# Orbit recovery problems 

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## Orbit recovery problems

We observe i.i.d. realizations of the model:

$$
y_{i}=P\left(g_{i} \circ x\right)+\varepsilon_{i}, \quad i=1, \ldots, n,
$$

where

- $x$ is a fixed but unknown element of a vector space $\mathcal{X}$
- $g_{1}, \ldots, g_{n}$ are unknown elements of a (compact) group $G$
- $P: \mathcal{X} \mapsto \mathcal{Y}$ is a linear operator
- $\mathcal{Y}$ is a finite dimensional measurement space
- $\varepsilon_{i} \sim \mathcal{N}\left(0, \sigma^{2}\right)$


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Goal: Estimate/recover/reconstruct/learn the orbit

$$
\{g \circ x: g \in G\}
$$

from $y_{1}, \ldots, y_{n}$.

## First example: multi-reference alignment

Goal: Estimate $x \in \mathbb{R}^{L}$, up to cyclic shift, from

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MMMM


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## Single particle reconstruction using cryo-electron microscopy



The images of E. coli 50S ribosomal subunit were provided by Dr. Fred Sigworth, Yale Medical School.

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## The cryo-EM inverse problem



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> Image formation model
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Estimate (the orbit of) $x$ from $y_{1}, \ldots, y_{N}$

## The cryo-EM inverse problem (perfect particle picking)



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\begin{aligned}
& \text { Image formation model } \\
& y_{i}=P\left(g_{i} \circ x\right)+\text { noise, } g_{i} \in S O \text { (3) }
\end{aligned}
$$

The cryo-EM problem
Estimate (the orbit of) $x$ from $y_{1}, \ldots, y_{N}$

- Can we accurately estimate the rotations?
- Can we accurately estimate the volume $x$ ?
- And how?
- What is the optimal estimation rate?


## Reconstruction of T20S proteasome



Taken from: Zhou, Moscovich, Bendory, and Bartesaghi. "Unsupervised particle sorting for high-resolution single-particle cryo-EM." Inverse Problems, (2019).

## More examples

- Heterogeneous multi-reference alignment [Boumal, Bendory, Lederman, Singer, '18]
- Linear models with permuted data [Pananjady, Wainwright, Courtade, '17]
- Rotations and reflections (the orthogonal group) of a point cloud [Pumir, Singer, Boumal, '19]
- Boolean multi-reference alignment [Abbe, Pereira, Singer, '17]
- Low-rank covariance estimation under unknown translations [Aizenbud, Landa, Shkolnisky, '19; Landa, Shkolnisky, '19]
- Similar algebraic structures [Bendory, Boumal, Leeb, Levin, Singer, '19]


## How to solve the problem?

$$
y_{i}=P\left(g_{i} \circ x\right)+\varepsilon_{i}, \quad i=1, \ldots, n
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High SNR regime: Synchronization! Estimate $g_{1}, \ldots, g_{n}$ from $y_{1}, \ldots, y_{n}$.


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## High SNR regime: Synchronization! Estimate $g_{1}, \ldots, g_{n}$ from $y_{1}, \ldots, y_{n}$.

## Beautiful theory, near-optimal provable algorithms.

## Literature:

- Singer. "Angular synchronization by eigenvectors and semidefinite programming." ACHA, '11.
- Singer, Shkolnisky. "Three-dimensional structure determination from common lines in cryo-EM by eigenvectors and semidefinite programming." SIIMS, '11.
- Boumal. "Nonconvex phase synchronization." SIPOT, '16.
- Perry, Wein, Bandeira, Moitra. "Message-Passing Algorithms for Synchronization Problems over Compact Groups." CPAM, '18.
- Zhong, Boumal. "Near-optimal bounds for phase synchronization." SIPOT, '18.
- Chen, Candes. "The projected power method: An efficient algorithm for joint alignment from pairwise differences" CPAM, ' 18.
- Bandeira, Chen, Singer. "Non-unique games over compact groups and orientation estimation in cryo-EM."


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Option 1: Optimize/sample the marginalized likelihood/posterior distribution (EM, MCMC, etc.)

$$
L\left(x, y_{1}, \ldots, y_{n}\right)=p(x) \cdot \prod_{i} \mathbb{E}_{g} \mathcal{N}\left(y_{i}-P(g \circ x), \sigma^{2}\right)
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L\left(x ; y_{1}, \ldots, y_{n}\right)=p(x) \cdot \prod_{i} \mathbb{E}_{g} \mathcal{N}\left(y_{i}-P(g \circ x), \sigma^{2}\right)
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Remark: The MLE of

$$
L\left(x, g_{1}, \ldots, g_{n} ; y_{1}, \ldots, y_{n}\right)=\prod_{i} \mathcal{N}\left(y_{i}-P\left(g_{i} \circ x\right), \sigma^{2}\right)
$$

might be inconsistent as $n \rightarrow \infty$ (Neyman-Scott "paradox").

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Solution: Estimate $x$ directly from $y_{1}, \ldots, y_{n}$.
Option 2: Method of moments/group invariants

$$
\begin{gathered}
\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^{n} y_{i} \approx \mathbb{E}_{g, \varepsilon}\{y\}=p_{1}(x) \\
\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^{n} y_{i} y_{i}^{T} \approx \mathbb{E}_{g, \varepsilon}\left\{y y^{T}\right\}=p_{2}(x)
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Low SNR regime: Accurate estimation of $g_{1}, \ldots, g_{n}$ is impossible. Solution: Estimate $x$ directly from $y_{1}, \ldots, y_{n}$. Option 2: Method of moments/group invariants

- One pass over the data
- Consistent
- Amenable to theoretical analysis


## 1-D multi-reference alignment

Goal: Estimate $x \in \mathbb{R}^{L}$, up to cyclic shift, from

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## Group invariants

For any $x \in \mathcal{X}$ and $g \in G$, invariants are functions (polynomials) that satisfy

$$
h(x)=h(g \circ x)
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A trivial candidate: $|x|$
H.W: Is $|x|$ an invariant representation? If not, find an invariant representation $h$.

## Invariants for 1-D MRA

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Thus, it is very easy to construct invariants:

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\begin{aligned}
& \hat{x}[0] \\
& \hat{x}[k] \hat{x}[-k] \\
& \hat{x}\left[k_{1}\right] \hat{x}\left[k_{2}\right] \hat{x}\left[-k_{1}-k_{2}\right] \\
& \hat{x}\left[k_{1}\right] \hat{x}\left[k_{2}\right], \ldots \hat{x}\left[k_{q}\right] \hat{x}\left[-k_{1}-k_{2}-\ldots\right]
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\hat{x}[k] \hat{x}[-k] \quad \text { power spectrum }
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Question: What are the invariants of an image under $S O(2)$ ?

## Estimating invariants

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where $g_{i} \in G$ is the group of cyclic shifts.
Estimating the invariants:

$$
\begin{array}{ll}
\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^{n} \hat{y}[0] \rightarrow \hat{x}[0] & \operatorname{var}\left(\sigma^{2} / n\right) \\
\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^{n} P_{y}[k] \rightarrow P_{x}[k] & \operatorname{var}\left(\sigma^{4} / n\right) \\
\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^{n} B_{y}\left[k_{1}, k_{2}\right] \rightarrow B_{x}\left[k_{1}, k_{2}\right] & \operatorname{var}\left(\sigma^{6} / n\right)
\end{array}
$$

Many efficient algorithms to recover a signal from its bispectrum [Bendory et al., '17]

## Phase retrieval

Phase retrieval is the problem of recovering a signal from its Fourier magnitudes.


Uncovering the double helix structure of the DNA with X-ray crystallography in 1951. Nobel Prize for Watson, Crick, and Wilkins in 1962 based on work by Rosalind Franklin.

## Phase retrieval is also an orbit recovery problem

Let us consider the X -ray crystallography problem: Recover the $k$-sparse signal $x \in \mathbb{R}^{L}$ from

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b=\left|F_{x}\right|
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We search for a signal in the intersection of two non-convex sets

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x \in \mathcal{S} \cap \mathcal{B}
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where $\mathcal{B}:=\left\{x \in \mathbb{C}^{n}: b=|A x|\right\}$, and $\mathcal{S}$ is the set of all $k$-sparse signals.

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One cannot recover $x$, but only its orbit. In particular, recovery is possible up to a cyclic shift $\mathbb{Z}_{L}$, reflection through the origin $\mathbb{Z}_{2}$ (together, they form the dihedral group $D_{2 L}$ ), and global sign $\mathbb{Z}_{2}$ (global phase $S^{1}$ in the complex case).

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Intricate geometry!

## Single particle reconstruction using X-ray free-electron laser (XFEL)

XFEL $\approx$ cryo-EM + phase retrieval



## Thanks for your attention!

