# Fixed-rank PSD check

October 13, 2023

Given integers  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $r \in [n]$ , we examine the set of  $n \times n$  rank-r positive semidefinite matrices,  $\mathbb{S}^{n,r}_+$ . (Note that  $\mathbb{S}^{n,n}_+ = \mathbb{S}^n_{++}$ .)

## 1 Geometry

We will consider the map

$$\pi: \operatorname{St}(r,n) \times \mathbb{S}^r_{++} \to \mathbb{S}^{n,r}_{+}$$

given by

$$\pi(U, P) = UPU^{\top}, \quad \forall U \in \operatorname{St}(r, n), P \in \mathbb{S}^{r}_{++}.$$

We also consider a group action  $\cdot: (\operatorname{St}(r,n) \times \mathbb{S}^r_{++}) \times O(r) \to \operatorname{St}(r,n) \times \mathbb{S}^r_{++}$  given by

$$(U, P) \cdot V \mapsto (UV, V^{\top}PV), \forall (U, P) \in \operatorname{St}(r, n) \times \mathbb{S}^{r}_{++}, V \in O(r).$$

Since  $((U,P)\cdot V)\cdot W=(U,P)\cdot VW$  for any  $V,W\in O(r)$ , this is a right action. We can check that

$$\pi(U, P) = \pi((U, P) \cdot V), \quad \forall V \in O(r).$$

In fact, the following holds:

Lemma 1.1. We have

$$\pi(U, P) = \pi(U', P') \iff \exists V \in O(r) \text{ s.t. } (U', V') = (U, P) \cdot V.$$

Proof. TO DO.

Also, for any  $(U, P) \in \tilde{M}$ , we have a linear map  $d\pi_{U,P} : T_{U,P}\tilde{M} \to T_{\pi(U,P)}M$ . We also know that  $\pi$  is a *submersion*, hence  $d\pi_{U,P}$  is surjective.

For notational ease, define

$$\tilde{M} := \operatorname{St}(r, n) \times \mathbb{S}^r_{++}, \quad G := O(r), \quad M := \mathbb{S}^{n \times r}_+.$$

The tangent spaces on  $\tilde{M}$  are given by

$$T_{U,P}\tilde{M} = T_U \operatorname{St}(r,n) \oplus T_P \mathbb{S}^r_{++} = \left\{ UA + U^{\perp}B : A \in \operatorname{Skew}(r), B \in \mathbb{R}^{(n-r)\times r} \right\} \oplus \mathbb{S}^r.$$

We will take our metric to be:

$$\left\langle (UA + U^{\perp}B, D), (UA' + U^{\perp}B', D') \right\rangle_{U,P} := \frac{1}{2} \operatorname{Tr}(A^{\top}A') + \operatorname{Tr}(B^{\top}B') + \operatorname{Tr}(P^{-1/2}DP^{-1}D'P^{-1/2}).$$
 (1)

This is simply the sum of two known metrics on  $\operatorname{St}(r,n)$  and  $\mathbb{S}^r_{++}$ , i.e., it is a product metric. Therefore the exponential map on  $\widetilde{M}$ , denoted  $\widetilde{\operatorname{Exp}}$ , is given by

$$\begin{split} \widetilde{\operatorname{Exp}}_{U,P} \left( UA + U^{\perp}B, D \right) &:= \left( \operatorname{Exp}_{U} (UA + U^{\perp}B), \operatorname{Exp}_{P}(D) \right) \\ &= \left( \begin{bmatrix} U & U^{\perp} \end{bmatrix} \operatorname{Expm} \left( \begin{bmatrix} A & -B^{\top} \\ B & 0_{n-r,n-r} \end{bmatrix} \right) \begin{bmatrix} I_{r} \\ 0_{n-r,r} \end{bmatrix}, P^{1/2} \operatorname{Expm}(P^{-1/2}WP^{-1/2}) P^{1/2} \right). \end{split}$$

Rationale. We are interested in optimization over M, and we use  $\pi$  to map points from  $\tilde{M}$  to M. It is easy to describe a Riemannian structure over  $\tilde{M}$ , which is a product of the Stiefel manifold and the positive definite manifold, as Riemannian structures over each of these are well-studied. We have described one such structure for  $\tilde{M}$  above. However, we are interested in M. By the quotient manifold theorem, M may inherit a Riemannian structure from  $\tilde{M}$ . It turns out that, in order to operate on M, we may instead consider operations on  $\tilde{M}$ , which are often much easier to work with. To describe this precisely, we need to introduce the notion of vertical and horizontal spaces.

## 2 Subspace decomposition and exponential map updates

Given  $(U, P) \in \tilde{M}$ , the vertical space is a subspace of  $T_{U,P}M$  defined as

$$\tilde{V}_{U,P} := \ker(d\pi_{U,P}) := \left\{ \left( UA + U^{\perp}B, D \right) \in T_{\tilde{M}}(U,P) : d\pi_{U,P} \left( UA + U^{\perp}B, D \right) = 0 \in T_{\pi(U,P)}M \right\}.$$

The horizontal space is

$$\tilde{H}_{U,P} := \tilde{V}_{U,P}^{\perp}$$

where the orthogonal complement is taken with respect to the Riemannian metric.

**Lemma 2.1.** For any  $(U, P) \in \tilde{M}$ , we have

$$\tilde{V}_{U,P} = \left\{ (UA, PA - AP) \in T_{\tilde{M}}(U, P) : A \in \text{Skew}(r) \right\}$$

$$\tilde{H}_{U,P} = \left\{ \left( U(P^{-1}D - DP^{-1}) + U^{\perp}B, \frac{1}{2}D \right) : B \in \mathbb{R}^{(n-r) \times r}, D \in \mathbb{S}^r \right\}.$$

Proof. TO DO.  $\Box$ 

Suppose that P has the following spectral decomposition:  $P = Q\Lambda Q^{\top}$  where  $Q \in O(r)$  and  $\Lambda = \text{Diag}(\lambda_1, \ldots, \lambda_r) \succ 0$ . For  $i, j \in [r]$ , denote

$$D_{ij}^{P} := Q \Lambda^{1/2} (e_i e_j^{\top} + e_j e_i^{\top}) \Lambda^{1/2} Q^{\top}.$$

If we denote the eigenvectors of P (equivalently, columns of Q) by  $q_1, \ldots, q_r$ , then we have

$$D_{ij}^{P} = (\lambda_{i}\lambda_{j})^{1/2}(q_{i}q_{i}^{\top} + q_{j}q_{i}^{\top}).$$

We propose the following subspace decomposition for  $\tilde{H}_{U,P}$ :

$$\mathcal{S}_k^{U,P} := \left\{ (vq_k^\top, 0) : v \in \ker(U^\top) \right\}, \quad k \in [r]$$
 (2a)

$$S_{ij}^{U,P} := \left\{ t \left( U(P^{-1}D_{ij}^P - D_{ij}^P P^{-1}), \frac{1}{2}D_{ij}^P \right) : t \in \mathbb{R} \right\}, \quad 1 \le i \le j \le r.$$
 (2b)

**Proposition 2.2.** The subspaces described in (2) are mutually orthogonal with respect to metric

*Proof.* It is clear that  $\mathcal{S}_k^{U,P}$  and  $\mathcal{S}_{ij}^{U,P}$  are orthogonal, and that  $\{\mathcal{S}_k^{U,P}:k\in\mathbb{R}\}$  are mutually orthogonal. We will prove that  $\mathcal{S}_{ij}^{U,P}$  and  $\mathcal{S}_{kl}^{U,P}$  are orthogonal whenever  $(i,j) \neq (k,l)$ .

To see this, observe that

$$\left\langle \left( U(P^{-1}D_{ij}^P - D_{ij}^P P^{-1}), \frac{1}{2}D_{ij}^P \right), \left( U(P^{-1}D_{kl}^P - D_{kl}^P P^{-1}), \frac{1}{2}D_{kl}^P \right) \right\rangle_{U,P}$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} \operatorname{Tr} \left( \left( P^{-1}D_{ij}^P - D_{ij}^P P^{-1} \right)^\top \left( P^{-1}D_{kl}^P - D_{kl}^P P^{-1} \right) \right)$$

$$+ \frac{1}{4} \operatorname{Tr} \left( \left( P^{-1/2}D_{ij}^P P^{-1/2} \right)^\top \left( P^{-1/2}D_{kl}^P P^{-1/2} \right) \right).$$

Denote  $S_{ij} = q_i q_j^{\top} + q_j q_i^{\top}$ , and analogously for  $S_{kl}$ .

For the second term, notice that by definition, we have  $P^{-1/2}D_{ij}^PP^{-1/2}=S_{ij}$ , and analogously for  $P^{-1/2}D_{l,l}^PP^{-1/2}$ . Therefore

$$\operatorname{Tr}\left(\left(P^{-1/2}D_{ij}^{P}P^{-1/2}\right)^{\top}\left(P^{-1/2}D_{kl}^{P}P^{-1/2}\right)\right) = \operatorname{Tr}(S_{ij}S_{kl}).$$

 $\lambda_j^{-1}q_jq_i^{\top} - \lambda_j^{-1}q_iq_j^{\top} - \lambda_i^{-1}q_jq_i^{\top}) = (\lambda_i\lambda_j)^{1/2}(\lambda_i^{-1} - \lambda_j^{-1})(q_iq_j^{\top} - q_jq_i^{\top}). \text{ Denote } H_{ij} = q_iq_j^{\top} - q_jq_i^{\top} \text{ and analogously for } H_{kl}. \text{ Therefore}$ 

$$(P^{-1}D_{ij}^P - D_{ij}^P P^{-1})^\top (P^{-1}D_{kl}^P - D_{kl}^P P^{-1})$$

$$= (\lambda_i \lambda_j)^{1/2} (\lambda_i^{-1} - \lambda_j^{-1}) (\lambda_k \lambda_l)^{1/2} (\lambda_k^{-1} - \lambda_l^{-1}) H_{ij}^\top H_{kl}.$$

Therefore

$$\operatorname{Tr}\left(\left(P^{-1}D_{ij}^{P}-D_{ij}^{P}P^{-1}\right)^{\top}\left(P^{-1}D_{kl}^{P}-D_{kl}^{P}P^{-1}\right)\right)=(\lambda_{i}\lambda_{j})^{1/2}(\lambda_{i}^{-1}-\lambda_{j}^{-1})(\lambda_{k}\lambda_{l})^{1/2}(\lambda_{k}^{-1}-\lambda_{l}^{-1})\operatorname{Tr}(H_{ij}^{\top}H_{kl}).$$

This is equal to 0 unless (i, j) = (k, l) or (i, j) = (l, k).

Therefore, combining both cases,

$$\left\langle \left( U(P^{-1}D_{ij}^P - D_{ij}^P P^{-1}), \frac{1}{2}D_{ij}^P \right), \left( U(P^{-1}D_{kl}^P - D_{kl}^P P^{-1}), \frac{1}{2}D_{kl}^P \right) \right\rangle_{UP} = 0$$

unless (i,j)=(k,l) or (i,j)=(l,k). However, since  $i\leq j,\,k\leq l$ , this only occurs if  $i=k,\,j=l$ . Therefore the subspaces  $\mathcal{S}_{ij}^{U,P}$  are mutually orthogonal.

We now compute the exponential map for vectors from our subspaces.

#### **Proposition 2.3.** Fix $t \in \mathbb{R}$ . Then:

• For any  $k \in [r]$  and  $v \in \ker(U^{\top})$  we have

$$\widetilde{\operatorname{Exp}}_{U,P}\left(\tau(vq_k^\top,0)\right) = \left(U(I - q_k q_k^\top) + \left(\cos(\tau \|v\|_2)Uq_k + \sin(\tau \|v\|_2)\frac{Uv}{\|v\|_2}\right)q_k^\top, P\right).$$

• For any  $1 \le i \le j \le r$ , we have

$$\widetilde{\mathrm{Exp}}_{U,P} \left( \tau U(P^{-1}D_{ij}^P - D_{ij}^P P^{-1}), \frac{\tau}{2} D_{ij}^P \right) = (U_{+,ij}(\tau), P_{+,ij}(\tau))$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} U_{+,ij}(\tau) &:= U(I - q_i q_i^\top - q_j q_j^\top) + (\cos(\alpha_{ij}(\tau)) U q_i - \sin(\alpha_{ij}(\tau)) U q_j) q_i^\top \\ &\quad + (\sin(\alpha_{ij}(\tau)) U q_i + \cos(\alpha_{ij}(\tau)) U q_j) q_j^\top \\ \alpha_{ij}(\tau) &:= \tau (\lambda_i \lambda_j)^{1/2} (\lambda_i^{-1} - \lambda_j^{-1}) \\ P_{+,ij}(\tau) &:= P - (\lambda_i q_i q_i^\top + \lambda_j q_j q_j^\top) + \cosh(\tau/2) (\lambda_i q_i q_i^\top + \lambda_j q_j q_j^\top) + \sinh(\tau/2) \sqrt{\lambda_i \lambda_j} (q_i q_j^\top + q_j q_i^\top). \end{aligned}$$

*Proof.* The first result follows from [3, Lemma 5].

For the second result, note from the proof of Proposition 2.2, we have  $P^{-1/2}D_{ij}^PP^{-1/2} = S_{ij}$  and  $P^{-1}D_{ij}^P - D_{ij}^PP^{-1} = (\lambda_i\lambda_j)^{1/2}(\lambda_i^{-1} - \lambda_j^{-1})H_{ij}$ , where  $S_{ij} = q_iq_j^\top + q_jq_i^\top$  and  $H_{ij} = q_iq_j^\top - q_jq_i^\top$ . Then

$$\widetilde{\mathrm{Exp}}_{U,P}\left(\tau U(P^{-1}D_{ij}^P - D_{ij}^P P^{-1}), \frac{\tau}{2}D_{ij}^P\right) = \left(U\,\mathrm{Expm}\left(\tau(\lambda_i\lambda_j)^{1/2}(\lambda_i^{-1} - \lambda_j^{-1})H_{ij}\right), P^{1/2}\,\mathrm{Expm}((\tau/2)S_{ij})P^{1/2}\right).$$

It is straightforward to check that Expm  $(\alpha H_{ij})$  is a Givens rotation in the subspace spanned by  $q_i$  and  $q_j$ , i.e.,

$$\operatorname{Expm}(\alpha H_{ij}) = I_r - (q_i q_i^\top + q_j q_j^\top) + \cos(\alpha)(q_i q_i^\top + q_j q_j^\top) + \sin(\alpha)(q_i q_j^\top - q_j q_i^\top).$$

Therefore

$$U \operatorname{Expm} \left( \tau(\lambda_i \lambda_j)^{1/2} (\lambda_i^{-1} - \lambda_j^{-1}) H_{ij} \right)$$

$$= U(I_r - q_i q_i^{\top} - q_j q_i^{\top}) + (\cos(\alpha_{ij}) U q_i - \sin(\alpha_{ij}) U q_j) q_i^{\top} + (\sin(\alpha_{ij}) U q_i + \cos(\alpha_{ij}) U q_j) q_i^{\top},$$

where 
$$\alpha_{ij} = \tau(\lambda_i \lambda_j)^{1/2} (\lambda_i^{-1} - \lambda_j^{-1}).$$

We also have

$$\operatorname{Expm}(\alpha S_{ij}) = I_r - (q_i q_i^\top + q_j q_j^\top) + \cosh(\alpha) (q_i q_i^\top + q_j q_j^\top) + \sinh(\alpha) (q_i q_j^\top + q_j q_i^\top),$$

hence, with  $\alpha = t/2$ , we have

$$\begin{split} &P^{1/2}\operatorname{Expm}(P^{-1/2}(t/2)D_{ij}^{P}P^{-1/2})P^{1/2} \\ &= P^{1/2}\operatorname{Expm}(\alpha S_{ij})P^{1/2} \\ &= P - (\lambda_i q_i q_i^\top + \lambda_j q_j q_j^\top) + \cosh(\alpha)(\lambda_i q_i q_i^\top + \lambda_j q_j q_j^\top) + \sinh(\alpha)\sqrt{\lambda_i \lambda_j}(q_i q_j^\top + q_j q_i^\top). \end{split}$$

**Storage.** Given  $1 \le i \le j \le r$ , to compute  $U_{+,ij}(\tau), P_{+,ij}(\tau)$ , we need to have access to the following quantities:

- Eigenvectors  $q_i, q_j$  and corresponding eigenvalues  $\lambda_i, \lambda_j$  for P.
- The products  $Uq_i, Uq_j \in \mathbb{R}^n$ .

We now explore how to efficiently update these quantities.

First, we analyse the spectral decomposition of  $P_{+,ij}(\tau)$ . Denote  $\alpha = \tau/2$ . Then

$$P_{+,ij}(\tau) = P - (\lambda_i q_i q_i^\top + \lambda_j q_j q_j^\top) + \cosh(\alpha)(\lambda_i q_i q_i^\top + \lambda_j q_j q_j^\top) + \sinh(\alpha) \sqrt{\lambda_i \lambda_j} (q_i q_j^\top + q_j q_i^\top).$$

Denote

$$P_{ij}(\alpha) := P_{+,ij}(\tau) - (P - (\lambda_i q_i q_i^\top + \lambda_j q_j q_j^\top))$$

$$= \cosh(\alpha)(\lambda_i q_i q_i^\top + \lambda_j q_j q_j^\top) + \sinh(\alpha) \sqrt{\lambda_i \lambda_j} (q_i q_j^\top + q_j q_i^\top)$$

$$= Q_{ij} M(\lambda_i, \lambda_j, \alpha) Q_{ij}^\top$$

where  $Q_{ij} := \begin{bmatrix} q_i & q_j \end{bmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^{r \times 2}$  and  $M(\lambda_i, \lambda_j, \alpha)$  is the following  $2 \times 2$  symmetric matrix:

$$M(\lambda_i, \lambda_j, \alpha) := \begin{bmatrix} \cosh(\alpha)\lambda_i & \sinh(\alpha)\sqrt{\lambda_i\lambda_j} \\ \sinh(\alpha)\sqrt{\lambda_i\lambda_j} & \cosh(\alpha)\lambda_j \end{bmatrix} = \cosh(\alpha)\lambda_j \begin{bmatrix} \lambda_i/\lambda_j & \tanh(\alpha)\sqrt{\lambda_i/\lambda_j} \\ \tanh(\alpha)\sqrt{\lambda_i/\lambda_j} & 1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Finding the updated eigenvalues/vectors is equivalent to computing the spectral decomposition of  $M(\lambda_i, \lambda_j, \alpha)$ . To see this, write the spectral decomposition as

$$M(\lambda_i, \lambda_j, \alpha) = \begin{bmatrix} v_1(\alpha, \lambda_i, \lambda_j) & v_2(\alpha, \lambda_i, \lambda_j) \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \gamma_1(\alpha, \lambda_i, \lambda_j) & 0 \\ 0 & \gamma_2(\alpha, \lambda_i, \lambda_j) \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} v_1^\top(\alpha, \lambda_i, \lambda_j) \\ v_2^\top(\alpha, \lambda_i, \lambda_j) \end{bmatrix}.$$

Then

$$P_{ij}(\alpha) = \begin{bmatrix} Q_{ij}v_1(\alpha, \lambda_i, \lambda_j) & Q_{ij}v_2(\alpha, \lambda_i, \lambda_j) \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \gamma_1(\alpha, \lambda_i, \lambda_j) & 0 \\ 0 & \gamma_2(\alpha, \lambda_i, \lambda_j) \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} v_1(\alpha, \lambda_i, \lambda_j)^\top Q_{ij}^\top \\ v_2(\alpha, \lambda_i, \lambda_j)^\top Q_{ij}^\top \end{bmatrix}.$$

It is easy to check that  $Q_{ij}v_1(\alpha, \lambda_i, \lambda_j)$  and  $Q_{ij}v_2(\alpha, \lambda_i, \lambda_j)$  have norm 1, are orthonormal, and that they are also orthogonal to every other eigenvector of P. Therefore they are eigenvectors of  $P^{1/2} \operatorname{Expm}(\alpha S_{ij}) P^{1/2}$  with corresponding eigenvalues  $\gamma_1(\alpha, \lambda_i, \lambda_j), \gamma_2(\alpha, \lambda_i, \lambda_j)$ . Explicit formulas for the spectral decomposition are as follows:

$$\gamma_1(\alpha, \lambda_i, \lambda_j) = \frac{\cosh(\alpha)}{2} \left( \lambda_i + \lambda_j - \sqrt{(\lambda_i - \lambda_j)^2 + 4 \tanh^2(\alpha) \lambda_i \lambda_j} \right)$$
$$\gamma_2(\alpha, \lambda_i, \lambda_j) = \frac{\cosh(\alpha)}{2} \left( \lambda_i + \lambda_j + \sqrt{(\lambda_i - \lambda_j)^2 + 4 \tanh^2(\alpha) \lambda_i \lambda_j} \right)$$

and the corresponding (un-normalized) eigenvectors are

$$\bar{v}_1(\alpha, \lambda_i, \lambda_j) = \begin{bmatrix} \lambda_i - \lambda_j - \sqrt{(\lambda_i - \lambda_j)^2 + 4 \tanh^2(\alpha)\lambda_i \lambda_j} \\ 2 \tanh(\alpha)\sqrt{\lambda_i \lambda_j} \end{bmatrix}, \quad v_1(\alpha, \lambda_i, \lambda_j) = \frac{\bar{v}_1(\alpha, \lambda_i, \lambda_j)}{\|\bar{v}_1(\alpha, \lambda_i, \lambda_j)\|_2} \\
\bar{v}_2(\alpha, \lambda_i, \lambda_j) = \begin{bmatrix} \lambda_i - \lambda_j + \sqrt{(\lambda_i - \lambda_j)^2 + 4 \tanh^2(\alpha)\lambda_i \lambda_j} \\ 2 \tanh(\alpha)\sqrt{\lambda_i \lambda_j} \end{bmatrix}, \quad v_2(\alpha, \lambda_i, \lambda_j) = \frac{\bar{v}_2(\alpha, \lambda_i, \lambda_j)}{\|\bar{v}_2(\alpha, \lambda_i, \lambda_j)\|_2}.$$

We also need to update the product of  $U_{+,ij}(\tau)$  with the new eigenvectors  $Q_{ij}v_1(\tau/2,\lambda_i,\lambda_j)$  and

 $Q_{ij}v_2(\tau/2,\lambda_i,\lambda_j)$ . This is computed as

$$\begin{split} U_{+,ij}(\tau)Q_{ij}v_1(\tau/2,\lambda_i,\lambda_j) &= U(I - q_iq_i^\top - q_jq_j^\top)Q_{ij}v_1(\tau/2,\lambda_i,\lambda_j) \\ &\quad + (\cos(\alpha_{ij}(\tau))Uq_i - \sin(\alpha_{ij}(\tau))Uq_j)q_i^\top Q_{ij}v_1(\tau/2,\lambda_i,\lambda_j) \\ &\quad + (\sin(\alpha_{ij}(\tau))Uq_i + \cos(\alpha_{ij}(\tau))Uq_j)q_j^\top Q_{ij}v_1(\tau/2,\lambda_i,\lambda_j) \\ &= \left[Uq_i \quad Uq_j\right] \begin{bmatrix} \cos(\alpha_{ij}(\tau)) & \sin(\alpha_{ij}(\tau)) \\ -\sin(\alpha_{ij}(\tau)) & \cos(\alpha_{ij}(\tau)) \end{bmatrix} v_1(\tau/2,\lambda_i,\lambda_j) \\ U_{+,ij}(\tau)Q_{ij}v_2(\tau/2,\lambda_i,\lambda_j) &= \left[Uq_i \quad Uq_j\right] \begin{bmatrix} \cos(\alpha_{ij}(\tau)) & \sin(\alpha_{ij}(\tau)) \\ -\sin(\alpha_{ij}(\tau)) & \cos(\alpha_{ij}(\tau)) \end{bmatrix} v_2(\tau/2,\lambda_i,\lambda_j). \end{split}$$

With these formulas, we can store and efficiently update eigenvectors  $q_1, \ldots, q_r$  of P, corresponding eigenvalues  $\lambda_1, \ldots, \lambda_r$  and products  $Uq_1, \ldots, Uq_r$  (which fully determine U).

Note about updating indices: TO DO. Need to choose them to be consistent.

#### 3 Gradients

Recall  $\tilde{M} = \operatorname{St}(r,n) \times \mathbb{S}^r_{++}$  and  $M = \mathbb{S}^{n,r}_{+}$ . Now suppose we have a function  $f: M \to \mathbb{R}$ . We lift this function to  $\tilde{f} = f \circ \pi : \tilde{M} \to \mathbb{R}$ , recalling that  $\pi : \tilde{M} \to M$  is the Riemannian submersion. We will show how to compute gradients for  $\tilde{f}$ .

Suppose now that  $\tilde{f}$  is a *generic* function from  $\tilde{M} \to \mathbb{R}$ , which can be extended to a function  $\tilde{\tilde{f}}: \mathbb{R}^{n \times r} \times \mathbb{R}^{r \times r} \to \mathbb{R}$  (or some open set containing  $\tilde{M}$  in  $\mathbb{R}^{n \times r} \times \mathbb{R}^{r \times r}$ ). Thus at a point  $(U, P) \in \tilde{M}$ , we may compute the *Euclidean* gradient  $\nabla \tilde{f}(U, P) = (G_U, G_P)$ . We will first provide a formula for the *Riemannian* gradient  $\nabla \tilde{f}(U, P)$ .

**Lemma 3.1.** Given  $(U, P) \in \tilde{M}$  and a Euclidean gradient  $\nabla \tilde{\tilde{f}}(U, P) = (G_U, G_P)$ , the Riemannian gradient of  $\tilde{f}$  at (U, P) is

$$\nabla \tilde{f}(U, P) = (U\tilde{A} + U^{\perp}\tilde{B}, \tilde{D}) \in T_{U, P}\tilde{M},$$

where

$$\tilde{A} = U^{\top} G_U - G_U^{\top} U \in \text{Skew}(r)$$

$$\tilde{B} = (U^{\perp})^{\top} G_U \in \mathbb{R}^{(n-r) \times r}$$

$$\tilde{D} = \frac{1}{2} P \left( G_P + G_P^{\top} \right) P \in \mathbb{S}^r.$$

*Proof.* We know that the Riemannian gradient satisfies

$$D\tilde{f}(U,P)[UA+U^{\perp}B,D] = \langle \nabla \tilde{f}(U,P), (UA+U^{\perp}B,D) \rangle_{U,P}$$

for any tangent vector  $(UA + U^{\perp}B, D) \in T_{U,P}\tilde{M}$ . Furthermore, Boumal [2, Eq. (3.36)] states that

$$D\tilde{f}(U,P)[UA+U^{\perp}B,D] = D\tilde{\tilde{f}}(U,P)[UA+U^{\perp}B,D] = \langle \nabla \tilde{\tilde{f}}(U,P), (UA+U^{\perp}B,D) \rangle$$

with the Euclidean inner product. Now denoting  $\nabla \tilde{f}(U,P) = (U\tilde{A} + U^{\perp}\tilde{B},\tilde{D})$ , we observe that

$$\langle \nabla \tilde{f}(U,P), (UA + U^{\perp}B, D) \rangle_{U,P} = \frac{1}{2} \langle \tilde{A}, A \rangle + \langle \tilde{B}, B \rangle + \langle P^{-1}\tilde{D}P^{-1}, D \rangle$$
$$\langle \nabla \tilde{\tilde{f}}(U,P), (UA + U^{\perp}B, D) \rangle = \langle U^{\top}G_{U}, A \rangle + \langle (U^{\perp})^{\top}G_{U}, B \rangle + \langle G_{P}, D \rangle.$$

These two terms must be equal for all  $A \in \text{Skew}(r)$ ,  $B \in \mathbb{R}^{(n-r)\times r}$  and  $D \in \mathbb{S}^r$ . Note that  $\text{Skew}(r)^{\perp} = \mathbb{S}^r$  and vice versa, and  $(\mathbb{R}^{(n-r)\times r})^{\perp} = \{0\}$ . Therefore there exists  $S \in \mathbb{S}^r$  and  $K \in \text{Skew}(r)$  such that

$$\tilde{A} = 2U^{\top} G_U + S$$
$$\tilde{B} = (U^{\perp})^{\top} G_U$$
$$P^{-1} \tilde{D} P^{-1} = G_P + K.$$

Since  $\tilde{A} \in \text{Skew}(r)$ , we have

$$0 = \tilde{A} + \tilde{A}^{\top} = 2(U^{\top}G_U + G_U^{\top}U) + 2S \implies S = -(U^{\top}G_U + G_U^{\top}U) \implies \tilde{A} = U^{\top}G_U - G_U^{\top}U.$$

Since  $\tilde{D} \in \mathbb{S}^r$ , we have

$$G_P^\top + K^\top = P^{-1} \tilde{D}^\top P^{-1} = P^{-1} \tilde{D} P^{-1} = G_P + K \implies K = \frac{1}{2} (G_P^\top - G_P) \implies P^{-1} \tilde{D} P^{-1} = \frac{1}{2} (G_P + G_P^\top).$$

Multiplying on the left and right by P gives the result.

Now we know that when  $\tilde{f} = f \circ \pi$ , the gradients are horizontal vectors, i.e.,  $\nabla \tilde{f}(U,P) \in \tilde{H}_{U,P}$ . We verify this holds when f can be extended to a function  $\bar{f} : \mathbb{R}^{n \times n} \to \mathbb{R}$ . Note that in this case  $\tilde{f}(U,P) = \tilde{f}(U,P) = \bar{f}(U,P)$ . Using the chain rule, we derive the following expressions for  $\nabla \tilde{f}(U,P)$ :

$$\begin{split} \langle \nabla_{U} \tilde{\tilde{f}}(U,P), V \rangle &= \frac{d}{dt} \ \bar{f}((U+tV)P(U^{\top}+tV^{\top})) \Big|_{t=0} \\ &= \frac{d}{dt} \ \bar{f}(UPU^{\top}+t(VPU^{\top}+UPV^{\top})+t^{2}VPV^{\top}) \Big|_{t=0} \\ &= \langle \nabla \bar{f}(UPU^{\top}), VPU^{\top}+UPV^{\top} \rangle \\ &= \langle V, (\nabla \bar{f}(UPU^{\top})+\nabla \bar{f}(UPU^{\top})^{\top})UP \rangle \\ \Longrightarrow \nabla_{U} \tilde{\tilde{f}}(U,P) &= (\nabla \bar{f}(UPU^{\top})+\nabla \bar{f}(UPU^{\top})^{\top})UP \\ \langle \nabla_{P} \tilde{\tilde{f}}(U,P), Q \rangle &= \frac{d}{dt} \ \bar{f}(U(P+tQ)U^{\top}) \Big|_{t=0} &= \frac{d}{dt} \ \bar{f}(UPU^{\top}+tUQU^{\top}) \Big|_{t=0} \\ &= \langle \nabla \bar{f}(UPU^{\top}), UQU^{\top} \rangle \\ \Longrightarrow \nabla_{P} \tilde{\tilde{f}}(U,P) &= U^{\top} \nabla \bar{f}(UPU^{\top})U. \end{split}$$

Note that in the above,  $\nabla \bar{f}(UPU^{\top})$  is the *Euclidean* gradient of  $\bar{f}$ , and inner products are taken with respect to the Euclidean geometry. Denoting  $G = \nabla \bar{f}(UPU^{\top})$ , we have

$$G_U = (G + G^{\top})UP, \quad G_P = U^{\top}GU.$$

With these expressions, the Riemannian gradient  $\nabla \tilde{f}(U, P)$  has the following expression:

$$\nabla \tilde{f}(U, P) = (U\tilde{A} + U^{\perp}\tilde{B}, \tilde{D})$$
 where  $\tilde{A} = U^{\top}(G + G^{\top})UP - PU^{\top}(G + G^{\top})U$   
$$\tilde{B} = (U^{\perp})^{\top}(G + G^{\top})UP$$
 
$$\tilde{D} = \frac{1}{2}PU^{\top}(G + G^{\top})UP.$$

This is horizontal because

$$\tilde{A} = P^{-1}PU^{\top}(G + G^{\top})UP - PU^{\top}(G + G^{\top})UPP^{-1} = 2(P^{-1}\tilde{D} - \tilde{D}P^{-1}).$$

# 4 Projections of gradients

When f can be extended to a function  $\bar{f}: \mathbb{R}^{n \times n} \to \mathbb{R}$ , we have the following formula for  $\nabla \tilde{f}(U, P)$ :

$$\begin{split} \nabla \tilde{f}(U,P) &= (U\tilde{A} + U^{\perp}\tilde{B},\tilde{D}) \\ \text{where } \tilde{A} &= U^{\top}(G+G^{\top})UP - PU^{\top}(G+G^{\top})U \\ \tilde{B} &= (U^{\perp})^{\top}(G+G^{\top})UP \\ \tilde{D} &= \frac{1}{2}PU^{\top}(G+G^{\top})UP \\ G &= \nabla \bar{f}(UPU^{\top}). \end{split}$$

We know that this is horizontal. As before, let  $P = Q\Lambda Q^{\top}$ , with eigenpairs  $(\lambda_i, q_i)$  for  $i \in [r]$ .

**Lemma 4.1.** Let V be an inner product space with subspace  $S \subset V$ . Let  $u \in V$ . Then  $\bar{v}$  is the projection of u onto S if and only if  $u - \bar{v} \in S^{\perp}$ .

*Proof.* This follows by considering the optimality condition of minimizing  $f(v) = \frac{1}{2}\langle u - v, u - v \rangle$  over  $v \in S$ , which is  $\langle u - \bar{v}, v - \bar{v} \rangle \geq 0$  for all  $v \in S$ . Necessarily, we need  $u - \bar{v} \in \bar{S}^{\perp}$ .

**Proposition 4.2.** Let  $\mathcal{S}_k^{U,P} = \{(vq_k^\top, 0) : v \in \text{Ker}(U^\top)\}\ and\ \mathcal{S}_{ij}^{U,P} = \{\gamma\left(U(P^{-1}D_{ij}^P - D_{ij}^P P^{-1}), \frac{1}{2}D_{ij}^P\right) : \gamma \in \mathbb{R}\}\ where\ D_{ij}^P = \sqrt{\lambda_i \lambda_j}(q_i q_j^\top + q_j q_i^\top).$  Then

$$\operatorname{Proj}_{\mathcal{S}_{k}^{U,P}}(\nabla \tilde{f}(U,P)) = \left(U^{\perp} \tilde{B}q_{k}q_{k}^{\top}, 0\right) = \left(\lambda_{k}(I_{n} - UU^{\top})(G + G^{\top})Uq_{k}q_{k}^{\top}, 0\right)$$

$$\operatorname{Proj}_{\mathcal{S}_{ij}^{U,P}}(\nabla \tilde{f}(U,P)) = \frac{\langle \nabla \tilde{f}(U,P), v_{ij}^{P} \rangle_{U,P}}{\|v_{ij}^{P}\|_{U,P}^{2}} v_{ij}^{P} = \sqrt{\lambda_{i}\lambda_{j}}(Uq_{j})^{\top}(G + G^{\top})(Uq_{i})v_{ij}^{P}$$

$$where \ v_{ij}^{P} := \left(U(P^{-1}D_{ij}^{P} - D_{ij}^{P}P^{-1}), \frac{1}{2}D_{ij}^{P}\right).$$

*Proof.* We have

$$\nabla \tilde{f}(U, P) - (U^{\perp} \tilde{B} q_k q_k^{\top}, 0) = \left( U \tilde{A} + U^{\perp} \tilde{B} (I_r - q_k q_k^{\top}), \tilde{D} \right).$$

Therefore, for any  $(vq_k^\top, 0) \in \mathcal{S}_k^{U,P}$ , write  $v = U^\perp w$ , thus we have

$$\left\langle \nabla \tilde{f}(U, P) - (U^{\perp} \tilde{B} q_k q_k^{\top}, 0), (v q_k^{\top}, 0) \right\rangle_{U, P} = \left\langle \tilde{B}(I_r - q_k q_k^{\top}), w q_k^{\top} \right\rangle$$

$$= \operatorname{Tr} \left( q_k^{\top} (I_r - q_k q_k^{\top}) \tilde{B}^{\top} w \right)$$

$$= 0.$$

Lemma 4.1 then states that  $\left(U^{\perp}\tilde{B}q_kq_k^{\top},0\right)$  is exactly the projection.

Since  $S_{ij}^{U,P}$  is a one-dimensional subspace spanned by  $v_{ij}^P$ , the formula  $\operatorname{Proj}_{S_{ij}^{U,P}}(\nabla \tilde{f}(U,P)) = \frac{\langle \nabla \tilde{f}(U,P), v_{ij}^P \rangle_{U,P}}{\|v_{ij}^P\|_{U,P}^2} v_{ij}^P$  is immediate. We now compute the constants. As in the proof of Proposition 2.3, notice that  $P^{-1}D_{ij}^P - D_{ij}^P P^{-1} = \sqrt{\lambda_i \lambda_i} (1/\lambda_i - 1/\lambda_j) H_{ij}$ , where  $H_{ij} = q_i q_j^\top - q_j q_i^\top$ . Then

$$\langle P^{-1}D_{ij}^{P} - D_{ij}^{P}P^{-1}, P^{-1}D_{ij}^{P} - D_{ij}^{P}P^{-1} \rangle = \lambda_{i}\lambda_{j}(1/\lambda_{i} - 1/\lambda_{j})^{2} \|H_{ij}\|_{Fro}^{2} = \frac{2(\lambda_{i} - \lambda_{j})^{2}}{\lambda_{i}\lambda_{j}}.$$

In addition, we note that  $P^{-1/2}D_{ij}^PP^{-1/2}=S_{ij}:=q_iq_j^\top+q_jq_i^\top$ , and

$$\langle P^{-1/2}D_{ij}^P P^{-1/2}, P^{-1/2}D_{ij}^P P^{-1/2} \rangle = ||S_{ij}||_{Fro}^2 = 2.$$

Then

$$\begin{aligned} \|v_{ij}^P\|_{U,P}^2 &= \frac{1}{2} \langle P^{-1}D_{ij}^P - D_{ij}^P P^{-1}, P^{-1}D_{ij}^P - D_{ij}^P P^{-1} \rangle + \left\langle P^{-1/2} \left( \frac{1}{2} D_{ij}^P \right) P^{-1/2}, P^{-1/2} \left( \frac{1}{2} D_{ij}^P \right) P^{-1/2} \right\rangle \\ &= \frac{(\lambda_i - \lambda_j)^2}{\lambda_i \lambda_j} + \frac{1}{2}. \end{aligned}$$

We compute the inner product  $\langle \nabla \tilde{f}(U,P), v_{ij}^P \rangle_{U,P}$  as follows:

$$\begin{split} &\langle \nabla \tilde{f}(U,P), v_{ij}^P \rangle_{U,P} \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \langle \tilde{A}, P^{-1}D_{ij}^P - D_{ij}^P P^{-1} \rangle + \left\langle P^{-1/2} \tilde{D} P^{-1/2}, P^{-1/2} \left( \frac{1}{2} D_{ij}^P \right) P^{-1/2} \right\rangle \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \langle \tilde{A}, P^{-1}D_{ij}^P - D_{ij}^P P^{-1} \rangle + \frac{1}{2} \left\langle P^{-1} \tilde{D} P^{-1}, D_{ij}^P \right\rangle \\ &= \frac{\sqrt{\lambda_i \lambda_j}}{2} \left( \langle U^\top (G + G^\top) U P - P U^\top (G + G^\top) U, P^{-1} S_{ij} - S_{ij} P^{-1} \rangle + \frac{1}{2} \left\langle U^\top (G + G^\top) U, S_{ij} \right\rangle \right) \\ &= \frac{\sqrt{\lambda_i \lambda_j}}{2} \left( \left\langle P^{-1} U^\top (G + G^\top) U P, S_{ij} \right\rangle - \left\langle U^\top (G + G^\top) U, S_{ij} \right\rangle \\ &- \left\langle U^\top (G + G^\top) U, S_{ij} \right\rangle + \left\langle P U^\top (G + G^\top) U P^{-1}, S_{ij} \right\rangle + \frac{1}{2} \left\langle U^\top (G + G^\top) U, S_{ij} \right\rangle \right). \end{split}$$

Now recognise that  $\langle U^{\top}(G+G^{\top})U, S_{ij} \rangle = 2(Uq_j)^{\top}(G+G^{\top})(Uq_i)$  and  $\langle PU^{\top}(G+G^{\top})UP^{-1}, S_{ij} \rangle = \langle PU^{\top}(G+G^{\top})UP^{-1}, S_{ij} \rangle = \left(\frac{\lambda_i}{\lambda_j} + \frac{\lambda_j}{\lambda_i}\right)(Uq_j)^{\top}(G+G^{\top})(Uq_i)$ . Therefore

$$\langle \nabla \tilde{f}(U, P), v_{ij}^P \rangle_{U,P} = \frac{\sqrt{\lambda_i \lambda_j}}{2} \left( 2 \left( \frac{\lambda_i}{\lambda_j} + \frac{\lambda_j}{\lambda_i} \right) - 3 \right) (Uq_j)^\top (G + G^\top) (Uq_i).$$

The result then follows by recognising that  $2\left(\frac{\lambda_i}{\lambda_j} + \frac{\lambda_j}{\lambda_i}\right) - 3 = \frac{2(\lambda_i - \lambda_j)^2 + \lambda_i \lambda_j}{\lambda_i \lambda_j} = 2\|v_{ij}^P\|_{U,P}^2$ .

# 5 Application: trace regression

Recall  $\tilde{M} = \operatorname{St}(r, n) \times \mathbb{S}^r_{++}$  and  $M = \mathbb{S}^{n,r}_{+}$ . We aim to solve

$$\min_{W \in M} \frac{1}{N} \sum_{\ell \in [N]} (y_p - x_p^\top W x_p)^2.$$

We will lift this to the total space  $\tilde{M}$  as follows:

$$\min_{(U,P)\in \tilde{M}} \frac{1}{N} \sum_{\ell \in [N]} (y_{\ell} - x_{\ell}^{\top} U P U^{\top} x_{\ell})^{2}.$$

Here,

$$f(W) = \frac{1}{2N} \sum_{p \in [N]} (y_p - x_p^\top W x_p)^2 \tilde{f}(U, P) \qquad = f(U P U^\top) = \frac{1}{2N} \sum_{p \in [N]} (y_p - x_p^\top U P U^\top x_p)^2.$$

### 5.1 Algorithm (deterministic)

Given equal-sized matrices or vectors a and b, denote  $a \odot b$  to be the element-wise product. The procedure is as follows:

- Initialization.
  - Denote  $X = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 & \cdots & x_N \end{bmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times N}$  to be the matrix of features, and  $y = (y_1, \dots, y_N) \in \mathbb{R}^N$  to be the vector of responses.
  - Pick initial point  $U_1 = \begin{bmatrix} e_{1,r} & \cdots & e_{r,r} \end{bmatrix} \in \operatorname{St}(r,n), P_1 = I_r \in \mathbb{S}^r_{++}.$
  - Initialize orthogonal quantities  $Uq_k = e_{k,r}, \lambda_k = 1$  for  $k \in [r]$ . Let  $UQ = \begin{bmatrix} Uq_1 & \cdots & Uq_r \end{bmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times r}$  and  $\lambda = (\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_r) \in \mathbb{R}^r, \Lambda = \text{Diag}(\lambda) \in \mathbb{R}^{r \times r}$ . (Here we think of  $P = Q\Lambda Q^{\top}$ .)
  - Initialize product quantities  $w_{p,k} = x_p^\top U q_k$  for each  $p \in [N]$  and  $k \in [r]$ . For each  $k \in [r]$ , define vectors  $w_k = (w_{1,k}, \dots, w_{N,k}) \in \mathbb{R}^N$ . Let  $W = \begin{bmatrix} w_1 & \cdots & w_r \end{bmatrix} = X^\top U Q \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times r}$ .
  - Initialize trace quantities  $\tau_p = x_p^\top U P U^\top x_p$ ; for  $U = U_1, P = P_1$ , this is just the sum of squares of the first r entries of  $x_p$ . Denote  $\tau = (\tau_1, \dots, \tau_N) \in \mathbb{R}^N$ .
- Outer iterations. For each t = 1, 2, ...
  - 1. Set  $U_{t,1} := U_t$ ,  $P_{t,1} := P_t$ .
  - 2. Inner iterations. For each  $\ell = 1, \ldots, m$ :
    - (a) For convenience denote  $(U_{t,\ell}, P_{t,\ell}) = (U, P)$
    - (b) Pick a subspace  $\mathcal{S}_k^{U,P}$  for some  $k \in [r]$  or  $\mathcal{S}_{ij}^{U,P}$  for some  $(i,j) \in [r] \times [r]$  such that  $i \leq j$ .
      - When the subspace is  $\mathcal{S}_k^{U,P}$ .
        - i. Gradient projection. We wish to project  $\nabla \tilde{f}(U,P)$  onto  $\mathcal{S}_k^{U,P}$ . By Proposition 4.2 the formula is  $\lambda_k(I_n UU^\top)(G + G^\top)Uq_kq_k^\top$ , where  $G = \nabla f(UPU^\top)$ . We will denote  $\hat{v}_k := \lambda_k(I_n UU^\top)(G + G^\top)Uq_k$ , and provide a method to compute this. First notice that

$$G = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{p \in [N]} (y_p - \tau_p) x_p x_p^{\top}, \quad G + G^{\top} = 2G.$$

Then

$$(G + G^{\top})Uq_k = \frac{2}{N} \sum_{p \in [N]} (y_p - \tau_p) x_p w_{p,k} = \frac{2}{N} X((y - \tau) \odot w_k).$$

Since  $UU^{\top} = (UQ)(UQ)^{\top}$ , we have

$$UQ(UQ)^{\top}(G+G^{\top})Uq_k = \frac{2}{N}UQ(UQ)^{\top}X((y-\tau)\odot w_k) = \frac{2}{N}UQ\left(W^{\top}((y-\tau)\odot w_k)\right).$$

We thus can compute

$$\hat{v}_k = \frac{2\lambda_k}{N} \left( X((y-\tau) \odot w_k) - UQ \left( W^\top ((y-\tau) \odot w_k) \right) \right)$$

using only matrix-vector products. The projection is then  $(\tilde{v}_k q_k^\top, 0)$ . We let

$$v_k := \frac{\hat{v}_k}{\|\hat{v}_k\|_2}.$$

ii. Exponential map update formula. We now need to update (U, P) in the direction of  $(v_k q_k^{\top}, 0)$ . According to Proposition 2.3, the update with step size  $\gamma$  will be of form

$$\widetilde{\mathrm{Exp}}_{U,P}(\gamma(v_k q_k^\top, 0)) = (U_{+,k}(\tau), P),$$

where

$$U_{+,k}(\gamma) = U + ((\cos(\gamma) - 1)Uq_k + \sin(\gamma)v_k) q_k^{\top}.$$

iii. Line search. We now find the step size  $\tau$  that will minimize  $\tilde{f}(U_{+,k}(\gamma), P)$ . Note that  $U_{+,k}(\gamma)$  is periodic over  $\gamma \in [0, 2\pi]$ , so we just need to do a line search over this interval. Then we have

$$x_p^{\top} U_{+,k}(\gamma) P U_{+,p}^{\top}(\gamma) x_p = \tau_p + 2\lambda_k \left( (\cos(\gamma) - 1) w_{p,k} + \sin(\gamma) v_k^{\top} x_p \right)$$
$$+ \lambda_k \left( (\cos(\gamma) - 1) w_{p,k} + \sin(\gamma) v_k^{\top} x_p \right)^2.$$

Our ultimate goal is to do a line search over

$$h_k(\gamma) := \tilde{f}(U_{+,k}(\gamma), P) = \frac{1}{2N} \sum_{p \in [N]} \left( y_p - x_p U_{+,k}(\gamma) P U_{+,p}^{\top}(\gamma) x_p \right)^2.$$

We need an efficient way to compute  $h_k(\gamma)$  given  $\gamma$ . We can do this as follows. Let  $z_k = X^\top v_k \in \mathbb{R}^N$  (where each entry is  $x_p^\top v_k$ ). Denote the vector

$$s_k(\tau) := (\cos(\gamma) - 1)w_k + \sin(\gamma)z_k.$$

Then

$$h_k(\gamma) = \frac{1}{2N} \|y - \tau - 2\lambda_k s_k(\gamma) - \lambda_k s_k(\gamma) \odot s_k(\gamma)\|_2^2.$$

In fact, the line search need not involve the first term  $||y - \tau||_2^2$ . We can use any pre-existing line search routine in Python to find  $\gamma^*$  that minimizes  $h_k(\gamma)$  over  $\gamma \in [0, 2\pi]$ .

iv. Update tracking quantities. We set  $U_{t,\ell+1} := U_{+,k}(\gamma^*)$ ,  $P_{t,\ell+1} = P$ . But now we need to update the tracking quantities so we can use them later. This is done as follows:

$$w_k \leftarrow X^{\top}(\cos(\gamma^*)Uq_k + \sin(\gamma^*)v_k) = X^{\top}(s_k(\gamma^*) + Uq_k)$$
$$\tau \leftarrow \tau + 2\lambda_k s_k(\gamma^*) + \lambda_k s_k(\gamma^*) \odot s_k(\gamma^*)$$
$$Uq_k \leftarrow s_k(\gamma^*) + Uq_k$$

The first updates the product quantities  $w_{p,k} = x_p^\top U q_k$  (using the new  $U q_k$ ) for each  $p \in [N]$ , which means we just need to update the kth column of W. The second updates trace quantities  $\tau_p = x_p^\top U P U^\top x_p$ . The third one updates orthogonal quantities  $U q_k$ , i.e., just the kth column of UQ.

– When the subspace is  $\mathcal{S}_{ij}^{U,P}$ .

i. Gradient projection. We wish to project  $\nabla \tilde{f}(U,P)$  onto  $\mathcal{S}_{ij}^{U,P} = \operatorname{Span}(\{v_{ij}^P\})$  where  $v_{ij}^P = \left(U(P^{-1}D_{ij}^P - D_{ij}^P P^{-1}), \frac{1}{2}D_{ij}^P\right), D_{ij}^P = (\lambda_i\lambda_j)^{1/2}(q_iq_j^\top + q_jq_i^\top)$ . By Proposition 4.2 the formula is  $\sqrt{\lambda_i\lambda_j}(Uq_j)^\top (G+G^\top)(Uq_i)v_{ij}^P$ , where

$$G = \nabla f(UPU^{\top}) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{p \in [N]} (y_p - \tau_p) x_p x_p^{\top}, \quad G + G^{\top} = 2G.$$

Thus we have

$$\sqrt{\lambda_i \lambda_j} (Uq_j)^\top (G + G^\top) (Uq_i) = \frac{2\sqrt{\lambda_i \lambda_j}}{N} \sum_{p \in [N]} (y_p - \tau_p) w_{p,i} w_{p,j}$$
$$= \frac{2\sqrt{\lambda_i \lambda_j}}{N} (y - \tau)^\top (w_i \odot w_j).$$

ii. Exponential map update formula. From Proposition 2.3, we have

$$\widetilde{\operatorname{Exp}}_{UP}\left(\gamma v_{ij}^{P}\right) = \left(U_{+,ij}(\gamma), P_{+,ij}(\gamma)\right)$$

where

$$U_{+,ij}(\gamma) := U(I - q_i q_i^{\top} - q_j q_j^{\top}) + (\cos(\alpha_{ij}\gamma)Uq_i - \sin(\alpha_{ij}\gamma)Uq_j)q_i^{\top}$$

$$+ (\sin(\alpha_{ij}\gamma)Uq_i + \cos(\alpha_{ij}\gamma)Uq_j)q_j^{\top}$$

$$\alpha_{ij} := \sqrt{\lambda_i \lambda_j}(\lambda_i^{-1} - \lambda_j^{-1})$$

$$P_{+,ij}(\gamma) := P - (\lambda_i q_i q_i^{\top} + \lambda_j q_j q_j^{\top}) + \cosh(\gamma/2)(\lambda_i q_i q_i^{\top} + \lambda_j q_j q_j^{\top})$$

$$+ \sinh(\gamma/2)\sqrt{\lambda_i \lambda_j}(q_i q_j^{\top} + q_j q_i^{\top}).$$

iii. Line search. We wish to optimize  $h_{ij}(\gamma) := \tilde{f}(U_{+,ij}(\gamma), P_{+,ij}(\gamma))$ . We need to first describe an efficient method for computing  $h_{ij}(\gamma)$  given  $\gamma$ . Denote

$$S_{ij}(\gamma) := \begin{bmatrix} \cos(a_{ij}\gamma) & \sin(a_{ij}\gamma) \\ -\sin(a_{ij}\gamma) & \cos(a_{ij}\gamma) \end{bmatrix}$$

$$T_{ij}(\gamma) := \begin{bmatrix} \lambda_i \cosh(\gamma/2) & \sqrt{\lambda_i \lambda_j} \sinh(\gamma/2) \\ \sqrt{\lambda_i \lambda_j} \sinh(\gamma/2) & \lambda_j \cosh(\gamma/2) \end{bmatrix}$$

$$V_{ij}(\gamma) := S_{ij}(\gamma) T_{ij}(\gamma) S_{ij}^{\top}(\gamma)$$

$$Q_{ij} := \begin{bmatrix} q_i & q_j \end{bmatrix},$$

where  $S_{ij}(\gamma), T_{ij}(\gamma), V_{ij}(\gamma) \in \mathbb{R}^{2\times 2}, \ Q_{ij} \in \operatorname{St}(2,r) \subset \mathbb{R}^{r\times 2}, \ \text{so} \ Q_{ij}^{\top}Q_{ij} = I_2.$  Also,  $(I_r - q_iq_i^{\top} - q_jq_j^{\top})Q_{ij} = (P - \lambda_iq_iq_i^{\top} - \lambda_jq_jq_j^{\top})Q_{ij} = 0_{r\times 2}.$  With these defined, the updates can be written as

$$U_{+,ij}(\gamma) = U(I_r - q_i q_i^{\top} - q_j q_j^{\top}) + UQ_{ij}S_{ij}(\gamma)Q_{ij}^{\top}$$
  
$$P_{+,ij}(\gamma) = P - \lambda_i q_i q_i^{\top} - \lambda_j q_j q_j^{\top} + Q_{ij}T_{ij}(\gamma)Q_{ij}^{\top},$$

and thus

$$U_{+,ij}(\gamma)P_{+,ij}(\gamma)U_{+,ij}^{\top}(\gamma) = U(P - \lambda_i q_i q_i^{\top} - \lambda_j q_j q_j^{\top})U^{\top} + UQ_{ij}V_{ij}^{\top}(\gamma)(UQ_{ij})^{\top}.$$

Now notice that  $x_p^{\top}U(P - \lambda_i q_i q_i^{\top} - \lambda_j q_j q_j^{\top})U^{\top} = \tau_p - \lambda_i w_{p,i}^2 - \lambda_j w_{p,j}^2$ . Furthermore, notice that  $(UQ_{ij})^{\top}x_p = \begin{bmatrix} w_{p,i} \\ w_{p,j} \end{bmatrix}$ ; denote this by  $w_{p,ij} \in \mathbb{R}^2$ . Then we have

$$x_{p}^{\top} U_{+,ij}(\gamma) P_{+,ij}(\gamma) U_{+,ij}^{\top}(\gamma) x_{p} = \tau_{p} - \lambda_{i} w_{p,i}^{2} - \lambda_{j} w_{p,j}^{2} + w_{p,ij}^{\top} V_{ij}(\tau) w_{p,ij}.$$

In vectorized form over  $p \in [N]$ , we have

$$v_{ij}(\gamma) := \left\{ x_p^\top U_{+,ij}(\gamma) P_{+,ij}(\gamma) U_{+,ij}^\top(\gamma) x_p \right\}_{p \in [N]}$$
$$= \tau - \lambda_i w_i \odot w_i - \lambda_j w_j \odot w_j + \left( \left( \begin{bmatrix} w_i & w_j \end{bmatrix} V_{ij}(\gamma) \right) \odot \begin{bmatrix} w_i & w_j \end{bmatrix} \right)^\top \mathbf{1}_2 \in \mathbb{R}^N.$$

Then  $h_{ij}(\gamma) = \frac{1}{2N} ||y - v_{ij}(\gamma)||_2^2$ .

To implement the line search, we need to take into account the projection of  $\nabla \tilde{f}(U, P)$ . Recall that this is

$$\frac{2\sqrt{\lambda_i\lambda_j}}{N}(y-\tau)^{\top}(w_i\odot w_j)v_{ij}^P.$$

Since we want to look for descent directions, we move in the negative direction of this projection. Concretely, if  $\frac{2\sqrt{\lambda_i\lambda_j}}{N}(y-\tau)^{\top}(w_i\odot w_j)>0$ , then we minimize  $h_{ij}(\gamma)$  over  $\gamma\leq 0$ , and if it's <0, we minimize over  $\gamma\geq 0$ .

iv. Update tracking quantities. Suppose now that we have found the optimal  $\gamma^*$  to minimize  $h_{ij}(\gamma)$ . Then (U, P) is updated to  $(U_{+,ij}(\gamma^*), P_{+,ij}(\gamma^*))$ . We now need to update the tracking quantities. First, we update the trace quantities as

$$\tau \leftarrow \tau - \lambda_i w_i \odot w_i - \lambda_j w_j \odot w_j + \left( \left( \begin{bmatrix} w_i & w_j \end{bmatrix} V_{ij}(\gamma^*) \right) \odot \begin{bmatrix} w_i & w_j \end{bmatrix} \right)^\top \mathbf{1}_2$$

We now need to update the orthogonal and product quantites. Denote  $T_{ij} = T_{ij}(\gamma^*)$ . Since

$$P_{+,ij}(\gamma^*) = P - \lambda_i q_i q_i^{\top} - \lambda_j q_j q_j^{\top} + Q_{ij} T_{ij} Q_{ij}^{\top},$$

any eigenvector of P that is orthogonal to both  $q_i$  and  $q_j$  is remains an eigenvector of  $P_{+,ij}(\gamma^*)$ , with the same eigenvalue. Therefore the new eigenvectors/values of  $P_{+,ij}(\gamma^*)$  can be obtained by diagonalizing  $T_{ij}$ . Specifically, if we have

$$T_{ij} = \begin{bmatrix} v_{i,+} & v_{j,+} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \lambda_{i,+} & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda_{j,+} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} v_{i,+}^\top \\ v_{i,+}^\top \end{bmatrix},$$

then  $(Q_{ij}v_{i,+}, \lambda_{i,+})$  and  $(Q_{ij}v_{j,+}, \lambda_{j,+})$  are the new eigenpairs, replacing  $(q_i, \lambda_i)$  and  $(q_j, \lambda_j)$  respectively. With these formulas, we update

$$w_{i} \leftarrow \begin{bmatrix} w_{i} & w_{j} \end{bmatrix} v_{+,i}$$

$$w_{j} \leftarrow \begin{bmatrix} w_{i} & w_{j} \end{bmatrix} v_{+,j}$$

$$Uq_{i} \leftarrow \begin{bmatrix} Uq_{i} & Uq_{j} \end{bmatrix} v_{+,i}$$

$$Uq_{j} \leftarrow \begin{bmatrix} Uq_{i} & Uq_{j} \end{bmatrix} v_{+,j}$$

There are exact formulas for  $v_{i,+}, v_{j,+}, \lambda_{i,+}, \lambda_{j,+}$ , but we can also just do it numerically since  $T_{ij} \in \mathbb{R}^{2 \times 2}$ .

3. Set  $U_{t+1} := U_{t,m+1}, P_{t+1} := P_{t,m+1}.$ 

# References

- [1] S. Bonnabel and R. Sepulchre. Riemannian metric and geometric mean for positive semidefinite matrices of fixed rank. SIAM Journal on Matrix Analysis and Applications, 31(3):1055–1070, 2010.
- [2] N. Boumal. An introduction to optimization on smooth manifolds. Cambridge University Press, 2023.
- [3] D. H. Gutman and N. Ho-Nguyen. Coordinate descent without coordinates: Tangent subspace descent on riemannian manifolds. *Mathematics of Operations Research*, 2022.
- [4] D. Nguyen. Operator-valued formulas for riemannian gradient and hessian and families of tractable metrics in riemannian optimization. *Journal of Optimization Theory and Applications*, pages 1–30, 2023.