 20 \\ 5 & 6 & 7 & 8 & 13 & 14 & 15 & 16 & 21 & 22 & 23 & 24 \end{pmatrix}
$$

Question: Write a program in your preferred programming language to obtain mode-3 unfolding of  $\mathcal{A} \in \mathbb{R}^{3 \times 3 \times 3}$ . Elements of  $\mathcal A$  are defined in the following way:

$$
\mathcal{A}(i,j,k) = i + j^2 + k^3 \text{ for } 1 \le i,j,k \le 3.
$$

If your preferred language supports 0-based indexing then you can consider  $0 < i, i, k < 2.$ 

Submission procedure: Send your code to my ENS email address [\(suraj.kumar@ens-lyon.fr\)](mailto:suraj.kumar@ens-lyon.fr) by Oct 10.

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#### Tensor multiplication (contraction) along j-mode with a matrix

The j-mode product of  $\mathcal{A} \in \mathbb{R}^{n_1 \times n_2 \times \cdots \times n_d}$  with  $U \in \mathbb{R}^{K \times n_j}$  is denoted by  $\mathcal{A} \times_j U$ and is of size  $n_1 \times \cdots n_{i-1} \times K \times n_{i+1} \times \cdots \times n_d$ .

$$
(\mathcal{A} \times_j U)(i_1,\cdots,i_{j-1},k,i_{j+1},\cdots,i_d) = \sum_{i_j=1}^{n_j} \mathcal{A}(i_1,\cdots,i_d)U(k,i_j)
$$

This is also known as tensor-times-matrix (TTM) operation in the jth mode. In terms of unfolded tensors:

$$
\mathcal{B} = \mathcal{A} \times_j U \Leftrightarrow B_{(j)} = U A_{(j)}
$$

Some properties of j-mode products:

$$
\bullet \ \mathcal{A} \times_j U \times_k V = \mathcal{A} \times_k V \times_j U \quad (j \neq k)
$$

$$
\bullet \ \mathcal{A} \times_j U \times_j V = \mathcal{A} \times_j VU
$$

## Matrix products

The Kronecker product of  $A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$  and  $B \in \mathbb{R}^{p \times q}$  is  $C \in \mathbb{R}^{mp \times nq}$ ,

$$
C = A \otimes B = \begin{pmatrix} A(1,1)B & \cdots & A(1,n)B \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ A(m,1)B & \cdots & A(m,n)B \end{pmatrix}
$$

The Khatri-Rao product of  $A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$  and  $B \in \mathbb{R}^{p \times n}$  is  $C \in \mathbb{R}^{mp \times n}$ ,

 $C = A \odot B = (A(:,1) \otimes B(:,1) \ A(:,2) \otimes B(:,2) \ \cdots \ A(:,n) \otimes B(:,n))$ 

The Hadamard product of  $A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$  and  $B \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$  is  $C \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$ ,

$$
C = A * B = \begin{pmatrix} A(1,1)B(1,1) & \cdots & A(1,n)B(1,n) \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ A(m,1)B(m,1) & \cdots & A(m,n)B(m,n) \end{pmatrix}
$$

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$$
(A \otimes B)(C \otimes D) = AC \otimes BD,
$$
  
\n
$$
A \odot B \odot C = (A \odot B) \odot C = A \odot (B \odot C)
$$
  
\n
$$
(A \odot B)^{T}(A \odot B) = A^{T}A * B^{T}B,
$$
  
\n
$$
(A \odot B)^{\dagger} = ((A^{T}A) * (B^{T}B))^{\dagger}(A \odot B)^{T}.
$$

Here  $A^\dagger$  denotes the Moore–Penrose pseudoinverse of  $A$ .

Let  $\mathcal{A}\in\mathbb{R}^{n_1\times n_2\times\cdots\times n_d}$  and  $U_j\in\mathbb{R}^{m_j\times n_j}$  for  $1\leq j\leq d$ . Then,  $\mathcal{B} = \mathcal{A} \times_1 U_1 \times_2 U_2 \cdots \times_d U_d$  $\Leftrightarrow B_{(j)}=U_jA_{(j)}(U_d\otimes\cdots U_{j+1}\otimes U_{j-1}\otimes\cdots\otimes U_1)^T.$ 

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#### 2 [Tensor decompositions](#page-11-0)

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## Recap on Singular Value Decomposition (SVD)

- It decomposes a matrix  $A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$  to the form  $U\Sigma V^T$ 
	- $\bullet$  U is an  $m \times m$  orthogonal matrix
	- $V$  is an  $n \times n$  orthogonal matrix
	- $\bullet$   $\Sigma$  is an  $m \times n$  rectangular diagonal matrix
- **•** The diagonal entries  $\sigma_i = \sum_{i}$  of  $\Sigma$  are called singular values
	- $\sigma_i \geq 0$  and  $\sigma_1 \geq \sigma_2 \geq \cdots \geq \sigma_{\min(m,n)}$
- The largest r such that  $\sigma_r \neq 0$  is called the rank of the matrix
- $\bullet$  SVD represents a matrix as the sum of r rank one matrices



<span id="page-13-0"></span>Popular higher-order extension of the matrix SVD:

- CANDECOMP/PARAFAC (CP): proposed by Hitchcock in 1927
- Tucker decomposition: proposed by Tucker in 1963
- Tensor train decomposition: proposed by Oseledets in 2011, known in quantum chemistry community from a long time with the name of matrix product states

CP and Tucker decompositions are well suited to work with small and moderate dimension tensors  $(d \leq 10)$ . Tensor train is preferred for high dimension tensors.

# <span id="page-14-0"></span>CP decomposition of  $A \in \mathbb{R}^{n_1 \times n_2 \times \cdots \times n_d}$

It factorizes a tensor into a sum of rank one tensors.



CP decomposition of a 3-dimensional tensor.

$$
\mathcal{A} = \sum_{\alpha=1}^r U_1(:,\alpha) \circ U_2(:,\alpha) \circ \cdots \circ U_d(:,\alpha)
$$

$$
\mathcal{A}(i_1, \cdots, i_d) = \sum_{\alpha=1}^r U_1(i_1, \alpha) U_2(i_2, \alpha) \cdots U_d(i_d, \alpha)
$$

The minimum r required to express  $\mathcal A$  is called the rank of  $\mathcal A$ . The matrices  $U_j \in \mathbb{R}^{n_j \times r}$  for  $1 \leq j \leq d$  are called factor matrices.

- $\bullet$  (+) The number of entries in a CP decomposition of  $A = \mathcal{O}((n_1 + \cdots + n_d)r)$
- $\bullet$  (-) Determining the minimum value of r is an NP-complete problem
- (-) No robust algorithms to compute this repres[en](#page-13-0)t[at](#page-15-0)[io](#page-13-0)[n](#page-14-0)

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# <span id="page-15-0"></span>Tucker decomposition of  $\mathcal{A} \in \mathbb{R}^{n_1 \times n_2 \times \cdots \times n_d}$

It represents a tensor with  $d$  matrices (usually orthogonal) and a small core tensor.



Tucker decomposition of a 3-dimensional tensor.

$$
\mathcal{A} = \mathcal{G} \times_1 U_1 \cdots \times_d U_d
$$

$$
\mathcal{A}(i_1, \cdots, i_d) = \sum_{\alpha_1=1}^{r_1} \cdots \sum_{\alpha_d=1}^{r_d} \mathcal{G}(\alpha_1, \cdots, \alpha_d) U_1(i_1, \alpha_1) \cdots U_d(i_d, \alpha_d)
$$

Here  $r_j$  for  $1 \le j \le d$  denote a set of ranks. Matrices  $U_j \in \mathbb{R}^{n_j \times r_j}$  for  $1 \le j \le d$ are called factor matrices. The tensor  $\mathcal{G} \in \mathbb{R}^{r_1 \times r_2 \times \cdots \times r_d}$  is called the core tensor.

- $\bullet$  (+) SVD based stable algorithms to compute this decomposition
- (-) The number of entries  $=\mathcal{O}(n_1r_1+\cdots+n_dr_d+\prod_{j=1}^d r_j)$  $=\mathcal{O}(n_1r_1+\cdots+n_dr_d+\prod_{j=1}^d r_j)$  $=\mathcal{O}(n_1r_1+\cdots+n_dr_d+\prod_{j=1}^d r_j)$  $=\mathcal{O}(n_1r_1+\cdots+n_dr_d+\prod_{j=1}^d r_j)$

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#### <span id="page-16-0"></span>Tensor Train (TT) decomposition: Product of matrices view

 $\bullet$  A d-dimensional tensor is represented with 2 matrices and  $d$ -2 3-dimensional tensors.



 $\mathbf{A}(i_1, i_2, \cdots, i_d) = \mathbf{G}_1(i_1) \mathbf{G}_2(i_2) \cdots \mathbf{G}_d(i_d)$ 

An entry of  $\mathcal{A} \in \mathbb{R}^{n_1 \times \cdots \times n_d}$  is computed by multiplying corresponding matrix (or row/column) of each matrix/tensor.

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<span id="page-17-0"></span> $A \in \mathbb{R}^{n_1 \times \cdots \times n_d}$  is represented with cores  $\mathcal{G}_k \in \mathbb{R}^{r_{k-1} \times n_k \times r_k}$ ,  $k=1,2,\cdots d$ ,  $r_0 = r_d = 1$  and its elements satisfy the following expression:

$$
\mathcal{A}(i_1,\dots,i_d) = \sum_{\alpha_0=1}^{r_0} \dots \sum_{\alpha_d=1}^{r_d} \mathcal{G}_1(\alpha_0,i_1,\alpha_1)\dots\mathcal{G}_d(\alpha_{d-1},i_d,\alpha_d)
$$

$$
= \sum_{\alpha_1=1}^{r_1} \dots \sum_{\alpha_{d-1}=1}^{r_{d-1}} \mathcal{G}_1(1,i_1,\alpha_1)\dots\mathcal{G}_d(\alpha_{d-1},i_d,1)
$$

The ranks  $r_k$  are called TT-ranks.

 $\bullet$  The number of entries in this decomposition  $=$  $\mathcal{O}(n_1r_1 + n_2r_1r_2 + n_3r_2r_3 + \cdots + n_{d-1}r_{d-2}r_{d-1} + n_d r_{d-1})$