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# Exercise Sheet 1

### Exercise 1: Symmetries in LLE (25 P)

The Locally Linear Embedding (LLE) method takes as input a collection of data points  $\vec{x}_1, \dots, \vec{x}_N \in \mathbb{R}^d$  and embeds them in some low-dimensional space. LLE operates in two steps, with the first step consisting of minimizing the objective

$$\mathcal{E}(w) = \sum_{i=1}^{N} \left\| \vec{x}_i - \sum_{j} w_{ij} \vec{x}_j \right\|^2$$

where w is a collection of reconstruction weights subject to the constraint  $\forall i : \sum_j w_{ij} = 1$ , and where  $\sum_j$  sums over the K nearest neighbors of the data point  $\vec{x}_i$ . The solution that minimizes the LLE objective can be shown to be invariant to various transformations of the data.

Show that invariance holds in particular for the following transformations:

- (a) Replacement of all  $\vec{x}_i$  with  $\alpha \vec{x}_i$ , for an  $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}^+ \setminus \{0\}$ ,
- (b) Replacement of all  $\vec{x}_i$  with  $\vec{x}_i + \vec{v}$ , for a vector  $\vec{v} \in \mathbb{R}^d$ .
- (c) Replacement of all  $\vec{x_i}$  with  $U\vec{x_i}$ , where U is an orthogonal  $d \times d$  matrix.

## Exercise 2: Closed form for LLE (25 P)

In the following, we would like to show that the optimal weights w have an explicit analytic solution. For this, we first observe that the objective function can be decomposed as a sum of as many subobjectives as there are data points:

$$\mathcal{E}(w) = \sum_{i=1}^{N} \mathcal{E}_i(w)$$
 with  $\mathcal{E}_i(w) = \left\| \vec{x}_i - \sum_{i} w_{ij} \vec{x}_j \right\|^2$ 

Furthermore, because each subobjective depends on different parameters, they can be optimized independently. We consider one such subobjective and for simplicity of notation, we rewrite it as:

$$\mathcal{E}_i(w) = \left\| \vec{x} - \sum_{j=1}^K w_j \vec{\eta}_j \right\|^2$$

where  $\vec{x}$  is the current data point (we have dropped the index i), where  $\eta = (\vec{\eta}_1, \dots, \vec{\eta}_K)$  is a matrix of size  $K \times d$  containing the K nearest neighbors of  $\vec{x}$ , and w is the vector of size K containing the weights to optimize and subject to the constraint  $\sum_{j=1}^{K} w_j = 1$ .

(a) Prove that the optimal weights for  $\vec{x}$  are found by solving the following optimization problem:

$$\min_{w} \quad w^{\top} C w \qquad \text{subject to} \quad w^{\top} \mathbb{1} = 1.$$

where  $C = (\mathbb{1}\vec{x}^{\top} - \eta)(\mathbb{1}\vec{x}^{\top} - \eta)^{\top}$  is the covariance matrix associated to the data point  $\vec{x}$  and  $\mathbb{1}$  is a vector of ones of size K.

(b) Show using the method of Lagrange multipliers that the minimum of the optimization problem found in (a) is given analytically as:

$$w = \frac{C^{-1} \mathbb{1}}{\mathbb{1}^{\top} C^{-1} \mathbb{1}}.$$

(c) Show that the optimal w can be equivalently found by solving the equation Cw = 1 and then rescaling w such that  $w^{\top}1 = 1$ .

### Exercise 3: SNE and Kullback-Leibler Divergence (25 P)

SNE is an embedding algorithm that operates by minimizing the Kullback-Leibler divergence between two discrete probability distributions p and q representing the input space and the embedding space respectively. In 'symmetric SNE', these discrete distributions assign to each pair of data points (i, j) in the dataset the probability scores  $p_{ij}$  and  $q_{ij}$  respectively, corresponding to how close the two data points are in the input and embedding spaces. Once the exact probability functions are defined, the embedding algorithm proceeds by optimizing the function:

$$C = D_{KL}(p \parallel q)$$
$$= \sum_{i=1}^{N} \sum_{j=1}^{N} p_{ij} \log \left(\frac{p_{ij}}{q_{ij}}\right)$$

where p and q are subject to the constraints  $\sum_{i=1}^{N} \sum_{j=1}^{N} p_{ij} = 1$  and  $\sum_{i=1}^{N} \sum_{j=1}^{N} q_{ij} = 1$ . Specifically, the algorithm minimizes q which itself is a function of the coordinates in the embedded space. Optimization is typically performed using gradient descent.

In this exercise, we derive the gradient of the Kullback-Leibler divergence, first with respect to the probability scores  $q_{ij}$ , and then with respect to the embedding coordinates of which  $q_{ij}$  is a function.

(a) Show that

$$\frac{\partial C}{\partial q_{ij}} = -\frac{p_{ij}}{q_{ij}}. (1)$$

(b) The probability matrix q is now reparameterized using a 'softargmax' function:

$$q_{ij} = \frac{\exp(z_{ij})}{\sum_{k=1}^{N} \sum_{l=1}^{N} \exp(z_{kl})}$$

The new variables  $z_{ij}$  can be interpreted as unnormalized log-probabilities. Show that

$$\frac{\partial C}{\partial z_{ij}} = -p_{ij} + q_{ij}. \tag{2}$$

- (c) Explain which of the two gradients, (1) or (2), is the most appropriate for practical use in a gradient descent algorithm. Motivate your choice, first in terms of the stability or boundedness of the gradient, and second in terms of the ability to maintain a valid probability distribution during training.
- (d) The scores  $z_{ij}$  are now reparameterized as

$$z_{ij} = -\|\vec{y}_i - \vec{y}_j\|^2$$

where the coordinates  $\vec{y_i}, \vec{y_j} \in \mathbb{R}^h$  of data points in embedded space now appear explicitly. Show using the chain rule for derivatives that

$$\frac{\partial C}{\partial \vec{y_i}} = \sum_{j=1}^{N} 4 (p_{ij} - q_{ij}) \cdot (\vec{y_i} - \vec{y_j}).$$

### Exercise 4: Programming (25 P)

Download the programming files on ISIS and follow the instructions.







