

Bounds on tensor norms via tensor partitions

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Tensors (hypermatrices)

Consider tensor products of finite-dimensional Euclidean spaces

- A scalar (lower case letter), $x \in \mathbb{R}$, is a tensor of order zero;
- A vector (boldface lower letter), $\mathbf{x} = (x_i) \in \mathbb{R}^n$, is a tensor of order one;
- A matrix (capital letter), $\mathbf{X} = (x_{ij}) \in \mathbb{R}^{n_1 \times n_2}$, is a tensor of order two;
- A tensor of order d , $\mathcal{X} = (x_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_d}) \in \mathbb{R}^{n_1 \times n_2 \times \dots \times n_d}$.

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Some facts

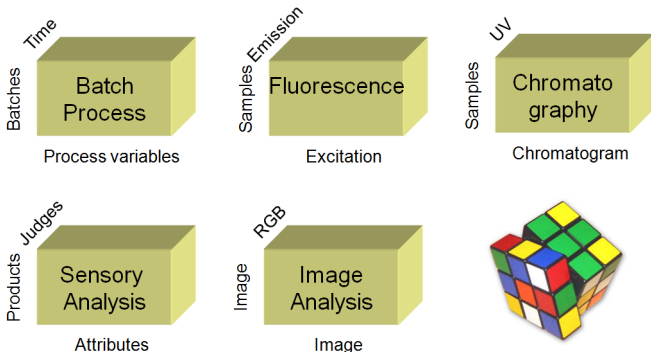
- Tensors can be **one-to-one** represented by **multilinear forms**. For instance, $\mathcal{A} \in \mathbb{R}^{n_1 \times n_2 \times n_3}$ defines a trilinear form $F : \mathbb{R}^{n_1} \times \mathbb{R}^{n_2} \times \mathbb{R}^{n_3} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$

$$F(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}, \mathbf{z}) = \sum_{i=1}^{n_1} \sum_{j=1}^{n_2} \sum_{k=1}^{n_3} a_{ijk} x_i y_j z_k.$$

- Many matrix problems are easy, while corresponding tensor problems can be very difficult (Hillar, Lim 2013).

Multiway (tensor) data problems

- Multiway empirical data analysis in psychometrics and chemometrics
- High order statistics and independent component analysis
- Algebraic properties of tensors
-



Some tensor basics

- $\mathbb{R}^{n_1 \times n_2 \times \dots \times n_d}$ is a **tensor space** of dimensions $n_1 \times n_2 \times \dots \times n_d$ and order d . Real numbers, vector spaces, and matrix spaces are tensor spaces of $d = 0$, $d = 1$, and $d = 2$, respectively.
- For $\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{B} \in \mathbb{R}^{n_1 \times n_2 \times \dots \times n_d}$, the **Frobenius inner product**

$$\langle \mathcal{A}, \mathcal{B} \rangle := \sum_{i_1=1}^{n_1} \sum_{i_2=1}^{n_2} \dots \sum_{i_d=1}^{n_d} a_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_d} b_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_d}.$$

- The induced **Frobenius norm** (Hilbert-Schmidt norm)

$$\|\mathcal{A}\|_2 := \sqrt{\langle \mathcal{A}, \mathcal{A} \rangle},$$

If $d = 1$ the Frobenius norm reduces to the Euclidean norm of a vector.

- A **rank-one** tensor \mathcal{T} , also called a **simple** tensor, can be written as outer products of vectors

$$\mathcal{T} = \mathbf{x}^1 \otimes \mathbf{x}^2 \otimes \dots \otimes \mathbf{x}^d.$$

Tensor norms and their complexity

- Hölder p -norm ($1 \leq p \leq \infty$)

$$\|\mathcal{A}\|_p = \left(\sum_{i_1=1}^{n_1} \sum_{i_2=1}^{n_2} \cdots \sum_{i_d=1}^{n_d} |a_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_d}|^p \right)^{1/p}$$

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- Spectral norm: **NP-hard to compute** (He, L., Zhang 2010)

$$\|\mathcal{A}\|_\sigma := \max \left\{ \left\langle \mathcal{A}, \mathbf{x}^1 \otimes \mathbf{x}^2 \otimes \cdots \otimes \mathbf{x}^d \right\rangle : \|\mathbf{x}^k\|_2 = 1, 1 \leq k \leq d \right\}$$

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- Nuclear norm: **NP-hard to compute** (Friedland, Lim 2016)

$$\|\mathcal{A}\|_* := \min \left\{ \sum_{i=1}^r |\lambda_i| : \mathcal{A} = \sum_{i=1}^r \lambda_i \mathbf{x}_i^1 \otimes \mathbf{x}_i^2 \otimes \cdots \otimes \mathbf{x}_i^d, \|\mathbf{x}_i^k\|_2 = 1, r \in \mathbb{N} \right\}$$

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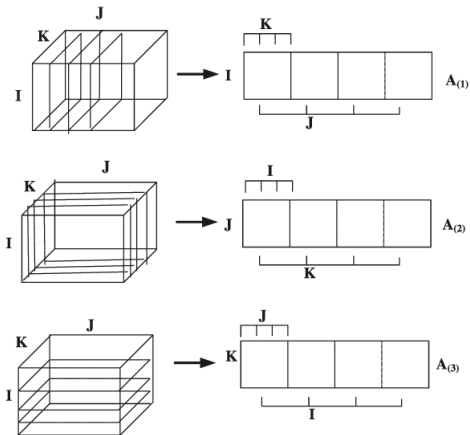
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- The nuclear norm is the **dual norm** of the spectral norm:

$$\|\mathcal{T}\|_\sigma = \max_{\|\mathcal{X}\|_* \leq 1} \langle \mathcal{T}, \mathcal{X} \rangle \quad \|\mathcal{T}\|_* = \max_{\|\mathcal{X}\|_\sigma \leq 1} \langle \mathcal{T}, \mathcal{X} \rangle$$

A common approach to approximate

Matricization: also **matricisation**, **matricizing**, **unfolding**, or **flattening**, is the operation that turns a tensor (a multi-way array) into a matrix (a two-way array). It can be regarded as a generalization of the concept of vectorization.



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$$\|\text{Mat}(\mathcal{T})\|_{\sigma} \geq \|\mathcal{T}\|_{\sigma}$$

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$$\|\text{Mat}(\mathcal{T})\|_{\sigma} \geq \|\mathcal{T}\|_{\sigma}$$

- The nuclear norm of a matricized tensor is a lower bound of the nuclear norm of the tensor (Hu 2015)

$$\|\text{Mat}(\mathcal{T})\|_{*} \leq \|\mathcal{T}\|_{*}$$

A new perspective from tensor partitions

Definition (Tensor partition)

A partition $\{\mathcal{T}_1, \mathcal{T}_2, \dots, \mathcal{T}_m\}$ is called a tensor partition of a tensor \mathcal{T} , if

- every \mathcal{T}_j ($j = 1, 2, \dots, m$) is a subtensor of \mathcal{T} ,
- every pair of subtensors $(\mathcal{T}_i, \mathcal{T}_j)$ with $i \neq j$ has no common entry of \mathcal{T} ,
and
- every entry of \mathcal{T} belongs to one of the subtensors in $\{\mathcal{T}_1, \mathcal{T}_2, \dots, \mathcal{T}_m\}$.

Modal partition

Given a tensor $\mathcal{T} \in \mathbb{R}^{n_1 \times n_2 \times \dots \times n_d}$, the indices of its **mode** k can be partitioned into r_k nonempty sets, i.e.,

$$\{1, 2, \dots, n_k\} = \mathbb{I}_1^k \cup \mathbb{I}_2^k \cup \dots \cup \mathbb{I}_{r_k}^k \quad k = 1, 2, \dots, d.$$

Definition (Modal partition)

The tensor partition $\{\mathcal{T}_{j_1 j_2 \dots j_d} : 1 \leq j_k \leq r_k, k = 1, 2, \dots, d\}$ is called a modal partition of a tensor $\mathcal{T} = (t_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_d}) \in \mathbb{R}^{n_1 \times n_2 \times \dots \times n_d}$, where

$$\mathcal{T}_{j_1 j_2 \dots j_d} := \left((t_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_d})_{i_k \in \mathbb{I}_{j_k}^k, i=1, 2, \dots, d} \right).$$

Regular partition

Given a tensor $\mathcal{T} \in \mathbb{R}^{n_1 \times n_2 \times \cdots \times n_d}$, a mode- k **tensor cut**, cuts the tensor \mathcal{T} at mode k into two subtensors \mathcal{T}_1 and \mathcal{T}_2 , denoted by

$$\mathcal{T} = \mathcal{T}_1 \vee_k \mathcal{T}_2,$$

where $\mathcal{T}_1 \in \mathbb{R}^{n_1 \times \cdots \times n_{k-1} \times \ell_1 \times n_{k+1} \times \cdots \times n_d}$ and $\mathcal{T}_2 \in \mathbb{R}^{n_1 \times \cdots \times n_{k-1} \times \ell_2 \times n_{k+1} \times \cdots \times n_d}$ with $\ell_1 + \ell_2 = n_k$.

Definition (Regular partition)

$\{\mathcal{T}\}$ is called the 1-regular partition of a tensor \mathcal{T} . For $m \in \mathbb{N}$ with $m \geq 2$, a partition $\{\mathcal{T}_1, \mathcal{T}_2, \dots, \mathcal{T}_m\}$ is called an m -regular partition of a tensor \mathcal{T} , if there exist two tensors $\mathcal{A}_1, \mathcal{A}_2$ and an ℓ with $1 \leq \ell \leq m - 1$, such that

- $\mathcal{T} = \mathcal{A}_1 \vee_k \mathcal{A}_2$ for some $1 \leq k \leq d$,
- $\{\mathcal{T}_1, \mathcal{T}_2, \dots, \mathcal{T}_\ell\}$ is an ℓ -regular partition of \mathcal{A}_1 , and
- $\{\mathcal{T}_{\ell+1}, \mathcal{T}_{\ell+2}, \dots, \mathcal{T}_m\}$ is an $(m - \ell)$ -regular partition of \mathcal{A}_2 .

Three types of tensor partitions

- A modal partition is a special type of regular partition, and a regular partition is a special type of tensor partition.
- For any first order tensor (vector), the three partitions are the same. This is not true for a second or higher order tensor.
- A subtensor \mathcal{T}_j in a partition of a tensor $\mathcal{T} = \{\mathcal{T}_1, \mathcal{T}_2, \dots, \mathcal{T}_m\}$ may not have the same order of the original tensor \mathcal{T} .

T_{11}	T_{12}
T_{21}	T_{22}
T_{31}	T_{32}

A modal partition

T_1	T_2	
	T_3	
T_4	T_5	

A regular partition

T_1	T_2	
	T_3	T_5
T_4		

An irregular partition

Bounds of tensor norms by tensor partitions

Theorem

If $\{\mathcal{T}_1, \mathcal{T}_2, \dots, \mathcal{T}_m\}$ is a **regular partition** of a tensor \mathcal{T} , then

$$\|(\|\mathcal{T}_1\|_\sigma, \|\mathcal{T}_2\|_\sigma, \dots, \|\mathcal{T}_m\|_\sigma)\|_\infty \leq \|\mathcal{T}\|_\sigma \leq \|(\|\mathcal{T}_1\|_\sigma, \|\mathcal{T}_2\|_\sigma, \dots, \|\mathcal{T}_m\|_\sigma)\|_2,$$

$$\|(\|\mathcal{T}_1\|_*, \|\mathcal{T}_2\|_*, \dots, \|\mathcal{T}_m\|_*)\|_2 \leq \|\mathcal{T}\|_* \leq \|(\|\mathcal{T}_1\|_*, \|\mathcal{T}_2\|_*, \dots, \|\mathcal{T}_m\|_*)\|_1,$$

where $\|\cdot\|_p$ is the L_p norm of a vector for $1 \leq p \leq \infty$.

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Behind the main result

Some key observations:

- For any regular partition, the tensor \mathcal{T} can be **cut sequentially** by applying a mode- k tensor cut $m - 1$ times
- The L_p norm of a vector has certain additive property for $1 \leq p \leq \infty$, i.e., if $\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{x}^1 \vee \mathbf{x}^2 \in \mathbb{R}^{n_1+n_2}$ with $\mathbf{x}^1 \in \mathbb{R}^{n_1}$ and $\mathbf{x}^2 \in \mathbb{R}^{n_2}$, then

$$\|(\|\mathbf{x}^1\|_p, \|\mathbf{x}^2\|_p)\|_p = \|\mathbf{x}\|_p$$

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The three-step proof:

- If $\mathcal{T} = \mathcal{A} \vee \mathcal{B}$, then $\max\{\|\mathcal{A}\|_\sigma, \|\mathcal{B}\|_\sigma\} \leq \|\mathcal{T}\|_\sigma \leq \sqrt{\|\mathcal{A}\|_\sigma^2 + \|\mathcal{B}\|_\sigma^2}$
- If $\mathcal{T} = \mathcal{A} \vee \mathcal{B}$, then $\sqrt{\|\mathcal{A}\|_*^2 + \|\mathcal{B}\|_*^2} \leq \|\mathcal{T}\|_* \leq \|\mathcal{A}\|_* + \|\mathcal{B}\|_*$ from a **dual norm** point of view
- Mathematical induction

Some consequence of the main result

- If \mathcal{T} is partitioned entry wisely into $\prod_{k=1}^d n_k$ number of **scalars**

$$\|\mathcal{T}\|_\infty \leq \|\mathcal{T}\|_\sigma \leq \|\mathcal{T}\|_2 \leq \|\mathcal{T}\|_* \leq \|\mathcal{T}\|_1$$

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- If \mathcal{T} is partitioned into mode- k **vector fibers**, say

$\{\mathbf{t}_i \in \mathbb{R}^{n_k} : i = 1, 2, \dots, m\}$ where $m = \prod_{1 \leq j \leq d, j \neq k} n_j$

$$\|(\|\mathbf{t}_1\|_2, \|\mathbf{t}_2\|_2, \dots, \|\mathbf{t}_m\|_2)\|_\infty \leq \|\mathcal{T}\|_\sigma$$

$$\|\mathcal{T}\|_* \leq \|(\|\mathbf{t}_1\|_2, \|\mathbf{t}_2\|_2, \dots, \|\mathbf{t}_m\|_2)\|_1$$

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- Any regular partition $\{\mathcal{T}_1, \mathcal{T}_2, \dots, \mathcal{T}_m\}$ of a **rank-one** tensor \mathcal{T} satisfies

$$\|(\|\mathcal{T}_1\|_\sigma, \|\mathcal{T}_2\|_\sigma, \dots, \|\mathcal{T}_m\|_\sigma)\|_2 = \|\mathcal{T}\|_\sigma = \|\mathcal{T}\|_* = \|(\|\mathcal{T}_1\|_*, \|\mathcal{T}_2\|_*, \dots, \|\mathcal{T}_m\|_*)\|_2$$

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- All the bounds are **sharp in general**, in the sense that for any given tensor space and one of the four inequalities, there exists a tensor in that space such that the inequality becomes an equality.

Approximating tensor norms

A tensor norm $\|\cdot\|_\theta$ can be approximated with an **approximation bound** $\alpha \geq 1$, if there exists a **polynomial-time approximation algorithm** that computes a quantity $q_{\mathcal{T}}$ for any tensor instance \mathcal{T} , such that

$$q_{\mathcal{T}} \leq \|\mathcal{T}\|_\theta \leq \alpha q_{\mathcal{T}}.$$

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An immediate fact of the main result:

Corollary

If $\{\mathcal{T}_1, \mathcal{T}_2, \dots, \mathcal{T}_m\}$ is a regular partition of a tensor \mathcal{T} and the tensor spectral norm $\|\mathcal{T}_j\|_\sigma$ (respectively, the tensor nuclear norm $\|\mathcal{T}_j\|_$) can be computed in polynomial-time for all $1 \leq j \leq m$, then the tensor spectral norm $\|\mathcal{T}\|_\sigma$ (respectively, the tensor nuclear norm $\|\mathcal{T}\|_*$) can be approximated with an approximation bound \sqrt{m} .*

Approximation bounds by matrix slices

A tensor $\mathcal{T} \in \mathbb{R}^{n_1 \times n_2 \times \cdots \times n_d}$ with $n_1 \leq n_2 \leq \cdots \leq n_d$ is cut into matrix slices

$$\left\{ T_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_{d-2}} := \left((t_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_d})_{i_{d-1} i_d} \right) \in \mathbb{R}^{n_{d-1} \times n_d} : 1 \leq i_k \leq n_k, k = 1, 2, \dots, d-2 \right\}.$$

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$$\max_{1 \leq i_k \leq n_k, k=1,2,\dots,d-2} \|T_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_{d-2}}\|_\sigma$$

with an approximation bound $\sqrt{\prod_{k=1}^{d-2} n_k}$.

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- The nuclear norm of \mathcal{T} can be approximated by

$$\left(\sum_{i_1=1}^{n_1} \sum_{i_2=1}^{n_2} \dots \sum_{i_{d-2}=1}^{n_{d-2}} \|T_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_{d-2}}\|_*^2 \right)^{1/2}$$

with an approximation bound $\sqrt{\prod_{k=1}^{d-2} n_k}$ (the best bound so far).

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with an approximation bound $\sqrt{\prod_{k=1}^{d-2} n_k}$ (the best bound so far).

- For the case $d = 3$, both bounds are $\sqrt{n_1}$.

An algorithm to approximate the tensor spectral norm

Algorithm

Find a rank-one tensor that approximates the spectral norm of a given tensor from below, with an approximation bound $\sqrt{\prod_{k=1}^{d-2} n_k}$.

- Input: A tensor $\mathcal{T} \in \mathbb{R}^{n_1 \times n_2 \times \dots \times n_d}$ with $n_1 \leq n_2 \leq \dots \leq n_d$

1 Compute

$$(j_1, j_2, \dots, j_{d-2}) = \arg \max_{1 \leq i_k \leq n_k, k=1,2,\dots,d-2} \|T_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_{d-2}}\|_{\sigma}$$

- ### 2 Find the left singular vector \mathbf{x} and the right singular vector \mathbf{y} corresponding to the largest singular value of the matrix $T_{j_1 j_2 \dots j_{d-2}}$
- ### 3 Compute $\mathcal{X} = \mathbf{e}_{j_1} \otimes \mathbf{e}_{j_2} \otimes \dots \otimes \mathbf{e}_{j_{d-2}} \otimes \mathbf{x} \otimes \mathbf{y}$ where \mathbf{e}_j is the vector whose j -th entry is one and other entries are zeros
- Output: A rank-one tensor $\mathcal{X} \in \mathbb{R}^{n_1 \times n_2 \times \dots \times n_d}$ with $\|\mathcal{X}\|_2 = 1$

An algorithm to approximate the tensor nuclear norm

Algorithm

Find a rank-one decomposition of a given tensor that approximates its nuclear norm from above, with an approximation bound $\sqrt{\prod_{k=1}^{d-2} n_k}$.

- Input: A tensor $\mathcal{T} \in \mathbb{R}^{n_1 \times n_2 \times \dots \times n_d}$ with $n_1 \leq n_2 \leq \dots \leq n_d$

- 1 Compute SVD for the matrix

$$T_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_{d-2}} = \sum_{i_{d-1}=1}^{n_{d-1}} \lambda_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_{d-1}} \mathbf{x}_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_{d-1}} \otimes \mathbf{y}_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_{d-1}}$$

for all $1 \leq i_k \leq n_k$, $k = 1, 2, \dots, d-2$. If the rank of any matrix $T_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_{d-2}}$ is strictly less than n_{d-1} , add some zero singular values

- 2 Compute $\mathcal{T} = \sum_{i_1=1}^{n_1} \sum_{i_2=1}^{n_2} \dots \sum_{i_{d-1}=1}^{n_{d-1}} \lambda_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_{d-1}} \mathbf{e}_{i_1} \otimes \mathbf{e}_{i_2} \otimes \dots \otimes \mathbf{e}_{i_{d-2}} \otimes \mathbf{x}_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_{d-1}} \otimes \mathbf{y}_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_{d-1}}$

- Output: A rank-one decomposition of \mathcal{T}

Can we extend the main result?

Theorem

If $\{\mathcal{T}_1, \mathcal{T}_2, \dots, \mathcal{T}_m\}$ is a regular partition of a tensor \mathcal{T} , then

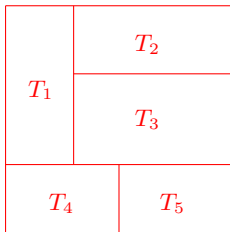
$$\|(\|\mathcal{T}_1\|_\sigma, \|\mathcal{T}_2\|_\sigma, \dots, \|\mathcal{T}_m\|_\sigma)\|_\infty \leq \|\mathcal{T}\|_\sigma \leq \|(\|\mathcal{T}_1\|_\sigma, \|\mathcal{T}_2\|_\sigma, \dots, \|\mathcal{T}_m\|_\sigma)\|_2,$$

$$\|(\|\mathcal{T}_1\|_*, \|\mathcal{T}_2\|_*, \dots, \|\mathcal{T}_m\|_*)\|_2 \leq \|\mathcal{T}\|_* \leq \|(\|\mathcal{T}_1\|_*, \|\mathcal{T}_2\|_*, \dots, \|\mathcal{T}_m\|_*)\|_1,$$

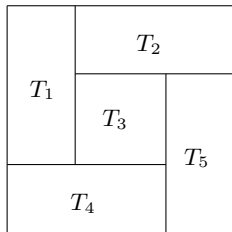
where $\|\cdot\|_p$ is the L_p norm of a vector for $1 \leq p \leq \infty$.

T_{11}	T_{12}
T_{21}	T_{22}
T_{31}	T_{32}

A modal partition



A regular partition



An irregular partition

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where $\|\cdot\|_p$ is the L_p norm of a vector for $1 \leq p \leq \infty$.

Questions of interest:

- How about other tensor norms?
- How about irregular (general) tensor partitions?
- How about modal (specified) partitions?

Bounds on the spectral p -norm and the nuclear p -norm

- Spectral p -norm ($1 \leq p \leq \infty$)

$$\|\mathcal{A}\|_{p_\sigma} := \max \left\{ \left\langle \mathcal{A}, \mathbf{x}^1 \otimes \mathbf{x}^2 \otimes \cdots \otimes \mathbf{x}^d \right\rangle : \|\mathbf{x}^k\|_p = 1, 1 \leq k \leq d \right\}$$

Bounds on the spectral p -norm and the nuclear p -norm

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- Nuclear p -norm (the dual norm)

$$\|\mathcal{A}\|_{p_*} := \min \left\{ \sum_{i=1}^r |\lambda_i| : \mathcal{A} = \sum_{i=1}^r \lambda_i \mathbf{x}_i^1 \otimes \mathbf{x}_i^2 \otimes \cdots \otimes \mathbf{x}_i^d, \|\mathbf{x}_i^k\|_p = 1, r \in \mathbb{N} \right\}$$

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- $\|\mathcal{A}\|_{1_\sigma} = \|\mathcal{A}\|_\infty$ and $\|\mathcal{A}\|_{\infty_*} = \|\mathcal{A}\|_1$

Bounds on the spectral p -norm and the nuclear p -norm

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Theorem

If $\{\mathcal{T}_1, \mathcal{T}_2, \dots, \mathcal{T}_m\}$ is a *tensor partition* of a tensor \mathcal{T} , then

$$\|(\|\mathcal{T}_1\|_{p_\sigma}, \|\mathcal{T}_2\|_{p_\sigma}, \dots, \|\mathcal{T}_m\|_{p_\sigma})\|_\infty \leq \|\mathcal{T}\|_{p_\sigma} \leq \|(\|\mathcal{T}_1\|_{p_\sigma}, \|\mathcal{T}_2\|_{p_\sigma}, \dots, \|\mathcal{T}_m\|_{p_\sigma})\|_q$$

$$\|(\|\mathcal{T}_1\|_{p_*}, \|\mathcal{T}_2\|_{p_*}, \dots, \|\mathcal{T}_m\|_{p_*})\|_q \leq \|\mathcal{T}\|_{p_*} \leq \|(\|\mathcal{T}_1\|_{p_*}, \|\mathcal{T}_2\|_{p_*}, \dots, \|\mathcal{T}_m\|_{p_*})\|_1$$

where $1 \leq p \leq \infty$ and $\frac{1}{p} + \frac{1}{q} = 1$.

THANK YOU!