

## The EM algorithm for mixtures of Gaussians

**Exercise 1 (E step).** Consider a mixture of Gaussians with  $K$  component. Assume that we are given  $N$  data samples  $\{\mathbf{x}_n\}_{n=1}^N$  and a current guess of parameters  $\boldsymbol{\theta}^{\text{old}} = (\boldsymbol{\pi}, \boldsymbol{\mu}, \boldsymbol{\Sigma})$ . Show that

$$p(\mathbf{z}_n \mid \mathbf{x}_n, \boldsymbol{\theta}^{\text{old}}) = \frac{\pi_k \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{x}_n \mid \boldsymbol{\mu}_k, \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_k)}{\sum_{l=1}^K \pi_l \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{x}_n \mid \boldsymbol{\mu}_l, \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_l)} \triangleq \gamma_k(\mathbf{x}_n) \quad \text{for all } n = 1, \dots, N.$$

**Exercise 2 (M step).** Assume a mixture of Gaussians with  $K$  component and  $N$  data samples  $\{\mathbf{x}_n\}_{n=1}^N$ . The *log-likelihood* function is given as

$$\mathcal{L}(\boldsymbol{\theta}) = \sum_{n=1}^N \sum_{k=1}^K \gamma_k(\mathbf{x}_n) (\ln \pi_k + \ln \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{x}_n \mid \boldsymbol{\mu}_k, \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_k)).$$

- a) Show that the optimal choice with respect to the *mean vectors*  $\boldsymbol{\mu}_k$  for all  $k = 1, \dots, K$  is given as

$$\arg \max_{\boldsymbol{\mu}_k} \mathcal{L}(\boldsymbol{\theta}) = \frac{\sum_{n=1}^N \gamma_k(\mathbf{x}_n) \mathbf{x}_n}{\sum_{m=1}^N \gamma_k(\mathbf{x}_m)}.$$

*Hint:* for a symmetric matrix  $\mathbf{A} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$  and a vector  $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ ,

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \mathbf{x}} \mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{A} \mathbf{x} = 2\mathbf{A} \mathbf{x}.$$

- b) Show that the optimal choice with respect to the *covariance matrices*  $\boldsymbol{\Sigma}_k$  for all  $k = 1, \dots, K$  is given as

$$\arg \max_{\boldsymbol{\Sigma}_k} \mathcal{L}(\boldsymbol{\theta}) = \frac{\sum_{n=1}^N \gamma_k(\mathbf{x}_n) (\mathbf{x}_n - \boldsymbol{\mu}_k)(\mathbf{x}_n - \boldsymbol{\mu}_k)^T}{\sum_{m=1}^N \gamma_k(\mathbf{x}_m)}.$$

*Hint:* for a symmetric matrix  $\mathbf{X} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$  and vectors  $\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ ,

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \mathbf{X}} \mathbf{a}^T \mathbf{X}^{-1} \mathbf{b} = -\mathbf{X}^{-T} \mathbf{a} \mathbf{b}^T \mathbf{X}^{-T},$$

and for a non-singular matrix  $\mathbf{X} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ ,

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \mathbf{X}} |\mathbf{X}| = |\mathbf{X}| \mathbf{X}^{-1}.$$