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L12 – Mixture Density Models,
EM Algorithm

Mixture Density Models

- Flexible models – able to fit lots of densities
- Fit parameters by maximum likelihood. Nonlinear equations require iterative fitting procedure. Standard is Expectation – Maximization (EM).
- “Soft” version of clustering.

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General form is $p(x|\Theta) = \sum_{j=1}^k \alpha_j p(x|j)$

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$p(x|j) \equiv p(x|\theta_j)$ are component densities with parameter (vectors) θ_j

$$\Theta \equiv (\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_k, \theta_1, \theta_k)$$

$$\alpha_j \geq 0, \quad \sum_{j=1}^k \alpha_j = 1 \quad \alpha_j \text{ is prior probability for mixture component } j$$

Generative Model

Mixture model form $p(x | \Theta) = \sum_{j=1}^k \alpha_j p(x | j)$

$p(x | j) \equiv p(x | \theta_j)$ are component densities with parameter (vectors) θ_j

$\Theta \equiv (\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_k, \theta_1, \dots, \theta_k)$

$\alpha_j \geq 0, \quad \sum_{j=1}^k \alpha_j = 1$ α_j is prior probability for mixture component j

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Generating x is a two-fold sampling procedure:

1. Pick a component density with probability α_j
2. Generate a sample x from $p(x | j)$

Mixture Models

Most common example is mixture of Gaussians

$$p(x | \Theta) = \sum_{j=1}^k \alpha_j p(x | j)$$

with

$$p(x | j) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{(2\pi)^n |\Sigma_j|}} \exp - \frac{1}{2} (x - \mu_j)^T \Sigma_j^{-1} (x - \mu_j)$$

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There's a universal approximation theorem that states that with enough components, such mixtures that are a mixture of Gaussians fit by maximum likelihood can arbitrarily closely match any density on a compact subset of \mathbb{R}^n .

1. Jonathan Li and Andrew Barron. Mixture Density Estimation, in Solla, Leen, and Mueller (eds.) *Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems* 12, The MIT Press, 2000.

Gaussian Mixture Model

Flexible --- can make lots of shapes!

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Fitting Mixture Models

Suppose we have a data set

$$D = \{ x_a, a = 1, \dots, N \} \quad \text{with each } x_a \text{ a vector in } R^n$$

we'd like to adjust the parameters

$$\Theta = (\theta_1, \dots, \theta_k, \alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_k)$$

so as to maximize the data log-likelihood

$$L(\Theta) = \ln P(D | \Theta) = \sum_{a=1}^N \ln \left(\sum_{j=1}^k \alpha_j p(x_a | \theta_j) \right)$$

Fitting Mixture Models

The data log likelihood

$$L(\Theta) = \ln P(D | \Theta) = \sum_{a=1}^N \ln \left(\sum_{j=1}^k \alpha_j p(x_a | \theta_j) \right)$$

cannot be maximized in one step --- the maximization equations don't have a closed form solution

Instead, use an iterative algorithm

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For the moment, re suppress the mixture form of $p(x|\Theta)$

$$L(\Theta) = \ln P(D | \Theta) = \sum_{a=1}^N \ln p(x_a | \Theta) = \sum_{a=1}^N \ln \left(\sum_{i_a=1}^k p(i_a, x_a | \Theta) \right)$$

where i_a is the unknown index of the component responsible for generating x_a .

Fitting Mixture Models

Next, we write a lower bound for L . Introduce an average over any probability distribution on the unknown indices i_a , $Q(i_a)$

$$L = \sum_{a=1}^N \ln p(x_a | \Theta) = \sum_{a=1}^N \ln \left\{ \sum_{i_a=1}^k p(i_a, x_a | \Theta) \right\} = \sum_{a=1}^N \ln \left\{ \sum_{i_a=1}^k Q(i_a) \frac{p(i_a, x_a | \Theta)}{Q(i_a)} \right\}$$

Jensen's inequality gives

$$\begin{aligned} L &= \sum_{a=1}^N \ln \left\{ \sum_{i_a=1}^k Q(i_a) \frac{p(i_a, x_a)}{Q(i_a)} \right\} \geq \sum_{a=1}^N \sum_{i_a=1}^k Q(i_a) \ln \left(\frac{p(i_a, x_a)}{Q(i_a)} \right) \\ &= \sum_{a=1}^N \sum_{i_a=1}^k Q(i_a) \ln p(i_a, x_a) - \sum_{a=1}^N \sum_{i_a=1}^k Q(i_a) \ln Q(i_a) \equiv \Gamma(\Theta) \end{aligned}$$

The equality holds when $Q(i_a)$ is the posterior distribution on the unknown indices

$$Q(i_a) = p(i_a | x_a, \Theta)$$

EM Algorithm

Iterative optimization algorithm: Expectation Maximization (EM) maximizes Γ (which maximizes L). There are multiple optima, EM only finds a local optimum.

Initialize the algorithm to some choice of the parameters. At the $n+1^{\text{th}}$ iteration :

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E Step: With Θ fixe

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$$Q_{n+1}(i_a) = h_{i,a}(n+1) \equiv p(i|x_a, \Theta(n)) = \frac{\alpha_i(n) p(x_a | \theta_i(n))}{\sum_{j=1}^k \alpha_j(n) p(x_a | \theta_j(n))}$$

EM

M Step: With $Q = h_{i,a}(n+1)$ fixed, maximize Γ with respect to Θ

$$\Theta(n+1) = \arg \max_{\Theta} \Gamma(\Theta, h_{i,a}(n+1)) = \arg \max_{\Theta} \sum_{a=1}^N \sum_{i=1}^k h_{i,a}(n+1) \ln (\alpha_i p(x_a | \theta_i))$$

subject to the condition $\sum_{i=1}^k \alpha_i = 1$

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This gives

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$$\alpha_i(n+1) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{a=1}^N h_{ia} = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{a=1}^N p(i | x_a, \Theta(n))$$

for the α_i $i=1, \dots, k$

EM

M Step (continued) With $Q = h_{ia}(n+1)$ fixed,
maximize $\Gamma(\Theta, h)$ with respect to the θ_j

$$\Theta(n+1) = \arg \max_{\Theta} \Gamma(\Theta, h_{i,a}(n+1)) = \arg \max_{\Theta} \sum_{a=1}^N \sum_{i=1}^k h_{i,a}(n+1) \ln (\alpha_i p(x_a | \theta_i))$$

Maximize Γ with respect to θ_j separately, so the above reduces to

$$\theta_j(n+1) = \arg \max_{\theta_j} \sum_{a=1}^N h_{j,a}(n+1) \ln (\alpha_j p(x_a | \theta_j))$$

Example – Mixture of Gaussians

Component densities $p(x | \theta_j) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{(2\pi)^n |\Sigma_j|}} \exp -\frac{1}{2} (x - \mu_j)^T \Sigma_j^{-1} (x - \mu_j)$

E-Step $h_{a,i}(n+1) \equiv p(i_a | x_a, \Theta(n)) = \frac{\alpha_i(n) p(x_a | \theta_i(n))}{\sum_{j=1}^k \alpha_j(n) p(x_a | \theta_j(n))}$

M-Step $\alpha_i(n+1) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{a=1}^N h_{i,a}(n+1)$ $\mu_i(n+1) = \frac{\sum_{a=1}^N h_{i,a}(n+1) x_a}{\sum_{a=1}^N h_{i,a}(n+1)}$

$$\Sigma_i(n+1) = \frac{\sum_{a=1}^N h_{i,a}(n+1) (x_a - \mu_i(n+1)) (x_a - \mu_i(n+1))^T}{\sum_a h_{i,a}(n+1)}$$

Gaussian Mixtures

Let's interpret equations for the M-Step

$$\alpha_i(n+1) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{a=1}^N h_{i,a}(n+1)$$

New estimate of prior for i^{th} component is the average over the data points of the posteriors for i^{th} component.

$$\mu_i(n+1) = \frac{\sum_{a=1}^N h_{i,a}(n+1) x_a}{\sum_a h_{i,a}(n+1)}$$

$\mu_i(n+1)$ is weighted average of data point x_a attribute a for component i . $h_{i,a}(n+1)$ is fraction of the data point x_a attributed to component i .

$$\Sigma_i(n+1) = \frac{\sum_{a=1}^N h_{i,a}(n+1) (x_a - \mu_i(n+1)) (x_a - \mu_i(n+1))^T}{\sum_a h_{i,a}(n+1)}$$

New covariance is constructed from weighted outer product.

Gaussian Mixture Model

Flexible --- can make lots of shapes!

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EM Summary --- Gaussian Mixtures

Initialize parameters

$\alpha_i(0) = 1/k$ all components equally likely
 $\mu_i(0) = x_i$ k random training data
 $\Sigma_i(0)$ a positive symmetric, positive definite matrix e.g. $\sigma^2 I$

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EM Summary --- Gaussian Mixtures

Iterate

E-Step (estimate posteriors)
$$h_{a,i}(n+1) \equiv p(i_a | x_a, \Theta(n)) = \frac{\alpha_i(n) p(x_a | \theta_i(n))}{\sum_{j=1}^k \alpha_j(n) p(x_a | \theta_j(n))}$$

M-Step

Re-estimate priors
$$\alpha_i(n+1) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{a=1}^N h_{i,a}(n+1)$$

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Re-estimate means

$$\mu_i(n+1) = \frac{\sum_{a=1}^N h_{i,a}(n+1) x_a}{\sum_a h_{i,a}(n+1)}$$

Re-estimate covariances

$$\Sigma_i(n+1) = \frac{\sum_{a=1}^N h_{i,a}(n+1) (x_a - \mu_i(n+1)) (x_a - \mu_i(n+1))^T}{\sum_a h_{i,a}(n+1)}$$

Caveats

In high dimensions n , there are loads of covariance matrix elements. Likely to overfit.

Fixes – constrain covariance matrices to have fewer components

Diagonal $\Sigma_i = \begin{pmatrix} \lambda_{i1} & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda_{i2} & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & \lambda_{in} \end{pmatrix}$

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Spherically symmetric $\Sigma_i = \sigma_i^2 I$, with I the identity matrix

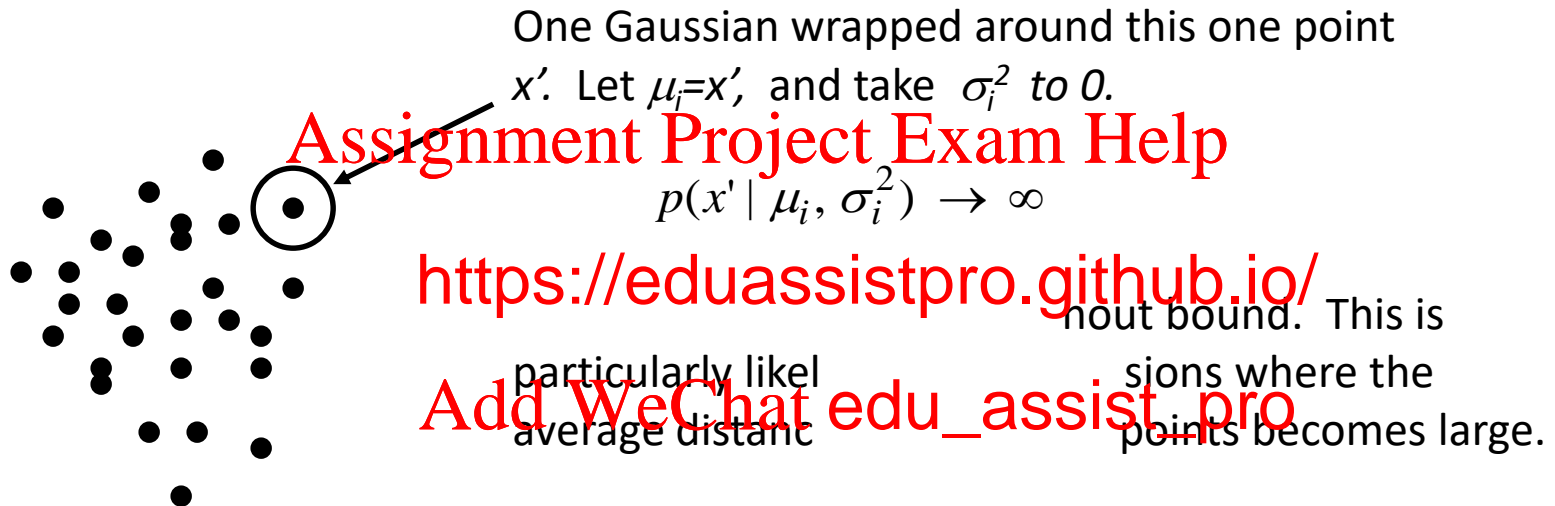
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Some other clever form (???)

Note that any constraints modify the M-step equations for the covariance --- can you derive the forms?

Caveats

There are regions of the parameter space where the likelihood goes through the roof but the resulting model is bad



Regularization (has a grounding in Bayesian priors and MAP estimation). After re-estimation, add a small diagonal matrix to the covariance

$$\Sigma_i(n+1) \rightarrow \Sigma_i(n+1) + \varepsilon I$$

References

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- Jonathan Li and Andrew Barron. [Add WeChat edu_assist_pro](https://eduassistpro.github.io/) y Estimation, in Solla, Leen, and Mueller (eds.) *Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems 12*, The MIT Press, 2000.

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