

# Supplementary Material for Online Message Passing-based Inference in the Hierarchical Gaussian Filter

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## I. DERIVATIONS FOR GCV NODE

In this supplement we derive the update equations that are given in Table I in the ISIT-2020 paper entitled *Online Message Passing-based Inference in the Hierarchical Gaussian Filter*. We use a structured factorization for the parameters  $y, x, z, \kappa, \omega$ , that is we assume

$$q(y, x, z, \kappa, \omega) = q(y, x)q(z)q(\kappa)q(\omega). \quad (1)$$

Before we proceed with the message update rules, we compute intermediate expectations  $\mathbb{E}_{q_{xy}}[(x - y)^2]$ ,  $\mathbb{E}_{q_{z\kappa}}[\exp(\kappa z)]$  and  $\mathbb{E}_{q_\omega}[\exp(\omega)]$  that are needed for computation of messages and marginals. Assuming  $q(x, y) \propto \mathcal{N}(m, \Lambda)$ , where  $m \in \mathbb{R}^2$  is the mean and  $\Lambda \in \mathbb{R}^{2 \times 2}$  is the covariance of the joint distribution, we can write

$$\mathbb{E}_{q_{xy}}[(x - y)^2] = \underbrace{(m_1 - m_2)^2 + \Lambda_{11} + \Lambda_{22} - \Lambda_{21} - \Lambda_{12}}_{\gamma_4}. \quad (2)$$

Following (1) we can approximate the multiplication of two Gaussian random variables with a Gaussian random variable. Assuming independence between  $\kappa$  and  $z$  we write

$$z\kappa \stackrel{\text{approx.}}{\sim} \mathcal{N}(m_z m_\kappa, \underbrace{m_z^2 v_\kappa + m_\kappa^2 v_z + v_z v_\kappa}_{\gamma_1}). \quad (3)$$

This means  $\exp(z\kappa)$  is log-normally distributed with mean and variance as in Eq. 4a. We approximate the joint expectation of this log-normally distributed product of two independent normal random variables as per Eq. 4b. To arrive at Eq. 4b we use the fact that for a log-normally distributed  $z$ , for all  $n \in \mathbb{R}$  all moments are well defined and analytically given by  $\mathbb{E}_{q_z}[z^n] = \exp\left(nm_z + \frac{n^2 v_z}{2}\right)$ . For  $n = -1$  we obtain Eq. 4b.

$$\exp(z\kappa) \stackrel{\text{approx.}}{\sim} \log \mathcal{N}(m_z m_\kappa, \gamma_1) \quad (4a)$$

$$\mathbb{E}_{q_{z\kappa}}[\exp(\kappa z)] \approx \exp\left(m_z m_\kappa + \frac{\gamma_1}{2}\right) \quad (4b)$$

$$\mathbb{E}_{q_{z\kappa}}\left[\frac{1}{\exp(\kappa z)}\right] \approx \exp\left(-m_z m_\kappa + \frac{\gamma_1}{2}\right) \triangleq \gamma_2. \quad (4c)$$

Similarly we can write the expectation for  $\omega$  as

$$\mathbb{E}_{q_\omega}[\exp(\omega)] \approx \exp\left(m_\omega + \frac{v_\omega}{2}\right) \quad (5a)$$

$$\mathbb{E}_{q_\omega}\left[\frac{1}{\exp(\omega)}\right] \approx \exp\left(-m_\omega + \frac{v_\omega}{2}\right) \triangleq \gamma_3. \quad (5b)$$

We are now equipped with the needed expectations to obtain expressions of Table I. We start our derivation with  $\vec{\nu}(y)$ . Using computation results of the paper we can write

$$\vec{\nu}(y) \propto \int \vec{\nu}(x) \tilde{f}(x, y) dx \quad (6a)$$

$$\propto \int \vec{\nu}(x) \exp\left(-0.5 \mathbb{E}_{q_{xy}}\left[\frac{(y - x)^2}{\exp(\kappa z + \omega)}\right]\right) dx. \quad (6b)$$

Let us assume that incoming message is a Gaussian i.e.  $\vec{\nu}(x) \propto \mathcal{N}(x|\vec{m}_x, \vec{v}_x)$ . Using Eq. 5b,4c and recognizing that the integral in Eq. 6b is a convolution of two Gaussian forms we can write

$$\vec{\nu}(y) \propto \int \vec{\nu}(x) \exp(-0.5\gamma_2\gamma_3(y-x)^2) dx \quad (7a)$$

$$\propto \mathcal{N}(\vec{m}_x, \vec{v}_x + \gamma_2\gamma_3). \quad (7b)$$

Assuming  $\overleftarrow{\nu}(y) \propto \mathcal{N}(y|\overleftarrow{m}_y, \overleftarrow{v}_y)$ , we can compute the message  $\overleftarrow{\nu}(x)$  in a similar manner

$$\overleftarrow{\nu}(x) \propto \mathcal{N}(\overleftarrow{m}_y, \overleftarrow{v}_y + \gamma_2\gamma_3). \quad (8)$$

Using  $\overleftarrow{\nu}(y)$ ,  $\vec{\nu}(x)$  and  $\tilde{f}(x, y)$  we can compute the joint by

$$q(x, y) \propto \vec{\nu}(x) \overleftarrow{\nu}(y) \tilde{f}(x, y) \quad (9a)$$

$$\propto \mathcal{N}(x|\vec{m}_x, \vec{v}_x) \mathcal{N}(y|\overleftarrow{m}_y, \overleftarrow{v}_y) \mathcal{N}(y|x, \gamma_2\gamma_3) \quad (9b)$$

$$\propto \mathcal{N}\left(\begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix} \middle| \begin{bmatrix} \vec{m}_x \\ \overleftarrow{m}_y \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} \vec{v}_x & 0 \\ 0 & \overleftarrow{v}_y \end{bmatrix}\right) \mathcal{N}\left(\begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix} \middle| \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \frac{1}{\gamma_2\gamma_3} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 \\ -1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}\right) \quad (9c)$$

$$\propto \mathcal{N}\left(\begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix} \middle| \Lambda^{-1} \begin{bmatrix} \vec{m}_x/\vec{v}_x \\ \overleftarrow{m}_y/\overleftarrow{v}_y \end{bmatrix}, \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} 1/\vec{v}_x + \gamma_2\gamma_3 & -\gamma_2\gamma_3 \\ -\gamma_2\gamma_3 & \overleftarrow{v}_y + \gamma_2\gamma_3 \end{bmatrix}}_{\Lambda}\right). \quad (9d)$$

Eq.(9c) follows by grouping the first two terms of (9b) into a multivariate Gaussian distribution and the last term can be obtained by arranging the quadratic terms of the Gaussian distribution. Note however that the second term of (9c) is not a proper distribution as the determinant of covariance is 0. We can however write the (9d) by noting that summation of two quadratic terms in the exponent of (9c) results in a quadratic term which represents a multivariate Gaussian. Note that (9d) is a proper distribution.

We now compute

$$\overleftarrow{\nu}(z) \propto \exp(\mathbb{E}_{/q_z}[\log f(y, x, z, \kappa, \omega)]) \quad (10a)$$

$$\propto \exp\left(\mathbb{E}_{/q_z}\left[-\frac{\kappa z + \omega}{2}\right] + \mathbb{E}_{/q_z}\left[-\frac{(y-x)^2}{2\exp(\kappa z + \omega)}\right]\right) \quad (10b)$$

$$\propto \exp\left(-0.5\left(zm_\kappa + \underbrace{\frac{\gamma_4\gamma_3}{\exp(zm_\kappa - \frac{z^2 v_\kappa}{2})}}_{\gamma_5}\right)\right) \quad (10c)$$

$$\propto \exp(-0.5(zm_\kappa + \gamma_5)) \quad (10d)$$

where expectations of (10b) are given by (5b) and (2). Similarly for  $\overleftarrow{\nu}(\kappa)$  we can write

$$\overleftarrow{\nu}(\kappa) \propto \exp(\mathbb{E}_{/q_\kappa}[\log f(y, x, z, \kappa, \omega)]) \quad (11a)$$

$$\propto \exp\left(\mathbb{E}_{/q_\kappa}\left[-\frac{\kappa z + \omega}{2}\right] + \mathbb{E}_{/q_\kappa}\left[-\frac{(y-x)^2}{2\exp(\kappa z + \omega)}\right]\right) \quad (11b)$$

$$\propto \exp\left(-0.5\left(\kappa m_z + \underbrace{\frac{\gamma_4\gamma_3}{\exp(\kappa m_z - \frac{\kappa^2 v_z}{2})}}_{\gamma_5}\right)\right) \quad (11c)$$

$$\propto \exp(-0.5(\kappa m_z + \gamma_5)). \quad (11d)$$

TABLE I  
MESSAGE PASSING UPDATE RULES FOR THE GCV NODE.

GCV Node	Auxiliary	
	$\gamma_1$	$m_z^2 v_\kappa + m_\kappa^2 v_z + v_z v_\kappa$
	$\gamma_2$	$\exp(-m_\kappa m_z + 0.5 \gamma_1)$
	$\gamma_3$	$\exp(-m_\omega + 0.5 v_\omega)$
	$\gamma_4$	$(m_1 - m_2)^2 + \Lambda_{11} + \Lambda_{22} - \Lambda_{12} - \Lambda_{21}$
	$\gamma_5$	$\gamma_4 \gamma_3 \exp(-m_\kappa z + 0.5 z^2 v_\kappa)$
	$\gamma_6$	$\gamma_4 \gamma_2 \exp(-\omega)$
	$\gamma_7$	$\gamma_4 \gamma_3 \exp(-m_z \kappa + 0.5 \kappa^2 v_z)$
	$m$	$\Lambda^{-1} \begin{bmatrix} \vec{m}_x / \vec{v}_x \\ \vec{m}_y / \vec{v}_y \end{bmatrix}$
	$\Lambda$	$\begin{bmatrix} 1/\vec{v}_x + \gamma_2 \gamma_3 & -\gamma_2 \gamma_3 \\ -\gamma_2 \gamma_3 & 1/\vec{v}_y + \gamma_2 \gamma_3 \end{bmatrix}$
	<b>Messages</b>	
$\mathcal{N}(y x, \exp(\kappa z + \omega))$	$\overleftarrow{v}(y)$	$\mathcal{N}(\vec{m}_y, \vec{v}_y)$
	$\overrightarrow{v}(y)$	$\mathcal{N}(\vec{m}_x, \vec{v}_x + \gamma_2 \gamma_3)$
	$\overrightarrow{v}(x)$	$\mathcal{N}(\vec{m}_x, \vec{v}_x)$
	$\overleftarrow{v}(x)$	$\mathcal{N}(\vec{m}_y, \vec{v}_y + \gamma_2 \gamma_3)$
	$\overrightarrow{v}(z)$	$\mathcal{N}(\vec{m}_z, \vec{v}_z)$
	$\overleftarrow{v}(z)$	$\exp(-0.5(m_\kappa z + \gamma_5))$
<b>Marginals</b>		
$q(x, y) = \mathcal{N}(m, \Lambda)$	$\overrightarrow{v}(\kappa)$	$\mathcal{N}(\vec{m}_\kappa, \vec{v}_\kappa)$
$q(z) = \mathcal{N}(m_z, v_z)$	$\overleftarrow{v}(\kappa)$	$\exp(-0.5(m_z \kappa + \gamma_6))$
$q(\kappa) = \mathcal{N}(m_\kappa, v_\kappa)$	$\overrightarrow{v}(\omega)$	$\mathcal{N}(\vec{m}_\omega, \vec{v}_\omega)$
$q(\omega) = \mathcal{N}(m_\omega, v_\omega)$	$\overleftarrow{v}(\omega)$	$\exp(-0.5(m_\omega + \gamma_7))$
<b>Entropy</b>		<b>Average Energy</b>
$0.5 \log(2\pi e)^5  \Lambda^{-1}  v_z v_\kappa v_\omega$		$0.5 (\log 2\pi + m_\kappa m_z + m_\omega + \gamma_4 \gamma_3 \gamma_2)$

Last remaining message is towards  $\omega$ . We compute

$$\overleftarrow{v}(\omega) \propto \exp(\mathbb{E}_{/q_\omega}[\log f(y, x, z, \kappa, \omega)]) \quad (12a)$$

$$\propto \exp\left(\mathbb{E}_{/q_\omega}\left[-\frac{\kappa z + \omega}{2}\right] + \mathbb{E}_{/q_\omega}\left[-\frac{(y-x)^2}{2 \exp(\kappa z + \omega)}\right]\right) \quad (12b)$$

$$\propto \exp\left(-0.5 \left(\omega + \underbrace{\frac{\gamma_4 \gamma_2}{\exp(\omega)}}_{\gamma_7}\right)\right) \quad (12c)$$

$$\propto \exp(-0.5(\omega + \gamma_7)). \quad (12d)$$

This completes the derivation of messages presented in Table I.

#### REFERENCES

- [1] L. A. Aroian, "The Probability Function of the Product of Two Normally Distributed Variables," *The Annals of Mathematical Statistics*, vol. 18, no. 2, pp. 265–271, Jun. 1947. [Online]. Available: <https://projecteuclid.org/euclid.aoms/1177730442>