

Variational Inference

APPROXIMATE BAYESIAN INFERENCE IN HIGH DIMENSIONS

Philipp Frank¹, Torsten Ensslin^{1,2} IMAGINE workshop: Towards a comprehensive model of the galactic magnetic field, NORDITA, Stockholm, April 5, 2023

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Posterior expectation

$$\langle f(\xi) \rangle_{\mathcal{P}(\xi|d)} = \int f \, \mathrm{d}\mathcal{P} = \int f(\xi) \, \mathcal{P}(\xi|d) \, \mathrm{d}\xi$$

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Kullback-Leibler divergence

$$\operatorname{KL}\left[\mathcal{Q}_{\sigma}||\mathcal{P}\right] = -\int \log\left(\frac{\mathcal{P}(\xi|d)}{\mathcal{Q}_{\sigma}(\xi)}\right) \ \mathcal{Q}_{\sigma}(\xi) \ \mathrm{d}\xi$$

Posterior: $\mathcal{P}(\xi|d)$; Approximation: $\mathcal{Q}_{\sigma}(\xi)$; Variational parameters: σ .

Variational Inference (VI)



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Posterior: $\mathcal{P}(\xi|d)$; Approximation: $\mathcal{Q}_{\sigma}(\xi)$; Variational parameters: σ .

Approximate distribution Q: $Q(y) = \mathcal{N}(y; 0, 1)$ Coordinate system $y = g_{\sigma}(\xi)$ such that the *posterior* is close to Normal.



Information Hamiltonian $\mathcal{H}(\xi|d)$: $-\log(\mathcal{P}(\xi|d))$



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Posterior metric $\mathcal{M}(\xi)$: $\mathcal{M}_{lh}(\xi) + \mathbb{1}$

Fisher information metric $\mathcal{M}_{lh}(\xi)$: $\left\langle \frac{\partial^2 \mathcal{H}(d|\xi)}{\partial \xi \partial \xi'} \right\rangle_{\mathcal{P}(d|\xi)}$



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Local Euclidean isometry around $\bar{\xi}$

$$y = g(\xi; \bar{\xi}) = \mathcal{M}(\bar{\xi})^{-1/2} \left[\xi - \bar{\xi} + \left(\frac{\partial x}{\partial \xi} \right)^T \Big|_{\xi = \bar{\xi}} \left(x(\xi) - x(\bar{\xi}) \right) \right]$$

Likelihood transformation: $x(\xi) = x(s(\xi))$, expansion point: $\overline{\xi}$.

Variational approximation with transformed distribution \mathcal{Q}

$$\mathcal{Q}_{\bar{\xi}}(\xi) = \mathcal{N}(y|0,1)|_{y=g(\xi;\bar{\xi})} \left| \left| \frac{\partial g(\xi;\bar{\xi})}{\partial \xi} \right| \right|$$























Applications [HE20]









Philipp Frank, Reimar Leike, and Torsten A. Enßlin.
Geometric variational inference.
Entropy, 23(7), 2021.

Sebastian Hutschenreuter and Torsten A. Enßlin.
The galactic faraday depth sky revisited.
A&A, 633:A150, 2020.



Numerical information field theory

https://gitlab.mpcdf.mpg.de/ift/nifty

NIFTy tutorial - this afternoon!

 $https://gitlab.mpcdf.mpg.de/ift/tutorial_nifty_resolve$





















 $^{-2}$

-4

0.5

 $P(\xi_2)$

0.0

-4 -3



0

-2 -1

 ξ_1

 $^{-2}$

-4

0.5 0.0

 $P(\xi_2)$

-4 -3 -2 -1 0

 ξ_1

 $\mathrm{KL}\left(P;Q_{\mathrm{geoVI}}\right) = 0.0655 \quad \mathrm{KL}\left(Q_{\mathrm{geoVI}};P\right) = 0.0888$

-4

0.5

 $P(\xi_2)$

0.0

 $^{-1}$

0

 ξ_1

1



2

 Q_{geoVI} $Q_{\text{geoVI}}(\xi_1, \xi_2)$

0

ξ1

1

2







