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EM algorithm and variants: an informal tutorial

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(Submitted on 7 May 2011 (v1), last revised 7 Sep 2012 (this version, v2))

The expectation-maximization (EM) algorithm introduced by Dempster et al in 1977 is a very general method to solve maximum likelihood estimation problems. In this informal report, we review the theory behind EM as well as a number of EM variants, suggesting that beyond the current state of the art is an even much wider territory still to be discovered.

Comments:UnpublishedSubjects:Computation (stat.CO)MSC classes:62-01Cite as:arXiv:1105.1476 [stat.CO](or arXiv:1105.1476v2 [stat.CO] for this version)

Submission history

From: Alexis Roche [view email] [v1] Sat, 7 May 2011 21:46:34 GMT (19kb) [v2] Fri, 7 Sep 2012 09:31:45 GMT (19kb)

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