

# Metric Multidimensional scaling (MDS)

• Problem = from distances  $D_{ij}$ , how to compute  $\vec{x}_i \in \mathbb{R}^d$  such that  $\|\vec{x}_i - \vec{x}_j\| \approx D_{ij}$ ?

• Step #1: derive Gram matrix of inner products

$$G_{ij} = \frac{1}{2} \left[ \frac{1}{N} \sum_k (D_{kj}^2 + D_{ik}^2) - \frac{1}{N^2} \sum_k D_{ik}^2 - D_{ij}^2 \right]$$

• Step #2: singular value decomposition (SVD)

$$G = V \Sigma V^T \text{ with } \Sigma = \begin{pmatrix} \sigma_1 & & & \\ & \sigma_2 & & \\ & & \dots & \\ & & & \sigma_N \end{pmatrix} \text{ and } VV^T = V^T V = I$$

$$x_{i\alpha} = \sqrt{\sigma_\alpha} v_{i\alpha} \text{ for } i=1..N, \alpha=1..d$$

• Estimating the dimensionality  $d$

Singular values  $\sigma_\alpha$  measure variance in  $\alpha$ th dimension:

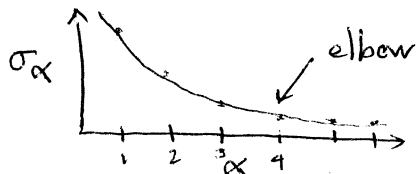
$$\text{Var}[x_\alpha] = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N x_{i\alpha}^2 \quad \text{b/c } \{\vec{x}_i\} \text{ are centered}$$

$$= \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \sigma_\alpha v_{i\alpha}^2$$

$$= \frac{\sigma_\alpha}{N} \quad \text{b/c } VV^T = I$$

Rules of thumb:

1) look for "elbow" in eigenvalue spectrum



2) choose  $d$  to capture  $(1-\delta)$  fraction of total variance:

$$\sum_{\alpha=1}^d \sigma_\alpha \geq \left( \frac{1-\delta}{\delta} \right) \sum_{\alpha=d+1}^N \sigma_\alpha$$

# Duality of MDS and PCA

- Inputs  $\vec{x}_i \in \mathbb{R}^D$ ; assume inputs are centered  $\sum \vec{x}_i = \vec{0}$

$$X = \begin{bmatrix} \vec{x}_1 & \vec{x}_2 & \dots & \vec{x}_N \end{bmatrix} \begin{matrix} \leftarrow N \rightarrow \\ \uparrow D \\ \downarrow \end{matrix}$$

- Inner products ( $N \times N$ )

$$G_{ij} = \vec{x}_i \cdot \vec{x}_j \iff G = X^T X$$

- Covariance matrix ( $D \times D$ )

$$C_{\alpha\beta} = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N X_{i\alpha} X_{i\beta} \iff C = \frac{1}{N} (X X^T)$$

- Eigenvalues

$G$  and  $C$  have same non-zero eigenvalues up to factor  $(\frac{1}{N})$ .

$$\# \text{ non-zero eigenvalues} \leq \min(D, N)$$

- Equivalence

PCA on inputs  $\{\vec{x}_i\}_{i=1}^N$  gives same results as MDS on distances  $\|\vec{x}_i - \vec{x}_j\|$ .

Maximum variance subspace = Maximally inner-product preserving subspace

# Manifold learning

• Problem: given high dimensional data that lies on (or near) a low dimensional manifold, how to compute a "faithful" embedding?

• Examples of manifolds

1) Spiral



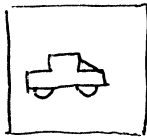
extrinsic coordinates:  $(x, y)$  in 2D plane

intrinsic coordinates: arc length along spiral

no linear projection can "unfold" the spiral

$(x, y) \rightarrow \theta$

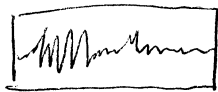
2) images of car from different viewpoints



extrinsic coordinates: pixels

intrinsic coordinates: camera location 3d

3) vowel sounds



extrinsic coordinates: waveform samples

intrinsic coordinates: articulator positions  
(e.g. tongue, lips, etc.)

• Notation

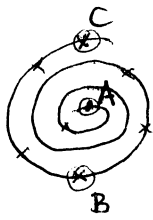
inputs  $\vec{x}_i \in \mathbb{R}^D$  ( $i=1..N$ )

outputs  $\vec{y}_i \in \mathbb{R}^d$  ( $d \ll D$ )

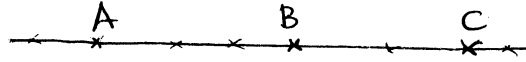
• Goals

- nearby points remain nearby
- distant points remain distant
- estimate dimensionality  $d$

• Non-monotonicity



Rank ordering of Euclidean distances  
will not be preserved



$$\|A-C\| > \|A-B\|$$

$$\|A-C\| < \|A-B\|$$

• Linear vs. nonlinear

What computational price must we pay  
for nonlinear dimensionality reduction (NLDR)?

• Conventional wisdom (pre-2000)

NLDR requires difficult nonlinear optimization:

- latent variable models (mixture of factor analyzers)
- autoencoder neural networks
- self-organizing maps



Pre-2000: many local minima!

• Since 2000

spectral methods for NLDR:

- based on tractable matrix computations
- not much more complicated than MDS

no local minima

# Isomap algorithm


Isomap = "isometric mapping"  
↖ distance-preserving

Step #1: compute neighborhood graph  $\sim O(DN^2)$

Nodes represent inputs  $\{\vec{x}_i\}_{i=1}^N$ .

Edges represent k-nearest neighbor (kNN) relations.

k is ONLY free parameter of algorithm.

Ex: spiral  graph is discretized  
skeleton of underlying manifold  
(k=2)

Step #2: compute shortest paths  $\sim O(N^3)$

Weight each edge by local distance between kNN.

Compute distance  $D_{ij}$  of shortest path from node  $i$  to node  $j$  (e.g. Dijkstra's algorithm).

Graph distances approximate "geodesic" distances along manifold.

(Not the same as Euclidean distances, except for kNN.)

Step #3: Run MDS on graph-based distances.

- Derive Gram matrix
- Perform SVD
- Estimate (manifold) dimensionality from eigenvalue spectrum.

• Strengths of Isomap

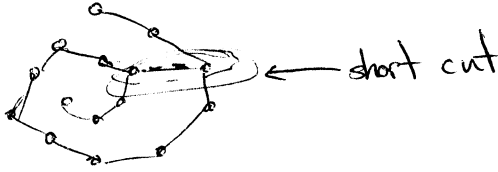
- polynomial time optimizations
- no local minima
- non-iterative (just one pass through data)
- non-parametric (no explicit assumptions about form of manifold)
- only heuristic is neighborhood size

• Asymptotic convergence

Thm. For data sampled from a manifold that is isometric to a convex subset of Euclidean space, Isomap will recover the subset up to rotation and translation.

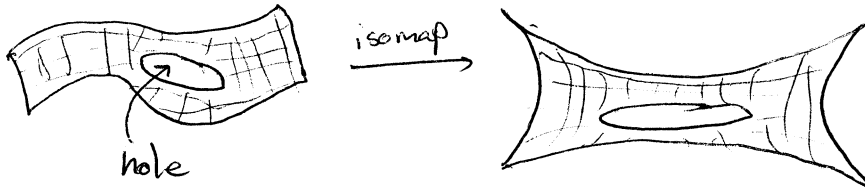
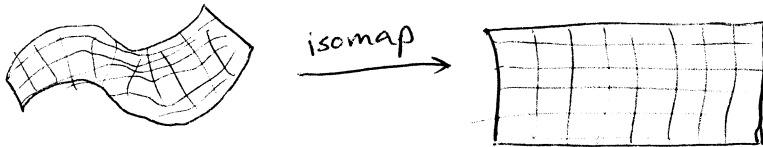
• Issues

- sensitivity to "short cuts" in graph when data is sparse or noisy



- graph distances  $D_{ij}$  may not yield a positive semidefinite Gram matrix

- convexity assumption: manifold has no "holes"



distortion!

- holes introduce distortions into the embedding
- spurious extra dimensions appear in embedding

