



# Conformalized Matrix Completion

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## Matrix completion

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- Econometrics: panel data prediction and inference
- Recommender system: collaborative filtering
- Bioinformatics: gene-disease association

### Problem setup

- Noisy and incomplete observation

$$M_{ij} = M_{ij}^* + \text{noise}, \quad (i, j) \in \mathcal{S} \subseteq [d_1] \times [d_2]$$

- Point estimation: estimate  $\mathbf{M}^*$  (low-rank)
- Point prediction: predict stochastic entries  $M_{ij}$  for  $(i, j) \in \mathcal{S}^c$

### Success of model-based matrix completion

- Model assumptions: (1) low-rank matrix:  $\text{rank}(\mathbf{M}^*) = r = O(1)$ , (2) random sampling:  $\mathbb{P}((i, j) \in \mathcal{S}) = p$  independently, (3) random i.i.d. sub-Gaussian noise, (4) incoherent and well-conditioned

- Minimax rate matches computational limit [1]

$$\|\widehat{\mathbf{M}} - \mathbf{M}^*\|_F \asymp \sigma \sqrt{n/p}$$

- **Question:** How can we quantify the uncertainty in completed entries?

### Model-based inference is feasible

- Asymptotically valid  $(1 - \alpha)$ -confidence interval for  $M_{ij}$  based on the asymptotic distribution  $\widehat{M}_{ij} - M_{ij}^* \approx \mathcal{N}(0, \theta_{ij}^2)$ :

$$C(i, j) = \widehat{M}_{ij} \pm q_{1-\alpha/2} \sqrt{\widehat{\theta}_{ij}^2 + \widehat{\sigma}^2}$$

**Question:** Is distribution-free inference possible for matrix completion?

- Free of model assumptions on the underlying matrix  $\mathbf{M}$
- Free of the choice of estimation algorithms

### Distribution-free uncertainty quantification via split conformal prediction

**Heterogeneous sampling:** each entry  $(i, j)$  is observed with probability  $p_{ij} > 0$  independently

**Question:** Why is matrix completion different from regression problem?

1. How to address the dependence between  $\mathcal{S}_{\text{tr}}$  and  $\mathcal{S}_{\text{cal}}$ ?
2. Since the “covariates”  $(i, j)$  are sampled without replacement, can we still have a tractable form of weights?

### Conformalized matrix completion (cmc)

- **Input:**  $\mathbf{M} \in \mathbb{R}^{d_1 \times d_2}$ ,  $\mathcal{S} = \{(i, j) \in [d_1] \times [d_2] \mid M_{ij} \text{ is observed}\}$

- **Step 1:** For any pre-specified  $\eta \in (0, 1)$ , draw  $W_{ij} \sim \text{Bern}(\eta)$

- **Step 2:** Data splitting  $\mathcal{S} = \mathcal{S}_{\text{tr}} \cup \mathcal{S}_{\text{cal}}$ :

$$\mathcal{S}_{\text{tr}} = \{(i, j) \in \mathcal{S} : W_{ij} = 1\}, \quad \mathcal{S}_{\text{cal}} = \{(i, j) \in \mathcal{S} : W_{ij} = 0\}.$$

- **Step 3:** With the training set  $\mathbf{M}_{\mathcal{S}_{\text{tr}}}$ ,

1. Estimate  $\widehat{\mathbf{M}} = (\widehat{M}_{ij})$  and  $\widehat{\mathbf{P}} = (\widehat{p}_{ij})$
2. Calculate a local uncertainty estimate  $\widehat{\mathbf{s}} = (\widehat{s}_{ij})$

- **Step 4:** With the calibration set,

1. Calculate the nonconformity scores  $R_{ij} = \frac{|M_{ij} - \widehat{M}_{ij}|}{\widehat{s}_{ij}}$ ,  $(i, j) \in \mathcal{S}_{\text{cal}}$
2. Calculate the weights for each  $(i, j) \in \mathcal{S}_{\text{cal}} \cup \{(i_*, j_*)\}$

$$\widehat{w}_{ij} = \frac{\widehat{h}_{ij}}{\sum_{(i', j') \in \mathcal{S}_{\text{cal}}} \widehat{h}_{i'j'} + \widehat{h}_{i_*j_*}}$$

3. Calculate the quantile for each  $(i_*, j_*)$ :

$$\widehat{q}_{i_*j_*} = \text{Quantile}_{1-\alpha} \left( \sum_{(i, j) \in \mathcal{S}_{\text{cal}}} \widehat{w}_{ij} \delta_{R_{ij}} + \widehat{w}_{i_*j_*} \delta_\infty \right)$$

- **Output:**

$$\widehat{C}(i_*, j_*) = \widehat{M}_{i_*j_*} \pm \widehat{q}_{i_*j_*} \widehat{s}_{i_*j_*}$$

## Weighted exchangeability conditioning on $\mathcal{S}_{\text{tr}}$

**Lemma.** If  $(i_*, j_*) \mid \mathcal{S} \sim \text{Unif}(\mathcal{S}^c)$ , it holds that

$$\mathbb{P}\{(i_*, j_*) = (i_k, j_k) \mid \mathcal{S}_{\text{cal}} \cup \{(i_*, j_*)\} = \mathbb{S}^{(n_{\text{cal}}+1)}, \mathcal{S}_{\text{tr}}\} = w_{i_k j_k}$$

where  $\mathbb{S}^{(n_{\text{cal}}+1)} = \{(i_1, j_1), \dots, (i_{n_{\text{cal}}+1}, j_{n_{\text{cal}}+1})\}$  is the unordered set and we define the weights

$$w_{i_k j_k} = \frac{h_{i_k j_k}}{\sum_{k'=1}^{n_{\text{cal}}+1} h_{i_{k'} j_{k'}}} \quad \text{with odds ratio} \quad h_{ij} = \frac{1 - p_{ij}}{p_{ij}}.$$

### Coverage guarantee

Define the average coverage rate over the unsampled set

$$\text{AvgCov}(\widehat{C}; \mathbf{M}, \mathcal{S}) = \frac{1}{|\mathcal{S}^c|} \sum_{(i, j) \in \mathcal{S}^c} \mathbf{1}\{M_{ij} \in \widehat{C}(i, j)\}$$

### Theorem

Conformalized matrix completion (cmc) satisfies

$$\mathbb{E}[\text{AvgCov}(\widehat{C}; \mathbf{M}, \mathcal{S})] \geq 1 - \alpha - \mathbb{E}[\Delta],$$

where  $\Delta = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{(i, j) \in \mathcal{S}_{\text{cal}} \cup \{(i_*, j_*)\}} |\widehat{w}_{ij} - w_{ij}|$

**Coverage gap with common sampling models.**

- Uniform sampling  $p_{ij} = p \implies \Delta = 0$
- Logistic missingness  $-\log(h_{ij}) = u_i + v_j$  and  $\mathbf{u}^\top \mathbf{1} = 0$ . Maximum likelihood estimator yields  $\mathbb{E}[\Delta] \lesssim \sqrt{\frac{\log(\max\{d_1, d_2\})}{\min\{d_1, d_2\}}}$
- Missingness with a general link function  $-\log(h_{ij}) = \phi(A_{ij})$  and  $\text{rank}(\mathbf{A}) = k^*$ . MLE yields  $\mathbb{E}[\Delta] \lesssim \min\{d_1, d_2\}^{-1/4}$

### Numerical simulations

**Model-based approach can be invalid**

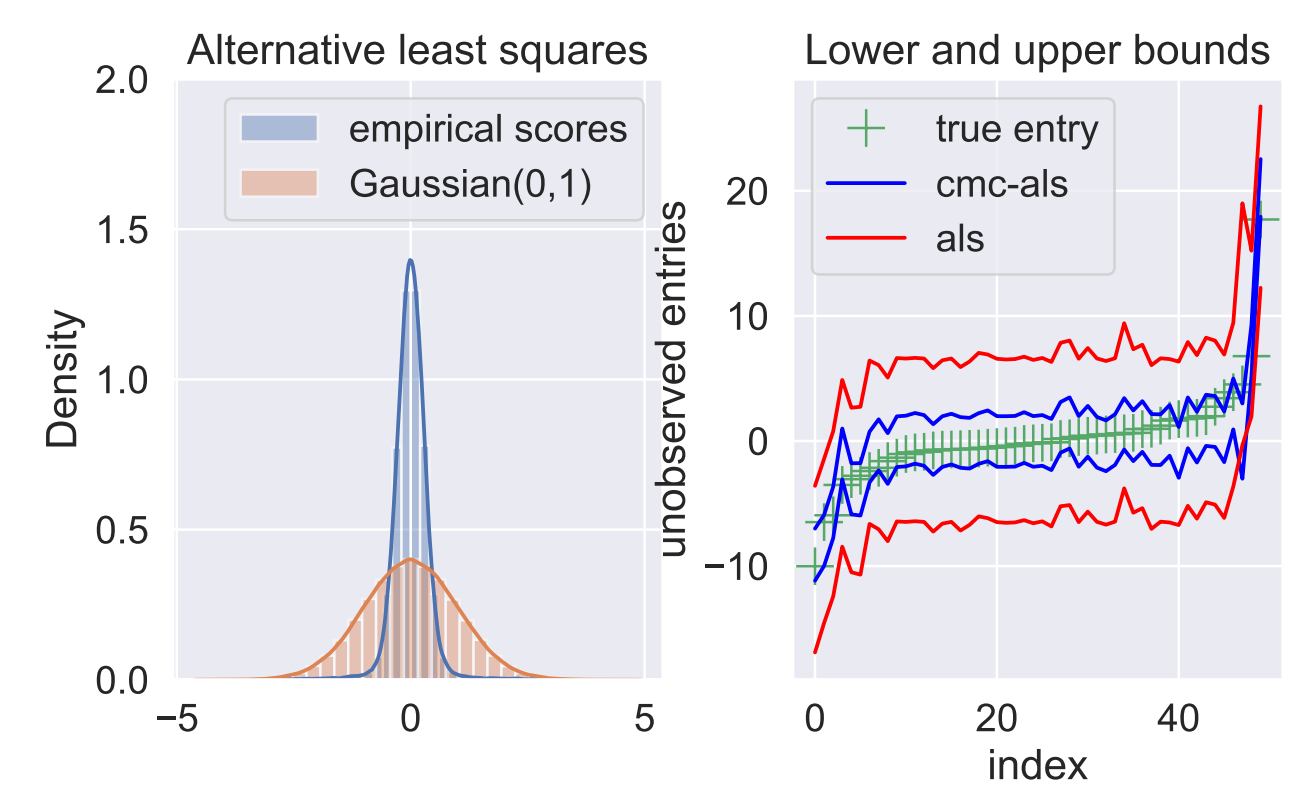
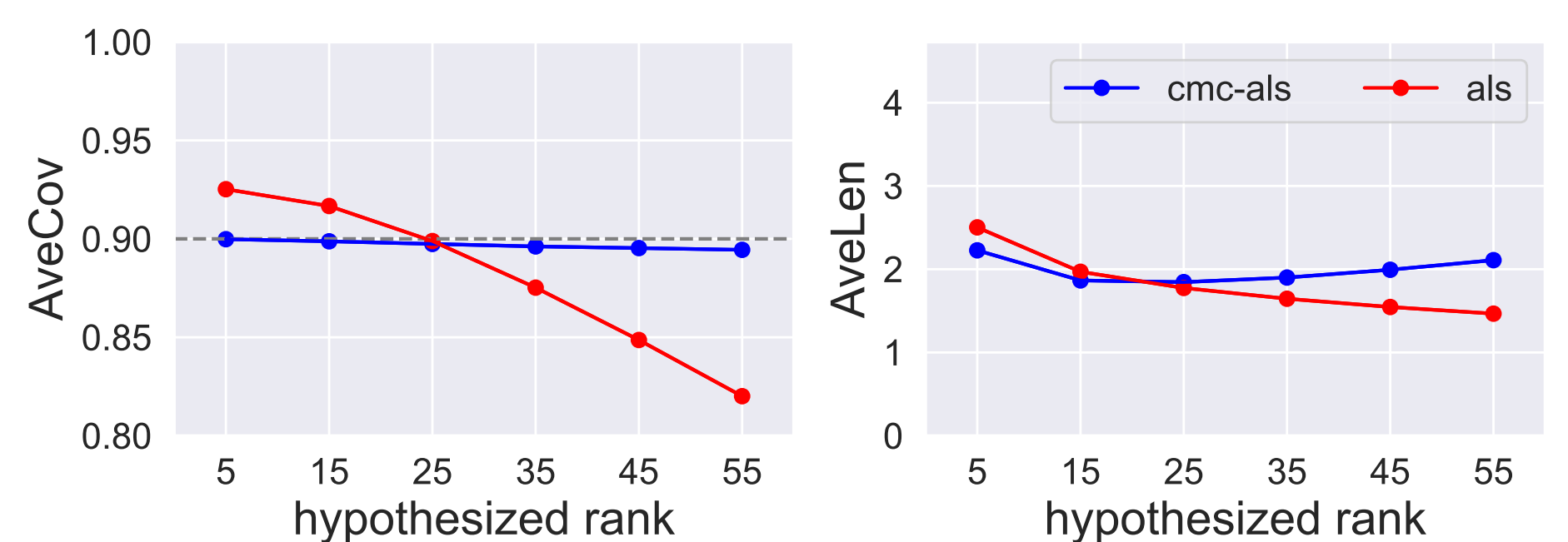


Figure 1. Violation of incoherence.

**Rossmann sales dataset**

- Heterogeneous missingness:  $p_{ij} = 0.8$  for weekdays and  $p_{ij} = 0.8/3$  for weekends;  $p_{ij} = 0.8/3$  for 200 randomly sampled stores
- Working model: one-bit model with a logistic link function
- More simulation results can be found in Gui et al. [2]



### References

- [1] Chen, Y., Chi, Y., Fan, J., Ma, C., and Yan, Y. (2020). Noisy matrix completion: Understanding statistical guarantees for convex relaxation via nonconvex optimization. *SIAM journal on optimization*, 30(4):3098–3121.
- [2] Gui, Y., Barber, R., and Ma, C. (2023). Conformalized matrix completion. In *Thirty-seventh Conference on Neural Information Processing Systems*.