



Figure 1: Geometric interpretation of local natural coordinates on a Cartan-Hadamard manifold.

## Local parameterizations

Let  $L_\tau(\tau) := E_{q(w|\tau)}[\ell(w)]$ . Ordinary NGD with respect to global parameter  $\tau$  is

$$\tau_{t+1} = \tau_t - \beta F_\tau^{-1}(\tau_t) \nabla_\tau L_\tau(\tau_t),$$

where  $\beta$  is the learning rate. Using local parameterization  $\eta$  and auxiliary parameterization  $\lambda_t$  with  $\tau_\eta = \psi \circ \phi_{\lambda_t}$  so that  $\tau_\eta(\eta) = \tau$  at iteration  $t$  via  $\lambda_t$ , we have one iteration of NGD with respect to local parameterization  $\eta$  as:

$$\eta' = \eta_0 - \beta F_\eta^{-1}(\eta_0) \nabla_\eta L_\eta(\eta_0)$$

Since we choose  $\eta_0 = 0$ , and we have  $L_\eta = L_\tau \circ \tau_\eta$ , we get using the chain rule (a multivariate generalization of  $f(g(y))' = g'(y)f'(g(y))$  with  $x = g(y)$ ):

$$\begin{aligned} \eta' &= -\beta F_\eta^{-1}(\eta_0) (\nabla_\eta (L_\tau \circ \tau_\eta)(\eta_0)) \\ &= -\beta F_\eta^{-1}(\eta_0) (\nabla_\eta (\psi \circ \phi_{\lambda_t})(\eta_0)) \nabla_\tau L_\tau(\tau) \end{aligned}$$

Then we map back  $\eta'$  to  $\tau$  as

$$\tau_{t+1} = \tau_\eta(\eta') = \psi \circ \phi_{\lambda_t} (-\beta F_\eta^{-1}(\eta_0) (\nabla_\eta (\psi \circ \phi_{\lambda_t})(\eta_0)) \nabla_\tau L_\tau(\tau))$$

### 0.1 The case of Cartan-Hadamard manifolds

When the Fisher-Rao  $D$ -dimensional manifold  $\mathcal{Q}$  is a Cartan-Hadamard manifold (non-positive sectional curvature like the manifold of positive-definite matrices) then by Cartan-Hadamard theorem the manifold is diffeomorphic to  $\mathbb{R}^D$ . In a Cartan-Hadamard manifold, the Riemannian exponential map  $\exp_p : T_p \mathcal{Q} \rightarrow \mathcal{Q}$  is a covering map. Thus we can choose  $\eta$  to be the Euclidean coordinates in the tangent plane  $T_p$  with ordinary gradient, and define  $\psi \circ \lambda_t(\eta) = \exp_{p_{\tau_t}}(v)$  to be the Riemannian exponential map. Therefore on any Fisher-Rao manifold which is of Cartan type (e.g., manifold of Gaussians), we can introduce local natural coordinates. Notice that when the FIM is constant,  $F_\eta^{-1}(\eta_0)$ , then by a change of variable using Cholesky decomposition, we can make it Euclidean. Figure 1 gives a geometric interpretation of the local natural coordinates on such manifolds.