

**Exercise J-4.1:** A classic example of maximum likelihood estimation is due to Fisher (1925, *Statistical Methods for Research Workers*. Oliver and Boyd: Edinburgh.) and arises in a genetic problem. Consider a multinomial observation  $\mathbf{x} = (x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4)$  with class probabilities given by

$$\begin{aligned} p_1 &= \frac{2 + \theta}{4} \\ p_2 &= \frac{1 - \theta}{4} \\ p_3 &= \frac{1 - \theta}{4} \\ p_4 &= \theta/4, \end{aligned}$$

where  $0 < \theta < 1$ . The parameter  $\theta$  is to be estimated using maximum likelihood estimation based on the observed frequencies  $x_1 = 1997$ ,  $x_2 = 907$ ,  $x_3 = 904$ ,  $x_4 = 32$ .

- a) **[10 points]** The EM algorithm for this problem was derived in class. Write an R function that implements the EM algorithm obtained, implementing the following specific instructions: Stop your algorithm when either of the following criteria is satisfied:

- The number of iterations reaches 200
- The modified relative error (as defined below) is less than *tolerr*. The tolerance values should be an input to your program.

Run your program using the starting value  $\theta^{(0)} = 0.02$  and *tolerr* =  $1e-6$ . Your printed output should nicely include the following quantities at iteration  $n = 1, 2, \dots$ :

- Iteration number  $n$  (2 digits, no decimals)
- Value of  $\theta^{(n)}$  (12 decimal places)
- Value of the modified relative error (use 1 decimal with exponent notation, e.g.  $2.0e-07$ )

$$\text{Relative error} \approx \frac{|\theta^{(n+1)} - \theta^{(n)}|}{\max(1, |\theta^{(n+1)}|)}$$

- b) **[3 points]** The exact solution to this problem is  $\theta^* = (-1657 + \sqrt{3728689})/7680$ . Numerically determine whether the EM algorithm is linearly, super-linearly, or quadratically convergent for this problem.

**Exercise J-4.2:** Suppose that  $y_1, y_2, \dots, y_n$  is a set of data from a three component mixture density

$$\alpha f_1(y; \boldsymbol{\theta}_1) + \beta f_2(y; \boldsymbol{\theta}_2) + (1 - \alpha - \beta) f_3(y; \boldsymbol{\theta}_3),$$

where  $f_i(y; \boldsymbol{\theta}_i) = (2\pi\sigma^2)^{-1/2} e^{-(y-\mu_i)^2/2\sigma^2}$  is the  $N(\mu_i, \sigma^2)$  density. Here  $\boldsymbol{\theta}_i = (\mu_i, \sigma^2)$  for  $i = 1, 2, 3$ .

- [3 points]** Plot a density histogram of the variable  $y$  in the dataset ExJ42, and superimpose it by a Kernel smoother.
- [5 points]** Derive the EM algorithm for estimating the mixture parameters  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  and the parameters  $\mu_1, \mu_2, \mu_3$ , and  $\sigma^2$ . Write your pseudo algorithm.

c) [10 points] Write an R function to code the EM algorithm in part (b) with the following input variables:

- i. Data:  $\mathbf{y} = (y_1, \dots, y_n)$ , an  $n \times 1$  vector of data
- ii. Parameter initial values:  $\boldsymbol{\theta} = (\alpha, \beta, \mu_1, \mu_2, \mu_3, \sigma^2)$ , a 6 by 1 vector
- iii. Maximum number of iterations: An upper-bound for the maximum number of iterations
- iv. Tolerance: a for the maximum relative error (MRE) stopping criterion as a stopping rule.

Your function should output the iteration process including iteration number, value of the lolog-likelihood at each iteration, and the MRE. At the end the MLE estimates for  $\alpha$  and  $\beta, \mu_1, \mu_2, \mu_3$ , and  $\sigma^2$  should be printed. Then, use your function to fit the three component mixture model to the data given in the dataset ExJ42.

d) [4 points] Again graph a density histogram of the data, and superimpose the histogram by the three component normal mixture density with parameters obtained as in part (c).

e) [5 points] Compute the posterior probability of belonging to group 1, 2, and 3 for each case, and classify each case to one of the three groups based on the highest posterior probability. Then show your result graphically as follows: Draw a graph, with the x-axis indicating case number, and the y-axis including the group numbers 1, 2, 3. Then use red, green, and blue dots to indicate cases that are assigned to Groups 1, 2, and 3 respectively on the graph. Do you see a pattern, and if so, what does the pattern indicate about the classification of the cases?