Machine Learning for Signal Processing Non-negative Matrix Factorization

Class 10. 7 Oct 2014

Instructor: Bhiksha Raj

The Engineer and the Musician

Once upon a time a rich potentate discovered a previously unknown recording of a beautiful piece of music. Unfortunately it was badly damaged.



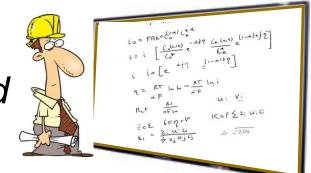
He greatly wanted to find out what it would sound like if it were not.



So he hired an engineer and a musician to solve the problem..

The Engineer and the Musician

The engineer worked for many years. He spent much money and published many papers.





Finally he had a somewhat scratchy restoration of the music..

The musician listened to the music carefully for a day, transcribed it, broke out his trusty keyboard and replicated the music.



The Prize

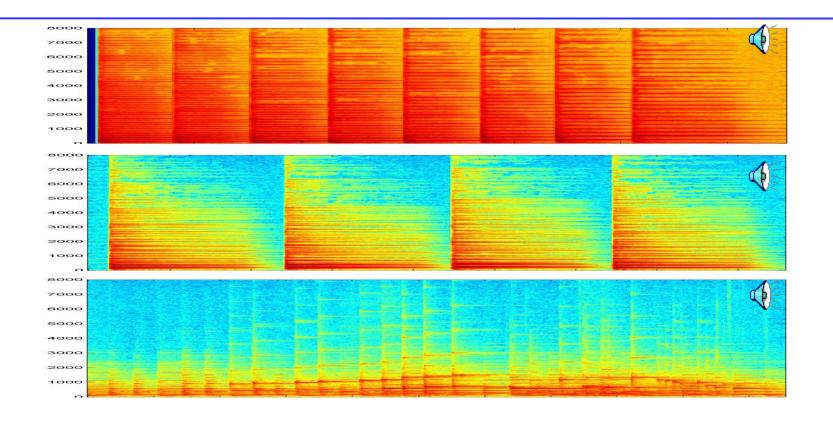
Who do you think won the princess?







The search for building blocks



- What composes an audio signal?
 - E.g. notes compose music

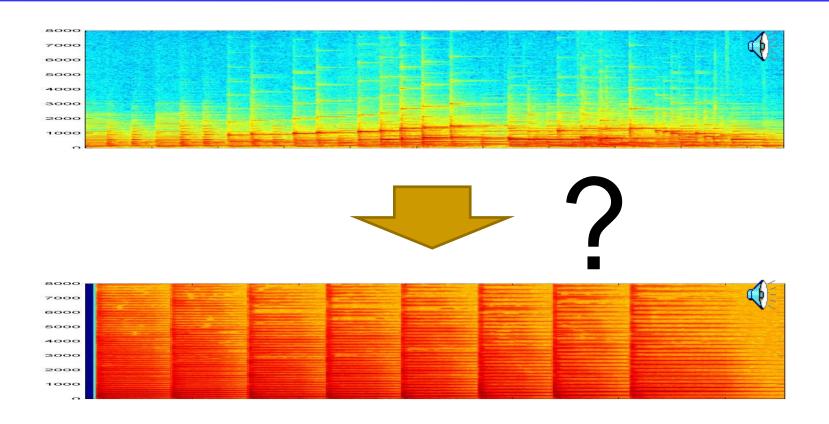
The properties of building blocks

- Constructive composition
 - A second note does not diminish a first note



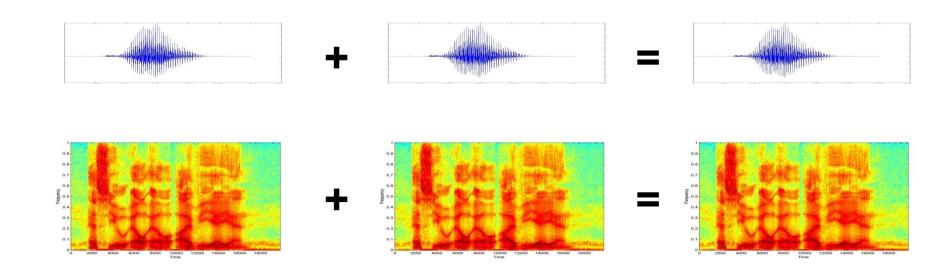
- Linearity of composition
 - Notes do not distort one another

Looking for building blocks in sound



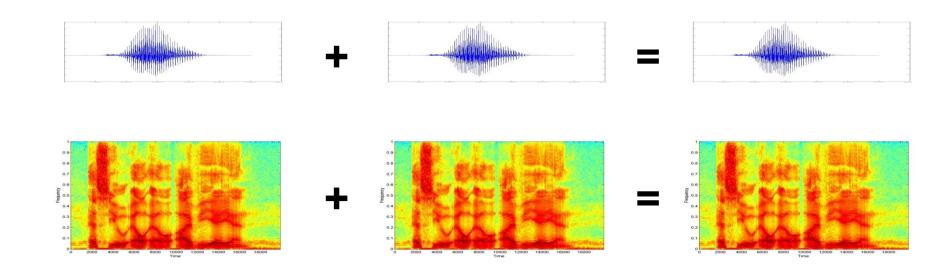
Can we compute the building blocks from sound itself

A property of spectrograms

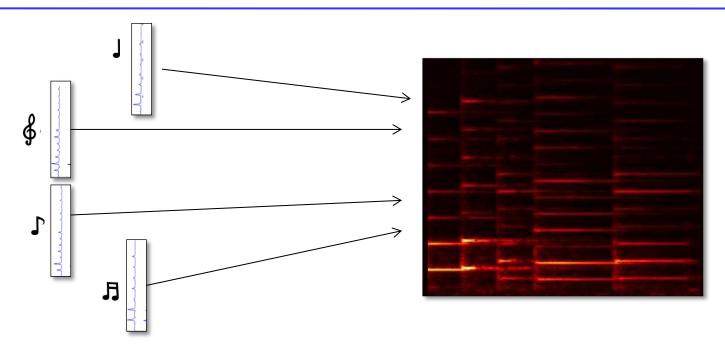


- The spectrogram of the sum of two signals is the sum of their spectrograms
 - This is a property of the Fourier transform that is used to compute the columns of the spectrogram
- The individual spectral vectors of the spectrograms add up
 - Each column of the first spectrogram is added to the same column of the second
- Building blocks can be learned by using this property
 - Learn the building blocks of the "composed" signal by finding what vectors were added to produce it

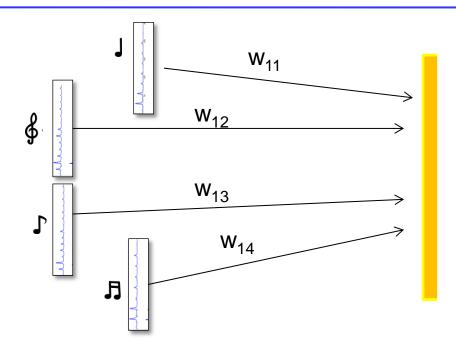
Another property of spectrograms



- We deal with the power in the signal
 - The power in the sum of two signals is the sum of the powers in the individual signals
 - The power of any frequency component in the sum at any time is the sum of the powers in the individual signals at that frequency and time
- The power is strictly non-negative (real)

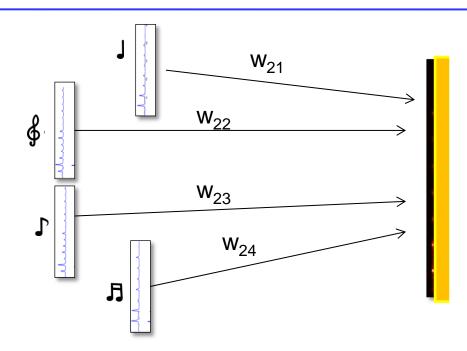


- The building blocks of sound are (power) spectral structures
 - E.g. notes build music
 - The spectra are entirely non-negative
- The complete sound is composed by constructive combination of the building blocks scaled to different non-negative gains
 - E.g. notes are played with varying energies through the music
 - The sound from the individual notes combines to form the final spectrogram
- The final spectrogram is also non-negative

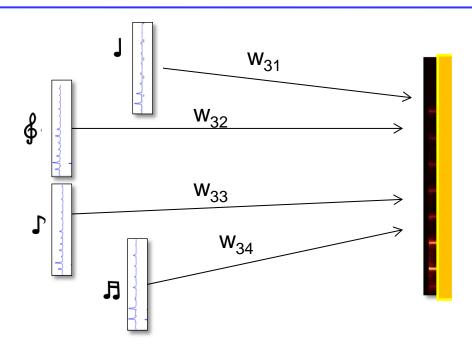


- Each frame of sound is composed by activating each spectral building block by a frame-specific amount
- Individual frames are composed by activating the building blocks to different degrees
 - E.g. notes are strummed with different energies to compose the frame

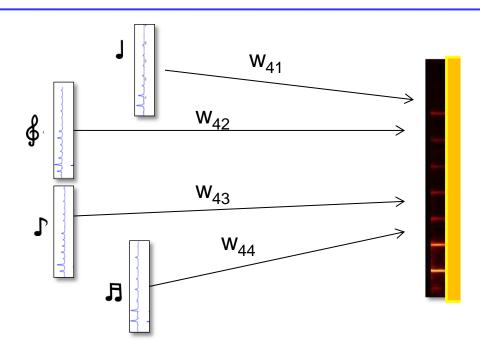
Composing the Sound



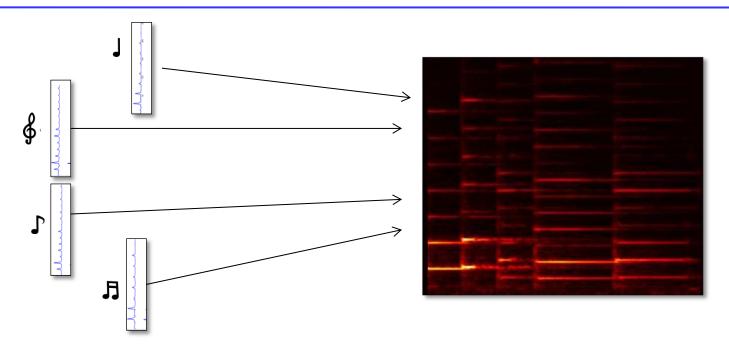
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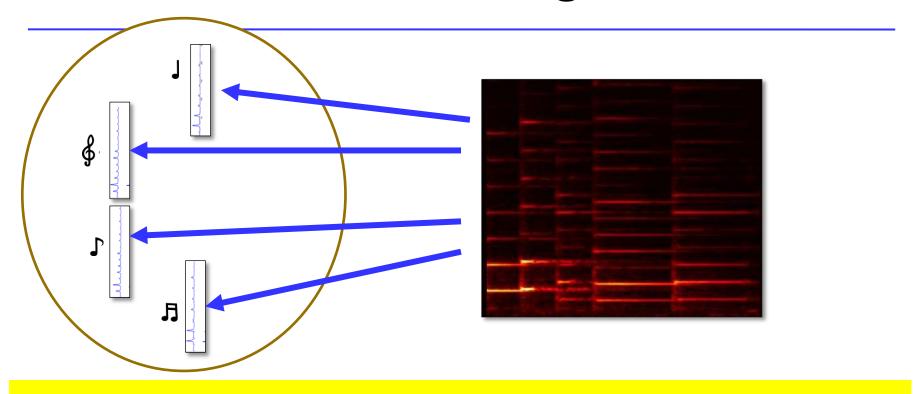


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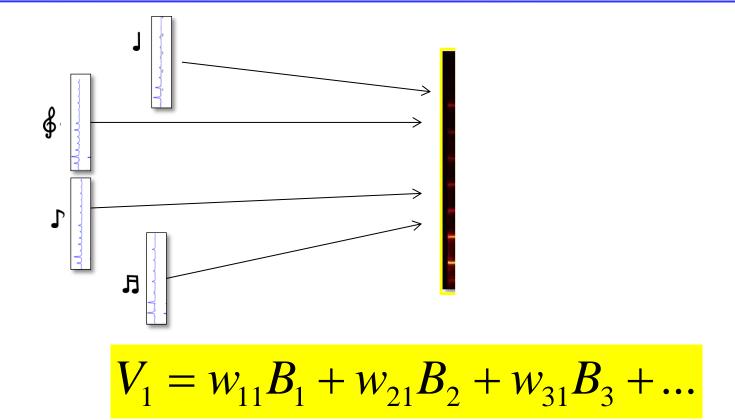
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The Problem of Learning



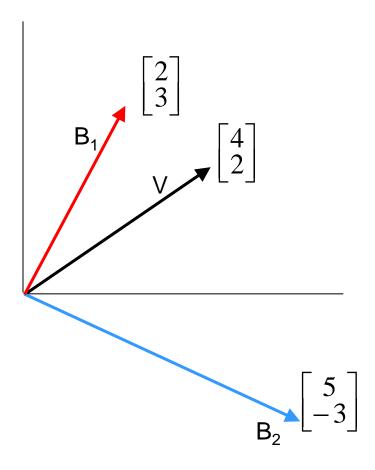
- Given only the final sound, determine its building blocks
 - From only listening to music, learn all about musical notes!

In Math

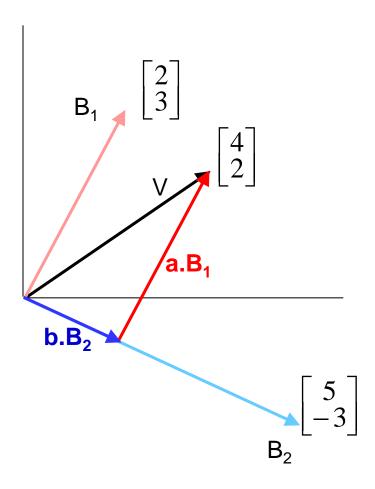


- Each frame is a non-negative power spectral vector
- Each note is a non-negative power spectral vector
- Each frame is a non-negative combination of the notes

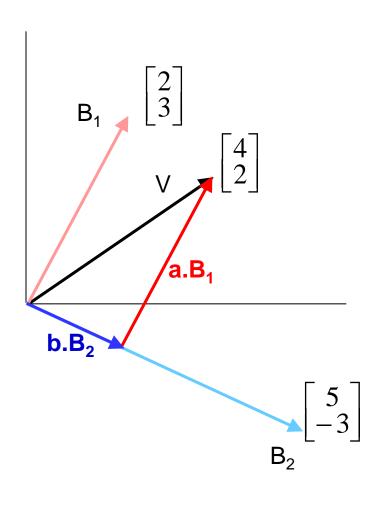
Expressing a vector in terms of other vectors



Expressing a vector in terms of other vectors



Expressing a vector in terms of other vectors



$$2.a + 5.b = 4$$

 $3.a + -3.b = 2$

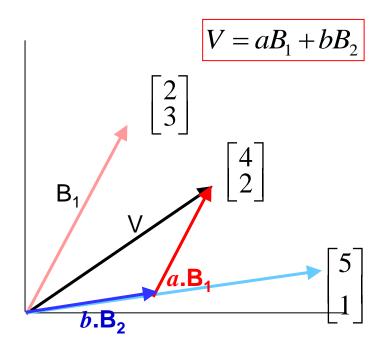
$$\begin{bmatrix} 2 & 5 \\ 3 & -3 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} a \\ b \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} a \\ b \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 5 \\ 3 & -3 \end{bmatrix}^{-1} \begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} a \\ b \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1.04761905 \\ 0.38095238 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$V = 1.048B_1 + 0.381B_2$$

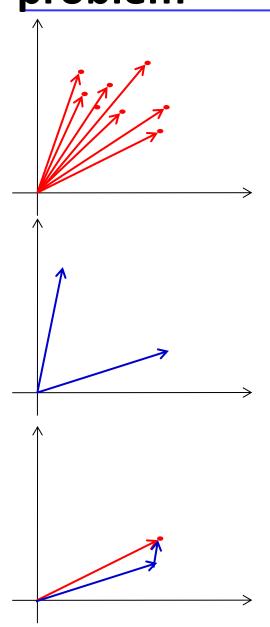
Power spectral vectors: Requirements



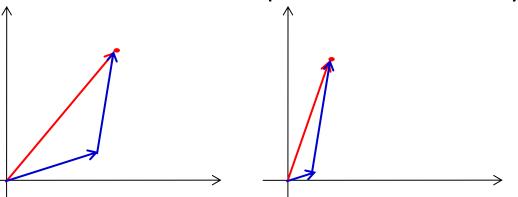
 B_2

- V has only non-negative components
 - Is a power spectrum
- B₁ and B₂ have only nonnegative components
 - Power spectra of building blocks of audio
 - E.g. power spectra of notes
- a and b are strictly nonnegative
 - Building blocks don't subtract from one another

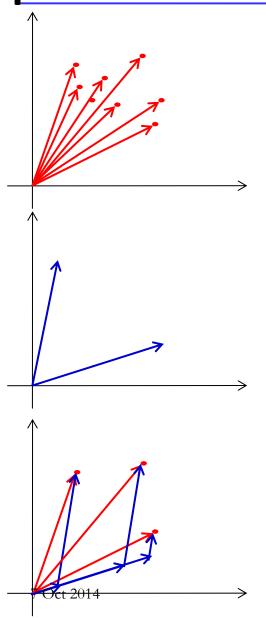
Learning building blocks: Restating the problem



- Given a collection of spectral vectors (from the composed sound) ...
- Find a set of "basic" sound spectral vectors such that ...
- All of the spectral vectors can be composed through constructive addition of the bases
 - We never have to flip the direction of any basis



Learning building blocks: Restating the problem



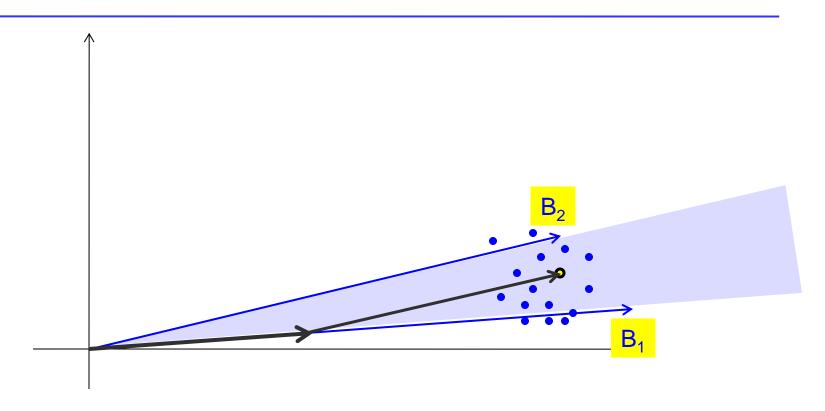
$$V = BW$$

- Each column of V is one "composed" spectral vector
- Each column of B is one building blockOne spectral basis
- Each column of W has the scaling factors for the building blocks to compose the corresponding column of V
- All columns of V are non-negative
- All entries of B and W must also be nonnegative

Non-negative matrix factorization: Basics

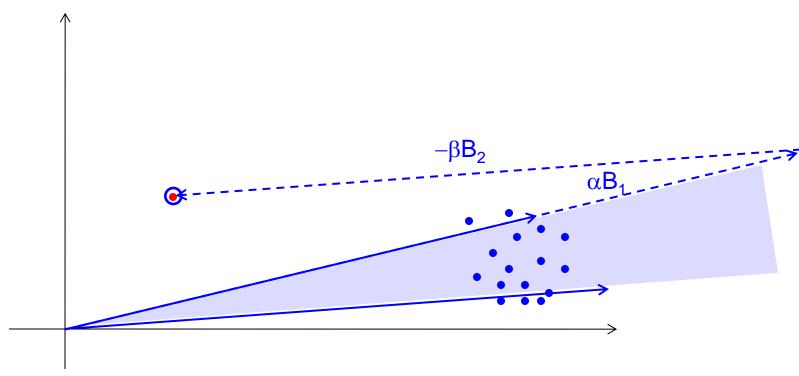
- NMF is used in a compositional model
- Data are assumed to be non-negative
 - □ E.g. power spectra
- Every data vector is explained as a purely constructive linear composition of a set of bases
 - \Box $V = \Sigma_i W_i B_i$
 - \Box The bases B_i are in the same domain as the data
 - I.e. they are power spectra
- Constructive composition: no subtraction allowed
 - Weights w_i must all be non-negative
 - All components of bases B_i must also be non-negative

Interpreting non-negative factorization



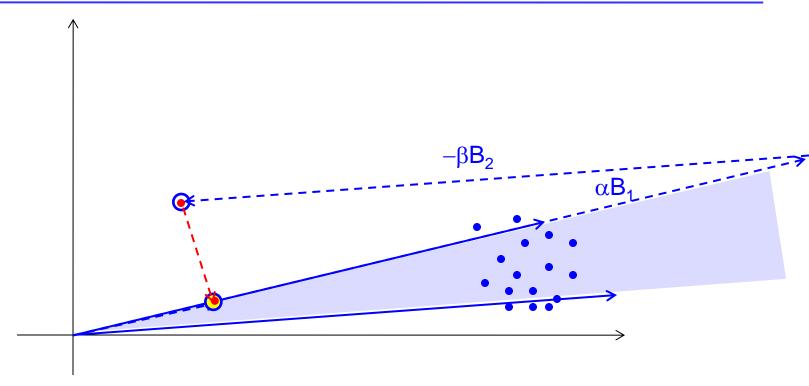
- Bases are non-negative, lie in the positive quadrant
- Blue lines represent bases, blue dots represent vectors
- Any vector that lies between the bases (highlighted region) can be expressed as a non-negative combination of bases

Interpreting non-negative factorization



- Vectors outside the shaded enclosed area can only be expressed as a linear combination of the bases by reversing a basis
 - I.e. assigning a negative weight to the basis
 - E.g. the red dot
 - Alpha and beta are scaling factors for bases
 - Beta weighting is negative

Interpreting non-negative factorization

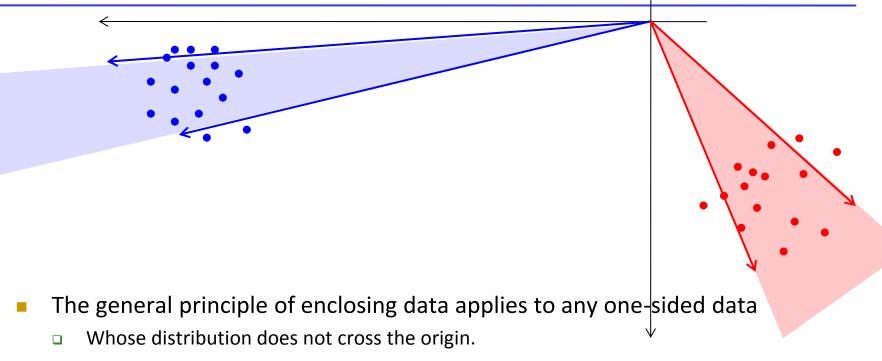


- If we approximate the red dot as a non-negative combination of the bases, the approximation will lie in the shaded region
 - On or close to the boundary
 - The approximation has error

The NMF representation

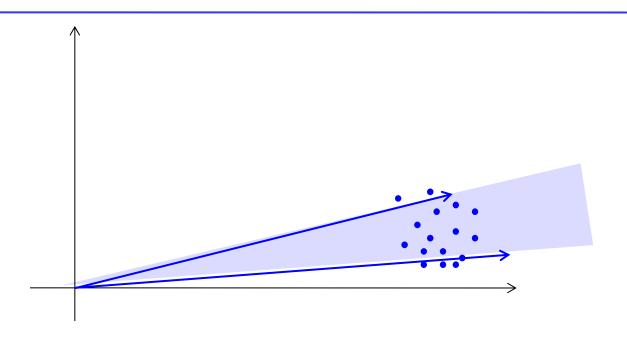
- The representation characterizes all data as lying within a compact convex region
 - □ "Compact" → enclosing only a small fraction of the entire space
 - The more compact the enclosed region, the more it localizes the data within it
 - Represents the boundaries of the distribution of the data better
 - Conventional statistical models represent the mode of the distribution
- The bases must be chosen to
 - Enclose the data as compactly as possible
 - And also enclose as much of the data as possible
 - Data that are not enclosed are not represented correctly

Data need not be non-negative



- The only part of the model that must be non-negative are the weights.
- Examples
 - Blue bases enclose blue region in negative quadrant
 - Red bases enclose red region in positive-negative quadrant
- Notions of compactness and enclosure still apply
 - □ This is a generalization of NMF
 - We wont discuss it further

NMF: Learning Bases

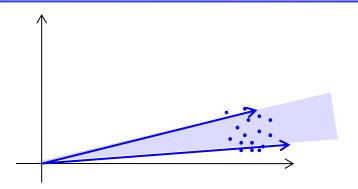


- Given a collection of data vectors (blue dots)
- Goal: find a set of bases (blue arrows) such that they enclose the data.
- Ideally, they must simultaneously enclose the smallest volume
 - This "enclosure" constraint is usually not explicitly imposed in the standard NMF formulation

NMF: Learning Bases

- Express every training vector as non-negative combination of bases
 - $V = \Sigma_i W_i B_i$
- In linear algebraic notation, represent:
 - Set of all training vectors as a data matrix V
 - A DxN matrix, D = dimensionality of vectors, N = No. of vectors
 - All basis vectors as a matrix B
 - A DxK matrix , K is the number of bases
 - The K weights for any vector V as a Kx1 column vector W
 - lue The weight vectors for all N training data vectors as a matrix $oldsymbol{\mathsf{W}}$
 - KxN matrix
- Ideally V = BW

NMF: Learning Bases



- V = BW will only hold true if all training vectors in V lie inside the region enclosed by the bases
- Learning bases is an iterative algorithm
- Intermediate estimates of B do not satisfy V = BW
- Algorithm updates B until V = BW is satisfied as closely as possible

NMF: Minimizing Divergence

- Define a Divergence between data V and approximation BW
 - □ Divergence(V, BW) is the total error in approximating all vectors in V as BW
 - Must estimate B and W so that this error is minimized
- Divergence(V, BW) can be defined in different ways
 - □ L2: Divergence = $\Sigma_i \Sigma_i (V_{ij} (BW)_{ij})^2$
 - Minimizing the L2 divergence gives us an algorithm to learn B and W
 - □ KL: Divergence(\mathbf{V} , $\mathbf{B}\mathbf{W}$) = $\Sigma_i \Sigma_j V_{ij} \log(V_{ij} / (BW)_{ij}) + \Sigma_i \Sigma_j V_{ij} \Sigma_i \Sigma_j (BW)_{ij}$
 - This is a generalized KL divergence that is minimum when V = BW
 - Minimizing the KL divergence gives us another algorithm to learn B and W

Other divergence forms can also be used

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 - Minimizing the KL divergence gives us another algorithm to learn B and W
- Other divergence forms can also be used

NMF: Minimizing L₂ Divergence

Divergence(V, BW) is defined as

$$\Box$$
 E = | | **V** - **BW** | |_F²

$$\Box E = \sum_{i} \sum_{j} (V_{ij} - (BW)_{ij})^{2}$$

Iterative solution: Minimize E such that B and
 W are strictly non-negative

NMF: Minimizing L2 Divergence

- Learning both B and W with non-negativity
- Divergence(V, BW) is defined as

$$\Box$$
 E = | | **V** - **BW** | |_F²

$$V \approx BW$$

Iterative solution:

- □ B = [V Pinv(W)]₊
- □ B = [Pinv(B) V]₊
- Subscript + indicates thresholding –ve values to 0

NMF: Minimizing Divergence

- Define a Divergence between data V and approximation BW
 - □ Divergence(V, BW) is the total error in approximating all vectors in V as BW
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 - Minimizing the L2 divergence gives us an algorithm to learn B and W
 - \square KL: Divergence(**V**,**BW**) = $\Sigma_i \Sigma_j V_{ij} \log(V_{ij} / (BW)_{ij}) + \Sigma_i \Sigma_j V_{ij} \Sigma_i \Sigma_j (BW)_{ij}$
 - This is a generalized KL divergence that is minimum when V = BW
 - Minimizing the KL divergence gives us another algorithm to learn B and W
- For speech signals and sound processing in general, NMF-based representations work best when we minimize the KL divergence

NMF: Minimizing KL Divergence

Divergence(V, BW) defined as

$$\square E = \sum_{i} \sum_{j} V_{ij} \log(V_{ij} / (BW)_{ij}) + \sum_{i} \sum_{j} V_{ij} - \sum_{i} \sum_{j} (BW)_{ij}$$

- Iterative update rules
- Number of iterative update rules have been proposed
- The most popular one is the multiplicative update rule..

NMF Estimation: Learning bases

- The algorithm to estimate B and W to minimize the KL divergence between **V** and **BW**:
- Initialize B and W (randomly)
- Iteratively update **B** and **W** using the following formulae

$$B = B \otimes \frac{\left(\frac{V}{BW}\right)W^{T}}{1W^{T}}$$

$$B = B \otimes \frac{\left(\frac{V}{BW}\right)W^{T}}{1W^{T}} \qquad W = W \otimes \frac{B^{T}\left(\frac{V}{BW}\right)}{B^{T}1}$$

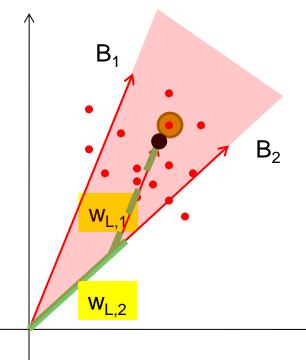
- Iterations continue until divergence converges
 - In practice, continue for a fixed no. of iterations

Reiterating

$$V_{D\times N} \approx B_{D\times K} W_{K\times N}$$

$$V_L \approx \sum_k w_{L,k} B_k$$

- NMF learns the *optimal set of basis vectors* B_k to approximate the data in terms of the bases
- It also learns how to compose the data in terms of these bases
 - Compositions can be inexact

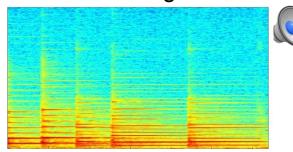


The columns of **B** are the bases

The columns of **V** are the data

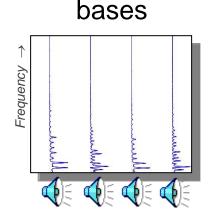
Learning building blocks of sound

From Bach's Fugue in Gm



$$V = BW$$

Each column of V is one spectral vector

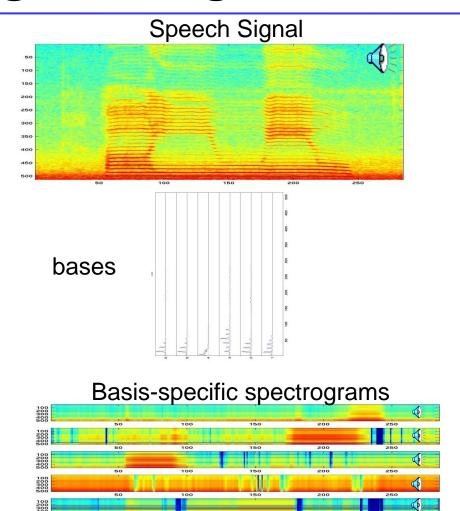


- Each column of **B** is one building block/basis
- Each column of W has the scaling factors for the bases to compose the corresponding column of V
- All terms are non-negative
- Learn B (and W) by applying NMF to V

Time →

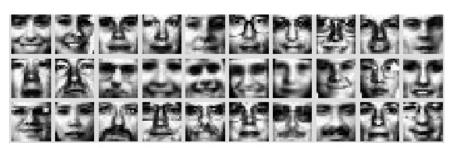
7 Oct 2014 41

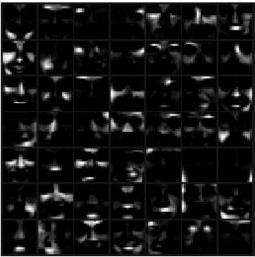
Learning Building Blocks



7 Oct 2014 42

What about other data





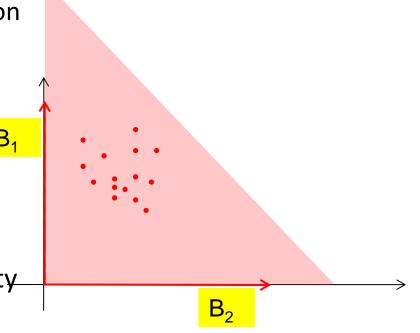
Faces

- Trained 49 multinomial components on 2500 faces
 - Each face unwrapped into a 361-dimensional vector

Discovers parts of faces

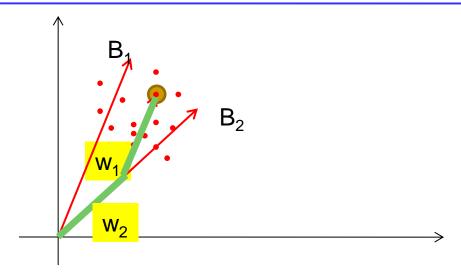
There is no "compactness" constraint

- No explicit "compactness" constraint on bases
- The red lines would be perfect bases:
 - Enclose all training data without error
 - Algorithm can end up with these bases
 - If no. of bases K >= dimensionality_
 D, can get uninformative bases



- If K < D, we usually learn compact representations
 - NMF becomes a dimensionality reducing representation
 - Representing D-dimensional data in terms of K weights, where K < D

Representing Data using Known Bases



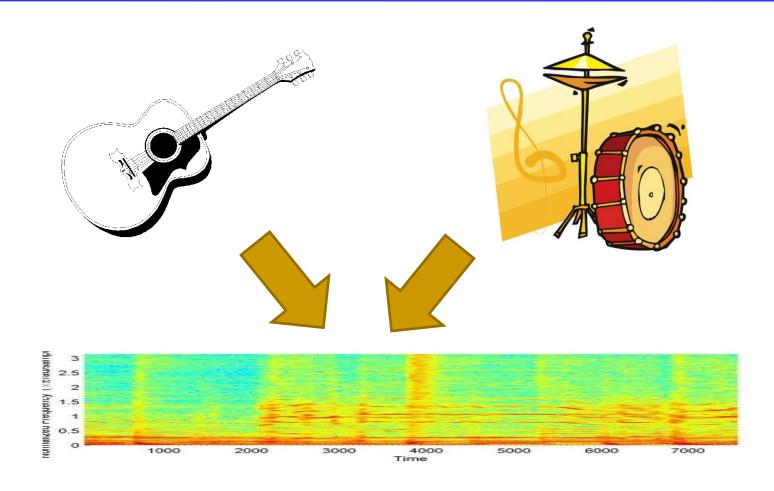
- If we already have bases B_k and are given a vector that must be expressed in terms of the bases: $V \approx \sum_k w_k B_k$
- Estimate weights as:
 - Initialize weights
 - Iteratively update them using

$$W = W \otimes \frac{B^T \left(\frac{V}{BW}\right)}{B^T 1}$$

What can we do knowing the building blocks

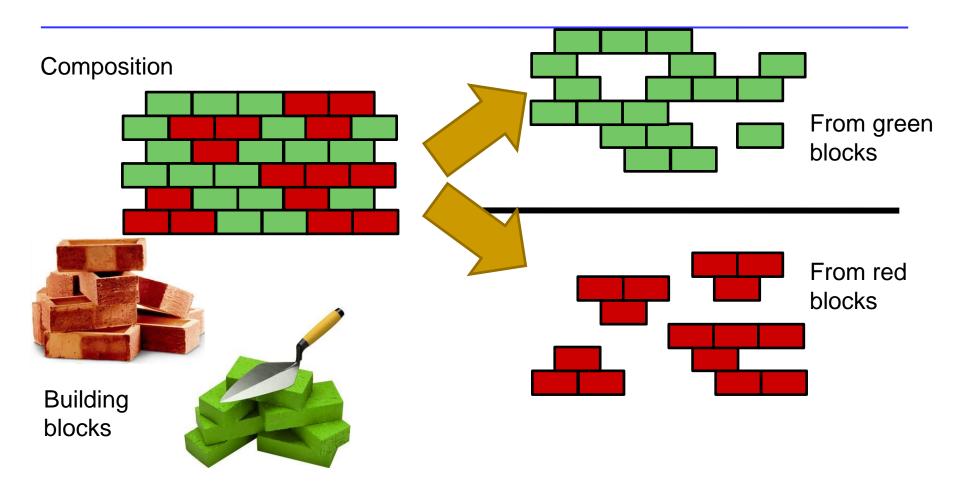
- Signal Representation
- Signal Separation
- Signal Completion
- Denoising
- Signal recovery
- Music Transcription
- Etc.

Signal Separation

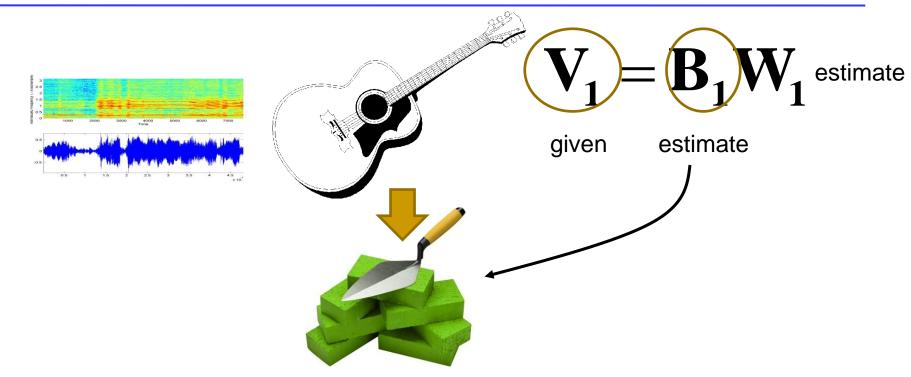


Can we separate mixed signals?

Undoing a Jigsaw Puzzle

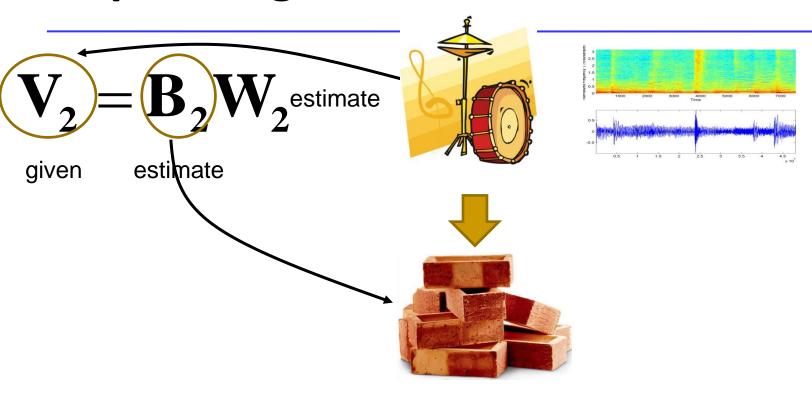


Given two distinct sets of building blocks, can we find which parts of a composition were
 7 Oct @@mposed from which blocks

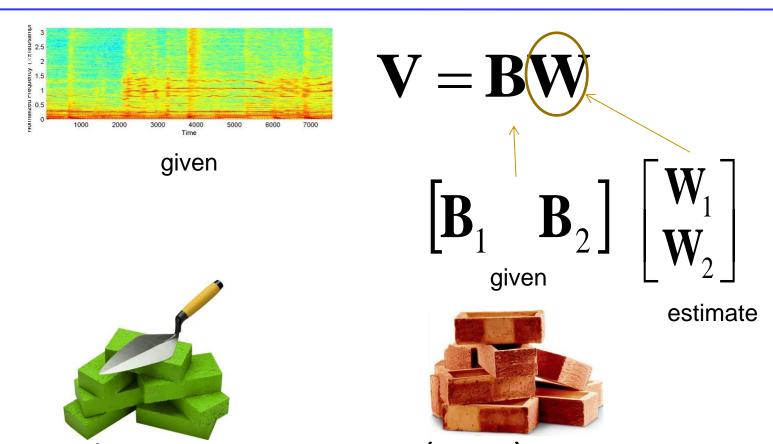


From example of A, learn blocks A (NMF)

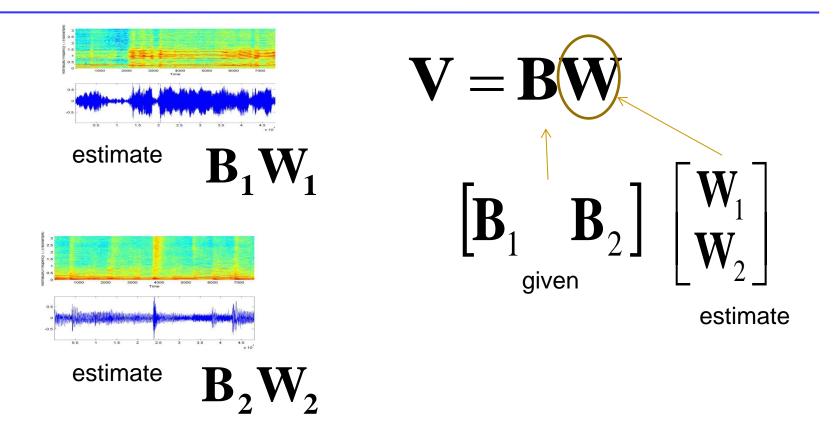
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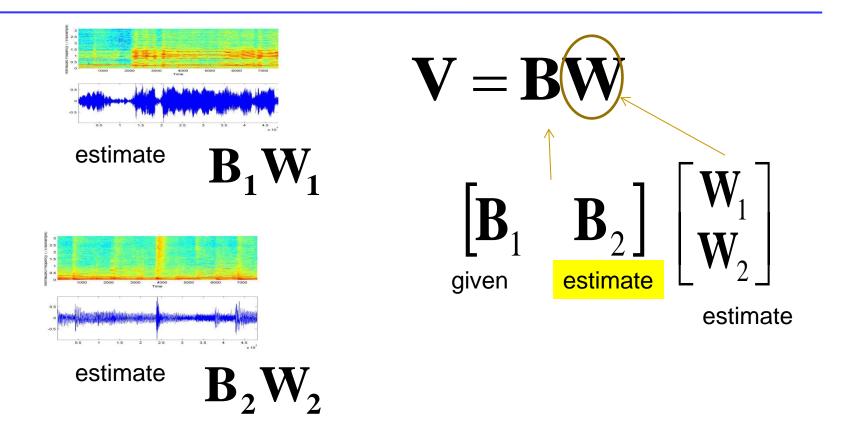
- From example of A, learn blocks A (NMF)
- From example of B, learn B (NMF)



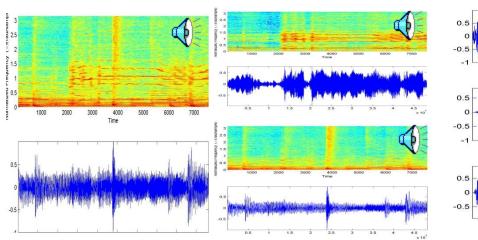
- From mixture, separate out (NMF)
 - Use known "bases" of both sources
 - Estimate the weights with which they combine in the

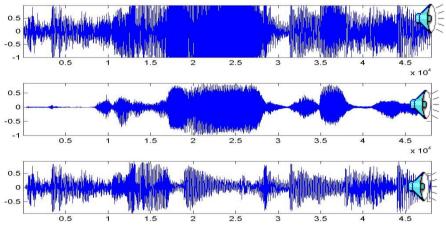


 Separated signals are estimated as the contributions of the source-specific bases to the mixed signal



- It is sometimes sufficient to know the bases for only one source
- □ The bases for the other can be estimated from the ^{7 Oct 2014}mixed signal itself



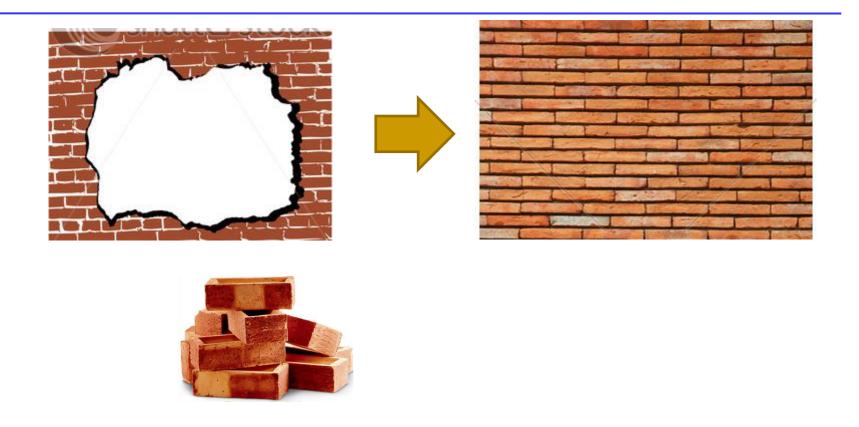


- "Raise my rent" by David Gilmour
- Background music "bases" learnt from 5-seconds of music-only segments within the song
- Lead guitar "bases" bases learnt from the rest of the song

- Norah Jones singing "Sunrise"
- Background music bases learnt from 5 seconds of music-only segments

7 Oct 2014 54

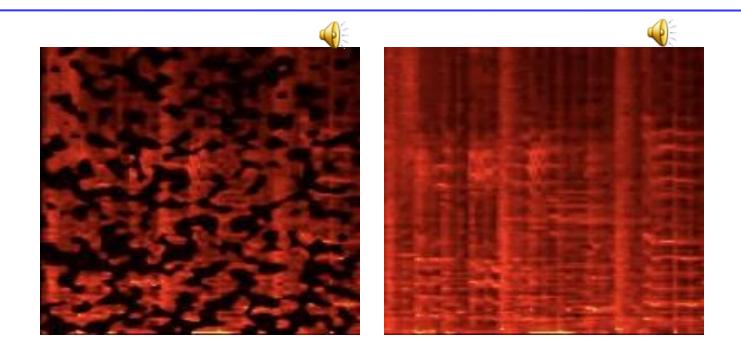
Predicting Missing Data



Use the building blocks to fill in "holes"

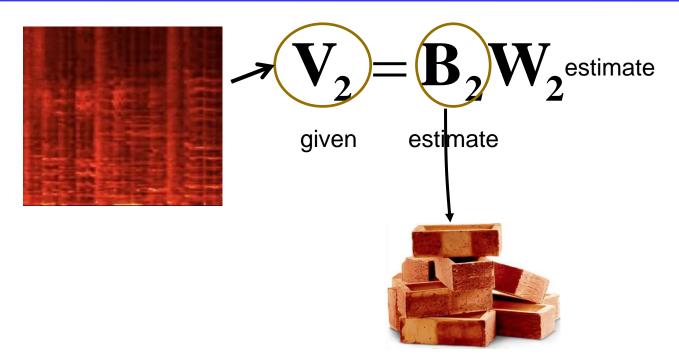
7 Oct 2014 55

Filling in



- Some frequency components are missing (left panel)
- We know the bases
 - But not the mixture weights for any particular spectral frame
- We must "fill in" the holes in the spectrogram
 - To obtain the one to the right

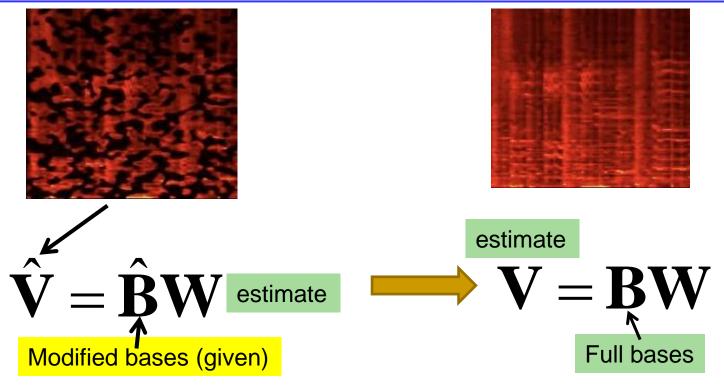
Learn building blocks



- Learn the building blocks from other examples of similar sounds
 - E.g. music by same singer
 - E.g. from undamaged regions of same recording

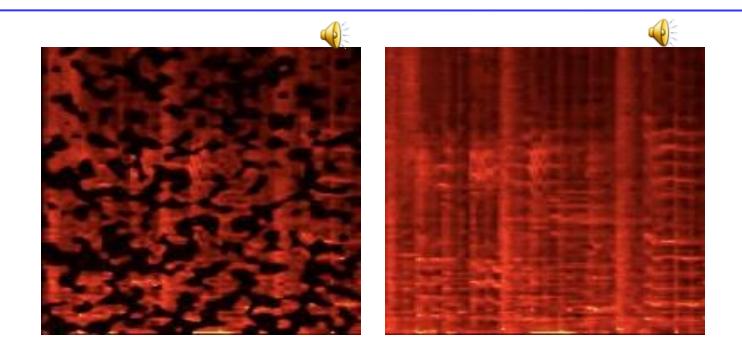
Predict data





- "Modify" bases to look like damaged spectra
 - Remove appropriate spectral components
- Learn how to compose damaged data with modified bases
- Reconstruct missing regions with complete bases

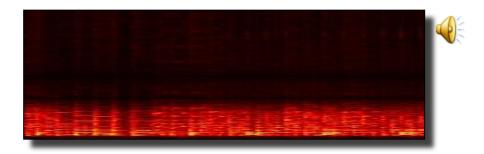
Filling in : An example



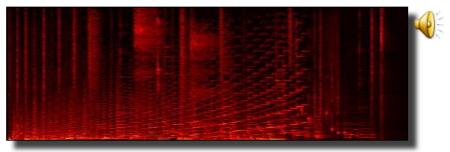
- Madonna...
- Bases learned from other Madonna songs

A more fun example

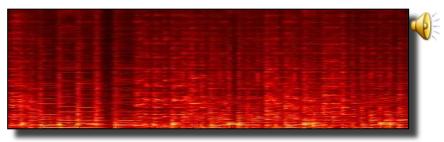
Reduced BW data



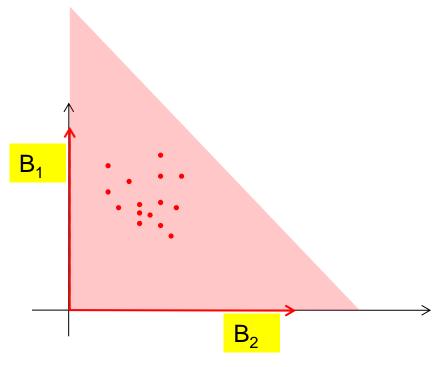
Bases learned from this



•Bandwidth expanded version



A Natural Restriction



- For K-dimensional data, can learn no more than K-1 bases meaningufully
 - At K bases, simply select the axes as bases
 - □ The bases will represent *all* data exactly

7 Oct 2014

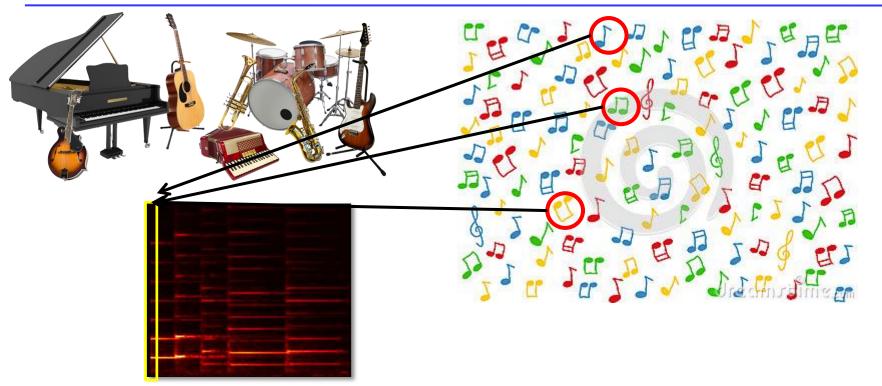
Its an unnatural restriction



- For K-dimensional spectra, can learn no more than K-1 bases
- Nature does not respect the dimensionality of your spectrogram
- E.g. Music: There are tens of instruments
 - Each can produce dozens of unique notes
 - Amounting to a total of many thousands of notes
 - Many more than the dimensionality of the spectrum
- E.g. images: a 1024 pixel image can show millions of recognizable pictures!
 - Many more than the number of pixels in the image

7 Oct 2014 62

Fixing the restriction: Updated model



- Can have a very large number of building blocks (bases)
 - E.g. notes
- But any particular frame is composed of only a small subset of bases
 - E.g. any single frame only has a small set of notes

The Modified Model

$$V = BW$$

$$V = \mathbf{B} W$$
 For one vector

Modification 1:

- In any column of W, only a small number of entries have nonzero value
- □ I.e. the columns of **W** are *sparse*
- These are sparse representations

Modification 2:

- B may have more columns than rows
- These are called overcomplete representations
- Sparse representations need not be overcomplete, but the reverse will generally not provide useful

Imposing Sparsity

$$\mathbf{V} = \mathbf{BW}$$

$$E = Div(\mathbf{V}, \mathbf{BW})$$

$$Q = Div(\mathbf{V}, \mathbf{BW}) + \lambda |\mathbf{W}|_{0}$$

- Minimize a modified objective function
- Combines divergence and ell-0 norm of W
 - The number of non-zero elements in W
- Minimize Q instead of E
 - Simultaneously minimizes both divergence and number of active bases at any time

Imposing Sparsity

$$\mathbf{V} = \mathbf{BW}$$

$$Q = Div(\mathbf{V}, \mathbf{BW}) + \lambda |\mathbf{W}|_{0}$$

$$Q = Div(\mathbf{V}, \mathbf{BW}) + \lambda |\mathbf{W}|_{1}$$

- Minimize the ell-0 norm is hard
 - Combinatorial optimization
- Minimize ell-1 norm instead
 - The sum of all the entries in W
 - Relaxation
- Is equivalent to minimize ell-0
 - We cover this equivalence later
- Will also result in sparse solutions

Update Rules

- Modified Iterative solutions
 - \square In gradient based solutions, gradient w.r.t any W term now includes λ
 - □ I.e. if $dQ/dW = dE/dW + \lambda$
- For KL Divergence, results in following modified update rules

$$B = B \otimes \frac{\left(\frac{V}{BW}\right)W^{T}}{1W^{T}}$$

$$B = B \otimes \frac{\left(\frac{V}{BW}\right)W^{T}}{1W^{T}}$$

$$W = W \otimes \frac{B^{T}\left(\frac{V}{BW}\right)}{B^{T}1 + \lambda}$$

Increasing λ makes the weights increasingly sparse

Update Rules

- Modified Iterative solutions
 - \square In gradient based solutions, gradient w.r.t any W term now includes λ
 - □ I.e. if $dQ/dW = dE/dW + \lambda$
- Both **B** and **W** can be made sparse

$$B = B \otimes \frac{\left(\frac{V}{BW}\right)W^{T}}{1W^{T} + \lambda_{b}}$$

$$B = B \otimes \frac{\left(\frac{V}{BW}\right)W^{T}}{1W^{T} + \lambda_{b}} \qquad W = W \otimes \frac{B^{T}\left(\frac{V}{BW}\right)}{B^{T}1 + \lambda_{w}}$$

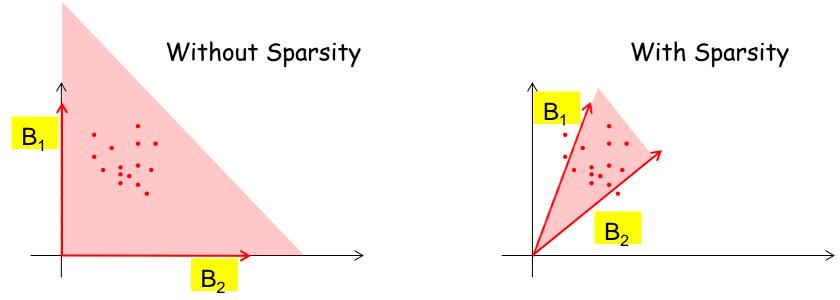
What about Overcompleteness?

- Use the same solutions
- Simply make B wide!
 - W must be made sparse

$$B = B \otimes \frac{\left(\frac{V}{BW}\right)W^{T}}{1W^{T}}$$

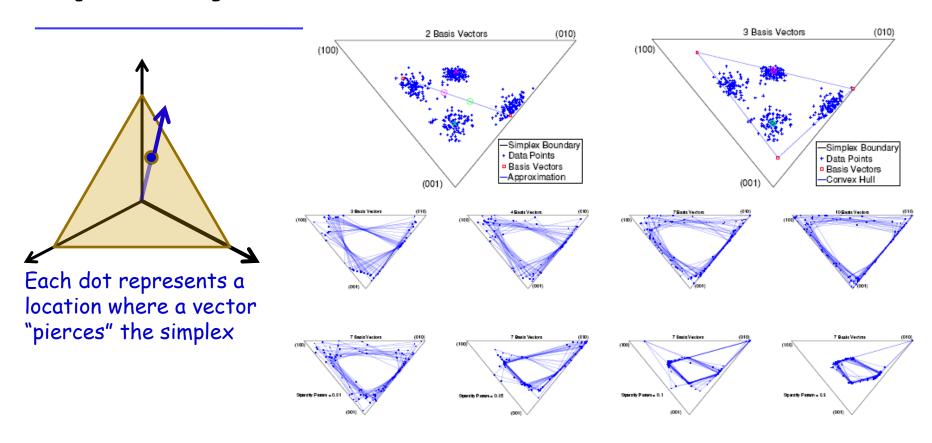
$$W = W \otimes \frac{B^{T} \left(\frac{V}{BW}\right)}{B^{T} 1 + \lambda_{w}}$$

Sparsity: What do we learn



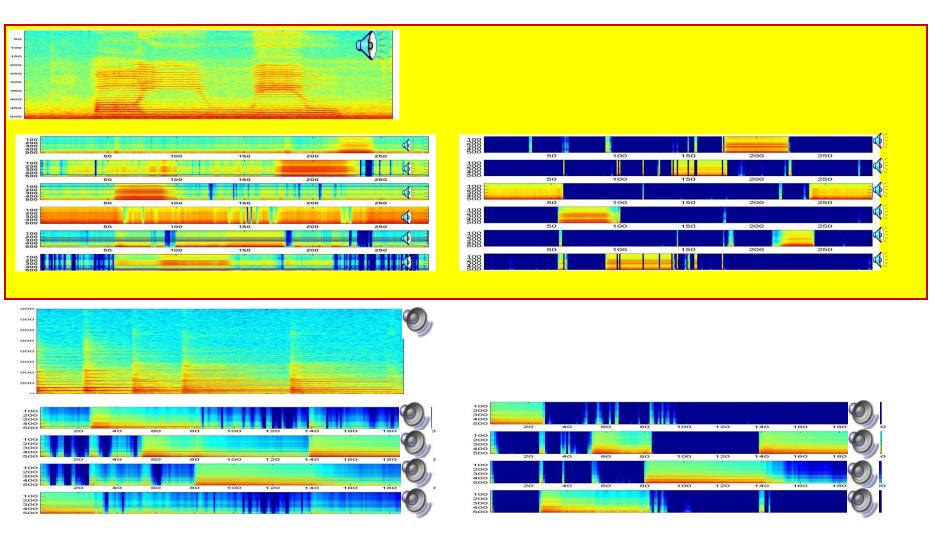
- Without sparsity: The model has an implicit limit: can learn no more than D-1 useful bases
 - If K >= D, we can get uninformative bases
- Sparsity: The bases are "pulled towards" the data
 - Representing the distribution of the data much more effectively

Sparsity: What do we learn



- Top and middle panel: Compact (non-sparse) estimator
 - As the number of bases increases, bases migrate towards corners of the orthant
- Bottom panel: Sparse estimator
 - Cone formed by bases shrinks to fit the data

The Vowels and Music Examples

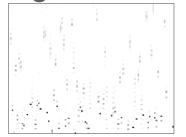


- Left panel, Compact learning: most bases have significant energy in all frames
- Right panel, Sparse learning: Fewer bases active within any frame
 - Decomposition into basic sounds is cleaner

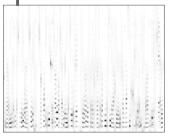
Sparse Overcomplete Bases: Separation

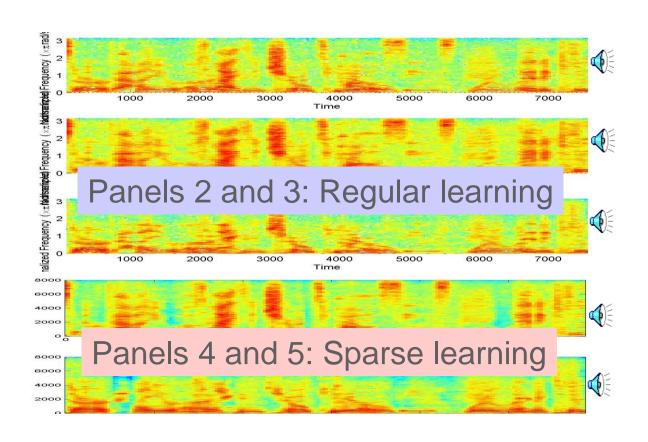
- 3000 bases for each of the speakers
 - The speaker-to-speaker ratio typically doubles (in dB) w.r.t compact bases

Regular bases



Sparse bases

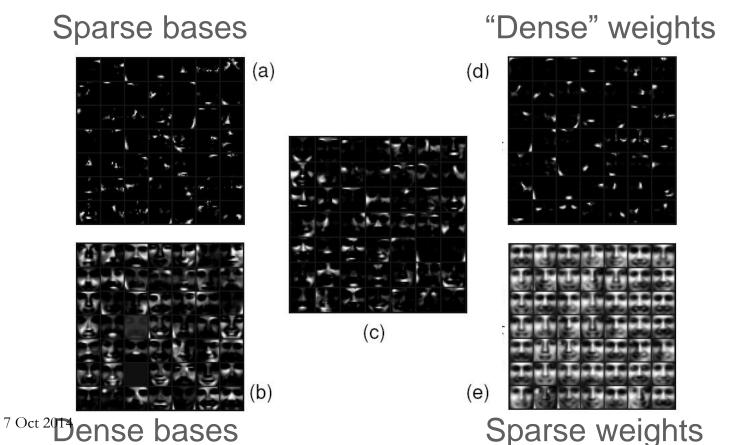




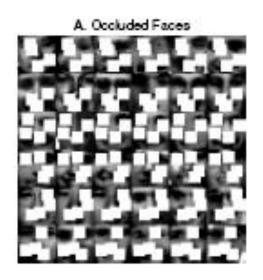
7 Oct 2014 73

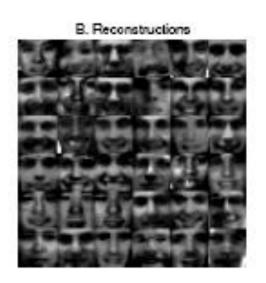
Sparseness: what do we learn

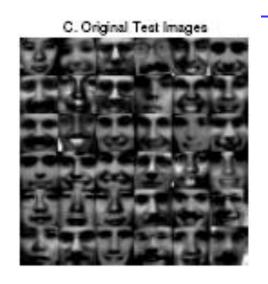
- As solutions get more sparse, bases become more informative
 - □ In the limit, each basis is a complete face by itself.
 - Mixture weights simply select face



Filling in missing information

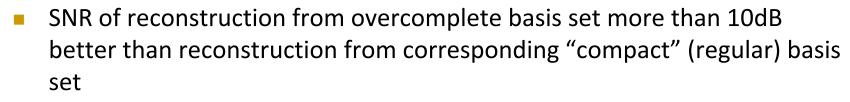


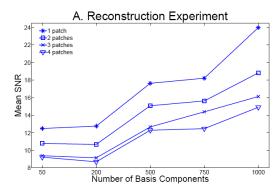




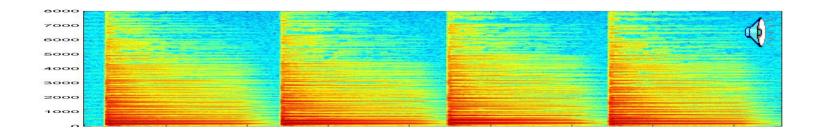




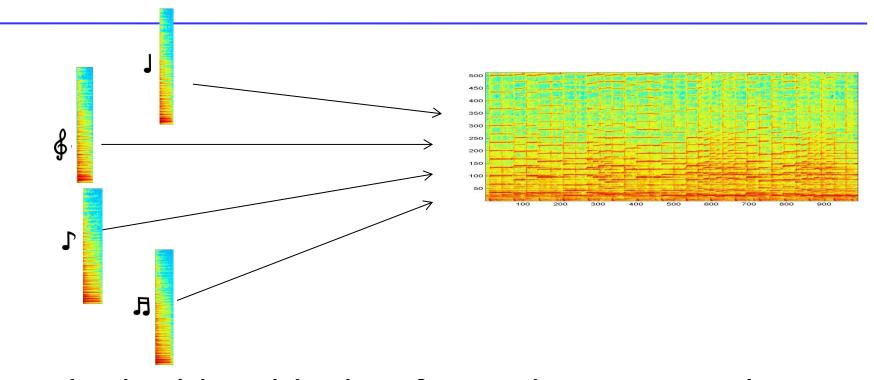




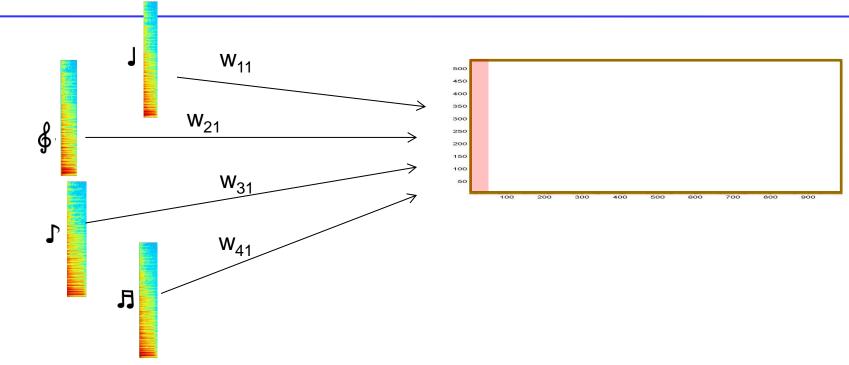
Extending the model



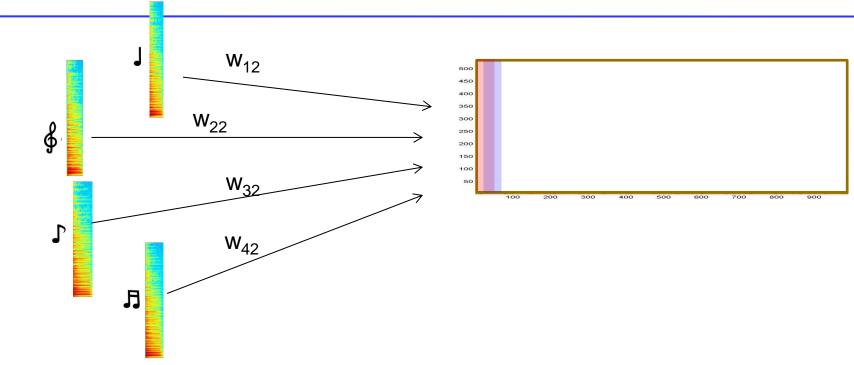
- In reality our building blocks are not spectra
- They are spectral patterns!
 - Which change with time



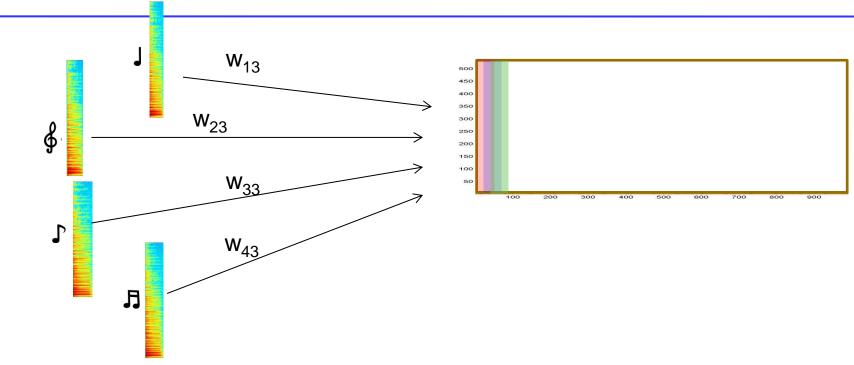
The building blocks of sound are spectral patches!



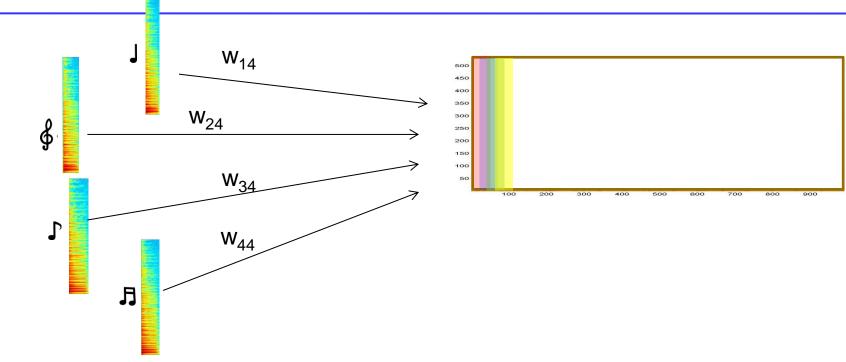
- The building blocks of sound are spectral patches!
- At each time, they combine to compose a patch starting from that time
- Overlapping patches add



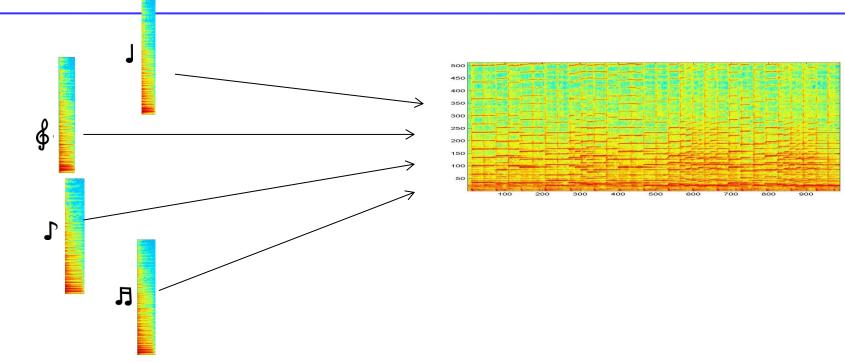
- The building blocks of sound are spectral patches!
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- The building blocks of sound are spectral patches!
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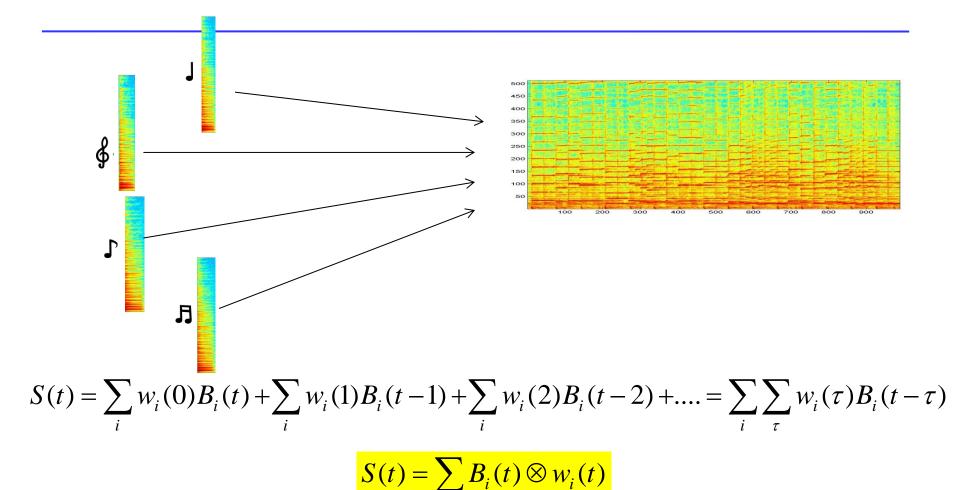


- The building blocks of sound are spectral patches!
- At each time, they combine to compose a patch starting from that time
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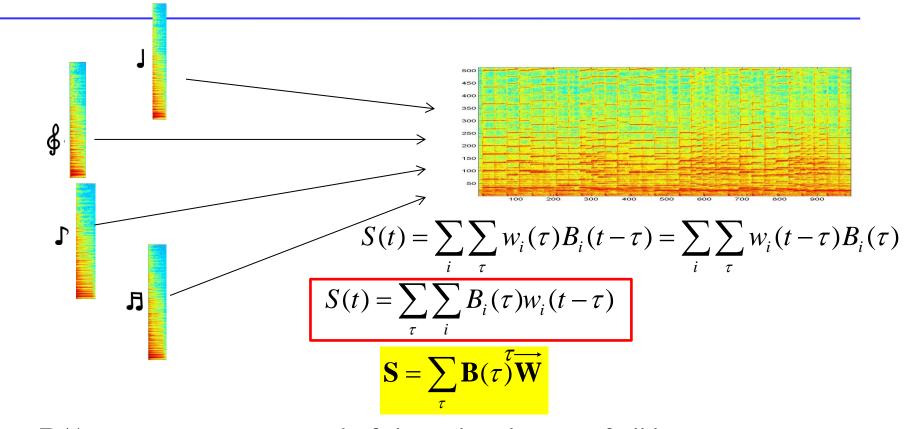
- The building blocks of sound are spectral patches!
- At each time, they combine to compose a patch starting from that time
- Overlapping patches add

In Math



Each spectral frame has contributions from 7 Oct Several previous shifts

An Alternate Repesentation



- $lackbox{\bf B}(t)$ is a matrix composed of the t-th columns of all bases
 - The i-th column represents the i-th basis
- W is a matrix whose i-th row is sequence of weights applied to the i-th basis



$$\mathbf{B}(t) = \mathbf{B}(t) \otimes \frac{\mathbf{S}}{\mathbf{\hat{S}}} \mathbf{W}^{T}$$

$$\mathbf{W} = \frac{1}{T} \sum_{t} \mathbf{W} \otimes \frac{\mathbf{B}(t) \left[\mathbf{S} \right]}{\mathbf{B}(t)^{T} \mathbf{1}}$$

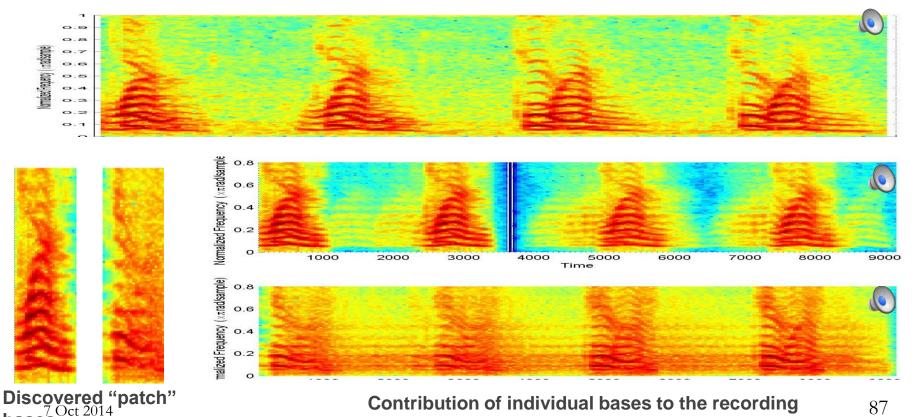
$$\mathbf{W} = \frac{1}{T} \sum_{t} \mathbf{W} \otimes \frac{\mathbf{B}(t) \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{S} \\ \hat{\mathbf{S}} \end{bmatrix}}{\mathbf{B}(t)^{T} \mathbf{1}}$$

- Simple learning rules for **B** and **W**
- Identical rules to estimate W given B
 - Simply don't update B
- Sparsity can be imposed on **W** as before if desired

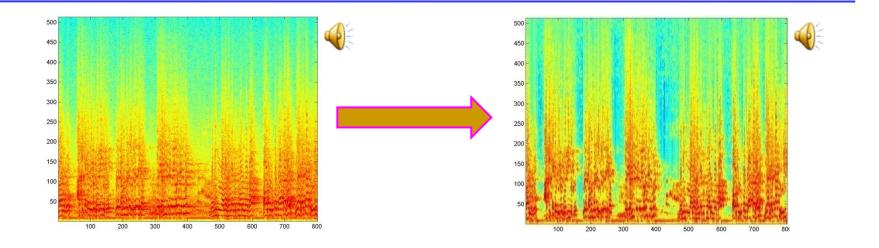
86

The Convolutive Model

- An Example: Two distinct sounds occurring with different repetition rates within a signal
 - Each sound has a time-varying spectral structure

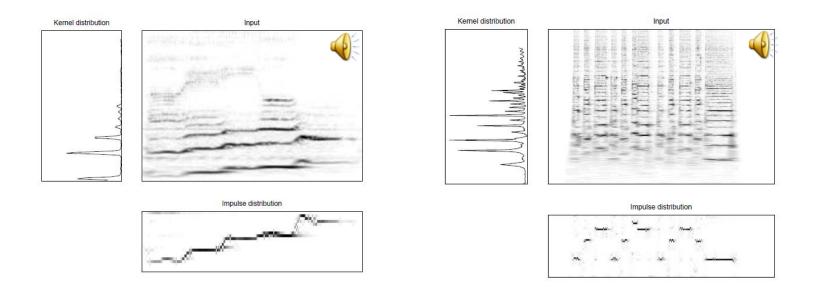


Example applications: Dereverberation



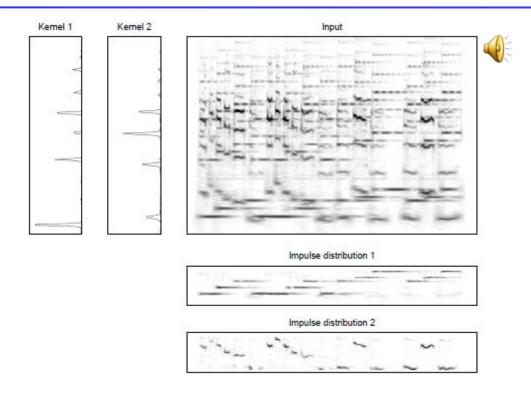
- From "Adrak ke Panje" by Babban Khan
- Treat the reverberated spectrogram as a composition of many shifted copies of a "clean" spectrogram
 - "Shift-invariant" analysis
- NMF to estimate clean spectrogram

Pitch Tracking



- Left: A segment of a song
- Right: Smoke on the water
 - "Impulse" distribution captures the "melody"!

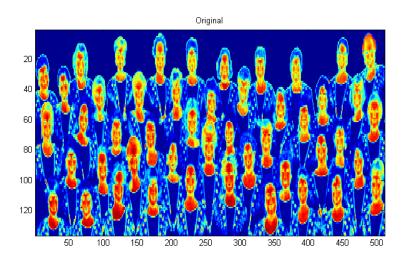
Pitch Tracking

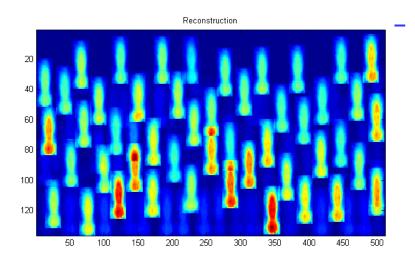


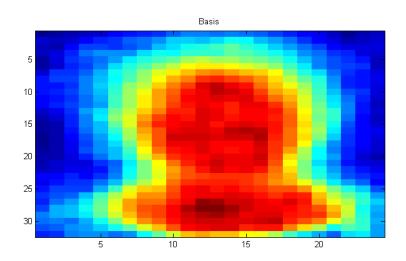
- Simultaneous pitch tracking on multiple instruments
- Can be used to find the velocity of cars on the highway!!
 - "Pitch track" of sound tracks Doppler shift (and velocity)

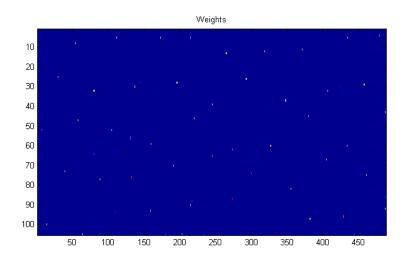
90

Example: 2-D shift invariance





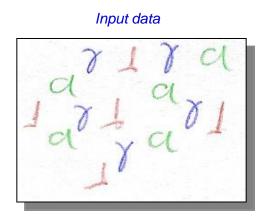


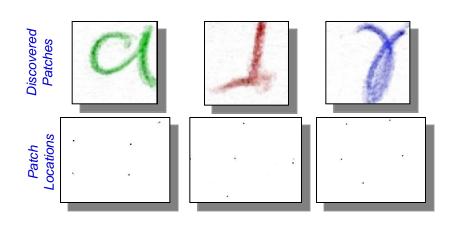


- Sparse decomposition employed in this example

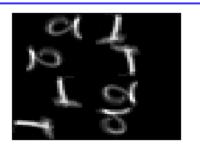
Example: 2-D shift invarince

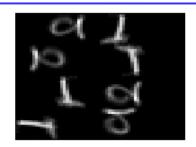
- The original figure has multiple handwritten renderings of three characters
 - In different colours
- The algorithm learns the three characters and identifies their locations in the figure



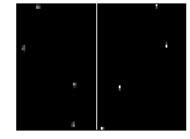


Example: Transform Invariance





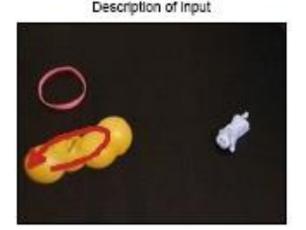


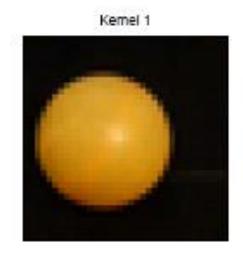


- Top left: Original figure
- Bottom left the two bases discovered
- Bottom right
 - Left panel, positions of "a"
 - Right panel, positions of "l"
- Top right: estimated distribution underlying original figure

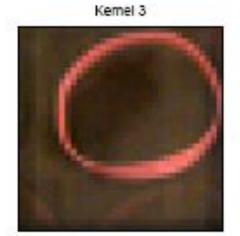
Example: Higher dimensional data

Video example Description of Input









Lessons learned

Useful compositional model of data

Really effective when the data obey compositional rules..