

Problem Sheet 5

```
• using Pkg; Pkg.activate("."); Pkg.add(["Distributions", "Plots", "PyPlot",  
  "SpecialFunctions"])
```

```
• begin  
•   using Distributions  
•   using LinearAlgebra  
•   using Plots  
•   using StatsPlots  
•   pyplot()  
•   using SpecialFunctions  
•   default(lw = 3.0, legendfontsize= 15.0)  
• end
```

1. Variational inference

Assume we have n observations $D = (x_1, \dots, x_n)$ generated independently from a Gaussian density $\mathcal{N}(x|\mu, \tau^{-1})$, i.e.

$$p(D|\mu, \tau) = \left(\frac{\tau}{2\pi}\right)^{n/2} \exp \left[-\frac{\tau}{2} \sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \mu)^2 \right]$$

We also assume prior densities $p(\mu|\tau) = \mathcal{N}(\mu|\mu_0, (\lambda_0\tau)^{-1})$ and $p(\tau) = \text{Gamma}(\tau|a_0, b_0)$. λ_0 and μ_0 as well as a_0, b_0 are given hyper parameters.

Our goal is to approximate the posterior density $p(\mu, \tau|D)$ by a **factorising density** $q(\mu, \tau) = q_1(\mu)q_2(\tau)$ which minimises the variational free energy

$$F[q] = \int q(\mu, \tau) \ln \frac{q(\mu, \tau)}{p(\mu, \tau, D)} d\mu d\tau$$

(a) [MATH] Show that the optimal $q_1(\mu)$ is a *Gaussian density* and give expressions for the mean and variance in terms of expectations with respect to q_2 .

(b) [MATH] Show that the optimal $q_2(\tau)$ is a *Gamma density* and give expressions for the parameters in terms of expectations with respect to q_1 .

Tip

You can use the following results which follow from the derivations given in the lecture

$$\begin{aligned} q_1(\mu) &\propto \exp [E_\tau [\ln p(\mu, \tau, D)]] \\ q_2(\tau) &\propto \exp [E_\mu [\ln p(\mu, \tau, D)]] \end{aligned}$$

Solution

We have the representation of the joint density

$$p(\mu, \tau, D) = p(D|\mu, \tau)p(\mu|\tau)p(\tau)$$

with

$$\begin{aligned} p(\mu|\tau) &= \frac{(\lambda_0 \tau)^{1/2}}{2\pi} \exp \left(-\frac{(\mu - \mu_0)^2 \lambda_0 \tau}{2} \right) \\ p(\tau) &\propto \tau^{a_0-1} e^{-b_0 \tau} \end{aligned}$$

a)

Hence

$$\begin{aligned} E_\tau [\ln p(\mu, \tau, D)] &= -\frac{E_\tau[\tau]}{2} \sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \mu)^2 - \frac{\lambda_0 E_\tau[\tau]}{2} (\mu - \mu_0)^2 + \text{const} = \\ &= -\frac{1}{2} (E_\tau[\tau](n + \lambda_0)) \mu^2 + \mu E_\tau[\tau] \left(\sum_i x_i + \lambda_0 \mu_0 \right) + \text{const} \end{aligned}$$

Note, that the second constant differs from the first. We get a Gaussian density for $q_1(\mu)$ with

$$\begin{aligned} E[\mu] &= \frac{\sum_i x_i + \lambda_0 \mu_0}{n + \lambda_0} \\ \text{VAR}[\mu] &= \frac{1}{E_\tau[\tau](n + \lambda_0)} \end{aligned}$$

b)

for the density of $q_2(\tau)$, we use

$$E_\tau[\ln p(\mu, \tau, D)] = \ln \left(\tau^{a_0 + (n+1)/2 - 1} e^{-b_0 \tau} \right) - \frac{\tau}{2} \sum_{i=1}^n E_\mu[(x_i - \mu)^2] - \frac{\lambda_0 \tau}{2} E_\mu[(\mu - \mu_0)^2] + \text{co}$$

We get a Gamma density

$$q_2(\tau) \propto \tau^{a_n - 1} e^{-b_n \tau}$$

with parameters

$$\begin{aligned} a_n &= a_0 + (n + 1)/2 \\ b_n &= b_0 + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^n E_\mu[(x_i - \mu)^2] + \frac{\lambda_0}{2} E_\mu[(\mu - \mu_0)^2] \end{aligned}$$

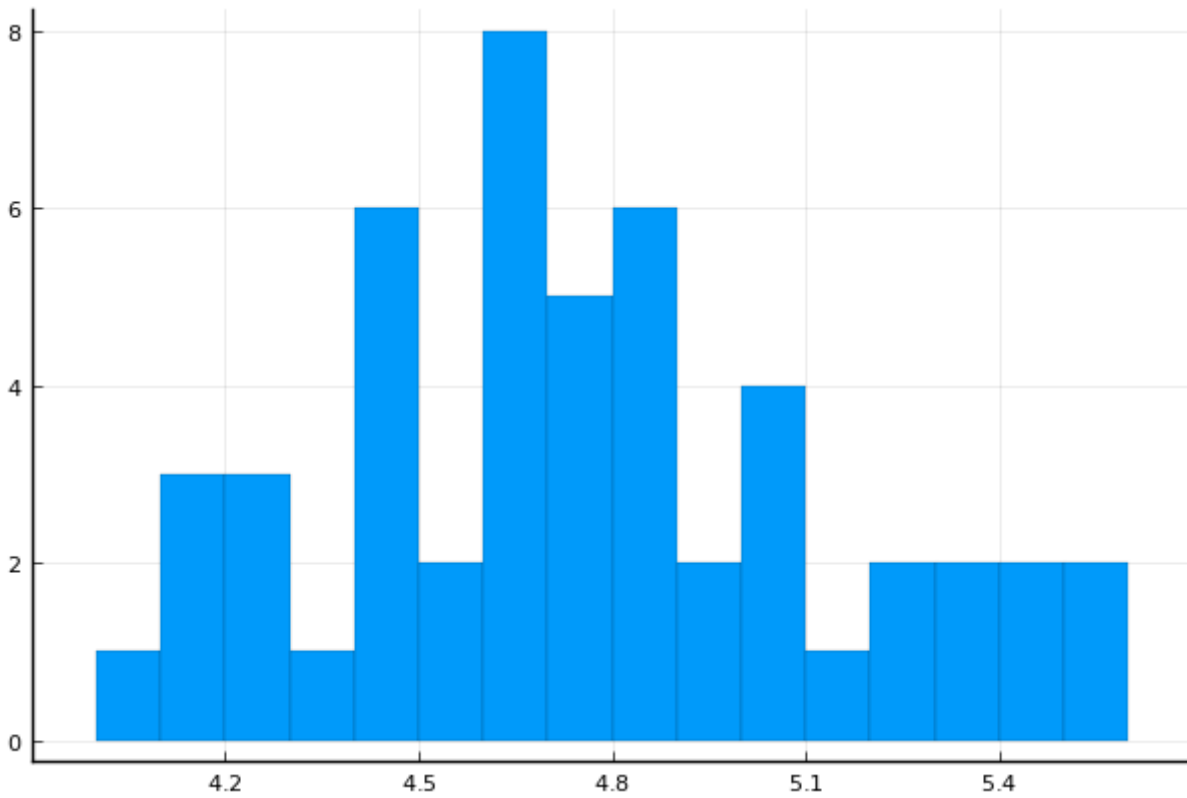
Knowing the form of both variational distributions we can also compute closed form solution of the expectations :

$$\begin{aligned} E_\tau[\tau] &= \frac{a_n}{b_n} \\ E_\mu[(x - \mu)^2] &= \text{Var}_\mu[\mu] + (x - E_\mu[\mu])^2 \end{aligned}$$

And proceed to coordinate ascent updates to converge to the optimal distribution.

c) [CODE] From the generated dataset implement a coordinate ascent scheme, updating variational parameters of τ and μ in an alternated way.

```
• begin
•   N = 50
•   mu_0 = 5.0
•   lambda_0 = 2.0
•   a_0 = 1.0
•   b_0 = 2.0
•   tau = rand(Gamma(a_0, b_0))
•   mu = rand(Normal(mu_0, inv(sqrt(tau * lambda_0))))
•   x = rand(Normal(mu, inv(sqrt(tau))), N)
• end;
```



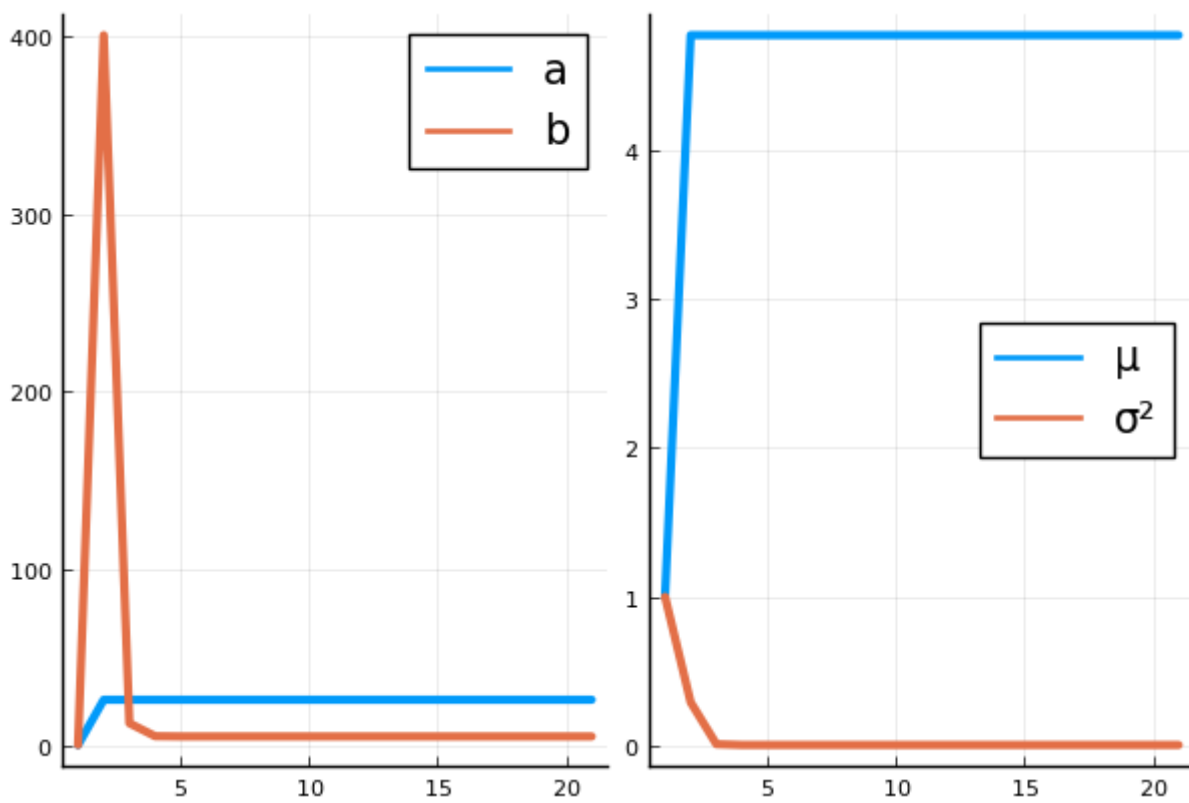
```
• histogram(x, lab="", bins=20, lw=0.1)
```

b_n (generic function with 1 method)

```
• begin
•   expec_μ(x, λ₀, μ₀, n) = (sum(x) + λ₀ * μ₀) / (n + λ₀)
•   var_μ(e_τ, λ₀, n) = inv(e_τ * (n + λ₀))
•   expec_τ(a, b) = a / b
•   shifted_expec(e_mu, var_mu, x) = var_mu + abs2(x - e_mu)
•   a_n(a₀, n) = a₀ + (n + 1)/2
•   b_n(b₀, x, e_mu, var_mu, λ₀, μ₀) = b₀ + 0.5 * (sum(shifted_expec.(e_mu, var_mu,
• x)) + λ₀ * shifted_expec(e_mu, var_mu, μ₀))
• end
```

coordinate_ascent (generic function with 5 methods)

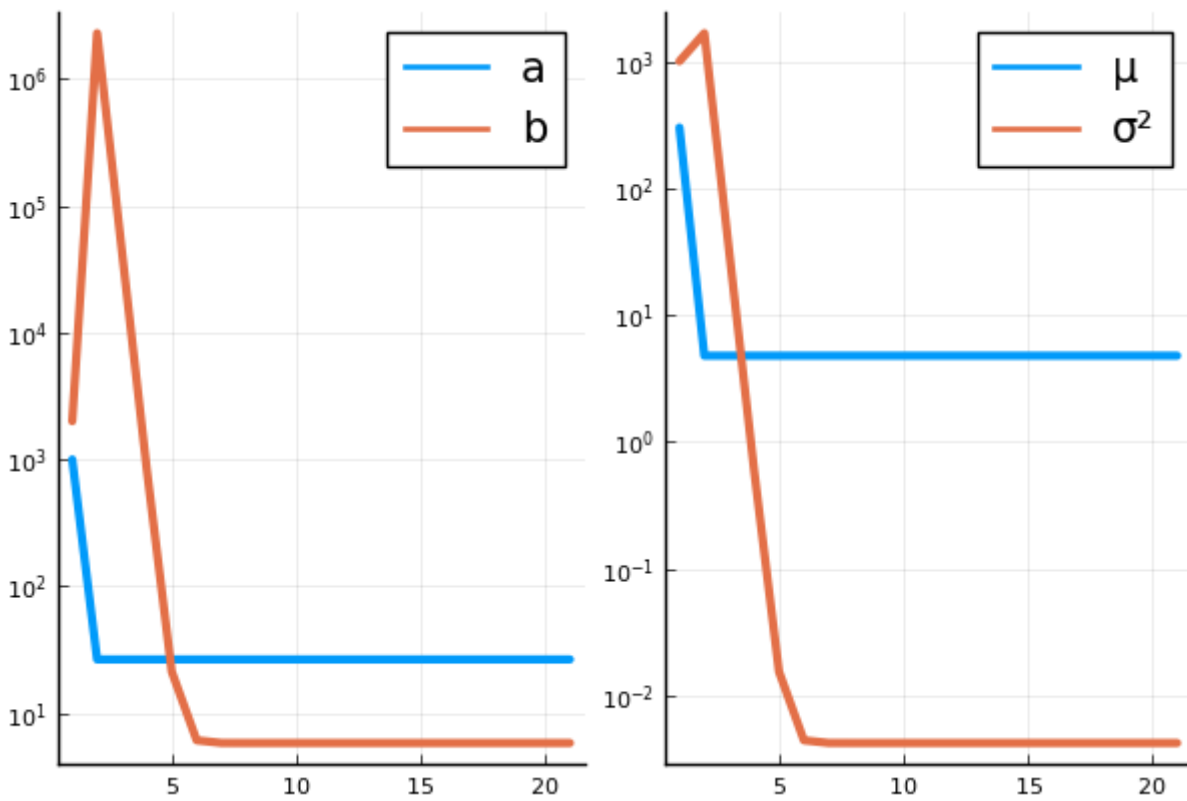
```
• function coordinate_ascent(T, a = 1.0, b = 1.0, μ = 1.0, σ² = 1.0)
•   as = vcat(a, zeros(T))
•   bs = vcat(b, zeros(T))
•   μs = vcat(μ, zeros(T))
•   σs = vcat(σ², zeros(T))
•   for i in 2:T+1
•       a = a_n(a₀, N); as[i] = a;
•       b = b_n(b₀, x, μ, σ², λ₀, μ₀); bs[i] = b
•       e_τ = expec_τ(a, b)
•       μ = expec_μ(x, λ₀, μ₀, N); μs[i] = μ
•       σ² = var_μ(e_τ, λ₀, N); σs[i] = σ²
•   end
•   return as, bs, μs, σs
• end
```



```

• begin
•   T = 20
•   as, bs, mus, os = coordinate_ascent(T)
•   plt1 = plot([as bs], label = ["a" "b"])
•   plt2 = plot([mus os], label = ["μ" "σ²"])
•   plot(plt1, plt2)
• end

```



```

• begin
•   T_hard = 20
•   as_hard, bs_hard, mus_hard, σs_hard = coordinate_ascent(T_hard, 1000, 2000, 300,
1e3)
•   p1 = plot([as_hard bs_hard], label = ["a" "b"], yaxis = :log)
•   p2 = plot([mus_hard σs_hard], label = ["μ" "σ²"], yaxis = :log)
•   plot(p1, p2)
• end

```

```

• struct NormalGamma{T}
•   μ::T
•   λ::T
•   shape::T
•   rate::T
• end

```

```

• function Distributions.logpdf(d::NormalGamma, x::Real, τ::Real)
•   C = d.shape * log(d.rate) - lgamma(d.shape) + 0.5 * (log(d.λ) - log(2π))
•   return C + (d.shape - 0.5) * log(τ) - 0.5 * τ * (d.λ * (x - d.μ)² + 2 * d.rate)
• end

```

```

• struct VariationalDistribution{T1,T2}
•   q1::T1
•   q2::T2
• end

```

```

• function Distributions.logpdf(d::VariationalDistribution, x::Real, τ::Real)
•   return logpdf(d.q1, x) + logpdf(d.q2, τ)
• end

```

```
opt_posterior = NormalGamma(4.7682222302172335, 52.0, 26.0, 5.775007404266209)
```

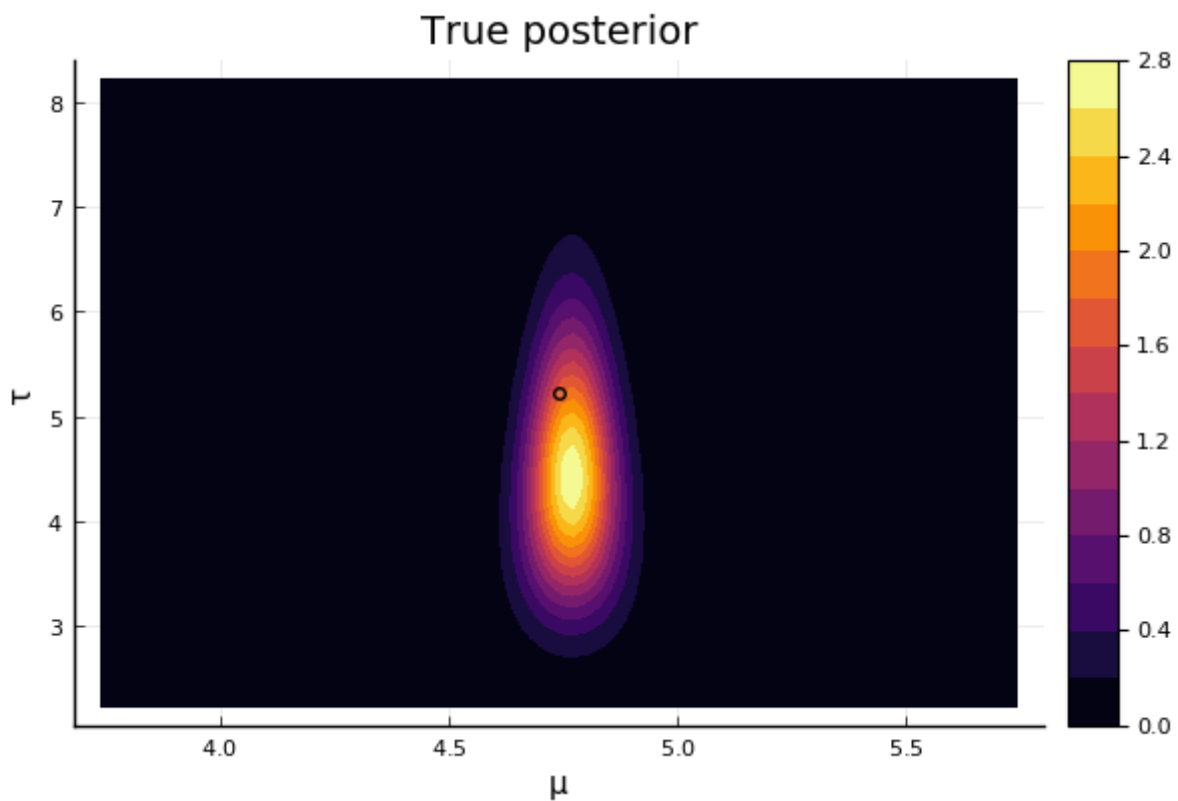
```

• opt_posterior = NormalGamma(
•   (λ₀ * μ₀ + N * mean(x)) / (λ₀ + N),
•   λ₀ + N,
•   a₀ + N / 2,
•   b₀ + 0.5 * (N * var(x) + (λ₀ * N * (mean(x) - μ₀)²) / (λ₀ + N))
• )

```

```
xrange = 3.7406232592167825:0.020202020202020204:5.7406232592167825
```

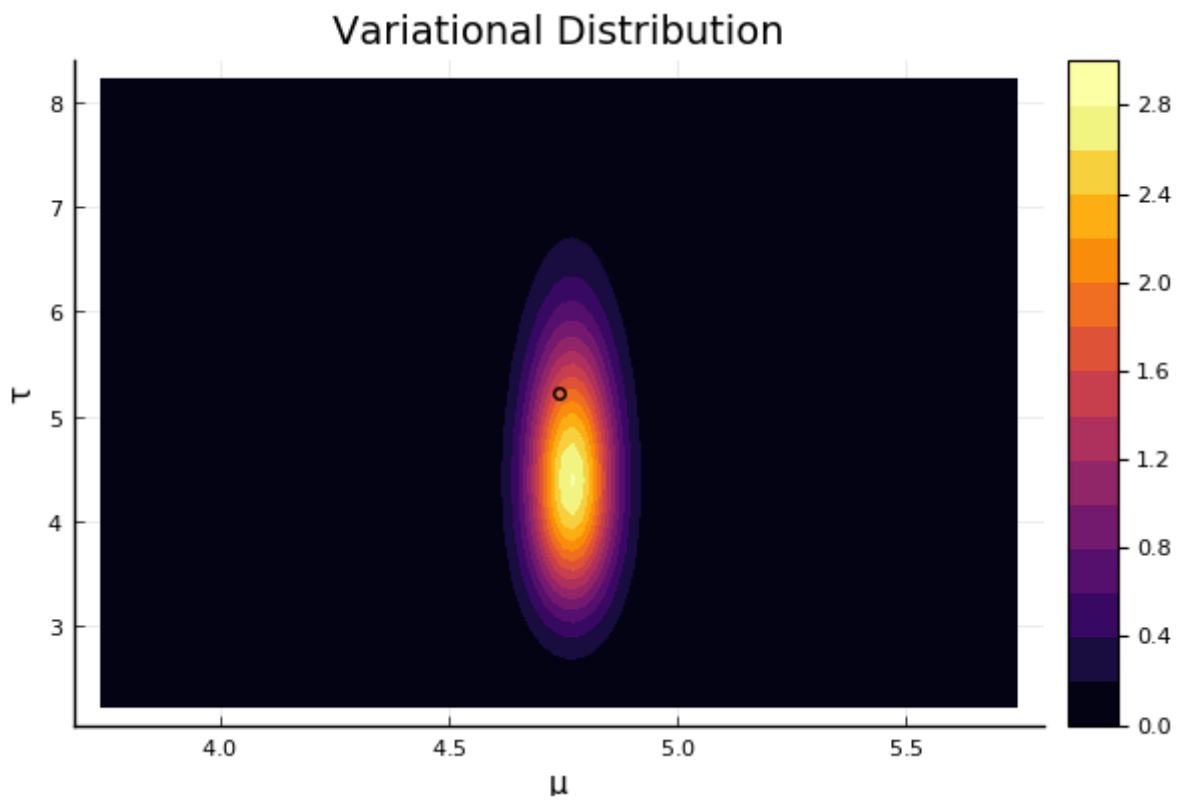
```
yrange = 2.223334152638107:0.060606060606060594:8.223334152638106
```



```
• begin
•   contourf(xrange, yrange, (x,y)->exp(logpdf(opt_posterior, x, y)), title="True
posterior",
•   xlabel="μ", ylabel="τ")
•   scatter!([μ], [τ], lab="")
• end
```

```
!30217234, σ=0.06493410776925966), Distributions.Gamma{Float64}(α=26.5, θ=0.172109573148778
```

```
• opt_variational = VariationalDistribution(
•   Normal(mus[end], sqrt(σs[end])),
•   Gamma(as[end], 1 / bs[end])
• )
```



```
• begin
•   contourf(xrange, yrange, (x,y)->exp(logpdf(opt_variational, x, y)),
•   title="Variational Distribution", xlabel="μ", ylabel="τ")
•   scatter!([μ], [τ], lab="")
• end
```