

# Structured Matrix Approximations via Tensor Decompositions

Misha E. Kilmer, Arvind K. Saibaba

Tufts University, North Carolina State University

February 26, 2022



**NC STATE**  
UNIVERSITY

---

This material is partly based upon work supported by the National Science Foundation under Grant No. DMS-1439786 and by the Simons Foundation Grant No. 5073.

# Block-Structured matrices

Block-structured matrices (e.g., block Toeplitz/block Hankel) arise in many applications:

- 1 Signal processing
- 2 Finite difference discretizations of PDEs
- 3 Geostatistical/Spatiotemporal statistical applications
- 4 Image deblurring

# Block-Structured matrices

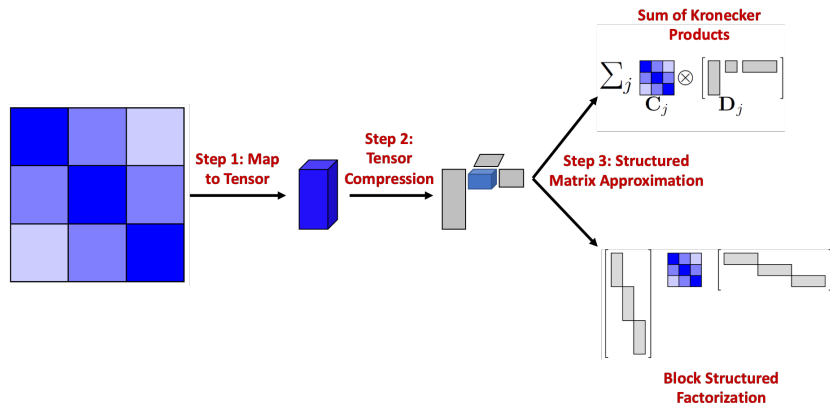
Block-structured matrices (e.g., block Toeplitz/block Hankel) arise in many applications:

- 1 Signal processing
- 2 Finite difference discretizations of PDEs
- 3 Geostatistical/Spatiotemporal statistical applications
- 4 Image deblurring

**Our approach:** Use tensor decompositions to

- 1 provide a unified approach for handling structured matrices
- 2 leverage inherent multidimensional structure, and
- 3 produce accurate and efficient matrix approximations

# The talk in one slide

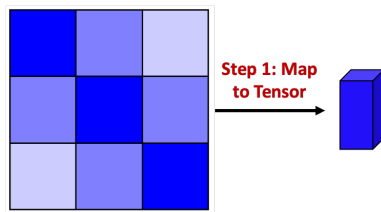


Applications:

- 1 System identification
- 2 Space-time covariance matrices

Extensions to multilevel structure

## Step 1: Mapping matrices to tensors



Consider a block matrix  $\mathbf{A} \in \mathbb{R}^{(\ell m) \times (n q)}$  with  $\ell \times q$  blocks of size  $m \times n$  each.

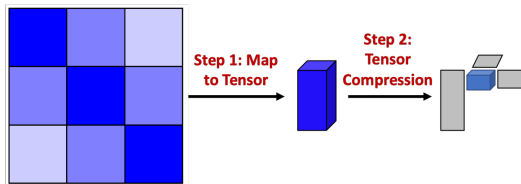
Idea: We identify

- the unique set of blocks  $(\mathbf{A}_1, \dots, \mathbf{A}_p)$ .
- the locations of the blocks and frequency of appearance, in a data structure  $\mathcal{E}$ .

Construct a 3D tensor:  $\mathcal{T}_{\mathcal{E}}[\mathbf{A}] \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times p \times n}$

Advantage of our approach: treat all the structured matrices in the same framework.

## Step 2: Tensor Compression



- Tucker format

- 1 Higher Order Singular Value Decomposition (HOSVD), Sequentially Truncated HOSVD, Higher Order Orthogonal Iteration
- 2 Randomized Algorithms for Tucker decomposition

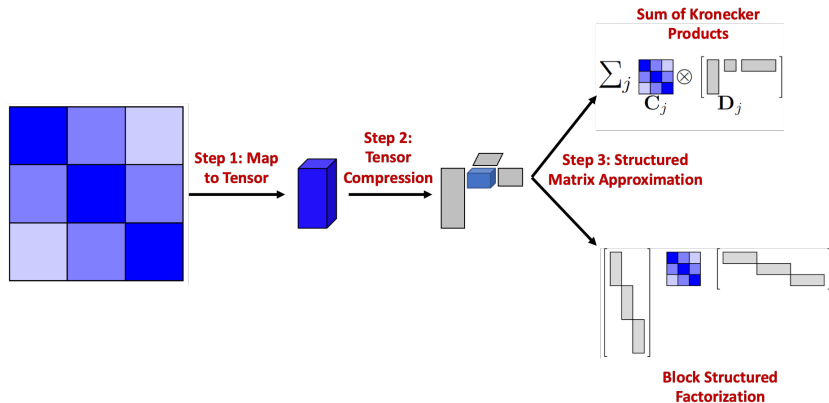
- CP format

- 1 Alternating least squares

---

Kolda, Bader, SIAM Review, 2009. Cichocki, Foundations and Trends in Machine Learning, 2016. Minster, Saibaba, Kilmer, SIMODS, 2020.

# Step 3: Mapping compressed tensors to matrices

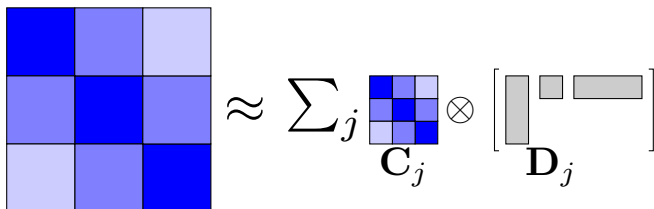


# Recovering structured matrix approximations

Suppose we have the compressed tensor in Tucker form

$$\mathcal{T}_{\mathcal{E}}[\mathbf{A}] \approx \widehat{\mathcal{T}}_{\mathcal{E}}[\mathbf{A}] := [\mathcal{G}; \mathbf{U}, \mathbf{V}, \mathbf{W}]$$

with rank  $(r_1, r_2, r_3)$  we can approximate


$$\approx \sum_j \mathbf{C}_j \otimes \mathbf{D}_j$$

Sum of Kronecker products

$$\mathcal{M}_{\mathcal{E}}[\widehat{\mathcal{T}}_{\mathcal{E}}[\mathbf{A}]] = \sum_{j=1}^{r_2} \mathbf{C}_j \otimes (\mathbf{U} \text{sq}(\mathcal{G}_{:,j,:}) \mathbf{W}^{\top}).$$

Here  $\mathbf{C}_j = \sum_{k=1}^p \mathbf{E}_k \otimes v_{kj}$  has the same structure as  $\mathbf{A}$

---

Similar expressions can be derived when CP decomposition is used.

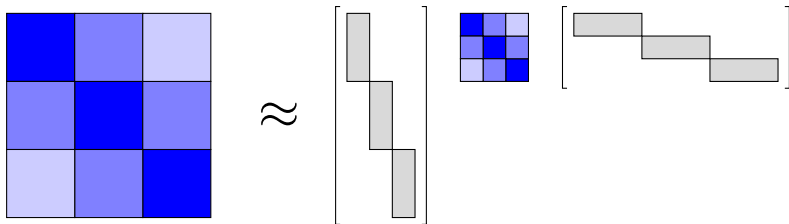


# Recovering structured matrix approximations

Suppose we have the compressed tensor in Tucker form

$$\mathcal{T}_\varepsilon[\mathbf{A}] \approx \widehat{\mathcal{T}}_\varepsilon[\mathbf{A}] := [\mathcal{G}; \mathbf{U}, \mathbf{V}, \mathbf{W}]$$

with rank  $(r_1, r_2, r_3)$  we can approximate



Block-structured format

$$\mathcal{M}_\varepsilon[\widehat{\mathcal{T}}_\varepsilon[\mathbf{A}]] = (\mathbf{I} \otimes \mathbf{U})\mathbf{M}(\mathbf{I} \otimes \mathbf{W}^\top).$$

Here  $\mathbf{M} \in \mathbb{R}^{(r_1 \ell) \times (r_3 q)}$  has the same structure as  $\mathbf{A}$

Similar expressions can be derived when CP decomposition is used.

## Error in the matrix approximation

Let  $\mathbf{A} \in \mathbb{R}^{(\ell m) \times (qn)}$  and let  $\mathcal{T}_{\mathcal{E}}[\cdot]$  and  $\mathcal{M}_{\mathcal{E}}[\cdot]$  be the matrix-to-tensor and tensor-to-matrix mappings respectively.

### Theorem (Kilmer, S.)

*Let  $\widehat{\mathcal{T}}_{\mathcal{E}}[\mathbf{A}] \approx \mathcal{T}_{\mathcal{E}}[\mathbf{A}]$  be a tensor approximation computed using any appropriate method. Then the error in the matrix approximation satisfies*

$$\|\mathbf{A} - \mathcal{M}_{\mathcal{E}}[\widehat{\mathcal{T}}_{\mathcal{E}}[\mathbf{A}]]\|_F = \|\mathcal{T}_{\mathcal{E}}[\mathbf{A}] - \widehat{\mathcal{T}}_{\mathcal{E}}[\mathbf{A}]\|_F.$$

# Error in the matrix approximation

Let  $\mathbf{A} \in \mathbb{R}^{(\ell m) \times (qn)}$  and let  $\mathcal{T}_{\mathcal{E}}[\cdot]$  and  $\mathcal{M}_{\mathcal{E}}[\cdot]$  be the matrix-to-tensor and tensor-to-matrix mappings respectively.

## Theorem (Kilmer, S.)

*Let  $\widehat{\mathcal{T}}_{\mathcal{E}}[\mathbf{A}] \approx \mathcal{T}_{\mathcal{E}}[\mathbf{A}]$  be a tensor approximation computed using any appropriate method. Then the error in the matrix approximation satisfies*

$$\|\mathbf{A} - \mathcal{M}_{\mathcal{E}}[\widehat{\mathcal{T}}_{\mathcal{E}}[\mathbf{A}]]\|_F = \|\mathcal{T}_{\mathcal{E}}[\mathbf{A}] - \widehat{\mathcal{T}}_{\mathcal{E}}[\mathbf{A}]\|_F.$$

Main message:

- 1 The error in the tensor approximation equals error in matrix approximation in the Frobenius norm
- 2 The error is independent of the particular format/tensor decomposition that is used
- 3 The resulting matrix approximations are efficient to store and easy to work with

# Tests from SuiteSparse Collection

Each matrix is of size  $(\ell n) \times (\ell n)$  and is block tridiagonal.

Name	$\ell$	$n$	Target rank $r$	Relative Error	Compression
pde2961	63	47	20	$8.36 \times 10^{-10}$	0.4470
t2d_q4	99	99	5	$2.93 \times 10^{-15}$	0.034
t2d_q9	99	99	5	$2.93 \times 10^{-15}$	0.034
fv2	99	99	5	$2.28 \times 10^{-15}$	0.034
chem_master1	201	201	5	$1.79 \times 10^{-15}$	0.030
ecology1 <sup>(*)</sup>	500	1000	5	$6.10 \times 10^{-15}$	0.009

We report the name of the matrix, the number of block rows  $\ell$ , the size of each block  $n$ , the target rank used, the relative error and the compression ratio. (\*) used the leading principal submatrix of size  $500000 \times 500000$ .

# System Identification

Consider the linear time invariant system

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{x}_{k+1} &= \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}_k + \mathbf{B}\mathbf{u}_k \\ \mathbf{y}_k &= \mathbf{C}\mathbf{x}_k + \mathbf{D}\mathbf{u}_k\end{aligned}\quad k = 0, 1, \dots$$

In the impulse response case, we are given data of the form of *Markov parameters*

$$\mathbf{h}_j = \begin{cases} \mathbf{D} & j = 0 \\ \mathbf{C}\mathbf{A}^{j-1}\mathbf{B} & j = 1, 2, \dots, \end{cases}$$

## Goal

Given the Markov parameters  $\{\mathbf{h}_k\}$  recover the system matrices  $(\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{B}, \mathbf{C}, \mathbf{D})$  (up to a similarity transformation).

---

Up to a similarity transformation  $(\mathbf{T}\mathbf{A}\mathbf{T}^{-1}, \mathbf{T}\mathbf{B}, \mathbf{C}\mathbf{T}^{-1}, \mathbf{D})$ .

# Eigensystem Realization Algorithm

Form the block-Hankel matrix  $\mathcal{H}_s$  defined as

$$\mathcal{H}_s = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{h}_1 & \mathbf{h}_2 & \dots & \mathbf{h}_s \\ \mathbf{h}_2 & \mathbf{h}_3 & \dots & \mathbf{h}_{s+1} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \mathbf{h}_s & \mathbf{h}_{s+1} & \dots & \mathbf{h}_{2s-1} \end{bmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^{(ms) \times (ns)} \quad (1)$$

Assume  $d \ll s$ , such that  $\text{rank}(\mathcal{H}_s) = d \leq \min\{sm, sn\}$ .

# Eigensystem Realization Algorithm

Form the block-Hankel matrix  $\mathcal{H}_s$  defined as

$$\mathcal{H}_s = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{h}_1 & \mathbf{h}_2 & \dots & \mathbf{h}_s \\ \mathbf{h}_2 & \mathbf{h}_3 & \dots & \mathbf{h}_{s+1} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \mathbf{h}_s & \mathbf{h}_{s+1} & \dots & \mathbf{h}_{2s-1} \end{bmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^{(ms) \times (ns)} \quad (1)$$

Assume  $d \ll s$ , such that  $\text{rank}(\mathcal{H}_s) = d \leq \min\{sm, sn\}$ .

Algorithm: Given target rank  $r \leq d$

- 1 Compute the reduced-SVD  $\mathcal{H}_s \approx \mathbf{U}_r \mathbf{\Sigma}_r \mathbf{V}_r^\top$
- 2 Partition the left singular vectors

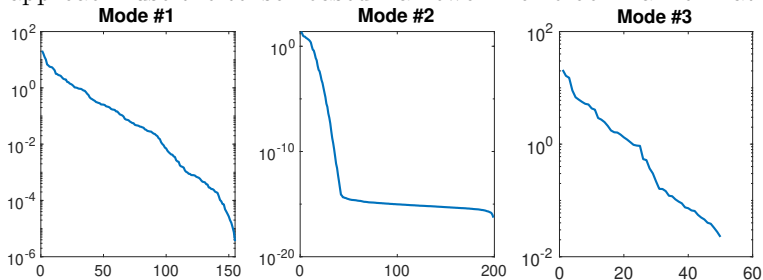
$$\mathbf{U}_r = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{\Upsilon}_f \\ * \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} * \\ \mathbf{\Upsilon}_l \end{bmatrix}$$

- 3 Compute  $\mathbf{A}_r = \mathbf{\Sigma}_r^{-1/2} \mathbf{\Upsilon}_f^\dagger \mathbf{\Upsilon}_l \mathbf{\Sigma}_r^{1/2}$ . Recover  $\mathbf{B}_r, \mathbf{C}_r$  from the SVD.

# Numerical Results: Power systems

System	System Size	Inputs $n$	Outputs $m$	Target rank
Power System	155	50	155	75

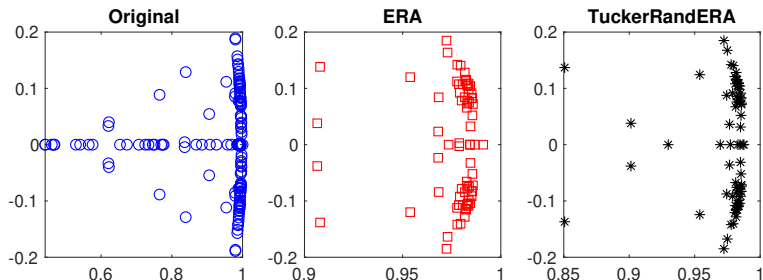
Our approach: use the tensor-based framework for block-Hankel matrices.



Decay of the singular values in each mode. Based on this decay we chose the target rank (56, 50, 30).



# Numerical Results: Power systems



Computational runtime (seconds) and accuracy (Hausdorff distance)

$s$	Size	ERA	RandERA	TuckerERA	Error
100	$15500 \times 5000$	68	1.83	0.79	0.05
200	$31000 \times 10000$	—	3.95	1.52	0.015
700	$108500 \times 35000$	—	15.10	6.62	0.01
1000	$155000 \times 50000$	—	20.21	10.38	0.01

# Multilevel approximations

Structured matrices may have recursive structure. Examples:

- Block-Toeplitz with Toeplitz Blocks
- Triply block Toeplitz

Suppose  $\mathbf{A}$  has  $L$  levels of structure. Write

$$\mathbf{A} = \sum_{i_1=1}^{p_1} \cdots \sum_{i_L=1}^{p_L} \mathbf{E}_{i_1}^{(1)} \otimes \cdots \otimes \mathbf{E}_{i_L}^{(L)} \otimes \sqrt{\eta_{i_1}^{(1)} \cdots \eta_{i_L}^{(L)}} \mathbf{A}^{(i_1, \dots, i_L)},$$

where

- the matrices  $\mathbf{A}^{(i_1, \dots, i_L)}$  are the  $m \times n$  non-redundant blocks at level  $L$
- the matrices  $\mathbf{E}_k^{(j)} \in \mathbb{R}^{\ell_j \times q_j}$  represent mapping matrices at level  $j$

# Multilevel approximations

Structured matrices may have recursive structure. Examples:

- Block-Toeplitz with Toeplitz Blocks
- Triply block Toeplitz

Suppose  $\mathbf{A}$  has  $L$  levels of structure. Write

$$\mathbf{A} = \sum_{i_1=1}^{p_1} \cdots \sum_{i_L=1}^{p_L} \mathbf{E}_{i_1}^{(1)} \otimes \cdots \otimes \mathbf{E}_{i_L}^{(L)} \otimes \sqrt{\eta_{i_1}^{(1)} \cdots \eta_{i_L}^{(L)}} \mathbf{A}^{(i_1, \dots, i_L)},$$

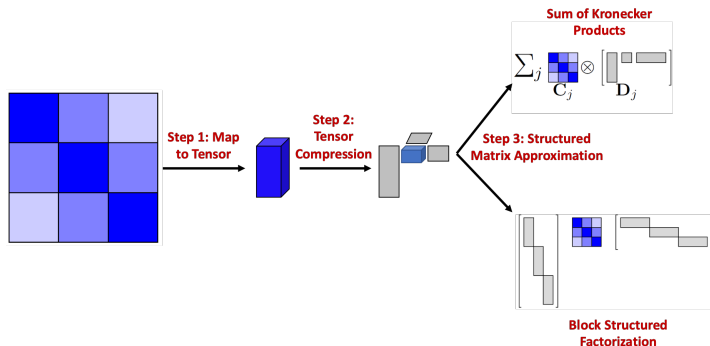
where

- the matrices  $\mathbf{A}^{(i_1, \dots, i_L)}$  are the  $m \times n$  non-redundant blocks at level  $L$
- the matrices  $\mathbf{E}_k^{(j)} \in \mathbb{R}^{\ell_j \times q_j}$  represent mapping matrices at level  $j$

Remarks:

- We work with tensors (and decompositions) of order  $L + 2$
- We can extend our approach to handle arbitrary number of levels and different structures at each level
- Many connections to Tensor Train and Matrix Product Operators.

# Contributions



- A new, unified approach for structured matrix approximations that leverages tensor decompositions
- Extensions to multilevel structures possible
- Applications: System identification, spacetime covariances, image deblurring

# Thank you!

Preprint: M.E. Kilmer and A.K. Saibaba, Structured Matrix Approximations via Tensor Decompositions. arXiv preprint:  
<https://arxiv.org/abs/2105.01170>

---

This material is partly based upon work supported by the National Science Foundation under Grant No. DMS-1439786 and by the Simons Foundation Grant No. 5073.