Tensorized Feature Spaces for Feature Explosion

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Abstract—In this paper1, we present a novel framework that uses tensor factorization to generate richer feature spaces for pixel classification in hyperspectral images. In particular, we assess the performance of different tensor rank decomposition methods as compared to the traditional kernel-based approaches for the hyperspectral image classification problem. We propose ORION, which takes as input a hyperspectral image tensor and a rank and outputs an enhanced feature space from the factor matrices of the decomposed tensor. Our method is a feature explosion technique that inherently maps low dimensional input space in \( R^c \) to high dimensional space in \( R^k \), where \( R \gg K \), say in the order of 1000x, like a kernel. We show how the proposed method exploits the multi-linear structure of hyperspectral three dimensional tensor. We demonstrate the effectiveness of our method with experiments on three publicly available hyperspectral datasets with labeled pixels and compare their classification performance against traditional linear and non-linear supervised learning methods such as SVM with Linear, Polynomial, RBF kernels, and the Multi-Layer Perceptron model. Finally, we explore the relationship between the rank of the tensor decomposition and the classification accuracy using several hyperspectral datasets with ground truth.

Index Terms—Tensor, Tensor Decomposition, Hyperspectral Imaging.

I. INTRODUCTION

Hyperspectral imaging techniques capture images of objects or materials with hundreds of spectral bands at each pixel [1]. A particularly important use of these techniques is in capturing images of land area on the earth’s surface from above using an aircraft or a satellite fitted with sensors. Since objects under observation reflect different wavelengths of the spectral band, each pixel has a large number of features corresponding to the spectral bands. These features have most popularly been used to accomplish two tasks — identify the class of each given pixel, a classification task [2], [3], [4] or, see what that pixel is made of, an unmixing task [5], [6]. Bioucas et al. [7] present a survey of problems often encountered in analyzing hyperspectral remote sensing data. In this paper, we focus on the pixel classification task, where labelled data for some of the pixels is available.

Hyperspectral images (HSI) can be considered as a set of images stacked together like a 3D cube. For hyperspectral images with high spatial resolution, the pixel classification task assumes that each pixel is ‘pure’, i.e. it corresponds to a single class. In contrast with the classification task, the unmixing task assumes that each pixel may be composed of multiple materials or ‘endmembers’ [7]. The main challenges involved in hyperspectral pixel classification are the large number of spectral bands, leading to high dimensionality and the limited availability of labelled data. Previous work considered the feature space generated using kernel functions for HSI classification [2], [8], [3]. These works treat data as a matrix where each row is a pixel in multi-spectral bands. However, there are three challenges in these kernel spaces (a) choice of kernel and its parameters. For example, tuning the parameter \( \gamma \) in Radial Basis Function (RBF) kernel is non-trivial and impacts the performance of the classifier, (b) the number of features generated by the kernel methods is dependent on the number of pixels, i.e. the kernel function \( K(X, X) \to F \) takes the \( k \) spectral bands for \( xy \) pixels as \( X \in R^{2y \times k} \) will yield a feature matrix \( F \in R^{xy \times k} \) and (c) these kernel spaces assume that the pixels are independent and identically distributed (IID) samples and ignore the spatial correlation that exists between the pixels.

In this paper we address these challenges by exploring a new feature explosion method called ORION that uses tensor completion to generate a richer feature space by exploiting the multi-dimensional nature of data. ORION allows relaxing the dimension of the obtained feature space \( F \in R^{xy \times R} \) instead of fixed dimension \( xy \) from kernel methods. While we demonstrate the usefulness of ORION for HSI classification, we would like to emphasize that it can be applied to a broader range of problems.

Our contributions in this work are as follows:

- **Tensorized Feature Space:** We introduce a new feature space based on factors generated using tensor factorization. This works better or on par with traditional state-of-the-art classification methods. To the best of our knowledge, this is the first work that presents a formal study of feature space explosion with defined number of

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2We use decomposition and factorization interchangeably throughout the paper.
features $R$, unlike kernel methods that fix the length of the dimension for the number of available samples.

- **Experimental Evaluation**: We demonstrate the effectiveness of our proposed method ORION by evaluating it on publicly available hyperspectral datasets and compare it against traditional state-of-the-art baselines, linear and nonlinear supervised learning methods like Linear, Polynomial and RBF Support Vector Machines, and Multi-Layer Perceptrons.

**Reproducibility**: To encourage transparency and reproducibility of the experiments, we make our implementation of ORION and baselines publicly available\(^1\). All datasets used in the experiment are publicly available at [9].

The remainder of this paper is structured as follows. In section II, we formulate the problem more formally in terms of tensor and tensor factorization. Section III describes our proposed method in detail. We demonstrate the effectiveness of our method in section IV. In section V, we present the related work in tensors and hyperspectral field and, finally, we conclude our paper in section VI.

II. PROBLEM FORMULATION

In this section, we present some preliminary definitions required for setting up the problem and define our problem. Table I describes the symbols used and their descriptions.

**A. Preliminary Definitions**

**Tensor**: Tensors are multi-dimensional arrays and are used to model multi-aspect data. Each dimension of a tensor is called a mode. For example, a 1-mode tensor is a vector, and a 2-mode tensor is a matrix. A 3-mode tensor is represented by $X$, where $X \in \mathbb{R}^{I \times J \times K}$.

For example, the hyperspectral image of a land area consisting of several spectral bands can be modeled as a 3-mode tensor $X$, where the first two modes $I$ and $J$ represent the height and width of the image and the third mode $K$ represents the spectral bands.

**Fibers**: The row and column vectors are fibers in a matrix. Given an n-mode tensor, we obtain fibers by fixing the $n-1$ indices. For example, in a 3-mode tensor $X$ with indices $I, J, K$, $X(:, :, K)$, $X(I, :, K)$ and $X(I, J, :)$. are considered mode-1, mode-2, and mode-3 fibers respectively.

**Kronecker Product**: The Kronecker product of two matrices $A \in \mathbb{R}^{I \times J}$ and $B \in \mathbb{R}^{M \times N}$ is given by $A \otimes B \in \mathbb{R}^{IM \times JN}$ where $a_{ij}$ refers to elements in matrix $A$.

**Khatri-Rao Product**: Khatri-Rao product of two matrices $A \in \mathbb{R}^{I \times R}$ and $B \in \mathbb{R}^{J \times R}$ is the column-wise Kronecker product given by $A \odot B \in \mathbb{R}^{I \times J \times R}$:

$$A \odot B = \begin{bmatrix} a_{11}B & a_{12}B \ldots a_{1J}B \\ a_{21}B & a_{22}B \ldots a_{2J}B \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots \\ a_{1R}B & a_{2R}B \ldots a_{JR}B \end{bmatrix}$$

where $[a_1, a_2, \ldots, a_R]$ and $[b_1, b_2, \ldots, b_R]$ are columns of $A$ and $B$ respectively.

**Canonical Polyadic Decomposition**: Simply referred to as CP or CANDECOMP/PARAFAC [10], [11], it is one of the most commonly used tensor decompositions. The CP decomposition of a 3-mode tensor $X \in \mathbb{R}^{I \times J \times K}$ for a particular rank $R$ is given by sum of $R$ rank-one tensors:

$$X \approx \sum_{r=1}^{R} A(:,r) \circ B(:,r) \circ C(:,r)$$

**B. Problem Definition**

This work explores a new feature space using tensor completion and to show its effectiveness, we apply it to hyperspectral pixel classification. Previous literature related to HSI employed methods like feature reduction and kernel methods [8], [3]. In our work, we exploit the multi-linear structure of the hyperspectral image tensor using tensor decomposition to generate a richer space, where the pixels are linearly separable.

More formally we define our problem as follows:

Given a three dimensional hyperspectral image tensor $X \in \mathbb{R}^{I \times J \times K}$, a label matrix $Y \in \mathbb{R}^{I \times J}$ and rank $R$, generate a feature space for a classifier such that pixels in the images are classified into one of the given classes.

III. PROPOSED METHOD: ORION

In this section, we introduce our method ORION and present the intuition behind it. ORION takes as input a three dimensional tensor $X$ and a tensor rank $R$ and generates a feature

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TABLE I</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Symbols</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Description</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$X$, $X$, $x$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tensor, matrix, column vector, scalar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$\mathbb{R}$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Set of Real Numbers</td>
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<tr>
<td>$\otimes$</td>
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<tr>
<td>Outer product</td>
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<tr>
<td>$\otimes$</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kronecker product</td>
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\(^1\)https://github.com/ravdeep003/ORION
space using tensor factorization. The general idea behind the proposed method lies in mapping the input data to some high dimensional space corresponding to the rank decomposition of the tensor.

### A. The ORION algorithm

Algorithm 1 presents the steps involved in ORION, applied to the hyperspectral pixel classification problem. Consider a 3-mode tensor $X \in \mathbb{R}^{I \times J \times K}$, where $I$ and $J$ represent the resolution of the image and $K$ represents the number of spectral bands. For a given test size, we select pixels with non-zero classes using stratified sampling as specified in line 2 of the algorithm 1. We do this in order to ensure that the training and testing data has the same percentage of representation from each class. We mark all spectral values of test pixels as zero, i.e. all the third mode fibers of the test data points are marked as zero, treating the problem of filling missing values as a tensor completion task. We employ the tensor completion algorithm CP-WOPT (Weighted Optimization) [12], implemented in [17], to predict the missing values. This produces three factor matrices $A$, $B$ and $C$. The first two matrices $A$ and $B$ correspond to the two modes of the image are used to generate a new feature space.

$$\text{data} = A \odot B$$

where $\odot$ represents Khatri-Rao product. To scale up the values, we multiply data with diagonalized $\lambda$ matrix as shown in line 6 in algorithm 1. We use initial training and testing indices to generate training and testing data respectively, removing all the data points with class value as 0. Using the newly created feature space, we now train a linear Support Vector Machine (SVM) with 5-fold cross validation.

### B. Intuition Behind ORION

The idea behind ORION is to map the input space to higher dimensional space by exploiting multi-linear structure of the tensor. Consider a 3-mode tensor, $X \in \mathbb{R}^{I \times J \times K}$. The CP decomposition with rank $R$ of $X$ yields three factor matrices $A$, $B$ and $C$ of size $I \times R$, $J \times R$, and $K \times R$ respectively. The Khatri-Rao product of matrices $A$ and $B$ generates the new data space in $\mathbb{R}^{IJ \times R}$. Whereas unfolding of tensor $X$ in third mode would generate data space in $\mathbb{R}^{I \times J \times K}$. Since $K \ll IJ$, the matrix rank is bounded by $K$. However, the upper bound on tensor rank for which CP can still uniquely identify the components within the tensor is $\min(IJ, JK, KI)$ [16], which is considerably larger. Thus, by using a large-enough rank, by virtue of CP’s uniqueness [16], we are able to extract a feature space that is more expressive than simple unfolding of the features (or any spectral method in that unfolded matrix).

### IV. EXPERIMENTAL EVALUATION

In this section, we describe our experimental setup and present our results. We use Tensor Toolbox [17] in Matlab for our tensor completion task, CP-WOPT [12] is implemented in this toolbox. For classification algorithms we use Python Scikit-Learn [18] and tensorly [19] for tensor operations. In the interest of reproducibility, the implementation of our algorithm and baselines used is publicly available.

### A. Datasets

To evaluate our method, we use the following publicly available datasets [9].

- **Indian Pines**: This dataset was acquired using the AVIRIS sensor [20] and consists of 145 × 145 pixels and 200 spectral bands. This dataset consist of 10249 labelled pixels spanning over 16. There is high class imbalance in this dataset.

- **University of Pavia**: This dataset was collected using ROSIS sensor over Pavia in Northern Italy. The original image resolution of the dataset is $610 \times 610$ but most of the image didn’t contain any information so the image resolution is reduced to $610 \times 340$ over 103 spectral bands. This dataset consist of 42776 labelled pixels spanning over 9 classes.

- **Salinas**: This dataset was gathered using AVIRIS sensor over Salinas Valley, California. The dataset consists of $512 \times 217$ resolution over 204 spectral bands. It has 54219 non-zero pixels, labelled with 16 classes. Figure 1(a) shows the ground truth of Salinas dataset.

- **Salinas-A**: This dataset represents a subscene in the Salinas dataset. It consists of $86 \times 83$ pixels and 6 classes. Number of nonzero pixels in this dataset are 5348. Figure 1(b) presents the ground truth of Salinas-A dataset.

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1. https://github.com/ravdeep003/ORION

B. Baseline Methods

We evaluate our proposed method ORION against traditional linear and non-linear methods like the Kernel SVM and Multi-Layer Perceptron, and employ grid search to tune the hyperparameters in these methods.

1) Support Vector Machines (SVMs): Support vector machines (SVMs) [21] are supervised learning methods that are powerful classifiers, especially when combined with kernels. SVMs discriminate between data points by finding a hyperplane which maximizes the margin. Given a dataset \((x_i, y_i)\), where \(x_i\) are data points and \(y_i\) are labels,

\[
\min_{w,b,\xi} \frac{1}{2}w^Tw + C \sum_i \xi_i
\]

subject to \(y_i(w^T\phi(x_i) + b) \geq 1 - \xi_i\) and \(\xi_i \geq 0\) for all \(i = 1, \ldots, n\)

where \(w\) is a normal to the hyperplane separating the data points, \(C\) is a penalty term for misclassification, \(\xi\) is slack variables, \(\phi\) is mapping from input space to kernel space and \(b\) is the bias or the offset for the hyperplane. Equation 1 is the primal form and it has dual form:

\[
\min_{\alpha_1,\ldots,\alpha_n} \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i,j} \alpha_i \alpha_j y_i y_j K_{ij} - \sum_{i} \alpha_i
\]

such that \(0 \leq \alpha_i \leq C\) and \(\sum_{i} \alpha_i y_i = 0\)

where \(\alpha_i\) are Lagrange multipliers and \(K_{ij}\) is inner product of data points in kernel space. We use the following kernels in our experiments:

- Linear Kernel: We tune the parameter \(C\) in the objective function. We do a grid search from \(10^{-3}\) to \(10^3\) in multiples of 10.

  \[K(x_i, x_j) = x_i^T x_j\]

- Polynomial Kernel: We tune the parameters \(C\) and degree of the polynomial. \(C\) is tuned in the range \([10^{-3}, 10^3]\) and degree is tuned in the range from 2 to 5. We perform a grid search to tune these parameters.

  \[K(x_i, x_j) = (x_i^T x_j + 1)^d\]

where \(d\) is the degree of the polynomial.

- RBF Kernel: We tune the parameters \(C\) and \(\gamma\). \(C\) is tuned from the same range as before and \(\gamma\) is tuned from \([10^{-3}, 10^3]\) in multiples of 10.

  \[K(x_i, x_j) = \exp(-\gamma||x_i - x_j||^2)\]

2) Multi-Layer Perceptron (MLP): We use a Multi Layer Perceptron model (also known as artificial neural network) as one of our baselines. Various parameters involved in training the model were tuned using grid search. These parameters include hidden layer sizes \([50, 100, 50], [100, 100, 100], [150, 100, 150]\), alpha - L2 regularization term \([10^{-4}, 10^{-3}, 10^{-2}]\), initial learning rate \([10^{-4}, 10^{-3}, 10^{-2}]\) and learning rate (constant or adaptive). We used ReLu (rectified linear unit) activation function, Adam optimization solver, and an iteration count of 500.

All of the models were trained with 5-fold cross validation on training data and using weighted F1 as scoring function for 10 different runs. We chose the weighted F1 as our scoring function since the datasets are multi-class and have imbalanced classes. To evaluate the performance of different models, we use overall accuracy and F1 score of the classifier against test data. We also employ one against one scheme for multi-class classifiers.

C. Results

We performed an 80 – 20 stratified split on the datasets, where 80% of the data was used for training and the rest 20% for testing, and ran experiments using ORION and baseline methods. Table II presents the results of that experiment. In case of Indian Pines and Salinas, we see that ORION with rank 1000 and 2000 performs better than the baselines. In case of University of Pavia, ORION with 2000 rank performs better than all baselines, with the Multi-Layer Perceptron being a close second. We discuss the results of Salinas-A in subsection IV-D.

One of the challenges in HSI classification is that the amount of labelled data available is limited. To demonstrate this, we run all experiments using 30-70 stratified split, where 30% is training data and 70% is testing data. For the most part, our results remain similar. For Indian Pines and Salinas datasets, ORION with 1000 and 2000 rank provides better overall classification accuracy. In case of University of Pavia, two best performing methods are SVM with RBF kernel and MLP, but ORION with rank 2000 performs at par with the
TABLE II

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Indian Pines</th>
<th>Pavia University</th>
<th>Salinas-A</th>
<th>Salinas</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Linear SVM</td>
<td>0.8708 ± 0.0035</td>
<td>0.9176 ± 0.0017</td>
<td>0.9986 ± 0.0016</td>
<td>0.9370 ± 0.0014</td>
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<td>Polynomial SVM</td>
<td>0.9797 ± 0.0054</td>
<td>0.9841 ± 0.0015</td>
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<tr>
<td>RBF SVM</td>
<td>0.9182 ± 0.0050</td>
<td>0.9622 ± 0.0020</td>
<td>0.9985 ± 0.0017</td>
<td>0.9620 ± 0.0024</td>
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<tr>
<td>MLP</td>
<td>0.9681 ± 0.0057</td>
<td>0.9635 ± 0.0041</td>
<td>0.9982 ± 0.0010</td>
<td>0.9629 ± 0.0045</td>
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<tr>
<td>ORION -1000</td>
<td>0.9916 ± 0.0022</td>
<td>0.9502 ± 0.0032</td>
<td>0.9690 ± 0.0067</td>
<td>0.9927 ± 0.0010</td>
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<tr>
<td>ORION -2000</td>
<td>0.9949 ± 0.0022</td>
<td>0.9828 ± 0.0030</td>
<td>0.9680 ± 0.0063</td>
<td>0.9954 ± 0.0006</td>
</tr>
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</table>

TABLE III

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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Linear SVM</td>
<td>0.8311 ± 0.0034</td>
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<td>MLP</td>
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<tr>
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<td>0.9544 ± 0.0021</td>
<td>0.9882 ± 0.0075</td>
<td>0.9832 ± 0.0013</td>
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TABLE IV

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<tbody>
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<td>0.9673 ± 0.0066</td>
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TABLE V

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<td>0.8961 ± 0.0074</td>
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</table>

baseline and has similar classification accuracy. This depicts that ORION is effective even with limited labelled data. For both of the scenarios (80-20 and 30-70 split), tables IV and V report mean F1 scores of our method and baselines. They follow the same trend as the overall accuracy.

We explore the effect of rank on the overall accuracy for Indian Pines and Salinas-A datasets. Figure 2 shows the plot of mean accuracy vs. rank for Indian Pines dataset. We observed that as the rank increases, classification accuracy improves as well until a certain point, where the change in rank does not provide any significant improvements and the accuracy stabilizes.

D. Discussion about Salinas-A and Salinas

The Salinas-A (Figure 1(b)) dataset has 5348 labelled pixels with 6 classes, and is a subscene of the full Salinas (Figure 1(a) dataset which has 54129 labelled pixels and 16 classes. For Salinas-A, all baselines outperform ORION with rank 1000 and 2000, however, in the case of Salinas, ORION with same ranks outperforms all the baselines. This trend is similar in both 80-20 and 30-70 splits. Upon visual inspection, Salinas-A appears linearly separable whereas Salinas is not. We conjecture that Salinas appears to have more concrete and uniform blocks, potentially better trilinear structure that is exploited via CP decomposition. Judging the trilinearity of a dataset is a difficult problem and while there exist heuristics for this [22], we reserve further investigation for our future work.

V. RELATED WORK

Hyperspectral image classification takes as input a set of observations and assigns a unique label to each pixel [6]. Supervised linear methods in HSI classification are prone to the curse of dimensionality due to the lack of large number of training samples [23]. Support vector machines (SVM) have been employed to deal with this phenomenon [8]. SVMs allow classification of data points in a higher dimensional space using a nonlinear transformation.
Tensor methods like CP decomposition [4], [24] have been used to represent high-order feature data in low-dimensional space with good accuracy. [25] presented a deep learning-based classification method that hierarchically constructs high-level features automatically. In particular, their model exploits a convolutional neural network (CNN) to encode the spectral and spatial information of pixels and a multilayer perceptron to conduct the classification task. [26] use recurrent neural network (RNN) to characterize the sequential property of a hyperspectral pixel vector for the classification task. Our proposed method ORION employs factors obtained from tensor factorization to generate a feature space that maps the given feature space to a higher-dimensional space in order to improve classification accuracy.

VI. CONCLUSIONS

In this paper, we propose a novel hyperspectral pixel classification model that employs tensor factorization to generate a new feature space. Specifically, our proposed method ORION exploits the multi-linear structure of the tensor to find a richer space. To showcase the effectiveness of our method, we conducted experiments using publicly available hyperspectral image datasets where we compared ORION against baselines methods like Kernel SVMs and Multi-layer Perceptron. Our proposed method is able to provide significantly higher accuracy in majority of the cases, even with limited training samples.

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