# Expectation Maximization without tears! 

Josephine Sullivan + the web

## Some stuff you probably already know

## Parameter estimation

Have $n$ independent draws $\mathbf{x}_{1}, \ldots, \mathbf{x}_{n}$ from $p(\mathbf{x} \mid \Theta)$.


## $\longleftarrow$ 1D example

Each $\mathbf{x}_{i} \sim N(\mathbf{x} \mid \boldsymbol{\mu}, \Sigma) \quad$ where $\Theta=(\boldsymbol{\mu}, \Sigma)$

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Want to estimate the parameters $\Theta$ from the $\mathbf{x}_{i}$ 's

## Parameter estimation

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$\Theta=(5.2, .8)$
$\Theta=(4.8,1.4)$
$\Theta=(4.9, .7)$

Want to estimate the parameters $\Theta$ from the $\mathbf{x}_{i}$ 's.
HOW??

## Maximum Likelihood Estimation (MLE)

Choose the $\Theta$ which maximizes the likelihood of your data:

$$
\Theta^{*}=\arg \max _{\Theta} p\left(\mathbf{x}_{1}, \mathbf{x}_{2}, \ldots, \mathbf{x}_{n} \mid \Theta\right)
$$

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\begin{aligned}
I(\Theta ; \mathbf{X}) & \equiv p\left(\mathbf{x}_{1}, \mathbf{x}_{2}, \ldots, \mathbf{x}_{n} \mid \Theta\right) \\
& =\prod_{i=1}^{n} p\left(\mathbf{x}_{i} \mid \Theta\right) \quad \leftarrow \text { assuming independent samples }
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$$

Easier to work with the log-likelihood

$$
L(\Theta ; \mathbf{X})=\log (I(\Theta ; \mathbf{X}))=\sum_{i=1}^{n} \log \left(p\left(\mathbf{x}_{i} \mid \Theta\right)\right)
$$

## Maximum Likelihood Estimation (MLE)

Choose the $\Theta$ which maximizes the likelihood of your data:

Note

$$
\Theta^{*}=\arg \max _{\Theta} I(\Theta ; \mathbf{X})=\arg \max _{\Theta} L(\Theta ; \mathbf{X})
$$

## An example Log-likelihood function

Our 1D example of points drawn from $N(\mu, \Sigma)$



Log-likelihood: $L(\Theta ; \mathbf{X})$

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Our 1D example of points drawn from $N(\mu, \Sigma)$



Log-likelihood: $L(\Theta ; \mathbf{X})$

Want to find the maximum of this function $L(\Theta ; \mathbf{X})$.

## MLE for a Normal distribution

The formula for a normal distribution for $\mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{R}^{d}$ :

$$
p(\mathbf{x} \mid \Theta)=(2 \pi)^{-\frac{d}{2}}|\Sigma|^{-\frac{1}{2}} \exp \left(-.5(\mathbf{x}-\boldsymbol{\mu})^{t} \Sigma^{-1}(\mathbf{x}-\boldsymbol{\mu})\right)
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$$

The log-likelihood of our $n$ data-points is

$$
\begin{aligned}
L(\Theta ; \mathbf{X}) & =\sum_{i=1}^{n} \log \left(p\left(\mathbf{x}_{i} \mid \Theta\right)\right) \\
& =\sum_{i=1}^{n}\left[-\frac{d}{2} \log (2 \pi)-\frac{1}{2} \log (|\Sigma|)-.5\left(\mathbf{x}_{i}-\boldsymbol{\mu}\right)^{t} \Sigma^{-1}\left(\mathbf{x}_{i}-\boldsymbol{\mu}\right)\right] \\
& =-\frac{n d}{2} \log (2 \pi)-\frac{n}{2} \log (|\Sigma|)-.5 \sum_{i=1}^{n}\left(\mathbf{x}_{i}-\boldsymbol{\mu}\right)^{t} \Sigma^{-1}\left(\mathbf{x}_{i}-\boldsymbol{\mu}\right) \\
& =-\frac{n d}{2} \log (2 \pi)-\frac{n}{2} \log (|\Sigma|)-.5 \operatorname{tr}\left[\sum_{i=1}^{n}\left(\mathbf{x}_{i}-\boldsymbol{\mu}\right)^{t} \Sigma^{-1}\left(\mathbf{x}_{i}-\mu\right)\right]
\end{aligned}
$$

## MLE for a Normal distribution

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& =-\frac{n d}{2} \log (2 \pi)-\frac{n}{2} \log (|\Sigma|)-.5 \operatorname{tr}\left[\sum_{i=1}^{n} \Sigma^{-1}\left(\mathbf{x}_{i}-\boldsymbol{\mu}\right)\left(\mathbf{x}_{i}-\boldsymbol{\mu}\right)^{t}\right] \\
& =-\frac{n d}{2} \log (2 \pi)-\frac{n}{2} \log (|\Sigma|)-.5 \operatorname{tr}\left[\Sigma^{-1} \sum_{i=1}^{n}\left(\mathbf{x}_{i}-\boldsymbol{\mu}\right)\left(\mathbf{x}_{i}-\boldsymbol{\mu}\right)^{t}\right]
\end{aligned}
$$

Note $\Sigma$ is a symmetric positive definite matrix. Thus $\Sigma=T^{t} T$ therefore

$$
\begin{aligned}
L(\Theta ; \mathbf{X}) & =-\frac{n d}{2} \log (2 \pi)-\frac{n}{2} \log \left(\left|T^{t} T\right|\right)-.5 \operatorname{tr}\left[\left(T^{t} T\right)^{-1} \sum_{i=1}^{n}\left(\mathbf{x}_{i}-\mu\right)\left(\mathbf{x}_{i}-\boldsymbol{\mu}\right)^{t}\right. \\
& =-\frac{n d}{2} \log (2 \pi)-n \log (|T|)-.5 \operatorname{tr}\left[\left(T^{t} T\right)^{-1} \sum_{i=1}^{n}\left(\mathbf{x}_{i}-\boldsymbol{\mu}\right)\left(\mathbf{x}_{i}-\boldsymbol{\mu}\right)^{t}\right]
\end{aligned}
$$

## Remember

How do we analytically solve for an optimum?

- Take derivative of function wrt each variable.


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How do we analytically solve for an optimum?

- Take derivative of function wrt each variable.
- Set each derivative to zero.
- Solve the set of simultaneous equations if possible.


## MLE for a Normal distribution

For our Normal distribution


Take derivative of function wrt each variable:
$\frac{\partial L(\Theta ; \mathbf{X})}{\partial \boldsymbol{\mu}}=\sum_{i=1}^{n} \Sigma^{-1}\left(\mathbf{x}_{i}-\boldsymbol{\mu}\right)$
$\frac{\partial L(\Theta ; \mathbf{X})}{\partial T}=-n T^{-t}+T\left(T^{t} T\right)^{-1} \sum_{i=1}^{n}\left(\mathbf{x}_{i}-\mu\right)\left(\mathbf{x}_{i}-\boldsymbol{\mu}\right)^{t}\left(T^{t} T\right)^{-1}$
Remember: The Matrix Cookbook is your friend.

## MLE for a Normal distribution

For our Normal distribution


Set each derivative to zero:

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \mathbf{0}=\Sigma^{-1} \sum_{i=1}^{n}\left(\mathbf{x}_{i}-\boldsymbol{\mu}\right) \\
& \mathbf{0}=-n T^{-t}+T\left(T^{t} T\right)^{-1}\left[\sum_{i=1}^{n}\left(\mathbf{x}_{i}-\boldsymbol{\mu}\right)\left(\mathbf{x}_{i}-\boldsymbol{\mu}\right)^{t}\right]\left(T^{t} T\right)^{-1}
\end{aligned}
$$

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## MLE for a Normal distribution

## For our Normal distribution



Solve the set of simultaneous equations if possible:

$$
\begin{gathered}
\boldsymbol{\mu}^{*}=\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^{n} \mathbf{x}_{i} \\
T^{* t} T^{*}=\Sigma^{*}=\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^{n}\left(\mathbf{x}_{i}-\boldsymbol{\mu}^{*}\right)\left(\mathbf{x}_{i}-\boldsymbol{\mu}^{*}\right)^{t}
\end{gathered}
$$

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## MLE for a Normal distribution

Back to our 1D example:


Red curve is the MLE pdf $(n=25)$
Black curve is the ground truth

## MLE for a Normal distribution

Estimate becomes better as $n$ increases


Red curve is the MLE pdf $(n=200)$
Black curve is the ground truth

## Some more stuff you probably already know

## Limitations of Normal distributions

Unfortunately Normal distributions are not very expressive.
They can only accurately represent distributions with one mode.

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Unfortunately Normal distributions are not very expressive.


What do we do in this situation ??

## Gaussian Mixture Models (GMM)

They can accurately represent any distribution.
Mathematical definition

$$
p(\mathbf{x} \mid \Theta)=\sum_{k=1}^{K} \pi_{k} N\left(\mathbf{x}_{k} ; \boldsymbol{\mu}_{k}, \Sigma_{k}\right)
$$

where

$$
\sum_{k=1}^{K} \pi_{k}=1 \quad \text { and } \quad \pi_{k} \geq 0 \text { for } k=1, \ldots, K
$$

$$
\text { and } \Theta=\left(\boldsymbol{\mu}_{1}, \ldots, \boldsymbol{\mu}_{K}, \Sigma_{1}, \ldots, \Sigma_{K}, \pi_{1}, \ldots, \pi_{K}\right)
$$

## Gaussian Mixture Models (GMM)

They can accurately represent any distribution.


$$
p(x \mid \Theta)=\alpha \mathcal{N}\left(x \mid \mu_{1}, \sigma_{1}^{2}\right)+(1-\alpha) \mathcal{N}\left(x \mid \mu_{2}, \sigma_{2}^{2}\right)
$$

$$
\Theta=\left(\alpha, \mu_{1}, \sigma_{1}, \mu_{2}, \sigma_{2}\right)=(.6,-1, .5,1.5,1.3)
$$

## Parameter estimation for a GMM

Given $n$ independent samples $\mathbf{x}_{1}, \ldots, \mathbf{x}_{n}$ from a GMM.


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Given $n$ independent samples $\mathbf{x}_{1}, \ldots, \mathbf{x}_{n}$ from a GMM.

$\longleftarrow$ training data

Can still use MLE to estimate $\Theta$ from the $\mathbf{x}_{i}$ 's, but...

# Attempt 1: Analytic Solution 

## Attempt 1: Parameter estimation for a GMM

The log-likelihood of the data is

$$
L(\Theta ; \mathbf{X})=\sum_{i=1}^{n} \log \left(\sum_{k=1}^{k} \pi_{k} N\left(x_{i} ; \boldsymbol{\mu}_{k}, \Sigma_{k}\right)\right)
$$

(Note: We'll assume $K$ is known and fixed.)

## Attempt 1: Parameter estimation for a GMM



Let's try to maximize $L(\Theta ; \mathbf{X})$ analytically subject to the constraint $\sum_{k} \pi_{k}=1$ and each $\Sigma_{k}=T_{k}^{t} T_{k}$. Construct the Lagrangian $\mathcal{L}(\Theta, \lambda ; \mathbf{X})$.

$$
\mathcal{L}(\Theta, \lambda ; \mathbf{X})=\sum_{i=1}^{n} \log \left(\sum_{k=1}^{K} \pi_{k} N\left(x_{i} ; \boldsymbol{\mu}_{k}, T_{k}^{t} T_{k}\right)\right)+\lambda\left(1-\sum_{k=1}^{K} \pi_{k}\right)
$$

## Attempt 1: Parameter estimation for a GMM



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Take derivatives for $k=1, \ldots, K$ :

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}(\Theta, \lambda ; \mathbf{X})}{\partial \boldsymbol{\mu}_{k}}=\sum_{i=1}^{n} \frac{\pi_{k} N\left(\mathbf{x}_{i} ; \boldsymbol{\mu}_{k}, T_{k}^{t} T_{k}\right)}{G M M\left(\mathbf{x}_{i} ; \Theta\right)}\left(T_{k}^{t} T_{k}\right)^{-1}\left(\mathbf{x}_{i}-\boldsymbol{\mu}_{k}\right) \\
& \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}(\Theta, \lambda ; \mathbf{X})}{\partial T_{k}}=\text { something complicated..... } \\
& \quad \text { etc }
\end{aligned}
$$

## Attempt 1: Parameter estimation for a GMM



Let's try to maximize $L(\Theta ; \mathbf{X})$ analytically subject to the constraint $\sum_{k} \pi_{k}=1$ and each $\Sigma_{k}=T_{k}^{t} T_{k}$. Construct the Lagrangian $\mathcal{L}(\Theta, \lambda ; \mathbf{X})$.

## Set derivatives to zero:

$$
\sum_{i=1}^{n} \frac{\pi_{k} N\left(\mathbf{x}_{i} ; \boldsymbol{\mu}_{k}, \Sigma_{k}\right)}{G M M\left(\mathrm{x}_{i} ; \Theta\right)} \Sigma_{k}^{-1}\left(\mathrm{x}_{i}-\boldsymbol{\mu}_{k}\right)=\mathbf{0}
$$

etc

## Attempt 1: Parameter estimation for a GMM



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## Solve the set of simultaneous equations

## NO ANALYTIC SOLUTION

## Attempt 2: Newton based iterative optimzation

## Attempt 2: Parameter estimation for a GMM



Could try to maximize $L(\Theta ; \mathbf{X})$ iteratively using Newton's Method. After all $L(\Theta ; \mathbf{X})$ is a scalar valued function of a vector $\Theta$ of variables.

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Could try to maximize $L(\Theta ; \mathbf{X})$ iteratively using Newton's Method.
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## One iteration

- Have a current estimate $\Theta^{(t)}$.


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- Have a current estimate $\Theta^{(t)}$.
- Approximate $L(\Theta ; \mathbf{X})$ in neighbourhood of $\Theta^{(t)}$ with a paraboloid.


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## One iteration

- Have a current estimate $\Theta^{(t)}$.
- Approximate $L(\Theta ; \mathbf{X})$ in neighbourhood of $\Theta^{(t)}$ with a paraboloid.
- $\Theta^{(t+1)}$ is set to maximum of the paraboloid.


## Attempt 2: Parameter estimation for a GMM



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## Comments

- Should find a local maximum.


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- Convergence fast if $\Theta^{(t)}$ close to an optimum.


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## Comments

- Should find a local maximum.
- Convergence fast if $\Theta^{(t)}$ close to an optimum.
- If $\Theta^{(0)}$ far away from a local maximum method can fail. Paraboloid approximation process can hit problems. $X$

What other options are there??

## Now for, what may seem like, a slight diversion

## Defintion of Majorization

A function $g\left(\Theta ; \Theta^{(t)}\right)$ majorizes a function $f(\Theta)$ at $\Theta^{(t)}$ if

$$
f\left(\Theta^{(t)}\right)=g\left(\Theta^{(t)} ; \Theta^{(t)}\right) \quad \text { and } \quad f(\Theta) \leq g\left(\Theta ; \Theta^{(t)}\right) \text { for all } \Theta
$$



$$
\longleftarrow g\left(\Theta ; \Theta^{(t)}\right) \text { majorizes } f(\Theta)
$$

## The MM Algorithm

To minimize an objective function $f(\Theta)$ :

- The MM algorithm is a prescription for constructing optimization algorithms.

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## Some definitions

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$$


$\longleftarrow g\left(\Theta ; \Theta^{(t)}\right)$ majorizes $f(\Theta)$

## Some definitions

Let

$$
\Theta^{(t+1)}=\arg \min _{\Theta} g\left(\Theta ; \Theta^{(t)}\right)
$$



Majorize function


Find minimum of majorizing function

## Some definitions

Let

$$
\Theta^{(t+1)}=\arg \min _{\Theta} g\left(\Theta ; \Theta^{(t)}\right)
$$

(so should choose a $g\left(\Theta ; \Theta^{(t)}\right)$ which is easy to minimize)


Majorize function


Find minimum of majorizing function

## Descent Properties

MM minimization algorithm satisfies the descent property as

$$
\begin{aligned}
f\left(\Theta^{(t+1)}\right) & \leq g\left(\Theta^{(t+1)} ; \Theta^{(t)}\right), \quad \text { as } f(\Theta) \leq g\left(\Theta ; \Theta^{(t)}\right) \forall \Theta \\
& \leq g\left(\Theta^{(t)} ; \Theta^{(t)}\right), \quad \text { as } \Theta^{(t+1)} \text { minimizes } g\left(\Theta ; \Theta^{(t)}\right) \\
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In summary

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In summary

$$
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$$

The descent property makes the MM algorithm very stable. Algorithm converges to local minima or saddle point.

## Maximizing a function

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- MM algorithm creates a surrogate function that minorize the objective function. When the surrogate function is maximized the objective function is increased.


Red curve minorize the black curve

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## Big Question?

How do you majorize or minorize a function??

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Here are some generic tricks and tools

- Jensen's inequality
- Chord above the graph property of a convex function
- Supporting hyperplane property of a convex function
- Quadratic upper bound principle
- Arithmetic-geometric mean inequality
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Presume it would take some practice to use these tricks.

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But....

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- have $K$ non-negative numbers $\pi_{1}, \ldots, \pi_{K}$ with $\sum_{k} \pi_{i}=1$,
- $K$ arbitrary numbers $a_{1}, \ldots, a_{K}$
then

$$
h\left(\sum_{k=1}^{K} \pi_{k} a_{k}\right) \geq \sum_{k=1}^{K} \pi_{k} h\left(a_{k}\right)
$$

## Finally we're getting to $\mathbf{E x p e c t a t i o n ~} \mathrm{Maximization}$

- The EM algorithm is a MM algorithm.


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- Use Jensen's inequality to minorize the log-likelihood. Here's how we minorize. Step 1:

$$
\begin{aligned}
& L(\Theta ; \mathbf{X})=\log (p(\mathbf{X} \mid \Theta)=\log \left(\sum_{j=1}^{n_{z}} p\left(\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{Z}=\mathbf{z}_{j} \mid \Theta\right)\right) \\
& f^{(t)}(\mathbf{Z}) \text { a patroduce discrete variable } z \\
&=\log \left(\sum_{j=1}^{n_{z}} f^{(t)}\left(\mathbf{Z}=\mathbf{z}_{j}\right) \frac{p\left(\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{Z}=\mathbf{z}_{j} \mid \Theta\right)}{f^{(t)}\left(\mathbf{Z}=\mathbf{z}_{j}\right)}\right) \\
& \text { Jensen's inequality } \rightarrow \geq \sum_{j=1}^{n_{z}} f^{(t)}\left(\mathbf{Z}=\mathbf{z}_{j}\right) \log \left(\frac{p\left(\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{Z}=\mathbf{z}_{j} \mid \Theta\right)}{f^{(t)}\left(\mathbf{Z}=\mathbf{z}_{j}\right)}\right)
\end{aligned}
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## Finally we're getting to $\mathbf{E x p e c t a t i o n ~} \mathrm{Maximization}$

- The EM algorithm is a MM algorithm.
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$$
\begin{aligned}
& L(\Theta ; \mathbf{X})=\log \left(p(\mathbf{X} \mid \Theta)=\log \left(\sum_{j=1}^{n_{z}} p\left(\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{Z}=\mathbf{z}_{j} \mid \Theta\right)\right) \leftarrow \text { introduce discrete variable } z\right. \\
& \qquad f^{(t)}(\mathbf{Z}) \text { a pdf } \rightarrow=\log \left(\sum_{j=1}^{n_{z}} f^{(t)}\left(\mathbf{Z}=\mathbf{z}_{j}\right) \frac{p\left(\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{Z}=\mathbf{z}_{j} \mid \Theta\right)}{f^{(t)}\left(\mathbf{Z}=\mathbf{z}_{j}\right)}\right) \\
& \text { Jensen's inequality } \rightarrow \geq \sum_{j=1}^{n_{z}} f^{(t)}\left(\mathbf{Z}=\mathbf{z}_{j}\right) \log \left(\frac{p\left(\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{Z}=\mathbf{z}_{j} \mid \Theta\right)}{f^{(t)}\left(\mathbf{Z}=\mathbf{z}_{j}\right)}\right) \\
& L(\Theta ; \mathbf{X}) \geq \sum_{j=1}^{n_{\mathbf{z}}} f^{(t)}\left(\mathbf{Z}=\mathbf{z}_{j}\right) \log \left(\frac{p\left(\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{Z}=\mathbf{z}_{j} \mid \Theta\right)}{f^{(t)}\left(\mathbf{Z}=\mathbf{z}_{j}\right)}\right)
\end{aligned}
$$

## Find $f^{(t)}(\mathbf{Z})$

Here's how we minorize. Step 2:
The lower bound must touch the log-likelihood at $\Theta^{(t)}$

$$
L\left(\Theta^{(t)} ; \mathbf{X}\right)=\sum_{j=1}^{n_{\mathbf{z}}} f^{(t)}\left(\mathbf{Z}=\mathbf{z}_{j}\right) \log \left(\frac{p\left(\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{Z}=\mathbf{z}_{j} \mid \Theta^{(t)}\right)}{f^{(t)}\left(\mathbf{Z}=\mathbf{z}_{j}\right)}\right)
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$$

From this constraint can calculate $f^{(t)}(\mathbf{Z})$. It is:

$$
f^{(t)}(\mathbf{Z})=p\left(\mathbf{Z} \mid \mathbf{X}, \Theta^{(t)}\right)
$$

(Derivation is straight-forward)

## EM as MM summary

The log-likelihood function $L(\Theta ; \mathbf{X})$ at $\Theta^{(t)}$ is minorized by

$$
g\left(\Theta ; \Theta^{(t)}\right)=\sum_{j=1}^{n_{z}} p\left(\mathbf{Z}=\mathbf{z}_{j} \mid \mathbf{X}, \Theta^{(t)}\right) \log \left(\frac{p\left(\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{Z}=\mathbf{z}_{j} \mid \Theta\right)}{p\left(\mathbf{Z}=\mathbf{z}_{j} \mid \mathbf{X}, \Theta^{(t)}\right)}\right)
$$

## EM as MM summary

The log-likelihood function $L(\Theta ; \mathbf{X})$ at $\Theta^{(t)}$ is minorized by

$$
g\left(\Theta ; \Theta^{(t)}\right)=\sum_{j=1}^{n_{\mathbf{z}}} p\left(\mathbf{Z}=\mathbf{z}_{j} \mid \mathbf{X}, \Theta^{(t)}\right) \log \left(\frac{p\left(\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{Z}=\mathbf{z}_{j} \mid \Theta\right)}{p\left(\mathbf{Z}=\mathbf{z}_{j} \mid \mathbf{X}, \Theta^{(t)}\right)}\right)
$$

Maximizing the surrogate function, $g\left(\Theta ; \Theta^{(t)}\right)$, involves:

$$
\begin{aligned}
\Theta^{(t+1)} & =\arg \max _{\Theta} g\left(\Theta ; \Theta^{(t)}\right) \\
& =\arg \max _{\Theta} \sum_{j=1}^{n_{\mathbf{z}}} p\left(\mathbf{Z}=\mathbf{z}_{j} \mid \mathbf{X}, \Theta^{(t)}\right) \log \left(p\left(\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{Z}=\mathbf{z}_{j} \mid \Theta\right)\right) \\
& =\overbrace{\arg \max _{\Theta} \underbrace{E_{p\left(\mathbf{Z} \mid \mathbf{X}, \Theta^{(t)}\right)}[\log (p(\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{Z} \mid \Theta))]}_{\text {Expectation Step }}}^{\text {Maximization Step }}
\end{aligned}
$$

## The latent/hidden variables $\mathbf{Z}$

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What are the $\mathbf{Z}$ 's and where did they come from??

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Answer:

- $\mathbf{Z}$ is a random variable whose pdf conditioned on $\mathbf{X}$ is completely determined by $\Theta$.
- Choice of $\mathbf{Z}$ should make the maximization step easy.


## Back to our GMM parameter estimation and EM

## Attempt 3: Parameter estimation for a GMM

Let's look at a tutorial example using EM:

$$
p(x \mid \Theta)=\alpha \mathcal{N}\left(x \mid \mu_{1}, \sigma_{1}^{2}\right)+(1-\alpha) \mathcal{N}\left(x \mid \mu_{2}, \sigma_{2}^{2}\right)
$$


where $\Theta=\left(\alpha, \mu_{1}, \sigma_{1}, \mu_{2}, \sigma_{2}\right)=(.6,-1, .5,1.5,1.3)$

## Attempt 3: Parameter estimation for a GMM

Say all the parameters of $\Theta$ are known except $\alpha$. Then we are given $n$ samples $\mathbf{X}=\left(x_{1}, x_{2}, \ldots, x_{n}\right)$ independently drawn from $p(x \mid \Theta)$. Using these samples and EM we can estimate $\alpha$.


## $\longleftarrow$ training data

## Attempt 3: Parameter estimation for a GMM

If we knew which samples were generated by which component, life would be so much simpler!


Component 1 samples


Component 2 samples

## Attempt 3: EM Solution

Introduce hidden/latent variables:
$\mathbf{Z}=\left(z_{1}, \ldots, z_{n}\right)$ is a vector of hidden variables.
Each $z_{i} \in\{0,1\}$ indicates component generating $x_{i}$.

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## E-step:

- Update posteriors for the hidden variables:

$$
p\left(z_{i}=0 \mid x_{i}, \alpha^{(t)}\right)=\frac{p\left(x_{i} \mid \mu_{1}, \sigma_{1}\right) \alpha^{(t)}}{p\left(x_{i} \mid \mu_{1}, \sigma_{1}\right) \alpha^{(t)}+p\left(x_{i} \mid \mu_{2}, \sigma_{2}\right)\left(1-\alpha^{(t)}\right)}
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$$

- Calculate the conditional expectation

$$
g\left(\alpha ; \alpha^{(t)}\right)=\sum_{\text {all } \mathbf{Z}} p\left(\mathbf{Z} \mid \mathbf{X}, \alpha^{(t)}\right) \log \left(\frac{p(\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{Z} \mid \alpha)}{p\left(\mathbf{Z} \mid \mathbf{X}, \alpha^{(t)}\right)}\right)
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$$

M-step: Find $\arg \max _{\alpha} g\left(\alpha ; \alpha^{(t)}\right)$ which gives:

$$
\alpha^{(t+1)}=\frac{\sum_{i} p\left(z_{i}=0 \mid x_{i}, \alpha^{(t)}\right)}{n}
$$

## Attempt 3: EM expectation calculation

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \sum_{\text {all } \mathbf{Z}} p\left(\mathbf{Z} \mid \mathbf{X}, \alpha^{(t)}\right) \log (p(\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{Z} \mid \alpha)) \\
& =\sum_{\text {all } \mathbf{Z}}\left[\prod_{s=1}^{n} p\left(z_{s} \mid x_{s}, \alpha^{(t)}\right) \sum_{i=1}^{n} \log \left(p\left(x_{i} \mid z_{i}, \alpha\right) p\left(z_{i} \mid \alpha\right)\right)\right] \\
& =\sum_{j_{1}=0}^{1} \cdots \sum_{j_{n}=0}^{1}\left[\prod_{s=1}^{n} p\left(z_{s}=j_{s} \mid x_{s}, \alpha^{(t)}\right) \sum_{i=1}^{n} \log \left(p\left(x_{i} \mid z_{i}=j_{i}, \alpha\right) p\left(z_{i}=j_{i} \mid \alpha\right)\right)\right] \\
& =\sum_{i=1}^{n}[(\prod_{s=1, s \neq i}^{n} \underbrace{\sum_{j_{s}=0}^{1} p\left(z_{s}=j_{s} \mid x_{s}, \alpha^{(t)}\right)}_{=1} \underbrace{n} p\left(z_{i}=j_{i} \mid x_{i}, \alpha^{(t)}\right) \log \left(p\left(x_{i} \mid z_{i}=j_{i}, \alpha\right) p\left(z_{i}=j_{i} \mid \alpha\right)\right)] \\
& =\sum_{i=1}^{n} \sum_{j_{i}=0}^{1} p\left(z_{i}=j_{i} \mid x_{i}, \alpha^{(t)}\right) \log \left(p\left(x_{i} \mid z_{i}=j_{i}, \alpha\right) p\left(z_{i}=j_{i} \mid \alpha\right)\right) \\
& =\sum_{i=1}^{n} \sum_{j_{i}=0}^{1} p\left(z_{i}=j_{i} \mid x_{i}, \alpha^{(t)}\right) \log \left(N\left(x_{i} \mid \mu_{j_{i}}, \sigma_{j_{i}}\right) \alpha^{1-j_{i}}(1-\alpha)^{j_{i}}\right)
\end{aligned}
$$

## Attempt 3: EM maximization process

$$
\begin{aligned}
\frac{\partial \sum_{\text {all } \mathbf{Z}} p\left(\mathbf{Z} \mid \mathbf{X}, \alpha^{(t)}\right) \log (p(\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{Z} \mid \alpha))}{\partial \alpha} & =\sum_{i=1}^{n} \sum_{j_{i}=0}^{1} p\left(z_{i}=j_{i} \mid x_{i}, \alpha^{(t)}\right) \frac{\partial \log \left(\alpha^{1-j_{i}}(1-\alpha)^{j_{i}}\right)}{\partial \alpha} \\
& =\sum_{i=1}^{n} \sum_{j_{i}=0}^{1} p\left(z_{i}=j_{i} \mid x_{i}, \alpha^{(t)}\right)\left(\frac{1-j_{i}}{\alpha}-\frac{j_{i}}{1-\alpha}\right) \\
& =\sum_{i=1}^{n} \sum_{j_{i}=0}^{1} p\left(z_{i}=j_{i} \mid x_{i}, \alpha^{(t)}\right)\left(1-j_{i}-\alpha\right) \\
& =(1-\alpha) \sum_{i=1}^{n} \sum_{j_{i}=0}^{1} p\left(z_{i}=j_{i} \mid x_{i}, \alpha^{(t)}\right)-\sum_{i=1}^{n} \sum_{j_{i}=0}^{1} p\left(z_{i}=j_{i} \mid x_{i}, \alpha^{(t)}\right) j_{i} \\
& =n(1-\alpha)-\sum_{i=1}^{n} p\left(z_{i}=1 \mid x_{i}, \alpha^{(t)}\right) \\
& =-n \alpha+n-\sum_{i=1}^{n}\left(1-p\left(z_{i}=0 \mid x_{i}, \alpha^{(t)}\right)\right) \\
& =\sum_{i=1}^{n} p\left(z_{i}=0 \mid x_{i}, \alpha^{(t)}\right)-n \alpha=0
\end{aligned}
$$

Therefore $\alpha^{(t+1)}=\frac{\sum_{i=1}^{n} p\left(z_{i}=0 \mid x_{i}, \alpha^{(t)}\right)}{n}$

## Attempt 3: EM Solution starting point



Ground truth distribution


Initial guess of distribution with $\alpha^{(0)}=.1$

Remember $g\left(\alpha ; \alpha^{(t)}\right)$ minorizes $\log (p(\mathbf{X} \mid \alpha))$ at $\alpha^{(t)}$.
Let's plot what happens as EM update $\alpha^{(t)}$...

## EM one iteration

Compute posterior probabilities of the hidden variables


Graph shows $p\left(z_{i}=0 \mid x_{i}, \alpha^{(0)}\right)$ of each hidden variable.
Red $\Longrightarrow$ sample really generated by component 1
Green $\Longrightarrow$ sample really generated by component 2

## EM one iteration

Compute the expectation minorizing the log-likelihood at $\alpha^{(0)}=.1$

$$
g\left(\alpha ; \alpha^{(t)}\right)=\sum_{\text {all } \mathbf{Z}} p\left(\mathbf{Z} \mid \mathbf{X}, \alpha^{(t)}\right) \log \left(\frac{p(\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{Z} \mid \alpha)}{p\left(\mathbf{Z} \mid \mathbf{X}, \alpha^{(t)}\right)}\right)
$$



## EM one iteration

Calculate maximum of $g\left(\alpha ; \alpha^{(0)}\right)$


Maximum of $g\left(\alpha ; \alpha^{(0)}\right)$ gives $\alpha^{(1)}=.3672$

## EM one iteration

The estimate of the GMM with $\alpha^{(1)}=.3672$


## EM Iterations

## Iteration 2



Posterior probabilities


$$
g\left(\alpha ; \alpha^{(1)}\right)
$$

$$
\alpha^{(2)}=.5287
$$



Current GMM estimate

## EM Iterations

## Iteration 3



Posterior probabilities


$$
g\left(\alpha ; \alpha^{(2)}\right)
$$

$$
\alpha^{(3)}=.5748
$$



Current GMM estimate

## EM Iterations

## Iteration 4



Posterior probabilities


$$
g\left(\alpha ; \alpha^{(3)}\right)
$$

$$
\alpha^{(4)}=.5859
$$



Current GMM estimate

## EM Iterations

## Iteration 5



Posterior probabilities


$$
g\left(\alpha ; \alpha^{(4)}\right)
$$

$$
\alpha^{(5)}=.5885
$$



Current GMM estimate

## Comments on EM

Design Issues

- The choice of hidden/latent variable $\mathbf{Z}$ is the most important issue for EM.

Implementation Issues

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- Calculation of the conditional expectation may be taxing.


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- The choice of hidden/latent variable $\mathbf{Z}$ is the most important issue for EM.
- Choice must be done so the maximization step is easy.
- Or at least easier than the maximization of the log-likelihood function.

Implementation Issues

- Calculation of the conditional expectation may be taxing.
- Convergence of EM can be slow near the local optimum.

