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# LDA Extension via Oblique Projection

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**Abstract.** The classical linear discriminant analysis (LDA) was previously modified by orthogonal projection into null space LDA (N\_LDA) and direct LDA (D\_LDA) for solving small sample size (SSS) problem. In this paper, the author proposes an extension of LDA by oblique projection, wherein N\_LDA and D\_LDA are included as special cases, to reduce discriminative information loss resulted from single N\_LDA or D\_LDA. The effectiveness of the proposed algorithm is tested by image forensics and face recognition.

## 1. Introduction

Linear discriminant analysis (LDA) is one of the most popular means in pattern recognition [1]. The objective of LDA is to find a projection  $W$  that maximizes the ratio of the between-class scatter matrix,  $S_b$ , against the within-class scatter matrix,  $S_w$ , i.e., via the following Fisher criterion:

$$J(W_{opt}) = \arg \max_W \frac{|WS_b W^T|}{|WS_w W^T|}. \quad (1)$$

One of the major drawbacks of LDA is the so-called small sample size (SSS) problem encountered in many practical applications involving high dimensional data [1]. Many techniques have been proposed to solve this problem, and Ref. [2] may be consulted in detail. Among them, the most notable approaches are null space LDA (N\_LDA) and direct LDA (D\_LDA) [2, 3], which are based on the following modified Fisher criterion [4]:

$$WS_w W^T = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad WS_b W^T \neq 0. \quad (2)$$

Since N\_LDA and D\_LDA are based on orthogonal projection, and generally the two conditions in equation (2) cannot be simultaneously satisfied, the processes are usually fulfilled in two steps: in N\_LDA the null space of  $S_w$  is found first and then that of  $S_b$  is discarded, while in D\_LDA the reverse order is taken. In this manner, much discriminated information may be lost.

In this paper, an extension of LDA is proposed by oblique projection, and it is called OP\_LDA, for reduction of possible loss of discriminative information in N\_LDA or D\_LDA. Experimental results on image forensics and face recognition show satisfactory performance of the proposed method.

The rest of this paper is organized as follows. An overview of N\_LDA and D\_LDA is briefly introduced in Section 2. Section 3 describes OP\_LDA and discusses the relationship among N\_LDA, D\_LDA and OP\_LDA. In Section 4, we evaluate the performance of OP\_LDA and compare its



performance with LDA, N\_LDA, D\_LDA, and 2-dimensional LDA (2D\_LDA) [5]. Finally, conclusions are given in Section 5.

## 2. N\_LDA and D\_LDA

### 2.1. N\_LDA

In N\_LNA, the discriminative information can be found in the null space of  $S_w$  by two steps [2]:

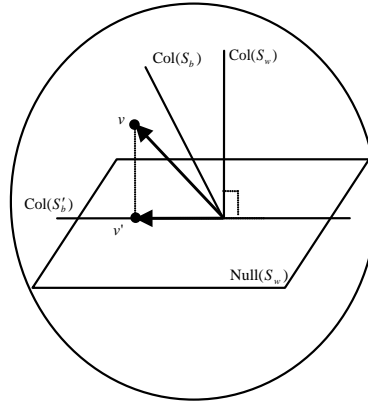
Step 1: Find the null space of  $S_w$ ,  $\text{Null}(S_w)$ .

Step 2: Let  $S_b' = P_{\text{Null}(S_w)}(S_b)$ , and then

$$W_1 = P_{\text{Col}(S_b')}, \quad (3)$$

where  $P_{\text{Null}(S_w)}(S_b)$  is a matrix obtained by orthogonal projecting the column vectors of  $S_b$  onto  $\text{Null}(S_w)$ ,  $\text{Col}(S_b')$  is the column space of  $S_b'$ ,  $P_{\text{Col}(S_b')}$  is an orthogonal projection operator onto  $\text{Col}(S_b')$ .

Figure 1 depicts a simple example of this algorithm, where  $v$  is an arbitrary vector in the input space, and  $v'$  is a new vector obtained from  $v$  by N\_LDA.



**Figure 1.** A simple example of N\_LDA.

### 2.2. D\_LDA

In D\_LNA, the discriminative information can be found in the column space of  $S_b$  by two steps [3]:

Step 1: Find the column space of  $S_b$ .

Step 2: Let  $S_w' = P_{\text{Col}(S_b)}(S_w)$ , and then

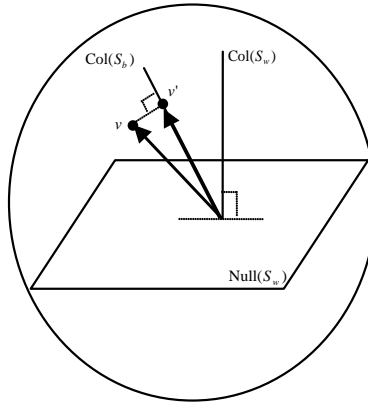
$$W_2 = P_{\text{Null}_{\text{Col}(S_b)}(S_w')}, \quad (4)$$

where  $P_{\text{Col}(S_b)}(S_w)$  is a matrix obtained by orthogonal projecting the column vectors of  $S_w$  onto  $\text{Col}(S_b)$ ,  $\text{Null}_{\text{Col}(S_b)}(S_w')$  is the null space of  $S_w'$  in  $\text{Col}(S_b)$ ,  $P_{\text{Null}_{\text{Col}(S_b)}(S_w')}$  is an orthogonal projection operator onto  $\text{Null}_{\text{Col}(S_b)}(S_w')$ .

Since  $\text{rank}(S_b)$ , the rank of matrix  $S_b$ , is usually smaller than  $\text{rank}(S_w)$ , and in this case  $\text{Col}(S_w') = \text{Col}(S_b)$  and  $\text{Null}_{\text{Col}(S_b)}(S_w') = \{0\}$ , the solution of D\_LDA is given by

$$W_2 = P_{\text{Col}(S_b)}. \quad (5)$$

Figure 2 depicts a simple example of this algorithm, where  $v$  is an arbitrary vector in the input space, and  $v'$  is a new vector obtained from  $v$  by D\_LDA.



**Figure 2.** A simple example of D\_LDA.

### 3. Proposed method

#### 3.1. OP\_LDA

We present a new LDA algorithm based on oblique projection, named OP\_LDA. The objective of OP\_LDA is to find a projection operator  $W$  that satisfies equation (6), which also is special circumstance of equation (2).

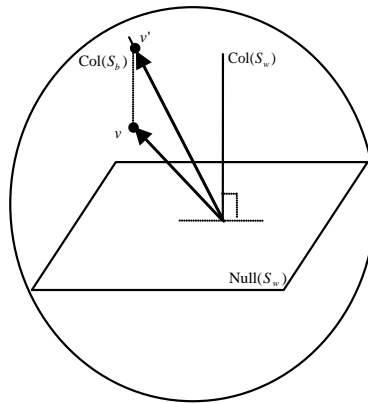
$$WS_w = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad WS_b \neq 0. \quad (6)$$

The key idea of our algorithm is that  $W$  is an oblique projection operator, whereas the traditional methods take it as orthogonal projection. A particular solution of equation (6) is given by

$$W_3 = P_{\text{Col}(S_b)|\text{Col}(S_w)}, \quad (7)$$

where  $P_{\text{Col}(S_b)|\text{Col}(S_w)}$  is an oblique projection operator onto  $\text{Col}(S_b)$  along  $\text{Col}(S_w)$ , and  $W_3$  can be obtained from  $\text{Col}(S_w)$  and  $\text{Col}(S_b)$ , Ref. [6] may be consulted in detail.

Figure 3 depicts a simple example of this algorithm, where  $v$  is an arbitrary vector in the input space, and  $v'$  is a new vector obtained from  $v$  by OP\_LDA.



**Figure 3.** A simple example of OP\_LDA.

#### 3.2. Discussion

As shown in Figure 1, Figure 2 and Figure 3, there are three means to obtain  $v'$ : a. discarding the component of  $\text{Col}(S_w)$ , b. keeping that of  $\text{Col}(S_b)$ , and c. discarding that of  $\text{Col}(S_w)$  and keeping that of  $\text{Col}(S_b)$  simultaneously. So it is clear that OP\_LDA including N\_LDA and D\_LDA as special cases when  $\text{Col}(S_w)$  and  $\text{Col}(S_b)$  are orthogonal.

The traditional methods emphasize  $S_w$  or  $S_b$  respectively, and our method emphasizes  $S_w$  and  $S_b$  simultaneously. For discarding  $\text{Col}(S_w)$  in N\_LDA,  $S_b$  is converted into  $S_b'$  by projecting onto  $\text{Null}(S_w)$ . Since there are differences between  $S_b$  and  $S_b'$ , discriminated information may be lost by adopting  $S_b'$ . The similar drawback may appear in D\_LDA. Therefore discriminative information loss in N\_LDA or D\_LDA may be reduced by adopting  $S_w$  and  $S_b$  directly in OP\_LDA.

### 3.3. Analysis

The following condition needs to be satisfied in using  $P_{\text{Col}(S_b)|\text{Col}(S_w)}$ : the direct sum of  $\text{Col}(S_b)$  and  $\text{Col}(S_w)$  must be equal to the input space [6]. Since the direct sum is the sum of two disjoint spaces, it includes two meanings: the sum of  $\text{Col}(S_b)$  and  $\text{Col}(S_w)$  must be equal to the input space, and  $\text{Col}(S_b)$  and  $\text{Col}(S_w)$  must be disjoint, i.e.,  $\text{Col}(S_w) \cap \text{Col}(S_b) = \{0\}$ .

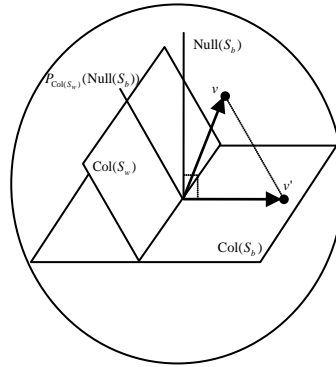
Since the sum of  $\text{Col}(S_b)$  and  $\text{Col}(S_w)$  is a subspace of the input space,  $P_{\text{Col}(S_b)|\text{Col}(S_w)}$  is invalid for vectors which do not belong to the sum space. Therefore we project vectors in this case onto  $\text{Col}(S_t)$  first, where  $S_t$  denotes the total scatter matrix. Since  $\text{Null}(S_w) \cap \text{Null}(S_b) = \text{Null}(S_t)$  has been proven in Ref. [7], and  $S_w$ ,  $S_b$  and  $S_t$  are symmetric matrixes, it is clear that  $\text{Col}(S_t)$  is the sum of  $\text{Col}(S_b)$  and  $\text{Col}(S_w)$ .

If  $\text{Col}(S_w) \cap \text{Col}(S_b) \neq \{0\}$ ,  $P_{\text{Col}(S_b)|\text{Col}(S_w)}$  does not exist. This is a more complicated problem. In this paper we consider a simple scheme as follow:

$$W_3 = \begin{cases} P_{\text{Col}(S_b)|\text{Col}(S_w)} P_{\text{Col}(S_t)}, & \text{Col}(S_w) \perp \text{Col}(S_b) \\ P_{\text{Col}(S_b)|P_{\text{Col}(S_w)}\text{Null}(S_b)} P_{\text{Col}(S_t)}, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases} \quad (8)$$

where  $P_{\text{Col}(S_t)}$  is a orthogonal projection operator onto  $\text{Col}(S_t)$ ,  $P_{\text{Col}(S_w)}\text{Null}(S_b)$  is a space obtained by orthogonal projecting the vectors of  $\text{Null}(S_b)$  onto  $\text{Col}(S_w)$ , and  $P_{\text{Col}(S_b)|P_{\text{Col}(S_w)}\text{Null}(S_b)}$  is an oblique projection operator onto  $\text{Col}(S_b)$  along  $P_{\text{Col}(S_w)}\text{Null}(S_b)$ .

Figure 4 depicts a simple example of our method, where  $v$  is an arbitrary vector in the input space, and  $v'$  is a new vector obtained from  $v$  by equation (8). It is clear that we want  $v'$  to lie in  $\text{Col}(S_b)$  and discard the partial components of  $\text{Col}(S_w)$ .



**Figure 4.** A simple example of proposed method for  $\text{Col}(S_w) \cap \text{Col}(S_b) \neq \{0\}$ .

## 4. Experimental results

### 4.1. Experimental setup

We illustrate the efficacy of the proposed method on image forensics and face recognition. As application-based development, some parameters and schemes have been empirically determined in our implementation.

For finding the null space and the column space of an arbitrary symmetric matrix,  $M$ , we perform first the singular value decomposition of  $M$  as  $M = U \Sigma V^T$ , and then let  $\text{Col}(M) = \text{span}\{u_1, \dots, u_r\}$  and

$\text{Null}(M) = \text{span}\{u_{r+1}, \dots, u_n\}$ , where  $U = [u_1, \dots, u_r, u_{r+1}, \dots, u_n]$ ,  $u_1, \dots, u_r$  correspond to the nonzero eigenvalues, and  $u_{r+1}, \dots, u_n$  correspond to the zero eigenvalues [8].

In order to conform whether  $\text{Col}(S_b)$  and  $\text{Col}(S_w)$  are disjoint, we consider a simple scheme via the following dimensional formula [9]: if  $\text{rank}(S_t) = \text{rank}(S_b) + \text{rank}(S_w)$ , then  $\text{Col}(S_w) \cap \text{Col}(S_b) = \{0\}$ , otherwise  $\text{Col}(S_w) \cap \text{Col}(S_b) \neq \{0\}$ .

To evaluate the performance of the proposed method, the training samples are randomly selected about half of the image dataset to train the classifier, and the remaining images are used in testing.

#### 4.2. Image forensics

OP\_LDA is tested by blurring detection in image forensics. The dataset and feature extraction are same as Ref. [10], wherein details can be found. The dataset consists of 183 authentic images and 183 forged images, and three types of feature vectors respectively consisted of the singular values of gray image matrix, correlation coefficients for double blurring operation, and image quality metrics are extracted and then fused for forgery detection.

In comparison, Table 1 lists the detection rates of the following four different detection schemes: feature fusion obtained respectively by LDA, N\_LDA, D\_LDA, and OP\_LDA, respectively plus Euclidean distance (ED) classifier. In this table, “--” means that LDA is ineffective, due to the SSS problem.

**Table 1.** Detection rate vs. different schemes in image forensics.

Scheme	Detection rate (%)
LDA+ED	--
N_LDA+ED	86.81
D_LDA+ED	60.55
OP_LDA+ED	86.81

Since image forensics is in fact a binary classification problem, and in this case  $\text{Null}(S_w)$  is lost in D\_LDA, D\_LDA performs poor. While  $\text{Col}(S_b)$  is kept in N\_LDA, so N\_LDA obtained the same result as OP\_LDA in this experiment.

#### 4.3. Face recognition

OP\_LDA is tested by face recognition using three face datasets: YALE, ORL, and PIE, details can be found in Ref. [5]. The YALE dataset contains 165 face images of 15 persons. The image size is  $100 \times 100$ . We subsample the images down to a size of  $25 \times 25$ . The ORL dataset contains 400 face images of 40 persons. The image size is  $92 \times 112$ . We subsample the images down to a size of  $23 \times 28$ . The PIE dataset is a subset of the CMU\_PIE face image dataset. It contains 6615 face images of 63 persons. The image size is  $486 \times 640$ . We subsample the images down to a size of  $98 \times 128$ . Table 2 lists the recognition rates of the following five different schemes: feature extraction obtained respectively by LDA, N\_LDA, D\_LDA, OP\_LDA, and 2D\_LDA, respectively plus ED classifier.

**Table 2.** Recognition rate vs. different schemes in face recognition.

Database Scheme	YALE	ORL	PIE
LDA+ED	--	--	--
N_LDA+ED	92.93	93.6	100
D_LDA+ED	87.87	89.1	96.39
OP_LDA+ED	93.07	93.75	98.59
2D_LDA+ED	92.53	93.4	99.99

The results demonstrate that our proposed method can achieve comparable performance to 2D\_LDA in [5]. Compared to the prior arts in [2, 3], OP\_LDA performs better than N\_LDA and D\_LDA in using YALE and ORL face datasets. Due to the SSS problem, LDA is ineffective in these experiments.

## 5. Experimental results

An extension of LDA by oblique projection for solving SSS problem is proposed in this paper. Instead of using orthogonal projection, oblique projection is adopted to reduce possible discriminative information loss in N\_LDA or D\_LDA, two popular modified versions of the traditional LDA. Experimental results on image forensics and face recognition showed satisfactory performance of the proposed method. OP\_LDA may be converted into a nonlinear version by kernel method, which is one of our future tasks.

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