

# Matrix Completion Problems

Roberto Canogar

Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia

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## Definition of Partial Matrix

$$P = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{1} & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{1} & \mathbf{1} & x_1 \\ \mathbf{1} & \mathbf{2} & x_2 & \mathbf{0} & x_3 \\ x_4 & x_5 & x_6 & \mathbf{1} & \mathbf{2} \\ \mathbf{1} & x_7 & \mathbf{1} & \mathbf{1} & \mathbf{2} \\ x_8 & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{2} & x_9 & \mathbf{4} \end{bmatrix}$$

Partial matrix

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Partial matrix

$$P = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{1} & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{1} & \mathbf{1} & \cdot \\ \mathbf{1} & \mathbf{2} & \cdot & \mathbf{0} & \cdot \\ \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \mathbf{1} & \mathbf{2} \\ \mathbf{1} & \cdot & \mathbf{1} & \mathbf{1} & \mathbf{2} \\ \cdot & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{2} & \cdot & \mathbf{4} \end{bmatrix}$$

Shorthand of  
Partial matrix

# Definition of Partial Matrix

$$P = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 & x_1 \\ 1 & 2 & x_2 & 0 & x_3 \\ x_4 & x_5 & x_6 & 1 & 2 \\ 1 & x_7 & 1 & 1 & 2 \\ x_8 & 0 & 2 & x_9 & 4 \end{bmatrix}$$

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$$P = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 & \cdot \\ 1 & 2 & \cdot & 0 & \cdot \\ \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & 1 & 2 \\ 1 & \cdot & 1 & 1 & 2 \\ \cdot & 0 & 2 & \cdot & 4 \end{bmatrix}$$

Shorthand of  
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$$C_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 2 \\ 1 & 2 & 2 & 0 & 0 \\ 2 & 2 & 3 & 1 & 2 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 2 \\ 2 & 0 & 2 & 2 & 4 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$C_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 2 & 5 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 2 \\ 1 & 9 & 1 & 1 & 2 \\ 7 & 0 & 2 & 4 & 4 \end{bmatrix}$$

Completions

Given a partial matrix, find a completion such that ....

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- (A) With prescribed entries in general position

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(B) With prescribed entries forming

blocks 
$$\left[ \begin{array}{cc|cc} \cdot & \cdot & 2 & 3 \\ \cdot & \cdot & 0 & 1 \\ \hline 3 & 6 & \cdot & \cdot \\ 1 & 2 & \cdot & \cdot \end{array} \right]$$

# Types of matrix completion problems

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(C) the corresponding digraph is of certain type

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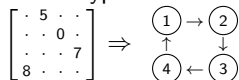
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(I) it has certain prescribed spectral property

(II.A) invariant factors

(II.B) eigenvalues

(II.C) characteristic polynomial

(II.D) rank (minimal, maximal)

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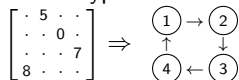
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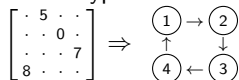
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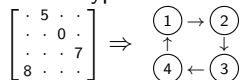
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Let  $X$  be a type of matrix (X-matrix)

Positive Definite matrices (Hermitian such that  $\mathbf{x}^* A \mathbf{x} > 0$  for nonzero  $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{C}^n$ ).

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Define what a **partial** X-matrix is

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$B$  is a **partial positive definite** matrix if every fully prescribed principal submatrix of  $B$  is positive definite.

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A digraph  $G$  has the  **$X$ -completion property** if every partial  $X$ -matrix  $B$  with digraph  $G$  can be completed to an  $X$ -matrix.

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# digraphs and structured completion problems

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A (di)graph that has a loop at every vertex has the **positive definite completion property** if and only if it is chordal<sup>1</sup>.

[Grone, Johnson, Sá, Wolkowicz '84]

<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>chordal graph: one in which all cycles of four or more vertices have a *chord* (an edge that connects two vertices of the cycle).

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Charlie Johnson and Leslie Hogben have been champions of these type of problems.

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prescribed entries in general position	$n-1$ Silva	$n-1$ Dias da Silva, $n$ Zaballa	$n$ de Oliveira, $2n-3$ Hershkowitz	
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## The Problem

Let  $\mathbb{F}$  be field, let  $\Lambda = \{\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n\} \subset \mathbb{F}$ , and let  $P \in \overline{\mathbb{F}}^{n \times n}$  be a partial matrix.

How many entries can be prescribed so it is possible to complete  $P$  and obtain a matrix with  $\Lambda$  as eigenvalues?

## Theorem (London-Minc)

For  $n - 1$  prescribed entries or less (and any  $\Lambda$ ) it is always possible to complete  $P$ .

# Inconsistencies

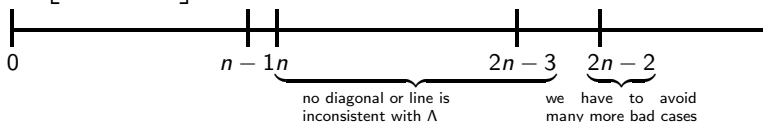
With  $n$  prescribed entries we just have to avoid two cases:

$$\begin{bmatrix} a & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot \\ \cdot & b & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot \\ \cdot & \cdot & c & \cdot & \cdot \\ \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & d & \cdot \\ \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & e \end{bmatrix}$$

If  $a + b + c + d + e \neq \lambda_1 + \lambda_2 + \lambda_3 + \lambda_4 + \lambda_5$ , then its impossible to complete, so we say that the **diagonal is inconsistent with  $\Lambda$** .

$$\begin{bmatrix} a & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot \\ \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot \\ \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot \\ \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot \end{bmatrix}$$

If  $a \notin \Lambda$  then its impossible to complete, so we say that the corresponding **line (row or column) is inconsistent with  $\Lambda$** .





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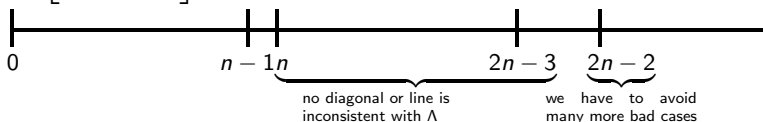
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## Theorem (Hershkowitz)

Let  $\mathbb{F}$  be a field, and let  $\Lambda = \{\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n\} \subset \mathbb{F}$ . Let an  $n \times n$  matrix  $P$  have at most  $2n - 3$  prescribed entries that belong to  $\mathbb{F}$ , and such that the diagonal and lines of  $P$  are none inconsistent with  $\Lambda$ .

Then  $P$  can be completed with elements of  $\mathbb{F}$  to obtain a matrix with spectrum  $\Lambda$ .

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Matrices  $P$  with no full line



Algorithm to complete  $P$  only using  $+$  and  $-$



Matrices  $P$  with full line



Algorithm to complete  $P$  using  $+$ ,  $-$  and  $/$



## Theorem (Borobia, C., Smigoc)

Hershkowitz's Thm. for partial matrices with no full line is valid for integral domains<sup>2</sup>

2

## Algorithm (B, C., S.)

Easy algorithm for Hershkowitz's Thm. that completes  $P$

<sup>2</sup>a commutative ring with identity that is a subring of a field, e.g.  $\mathbb{Z}$ .

## Gradient Flow Method (Chu, Diele and Sgura, 2004)

We can consider the completion problem as a optimization problem. Let  $D = \text{diag}(\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n)$  and let  $\pi$  be the projection onto the space of possible completions. We have to minimize:

$$g(V) = \frac{1}{2} \langle VDV^{-1} - \pi(VDV^{-1}), VDV^{-1} - \pi(VDV^{-1}) \rangle$$

$$\nabla g(V) = \left[ VDV^{-1} - \pi(VDV^{-1}), (VDV^{-1})^T \right] V^{-T}$$

The vector field

$$\frac{dV}{dt} = \left[ (VDV^{-1})^T, VDV^{-1} - \pi(VDV^{-1}) \right] V^{-T}$$

defines a flow in the open set  $GL(n)$  and moves in the steepest descent direction to reduce the value of  $g(V)$ .

	invariant factors	characteristic polynomial	eigenvalues	rank
prescribed entries in general position	$n-1$ Silva	$n-1$ Dias da Silva, $n$ Zaballa	$n$ de Oliveira, $2n-3$ Hershkowitz	
prescribed entries forming blocks				

## The Problem

Let  $\mathbb{F}$  be field, let  $f(\lambda)$  be a monic polynomial, and let and let  $P$  be a  $n \times n$  partial matrix.

How many entries can be prescribed so it is possible to complete  $P$  with characteristic polynomial  $f(\lambda)$ ?

## Theorem (Dias da Silva)

For  $n - 1$  prescribed entries it is always possible to complete  $P$ , except when

$P$  is “**reducible**”  $\begin{bmatrix} \cdot & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot \\ \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot \\ \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot \\ \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot \end{bmatrix}$  and  $f(\lambda)$  has no roots in  $\mathbb{F}$ .

With  $n$  prescribed entries we have to avoid several more cases:

$$\begin{bmatrix} a & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot \\ \cdot & b & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot \\ \cdot & \cdot & c & \cdot & \cdot \\ \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & d & \cdot \\ \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & e \end{bmatrix}$$

If  $-(a + b + c + d + e)$  is not the coefficient of  $\lambda^{n-1}$  in  $f(\lambda)$ , then its impossible to complete, so we say that the **diagonal is inconsistent with  $f(\lambda)$** .

$$\begin{bmatrix} a & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot \\ \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot \\ \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot \\ \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot \end{bmatrix}$$

If  $f(a) \neq 0$  then its impossible to complete, so we say that the corresponding **line (row or column) is inconsistent with  $f(\lambda)$** .

Five small sporadic cases.

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## Theorem (Zaballa)

Let  $\mathbb{F}$  be a field, and let  $f(\lambda) \in \mathbb{F}[\lambda]$ . Let  $P$  be a  $n \times n$  partial matrix with  $n$  prescribed entries, then it can always be completed to obtain a matrix with characteristic polynomial  $f(\lambda)$ , **except** when:

- 1 The diagonal or a line of  $P$  is inconsistent with  $f(\lambda)$ .
- 2  $P$  is reducible and  $f(\lambda)$  has no roots in  $\mathbb{F}$ .
- 3 Five small sporadic cases.

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## Example (Completions of a Partial matrix)

$$P = \begin{bmatrix} x & z & \mathbf{1} \\ y & \mathbf{1} & \mathbf{1} \\ \mathbf{1} & \mathbf{1} & t \end{bmatrix}$$

$x = y = z = t = 1$   
 $\longrightarrow$

$$C_1 = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{1} & \mathbf{1} & \mathbf{1} \\ \mathbf{1} & \mathbf{1} & \mathbf{1} \\ \mathbf{1} & \mathbf{1} & \mathbf{1} \end{bmatrix} \longrightarrow \text{rank 1}$$

$x = y = 0$   
 $z = t = 1$   
 $\longrightarrow$

$$C_2 = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{1} & \mathbf{1} \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{1} & \mathbf{1} \\ \mathbf{1} & \mathbf{1} & \mathbf{1} \end{bmatrix} \longrightarrow \text{rank 2}$$

$x = y = z = t = 0$   
 $\longrightarrow$

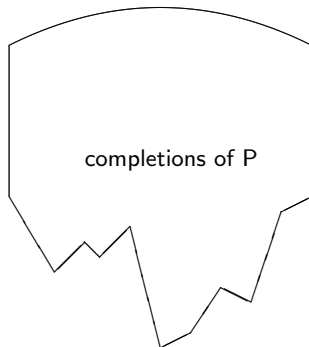
$$C_3 = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{1} \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{1} & \mathbf{1} \\ \mathbf{1} & \mathbf{1} & \mathbf{0} \end{bmatrix} \longrightarrow \text{rank 3}$$

$$\text{rank } P = \{1, 2, 3\}$$

$$\text{minRank } P = 1$$

$$\text{maxRank } P = 3$$

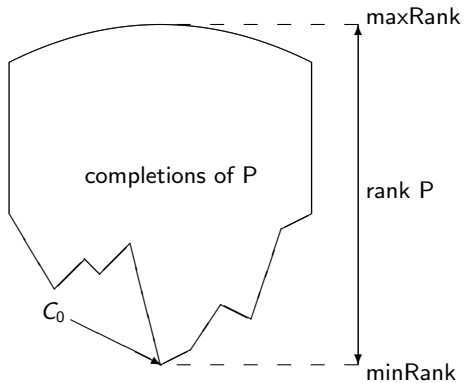
$$P = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot \\ \cdot & 3 & 0 & \cdot & \cdot \\ \cdot & 2 & \cdot & \cdot & 2 \\ \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & 4 & 0 \\ \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & 5 & \cdot \end{bmatrix}$$





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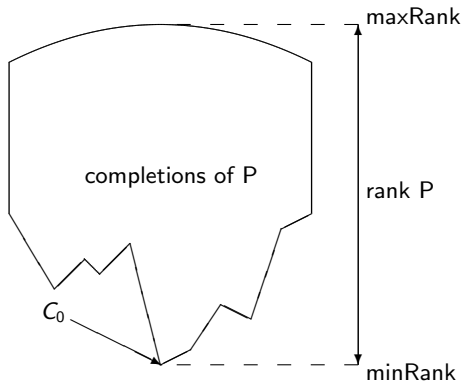
$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{minimize: } \text{rank } C \\ \text{subject to: } C \text{ is completion of } P \end{array} \right.$ 
NP-hard



$$P = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot \\ \cdot & 3 & 0 & \cdot & \cdot \\ \cdot & 2 & \cdot & \cdot & 2 \\ \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & 4 & 0 \\ \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & 5 & \cdot \end{bmatrix}$$

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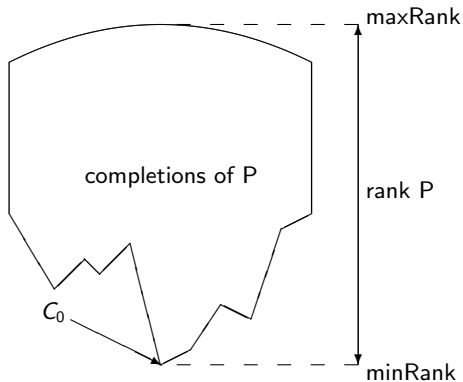
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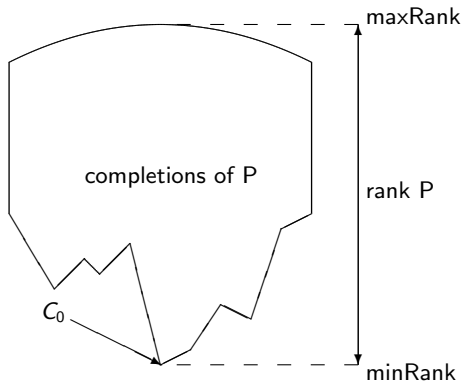
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### Convex relaxation method

{ minimize:  $\|C\|_*$   
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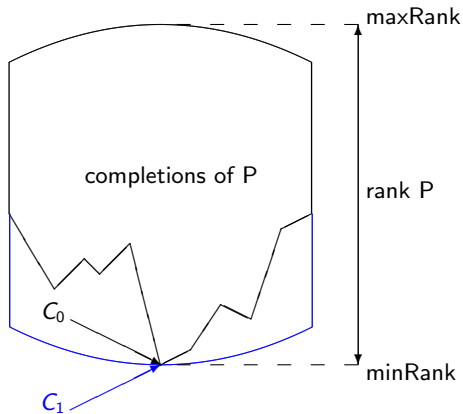
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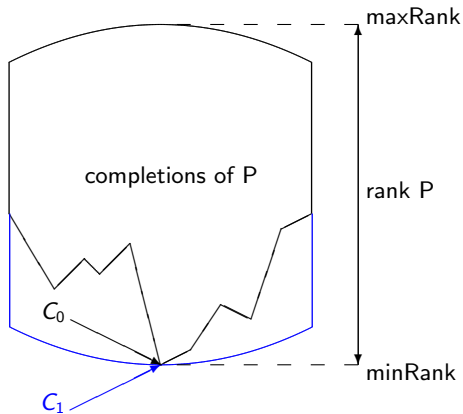
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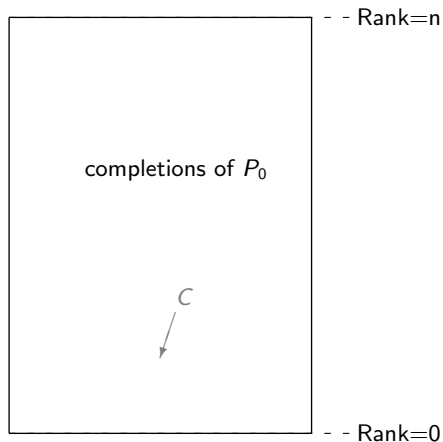
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Convex relaxation method

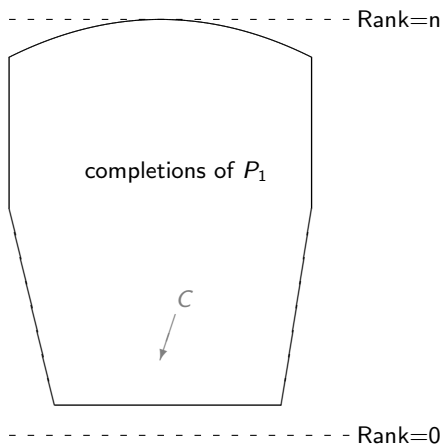
{ minimize:  $\|C\|_*$  **Polynomial time**  
 subject to:  $C$  is completion of  $P$



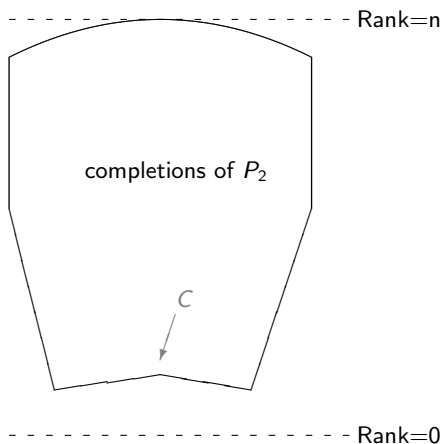
$$P_0 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 2 \\ 1 & 2 & 2 & 0 & 0 \\ 2 & 2 & 3 & 1 & 2 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 2 \\ 2 & 0 & 2 & 2 & 4 \end{bmatrix}$$



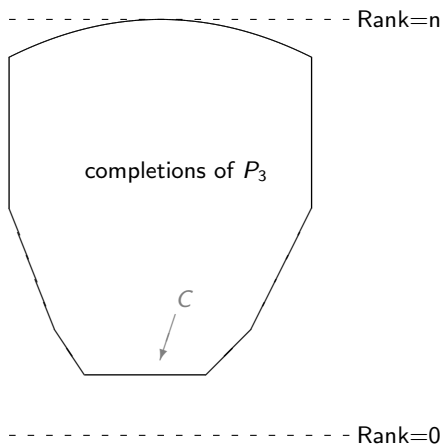
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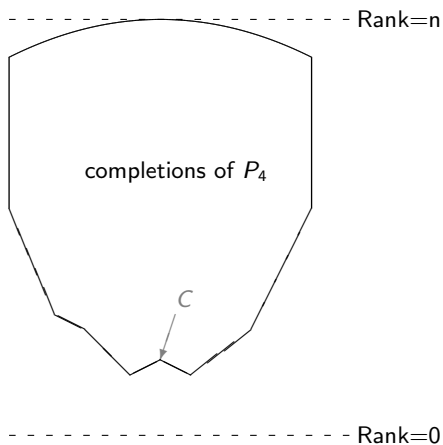
$$P_2 = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{1} & 0 & 1 & 1 & 2 \\ 1 & 2 & 2 & \mathbf{0} & 0 \\ 2 & 2 & 3 & 1 & 2 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 2 \\ 2 & 0 & 2 & 2 & 4 \end{bmatrix}$$



$$P_3 = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{1} & 0 & 1 & 1 & 2 \\ 1 & \mathbf{2} & 2 & \mathbf{0} & 0 \\ 2 & 2 & 3 & 1 & 2 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 2 \\ 2 & 0 & 2 & 2 & 4 \end{bmatrix}$$

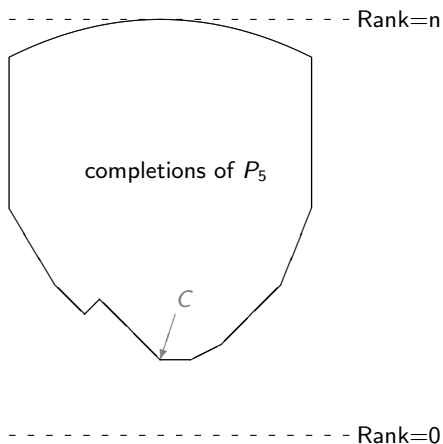


$$P_4 = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{1} & 0 & 1 & 1 & 2 \\ 1 & \mathbf{2} & 2 & \mathbf{0} & 0 \\ 2 & 2 & 3 & 1 & 2 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 & \mathbf{2} \\ 2 & 0 & 2 & 2 & 4 \end{bmatrix}$$

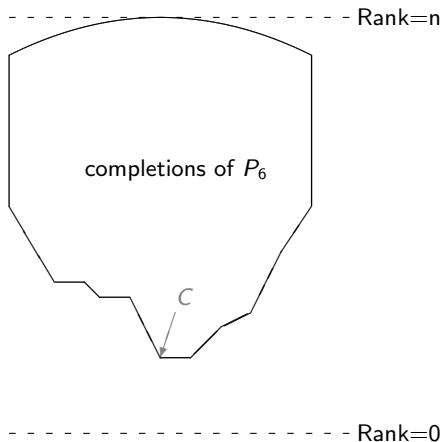




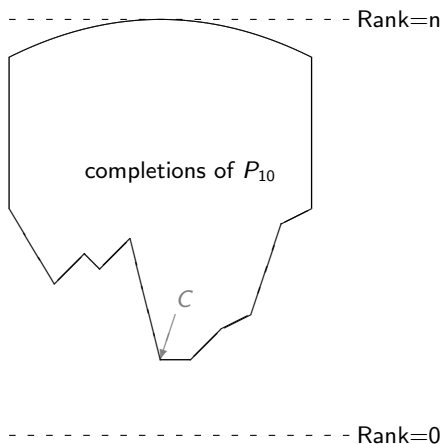
$$P_5 = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{1} & 0 & 1 & 1 & 2 \\ 1 & \mathbf{2} & 2 & \mathbf{0} & 0 \\ 2 & 2 & 3 & 1 & 2 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 & \mathbf{2} \\ 2 & 0 & \mathbf{2} & 2 & 4 \end{bmatrix}$$



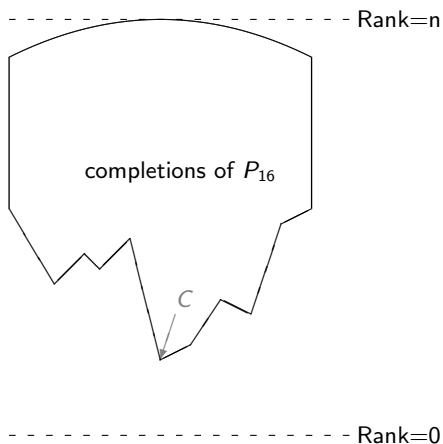
$$P_6 = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{1} & 0 & 1 & 1 & 2 \\ 1 & \mathbf{2} & 2 & \mathbf{0} & 0 \\ 2 & 2 & 3 & 1 & 2 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 & \mathbf{2} \\ 2 & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{2} & 2 & 4 \end{bmatrix}$$



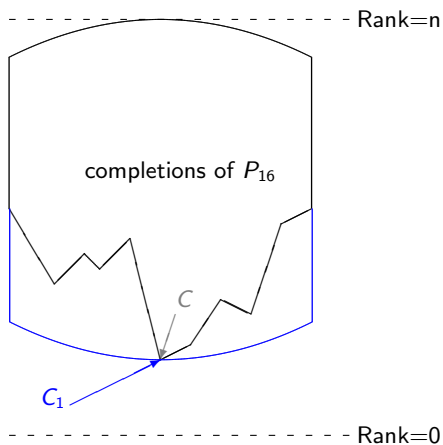
$$P_{10} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{1} & 0 & \mathbf{1} & 1 & 2 \\ \mathbf{1} & \mathbf{2} & 2 & \mathbf{0} & 0 \\ 2 & 2 & 3 & \mathbf{1} & 2 \\ 1 & 0 & \mathbf{1} & 1 & \mathbf{2} \\ 2 & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{2} & 2 & 4 \end{bmatrix}$$



$$P_{16} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{1} & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{1} & \mathbf{1} & \mathbf{2} \\ \mathbf{1} & \mathbf{2} & \mathbf{2} & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{2} & \mathbf{2} & \mathbf{3} & \mathbf{1} & \mathbf{2} \\ \mathbf{1} & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{1} & \mathbf{1} & \mathbf{2} \\ \mathbf{2} & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{2} & \mathbf{2} & \mathbf{4} \end{bmatrix}$$



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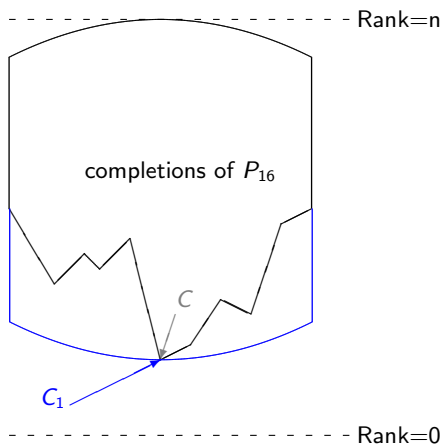


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For unique recovery of a matrix of rank  $r$   
we need  $\geq 2nr - r^2$  observations:

rank 2 and  $2 \times 2$  nonsingular:

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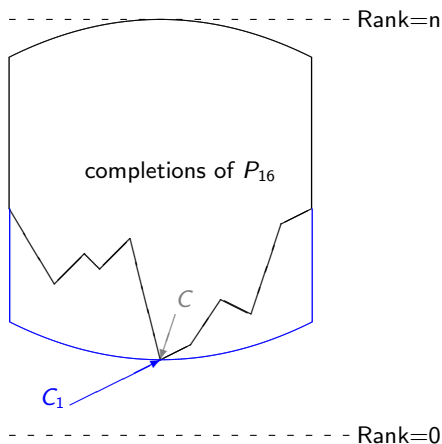
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When randomly sampled, the min number  
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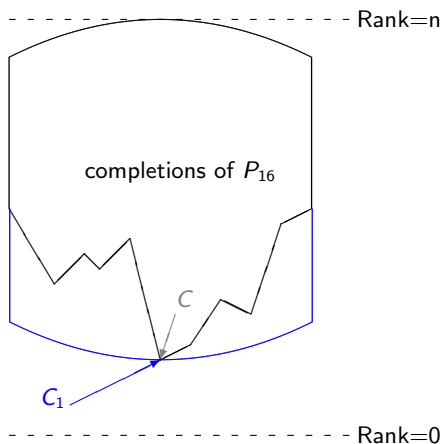


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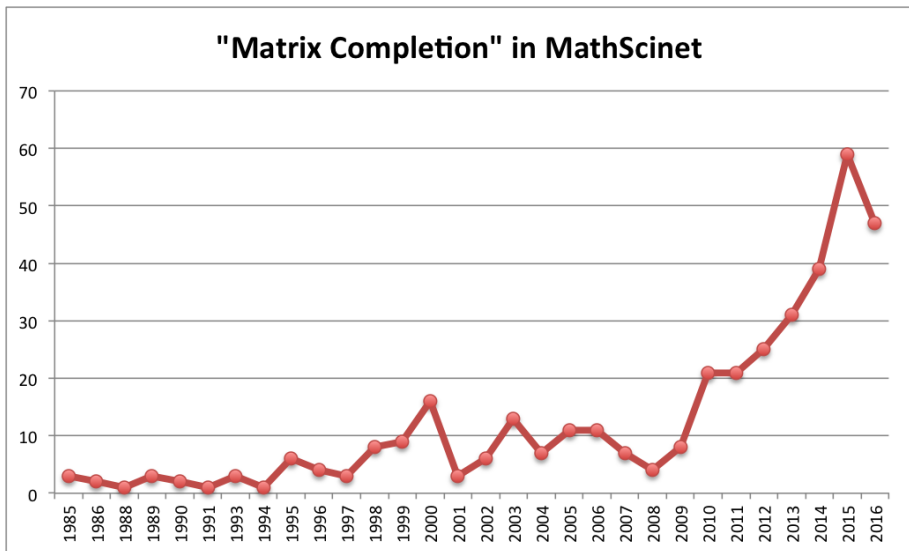


### Compressed sensing (M. Fazel, B. Recht, E. Candès, T. Tao [2003, 2009, 2010])

If there are  $\alpha nr \log^2(n)$  observed entries selected uniformly at random, and the singular vectors of  $C$  are *incoherent*, then with very high probability the convex relaxation method yields  $C$ .



## "Matrix Completion" in MathScinet



Clearly the minRank of partial matrices is interesting

The optimization conquistadores  
have made a lot of headway into this problem!



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Can linear algebra techniques say something on this or related problems?

## The new frontier in minRank matrix completion is possibly Finite Fields (FF)

- 1 The optimization techniques (convex relaxation) only works for Reals with no clear hope of working for FF
- 2 Some information theoretical arguments suggest that analog results for FF should be true: with very few observations it should be possible a unique matrix recovery.
- 3 It has applications to Coding Theory.
- 4 The FF case behaves differently than for Reals.

ACI-matrices might be an effective way to tackle minRank (and maxRank) completion problems in FF.

## ACI-matrices Definition

If you apply elementary row operation to a partial matrix you obtain...

$$\begin{bmatrix} x & z & \mathbf{1} \\ y & \mathbf{1} & \mathbf{1} \\ \mathbf{1} & \mathbf{1} & t \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow{\substack{r_2 \rightarrow r_1 + r_2 \\ r_3 \rightarrow 2r_3}} \begin{bmatrix} x & z & \mathbf{1} \\ x + y & z + \mathbf{1} & \mathbf{2} \\ \mathbf{2} & \mathbf{2} & 2t \end{bmatrix}$$

We “define” ACI-matrices as:

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## Definition (Brualdi, Huang, Zhan 2010)

### ACI-matrices

- entries are either constants or polynomials of degree one
- no indeterminate appears in two different columns.

ACI-matrices are closed under

- 1 elementary row operations
- 2 column permutations

$A, B$  are **equivalent** if you can transform  $A$  into  $B$  by 1 and 2

## Square

Brualdi, Huang and Zhan [2010], Borobia and Canogar [2012]

Let  $A$  be a  $n \times n$  ACI-matrix. Then

$$\min\text{Rank}(A) = n \iff A \text{ is equivalent to an ACI-matrix of type } \begin{bmatrix} 1 & * & * \\ & \ddots & * \\ 0 & & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ x & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ y & z & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} &\rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & x \\ 1 & z & 0 & y \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & -1 & 0 & x-1 \\ 0 & z-1 & -1 & y-1 \end{bmatrix} \\ \rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & z-1 & -1 & y-1 \\ 0 & -1 & 0 & x-1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -1 \end{bmatrix} &\rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & -1 & z-1 & y-1 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 & x-1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -1 \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 1-z & 1-y \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1-x \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

## Huang and Zhan [2011]

Let  $A$  be a  $m \times n$  ACI-matrix over a field  $\mathbb{F}$  with  $|\mathbb{F}| \geq m > n$ . Then

$$\min\text{Rank}(A) = n \iff A \text{ is equivalent to an ACI-matrix of type } \begin{bmatrix} * & * & * \\ * & * & * \\ 1 & * & * \\ & \ddots & * \\ 0 & & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

FF work differently: the restriction on the field can not be dropped.

**Example:**  $A$  is a  $4 \times 3$  ACI-matrix over  $\mathbb{F}_2$  with  $\min\text{Rank}(A) = 3$  but can not be put into upper triangular form:

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & x \\ y & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & z & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

When  $m < n$  we have the same phenomenon.



We have developed an algorithm to compute the maxRank for any ACI-matrix.

### Definition

$A$  is **full-maxRank** if it has a completion which is full rank

If the input  $A$  is not full-maxRank then the output is an equivalent ACI-Matrix

*	$A_{12}$
$A_{21}$	0

with a zero block so big that  $A_{12}$  and  $A_{21}$  are squashed,  
and  $A_{12}$  and  $A_{21}$  are full-maxRank, and

$$\text{maxRank} = \text{maxRank}(A_{12}) + \text{maxRank}(A_{21}) = \#rows(A_{12}) + \#cols(A_{21}).$$

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Thank You!