

# Expansion of the theory of metric spaces and fuzzy simplicial sets and their applications to data analysis

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- How to apply category theory to manifold learning and data visualization?
- Suppose  $X \subset \mathbb{R}^n$  is a finite dataset. "Manifold learning" is about extracting a manifold of dimension  $d \ll n$ , around which the dataset is concentrated.
- Usually by generating R<sup>d</sup> embeddings that can be thought of as local charts or coordinates of the manifold.
- Those embeddings can help to interpolate the data, increase the computational efficiency of downstream tasks and, when d = 2 or d = 3, serve as visualization.



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An *uber-metric space* (X, d) is a set X with a map  $d : X \times X \to \mathbb{R}_{>0} \cup \{\infty\}$  s.t.

- 1.  $d(x, y) \ge 0$ , and d(x, y) = 0 only if x = y;
- 2. d(x, y) = d(y, x); and
- 3.  $d(x, z) \le d(x, y) + d(y, z)$ .

The category of uber-metric spaces UM has as objects uber-metric spaces and as morphisms non-expansive maps, i.e.  $d_Y(f(x), f(x')) \leq d_X(x, x')$ .

► One can split a metric space with N points into N metric spaces {(X, d<sub>i</sub>)}<sub>i∈{1</sub>,...,N}</sub>, where d<sub>i</sub> is a "nearest-neighborhood metric":

$$\begin{aligned} &d_i(x_i, x_{i_j}) = f_i(d(x_i, x_{i_j})) & \text{ for } j = 1, \dots k \\ &d_i(x, x) = 0 & \text{ for all } x \in X, \quad \text{ and } \quad d_i(x_j, x) = \infty \quad \text{ else.} \end{aligned}$$

where  $x_{i_j}$  is the *j*-th neighbor of  $x_i \in X$ .

- The idea is that the finite distances in those neighbourhoods are close to the ones on the underlying manifold around which one assumes the data distribution to be concentrated
- But how to combine those neighborhoods?

• A *fuzzy set* S is a sheaf on I = [0, 1] for which all restriction maps  $S(i_{ab} : a \rightarrow b) : S(b) \rightarrow S(a)$  are injections. Their category is denoted by Fuz.

A classical fuzzy set is a pair (X, η) where X is a set and η : X → [0, 1] is a function, called strength function.
 Morphisms in cFuz are functions f : (X, η) → (Y, ξ) such that ξ(f(x)) ≥ η(x) ∀x ∈ X.

- Fuzzy sets and classical fuzzy sets are isomorphic.
- $\Delta$  denotes the *simplicial indexing category*. Its objects are given by finite totally ordered sets  $[n] := \{0, 1, ..., n\}$  with exactly n + 1 elements and its morphisms are order preserving maps  $(f : [n] \rightarrow [m] \text{ s.t. } f(a) \ge f(b)$  if  $a \ge b$ .
- A fuzzy simplicial set is simply a functor Δ<sup>op</sup> → Fuz. One can also think of them as functors (Δ × I)<sup>op</sup> → Sets. Their category (morphisms are natural transformations) is denoted by sFuz.<sup>1</sup>
- ► Think of a simplicial set, where every simplex has a strength. And the strength of a simplex is ≤ than the minimum of the strength of its faces.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>They were introduced by David Spivak.

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## Adjunctions

David Spivak showed that there exists an adjunction between UM and sFuz.

$$\mathsf{Re}_{\Delta}: \mathbf{y}(\Delta \times \mathbf{I}) \to \mathbf{UM}, \quad \mathsf{Re}_{\Delta}(\mathbf{y}(n, a)) := \left\{ x \in \mathbb{R}^{n+1} \ \Big| \ \sum_{i=1}^{n+1} x_i = -\log(a) \right\},$$

As UM has small colimits, this can be Kan-extended to

$$\begin{aligned} &\mathsf{Re}: \mathbf{sFuz} \to \mathbf{UM}, \\ &\mathsf{Re}(S):= \operatorname{colim}(D_S) \end{aligned} \tag{2}$$

$$&\text{where} \quad D_S = \mathsf{Re}_\Delta \circ \mathbf{y} \circ P_S: \mathbf{El}(S) \to \mathbf{UM}. \end{aligned}$$

• UMAP uses a similar adjunction  $Re^U : \mathbf{Fin} \cdot \mathbf{sFuz} \to \mathbf{FinEPMet}$ :

$$\begin{aligned} &\mathsf{Re}^{\mathsf{U}}_{\Delta}(\mathbf{y}(n,a)) := (\{x_0,\cdots,x_n\},d_a), \\ &\mathsf{where} \quad d_a(x_i,x_j) := \begin{cases} -\log(a), & \text{if } i \neq j, \\ 0, & \text{else.} \end{cases} \end{aligned}$$

## Adjunctions

Suppose that  $\text{Re}_{\Delta} : \mathbf{y}(\Delta \times \mathbf{I}) \to \mathbf{C}$  is any functor and that  $\mathbf{C}$  has small colimits. Then the following defines a functor:

$$\begin{aligned} &\mathsf{Re}: \ \mathbf{sFuz} \to \mathbf{C}, \qquad &\mathsf{Re}(S) := \mathsf{colim}(D_S) \\ &\mathsf{where} \quad D_S = \mathsf{Re}_\Delta \circ \mathbf{y} \circ P_S : \mathbf{El}(S) \to \mathbf{C}. \end{aligned} \tag{4}$$

and its right adjoint is

$$\operatorname{Sing}(Y)(n,a) := \operatorname{Hom}_{\mathbf{C}}(\operatorname{Re}_{\Delta}(\mathbf{y}(n,a)), Y).$$
(5)

- UM and EPMet both have small colimits. Hence there are infinitely many adjunctions of the types discovered by D. Spivak and the authors of UMAP.
- ▶ One can show that  $\text{Sing}^{U}(X, d)(n, a)$  is equivalent to tuples  $[x_0, \dots, x_n] \in X^{n+1}$  with strength at least *a*, which turns out to be a rescaled **Vietoris-Rips** complex!
- However, the colimit in (4) might be hard to compute.

UMAP corresponds to the upper right path of the following diagram:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathbf{Met} & \xrightarrow{\mathsf{split}} & \mathbf{UM}_*^N \xrightarrow{\mathsf{Sing}^N} \mathbf{sFuz}_*^N \xrightarrow{\mathsf{ctr}_1^N} \mathbf{c1Fuz}_*^N \xrightarrow{\mathsf{merge}_{\mathbf{c1Fuz}}} \mathbf{c1Fuz} \\ & & & & \\ & & & \\ & & &$$

The embedding is obtained by minimizing the objective (fuzzy cross-entropy)

$$\mathcal{L}(\{\mathbf{x}\}) := -\sum_{i,j} \{G_{ij} \log(H(\{\mathbf{x}\})_{ij}) + (1 - G_{ij}) \log(1 - H(\{\mathbf{x}\})_{ij})\}$$
(6)

where G is the graph obtained from the high-dim dataset with N points and  $H({\mathbf{x}})$  is a graph, obtained from the distances between N vectors  $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^d$ .

What if one makes use of the full adjunction, computing an explicit description of merge<sub>UM</sub> := Re o merge<sub>sFuz</sub> o Sing<sup>N</sup> and uses a geometric embedding instead?

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• The colimit of a small diagram  $D : \mathbf{I} \to \mathbf{UM}$  is given by

$$\operatorname{colim}(D) = (\operatorname{colim}(FD), \ d_{\operatorname{colim}}) \tag{7}$$

where colim(FD) is the usual colimit in Sets, while  $d_{colim}$  is defined by

$$d_{\sim}([x], [x']) = \inf(d_X(p_1, q_1) + \dots + d_X(p_n, q_n)),$$
(8)

where the infimum is taken over all pairs of sequences  $(p_1, \dots, p_n)$ ,  $(q_1, \dots, q_n)$  of elements of X, such that

$$p_1 \sim x, \quad q_n \sim x', \quad \text{and} \quad p_{i+1} \sim q_i \text{ for all } 1 \le i \le n-1,$$
 (9)

and  $d_X$  is defined by

$$d_X(p_i, q_i) := \begin{cases} d_J(p_i, q_i), & \text{if } p_i, q_i \in FD(J) \\ \infty, & \text{else.} \end{cases}$$
(10)

• We have 
$$\operatorname{Re}^{U}(S) \simeq \operatorname{Re}_{c1}(C_1(\operatorname{tr}_1(S)))$$
, where:

►  $\operatorname{Re}_{c1} : \operatorname{c1Fuz} \to \operatorname{UM}$  is defined by  $\operatorname{Re}_{c1}(S) := (S_0, d)$ , where  $S_0 \xleftarrow{S(\delta_1)} S_1 \xrightarrow{S(\delta_2)} S_0$  is a classical fuzzy graph, and

$$d(x,y) := \inf_{x=x_1,\cdots,x_n=y} \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} d_{\min}(x_i, x_{i+1}),$$
(11)

where  $d_{\min}(x_1, x_2) := \min\{-\log(\xi_1(s)) \mid [x_1, x_2] \simeq s \in S_1\}.$ 

- ▶ Intuitively:  $\text{Re}^{U}(S)$  generates a metric space, in which the distances are geodesic "graph-hopping" distances, along edges of  $\text{tr}_1(S)$
- We used this to show:  $\text{Re}^U \circ \text{Sing}^U \simeq \text{id}_{\mathbf{C}}$ , where  $\mathbf{C}$  is either  $\mathbf{UM}$  or  $\mathbf{EPMet}$ .

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- A *t-conorm* is a function  $T : [0,1] \times [0,1] \rightarrow [0,1]$  that fulfills some axioms.
- ▶ Given a t-conorm *T* and two classical fuzzy sets  $(A, \xi_1)$  and  $(A, \xi_2)$ , with the same underlying set *A*, define merge<sub>cFuz</sub> : cFuz ×<sub>Sets</sub> cFuz  $\rightarrow$  cFuz by

$$\begin{aligned} \mathsf{merge}_{\mathbf{cFuz}}((A,\xi_1),(A,\xi_2)) &:= (A,\xi),\\ \mathsf{where} \quad \xi(a) &:= T(\xi_1(a),\xi_2(a)). \end{aligned} \tag{12}$$

- The isomorphism  $C : \mathbf{Fuz} \to \mathbf{cFuz}$  then gives us merge<sub>Fuz</sub>,
- $\blacktriangleright$  which in turn yields merge  $_{{\bf sFuz}}:{\bf sFuz}\times_{{\bf sSet}}{\bf sFuz}\to{\bf sFuz}$  via

 $merge_{sFuz}(S_1, S_2)(n, a) := merge_{Fuz}(S_1(n, -), S_2(n, -))(a). \tag{13}$ 

We proved that this is indeed a well-defined functor.

- $\blacktriangleright \text{ We can finally describe merge}_{\mathbf{UM}} := \mathsf{Re}^{\mathsf{U}} \circ \mathsf{merge}_{\mathbf{sFuz}} \circ \mathsf{Sing}^{\mathsf{U}}:$
- The functor

$$\mathsf{merge}_{\mathbf{UM}} := \mathsf{Re} \circ \mathsf{merge}_{\mathbf{sFuz}} \circ \mathsf{Sing}^N : \mathbf{UM} \times_{\mathbf{Sets}} \cdots \times_{\mathbf{Sets}} \mathbf{UM} \to \mathbf{UM}.$$
(14)

can be given the following explicit description:

$$merge_{UM}((X, d_1), \cdots, (X, d_N)) = (X, d), \text{ where}$$

$$d(x, y) := \inf_{x = x_1, \cdots, x_n = y} \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} (-\log(T_R(x_i, x_{i+1}))),$$
(15)

where  $T_R$  is defined recursively in terms of a chosen t-conorm T.

Combining this with a metric embedding method like classical or (non-)metric multidimensional scaling (MDS) yields a new dimension reduction algorithm.

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## IsUMap

#### Concise description of the method

Input:  $X \subset \mathbb{R}^n, |X| < \infty, k \in \mathbb{N}, m \le n.$ 

- 1. Split  $X \subset \mathbb{R}^n$  into N := |X| metric spaces  $(X, d_i)$ , where  $d_i$  is defined by (1).
- 2. Apply the merge functor defined on the last slide, to obtain the metric space (X, d). One can use Dijkstra's algorithm to compute the infimum.
- 3. Embed (X, d) into  $\mathbb{R}^m$  using classical or (non-)metric multidimensional scaling.

Output:  $Y \subset \mathbb{R}^m$ , |Y| = |X|.

- Similar to UMAP because we proved that Re<sup>U</sup> ∘ Sing<sup>U</sup> ≃ id<sub>UM</sub> and we used merge<sub>UM</sub> := Re<sup>U</sup> ∘ merge<sub>sFuz</sub> ∘ Sing<sup>U</sup>.
- At the same time, can yield Isomap as special case, while adding the capabilities to use arbitrary t-conorms, non-classical metric MDS and a uniformization of the data distribution.
- Since it combines UMAP and Isomap and takes place entirely in the category UM, we call our method IsUMap.

## Simulation results





(a)







(d) (e) (f)

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- One could combine our method with Functorial manifold learning and Functorial clustering via simplicial complexes as introduced by Dan Shiebler.
- As remarked in On UMAP's true loss function by Damrich and Hamprecht, the distortion in UMAP's embedding is largely an effect of negative undersampling, that is not captured by the formal theory describing UMAP. Hence, more effort is needed to understand this effect in categorical terms, possibly by looking at it through the "lens" of Backprop as a functor by Fong et al., or extensions of Learners language by David Spivak, or ideas from Categorical systems theory by David Jaz Myers or using Categorical cybernetics by Capucci, Gavranovic, Hedges and Rischel, and others.
- There is also an interesting connection to TDA because Sing<sup>U</sup> is closely related to the Vietoris-Rips filtration, while objects in sFuz can also capture geometric (as opposed to only topological) information.

- Our preprint: https://arxiv.org/abs/2406.11154
   "Fuzzy simplicial sets and their application to geometric data analysis"
- Our code: https://github.com/LUK4S-B/IsUMap
- Contact me anytime: lukas.barth@mis.mpg.de