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# Deep Infinite Admixture Models

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## Abstract

Recent advances in deep learning has shown that multi-layered non-linear models perform extremely well in fitting various types of data, and the individual layers often turn out to have natural interpretations. In this paper, we propose deep generative models called the nested Hierarchical Dirichlet Processes (nHDP), that are multi-layered nonparametric admixture models. We borrow and build upon ideas from the Hierarchical Dirichlet Process (HDP) and the nested Dirichlet Process (nDP) by modeling each layer as an HDP where the base distribution is the HDP from the previous layer. We show that similar to the HDP, the nHDP emerges as the infinite limit of a combination of finite deep admixture models. We propose an equivalent restaurant process interpretation for the nHDP called the Nested Chinese Restaurant franchise (nCRF) based on which we explore two techniques for posterior inference. We show that our direct sampling technique scales efficiently for arbitrarily deep models. We experimentally show that the deep nHDP leads to better perplexity for document modeling with more nested layers.

## 1 Introduction

An important pursuit in machine learning is learning multiple layers of representation of observed data. Recent advances in deep learning has shown that multi-layered non-linear models perform extremely well in fitting various types of data, such as those related to natural language text and speech, images and videos [12, 7]. Also, multiple layers often turn out to have natural interpretations, where each layer learns meaningful combinations of the previous layer’s representation. For example, in deep neural network models of images, the first layer may capture edges, the second layer corners, and so on [7]. For hierarchical probabilistic models of textual data, the first layer may capture topics over words, the second layer may capture authors over topics, etc [10].

The focus of this paper is on deep Bayesian non-parametric models and, more specifically, on multi-layered *admixture* models of this kind. In admixture or mixed membership models [5], each data item is modeled as a mixture over components, and such models have significantly richer representational power compared to mixture models and also wide applicability. The Hierarchical Dirichlet Process (HDP) [5] extends the notion of finite admixture models, famously captured by Latent Dirichlet Allocation (LDA) [4], to infinite mixture components. The HDP does this by coupling Dirichlet Processes (DP) [2], such that a draw from a DP serves as the base distribution for another DP.

In this paper, we explore how such layers of admixtures can be nested arbitrarily deeply to better model data. While the Bayesian framework serves as a natural protection against over-fitting, we

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would like to provide as much flexibility to a model within this framework. Layers of admixtures, instead of mixtures, provides such flexibility. The Author-Topic Model [10] explores such a two level model in the finite setting, where documents are mixtures over ‘topics’ and topics mixtures over ‘authors’. We explore such models in the infinite setting - also arbitrarily deep - where representation consists of layers of entities, and each entity is a mixture over entities at the previous layer.

We build upon the idea of the nested Dirichlet Process [9], which is a two level ‘nesting’ of Dirichlet processes - where one Dirichlet Process is the base distribution of another Dirichlet Process. We extend this idea to show that layers of admixtures can be created by nesting Hierarchical Dirichlet Processes in a similar way. Such a nesting can then be made arbitrarily deep - hence the name deep Nested Hierarchical Dirichlet Processes.

We note that the nested CRP [3] and its extension (also interestingly called the nested HDP) [8], while being deep non-parametric models, are not deep admixture models in our sense. In these, ‘topic’ distributions are structured as an arbitrarily deep and arbitrarily wide tree, where a topic at any layer has exactly one topic from the previous layer as its ‘parent’. Our model is significantly more flexible by allowing entities at each layer to have a distribution over all entities at the previous layer. This is more in keeping with fully-connected neural net architectures, where all nodes at a layer are connected to all nodes at the previous layer.

In the context of deep generative models, it is important to develop probabilistic inference algorithms that scale. We study sampling based inference algorithms for the deep nHDP based on an equivalent Chinese Restaurant Process representation, which we call the deep nested Chinese Restaurant Franchise. We extend two different sampling algorithms that have been proposed for the HDP - called the direct and indirect sampling schemes. While these two algorithms are known to perform similarly for the single-layer HDP, we show that, when extended to multiple layers, the indirect sampling scheme has complexity growing exponentially with number of layers, and is therefore impractical. However, the direct sampling scheme scales linearly with number of layers, enabling scalable probabilistic inference.

We demonstrate this difference in complexity of the two sampling algorithms using experiments on text corpora, while also showing that deep non-parametric admixture models show better generalization performance than their shallow counterparts.

In an earlier conference paper [1], we had introduced the notion of nesting between HDPs to create 2-layer author topic model. In this paper, we have extended the definition for deep nesting, formally studied the relationship with finite admixture models, extended the inference algorithms for arbitrary number of layers and identified how they differ in complexity beyond a single layer.

## 2 Model

We define a multi-layer Nested Hierarchical Dirichlet Processes which has an HDP at every layer. Let  $L$  denote the number of layers of nesting, indexed by  $l \in \{0, \dots, L - 1\}$ . The base distribution of HDP at layer  $l$  is the HDP at layer  $l - 1$  and we term this as *nesting* of two HDPs.

**Stick-breaking Construction:** For creating an admixture at layer  $l \in \{0, \dots, L - 1\}$  we follow the HDP process. We create an infinite set of entities from previous layer  $l - 1$  sampled from base distribution  $B^l$ :  $\{\phi_k^l\}_{k=1}^\infty \sim B^l$  and a global entity distribution for this layer over these:  $G_B^l = \sum_{k=1}^\infty \beta_k^l \delta_{\phi_k^l}$ , where the weights are drawn from a stick-breaking distribution,  $\beta^l \sim GEM(\gamma^l)$ . An infinite set of entities at layer  $l$  are defined over layer  $l - 1$  entities, where entity  $r$  in layer  $l$  is defined by its own distinct local entity distribution:  $G_r^l = \sum_{k=1}^\infty \pi_{rk}^l \delta_{\phi_k^l}$ . The weights are drawn from a DP with the global popularities of layer  $l - 1$  entities as the base distribution:  $\pi_r^l \sim DP(\alpha^l, \beta^l)$ .

We can recognize this overall construction for layer  $l$  entities as a draw from an HDP, which we name as  $H^l$ :  $G_r^l \sim HDP(\alpha^l, \gamma^l, B^l) \equiv H^l$ . In our nested structure,  $H^l$  is the base distribution for next layer:  $B^{l+1} = H^l$ . Note that this can equivalently be represented as  $B^{l+1} = HDP(\alpha^l, \gamma^l, B^l) = HDP(\alpha^l, \gamma^l, HDP(\alpha^{l-1}, \gamma^{l-1}, B^{l-1}))$ . We define this nested structure as the nested HDP (**nHDP**) and write -  $B^{l+1} = \mathbf{nHDP}(l + 1, \{\alpha^l, \gamma^l\}, \dots, \{\alpha^0, \gamma^0\}, \bar{H})$

The details of the generative process follow. First the distributions for the ‘entities’ at different layers are sampled starting with the ‘topics’ at layer  $l = 0$ .

prior for topics	$B^0 = \bar{H} = Dir(\gamma^0)$
<b>layer</b> $l \leq L$	$\phi_k^l \sim B^l$
global weight for $l$ -entity	$\beta^l \sim GEM(\gamma^l)$
	$G_B^l = \sum_{k=1, \dots} \beta_k^l \delta_{\phi_k^l} \sim D^l = DP(\gamma^l, B^l)$
l+1 entity's wt for l-entity	$\pi_r^l \sim DP(\alpha^l, \beta^l)$
	$G_r^l = \sum_k \pi_{rk}^l \delta_{\phi_k^l} \sim H^l = HDP(\alpha^l, \gamma^l, B^l)$
coupling between layers	$B^{l+1} = H^l = nHDP(l+1, \{\alpha^l, \gamma^l\}, \dots, \{\alpha^0, \gamma^0\}, \bar{H})$

There is an equivalent *indirect representation* of the local topic preferences using topic samples (also called tables) [11]. Let  $\{\psi_{jt}^l\}_{t=1}^\infty$  denote the samples/tables for the  $j^{th}$  entity at layer  $l$  drawn from the topic distributions at the previous layer:  $\phi_{jt}^l \sim G_B^{l-1}$ , and  $\{k_{jt}^l\}_{t=1}^\infty$  denote the set of indexes of the layer  $l-1$  topics corresponding to each topic sample. Their corresponding weights  $\{\bar{\pi}_{jt}^l\}_{t=1}^\infty$  are drawn from a stick-breaking distribution  $GEM(\alpha^l)$ ,  $\pi_j^l \sim GEM(\alpha^l)$ .

l+1 entity's weight for l-table	$\bar{\pi}_r^l \sim GEM(\alpha^l)$
	$G_r^l = \sum_t \bar{\pi}_{rt}^l \delta_{\psi_{rt}^l} \sim H^l = HDP(\alpha^l, \gamma^l, B^l)$

Finally, data items are generated by sampling entities at each layer  $l$  as  $\theta_{ji}^l \sim \theta_{ji}^{l+1} \in \{\phi_1^l \dots\}$ . The data item (word) is sampled at the final layer as  $x_{ji} \sim \theta_{ji}^0$ . Note that in the document modeling use-case, grouping of words with respect to the level  $L$ -entity is observed and termed as a *document*.

**Restaurant Process Representation:** Just as the HDP has a restaurant process interpretation - the Chinese Restaurant Franchise (CRF)[11] - for the deep nested HDP we show an equivalent interpretation in terms of multiple layers of nested CRFs, corresponding to the multiple layers of HDP. In the restaurant interpretation, each group  $r$  represents a restaurant at each layer  $l$ , the entity samples  $\psi_{rt}^l$  are called tables, and the sampled entities  $\phi_k^l$  are called dishes, which get served at tables.

For a given entity layer  $l \in \{0, \dots, L-1\}$ , assume  $K$  entities  $\{\phi_1^l, \dots, \phi_K^l\}$  have been drawn from base distribution  $B^l$ . Let  $(\psi_{r1}^l, \dots, \psi_{r,t-1}^l)$  be sequence of entity samples / tables drawn from  $G_B^l$  for  $r^{th}$  entity of this layer and an indirect representation of  $G_r^l$  is constructed using entity samples as above. Due to the nested structure, the predictive distribution for the draw of layer  $l$  entity for word  $ji$  denoted by  $\theta_{ji}^l$  is additionally conditioned on the corresponding draw at layer  $l+1$  i.e.  $\theta_{ji}^{l+1}$ . Given that  $\theta_{ji}^{l+1} = G_r^{l+1}$ ,  $\theta_{ji}^l \sim \theta_{ji}^{l+1}$  is drawn by integrating out the group level distribution  $G_r^l$ .

$$\theta_{ji}^l | \theta_{ji}^{l+1} = G_r^l, \theta_{11}^l, \dots, \theta_{1N_1}^l, \theta_{21}^l, \dots, \theta_{j,i-1}^l, \alpha^l, G_B^l \sim \sum_{t=1}^{m_r^l} \frac{n_{rt}^l}{i-1 + \alpha^l} \delta_{\psi_{rt}^l} + \frac{\alpha^l}{n_{r..}^l + \alpha^l} G_B^l \quad (1)$$

where  $n_{rt}^l$  is the number of times any of  $\{\theta_{11}^l, \dots, \theta_{1N_1}^l, \theta_{21}^l, \dots, \theta_{j,i-1}^l\}$  got assigned to the  $t^{th}$  atom  $\psi_{rt}^l$  of restaurant  $r$  and  $m_r^l = \sum_t \delta(\psi_{rt}^l, \phi_k^l)$  is the number of entity samples in  $r^{th}$  restaurant assigned to previous layer entity  $\phi_k^l$ .

The predictive distribution of  $t^{th}$  entity sample, after integrating out  $G_B^l$  is as follows:

$$\psi_{rt}^l | \psi_{11}, \psi_{12}, \dots, \psi_{21}, \dots, \psi_{rt-1}, \gamma, B^l \sim \sum_{k=1}^{K^l} \frac{m_{.k}^l}{m_{..}^l + \gamma^l} \delta_{\phi_k^l} + \frac{\gamma^l}{m_{..}^l + \gamma^l} B^l \quad (2)$$

where  $m_{.k}^l$  is the number of entity samples across all restaurants in layer  $l$  assigned to  $k^{th}$  entity  $\phi_k^l$  of previous layer.

**Relation with deep finite admixture models:** The HDP can be shown to arise as the infinite limit of two different finite admixture models [11]. We show that a similar relationship persists across the nested coupling between the deep nHDP and deep finite admixture models.

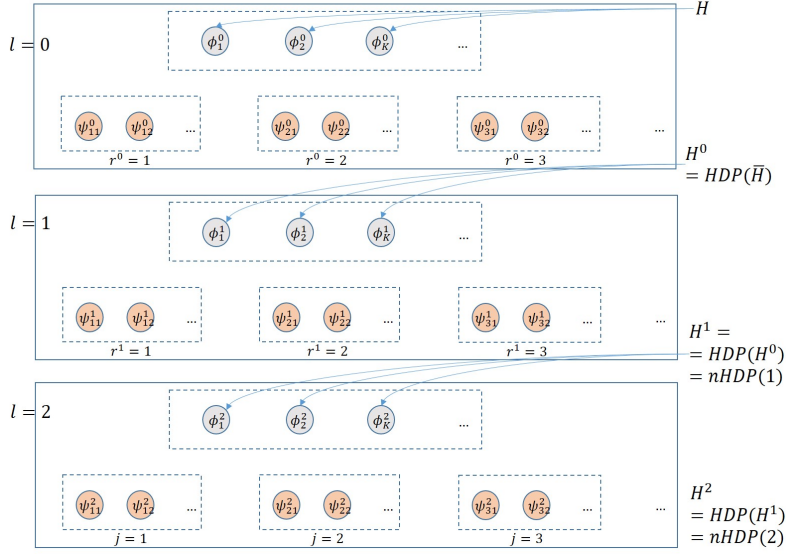


Figure 1: Restaurant process interpretation for the nested Hierarchical Dirichlet Process

Consider a  $L$ -layer admixture model  $G_j(L, \{K^l\})$  with  $K^l$  entities at layer  $l$  defined using direct sampling of entities.

**Theorem 1** For each  $l \in \{0, \dots, L\}$ , as  $K^l \rightarrow \infty$ , the finite admixture model for layer  $l$  approaches an nHDP.

$$\lim_{K^l \rightarrow \infty} G_j(L, \{K^l\}) = G_j^L \sim nHDP(L, \{\alpha^l, \gamma^l\}, \bar{H}) \quad (3)$$

A similar result holds for the indirect  $L$ -layer finite admixture model construction  $G_j(L, \{K^l\}, \{T^l\})$  with  $K^l$  entities and  $T^l$  entity samples or tables at layer  $l$ .

**Theorem 2** For each  $l \in \{0, \dots, L\}$ , as  $K^l \rightarrow \infty$ , and for each  $r \in \{1, \dots, K^l\}$ ,  $T_r^l \rightarrow \infty$ , the generative process of the finite admixture model at layer  $l$  approaches an nHDP.

$$\lim_{K^l, T^l \rightarrow \infty} G_j(L, \{K^l\}, \{T^l\}) = G_j^L \sim nHDP(L, \{\alpha^l, \gamma^l\}, \bar{H}) \quad (4)$$

**Deep Nested Non-parametric Flexible Models:** We end with a discussion of an enhancement to our model, where each layer has the flexibility to be either an admixture or a mixture, while retaining its non-parametric nature. This may be useful in the presence of specific knowledge about the relations between entities in the domain. To achieve a mixture, instead of an admixture, at any layer, we replace an HDP-HDP nesting with a DP-HDP nesting (where an HDP has a DP as the base distribution) or a DP-DP nesting, depending on the nature of the subsequent layer. The instance of this model with a mixture at every layer is directly related to the nCRP [3]. The inference algorithms that we propose for the nested HDP in the appendix can be modified in a reasonably straight-forward manner for these flexible variants.

### 3 Inference

We use partially collapsed Gibbs sampling for approximate inference. The conditional posterior for the hidden variables that not marginalized can be derived from the nCRF conditionals. We propose two inference schemes, building upon similar schemes for the HDP.

**Indirect Sampling:** Here, we sample at every level  $l \in \{0, \dots, L\}$ , the table assignments  $t_{ji}^l$ , the  $t^{\text{th}}$  level table for customer  $i$  of the  $j$  document, and dish assignments  $k_{rt}^l$  for tables  $t$  at restaurant  $r$  at level  $l$ . We refer to this as the *nCRF index sampling* inference scheme. However unlike the inference for a single level HDP, a naive approach of sampling all the above indices is intractable leading to an exponential complexity at each level due to the tight coupling between the variables.

*Lemma:* The complexity of the nCRF index sampling scheme at layer  $l$  in each iteration is  $O((T_{max}^l)^{l+1}MN_{max}) + O(K_{max}^l(T_{max}^l)^{S_{max}^l})$  where  $S_{max}^l$  is the maximum of the count of all data items (words) assigned to a single table at a any restaurant at a specific level  $l$ ,  $K_{max}^l$  is the maximum number of dishes at any level  $l$  and  $T_{max}^l$  is the maximum number of tables in a single restaurant at any level  $l$ ,  $M$  the total number of documents and  $N_{max}$  the maximum number of words in any document.

**Direct Sampling:** We propose an alternative *nCRF direct sampling scheme*, similar to the direct sampling scheme in [11] that samples the dishes  $z_{ji}^l$  at each level  $l$  for customer  $i$  from the  $j^{th}$  document conditioned on dish assignments at the remaining levels.

$$p(z_{ji}^l = p | \mathbf{z}_{-ji}^1, z_{ji}^{l+1} = r, z_{ji}^{l-1} = q, \mathbf{z}_{-ji}^1, \mathbf{m}, \beta, \mathbf{x}) \\ \propto p(z_{ji}^l = p | \mathbf{z}_{-ji}^1, z_{ji}^{l+1} = r) p(z_{ji}^{l-1} = q | \mathbf{z}_{-ji}^{l-1}, z_{ji}^l = p)$$

The first term is the predictive distribution of  $z_{ji}^l$  given the level  $l + 1$  dish assignment  $r$ , while the second term arises from the previous level dish assignment  $q$  that depends on the value of  $z_{ji}^l$ . Hence,  $p(z_{ji}^l = p | \mathbf{z}_{-ji}^1, z_{ji}^{l+1} = r)$  can be viewed as consisting of two terms — one from picking an existing table in restaurant  $r$  with dish assignment  $p$ , and another from creating a new table in restaurant  $r$  at level  $l$  and assigning the dish  $p$  to it.

$$p(z_{ji}^l = p | \mathbf{z}_{-ji}^1, z_{ji}^{l+1} = r) \propto \frac{n_{rp}^l + \alpha^l \beta_p^l}{n_r^l + \alpha^l} \text{ for an existing dish } p, \text{ and } \frac{\alpha^l \beta_{new}^l}{n_r^l + \alpha^l} \text{ for a new dish } p. \\ p(z_{ji}^{l-1} = q | \mathbf{z}_{-ji}^{l-1}, z_{ji}^l = p) \propto \frac{n_{pq}^{l-1} + \alpha^{l-1} \beta_q^{l-1}}{n_p^{l-1} + \alpha^{l-1}} \text{ for an existing dish } q, \text{ and } \frac{\alpha^{l-1} \beta_{new}^{l-1}}{n_p^{l-1} + \alpha^{l-1}} \text{ for a new dish } q.$$

We sample  $\beta$  as  $(\beta_1^l, \beta_2^l \dots \beta_{K^l}^l, \beta_{new}) \sim Dir(m_{.1}^l, m_{.2}^l \dots m_{.K}^l, \gamma^l)$ . We adapt the method from [6] for sampling the table counts  $m_{rk}^l$ .

*Lemma:* In each iteration, the complexity of direct sampling algorithm at layer  $l$  is  $O(MN_{max}K_{max}^l)$  where  $M$  is the number of documents,  $N_{max}$  is the maximum number of words in any document and  $K_{max}^l$  is current number of entities at layer  $l$ .

## 4 Experiments

**Datasets:** We use the following publicly available publication datasets. The *NIPS* dataset<sup>2</sup> is a collection of NIPS proceedings (volume 0-12). with 1,740 documents contributed by a total of 2,037 authors, with total 2,301,375 word tokens resulting in a vocabulary of 13,649 words.

Model	Finite	nHDP	nHDP
Model	2 level	1 level	2 level
Perplexity	2783	1775	1247

Table 1: Perplexity of Finite-2Level, nHDP-1Level and nHDP-2Level for NIPS

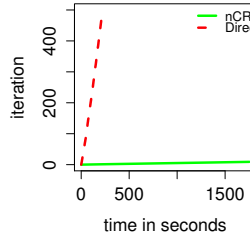


Table 2: Comparing run-time of two layer flexible nHDP (the DP-HDP) model

**Perplexity with Number of Layers:** We observe that addition of non-parametric layers lead to better generalization performance over a finite model. Also a deeper model with more layers leads to better generalization performance

**Comparing Direct and Indirect Sampling:** We run the direct sampling and the Indirect sampling algorithm, on a two level nested non-parametric flexible model (DP-HDP model) and a comparison

<sup>2</sup><http://www.arbylon.net/resources.html>

of run-time is shown in the figure. We observe that even for 2 layers, direct sampling scheme is significantly faster than the indirect sampling scheme.

## 5 Conclusion

We have proposed nested Hierarchical Dirichlet Processes (nHDP) for deep multilevel non-parametric admixture modeling. We further explore relations between such a nested infinite admixture model and its finite counterparts, and show that the deep nested HDP arises as infinite limit of deep finite admixture models. We have explored two techniques for posterior inference based on the Gibbs sampling and show that the direct sampling technique scales efficiently for arbitrarily deep models. We experimentally show that the deep nHDP leads to better perplexity for document modeling with more nested layers to capture more complex relationships in data.

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