

Discrete curve fitting on manifolds

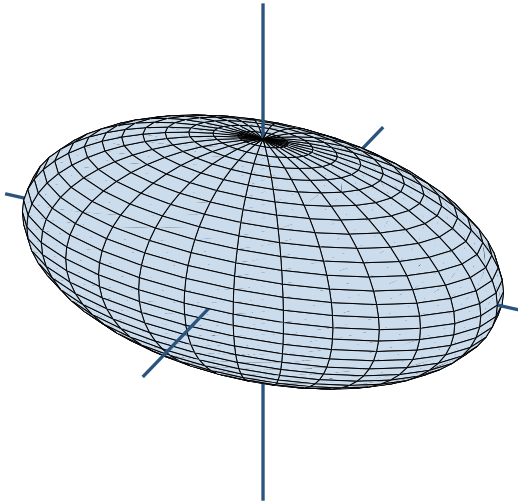
Nicolas Boumal

Advisors: Pierre-Antoine Absil and Vincent Blondel

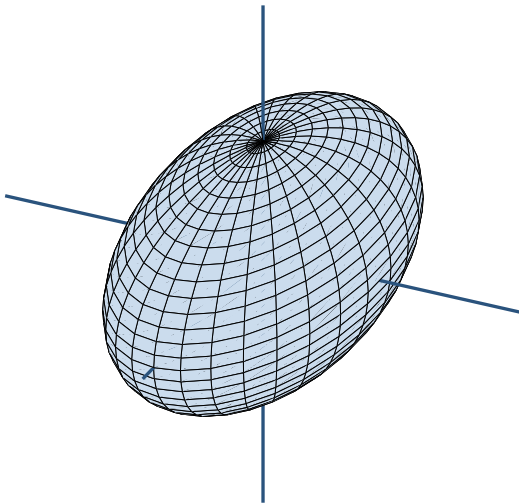
Université catholique de Louvain

March 2011

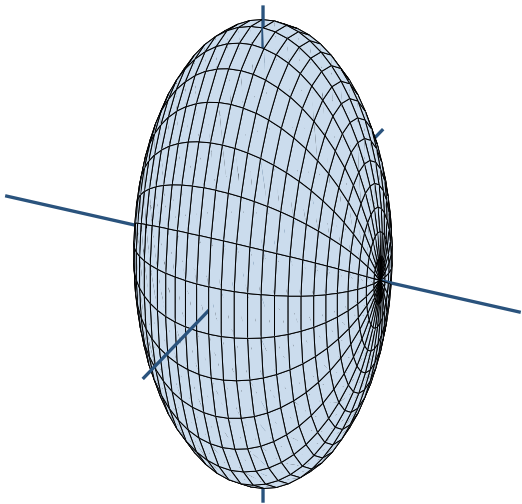
Motivation: interpolation on $SO(3)$



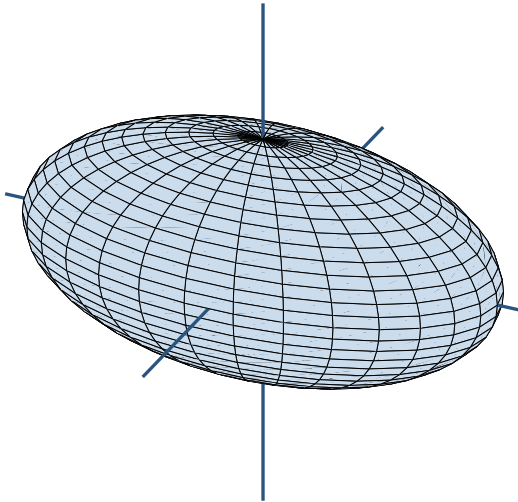
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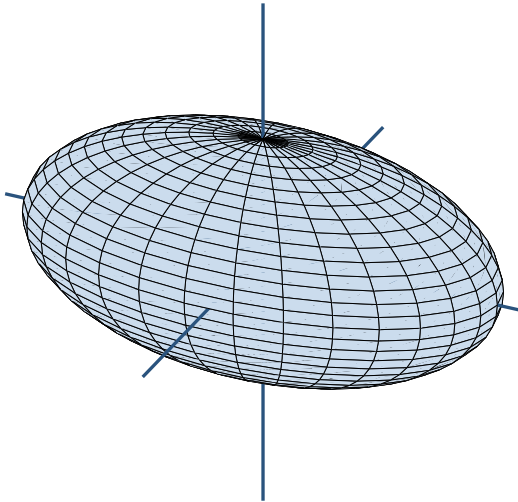
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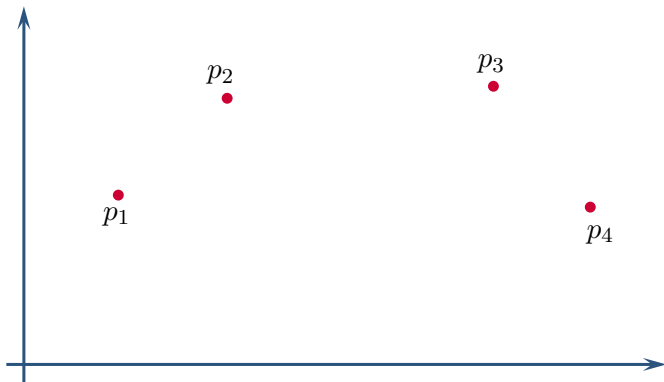
The regression problem in $\mathbb{R}^2$

A balance between fitting and smoothness



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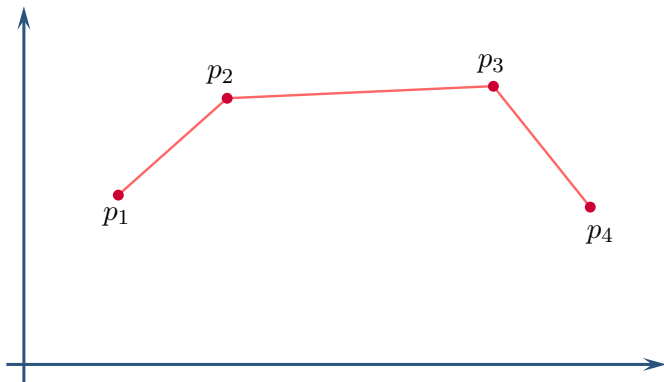
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Each data point p_i corresponds to a fixed time t_i .

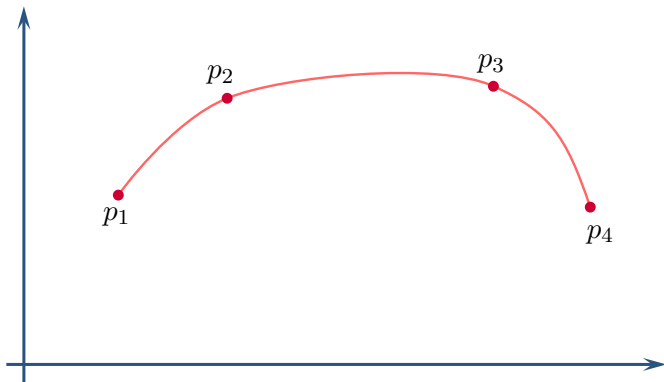
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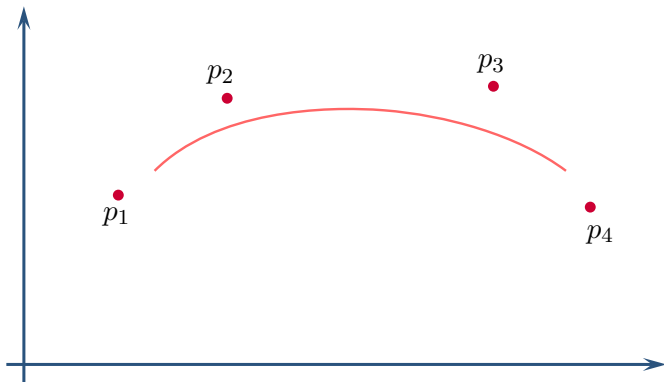
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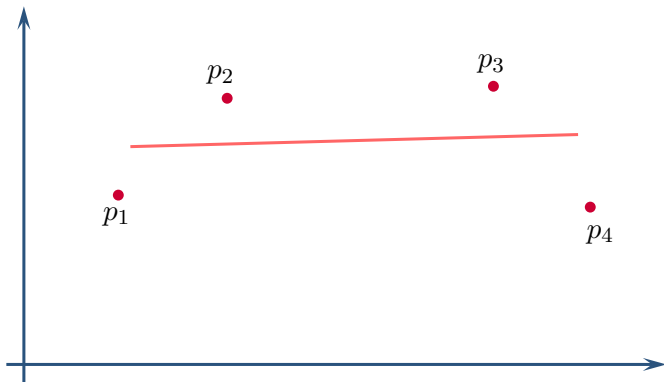
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Regression is about denoising and filling the gaps.

The regression problem in $\mathbb{R}^2$

can be seen as an optimization problem

Minimize:

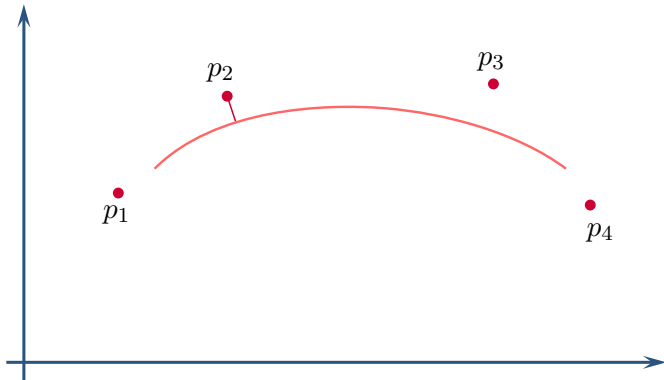
$$\hat{E}(\gamma) = \overbrace{\sum_{i=1}^N \|p_i - \gamma(t_i)\|^2}^{\text{Penalty on misfit}} + \lambda \overbrace{\int_{t_1}^{t_N} \|\dot{\gamma}(t)\|^2 dt}^{\text{Penalty on velocity}} + \mu \overbrace{\int_{t_1}^{t_N} \|\ddot{\gamma}(t)\|^2 dt}^{\text{Penalty on acceleration}}$$

λ and μ (≥ 0) balance fitting VS smoothness.

Minimize over some curve space $\hat{\Gamma}$: $\dim \hat{\Gamma}$ may be infinite.

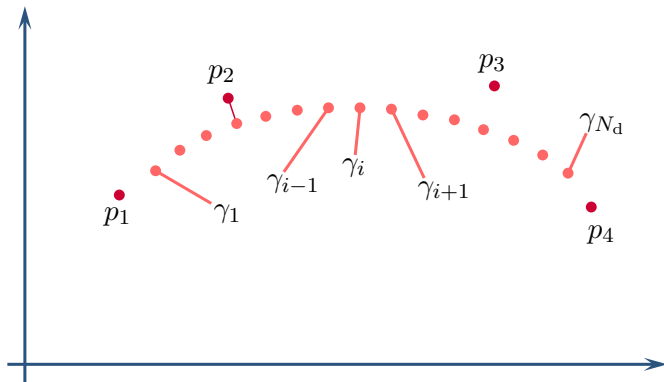
We discretize the curves γ

hence reverting to finite dimensional optimization



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Each point γ_i corresponds to a fixed time τ_i

$$\Gamma = \mathbb{R}^n \times \cdots \times \mathbb{R}^n \equiv \mathbb{R}^{N_d \times n}$$

We thus need a new objective E

defined over the new curve space Γ

$$E(\gamma) = \sum_{i=1}^N \|p_i - \gamma(t_i)\|^2 + \lambda \sum_{i=1}^{N_d} \alpha_i \|v_i\|^2 + \mu \sum_{i=1}^{N_d} \beta_i \|a_i\|^2$$

The equation above is a visual representation of the objective function $E(\gamma)$. It consists of three terms, each with a corresponding integral expression above it, connected by plus signs. The first term is $\sum_{i=1}^N \|p_i - \gamma(t_i)\|^2$, with the integral $\int_{t_1}^{t_N} \|\dot{\gamma}(t)\|^2 dt$ above it. The second term is $\lambda \sum_{i=1}^{N_d} \alpha_i \|v_i\|^2$, with the integral $\int_{t_1}^{t_N} \|\ddot{\gamma}(t)\|^2 dt$ above it. The third term is $\mu \sum_{i=1}^{N_d} \beta_i \|a_i\|^2$, with the integral $\int_{t_1}^{t_N} \|\ddot{\gamma}(t)\|^2 dt$ above it. Downward arrows indicate the correspondence between the integral expressions and the summation terms in the objective function.

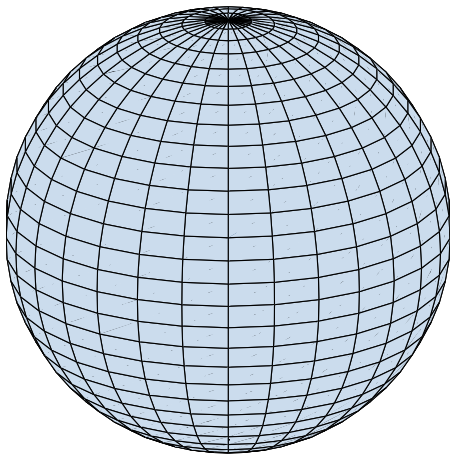
What if the data lies on a manifold?

Manifolds are smoothly “curved” spaces.

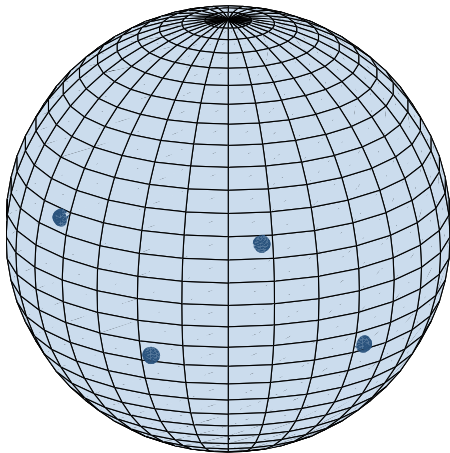
Simple toy example: the sphere $\mathbb{S}^2$ in $\mathbb{R}^3$

More exciting manifolds discussed in this work: $\mathbb{P}_+^n$ and $\text{SO}(n)$.

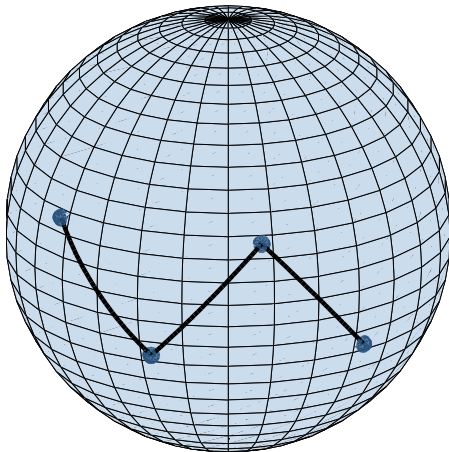
The regression problem on $\mathbb{S}^2$



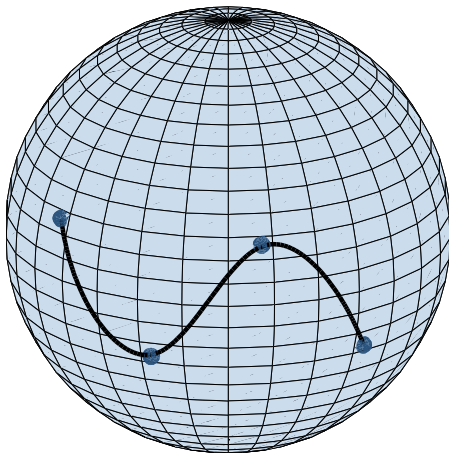
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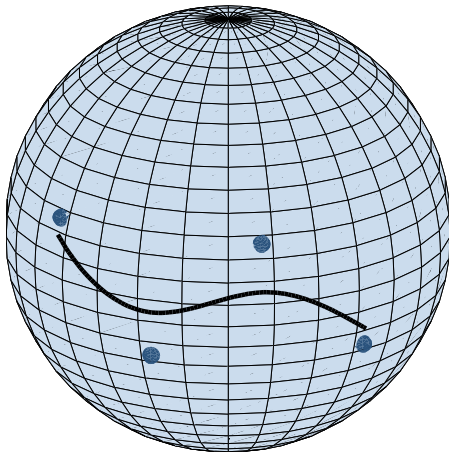
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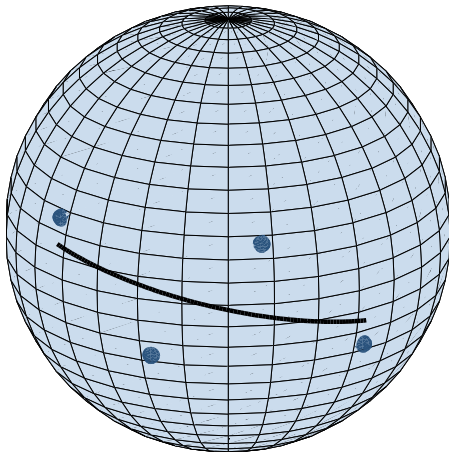
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The regression problem on $\mathbb{S}^2$



We need a few concepts from Riemannian geometry
to define discrete regression on $\mathbb{S}^2$

Redefine E over $\Gamma = \mathbb{S}^2 \times \cdots \times \mathbb{S}^2$:

$$E(\gamma) = \sum_{i=1}^N \|p_i - \gamma_{s_i}\|^2 + \lambda \sum_{i=1}^{N_d} \alpha_i \|v_i\|^2 + \mu \sum_{i=1}^{N_d} \beta_i \|a_i\|^2$$

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Finite differences are linear combinations

but $\mathbb{S}^2$ is not a vector space :(

The linear combination

$$a_i = \frac{\gamma_{i+1} - 2\gamma_i + \gamma_{i-1}}{\Delta\tau^2}$$

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Now, we can interpret the terms:

$\gamma_{i+1} - \gamma_i$ is a vector rooted at γ_i and pointing toward γ_{i+1}

Logarithms on manifolds generalize differences

We use them to define geometric finite differences

$\text{Log}_a(b)$ is a vector rooted at a , in the tangent space to $\mathbb{S}^2$ at a , pointing toward b . Furthermore, $\| \text{Log}_a(b) \| = \text{dist}(a, b)$.

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$b - a$ is replaced by $\text{Log}_a(b)$

Hence:

$$v_i = \frac{\text{Log}_{\gamma_i}(\gamma_{i+1})}{\Delta\tau} \qquad a_i = \frac{\text{Log}_{\gamma_i}(\gamma_{i+1}) + \text{Log}_{\gamma_i}(\gamma_{i-1})}{\Delta\tau^2}$$

We now have a proper objective for manifolds

$$E(\gamma) = \underbrace{\sum_{i=1}^N \text{dist}^2(p_i, \gamma_{s_i})}_{\text{Penalty on misfit}} + \lambda \underbrace{\sum_{i=1}^{N_d-1} \alpha_i \left\| \frac{\text{Log}_{\gamma_i}(\gamma_{i+1})}{\Delta\tau} \right\|^2}_{\text{Penalty on velocity}} + \mu \underbrace{\sum_{i=2}^{N_d-1} \beta_i \left\| \frac{\text{Log}_{\gamma_i}(\gamma_{i+1}) + \text{Log}_{\gamma_i}(\gamma_{i-1})}{\Delta\tau^2} \right\|^2}_{\text{Penalty on acceleration}}$$

Minimize over $\Gamma = \mathbb{S}^2 \times \cdots \times \mathbb{S}^2$, a finite dimensional manifold.

The constraint $\gamma \in \Gamma$ is tough for standard software.

To minimize E , we exploit the geometry

by generalizing unconstrained descent methods

Geometric steepest descent step:

- 1 Compute the steepest descent direction;
- 2 Choose a step length along the corresponding geodesic;
- 3 Make the step while remaining on the manifold.

Let's recap'

- 1 We defined the discrete regression problem in $\mathbb{R}^n$;

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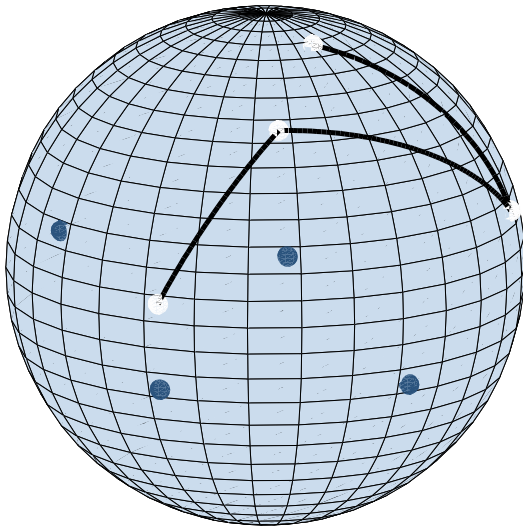
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Let's recap'

- 1 We defined the discrete regression problem in $\mathbb{R}^n$;
- 2 Then generalized it to manifolds as an optimization problem on Γ ;
- 3 And described an optimization scheme on manifolds.

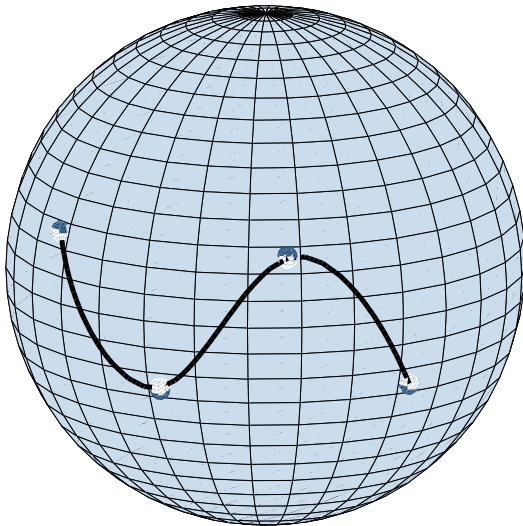
Example of convergence on $\mathbb{S}^2$

with geometric non-linear CG and iterative refinement



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What's so hard about it?

The main constraint: tractability of the manifold.

It can be slow. . .

We are currently trying second order methods.

. . . or even impossible.

Our method is well-defined on any Riemannian manifold,
but is only practical on the gentle ones.

What's next?

Applications?

