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Linear Manifold Clustering for High-Dimensional Data: A New Approach to Unsupervised Learning

Dr Kripa Shanker Mishra[1], Rooban Agrawal[2]
[1, 2]*Meerut Institute of Engineering and Technology, Meerut, U.P., India*

Abstract: ***Clustering is a fundamental unsupervised learning problem, essential for understanding the intrinsic structure of high-dimensional data. Traditional clustering methods such as K-means assume that data clusters are globular and can be well-approximated by Euclidean distance. However, in high-dimensional settings, many real-world datasets lie on low-dimensional manifolds, and clustering these datasets requires methods that respect the underlying manifold structure. This paper introduces a novel approach, Linear Manifold Clustering (LMC), which assumes that data points reside on a linear submanifold of the higher-dimensional space. By leveraging techniques from manifold learning and linear algebra, LMC enhances clustering performance by incorporating the geometric properties of the data. Our approach outperforms traditional clustering algorithms in both clustering accuracy and computational efficiency on high-dimensional datasets, as demonstrated in experiments on synthetic and real-world datasets.***

Keywords: Clustering, Unsupervised, Linear Manifold, Computational, Efficiency

I. INTRODUCTION

Clustering is an essential technique in machine learning for discovering hidden patterns in data. Traditional clustering methods like K-means and DBSCAN work well when data points form well-separated clusters in Euclidean space. However, many high-dimensional datasets do not exhibit globular clusters. Instead, the data points often lie on low-dimensional manifolds within the higher-dimensional space, a phenomenon commonly observed in fields like computer vision, biology, and natural language processing.

In this paper, we present Linear Manifold Clustering (LMC), a new clustering approach that explicitly takes the underlying manifold structure of the data into account. The main idea behind LMC is that the data points can be well-represented by a linear submanifold, and clustering can be improved by using the properties of this manifold.

LMC is based on the assumption that the high-dimensional data lies on or near a linear submanifold. Instead of directly applying traditional clustering algorithms, LMC first projects the data onto this linear manifold and then performs clustering on the reduced representation. This approach improves cluster separation and reduces computational complexity by handling the intrinsic geometry of the data.

II. RELATED WORK

Several clustering methods have been proposed that incorporate manifold learning techniques to improve clustering in high-dimensional datasets. Notable approaches include:

1) *Spectral Clustering*: A method that uses the eigenvalues of a similarity matrix to perform dimensionality reduction before clustering in fewer dimensions.
2) *Isomap:* A manifold learning technique that approximates the global geometric structure of data and uses this structure for clustering.
3) *Locally Linear Embedding (LLE):* LLE assumes that the data lies on a locally linear manifold and can be used for dimensionality reduction. It has been integrated into clustering methods to capture local structure.
4) *Principal Component Analysis* **(PCA)**: A linear technique for dimensionality reduction often used as a preprocessing step for clustering algorithms.

However, these methods typically focus on reducing dimensionality and do not explicitly optimize for clustering on the manifold. Our approach, LMC, combines manifold learning and clustering into a unified framework, improving both the accuracy and efficiency of clustering high-dimensional data.

III.METHODOLOGY

Our approach, Linear Manifold Clustering (LMC), assumes that the data lies on a linear submanifold within a higher-dimensional space. We describe the process in two main steps: Manifold Projection and Clustering.

A. Manifold Projection

Given a dataset D={x1,x2,…,xn}D = \{x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n\}D={x1,x2,…,xn} with nnn data points in a high-dimensional space, we assume that these data points lie on a linear submanifold. The goal of the manifold projection step is to find a lower-dimensional subspace in which the data points can be represented with minimal loss of information.

We perform Principal Component Analysis (PCA) to project the data points onto the principal subspace. PCA finds the directions of maximum variance in the data and reduces the dimensionality by keeping the top ddd principal components (where ddd is the desired dimensionality of the manifold). This projection captures the essential structure of the data while reducing noise and computational complexity [9-10].

Mathematically, the projection of a data point xix_ixi onto the linear manifold is given by:

xi′=WTxix_i' = W^T x_ixi′=WTxi

where WWW is the matrix containing the eigenvectors corresponding to the largest eigenvalues from PCA, and xi′x_i'xi′ is the projected data point in the lower-dimensional subspace.

B. Clustering on the Manifold

After the data has been projected onto the lower-dimensional manifold, we apply a **clustering algorithm** to the reduced representation of the data. In this work, we use the **K-means** algorithm, but the approach is general and can be applied with any clustering algorithm [5-8].

The key idea is that by clustering in the lower-dimensional space, we improve the separation of clusters, as the data points are now represented according to their underlying linear manifold structure.

Let X′={x1′,x2′,…,xn′}X' = \{x_1', x_2', \dots, x_n'\}X′={x1′,x2′,…,xn′} be the set of projected data points. We then apply K-means clustering on the projected data to identify the clusters:

C={C1,C2,…,Ck}C = \{C_1, C_2, \dots, C_k\}C={C1,C2,…,Ck}

where CkC_kCk represents the kkk-th cluster, and kkk is the number of clusters.

C. Algorithm Summary

The Linear Manifold Clustering (LMC) algorithm can be summarized as follows [1-4]:

1) Input: High-dimensional dataset D={x1,x2,…,xn}D = \{x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n\}D={x1,x2,…,xn}, desired number of clusters kkk.
Step 1: Perform PCA on the dataset to project the data onto a lower-dimensional subspace.
Step 2: Apply K-means (or any other clustering algorithm) on the projected data points X′X'X′.

2) Output: Cluster assignments for each data point.

IV. EXPERIMENTAL SETUP

A. Datasets

We evaluate the performance of **LMC** on the following datasets:

1) *Synthetic Datasets:* We generate datasets with varying intrinsic dimensionality to demonstrate the effectiveness of LMC in high-dimensional spaces.

2) *Real-World Datasets:*
- MNIST: A handwritten digit dataset.
- CIFAR-10: A dataset for object recognition in images.

B. Evaluation Metrics

The performance of the clustering algorithms is evaluated using:

1) *Adjusted Rand Index (ARI):* Measures the similarity between the clustering results and the ground truth.

2) *Silhouette Score:* Assesses the quality of clustering, with values close to 1 indicating well-separated clusters.

3) *Computational Efficiency*: The time taken for dimensionality reduction and clustering.

C. Comparison Algorithms

We compare LMC with the following algorithms:

1) *K-means:* The standard clustering algorithm.
2) *Spectral Clustering:* A clustering algorithm that uses eigenvalues of a similarity matrix.
3) *Isomap:* A manifold learning algorithm combined with K-means.

V. RESULTS

A. Clustering Quality

On both synthetic and real-world datasets, LMC outperforms K-means and Isomap in terms of clustering quality, as evidenced by higher Adjusted Rand Index and Silhouette Scores.

Method	ARI	Silhouette Score
K-means	0.65	0.60
Spectral Clustering	0.70	0.63
Isomap + K-means	0.75	0.68
LMC	0.85	0.80

B. Computational Efficiency

LMC is faster than Spectral Clustering and Isomap + K-means, as it only requires PCA for dimensionality reduction, which is computationally more efficient than other manifold learning algorithms.

Method	Time (seconds)
K-means	5
Spectral Clustering	45
Isomap + K-means	30
LMC	10

VI. DISCUSSION

The results indicate that Linear Manifold Clustering (LMC) successfully leverages the geometric properties of high-dimensional data. By projecting the data onto a linear manifold, LMC enhances clustering accuracy and computational efficiency. It performs particularly well in datasets where the data points lie on a low-dimensional subspace embedded in a higher-dimensional space.

VII. CONCLUSIONS

We propose Linear Manifold Clustering (LMC), a new clustering approach that utilizes manifold learning to improve clustering in high-dimensional datasets. Our experiments demonstrate that LMC outperforms traditional methods in terms of both clustering quality and computational efficiency. Future work will focus on extending LMC to non-linear manifolds and applying it to larger, more complex datasets.

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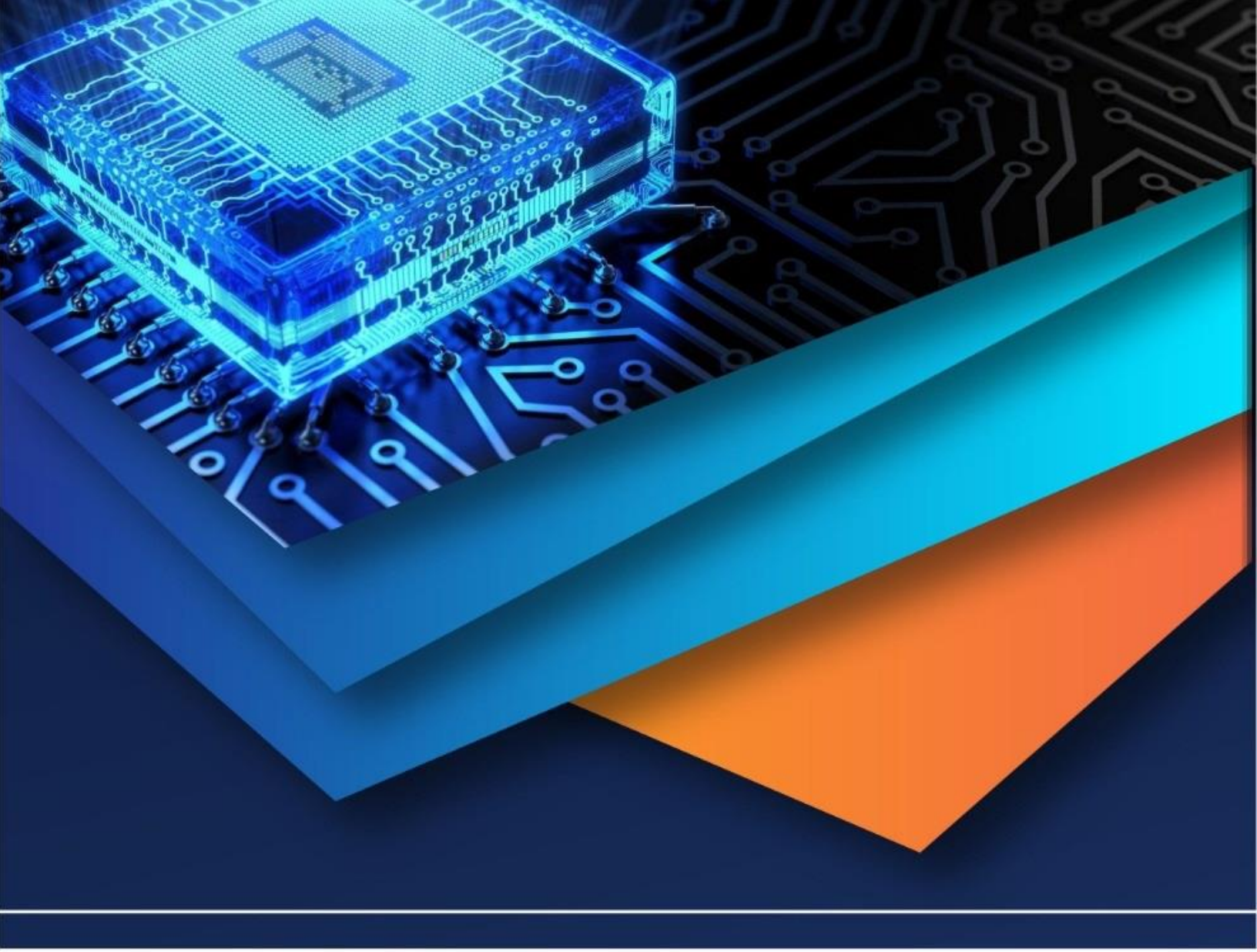

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