# EMPIRICAL BAYES POISSON MATRIX FACTORIZATION

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1. Overview. We introduce an Empirical Bayes approach to Poisson Matrix Factorization (EBPMF), whose key feature is that it uses the observed data to estimate prior distributions on matrix elements. We solve this problem using Variational Inference, which reduces the fitting of EBPMF to solving "Poisson Means" problem.

### 2. Notation.

- 1. For a 3d tensor  $Z_{ijk}$  with shape (n, p, K), I use capital character to indicate a slice along that axis. For example,  $Z_{Ijk}$  means  $Z_{1:n,jk}$ . Similar notation applies to 2d arrays.
- 2.  $\langle x \rangle_q := E_q(x)$
- 3. Empirical Bayes Poisson Mean Problem (EBPM). Suppose we have observations x and scale s, and we assume the following generating process.

$$x_i | \lambda_i \sim Pois(s_i \lambda_i)$$
  
 $\lambda_i \sim g(.)$   
 $g \in \mathcal{G}$ 

Our goal is to find

$$\begin{split} \hat{g} &:= \operatorname{argmax}_g \ \ell(g) = \operatorname{argmax} \ log \ p(\boldsymbol{x}|g,\boldsymbol{s}) \\ p &:= p(\boldsymbol{\lambda}|\boldsymbol{x}, \hat{g}, \boldsymbol{s}) \end{split}$$

Suppose we can solve this type of problem, and use EBPM to denote the mapping:

$$EBPM(\boldsymbol{x}, \boldsymbol{s}) = (p, \hat{q})$$

REMARK. The MLE for the Poisson mean problem is  $\hat{\lambda}_i = \frac{x_i}{s_i}$ .

**4.** MLE for Poisson Matrix Factorization (PMF). Let's first look at an algorithm of a related problem - MLE for Poisson Matrix Factorization (PMF):

$$X_{ij} \sim Pois(\sum_{k} l_{ik} f_{jk})$$

and we want to find the MLE for L, F. The most popular algorithm is lee's multiplicative update, which is essentially an EM algorithm.

**4.1.** rank 1 case. We set K = 1. It is easy to see that the optimal  $l_i, f_j$  (update to a scaling factor between l, f) is

$$l_i = \frac{\sum_j X_{ij}}{\sum_j f_j}$$
$$f_j = \frac{\sum_i X_{ij}}{\sum_i l_i}$$

Remark. We can see that the optimal  $\mathbf{l}$  is the MLE solution to the Poisson mean problem where  $x_i := \sum_j X_{ij}$  and  $s_i := \sum_j f_j$ . Similar remark for  $\mathbf{f}$ .

**4.2.** rank k case. In EM we use the data augmentation trick which can reduce solving the rank-k problem to solving rank-1 problems:

$$X_{ij} = \sum_{k} Z_{ijk}$$
 
$$Z_{ijk} \sim Pois(l_{ik}f_{jk})$$

In E-step, we compute  $p(Z_{ijk}|X_{ij},l_{iK},f_{jK})$ , which gives us  $\langle Z_{ijk}\rangle_p = X_{ij}\frac{l_{ik}f_{jk}}{\sum_k l_{ik}f_{jk}}$ . In M-step, we update L, F by optimizing  $E[\log p(X,Z|L,F)]$ , which gives us

$$l_{ik} = \frac{\sum_{j} \langle Z_{ijk} \rangle_{p}}{\sum_{j} f_{jk}}$$
$$f_{jk} = \frac{\sum_{i} \langle Z_{ijk} \rangle_{p}}{\sum_{i} l_{ik}}$$

REMARK. We can expand  $\langle Z_{ijk} \rangle_p$  and get the famous lee's multiplicative update, but this form is more similar to our Poisson Mean problem: each column of the updated L is the MLE for Poisson Mean problem with  $x_i := \sum_j \langle Z_{ijk} \rangle_p$  and  $s_i := \sum_j f_{jk}$ . Similar remark for F.

- 5. EBPMF: rank-1. I will solve this problem using Mean-Field Variational Inference, which can be shown to be equivalent to the EBPM problem. This naturally provides us with an algorithm to solve EBPMF (rank-1) problem. Then it is also easy to see the connection between our algorithm and the EM for PMF (rank-1).
  - 5.1. Model.

$$X_{ij} \sim Pois(l_i f_j)$$
  
 $l_i \sim g_L(.), g_L \in \mathcal{G}$   
 $f_j \sim g_F(.), g_F \in \mathcal{G}$ 

We assume that data is from a Poisson distribution, and the mean is rank-1. We can impose different priors on elements of l, f. Our goal is to find:

$$\hat{g_L}, \hat{g_F} := \operatorname{argmax} \ l(g_L, g_F) = \operatorname{argmax} \ log \ p(X|g_L, g_F)$$

and posterior of  $l, f: p(l|X, \hat{g_L}, \hat{g_F}), p(f|X, \hat{g_F}, \hat{g_F}).$ 

**5.2. Variational Inference.** Since the marginal  $p(X|g_L, g_F)$  is intractable. Therefore, we use mean-field variational inference, by using approximating distribution  $q(\mathbf{l}, \mathbf{f}) = q_L(\mathbf{l})q_F(\mathbf{f})$ . Then we have:

$$log \ p(X|g_L, g_F) = ELBO(q_L, q_F, g_L, g_F) + KL(q(\boldsymbol{l}, \boldsymbol{f})||p(\boldsymbol{l}, \boldsymbol{f}|X, g_L, g_F))$$

where the evidence lower bound (ELBO) is defined by

$$\begin{split} ELBO(q_L, q_F, g_L, g_F) &:= E_q(log \ p(X, \boldsymbol{l}, \boldsymbol{f})) - E_q(log \ q(\boldsymbol{l}, \boldsymbol{f})) \\ &= E_q[log \ p(X|\boldsymbol{l}, \boldsymbol{f}) + log \ \frac{g_L(\boldsymbol{l})}{q_L(\boldsymbol{l})} + log \frac{g_F(\boldsymbol{f})}{q_F(\boldsymbol{f})}] \end{split}$$

Since KL divergence is nonnegative and obtains 0 when the two distributions are the same,  $log p(X|g_L, g_F) = max_q ELBO(q_L, q_F, g_L, g_F)$ . Thus

$$\max_{g} log \ p(X|g_L, g_F) = \max_{g,q} ELBO(q_L, q_F, g_L, g_F)$$

Now we focus on the RHS instead, and optimize ELBO over  $q_L, q_F, g_L, g_F$ , and use the optimal  $q_L, q_F$  as approximation to the true posterior.

## Algorithm 5.1 Alternating Optimization for EBPMF (rank-1)

```
Result: \hat{q}_{L}, \hat{q}_{F}, \hat{g}_{L}, \hat{g}_{F}

1 Input: X, initial values q_{L}^{(0)}, q_{F}^{(0)}, g_{L}^{(0)}, g_{F}^{(0)}

t \leftarrow 1

while not converged do

2 \begin{array}{c|c} t \leftarrow t+1 \\ q_{L}^{(t)}, g_{L}^{(t)} \leftarrow \operatorname{argmax}_{q_{L}, g_{L}} ELBO(q_{L}, q_{F}^{(t)}, g_{L}, g_{F}^{(t)}) \\ q_{F}^{(t)}, g_{F}^{(t)} \leftarrow \operatorname{argmax}_{q_{F}, g_{F}} ELBO(q_{L}^{(t)}, q_{F}, g_{L}^{(t)}, g_{F}) \end{array}

3 end
```

**5.3. Optimize ELBO by solving EBPM problem.** By proposition A.1, we can see

$$\operatorname{argmax}_{q_F,g_F} \ ELBO(q_L,q_F,g_L,g_F) = EBPM(\sum_i X_{ij},(\sum_i \langle l_i \rangle) \mathbf{1})$$

Therefore we can rewrite the "EBPMF-rank1" this way:

# Algorithm 5.2 Alternating Optimization for EBPMF (rank-1)

```
Result: \hat{q}_L, \hat{q}_F, \hat{g}_L, \hat{g}_F

4 Input: X, initial values q_L^{(0)}, q_F^{(0)}, g_L^{(0)}, g_F^{(0)}

t \leftarrow 1

while not converged do

5 \begin{array}{c|c} t \leftarrow t+1 \\ q_F^{(t)}, g_F^{(t)} \leftarrow EBPM(\sum_i X_{ij}, (\sum_i \langle l_i \rangle_{q^{(t-1)}})\mathbf{1}) \\ q_L^{(t)}, g_L^{(t)} \leftarrow EBPM(\sum_j X_{ij}, (\sum_j \langle f_j \rangle_{q^{(t)}})\mathbf{1}) \end{array}

6 end
```

**5.4. Attain optimality in one iteration.** In fact, this algorithm converges after the 1st iteration, as is the case for the MLE for PMF problem:

Suppose in iteration 
$$t+1$$
, we have  $\sum_{i} \langle l_{i} \rangle_{q^{(t)}} = c \sum_{i} \langle l_{i} \rangle_{q^{(t-1)}}$ . Then we have  $q_{L}^{(t+1)}(l_{i}) = q_{L}^{(t)}(cl_{i})$  and  $g_{L}^{(t+1)}(l_{i}) = g_{L}^{(t)}(cl_{i})$ . Then  $\sum_{i} \langle f_{j} \rangle_{q^{(t+1)}} = \frac{1}{c} \sum_{i} \langle f_{j} \rangle_{q^{(t)}}$ , so we have  $q_{F}^{(t+1)}(f_{j}) = q_{F}^{(t)}(f_{j}/c)$  and  $g_{F}^{(t+1)}(f_{j}) = g_{F}^{(t)}(f_{j}/c)$ . We can see  $ELBO^{(t+1)} = ELBO^{(t)}$ 

The same trick can be applied to see result from the first iteration is indeed optimal easily.

5.5. Compare with MLE for PMF (rank-1). It is clear that both algorithms solve the same Poisson Mean problems. In MLE we use MLE for the Poisson Mean problem; in EBPMF we solve the Empirical Bayes Poisson Mean problem instead.

- **6. EBPMF: rank-k.** I will solve this problem using Variational Inference, which can be reduced to rank-1 problems using the data augmentation trick. This leads to an iterative algorithm for optimizing ELBO.
  - 6.1. Model.

$$X_{ij} = \sum_{k} Z_{ijk}$$

$$Z_{ijk} \sim Pois(l_{ik}f_{jk})$$

$$l_{ik} \sim g_{L,k}(.), g_{L,k} \in \mathcal{G}$$

$$f_{jk} \sim g_{F,k}(.), g_{F,k} \in \mathcal{G}$$

We introduce hidden variable Z so that it is easy to see the connection to "rank-1" case. Independent priors for placed for each column of F, L, both for flexible modeling, and computational convenience.

**6.2.** Variational Inference. Similarly, we use factorized variational inference:

$$q(L, F, Z) = q_L(L)q_F(F)q_Z(Z)$$
  
 $q_Z(Z_{ij,1:K}) = MN(X_{ij}, \zeta_{ij,1:K})$ 

The optimal parametric family of  $q_L(L), q_F(F)$  is dependent on the choice of  $\mathcal{G}$ .

**6.3.** Reduce rank-k to rank-1. The ELBO for rank-k case is:

$$\begin{split} (6.1) \\ ELBO(q,g) &= E_q[log\ p(X,L,F,Z|g_{L,1:K},g_{F,1:K})] - E_qlog\ q_L(L) - E_qlog\ q_F(F) - E_qlog\ q_Z(Z) \\ &= E_q\{log\ p(Z|L,F) + log\ \frac{g_L(L)}{q_L(L)} + log\ \frac{g_F(F)}{q_F(F)} - log\ q_Z(Z)\} \\ &= E_q\{\sum_{ijk} [-l_{ik}f_{jk} + Z_{ijk}log(l_{ik}f_{jk}) - log(Z_{ijk}!)] \\ &+ log\ \frac{g_L(L)}{q_L(L)} + log\ \frac{g_F(F)}{q_F(F)} \\ &- \sum_{ij} [\sum_k Z_{ijk}log(\zeta_{ijk}) + log(X_{ij}!) - \sum_k log(Z_{ijk}!)]\} \\ &= \sum_k \{[\sum_{ij} (-\langle l_{ik}\rangle_q \langle f_{jk}\rangle_q + \langle Z_{ijk}\rangle_q \langle log(l_{ik})\rangle_q + \langle log(f_{jk})\rangle_q)] + E_q(log\ \frac{g_L(L_{Ik})}{q_L(L_{Ik})} + log\ \frac{g_F(F_{Jk})}{q_F(F_{Jk})})\} \\ &- \sum_{ijk} \langle Z_{ijk}\rangle_q log(\zeta_{ijk}) - \sum_{ij} log(X_{ij}!) \end{split}$$

REMARK. In the second equation, X is ignored as  $\sum_k Z_{ijk} = X_{ij}$  with probability 1 under  $q_Z(.)$ .

Now the last equation tells us how to optimize the ELBO. We separate parameters into two parts  $(g_L, g_F, q_L, q_F)$  and  $q_Z$ , then optimize alternatingly.

If we fix q(Z), The first part is just k ELBOs for rank-1 problem  $(X_{ij} \text{ replaced with } \langle Z_{ijk} \rangle_q)$ , which we can solve independently.

If we fix the rest and optimize q(Z): we can decompose the problem into np independent subproblems, each can be solved analytically (using Lagrange multiplier). The

optimizer w.r.t  $\zeta$  is:

$$\zeta_{ijk} \propto exp(\langle ln(l_{ik})\rangle_q + \langle ln(f_{jk})\rangle_q)$$

$$\sum_k \zeta_{ijk} = 1$$

The agorithm is summarized below.

# Algorithm 6.1 Alternating Optimization for EBPMF (rank-k)

```
Result: \hat{q}_{L}, \hat{q}_{F}, \hat{g}_{L}, \hat{g}_{F}
7 Input: X, initial values q_{L,1:K}^{(0)}, q_{F,1:K}^{(0)}, g_{L,1:K}^{(0)}, g_{F,1:K}^{(0)}
t \leftarrow 1
while not converged do

8 \left|\begin{array}{c} t \leftarrow t+1 \\ \text{for } k \leftarrow 1 \text{ to do} \\ \end{array}\right|
\left|\begin{array}{c} q_{L,k}^{(t)}, g_{L,k}^{(t)}, q_{f,k}^{(t)}, g_{F,k}^{(t)} = \text{EBPMF-rank1}(\langle Z_{ijk} \rangle_{q}, q_{L,k}^{(t-1)}, g_{L,k}^{(t-1)}, q_{F,k}^{(t-1)}, g_{F,k}^{(t-1)}) \\ \text{update } q_{Z} \\ \end{array}
10 \left|\begin{array}{c} \text{end} \\ \text{end} \\ \end{array}\right|
```

**7. EBPMF with random effect.** Our "EBPMF" is flexible and we can introduce random effect into it.

# 7.1. Model.

$$X_{ij} \sim Pois(\sum_{k} l_{ik} f_{jk} + \mu_{ij})$$
$$l_{ik} \sim g_{L,k}(.), g_{L,k} \in \mathcal{G}_{\mathcal{L}}$$
$$f_{jk} \sim g_{F,k}(.), g_{F,k} \in \mathcal{G}_{\mathcal{F}}$$
$$\mu_{ij} \sim g_{\mu}(.), g_{\mu} \in \mathcal{G}_{\mu}$$

We introduce hidden variable  $Z_{ij,0:K}$  with the first  $Z_{IJ0}$  for the random effect:

$$\begin{split} X_{ij} &= \sum_{k=0}^{K} Z_{ijk} \\ Z_{ij0} &\sim Pois(\mu_{ij}) \\ Z_{ijk} &\sim Pois(l_{ik}f_{jk}), k = 1...K \\ l_{ik} &\sim g_{L,k}(.), g_{L,k} \in \mathcal{G}_{\mathcal{L}} \\ f_{jk} &\sim g_{F,k}(.), g_{F,k} \in \mathcal{G}_{\mathcal{F}} \\ \mu_{ij} &\sim g_{\mu}(.), g_{\mu} \in \mathcal{G}_{\mu} \end{split}$$

**7.2.** Algorithm. We also solve it using mean-field variational inference:  $q(L, F, \mu) = q_L(L)q_F(F)q_\mu(\mu)$ . It is easy to write down ELBO in similar form.

$$\begin{split} ELBO(q,g) &= \sum_{k=1}^{K} \{ [\sum_{ij} (-\left\langle l_{ik}\right\rangle_{q} \left\langle f_{jk}\right\rangle_{q} + \left\langle Z_{ijk}\right\rangle_{q} (\left\langle log(l_{ik})\right\rangle_{q} + \left\langle log(f_{jk})\right\rangle_{q})] + E_{q}(log \frac{g_{L}(L_{Ik})}{q_{L}(L_{Ik})} + log \frac{g_{F}(F_{Jk})}{q_{F}(F_{Jk})}) \} \\ &+ \sum_{ij} [-\left\langle \mu_{ij}\right\rangle_{q} + \left\langle Z_{ij0}\right\rangle_{q} \left\langle log(\mu_{ij})\right\rangle_{q} + E_{q}(log \frac{g_{\mu}(\mu_{ij})}{q_{\mu}(\mu_{ij})})] \\ &- \sum_{ij} \sum_{k=0}^{K} \left\langle Z_{ijk}\right\rangle_{q} log(\zeta_{ijk}) - \sum_{ij} log(X_{ij}!) \end{split}$$

The first line is just the K independent "EBPMF-rank1" problems; the second line is one simple "EBPM" problem. With these two lines we can update q,g for  $(L,F,\mu)$  with  $q_Z$  fixed. Then the formula for updating  $q_Z$  is almost the same: Let

$$c_{ijk} = \langle ln(l_{ik})\rangle_q + \langle ln(f_{jk})\rangle_q$$

for k = 1...K and

$$c_{ij0} = \langle ln(\mu_{ij}) \rangle_q$$

Then

$$\zeta_{ijk} = \frac{exp(c_{ijk})}{\sum_{k=0}^{K} exp(c_{ijk})}$$

## 7.3. ELBO computation.

$$ELBO(q,g) = \sum_{ij} \left\{ -\left(\sum_{k=1}^{K} \langle l_{ik} \rangle_{q} \langle f_{jk} \rangle_{q} + \langle \mu_{ij} \rangle_{q}\right) + X_{ij}log\left(\sum_{k=0}^{K} exp(c_{ijk})\right)\right) - log(X_{ij}!)\right\}$$

$$\leq \sum_{ij} \left(-\langle \lambda_{ij} \rangle_{q} + X_{ij}log\langle \lambda_{ij} \rangle_{q} - log(X_{ij}!)\right)$$

where  $\langle \lambda_{ij} \rangle_q = \sum_{k=1}^K \langle l_{ik} \rangle_q \langle f_{jk} \rangle_q + \langle \mu_{ij} \rangle_q$ . The last line is from Jensen inequality.

# Appendices

# A. Connecting EBPM problem to EBPM problem.

Proposition A.1.

$$argmax_{q_F,g_F} \ ELBO(q_L,q_F,g_L,g_F) = EBPM(\sum_i X_{ij},(\sum_i \langle l_i \rangle)\mathbf{1})$$

where  $\langle l_i \rangle_q := E_{q_L}(l_i)$ .

Proof. In order to see this, let's introduce the following lemma:

Lemma A.2.

$$\begin{split} argmax_{q_{\lambda},g}F^{PM}(q_{\lambda},g;\boldsymbol{x},\boldsymbol{s}) &= EBPM(\boldsymbol{x},\boldsymbol{s}) \\ F^{PM}(q_{\lambda},g;\boldsymbol{x},\boldsymbol{s}) &:= E_{q}[log~p(\boldsymbol{x}|\boldsymbol{\lambda},\boldsymbol{s}) + log(\frac{g(\boldsymbol{\lambda})}{q_{\lambda}(\boldsymbol{\lambda})})] \\ &= \sum_{t} E_{q}(-s_{t}\lambda_{t} + x_{t}log(s_{t}\lambda_{t})) + E_{q}(log(\frac{g(\boldsymbol{\lambda})}{q_{\lambda}(\boldsymbol{\lambda})})) - \sum_{t} log(x_{t}!) \end{split}$$

Proof.

$$\begin{split} &\ell(g) = log \; p(\boldsymbol{x}|g) \\ &= E_q[log \; p(\boldsymbol{x}|g)] \\ &= E_q[log \; \frac{p(\boldsymbol{x}, \boldsymbol{\lambda}|g)}{p(\boldsymbol{\lambda}|\boldsymbol{x}, g)}] \\ &= E_q[log \; \frac{p(\boldsymbol{x}, \boldsymbol{\lambda}|g)}{p(\boldsymbol{\lambda}|\boldsymbol{x}, g)}] \\ &= E_q[log \; \frac{p(\boldsymbol{x}, \boldsymbol{\lambda}|g)}{q_{\boldsymbol{\lambda}}(\boldsymbol{\lambda})} + log \frac{q_{\boldsymbol{\lambda}}(\boldsymbol{\lambda})}{p(\boldsymbol{\lambda}|\boldsymbol{x}, g)}] \\ &= E_q[log \; p(\boldsymbol{x}|\boldsymbol{\lambda}) + log \frac{g(\boldsymbol{\lambda})}{q_{\boldsymbol{\lambda}}(\boldsymbol{\lambda})}] + KL(q_{\boldsymbol{\lambda}}||p_{\boldsymbol{\lambda}|\boldsymbol{x}, g}) \\ &= F^{PM}(q_{\boldsymbol{\lambda}}, g; \boldsymbol{x}, \boldsymbol{s}) + KL(q_{\boldsymbol{\lambda}}||p_{\boldsymbol{\lambda}|\boldsymbol{x}, g}) \\ &\geq F^{PM}(q_{\boldsymbol{\lambda}}, g; \boldsymbol{x}, \boldsymbol{s}) \end{split}$$

Then by

$$F^{PM}(q_{\lambda}, g) = \ell(g) - KL(q_{\lambda}||p_{\lambda|x,g})$$

we know the maximizer (over q) for  $F^{PM}(q_{\lambda}, g)$  is the posterior  $p_{\lambda|x,g}$ , which also makes KL divergence equal 0. Therefore we have

$$max_{q_{\lambda},g}F^{PM}(q_{\lambda},g) = max_{g}\ell(g)$$

Then our lemma follows.

Then we can express ELBO (w.r.t F) in terms of  $F^{PM}$ :

$$\begin{split} ELBO(q_F, g_F) &= E_q[log \ p(X|\boldsymbol{l}, \boldsymbol{f}) + log \ \frac{g_L(\boldsymbol{l})}{q_L(\boldsymbol{l})} + log \frac{g_F(\boldsymbol{f})}{q_F(\boldsymbol{f})}] \\ &= \sum_j E_q[-(\sum_i \langle l_i \rangle) f_j + (\sum_i X_{ij}) log \ f_j + log \ \frac{g(f_j)}{q_F(f_j)}] + const \\ &= F^{PM}(q_F, g_F; \sum_i X_{ij}, (\sum_i \langle l_i \rangle) \mathbf{1}) + const \end{split}$$

Therefore, our proposition follows.

B. ELBO computation. We do not need to compute ELBO explicitly in our algorithm, but it is useful as an indicator of progress for the algorithm.

**B.1.** rank 1. ELBO for rank-1 is:

$$ELBO(q_L, q_F, g_L, g_F) := E_q[log \ p(X|\mathbf{l}, \mathbf{f}) + log \frac{g_L(\mathbf{l})}{q_L(\mathbf{l})} + log \frac{g_F(\mathbf{f})}{q_F(\mathbf{f})}]$$

$$= \sum_{i,j} [-\langle l_i \rangle_q \langle f_j \rangle_q + X_{ij} (\langle log(l_i) \rangle_q + \langle log(f_j) \rangle_q)]$$

$$+ E_q[log \ \frac{g_L(\mathbf{l})}{q_L(\mathbf{l})} + log \frac{g_F(\mathbf{f})}{q_F(\mathbf{f})}] - \sum_{ij} log(X_{ij}!)$$

However, we can't get a closed form expression for the terms

$$E_q[log \frac{g_L(\boldsymbol{l})}{q_L(\boldsymbol{l})} + log \frac{g_F(\boldsymbol{f})}{q_F(\boldsymbol{f})}] = -KL(q_L(\boldsymbol{l})||g_L(\boldsymbol{l})) - KL(q_F(\boldsymbol{f})||g_F(\boldsymbol{f}))$$

But fortunately we can use the relationship between ELBO and the corresponding EBPM problem.

After each update of our algorithm, we have  $\hat{q}_F(.) = p(.|X,\hat{g}_F)$ , thus

$$F^{PM}(\hat{q}_F, \hat{q}_F) = l(\hat{q}_F)$$

and RHS can be easily computed in our EBPM algorithm. Also

$$F^{PM}(\hat{q}_F, \hat{g}_F; \sum_{i} X_{ij}, \sum_{i} \langle l_i \rangle_q \mathbf{1}) = E_q[log \ p(\sum_{i} X_{ij} | \boldsymbol{f}, \sum_{i} \langle l_i \rangle_q \mathbf{1}) + log \ \frac{g_F(\boldsymbol{f})}{q_F(\boldsymbol{f})}] - \sum_{j} log((\sum_{i} X_{ij})!)$$

where the first term is easily computable:

$$E_{q}[log \ p(\sum_{i} X_{ij} | \boldsymbol{f}, \sum_{i} \langle l_{i} \rangle_{q} \mathbf{1}))] = \sum_{j} [(\sum_{i} \langle l_{i} \rangle_{q}) \langle f_{j} \rangle_{q} + (\sum_{i} X_{ij}) \langle log \ f_{j} \rangle_{q}]$$

Thus we can compute  $E_q[log \frac{g_F(f)}{q_F(f)}]$  (and similarly  $E_q[log \frac{g_L(l)}{q_L(l)}]$ ) and plug them in to get EBPM.

**B.2.** rank k. Similarly the only hard part is the KL divergence between q, q for L, F. We can get them from EBPM results. Thus,

for each rank-1 problem, we can compute  $E_q \frac{g_L(L_{Ik})}{q_L(L_{Ik})} + \log \frac{g_F(F_{Jk})}{q_F(F_{Jk})}$ . Then we compute  $\sum_k \{ [\sum_{ij} (-\langle l_{ik} \rangle_q \langle f_{jk} \rangle_q + \langle Z_{ijk} \rangle_q \langle log(l_{ik}) \rangle_q + \langle log(f_{jk}) \rangle_q)]$  and  $E_q(\log \frac{g_L(L_{Ik})}{q_L(L_{Ik})} + \log \frac{g_F(F_{Jk})}{q_F(F_{Jk})})$ . Add them up we get ELBO up to a constant  $(\sum_{ij} log(X_{ij}!))$ . Let's write down the formula explicitly:

formula explicitly:

$$\begin{split} ELBO(q,g) &= \sum_{k} \{ [\sum_{ij} (-\langle l_{ik}\rangle_q \langle f_{jk}\rangle_q + \langle Z_{ijk}\rangle_q \langle log(l_{ik})\rangle_q + \langle log(f_{jk})\rangle_q )] + E_q(log \frac{g_L(L_{Ik})}{q_L(L_{Ik})} + log \frac{g_F(F_{Jk})}{q_F(F_{Jk})}) \} \\ &- \sum_{ijk} \langle Z_{ijk}\rangle_q \log(\zeta_{ijk}) - \sum_{ij} \log(X_{ij}!) \\ &= \sum_{ijk} [(-\langle l_{ik}\rangle_q \langle f_{jk}\rangle_q + \langle Z_{ijk}\rangle_q (\langle log(l_{ik})\rangle_q + \langle log(f_{jk})\rangle_q - log(\zeta_{ijk}))] \\ &+ \sum_{ijk} (log \frac{g_L(L_{ik})}{q_L(L_{ik})} + log \frac{g_F(F_{jk})}{q_F(F_{jk})}) - \sum_{ij} log(X_{ij}!) \\ &= \sum_{ijk} [(-\langle l_{ik}\rangle_q \langle f_{jk}\rangle_q + X_{ij}\zeta_{ijk}(\langle log(l_{ik})\rangle_q + \langle log(f_{jk})\rangle_q - log(\zeta_{ijk}))] \\ &+ \sum_{ijk} (log \frac{g_L(L_{ik})}{q_L(L_{ik})} + log \frac{g_F(F_{jk})}{q_F(F_{jk})}) - \sum_{ij} log(X_{ij}!) \\ &= \sum_{ijk} (-\langle l_{ik}\rangle_q \langle f_{jk}\rangle_q + X_{ij}log \left(\sum_k exp(\langle log(l_{ik})\rangle_q + \langle log(f_{jk})\rangle_q)) \\ &+ \sum_{ijk} (log \frac{g_L(L_{ik})}{q_L(L_{ik})} + log \frac{g_F(F_{jk})}{q_F(F_{jk})}) - \sum_{ij} log(X_{ij}!) \end{split}$$

The first and the last term together is the "loglikelihood" (compare the first part with log p(X|L, F)):

$$\begin{split} \log p(X|L,F) &= \sum_{ij} (-\sum_{k} l_{ik} f_{jk} + X_{ij} log(\sum_{k} l_{ik} f_{jk})) - \sum_{ij} log(X_{ij}!) \\ \text{``loglikelihood'''} &= \sum_{ij} (-\sum_{k} \left\langle l_{ik} \right\rangle_{q} \left\langle f_{jk} \right\rangle_{q} + X_{ij} log\left(\sum_{k} exp(\left\langle log(l_{ik}) \right\rangle_{q} + \left\langle log(f_{jk}) \right\rangle_{q})\right) - \sum_{ij} log(X_{ij}!) \\ &\leq \sum_{ij} (-\sum_{k} \left\langle l_{ik} \right\rangle_{q} \left\langle f_{jk} \right\rangle_{q} + X_{ij} log\left(\sum_{k} (\left\langle l_{ik} \right\rangle_{q} + \left\langle f_{jk} \right\rangle)\right) - \sum_{ij} log(X_{ij}!) \end{split}$$

(from Jensen inequality  $exp(E(log(x))) \leq E(x)$ ).

The second part is the negative of the KL divergence between g, qs, which we compute along with the EBPM algorithm.