## Dimension reduction, embeddings

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• Embeddings, distortion, Johnson-Lindenstrauss

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- Further embeddings into Euclidean space

## Embeddings, distortion

**Definition.** An embedding f from the metric space  $(X, \operatorname{dist}_X)$  to  $(Y, \operatorname{dist}_Y)$  is a K-bi-Lipschitz if there exists a c > 0 such that for all  $x, x' \in X$  we have

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If  $Y = \mathbb{R}^d$ , then we want

 $\operatorname{dist}(x, x') \le \|f(x) - f(x')\|_2 \le \Delta \operatorname{dist}(x, x')$ 

### 

### Why distortion is necessary



attained when  $\boldsymbol{a}$  is circumcenter



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In general, *n*-star needs distortion  $\Omega(n^{1/d})$  when  $Y = \mathbb{R}^d$ 

### The Johnson-Lindenstrauss Lemma

**Theorem (Johnson, Lindenstrauss 1984)** Given n points  $P \subseteq \mathbb{R}^{n-1}$  and  $\varepsilon \in (0,1]$ , there is an embedding  $f: P \to \mathbb{R}^d$  with distortion  $1 + \varepsilon$  where  $d = O(\frac{\log n}{\varepsilon^2})$ .

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- works for  $\mathbb{R}^{any}$
- f can be: orthogonal projection to random d-subspace
- can be derandomized (Engebretsen et al. 2002)

Almost equidistant set in  $\mathbb{R}^{O(\log n)}$ Let  $e_i = (0, \dots, 0, 1, 0, \dots, 0)$ .

The set  $e_1, \ldots, e_n$  is *equidistant*. (unit simplex). Can't be embedded isometrically into  $\mathbb{R}^d$  if d < n - 1. But! Almost equidistant set in  $\mathbb{R}^{O(\log n)}$ Let  $e_i = (0, \dots, 0, 1, 0, \dots, 0)$ .

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**Folklore.** For any fixed  $\varepsilon > 0$ , there is a set P of n points in  $\mathbb{R}^{O(\log n)}$  s.t.  $\|p - p'\|_2 \in [1, 1 + \varepsilon]$  for all  $p, p' \in P$ .

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Proof. Use JL lemma on simplex above.

# Random partitions

Goal: partition (X, dist) into clusters of diameter at most  $\Delta$ , s.t.  $x, y \in X$  are in the same cluster iff  $\text{dist}(x, y) \leq \Delta$ .

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### Clearly unattainable!

 $\mathcal{P}_X$ : set of all partitions of X. Pick a random partition  $\Pi \in \mathcal{P}_X$  from some distribution  $\mathcal{D}$  over  $\mathcal{P}_X$ . Revised goal:  $\Pr(x, x' \text{ are separated in } \Pi)$  is small if  $\operatorname{dist}(x, x')$  is small.

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Example:  $X = \mathbb{R}$ . Partition:  $[x_0 + i\Delta, x_0 + (i+1)\Delta]$ , where  $x_0$  is random shift.

$$\Pr(x, y \text{ are separated}) \leq \frac{|x - y|}{\Delta}$$

### Random partition for any metric space

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Clustering quality

#### **Lemma.** For any $x \in X$ and $t \leq \Delta/8$ ,

$$\Pr\left(B(x,t) \not\subseteq \Pi(x)\right) \le \frac{8t}{\Delta} \ln \frac{M}{m}$$

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Proof. Let U = pts w where  $B(w, \Delta/2) \cap B(x, t) \neq \emptyset$   $U = (w_1, \dots, w_{|U|}) :=$  sorted by increasing distance from x.  $\mathcal{E}_k :=$  event that  $w_k$  is first in  $\sigma$  s.t.  $\Pi(w_k) \cap B(x, t) \neq \emptyset$ , BUT  $B(x, t) \notin \Pi(w_k)$ 

If  $B(x,t) \not\subseteq \Pi(x)$  then some  $\mathcal{E}_k$  must occur.

# $\mathcal{E}_k$ only if R in some range Let $I_k = [\operatorname{dist}(x, w_k) - t, \operatorname{dist}(x, w_k) + t].$

Claim:  $R \notin I_k \Rightarrow \Pr(\mathcal{E}_k) = 0$ 

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If  $d(x, w_k) < R - t$ , then  $B(w_k, R) \supseteq B(x, t)$ , so  $Pr(\mathcal{E}_k) = 0$ . If  $d(x, w_k) > R + t$ , then  $B(w_k, R) \cap B(x, t) = \emptyset$ , so  $\mathcal{E}_k$  is impossible.

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$$\Rightarrow \Pr(w_i) = 0 \text{ if } i \leq m \text{ or } i > M$$

$$\Pr(\mathcal{E}_k) = \Pr\left(\mathcal{E}_k \cap (R \in I_k)\right) = \Pr(R \in \mathcal{A}_k) \Pr(\mathcal{E}_k \mid R \in I_k)$$

$$\geq \frac{length(I_k)}{\Delta/2 - \Delta/4} = \frac{2t}{\Delta/4} = \frac{8t}{\Delta}$$

If  $w_1, \ldots, w_{k-1}$  are closer to x than  $w_k$ , so if one of them  $(w_i)$  occurs before  $w_k$  in  $\sigma$ , then  $w_k$  is not first to scoop from B(x,t) as  $dist(x,w_i) \le d(x,w_t) \le R+t$  $\Rightarrow \Pr(\mathcal{E}_k \mid R \in I_k) \leq \frac{1}{k}$ 

## Random partition quality estimate

$$\Pr(B(x,t) \not\subseteq \Pi(x)) = \sum_{k=1}^{|U|} \Pr(\mathcal{E}_k) = \sum_{k=m+1}^{M} \Pr(\mathcal{E}_k)$$
$$= \sum_{k=m+1}^{M} \frac{\Pr(R \in I_k) \Pr(\mathcal{E}_k \mid R \in I_k)}{\leq \sum_{k=m+1}^{M} \frac{8t}{\Delta} \frac{1}{k}}$$
$$< \frac{8t}{\Delta} \ln \frac{M}{m}$$

# Embedding into HSTs

## HSTs and quadtrees

**Definition.** A hierarchically well-separated tree (HST) is a metric space on the leaves of a rooted tree T where each vertex has a label  $\Delta \geq 0$  s.t.

- leaves have label  $\Delta_v=0$
- each internal vertex v has  $\Delta_v>0,$  and for any child u:  $\Delta_u\leq \Delta_v.$
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Example: quadtree. T = quadtree,  $\Delta_v =$  diameter of cell v.  $\|x - x'\|_2 \le \Delta_{lca(x,x')} = \operatorname{dist}_T(x,x')$ 

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k-HST: a HST where  $\Delta_u \leq \Delta_v/k$ 

# Probabilistic embedding into a 2-HST

Randomized alg. for non-contracting embedding from X into a HST T has probabilistic distortion:

$$\max_{x,y\in X} \frac{\mathbf{E}(\operatorname{dist}_T(x,y))}{\operatorname{dist}_X(x,y)}$$

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*Proof.* Wlog. scale X so diam(X) = 1. Start with P = X, set T's root label to 1. Compute random partition with  $\Delta = diam(P)/2$ , set the diam of partition classes as child labels. Recurse on each child.

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level of node v in T:  $\lceil \log(\Delta_v) \rceil \leq 0$ 

Bounding distortion of rand. HST embedding  $x, y \in X$  have lca u in T.

$$\operatorname{dist}_T(x,y) = \Delta_u \le 2^{level(u)}$$

 $\sigma$ : path from root of T to leaf x.  $\sigma_i$ : level i node in  $\sigma$  (if exists)

- $\mathcal{E}_i$ : event that  $B_X(x, \operatorname{dist}_X(x, y)) \not\subseteq \Pi(\sigma_i)$ .
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We have  $d_T(x, y) \leq \sum_i 2^i Y_i$ . Set  $j := \lfloor \log \operatorname{dist}_X(x, y) \rfloor$ . If i < j, then  $\Pr(\mathcal{E}_i) = 0 \Rightarrow \mathbb{E}(Y_i) = 0$ . Bounding distortion of rand. HST embedding  $x, y \in X$  have lca u in T.

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If  $i < j$ , then  $\Pr(\mathcal{E}_i) = 0 \Rightarrow \mathbb{E}(Y_i) = 0$ .

If  $i \geq j$ , then

$$\mathbb{E}(Y_i) = \Pr(\mathcal{E}_i \cap \overline{\mathcal{E}_{i+1}} \cap \dots \cap \overline{\mathcal{E}_0}) \le \frac{8 \operatorname{dist}_X(x, y)}{2^i} \ln \frac{|B_X(x, 2^i)|}{|B_X(x, 2^i/8)|}$$

## Distortion bound wrap-up

Set 
$$n_i = B_X(x, 2^i)$$
, and  $t := \operatorname{dist}_X(x, y)$ .

$$\mathbb{E}(d_T(x,y)) \leq \mathbb{E}\left(\sum_i 2^i Y_i\right) = \sum_i 2^i \mathbb{E}(Y_i)$$
$$\leq \sum_{i=j}^0 2^i \frac{8t}{2^i} \ln \frac{n_i}{n_{i-3}} = 8t \ln \left(\prod_{i=j}^0 \frac{n_i}{n_{i-3}}\right)$$
$$\leq 8t \ln(n_0 n_1 n_2) \leq 24t \ln n.$$

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 $O(k^2n)$ 

## Application: k-median approximation in metric spaces

**Theorem.** There is an  $O(\log n)$ -approximation for k-median in any metric space  $(X, \operatorname{dist}_X)$ .

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*Proof.* Emebed  $P \subseteq X$  into a HST T.

Compute cluster centers C in T.

C induces clustering  $\mathcal{X}$  in P (center of p is  $nn_X(p, C)$ . Return  $C, \mathcal{X}$ . OPT:  $(C_{opt}, \mathcal{X}_{opt})$ 

 $\gamma(C, \operatorname{dist}_X) \leq \gamma(C, \operatorname{dist}_T) \leq \gamma(C_{opt}, \operatorname{dist}_T)$ 

 $= \sum_{p \in P} \operatorname{dist}_T(p, C_{opt}) \le \sum_{p \in P} \operatorname{dist}_T(p, nn_X(p, C_{opt}))$ 

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 $\gamma(C, \operatorname{dist}_X) \leq \gamma(C, \operatorname{dist}_T) \leq \gamma(C_{opt}, \operatorname{dist}_T)$  $= \sum \operatorname{dist}_T(p, C_{opt}) \le \sum \operatorname{dist}_T(p, nn_X(p, C_{opt}))$  $p \in P$  $\mathbb{E}(\gamma(C, \operatorname{dist}_X)) = \sum \mathbb{E}(\operatorname{dist}_T(p, nn_X(p, C_{opt})))$  $p \in P$  $= \sum O(\operatorname{dist}_X(p, nn_X(p, C_{opt})) \log n)$  $p \in P$  $= O(\gamma(\mathcal{X}_{opt}, C_{opt}, \operatorname{dist}_X) \cdot \log n)$ 

# Further embeddings into $\ell_2$

## Embedding into $\ell_2$

**Theorem (Bourgain 1985).** Any *n*-pt metric space can be embedded into  $\mathbb{R}^{O(\log n)}$  (with  $\ell_2$  metric) with distortion  $O(\log n)$ .

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Some proof ideas for weaker version:

- forget dimension (use JL in the end)
- for a given resolution r, use O(log n) random HST embedding of diameter r.
   Flip coin for each cluster; if heads, create an anchor set Y<sub>i</sub>.
- embedding: j-th coord of x wrt. anchors Y<sub>j</sub> is dist(x, Y). This is non-contracting.
   For each resolution we get O(log n) coords each

### Proof ideas for weak Bourgain, ctd.

- Let x, y arbitrary, and r a resolution where  $r/2 < \operatorname{dist}(x, y)/2 < r$ .  $\Rightarrow x$  and y are in different clusters, and with prob. 1/2 the ball  $B(x, O(1/\log n))$  is contained in the cluster of x
- Chernoff  $\Rightarrow$  w.h.p. a constant proportion of the coordiantes j will differ by  $\Omega(r/\log n)$  (when x, y get different coin flips)
- if they differ on k flips, then these cords contribute distance at least  $\Omega(\sqrt{k}/\log n).$
- spread  $\Phi$ : ratio of largest/smallest distance in X. By 'snapping' distances less than r/n or much more than r, we get new metrics on X with spread  $\Phi = O(n^2)$ , and there are  $O(n^2)$  distinct metrics, get coords from each.

## Embedding special metrics into $\ell_2$

Tree metric: induced by possitively edge-weighted tree.

Theorem (Matoušek 1999). Any tree metric can be embedded into  $\ell_2$  with distortion  $O(\sqrt{\log \log n})$ .

Distortion bound is tight (up to constant factors.)

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**Theorem (Rao 1999).** Let  $\mathcal{G}$  be graph class that excludes some forbidden minor H (e.g. planar graphs.). Then any  $\mathcal{G}$ -metric can be mebedded into  $\ell_2$  with distortion  $O(\sqrt{\log n})$ .

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