Jie Chen, Member, IEEE, Shengxiang Yang, Senior Member, IEEE, Conor Fahy, Zhu Wang, Yi-nan Guo, and Yingke Chen

## I. PROOF OF THEOREM 1

In this section, we prove Theorem 1 in the paper regarding the optimization program

$$\min_{\mathbf{Z}, \mathbf{J}, \mathbf{W}} \|\mathbf{Z}\|_{0} + \frac{\lambda}{2} \|\mathbf{W}^{T}\mathbf{X} - \mathbf{W}^{T}\mathbf{D}\mathbf{J}\|_{F}^{2}$$
s.t.  $\mathbf{W}^{T}\mathbf{X}\mathbf{X}^{T}\mathbf{W} = \mathbf{I}_{m}, \ \mathbf{J} = \mathbf{Z} - diag\left(\mathbf{Z}\right).$ 
(1)

Given the fixed  $J_{k+1}$  and  $W_{k+1}$ ,  $Z_{k+1}$  is updated by the following objective function:

$$\mathbf{Z}_{k+1} = \min_{\mathbf{Z}_{k+1}} \frac{1}{\mu_k} \|\mathbf{Z}_{k+1}\|_0 + \frac{1}{2} \left\| \mathbf{Z}_{k+1} - \left( \mathbf{J}_{k+1} + \frac{\mathbf{Y}_k}{\mu_k} \right) \right\|_F^2.$$
(2)

Given a positive number  $\lambda > 0$ , the hard thresholding operator  $\mathcal{T}_{\sqrt{\lambda}}(\mathbf{Y})$  is defined as follows [1]:

$$\mathcal{T}_{\sqrt{\lambda}}\left(x\right) = \begin{cases} 0, & if \quad |x| \le \sqrt{\lambda} \\ x, & if \quad |x| > \sqrt{\lambda} \end{cases}$$
(3)

where  $\mathbf{Y} \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$  is a matrix and x represents an element of  $\mathbf{Y}$ . The closed-form solution of (2) is obtained by using the operator  $\mathcal{T}$ :

$$\mathbf{Z}_{k+1} = \mathcal{T}_{\sqrt{\frac{1}{\mu_k}}} \left( \mathbf{J}_{k+1} + \frac{\mathbf{Y}_k}{\mu_k} \right).$$
(4)

**Theorem 1** The convergence condition  $\|\mathbf{Z}_k - \mathbf{J}_k\|_{\max} < \varepsilon$ will eventually be satisfied as k increases if  $\rho$  and  $\mu$  satisfy the following conditions:

$$\rho > 2$$
 and  $\mu > 0$ 

where k represents the number of iterations and  $\varepsilon$  is a small positive number, e.g.,  $\varepsilon = 10^{-4}$ .

J. Chen is with the College of Computer Science, Sichuan University, Chengdu 610065, China (E-mail: chenjie2010@scu.edu.cn).

S. Yang is with the School of Computer Science and Informatics, De Montfort University, Leicester LE1 9BH, U.K. (e-mail: syang@dmu.ac.uk).

C. Fahy are with the School of Computer Science and Informatics, De Montfort University, Leicester LE1 9BH, U.K. (e-mail: conor.fahy@dmu.ac.uk).

Z. Wang is with the Law School, Sichuan University, Chengdu 610065, China (E-mail: wangzhu@scu.edu.cn).

Y. Guo is with the School of Mechanical Electronic and Information Engineering, China University of Mining and Technology (Beijing), Beijing, 100083, China. E-mail: nanfly@126.com.

Y. Chen is with the Department of Computer and Information Sciences, Northumbria University, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 8ST, U. K. (E-mail: yke.chen@gmail.com). **Proof** According to (3),  $\mathbf{Z}_{k+1}$  has a closed-form solution in (2). Thus, we have:

$$\left\|\mathbf{Z}_{k+1} - \mathbf{J}_{k+1}\right\|_{\max} = \left\|T_{\sqrt{\frac{1}{\mu_k}}}\left(\mathbf{J}_{k+1} + \frac{\mathbf{Y}_k}{\mu_k}\right) - \mathbf{J}_{k+1}\right\|_{\max}.$$

Suppose that  $\rho > 2$  and  $\mu > 0$ , and we obtain  $\mu_k \to \infty$  when  $k \to \infty$  according to  $\mu_k = \rho \mu_{k-1}$ . This indicates that we will obtain

$$T_{\sqrt{\frac{1}{\mu_k}}}\left(\mathbf{J}_{k+1} + \frac{\mathbf{Y}_k}{\mu_k}\right) = \mathbf{J}_{k+1} + \frac{\mathbf{Y}_k}{\mu_k}$$

as k steadily increases. Thus, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \|\mathbf{Z}_{k} - \mathbf{J}_{k}\|_{\max} &- \|\mathbf{Z}_{k+1} - \mathbf{J}_{k+1}\|_{\max} \\ &= \left\|\frac{\mathbf{Y}_{k-1}}{\mu_{k-1}}\right\|_{\max} - \left\|\frac{\mathbf{Y}_{k}}{\mu_{k}}\right\|_{\max} \\ &= \frac{\rho \|\mathbf{Y}_{k-1}\|_{\max} - \|\mathbf{Y}_{k}\|_{\max}}{\mu_{k}} \\ &= \frac{\rho \|\mathbf{Y}_{k-1}\|_{\max} - \|\mathbf{Y}_{k-1} + \mu_{k-1} (\mathbf{Z}_{k} - \mathbf{J}_{k})\|_{\max}}{\mu_{k}} \end{aligned}$$

In addition, we obtain

$$\rho \|\mathbf{Y}_{k-1}\|_{\max} - (\|\mathbf{Y}_{k-1}\|_{\max} + \|\mu_{k-1} (\mathbf{Z}_k - \mathbf{J}_k)\|_{\max})$$
  
=  $(\rho - 1) \|\mathbf{Y}_{k-1}\|_{\max} - \mu_{k-1} \cdot \left\|\frac{\mathbf{Y}_{k-1}}{\mu_{k-1}}\right\|_{\max}$   
=  $(\rho - 2) \|\mathbf{Y}_{k-1}\|_{\max}$   
> 0.

It is easy to see that the following inequality holds:

$$\begin{aligned} \left\| \mathbf{Y}_{k-1} \right\|_{\max} &+ \left\| \mu_{k-1} \left( \mathbf{Z}_{k} - \mathbf{J}_{k} \right) \right\|_{\max} \\ &\geq \left\| \mathbf{Y}_{k-1} + \mu_{k-1} \left( \mathbf{Z}_{k} - \mathbf{J}_{k} \right) \right\|_{\max}. \end{aligned}$$

Hence,

$$\|\mathbf{Z}_{k} - \mathbf{J}_{k}\|_{\max} - \|\mathbf{Z}_{k+1} - \mathbf{J}_{k+1}\|_{\max} > 0$$

This means there exists a certain k with two conditions, i.e.,  $\rho > 2$  and  $\mu_1 > 0$ , such that the following inequality holds:

$$\left\|\mathbf{Z}_{k+1} - \mathbf{J}_{k+1}\right\|_{\max} \le \varepsilon$$

where  $\mu = \mu_1$ . Hence, convergence will eventually be achieved as k gradually increases if  $\rho > 2$  and  $\mu > 0$ .

## II. PROOF OF THEOREM 2

In this section, we prove Theorem 2 in the paper. We consider a general form of the  $l_{2,1}$ -norm optimization problem:

$$f\left(\mathbf{Z}^{l}\right) = \min_{\mathbf{Z}^{l}} \left\|\mathbf{Z}^{l}\right\|_{2,1} + \frac{\beta}{2} \left\|\mathbf{C}^{l} - \mathbf{C}^{l} \mathbf{Z}^{l}\right\|_{F}^{2}$$

$$s.t. \quad \operatorname{diag}\left(\mathbf{Z}^{l}\right) = 0$$
(5)

where  $\beta > 0$  is a parameter. Problem (5) is a convex optimization problem. Let

$$\frac{\partial f\left(\mathbf{Z}^{t}\right)}{\partial \mathbf{W}} = 0 \tag{6}$$

and we have

$$\mathbf{Z}^{l} = \left(\frac{1}{\beta}\boldsymbol{\Sigma} + \mathbf{C}^{l^{T}}\mathbf{C}^{l}\right)^{-1}\mathbf{C}^{l^{T}}\mathbf{C}^{l}$$
(7)

where  $\mathbf{Z}^{l} = [\mathbf{z}_{1}^{r}, \mathbf{z}_{2}^{r}, ..., \mathbf{z}_{i}^{r}, ..., \mathbf{z}_{n_{1}}^{r}]^{T}$  and  $\boldsymbol{\Sigma} \in \mathbb{R}^{n_{1} \times n_{1}}$  is a diagonal matrix whose diagonal entries are given by  $\frac{1}{\|\boldsymbol{z}_{i}^{r}\|_{2}}$ .

To prove Theorem 2, we need to prove Lemma 1.

**Lemma 1** For two matrices  $\mathbf{A} \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times m}$  and  $\mathbf{B} \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$ , the following inequality holds:

$$\|\mathbf{AB}\|_{F}^{2} \leq \|\mathbf{A}\|_{F}^{2} \|\mathbf{B}\|_{F}^{2}$$
.

**Proof** First, we have

$$\left\|\mathbf{AB}\right\|_{F}^{2} = tr\left(\mathbf{A}^{T}\mathbf{ABB}^{T}\right)$$

by the definition of the trace function.

Second, we want to prove that

$$tr\left(\mathbf{A}^{T}\mathbf{A}\mathbf{B}\mathbf{B}^{T}\right) \leq tr\left(\mathbf{A}^{T}\mathbf{A}\right)tr\left(\mathbf{B}\mathbf{B}^{T}\right)$$
 (8)

which implies that  $\|\mathbf{AB}\|_{F}^{2} \leq \|\mathbf{A}\|_{F}^{2} \|\mathbf{B}\|_{F}^{2}$ . It is easy to see that  $\mathbf{A}^{T}\mathbf{A}$  and  $\mathbf{BB}^{T}$  are positive semidefinite and symmetric matrices. Using the singular value decomposition (SVD) results of  $\mathbf{A}^{T}\mathbf{A}$  and  $\mathbf{BB}^{T}$ , we obtain

$$\mathbf{A}^{T}\mathbf{A} = \mathbf{U}_{A}\Sigma_{\mathbf{A}}\mathbf{U}_{\mathbf{A}}^{T},$$
  
$$\mathbf{B}\mathbf{B}^{T} = \mathbf{U}_{\mathbf{B}}\Sigma_{\mathbf{B}}\mathbf{U}_{\mathbf{B}}^{T},$$
  
(9)

where  $\mathbf{U}_A$  and  $\mathbf{U}_B$  are unitary matrices, and  $\Sigma_{\mathbf{A}}$  and  $\Sigma_{\mathbf{B}}$ are diagonal matrices whose diagonal elements are singular values of  $\mathbf{A}^T \mathbf{A}$  and  $\mathbf{B}\mathbf{B}^T$ , respectively. The singular values of  $\mathbf{A}^T \mathbf{A}$  and  $\mathbf{B}\mathbf{B}^T$  are all nonnegative. Then,

$$tr \left(\mathbf{A}^{T} \mathbf{A} \mathbf{B} \mathbf{B}^{T}\right) = tr \left(\mathbf{U}_{A} \Sigma_{\mathbf{A}} \mathbf{U}_{\mathbf{A}}^{T} \mathbf{U}_{\mathbf{B}} \Sigma_{\mathbf{B}} \mathbf{U}_{\mathbf{B}}^{T}\right)$$

$$\leq tr \left(\mathbf{U}_{\mathbf{B}}^{T} \mathbf{U}_{A} \Sigma_{\mathbf{A}} \mathbf{U}_{\mathbf{A}}^{T} \mathbf{U}_{\mathbf{B}}\right) tr \left(\Sigma_{\mathbf{B}}\right)$$

$$= tr \left(\mathbf{U}_{A} \Sigma_{\mathbf{A}} \mathbf{U}_{\mathbf{A}}^{T}\right) tr \left(\mathbf{U}_{\mathbf{B}} \Sigma_{\mathbf{B}} \mathbf{U}_{\mathbf{B}}^{T}\right)$$

$$= tr \left(\mathbf{A}^{T} \mathbf{A}\right) tr \left(\mathbf{B} \mathbf{B}^{T}\right).$$
(10)

Hence,

$$\left\|\mathbf{AB}\right\|_{F}^{2} \leq \left\|\mathbf{A}\right\|_{F}^{2} \left\|\mathbf{B}\right\|_{F}^{2}.$$

The proof of Theorem 2 is motivated by a feature selection method [2].

**Theorem 2** *The objective value of Equation* (7) *will monotonically decrease until convergence to the global optimum of Problem* (5). **Proof** Suppose that  $\mathbf{Z}_{t+1}^{l}$  is the global optimal solution to *Problem* (5), *i.e.*,

$$\mathbf{Z}_{t+1}^{l} = \arg\min_{\mathbf{Z}^{l}} \min_{diag(\mathbf{Z}^{l})=0} \left\| \mathbf{Z}^{l} \right\|_{2,1} + \frac{\beta}{2} \left\| \mathbf{C}^{l} - \mathbf{C}^{l} \mathbf{Z}^{l} \right\|_{F}^{2}$$

*Problem* (5) *is a convex optimization problem, which indicates that* 

$$\begin{aligned} \|\mathbf{Z}_{t+1}^{l}\|_{2,1} &+ \frac{1}{\beta} \|\mathbf{C}^{l} - \mathbf{C}^{l} \mathbf{Z}_{t+1}^{l}\|_{F}^{2} \\ &\leq \|\mathbf{Z}_{t+1}^{l}\|_{2,1} + \frac{1}{\beta} \|\mathbf{C}^{l} - \mathbf{C}^{l} \mathbf{Z}_{t}^{l}\|_{F}^{2}. \end{aligned}$$

Thus,

$$\left\|\mathbf{C}^{l}-\mathbf{C}^{l}\mathbf{Z}_{t+1}^{l}\right\|_{F}^{2}\leq\left\|\mathbf{C}^{l}-\mathbf{C}^{l}\mathbf{Z}_{t}^{l}\right\|_{F}^{2}.$$

According to Lemma 1, we have

$$\left\|\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{Z}_{t+1}^{l}\right\|_{F}^{2} \leq \left\|\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{C}^{l} \mathbf{Z}_{t}^{l}\right\|_{F}^{2}$$

where **I** is an identity of size  $n_l \times n_l$ . Then, we have the following inequality:

$$tr\left(\mathbf{Z}_{t+1}^{l}\left(\mathbf{Z}_{t+1}^{l}\right)^{T}-\mathbf{Z}_{t}^{l}\left(\mathbf{Z}_{t}^{l}\right)^{T}\right)\leq tr\left(2\left(\mathbf{Z}_{t+1}^{l}-\mathbf{Z}_{t}^{l}\right)\right).$$

Using the constraint diag  $(\mathbf{Z}^l) = 0$  in Problem (5), we obtain

$$tr\left(\mathbf{Z}_{t+1}^{l}\left(\mathbf{Z}_{t+1}^{l}\right)^{T} - \mathbf{Z}_{t}^{l}\left(\mathbf{Z}_{t}^{l}\right)^{T}\right) \leq 0)$$

Then

$$\sum_{i=1}^{n} \left\| \left( \mathbf{z}^{i} \right)_{t+1}^{l} \right\|_{2}^{2} \leq \sum_{i=1}^{n} \left\| \left( \mathbf{z}^{i} \right)_{t}^{l} \right\|_{2}^{2}$$

where  $(\mathbf{z}^i)_{t+1}^l$  and  $(\mathbf{z}^i)_t^l$  are the *i*-th row vectors of  $\mathbf{Z}_{t+1}^l$  and  $\mathbf{Z}_t^l$ , respectively. Hence,

$$\left\| \mathbf{Z}_{t+1}^{l} \right\|_{2,1} \le \left\| \mathbf{Z}_{t}^{l} \right\|_{2,1}$$

This means that the objective value of Equation (7) will monotonically decrease at each iteration. At the (t+1)-th iteration, Equation (7) holds for given  $\mathbf{Z}_{t+1}^l$  and  $\boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{t+1}^l$ . Consequently, the objective value of Equation (7) will converge to the global optimum of Problem (5).

## REFERENCES

- T. Blumensath and M. E. Davies, "Iterative thresholding for sparse approximations," *J. Fourier Anal. Appl.*, vol. 14, no. 5, pp. 629–654, Sept. 2008.
- [2] F. Nie, H. Huang, X. Cai, and C. Ding, "Efficient and robust feature selection via joint l<sub>2,1</sub>-norms minimization," in *Adv. Neural. Inf. Process. Syst.*, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, Dec. 2010, pp. 1813–1821.