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# GmGM: a fast Gaussian graphical model for multi-modal data

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## Abstract

1 This paper introduces the Gaussian multi-Graphical Model, a model to construct  
2 sparse graph representations of matrix- and tensor-variate data. We generalize  
3 prior work in this area by simultaneously learning this representation across several  
4 tensors that share axes, which is necessary to allow the analysis of multimodal  
5 datasets such as those encountered in multi-omics. Our algorithm uses only a  
6 single eigendecomposition per axis, achieving an order of magnitude speedup over  
7 prior work in the ungeneralized case. This allows the use of our methodology  
8 on large multi-modal datasets such as single-cell multi-omics data, which was  
9 challenging with previous approaches. We validate our model on synthetic data  
10 and five real-world datasets.

## 11 1 Introduction

12 A number of modern applications require the estimation of networks (graphs) exploring the de-  
13 pendency structures underlying the data. In this paper, we propose a new approach for estimating  
14 conditional dependency graphs. Two datapoints  $x, y$  are *conditionally independent* (with respect to  
15 a dataset  $\mathcal{D}$ ) if knowing one provides no information about the other that is not already contained  
16 in the rest of the dataset:  $\mathbb{P}(x|y, \mathcal{D}_{\setminus xy}) = \mathbb{P}(x|\mathcal{D}_{\setminus xy})$ . For normally distributed data, conditional  
17 dependencies are encoded in the inverse of the covariance matrix (the ‘precision’ matrix). Two  
18 datapoints are conditionally dependent on each other if and only if their corresponding element in the  
19 precision matrix is not zero. If our dataset were in the form of a vector  $\mathbf{d}$ , we could then model it as  
20  $\mathbf{d} \sim \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, \Psi^{-1})$  for precision matrix  $\Psi$ . This is a Gaussian Graphical Model (GGM);  $\Psi$  encodes  
21 the graph.

22 However, datasets are often more structured than vectors. For example, single-cell RNA sequencing  
23 datasets (scRNA-seq) come in the form of a matrix of gene expression counts whose rows are cells  
24 and columns are genes. Video data naturally requires a third-order tensor of pixels to represent  
25 it - rows, columns, and frames. Furthermore multi-omics datasets such as those including both  
26 scRNA-seq and scATAC-seq may require two or more matrices to be properly represented; one for  
27 each modality.

28 We could assume that each row of our matrix is an i.i.d. sample drawn from our model. However,  
29 independence is a strong and often incorrect assumption. If we wanted to make no independence  
30 assumptions, we could vectorize the dataset  $\mathcal{D}$  and estimate  $\Psi$  in  $\text{vec}[\mathcal{D}] \sim \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, \Psi^{-1})$ . However,  
31 this produces intractably large  $\Psi$ , whose number of elements is quadratic in the product of the lengths  
32 of our dataset’s axes.

33 Thankfully, tensors are highly structured, and we are often interested in the dependency structure  
34 of each axis individually - i.e. the dependencies between samples or the dependencies between  
35 features - rather than the dependencies between the elements of the tensor themselves. To model this,  
36 we can represent  $\Psi$  as some deterministic combination of the axis-wise dependencies:  $\text{vec}[\mathbf{D}] \sim$

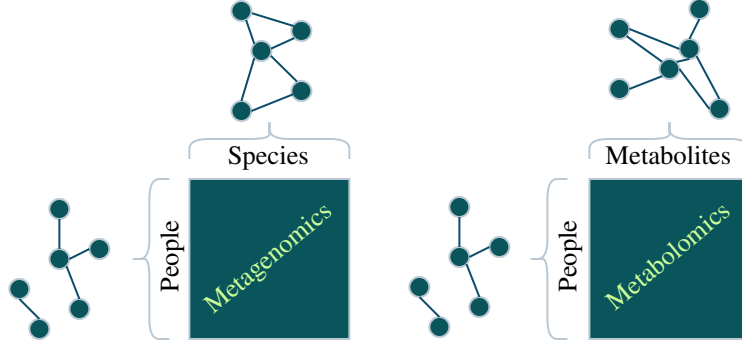


Figure 1: The two matrices of the LifeLines-DEEP dataset. As both matrices include data for the same people, the learned graph between people should be the same.

37  $\mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, \zeta(\Psi_{\text{row}}, \Psi_{\text{col}})^{-1})$ , for some function  $\zeta$ . The strategy is to estimate  $\Psi_{\text{row}}, \Psi_{\text{col}}$  directly, without  
 38 computing the intractable  $\zeta(\Psi_{\text{row}}, \Psi_{\text{col}})^{-1}$ . While there are multiple choices for  $\zeta$ , this paper  
 39 considers only the Kronecker sum.

#### 40 1.1 Prior work

41 The Kronecker sum BiGraphical Lasso (BiGLasso) model was first considered by Kalaitzis et al.  
 42 [14]. BiGLasso is the multi-axis analog to graphical lasso methods [10], which are used to estimate  
 43 covariance matrices of data drawn from a multivariate Gaussian distribution. The Kronecker sum  
 44 of two matrices,  $\mathbf{A} \oplus \mathbf{B}$ , can be expressed in terms of Kronecker products:  $\mathbf{A} \otimes \mathbf{I} + \mathbf{I} \otimes \mathbf{B}$ . When  
 45 the matrices  $\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{B}$  are adjacency matrices of graphs, the Kronecker sum has the interpretation as  
 46 the Cartesian product of those graphs. This sum is one choice  $\zeta$  to combine the per-axis precision  
 47 matrices into the precision matrix of the vectorized dataset,  $\text{vec}[\mathbf{D}] \sim \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, (\Psi_{\text{row}} \oplus \Psi_{\text{col}})^{-1})$ .

48 Other choices for  $\zeta$  have been considered, such as using the Kronecker product [23, 8], or the square  
 49 of the Kronecker sum [24, 25]. Each method has its strengths; the benefits of a Kronecker sum  
 50 structure are its interpretability as a graph product, stronger sparsity, and its allowance of inter-task  
 51 transfer [14].

52 The original BiGLasso model was very slow to converge to a solution, in large part due to its non-  
 53 optimal space complexity of  $O(n^2 p^2)$ . This prohibited its use on large datasets (measuring in a  
 54 couple hundred samples and/or features). Numerous modifications have been made to the algorithm  
 55 to improve its speed and achieve an optimal space complexity of  $O(n^2 + p^2)$ , such as scBiGLasso  
 56 [17], TeraLasso [12], and EiGLasso [27]. Of these, TeraLasso is notable in that it generalizes to an  
 57 arbitrary number of axes, i.e.  $\zeta(\Psi_1, \dots, \Psi_k) = \Psi_1 \oplus \dots \oplus \Psi_k$ . TeraLasso and EiGLasso, the fastest  
 58 prior work, both rely on computing an eigendecomposition every iteration.

59 All of these algorithms and models, including our own, rely on a normality assumption. We are most  
 60 interested in the case of omics data, in which case a log-transform renders our dataset sufficiently  
 61 Gaussian-like for our algorithm to achieve good performance. An overview of the use of GGMs in  
 62 omics data is given by Altenbuchinger et al. [2].

#### 63 1.2 Unmet need

64 Many datasets, especially those in multi-omics, are representable as a collection of matrices or tensors.  
 65 As a case study, we consider (a subset of) the Lifelines-DEEP dataset from Tigchelaar et al. [22],  
 66 which is summarized graphically in Figure 1.

67 In this dataset, two different modalities of data were gathered from the same people: counts of  
 68 microbial species found in their stools (metagenomics) and counts of metabolites found in their  
 69 blood plasma (metabolomics). While different matrices, each modality shares an axis. If we were to  
 70 estimate a graph of people on each modality independently, they would likely yield different graphs.  
 71 This is not ideal; if our aim is to estimate the true graph of conditional dependencies, there should be  
 72 only one resultant graph. To estimate it, we should be considering both modalities simultaneously.

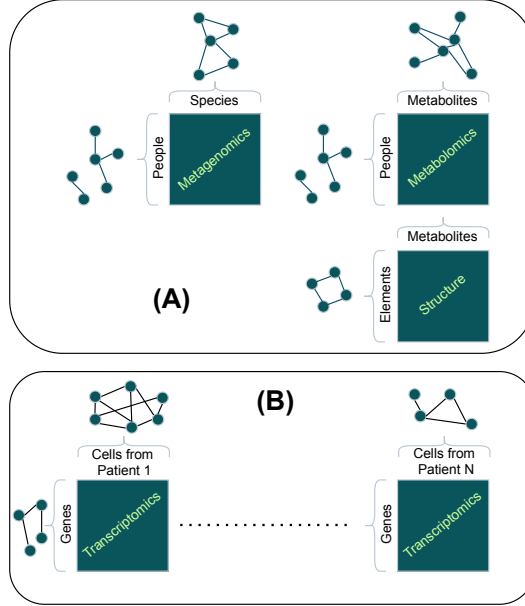


Figure 2: (A) A hypothetical dataset whose structure cannot be reduced to a single tensor by concatenation. Concatenating would lead to a block of missing values for a hypothetical (and nonsensical) species by elements matrix. (B) A hypothetical single-cell RNA-sequencing dataset procured from multiple patients. Concatenation is possible, but would lead to a very large output graph for a modest number of patients.

73 One way to do this would be to concatenate the modalities, producing a matrix of people by  
 74 "species+metabolites". This could yield interesting results, if one is interested in connections between  
 75 individual species and a metabolite. However, it would increase the size of the output graph, which  
 76 grows quadratically in the length of the axis. Furthermore, it is not always possible or feasible; some  
 77 datasets may not be concatenatable. We visually demonstrate some cases where concatenation fails  
 78 in Figure 2.

### 79 1.3 Our contributions

80 We introduce a novel method to extend the use of Gaussian Graphical Models to multi-tensor datasets.  
 81 This extension is essential to model conditional dependencies in multimodal datasets such as those  
 82 frequently occurring in multi-omics. We present an efficient algorithm to estimate these conditional  
 83 dependencies. When restricted to the single-tensor case, our algorithm is much faster than previous  
 84 algorithms that estimated conditional dependency graphs for each axis, such as TeraLasso[12] and  
 85 EiGLasso[27].

## 86 2 Methods

### 87 2.1 Notation

88 In prior work, a single-tensor dataset  $\mathcal{D}$  is modelled as  $\text{vec}[\mathcal{D}] \sim \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, (\bigoplus_{\ell} \Psi_{\ell})^{-1})$ , also written  
 89 as  $\mathcal{D} \sim \mathcal{N}_{KS}(\{\Psi_{\ell}\}_{\ell})$ .

90 Our model considers multiple tensors, each with their own (potentially shared) axes. We aim to  
 91 estimate the precision matrices  $\Psi_{\ell}$  for each axis  $\ell$  of each tensor  $\mathcal{D}^{\gamma}$ , indexed by  $\gamma \in \mathbb{N}$ . To describe  
 92 that an axis  $\ell$  is one of the axes of a tensor  $\mathcal{D}^{\gamma}$ , we will write  $\ell \in \gamma$ . Some values will be indexed  
 93 by both an axis and a tensor; for consistency we will use subscripts to denote axes (typically  $\ell$ ) and  
 94 superscripts to denote tensors (typically  $\gamma$ ).  $d_{\ell}^{\gamma}$  will represent the number of elements in  $\mathcal{D}^{\gamma}$ , and  
 95  $d_{\mathcal{V}} = \sum_{\gamma} d_{\mathcal{V}}^{\gamma}$ .

96 An important concept is the Gram matrix  $\mathbf{S}_\ell^\gamma$ . In the single-tensor case, this is a sufficient statistic; all  
 97 prior work first computes these matrices as the first step in their algorithm. Let  $\text{mat}_\ell[\mathcal{D}^\gamma]$  represent  
 98 the "matricization" of  $\mathcal{D}^\gamma$  along axis  $\ell$ , then  $\mathbf{S}_\ell^\gamma = \text{mat}_\ell[\mathcal{D}^\gamma] \text{mat}_\ell[\mathcal{D}^\gamma]^T$ . The matricization of a  
 99 tensor picks one axis,  $\ell$ , to index the rows, and flattens the rest out into columns. Note that for  
 100 a matrix  $\mathbf{M}$ ,  $\text{mat}_{\text{columns}}[\mathbf{M}] = \mathbf{M}^T$ . Rather than  $\mathbf{S}_\ell^\gamma$ , we consider the "effective Gram matrices"  
 101  $\mathbf{S}_\ell = \sum_{\gamma|\ell \in \gamma} \mathbf{S}_\ell^\gamma$ , as these fulfill the role of the Gram matrices in the multi-tensor case.

## 102 2.2 The model

103 To properly handle sets of tensors, we propose modelling each tensor as being drawn independently  
 104 from a Kronecker-sum normal distribution. If the tensors share an axis  $\ell$ , then they will still be drawn  
 105 independently - but their distributions will be parameterized by the same  $\Psi_\ell$ . For an arbitrary set of  
 106 tensors, the model is:

$$\mathcal{D}^\gamma \sim \mathcal{N}_{KS}(\{\Psi_\ell\}_{\ell \in \gamma})$$

for  $\mathcal{D}^\gamma \in \{\mathcal{D}^\gamma\}_\gamma$

107 We call this model the "Gaussian multi-Graphical Model" (GmGM) as it extends Gaussian Graphical  
 108 Models to estimate multiple graphs from a set of tensors. In this paper, we will make the assumption  
 109 that no tensor in our set contains the same axis twice - notably, covariance matrices would violate  
 110 this assumption. Any tensor with a repeated axis would naturally be interpretable as a graph - such  
 111 datasets are rare, and if one already has a graph the need for an algorithm such as this is diminished.

112 As an example, we model the LifeLines-DEEP dataset  $\mathbf{D}^{\text{metagenomics}}$  and  $\mathbf{D}^{\text{metabolomics}}$  independ-  
 113 dently as:

$$\mathbf{D}^{\text{metagenomics}} \sim \mathcal{N}_{KS}(\Psi_{\text{people}}, \Psi_{\text{species}})$$

$$\mathbf{D}^{\text{metabolomics}} \sim \mathcal{N}_{KS}(\Psi_{\text{people}}, \Psi_{\text{metabolites}})$$

## 114 2.3 The algorithm

115 Here, we present an algorithm to compute the maximum likelihood estimate (MLE) jointly for all  
 116 parameters  $\Psi_\ell$  of the GmGM. The general idea is to produce an analytic estimate for the eigenvectors  
 117 of  $\Psi_\ell$ , and then iterate to solve for the eigenvalues; this is summed up graphically in Figure 3.

118 In the supplementary material, we derive the following:

$$p(\{\mathcal{D}^\gamma\}) = \frac{\prod_\gamma \sqrt{\left| \bigoplus_{\ell \in \gamma} \Psi_\ell \right|}}{(2\pi)^{\frac{d_\gamma}{2}}} e^{-\frac{1}{2} \sum_\ell \text{tr}[\Psi_\ell \mathbf{S}_\ell]} \quad (\text{pdf of GmGM})$$

$$\text{NLL}[\{\mathcal{D}^\gamma\}] \propto \sum_\ell \text{tr}[\Psi_\ell \mathbf{S}_\ell] - \sum_\gamma \log \left| \bigoplus_{\ell \in \gamma} \Psi_\ell \right| \quad (\text{negative log likelihood})$$

119 From this, we can observe that the effective Gram matrices  $\mathbf{S}_\ell$  form a set of sufficient statistics for  
 120 our distribution. Furthermore, the log-likelihood is the sum of log-likelihoods in the single-axis case,  
 121 thus preserving convexity of the loss function.

122 **Theorem 1.** Let  $\mathbf{V}_\ell \mathbf{e}_\ell \mathbf{V}_\ell^T$  be the eigendecomposition of  $\mathbf{S}_\ell$  (where  $\mathbf{V}_\ell \in \mathbb{R}^{d_\ell \times d_\ell}$  and  $\mathbf{e}_\ell \in \mathbb{R}^{d_\ell \times d_\ell}$   
 123 is a diagonal matrix). Then  $\mathbf{V}_\ell$  are the eigenvectors of the maximum likelihood estimate of  $\Psi_\ell$ .

124 Theorem 1 is critical to allowing efficient estimation of  $\Psi_\ell$ , as it not only allows us to extract the  
 125 computationally intensive eigendecomposition operation from the iterative portion of the algorithm,  
 126 but also reduces the number of parameters to be linear in the length of an axis.

127 To find the eigenvalues  $\Lambda_\ell$  of  $\Psi_\ell$ , we produce the second theorem:

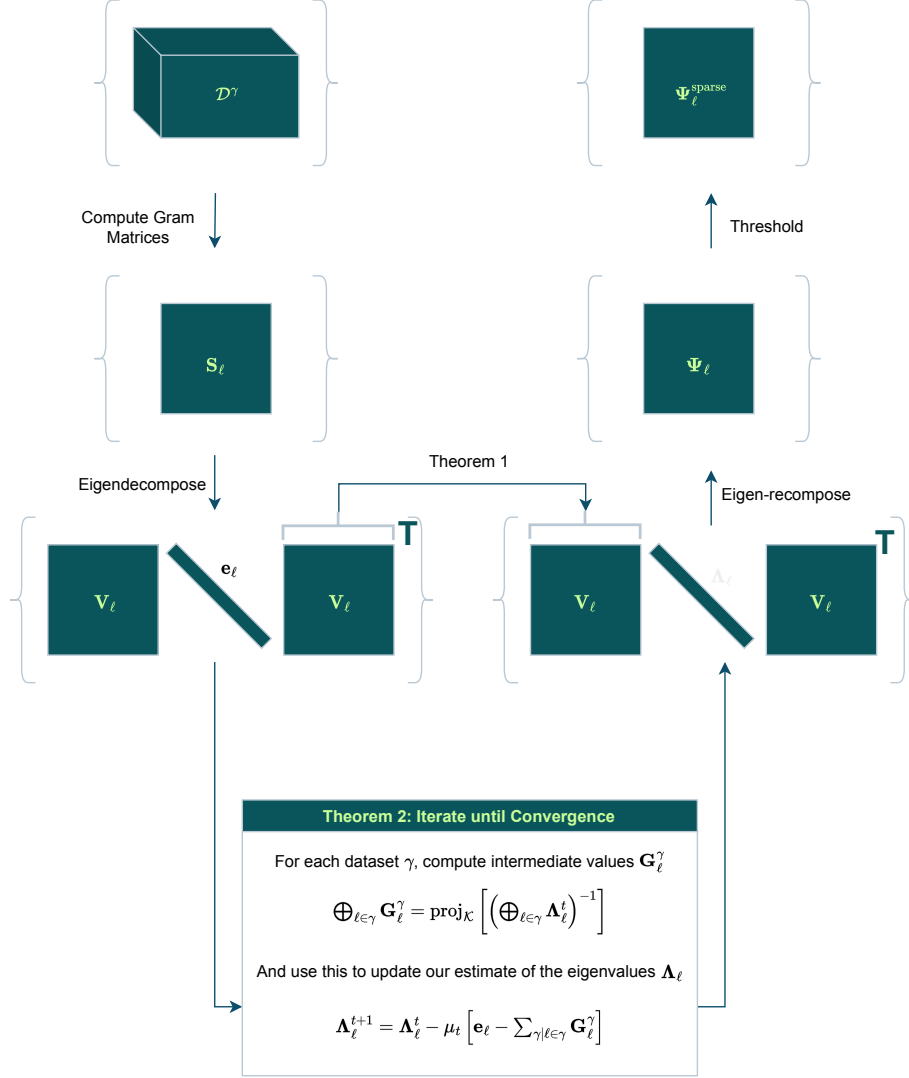


Figure 3: A graphical overview of how the GmGM algorithm works. We use  $\gamma$  to represent an arbitrary modality, and  $\ell$  to represent an arbitrary axis. Proofs are given in the supplementary material.

128 **Theorem 2.** Let  $\{\mathbf{G}_\ell^\gamma\}$  be matrices such that the expression  $\bigoplus_{\ell \in \gamma} \mathbf{G}_\ell^\gamma$  is the best Frobenius-norm  
129 approximation of  $\left(\bigoplus_{\ell \in \gamma} \Lambda_\ell^t\right)^{-1}$ . Then, for a learning rate  $\mu_t$ , gradient descent can be performed  
130 with the update equation  $\Lambda_\ell^{t+1} = \Lambda_\ell^t - \mu_t \left[ \mathbf{e}_\ell - \sum_{\gamma | \ell \in \gamma} \mathbf{G}_\ell^\gamma \right]$ . As  $\Psi_\ell$  is positive definite,  $\mu_t$  must  
131 be chosen to prevent  $\Lambda_\ell^t$  from becoming negative.

132 While the definition of  $\mathbf{G}_\ell^\gamma$  is technical, it is analogous to the notion of the blockwise-trace from  
133 Kalaitzis et al. [14] and  $\text{proj}_K$  from Greenewald, Zhou, and Hero III [12]. Proofs of Theorems 1  
134 and 2, along with a method to compute  $\mathbf{G}_\ell^\gamma$ , are given in the supplementary material. Overall, our  
135 algorithm is described in the pseudocode at the top of the next page.

136 For regularization, one can choose to either keep the top  $p\%$  of edges, or keep the top  $k$  edges per  
137 vertex (for parameters  $p, k$ ). The incorporation of more advanced regularizers, such as Lasso, would  
138 require an eigen-recomposition on each iteration, which would be much slower. As we demonstrate  
139 empirically in Section 3, it is not necessary to use advanced regularizers to recover the graph structure  
140 to the same precision as prior work.

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**The GmGM algorithm**

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**Input:**  $\{\mathcal{D}_i^\gamma\}$ , tolerance**Output:**  $\{\Psi_\ell\}$ 

```
1: for  $1 \leq \ell \leq K$ 
2:    $\mathbf{S}_\ell \leftarrow \sum_{\gamma|\ell \in \gamma} \frac{1}{n^\gamma} \sum_i^{n^\gamma} \text{mat}_\ell [\mathcal{D}_i^\gamma] \text{mat}_\ell [\mathcal{D}_i^\gamma]^T$ 
3:    $\mathbf{V}_\ell \leftarrow \text{eigenvectors}[\mathbf{S}_\ell]$ 
4:    $\mathbf{e}_\ell \leftarrow \text{eigenvalues}[\mathbf{S}_\ell]$ 
5: end for
6:  $\mathbf{\Lambda} \leftarrow [1 \ \dots \ 1]^T$ 
7:  $\mu \leftarrow 1$ 
8: while not converged
9:   for  $1 \leq \ell \leq K$ 
10:     $\mathbf{G}_\ell^\gamma \leftarrow \text{proj}_{KS} \left[ \left( \bigoplus_{\ell' \in \gamma} \mathbf{\Lambda}_{\ell'} \right)^{-1} \right]$ 
11:     $\mathbf{\Lambda}'_\ell \leftarrow \mathbf{\Lambda}_\ell - \mu \left[ \mathbf{e}_\ell - \sum_{\gamma|\ell \in \gamma} \mathbf{G}_\ell^\gamma \right]$ 
12:   end for
13:   for  $1 \leq \ell \leq K$ 
14:     $\mathbf{\Lambda}_\ell \leftarrow \mathbf{\Lambda}'_\ell$ 
15:   end for
16:   for  $\gamma$ 
17:    if  $\sum_{\ell \in \gamma} \min \mathbf{\Lambda}_\ell < \text{tolerance}$  then
18:      decrease  $\mu$  so that this result is sufficiently far from zero
19:    end if
20:   end for
21: end while
22: for  $1 \leq \ell \leq K$ 
23:    $\Psi_\ell \leftarrow \mathbf{V}_\ell \mathbf{\Lambda}_\ell \mathbf{V}_\ell^T$ 
24: end for
```

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141 **3 Results**

142 We tested our algorithm on synthetic data and five real-world datasets. Explanations of data generation,  
143 collection, preprocessing, and regularization are given in the supplementary material.

144 **3.1 Synthetic Data**

145 We verified that our algorithm was indeed faster on matrix-variate data compared to prior work  
146 (Figure 4) on our computer (Ubuntu 20.04 with Intel Core i7 Processor and 8GB RAM). Our results  
147 on matrix data are encouraging - extrapolating the runtimes, datasets up to size 16,000 by 16,000  
148 could have their graphs estimated in less than an hour. Larger datasets would require more than 6GB  
149 of memory for our algorithm to run, pushing the limits of RAM. Our algorithm was not significantly  
150 faster on higher-order tensor data (see the supplementary material). This is due to the complexity of  
151 computing the Gram matrices, which grows exponentially with the number of axes.

152 In addition to these speed improvements, we show that we perform equivalently to state-of-the-art  
153 on matrix data (Figure 5a). On higher-order tensor data, we are outperformed by TeraLasso, which  
154 is able to achieve near-perfect recovery of the graphs. We believe this is due to our algorithm's use  
155 of thresholding rather than a more advanced regularization technique. Since our speed gains are  
156 not significant relative to TeraLasso, on higher-order tensor data without shared axes one should  
157 prefer TeraLasso to GmGM. Finally, we demonstrate that taking into account shared axes does indeed  
158 improve performance (see blue line, Figure 5b). Prior work could not take this into account.

159 **3.2 Real Data**

160 We tested our method on various real datasets. These include two video datasets (COIL-20 [19] and  
161 EchoNet-Dynamic [20]), a transcriptomics dataset (E-MTAB-2805 [5]), and two multi-omics datasets  
162 (LifeLines-DEEP [22] and a 10x Genomics dataset [1]).

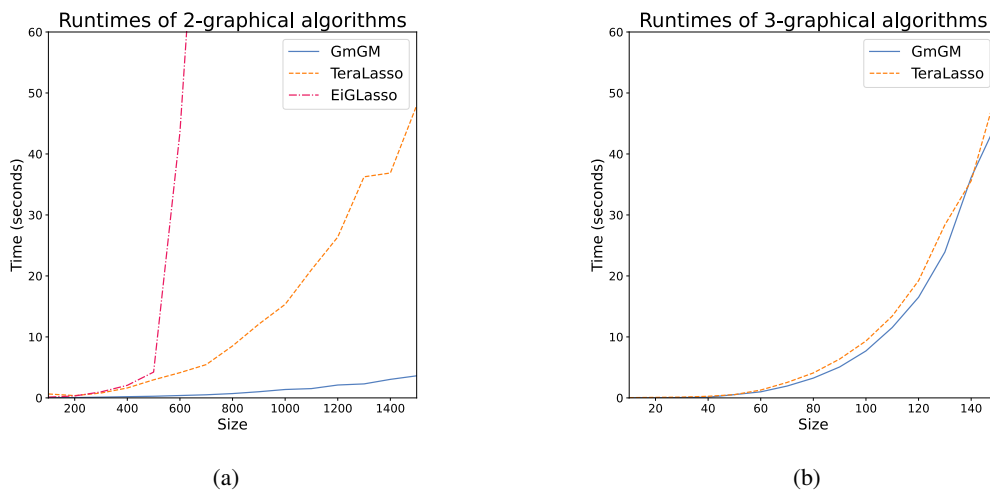


Figure 4: A comparison of the runtimes of our algorithm against (a) bi-graphical and (b) tensor-graphical prior work. Runtimes were averaged over 5 runs.

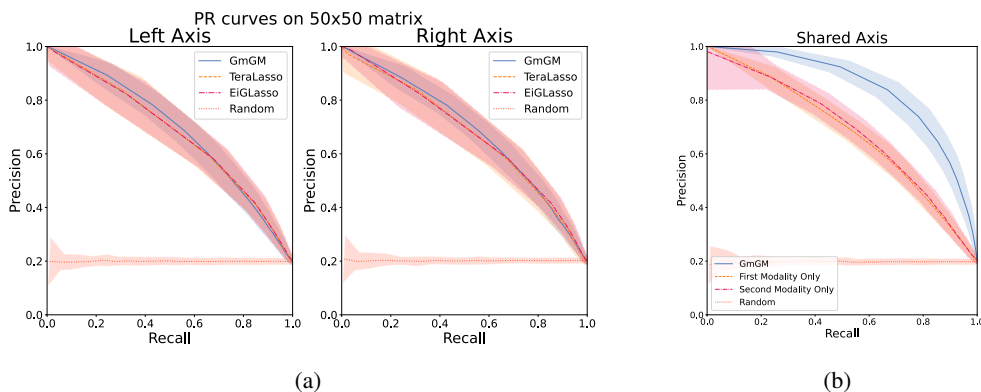


Figure 5: (a) Precision-recall curves comparing various algorithms on synthetic 50x50 matrix data. (b) Precision-recall curves comparing our algorithm on two 50x50 matrices with one shared axis. We considered both modalities simultaneously (blue) and an individual modality (red, orange). In both subfigures, each edge of the true graphs was generated independently with probability  $\frac{1}{5}$ .

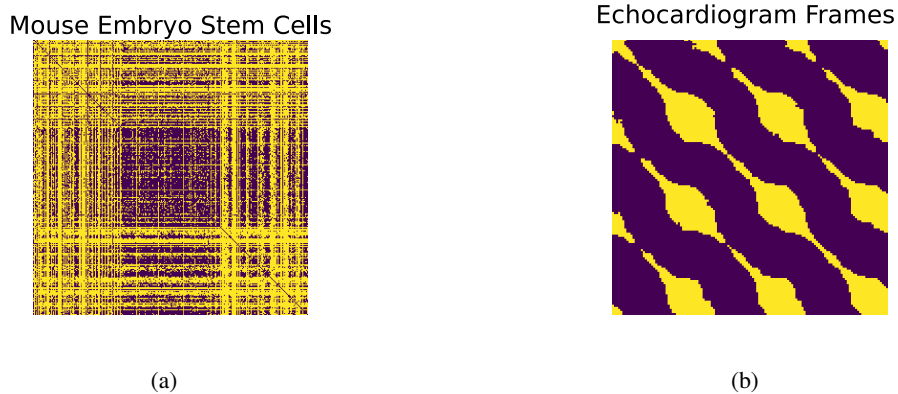


Figure 6: The estimated precision matrices on the E-MTAB-2805 dataset (a) and the EchoNet-Dynamic dataset (b). Yellow represents an edge and purple represents the lack of an edge. The E-MTAB-2805 cells have been grouped together by cell cycle stage, in the order G, S, and G2/M.

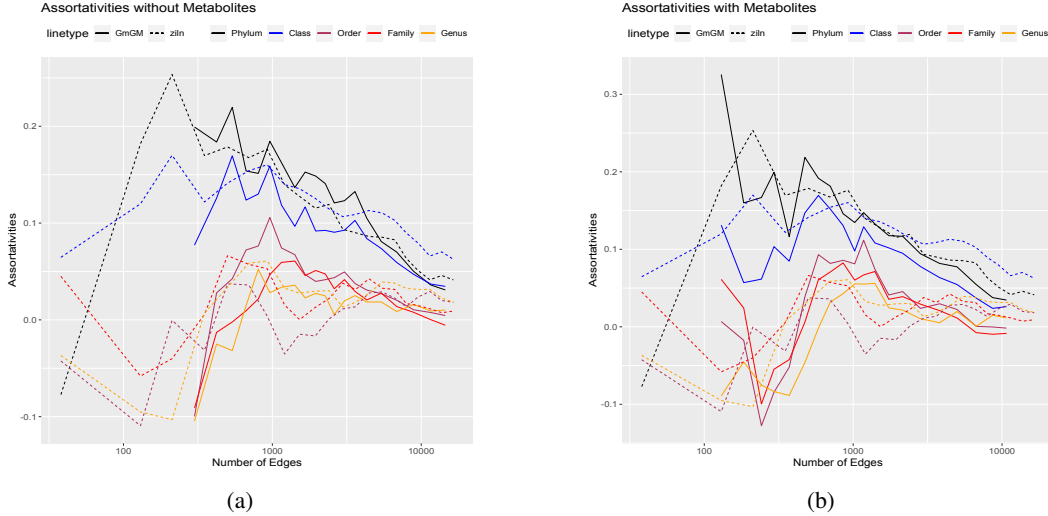


Figure 7: Assortativity with increasing regularization in the LifeLines-DEEP dataset, comparing our method with the Zero-inflated Log-Normal (ZiLN) model. In one case we show the performance of our algorithm restricted to the metagenomics dataset (a) and when augmented with the metabolomics dataset (b). In both cases, ZiLN is only trained on the metagenomics dataset, as it is a single-axis model.

163 The E-MTAB-2805 dataset consists of transcriptomics data for individual cells split into three groups  
 164 by their stage in the cell cycle (G, S, and G2/M). If our estimated precision matrices had a 3x3  
 165 block-diagonal structure, this would indicate that it had recreated this grouping. This is not what we  
 166 see, but we do see a 3x3 block matrix structure (Figure 6a). We found that cells in the DNA synthesis  
 167 stage (S) had few connections between them, and that there were many connections between the G1  
 168 and G2/M stages. This result is biologically plausible, as cells in the synthesis stage are the most  
 169 variable.

170 The results on EchoNet-Dynamic (Figure 6b) are much more encouraging, as we would expect a  
 171 periodic structure due to the beating of the heart. A precision matrix with repeating diagonals is what  
 172 we would expect to see in this case, which is what our algorithm produces. In the supplementary  
 173 material, we further verify that this corresponds to a heartbeat by using the repetition to accurately  
 174 predict the opening of the mitral valve in the video.

175 The duck video in the COIL-20 dataset was considered in the original BiGLasso paper [14], in which  
 176 they showed that their algorithm could recover the ordering of the frames of the video. To do this they  
 177 had to heavily downsample the image (to a 9x9 image with half the frames), and flatten the rows and  
 178 frames into a single axis. Due to the speed improvements of our algorithm, and its ability to handle  
 179 tensor-variate data, we were able to run our algorithm on the raw, unprocessed data and achieve a  
 180 similar result in negligible time. Specifically, the reconstruction of the frames had an accuracy of  
 181 99%.

182 Prior work by Prost, Gazut, and Bröls [21] used assortativity to assess their validity of the species  
 183 graph estimated by their model on the LifeLines-DEEP metagenomics dataset. Assortativity repre-  
 184 sents the tendency of related species to cluster together in the graph. A random graph would have  
 185 an assortativity of zero, but we would expect moderate assortativity in the true network as similar  
 186 species may fulfill similar roles in the gut microbiome. Our assortativity is comparable to prior work  
 187 (Figure 7). We also found that our graphs were more robust to noise than prior work; we analyze this  
 188 in the supplementary material.

189 Finally, we tested our approach on a 10x Genomics single-cell (RNA+ATAC) dataset taken from a  
 190 B Cell lymphoma tumour. We demonstrate that the clusters we find (using Louvain clustering[3])  
 191 on the graph remain visually cohesive when projected into lower-dimensional space by UMAP[18]  
 192 (Figure 8). In particular, the disconnected “islands” in UMAP correspond to their own cluster on the  
 193 graph as well. As these island-clusters were arrived at independently through two methods, UMAP  
 194 and our algorithm, it increases our confidence in the validity of the clustering. In the supplementary



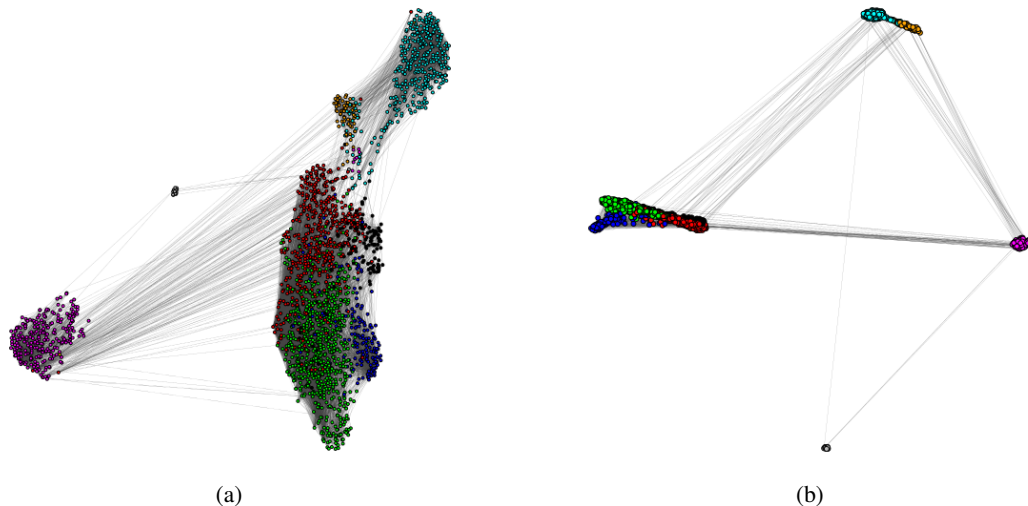


Figure 8: Two plots of the same cells from the 10x Genomics dataset, displayed via UMAP [18] (a) and the Fruchterman-Reingold layout algorithm[11] (b). Colors are based on Louvain clustering[3] of the graph, and represent the same clustering in both figures.

195 material, we verify that these clusters do represent distinct groups via a GO term enrichment analysis.  
 196 Our overall approach has been implemented in Python. All of the code to run the algorithm and  
 197 recreate the experiments has been made publicly available on GitHub; [https://github.com/NeurIPS-](https://github.com/NeurIPS-GmGM-Paper/GmGM)  
 198 [GmGM-Paper/GmGM](https://github.com/NeurIPS-GmGM-Paper/GmGM).

## 199 4 Limitations

200 Our method uses thresholding rather than more sophisticated regularizers. However, there is no  
 201 fundamental barrier preventing our algorithm from allowing regularizers at the cost of an eigen-  
 202 recomposition per iteration. This would increase the asymptotic complexity of the iterative portion  
 203 of our algorithm, making it questionable whether any gains in precision would be worth the loss in  
 204 efficiency.

205 Our method assumes that no tensor has a repeated axis (i.e. a matrix of people by people rather than  
 206 people by species). If there is a repeated axis, one can no longer analytically find the eigenvectors of  
 207 the MLE, at least by our methods. This is not a substantial issue, as such datasets are uncommon and  
 208 already represent graphs. Rather than extending the algorithm to work with repeated-axis tensors, it  
 209 would be more fruitful to extend it to work with priors.

210 When considering multi-tensor datasets, it may be the case that two axes only partially overlap. For  
 211 example, the full LifeLines-DEEP dataset contains a second (follow-up) metagenomics dataset for a  
 212 third of the study participants; two thirds of the patients are missing from this dataset. We do not  
 213 make an attempt to handle this type of missing data, even though missing data shows up in many  
 214 applications. The lack of ability to handle missing data is a major limitation of our algorithm. It is  
 215 nontrivial to extend the algorithm to handle this case, as it renders Theorem 1 ineffective and hence  
 216 removes the speed advantage we attained. Prior work has not addressed this problem, as it only exists  
 217 in multi-tensor datasets and we are the first to consider this case.

## 218 5 Conclusion

219 We have created a novel model, GmGM, which successfully generalizes Gaussian graphical models  
 220 to the common scenario of multi-tensor datasets. Furthermore, we demonstrated that our algorithm is  
 221 significantly faster than prior work focusing on Gaussian tensor-graphical models such as EiGLasso  
 222 and TeraLasso while still preserving state-of-the-art performance. These speed improvements allow  
 223 tensor-graphical models to be applied to datasets with axes of length in the thousands. Finally, we  
 224 demonstrated the application of our algorithm on five real-world datasets to prove its efficacy.

## 225 References

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