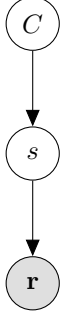


Variational Inference for Categorization Notes

We consider the problem of categorizing stimuli with overlapping distributions

0.1 Generative model



C is the category distribution ($\in \{0, 1\}$)

$P(C) = .5$

s is the presented stimulus, a draw from the selected category distribution

$P(s|C) = \mathcal{N}(s; 0, \sigma_C^2) = \mathcal{N}(s; 0, \tau_C^{-1})$

\mathbf{r} is the vector of neural responses to s : $P(r_i|s) = \text{Poisson}(r_i; f_i(s))$

$f_i(s)$ is the tuning curve of the i^{th} neuron in response to a stimulus s

Tuning curve assumptions:

- Tuning curves cover the space so $\sum_i f_i(s)$ is independent of s
- The tuning curves are Gaussian: $f_i(s) \sim \mathcal{N}(s_i^{\text{pref}}, \sigma_{\text{tc}}^2)$

0.2 Inference

$$\begin{aligned}
 P(C, s|\mathbf{r}) &= \left(\prod_i P(r_i|s) \right) P(s|C) P(C) \\
 &\propto \left(\prod_i \text{Poisson}(r_i; f_i(s)) \right) \mathcal{N}(s; 0, \tau_C^{-1}) \\
 &= \left(\prod_i \frac{f_i(s)^{r_i}}{r_i!} \right) \sqrt{\frac{\tau_C}{2\pi}} e^{\frac{-\tau_C s^2}{2}}
 \end{aligned} \tag{1}$$

Let

$$\begin{aligned}
\tau_C &= \begin{cases} \tau_0, & \text{if } C = 0 \\ \tau_1, & \text{if } C = 1 \end{cases} \\
&= \tau_0(1 - C) + \tau_1 C \\
&= \tau_0 - (\tau_0 - \tau_1)C \\
&= \tau_0 - C\Delta\tau
\end{aligned} \tag{2}$$

For variational inference,

$$\log P(C, s|\mathbf{r}) = \sum_i \left(-\log r_i! + r_i \log(f_i(s)) \right) + \frac{-(\tau_0 - C\Delta\tau)s^2}{2} + \frac{1}{2} \log \left(\frac{\tau_0 - C\Delta\tau}{2\pi} \right) \tag{3}$$

0.3 Variational approximation

Then we approximate this using a factorized distribution:

$$Q(C, s|\mathbf{r}) = Q(C|\mathbf{r})Q(s|\mathbf{r}) \tag{4}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
Q(C|\mathbf{r}) &= \langle \log P(C, s|\mathbf{r}) \rangle_{Q(s|\mathbf{r})} \\
&= \frac{C\Delta\tau}{2} \langle s^2 \rangle_{Q(s|\mathbf{r})} + \frac{1}{2} \log \left(\frac{\tau_0 - C\Delta\tau}{2\pi} \right) \\
&\propto \frac{\langle s^2 \rangle_{Q(s|\mathbf{r})} \Delta\tau}{2} C \\
&\sim \text{Binom}(C, p) \\
p &= \frac{1}{1 + \sqrt{\frac{\tau_0}{\tau_1}} e^{\frac{\langle s^2 \rangle_{Q(s|\mathbf{r})} \Delta\tau}{2}}}
\end{aligned} \tag{5}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
Q(s|\mathbf{r}) &= \langle \log P(C, s|\mathbf{r}) \rangle_{Q(C|\mathbf{r})} \\
&= \sum_i r_i \log(f_i(s)) + \frac{-(\tau_0 - \langle C \rangle_{Q(C|\mathbf{r})} \Delta\tau)}{2} s^2 \\
&\propto \frac{1}{2\sigma_{\text{tc}}^2} \sum_i r_i (s - s_i^{\text{pref}})^2 + \frac{-(\tau_0 - \langle C \rangle_{Q(C|\mathbf{r})} \Delta\tau)}{2} s^2
\end{aligned} \tag{6}$$