

**Exercise 1: SNE and Kullback-Leibler Divergence (50 P)**

SNE is an embedding algorithm that operates by minimizing the Kullback-Leibler divergence between two discrete probability distributions  $p$  and  $q$  representing the input space and the embedding space respectively. In 'symmetric SNE', these discrete distributions assign to each pair of data points  $(i, j)$  in the dataset the probability scores  $p_{ij}$  and  $q_{ij}$  respectively, corresponding to how close the two data points are in the input and embedding spaces. Once the exact probability functions are defined, the embedding algorithm proceeds by optimizing the function:

$$C = D_{\text{KL}}(p \parallel q) \\ = \sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{j=1}^N p_{ij} \log \left( \frac{p_{ij}}{q_{ij}} \right)$$

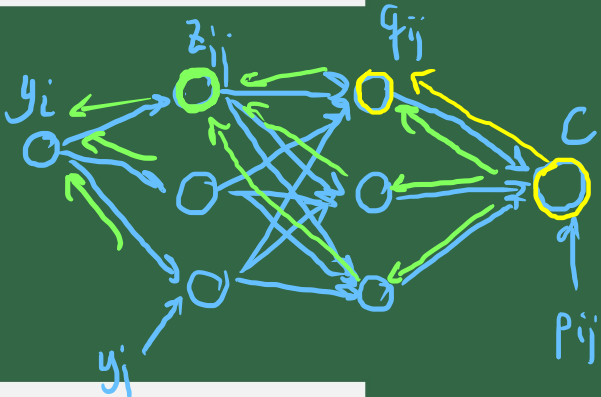
where  $p$  and  $q$  are subject to the constraints  $\sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{j=1}^N p_{ij} = 1$  and  $\sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{j=1}^N q_{ij} = 1$ . Specifically, the algorithm minimizes  $q$  which itself is a function of the coordinates in the embedded space. Optimization is typically performed using gradient descent.

In this exercise, we derive the gradient of the Kullback-Leibler divergence, first with respect to the probability scores  $q_{ij}$ , and then with respect to the embedding coordinates of which  $q_{ij}$  is a function.

(a) Show that

$$\frac{\partial C}{\partial q_{ij}} = -\frac{p_{ij}}{q_{ij}}. \quad (1)$$

$$\frac{\partial C}{\partial q_{ij}} = \frac{\partial}{\partial q_{ij}} \left[ \sum_m \sum_n p_{mn} [\log p_{mn} - \log q_{mn}] \right] \\ = \frac{\partial}{\partial q_{ij}} [-p_{ij} \log q_{ij}] = -\frac{p_{ij}}{q_{ij}}$$



(b) The probability matrix  $q$  is now reparameterized using a 'softargmax' function:

$$q_{ij} = \frac{\exp(z_{ij})}{\sum_{k=1}^N \sum_{l=1}^N \exp(z_{kl})} \quad A \quad \left( \frac{f}{g} \right)' = \frac{f'g - fg'}{g^2}$$

The new variables  $z_{ij}$  can be interpreted as unnormalized log-probabilities. Show that

$$\frac{\partial C}{\partial z_{ij}} = -p_{ij} + q_{ij}. \quad (2)$$

$$\frac{\partial C}{\partial z_{ij}} = \sum_m \sum_n \frac{\partial C}{\partial q_{mn}} \cdot \frac{\partial q_{mn}}{\partial z_{ij}} = \sum_{mn} -\frac{p_{mn}}{q_{mn}} \cdot \left[ \frac{\delta(ij=mn) \cdot \exp(z_{mn}) \cdot A - \exp(z_{mn}) \exp(z_{ij})}{A^2} \right] \\ = -\frac{p_{ij}}{q_{ij}} \cdot \underbrace{\frac{\exp(z_{ij})}{A}}_{q_{ij}} + \sum_{mn} \underbrace{\frac{p_{mn}}{q_{mn}} q_{mn}}_{=1} \cdot q_{ij} = -p_{ij} + q_{ij}$$

(c) Explain which of the two gradients, (1) or (2), is the most appropriate for practical use in a gradient descent algorithm. Motivate your choice, first in terms of the stability or boundedness of the gradient, and second in terms of the ability to maintain a valid probability distribution during training.

Stability / boundedness : Eq (2) is more stable + bounded b/c division by 0  
maintain probs. dist : Eq (2) is better b/c softargmax always maintains a probs. dist.

(d) The scores  $z_{ij}$  are now reparameterized as

$$z_{ij} = -\|y_i - y_j\|^2$$

$$\frac{\partial \|x-y\|^2}{\partial x} = \frac{\partial \|y-x\|^2}{\partial x} = 2(x-y)$$

where the coordinates  $y_i, y_j \in \mathbb{R}^h$  of data points in embedded space now appear explicitly. Show using the chain rule for derivatives that

$$\frac{\partial C}{\partial y_i} = \sum_{j=1}^N 4(p_{ij} - q_{ij}) \cdot (y_i - y_j).$$

$$\frac{\partial C}{\partial y_i} = \sum_j \frac{\partial C}{\partial z_{ij}} \cdot \frac{\partial z_{ij}}{\partial y_i} + \frac{\partial C}{\partial z_{ji}} \cdot \frac{\partial z_{ji}}{\partial y_i} \\ = \sum_j (-p_{ij} + q_{ij}) \cdot (-2(y_i - y_j)) + (-p_{ji} + q_{ji}) \cdot (-2(y_i - y_j)) \\ = \sum_j 4 \cdot (p_{ij} - q_{ij}) \cdot (y_i - y_j)$$