

# DGM HW1 Written part

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## Problem 2a

Given data  $x$  (binary images for MNIST) and latent variable  $z$ , ELBO can be expressed as:

$$\log p(x) \geq E_{q(z|x)} \left[ \frac{\log p(x, z)}{q(z|x)} \right] = \text{ELBO}$$

Give a detailed mathematical proof of the ELBO starting from the marginal log-likelihood  $\log p(x)$ . Show all steps clearly

Proof: The first step is to represent  $\log p(x)$  as an integral since we must deduce something involve mathematical expectation  $E[\cdot]$ , which is an integral of density. Recall that  $p(x)$  is the marginal distribution of joint distribution  $p(x, z)$ , so

$$\log p(x) = \log \int_{R^d} p(x, z) dz$$

In order to have  $q(z|x)$ , we simply multiply and then divide  $q(z|x)$ :

$$\log p(x) = \log \int_{R^d} p(x, z) dz = \log \int_{R^d} \frac{p(x, z)}{q(z|x)} q(z|x) dz$$

we have reached an critical point, first let  $a = \int_{R^d} \frac{p(x, z)}{q(z|x)} q(z|x) dz$ , then we find

$$\log x \leq \frac{x - a}{a} + \log a \quad \forall x > 0$$

To see this, it suffices to notice that the function  $f(x) = \log x - \frac{x-a}{a} + \log a$  satisfies  $f'(x) = \frac{1}{x} - \frac{1}{a}$ , hence is increase on  $(0, a)$ , decrease on  $(a, +\infty)$ , hence  $f(x) \leq f(a)$

Now let  $x = \frac{p(x, z)}{q(z|x)}$ , then multiy  $q(z|x)$  on both sides yields

$$\log\left(\frac{p(x, z)}{q(z|x)}\right) q(z|x) \leq \frac{1}{a} q(z|x) \frac{p(x, z)}{q(z|x)} - q(z|x) + q(z|x) \log a$$

The above formula seems little ugly but indeed we can easily modify it, first, take integral with respect to  $z \in R^d$  on both sides, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{R^d} \log\left(\frac{p(x, z)}{q(z|x)}\right) q(z|x) dz &\leq \int_{R^d} \frac{1}{a} q(z|x) \frac{p(x, z)}{q(z|x)} dz - \int_{R^d} q(z|x) dz + \int_{R^d} q(z|x) \log a dz \\ &= \frac{1}{a} \int_{R^d} q(z|x) \frac{p(x, z)}{q(z|x)} dz - 1 + \log a \int_{R^d} q(z|x) dz \end{aligned}$$

where we used the fact that:  $\int_{R^d} q(z|x) dz = \int_{R^d} \frac{q(z, x)}{q(x)} dz = \frac{q(x)}{q(x)} = 1$ . ( $q(x)$  is the marginal distribution of joint distribution  $q(z, x)$ )

Recall that  $a = \int_{R^d} q(z|x) \frac{p(x,z)}{q(z|x)} dz$ , we have

$$\int_{R^d} \log\left(\frac{p(x,z)}{q(z|x)}\right) q(z|x) dz \leq 1 - 1 + \log a = \log \int_{R^d} q(z|x) \frac{p(x,z)}{q(z|x)} dz$$

The left hand side =  $E_{q(z|x)}[\log \frac{p(x,z)}{q(z|x)}]$ , the right hand side =  $\log p(x)$ , thus we get the desired result.

### Problem 3a

Assume that:

- The prior  $p(z)$  is a standard Gaussian distribution:  $p(z) = \mathcal{N}(z; 0, I)$ .
- The approximate posterior  $q(z|x)$  is a Gaussian distribution with mean  $\mu(x)$  and diagonal covariance matrix  $\text{diag}(\sigma^2(x))$ :  $q(z|x) = \mathcal{N}(z; \mu(x), \text{diag}(\sigma^2(x)))$ .

The ELBO can then be expressed as:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{ELBO} &= E_{q(z|x)} [\log p(x|z)] - D_{\text{KL}}(q(z|x) \parallel p(z)) \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \sum_d (1 + \log((\sigma_d)^2) - (\mu_d)^2 - (\sigma_d)^2) + \sum_{i,j} \log p(x_i|z_{i,j}) \end{aligned}$$

where  $d$  is the dimension of the latent space, and  $i, j$  are the indices of the data and the latent samples, respectively.

Give a detailed mathematical proof of the above ELBO decomposition. Show all steps clearly

Proof: By the previous problem, we know

$$\begin{aligned} \text{ELBO} &= E_{q(z|x)} \left[ \frac{\log p(x,z)}{q(z|x)} \right] = E_{q(z|x)} [\log \frac{p(x,z)}{q(z|x)}] = E_{q(z|x)} [\log p(x|z)] - E_{q(z|x)} [\log \frac{q(z|x)}{p(z)}] \\ &= E_{q(z|x)} [\log p(x|z)] - D_{\text{KL}}(q(z|x) \parallel p(z)) \end{aligned}$$

Now use our condition of  $q(z|x), p(z)$ ,

$$D_{\text{KL}}(q(z|x) \parallel p(z)) = E_{q(z|x)} [\log \frac{q(z|x)}{p(z)}] = \int_{R^d} [\log q(z|x) - \log p(z)] q(z|x) dz$$

Recall the knowledge of Multivariate normal distribution, we know

$$\log q(z|x) = \log \frac{1}{(2\pi)^{\frac{d}{2}} |\Sigma|^{\frac{1}{2}}} e^{-\frac{(z-\mu(x))^T \Sigma^{-1} (z-\mu(x))}{2}} \quad \Sigma = \text{diag}(\sigma^2(x))$$

where  $|A|$  means the determinate of A if A is a matrix.

$$= -\frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^d \frac{(z_i - \mu(x)_i)^2}{\sigma_i^2} - \frac{d}{2} \log 2\pi - \log \sqrt{\prod_{i=1}^d \sigma_i^2}$$

Since  $p(z)$  is standard multivariate normal distribution, similar as  $q(z|x)$ , with  $\sigma_i = 1, \mu_i(x) = 0$ , we have

$$\log p(z) = -\frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^d z_i^2 - \frac{d}{2} \log 2\pi - \log 1 = -\frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^d z_i^2 - \frac{d}{2} \log 2\pi$$

Hence we have

$$D_{\text{KL}}(q(z|x) \parallel p(z)) = \int_{R^d} \left[ \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^d z_i^2 - \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^d \frac{(z_i - \mu(x)_i)^2}{\sigma_i^2} - \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^d \log \sigma_i^2 \right] q(z|x) dz$$

$$= \int_{R^d} \left[ \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^d z_i^2 - \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^d \frac{(z_i - \mu(x)_i)^2}{\sigma_i^2} \right] q(z|x) dz - \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^d \log \sigma_i^2$$

Next we calculate the first term in the above integral:

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{R^d} z_i^2 q(z|x) dz &= \int_{R^d} z_i^2 \frac{1}{(2\pi)^{\frac{d}{2}} |\Sigma|^{\frac{1}{2}}} e^{-\frac{(z-\mu(x))^T \Sigma^{-1} (z-\mu(x))}{2}} dz \\ &\stackrel{y_j = z_j - \mu(x)_j}{\Rightarrow} \int_{R^d} (y_i + \mu(x)_i)^2 \frac{1}{(2\pi)^{\frac{d}{2}} \prod_{j=1}^d \sigma_j} e^{-\frac{\sum_{j=1}^d \frac{y_j^2}{2\sigma_j^2}}{2}} dy \\ &= \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} (y_i + \mu(x)_i)^2 \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma_i} e^{-\frac{y_i^2}{2\sigma_i^2}} dy_i \prod_{j \geq 1 \& j \neq i}^d \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma_j} e^{-\frac{y_j^2}{2\sigma_j^2}} dy_j \\ &= \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} (y_i + \mu(x)_i)^2 \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma_i} e^{-\frac{y_i^2}{2\sigma_i^2}} dy_i = \sigma_i^2 + 2\mu_i(x) \cdot 0 + \mu(x)_i^2 \cdot 1 = \sigma_i^2 + \mu(x)_i^2 \end{aligned}$$

Do this for all  $1 \leq i \leq d$ , we have

$$\int_{R^d} \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^d z_i^2 q(z|x) dz = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^d [\sigma_i^2 + \mu(x)_i^2]$$

For the second term:

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{R^d} \frac{(z_i - \mu(x)_i)^2}{\sigma_i^2} q(z|x) dz &= \int_{R^d} \frac{(z_i - \mu(x)_i)^2}{\sigma_i^2} \frac{1}{(2\pi)^{\frac{d}{2}} |\Sigma|^{\frac{1}{2}}} e^{-\frac{(z-\mu(x))^T \Sigma^{-1} (z-\mu(x))}{2}} dz \\ &\stackrel{y_j = z_j - \mu(x)_j}{\Rightarrow} \int_{R^d} \frac{y_i^2}{\sigma_i^2} \frac{1}{(2\pi)^{\frac{d}{2}} \prod_{j=1}^d \sigma_j} e^{-\frac{\sum_{j=1}^d \frac{y_j^2}{2\sigma_j^2}}{2}} dy \\ &= \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \frac{y_i^2}{\sigma_i^2} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma_i} e^{-\frac{y_i^2}{2\sigma_i^2}} dy_i \prod_{j \geq 1 \& j \neq i}^d \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma_j} e^{-\frac{y_j^2}{2\sigma_j^2}} dy_j = \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \frac{y_i^2}{\sigma_i^2} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma_i} e^{-\frac{y_i^2}{2\sigma_i^2}} dy_i = \frac{\sigma_i^2}{\sigma_i^2} = 1 \end{aligned}$$

Combine those calculation yields

$$D_{KL}(q(z|x)||p(z)) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^d [\sigma_i^2 + \mu(x)_i^2] - \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^d 1 - \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^d \log \sigma_i^2 = -\frac{1}{2} \sum_d [1 + \log \sigma^2 - \mu(x)^2 - \sigma^2]$$

For  $E_{q(z|x)}[\log p(x|z)]$ , we directly use the Monte-Carlo sampling so that  $E_{q(z|x)}[\log p(x|z)]$  can be approximated as

$$\sum_{i,j} \log p(x_i|z_{ij})$$

Hence

$$ELBO = \sum_{i,j} \log p(x_i|z_{ij}) + \frac{1}{2} \sum_d [1 + \log \sigma^2 - \mu(x)^2 - \sigma^2]$$