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Bregman divergence

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Synonym Bregman distance

A Bregman divergence, or Bregman distance, B_F on a space $\mathcal{X} \subseteq \mathbb{R}^d$ is defined for a strictly convex and differentiable function $F: \mathcal{X} \to \mathbb{R}$ as

$$B_F(p,q) = F(p) - F(q) - \langle p - q, \nabla F(q) \rangle, \tag{1}$$

where

$$\langle p, q \rangle = p^T q$$

denotes the inner product, and

$$\nabla F(x) = \left[\frac{\partial F}{\partial x_1}, \cdots, \frac{\partial F}{\partial x_d}\right]^T$$

the partial derivatives.

Choosing $F(x) = \sum_{i=1}^{d} x_i^2$ yields the squared Euclidean distance $B_{x^2}(p,q) = ||p-q||^2$, and choosing $F(x) = \sum_{i=1}^{d} x_i \log x_i$ yields the relative entropy, called the Kullback-Leibler divergence.