

A series of maximum entropy upper bounds of the differential entropy

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<https://www.lix.polytechnique.fr/~nielsen/MEUB/>

Frank Nielsen^{1,2} Richard Nock^{3,4,5}

Frank.Nielsen@acm.org

¹École Polytechnique, France ²Sony Computer Science Laboratories, Japan

³Data61, Australia ⁴ANU, Australia ⁵The University of Sydney, Australia

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Shannon's differential entropy

$X \sim p(x)$: continuous random variable, support

$\mathcal{X} = \{x \in \mathbb{R} : p(x) > 0\}$

Shannon's entropy quantifies amount of uncertainty [2]:

$$H(X) = \int_{\mathcal{X}} p(x) \log \frac{1}{p(x)} dx = - \int_{\mathcal{X}} p(x) \log p(x) dx \quad (1)$$

logarithm: basis 2 (unit in *bits*), basis e (*nats*).

Differential entropy is strictly concave and:

- ▶ May be negative: $X \sim N(\mu, \sigma)$, $H(X) = \frac{1}{2} \log(2\pi e \sigma^2) < 0$
when $\sigma < \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi e}}$
- ▶ May be infinite (unbounded): $X \sim p(x)$ with $p(x) = \frac{\log(2)}{x \log^2 x}$
for $x > 2$ (with support $\mathcal{X} = (2, \infty)$)
- ▶ Closed forms [7, 9] for many distribution families, but the *differential entropy of mixtures* usually does not admit closed-form expressions [10, 6]

Maximum Entropy Principle (MaxEnt)

Jaynes' MaxEnt distribution principle [4, 5] (1957):

Infer a distribution given several moment constraints.

Constrained optimization problem:

$$\max_p H(p) : E[t_i(X)] = \eta_i, \quad i \in [D] = \{1, \dots, D\}. \quad (2)$$

- ▶ When an iid sample set $\{x_1, \dots, x_s\}$ is given, we may choose, for example, the raw geometric *sample moments* $\eta_i = \frac{1}{s} \sum_{j=1}^s x_j^i$ for setting up the constraint $E[X^i] = \eta_i$ (ie., taking $t_i(X) = X^i$ in Eq. 2).
- ▶ The distribution $p(x)$ maximizing the entropy under those moment constraints is unique and termed the *MaxEnt distribution*. The constrained optimization of Eq. 2 is solved by means of Lagrangian multipliers [8, 2].

MaxEnt and exponential families

MaxEnt distribution $p(x)$ belongs to a *parametric family* of distributions called an *exponential family* [1, 8, 3].

Canonical probability density function of an exponential family (EF):

$$p(x; \theta) = \exp(\langle \theta, t(x) \rangle - F(\theta)) \quad (3)$$

$\langle a, b \rangle = a^\top b$: scalar product

$\theta \in \Theta$: natural parameter

Θ : natural parameter space

$t(x)$: sufficient statistics

$F(\theta) = \log \int p(x; \theta) dx$: log-normalizer [1]

Dual parameterizations of exponential families

A distribution $p(x; \theta)$ of an exponential family can be parameterized equivalently either using the

- ▶ natural coordinate system θ ,
- ▶ expectation coordinate system $\eta = E_{p(x; \theta)}[t(x)]$
(also called moment coordinate system)

The two coordinate systems are linked by the Legendre transformation:

$$F^*(\eta) = \sup_{\theta} \{ \langle \eta, \theta \rangle - F(\theta) \}$$

$$\eta = \nabla F(\theta), \quad \theta = \nabla F^*(\eta)$$

In practice, when $F(\theta)$ is not available in closed-forms, conversion $\theta \leftrightarrow \eta$ is approximated numerically [8].

Differential entropy of exponential families

Closed-form when the dual Legendre convex conjugate function is in closed-form:

$$H(p(x; \theta)) = -F^*(\eta(\theta))$$

More general form when allowing an auxiliary carrier measure term [9]

Strategy to get MaxEnt Upper Bounds (MEUBs)

Rationale: Any other distribution with density $p'(x)$ different from the MaxEnt distribution $p(x)$ and satisfying all the D moment constraints $E[t_i(X)] = \eta_i$ have smaller entropy:
 $H(p'(x)) \leq H(p(x))$ with $p(x) = p(x; \theta)$.

Receipe for building MaxEnt Upper Bounds on arbitrary density $q(x)$:

- ▶ Choose sufficient statistics $t_i(x)$ so that the differential entropy $H(p(x; \eta))$ of the induced maxent distribution $p(x; \eta)$ is in closed-form (or can be unbounded easily)
- ▶ Compute the moment coordinates $\eta_i = E_q[t_i(x)]$, and deduce that $H(q(x)) \leq H(p(x; \eta))$

Absolute Monomial Exponential Family

$$p_l(x; \theta) = \exp\left(\theta|x|^l - F_l(\theta)\right), \quad x \in \mathbb{R} \quad (4)$$

for $\theta < 0$.

Exponential family ($t(x) = |x|^l$) with log-normalizer:

$$F_l(\theta) = \log 2 + \log \Gamma\left(\frac{1}{l}\right) - \log l - \frac{1}{l} \log(-\theta), \quad (5)$$

$\Gamma(u) = \int_0^\infty x^{u-1} \exp(-x) dx$ generalizes the factorial:

$\Gamma(n) = (n-1)!$ for $n \in \mathbb{N}$

Differential entropy of AMEFs

The entropy expressed using the θ -parameter is:

$$\begin{aligned}H_I(\theta) &= \log 2 + \log \Gamma\left(\frac{1}{I}\right) - \log I + \frac{1}{I}(1 - \log(-\theta)), \\ &= a_I - \frac{1}{I} \log(-\theta),\end{aligned}\tag{6}$$

where $a_I = \log 2 + \log \Gamma\left(\frac{1}{I}\right) - \log I + \frac{1}{I}$.

The entropy expressed using the η -parameter is:

$$\begin{aligned}H_I(\eta) &= \log 2 + \log \Gamma\left(\frac{1}{I}\right) - \log I + \frac{1}{I}(1 + \log I + \log \eta), \\ &= b_I + \frac{1}{I} \log \eta,\end{aligned}\tag{7}$$

with $b_I = \log \frac{2\Gamma(\frac{1}{I})(eI)^{\frac{1}{I}}}{I}$.

A series of MaxEnt Upper Bounds (MEUBs)

For any continuous RV X , MaxEnt entropy Upper Bound (MEUB)
 U_l :

$$H(X) \leq H_l^n \left(E_X \left[|X|^l \right] \right)$$

Are all UBs useful?

That is, can we build a RV X so that $U_{l+1} < U_l$?

(Answer is yes!)

AMEF MEUBs for Gaussian Mixture Models

Density of a mixture model with k components:

$$m(x) = \sum_{c=1}^k w_c p_c(x)$$

Gaussian distribution:

$$p_i(x) = p(x; \mu_i, \sigma_i) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma_i} \exp\left(-\frac{(x - \mu_i)^2}{2\sigma_i^2}\right),$$

$\mu_i = E[X_i] \in \mathbb{R}$: mean parameter

$\sigma_i = \sqrt{E[(X_i - \mu_i)^2]} > 0$: standard deviation

To upper bound $H(X) \leq H_l^n (E_X [|X|^l])$, we need to compute the *raw absolute geometric moments* $E_X [|X|^l]$ for a GMM.

Raw absolute geometric moments of a GMM

Technical part (integration by parts and solving recurrence)

$$A_l(X) = \begin{cases} \sum_{c=1}^k w_c \sum_{i=0}^{\lfloor \frac{l}{2} \rfloor} \binom{l}{2i} \mu_c^{l-2i} \sigma_c^{2i} 2^i \frac{\Gamma(\frac{1+2i}{2})}{\sqrt{\pi}} \\ = \sum_{c=1}^k w_c \sum_{i=0}^{\lfloor \frac{l}{2} \rfloor} \binom{l}{2i} \mu_c^{l-2i} \sigma_c^{2i} (2i-1)!! & \text{for even } l, \\ \sum_{c=1}^k w_c \sum_{i=0}^l \binom{l}{i} \mu_c^{l-i} \sigma_c^i \left(l_i \left(-\frac{\mu_c}{\sigma_c} \right) - (-1)^i l_i \left(\frac{\mu_c}{\sigma_c} \right) \right) & \text{for odd } l. \end{cases}$$

where $n!!$ denotes the double factorial: $n!! = \prod_{k=0}^{\lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor} (n-2k) = \sqrt{\frac{2^{n+1}}{\pi}} \Gamma(\frac{n}{2} + 1)$, and:

$$\begin{aligned} l_i(a) &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_a^{+\infty} x^i \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2}x^2\right) dx, \\ &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \left(a^{i-1} \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2}a^2\right) \right) + (i-1)l_{i-2}(a), \end{aligned}$$

with the terminal recursion cases:

$$\begin{aligned} l_0(a) &= 1 - \Phi(a) = \frac{1}{2} \left(1 - \operatorname{erf}\left(\frac{a}{\sqrt{2}}\right) \right) = \frac{1}{2} \operatorname{erfc}\left(\frac{a}{\sqrt{2}}\right), \\ l_1(a) &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2}a^2\right). \end{aligned}$$

Laplacian MEUB for a GMM ($l = 1$)

AMEF for $l = 1$ is the Laplacian distribution

The differential entropy of a Gaussian mixture model

$X \sim \sum_{c=1}^k w_c p(x; \mu_c, \sigma_c)$ is upper bounded by:

$$H(X) \leq U_1(X)$$

$$U_1(X) = \log \left(2e \left(\sum_{c=1}^k w_c \left(\mu_c \left(1 - 2\Phi \left(-\frac{\mu_c}{\sigma_c} \right) \right) + \sigma_c \sqrt{\frac{2}{\pi}} \exp \left(-\frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{\mu_c}{\sigma_c} \right)^2 \right) \right) \right) \right).$$

Gaussian MEUB for a GMM ($l = 2$)

AMEF for $l = 2$ is the Gaussian distribution

The differential entropy of a GMM $X \sim \sum_{c=1}^k w_c p(x; \mu_c, \sigma_c)$ is upper bounded by:

$$H(X) \leq U_2(X) = \frac{1}{2} \log \left(2\pi e \sum_{c=1}^k w_c ((\mu_c - \bar{\mu})^2 + \sigma_c^2) \right),$$

with $\bar{\mu} = \sum_{c=1}^k w_c \mu_c$.

Vanilla approximation method: Monte-Carlo

Estimate $H(X)$ using *Monte-Carlo (MC) stochastic integration*:

$$\hat{H}_s(X) = -\frac{1}{s} \sum_{i=1}^s \log p(x_i), \quad (8)$$

where $\{x_1, \dots, x_s\}$ is an iid set of variates sampled from $X \sim p(x)$.

MC estimator $\hat{H}_s(X)$ is *consistent*:

$$\lim_{s \rightarrow \infty} \hat{H}_s(X) = H(X)$$

(convergence in probability)

However, no deterministic bound, can be above or below true value.

Experiments: Laplacian vs Gaussian MEUBs

$k = 2$ to 10 for $\mu_i, \sigma_i \sim_{\text{iid}} U(0, 1)$, averaged on 1000 trials.

k	Average error	Percentage of times $U_1(X) < U_2(X)$
2	0.5401015778688498	32.7
3	2.7397146972652484	39.2
4	3.4333962273074774	47.9
5	0.9310683623797987	49.9
6	0.5902956910979954	52.1
7	0.7688142345093779	53.2
8	0.2982994538560814	53.8
9	0.1955843679792208	56.8
10	0.1797637053023196	59.9

Important to *recenter the GMMs* so that they have zero expectation (as AMEFs): This does not change the entropy. If not, the 30%+ rates fall significantly to less than 10%.

Are all AMEF MEUBs useful for GMMs?

- ▶ For zero-centered GMMs, only Laplacian or Gaussian MEUB is useful,
- ▶ For arbitrary GMMs, each bound can be the tightest one ($k = 2$, with GMM mean 0 and two symmetric components with small standard deviation).

Zero-centered GMMs

$U_1(X) < U_2(X)$ iff

$$\log 2e\sqrt{\frac{2}{\pi}}\bar{\sigma}_1 \leq \log \sqrt{2\pi e}\bar{\sigma}_2.$$

$$\frac{\bar{\sigma}_1}{\bar{\sigma}_2} \leq \frac{\pi}{2\sqrt{e}} \approx 0.9527$$

$\bar{\sigma}_1$: arithmetic weighted mean, $\bar{\sigma}_2 = \sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^k w_i \sigma_i^2}$: quadratic mean
weighted quadratic mean dominates weighted arithmetic mean:

$$\frac{\bar{\sigma}_1}{\bar{\sigma}_2} \leq 1.$$

$k = 1$: $\sigma > \frac{2\sqrt{e}}{\pi}$ (ie., $\sigma > 1.0496$)

Zero-centered GMMs: $U_{l+2} < U_l$?

Geometric raw (even) moments coincide with the central (even) geometric moments

$$H(X) \leq H_l^\eta(A_l(X)) = b_l + \frac{1}{l} \log z_l + \log \bar{\sigma}_l,$$

$$E_X[X^l] = \underbrace{2^{\frac{l}{2}} \frac{\Gamma(\frac{1+l}{2})}{\sqrt{\pi}}}_{z_l} \left(\sum_{i=1}^k w_i \sigma_i^l \right) = A_l(X).$$

$\bar{\sigma}_l$: l -th power mean: $\bar{\sigma}_l = \left(\sum_{i=1}^k w_i \sigma_i^l \right)^{\frac{1}{l}}$

$$\frac{\bar{\sigma}_{l+2}}{\bar{\sigma}_l} \geq 1 \Rightarrow \log \frac{\bar{\sigma}_{l+2}}{\bar{\sigma}_l} \geq 0$$

→ not possible (see arXiv).

Arbitrary GMMs: Consider 2-component GMM

$$m(x) = \frac{1}{2}p(x; -\frac{1}{2}, 10^{-5}) + \frac{1}{2}p(x; \frac{1}{2}, 10^{-5})$$

```
H (MC) :-9.400517405407735
1      MEUB:0.999999999958284
2      MEUB:0.7257913528258293
3      MEUB:0.5863457882025702
4      MEUB:0.4983017544470345
5      MEUB:0.43651349327316713
6      MEUB:0.390267211711506
7      MEUB:0.35410343073850886
8      MEUB:0.32490700997403515
9      MEUB:0.3007543998901125
10     MEUB:0.2803860698295638
11     MEUB:0.2629389102447494
12     MEUB:0.24779955106708096
13     MEUB:0.23451890956649502
14     MEUB:0.22275989562550735
15     MEUB:0.21226407836562905
16     MEUB:0.2028296978359989
17     MEUB:0.19429672922288133
18     MEUB:0.18653647716356042
19     MEUB:0.17944416377804479
20     MEUB:0.1729335449648154
21     MEUB:0.16693293142890442
22     MEUB:0.16138220185001972
23     MEUB:0.1562305292037145
24     MEUB:0.15143462788690765
25     MEUB:0.14695738668300817
26     MEUB:0.14276679134420478
27     MEUB:0.13883506718452443
28     MEUB:0.13513799065560295
29     MEUB:0.13165433203558718
30     MEUB:0.12836540080724268
31     MEUB:0.12525467216646413
```

Contributions and conclusion

- ▶ Introduced the class of *Absolute Monomial Exponential Families* (AMEFs) with closed-form log-normalizer,
- ▶ Reported closed-form formulæ for the differential entropy of AMEFs,
- ▶ Calculated the exact *non-centered absolute geometric moments* for a Gaussian Mixture Model (GMMs),
- ▶ Apply MaxEnt Upper Bounds induced by AMEFs to GMMs:
All upper bounds are potentially useful for non-centered GMMs
(But for zero centered-GMMs, only the first two bounds are enough.)
- ▶ Recommend $\min(U_1, U_2)$ in applications! (not only U_2)
- ▶ Reproducible research with code
<https://www.lix.polytechnique.fr/~nielsen/MEUB/>



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Differential entropy of a location-scale family

Density of a *location-scale distribution*: $p(x; \mu, \sigma) = \frac{1}{\sigma} p_0\left(\frac{x-\mu}{\sigma}\right)$

$\mu \in \mathbb{R}$: *location parameter* and $\sigma > 0$: *dispersion parameter*.

Change of variable $y = \frac{x-\mu}{\sigma}$ (with $dy = \frac{dy}{\sigma}$) in the integral to get:

$$\begin{aligned} H(X) &= \int_{x=-\infty}^{+\infty} -\frac{1}{\sigma} p_0\left(\frac{x-\mu}{\sigma}\right) \left(\log \frac{1}{\sigma} p_0\left(\frac{x-\mu}{\sigma}\right)\right) dx, \\ &= \int_{y=-\infty}^{+\infty} -p_0(y) (\log p_0(y) - \log \sigma), \\ &= H(X_0) + \log \sigma. \end{aligned}$$

→ always independent of the location parameter μ

Non-central even geometric moments of a normal distribution

Even l	$A_l = E[X ^l] = E[X^l] = \sum_{i=0}^{\lfloor \frac{l}{2} \rfloor} \binom{l}{2i} (2i-1)!! \mu^{l-2i} \sigma^{2i}$
2	$\mu^2 + \sigma^2$
4	$\mu^4 + 6\mu^2\sigma^2 + 3\sigma^4$
6	$\mu^6 + 15\mu^4\sigma^2 + 45\mu^2\sigma^4 + 15\sigma^6$
8	$\mu^8 + 28\mu^6\sigma^2 + 210\mu^4\sigma^4 + 420\mu^2\sigma^6 + 105\sigma^8$
10	$\mu^{10} + 45\mu^8\sigma^2 + 630\mu^6\sigma^4 + 3150\mu^4\sigma^6 + 4725\mu^2\sigma^8 + 945\sigma^{10}$

Non-central odd geometric moments of a normal distribution

Odd l	$A_l = E[X ^l] = C_l(\mu, \sigma)\sqrt{\frac{2}{\pi}} \exp(-\frac{\mu^2}{2\sigma^2}) + D_l(\mu, \sigma)\text{erf}(\frac{\mu}{\sqrt{2}\sigma})$
1	$\sigma\sqrt{\frac{2}{\pi}} \exp(-\frac{\mu^2}{2\sigma^2}) + \mu\text{erf}(\frac{\mu}{\sqrt{2}\sigma})$
3	$(2\sigma^3 + \mu^2\sigma)\sqrt{\frac{2}{\pi}} \exp(-\frac{\mu^2}{2\sigma^2}) + (\mu^3 + 3\mu\sigma^2)\text{erf}(\frac{\mu}{\sqrt{2}\sigma})$
5	$(8\sigma^5 + 9\mu^2\sigma^3 + \mu^4\sigma)\sqrt{\frac{2}{\pi}} \exp(-\frac{\mu^2}{2\sigma^2}) + (\mu^5 + 10\mu^3\sigma^2 + 15\mu\sigma^4)\text{erf}(\frac{\mu}{\sqrt{2}\sigma})$
7	$(48\sigma^7 + 87\mu^2\sigma^5 + 20\mu^4\sigma^3 + \mu^6\sigma)\sqrt{\frac{2}{\pi}} \exp(-\frac{\mu^2}{2\sigma^2}) + (\mu^7 + 21\mu^5\sigma^2 + 105\mu^3\sigma^4 + 105\mu\sigma^6)\text{erf}(\frac{\mu}{\sqrt{2}\sigma})$
9	$(384\sigma^9 + 975\mu^2\sigma^7 + 345\mu^4\sigma^5 + 35\mu^6\sigma^3 + \mu^8\sigma)\sqrt{\frac{2}{\pi}} \exp(-\frac{\mu^2}{2\sigma^2}) + (\mu^9 + 36\mu^7\sigma^2 + 378\mu^5\sigma^4 + 1260\mu^3\sigma^6 + 945\mu\sigma^8)\text{erf}(\frac{\mu}{\sqrt{2}\sigma})$

Maxima program

```
assume (theta<0);  
F(theta) := log(integrate(exp(theta*abs(x)^5),x,-inf,inf));  
integrate(exp(theta*abs(x)^5-F(theta)),x,-inf,inf);
```

Maxima program

```
/* Binomial expansion */
binomialExpansion(i,p,q) := if i = 1 then p+q
else expand((p+q)*binomialExpansion(i-1,p,q)) ;

/* The standard distribution (here, normal) */
p0(y) := exp(-y^2/2)/sqrt(2*pi);

/* Even moment */
absEvenMoment(mu,sigma,l) :=
ratexpand(ratsimp(integrate(factor(expand(binomialExpansion(l,mu,y*sigma)))
)*p0(y),y,-inf,inf)));

/* Odd moment */
absOddMoment(mu,sigma,l) :=
ratexpand(ratsimp(integrate(factor(expand(binomialExpansion(l,mu,y*sigma)))
)*p0(y),y,-mu/sigma,inf)
-integrate(factor(expand(binomialExpansion(l,mu,y*sigma)))
)*p0(y),y,-inf,-mu/sigma)));

/* General : Maxima does not give a closed-form formula
because of the absolute value */
absMoment(mu,sigma,l) :=
ratexpand(ratsimp(integrate(abs(factor(expand(binomialExpansion(l,mu,y*sigma)))
)*p0(y),y,-inf,inf)));

assume(sigma>0);
assume(mu>0); /* maxima needs to branch condition */
absEvenMoment(mu,sigma,8);
absOddMoment(mu,sigma,7);
```

```
(%o5) absMoment (mu, sigma, l) :=
ratexpand( ratsimp( integrate( factor( expand( binomialExpansion( l, mu, y sigma ) ) | p0(y) dy ) ) ) ) )
(%o6) [sigma > 0]
(%o7) [mu > 0]
(%o8)  $\frac{105\sqrt{\pi}\sigma^8}{\sqrt{\pi}} + \frac{420\sqrt{\pi}\mu^2\sigma^6}{\sqrt{\pi}} + \frac{210\sqrt{\pi}\mu^4\sigma^4}{\sqrt{\pi}} + \frac{28\sqrt{\pi}\mu^6\sigma^2}{\sqrt{\pi}} + \frac{\sqrt{\pi}\mu^8}{\sqrt{\pi}}$ 
(%o9)  $\frac{32^{9/2}\sigma^7 e^{-\frac{\mu^2}{2\sigma^2}}}{\sqrt{\pi}} + \frac{87\sqrt{2}\mu^2\sigma^5 e^{-\frac{\mu^2}{2\sigma^2}}}{\sqrt{\pi}} + \frac{52^{5/2}\mu^4\sigma^3 e^{-\frac{\mu^2}{2\sigma^2}}}{\sqrt{\pi}} + \frac{\sqrt{2}\mu^6\sigma e^{-\frac{\mu^2}{2\sigma^2}}}{\sqrt{\pi}} + \frac{105\sqrt{\pi}\mu \operatorname{erf}\left(\frac{\mu}{\sqrt{2}\sigma}\right)\sigma^6}{\sqrt{\pi}}$ 
 $+ \frac{105\sqrt{\pi}\mu^3 \operatorname{erf}\left(\frac{\mu}{\sqrt{2}\sigma}\right)\sigma^4}{\sqrt{\pi}} + \frac{21\sqrt{\pi}\mu^5 \operatorname{erf}\left(\frac{\mu}{\sqrt{2}\sigma}\right)\sigma^2}{\sqrt{\pi}} + \frac{\sqrt{\pi}\mu^7 \operatorname{erf}\left(\frac{\mu}{\sqrt{2}\sigma}\right)}{\sqrt{\pi}}$ 
```