

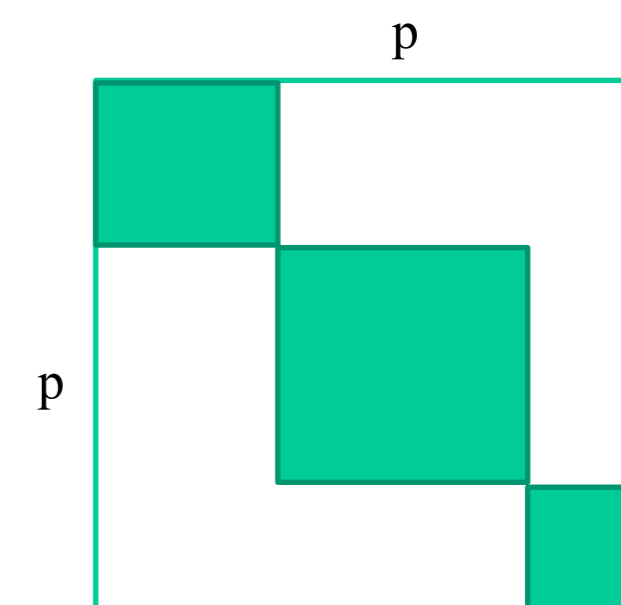
Variable Clustering With the Gaussian Graphical Model

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Goal:

- Cluster objects according to their pair-wise correlations. Mean is not useful for distinguishing group of objects.
- Model-based clustering including principled methods for selection of number of clusters.

Precision matrix X



Applications:

- Detecting independent groups of stocks, sensors, genes, costumers, politicians,...

Assumptions:

- Data is generated iid from Normal distribution with mean 0 and block-diagonal precision matrix X .
- Number of blocks m is unknown.

Proposed Approach:

$$\underset{X \succ 0}{\text{minimize}} -\log \det(X) + \text{trace}(XS)$$

subject to

X is block sparse with exactly m blocks.

S is the sample covariance matrix

Express constraint using (unnormalized) Laplacian L

$$\underset{X \succ 0}{\text{minimize}} -\log \det(X) + \text{trace}(XS)$$

subject to

$$L_{ii} = \sum_{k \neq i} |X_{ik}|^q, \quad (1)$$

$$L_{ij} = -|X_{ij}|^q \text{ for } i \neq j, \quad (2)$$

$$\text{rank}(L) = p - m, \quad q \in \{1, 2\}$$

Convex relaxation of rank constraint

$$X^* := \arg \min_{X \succeq 0} -\log \det(X) + \text{trace}(XS) + \lambda_m \sum_{i \neq j} |X_{ij}|^q \quad (3)$$

$$\underset{X \succeq 0}{\text{minimize}} -\log \det(X) + \text{trace}(XS) + \lambda_m \|L\|_*$$

subject to

$$L_{ii} = \sum_{k \neq i} |X_{ik}|^q,$$

$$L_{ij} = -|X_{ij}|^q \text{ for } i \neq j.$$

$q = 1$: Problem is equivalent to Graphical Lasso (GL)

$q = 2$: Squared (SQR) penalty on partial correlations.

Solvable via a new efficient fix-point iteration algorithm.

Model Selection:

$$BIC_{\lambda, m} = -2\mathcal{L}(\hat{X}; S, \mathcal{C}_{\lambda, m}) + \log n \cdot \sum_{C \in \mathcal{C}_{\lambda, m}} \frac{1}{2} (|C|^2 - |C|) \quad (4)$$

where $L(\hat{X}; S, \mathcal{C}_{\lambda, m})$ is the unpenalized log-likelihood, and $\mathcal{C}_{\lambda, m}$ is the partition of the variables (found by spectral clustering)

Experiments:

Evaluation of clustering results for "ideal" and "noise-corrupted" synthetic data with 4 clusters, $p = 400$, and n in $\{100, 200, 400, 800, 1600\}$. Shows the adjusted normalized mutual information (ANMI) and the number of clusters (Clusters).

| | | "ideal" | | | | |
|------------------|----------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| | | 100 | 200 | 400 | 800 | 1600 |
| SQR-Spectral-BIC | ANMI | 0.44 (0.02) | 1.0 (0.0) | 1.0 (0.0) | 1.0 (0.0) | 1.0 (0.0) |
| | Clusters | 13.2 (1.94) | 4.1 (0.3) | 4.0 (0.0) | 4.0 (0.0) | 4.0 (0.0) |
| GL-Spectral-BIC | ANMI | 0.38 (0.01) | 1.0 (0.0) | 1.0 (0.0) | 1.0 (0.0) | 1.0 (0.0) |
| | Clusters | 13.6 (1.5) | 4.0 (0.0) | 4.0 (0.0) | 4.0 (0.0) | 4.0 (0.0) |
| ID-Spectral-BIC | ANMI | 0.11 (0.02) | 0.24 (0.02) | 0.96 (0.03) | 1.0 (0.0) | 1.0 (0.0) |
| | Clusters | 9.3 (2.53) | 8.5 (2.8) | 7.9 (2.81) | 4.0 (0.0) | 4.0 (0.0) |
| DPVC | ANMI | 0.65 (0.01) | 0.75 (0.01) | 0.80 (0.01) | 0.84 (0.01) | 0.86 (0.01) |
| | Clusters | 25.3 (1.55) | 16.7 (1.68) | 13.1 (1.14) | 10.4 (0.49) | 9.3 (1.19) |
| SLC | ANMI | 0.29 (0.22) | 0.48 (0.15) | 0.43 (0.26) | 0.75 (0.19) | 0.69 (0.21) |
| | Clusters | 2.7 (0.64) | 2.8 (0.75) | 2.6 (0.66) | 3.8 (1.08) | 3.6 (1.2) |
| ALC | ANMI | 0.73 (0.03) | 0.74 (0.01) | 0.75 (0.02) | 0.78 (0.02) | 0.77 (0.02) |
| | Clusters | 5.0 (0.0) | 5.0 (0.0) | 5.0 (0.0) | 5.0 (0.0) | 5.0 (0.0) |

SQR-Spectral-BIC = Use of proposed Algorithm 1 with $q = 2$.

GL-Spectral-BIC = Use of proposed Algorithm 1 with $q = 1$.

ID-Spectral-BIC = Use of proposed Algorithm 1 with $X^* = (S + \lambda I)^{-1}$

DPVC = Dirichlet Process Variable Clustering proposed in [Palla et al. 2012]

SLC = Single Linkage Clustering including model selection proposed in [Tan et al. 2015]

ALC = Average Linkage Clustering including model selection proposed in [Tan et al. 2015]

Average runtime in minutes of algorithms for "ideal" synthetic data with $p = 400$, $n = 1600$:

| SQR-Spectral-BIC | GL-Spectral-BIC | ID-Spectral-BIC | DPVC | SLC | ALC |
|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| 0.67 (0.0) | 5.35 (0.12) | 0.14 (0.0) | 2.48 (0.06) | 1.71 (0.02) | 1.59 (0.02) |

Summary

Algorithm 1 Proposed method for the estimation of variable clusters.

J := set of values for the regularization parameter of the Laplacian L .

K_{max} := maximum number of considered clusters.

for $\lambda \in J$ **do**

X^* := solve the optimization problem from Equation (3).

$(e_1, \dots, e_{K_{max}})$:= determine the eigenvectors corresponding to the K_{max} lowest eigenvalues of the Laplacian L (as defined in Equations (1) and (2) with X^*).

for $k \in \{2, \dots, K_{max}\}$ **do**

$\mathcal{C}_{\lambda, k}$:= cluster all variables into k partitions using k-means with (e_1, \dots, e_k) .

$BIC_{\lambda, k}$:= evaluate BIC using Equation (4).

end for

end for

λ^*, k^* := $\arg \max_{\lambda \in J, k \in \{2, \dots, K_{max}\}} BIC_{\lambda, k}$

return clustering $\mathcal{C}_{\lambda^*, k^*}$

| | | "noise-corrupted" | | | | |
|------------------|----------|-------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| | | 100 | 200 | 400 | 800 | 1600 |
| SQR-Spectral-BIC | ANMI | 0.49 (0.03) | 0.65 (0.06) | 0.80 (0.02) | 0.92 (0.01) | 0.95 (0.02) |
| | Clusters | 13.9 (1.14) | 13.2 (1.54) | 13.3 (1.85) | 12.2 (1.25) | 8.8 (1.89) |
| GL-Spectral-BIC | ANMI | 0.38 (0.02) | 0.48 (0.02) | 0.83 (0.02) | 0.68 (0.03) | 0.95 (0.03) |
| | Clusters | 13.6 (1.43) | 14.4 (1.02) | 12.5 (3.14) | 11.3 (1.42) | 7.9 (2.34) |
| ID-Spectral-BIC | ANMI | 0.0 (0.0) | 0.0 (0.0) | 0.0 (0.0) | 0.0 (0.0) | 0.0 (0.0) |
| | Clusters | 14.7 (0.46) | 14.7 (0.46) | 14.9 (0.3) | 15.0 (0.0) | 14.5 (0.81) |
| DPVC | ANMI | 0.35 (0.04) | 0.33 (0.01) | 0.33 (0.03) | 0.32 (0.01) | 0.31 (0.01) |
| | Clusters | 12.6 (0.92) | 8.6 (1.02) | 7.8 (0.6) | 6.4 (0.49) | 5.5 (0.5) |
| SLC | ANMI | 0.01 (0.01) | 0.03 (0.02) | 0.05 (0.03) | 0.06 (0.02) | 0.01 (0.01) |
| | Clusters | 2.0 (0.0) | 2.4 (0.49) | 2.7 (0.9) | 3.2 (0.6) | 2.1 (0.3) |
| ALC | ANMI | 0.0 (0.0) | 0.0 (0.0) | 0.0 (0.0) | 0.0 (0.01) | 0.0 (0.0) |
| | Clusters | 2.0 (0.0) | 2.4 (0.49) | 2.2 (0.4) | 2.5 (0.5) | 2.1 (0.3) |

Conclusions:

- Combination of Spectral clustering and BIC for clustering selection is useful, even when model assumptions are violated ("noise-corrupted").
- Performance of SQR-Spectral-BIC is comparable or better than GL-Spectral-BIC, while being almost 10 times faster.
- SQR-Spectral-BIC and GL-Spectral-BIC can perform considerably better than previously proposed methods (also on real data, results omitted here).