

Taxonomy of principal distances and divergences



Euclidean geometry



Euclidean distance
 $d_2(\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q}) = \sqrt{\sum_i (p_i - q_i)^2}$
 (Pythagoras' theorem circa 500 BC)



Minkowski distance (L_k -norm)
 $d_k(\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q}) = \sqrt[k]{\sum_i |p_i - q_i|^k}$
 (H. Minkowski 1864-1909)



Hamming distance
 $(|\{i : p_i \neq q_i\}|)$



Manhattan distance
 $d_1(\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q}) = \sum_i |p_i - q_i|$
 (city block-taxi cab)



Quadratic distance
 $d_Q = \sqrt{(\mathbf{p} - \mathbf{q})^T Q (\mathbf{p} - \mathbf{q})}$



Lévy-Prokhorov distance
 $LP_\rho(p, q) = \inf_{\epsilon > 0} \{p(A) \leq q(A^\epsilon) + \epsilon \forall A \in \mathcal{B}(\mathcal{X})\}$
 $A^\epsilon = \{y \in \mathcal{X}, \exists x \in A : \rho(x, y) < \epsilon\}$



Klein (1849-1925)



Poincaré (z_1, z_2) = $\operatorname{arctanh}\left(\frac{|z_1 - z_2|}{|z_1 + z_2|}\right)$



Hyperbolic/spherical geometry

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Sphere (p, q) = $\arccos(p^\top q)$

Klein (1849-1925)

Statistical geometry

Physics entropy JK^{-1}

$-k \int p \log p d\mu$
 (Boltzmann-Gibbs 1878)

Mahalanobis metric (1936)

$d_\Sigma = \sqrt{(\mathbf{p} - \mathbf{q})^T \Sigma^{-1} (\mathbf{p} - \mathbf{q})}$

Haussdorff set distance

$d_H(X, Y) = \max\{\sup_x \rho(x, Y), \sup_y \rho(X, y)\}$

Information entropy

$H(p) = -\int p \log p d\mu$

(C. Shannon 1948)

Bolyai (1802-1860)

Lobachevsky (1792-1856)

Additive entropy

cross-entropy

conditional entropy

mutual information

(chain rules)

Cayley (1821-1895)

Non-Euclidean geometries

Riemannian geometry



Fisher information (local entropy)

$I(\theta) = E[(\frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \ln p(X|\theta))^2]$
 (R. A. Fisher 1890-1962)

Riemannian metric tensor

$\int \sqrt{g_{ij} \frac{dx_i}{ds} \frac{dx_j}{ds}} ds$
 (B. Riemann 1826-1866)

$\int g_{ij} dx_i dx_j$

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