# Multi-Manifold Semi-Supervised Learning

Andrew B. Goldberg<sup>†</sup>, Xiaojin Zhu<sup>†</sup>, Aarti Singh<sup>‡</sup>, Zhiting Xu<sup>†</sup>, Robert Nowak<sup>\*</sup>

† Computer Sciences Department, University of Wisconsin-Madison, USA <sup>‡</sup> Program in Applied and Computational Mathematics, Princeton University, USA Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, University of Wisconsin-Madison, USA



#### **MOTIVATION**

Semi-supervised learning uses unlabeled data to try to learn better classifiers and regressors

Common assumption: data forms clusters or resides on a single manifold, or multiple well-separated manifolds/clusters

But what if data is supported on a mixture of manifolds?

- Handwritten digit recognition
- Computer vision motion segmentation

Multiple manifolds

- May intersect or partially overlap
- Different dimensionality, orientation, density

Existing SSL approaches not suited for multi-manifold data

▶ e.g., graph-based methods may diffuse information across the wrong manifolds

#### THEORETIC PERSPECTIVES

Cluster Case (Singh et al., NIPS 2008)

- ▶ Assume target *f* locally smooth on *decision* sets delineated by jumps in marginal density
- Learn sets using unlabeled data to simplify task
- ▶ Complexity: min margin  $\gamma$  between sets
- SSL helps if sets are resolvable using unlabeled data but not labeled data

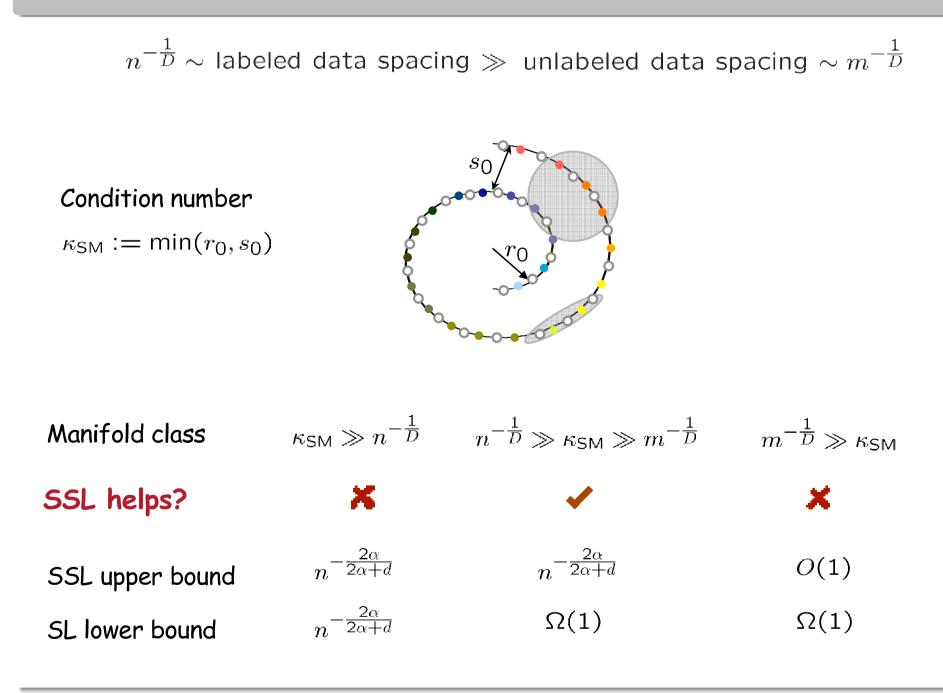
# Single Manifold Case

- ▶ Assume *f* is smooth w.r.t low dim manifold
- Unlabeled data provides knowledge of geodesic distances
- ▶ Complexity: curvature  $r_0$ , branch separation  $s_0$
- SSL helps if unlabeled data allows better recovery of manifold structure

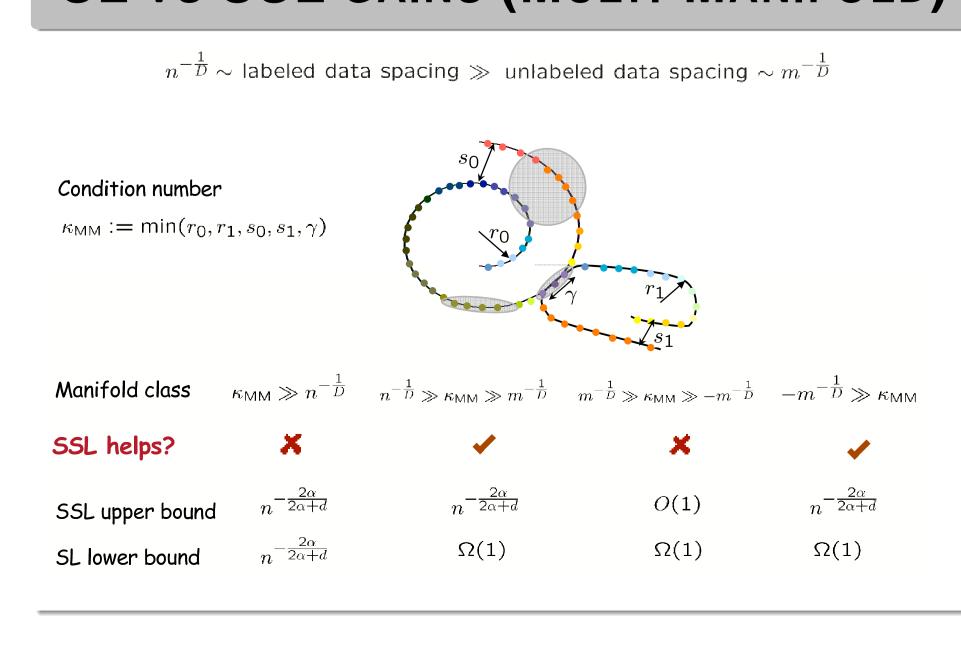
# **Multi-Manifold Case**

- ► Goal: recover manifolds and their decision sets
- Analysis combines cluster and manifold cases
- ▶ Complexity based on  $\gamma$ ,  $r_0$ ,  $s_0$

# SL vs SSL gains (SINGLE MANIFOLD)



# SL vs SSL gains (Multi-Manifold)



#### MULTI-MANIFOLD SSL ALGORITHM

Given: *n* labeled and *M* unlabeled points, supervised learner

- 1. Use unlabeled points to infer  $k \sim O(\log(n))$ decision sets  $C_i$ :
- 1.1 Select a subset of m < M unlabeled points
- 1.2 Form Hellinger-based graph on the n + m labeled and unlabeled points
- 1.3 Perform size-constrained spectral clustering to cut the graph into *k* parts
- 2. Use labeled points in  $\widehat{C}_i$  and supervised learner to train  $f_i$
- 3. For test point  $x^* \in \widehat{C}_i$ , predict  $\widehat{f}_i(x^*)$

#### HELLINGER DISTANCE GRAPH

Building block 1:

Local sample covariance matrices

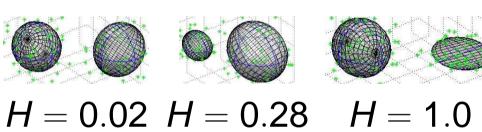
$$\Sigma_{x} = \sum_{x' \in N(x)} (x' - \mu_{x})(x' - \mu_{x})^{\top} / (|N(x)| - 1)$$

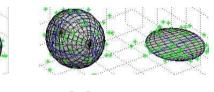
where N(x) is neighborhood of labeled and unlabeled data

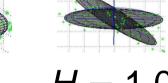
Building block 2: Hellinger distance:

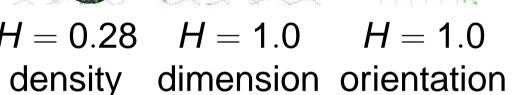
$$H(\mathcal{N}(x; 0, \Sigma_i), \mathcal{N}(x; 0, \Sigma_i)) = \sqrt{1 - 2^{D/2} |\Sigma_i|^{1/4} |\Sigma_j|^{1/4} / |\Sigma_i + \Sigma_j|^{1/2}}$$

H is small when local geometry similar; large otherwise



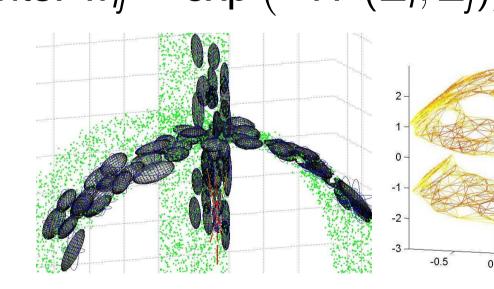






Graph construction:

- Select an approximate cover of the dataset
- ▶ Compute  $\Sigma$  for these n+m points using all data
- ► Connect in Mahalanobis *k*NN graph, RBF weights:  $W_{ij} = \exp(-H^2(\Sigma_i, \Sigma_i)/(2\sigma^2))$



### SIZE-CONSTRAINED SPECTRAL CLUSTERING

To find decision sets, we perform spectral clustering on the Hellinger graph.

Goal of SSL poses new challenges:

- Want SSL to degrade gracefully
- Avoid too many subproblems that might increase supervised learning variance

Solution: Ensure number of decision sets does not grow polynomially with *n*, and ensure each set contains enough labeled/unlabeled points

Constraints on decision sets (i.e., clusters):

- ▶ Number of clusters grows as  $k \sim O(\log(n))$
- ► Each cluster must have at least  $a \sim O(n/\log^2(n))$  labeled points
- ► Each cluster must have at least  $b \sim O(m/\log^2(n))$  unlabeled points

Enforced using constrained k-means based on Bradley et al. (2000)

# EXPERIMENTAL SETUP

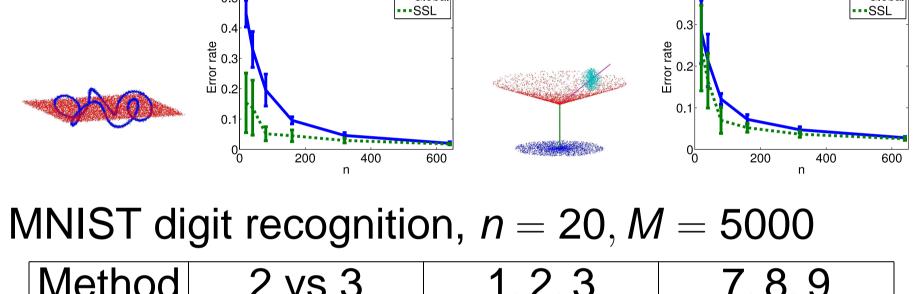
Compared 3 learners:

- ► [Global]: supervised learner using all labeled and ignoring unlabeled data
- ► [Clairvoyant]: trains one supervised learner per true decision set
- ▶ [SSL]: discovers decision sets using unlabeled data, then trains one supervised learner per decision set

# RESULTS: LARGE M

Surface-helix

Synthetic results with M = 20000Dollar sign Surface-sphere Density change

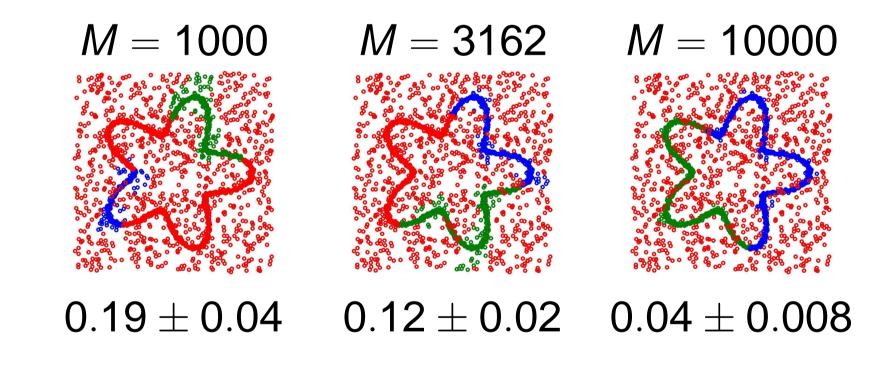


Martini

Method 2 vs 3 1, 2, 3 7, 8, 9 Global  $|0.17 \pm 0.12| 0.20 \pm 0.10 | 0.33 \pm 0.20|$  $|0.05 \pm 0.01| 0.10 \pm 0.04 |0.20 \pm 0.10|$ 

# RESULTS: Too SMALL M

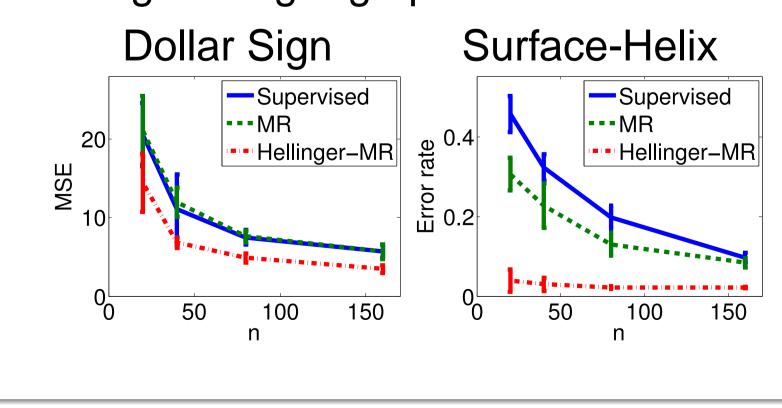
With less unlabeled data (n = 80), SSL performance degrades, but is still no worse than Global supervised learning (0.20  $\pm$  0.05).



# LATE-BREAKING RESULTS

Using Hellinger Graph with Manifold Regularization.

- Global/Supervised
- Manifold Regularization with kNN/RBF graph
- MR using Hellinger graph



# CONCLUSIONS

- Extended SSL theory to multiple manifolds
- Practical algorithm to find decision sets that may differ in density, dimension, and orientation
- Novel Hellinger distance based graph
- ► Future: Geodesic distances, automatic parameter selection, large scale study