Total Variation Regularized Weighted Tensor Ring Decomposition for Missing Data Recovery in High-Dimensional Optical Remote Sensing Images

Minghua Wang†, Student Member, IEEE, Qiang Wang†, Member, IEEE, Jocelyn Chanussot†, Fellow, IEEE, and Danfeng Hong†, Member, IEEE

Abstract—Due to sensor malfunction and atmosphere disturbances, high-dimensional optical remote sensing (HORS) images often suffer from information missing, such as dead pixels and thick clouds. Tensor decomposition methods have been used to estimate the missing data of HORS images. However, most existing models hardly consider the inherent properties and effective structural information of HORS images. To this end, we propose a novel total variation (TV) regularized weighted tensor ring (TR) decomposition model to recover the missing content of HORS images. The TR decomposition has the powerful low-rank (LR) representation ability to recover the HORS data by employing three low-dimensional tensors, i.e., TR factors. An initialization step and proper weights are designed to enhance the flexibility for exploring different LR properties of TR factors. To further preserve the spatial smoothness, the local spatial TV from three directions is incorporated into the TR decomposition framework. Furthermore, an augmented Lagrange multiplier (ALM) algorithm is designed for solving the resulting optimization problem. Experiments on HORS images demonstrate the performances of the proposed method over the current state-of-the-art baselines.

Index Terms—Augmented Lagrange multiplier (ALM), high-dimensional optical remote sensing (HORS), low-rank (LR) property, tensor ring (TR) decomposition, total variation (TV) from three directions, TR factors initialization, weights.

I. INTRODUCTION

HIGH-DIMENSIONAL optical remote sensing (HORS) is one of the most promising techniques for capturing information about the Earth’s surface. However, due to sensor failure and poor working conditions, HORS images, including hyperspectral data and multitemporal data sequence, often suffer from missing data problems, such as dead pixels and cloud cover [1]. This HORS image quality degradation hinders the effectiveness of subsequent processing analysis, including feature extraction [2], land cover classification [3], spectral unmixing [4], and target detection [5].

Low-rank (LR)-based approaches have been widely applied to HORS image reconstruction. The LR matrix completion (LRTC) theory [6] was developed to solve the RS image recovery problems. Nevertheless, high-dimensional remote sensing (RS) images are emerged as a matrix by unfolding each dimension into a vector, which inevitably leads to the loss of high-dimensional inherent information. Naturally, RS images are represented as tensors and low-rank tensor completion (LRTC) has been successfully introduced into RS image recovery [7], [8]. Learning from high-accuracy LRTC (HaLRTC) [9], Ng et al. [10] first used tensor completion (TC) for recovering the missing data in HORS and studied an adaptive weighted TC (AWTC) method. Induced by the t-product, Lu et al. [11] defined a new tensor nuclear norm (TNN) and tensor-singular value decomposition (t-SVD)

Based on the tensor theory, Wang et al. [12] and Srindhuna and Baburaj [13] proposed new low-tuba-rank TC methods to estimate the missing values in HORS images. Zhao et al. [14] proposed a novel tensor ring (TR) decomposition to represent a high-dimensional tensor by circular multilinear products on a sequence of third tensor. Yuan et al. [15] focused on the TR algorithm development and proposed a new model named tensor ring low-rank factors (TFLRF). However, the most recent works only exploit the LR prior information of RS images but neglect the local spatial smoothness constraints. Wang et al. [16] designed a global–local two-stream architecture for HORS image scene classification from the perspective of the multiscale representation. He et al. [17] combined the TR decomposition with the total variation (TV) operators along two spatial directions, but they directly utilized the original TR model [14], which may cause high sensitivity to rank selection [15]. To overcome these drawbacks, we propose a new TV regularized weighted TR decomposition (TVWTR) model. The main contributions of this letter can be summarized as follows.

1) We fuse a weighted TR decomposition and a TV from three directions (3DTV) into a unified framework for missing data reconstruction of HORS images. The TR decomposition is adopted to explore LR tensor information. The 3DTV regularization is used to capture the local spatial information more comprehensively.

2) We compare the proposed model with existing methods in terms of both the effectiveness and computational cost, and the results demonstrate the superiority of the proposed method.

3) We provide theoretical analysis and empirical evidence to support the proposed model.

4) We apply the proposed model to real HORS images, and the results show its effectiveness.

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2) We analyze the latent LR spaces of three TR decomposition blocks to more properly exploit the LR property. According to the analysis, we design three LR tensors for the TR factor initialization and appropriate weights for different LR constraints on the TR spaces.

II. PROPOSED METHOD

For the reconstruction processing of an HORS image, \( T \), \( X \), and \( \Omega \) denote the observed image, recovered image, and a binary tensor with 1 representing the observation location and 0 denoting the missing location, respectively. Fig. 1 shows tensor ring decomposition (TRD), which is to represent a high-order \( X \) by multilinear products of a sequence of three-order tensors in circular form. According to the definition and Lemma [14], TRD can denoted as \( X = \Phi([G]) = \Phi(\prod_{n=1}^{N} G^{(n)}) \), where \( G^{(n)} \in \mathbb{R}^{r_0 \times \ldots \times r_{n-1} \times r_n} \), \( n = 1, \ldots, N \), \( r_0 = r_N \). The TRD-related optimization model can be given as follows:

\[
\min_{X[G]} ||X - \Phi([G])||_F^2 \quad \text{s.t.} \quad X = T\Omega.
\]

To enhance the robustness to rank selection of TRD, the low rankness of each TR factors is constrained and the TR LR factor (TRLRF) model is formulated as follows:

\[
\min_{X[G]} \sum_{n=1}^{N} \sum_{i=1}^{3} \left\| G^{(n)}(i) \right\|_F^2 + \frac{\lambda}{2} ||X - \Phi([G])||_F^2 \quad \text{s.t.} \quad X = T\Omega.
\]

Here, two types of tensor matricization/unfolding operations are employed in this letter. The first mode-\( n \) unfolding operator is denoted by unfold(\( X, n \)) = \( X^{(n)} \in \mathbb{R}^{r_0 \times \ldots \times r_{n-1} \times r_n} \) [18]. Inversely, fold(\( X^{(n)}, n \)) denotes the folding of the matrix into a tensor. Another operator defined for TR [14] is represented as \( X_{\alpha,\beta} \in \mathbb{R}^{r_0 \times \ldots \times r_{n-1} \times r_n} \).

As shown in Fig. 1, we explore two types of prior, including the LR properties of TRD and the spatial smoothness of 3DTV. We measure the LR properties in the different TR factors \( G^{(n)} \) by using the distribution of the singular values. The correlations along mode-2 are much stronger than those along the other modes. This inspires two modifications: TR factor initialization and different weights for different unfolding parts.

1) Random TR factors \( G^{(n)} \) are generated by distribution \( N \sim (0, 1) \) and then unfolded along mode-2. The singular values \( \Sigma \) of the mode-2 matrix \( G^{(2)} \) are reduced by the shrinking operator, e.g., \( [U, \Sigma, V] = \text{SVD}(G^{(2)}) \), \( \Sigma' = \Sigma - \Sigma(k) \), where \( k \) is much less than the size of the mode-2 matrix. The new initial TR factors \( G^{(n)} \) are redefined as fold(\( U \Sigma' V^T \), 2).

2) Proper weights \( \alpha_{i=1}^{3} \) should be designed for distinguishing the contributions of different nuclear norms in the unfolding of the TR tensor factors. Simultaneously, the distributions of singular values of the unfoldings of the TR factors along mode-2 decay faster than those of the unfolding along mode-1. Therefore, we denote \( \alpha_{i=1}^{3} \) as \( |\theta_1, \theta_2, \theta_3| = [1, \theta_1, 1/(2 + \theta)] \) and only \( \theta \) needs to be predetermined. The weighted TR decomposition model can be calculated as

\[
\min_{X[G] \in [X, \Omega]} \sum_{n=1}^{N} \sum_{i=1}^{3} \theta \left\| G^{(n)}(i) \right\|_F^2 + \frac{\lambda}{2} ||X - \Phi([G])||_F^2 + \tau ||X||_{3DTV} \quad \text{s.t.} \quad X = T\Omega.
\]

For an HORS image, exploring sufficient prior information is an important consideration. By combining the LR and smoothness structure properties together, we embedded the 3DTV regularization into the weighted TR decomposition model. The proposed TV-WTR model is formulated as

\[
\min_{X[G], \Omega} \sum_{n=1}^{N} \sum_{i=1}^{3} \theta \left\| M^{(n)}(i) \right\|_F^2 + \frac{\lambda}{2} ||X - \Phi([G])||_F^2 + \tau ||X||_{3DTV} \quad \text{s.t.} \quad X = T\Omega.
\]

where the 3DTV term is defined as \( ||X||_{3DTV} = \sum_{h,v,z}|\chi_{h,v,z} - \chi_{h-1,v,z}| + |\chi_{h,v,z} - |\chi_{h,v,z} - \chi_{h,v,z-1}| \) with \( \chi_{h,v,z} \) the \((h, v, z)\)th entry of \( X \).

To solve the problem (4), auxiliary variables \( [M] = [M^{(n, i)}]_{i=1}^{N, 3} \), \( W \) and \( Z \) are introduced and the equivalent minimization problem is rewritten as

\[
\min_{X[G], \Omega} \sum_{n=1}^{N} \sum_{i=1}^{3} \theta \left( M^{(n)}(i) \right) + \frac{\lambda}{2} ||X - \Phi([G])||_F^2 + \tau ||X||_{3DTV} \quad \text{s.t.} \quad X = T\Omega.
\]

where \( D(\cdot) = [D_h(\cdot); D_v(\cdot); D_z(\cdot)] \) is the difference operator along three directions and \( D_h, D_v, \) and \( D_z \) are the first-order difference operators along different directions of HORS images. Based on the augmented Lagrange multiplier (ALM) algorithm, the abovementioned problem (5) is
transformed into the following augmented Lagrangian function and \( \{Y_{(n,i)}\}_{i=1}^{N_N=3} \), \( Y_2 \) and \( Y_3 \) are the Lagrange multipliers:

\[
\min_{X, [G]_{i=[M_i]}, T} \sum_{n=1}^{N} \sum_{i=1}^{3} \theta_i \left\| M_{(i)}^{(n)} \right\|_F + \frac{\beta}{2} \left\| M_{(i)}^{(n)} - (Y_{(n,i)}^{(n,i)}) \right\|_F \\
+ \frac{\lambda}{2} |X - \Phi([G])|^2_F + \tau \left\| T \right\|_1 \\
+ \frac{\lambda}{2} |Y_2 - X|^2_F \\
+ \frac{\lambda}{2} |D(V) - Z|^2_F \\
s.t. \quad X_{l,2} = T_{l,2}.
\]

The solution for this least-squares problem is

\[
G^{(n)} = \text{fold} \left( \sum_{i=1}^{3} (\beta M_{(2)}^{(n,i)} + \chi^{(n,i)}) + \lambda X_{n>2} G_{(n>2)}^{(n>2)} \\
\times \left( \frac{\lambda}{2} G_{(n>2)}^{(n>2)} + 3\beta I \right)^{-1}, 2 \right).
\]

2) Update \( M_{(n,i)} \), by minimizing

\[
\min_{[M_i]} \sum_{n=1}^{N} \sum_{i=1}^{3} \theta_i \left\| M_{(i)}^{(n)} \right\|_F + \frac{\beta}{2} \left\| M_{(i)}^{(n)} - (Y_{(n,i)}^{(n,i)}) \right\|_F.
\]

3) Update \( \mathcal{W} \): Extract all \( \mathcal{W} \)-related items

\[
\min_{\mathcal{W}} \beta \left\| \mathcal{W} - X + \frac{1}{\beta} Y_2 \right\|_F^2 + \frac{\beta}{2} \left\| D(\mathcal{W}) - Z + \frac{1}{\beta} Y_3 \right\|_F^2.
\]

and through a simple reduction, the linear system can be obtained

\[
(\beta I + \beta D^*D)\mathcal{W} = \beta X + Y_2 + \beta D^*(Z) - D^*(Y_3)
\]

where \( D^*(\cdot) \) is the adjoint of \( D \). Due to the block-circular structure of the operator \( D^*D \), the subproblem (12) can be transformed into the Fourier domain

\[
\mathcal{W} = \text{ifftn} \left( \frac{\text{ftfn}(\beta X + Y_2 + \beta D^*(Z) - D^*(Y_3))}{(\beta + \beta Q)} \right)
\]

\[
\text{Algorithm 1 } TV-WTR
\]

**Input:** Incomplete image \( T \), observation location \( \Omega \), TR rank \( r \), parameters \( k, \lambda, \tau, \beta \).

1. **Initialization:** For \( n = 1, 2, \ldots, N \), random core tensors \( G^{(n)} \) by distribution \( N \sim (0, 1) \), the singular value decomposition of the mode-2 matrices \( [U, \Sigma, V] = \text{SVD}(G^{(n)}) \), new LR TR core tensors \( G^{(n)} = \text{fold}(U(\Sigma - \{k\})V^T, 2), \)

2. **while** \( 0 \leq i \leq \text{maxiter} \) or \( ||X - X_{\text{last}}||_F^2 < \text{tol} \)

3. **set** \( X_{\text{last}} = X \).

4. update core tensors \( [G_{(n,i)}_{n=1}^{N_N=3} \) by (8):

5. **update** auxiliary variables \( \{M_{(n,i)}_{n=1}^{N_N=3} \) by (10):

6. update auxiliary variable \( W \) by (13):

7. update recovered tensor \( X' = T_{\Omega} + X'_{\Omega} \), where \( X' = \text{ifftn}(\text{ftfn}(\delta(\Phi([G]) + \beta D^*(Z)) - D^*(Y_3))) \)

8. **update** the multipliers

9. **output** recovered image \( X' \).

where \( Q = \text{ftfn}(D_{W})^2 + \text{ftfn}(D_{W})^2 + \text{ftfn}(D_{W})^2 \), and \( \text{ifftn} \) and \( \text{ftfn} \) represent 3-D Fast Fourier transform and its inverse transform, respectively.

**Output:** recovered image \( X' \).

III. EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

To evaluate the performance of the proposed model in HORS image reconstruction, we undertake two data experiments: the Washington DC Mall (WDC) data set and the
TABLE I
QUANTITATIVE RESULTS OF ALL THE METHODS WITH RANDOM MISSING AREA

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Sentinel-2 data set. We chose four metrics for evaluation: the mean peak signal-to-noise ratio (MPSNR), mean structural similarity index (MSSIM), the Erreur Relative Globale Adimensionnelle de Synthese (ERGAS), and the mean spectral angle distance (MSAD).

1) The WDC Data Set: This data set is adopted and a subimage of size 256 × 256 × 30 is selected with random missing data. We implement the following methods for comparison, i.e., LRMC [6], LRTC [12], HaLRTC [9], a spatial-temporal-spectral framework based on a deep convolutional neural network (STS-CNN) [19], weighted non-local second-order regularization (WNSR) [20], TR [14], and TRLRF [15]. Table I presents the quantitative evaluation results of recovery with the missing ratios 50%, 70%, and 90%. Due to the 3-D structure of HORS images destroyed, LRMC obtains the worst metric scores, especially when the missing ratio $r=0.9$. LRTC achieves better evaluation results than those of HaLRTC in the case of 70% and 90%. This is mainly because, in the LRTC model, HORS images are regarded as 3-D tensors. STS-CNN and TR achieve similar performances when $r=0.9$. WNSR produces better results than STS-CNN and TR and even obtains the second-best MSSIM values if $r=0.7$ or 0.9. The performances of TRLRF and TVWTR remain stable even when the missing ratio is reaching 90%. Due to the considerations of the LR initiation and the TV regularization, the best performance is obtained from our TVWTR.

Fig. 2 shows the results of the WDC data set before and after recovery under $r=0.9$. It is clear that LRMC fails to recover the HORS image. Although missing pixels disappear in the results of LRTC, HaLRTC, and TR, these methods produce more or fewer artifacts. STS-CNN, WNSR, and TRLRF perform better in reducing spectral distortion and show better performances. The proposed TVWTR method performs the best among all the compared algorithms. Due to exploiting the smoothing information, TVWTR preserves the most details like sharp edges among all the methods. To further verify the recovery performance of the proposed method on each band, Fig. 3 shows the Peak signal-to-noise ratio (PSNR) and structural similarity index measure (SSIM) values of all bands with a 90% missing ratio of WDC data. The proposed TVWTR method achieves the highest metric scores in each band, which makes great consistency with the visual results.

2) The Sentinel-2 Data Set: We simulate the missing cloud coverings of time-series Sentinel-2 images and test the performances of different algorithms. As shown in the first row of Fig. 4, five time-series images (20-m spatial resolution, 10 × 10 km) were acquired by the Sentinel-2 sensor on September 5, 15, and 20, and October 5 and 15, 2018 from the Belgium area [21]. In the last row of Fig. 4, these HORS images were corrupted by various types of missing clouds. Due to LRMC invalid for removing the clouds, we dropped it for comparison. Table II gives a quantitative evaluation of the cloud removal experiment. WNSR and TRLRF achieve better MPSNR, ERGAS, and MSSIM scores than pure TR, STS-CNN, and HaLRTC. Our TVWTR outperforms the other methods according to all the indices. Fig. 5 shows the visual results of removing clouds for Sentinel-2 data. The large region of the HORS image center is covered by the cloud. For HaLRTC, the large shadow still exists in Fig. 5(d). The marked areas with the red dotted circles display more or fewer artifacts.
and texture discontinuity. WNSR produces the oversmoothing phenomenon in the central region. The proposed algorithm shows a satisfactory result without distortion. Fig. 6 shows the curves of PSNR and SSIM evaluation indices for each image. WNSR sometimes produces inaccurate PSNR scores, but it gets the second-best SSIM scores. HaLRTC has similar PSNR and texture discontinuity. WNSR produces the oversmoothing phenomenon in the central region. The proposed algorithm shows a satisfactory result without distortion. Fig. 6 shows the curves of PSNR and SSIM evaluation indices for each image. WNSR sometimes produces inaccurate PSNR scores, but it gets the second-best SSIM scores. HaLRTC has similar PSNR results with TRLRF. The proposed TVWTR has similar PSNR results with TRLRF. The proposed TVWTR outperforms the other compared methods in most bands.

IV. CONCLUSION
In this letter, we proposed a 3DTV regularization and weighted TR decomposition model to estimate the missing data of HORS images. By analyzing the LR properties of different TR factors, we design three LR tensors to initialize TR factors and three weights to constrain different nuclear norms of the TR factor unfoldings. The TV regularization is adopted to further characterize the smooth structure. The optimization problem is solved by the ALM framework. The experimental results verify the superior performance of the proposed method over the other compared algorithms.

REFERENCES

Fig. 5. Sentinel-2 image cloud removal results using different methods. (a) Original band 1. (b) Missing. (c) LRTC. (d) HaLRTC. (e) STS-CNN. (f) WNSR. (g) TR. (h) TRLRF. (i) TVWTR.

Fig. 6. PSNR and SSIM values of all bands with cloud removal of Sentinel-2 data. (a) PSNR. (b) SSIM.

TABLE II 
QUANTITATIVE RESULTS OF ALL THE METHODS FOR SENTINEL-2 CLOUD REMOVAL

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Method</th>
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