Bottleneck Distance and Stability Lecture 13 - CMSE 890

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Tues, Oct 14, 2025

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Goals

- Bottleneck distance and stability
- Wasserstein distance

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Section 1

Review of setup



Simplicial Complex Filtration from a Function

Definition

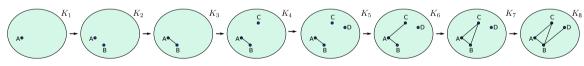
Fix a function $f: K \to \mathbb{R}$ with $(\sigma \le \tau \Rightarrow f(\sigma) \le f(\tau))$

Fix values $a_1 \leq a_2 \leq \cdots \leq a_n$

Let
$$K_i = f^{-1}(-\infty, a_i]$$

A filtration $\mathcal{F} = \mathcal{F}(K)$ induced by f is a nested sequence of subcomplexes

$$\mathcal{F}: \emptyset = K_0 \subseteq K_1 \subseteq K_2 \subseteq \cdots \subseteq K_n = K.$$



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Rips filtration

- Given $P \subseteq \mathbb{R}^d$
- Fix $0 \le r_1 \le r_2 \dots \le r_n$
- Set $K_i = VR(P, r_i)$
- Compute persistence diagram using these radius parameters







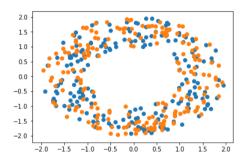


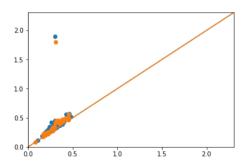






Similar persistence diagrams





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Section 2

Bottleneck distance



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Distance measures

Definition

A distance on a set M is a function

 $d: M \times M \to \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$ such that

- $d(x, y) \ge 0$ and d(x, y) = 0 iff x = y
- d(x, y) = d(y, x)
- $d(x,z) \le d(x,y) + d(y,z)$

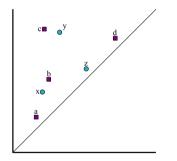
Ex.
$$||(x_1, x_2) - (y_1, y_2)||_2 =$$

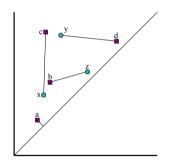
Ex.
$$||(x_1, x_2) - (y_1, y_2)||_{\infty} =$$

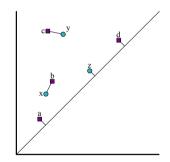


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Finding matchings



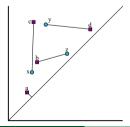




Definition of bottleneck, Version 1

Given diagrams X and Y, the distance between them is

$$d_B(X, Y) = \inf_{\varphi: X \to Y} \sup_{x \in X} ||x - \varphi(x)||_{\infty}$$



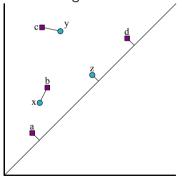


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Definition of bottleneck, Version 2

Matching

A partial matching between X and Y is a bijection on a subset of the off-diagonal points of the two diagrams $M: X' \to Y'$ for $X' \subseteq X$ and $Y' \subseteq Y$.



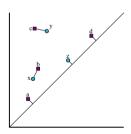
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Definition of bottleneck, Version 2

Cost of a matching

The cost of this partial matching is given by

$$c(M) = \sup \left(\{ \|x - M(x)\|_{\infty} \mid x \in X' \} \cup \left\{ \frac{1}{2} |x_1 - x_2| \mid (x_1, x_2) \in X \setminus X' \cup Y \setminus Y' \right\} \right)$$



Bottleneck distance

Combinatorial definition

The bottleneck distance between X and Y is

$$d_B(X,Y)=\inf_M c(M)$$

where the infimum runs over all possible partial matchings.



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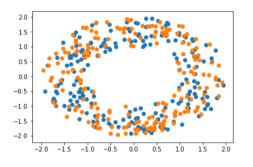
Section 3

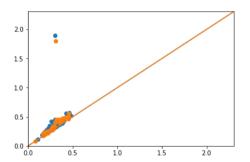
Bottleneck stability



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Similar persistence diagrams





Stability - Point cloud version

Theorem (Point cloud version)

Let $\mathbb{X}, \mathbb{Y} \subset \mathbb{R}^d$ be a finite point clouds. Let d_H be Hausdorff distance. Let $D(\mathcal{C}(\mathbb{X}))$ be the persistence diagram of the filtration defined by the Čech complex on \mathbb{X} . Then

$$d_B(\mathrm{Dgm}_p(\mathcal{C}(\mathbb{X})),\mathrm{Dgm}_p(\mathcal{C}(\mathbb{Y}))) \leq d_H(\mathbb{X},\mathbb{Y}).$$

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Stability - Function version

Theorem (Stability for simplicial functions)

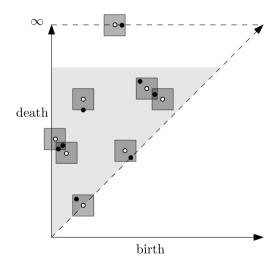
Let $f,g:K\to\mathbb{R}$ be two simplex-wise monotone functions giving rise to two simplicial filtrations \mathcal{F}_f and \mathcal{F}_g . Then, for every p>0,

$$d_B(\mathrm{Dgm}_p(\mathcal{F}_f),\mathrm{Dgm}_p(\mathcal{F}_g)) \leq \|f-g\|_{\infty}.$$



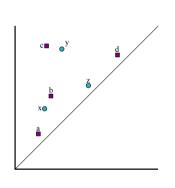
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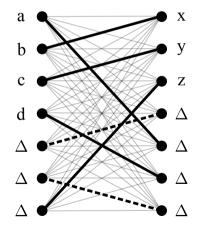
Nearby diagrams



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Computing Bottleneck distance





Section 4

Wasserstein Distance and Stability

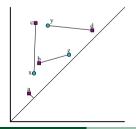


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Wasserstein Distance

Given diagrams X and Y, the p-Wasserstein distance between them is

$$d_{W,p}(X,Y) = \inf_{\varphi:X\to Y} \left(\sum_{x\in X} \|x - \varphi(x)\|_p^p \right)^{1/p}$$





Wasserstein Stability

Theorem (Stability for Wasserstein distance)

Let $f,g:K\to\mathbb{R}$ be two simplex-wise monotone functions on a simplicial complex K. Then,

$$d_{W,q}(\mathrm{Dgm}_p(\mathcal{F}_f),\mathrm{Dgm}_p(\mathcal{F}_g)) \leq \|f-g\|_q.$$

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What's the difference?

...To the jupyter notebook!!!



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