# MACHINE LEARNING

## Clustering

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# PARTITIONAL CLUSTERING

#### Problem

Given a dataset  $\mathbf{X} = (\mathbf{x}_1, \dots, \mathbf{x}_n)$ , with  $\mathbf{x}_i \in \mathbb{R}^d (i = 1, \dots, n)$ .

We wish to derive a set of clusters (i.e. a partition of  $X$  into subsets of "near" elements). Clusters are represented by their prototypes  $(\mathbf{m}_1, \dots, \mathbf{m}_k)$ , with  $\mathbf{m}_j \in \mathbb{R}^d, j=1,\dots,k.$ 

#### Rappresentation of a clustering

- 1. Cluster prototypes  $(\mathbf{m}_1, \dots, \mathbf{m}_k)$ , with  $\mathbf{m}_j \in \mathbb{R}^d (j = 1, \dots, k)$
- 2. Element assignment to clusters: for each  $\mathrm{x}_i$ ,  $k$  binary flags  $r_{ij} \in \{0,1\}$ ,  $j=1,\ldots,k$ . If  $\mathrm{x}_i$  is assigned the *t*-th cluster, then  $r_{it} = 1$  and  $r_{ii} = 0$  for  $j \neq t$

# CLUSTERING TYPES

#### Partitional clustering

Given a set of items (points)  $X = \{x_1, \ldots, x_n\}$ , we wish to partition X by assigning each element to one out of *k* clusters *C*1*, . . . , C<sup>k</sup>* in such a way to maximize (or minimize) a given cost *J*. The number *k* of clusters could be given or should have to be computed.

#### Hierarchical clustering

Given a set of items (points)  $X = \{x_1, \ldots, x_n\}$ , we wish to derive a set of nested partitions of X, from the partition composed by all singletons (one cluster for each node) to the one composed by a single item (the whole set).

#### K-MEANS CLUSTERING

Dataset  $\mathbf{X}=(\mathbf{x}_1,\ldots,\mathbf{x}_n)$ ,  $\mathbf{x}_i\in {\rm I\!R}^d$ : we wish to derive  $k$  clusters with prototypes  $\mathbf{m}_1,\ldots,\mathbf{m}_k$ 

Assignment of elements to cluster: for each x*<sup>i</sup>* , *k* binary flags *rij* (*j* = 1*, . . . , k*)

 $\bullet$  if  $\mathbf{x}_i$  is assigned to cluster *s*, then  $r_{is} = 1$ , and  $r_{ij} = 0$  for  $j \neq k$ 

Cost: sum of the distances of each point from the prototype of the corresponding cluster

$$
J(R, M) = \sum_{i=1}^{n} \sum_{j=1}^{k} r_{ij} ||\mathbf{x}_i - \mathbf{m}_j||^2
$$

Objective: finding  $r_{ij}$  and  $m_j$   $(i = 1, \ldots, n, j = 1, \ldots, k)$  to minimize  $J(R, M)$ 

## ALGORITHM

- 1. Given a set of prototypes m*ij*, minimize wrt *rij* (assigning elements to clusters). For each  $\mathbf{x}_i$ , minimize  $\sum_{j=1}^k r_{ij} ||\mathbf{x}_i - \mathbf{m}_j||^2$ . The minimum is obtained for  $r_{ik} = 1$  (and  $r_{ij} = 0$  for  $j \neq k$ ), where  $||\mathrm{x}_i - \mathrm{m}_k||^2$  is the minimum distance. That is, each point is assigned to the cluster of the nearest prototype.
- 2. Given a set of assignments  $r_{ii}$ , minimize wrt  $m_{ii}$  (defining new cluster prototypes) For each  $\mathbf{m}_k$ ,  $J=\sum_{i=1}^n\sum_{j=1}^kr_{ij}\left|\left|\mathbf{x}_i-\mathbf{m}_j\right|\right|^2$  is a quadratic function of  $\mathbf{m}_k$ . By setting its derivative to zero, the values of  $m<sub>k</sub>$  providing its minimum are obtained

$$
\frac{\partial J}{\partial \mathbf{m}_k} = 2 \sum_{i=1}^n r_{ik} (\mathbf{x}_i - \mathbf{m}_k) = 0 \Longrightarrow \mathbf{m}_k = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n r_{ik} \mathbf{x}_i}{\sum_{i=1}^n r_{ik}}
$$

That is, the new prototype is the mean of the elements assigned to the cluster At each step, *J* does not increase. There is a convergence to a local minimum.















# HOW TO CHOOSE *K*

#### Cross validation

- *•* Apply cross validation for different values of *K*, measuring the quality of the clustering obtained
- *•* How to measure the quality of a clustering?
	- 1. mean distance of elements from the prototypes of their clusters
	- 2. log-likelihood of the elements wrt the resulting mixture model

#### Note

Measures improves as *K* increases (overfitting). A value such that further increases provide limited improvement should be found



# HIERARCHICAL CLUSTERING

#### Aim

Derivation of a binary tree. Node: cluster; arc: inclusion.

The tree specifies a set of pairwise merge of clusters.

- *•* Aggregation, starting from *n* singleton clusters
- *•* Separation, starting from a single cluster of size *n*

#### Requirements

*k*-means requires:

- *•* a number *K* of clusters
- *•* an initial assignment
- a distance function between elements

Hierarchical clustering requires:

*•* a similarity function between clusters

# HIERARCHICAL CLUSTERING BY AGGREGATION

### Algorithm

- *•* define *n* clusters (singleton)
- *•* repeat
	- *•* compute the matrix of distances between clusters
	- merge the pair of clusters which are "nearest"
- *•* until a single cluster has remained

# HIERARCHICAL CLUSTERING BY AGGREGATION

#### Properties

- *•* Each tree prefix is a partition of elements
- *•* The algorithm provides a partial order of clusterings
- *•* The best clustering has to be found
- *•* Monotonicity: similarity between paired clusters decreases

#### Dendrogram

- *•* Tree of cluster pairings
- *•* The height of the nodes is inversely proportional to the similarity of the paired clusters

# **DENDROGRAM**





# CLUSTER SIMILARITY

Many measures. Most frequent ones:

• Similarity between nearest nodes (Single linkage)

$$
d_{SL}(C_1, C_2) = \min_{x_1 \in C_1, x_2 \in C_2} d(x_i, x_j)
$$

*•* Similarity between farthest nodes (Complete linkage)

$$
\textit{d}_{\textit{CL}}(\textit{C}_1, \textit{C}_2) = \max_{x_1 \in \textit{C}_1, x_2 \in \textit{C}_2} \textit{d}(x_i, x_j)
$$

• Mean similarity (Group average)

$$
d_{GA}(C_1, C_2) = \frac{1}{|C_1| \cdot |C_2|} \sum_{x_1 \in C_1} \sum_{x_2 \in C_2} d(x_i, x_j)
$$

Different measures provide different dendrograms

# DENDROGRAM WITH COMPLETE LINKAGE



# MIXTURES OF DISTRIBUTIONS

## Linear combinations of probability distributions

- *•* Same type of distributions *q*(x*|θ*)
- *•* Differ by parameter values

$$
p(\mathbf{x}|\boldsymbol{\pi},\boldsymbol{\theta})=\sum_{k=1}^K \pi_k q(\mathbf{x}|\theta_k)
$$

where

$$
\boldsymbol{\pi} = (\pi_1, \ldots, \pi_K) \qquad \boldsymbol{\theta} = (\theta_1, \ldots, \theta_K)
$$

## Mixing coefficients

$$
0 \leq \pi_k \leq 1 \qquad k = 1, \ldots, K
$$

$$
\sum_{k=1}^K \pi_k = 1
$$

Terms  $\pi_k$  have the properties of probability values

# MIXTURES OF DISTRIBUTIONS

Provide extensive capabilities to model complex distributions. For example, almost all continuous distributions can be modeled by the linear combination of a suitable number of gaussians.



Given a dataset  $X = (x_1, \ldots, x_n)$ , the parameters  $\pi, \theta$  of a mixture can be estimated by maximum likelihood.

$$
L(\theta, \pi | \mathbf{X}) = p(\mathbf{X} | \theta, \pi) = \prod_{i=1}^{n} p(\mathbf{x}_i | \theta, \pi) = \prod_{i=1}^{n} \sum_{k=1}^{K} \pi_k q(\mathbf{x} | \theta_k)
$$

or maximum log-likelihood

$$
l(\boldsymbol{\theta}, \boldsymbol{\pi} | \mathbf{X}) = \log p(\mathbf{X} | \boldsymbol{\theta}, \boldsymbol{\pi}) = \sum_{i=1}^{n} \log p(\mathbf{x}_i | \boldsymbol{\theta}, \boldsymbol{\pi}) = \sum_{i=1}^{n} \log \left( \sum_{k=1}^{K} \pi_k q(\mathbf{x}_i | \theta_k) \right)
$$

Maximization is however constrained by the conditions  $0\leq \pi_i\leq 1$  for all  $i$  and  $\sum_{i=1}^K\pi_i=1.$ 

By applying the lagrangian multipliers method, we will maximize

$$
\mathcal{L}(\boldsymbol{\theta}, \boldsymbol{\pi}, \lambda) = l(\boldsymbol{\theta}, \boldsymbol{\pi} | \mathbf{X}) + \lambda (1 - \sum_{i=1}^{K} \pi_i)
$$

Let us first consider the derivatives with respect to the weights  $\pi$ , which we set to 0

$$
\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}(\boldsymbol{\theta}, \boldsymbol{\pi} | \mathbf{X})}{\partial \pi_j} = \frac{\partial l(\boldsymbol{\theta}, \boldsymbol{\pi} | \mathbf{X})}{\partial \pi_j} - \lambda = 0
$$

This is equivalent to

$$
\lambda = \frac{\partial l(\boldsymbol{\theta}, \boldsymbol{\pi} | \mathbf{X})}{\partial \pi_j} = \frac{\partial}{\partial \pi_j} \left[ \sum_{i=1}^n \log \left( \sum_{k=1}^K \pi_k q(\mathbf{x}_i | \theta_k) \right) \right] = \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{\partial}{\partial \pi_j} \left[ \log \left( \sum_{k=1}^K \pi_k q(\mathbf{x}_i | \theta_k) \right) \right]
$$

$$
= \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{q(\mathbf{x}_i | \theta_i)}{\sum_{k=1}^K \pi_k q(\mathbf{x}_i | \theta_k)} = \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{\gamma_j(\mathbf{x}_i)}{\pi_j} = \frac{1}{\pi_j} \sum_{i=1}^n \gamma_j(\mathbf{x}_i)
$$

where,

$$
\gamma_k(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{\pi_k q(\mathbf{x}|\theta_k)}{\sum_{j=1}^K \pi_j q(\mathbf{x}|\theta_j)}
$$

By setting the derivative wrt *λ* to 0

$$
\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}(\boldsymbol{\theta}, \boldsymbol{\pi} | \mathbf{X})}{\partial \lambda} = \frac{\partial}{\partial \lambda} \left( I(\boldsymbol{\theta}, \boldsymbol{\pi} | \mathbf{X}) + \lambda (1 - \sum_{i=1}^{K} \pi_i) \right) = 0
$$

we obtain

$$
\sum_{i=1}^K \pi_i = 1
$$

As a consequence, since, as shown above,

$$
\pi_j = \frac{1}{\lambda} \sum_{i=1}^n \gamma_j(\mathbf{x}_i)
$$

it results

$$
\sum_{j=1}^{K} \pi_j = \frac{1}{\lambda} \sum_{j=1}^{K} \sum_{i=1}^{n} \gamma_j(\mathbf{x}_i) = 1
$$

which implies

$$
\lambda = \sum_{j=1}^K \sum_{i=1}^n \gamma_j(x_i) = \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^K \gamma_j(x_i) = \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^K \frac{\pi_j q(x_i | \theta_j)}{\sum_{k=1}^K \pi_k q(x_i | \theta_k)} = \sum_{i=1}^n 1 = \mathbf{n}
$$

and, finally,

$$
\pi_k = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \gamma_k(\mathbf{x}_i)
$$

For what concerns derivatives (or gradients) wrt distribution parameters *θ*, it results

$$
\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}(\theta, \pi | \mathbf{X})}{\partial \theta_j} = \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta_j} \left[ \sum_{i=1}^n \log \left( \sum_{k=1}^K \pi_k q(\mathbf{x}_i | \theta_k) \right) \right] = \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta_i} \left[ \log \left( \sum_{k=1}^K \pi_k q(\mathbf{x}_i | \theta_k) \right) \right]
$$

$$
= \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{\pi_j q(\mathbf{x}_i | \theta_i)}{\sum_{k=1}^K \pi_k q(\mathbf{x}_i | \theta_k)} \frac{\partial \log q(\mathbf{x}_i | \theta_i)}{\partial \theta_j}
$$

$$
= \sum_{i=1}^n \gamma_j(\mathbf{x}_i) \frac{\partial \log q(\mathbf{x}_i | \theta_i)}{\partial \theta_j} = 0
$$

Log likelihood maximization is intractable analytically: its solution cannot be given in closed form.

- **•**  $\pi$  and  $\theta$  can be derived from  $\gamma_k(\mathbf{x}_i)$
- *•* Also, *γk*(x*i*) can be derived from *π* e *θ*

#### Iterative techniques

- *•* Given an estimation for *π* e *θ*...
- derive an estimation for  $\gamma_k(\mathbf{x}_i)$ , from which ...
- *•* derive a new estimation for *π* e *θ*, from which ...
- derive a new estimation for  $\gamma_k(\mathbf{x}_i)$  ...

Graphical model representation of a mixture of distributions.



#### Latent variables

- *•* Terms *z<sup>i</sup>* are latent random variable with domain *z ∈ {*1*, . . . , K}*
- *•* While x*<sup>i</sup>* is observed, the value of *z<sup>i</sup>* cannot be observed
- $z_i$  denotes the component distribution  $q(x|\theta)$  responsible for the generation of  $x_i$

#### Generation process

- 1. Starting from the distribution *π*1*, . . . , πK*, the component distribution to apply to sample the value of x*<sup>i</sup>* is sampled: its index is given by *z<sup>i</sup>* . Hence *z<sup>i</sup>* is dependent from *π*
- 2. Let  $z_i = k$ : then,  $\mathrm{x}_i$  is sampled from distribution  $q(\mathrm{x}|\theta_k).$  That is,  $\mathrm{x}_i$  is dependent from both  $z_i$ and *θ* (through *θk*)

Example of generation of dataset from mixture of 3 gaussians



#### Distributions with latent variables

$$
p(\mathbf{x}|\mathbf{z}=\mathbf{k},\boldsymbol{\theta},\boldsymbol{\pi})=p(\mathbf{x}|\mathbf{z}=\mathbf{k},\boldsymbol{\theta})=q(\mathbf{x}|\theta_k)
$$

Marginalizing wrt *z*,

$$
p(\mathbf{x}|\boldsymbol{\theta}, \boldsymbol{\pi}) = \sum_{k=1}^{K} p(\mathbf{x}, z = k | \boldsymbol{\theta}, \boldsymbol{\pi}) = \sum_{k=1}^{K} p(\mathbf{x}|z = k, \boldsymbol{\pi}, \boldsymbol{\theta}) p(z = k | \boldsymbol{\theta}, \boldsymbol{\pi})
$$

$$
= \sum_{k=1}^{K} p(\mathbf{x}|z = k, \boldsymbol{\theta}) p(z = k | \boldsymbol{\pi}) = \sum_{k=1}^{K} q(\mathbf{x}|\boldsymbol{\theta}_k) p(z = k | \boldsymbol{\pi})
$$

Since, by definition,

$$
p(\mathbf{x}|\boldsymbol{\theta}, \boldsymbol{\pi}) = \sum_{k=1}^{K} \pi_k q(\mathbf{x}_i|\theta_k)
$$

it results

 $\pi_k = p(z = k|\pi)$ 

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#### Responsibilities

An interpretation for  $\gamma_k(x)$  can be derived as follows

$$
\gamma_k(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{\pi_k q(\mathbf{x}|\theta_k)}{\sum_{j=1}^K \pi_j q(\mathbf{x}|\theta_j)}
$$
  
= 
$$
\frac{p(z=k)p(\mathbf{x}|z=k)}{\sum_{j=1}^K p(z=j)p(\mathbf{x}|z=j)} = p(z=k|\mathbf{x})
$$

#### Mixing coefficients and responsibilities

- A mixing coefficient  $\pi_k = p(z = k)$  can be seen as the prior (wrt to the observation of the point) probability that the next point is generated by sampling the *k*-th component distribution
- A responsibility  $\gamma_k(x) = p(z = k|x)$  can be seen as the posterior (wrt to the observation of the point) probability that a point has been generated by sampling the *k*-th component distribution

In the case, of mixtures of gaussian distribution, we have  $q(\mathbf{x}|\theta_k) = \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{x}|\mu_k, \Sigma_k)$ . As a consequence.

$$
\gamma_{k}(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{\pi_{k} \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{x} | \mu_{k}, \Sigma_{k})}{\sum_{j=1}^{K} \pi_{j} \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{x} | \mu_{j}, \Sigma_{j})}
$$

and the likelihood is maximized for

$$
\pi_j = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \gamma_j(\mathbf{x}_i)
$$

$$
\sum_{i=1}^n \gamma_j(\mathbf{x}_i) \frac{\partial \log \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{x}_i | \mu_j, \Sigma_j)}{\partial \theta_j} = 0
$$

## MAXIMUM LIKELIHOOD

#### Data set

- Let  $X = (x_1, \ldots, x_n)$  be the set of values of observed variables and let  $Z = (z_1, \ldots, z_n)$  be the set of values of the latent variables. Then (X*, Z*) is the complete dataset: it includes the values of all variables in the model
- *•* X is the observed dataset (incomplete). It only includes "real" data, that is observed data.

Indeed, *Z* is unknown. If values have been assigned to model parameters, the only possible knowledge about *Z* is given by the posterior distribution  $p(Z|X, \theta, \pi)$ .

## INFERRING PARAMETERS FOR GAUSSIAN MIXTURES

- *•* If we assume that the complete dataset (X*, Z*) is known (that is the observed points together with their corresponding components) a maximum likelihood estimation of *π* and *θ* would be easy. In particular,
- *•* For the mixing coefficients *π<sup>k</sup>* it would result, as usual

$$
\pi_k = \frac{n_k}{n}
$$

where  $n_k$  is the number of elements of the set  $C_k$  such that  $z = k$ 

• For component parameters  $\theta_k = (\mu_k, \Sigma_k)$  the usual estimations for gaussians would provide

$$
\mu_k = \frac{1}{n_k} \sum_{x \in C_k} x
$$
  

$$
\Sigma_k = \frac{1}{n_k} \sum_{x \in C_k} (x - \mu_k)(x - \mu_k)^T
$$

The above results derive from the maximimization, wrt  $\pi_k, \mu_k, \Sigma_k$ ,  $(k = 1, \ldots, K)$  of the log likelihood

$$
l(\Sigma, \mu, \pi | \mathbf{X}, \mathbf{Z}) = \log p(\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{Z} | \mathbf{\Sigma}, \mu, \pi) = \log \prod_{i=1}^{n} \prod_{k=1}^{K} \pi_k^{\zeta_{ik}} \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{x}_i | \mu_k, \Sigma_k)^{\zeta_{ik}}
$$

$$
= \sum_{i=1}^{n} \sum_{k=1}^{K} \zeta_{ik} (\log \pi_k + \log \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{x}_i | \mu_k, \Sigma_k))
$$

where,  $\zeta_{ik}$  is the  $k$ -component of the 1-to- $K$  coding of  $z_i$ , that is,  $\zeta_{ik}=1$  iff  $z_i=k$ , and 0 otherwise

# DEALING WITH LATENT VARIABLES

Unfortunately, since *Z* is unknown, the log-likelihood of the complete dataset cannot be defined (the sets *C<sup>k</sup>* are not known).

Our approach will be to consider for maximization, instead of the log-likelihood where each *z<sup>i</sup>* is specified,

*•* its expectation wrt to the conditional distribution *p*(*Z|*X), that is

$$
E_{p(Z|X)}[l(\Sigma,\mu,\pi|X,Z)] = \sum_{i=1}^{n} \sum_{k=1}^{K} p(z_i = k|x_i)(\log \pi_k + \log \mathcal{N}(x_i|\mu_k,\Sigma_k))
$$
  
= 
$$
\sum_{i=1}^{n} \sum_{k=1}^{K} \gamma_k(x_i)(\log \pi_k + \log \mathcal{N}(x_i|\mu_k,\Sigma_k))
$$

Observe that this expectation can be derived if  $p(Z|X)$  (that is the set of all values  $\gamma_k(x_i)$ ) is known.

## MAXIMIZATION OF EXPECTED LOG-LIKELIHOOD

The maximization of  $E_{p(Z|X)}[l(\Sigma, \mu, \pi|X,Z)]$  wrt to  $\pi_k, \mu_k, \Sigma_k$  results easily into

$$
\pi_k = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \gamma_k(\mathbf{x}_j)
$$
  
\n
$$
\mu_k = \frac{1}{n_k} \sum_{i=1}^n \gamma_k(\mathbf{x}_i) \mathbf{x}_i
$$
  
\n
$$
\Sigma_k = \frac{1}{n_k} \sum_{i=1}^n \gamma_j(\mathbf{x}_i) (\mathbf{x}_i - \mu_k) (\mathbf{x}_i - \mu_k)^T
$$

this is named M-step (from "Maximization")

## A NEW EXPECTATION

The computed values for the parameters result into new, different values for  $\gamma_k(x_i) = p(z_i = k|x_i)$ , and a different expectation  $E_{p(Z|X)}[l(\Sigma, \mu, \pi|X, Z)].$ This is named E-step (from "Expectation")

## ML AND MIXTURES OF GAUSSIANS: ITERATIVE APPROACH

- 1. Assign an initial estimate to  $\mu_j, \Sigma_j, \pi_j, j=1,\ldots,K$
- 2. Repeat

2.1 Compute

$$
\gamma_j(\mathbf{x}_i) = \frac{1}{\gamma_i} \pi_j \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{x}_i | \mu_j, \Sigma_j) \quad \text{with} \quad \gamma_i = \sum_{k=1}^K \pi_k \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{x}_i | \mu_j, \Sigma_j)
$$

2.2 Compute



$$
n_j = \sum_{i=1} \gamma_j(x_i)
$$

∑*n*

2.3 Compute

$$
\mu_j = \frac{1}{n_j} \sum_{i=1}^n \gamma_j(x_i) x_i
$$

2.4 Compute

$$
\Sigma_j = \frac{1}{n_j} \sum_{i=1}^n \gamma_j(x_i)(x_i - \mu_j)(x_i - \mu_j)^T
$$

3. until some convergence property is verified

The convergence test may refer to the the increase of log-likelihood in the last iteration

# EXPECTATION MAXIMIZATION ALGORITHM

This algorithm is indeed the application of a general schema named Expectation-Maximization