# Limestone: Tensor Overview

## **Tensor Preliminaries**



Figure 1: A third-order (or 3-mode) tensor of size  $3 \times 3 \times 2$  with the tensor elements shown on the right side.

A tensor is a generalization of the matrix to multiway arrays. The number of dimensions of a tensor is known as the *order* or *mode* of the tensor. Figure 1 illustrates an example of a third-order (or 3-mode) tensor  $\mathcal{X}$  with the modes 1, 2, and 3. Element (a, b, c) of  $\mathcal{X}$  is denoted by  $x_{abc}$ ; e.g.  $x_{2,3,2} = 17$ ,  $x_{3,1,1} = 3$ , and  $x_{2,2,1} = 5$ . For the rest of the paper, vectors (first-order tensors) are denoted by lowercase boldface letters ( $\mathbf{x}$ ), matrices (second-order tensors) by uppercase boldface letters ( $\mathbf{X}$ ), and higher-order (order three or higher) tensors by Euler boldface letters ( $\mathcal{X}$ ).

*Slices* are two-dimensional sections of a tensor, defined by fixing all but two modes. Figure 1 shows the two slices obtained from fixing modes 1 and 2.

The tensor  $\mathcal{X}$  can be unfolded (or flattened) into a matrix, which reorders the tensor elements into a matrix.  $\mathbf{X}_{(n)}$  symbolizes the *mode-n matricization*. "Although matricization is conceptually simple, the formal notation is clunky" [1]. Thus, to orient the reader we provide the three mode-n matrices for our example tensor (Figure 1).

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{X}_{(1)} &= \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 4 & 7 & 10 & 13 & 16 \\ 2 & 5 & 8 & 11 & 14 & 17 \\ 3 & 6 & 9 & 12 & 15 & 18 \end{bmatrix} \\ \mathbf{X}_{(2)} &= \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 10 & 11 & 12 \\ 4 & 5 & 6 & 13 & 14 & 15 \\ 7 & 8 & 9 & 16 & 17 & 18 \end{bmatrix} \\ \mathbf{X}_{(3)} &= \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 & 6 & 7 & 8 & 9 \\ 10 & 11 & 12 & 13 & 14 & 15 & 16 & 17 & 18 \end{bmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

## Matrix Algebra

Here we detail the matrix algebra used in the paper.

**Definition 1.** The outer product of N vectors,  $\mathbf{a}^{(1)} \circ \mathbf{a}^{(2)} \circ \cdots \circ \mathbf{a}^{(N)}$ , produces a Nth order tensor  $\mathcal{X}$  where each element  $x_{\vec{i}} = x_{i_1,i_2,\cdots,i_N} = a_{i_1}^{(1)} a_{i_2}^{(2)} \cdots a_{i_N}^{(N)}$ .

**Definition 2.** The element-wise multiplication (and division) of two samesized matrices  $\mathbf{A} * \mathbf{B}$  ( $\mathbf{A} \otimes \mathbf{B}$ ) produces a matrix  $\mathbf{Z}$  of the same size such that the element  $c_{\vec{i}} = a_{\vec{i}}b_{\vec{i}}$  ( $c_{\vec{i}} = a_{\vec{i}}/b_{\vec{i}}$ ) for all  $\vec{i}$ .

**Definition 3.** The Khatri-Rao product of two matrices  $\mathbf{A} \odot \mathbf{B}$  of sizes  $I_A \times R$ and  $I_B \times R$  respectively, produces a matrix  $\mathbf{Z}$  of size  $I_A I_B \times R$  such that  $Z = [\mathbf{a}_1 \otimes \mathbf{b}_1 \cdots \mathbf{a}_R \otimes \mathbf{b}_R]$ , where  $\otimes$  represents the Kronecker product.

The Kronecker product of two vectors  $\mathbf{a} \otimes \mathbf{b} = \begin{bmatrix} a_1 \mathbf{b} \\ a_2 \mathbf{b} \\ \vdots \\ a_{I_A} \mathbf{b} \end{bmatrix}$ .

### **Tensor Factorization**

Tensor factorization or decomposition is a natural extension of matrix factorization and utilizes information from the multiway structure that is lost when modes are collapsed to use matrix factorization algorithms [2, 3, 4]. The two common tensor decompositions, CANDECOMP / PARAFAC [5, 6] and Tucker [7], are considered higher-order generalizations of singular value decomposition and PCA [1].



Figure 2: CANDECOMP/PARAFAC tensor decomposition

The CANDECOMP / PARAFAC (CP) model approximates the original tensor  ${\cal X}$  as a sum of R rank-one tensors

$$oldsymbol{\mathcal{X}} pprox \sum_{r=1}^R \lambda_r \mathbf{a}_r^{(1)} \circ \ldots \circ \mathbf{a}_r^{(N)} 
onumber \ = \ oldsymbol{\lambda}; \mathbf{A}^{(1)}; \ldots; \mathbf{A}^{(n)} \ .$$

Note that  $\lambda; \mathbf{A}^{(1)}; \ldots; \mathbf{A}^{(n)}$  is shorthand notation to describe the CP decomposition, where  $\lambda$  is a vector of the weights  $\lambda_r$  and  $\mathbf{a}_r^{(n)}$  is the *r*th column of  $\mathbf{A}^{(n)}$ .

The Tucker model decomposes a tensor into a core tensor  $\mathcal{G}$  multiplied by a factor matrix  $\mathbf{U}^{(n)}$  along each mode

$$\begin{aligned} \boldsymbol{\mathcal{X}} &\approx \sum_{j_1=1}^{J_1} \dots \sum_{j_N=1}^{J_N} g_{j_1 \dots j_N} (u_{j_1}^{(1)} \circ \dots \circ u_{j_N}^{(N)}) \\ &= \boldsymbol{\mathcal{G}} \times_1 \mathbf{U}^{(1)} \times_2 \dots \times_N \mathbf{U}^{(N)} \\ &= \boldsymbol{\mathcal{G}}; \mathbf{U}^{(1)}; \dots; \mathbf{U}^{(N)} . \end{aligned}$$

The Tucker decomposition model is shown in Figure 3. Thus, CP is a special case of Tucker, where the size of each factor matrix has the same column dimension  $(J_1 = J_2 = \ldots = J_N)$  and the core tensor is superdiagonal [1].

#### References

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Figure 3: Tucker tensor decomposition

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