

# Nonnegative and low rank approximations

Jeremy E. Cohen

IRISA, Rennes, France

30 November 2020

# I. INTRODUCTION

## Our fil rouge

Let  $y \in \mathbb{R}_+^3$  a color in RGB 

Let  $A \in \mathbb{R}_+^{3 \times d}$  a collection of paint pots    

We can perform conical combinations of colors

$$\text{orange dot} + \text{cyan dot} = \text{orange dot}$$

$$0.5 \begin{pmatrix} 250 \\ 207 \\ 176 \end{pmatrix} + 0.5 \begin{pmatrix} 255 \\ 140 \\ 102 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 252.5 \\ 173.5 \\ 139 \end{pmatrix}$$

Any  $\sum_i \alpha_i y_i$  with  $0 \leq \alpha_i$  and  $\sum_i \alpha_i y_i \leq 255$  is a color.

# Our fil rouge

Set  $d(y, \hat{y}) = \|y - \hat{y}\|_2^2$  as the loss.

Problem 1: paint color  $y$  as well as possible using paint pots  $A$ .

Find  $x \in \mathbb{R}_+^d$  such that  $d(y, Ax)$  is minimal



$$\approx \forall_i, x_{1i} \text{ (green dot)} + x_{2i} \text{ (red dot)} =$$



## Our fil rouge

Problem 2: given a painting  $\{y_i\}_{i \leq n}$ , find its closest 2-color version.

Find  $A \in \mathbb{R}_+^{3 \times 2}$  and  $x_i \in \mathbb{R}_+^2$  such that  $\forall i \leq n, y_i \approx Ax_i$



$$\approx \forall_i, x_{1i} \bullet + x_{2i} \bullet =$$



## A quick quizz!

Visit <https://www.wooclap.com/ITWISTQ1>

# Importance of regularization

Problem 1: if  $A \in \mathbb{R}^{3 \times d}$  with  $d \gg 3$ , then

$$\min_{x \in \mathbb{R}^d} \|y - Ax\|_2^2$$

# Importance of regularization

Problem 1: if  $A \in \mathbb{R}^{3 \times d}$  with  $d \gg 3$ , then

$$\min_{x \in \mathbb{R}^d} \|y - Ax\|_2^2$$

has infinitely many solution,  $x_0^* + z$  with  $z \in \text{Ker}(A)$ . Most (all?) of them are **bad** because of negative coefficients.

# Importance of regularization

Problem 1: if  $A \in \mathbb{R}^{3 \times d}$  with  $d \gg 3$ , then

$$\min_{x \in \mathbb{R}^d} \|y - Ax\|_2^2$$

has infinitely many solutions,  $x_0^* + z$  with  $z \in \text{Ker}(A)$ . Most (all?) of them are **bad** because of negative coefficients.

Problem 2: without nonnegativity, then

$$\min_{A \in \mathbb{R}^{3 \times r}, x_j \in \mathbb{R}^r} \sum_i \|y_i - Ax_i\|_2^2$$

# Importance of regularization

Problem 1: if  $A \in \mathbb{R}^{3 \times d}$  with  $d \gg 3$ , then

$$\min_{x \in \mathbb{R}^d} \|y - Ax\|_2^2$$

has infinitely many solutions,  $x_0^* + z$  with  $z \in \text{Ker}(A)$ . Most (all?) of them are **bad** because of negative coefficients.

Problem 2: without nonnegativity, then

$$\min_{A \in \mathbb{R}^{3 \times r}, x_i \in \mathbb{R}^r} \sum_i \|y_i - Ax_i\|_2^2$$

has again infinitely many **bad** (negative) solutions, even for  $r = 2$  using for instance the truncated SVD of  $Y = [y_1, \dots, y_n]$ .

# Outline



- ▶ Nonnegative Least Squares
  - ▶ Theory
  - ▶ Algorithms
- ▶ Matrix and tensor rank
  - ▶ Matrix rank
  - ▶ Nonnegative rank
  - ▶ Tensor (nonnegative) rank

- ▶ Nn. Matrix Factorization
  - ▶ Theory
  - ▶ Algorithms
  - ▶ Applications
- ▶ Nn. Tensor Factorization
  - ▶ Algorithms
  - ▶ Application

## II. Nonnegative Least Squares

# Cones

## Definition:

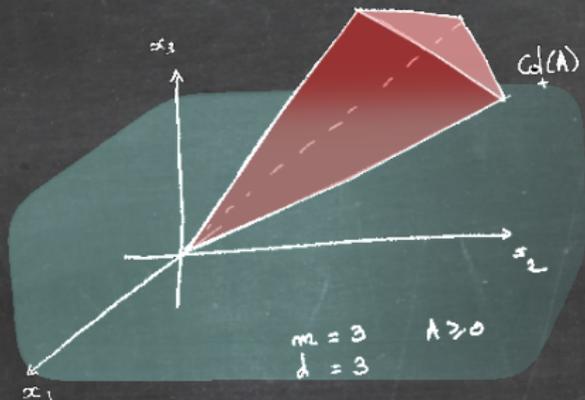
For a given matrix  $A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times d}$ , let  $\text{col}_+(A) = \{Ax \mid x \geq 0\}$ .

## Proposition:

For any matrix  $A$ , the set  $\text{col}_+(A)$  is a convex cone, *i.e.*

$$\lambda_1 x_1 + \lambda_2 x_2 \in \text{col}_+(A)$$

if  $x_1, x_2 \in \text{col}_+(A)$  and  $\lambda_1, \lambda_2 \geq 0$ .

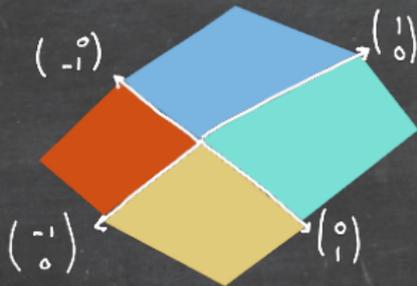


## Cones



The cone  $\text{col}_+(A)$  may not have low-dimensional facets.

$$\text{col}_+ \left( \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & -1 \end{bmatrix} \right) = \mathbb{R}^2$$



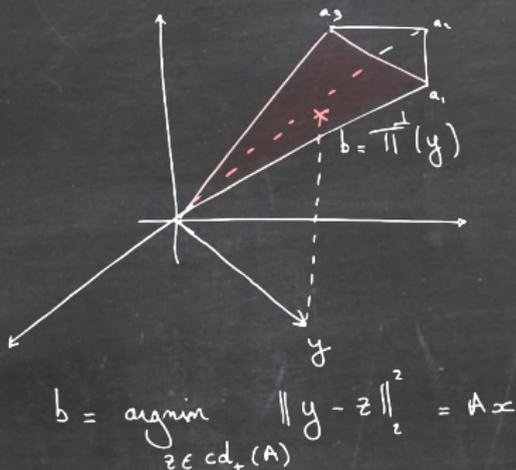
(but it's all fine when  $A \geq 0$ )

# NNLS formulation

Definition:

The NNLS problem is equivalently defined as

1. Find  $x \in \operatorname{argmin}_{x \in \mathbb{R}_+^d} \|y - Ax\|_2^2$
2. Find  $b \in \operatorname{col}_+(A)$  and  $x \in \mathbb{R}_+^d$  s.t.  $b = Ax$ ,  $b = \Pi_{\operatorname{col}_+(A)}^\perp(y)$



## A few questions

Existence of solutions?

Uniqueness of  $b$ , of  $x$ ?

Properties of a solution  $x$ ?

## b exists and is unique

Proposition:

For any  $A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times d}$ , the map

$$y \rightarrow \Pi_{\text{col}_+(A)}^\perp(y)$$

is well defined.

Proof idea:

The map  $f : z \rightarrow \|y - z\|_2^2$  is coercive and continuous. Because  $\text{col}_+ A$  is closed,  $f$  must attain its minimum value on  $\text{col}_+(A)$ . Further,  $f$  strongly convex in  $\mathbb{R}^{m \times d}$ , thus in particular on its restriction to the convex set  $\text{col}_+(A)$ . Strongly convex functions admit unique global minimizers when they exist.

## NNLS: convexity

$$\operatorname{argmin}_{x \geq 0} \|y - Ax\|_2^2 \quad (\text{NNLS})$$

Problem (NNLS) is convex but not strictly convex unless  $A$  is fcr. Therefore, there does not exist a unique solution  $x$  in general.

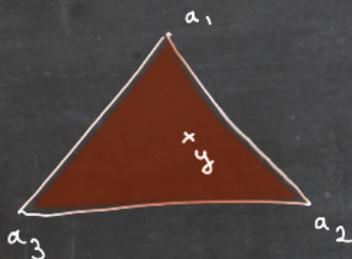


## x uniqueness: exact case (interior)

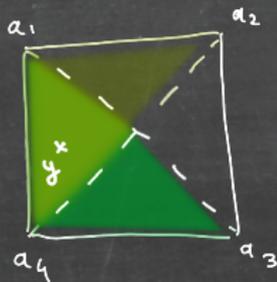
Suppose that  $y$  lies in the interior of  $\text{col}_+(A)$ . Then

- ▶ the projection  $b$  is  $y$  itself and  $y = Ax$  always exists,
- ▶ if  $d > m$ , there is little hope for uniqueness.
- ▶ if  $d \leq m$  and  $A$  is full column rank, then  $x$  is unique.

$$m = 3$$
$$d = 3$$



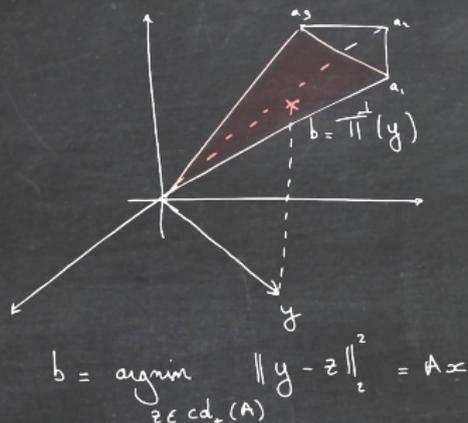
$$m = 3$$
$$d = 4$$



## x uniqueness: exact case (border)

Informally, if  $y$  belongs to a facet of  $\text{col}_+(A)$ , then there exist  $k$  s.t.

$$y = Ax, x \geq 0, \|x\|_0 \leq k < m$$



Quite unlikely in practice, and similar to the approximate case. See [Donoho2005]

# Illustration on Problem 1

Problem 1: paint color  $y$  as well as possible using paint pots  $A$ .

So far,

- ▶ There is always a best color approximation of  $y$  with pots  $A$ .
- ▶ When  $A$  has more than 3 colors, if  $y \in \text{col}_+(A)$ , in general there are several solutions.

# Illustration on Problem 1

Problem 1: paint color  $y$  as well as possible using paint pots  $A$ .

So far,

- ▶ There is always a best color approximation of  $y$  with pots  $A$ .
- ▶ When  $A$  has more than 3 colors, if  $y \in \text{col}_+(A)$ , in general there are several solutions.

What about when  $y \notin \text{col}_+(A)$ ?

## Approximate case: the main result

Theorem (Night Sky Theorem [Byrne 1981]):

Suppose that

$$y \notin \text{col}_+(A), \text{spark}(A) > m.$$

Then there is a unique solution the NNLS problem, which has most  $m - 1$  nonzeros.

## A detour by KKT

For a convex problem

$$\min_{x \in \mathbb{R}^d} f(x), \text{ s.t. } g(x) \leq 0, \quad f, g \text{ convex}$$

with an admissible solution, considering

$$\mathcal{L}(x, \lambda) = f(x) + \langle \lambda, g(x) \rangle,$$

$x^*$  is a solution iff there exist  $\lambda^*$  s.t.

$$g(x^*) \leq 0, \quad \lambda^* \geq 0, \quad \forall i \leq d, \lambda_i^* g_i(x_i^*) = 0$$

$$\nabla_x \mathcal{L}(x^*, \lambda^*) = 0$$

## Back to approximate NNLS

$$\nabla_x \|y - Ax\|_2^2 = 2A^T(Ax - y)$$

The KKT conditions are

$$x^* \geq 0, \quad \lambda^* \geq 0, \quad \lambda_i^* x_i^* = 0$$

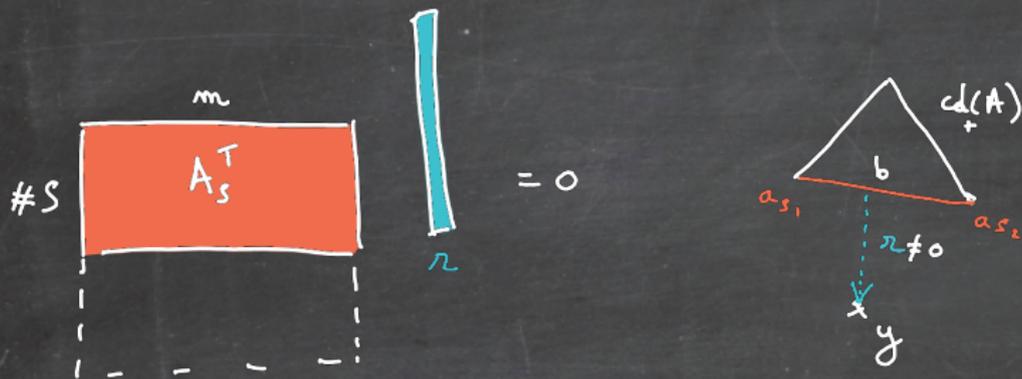
$$2A^T(Ax^* - y) - \lambda^* = 0$$

In particular, when  $x_i^* > 0, \lambda_i^* = 0$ , thus on the support  $S$  of  $x^*$ ,

$$A_S^T(Ax^* - y) = 0$$

## A marvelous equation

$$A_S^T(Ax^* - y) = 0 \Leftrightarrow A_S^T r = 0, r = y - b^*$$



As long as  $r \neq 0$  and any  $A_S$  is fcr,

- ▶  $\#S < m$
- ▶ For any  $i \in S$ ,  $a_i \in \text{col}_\perp(r) := \mathcal{H}$

## End of proof and computation of $x^*$

Any solution has its support in  $S^* = \{i \leq d, a_i \in \mathcal{H}\}$ .  
Moreover, the linear system

$$A_{S^*} z = b$$

has a unique solution for  $A_{S^*}$ .

Consequently, once the support of a solution  $S^*$  is known, within the hypotheses of the Night Sky Theorem, the unique solution is obtained by

$$x^* = A_{S^*}^\dagger y$$

where  $A^\dagger$  is the pseudo-inverse of  $A_{S^*}$ .

# Illustration on Problem 1

Problem 1: paint color  $y$  as well as possible using paint pots  $A$ .

- ▶ There is always a best color approximation of  $y$  with pots  $A$ .
- ▶ When  $A$  has more than 3 colors, if  $y \in \text{col}_+(A)$ , in general there are several solutions.
- ▶ If  $y \notin \text{col}_+(A)$ , with high probability, there is a unique solution.

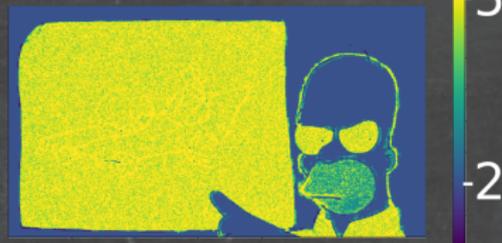
# Illustration on Homer



A



X nonzeros



How to solve NNLS??

# Active set in NNLS

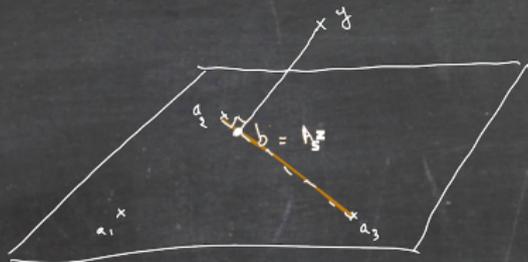
Proposition: (admitted for exact case)

Any NNLS problem has a solution  $x$  with at most  $m$  non-zeros.

If we know the support  $S$  of that solution, then

$$\operatorname{argmin}_{z \in \mathbb{R}^{\#S}} \|y - A_S z\|_2^2$$

is solved in closed form and yields the solution (KKT).



# The LH active set algorithm

Idea: (Lawson and Hanson (1974))

1. Start with empty support  $S$
2. Add a columns of  $A$  greedily to  $S$
3. Compute the projection on  $\text{col}(A_S)$
4. Stop if KKT conditions are met
5. If projection has negative coefficients, move along the update until no negatives are left
6. return to 2)

# The LH active set algorithm

Idea: (Lawson and Hanson (1974))

1. Start with empty support  $S$
2. Add a columns of  $A$  greedily to  $S$
3. Compute the projection on  $\text{col}(A_S)$
4. Stop if KKT conditions are met
5. If projection has negative coefficients, move along the update until no negatives are left
6. return to 2)



## The selection rule

$$S \leftarrow S \cup \operatorname{argmax}_{j \notin S} \langle a_j, r \rangle$$

where  $r = y - \Pi_{A_S}^\perp(y) =: y - Ax^S$

Recall KKT conditions

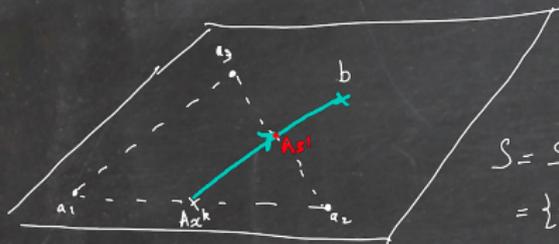
$$\lambda_j^* \geq 0, \quad 2\langle a_j, y - Ax^* \rangle = -\lambda_j^*$$

The column with “most negative” Lagrange multiplier is chosen.

The error  $\min_z \|y - A_S z\|_2^2$  can only go down in this step.

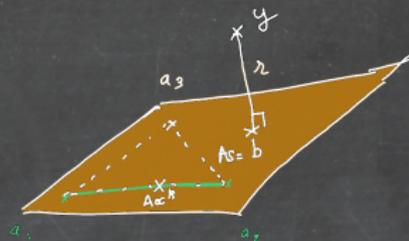
# The backward step

2/  $b \notin \text{col}_+(A_S)$ ,  $A_S' \in \text{col}_+(A_{\{2,3\}})$  1/



$$S = S \setminus \{1\} \\ = \{2, 3\}$$

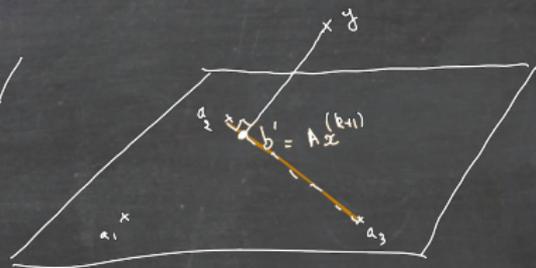
$t \mapsto \|y - A(x^k + t(\beta - x^k))\|_2^2$   
 is decreasing strictly by strong convexity



iteration k

$$S = \{1, 2\} \cup \{3\}$$

3/

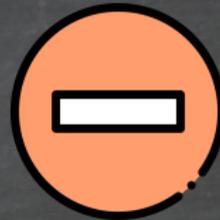


Stop since  $b' \in \text{col}_+(A_S)$   
 and  $\|y - b'\|_2^2 \leq \|y - A_S'\|_2^2$

# AS algorithm pros and cons



- ▶ Finite number of iterations
- ▶ Fast if warm start
- ▶ Early stop

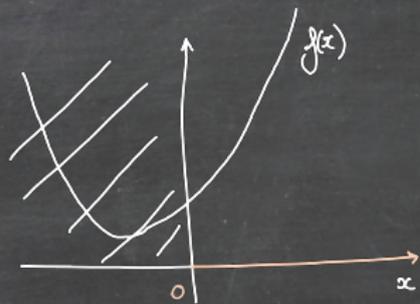
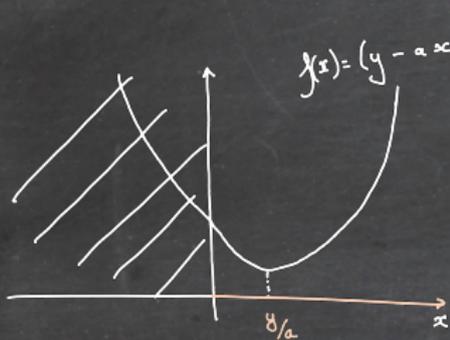


- ▶ May test all supports
- ▶ Cold start is often slow
- ▶ No matrix version

# A Block-Coordinate algorithm

Observation: The scalar problem is solved in closed form

$$\operatorname{argmin}_{x \in \mathbb{R}_+} (y - ax)^2 = \left[ \frac{y}{a} \right]^+$$

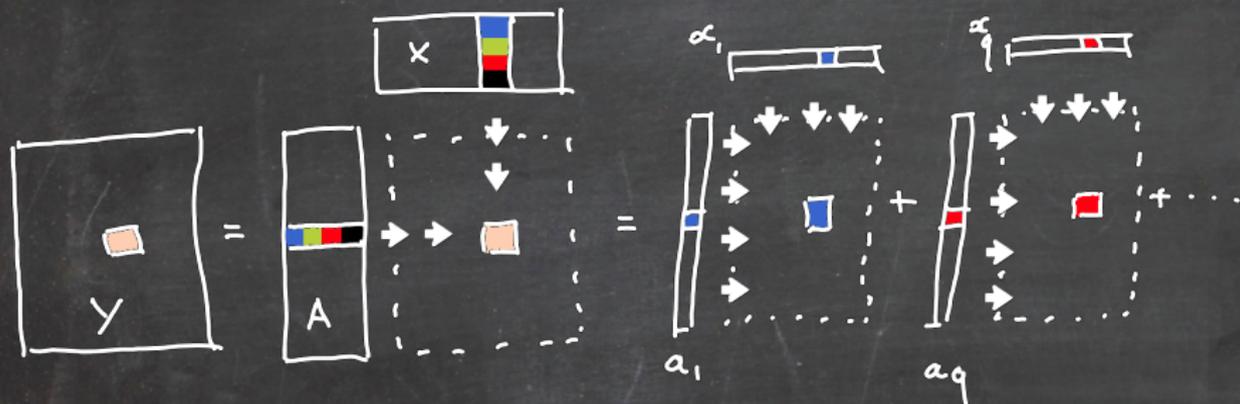


$$\operatorname{argmin}_{x \in \mathbb{R}_+} \|y - ax\|_2^2 = \frac{1}{\|a\|_2^2} [a^T y]^+$$

$$\operatorname{argmin}_{x^T \in \mathbb{R}_+^n} \|Y - ax^T\|_F^2 = \frac{1}{\|a\|_2^2} [a^T Y]^+$$

# Matrix Multiplication?

$$Y = AX, \quad Y_{ji} = \sum_{q=1}^d A_{jq} X_{qi}, \quad Y = \sum_{q=1}^d a_q \otimes x_q$$



## Solving per row

We solve several NNLS problems with  $Y = [y_1, \dots, y_n]$  and  $X = [x_1, \dots, x_n]$ , i.e.

$$\operatorname{argmin}_{X \in \mathbb{R}_+^{d \times n}} \|Y - AX\|_F^2$$

$a_j$

$x_j$

$A$

$X$

$$= \sum_{i \neq j} a_i x_i^T + a_j x_j^T$$
$$= A_{-j} X_{-j} + a_j x_j^T$$

# HALS

A block coordinate algorithm solves

$$\operatorname{argmin}_{x_j \in \mathbb{R}_+^n} \|(Y - A_{-j}X_{-j}) - a_j x_j\|_F^2$$

for each  $x_j$  alternatively until convergence.

Proposition: [Bertsekas 1995, earlier?]

As long as  $A$  has no zero column, the HALS iterates converge towards a minimizer of NNLS.

# HALS pseudocode

---

## Algorithm 1 HALS for NNLS

---

**Inputs:**  $Y, A$

**while** Convergence is not met **do**

**for**  $j$  in  $[1..d]$  **do**

    Compute  $Z = Y - A_{-j}X_{-j}$

    If  $a_j \neq 0$ , set  $x_j = \left[ \frac{a_j^T Z}{\|a_j\|_2^2} \right]^+$

**end for**

**end while**

---

Improvable by pre-allocation, see NMF section.

## HALS pros and cons



- ▶ Flexible (similar problems)
- ▶ Early stop
- ▶ BLAS3 matrix version



- ▶ Infinite number of steps
- ▶ Slower than AS if very good start

## A remark

$$x \leftarrow \frac{1}{\|a\|_2^2} [a^T Y]^+$$

is exactly

- ▶ a projected least squares update.
- ▶ a projected gradient step with the Lipschitz constant as inverse stepsize.
- ▶ a Gauss-Newton step.

$$\nabla_x \left[ \frac{1}{2} \|Y - ax\|_F^2 \right] (x) = -a^T Y + \|a\|_2^2 x$$

We can use that logic to derive HALS for NNLS variants.

# HALS for sparse NNLS

Let  $\lambda > 0$  and consider

$$\operatorname{argmin}_{X \in \mathbb{R}_+^{d \times n}} \frac{1}{2} \|Y - AX\|_F^2 + \lambda \|X\|_1$$

To obtain the HALS update rule, consider

$$\operatorname{argmin}_{x_j \in \mathbb{R}_+^n} h_j(x_j) := \frac{1}{2} \|Z_j - a_j x_j\|_F^2 + \lambda \|x_j\|_1$$

By setting

$$\nabla_x h_j(x) = -a_j^T Z_j + \|a_j\|_2^2 x + \lambda \mathbf{1}$$

to zero, solving and projecting, we get

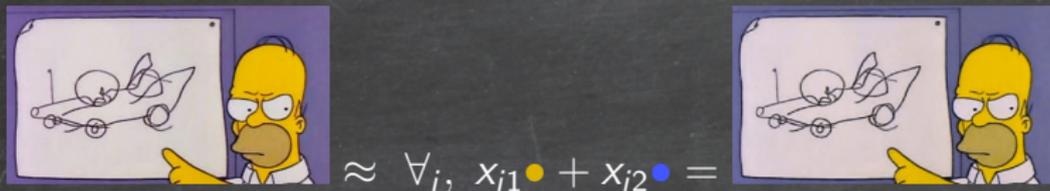
$$x_j^* = \left[ \frac{a_j^T Z_j - \lambda \mathbf{1}}{\|a_j\|_2^2} \right]^+$$

### III. Matrix and Tensor rank(s)

## Back to the fil rouge

Problem 2: given a painting  $\{y_i\}_{i \leq n}$ , find its closest 2-color version.

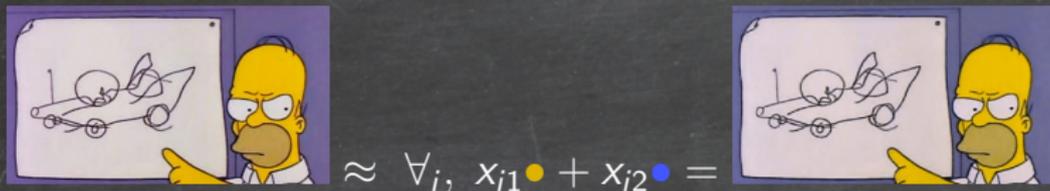
Find  $A \in \mathbb{R}_+^{3 \times 2}$  and  $x_i \in \mathbb{R}_+^2$  such that  $\forall i \leq n, y_i \approx Ax_i$



## Back to the fil rouge

Problem 2: given a painting  $\{y_i\}_{i \leq n}$ , find its closest 2-color version.

Find  $A \in \mathbb{R}_+^{3 \times 2}$  and  $x_i \in \mathbb{R}_+^2$  such that  $\forall i \leq n, y_i \approx Ax_i$



A NNLS problem for each  $A$ ??

# Matrix rank

Definition:

For some matrix  $Y \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$ , a factorization

$$Y = \sum_{q=1}^d a_q \otimes x_q = AX$$

is called a rank- $d$  decomposition of  $Y$  for  $d \leq \min(m, n)$ .

Definition:

The rank of a matrix  $Y$  is the smallest  $d$  such that  $Y$  admits a rank- $d$  decomposition,

$$\min \left\{ d \in \mathbb{N}, Y = \sum_{q \leq d} a_q \otimes x_q \right\}$$

## Matrix rank facts

The following other definitions of rank are equivalent:

- ▶ Dimension of column space of  $Y$
- ▶ Dimension of row-space of  $Y$
- ▶ Largest square submatrix  $B$  of  $Y$  with  $\det(B) \neq 0$
- ▶ Dimension of the Kernel of  $Y$
- ▶ Number of positive singular values of  $Y$

Also, it holds that

- ▶  $\text{rank}(Y) \leq \min(m, n)$
- ▶ For a “generic”  $Y$ ,  $\text{rank}(Y) = \min(m, n)$
- ▶ The set  $\{Y, \text{rank}(Y) \leq d\}$  is closed.

## Matrix rank facts

The following other definitions of rank are equivalent:

- ▶ Dimension of column space of  $Y$
- ▶ Dimension of row-space of  $Y$
- ▶ Largest square submatrix  $B$  of  $Y$  with  $\det(B) \neq 0$
- ▶ Dimension of the Kernel of  $Y$
- ▶ Number of positive singular values of  $Y$

Also, it holds that

- ▶  $\text{rank}(Y) \leq \min(m, n)$
- ▶ For a “generic”  $Y$ ,  $\text{rank}(Y) = \min(m, n)$
- ▶ The set  $\{Y, \text{rank}(Y) \leq d\}$  is closed.

## A reformulation of Problem 2

Let us drop nonnegativity for now. Then Problem 2 boils down to

$$\operatorname{argmin}_{Z \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}} \|Y - Z\|_F^2 \quad \text{s.t.} \quad \operatorname{rank}(Z) \leq d$$

For the 2-color best painting, we set  $d = 2$ . This is the projection on the set of low-rank matrices.

Proposition:

- (i) A best low-rank approximation  $Z^*$  always exists.
- (ii) A solution is known in closed form by considering the SVD

$$Y = U\Sigma V^T, \quad U^T U = I_m, \quad V^T V = I_n, \quad \Sigma_{ij} = \sigma_i \delta_{ij}$$

and truncating the  $\operatorname{rank}(A) - d$  smallest singular values.

- (iii) If the  $d$ th singular value is simple then  $Z^*$  is unique.

## A short focus on SVD

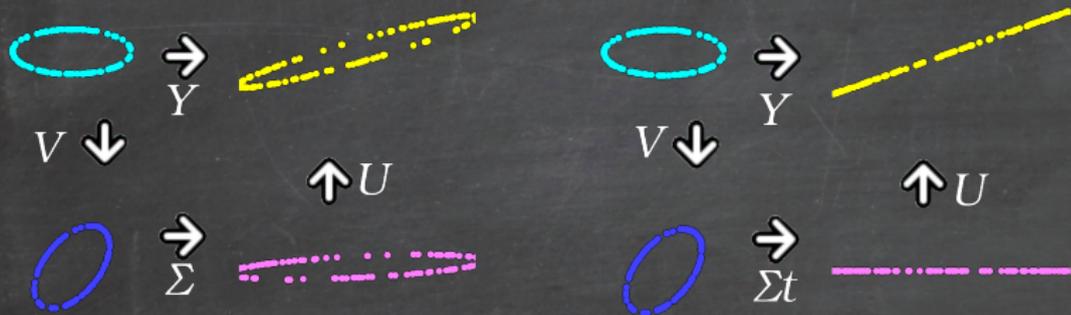
Singular Value Decomposition:

For any  $Y \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times m}$  there exist orthogonal matrices  $U, V \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times m}$  and a nonnegative diagonal matrix  $\Sigma \in \mathbb{R}_+^{m \times m}$  such that

$$Y = U\Sigma V$$

A linear map is a rotation, a scaling/projection, and a rotation.

## A short focus on tSVD



$V, \Sigma, U$  applied sequentially

Rank-one approximation

# Why truncation?

Intuition:

$$\begin{aligned}\|Y - Z\|_F^2 &= \|U\Sigma V^T - Z\|_F^2 \\ &= \|\Sigma - U^T Z V\|_F^2 \\ &= \|\Sigma - \tilde{Z}\|_F^2\end{aligned}$$

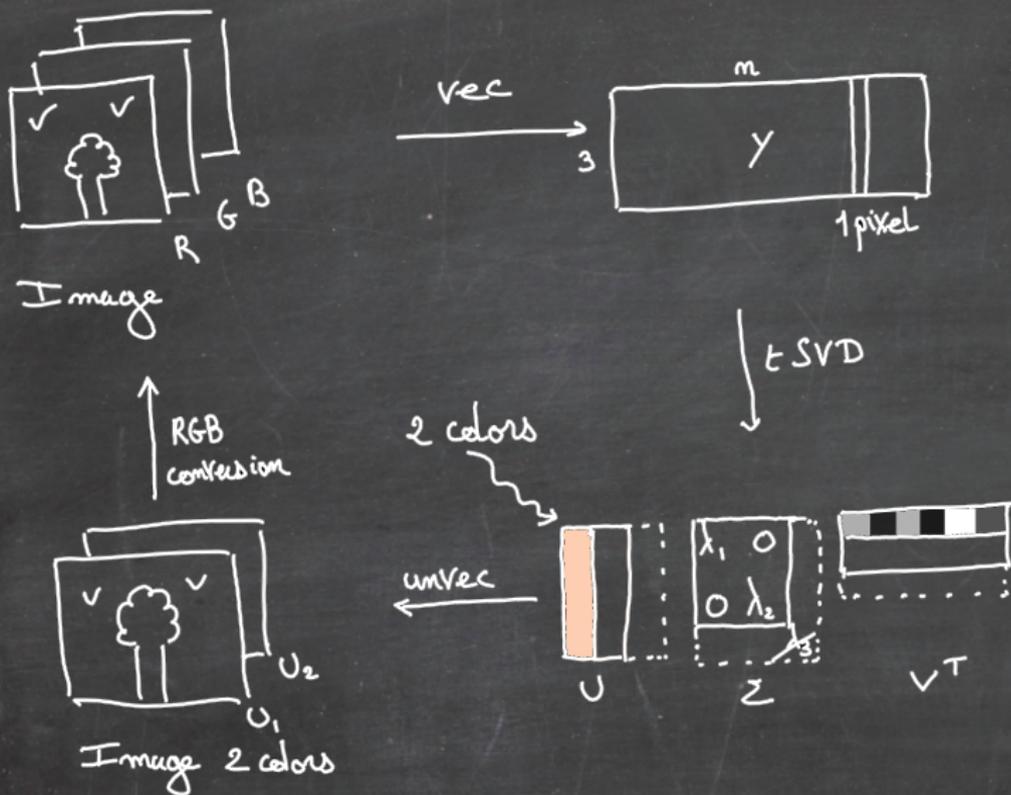
We can guess that

$$\min_{\text{rank}(\tilde{Z}) \leq d} \|\Sigma - \tilde{Z}\|_F^2 = \min_{\|z\|_0 \leq d} \|s - z\|_2^2$$

where  $\text{Diag}(s) = \Sigma$ . Finally  $Z^* = U\Sigma(1:d)V^T$ .

Actual proof on Wikipedia!

## Did we solve Problem 2?



Did we? Your opinion.

Vote at <https://www.wooclap.com/ITWISTQ2>

Lunch break!!



# Nonnegative Rank

The SVD rarely provides nonnegative entries for  $U, V$  except for  $d = 1$ , see Perron-Frobenius Theorem. We need nonnegativity constraints!!

Definition:

Let  $Y \in \mathbb{R}_+^{m \times n}$  a nonnegative matrix. A nonnegative matrix factorization of  $Y$  is a factorization

$$Y = AX$$

for  $A \in \mathbb{R}_+^{m \times d}$  and  $X \in \mathbb{R}_+^{d \times n}$ . The smallest such  $d$  is the nonnegative rank of  $Y$ , *i.e.*

$$\text{rank}_+(Y) = \min \left\{ d \in \mathbb{N}, Y = \sum_{q=1}^d a_q \otimes x_q \text{ and } a_q \geq 0, x_q \geq 0 \right\}$$

# Tensor rank

In this talk, tensors are multidimensional arrays  $T \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n \times p}$ .

Definition:

Let  $Y \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n \times p}$  a tensor. A rank  $d$  decomposition of  $Y$  is a factorization

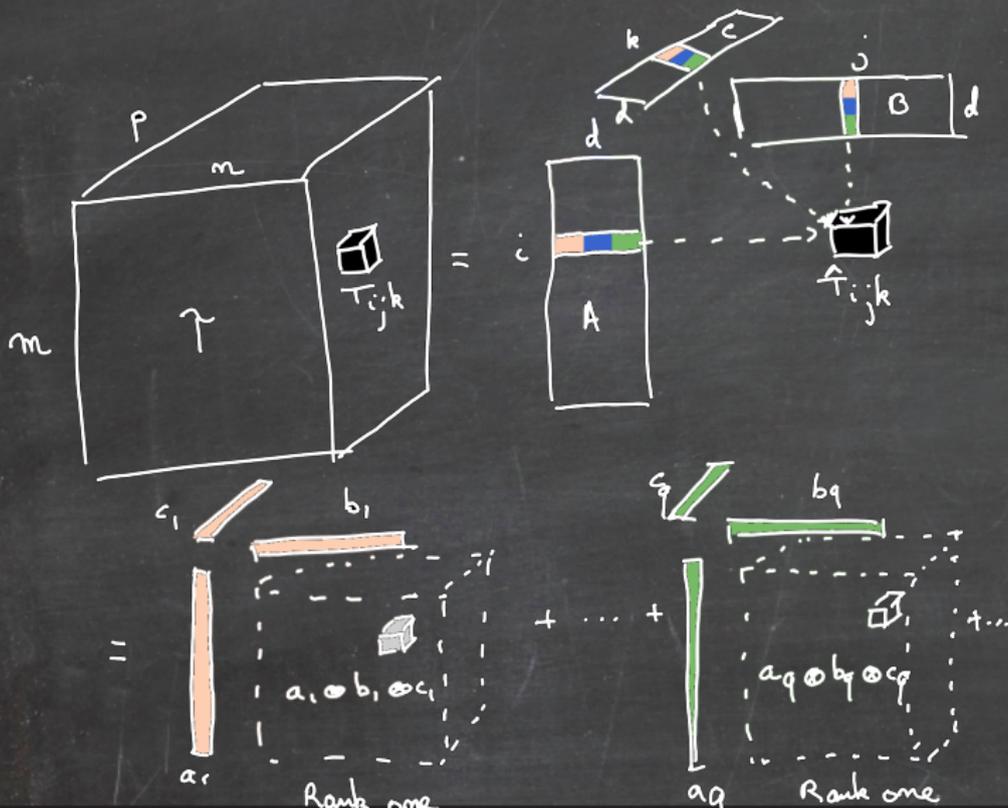
$$Y_{ijk} = \sum_{q=1}^d A_{iq} B_{jq} C_{kq}$$

for  $A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times d}$ ,  $B \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times d}$  and  $C \in \mathbb{R}^{p \times d}$ . The smallest such  $d$  is the rank of  $Y$ , i.e.

$$\text{rank}(Y) = \min \left\{ d \in \mathbb{N}, Y = \sum_{q=1}^d a_q \otimes b_q \otimes c_q \right\}$$

# Rank decomposition

Others names: CPD, PARAFAC, CANDECOP...



## Computing the rank?



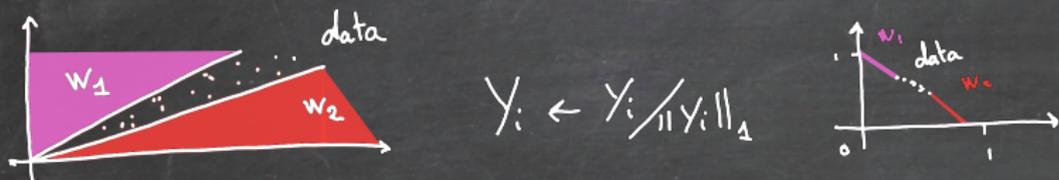
Computing or guessing the rank is extremely difficult in general,  
except for the matrix rank.

# IV. Nonnegative Matrix Factorization

# Exact and approximate NMF

Exact NMF (known rank  $d$ ):

$$\text{Find } W \in \mathbb{R}_+^{m \times d}, H \in \mathbb{R}_+^{d \times n} \text{ s.t. } Y = WH$$



Approximate NMF (fixed approx. rank  $d$ , Frobenius loss):

$$\text{Solve } \underset{W \in \mathbb{R}_+^{m \times d}, H \in \mathbb{R}_+^{d \times n}}{\text{argmin}} \|Y - WH\|_F^2$$

Nonconvex problem! But convex constraints!

## A little experiment

We have painted Homer with 2 colors using NNLS.

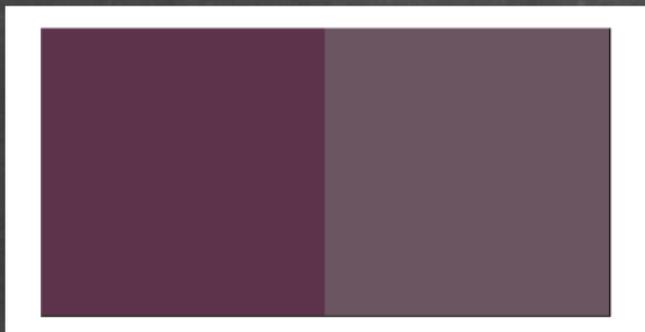


This image has nonnegative rank 2.

## A little experiment

Goal:

Recover the two colors that were used.



Procedure:

Compute 9 times a rank-2 NMF of the matrix  $Y \in \mathbb{R}_+^{3 \times d}$  with an alternating HALS algorithm (see later).

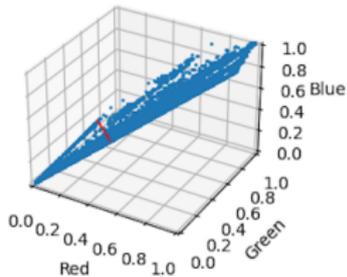
Initialized with  $W_{ij} \sim \text{abs}(\mathcal{N}(0, 1))$

## A little experiment

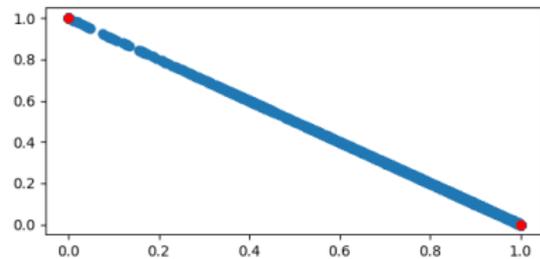
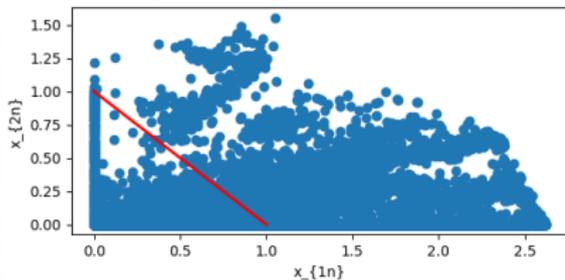
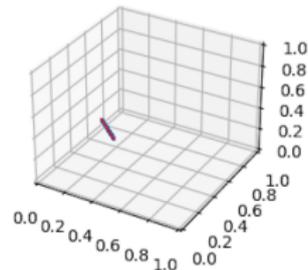
What will happen? Vote: <https://www.wooclap.com/ITWISTQ3>

# A little experiment: data

Unnormalized



l1 Normalized



red: ground truth 2-colors

# A little experiment: reconstructions



# A little experiment: colors

$796 \times 10^{-6}$



$355 \times 10^{-6}$



$611 \times 10^{-6}$



$1085 \times 10^{-6}$



$4 \times 10^{-6}$



$961 \times 10^{-6}$



$555 \times 10^{-6}$



$556 \times 10^{-6}$



$597 \times 10^{-6}$



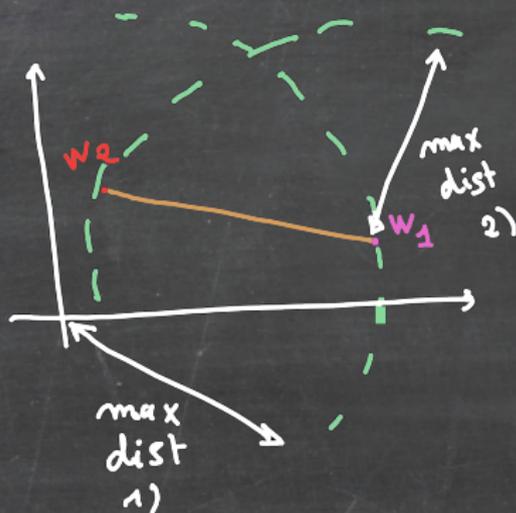
## Wait a minute...

The exact rank-2 NMF problem looks actually easy.

- ▶ Normalize data
- ▶ Select column of maximal  $l_2$  normal  $\rightarrow W_1$
- ▶ Find its furthest column  $\rightarrow W_2$
- ▶ Solve the strongly convex resulting NNLS problem  $\rightarrow H$

Proposition:

The exact rank-2 NMF problem is in PTIME(n).



## Rank > 3

Let's build a harder instance of Exact NMF.

Let  $Y \in \mathbb{R}_+^{4 \times n}$  with no zero column.

Normalization:

$$Y = WH \equiv YD_Y^{-1} = WD_W^{-1}D_WHD_Y^{-1}$$

so that  $Y$  and  $W$  may wlog belong to the simplex  $\mathcal{S}_3$ .

Furthermore,

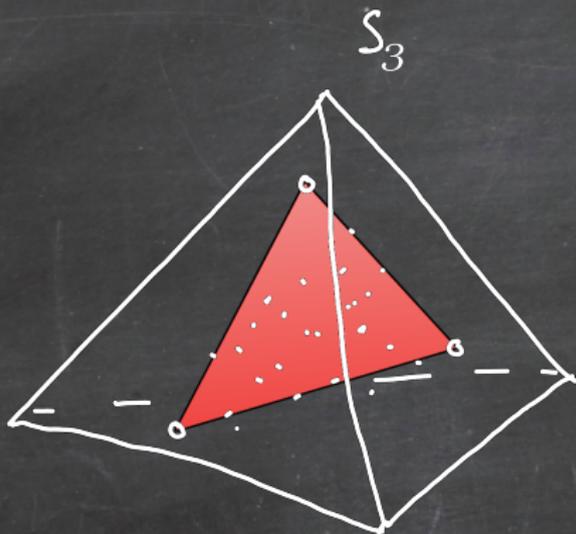
$$\|Y_i\|_1 = 1 = \left\| \sum_q W_{\cdot q} H_{qi} \right\|_1 = \dots = \|H_{\cdot i}\|_1$$

so that  $H$  is also normalized.

## Rank > 3

Proposition: [Vavasis2007]

Exact NMF with rank  $3 < d < m$  as part of the input is NP-hard.



. data  
o  $W_i \in S_4$

In fact this problem is still in P [Silio 1979, Agrawal 1989], nontrivially. More in the NMF book [Gillis 2020].

## A comparison with sparse coding

Sparse coding

$$\min_{x \in \mathbb{R}^d} \|x\|_0 \quad \text{s.t.} \quad y = Ax$$

is NP-hard(d), but when **fixing** some sparsity  $k < d$ ,

$$\text{Find } x \in \mathbb{R}^d, \quad \|x\|_0 = k \quad \text{s.t.} \quad y = Ax$$

is in P(d), since it is enough to test all  $\binom{d}{k} \sim \mathcal{O}(d^k)$  supports.

## Approximate NMF is hard

Even rank 2 approximate NMF of a rank  $d \geq 3$  matrix is hard!



- data
- $w_i$  (?)

And even rank 1 approximate NMF of a matrix with negative entries is NP-hard.

It's all nice, but how to compute (approximate) NMF?

# Alternating Algorithms

---

**Algorithm 2** A general alternating algorithm for NMF

---

- 1: **Inputs:**  $Y, d, W^0$
  - 2: Set  $k = 0$
  - 3: **while** Stopping criterion is not met **do**
  - 4:     Update  $H^{k+1}$  with fixed  $W^k$
  - 5:     Update  $W^{k+1}$  with fixed  $H^{k+1}$
  - 6: **end while**
- 

Convergence as a BCD algorithm [Bertsekas] if each NNLS has a unique solution (hard to check).

# Alternating Algorithms

---

## Algorithm 3 HALS algorithm for NMF

---

- 1: **Inputs:**  $Y, d, W^0$
  - 2: Set  $k = 0$
  - 3: **while** Stopping criterion is not met **do**
  - 4:   Update  $H^{k+1}$  with fixed  $W^k \leftarrow$  NNLS HALS solver
  - 5:   Update  $W^{k+1}$  with fixed  $H^{k+1} \leftarrow$  NNLS HALS solver
  - 6: **end while**
- 

Convergence guaranteed by the PALM framework [Bolte 2014] when no columns of  $W, H^T$  are null through the iterations. Indeed HALS is exactly an alternating proximal gradient with Lipschitz step.

## A second look at NNLS HALS

---

**Algorithm 4** HALS for NNLS, solving for  $H$

---

**Inputs:**  $Y, W, H^0$

**while** convergence criterion is not met **do**

**for**  $q$  in  $[1..d]$  **do**

    Compute  $Z = Y - W_{-q}H_{-q}$

    If  $W_q \neq 0$ , set  $H_q = \left[ \frac{W_q^T Z}{\|W_q\|_2^2} \right]^+$

**end for**

**end while**

---

## A second look at NNLS HALS

---

**Algorithm 4** HALS for NNLS, solving for  $H$

---

**Inputs:**  $Y, W, H^0$

**while** convergence criterion is not met **do**

**for**  $q$  in  $[1..d]$  **do**

    Compute  $Z = Y - W_{-q}H_{-q}$

    If  $W_q \neq 0$ , set  $H_q = \left[ \frac{W_q^T Z}{\|W_q\|_2^2} \right]^+$

**end for**

**end while**

---

Important tweaks:

- ▶ Precompute  $WtW := W^T W, WtY := W^T Y$
- ▶ Early stop, e.g. when  $\|Y - WH\|_F^2 < 10^{-4} \|Y - WH^0\|_F^2$
- ▶ Warm start  $H^0$  from the previous outer loop in NMF HALS

# Application 1: automatic transcription

## Data:

- ▶ An audio recording.

## Procedure:

- ▶ Form a time-frequency matrix  $Y \in \mathbb{R}_+^{n \times m}$
- ▶ Perform a rank  $d$  NMF of  $Y$ .
- ▶ In principle, identify notes and activations to produce MIDI

## Goals:

- ▶ Recover the music sheet solely from the audio

# Application 1: automatic transcription

**JORDU** 227  
- DUKE JORDAN

(MED. UP JAZZ)

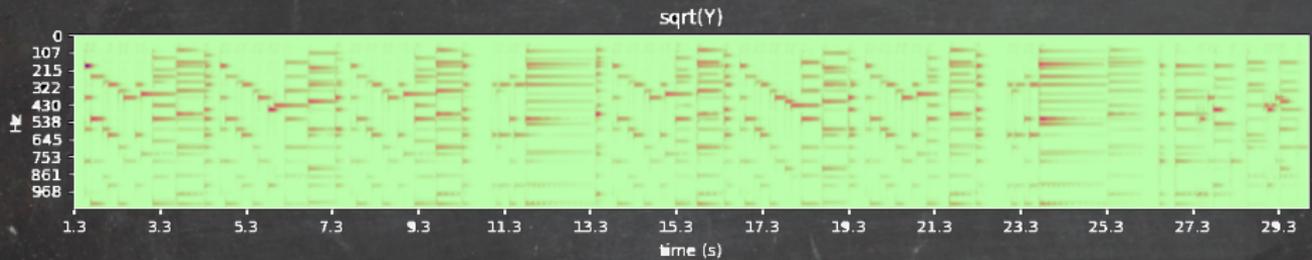
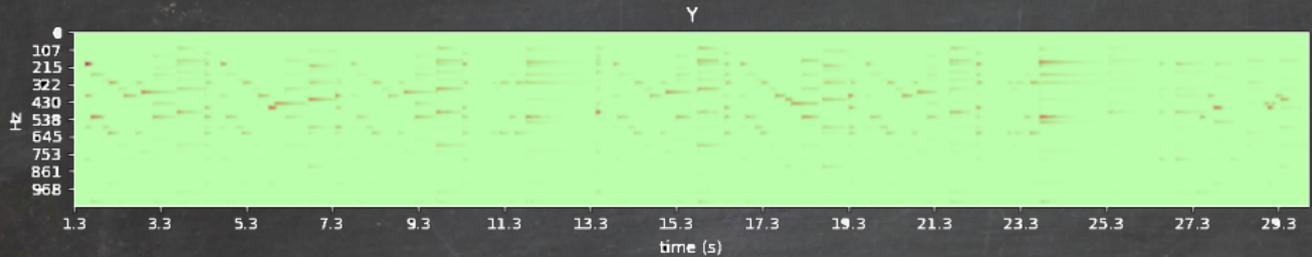
N.C. A% D7 G7 C- N.C.

F7 Bb7 Ebmaj7 N.C. N.C. D7 G7 C-



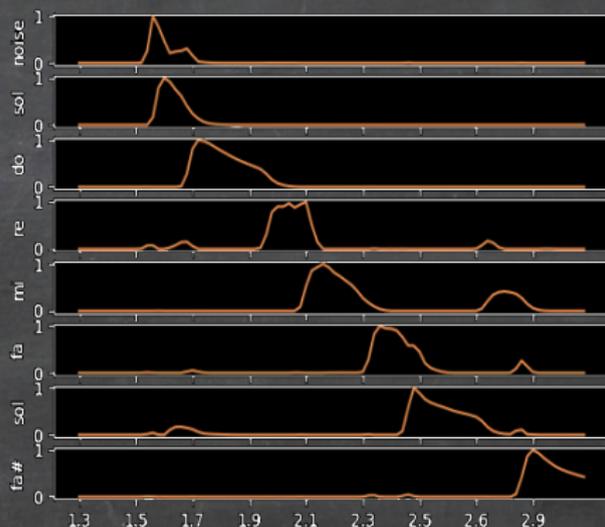
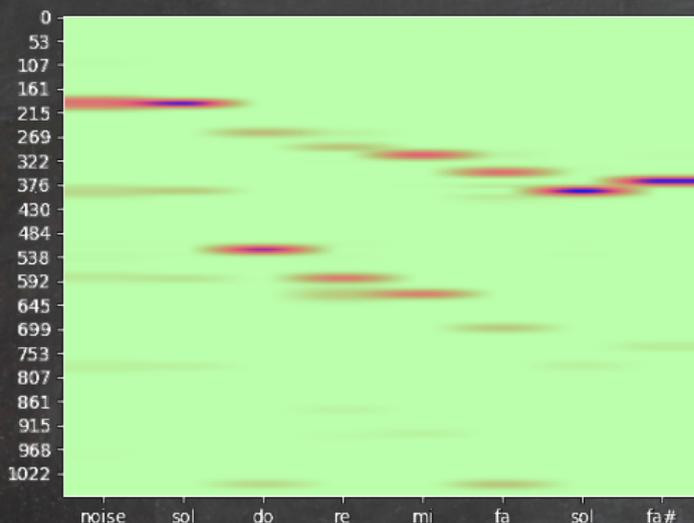
Jordu.wav

# Application 1: data

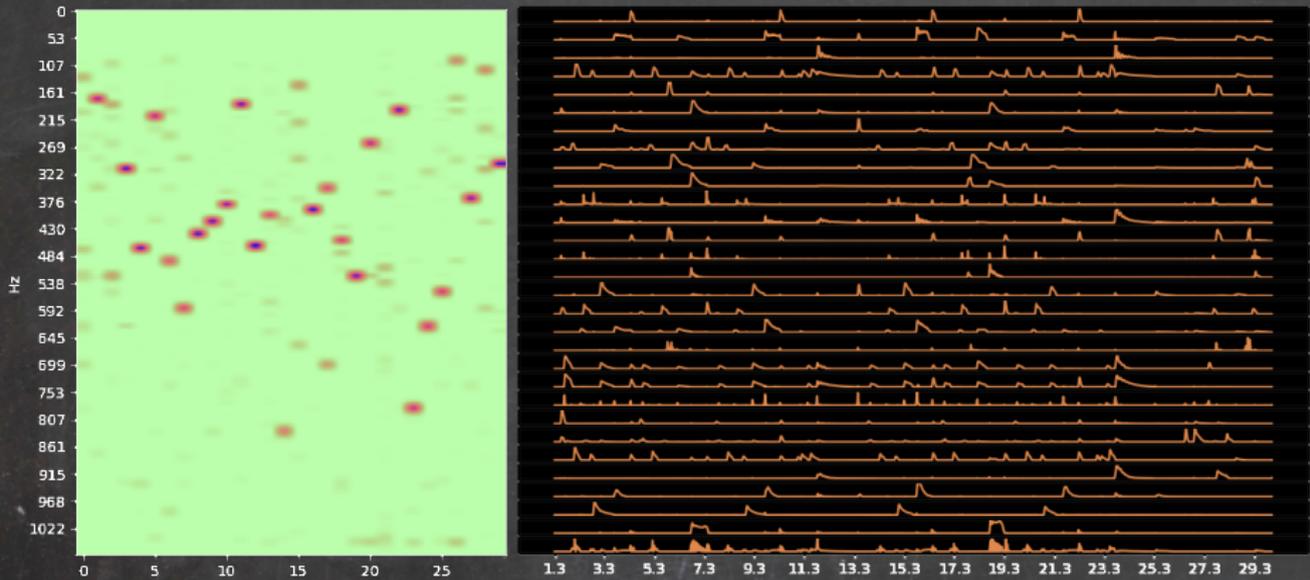


# Application 1: easy case

Only the first 3 seconds, isolated notes!



# Application 1: hard case



## Application 2: Text mining for newbies

### Data:

- ▶ A collection of  $m = 8$  text files, collected from web articles.
- ▶ A dictionary of semantically useless words (from sklearn).

### Procedure:

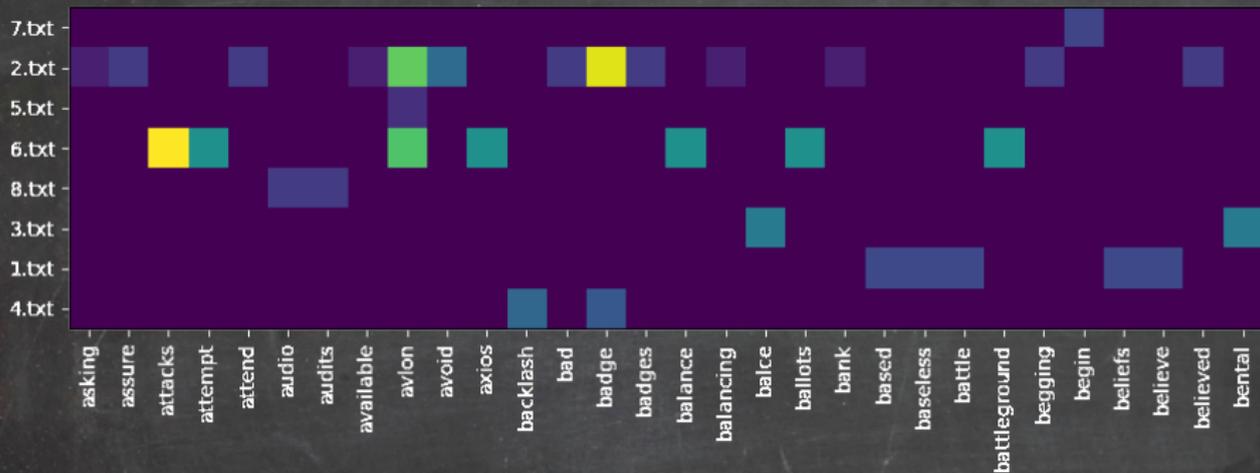
- ▶ Form a frequency matrix  $Y \in \mathbb{R}_+^{8 \times n}$  (with sklearn)
- ▶  $n$  is the number of different words in the files.
- ▶ Perform a rank 3 NMF of  $Y$ .

### Goals:

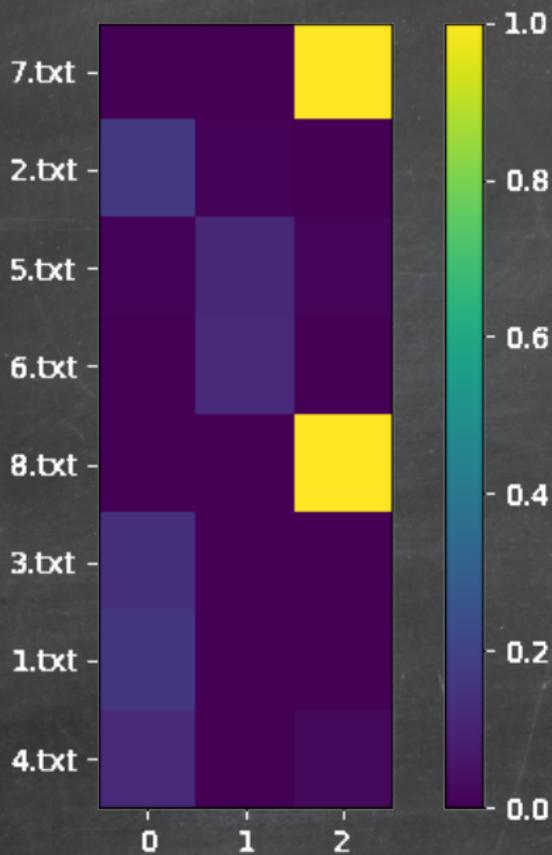
- ▶ Classify articles automatically
- ▶ Uncover hidden patterns in articles
- ▶ Generally speaking, extract information

# Application 2: data

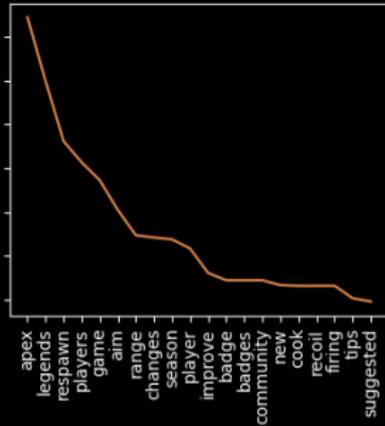
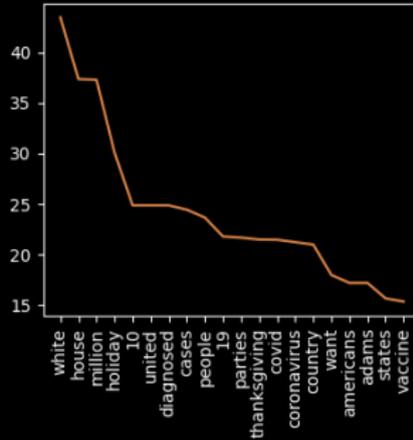
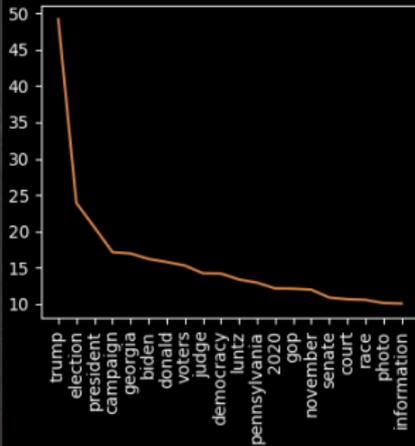
A few columns of the  $Y$  matrix



## Application 2: Estimated $W$



# Application 2: Estimated H

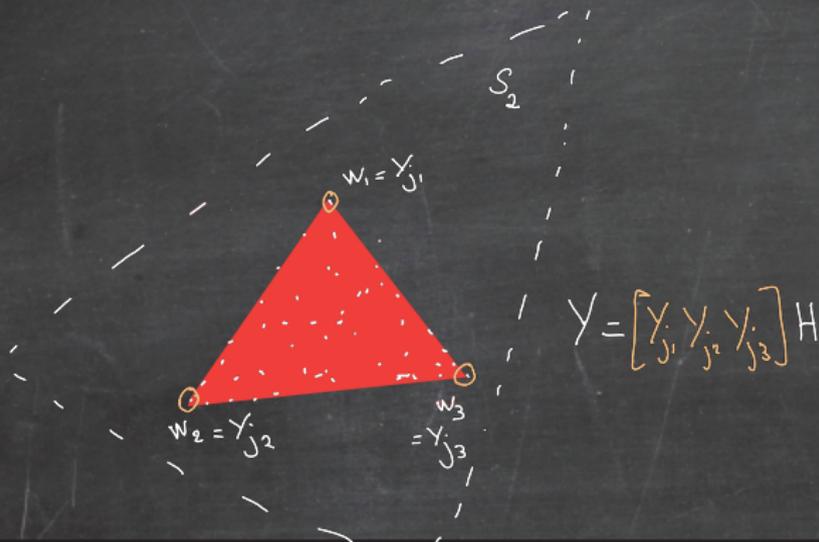


## Other NMF concepts

Separable NMF: [Arora 2012, Gillis 2013, ...]

Columns of  $W$  are in the data. Exact separable NMF is in P, but near-separable NMF is NP-hard.

$$\operatorname{argmin}_{S \in \mathcal{P}_d([1, n]), H \geq 0} \|Y - Y_S H\|_F^2$$

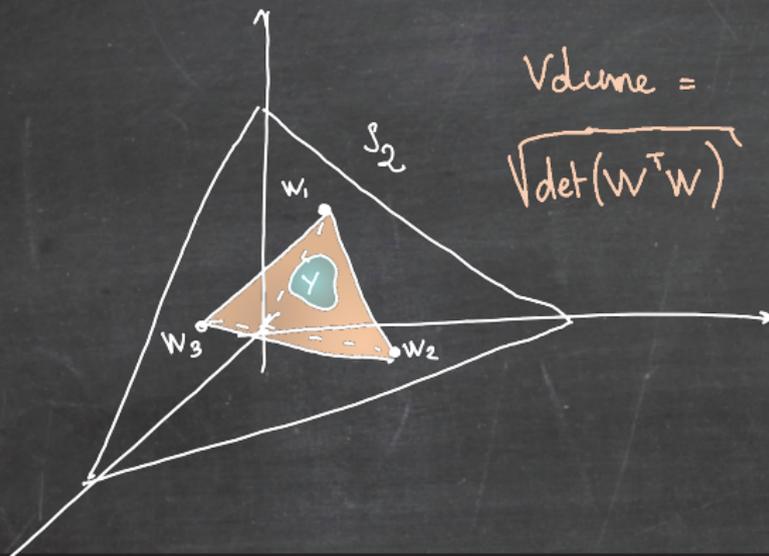


## Other NMF concepts

Minimum volume NMF: [Fu and Huang 2016]

Penalize the volume of  $\text{Conv}(W)$ . May lead to unique  $W$  and  $H$ !

$$\underset{W \geq 0, W^T \mathbf{1}_m = \mathbf{1}_d, H \geq 0}{\text{argmin}} \quad \|Y - WH\|_F^2 + \lambda \log \det(W^T W + \delta I_d)$$



## Other NMF concepts: $\beta$ -divergence NMF

Change the cost to

$$d_{\beta}(x, y) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{\beta(\beta-1)}(x^{\beta} + (\beta-1)y^{\beta} - \beta xy^{(\beta-1)}) & \text{if } \beta \notin \{0, 1\} \\ x \log \frac{x}{y} - x + y & \text{if } \beta = 1 \text{ (KL div)} \\ \frac{x}{y} - \log \frac{x}{y} - 1 & \text{if } \beta = 0 \text{ (IS div)} \end{cases}$$

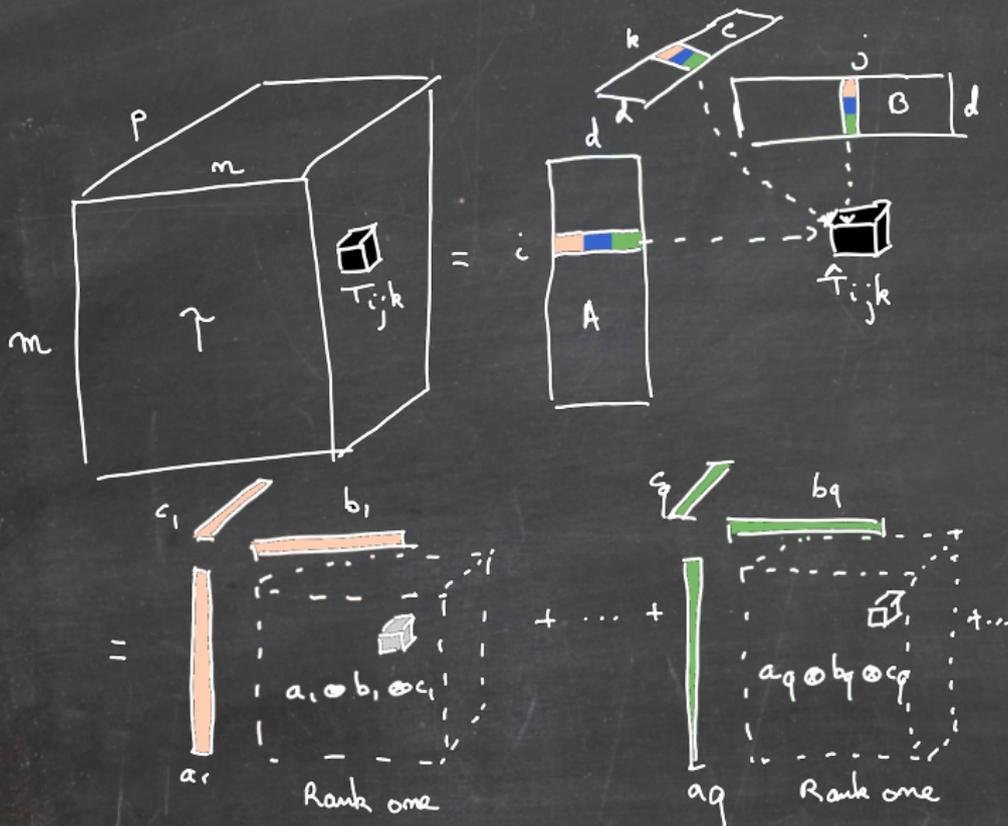
and solve

$$\operatorname{argmin}_{W, H \geq 0} \sum_{ij} d_{\beta}(Y_{ij}, [WH]_{ij})$$

typically with multiplicative updates [Fevotte Idier 2011].

# IV. Nonnegative Tensor Factorization

# NTF illustrated



## NTF: similarities with NMF

A few equivalent formulations of exact NTF:

$$T_{ijk} = \sum_{q=1}^d W_{iq} H_{jq} C_{kq} = \sum_{q=1}^d w_q \otimes h_q \otimes c_q$$

$$Y_k := T_{::k} = W \text{Diag}(C_{k:}) H^T$$

NTF can be seen as a collection of NMFs with the same  $W, H$  up to nonnegative scaling!

Moreover,

$$\underset{W, H, C \geq 0}{\operatorname{argmin}} \left\| T - \sum_{q=1}^d w_q \otimes h_q \otimes c_q \right\|_F^2$$

is still a NNLS problem with respect to one factor, e.g.  $H$ . This problem always has a solution, which is generically unique [Qi 2016]. **Factors  $W, H, C$  are often unique too!**

# Complexity recap

Low Rank Approximation:

$$\operatorname{argmin}_{Z \in \mathbb{R}_{(+)}^{m \times n(\times p)}} \|Y - Z\|_F^2 \text{ s.t. } \operatorname{rank}_{(+)}(Z) \leq d$$

Table: Properties of ranks [Lim2013, Vavasis2007, Friedland2013, Qi2016]

	mat. rank	mat. rank <sub>+</sub>	ten. rank	ten. rank <sub>+</sub>
exact	P	NP-hard	?	?
approx	P	NP-hard	NP-h., ill-posed	?
unique $Z$	Generic	Generic	ill-posed	Generic
unique $A, X$	No	No	Generic	Generic
algorithm	tSVD	Heuristics	$\infty$	Heuristics

# NTF: applying HALS

Computing the gradient:

One can check that

$$\nabla_c [w \otimes h \otimes c](w, h, c) = w^* \otimes h^* \otimes I_p$$

and therefore

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{2} \nabla_{c_1} &= -(w_1^* \otimes h_1^* \otimes I_p) \left( T - \sum_{q=1}^d w_q \otimes h_q \otimes c_q \right) \\ &= -w_1^T T h_1 + \sum_{q=2}^d \langle w_1, w_q \rangle \langle h_1, h_q \rangle c_q + \|w_1\|_2^2 \|h_1\|_2^2 c_1 \end{aligned}$$

One should precompute  $w_q^T T h_q \forall q \leq d$ ,  $W^T W$  and  $H^T H$ .

## NNLS for NTF

---

**Algorithm 5** HALS for NNLS for NTF

---

**Inputs:**  $T, W, H, C$

**while** Convergence is not met **do**

**for**  $j$  in  $[1..d]$  **do**

    Compute  $Z = T - \sum_{q \neq j} w_q \otimes h_q \otimes c_q$

    If  $w_j \neq 0$  and  $h_j$ , set  $c_j = \left[ \frac{w_j^T Z h_j}{\|w_j\|_2 \|h_j\|_2} \right]^+$

**end for**

**end while**

---

# An application of NTD to chemometrics

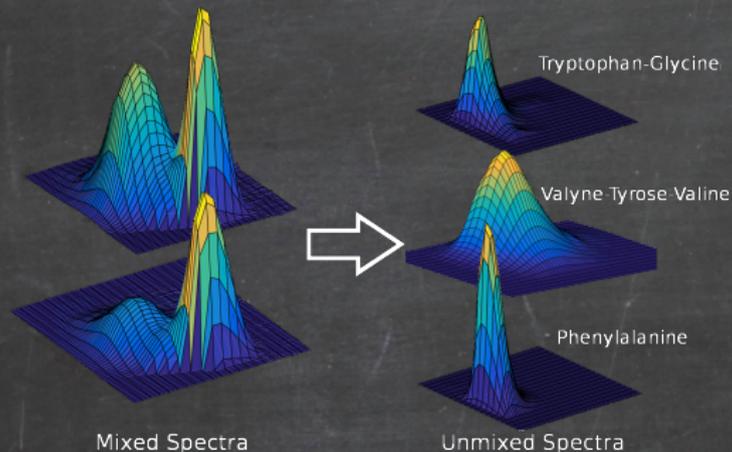
## Material:

- ▶ Several mixtures of 3 fluorescent chemicals, in various concentrations.

## Procedure:

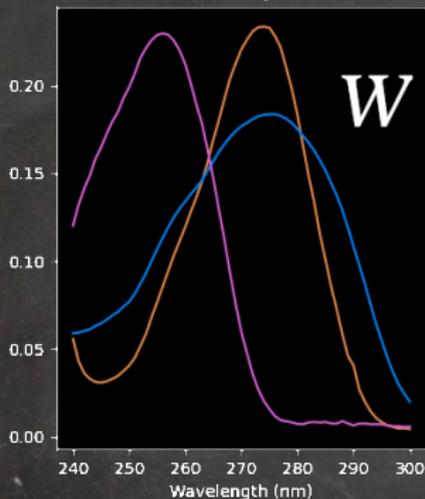
- ▶ Measure excitation-emission for each sample, stack in a tensor  $Y$ .
- ▶ Perform a rank 3 approximate NTF of  $Y$ .

## Goals:

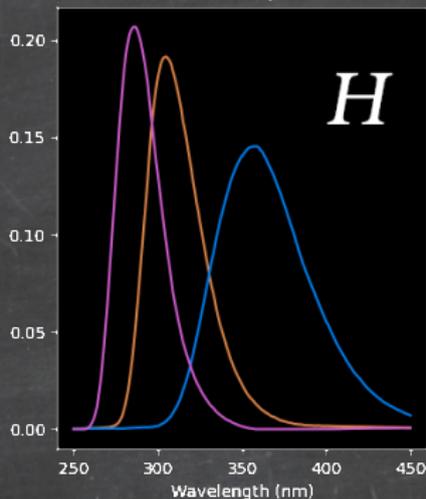


# An application of NTD to chemometrics

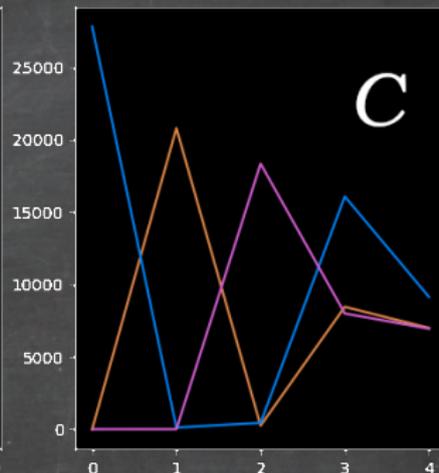
Emission spectra



Excitation spectra

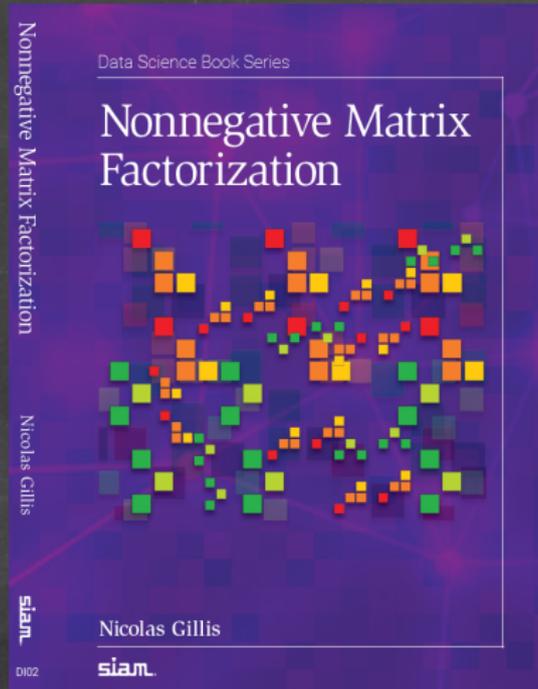


Relative concentrations



# To go (much) further

---



Take home message: Stay Positive Nonnegative!

