

DDA3020 Machine Learning: Lecture 16 Expectation Maximization

Baoyuan Wu
School of Data Science, CUHK-SZ

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Outline

- 1 Recall
- 2 Preliminaries: Jensen's Inequality
- 3 EM for Latent Variable Models
- 4 EM for Gaussian Mixture Models

1 Recall

2 Preliminaries: Jensen's Inequality

3 EM for Latent Variable Models

4 EM for Gaussian Mixture Models

EM for GMM Clustering

- Last time: We have introduced EM algorithm as a way of fitting a Gaussian Mixture Model for clustering
 - E-step: Compute probability each datapoint came from certain cluster, given model parameters
 - M-step: Adjust parameters of each cluster to maximize probability it would generate data it is currently responsible for
- This lecture: derive EM from principled approach and see how EM can be applied to general latent variable models

Latent Variable Models

- Recall: variables which are always unobserved are called **latent variables** or sometimes hidden variables
- In a mixture model, the identity of the component that generated a given datapoint is a latent variable
- Why use latent variables if introducing them complicates learning?
 - We can build a complex model out of simple parts - this can simplify the description of the model
 - We can sometimes use the latent variables as a representation of the original data (e.g. cluster assignments in a GMM model)

1 Recall

2 Preliminaries: Jensen's Inequality

3 EM for Latent Variable Models

4 EM for Gaussian Mixture Models

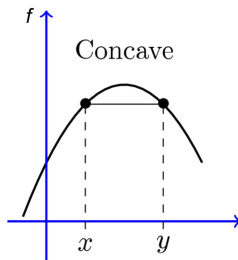
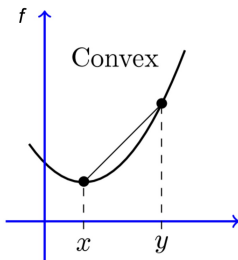
Preliminaries: Convex and Concave Functions

- **Theorem 1:** Suppose f is a **convex function**, for any two input points x and y , as well as any scalar value $\alpha \in [0, 1]$, we have

$$f(\alpha x + (1 - \alpha)y) \leq \alpha f(x) + (1 - \alpha)f(y).$$

- **Theorem 2:** Suppose f is a **concave function**, for any two input points x and y , as well as any scalar value $\alpha \in [0, 1]$, we have

$$f(\alpha x + (1 - \alpha)y) \geq \alpha f(x) + (1 - \alpha)f(y).$$



Preliminaries: Jensen's Inequality

The above theorems can be extended to **Jensen's Inequality**.

Theorem (Jensen's Inequality)

Suppose f is a *convex function*, and X is a random variable, then we have

$$f(\mathbb{E}[X]) \leq \mathbb{E}[f(X)].$$

If f is a *concave function*, then we have

$$f(\mathbb{E}[X]) \geq \mathbb{E}[f(X)].$$

When the equality holds?

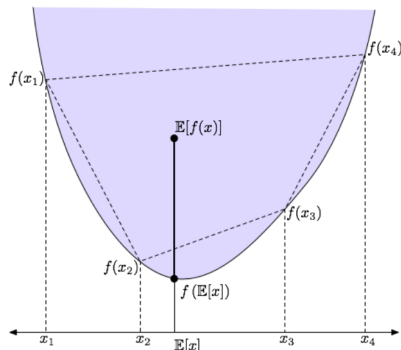
- X has a unique state
- f is not strongly convex/concave (f is affine)

Try to prove the above theorem and claims by yourself. (Hint: using mathematical induction to prove)

Preliminaries: Jensen's Inequality

For example, as shown in the right figure, f is a convex function, and there are four candidate states of X , *i.e.*, x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4 . Given any setting of the probability distribution (*i.e.*, $P(X = x_i) = \alpha_i$), it always has

$$f\left(\sum_{i=1}^4 \alpha_i x_i\right) \leq \sum_{i=1}^4 \alpha_i f(x_i).$$



- 1 Recall
- 2 Preliminaries: Jensen's Inequality
- 3 EM for Latent Variable Models**
- 4 EM for Gaussian Mixture Models

Notations of Latent Variable Models

- In this lecture, we'll be using \mathbf{x} to denote **observed data** and z to denote the **latent variables**.
- We assume we have an observed dataset $\mathcal{D} = \{\mathbf{x}^{(n)}\}_{n=1}^N$ and would like to fit θ using **maximum log likelihood**:

$$\log p(\mathcal{D}; \theta) = \sum_{n=1}^N \log p(\mathbf{x}^{(n)}; \theta).$$

- To compute $p(\mathbf{x}; \theta)$, we have to **marginalize** over z :

$$p(\mathbf{x}; \theta) = \sum_z p(z, \mathbf{x}; \theta),$$

where $p(z, \mathbf{x}; \theta)$ denotes the probabilistic model we should define.

- Note that
 - Anything following a semicolon denotes a parameter of the distribution
 - We're not treating the parameters as random variables

Difficulty of Fitting Latent Variable Models

- Typically, there is **no closed form solution** to the maximum likelihood problem

$$\log p(\mathcal{D}; \boldsymbol{\theta}) = \sum_{n=1}^N \log p(\mathbf{x}^{(n)}; \boldsymbol{\theta}) = \sum_{n=1}^N \log \left(\sum_{z^{(n)}} p(z^{(n)}, \mathbf{x}^{(n)}; \boldsymbol{\theta}) \right).$$

- Key difficulty:** once z is marginalized out, $p(\mathbf{x}; \boldsymbol{\theta})$ could be complex (*e.g.*, a mixture distribution).
- As shown in GMM (see last slides), if our objective is in terms of $\log p(z, \mathbf{x}; \boldsymbol{\theta})$, which can be fully decomposed, then the optimization is very simple.
- To accomplish this, we need to move the summation outside the log.

Auxiliary Distribution of Latent Variables

- We firstly introduce a new distribution *w.r.t.* each latent variable $z^{(n)}$, denoted as $q_n(z^{(n)})$.
- We assume that the distributions *w.r.t.* different latent variables could be different, and they are **independent**, *i.e.*,

$$q(\mathbf{z}) = \prod_{n=1}^N q_n(z^{(n)}).$$

- Note that here we don't specify the parameter value of $q_n(z^{(n)})$, which will be **learned** later. And, be careful that

$$q_n(z^{(n)}) \neq p(z; \boldsymbol{\pi}).$$

Decomposition of Log Likelihood

- We start from one pair of observed and latent variables, *i.e.*, $\{\mathbf{x}, z\}$. Utilizing $q(z)$, we have

$$\begin{aligned}\ln p(\mathbf{x}; \boldsymbol{\theta}) &= \mathbb{E}_{q(z)} \left[\ln \left(\frac{p(\mathbf{x}; \boldsymbol{\theta}) \cdot q(z)}{q(z)} \right) \right] = \mathbb{E}_{q(z)} \left[\ln \left(\frac{p(\mathbf{x}, z; \boldsymbol{\theta})}{q(z)} \cdot \frac{q(z)}{p(z|\mathbf{x}; \boldsymbol{\theta})} \right) \right] \\ &= \mathbb{E}_{q(z)} \left[\ln \left(\frac{p(\mathbf{x}, z; \boldsymbol{\theta})}{q(z)} \right) \right] + \mathbb{E}_{q(z)} \left[\ln \left(\frac{q(z)}{p(z|\mathbf{x}; \boldsymbol{\theta})} \right) \right].\end{aligned}$$

- It is natural to extend the above decomposition to the log likelihood of the whole data set \mathcal{D} , *i.e.*,

$$\begin{aligned}\ln p(\mathcal{D}; \boldsymbol{\theta}) &= \sum_{n=1}^N \mathbb{E}_{q_n(z^{(n)})} \left[\ln \left(\frac{p(\mathbf{x}^{(n)}, z^{(n)}; \boldsymbol{\theta})}{q_n(z^{(n)})} \right) \right] \\ &\quad + \sum_{n=1}^N \mathbb{E}_{q_n(z^{(n)})} \left[\ln \left(\frac{q_n(z^{(n)})}{p(z^{(n)}|\mathbf{x}^{(n)}; \boldsymbol{\theta})} \right) \right] \\ &= \mathcal{L}(\mathbf{q}; \boldsymbol{\theta}) + \sum_{n=1}^N \text{KL}(q_n(z^{(n)}) || p(z^{(n)}|\mathbf{x}^{(n)}; \boldsymbol{\theta})).\end{aligned}\tag{1}$$

Decomposition of Log Likelihood

Theorem

$$\ln p(\mathcal{D}; \boldsymbol{\theta}) \geq \mathcal{L}(\mathbf{q}; \boldsymbol{\theta}), \quad \forall \mathbf{q}, \boldsymbol{\theta}.$$

Proof 1: Since $\ln(\cdot)$ is concave, utilizing the Jensen's inequality, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E}_{q(z)} \left[\ln \left(\frac{p(\mathbf{x}, z; \boldsymbol{\theta})}{q(z)} \right) \right] &\leq \ln \mathbb{E}_{q(z)} \left(\frac{p(\mathbf{x}, z; \boldsymbol{\theta})}{q(z)} \right) \\ &= \ln \sum_k^K q(z = k) \cdot \frac{p(\mathbf{x}, z = k; \boldsymbol{\theta})}{q(z = k)} = \ln p(\mathbf{x}; \boldsymbol{\theta}). \end{aligned}$$

Then, it is easy to prove the above theorem.

Decomposition of Log Likelihood

Theorem

$$\ln p(\mathcal{D}; \boldsymbol{\theta}) \geq \mathcal{L}(\mathbf{q}; \boldsymbol{\theta}), \quad \forall \mathbf{q}, \boldsymbol{\theta}.$$

Proof 2: According to the non-negative property of KL divergence, we have

$$\text{KL}(\mathbf{q}(\mathbf{z}) || p(\mathbf{z}|\mathcal{D}; \boldsymbol{\theta})) \geq 0,$$

where the equality holds only when $\mathbf{q}(\mathbf{z}) = p(\mathbf{z}|\mathcal{D}; \boldsymbol{\theta})$. Utilizing the decomposition of the log likelihood (*i.e.*, Eq. (1)), we can prove the above theorem.

Maximizing the Lower Bound of Log Likelihood

- Since learning θ by maximizing $\ln p(\mathcal{D}; \theta)$ is difficult, we resort to **maximize its lower bound** $\mathcal{L}(\mathbf{q}; \theta)$ with some auxiliary distribution $\mathbf{q}(\mathbf{z})$, *i.e.*,

$$\max_{\mathbf{q}(\mathbf{z}), \theta} \mathcal{L}(\mathbf{q}; \theta) \equiv \max_{\mathbf{q}(\mathbf{z}), \theta} \sum_{n=1}^N \mathbb{E}_{q_n(z^{(n)})} \left[\ln \left(\frac{p(\mathbf{x}^{(n)}, z^{(n)}; \theta)}{q_n(z^{(n)})} \right) \right],$$

with the constraint $\sum_{z^{(n)}=1}^K q_n(z^{(n)}) = 1, \forall n$.

- We adopt the coordinate descent algorithm to solve the above optimization problem, with the following alternative steps:
 - Given θ , update $\mathbf{q}(\mathbf{z})$;
 - Given $\mathbf{q}(\mathbf{z})$, update θ .
- The whole algorithm for fitting the latent variable model is called **Expectation Maximization (EM)** algorithm.

Expectation Maximization: E step

Given θ , update $\mathbf{q}(\mathbf{z})$ by solving the following sub-problem:

$$\begin{aligned}\max_{\mathbf{q}(\mathbf{z})} \mathcal{L}(\mathbf{q}; \theta) &\equiv \max_{\mathbf{q}(\mathbf{z})} \sum_{n=1}^N \mathbb{E}_{q_n(z^{(n)})} \left[\ln \left(\frac{p(\mathbf{x}^{(n)}, z^{(n)}; \theta)}{q_n(z^{(n)})} \right) \right] \\ &\equiv \max_{\mathbf{q}(\mathbf{z})} \sum_{n=1}^N \mathbb{E}_{q_n(z^{(n)})} \left[\ln \left(\frac{p(z^{(n)} | \mathbf{x}^{(n)}; \theta) \cdot p(\mathbf{x}^{(n)}; \theta)}{q_n(z^{(n)})} \right) \right] \\ &\equiv \max_{\mathbf{q}(\mathbf{z})} \sum_{n=1}^N \mathbb{E}_{q_n(z^{(n)})} \left[\ln \left(\frac{p(z^{(n)} | \mathbf{x}^{(n)}; \theta)}{q_n(z^{(n)})} \right) + \ln p(\mathbf{x}^{(n)}; \theta) \right] \\ &\equiv \max_{\mathbf{q}(\mathbf{z})} \sum_{n=1}^N \mathbb{E}_{q_n(z^{(n)})} \left[\ln \left(\frac{p(z^{(n)} | \mathbf{x}^{(n)}; \theta)}{q_n(z^{(n)})} \right) \right] + \text{constant} \\ &\equiv \min_{\mathbf{q}(\mathbf{z})} \sum_{n=1}^N \mathbb{E}_{q_n(z^{(n)})} \left[\ln \left(\frac{q_n(z^{(n)})}{p(z^{(n)} | \mathbf{x}^{(n)}; \theta)} \right) \right] \\ &\equiv \min_{\mathbf{q}(\mathbf{z})} \sum_{n=1}^N \text{KL}(q_n(z^{(n)}) || p(z^{(n)} | \mathbf{x}^{(n)}; \theta)),\end{aligned}$$

with the constraint $\sum_{k=1}^K q_n(z^{(n)} = k) = 1, \forall n$.

Expectation Maximization: E step

- Given θ , update $\mathbf{q}(\mathbf{z})$ by solving the following sub-problem:

$$\min_{\mathbf{q}(\mathbf{z})} \sum_{n=1}^N \text{KL}(q_n(z^{(n)}) || p(z^{(n)} | \mathbf{x}^{(n)}; \theta)),$$

with the constraint $\sum_{k=1}^K q_n(z^{(n)} = k) = 1, \forall n$.

- According to the property of KL divergence, it is easy to find the optimal solution, as follows:

$$q_n^*(z^{(n)}) = p(z^{(n)} | \mathbf{x}^{(n)}; \theta).$$

And this solution also satisfies the equality constraint.

- It is interesting to see that
 - The optimal auxiliary distribution $q_n^*(z^{(n)})$ is exactly the posterior distribution $p(z^{(n)} | \mathbf{x}^{(n)}; \theta)$
 - Since $\text{KL}(\mathbf{q}^*(\mathbf{z}) || p(\mathbf{z} | \mathcal{D}; \theta)) = 0$, then

$$\ln p(\mathcal{D}; \theta) = \mathcal{L}(\mathbf{q}^*; \theta).$$

It means that the gap between $\ln p(\mathcal{D}; \theta)$ and its lower bound $\mathcal{L}(\mathbf{q}^*; \theta)$ becomes 0, given the current θ .

Expectation Maximization: M step

- Given $\mathbf{q}(\mathbf{z})$, update $\boldsymbol{\theta}$ by solving the following sub-problem:

$$\begin{aligned}\max_{\boldsymbol{\theta}} \mathcal{L}(\mathbf{q}; \boldsymbol{\theta}) &\equiv \max_{\boldsymbol{\theta}} \sum_{n=1}^N \mathbb{E}_{q_n(z^{(n)})} \left[\ln \left(\frac{p(\mathbf{x}^{(n)}, z^{(n)}; \boldsymbol{\theta})}{q_n(z^{(n)})} \right) \right] \\ &\equiv \max_{\boldsymbol{\theta}} \sum_{n=1}^N \mathbb{E}_{q_n(z^{(n)})} \left[\log p(\mathbf{x}^{(n)}, z^{(n)}; \boldsymbol{\theta}) \right] - \underbrace{\mathbb{E}_{q_n(z^{(n)})} \left[\log q_n(z^{(n)}) \right]}_{\text{constant w.r.t. } \boldsymbol{\theta}}.\end{aligned}$$

- Substitute in $q_n(z^{(n)}) = p(z^{(n)} | \mathbf{x}^{(n)}; \boldsymbol{\theta}^{\text{old}})$:

$$\boldsymbol{\theta}^{\text{new}} = \operatorname{argmax}_{\boldsymbol{\theta}} \sum_{n=1}^N \mathbb{E}_{p(z^{(n)} | \mathbf{x}^{(n)}; \boldsymbol{\theta}^{\text{old}})} \left[\log p(z^{(n)}, \mathbf{x}^{(n)}; \boldsymbol{\theta}) \right].$$

- This is the **expected complete data log-likelihood**, which is easy to optimize.

Expectation Maximization: Summary

- The EM algorithm alternates between **making the bound tight** at the current parameter values and then **optimizing the lower bound**
- If the current parameter value is θ^{old} :
 - **E-step:** Given θ^{old} , we update the auxiliary distribution $\mathbf{q}(\mathbf{z})$ to make the bound tight:

$$\mathbf{q}(\mathbf{z}) = \underset{\mathbf{q}(\mathbf{z})}{\operatorname{argmax}} \mathcal{L}(q, \theta^{\text{old}}). \quad (2)$$

It leads to $q_n(z^{(n)}) = p(z^{(n)} \mid \mathbf{x}^{(n)}; \theta^{\text{old}}), \forall n$, and makes

$$\log p(\mathcal{D}; \theta^{\text{old}}) = \mathcal{L}(q; \theta^{\text{old}}).$$

- **M-step:** Given $\mathbf{q}(\mathbf{z})$ updated above, we update θ by optimizing the lower bound:

$$\theta^{\text{new}} = \underset{\theta}{\operatorname{argmax}} \mathcal{L}(q, \theta)$$

$$= \underset{\theta}{\operatorname{argmax}} \sum_{n=1}^N \mathbb{E}_{q_n(z^{(n)})} \left[\log \frac{p(z^{(n)}, \mathbf{x}^{(n)}; \theta)}{q_n(z^{(n)})} \right].$$

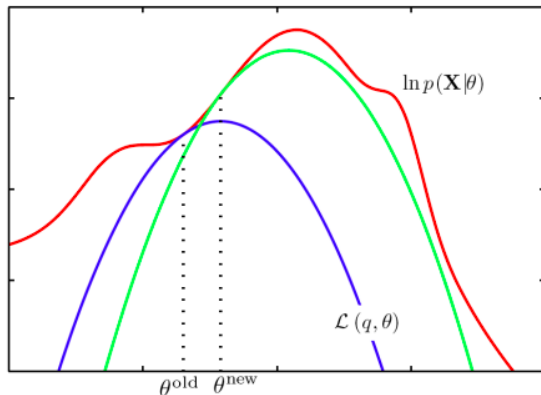
EM Convergence

- We can deduce that an iteration of EM will improve the log-likelihood by using the fact that the bound is tight at θ^{old} after the E-step
- Let q denote the q_n after the E-step, *i.e.*, $q_n(z^{(n)}) = p(z^{(n)} \mid \mathbf{x}^{(n)}; \theta^{\text{old}})$

$$\begin{aligned} \log p(\mathcal{D}; \theta^{\text{new}}) &\geq \mathcal{L}(q, \theta^{\text{new}}) && \text{since } \log p(\mathcal{D}; \theta) \geq \mathcal{L}(q, \theta) \text{ always holds} \\ &\geq \mathcal{L}(q, \theta^{\text{old}}) && \text{since } \theta^{\text{new}} = \underset{\theta}{\operatorname{argmax}} \mathcal{L}(q, \theta) \\ &= \log p(\mathcal{D}; \theta^{\text{old}}) && \text{since } \log p(\mathcal{D}; \theta^{\text{old}}) = \mathcal{L}(q; \theta^{\text{old}}) \end{aligned}$$

- It tells that the log likelihood objective keeps increasing after each iteration of EM, until convergence.

EM Visualization



- The EM algorithm involves alternately computing a lower bound on the log likelihood for the current parameter values and then maximizing this bound to obtain the new parameter values.

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Revisiting Gaussian Mixture Models

- Let's revisit the Gaussian mixture models from last lecture and derive the updates using our general EM algorithm
- Recall our model was:

$$p(\mathbf{x}; \boldsymbol{\theta}) = \sum_z p(\mathbf{x}, z; \boldsymbol{\theta}) = \sum_z p(\mathbf{x}|z; \boldsymbol{\theta})p(z|\boldsymbol{\theta}), \quad (3)$$

$$p(z = k; \boldsymbol{\theta}) = \pi_k, \quad \sum_{k=1}^K \pi_k = 1, \quad (4)$$

$$p(\mathbf{x} \mid z = k; \boldsymbol{\theta}) = \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{x}; \boldsymbol{\mu}_k, \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_k). \quad (5)$$

- In this scenario, we have $\boldsymbol{\theta} = \{\boldsymbol{\pi}_k, \boldsymbol{\mu}_k, \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_k\}_{k=1}^K$.

E-Step for Gaussian Mixture Models

- Let the current parameters be $\theta^{\text{old}} = \{\pi_{\mathbf{k}}^{\text{old}}, \mu_{\mathbf{k}}^{\text{old}}, \Sigma_{\mathbf{k}}^{\text{old}}\}_{\mathbf{k}=1}^K$
- **E-step:** For all n , set $q_n(z^{(n)}) = p(z^{(n)} \mid \mathbf{x}^{(n)}; \theta^{\text{old}})$, *i.e.*,

$$\begin{aligned}\gamma_k^{(n)} &:= q_n(z^{(n)} = k) = p(z^{(n)} = k \mid \mathbf{x}^{(n)}; \theta^{\text{old}}) \\ &= \frac{\pi_k^{\text{old}} \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{x}^{(n)} \mid \mu_{\mathbf{k}}^{\text{old}}, \Sigma_{\mathbf{k}}^{\text{old}})}{\sum_{j=1}^K \pi_j^{\text{old}} \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{x}^{(n)} \mid \mu_j^{\text{old}}, \Sigma_j^{\text{old}})}.\end{aligned}$$

M-Step for Gaussian Mixture Models

M-step:

$$\boldsymbol{\theta}^{\text{new}} = \underset{\boldsymbol{\theta}}{\operatorname{argmax}} \sum_{n=1}^N \mathbb{E}_{q_n(z^{(n)})} \left[\log p \left(z^{(n)}, \mathbf{x}^{(n)}; \boldsymbol{\theta} \right) \right], \text{ s.t. } \sum_{k=1}^K \pi_k = 1.$$

- Substitute in:

- $\log p \left(z^{(n)}, \mathbf{x}^{(n)}; \boldsymbol{\theta} \right) = \sum_{k=1}^K 1_{\{z^{(n)}=k\}} \left(\log \pi_k + \log \mathcal{N} \left(\mathbf{x}^{(n)}; \boldsymbol{\mu}_k, \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_k \right) \right);$
- $q_n \left(z^{(n)} \right) = p \left(z^{(n)} \mid \mathbf{x}^{(n)}; \boldsymbol{\theta}^{\text{old}} \right).$

- We have:

$$\begin{aligned} \boldsymbol{\theta}^{\text{new}} &= \underset{\boldsymbol{\theta}}{\operatorname{argmax}} \sum_{n=1}^N \mathbb{E}_{q_n(z^{(n)})} \left[\sum_{k=1}^K 1_{\{z^{(n)}=k\}} \left(\log \pi_k + \log \mathcal{N} \left(\mathbf{x}^{(n)}; \boldsymbol{\mu}_k, \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_k \right) \right) \right] \\ &= \underset{\boldsymbol{\theta}}{\operatorname{argmax}} \sum_{n=1}^N \sum_{k=1}^K \gamma_k^{(n)} \left(\log \pi_k + \log \mathcal{N} \left(\mathbf{x}^{(n)}; \boldsymbol{\mu}_k, \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_k \right) \right). \end{aligned}$$

M-Step for Gaussian Mixture Models

M-step:

$$\boldsymbol{\theta}^{\text{new}} = \underset{\boldsymbol{\theta}}{\operatorname{argmax}} \sum_{n=1}^N \sum_{k=1}^K \gamma_k^{(n)} \left(\log \pi_k + \log \mathcal{N} \left(\mathbf{x}^{(n)}; \boldsymbol{\mu}_k, \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_k \right) \right).$$

- Taking derivatives and setting to zero, and utilizing the constraint $\sum_{k=1}^K \pi_k = 1$, we get the exactly same updates from last lecture:

$$\boldsymbol{\mu}_k = \frac{1}{N_k} \sum_{n=1}^N \gamma_k^{(n)} \mathbf{x}^{(n)},$$

$$\boldsymbol{\Sigma}_k = \frac{1}{N_k} \sum_{n=1}^N \gamma_k^{(n)} \left(\mathbf{x}^{(n)} - \boldsymbol{\mu}_k \right) \left(\mathbf{x}^{(n)} - \boldsymbol{\mu}_k \right)^T,$$

$$\pi_k = \frac{N_k}{N} \quad \text{with} \quad N_k = \sum_{n=1}^N \gamma_k^{(n)}.$$

- A general algorithm for optimizing many latent variable models, such as GMMs, mixture of Bernoulli distribution .
- Iteratively computes a lower bound then optimizes it.
- Converges but maybe to a local minima.
- Can use multiple restarts to obtain a good local minima.
- Can initialize from k-means for mixture models.
- **Limitation:** need to be able to compute $p(z|\mathbf{x}; \boldsymbol{\theta})$, not possible for more complicated models.

- Further reading 1: Chapter 9 in the book “Pattern Recognition and Machine Learning”. [Link](#)
- Further reading 2: Wikipedia https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Expectation%E2%80%93maximization_algorithm
- Demo with code: <https://www.kaggle.com/code/charel/learn-by-example-notebook>