# Density estimation from $k$-nn graphs. 

Thomas Bonis

Graphs for non-linear data analysis

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Objective: clustering

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$K$-means fails as it produces convex clusters
$\Rightarrow$ need a non-linear algorithm.

## Graphs for non-linear data analysis



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1) Build a neighborhood graph on the data.

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Non-linear data analysis in two steps:

1) Build a neighborhood graph on the data.
2) Use a graph analysis algorithm.

## Graphs for non-linear data analysis

Graph-based approach is at the center of many non-linear algorithms:

- (Spectral) Clustering
- Dimensionality reduction (Isomap, diffusion maps, etc.)
- Semi supervised learning
- Manifold learning


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Von Luxburg and Alamgir (2013): are we sure the graph contains all the relevant information?

## The Problem

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$X_{1}, \ldots, X_{n} \in(\mathbb{R} / \mathbb{Z})^{d}$ i.i.d $\sim \mu$ with density $f>0$.
$G_{k, n}$ is a $k$-nearest neighbors graph on $X_{1}, \ldots, X_{n}$.
Vertices: $X_{1}, \ldots, X_{n}$
Edges: $\left(X_{i}, X_{j}\right)$ where $X_{j}$ is one of the $k$-nearest neighbor of $X_{i}$.

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Hashimoto et al. (2016): yes, but no quantitative guarantee.

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Ting et al. (2010): a random walk on $G_{k, n}$ is an approximation of a diffusion process with generator:

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\mathcal{L}_{\tilde{\mu}}=f^{-2 / d}\left(\nabla \log f . \nabla+\frac{1}{2} \Delta\right)
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Problem: invariant measures of random walks on directed graphs are complex objects.

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## Proposition

There exists $C>0$ such that with probability $1-\frac{C}{n}$,

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W_{2}(\nu, \tilde{\mu}) \leq C\left(\frac{n^{1 / d} \sqrt{\log n}}{k^{1 / 2+1 / d}}+\left(\frac{k}{n}\right)^{1 / d}\right)
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Idea behind the proof: show the measures of $\left(Y_{t}\right)_{t \geq 0}$, diffusion process with generator $\mathcal{L}_{\mu}$ and $Y_{0} \sim \pi_{k, n}$ does not change much as $t$ goes to infinity.

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The smaller $k$, the sparse the graph.
Rate appearing in the convergence of other important quantities (spectra of graph Laplacians).

## References

- Hashimoto, Sun and Jaakola, Metric recovery from directed unweighted graph, AISTATS 2016.
- Ting, Huand and Jordan, An analysis of the Convergence of Graph Laplacians, ICML 2010.
- Von Luxburg and Alamgir, Density estimation from unweighted kNN graphs: a roadmap, NIPS 2013.


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$X_{1}, \ldots, X_{n}$ i.i.d. with $\mathbb{E}\left[X_{1}\right]=0$ and $\mathbb{E}\left[X X^{T}\right]=I_{d}$.
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Replacing one $X_{i}$ at random with an independent copy $X_{i}^{\prime}$ we obtain a discrete process.

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- this process approximates the diffusion process with generator $\mathcal{L}_{\gamma}$.

$$
\Rightarrow \nu_{n} \approx \gamma
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Theorem
If $\mathbb{E}\left[\left\|X_{1}\right\|^{4}\right]<\infty$, there exists $C>0$ s.t.

$$
W_{2}\left(\nu_{n}, \gamma\right) \leq n^{-1 / 2} d^{1 / 4} \mathbb{E}\left[X_{1} X_{1}^{T}\left\|X_{1}\right\|^{2}\right]^{1 / 2}
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## Theorem

Let $p \geq 2$. If $\mathbb{E}\left[\left\|X_{1}\right\|^{p+2}\right]<\infty$, there exists $C_{p}>0$ s.t.

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W_{2}\left(\nu_{n}, \gamma\right) \leq C_{p} n^{-1 / 2}\left(\mathbb{E}\left[\|X\|^{p+2}\right]+d^{1 / 4} \mathbb{E}\left[X_{1} X_{1}^{T}\left\|X_{1}\right\|^{2}\right]^{1 / 2}\right)
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## Theorem

Let $p \geq 2$. If $\mathbb{E}\left[\left\|X_{1}\right\|^{p+q}\right]<\infty, q \in[0, q]$, there exists $C_{p}>0$ s.t., taking $m=\min (2, q)$,

$$
\begin{aligned}
W_{2}\left(\nu_{n}, \gamma\right) \leq C_{p} & \left(n^{-1 / 2+(2-q) / 2 p} \mathbb{E}\left[\left\|X_{1}\right\|^{p+q}\right]^{1 / p}\right. \\
& +\left\{\begin{array}{l}
n^{-m / 4} \mathbb{E}\left[\left\|X_{1}\right\|^{2+m}\right]^{1 / 2}+o\left(n^{-m / 4}\right) \text { if } m<2 \\
n^{-1 / 2} d^{1 / 4}\left\|\mathbb{E}\left[X_{1} X_{1}^{T}\left\|X_{1}\right\|^{2}\right]\right\|^{1 / 2} \text { if } m=2
\end{array}\right.
\end{aligned}
$$

Probably (close to) optimal as it generalizes rates obtained in dimension 1.

