

## Johnson-Lindenstrauss theory

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### 1 Subgaussian random variables

In probability, Gaussian random variables are the easiest and most commonly used distribution encountered.

**Definition.** *Subgaussian*

Let  $X$  (random variable) is  $\sigma$ -subgaussian if there exist  $\sigma > 0$  such as :

$$\forall t \in \mathbb{R}, \mathbb{E}[\exp(tX)] \leq \exp\left(\frac{\sigma^2 t^2}{2}\right). \quad (1)$$

The quantity  $\mathbb{E}[\exp(tX)]$  is called the **moment generating function** in by probabilists or the **Laplace transform** by analysts.

**Proposition.**  $X$   $\sigma$ -subgaussian Assume that  $X$  is  $\sigma$ -subgaussian, then the following statement are true:  $\mathbb{E}(X) = 0$  and  $\mathbb{E}(X^2) = \text{Var}(X) \leq \sigma^2$

*Proof.*

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E}(\exp(tx)) &= \sum_{n \geq 0} t^n \frac{\mathbb{E}(X^n)}{n!} \leq \exp\left(\frac{t^2 \sigma^2}{2}\right) \quad (\text{Fubini}) \\ &= \sum_{n \geq 0} \left(\frac{\sigma^2 t^2}{2}\right)^n \frac{1}{n!}. \end{aligned}$$

Up to order 2 and rearranging terms of order greater than 2 on the l.h.s:

$$1 + t\mathbb{E}(X) + \frac{t^2}{2}\mathbb{E}(X^2) \leq 1 + \frac{\sigma^2 t^2}{2} + g(t) \quad (2)$$

where  $\frac{g(t)}{t^2} \rightarrow_{t \rightarrow 0} 0$ . So by dividing both side by  $t$  and taking the limit when  $t \rightarrow 0_+$  we show that  $\mathbb{E}(X) \leq 0$ . With  $t \rightarrow 0_-$  we prove that  $\mathbb{E}(X) \geq 0$ . So  $\mathbb{E}(X) = 0$ .

By dividing both side of (2) by  $t^2$  and taking the limit we obtain  $\mathbb{E}(X^2) \leq \sigma^2$ . □

**Example.** 1.  $\mathcal{N}(0, \sigma^2)$  is  $\sigma$ -subgaussian.

Indeed, during previous courses, it has been checked that if  $X \sim \mathcal{N}(0, 1)$  then  $\mathbb{E}(\exp(tX)) = \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \exp(tX) \exp\left(-\frac{x^2}{2}\right) \frac{dx}{\sqrt{2\pi}} = \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \frac{\exp\left(-\frac{1}{2}(x-t)^2\right)}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \exp\left(\frac{1}{2}t^2\right) dx = \exp\left(\frac{t^2}{2}\right)$ . So if  $X \sim \mathcal{N}(0, 1)$  then  $X$  is 1-subgaussian. Now if  $Y \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma^2)$ , then  $\frac{Y}{\sigma} = X \sim \mathcal{N}(0, 1)$  holds too, and so  $\mathbb{E}(\exp(tY)) = \exp\left(\frac{\sigma^2 t^2}{2}\right)$  and  $Y$  is  $\sigma$ -subgaussian

2. Rademacher variable ( $\varepsilon = +1$  or  $\varepsilon = -1$  with probability  $1/2$ ) are 1-subgaussian.

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E}(\exp(tX)) &= \mathbb{P}(x = -1) \exp(-t) + \mathbb{P}(x = +1) \exp(t) = \frac{\exp(-t) + \exp(+t)}{2} \\ &= \cosh(t) = \sum_{n \geq 0} \frac{t^{2n}}{(2n)!} \\ &\leq \sum_{n \geq 0} \frac{(t^2)^n}{2^n n!} = \exp\left(\frac{t^2}{2}\right) \quad (\text{using } 2^n n! \leq (2n)!, \text{ see Appendix}) \end{aligned}$$

3. Uniform random variables over a compact interval  $[-a, a]$  is  $a$ -subgaussian

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E}(\exp(tX)) &= \int_{-a}^a \exp(tx) \frac{dx}{2a} = \frac{1}{2a} (\exp(ta) - \exp(-ta)) \\ &= \text{sh}(at) = \sum_{n \geq 0} \frac{(at)^{2n}}{(2n+1)!} \quad (\text{using now } 2^n n! \leq (2n+1)!) \\ &\leq \exp\left(\frac{a^2 t^2}{2}\right). \end{aligned}$$

In this case,  $a^2$  is an upper bound on the variance of  $X$ , since  $\text{Var}(X) = \int_{-a}^a x^2 \frac{dx}{2a} = [a^3 + a^3] \frac{1}{6a} = \frac{a^2}{3}$ . Can the bound be made sharper?

4.  $X$  is a bounded and centered random variable, with  $X \in [a, b]$ . Then  $X$  is  $\frac{b-a}{2}$ -subgaussian. (cf. Hoeffding's inequality and McDiarmind's proof (lecture 3). Remark that here we do not need  $a = -b$ .)

**Theorem.** Assume that  $X$  is  $\sigma$ -subgaussian and that  $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}$ , then  $\alpha X$  is  $(|\alpha|\sigma)$ -subgaussian. Moreover Assume that  $X_1$  is  $\alpha_1$ -subgaussian and  $X_2$  is  $\alpha_2$ -subgaussian, then  $(X_1 + X_2)$  is  $\sigma_1 + \sigma_2$ -subgaussian.

*Proof.* For the first part:

$$\mathbb{E}(\exp(t\alpha X)) \leq \exp(t^2 \alpha^2 \frac{t}{2}) \tag{3}$$

$$\leq \exp(|\alpha^2| \frac{\sigma}{2} t^2) \tag{4}$$

For the second part compute:

$$\mathbb{E}(\exp(t(X_1 + X_2))) = \mathbb{E}(\exp(tX_1) \exp(tX_2))$$

Then, let us introduce  $\frac{1}{p} + \frac{1}{q} = 1$  for some  $p \geq 1$ . It leads to

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E}(\exp(t(X_1 + X_2))) &= \mathbb{E}(\exp(tX_1 p))^{\frac{1}{p}} \mathbb{E}(\exp(tX_2 q))^{\frac{1}{q}} \\ &\leq \left( \exp\left(\frac{\sigma_1^2}{2} t^2 p^2\right) \right)^{\frac{1}{p}} \left( \exp\left(\frac{\sigma_2^2}{2} t^2 q^2\right) \right)^{\frac{1}{q}} = \exp\left(\frac{t^2}{2} (p\sigma_1^2 + q\sigma_2^2)\right). \end{aligned}$$

For example, if we choose  $p = q = \frac{1}{2}$  we get  $\frac{\sigma_1^2 + \sigma_2^2}{4}$  (meaning that Cauchy-Schwartz is suboptimal in that case). The idea is to optimize this bound over  $p \geq 1$ . This gives the following choice:

$$p^* = \frac{\sigma_2}{\sigma_1} + 1$$

and thus leads to the bound  $\mathbb{E}[\exp(t(X_1 + X_2))] \leq \exp\left(\frac{t^2(\sigma_1 + \sigma_2)^2}{2}\right)$ .  $\square$

**Theorem.** Assume that  $X_1$  is  $\alpha_1$ -subgaussian and  $X_2$  is  $\alpha_2$ -subgaussian, and that moreover  $X_1$  and  $X_2$  are independent, then  $(X_1 + X_2)$  is  $\sqrt{\sigma_1^2 + \sigma_2^2}$ -subgaussian.

*Proof.*

$$\mathbb{E}[e^{t(X_1+X_2)}] = \mathbb{E}[e^{t(X_1)}]\mathbb{E}[e^{t(X_2)}] = e^{\frac{\sigma_1^2}{2}t^2 + \frac{\sigma_2^2}{2}t^2} = \exp\left(\frac{t^2(\sqrt{\sigma_1^2 + \sigma_2^2})}{2}\right)$$

where the first equality holds because  $X_1$  and  $X_2$  are independent.  $\square$

**Theorem** (Characterization of subgaussian variables). *Let assume  $\mathbb{E}(X) = 0$ . Then the following propositions are equivalent<sup>1</sup>:*

1.  $\exists c_1 > 0, \quad \forall \lambda \geq 0, \quad \mathbb{P}(|X| \geq \lambda) \leq 2 \exp(-\lambda^2 c_1)$  (tail)
2.  $\exists c_2 > 0, \quad \forall p \geq 1, \quad (\mathbb{E}|X|^p)^{\frac{1}{p}} \leq c_2 \sqrt{p}$  (Moment control)
3.  $\exists c_3 > 0, \quad \mathbb{E}(\exp(c_3 X^2)) \leq 2$  (Laplace transform of  $X^2$  is bounded)
4.  $\exists c_4 > 0, \quad \mathbb{E}(\exp(tX)) \leq \exp(c_4 \frac{t^2}{2})$  (Laplace transform decay)

**Remark.** The number 2 in the third claim is arbitrary.

**Remark.** You can find articles/books, where the first proposition is taken as the definition for subgaussian.

*Proof.* 1  $\Rightarrow$  2

We can assume that  $c_1 = 1$  (otherwise consider  $\sqrt{c_1}X$  instead of  $X$ ). Then use Fubini's theorem to show that  $\mathbb{E}|X|^p = \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} pt^{p-1} \mathbb{P}(|X| \geq t) dt$ .

Indeed, for  $X \geq 0$ ,  $X = \int_0^X dt = \int_0^{+\infty} \mathbb{1}_{\{X \geq t\}} dt$ . By using Fubini, we can show that  $\mathbb{E}(X) = \int_0^{+\infty} \mathbb{E}(\mathbb{1}_{\{X \geq t\}}) dt$ .<sup>2</sup> In the same manner,  $\mathbb{E}(|X|^p) = \int_0^{+\infty} pt^{p-1} dt = \int_0^{+\infty} pt^{p-1} \mathbb{1}_{\{|X| \geq t\}} dt$ . Now,

$$\mathbb{E}(|X|^p) \leq p \int_0^{+\infty} 2t^{p-1} \exp(-t^2) dt \tag{5}$$

$$\leq p \int_0^{+\infty} 2\sqrt{u}^{p-1} \exp(-u) \frac{du}{2\sqrt{u}} \quad (\text{by using the change of variable } u = t^2) \tag{6}$$

$$\leq \int_0^{+\infty} u^{\frac{p}{2}-1} \exp(-u) du = 2 \left(\frac{p}{2}\right) \Gamma\left(\frac{p}{2}\right) = 2\Gamma\left(\frac{p}{2} + 1\right) \tag{7}$$

$$\leq 2\left(\frac{p}{2}\right)^{\frac{p}{2}} \tag{8}$$

where we have used the definition of the  $\Gamma$  function and the classical inequality  $\Gamma(x+1) \leq x^x$  for any  $x \geq 0$  (see Appendix).

And so,  $\mathbb{E}(|X|^p)^{\frac{1}{p}} \leq 2^{\frac{1}{p}} \left(\frac{p}{2}\right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \leq \underbrace{\sqrt{p}}_{c_2} \frac{2}{\sqrt{2}}$  (since  $p \geq 2$ ).

2  $\Rightarrow$  3 Same remark: we start by assuming  $c_2 = 1$ , or then we can reduce the problem to that one by dividing  $X$  by  $c_2$ .

<sup>1</sup>and in particular are equivalent to being subgaussian

<sup>2</sup>Remark: This is a very simple equality, but it is very frequently used in probabilities, .

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathbb{E}[\exp(aX^2)] &= 1 + \sum_{n \geq 1} \frac{\mathbb{E}[(aX^2)^n]}{n!} \\
&\leq 1 + \sum_{n \geq 1} a^n \frac{\mathbb{E}(X^{2n})}{n!} \\
&\leq 1 + \sum_{n \geq 1} a^n \frac{\sqrt{2n}^{2n}}{n!} \quad (\text{since } c_2 = 1) \\
&\leq 1 + \sum_{n \geq 1} a^n \frac{2^n n^n}{n!} \\
&\leq 1 + \sum_{n \geq 1} a^n (2e)^n \quad (\text{by using } n! \geq \left(\frac{n}{e}\right)^n, \text{ see Appendix}) \\
&\leq 2 \quad (\text{choosing } 2ae \leq \frac{1}{2}, \text{ and using } \sum_{n \geq 1} \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^n = 1)
\end{aligned}$$

3  $\Rightarrow$  4

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathbb{E}(\exp(tX)) &= 1 + \int_0^1 (1-y) \mathbb{E}(t^2 X^2 \exp(ytX)) dy \quad (\text{Taylor expansion} + \mathbb{E}(X) = 0) \\
&\leq 1 + \int_0^1 (1-y) \mathbb{E}(X^2 t^2 \exp(t|x|)) dy \\
&\leq 1 + \frac{t^2}{2} \mathbb{E}(X^2 \exp(t|X|)) \\
&\leq 1 + \frac{t^2}{2} \mathbb{E}\left(X^2 \exp\left(\frac{t^2}{2c_3} + \frac{X^2}{2} c_3\right)\right) \quad (\text{using } ab \leq a^2/2 + b^2/2) \\
&\leq 1 + \frac{t^2}{2} \exp\left(\frac{t^2}{2c_3}\right) \underbrace{\mathbb{E}\left(X^2 \exp\left(\frac{X^2}{2} c_3\right)\right)}_{\leq \frac{2}{c_3} \mathbb{E}[\exp(X^2 c_3)] \text{ using } X \leq \exp(X)} \\
&\leq \exp\left(\frac{5t^2}{2c_3}\right)
\end{aligned}$$

4  $\Rightarrow$  1 (Chernoff-Bernstein)<sup>3</sup>  $\forall \lambda \geq 0$ ,  $\mathbb{P}(X \geq t) = \mathbb{P}(\exp(\lambda X) \geq \exp(\lambda t))$  Markov<sup>4</sup> :

$$\mathbb{P}(X \geq t) \leq \frac{\mathbb{E}(\exp(\lambda X))}{\exp(\lambda t)} \tag{9}$$

$$\leq \exp\left(c_4 \frac{\lambda^2}{2} - \lambda t\right) \quad (\text{Optimization w.r.t. } \lambda \rightarrow \lambda^* = \frac{t}{c_4}) \tag{10}$$

$$\leq \exp\left(\frac{-t^2}{2c_4}\right) \tag{11}$$

□

<sup>3</sup>It seems that Bernstein should be credited too for this method.

<sup>4</sup>Reminder of the Chebychev inequality:  $\mathbb{P}(X \geq t) \leq \frac{\mathbb{E}[X^2]}{t^2}$ .

**Lemma.** Assume  $X$  is subgaussian such that  $\frac{(\mathbb{E}[|X|^p])^{\frac{1}{p}}}{\sqrt{p}} \leq K$  for some  $K \geq 0$  and that  $\begin{cases} \mathbb{E}X = 0 \\ \mathbb{E}X^2 = 1 \end{cases}$  then,

$$\exists c > 0, \quad \mathbb{E} \exp(t(X^2 - 1)) \leq \exp(t^2 c) \quad \text{for } |t| \leq \left(\frac{1}{2eK^2}\right). \quad (12)$$

*Proof.* Define  $Y = X^2 - 1$ . Then, as before we can write:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E}(\exp(tY)) &= 1 + \mathbb{E}(Y)t + \sum_{p \geq 2} \frac{t^p}{p} \mathbb{E}(Y^p) \\ &= 1 + \sum_{p \geq 2} \frac{t^p}{p} \mathbb{E}(Y^p). \end{aligned}$$

Reminding the Minkowski Inequality,

$$[\mathbb{E}(|X^2 - 1|^p)]^{\frac{1}{p}} \leq [\mathbb{E}(X^{2p})]^{\frac{1}{p}} + 1 \leq K^2 p + 1.$$

one obtains

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E}(\exp(tY)) &\leq 1 + \sum_{p \geq 2} \frac{|t|^p}{p!} (2^p p^p K^{2p} + 1) \\ &\leq 1 + \sum_{p \geq 2} \frac{|t|^p}{p!} (2^p p^p K^{2p} + 1) \\ &\leq 1 + \sum_{p \geq 2} \left[ (2|t|eK^2)^p + \frac{|t|^p}{p!} \right] \quad (\text{by using } p! \geq \left(\frac{p}{e}\right)^p, \text{ see Appendix}) \\ &\leq 1 + t^2 \sum_{p \geq 0} \left[ 2eK^2 (2|t|eK^2)^p + \frac{|t|^p}{(p+2)!} \right]. \end{aligned}$$

For  $|t| \leq \frac{1}{2eK^2}$  there exist  $c$  such as :

$$\mathbb{E}(\exp(tY)) \leq 1 + ct^2 \leq \exp(ct^2).$$

□

**Corollary.** Let us assume  $X_i \stackrel{\text{iid}}{\sim} X$  for  $i = 1, \dots, k$  with  $X$  subgaussian such that  $\frac{\mathbb{E}(|X|^p)^{\frac{1}{p}}}{\sqrt{p}} \leq K$ . Then,  $\exists c > 0$ ,  $\mathbb{E} \left[ \exp \left( \frac{t}{\sqrt{k}} \sum_{i=1}^k (X_i^2 - 1) \right) \right] \leq \exp(t^2 c)$  for  $|t| \leq \frac{\sqrt{k}}{2eK^2}$ .

*Proof.*

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E} \left[ \exp \left( \frac{t}{\sqrt{k}} \sum_{i=1}^k (X_i^2 - 1) \right) \right] &= \prod_{i=1}^k \mathbb{E} \left[ \exp \left( \frac{t}{\sqrt{k}} (X_i^2 - 1) \right) \right] \\ &\leq \prod_{i=1}^k \exp(t^2 c/k) \quad (\text{for } |t| \leq \frac{\sqrt{k}}{2eK^2}) \\ &\leq \exp(t^2 c). \end{aligned}$$

□

## 2 Random projections in high dimension

### 2.1 Theoretical results

**Theorem** (Johnson-Lindenstrauss's Lemma). *Let  $X$  be a subgaussian random variable such that  $\frac{\mathbb{E}(|X|^p)^{\frac{1}{p}}}{\sqrt{p}} \leq K$ , and*

$$\mathbb{E}(\exp(t(X^2 - 1))) \leq \exp(t^2 c)$$

for  $|t| \leq \frac{1}{2eK^2}$ . For any  $\varepsilon \leq \frac{c}{eK^2}$  define  $k = \frac{4c}{\varepsilon^2} \beta \log(d)$  for some  $\beta > 0$ , Then generate  $R_{i,j} \stackrel{\text{iid}}{\sim} X$  where  $R$  is a  $k \times d$  matrix. Introduce  $T : \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^k$  such that for  $x \in \mathbb{R}^d$ , we have

$$(Tx)_i = \frac{1}{\sqrt{k}} \sum_{j=1}^d R_{i,j} x_j,$$

for  $i = 1, \dots, k$  Then with probability  $\geq 1 - 2\left(\frac{1}{d}\right)^\beta$ , the following holds :

$$\{\forall x \in \mathbb{R}^d, (1 - \varepsilon)\|x\|^2 \leq \|Tx\|^2 \leq (1 + \varepsilon)\|x\|^2\} \quad (13)$$

or

$$\{\forall (x, y) \in \mathbb{R}^d \times \mathbb{R}^d, (1 - \varepsilon)\|x - y\|^2 \leq \|Tx - Ty\|^2 \leq (1 + \varepsilon)\|x - y\|^2\} \quad (14)$$

*Proof.* Let us denote  $x \in \mathbb{R}^d$ ,  $u = \frac{x}{\|x\|}$  and  $Y_i$  the column values of the output, i.e  $Y_i = \sum_{j=1}^d R_{i,j} x_j$ . Then,

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E}(Y_i) &= \mathbb{E}\left(\sum_{j=1}^d R_{i,j} u_j\right) = \sum_{j=1}^d \mathbb{E}(R_{i,j} u_j) = \sum_{j=1}^d u_j \mathbb{E}(R_{i,j}) = 0 \\ \text{Var}(Y_i) &= \text{Var}\left(\sum_{j=1}^d R_{i,j} u_j\right) = \mathbb{E}\left(\sum_{j=1}^d R_{i,j} u_j\right)^2 = \sum_{j=1}^d \text{Var}(R_{i,j} u_j) = \sum_{j=1}^d u_j^2 \text{Var}(R_{i,j}) = 1^5 \end{aligned}$$

So  $(Y_i)_{i=1, \dots, k}$  are independent and subgaussian thanks to Theorem 1 (same constant as X). Defining  $Z = \frac{1}{\sqrt{k}}(Y_1^2 + \dots + Y_k^2 - k)$ , one can state the following bound:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{P}(\|Tu\|^2 \geq 1 + \varepsilon) &= \mathbb{P}(Z \geq \varepsilon\sqrt{k}) \\ &\leq \exp\left(-\frac{\varepsilon^2 k}{4c}\right) \quad (\text{following lemma}) \end{aligned}$$

Remind that  $k = \frac{4c}{\varepsilon^2} \beta \log d$ , so

$$\mathbb{P}(\|Tu\|^2 \geq 1 + \varepsilon) \leq \exp(-\beta \log d) = \left(\frac{1}{d}\right)^\beta$$

The same kind of derivations leads to:

$$\mathbb{P}(\|Tu\|^2 \leq 1 - \varepsilon) \leq \exp(-\beta \log d) = \left(\frac{1}{d}\right)^\beta$$

□

**Lemma.**  $Z = \frac{1}{\sqrt{k}}(Y_1^2 + \dots + Y_k^2 - k)$  satisfies  $\mathbb{P}(Z \geq \varepsilon k) \leq \exp\left(\frac{-\varepsilon^2 k}{4c}\right)$  for  $\varepsilon \leq \frac{c}{\varepsilon K^2}$ .

*Proof.*

$$\forall \lambda \geq 0, \mathbb{P}(Z \geq \varepsilon \sqrt{k}) \leq \frac{\mathbb{E}(\exp \lambda Z)}{\exp(\lambda \varepsilon \sqrt{k})} \quad (15)$$

$$\leq \exp\left(\lambda^2 c - \lambda \varepsilon \sqrt{k}\right) \quad (\text{Optimize w.r.t. } \lambda \rightarrow \lambda = \frac{\varepsilon \sqrt{k}}{2c}) \quad (16)$$

$$\leq \exp\left(-\frac{\varepsilon^2 k}{4c}\right) \quad (17)$$

□

**Remark.** Here are a few comments on the previous result:

- $\varepsilon$  is the precision needed.
- $\beta$  is a confidence parameter governing the probability.
- $k \asymp \frac{\log(d)}{\varepsilon^2}$

## 2.2 Historical remarks

- [Johnson and Lindenstrauss(1984)]: random space with dimension  $k$ . Technical tool: "concentration on the sphere". The proof was not constructive.
- [Indyk and Motwani(1998)] and then [Dasgupta and Gupta(2003)]: the random space are generated in an explicit way:  $R_{i,j} \stackrel{\text{iid}}{\sim} \mathcal{N}(0, 1)$ .
- [Achlioptas(2003)] extended the property for computationally more tractable random spaces:  $R_{i,j} \stackrel{\text{iid}}{\sim} \varepsilon$  Rademacher. Interesting features of this distribution being that they require only sums and subtractions operations.
- [Matoušek(2008)] generalized the proof for any subgaussian random variables for the elements of  $R_{i,j}$ .
- [Ailon and Chazelle(2009)] focused on a even faster implementation:  $R = M_{k,d} H_d D_d$  where  $M_{k,d}$  is random  $k \times d$  sparse matrix (with probability  $q \asymp \frac{\log^2 d}{d}$  that a term is non zero, and Gaussian),  $D$  has diagonal generated according to Rademacher distributions and  $H$  is the Hadamard matrix defined by  $H_{2d} = \begin{pmatrix} H_d & H_d \\ H_d & -H_d \end{pmatrix}$  and  $H_1 = (1)$ . The later allows for fast computation of matrix/vector multiplications: one can use recursively only sums/subtractions, leading to  $O(d \log d)$  operations (similar to the standard FFT).

## 2.3 Application: k-Nearest-Neighbors (k-nn)

Let us consider  $m$  points  $(x_1, \dots, x_m)$  in  $\mathbb{R}^d$  and suppose that a new point  $x$  is coming. Imagine that one needs to find the closest point  $x \in \mathbb{R}^d$  for simplicity (you can deal with the k-nn problem in a similar way), meaning the following problem needs to be solved:

$$\arg \min_{i=1}^m \underbrace{d^2(x_i, x)}_{\|x_i - x\|^2}$$

where  $\|\cdot\|_2$  is the Euclidean norm in  $\mathbb{R}^d$ .

**Computational cost for the naive way:**  $\mathcal{O}(md)$  operations are needed, because one has to compute for the  $m$  points, the distance to  $x$  in  $\mathbb{R}^d$ . On the other hand, using the Johnson-Lindenstrauss theory, and using random projections of the form  $T : \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^k$ .  $x_i \rightarrow Tx_i$ , one only needs to perform  $\mathcal{O}(m \log(d))$  operations (note that this does take into account the projection step that can be done as preliminary treatment).

**Techniques similar to J.L.:** you could do "randomized" SVD eigenvalue decomposition. You might not get a perfect eigenvalue decomposition, but with high probability you will get something that is "accurate enough".

## Appendix: Standard inequalities

Cauchy-Schwarz, Hölder, etc.

Simple ones:

$$2^n n! \leq (2n)! \quad (18)$$

Indeed it is true for  $n = 0$ , and for  $n \geq 1$  then  $(2n)! \geq 2n(2n-1) \dots (n+1)n!$  and then lower bound each of the first elements by 2.

$$n! \geq \left(\frac{n}{e}\right)^n \quad (19)$$

$e^n = \sum_{i=0}^{+\infty} \frac{n^i}{i!} \geq \frac{n^n}{n!}$ , where the later holds by comparing lower bound the sum by the term corresponding to  $i = n$ .

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