Statistical Inference for Topological Data Analysis

Jisu KIM



65th ISI World Statistics Congress 2025-10-06

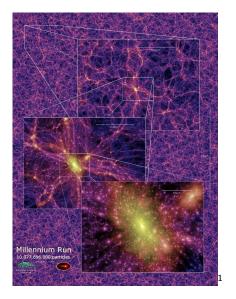
Introduction

Homology and Persistent Homology

Statistical Inference for Persistent Homology

Reference

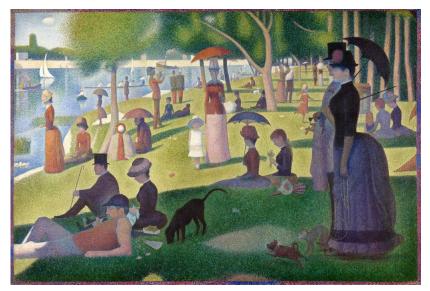
Topological structures in the data provide information.



 $^{^{1}{\}rm http://www.mpa-garching.mpg.de/galform/virgo/millennium/poster_half.jpg}$







► Georges Seurat, A Sunday afternoon on the island of La Grande Jatte (Un dimanche après-midi à l'Île de la Grande Jatte)



Statistic Inference for Topological Data Analysis is explored.

- Introduction to Topological Data Analysis
 - Computational Topology: An Introduction (Edelsbrunner, Harer, 2010)
 - ► Topological Data Analysis (Wasserman, 2016)
 - An Introduction to Topological Data Analysis: Fundamental and Practical Aspects for Data Scientists (Chazal, Michel, 2021)
- Statistical Inference for Persistent Homology
 - Confidence sets for persistence diagrams (Fasy, Lecci, Rinaldo, Wasserman, Balakrishnan, Singh, 2014)

Introduction

Homology and Persistent Homology

Statistical Inference for Persistent Homology

Reference

The number of holes is used to summarize topological features.

- ► Geometrical objects:
 - A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K, L, M, O, P, Q, R, S, T, U, V, W, X, Y, Z, IJ
- ▶ The number of holes of different dimensions is considered.
 - 1. $\beta_0 = \#$ of connected components
 - 2. $\beta_1 = \#$ of loops (holes inside 1-dim sphere)
 - 3. $\beta_2 = \#$ of voids (holes inside 2-dim sphere)

Example: Objects are classified by homologies.

1. $\beta_0 = \#$ of connected components



2. $\beta_1 = \#$ of loops (holes inside 1-dim sphere)

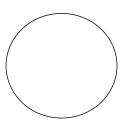
$\beta_0 \setminus \beta_1$	0	1	2
1	C, E, F, G, H, I, J, K, L, M, N, S, T, U, V, W, X, Y, Z	A, D, O, P, Q, R	В
2	IJ		

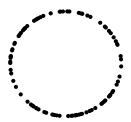
Homology of finite sample is different from homology of underlying manifold, hence it cannot be directly used for the inference.

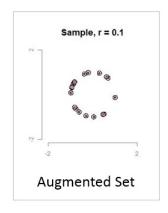
- ▶ When analyzing data, we prefer robust features where features of the underlying manifold can be inferred from features of finite samples.
- ► Homology is not robust:

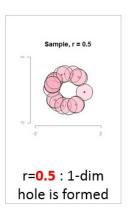
Underlying circle: $\beta_0 = 1$, $\beta_1 = 1$

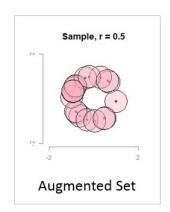
100 samples: $\beta_0 = 100$, $\beta_1 = 0$

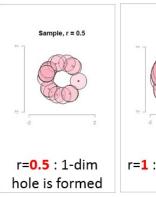


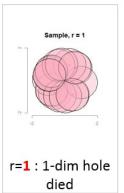


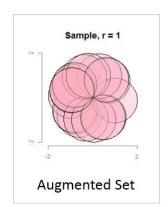


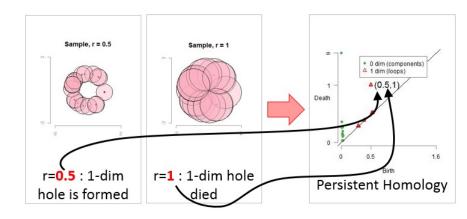












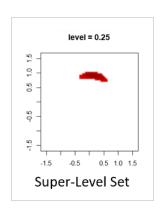
We rely on the superlevel sets of the kernel density estimator to extract topological information of the underlying distribution.

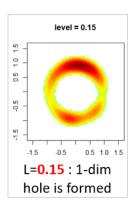
► The kernel density estimator is

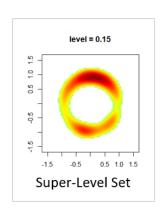
$$\hat{\rho}_h(x) = \frac{1}{nh^d} \sum_{i=1}^n K\left(\frac{x - X_i}{h}\right).$$

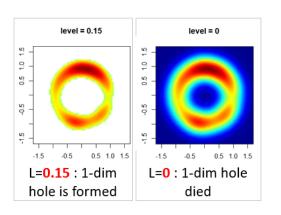
▶ We look at superlevel sets of the kernel density estimator as

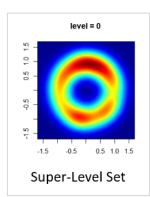
$$\left\{x \in \mathbb{R}^d : \hat{p}_h(x) \geq L\right\}_{L>0}$$
.

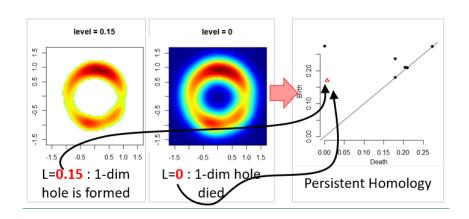


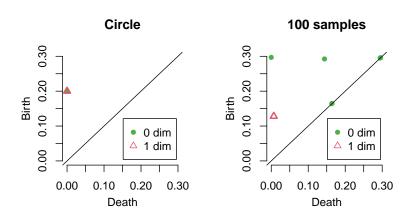


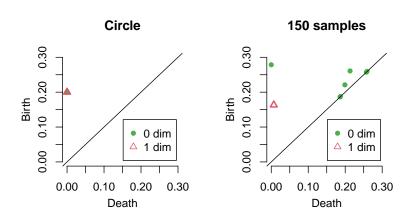


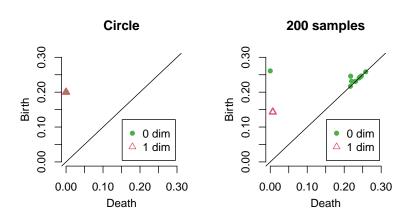


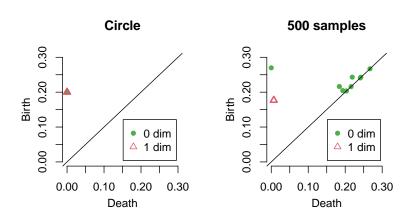












Introduction

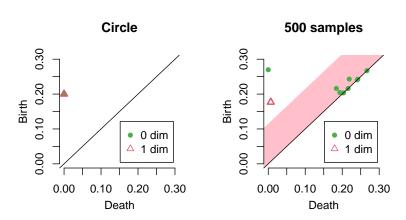
Homology and Persistent Homology

Statistical Inference for Persistent Homology

Reference

Statistically significant homological features can be distinguished from statistically insignificant ones.

► Confidence sets for persistence diagrams (Fasy, Lecci, Rinaldo, Wasserman, Balakrishnan, Singh, 2014)

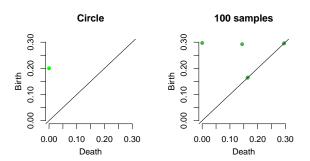


Definition

Let D_1 , D_2 be multiset of points. Bottleneck distance is defined as

$$W_{\infty}(D_1, D_2) = \inf_{\gamma} \sup_{x \in D_1} ||x - \gamma(x)||_{\infty},$$

where γ ranges over all bijections from D_1 to D_2 .

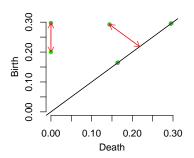


Definition

Let D_1 , D_2 be multiset of points. Bottleneck distance is defined as

$$W_{\infty}(D_1, D_2) = \inf_{\substack{\gamma \\ x \in D_1}} \|x - \gamma(x)\|_{\infty},$$

where γ ranges over all bijections from D_1 to D_2 .



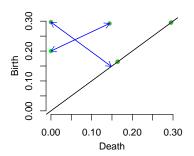
$$\sup_{x \in D_1} \|x - \gamma_1(x)\|_{\infty} = 0.1$$

Definition

Let D_1 , D_2 be multiset of points. Bottleneck distance is defined as

$$W_{\infty}(D_1, D_2) = \inf_{\substack{\gamma \\ x \in D_1}} \|x - \gamma(x)\|_{\infty},$$

where γ ranges over all bijections from D_1 to D_2 .



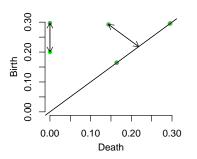
$$\sup_{x \in D_1} \|x - \gamma_2(x)\|_{\infty} = 0.15$$

Definition

Let D_1 , D_2 be multiset of points. Bottleneck distance is defined as

$$W_{\infty}(D_1, D_2) = \inf_{\substack{\gamma \\ x \in D_1}} \|x - \gamma(x)\|_{\infty},$$

where γ ranges over all bijections from D_1 to D_2 .

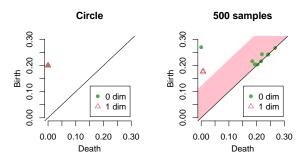


 $\inf_{\gamma} \sup_{x \in D_1} \|x - \gamma(x)\|_{\infty} = 0.1$

Confidence band for persistent homology separates homological signal from homological noise.

Let Dgm(M) and Dgm(X) be persistent homologies of the manifold M and the data X, respectively. Given the significance level $\alpha \in (0,1)$, $(1-\alpha)$ confidence band $c_n=c_n(X)$ is a random variable satisfying

$$\mathbb{P}(W_{\infty}(Dgm(M), Dgm(X)) \leq c_n) \geq 1 - \alpha.$$



Confidence band for the persistent homology can be computed using the bootstrap algorithm.

- 1. Given a sample $X = \{x_1, \dots, x_n\}$, compute the kernel density estimator \hat{p}_h .
- 2. Draw $X^* = \{x_1^*, \dots, x_n^*\}$ from $X = \{x_1, \dots, x_n\}$ (with replacement), and compute $\theta^* = \sqrt{nh^d}||\hat{p}_h^*(x) \hat{p}_h(x)||_{\infty}$, where \hat{p}_h^* is the density estimator computed using X^* .
- 3. Repeat the previous step B times to obtain $\theta_1^*, \dots, \theta_B^*$
- 4. Compute $\hat{z}_{\alpha} = \inf \left\{ q : \frac{1}{B} \sum_{j=1}^{B} I(\theta_{j}^{*} \geq q) \leq \alpha \right\}$
- 5. The (1 α) confidence band for $\mathbb{E}[\hat{p}_h]$ is $\left[\hat{p}_h \frac{\hat{z}_{\alpha}}{\sqrt{nh^d}}, \, \hat{p}_h + \frac{\hat{z}_{\alpha}}{\sqrt{nh^d}}\right]$.

Introduction

Homology and Persistent Homology

Statistical Inference for Persistent Homology

Reference

Reference I

- Frédéric Chazal and Bertrand Michel. An introduction to topological data analysis: Fundamental and practical aspects for data scientists. Frontiers Artif. Intell., 4:667963, 2021. doi: 10.3389/frai.2021.667963. URL https://doi.org/10.3389/frai.2021.667963.
- Frédéric Chazal, Vin de Silva, Marc Glisse, and Steve Oudot. The structure and stability of persistence modules. *arXiv preprint arXiv:1207.3674*, 2012.
- Frédéric Chazal, Brittany Terese Fasy, Fabrizio Lecci, Bertrand Michel, Alessandro Rinaldo, and Larry Wasserman. Robust topological inference: Distance-to-a-measure and kernel distance. *Technical Report*, 2014.
- Herbert Edelsbrunner and John L. Harer. *Computational topology*. American Mathematical Society, Providence, RI, 2010. ISBN 978-0-8218-4925-5. doi: 10.1090/mbk/069. URL https://doi.org/10.1090/mbk/069. An introduction.

Reference II

Brittany Terese Fasy, Fabrizio Lecci, Alessandro Rinaldo, Larry Wasserman, Sivaraman Balakrishnan, and Aarti Singh. Confidence sets for persistence diagrams. *Ann. Statist.*, 42(6):2301–2339, 2014. ISSN 0090-5364. doi: 10.1214/14-AOS1252. URL https://doi.org/10.1214/14-AOS1252.

Larry Wasserman. Topological data analysis, 2016.

Thank you!

Persistent Homology

Bottleneck distance can be controlled by the corresponding distance on functions: Stability Theorem.

Theorem

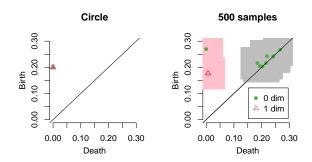
[Edelsbrunner and Harer, 2010][Chazal, de Silva, Glisse, and Oudot, 2012] Let \mathbb{X} be finitely triangulable space and $f, g: \mathbb{X} \to \mathbb{R}$ be two continuous functions. Let Dgm(f) and Dgm(g) be corresponding persistence diagrams. Then

$$W_{\infty}(Dgm(f), Dgm(g)) \leq ||f - g||_{\infty}.$$

Confidence set for the persistent homology is a random set containing the persistent homology with high probability.

Let Dgm(M) and Dgm(X) be persistent homologies of the manifold M and the data X, respectively. Given the significance level $\alpha \in (0,1)$, $(1-\alpha)$ confidence set $\{D \in Dgm: W_{\infty}(Dgm(X), D) \leq c_n\}$ is a random set satisfying

$$\mathbb{P}\left(\textit{Dgm}(\textit{M}) \in \{\textit{D} \in \textit{Dgm}: \; \textit{W}_{\infty}(\textit{Dgm}(\textit{X}), \; \textit{D}) \leq \textit{c}_{\textit{n}}\}\right) \geq 1 - \alpha.$$



Confidence band for the persistent homology can be obtained by the corresponding confidence band for functions.

From Stability Theorem, $\mathbb{P}(||f_M - f_X|| \leq c_n) \geq 1 - \alpha$ implies

$$\mathbb{P}\left(d_{B}(\textit{Dgm}(f_{M}),\,\textit{Dgm}(f_{X})\right) \leq c_{n}\right) \geq \mathbb{P}\left(||f_{M} - f_{X}||_{\infty} \leq c_{n}\right) \geq 1 - \alpha,$$

so the confidence band of corresponding functions f_M can be used for confidene band of persistent homologies $Dgm(f_M)$.

Confidence band for the persistent homology can be computed using the bootstrap algorithm.

Bootstrap algorithm can be applied to peristent homology.

- ▶ for the case of kernel density estimator in Fasy et al. [2014],
- ▶ for the case of distance to measure and kernel distance in Chazal et al. [2014].

