

Fisher-Rao and pullback Hilbert cone distances on the multivariate Gaussian manifold with applications to simplification and quantization of mixtures



Frank Nielsen
 Sony Computer Science Laboratories
 Tokyo, Japan

Problem: Define fast principled distances between multivariate normal distributions

$$N(\mu, \Sigma) \sim p_{\mu, \Sigma}(x) = \frac{(2\pi)^{-\frac{d}{2}}}{\sqrt{\det(\Sigma)}} \exp\left(-\frac{(x-\mu)^\top \Sigma^{-1}(x-\mu)}{2}\right)$$

$$\mathcal{N}(d) = \{N(\lambda) : \lambda = (\mu, \Sigma) \in \Lambda(d) = \mathbb{R}^d \times \text{Sym}_+(d, \mathbb{R})\}$$

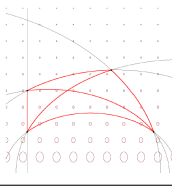
Fisher metric: $ds_{\text{Fisher}}^2 = d\mu^\top \Sigma^{-1} d\mu + \frac{1}{2} \text{tr}\left((\Sigma^{-1} d\Sigma)^2\right)$

Some closed form formula for specific cases:

- In 1D $\rho_{\mathcal{N}}(N_0, N_1) = \sqrt{2} \log\left(\frac{1+\Delta(\mu_0, \sigma_0; \mu_1, \sigma_1)}{1-\Delta(\mu_0, \sigma_0; \mu_1, \sigma_1)}\right)$

with Möbius distance $\Delta(a, b; c, d) = \sqrt{\frac{(c-a)^2 + 2(d-b)^2}{(c-a)^2 + 2(d+b)^2}}$

- Same mean: $\rho_{N_\mu}(N(\mu, \Sigma_0), N(\mu, \Sigma_1)) = \sqrt{\frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^d \log^2 \lambda_i(\Sigma_0^{-\frac{1}{2}} \Sigma_1 \Sigma_0^{-\frac{1}{2}})}$



Fisher-Rao geodesic Riemannian distance:

$$\rho_{\text{FR}}(N_0, N_1) = \inf_{\substack{c(t) \\ c(0)=p_{\mu_0, \Sigma_0} \\ c(1)=p_{\mu_1, \Sigma_1}}} \{\text{Len}(c)\}$$

Geodesic equation:

$$\begin{cases} \ddot{\mu} - \dot{\Sigma} \Sigma^{-1} \dot{\mu} = 0, \\ \ddot{\Sigma} + \dot{\mu} \dot{\mu}^\top - \dot{\Sigma} \Sigma^{-1} \dot{\Sigma} = 0. \end{cases}$$

Invariance under the positive affine group:

$$\text{Aff}_+(d, \mathbb{R}) := \{(a, A) : a \in \mathbb{R}^d, A \in \text{GL}_+(d, \mathbb{R})\}$$

$$\rho_{\text{FR}}((a, A) \cdot N_0 : (a, A) \cdot N_1) = \rho_{\text{FR}}(N_0, N_1)$$

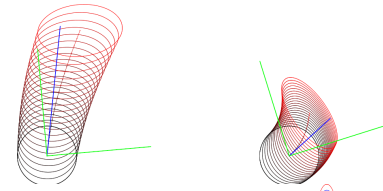
Solving with initial conditions: Use natural parameterization ($\xi = \Sigma^{-1} \mu, \Xi = \Sigma^{-1}$)

Initial conditions: $(a = \dot{\xi}(0), B = \dot{\Xi}(0)) = \dot{\gamma}_{\mathcal{N}}^{\text{Fisher}}(N_0, v_0; 0)$

Let $B = -\Xi(0)^{-\frac{1}{2}} \dot{\Xi}(0) \Xi(0)^{-\frac{1}{2}}, a = \Xi(0)^{-\frac{1}{2}} \dot{\xi}(0) + B \Xi(0)^{-\frac{1}{2}} \xi(0), G = (B^2 + 2aa^\top)^{\frac{1}{2}}$.

Then we have $\Xi(t) = \Xi(0)^{\frac{1}{2}} R(t) R(t)^\top \Xi(0)^{\frac{1}{2}}, \xi(t) = 2\Xi(0)^{\frac{1}{2}} R(t) \text{Sinh}\left(\frac{1}{2} Gt\right) G^\dagger a + \Xi(t) \Xi^{-1}(0) \xi(0)$

with $R(t) = \text{Cosh}\left(\frac{1}{2} Gt\right) - B G^\dagger \text{Sinh}\left(\frac{1}{2} Gt\right)$



Solving with boundary conditions:

Fisher-Rao geodesic $N_t = N(\mu(t), \Sigma(t)) = \gamma_{\text{FR}}^{\mathcal{N}}(N_0, N_1; t)$:

- For $i \in \{0, 1\}$, let $G_i = M_i D_i M_i^\top$, where

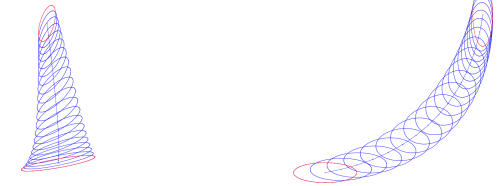
$$M_i = \begin{bmatrix} \Sigma_i^{-1} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \Sigma_i \end{bmatrix}, D_i = \begin{bmatrix} I_d & 0 & 0 \\ \mu_i^\top & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -\mu_i & I_d \end{bmatrix}$$

- Consider the Riemannian geodesic in $\text{Sym}_+(2d+1, \mathbb{R})$ with respect to the trace metric: $G(t) = G_0^{\frac{1}{2}} \left(G_0^{-\frac{1}{2}} G_1 G_0^{-\frac{1}{2}}\right)^t G_0^{\frac{1}{2}}$

- Retrieve $N(t) = \gamma_{\text{FR}}^{\mathcal{N}}(N_0, N_1; t) = N(\mu(t), \Sigma(t))$ from $G(t)$:

$$\Sigma(t) = [G(t)]_{1:d, 1:d}^{-1}, \mu(t) = \Sigma(t) [G(t)]_{1:d, d+1}$$

$[G]_{1:d, 1:d}$ denotes the block matrix with rows and columns ranging from 1 to d extracted from $(2d+1) \times (2d+1)$ matrix G , and $[G]_{1:d, d+1}$ is similarly the column vector of \mathbb{R}^d extracted from G



Approximate Fisher-Rao distance by $\tilde{\rho}_T(N_0, N_1) = \sum_{i=0}^{T-1} \sqrt{D_J(N_{\frac{i}{T}}, N_{\frac{i+1}{T}})} \approx \rho_{\text{FR}}(N_0, N_1)$ where D_J is

the symmetrized Kullback-Leibler distance: $D_J(N_1, N_2) = I_{f_J}(N_1, N_2) = \text{tr}\left(\frac{\Sigma_2^{-1} \Sigma_1 + \Sigma_1^{-1} \Sigma_2}{2} - I\right) + (\mu_2 - \mu_1)^\top \frac{\Sigma_1^{-1} + \Sigma_2^{-1}}{2} (\mu_2 - \mu_1)$

Embed $N(\mu, \Sigma)$ into SPD matrix of dim $d+1$:

$$f_a(N(\mu, \Sigma))^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} \Sigma^{-1} & -\Sigma^{-1} \mu \\ -\mu^\top \Sigma^{-1} & \mu^\top \Sigma^{-1} \mu + \frac{1}{a} \end{bmatrix}$$

When $a = 1$ isometric embedding:

Totally geodesic submanifold, get lower bound:

$$\rho_{\text{CO}}(N_0, N_1) = \rho_{\text{FR}}(N(0, f(N_0)), N(0, f(N_1)))$$

Consider the Hilbert projective distance on the SPD cone:

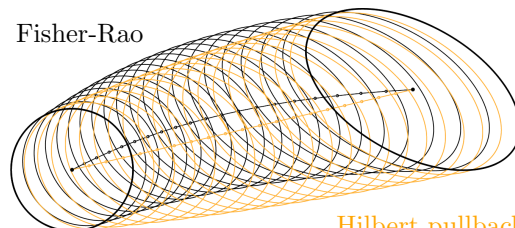
$$\rho_{\text{Hilbert}}(P_0, P_1) = \log\left(\frac{\lambda_{\max}(P_0^{-\frac{1}{2}} P_1 P_0^{-\frac{1}{2}})}{\lambda_{\min}(P_0^{-\frac{1}{2}} P_1 P_0^{-\frac{1}{2}})}\right),$$

$$= \log\left(\frac{\lambda_{\max}(P_0^{-1} P_1)}{\lambda_{\min}(P_0^{-1} P_1)}\right)$$

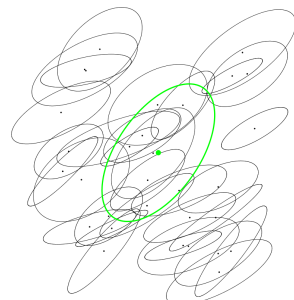
→ fast calculations: only extreme eigenvalues

Applications to clustering:

Fisher-Rao



Hilbert pullback



References:

- Calvo & Oller: An explicit solution of information geodesic equations for the multivariate normal model, *Statistics and Decision* (1991)
- Kobayashi: Geodesics of multivariate normal distributions and a Toda lattice type Lax pair, arXiv:2304.12575 (2023)
- Nielsen: A Simple Approximation Method for the Fisher-Rao Distance between Multivariate Normal Distributions, *Entropy* (2023)