



**KDD2024**  
BARCELONA, SPAIN



# Compact Decomposition of Irregular Tensors for Data Compression: From Sparse to Dense to High-order Tensors



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# Tensor

A **(regular) tensor** is a **multi-dimensional** array.

- In this work, we assume tensors of real values.

-2
19
4

**Vector**  
**(1-order tensor)**

-2	7	11
19	22	-8
4	16	24

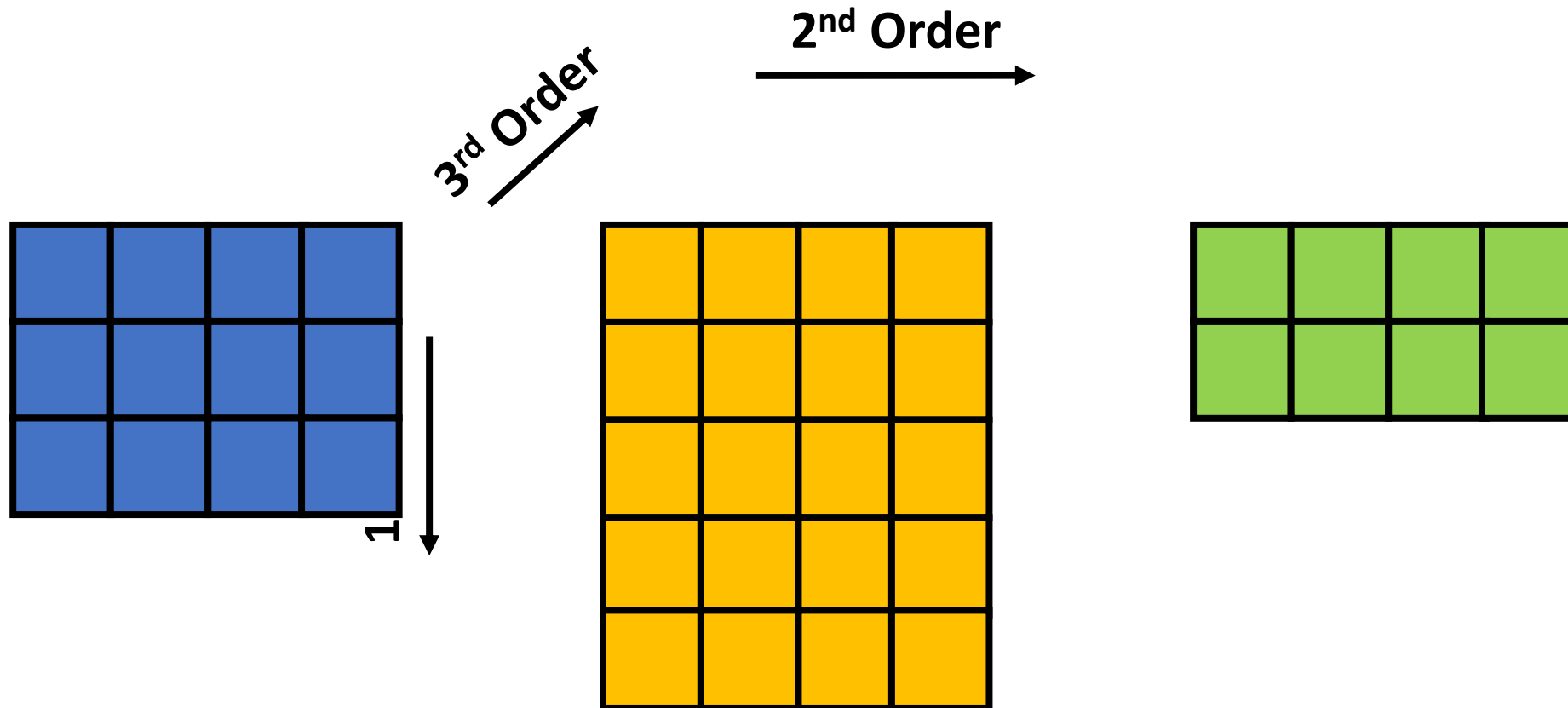
**Matrix**  
**(2-order tensor)**

-2	7	11
19	22	-8
4	16	24

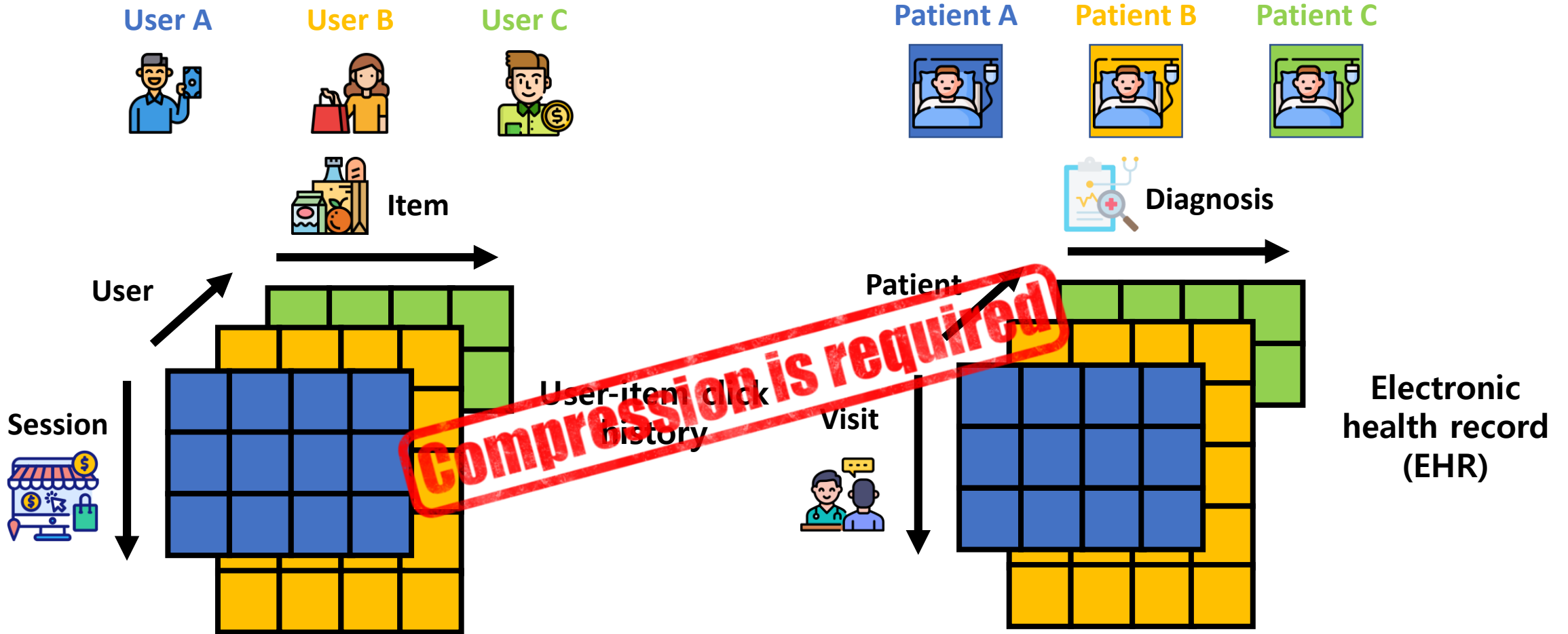
**Tensor**  
**(3-order tensor)**

# Irregular tensor

A (3-order) **irregular tensor** is a collection of matrices with **varying row counts**.



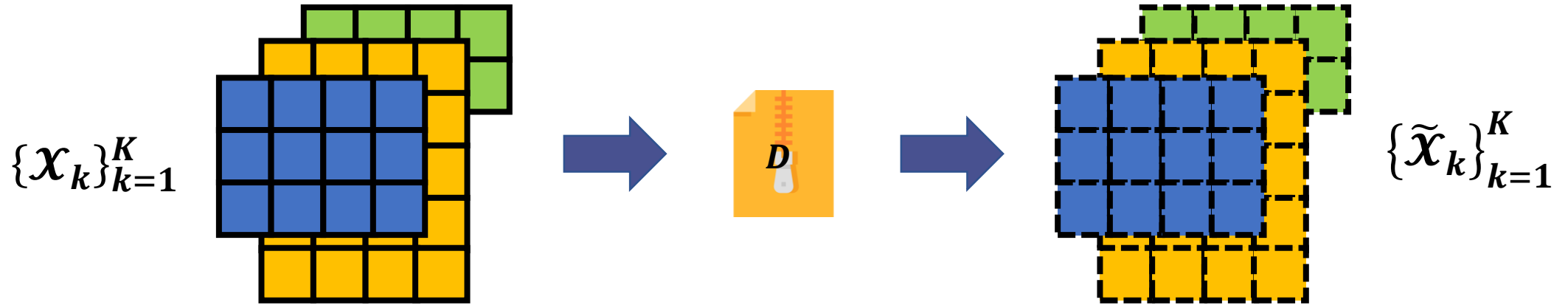
# Various real-world data are irregular tensors



More than 140 billion entries

# Problem definition

Lossy compression of an irregular tensor.



- **Given:** an irregular tensor  $\{\mathcal{X}_k\}_{k=1}^K$
- **Find:** the compressed data  $D$
- **To minimize:** (1) the size of  $D$  and the approximation error  $\sum_{k=1}^K \|\mathcal{X}_k - \tilde{\mathcal{X}}_k\|_F^2$   
where  $\{\tilde{\mathcal{X}}_k\}_{k=1}^K$  is the approximation of the input tensor.

# Outline

1. Introduction.

2. Preliminaries.

3. Proposed method.

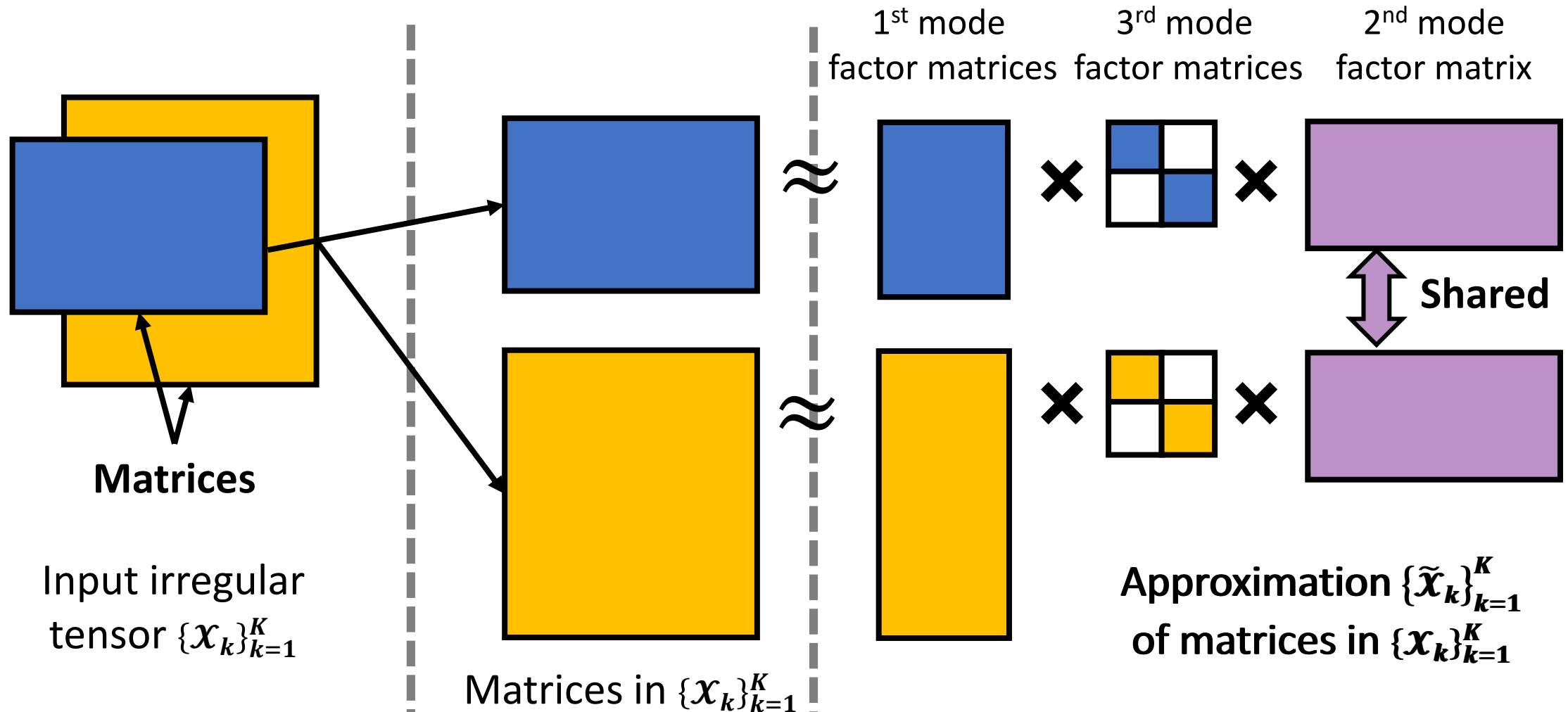
4. Experiments.

5. Conclusion.



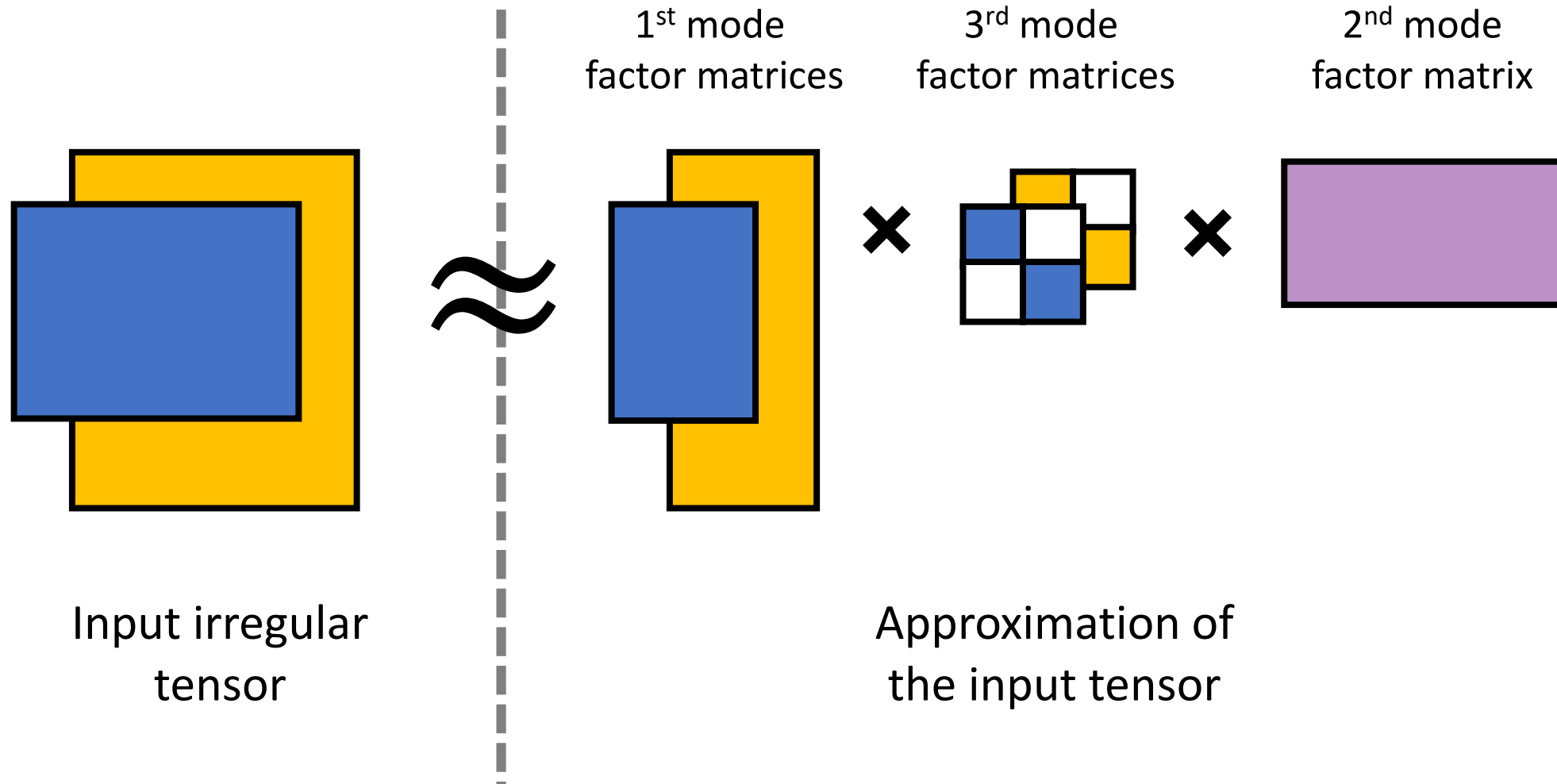
# Previous lossy compression: PARAFAC2

PARAFAC2 approximates an irregular tensor with the products of factor matrices.



# Previous lossy compression: PARAFAC2

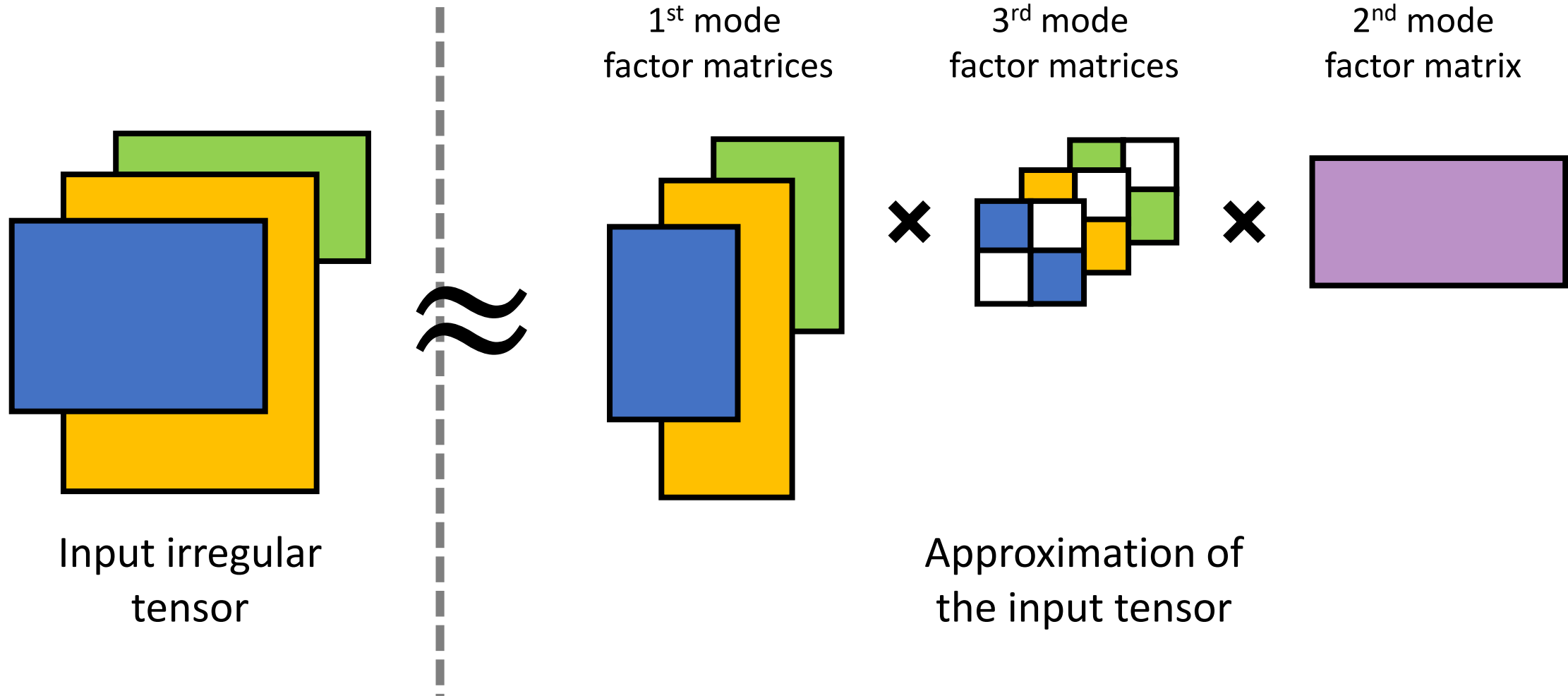
PARAFAC2 approximates an irregular tensor with the products of factor matrices.





# Previous lossy compression: PARAFAC2

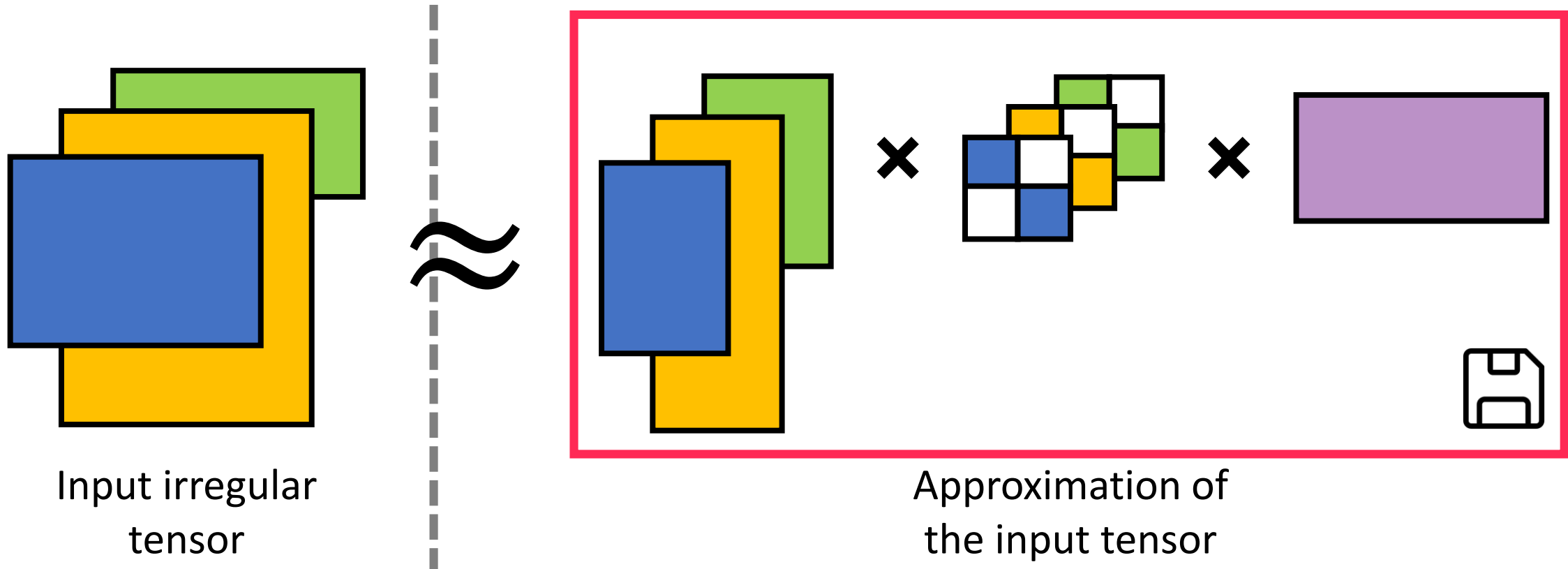
PARAFAC2 approximates an irregular tensor with the products of factor matrices.



# Previous lossy compression: PARAFAC2

Factor matrices can be **stored** instead of the input irregular tensor.

That is, factor matrices can be regarded as **the compressed output**.



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# Overview of Light-IT and Light-IT<sup>++</sup>

We propose **Light-IT and Light-IT<sup>++</sup>**, lossy compression algorithms for irregular tensors, built upon PARAFAC2.

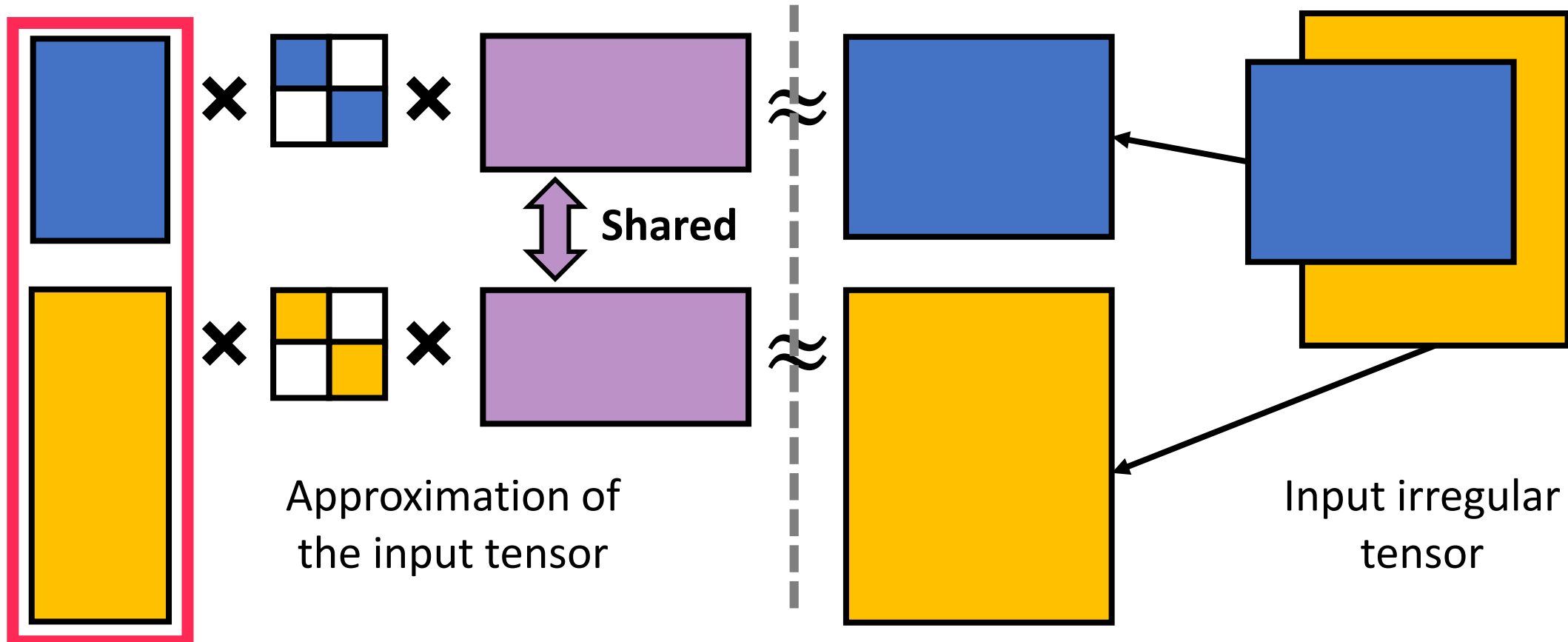
- Q1. Compactness: How can we compress irregular tensors **compactly**?
- Q2. Expressiveness: How can we increase the **expression power** of PARAFAC2?
- Q3. How can we **efficiently** compress **sparse** irregular tensors?
- Q4. How can we compress **higher-order** irregular tensors?

# Limited compression ability of PARAFAC2

PARAFAC2 gives a first mode matrix for each slice of an irregular tensor.

- **Bottleneck**: saving all the 1<sup>st</sup> mode factor matrices is expensive.

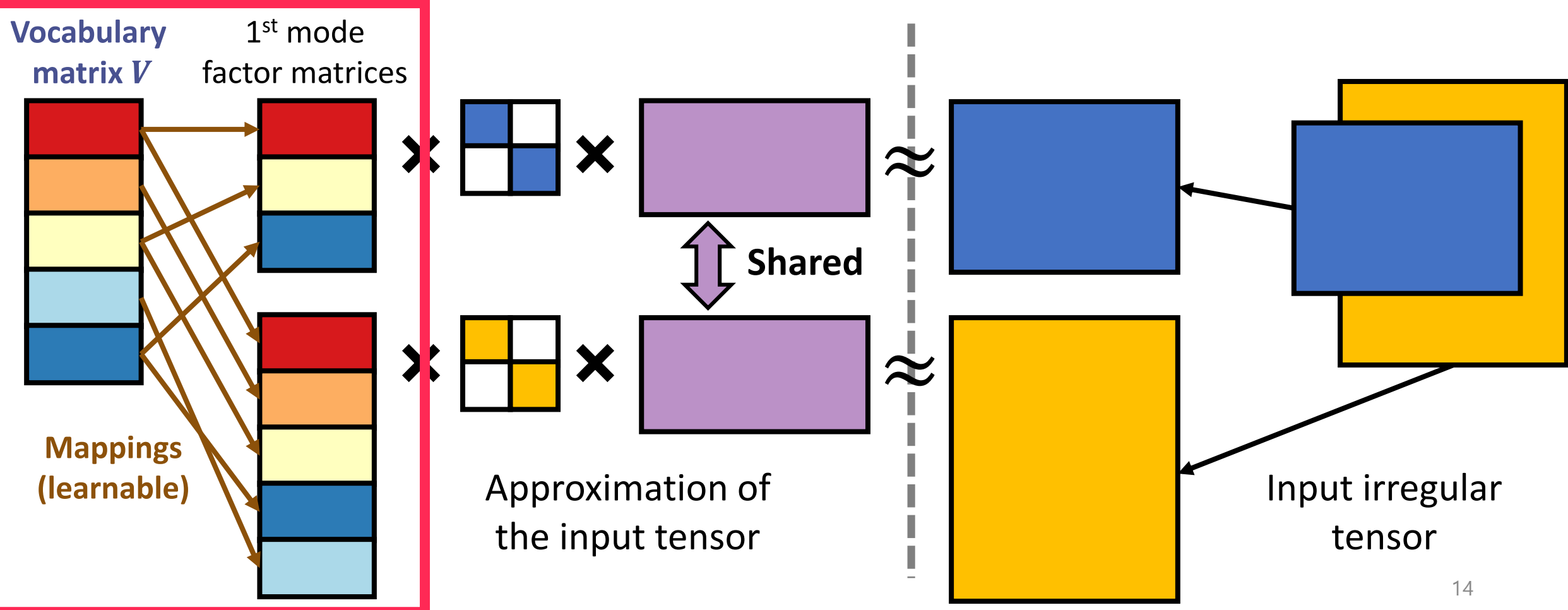
Q1 .How can we make the compression result more **compact**?



# A1. Vocabulary-based compression (Light-IT)

We use a single **vocabulary matrix  $V$**  shared by all 1<sup>st</sup> mode factor matrices.

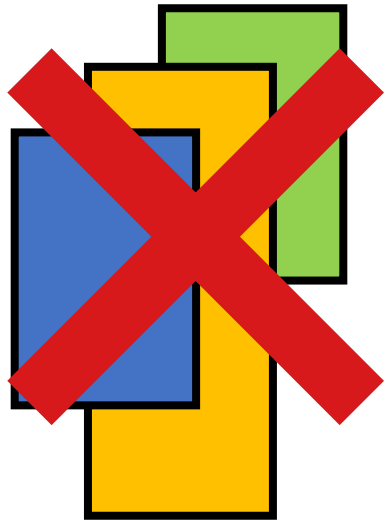
The 1<sup>st</sup> mode factor matrix for each slice is constructed from  $V$  by mappings.



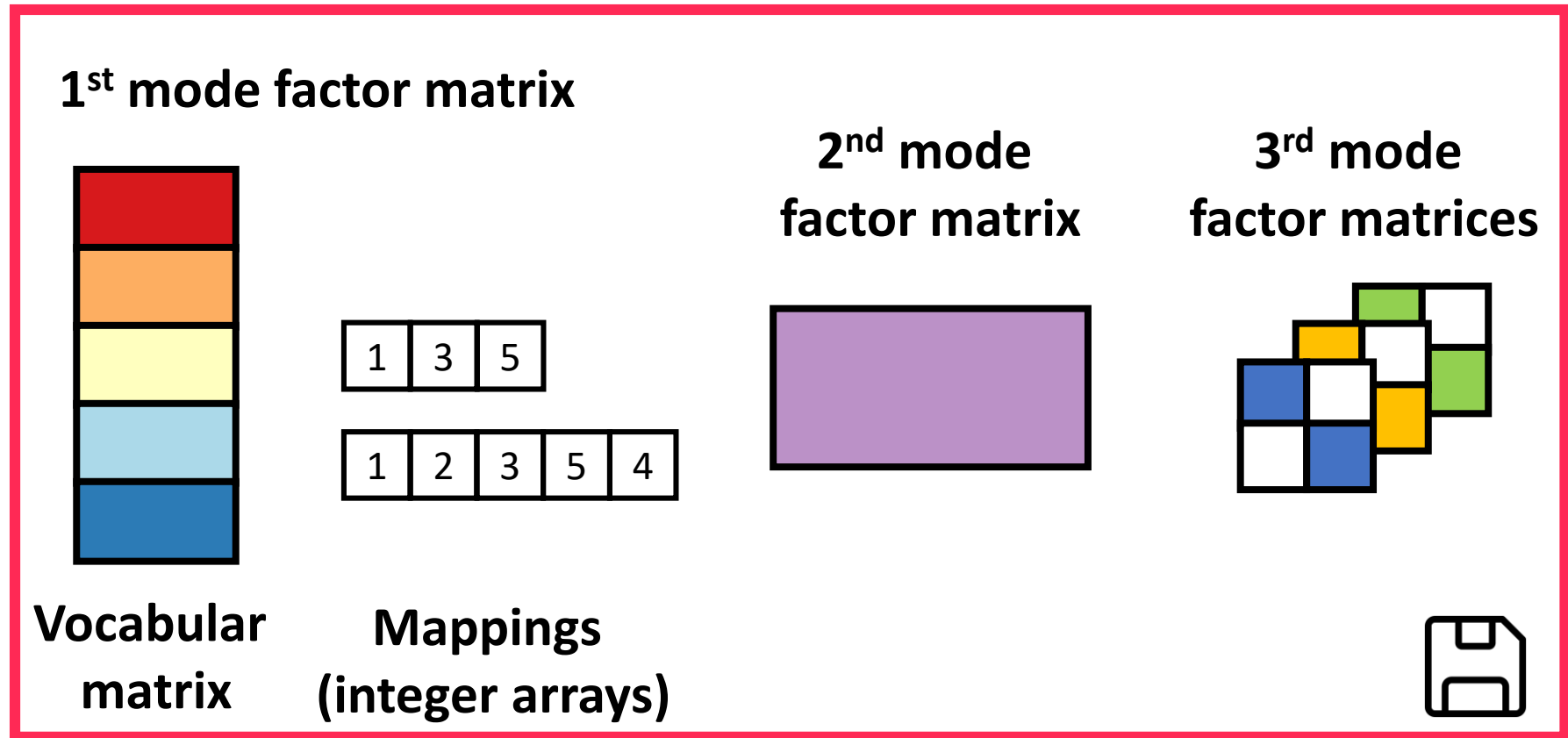
# Compression results using Light-IT

Only a single factor matrix per mode is required.

Mappings are further compressed by Huffman encoding.

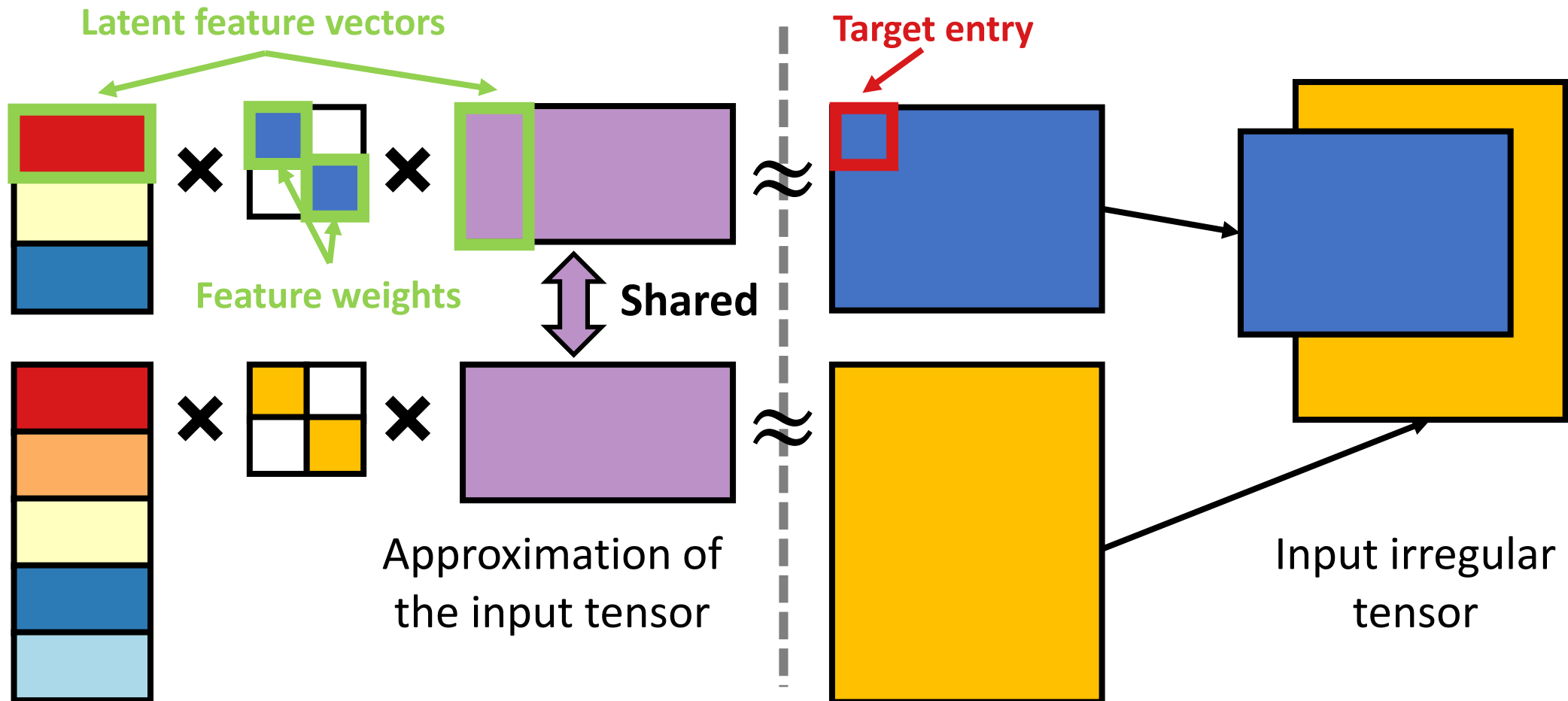


1<sup>st</sup> mode factor matrices  
in PARAFAC2  
(not required in Light-IT)



# Limited expressional ability of PARAFAC2 (and Light-IT)

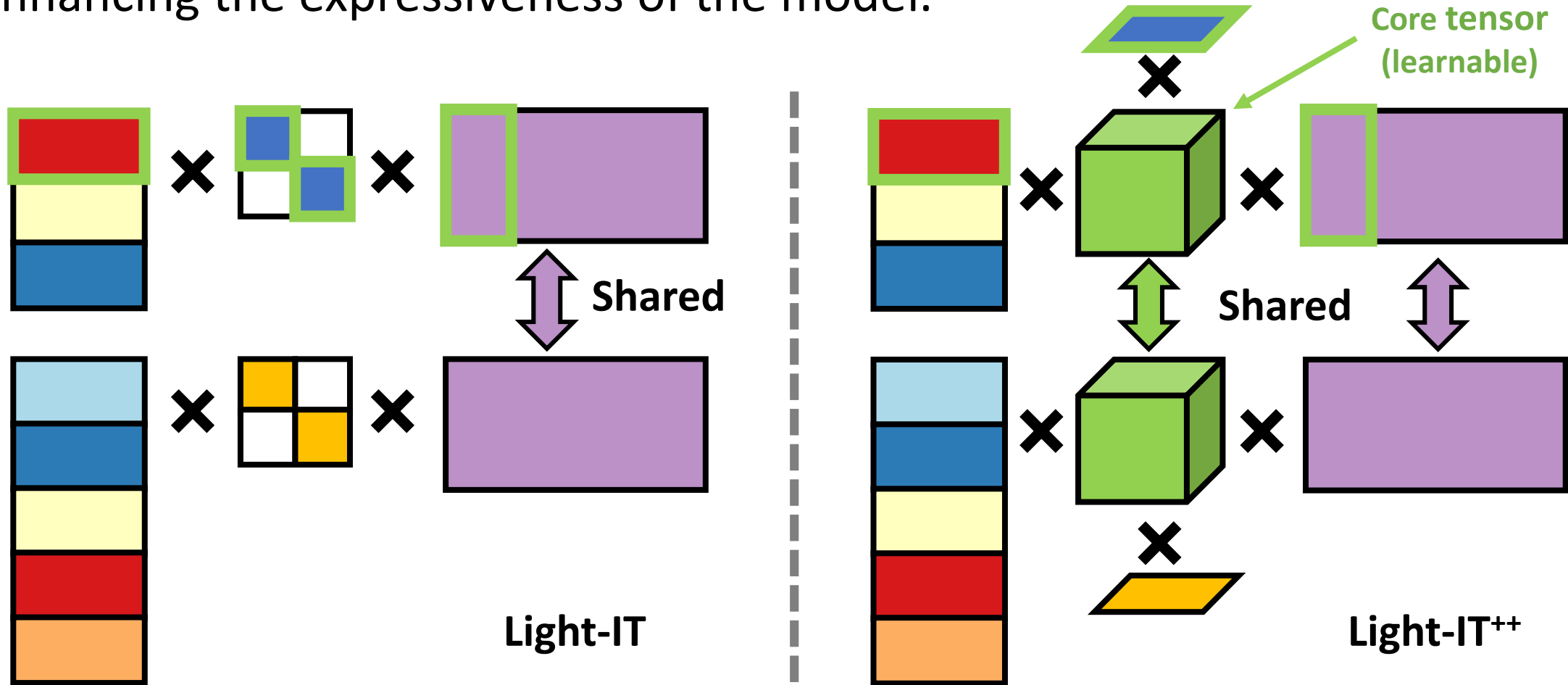
Each **entry** is approximated by the (weighted) product of **feature vectors**.  
It fails to capture the relationships between different features.





## A2. Extension with a core tensor (Light-IT<sup>++</sup>)

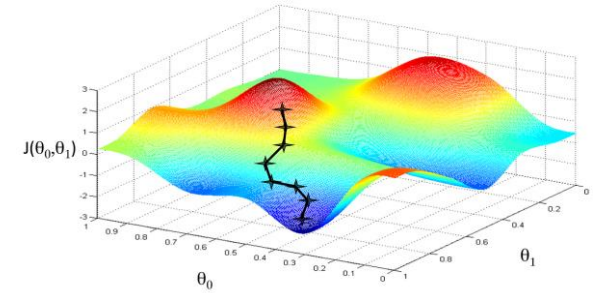
Incorporate a **core tensor** to capture relationships between different features, enhancing the expressiveness of the model.



# Training of Light-IT and Light-IT<sup>++</sup>

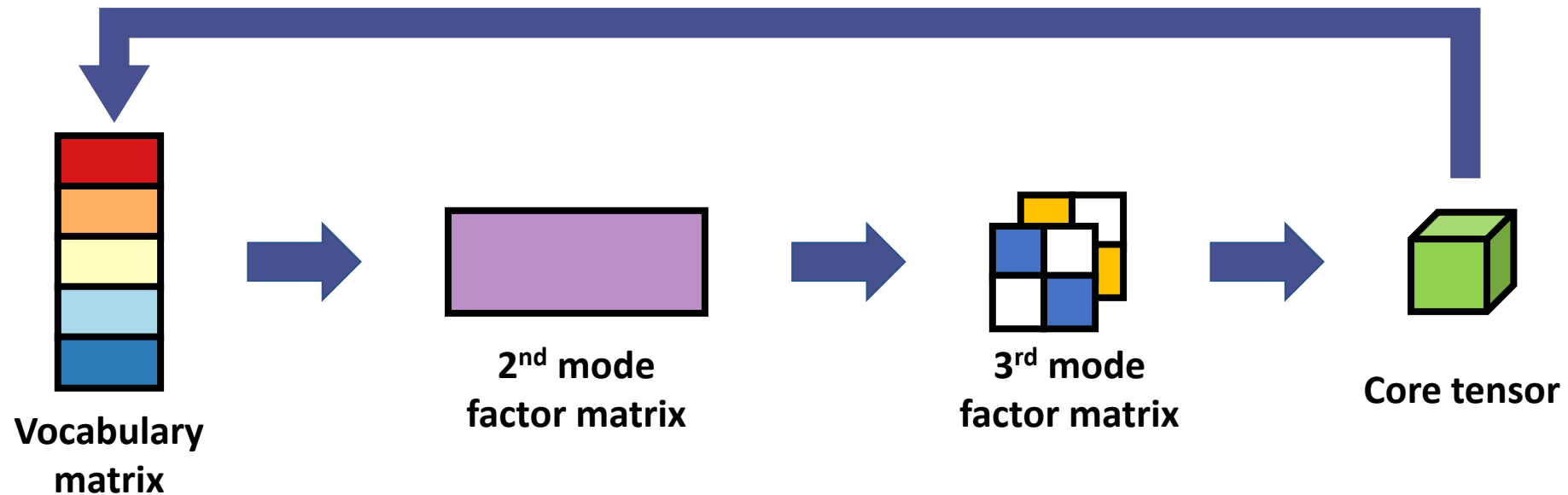
Light-IT: gradient descent to minimize the squared error

- Mappings can be also made differentiable\*



Light-IT<sup>++</sup>: alternating least square (ALS) for sequential updates

- Mappings are fixed to those from Light-IT.



\* Differentiable product quantization for end-to-end embedding compression. In ICML 2020.

# A3. Sparse design

**Exploit** the **sparsity** of sparse tensors for the efficient computation.

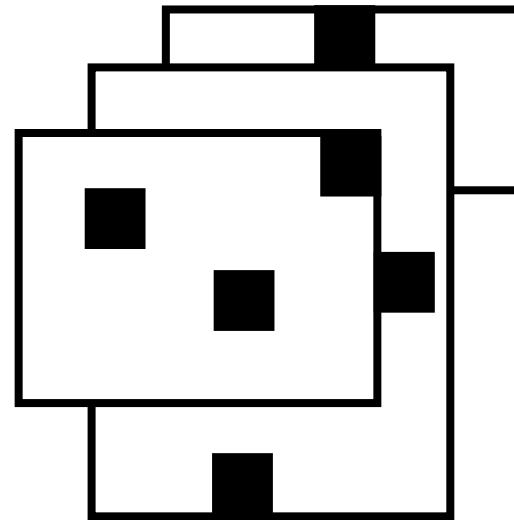
E.g.) complexity of loss computation in Light-IT:

- Naïve computation  $\propto$  **all entry count**.
- Efficient computation  $\propto$  **non-zero entry count**.
- **Key idea:** compute the losses for zero entries efficiently in a closed form



Time  
complexity

$\propto$

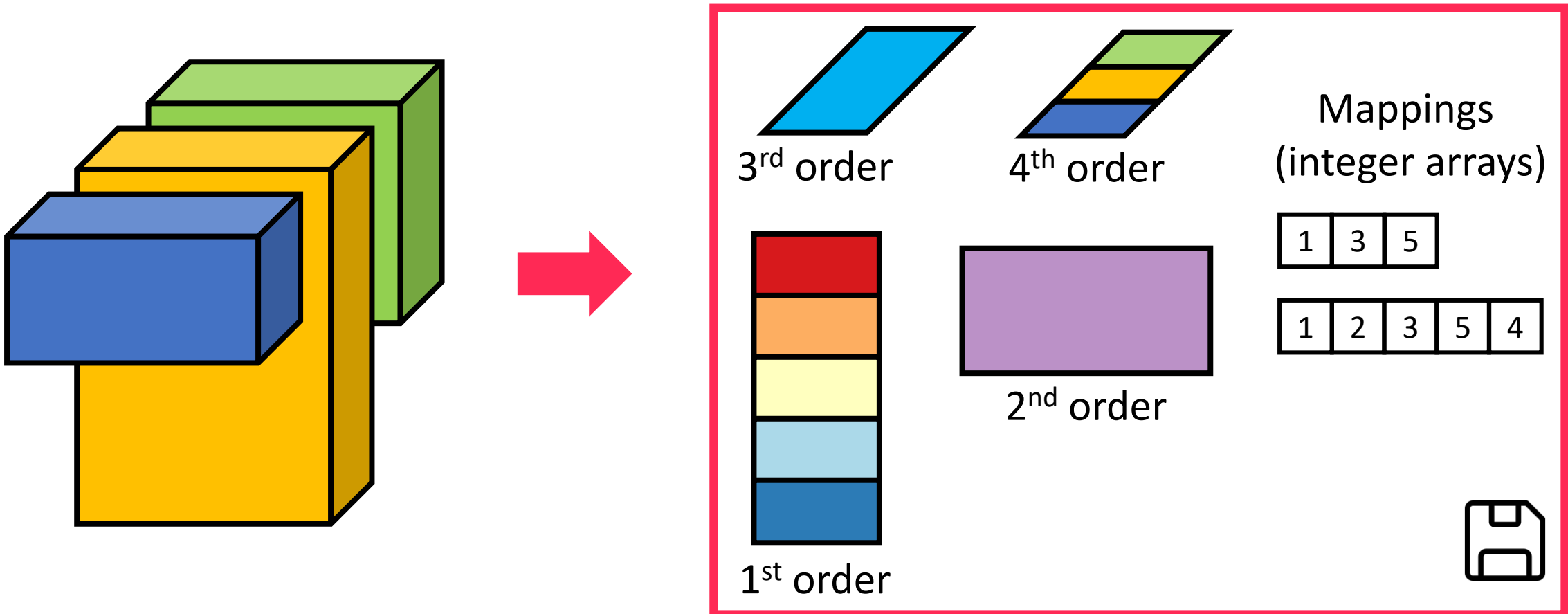


# *Nonzero  
entries*

# A4. Higher-order design

Our methods are applicable to irregular tensors of any order.

**Key idea:** matricize the input irregular tensor and its approximation.



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# Experimental settings: Datasets

Used 6 public real-world datasets.

- Four 3-order and two 4-order irregular tensors.
- Four sparse and two dense irregular tensors.



**Electronic  
hospital records**



**Email data**



**User-  
interaction data**



**Stock data**

# Experimental settings: Baselines

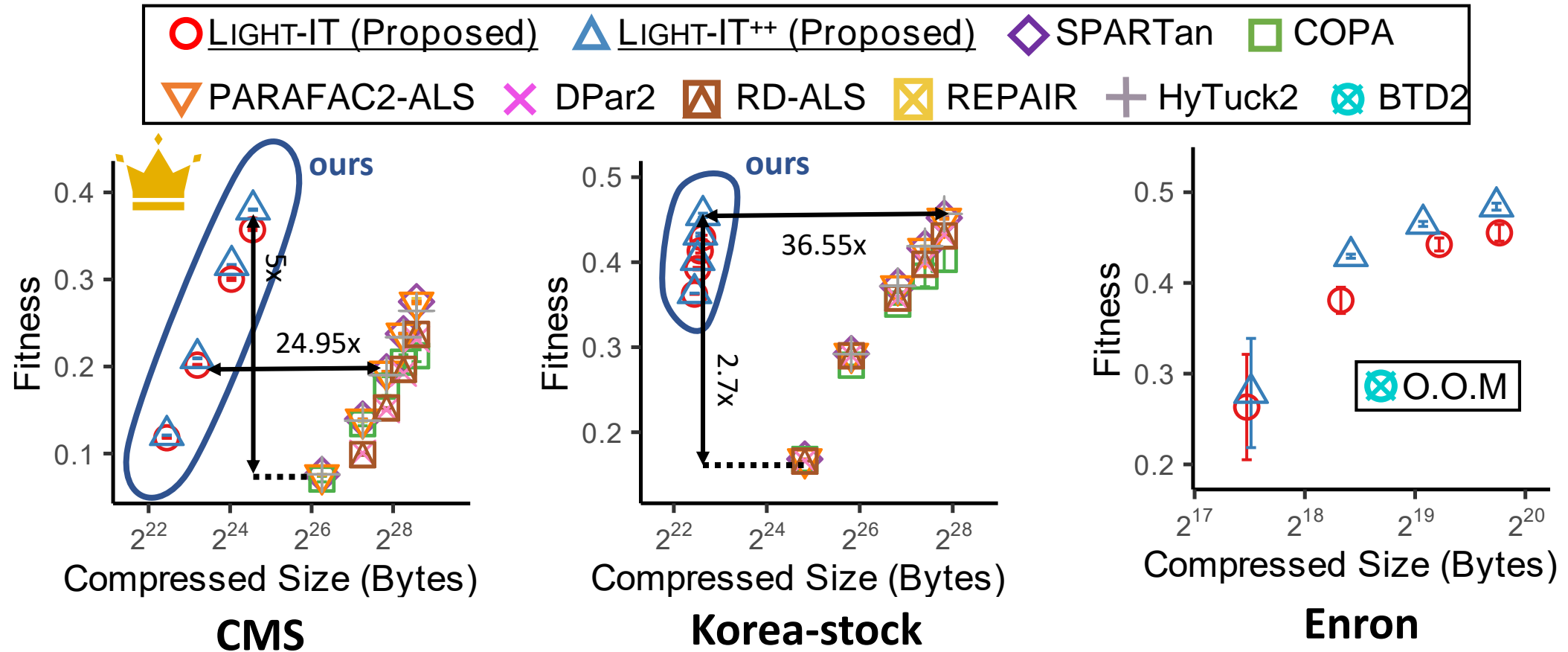
We used lossy-compression baselines.

- Methods for **3-order dense** irregular tensors.
  - PARAFAC2-ALS, RD-ALS, DPar2, and HyTuck2.
- Methods for **3-order sparse** irregular tensors.
  - COPA, SPARTan, and REPAIR.
- A method for **4-order dense** irregular tensors.
  - BTD2.

# Our methods are concise and precise

The compressed outputs of our methods are up to 37x smaller.

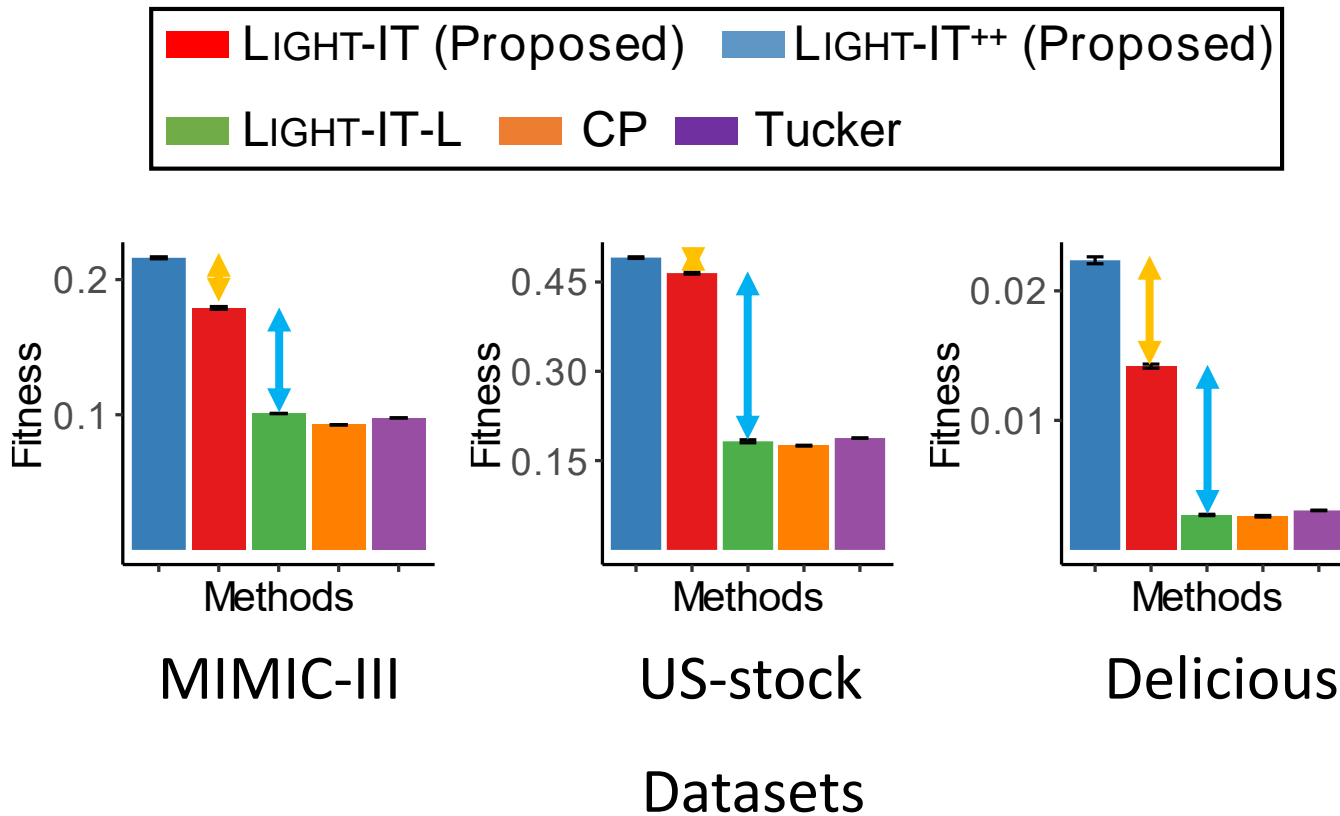
Our methods show up to 5x better accuracy.





# All components of our methods are useful

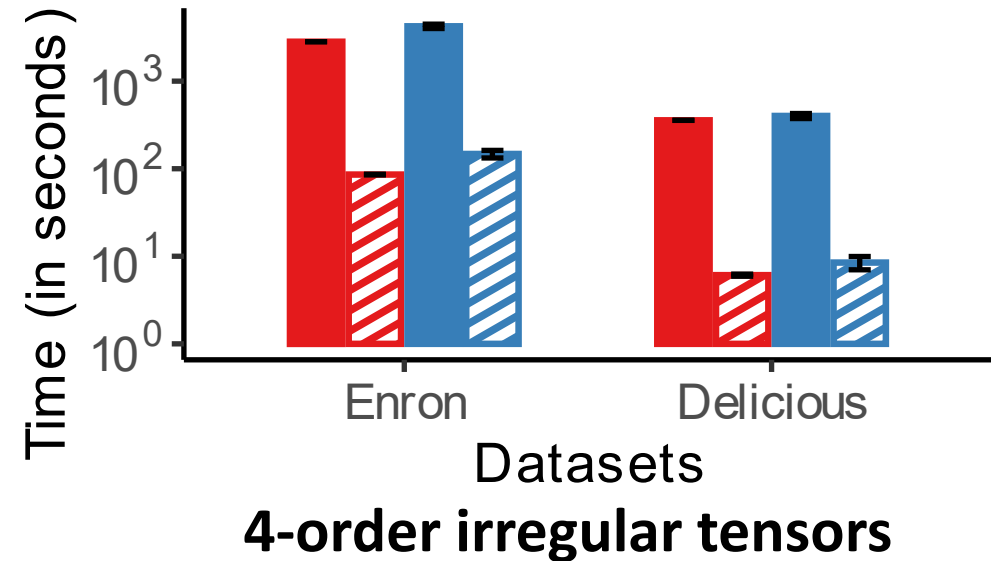
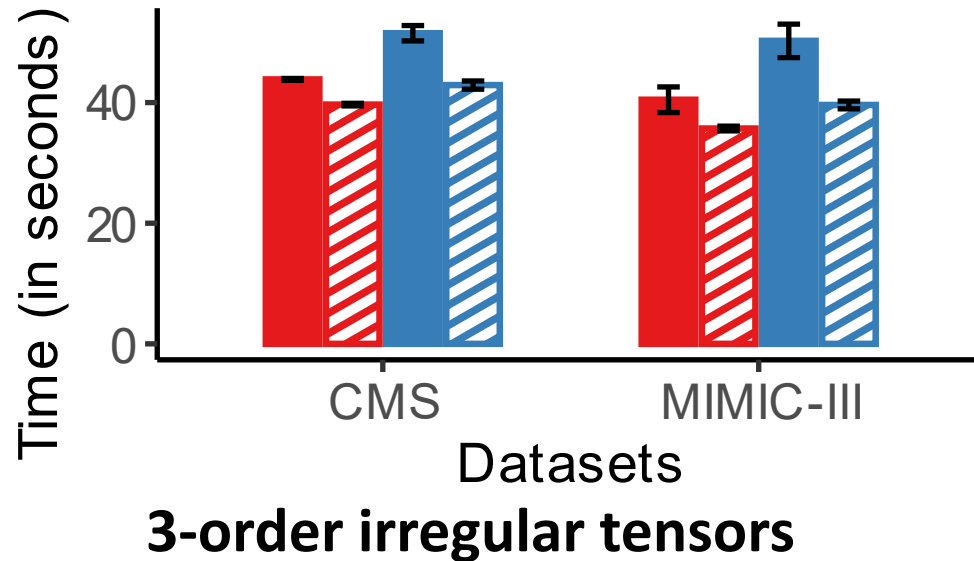
(1) **vocabulary-based compression** and (2) **extension with a core tensor** are effective for compression.



- **Light-IT-L**: Light-IT variant mapping the  $i$ -th row of a slice to the  $i$ -th row of the shared matrix.
- **CP**: CP decomposition.
- **Tucker**: Tucker decomposition.

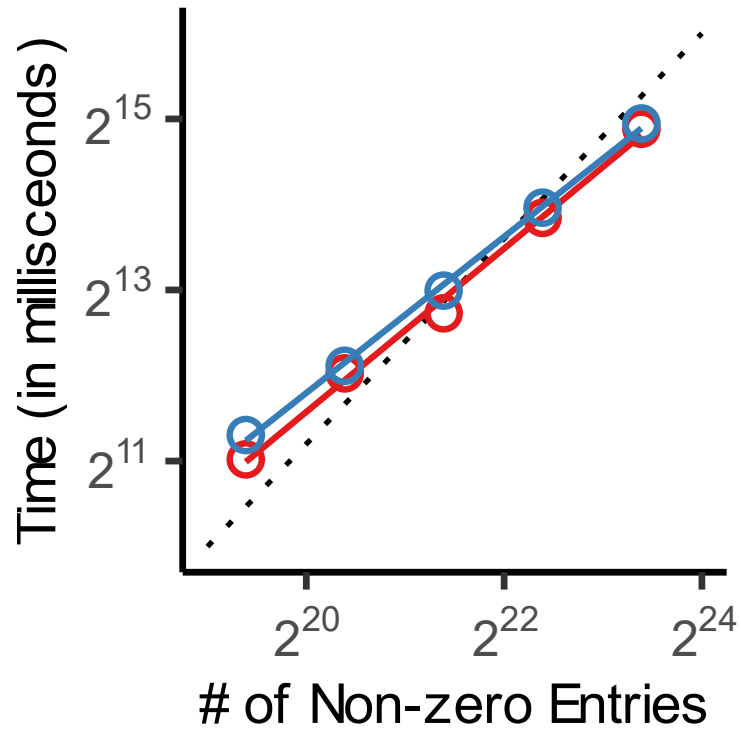
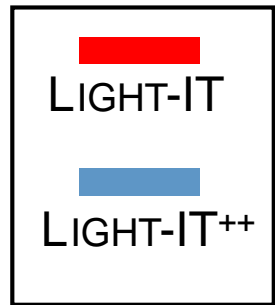
# Our methods for sparse tensors are faster

For sparse irregular tensors, the sparse versions of our methods are faster than their dense versions.

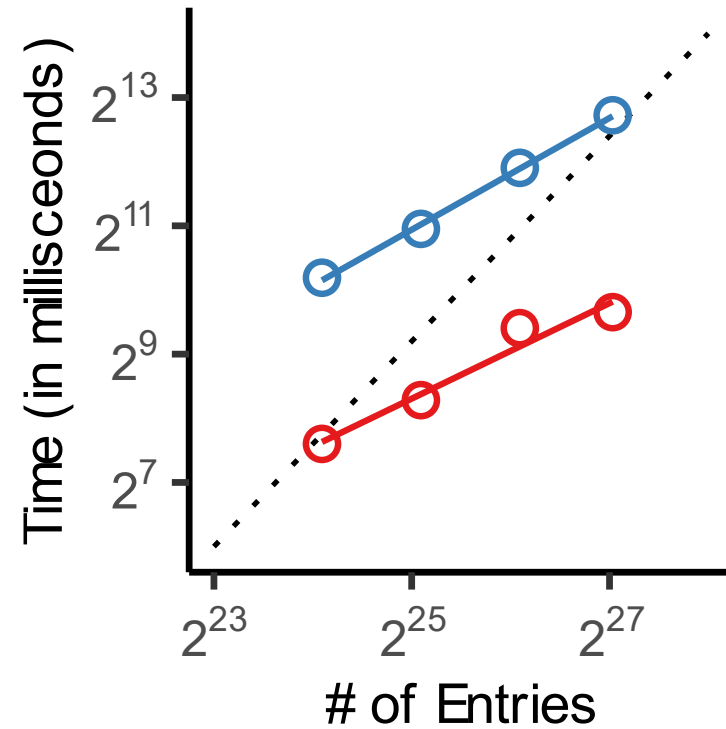


# Our methods are scalable

Compression time of our methods is linear in the number of (non-zero) entries.



**3-order sparse tensors**

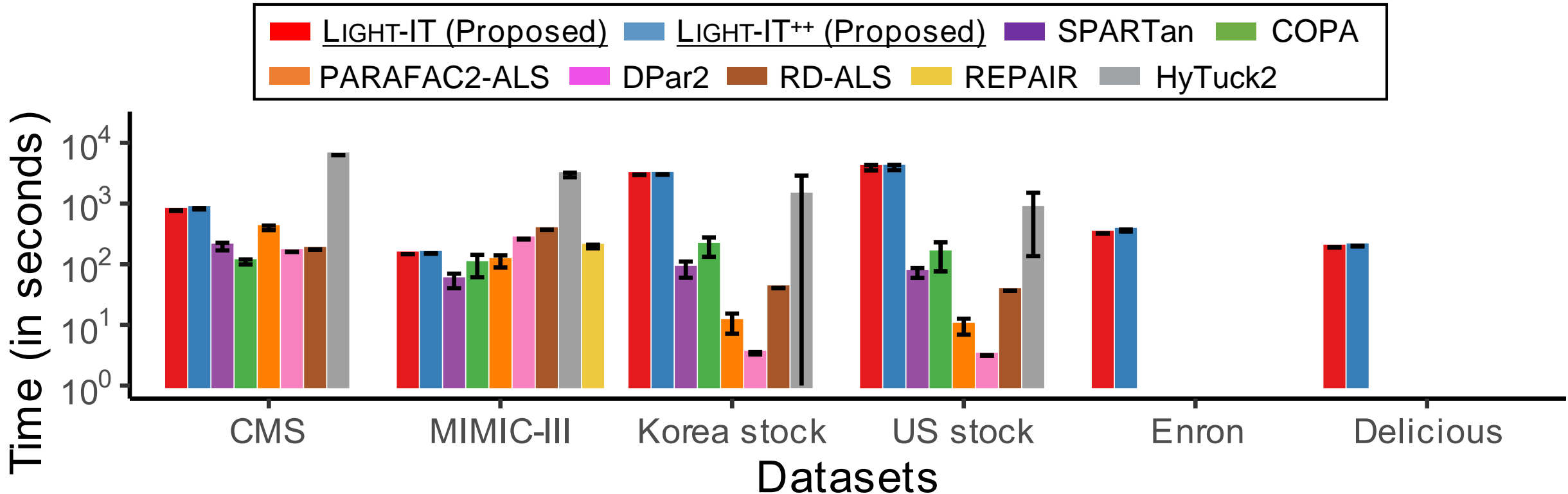


**3-order dense tensors**

# Total compression time

Our methods tend to be slower than most competitors.

However, our methods took at most 1.1 hours for all considered datasets.



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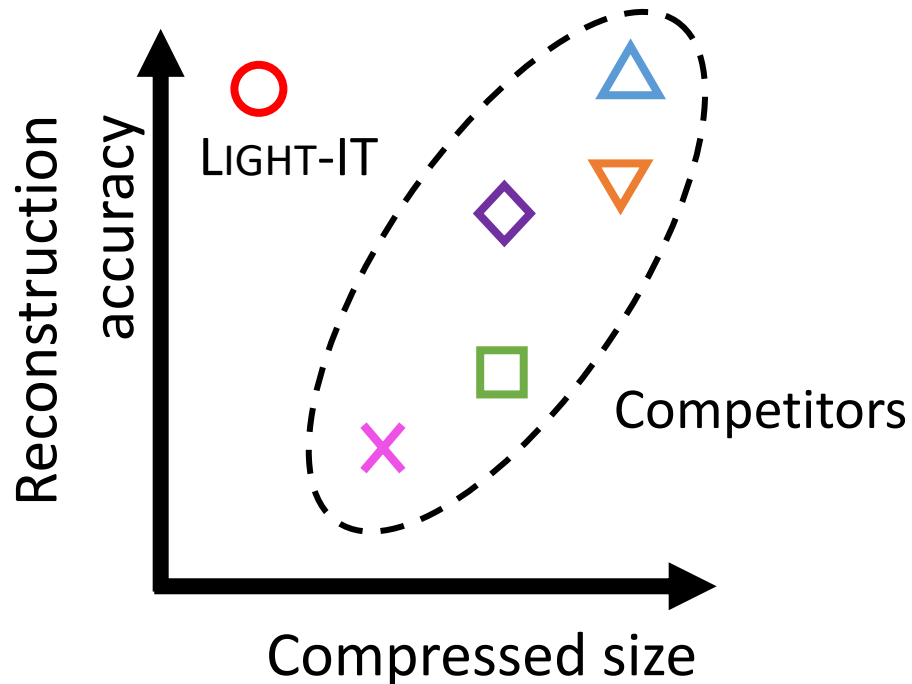
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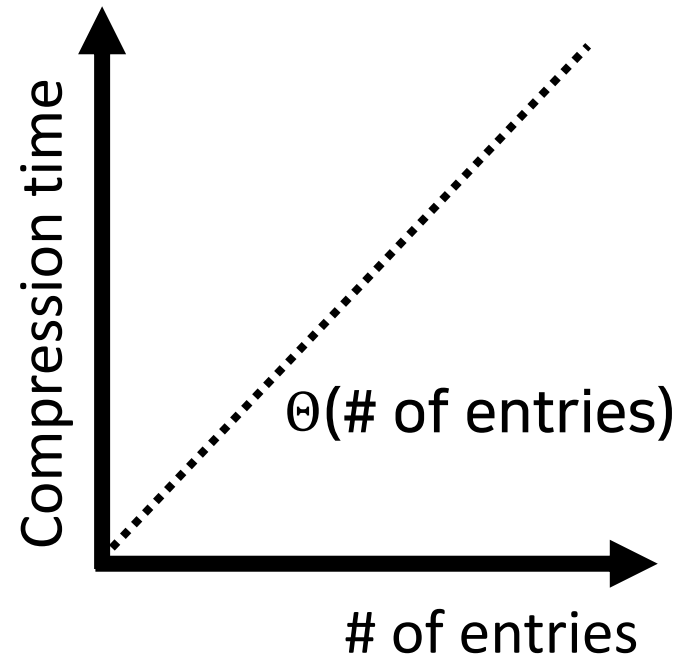
# Conclusions

We propose **Light-IT** and **Light-IT<sup>++</sup>**, lossy compression algorithms for irregular tensors, built upon PARAFAC2.

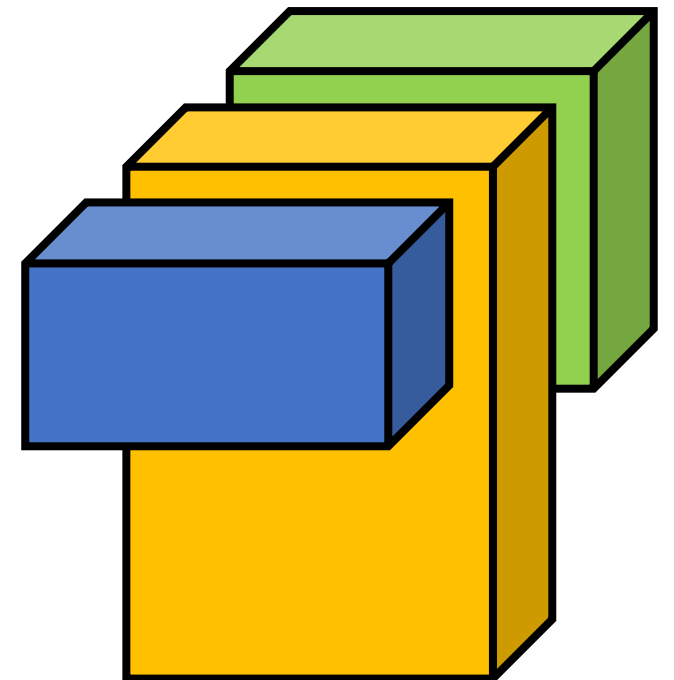
✓ Compact and Accurate



✓ Scalable



✓ Versatile





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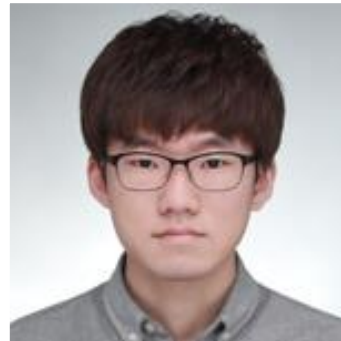
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