

# An Introduction to Latent Feature Model

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# Motivation

Assume we have  $N$  observations  $\{x_1, \dots, x_N\}$ , such that each  $x_i \in R^d$ . In finite mixture model, we assume each observation belongs to a **single** latent class  $c_i$ :

- Let the mixture weights be  $\theta$  and suppose there are  $K$  classes, the data likelihood is

$$P(X|\theta) = \prod_{i=1}^N \sum_{k=1}^K P(x_i|c_i = k)\theta_k$$

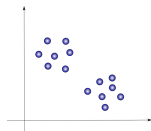


Figure: Two Cluster Mixture

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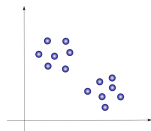


Figure: Two Cluster Mixture

**Problem:** what if each observation  $x_i$  can be generated by more than one latent class?

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Suppose there are  $N$  objects and  $K$  features, and the features are generated independently.

- Each object  $i$  has some latent feature values, let
$$F = [f_1^T, \dots, f_n^T]^T$$

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- Data is generated from these latent features:  $P(X|F)$

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- let  $Z$  be an  $N$  by  $K$  matrix such that  $Z_{ik} = 1$  if object  $i$  possess feature  $k$ .

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- let  $Z$  be an  $N$  by  $K$  matrix such that  $Z_{ik} = 1$  if object  $i$  possess feature  $k$ .
- $F = Z \otimes V$ , where  $V$  is the value of each feature for each object.

# Finite Feature Model: Prior for $Z$

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In Bayesian Inference, we are interested in the posterior  $P(F|X) \propto P(X|F)P(F)$ , where  $F = Z \otimes V$ .



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How to specify the prior for  $Z$  ?

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- Assume each object possess feature  $k$  with probability  $\pi_k$ .

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How to specify the prior for  $Z$  ?

- Assume each object possess feature  $k$  with probability  $\pi_k$ .
- $P(Z|\pi) = \prod_{k=1}^K \prod_{i=1}^N P(Z_{ik}|\pi_k) = \prod_{k=1}^K \pi_k^{m_k} (1-\pi_k)^{N-m_k}$

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- Usually, we assume  $\pi_k \sim \text{Beta}(r, s)$ , such that

$$\blacksquare P(\pi_k) = \frac{\pi_k^{r-1} (1-\pi_k)^{s-1}}{B(r, s)}$$

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- $$P(\pi_k) = \frac{\pi_k^{r-1} (1-\pi_k)^{s-1}}{B(r, s)}$$

- $$B(r, s) = \int_0^1 \pi_k^{r-1} (1-\pi_k)^{s-1} d\pi_k = \frac{\Gamma(r)\Gamma(s)}{\Gamma(r+s)}$$

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- Usually, we assume  $\pi_k \sim \text{Beta}(r, s)$ , such that
  - $P(\pi_k) = \frac{\pi_k^{r-1} (1-\pi_k)^{s-1}}{B(r, s)}$
  - $B(r, s) = \int_0^1 \pi_k^{r-1} (1-\pi_k)^{s-1} d\pi_k = \frac{\Gamma(r)\Gamma(s)}{\Gamma(r+s)}$
  - $r = \frac{\alpha}{K}, s = 1 \implies B(r, s) = \frac{\Gamma(\frac{\alpha}{K})}{\Gamma(1+\frac{\alpha}{K})} = \frac{K}{\alpha}$   
( $\Gamma(X) = (X-1)\Gamma(X-1)$ )

# Finite Feature Model: Distribution of $Z$

Recall we have defined prior for  $\pi_k \sim \text{Beta}(\frac{\alpha}{K}, 1)$  and  $P(Z|\pi)$ :

$$\begin{aligned} P(Z) &= \prod_{k=1}^K \int \left( \prod_{i=1}^N P(Z_{ik}|\pi_k) \right) P(\pi_k) d\pi_k \\ &= \prod_{k=1}^K \int \prod_{i=1}^N \pi_k^{m_k} (1 - \pi_k)^{N - m_k} P(\pi_k) d\pi_k \\ &= \prod_{k=1}^K \frac{\int \prod_{i=1}^N \pi_k^{m_k} (1 - \pi_k)^{N - m_k} \pi_k^{\alpha/K - 1} d\pi_k}{B(\frac{\alpha}{K}, 1)} \quad (1) \\ &= \prod_{k=1}^K \frac{B(m_k + \alpha/K, N - m_k + 1)}{B(\alpha/K, 1)} \\ &= \prod_{k=1}^K \frac{\alpha/K \cdot \Gamma(m_k + \alpha/K) \Gamma(N - m_k + 1)}{\Gamma(N + 1 + \alpha/K)} \end{aligned}$$

# Finite Feature Model: $\alpha$ controls Sparsity

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The expectation of the number of non-zero entries in the matrix has an upper bound that is independent of  $K$ !

$$\begin{aligned} E\left[\sum_{i,k} Z_{i,k}\right] &= E[\mathbb{1}^T Z \mathbb{1}] = KE[\mathbb{1}^T Z_1] \\ &= K \sum_{i=1}^N \int_0^1 \pi_k P(\pi_k) d\pi_k \\ &= KN \frac{\alpha/k}{1 + \alpha/K} \\ &= \frac{N\alpha}{1 + \alpha/K} \leq N\alpha \end{aligned} \tag{2}$$



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**Motivation:** what if we don't know the number of latent features? Can we define a distribution of binary matrix  $Z$  which has  $N$  rows but infinite columns?

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**Motivation:** what if we don't know the number of latent features? Can we define a distribution of binary matrix  $Z$  which has  $N$  rows but infinite columns?

**Naive Approach:** recall in the finite case, we have shown

$$P(Z) = \prod_{k=1}^K \frac{\alpha/K \cdot \Gamma(m_k + \alpha/K) \Gamma(N - m_k + 1)}{\Gamma(N + 1 + \alpha/K)}$$

What if we let  $K \rightarrow \infty$ ?

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- $\text{lof}(\cdot)$ : map binary matrices to left-ordered binary matrices.

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- $\text{lof}(\cdot)$ : map binary matrices to left-ordered binary matrices.
- $\text{lof}(Z)$  is obtained by reordering the columns of the binary matrix  $Z$  from left to right by the magnitude of the binary number expressed by the column:
- $[Z]$ : set of binary matrices that are lof-equivalent to  $Z$

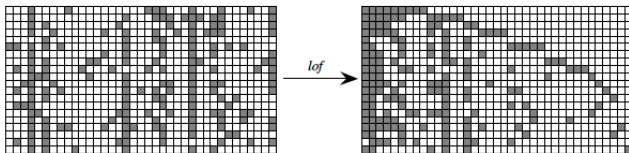


Figure: Visualization of lof operation

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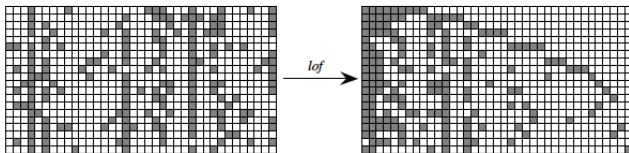


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- The **history** of feature  $k$  at object  $i$  is  $(Z_{1,k}, \dots, Z_{i-1,k})$

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- The **history** of feature  $k$  at object  $i$  is  $(Z_{1,k}, \dots, Z_{i-1,k})$
- $k_h$ : number of features possessing the history  $h$
- $K_0$ : number of features for which  $m_k = 0$
- $K_+ = \sum_{h=1}^{2^N-1} k_h$ : number of features for which  $m_k > 0$ ,  
note  $K = K_0 + K_+$

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- $K_+ = \sum_{h=1}^{2^N-1} k_h$ : number of features for which  $m_k > 0$ ,  
note  $K = K_0 + K_+$
- Cardinality of  $|[Z]|$ :

$$|[Z]| = \frac{k!}{\prod_{h=0}^{2^N-1} k_n!}$$



# Let's make $K \rightarrow \infty$

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$$\begin{aligned} P([Z]) &= \sum_{z \in [Z]} P(Z) \\ &= \frac{K!}{\prod_{h=0}^{2^N-1} k_n!} \prod_{k=1}^K \frac{\alpha/K \cdot \Gamma(m_k + \alpha/K) \Gamma(N - m_k + 1)}{\Gamma(N + 1 + \alpha/K)} \end{aligned} \quad (3)$$

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By 2-page of algebraic manipulations, mathematicians can show

$$\lim_{K \rightarrow \infty} P([Z]) = \frac{\alpha^{K_+}}{\prod_{h=1}^{2^N-1} K_h!} e^{-\alpha H_N} \prod_{k=1}^{K_+} \frac{(N - m_k)! (m_k - 1)!}{N!}$$

, where  $H_N = \sum_{j=1}^N \frac{1}{j}$

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Figure: Indian Buffet Process

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Figure: Indian Buffet Process

- The first customer enters an Indian Buffet with infinitely many dishes.

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Figure: Indian Buffet Process

- The first customer enters an Indian Buffet with infinitely many dishes.
- The first customer sample the first  $Poisson(\alpha)$  dishes.

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Figure: Indian Buffet Process

- The first customer enters an Indian Buffet with infinitely many dishes.
- The first customer sample the first  $Poisson(\alpha)$  dishes.
- The  $n$ th customer helps himself to each dish with probability  $\frac{m_k}{n}$ , where  $m_k$  is the number of times dish  $k$  has been sampled

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- The first customer enters an Indian Buffet with infinitely many dishes.
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- The  $n$ th customer helps himself to each dish with probability  $\frac{m_k}{n}$ , where  $m_k$  is the number of times dish  $k$  has been sampled
- The  $n$ th customer tries  $poisson(\frac{\alpha}{n})$  dishes.

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Suppose have item response matrix  $X$  with size  $N$  by  $K$ , where  $N$  is the number of students,  $K$  is number of items, and  $X_{ik}$  represent whether student  $i$  answer question  $k$  correctly.



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- **Partially Compensatory MIRT:**

- Suppose this exam tests  $M$  latent abilities, hence students' latent traits  $\theta_i \in \mathbb{R}^M$ .
- $\alpha_k \in \mathbb{R}^M$ : discrimination term,  $d_k \in \mathbb{R}^M$ : difficulty term.

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- $P(X_{ik} = 1) = \prod_{m=1}^M \frac{1}{1 + \exp(-\alpha_k(\theta_i - d_m))}$

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- $$P(X_{ik} = 1) = \prod_{m=1}^M \frac{1}{1 + \exp(-\alpha_k(\theta_i - d_m))}$$

- **Current Approach:** let  $c_{km} \sim \text{Beta}(2, 2)$ ,  
$$P(X_{ik} = 1) = \prod_{m=1}^M \left( \frac{1}{1 + \exp(-\alpha_k(\theta_i - d_m))} \right)^{c_{km}}$$

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We don't know the number of latent abilities, can we apply IDB prior to each column of the item response matrix  $X$ ?

- **Advantages:**

- Flexible, no need for cross-validation.

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- The learned  $Z$  matrix can be treated as a naive representation of the latent structure of knowledges.



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- **Drawbacks:**

- High-dimensional?

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## ■ Drawbacks:

- High-dimensional?
- Requires too many items?
- What about Hierarchical structure?

# Reference

An  
Introduction  
to Latent  
Feature Model

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Motivations

A Finite  
Feature Model

Infinite  
Feature Model

Research Ideas

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