Unsupervised Learning with discrete latent variable models

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M2 Data-Science 2023-2024



Organization

Thursdays 8h30 - 11h45, this room.

 $6 \times 3h$ classes

1h30 class + 1h30 practical session (except today)

Important: you need one computer/person for practical sessions

Evaluation

- 1 CC: assiduity, practical session
- 2 Final exam on Friday 12th January, 2024
- $\mathbf{3} \max(\mathrm{Exam}, \mathrm{mean}(\mathrm{Exam}, \mathrm{CC}))$

Bibliography & relevant sources

- Kevin P. Murphy (2022). Probabilistic Machine Learning: An introduction. MIT Press
- Trevor Hastie et al. (2001). *The Elements of Statistical Learning*. Springer Series in Statistics. New York, NY, USA
- Christopher M. Bishop (2007). Pattern Recognition and Machine Learning (Information Science and Statistics). Springer

Some relevant lecture/slides on the topic for a different point-of-view (♠notations)

S. Robin lectures

Introduction

Types of statistical learning

Supervised

Data $\mathcal{D} = \{(x_i, y_i)\}_{i=1}^n$ with y_i an output (response) and x_i some features (covariates). The goal is to learn a good predictor \hat{f} such that $y_i \approx \hat{f}(x_i)$ that generalizes well on new data.

Unsupervised (this course)

The data $\mathcal{D}=\{x_i\}_{i=1}^n$ The goal is to learn "interesting" and hidden structure in the data to

- partition the data, aka clustering
- visualize/compress the data, aka dimension reduction

Generative models: posit a statistical model on the distribution of (X_i)

Many flavors in modern ML

semi-supervised, self-supervised, reinforcement learning, multi-task, etc.

(Discrete) latent variables models for unsupervised learning

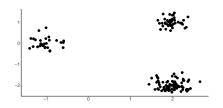
ightharpoonup we will assume the generative process of X involves an unobserved (latent) variable Z

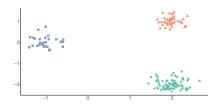
(Discrete) latent variables models for unsupervised learning

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Clustering

 \boldsymbol{X} is an unlabeled observation and \boldsymbol{Z} its group membership



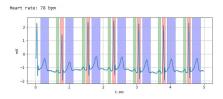


(Discrete) latent variables models for unsupervised learning

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Time series segmentation

X is the temporal signal and Z the cardiac phase



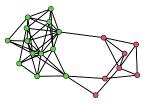
Example of ECG annotation, source: https://medium.com/data-analysis-center/56f8b9abd83a

(Discrete) latent variables models for unsupervised learning

ightharpoonup we will assume the generative process of X involves an unobserved (latent) variable Z

Node clustering in a network





X is the graph (connection between node) and Z the group of the node (community)

Course outline

- 1 Fundamentals of Bayesian statistics
- 2 Clustering with mixture models
- 3 Inference in latent variable models: the EM algorithm
- 4 Hidden Markov Models (HMMs)
- 5 Stochastic Block Model: an introduction to variational inference

Fundamentals of Bayesian statistics

Bayes formula

Frequentist inference

Assumption: the observation $\boldsymbol{x}=(x_1,\ldots,x_n)\in\mathcal{X}^n$ is a realization of a random vector $\boldsymbol{X}=\{X_1,\ldots,X_n\}$ with distribution p_{θ^\star} .

Posit: a statistical model $\{p_{\theta}, \ \theta \in \Theta\}$, *i.e.* a family of parametric distribution on \mathcal{X}^n

Goal: Provide an estimate $\hat{\theta}$ of θ^* . ¹

Maximum-likelihood estimation

Find the model, hence θ , that maximizes the probability of having seen the data

$$\hat{\theta}_n \in \operatorname*{arg\,max} \log p_{\theta}(x_1, \dots, x_n)$$
 (MLE)

11/98

¹and eventually derive theoretical guarantees such as convergence and confidence intervals on $\hat{\theta}_n(X_1,\ldots,X_n)$ (e.g. via central limit theorem)

The Bayesian paradigm

Maximum-likelihood and frequentist statistics produces point estimates

Paradigm shift: random parameters

Parameters θ are no longer treated as deterministic but as random quantities. The prior distribution, denoted as $\pi(\theta)$, encodes knowledge & uncertainty we have on the parameters **before** seeing new data.

→ the goal is to update this a priori knowledge when new data comes: this is the essence of Bayes formula.

A bit of history...

The terminology *Bayesian* has been coined that way thanks to the work of Reverend Thomas Bayes (1701-1761) and his posthumous *essay in view of solving the doctrine of chance*. Pierre-Simon Laplace independently proposed a version in 1774.

N.B.: this course will not settle the somewhat sterile debate "Bayesian VS Frequentist".

Bayes formula

Equipped with a prior $\pi(\theta)$, we posit an observational model on $X \mid \theta \iff$ the likelihood. Bayesian modelization essentially adds one layer to frequentist models : the prior.

1.
$$\theta \sim \pi$$
, (prior)

$$2. \quad X \mid \theta \sim p(\cdot \mid \theta) = p_{\theta} \quad \text{(likelihood)}.$$

The posterior

Given a realization x, we update our prior via a new distribution called the *posterior*:

$$\pi(\theta \mid x) = \frac{p(x \mid \theta)\pi(\theta)}{Z},$$
 (Bayes formula)

Here, $Z=\int_{\Theta}p(x\mid\theta)\pi(\theta)\,\mathrm{d}\theta$ is a normalization constant, independent of θ . Thus, it is common to write

$$\pi(\theta \mid x) \propto p(x \mid \theta)\pi(\theta)$$

^aAlthough computing this normalization constant is generally a challenging task in Bayesian statistics.

Choosing a prior

Expert knowledge

The prior π may be used to represent any available expert knowledge on θ .

Conjugate priors

When the prior π and the posterior $\pi(\cdot \mid x)$ belong to the same family of distributions (e.g. Gaussian, Beta, etc.), then we say that the prior is *conjugate* to the observational model $p(x \mid \theta)$. \longrightarrow Skip to an example

Conjugate priors are widely used as they greatly simplify computations.

Uninformative prior

When the prior equally charges Θ we say that the prior is uninformative, noted $\pi(\theta) \propto 1$. Obviously, $\pi \propto 1$ does not always define a proper p.d.f. (consider $\Theta = \mathbb{R}$). Still, as long as the posterior is well defined (*i.e.* the normalization constant Z exists and is finite) then we can still use the posterior $\pi(\theta \mid x)$ and the prior is improper.

Example of conjugacy: the Beta-Binomial model (1)

Experiment & question Given a sequence of independent coin flips $x = \{x_1, \dots, x_n\}$, determine the probability of getting tail.

Observational model: the likelihood

Given a probability of tail θ , we model the random vector $\boldsymbol{X}=(X_1,\ldots,X_n)$ as i.i.d. Bernoulli $X_i\sim Ber(\theta)$ so that

$$p(\boldsymbol{X} \mid \boldsymbol{\theta}) = \prod_{i=1}^{n} Ber(x_i \mid \boldsymbol{\theta}) = \boldsymbol{\theta}^{\sum_i x_i} (1 - \boldsymbol{\theta})^{\sum_i 1 - x_i}.$$

Choice of a prior

We use Beta distribution with support $\Theta = [0, 1]$

$$\pi(\theta) = Beta(a,b) \propto \mathbf{1}_{[0,1]}(\theta)\theta^{a-1}(1-\theta)^{b-1}.$$

a and b are called *hyper-parameters* and they control our level of a priori

- a = b = 1: uniform on [0, 1] (uninformative)
- \blacksquare a=b>1: in favor of a balanced coin, the greater a, the stronger the prior
- \blacksquare a > b (resp. a < b): in favor of tail (resp. head).

Example of conjugacy: the Beta-Binomial model (2)

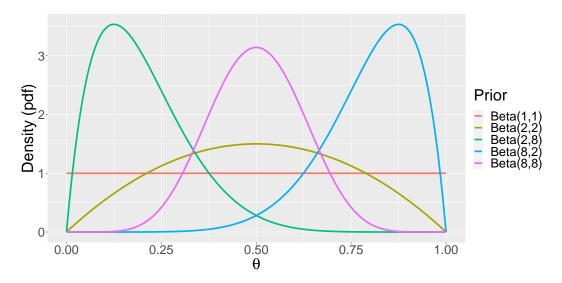


Figure: Graph of the p.d.f. $Beta(\cdot \mid a, b)$ for different values of a and b.

Example of conjugacy: the Beta-Binomial model (3)

We seek to derive the posterior, and we directly have

$$\pi(\theta \mid \boldsymbol{X}) \propto p(\boldsymbol{X} \mid \theta)\pi(\theta),$$

$$\propto \theta^{\sum_{i} x_{i}} (1 - \theta)^{\sum_{i} 1 - x_{i}} \theta^{a-1} (1 - \theta)^{b-1} \mathbf{1}_{[0,1]}(\theta),$$

$$\propto \theta^{a + \sum_{i} x_{i} - 1} (1 - \theta)^{b + n - \sum_{i} x_{i} - 1} \mathbf{1}_{[0,1]}(\theta).$$

We recognize the p.d.f of a Beta distribution

$$\theta \mid \boldsymbol{X} \sim Beta\left(a + \sum_{i} X_{i}, b + n - \sum_{i} X_{i}\right)$$

Remarks:

- 1 a and b act as *pseudo-counts* for head and tails, smoothing the estimates when n is small.
- 2 This conjugacy between the Beta prior and the binomial model always hold : property of the model (prior + likelihood) and not our specific experiment.



Bayesian point estimates

Having derived the posterior: how do we provide point estimates $\hat{\theta}$?

Cost function

A cost function is a function $C: \Theta \times \Theta \in \mathbb{R}_+$ where $C(\eta, \theta)$ is the "cost of predicting η for a parameter θ . Some examples

- $C(\eta,\theta) = (\eta \theta)^p (L^p \text{-loss})$
- $\qquad \qquad C(\eta,\theta) = \mathbf{1}_{\eta \neq \theta} \text{ (0-1 loss)}$

Bayesian estimator

Remember that θ is random. For a given model and observation x, the Bayesian estimator is the one that minimizes the average cost under the posterior distribution:

$$\hat{\theta} \in \operatorname*{arg\,min}_{\eta} \left\{ \mathbb{E}_{\theta \sim \pi(\cdot \mid x)} \left[C(\eta, \theta) \right] = \int_{\Theta} C(\eta, \theta) \pi(\theta \mid x) \, \mathrm{d}\theta \right\}. \tag{Bayes estimator}$$

Posterior Mean, Median & Mode

Different cost functions leads to different Bayes estimator among which

- 1 posterior mean $\hat{\theta} = \mathbb{E}[\theta \mid x]$ corresponds to the L^2 -loss
- 2 posterior median $\hat{\theta}$ such that $\pi(\theta \geq \hat{\theta} \mid x) = \pi(\theta \leq \hat{\theta} \mid x) = 0.5$ (L^1 -loss)
- **3 posterior mode (aka MAP)**: $\hat{\theta} \in \arg \max_{\theta} \pi(\theta \mid x)$ (0-1 loss)

Maximum a posteriori is one of the most popular

- reduces to an optimization problem
- log-prior can be interpreted in a frequentist setting as a regularizer for MLE

$$\log \pi(\theta \mid x) = cte + \underbrace{\log p_{\theta}(x)}_{\text{likelihood}} + \underbrace{\log \pi(\theta)}_{\text{regularizer}}$$

Credibility regions

The posterior may also be used for uncertainty quantification by computing regions $\mathcal{R} \subset \Theta$ s.t. $\pi(\theta \in \mathcal{R} \mid x) = \int_{\mathcal{R}} \pi(\theta \mid x) \, \mathrm{d}\theta = 1 - \alpha$



Incomplete data models

Most often, the observations are involved in complicated (biological, ecological, physical) processes, with many unobserved variables and complex dependency structure.

- X observed random variables
- Z unobserved (latent/hidden) variables
- \blacksquare θ unknown parameters

An attempt at defining latent variables (creds. to S. Robin)

■ Frequentist setting:

latent variables = random but unobserved, parameters = fixed

■ Bayesian setting:

both latent variables and parameters = random

but

latent variable $\simeq \#$ data, # parameters $\ll \#$ data

Different types of likelihoods

In this course, we place ourselves in the frequentist setting, using MLE inference. Although Bayesian extension of the proposed models are common.

Complete data likelihood

Joint likelihood of the whole random process (\pmb{X}, \pmb{Z}) with given parameters θ .

$$p_{\theta}(\boldsymbol{X}, \boldsymbol{Z}) = p_{\theta}(\boldsymbol{X} \mid \boldsymbol{Z}) p_{\theta}(\boldsymbol{Z}).$$

ightsquigar tractable in many models, but we do not observe Z !

Observed data likelihood

Marginal likelihood of the observed random variables X

$$p_{ heta}(oldsymbol{X}) = \int_{\mathcal{Z}} p_{ heta}(oldsymbol{X}, oldsymbol{z}) \, \mathrm{d}oldsymbol{z}^{oldsymbol{a}}$$

 \rightsquigarrow only involves the observed X, but not always tractable.

 ${}^a\mathsf{When}\ \mathcal{Z}$ is discrete, replace \int by \sum

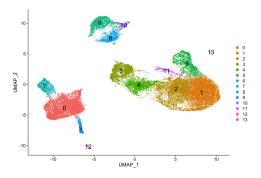
Clustering with mixture models

Motivation

Sometimes our data is organized in sub-population: groups of individuals we call clusters.

Example

In modern biology, discovering cell-types via their gene expression profile is an important task.



When the groups are unknown, we call the task of discovering them clustering²

²as opposed to classification in a supervised context

Mathematical context

We search for an optimal partition of $x = \{x_1, \dots, x_n\}$ into K groups.

Definition: partition

A partition $C = \{C_1, \dots, C_K\}$ of $\{1, \dots, n\}$ is a set of sets s.t.

$$\bigcup_{k} C_{k} = \{1, \dots, n\}, \qquad \forall k \neq l, \quad C_{k} \cap C_{l} = \emptyset$$

Alternative encoding of the partition

For each individual $i=1,\ldots,n$, we define its *cluster membership* $z_i\in\{0,1\}^K$

$$k=1,\ldots,K, \quad z_{ik}=\left\{ egin{array}{ll} 1 & \mbox{if i belongs to cluster k}, \\ 0 & \mbox{otherwise} \end{array} \right.$$

The set $Z = \{z_1, \dots, z_n\}$ represents a partition of $\{1, \dots, n\}$. This particular encoding is sometimes referred to as one-hot encoding.

Clustering criteria

"Optimality" implies the definition of some criterion $L \iff$ assumptions on the nature of clusters. Methods can be roughly split in two

Similarity-based methods

Design L via geometric notions of similarity between x_i 's, favoring e.g.

- elliptic clusters
- convex clusters
- connected clusters

Statistical methods

Consider the partition ${m Z}$ as a latent variable and posit a generative model $p_{ heta}({m X},{m Z})$

 \leadsto Clustering becomes an inference problem of finding \hat{Z} .

There are connections between both!

K-means

The K-means problem

K-means seeks clusters well concentrated around their centroids $\mu_k \coloneqq \frac{1}{|C_k|} \sum_{i \in C_k} x_i$ by minimizing

$$\underset{\boldsymbol{C}}{\arg\min} \left\{ L(\boldsymbol{C}, \boldsymbol{X}) = \sum_{k=1}^K \sum_{i \in C_k} \|x_i - \mu_k\|_2^2 \right\}$$
 (K-means problem)

- lacksquare Good news: discrete problem \leadsto there exists an optimum C^{\star} .
- Bad news: there are K^n possible partitions \rightsquigarrow enumeration is not an option.

In fact, K-means problem is a **nonconvex NP-hard** problem and one need to resort to fast heuristics.

Mith a slight abuse, we drop distinction between K-means problem and heuristics to solve it. ∧

The K-means algorithm (MacQueen 1967)

Draw centroids μ_1, \ldots, μ_K at random among the sample \boldsymbol{X} and

1 Assign each point to its closest centroid

$$C_k \leftarrow \left\{ i : \|x_i - \mu_k\|_2^2 = \min_j \|x_j - \mu_k\|_2^2 \right\}$$

2 recompute centroids as the barycenter of each center

$$\mu_k \coloneqq \frac{1}{|C_k|} \sum_{i \in C_k} y_i$$

3 Go to 1 until clusters (hence barycenters) are unchanged

Properties of the algorithm

K-means is a greedy algorithm which

- monotonically decreases the criterion
- converges in a finite number of iterations
- lacktriangle will get stuck in local minima of L (non-convex)
- \leadsto In practice, we try several restarts with different random inits.

Extensions

Kmeans++ initialization matter ! → stop drawing centroids at random

- Choose μ_1 uniformly among the sample
- \blacksquare then sequentially do for each $k=2,\dots,K$
 - compute weight $w_i := \min_{j < k} ||x_i \mu_j||_2^2$
 - lacktriangle Choose μ_k among the sample with proba $\propto w_i$

Optimality bounds can be obtained (Arthur et al. 2007)

Sparse K-means include variable selection, useful when x_i in dimension $d \gg n$

Kernel K-means compute distance between $\phi(x_i)$ with $\phi: \mathcal{X} \to \mathcal{H}$ a feature map.

Mixture models

Probabilistic view on clustering

The partition is now seen as a set of discrete latent variables $\mathbf{Z} = \{z_1, \dots, z_n\}$

Denote $\pi = (\pi_1, \dots, \pi_K)$ the (unknown) cluster proportions, we have

$$p_{\pi}(z_{ik}=1)=\pi_k \iff z_i \sim \mathcal{M}(1,\pi)$$

Mixture models

For all $i=1,\ldots,n$, mixture models suppose that (z_i,x_i) are drawn i.i.d. according to the two-stage hierarchical model

- 1 $Z_i \sim \mathcal{M}_K(1,\pi)$ 2 $X_i \mid \{z_{ik}=1\} \sim p_{\gamma_k}$

The model parameters are $\theta = \{\pi_k, \gamma_k\}_{k=1}^K$ and p_γ can be any parametric distribution over X_i .

Clusters are sometimes called components

→ general and flexible framework, adapt to nature of the data (discrete, continuous, mixed-type)via p_{γ}

Observed (marginal) likelihood

Properties: independence

In a mixture model, $(Z_i)_i$ are i.i.d. and $(X_i)_i$ also are i.i.d.

Observed likelihood

$$p_{\theta}(X) = \sum_{z_{1},...,z_{n}} p_{\theta}(Z, X) = \sum_{z_{1},...,z_{n}} \prod_{i=1}^{n} p_{\theta}(X_{i} \mid z_{i}) p_{\theta}(z_{i}),$$

$$= \prod_{i=1}^{n} \sum_{z_{i}} p_{\gamma}(X_{i} \mid z_{i}) p_{\theta}(z_{i}),$$

$$= \prod_{i=1}^{n} \left(\sum_{k=1}^{K} \pi_{k} p_{\gamma_{k}}(X_{i}) \right).$$

 \leadsto the marginal distribution of X_i is a convex combination (*mixture*) of the K base distributions $(p_{\gamma_k})_k$, with weights π_k .

Complete likelihood

Properties: conditional independence

In a mixture model, $(X_i)_i \perp \mid Z$ and $(Z_i)_i \perp \mid X$, but not identically distributed

Complete log-likelihood

$$\log p_{\theta}(\boldsymbol{X}, \boldsymbol{Z}) = \log p_{\theta}(\boldsymbol{Z}) + \log p_{\theta}(\boldsymbol{X} \mid \boldsymbol{Z}) = \sum_{i=1}^{n} \log p_{\pi}(Z_i) + \log p_{\gamma}(X_i \mid Z_i),$$
$$= \sum_{k=1}^{K} \sum_{i=1}^{n} Z_{ik} \left[\log \pi_k + \log p_{\gamma_k}(X_i) \right].$$

Posterior distribution of $Z \mid X$

For i = 1, ..., n, $Z_i \mid X_i \sim \mathcal{M}_K(1, \tau_i)$ with

$$\tau_{ik} \coloneqq p_{\theta}(z_{ik} = 1 \mid X_i) \propto \pi_k p_{\gamma_k}(X_i)$$

Notice that τ_i also depends on the parameters θ .

A note on identifiability

Definition: identifiability

A statistical model p_{θ} is said to be identifiable iff the mapping $\theta \mapsto p_{\theta}$ is injective.

Intuition: the labels of the clusters $1, \ldots, K$ should have no impact on the marginal likelihood

$$\pi_1 p_{\gamma_1}(x) + \pi_2 p_{\gamma_2}(x) = \pi_2 p_{\gamma_2}(x) + \pi_1 p_{\gamma_1}(x)$$

Label switching

Let σ be a permutation of $[\![1,K]\!]$, then for a mixture model with parameters π,γ we have

$$p(X \mid \pi, \gamma) = p(X \mid \sigma(\pi), \sigma(\gamma))$$

Hence, there are K! equivalent formulations of a mixture model.

 \leadsto conceptually not a problem, it simply states that there are K! different encoding Z of a given partition $C = \{C_1, \dots, C_K\}$.

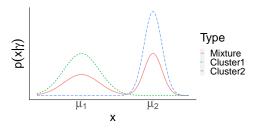
→ can cause problems in Bayesian inference procedure since the posterior is highly multimodal.

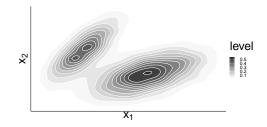
Gaussian Mixture Models (GMM)

Continuous data: $x = \{x_1, \dots, x_n\} \subset \mathbb{R}^d$

Model: Mixture of Gaussians $p_{\gamma_k}(x) = \mathcal{N}(x \mid \mu_k, \Sigma_k)$, with $\gamma_k = (\mu_k, \Sigma_k)$

Multimodal marginal density around the $(\mu_k)_k$'s





Number of free parameters: $K-1+Kd+K\frac{d(d+1)}{2}=\mathcal{O}(Kd^2)$ to estimate

Maximum-likelihood estimation

Non-convex MLE problem

$$\underset{\pi_k, \mu_k, \Sigma_k}{\operatorname{arg max}} \sum_{i=1}^n \log \left(\sum_{k=1}^K \pi_k \log \mathcal{N}(x_i \mid \mu_k, \Sigma_k) \right).$$

- Much more complex to maximize than in standard Gaussian models (K = 1)
- No closed-form solution, gradients can be derived but
 - 1 they are not cheap to compute at each iteration (although one could resort to stochastic optimization to leverage this issue).
 - **2** Requires re-projecting on the cone of p.d. matrices $\Sigma_k \succ 0$.

By contrast, the complete log-likelihood is much simpler to handle

$$\log p_{\theta}(\boldsymbol{x}, \boldsymbol{Z}) = \sum_{k=1}^{K} \sum_{i=1}^{n} Z_{ik} \left[\log \pi_k + \log \mathcal{N}(x_i \mid \mu_k, \Sigma_k) \right].$$

 \rightsquigarrow But we do not observe the Z!

Maximum-likelihood estimation (cont'd)

A chicken-and-egg problem

1 If we knew Z we could maximize $p_{\theta}(X,Z) \leadsto$ amount to compute MLE $\hat{\gamma}_k$ in each cluster. In the Gaussian case we'd have cluster's empirical means and covariance

$$n_k = \sum_{i} z_{ik}, \qquad \hat{\mu}_k = \sum_{i} z_{ik} x_i / n_k, \qquad \hat{\Sigma}_k = \sum_{i} z_{ik} \frac{(x_i - \hat{\mu}_k)(x_i - \hat{\mu}_k)^{\top}}{n_k}$$

2 If we knew θ^* , we could find the best estimate of Z via the posterior distribution

$$\tau_{ik}(\theta) = p_{\theta}(z_{ik} = 1 \mid x_i) = \frac{\pi_k \mathcal{N}(x_i \mid \mu_k, \Sigma_k)}{\sum_l \pi_l \mathcal{N}(x_i \mid \mu_l, \Sigma_l)}$$

→ this suggest an iterative scheme between 1) & 2) to solve MLE.

Inference in latent variable models: the EM algorithm



Jensen's inequality

Quizz! Which is larger: $\mathbb{E}[Z^2]$ or $\mathbb{E}[Z]^2$?

Jensen's inequality

Quizz! Which is larger: $\mathbb{E}[Z^2]$ or $\mathbb{E}[Z]^2$? $\longrightarrow \mathbb{E}[Z^2] - \mathbb{E}[Z]^2 = \mathbb{V}(Z) \geq 0$

Jensen's inequality

Quizz! Which is larger:
$$\mathbb{E}[Z^2]$$
 or $\mathbb{E}[Z]^2$? $\longrightarrow \mathbb{E}[Z^2] - \mathbb{E}[Z]^2 = \mathbb{V}(Z) \geq 0$

General result: Jensen's inequality

Let Z be a random vector in $\mathcal{Z} \subset \mathbb{R}^d$ and $\phi : \mathbb{R}^d \to \mathbb{R}$ a convex function, then

$$\mathbb{E}_{Z}\left[\phi(Z)\right] \geq \phi\left(\mathbb{E}_{Z}[Z]\right). \tag{Jensen}$$

 \leadsto the inequality is reversed with ϕ concave $(\phi \leftarrow -\phi)$

Proof:

lacktriangledown ϕ convex \Longrightarrow it is above its tangents, hence at any point $z_0 \in \mathbb{R}^d, \exists a \text{ s.t.}$

$$\forall z \in \mathbb{R}^d, \quad \phi(z) \ge \phi(z_0) + a(z - z_0).$$

lacksquare Take $z_0=\mathbb{E}_Z[Z]$, since the above inequality is true for all z, it generalizes to \mathbb{E}_Z

$$\mathbb{E}_{Z}\left[\phi(Z)\right] \ge z_0 + a\underbrace{\left(\mathbb{E}_{Z}[Z] - z_0\right)}_{=0} = z_0 = \phi\left(\mathbb{E}_{Z}[Z]\right)$$

Entropy of a random variable

Definition: entropy

For a discrete random variable Z with distribution q(Z=z) we define its entropy as

$$\mathcal{H}(Z) = \mathcal{H}(q) = -\mathbb{E}\left[\log q(Z)\right] = -\sum_{z \in \mathcal{Z}} q(z)\log q(z)$$

with the convention that $0 \times \log 0 = 0$

Properties

- $\blacksquare \mathcal{H}(q) \geq 0$
- Continuous formulation: Let Z be a r.v. with distribution Q. If there exist a measure μ such that $\mathrm{d}Q = q\,\mathrm{d}\mu$ then we can define

$$\mathcal{H}(Q) = \mathcal{H}_{\mu}(q) = -\int \log q(z)q(z) \,\mathrm{d}\mu(z)$$

Now depends on the base measure μ .

Kullback-Leibler (KL) divergence

Definition: KL divergence (discrete case)

Let p and q be two distribution over discrete set \mathcal{Z} , we define the KL-divergence as

$$\mathrm{KL}(p \parallel q) \coloneqq \mathbb{E}_{Z \sim p} \left[\log \frac{p(Z)}{q(Z)} \right] = \sum_{z \in \mathcal{Z}} p(z) \log \frac{p(z)}{q(z)}$$

Properties

- $\mathrm{KL}(p \parallel q) \geq 0$ with equality iff p = q (proof: Jensen on $\frac{q}{p}(Z)$ with convex $\phi(x) = -\log x$)
- Diverges if $\exists z_0$ such that $q(z_0) = 0$ when $p(z_0) = 0$
- Not a distance (not symmetric)
- Continuous formulation: For two distribution P and Q, if there exists a measure μ such that $dP = p d\mu$ and $dQ = q d\mu$, then

$$\mathrm{KL}(P \parallel Q) = \int \log \frac{\mathrm{d}P}{\mathrm{d}Q} \, \mathrm{d}P = \int \log \frac{p(z)}{q(z)} p(z) \, \mathrm{d}\mu(z).$$

 \leadsto invariant w.r.t. the choice of (p,q,μ) since the ratio $\mathrm{d}P/\mathrm{d}Q$ is invariant.

The evidence lower bound (ELBO)

Minorizer of the observed-likelihood

Evidence lower bound

Let q be a distribution over $\mathcal Z$ absolutely continuous with respect to $p_{\theta}(X,Z)$. Then,

$$\log p_{\theta}(\boldsymbol{X}) \ge \mathcal{L}(q, \theta) \coloneqq \mathbb{E}_q \left[\log p_{\theta}(X, Z) \right] + \mathcal{H}(q). \tag{ELBO}$$

The quantity \mathcal{L} is called the evidence lower-bound, moreover the gap is expressed as

$$\log p_{\theta}(X) - \mathcal{L}(q, \theta) = \mathrm{KL}(q \parallel p_{\theta}(\cdot \mid X)).$$

Proof:
$$\log p_{\theta}(X) = \log \int p_{\theta}(X, z) \, \mathrm{d}z = \log \mathbb{E}_q \left[\frac{p_{\theta}(X, Z)}{q(Z)} \right] \stackrel{\text{\tiny Jensen}}{\geq} \mathbb{E}_q \left[\log \frac{p_{\theta}(X, Z)}{q(Z)} \right] = \mathcal{L}(q, \theta)$$

Comments

- The ELBO holds for any distribution q on Z
- For a given θ , the gap is 0 iff

$$q(z) = p_{\theta}(z \mid X)$$

Expectation-maximization (EM, Dempster et al. 1977)

EM: a universal algorithm for latent variables

Intuition: chicken-and-egg

- 1 if we knew Z, we could easily work with $f(\theta) = \log p_{\theta}(X, Z)$
- 2 *if we knew* heta, the best representation of $m{Z}$ is via its posterior $p_{ heta}(m{Z} \mid m{X})$

Expectation-Maximization algorithm

Starting from $\theta^{(0)}$, iterate between

Expectation step

Use $q^{(t+1)}(\boldsymbol{Z}) = p_{\theta^{(t)}}(\boldsymbol{Z} \mid \boldsymbol{X})$ to form the objective function

$$f(\theta) = Q(\theta, \theta^{(t)}) = \mathbb{E}_{\boldsymbol{Z} \sim q^{(t+1)}} \left[\log p_{\theta}(\boldsymbol{X}, \boldsymbol{Z}) \right].$$

It involves (generalized) moments of Z under $q^{(t+1)}$.

Maximization step

Solve $\theta^{(t+1)} \in \arg \max_{\theta} Q(\theta, \theta^{(t)})$

In practice, EM stop after likelihood gaps fall below a given threshold ϵ

$$|\mathcal{L}(q^{(t+1)}, \theta^{(t)}) - \mathcal{L}(q^{(t)}, \theta^{(t-1)})| = |\log p_{\theta^{(t)}}(\boldsymbol{X}) - \log p_{\theta^{(t-1)}}(\boldsymbol{X})| < \epsilon$$

Rewriting EM: coordinate ascent on the ELBO

EM algorithm (equivalent formulation)

Starting from $\theta^{(0)}$, iterate between

$$q^{(t+1)} = \arg\max_{q} \mathcal{L}(q, \theta^{(t)}), \tag{E-step}$$

$$\begin{split} q^{(t+1)} &= \argmax_{q} \mathcal{L}(q, \theta^{(t)}), \\ \theta^{(t+1)} &= \argmax_{\theta} \mathcal{L}(q^{(t+1)}, \theta). \end{split} \tag{E-step}$$

- E-step is equivalent to $\min_q \mathrm{KL}(q \parallel p_{\theta^{(t+1)}}(\cdot \mid X)) \implies q^{(t+1)} = p_{\theta^{(t+1)}}(\cdot \mid X)$
- basis of inference in latent variable models, many extensions: see e.g. Peel et al. (2000) for mixture models

Monotonic increase of the observed likelihood

Property of EM algorithm

The sequence of iterates $\{\theta^{(t)}\}_t$ returned by EM verifies

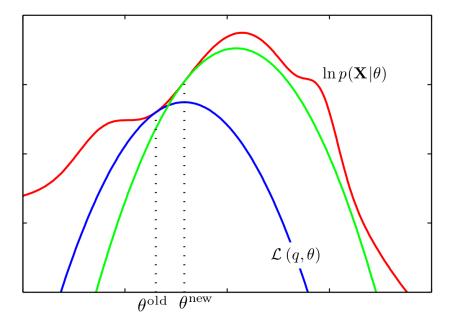
$$\forall t \geq 0, \quad \log p_{\theta^{(t+1)}}(\boldsymbol{X}) \geq \log p_{\theta^{(t)}}(\boldsymbol{X})$$

Proof:

$$\log p_{\theta^{(t+1)}}(\boldsymbol{X}) \underbrace{\geq}_{\text{ELBO}} \mathcal{L}(q^{(t+1)}, \theta^{(t+1)}) \underbrace{\geq}_{\text{M-step}(t+1)} \mathcal{L}(q^{(t+1)}, \theta^{(t)}) \underbrace{=}_{\text{E-step}(t)} \log p_{\theta^{(t)}}(\boldsymbol{X})$$

- Guarantees EM converges with the likelihood gaps criterion
- In general, only converges to local maxima of the likelihood
- \blacksquare Does not guarantee convergence of the sequence of parameters $\{\theta^{(t)}\}_t$ itself.

A graphical illustration of EM algorithm (cred: G. Obozinski)





Expected complete log-likelihood

Denote
$$au_{ik}^{(t)} \coloneqq p_{\theta^{(t-1)}}(Z_{ik} = 1 \mid x_i) = \mathbb{E}_{q^{(t)}}[Z_{ik}]$$
, then

$$f(\theta) = \mathbb{E}_{q^{(t)}} \left[\log p_{\theta}(\boldsymbol{X}, \boldsymbol{Z}) \right],$$

$$= \mathbb{E}_{q^{(t)}} \left[\sum_{i=1}^{n} \log p_{\theta}(x_{i}, Z_{i}) \right],$$

$$= \mathbb{E}_{q^{(t)}} \left[\sum_{k=1}^{K} \sum_{i=1}^{n} Z_{ik} \left[\log \pi_{k} + \log \mathcal{N}_{q}(x_{i} \mid \mu_{k}, \Sigma_{k}) \right] \right],$$

$$= \sum_{k=1}^{K} \sum_{i=1}^{n} \mathbb{E}_{q_{i}^{(t)}} \left[Z_{ik} \right] \left[\log \pi_{k} + \log \mathcal{N}_{d}(x_{i} \mid \mu_{k}, \Sigma_{k}) \right],$$

$$= \sum_{k=1}^{K} \sum_{i=1}^{n} \tau_{ik}^{(t)} \left[\log \pi_{k} + \log \mathcal{N}_{d}(x_{i} \mid \mu_{k}, \Sigma_{k}) \right],$$

It involves $\tau_{ik}^{(t)}$: (first) moments of Z under $q^{(t)}$.

E-step for GMM

Compute the posterior given $\theta^{(t-1)}$, $q^{(t)} = p_{\theta^{(t-1)}}(\boldsymbol{Z} \mid \boldsymbol{X})$

As seen previously, the posterior for mixture model always writes

$$p_{\theta}(\boldsymbol{Z}) = \prod_{i=1}^{n} \mathcal{M}_{K}(1, \tau_{i}(\theta)), \text{ with: } \tau_{ik}(\theta) \propto \pi_{k} p_{\gamma_{k}}(x_{i}).$$

So that

$$\tau_{ik}^{(t)} = \tau_{ik}(\theta^{(t-1)}) = \frac{\pi_k \mathcal{N}_d(x_i \mid \mu_k^{(t-1)}, \Sigma_k^{(t-1)})}{\sum_{l=1}^K \pi_l \mathcal{N}_d(x_i \mid \mu_l^{(t-1)}, \Sigma_l^{(t-1)})}.$$

Careful with numerical underflow \leadsto better to work with in log-space with $\log \tau$.

M-step for GMM

Solve

$$(\boldsymbol{\pi}_k^{(t)}, \boldsymbol{\mu}_k^{(t)}, \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_k^{(t)})_{k=1}^K \in \arg\max_{\boldsymbol{\theta}} \left\{ f(\boldsymbol{\theta}) = \mathbb{E}_{q^{(t)}}[\log p_{\boldsymbol{\theta}}(\boldsymbol{X}, \boldsymbol{Z})] \right\}$$

For GMM, the updates are

$$\begin{cases} \tilde{n}_k^{(t)} = \sum_{i=1}^n \tau_{ik}^{(t)}, \\ \pi_k^{(t)} = \frac{\tilde{n}_k^{(t)}}{n}, \\ \mu_k^{(t)} = \frac{1}{\tilde{n}_k^{(t)}} \sum_{i=1}^n \tau_{ik}^{(t)} x_i, \\ \sum_k = \frac{1}{\tilde{n}_k^{(t)}} \sum_{i=1}^n \tau_{ik}^{(t)} (x_i - \mu_k^{(t)}) (x_i - \mu_k^{(t)})^\top \end{cases}$$

We recognize standard Gaussian MLE in each cluster, using soft probability memberships τ in place of unknown Z.

Link with K-means algorithm

The K-means algorithm can be interpreted as an EM algorithm for a constrained GMM with equal proportions $\pi_k = 1/K$, known isotropic covariance $\Sigma_k = \sigma^2 \operatorname{Id}_d$. Dropping the known quantities, the criterion is

$$\underset{\mu_1,...,\mu_K,\mathbf{Z}}{\arg\min} - \log p_{\mu}(\mathbf{X},\mathbf{Z}) = cte + \sum_{k} \sum_{i \in C_k} ||x_i - \mu_k||_2^2.$$

Rewriting K-means (Classification-EM for GMM)

- 1 Hard E-step: set partition $C^{(t+1)}$ via MAP $\arg\max_{l} \tau_{il}^{(t+1)} = \arg\min_{l} \|x_i \mu_l^{(t)}\|_2^2$
- 2 *M-step*: update the centroids $\mu_k^{(t+1)} \leftarrow (1/n_k) \sum_{i \in C_k^{(t+1)}} x_i$

Comments

- highlight connections between similarity-based and probabilistic methods
- unveil hypothesis behind K-means criterion: spherical, equal-volume and equal-size clusters.

Choosing the number of components K

Challenge: how to choose the number of clusters K?

Intuition: the larger the likelihood, the better our model fits the data X

Caveat: complex models tend to provide larger likelihood, for example

- lacktriangle mixture models with K-1 components are nested in models with K components.
- models with constraints (diagonal, spherical) are nested in unconstrained ones.

→ we need to account for "model complexity"

Definition: dimension/size of a model

Let $\mathcal{M} = \{p_{\theta}, \theta \in \Theta_{\mathcal{M}}\}$, we denote $d_{\mathcal{M}}$ the number of free parameters in the model. For unconstrained mixtures, it is $d_K = K - 1 + K d_{\Gamma}$, $\gamma_k \in \Gamma$.

Penalized likelihood criterion

For a mixture model with K components, denote $\hat{\theta}_K = \arg \max_{\theta \in \Theta_K} \log p_{\theta}(X)$. A penalized likelihood estimate of K is given by

$$\hat{K} = \underset{K}{\operatorname{arg\,max}} \left\{ \log p_{\hat{\theta}_K} - pen(K) \right\}.$$

Different penalties leads to different criterion

Definitions: AIC, BIC, ICL

For a model ${\mathcal M}$ and observations X, we have several choice of penalize likelihood criteria

$$\begin{split} AIC(K) &\coloneqq \log p_{\hat{\theta}_K}(\boldsymbol{X}) - d_K, \\ BIC(K) &\coloneqq \log p_{\hat{\theta}_K}(\boldsymbol{X}) - \frac{d_K}{2} \log(n), \\ ICL(K) &\coloneqq \mathbb{E}_{Z \sim p_{\hat{\theta}_K}(\cdot | \boldsymbol{X})} \left[\log p_{\hat{\theta}_K}(\boldsymbol{X}, \boldsymbol{Z}) \right] - \frac{d_K}{2} \log(n) \end{split}$$

Note: the ELBO property gives

$$ICL(K) = BIC(K) - \mathcal{H}(p_{\hat{\theta}_K}(\cdot \mid X)).$$

Hence, ICL is more focused on models with strongly separable clusters (peaked posterior \implies low entropy), while BIC is more focused on fitting the marginal density of X.

Focus on BIC: Bayesian information criterion

Put a prior p(K) on K, and the model: $p(\theta \mid K)$ and $p(X \mid \theta)$. Bayes rule suggests choosing

$$\begin{split} \hat{K} &= \operatorname*{arg\,max}_{K} \left\{ p(K \mid \boldsymbol{X}) \propto p(K) p(\boldsymbol{X} \mid \boldsymbol{\theta}) \right\}, \\ &= \operatorname*{arg\,max}_{K} \log p(K) + \log p(\boldsymbol{X} \mid K), \\ &= \operatorname*{arg\,max}_{K} \log p(K) + \log \int p(\boldsymbol{X} \mid \boldsymbol{\theta}, K) p(\boldsymbol{\theta} \mid K) \, \mathrm{d}\boldsymbol{\theta}. \end{split}$$

Dropping the prior term $\log p(K)$ which is constant with n, we need to compute the integral in the second term \leadsto difficult in general !

Under regularity assumptions (see Lebarbier et al. 2004, for details), we have

$$\log p(\boldsymbol{X} \mid K) = \log p_{\hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}}_K}(\boldsymbol{X}) - \frac{d_K}{2} \log(n) + \mathcal{O}_P(1).$$

This justifies the formula of BIC.

Hidden Markov Models (HMMs)

What if observations $X = \{x_i\}_i$ are ordered ? e.g.

- time series
- genomic data: observations collected at precise locations in the genome
- etc.
- → it is likely that "past" influences the "future".

Need to introduce dependence between observations/latent variables in the model

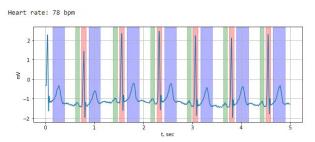
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- etc.

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Example 1: time series segmentation



Source: https://medium.com/data-analysis-center/56f8b9abd83a

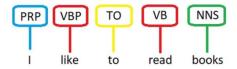
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- etc.
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Example 2: part-of-speech tagging

POS Tagging



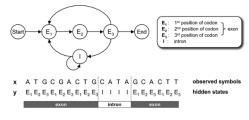
What if observations $X = \{x_i\}_i$ are ordered ? e.g.

- time series
- genomic data: observations collected at precise locations in the genome
- etc.

→ it is likely that "past" influences the "future".

Need to introduce dependence between observations/latent variables in the model

Example 3: protein coding



From Yoon (2009)



Markov Chains (discrete)

Suppose we observe a sequence $y_{1:n} :== \{y_1, \dots, y_n\}$ at discrete time³ steps $1, \dots, n$, with discrete outcomes $y_i \in \{1, \dots, K\}$

Markov chain (MC)

We say that the sequence $y_{1:n}$ is a Markov Chain if for all $i=1,\ldots,n$,

$$p(y_{i+1} \mid y_{1:i}) = p(y_{i+1} \mid y_i)$$

"The future is independent from the past knowing the present."

Joint distribution of the sequence

$$p(y_{1:n}) = p(y_1)p(y_2 \mid y_1)p(y_3 \mid y_2) \dots p(y_n \mid y_{n-1}) = p(y_1) \prod_{i=2} p(y_i \mid y_{i-1}).$$

Proof of the all the statements made about Markov Chains can be found in Sophie Lemaire's course.

^{3&}quot; Time" may also refer to locations within a sequence of words/genes/etc.

Vocabulary around MC

Homogeneous Markov chain

We say that a markov chain is homogeneous (or time invariant) if the transition probability $p(y_{i+1} \mid y_i)$ is independent time (of i).

Initial distribution

We denote as $\nu = (\nu_1, \dots, \nu_K)$ the vector $\nu_k \coloneqq p(y_1 = k)$

Marginal distribution

We denote as $\nu_i = (\nu_{i1}, \dots, \nu_{iK})$ the vector $\nu_{ik} \coloneqq p(y_i = k)$

Transition matrix

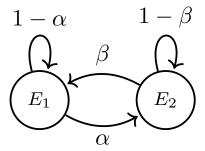
We denote A the $K \times K$ matrix with $A_{kl} = p(z_{i+1} = l \mid z_i = k)$ and properties:

- stochastic matrix: each row sum to $1 \sum_{l=1}^{K} A_{kl} = 1$
- \blacksquare eigenvalue 1 associated to the column vector $e = (1, \dots, 1)^{\top}$: $Ae = 1 \cdot e$
- For any $m, n \in \mathbb{N}$, $p(y_{n+m} = l \mid y_m = k) = A_{kl}^{(m)}$ (m-th matrix power)
- Moreover $\nu_i = \nu_1 A^{(i-1)}$

Notation: $y_{1:n} \sim MC(\nu, A)$

Diagram representation: a toy example

$$A = E_1 \begin{pmatrix} E_1 & E_2 \\ 1 - \alpha & \alpha \\ \beta & 1 - \beta \end{pmatrix}$$



Graphical representation of a 2-state homogeneous Markov chain

A second example: modeling nucleotide transition

$$A = \begin{array}{c} A & T & G & C \\ T & & & \\ G & & \\ C & & & \\ \end{array} \qquad \begin{array}{c} A & T & G & C \\ & & & \\ D_{10,4} & & \\ & & & \\ \end{array} \qquad \begin{array}{c} 0.1 & & \\ 0.1 & & \\ 0.1 & & \\ \end{array} \qquad \begin{array}{c} 0.1 & & \\ 0.1 & & \\ 0.1 & & \\ \end{array} \qquad \begin{array}{c} 0.1 & & \\ 0.1 & & \\ \end{array} \qquad \begin{array}{c} 0.1 & & \\ 0.1 & & \\ \end{array} \qquad \begin{array}{c} 0.1 & & \\ 0.1 & & \\ \end{array} \qquad \begin{array}{c} 0.1 & & \\ 0.1 & & \\ \end{array} \qquad \begin{array}{c} 0.1 & & \\ 0.1 & & \\ \end{array} \qquad \begin{array}{c} 0.1 & & \\ 0.1 & & \\ \end{array} \qquad \begin{array}{c} 0.1 & & \\ 0.1 & & \\ \end{array} \qquad \begin{array}{c} 0.1 & & \\ 0.1 & & \\ \end{array} \qquad \begin{array}{c} 0$$

Source: https://www.r-bloggers.com/2012/04/introduction-to-markov-chains-and-modeling-dna-sequences-in-r/

A third example: Ehrenfest's urn model

- 4 balls distributed across 2 urns
- Each turn, we pick a ball and change its urn
- Let A be the transition of one urn (symmetric problem) :
 - \rightarrow State = number of balls in this urn

A third example: Ehrenfest's urn model

- 4 balls distributed across 2 urns
- Each turn, we pick a ball and change its urn
- Let A be the transition of one urn (symmetric problem) :
 - \rightarrow State = number of balls in this urn

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & \frac{1}{4} & 0 & \frac{3}{4} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{1}{2} & 0 & \frac{1}{2} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \frac{3}{4} & 0 & \frac{1}{4} \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

Stationary distribution & how to find them

Stationary distribution

Let A be a transition matrix over $[\![1,K]\!]$, we say that a vector π such that

$$\pi^{\top} A = \pi^{\top} \qquad \sum_{k=1}^{K} \pi_k = 1, \quad \pi_k \ge 0$$

is a **stationary** (or **invariant**) distribution for the homogeneous chain $MC(\nu, A)$.

Properties

- **1** π is a discrete probability vector & eigenvector of A^{\top} associated to the eigenvalue $\lambda = 1$
- 2 if $y_1 \sim \pi$, then $\forall n \in \mathbb{N}$, $y_n \sim \pi$ (hence the name stationary)
- **3 Existence:** for discrete MC it is an application of Perron-Frobenius theorem to A
- **4 Uniqueness & convergence:** if there exists some power $q \in \mathbb{N}^{\star}$ such that $A^{(q)} > 0$ then
 - \blacksquare π is unique and $\pi_k > 0$.
 - $p(y_n = \overset{\cdot}{l} \mid y_1 = \overset{\cdot}{k}) = A_{kl}^{(n)} \xrightarrow[n \to +\infty]{} \pi_l, \text{ whatever the initial distribution } \nu \text{ is.}$

Such chains "forget their past" after enough steps.

Computing the stationary distribution

First strategy: eigenvector

We know that $A^{\top}\pi=1\cdot\pi$, so that π is an eigenvector associated to the unit^a eigenvalue. **Careful**, most scientific softwares give eigenvector such that $\|v\|_2=1$, so we need to post process $\pi:=v/(\sum_k v_k)$.

When K is big, there are efficient algorithms to find only largest eigenvector under conditions on A (e.g. Lanczos algorithm for symmetric matrices)

^aRecall that eigenvalues (but not eigenvectors) of A and A^{\top} are the same.

Second strategy: linear system

We have K unknown π_1,\ldots,π_K and K+1 equations $\pi^\top(A-I)=\mathbf{0}_{1\times K}$ & $\sum_k \pi_k=1$ \leadsto over-determined linear system.

Thus, we can create a new matrix M by arbitrarily replace a column (say last one) in (A-I) by $\mathbf{1}_{K\times 1}$ and solve for $\pi^\top M=(0,\dots,0,1)$.

2-state example

Compute the stationary distribution of

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 - \alpha & \alpha \\ \beta & 1 - \beta \end{pmatrix}$$

2-state example

Compute the stationary distribution of

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 - \alpha & \alpha \\ \beta & 1 - \beta \end{pmatrix}$$

$$A^{-}I = \begin{pmatrix} -\alpha & \alpha \\ \beta - \beta & \end{pmatrix}$$

Replacing last column by $(1,1)^{T}$ and solving the linear system when

$$\begin{pmatrix} \pi_1 & \pi_2 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} -\alpha & 1 \\ \beta & 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

leads to $\pi = (\frac{\beta}{\alpha + \beta}, \frac{\alpha}{\alpha + \beta})$ provided $\alpha + \beta \neq 0$.

Question (at home): when do we have convergence of A^n ? (Consider the matrix A on limit cases $\alpha = \beta = r, r \in \{0,1\}$)

Numerical example

Find the stationary distribution of
$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1/2 & 0 & 1/2 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$A \leftarrow matrix(c(0, 1/2, 1, 1, 0, 0, 0, 1/2, 0), 3, 3)$$

Eigenvector

```
eigen.res <- eigen(t(A))
Pi <- eigen.res$vectors[,1]
Pi/sum(Pi)
[,1]  [,2]  [,3]
[1.]  0.4+0i  0.4+0i  0.2+0i</pre>
```

```
Sanity check > (pi - t(pi)\%*\%A) < 1e-15
```

Linear system

```
M<-diag(1, 3, 3) - A
M[,3] <- rep(1,3)
Pi <- solve(t(M),b=c(0,0,1))
Pi
[1] 0.4 0.4 0.2</pre>
```

Hidden Markov Models (HMMs)

HMM: the model

Generative model

A general (discrete) hidden Markov model is defined as

1
$$z_{1:n} \sim MC(\nu, A)$$

2
$$(x_i)_i$$
 independent $\mid (z_i)_i$ and for all $i \in [1, n]$, $x_i \mid \{z_{ik} = 1\} \sim p_{\gamma_k}(\cdot)$

The model parameters are $\theta=(\nu,A,\gamma)$ and $p(x_i\mid z_i=k)=p_{\gamma_k}(x_i)$ are called *emission probability*

Marginal likelihood of x_i

Denote $\nu_i = (\nu_{i1}, \dots, \nu_{iK})$, such that $\nu_{ik} = p_{\theta}(z_{ik} = 1)$ ^a. Then,

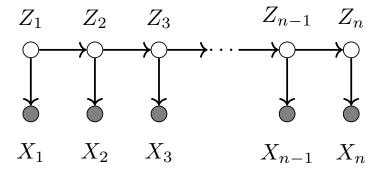
$$p_{\theta}(x_i) = \sum_{k} \nu_{ik} p_{\gamma_k}(x_i)$$

Moreover, if $\nu_1=\pi$ (the chain's stationary distribution) then $p_\theta(x_i)=\sum_k \pi_k p_{\gamma_k}(x_i)$

→ HMMs can be thought of as a generalization of mixture introducing dependency!

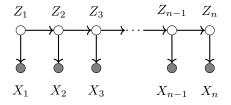
 $^{\text{a}}$ For homogeneous MC we know that $\nu_i = \nu^{\top} A^{(i-1)}$.

Graphical model representation



- Empty circle represents unobserved random variable
- Gray circles represents observed random variables

Conditional independence



Looking at the DAG, we have the three fundamental properties of HMM

- **1** $Z_{i+1} \perp \!\!\! \perp Z_{1:(i-1)} \mid Z_i \text{ (i.e. } Z_{1:n} \text{ is a MC)}$
- $Z_{i+1} \perp X_{1:i} \mid Z_i$
- **3** $X_{i+1} \perp \!\!\! \perp X_{1:i} \mid Z_{i+1}$ (and also $\mid Z_i$)

This basically states that knowing the hidden state at step i captures all relevant information about the past.

Complete-data likelihood

Complete-data log-likelihood for HMMs

$$\log p_{\theta}(\boldsymbol{X}, \boldsymbol{Z}) = \log p_{\theta}(\boldsymbol{X} \mid \boldsymbol{Z}) \times p_{\theta}(\boldsymbol{Z}),$$

$$= \log \left[\prod_{k=1}^{K} \prod_{i=1}^{n} p_{\gamma_{k}}(x_{i})^{z_{ik}} \times \prod_{k=1}^{K} \nu_{k}^{z_{1k}} \prod_{i=1}^{K} \prod_{i=2}^{n} A_{k,l}^{z_{(i-1)k}z_{il}} \right],$$

$$= \sum_{k=1}^{K} \sum_{i=1}^{n} z_{ik} \log p_{\gamma_{k}}(x_{i}) + \sum_{k=1}^{K} z_{1k} \log \nu_{k} + \sum_{k,l=1}^{K} \sum_{i=2}^{n} z_{(i-1)k}z_{il} \log A_{k,l}.$$

76/98

Observed-data likelihood

Observed-data log-likelihood for HMMs

$$p_{\theta}(\mathbf{X}) = \log \sum_{\mathbf{Z}} p_{\theta}(\mathbf{X} \mid \mathbf{Z}) \times p_{\theta}(\mathbf{Z}),$$

$$= \log \left[\sum_{z_1, \dots, z_n} \prod_{i=1}^n \prod_{k=1}^K p_{\gamma_k}(x_i)^{z_{ik}} \times \prod_{k=1}^K \nu_k^{z_{1k}} \prod_{k,l=1}^K \prod_{i=2}^n A_{k,l}^{z_{(i-1)k}z_{il}} \right].$$

Brute force computation involves $\mathcal{O}(K^n)$ operations !

Posterior distribution

Denote

$$\tau_{ik} \coloneqq p_{\theta}(z_{ik} = 1 \mid X)$$

Important: posterior dependencies

Contrary to mixture models

- 1 $\tau_{ik} \neq p(z_{ik} = 1 \mid x_i) \rightsquigarrow$ we need the whole set of observations
- 2 More generally, $p_{\theta}(\boldsymbol{Z} \mid \boldsymbol{X})$ does not factorizes over i anymore

$$p_{\theta}(\boldsymbol{Z} \mid \boldsymbol{X}) \neq \prod_{i} \prod_{k} \tau_{ik}^{z_{ik}}$$

 $oxed{3}$ $(z_i)_i$ are not independent $\mid (x_i)_i$ but rather $(z_{1:n}) \mid (x_{1:n})$ is an inhomogeneous Markov C

Posterior distribution

Denote

$$\tau_{ik} := p_{\theta}(z_{ik} = 1 \mid X)$$

Important: posterior dependencies

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$$p_{\theta}(\boldsymbol{Z} \mid \boldsymbol{X}) \neq \prod_{i} \prod_{k} \tau_{ik}^{z_{ik}}$$

 $(z_i)_i$ are not independent $|(x_i)_i|$ but rather $(z_{1:n})$ $|(x_{1:n})|$ is an inhomogeneous Markov C

$$\begin{split} p_{\theta}(z_{i+1} \mid z_{1:i}, x_{1:n}) = & p_{\theta}(z_{i+1} \mid z_{1:i}, x_{(i+1):n}), & (z_{i+1} \perp x_{1:i} \mid z_{i}) \\ & \propto & p_{\theta}(x_{(i+1):n} \mid z_{i}, z_{i+1}) p_{\theta}(z_{i+1} \mid z_{j:i}), & (\mathsf{Bayes} + \mathsf{HMM}) \\ & \propto & p_{\theta}(x_{(i+1):n}, z_{i+1} \mid z_{i}), \\ & = & p_{\theta}(z_{i+1} \mid z_{i}, x_{(i+1):n}), \\ & = & p_{\theta}(z_{i+1} \mid z_{i}, x_{1:n}). & (z_{i+1} \perp x_{1:i} \mid z_{i}) \end{split}$$

The "three" HMM problems

Following Rabiner (1989), there are three problems related to HMMs:

1 Given θ the model parameters, compute the probability of observing $x_{1:n}$ (i.e. the observed likelihood)

$$p_{\theta}(x_{1:n})$$

2 Decoding given θ the model parameters and observations $x_{1:n}$, find the most probable sequence of hidden states

$$\hat{z}_{1:n} = \arg\max_{z_{1:n}} p_{\theta}(z_{1:n} \mid x_{1:n})$$

3 Inference: estimate the model parameters, e.g. by MLE

$$\hat{\pi}, \hat{A}, \hat{\gamma} \in \arg\max_{\theta} p_{\theta}(x_{1:n})$$

Actually, many others linked problems...

- Prediction: $p_{\theta}(z_{n+m} \mid x_{1:n})$ for $m \geq 1$
- Filtering: $p_{\theta}(z_i \mid x_{1:i})$
- **Smoothing:** $p_{\theta}(z_i \mid x_{1:n}) \neq \text{filtering, notice the conditioning on all the evidence}$

Inference in HMMs

Reminder on MLE & EM

$$\hat{\theta} \in \arg\max_{\theta} p_{\theta}(\boldsymbol{X})$$

EM algorithm

Start with $\theta^{(0)}$ and repeat until convergence

■ E-step: given the current estimate $\theta^{(t)}$, compute the posterior $p_{\theta^{(t)}}(Z \mid X)$, or at least all its necessary moments to compute

$$\mathbb{E}_{\theta(t)} \left[\log p_{\theta}(\boldsymbol{X}, \boldsymbol{Z}) \mid \boldsymbol{X} \right] = \mathbb{E}_{\boldsymbol{Z} \sim p_{\theta^{(t)}}(\cdot \mid \boldsymbol{X})} \left[\log p_{\theta}(\boldsymbol{X}, \boldsymbol{Z}) \right].$$

■ M-step: update the estimate of θ with

$$\theta^{(t+1)} \in \arg\max_{\theta} \mathbb{E}_{\theta(t)} \left[\log p_{\theta}(\boldsymbol{X}, \boldsymbol{Z}) \mid \boldsymbol{X} \right]^{\cdot}$$

E-step: compute $\mathbb{E}_{Z \sim p_{o(t)}(\cdot | X)} \left[\log p_{\theta}(X, Z) \right]$

In Slide 76 we derived the expression of $\log p_{\theta}(X, Z)$, hence using linearity of \mathbb{E} we get:

$$\mathbb{E}\left[\log p_{\theta}(\boldsymbol{X}, \boldsymbol{Z}) \mid \boldsymbol{X}\right] = \mathbb{E}\left[\sum_{k=1}^{K} z_{1k} \log \nu_{k} + \sum_{k,l=1}^{K} \sum_{i=2}^{n} z_{(i-1)k} z_{il} \log A_{k,l} \mid \boldsymbol{X}\right]$$

$$+ \mathbb{E}\left[\sum_{k=1}^{K} \sum_{i=1}^{n} z_{ik} \log p_{\gamma_{k}}(x_{i}) \mid \boldsymbol{X}\right],$$

$$= \sum_{k=1}^{K} \tau_{1k} \log \nu_{k} + \sum_{k,l=1}^{K} \sum_{i=2}^{n} \xi_{i,k,l} \log A_{k,l} + \sum_{k=1}^{K} \sum_{i=1}^{n} \tau_{ik} \log \Psi_{i}(k).$$

Where:

$$\begin{split} \Psi_i(k) &\coloneqq p_{\gamma_k}(x_i), \\ \tau_{ik} &\coloneqq p_{\theta^{(t)}}(z_{ik} = 1 \mid \boldsymbol{X}) = \mathbb{E}\left[z_{ik} \mid \boldsymbol{X}\right], \\ \xi_{i,k,l} &\coloneqq p_{\theta^{(t)}}(z_{(i-1)k} = 1, z_{il} = 1 \mid \boldsymbol{X}) = \mathbb{E}\left[z_{(i-1)k}z_{il} \mid \boldsymbol{X}\right] \end{split}$$

Hence, we need to compute "smoothed" posterior of all unigrams z_i and bi-grams (z_{i-1}, z_i) \rightarrow no straight-forward closed form as in mixture since $p(z_i \mid X) \neq p(z_i \mid x_i)$ anymore

Intuition: "breaking" the chain

The smoothed posteriors can be computed thanks to a recursion called forward-backward.

The key decomposition lies with the fact that the chain can be ${\sf split}^4$ into two distinct parts - past and future - conditionally on z_i

$$\begin{split} p(z_i = k, x_{1:n}) = & p\left(z_i = k, x_{1:i}, x_{(i+1):n}\right), \\ = & p\left(x_{(i+1):n} \mid z_i = k, \underbrace{x_{1:i}}\right) p\left(x_{1:i}, z_i = k\right). \end{split}$$

⁴As opposed to Fleetwood Mac's famous song

The forward-backward algorithm

Proposition

For a given parameter θ , the posterior probabilities τ_{ik} and $\xi_{i,k,l}$ can be computed by the two following recursions (we drop the θ dependencies for readability, $p=p_{\theta}$)

Forward-step filtering step $\alpha_i = (\alpha_i(1), \dots, \alpha_i(K))$ with

$$\alpha_i(k) = p(z_i = k, x_{1:i}) \longrightarrow \begin{cases} \alpha_1 = & \nu_1 \odot \Psi_1, \\ \alpha_i = & \Psi_i \odot (A^\top \alpha_{i-1}). \end{cases}$$
 (Forward recursion)

Backward compute likelihood of future evidence given that $z_i = k$

$$\beta_i(k) = p(x_{(i+1):n} \mid z_i = k) \longrightarrow \begin{cases} \beta_n = 1, \\ \beta_{i-1} = A(\Psi_i \odot \beta_i). \end{cases}$$
 (Backward recursion)

Then the smoothed posteriors are obtained with

$$\tau_{ik} = p(z_i = k \mid \mathbf{X}) \propto \alpha_i(k)\beta_i(k),$$

$$\xi_{i,k,l} = p(z_i = k, z_{i+1} = l \mid \mathbf{X}) \propto \alpha_i(k)\Psi_{i+1}(l)\beta_{i+1}(l)A_{kl}$$

Proof of the forward recursion

$$\alpha_{i}(k) = p(x_{1:i}, z_{i} = k) = \sum_{l=1}^{K} p(x_{1:i}, z_{i-1} = l, z_{i} = k),$$

$$= \sum_{l=1}^{K} p(x_{1:i-1}, x_{i}, z_{i-1} = l, z_{i} = k),$$

$$= \sum_{l=1}^{K} p(x_{i}, z_{i} = k \mid x_{1:i-1}, z_{i-1} = l)p(x_{1:i-1}, z_{i-1} = l),$$

$$= \sum_{l=1}^{K} p(x_{i} \mid z_{i} = k, \underbrace{x_{1:i-1}, z_{i-1} = l})p(z_{i} = k \mid \underbrace{x_{1:i-1}, z_{i-1} = l})p(x_{1:i-1}, z_{i-1} = l),$$

$$= p(x_{i} \mid z_{i} = k) \sum_{l=1}^{K} p(z_{i} = k \mid z_{i-1} = l)p(x_{1:i-1}, z_{i-1} = l), \qquad \text{(HMM model)}$$

$$= \Psi_{i}(k) \sum_{l=1}^{K} A_{lk} \alpha_{i-1}(l).$$

$$\Rightarrow \alpha_{i} = \Psi_{i} \odot (A^{T} \alpha_{i-1}).$$

Proof of the backward recursion

$$\beta_{i-1}(k) = p(x_{i:n} \mid z_{i-1} = k) = \sum_{l=1}^{K} p(x_{i:n}, z_i = l \mid z_{i-1} = k),$$

$$= \sum_{l=1}^{K} p(x_i, x_{(i+1):n}, z_i = l \mid z_{i-1} = k),$$

$$= \sum_{l=1}^{K} p(x_{(i+1):n} \mid z_i = l, z_i = k, y_i) p(z_i = l, x_i \mid z_{i-1} = k),$$

$$= \sum_{l=1}^{K} p(x_{(i+1):n} \mid z_i = l) p(x_i \mid z_i = l, z_i = k) p(z_i = l \mid z_{i-1} = k),$$

$$= \sum_{l=1}^{K} \beta_i(l) \Psi_i(k) A_{kl},$$

$$\implies \beta_{i-1} = A(\Psi_i \odot \beta_i).$$

Proof for the one-slice smoothed marginal au_{ik}

We previously saw Slide 82 that

$$\tau_{ik} = p(z_i = k \mid \boldsymbol{X}),$$

$$= \frac{p(z_i = k, x_{1:n})}{p(x_{1:n})},$$

$$= \frac{p\left(x_{(i+1):n} \mid z_i = k\right)}{p\left(x_{(i+1):n} \mid z_i = k\right)} \underbrace{p\left(x_{1:i}, z_i = k\right)}_{p(x_{1:n})},$$

$$\propto \alpha_i(k)\beta_i(k).$$
(Slide 82)

In addition, we get that the normalization factor (i.e. the observed likelihood) is

$$p(x_{1:n}) = \sum_{l} \alpha_i(l)\beta_i(l)$$
, at any time step $i = 1, \dots, n$

Proof for the two-slice smoothed marginal $\xi_{i,k,l}$

Using the HMM conditional independencies we can simplify

$$\begin{aligned} \xi_{i,k,l} &= p(z_i = k, z_{i+1} = l \mid x_{1:n}) = \frac{p(x_{1:n}, z_i = k, z_{i+1} = l)}{p(x_{1:n})}, \\ &\propto p(x_{1:n}, z_i = k, z_{i+1} = l), \\ &\propto p(x_{1:i} \mid z_i = k, \underline{z_{i+1}} = \underline{l, x_{(i+1):n}}) p(z_i = k, z_{i+1} = l, x_{(i+1):n}), \\ &\propto p(x_{1:i} \mid z_i = k) p(z_i = k, z_{i+1} = lx_{i+1}, x_{(i+2):n}), \\ &\propto p(x_{1:i} \mid z_i = k) p(x_{(i+2):n} \mid z_{i+1} = l, \underline{x_{i+1}, z_i} = k)} p(z_i = k, z_{i+1} = l, x_{i+1}), \\ &\propto p(x_{1:i} \mid z_i = k) p(x_{(i+2):n} \mid z_{i+1} = l) p(x_{i+1} \mid z_{i+1} = l, \underline{z_i} = k) p(z_{i+1} = l \mid z_i = k) p(z_i = k), \\ &\propto p(x_{1:i} \mid z_i = k) \beta_{i+1}(l) \Psi_{i+1}(l) A_{kl}, \\ &\propto p(x_{1:i}, z_i = k) \beta_{i+1}(l) \Psi_{i+1}(l) A_{kl}, \\ &\propto \alpha_i(k) \beta_{i+1}(l) \Psi_{i+1}(l) A_{kl}. \end{aligned}$$

Additional properties of the forward-backward messages

Computational complexity

The FB procedure is in $\mathcal{O}(nK^2)$

In addition to τ_{ik} and $\xi_{i,k,l}$

- The observed likelihood can be computed in two equivalent ways:
 - **1** with a single forward pass as $p_{\theta}(x_{1:n}) = \sum_{l} \alpha_n(k)$
 - 2 at any step i: $p_{\theta}(x_{1:n}) = \sum_{k} \alpha_i(k)\beta_i(k)$

Using 1 is called a *forward* algorithm.

 \blacksquare The *filtered* marginal at step i is

$$p(z_i = j \mid x_{1:i}) = \alpha_i(k) / \sum_{l} \alpha_i(l)$$

Some remarks on forward-backward

Not complicated to implement but

- 1 Careful with indices, notations easily get mixed up
- 2 Numerical error: code in log-space $\log \alpha$, $\log \tau$ and $\log \xi$ with the "log-sum-exp trick" for computing the normalizing constant. An example

$$\log \alpha_i = \log \Psi_i + \log A^{\top} \alpha_{i-1} - cte_i$$

with $cte_i := \log \sum_k e^{\log \alpha_i(k)}$. When computing cte_i , we use

$$\log \sum_{k} e^{y_k} = m^* + \log \underbrace{\sum_{k} e^{y_k - m^*}}_{>1},$$

with $y_k = \log \alpha_i(k)$ to ensure there is at least one $e^0 = 1$ in the sum for numerical stability.

M-step

Assume $au_{ik}^{(t)}$ and $\xi_{i,k,l}^{(t)}$ have been computed by FB recursion (E-step). We need to solve

$$\theta^{(t)} \in \operatorname*{arg\,max}_{\boldsymbol{\theta} = (\boldsymbol{\nu}, \boldsymbol{A}, \boldsymbol{\gamma})} \left\{ f_t(\boldsymbol{\theta}) \coloneqq \mathbb{E}_{\boldsymbol{Z} \sim p_{\boldsymbol{\theta}^{(t-1)}}} \left[\log p_{\boldsymbol{\theta}}(\boldsymbol{X}, \boldsymbol{Z}) \right] \right\}.$$

With

$$f_t(\boldsymbol{\theta}) = \underbrace{\sum_{k=1}^K \tau_{1k}^{(t)} \log \nu_{k}}_{\text{Markov part}} + \underbrace{\sum_{k,l=1}^K \sum_{i=2}^n \xi_{i,k,l}^{(t)} \log A_{k,l}}_{\text{Emission part}} + \underbrace{\sum_{k=1}^K \sum_{i=1}^n \tau_{ik}^{(t)} \log p_{\gamma_k}(x_i)}_{\text{Emission part}},$$

and constraints

$$\sum_{k=1}^K
u_k = 1$$
 and $\sum_{l=1}^K A_{kl} = 1, \quad orall l = 1, \ldots, K$ and $\gamma_k \in \Gamma$

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M-step for the Markov Chain part

Introducing Lagrange multipliers $\lambda_0,\dots,\lambda_K$ associated to the K+1 equality constraints we seek stationary points of

$$\mathcal{L}(\nu, A; \lambda) = \sum_{k=1}^{K} \tau_{1k}^{(t)} \log \nu_k + \sum_{k,l=1}^{K} \sum_{i=2}^{n} \xi_{i,k,l}^{(t)} \log A_{k,l} + \lambda_0 (1 - \sum_k \nu_k) + \sum_k \lambda_k (1 - \sum_l A_{kl}).$$

This leads for $\forall k, l \in [1, K]$:

$$\hat{\nu}_k^{(t)} = \frac{\tau_{1k}^{(t)}}{\lambda_0}, \qquad \hat{A}_{kl} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \xi_{i,k,l}^{(t)}}{\lambda_k}.$$

Injecting into the K+1 constraints we get the Lagrange multipliers

$$\lambda_0 = \sum_k \tau_{1k}^{(t)} = 1$$

$$\forall k = 1, \dots, K, \quad \lambda_k = \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \sum_{l=1}^K \xi_{i,k,l} = \sum_{i=2}^n \tau_{ik}^{(t)}.$$

M-step for the emission model part

Obviously dependent on the emission model p_{γ_k}

M-step for the emission model part

Obviously dependent on the emission model p_{γ_k}

Still, there are 2 interesting cases we can think about

1 Discrete emissions $x_i \in \{1, \dots, V\}$ and $x_i \mid \{z_{ik} = 1\} \sim \mathcal{M}_V(1, \gamma_k)$ with each γ_k a probability vector over V outcomes. Minimizing the Lagrangian accounting for $\sum_v \gamma_v = 1$, we then have

$$\hat{\gamma}_{kv} = \sum_{i=1}^n \tau_{ik} x_{iv} / \tilde{n}_k, \quad \text{with: } \tilde{n}_k = \sum_{i=1}^n \tau_{ik}.$$

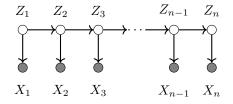
2 Exponential family if $\log p_{\eta_k}(x_i) = \eta_k^\top T_k(x_i) - a_k(\eta_k) - b_k(x_i)$, then we seek to solve this implicit equation in η_k

$$\nabla a(\eta_k) = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n \tau_{ik} T_k(x_i)}{\tilde{n}_k}$$

I is a particular case since $\mathcal{M}_V(1,\gamma)$ can be cast in the exponential family. Its minimal form involves $\eta = \log \gamma/\gamma_V$, $a(\eta) = \log \sum_v e^{\eta_v}$ and T(x) = x. Notice that $\nabla a(\eta) = softmax(\eta) = \gamma$.

Final comment: prediction of $Z_{i+1} \mid Z_i, X_{1:(i+1)}$

Recall the DAG



Hence, in a HMM we have that for all k:

$$\begin{split} p(z_{i+1} = l \mid z_i = k, \, X_{1:(i+1)}) &= p(z_{i+1} = l \mid z_i = k, \, X_{1:(i+1)}), \\ &\propto p(X_{(i+1)} \mid z_i = k, \, z_{i+1} = l) p(z_{i+1} = l \mid z_i = k) \\ &\propto p_{\gamma_l}(x_{i+1}) A_{kl}, \\ &= \frac{p_{\gamma_l}(x_{i+1}) A_{kl}}{\sum_l p_{\gamma_l}(x_{i+1}) A_{kl}}. \end{split} \tag{HMM}$$

 $\leadsto (Z_{1:n} \mid X_{1:n})$ is an inhomogeneous MC with the transition probability at step i that are biased according to the likelihood of the data under the arrival state $\exp(\Psi_i(l))$