Learning from Complex and Relational Data

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Learning from Data: The Traditional Way



A two-stage process. Stage 1 often hand-crafted.

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Learning via "Feature Learning"



Learning features tuned for specific tasks. Lot of recent buzz (e.g., deep learning).

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Why Learn Features?

- May not be obvious which features to use (too many, possibly noisy, features)
- Data may not have explicitly defined features (e.g., data is a graph)



• Data may be heterogeneous and multi-modality



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• Data may be temporally evolving ("drifting distribution")



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Generative Models for Feature Learning

• Assume that the observations arise from a generative process



Observed Data (P variables, per example)

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Generative Models for Feature Learning

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Observed Data (P variables, per example)

- Can be extended to multiple layers of latent features (Deep Learning)
- Many other advantanges
 - Handling missing/noisy observations
 - Learning the "right" number of latent features

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- Tensor: generalization of matrices to more than two dimensions or "ways"
- Assume **X** is a binary 3-way tensor of size $N_U \times N_I \times N_S$



• $X_{uis} = 1$ denotes a past transaction involving user u, item i and store s

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- Learning features for users/items/stores is the key

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Tensor Decomposition

Low-Rank approximation: Express a tensor as a weighted sum of rank-1 tensors



Each rank-1 tensor is an outer product of a set of column vectors (factors)



Akin to Singular Value Decomposition (SVD) used for matrix factorization

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Feature Learning via Tensor Decomposition

Original tensor decomposed into factor matrices (one for each tensor dimension)



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Feature Learning via Tensor Decomposition

Original tensor decomposed into factor matrices (one for each tensor dimension)



Some of our recent work on generative models for tensor decomposition:

- Interpretability: non-negativity & sparsity of the eigenvectors (latent factors)
- Simultaneous ranking/clustering of entities along with tensor decomposition
- Scalability for massive-sized tensors (computations scale w.r.t. nonzeros)
- Loss functions that model "rareness" in the data
- Online Learning

[ICML 2014, AAAI 2014, IJCAI 2015, ECML 2015, UAI 2015]

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Example: Anomaly Detection



A look at what time-dimension eigenvectors might reveal

Top row: two eigenvectors capturing normal behaviors

Bottom row: two eigenvectors capturing bot-like behaviors



Can detect anomalous users by looking at the corresponding eigenvectors of users

• Learning to jointly predict multiple (correlated) outputs

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- Predicting the arrival times (e.g., on an e-commerce portal)
 - When will the next visit happen?
 - How many visits between time t and t + L?
 - How to jointly learn arrival patterns of multiple customers?
 - All the above can be modeled using Point Processes

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- Learning from mislabeled data (adversary might label some frauds as legit)
- How to leverage knowledge from other (related) data sources
 - Especially useful if we have a new learning problem with no training data
 - Algorithms: Transfer or Multitask Learning, Domain Adaptation

Thanks! Questions?