

# Fisher-Rao distance and pullback Hilbert distance between multivariate normal distributions



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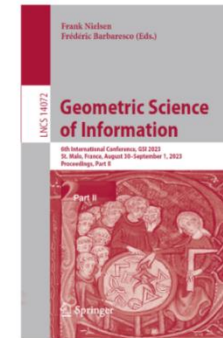
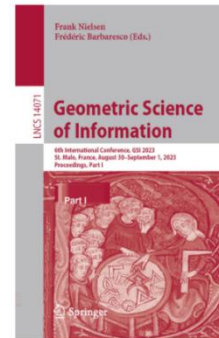
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August 2023

[arXiv:2307.10644](https://arxiv.org/abs/2307.10644)

# References for this talk

- NB: Paper is *not included* in the GSI proceedings
- A Simple Approximation Method for the Fisher–Rao Distance between Multivariate Normal Distributions, Entropy (2023)
- **Fisher-Rao and pullback Hilbert cone distances on the multivariate Gaussian manifold with applications to simplification and quantization of mixtures**, ICML TAG-ML workshop (2023)



# Overview and main contributions

- Give details of method [Kobayashi 2023] to calculate the Fisher-Rao geodesics between multivariate normal distributions with boundary conditions
- Report a **guaranteed  $(1+\epsilon)$ -approximation** for the Fisher-Rao MVN distance
- Define **a fast metric distance** between  $d$ -variate MVNs based on Hilbert projective metric on the SPD cone of dimension  $d+1$ : pullback Hilbert distance

# Rao distance and Fisher-Rao Riemannian geometry

- Consider a regular **statistical parametric model**:  $\{p_\lambda: \lambda \in \Lambda\}$ ,  $\dim(\Lambda)=m$   
**regular** = smooth partial derivatives,  $\{\partial_1 p_\lambda, \dots, \partial_m p_\lambda\}$  linearly independent  
or score functions  $\{\partial_1 \log p_\lambda, \dots, \partial_m \log p_\lambda\}$  defining the tangent plane
- Let the **Fisher information matrix** (FIM) defines the Riemannian metric  $g$   
FIM well-defined, finite, and positive-definite  $\rightarrow$  **Fisher metric tensor**

$$I(\lambda) = \text{Cov}[\nabla \log p_\lambda(x)]$$

- Define the geodesic length as the **Rao distance** [Atkinson & Mitchell 1981]

$$\text{Length}(c) = \int_0^1 \sqrt{\langle \dot{c}(t), \dot{c}(t) \rangle_{c(t)}} dt = \int_0^1 ds_{\mathcal{N}}(t) dt = \int_0^1 \|\dot{c}(t)\|_{c(t)} dt,$$

$$\rho_{\mathcal{N}}(N(\lambda_1), N(\lambda_2)) = \inf_{\substack{c(t) \\ c(0)=p_{\lambda_1} \\ c(1)=p_{\lambda_2}}} \{\text{Length}(c)\},$$

- By construction, Rao's distance is **invariant to reparameterization** [Rao 1945]  
[Hotelling 1930]

# Hyperbolic Fisher-Rao Gaussian manifold and partial isometric embedding on the 3D pseudo-sphere

$$\mathcal{P} = \left\{ p_{\lambda}(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma} \exp \left( -\frac{(x - \mu)^2}{2\sigma^2} \right), \quad \lambda = (\mu, \sigma) \in \mathbb{H} \right\}$$

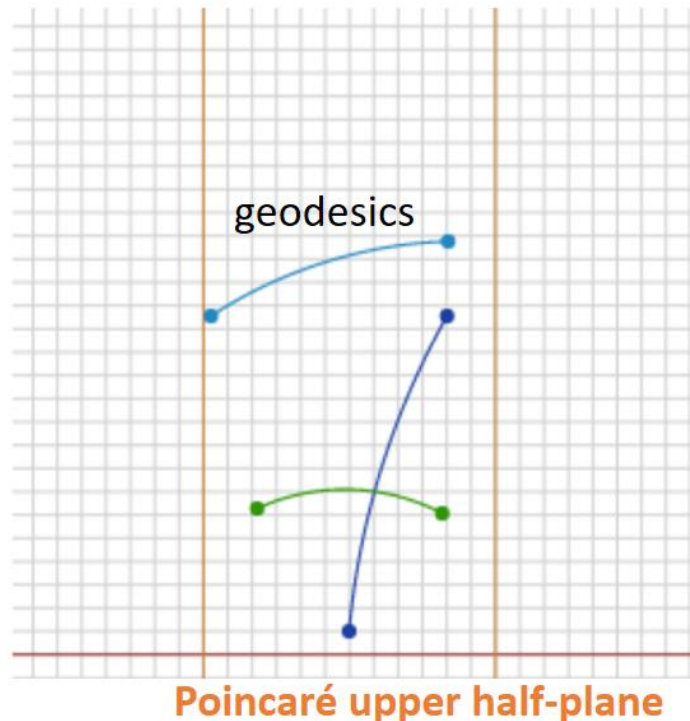
$$I(\mu, \sigma) = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{\sigma^2} & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{2}{\sigma^2} \end{bmatrix}$$

Fisher-Rao geodesic distance:

$$D_{\text{Rao}}[p_{\mu_1, \sigma_1}, p_{\mu_2, \sigma_2}] = \sqrt{2} \ln \frac{\left\| \left( \frac{\mu_1}{\sqrt{2}}, \sigma_1 \right) - \left( \frac{\mu_2}{\sqrt{2}}, -\sigma_2 \right) \right\| + \left\| \left( \frac{\mu_1}{\sqrt{2}}, \sigma_1 \right) - \left( \frac{\mu_2}{\sqrt{2}}, \sigma_2 \right) \right\|}{\left\| \left( \frac{\mu_1}{\sqrt{2}}, \sigma_1 \right) - \left( \frac{\mu_2}{\sqrt{2}}, -\sigma_2 \right) \right\| - \left\| \left( \frac{\mu_1}{\sqrt{2}}, \sigma_1 \right) - \left( \frac{\mu_2}{\sqrt{2}}, \sigma_2 \right) \right\|}$$

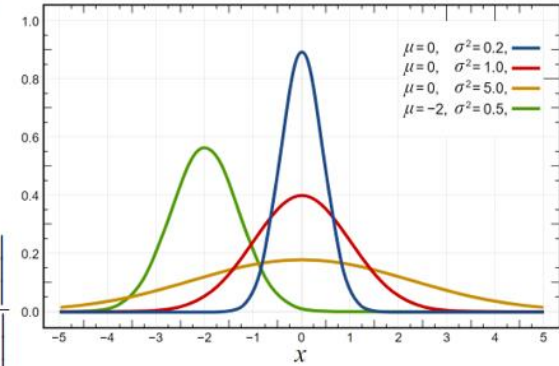
$$ds_F^2 = \frac{d\mu^2 + 2d\sigma^2}{\sigma^2}$$

Constant curvature  $-1/2$   
(= hyperbolic manifold)



Constant Gaussian  
negative curvature

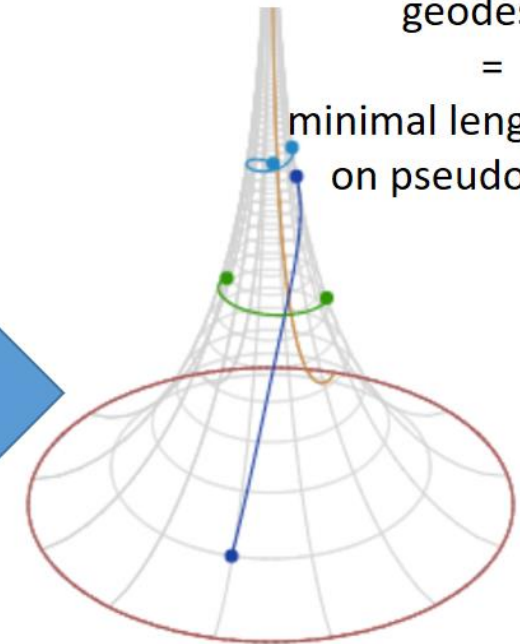
Isometric embedding  
(partial/periodic)



geodesics

=

minimal length curves  
on pseudosphere

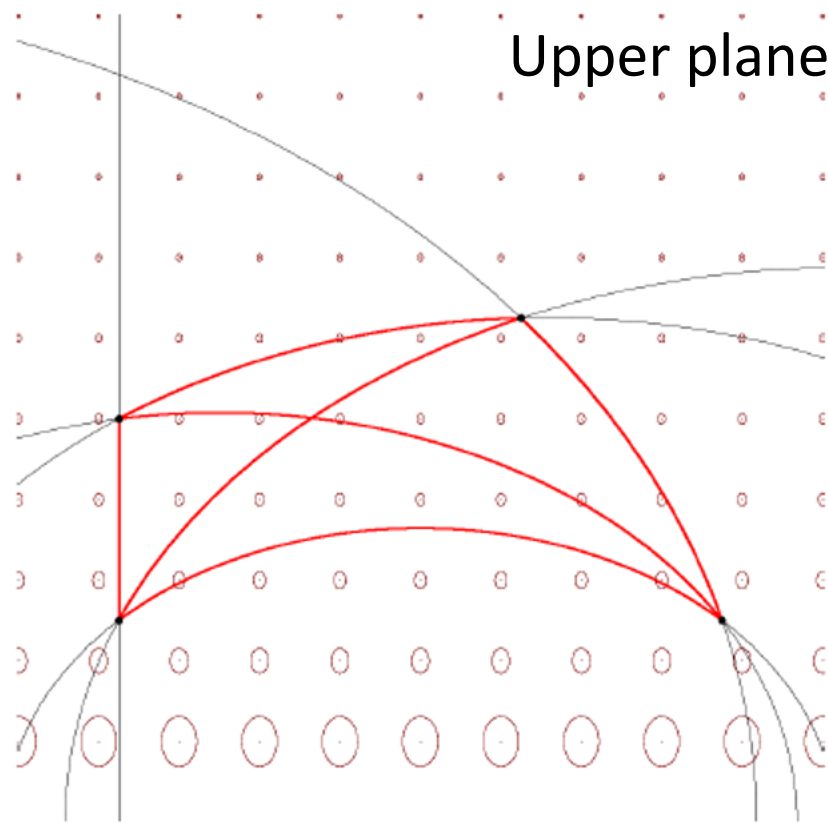


Pseudosphere generated by tractrix



# Fisher-Rao distance between normal distributions

Upper plane



$$\rho_{\mathcal{N}}(N(\mu_1, \sigma_1^2), N(\mu_2, \sigma_2^2)) = \sqrt{2} \log \left( \frac{1 + \Delta(\mu_1, \sigma_1; \mu_2, \sigma_2)}{1 - \Delta(\mu_1, \sigma_1; \mu_2, \sigma_2)} \right),$$

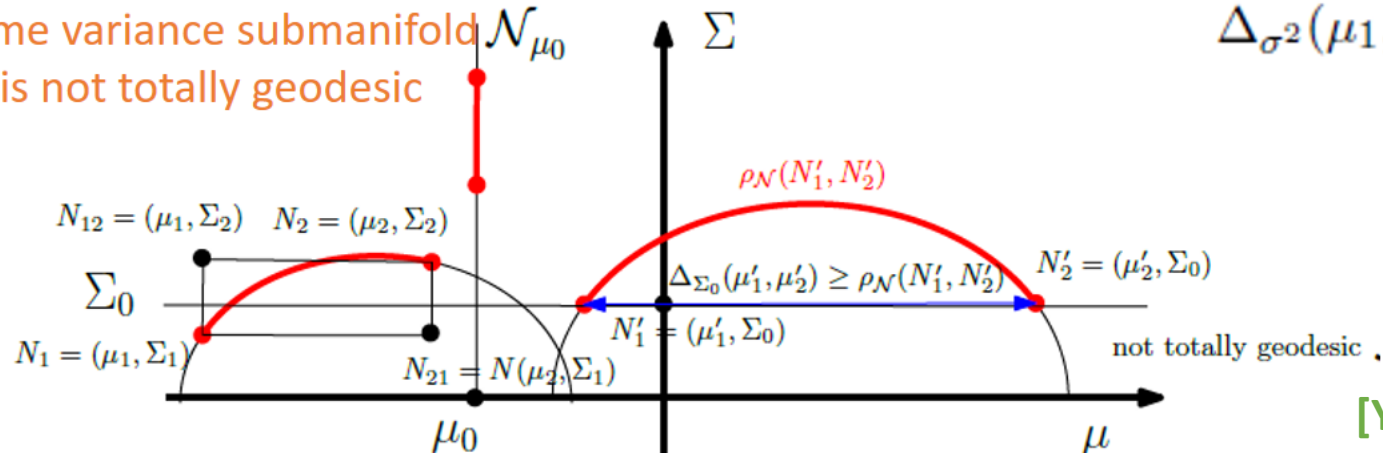
$$\Delta(a, b; c, d) = \sqrt{\frac{(c-a)^2 + 2(d-b)^2}{(c-a)^2 + 2(d+b)^2}}.$$

When same variance, we have

$$\rho_{\mathcal{N}}(N(\mu_1, \sigma_1^2), N(\mu_2, \sigma_2^2)) = h_{\text{FR}}(\Delta_{\sigma^2}(\mu_1, \mu_2))$$

$$\Delta_{\sigma^2}(\mu_1, \mu_2) = \sqrt{(\mu_2 - \mu_1)(\sigma^2) - 1(\mu_2 - \mu_1)} = \frac{|\mu_2 - \mu_1|}{\sigma}$$

Same variance submanifold  
is not totally geodesic



$$\begin{aligned} h_{\text{FR}}(u) &= \sqrt{2} \log \left( \frac{\sqrt{8 + u^2} + u}{\sqrt{8 + u^2} - u} \right), \\ &= \sqrt{2} \operatorname{arccosh} \left( 1 + \frac{1}{4} u^2 \right). \end{aligned}$$

[Yoshizawa 1971]

# Fisher-Rao geometry: multivariate normals

$$N(\mu, \Sigma) \sim p_{\mu, \Sigma}(x) = \frac{(2\pi)^{-\frac{d}{2}}}{\sqrt{\det(\Sigma)}} \exp \left( -\frac{(x-\mu)^\top \Sigma^{-1} (x-\mu)}{2} \right)$$

$$\mathcal{N}(d) = \{ N(\lambda) : \lambda = (\mu, \Sigma) \in \Lambda(d) = \mathbb{R}^d \times \text{Sym}_+(d, \mathbb{R}) \}$$

Fisher information matrix (vector, matrix):

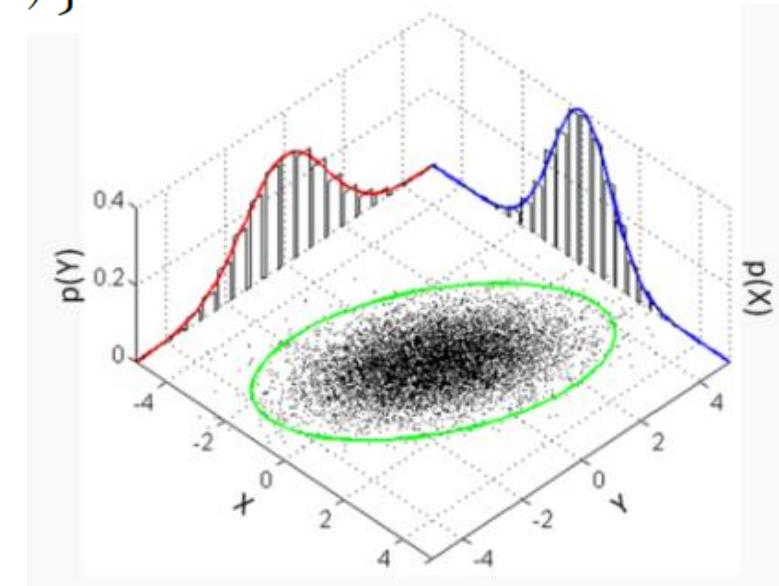
$$g_{\mathcal{N}}^{\text{Fisher}}(\mu, \Sigma) = \text{Cov}[\nabla \log p_{(\mu, \Sigma)}(x)]$$

**Fisher metric tensor:**

$$\begin{aligned} g_{(\mu, \Sigma)}^{\text{Fisher}}((v_1, V_1), (v_2, V_2)) &= \langle (v_1, V_1), (v_2, V_2) \rangle_{(\mu, \Sigma)}, \\ &= [v_1]^\top \Sigma^{-1} [v_2] + \frac{1}{2} \text{tr} \left( \Sigma^{-1} [V_1] \Sigma^{-1} [V_2] \right). \end{aligned}$$

**Length element:**

$$\begin{aligned} ds_{\mathcal{N}}^2(\mu, \Sigma) &= \begin{bmatrix} d\mu \\ d\Sigma \end{bmatrix}^\top I(\mu, \Sigma) \begin{bmatrix} d\mu \\ d\Sigma \end{bmatrix}, \\ &= d\mu^\top \Sigma^{-1} d\mu + \frac{1}{2} \text{tr} \left( \left( \Sigma^{-1} d\Sigma \right)^2 \right). \end{aligned}$$



$v$ = vector space  $\mathbb{R}^d$   
 $V$ =Symmetric matrix  
 vector space

[Skovgaard 1984]

**Non-constant sectional curvatures which can also be positive, not NPC space ( $d > 1$ )**

# Invariance under action of the positive affine group

- Length element/Rao distance is **invariant** under the action of the **positive affine group**  $(a, A)$ :

$$\text{Aff}_+(d, \mathbb{R}) := \{ (a, A) : a \in \mathbb{R}^d, A \in \text{GL}_+(d, \mathbb{R}) \}$$

$$(a_1, A_1) \cdot (a_2, A_2) = (a_1 + A_1 a_2, A_1 A_2) \quad \text{Matrix group: } M_{(a, A)} := \begin{bmatrix} A & a \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$
$$(a, A)^{-1} = (-A^{-1}a, A^{-1})$$

$$\rho_{\mathcal{N}}(N(A\mu_1 + a, A\Sigma_1 A^\top), N(A\mu_2 + a, A\Sigma_2 A^\top)) = \rho_{\mathcal{N}}(N(\mu_1, \Sigma_1), N(\mu_2, \Sigma_2)).$$

- Thus we may always consider one normal distribution is the **standard normal distribution**  $N_{\text{std}}$

$$\begin{aligned} \rho_{\mathcal{N}}(N(\mu_1, \Sigma_1), N(\mu_2, \Sigma_2)) &= \rho_{\mathcal{N}}\left(N_{\text{std}}, N\left(\Sigma_1^{-\frac{1}{2}}(\mu_2 - \mu_1), \Sigma_1^{-\frac{1}{2}}\Sigma_2\Sigma_1^{-\frac{1}{2}}\right)\right), \\ &= \rho_{\mathcal{N}}\left(N\left(\Sigma_2^{-\frac{1}{2}}(\mu_1 - \mu_2), \Sigma_2^{-\frac{1}{2}}\Sigma_1\Sigma_2^{-\frac{1}{2}}\right), N_{\text{std}}\right), \end{aligned}$$



# Geodesic equation

In general, geodesic wrt Levi-Civita connection

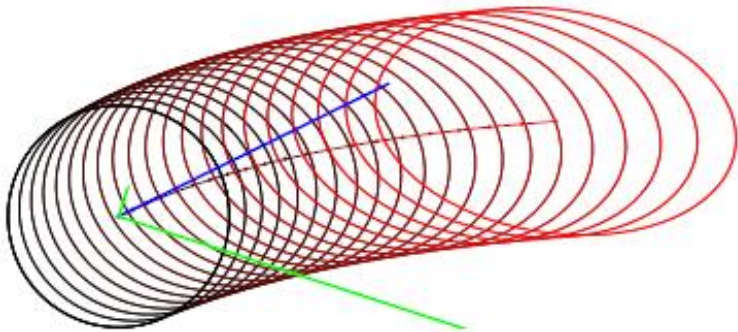
$$\frac{d^2\theta_k}{dt^2} + \sum_{i=1}^p \sum_{j=1}^p \Gamma_{ij}^k \frac{d\theta_i}{dt} \frac{d\theta_j}{dt} = 0$$



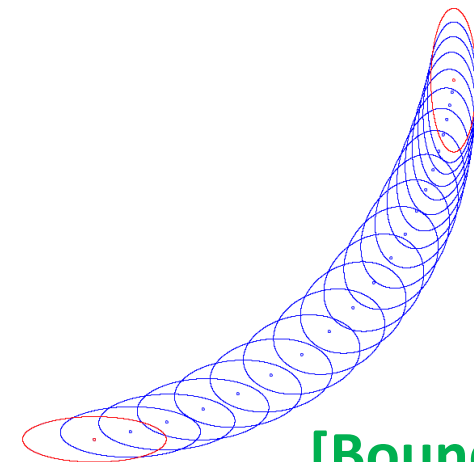
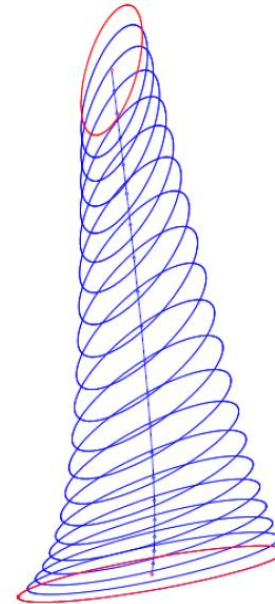
using (vector, Matrix) parameterization:

Second-order ODE: 
$$\begin{cases} \ddot{\mu} - \dot{\Sigma}\Sigma^{-1}\dot{\mu} &= 0, \\ \ddot{\Sigma} + \dot{\mu}\dot{\mu}^\top - \dot{\Sigma}\Sigma^{-1}\dot{\Sigma} &= 0. \end{cases}$$

- Consider either **initial value conditions** or **boundary value conditions** of ODE



[Initial values]



[Boundary values]

- Once the geodesics are known, **integrate length elements to get Rao distance**

# Geodesic solution: Initial value condition ( $N_0 = N_{\text{std}}$ )

## indirect solution $(v, V) \in T_{(\mu, \Sigma)} \in \mathbb{R}^d \times \text{Sym}(d, \mathbb{R})$

- Manipulate geodesic equation **algebraically** 
$$\begin{cases} \ddot{\mu} - \dot{\Sigma} \Sigma^{-1} \dot{\mu} &= 0, \\ \ddot{\Sigma} + \dot{\mu} \dot{\mu}^\top - \dot{\Sigma} \Sigma^{-1} \dot{\Sigma} &= 0. \end{cases}$$
- **natural parameterization** of the exponential family of MVNs:  $(\xi = \Sigma^{-1} \mu, \Xi = \Sigma^{-1})$
- Consider the **matrix exponential** (a la "**symmetric homogeneous space**") of  **$(2d+1) \times (2d+1)$  matrices** to solve geodesics with initial values

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} -V & v & 0 \\ v^\top & 0 & -v^\top \\ 0 & -v^\top & V \end{bmatrix} \in \mathbb{P}(2d+1)$$

[Eriksen 1987]

Compute **matrix exponential**:

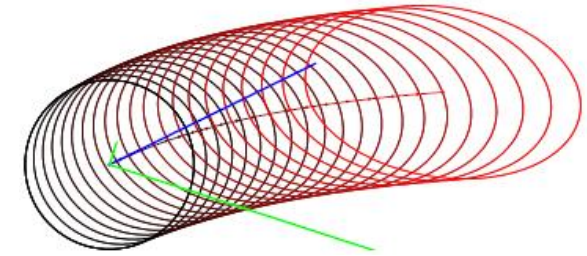
$\exp(tA)$

retrieve natural parameters  
+ convert to ordinary parameterization

$$\begin{aligned} \Xi(t) &= [\exp(tA)]_{1:d, 1:d}, & \xi(t) &= [\exp(tA)]_{1:d, d+1} \\ \Sigma(t) &= \Xi^{-1}(t), & \mu(t) &= \Sigma(t) \xi(t) \end{aligned}$$

# Fisher-Rao geodesics from multivariate normals with initial value conditions (direct solution)

**Geodesic equation:** 
$$\begin{cases} \ddot{\mu} - \dot{\Sigma}\Sigma^{-1}\dot{\mu} = 0, \\ \ddot{\Sigma} + \dot{\mu}\dot{\mu}^\top - \dot{\Sigma}\Sigma^{-1}\dot{\Sigma} = 0. \end{cases}$$



When initial value conditions ( $a = \dot{\xi}(0), B = \dot{\Xi}(0)$ ) are given, the geodesics are known in **closed-form** using the **natural parameters** ( $\xi = \Sigma^{-1}\mu, \Xi = \Sigma^{-1}$ )

$$\begin{aligned} \Xi(t) &= \Xi(0)^{\frac{1}{2}} R(t) R(t)^\top \Xi(0)^{\frac{1}{2}}, \\ \xi(t) &= 2\Xi(0)^{\frac{1}{2}} R(t) \text{Sinh} \left( \frac{1}{2} Gt \right) G^\dagger a + \Xi(t) \Xi^{-1}(0) \xi(0), \end{aligned} \quad [\text{Calvo \& Oller 1991}]$$

with  $R(t) = \text{Cosh} \left( \frac{1}{2} Gt \right) - B G^\dagger \text{Sinh} \left( \frac{1}{2} Gt \right)$  and matrix pseudo-inverse  $G^\dagger = (G^\top G)^{-1} G^\top$   
 and matrix hyperbolic functions  
 for  $M = O \text{diag}(\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_d) O^\top$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Sinh}(M) &= O \text{diag}(\sinh(\lambda_1), \dots, \sinh(\lambda_d)) O^\top \\ \text{Cosh}(M) &= O \text{diag}(\cosh(\lambda_1), \dots, \cosh(\lambda_d)) O^\top \end{aligned}$$

# Special case: Centered multivariate normals

## Closed form geodesics and Fisher-Rao distances

- Submanifold of MVNs with constant mean is **totally geodesic**

[James 1973]

$$\gamma_{\text{FR}}^{\mathcal{N}}(N_0, N_1; t) = N(\mu, \Sigma_t)$$

- Rao geodesics:**

$$\Sigma_t = \Sigma_0^{\frac{1}{2}} (\Sigma_0^{-\frac{1}{2}} \Sigma_1 \Sigma_0^{-\frac{1}{2}})^t \Sigma_0^{\frac{1}{2}}$$

- Rao distance:**

$$\rho_{\mathcal{N}_\mu}(N_0, N_1) = \sqrt{\frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^d \log^2 \lambda_i(\Sigma_0^{-\frac{1}{2}} \Sigma_1 \Sigma_0^{-\frac{1}{2}})}$$

- Require to compute all eigenvalues (costly)
- Because of sum of  $\log^2$ ,  $\rho(\mathbf{P}_1, \mathbf{P}_2) = \rho(\mathbf{P}_1^{-1}, \mathbf{P}_2^{-1})$  : **invariant to matrix inversion**

# Riemanian geometry of the SPD cone (trace metric)

Trace metric:  $\langle A, B \rangle_P = \text{tr}(P^{-1}AP^{-1}B)$

related to Fisher information of centered normal/Wishart

$$I_F(\Sigma) = \frac{1}{2} \text{tr}(\Sigma^{-1} \Sigma^{-1}) \quad I_F(V) = \frac{1}{2} n \text{tr}(V^{-1} V^{-1})$$

Length element:  $ds_P^2 = \text{tr}(P^{-1}dP P^{-1}dP)$

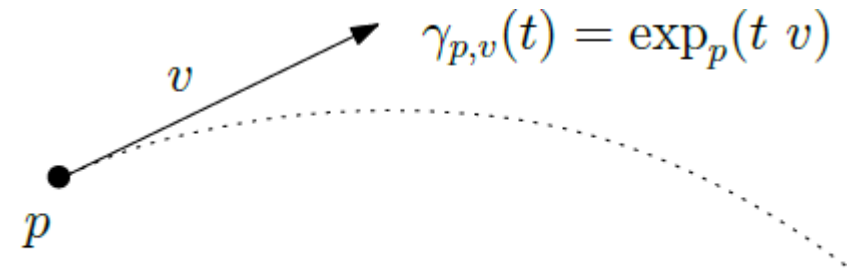
Invariance:  $ds_{CPC^T}^2 = ds_P^2, ds_{P^{-1}}^2 = ds_P^2$

Geodesic equation:  $\ddot{P} - \dot{P}P^{-1}\dot{P} = 0$

**Initial value conditions:**

$$P(0) = P \text{ and } \dot{P}(0) = S$$

$$P(t) = P^{\frac{1}{2}} \exp(tP^{-\frac{1}{2}}SP^{-\frac{1}{2}})P^{\frac{1}{2}}$$

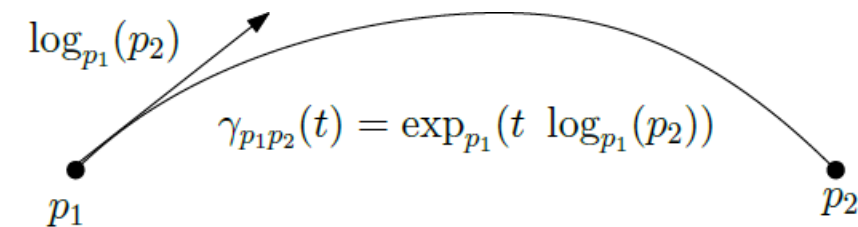


**Boundary value conditions:**

$$P(0) = P_1, P(1) = P_2$$

$$P(t) = P_1^{\frac{1}{2}} \exp(t \text{Log}(P_1^{-\frac{1}{2}} P_2 P_1^{-\frac{1}{2}})) P_1^{\frac{1}{2}}$$

Geodesic wrt. initial conditions



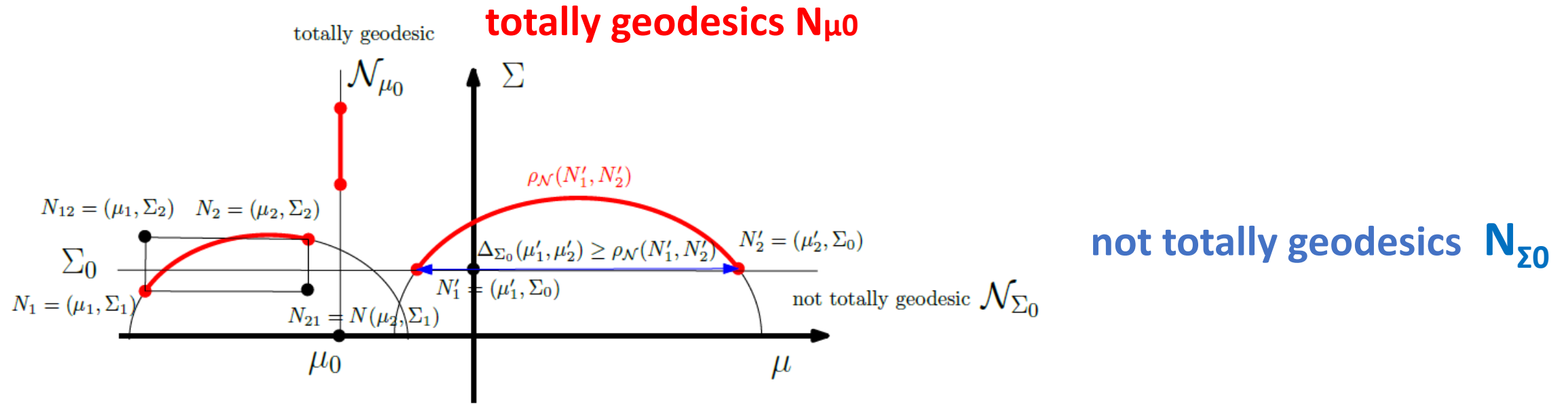
**Rao's distance:**

$$\rho(P_1, P_2) = \sqrt{\sum_i \log^2 \lambda_i(P_1^{-1} P_2)}$$

$$\rho(P_1, P_2) = \|\text{Log}(P_1^{-\frac{1}{2}} P_2 P_1^{-\frac{1}{2}})\|_F$$

Geodesic wrt. boundary conditions

# Submanifolds of constant covariance matrices



**Proposition** . The Fisher–Rao distance  $\rho_{\mathcal{N}}((\mu_1, \Sigma), (\mu_2, \Sigma))$  between two MVNs with same covariance matrix is

$$\begin{aligned}
 \rho_{\mathcal{N}}((\mu_1, \Sigma), (\mu_2, \Sigma)) &= \rho_{\mathcal{N}}((0, 1), (\Delta_{\Sigma}(\mu_1, \mu_2), 1)), \\
 &= \sqrt{2} \log \left( \frac{\sqrt{8 + \Delta_{\Sigma}^2(\mu_1, \mu_2)} + \Delta_{\Sigma}(\mu_1, \mu_2)}{\sqrt{8 + \Delta_{\Sigma}^2(\mu_1, \mu_2)} - \Delta_{\Sigma}(\mu_1, \mu_2)} \right), \\
 &= \sqrt{2} \operatorname{arccosh} \left( 1 + \frac{1}{4} \Delta_{\Sigma}^2(\mu_1, \mu_2) \right),
 \end{aligned}$$

where  $\Delta_{\Sigma}(\mu_1, \mu_2) = \sqrt{(\mu_2 - \mu_1)^{\top} \Sigma^{-1} (\mu_2 - \mu_1)}$  is the Mahalanobis distance.



# Fisher-Rao geodesics from multivariate normals with boundary value conditions in closed form

Fisher-Rao geodesic  $N_t = N(\mu(t), \Sigma(t)) = \gamma_{\text{FR}}^{\mathcal{N}}(N_0, N_1; t)$ :

[Kobayashi 2023]

- For  $i \in \{0, 1\}$ , let  $G_i = M_i D_i M_i^\top$ , where

$$M_i = \begin{bmatrix} \Sigma_i^{-1} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \Sigma_i \end{bmatrix}, D_i = \begin{bmatrix} I_d & 0 & 0 \\ \mu_i^\top & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -\mu_i & I_d \end{bmatrix}$$

- Consider the Riemannian geodesic in  $\text{Sym}_+(2d+1, \mathbb{R})$  with respect to the trace metric:  $G(t) = G_0^{\frac{1}{2}} \left( G_0^{-\frac{1}{2}} G_1 G_0^{-\frac{1}{2}} \right)^t G_0^{\frac{1}{2}}$
- Retrieve  $N(t) = \gamma_{\text{FR}}^{\mathcal{N}}(N_0, N_1; t) = N(\mu(t), \Sigma(t))$  from  $G(t)$ :

$\Sigma(t) = [G(t)]_{1:d, 1:d}^{-1}$ ,  $\mu(t) = \Sigma(t) [G(t)]_{1:d, d+1}$  where

$[G]_{1:d, 1:d}$  denotes the block matrix with rows and columns ranging from 1 to  $d$  extracted from  $(2d+1) \times (2d+1)$  matrix  $G$ , and  $[G]_{1:d, d+1}$  is similarly the column vector of  $\mathbb{R}^d$  extracted from  $G$

Ingredient: **Riemannian submersion** and MVN geodesics from horizontal geodesics

- Get **closed-form geodesics with boundary values**
- However, **no closed-form Rao distance** because of the integration of length element problem

$$\text{Length}(c) = \int_0^1 \sqrt{\langle \dot{c}(t), \dot{c}(t) \rangle_{c(t)}} dt = \int_0^1 ds_{\mathcal{N}}(t) dt = \int_0^1 \|\dot{c}(t)\|_{c(t)} dt.$$

# Fisher-Rao MVN distance: An upper bound

- Geodesics with boundary conditions form **1d totally geodesic submanifolds**
- Cut the geodesics in many small parts using  $T+1$  geodesic points

$$\tilde{\rho}_{\mathcal{N}}^c(N_1, N_2) := \frac{1}{T} \sum_{i=1}^{T-1} \sqrt{D_J \left[ c\left(\frac{i}{T}\right), c\left(\frac{i+1}{T}\right) \right]}. \quad D_J[p_{(\mu_1, \Sigma_1)} : p_{(\mu_2, \Sigma_2)}] = \text{tr} \left( \frac{\Sigma_2^{-1} \Sigma_1 + \Sigma_1^{-1} \Sigma_2}{2} - I \right) + \Delta \mu^\top \frac{\Sigma_1^{-1} + \Sigma_2^{-1}}{2} \Delta \mu.$$

- **Upper bound** for nearby points Rao distance by the square root of Jeffreys divergence (or any other f-divergence)

$$I_f[p : q] \approx \frac{f''(1)}{2} \text{ds}_{\text{Fisher}}^2$$

Infinitesimal Fisher-Rao distance:  $\text{ds} \approx \sqrt{\frac{2 I_f[p:q]}{f''(1)}}$

**Property** (Fisher–Rao upper bound). *The Fisher–Rao distance between normal distributions is upper bounded by the square root of the Jeffreys divergence:  $\rho_{\mathcal{N}}(N_1, N_2) \leq \sqrt{D_J(N_1, N_2)}$ .*

# Diffeomorphic embeddings of MVN(d) onto SPD(d+1)

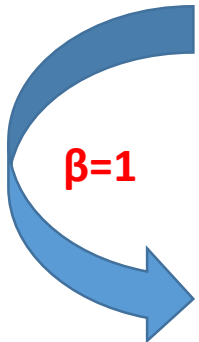
[Calvo & Oller 1990]

The **diffeomorphisms**  $\{f_\beta\}$  foliates the SPD cone  $\mathcal{P}(d+1)$

$$f_\beta(N) = f_\beta(\mu, \Sigma) = \begin{bmatrix} \Sigma + \beta \mu \mu^\top & \beta \mu \\ \beta \mu^\top & \beta \end{bmatrix} \in \mathcal{P}(d+1)$$

Using half trace metric in  $\mathcal{P}(d+1)$ , we get the following **metrics on MVN(d)**:

$$\begin{aligned} ds_{\text{CO}}^2 &= \frac{1}{2} \text{tr} \left( \left( f^{-1}(\mu, \Sigma) df(\mu, \Sigma) \right)^2 \right), \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{d\beta}{\beta} \right)^2 + \beta d\mu^\top \Sigma^{-1} d\mu + \frac{1}{2} \text{tr} \left( \left( \Sigma^{-1} d\Sigma \right)^2 \right). \end{aligned}$$



When  **$\beta=1$**  (constant), we thus get a **Fisher isometric embedding** of MVN(d) into SPD(d+1):  $ds_{\text{Fisher}}^2 = d\mu^\top \Sigma^{-1} d\mu + \frac{1}{2} \text{tr} \left( (\Sigma^{-1} d\Sigma)^2 \right)$

# Fisher-Rao MVN distance: A lower bound

- Embed isometrically the Gaussian manifold  $\mathcal{N}(d)$  into a **submanifold of codimension 1 into the SPD cone of dimension  $d+1$**  (non-totally geodesic):

$$f(N) = f(\mu, \Sigma) = \begin{bmatrix} \Sigma + \mu\mu^\top & \mu \\ \mu^\top & 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad [\text{Calvo \& Oller 1990}]$$

- Use SPD geodesic in the  $(d+1)$ -dimensional cone:  $\Sigma_t = \Sigma_0^{\frac{1}{2}} (\Sigma_0^{-\frac{1}{2}} \Sigma_1 \Sigma_0^{-\frac{1}{2}})^t \Sigma_0^{\frac{1}{2}}$
- SPD path is of length necessarily smaller than the MVN geodesic in submanifold  $f(N)$ . Thus get a **lower bound** on Rao distance:

$$\rho_{\mathcal{N}}(N_1, N_2) \geq \rho_{\text{CO}}(\underbrace{f(\mu_1, \Sigma_1)}_{P_1}, \underbrace{f(\mu_2, \Sigma_2)}_{P_2}) = \sqrt{\frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^{d+1} \log^2 \lambda_i(\bar{P}_1^{-1} \bar{P}_2)}.$$

- Cut MVN geodesics into and apply lower bound piecewisely : **Fine lower bound**

# Fisher-Rao MVN geodesic: Numerical midpoint geodesic with quadratic convergence

Computing SPD geodesics points require all eigenvalues/eigenvectors:

$$\Sigma_t = \Sigma_0^{\frac{1}{2}} (\Sigma_0^{-\frac{1}{2}} \Sigma_1 \Sigma_0^{-\frac{1}{2}})^t \Sigma_0^{\frac{1}{2}}$$

For **t=1/2**, we can compute  $\Sigma_{1/2}$  with **quadratic convergence** (thus bypassing eigendecomposition) as follows:

Matrix AHM mean:

$$A_{t+1} = \text{ArithmeticMean}(A_t, B_t)$$

$$B_{t+1} = \text{HarmonicMean}(A_t, B_t)$$

$$\text{ArithmeticMean}(A, B) = \frac{1}{2}(A + B)$$

$$\text{HarmonicMean}(A, B) = 2(A^{-1} + B^{-1})^{-1}$$

Converge to the matrix geometric mean

$$A^{1/2}(A^{-1/2}BA^{-1/2})^{1/2}A^{1/2}$$

initialized with  $A_0 = \Sigma_0$  and  $B_0 = \Sigma_1$

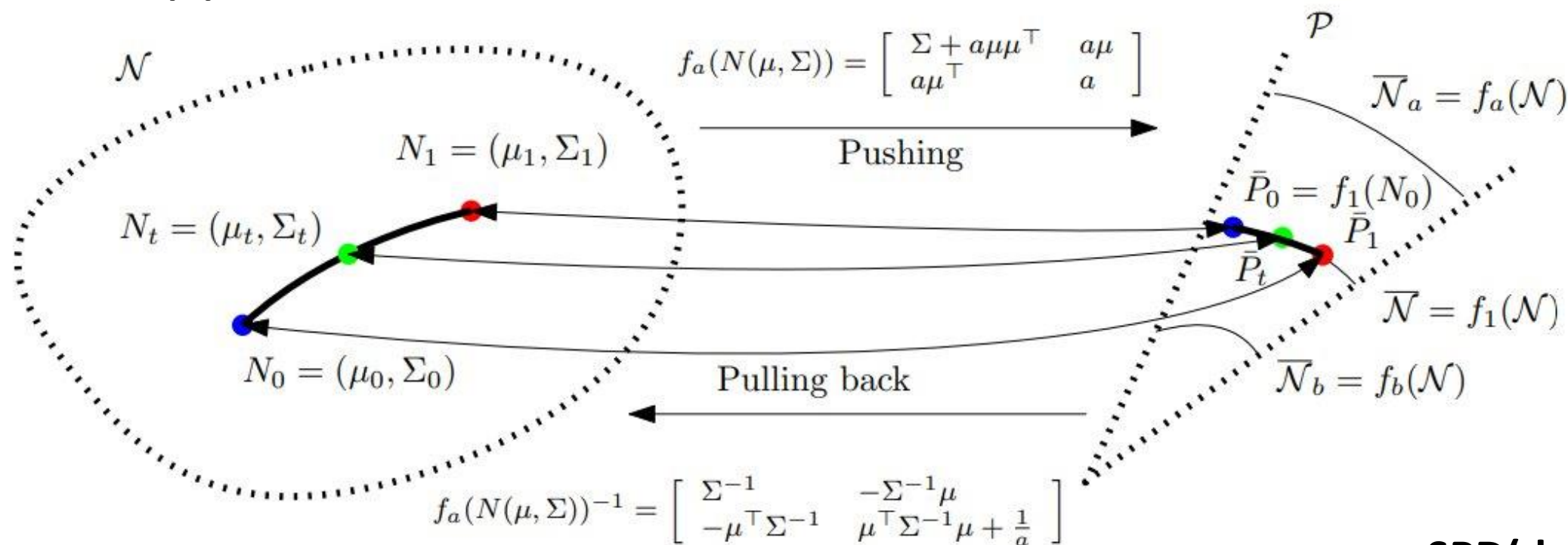
[Nakamura 2012]

# New fast distances between multivariate normals

$$\rho_{\text{Hilbert}}(N_0, N_1) := \rho_{\text{Hilbert}}(f(N_0), f(N_1))$$

$$\begin{aligned} \rho_{\text{Hilbert}}(P_0, P_1) &= \log \left( \frac{\lambda_{\max}(P_0^{-\frac{1}{2}} P_1 P_0^{-\frac{1}{2}})}{\lambda_{\min}(P_0^{-\frac{1}{2}} P_1 P_0^{-\frac{1}{2}})} \right) \\ &= \log \left( \frac{\lambda_{\max}(P_0^{-1} P_1)}{\lambda_{\min}(P_0^{-1} P_1)} \right) \end{aligned}$$

## Gaussian(d) manifold



**SPD(d+1) cone**



# New fast distances between multivariate normals

- Use Calvo & Oller isometric cone embedding  $f(\mu, \Sigma)$   $f(N) = f(\mu, \Sigma) = \begin{bmatrix} \Sigma + \mu\mu^\top & \mu \\ \mu^\top & 1 \end{bmatrix}$

- In the cone, use **Hilbert projective metric distance** and **LERP pregeodesics**

$$\begin{aligned} \rho_{\text{Hilbert}}(P_0, P_1) &= \log \left( \frac{\lambda_{\max}(P_0^{-\frac{1}{2}} P_1 P_0^{-\frac{1}{2}})}{\lambda_{\min}(P_0^{-\frac{1}{2}} P_1 P_0^{-\frac{1}{2}})} \right) \\ &= \log \left( \frac{\lambda_{\max}(P_0^{-1} P_1)}{\lambda_{\min}(P_0^{-1} P_1)} \right) \end{aligned}$$

Projective metric on SPD

$\rho_{\text{Hilbert}}(P_0, P_1) = 0$  if and only if  $P_0 = \lambda P_1$

But proper metric on  $f(N)$

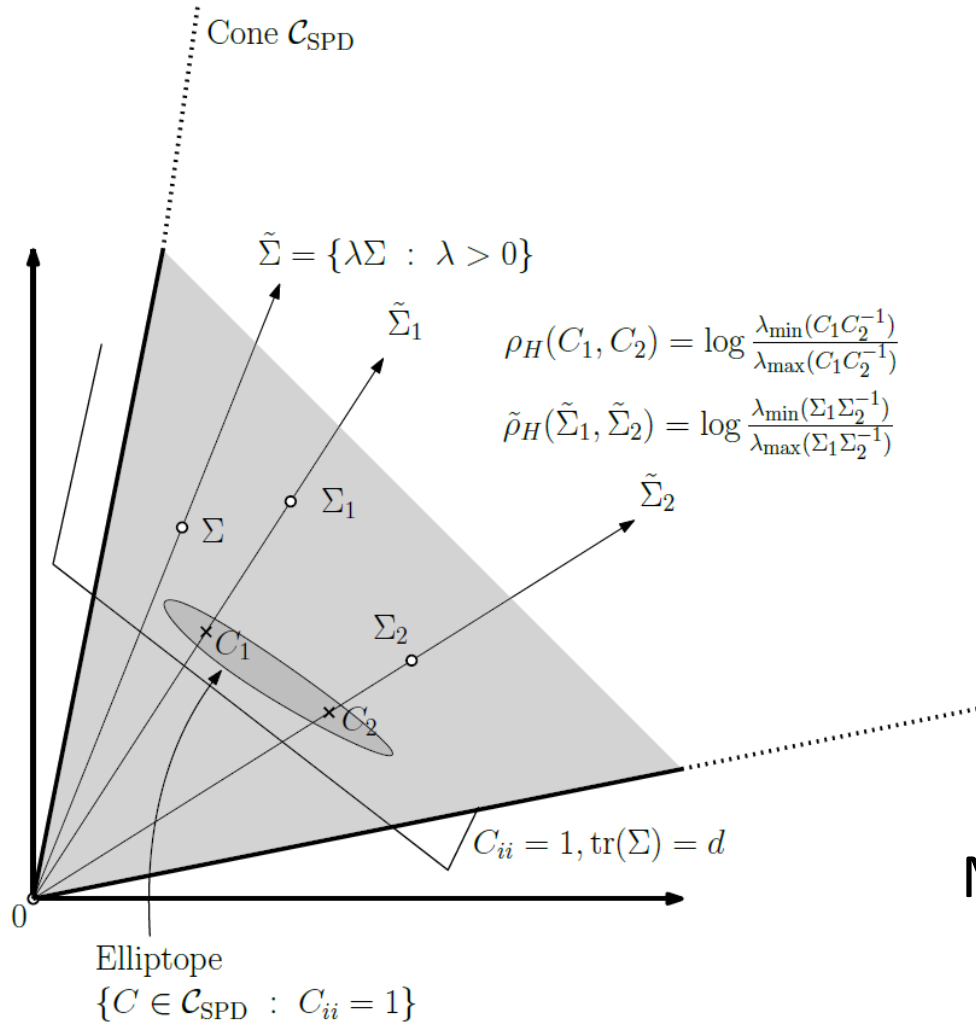
$$\gamma_{\text{Hilbert}}(P_0, P_1; t) := \left( \frac{\beta \alpha^t - \alpha \beta^t}{\beta - \alpha} \right) P_0 + \left( \frac{\beta^t - \alpha^t}{\beta - \alpha} \right) P_1,$$

$$\alpha = \lambda_{\min}(P_1^{-1} P_0) \text{ and } \beta = \lambda_{\max}(P_1^{-1} P_0)$$

- **Pullback** the geodesics and distance into the Gaussian manifold

$$\rho_{\text{Hilbert}}(N_0, N_1) := \rho_{\text{Hilbert}}(f(N_0), f(N_1))$$

# Hilbert projective metric distance in the SPD cone



$$\rho_H(C_1, C_2) = \log \frac{\lambda_{\min}(C_1 C_2^{-1})}{\lambda_{\max}(C_1 C_2^{-1})}$$

$$\tilde{\rho}_H(\tilde{\Sigma}_1, \tilde{\Sigma}_2) = \log \frac{\lambda_{\min}(\Sigma_1 \Sigma_2^{-1})}{\lambda_{\max}(\Sigma_1 \Sigma_2^{-1})}$$

$$\rho_H(\lambda_1 p_1, \lambda_2 p_2) = \rho_H(p_1, p_2), \quad \forall \lambda_1, \lambda_2 > 0$$

Metric distance in the elliptope of correlation matrices

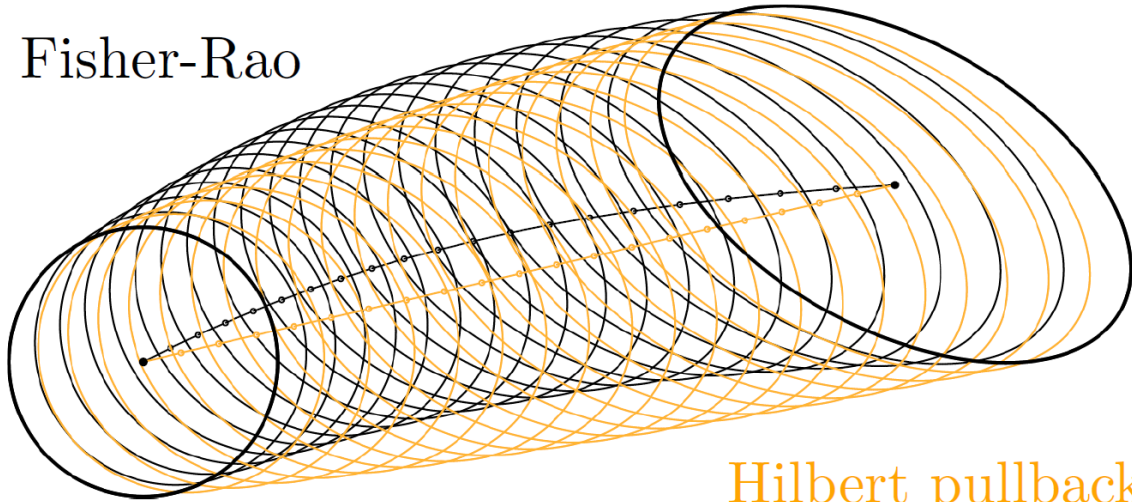
**N. and Sun. "Clustering in Hilbert's projective geometry:  
The case studies of the probability simplex and the elliptope of correlation matrices."  
*Geometric structures of information* (2019): 297-331.**

# Pullback Hilbert distance/geodesics between MVNs

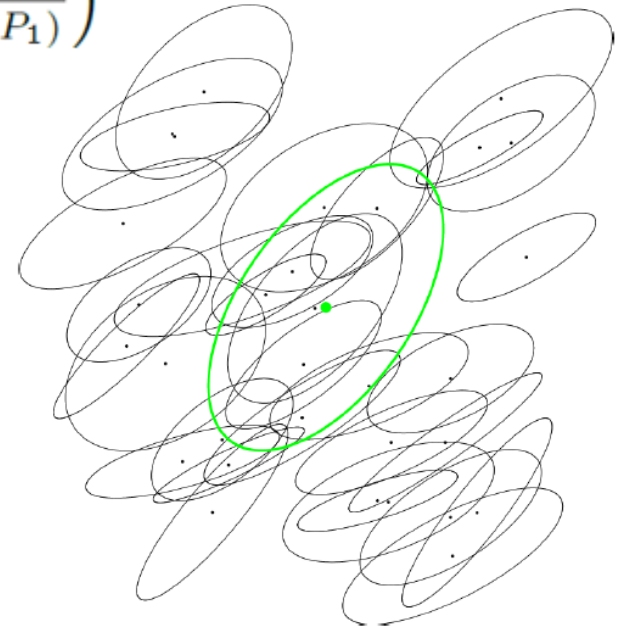
Only require to calculate **extreme eigenvalues** (eg., power method iteration)

$$\rho_{\text{Hilbert}}(P_0, P_1) = \log \left( \frac{\lambda_{\max}(P_0^{-1}P_1)}{\lambda_{\min}(P_0^{-1}P_1)} \right)$$

Fisher-Rao



Hilbert pullback



$$\rho_{\text{Hilbert}}(N_0, N_1) := \rho_{\text{Hilbert}}(f(N_0), f(N_1))$$

**Applications:** Approximation of the smallest enclosing ball (SEB) of a set of multivariate normals (quantization/clustering of Gaussian mixtures)

# Summary: A $(1+\epsilon)$ -approximation of Rao's distance between multivariate normal distributions

Algorithm 2.  $\tilde{\rho}_{\text{FR}}(N_0, N_1) = \text{ApproximateRaoMVN}(N_0, N_1, \epsilon)$ :

- $l = \rho_{\text{CO}}(N_0, N_1)$ ; /\* Calvo & Oller lower bound (Proposition 2.1) \*/
  - $u = \sqrt{D_J(N_0, N_1)}$ ; /\* Jeffreys divergence  $D_J$  (Proposition 1) \*/
  - if  $(\frac{u}{l} > 1 + \epsilon)$ 
    - $N = \text{GeodesicMidpoint}(N_0, N_1)$ ; /\* see Algorithm 1 for  $t = \frac{1}{2}$ . \*/
    - return  $\text{ApproximateRaoMVN}(N_0, N, \epsilon) + \text{ApproximateRaoMVN}(N, N_1, \epsilon)$ ;
- else return  $u$ ;

$$\bar{\mathcal{N}} = f(N) := \begin{bmatrix} \Sigma + \mu\mu^\top & \mu \\ \mu^\top & 1 \end{bmatrix} \in \mathcal{P}(d+1)$$

$$\rho_{\text{CO}}(N_0, N_1) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \sum_{i=1}^{d+1} \log^2 \lambda_i(\bar{\mathcal{N}}_0^{-\frac{1}{2}} \bar{\mathcal{N}}_1 \bar{\mathcal{N}}_0^{-\frac{1}{2}})$$

$$D_J(N_1, N_2) = \text{tr} \left( \frac{\Sigma_2^{-1} \Sigma_1 + \Sigma_1^{-1} \Sigma_2}{2} - I \right) + (\mu_2 - \mu_1)^\top \frac{\Sigma_1^{-1} + \Sigma_2^{-1}}{2} (\mu_2 - \mu_1)$$

Algorithm 1. Fisher-Rao geodesic  $N_t = N(\mu(t), \Sigma(t)) = \gamma_{\text{FR}}^N(N_0, N_1; t)$ :

- For  $i \in \{0, 1\}$ , let  $G_i = M_i D_i M_i^\top$ , where

$$M_i = \begin{bmatrix} \Sigma_i^{-1} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \Sigma_i \end{bmatrix}, \quad (8)$$

$$D_i = \begin{bmatrix} I_d & 0 & 0 \\ \mu_i^\top & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -\mu_i & I_d \end{bmatrix}, \quad (9)$$

where  $I_d$  denotes the identity matrix of shape  $d \times d$ . That is, matrices  $G_0$  and  $G_1 \in \text{Sym}_+(2d+1, \mathbb{R})$  can be expressed by *block Cholesky factorizations*.

- Consider the Riemannian geodesic in  $\text{Sym}_+(2d+1, \mathbb{R})$  with respect to the trace metric:

$$G(t) = G_0^{\frac{1}{2}} \left( G_0^{-\frac{1}{2}} G_1 G_0^{-\frac{1}{2}} \right)^t G_0^{\frac{1}{2}}.$$

In order to compute the matrix power  $G^p$  for  $p \in \mathbb{R}$ , we first calculate the Singular Value Decomposition (SVD) of  $G$ :  $G = O L O^\top$  (where  $O$  is an orthogonal matrix and  $L = \text{diag}(\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_{2d+1})$  a diagonal matrix) and then get the matrix power as  $G^p = O L^p O^\top$  with  $L^p = \text{diag}(\lambda_1^p, \dots, \lambda_{2d+1}^p)$ .

- Retrieve  $N(t) = \gamma_{\text{FR}}^N(N_0, N_1; t) = N(\mu(t), \Sigma(t))$  from  $G(t)$ :

$$\Sigma(t) = [G(t)]_{1:d, 1:d}^{-1}, \quad (10)$$

$$\mu(t) = \Sigma(t) [G(t)]_{1:d, d+1}, \quad (11)$$

where  $[G]_{1:d, 1:d}$  denotes the block matrix with rows and columns ranging from 1 to  $d$  extracted from  $(2d+1) \times (2d+1)$  matrix  $G$ , and  $[G]_{1:d, d+1}$  is similarly the column vector of  $\mathbb{R}^d$  extracted from  $G$ .

A recursive algorithm

# Summary and concluding remarks

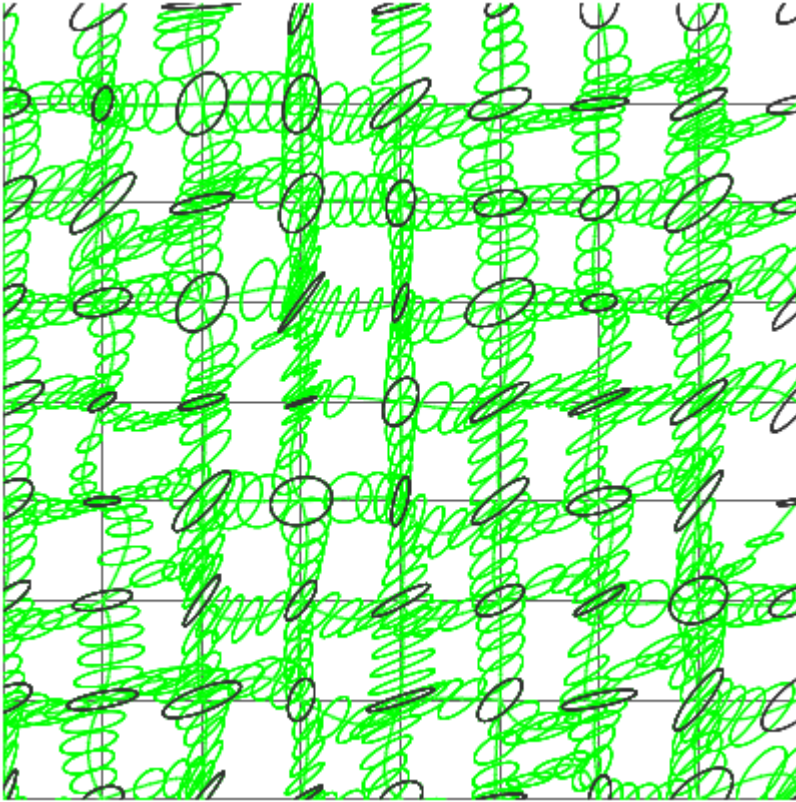
- Geodesics with initial values or boundary values are known in **closed-form**
- **Rao distance's lower bound** using isometric embedding into  $\text{SPD}(d+1)$ .  
Thus get **arbitrarily fine lower bounds** using piecewise MVN Rao geodesics
- **Arbitrarily fine upper bound** using square root of Jeffreys divergence on piecewise MVN Rao geodesics
- **Pullback** of SPD cone distance via Calvo & Oller **isometric embedding**:  
Fast distance & geodesic requiring only **extremal eigenvalues**
- Gaussian/MVN manifold is not NPC/Hadamard/CAT(0) because there are some positive sectional curvatures. SPD cone is NPC.
- Siegel considered a complex matrix metric which yields a NPC space

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- Siegel: Symplectic geometry (1964)
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# Thank you!



Open problem:

Closed-form formula for MVN Rao distance?

# SPD Riemannian geometry wrt trace metric

- Levi-Civita metric connection

$$\nabla_{X_P}^G Y_P = DY[P][X_P] - \frac{1}{2} (X_P P^{-1} Y_P + Y_P P^{-1} X_P)$$

Fréchet derivative

$$\gamma_G(P, Q; \alpha) = G_\alpha(P, Q)$$

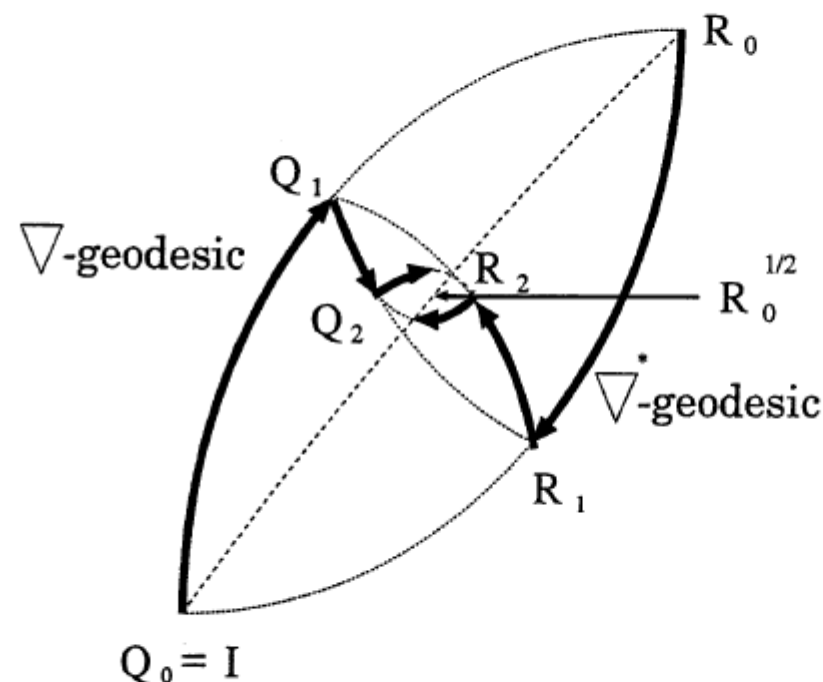
$$G_\alpha(P, Q) = P^{\frac{1}{2}} \left( P^{-\frac{1}{2}} Q P^{-\frac{1}{2}} \right)^\alpha P^{\frac{1}{2}}$$

Geodesic arclength parameterization:

$$\rho_{\mathcal{N}}\left(\gamma_{\mathcal{N}}^{\text{FR}}(p_{\lambda_1}, p_{\lambda_2}; s), \gamma_{\mathcal{N}}^{\text{FR}}(p_{\lambda_1}, p_{\lambda_2}; t)\right) = |s - t| \rho_{\mathcal{N}}(p_{\lambda_1}, p_{\lambda_2}), \quad \forall s, t \in [0, 1].$$

# Matrix Karcher centers as matrix means

- Arithmetic weighted mean matrix  $A_\alpha(P, Q) = (1 - \alpha)P + \alpha Q$   
yields a  $\nabla^A$ -geodesic with respect to metric  $g_P^A(X, Y) = \text{tr}(X^\top Y)$  (Euclidean)
- Harmonic weighted mean matrix  $H_\alpha(P, Q) = ((1 - \alpha)P^{-1} + \alpha Q^{-1})^{-1}$   
yields a geodesic  $\nabla^H$  with respect to metric  $g_P^H(X, Y) = \text{tr}(P^{-2} X P^{-2} Y)$   
(isometric to  $g$ , Euclidean)
- Geometric weighted mean matrix  $G_\alpha(P, Q) = P^{\frac{1}{2}} \left( P^{-\frac{1}{2}} Q P^{-\frac{1}{2}} \right)^\alpha P^{\frac{1}{2}}$   
yields a geodesic wrt metric  $g_P^G(X, Y) = \text{tr}(P^{-1} X P^{-1} Y)$  (Non-positively curved)
- (SPD,  $g^G$ ,  $\nabla^A$ ,  $\nabla^H$ ) is a dually flat space, is  $\nabla^G$  Levi-Civita connection



$$Q_{n+1} = \frac{1}{2}(Q_n + R_n),$$

$$R_{n+1} = 2(Q_n^{-1} + R_n^{-1})^{-1}, \quad n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$$

Fig. 2. The matrix AHM algorithm.

**Theorem 9.** *The sequences  $\{Q_n\}_{n=0,1,2,\dots}$  and  $\{R_n\}_{n=0,1,2,\dots}$  with  $Q_0 = I$  tend to the common limit  $G = R_0^{1/2}$  in a quadratic order.*

**Theorem 10.** *The AHM algorithm on the space  $\text{PD}(m)$  of positive-definite symmetric matrices generates sequences  $\{Q_n\}_{n=0,1,2,\dots}$  and  $\{R_n\}_{n=0,1,2,\dots}$  which converge quadratically to the midpoint*

$$G = Q_0^{1/2}(Q_0^{-1/2}R_0Q_0^{-1/2})^{1/2}Q_0^{1/2} \quad (31)$$

*of the Riemannian geodesics from  $Q_0$  to  $R_0$ .*

# Siegel upper/disk space: Non-Positive Curvature (NPC)

Siegel disk:  $SD_N = \{M \in \mathbb{C}^{N \times N}, I - MM^H > 0\}$      $SD_N = \{M \in \mathbb{C}^{N \times N}, |||M||| < 1\}$

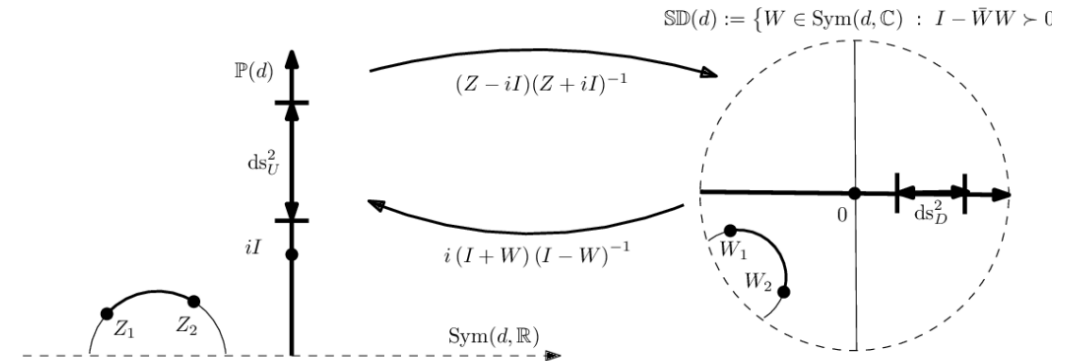
$$|||M||| = \sup_{X \in \mathbb{C}^{N \times N}, \|X\|=1} (\|MX\|).$$

Siegel metric/line element:  $ds^2 = \text{trace} \left( (I - \Omega \Omega^H)^{-1} d\Omega (I - \Omega^H \Omega)^{-1} d\Omega^H \right)$

Siegel disk distance:  $C = (\Psi - \Omega) (I - \Omega^H \Psi)^{-1} (\Psi^H - \Omega^H) (I - \Omega \Psi^H)^{-1}$

$$d_{SD_N}^2(\Omega, \Psi) = \frac{1}{4} \text{trace} \left( \log^2 \left( \frac{I + C^{1/2}}{I - C^{1/2}} \right) \right)$$

$$= \text{trace} \left( \text{arctanh}^2 \left( C^{1/2} \right) \right)$$



Siegel geodesic:  $\zeta(t) : t \mapsto \exp_{\Omega}(tV)$      $\exp_0(V) = \tanh(Y) Y^{-1} V$     where  $Y = (VV^H)^{1/2}$

**Theorem** .. The sectional curvature at zero of the plan  $\sigma$  defined by  $E_1$  and  $E_2$  :

$$-4 \leq K(\sigma) \leq 0 \quad \forall \sigma$$

# Summary: A $(1+\epsilon)$ -approximation of Rao's distance between multivariate normal distributions

ApproxRaoDistMVN( $N_0, N_1, \epsilon > 0$ ):

LB=CalvoOllerLowerBound( $N_0, N_1$ );

UB=SqrtJeffreysUpperBound( $N_0, N_1$ );

if ( $UB/LB > 1 + \epsilon$ )

    { /\*  $N$  is midpoint geodesic \*/

$N = \text{GeodesicMidpoint}(N_0, N_1)$ ;

    return ApproxRaoDistMVN( $N_0, N, \epsilon$ ) + ApproxRaoDistMVN( $N, N_1, \epsilon$ ); }

    else

    return UB;

**Instead of exact midpoint, may use the matrix arithmetic-harmonic mean (quadratic convergence)**