Cosmic Filament Detection Under the Survey Geometry

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Cosmic Web is a large-scale network structure revealing that the matter in our Universe is not uniformly distributed (Zel'Dovich, 1970; Shandarin and Zeldovich, 1989; Bond et al., 1996).



Figure 1: Characteristics of *Cosmic Web* (credited to the millennium simulation project (Springel et al., 2005)).

W Focus of Our Research

In this talk, we present a novel methodology to detect cosmic filaments as well as the nodes on the filaments based on the newly released SDSS-IV galaxy observations.

- Our algorithm is adaptive to the survey geometry.
- Our filament model is statistically consistent.



Figure 2: Illustration of right ascension (RA) and declination (DEC) (Image Courtesy of Wikipedia).

* Notice that each astronomical object has a coordinate (RA,DEC,Redshift) in the survey data, where (RA,DEC) encodes its position on the celestial sphere.

W Significance of Cosmic Filaments

- They connect complexes of super-clusters (Lynden-Bell et al., 1988).
- They contain information about the global cosmology and the nature of dark matter (Zhang et al., 2009; Tempel et al., 2014).
- The trajectory of cosmic microwave background light can be distorted due to cosmic filaments, creating the weak lensing effect.



Figure 3: Illustration of the bending trajectory of CMB lights (credit to Siyu He, Shadab Alam, Wei Chen, and Planck/ESA; see He et al. (2018) for details).

Previous Works of Filament Detection on Survey Data

In astronomical survey data, such as SDSS or the Dark Energy Survey, the positions of observed objects are recorded as

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\{(\alpha_1, \delta_1, Z_1), ..., (\alpha_n, \delta_n, Z_n)\},\
```

where, for *i* = 1, ..., *n*,

- $\alpha_i \in [0, 360^\circ)$ is the *right ascension* (RA), i.e., celestial longitude,
- $\eta_i \in [-90^\circ, 90^\circ]$ is the *declination* (DEC), i.e., celestial latitude,
- $Z_i \in (0, \infty)$ is the *redshift* value.

The existing filament detection methods applied to survey data come from two different categories:

- **3D method**: Convert redshifts into (comoving) distances (Tempel et al., 2014; Sousbie et al., 2011).
- **2D method**: Slice the Universe into thin redshift slices (Chen et al., 2015b; Duque et al., 2021).

Our method can easily switch between the above two categories.

W Slicing the Universe (Tomographic Analysis)

The tomographic filament detection has its own advantages over 3D methods:

- It controls the redshift distortions along the line-of-sight direction (i.e., the *finger-of-god* effect).
- The measurement error in one slice won't propagate to other slices.
- It helps reduce computational cost...



Figure 4: Illustration of slicing the Universe (credit to Laigle et al. 2018)

W Previous 2D Methods on Survey Data

With each slice, says z = 0.470-0.475,

- the redshift values of observed objects are thought to be identical.
- the locations of these objects, encoded by their (RAs, DECs), are considered in a flat Euclidean space.



Figure 5: Cosmic filaments via density ridges on a 2D slice (Chen et al., 2015b, 2016)

W Problems of Existing Methods on 2D Slices

The slices ($\Delta z = 0.005$) in the survey data are not some flat 2D planes, but some **spherical shells**, which have a *nonlinear* curvature!

 Recall that the locations of astronomical objects in a slice are recorded by {(α_i, δ_i)}ⁿ_{i=1} on a celestial sphere.



(a) Planned eBOSS coverage of the Universe (credit to M. Blanton and SDSS)

(b) BOSS/eBOSS Spectroscopic Footprint as of DR16 (credit to SDSS)

Why can't we ignore the spherical geometry? (I)

Setup: Suppose that we want to recover the true ring/filament structure across the North and South pole of a unit sphere given some noisy data points from it.



Figure 7: Noisy observations (red points) and the underlying true ring/filament structure (blue line)

Why can't we ignore the spherical geometry? (III)

The background contour plots are kernel density estimators on the flat plane $[-90^{\circ}, 90^{\circ}] \times [0^{\circ}, 360^{\circ})$ and unit sphere $\Omega_2 = \{ \mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^3 : ||\mathbf{x}||_2 = 1 \}$, respectively.



(a) Euclidean SCMS Method.

(b) Directional SCMS Method.

* SCMS: subspace constrained mean shift (Ozertem and Erdogmus, 2011).

(Directional) density ridges are generalized local maxima (within some subspaces) of the underlying density function (on Ω_q).



Figure 9: Density ridge (lifted onto the underlying density function; Chen et al. 2015a)

Formal Definitions of Directional Density Ridges

Under our scenario of detecting cosmic filaments within a spherical (redshift) slice, q = 2 and d = 1.

- A smooth density function $f : \Omega_q \to \mathbb{R}$. (q = 2 in a spherical slice.)
- Riemannian gradient grad f(x) and Riemannian Hessian $\mathcal{H}f(x)$.
- Denote $V_d(\mathbf{x}) = [\mathbf{v}_{d+1}(\mathbf{x}), ..., \mathbf{v}_q(\mathbf{x})] \in \mathbb{R}^{(q+1) \times (q-d)}$ with columns as the second to the last eigenvectors of $\mathcal{H}f(\mathbf{x})$ lying within the tangent space $T_{\mathbf{x}}$ at $\mathbf{x} \in \Omega_q$.

Local modes of f on Ω_q :

 \implies

$$\mathcal{M} \equiv \texttt{Mode}(f) = \big\{ \pmb{x} \in \Omega_q : \texttt{grad} f(\pmb{x}) = \pmb{0}, \lambda_1(\pmb{x}) < \pmb{0} \big\}$$

Order-*d* density ridge on Ω_q (or directional density ridge) of *f*:

$$\mathcal{R}_d \equiv \texttt{Ridge}(f) = \left\{ \pmb{x} \in \Omega_q : V_d(\pmb{x}) V_d(\pmb{x})^T \texttt{grad} f(\pmb{x}) = \pmb{0}, \lambda_{d+1}(\pmb{x}) < 0 \right\}.$$

* Note that the Riemannian Hessian $\mathcal{H}f(x)$ has a unit eigenvector x that is orthogonal to T_x and corresponds to eigenvalue 0.

W Directional Kernel Density Estimation

Question: How can we recover the directional density ridges (or equivalently, cosmic filaments) from some discrete observations?

1. Density Estimation: We estimate the galaxy distribution via the *directional* kernel density estimator (KDE; Hall et al. 1987; Bai et al. 1988).





Figure 10: Counter plot of directional KDE

Figure 11: Illustration of one-dimensional KDE (Chen, 2017)

W DirSCMS Algorithm

2. Filament Estimation: We propose the directional subspace constrained mean shift (DirSCMS) algorithm (Zhang and Chen, 2021c), which iterates a point on Ω_2 along the (subspace constrained) *gradient* of directional KDE.



Figure 12: Two DirSCMS iterative paths

Step 1 (Slicing the Universe): Partition the redshift range into 325 spherical slices based on the comoving distance $\Delta L = 20$ Mpc.

• Within each slice, we consider the redshifts of galaxies to be the same so that the galaxies are located on a sphere.



Step 2 (Density Estimation): Estimate the galaxy density field via directional KDE.

• The bandwidth parameter is selected in a data-adaptive approach.



Step 3 (Denoising): Remove the observations with low-density values.
We keep at least 80% of the original galaxy data in the slice.



Step 4 (Laying Down the Mesh Points): We place a set of dense mesh points on the interested region, which are the initial points of our DirSCMS iterations.



Yikun Zhang Cosmic Filament Detection Under the Survey Geometry

18/28

Step 5 (Thresholding the Mesh Points): We discard those mesh points with low-density values and keep 85% of the original mesh points.



Denoised galaxy/QSO data and trimmed mesh points in the slice (200Mpc~220Mpc)



Figure 13: DirSCMS Iterations (Step 0).

Denoised galaxy/QSO data and trimmed mesh points in the slice (200Mpc~220Mpc)



Figure 13: DirSCMS Iterations (Step 1).



Denoised galaxy/QSO data and trimmed mesh points in the slice (200Mpc~220Mpc)



Figure 13: DirSCMS Iterations (Step 2).



Denoised galaxy/QSO data and trimmed mesh points in the slice (200Mpc~220Mpc)



Figure 13: DirSCMS Iterations (Step 3).

Denoised galaxy/QSO data and trimmed mesh points in the slice (200Mpc~220Mpc)



Figure 13: DirSCMS Iterations (Step 5).



Denoised galaxy/QSO data and trimmed mesh points in the slice (200Mpc~220Mpc)



Figure 13: DirSCMS Iterations (Step 8).

SDSS-IV Galaxy/QSO data and detected filaments by DirSCMS algorithm in the slice (200Mpc~220Mpc)



Figure 13: DirSCMS Iterations (Final).



Step 7 (Mode and Knot Estimation): We seek out the local modes and knots on the filaments as cosmic nodes.

SDSS-IV Galaxy/QSO data and detected filaments by DirSCMS algorithm in the slice (200Mpc~220Mpc)



Figure 14: Nodes on the detected filaments.

Recall that the survey data $\{(\alpha_i, \delta_i, Z_i)\}_{i=1}^n \in \Omega_2 \times \mathbb{R}^+$ is directional-linear.

- We consider extending our DirSCMS algorithm to estimate the cosmic filaments (*i.e.*, density ridges) in a directional-linear product space (Zhang and Chen, 2021a).
- We adopt the directional-linear KDE (García-Portugués et al., 2015) with $X_i \in \Omega_2$ being the Cartesian coordinate of (ϕ_i, η_i) for i = 1, ..., n:

$$\widehat{f}_{h}(\boldsymbol{x},\boldsymbol{z}) = \frac{C_{L,2}(h_{1})}{nh_{2}} \sum_{i=1}^{n} L\left(\frac{1-\boldsymbol{x}^{T}\boldsymbol{X}_{i}}{h_{1}^{2}}\right) K\left(\frac{z-Z_{i}}{h_{2}}\right)$$

where $L(r) = e^{-r}$ and $K(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}}e^{-x^2/2}$ are the kernel functions.

Our directional-linear SCMS algorithm is stabler than its Euclidean prototype.



(a) Simulated data points.

(b) Euclidean SCMS.

(c) Directional-linear SCMS.

Application to SDSS-IV Galaxy Data



Figure 16: Cosmic filament detection in the 3D (RA,DEC,Redshift) space with our directional-linear SCMS algorithm.

W Filament Effects on Galaxy Properties

- We compute the angular distance (or equivalently, *geodesic distance*) of each observed galaxy in the redshift range $0.05 \le z < 0.7$ to our detected filaments in the corresponding slice.
- We obtain the galaxy properties, such as stellar mass and metallicity, from the FIREFLY value-added catalog (Wilkinson et al., 2017; Maraston and Strömbäck, 2011).
- () Our subsequent analyses focus on the following three regions:
 - Low redshift region: $0.05 \le z < 0.07$.
 - Medium redshift region: $0.25 \le z < 0.27$.
 - High redshift region: $0.55 \le z < 0.57$.
- We partition the galaxies within each region into several bins according to their distances to our detected filaments.

Analysis: Stellar Mass and Distance to Filaments



Figure 17: Comparison between stellar masses of galaxies and their distances to filaments (Low redshift region)

Analysis: Stellar Mass and Distance to Filaments



Figure 17: Comparison between stellar masses of galaxies and their distances to filaments (**Medium redshift region**)

Analysis: Stellar Mass and Distance to Filaments



Figure 17: Comparison between stellar masses of galaxies and their distances to filaments (**High redshift region**)

In this talk, we discussed our methodology of recovering filament structures from some SDSS-IV galaxy data.

- Our DirSCMS algorithm took into account the survey (spherical) geometry when estimating the filament structures.
- We applied our method to the latest survey data (SDSS-IV, Data Release 16).
- Our analyses reveal some signals that galaxies near the filaments are heavier in their stellar masses.

We are planning to

- Release a comprehensive cosmic web catalog.
- Analyze if other galaxy properties are correlated by cosmic web structures.

• ...

Thank you!

More details can be found in

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[2] Y. Zhang and Y.-C. Chen. The EM Perspective of Directional Mean Shift Algorithm. 2021. https://arxiv.org/abs/2101.10058

[3] Y. Zhang and Y.-C. Chen. Linear Convergence of the Subspace Constrained Mean Shift Algorithm: From Euclidean to Directional Data. 2021. https://arciv.org/abs/2104_14977
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Assume tentatively that the directional function f is well-defined and smooth in $\mathbb{R}^{q+1} \setminus \{\mathbf{0}\}$ (or at least in an open neighborhood $U \supset \Omega_q$).

• Riemannian gradient $grad f(\mathbf{x})$ on Ω_q :

$$\operatorname{grad} f(\mathbf{x}) = \left(\mathbf{I}_{q+1} - \mathbf{x} \mathbf{x}^T \right) \nabla f(\mathbf{x}),$$

where I_{q+1} is the identity matrix in $\mathbb{R}^{(q+1)\times(q+1)}$.

• *Riemannian Hessian* $\mathcal{H}f(\mathbf{x})$ on Ω_q (Zhang and Chen, 2021b):

$$\mathcal{H}f(\mathbf{x}) = (\mathbf{I}_{q+1} - \mathbf{x}\mathbf{x}^T) \left[\nabla \nabla f(\mathbf{x}) - \nabla f(\mathbf{x})^T \mathbf{x} \cdot \mathbf{I}_{q+1} \right] (\mathbf{I}_{q+1} - \mathbf{x}\mathbf{x}^T).$$

Here, I_{q+1} is the identity matrix in $\mathbb{R}^{(q+1)\times(q+1)}$, while $\nabla f(\mathbf{x})$ and $\nabla \nabla f(\mathbf{x})$ are total gradient and Hessian in \mathbb{R}^{q+1} .

W Formal Definition of Directional KDE

Directional kernel density estimator (KDE; Hall et al. 1987; Bai et al. 1988; García-Portugués 2013):

$$\widehat{f}_h(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{c_{L,q}(h)}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n L\left(\frac{1-\mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{X}_i}{h^2}\right).$$
(1)

• $X_1, ..., X_n \in \Omega_q \subset \mathbb{R}^{q+1}$ are directional random observations.

- *L* is a directional kernel, *i.e.*, a rapidly decaying function with nonnegative values on $[0, \infty)$.
- h > 0 is the bandwidth parameter.
- $c_{L,q}(h)$ is a normalizing constant satisfying

$$c_{L,q}(h)^{-1} = \int_{\Omega_q} L\left(\frac{1 - \boldsymbol{x}^T \boldsymbol{y}}{h^2}\right) \omega_q(d\boldsymbol{y}) = h^q \lambda_{h,q}(L) \asymp h^q \lambda_q(L)$$
(2)

with
$$\lambda_q(L) = 2^{\frac{q}{2}-1} \omega_{q-1} \int_0^\infty L(r) r^{\frac{q}{2}-1} dr.$$

W An Example of the Directional Kernel

Under the von Mises kernel $L(r) = e^{-r}$,

• directional KDE
$$\widehat{f}_h(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{c_{L,q}(h)}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n L\left(\frac{1-\mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{X}_i}{h^2}\right)$$

becomes

• a mixture of von Mises-Fisher densities:

$$\begin{split} \widehat{f}_{h}(\pmb{x}) &= \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^{n} f_{\text{vMF}}\left(\pmb{x}; \pmb{X}_{i}, \frac{1}{h^{2}}\right) \\ &= \frac{1}{n(2\pi)^{\frac{q+1}{2}} \mathcal{I}_{\frac{q-1}{2}}(1/h^{2}) h^{q-1}} \sum_{i=1}^{n} \exp\left(\frac{\pmb{x}^{T} \pmb{X}_{i}}{h^{2}}\right). \end{split}$$

Input:

- A directional data sample $X_1, ..., X_n \sim f(x)$ on Ω_q
- The order *d* of the directional ridge, smoothing bandwidth h > 0, and tolerance level $\epsilon > 0$.
- A suitable mesh $\mathcal{M}_D \subset \Omega_q$ of initial points.

Step 1: Compute the directional KDE $\widehat{f}_h(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{c_{L,q}(h)}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n L\left(\frac{1-\mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{X}_i}{h^2}\right)$ on the mesh \mathcal{M}_D .

Step 2: For each $\hat{x}^{(0)} \in \mathcal{M}_D$, iterate the following DirSCMS update until convergence:

while
$$\left\| \sum_{i=1}^{n} \widehat{V}_{d}(\widehat{\mathbf{x}}^{(0)}) \widehat{V}_{d}(\widehat{\mathbf{x}}^{(0)})^{T} \mathbf{X}_{i} \cdot L'\left(\frac{1-\mathbf{X}_{i}^{T} \widehat{\mathbf{x}}^{(0)}}{h^{2}}\right) \right\|_{2} > \epsilon \ \mathbf{do}:$$

Detailed Procedures of DirSCMS Algorithm II

• **Step 2-1**: Compute the scaled version of the estimated Hessian matrix as:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{nh^2}{c_{L,q}(h)} \mathcal{H}\widehat{f}_h(\widehat{\mathbf{x}}^{(t)}) &= \left[\mathbf{I}_{q+1} - \widehat{\mathbf{x}}^{(t)} \left(\widehat{\mathbf{x}}^{(t)} \right)^T \right] \left[\frac{1}{h^2} \sum_{i=1}^n \mathbf{X}_i \mathbf{X}_i^T \cdot L'' \left(\frac{1 - \mathbf{X}_i^T \widehat{\mathbf{x}}^{(t)}}{h^2} \right) \right. \\ &+ \left. \sum_{i=1}^n \mathbf{X}_i^T \widehat{\mathbf{x}}^{(t)} \mathbf{I}_{q+1} \cdot L' \left(\frac{1 - \mathbf{X}_i^T \widehat{\mathbf{x}}^{(t)}}{h^2} \right) \right] \left[\mathbf{I}_{q+1} - \widehat{\mathbf{x}}^{(t)} \left(\widehat{\mathbf{x}}^{(t)} \right)^T \right]. \end{aligned}$$

• **Step 2-2**: Perform the spectral decomposition on $\frac{nh^2}{c_{L,q}(h)} \mathcal{H}\widehat{f}_h(\widehat{\mathbf{x}}^{(t)})$ and compute $\widehat{V}_d(\widehat{\mathbf{x}}^{(t)}) = [v_{d+1}(\widehat{\mathbf{x}}^{(t)}), ..., v_q(\widehat{\mathbf{x}}^{(t)})]$, whose columns are orthonormal eigenvectors corresponding to the smallest q - d eigenvalues inside the tangent space $T_{\widehat{\mathbf{x}}^{(t)}}$.

• Step 2-3: Update

$$\widehat{\boldsymbol{x}}^{(t+1)} \leftarrow \widehat{\boldsymbol{x}}^{(t)} - \widehat{V}_d(\widehat{\boldsymbol{x}}^{(t)}) \widehat{V}_d(\widehat{\boldsymbol{x}}^{(t)})^T \left[\frac{\sum_{i=1}^n \boldsymbol{X}_i L' \left(\frac{1 - \boldsymbol{X}_i^T \widehat{\boldsymbol{x}}^{(t)}}{h^2} \right)}{\sum_{i=1}^n \boldsymbol{X}_i L' \left(\frac{1 - \boldsymbol{X}_i^T \widehat{\boldsymbol{x}}^{(t)}}{h^2} \right)} \right]$$

• Step 2-4: Standardize $\widehat{x}^{(t+1)}$ as $\widehat{x}^{(t+1)} \leftarrow \frac{\widehat{x}^{(t+1)}}{||\widehat{x}^{(t+1)}||_2}$.

Output: An estimated directional *d*-ridge $\widehat{\mathcal{R}}_d$ represented by the collection of resulting points.

• Recall that the directional-linear KDE at $(x, z) \in \Omega_2 \times \mathbb{R}$ is defined as:

$$\widehat{f}_{h}(\boldsymbol{x}, \boldsymbol{z}) = \frac{C_{L,2}(h_1)}{nh_2} \sum_{i=1}^{n} L\left(\frac{1-\boldsymbol{x}^T \boldsymbol{X}_i}{h_1^2}\right) K\left(\frac{z-Z_i}{h_2}\right)$$

• Directional-linear mean shift iteration:

$$\mathbf{x}^{(t+1)}, z^{(t+1)} \Big)^{T} \leftarrow \Xi(\mathbf{x}^{(t)}, z^{(t)}) + \left(\mathbf{x}^{(t)}, z^{(t)}\right)^{T} \\ = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{\sum\limits_{i=1}^{n} \mathbf{X}_{i} \cdot L' \left(\frac{1 - \mathbf{X}_{i}^{T} \mathbf{x}^{(t)}}{h_{1}}\right) K \left(\frac{z^{(t)} - Z_{i}}{h_{2}}\right) \\ \frac{\sum\limits_{i=1}^{n} L' \left(\frac{1 - \mathbf{X}_{i}^{T} \mathbf{x}^{(t)}}{h_{1}}\right) K \left(\left\|\left|\frac{z^{(t)} - Z_{i}}{h_{2}}\right\|\right|_{2}^{2}\right) \\ \frac{\sum\limits_{i=1}^{n} Z_{i} \cdot L \left(\frac{1 - \mathbf{X}_{i}^{T} \mathbf{x}^{(t)}}{h_{1}}\right) K \left(\left\|\left|\frac{z^{(t)} - Z_{i}}{h_{2}}\right\|\right|_{2}^{2}\right) \\ \frac{\sum\limits_{i=1}^{n} L \left(\frac{1 - \mathbf{X}_{i}^{T} \mathbf{x}^{(t)}}{h_{1}}\right) K \left(\left\|\left|\frac{z^{(t)} - Z_{i}}{h_{2}}\right\|\right|_{2}^{2}\right) \end{pmatrix} \end{pmatrix}$$

with an extra standardization $\mathbf{x}^{(t+1)} \leftarrow \frac{\mathbf{x}^{(t+1)}}{||\mathbf{x}^{(t+1)}||_2}$.

• Directional-linear SCMS algorithm iteration at $y^{(t)} = (x^{(t+1)}, z^{(t+1)})^T$:

$$\boldsymbol{y}^{(t)} \leftarrow \boldsymbol{y}^{(t)} + \eta \cdot \widehat{V}_d(\boldsymbol{y}^{(t)}) \widehat{V}_d(\boldsymbol{y}^{(t)})^T \boldsymbol{H}^{-1} \Xi(\boldsymbol{y}^{(t)}),$$

where $\pmb{H} = \mathtt{Diag}(h_1^2,h_1^2,h_2^2) \in \mathbb{R}^{3 imes 3}$ is a diagonal matrix and

$$\Xi(\boldsymbol{y}^{(t)}) = \Xi(\boldsymbol{x}^{(t)}, z^{(t)}) = \begin{pmatrix} \sum_{i=1}^{n} X_i \cdot L' \left(\frac{1 - X_i^T x^{(t)}}{h_1}\right) K \left(\frac{z^{(t)} - Z_i}{h_2}\right) \\ \sum_{i=1}^{n} L' \left(\frac{1 - X_i^T x^{(t)}}{h_1}\right) K \left(\frac{z^{(t)} - Z_i}{h_2}\right) \\ \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{n} Z_i \cdot L \left(\frac{1 - X_i^T x^{(t)}}{h_1}\right) K \left(\left|\left|\frac{z^{(t)} - Z_i}{h_2}\right|\right|_2^2\right) \\ \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{n} L \left(\frac{1 - X_i^T x^{(t)}}{h_1}\right) K \left(\left|\left|\frac{z^{(t)} - Z_i}{h_2}\right|\right|_2^2\right) - z^{(t)} \end{pmatrix}$$

Here, we design a theoretically motivated and empirically effective step size as $\eta = \min \{h_1h_2, 1\}$.

* Notes: A naive generalization of SCMS algorithm $\mathbf{y}^{(t+1)} \leftarrow \mathbf{y}^{(t)} + \widehat{V}_d(\mathbf{y}^{(t)})\widehat{V}_d(\mathbf{y}^{(t)})^{\mathsf{T}} \Xi(\mathbf{y}^{(t)})$ plus standardization as with pure Euclidean/directional data does not work (Zhang and Chen, 2021a)!