Generalized similarity measures for text data. Hubert Wagner (IST Austria) Joint work with Herbert Edelsbrunner

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Plan

- ▶ Shape of data.
- ▶ Text as a point-cloud.
- ► Log-transform and similarity measure.
- Bregman divergence and topology.

Shape of data.











































Main tools.

Rips and Cech simplicial complexes:

- Capture the shape of the union of balls.
- Combinatorial representation.

Persistence captures geometric-topological information of the data:

Key property: stability!





































Interpretation of filtration values.



For a simplex $S = v_0, \ldots, v_k$, f(S) = t means that at filtration threshold t, objects v_0, \ldots, v_k are considered *close*. Text as a point-cloud.

Basic concepts

Corpus:

▶ (Large) collection of text documents.

Term-vector:

- ▶ Weighted vector of key-words or *terms*.
- ▶ Summarizes the topic of a single document.
- Higher weight means higher *importance*.

Concept: Vector Space Model

- Vector Space Model maps a corpus K to \mathbb{R}^d .
- Each distinct *term* in K becomes a direction, so d can be high (10s thousands).
- ▶ Each document is represented by its *term-vector*.



Concept: Similarity measures

- Cosine similarity compares two documents.
- Distance (dissimilarity) d(a, b) := 1 sim(a, b).
- This d is not a metric.



Geometry-topological tools.

Interpreting Rips

A simplex is added immediately after its boundary:

- d(a, b) the dissimilarity.
- For triangle d(a, b, c) = max(d(a, b), d(a, c), d(b, c)).
- ▶ Is this the *filtering function* we want?

Generalized similarity

Goal:

- Extend similarity from pairs to larger subsets of documents.
- Its persistence should be stable.
- As a bonus, the resulting complex will be smaller.



Simple example.

For simplicity, let us work with binary term-vectors (or sets of terms).

- $sim_J(X_1, dots, X_d) = \frac{\operatorname{card} \cap_i X_i}{\operatorname{card} \cup_i X_i}$.
- Generalizes the Jaccard index.

cat	dog	donkey
1	1	0
0	1	1
1	0	1

New direction.

Flawed generalized cosine measure:

$$R_{\cos}(p^0, p^1, \dots, p^k) = \sum_{j=1}^n \prod_{i=0}^k p_j^i.$$
 (1)

Another option: the length of the geometric mean:

$$R_{\rm gm}(p^0, p^1, \dots, p^k) = \left(\sum_{j=1}^n \left(\prod_{i=0}^k p_j^i\right)^{\frac{2}{k+1}}\right)^{\frac{1}{2}}.$$
 (2)

Log-transform

We study the N-dimensional log-transform and related distances.



Log-transform in 3D





Log-distance: formula

Let
$$x, y \in \mathbb{R}^{n-1}$$
, $s = (x, F_1(x))$ and $t = (y, F_1(y))$.
Then the log-distance from x to y is
 $D(x, y) = \sum_{j=1}^{n} (t_j - s_j) e^{2t_j}$.



Log-distance: conjugate in 3D







 $\operatorname{Cech}_r(X) = \{ \xi \subseteq X \mid \bigcap \mathbb{B}_r(x) \neq \emptyset \}.$ (3) $x \in \xi$

Generalized measure.

For each simplex $\xi \in \Delta(X)$, there is a smallest radius for which ξ belongs to the Čech complex:

$$r_{\mathrm{C}}(\xi) = \min\{r \mid \xi \in \operatorname{Cech}_{r}(X)\}.$$
 (4)

We call $r_{\mathbb{C}} \colon \Delta(X) \to \mathbb{R}$ the Čech radius function of X.

In the original coordinate space, we get the desired similarity measure:

$$R_{\rm C}(\xi) = e^{-r_{\rm C}(\xi)/\sqrt{n}} \tag{5}$$

Bregman divergences

Bregman divergences

Bregman distance from x to y:

$$D_F(x,y) = F(x) - [F(y) + \langle \nabla F(y), x - y \rangle]; \quad (6)$$

Bregman divergences

- F can be any strictly convex function!
 - It covers the Sq. Eucl. distance, squared Mahalanobis distance, Kullback-Leibler divergence, Itakura-Saito distance.
 - Extensive use in machine learning.
 - Links to statistics via [regular] exponential family (of distributions).

Further connections

- Bregman-based Voronoi [Nielsen at el].
- Information Geometry.
- ▶ Collapsibility Cech→Delunay [Bauer, Edelsbrunner].
- Persistence stability for geometric complexes [Chazal, de Silva, Oudot]

Summary

- New, stable and relevant distance (dissimilarity measure) for texts.
- It serves as an interpretation of text data.
- ▶ Link between TDA and Bregman divergences.

Thank you!



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