

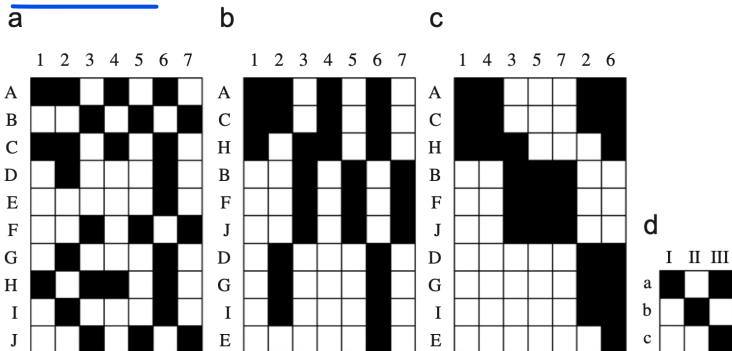
Model-based statistical learning:  
Co-clustering with the latent bloc model

LBM

Vincent Vandewalle (vincent.vandewalle@univ-cotedazur.fr)

Msc 2 Data-Science & IA, 2024-2025

Co-clustering aims at performing simultaneous clustering of both rows and columns:



Source: [Christophe Biernacki, Julien Jacques, and Christine Keribin \(2022\)](#). "A Survey on Model-Based Co-Clustering: High Dimension and Estimation Challenges". [In](#)

- **Bi-clustering algorithms:** aim to detect homogeneous blocks within the data matrix which do not cover the entire matrix and which may overlap.
- **Co-clustering:** a specific bi-clustering model which assumes that all the individuals belong to one and only one row cluster, and *symmetrically* all the variables belong to only one column cluster.
- **Latent Block Model (LBM):** LBM is a model for performing a model-based co-clustering

See [Sara C Madeira and Arlindo L Oliveira \(2004\)](#). “Biclustering algorithms for biological data analysis: a survey”. In: *IEEE/ACM transactions on computational biology and bioinformatics* 1.1, pp. 24–45 for more details on bi-clustering algorithms.

# Questions on Model-Based Clustering (MBC)

- 1 Recall the principle of model-based clustering
  - 2 For what type of data is it designed? Any kind, but need a model on  $X|Z=k$
  - 3 What is the link between the components of the mixture and the clusters? Each component of the mixture is interpreted a cluster
  - 4 How to select the number of clusters? BIC
  - 5 How can you compare two partitions when performing clustering?
  - 6 Why using the rand index?
  - 7 Why performing only clustering on rows, then on columns would not be sufficient to solve the co-clustering problem? Do the clustering of rows and columns simultaneously
- ARI: Adjusted Rand Index (idea computed the percentage of concordant pairs in the two clustering)

# Questions on Model-Based Clustering (MBC)

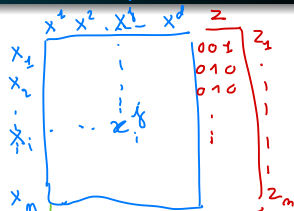
- 1 Recall the principle of model-based clustering Model the distribution of the data as a mixture of distributions.
- 2 For what type of data is it designed? Any kind of data as soon as we are able to propose a model for the class specific density.
- 3 What is the link between the component of the mixture and the clusters? Each component is interpreted as a cluster
- 4 How to select the number of clusters? It can be selected by (AIC)  
BIC or ICL → Choose the number of clusters maximizing BIC criterion
- 5 How can you compare two partitions when performing clustering?  
By using the Adjusted Rand Index
- 6 Why using the rand index? It is invariant up to class permutation
- 7 Why performing only clustering on rows, then on columns would not be sufficient to solve the co-clustering problem? I allow to model the whole data matrix by a very sparse model.

# The Latent Block Model (LBM) assumptions (1/2)

Data matrix  $\mathbf{x}$  ( $n \times d$ )

- $\mathbf{x}_i$ : the row/individual number  $i$
- $\mathbf{x}^j$ : the column/variable number  $j$  of  $\mathbf{x}$
- $x_i^j$ : variable  $j$  of individual  $i$

*mb of cluster in lines*



Partition of the rows  $\mathbf{z}$  ( $n \times K$ )

- $\mathbf{z} = (\mathbf{z}_1, \dots, \mathbf{z}_n)$
- $\mathbf{z}_i = (z_{i1}, \dots, z_{iK}) \in \{0, 1\}^K$
- $z_{ik} = 1$  if  $i$  belongs to row group  $k$  and 0 otherwise

Partition of the columns  $\mathbf{w}$  ( $d \times L$ )

- $\mathbf{w} = (\mathbf{w}_1, \dots, \mathbf{w}_d)$
- $\mathbf{w}_i = (w_{j1}, \dots, w_{jL}) \in \{0, 1\}^L$
- $w_{j\ell} = 1$  if variable  $\mathbf{x}^j$  belongs to column group  $\ell$  and 0 otherwise

*mb of cluster in columns*

Main assumption: each point  $x_i^j$  is assumed to be independent given  $\mathbf{z}_i$  and  $\mathbf{w}_j$  (the knowledge of the block):

$$f(\mathbf{x}|\mathbf{z}, \mathbf{w}; \theta) = \prod_{k=1}^K \prod_{\ell=1}^L \prod_{i=1}^n \prod_{j=1}^d f(x_i^j; \alpha_{k\ell})^{z_{ik}w_{j\ell}}$$

*pdf of  $x_i^j$  in block  $k\ell$*

$$z_{ik}w_{j\ell} = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{iff } z_{ik}=1 \text{ and } w_{j\ell}=1 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

with  $f(\cdot; \alpha_{k\ell})$  the pdf associated to block  $k\ell$  and parametrized by  $\alpha_{k\ell}$ .

# The Latent Block Model (LBM) assumptions (2/2)

Moreover independence is assumed between all  $\mathbf{z}_i$  and  $\mathbf{w}_j$ :

$$f(\mathbf{z}, \mathbf{w}; \theta) = \prod_{i,k} \pi_k^{z_{ik}} \prod_{j,l} \rho_l^{w_{jl}}$$

$\pi_k$ : proportion of cluster  $k$  in row  
 $\rho_l$ : proportion of cluster  $l$  in column

$f(\mathbf{z}; \theta)$        $f(\mathbf{w}; \theta)$

with  $\pi = (\pi_k)_k$  (the probabilities of each cluster in row),  $\rho = (\rho_l)_l$  (the probabilities of each cluster in column).  $\theta = (\pi, \rho, \alpha)$  groups all the parameters

Thus

$$f(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z}, \mathbf{w}; \theta) = \prod_{i,k} \pi_k^{z_{ik}} \prod_{j,l} \rho_l^{w_{jl}} \prod_{i,j,k,l} f(x_i^j; \alpha_{kl})^{z_{ik} w_{jl}}$$

$f(\mathbf{z}; \theta)$        $f(\mathbf{w}; \theta)$        $f(\mathbf{x} | \mathbf{z}, \mathbf{w}; \theta)$

Marginalizing over  $\mathbf{z}$  and  $\mathbf{w}$  (since they are not observed in practice ...),

the pdf of  $\mathbf{x}$  is *sum untractable*

observed likelihood  $\rightarrow$

$$f(\mathbf{x}; \theta) = \sum_{(\mathbf{z}, \mathbf{w}) \in \mathcal{Z} \times \mathcal{W}} \prod_{i,k} \pi_k^{z_{ik}} \prod_{j,l} \rho_l^{w_{jl}} \prod_{i,j,k,l} f(x_i^j; \alpha_{kl})^{z_{ik} w_{jl}}$$

$f(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z}, \mathbf{w}; \theta)$  any distribution eg. normal, multinomial  
 $\alpha_{kl}$  parameter specific to block  $kl$

with  $\mathcal{Z}$  (resp.  $\mathcal{W}$ ) the set of all possible partitions of the rows (resp. the columns)

$\mathbf{x} : x_i^j$  continuous  
 $\alpha_{kl} = (\mu_{kl}, \sigma_{kl})$  depending the model of  $x_i^j$

# Choice of $f(\cdot; \alpha_{k\ell})$ according the type of data for $x_i^j$

- **Binary**: Bernoulli of parameter  $\alpha_{k\ell}$
- **Categorical with  $r$  levels**: Multinomial distribution with parameters  $\alpha_{k\ell} = (\alpha_{k\ell}^1, \dots, \alpha_{k\ell}^r)$   $\sum_{m=1}^r \alpha_{k\ell}^m = 1$
- **Count data**: Poisson distribution with parameter  $\alpha_{k\ell}$
- **Continuous**: Normal distribution with parameters  $\alpha_{k\ell} = (\mu_{k\ell}, \sigma_{k\ell}^2)$
- Can be extended to numerous other data types (ordinal, functional, textual, ...)

These models are very parsimonious even in high dimension!

ToDo : Count the number of parameters of the LBM for each data type



The observed log-likelihood is defined as:

$$\ell(\theta; \mathbf{x}) = \log f(\mathbf{x}; \theta) = \log \left( \sum_{(\mathbf{z}, \mathbf{w}) \in \mathcal{Z} \times \mathcal{W}} \prod_{i,k} \pi_k^{z_{ik}} \prod_{j,\ell} \rho_j^{w_{j\ell}} \prod_{i,j,k,\ell} f(x_i^j; \alpha_{k\ell})^{z_{ik} w_{j\ell}} \right)$$

- $\ell(\theta; \mathbf{x})$  requires the computation of  $K^n L^d$  terms which correspond to all the possible configurations of unobserved labels  $\mathbf{z}$  and  $\mathbf{w}$ !
- The problem is a missing data problem thus possible to use the EM algorithm

$Q(\theta; \theta')$  the expectation of the completed log-likelihood

- $\ell_c(\theta; \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z}, \mathbf{w})$  the completed likelihood ✓
- $Q(\theta, \theta') = \mathbb{E}(\ell_c(\theta; \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z}, \mathbf{w}) | \mathbf{x}, \theta')$  the expectation of the completed log-likelihood given the current parameters  $\theta'$


EM algorithm starting from  $\theta^{(0)}$  and loop until convergence

- Expectation (E) step: Computation of  $Q(\theta; \theta')$
- Maximization (M) step:  $\theta^{(q+1)} = \arg \max_{\theta} Q(\theta, \theta^{(q)})$

## E step: computation of $Q(\theta, \theta^{(q)})$

The EM algorithm allows to increase the log-likelihood at each iteration:  $\ell(\theta^{(q+1)}) \geq \ell(\theta^{(q)})$  and thus to converge to a local maximum of the likelihood

$$\ell_c(\theta; \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z}, \mathbf{w}) = \sum_k \left( \sum_i z_{ik} \right) \log \pi_k + \sum_{\ell} \left( \sum_j w_{j\ell} \right) \log \rho_{\ell} + \sum_{i,j,k,\ell} \log f(x_i^j; \alpha_{k\ell})$$

 binary variable so it can take 0 or 1

Thus by taking the conditional expectation, we get:

$$\begin{aligned} Q(\theta, \theta^{(q)}) &= \sum_{i,k} p(z_{ik} = 1 | \mathbf{x}, \theta^{(q)}) \log \pi_k + \sum_{j,\ell} p(w_{j\ell} = 1 | \mathbf{x}, \theta^{(q)}) \log \rho_{\ell} \\ &\quad + \sum_{i,j,k,\ell} p(z_{ik} w_{j\ell} = 1 | \mathbf{x}; \theta^{(q)}) \log f(x_i^j; \alpha_{k\ell}) \end{aligned}$$

Let  $s_{ik}^{(q)} = p(z_{ik} = 1 | \mathbf{x}; \theta^{(q)})$ ,  $t_{j\ell}^{(q)} = p(w_{j\ell} = 1 | \mathbf{x}; \theta^{(q)})$  and  $p(z_{ik} w_{j\ell} = 1 | \mathbf{x}; \theta^{(q)})$ . All these computations are intractable due to dependence structure in the model.

Question: Assume that you would know these intractable quantities, how would perform the M-step?

- Variational approach: Constrain the joint probability to satisfy the relation

posterior distribution  $p(\mathbf{z}, \mathbf{w}|\mathbf{x}; \theta) \approx p_z(\mathbf{z}|\mathbf{x}; \theta)p_w(\mathbf{w}|\mathbf{x}; \theta)$

where  $p_z$  and  $p_w$  are chosen to provide the closest approximation of  $p(\mathbf{z}, \mathbf{w}|\mathbf{x}; \theta)$  while still being computable. The algorithm maximizes an evidence lower bound (ELBO)

$$\ell(\theta; \mathbf{x}) \geq \mathcal{F}(\theta; \mathbf{x}) = \max_{p_z, p_w} (\ell_c(\theta; \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z}, \mathbf{w}) - \log(p_z(\mathbf{z})p_w(\mathbf{w})))$$

this algorithm is called VEM as variational EM

sampling

- SEM algorithm : alternates the following steps: simulate  $\mathbf{z}|\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{w}; \theta$  and then  $\mathbf{w}|\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z}; \theta$ . Then update  $\theta$  given the simulated classes  $\mathbf{z}$  and  $\mathbf{w}$

# Estimating and evaluation of the rows and the columns clusters

## Estimation

- VEM : based on  $p_z(\mathbf{z}|\mathbf{x};\hat{\theta})$  and  $p_w(\mathbf{w}|\mathbf{x};\hat{\theta})$  at the last iteration
- SEM: Based on sampling  $(\mathbf{z}, \mathbf{w})|\mathbf{x}; \hat{\theta}$  by a Gibbs sampler, then estimate  $(\hat{\mathbf{z}}, \hat{\mathbf{w}})$  by the mode of the marginal sampled distribution.
- CEM: Based on an alternate optimization of the completed log-likelihood

## Evaluation

- ARI: Adjusted Rand Index / For the rows and columns respectively
- CARI: Co-clustering ARI developed for co-clustering

# Details on the SEM-Gibbs algorithm

## SEM-Gibbs algorithm

- Initialize the partitions in rows  $\mathbf{z}^{(0)}$  and in columns  $\mathbf{w}^{(0)}$ .
- For  $r$  in 1 to  $r^{max}$ 
  - Compute  $\theta^{(r)} = \operatorname{argmax}_{\theta} f(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z}^{(r-1)}, \mathbf{w}^{(r-1)}; \theta)$
  - Sample  $\mathbf{z}^{(r)} \sim \mathbf{z} | \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{w}^{(r-1)}, \theta^{(r)}$
  - Sample  $\mathbf{w}^{(r)} \sim \mathbf{w} | \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z}^{(r)}, \theta^{(r)}$

This produces a sequence of parameter  $\theta^{(0)}, \theta^{(1)}, \dots$  converging in the neighbourhood of the MLE. A usual choice is to retain the last value  $\hat{\theta} = \theta^{(r^{max})}$ .

## Estimation of $\hat{\mathbf{z}}$ and $\hat{\mathbf{w}}$

Given this fixed value of  $\hat{\theta}$  it is possible to sample new values of  $\mathbf{z}$  and  $\mathbf{w}$  according to  $p(\mathbf{z}, \mathbf{w} | \mathbf{x}; \hat{\theta})$  using the following Gibbs algorithm:

- $\mathbf{z}^{(r)} \sim \mathbf{z} | \mathbf{w}^{(r-1)}; \hat{\theta}$
- $\mathbf{w}^{(r)} \sim \mathbf{w} | \mathbf{z}^{(r)}; \hat{\theta}$

$\hat{\mathbf{z}}$  and  $\hat{\mathbf{w}}$  are obtained by taking the mode of the sampled partitions

# Details on the computation of $p(z_{ik} = 1 | \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{w}; \theta)$

$$p(z_{ik} = 1 | \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{w}; \theta) \propto f(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{w}, z_{ik} = 1; \theta)$$

and

$$f(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{w}, z_{ik} = 1; \theta) = p(z_{ik} = 1; \theta) p(\mathbf{w}; \theta) f(\mathbf{x}_i | \mathbf{w}, z_{ik} = 1; \theta) \times f(\mathbf{x}_{\{-i\}} | \mathbf{w}; \theta)$$

where  $\mathbf{x}_{\{-i\}}$  denotes all the rows of  $\mathbf{x}$  except row  $i$ . The last term does not depend on  $k$ , thus

$$p(z_{ik} = 1 | \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{w}; \theta) \propto \alpha_k \left( \prod_{j,\ell} \rho_\ell^{w_{j\ell}} \right) \left( \prod_{j,\ell} f(x_i^j; \alpha_{k\ell})^{w_{j\ell}} \right) = \alpha_k \prod_{j,\ell} \rho_\ell^{w_{j\ell}} f(x_i^j; \alpha_{k\ell})^{w_{j\ell}}$$

And as a consequence

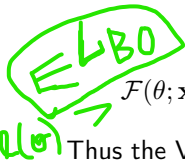
$$p(z_{ik} = 1 | \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{w}; \theta) = \frac{\alpha_k \prod_{j,\ell} \rho_\ell^{w_{j\ell}} f(x_i^j; \alpha_{k\ell})^{w_{j\ell}}}{\sum_{k'=1}^K \alpha_{k'} \prod_{j,\ell} \rho_\ell^{w_{j\ell}} f(x_i^j; \alpha_{k'\ell})^{w_{j\ell}}}$$

Thus the label of each row can be sample independently given the data of the row and the labels of all the columns.

# Details on the VEM algorithm

Contrary to the SEM which is stochastic, the VEM algorithm is deterministic its tries to maximize the ELBO

$$\hat{\theta}_{VEM} = \arg \max_{\theta} \mathcal{F}(\theta; \mathbf{x}), \text{ and}$$


$$\mathcal{F}(\theta; \mathbf{x}) = \max_{p_z, p_w} (\mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{z} \sim p_z, \mathbf{w} \sim p_w} [\ell_c(\theta; \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z}, \mathbf{w}) - \log(p_z(\mathbf{z})p_w(\mathbf{w}))])$$

Thus the VEM algorithm performs an alternate optimization between  $\theta$  and  $p_z, p_w$ :

- Update  $\theta$  given  $p_z^{(r-1)}$  and  $p_w^{(r-1)}$ : standard M-step

$$\theta^{(r)} = \arg \max_{\theta} \mathbb{E}_{p_z^{(r-1)}, p_w^{(r-1)}} [\log f(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z}, \mathbf{w}; \theta)]$$

- Update  $p_z, p_w$  given  $\theta^{(r)}$ : solve a coupled fixed point equation. Let  $p_z(z_{ik} = 1) = \tau_{ik}$  and  $p_w(w_{j\ell} = 1) = \nu_{j\ell}$

$$\tau_{ik} \propto \pi_k^{(r)} \prod_{j,\ell} f(x_i^j; \alpha_{k\ell}^{(r)})^{\nu_{j\ell}} \quad \forall i, k \quad \text{and} \quad \nu_{j\ell} \propto \rho_\ell^{(r)} \prod_{i,k} f(x_i^j; \alpha_{k\ell}^{(r)})^{\tau_{ik}} \quad \forall j, \ell$$

# Adjusted Rand Index (ARI)

## Purpose

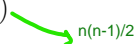
The Adjusted Rand Index (ARI) measures the similarity between two clusterings, correcting for chance. It is widely used to evaluate the quality of clustering results.

## Rand Index (RI)

The Rand Index evaluates the agreement between two clusterings  $C_1$  and  $C_2$  by considering:

- $a$ : Number of pairs of elements in the same cluster in both  $C_1$  and  $C_2$ .
- $b$ : Number of pairs of elements in different clusters in both  $C_1$  and  $C_2$ .

The formula for the Rand Index is  $RI = \frac{a+b}{\binom{n}{2}}$



$n(n-1)/2$

## Adjusted Rand Index (ARI)

The ARI adjusts the Rand Index to account for the expected similarity due to chance:

$$ARI = \frac{RI - \mathbb{E}[RI]}{\max(RI) - \mathbb{E}[RI]}$$

- $\mathbb{E}[RI]$ : Expected Rand Index for random clusterings.
- Range:  $-1$  (disagreement) to  $1$  (perfect agreement), with  $0$  indicating random labeling.



# Choice of the number of clusters

Since the computation of the observed likelihood is difficult, a solution is to use the ICL criterion to select  $K$  and  $L$ :

$$\text{ICL}(K, L) = \log f(\mathbf{x}, \hat{\mathbf{z}}^{K,L}, \hat{\mathbf{w}}^{K,L}; \hat{\theta}^{K,L}) - \frac{\text{nb param}(K, L)}{2} \log(nm)$$

where  $\hat{\mathbf{z}}^{K,L}$  stands for the values estimated using  $K$  clusters in rows and  $L$  clusters in columns, and  $\text{nb param}(K, L)$  is the number of parameters for the model.