

spinifex: An R Package for Creating a Manual Tour of Low-dimensional Projections of Multivariate Data

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Abstract Dynamic low-dimensional linear projections of multivariate data collectively known as **tours** provide an important tool for exploring multivariate data and models. The R package **tourr** provides functions for several types of tours: grand, guided, little, local and frozen. Each of these can be viewed dynamically, or saved into a data object for animation. This paper describes a new package, **spinifex**, to provide a manual tour, that allows the coefficient for a single variable to be controlled. The variable is rotated fully into the projection with a coefficient of 1 or -1, or completely out of the projection with a coefficient of 0. The resulting sequence of projections can be displayed using animation, with functions from either the **plotly** and **gganimate** packages. By varying the coefficient of a single variable, it is possible to explore the sensitivity of structure in the projection to that variable. It is particularly useful when used with a projection pursuit guided tour to simplify and understand the solution. The use of the manual tour is illustrated using a problem from particle physics.

Introduction

Exploring multivariate spaces is a challenging task, increasingly so as dimensionality increases. Traditionally, static low-dimensional projections are used to display multivariate data in two dimensions, such as principal component analysis, linear discriminant spaces or projection pursuit. These are useful for finding relationships between multiple variables, but they are limited because they show only a glimpse of the high-dimensional space. An alternative approach is to use a tour of dynamic linear projections, to look at many different low-dimensional projections. Tours can be considered to extend the dimensionality of visualization, which is important as data and models exist in more than 3D. The package **tourr** (Wickham et al. 2011) provides a platform for generating tours. It has many types of tours available, and many types of displays possible. A user can make a grand, guided, little, local or frozen tour, and display the resulting projected data as a scatterplot, density plot, histogram, or even as Chernoff faces if the projection dimension is more than 3.

This work adds a manual tour to the collection. The manual tour was described in Cook and Buja (1997) and allows a user to control the projection coefficients of a selected variable in a 2D projection. The manipulation of these coefficients allows the analyst to explore their sensitivity to the structure within the projection. As manual tours operate on only one variable at a time, they are particularly useful once a feature of interest has been identified.

One way to identify “interesting” features is with the use of a guided tour (Cook et al. 1995). Guided tours select a very specific path, which approaches a projection that optimizes an objective-function. The optimization is conducted in a manner similar to simulated annealing (Kirkpatrick, Gelatt, and Vecchi 1983). The direct optimization of a function allows guided tours to rapidly identify interesting projection features given the relatively large parameter-space. After a projection of interest is identified an analyst can then use the “finer brush” of the manual tour, by controlling the contributions of individual variables to explore the sensitivity they have on the structure visible in the projection.

The paper is organized as follows. Section 2.2 describes the algorithm used to perform a radial manual tour as implemented in the package **spinifex**. Section 2.2.2 explains how to generate an animation of the manual tour using the animation frameworks offered by **plotly** (Sievert 2018) and **gganimate** (Pedersen and Robinson 2019). Package functionality and code usage following the order applied in the algorithm follows in section 2.3. Section 2.4 illustrates how this can be used for sensitivity analysis applied to multivariate data collected on high energy physics experiments (Wang et al. 2018). Section 2.5 summarizes this paper and discusses potential future directions.

Algorithm

The algorithm to conduct a manual tour interactively, by recording mouse/cursor motion, is described in detail in Cook and Buja (1997). Movement can be in any direction and magnitude, but it can also be constrained in several ways:

- *radial*: fix the direction of contribution, and allow the magnitude to change.
- *angular*: fix the magnitude, and allow the angle or direction of the contribution to vary.
- *horizontal, vertical*: allow rotation only around the horizontal or vertical axis of the current 2D projection.

The algorithm described here produces a **radial** tour as an *animation sequence*. It takes the current contribution of the chosen variable, and using rotation brings this variable fully into the projection, completely removes it, and then returns to the original position.

Notation

The notation used to describe the algorithm for a 2D radial manual tour is as follows:

- \mathbf{X} , the data, an $n \times p$ numeric matrix to be projected to 2D.
- $\mathbf{B} = (B_1, B_2)$, any 2D orthonormal projection basis, $p \times 2$ matrix, describing the projection from $\mathbb{R}^p \Rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$. This is called this the “original projection” because it is the starting point for the manual tour.
- k , is the index of the variable to manipulate, called the “manip var”.
- \mathbf{e} , a 1D basis vector of length p , with 1 in the k -th position and 0 elsewhere.
- \mathbf{M} is a $p \times 3$ matrix, defining the 3D subspace where data rotation occurs, and is called the manip(ulation) space.
- θ , the angle of in-projection-plane rotation, for example, on the reference axes; c_θ, s_θ are the cosine and sine.
- ϕ , the angle of out-of-projection-plane rotation, into the manip space; c_ϕ, s_ϕ are the cosine and sine. The initial value for animation purposes is ϕ_1 .
- \mathbf{U} , the axis of rotation for out-of-projection rotation.
- \mathbf{R} , the 3D rotation matrix, for performing unconstrained 3D rotations within the manip space, \mathbf{M} .

The algorithm operates entirely on projection bases, and incorporates the data only when making the projected data plots.

Steps

Step 0) Set up

The flea data (Lubischew (1962)), available in the **tourr** package, is used to illustrate the algorithm. The data contains 74 observations on 6 variables, which are physical measurements made on beetles. Each observation belongs to one of three species.

An initial 2D projection basis must be provided. A suggested way to start is to identify an interesting projection using a projection pursuit guided tour. Here the holes index is used to find a 2D projection of the flea data, which shows three separated groups. Figure 1 shows the initial projection of the data. The left panel displays the projection basis (\mathbf{B}), and can be used as a visual guide of the magnitude and direction that each variable contributes to the projection. The right panel shows the projected data, $\mathbf{Y}_{[n, 2]} = \mathbf{X}_{[n, p]} \mathbf{B}_{[p, 2]}$. The colour and shape of points is mapped to the flea species. This plot is made using the `view_basis()` function in **spinifex**, which generates a **ggplot2** (Wickham 2016) object.

Step 1) Choose manip variable

In Figure 1 the contribution of the variables `tars1` and `aede2` mostly contrast the contribution of the other four variables. These two variables combined contribute in the direction of the projection where the purple cluster is separated from the other two clusters. The variable `aede2` is selected as the manip var, the variable to be controlled in the tour. The question that will be explored, is, how important this variable is to the separation of the clusters.

Step 2) Create the 3D manip space

Initialize the coordinate basis vector as a zero vector \mathbf{e} of length p , and set the k -th element to 1. In the example data, `aede2` is the fifth variable in the data, so $k = 5$, set $e_5 = 1$. Use a Gram-Schmidt process to orthonormalize the coordinate basis vector on the original 2D projection to describe a 3D manip space, \mathbf{M} .

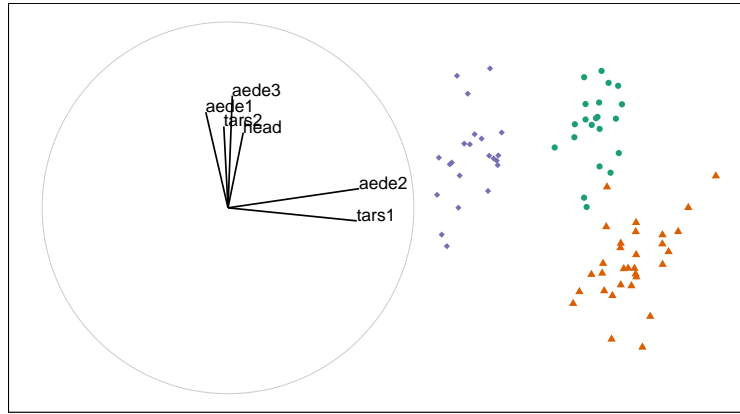


Figure 1: Initial 2D projection: representation of the basis (left) and resulting data projection (right) of standardized flea data. The color and shape of data points are mapped to beetle species. The basis was identified using a projection pursuit guided tour, with the holes index. The contribution of the variables *aede2* and *tars1* approximately contrasts the other variables. The visible structure in the projection are the three clusters corresponding to the three species. Produced with the function `view_basis()`.

$$\begin{aligned}
 e_k &\leftarrow 1 \\
 \mathbf{e}^* &\leftarrow \mathbf{e} - \langle \mathbf{e}, \mathbf{B}_1 \rangle \mathbf{B}_1 - \langle \mathbf{e}, \mathbf{B}_2 \rangle \mathbf{B}_2 \\
 \mathbf{M}_{[p, 3]} &= (\mathbf{B}_1, \mathbf{B}_2, \mathbf{e}^*)
 \end{aligned}$$

The manip space provides a 3D projection from p -dimensional space, where the coefficient of the manip var can range completely between $[0, 1]$. 3D rotation can be used to rotate the manip variable completely into or completely out of a 2D projection. Figure 2 illustrates this 3D manip space with the manip var highlighted. This representation is produced by calling the `view_manip_space()` function. This diagram is purely used to help explain the algorithm.

Step 3) Defining a 3D rotation

The basis vector corresponding to the manip var (red line in Figure 2), can be operated like a lever. This is the process of the manual control, that rotates the manip variable into and out of the 2D projection (Figure 3). As the variable contribution is controlled, the manip space rotates, and the projection onto the horizontal projection plane correspondingly changes. This is a manual tour. Generating a sequence of values for the rotation angles produces a path for the rotation of the manip space.

For a radial tour, fix θ , the angle describing rotation within the projection plane, and compute a sequence for ϕ , defining movement out of the plane. This will change the initial value, ϕ_1 , the angle between \mathbf{e} and its shadow in \mathbf{B} , to a maximum of 0 (manip var fully in projection), then to a minimum of $\pi/2$ (manip var out of projection), before returning to ϕ_1 .

Rotations in 3D can be defined by the axes they pivot on. Rotation within the projection, θ , is rotation around the Z axis. Out-of-projection rotation, ϕ , is the rotation around an axis on the XY plane, \mathbf{U} , orthogonal to \mathbf{e} . Given these axes, the rotation matrix, \mathbf{R} can be written as follows, using Rodrigues' rotation formula (originally published in Rodrigues (1840)):

$$\begin{aligned}
 \mathbf{R}_{[3, 3]} &= \mathbf{I}_3 + s_\phi \mathbf{U} + (1 - c_\phi) \mathbf{U}^2 \\
 &= \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & c_\theta s_\phi \\ 0 & 0 & s_\theta s_\phi \\ -c_\theta s_\phi & -s_\theta s_\phi & 0 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} -c_\theta(1 - c_\phi) & s_\theta^2(1 - c_\phi) & 0 \\ -c_\theta s_\theta(1 - c_\phi) & -s_\theta^2(1 - c_\phi) & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & c_\phi - 1 \end{bmatrix} \\
 &= \begin{bmatrix} c_\theta^2 c_\phi + s_\theta^2 & -c_\theta s_\theta(1 - c_\phi) & -c_\theta s_\phi \\ -c_\theta s_\theta(1 - c_\phi) & s_\theta^2 c_\phi + c_\theta^2 & -s_\theta s_\phi \\ c_\theta s_\phi & s_\theta s_\phi & c_\phi \end{bmatrix}
 \end{aligned}$$

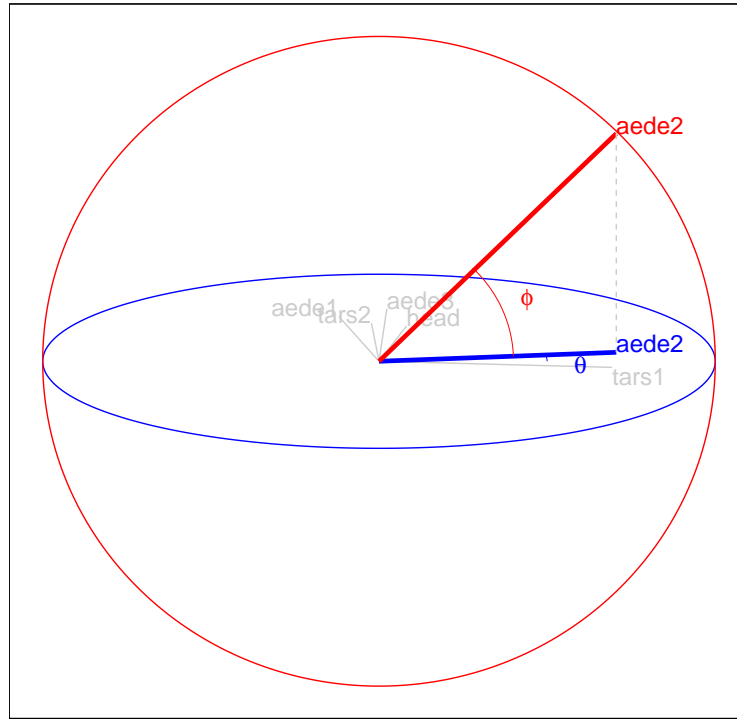


Figure 2: Illustration of a 3D manip space, constructed to change the contribution of the variable aede2 in the example data. The red circle indicates a unit sphere. The 2D projection is represented by the blue circle, with the projection coefficients represented by grey lines and text. The manip var axis, in red, has length 1 touching the sphere, extends the projection to a third dimension. The shadow of this axis (blue) is its contribution in the original 2D projection. Illustrated with the `view_manip_space()` function.

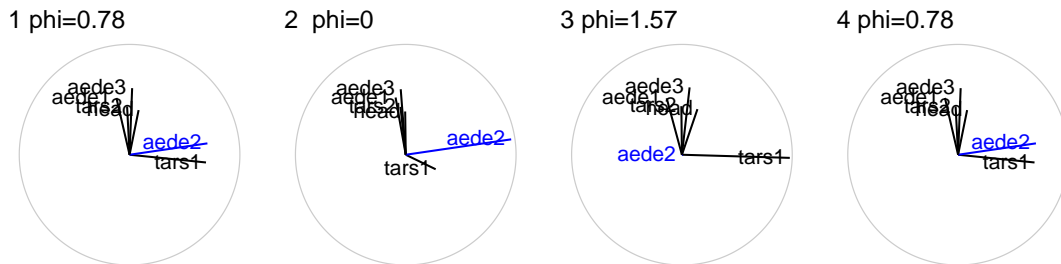


Figure 3: Snapshots of a radial manual tour manipulating aede2: (1) original projection, (2) full contribution, (3) zero contribution, (4) back to original.

where

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{U} &= (u_x, u_y, u_z) = (s_\theta, -c_\theta, 0) \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -u_z & u_y \\ u_z & 0 & -u_x \\ -u_y & u_x & 0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & -c_\theta \\ 0 & 0 & -s_\theta \\ c_\theta & s_\theta & 0 \end{bmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

Step 4) Creating an animation of the radial rotation

The steps outlined above can be used to create any arbitrary rotation in the manip space. To use these for sensitivity analysis, the radial rotation is built into an animation where the manip var is rotated fully into the projection, completely out, and then back to the initial value. This involves allowing ϕ , to vary between 0 and $\pi/2$, call the steps ϕ_i .

1. Set initial value of ϕ_1 and θ : $\phi_1 = \cos^{-1} \sqrt{B_{k1}^2 + B_{k2}^2}$, $\theta = \tan^{-1} \frac{B_{k2}}{B_{k1}}$. ϕ_1 is the angle between \mathbf{e}

and its shadow in **B**. Check that ϕ_1 is between 0 and $\pi/2$, and if not, transform it into this range, by subtracting or adding π . (XXX Nick needs to check this math, and the ways to check and fix if angle produced by the calculation given fall in the right range.)

2. Set an angle increment ($\Delta\phi$) that sets the step size for the animation, to rotate the manip var into and out of the projection. (Note: Using angle increment, rather than a number of steps, to control the movement, is consistent with the tour algorithm as implemented in the **tourr**).
3. Step towards 0, where the manip var is a completely in the projection.
4. Step towards $\pi/2$, where the manip variable has no contribution.
5. Step back to ϕ_1 .

In each of the steps 3-5, a small step may be added to ensure that the end points of ϕ (0, $\pi/2$) are reached.

Step 4) Projecting the data

The operation of a manual tour is defined on the projection bases. Only when the data plot needs to be made is the data projected into the relevant basis.

$$\mathbf{Y}_{[n, 3]} = \mathbf{X}_{[n, p]} \mathbf{M}_{[p, 3]} \mathbf{R}_{[3, 3]}^{(i)}$$

Plot the first two columns of **Y** to make the data plot. Show the projected data for each frame in sequence to form an animation.

Figure 4 illustrates a manual tour sequence having 15 steps. The projection axes are displayed on the top half, which correspond to the projected data in the bottom half. When *aede2* is removed from the projection, the purple cluster overlaps with the green cluster. This suggests that *aede2* is important for distinguishing this species.

Tours are typically viewed as an animation. The animation of this tour can be viewed online at https://nspyrison.netlify.com/thesis/flea_manualtour_mvar5/. The page may take a moment to load. Animations can be produced using the function `play_manual_tour()`.

Package structure and functionality

This section discusses the functions and code usage of the package before delving into a domain-specific application of the manual tour.

Installation

```
# remotes::install_github("nspyrison/spinifex") # Development version
install.packages("spinifex")
library("spinifex")
```

```
# Also see the vignette for further code usage:
vignette("spinifex_vignette")
```

Primary package functions

The primary functions that will aid users in performing their own manual tours are broken into the following groupings: tour preparation, tour animation, and utility. In the following section describes and demonstrates the usage of the above functions following the order in the algorithm. The utility functions are called by the tour animation functions, passed to the argument `render_type`. Usage is demonstrated below and in the example documentation.

Algorithm code

We'll start by initializing values including a standardized data set (numeric columns only), a starting basis, a categorical variable for point aesthetics (optional), and a manip var. To get bearings on the projection, start by observing the reference axes of the basis with `view_basis()` producing Figure 1.

```
f_data <- tourr::rescale(flea[, 1:6]) ## standardize data
f_path <- save_history(f_data, guided_tour(holes())) ## produce guided tour
```

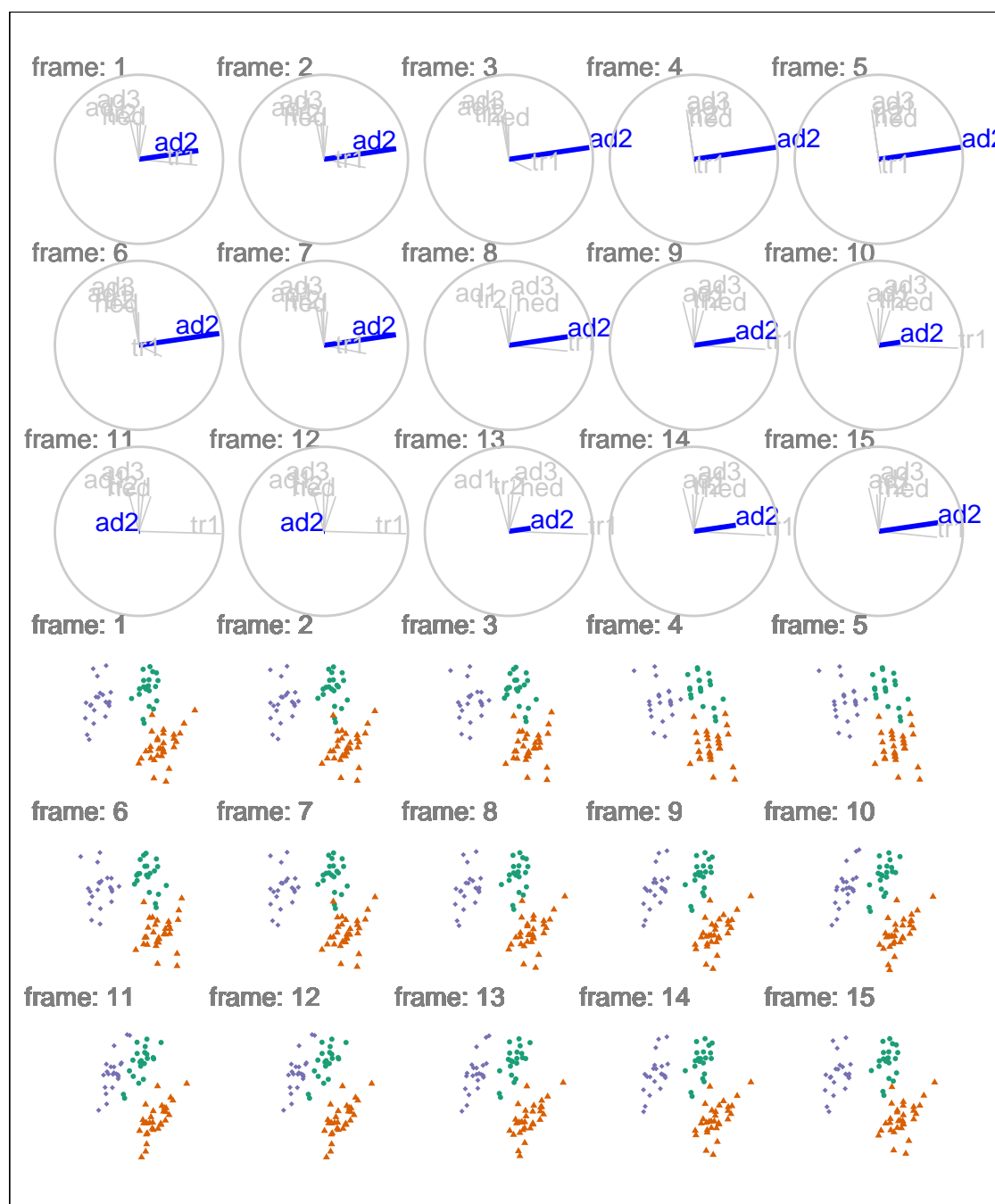


Figure 4: Radial manual tour manipulating ae2 of standardized flea data. The axis for ae2 increases in contribution to the projection, from its initial value to 1, decreasing to 0 and then returning to the initial value. This affects the separation between the purple and green clusters. This shows that ae2 is important for distinguishing the purple species, because the separation disappears when ae2 is not contributing to the projection. An animation can be viewed at https://nspyrison.netlify.com/thesis/flea_manualtour_mvvar5/.

Table 1: Primary functions

| Class | Function | Description |
|------------------|------------------|---|
| tour preparation | view_basis | displays the reference frame of the basis |
| tour preparation | view_manip_space | displays the manip space |
| tour animation | play_tour_path | animates given tour path |
| tour animation | play_manual_tour | animates the manual tour algorithm |
| utility | render_gganimate | uses gganimate to render the animation |
| utility | render_plotly | uses plotly to render the animation |

```
f_basis <- matrix(f_path[, , max(dim(f_path)[3])], ncol=2) ## end of guided tour
f_cat  <- factor(flea$species)                          ## categorical var
```

```
view_basis(basis = f_basis,
           data = f_data,
           labels = colnames(f_data))
```

After becoming familiar with this space, select a manip var, the variable to change the contributions of. Use `view_manip_space()` to view the new space with a dimension orthogonal to the projection plane where the manip var has a full contribution. This illustrates how the manip var is manipulated with the addition of the manip space as shown in Figure 2.

```
f_mvar <- 5 ## manip var number

view_manip_space(basis = f_basis,
                 manip_var = f_mvar,
                 labels = colnames(f_data))
```

Now we are ready to perform a manual tour on the selected variable. Use `play_manual_tour()` to perform the algorithm as discussed above, in section 2.2. This is the animated equivalent of Figure 3.

```
angle_speed <- .26

play_manual_tour(data = f_data,
                 basis = f_basis,
                 manip_var = f_mvar,
                 angle = angle_speed,
                 col = f_cat,
                 pch = f_cat)
```

This concludes the content of the algorithm section, however, lets cover animating paths generated in **tourr**. Animate the previously generated guided tour path via `play_tour_path()`. Utility functions can also be passed as arguments into either of the tour animation function to change the resulting graphics object, set `render_type = render_gganimate` to view the animation as a GIF.

```
play_tour_path(tour_path = f_path,
               data = f_data,
               render_type = render_gganimate,
               angle = angle_speed
)
```

Rendering and sharing

The **tourr** package utilizes **base** graphics for the display of tours. **spinifex** allows tours to be rendered in **plotly** as an HTML5 object or **gganimate** as GIF or MP4 files. Sharing of animations is not trivial, especially static formats like print and PDF. Even with dynamic display capturing the correct resolution and aspect ratio can be challenging, while many formats quickly bloat file sizes limiting sharing options. Keep in mind hosting options and exporting functions offered in **plotly**, **gganimate** and **tourr**.

Storage

Storing each data point for every frame of the animation is redundant. Just as operations are performed on the bases, so too should tour paths be stored as bases and a single instance of the data. Consider a

radial manual tour, we can store the salient features in 3 bases, where ϕ is at its starting, minimum, and maximum values. The frames in between can be interpolated by supplying angular speed. With the use of the `tourr::save_history()` function, the target bases can be saved. From there geodesic interpolation can be used to populate the intermittent frames. This type of interpolation should not be used on manual tours, which have already been initialized into a 3D manip space where direct linear interpolation is appropriate.

Application

In a recent paper, Wang et al. (2018), the authors aggregate and visualize the sensitivity of hadronic experiments to nucleon structure. The authors introduce a new tool, PDFSense, to aid in the visualization of parton distribution functions (PDF). The parameter-space of these experiments lies in 56 dimensions, $\delta \in \mathbb{R}^{56}$, and are visualized as 3D subspaces of the 10 first principal components in linear (PCA) and non-linear (t-SNE) embeddings.

Using the same data, another study, Cook, Laa, and Valencia (2018), applied grand tours (Asimov 1985) to the same subspaces. Grand tours are dynamic linear projections of high dimensional spaces where basis sets are selected at random and animated with geodesic interpolation of the intermediate frames. Because of the change in the basis, or orientation to the subspace, tours are able to better resolve the distribution shape of clusters, intra-cluster detail, and better outlier detection than the use of PDFSense & TFEP (TensorFlow embedded projections) or traditional static embeddings. Before applying manual tours the structure of the data is discussed.

The data has a hierarchical structure with top-level clusters; DIS, VBP, and jet. Each cluster is a particular class of experiments, each with many experimental datasets which, in turn, have many observations. In consideration of data density, we conduct manual tours on subsets of the DIS and jet clusters. This explores the sensitivity of the structure to each of the variables in turn and we present the subjectively best and worst variable to manipulate for identifying dimensionality of the clusters and describing the span of the clusters.

Jet cluster

The jet cluster resides in a smaller dimensionality than the full set of experiments with four principal components explaining 95% of the variation in the cluster (Cook, Laa, and Valencia 2018). The data within this 4D embedding is subset down to ATLAS7old and ATLAS7new to focus in on two groups with a reasonable number of observations that occupy different parts of the subspace. Radial manual tours controlling contributions from PC4 and PC3 are shown in Figure 5 and Figure 6 respectively. These variables are selected to contrast the information conveyed by different manip variables. Links to dynamic HTML5 animations controlling each of the four variables are also provided.

When manipulating PC4, there is a clear difference in the parameter space spanned by the experiment types ATLAS7new and ATLAS7old. Specifically, the variation of ATLAS7new (green) becomes more singular. The experiments are probing different parameter space and PC4 is important to demonstrate this. Yet, when PC3 is manipulated there is no clear indication that the different experiments probe different parameter space. Performing a radial manual tour on PC4 is more insightful than for PC3. Radial manual tours manipulating each of the principal components in the jet cluster can be viewed by following the links: [PC1](#), [PC2](#), [PC3](#), and [PC4](#).

DIS cluster

A different space is used to explore the DIS cluster; specifically the first six principal components, which explains 48% of the variation contained within the aggregated data (Cook, Laa, and Valencia 2018). Radial manual tours are performed on PC6 and PC2 in Figure 7 and Figure 8 respectively.

The selection of the manip variable is important, as the manip spaces convey substantially different information. The manual tour of PC6 offers information about the dimensionality, shape, and orientations of the different experiment classes. PC6 is particularly important to describe the variations of DIS HERA1+2 and charm SIDIS observations, Whereas manipulating the contributions of PC2 only shows a subset of the dimensionality and shape information. Manipulating the contributions of PC6 turned out to be much more insightful than PC2. This result might seem counter-intuitive at first as PC2 should explain much more of the variation in the data. However, features and structures in the data regularly reside in smaller dimensionality which can be overlooked when optimizing on full sample statistics. DIS cluster manual tours manipulating each of the principal components can be viewed from the links: [PC1](#), [PC2](#), [PC3](#), [PC4](#), [PC5](#), and [PC6](#).

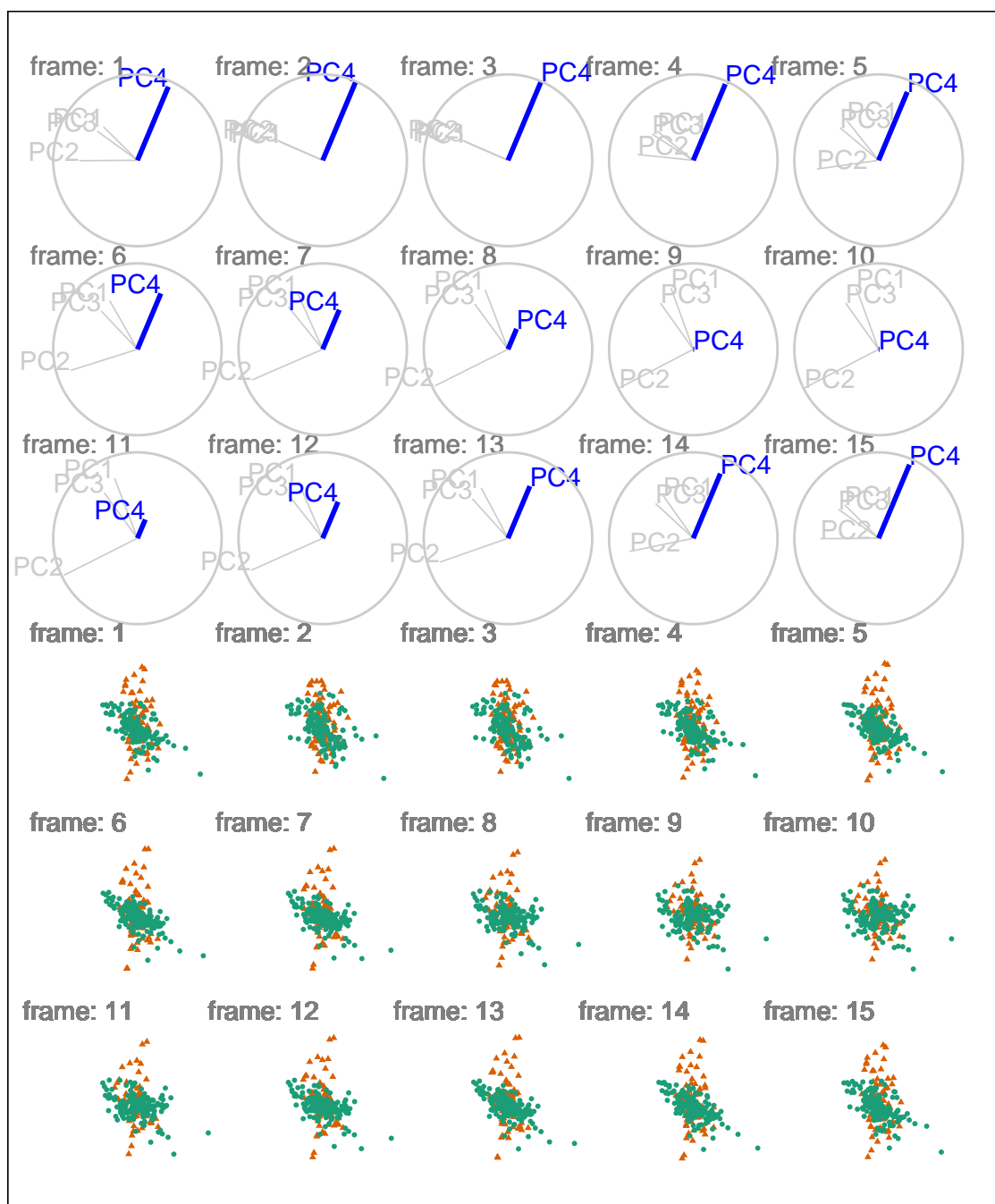


Figure 5: A radial manual tour of PC4 within the jet cluster. Colored by experiment type: ATLAS7new in green and ATLAS7old in orange. When PC4 fully/negligibly contributes to the projection ATLAS7new (green) spans the same space as the orange points. During the intermediate frames, the ATLAS7new is compressed in the direction radial to PC4. The difference in distribution shape demonstrates the experiments probe different phase-space, which has a linear mapping back to the original variables for interpretation and further exploration. An HTML5 version can be viewed at https://nspyron.netlify.com/thesis/jetcluster_manualtour_pc4/.

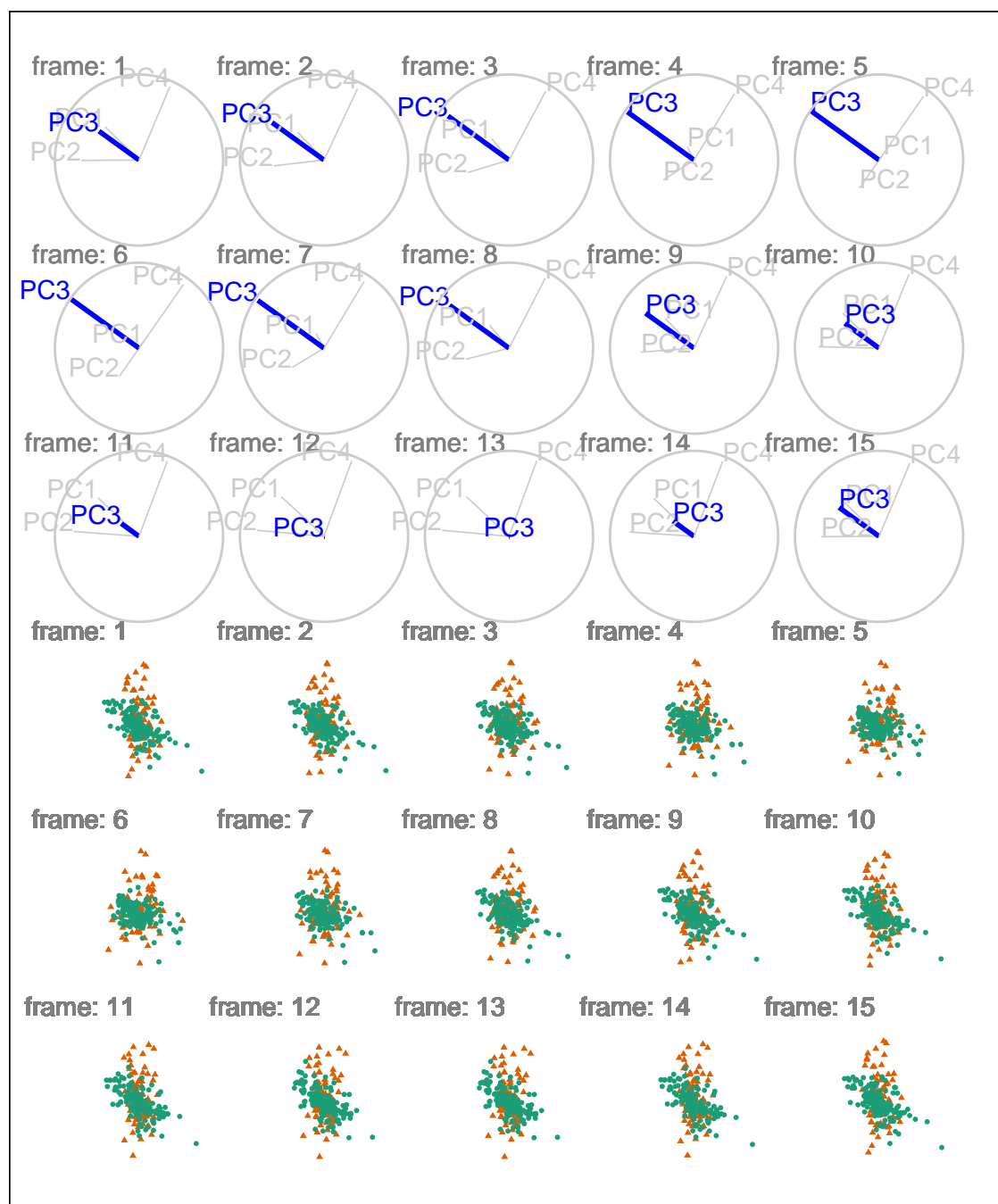


Figure 6: A radial manual tour of PC4 within the jet cluster. Colored by experiment type: ATLAS7new in green and ATLAS7old in orange. Data from ATLAS7new (green) spans mostly the same space as ATLAS7old (orange) with no evident difference in cluster structure across varying contributions of PC3. An HTML5 version can be viewed at https://nspyrison.netlify.com/thesis/jetcluster_manualtour_pc3/.

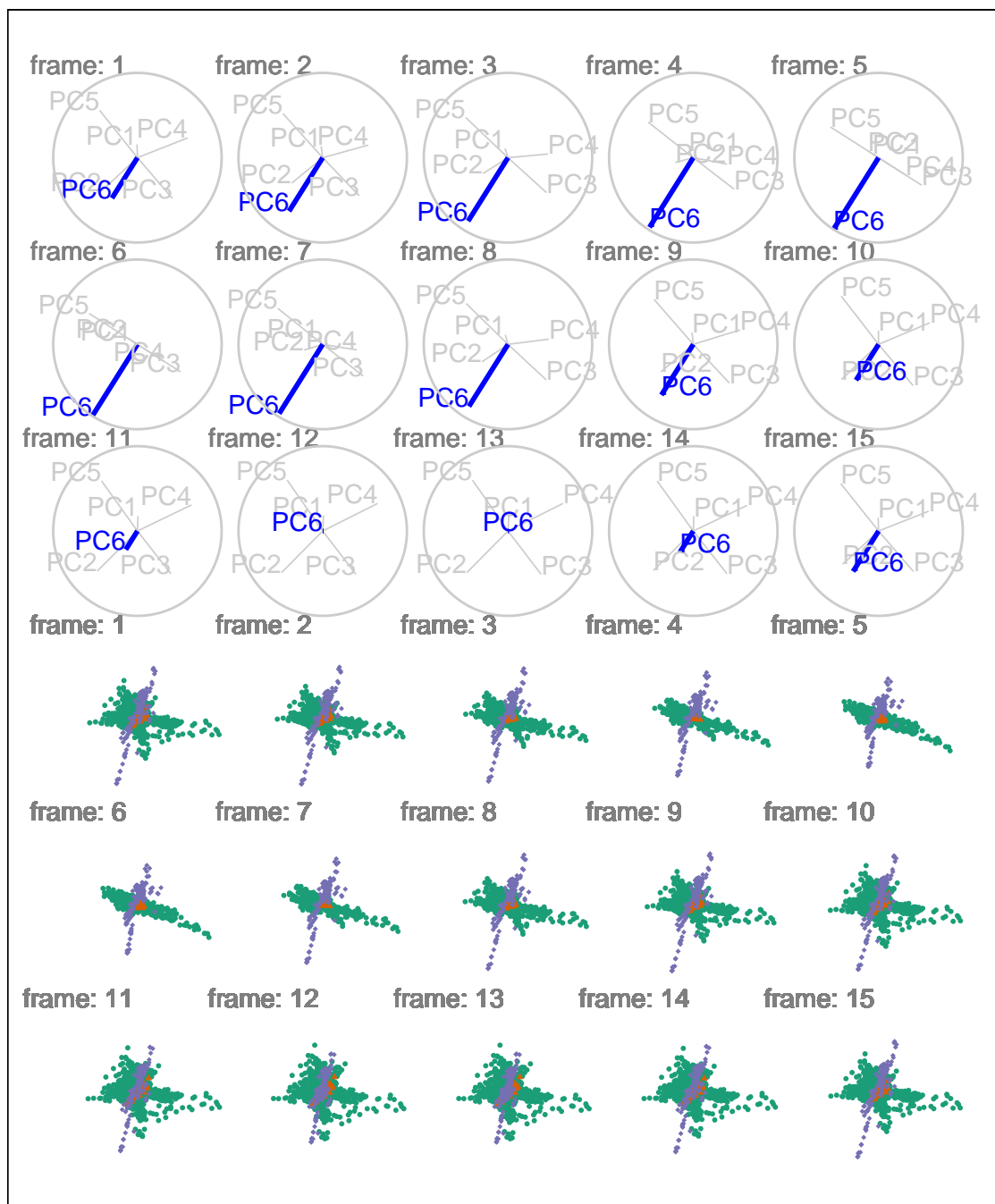


Figure 7: A radial manual tour manipulating the contribution of PC6 within the DIS cluster. Points are colored by experiment type: DIS HERA1+2 in green, dimuon SIDIS in purple, and charm SIDIS in orange. The cluster DIS HERA1+2 (green) is distributed in a cross-shaped plane, charm SIDIS (orange) occupies the center space of this cross. As the contribution of PC6 becomes whole the distributions of DIS HERA1+2 (green) and charm SIDIS (orange) become singular but offset by a small angle. Less evident is the linear dimuon SIDIS (purple) observations approaching the line of view for intermediate values of PC6. An HTML5 version can be viewed at https://nspyrison.netlify.com/thesis/discluster_manualtour_pc6/.

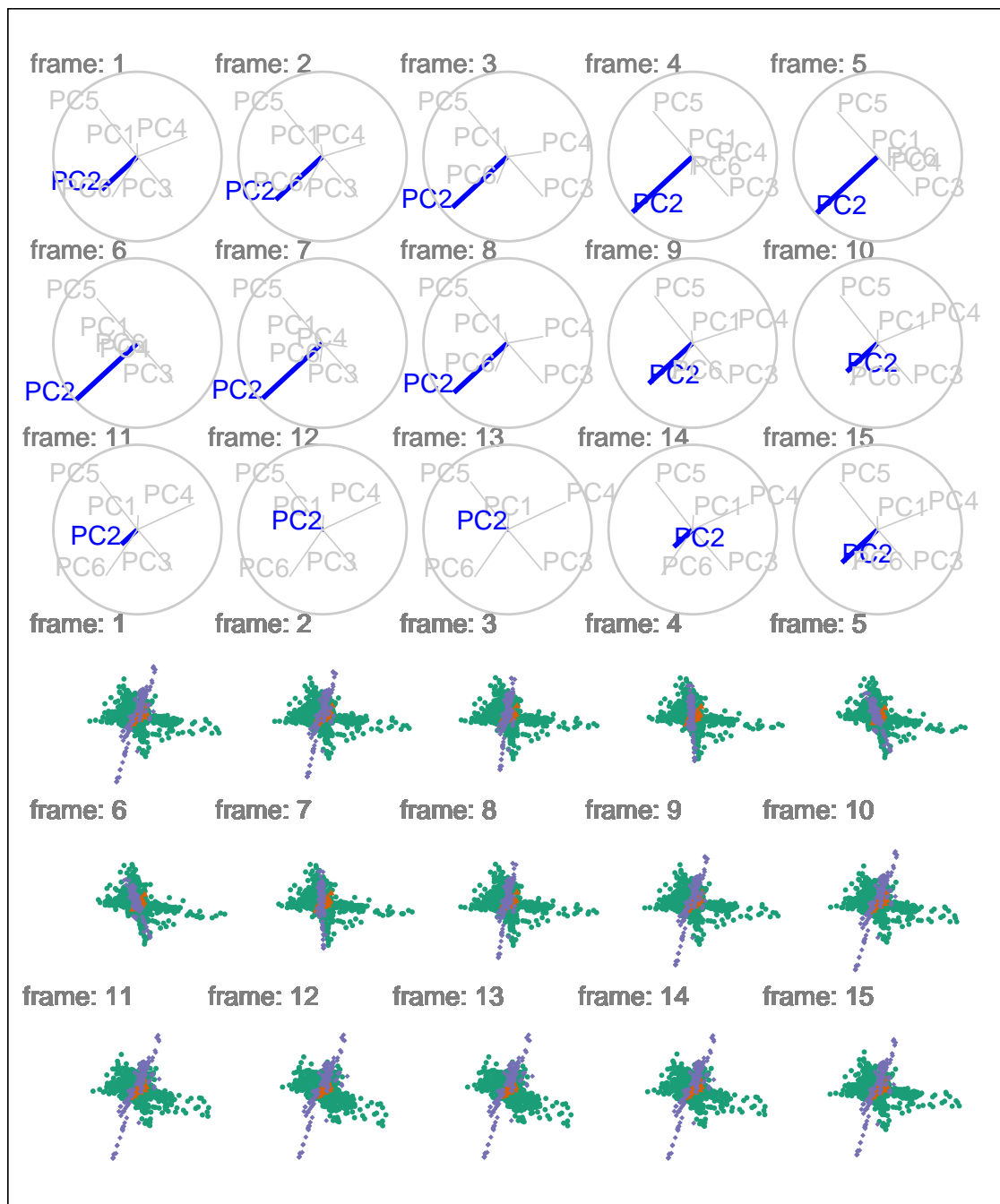


Figure 8: A radial manual tour manipulating the contribution of PC2 within the DIS cluster. Points are colored by experiment type: DIS HERA1+2 in green, dimuon SIDIS in purple, and charm SIDIS in orange. The plane of cross distributed DIS HERA data (green) and a nearly orthogonal jet of dimuon SIDIS (purple) is present. This jet does extend more in the plane of view when the contribution of PC2 is full, giving insight to its orientation. However, less information about the shape of DIS HERA (green) and charm SIDIS (orange) is available compared to PC6 as the manip var. An HTML5 version can be viewed at https://nspyrison.netlify.com/thesis/discluster_manualtour_pc2/.

Discussion

Tours, which are a dynamic linear projection of numeric multivariate data, play an important role in data visualization; they extend the dimensionality of visuals while data- and parameter-spaces become ever larger. This research has modified the algorithm producing manual tours which and has made this functionality available in package **spinifex**. The package adds to **tourr**, extending the graphics offerings that can be used to display tours.

Radial manual tours were applied to a dataset across different experiments of hadronic collisions. The importance of selecting the correct manip var, as demonstrated by comparing tours of varying amounts of structural information. Manual tours, by controlling the contribution of the manip var on the projection, enable analysts to explore the sensitivity that variable has on the structure of the projection. This information can be used by domain experts to identify which variables are probing which parameter spaces and how sensitive structural features are to different variables. This insight can be indispensable for variable inclusion/exclusion, and in higher-level decisions, such as meta-analysis, to suggest directions of future research.

Future research on the algorithm would include extending it for use in 3D projections. The addition of another dimension theoretically allows for improved perception. In some frameworks, such as the game engine **unity**, this would allow for the exploration in immersive virtual reality or mixed reality, which may further allow for a better perception of structure and aid in higher-dimensional function visualization. Functions with many parameters suffer from the same dimensionality problem as data while their possible values lie on a surface of values rather than discrete points. Occulation, or the closer surface blocking further surfaces, will likely be an issue that may be alleviated by the use of wire mesh, changing opacity, or looking at sections of the projections known as projections (Furnas and Buja 1994).

The **tourr** package provides many other geometric displays with the `tourr::display_*` family. These geometric options could be integrated into the **ggplot2** framework for display on **plotly** and **gganimate**. Additionally, the **animation** package Xie et al. (2018) could be implemented for another graphics framework. However, **animation** builds from **base** graphics while **spinifex** utilizes **ggplot2** graphics, a significant paradigm shift, which may have a low return on investment.

The Givens rotations and Householder reflections as outlined in Buja et al. (2005) could also be added. Currently, Gram-Schmidt is the only form of frame interpolation used. In a Givens rotation, the x and y components (for example $\theta = 0, \pi/2$) of the in-plane rotation are calculated separately and would be applied sequentially to produce the radial rotation. Householder reflections define reflection axes to project points on to the axes to generate rotations.

Having script-only interaction with tours causes a significant barrier to entry. To a lesser extent, **plotly** offers some static interactions with the contained object, such as tooltips, brushing, and linking without communicating back to the R console. The development of a dynamic graphical user interface, perhaps with the use of a **shiny** (Chang et al. 2018) application, would mitigate the barrier to entry, allow for more rapid analysis, and offer an approachable demo tool. The user could easily switch between variables to control, adjust the interpolation step angle, or flag/save specific frame basis sets.

Acknowledgments

This article was created in R (R Core Team 2018), using **knitr** (Xie 2014) and **rmarkdown** (Xie, Allaire, and Grolemund 2018), with code generating the examples inline. The source files for this article be found at github.com/nspyrison/spinifex_paper/. The source code for the **spinifex** package can be found at github.com/nspyrison/spinifex/.

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