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**The differential geometry of the space of symmetric positive-definite matrices and  
its applications in engineering**

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# The differential geometry of the space of symmetric positive-definite matrices and its applications in engineering

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# Space of symmetric positive-definite matrices

Let

$$\mathcal{S}(n) := \{\mathbf{A} \in \mathcal{M}(n), \mathbf{A}^T = \mathbf{A}\},$$

and

$$\mathcal{P}(n) := \{\mathbf{A} \in \mathcal{S}(n), \mathbf{A} > \mathbf{0}\}.$$

Then  $\mathcal{P}(n)$  is the interior of a pointed **convex cone**.

**cone:**  $\mathbf{A} \in \mathcal{P}(n) \Rightarrow t\mathbf{A} \in \mathcal{P}(n), t > 0.$

**convex:**  $\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{B} \in \mathcal{P}(n) \Rightarrow t\mathbf{A} + (1-t)\mathbf{B} \in \mathcal{P}(n), 0 \leq t \leq 1.$

The **boundary** of  $\mathcal{P}(n)$  is the set of **singular** positive semidefinite matrices.



# Differential geometry of $\mathcal{P}(n)$

The set  $\mathcal{P}(n)$  is a **differentiable manifold** of dimension  $\frac{1}{2}n(n+1)$ .

The tangent space to  $\mathcal{P}(n)$  at any of its points  $\mathbf{P}$  is

$$T_{\mathbf{P}}\mathcal{P}(n) = \{\mathbf{P}\} \times \mathcal{S}(n).$$

On  $T_{\mathbf{P}}\mathcal{P}(n)$ , we introduce the inner product

$$\langle \mathbf{A}, \mathbf{B} \rangle_{\mathbf{P}} := \text{tr}(\mathbf{P}^{-1}\mathbf{A}\mathbf{P}^{-1}\mathbf{B})$$

which depends smoothly on the base point  $\mathbf{P}$ .

This inner product yields a natural **Riemannian metric** on  $\mathcal{P}(n)$  given by

$$ds^2 = \text{tr}(\mathbf{P}^{-1}d\mathbf{P}\mathbf{P}^{-1}d\mathbf{P}) = \| \mathbf{P}^{-1/2}d\mathbf{P}\mathbf{P}^{-1/2} \|_F^2,$$

where  $d\mathbf{P}$  is the symmetric matrix with elements  $(dP_{ij})$ .

## Some references

This metric was first introduced by Siegel, and studied by Atkinson & Mitchell, Burbea, Maaß, Skovgaard, etc.



C. L. SIEGEL, *Symplectic Geometry*, Academic Press, New York, 1964.



C. ATKINSON, A. F. MITCHELL, *Rao's distance measure*, *Sankhya*, Ser. A **43**, (1981), pp. 345–365.



J. BURBEA, *Informative geometry of probability spaces*, *Expo. Math.*, **4** (1986), pp. 347–378.



H. MAASS, *Siegel's Modular Forms and Dirichlet Series*, *Lecture Notes in Math.* 216, Springer-Verlag, Heidelberg, 1971.



L.T. SKOVGAARD, *A Riemannian geometry of the multivariate normal model*, *Scandinavian J. Statist.*, **11** (1984), pp. 211–233.

More recently, Amari, Bhatia, Bhatia & Holbrook, Calvo & Oller, Lawson & Lim, M.M., Petz, Zérai & M.M., etc.

## What's special about this metric?

This metric arises naturally from the **log barrier function**

$$\Psi(\mathbf{P}) = -\ln \det \mathbf{P}$$

used in cone programming. (Y. Nesterov, ...)

In statistical mechanics the negative of this function is called the **Boltzmann entropy**. (D. Petz, ...)

In information theory the negative of this function is called the **information potential**.

# The unidimensional picture

When  $n = 1$ , this metric becomes  $ds = \frac{dp}{p}$  which can be integrated to yields

$$\ln p = s + c,$$

or equivalently

$$p = C \exp s.$$

So the Riemannian distance between two positive numbers  $p$  and  $q$  is

$$|\log p - \log q|.$$

Recall that in the **hyperbolic geometry** of the Poincaré upper half-plane, the length of the geodesic segment joining the points  $P(a, y_1)$  and  $Q(a, y_2)$ ,  $y_1, y_2 > 0$ , is  $|\log y_1 - \log y_2|$ .

# Invariance properties

## Proposition

The Riemannian metric is invariant under

- i) Congruent transformations:  $\mathbf{P} \rightarrow \mathbf{CPC}^T$ , i.e.,

$$ds^2(\mathbf{CPC}^T) = ds^2(\mathbf{P}),$$

- ii) Inversion:  $\mathbf{P} \rightarrow \mathbf{P}^{-1}$ , i.e.,

$$ds^2(\mathbf{P}^{-1}) = ds^2(\mathbf{P}).$$

$$\mathbf{P} \rightarrow \mathbf{CPC}^T \implies d\mathbf{P} \rightarrow \mathbf{C}d\mathbf{P}\mathbf{C}^T,$$

$$\mathbf{P} \rightarrow \mathbf{P}^{-1} \implies d\mathbf{P} \rightarrow -\mathbf{P}^{-1}d\mathbf{P}\mathbf{P}^{-1}.$$

## Parametrization of $\mathcal{P}(n)$

$\mathcal{P}(n)$  is a Riemannian manifold of dimension  $\frac{1}{2}n(n+1)$ .

An element  $\mathbf{P}$  of  $\mathcal{P}(n)$  can be parametrized in many different ways. For example, it can be parametrized by:

- the  $\frac{1}{2}n(n+1)$  entries of an invertible upper triangular matrix  $\mathbf{L}$  (Cholesky decomposition:  $\mathbf{P} = \mathbf{L}\mathbf{L}^T$ ).
- the  $\frac{1}{2}n(n+1)$  entries of a symmetric matrix  $\mathbf{S}$  (Exponential map:  $\mathbf{P} = \exp \mathbf{S}$ ).
- the  $\frac{1}{2}n(n-1)$  entries of an orthogonal matrix  $\mathbf{R}$  and the  $n$  elements of a diagonal matrix  $\mathbf{D}$  (Spectral decomposition:  $\mathbf{S}\mathbf{P} = \mathbf{R}\mathbf{D}\mathbf{R}^T$ ).
- the  $\frac{1}{2}n(n+1)$  entries of  $\mathbf{P}$

$$\mathbf{P} = \sum_{i=1}^n P_{ii} \mathbf{E}_{ii} + \sum_{1 \leq i < j \leq n} P_{ij} (\mathbf{E}_{ij} + \mathbf{E}_{ji}).$$

# Matrix vectorization

Let  $\mathbf{A}$  be an  $n \times n$  matrix and let  $A_j$  be its  $j$ -th column. We denote by  $\text{vec } \mathbf{A}$  the  $n^2$ -column vector

$$\mathbf{A} = [A_{.1} \quad \dots \quad A_{.n}], \quad \text{vec } \mathbf{A} = \begin{bmatrix} A_{.1} \\ \vdots \\ A_{.n} \end{bmatrix}.$$

We recall that

$$(\text{vec } \mathbf{A})^T \text{vec } \mathbf{B} = \text{tr}(\mathbf{A}^T \mathbf{B}),$$

and

$$(\text{vec } \mathbf{A})^T (\mathbf{B} \otimes \mathbf{C}) \text{vec } \mathbf{D} = \text{tr}(\mathbf{D} \mathbf{B}^T \mathbf{A}^T \mathbf{C}).$$

## Vectorization of a symmetric matrix

If  $\mathbf{A}$  is symmetric

$$\mathbf{A} = \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & \dots & a_{1,n} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & \ddots & \vdots \\ \vdots & \ddots & \ddots & a_{n-1,n} \\ a_{n1} & \dots & a_{n,n-1} & a_{nn} \end{bmatrix}$$

then  $\frac{1}{2}n(n-1)$  elements of  $\text{vec}(\mathbf{A})$  are **redundant**.

We denote by  $\mathbf{v}(\mathbf{A})$  the  $\frac{1}{2}n(n+1)$ -vector that is obtained from  $\text{vec}(\mathbf{A})$  by eliminating the redundant elements

$$\text{vec} \mathbf{A} = \mathbf{D}_n \mathbf{v}(\mathbf{A}).$$

$\mathbf{D}_n$  is called the **duplication matrix**. It has full column rank  $\frac{1}{2}n(n+1)$ , so that

$$\mathbf{v}(\mathbf{A}) = \mathbf{D}_n^+ \text{vec} \mathbf{A}.$$

# Duplication matrix in $\mathcal{S}(3)$

When  $n = 3$ , we have

$$\text{vec} \mathbf{A} = [a_{11} \quad a_{21} \quad a_{31} \quad a_{12} \quad a_{22} \quad a_{32} \quad a_{13} \quad a_{23} \quad a_{33}]^T,$$

$$v(\mathbf{A}) = [a_{11} \quad a_{22} \quad a_{33} \quad a_{21} \quad a_{32} \quad a_{31}]^T,$$

and

$$\mathbf{D}_3 = \left[ \begin{array}{ccc|cc|c} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ \hline 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ \hline 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{array} \right], \quad \mathbf{D}_3^{+T} = \left[ \begin{array}{ccc|cc|c} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \frac{1}{2} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \frac{1}{2} \\ \hline 0 & 0 & 0 & \frac{1}{2} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \frac{1}{2} & 0 \\ \hline 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \frac{1}{2} \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \frac{1}{2} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{array} \right]$$

## Some useful properties

For an invertible matrix  $A$  in  $\mathcal{S}(n)$ , we have

$$[D_n^T(A \otimes A)D_n]^{-1} = D_n^+(A^{-1} \otimes A^{-1})D_n^{+T},$$

and

$$\det[D_n^T(A \otimes A)D_n] = 2^{\frac{1}{2}n(n-1)}(\det A)^{n+1}.$$



J. R. MAGNUS, *Linear Structures*, Oxford University Press, London, 1988.



J. R. MAGNUS AND H. NEUDECKER, *The elimination matrix: some lemmas and applications*, SIAM J. Alg. Disc. Meth., **1** (1980), pp. 422–449.

# Metric tensor

Using the reduced vectorization of  $d\mathbf{P}$  we have

$$ds^2(\mathbf{P}) = v(d\mathbf{P})^T \mathbf{G}(\mathbf{P}) v(d\mathbf{P}),$$

where  $\mathbf{G}(\mathbf{P})$  is a symmetric positive-definite matrix called the metric tensor.

## Proposition (Zéraï & M.M.)

*The matrix  $\mathbf{G}$  of components of the metric tensor is*

$$[g_{\alpha\beta}(\mathbf{P})] = \mathbf{G}(\mathbf{P}) = \mathbf{D}_n^+ (\mathbf{P}^{-1} \otimes \mathbf{P}^{-1}) \mathbf{D}_n^{+T},$$

*the matrix  $\mathbf{G}^{-1}$  of components of the inverse metric tensor is*

$$[g^{\alpha\beta}(\mathbf{P})] = \mathbf{G}^{-1}(\mathbf{P}) = \mathbf{D}_n^+ (\mathbf{P} \otimes \mathbf{P}) \mathbf{D}_n^{+T},$$

*and  $\det(\mathbf{G}(\mathbf{P})) = 2^{n(n-1)/2} (\det(\mathbf{P}))^{(n+1)}$ .*

# Christoffel symbols

The *Christoffel symbols* (of the second kind) are:

$$\Gamma_{\alpha\beta}^{\delta} = \frac{1}{2}g^{\gamma\delta}(\partial_{\alpha}g_{\gamma\beta} + \partial_{\beta}g_{\gamma\alpha} - \partial_{\gamma}g_{\alpha\beta}).$$

## Proposition (Zéraï & M.M.)

*In the coordinate system  $(p^{\alpha})$ , the components of the Christoffel symbols are given by*

$$\Gamma_{\alpha\beta}^{\gamma}(\mathbf{P}) = -[D_n^T (P^{-1} \otimes E^{\gamma}) D_n]_{\alpha\beta}, \quad 1 \leq \alpha, \beta, \gamma \leq \frac{1}{2}n(n+1),$$

*where  $\{E^{\gamma}\}_{1 \leq \gamma \leq n(n+1)/2}$  is the dual basis to  $\{E_{\gamma}\}_{1 \leq \gamma \leq n(n+1)/2}$ .*

# Christoffel symbols for $\mathcal{P}(3)$

$$\Gamma^1 = \frac{-1}{\rho} \begin{bmatrix} s^1 & 0 & 0 & s^4 & 0 & s^6 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ s^4 & 0 & 0 & s^2 & 0 & s^5 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ s^6 & 0 & 0 & s^5 & 0 & s^3 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \Gamma^2 = \frac{-1}{\rho} \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & s^2 & 0 & s^4 & s^5 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & s^4 & 0 & s^1 & s^6 & 0 \\ 0 & s^5 & 0 & s^6 & s^3 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix},$$

$$\Gamma^3 = \frac{-1}{\rho} \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & s^3 & 0 & s^5 & s^6 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & s^5 & 0 & s^2 & s^4 \\ 0 & 0 & s^6 & 0 & s^4 & s^1 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \Gamma^4 = \frac{-1}{2\rho} \begin{bmatrix} 0 & s^4 & 0 & s^1 & s^6 & 0 \\ s^4 & 0 & 0 & s^2 & 0 & s^5 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ s^1 & s^2 & 0 & 2s^4 & s^5 & s^6 \\ s^6 & 0 & 0 & s^5 & 0 & s^3 \\ 0 & s^5 & 0 & s^6 & s^3 & 0 \end{bmatrix},$$

$$\Gamma^5 = \frac{-1}{2\rho} \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & s^5 & 0 & s^2 & s^4 \\ 0 & s^5 & 0 & s^6 & s^3 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & s^6 & 0 & s^4 & s^1 \\ 0 & s^2 & s^3 & s^4 & 2s^5 & s^6 \\ 0 & s^4 & 0 & s^1 & s^6 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \Gamma^6 = \frac{-1}{2\rho} \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & s^6 & 0 & s^4 & s^1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ s^6 & 0 & 0 & s^5 & 0 & s^3 \\ 0 & 0 & s^5 & 0 & s^2 & s^4 \\ s^4 & 0 & 0 & s^2 & 0 & s^5 \\ s^1 & 0 & s^3 & s^4 & s^5 & 2s^6 \end{bmatrix}.$$

## Geodesics on $\mathcal{P}(n)$

Let  $\mathbf{P} : [a, b] \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(n)$  such that  $\mathbf{P}(a) = \mathbf{P}_1$  and  $\mathbf{P}(b) = \mathbf{P}_2$ , be a “sufficiently smooth” curve on  $\mathcal{P}(n)$ .

The length of the curve  $\mathbf{P}(t)$  is defined by

$$\mathcal{L}(\mathbf{P}) := \int_a^b [g_{\mathbf{P}}(\dot{\mathbf{P}}(t), \dot{\mathbf{P}}(t))]^{1/2} dt.$$

Extremal points of  $\mathcal{L}$  are called **geodesics**. They satisfy the second-order differential equation

$$\ddot{\mathbf{P}} - \dot{\mathbf{P}}\mathbf{P}^{-1}\dot{\mathbf{P}} = \mathbf{0}.$$

The geodesic emanating from  $\mathbf{P}_0 \in \mathcal{P}(n)$  in the direction of  $\mathbf{S} \in \mathcal{S}(n)$  is

$$\mathbf{P}(t) = \mathbf{P}_0^{1/2} \exp(t\mathbf{P}_0^{-1/2}\mathbf{S}\mathbf{P}_0^{-1/2})\mathbf{P}_0^{1/2}, \quad t \in \mathbb{R}.$$

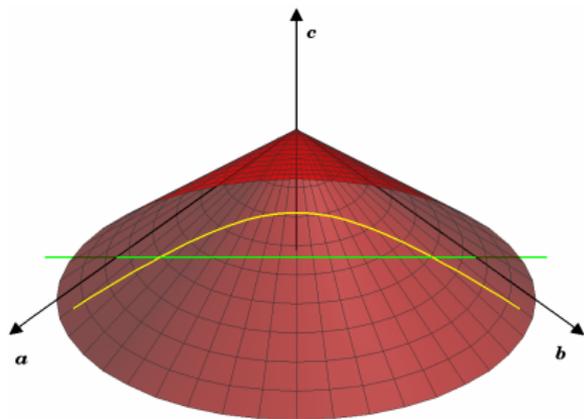
# Geodesics on $\mathcal{P}(n)$

Euclidean geodesics:

$$P_E(t) = (1 - t)A + tB, \quad t \in [0, 1].$$

Riemannian geodesics:

$$P_R(t) = A(A^{-1}B)^t, \quad t \in \mathbb{R}.$$



It follows from Hopf-Rinow theorem that the metric space  $(\mathcal{P}(n), d_R)$  is a complete metric space, whereas  $(\mathcal{P}(n), d_E)$  is not complete.

# Totally geodesic submanifolds of $\mathcal{P}(n)$

- Positive-definite diagonal matrices

$$\mathcal{D}(n) = \{\mathbf{D} \in \mathcal{P}(n), \mathbf{D} \text{ is diagonal}\}.$$

- Geodesic lines

$$\{\mathbf{P} \in \mathcal{P}(n), \mathbf{P} = \mathbf{A} \exp(t\mathbf{A}^{-1}\mathbf{S}\mathbf{A}^{-1})\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{A} \in GL(n), \mathbf{S} \in \mathcal{S}(n), t \in \mathbb{R}\}.$$

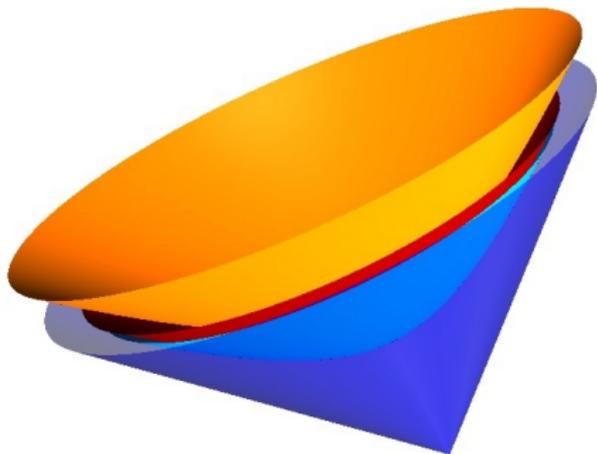
- Positive-definite matrices of constant determinant

$$\mathcal{S}\mathcal{P}_c(n) = \{\mathbf{p} \in \mathcal{P}(n), \det \mathbf{D} = c\}.$$

# The hyperbolic geometry of $\mathcal{P}(n)$

The space  $\mathcal{P}(n)$  can be seen as a foliated manifold whose codimension-one leaves are isomorphic to the hyperbolic space  $\mathbb{H}^p$ , where  $p = \frac{1}{2}n(n+1) - 1$ :

$$\mathcal{P}(n) = \mathcal{S} \mathcal{P}_1(n) \times \mathbb{R}_*^+$$



## Riemannian distance

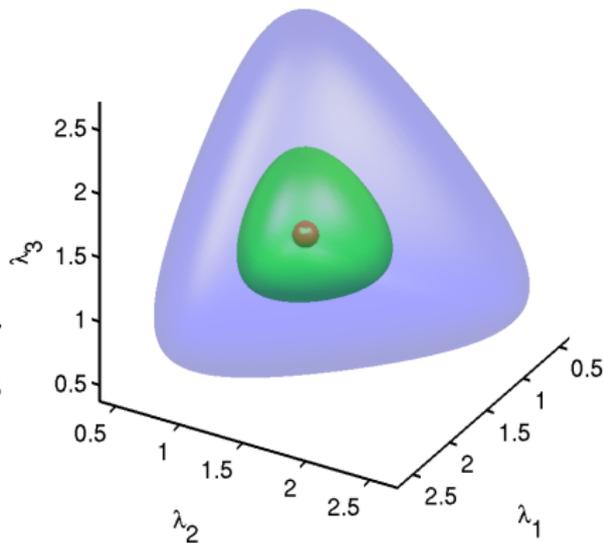
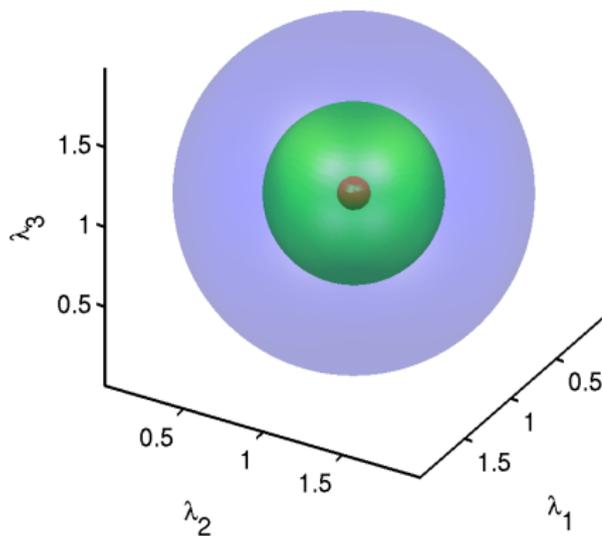
The **Riemannian distance** between  $\mathbf{P}_1$  and  $\mathbf{P}_2$  in  $\mathcal{P}(n)$  is the length of the geodesic curve joining them

$$\begin{aligned}d_{\mathcal{P}(n)}(\mathbf{P}_1, \mathbf{P}_2) &= \|\text{Log}(\mathbf{P}_1^{-1/2}\mathbf{P}_2\mathbf{P}_1^{-1/2})\|_F \\ &= \left[ \sum_{i=1}^n \ln^2 \lambda_i \right]^{\frac{1}{2}},\end{aligned}$$

where  $\lambda_i, i = 1, \dots, n$ , are the (positive) eigenvalues of  $\mathbf{P}_1^{-1}\mathbf{P}_2$ .

Note that this distance goes to **infinity** as one or both of the matrices approaches the boundary of  $\mathcal{P}(n)$  consisting of **singular** positive semi-definite matrices.

# Spheres on $\mathcal{P}(3)$ centered at the identity



# Differential operators on $\mathcal{P}(n)$

- Gradient

$$\nabla_g f := g^{\alpha\beta} \frac{\partial f}{\partial p^\beta} = \mathbf{D}_n^+(\mathbf{P} \otimes \mathbf{P}) \mathbf{D}_n^{+T} \frac{\partial f}{\partial \mathbf{p}},$$

- Divergence

$$\operatorname{div}_g V := \sqrt{g} \frac{\partial^T}{\partial p^\alpha} \left( \frac{1}{\sqrt{g}} V^\alpha \right) = \sqrt{g} \frac{\partial^T}{\partial \mathbf{p}} \left( \frac{1}{\sqrt{g}} V \right),$$

- Laplacian

$$\Delta_g f := \operatorname{div}_g \nabla_g f = \alpha \frac{\partial^T}{\partial \mathbf{p}} \left( \frac{1}{\alpha} \mathbf{D}_n^+(\mathbf{P} \otimes \mathbf{P}) \mathbf{D}_n^{+T} \frac{\partial f}{\partial \mathbf{p}} \right),$$

where

$$\mathbf{p} = v(\mathbf{P}) = [p^1, \dots, p^{n(n+1)/2}]^T, \quad g = \det(g^{\alpha\beta}) = 2^{n(n-1)/2} (\det \mathbf{P})^{n+1}.$$

# Means and Interpolation



















# Closest isotropic matrix

## Definition

Given a SPD matrix  $A$ , the closest isotropic matrix, with respect to a distance  $d(\cdot, \cdot)$ , is the matrix  $\alpha I$  where  $\alpha$  is the minimizer of  $d(A, \beta I)$  over all  $\beta > 0$ .

Closest Euclidean: (equal trace)

$$A_E = \frac{1}{3} \operatorname{tr}(A) I.$$

Closest Riemannian: (equal determinant)

$$A_R = (\det A)^{1/3} I.$$





# Regularisation of SPD matrix fields

# Diffusion tensor MRI

- Diffusion Tensor Magnetic Resonance Imaging (DT-MRI) is a new modality that provides a non-invasive probe into the microstructure of biological tissues.
- It measures the probability density function for the displacements of particles that undergo Brownian motion due to thermal fluctuations:

$$p(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}_0; \tau) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{(4\pi\tau)^3 \det \mathbf{D}}} \exp \left( -\frac{(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_0)^T \mathbf{D}^{-1} (\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_0)}{4\tau} \right),$$

where  $\mathbf{D}$  is a diffusion tensor.

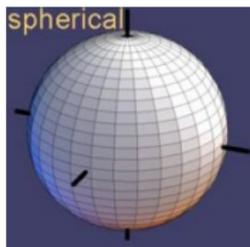
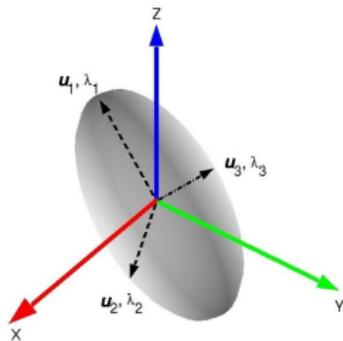


# Diffusion ellipsoids

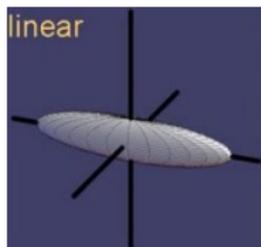
At each voxel, DT-MRI delivers a diffusion tensor (SPD)

$$\mathbf{D} = \begin{pmatrix} D_{xx} & D_{xy} & D_{xz} \\ D_{yx} & D_{yy} & D_{yz} \\ D_{zx} & D_{zy} & D_{zz} \end{pmatrix} = \sum_{i=1}^3 \lambda_i \mathbf{u}_i \otimes \mathbf{u}_i,$$

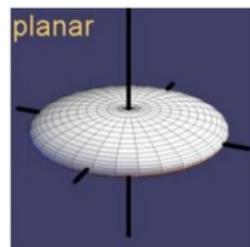
with  $0 < \lambda_1 \leq \lambda_2 \leq \lambda_3$ .



$$\lambda_1 \sim \lambda_2 \sim \lambda_3$$



$$\lambda_1 \sim \lambda_2 \ll \lambda_3$$



$$\lambda_1 \ll \lambda_2 \sim \lambda_3$$



# PDE regularization of a scalar-valued image

Let  $f : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  ( $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^d$ ,  $d = 2, 3$ ), be a given “noisy” image.  
To regularize the image, we solve the PDE

$$\begin{cases} \partial_t u = \operatorname{div}(\mathbf{D}\nabla u), & \text{in } \Omega \times [0, T), \\ (\mathbf{D}\nabla u_{ij}) \cdot \boldsymbol{\nu} = 0, & \text{on } \partial\Omega \times [0, T), \\ u(\mathbf{x}, 0) = f(\mathbf{x}), & \text{in } \Omega. \end{cases}$$

- **Linear diffusion (linear scale space):**  $\mathbf{D} = c\mathbf{I}$
- **Nonlinear isotropic diffusion (Perona-Malik):**  $\mathbf{D} = g(|\nabla u|^2)\mathbf{I}$ , with  $g(\cdot)$  is a decreasing nonnegative function, e.g.,  $g(s) = 1/(1 + s/\lambda^2)$ , or  $g(s) = \exp(-s/\lambda^2)$ .
- **Nonlinear anisotropic diffusion:**  $\mathbf{D} = g(\nabla u \otimes \nabla u)$ .  
If  $\mathbf{A} = \mathbf{Q} \operatorname{diag}(\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n)\mathbf{Q}^T$  with  $\mathbf{Q}\mathbf{Q}^T = \mathbf{I}$ , then  $g(\mathbf{A}) = \mathbf{Q} \operatorname{diag}(g(\lambda_1), \dots, g(\lambda_n))\mathbf{Q}^T$

## Multi-channel images

A multi-channel image is a vector- or matrix-valued image:

$$f : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n \text{ (or } \mathbb{R}^{n \times m}\text{)}$$

Examples:

- Color images: 3 channels (RGB)
- DT-MRI images: 6 channels (6 independent diffusivities)

The **simplest** way of regularization of a multi-channel image is to regularize each channel **independently**.

But, because of the lack of correlation between channels, edges in each channel move independently by diffusion.

Therefore, the regularization of the different channels better be **coupled**.























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