

# Deep Generative Models

## Lecture 4

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# Recap of previous lecture

## Variational lower Bound (ELBO)

$$\log p(\mathbf{x}|\boldsymbol{\theta}) = \mathcal{L}(q, \boldsymbol{\theta}) + KL(q(\mathbf{z})||p(\mathbf{z}|\mathbf{x}, \boldsymbol{\theta})) \geq \mathcal{L}(q, \boldsymbol{\theta}).$$

$$\mathcal{L}(q, \boldsymbol{\theta}) = \int q(\mathbf{z}) \log \frac{p(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z}|\boldsymbol{\theta})}{q(\mathbf{z})} d\mathbf{z} = \mathbb{E}_q \log p(\mathbf{x}|\mathbf{z}, \boldsymbol{\theta}) - KL(q(\mathbf{z})||p(\mathbf{z}))$$

## Log-likelihood decomposition

$$\log p(\mathbf{x}|\boldsymbol{\theta}) = \mathbb{E}_q \log p(\mathbf{x}|\mathbf{z}, \boldsymbol{\theta}) - KL(q(\mathbf{z})||p(\mathbf{z})) + KL(q(\mathbf{z})||p(\mathbf{z}|\mathbf{x}, \boldsymbol{\theta})).$$

- Instead of maximizing incomplete likelihood, maximize ELBO

$$\max_{\boldsymbol{\theta}} p(\mathbf{x}|\boldsymbol{\theta}) \rightarrow \max_{q, \boldsymbol{\theta}} \mathcal{L}(q, \boldsymbol{\theta})$$

- Maximization of ELBO by variational distribution  $q$  is equivalent to minimization of KL

$$\arg \max_q \mathcal{L}(q, \boldsymbol{\theta}) \equiv \arg \min_q KL(q(\mathbf{z})||p(\mathbf{z}|\mathbf{x}, \boldsymbol{\theta})).$$

# Recap of previous lecture

## EM-algorithm

### ► E-step

$$q^*(\mathbf{z}) = \arg \max_q \mathcal{L}(q, \boldsymbol{\theta}^*) = \arg \min_q KL(q(\mathbf{z}) || p(\mathbf{z} | \mathbf{x}, \boldsymbol{\theta}^*));$$

### ► M-step

$$\boldsymbol{\theta}^* = \arg \max_{\boldsymbol{\theta}} \mathcal{L}(q^*, \boldsymbol{\theta});$$

## Amortized variational inference

Restrict a family of all possible distributions  $q(\mathbf{z})$  to a parametric class  $q(\mathbf{z} | \mathbf{x}, \phi)$  conditioned on samples  $\mathbf{x}$  with parameters  $\phi$ .

## Variational Bayes

### ► E-step

$$\phi_k = \phi_{k-1} + \eta \nabla_{\phi} \mathcal{L}(\phi, \boldsymbol{\theta}_{k-1})|_{\phi=\phi_{k-1}}$$

### ► M-step

$$\boldsymbol{\theta}_k = \boldsymbol{\theta}_{k-1} + \eta \nabla_{\boldsymbol{\theta}} \mathcal{L}(\phi_k, \boldsymbol{\theta})|_{\boldsymbol{\theta}=\boldsymbol{\theta}_{k-1}}$$

## Recap of previous lecture

$$\mathcal{L}(\phi, \theta) = \mathbb{E}_{q(\mathbf{z}|\mathbf{x}, \phi)} \left[ \log p(\mathbf{x}|\mathbf{z}, \theta) - \log \frac{q(\mathbf{z}|\mathbf{x}, \phi)}{p(\mathbf{z})} \right] \rightarrow \max_{\phi, \theta}.$$

M-step:  $\nabla_{\theta} \mathcal{L}(\phi, \theta)$ , Monte Carlo estimation

$$\begin{aligned} \nabla_{\theta} \mathcal{L}(\phi, \theta) &= \int q(\mathbf{z}|\mathbf{x}, \phi) \nabla_{\theta} \log p(\mathbf{x}|\mathbf{z}, \theta) d\mathbf{z} \approx \\ &\approx \nabla_{\theta} \log p(\mathbf{x}|\mathbf{z}^*, \theta), \quad \mathbf{z}^* \sim q(\mathbf{z}|\mathbf{x}, \phi). \end{aligned}$$

E-step:  $\nabla_{\phi} \mathcal{L}(\phi, \theta)$ , reparametrization trick

$$\begin{aligned} \nabla_{\phi} \mathcal{L}(\phi, \theta) &= \int r(\epsilon) \nabla_{\phi} \log p(\mathbf{x}|g(\mathbf{x}, \epsilon, \phi), \theta) d\epsilon - \nabla_{\phi} \text{KL} \\ &\approx \nabla_{\phi} \log p(\mathbf{x}|g(\mathbf{x}, \epsilon^*, \phi), \theta) - \nabla_{\phi} \text{KL} \end{aligned}$$

Variational assumption

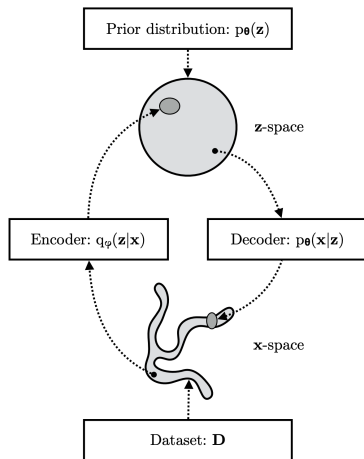
$$r(\epsilon) = \mathcal{N}(0, \mathbf{I}); \quad q(\mathbf{z}|\mathbf{x}, \phi) = \mathcal{N}(\mu_{\phi}(\mathbf{x}), \sigma_{\phi}^2(\mathbf{x})).$$

$$\mathbf{z} = g(\mathbf{x}, \epsilon, \phi) = \sigma_{\phi}(\mathbf{x}) \cdot \epsilon + \mu_{\phi}(\mathbf{x}).$$

# Recap of previous lecture

## Variational autoencoder (VAE)

- ▶ VAE learns stochastic mapping between  $\mathbf{x}$ -space, from  $\pi(\mathbf{x})$ , and a latent  $\mathbf{z}$ -space, with simple distribution.
- ▶ The generative model learns distribution  $p(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z} | \theta) = p(\mathbf{z})p(\mathbf{x} | \mathbf{z}, \theta)$ , with a prior distribution  $p(\mathbf{z})$ , and a stochastic decoder  $p(\mathbf{x} | \mathbf{z}, \theta)$ .
- ▶ The stochastic encoder  $q(\mathbf{z} | \mathbf{x}, \phi)$  (inference model), approximates the true but intractable posterior  $p(\mathbf{z} | \mathbf{x}, \theta)$ .



# Outline

## 1. VAE limitations

- Posterior collapse and decoder weakening techniques
- Tighter variational bound

## 2. Normalizing flows prerequisites

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# VAE limitations

- ▶ Poor generative distribution (decoder)

$$p(\mathbf{x}|\mathbf{z}, \boldsymbol{\theta}) = \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{x}|\boldsymbol{\mu}_{\boldsymbol{\theta}}(\mathbf{z}), \boldsymbol{\sigma}_{\boldsymbol{\theta}}^2(\mathbf{z})) \quad \text{or} \quad = \text{Softmax}(\boldsymbol{\pi}_{\boldsymbol{\theta}}(\mathbf{z})).$$

- ▶ Loose lower bound

$$\log p(\mathbf{x}|\boldsymbol{\theta}) - \mathcal{L}(q, \boldsymbol{\theta}) = (?).$$

- ▶ Poor prior distribution

$$p(\mathbf{z}) = \mathcal{N}(0, \mathbf{I}).$$

- ▶ Poor variational posterior distribution (encoder)

$$q(\mathbf{z}|\mathbf{x}, \boldsymbol{\phi}) = \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{z}|\boldsymbol{\mu}_{\boldsymbol{\phi}}(\mathbf{x}), \boldsymbol{\sigma}_{\boldsymbol{\phi}}^2(\mathbf{x})).$$



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# VAE limitations

- ▶ **Poor generative distribution (decoder)**

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# Posterior collapse

## LVM

$$p(\mathbf{x}|\boldsymbol{\theta}) = \int p(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z}|\boldsymbol{\theta}) d\mathbf{z} = \int p(\mathbf{x}|\mathbf{z}, \boldsymbol{\theta}) p(\mathbf{z}) d\mathbf{z}$$

## ELBO objective

$$\mathcal{L}(\phi, \boldsymbol{\theta}) = \mathbb{E}_{q(\mathbf{z}|\mathbf{x}, \phi)} \log p(\mathbf{x}|\mathbf{z}, \boldsymbol{\theta}) - KL(q(\mathbf{z}|\mathbf{x}, \phi) || p(\mathbf{z})).$$

More powerful  $p(\mathbf{x}|\mathbf{z}, \boldsymbol{\theta})$  leads to more powerful generative model  $p(\mathbf{x}|\boldsymbol{\theta})$ .

## Extreme cast

$$p(\mathbf{x}|\boldsymbol{\theta}) \in \mathcal{P} = \{p(\mathbf{x}|\mathbf{z}, \boldsymbol{\theta}) | \forall \mathbf{z}, \boldsymbol{\theta}\}.$$

If the decoder  $p(\mathbf{x}|\mathbf{z}, \boldsymbol{\theta})$  is too powerful (it could model  $p(\mathbf{x}|\boldsymbol{\theta})$ ), then ELBO avoids paying any cost  $KL(q(\mathbf{z}|\mathbf{x}, \phi) || p(\mathbf{z}))$  ( $q(\mathbf{z}|\mathbf{x}, \phi) \approx p(\mathbf{z})$ ), the variational posterior  $q(\mathbf{z}|\mathbf{x}, \phi)$  will not carry any information about  $\mathbf{x}$ , the latent variables  $\mathbf{z}$  becomes irrelevant.

# Autoregressive VAE decoder

How to make the generative model  $p(\mathbf{x}|\mathbf{z}, \theta)$  more powerful?

PixelVAE/VLAE

$$p(\mathbf{x}|\mathbf{z}, \theta) = \prod_{j=1}^m p(x_j | \mathbf{x}_{1:j-1}, \mathbf{z}, \theta)$$

- ▶ Global structure is captured by latent variables  $\mathbf{z}$ .
- ▶ Local statistics are captured by limited receptive field of autoregressive context  $\mathbf{x}_{1:j-1}$ .

PixelVAE/VLAE models use the autoregressive PixelCNN decoder model with small number of layers to limit receptive field.

# Decoder weakening techniques

How to force the model encode information about  $\mathbf{x}$  into  $\mathbf{z}$ ?

## KL annealing

$$\mathcal{L}(\phi, \theta, \beta) = \mathbb{E}_{q(\mathbf{z}|\mathbf{x}, \phi)} \log p(\mathbf{x}|\mathbf{z}, \theta) - \beta \cdot KL(q(\mathbf{z}|\mathbf{x}, \phi) || p(\mathbf{z}))$$

Start training with  $\beta = 0$ , increase it until  $\beta = 1$  during training.

## Free bits

$$\mathcal{L}(\phi, \theta, \lambda) = \mathbb{E}_{q(\mathbf{z}|\mathbf{x}, \phi)} \log p(\mathbf{x}|\mathbf{z}, \theta) - \max(\lambda, KL(q(\mathbf{z}|\mathbf{x}, \phi) || p(\mathbf{z}))).$$

It ensures the use of less than  $\lambda$  bits of information and results in  $KL(q(\mathbf{z}|\mathbf{x}, \phi) || p(\mathbf{z})) \geq \lambda$ .

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Bowman S. R. et al. *Generating Sentences from a Continuous Space*, 2015

Kingma D. P. et al. *Improving Variational Inference with Inverse Autoregressive Flow*, 2016

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# VAE limitations

- ▶ Poor generative distribution (decoder)

$$p(\mathbf{x}|\mathbf{z}, \boldsymbol{\theta}) = \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{x}|\boldsymbol{\mu}_{\boldsymbol{\theta}}(\mathbf{z}), \boldsymbol{\sigma}_{\boldsymbol{\theta}}^2(\mathbf{z})) \quad \text{or} \quad = \text{Softmax}(\boldsymbol{\pi}_{\boldsymbol{\theta}}(\mathbf{z})).$$

- ▶ **Loose lower bound**

$$\log p(\mathbf{x}|\boldsymbol{\theta}) - \mathcal{L}(q, \boldsymbol{\theta}) = (?).$$

- ▶ Poor prior distribution

$$p(\mathbf{z}) = \mathcal{N}(0, \mathbf{I}).$$

- ▶ Poor variational posterior distribution (encoder)

$$q(\mathbf{z}|\mathbf{x}, \boldsymbol{\phi}) = \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{z}|\boldsymbol{\mu}_{\boldsymbol{\phi}}(\mathbf{x}), \boldsymbol{\sigma}_{\boldsymbol{\phi}}^2(\mathbf{x})).$$

# Importance sampling

## LVM

$$\begin{aligned} p(\mathbf{x}|\boldsymbol{\theta}) &= \int p(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z}|\boldsymbol{\theta}) d\mathbf{z} = \int \left[ \frac{p(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z}|\boldsymbol{\theta})}{q(\mathbf{z}|\mathbf{x}, \phi)} \right] q(\mathbf{z}|\mathbf{x}, \phi) d\mathbf{z} \\ &= \int f(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z}) q(\mathbf{z}|\mathbf{x}, \phi) d\mathbf{z} = \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{z} \sim q(\mathbf{z}|\mathbf{x}, \phi)} f(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z}) \end{aligned}$$

Here  $f(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z}) = \frac{p(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z}|\boldsymbol{\theta})}{q(\mathbf{z}|\mathbf{x}, \phi)}$ .

## ELBO: derivation 1

$$\begin{aligned} \log p(\mathbf{x}|\boldsymbol{\theta}) &= \log \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{z} \sim q(\mathbf{z}|\mathbf{x}, \phi)} f(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z}) \geq \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{z} \sim q(\mathbf{z}|\mathbf{x}, \phi)} \log f(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z}) = \\ &= \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{z} \sim q(\mathbf{z}|\mathbf{x}, \phi)} \log \frac{p(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z}|\boldsymbol{\theta})}{q(\mathbf{z}|\mathbf{x}, \phi)} = \mathcal{L}(q, \boldsymbol{\theta}). \end{aligned}$$

$f(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z})$  could be any function that satisfies  $p(\mathbf{x}|\boldsymbol{\theta}) = \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{z} \sim q} f(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z})$ .  
Could we choose better  $f(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z})$ ?



# Importance Weighted Autoencoders (IWAE)

$$p(\mathbf{x}|\theta) = \int \left[ \frac{p(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z}|\theta)}{q(\mathbf{z}|\mathbf{x}, \phi)} \right] q(\mathbf{z}|\mathbf{x}, \phi) d\mathbf{z} = \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{z} \sim q(\mathbf{z}|\mathbf{x}, \phi)} f(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z})$$

Let define

$$f(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z}_1, \dots, \mathbf{z}_K) = \frac{1}{K} \sum_{k=1}^K \frac{p(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z}_k|\theta)}{q(\mathbf{z}_k|\mathbf{x}, \phi)}$$

$$\mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{z}_1, \dots, \mathbf{z}_K \sim q(\mathbf{z}|\mathbf{x}, \phi)} f(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z}_1, \dots, \mathbf{z}_K) = p(\mathbf{x}|\theta)$$

## ELBO

$$\begin{aligned} \log p(\mathbf{x}|\theta) &= \log \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{z}_1, \dots, \mathbf{z}_K \sim q(\mathbf{z}|\mathbf{x})} f(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z}_1, \dots, \mathbf{z}_K) \geq \\ &\geq \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{z}_1, \dots, \mathbf{z}_K \sim q(\mathbf{z}|\mathbf{x}, \phi)} \log f(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z}_1, \dots, \mathbf{z}_K) = \\ &= \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{z}_1, \dots, \mathbf{z}_K \sim q(\mathbf{z}|\mathbf{x}, \phi)} \log \left[ \frac{1}{K} \sum_{k=1}^K \frac{p(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z}_k|\theta)}{q(\mathbf{z}_k|\mathbf{x}, \phi)} \right] = \mathcal{L}_K(q, \theta). \end{aligned}$$

# Importance Weighted Autoencoders (IWAE)

## VAE objective

$$\log p(\mathbf{x}|\boldsymbol{\theta}) \geq \mathcal{L}(q, \boldsymbol{\theta}) = \mathbb{E}_{q(\mathbf{z}|\mathbf{x}, \phi)} \log \frac{p(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z}|\boldsymbol{\theta})}{q(\mathbf{z}|\mathbf{x}, \phi)} \rightarrow \max_{q, \boldsymbol{\theta}}$$

$$\mathcal{L}(q, \boldsymbol{\theta}) = \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{z}_1, \dots, \mathbf{z}_K \sim q(\mathbf{z}|\mathbf{x}, \phi)} \left( \frac{1}{K} \sum_{k=1}^K \log \frac{p(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z}_k|\boldsymbol{\theta})}{q(\mathbf{z}_k|\mathbf{x}, \phi)} \right) \rightarrow \max_{q, \boldsymbol{\theta}}.$$

## IWAE objective

$$\mathcal{L}_K(q, \boldsymbol{\theta}) = \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{z}_1, \dots, \mathbf{z}_K \sim q(\mathbf{z}|\mathbf{x}, \phi)} \log \left( \frac{1}{K} \sum_{k=1}^K \frac{p(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z}_k|\boldsymbol{\theta})}{q(\mathbf{z}_k|\mathbf{x}, \phi)} \right) \rightarrow \max_{q, \boldsymbol{\theta}}.$$

If  $K = 1$ , these objectives coincide.

# Importance Weighted Autoencoders (IWAE)

## Theorem

1.  $\log p(\mathbf{x}|\theta) \geq \mathcal{L}_K(q, \theta) \geq \mathcal{L}_M(q, \theta)$ , for  $K \geq M$ ;
2.  $\log p(\mathbf{x}|\theta) = \lim_{K \rightarrow \infty} \mathcal{L}_K(q, \theta)$  if  $\frac{p(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z}|\theta)}{q(\mathbf{z}|\mathbf{x}, \phi)}$  is bounded.

If  $K > 1$  the bound could be tighter.

$$\mathcal{L}(q, \theta) = \mathbb{E}_{q(\mathbf{z}|\mathbf{x}, \phi)} \log \frac{p(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z}|\theta)}{q(\mathbf{z}|\mathbf{x}, \phi)};$$

$$\mathcal{L}_K(q, \theta) = \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{z}_1, \dots, \mathbf{z}_K \sim q(\mathbf{z}|\mathbf{x}, \phi)} \log \left( \frac{1}{K} \sum_{k=1}^K \frac{p(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z}_k|\theta)}{q(\mathbf{z}_k|\mathbf{x}, \phi)} \right).$$

- ▶  $\mathcal{L}_1(q, \theta) = \mathcal{L}(q, \theta)$ ;
- ▶  $\mathcal{L}_\infty(q, \theta) = \log p(\mathbf{x}|\theta)$ .
- ▶ Which  $q^*(\mathbf{z}|\mathbf{x}, \phi)$  gives  $\mathcal{L}(q^*, \theta) = \log p(\mathbf{x}|\theta)$ ?

# Importance Weighted Autoencoders (IWAE)

## Objective

$$\mathcal{L}_K(q, \theta) = \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{z}_1, \dots, \mathbf{z}_K \sim q(\mathbf{z}|\mathbf{x}, \phi)} \log \left( \frac{1}{K} \sum_{k=1}^K \frac{p(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z}_k | \theta)}{q(\mathbf{z}_k | \mathbf{x}, \phi)} \right) \rightarrow \max_{\phi, \theta}.$$

## Theorem

Gradient signal of  $q(\mathbf{z}|\mathbf{x}, \phi)$  vanishes as  $K$  increases:

$$\Delta_K = \nabla_{\theta, \phi} \mathcal{L}_K(q, \theta); \quad \text{SNR}_K = \frac{\mathbb{E}[\Delta_K]}{\sigma(\Delta_K)};$$

$$\text{SNR}_K(\theta) = O(\sqrt{K}); \quad \text{SNR}_K(\phi) = O\left(\sqrt{K^{-1}}\right).$$

- ▶ IWAE makes the variational bound tighter and extends the class of variational distributions.
- ▶ Gradient signal becomes really small, training is complicated.
- ▶ IWAE is a standard quality measure for VAE models.

# Outline

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## 2. Normalizing flows prerequisites

# Likelihood-based models so far...

## Autoregressive models

$$p(\mathbf{x}|\boldsymbol{\theta}) = \prod_{j=1}^m p(x_j|\mathbf{x}_{1:j-1}, \boldsymbol{\theta})$$

- ▶ tractable likelihood,
- ▶ no inferred latent factors.

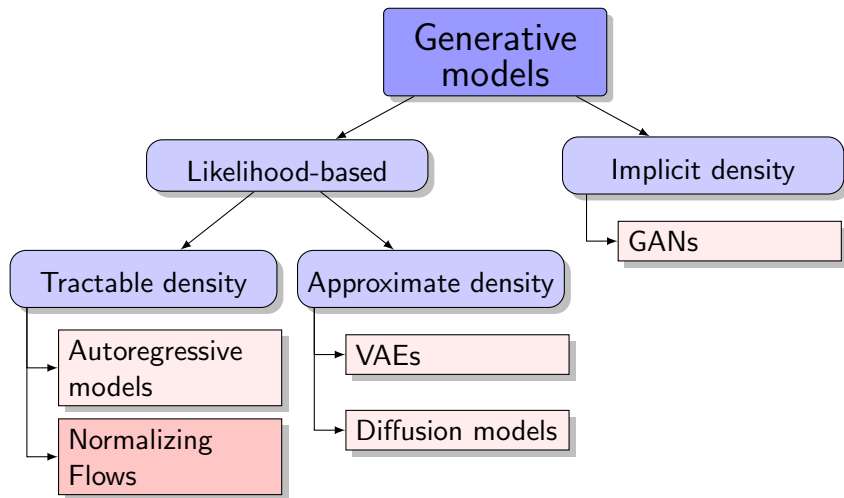
## Latent variable models

$$p(\mathbf{x}|\boldsymbol{\theta}) = \int p(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z}|\boldsymbol{\theta}) d\mathbf{z}$$

- ▶ latent feature representation,
- ▶ intractable likelihood.

How to build model with latent variables and tractable likelihood?

# Generative models zoo



# Normalizing flows prerequisites

## Jacobian matrix

Let  $f : \mathbb{R}^m \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$  be a differentiable function.

$$\mathbf{z} = f(\mathbf{x}), \quad \mathbf{J} = \frac{\partial \mathbf{z}}{\partial \mathbf{x}} = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{\partial z_1}{\partial x_1} & \cdots & \frac{\partial z_1}{\partial x_m} \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \frac{\partial z_m}{\partial x_1} & \cdots & \frac{\partial z_m}{\partial x_m} \end{pmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times m}$$

## Change of variable theorem (CoV)

Let  $\mathbf{x}$  be a random variable with density function  $p(\mathbf{x})$  and  $f : \mathbb{R}^m \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$  is a differentiable, **invertible** function (diffeomorphism). If  $\mathbf{z} = f(\mathbf{x})$ ,  $\mathbf{x} = f^{-1}(\mathbf{z}) = g(\mathbf{z})$ , then

$$p(\mathbf{x}) = p(\mathbf{z}) |\det(\mathbf{J}_f)| = p(\mathbf{z}) \left| \det \left( \frac{\partial \mathbf{z}}{\partial \mathbf{x}} \right) \right| = p(f(\mathbf{x})) \left| \det \left( \frac{\partial f(\mathbf{x})}{\partial \mathbf{x}} \right) \right|$$
$$p(\mathbf{z}) = p(\mathbf{x}) |\det(\mathbf{J}_g)| = p(\mathbf{x}) \left| \det \left( \frac{\partial \mathbf{x}}{\partial \mathbf{z}} \right) \right| = p(g(\mathbf{z})) \left| \det \left( \frac{\partial g(\mathbf{z})}{\partial \mathbf{z}} \right) \right|.$$



# Summary

- ▶ Standard VAE has several limitations that we will address later in the course.
- ▶ More powerful decoder in VAE leads to more expressive generative model. However, too expressive decoder could lead to the posterior collapse.
- ▶ The decoder weakening is a set of techniques to avoid the posterior collapse.
- ▶ The IWAE could get the tighter lower bound to the likelihood, but the training of such model becomes more difficult.
- ▶ Change of variable theorem allows to get the density function of the random variable under the invertible transformation.