

# Variational Inference

\* Bivariate Gaussian with known parameters

$$\ln q_{\pm}^*(z_{\pm}) \stackrel{c}{=} \mathbb{E}_{q_{\pm}(z_{\pm})} [\ln p(z)]$$

$$\text{where } \ln p(z) \stackrel{c/z_1}{=} -\frac{1}{2} (z - \mu)^T \Lambda (z - \mu)$$

$$\stackrel{c/z_1}{=} -\frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} z_1 - \mu_1 \\ z_2 - \mu_2 \end{pmatrix}^T \begin{pmatrix} \Lambda_{11} & \Lambda_{12} \\ \Lambda_{21} & \Lambda_{22} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} z_1 - \mu_1 \\ z_2 - \mu_2 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\stackrel{c/z_1}{=} -\frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} z_1 - \mu_1 \\ z_2 - \mu_2 \end{pmatrix}^T \begin{pmatrix} \Lambda_{11}(z_1 - \mu_1) + \Lambda_{12}(z_2 - \mu_2) \\ \Lambda_{21}(z_1 - \mu_1) + \Lambda_{22}(z_2 - \mu_2) \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\stackrel{c/z_1}{=} -\frac{1}{2} \left[ \begin{aligned} &(z_1 - \mu_1) (\Lambda_{11}(z_1 - \mu_1) + \Lambda_{12}(z_2 - \mu_2)) + \\ &(z_2 - \mu_2) (\Lambda_{21}(z_1 - \mu_1) + \Lambda_{22}(z_2 - \mu_2)) \end{aligned} \right]$$

$$\stackrel{c/z_1}{=} -\frac{1}{2} \left[ (z_1 - \mu_1)^2 \Lambda_{11} + 2(z_1 - \mu_1) \Lambda_{12} (z_2 - \mu_2) \right]$$

$$\ln q_{\pm}^*(z_{\pm}) \equiv \mathbb{E}_{q_{\pm}(z_{\pm})} \left[ -\frac{1}{2} (z_{\pm} - \mu_{\pm})^2 \Lambda_{\pm\pm} - (z_{\pm} - \mu_{\pm}) \Lambda_{\pm\mp} (z_{\mp} - \mu_{\mp}) \right]$$

$$\equiv \mathbb{E}_{q_{\pm}(z_{\pm})} \left[ -\frac{1}{2} (z_{\pm}^2 + \mu_{\pm}^2 - 2z_{\pm} \mu_{\pm}) \Lambda_{\pm\pm} - z_{\pm} \Lambda_{\pm\mp} (z_{\mp} - \mu_{\mp}) \right]$$

$$\equiv \mathbb{E}_{q_{\pm}(z_{\pm})} \left[ -\frac{1}{2} z_{\pm}^2 \Lambda_{\pm\pm} + z_{\pm} (\mu_{\mp} \Lambda_{\pm\mp} - \Lambda_{\pm\mp} (z_{\mp} - \mu_{\mp})) \right]$$

$$\equiv -\frac{1}{2} z_{\pm}^2 \Lambda_{\pm\pm} + z_{\pm} (\mu_{\mp} \Lambda_{\pm\mp} - \Lambda_{\pm\mp} (\mathbb{E}_{q_{\mp}(z_{\mp})} [z_{\mp}] - \mu_{\mp}))$$

This is a quadratic function of  $z_{\pm}$ , so  $q_{\pm}^*(z_{\pm})$  is a Gaussian distribution:

$$\ln q_{\pm}^*(z_{\pm}) = \ln \mathcal{N}(z_{\pm}; m_{\pm}, \gamma_{\pm}^{-1})$$

$$\equiv -\frac{1}{2} (z_{\pm} - m_{\pm})^2 \gamma_{\pm}$$

$$\equiv -\frac{1}{2} (z_{\pm}^2 - 2z_{\pm} m_{\pm}) \gamma_{\pm}$$

$$\equiv -\frac{1}{2} z_{\pm}^2 \gamma_{\pm} + z_{\pm} m_{\pm} \gamma_{\pm}$$

By identification, we have

$$\bullet \boxed{\gamma_1 = \Lambda_{11}}$$

$$\bullet m_1 \gamma_1 = \mu_1 \Lambda_{11} - \Lambda_{12} \left( \mathbb{E}_{q_2(z_2)} [z_2] - \mu_2 \right)$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \boxed{m_1 = \mu_1 - \Lambda_{11}^{-1} \Lambda_{12} \left( \mathbb{E}_{q_2(z_2)} [z_2] - \mu_2 \right)}$$

By symmetry, we also have

$$q_2^*(z_2) = \mathcal{N}(z_2; m_2, \gamma_2^{-1})$$

$$\text{with } \begin{cases} m_2 = \mu_2 - \Lambda_{22}^{-1} \Lambda_{21} \left( \mathbb{E}_{q_1(z_1)} [z_1] - \mu_1 \right) \\ \gamma_2 = \Lambda_{22} \end{cases}$$

To fully specify  $q_1^*(z_1)$  &  $q_2^*(z_2)$  we need to compute:

$$\bullet \mathbb{E}_{q_2(z_2)} [z_2] = m_2$$

$$\bullet \mathbb{E}_{q_1(z_1)} [z_1] = m_1$$

# Univariate Gaussian with unknown parameters

→ Data:  $\underline{x} = \{x_1, x_2, \dots, x_N\}$

→ Likelihood:

$$p(\underline{x} | \mu, \sigma^2) = \prod_{i=1}^N p(x_i | \mu, \sigma^2)$$

$$= \prod_{i=1}^N \mathcal{N}(x_i; \mu, \sigma^2)$$

$$= \left(\frac{\sigma}{\sqrt{2\pi}}\right)^{N/2} \exp\left(-\frac{\sigma}{2} \sum_{i=1}^N (x_i - \mu)^2\right)$$

→ Priors:

$$p(\mu | \sigma) = \mathcal{N}\left(\mu; \mu_0, \left(\frac{\lambda_0 \sigma}{2}\right)^{-1}\right) = \left(\frac{\lambda_0 \sigma}{2\pi}\right)^{1/2} \exp\left(-\frac{\lambda_0 \sigma}{2} (\mu - \mu_0)^2\right)$$

$$p(\sigma) = \mathcal{G}(\sigma; a_0, b_0) = \frac{b_0^{a_0}}{\Gamma(a_0)} \sigma^{-(a_0+1)} \exp(-\sigma b_0)$$

→ Complete-data likelihood:

$$p(\underline{x}, \mu, \sigma) = p(\underline{x} | \mu, \sigma) p(\mu | \sigma) p(\sigma)$$

→ True posterior

$$p(\mu, \sigma^2 | \underline{x}) = p(\mu | \underline{x}, \sigma^2) p(\sigma^2 | \underline{x})$$

$$\bullet \ln p(\mu | \underline{x}, \sigma^2) \stackrel{c}{=} \ln p(\underline{x}, \mu, \sigma^2)$$

$$\stackrel{c}{=} \ln p(\underline{x} | \mu, \sigma^2) + \ln p(\mu | \sigma^2)$$

$$\stackrel{c}{=} -\frac{\sigma^2}{2} \sum_{i=1}^N (x_i - \mu)^2 - \frac{\lambda_0 \sigma^2}{2} (\mu - \mu_0)^2$$

$$\stackrel{c}{=} -\frac{\sigma^2}{2} \sum_{i=1}^N (\mu^2 - 2x_i \mu) - \frac{\lambda_0 \sigma^2}{2} (\mu^2 - 2\mu \mu_0)$$

$$\stackrel{c}{=} -\frac{1}{2} \mu^2 (N\sigma^2 + \lambda_0 \sigma^2) + \mu \left( \sigma^2 \sum_{i=1}^N x_i + \mu_0 \lambda_0 \sigma^2 \right)$$

We recognize  $\ln p(\mu | \underline{x}, \sigma^2) = \ln \mathcal{N}(\mu; \mu_*, \lambda_*^{-1})$

$$\stackrel{c}{=} -\frac{\lambda_*}{2} (\mu - \mu_*)^2$$

$$\stackrel{c}{=} -\frac{\lambda_*}{2} \mu^2 + \lambda_* \mu_* \mu$$

by identification,

$$\lambda_* = N\tau + \lambda_0\tau$$

$$\text{and } \lambda_*\mu_* = \tau \sum_{i=1}^N x_i + \mu_0\lambda_0\tau$$

let us define  $\bar{x} \equiv \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N x_i$ , we have.

$$\mu_* = \frac{1}{\lambda_*} (N\tau\bar{x} + \mu_0\lambda_0\tau)$$

$$\mu_* = \frac{N\tau}{N\tau + \lambda_0\tau} \bar{x} + \frac{\lambda_0\tau}{N\tau + \lambda_0\tau} \mu_0$$

$$p(\tau | \underline{x}) = \int p(\tau, \mu | \underline{x}) d\mu \quad (\text{def. by marginalization})$$

$$\ln p(\tau, \mu | \underline{x}) \equiv \ln p(\underline{x} | \mu, \tau) + \ln p(\mu | \tau) + \ln p(\tau)$$

$$\equiv \frac{N}{2} \ln(\tau) - \frac{\tau}{2} \sum_{i=1}^N (x_i - \mu)^2 + \frac{1}{2} \ln(\tau) - \frac{\lambda_0\tau}{2} (\mu - \mu_0)^2$$

$$+ (a_0 - 1) \ln(\tau) - \tau b_0$$

$$\ln p(\varrho, \mu | \underline{x}) \stackrel{c}{=} \ln(\varrho) \left( \frac{N}{2} + \frac{1}{2} + a_0 - 1 \right)$$

$$- \varrho \left( b_0 + \frac{\lambda_0}{2} (\mu - \mu_0)^2 + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^N (x_i - \mu)^2 \right)$$

$$\Leftrightarrow p(\varrho, \mu | \underline{x}) \propto \varrho^{a_0 + \frac{N}{2} - 1} \times \exp \left( - \varrho \left( b_0 + \frac{\lambda_0}{2} (\mu - \mu_0)^2 + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^N (x_i - \mu)^2 \right) \right)$$

We now need to integrate w.r.t.  $\mu$ :

$$\int p(\varrho, \mu | \underline{x}) d\mu \propto \varrho^{a_0 + \frac{N}{2} - 1} e^{-\varrho b_0} \underbrace{\int e^{-\varrho \left[ \frac{\lambda_0}{2} (\mu - \mu_0)^2 + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^N (x_i - \mu)^2 \right]} d\mu}_{(*)}$$

$$(*) = \int \exp \left\{ - \varrho \left[ \frac{\lambda_0}{2} (\mu^2 + \mu_0^2 - 2\mu\mu_0) + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^N (x_i^2 + \mu^2 - 2x_i\mu) \right] \right\} d\mu$$

$$= \exp \left\{ - \varrho \left( \frac{\lambda_0}{2} \mu^2 + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^N x_i^2 \right) \right\} \underbrace{\int \exp \left\{ - \varrho \left[ \frac{\lambda_0}{2} (\mu^2 - 2\mu\mu_0) + \frac{N}{2} \mu^2 - \mu \sum_{i=1}^N x_i \right] \right\} d\mu}_{(**)}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 &= \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \exp \left\{ -\mathcal{L} \left[ \mu^2 \frac{\lambda_0 + N}{2} - \mu \left( \lambda_0 \mu_0 + \sum_i x_i \right) \right] \right\} d\mu \\
 &= \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \exp \left\{ -\mu^2 \frac{\mathcal{L}(\lambda_0 + N)}{2} + \mu \mathcal{L} \left( \lambda_0 \mu_0 + \sum_i x_i \right) \right\} d\mu
 \end{aligned}$$

We need to compute

$$I = \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \exp(-ax^2 - 2bx) dx$$

$$= \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \exp \left( -ax^2 - 2bx - \frac{b^2}{a} + \frac{b^2}{a} \right) dx$$

$$= \exp \left( \frac{b^2}{a} \right) \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \exp \left( - \left( \sqrt{a}x + \frac{b}{\sqrt{a}} \right)^2 \right) dx$$

cov:  $t = \sqrt{a}x + \frac{b}{\sqrt{a}} \Rightarrow dt = \sqrt{a} dx$

$$I = \exp \left( \frac{b^2}{a} \right) \times \frac{1}{\sqrt{a}} \underbrace{\int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \exp(-t^2) dt}_{= \sqrt{\pi} \text{ (Gaussian integral)}} = \sqrt{\frac{\pi}{a}} \exp \left( \frac{b^2}{a} \right)$$



So,

$$\begin{aligned} (*) &= \sqrt{\frac{2\pi}{\mathcal{L}(\lambda_0 + N)}} \exp\left(-\frac{\mathcal{L}}{4} \left(\lambda_0 \mu_0 + \sum_i x_i\right)^2 + \frac{\mathcal{L}}{2(\lambda_0 + N)}\right) \\ &= \sqrt{\frac{2\pi}{\mathcal{L}(\lambda_0 + N)}} \exp\left(-\mathcal{L} \frac{(\lambda_0 \mu_0 + \sum_i x_i)^2}{2(\lambda_0 + N)}\right) \end{aligned}$$

and

$$(*) = \sqrt{\frac{2\pi}{\mathcal{L}(\lambda_0 + N)}} \exp\left\{-\mathcal{L} \left( \frac{\lambda_0}{2} \mu_0^2 - \frac{(\lambda_0 \mu_0 + \sum_i x_i)^2}{2(\lambda_0 + N)} + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^N x_i^2 \right)\right\}$$

and

$$\underbrace{\int p(\mathcal{L}, \mu | \underline{x}) d\mu}_{p(\mathcal{L} | \underline{x})} \propto \mathcal{L}^{\lambda_0 + \frac{N}{2} - 1} \exp\left\{-\mathcal{L} \left( \lambda_0 + \frac{\lambda_0}{2} \mu_0^2 - \frac{(\lambda_0 \mu_0 + \sum_i x_i)^2}{2(\lambda_0 + N)} + \frac{1}{2} \sum_i x_i^2 \right)\right\}$$

We recognize  $p(\mathcal{L} | \underline{x}) = G(\mathcal{L}; \alpha, \beta)$   
 $\propto \mathcal{L}^{(\alpha-1)} \exp(-\mathcal{L} \beta)$

etc

$$\alpha = a_0 + \frac{N}{2}$$

$$\beta = b_0 + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^N x_i^2 + \frac{\lambda_0}{2} \mu_0^2 - \frac{(\lambda_0 \mu_0 + N \bar{x})^2}{2(\lambda_0 + N)}$$

We can further rewrite  $\beta$  as follows :

$$\beta = b_0 + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^N (x_i - \bar{x} + \bar{x})^2 + \frac{\lambda_0}{2} \mu_0^2 - \frac{(\lambda_0 \mu_0^2 + 2\lambda_0 \mu_0 N \bar{x} + N^2 \bar{x}^2)}{2(\lambda_0 + N)}$$

$$= b_0 + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^N \left( (x_i - \bar{x})^2 + \bar{x}^2 + 2\bar{x}(x_i - \bar{x}) \right) + \frac{\lambda_0}{2} \mu_0^2 - \frac{\lambda_0^2 \mu_0^2 + 2\lambda_0 \mu_0 N \bar{x} + N^2 \bar{x}^2}{2(\lambda_0 + N)}$$

$$= b_0 + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^N (x_i - \bar{x})^2 + \frac{N}{2} \bar{x}^2 + \frac{N \bar{x}^2}{2} - \frac{N \bar{x}^2}{2} + \frac{\lambda_0}{2} \mu_0^2 - \frac{\lambda_0^2 \mu_0^2 + 2\lambda_0 \mu_0 N \bar{x} + N^2 \bar{x}^2}{2(\lambda_0 + N)}$$

$$= b_0 + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^N (x_i - \bar{x})^2 + \mu_0^2 \left( \frac{\lambda_0}{2} - \frac{\lambda_0^2}{2(\lambda_0 + N)} \right) + \bar{x}^2 \left( \frac{N}{2} - \frac{N^2}{2(\lambda_0 + N)} \right) - \frac{\lambda_0 N}{(\lambda_0 + N)} \mu_0 \bar{x}$$

$$= b_0 + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^N (x_i - \bar{x})^2 + \frac{2\lambda_0(\lambda_0 + N) - 2\lambda_0^2}{4(\lambda_0 + N)} \mu_0^2 + \frac{2N(\lambda_0 + N) - 2N^2}{4(\lambda_0 + N)} \bar{x}^2 - \frac{\lambda_0 N}{(\lambda_0 + N)} \mu_0 \bar{x}$$

$$= b_0 + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^N (x_i - \bar{x})^2 + \frac{\lambda_0 N \mu_0^2 + \lambda_0 N \bar{x}^2 - 2\lambda_0 N \mu_0 \bar{x}}{2(\lambda_0 + N)}$$

$$= b_0 + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^N (x_i - \bar{x})^2 + \frac{\lambda_0 N}{2(\lambda_0 + N)} (\bar{x} - \mu_0)^2$$

(6)

In summary :

$$p(\mu | x) = \mathcal{G}(\mu; \alpha, \beta)$$

with  $\alpha = a_0 + \frac{N}{2}$

$$\beta = b_0 + \frac{1}{2} \sum_i (x_i - \bar{x})^2 + \frac{a_0 N}{2(a_0 + N)} (\bar{x} - \mu_0)^2$$

## → Variational inference

$$q(\mu, \sigma) = q_\mu(\mu) q_\sigma(\sigma)$$

$$\bullet \ln q^*(\mu) \stackrel{c}{=} \mathbb{E}_{q_\sigma(\sigma)} \left[ \ln p(x, \mu, \sigma) \right]$$

$$\stackrel{c}{=} \mathbb{E}_{q_\sigma(\sigma)} \left[ \ln p(x | \mu, \sigma) + \ln p(\mu | \sigma) \right]$$

$$\stackrel{c}{=} \mathbb{E}_{q_\sigma(\sigma)} \left[ -\frac{\sigma}{2} \sum_i (x_i - \mu)^2 - \frac{\lambda_0 \sigma}{2} (\mu - \mu_0)^2 \right]$$

$$\stackrel{c}{=} -\frac{1}{2} \mathbb{E}_{q_\sigma(\sigma)}[\sigma] \left( N\mu^2 - 2\mu \sum_i x_i + \lambda_0 \mu^2 - 2\lambda_0 \mu_0 \mu \right)$$

$$= -\frac{1}{2} \mathbb{E}_{q_\sigma(\sigma)}[\sigma] \left( \mu^2 (N + \lambda_0) - 2\mu (N\bar{x} + \lambda_0 \mu_0) \right)$$

We recognize  $\ln q^*(\mu) = \ln \mathcal{N}(\mu; \mu_N, \lambda_N^{-1}) \stackrel{c}{=} -\frac{1}{2} \lambda_N \mu^2 + \lambda_N \mu_N \mu$

and identify

$$\boxed{\lambda_N = \mathbb{E}_{q_\sigma(\sigma)}[\sigma] (\lambda_0 + N)}$$

$$\mu_N = \frac{1}{\lambda_N} \ell_{q_N(\mu)}(\mu) \left( \lambda_0 \mu_0 + N \bar{x} \right)$$

$$\mu_N = \frac{\lambda_0 \mu_0 + N \bar{x}}{\lambda_0 + N}$$

Note that

$$\begin{cases} \lim_{N \rightarrow +\infty} \mu_N = \bar{x} = \frac{1}{N} \sum_i x_i \\ \lim_{N \rightarrow +\infty} \lambda_N^{-1} = 0 \end{cases}$$

which gives a dirac centered on the ML estimate of the mean.

$$\bullet \ln q_{\mu}^*(\mathcal{X}) \stackrel{c}{=} \mathbb{E}_{q_{\mu}(\mu)} \left[ \ln p(\mathcal{X}, \mu, \tau) \right]$$

$$\stackrel{c}{=} \mathbb{E} \left[ \ln p(\mathcal{X} | \mu, \tau) + \ln p(\mu | \tau) + \ln p(\tau) \right]$$

$$\stackrel{c}{=} \mathbb{E} \left[ \frac{N}{2} \ln(\tau) - \frac{\tau}{2} \sum_i (x_i - \mu)^2 + \frac{1}{2} \ln(\tau) - \frac{\lambda_0 \tau}{2} (\mu - \mu_0)^2 + (a_0 - 1) \ln(\tau) - b_0 \tau \right]$$

$$\stackrel{c}{=} \ln(\tau) \left[ \frac{N}{2} + \frac{1}{2} + a_0 - 1 \right] - \tau \left[ b_0 + \frac{1}{2} \mathbb{E} \left[ \sum_i (x_i - \mu)^2 \right] + \frac{\lambda_0}{2} \mathbb{E} \left[ (\mu - \mu_0)^2 \right] \right]$$

We recognize  $\ln q_{\mu}^*(\tau) = \ln \mathcal{G}(\tau; a_N, b_N) \stackrel{c}{=} (a_N - 1) \ln(\tau) - b_N \tau$

and identify

$$a_N = a_0 + \frac{N+1}{2}$$

$$b_N = b_0 + \frac{1}{2} \mathbb{E}_{q_{\mu}(\mu)} \left[ \sum_i (x_i - \mu)^2 + \lambda_0 (\mu - \mu_0)^2 \right]$$

The required expectation are given by :

$$\left[ \begin{aligned} E_{q_{\mu}(\mu)}[\mu] &= \frac{a_N}{b_N} \\ E_{q_{\mu}(\mu)}[\mu] &= \mu_N \\ E_{q_{\mu}(\mu)}[\mu^2] &= E_{q_{\mu}(\mu)}[\mu]^2 + E_{q_{\mu}(\mu)}\left[(\mu - E_{q_{\mu}(\mu)}[\mu])^2\right] \\ &= \mu_N^2 + d_N^{-1} \end{aligned} \right.$$

We can rewrite  $b_N$  as :

$$b_N = b_0 + \frac{1}{2} E \left[ \sum_i x_i^2 + N\mu^2 - 2\mu \sum_i x_i + d_0\mu^2 + d_0\mu_0^2 - 2d_0\mu\mu_0 \right]$$

$$b_N = b_0 + \frac{1}{2} \left( \sum_i x_i^2 + E[\mu^2] (d_0 + N) - 2E[\mu] (d_0\mu_0 + N\bar{x}) + d_0\mu_0^2 \right)$$