# Topics in geometric inference Lecture I: Voronoi covariance measure

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# Geometric inference

Given: — An unknown object K (compact set) in  $\mathbb{R}^d$ 

— A finite point set  $P \subseteq \mathbb{R}^d$  approximating K.

What amount of the topology and geometry of K can we recover from P ?



- 1. Tube formulas, curvature measures and their stability
- 2. Voronoi covariance measure
- 3. Distance to a measure and generalized VCM
- 4. Computations

1. Tube formulas and curvature measures



**Distance function:**  $d_P : x \in \mathbb{R}^d \mapsto \min_{p \in P} ||x - p||$ 



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**Theorem (Weyl):** If  $K \subseteq \mathbb{R}^d$  is a domain with smooth boundary M, then  $r \mapsto \operatorname{vol}^d(K^r)$  is a degree d polynomial on [0, R] for some R > 0.



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**Example:** if K is bounded by a smooth surface S in  $\mathbb{R}^3$ ,

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$$\Phi_K^2 = \operatorname{area}(S)$$

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 $\Phi_K^1 = \text{tot.}$  mean curvature  $\Phi_K^0 = \text{tot.}$  Gaussian curvature



**Definition:** The medial axis of  $K \subseteq \mathbb{R}^d$  is  $\mathcal{M}(K) := \{x \in \mathbb{R}^d; \ \# \operatorname{proj}_K(x) > 1\}$ 

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(ii) If M is smooth, min. curvature radius of  $M \ge \operatorname{reach}(M) > 0$ .



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Federer's tube formula: Suppose  $R := \operatorname{reach}(K) > 0$ . For all subset B of K, the map  $r \mapsto \mathcal{H}^{d}(K^{r} \cap p_{K}^{-1}(B))$ is a polynomial of degree d on  $[0, \operatorname{reach}(K)]$ .



**Definition:** The boundary measure of Kwrt a domain E is defined for  $B \subseteq K$  by  $\mu_{K,E}(B) := \mathcal{H}^{d}(E \cap p_{K}^{-1}(B))$ 



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• If  $X \subseteq B(0,r)$  with  $r \ge 1$ , and  $\mu, \nu$  are probability measures on X,

$$W_1(\mu,\nu)/r \le d_{bL}(\mu,\nu) \le W_1(\mu,\nu)$$

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• Lemma:  $d_{bL}(\mu_{K,E},\mu_{L,E}) \leq ||p_K - p_L||_{L^1(E)}$ .

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 $\sup_{\chi \in \mathrm{BL}_1} \left| \int_K \chi(p) \,\mathrm{d}\,\mu_{K,E}(p) - \int_K \chi(p) \,\mathrm{d}\,\mu_{L,E}(p) \right|$ 

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change of variable formula

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$$\leq \|\mathbf{p}_{K} - \mathbf{p}_{L}\|_{\mathrm{L}^{1}(E)} \qquad \chi \text{ is } 1\text{-Lipschitz}$$

**Proposition:** Let  $K_n, K$  be compact subsets of  $\mathbb{R}^d$  s.t.  $K_n \xrightarrow{d_H} K$  and  $R := \min(\operatorname{reach}(K), \operatorname{reach}(K_n)) > 0$ Then, for any r < R, and  $E \subseteq K^r$ ,  $\lim_{n \to \infty} \|p_K - p_{K_n}\|_{L^{\infty}(E)} = 0$ in particular:  $\lim_{n \to \infty} d_{\mathrm{bL}}(\mu_{K_n,E}, \mu_{K,E}) = 0$ 

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#### Nonquantitative stability of curvature measures

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**Corollary:** For all 
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**Goal:** Show  $||p_K - p_L||_{L^1(E)} = O(d_H(K, L)^{\alpha})$  for arbitrary compact sets

**Theorem:** Let  $K, L \subseteq \mathbb{R}^d$  be compact sets and E a bounded domain

 $d_{bL}(\mu_{K,E},\mu_{L,E}) \le c_{K,E}\sqrt{d_{H}(K,L)}$ 

assuming that  $d_H(K, L) \leq diam(K)$ .

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**Corollary:** Assume reach $(K) \ge R$ , and L is **any** compact set. Then,  $\forall i \in \{1, \ldots, d\}, d_{bL}(\tilde{\Phi}_L^i, \Phi_K^i) \le c_{K,R} \sqrt{d_H(K, L)}.$ 

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defined through polynomial fitting, i.e.

 $\mu_{L,L^{r_{\ell}}} = \sum_{i=0}^{d} \tilde{\Phi}_{L}^{d-i} r_{\ell}^{i}$  for fixed  $0 < r_{0} < \ldots < r_{d} < R$ 

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 $L_{\ell} = \text{reg. polygon in } K$  $d_{\mathrm{H}}(K, L_{\ell}) = \mathrm{O}(\ell^2)$  A constant fraction of E is projected to the vertices of  $P_{\ell}$ .

$$d_{bL}(\mu_{K,E},\mu_{L_{\ell},E}) = \Omega(\ell)$$
$$= \Omega(\sqrt{d_{H}(K,L_{\ell})})$$

**Theorem:** If  $d_{\rm H}(K,L) \leq {\rm diam}(K)$ ,  $d_{\rm bL}(\mu_{K,E},\mu_{L,E}) \leq c_{E,K} d_{\rm H}^{1/2}(K,L)$ 

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 $\longrightarrow$  1-semiconcavity of the distance function to a compact set.

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$$\int_{E} \|\nabla u - \nabla v\|^{2} = \int_{\partial E} (u - v) \langle \nabla u - \nabla v | \mathbf{n}_{E} \rangle - \int_{E} (u - v) \Delta (u - v)$$

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finally:  $\int_E |\Delta u| = \int_E \Delta u$ convexity

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_{E} \|\nabla u - \nabla v\|^{2} \stackrel{\checkmark}{=} \int_{\partial E} (u - v) \langle \nabla u - \nabla v | \mathbf{n}_{E} \rangle - \int_{E} (u - v) \Delta (u - v) \\ & \searrow \\ & \leq \|u - v\|_{\mathbf{L}^{\infty}(E)} (\|\nabla u\|_{\mathbf{L}^{\infty}(E)} + \|\nabla v\|_{\mathbf{L}^{\infty}(E)}) \mathcal{H}^{d-1}(\partial E) \end{aligned}$$

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$$\stackrel{\bullet}{\models} \qquad \stackrel{\bullet}{\models} \qquad \stackrel{\bullet}{\rightarrow} \qquad \stackrel$$

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convexity Stokes

# Example of boundary measures



[Chazal-Cohen-Steiner-M. '07]

#### 2. Voronoi covariance measure



$$P = \{p_1, \dots, p_N\} \subseteq \mathbb{R}^d$$

Voronoi cell:  $\operatorname{Vor}_P(p) = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^d; \forall q \in P, \|x - p\| \le \|x - q\|\}$ 



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If C is a **noiseless**  $\varepsilon$ -sampling of a surface S, the angle between pole<sub>C</sub>(p) - p and the normal of S at p is O( $\varepsilon$ ).

[Amenta, Bern 1999]



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[Amenta, Bern 1999] [Dey, Sun 2005]

Need of an **integral** quantity to get stability under Hausdorff noise.
**Covariance matrix:** 
$$\operatorname{cov}_p(\Omega) := \int_{\Omega} (x-p) \otimes (x-p) \, \mathrm{d} x.$$

 $[v \otimes v]_{ij} := v_i v_j$ 

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- Resilience to noise is achieved by taking union of neighbouring Voronoi cells.

[Alliez, Cohen-Steiner, Tong, Desbruns 2007]



The Voronoi covariance measure of K wrt a domain E is a tensor-valued measure on  $\mathbb{R}^d$ . For  $B \subseteq \mathbb{R}^d$ ,

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**NB:** Boundary measure:  $\mu_{K,E}(B) = \int_{E \cap p_K^{-1}(B)} 1 \, \mathrm{d} \, \mathcal{H}^d(x)$ 



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$$\mathcal{V}_{P,E} = \sum_{p \in B \cap P} \operatorname{cov}_p(\operatorname{Vor}_P(p) \cap E)\delta_p$$





▶  $K \in \mathcal{K}(\mathbb{R}^d) \mapsto \mathcal{V}_{K,K^r}$  is a translation-invariant local tensor valuation



K ∈ K(ℝ<sup>d</sup>) → V<sub>K,K<sup>r</sup></sub> is a translation-invariant local tensor valuation
If reach(K) > R, ∃V<sup>i</sup><sub>K</sub> s.t. V<sub>K,K<sup>r</sup></sub> = ∑<sup>d</sup><sub>i=1</sub> V<sup>i</sup><sub>K</sub>r<sup>d-i</sup> on [0, R]



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As  $r \to 0$ ,  $e_3$  converges to the tangent direction of the edge.

# Stability of the Voronoi covariance measure

**Bounded-Lipschitz distance** for tensor-valued measures  $\mu, \nu$   $d_{bL}(\mu, \nu) := \sup_{f \in BL_1} \| \int f d \mu - \int f d \nu \|_{op}$ where for  $A \in Sym^+(\mathbb{R}^d)$ ,  $\|A\|_{op} = \sup_{v \in \mathbb{R}^d \setminus 0} \langle Av | v \rangle / \|v\|^2$ 

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[M., Ovsjanikov, Guibas 2009]

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**Corollary:** Given compact sets K, L with  $d_H(K, L) \leq diam(K)$ ,  $d_{bL}(\mathcal{V}_{K,K^R}, \mathcal{V}_{L,L^R}) \leq c_{E,K,R} \sqrt{d_H(K,L)}$ 

 $\rightarrow$  Inference result for local Minkowski tensors of sets with positive reach.

# Numerical application of VCM: edge extraction

- $(\lambda_i(p))_{1 \le i \le 3} :=$ sorted eigenvalues of  $\mathcal{V}_{P,P^R}(\mathbf{B}(p,r))$
- ▶ mark p as edge if  $\lambda_2(p)/(\lambda_1(p) + \lambda_2(p) + \lambda_3(p)) \le T$



Uniform noise with  $\varepsilon=2\%$  of diameter

# Numerical application of VCM: edge extraction

- $(\lambda_i(p))_{1 \le i \le 3} :=$ sorted eigenvalues of  $\mathcal{V}_{P,P^R}(\mathbf{B}(p,r))$
- ▶ mark p as edge if  $\lambda_2(p)/(\lambda_1(p) + \lambda_2(p) + \lambda_3(p)) \le T$





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3. Distance to a measure and robust VCM

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The stability theorems mentioned before can be generalized to:

 $P, d_P \longleftrightarrow \phi \text{ distance-like}$   $P^r \longleftrightarrow \phi^{-1}([0, r])$   $d_H(P, K) \le \varepsilon \longleftrightarrow ||d_K - \phi||_{\infty} \le \varepsilon$ 

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**Idea:** Replace  $d_P$  with a distance-like function more resilient to outliers.

The **Voronoi covariance measure** of a distance-like function  $\phi$  is a tensor-valued measure on  $\mathbb{R}^d$ . For  $B \subseteq \mathbb{R}^d$ ,

$$\mathcal{V}_{\phi,E}(B) = \int_E \mathbf{n}_{\phi}(x) \otimes \mathbf{n}_{\phi}(x) \mathbf{1}_B(x - \mathbf{n}_{\phi}(x)) \,\mathrm{d}\,\mathcal{H}^d(x)$$

where  $\mathbf{n}_{\phi}(x) := \frac{1}{2} \nabla \phi^2(x)$ .

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► Since  $\phi^2 - \|.\|^2$  is concave,  $\mathbf{n}_{\phi} = \frac{1}{2}\nabla\phi^2$  is well-defined a.e.

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▶ Distance function: With  $\phi = d_K$  one has:  $\mathbf{n}_{\phi}(x) = x - p_K(x)$ 

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**Theorem:** Given a compact set K and  $\phi$  distance-like,  $d_{bL}(\mathcal{V}_{K,K^R}, \mathcal{V}_{\phi,\phi^{-1}([0,R])}) \leq c_{K,R} \| d_K - \phi \|_{\infty}^{1/2}$ 

[Cuel, Lachaud, M., Thibert 2014]

## Wasserstein distance



Transport plan: non-negative measure  $\pi$  on  $\mathbb{R}^d \times \mathbb{R}^d$  s.t.  $\pi(A \times \mathbb{R}^d) = \mu(A)$  $\pi(\mathbb{R}^d \times B) = \nu(B)$ 

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$$W_2(\mu,\nu) := (\min_{\pi} \int ||x-y||^2 \,\mathrm{d}\,\pi(x,y)))^{1/2}$$
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**Example:** point cloud P — measure  $\mu_P := \frac{1}{d} \sum_{p \in P} \delta_p$ 



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if 
$$P = \bullet \cup \bullet$$
 and  $Q = \bullet \cup \bullet$   
then  $d_H(P,Q) = R$  and  $W_2(\mu_P,\mu_Q) \le \frac{k}{N}R$ 

In practice,  $W_2(\mu_P, \mu_Q) \ll d_H(P, Q)$ 

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#### **Summary:**

(compact sets, $d_{ m H}$ )	(probability measures, $W_2$ )
$K, \mathrm{d}_K$	$\mu, \mathrm{d}_{\mu,m}$
$d_K$ distance-like	$\mathrm{d}_{\mu,m}$ distance-like
$\  \mathrm{d}_K - \mathrm{d}_{K'} \  \le \mathrm{d}_\mathrm{H}(K, K')$	$\  d_{\mu,m} - d_{\mu',m} \ _{\infty} \le m^{-1/2} W_2(\mu,\mu')$

Submeasure: Given a probability measure  $\mu$  and  $m\in(0,1),$ 

 $\operatorname{Sub}_m(\mu) = \{\nu \le \mu; \operatorname{mass}(\nu) = m\}$ 

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**Submeasure:** Given a probability measure  $\mu$  and  $m \in (0, 1)$ ,  $\operatorname{Sub}_m(\mu) = \{ \nu \leq \mu; \max(\nu) = m \}$  $\iff \nu(B) \leq \mu(B)$  for all Borel set.

Distance to a measure: Given  $\mu$  a probability measure on  $\mathbb{R}^d$ ,  $m \in (0, 1)$  $d_{\mu,m}(x) := \min_{\nu \in \operatorname{Sub}_m(\mu)} \left(\frac{1}{m} \int ||x - p||^2 \, \mathrm{d}\,\nu(p)\right)^{1/2}$ 

[Chazal-Cohen-Steiner-M '09]

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**Example:** Let  $\mu_P =$  uniform probability measure on P and m = k/|P|,



$$d_{\mu_P,m}^2 = \frac{1}{k} \sum_{p \in NN_P^k(x)} ||x - p||^2$$

where  $NN_P^k(x) = k$  nearest neighbors of x in P

**Proposition:** The function  $d_{\mu,m}$  is distance-like.

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**Proposition:** The function  $d_{\mu,m}$  is distance-like.

**Proof:** We show that  $d_{\mu,m}^2 - \|.\|^2$  is concave:

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$$d_{\mu,m}^{2}(x) = \min_{\nu \in Sub_{m}(\mu)} m \int_{\mathbb{R}^{d}} ||x - p||^{2} d\nu(p)$$
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 $\implies \quad \mathrm{d}_{\mu,m}(x)^2 - \|.\|^2 \text{ is concave, and with } \nu := \text{minimizer in (1),}$  $\frac{1}{2} \nabla \,\mathrm{d}_{\mu,m}^2(x) = x - m \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} p \,\mathrm{d}\,\nu(p)$  $= x - \text{centroid}(\nu)$ 

**Proposition:** The function  $d_{\mu,m}$  is distance-like.

**Illustration:** P sampled from a mixture of two Gaussians in  $\mathbb{R}^2$ . |P| = 500 and m = 20/500





 $d_{\mu,m}$ 

distance to the  $20 \mathrm{th}$  nearest neighbor

#### **Proposition:** $\| d_{\mu,m} - d_{\mu',m} \|_{\infty} \le m^{-1/2} W_2(\mu, \mu')$

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**Example:** Volume measure on a compact surface.

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**Corollary:** If  $\mu_K$  has dimension at most  $\ell$ ,  $\| \mathbf{d}_K - \mathbf{d}_{\mu_P,m} \|_{\infty} \le \| \mathbf{d}_K - \mathbf{d}_{\mu_K,m} \|_{\infty} + \| \mathbf{d}_{\mu_K,m} - \mathbf{d}_{\mu_P,m} \|_{\infty}$ 

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• P

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**Example:** Volume measure on a compact surface.

Corollary: If  $\mu_K$  has dimension at most  $\ell$ ,  $\| d_K - d_{\mu_P,m} \|_{\infty} \leq \| d_K - d_{\mu_K,m} \|_{\infty} + \| d_{\mu_K,m} - d_{\mu_P,m} \|_{\infty}$   $\leq \alpha_K^{-1/\ell} m^{1/\ell} + m^{-1/2} W_2(\mu_P, \mu_K)$ smoothing noise

**Proposition:**  $\| d_{\mu,m} - d_{\mu',m} \|_{\infty} \le m^{-1/2} W_2(\mu, \mu')$ 



In this case, one can approximate  $\mathcal{V}_{K,K^R}$  by  $\mathcal{V}_{\phi,\phi^{-1}([0,R])}$  with  $\phi = d_{\mu_P,m}$ .

## Example: detection of sharp features



# 4. Computations

## Computation of boundary measures

Boundary measures of a finite sets can be computed via **Monte-Carlo**:



Input:  $P \subseteq \mathbb{R}^d$ , r > 0,  $N \in \mathbb{N}$ Output:  $\mu_N \sim \mu := \frac{\mu_{P,P^r}}{\operatorname{vol}^d(P^r)}$ 

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(1) Sample points  $(X_i)_{1 \le i \le N}$  in  $P^r$ 

(2) Compute the projection of each point  $(X_i)$  on P:  $p_i \leftarrow p_P(X_i)$ .

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# Computation of boundary measures and VCMs

Boundary measures of a finite sets can be computed via **Monte-Carlo**:



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(1) Sample points  $(X_i)_{1 \le i \le N}$  in  $P^r$ 

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$$\mu_N = \frac{1}{N} \sum_i \delta_{p_i}$$

 $\nu_N = \frac{1}{N} \sum_i (X_i - p_i) \otimes (X_i - p_i) \delta_{p_i}$ 

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