

Thesis Proposal

Bayesian Nonparametric Model in Active Learning

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1 Introduction

Data Mining has been an heating area in Machine Learning. It is especially important in the information age since the seemingly meaningless data often containing potential opportunity, as can be seen from large Internet companies such as Google, Facebook and Amazon [9]on their investment on large data processing project.

The primary task in data mining is to find the underlying distribution that generates the observed data to guide the computer to process the similar data automatically, saving the cost of both time and expense. As the data often consists of multi-modal distribution, modeling the distribution as a mixture of simpler distribution is found to be a well approximation. In parametric settings, the number of sub-distribution is fixed value which may cause the model fail to funtion as the complexity is not synchronized that of the data. Instead, Bayesian Nonparametric model, especially the Dirichlet Process employs a infinite countably number of components to handle the analysis by placing a prior distribution for mixing distribution. The nature of this set of problem bypasses the need to "determine" the number of comopnents in a finite mixture model.

Though a very promising and relatively simpler way to model, it is often difficult to process the following inference which is the main part of analysis. Except for placing conjugate prior, the desirable posterior distribution of most non-conjugate prior model is hard to obtain.

Use of Dirichlet process mixture models has been computationally feasible with the development of Markov Chian methods for sampling from the posterior distribution of the parameters of the component distritution given observed data. Though conjugate prior is preferable for it allows to introduce Gibbs sampling methods, it narrows the generalization of Dirichlet Process to address more complicated problem. In most cases, the non-conjugate prior is placed, thus it should be researched on how to use MCMC under such circumstances.

2 Aim Of Research

The primary objective of this research is to introduce the Bayesian Nonparametric(BNP) theory to the general framework of Active Learning. We aim to design a new learning framework enabling the growing of model complexity without a great compromising in accuracy and a growth in cost. The initial motivation is take advantages of the merits , as for active learning the efficiency and for BNP the flexibility, to make up for their disadvantage, as for active learning low sampling procedure and and for BNP low convergency rate[4, 3, ?]. In this proposal, we will exploit the general problems in this two distinct areas and the potential performance when combined together. The main aims of this research consist of the following parts(will be in addressed in detail in later part)

1. Develop a new sampling methods in active learning

Sampling strategy lies in the core of active learning scheme. Most approaches select either informative or representative unlabeled instances. But it is usually challenging to find the querying instances that are both informative and representative. Thus in this research, a new approach is to be proposed to provide a systematic way to select samples having both features, and the effectiveness will be validated.

2. Combining BNP learning theory with active learning theory

Bayesian Nonparametric(BNP) model is very promising in development recent machine learning theory. Every classical learning could be reinterpreted under context of BNP, ranging from classification, regression to density estimation. Another flexibility of it is that the complexity of model is adaptive to the size of the learning problem, making it easier to generalize. We are aiming to take these advantages and introduce them into the active learning theory and exploit the performance of the framework.

3 Literature Review

This section overview of the basic concept of Dirichlet Process, including the representation, the main application-Dirichlet Process Mixture Model and the inference methods.

3.1 Background

Large Data sets are often heterogeneous, caused by amalgams from underlying sub-populations. When doing analysis on such data sets, it often involves grouping the data to make the original data more heterogeneous. Traditionally, parametric models using a fixed and finite number of parameters could be used, but they suffer from over- or under-fitting of data when there is a misfit between the complexity of the model and the amount of data available. Thus, model complexity selection is often an important issue in parametric modeling. But whether we use cross validation or marginal probabilities as the basis for selection, model selection is an operation that is fraught with difficulties, especially when the data set grows larger and larger.

The Bayesian Nonparametric approach is an alternative to parametric modeling and selection. Under this scheme, the model comes with an unbounded complexity, and under-fitting and over-fitting are mitigated. Typically, we assume that the observed data set x_1, x_2, \dots, x_i are i.i.d (Independent Identical Distributed) sampled from some underlying unknown distribution \mathbb{F} . In Bayesian approach, a prior is placed over \mathbb{F} then the posterior over \mathbb{F} given data is computed. This prior over distributions is given by a parametric family. But constraining distributions to lie within parametric families limits the scope and type of inferences that can be made. Instead, the nonparametric approach used a prior over distributions with wide support, typically the support being the space of all distributions. The Dirichlet Process is currently one of the most popular Bayesian Nonparametric Models. It was first formalized in [1] for general Bayesian statistical modeling, as a prior over distributions with wide support yet tractable posteriors. But the Dirichlet Process is limited by the fact that draws from it are often discrete distributions, and tractable posterior is hard to obtain when it is generalized to more general non-conjugate priors until MCMC techniques became available in the area.

3.2 Dirichlet Process

3.2.1 Dirichlet Distribution

A Dirichlet distribution is defined on the $(k - 1)$ -dimensional probability simplex, which is a surface in \mathbb{R}^k denoted by Δ_k and defined to be the set of vectors

whose k components are non-negative and sum to 1, that is

$$\Delta_k = \{q \in \mathbb{R}^k \mid \sum_{i=1}^k q_i = 1, q_i \geq 0 \text{ for } i = 1, 2, \dots, k\} \quad (3.1)$$

While the set Δ_k lies in a k -dimensional space, Δ_k is itself a $(k-1)$ -dimensional object. Each point q in the simplex can be thought of as a probability mass function (pmf) in its own right. The Dirichlet distribution can be thought of as a probability distribution over the $k-1$ -dimensional probability simplex Δ_k ; that is, as a distribution over pmfs of length k .

Dirichlet Distribution: Let $Q = [Q_1, Q_2, \dots, Q_k]$ be a random pmf, i.e. $Q_i \geq 0$ for $i = 1, 2, \dots, k$ and $\sum_{i=1}^k Q_i = 1$. In addition, suppose that $\alpha = [\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \dots, \alpha_k]$ with $\alpha_i > 0$ for each i , and let $\alpha_0 = \sum_{i=1}^k \alpha_i$. Then Q is said to have a Dirichlet distribution with parameter α , which we denote by $Q \sim \text{Dir}(\alpha)$, if it has $f(q; \alpha) = 0$ then q is not a pmf, else if q is a pmf then

$$f(q; \alpha) = \frac{\Gamma(\alpha_0)}{\prod_{i=1}^k \Gamma(\alpha_i)} \prod_{i=1}^k q_i^{\alpha_i - 1} \quad (3.2)$$

where $\Gamma(s)$ denotes the gamma function, a generalization of the factorial function, for $s > 0$, $\Gamma(s+1) = s\Gamma(s)$, and for positive integers n , $\Gamma(n) = (n-1)!$, $\Gamma(1) = 1$. Fig. 3.1 shows the plots of the density for the Dirichlet distribution

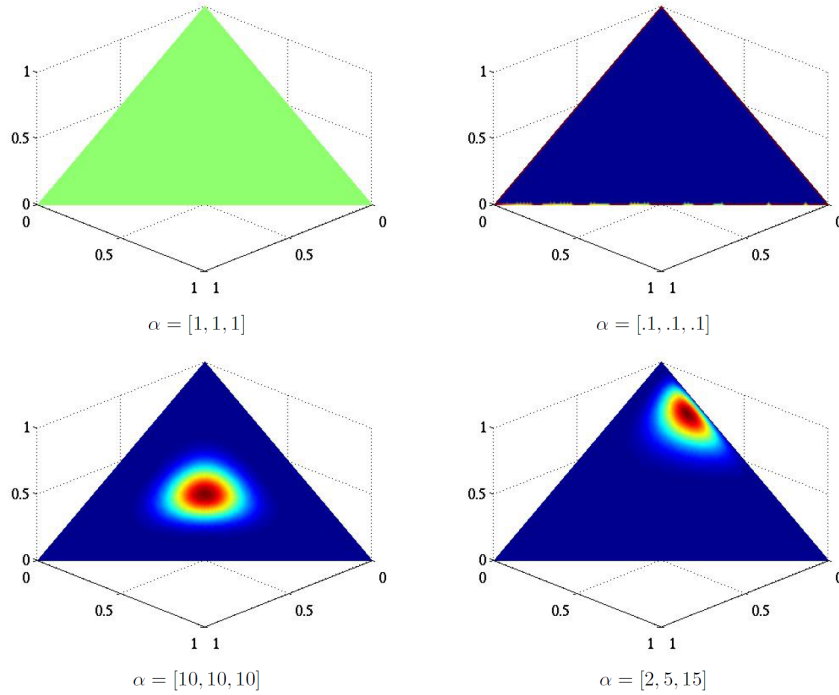


Figure 3.1: Dirichlet distribution density plots (blue=low, red=high) over the probability simplex in \mathbb{R}^3 for various values of the parameter α

bution over the two-dimensional probability simplex for $k = 3$ events lying in three-dimensional Euclidean space over a variety of parameter vector α . When $\alpha = [1, 1, 1]$, the Dirichlet distribution reduces to uniform distribution over the simplex. When all the components of α satisfy $\alpha_i > 1$, the density is monomodal with its mode somewhere in the interior of the simplex. And when $\alpha_i < 1$, the plots has sharp peaks at the vertices of the simplex. Another important feature should be mentioned, as can be seen from the definition of Dirichlet distribution, is that the support is open thus does not include the vertices or edge of the simplex, which in reality means that no component of a pmf drawn from a Dirichlet will ever be zero. Fig. 3.2 shows plots of samples drawn i.i.d from different Dirichlet distributions.

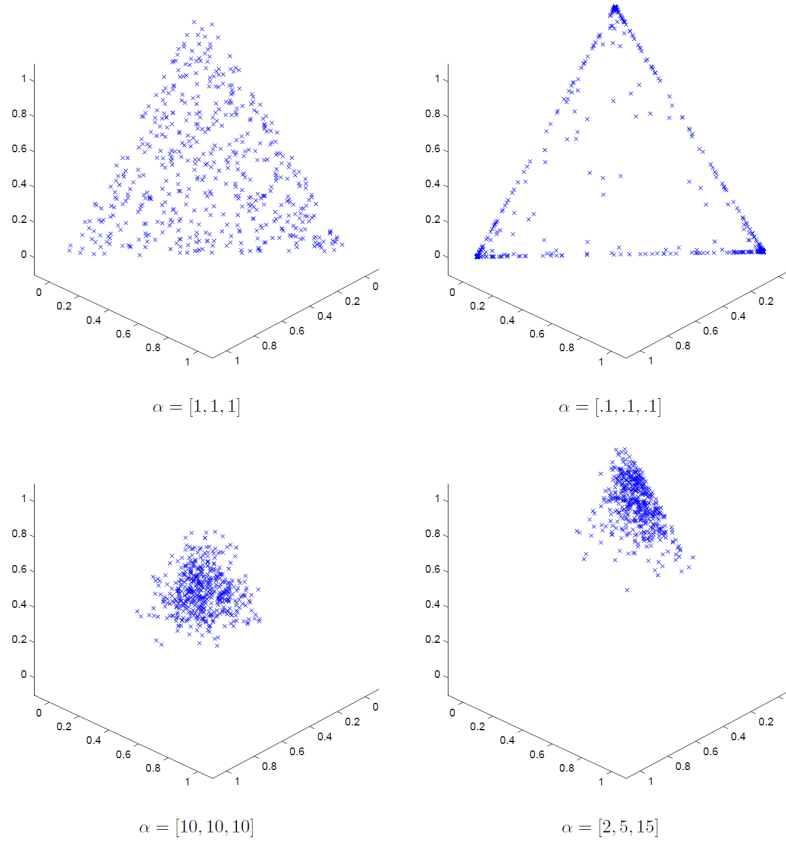


Figure 3.2: Plots of sample pmfs drawn from Dirichlet distributions over the probability simplex in \mathbb{R}^3 for various values of parameter α

3.2.2 Dirichlet Process

A Dirichlet Process is a distribution over probability distributions. Suppose that G is a probability distribution over a measurable space Θ , then G is a probability distribution over Θ and a DP is a distribution over all such distributions. A

DP is parameterized by a concentration parameter α and a base measure (base distribution) H . So, the formal definition of a DP would be

$$G \sim DP(\alpha, H) \quad (3.3)$$

it means for a finite set of measurable partitions $A_1 \cup \dots \cup A_k = \Theta$,

$$(G(A_1), \dots, G(A_k)) \sim Dir(\alpha H(A_1), \dots, \alpha H(A_k)) \quad (3.4)$$

which means the probabilities that G assigns to any finite partition of Θ follow a Dirichlet distribution with parameters $(\alpha H(A_1), \dots, \alpha H(A_k))$.

Since G is a random distribution we can in turn draw samples from G itself. Let $\theta_1, \theta_2, \dots, \theta_n$ be a sequence of independent draws from G . What is the posterior distribution of G given observed values of $\theta_1, \theta_2, \dots, \theta_n$. In other words, what is the posterior predictive distribution for a new item $p(\theta_{N+1} | \theta_1, \theta_2, \dots, \theta_n) = \int p(\theta_{N+1} | G) p(G | \theta_1, \theta_2, \dots, \theta_n) dG$? It is shown in ... that

$$(G(A_1), \dots, G(A_k)) | (\theta_1, \theta_2, \dots, \theta_n) \sim Dir((\alpha H(A_1) + n_1, \dots, \alpha H(A_k) + n_k)) \quad (3.5)$$

where $n_k = \#\{i : \theta_i \in A_k\}$ is the number of observed values in A_k . Rewriting the posterior DP, we have:

$$G | (\theta_1, \theta_2, \dots, \theta_n) \sim DP(\alpha + n, \frac{\alpha}{\alpha + n} H + \frac{n}{\alpha + n} \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n \delta(\theta_i)}{n}) \quad (3.6)$$

and for the posterior distribution,

$$\begin{aligned} p(\theta_{N+1} | \theta_1, \theta_2, \dots, \theta_n) &= E[G(A) | \theta_1, \theta_2, \dots, \theta_n] \\ &= \frac{1}{\alpha + n} \left(\alpha H + \sum_{i=1}^n \delta_{\theta_i} \right) \end{aligned} \quad (3.7)$$

Therefore the posterior base distribution given $\theta_1, \theta_2, \dots, \theta_n$ is also the predictive distribution of θ_{n+1} . The sequence of predictive distribution 3.7 for $\theta_1, \theta_2, \dots, \theta_n$ is very important and different interpretations on it indicate different properties of the result. To better understand it, we will introduce the most famous three representations of 3.7: **Pólya urn**, **Chinese Restaurant Process**, **Stick-breaking Process**.

- **Pólya urn**

In this analogy, suppose we are drawing colored balls from an urn, θ_i represents the color of the i -th ball drawn. For each ball drawn, we place it back and add another one in the same color into the urn. In the beginning, we pick a color drawn from H , paint a ball with that color and drop it into the urn. In the following n th step, we will either, pick a new color with

probability $\frac{\alpha}{\alpha+n}$, or with probability $\frac{n}{\alpha+n}$ pick a random ball out of the urn. This process induces a "rich get richer" property on the frequencies of colors inside the urn. Also, it should be noticed that the predictive distribution has point masses located at the previous draws $\theta_1, \theta_2, \dots, \theta_n$. Thus the distribution G itself has point masses. When sample size grows larger, the value of any draw will be repeated by another draw, implying that G is composed only of a weighted sum of point masses and thus it is a discrete distribution.

- **Chinese Restaurant Process**

Another representation of Dirichlet Process-Chinese Restaurant Process(CRP) implies a clustering property. Equation 3.7 could be rewrite as :

$$p(\theta_{N+1}|\theta_1, \theta_2, \dots, \theta_n) = \frac{1}{\alpha + n} \left(\alpha H + \sum_{i=1}^n n_k \delta_{\theta_i^*} \right) \quad (3.8)$$

where θ_i^* is the unique values among $\theta_1, \theta_2, \dots, \theta_n$, and n_k is the number of repeats of θ_i^* . θ_i^* will be repeated by θ_{n+1} with probability proportional to n_k . The larger n_k is, the higher the probability that it will grow. This is similar to the "rich get richer" scheme in **Pólya urn**, where large clusters grow larger. We can see that the unique values of $\theta_1, \theta_2, \dots, \theta_n$ induce a partitioning of the set $[n] = \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$ into clusters such that within some cluster k , the θ_i 's take on the same value θ_k^* . The random partition encapsulates all the properties of the DP. If we invert the generative process, we can reconstruct the joint distribution over $\theta_1, \theta_2, \dots, \theta_n$ by first drawing a random partition on $[n]$, then each cluster k in the partition draw a $\theta_k^* \sim H$, and finally assign $\theta_i = \theta_k^*$ for each i in cluster k .

The distribution over partitions is called the Chinese Restaurant Process(CRP) in which we have a Chinese restaurant with infinite tables, each of which can seat an infinite number of customers. The first customer enters the restaurant and sits at the first table. And in the following, when the $n + 1$ th customer comes, he will either join a table k with probability proportional to the number n_k of people already sitting there or sits at a new table with probability proportional to α . The CRP defines a distribution over partitions of $[n]$ and a distribution over permutations of $[n]$.

- **Stick-breaking Construction** The third representation of DP is very intuitive and the most widely used one to generate a sample from it. By knowing the fact that draws from a DP consists actually of a weighted sum of point masses, ...provides a constructive and straightforward definition

of the DP. It simply following the flowwin steps.

$$\begin{aligned} \beta_k &\sim \text{Beta}(1, \alpha) & \theta_k^* &\sim H \\ \pi_k &= \beta_k \prod_{l=1}^{k-1} (1 - \beta_l) & G &= \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \pi_k \delta_k^* \end{aligned} \quad (3.9)$$

Then we have $G \sim DP(\alpha, H)$. The construction of π could be interpreted as breaking a stick of length 1 step by step. First break it at β_1 , assigning π_1 to be the length of segment we just got. Then recursively breaking the remaining portion to obtain $\pi_2, \pi_3, \dots, \pi_{n-1}$. This is a very straightforward and simple procedure.

3.2.3 Dirichlet Process Mixture Models

In this section, we will briefly describe the Dirichlet Process Mixture Model. Most machine learning problem is targeted to learn a set of parameters describing the model from training data set. This sort of learning is often evaluated in two terms, with the first one being how well the model fits the data, expressed as accuracy or squared error, and the second one being a complexity penalty (favoring simpler models) [?, 3], also referred to as Ocam's Razor. In practical problem, the model complexity is hard to evaluate. Improper model complexity will lead to over-fitting or under-fitting [4, 11], which will then affect the model generalization, i.e. to be applied to practical use. Although through rigid training, desirable models could be trained but this is basically a trial and error process [7]. That is the motivation of discovering adaptive model complexity selection methods, among which Bayesian Nonparametric Method is the most widely used.

DP, as the most widely used methods among Bayesian Nonparametric Models, has found applications in both statistics and machine learning, including Bayesian model validation, density estimation and clustering via mixture models, among which the last one is the most salient when talking about DP.

Model validation is to evaluate whether a model gives a good fit to observed data. Under Bayesian approach, we would usually compute the marginal probability of the data under the model and compare the marginal probability to that of other candidate model. The one with the highest probability will be chosen as the best fitting to the observed data. Here arises an issue that how to choose the models to be compared. Usually, a set of candidate models as large as possible would be desirable. But it would be easier if we re-think this in a Bayesian Nonparametric way, i.e. to use the space of all possible distribution as our comparison class, with a prior over distributions. The DP is always the first priority for its similar nature to this problem. The approach is to use the given parametric model as the base distribution of the DP, with DP serving as

a nonparametric relaxation around this parametric model. If the parametric model performs as well or better than the DP relaxed model, we are convinced that the model is valid.

For density estimation, the aim is to modeling the latent density from which the observed data is drawn. To avoid the poor performance caused by the limitation in parametric model, we again employ a Nonparametric prior over all densities. If we drawn samples from a DP, which is distribution over distribution, we will obtain a random distribution which is discrete, thus has no densities. The solution is to smooth out draws from the DP with a kernel. Let $G \sim DP(\alpha, H)$ and $f(x|\theta)$ be a family of densities indexed by θ . Then

$$p(x) = \int f(x|\theta)G(\theta)d\theta \quad (3.10)$$

The most common application of the Dirichlet process is to cluster data using mixture models. The traditional finite mixture model assumes that there are K clusters, each associated with a parameter θ_k . Each observation y_n is assumed to be generated by first choosing a cluster c_n according to $P(c_n)$ and then generating the observation from its corresponding observation distribution parameterized by θ_{c_n} . Finite model can accomodate many kinds of data by changing the data generating distribution.

Bayesian mixture models further contain a prior over the mixing distributions. The nature of Dirichlet process will translate the mixing model to a countably infinite number of components. we model a set of observations $\{x_1, \dots, x_n\}$ using a set of latent parameters $\{\theta_1, \dots, \theta_n\}$, each θ_i is drawn I.I.d from G , while each x_i has distribution $F(\theta_i)$ parameterized by θ_i :

$$\begin{aligned} x_i|\theta_i &\sim F(\theta_i) \\ \theta_i|G &\sim G \\ G|\alpha, H &\sim DP(\alpha, H) \end{aligned} \quad (3.11)$$

Because G is discrete, multiple θ_i 's can take on the same value simultaneously, and the model above can be seen as a mixture model, where x_i 's with the same value of θ_i belong to the same cluster. The mixture perspective can be made more in agreement with the usual representation of mixture models using the stick-breaking construction. Let z_i be a cluster assignment variable, which takes on value k with probability π_k . Then equation 3.12 could be expressed as:

$$\begin{aligned} \pi|\alpha &\sim GEM(\alpha) & \theta_k^*|H &\sim H \\ z_i|\pi &\sim Mult(\pi) & x_i|z_i, \{\theta_k^*\} &\sim F(\theta_{z_i}^*) \end{aligned} \quad (3.12)$$

with $G = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \pi_k \delta_{\theta_k^*}$, $\theta_i = \theta_{z_i}^*$, π being the mixing proportion, θ_k^* being the

cluster parameters, $F(\theta_k^*)$ being the distribution over data in cluster k and H the prior over cluster parameters.

From above expression, it is seen that DP mixture model is an infinite mixture model—a mixture model with a countably infinite number of clusters. Different from finite mixture model using a fixed number of clusters, π_k 's decrease exponentially quickly, and only a small number of clusters will be used to model the data a priori. In the DP mixture model, the actual number of clusters used to model data is not fixed, and can be automatically inferred from data using the usual Bayesian posterior inference framework. The equivalent operation for finite mixture models would be model averaging or model selection for the appropriate number of components.

Table 3.1: *Equivalences between different descriptions of the Dirichlet Process*

	Indexing	Partition Labels
Pólya Urn	sequence of draws of balls	ball colors
Chinese Restaurant Process	sequence of incoming customers	different dishes
Clustering	sequence of the natural numbers	clusters

3.3 Inference

We have described three different representations of Dirichlet Process, and all of them posit a generative probabilistic process of a collection of observed (and future) data that includes hidden structure. And the observed data is analyzed by examining the posterior distribution of the hidden structure given the observations; this gives us a distribution over which latent structure likely generated our data.

Thus, the basic computational problem in DP modeling (as in most of Bayesian statistics) is computing the posterior. Unfortunately, for many models posterior is not available in closed form. But there are several ways to approximate it. The most widely used posterior inference methods in Bayesian nonparametric models are Markov Chain Monte Carlo (MCMC) methods. The idea MCMC methods is to define a Markov chain on the hidden variables that has the posterior as its equilibrium distribution [1]. By drawing samples from this Markov chain, one eventually obtains samples from the posterior. A simple form of MCMC sampling is Gibbs sampling, where the Markov chain is constructed by considering the conditional distribution of each hidden variable given the others and the observations. CRP mixtures are particularly amenable

to Gibbs sampling due to the exchangeability property, and each observation can be considered to be the "last" one and the distribution of Equation 3.2 can be used as one term of the conditional distribution. [1] provides an excellent survey of Gibbs sampling and other MCMC algorithms for inference in CRP mixture models.

An alternative approach to approximating the posterior is variational inference [8]. This approach is based on the idea of approximating the posterior with a simpler family of distributions and searching for the member of that family that is closest to it. Although variational methods are not guaranteed to recover the true posterior (unless it belongs to the simple family of distributions), they are typically faster than MCMC [2] and convergence assessment is straightforward. These methods have been applied to CRP mixture models.

Both MCMC and variational strategies for posterior inference provide a data-directed mechanism for simultaneously searching the space of models and finding optimal parameters. This is convenient mixture modeling because we avoid needing updating on models for each candidate number of components. It is essential in more complex settings where the algorithm searches over a space that is difficult to efficiently enumerate and explore. In this research, we will focus on the MCMC algorithm on Dirichlet Process.

3.3.1 Variational Inference

Variational Inference Methods have been introduced for the inference of DP in [2]. Under this scheme, variational methods approximate a posterior distribution $p(\theta|X)$ with a distribution $q(\theta)$ belonging to a more manageable family of distributions and try to find the best approximation, usually by minimizing the *Kullback-Leibler* divergence between $p(\theta|X)$ and $q(\theta)$.

$$KL(q||p) = E_q \frac{q(\theta)}{p(\theta)} \quad (3.13)$$

Then the desired q could be formulated as an optimization problem:

$$q^* = \arg \min_{q \in Q} KL(q(\theta)||p(\theta|X)) \quad (3.14)$$

The variational inference framework gives a principled way of finding an approximate distribution which is as close (as measured by KL) to the posterior. This will allow us to tackle posterior computations for models such as mixtures.

A typical approach to selecting the family of approximation distributions is to assume independencies that may not be present in the true posterior. The quality of the approximation depends on Q : the bigger the Q , the better. Two of the familiar classical algorithms (hard EM and EM) are based on a particular kind of Q . The assumption will allow the possibility of parallelization. However,

the assumptions constrains the posterior distribution in a restricted class of models, thus the expressiveness of true model might be lost leading to a less accurate results.

3.3.2 Markov Chain Monte Carlo Sampling

One method for sampling from an arbitrary target distribution is to use a Markov chain Monte Carlo (MCMC) algorithm. MCMC methods simulate a Markov chain with a particular transition distribution such that the stationary distribution of the chain is exactly the target distribution of interest. Certain conditions must be specified to ensure that this condition holds. A sample from the target distribution can then be generated by simulating a Markov chain until it converges to its stationary distribution, followed by taking the value of the chain when it is terminated.

The state of a Markov chain at iteration t is denoted as z^t . Suppose that the Markov chain evolves according to some transition distribution, $q^*(z^{(t+1)}|z^{(t)})$. A stationary distribution of a Markov chain is a distribution over states that is invariant under the transition distribution q^* . A distribution is the stationary distribution of a Markov Chain if it satisfies

$$f_z(z^{(t+1)}) = \int f_z(z^{(t)})q^*(z^{(t+1)}|z^{(t)})dz^{(t)} \quad (3.15)$$

Stationarity of a Markov chain with respect to a transition distribution essentially means that if the chain is currently in the stationary distribution, simulating a transition from q^* will not alter the distribution.

Multiple such distribution can exist for a Markov chain. MCMC sampling algorithms must consequently ensure uniqueness by enforcing *ergodicity* of the Markov chain, i.e. the Markov chain must satisfy the condition of being *irreducible and aperiodic*. An ergodic Markov chains will converge to a unique stationary distribution regardless of the initial state.

- **Metropolis-Hasting Sampling**

The idea of MCMC sampling is to simulate a Markov chain that has the target distribution as a stationary distribution. Different from the Variational Inference methods introduced in 3.3.1, MCMC methods samples from the true posterior distribution asymptotically. Ergodicity ensures convergence to the chain, but one has to use additional methodologies to ensure the correct stationary distribution. The Metropolis-Hastings algorithm is one such method. It is supposed that there is a proposal distribution $p(z^{(t+1)}|z^{(t)})$ from which we can sampling candidate state. Metropolis et al.[10] developed an algorithm that constructs a transition distribution, q^* , from a symmetric proposal distribution, p , such that the stationary distribution is exactly the target distribution. Hastings[6] later general-

ized this algorithm to allow for non-symmetric proposal distributions. The latter algorithm is commonly referred to as the Metropolis-Hastings (MH) algorithm. The concept underlying the MH algorithm is the notion of *detailed balance* which shows that if a Markov chain is constructed with a transition distribution, q , that satisfies

$$f_z(z_1)q(z_2|z_1) = f_z(z_2)q(z_1|z_2) \quad (3.16)$$

then the chain is said to satisfy the detailed balance condition. Furthermore, $f_z(z)$ is guaranteed to be a stationary distribution of the chain. Detailed balance is a sufficient condition to ensure that $f_z(z)$ is a stationary distribution, but it is not necessary. Once we get the candidate new state from the proposal distribution p , MH algorithm shows that if the transition distribution q^* is constructed according to

$$q^*(z^{(t+1)}|z^{(t)}) = \min\left[1, \frac{f(z^{(t+1)})}{f(z^{(t)})} \frac{q(z^{(t)}|z^{(t+1)})}{q(z^{(t+1)}|z^{(t)})}\right] \quad (3.17)$$

then the resulting Markov chain satisfies the detailed balance condition. The constructed transition distribution subjects the newly proposed sample to an accept or reject step. The Metropolis-Hastings algorithm therefore guarantees that the target distribution is a stationary distribution of the chain. Furthermore, Markov chain theory states that the resulting Markov chain is guaranteed to converge uniquely to the stationary distribution if it is ergodic.

- **Gibbs Sampling** Gibbs sampling [40] is a special case of Metropolis-Hastings where the transition distribution only acts on a subset of the variables (or, a subset of dimensions of a multidimensional variable). In particular, the Gibbs sampler chooses the proposal distribution to be the true posterior distribution of the subset of variables conditioned on all variables. Gibbs sampling precludes the need of an accept/reject step because it results in a Hastings ratio that evaluates to 1, i.e. the Gibbs sampling algorithm can accept all proposed samples while still satisfying detailed balance.

Gibbs sampling is often preferred over Metropolis-Hastings because it does not require one to specify a proposal distribution. However, it can only be used when the conditional posterior distributions are known. Furthermore, Gibbs sampling may result in slow convergence because only a single random dimension of the latent variable is sampled at a time. This procedure can explore the space very slowly due to the local changes proposed by the sampling algorithm.

3.4 Markov Chain Monte Carlo for DPMM

DPMM as widely used in the the industrial and reserch area of machine learning as the model allow for an automatic model selection in clustering problem, one of the basic yet important procudure of data mining. As can be seen from previous chapter, despite the powerful representation of the model, the infinite and unlimited component number make it hard to represent them explicitly, leading to work on developing methods of posterior inference. .

The most widely used methods in posterior inference in DPMM is to draw samples of those latent variables using a Markov Chain Monte Carlo scheme. But posterior sampling in such complex models using MCMC is often difficult because samplers proposing local changes exhibit poor convergence. To address the convergence problem, many algorithms are poposed. In this section, a brief introduction to those methods will be given.

- **Gibbs Sampling based on Pólya urn**

In the Pólya urn representation of DPMM 3.12

3.5 Summary

In this section, we briefly reviewed the basics in Dirichlet process, including their three different representations-Pólya urn, Chinese Restaurant Process and Stick-breaking Process, and each one shows the different properties of Dirichlet Process. Also, we delve into the inference strategies of Dirichlet Process, including Markov Chain Monte Carlo and Variational Inference.

Generally, Dirichlet Process, as the most representative modeling in Bayesian Nonparametric analysis, are an emerging trend for buildin gflexible models whose strcture grows and adapts to data. But the easy and flexible modeling procedure does not guarantee a relaxed inference procedure especially when the data set grows larger. Thus, the poposal is mainly focus on the inference procedure, aiming at developing a more efficient mechenism to inference.

4 Methodology

This section will describe the methodology to fulfill the research target. As mentioned in the 2, the primary goal of this research is to introduce the bayesian learning method into active learning framework to handling the learning problem with variant size of data set and enable the model flexible enough to adapt the model complexity.

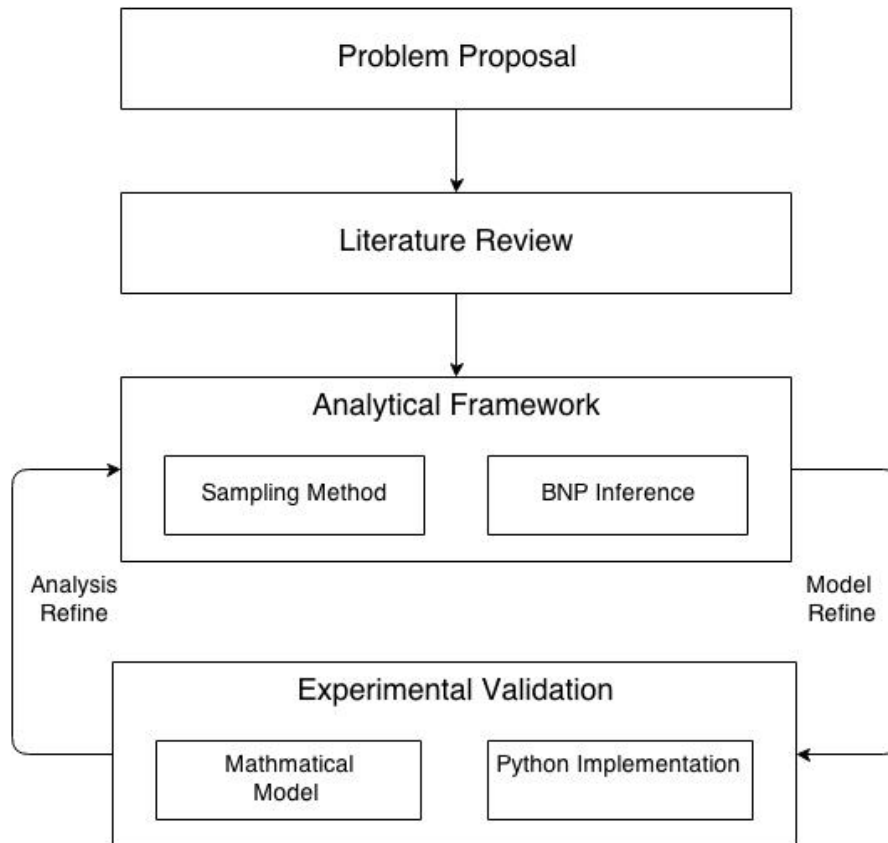


Figure 4.1: Research Flowchart

Fig4.1 is the main flowchart. briefing the detailed process, and in each main stage the major work should be:

1. Literature Review

This part should not be restricted just to the two main mentioned topics, instead during this procedure, a comprehensive review on the machine learning literature should be carried out. Besides the classical learning theories, extensive reading on analysis of their characteristics and application should also be focused on. The goal is to gain a general understanding of the theory framework, relation to other learning theory, their history, development and current research. Literature Review part will include the

following part:

2.

3. Develop a new sampling method in active learning

Currently, the general querying methods in active learning is to select either informative or representative unlabeled instances[?]. It remains a challenge to select instances that are distinct on both features[?]. Informativeness is the measurement of an instance on the prediction ability on the labeled data while the representativeness is the prediction ability on the unlabeled data. The current popular approaches such as query-by-committee[?], uncertainty sampling[?] and so on are all under the framework of querying informative instances. The performance is greatly improved when compared to the algorithms without the active learning procedure. But all these approaches are unable to exploit the potential abundance in the unlabeled data set. Thus the aim of the research is to try to improve the efficiency by diving into the unlabeled data set while maintaining the performance on labeled dataset. This requires the sampling procedure should take into consideration both the informativeness and representativeness of an instance. Thus the new sampling method should be in the form of measuring the desired sample's representative ability in unlabeled data set and its informativeness on the change of model. We will dive into the theoretical analysis on the current different sampling scheme and try to combine them under the same framework. The effectiveness of the proposed framework will be tested through experiment and the performance will be used for analysis refine.

4. Research on Bayesian Non-parametric Learning scheme

As the second main research topic, it is also very important to develop the overall learning scheme. BNP model, although very flexible and covering multiple learning tasks. The main focus on this area is how to overcome the low convergence rate in traditional BNP learning. Derived from traditional nonparametric model, Bayesian Non-parametric method is also constrained by the common shortcoming of nonparametric family, which is the high cost on resources[5, 12]. Every sample should be kept for the model updating, which will be a disaster as dimension of data set grows. In this research, we aim to bring active learning procedure into the BNP model. During the model updating, instead of storing all training samples, only those most representative and informative will be kept. The key problem is how to make most of the selected samples in BNP learning process as all the parameters will be updated by using them.

5. Implementation and Experiment

This steps include implementing the proposed framework and test the algorithm on different data set regarding the specific problem this framework will be used to evaluate its performance. The validation should contain two stage, the first one being comparison with classical and state-of-art algorithm in active learning and bayesian nonparametric model learning respectively, the second one being test the performance of the whole framework. Currently, the most popular data set used for active learning contains:

- **Text:**Three data sets, 20 Newsgroups, SRAA, and Reuters-21578,have been preprocessed for an active learning setting by some researchers. The data in these data sets are categorized to a hierarchical structure. Data from different subcategories under the same parent category are considered to be from different but related domains. The task is to predict the labels of the parent category.
- **E-mail:**This data set is provided by the 2006 ECML/ PKDD discovery challenge. It is to classify the E-mail to a topic group.
- **Wifi:**This data set is provided by the ICDM-2007 Contest. The data were collected inside a building for localization in two different time periods. And the purpose it to find the most probable period of the building. It is a binary classification problem.

Most of the programming will be in Python, as it is free, with many open-sourced mathematical toolbox, and is easy to use. And the programming will be run on regular PC.

The result will be compared to the state-of-art methods,in the area of the problem to be solved, such as classification, regression or density estimation, on the basis of both the efficiency and accuracy. The accuracy is to test how our proposed method performs regarding to the specific target of the problem. And the efficiency is to check whether this framework will decrease the rely on calculation resource, both time and space. The performance will be the feedback for analytical refinement.

5 Research Plan

In this section, a research plan is listed to achieve the previous proposed objective as well as some resources required for the research.

5.1 Research Timetable

In this section, a timetable of the research plan will be described. Basically, this research is planned to span the first one and a half year of my research.

Semester-1 2014

- COMP9417 Data Mining and Machine Learning course
- Basic Bayesian theory learning
- Review Bayesian Non-parametric Theory
- Implementation of BNP model

Semester-2 2014

- Literature Review
- GSOE9400 Research Course
- Review Active Learning Theory
- Review sampling methods and inference theory on bayesian learning
- Implementing the general coding framework and test on public dataset

Semester-1 2015

- Develop the proposed sampling methods and implementation
- Experiment of the proposed learning theory and testing
- Paper writing and publishing

5.2 Resource Required

In addition to the usual work space and equipment resources, some practical data set to test the performance is required. This could be supplied by NICTA as part of this research is related to one of its research project.

The only potential risk is that during the initial stage, many mathematical hypothesis could be placed on the model to facilitate the theoretical inference, and the performance of the framework could be unsatisfied. But this could be address by modelling refine process. Finally, this framework will be upgraded for more complex problem thus the two main part should be loose-coupled to each other.

6 Current Progress

Currently, the progress related to each topic is listed below:

- **Active Learning**

- Gained a general understanding of the theory
- Diving into applications of different sampling framework in practical problem
- Primary framework programming and testing

For the learning process, I employed the SVM and Bayesian framework. And for querying strategy, I used Random Sampling, uncertainty Sampling. The test dataset is used is the Digit11, the dataset used in The Semi-Supervised Learning Book. This dataset includes 1500 instances and each one has 241 features. Below is the result of the current programming.

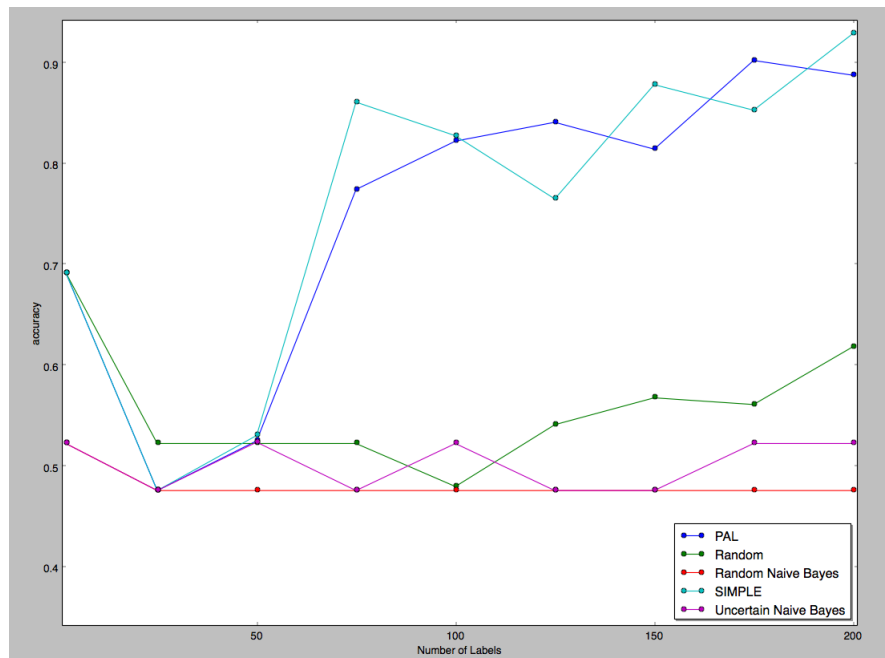


Figure 6.1: Active learning result

As can be seen from the figure, if active sampling procedure is applied, the performance is on average better than random sampling method(the base test of the test).

- **Bayesian Nonparametric Model**

- Gained a general understanding of the theory

- Currently reviewing on the Gaussian process used for BNP regression
- Primary framework programming

7 Conclusion

In this proposal, we concerned about the shortcoming in traditional active learning and bayesian nonparametric model in order to make them more applicable on big data problem. To adress these problems, we propose to introduce bayesian nonparametric model to active learning framework. On one hand, active learning theory is motivated on the scenario that concerns learning cost. It actively queries samples that will mostly improve the performance at each step, reaching similar or better performance than traditional supervised learning methods but at less cost. On the other hand, BNP model tries to slove the constraints of parameters by combining the bayesian and non-parametric methods. It allows for a dynamic change of param- eters in the learning procedure. This flexibility is very important when trying to learn on ever-changing and complex data sets. As in big data set, abundancy and complexity are more likely to happen than on small data set. We aim to take advantages of the merits , as for active learning the efficiency and for BNP the flexibility, to make up for their disadvantage, as for active learning low sampling procedure and and for BNP low convergency rate, thus this whole framework will perform better both on efficiency and on accuracy in big dataset.

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