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FEATURE COMBINATIONS AND THE
DIVERGENCE CRITERION

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ABSTRACT

Classifying large quantities of multidimensional data (e.g., remotely sensed agricultural data) (Remote, 1968) requires efficient and effective classification techniques and the construction of certain transformations of a dimension-reducing, information-preserving nature. This paper will deal with the construction of transformations that minimally degrade information (i.e., class separability). We will only consider the construction of linear dimension-reducing transformations for multivariate normal populations and information content will be measured by divergence (Kullback, 1968).

1. INTRODUCTION

For n -dimensional normal classes $N(m_i, V_i)$ $i = 1, \dots, m$, the divergence between class i and j (Kullback, 1968) is given by

$$D_{ij} = \frac{1}{2} \text{tr}[(V_i - V_j)(V_j^{-1} - V_i^{-1})] + \frac{1}{2} \text{tr}[(V_i^{-1} + V_j^{-1})(m_i - m_j)(m_i - m_j)^T]$$

Let $\delta_{ij} = m_i - m_j$. Then

$$\begin{aligned} D_{ij} &= \frac{1}{2} \text{tr}[(V_i - V_j)(V_j^{-1} - V_i^{-1})] + \frac{1}{2} \text{tr}[(V_i^{-1} + V_j^{-1})(\delta_{ij})(\delta_{ij})^T] \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \text{tr}[V_i^{-1}(V_j + \delta_{ij} \delta_{ij}^T)] + \frac{1}{2} \text{tr}[V_j^{-1}(V_i + \delta_{ij} \delta_{ij}^T)] - n. \end{aligned}$$

The interclass divergence (Decell and Quirein, Oct. 1973) for m populations is given by

$$D = \sum_{i=1}^{m-1} \sum_{\substack{j=1 \\ i \neq j}}^m D_{ij}$$

and it follows that

$$\begin{aligned} D &= \frac{1}{2} \text{tr} \left[\sum_{i=1}^m V_i^{-1} \left(\sum_{\substack{j=1 \\ i \neq j}}^m (V_j + \delta_{ij} \delta_{ij}^T) \right) \right] - \frac{m(m-1)}{2} n \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \text{tr} \left[\sum_{i=1}^m V_i^{-1} S_i \right] - \frac{m(m-1)}{2} n, \end{aligned}$$

where

$$S_i = \sum_{\substack{j=1 \\ i \neq j}}^m (V_j + \delta_{ij} \delta_{ij}^T).$$

If B is a $k \times n$ rank k matrix, the B-interclass divergence (Decell and Quirein, Oct. 1973) is given by

$$D_B = \sum_{i=1}^{m-1} \sum_{\substack{j=1 \\ i \neq j}}^m D_B(i, j)$$

$$D_B = \frac{1}{2} \text{tr} \left[\sum_{i=1}^m (BV_i B^T)^{-1} (BS_i B^T) \right] - \frac{m(m-1)}{2} k.$$

As in the case of average interclass divergence, the B-interclass divergence is a measure of the "separation" in the classes $N(Bm_i, BV_i B^T)$ $i = 1, \dots, m$, and is a useful tool for constructing rank k linear transformations that preserve "class separability". It has been shown (Decell and Quirein, Oct. 1973) that whenever $D = D_B$, the probability of misclassification (Anderson, 1958) for the classes $N(Bm_i, BV_i B^T)$, $i = 1, \dots, m$ is the same as the probability of misclassification for the classes $N(m_i, V_i)$, $i = 1, \dots, m$.

2. THEORETICAL PRELIMINARIES

We will assume that k is an integer ($k < n$) and develop a procedure for selecting a $k \times n$ rank k matrix B such that D_B is maximum. The procedure will be based upon the following theorem (Decell and Smiley, to appear). We will let $C = \{u \in R^n: ||u||=1\}$ and $T(H) = \{H = I - 2uu^T: u \in C\}$ denote the set of Householder transformations defined on R^n (Householder, 1968).

Theorem. For each positive integer i let $H_i \in T(H)$ be inductively chosen such that

$$D_{(I_k | Z)H_i H_{i-1} \dots H_1} = \text{l.u.b.}_{H \in T(H)} [D_{(I_k | Z)HH_{i-1} \dots H_1}]$$

where

$$D_{(I_k | Z)H_1} = \text{l.u.b.}_{H \in T(H)} D_{(I_k | Z)H}$$

The following hold:

- (1) $D_{(I_k | Z)H_i H_{i-1} \dots H_1} \leq D_{(I_k | Z)H_{i+1} H_i \dots H_1}$.
- (2) $D_{(I_k | Z)H_i H_{i-1} \dots H_1 H} \leq D_{(I_k | Z)H_{i+1} H_i \dots H_1}$, for every $H \in T(H)$.

(3) $D_{(I_k|Z)H_1 H_{i-1} \dots H_1} \leq D_{(I_k|Z)H_{i+1} H_i \dots H_1}$, for every $H \in T(H)$.

(4) $D_{(I_k|Z)H_1 H_{i-1} \dots H_{i-(p-1)} H_{i-(p+1)} \dots H_1} \leq D_{(I_k|Z)H_{i+1} \dots H_1}$,

for every $H \in T(H)$, $p = 0, 1, \dots, i-2$.

(5) The monotone sequence

$$\{D_B\}_{i=1}^{\infty} \equiv \{D_{(I_k|Z)H_i \dots H_1}\}_{i=1}^{\infty} \text{ is bounded above,}$$

and hence

$$\lim_{i \rightarrow \infty} D_{(I_k|Z)H_i \dots H_1} = \text{l.u.b.}_i \{D_{(I_k|Z)H_i \dots H_1}\}.$$

We would, of course, be pleased if it were the case that $\text{l.u.b.}_i \{D_{(I_k|Z)H_i \dots H_1}\} = D$. This, unfortunately, is not always the case for some choice of $k < n$ and is not possible, in general, for any $k < n$. We do know that there is some $k \times n$ rank k matrix B for which D_B is maximum and, in general, that $D_B \leq D$ (Decell and Quirein, Oct. 1973). It follows, moreover, that since the matrices of the form $(I_k|Z)H_i \dots H_1$ have rank k ,

$$D_{(I_k|Z)H_i \dots H_1} \leq D_B \leq D \text{ for every integer } i.$$

We will call the sequence $\{D_{(I_k|Z)H_i \dots H_1}\}_{i=1}^{\infty}$ suboptimal whenever

$$\text{l.u.b.}_i \{D_{(I_k|Z)H_i \dots H_1}\} < D_B$$

(and optimal in the case of equality).

There are several open theoretical questions that deal with the conjecture that the sequence is, in general, optimal and co-finally constant beyond the index $i = \min\{k, n-k\}$ (Decell and Smiley, to appear). In what follows we will develop a procedure for constructing the subject sequence and demonstrate its application to agricultural data.

3. THE GRADIENT OF D_B

It has been shown (Quirein, Nov. 1972) that the differential dD_B of D_B (regarded as a function of the $k \times n$ matrix B) can be expressed in the form $dD_B = F + G$, where, when the indicated inverses exist,

$$\begin{aligned}
 F &= \frac{1}{2} \text{tr} \left[\sum_{i=1}^m (BV_i B^T)^{-1} (dB S_i B^T + BS_i dB^T) \right] \\
 &= \frac{1}{2} \text{tr} \left[\sum_{i=1}^m (dB S_i B^T) (BV_i B^T)^{-1} \right] \\
 &\quad + \frac{1}{2} \text{tr} \left[\sum_{i=1}^m (BS_i dB^T) (BV_i B^T)^{-1} \right] \\
 &= \text{tr} \left[\sum_{i=1}^m (dB S_i B^T) (BV_i B^T)^{-1} \right]
 \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned}
 G &= -\frac{1}{2} \text{tr} \left[\sum_{i=1}^m (BV_i B^T)^{-1} (dB V_i B^T + BV_i dB^T) (BV_i B^T)^{-1} (BS_i B^T) \right] \\
 &= -\frac{1}{2} \text{tr} \left[\sum_{i=1}^m (dB V_i B^T) (BV_i B^T)^{-1} (BS_i B^T) (BV_i B^T)^{-1} \right] \\
 &\quad - \frac{1}{2} \text{tr} \left[\sum_{i=1}^m (BV_i B^T)^{-1} (BS_i B^T) (BV_i B^T)^{-1} (BV_i dB^T) \right] \\
 &= -\text{tr} \left[\sum_{i=1}^m (dB V_i B^T) (BV_i B^T)^{-1} (BS_i B^T) (BV_i B^T)^{-1} \right].
 \end{aligned}$$

Thus,

$$\begin{aligned} dD_B &= \text{tr} \left[\sum_{i=1}^m dB \{ S_i B^T - V_i B^T (B V_i B^T)^{-1} (B S_i B^T) \} (B V_i B^T)^{-1} \right] \\ &= \text{tr} \sum_{i=1}^m dB Q_i \end{aligned}$$

where

$$Q_i = [\{ S_i B^T - V_i B^T (B V_i B^T)^{-1} (B S_i B^T) \} (B V_i B^T)^{-1}].$$

We are, of course, interested in extremizing D_B over the particular subclass of $k \times n$ rank k matrices of the form $(I_k | Z)H$ where $H \in T(H)$ (e.g., for $i = 1$ we find H_1 that maximizes $D_{(I_k | Z)H}$). Actually, one need only consider what is required to compute H_1 . The computation of H_2 is accomplished by the same procedure as that for H_1 . It is simply a matter of, after selecting H_1 , redefining the m classes to be $N(H_1 m_i, H_1 V_i H_1)$, $i = 1, \dots, m$ and proceeding as in the selection of H_1 .

With these facts in mind we will simply calculate the gradient of D_B where B is restricted to having the form $B = (I_k | Z)H$, $H \in T(H)$. The restrictions $H \in T(H)$ can be accomplished by considering those $k \times n$ rank k matrices of the form

$$B = (I_k | Z) \left(I - 2 \frac{w w^T}{w^T w} \right), \quad w \in R^n (w \neq \theta)$$

It follows that

$$\begin{aligned} dB &= d \left[(I_k | Z) \left(I - 2 \frac{w w^T}{w^T w} \right) \right] = -2 (I_k | Z) d \left(\frac{w w^T}{w^T w} \right) \\ &= -2 (I_k | Z) \left[\frac{w^T w d(w w^T) - w w^T d(w^T w)}{(w^T w)^2} \right] \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&= -\frac{2(I_k|Z)}{(w^T w)^2} [w^T w (dw w^T + w dw^T) - w w^T (w^T dw + dw^T w)] \\
&= -\frac{2(I_k|Z)}{(w^T w)^2} [dw w^T w w^T + w w^T w dw^T - w w^T dw w^T - w dw^T w w^T] \\
&= -\frac{2(I_k|Z)}{(w^T w)^2} [(dw w^T - w dw^T) w w^T - w w^T (dw w^T - w dw^T)]
\end{aligned}$$

Substituting the latter in the expression for dD_B ,

$$\begin{aligned}
dD_B &= \text{tr} \sum_{i=1}^m \left[-\frac{2(I_k|Z)}{(w^T w)^2} \{ (dw w^T - w dw^T) w w^T - w w^T (dw w^T - w dw^T) \} Q_i \right] \\
&= \text{tr} \sum_{i=1}^m \left[-\frac{2Q_i(I_k|Z)}{(w^T w)^2} \{ (dw w^T - w dw^T) w w^T - w w^T (dw w^T - w dw^T) \} \right] \\
&= \text{tr} \sum_{i=1}^m \frac{-2}{(w^T w)^2} [w w^T Q_i (I_k|Z) (dw w^T - w dw^T) \\
&\quad - Q_i (I_k|Z) w w^T (dw w^T - w dw^T)] \\
&= \frac{-2}{(w^T w)^2} \text{tr} \sum_{i=1}^m [M_i dw w^T - M_i w dw^T - N_i dw w^T + N_i w dw^T]
\end{aligned}$$

Where $M_i = w w^T Q_i (I_k|Z)$ and $N_i = Q_i (I_k|Z) w w^T$.

$$\begin{aligned}
dD_B &= \frac{-2}{(w^T w)^2} \text{tr} \left[\sum_{i=1}^m \{ w^T M_i dw - w^T N_i dw + N_i w dw^T - M_i w dw^T \} \right] \\
&= \frac{-2}{(w^T w)^2} \text{tr} \left[\sum_{i=1}^m \{ dw^T M_i^T w - dw^T N_i^T w + N_i w dw^T - M_i w dw^T \} \right]
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
dD_B &= \frac{-2}{(w^T w)^2} \text{tr} \left[\sum_{i=1}^m \{M_i^T w \, dw^T - N_i w \, dw^T + N_i w \, dw^T - M_i w \, dw^T\} \right] \\
&= \frac{-2}{(w^T w)^2} \text{tr} \left[\sum_{i=1}^m \{(M_i - N_i)^T - (M_i - N_i)\} w \, dw^T \right].
\end{aligned}$$

The necessary condition that w be extremal is then,

$$G(w) = \frac{-2}{(w^T w)^2} \sum_{i=1}^m \{(M_i - N_i)^T - (M_i - N_i)\} w = \theta \quad (\text{the zero vector}).$$

We note that $G(w)$ is the gradient of $D_{(I_k|Z)}(I - 2\frac{ww^T}{w^T w})$ and

use a steepest descent procedure for finding the extremal w . The process is repeated for each sequential index until corresponding values of divergence "stabilize." Test results are presented in the following tables. The C-1 flight line data is twelve channel data for nine agricultural classes: soybeans, corn, oats, red-clover, alfalfa, rye, bare soil, and two types of wheat. The Hill County data is sixteen-channel data for five agricultural classes: winter wheat, fallow crop, barley, grass, and stubble.

The starting value w_0 for the steepest descent procedure for selecting each successive Householder transformation H_1, H_2, H_3, \dots was arbitrarily chosen to be $w_0 = (\frac{1}{\sqrt{n}}, \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}}, \dots, \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}})^T$. Choosing starting values in this arbitrary fashion is certainly not the most clever thing to do in the presence of the monotone behavior of the sequence $D_{(I_k|Z)} H_1 \dots H_1$. One would expect, for example, that the starting values for the selection of H_{i+1} should depend upon the unit vectors previously selected as generators of H_1, H_{i-1}, \dots, H_1 in such a way as to guarantee that the starting value w_0 , for the descent procedure for selecting H_{i+1} ,

satisfies

$$D_{(I_k|Z)H_1 \cdots H_1} \leq D_{(I_k|Z)} \left(I - 2 \frac{w_o w_o^T}{w_o w_o} \right) H_1 \cdots H_1.$$

This rather arbitrary selection of the starting vector does, as the examples demonstrate, violate the latter inequality. The question about how to choose starting vectors, according to the latter inequality, is still an open one and its answer would certainly decrease computation time.

C-1 Flight Line Data
 n=12, k=6, m=9, D=10,660

Hill County Data
 n=16, k=8, m=5, D=636

Iteration for H_1

No *	Divergence D_B
1	1982
2	3536
3	4533
4	5781
5	6910
6	7522
7	7710
8	7790
9	7838
10	7865
11	7881
12	7892

Iteration for H_1

No *	Divergence D_B
1	114.58
2	136.66
3	152.27
4	179.69
5	223.81
6	247.42
7	252.78
8	257.12
9	260.74
10	263.95

*Iteration counter

C-1 Flight Line Data (cont.)

Iteration for H₂

No *	Divergence D _B
1	7815
2	8797
3	9542
4	9785
5	9901
6	9966
7	10,005
8	10,031
9	10,048

Hill County Data (cont.)

Iteration for H₂

No *	Divergence D _B
1	269.00
2	280.48
3	293.32
4	300.68
5	304.07
6	306.19
7	307.74
8	308.95
9	309.93

Iteration for H₃

No *	Divergence D _B
1	7582
2	8705
3	9809
4	9947
5	9995
6	10,020
7	10,037
8	10,049
9	10,058

Iteration for H₃

No *	Divergence D _B
1	312.18
2	344.52
3	380.83
4	387.20
5	391.70
6	392.96
7	394.58
8	399.47

Iteration for H₄

No *	Divergence D _B
1	371.12
2	394.75
3	398.62
4	400.69
5	402.03
6	402.98
7	403.74

*Iteration counter

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