# Mismatched Estimation in the Distance Geometry Problem

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- Robotics





• The DGP consists of: •  $\mathcal{X} = {\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2, \dots, \mathbf{x}_N} \in \mathbb{R}^{K \times N}$ 

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$$\mathcal{X} = \{\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2, \dots, \mathbf{x}_N\} \in \mathbb{R}^{K \times N}$$
  
•  $\mathcal{E}(\mathcal{X}) = \{(i, j) \mid (i, j) \in \{1, \dots, N\}^2, i < j\}$ 



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$$\begin{array}{l} \bullet \hspace{0.1cm} \mathcal{X} = \{\mathbf{x}_{1}, \mathbf{x}_{2}, \dots, \mathbf{x}_{N}\} \in \mathbb{R}^{K \times N} \\ \bullet \hspace{0.1cm} \mathcal{E}(\mathcal{X}) = \{(i,j) \mid (i,j) \in \{1,\dots,N\}^{2}, i < j\} \\ \bullet \hspace{0.1cm} d_{ij}^{\mathcal{X}} = \|\mathbf{x}_{i} - \mathbf{x}_{j}\|_{2} \\ \bullet \hspace{0.1cm} \left\{ \left\{ y_{ij}^{[1]}, \dots, y_{ij}^{[M_{ij}]} \right\} \mid (i,j) \in \mathcal{E}(\mathcal{X}) \right\} \end{array}$$

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 The objective is to determine X given noisy measurements of lengths of edges in E(X).



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- Measurements are often assumed to be Gaussian.



 Given noisy measurements for each edge, the common approach in the literature to compute an estimate X of X is to:



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$$\sum_{(i,j)\in\mathcal{E}(\mathcal{X})}\sum_{m=1}^{M_{ij}}\left(y_{ij}^{[m]}-d_{ij}^{\hat{\mathcal{X}}}\right)^2$$



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- Our work: choice of cost function depends directly on distribution of noisy measurements => approximately half the number of noisy edge length measurements per edge needed for the same estimation error.

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- The OPP loss, which is a measure of how close an estimate  $\hat{\mathcal{X}}$  is to  $\mathcal{X}$ , is then the solution of the optimization problem:

$$\min_{\mathbf{R}} \quad \left\| \mathbf{R} \widehat{\mathbf{X}}_{c} - \mathbf{X}_{c} \right\|_{F},$$
s.t.  $\mathbf{R}^{T} \mathbf{R} = \mathbf{I},$ 

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• For the purposes of comparison, the OPP loss is normalized by the number of points in  $\mathcal{X}$ .

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Figure: OPP loss values for example structures. Ground truth structures are labeled  $\mathcal{X}$ , while example estimates, together with their associated OPP losses, are also shown. We observe that estimates with lower OPP losses more closely approximate the structure  $\mathcal{X}$ .

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- We tested this hypothesis on 8 triangles and 30 10-point structures in 2D.
- We let the noisy edge length measurements for these structures follow a Laplace or non-standardized Student's t (NSST) distribution.
- We then computed estimates for these structures using maximum likelihood (LL) estimation, where the LL function was either Gaussian (SSE) or follows the distribution of the measurements (Laplace or NSST).



Figure: Distributions of OPP losses for 8 triangles when the noisy measurements follow a (a) Laplace or (b) NSST distribution, and when matched and mismatched (Gaussian) likelihood (LL) functions are used. Each box represents the percentiles (bottom to top): 10, 25, 50, 75, and 90.

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Figure: Distributions of OPP losses for the 30 10-point structures when the noisy measurements follow a (a) Laplace or (b) NSST distribution, and when matched and mismatched (Gaussian) LL functions are used.

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Figure: Median OPP losses for the 8 triangles and for different M values when the noisy measurements follow a (a) Laplace or (b) NSST distribution, and when matched or mismatched (Gaussian) likelihood functions are used.

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# Future Work

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