# High-dimensional data and dimensionality reduction

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## We'll be talking about...

- I. Data analysis
- II. Properties of high-dimensional data
- III. Some vocabulary
- IV. Dimensionality reduction methods
- V. Examples
- VI. Discussion

## Era of massive data collection

- Usual data matrix: **D** rows, **N** cols
- Rows give different attributes/measurements
- Columns give different observations

## N points in a D-dimensional space

- Term-document data
  - -N is the number of documents ~ millions
  - $-\mathbf{D}$  is the number of terms ~ thousands
- Consumer preference data (Netflix, Amazon)
  - $-\mathbf{N}$  is the number of individuals ~ millions
  - $-\mathbf{D}$  is the number of products ~ thousands

## Problem

- Assumption: D < N and  $N \rightarrow \infty$
- Many results fail if D > N
- We might have  $D \rightarrow \infty$ , N fixed
- Very large number of measurements – relatively few instances of the event
- a.k.a. the large p, small n problem
  - a.k.a. High Dimension Low Sample Size (HDLSS) problem

## Example



- Breast cancer gene expression data
- Number of measured genes:
  - D = 6,128
- Number of tumor samples:
  - N = 49

## Another example

- Biscuit dough data
- Number of NIR reflectance measures:
  - **D** = 23,625

• N = 39

• Number of dough samples:



Another example: computer vision

- Scene recognition
- Raw Gist feature dimension:
  - **D** ~ 300 500
- Number of color image samples:



• N ~ 2600

#### And another:

- Video concept detection
- Multimedia feature vector:
  - **D** ~ 2896
- Number of video samples:



• N ~ 136

## So what?

- **D** is high in our data analysis problems...
- Properties of high dimensional data should be considered
  - Hughes phenomenon
  - Empty space phenomenon
  - Concentration phenomenon

Hughes phenomenon

- a.k.a. the curse of dimensionality (R. Bellman, 1961)
- Unit cube in 10 dimensions, discretized with 1/10 spacing  $\rightarrow 10^{10}$
- Unit cube in 20 dimensions, same accuracy  $\rightarrow 10^{20}$  points
- Number of samples needed grows exponentially with dimension

## Empty space phenomenon

- Follows from **COD** and the fact that:
- amount of available data is limited
- $\rightarrow$  high-dimensional space is **sparse**
- You expect an increase in discrimination power (by employing more features)
  - -but you lose accuracy
  - -due to overfitting

## Empty space phenomenon



## **Concentration phenomenon**

- "When is nearest neighbor meaningful", (Beyer et al., 1999)
- In high dimensions, under certain conditions,
  - -distance to nearest neighbor approaches distance to farthest neighbor
  - -contrast in distances is lost

• When this happens, there is **no utility** in finding the "nearest neighbor"



Definition. Stable query



• Definition. Unstable query



## $DMAX \leq (1 + \epsilon) DMIN$

It is shown that (under some conditions), for any fixed ε > 0,

- as dimensionality rises,

- the probability that a query is unstable
- -approaches l

 $\lim_{D \to \infty} \Pr[\text{DMAX}_{D} \leq (1 + \epsilon) \text{ DMIN}_{D}] = 1$ 

## Concentration: i.i.d. case

- Here are some results for i.i.d. dimensions
- Assume:
  - random vector  $\mathbf{y} = [\mathbf{y}_1, ..., \mathbf{y}_D]^T$
  - $\mathbf{y}_i$ 's are i.i.d.
- We'll show:
  - successful drawings of such random vectors yield almost the same norm

$$\mu_{\|\mathbf{y}\|} = \sqrt{aD - b} + \mathcal{O}(D^{-1})$$
$$\sigma_{\|\mathbf{y}\|}^2 = b + \mathcal{O}(D^{-1/2})$$

The norm of random vectors grows proportionally to  $D^{1/2}$ , but the variance remains constant for sufficiently large **D**.

$$P\left(\left|\|\mathbf{y}\| - \mu_{\|\mathbf{y}\|}\right| \ge \varepsilon\right) \le \frac{\sigma_{\|\mathbf{y}\|}^2}{\varepsilon^2}$$

#### **Chebyshev's inequality**

(D-1)-sphere

#### **Concentration:** simulation results



The relative error tends to zero, meaning that the normalized norm concentrates.

- Where is concentration an issue?
- **NN search**: collection of data points, and query point, find data point closest to query point

– e.g. used in kNN classification

- Particular interest from vision community
  - each image is approximated with highdimensional feature vector

## **Concentration:** questions

1. How restrictive are the conditions?

sufficient but not necessary

- 2. When the conditions are satisfied, at what dimensionality do distances become meaningless?
  - about 10-15 (depends on dataset)
- 3. How can we tell if NN is not meaningful for our dataset?
  - statistical tests? (Casey and Slaney, 2008)
  - how can we fight it? (Houle et al., 2010)

## Visualization

• Can be done for up to 4 Ds.



## Two approaches to reduce D

- Feature selection
  - a subset of variables chosen
  - -techniques are usually supervised
    - those not correlated with output are eliminated
- Feature extraction

the focus of this talk

- even when assuming all variables are relevant
- detect and eliminate dependencies

## Vocabulary

- So you can develop an intuition about some of the words in the literature
  - Subspace
  - Manifold
  - Embedding
  - Intrinsic dimensionality

## Subspace



three 1D subspaces of  $\mathbb{R}^2$ 

three 2D subspaces of  $\mathbb{R}^3$ 

#### Manifold-- but first some topology

Spatial properties that are preserved under continuous deformations of object

Twisting, stretching
Tearing, gluing



"a topologist can't distinguish a coffee mug from a doughnut"

## Manifold

locally isomorphic to Euclidean space



## Embedding and p-manifold

- Embedding
- P-manifold
- Every **curve** is a 1-manifold
- Every **surface** is a 2-manifold



## Dimensionality reduction (DR)

- Re-embedding a manifold from a high-dimensional space to a lowdimensional one
- s.t. manifold structure is preserved (connectivity and local relationships)
- one-to-one mapping



## Data dimension and intrinsic dimension



Data does not completely fill the embedding space.

#### A new embedding





(J. A. Lee, and M. Verleysen, 2007)

#### Datasets: intrinsic dimensionality

- It depends how you define the information content of data
- Several algorithms have been proposed to estimate it (J. A. Lee, and M. Verleysen, 2007)


# Subspace learning (linear DR)

- Assume a linear model of data
  - (a linear relation between observed and latent variables)
- We'll look at
  - -PCA (Principal Component Analysis)
  - -classical metric MDS (Multidimensional Scaling)
  - -RP (Random Projections)



#### **PCA: continued**

 $\mathbf{C}_{\mathbf{y}\mathbf{y}} = E\{\mathbf{y}\mathbf{y}^T\}$  $\mathbf{C}_{\mathbf{y}\mathbf{y}} = \mathbf{V}\mathbf{\Lambda}\mathbf{V}^T$  $\mathbf{W} = \mathbf{V}\mathbf{I}_{D\times P}$ 

 $\hat{\mathbf{x}} = \mathbf{I}_{P \times D} \mathbf{V}^T \mathbf{y}$ 

#### MDS (I. Borg and P. Groenen, 1997)

$$\begin{split} s_{\mathbf{y}}(i,j) &= s(\mathbf{y}(i),\mathbf{y}(j)) = \langle \mathbf{y}(i) \cdot \mathbf{y}(j) \rangle \\ \mathbf{S} &= [s_{\mathbf{y}}(i,j)]_{1 \leq i,j \leq N} = \mathbf{Y}^T \mathbf{Y} \\ &= (\mathbf{W} \mathbf{X})^T (\mathbf{W} \mathbf{X}) \\ &= (\mathbf{W} \mathbf{X})^T (\mathbf{W} \mathbf{X}) \\ \mathbf{Given: matrix} \\ &\text{of scalar} \\ &\text{products} \end{split}$$

### MDS: continued

$$\mathbf{S} = \mathbf{U}\mathbf{\Lambda}\mathbf{U}^{T}$$
$$= (\mathbf{U}\mathbf{\Lambda}^{1/2})(\mathbf{\Lambda}^{1/2}\mathbf{U}^{T})$$
$$= (\mathbf{\Lambda}^{1/2}\mathbf{U}^{T})^{T}(\mathbf{\Lambda}^{1/2}\mathbf{U}^{T})$$

$$\hat{\mathbf{X}} = \mathbf{I}_{P \times N} \mathbf{\Lambda}^{1/2} \mathbf{U}^T$$

### MDS: discussion

• Widely used and developed in human sciences

-particularly **psychometrics** 

- People are asked to give qualitative separation between objects
- So each object is characterized by distances to other objects

#### Neither S nor Y but distances available

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{A} \text{ technique called} \\ \mathbf{double centering} \\ d_{\mathbf{y}}^{2}(i,j) &= \|\mathbf{y}(i) - \mathbf{y}(j)\|_{2}^{2} \end{aligned} \qquad \begin{array}{c} \mathbf{squared Euclidean} \\ \mathbf{distance} \\ &= \langle \mathbf{y}(i) - \mathbf{y}(j) \cdot \mathbf{y}(i) - \mathbf{y}(j) \rangle \\ &= \langle \mathbf{y}(i) \cdot \mathbf{y}(i) \rangle - 2 \langle \mathbf{y}(i) \cdot \mathbf{y}(j) \rangle + \langle \mathbf{y}(j) \cdot \mathbf{y}(j) \rangle \\ &= s_{\mathbf{y}}(i,i) - 2s_{\mathbf{y}}(i,j) + s_{\mathbf{y}}(j,j) \end{aligned}$$

$$s_{\mathbf{y}}(i,j) = -\frac{1}{2} (d_{\mathbf{y}}^2(i,j) - \langle \mathbf{y}(i) \cdot \mathbf{y}(i) \rangle - \langle \mathbf{y}(j) \cdot \mathbf{y}(j) \rangle)$$

## Double centering: continued

$$\mathbf{S} = -\frac{1}{2} (\mathbf{D} - \frac{1}{N} \mathbf{D} \mathbf{1}_N \mathbf{1}_N^T - \frac{1}{N} \mathbf{1}_N \mathbf{1}_N^T \mathbf{D} + \frac{1}{N^2} \mathbf{1}_N \mathbf{1}_N^T \mathbf{D} \mathbf{1}_N \mathbf{1}_N^T)$$
$$(\mu_i(d_{\mathbf{y}}^2(i,j)) = \mu_i(\langle \mathbf{y}(i) \cdot \mathbf{y}(j) \rangle + \mu_j(\langle \mathbf{y}(j) \cdot \mathbf{y}(j) \rangle))$$
$$(\mu_i(\langle \mathbf{y}(i) \cdot \mathbf{y}(i) \rangle) + \mu_j(\langle \mathbf{y}(j) \cdot \mathbf{y}(j) \rangle))$$
$$(\mu_i(\langle \mathbf{y}(i) \cdot \mathbf{y}(i) \rangle) + \langle \mathbf{y}(j) \cdot \mathbf{y}(j) \rangle)$$

### PCA/MDS: results



### PCA/MDS: results



# PCA/MDS: discussion

- Metric MDS and PCA give the same solution
- Both focus mainly on retaining **large pairwise distances**, instead of small pairwise distances which is more important
- Both may consider two points as near points, whereas their distance over the manifold is much larger

Random projections (W. B. Johnson and J. Lindenstrauss, 1984)

- A linear method
- Simple yet powerful
- Randomly chosen lowdimensional subspace
  - the projection doesn't depend on the data
  - a "data-oblivious" method

# RP: algorithm

- Here's how to obtain the P×D linear transform R (Dasgupta, 2000)
  - 1. set each entry of R to an i.i.d. ~N(0,1)
    value
  - make the P rows of the matrix orthogonal using the Gram-Schmidt algorithm
  - 3. normalize rows to unit length

#### RP: the theory behind the algorithm

JL Thm. A set of points of size n in a high-dimensional Euclidean space, can be mapped into a q-dimensional space, q≥O(log(n)/ε<sup>2</sup>), such that the distance between any two points changes by only a factor of 1±ε.

- (W. B. Johnson and J. Lindenstrauss, 1984)

**RP theory: continued** (S. Dasgupta and A. Gupta, 1999)

- A matrix whose entries are normally distributed represents such a mapping with probability at least 1/n, therefore doing O(n) projections will result in an arbitrarily high probability of preserving distances.
- Tighter bound obtained:

 $-q \ge 4*(\epsilon^{2}/2 - \epsilon^{3}/3)^{-1}\ln(n)$ 

### **RP: discussions**

• It is shown that RP **underperforms** PCA as a preprocessing step in classification (but still remains comparable)

- (D. Fradkin and D. Madigan, 2003)

- **But**, it is **computationally more attractive** than PCA and can replace it
  - e.g. when initial dimension is ~6000
  - $-PCA \text{ is } O(D^3) \text{ vs. } RP \text{ which is } O(P^2D)$
  - with some loss of accuracy, even faster
     versions of RP have been proposed

# Manifold learning

- Manifold assumption
  - -"data lies on a low-dimensional manifold in the high-dimensional space"
- It's an assumption that helps reduce the hypothesis space
  - -A priori information on the support of the data distribution

### Manifold learning (nonlinear DR)

- First we'll look at
  - Isomap (Isometric feature map) and
  - LLE (Locally Linear Embedding)
- Easy to understand/explain
- Both build a graph **G** using **K**-rule: **O**(**N**<sup>2</sup>)
  - A discretized approximation of the manifold, sampled by the input
- Both published in Science in 2000, and lead to the rapid development of spectral methods for NLDR
- ~3840 and ~3735 citations, respectively

# Nonlinear DR: continued

- We'll also be looking at
  - Autoassociative neural networks and
  - Autoencoders
    - use a new technique for training autoassociative neural nets
- and an overview of some other NLDR algorithms
- so hang on to your seats!

#### **Isomap** (J. Tenenbaum et al., 2000)

- 1) Build graph G with K-rule
- Weigh each edge by its Euclidean length (weighted graph)
- 3) Perform **Dijkstra**'s algorithm, store square of pairwise distances in  $\Delta$
- 4) Perform **MDS** on  $\Delta$

# Isomap: results





N.A.

- A variant of MDS
  - estimates of **geodesic distances** are substituted for Euclidean distances





(L.K.Saul et al., 2005)

- A variant of MDS
  - Nonlinear capabilities brought by graph distances and not by inherent nonlinear models of data
- Computation time dominated by calculation of shortest paths
- Guaranteed convergence for developable manifolds only
  - Pairwise geodesic distances computed between points of the P-manifold, can be mapped to pairwise Euclidean distances measured in a P-dimensional Euclidean space

- Dijkstra's algorithm solves the single-source shortest path problem
- So we need to run Dijkstra for each vertex
- More efficient than Floyd-Warshall because graph is sparse

- Results of Isomap strongly depend on the quality of the estimation of geodesic distances
- If **data set is sparse**, (and no shortcuts take place)
  - graph distances are likely to be overestimations
- If **data manifold contains holes**, paths need to go around holes

-graph distances are overestimations



Isomap: estimation of intrinsic dimension

- A single run of **PCA**, **MDS**, or **Isomap**
- Gap in eigenvalues



-PCA, MDS: 2

-Isomap:1

### LLE (S. Roweis and L. Saul, 2000)

- 1) Build graph G with K-rule
- 2) Find the weight matrix W for reconstructing each point from its K neighbors
- 3) Find the low-dimensional coordinates X, that are reconstructed from weights W with minimum error

# LLE: step 2)

2) Find the weight matrix **W** for reconstructing each point from its **K** neighbours

$$\mathcal{E}(\mathbf{W}) = \sum_{i=1}^{N} \left\| \mathbf{y}(i) - \sum_{j \in \mathcal{N}(i)} w_{i,j} \mathbf{y}(j) \right\|^{2}$$

# LLE: step 3)

3) Find the low-dimensional coordinates X, that are reconstructed from weights W with minimum error

$$\Phi(\hat{\mathbf{X}}) = \sum_{i=1}^{N} \left\| \hat{\mathbf{x}}(i) - \sum_{j \in \mathcal{N}(i)} w_{i,j} \hat{\mathbf{x}}(j) \right\|^2$$

# LLE step 3): discussion

Optimal embedding is found by computing the bottom P+1 eigenvectors of M

$$\mathbf{M} = (\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{W})^T (\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{W})$$

### LLE: results



# LLE: discussion

- Like MDS, LLE uses **EVD**, which is purely linear
  - Nonlinear capabilities of LLE come from the computation of nearest neighbors
     (thresholding)
- Unlike MDS, cannot estimate intrinsic dimensionality (no telltale gap in M)
- Works for non-convex manifolds, but not ones that contain holes
- Very sensitive to its parameter values

Discussion: "local manifold learning" (Y. Bengio and M. Monperrus, 2005)

- LLE, Isomap are **local learning** methods
- They could fail when
  - Noise around manifold
  - High curvature of the manifold
  - High intrinsic dimension of the manifold
  - Presence of multiple manifolds with little
     data per manifold

Autoassociative neural nets (M. A. Kramer, 1991)

- Nonlinear capabilities of Isomap and LLE were not brought by inherent nonlinear models of data
- Also, both methods use 'local' generalization
- Apart from supervised learning for classification, neural nets have been used in the context of unsupervised learning for dimensionality reduction

# Autoassociative NN: continued

- DR achieved by using net with same number of input and outputs xy
- Optimize weights to minimize inputs reconstruction error
- Net tries to map each  $x_1$  input vector onto itself



(C. M. Bishop, 2006)
#### Autoassociative NN: the intuition

- Net is trained to reproduce its input at the output
- So it packs as much information as possible into the central bottleneck



### Autoassociative NN: continued

• Number of hidden units is smaller than number of inputs

- there exists a **reconstruction error** 

• Determine network weights by minimizing the reconstruction sum-of-squares error:

$$E(\mathbf{w}) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{n=1}^{N} \|\mathbf{y}(\mathbf{x}_n, \mathbf{w}) - \mathbf{x}_n\|^2$$

## Autoassociative NN and PCA

- Here's an interesting fact:
- If hidden units have linear activation functions,
- It can be shown that error function has a unique global minimum
- At this minimum, the network performs a projection onto an M-dimensional subspace
  - spanned by the **first M PCs** of the data!

### Autoassociative NN and PCA: continued

- Vector of weights leading into zi's from a basis set which spans the principal subspace
- These vectors need not be orthonormal



## Autoassociative NN and PCA: continued

- Even with nonlinear activation functions for the hidden units,
  - the min error solution is again the projection onto the PC subspace
  - so there is no advantage in using 2-layer
     NNs to perform DR
  - standard PCA techniques based on SVD are better

#### Autoassociative NN: nonlinear PCA

• What we need is additional hidden layers -- consider the 4-layer net below



#### **Autoassociative NN: NLPCA**

- Training to learn the identity mapping is called
  - self-supervised
     backpropagation or
  - Autoassociation
- After training, the combined net has no utility
  - And is divided into two single-hidden layer nets G and H



INPUT	MAPPING	BOTTLE-	DE-	OUTPUT
LAYER	LAYER	NECK	MAPPING	LAYER
		LAYER	LAYER	

#### NLPCA: discussion

- Start with random weights, the two nets (G and H) can be trained together by minimizing the discrepancy between the original data and its reconstruction
- Error function as before (sum-of-squares)
  - but no longer a quadratic function of net params.
  - risk of falling into local minima of err. func.
     and burdensome computations
- Dimension of subspace must be specified before training

#### Autoencoder

(G.E. Hinton and R.R. Salakhutdinov, 2006)

- It was known since the 1980s that backpropagation through deep neural nets would be very effective for nonlinear dimensionality reduction -- subject to:
  - fast computers ... OK
  - big data sets ... OK
  - good initial weights …

### Autoencoder: continued

- BP = backpropagation (CG methods, steepest descent, ...)
- Fundamental problems in training nets with many hidden layers ("deep" nets) with BP

– learning is slow, results are poor

• But, results can be improved significantly if **initial weights** are close to solution

### Autoencoder: pretraining

- Treating each neighboring set of layers like an RBM
  - to approximate a good solution
- RBM = Restricted
   Boltzmann Machine
  - will be the topic of an upcoming talk



30

500

W<sub>4</sub>





Pretraining

RBM

Тор

RBM

# Autoencoder: continued

- The learned features of one RBM are used as data for training the next RBM in the stack
- The learning is unsupervised.



30

500





RBM

Top

RBM

Pretraining

## Autoencoder: unrolling

- After pretraining, the model is unfolded
- Produces encoder and decoder networks that use the same weights
- Now, we'll go on to the global fine-tuning stage



### Autoencoder: fine-tuning

- Now use BP of error derivatives to fine-tune <sup>(2)</sup>
- So we don't run BP until we have good initial weights
- With good initial weights, BP need only perform local search



Fine-tuning

#### **Autoencoder: results**

real 2345678 data 4 56-30-D deep auto 30-D logistic PCA 30-D **PCA** 

## DR: taxonomy

- Here we considered

   linear vs. nonlinear (model of data)
- There are many other possible categorizations, to name a few:
  - -local vs. non-local (generalization)
  - -single vs. multiple (coordinate system)
  - -unsupervised vs. supervised
  - -data-aware vs. data-oblivious
  - -exact vs. approximate (optimization)

#### DR: taxonomy (L. van der Maaten, 2009)



#### DR: taxonomy (J. A. Lee, and M. Verleysen, 2007)



#### Note: conformal map (Wikipedia)



Discussion: out-of-sample generalization (Y. Bengio et al., 2003)

- The model of PCA is continuous
  - An implicit mapping is defined:
    - $\mathbf{X} = \mathbf{W}^{\mathrm{T}}\mathbf{Y}$
  - $\rightarrow$  generalization to new points is easy
- But, MDS, Isomap and LLE provide an explicit mapping
  - (x<sub>n</sub>, y<sub>n</sub>)

## **Discussion:** dataset size

- Large datasets: N>2000
  - Time and space complexity of NLDR methods at least O(N<sup>2</sup>)
  - Need to resample available data
    - using k-means for example
- Medium: 200<N≤2000
  - OK
- Small: **N≤200** 
  - Insufficient to identify parameters
  - Use PCA/MDS

#### **Discussion: dataset dimensionality**

- Very high: **D>50** 
  - NLDR fails b/c of COD
  - First apply PCA/MDS/RP for hard DR
    - can provide robustness to noise
- High: **5<D≤50** 
  - COD still exists, use at your own risk
- Low: **D**≤5
  - Apply with confidence

Discussion: dataset intrinsic dimensionality

- Target dim >> intrinsic dim
   PCA/MDS/RP perform well
- Target dim ≥ intrinsic dim
   NLDR provides good results
- Target dim < intrinsic dim
  - Use NLDR at your own risk
    - results are meaningless b/c forced
  - Nonspectral methods don't converge
    - spectral methods solve an eigenproblem irrespective of target dimensionality

# Discussion: goal of DR

- DR is a **preprocessing** step – and some information is lost
- You want to preserve what is important for the next step

- whether it's classification or clustering

• The **method** and **metric** you use should be in line with the next task

## One final note

- Motivation behind DR was to remove COD
- But the mentioned NLDR methods fall prey to COD themselves
  - when intrinsic dimensionality is higher than
     4 or 5

# Looking ahead: future sessions

- We'll be talking about
  - kernel methods
  - SVM
    - (sparse kernel machines)
  - statistical learning theory
    - (PAC learning and VC dimension)
- And after that, we'll talk about
  - deep learning methods
    - as a feature extraction method that allows us to deal with the curse of dimensionality
- We'll try to put it all in the context of information retrieval
  - specifically multimedia information retrieval
  - e.g. CBIR, MIR

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