

## Lecture 4. Diffusion Map, an introduction

Instructor: Xiuyuan Cheng, Princeton University

Scribe: Peng Luo, Wei Jin

## 1 Review Of The Last Class And Some Hints Of The First Homework

In the last class, we introduced how to calculate the largest eigenvalue of matrix  $\hat{\Sigma}_n$  and the properties of the corresponding eigenvector  $\hat{v}$ . First we say some points about last class.

Random vectors:  $\{Y_i\}_{i=1}^n \sim N(0, \sigma_x^2 uu^T + \sigma_\varepsilon^2 I_p)$ , where  $\|u\|^2 = 1$ . Define  $R = SNR = \frac{\sigma_x^2}{\sigma_\varepsilon^2}$ . Without of generality, we assume  $\sigma_\varepsilon^2 = 1$ .

The sample covariance matrix of Y is:  $\hat{\Sigma}_n = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n y_i y_i^T = \frac{1}{n} YY^T$ , suppose one of its eigenvalue is  $\lambda$  and the corresponding unit eigenvector is  $\hat{v}$ , so  $\hat{\Sigma}_n \hat{v} = \lambda \hat{v}$ . After that, we relate the  $\lambda$  to the MP distribution by the trick:

$$Y_i = \Sigma^{\frac{1}{2}} Z_i \rightarrow Z_i \sim N(0, I_p), \text{ where } \Sigma^{\frac{1}{2}} = \sigma_x^2 uu^T + \sigma_\varepsilon^2 I_p = R uu^T + I_p \quad (1)$$

Then  $S_n = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n Z_i Z_i^T \sim \text{MP distribution}$ .

Notice:  $\hat{\Sigma}_n = \Sigma^{\frac{1}{2}} S_n \Sigma^{\frac{1}{2}}$  and  $\lambda \hat{v}$  is eigenvalue and eigenvector of matrix  $\hat{\Sigma}_n$ . So

$$\Sigma^{\frac{1}{2}} S_n \Sigma^{\frac{1}{2}} \hat{v} = \lambda \hat{v} \text{ which implies } S_n \Sigma (\Sigma^{-\frac{1}{2}} \hat{v}) = \lambda (\Sigma^{-\frac{1}{2}} \hat{v}) \quad (2)$$

From the above equation, we find that  $\lambda$  and  $\Sigma^{-\frac{1}{2}} \hat{v}$  is the eigenvalue and eigenvector of matrix  $S_n \Sigma$ . Suppose  $c \Sigma^{-\frac{1}{2}} \hat{v} = v$  where the constant  $c$  makes  $v$  a unit eigenvector. So we have

$$c \hat{v} = \Sigma^{\frac{1}{2}} v \Rightarrow c^2 = c \hat{v}^T \hat{v} = v^T \Sigma v = v^T (\sigma_x^2 uu^T + \sigma_\varepsilon^2 I_p) v = R(u^T v)^2 + 1 \quad (3)$$

In the last class, we computed the inner product of  $u$  and  $v$  (lecture03 equation22):

$$|u^T v|^2 = \left\{ \sigma_x^4 \int_a^b \frac{t^2}{(\lambda - \sigma_\varepsilon^2)^2} d\mu^{MP}(t) \right\}^{-1} \quad (4)$$

$$= \left\{ \frac{\sigma_x^4}{4\gamma} (-4\lambda + (a+b) + 2(\sqrt{(\lambda-a)(\lambda-b)}) + \frac{\lambda(2\lambda - (a+b))}{\sqrt{(\lambda-a)(\lambda-b)}}) \right\}^{-1} \quad (5)$$

$$= \frac{1 - \frac{\gamma}{R^2}}{1 + \gamma + \frac{2\gamma}{R}} \quad (6)$$

where  $R = SNR = \frac{\sigma_x^2}{\sigma_\varepsilon^2} = \sigma_x^2, \gamma = \sqrt{\frac{p}{n}}$ . We can compute the inner product of  $u$  and  $\hat{v}$  which we are really interested in from the above equation:

$$\begin{aligned} |u^T \hat{v}|^2 &= \left( \frac{1}{c} u^T \Sigma^{\frac{1}{2}} v \right)^2 = \frac{1}{c^2} ((\Sigma^{\frac{1}{2}} u)^T v)^2 = \frac{1}{c^2} ((R uu^T + I_p)^{\frac{1}{2}} u)^T v)^2 = \frac{1}{c^2} ((\sqrt{1+R} u)^T v)^2 \\ &= \frac{(1+R)(u^T v)^2}{R(u^T v)^2 + 1} = \frac{1+R - \frac{\gamma}{R} - \frac{\gamma}{R^2}}{1+R + \gamma + \frac{\gamma}{R}} = \frac{1 - \frac{\gamma}{R^2}}{1 + \frac{\gamma}{R}} \end{aligned}$$

In lecture03, we didn't compute two equations (see equation (17) and (22) in lecture03) in details. Here is my point to calculate them:

$$\int_a^b \frac{t}{\lambda - t} \mu^{MP}(t) dt := T(\lambda) \quad (\text{equation (17) in lecture03}) \quad (7)$$

From above equation, we can get:

$$\int_a^b \frac{t^2}{(\lambda - t)^2} \mu^{MP}(t) dt = -T(\lambda) - \lambda T'(\lambda) \quad (\text{equation (22) in lecture03}) \quad (8)$$

So we just focus on  $T(\lambda)$ .

Define:

$$m(z) := \int_{\mathbb{R}} \frac{1}{(z - t)} \mu^{MP}(t) dt, \quad z \in \mathbb{C} \quad (9)$$

$m(z)$  is called Stieltjes Transformation of density  $\mu^{MP}$ . If  $z \in \mathbb{R}$ , the transformation is called Hilbert Transformation. Further details can be found in Reference [Tao] (Topics on Random Matrix Theory), Sec. 2.4.3 (the end of page 169) for the definition of Stieltjes transform of a density  $p(t)dt$  on  $\mathbb{R}$  (the book is using  $s(z)$  instead of  $m(z)$  in class).

$m(z)$  satisfies the equation:

$$\gamma z m(z)^2 + (z - (1 - \gamma))m(z) + 1 = 0 \iff z + \frac{1}{m(z)} = \frac{1}{1 + \gamma m(z)} \quad (10)$$

From the equation, one can take derivative of  $z$  on both side to obtain  $m'(z)$  in terms of  $m$  and  $z$ .

Notice:

$$1 + T(\lambda) = 1 + \int_a^b \frac{t}{\lambda - t} \mu^{MP}(t) dt = \int_a^b \frac{\lambda - t + t}{\lambda - t} \mu^{MP}(t) dt = \lambda m(\lambda) \quad (11)$$

So we can compute  $T(\lambda)$  by  $m(\lambda)$

In the last problem of first homework, we analyze Wigner Matrix  $W = [w_{ij}]_{n \times n}$ ,  $w_{ij} = w_{ji}$ ,  $w_{ij} \sim N(0, \frac{\sigma}{\sqrt{n}})$ . The answer is

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{eigenvalue is} & \lambda = R + \frac{1}{R} \\ \text{eigenvector satisfies} & (u^T \hat{v})^2 = 1 - \frac{1}{R^2} \end{array}$$

## 2 Introduction To The Diffusion Map

### 2.1 Manifold Learning Method

Here is the development of manifold learning method:

$$\text{PCA} \longrightarrow \text{LLE} \longrightarrow \begin{cases} \text{Laplacian Eigen Map} \\ \text{Hessian LLE} \\ \text{Diffusion MAP} \end{cases}$$

$$\text{MSE} \longrightarrow \text{ISOMAP}$$

Please read the Todd Wittman's slides for the comparison of different manifold learning method. You can find it in the website: <http://www.math.pku.edu.cn/teachers/yaoy/Spring2011/>. Lecture11.



Figure 1: Order the face

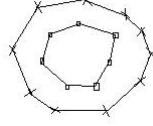


Figure 2: Two circles

## 2.2 Examples

The following three problems can be solved by diffusion map.

**Ex1:** order the face. How to put the photos of figure one in order?

**Ex2:** "3D". Fig. 2 of CoifmanLafon'06 paper.

**Ex3:** spectral clustering. How to separate the points in figure 2?

## 2.3 Method

In this section, we introduce the general diffusion map.

Suppose  $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n \in R^p$ , we create a symmetric matrix  $W_{n \times n} = \{w_{ij}\}$ , such that  $w_{ij} = k(x_i, x_j) = k(\|x_i - x_j\|_{R^p}^2)$ , where  $k(x, y)$  is the similarity function. For example, we can choose

$$k(x, y) = \exp\left\{-\frac{\|x - y\|^2}{2\varepsilon}\right\} \text{ or } k(x, y) = I_{\{\|x_i - x_j\| < \delta\}} \quad (12)$$

Next, we create a  $n \times n$  diagonal matrix  $D$ , where  $D_{ii} = \sum_{j=1}^n W_{ij}$ .

$A := D^{-1}W$ , So

$$\sum_{j=1}^n A_{ij} = 1 \quad \forall i \in \{1, 2, \dots, n\} \quad (A_{ij} \geq 0) \quad (13)$$

Based on matrix  $A$ , we can construct a discrete time Markov chain:  $\{X_t\}_{t \in N}$  which satisfies

$$P(X_{t+1} = x_j \mid X_t = x_i) = A_{ij} \quad (14)$$

$$S := D^{\frac{1}{2}} W D^{\frac{1}{2}} = V \Lambda V^T \text{ where } V V^T = I_n, \Lambda = \text{diag}(\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_n) \quad (15)$$

So

$$A = D^{-1}W = D^{-1}(D^{-\frac{1}{2}} S D^{-\frac{1}{2}}) = D^{-\frac{1}{2}} S D^{\frac{1}{2}} = D^{-\frac{1}{2}} V \Lambda V^T D^{\frac{1}{2}} = \Phi \Lambda \Psi^T \quad (\Phi = D^{-\frac{1}{2}} V, \Psi = V^T D^{\frac{1}{2}}) \quad (16)$$

Thus  $\Phi \Psi^T = I_n$  and we can get  $A \Phi = \Phi \Lambda, \Psi^T A = \Lambda \Psi^T$ .

Suppose  $\Phi = [\phi_0, \phi_1, \dots, \phi_n]$ , So  $A[\phi_0, \phi_1, \dots, \phi_n] = [\lambda_0 \phi_0, \lambda_1 \phi_1, \dots, \lambda_n \phi_n]$ , where  $\lambda_0 = 1, \phi_0 = e_n$ .

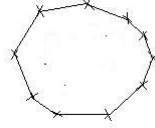


Figure 3: EX2 single circle

Define map:

$$\Phi_t(x_i) = [(\lambda_1)^t \phi_1(i), (\lambda_2)^t \phi_2(i), \dots, (\lambda_{n-1})^t \phi_{n-1}(i)] \quad (t > 0) \quad (17)$$

$\phi_k(i)$  is the  $i$ -th entry of  $\phi_k$ .

Truncate the mapping where only those eigenvalues whose absolute value are larger than  $\delta$ , some positive constant, are saved: suppose  $\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_m$  s.t.  $|\lambda_i| \geq \delta$

$$\Phi_t^\delta(x_i) = [(\lambda_1)^t \phi_1(i), (\lambda_2)^t \phi_2(i), \dots, (\lambda_m)^t \phi_m(i)] \quad (18)$$

Diffusion distance:

$$D_t(x_i, x_j) := \|\Phi_t(x_i) - \Phi_t(x_j)\|^2 \quad (19)$$

## 2.4 Simple examples

Three examples about diffusion map:

**EX1:** two circles.

Suppose graph  $G : (V, E)$ . Matrix  $W$  satisfies  $w_{ij} > 0$ , if and only if  $(i, j) \in E$ . Choose  $k(x, y) = I_{\|x-y\| < \delta}$ . In this case,

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} A_1 & 0 \\ 0 & A_2 \end{pmatrix},$$

where  $A_1$  is a  $n_1 \times n_1$  matrix,  $A_2$  is a  $n_2 \times n_2$  matrix,  $n_1 + n_2 = n$ .

Notice that the eigenvalue  $\lambda_0 = 1$  of  $A$  is of multiplicity 2, the two eigenvectors are  $\phi_0 = 1_n$  and  $\phi'_0 = [c_1 1_{n_1}^T, c_2 1_{n_2}^T]^T$   $c_1 \neq c_2$ .

$$\text{Diffusion Map : } \begin{cases} \Phi_t^{1D}(x_1), \dots, \Phi_t^{1D}(x_{n_1}) = c_1 \\ \Phi_t^{1D}(x_{n_1+1}), \dots, \Phi_t^{1D}(x_n) = c_2 \end{cases}$$

**EX2:** ring graph. "single circle"

In this case,  $W$  is a circulant matrix

$$W = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & \dots & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \dots & \vdots \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

The eigenvalue of  $W$  is  $\lambda_k = \cos \frac{2\pi k}{n}$   $k = 0, 1, \dots, \frac{n}{2}$  and the corresponding eigenvector is  $(u_k)_j = e^{i \frac{2\pi}{n} k j}$   $j = 1, \dots, n$ . So we can get  $\Phi_t^{2D}(x_i) = (\cos \frac{2\pi k j}{n}, \sin \frac{2\pi k j}{n}) c^t$

**EX3:** order the face.

$$L := A - I = D^{-1}W - I$$

$$L_\varepsilon := \frac{1}{\varepsilon}(A_\varepsilon - I) \xrightarrow{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \text{backward Kolmogorov operator}$$

$$L_\varepsilon f = \frac{1}{2} \Delta_M f - \nabla f \cdot \nabla v \Rightarrow L_\varepsilon = \lambda \phi \Rightarrow \begin{cases} \frac{1}{2} \phi''(s) - \phi'(s) V'(s) = \lambda \phi(s) \\ \phi'(0) = \phi'(1) = 0 \end{cases}$$

Where  $V(s)$  is the Gibbs weight and  $p(s) = e^{-V(s)}$  is the density of data points along the curve.  $\Delta_M$  is Laplace-Beltrami Operator. If  $p(x) = \text{const}$ , we can get

$$V(s) = \text{const} \Rightarrow \phi''(s) = 2\lambda \phi(s) \Rightarrow \phi_k(s) = \cos(k\pi s), 2\lambda_k = -k^2 \pi^2 \quad (20)$$

On the other hand  $p(s) \neq \text{const}$ , one can show <sup>1</sup> that  $\phi_1(s)$  is monotonic for arbitrary  $p(s)$ . As a result, the faces can still be ordered by using  $\phi_1(s)$ .

## 2.5 Properties of Transition Matrix of Markov Chain

Suppose  $A$  is a Markov Chain Transition Matrix.

$$1 \quad \lambda(A) \subset [-1, 1].$$

**proof:** assume  $\lambda$  and  $v$  are the eigenvalue and eigenvector of  $A$ , so  $Av = \lambda v$ . Find  $j_0$  s.t.  $|v_{j_0}| \geq |v_j|, \forall j \neq j_0$  where  $v_j$  is the  $j$ -th entry of  $v$ . Then:

$$\lambda v_{j_0} = (Av)_{j_0} = \sum_{j=1}^n A_{j_0 j} v_j$$

So:

$$|\lambda| |v_{j_0}| = \left| \sum_{j=1}^n A_{j_0 j} v_j \right| \leq \sum_{j=1}^n A_{j_0 j} |v_j| \leq |v_{j_0}|$$

**2** Define:  $A$  is irreducible, if and only if  $\forall (i, j) \exists t$  s.t.  $(A^t)_{ij} > 0 \Leftrightarrow$  Graph is connected

**fact:**  $A$  is irreducible  $\Rightarrow \lambda = 1$

**3** Define:  $A$  is primitive, if and only if  $\exists t > 0$  s.t.  $\forall (i, j) (A^t)_{ij} > 0$

**fact:**  $A$  is primitive  $\Rightarrow -1 \notin \lambda(A)$

**fact:**  $A$  is irreducible and  $A_{ii} > 0 \forall i \Rightarrow A$  is primitive

**4** Theory(Perron-Frobenius): if  $A_{ij} > 0$ , then:

$$\exists r > 0, \text{ s.t. } r \in \lambda(A) \text{ and } \forall \lambda \in \lambda(A), \lambda \neq r, |\lambda| < r$$

**5 Fact:** If  $k(x, y)$  is heat kernel  $\Rightarrow \lambda(A) \geq 0$

<sup>1</sup>by changing to polar coordinate  $p(s)\phi'(s) = r(s)\cos\theta(s)$ ,  $\phi(s) = r(s)\sin\theta(s)$  ( the so-called 'Prufer Transform' ) and then try to show that  $\phi'(s)$  is never zero on  $(0, 1)$ .