

Coherence

Defn. $A \in \mathbb{C}^{m \times N}$ with ℓ_2 normalized cols a_1, a_2, \dots, a_N
s.t. $\|a_i\|_2 = 1$, $i \in \mathbb{C}[N]$. The coherence $\mu(A)$

is defined as

$$\mu \triangleq \mu(A) \triangleq \max_{1 \leq i \neq j \leq N} |\langle a_i, a_j \rangle|$$

The ℓ_1 -coherence fn. (Babai fn.)

$$\mu_1(A) = \max_{i \in \mathbb{C}[N]} \max_{\substack{j \in \mathbb{C}[N] \\ j \neq i}} \frac{\sum_{j \in S} |\langle a_{ij}, a_j \rangle|}{|\{j \mid j \neq i, j \in S\}|}, \quad S \subseteq [N],$$

where $S \subseteq [N-1]$.

$$\mu_1(A) = \max_{\substack{S: |S| \leq N-1 \\ S \subseteq [N]}} \max_{j \notin S} \sum_{i \in S} |\langle a_{ij}, a_j \rangle|.$$

Note:

① For $1 \leq k \leq N-1$

$$\mu \leq \mu_1(A) \leq \lambda \mu \quad (\text{CHW})$$

$$\mu = \mu_1^{(1)}$$

② For $1 \leq s, t \leq N-1$, $s \neq t$

$$\max \{\mu_1(s), \mu_1(t)\} \leq \mu_1(st) \leq \mu_1(s) + \mu_1(t).$$

③ Coherence & ℓ_1 -coherence are invariant to left multi. by a unitary matrix U .

$\because u_1, \dots, u_N$ are ℓ_2 normalized

$$\langle Ua_i, Ua_j \rangle = \langle a_i, a_j \rangle$$

④ $\mu \leq 1$ [\because of Cauchy-Schwarz inequality]

⑤ $\mu = 0$ iff A has orthonormal cols.

\Rightarrow when $m < N$, $\mu > 0$.

⑥ Small $\mu \Rightarrow$ col submatrices of A are well-conditioned.

Thm. 5.3 $A \in \mathbb{C}^{m \times N}$, ℓ_2 normalized cols, $x \in \mathbb{C}^N$.

$$\text{For all } 1\text{-sparse } x \in \mathbb{C}^N, \quad (1 - \mu_1(A-1)) \|Ax\|_2^2 \leq \|Ax\|_2^2 \leq (1 + \mu_1(A-1)) \|Ax\|_2^2.$$

Equivalently, for each $S \subseteq [N]$ with $|S| \leq N-1$,
the EVals of $A_S^H A_S \in [1 - \mu_1(A-1), 1 + \mu_1(A-1)]$.

In particular, if $\mu_1(A-1) < 1$, then $A_S^H A_S$

is invertible.

Proof : For $S \subseteq [N]$, $|S| \leq N-1$, $A_S^H A_S$ is PSD

\Rightarrow Has an orthonormal basis of EVals,

EVals are real, > 0 .

Let $\lambda_{\min}, \lambda_{\max}$: smallest & largest EVal.

$$\text{For any } x \in \mathbb{C}^N, \text{ supp}(x) = S$$

$$\|Ax\|_2^2 = \langle A_S x, A_S x \rangle = \underbrace{\langle A_S^H A_S x, x \rangle}_{\substack{\text{defn.} \\ \geq 0 \\ \because \text{cols of } A \text{ have unit } \ell_2 \text{ norm.}}}$$

By Gershgorin's disk thm., $\bigcup_{i=1}^{|S|} \text{disk}_i$

where disk_i is centered λ_i , with radius

$$\gamma_i \triangleq \sum_{\substack{i \in S \\ l \neq i}} |\langle a_{il}, a_l \rangle|$$

$$= \sum_{\substack{i \in S \\ l \neq i}} |\langle a_{il}, a_l \rangle| \leq \mu_1(A-1) \forall i \in S.$$

Since the EVals are real, they must lie in the interval $[1 - \mu_1(A-1), 1 + \mu_1(A-1)]$. \square

Cor. 5.4 Given $A \in \mathbb{C}^{m \times N}$ ℓ_2 norm. cols,

integer $k \geq 1$, if $\mu_1(A) + \mu_1(A-1) < 1$,

then, for each set $S \subseteq [N]$, $|S| \leq 2k$,

the matrix $A_S^H A_S$ is invertible and A_S is injective.
(Follows : if $\mu_1(A) + \mu_1(A-1) < 1$, then $\mu_1(A-2k) < 1$.)

Thm. 5.7

The coherence of $A \in \mathbb{C}^{m \times N}$ with ℓ_2 -normalized cols satisfies

$$\mu \geq \sqrt{\frac{N-m}{m(N-1)}}.$$

[The ineq. becomes an equality for a family of matrices called Grassmannian frames or equiangular tight frames (ETF).]

[For $N \gg m$, $\mu \geq O(\sqrt{\frac{1}{m}})$. "quadratic bottleneck"]

Proof : Let $G = A^H A \in \mathbb{C}^{m \times m}$ (Gram matrix)

$$H = A A^H \in \mathbb{C}^{m \times m}$$

$$G_{ij} = \langle a_i, a_j \rangle = \langle a_j, a_i \rangle, \quad i, j \in [N].$$

Since the cols a_1, \dots, a_N are ℓ_2 normalized,

$$\text{tr}(G) = \sum_{i=1}^N \|a_i\|_2^2 = N. \quad \square$$

Define the inner product :

$$\langle U, V \rangle_F = \text{tr}(U V^H) = \sum_{i,j=1}^n a_{ij} \bar{v}_{ij}$$

$\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle_F$ induces the norm $\| \cdot \|_F$ as

$$\|U\|_F = (\text{tr}(U U^H))^{\frac{1}{2}}.$$

Using the C-S inequality

$$\text{tr}(H) = \langle H, I_m \rangle_F \leq \|H\|_F \cdot \|I_m\|_F = \sqrt{\text{tr}(H^H H)} \sqrt{m} \quad \square$$

Observe that

$$\text{tr}(H^H H) = \text{tr}(\underbrace{A A^H A A^H}_{\text{AA}^H \text{AA}^H} A) = \text{tr}(\underbrace{A^H A A^H A}_{\text{AA}^H \text{AA}^H} A) = \text{tr}(A A^H)$$

$$= \sum_{i,j=1}^N |\langle a_i, a_j \rangle|^2$$

$$= \sum_{i=1}^N \|a_i\|_2^2 + \sum_{i,j=1}^N |\langle a_i, a_j \rangle|^2$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&= \text{tr}(\underline{G}) = \frac{m^2}{2} \\
&= N + \sum_{\substack{i,j=1 \\ i \neq j}}^N |\langle a_i, a_j \rangle|^2 \quad \text{--- (3)} \\
\text{Since } \text{tr}(G) &= \text{tr}(H), \text{ combining (1), (2), (3)} \\
N^2 &= (\text{tr}(G))^2 = (\text{tr}(H))^2 \leq \text{tr}(HH^*) m \\
&= m \left(N + \sum_{\substack{i,j=1 \\ i \neq j}}^N |\langle a_i, a_j \rangle|^2 \right) \\
\text{Since } |\langle a_i, a_j \rangle| &\leq \mu \quad \forall i, j \in [N], i \neq j \\
N^2 &\leq m \left(N + N(N-1)\mu^2 \right) \\
\Rightarrow \mu^2 &\geq \frac{N^2 - mN}{mN(N-1)} = \frac{N-m}{m(N-1)}. \quad \square
\end{aligned}$$

Similar bound for ℓ_1 -coherence:

$$\mu_1(A) \geq \lambda \sqrt{\frac{N-m}{m(N-1)}} \quad \text{for } \lambda < \sqrt{N-1}.$$

See text for the proof.

Defn. The spark of a matrix $A \in \mathbb{C}^{n \times N}$ is the smallest k s.t. A has a set of k linearly dependent cols.

$$\text{Spark}(A) = \min_{\substack{x \neq 0}} \|x\|_0 \text{ s.t. } \underline{Ax = 0}.$$

NP hard to compute.
If all cols. of A are LI, $\text{spark}(A) \leq \infty$.

$$\text{Spark}(A) \geq 1 + \frac{1}{\mu(A)}.$$