

# T-augmented Gaussian mixture - multiple dataset integration

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## Abstract

tagmmdi is a Bayesian method for semi-supervised prediction using paired datasets. It can be considered an extension of multiple dataset integration (MDI) [14], an unsupervised clustering method utilising Dirichlet Processes, to allow semi-supervised clustering using the t-augmented Gaussian mixture (TAGM) model. We applied tagmmdi to protein localisation using two datasets, mass spectrometry data and Gene ontology (GO) terms. The MS data had a tagm model applied for prediction, using proteins with experimentally verified organelles as labelled data and a fixed number of clusters. The GO terms were treated as simple categorical data (i.e. we assumed no hierarchy of terms for model parsimony) using an overfitted unsupervised Dirichlet mixture model. The joint model is shown to outperform the state-of-the-art method tagm which itself is compared to other methods in Crook et al. [4].

To implement MDI we require that each dataset share common members of the population in the same order, i.e. observation  $i$  in dataset 1 corresponds to observation  $i$  in dataset 2 for all  $i \in (1, \dots, n)$  for  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  observations.

## A comment on notation

We use the following symbols throughout this piece.

- $n \in \mathbb{N}$ : the number of observations in each dataset;
- $x_i$ : the  $i$ th observation for some  $i \in \{1, \dots, n\}$ ;
- $L \in \mathbb{N}$ : the number of datasets;
- $K_l \in \mathbb{N}$ : the number of components in dataset  $l$  for some  $l \leq L$ . If  $L = 1$  we do not include the subscript;
- $c_{il} \in \{1, \dots, K_l\}$ : the latent clustering variable for the  $i$ th observation in the  $l$ th dataset;
- $Z \in \mathbb{R}$ : a relevant normalising constant;
- $\phi \in \mathbb{R} \mid \phi > 0$ : the context similarity parameter, a measure of the similarity between datasets 1 and 2;
- $\mathbb{R}_+ = \{x \in \mathbb{R} \mid x > 0\}$ ;
- $\pi_j \in [0, 1] \subset \mathbb{R}$ : the component proportions within the dataset for some  $j \leq K$ ; and
- $\gamma_{jl} \in \mathbb{R} \mid \gamma_{jl} > 0$ : the component weights for the  $j$ th component in dataset  $l$ .

# 1 Mixture models

Given some data  $X = (x_1, \dots, x_n)$ , we assume a number of unobserved processes generate the data, and membership to a process for individual  $i$  is represented using the latent variable  $c_i$ . It is assumed that each of the  $K$  processes can be modelled by a parametric distribution,  $f(\cdot)$  with associated parameters  $\theta$  and that the full model density is then the weighted sum of these probability density functions where the weights are the component proportions,  $\pi_k$ :

$$p(x_i) = \sum_{k=1}^K \pi_k f(x_i | \theta_k) \quad (1)$$

We carry out Bayesian inference of this model using a Markov-Chain Monte Carlo (MCMC) method. Our implementation uses a Gibbs sampler, sampling first the component parameters,  $\theta_k$ , and associated weights,  $\pi_k$ , from the associated distributions and then sampling component membership.

Basically:

1. Sample  $\theta_k$  and  $\pi_k$  from the associated distributions based on current memberships,  $c_i$ ; and
2. Sample  $c_i$  based on the new  $\theta_k$  and  $\pi_k$ .

The distribution we sample from for each parameter,  $\theta$ , is updated after observing data  $X$  using Bayes' theorem:

$$p(\theta | X) = \frac{p(X | \theta) p(\theta)}{\int_{\Theta} p(X | \theta') p(\theta') d\theta'} \quad (2)$$

Here  $\Theta$  is the entire sample space for  $\theta$ .

- We refer to  $p(\theta | X)$  as the *posterior* distribution of  $\theta$  as it is the distribution associated with  $\theta$  after observing  $X$ .
- $p(\theta)$  is the *prior* distribution of  $\theta$  and captures our beliefs about  $\theta$  before we observe  $X$ .
- $p(X | \theta)$  is the *likelihood* of  $X$  given  $\theta$ , the probability of data  $X$  being generated given our model is true. It is the criterion we focus on in our model if we would use a frequentist approach to the inference; maximising this quantity in our model generates the curve that best describes the observed data.
- $\int_{\Theta} p(X | \theta') p(\theta') d\theta'$  is the *normalising constant*. This quantity is also referred to as the *evidence* [15] or *marginal likelihood* and is normally represented by  $Z$ . It is referred to as the marginal likelihood as we marginalise the parameter  $\theta$  by integrating over its entire sample space.

In terms of sampling the prior is very useful as it allows us to ensure that the posterior is always solvable, that we do not encounter singularities in our distribution.

Our implementation uses distributions on the priors that enforce conjugacy. This allows us to sample directly from the correct distribution for each posterior distribution.

## 2 Multiple dataset integration

If we have observed paired datasets  $X_1 = (x_{1,1}, \dots, x_{n,1})$ ,  $X_2 = (x_{1,2}, \dots, x_{n,2})$ , where observations in the  $i$ th row of each dataset represent information about the same individual. We would like to cluster using information common to both datasets. One could concatenate the datasets, adding additional covariates for each individual. However, if the two datasets have different clustering structures this would reduce the signal of both clusterings and probably have one dominate. If the two datasets have the same structure but different signal-to-noise ratios this would reduce the signal in the final clustering. In both these cases independent models on each dataset would be preferable. Kirk et al. [14] suggest a method to carry out clustering on both datasets where common information is used but two individual clusterings are outputted. This method is driven by the allocation prior:

$$p(c_{i,1}, c_{i,2} | \phi) \propto \pi_{i,1} \pi_{i,2} (1 + \phi \mathbb{I}(c_{i,1} = c_{i,2})) \quad (3)$$

Here  $\phi \in \mathbb{R}_+$  controls the strength of association between datasets.  $\mathbb{I}(\cdot)$  is the indicator function. (3) states that the probability of allocating individual  $i$  to component  $c_{i,1}$  in dataset 1 and to component  $c_{i,2}$  in dataset 2 is proportional to the proportion of these components within each dataset and up-weighted by  $\phi$  if the individual has the same labelling in each dataset. Thus as  $\phi$  grows the correlation between the clusterings grow and we are more likely to see the same clustering emerge from each dataset. Conversely if  $\phi = 0$  we have independent mixture models. Note that Kirk et al. [14] include the generalised case for  $L$  datasets for any  $L \in \mathbb{N}$ .

MDI has been applied to precision medicine, specifically glioblastoma sub-typing [18], in the past showing its potential as a tool.

## 3 Protein localisation

Protein localisation is a fundamental question as localisation to the correct location is required for interaction with its binding partners and to carry out its function [9]. These cellular components also provide the ideal biochemical environment for the proteins to function. Aberrant localisation is associated with a multitude of diseases including many subtypes of cancer, obesity and cardiovascular disease [19][12][13]. A thorough understanding of the biology behind protein localisation is important to a better understanding of these diseases. Possible translational implications of this understanding are diagnostic tools such as blood or urine tests based on protein localisation or drugs to correct mislocalisation as part of treatment [13][11].

The protein localisation data is produced using synchronous precursor selection (SPS)-based MS<sup>3</sup> technology using the LOPIT and *hyper*LOPIT pipelines [6][5]. In summary:

1. The cells undergo lysis in such a way as to maintain the integrity of their organelles.
2. The cell content is then separated along a density gradient. Thus, organelles and macro-molecular complexes are described by density-specific profiles along the gradient.
3. Discrete fractions along the density gradient are collected.

4. Within these fractions, quantitative protein profiles are measured using high accuracy mass spectrometry.

Thus for each fraction we have a description of the proteins present. The normalised incidence of the protein across fractions is found to follow a specific pattern unique to each organelle's associated proteins. From pre-existing microscopy experiments we have some proteins with known associations to certain organelles. This allows use of supervised and semi-supervised methods to predict the localisation of the unlabelled data.

## 4 T-augmented Gaussian mixture models

T-augmented Gaussian mixture (TAGM) models are a semi-supervised prediction method using Gaussian mixture models (i.e. models as described in 1 where the distribution  $f$  is restricted to the Normal distribution) with a t-distribution as a "junk" or outlier distribution. The model is defined:

$$p(x_i|\theta, \pi, \kappa, \epsilon, M, V) = \sum_{k=1}^K \pi_k((1 - \epsilon)f(x_i|\mu_k, \Sigma_k) + \epsilon g(x_i|\kappa, M, V)) \quad (4)$$

Where:

- $\theta$  is the component specific parameters for the component Gaussian distribution (here  $\mu_k, \Sigma_k$ );
- $\pi_k$  is the mixture proportion;
- $\kappa$  is the degrees of freedom for the global outlier distribution;
- $\epsilon$  is the outlier component weight;
- $M$  is the global mean used as the mean in the outlier distribution;
- $V$  is half the global covariance, used in the outlier distribution;
- $f(\cdot)$  is the probability density function for the Normal distribution; and
- $g(\cdot)$  is the probability density function for a t-distribution.

Similar to the method outlined in 1, this model iterates over these steps:

1. Sample component parameters based on current allocation;
2. Sample component weights based on current allocation;
3. Sample outlier distribution weight based on current allocation;
4. Sample component allocation for each individual;
5. Given the above allocation, sample membership of the outlier distribution; and
6. Repeat.

The proteins allocated as outliers contribute to the mixing proportions but not the component parameters. One of the advantages associated with tagm models is that they quantify

the uncertainty of the allocation. This distribution of allocation probability across the  $K$  organelles allows greater interpretation of the allocation and as Crook et al. [4] show can lead to the concept of multiple membership.

## 5 GO terms

Gene ontology terms describe characteristics of gene-products in three non-overlapping areas of molecular biology [8].

- Molecular function: biochemical activities at the molecular level such as catalytic or binding activity. Examples of broad functional terms are ‘enzyme’, ‘transporter’ or ‘ligand’. Examples of narrower functional terms are ‘adenylate cyclase’ or ‘Toll receptor ligand’ [1].
- Biological processes: a biological objective to which the gene or gene product contributes. A process is accomplished via one or more ordered assemblies of molecular functions [1]. Examples of broad (high level) biological process terms are ‘cell growth and maintenance’ or ‘signal transduction’. Examples of more specific (lower level) process terms are ‘translation’, ‘pyrimidine metabolism’ or ‘cAMP biosynthesis’ [1].
- Cellular component: the location within the cell where a gene product is active, i.e. the component it localises to.

As one can see in the examples provided by Ashburner et al. [1], there is a hierarchy within the terms - the terms may be described using a directed acyclic graph. In our implementation we ignore this hierarchy and treat the terms as a matrix of binary variables. This simplifying assumption is made for the sake of computational complexity. We choose GO terms as an additional dataset as they contain the same proteins as our MS data (i.e. can be used within the MDI framework), are freely available and are expected to provide some additional information regarding the prediction of localisation, based on the results of Breckels et al. [2]. The GO terms are a summary dataset in some way - they are not experiment specific and are expected to contain a lower signal-to-noise ratio for protein localisation than the MS data.

## 6 TAGMMDI

### A MDI model

For multiple dataset integration (**MDI**) in the case of  $n$  observations in 2 datasets (also referred to as *contexts*):

$$p(\{c_{i1}, c_{i2}\}_{i=1}^n, v) \propto \gamma_{c_{i1}} \gamma_{c_{i2}} (1 + \phi \mathbb{I}(c_{i1} = c_{i2})) \quad (5)$$

We assume priors of  $\gamma_{1l}, \dots, \gamma_{nl} \stackrel{i.i.d}{\sim} \text{Gamma}(\alpha_l/K_l, 1) \forall l \in \{1, 2\}$  where  $K_l$  is the number of clusters in the  $l$ th dataset. Similarly  $\phi \sim \text{Gamma}(a, b)$ .

From (5) we calculate the normalising constant  $Z$ , and find:

$$Z = \sum_{k_1=1}^{K_1} \sum_{k_2=1}^{K_2} \gamma_{c_{i1}1} \gamma_{c_{i2}2} (1 + \phi \mathbb{I}(k_1 = k_2)) \quad (6)$$

The joint density is hence:

$$p(\{c_{i1}, c_{i2}\}_{i=1}^n | \phi) = \frac{1}{Z} \prod_{i=1}^n \gamma_{c_{i1}1} \gamma_{c_{i2}2} (1 + \phi \mathbb{I}(c_{i1} = c_{i2})) \quad (7)$$

We introduce a strategic latent variable  $v$  such that the form is:

$$p(\{c_{i1}, c_{i2}\}_{i=1}^n, v) = \frac{v^{n-1} \exp(-vZ)}{(n-1)!} \prod_{i=1}^n \left( (1 + \phi \mathbb{I}(c_{i1} = c_{i2})) \prod_{l=1}^2 \gamma_{c_{il}l} \right) \quad (8)$$

Where  $Z$  remains as in (6).

### A.1 Conditional likelihood

Consider the conditional probability of  $\phi$ , then from (8) and expanding  $Z$ :

$$p(\phi | \{c_{i1}, c_{i2}\}_{i=1}^n, v) \propto \exp \left( -v \sum_{k_1=1}^{K_1} \sum_{k_2=1}^{K_2} \left( (1 + \phi \mathbb{I}(j_1 = j_2)) \prod_{l=1}^2 \gamma_{k_l l} \right) \right) \prod_{i=1}^n \left( (1 + \phi \mathbb{I}(c_{i1} = c_{i2})) \prod_{l=1}^2 \gamma_{c_{il}l} \right) \quad (9)$$

We would like to transform this quantity into a density function we recognise. Consider the two occurrences of  $\phi$ :

$$a = \prod_{i=1}^n \left( (1 + \phi \mathbb{I}(c_{i1} = c_{i2})) \prod_{l=1}^2 \gamma_{c_{il}l} \right) \quad (10)$$

$$b = \sum_{k_1=1}^{K_1} \sum_{k_2=1}^{K_2} \left( (1 + \phi \mathbb{I}(k_1 = k_2)) \prod_{l=1}^2 \gamma_{k_l l} \right) \quad (11)$$

Beginning with (10):

$$a = \prod_{i=1}^n \gamma_{c_{i1}1} \gamma_{c_{i2}2} (1 + \phi \mathbb{I}(c_{i1} = c_{i2})) \quad (12)$$

$$= (1 + \phi \mathbb{I}(c_{i1} = c_{i2}))^n \prod_{i=1}^n \gamma_{c_{i1}1} \gamma_{c_{i2}2} \quad (13)$$

$$\propto (1 + \phi \mathbb{I}(c_{i1} = c_{i2}))^n \quad (14)$$

$$= (1 + \phi)^{\sum_{i=1}^n \mathbb{I}(c_{i1} = c_{i2})} \quad (15)$$

$$= \sum_{r=0}^{\sum_{i=1}^n \mathbb{I}(c_{i1} = c_{i2})} \binom{\sum_{i=1}^n \mathbb{I}(c_{i1} = c_{i2})}{r} \phi^r \quad (\text{from the binomial theorem}) \quad (16)$$

Here  $\sum_{i=1}^n \mathbb{I}(c_{i1} = c_{i2})$  is the count of observations assigned to the same cluster in both contexts and will be called  $c$ .

Now consider (11):

$$b = \sum_{k_1=1}^{K_1} \sum_{k_2=1}^{K_2} \left( (1 + \phi \mathbb{I}(k_1 = k_2)) \prod_{l=1}^2 \gamma_{k_l l} \right) \quad (17)$$

We see that for our conditional we can ignore all cases when  $j_1 \neq j_2$  as  $\phi$  is not present in these. Letting  $K_{min} = \min(K_1, K_2)$ , (17) simplifies to:

$$b \propto \sum_{k=1}^{K_{min}} \gamma_{k1} \gamma_{k2} (1 + \phi) \quad (18)$$

$$\propto \sum_{k=1}^{K_{min}} \gamma_{k1} \gamma_{k2} \phi \quad (19)$$

Thus updating (9) accordingly gives us:

$$p(\phi | \{c_{i1}, c_{i2}\}_{i=1}^n, v) \propto \exp \left( -v \sum_{k=1}^{K_{min}} \gamma_{k1} \gamma_{k2} \phi \right) \sum_{r=0}^c \binom{c}{r} \phi^r \quad (20)$$

We notice this has the structure similar to a mixture of Gamma distributions. We thus multiply the equation by 1 to have:

$$p(\{c_{i1}, c_{i2}\}_{i=1}^n, v | \phi) \propto \sum_{r=0}^c \binom{c}{r} \frac{r!}{\left(v \sum_{j=1}^N \gamma_{j1} \gamma_{j2}\right)^{r+1}} \frac{\left(v \sum_{j=1}^N \gamma_{j1} \gamma_{j2}\right)^{r+1}}{r!} \phi^r \exp \left( -v \sum_{j=1}^N \gamma_{j1} \gamma_{j2} \phi \right) \quad (21)$$

$$= \sum_{r=0}^c \binom{c}{r} \frac{r!}{\left(v \sum_{j=1}^N \gamma_{j1} \gamma_{j2}\right)^{r+1}} \text{Gamma} \left( r + 1, v \sum_{j=1}^N \gamma_{j1} \gamma_{j2} \right) \quad (22)$$

As we know that  $p(\phi | \{c_{i1}, c_{i2}\}_{i=1}^n, v)$  must integrate over  $\phi$  to 1, we know the normalising constant must be the sum of the integrals of the Gamma distributions, i.e.:

$$Z_\phi = \sum_{r=0}^c \binom{c}{r} \frac{r!}{\left(v \sum_{k=1}^{K_{min}} \gamma_{k1} \gamma_{k2}\right)^{r+1}} \int \frac{\left(v \sum_{k=1}^{K_{min}} \gamma_{k1} \gamma_{k2}\right)^{r+1}}{r!} \phi^r \exp \left( -v \sum_{k=1}^{K_{min}} \gamma_{k1} \gamma_{k2} \phi \right) d\phi \quad (23)$$

$$= \sum_{r=0}^c \binom{c}{r} \frac{r!}{\left(v \sum_{k=1}^{K_{min}} \gamma_{k1} \gamma_{k2}\right)^{r+1}} \quad (24)$$

Combining these gives:

$$p(\phi | \{c_{i1}, c_{i2}\}_{i=1}^n, v) = \frac{1}{Z_\phi} \sum_{r=0}^c \binom{c}{r} \frac{r!}{\left(v \sum_{k=1}^{K_{min}} \gamma_{k1} \gamma_{k2}\right)^{r+1}} \text{Gamma} \left( r+1, v \sum_{k=1}^{K_{min}} \gamma_{k1} \gamma_{k2} \right) \quad (25)$$

## A.2 Posterior distribution

Now if we consider a prior of  $\text{Gamma}(a_0, b_0)$  on the  $\phi$ , we have a prior probability of:

$$p(\phi) = \frac{b_0^{a_0}}{(a_0 - 1)!} \phi^{a_0-1} \exp(-b_0 \phi) \quad (26)$$

Thus our posterior conditional is:

$$p(\phi | \cdot) \propto p(\phi) p(\{c_{i1}, c_{i2}\}_{i=1}^n, v | \phi) \quad (27)$$

$$\propto \frac{b_0^{a_0}}{(a_0 - 1)!} \phi^{a_0-1} \exp(-b_0 \phi) \sum_{r=0}^c \binom{c}{r} \phi^r \exp \left( -v \sum_{k=1}^{K_{min}} \gamma_{k1} \gamma_{k2} \phi \right) \quad (28)$$

$$\propto \sum_{r=0}^c \binom{c}{r} \phi^{r+a_0-1} \exp \left( \left( -v \sum_{k=1}^{K_{min}} \gamma_{k1} \gamma_{k2} - b_0 \right) \phi \right) \quad (29)$$

We now use the same trick as with the likelihood to move towards the shape of a Gamma density function, and multiply by 1:

$$p(\phi | \cdot) \propto \sum_{r=0}^c \binom{c}{r} \frac{(r + a_0 - 1)!}{\left(v \sum_{k=1}^{K_{min}} \gamma_{k1} \gamma_{k2} + b_0\right)^{r+a_0}} \frac{\left(v \sum_{k=1}^{K_{min}} \gamma_{k1} \gamma_{k2} + b_0\right)^{r+a_0}}{(r + a_0 - 1)!} \phi^{r+a_0-1} \exp \left( - \left( v \sum_{k=1}^{K_{min}} \gamma_{k1} \gamma_{k2} + b_0 \right) \phi \right) \quad (30)$$

$$= \sum_{r=0}^c \binom{c}{r} \frac{(r + a_0 - 1)!}{\left(v \sum_{k=1}^{K_{min}} \gamma_{k1} \gamma_{k2} + b_0\right)^{r+a_0}} \text{Gamma} \left( r + a_0, v \sum_{k=1}^{K_{min}} \gamma_{k1} \gamma_{k2} + b_0 \right) \quad (31)$$

Again we have a mixture of Gamma densities. For the normalising constant, we have, similarly to (24):

$$Z'_\phi = \sum_{r=0}^c \binom{c}{r} \frac{(r + a_0 - 1)!}{\left(v \sum_{k=1}^{K_{min}} \gamma_{k1} \gamma_{k2} + b_0\right)^{r+a_0}} \int \frac{\left(v \sum_{k=1}^{K_{min}} \gamma_{k1} \gamma_{k2} + b_0\right)^{r+a_0}}{(r + a_0 - 1)!} \phi^{r+a_0-1} \exp \left( - \left( v \sum_{k=1}^{K_{min}} \gamma_{k1} \gamma_{k2} + b_0 \right) \phi \right) d\phi \quad (32)$$

$$= \sum_{r=0}^c \binom{c}{r} \frac{(r + a_0 - 1)!}{\left(v \sum_{k=1}^{K_{min}} \gamma_{k1} \gamma_{k2} + b_0\right)^{r+a_0}} \quad (33)$$



Thus the posterior distribution of the context similarity parameter  $\phi$  is:

$$p(\phi | \{c_{i1}, c_{i2}\}_{i=1}^n, v) = \frac{1}{Z_\phi} \sum_{r=0}^c \binom{c}{r} \frac{(r + a_0 - 1)!}{\left(v \sum_{k=1}^{K_{min}} \gamma_{k1} \gamma_{k2} + b_0\right)^{r+a_0}} \text{Gamma} \left( r + a_0, v \sum_{k=1}^{K_{min}} \gamma_{k1} \gamma_{k2} + b_0 \right) \quad (34)$$

## B Gibbs sampler

Gibbs sampling is based on the concept of *Monte Carlo integration* and *Markov chains*. It is a special case of the *Metropolis-Hastings algorithm*. Gibbs sampling is used to sample directly from the posterior distribution of the model's random variables. We briefly describe the emphasized terms below before describing Gibbs sampling in more detail.

### B.1 Monte Carlo integration

The original Monte Carlo method was developed by Stanislaw Ulam, a Polish mathematician while he worked at Los Alamos on the Manhattan Project, along with Nicholas Metropolis [3] as a means to solving integrals by use of random number generation [16]. Suppose there is some complex integral we wish to solve on some interval,  $(a, b)$ :

$$\int_a^b h(x) dx \quad (35)$$

If we can decompose  $h(x)$  into the product of some more simple function  $f(x)$  and a probability density  $p(x)$  where both are defined over  $(a, b)$ , we can then state:

$$\int_a^b h(x) dx = \int_a^b f(x) p(x) dx = \mathbb{E}_{p(x)} [f(x)] \quad (36)$$

We also assume that we can approximate this expectation of  $f(x)$  over  $p(x)$  by drawing  $N$  random variables  $x = (x_1, \dots, x_N)$  from  $p(x)$  (by the Law of Large Numbers); thus (36) becomes:

$$\int_a^b h(x) dx = \mathbb{E}_{p(x)} [f(x)] \approx \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N f(x_i) \quad (37)$$

This is *Monte Carlo integration*.

### B.2 Markov chains

Consider a random variable  $X$  observed at discrete times  $t = (t_0, \dots, t_n)$ , with the observation at  $t_i$  denoted  $X(t_i)$ . Let  $S$  be the state space of possible values  $X$  can take.  $X$  is said to

have the *Markov property* if the transition probabilities between states depend only on the current state, i.e. for any state  $s_k \in S$ :

$$\mathbb{P}(X(t_{n+1}) = s_j | X(t_0) = s_k, \dots, X(t_n) = s_i) = \mathbb{P}(X(t_{n+1}) = s_j | X(t_n) = s_i) \quad (38)$$

Thus prediction depends only on the information in the present; the process is said to be memory-less as the past does not affect future outcomes. In this case we refer to  $X$  as a *Markov process*. A *Markov chain* refers to a sequence of random variables  $(X_0, \dots, X_n)$  generated by a Markov process.

We define the  $n$ -step transition probability  $p_{ij}^n$  as the probability that the process is in state  $j$  given it was in state  $i$   $n$  steps ago, i.e.:

$$p_{ij}^n = \mathbb{P}(X(t_{i+n}) = s_j | X(t_i) = s_i) \quad (39)$$

A Markov chain is said to be *irreducible* if  $p_{ij}^n > 0 \forall i, j, n \in \mathbb{N}$ . This means that there always exists a possible path from any state  $s_i$  to every other state  $s_j$ . If this is true we say that the states *communicate*. If the number of steps between two states is not required to be the multiple of some integer then we say that the chain is *aperiodic*.

For some state  $s \in S$  denote  $\mathbb{P}(X(t_{n+1}) = s)$  by  $\pi_s$ . The chain has the *reversible* property if for any states  $x, y \in S$  the *detailed balance* holds:

$$\mathbb{P}(X(t_{n+1}) = x | X(t_n) = y) \pi_x = \mathbb{P}(X(t_{n+1}) = y | X(t_n) = x) \pi_y \quad (40)$$

This is sufficient condition for a unique, stationary distribution, i.e. for the probability vector of being in any given state for the process is independent of the initial condition.

### B.3 Markov-Chain Monte Carlo methods

Markov-Chain Monte Carlo (MCMC) methods developed as a method to obtain samples from some complex distribution  $p(x)$  for the decomposition suggested in (36). Our goal in the following is to draw samples from some distribution  $p(\theta)$  where we have some distribution  $f(\theta)$  such that:

$$p(\theta) = \frac{f(\theta)}{K} \quad (41)$$

For some constant  $K$  where  $K$  may not be known and is often difficult to compute.

#### B.3.1 The Metropolis-Hastings algorithm

The Metropolis-Hastings algorithm [10] is an extension to the original Metropolis algorithm which allows for asymmetry in state probabilities (i.e. that  $p_{ij} \neq p_{ji}$ ). The Metropolis algorithm [16] [17] generates a sequence of draws from  $p(\theta)$  using the following steps:

1. Initialise with some arbitrary value  $\theta_0$  with the condition that  $f(\theta_0) > 0$  and also choose some probability density  $q(\theta_1|\theta_2)$  as the *jumping distribution* or *proposal density*. For the Metropolis algorithm we demand that this be symmetric (i.e.  $q(\theta_1|\theta_2) = q(\theta_2|\theta_1)$ ).
2. For each iteration,  $t$ :
  - (a) Using the current value  $\theta_{t-1}$ , sample a *candidate point*,  $\theta^*$ , from  $q(\theta^*|\theta_{t-1})$ .
  - (b) Calculate the *acceptance ratio* for the new value  $\theta^*$ :

$$\alpha = \frac{p(\theta^*)}{p(\theta_{t-1})} = \frac{f(\theta^*)}{f(\theta_{t-1})} \quad (42)$$

Note that as the proportionality constant is the same for all  $\theta$  that this is an equivalence rather than proportional relationship.

- (c) Accept the new value  $\theta^*$  with probability  $\min(\alpha, 1)$ . Generate a number  $u$  from the uniform distribution on  $[0, 1]$  and accept if  $\alpha \geq u$ , else reject.

This generates a Markov chain  $(\theta_0, \dots, \theta_k, \dots, \theta_n)$  as each iteration is conditionally independent of all others given the sample from the iteration preceding it. A stationary distribution is reached after a *burn-in* period of  $k$  steps (for some  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ ) and all following samples come from  $p(\theta)$  (i.e. the vector  $(\theta_{k+1}, \dots, \theta_n)$  are samples from  $p(\theta)$ ). Knowing  $k$  is a non-trivial issue; we often assume some arbitrary large number of burn-in iterations erring on the side of caution. The samples generated are highly correlated with other samples from within a close range of iterations. To avoid recording this duplicate information, often only every  $l$ th sample is recorded (called *thinning*) for some small  $l$  (normally in the range  $[25, 50]$ ).

Hastings [10] extends this method to allow asymmetric proposal densities, in which case our acceptance ratio changes to:

$$\alpha = \min \left( \frac{f(\theta^*)q(\theta^*|\theta_{t-1})}{f(\theta_{t-1})q(\theta_{t-1}|\theta^*)}, 1 \right) \quad (43)$$

### B.3.2 Gibbs sampler

Geman and Geman [7] use a special case of the Metropolis-Hastings algorithm, taking  $\alpha = 1 \forall \theta^*$ , accepting all proposed values.

These methods are useful in a Bayesian context as we are interested in a rather complex distribution, the posterior, and know two simpler quantities, the prior and the likelihood, that the posterior is proportional to. Thus with a sufficient burn-in period we can use MCMC methods to sample directly from the posterior distribution without directly calculating the normalising constant.

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