

# A Finite multi-dimensional generalized Gamma Mixture Model

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**Abstract**—Over the last two decades, statistical mixture models have been widely exploited to tackle the issue of data modeling. Examples of statistical mixture models' applications in data modeling include object recognition, speech recognition, information retrieval, and intrusion detection. In this paper, an unsupervised learning algorithm, based on a finite multi-dimensional generalized Gamma mixture model (GGMM) is presented for the purpose of positive vectors clustering. Maximum likelihood (ML) is a well-known method conducted via expectation maximization algorithm (EM) and used for estimating the parameters of the proposed model. Newton Raphson's optimization algorithm was also utilized to solve the problem (obstacle) of the non-existence of closed form. Experiments are conducted using both synthetic data and a real data set of images representing shapes to test the performance of the proposed model. Moreover, we compared the performance of the generalized Gamma mixture model with Gamma and Gaussian mixture models.

**Index Terms**—Generalized Gamma, mixture models, maximum likelihood, clustering, expectation maximization, shape modeling

## I. INTRODUCTION

The availability of vast amounts of data sets that are dynamically growing in size in the last decade have increased the demand on analyzing and processing these data sets in order to extract useful and valuable knowledge [1]–[5]. Consequently, data analysts response to the above was to start designing statistical models using diverse data mining and machine learning techniques, such as, clustering, which received a lot of attention due to its importance [6], [7]. Machine learning techniques can be categorized into three families of approaches; supervised learning, unsupervised learning and semi-supervised learning [8]. Model-based approaches and in particular finite mixture models are widely used for unsupervised learning [9], [10] and they are considered to be a powerful and flexible tool for modeling univariate and multivariate data [11]. Finite mixture models have shown effective results in different fields such as biology, medicine, astronomy, engineering and marketing [9], [12], [13]. As a result, the number of related research works in the field has increased [14], [15]. The separation of a multi-dimensional heterogeneous large group of data into homogeneous clusters using mixture models is a crucial issue in image processing, computer vision and pattern recognition fields. Gaussian mixture model has been widely used and has shown appealing results, for applications such as texture classification and infrared face recognition [16],

[17], etc. On the other hand, non-Gaussian mixture models have recently shown good results that outperform Gaussian distributions [18]–[27] and this is because of the fact that the shape of Gaussian model is not flexible which could affect the accuracy of the data modeling [28], [29]. For instance, Gamma mixture models for shape clustering have provided results with higher accuracy compared to Gaussian Models [28], [30], [31]. Also, It is noteworthy to highlight the merit GGMM has, which is the flexibility of its shape compared to Gamma and Gaussian models. Truly, the challenging task in unsupervised machine learning is to draw inferences from unlabeled observations to perform the clustering analysis by means of those statistical-based approaches, such as finite mixture models. This challenging task will become more complex when dealing with multi-dimensional data. For example, these multi-dimensional data occur when representing an image by a vector of multi-dimensional features [32].

To the best of our knowledge, generalized Gamma mixture models (GGMM) for multi-dimensional data clustering have never been considered in the past. The three-parameters generalized Gamma distribution was first introduced by Stacy [33] in 1962 which was achieved by introducing a positive exponential parameter in Gamma distribution. In addition, generalized Gamma distribution comes from the exponential family, which includes but not limited to Bernoulli, Dirichlet, Gamma, Laplace, and Weibull distributions. Maximum Likelihood (ML) is one of the most dominant and efficient techniques adopted to estimate the model parameters by finding the parameter values which maximize the likelihood [34] via expectation maximization (EM) [35]. In this paper, we present a statistical model based on finite mixtures of generalized Gamma distribution to cluster multi-dimensional positive vectors using a real-life application namely object shape modeling and clustering. Furthermore, the performance of the proposed algorithm has been investigated and compared against Gamma and Gaussian mixture models.

While the model we have proposed supports multi-dimensional data, there is a small number of related works that have proposed unsupervised learning of GGMM with different applications which consider only one dimension. For example, the authors in [36] have proposed GGMM with its application in statistical modeling of high-resolution synthetic-aperture radar (SAR) images. Ultrasonic tissue characterization [37]

and blind signal separation (BSS) [38] are two more interesting applications based on GGMM.

The rest of this paper is organized as follows. Section 2 describes the proposed generalized Gamma mixture model. In Section 3 the parameters estimation algorithm is proposed, then Section 4 evaluates the performance of the proposed model, and shows the experimental results using both synthetic and real data. Finally, the last Section is devoted to the conclusion and future works.

## II. THE PROPOSED MODEL

Suppose we have a data set  $\mathcal{X} = \{\vec{X}_1, \vec{X}_2, \dots, \vec{X}_N\}$  where each  $\vec{X}_i = (X_{i1}, X_{i2}, \dots, X_{iD})$  is a  $D$ -dimensional positive vector that follows a mixture of multi-dimensional GG distributions. Let  $M$  denotes the number of different components, and  $i = 1, \dots, N$ . The mixture model can be written as follows:

$$p(\vec{X}_i|\Theta_M) = \sum_{j=1}^M p_j p(\vec{X}_i|\theta_j) \quad (1)$$

where  $\Theta_M = \{\theta_1, \theta_2, \dots, \theta_M, p_1, \dots, p_M\}$ , and  $\theta_j$  is the set of parameters of the distribution of class  $j$ , where  $\theta_j = \{\vec{\alpha}_j, \vec{\beta}_j, \vec{\lambda}_j\}$ , with  $\vec{\alpha}_j = (\alpha_{j1}, \alpha_{j2}, \dots, \alpha_{jD})$ ,  $\vec{\beta}_j = (\beta_{j1}, \beta_{j2}, \dots, \beta_{jD})$ , and  $\vec{\lambda}_j = (\lambda_{j1}, \lambda_{j2}, \dots, \lambda_{jD})$ . The parameter  $p_j$  is the mixing proportion such that  $0 \leq p_j \leq 1$ , and  $\sum_{j=1}^M p_j = 1$ .

$$p(\vec{X}_i|\theta_j) = \prod_{d=1}^D p(X_{id}|\theta_{jd}) = \prod_{d=1}^D \frac{\frac{\lambda_{jd}}{\beta_{jd}} X_{id}^{\beta_{jd}-1} \exp\left(-\left(\frac{X_{id}}{\alpha_{jd}}\right)^{\lambda_{jd}}\right)}{\Gamma\left(\frac{\beta_{jd}}{\lambda_{jd}}\right)} \quad (2)$$

where  $\theta_{jd} = (\alpha_{jd}, \beta_{jd}, \lambda_{jd})$  and  $\Gamma(\cdot)$  denotes the Gamma function, and  $d = 1, \dots, D$ . The probability of generalized Gamma mixture distribution with  $M$  components is supposed to be known in our case, can be expressed by:

$$p(\mathcal{X}|\Theta) = \prod_{i=1}^N \sum_{j=1}^M p_j p(\vec{X}_i|\theta_j) \quad (3)$$

$Z_i = (Z_{i1}, Z_{i2}, \dots, Z_{iM})$  are the introduced membership vectors, which specifies the cluster  $j$  each data point (observation)  $X_i$  belongs to. This means, an observation  $X_i$  will be equal to one if it belongs to cluster  $j$  and zero, otherwise. Then, the complete-data likelihood function is given by:

$$p(\mathcal{X}, Z|\Theta) = \prod_{i=1}^N \prod_{j=1}^M p_j p(\vec{X}_i|\theta_j)^{Z_{ij}} \quad (4)$$

## III. PARAMETER ESTIMATION

The expectation maximization (EM) algorithm is a popular method used for estimating the latent mixture parameters that maximize the log-likelihood function. EM is an iterative method and consists of two steps; the expectation step and the

maximization step. The complete log-likelihood function can be expressed by:

$$\log p(\mathcal{X}, Z|\Theta) = \sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{j=1}^M Z_{ij} \log p_j p(\vec{X}_i|\theta_j) \quad (5)$$

The main goal is to maximize the log-likelihood function by taking the gradient with the respect to each parameter  $p_j$ ,  $\alpha_{jd}$ ,  $\beta_{jd}$ , and  $\lambda_{jd}$ . For the estimation of the parameter  $p_j$ , Lagrange multiplier is introduced to satisfy the constraints  $0 \leq p_j \leq 1$ , and  $\sum_{j=1}^M p_j = 1$ . As a result we obtain the log-likelihood function given by:

$$\log p(\mathcal{X}, Z|\Theta) = \sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{j=1}^M Z_{ij} \log p_j p(\vec{X}_i|\theta_j) + \Lambda \left(1 - \sum_{j=1}^M p_j\right) \quad (6)$$

By taking the gradient of the complete log-likelihood with respect to the parameters  $p_j$ ,  $\alpha_{jd}$ ,  $\beta_{jd}$  and  $\lambda_{jd}$ , we obtain the following (see appendix A and B):

$$p_j = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^N p(j|\vec{X}_i)}{N} \quad (7)$$

where  $p_j$  is the prior probability.

$$\hat{Z}_{ij} = p(j|\vec{X}_i) = \frac{p_j p(\vec{X}_i|\theta_j)}{\sum_{j=1}^M p_j p(\vec{X}_i|\theta_j)} \quad (8)$$

$$p_j = \frac{\prod_{d=1}^D \frac{\frac{\lambda_{jd}}{\beta_{jd}} X_{id}^{\beta_{jd}-1} \exp\left(-\left(\frac{X_{id}}{\alpha_{jd}}\right)^{\lambda_{jd}}\right)}{\Gamma\left(\frac{\beta_{jd}}{\lambda_{jd}}\right)}}{\sum_{j=1}^M p_j \prod_{d=1}^D \frac{\frac{\lambda_{jd}}{\beta_{jd}} X_{id}^{\beta_{jd}-1} \exp\left(-\left(\frac{X_{id}}{\alpha_{jd}}\right)^{\lambda_{jd}}\right)}{\Gamma\left(\frac{\beta_{jd}}{\lambda_{jd}}\right)}}$$

is the posterior probability function which helps assigning a vector  $\vec{X}_i$  to a specific cluster  $j$ .

$$\alpha_{jd} = \left( \frac{\frac{\lambda_{jd}}{\beta_{jd}} \sum_{i=1}^N p(j|\vec{X}_i) X_{id}^{\lambda_{jd}}}{N p_j} \right)^{\frac{1}{\lambda_{jd}}} \quad (9)$$

$$\beta_{jd} = \lambda_{jd} \Psi^{-1} \left( \lambda_{jd} \left( \frac{\sum_{i=1}^N p(j|\vec{X}_i) \log(X_{id})}{\sum_{i=1}^N p(j|\vec{X}_i)} - \log(\alpha_{jd}) \right) \right) \quad (10)$$

where  $\Psi^{-1}(\cdot)$  is the inverse digamma function.

By differentiating the log-likelihood w.r.t. the parameter  $\lambda$ , we obtain:

$$\frac{\partial p(\mathcal{X}|\Theta)}{\partial \lambda_{jd}} = \sum_{i=1}^N p(j|\vec{X}_i) \left[ \frac{1}{\lambda_{jd}} - \left( \frac{X_{id}}{\alpha_{jd}} \right)^{\lambda_{jd}} \log\left(\frac{X_{id}}{\alpha_{jd}}\right) + \frac{\Psi\left(\frac{\beta_{jd}}{\lambda_{jd}}\right) \beta_{jd}}{\lambda_{jd}^2} \right] \quad (11)$$

Looking at equation (11), we can see that we do not have a closed form, and this is because of the fact that the parameter  $\lambda_{jd}$  is coupled with the rest of the parameters. In this case, the Newton-Raphson method in [18] is used to solve this issue and estimate  $\lambda_{jd}$ . The Newton-Raphsons method can be expressed as follows:

$$\lambda_{jd}^{new} = \lambda_{jd}^{old} - \gamma \frac{\partial \log p(\mathcal{X}|\Theta)}{\partial \lambda_{jd}} \left( \frac{\partial^2 \log p(\mathcal{X}|\Theta)}{\partial^2 \lambda_{jd}} \right)^{-1} \quad (12)$$

Where  $\gamma$  is the constant step size added to Newton's method. After computing  $\frac{\partial^2 \log p(\mathcal{X}|\Theta)}{\partial^2 \lambda_{jd}}$  we get:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial p(\mathcal{X}|\Theta)}{\partial \lambda_{jd}^2} = \sum_{i=1}^N P(j|\vec{X}_i) & \left[ -\frac{1}{\lambda_{jd}^2} - \left( \frac{X_{id}}{\alpha_{jd}} \right)^{\lambda_{jd}} \log \left( \frac{X_{id}}{\alpha_{jd}} \right) \log \left( \frac{X_{id}}{\alpha_{jd}} \right) \right. \\ & \left. - \left( \frac{\psi'(\frac{\beta_{jd}}{\lambda_{jd}}) \beta^2}{\lambda_{jd}^4} \right) - \left( \frac{\beta_{jd} 2\psi(\frac{\beta_{jd}}{\lambda_{jd}})}{\lambda_{jd}^3} \right) \right] \end{aligned} \quad (13)$$

where  $\psi'(\cdot)$  is the trigamma function.

K-Means and Method of Moments (MoM) are the two techniques used to initialize the EM algorithm.

#### A. Algorithm

**Algorithm 1** Multi-dimensional generalized Gamma Mixture Parameters Estimation

- 1: **procedure**
- 2: **INPUT:**  $D$ -Dimensional data set  $\mathcal{X} = \{X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n\}$
- 3: **OUTPUT:**  $\Theta$
- 4: **Initialization algorithm:**
- 5:   applying K-Means on  $N$   $D$ -dimensional vectors
- 6:   computing  $p_j$
- 7:   obtaining  $\alpha_j$  and  $\beta_j$  by applying the method of moments
- 8:   obtaining  $\lambda_j$  by using random positive values.
- 9: **EM algorithm:**
- 10:   **while** relative change in log-likelihood  $\geq t_{min}$  **do**
- 11:     **E-Step:**
- 12:     compute the posterior probabilities  $P(j|\vec{X}_i)$  using Eq. (8)
- 13:     **M-Step:**
- 14:     update parameters  $p_j$  using Eq. (7)
- 15:     update the parameter  $\alpha_j$  using Eq. (9)
- 16:     update the parameter  $\beta_j$  using Eq. (10)
- 17:     **start** Newton's Raphson Algorithm
- 18:     **for all**  $1 \leq j \leq M$  **do**
- 19:       **end for**
- 20:     update the parameter  $\lambda_j$  using Eq. (12)
- 21:     **end** Newton's Raphson Algorithm
- 22:   **end while**
- 23: **end procedure**

TABLE I  
REAL AND ESTIMATED PARAMETERS OF ONE-DIMENSIONAL DATA SET GENERATED FROM TWO GENERALIZED GAMMA DENSITIES

|             | real parameters   | estimated parameters  |
|-------------|---|---|
| Component 1 | $\alpha_{11} = 1$<br>$\beta_{11} = 5$<br>$\lambda_{11} = 5$ | $\hat{\alpha}_{11} = 1.01$<br>$\hat{\beta}_{11} = 4.93$<br>$\hat{\lambda}_{11} = 4.88$  |
| component 2 | $\alpha_{11} = 2$<br>$\beta_{21} = 6$<br>$\lambda_{21} = 6$ | $\hat{\alpha}_{22} = 1.96$<br>$\hat{\beta}_{22} = 5.51$<br>$\hat{\lambda}_{22} = 5.795$ |

TABLE II  
REAL AND ESTIMATED PARAMETERS OF ONE-DIMENSIONAL DATA SET GENERATED FROM THREE GENERALIZED GAMMA DENSITIES

|             | real parameters   | estimated parameters  |
|-------------|---|---|
| Component 1 | $\alpha_{11} = 1$<br>$\beta_{11} = 5$<br>$\lambda_{11} = 5$ | $\hat{\alpha}_{11} = 1.01$<br>$\hat{\beta}_{11} = 4.93$<br>$\hat{\lambda}_{11} = 4.88$  |
| component 2 | $\alpha_{11} = 2$<br>$\beta_{21} = 6$<br>$\lambda_{21} = 6$ | $\hat{\alpha}_{22} = 1.96$<br>$\hat{\beta}_{22} = 5.51$<br>$\hat{\lambda}_{22} = 5.795$ |
| component 3 | $\alpha_{11} = 2$<br>$\beta_{21} = 6$<br>$\lambda_{21} = 6$ | $\hat{\alpha}_{22} = 1.96$<br>$\hat{\beta}_{22} = 5.51$<br>$\hat{\lambda}_{22} = 5.795$ |

## IV. EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS

### A. Synthetic data

The first two experiments were conducted on one-dimensional ( $D = 1$ ) data sets generated from two and three generalized Gamma densities ( $M = 2, N = 100$ ) as shown in figs. 1 and 2 respectively. Furthermore, tables 1 and 2 display the real and estimated parameters.

The third experiment was conducted on a data set generated from generalized Gamma which includes one component and 2 dimensions ( $M = 1, D = 2, N = 100$ ) as displayed in fig. 3, and the results of the estimated and real values of the parameters are shown in table III. Fig. 4 shows an example when considering 2-dimensional data set generated from a 2-components generalized Gamma mixture, where its real and estimated parameters are displayed in table IV. Finally, fig. 5 shows an example of generalized Gamma when generating 2-dimensional data from three densities, and table V shows the results of the estimated and real values. As we can see, the obtained results prove that the model is capable of performing well and able to estimate Accurately the model parameters.

### B. Real Data

In this section, experiments are conducted to evaluate the performance of the proposed model using a well-known real data set to tackle the problem of object shape clustering [39]. To test the effectiveness of the GGMM model, the modeling capability of GGMM is compared against Gamma and Gaussian mixture models. Moreover, the provided results are the average over ten runs of the proposed algorithm. We have used 5 classes out of 7 from the data set MPEG-7

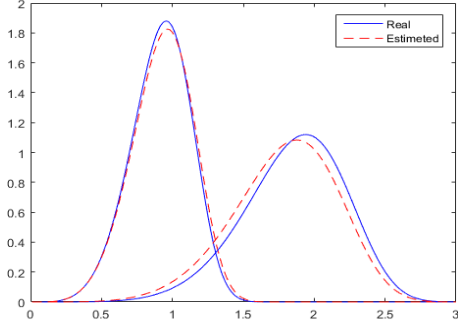


Fig. 1. Probability density functions of generalized Gamma distributions

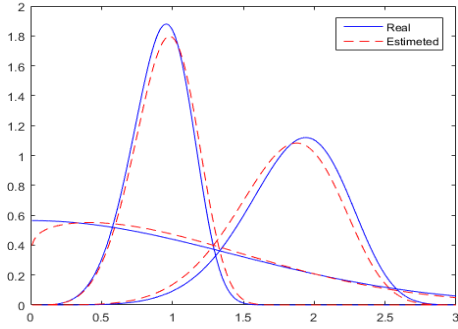


Fig. 2. Probability density functions of generalized Gamma distributions

CE Shape-1 Part-B<sup>1</sup>, where each class contains 20 samples. For each image, a 36-dimensional positive vector features is extracted using Zernike Moments Magnitudes. Zernike Moments Magnitudes is an effective method used to extract features from shape images [28]. Examples of its applications include Invariant Image Recognition [40], and region-based shape modeling [41]. Fig. 6 shows some examples from the data set. Furthermore, the vector of features is computed based on the method proposed in [42], which imposes the constraints such that  $n = 0, 1, 2, \dots, \infty$ ,  $|m| \leq n$ , and  $n - |m|$  is even, where  $n$  is the order of the Zernike moments and  $m$  is the Zernike moment repetition number. We performed shape clustering using generalized Gamma, Gamma and Gaussian mixture models on a multi-dimensional real data set. The confusion matrix of the proposed model is shown in table VI which is based on 10 runs. As we can see, 3 heart shape images are miss-classified which represents 97% clustering accuracy. On the other hand, table VII illustrates the result of clustering using Gamma mixture and displays 5 miss-classified images which are 2 hummers, 2 hearts and one key which represents 95% accuracy. Last experiment was conducted by applying Gaussian mixture on shape modeling and as shown in table VIII, there are 11 miss-classified objects (2 bones, 3 forks, 2 hummers, 2 hearts, and 2 keys) which give 89% accuracy.

<sup>1</sup><http://www.dabi.temple.edu/~shape/MPEG7/dataset.html>

TABLE III  
REAL AND ESTIMATED PARAMETERS OF TWO-DIMENSIONAL DATA SET  
GENERATED FROM ONE GENERALIZED GAMMA COMPONENT

|             | real parameters      |                    | estimated parameters        |                           |
|-------------|----------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Component 1 | $\alpha_{11} = 2$    | $\alpha_{12} = 4$  | $\hat{\alpha}_{11} = 1.95$  | $\hat{\alpha}_{12} = 3.3$ |
|             | $\beta_{11} = 2.5$   | $\beta_{12} = 10$  | $\hat{\beta}_{11} = 2.67$   | $\hat{\beta}_{12} = 9.8$  |
|             | $\lambda_{11} = 1.5$ | $\lambda_{12} = 5$ | $\hat{\lambda}_{11} = 1.51$ | $\hat{\lambda}_{12} = 5$  |

TABLE IV  
REAL AND ESTIMATED PARAMETERS OF TWO-DIMENSIONAL DATA SET  
GENERATED FROM TWO GENERALIZED GAMMA COMPONENTS

|             | real parameters      |                     | estimated parameters       |                             |
|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Component 1 | $\alpha_{11} = 2$    | $\alpha_{12} = 4$   | $\hat{\alpha}_{11} = 1.85$ | $\hat{\alpha}_{12} = 3.091$ |
|             | $\beta_{11} = 2.5$   | $\beta_{12} = 10$   | $\hat{\beta}_{11} = 2.58$  | $\hat{\beta}_{12} = 10.67$  |
|             | $\lambda_{11} = 1.5$ | $\lambda_{12} = 5$  | $\hat{\lambda}_{11} = 1.5$ | $\hat{\lambda}_{12} = 5$    |
| component 2 | $\alpha_{21} = 5$    | $\alpha_{22} = 1.2$ | $\hat{\alpha}_{21} = 5.16$ | $\hat{\alpha}_{22} = 1.31$  |
|             | $\beta_{21} = 7$     | $\beta_{22} = 8$    | $\hat{\beta}_{21} = 6.25$  | $\hat{\beta}_{22} = 6.83$   |
|             | $\lambda_{21} = 10$  | $\lambda_{22} = 2$  | $\hat{\lambda}_{21} = 9.8$ | $\hat{\lambda}_{22} = 1.9$  |

TABLE V  
REAL AND ESTIMATED PARAMETERS OF TWO-DIMENSIONAL DATA SET  
GENERATED FROM THREE GENERALIZED GAMMA COMPONENTS

|             | real parameters       |                     | estimated parameters        |                            |
|-------------|-----------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Component 1 | $\alpha_{11} = 2$     | $\alpha_{12} = 4$   | $\hat{\alpha}_{11} = 1.75$  | $\hat{\alpha}_{12} = 3.09$ |
|             | $\beta_{11} = 2.5$    | $\beta_{12} = 10$   | $\hat{\beta}_{11} = 2.7$    | $\hat{\beta}_{12} = 10.5$  |
|             | $\lambda_{11} = 1.5$  | $\lambda_{12} = 5$  | $\hat{\lambda}_{11} = 1.48$ | $\hat{\lambda}_{12} = 5$   |
| component 2 | $\alpha_{21} = 5$     | $\alpha_{22} = 1.2$ | $\hat{\alpha}_{21} = 5.16$  | $\hat{\alpha}_{22} = 1.33$ |
|             | $\beta_{21} = 7$      | $\beta_{22} = 8$    | $\hat{\beta}_{21} = 6.2$    | $\hat{\beta}_{22} = 6.7$   |
|             | $\lambda_{21} = 10$   | $\lambda_{22} = 2$  | $\hat{\lambda}_{21} = 9.5$  | $\hat{\lambda}_{22} = 2.7$ |
| component 3 | $\alpha_{31} = 9.4$   | $\alpha_{32} = 6$   | $\hat{\alpha}_{31} = 9.34$  | $\hat{\alpha}_{32} = 6.1$  |
|             | $\beta_{31} = 4.2$    | $\beta_{32} = 11.6$ | $\hat{\beta}_{31} = 4.67$   | $\hat{\beta}_{32} = 10.95$ |
|             | $\lambda_{31} = 15.7$ | $\lambda_{32} = 10$ | $\hat{\lambda}_{31} = 16.5$ | $\hat{\lambda}_{32} = 9.1$ |

TABLE VI  
CONFUSION MATRIX FOR GENERALIZED GAMMA MIXTURE MODEL

|                  | Bones | Hearts | Keyes | Fountains | Forks |
|------------------|-------|--------|-------|-----------|-------|
| <i>Bones</i>     | 20    | 0      | 0     | 0         | 0     |
| <i>Hearts</i>    | 0     | 20     | 0     | 0         | 0     |
| <i>Keyes</i>     | 0     | 0      | 20    | 0         | 0     |
| <i>Fountains</i> | 3     | 0      | 0     | 17        | 0     |
| <i>Forks</i>     | 0     | 0      | 0     | 0         | 20    |

TABLE VII  
CONFUSION MATRIX FOR GAMMA MIXTURE MODEL

|                  | Bones | Hearts | Keyes | Fountains | Forks |
|------------------|-------|--------|-------|-----------|-------|
| <i>Bones</i>     | 20    | 0      | 0     | 0         | 0     |
| <i>Hearts</i>    | 0     | 20     | 0     | 0         | 0     |
| <i>Keyes</i>     | 0     | 2      | 18    | 0         | 0     |
| <i>Fountains</i> | 1     | 0      | 1     | 18        | 0     |
| <i>Forks</i>     | 0     | 0      | 1     | 0         | 19    |

TABLE VIII  
CONFUSION MATRIX FOR GAUSSIAN MIXTURE MODEL

|                  | Bones | Hearts | Keyes | Fountains | Forks |
|------------------|-------|--------|-------|-----------|-------|
| <i>Bones</i>     | 18    | 2      | 0     | 0         | 0     |
| <i>Hearts</i>    | 0     | 17     | 1     | 2         | 0     |
| <i>Keyes</i>     | 2     | 0      | 18    | 0         | 0     |
| <i>Fountains</i> | 1     | 2      | 0     | 17        | 0     |
| <i>Forks</i>     | 0     | 2      | 0     | 0         | 18    |

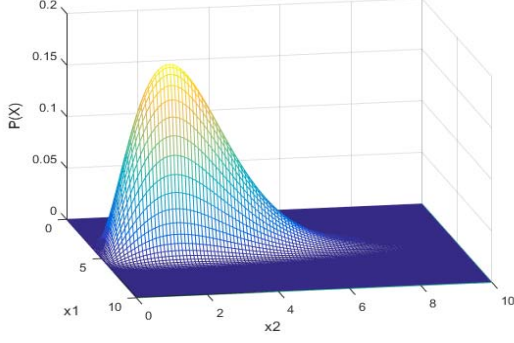


Fig. 3. One component of two-dimensional generalized Gamma mixture model

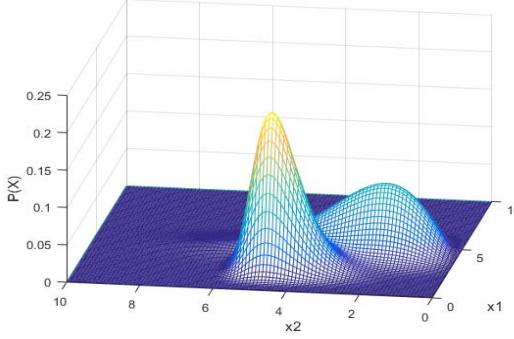


Fig. 4. two components of two-dimensional generalized Gamma mixture models

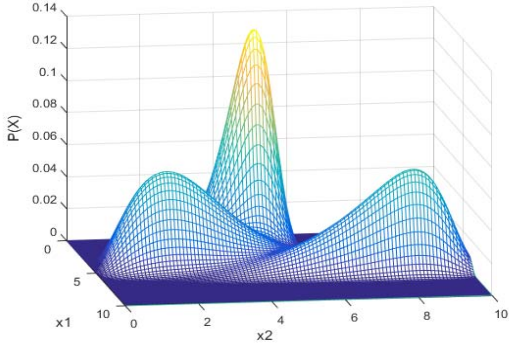


Fig. 5. Three components of two-dimensional generalized Gamma mixture models



Fig. 6. Samples from MPEG-7 CE Shape-1 Part-B

## V. CONCLUSION

Recently, mixture models have shown promising results for clustering multi-dimensional data. The main goal of this contribution was to design a powerful and flexible statistical mixture model capable of providing an efficient modeling of multi-dimensional unlabeled positive vectors. One of the

outstanding properties the generalized Gamma mixture model owns is the flexibility of its shape, which is the main reason why it outperforms Gaussian and Gamma mixture models. The model parameters have been estimated by conducting ML approach via EM. Experimental results are obtained by using a real-life application, namely shapes clustering. Consequently, these results have shown the high efficiency and capability that the proposed model possesses. Future work will be devoted to extend the proposed model to develop a method to tackle the issue of selecting the optimal number of components, which represent the data [43]–[46], or to feature selection [47]–[51].

## APPENDIX A

As mentioned before, we have used the EM algorithm to estimate the parameters which maximize the log-likelihood computed in the E-step, the first derivative of  $\log p(\mathcal{X}|\Theta)$  W.R.T the parameters  $p_j, \alpha_{jd}, \beta_{jd}$  and  $\lambda_{jd}$  has to be calculated.

By computing the derivative of  $\log p(\mathcal{X}|\Theta)$  w.r.t  $p_j$ , we obtain:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial}{\partial p_j} \left[ \sum_{i=1}^N \log \sum_{j=1}^M p_j \prod_{d=1}^D \left( \frac{\lambda_{jd}}{\alpha_{jd}} \right) + \log(X_{id}^{\beta_{jd}-1}) + \right. \\ \left. \log \left( \exp - \left( \frac{X_{id}}{\alpha_{jd}} \right)^{\lambda_{jd}} \right) - \log \left( \Gamma \left( \frac{\beta_{jd}}{\lambda_{jd}} \right) \right) \right] + \frac{\partial \Lambda (1 - \sum_{j=1}^M p_j)}{\partial p_j} = 0 \\ \frac{\sum_{i=1}^N \prod_{d=1}^D \left( \frac{\lambda_{jd}}{\alpha_{jd}} \right) + \log(X_{id}^{\beta_{jd}-1}) + \log \left( \exp - \left( \frac{X_{id}}{\alpha_{jd}} \right)^{\lambda_{jd}} \right) - \log \left( \Gamma \left( \frac{\beta_{jd}}{\lambda_{jd}} \right) \right)}{\sum_{j=1}^M p_j \prod_{d=1}^D \left( \frac{\lambda_{jd}}{\alpha_{jd}} \right) + \log(X_{id}^{\beta_{jd}-1}) + \log \left( \exp - \left( \frac{X_{id}}{\alpha_{jd}} \right)^{\lambda_{jd}} \right) - \log \left( \Gamma \left( \frac{\beta_{jd}}{\lambda_{jd}} \right) \right)} - \Lambda \\ \frac{\sum_{i=1}^N p(j|\vec{X}_i)}{p_j} - \Lambda = 0 \\ p_j = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^N p(j|\vec{X}_i)}{\Lambda} \end{aligned}$$

Computing the derivative w.r.t  $\Lambda$  we obtain:

$$1 - \sum_{j=1}^M p_j = 0$$

which gives us  $\sum_{j=1}^M p_j = 1$ . Thus,

$$\sum_{j=1}^M \frac{\sum_{i=1}^N p(j|\vec{X}_i)}{\Lambda} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{j=1}^M p(j|\vec{X}_i)}{\Lambda} = 1$$

Since  $\sum_{j=1}^M p_j = 1$ , we obtain  $\Lambda = N$ , then

$$p_j = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^N p(j|\vec{X}_i)}{N}$$

By computing the first derivative of  $\log p(\chi|\Theta)$  W.R.T  $\alpha_{jd}$ , we obtain:

$$\begin{aligned}
& \sum_{i=1}^N p(j|\vec{X}_i) \frac{\partial}{\partial \alpha_{jd}} \left[ \log\left(\frac{\lambda_{jd}}{\alpha_{jd}^{\beta_{jd}}}\right) + \log(X_{id}^{\beta_{jd}-1}) \right. \\
& \left. + \log\left(\exp\left(-\left(\frac{X_{id}}{\alpha_{jd}}\right)^{\lambda_{jd}}\right) - \log\left(\Gamma\left(\frac{\beta_{jd}}{\lambda_{jd}}\right)\right)\right) \right] \\
& = \sum_{i=1}^N p(j|\vec{X}_i) \frac{\partial}{\partial \alpha_{jd}} \left[ \log\left(\frac{\lambda_{jd}}{\alpha_{jd}^{\beta_{jd}}}\right) + \log\left(\exp\left(-\left(\frac{X_{id}}{\alpha_{jd}}\right)^{\lambda_{jd}}\right) \right. \right. \\
& \left. \left. - \log\left(\Gamma\left(\frac{\beta_{jd}}{\lambda_{jd}}\right)\right)\right) \right] \\
& = \sum_{i=1}^N p(j|\vec{X}_i) \frac{\partial}{\partial \alpha_{jd}} \left[ \log(\lambda_{jd} \alpha_{jd}^{-\beta_{jd}}) - \left(\frac{X_{id}}{\alpha_{jd}}\right)^{\lambda_{jd}} \right] \\
& = \sum_{i=1}^N p(j|\vec{X}_i) \left[ \frac{\alpha_{jd}^{\beta_{jd}}}{\lambda_{jd}} \frac{\partial}{\partial \alpha_{jd}} (\lambda_{jd} \alpha_{jd}^{-\beta_{jd}}) - \lambda_{jd} \left(-\left(\frac{X_{id}}{\alpha_{jd}}\right)^{\lambda_{jd}-1}\right) \right. \\
& \left. \times \frac{\partial}{\partial \alpha} \left(\frac{X_{id}}{\alpha_{jd}}\right) \right] \\
& = \sum_{i=1}^N p(j|\vec{X}_i) \left[ \left(\frac{\beta_{jd}}{\lambda_{jd}} - \beta_{jd} \lambda_{jd} \alpha_{jd}^{-\beta_{jd}-1}\right) - \lambda_{jd} \left(-\left(\frac{X_{id}}{\alpha_{jd}}\right)^{\lambda_{jd}-1}\right) \right. \\
& \left. \times \frac{\partial}{\partial \alpha} (X_{id} \alpha_{jd}^{-1}) \right] \\
& = \sum_{i=1}^N p(j|\vec{X}_i) \left( -\frac{\beta_{jd}}{\alpha_{jd}} - \lambda_{jd} \left(-\left(\frac{X_{id}}{\alpha_{jd}}\right)^{\lambda_{jd}-1}\right) (X_{id} \alpha_{jd}^{-2}) \right) \\
& = \sum_{i=1}^N p(j|\vec{X}_i) \left[ -\frac{\beta_{jd}}{\alpha_{jd}} + \lambda_{jd} \left(\left(\frac{X_{id}}{\alpha_{jd}}\right)^{\lambda_{jd}-1}\right) \left(\frac{X_{id}}{\alpha_{jd}^2}\right) \right] \\
& = \sum_{i=1}^N p(j|\vec{X}_i) \left[ -\frac{\beta_{jd}}{\alpha_{jd}} + \left(\frac{\lambda_{jd} X_{id}^{\lambda_{jd}-1}}{\alpha_{jd}^{\lambda_{jd}+1}}\right) \left(\frac{X_{id}}{\alpha_{jd}^2}\right) \right] \\
& = \sum_{i=1}^N p(j|\vec{X}_i) \left[ -\frac{\beta_{jd}}{\alpha_{jd}} + \left(\frac{\lambda_{jd} X_{id}^{\lambda_{jd}}}{\alpha_{jd}^{\lambda_{jd}+1}}\right) \right]
\end{aligned}$$

then by setting the derivative of  $\log p(\chi|\Theta)$  W.R.T  $\alpha_{jd}$  equal to zero, we obtain:

$$\begin{aligned}
& \frac{\partial p(\mathcal{X}, Z|\Theta)}{\partial \alpha_{jd}} = 0 \\
& \sum_{i=1}^N p(j|\vec{X}_i) \left[ -\frac{\beta_{jd}}{\alpha_{jd}} + \left(\frac{\lambda_{jd} X_{id}^{\lambda_{jd}}}{\alpha_{jd}^{\lambda_{jd}+1}}\right) \right] = 0 \\
& \frac{\beta_{jd}}{\lambda_{jd}} \sum_{i=1}^N p(j|\vec{X}_i) = \frac{\lambda_{jd}}{\alpha_{jd}^{\lambda_{jd}+1}} \sum_{i=1}^N p(j|\vec{X}_i) X_{id}^{\lambda_{jd}} \\
& \alpha_{jd}^{\lambda_{jd}} = \frac{\lambda_{jd}}{\beta_{jd}} \frac{\sum_{i=1}^N p(j|\vec{X}_i) X_{id}^{\lambda_{jd}}}{\sum_{i=1}^N p(j|\vec{X}_i)} \\
& \alpha_{jd} = \left( \frac{\lambda_{jd}}{\beta_{jd}} \frac{\sum_{i=1}^N p(j|\vec{X}_i) X_{id}^{\lambda_{jd}}}{\sum_{i=1}^N p(j|\vec{X}_i)} \right)^{\frac{1}{\lambda_{jd}}}
\end{aligned}$$

which gives us the estimated value of  $\alpha_{jd}$ ,

$$\alpha_{jd} = \left( \frac{\lambda_{jd}}{\beta_{jd}} \frac{\sum_{i=1}^N p(j|\vec{X}_i) X_{id}^{\lambda_{jd}}}{NP_j} \right)^{\frac{1}{\lambda_{jd}}}$$

By computing the first derivative of  $\log p(\chi|\Theta)$  W.R.T  $\beta_{jd}$ , we obtain:

$$\begin{aligned}
& \frac{\partial p(\mathcal{X}|\Theta)}{\partial \beta_{jd}} = \sum_{i=1}^N p(j|\vec{X}_i) \frac{\partial}{\partial \beta_{jd}} \left[ \log\left(\frac{\lambda_{jd}}{\alpha_{jd}^{\beta_{jd}}}\right) + \log(X_{id}^{\beta_{jd}-1}) \right. \\
& \left. + \log\left(\exp\left(-\left(\frac{X_{id}}{\alpha_{jd}}\right)^{\lambda_{jd}}\right) - \log\left(\Gamma\left(\frac{\beta_{jd}}{\lambda_{jd}}\right)\right)\right) \right] \\
& = \sum_{i=1}^N p(j|\vec{X}_i) \frac{\partial}{\partial \beta_{jd}} \left[ \log\left(\frac{\lambda_{jd}}{\alpha_{jd}^{\beta_{jd}}}\right) + \log(X_{id}^{\beta_{jd}-1}) \right. \\
& \left. - \log\left(\Gamma\left(\frac{\beta_{jd}}{\lambda_{jd}}\right)\right) \right] \\
& = \sum_{i=1}^N p(j|\vec{X}_i) \left[ \left(\frac{\alpha_{jd}^{\beta_{jd}}}{\lambda_{jd}}\right) \frac{\partial}{\partial \beta_{jd}} \left(\frac{\lambda_{jd}}{\alpha_{jd}^{\beta_{jd}}}\right) + \log(X_{id}) - \frac{\Psi\left(\frac{\beta_{jd}}{\lambda_{jd}}\right)}{\lambda_{jd}} \right] \\
& = \sum_{i=1}^N p(j|\vec{X}_i) \left[ \left(\frac{\alpha_{jd}^{\beta_{jd}}}{\lambda_{jd}}\right) \lambda_{jd} \frac{\partial}{\partial \beta_{jd}} \left(\frac{1}{\alpha_{jd}^{\beta_{jd}}}\right) + \log(X_{id}) - \frac{\Psi\left(\frac{\beta_{jd}}{\lambda_{jd}}\right)}{\lambda_{jd}} \right] \\
& = \sum_{i=1}^N p(j|\vec{X}_i) \left[ \left(\frac{\alpha_{jd}^{\beta_{jd}}}{\lambda_{jd}}\right) \lambda_{jd} (\log(\alpha_{jd})) (\alpha_{jd}^{-\beta_{jd}}) \frac{\partial}{\partial \beta_{jd}} (-\beta_{jd}) \right. \\
& \left. + \log(X_{id}^{\beta_{jd}-1}) - \frac{\Psi\left(\frac{\beta_{jd}}{\lambda_{jd}}\right)}{\lambda_{jd}} \right] \\
& = \sum_{i=1}^N p(j|\vec{X}_i) \left[ (\alpha_{jd}^{\beta_{jd}} (\log(\alpha_{jd})) (\alpha_{jd}^{-\beta_{jd}}) (-1) \right. \\
& \left. + \log(X_{id}) - \frac{\Psi\left(\frac{\beta_{jd}}{\lambda_{jd}}\right)}{\lambda_{jd}} \right] \\
& = \sum_{i=1}^N p(j|\vec{X}_i) \left[ -\log(\alpha_{jd}) + \log(X_{id}) - \frac{\Psi\left(\frac{\beta_{jd}}{\lambda_{jd}}\right)}{\lambda_{jd}} \right]
\end{aligned}$$

then by setting the derivative of  $\log p(\chi|\Theta)$  W.R.T  $\beta_{jd}$  equal to zero, we obtain:

$$\begin{aligned}
& \frac{\partial p(\mathcal{X}|\Theta)}{\partial \beta_{jd}} = 0 \\
& = \sum_{i=1}^N p(j|\vec{X}_i) \left[ -\log(\alpha_{jd}) + \log(X_{id}) - \frac{\Psi\left(\frac{\beta_{jd}}{\lambda_{jd}}\right)}{\lambda_{jd}} \right] = 0 \\
& = \sum_{i=1}^N p(j|\vec{X}_i) \left( -\log(\alpha_{jd}) - \frac{\Psi\left(\frac{\beta_{jd}}{\lambda_{jd}}\right)}{\lambda_{jd}} \right) + \sum_{i=1}^N p(j|\vec{X}_i) \log(X_{id}) \\
& \sum_{i=1}^N p(j|\vec{X}_i) \left( \log(\alpha_{jd}) + \frac{\Psi\left(\frac{\beta_{jd}}{\lambda_{jd}}\right)}{\lambda_{jd}} \right) = \sum_{i=1}^N p(j|\vec{X}_i) \log(X_{id}) \\
& \frac{\Psi\left(\frac{\beta_{jd}}{\lambda_{jd}}\right)}{\lambda_{jd}} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^N p(j|\vec{X}_i) \log(X_{id})}{\sum_{i=1}^N p(j|\vec{X}_i)} - \log(\alpha_{jd}) \\
& \Psi\left(\frac{\beta_{jd}}{\lambda_{jd}}\right) = \lambda_{jd} \left( \frac{\sum_{i=1}^N p(j|\vec{X}_i) \log(X_{id})}{\sum_{i=1}^N p(j|\vec{X}_i)} - \log(\alpha_{jd}) \right)
\end{aligned}$$

which gives us the estimated value of  $\beta_{jd}$ ,

$$\beta_{jd} = \lambda_{jd} \Psi^{-1} \left( \lambda_{jd} \left( \frac{\sum_{i=1}^N p(j|\vec{X}_i) \log(X_{id})}{\sum_{i=1}^N p(j|\vec{X}_i)} - \log(\alpha_{jd}) \right) \right)$$

By computing the first derivative of  $\log p(\chi|\Theta)$  W.R.T  $\lambda_{jd}$ , we obtain:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial p(\chi|\Theta)}{\partial \lambda_{jd}} &= \sum_{i=1}^N p(j|\vec{X}_i) \frac{\partial}{\partial \lambda_{jd}} \left[ \log \left( \frac{\lambda_{jd}}{\alpha_{jd}^{\beta_{jd}}} \right) + \log(X_{id}^{\beta_{jd}-1}) \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \log \left( \exp \left( -\left( \frac{X_{id}}{\alpha_{jd}} \right)^{\lambda_{jd}} \right) - \log \left( \Gamma \left( \frac{\beta_{jd}}{\lambda_{jd}} \right) \right) \right] \right] \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^N p(j|\vec{X}_i) \left[ \log \left( \frac{\lambda_{jd}}{\alpha_{jd}^{\beta_{jd}}} \right) + \log \left( \exp \left( -\left( \frac{X_{id}}{\alpha_{jd}} \right)^{\lambda_{jd}} \right) \right. \right. \\ &\quad \left. \left. - \log \left( \Gamma \left( \frac{\beta_{jd}}{\lambda_{jd}} \right) \right) \right] \right] \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^N p(j|\vec{X}_i) \left[ \left( \frac{\alpha_{jd}^{\beta_{jd}}}{\lambda_{jd}} \right) \frac{\partial}{\partial \lambda_{jd}} (\lambda_{jd} \alpha_{jd}^{-\beta_{jd}}) \right. \\ &\quad \left. - \left( \frac{X_{id}}{\alpha_{jd}} \right)^{\lambda_{jd}} \log \left( \frac{X_{id}}{\alpha_{jd}} \right) - \frac{1}{\Gamma \left( \frac{\beta_{jd}}{\lambda_{jd}} \right)} \frac{\partial}{\partial \lambda_{jd}} \left( \Gamma \left( \frac{\beta_{jd}}{\lambda_{jd}} \right) \right) \right] \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^N p(j|\vec{X}_i) \left[ \left( \frac{\alpha_{jd}^{\beta_{jd}}}{\lambda_{jd}} \right) (\alpha_{jd}^{-\beta_{jd}}) - \left( \frac{X_{id}}{\alpha_{jd}} \right)^{\lambda_{jd}} \log \left( \frac{X_{id}}{\alpha_{jd}} \right) \right. \\ &\quad \left. - \beta_{jd} \frac{\partial}{\partial \lambda_{jd}} \left( \frac{1}{\lambda_{jd}} \right) \times \psi \left( \frac{\beta_{jd}}{\lambda_{jd}} \right) \right] \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^N p(j|\vec{X}_i) \left[ \frac{1}{\lambda_{jd}} - \left( \left( \frac{X_{id}}{\alpha_{jd}} \right)^{\lambda_{jd}} \log \left( \frac{X_{id}}{\alpha_{jd}} \right) \right) \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \frac{\frac{\partial}{\partial \lambda_{jd}} \lambda_{jd}}{\lambda_{jd}^2} \beta_{jd} \psi \left( \frac{\beta_{jd}}{\lambda_{jd}} \right) \right] \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^N p(j|\vec{X}_i) \left[ \frac{1}{\lambda_{jd}} - \left( \left( \frac{X_{id}}{\alpha_{jd}} \right)^{\lambda_{jd}} \log \left( \frac{X_{id}}{\alpha_{jd}} \right) \right) + \frac{\Psi \left( \frac{\beta_{jd}}{\lambda_{jd}} \right) \beta_{jd}}{\lambda_{jd}^2} \right] \end{aligned}$$

## APPENDIX B

By computing the second derivative of  $\log p(\chi|\Theta)$  W.R.T  $\lambda_{jd}$ , we obtain:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial^2 \lambda_{jd}}{\partial^2 \lambda_{jd}} \sum_{i=1}^N p(j|\vec{X}_i) &\left[ \frac{1}{\lambda_{jd}} - \left( \left( \frac{X_{id}}{\alpha_{jd}} \right)^{\lambda_{jd}} \log \left( \frac{X_{id}}{\alpha_{jd}} \right) \right) + \frac{\Psi \left( \frac{\beta_{jd}}{\lambda_{jd}} \right) \beta_{jd}}{\lambda_{jd}^2} \right] \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^N p(j|\vec{X}_i) \left[ -\frac{1}{\lambda_{jd}^2} - \log \left( \frac{x_{id}}{\alpha_{jd}} \right) \frac{\partial \lambda_{jd}}{\partial \lambda_{jd}} \left[ \left( \frac{x_{id}}{\alpha_{jd}} \right)^{\lambda_{jd}} \right] \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \beta_{jd} \frac{\partial \lambda_{jd}}{\partial \lambda_{jd}} \left( \frac{\psi \left( \frac{\beta_{jd}}{\lambda_{jd}} \right)}{\lambda_{jd}^2} \right) \right] \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^N p(j|\vec{X}_i) \left[ -\frac{1}{\lambda_{jd}^2} - \log \left( \frac{x_{id}}{\alpha_{jd}} \right) \left( \frac{x_{id}}{\alpha_{jd}} \right)^{\lambda_{jd}} \log \left( \frac{x_{id}}{\alpha_{jd}} \right) \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \beta_{jd} \frac{\partial \lambda_{jd}}{\partial \lambda_{jd}} \left( \frac{\psi \left( \frac{\beta_{jd}}{\lambda_{jd}} \right)}{\lambda_{jd}^2} \right) \right] \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^N p(j|\vec{X}_i) \left[ -\frac{1}{\lambda_{jd}^2} - \left( \frac{x_{id}}{\alpha_{jd}} \right)^{\lambda_{jd}} \log^2 \left( \frac{x_{id}}{\alpha_{jd}} \right) \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \beta_{jd} \frac{\partial \lambda_{jd}}{\partial \lambda_{jd}} \left( \frac{\psi \left( \frac{\beta_{jd}}{\lambda_{jd}} \right)}{\lambda_{jd}^2} \right) \right] \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^N p(j|\vec{X}_i) \left[ -\frac{1}{\lambda_{jd}^2} - \left( \frac{X_{id}}{\alpha_{jd}} \right)^{\lambda_{jd}} \log \left( \frac{X_{id}}{\alpha_{jd}} \right) \log \left( \frac{X_{id}}{\alpha_{jd}} \right) \right. \\ &\quad \left. - \left( \frac{\psi' \left( \frac{\beta_{jd}}{\lambda_{jd}} \right) \beta_{jd}^2}{\lambda_{jd}^4} \right) - \left( \frac{\beta_{jd} 2 \psi \left( \frac{\beta_{jd}}{\lambda_{jd}} \right)}{\lambda_{jd}^3} \right) \right] \end{aligned}$$

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