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ADVANCING TENSOR DATA ANALYSIS: GENERALIZED TENSOR-ON-TENSOR REGRESSION MODELS (GTOTRs)

Carlos Llosa

Danny Dunlavy, Jeremy Myers, Rich Lehoucq, Tian Ma

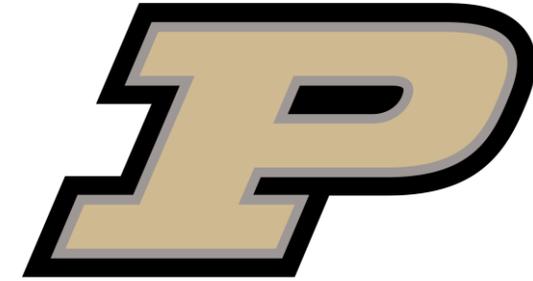
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PERSONAL CONNECTION TO PURDUE



My grandfather, Dr. Carlos Llosa, earned his PhD in Agronomy from Purdue University in 1970.

71-9430

LLOSA BALUARTE, Carlos, 1929-
GENETIC STUDIES OF RATE OF EMERGENCE AND
PERCENT EMERGENCE UNDER CONTROLLED TEMPERATURE
AND MOISTURE LEVELS IN CROSSES OF WINTER
WHEAT (TRITICUM AESTIVUM L.).

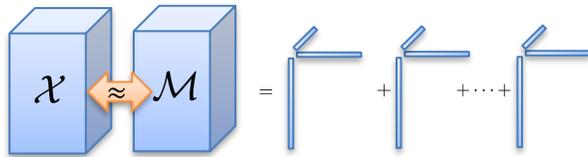
Purdue University, Ph.D., 1970
Agronomy



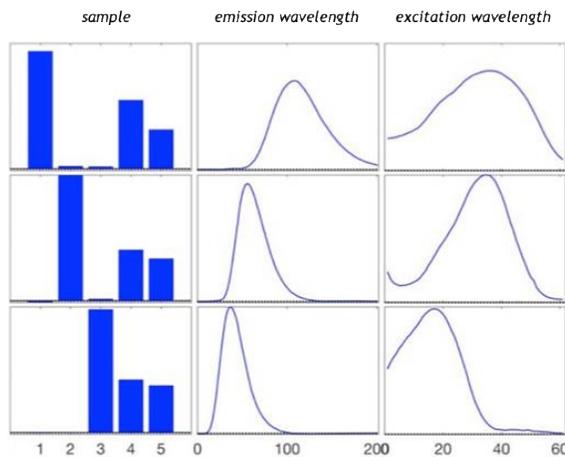
OVERVIEW



Low-Rank Tensor Decompositions



Example: Amino acid analysis

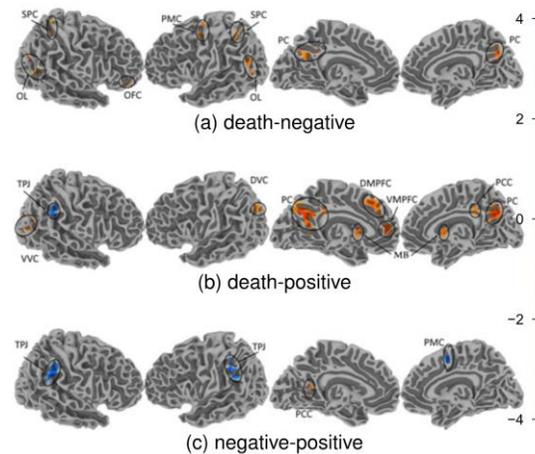


Andersen & Bro (2003)

Tensor-on-Tensor Regression Models

$$\mathcal{Y}_i = \langle \mathcal{X}_i | \mathcal{B} \rangle + \mathcal{E}_i$$

Example: Brain activity/suicide risk

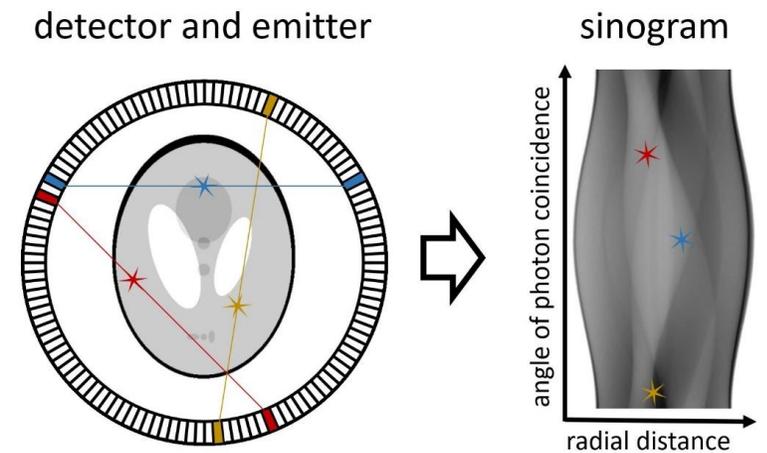


Lock (2018); Llosa & Maitra (2022)

Generalized Tensor-on-Tensor Regression Models (GToTRs)

$$g(\mathbb{E}_{f_{\mathcal{Y}}}(\mathcal{Y}_i)) = \langle \mathcal{X}_i | \mathcal{B} \rangle$$

Example: PET image reconstruction



Llosa, Dunlavy, Myers, Lehoucq & Ma (2025)

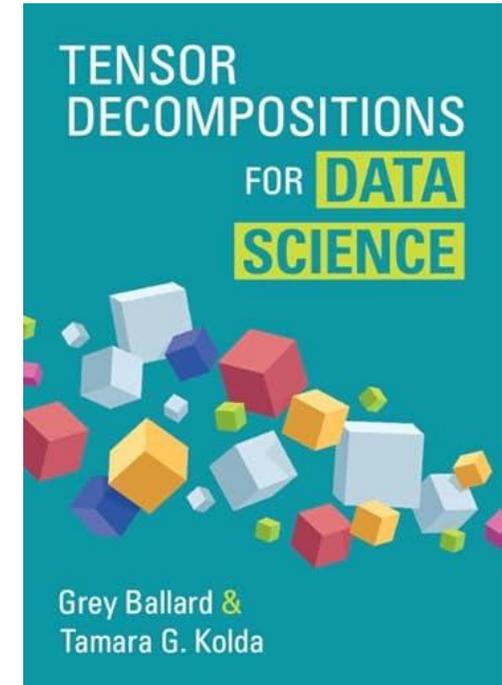
OUTLINE

- Low-Rank Canonical Polyadic (CP) Tensor Model
- Tensor-on-Tensor Regression (ToTR)
- Generalized Linear Model (GLM)

- Generalized Tensor-on-Tensor Regression Models (GToTRs)

- Example Applications

New Book!



<https://doi.org/10.1017/9781009471664>

TENSORS: D -WAY DATA ARRAYS



Vector
 $d = 1$



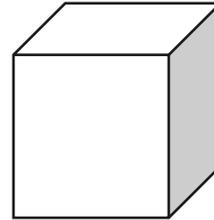
\mathbf{x}

Matrix
 $d = 2$



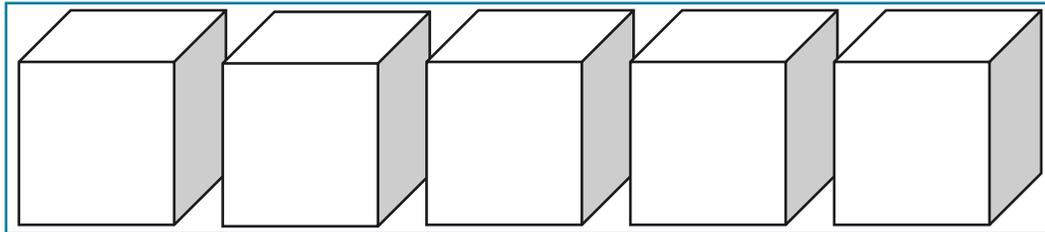
\mathbf{X}

3rd-Order Tensor
 $d = 3$



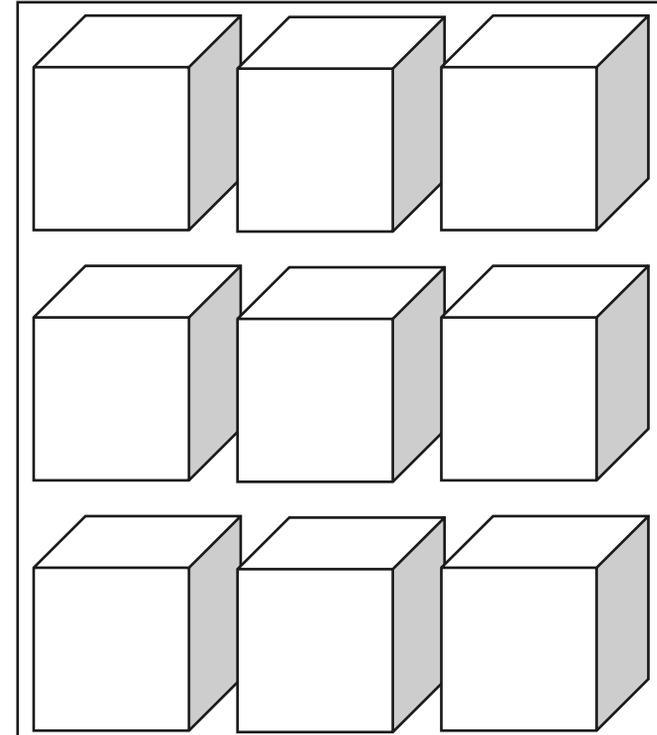
\mathcal{X}

4th-Order Tensor
 $d = 4$



\mathcal{X}

5th-Order Tensor
 $d = 5$



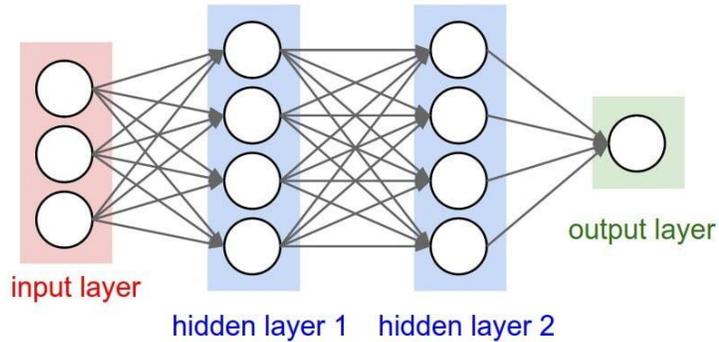
\mathcal{X}

We refer to data arrays with 3 or more ways as *tensors*.

TENSOR DATA AT SANDIA



Machine Learning and Deep Learning



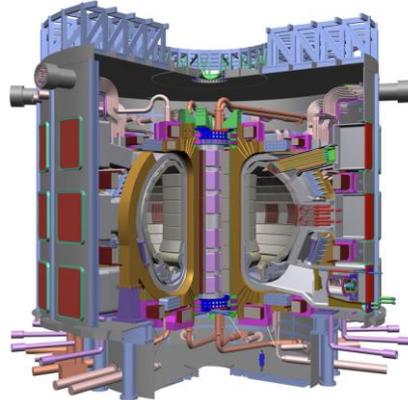
<https://www.sandia.gov/machine-and-deep-learning-workshop/>

Cybersecurity



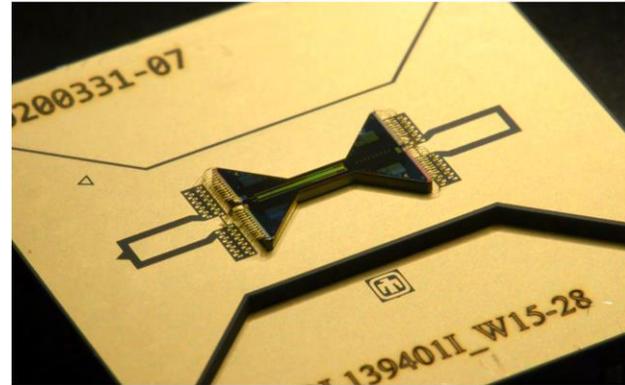
<https://www.sandia.gov/cyber/research/>

Advanced Simulation and Computing



<https://www.sandia.gov/asc/>

Quantum Computing



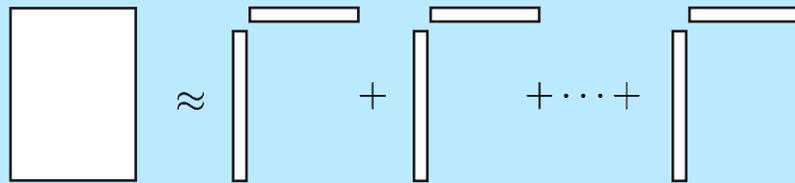
<https://www.sandia.gov/quantum/quantum-computing/>

LOW-RANK MATRIX AND TENSOR DECOMPOSITIONS

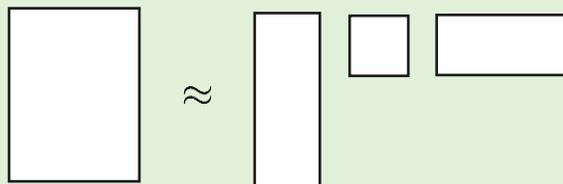


Low-Rank Matrix Decompositions

Viewpoint 1: Sum of vector outer products, useful for interpretation



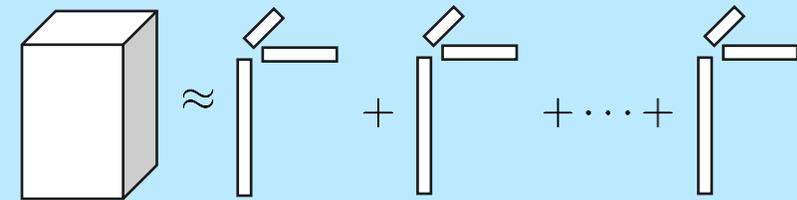
Viewpoint 2: High-variance subspaces, useful for compression



Singular value decomposition (SVD), principal component analysis (PCA), eigenvalue decomposition (EVD), etc.

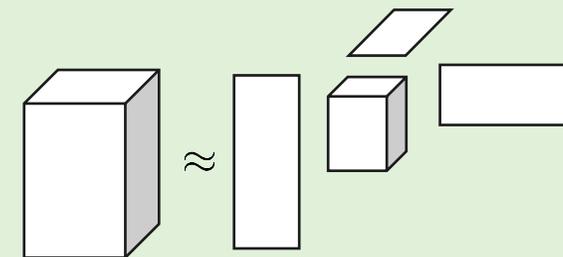
Low-Rank Tensor Decompositions

Sum of d -way vector outer products, useful for interpretation



Canonical Polyadic (CP) Decomposition

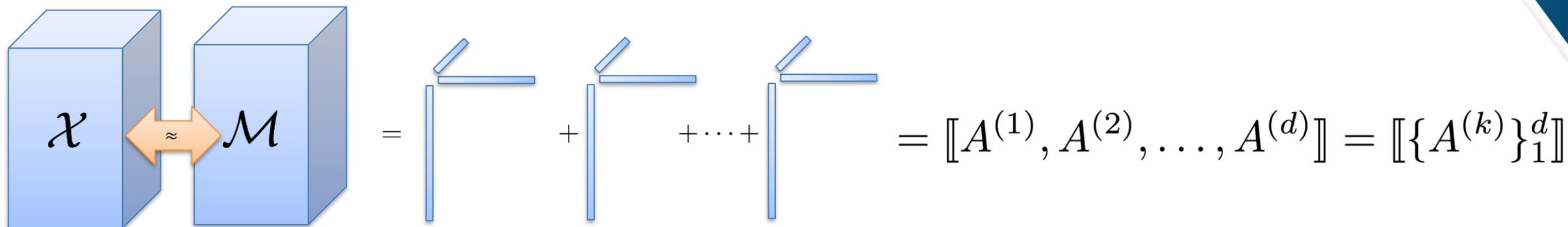
Project onto high-variance subspaces to reduce dimensionality



Tucker Decomposition

Other models for compression include hierarchical Tucker, tensor train, tensor ring, tensor network, etc.

GENERALIZING CP DECOMPOSITIONS FOR D-WAY TENSORS



Multi-index for d -way tensors: $\mathbf{j} = (j_1, j_2, \dots, j_d) \rightarrow x_{\mathbf{j}} = \mathcal{X}(j_1, j_2, \dots, j_d)$

CP-ALS, CP-OPT

Carroll & Chang (1970); Harshman (1970);
Acar, Dunlavy & Kolda (2011)

$$\min_{\{A^{(k)}\}_1^d} \sum_{\mathbf{j}} (x_{\mathbf{j}} - m_{\mathbf{j}})^2$$

$$x_{\mathbf{j}} \stackrel{\text{indep.}}{\sim} N(m_{\mathbf{j}}, \sigma^2)$$

CP-APR, CP-POPT

Chi & Kolda (2012); Ranadive & Baskaran (2021)

$$\min_{\{A^{(k)}\}_1^d} \sum_{\mathbf{j}} m_{\mathbf{j}} - x_{\mathbf{j}} \log(m_{\mathbf{j}})$$

$$x_{\mathbf{j}} \stackrel{\text{indep.}}{\sim} \text{Poisson}(m_{\mathbf{j}})$$

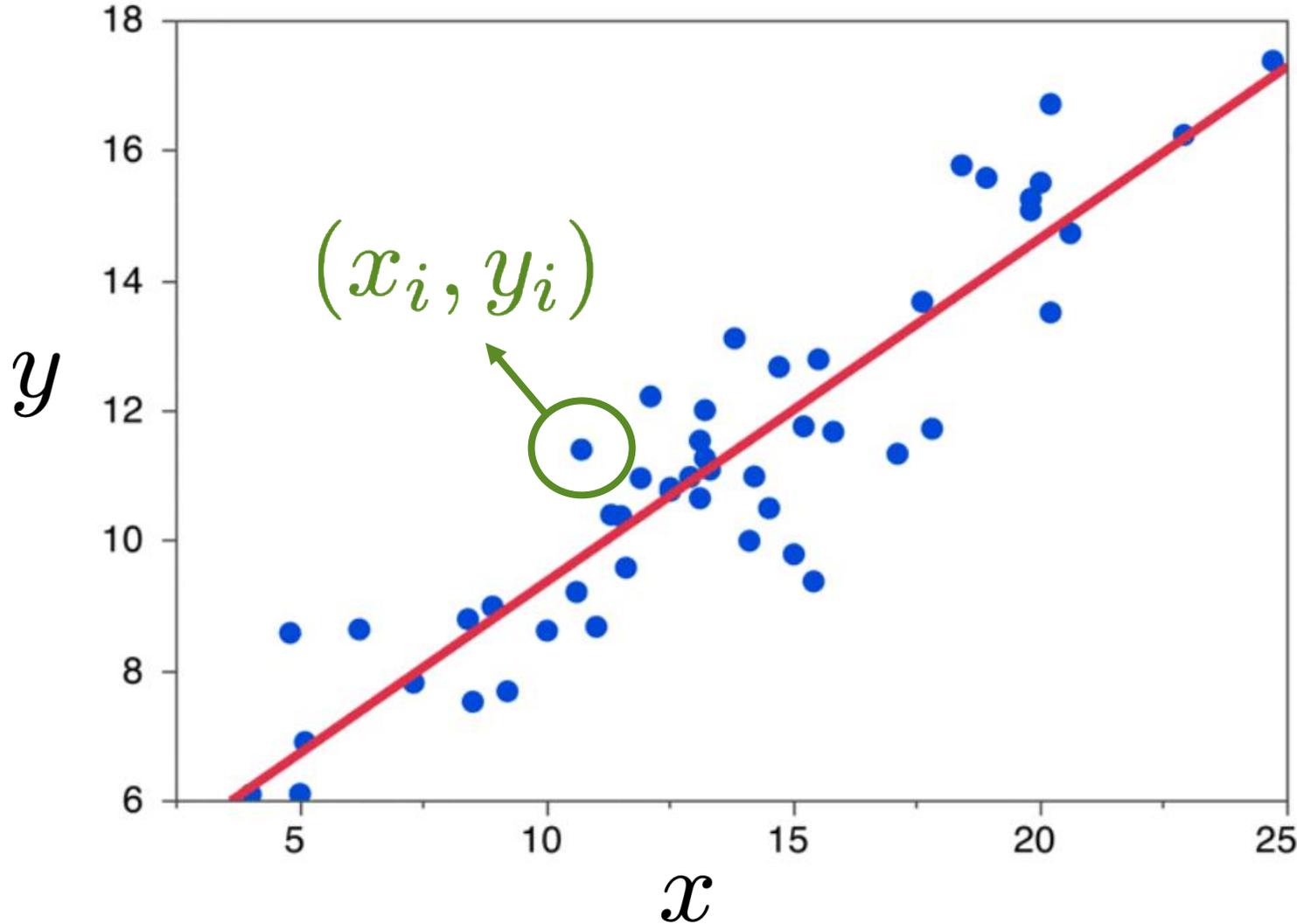
GCP

Hong, Kolda & Duersch (2020);
Kolda & Hong (2020)

$$\min_{\{A^{(k)}\}_1^d} \sum_{\mathbf{j}} f(x_{\mathbf{j}}, m_{\mathbf{j}})$$

$$x_{\mathbf{j}} \stackrel{\text{indep.}}{\sim} P_f(m_{\mathbf{j}})$$

LINEAR REGRESSION



Simple linear regression:

$$y_i = \beta x_i + \epsilon_i$$

Multiple linear regression:

$$y_i = \beta^T \mathbf{x}_i + \epsilon_i$$

↑
responses

↑
covariates

TENSOR-ON-TENSOR REGRESSION



$$\langle S|T \rangle = \begin{cases} \text{inner product} & \dim(S) = \dim(T) \\ \text{contraction} & \dim(S) \neq \dim(T) \end{cases}$$

Linear regression: $y_i = \langle \mathbf{x}_i | \beta \rangle + \epsilon_i$

Tensor regression: $y_i = \langle \mathcal{X}_i | \mathcal{B} \rangle + \epsilon_i$

Multivariate linear regression: $\mathbf{y}_i = \langle \mathbf{x}_i | B \rangle + \epsilon_i$

Tensor-on-Tensor regression (ToTR): $\mathcal{Y}_i = \langle \mathcal{X}_i | \mathcal{B} \rangle + \mathcal{E}_i$

GENERALIZING TENSOR-ON-TENSOR REGRESSION



Tensor-on-Tensor regression (ToTR):

$$\begin{array}{c}
 M_1 \times \dots \times M_P \quad N_1 \times \dots \times N_Q \\
 \uparrow \qquad \qquad \qquad \uparrow \\
 \mathcal{Y}_i = \langle \mathcal{X}_i | \mathcal{B} \rangle + \mathcal{E}_i \\
 \qquad \qquad \qquad \qquad \qquad \downarrow \\
 N_1 \times \dots \times N_Q \times M_1 \times \dots \times M_P
 \end{array}$$

ToTR

Lock (2018); Llosa & Maitra (2022)

$$\begin{aligned}
 \mathcal{Y}_i &= \langle \mathcal{X}_i | \mathcal{B} \rangle + \mathcal{E}_i \\
 \mathcal{Y}_i &\sim N(\langle \mathcal{X}_i | \mathcal{B} \rangle, \Sigma_1, \dots, \Sigma_P)
 \end{aligned}$$

CP, Tucker, Tensor Train,
Tensor Network, ...

Poisson ToTR (PToTR)

Llosa & Dunlavy (2025)

$$\mathcal{Y}_i \sim \text{Poisson}(\langle \mathcal{X}_i | \mathcal{B} \rangle)$$

CP

GToTR

Llosa, Dunlavy, Myers, Lehoucq & Ma (2025)

$$g(\mathbb{E}_{f_{\mathcal{Y}}}(\mathcal{Y}_i)) = \langle \mathcal{X}_i | \mathcal{B} \rangle$$

CP



Model

$$\mathcal{Y}_i \stackrel{ind.}{\sim} \text{Poisson}(\langle \mathcal{X}_i | \mathcal{B} \rangle)$$

Loglikelihood

$$\ell(\mathcal{B}) = \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_j [\mathcal{Y}_{ij} \log(\langle \mathcal{X}_i | \mathcal{B} \rangle_j) - \langle \mathcal{X}_i | \mathcal{B} \rangle_j]$$

Constraints

$$\mathcal{B} = [\boldsymbol{\lambda}; U_1, \dots, U_l, V_1, \dots, V_p] > 0$$

New multiplicative update rules extend those in the CP-alternating Poisson regression (CP-APR) algorithm [1]

Estimation of V_k

Estimation of U_k

Alternative expression for Loglikelihood:

$$\sum_{i=1}^n \mathbf{1}' [V_k^* G_{ik} - \mathcal{Y}_{i(k)} * \log(V_k^* G_{ik})] \mathbf{1}$$

$$\sum_{i=1}^n [(\text{vec } U_k^*)' H_{ik} - (\text{vec } \mathcal{Y}_i)' * \log((\text{vec } U_k^*)' H_{ik})] \mathbf{1}$$

Multiplicative update: (non-decreasing loglikelihood)

$$\hat{V}_k^* \leftarrow \hat{V}_k^* * \left\{ \sum_{i=1}^n \left[(\mathcal{Y}_{i(k)} \oslash (\hat{V}_k^* G_{ik})) G'_{ik} \right] \right\} \oslash \left\{ \mathbf{1} \left(\sum_{i=1}^n \mathbf{w}_i \right)' \right\}$$

$$(\text{vec } \hat{U}_k^*) \leftarrow \left\{ \sum_{i=1}^n \left[H_{ik} \left(\text{vec}(\mathcal{Y}_i) \oslash \left(H'_{ik} (\text{vec } \hat{U}_k^*) \right) \right) \right] \right\} * \text{vec} \left(\hat{U}_k^* \oslash \sum_{i=1}^n W_i \right).$$

GENERALIZED LINEAR MODELS (GLMS)



$$y_i \sim P_{f_Y}(\psi_i), \quad \mathbb{E}(y_i) = \mu_i, \quad \mu_i = g^{-1}(\eta_i), \quad \eta_i = \mathbf{b}^\top \mathbf{x}_i$$

- y : response (independent)
- \mathbf{x} : covariate
- μ : mean response
- g : link function, relating random component and linear predictor
- \mathbf{b} : model parameters
- n samples $\rightarrow X = [\mathbf{x}_1, \dots, \mathbf{x}_n]; \mathbf{y} = [y_1, \dots, y_n]$

GLM(X, \mathbf{y})

GENERALIZED LINEAR MODELS (GLMS)



$$y_i \sim P_{f_Y}(\psi_i), \quad \mathbb{E}(y_i) = \mu_i, \quad \mu_i = g^{-1}(\eta_i), \quad \eta_i = \mathbf{b}^\top \mathbf{x}_i$$

Loglikelihood: $\ell(\mathbf{b}) = \sum_{i=1}^n \log f_Y(\psi_i)$

We can now find the model parameters using, e.g., *maximum likelihood estimation*.

Gradient:
$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial}{\partial \mathbf{b}} \ell(\mathbf{b}) &= \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{\partial}{\partial \mathbf{b}} \log f_Y(\psi_i) \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^n \underbrace{\left[\frac{\partial}{\partial \mathbf{b}} \eta_i \right]}_{\mathbf{x}_i} \underbrace{\left[\frac{\partial}{\partial \eta_i} \mu_i \right] \left[\frac{\partial}{\partial \mu_i} \psi_i \right] \left[\frac{\partial}{\partial \psi_i} \log f_Y(\psi_i) \right]}_{\text{weight } i} \end{aligned}$$



Same as in ToTR

$$g(\mathbb{E}_{f_{\mathcal{Y}}}(\mathcal{Y}_i)) = \langle \mathcal{X}_i | \mathcal{B} \rangle$$

Link Function

- $g : \mathbb{R}^{\times_{p=1}^P M_p} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{\times_{p=1}^P M_p}$
- Applied entry-wise
- e.g., identity, logit, log, inverse, ...

Random component

- Exponential dispersion family:

$$\log f_{\mathcal{Y}}(\psi) = \sum_j \left(\frac{\mathcal{Y}_j \psi_j - b(\psi_j)}{a(\delta_j)} + C \right)$$

- e.g., normal, binomial, Poisson, ...

Extends the Generalized Linear Model (GLM) to tensors

$$\mathcal{Y}_i \sim P_{f_{\mathcal{Y}}}(\psi_i), \quad \mathbb{E}(\mathcal{Y}_i) = \mu_i, \quad \mu_i = g^{-1}(\eta_i), \quad \eta_i = \langle \mathcal{X}_i | \mathcal{B} \rangle$$

where $\mathcal{Y}_i, \psi_i, \mu_i, \eta_i$ are all tensors of size $M_1 \times \dots \times M_P$

Low-rank constraint: $\mathcal{B} = \llbracket V_1, \dots, V_{N_Q}, U_1, \dots, U_{M_P} \rrbracket$

Loglikelihood: $\ell(\boldsymbol{\theta}) = \sum_{i,j} \log f_{\mathcal{Y}}(\psi_{i,j})$

Gradient: $\frac{\partial}{\partial \boldsymbol{\theta}} \ell(\boldsymbol{\theta}) = \left[\left(\frac{\partial}{\partial \text{vec}(V_1)} \ell(\boldsymbol{\theta}) \right)^\top \dots \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial \text{vec}(U_P)} \ell(\boldsymbol{\theta}) \right)^\top \right]^\top$

where $\boldsymbol{\theta} = [\text{vec}(V_1)^\top \dots \text{vec}(V_Q)^\top \text{vec}(U_1)^\top \dots \text{vec}(U_P)^\top]^\top$

GTOTR: MAXIMUM LIKELIHOOD ESTIMATION



Stack all $\mathcal{Y}_i, \mathcal{X}_i$ into $\mathcal{Y} \in \mathbb{R}^{(\times_{p=1}^P M_p) \times n}$, $\mathcal{X} \in \mathbb{R}^{(\times_{q=1}^Q N_q) \times n}$. Use $\text{GLM}(X, \mathbf{y})$ as follows:

- **Row-based inference** for U_p , where $W = \mathcal{X}_{(Q+1)}(\odot_q V_q)$: **Khatri-Rao Product**

$$U_p[j_p, :] \leftarrow \text{GLM}\left(X = \text{reshape}\left[\left(\odot_{k \neq p} U_k\right) \odot W\right], \mathbf{y} = (Y_{(p)}[j_p, :])^\top\right)$$

- **Factor-based inference** for V_q , where $W_q = \mathcal{X}_{(Q+1,q)}(\odot_{k \neq q} V_k)$:

$$\text{vec}(V_q) \leftarrow \text{GLM}\left(X = \text{reshape}\left[\left(\odot_p U_p\right) \odot W_q\right], \mathbf{y} = \text{vec}(\mathcal{Y})\right)$$

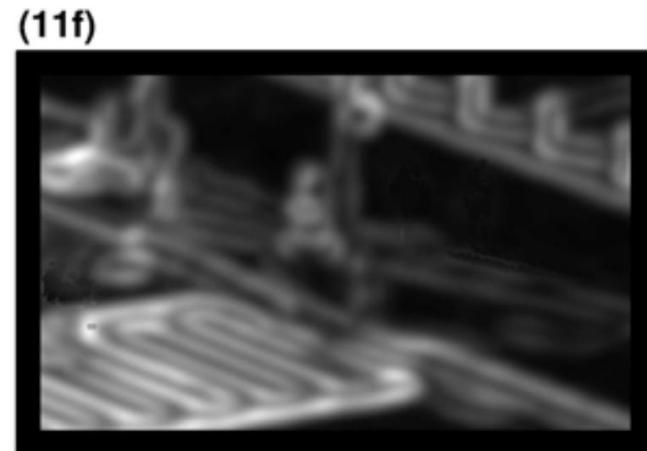
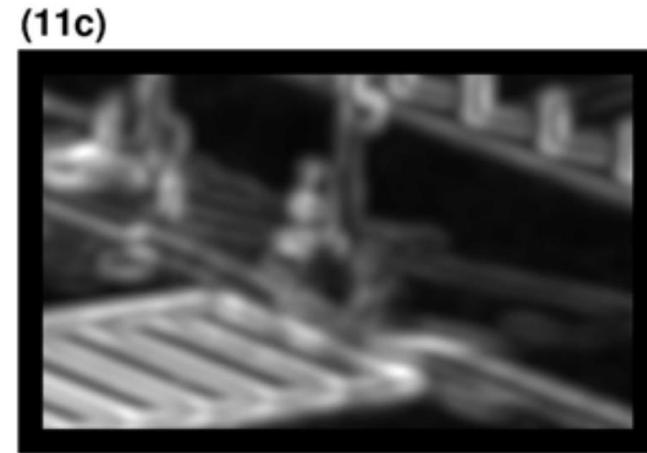
1 outer iteration

NOTE: Leverage iteratively reweighted least squares (IRLS) to solve each GLM.



EXAMPLE APPLICATIONS

MOTIVATING APPLICATION: REMOTE SENSING



PARAMETER INFERENCE VALIDATION: SIMULATED DATA



$$g(\mathbb{E}_{f_{\mathcal{Y}}}(\mathcal{Y}_i)) = \langle \mathcal{X}_i | \mathcal{B} \rangle$$

Gaussian distribution, identity link:

- 4 different camelid images
- 150 noisy samples of each
- $\mathcal{Y}_i : 87 \times 106$ (pixel height x width)
- $\mathcal{X}_i : 4 \times 3$ (camelid x RGB channel)
- $\mathcal{B} : 4 \times 3 \times 87 \times 106$

Can recover original images from noisy samples using GToTR with sufficiently high rank of parameter tensor.

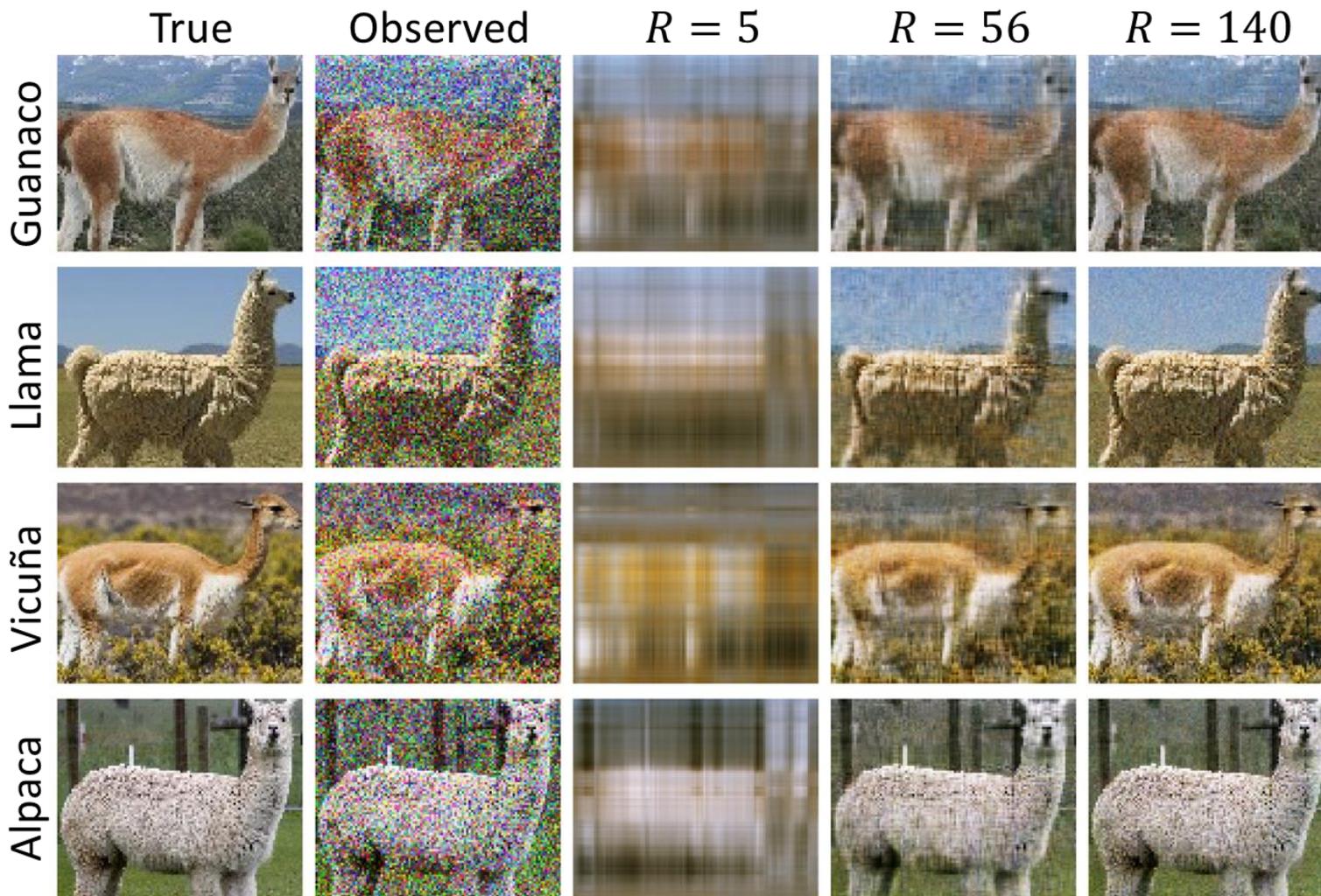


IMAGE CLASSIFICATION (PREDICTION): SIMULATED DATA



$$g(\mathbb{E}_{f_{\mathcal{Y}}}(\mathcal{Y}_i)) = \langle \mathcal{X}_i | \mathcal{B} \rangle$$

Binomial distribution, logit link:

- 4 different camelid images
- 150 noisy samples of each

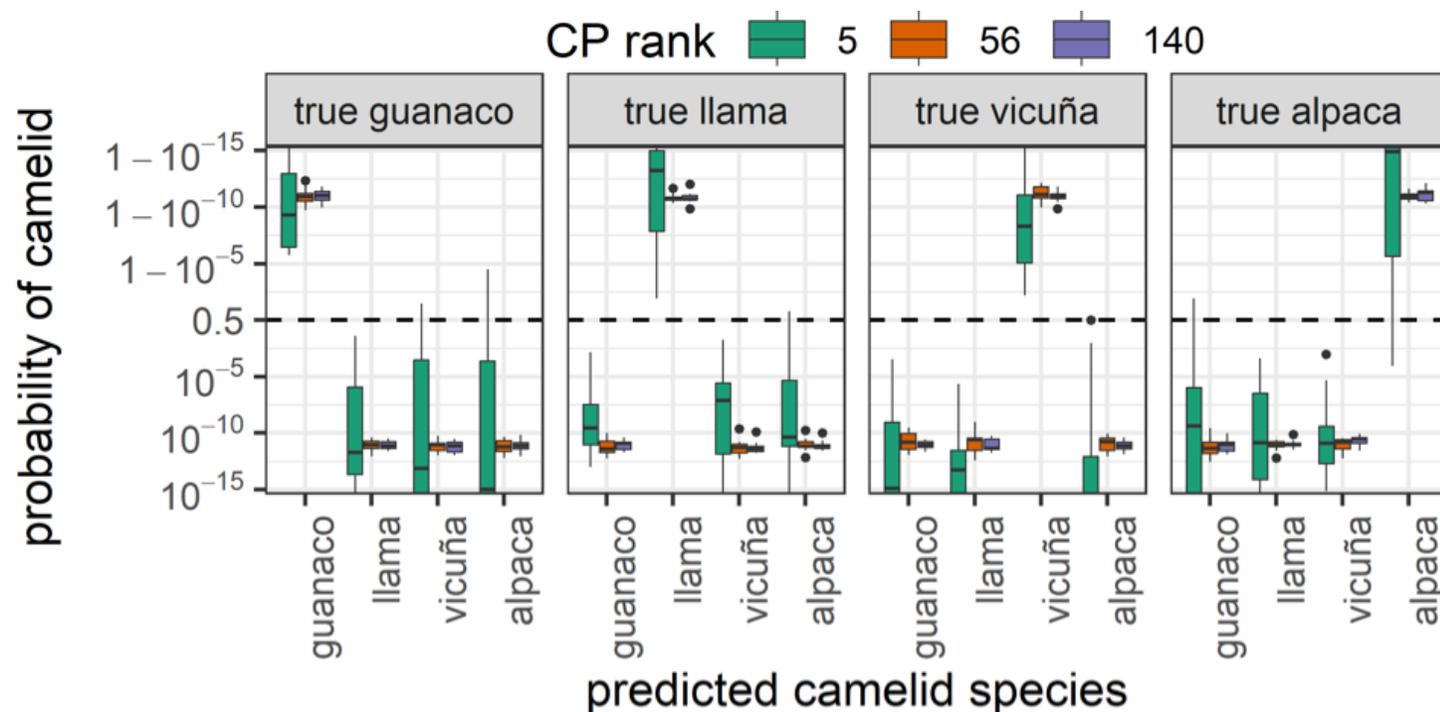
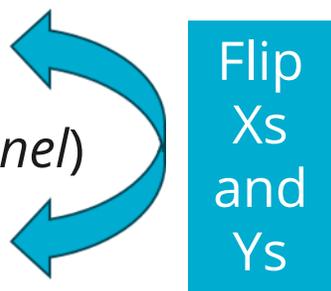
- $\mathcal{Y}_i : 4 \times 1$

(camelid x RGB channel)

- $\mathcal{X}_i : 87 \times 106$

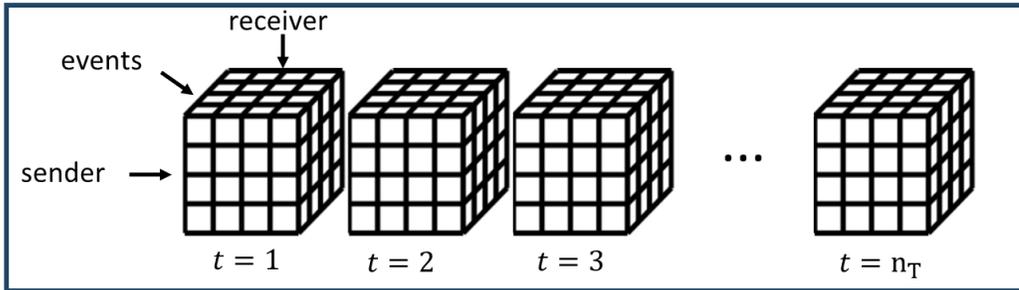
(pixel height x width)

- $\mathcal{B} : 87 \times 106 \times 4 \times 1$



Can accurately predict image classifications from noisy samples using GToTR with sufficiently high rank of parameter tensor.

Forecasting Model for the ICEWS Database



Temporal prediction of dyadic relationships

ICEWS database [1]

- Countries as receivers and senders
- Events such as threats or aid
- **Can we predict future relations?**

[1] O'Brien, 2010.

$$\mathcal{Y}_t \stackrel{\text{indep.}}{\sim} \text{Poisson}(\langle \mathcal{X}_t | \mathcal{B} \rangle)$$

- AR(1) with no trend

$$\mathcal{X}_t = \mathcal{Y}_{t-1}$$

$\mathcal{Y}_t(i_1, i_2, i_3) = \#$ times action i_3 was taken by country i_1 on country i_2 at week t .

$$\mathcal{Y}_t \stackrel{\text{indep.}}{\sim} \text{Poisson}(\langle \mathcal{Y}_{t-1} | \mathcal{B} \rangle)^*$$

$\mathcal{B}(i_1, i_2, i_3, j_1, j_2, j_3) =$ Effect that the **previous** i_3 event from i_1 towards i_2 has on **current** j_3 event from j_1 towards j_2 .

- AR(s) with q-th order polynomial trend:

$$\mathcal{X}_t = \left(\begin{array}{c} \mathcal{Y}_{t-1} \\ 1 \ t \ t^2 \dots t^q \dots \end{array} \right) \left(\begin{array}{c} \mathcal{Y}_{t-2} \\ 1 \ t \ t^2 \dots t^q \dots \end{array} \right) \dots \left(\begin{array}{c} \mathcal{Y}_{t-s} \\ 1 \ t \ t^2 \dots t^q \dots \end{array} \right)$$

*Not well defined without accounting for trend

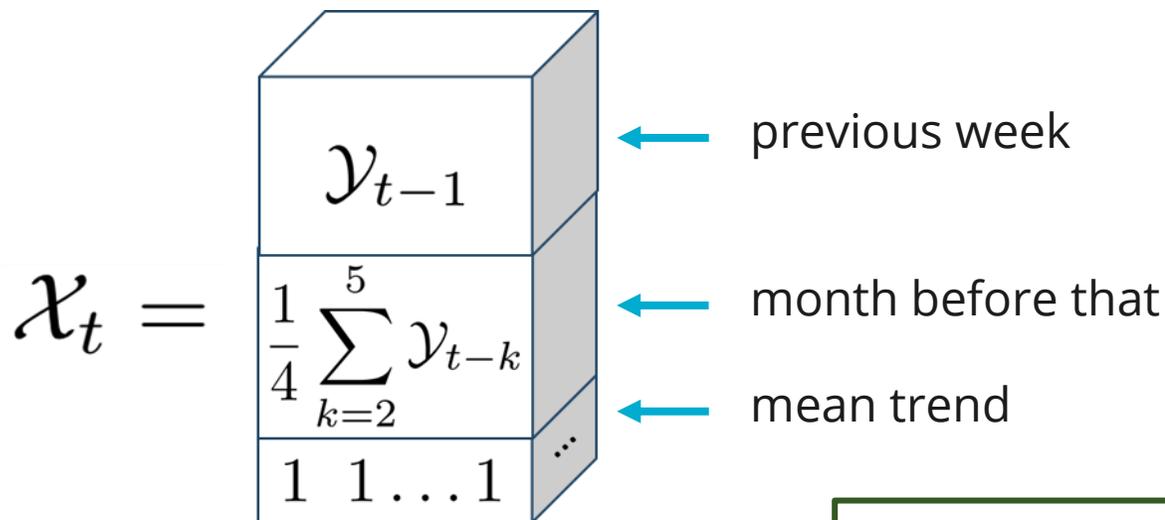




Autoregressive Model for the ICEWS Database

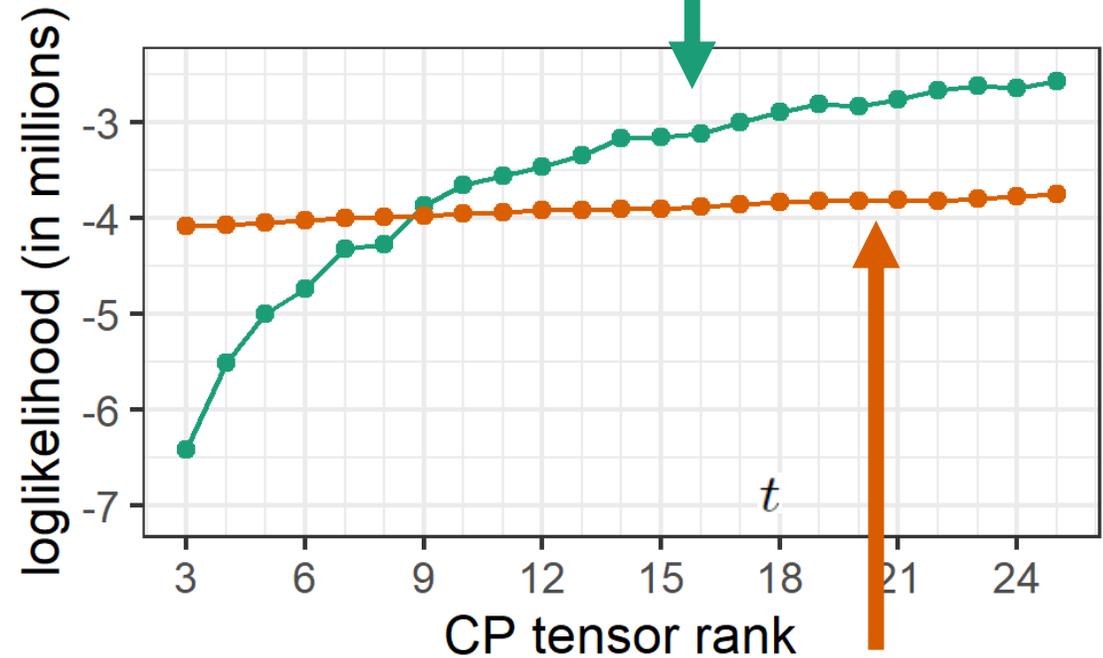
Data selected as in [1]:

- Weekly data from 2004 to mid-2014
- 25 countries
- 4 quad classes (type of events)



Poisson ToTR:

$$y_i \stackrel{indep.}{\sim} \text{Poisson}(\langle \mathcal{X}_i | \mathcal{B} \rangle)$$



Gaussian ToTR:

$$y_i \stackrel{indep.}{\sim} N(\langle \mathcal{X}_i | \mathcal{B} \rangle, \Sigma_1, \dots, \Sigma_p)$$

Our Poisson model fits the count data better!

POSITRON EMISSION TOMOGRAPHY IMAGE RECONSTRUCTION



- **Element-wise regression** (ML-EM) [1]:

$$y_{i_1 i_2} \sim \text{Poisson}(\langle K_{i_1 i_2} | B \rangle)$$

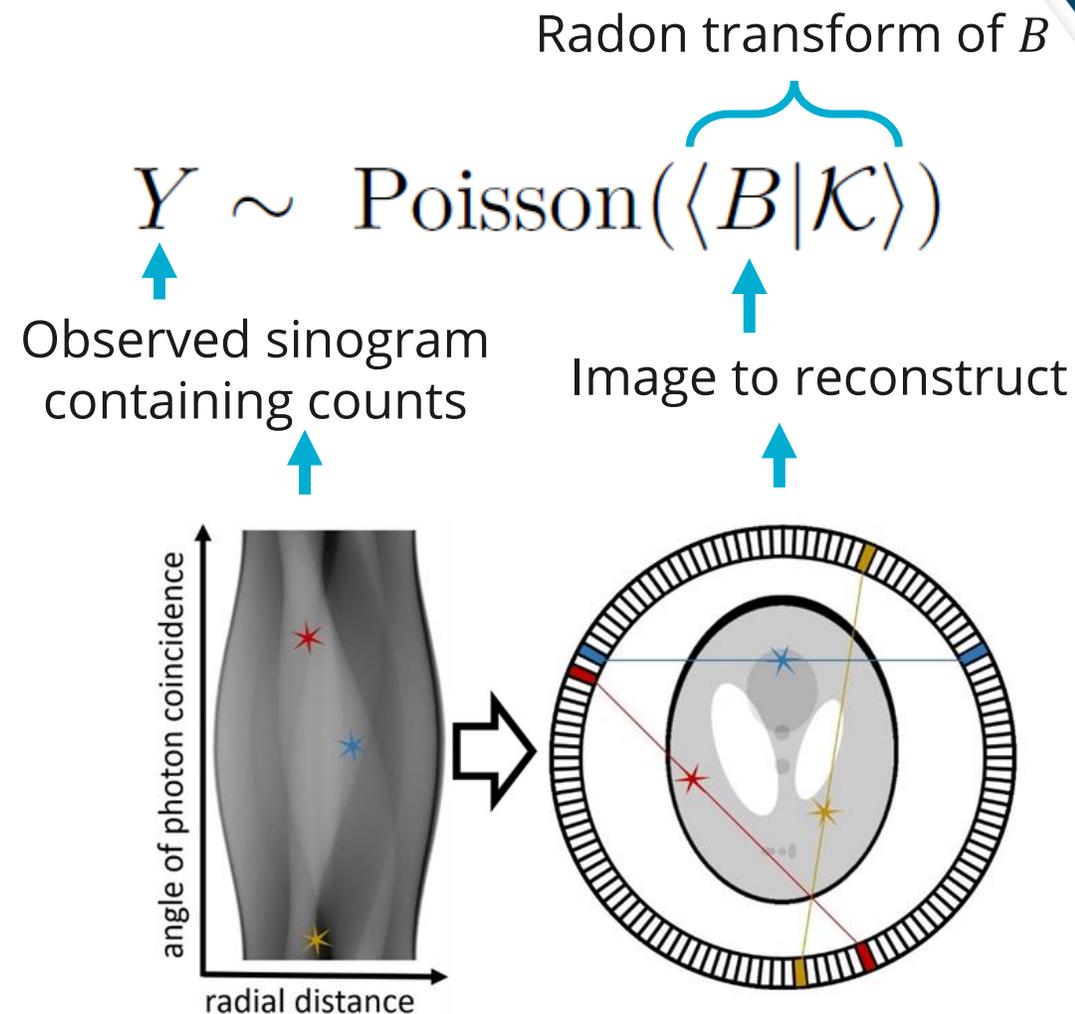
- Ill-posed without constraints [2]

- **NEW: Poisson-response**

Tensor-on-tensor regression (PToTR):

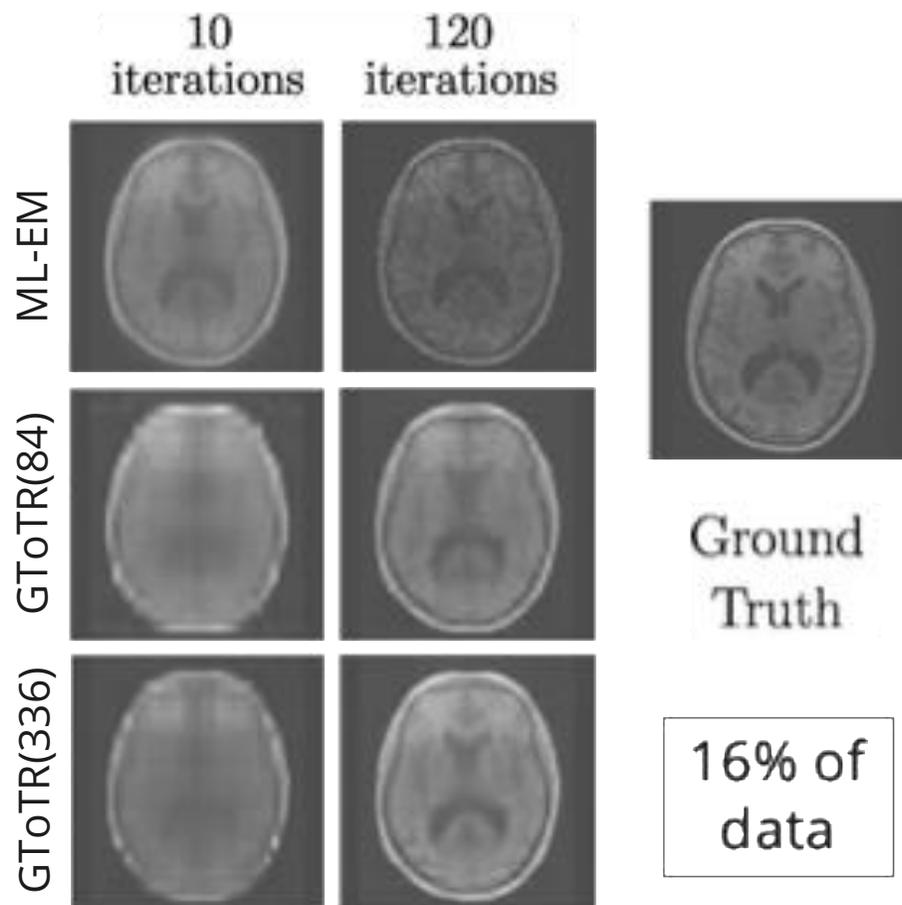
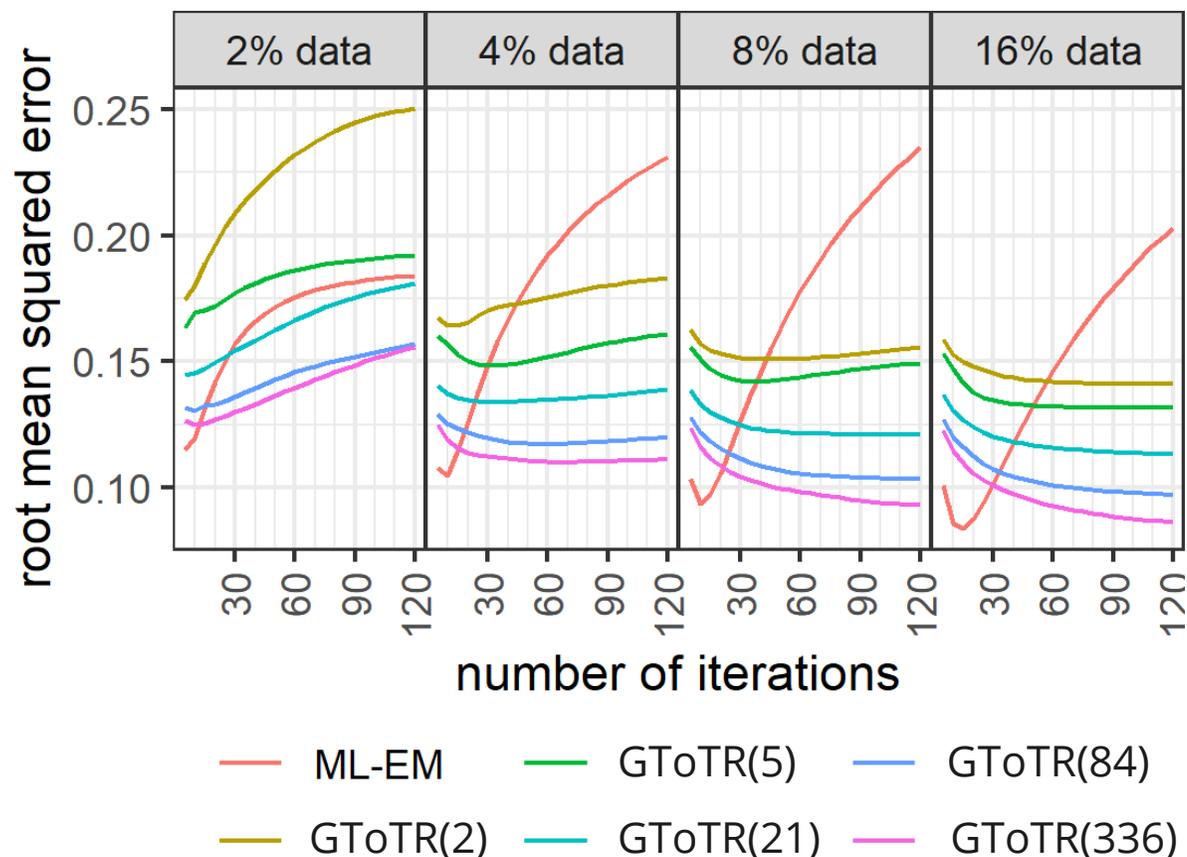
$$Y_{i_1 i_2} \sim \text{Poisson}(\langle K_{i_1 i_2} | \mathcal{B} \rangle)$$

- Recovers full image and is well-posed due to use of low-rank model for \mathcal{B}



POSITRON EMISSION TOMOGRAPHY RECONSTRUCTION

- 4-way tensor data: four MRI measurements on the same subject and scanner Hawco, et al. (2022)
- 256 x 256 matrix slices → 256 x 1024 sinograms
- Parameters: ML-EM (no low-rank): **~ 63 million**; GToTR: **~ 63 thousand** (rank-84)



TENSOR-VARIATE ANALYSIS OF VARIANCE (TANOVA)



TANOVA is a special case of ToTR (\mathcal{X}_i are indicator tensors) that generalizes ANOVA

General Model	Definition	Special Case (Indicator \mathcal{X}_i)
Linear regression (LR)	$y_i \stackrel{indep.}{\sim} N(\langle \mathbf{x}_i \boldsymbol{\beta} \rangle, \sigma^2)$	ANOVA
Multivariate LR	$\mathbf{y}_i \stackrel{indep.}{\sim} N(\langle \mathbf{x}_i B \rangle, \Sigma)$	MANOVA
Tensor regression	$y_i \stackrel{indep.}{\sim} N(\langle \mathcal{X}_i \mathcal{B} \rangle, \sigma^2)$	Factorial designs
Tensor-on-tensor regression	$\mathcal{Y}_i \stackrel{indep.}{\sim} N(\langle \mathcal{X}_i \mathcal{B} \rangle, \Sigma_1, \dots, \Sigma_p)$	TANOVA
	$\mathcal{Y}_i \stackrel{ind.}{\sim} Poisson(\langle \mathcal{X}_i \mathcal{B} \rangle)$	→ Poisson TANOVA
	$g(\mathbb{E}_{f_{\mathcal{Y}}}(\mathcal{Y}_i)) = \langle \mathcal{X}_i \mathcal{B} \rangle$	→ Generalized TANOVA

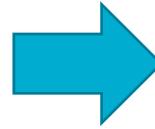


Poisson-tensor change-point detection

\mathcal{Y}_t changes in mean at time τ_1

$$\mathcal{Y}_t \sim \left\{ \begin{array}{ll} \text{Poisson}(\mathcal{M}_1) & t = 1, \dots, \tau_1 \\ \text{Poisson}(\mathcal{M}_2) & t = \tau_1 + 1, \dots, n_T \end{array} \right\}$$

- Mean before change-point: \mathcal{M}_1
- Mean after change-point: \mathcal{M}_2
- Change-point location: τ_1



Equivalent PTANOVA formulation

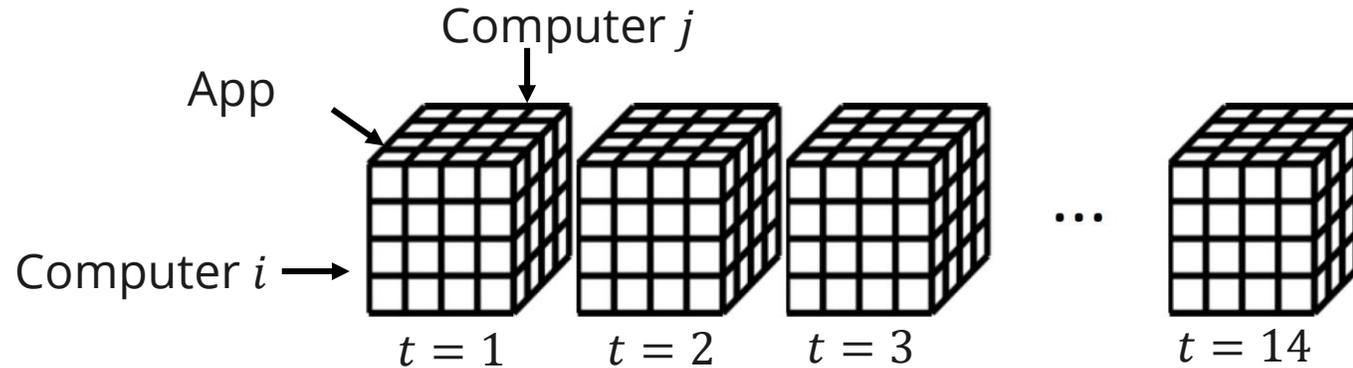
$$\mathcal{Y}_t \sim \text{Poisson}(\langle \mathbf{x}_t | \mathcal{B} \rangle)$$

$$\mathbf{x}_t = \left\{ \begin{array}{ll} (1, 0)' & t = 1, \dots, \tau_1 \\ (0, 1)' & t = \tau_1 + 1, \dots, n_T \end{array} \right\}$$

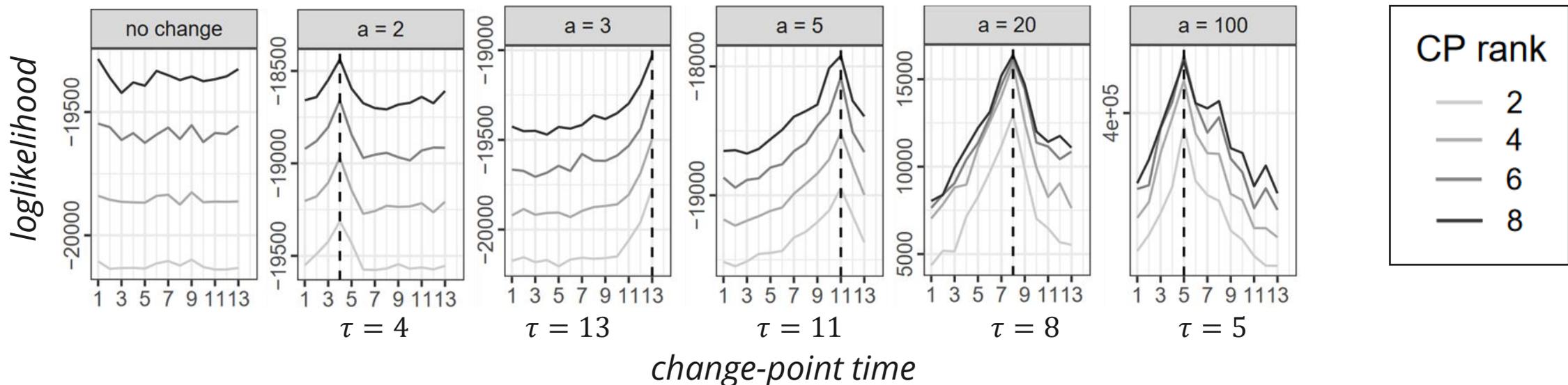
- Mean before change-point: $\langle (1, 0)' | \mathcal{B} \rangle$
- Mean after change-point: $\langle (0, 1)' | \mathcal{B} \rangle$
- Change-point location: τ_1

Originally solved using PToTR → Now we can perform parameter inference via GToTR

CHANGE-POINT DETECTION: SIMULATED DATA



- 10 computers communicating via 15 apps over 14 time-steps: 14 count tensors of size $10 \times 10 \times 15$.
- Event occurs at time τ that changes communication pattern:
 - All communications generated independently from $\text{Poisson}(\lambda)$, $\lambda = 5$.
 - One app usage patterns changes to $\text{Poisson}(\lambda \times a)$ after time τ , where $a = 1, 2, 3, 5, 20, 100$.



SUMMARY AND NEXT STEPS



- **GToTR: Generalized for Tensor-on-Tensor Regression Models**

- *Inference efficiency*: leverages low-rank decomposition of parameter tensor
- *Well-posed model*: low-rank parameter tensor avoids need for regularization
- *Reasonable computation*: leverages IRLS for alternating parameter inference subproblems

- **Future Directions**

- *GMLM vs. GCP*: GToTR reduces to tensor decomposition with $\mathcal{X}_i = 1$
- *Accelerating computation*: randomized GLM solvers (has been done in Sandia for GCP)
- *Other low-rank tensor formats*: Tucker, tensor trains, FCTNs, etc.
- *Uncertainty quantification*: hypothesis testing and confidence intervals
- *Error bounds*: Fisher Information, minimax and concentration bounds
- *Applications*: temporal prediction, change-point detection, imaging reconstruction

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GTOTR:
GENERALIZED
TENSOR-ON-TENSOR
REGRESSION
MODEL

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