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The functions $u_j^{(l)}(x_j)$ in (1.1) and the corresponding vectors $u_{i_j}^{(l)}$ in (1.2) are normalized to have unit Frobenius norm so that the size of the terms is carried by their positive *s*-values, l_i .

Numerical computations using such representations require an algorithm to reduce the number of terms for a given accuracy, . Such reduction can be achieved via Alternating Least Squares (ALS) (see, e.g., [35,20,17,13,14,56,39]). Specifically, given a CTD of rank *r*, ALS allows us to find a representation of the same form but with fewer terms,

$$\tilde{i}_{1...i_{d}} = \int_{l=1}^{k} \tilde{i}_{l} \tilde{u}_{i_{1}}^{(l)} \tilde{u}_{i_{2}}^{(l)} \cdots \tilde{u}_{i_{d}}^{(l)}, \quad k < r,$$
(1.3)

so that $\| - \| \|$, where is a user-selected accuracy. Standard operations on separated representations of rank k, such as multiplication, may result in a large number, e.g., $\mathcal{O}(k^2)$, of intermediate terms. If the intermediate separation rank $r = \mathcal{O}(k^2)$ is reducible to $\mathcal{O}(k)$, then the cost of ALS can be estimated as $\mathcal{O}(d \cdot k^4 \cdot M) \cdot (number \ of \ iterations)$, where we assumed that $M_j = M$, $j = 1, \ldots, d$. Noting that

$$= \int_{l=1}^{r} u^{(l)}, \text{ where } \quad (l) = \int_{i=1}^{d} u^{(l)}_{j}.$$
(1.5)

The standard Frobenius inner product between any two tensors and is defined as

$$\langle , \rangle = \frac{M_1 \qquad M_d}{ i_1 \dots i_d \quad i_1 \dots i_d}$$
(1.6)
 $i_1 = 1 \qquad i_d = 1$

which for CTDs reduces to

$$\langle , \rangle = \frac{\substack{r_{u} \quad r_{v} \\ l = 1 \ m = 1}}{\substack{u \quad v \\ l = 1 \ m = 1}} \begin{pmatrix} u & v \\ m \end{pmatrix}, \quad \substack{(m) \\ l = 1 \ m = 1} = \frac{\substack{r_{u} \quad r_{v} \\ l = 1 \ m = 1}}{\substack{u \quad v \\ j = 1}} \mathbf{u}_{j}^{(l)}, \mathbf{v}_{j}^{(m)}, \quad (1.7)$$

where $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$ denotes the inner product between component vectors. The Frobenius norm is then defined as

$$\| \|_{F} = \overline{\langle , , \rangle}.$$

$$(1.8)$$

Remark 1.1. The directional vectors $\mathbf{u}_j^{(l)}$ may represent objects of different types, including proper one dimensional vectors, matrices or even low dimensional tensors. The vectors $\mathbf{u}_j^{(l)}$ can have a complicated structure (e.g., sparse

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We note that several alternative tensor formats, such as

2.2. Interpolative matrix decomposition

Our approach also relies on computing the interpolative decomposition of a matrix. The idea of matrix ID is to find, for a given accuracy , a near optimal set of columns (rows) of a matrix so that the rest of columns (rows) can be represented as a linear combination from the selected set. Algorithmically, this decomposition proceeds via pivoted QR factorization and so is Lemma 2.4. (See Observation 3.3 of [45].) The randomized matrix ID algorithm constructs matrices A_c and P such that

- 1. some subset of the columns of P makes up the $k \times k$ identity matrix
- 2. no entry of P has absolute values greater than 2,

3. \langle than

3. Randomized tensor interpolative decomposition

3.1. On the interpolative decomposition of symmetric matrices

We briefly describe a matrix ID for symmetric matrices because it parallels the development for tensors (and, to our knowledge, its description is not available in the literature). Suppose A is an $m \times n$ matrix of rank k (for a given accuracy

(3.12)

 Table 1

 Estimates of computational complexity.

Reduction method	Computational complexity	
ALS	$(\mathbf{d} \cdot \mathbf{k}^4 \cdot \mathbf{M}) \cdot ($ number of iterations $)$	$(\mathbf{d} \cdot \mathbf{k}^6) \cdot (number of iterations)$
Tensor ID: random projection	$d \cdot k^3 \cdot M + k^4 = d \cdot k^5$	

$$\mathbb{E}[\mathcal{R}_{i_1\dots i_d}] = \mathbb{E}\begin{bmatrix} d \\ r_{i_j} \\ j=1 \end{bmatrix} = \int_{j=1}^d \mathbb{E}[r_{i_j}] = 0,$$

and

$$\mathbb{E} \quad \mathcal{R}_{i_1\dots i_d} - \mathbb{E}[\mathcal{R}_{i_1\dots i_d}]^2 = \mathbb{E} \quad \mathcal{R}^2_{i_1\dots i_d} = \int_{j}^{d}$$

Remark 4.2. Although the definition of the *s*-norm parallels the matrix 2-norm and can be useful as a way of estimating errors, computing the *s*-norm exactly for arbitrary dense tensors is claimed to be an NP-hard problem in [36]. We note that for symmetric tensors, the global convergence of the iteration described above has been claimed in [40].

We discuss our approach to initialization below but first consider the cost of estimating the







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