# **Class specific discriminant dictionary learning with kernels for face recognition**

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# Abstract

The past few years have witnessed the impressive performance of sparse representation based classification (SRC) for visual recognition. However, the SRC technique may lead to high residual error and poor performance due that the training samples in each class contribute equally to the dictionary in the corresponding class. This inspired the emergence of class specific dictionary learning algorithm. In this paper, we propose a novel approach—class specific dictionary learning combined with linear discriminant analysis constraints in Reproducing Kernel Hilbert Space (KCSDL-LDA), which modifies and extends the conventional class specific dictionary learning (CSDL) algorithm in several aspects. First, we propose a novel class specific dictionary learning scheme that considers the weight of each sample for each class when generating the dictionary in that class. Second, we extend the novel class specific dictionary learning scheme to the Reproducing Kernel Hilbert Space, in which nonlinear structure can be extracted and represented to improve the classification accuracy. Finally, we further enhance the classification performance by combing class specific dictionary learning with linear discriminant analysis constraints in Reproducing Kernel Hilbert Spaces. Extensive experimental results on several face recognition benchmark datasets, such as Extended YaleB dataset, CMU PIE dataset and AR dataset, demonstrate the superior performance of our proposed KCSDL-LDA.

## Introduction

The past few years have witnessed the impressive performance of dictionary learning for sparse representation in visual computation areas, such as image annotation [1], image inpainting [2], image classification [3], face recognition [4] and image denoising [5]. Different from traditional decomposition frameworks like Principal Component Analysis (PCA), Non-negative Matrix Factorization (NMF) [6] and low-rank factorization, sparse representation is capable of generating sparse codes under over-complete bases to represent the data more adaptively and flexibly.

Face recognition, one of the successful applications of sparse representation, is a classical yet challenging research topic in computer vision and pattern recognition [7]. Effective face recognition usually involves two important stages: 1) feature extraction, 2) classifier construction and face prediction. For the first stage, Turk *et al.* performed principal component analysis (PCA) to extract Eigenfaces [8]. He *et al.* proposed Laplacian-faces [9] to preserve local information. Belhumeur *et al.* extracted Fisherfaces [10] to maximize the ratio of between-class scatter to within-class scatter. For the latter stage, Richard *et al.* introduced a nearest neighbor method [11] to predict the label of a test image using its nearest neighbors in the training samples. Tao *et al.* presented a nearest subspace method [12] to assign the label of a test image by comparing its reconstruction error for each category.

Under the nearest subspace framework, Wright et al. [4] described a sparse representation based classification (SRC) system and achieved an impressive performance for face recognition. Given a test sample, the sparse representation technique represents it as a sparse linear combination of the train samples. The predicted label is determined by the residual error from each class. Zhang *et al.* [13] illustrated a collaborative representation based classification (CRC) system. Similar to SRC, CRC represents a test sample as the linear combination of almost all the training samples. Moreover, Zhang et al. demonstrated that it was the collaborative representation rather than the sparse representation that makes the nearest subspace method powerful for classification. Overall, both SRC and CRC algorithms directly use the training samples as the dictionary for each class. This may lead to high residual error and poor performance due that the training samples in each class contribute equally to the dictionary in the corresponding class. Therefore, the emergence of class specific dictionary learning algorithm attracts the attention of many researchers. They focus on learning a dictionary enforced by some discriminative criteria that can reduce the residual error greatly and achieve a superior performance for classification tasks.

So far, existing discriminative dictionary learning approaches are mainly categorized into three types: shared dictionary learning, class specific dictionary learning and hybrid dictionary learning. In shared dictionary learning, the bases are learned with all the training samples together. The discriminative information is often embedded into the dictionary learning procedure. Mairal *et al.* learned a discriminative dictionary [14] with a linear classifier of coding coefficients. Liu *et al.* embedded the linear discriminant analysis [15] into the dictionary. Zhang *et al.* obtained a discriminative dictionary by integrated the label information [16] into the dictionary learning. The shared dictionary learning approaches usually lead to a small-sized dictionary and

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the discriminative information (i.e., the label information corresponding to coding coefficients) is embedded into the dictionary learning framework. In class specific dictionary learning, each basis is only corresponds to a single class so that the class specific reconstruction error could be used for classification. Yang et al. first elaborated a class specific dictionary learning algorithm [17] for face recognition. Wang et al. detailed the mutual incoherence information [18] to promote class specific dictionary learning in action recognition. Yang et al. improved the class specific dictionary learning algorithm with the fisher discriminative information [19]. Liu et al. depicted a self-explanatory sparse representation based dictionary learning [20] to enhance the interpretation of the class specific based dictionary learning algorithm. Liu et al. listed class specific centralized dictionary learning algorithm [21] to make the sparse codes in the same class centralized. The class specific dictionary learning approaches usually focus on the classifier construction aspect since each basis vector is fixed to a single class label. In hybrid dictionary learning, the shared basis vectors and class specific basis vectors are learned simultaneously. Zhou et al. learned a hybrid dictionary [22] with fisher regularization on the coding coefficient. Gao et al. learned a shared dictionary [23] to encode common visual patterns and a class specific dictionary to encode subtle visual differences among different categories for fine-grained image representation. Liu et al. showed a hierarchical dictionary learning method [24] to produce a shared dictionary and a cluster specific dictionary. In spite of the demonstrated performance of hybrid dictionary learning, it is still a challenge to balance the shared dictionary and the class specific dictionary.

Although the methods mentioned above achieved superior performance in visual recognition, works of dictionary learning usually operate in the original Euclidean space, which cannot capture nonlinear structures hidden in data. Meanwhile, face images often have intrinsic nonlinear similarity measures. A classical way to deal with this is to adopt the "*kernel trick*" [25], which maps the features into high dimensional feature space to make features of different categories more linearly separable. With the introduction of kernel techniques, the learned dictionary becomes versatile. Wu *et al.* learned a dictionary in the histogram intersection kernel (HIK) space [26], while Gemert *et al.* learned it in the Gaussian radial basis function (RBF) kernel space [27]. Liu *et al.* explained a self-explanatory sparse representation [28] for image classification and extended the dictionary learning to the arbitrary kernel space.

Motivated by the higher performance of class specific dictionary learning and dictionary learning in the kernel space, we propose a novel approach to combine the class specific dictionary learning with linear discriminant analysis constraints in Reproducing Kernel Hilbert Space (KCSDL-LDA), which is considered as an extension and improvement of the conventional class specific dictionary learning (CSDL) algorithm. **The main contribution** is listed in four aspects:

- We propose a novel class specific dictionary learning scheme in Reproducing Kernel Hilbert Spaces that considers the weight of each sample in correspondence class when generating the dictionary in the kernel space.
- We propose class specific dictionary learning combined with linear discriminant analysis constraints in Reproducing Kernel Hilbert

Spaces for sparse representation based classification.

- We use the Coordinate descent and Lagrange multipliers to efficiently solve the corresponding optimization problems.
- We show that our proposed KCSDL-LDA algorithm achieves superior performance in several benchmark datasets of face recognition tasks to other classical face recognition algorithms.

### Overview of SRC and CRC

Sparse representation and collaborative representation algorithms can be considered as methods of rearranging the structure of the original data in order to make the representation compact and discriminative under non-orthogonal bases. Hence, the data vector is represented as a linear combination of active basis vectors.

Wright *et al.* proposed the sparse representation based classification (SRC) algorithm for robust face recognition [4]. Given the training samples  $X = [X^1, X^2, \dots, X^C] \in \mathbb{R}^{D \times N}$ , where  $X^c \in \mathbb{R}^{D \times N_c}$  represents the training samples from the  $c_{th}$  class, *C* represents the number of classes,  $N_c$  represents the number of training samples in the  $c_{th}$  class ( $N = \sum_{c=1}^{C} N_c$ ), and *D* represents the dimension of the samples. Supposing that  $y \in \mathbb{R}^{D \times 1}$  is a test sample, the sparse representation algorithm aims to solve the following optimization problem:

$$\hat{s} = \arg\min_{s} \left\{ \|y - Xs\|_{2}^{2} + 2\alpha \|s\|_{1} \right\}.$$
(1)

Here,  $\alpha$  is the regularization parameter to control the trade-off between fitting goodness and sparseness.

Zhang *et al.* proposed the collaborative representation based classification (CRC) algorithm [13] by replacing  $\ell_1$  regularizer term in Eqn. (1) with  $\ell_2$  regularizer term as follows,

$$\hat{s} = \arg\min_{s} \left\{ \|y - Xs\|_{2}^{2} + \beta \|s\|_{2}^{2} \right\}.$$
(2)

Here,  $\beta$  is the regularization parameter to control the trade-off between fitting goodness and collaborative property (i.e., multiple entries in *x* participating in representing the test sample).

The sparse representation or collaborative representation based classifier is to find the minimum value of the residual error for each class:

$$id(y) = \arg \min_{c} ||y - X^{c} \hat{s}^{c}||_{2}^{2}.$$
 (3)

Both the SRC and CRC algorithms directly use the training samples as the dictionary and encode the test sample *y* as

$$y \approx XWs,$$
 (4)

where  $W \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times N}$  is an identity matrix. This means that the training samples contribute equally for constructing the dictionary B = XW when representing the test sample *y*.

#### Our Approach

In this section, we propose a novel approach—class specific dictionary learning combined with linear discriminant analysis constraints in Reproducing Kernel Hilbert Space (KCSDL-LDA), which modifies and extends the conventional class specific dictionary learning (CSDL) algorithm in several aspects.

#### Class specific dictionary learning in the kernel space

From Eqns. (1), (2) and (4), we could observe that w is predefined as an identity matrix I. However, for different classification tasks and sample distributions, a data-driven formulation of w would be preferred. That is, to make w more adaptive, it would be of great benefit to impose that the training samples of the same class have different weights when constructing bases in the corresponding dictionary (intra-class constraint) while the training samples of the remaining classes have no contribution (inter-class constraints). Hence, the weight coefficient matrix could be generalized from an identity matrix to a block-diagonal matrix [20] as shown in Figure 1. w can be obtained effectively by dictionary learning. SRC and CRC can be thus considered as special cases of our proposed class specific dictionary learning.

$$\begin{bmatrix} W^1 & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & W^2 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & W^3 & \cdots & 0 \\ \cdots & \cdots & \cdots & \cdots & \cdots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \cdots & W^C \end{bmatrix}$$

Figure 1. The learned weight coefficient matrix W for constructing dictionary

#### The objective function of CSDL becomes

$$\mathscr{G}(W^{1}, \cdots, W^{C}, S^{1}, \cdots, S^{C}) = \sum_{c=1}^{C} \left\{ \|X^{c} - X^{c} W^{c} S^{c}\|_{F}^{2} + 2\alpha \sum_{n=1}^{N_{c}} \|S_{\bullet n}^{c}\|_{1} \right\}$$

$$s.t. \|X^{c} W_{\bullet k}^{c}\|_{2}^{2} \le 1, \forall k = 1, 2, \cdots, K, \forall c = 1, 2, \dots, C.$$
(5)

where  $\|\cdot\|_{F}^{2}$  represents the Frobenius norm.  $B_{\bullet i}$  and  $B_{j\bullet}$  denote the  $i_{th}$  column and  $j_{th}$  row vectors of matrix B, respectively. W is the learned weight coefficient for constructing the dictionary and s is the corresponding sparse representation. Equation (5) can be also considered as the "dual form" of the conventional CSDL algorithm.

The conventional CSDL algorithm usually operates in Euclidean space, which could not capture the nonlinear structure when learning the dictionary. By contrast, our proposed CSDL algorithm can be easily extended to the kernel space, where the nonlinear structures are extracted and represented to enhance the classification accuracy. Suppose that there exists a feature mapping function  $\phi : \mathbb{R}^D \to \mathbb{R}^t$ , it maps the original feature space to the high dimensional kernel space:  $\phi(X) = [\phi(X^1), \phi(X^2), \dots, \phi(X^C)] \in \mathbb{R}^{t \times N}$ . The objective function of Eqn. (5) can then be generalized to reproducing kernel Hilbert spaces as

$$\mathcal{O}(W^{1}, \cdots, W^{C}, S^{1}, \cdots, S^{C}) = \sum_{c=1}^{C} \left\{ \|\phi(X^{c}) - \phi(X^{c})W^{c}S^{c}\|_{H}^{2} + 2\alpha \sum_{n=1}^{N_{c}} \|S_{\bullet n}^{c}\|_{1} \right\}$$
(6)  
s.t.  $\|\phi(X^{c})W_{\bullet k}^{c}\|_{H}^{2} \le 1, \forall k = 1, 2, \cdots, K, \forall c = 1, 2, \dots, C.$ 

Here, the Frobenius norm has been replaced by the inner-product norm of that Hilbert space, such that  $||\phi(X)||_{H}^{2} = \kappa(X,X)$ , with kernel function  $\kappa(X_{\bullet i}, X_{\bullet j}) = \phi(X_{\bullet j})^{T} \phi(X_{\bullet j})$ .

#### The KCSDL-LDA model

The conventional CSDL algorithm fails to consider the constraints crucial to the produced sparse codes. In particular, it cannot guarantee the sparse codes that will be concentrated in the

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same class and scattered in different class based on the learned dictionary for each class. Such within-class concentration and between-class scatter are actually beneficial to the classification. We now come to our proposed class specific dictionary learning combined with linear discriminant analysis constraints in Reproducing Kernel Hilbert Spaces for sparse representation based classification.

More precisely, the within-class concentration information is

$$\mathscr{R}(S^{1},\cdots,S^{C}) = \sum_{c=1}^{C} \sum_{n=1}^{N_{c}} \left\| S_{\bullet n}^{c} - \frac{1}{N_{c}} \sum_{m=1}^{N_{c}} S_{\bullet m}^{c} \right\|_{2}^{2}.$$
(7)

The between-class scatter information is

$$\mathscr{T}(S^{1},\cdots,S^{C}) = \sum_{c=1}^{C} \frac{1}{(C-1)} \sum_{d=1,d\neq c}^{C} \left\| \frac{1}{N_{c}} \sum_{n=1}^{N_{c}} S_{\bullet n}^{c} - \frac{1}{N_{d}} \sum_{m=1}^{N_{d}} S_{\bullet m}^{d} \right\|_{2}^{2}.$$
 (8)

Intuitively, we can define  $g(W,S) = \mathscr{R} - \mathscr{T}$  as our discriminant term. However, such term is non-convex and unstable. To solve this problem, we propose to add an term  $\left\|\frac{1}{N_c}\sum_{n=1}^{N_c} (S_{\bullet n}^c)\right\|_2^2$  into g(W,S). So g(W,S) is defined as

$$g(W^{1},\cdots,W^{C},S^{1},\cdots,S^{C}) = \beta \left\{ \mathscr{R} - \mathscr{T} + 2 \left\| \frac{1}{N_{c}} \sum_{n=1}^{N_{c}} S_{\bullet n}^{c} \right\|_{2}^{2} \right\}$$
(9)

The objective function of our proposed class specific discriminant dictionary learning with kernels now becomes

$$f(W^{1}, \dots, W^{C}, S^{1}, \dots, S^{C}) = \mathscr{O}(W^{1}, \dots, W^{C}, S^{1}, \dots, S^{C}) + g(W^{1}, \dots, W^{C}, S^{1}, \dots, S^{C}) s.t. \|\phi(X^{c})W^{c}{}_{\bullet k}\|_{H}^{2} \leq 1, \forall k = 1, 2, \dots, K, \forall c = 1, 2, \dots, C.$$
(10)

#### Optimization of the objective function

In this section, we focus on solving the optimization problem for the proposed KCSDL-LDA algorithm. Specifically, similar to the optimization strategy adopted in [29, 30], it is decomposed into two subproblems via alternating minimization for learning dictionary of each class. One is an  $\ell_1$ -norm regularized least-squares minimization subproblem with fixed *w* and  $(s^1, s^2, \dots, s^{c-1}, s^{c+1}, \dots, s^c)$ . The other one is an  $\ell_2$ -norm constrained least-squares minimization subproblem with fixed *s* and  $(w^1, w^2, \dots, w^{c-1}, w^{c+1}, \dots, w^c)$ .

#### $\ell_1$ - $\ell_s$ Minimization Subproblem

With *W* and  $(S^1, S^2, \dots, S^{c-1}, S^{c+1}, \dots, S^C)$  fixed, the objective function of the  $\ell_1$ -*ls* minimization subproblem is cast as

$$f(S^{c}) = \|\phi(X^{c}) - \phi(X^{c})W^{c}S^{c}\|_{H}^{2} + 2\alpha \sum_{n=1}^{N_{c}} \|S_{\bullet n}^{c}\|_{1}$$
$$+\beta \sum_{n=1}^{N_{c}} \left\|S_{\bullet n}^{c} - \frac{1}{N_{c}} \sum_{m=1}^{N_{c}} S_{\bullet m}^{c}\right\|_{H}^{2} + 2\beta \left\|\frac{1}{N_{c}} \sum_{n=1}^{N_{c}} S_{\bullet n}^{c}\right\|_{H}^{2}$$
$$-\beta \frac{1}{(C-1)} \sum_{d=1, d \neq c}^{C} \left\|\frac{1}{N_{c}} \sum_{n=1}^{N_{c}} S_{\bullet n}^{c} - \frac{1}{N_{d}} \sum_{m=1}^{N_{d}} S_{\bullet m}^{d}\right\|_{H}^{2}$$
(11)

Ignoring the constant term, Eqn. (11) can be simplified as

$$\begin{split} f(S^{c}) &= trace \left\{ \kappa(X^{c}, X^{c}) - 2\kappa(X^{c}, X^{c}) W^{c} S^{c} \right\} \\ &+ trace \left\{ S^{c^{T}} \left( W^{c^{T}} \kappa(X^{c}, X^{c}) W^{c} \right) S^{c} \right\} + 2\alpha \sum_{n=1}^{N_{c}} \|S_{\bullet n}^{c}\|_{1} \\ &+ \beta \sum_{n=1}^{N_{c}} \left\| \frac{N_{c} - 1}{N_{c}} S_{\bullet n}^{c} - \frac{1}{N_{c}} \left( \sum_{m=1, m \neq n}^{N_{c}} S_{\bullet m}^{c} \right) \right\|_{H}^{2} \\ &+ \beta \sum_{n=1}^{N_{c}} \left\| \frac{1}{N_{c}} S_{\bullet n}^{c} + \frac{1}{N_{c}} \left( \sum_{m=1, m \neq n}^{N_{c}} S_{\bullet m}^{c} \right) \right\|_{H}^{2} \\ &- \beta \frac{1}{(C-1)} \sum_{d=1, d \neq c}^{C} \left\| \frac{1}{N_{c}} S_{\bullet n}^{c} + \frac{1}{N_{c}} \left( \sum_{m=1, m \neq n}^{N_{c}} S_{\bullet m}^{c} \right) - \frac{1}{N_{d}} \sum_{i=1}^{N_{d}} S_{\bullet i}^{d} \right\|_{H}^{2}. \end{split}$$
(12)

According to the solving method in [20], it is easy to infer that  $f(S_{in}^c)$  reaches the minimum at the unique point

$$S_{kn}^{c} = \frac{1}{1 + \beta \left(\frac{N_{c}-1}{N_{c}}\right)^{2} + \beta \left(\frac{1}{N_{c}}\right)^{2}} \min\{A_{kn} - [E\widetilde{S}^{c^{kn}}]_{kn}, -\alpha\} + \frac{1}{1 + \beta \left(\frac{N_{c}-1}{N_{c}}\right)^{2} + \beta \left(\frac{1}{N_{c}}\right)^{2}} \max\{A_{kn} - [E\widetilde{S}^{c^{kn}}]_{kn}, \alpha\},$$
(13)

where  $A_{kn} = [W^{cT}\kappa(X^c, X^c)]_{kn} + \beta \left[ \frac{N_c - 2}{N_c^2} \sum_{m=1, m \neq n}^{\infty} S_{km}^c \right] - \beta \left[ \frac{1}{N_c N_d(C-1)} \sum_{d=1, d \neq c}^{\infty} \sum_{l=1}^{N} S_{kl}^d \right],$  $E = W^{cT}\kappa(X^c, X^c) W^c, \text{ and } \widetilde{S}^{ckn}_{c} = \begin{cases} S_{pq}^c, p \neq k || q \neq n \\ 0, p = k \& q = n \end{cases}.$ 

#### $\ell_2$ - $\ell_s$ minimization subproblem

With  $S^c$  and  $(W^1, W^2, \dots, W^{c-1}, W^{c+1}, \dots, W^C)$  fixed, the objective function of the  $\ell_2 - \ell_s$  minimization subproblem becomes

$$f(W^{c}) = \|\phi(X^{c}) - \phi(X^{c})W^{c}S^{c}\|_{H}^{2}$$
  
s.t.  $\|\phi(X^{c})W_{\bullet k}^{c}\|_{H}^{2} \le 1, \forall k = 1, 2, \cdots, K.$  (14)

Here, the Lagrange multipliers are used to solve the  $\ell_{2}$ -norm constrained minimization subproblem.  $W^c$  can be obtained by optimizing each column alternately. Specifically, ignoring the constant term  $trace\{\kappa(X^c, X^c)\}$ , the Lagrangian of Eqn. (14) is

$$\mathcal{L}(W^{c},\lambda_{k},\mu_{k}) = -2\sum_{k=1}^{K} [S^{c}\kappa(X^{c},X^{c})]_{k\bullet}W^{c}_{\bullet k}$$
  
+  $\sum_{k=1}^{K} W^{cT}_{\bullet k} [\kappa(X^{c},X^{c})W^{c}S^{c}S^{cT}]_{\bullet k}$   
+  $\lambda_{k}(1 - [W^{cT}\kappa(X^{c},X^{c})W^{c}]_{kk}),$  (15)

where  $\lambda_k$  is a variable.

According to the Karush-Kuhn-Tucker (KKT) conditions, the optimal solution  $W_{\bullet k}^c$  should satisfy the following criteria:

$$(a): \frac{\partial \mathscr{L}(W^c, \lambda_k)}{\partial W^c_{\bullet k}} = 0;$$
  

$$(b): (1 - [W^{cT} \kappa (X^c, X^c) W^c]_{kk}) = 0;$$
  

$$(c): \lambda_k > 0$$
(16)

Hence, the solution to  $W_{\bullet k}^c$  becomes

$$W_{\bullet k}^{c} = \frac{S_{k\bullet}^{c} T_{-[\widetilde{Wc}^{c} F] \bullet k}}{\sqrt{(S_{k\bullet}^{c} T_{-[\widetilde{Wc}^{c} F] \bullet k})^{T} \kappa(X^{c}, X^{c})(S_{k\bullet}^{c} T_{-[\widetilde{Wc}^{c} F] \bullet k})}},$$
(17)

where  $F = S^c S^{cT}$  and  $\widetilde{W_{\bullet}^c}^k = \begin{cases} W_{\bullet p}^c, p \neq k \\ 0, p = k \end{cases}$ .

**Algorithm 1** KCSDL-LDA Algorithm **Require:** Data matrix  $X \in \mathbb{R}^{D \times N}$ ,  $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$ , K, and C;

1: Compute kernels $\kappa(X,X)$ on data X;
<b>2:</b> for $c = 1 : 1 : C$ do
3: $W^c \leftarrow rand(N_c,K), S^c \leftarrow zeros(K,N_c)$
4: <b>for</b> $k = 1; k \le K; k + +$ <b>do</b>
5: $W_{\bullet k}^{c} = W_{\bullet k}^{c} / \sqrt{W_{\bullet k}^{c}}^{T} W_{\bullet k}^{c}$
6: end for
7: end for
8: while not converge do
9: <b>for</b> $c = 1 : 1 : C$ <b>do</b>
10: Update $S^c$ according to Eqn. (13)
11: <b>Update</b> $W^c$ according to Eqn. (17)
12: end for
13: Update the objective function according to Eqn. (10)
14: end while
15. return W and S

#### Overall algorithm

Our algorithm for KCSDL-LDA is shown in Algorithm 1.

#### **Experimental results**

In this section, we evaluated our KCSDL-LDA algorithm on three benchmark dataset, such as the Extended YaleB dataset [31], the CMU PIE dataset [32], and the AR dataset [33]. The following subsections focus on experimental settings, parameter tuning, experimental results and some discussions.

### Experimental settings

For all three benchmark datasets, each face image is cropped to  $32 \times 32$ , pulled into a column vector, and performed a  $\ell_2$  normalization to form the raw feature. After that, 5 samples per class as training data and 10 samples per class as testing data are randomly selected from the datasets. To eliminate the randomness, we randomly (repeatable) split the dataset into the train set and test set 10 times, respectively. The mean value and standard deviation of the face recognition rate are recorded.

For comparison, five classical face recognition algorithms are used as baselines. They are nearest neighbor classification (N-N), collaborative representation based classification (CRC) [13], sparse representation based classification (SRC) [4], class specific dictionary learning based classification [20], and SVM [34]. For SVM, one-against-all multi-class classification strategy is adopted by LIBSVM [34].

For parameter selection, three parameters are required to tune.  $\alpha$  is used to adjust the trade-off between the reconstruction error and the sparsity for sparse representation based class specific dictionary learning.  $\beta$  is used to adjust the trade-off between the reconstruction error and the discriminant information.  $\kappa$  is the size of the dictionary for each class. In this paper,  $\kappa$  is set to be twice of the size of the training samples per class. The detailed parameter adjustment is shown in the following subsections.

For kernel functions, we use three different kernels: linear kernel ( $\kappa(x,y) = x^T y$ ), the Hellinger kernel ( $\kappa(x,y) = \sum_{d=1}^{D} \sqrt{x_d y_d}$ ), and the polynomial kernel ( $\kappa(x,y) = (p + x^T y)^q$ ), and . Here, we set p = 4 and q = 2.

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**Figure 2.** Parameter tuned on CMU PIE dataset with linear kernel. The left figure is for tuning  $\alpha$  with  $\beta = 2^{-4}$ . The right figure is for tuning  $\beta$  with  $\alpha = 2^{-9}$ 



**Figure 3.** Parameter tuned on CMU PIE dataset with Hellinger kernel. The left figure is for tuning  $\alpha$  with  $\beta = 2^{-4}$ . The right figure is for tuning  $\beta$  with  $\alpha = 2^{-7}$ 



**Figure 4.** Parameter tuning on CMU PIE dataset with polynomial kernel. The left figure is for tuning  $\alpha$  with  $\beta = 2^{-4}$ . The right figure is for tuning  $\beta$  with  $\alpha = 2^{-7}$ 

## CMU PIE dataset

The CMU PIE dataset contains 41,368 images of 68 individuals in total. Each individual is under 13 different poses, 43 different illumination conditions, and with 4 different expressions. Each individual thus may lie on multiple manifolds. Five near frontal poses (C05, C07, C09, C27, C29) and all different illuminations and expressions are used in our experiment. There are about 170 images for each individual and 11,554 images in total. The parameter tuning for  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  is reported in Figure 2,3 and 4 with linear kernel, Hellinger kernel and polynomial kernel, respectively. From Figure 2,3 and 4, the optimal  $\alpha$  is 2<sup>-9</sup>, 2<sup>-7</sup> and 2<sup>-7</sup> for linear kernel, Hellinger kernel and polynomial kernel, respectively. The optimal  $\beta$  is 2<sup>-4</sup> for all three types of kernel. Table 1 shows the recognition rate of NN, SVM, CRC, SRC, CSDL, and KCSDL-LDA. From Table 1, our proposed KCSDL-LDA algorithm achieves superior performance over the other four classical classification methods and outperforms CSDL 5.09%, 6.66% and 6.18% for linear kernel, Hellinger kernel and polynomial kernel, respectively.

## Extended YaleB dataset

For the Extended YaleB dataset, there are 2,414 frontal face images of 38 individuals in total. All the images are captured under varying illumination conditions. Similar to the parameters tuned on CMU PIE dataset, the optimal  $\alpha$  is 2<sup>-9</sup>, 2<sup>-7</sup> and 2<sup>-7</sup> for linear kernel, Hellinger kernel and polynomial kernel, respectively. The optimal  $\beta$  is 2<sup>-5</sup>, 2<sup>-5</sup> and 2<sup>-8</sup> for linear kernel, Hellinger kernel

Methods\kernels	linear	Hellinger	poly
NN	$30.79 \pm 1.73$	NA	NA
SVM	$65.35\pm2.70$	$64.99\pm2.55$	$65.38 \pm 2.73$
CRC	$73.24 \pm 2.33$	$75.24 \pm 1.84$	$73.22\pm2.27$
SRC	$72.24 \pm 2.12$	$70.69\pm2.14$	$69.15\pm2.14$
CSDL	$74.66\pm2.18$	$74.66\pm1.97$	$73.78\pm2.02$
KCSDL-LDA	$\textbf{79.75} \pm \textbf{1.46}$	$81.32\pm1.37$	$\textbf{79.96} \pm \textbf{1.33}$

Table 1: Recognition rate on the CMU PIE dataset (%).

Methods\kernels	linear	Hellinger	poly
NN	$36.21\pm2.51$	NA	NA
SVM	$65.50 \pm 2.64$	$79.13 \pm 2.68$	$65.26 \pm 2.75$
CRC	$77.79\pm2.23$	$88.60 \pm 1.34$	$76.00\pm2.30$
SRC	$77.61 \pm 1.75$	$88.76 \pm 1.86$	$75.55\pm2.65$
CSDL	$78.42 \pm 1.79$	$90.13 \pm 1.49$	$78.37 \pm 2.19$
KCSDL-LDA	$\textbf{78.87} \pm \textbf{1.91}$	$92.08 \pm 1.68$	$79.58 \pm 2.13$

Table 2: Recognition rate on the Extended YaleB dataset (%).

and polynomial kernel, respectively. Table 2 shows the recognition rate of NN, SVM, CRC, SRC, CSDL, and KCSDL-LDA. From Table 2, our proposed KCSDL-LDA algorithm achieves superior performance to other four classical classification methods and outperforms CSDL 0.45%, 1.95% and 1.21% for linear kernel, Hellinger kernel and polynomial kernel, respectively.

## AR dataset

For the AR dataset, there are over 4,000 frontal faces for 126 individuals. A subset consisting of 50 male and 50 female categories is used. There are 26 face images for each class. Compared with the two above datasets, the AR dataset contains more facial variations, such as illumination change, various expressions, and facial disguises. Similar to the parameter tuning on CMU PIE dataset, the optimal  $\alpha$  is 2<sup>-10</sup>, 2<sup>-7</sup> and 2<sup>-7</sup> for linear kernel, Hellinger kernel and polynomial kernel, respectively. The optimal  $\beta$  is 2<sup>-4</sup> for all three types of kernel. Table 3 shows the recognition rate of NN, SVM, CRC, SRC, CSDL, and KCSDL-LDA. From Table 3, our proposed KCSDL-LDA algorithm achieves superior performance over the other four classical classification methods and outperforms CSDL 2.68%, 3.85% and 3.86% for linear kernel, Hellinger kernel and polynomial kernel, respectively.

Methods\kernels	linear	Hellinger	poly
NN	$30.50 \pm 1.81$	NA	NA
SVM	$80.55 \pm 1.11$	$80.45 \pm 1.24$	$80.25 \pm 1.04$
CRC	$91.68\pm0.55$	$92.09\pm0.53$	$92.00\pm0.74$
SRC	$89.14 \pm 1.07$	$85.86 \pm 1.18$	$85.61 \pm 1.05$
CSDL	$91.16 \pm 1.04$	$89.49 \pm 1.15$	$89.49 \pm 1.08$
KCSDL-LDA	$93.84 \pm 0.92$	$93.34 \pm 0.69$	$93.35 \pm 1.08$

Table 3: Recognition rate on the AR dataset (%).

## Conclusion

In this paper, we mainly focus on improving conventional class specific dictionary learning for face recognition. On one hand, we extend the conventional class specific dictionary learning to arbitrary kernel space to capture nonlinear structures hidden in face images. On the other hand, we embed the linear discriminant analysis information into the class specific dictionary learning algorithm. These enhancements extremely improve the performance of face recognition rate. Experimental results demonstrate our proposed KCSDL-LDA algorithm for face recognition tasks.

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