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# *Mixture Models and Expectation-Maximization (EM)*

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Note: Other topics related to EM can be found on [this more extensive set of lecture notes](#).

- Bishop CM, [Pattern Recognition and Machine Learning](#), Springer, 2006 (Chapter 8)
- Murphy, K., [Machine Learning: A Probabilistic Perspective](#) (Chapter 11)
- M. Jordan, An Introduction to Graphical Models, unpublished (Chapters 9 and 10)



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# *Gaussian Mixtures Revisited*



# Gaussian Mixtures Revisited

- We will maximize the log of the joint distribution of latent and observed variables (complete data log likelihood), averaged with respect to the posterior distribution  $p(\mathbf{Z}|\mathbf{X})$  of the latent variables  $\langle \ln p(\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{Z}|\theta) \rangle$  – i.e. replace  $z_{nk}$  with the  $\gamma(z_{nk})$  (E step of the EM algorithm)



$$\gamma(z_{nk}) = \mathbb{E}[z_{nk}] \text{ (responsibilities)}$$

- This will give us the M step of the EM algorithm:  
Maximize

$$\langle \ln p(\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{Z}|\theta) \rangle = \sum_{n=1}^N \sum_{k=1}^K \gamma(z_{nk}) \left\{ \ln \pi_k + \ln \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{x}_n | \boldsymbol{\mu}_k, \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_k) \right\}$$

# Gaussian Mixtures Revisited

- Our original problem was to maximize the complete-data log likelihood:

$$\ln p(\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{Z} | \theta) = \sum_{n=1}^N \sum_{k=1}^K z_{nk} \left\{ \ln \pi_k + \ln \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{x}_n | \boldsymbol{\mu}_k, \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_k) \right\}$$

- We change the problem statement by maximizing the log of the joint distribution of latent and observed variables, averaged with respect to the posterior distribution  $p(\mathbf{Z} | \mathbf{X})$  of the latent variables  $\langle \ln p(\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{Z} | \theta) \rangle$  – i.e. replace  $z_{nk}$  with the  $\gamma(z_{nk})$

$$\langle \ln p(\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{Z} | \theta) \rangle = \sum_{n=1}^N \sum_{k=1}^K \gamma(z_{nk}) \left\{ \ln \pi_k + \ln \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{x}_n | \boldsymbol{\mu}_k, \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_k) \right\}$$

where

$$\gamma(z_{nk}) = \mathbb{E}[z_{nk}] \text{ (responsibilities)}$$

# Gaussian Mixtures Revisited: Summary

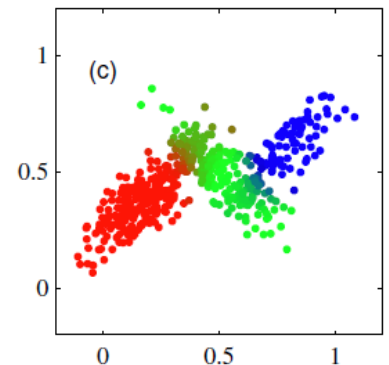
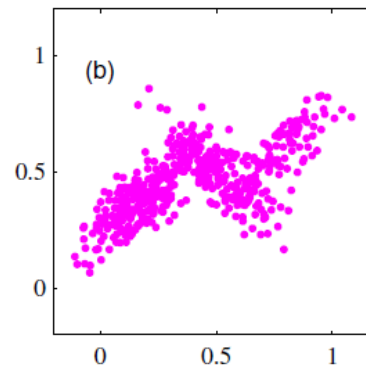
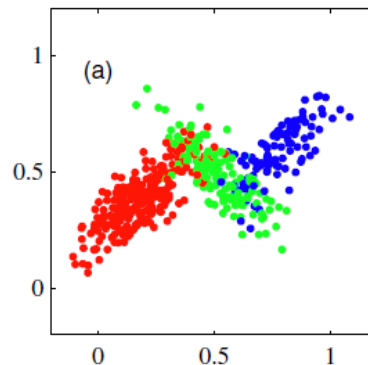
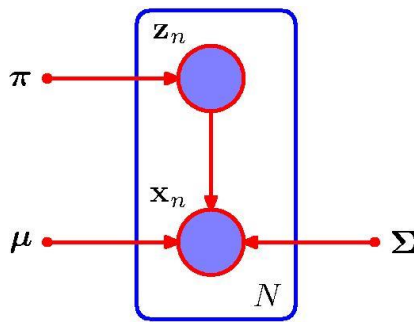
□ Assume that for each  $\mathbf{x}_n$  we are given the discrete variable (latent assignment variables)  $z_n$

□ Complete-data log-likelihood and expectation

$$p\left(\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{Z} \mid \underbrace{\boldsymbol{\mu}, \boldsymbol{\Sigma}, \boldsymbol{\pi}}_{\boldsymbol{\theta}}\right) = \prod_{n=1}^N \prod_{k=1}^K \pi_k^{z_{nk}} \mathcal{N}\left(\mathbf{x}_n \mid \boldsymbol{\mu}_k, \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_k\right)^{z_{nk}}$$

$$\ln p(\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{Z} \mid \boldsymbol{\theta}) = \sum_{n=1}^N \sum_{k=1}^K z_{nk} \left\{ \ln \pi_k + \ln \mathcal{N}\left(\mathbf{x}_n \mid \boldsymbol{\mu}_k, \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_k\right) \right\}$$

$$Q(\boldsymbol{\theta}) = \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{Z}} \left[ \ln p(\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{Z} \mid \boldsymbol{\theta}) \right] = \sum_{n=1}^N \sum_{k=1}^K \gamma(z_{nk}) \left\{ \ln \pi_k + \ln \mathcal{N}\left(\mathbf{x}_n \mid \boldsymbol{\mu}_k, \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_k\right) \right\}$$



# Gaussian Mixtures Revisited: Summary

- This leads to the EM algorithm for Gaussian mixtures discussed earlier.
- Choose initial values for  $\boldsymbol{\mu}^{\text{old}}$ ,  $\boldsymbol{\Sigma}^{\text{old}}$  and  $\boldsymbol{\pi}^{\text{old}}$ , and use these to evaluate the responsibilities (E step).
- Keep the responsibilities fixed and maximize

$$Q(\boldsymbol{\theta}) = \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{Z}} \left[ \ln p(\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{Z} | \boldsymbol{\theta}) \right] = \sum_{n=1}^N \sum_{k=1}^K \gamma(z_{nk}) \left\{ \ln \pi_k + \ln \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{x}_n | \boldsymbol{\mu}_k, \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_k) \right\}$$

with respect to  $\boldsymbol{\mu}_k$ ,  $\boldsymbol{\Sigma}_k$  and  $\pi_k$  (M step).

- This leads to closed form solutions for  $\boldsymbol{\mu}^{\text{new}}$ ,  $\boldsymbol{\Sigma}^{\text{new}}$  and  $\boldsymbol{\pi}^{\text{new}}$  identical as before (see proof of one of these next):

$$N_k = \sum_n \gamma(z_{nk}), \boldsymbol{\mu}_k^{\text{new}} = \frac{\sum_{n=1}^N \gamma(z_{nk}) \mathbf{x}_n}{N_k}, \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_k^{\text{new}} = \frac{\sum_{n=1}^N \gamma(z_{nk}) (\mathbf{x}_n - \boldsymbol{\mu}_k)(\mathbf{x}_n - \boldsymbol{\mu}_k)^T}{N_k}, \pi_k^{\text{new}} = \frac{N_k}{N}$$



# Gaussian Mixtures Revisited: Summary

$$Q(\boldsymbol{\theta}) = \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{Z}} \left[ \ln p(\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{Z} | \boldsymbol{\theta}) \right] = \sum_{n=1}^N \sum_{k=1}^K \gamma(z_{nk}) \left\{ \ln \pi_k + \ln \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{x}_n | \boldsymbol{\mu}_k, \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_k) \right\}$$

□ We can write the rhs as follows:

$$-\frac{1}{2} \sum_{n=1}^N \sum_{k=1}^K \gamma(z_{nk}) (\mathbf{x}_n - \boldsymbol{\mu}_k)^T \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_k^{-1} (\mathbf{x}_n - \boldsymbol{\mu}_k) + \text{const}$$

□ Where the constant are terms independent of  $\boldsymbol{\mu}_k$ . Taking derivative wrt  $\boldsymbol{\mu}_k$ :

$$-\sum_{n=1}^N \gamma(z_{nk}) \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_k^{-1} (\boldsymbol{\mu}_k - \mathbf{x}_n) = 0 \Rightarrow \boldsymbol{\mu}_k \sum_{n=1}^N \gamma(z_{nk}) = \sum_{n=1}^N \gamma(z_{nk}) \mathbf{x}_n \Rightarrow \boldsymbol{\mu}_k = \frac{\sum_{n=1}^N \gamma(z_{nk}) \mathbf{x}_n}{N_k}$$

□ Similarly, one can derive expressions for  $\boldsymbol{\Sigma}^{\text{new}}$  and  $\boldsymbol{\pi}^{\text{new}}$ .





# EM Algorithm Vs. K-Means Algorithm

- ❑ K-Means does hard (unique) assignment of each point to a class. EM makes soft assignments based on posterior probabilities (responsibilities).

- ❑ K-Means is a certain limit of EM for Gaussian mixtures.

- ❑ Consider a Gaussian model with  $\mathcal{N}(\mathbf{x} | \boldsymbol{\mu}_k, \Sigma_k) = \frac{1}{(2\pi\varepsilon)^{D/2}} \exp\left\{-\frac{1}{2\varepsilon}\|\mathbf{x} - \boldsymbol{\mu}_k\|^2\right\}$  for all  $k$  (same  $\varepsilon$ )

- ❑ For a fixed  $\varepsilon$  and K-Gaussian mixture and assuming all  $\pi_j \neq 0$ , the responsibilities are:

$$\gamma(z_{nk}) = \frac{\exp\left\{-\|\mathbf{x}_n - \boldsymbol{\mu}_k\|^2 / 2\varepsilon\right\} \pi_k}{\sum_j \exp\left\{-\|\mathbf{x}_n - \boldsymbol{\mu}_j\|^2 / 2\varepsilon\right\} \pi_j}$$

- ❑ Consider:  $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$ . Note that in this case and regardless of the  $\pi_j \neq 0$   $\gamma(z_{nk}) \rightarrow r_{nk}$ , where  $r_{nk} = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } k = \arg \min_j \|\mathbf{x}_n - \boldsymbol{\mu}_j\|^2 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$  i.e. each data point is assigned to the closest mean.



# EM Algorithm Vs. K-Means Algorithm

- The EM re-estimation equation for the  $\mu_k$  becomes in this case:

$$\mu_k = \frac{1}{\sum_n \gamma(z_{nk})} \sum_{n=1}^N \gamma(z_{nk}) \mathbf{x}_n \rightarrow \frac{\sum_{n=1}^N r_{nk} \mathbf{x}_n}{\sum_{n=1}^N r_{nk}}$$

- The mixing coefficients  $\pi_k$  are equal to the fraction of data points assigned to cluster k.

- The expected complete-data log-likelihood for  $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$  becomes:

$$\begin{aligned} Q(\boldsymbol{\theta}) &= \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{Z}} \left[ \ln p \left( \mathbf{X}, \mathbf{Z} \mid \underbrace{\boldsymbol{\mu}, \boldsymbol{\Sigma}, \boldsymbol{\pi}}_{\boldsymbol{\theta}} \right) \right] = \sum_{n=1}^N \sum_{k=1}^K \gamma(z_{nk}) \left\{ \ln \pi_k + \ln \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{x}_n \mid \boldsymbol{\mu}_k, \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_k) \right\} \\ &\rightarrow - \underbrace{\frac{1}{2} \sum_{n=1}^N \sum_{k=1}^K r_{nk} \left\| \mathbf{x}_n - \boldsymbol{\mu}_k \right\|^2}_{J} + \text{constant} \end{aligned}$$

- Thus maximizing  $Q(\boldsymbol{\theta})$  is equivalent to mimimizing J in K-means



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# *Mixture of Bernoulli Distributions*



# Mixture of Discrete Binary Variables

- Consider  $D$  binary variables  $x_i$ ,  $i=1, \dots, D$  each governed by a Bernoulli distribution with parameter  $\mu_i$  ( $x_i$  independent given  $\mu$ ):

$$p(\mathbf{x}|\boldsymbol{\mu}) = \prod_{k=1}^D \mu_k^{x_k} (1 - \mu_k)^{1-x_k},$$

$$\mathbf{x} = \{x_1, \dots, x_D\}^T, \boldsymbol{\mu} = \{\mu_1, \dots, \mu_D\}^T$$

- The mean and covariance of this distribution are:

$$\mathbb{E}[\mathbf{x}] = \boldsymbol{\mu}, \text{cov}[\mathbf{x}] = \text{diag}\{\mu_i(1 - \mu_i)\}$$

- Consider a mixture of these Bernoulli distributions

$$p(\mathbf{x}|\boldsymbol{\mu}, \boldsymbol{\pi}) = \sum_{k=1}^K \pi_k p(\mathbf{x}|\boldsymbol{\mu}_k), \quad \text{where} \quad p(\mathbf{x}|\boldsymbol{\mu}_k) = \prod_{i=1}^D \mu_{ki}^{x_i} (1 - \mu_{ki})^{1-x_i},$$

$$\boldsymbol{\pi} = \{\pi_1, \dots, \pi_K\}^T, \boldsymbol{\mu} = \{\boldsymbol{\mu}_1, \dots, \boldsymbol{\mu}_K\}^T$$

- Lazarsfeld, P. F. and N. W. Henry (1968). [\*Latent Structure Analysis\*](#). Houghton Mifflin.
- McLachlan, G. J. and D. Peel (2000). [\*Finite Mixture Models\*](#). Wiley.



# Mixture of Bernoulli Distributions

$$p(\mathbf{x}|\boldsymbol{\mu}, \boldsymbol{\pi}) = \sum_{k=1}^K \pi_k p(\mathbf{x}|\boldsymbol{\mu}_k), \quad \text{where } p(\mathbf{x}|\boldsymbol{\mu}_k) = \prod_{i=1}^D \mu_{ki}^{x_i} (1 - \mu_{ki})^{1-x_i},$$

$$\boldsymbol{\pi} = \{\pi_1, \dots, \pi_K\}^T, \quad \boldsymbol{\mu} = \{\boldsymbol{\mu}_1, \dots, \boldsymbol{\mu}_K\}^T$$

- For any mixture distribution of the form  $p(\mathbf{x}) = \sum_{k=1}^K \pi_k p(\mathbf{x}|k)$  with mean and covariance of  $p(\mathbf{x}|k)$  being  $\boldsymbol{\mu}_k$  and  $\boldsymbol{\Sigma}_k$ , respectively, the mean and covariance of this mixture distribution are given as:

$$\mathbb{E}[\mathbf{x}] = \sum_{k=1}^K \pi_k \boldsymbol{\mu}_k$$

$$\text{Use: } \mathbb{E}[\mathbf{x}] = \sum_{k=1}^K p(z=k) \mathbb{E}[\mathbf{x} / z=k],$$

$$\text{cov}[\mathbf{x}] = \sum_{k=1}^K p(z=k) \mathbb{E}[\mathbf{x}\mathbf{x}^T / z=k] - \mathbb{E}[\mathbf{x}] \mathbb{E}[\mathbf{x}]^T$$

$$\text{cov}[\mathbf{x}] = \mathbb{E}[\mathbf{x}\mathbf{x}^T] - \mathbb{E}[\mathbf{x}] \mathbb{E}[\mathbf{x}]^T = \sum_{k=1}^K \pi_k \mathbb{E}_k[\mathbf{x}\mathbf{x}^T] - \mathbb{E}[\mathbf{x}] \mathbb{E}[\mathbf{x}]^T$$

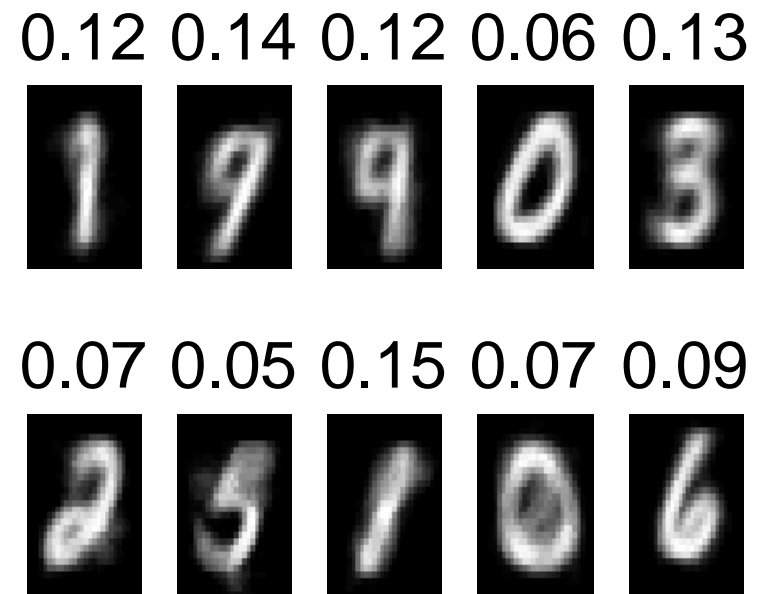
$$= \sum_{k=1}^K \pi_k \left\{ \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_k + \boldsymbol{\mu}_k \boldsymbol{\mu}_k^T \right\} - \mathbb{E}[\mathbf{x}] \mathbb{E}[\mathbf{x}]^T$$

- The joint distribution is not factorized. *The mixture distribution captures correlations* between variables unlike the single product of Bernoullis model.



# Example: Mixture of Bernoullis and MLE

- We fit a mixture of Bernoullis to the MNIST handwritten digit data set using  $K = 10$  and visualize the centroids (*MLE* of cluster means). The numbers on the top are MLE of the mixing weights.
- This discovers some digit classes, but it creates multiple clusters for some digits and no clusters for others. The reasons for this include:
  - The model is very simple (no notion of shape or a stroke).
  - Some digits exhibit a degree of visual variety (e.g. 7's with and without the cross bar).
  - We need  $K \geq 10$  clusters for this data.
  - Using a large  $K$ , we create multiple versions of the same digit. One can use model selection to prevent this.
  - The likelihood function is not convex, so we may be stuck in a local optimum.
- One must be cautious trying to interpret any clusters that are discovered by the method.
- Using informative priors can help.



[mixBerMnistEM](#)  
from [Kevin Murphys' PMTK](#)



# Mixture of Bernoulli Distributions

- If we are given a data set  $\mathbf{X} = \{\mathbf{x}_1, \dots, \mathbf{x}_N\}$  then the log likelihood function for this model is given by

$$\ln p(\mathbf{X} | \boldsymbol{\mu}, \boldsymbol{\pi}) = \sum_{n=1}^N \ln \left\{ \sum_{k=1}^K \pi_k p(\mathbf{x}_n | \boldsymbol{\mu}_k) \right\}$$

- Note the summation inside the log. The MLE again does not have a closed solution.
- To derive the EM algorithm, we introduce a latent variable  $\mathbf{z}$  associated with each instance of  $\mathbf{x}$ .  $\mathbf{z} = (z_1, \dots, z_K)^T$  is a binary K-dimensional variable having a single component equal to 1, with all other components equal to 0:

$$p(\mathbf{x}_n | \mathbf{z}, \boldsymbol{\mu}) = \prod_{k=1}^K p(\mathbf{x} | \boldsymbol{\mu}_k)^{z_k}$$

- The prior for the latent variables is:

$$p(\mathbf{z} | \boldsymbol{\pi}) = \prod_{k=1}^K \pi_k^{z_k}$$



# Mixture of Bernoulli Distributions

□ The complete-data log-likelihood is:

$$\ln p(\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{Z} | \boldsymbol{\mu}, \boldsymbol{\pi}) = \sum_{n=1}^N \sum_{k=1}^K z_{nk} \left\{ \ln \pi_k + \sum_{i=1}^D \left[ x_{ni} \ln \mu_{ki} + (1 - x_{ni}) \ln(1 - \mu_{ki}) \right] \right\}, \text{ where: } \mathbf{X} = \{\mathbf{x}_n\}, \mathbf{Z} = \{\mathbf{z}_n\}$$

□ Take the expectation of the complete-data log likelihood with respect to the posterior distribution of the latent variables:

$$\mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{Z}} \left[ \ln p(\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{Z} | \boldsymbol{\mu}, \boldsymbol{\pi}) \right] = \sum_{n=1}^N \sum_{k=1}^K \gamma_{nk} \left\{ \ln \pi_k + \sum_{i=1}^D \left[ x_{ni} \ln \mu_{ki} + (1 - x_{ni}) \ln(1 - \mu_{ki}) \right] \right\}, \text{ where: } \gamma_{nk} = \mathbb{E}[z_{nk}]$$

$\gamma_{nk}$  is the posterior probability, or responsibility, of component  $k$  given data point  $\mathbf{x}_n$ .



# Mixture of Bernoulli Distributions

- E-Step: Compute the Responsibilities using Bayes' rule

$$\gamma_{nk} = \mathbb{E}[z_{nk}] = \frac{\sum_{z_n} z_{nk} \prod_{k'} (\pi_{k'} p(\mathbf{x}_n | \boldsymbol{\mu}_{k'}))^{z_{nk'}}}{\sum_{z_n} \prod_j (\pi_j p(\mathbf{x}_n | \boldsymbol{\mu}_j))^{z_{nj}}} = \frac{\pi_k p(\mathbf{x}_n | \boldsymbol{\mu}_k)}{\sum_{j=1}^K \pi_j p(\mathbf{x}_n | \boldsymbol{\mu}_j)}$$

- Considering the sum in n,

$$\mathbb{E}_Z [\ln p(\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{Z} | \boldsymbol{\mu}, \boldsymbol{\pi})] = \sum_{n=1}^N \sum_{k=1}^K \gamma_{nk} \left\{ \ln \pi_k + \sum_{i=1}^D [x_{ni} \ln \mu_{ki} + (1 - x_{ni}) \ln(1 - \mu_{ki})] \right\}$$

we note that the responsibilities come through the following terms:

$$N_k = \sum_{n=1}^N \gamma_{nk}, \quad \bar{\mathbf{x}}_k = \frac{1}{N_k} \sum_{n=1}^N \gamma_{nk} \mathbf{x}_n$$

- $N_k$  is the effective number of data points associated with component  $k$ .



# Mixture of Bernoulli Distributions

□ M step: Maximize the expected complete-data log likelihood with respect to the parameters  $\mu_k$  and  $\pi$ .

□ If we set the derivative of

$$\mathbb{E}_Z \left[ \ln p(X, Z | \mu, \pi) \right] = \sum_{n=1}^N \sum_{k=1}^K \gamma_{nk} \left\{ \ln \pi_k + \sum_{i=1}^D [x_{ni} \ln \mu_{ki} + (1 - x_{ni}) \ln(1 - \mu_{ki})] \right\}$$

with respect to  $\mu_{ki}$  equal to zero and rearrange the terms, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial}{\partial \mu_{ki}} \sum_{n=1}^N \sum_{k=1}^K \gamma_{nk} \sum_{i=1}^D [x_{ni} \ln \mu_{ki} + (1 - x_{ni}) \ln(1 - \mu_{ki})] &= 0 \Rightarrow \sum_{n=1}^N \gamma_{nk} \left( \frac{x_{ni}}{\mu_{ki}} - \frac{1 - x_{ni}}{1 - \mu_{ki}} \right) = 0 \Rightarrow \\ \sum_{n=1}^N \frac{x_{ni} \gamma_{nk} - \mu_{ki} \gamma_{nk}}{\mu_{ki} (1 - \mu_{ki})} &= 0 \Rightarrow \sum_{n=1}^N x_{ni} \gamma_{nk} = \mu_{ki} \sum_{n=1}^N \gamma_{nk} \Rightarrow \mu_k = \bar{x}_k \equiv \frac{1}{N_k} \sum_{n=1}^N \gamma_{nk} x_n \end{aligned}$$

□ The mean of component k is equal to a weighted mean of the data. The weighting coefficients are given by the responsibilities that component k takes for data points.



# Mixture of Bernoulli Distributions

- For the maximization with respect to  $\pi_k$ , we enforce the constraint  $\sum_k \pi_k = 1$ .

- As for the mixture of Gaussians, we then obtain

$$\pi_k = \frac{N_k}{N}$$

- The mixing coefficient for component  $k$  is given by the effective fraction of points in the data set explained by that component.

# Degenerate Case: Initialization

- Note that the following holds for the mixture of Bernoulli distributions:

$$\mathbb{E}[\mathbf{x}] = \sum_{k=1}^K \pi_k \boldsymbol{\mu}_k = \sum_{k=1}^K \pi_k \underbrace{\frac{1}{N_k}}_{1/N} \sum_{n=1}^N \gamma(z_{nk}) \mathbf{x}_n = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{n=1}^N \mathbf{x}_n \underbrace{\sum_{k=1}^K \gamma(z_{nk})}_1 = \bar{\mathbf{x}}$$

- If we initialize the means by setting them to a common value  $\boldsymbol{\mu}_k = \hat{\boldsymbol{\mu}}, k = 1, \dots, K$ , then:

$$\gamma_{nk} = \frac{\pi_k p(\mathbf{x}_n | \boldsymbol{\mu}_k)}{\sum_{j=1}^K \pi_j p(\mathbf{x}_n | \boldsymbol{\mu}_j)} = \frac{\pi_k}{\sum_{j=1}^K \pi_j} = \pi_k \text{ (independent of } n)$$

$$\boldsymbol{\mu}_k = \frac{1}{N_k} \sum_{n=1}^N \gamma_{nk} \mathbf{x}_n = \pi_k \frac{1}{N_k} N \bar{\mathbf{x}} = \bar{\mathbf{x}}$$

i.e. all means converge to the MLE estimate and will never be updated.

- This is a degenerate case that needs to be avoided with proper initialization.



# Mixture of Bernoulli Distributions

- In contrast to the mixture of Gaussians, there are no singularities when the likelihood function goes to infinity.
- This can be seen by noting that the likelihood function is bounded above. Indeed:

$$0 \leq p(\mathbf{x}_n | \boldsymbol{\mu}_k) \leq 1, 0 \leq \pi_k \leq 1, \sum_k \pi_k = 1$$

- Then note that the max value of  $\ln p(\mathbf{X} | \boldsymbol{\mu}, \boldsymbol{\pi})$  is zero.

$$\ln p(\mathbf{X} | \boldsymbol{\mu}, \boldsymbol{\pi}) = \sum_{n=1}^N \ln \underbrace{\left\{ \sum_{k=1}^K \pi_k p(\mathbf{x}_n | \boldsymbol{\mu}_k) \right\}}_{\text{max value 1}}$$

- The likelihood function can go to zero
  - These singularities would not be found provided that EM is not initialized to a pathological starting point.
  - Recall that the EM algorithm always increases the value of the likelihood function until a local maximum is found.



# Example: Modeling of Handwritten Digits

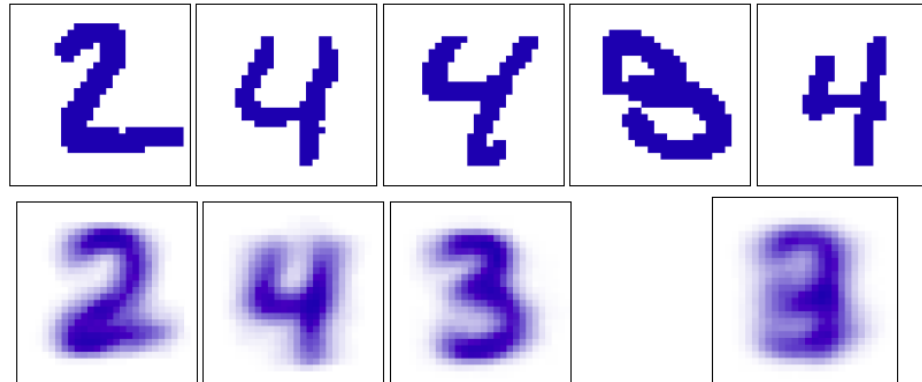
- ❑ We illustrate the Bernoulli mixture with modeling of handwritten digits.
- ❑ We convert the digit images to binary vectors by *setting all elements whose values exceed 0.5 to 1 and the remaining elements to 0.*
- ❑ We fit  $N = 600$  digits, comprising the digits '2', '3', and '4', with a *mixture of  $K = 3$  Bernoulli distributions.* We run 10 iterations of EM.
- ❑ The mixing coefficients were initialized to  $\pi_k = 1/K$ , and the parameters  $\mu_{kj}$  *were set to random values chosen uniformly in the range (0.25, 0.75) and then normalized* to satisfy the constraint

$$\sum_j \mu_{kj} = 1$$



# Example: Modeling of Handwritten Digits

- A *mixture of 3 Bernoulli distributions* is able to find the 3 clusters in the data corresponding to the different digits.



[MatLab Code](#)

- On the top: examples from the data after converting the pixel values from grey scale to binary using a threshold of 0.5.
- On the bottom: the first three images show the parameters  $\mu_{ki}$  for each of the three components in the mixture model.
- On the bottom, last image: we fit the data set using a single multivariate Bernoulli distribution with MLE. This amounts to averaging the counts in each pixel.

# Mixture of Bernoulli Distributions: Summary

- Bernoulli distributions over binary data vectors

$$p(\mathbf{x}|\boldsymbol{\mu}) = \prod_{k=1}^D \mu_k^{x_k} (1 - \mu_k)^{1-x_k}$$

- Mixture of Bernoullis can model variable correlations

- Bernoulli is member of the exponential family

- The model is log-linear but the mixture is not. The complete-data log-likelihood however is.

- Simple EM algorithm to find MLE parameters

- E-Step: Compute responsibilities  $\gamma(z_{nk}) \propto \pi_k p(\mathbf{x}_n | \boldsymbol{\mu}_k)$

- M-Step: Update parameters

$$\pi_k = \sum_n \gamma(z_k) / N, \boldsymbol{\mu}_k = \sum_{n=1}^N \gamma(z_k) \mathbf{x}_n / (N \pi_k)$$





# Mixture of Bernoulli Distributions: Extensions

- The conjugate prior for the parameters of a Bernoulli distribution is given by the beta distribution.
  - Recall that a beta prior is equivalent to introducing additional effective observations of  $\mathbf{x}$ .
- We can introduce priors into the Bernoulli mixture model, and use EM to maximize the posterior probability distributions.
- Can extend the analysis of Bernoulli mixtures to multinomial binary variables having  $M > 2$  states by making use of the discrete distribution

$$p(\mathbf{x} | \boldsymbol{\mu}) = \prod_{k=1}^K \mu_k^{x_k}$$

- We can then introduce Dirichlet prior  $p(\boldsymbol{\pi} | \boldsymbol{\alpha})$  and Beta priors  $p(\mu_k | a_k, b_k)$ .



# Mixture of Bernoulli Distributions: MAP

- The E-Step remains the same and in the M-step we need to maximize the following:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{Q}(\boldsymbol{\theta}, \boldsymbol{\theta}^{old}) + \ln p(\boldsymbol{\theta}) = \\ \sum_{n=1}^N \sum_{k=1}^K \gamma_{nk} \left\{ \ln \pi_k + \sum_{i=1}^D [x_{ni} \ln \mu_{ki} + (1 - x_{ni}) \ln(1 - \mu_{ki})] \right\} \\ + \sum_{j=1}^K \sum_{i'=1}^D \left( (a_j - 1) \ln \mu_{ji'} + (b_j - 1) \ln(1 - \mu_{ji'}) \right) + \sum_{l=1}^K (\alpha_l - 1) \ln \pi_l \end{aligned}$$

- Maximizing wrt to  $\mu_{ki}$  gives:  $\mu_{ki} = \frac{N_k \bar{x}_{ki} + a_k - 1}{N_k + a_k - 1 + b_k - 1}, \quad \bar{x}_{ki} = \frac{1}{N_k} \sum_{n=1}^N \gamma_{nk} x_{ni}$

- Maximization wrt to  $\pi_k$  using a Lagrange multiplier for  $\sum_j \pi_j = 1$  gives:

$$\pi_k = \frac{N_k + \alpha_k - 1}{N + \alpha_0 - K}$$

# MAP Estimation

- The overfitting of MLE may be severe. This can be addressed by performing MAP estimation. The new auxiliary function is the expected complete data log-likelihood plus the log prior:

$$\mathcal{Q}(\boldsymbol{\theta}, \boldsymbol{\theta}^{old}) = \left[ \sum_i \sum_k \gamma_{ik} \log \pi_{ik} + \sum_i \sum_k \gamma_{ik} \log p(\mathbf{x}_i | \boldsymbol{\theta}_k) \right] + \log p(\boldsymbol{\pi}) + \sum_k \log p(\boldsymbol{\theta}_k)$$

- The E step is unchanged, but the M step needs to be modified.
- For the prior on the mixture weights, it is natural to use a Dirichlet prior,  $\boldsymbol{\pi} \sim \text{Dir}(\boldsymbol{\alpha})$ , since this is conjugate to the categorical distribution. The MAP estimate is given by

$$\pi_k = \frac{N_k + \alpha_k - 1}{N + \sum_k \alpha_k - K}$$

- For a uniform prior,  $\alpha_k = 1$ , this reduces to MLE.



# MAP Estimation

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- The prior on  $\boldsymbol{\theta}_k$ ,  $p(\boldsymbol{\theta}_k)$ , depends on the form of the class conditional densities. We discuss the case of GMMs below.
- For simplicity, let us consider a conjugate prior of the form

$$p(\boldsymbol{\mu}_k, \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_k) = \mathcal{N}\mathcal{IW}(\boldsymbol{\mu}_k, \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_k | \mathbf{m}_0, \kappa_0, \nu_0, \mathbf{S}_0)$$



# MAP Estimation

- Using the results from an earlier lecture on Bayesian inference for Gaussian models, the MAP estimate is given by

$$\hat{\mu}_k = \frac{\kappa_0 \mathbf{m}_0 + N_k \bar{\mathbf{x}}_k}{N_k + \kappa_0}, N_k = \sum_i \gamma_{ik}, \bar{\mathbf{x}}_k = \frac{\sum_i \gamma_{ik} \mathbf{x}_i}{N_k}$$

$$\hat{\Sigma}_k = \frac{\mathbf{S}_0 + \mathbf{S}_k + \frac{\kappa_0 N_k}{\kappa_0 + N_k} (\bar{\mathbf{x}}_k - \mathbf{m}_0)(\bar{\mathbf{x}}_k - \mathbf{m}_0)^T}{\nu_0 + N_k + D + 2}, \mathbf{S}_k = \sum_{i=1}^N \gamma_{ik} (\mathbf{x}_i - \bar{\mathbf{x}}_k)(\mathbf{x}_i - \bar{\mathbf{x}}_k)^T$$

- We now illustrate the benefits of using MAP estimation instead of ML estimation in the context of GMMs. We apply EM to some synthetic data in  $D$  dimensions, using either ML or MAP estimation.
- We count the trial as a failure if there are numerical issues involving singular matrices. For each dimensionality, we conduct 5 random trials. The results are illustrated next using  $N = 100$ .



# MAP Estimation

❑ For  $D$  large, ML estimation crashes, whereas MAP works.

❑ When using MAP estimation, we need to specify the hyper-parameters. We can set  $\kappa_0 = 0$ , so that the  $\mu_k$  are unregularized, since the numerical problems only arise from  $\Sigma_k$ . In this case, the MAP estimates simplify to

$$\hat{\mu}_k = \bar{x}_k, \hat{\Sigma}_k = \frac{S_0 + S_k}{\nu_0 + N_k + D + 2}$$

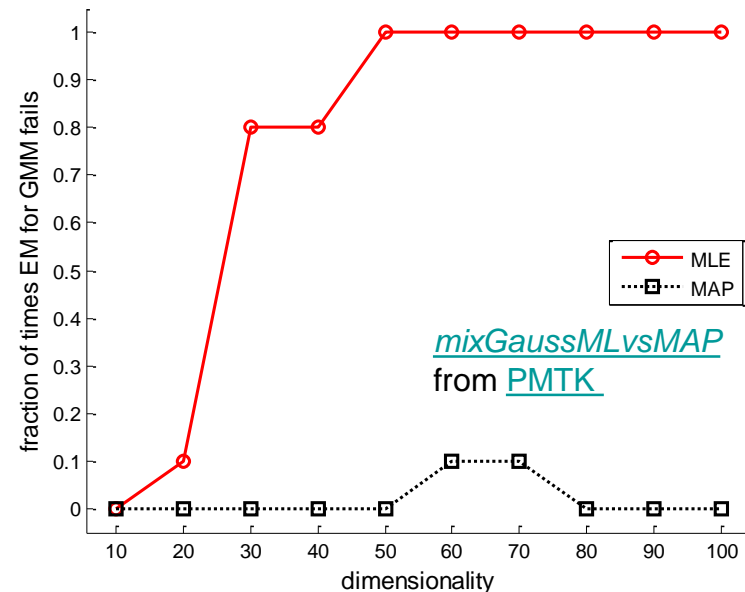
❑ Using the pooled variance  $s_j$  for each dimension  $j$ , we set:

$$S_0 = \frac{1}{K^{1/D}} \text{diag}(s_1^2, \dots, s_D^2), s_j = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N (x_{ij} - \bar{x}_j)^2$$

❑ With the  $1/K^{1/D}$  term, the volume of each ellipsoid is then given by

$$|S_0| = \frac{1}{K} \left| \text{diag}(s_1^2, \dots, s_D^2) \right|$$

❑ The parameter  $\nu_0$  controls how strongly we believe this prior. The weakest proper prior we can use, is to set  $\nu_0 = D + 2$ .



▪ Fraley, C. and A. Raftery (2002). [Model-based clustering, discriminant analysis, and density estimation](#). *J. of the Am. Stat. Assoc.* (97), 611–631 (see pp. 163)



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# *Other Applications of EM*



# EM for Bayesian Linear Regression

- Recall Bayesian Linear Regression:

$$p(\mathbf{t} | \mathbf{w}, \beta, \mathbf{X}) = \prod_{n=1}^N \mathcal{N}(t_n; \mathbf{w}^T \boldsymbol{\phi}(\mathbf{x}_n), \beta^{-1}) \quad \text{Likelihood}$$

$$p(\mathbf{w} | \alpha) = \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{w}; \alpha^{-1} \mathbf{I}) \quad \text{Prior}$$

$$p(\mathbf{t} | \alpha, \beta, \mathbf{X}) = \int p(\mathbf{t} | \mathbf{w}, \beta) p(\mathbf{w} | \alpha) d\mathbf{w} \quad \text{Marginal Likelihood}$$

- Our goal is to maximize the evidence function  $p(\mathbf{t} | \alpha, \beta)$  with respect to  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$ .
- Because  $\mathbf{w}$  is marginalized out, we can regard it as a latent variable, and hence *we can optimize this marginal likelihood function using EM.*
- E step: compute the posterior distribution of  $\mathbf{w}$  given the current setting of the parameters  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  and then use this to find the expected complete-data log likelihood.
- M step: maximize this quantity with respect to  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$ .





# EM for Bayesian Linear Regression

- We have already derived the posterior distribution of  $\mathbf{w}$  given by

$$p(\mathbf{w}|\mathbf{t}) = \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{w}; \mathbf{m}_N, \mathbf{S}_N),$$

$$\mathbf{m}_N = \mathbf{S}_N \left( \mathbf{S}_0^{-1} \mathbf{m}_0 + \beta \Phi^T \mathbf{t} \right) \quad \mathbf{S}_N^{-1} = \mathbf{S}_0^{-1} + \beta \Phi^T \Phi, \quad \mathbf{S}_0^{-1} = \alpha^{-1} \mathbf{I}$$

- The complete-data log likelihood function is then given by

$$p(\mathbf{t}|\mathbf{w}, \beta, \mathbf{X}) = \prod_{n=1}^N \mathcal{N}(t_n; \mathbf{w}^T \boldsymbol{\phi}(\mathbf{x}_n), \beta^{-1})$$

In  $p(\mathbf{t}, \mathbf{w}|\alpha, \beta) = \ln p(\mathbf{t}|\mathbf{w}, \beta) + \ln p(\mathbf{w}|\alpha)$  where:

$$p(\mathbf{w}|\alpha) = \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{w}; \alpha^{-1} \mathbf{I})$$

- Taking the expectation wrt the posterior of  $\mathbf{w}$  gives:

$$\mathbb{E}[\ln p(\mathbf{t}, \mathbf{w}|\alpha, \beta)] = \frac{M}{2} \ln \left( \frac{\alpha}{2\pi} \right) - \frac{\alpha}{2} \mathbb{E}[\mathbf{w}^T \mathbf{w}] + \frac{N}{2} \ln \left( \frac{\beta}{2\pi} \right) - \frac{\beta}{2} \sum_{n=1}^N \mathbb{E}[(t_n - \mathbf{w}^T \boldsymbol{\phi}_n)^2]$$

- M Step: Setting the derivatives wrt to  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  zero and using

$\mathbb{E}[\mathbf{w}^T \mathbf{w}] = \mathbf{m}_N^T \mathbf{m}_N + \text{Tr}[\mathbf{S}_N]$  and  $\mathbb{E}[(t_n - \mathbf{w}^T \boldsymbol{\phi}_n)^2] = (t_n - \mathbf{m}_N^T \boldsymbol{\phi}_n)^2 + \text{Tr}[\boldsymbol{\phi}_n \boldsymbol{\phi}_n^T \mathbf{S}_N]$  we obtain:

$$\alpha^{-1} = \frac{1}{M} (\mathbf{m}_N^T \mathbf{m}_N + \text{Tr}[\mathbf{S}_N]), \quad \beta^{-1} = \frac{1}{N} (\|\mathbf{t} - \Phi \mathbf{m}_N\|^2 + \text{Tr}[\Phi^T \Phi \mathbf{S}_N])$$



# EM for Bayesian Linear Regression

- The re-estimation eqs

$$\alpha^{-1} = \frac{1}{M} \left( \mathbf{m}_N^T \mathbf{m}_N + \text{Tr}(\mathbf{S}_N) \right), \quad \beta^{-1} = \frac{1}{N} \left( \| \mathbf{t} - \Phi \mathbf{m}_N \|^2 + \text{Tr} \left[ \Phi^T \Phi \mathbf{S}_N \right] \right)$$

seem slightly different from the corresponding result

$$\alpha = \frac{\gamma}{\mathbf{m}_N^T \mathbf{m}_N}, \quad \gamma = \sum_i \frac{\lambda_i}{\alpha + \lambda_i}$$

derived by direct evaluation of the evidence function.

- Each involve inversion (or eigen decomposition) of an  $M \times M$  matrix and hence have comparable computational cost per iteration.

# EM for Bayesian Linear Regression

- The two approaches of determining  $\alpha$  converge to the same result (assuming they find the same local maximum of the evidence function). This can be verified by noting that the quantity  $\gamma$  is defined by

$$\gamma = M - \alpha \sum_i \frac{1}{\alpha + \lambda_i} = M - \alpha \text{Tr}[S_N] \quad S_N^{-1} = S_0^{-1} + \beta \Phi^T \Phi, \quad S_0^{-1} = \alpha^{-1} \mathbf{I}$$
$$\beta \Phi^T \Phi \mathbf{u}_i = \lambda_i \mathbf{u}_i$$

- At a stationary point of the evidence function, the re-estimation equation

$$\alpha = \frac{\gamma}{\mathbf{m}_N^T \mathbf{m}_N}$$

will be self-consistently satisfied and hence we can substitute for  $\gamma$  to give:

$$\alpha \mathbf{m}_N^T \mathbf{m}_N = \gamma = M - \alpha \text{Tr}[S_N]$$

- Solving for  $\alpha$  we obtain  $\alpha^{-1} = \frac{1}{M} (\mathbf{m}_N^T \mathbf{m}_N + \text{Tr}[S_N])$

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# *The EM Algorithm Revisited*



# The EM Algorithm in General

□ Let  $\mathbf{X}$  be the observed variables,  $\mathbf{Z}$  denote all latent variables and  $\boldsymbol{\theta}$  the set of all parameters.

□ Our goal is as before to maximize the likelihood:

$$p(\mathbf{X} | \boldsymbol{\theta}) = \int p(\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{Z} | \boldsymbol{\theta}) d\mathbf{Z}$$

□ We assume that  $p(\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{Z} | \boldsymbol{\theta})$  is easier to compute than  $p(\mathbf{X} | \boldsymbol{\theta})$ .

□ *Introduce an arbitrary distribution  $q(\mathbf{Z})$  over the latent variables.* One can then show:

$$\ln p(\mathbf{X} | \boldsymbol{\theta}) = \mathcal{L}(q, \boldsymbol{\theta}) + KL(q \| p)$$

where:

$$\mathcal{L}(q, \boldsymbol{\theta}) = \int q(\mathbf{Z}) \ln \left\{ \frac{p(\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{Z} | \boldsymbol{\theta})}{q(\mathbf{Z})} \right\} d\mathbf{Z}$$

$$KL(q \| p) = - \int q(\mathbf{Z}) \ln \left\{ \frac{p(\mathbf{Z} | \mathbf{X}, \boldsymbol{\theta})}{q(\mathbf{Z})} \right\} d\mathbf{Z}, \quad KL(q \| p) \geq 0, \quad KL(q \| p) = 0 \text{ if } q(\mathbf{Z}) = p(\mathbf{Z} | \mathbf{X}, \boldsymbol{\theta})$$

# The EM Algorithm in General

□ For the proof of the identity shown earlier, note that:

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{L}(q, \theta) &= \int q(\mathbf{Z}) \ln \left\{ \frac{p(\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{Z} / \theta)}{q(\mathbf{Z})} \right\} d\mathbf{Z} \\&= \int q(\mathbf{Z}) \ln(p(\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{Z} / \theta)) d\mathbf{Z} - \int q(\mathbf{Z}) \ln q(\mathbf{Z}) d\mathbf{Z} \\&= \int q(\mathbf{Z}) \left[ \ln(p(\mathbf{Z} | \mathbf{X}, \theta)) + \ln p(\mathbf{X} / \theta) \right] d\mathbf{Z} - \int q(\mathbf{Z}) \ln q(\mathbf{Z}) d\mathbf{Z} \\&= \int q(\mathbf{Z}) \ln(p(\mathbf{Z} | \mathbf{X}, \theta)) d\mathbf{Z} + \ln p(\mathbf{X} / \theta) - \int q(\mathbf{Z}) \ln q(\mathbf{Z}) d\mathbf{Z} \\&= \int q(\mathbf{Z}) \ln \left( \frac{p(\mathbf{Z} | \mathbf{X}, \theta)}{q(\mathbf{Z})} \right) d\mathbf{Z} + \ln p(\mathbf{X} / \theta) = \ln p(\mathbf{X} / \theta) - KL(q \| p)\end{aligned}$$

# Lower Bound on Model Evidence $p(\mathbf{X}|\theta)$

- $KL(q\|p)$  is Kullback-Leibler distance between  $q$  and the posterior  $p(\mathbf{Z}|\mathbf{X},\mathbf{q})$

$$KL(q\|p) = -\int q(\mathbf{Z}) \ln \left\{ \frac{p(\mathbf{Z}|\mathbf{X},\theta)}{q(\mathbf{Z})} \right\} d\mathbf{Z}, \quad KL(q\|p) \geq 0, \quad KL(q\|p) = 0 \text{ if } q(\mathbf{Z}) = p(\mathbf{Z}|\mathbf{X},\theta)$$

- From

$$\ln p(\mathbf{X}|\theta) = \mathcal{L}(q, \theta) + KL(q\|p)$$

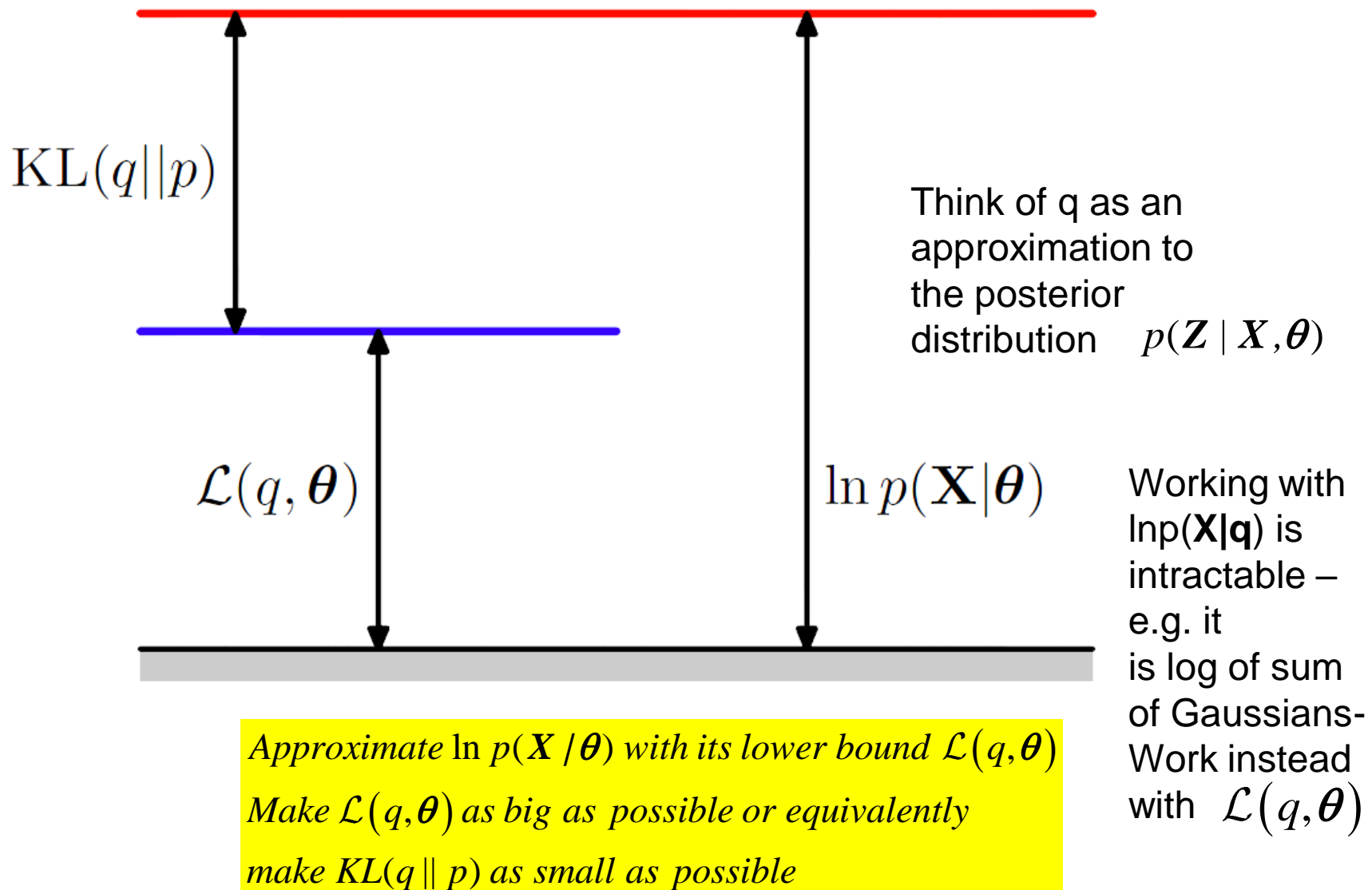
it follows that  $\mathcal{L}(q, \theta)$  is a lower bound of  $\ln p(\mathbf{X}|\mathbf{q})$ :

$$\ln p(\mathbf{X}|\theta) = \mathcal{L}(q, \theta) + KL(q\|p) \geq \mathcal{L}(q, \theta)$$

- Maximizing  $\mathcal{L}(q, \theta)$  over  $q(\mathbf{Z})$  would give the true posterior but this is not computationally tractable.



# Variational Lower Bound





# The EM Algorithm in General

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- Maximizing  $\mathcal{L}(q, \theta)$  over a free form  $q$  would give the true posterior but this is not computationally tractable

$$q(\mathbf{Z}) = p(\mathbf{Z} \mid \mathbf{X}, \theta)$$

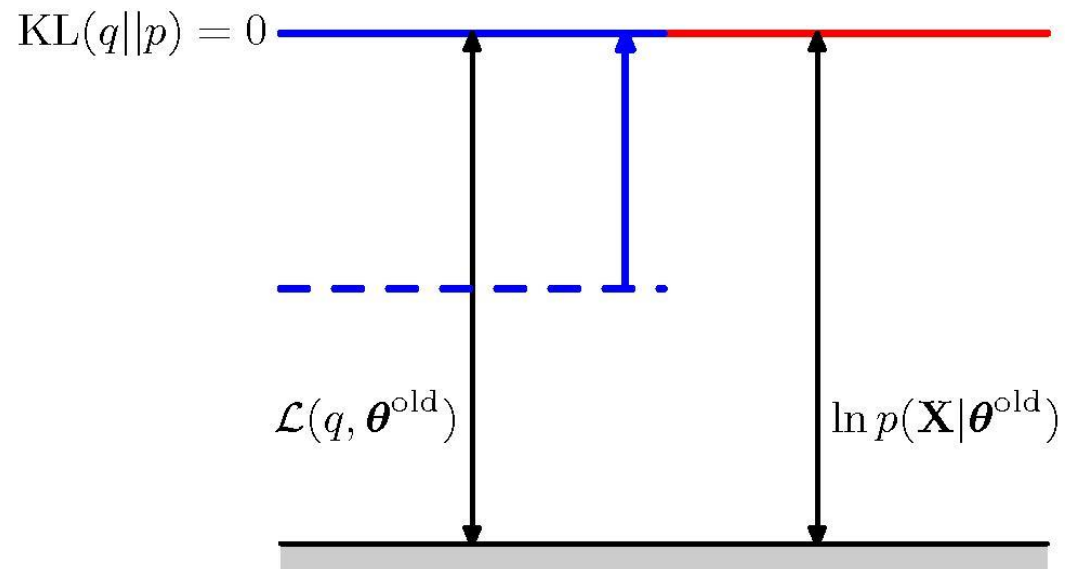
- The EM algorithm is a two-stage iterative optimization technique for finding maximum likelihood solutions. We can use the decomposition

$$\ln p(\mathbf{X} \mid \theta) = \mathcal{L}(q, \theta) + KL(q \parallel p)$$

to define the EM algorithm and to demonstrate that it does indeed maximize the log likelihood.

# The EM Algorithm in General

- Suppose that the current value of the parameter vector is  $\theta^{\text{old}}$ .
- In the E step, the lower bound  $\mathcal{L}(q, \theta^{\text{old}})$  is maximized with respect to  $q(\mathbf{Z})$  while holding  $\theta^{\text{old}}$  fixed.
- The solution to this maximization problem is easily seen by noting that the value of  $\ln p(\mathbf{X}|\theta^{\text{old}})$  does not depend on  $q(\mathbf{Z})$  and so the largest value of  $\mathcal{L}(q, \theta^{\text{old}})$  will occur when the KL divergence vanishes, i.e. when  $q(\mathbf{Z}) = p(\mathbf{Z}|\mathbf{X}, \theta^{\text{old}})$ .
- In this case, the lower bound will equal the log likelihood.



# The EM Algorithm in General

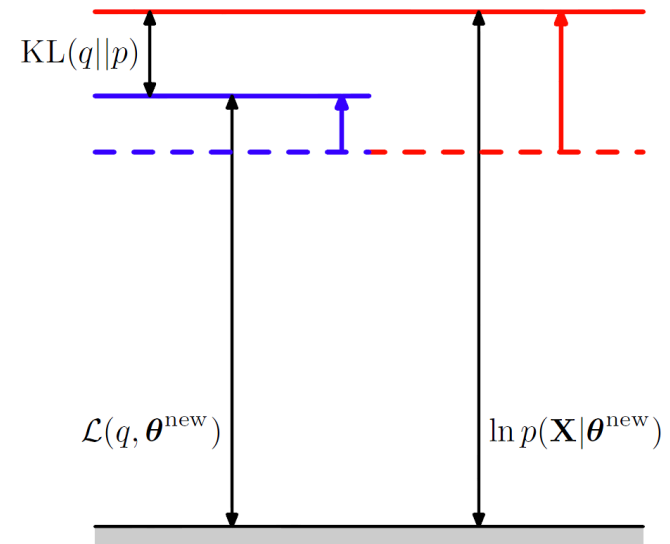
- The lower bound then becomes:

$$\mathcal{L}(q, \theta) = \sum_z \underbrace{p(\mathbf{Z} | \mathbf{X}, \theta_{old})}_{\text{play the role of responsibilities}} \ln \left\{ \frac{p(\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{Z} | \theta)}{p(\mathbf{Z} | \mathbf{X}, \theta_{old})} \right\}$$

- This as a function of  $\theta$  is the expected complete-data log likelihood up to an additive constant.

# The EM Algorithm in General

- ❑ In the subsequent M step, the distribution  $q(\mathbf{Z})$  is held fixed and  $\mathcal{L}(q, \boldsymbol{\theta})$  is maximized with respect to  $\boldsymbol{\theta}$  to give some new value  $\boldsymbol{\theta}^{\text{new}}$ .
- ❑ This causes  $\mathcal{L}$  to increase (unless it is already at a maximum), which will cause the corresponding log likelihood function to increase.
- ❑ Because  $q$  is determined using the old parameter values rather than the new values and is held fixed during the M step, it will not equal the new posterior distribution  $p(\mathbf{Z}|\mathbf{X}, \boldsymbol{\theta}^{\text{new}})$ , and hence there will be a nonzero KL divergence.
- ❑ The increase in the log likelihood function is therefore greater than the increase in the lower bound, as shown.



# The EM Algorithm in General

- We can show that the maximization in the M step is that of the expected value of the complete data log likelihood.

- Indeed, if we substitute  $q(\mathbf{Z}) = p(\mathbf{Z} | \mathbf{X}, \theta)$

in the lower bound 
$$\mathcal{L}(q, \theta) = \int q(\mathbf{Z}) \ln \left\{ \frac{p(\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{Z} | \theta)}{q(\mathbf{Z})} \right\} d\mathbf{Z}$$

we see that the lower bound after the E step becomes

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}(q, \theta) &= \int q(\mathbf{Z}) \ln \left\{ \frac{p(\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{Z} | \theta)}{q(\mathbf{Z})} \right\} d\mathbf{Z} = \int p(\mathbf{Z} | \mathbf{X}, \theta^{old}) \ln \frac{p(\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{Z} | \theta)}{p(\mathbf{Z} | \mathbf{X}, \theta^{old})} d\mathbf{Z} \\ &= \int p(\mathbf{Z} | \mathbf{X}, \theta^{old}) \ln p(\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{Z} | \theta) d\mathbf{Z} - \int p(\mathbf{Z} | \mathbf{X}, \theta^{old}) \ln p(\mathbf{Z} | \mathbf{X}, \theta^{old}) d\mathbf{Z} \\ &= Q(\theta, \theta^{old}) + const \end{aligned}$$

where the constant is the entropy of  $q$  and therefore independent of  $\theta$ .

- $Q(\mathbf{q}, \mathbf{q}^{old})$  is the expectation of the complete data log likelihood wrt posterior of the latent variables.



# The EM Algorithm in General

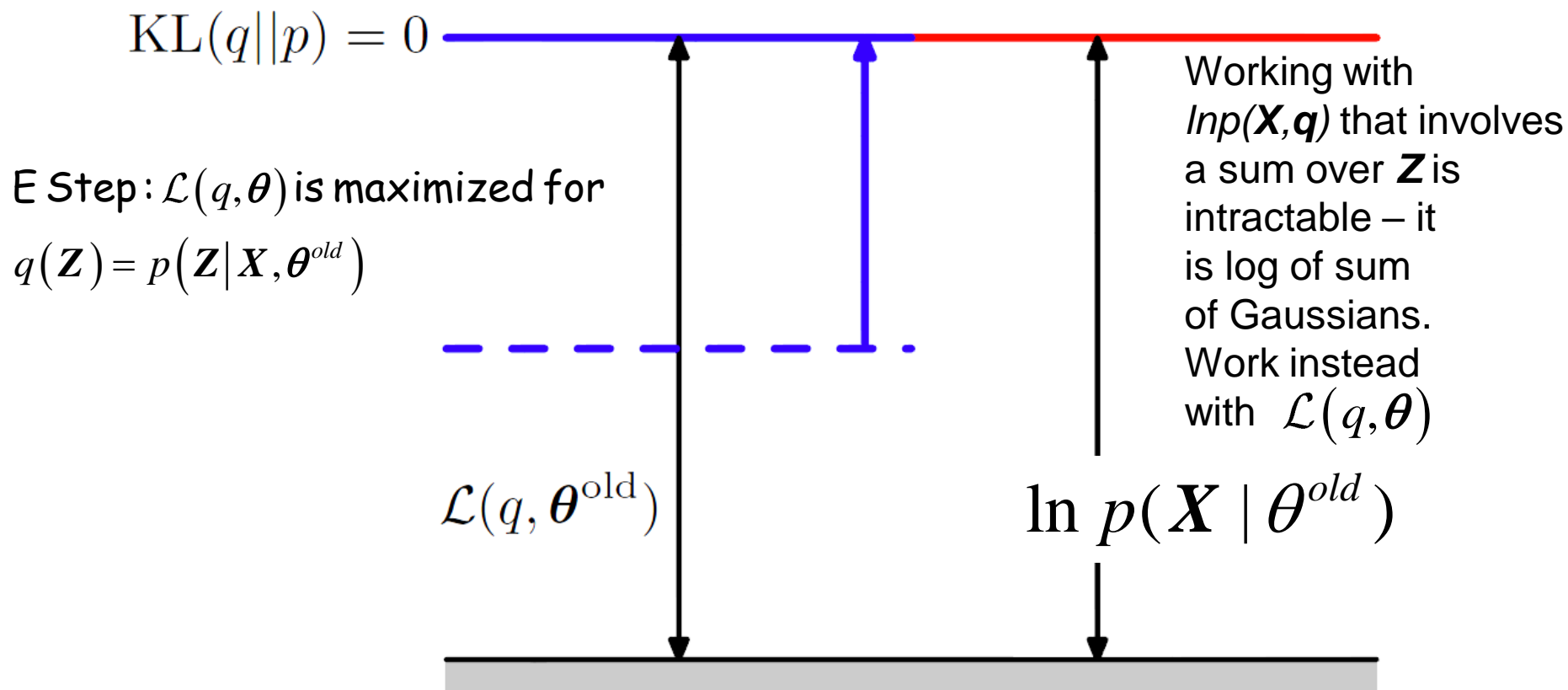
- Thus in the M step, we maximize the expectation of the complete-data log likelihood, as we saw earlier in the case of mixtures of Gaussians.

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{L}(q, \theta) &= \int p(\mathbf{Z} | \mathbf{X}, \theta^{old}) \ln p(\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{Z} | \theta) d\mathbf{Z} - \int p(\mathbf{Z} | \mathbf{X}, \theta^{old}) \ln p(\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{Z} | \theta^{old}) \\ &= Q(\theta, \theta^{old}) + const\end{aligned}$$

- Note that *the variable  $\theta$  over which we are optimizing appears only inside the logarithm.*
- *If  $p(\mathbf{Z}, \mathbf{X} | \theta)$  is from the exponential family, then the log cancels the exponential* leading to an M step that will be simpler than the maximization of  $p(\mathbf{X} | \theta)$ .



# E-Step



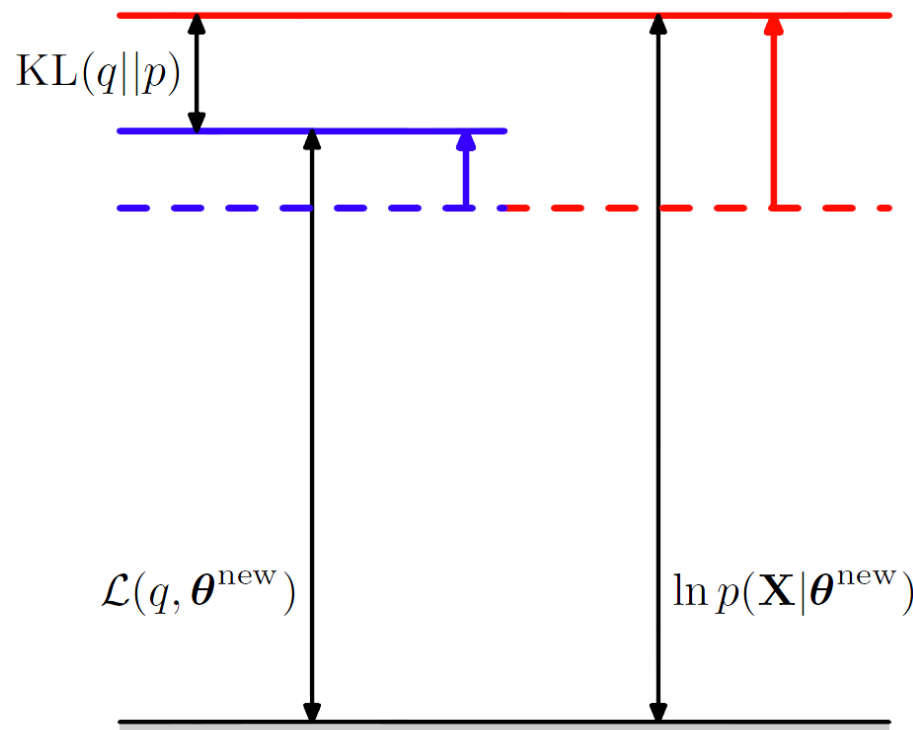
- E-step: Maximizes  $\mathcal{L}(q, \theta)$  w.r.t.  $q$  for fixed  $\theta$

$$\mathcal{L}(q, \theta) = \ln p(\mathbf{X} | \theta) - KL(q(\mathbf{Z}) || p(\mathbf{Z} | \mathbf{X}, \theta))$$

- At every step, the EM algorithm increases this lower bound on the log probability on the data (log-likelihood function)



# M-Step



- The M-step, maximizes  $\mathcal{L}(q, \theta)$  w.r.t.  $\theta$  while  $q$  is kept fixed (function of  $\theta^{\text{old}}$ ).

$$\mathcal{L}(q, \theta) = \int q(\mathbf{Z}) \ln p(\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{Z} | \theta) d\mathbf{Z} - \int q(\mathbf{Z}) \ln q(\mathbf{Z}) d\mathbf{Z}$$

- The  $\ln p(\mathbf{X} | \theta_{\text{new}})$  goes up at least as much as  $\mathcal{L}(q, \theta^{\text{new}})$  creating  $KL(q||p)$ .

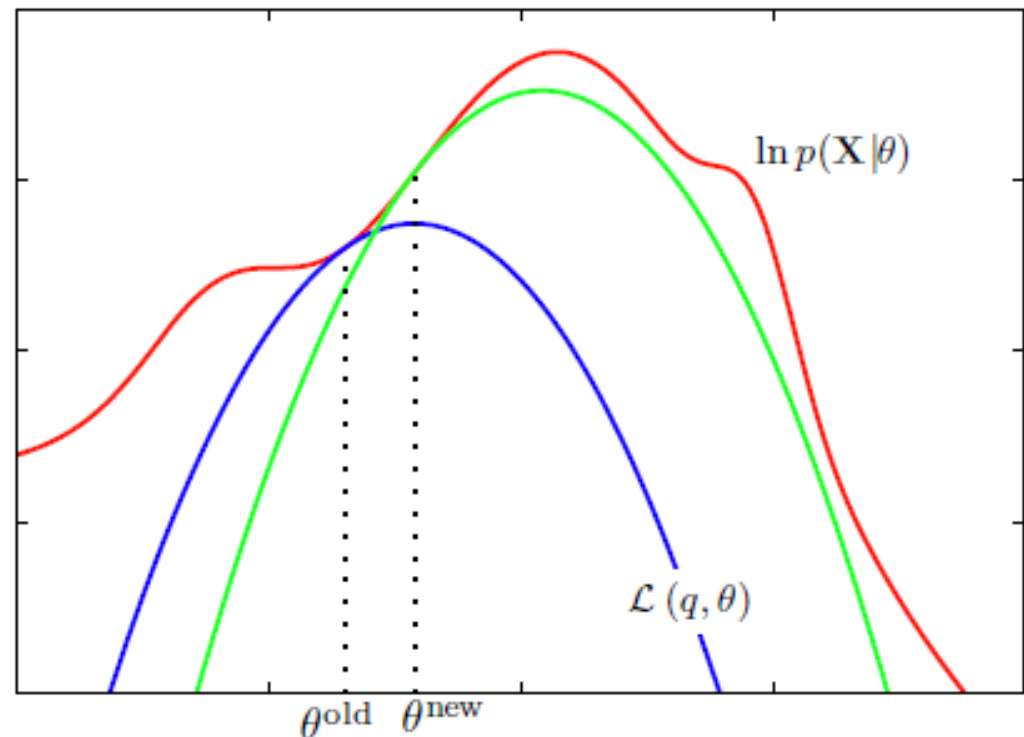
- $\mathcal{L}$  maximized for  $\theta = \arg \max_{\theta} \int q(\mathbf{Z}) \ln p(\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{Z} | \theta) d\mathbf{Z}$





# EM in the Space of Parameters

- ❑ Can view the EM algorithm in the space of parameters.
- ❑ The red curve is the incomplete data log likelihood function whose value we wish to maximize.
- ❑ We start with some initial parameter value  $\theta^{(\text{old})}$ , and in the first E step we evaluate the posterior distribution over latent variables, which gives rise to a lower bound  $\mathcal{L}(q, \theta^{(\text{old})})$  whose value equals the log likelihood at  $\theta^{(\text{old})}$  as shown by the blue curve.



[emLogLikelihoodMax](#)  
from [PMTK](#)

# EM in the Space of Parameters

- Note that the bound  $\mathcal{L}(q, \theta)$  with  $q(\mathbf{Z}) = p(\mathbf{Z} | \mathbf{X}, \theta^{(old)})$  is tangent to the log likelihood  $\ln p(\mathbf{X} | \theta)$  at  $\theta^{(old)}$  i.e. that both curves have the same gradient.
- This is obvious after noting that  $KL(q || p)$  is at its minimum (i.e. 0) when  $q(\mathbf{Z}) = p(\mathbf{Z} | \mathbf{X}, \theta^{(old)})$ .

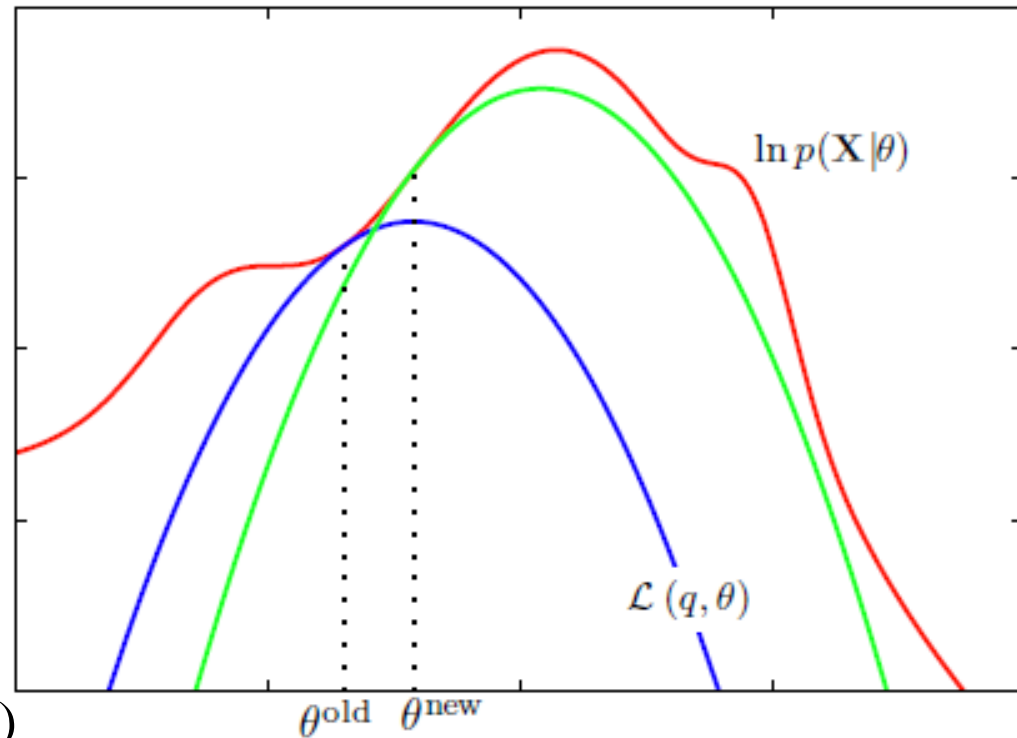
- This means that:

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} KL(q || p) = 0$$

since  $p(\mathbf{Z} | \mathbf{X}, \theta)$  depends on  $\theta$ .

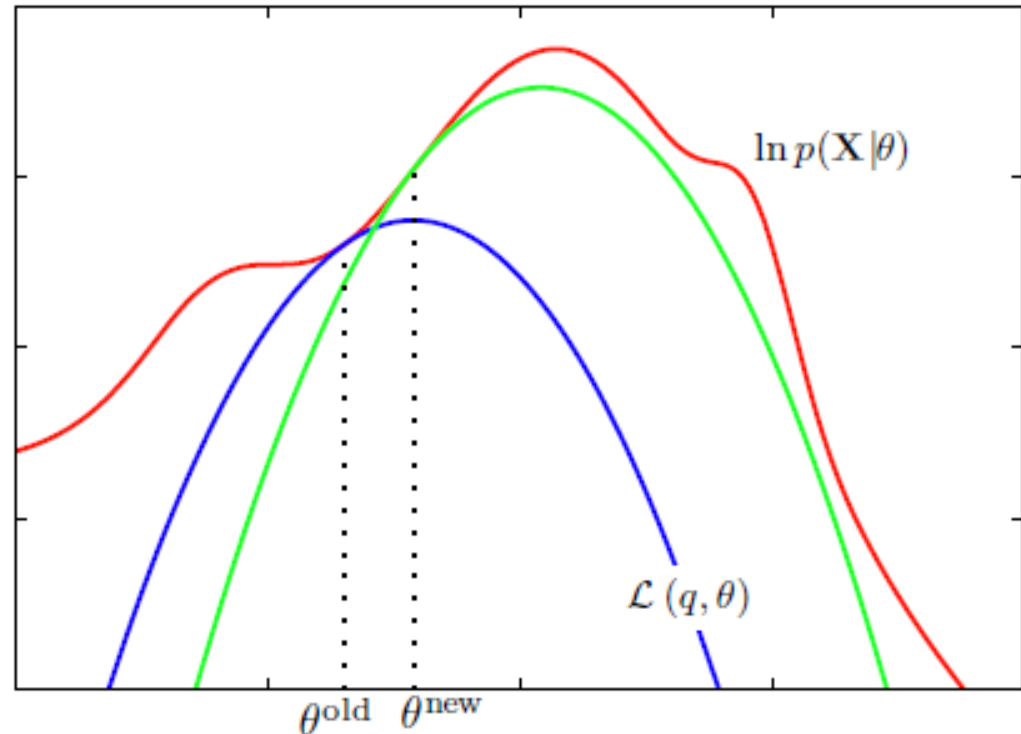
- From  $\mathcal{L}(q, \theta) = \ln p(\mathbf{X} | \theta) - KL(q || p)$  we conclude that:

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \mathcal{L}(q, \theta^{(old)}) = \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \ln p(\mathbf{X} | \theta^{(old)})$$



# EM in the Space of Parameters

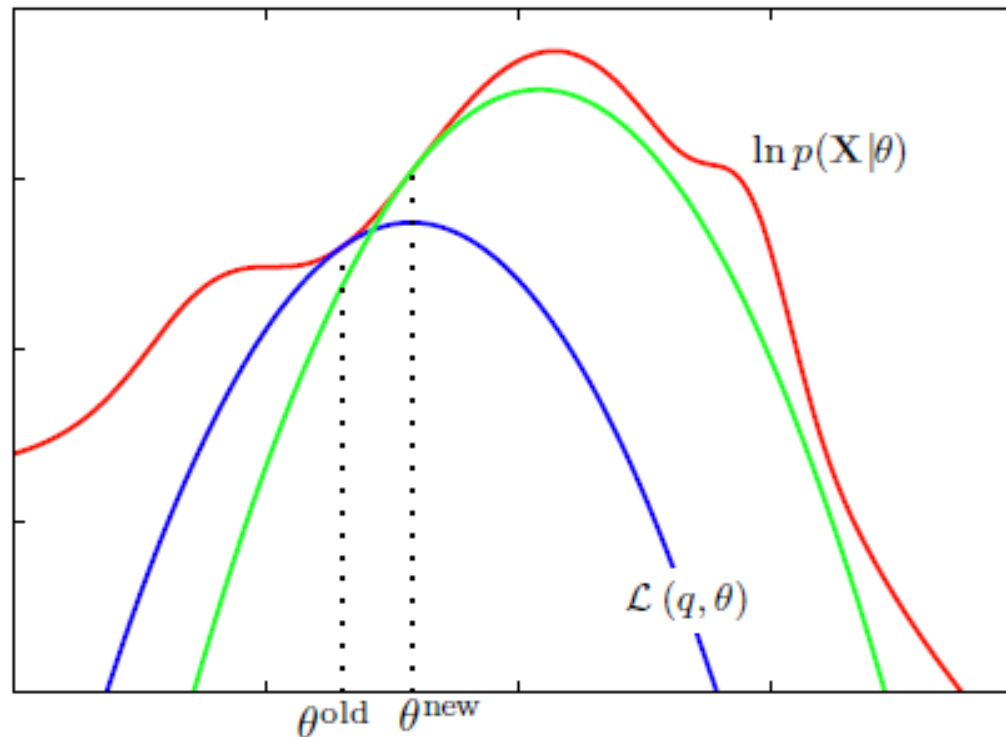
- The lower bound  $\mathcal{L}(q, \theta)$  is a convex function having a unique maximum (for mixture components from the exponential family).
- In the M step, the bound  $\mathcal{L}(q, \theta)$  is maximized giving the value  $\theta^{(\text{new})}$  which gives a larger value of log likelihood than  $\theta^{(\text{old})}$
- The subsequent E step then constructs a bound  $\mathcal{L}(q, \theta^{(\text{new})})$  that is tangential at  $\theta^{(\text{new})}$  as shown by the green curve.



# EM in General: Parameter Space Representation

□ E-Step resets bound  $\mathcal{L}(q, \theta)$  on  $\ln p(\mathbf{X}|\theta)$  at  $\theta = \theta^{\text{old}}$ , it is

- Tight at  $\theta = \theta^{\text{old}}$ ,
- Tangential at  $\theta = \theta^{\text{old}}$ ,
- Convex (easy) in  $\theta$  for exponential family mixture components



# EM In General

- Consider an i.i.d. data set,  $\mathbf{X}$  that comprises of  $N$  data points  $\{\mathbf{x}_n\}$ .  $\mathbf{Z}$  comprises  $N$  corresponding latent variables  $\{\mathbf{z}_n\}$ ,  $n = 1, \dots, N$ .
- From the independence assumption, we have

$$p(\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{Z}) = \prod_n p(\mathbf{x}_n, \mathbf{z}_n)$$

and, by marginalizing over  $\{\mathbf{z}_n\}$  we have

$$p(\mathbf{X}) = \prod_n p(\mathbf{x}_n)$$

- Using the sum and product rules, we see that the posterior probability that is evaluated in the E step takes the form

$$p(\mathbf{Z} / \mathbf{X}, \theta) = \frac{p(\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{Z} | \theta)}{\sum_{\mathbf{Z}} p(\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{Z} | \theta)} = \frac{\prod_{n=1}^N p(\mathbf{x}_n, \mathbf{z}_n | \theta)}{\sum_{\mathbf{Z}} \prod_{n=1}^N p(\mathbf{x}_n, \mathbf{z}_n | \theta)} = \prod_{n=1}^N p(\mathbf{z}_n | \mathbf{x}_n, \theta)$$

# EM In General

---

$$p(\mathbf{Z} / \mathbf{X}, \theta) = \prod_{n=1}^N p(\mathbf{z}_n | \mathbf{x}_n, \theta)$$

- *Thus the posterior distribution of the latent variables also factorizes with respect to  $n$ .*
- For the Gaussian mixture model: *the responsibility that each of the mixture components takes for a particular  $\mathbf{x}_n$  depends only on the value of  $\mathbf{x}_n$  and on  $\theta$ , not on the values of the other data points.*
- We have seen that both the E and the M steps of the EM algorithm are increasing the value of a well-defined bound on the log likelihood function and that the complete EM cycle will change the model parameters in such a way as to cause the log likelihood to increase (unless it is already at a maximum, in which case the parameters remain unchanged).



# Using EM to Maximize $p(\theta|X)$

- We *can also use the EM algorithm to maximize the posterior distribution  $p(\theta|X)$*  for models in which we have introduced a prior  $p(\theta)$  over the parameters.
- Note that as a function of  $\theta$ , we have  $p(\theta|X) = p(\theta, X)/p(X)$  and so

$$\ln p(\theta|X) = \ln p(\theta, X) - \ln p(X)$$

- Making use of the decomposition  $\ln p(X|\theta) = \mathcal{L}(q, \theta) + KL(q||p)$

$$\begin{aligned}\ln p(\theta|X) &= \mathcal{L}(q, \theta) + KL(q||p) + \ln p(\theta) - \ln p(X) \\ &\geq \mathcal{L}(q, \theta) + \ln p(\theta) - \ln p(X)\end{aligned}$$

where  $\ln p(X)$  is a constant.

- We can again optimize the right-hand side alternately with respect to  $q$  and  $\theta$ .



# Using EM to Maximize $p(\theta|X)$

$$\begin{aligned}\ln p(\theta|X) &= \mathcal{L}(q, \theta) + \text{KL}(q||p) + \ln p(\theta) - \ln p(X) \\ &\geq \mathcal{L}(q, \theta) + \ln p(\theta) - \ln p(X)\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{L}(q, \theta) &= \int p(Z|X, \theta^{old}) \ln p(X, Z|\theta) dZ - \int p(Z|X, \theta^{old}) \ln p(X, Z|\theta^{old}) \\ &= Q(\theta, \theta^{old}) + \text{const}\end{aligned}$$

- Since  $q$  appears only in  $\mathcal{L}(q, \theta)$ , optimization with respect to  $q$  gives rise to the *same E step equations as for the standard EM*.
- *The M-step equations are modified through the introduction of the prior  $\ln p(\theta)$ , which requires only a small modification to the standard MLE M-step equations.*



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# *Generalizations of the EM Algorithm*



# Incremental EM Algorithm

- Consider e.g. for the case of a Gaussian mixture performing an update for data point  $m$  in which the old and new values of the responsibilities are denoted  $\gamma^{\text{old}}(z_{mk})$  and  $\gamma^{\text{new}}(z_{mk})$ .
- In the M step, the required sufficient statistics can be updated incrementally. For instance, for the means the sufficient statistics are defined by

$$\mu_k = \frac{1}{N_k} \sum_{n=1}^N \gamma(z_{nk}) \mathbf{x}_n, \quad N_k = \sum_{n=1}^N \gamma(z_{nk})$$

from which we obtain (see proof next)

$$\begin{aligned} \mu_k^{\text{new}} &= \mu_k^{\text{old}} + \left( \frac{\gamma^{\text{new}}(z_{mk}) - \gamma^{\text{old}}(z_{mk})}{N_k^{\text{new}}} \right) (\mathbf{x}_m - \mu_k^{\text{old}}) \\ N_k^{\text{new}} &= N_k^{\text{old}} + \gamma^{\text{new}}(z_{mk}) - \gamma^{\text{old}}(z_{mk}) \end{aligned}$$

- The results for the mixing coefficients and covariances are:

$$\begin{aligned} \pi_k^{\text{new}} &= \pi_k^{\text{old}} - \frac{\gamma^{\text{old}}(z_{mk})}{N} + \frac{\gamma^{\text{new}}(z_{mk})}{N} \\ \Sigma_k^{\text{new}} &= \Sigma_k^{\text{old}} - \frac{\gamma^{\text{old}}(z_{mk})}{N_k^{\text{new}}} \left( (\mathbf{x}_m - \mu_k^{\text{old}})(\mathbf{x}_m - \mu_k^{\text{old}})^T - \Sigma_k^{\text{old}} \right) + \frac{\gamma^{\text{new}}(z_{mk})}{N_k^{\text{new}}} \left( (\mathbf{x}_m - \mu_k^{\text{new}})(\mathbf{x}_m - \mu_k^{\text{new}})^T - \Sigma_k^{\text{old}} \right) \end{aligned}$$



# Incremental EM Algorithm

- Start with  $N_k^{old} = \sum_n \gamma^{old}(z_{nk})$  and obtain  $N_k^{new}$  by updating  $\gamma^{new}(z_{mk})$  of the data point  $\mathbf{x}_m$ :

$$N_k^{new} = \sum_{n \neq m} \gamma^{old}(z_{nk}) + \gamma^{new}(z_{mk}) = N_k^{old} - \gamma^{old}(z_{mk}) + \gamma^{new}(z_{mk})$$

- Similarly start with  $\boldsymbol{\mu}_k^{old} = \frac{1}{N_k} \sum_{n=1}^N \gamma^{old}(z_{nk}) \mathbf{x}_n$  and obtain  $\boldsymbol{\mu}_k^{new}$  by updating the responsibilities  $\gamma^{new}(z_{mk})$  of the data point  $\mathbf{x}_m$ :

$$\begin{aligned} \boldsymbol{\mu}_k^{new} &= \frac{1}{N_k^{new}} \left( \sum_{n \neq m} \gamma^{old}(z_{nk}) \mathbf{x}_n + \gamma^{new}(z_{mk}) \mathbf{x}_m \right) = \frac{1}{N_k^{new}} \left( \sum_n \gamma^{old}(z_{nk}) \mathbf{x}_n - \gamma^{old}(z_{mk}) \mathbf{x}_m + \gamma^{new}(z_{mk}) \mathbf{x}_m \right) \\ &= \frac{1}{N_k^{new}} \left( N_k^{old} \boldsymbol{\mu}_k^{old} - \gamma^{old}(z_{mk}) \mathbf{x}_m + \gamma^{new}(z_{mk}) \mathbf{x}_m \right) \\ &= \frac{1}{N_k^{new}} \left( \left( N_k^{new} - \gamma^{new}(z_{mk}) + \gamma^{old}(z_{mk}) \right) \boldsymbol{\mu}_k^{old} - \gamma^{old}(z_{mk}) \mathbf{x}_m + \gamma^{new}(z_{mk}) \mathbf{x}_m \right) \\ &= \boldsymbol{\mu}_k^{old} + \left( \frac{\gamma^{new}(z_{mk}) - \gamma^{old}(z_{mk})}{N_k^{new}} \right) (\mathbf{x}_m - \boldsymbol{\mu}_k^{old}) \end{aligned}$$



# Incremental EM Algorithm

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- *Thus both the E step and the M step take fixed time that is independent of the total number of data points.*
- Because the parameters are revised after each data point, rather than waiting until after the whole data set is processed, *this incremental version can converge faster than the batch version.*
- Each E or M step in this incremental algorithm is increasing the value of  $\mathcal{L}(q, \theta)$  and, as we have shown above, if the algorithm converges to a local (or global) maximum of  $\mathcal{L}(q, \theta)$ , this will correspond to a local (or global) maximum of the log likelihood function  $\ln p(\mathbf{X}|\theta)$ .

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# *EM For Missing Data Problems*



# Fitting Models with Missing Data

- We want to fit a joint density model by MLE but we have holes in our data matrix due to missing data (NaNs). Let  $O_{ij} = 1$  if component  $j$  of data case  $i$  is observed, and let  $O_{ij} = 0$  otherwise. Let  $\mathbf{X}_v$  be the visible data, and  $\mathbf{X}_h$  be the missing (hidden) data:

$$\mathbf{X}_v = \{x_{ij} : O_{ij} = 1\}, \mathbf{X}_h = \{x_{ij} : O_{ij} = 0\}$$

- Our goal is to compute

$$\hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}} = \underset{\boldsymbol{\theta}}{\operatorname{argmax}} p(\mathbf{X}_v | \boldsymbol{\theta}, \mathbf{O})$$

- Under the *missing at random assumption*, we have

$$p(\mathbf{X}_v | \boldsymbol{\theta}, \mathbf{O}) = \prod_{i=1}^N p(\mathbf{x}_{iv} | \boldsymbol{\theta})$$

Here  $\mathbf{x}_{iv}$  is a vector created from row  $i$  and the columns  $\{j : O_{ij} = 1\}$ .

- Hence the log-likelihood has the form

$$\log p(\mathbf{X}_v | \boldsymbol{\theta}, \mathbf{O}) = \sum_i \log p(\mathbf{x}_{iv} | \boldsymbol{\theta}), \text{ where } : p(\mathbf{x}_{iv} | \boldsymbol{\theta}) = \sum_{\mathbf{x}_{ih}} p(\mathbf{x}_{iv}, \mathbf{x}_{ih} | \boldsymbol{\theta})$$

- We finally obtain our familiar form of LVMs:

$$\log p(\mathbf{X}_v | \boldsymbol{\theta}, \mathbf{O}) = \sum_i \log \sum_{\mathbf{x}_{ih}} p(\mathbf{x}_{iv}, \mathbf{x}_{ih} | \boldsymbol{\theta})$$



# Fitting Models with Missing Data

- We want to fit an MVN by MLE based on those rows of the data matrix that are fully observed. If there are no such rows, we can use some ad-hoc imputation procedures, and then compute an initial MLE.
- **E step:** Once we have  $\theta^{t-1}$ , we can compute the expected complete data log likelihood at iteration  $t$  as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} Q(\theta, \theta^{t-1}) &= \mathbb{E} \left[ \sum_{i=1}^N \log \mathcal{N}(x_i | \mu, \Sigma) \mid \mathcal{D}, \theta^{t-1} \right] = \\ &= -\frac{N}{2} \log |2\pi\Sigma| - \frac{1}{2} \sum_i \mathbb{E} \left[ (x_i - \mu)^T \Sigma^{-1} (x_i - \mu) \right] \\ &= -\frac{N}{2} \log |\Sigma| - \frac{ND}{2} \log(2\pi) - \frac{1}{2} \text{tr}(\Sigma^{-1} \mathbb{E}[S(\mu)]) \end{aligned}$$

where:

$$\mathbb{E}[S(\mu)] = \sum_i \mathbb{E} \left[ (x_i - \mu)(x_i - \mu)^T \right] = \sum_i \left( \mathbb{E}[x_i x_i^T] + \mu\mu^T - 2\mu \mathbb{E}[x_i]^T \right)$$

- To simplify the notation, we drop the conditioning of the expectation on  $\mathcal{D}$  and  $\theta^{t-1}$ . We need to compute the expected sufficient statistics.
- We use the results for the conditionals of a MVN from an earlier lecture.

$$x_{ih} \mid x_{iv}, \theta \sim \mathcal{N}(m_i, V_i)$$

$$m_i = \mu_h + \Sigma_{hv} \Sigma_{vv}^{-1} (x_{iv} - \mu_v), V_i = \Sigma_{hh} - \Sigma_{hv} \Sigma_{vv}^{-1} \Sigma_{vh}$$



# Fitting Models with Missing Data

- Hence the expected sufficient statistics are

$$\mathbb{E}[\mathbf{x}_i] = (\mathbb{E}[\mathbf{x}_{ih}]; \mathbf{x}_{iv}) = (\mathbf{m}_i; \mathbf{x}_{iv}), \mathbb{E}[\mathbf{x}_i \mathbf{x}_i^T] = \mathbb{E}\left[\begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{x}_{ih} \\ \mathbf{x}_{iv} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{x}_{ih} & \mathbf{x}_{iv} \end{pmatrix}\right] = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbb{E}[\mathbf{x}_{ih} \mathbf{x}_{ih}^T] & \mathbb{E}[\mathbf{x}_{ih}] \mathbf{x}_{iv}^T \\ \mathbf{x}_{iv} \mathbb{E}[\mathbf{x}_{ih}]^T & \mathbf{x}_{iv} \mathbf{x}_{iv}^T \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\mathbb{E}[\mathbf{x}_{ih} \mathbf{x}_{ih}^T] = \mathbb{E}[\mathbf{x}_{ih}] \mathbb{E}[\mathbf{x}_{ih}]^T + \mathbf{V}_i = \mathbf{m}_i \mathbf{m}_i^T + \mathbf{V}_i$$

- To simplify the notation we assume that the unobserved variables come before the observed variables in the node ordering.
- **M-Step:** By solving  $\nabla Q(\boldsymbol{\theta}, \boldsymbol{\theta}^{(t-1)}) = 0$ , we can show that *the M step is equivalent to plugging the ESS into the MLE equations:*

$$\boldsymbol{\mu}^t = \frac{1}{N} \sum_i \mathbb{E}[\mathbf{x}_i], \boldsymbol{\Sigma}^t = \frac{1}{N} \sum_i \mathbb{E}[\mathbf{x}_i \mathbf{x}_i^T] - \boldsymbol{\mu}^t (\boldsymbol{\mu}^t)^T$$

- EM is *not* equivalent to simply replacing variables by their expectations and plugging into the standard MLE formula; that ignores the posterior variance and results in incorrect estimates. *Instead we must compute the expectation of the sufficient statistics and plug that into the usual equation for the MLE.*
- We can now easily modify the algorithm to perform MAP estimation.





# Fitting Models with Missing Data

- Consider the imputation problem with  $N = 100$  10-dim data cases, with 50% missing data. We fit the parameters using EM. Call the resulting parameters  $\hat{\theta}$ . *We make predictions as  $\mathbb{E}[x_{ih} | x_{iv}, \hat{\theta}]$*
- The results obtained using the learned parameters are as good as with the true parameters. Performance improves with more data, or with less missing data.
- One can also fit a mixture of Gaussians in the presence of partially observed data vectors  $\mathbf{x}_i$ .

