

# DPGMM Variational Inference

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This document contains the evidence lower bound and updates for variational inference in a Dirichlet Process isotropic Gaussian mixture model, as well as their derivations.

## 1 Setup

### 1.1 Variables

$X$  : data

$N$  : number of datapoints

$D$  : dimensionality of data

$i$  : datapoint index

$T$  : truncation parameter, i.e., number of clusters in variational distribution

$k$  : cluster index

$\phi_k$  : cluster stick-breaking proportion

$\mu_k$  : cluster mean

$\tau_k$  : cluster precision

$z_i = k$  : assignment of datapoint  $i$  to cluster  $k$

### 1.2 Model, $P$

We use the ‘rate’ or ‘inverse-scale’ parametrization of the Gamma distribution, and the stick breaking process view of the Dirichlet process.

$$\phi_k \sim \text{Beta}(1, \alpha)$$

$$\mu_k \sim \text{Gaussian}(0, \mathbf{I})$$

$$\tau_k \sim \text{Gamma}(\text{shape} = 1, \text{rate} = 1)$$

$$z_i \sim \text{SBP}(\phi)$$

$$x_i \sim \text{Gaussian}(\mu_{z_i}, \frac{1}{\tau_{z_i}} \mathbf{I})$$

### 1.3 Variational distribution, $Q$

We use the truncated mean-field variational approximation set out in [Blei and Jordan](#), with the variational distribution factorising as:

$$Q(\phi, \mu, \tau, \mathbf{z}) = \prod_{k=1}^T Q_{\phi_k}(\phi_k) Q_{\mu_k}(\mu_k) Q_{\tau_k}(\tau_k) \prod_{i=1}^N Q_{z_i}(z_i)$$

$$\begin{aligned}\phi_k &\sim \text{Beta}(\lambda_{k,1}, \lambda_{k,2}) \\ \mu_k &\sim \text{Gaussian}(\nu_k, \mathbf{I}) \\ \tau_k &\sim \text{Gamma}(a_k, b_k) \\ z_i &\sim \text{Discrete}(\xi_i)\end{aligned}$$

Where the distribution is clear from context, we omit the subscript on  $Q$  and write simply  $Q(\phi_k)$  or  $\mathbb{E}_{\phi_k \sim Q}[\dots]$

## 2 Evidence lower bound

Maximizing the evidence lower bound provides the variational updates.

$$\begin{aligned}\log P(X) &\geq \sum_{k=1}^T \mathbb{E}_{\phi_k \sim Q} [\log P(\phi_k) - \log Q(\phi_k)] \\ &\quad + \sum_{k=1}^T \mathbb{E}_{\mu_k \sim Q} [\log P(\mu_k) - \log Q(\mu_k)] \\ &\quad + \sum_{k=1}^T \mathbb{E}_{\tau_k \sim Q} [\log P(\tau_k) - \log Q(\tau_k)] \\ &\quad + \sum_{i=1}^N \mathbb{E}_{\phi, z_i \sim Q} [\log P(z_i | \phi) - \log Q(z_i)] \\ &\quad + \sum_{i=1}^N \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{z}, \mu, \tau \sim Q} [\log P(x_i | \mu_{z_i}, \tau_{z_i})]\end{aligned}$$

### 2.1 $\phi_k$ term

This bound is equal to the negative [KL divergence between Beta distributions](#).

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathbb{E}_{\phi_k \sim Q} [\log P(\phi_k) - \log Q(\phi_k)] &= -D_{KL}(Q_{\phi_k} || P_{\phi_k}) \\
&= \log \Gamma(1 + \alpha) - \log \Gamma(\alpha) \\
&\quad + (\alpha - 1)(\Psi(\lambda_{k,2}) - \Psi(\lambda_{k,1} + \lambda_{k,2})) \\
&\quad - \log \Gamma(\lambda_{k,1} + \lambda_{k,2}) + \log \Gamma(\lambda_{k,1}) + \log \Gamma(\lambda_{k,2}) \\
&\quad - (\lambda_{k,1} - 1)(\Psi(\lambda_{k,1}) - \Psi(\lambda_{k,1} + \lambda_{k,2})) \\
&\quad - (\lambda_{k,2} - 1)(\Psi(\lambda_{k,2}) - \Psi(\lambda_{k,1} + \lambda_{k,2}))
\end{aligned}$$

## 2.2 $\mu_k$ term

The bound is equal to the negative [KL divergence between isotropic Gaussians](#).

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathbb{E}_{\mu_k \sim Q} [\log P(\mu_k) - \log Q(\mu_k)] &= -D_{KL}(Q_{\mu_k} || P_{\mu_k}) \\
&= -\frac{1}{2} ||\nu_k||^2
\end{aligned}$$

## 2.3 $\tau_k$ term

The bound is equal to the negative [KL divergence between Gamma distributions](#).

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathbb{E}_{\tau_k \sim Q} [\log P(\tau_k) - \log Q(\tau_k)] &= -D_{KL}(Q_{\tau_k} || P_{\tau_k}) \\
&= \log \Gamma(a_k) - (a_k - 1)\Psi(a_k) - \log(b_k) + a_k - \frac{a_k}{b_k}
\end{aligned}$$

## 2.4 $z_i$ term

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathbb{E}_{\phi, z_i \sim Q} [\log P(z_i | \phi) - \log Q(z_i)] &= \sum_{k=1}^T \zeta_{i,k} \left[ -\log(\zeta_{i,k}) + \Psi(\lambda_{1,k}) - \Psi(\lambda_{1,k} + \lambda_{2,k}) \right. \\
&\quad \left. + \sum_{j=1}^{k-1} \left( \Psi(\lambda_{j,2}) - \Psi(\lambda_{1,j} + \lambda_{2,j}) \right) \right]
\end{aligned}$$

For convenience later, we define:

$$\eta_{z_i,k} = \Psi(\lambda_{1,k}) - \Psi(\lambda_{1,k} + \lambda_{2,k}) + \sum_{j=1}^{k-1} \left( \Psi(\lambda_{j,2}) - \Psi(\lambda_{1,j} + \lambda_{2,j}) \right)$$

### 2.4.1 Derivation

The stick breaking process gives:

$$P(z_i = k) = \phi_k \prod_{j=1}^{k-1} (1 - \phi_j)$$

To derive the bound, we use the following properties of a Beta-distributed variable  $B \sim \text{Beta}(b_1, b_2)$ : 1)  $\mathbb{E}[\log B] = \Psi(b_1) - \Psi(b_1 + b_2)$ , 2)  $1 - B \sim \text{Beta}(b_2, b_1)$ .

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E}_{\phi, z_i \sim Q} [\log P(z_i | \phi) - \log Q(z_i)] &= \mathbb{E}_{z_i \sim Q} \left[ \mathbb{E}_{\phi \sim Q} \left[ \log \phi_{z_i} + \sum_{j=1}^{z_i-1} \log(1 - \phi_j) - \log(\zeta_i) \right] \right] \\ &= \mathbb{E}_{z_i \sim Q} \left[ \mathbb{E}_{\phi \sim Q} [\log \phi_{z_i}] + \sum_{j=1}^{z_i-1} \mathbb{E}_{\phi \sim Q} [\log(1 - \phi_j)] - \log(\zeta_i) \right] \\ &= \mathbb{E}_{z_i \sim Q} \left[ \Psi(\lambda_{z_i,1}) - \Psi(\lambda_{z_i,1} + \lambda_{z_i,2}) \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \sum_{j=1}^{z_i-1} (\Psi(\lambda_{z_j,1}) - \Psi(\lambda_{z_j,1} + \lambda_{z_j,2})) - \log(\zeta_i) \right] \end{aligned}$$

Taking the expectation with respect to  $Q(z_i)$  gives the stated bound.

### 2.5 $x_i$ term

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{z}, \mu, \tau \sim Q} [\log P(x_i | \mu_{z_i}, \tau_{z_i})] &= \sum_{k=1}^T \zeta_{i,k} \left( -\frac{D}{2} (\log(2\pi) - \Psi(a_k) + \log(b_k)) \right. \\ &\quad \left. - \frac{a}{2b} \left( \|x_i - \nu_k\|^2 + \frac{\Gamma(1.5)}{(2\pi)^{\frac{D}{2}} 0.5^{1.5}} \right) \right) \end{aligned}$$

For convenience later, we define:

$$\eta_{x_{i,k}} = -\frac{D}{2} (\log(2\pi) - \Psi(a_k) + \log(b_k)) - \frac{a}{2b} \left( \|x_i - \nu_k\|^2 + \frac{\Gamma(1.5)}{(2\pi)^{\frac{D}{2}} 0.5^{1.5}} \right)$$

### 2.5.1 Derivation

First taking the expectation with respect to  $Q(z_i)$ :

$$\begin{aligned}
& \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{z}, \boldsymbol{\mu}, \boldsymbol{\tau} \sim Q} [\log P(x_i | \mu_{z_i}, \tau_{z_i})] \\
&= \sum_{k=1}^T \zeta_{i,k} \mathbb{E}_{\tau_k \sim Q} \left[ \mathbb{E}_{\mu_k \sim Q} [\log P(x_i | \mu_k, \tau_k)] \right] \\
&= \sum_{k=1}^T \zeta_{i,k} \mathbb{E}_{\tau_k \sim Q} \left[ \mathbb{E}_{\mu_k \sim Q} [\log N(x_i; \mu_k, \frac{1}{\tau_k} \mathbf{I})] \right] \\
&= \sum_{k=1}^T \zeta_{i,k} \mathbb{E}_{\tau_k \sim Q} \left[ \int_{\mu_k} N(\mu_k; \nu_k, \mathbf{I}) \log N(x_i; \mu_k, \frac{1}{\tau_k} \mathbf{I}) d\mu_k \right] \quad (1)
\end{aligned}$$

First looking at the integral inside the expectation:

$$\begin{aligned}
& \int_{\mu_k} N(\mu_k; \nu_k, \mathbf{I}) \log N(x_i; \mu_k, \frac{1}{\tau_k} \mathbf{I}) d\mu_k \\
&= \int_{\mu_k} (2\pi)^{\frac{D}{2}} \exp(-\frac{1}{2} \|\mu_k - \nu_k\|^2) \left( -\frac{D}{2} \log\left(\frac{2\pi}{\tau_k}\right) - \frac{\tau_k}{2} \|x_i - \mu_k\|^2 \right) d\mu_k \\
&= -\frac{D}{2} \log\left(\frac{2\pi}{\tau_k}\right) + \int_{\mu_k} (2\pi)^{\frac{D}{2}} \exp(-\frac{1}{2} \|\mu_k - \nu_k\|^2) \left( -\frac{\tau_k}{2} (x_i^2 - 2\mu_k x_i + \mu_k^2) \right) d\mu_k
\end{aligned}$$

To compute this integral, we use a change of variables  $m = \mu_k - \nu_k$  and the [equation](#)  $\int_0^\infty m^n e^{-am^2} dm = \frac{\Gamma(\frac{n+1}{2})}{2a^{\frac{n+1}{2}}}$ :

$$\begin{aligned}
& \int_{\mu_k} (2\pi)^{\frac{D}{2}} \exp(-\frac{1}{2} \|\mu_k - \nu_k\|^2) \left( -\frac{\tau_k}{2} (x_i^2 - 2\mu_k x_i + \mu_k^2) \right) d\mu_k \\
&= \int_m (2\pi)^{\frac{D}{2}} \exp(-\frac{1}{2} m^2) \left( -\frac{\tau_k}{2} (\|x_i - \nu_k\|^2 + (2\nu_k - 2x_i)m + m^2) \right) dm \\
&= -\frac{\tau_k}{2} \left( \|x_i - \nu_k\|^2 + \frac{\Gamma(1.5)}{(2\pi)^{\frac{D}{2}} 0.5^{1.5}} \right)
\end{aligned}$$

The term linear in  $m$  equals 0 because it is an odd function. Overall,

$$\begin{aligned}
& \int_{\mu_k} N(\mu_k; \nu_k, \mathbf{I}) \log N(x_i; \mu_k, \frac{1}{\tau_k} \mathbf{I}) d\mu_k \\
&= -\frac{D}{2} \log\left(\frac{2\pi}{\tau_k}\right) - \frac{\tau_k}{2} \left( \|x_i - \nu_k\|^2 + \frac{\Gamma(1.5)}{(2\pi)^{\frac{D}{2}} 0.5^{1.5}} \right) \quad (2)
\end{aligned}$$

Now, substituting (2) into (1) and taking the expectation with respect to  $Q(\tau_k)$ :

$$\begin{aligned}
& \sum_{k=1}^T \zeta_{i,k} \mathbb{E}_{\tau_k \sim Q} \left[ \mathbb{E}_{\mu_k \sim Q} [\log P(x_i | \mu_k, \tau_k)] \right] \\
&= \sum_{k=1}^T \zeta_{i,k} \mathbb{E}_{\tau_k \sim Q} \left[ -\frac{D}{2} \log\left(\frac{2\pi}{\tau_k}\right) - \frac{\tau_k}{2} \left( \|x_i - \nu_k\|^2 + \frac{\Gamma(1.5)}{(2\pi)^{\frac{D}{2}} 0.5^{1.5}} \right) \right] \\
&= \sum_{k=1}^T \zeta_{i,k} \left( -\frac{D}{2} (\log(2\pi) - \mathbb{E}_{\tau_k \sim Q} [\log(\tau_k)]) - \frac{\mathbb{E}_{\tau_k \sim Q} [\tau_k]}{2} \left( \|x_i - \nu_k\|^2 + \frac{\Gamma(1.5)}{(2\pi)^{\frac{D}{2}} 0.5^{1.5}} \right) \right)
\end{aligned}$$

For  $G \sim \text{Gamma}(g_1, g_2)$  with a rate parametrization,  $\mathbb{E}[G] = \frac{g_1}{g_2}$  and  $\mathbb{E}[\log(G)] = \Psi(g_1) - \log(g_2)$ . Using these gives the stated bound.

### 3 Variational updates

#### 3.1 $\lambda$ updates

[Blei and Jordan](#) present the updates for the cluster probabilities in equations (18) and (19).

$$\begin{aligned}
\lambda_{k,1} &= 1 + \sum_i \zeta_{i,k} \\
\lambda_{k,2} &= \alpha + \sum_i \sum_{j>k} \zeta_{i,j}
\end{aligned}$$

#### 3.2 $\nu$ update

$$\nu_k = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^N \frac{\zeta_{i,k} a_k}{b_k} x_i}{1 + \sum_{i=1}^N \frac{\zeta_{i,k} a_k}{b_k}}$$

##### 3.2.1 Derivation

Taking the derivative of the evidence lower bound with respect to  $\nu_k$  gives:

$$\frac{\delta L}{\delta \nu_k} = -\nu_k + \sum_{i=1}^N \frac{\zeta_{i,k} a_k}{b_k} (x_i - \nu_k)$$

Setting this to zero and solving for  $\nu_k$  gives the update.

### 3.3 $a$ and $b$ updates

$$a_k = 1 + \frac{D}{2} \sum_{i=1}^N \zeta_{i,k}$$

$$b_k = 1 + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^N \zeta_{i,k} \left( \|x_i - \nu_k\|^2 + \frac{\Gamma(1.5)}{(2\pi)^{\frac{D}{2}} 0.5^{1.5}} \right)$$

#### 3.3.1 Derivation

Rather than maximising the ELBO with respect to  $a$  and  $b$  directly (which does not yield a closed-form derivative), we instead maximise the ELBO directly with respect to  $Q_\tau$  and show that the result takes the functional form of a Gamma distribution for some particular  $a$  and  $b$ .

Using the [calculus of variations](#), the optimal  $Q_\tau$  can be shown to be

$$Q(\tau_{k^*}) \propto \exp \left( \mathbb{E}_{\phi, \mathbf{z}, \boldsymbol{\mu}, \boldsymbol{\tau}_{-k^*} \sim Q} P(\phi, \mathbf{z}, \boldsymbol{\mu}, \boldsymbol{\tau}, X) \right)$$

Collecting all constant factors with respect to  $\tau_{k^*}$ , we get:

$$\begin{aligned} \log Q(\tau_{k^*}) &= \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{z}, \boldsymbol{\mu}, \boldsymbol{\tau}_{-k^*} \sim Q} [\log(P(\tau_{k^*}) + \log(P(X|\mathbf{z}, \boldsymbol{\mu}, \boldsymbol{\tau}_{-k^*}, \tau_{k^*})))] + \text{Const.} \\ &= \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{z}, \boldsymbol{\mu}, \boldsymbol{\tau}_{-k^*} \sim Q} [\log \text{Gamma}(\tau_{k^*}; 1, 1) + \sum_{i=1}^N \log(N(x_i; \mu_{z_i}, \frac{1}{\tau_{z_i}} \mathbf{I}))] + \text{Const.} \\ &= \log \text{Gamma}(\tau_{k^*}; 1, 1) + \sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{k=1}^T \zeta_{i,k} \mathbb{E}_{\boldsymbol{\mu}, \boldsymbol{\tau}_{-k^*} \sim Q} [\log N(x_i; \mu_{z_i}, \frac{1}{\tau_{z_i}} \mathbf{I})] + \text{Const.} \\ &= \log \text{Gamma}(\tau_{k^*}; 1, 1) + \sum_{i=1}^N \zeta_{i,k^*} \mathbb{E}_{\boldsymbol{\mu} \sim Q} [\log N(x_i; \mu_{k^*}, \frac{1}{\tau_{k^*}} \mathbf{I})] + \text{Const.} \end{aligned}$$

Substituting in equation (2):

$$\begin{aligned}
\log Q(\tau_{k^*}) &= \log \text{Gamma}(\tau_{k^*}; 1, 1) \\
&+ \sum_{i=1}^N \zeta_{i,k^*} \left( -\frac{D}{2} \log \left( \frac{2\pi}{\tau_{k^*}} \right) - \frac{\tau_{k^*}}{2} \left( \|x_i - \nu_{k^*}\|^2 + \frac{\Gamma(1.5)}{(2\pi)^{\frac{D}{2}} 0.5^{1.5}} \right) \right) \\
&+ \text{Const.} \\
&= -\tau_{k^*} - \tau_{k^*} \sum_{i=1}^N \frac{\zeta_{i,k^*}}{2} \left( \|x_i - \nu_{k^*}\|^2 - \frac{\Gamma(1.5)}{(2\pi)^{\frac{D}{2}} (0.5)^{1.5}} \right) \\
&+ \log(\tau_{k^*}) \sum_{i=1}^N \frac{\zeta_{i,k^*} D}{2} + \text{Const.}
\end{aligned}$$

Gathering up the terms containing  $\tau_k$  and  $\log(\tau_k)$ , one can show that this is the expression for the log of a Gamma distribution with shape parameter  $a$  and rate parameter  $b$  equal to the updates above.

### 3.4 $\zeta$ update

Using the  $\eta$  terms defined in the sections on the  $z$  and  $x$  terms of the ELBO, which are constant with respect to  $\zeta$ :

$$\zeta_{i,k} = \frac{\exp(\eta_{z_{i,k}} + \eta_{x_{i,k}} - 1)}{\sum_{j=1}^T \exp(\eta_{z_{i,j}} + \eta_{x_{i,j}} - 1)}$$

#### 3.4.1 Derivation

To maximize the ELBO with respect to  $\zeta_{\mathbf{i}}$  subject to  $\sum_k \zeta_{i,k} = 1$ , we use Lagrange multipliers. (The  $\lambda$  below is not the variational parameter.)

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathcal{L}(\zeta_{\mathbf{i}}, \lambda) &= \left( \sum_{j=1}^T \zeta_{i,j} \left[ -\log(\zeta_{i,j}) + \eta_{z_{i,j}} \right] + \sum_{j=1}^T \zeta_{i,j} \eta_{x_{i,j}} \right) - \lambda \left( \sum_k \zeta_{i,k} - 1 \right) \\
\frac{\delta \mathcal{L}(\zeta_{\mathbf{i}}, \lambda)}{\delta \zeta_{i,k}} &= \left( -1 - \log(\zeta_{i,k}) + \eta_{z_{i,k}} + \eta_{x_{i,k}} \right) - \lambda \\
\frac{\delta \mathcal{L}(\zeta_{\mathbf{i}}, \lambda)}{\delta \lambda} &= 1 - \sum_{j=1}^T \zeta_{i,j}
\end{aligned}$$

Setting these partial derivatives to 0 and solving for  $\zeta_{i,k}$  gives the stated update.