# Supplement to "Local clustering of density upper level sets"

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In this supplement, we present proofs for "Local Clustering of Density Upper Level Sets". We begin by providing technical lemmas, before moving on to proving the main results of the paper.

#### 1. Technical Lemmas

For  $A \subset \mathcal{X}$ , let  $P(A) = \mathbb{P}_{X \sim P}(X \in A)$ . To simplify expressions, we will write  $A_{\sigma,\sigma+r} := \{x: 0 < \rho(x,A_\sigma) \leq r\}$ . We further let  $\widetilde{\mathcal{E}} = |E(A_\sigma[\mathbf{X}],\mathbf{X}\setminus A_\sigma[\mathbf{X}];G_{n,r})|$  be the number of edges between  $A_\sigma[\mathbf{X}]$  and  $\mathbf{X}\setminus A_\sigma[\mathbf{X}]$  in the graph  $G_{n,r}$ ;  $\widetilde{\mu} = \mathbb{E}\left[\widetilde{\mathcal{E}}\right]$  be the expected number of such edges; and  $\widetilde{p} = \widetilde{\mu}/\binom{n}{2}$  the probability of any two vertices  $x_i$  and  $x_j$  having such an edge. Similarly,  $\mathcal{V} = \operatorname{vol}(A_\sigma[\mathbf{X}];G_{n,r})$  is the volume of  $A_\sigma[\mathbf{X}]$ ;  $\mu = \mathbb{E}\left[\mathcal{V}\right]$  is the expected volume; and  $p = \mu/\binom{n}{2}$ . Finally, we denote rB = B(0,r).

# 1.1. Expected Values

**Lemma 1.** Under the setup and conditions of Theorem 1, and for any  $r < \sigma$ ,

$$P(A_{\sigma,\sigma+r}) \le 2^{d-1}\nu(A_{\sigma})\frac{rd}{\sigma}\left(\tau_{\sigma} - \frac{r^{\gamma}}{\gamma+1}\right)$$

*Proof.* Recalling that f is the density function for P, we have

$$P(A_{\sigma,\sigma+r}) = \int_{A_{\sigma,\sigma+r}} f(x)dx \tag{1}$$

Now, for  $0=t_0< t_1<\ldots< t_k=1$ , we divide up  $A_{\sigma,\sigma+r}=\bigcup_{i=0}^{k-1}\mathcal{T}_i$  where  $\mathcal{T}_i=\{x: rt_i<\rho(x,A_\sigma)\leq rt_{i+1}\}$ . We can rewrite the right hand side of (1) as

$$\int_{A_{\sigma,\sigma+r}} f(x)dx = \sum_{i=0}^{k-1} \int_{\mathcal{T}_i} f(x)dx$$

$$\leq \sum_{i=0}^{k-1} \nu(\mathcal{T}_i) \max_{x \in \mathcal{T}_i} f(x).$$

Preliminary work. Under review by the International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML). Do not distribute. By definition,

$$\nu(\mathcal{T}_i) = \nu(A_{\sigma} + rt_{i+1}B) - \nu(A_{\sigma} + rt_iB).$$

Moreover, by ?? and (A2) we have

$$\max_{x \in \mathcal{T}_i} f(x) \le \tau_{\sigma} - (rt_i)^{\gamma}.$$

since for all  $x \in \mathcal{T}_i$ ,  $\rho(x, A_{\sigma}) > rt_i$ . Therefore

$$\sum_{i=0}^{k-1} \int_{\mathcal{T}_i} f(x) dx \le \sum_{i=0}^{k-1} \left\{ \nu(A_{\sigma} + rt_{i+1}B) - \nu(A_{\sigma} + rt_{i}B) \right\} \left( \tau_{\sigma} - (rt_i)^{\gamma} \right). \tag{2}$$

Now, we have that  $\sigma B \subset A_{\sigma}$  which implies,

$$\nu(A_{\sigma} + rt_i B) \le \nu(A_{\sigma} + \frac{rt_i}{\sigma} A_{\sigma})$$

and we therefore have the upper bound

$$\sum_{i=0}^{k-1} \left\{ \nu(A_{\sigma} + rt_{i+1}B) - \nu(A_{\sigma} + rt_{i}B) \right\} (\tau_{\sigma} - (rt_{i})^{\gamma})$$

$$\leq \sum_{i=0}^{k-1} \left\{ \nu(A_{\sigma} + \frac{rt_{i+1}}{\sigma}A_{\sigma}) - \nu(A_{\sigma} + \frac{rt_{i}}{\sigma}A_{\sigma}) \right\} (\tau_{\sigma} - (rt_{i})^{\gamma})$$

$$= \nu(A_{\sigma}) \sum_{i=0}^{k-1} \left\{ (1 + \frac{rt_{i+1}}{\sigma})^{d} - (1 + \frac{rt_{i}}{\sigma})^{d} \right\} (\tau_{\sigma} - (rt_{i})^{\gamma})$$
(3)

where the upper bound holds because  $\tau_{\sigma} - (rt)^{\gamma}$  is decreasing in t.

Let  $t_i = i/k$  for i = 0, ..., k. Taking the limit as  $k \to \infty$ , we have

$$\lim_{k \to \infty} \sum_{i=0}^{k-1} \left\{ \left( 1 + \frac{r(i+1)}{k\sigma} \right)^d - \left( 1 + \frac{ri}{k\sigma} \right)^d \right\} \left( \tau_\sigma - \left( \frac{ri}{k} \right)^\gamma \right)$$

$$= \int_0^1 \frac{rd}{\sigma} (1 + \frac{rt}{\sigma})^{d-1} (\tau_\sigma - (rt)^\gamma) dt$$

$$\leq 2^{d-1} \frac{rd}{\sigma} \left( \tau_\sigma - \frac{r^\gamma}{\gamma + 1} \right)$$

where the inequality comes from  $t \leq 1$  and  $r < \sigma$ .

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Finally, note that (3) holds for any k and arbitrary  $0 = t_0 < t_1 < \ldots < t_k = 1$ . In particular, it holds for  $t_i = i/k$  for  $i = 0, \ldots, k$ , and in the limit as  $k \to \infty$ . Therefore, we have

$$P(A_{\sigma,\sigma+r}) \le \nu(A_{\sigma})2^{d-1}\frac{rd}{\sigma}\left(\tau_{\sigma} - \frac{r^{\gamma}}{\gamma+1}\right)$$

which is exactly the stated result of Lemma 1.

**Lemma 2.** Under the setup and conditions of Theorem 1, and for any  $r < \sigma$ ,

$$\widetilde{p} \le \frac{2^d d}{\sigma} \nu(A_\sigma) \nu_d r^{d+1} \tau \left( \tau_\sigma - \frac{r^\gamma}{\gamma + 1} \right)$$

*Proof.* We can write  $\widetilde{\mathcal{E}}$  as the sum of indicator functions,

$$\widetilde{\mathcal{E}} = \sum_{i=1}^{n} \sum_{j=1}^{n} \mathbf{1}(x_i \in A_{\sigma,\sigma+r}) \mathbf{1}(x_j \in B(x_i, r) \cap A_{\sigma})$$
 (4)

Ignoring the cross terms (which are zero), normalizing by  $1/\binom{n}{2}$ , and taking expectation, we have

$$\frac{\widetilde{\mu}}{\binom{n}{2}} = 2 \int_{A_{\sigma,\sigma+r}} f(x) \left\{ \int_{B(x,r)\cap A_{\sigma}} f(x') dx' \right\} dx$$

$$\stackrel{(i)}{\leq} 2 \int_{A_{\sigma,\sigma+r}} f(x) \nu_d r^d \tau dx$$

$$\stackrel{(ii)}{\leq} 2^d \nu_d r^d \tau \nu (A_{\sigma}) \frac{rd}{\sigma} \left( \tau_{\sigma} - \frac{r^{\gamma}}{\gamma + 1} \right)$$

where (i) follows from Assumption (A3), which implies  $f(x') \leq \tau$  for all  $x' \in A_{\sigma} \setminus A$ , and (ii) follows from Lemma 1.

**Lemma 3.** *Under the setup and conditions of Theorem 1,* 

$$p \ge 2\tau_{\sigma}^2 \nu(A_{\sigma}) \nu_d \left(\frac{r}{2}\right)^d$$

*Proof.* We can write V as the sum of indicator functions,

$$\mathcal{V} = \sum_{i=1}^{n} \sum_{j=1}^{n} \mathbf{1}(x_i \in A_{\sigma}) \mathbf{1}(x_j \in B(x_i, r))$$
 (5)

Ignoring the cross terms (which are zero), normalizing by  $1/\binom{n}{2}$ , and taking expectation, we have

$$\frac{\mu}{\binom{n}{2}} = 2 \int_{A_{\sigma}} f(x) \left\{ \int_{B(x,r)} f(x') dx' \right\} dx \qquad (6)$$

For  $x \in A_{\sigma}$ , take  $x_0 \in A$  such that  $||x - x_0|| = \rho(x, A)$  (note that such a minimizer exists because A is closed). Then, by the triangle inequality, we have

$$B\left(\frac{x+x_0}{2}, \frac{r}{2}\right) \in A_{\sigma} \cap B(x,r)$$

Recall that by (??), we have  $f(x') \ge \tau_{\sigma}$  for all  $x' \in A_{\sigma}$ . We can therefore lower bound the right hand side of (6) by

$$2\int_{A_{\sigma}} f(x)\tau_{\sigma}\nu_{d} \left(\frac{r}{2}\right)^{d} dx$$

$$\leq 2\tau_{\sigma}^{2}\nu(A_{\sigma})\nu_{d} \left(\frac{r}{2}\right)^{d}.$$

#### 1.2. Concentration inequalities.

Given a symmetric kernel function  $k: \mathcal{X}^m \to \mathbb{R}$ , and data  $\{x_1, \ldots, x_n\}$ , we define the *order-m U statistic* to be

$$U := \frac{1}{\binom{n}{m}} \sum_{1 \le i_1 < \dots < i_m \le n} k(x_{i_1}, \dots, x_{i_m})$$

For both Lemmas 4 and 5, let  $X_1,\ldots,X_n\in\mathcal{X}$  be independent and identically distributed. We will additionally assume the order-m kernel function k satisfies the boundedness property  $\sup_{x_1,\ldots,x_m}|k(x_1,\ldots,x_m)|\leq 1$ .

**Lemma 4** (Hoeffding's inequality for U-statistics.). For any t>0,

$$\mathbb{P}(|U - \mathbb{E}U| \ge t) \le 2 \exp\left\{-\frac{2nt^2}{m}\right\}$$

Further, for any  $\delta > 0$ , we have

$$U \le \mathbb{E}U + \sqrt{\frac{m\log(1/\delta)}{2n}},$$
$$U \ge \mathbb{E}U - \sqrt{\frac{m\log(1/\delta)}{2n}},$$

each with probability at least  $1 - \delta$ .

**Lemma 5** (Bernstein's inequality for *U*-statistics). Additionally, assume  $\sigma^2 = \operatorname{Var}(k(X_1, \dots, X_m)) < \infty$ . Then for any  $\delta > 0$ ,

$$\mathbb{P}(U - \mathbb{E}U \ge t) \le \exp\left\{-\frac{n}{2m}\frac{t^2}{\sigma^2 + t/3}\right\},\,$$

*Moreover if*  $\sigma^2 \leq \mu/n$ ,

$$U \leq \mathbb{E}U \cdot \left(1 + \max\left\{\sqrt{\frac{2m\log(1/\Delta)}{\mu}}, \frac{2m\log(1/\Delta)}{3\mu}\right\}\right),$$
$$U \geq \mathbb{E}U \cdot \left(1 - \max\left\{\sqrt{\frac{2m\log(1/\Delta)}{\mu}}, \frac{2m\log(1/\Delta)}{3\mu}\right\}\right)$$

each with probability at least  $1 - \Delta$ .

### 2. Proof of Theorem 1

Given the previous lemmas, the proof of Theorem 1 is straightforward. We rely on Lemmas 2 and 3 to bound  $\widetilde{\mu}$  and  $\mu$ , respectively, and Lemma 5 to bound the deviations  $\widetilde{\mathcal{E}} - \widetilde{\mu}$  and  $\mathcal{V} - \mu$  with high probability.

## **2.1.** Numerator of $\Phi_{n,r}(A_{\sigma}[\mathbf{X}])$ .

From (4), we can see that  $\widetilde{\mathcal{E}}$ , properly scaled, can be expressed as an order-2 U-statistic,

$$\frac{1}{\binom{n}{2}}\widetilde{\mathcal{E}} = \frac{1}{\binom{n}{2}} \sum_{1 \le i < j \le n} \widetilde{k}(x_i, x_j)$$

where

$$\tilde{k}(x_i, x_j) = \mathbf{1}(x_i \in A_{\sigma, \sigma+r}) \mathbf{1}(x_j \in B(x_i, r) \cap A_{\sigma}) + \mathbf{1}(x_j \in A_{\sigma, \sigma+r}) \mathbf{1}(x_i \in B(x_j, r) \cap A_{\sigma})$$

From Lemma 4 we therefore have

$$\frac{\widetilde{\mathcal{E}}}{\binom{n}{2}} \le \widetilde{p} + \sqrt{\frac{\log(1/\delta)}{n}} \tag{7}$$

with probability at least  $1 - \delta$ .

**Multiplicative bound**: As  $\tilde{k}(x_1, x_2)$  is the sum of two Bernoulli random variables with negative covariance (since  $\mathbf{1}(x_i \in A_{\sigma,\sigma+r})\mathbf{1}(x_j \in B(x_i,r) \cap A_{\sigma}) = 1$  implies  $\mathbf{1}(x_j \in A_{\sigma,\sigma+r})\mathbf{1}(x_i \in B(x_j,r) \cap A_{\sigma}) = 0$  and vice versa), we can upper bound  $\mathrm{Var}\left(\tilde{k}(x_1,x_2)\right) \leq \tilde{p}$ , where we recall

$$\widetilde{p} = 2 \cdot \mathbb{P} \left( \mathbf{1}(x_1 \in A_{\sigma, \sigma+r}) \mathbf{1}(x_2 \in B(x_1, r) \cap A_{\sigma}) \right)$$

From Lemma 5, we therefore have

$$\frac{\widetilde{\mathcal{E}}}{\binom{n}{2}} \leq \widetilde{p} + \max\left\{\sqrt{\frac{4\log(1/\Delta)\widetilde{p}}{n}}, \frac{4\log(1/\Delta)}{3n}\right\}$$

with probability at least  $1 - \Delta$ .

**Denominator of**  $\Phi_{n,r}(A_{\sigma}[\mathbf{X}])$ . We follow a very similar set of steps as above.

By (4), we see that V can also be expressed as an order-2 U-statistic,

$$\frac{\mathcal{V}}{\binom{n}{2}} = \frac{1}{\binom{n}{2}} \sum_{1 \le i < j \le n} k'(x_i, x_j)$$

with

$$k'(x_i, x_j) = \mathbf{1}(x_i \in A_\sigma) \mathbf{1}(x_j \in B(x_i, r)) + \mathbf{1}(x_j \in A_\sigma) \mathbf{1}(x_i \in B(x_i, r))$$

From Lemma 4 we therefore have

$$\frac{\mathcal{V}}{\binom{n}{2}} \ge p - \sqrt{\frac{\log(1/\delta)}{n}} \tag{8}$$

with probability at least  $1 - \delta$ .

Multiplicative bound: The two terms on the right hand side are both distributed  $\operatorname{Bernoulli}(p/2)$ . Moreover, since  $\mathbf{1}(x_i \in A_\sigma) = 1$  implies  $\mathbf{1}(x_j \in A_\sigma) = 0$ , they have negative covariance. We can therefore upper bound  $\operatorname{Var}(k'(x_i, x_j)) \leq p$ , and so from Lemma 5, we have

$$\frac{\mathcal{V}}{\binom{n}{2}} \ge p - \max\left\{\sqrt{\frac{4\log(1/\Delta)p}{n}}, \frac{4\log(1/\Delta)}{3n}\right\}$$

with probability at least  $1 - \Delta$ .

**Proof of the additive error bound.** Noting that  $\Phi_{n,r}(A_{\sigma}[\mathbf{X}]) = \widetilde{\mathcal{E}}/\mathcal{V}$ , and multiplying and dividing by  $\binom{n}{2}$ , we have

$$\Phi_{n,r}(A_{\sigma}[\mathbf{X}]) = \frac{\widetilde{p} + \left(\frac{\widetilde{\mathcal{E}}}{\binom{n}{2}} - \widetilde{p}\right)}{p + \left(\frac{\widetilde{\mathcal{V}}}{\binom{n}{2}} - p\right)}$$
(9)

We assume (7) and (8) hold, keeping in mind that this will happen with probability at least  $1 - 2\delta$ . Along with (9) this means

$$\Phi_{n,r}(A_{\sigma}[\mathbf{X}]) \le \frac{\widetilde{p} + \operatorname{Err}_n}{p - \operatorname{Err}_n}$$

for  $\mathrm{Err}_n=\sqrt{\frac{\log(1/\delta)}{n}}.$  Now, some straightforward algebraic manipulations yield

$$\begin{split} \frac{\widetilde{p} + \operatorname{Err}_n}{p - \operatorname{Err}_n} &= \frac{\widetilde{p}}{p} + \left(\frac{\widetilde{p}}{p - \operatorname{Err}_n} - \frac{\widetilde{p}}{p}\right) + \frac{\operatorname{Err}_n}{p - \operatorname{Err}_n} \\ &= \frac{\widetilde{p}}{p} + \frac{\operatorname{Err}_n}{p - \operatorname{Err}_n} \left(\frac{\widetilde{p}}{p} + 1\right) \\ &\leq \frac{\widetilde{p}}{p} + 2 \frac{\operatorname{Err}_n}{p - \operatorname{Err}_n}. \end{split}$$

Finally, combining the upper bound given by Lemma 3 with the lower bound on n specified in the statement of Theorem 1, we have

$$2\frac{\mathrm{Err}_n}{p - \mathrm{Err}_n} \le \epsilon$$

By Lemmas 2 and Lemma 3, we have

$$\frac{\widetilde{p}}{p} \le C_{\sigma} \frac{\tau}{\tau_{\sigma}} \frac{\left(\tau_{\sigma} - \frac{r^{\gamma+1}}{\gamma+1}\right)}{\tau_{\sigma}}$$

and thus we have shown (12) occurs with probability at least  $1-2\delta$ . Plugging in  $\delta'=\delta/2$  gives the exact statement in Theorem 1.