

# Local Search Algorithms for Rank-Constrained Convex Optimization

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# The Problem

# Matrix Completion

$\mathbf{M}$ : Data matrix

$\Omega$ : Set of observable entries

Find  $\mathbf{A}$  that minimizes

$$\sum_{ij \in \Omega} (M_{ij} - A_{ij})^2$$

subject to

$$\text{rank}(\mathbf{A}) \leq r$$

# Rank-Constrained Convex Optimization

$R$ : Convex function

Find  $\mathbf{A}$  that minimizes

$$R(\mathbf{A})$$

subject to

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**NP-hard** problem

**Usual:** Replace  $\text{rank}(\mathbf{A})$  by  $\|\mathbf{A}\|_*$   
(trace norm)

**Here:** Relax to  $\text{rank}(\mathbf{A}) \leq c \cdot r$

# Algorithms & Theoretical results

$$\min_{\text{rank}(\mathbf{A}) \leq c \cdot r} R(\mathbf{A})$$

# A Greedy Algorithm (Shalev-Schwarz et al. (2011))

$$\mathbf{U} = \mathbf{V} = ()$$

**For**  $i = 1 \dots c \cdot r$

$\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v}$  = top singular vectors of  $\nabla R(\mathbf{A})$

$$\min_{\text{rank}(\mathbf{A}) \leq c \cdot r} R(\mathbf{A})$$

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$$\mathbf{U} = (\mathbf{U} \quad \mathbf{u})$$

$$\mathbf{V}^\top = (\mathbf{V}^\top \quad \mathbf{v})$$

$$\mathbf{X} = \operatorname{argmin}_{\mathbf{X}} R(\mathbf{U}\mathbf{X}\mathbf{V})$$

$$\mathbf{U} = \mathbf{U}\mathbf{X}$$

$$\min_{\text{rank}(\mathbf{A}) \leq c \cdot r} R(\mathbf{A})$$

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( $\kappa$ : condition number of  $R$ )

**Return**  $\mathbf{UV}$

**Known bound:**  $c \leq O\left(\kappa \frac{R(\mathbf{0})}{\epsilon}\right)$

**Our bound:**  $c \leq O\left(\kappa \log \frac{R(\mathbf{0})}{\epsilon}\right)$

$$\min_{\text{rank}(\mathbf{A}) \leq c \cdot r} R(\mathbf{A})$$

# A **Faster** Greedy Algorithm

$$\mathbf{U} = \mathbf{V} = ()$$

**For**  $i = 1 \dots c \cdot r$

$\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v}$  = top singular vectors of  $\nabla R(\mathbf{A})$

$$\mathbf{U} = (\mathbf{U} \quad \mathbf{u})$$

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## A **Faster** Greedy Algorithm

$$\mathbf{U} = \mathbf{V} = ()$$

**For**  $i = 1 \dots c \cdot r$

$\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v}$  = top singular vectors of  $\nabla R(\mathbf{A})$

$$\mathbf{U} = (\mathbf{U} \quad \mathbf{u})$$

$$\mathbf{V}^\top = (\mathbf{V}^\top \quad \mathbf{v})$$

**If**  $i$  is even:  $\mathbf{V} = \text{argmin}_{\mathbf{V}} R(\mathbf{UV}^\top)$

**Else:**  $\mathbf{U} = \text{argmin}_{\mathbf{U}} R(\mathbf{UV}^\top)$

**Return**  $\mathbf{UV}$

←  $\Theta(c \cdot r)$  speedup in many cases

$$\min_{\text{rank}(\mathbf{A}) \leq c \cdot r} R(\mathbf{A})$$

# A Local Search Algorithm

After **inserting** new vectors, **remove** one set of vectors

$$c \leq O(\kappa^2)$$

# Experiments

# FG-BG Separation using Robust PCA

$$\mathbf{M} = \mathbf{L} + \mathbf{S}$$

input                      BG                      FG  
video                      (low-rank) (sparse)

Huber loss

$$\min_{\text{rank}(\mathbf{L}) \leq r} H_{\delta}(\mathbf{M} - \mathbf{L})$$

**Fast Greedy** on Huber loss →

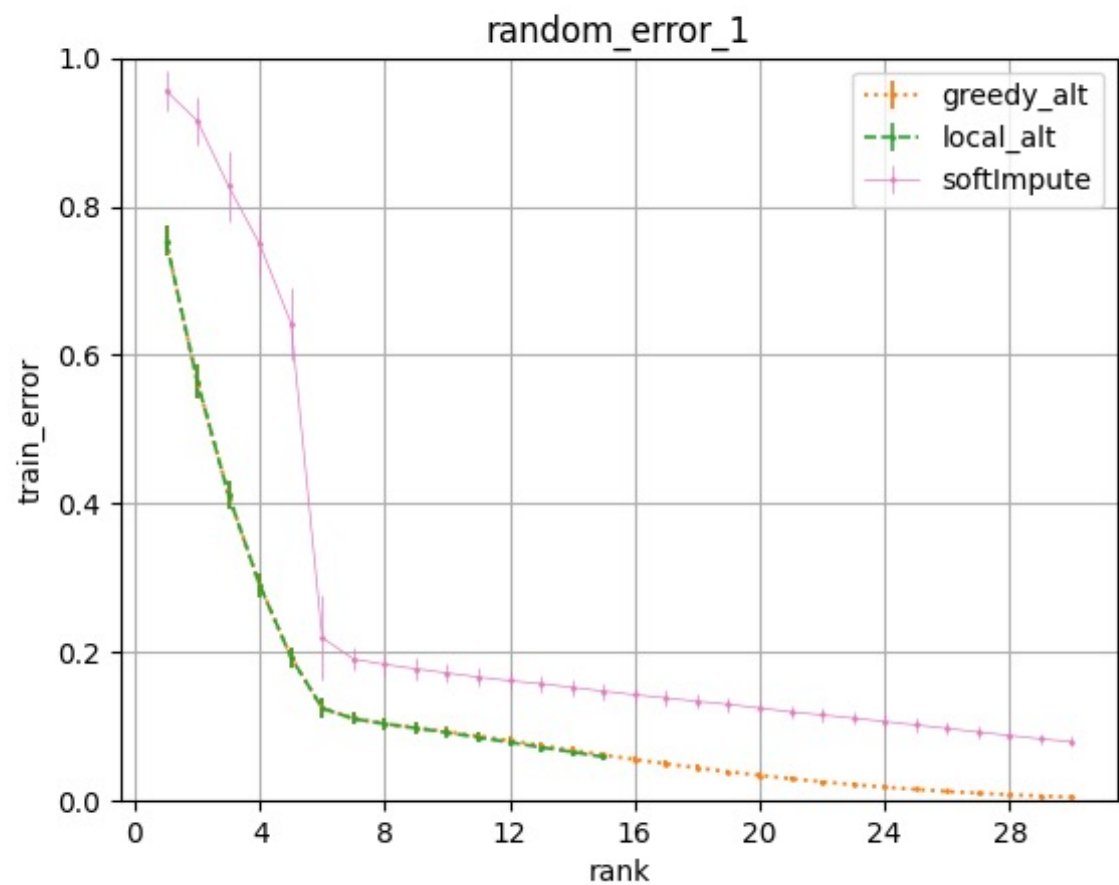
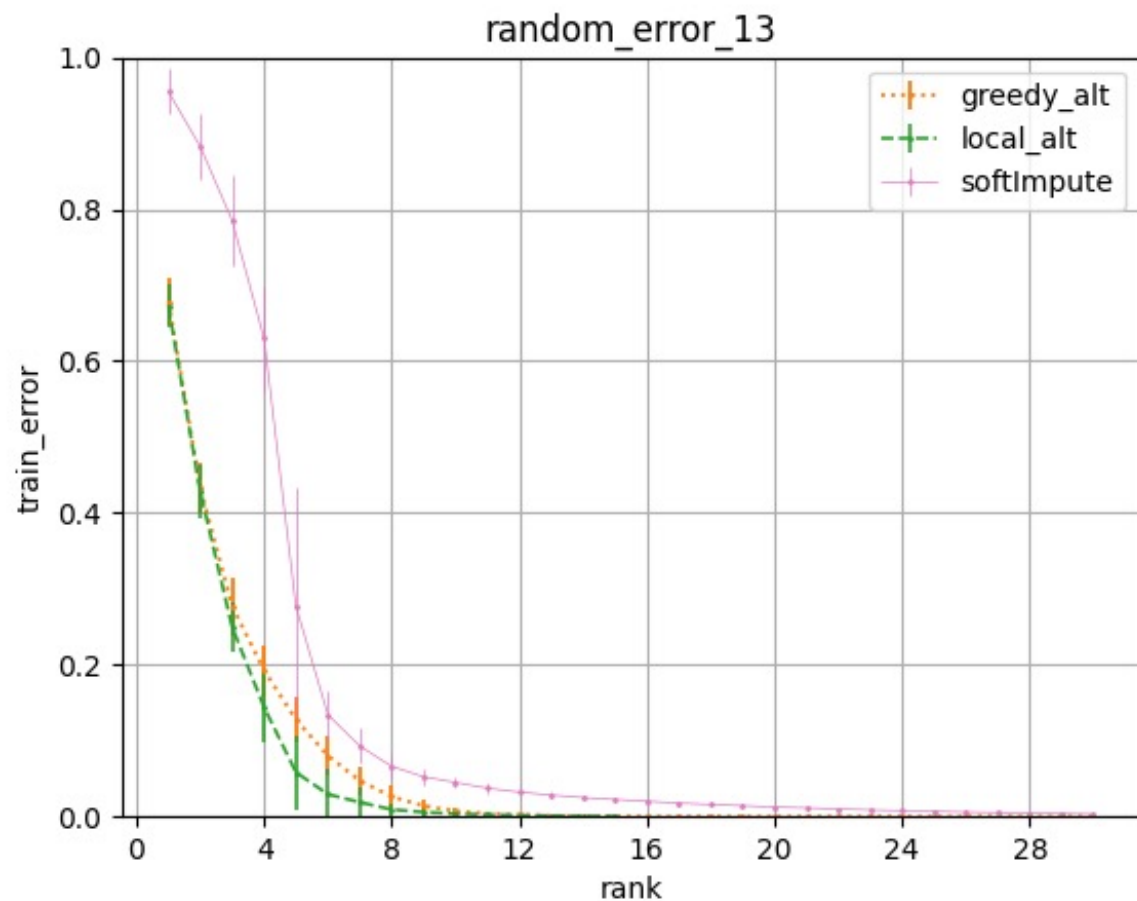
original video



**Principal Component Pursuit (PCP)** →



# Matrix Completion (Optimization Task)



# Recommender Systems

(metric: relative  $\ell_2^2$  error)

Algorithm	MovieLens 100K	MovieLens 1M	MovieLens 10M
NMF (Lee & Seung (2001))	0.9659	0.9166	0.8960
SoftImpute	1.0106	0.9599	0.957
Alternating Minimization	<b>0.9355</b>	0.8732	0.8410
SVD (Koren et al. (2009))	0.9533	0.8743	<b>0.8315</b>
Fast Greedy (Algorithm 2.3)	0.9451	<b>0.8714</b>	0.8330

# Conclusions

- New **efficient greedy & local search** algorithms for rank-constrained convex optimization
- Even though very **general**, on par with algorithms for specialized applications (e.g. robust PCA, recommender systems)

Thank you!