

Fast Robust Principle Component Analysis using Gauss-Newton Iterations

William Chettleburgh¹ Zhishen Huang^{2,1} Ming Yan^{3,1}

¹Michigan State University ²Amazon ³The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Shenzhen



Motivation

The low-rank structure appears in natural images, video/audio signal enhancement, RNA-sequencing, data denoising, social science data, etc.

Two ways to reconstruct the low-rank matrix data \mathbf{L}

- Decomposition-based methods: $\mathbf{L}_{m \times n} = \mathbf{X}_{m \times p}(\mathbf{Y}_{n \times p})^\top$
 - p is small
 - fast computation (no singular value decomposition (SVD))
 - requires the true rank p
- Low rank regularization $f(\mathbf{L})$ (e.g., nuclear norm $\|\mathbf{L}\|_*$)
 - requires SVD for a large $m \times n$ matrix (multiple times)
 - does not require the true rank

A combined approach proposed: computing SVD for a small $m \times p$ matrix (multiple times); requires only an upper bound of the true rank.

Basics of Proximal Operators

Proximal Operator

Given a matrix $\mathbf{M} \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$, the proximal of a function f is

$$\text{prox}_f(\mathbf{M}) = \arg \min_{\mathbf{L}} f(\mathbf{L}) + \frac{1}{2} \|\mathbf{L} - \mathbf{M}\|_F^2$$

Computation of $\text{prox}_f(\mathbf{M})$

- Assume the objective f only depends on the singular values of the input matrix, i.e. $f(\mathbf{L}) = f(\boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{\mathbf{L}})$, where $\mathbf{L} = \mathbf{U}_{\mathbf{L}} \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{\mathbf{L}} \mathbf{V}_{\mathbf{L}}^\top$ is the singular value decomposition of \mathbf{L} .
- Let the input matrix \mathbf{M} have the SVD $\mathbf{M} = \mathbf{U}_{\mathbf{M}} \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{\mathbf{M}} \mathbf{V}_{\mathbf{M}}^\top$, then

$$\text{prox}_f(\mathbf{M}) = \mathbf{U}_{\mathbf{M}} \cdot \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{\mathbf{L}} \cdot \mathbf{V}_{\mathbf{M}}^\top$$

where $\boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{\mathbf{L}} = \arg \min_{\boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{\mathbf{L}}} f(\boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{\mathbf{L}}) + \frac{1}{2} \|\boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{\mathbf{L}} - \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{\mathbf{M}}\|_F^2$

Preparation: Finding a Low-Rank Approximation to the Input of the Proximal Operator

Assuming the output of the proximal operator \mathbf{L} has rank $\text{rank}(\mathbf{L}) \leq p$, we have its SVD

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{L} &= (\mathbf{U}_{\mathbf{L}})_{m \times p} (\boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{\mathbf{L}})_{p \times p} ((\mathbf{V}_{\mathbf{L}})_{n \times p})^\top \\ &= \underbrace{(\mathbf{U}_{\mathbf{L}})_{m \times p} (\boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{\mathbf{L}})_{p \times p} \mathbf{O}_{p \times p}}_{\mathbf{X}_{m \times p}} \underbrace{(\mathbf{O}_{p \times p})^\top ((\mathbf{V}_{\mathbf{L}})_{n \times p})^\top}_{(\mathbf{Y}_{n \times p})^\top} \end{aligned}$$

- $(\boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{\mathbf{L}})_{p \times p} \in \mathbb{R}^{p \times p}$ is computed from $\boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{\mathbf{M}} \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$.
- $(\mathbf{U}_{\mathbf{L}})_{m \times p}$ is the first p columns of $(\mathbf{U}_{\mathbf{M}})_{m \times m}$.
- $(\mathbf{V}_{\mathbf{L}})_{n \times p}$ is the first p columns of $(\mathbf{V}_{\mathbf{M}})_{n \times n}$.
- $\mathbf{O}_{p \times p}$ is an orthonormal matrix.
- Compare SVDs of $\mathbf{X}\mathbf{X}^\top$ and $\mathbf{M}\mathbf{M}^\top$:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{X}\mathbf{X}^\top &= (\mathbf{U}_{\mathbf{L}})_{m \times p} (\boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{\mathbf{L}})_{p \times p}^2 ((\mathbf{U}_{\mathbf{L}})_{n \times p})^\top \\ \mathbf{M}\mathbf{M}^\top &= (\mathbf{U}_{\mathbf{M}})_{m \times m} (\boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{\mathbf{M}})_{m \times n} ((\boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{\mathbf{M}})_{m \times n})^\top ((\mathbf{U}_{\mathbf{M}})_{m \times m})^\top \end{aligned}$$

- To find \mathbf{L} , we determine its decomposition components \mathbf{X} and \mathbf{Y} .

Main Idea: Computing the proximal operator exactly with a small-sized matrix is fast. We find a low-rank approximation to the input matrix \mathbf{M} through the Gauss-Newton iteration.

Gauss-Newton accelerated protocol for sequential $\text{prox}_f(\mathbf{M})$

- Gauss-Newton iteration [LWZ15, SSY21] to find $\tilde{\mathbf{X}} = \arg \min_{\mathbf{X} \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times p}} \|\mathbf{X}\mathbf{X}^\top - \mathbf{M}\mathbf{M}^\top\|_F^2$:

$$\tilde{\mathbf{X}} \leftarrow \mathbf{M}\mathbf{M}^\top \mathbf{X} (\mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{X})^{-1} - \mathbf{X} ((\mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{X})^{-1} \mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{M}\mathbf{M}^\top \mathbf{X} (\mathbf{X}^\top \mathbf{X})^{-1} - \mathbf{I}) / 2$$
- $\mathbf{Y} = \mathbf{M}^\top \tilde{\mathbf{X}} (\tilde{\mathbf{X}}^\top \tilde{\mathbf{X}})^{-1} = (\mathbf{V}_{\mathbf{M}})_{1:m, 1:p} \mathbf{O}$ (by-product)
- Compute $\mathbf{X} = \text{prox}_f(\tilde{\mathbf{X}}) = (\mathbf{U}_{\mathbf{M}})_{1:m, 1:p} \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{\mathbf{L}} \mathbf{O}$ (Note $\tilde{\mathbf{X}} \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times p}$) and output $\mathbf{X}\mathbf{Y}^\top$.

Application: Robust PCA Setup

Recover a low-rank component \mathbf{L} and a sparse component \mathbf{S} from a noisy data matrix $\mathbf{D} \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$:

$$\min_{\mathbf{L}, \mathbf{S}} \underbrace{\|\mathbf{L}\|_*}_{\text{low-rank}} + \underbrace{\beta \|\mathbf{S}\|_0}_{\text{sparse}} + \underbrace{\lambda \|\mathbf{D} - \mathbf{L} - \mathbf{S}\|_1}_{\text{robust noisy}}$$

where β and λ are two given constant parameters.

Robust PCA Algorithm [LR19]

Algorithm 1 Sparsity regularized principal component pursuit

- while not converged do
- with an index set Φ , update \mathbf{L} (can be accelerated by GN protocol):

$$\mathbf{L} = \arg \min_{\mathbf{L}} \|\mathbf{L}\|_* + \lambda \|\mathcal{P}_\Phi(\mathbf{D} - \mathbf{L})\|_1$$
 using ADMM. Here \mathcal{P}_Φ is the projection onto the index set.
- fix \mathbf{L} , update \mathbf{S} (has an analytical solution):

$$\mathbf{S} = \arg \min_{\mathbf{S}} \beta \|\mathbf{S}\|_0 + \lambda \|\mathbf{D} - \mathbf{L} - \mathbf{S}\|_1$$
- end while

ADMM has the proximal computation step $\mathbf{L}^{(k+1)} = \arg \min_{\mathbf{L}} \frac{1}{\theta} \|\mathbf{L}\|_* + \frac{1}{2} \|\mathbf{L} - \mathbf{M}\|_F^2$, where \mathbf{M} is an intermediate matrix. This is where the acceleration protocol kicks in.

- The function $\frac{1}{\theta} \|\mathbf{L}\|_*$ only depends on the singular values of the input matrix \mathbf{L} .
- Only 2-3 Gauss-Newton iterations are sufficient for solving the dense component.

Synthetic Data Setup

\mathbf{L}_0 : Low-rank component, formed by multiplying standard Gaussian matrices of size $n \times r$ and $r \times n$.

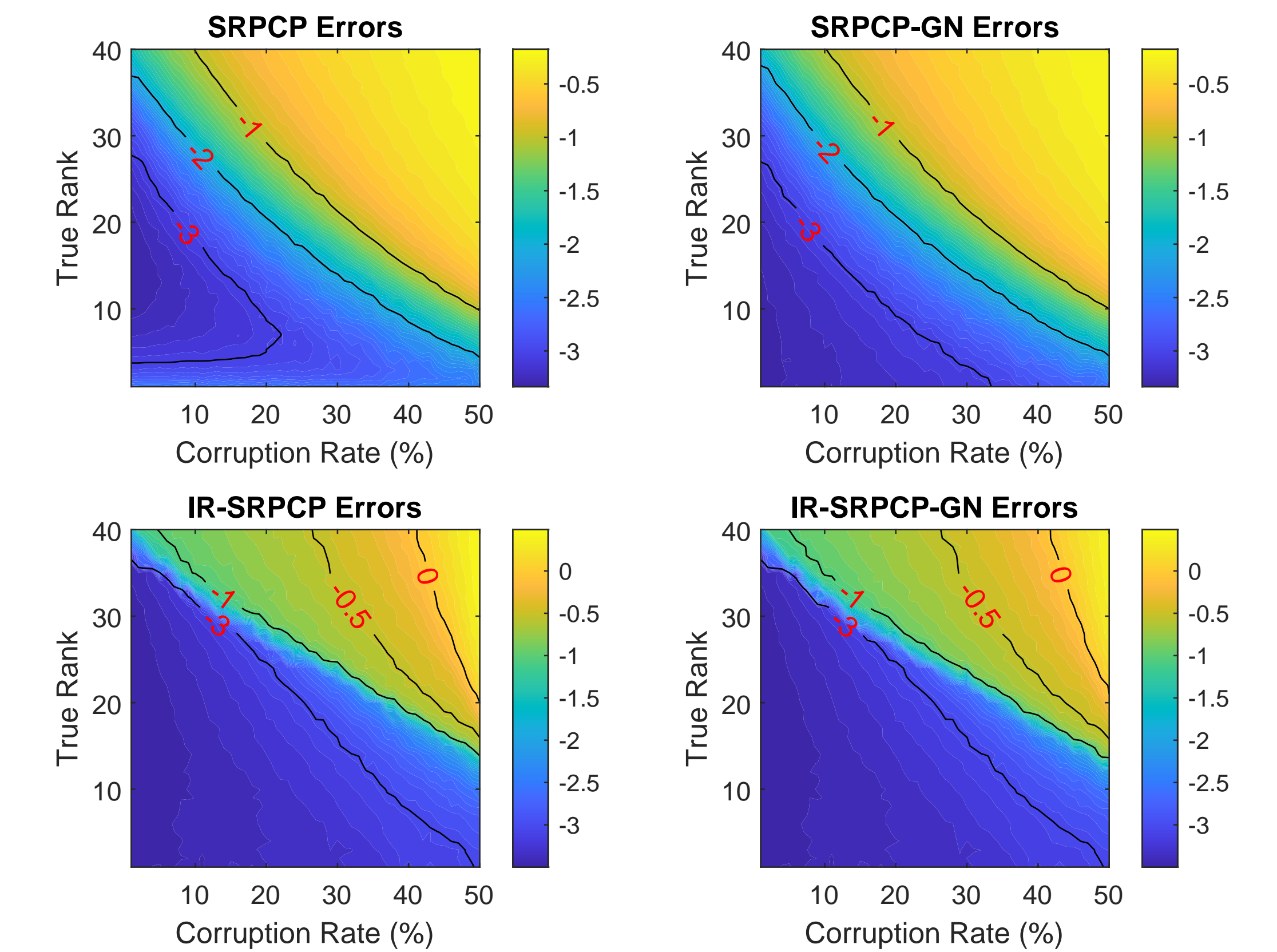
\mathbf{S}_0 : Sparse matrix with ρn^2 outliers uniformly chosen in $[-100, 100]$.

\mathbf{N} : Gaussian noise with mean 0 and variance σ^2 .

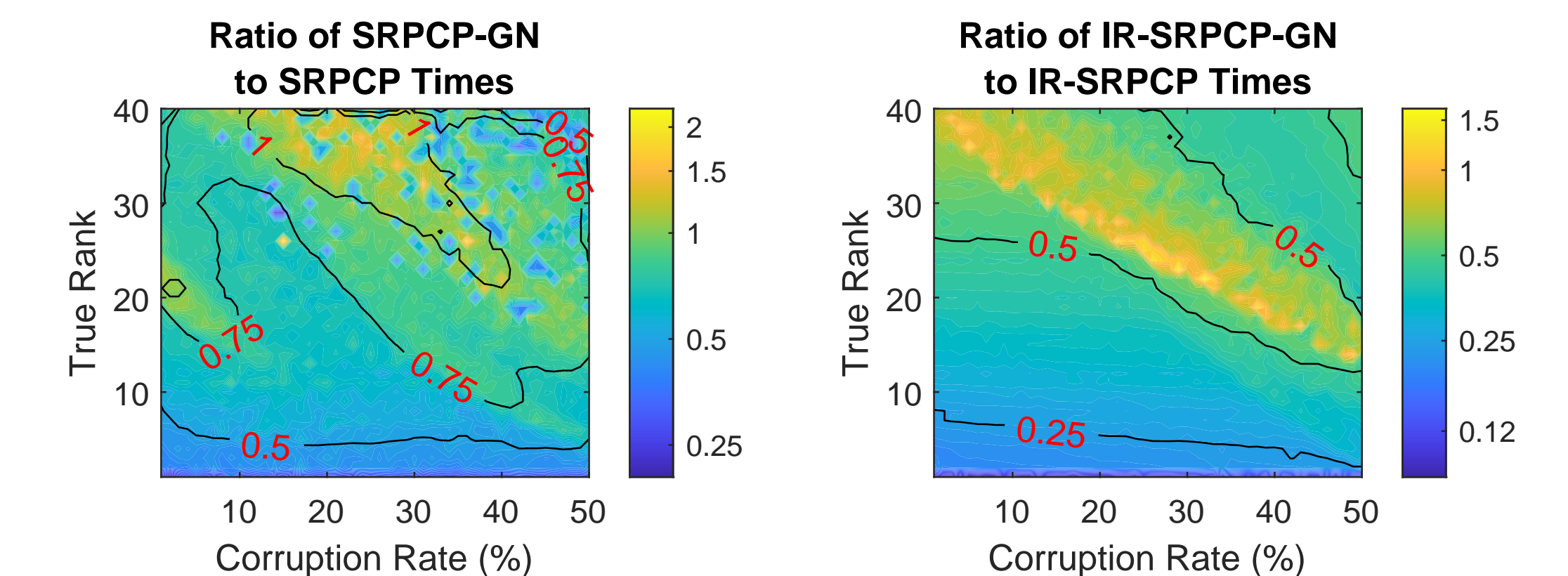
$$\mathbf{D} = \mathbf{L}_0 + \mathbf{S}_0 + \mathbf{N}$$

We average results over 10 repetitions for each combination of $r \in \{1 : 40\}$ and $\rho \in \{0.01 : 0.01 : 0.50\}$, with parameters $n = 100$, $\sigma = 0.1$, $\lambda = 0.1$, $\gamma = 40$ (see paper), $\beta = 2$, and $p = r + 5$ upper bound on the rank.

RPCA Error and Run-time Comparison



- Reconstruction error measured by $\frac{\|\hat{\mathbf{L}} - \mathbf{L}_0\|_F}{\|\mathbf{L}_0\|_F}$ and plotted on a log scale $2 \log_{10}(\cdot)$.
- The proposed methods (right) have similar performance as the original (left).



- SRPCP-GN has a runtime that is only 76% as long as SRPCP on average, and it finishes before SRPCP in 84% of the tests.
- IR-SRPCP-GN takes 47% of the time that IR-SRPCP takes on average, and it finishes before IR-SRPCP 98% of the time.

Stability over Hyperparameters

With the Gauss-Newton acceleration protocol in the RPCA algorithm, the solver shows a wider area of stability with respect to the upper bound of the rank and hyperparameters (β and γ) (see paper).

References

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- [SSY21] Ningyu Sha, Lei Shi, and Ming Yan. Fast algorithms for robust principal component analysis with an upper bound on the rank. *Inverse Problems and Imaging*, 15(1):109–128, 2021.