PROGRAMME AND ABSTRACTS

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a crucial point is the measurement of similarities between pairs of documents. In this setting, the use of dictionaries (or other techniques as Latent Semantics Analysis) is rellevant when similarities are not desired to be restricted to syntactical ones. In this case, a common problem is how to define a similarity between words on the basis of electronic dictionaries. In this work we will describe an approach to compute such similarities using previous results on the construction of fuzzy measures from fuzzy graphs.

(A4.3) 09_15 **Fast bayesian implementation of hierarchical mixtures of experts and stochastic neural networks: Gibbs sampler with parameters expansion**

Presenter: Samuel Po-Shing Wong@Chinese University of Hong Kong, China
Co-authors: Tze Leung Lai, Jun Liu

Hierarchical Mixtures of Experts (HME) and Stochastic Neural Networks (SNN) are closely related techniques in nonparametric function estimation. The maximum likelihood estimates of both models are usually computed via the Expectation -Maximization (EM) algorithm. Despite the successes in many reported cases, the number of E-steps needed are exponential in the number of experts/neurons and therefore, constrain their applications to relatively small data sets and/or simple HME/SNN structures. The Bayesian implementation of HME and SNN reduces the computational burden by using Gibbs Sampler. Making use of the newly proposed parameters expansion technique, we significantly speed up the convergence of the Gibbs Sampler. Some simulated and real examples will be presented.

(A4.4) 09_17 **A stochastic approximation view of boosting**

Presenter: C. Andy Tsao@National Dong Hwa University, Taiwan
Co-authors: Yuan-chin Ivan Chang

We consider boosting as a stochastic approximation algorithm. This viewpoint provides some new insights and tools for boosting-like algorithms. An SABoost algorithm is proposed based on the convergence theorem of the Robbins-Monro procedure. Good choices of the step sizes emerge for iterative minimization of conditional risk with respect to the exponential loss. Empirically, we found that SABoost with a small step-size will have smaller training and testing errors difference, and when the step size becomes large, it tends to overfit (i.e. bias towards training scenarios). For suitable choices of step-size, SABoost performs better than the original AdaBoost with the same weak base learner in both synthesized and bench mark data sets. It suggests that the "step" coefficient obtained by the "greedy-descent" method in AdaBoost may not be optimal in a sense. In addition, we conduct some empirical studies using SVM as base learners in SABoost. It suggests the possibility to improve (boost) an SVM classifier or other "strong" learners using SABoost with "good" step-sizes.

(A4.5) 09_21 **Unsupervised clustering using principal directions guidance**

Presenter: Efstratios Gallopoulos@University of Patras, Greece
Co-authors: Dimitrios Tasoulis, Michael Vrahatis, Dimitrios Zeimpekis

In the process of extraction of meaningful information from large data sets, clustering algorithms are employed to identify groups (clusters) of similar objects. A critical issue for any clustering algorithm is the determination of the number of clusters present in a dataset. In this contribution we present a modification of the k-windows unsupervised clustering algorithm [1], that takes into account the orientation of the data points using the information derived from the principal directions. The proposed modification enhances the clustering ability of the original algorithm, especially in cases with clusters that are assembled by parts with different orientations.

References

[1] M.N. Vrahatis, B. Boutsinas, P. Alevizos, G. Pavlides. The new k-windows algorithm for improving the k-means clustering algorithm. Journal of Complexity 18, 375-391, 2002.

(A4.6) 09_22 **Recovery of glassless images by recursive KPCA reconstruction**

Presenter: Eiji Tokuda@University of Fukuoka, Japan
Co-authors: Toshio Sakata, Ryuei Nishii

Eigenfaces and kernel eigenfaces has been used in discrimination of faces. In this study we pursue the problem of eyeglass removal by using kernel eigen faces. Glasses removal from facial images by using recursive PCA reconstruction was studied by H.O.You, P.Jeong-seon et al. The novelty of this work is to use recursive kernel PCA reconstruction, not PCA. It is shown by experiments that because the kernel PCA can manipulate the non-linearity of face images it improves the accuracy of the recovery of glassless images. Recently Laplacian face was used by Xiaofei He et al. in the problem of face recognition. In this paper recursive Laplacianfaces reconstruction method is also applied to glass removal and its performance is compared with KPCA reconstruction method.

T13A Room 2 Chair: Bernard Garel
Advances in Mixture Models

(A5.1) 13_24 **Some finite sample nonparametric techniques useful for the anlaysis of mixtures**

Presenter: Guenther Walther@Stanford University, USA

Many statistical procedures provide only approximate confidence and significance statements, e.g. via bootstrapping or asymptotic approximations. In addition, it is usually difficult to bound the error of this approximation, or no bound is available at all. For this reason, there is value in having procedures that provide guaranteed finite sample confidence and significance statements. Historically, this issue had been appreciated and addressed e.g. with permutation tests. But these approaches seem to have been overtaken by the popularity of more modern, albeit approximate procedures. I will explain some new approaches that provide guaranteed finite sample statements and are useful for a range of problems of current interest. Part of this work is joint with L. Duembgen.

(A5.2) 13_13 **Heterogeneity in meta-analysis of clinical trials**

Presenter: Rebecca DerSimonian@National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, USA
Co-authors: Kai Yu

Meta-analysis continues to be popular in medical and clinical research. Such research often considers data form samples that are heterogeneous in

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