
Probabilistic task modelling for meta-learning

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A CALCULATION OF EACH TERM IN THE ELBO

As described in section 3, the variational distributions for \mathbf{u} , \mathbf{z} and $\boldsymbol{\pi}$ are:

$$q(\mathbf{u}_{in}; \phi) = \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{u}_{in}; \mathbf{m}_{in}, (\mathbf{s}_{in})^2 \mathbf{I}) \quad (4)$$

$$q(\boldsymbol{\pi}_i; \boldsymbol{\gamma}_i) = \text{Dirichlet}(\boldsymbol{\pi}_i; \boldsymbol{\gamma}_i) \quad (10)$$

$$q(\mathbf{z}_{in}; \mathbf{r}_{in}) = \text{Categorical}(\mathbf{z}_{in}; \mathbf{r}_{in}). \quad (11)$$

A.1 $\mathbb{E}_{q(\mathbf{u}_i; \boldsymbol{\mu}_{u_i}, \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{u_i})} \mathbb{E}_{q(\mathbf{z}_i, \boldsymbol{\pi}_i)} [\ln p(\mathbf{u}_i | \mathbf{z}_i, \boldsymbol{\mu}, \boldsymbol{\Sigma})]$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E}_{q(\mathbf{z}_i, \boldsymbol{\pi}_i)} [\ln p(\mathbf{u}_i | \mathbf{z}_i, \boldsymbol{\mu}, \boldsymbol{\Sigma})] &= \sum_{n=1}^N \sum_{k=1}^K r_{ink} \ln p(\mathbf{u}_{in} | \boldsymbol{\mu}_k, \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_k) \\ &= \sum_{n=1}^N \sum_{k=1}^K r_{ink} \ln \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{u}_{in} | \boldsymbol{\mu}_k, \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_k). \end{aligned} \quad (16)$$

Hence:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E}_{q(\mathbf{u}_i; \boldsymbol{\mu}_{u_i}, \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{u_i})} \mathbb{E}_{q(\mathbf{z}_i, \boldsymbol{\pi}_i)} [\ln p(\mathbf{u}_i | \mathbf{z}_i, \boldsymbol{\mu}, \boldsymbol{\Sigma})] &= \sum_{n=1}^N \sum_{k=1}^K r_{ink} \underbrace{\mathbb{E}_{q(\mathbf{u}_i; \boldsymbol{\mu}_{u_i}, \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{u_i})} [\ln \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{u}_i | \boldsymbol{\mu}_k, \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_k)]}_{\text{cross-entropy between 2 Gaussians}} \\ &= \sum_{n=1}^N \sum_{k=1}^K r_{ink} \left[-\frac{1}{2} \text{tr}(\boldsymbol{\Sigma}_k^{-1} \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{u_{in}}) + \ln \mathcal{N}(\boldsymbol{\mu}_{u_{in}}; \boldsymbol{\mu}_k, \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_k) \right]. \end{aligned} \quad (17)$$

A.2 $\mathbb{E}_{q(\mathbf{u}_i; \boldsymbol{\mu}_{u_i}, \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{u_i})} \mathbb{E}_{q(\mathbf{z}_i, \boldsymbol{\pi}_i)} [\ln p(\mathbf{z}_i | \boldsymbol{\pi}_i)]$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E}_{q(\mathbf{u}_i; \boldsymbol{\mu}_{u_i}, \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{u_i})} \mathbb{E}_{q(\mathbf{z}_i, \boldsymbol{\pi}_i)} [\ln p(\mathbf{z}_i | \boldsymbol{\pi}_i)] &= \sum_{n=1}^N \sum_{k=1}^K r_{ink} \int \text{Dir}_K(\boldsymbol{\pi}_i; \boldsymbol{\gamma}_i) \ln \pi_{ik} \, d\boldsymbol{\pi}_i \\ &= \sum_{n=1}^N \sum_{k=1}^K r_{ink} \ln \tilde{\pi}_{ik}, \end{aligned} \quad (18)$$

where:

$$\boxed{\ln \tilde{\pi}_{ik} = \psi(\gamma_{ik}) - \psi\left(\sum_{j=1}^K \gamma_{ij}\right)}. \quad (19)$$

A.3 $\mathbb{E}_{q(\mathbf{u}_i; \boldsymbol{\mu}_{u_i}, \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{u_i})} \mathbb{E}_{q(\mathbf{z}_i, \boldsymbol{\pi}_i)} [\ln p(\boldsymbol{\pi}_i | \boldsymbol{\alpha})]$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E}_{q(\mathbf{u}_i; \boldsymbol{\mu}_{u_i}, \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{u_i})} \mathbb{E}_{q(\mathbf{z}_i, \boldsymbol{\pi}_i)} [\ln p(\boldsymbol{\pi}_i | \boldsymbol{\alpha})] &= \mathbb{E}_{\text{Dir}(\boldsymbol{\pi}_i; \boldsymbol{\gamma}_i)} \left[\ln \Gamma \left(\sum_{j=1}^K \alpha_j \right) - \left[\sum_{k=1}^K \ln \Gamma(\alpha_k) - (\alpha_k - 1) \ln \pi_{ik} \right] \right] \\ &= \left[\ln \Gamma \left(\sum_{j=1}^K \alpha_j \right) - \sum_{k=1}^K \ln \Gamma(\alpha_k) \right] + \sum_{k=1}^K (\alpha_k - 1) \ln \tilde{\pi}_{ik}. \end{aligned} \quad (20)$$

A.4 $\mathbb{E}_{q(\mathbf{u}_i; \boldsymbol{\mu}_{u_i}, \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{u_i})} \mathbb{E}_{q(\mathbf{z}_i, \boldsymbol{\pi}_i)} [\ln q(\mathbf{z}_i | \mathbf{r}_i)]$

$$\mathbb{E}_{q(\mathbf{u}_i; \boldsymbol{\mu}_{u_i}, \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{u_i})} \mathbb{E}_{q(\mathbf{z}_i, \boldsymbol{\pi}_i)} [\ln q(\mathbf{z}_i | \mathbf{r}_i)] = \sum_{n=1}^N \sum_{k=1}^K r_{ink} \ln r_{ink}. \quad (21)$$

A.5 $\mathbb{E}_{q(\mathbf{u}_i; \boldsymbol{\mu}_{u_i}, \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{u_i})} \mathbb{E}_{q(\mathbf{z}_i, \boldsymbol{\pi}_i)} [\ln q(\boldsymbol{\pi}_i | \boldsymbol{\gamma}_i)]$

$$\mathbb{E}_{q(\mathbf{u}_i; \boldsymbol{\mu}_{u_i}, \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{u_i})} \mathbb{E}_{q(\mathbf{z}_i, \boldsymbol{\pi}_i)} [\ln q(\boldsymbol{\pi}_i | \boldsymbol{\gamma}_i)] = \ln \Gamma \left(\sum_{j=1}^K \gamma_{ij} \right) - \sum_{k=1}^K [\ln \Gamma(\gamma_{ik}) - (\gamma_{ik} - 1) \ln \tilde{\pi}_{ik}]. \quad (22)$$

B MAXIMISATION OF THE ELBO

Since the ELBO can be evaluated as shown in Appendix A, we can maximise the ELBO w.r.t. ‘‘task-specific’’ variational parameters by taking derivative, setting it to zero and solving for the parameters of interest.

B.1 VARIATIONAL CATEGORICAL DISTRIBUTION

Note that:

$$\sum_{k=1}^K r_{ink} = 1. \quad (23)$$

The derivative of L_i with respect to r_{ink} can be expressed as:

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial r_{ink}} = -\frac{1}{2} \text{tr}(\boldsymbol{\Sigma}_k^{-1} \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{u_{in}}) + \ln \mathcal{N}(\boldsymbol{\mu}_{u_{in}}; \boldsymbol{\mu}_k, \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_k) + \ln \tilde{\pi}_{ik} - \ln r_{ink} - 1 + \lambda, \quad (24)$$

where: λ is the Lagrange multiplier and $\ln \tilde{\pi}_{ik}$ is defined in Eq. (19). Setting the derivative to zero and solving for r_{ink} give:

$$\boxed{r_{ink} \propto \exp \left[-\frac{1}{2} \text{tr}(\boldsymbol{\Sigma}_k^{-1} \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{u_{in}}) + \ln \mathcal{N}(\boldsymbol{\mu}_{u_{in}}; \boldsymbol{\mu}_k, \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_k) + \ln \tilde{\pi}_{ik} \right]}. \quad (25)$$

B.2 VARIATIONAL DIRICHLET DISTRIBUTION

The lower-bound related to γ_{ik} can be written as:

$$\begin{aligned} L &= \sum_{k=1}^K \sum_{n=1}^N r_{ink} \ln \tilde{\pi}_{ik} + \sum_{k=1}^K (\alpha_k - 1) \ln \tilde{\pi}_{ik} - \ln \Gamma \left(\sum_{j=1}^K \gamma_{ij} \right) + \sum_{k=1}^K [\ln \Gamma(\gamma_{ik}) - (\gamma_{ik} - 1) \ln \tilde{\pi}_{ik}] \\ &= -\ln \Gamma \left(\sum_{j=1}^K \gamma_{ij} \right) + \sum_{k=1}^K \ln \tilde{\pi}_{ik} \left(\alpha_k - \gamma_{ik} + \sum_{n=1}^N r_{ink} \right) + \ln \Gamma(\gamma_{ik}) \\ &= -\ln \Gamma \left(\sum_{j=1}^K \gamma_{ij} \right) + \sum_{k=1}^K \left[\psi(\gamma_{ik}) - \psi \left(\sum_{j=1}^K \gamma_{ij} \right) \right] \left(\alpha_k - \gamma_{ik} + \sum_{n=1}^N r_{ink} \right) + \ln \Gamma(\gamma_{ik}). \end{aligned} \quad (26)$$

Hence, the lower-bound related to γ_{ik} is:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}[\gamma_{ik}] &= -\ln \Gamma \left(\sum_{j=1}^K \gamma_{ij} \right) + \psi(\gamma_{ik}) \left(\alpha_k - \gamma_{ik} + \sum_{n=1}^N r_{ink} \right) \\ &\quad - \psi \left(\sum_{j=1}^K \gamma_{ij} \right) \left(\sum_{j=1}^K \alpha_j - \gamma_{ij} + \sum_{n=1}^N r_{inj} \right) + \ln \Gamma(\gamma_{ik}) \end{aligned} \quad (27)$$

Taking derivative w.r.t. γ_{ik} gives:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \gamma_{ik}} &= -\psi \left(\sum_{j=1}^K \gamma_{ij} \right) + \Psi(\gamma_{ik}) \left(\alpha_k - \gamma_{ik} + \sum_{n=1}^N r_{ink} \right) - \psi(\gamma_{ik}) \\ &\quad - \Psi \left(\sum_{j=1}^K \gamma_{ij} \right) \left(\sum_{j=1}^K \alpha_j - \gamma_{ij} + \sum_{n=1}^N r_{inj} \right) + \psi \left(\sum_{j=1}^K \gamma_{ij} \right) + \psi(\gamma_{ik}) \\ &= \Psi(\gamma_{ik}) \left(\alpha_k - \gamma_{ik} + \sum_{n=1}^N r_{ink} \right) - \Psi \left(\sum_{j=1}^K \gamma_{ij} \right) \sum_{j=1}^K \alpha_j - \gamma_{ij} + \sum_{n=1}^N r_{inj}, \end{aligned} \quad (28)$$

where $\Psi(\cdot)$ is the trigamma function.

Setting the derivative to zero yields a maximum at:

$$\boxed{\gamma_{ik} = \alpha_k + N_{ik}}, \quad (29)$$

where:

$$N_{ik} = \sum_{n=1}^N r_{ink}. \quad (30)$$

B.3 MAXIMUM LIKELIHOOD FOR THE TASK-THEME μ_k AND Σ_k

The terms in the objective function relating to μ_k can be written as:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}[\mu_k] &= \sum_{i=1}^T \sum_{n=1}^N r_{ink} \ln \mathcal{N}(\mu_{u_{in}}; \mu_k, \Sigma_k) \\ &= -\frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^T \sum_{n=1}^N r_{ink} (\mu_{u_{in}} - \mu_k)^\top \Sigma_k^{-1} (\mu_{u_{in}} - \mu_k) \end{aligned} \quad (31)$$

Taking derivative w.r.t. μ_k gives:

$$\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \mu_k} = \sum_{i=1}^T \sum_{n=1}^N r_{ink} \Sigma_k^{-1} (\mu_{u_{in}} - \mu_k). \quad (32)$$

Setting the derivative to zero yields a maximum at:

$$\boxed{\mu_k = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^T \sum_{n=1}^N r_{ink} \mu_{u_{in}}}{\sum_{i=1}^T N_{ik}}}. \quad (33)$$

The terms in the objective function relating to Σ_k is given as:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L} &= \sum_{i=1}^T \sum_{n=1}^N r_{ink} \left[-\frac{1}{2} \text{tr}(\Sigma_k^{-1} \Sigma_{u_{in}}) + \ln \mathcal{N}(\mu_{u_{in}}; \mu_k, \Sigma_k) \right] \\ &= -\frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^T \sum_{n=1}^N r_{ink} \left[\text{tr}(\Sigma_k^{-1} \Sigma_{u_{in}}) + d \ln(2\pi) + \ln |\Sigma_k| + (\mu_{u_{in}} - \mu_k)^\top \Sigma_k^{-1} (\mu_{u_{in}} - \mu_k) \right]. \end{aligned} \quad (34)$$

Taking derivative w.r.t. Σ_k gives:

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \Sigma_k} &= -\frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^T \sum_{n=1}^N r_{ink} \left[-\Sigma_k^{-1} \Sigma_{u_{in}} \Sigma_k^{-1} + \Sigma_k^{-1} - \Sigma_k^{-1} (\boldsymbol{\mu}_{u_{in}} - \boldsymbol{\mu}_k) (\boldsymbol{\mu}_{u_{in}} - \boldsymbol{\mu}_k)^\top \Sigma_k^{-1} \right] \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^T \sum_{n=1}^N r_{ink} \left[\Sigma_k^{-1} \Sigma_{u_{in}} - \mathbf{I} + \Sigma_k^{-1} (\boldsymbol{\mu}_{u_{in}} - \boldsymbol{\mu}_k) (\boldsymbol{\mu}_{u_{in}} - \boldsymbol{\mu}_k)^\top \right] \Sigma_k^{-1}.\end{aligned}\quad (35)$$

Setting the derivative to zero gives:

$$\Sigma_k = \frac{1}{\sum_{i=1}^T N_{ik}} \sum_{i=1}^T \sum_{n=1}^N r_{ink} \left[\Sigma_{u_{in}} + (\boldsymbol{\mu}_{u_{in}} - \boldsymbol{\mu}_k) (\boldsymbol{\mu}_{u_{in}} - \boldsymbol{\mu}_k)^\top \right]. \quad (36)$$

B.4 MAXIMUM LIKELIHOOD FOR α

The lower-bound with terms relating to α_k can be expressed as:

$$\mathcal{L} = T \left[\ln \Gamma \left(\sum_{j=1}^K \alpha_j \right) - \sum_{k=1}^K \ln \Gamma(\alpha_k) \right] + \sum_{i=1}^T \sum_{k=1}^K (\alpha_k - 1) \left[\psi(\gamma_{ik}) - \psi \left(\sum_{j=1}^K \gamma_{ij} \right) \right]. \quad (37)$$

Taking derivative w.r.t. α_k gives:

$$g_k = \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \alpha_k} = T \left[\psi \left(\sum_{j=1}^K \alpha_j \right) - \psi(\alpha_k) \right] + \sum_{i=1}^T \left[\psi(\gamma_{ik}) - \psi \left(\sum_{j=1}^K \gamma_{ij} \right) \right]. \quad (38)$$

The second derivative is, therefore, obtained as:

$$\frac{\partial^2 \mathcal{L}}{\partial \alpha_k \partial \alpha_{k'}} = T \left[\Psi \left(\sum_{j=1}^K \alpha_j \right) - \delta(k - k') \Psi(\alpha_k) \right]. \quad (39)$$

The Hessian can be written in matrix form [Minka, 2000] as:

$$\mathbf{H} = \mathbf{Q} + \mathbf{1}\mathbf{1}^T a \quad (40)$$

$$q_{kk'} = -T \delta(k - k') \Psi(\alpha_k) \quad (41)$$

$$a = T \Psi \left(\sum_{j=1}^K \alpha_j \right). \quad (42)$$

One Newton step is therefore:

$$\boldsymbol{\alpha} \leftarrow \boldsymbol{\alpha} - \mathbf{H}^{-1} \mathbf{g} \quad (43)$$

$$(\mathbf{H}^{-1} \mathbf{g})_k = \frac{g_k - b}{q_{kk}}, \quad (44)$$

where:

$$b = \frac{\sum_{j=1}^K g_j / q_{jj}}{1/a + \sum_{j=1}^K 1/q_{jj}}. \quad (45)$$