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# VARIATIONAL AUTO ENCODER: A DERIVATION OF THE EVIDENCE LOWER BOUNDS FOR GAUSSIAN AND INVERSE-WISHART PRIORS

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## ABSTRACT

Variational Inference has recently gained traction as an efficient method for text and image generation. Much of the success of this model is attributed to its rather unique loss function used for the generative process. In this paper we present the mathematical details behind inference method and derive the Evidence lower bounds (ELBO) both for Gaussian and Inverse-Wishart priors.

**Keywords** Variational AutoEncoder; Evidence Lower Bound; Gaussian distribution; Inverse-Wishart distribution.

## 1 Introduction

## 2 Variational AutoEncoder (VAE)

Variational AutoEncoder (VAE) Kingma and Welling (2014) is a generative model and a derivative of Bayesian inference. Unlike autoencoder, VAE are more suited for image denoising or generation and textual data and have been used for unsupervised abstractive sentence summarization Schumann (2018) and long and coherent Text generation Shen, Celikyilmaz, Zhang, Chen, Wang, Gao, and Carin (2019) amongst others. VAE specifies a prior distribution  $p(z)$  to which an encoder with posterior probability  $q_\phi(z|x)$  should map all  $x$  by maximizing a variational lower bound on a decoder posterior probability  $p_\theta(x|z)$ .  $\phi$  and  $\theta$  are the parameters of the encoder and decoder respectively. Given an observation  $x_i$ , the marginal distribution over an unknown distribution is given as,

$$p_\theta(x_i) = \int_z p_\theta(x_i|z)p_\theta(z)dz, \quad (1)$$

The integral over  $z$  is computationally intractable for large number of  $z$  variables. We proceed by introducing the posterior distribution of a latent variable (encoder) in order to solve that challenge.

$$p_\theta(x_i) = \int_z p_\theta(x_i|z)p_\theta(z) \frac{q_\phi(z|x_i)}{q_\phi(z|x_i)} dz, \quad (2)$$

$$p_\theta(x_i) = \int_z q_\phi(z|x_i) \frac{p_\theta(x_i|z)p_\theta(z)}{q_\phi(z|x_i)} dz, \quad (3)$$

This can be transformed into an expectation form as,

$$p_\theta(x_i) = \mathbb{E}_{z \sim q_\phi(z|x_i)} \left[ \frac{p_\theta(x_i|z)p_\theta(z)}{q_\phi(z|x_i)} \right], \quad (4)$$

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We take the natural log of both sides as follows,

$$\ln p_\theta(x_i) = \ln \left( \mathbb{E}_{z \sim q_\phi(z|x_i)} \left[ \frac{p_\theta(x_i|z)p_\theta(z)}{q_\phi(z|x_i)} \right] \right), \quad (5)$$

From Jensen inequality, we know that  $\mathbb{E}[\ln X] \leq \ln[\mathbb{E}(X)]$ , hence,

$$\ln p_\theta(x_i) \geq \mathbb{E}_{z \sim q_\phi(z|x_i)} \left[ \ln \frac{p_\theta(x_i|z)p_\theta(z)}{q_\phi(z|x_i)} \right], \quad (6)$$

$$\ln p_\theta(x_i) \geq - \mathbb{E}_{z \sim q_\phi(z|x_i)} \left[ \ln \frac{q_\phi(z|x_i)}{p_\theta(z)} \right] + \mathbb{E}_{z \sim q_\phi(z|x_i)} [\ln p_\theta(x_i|z)], \quad (7)$$

$$\ln p_\theta(x_i) \geq \mathbb{E}_{z \sim q_\phi(z|x_i)} [\ln p_\theta(x_i|z)] - D_{KL}(q_\phi(z|x_i) \parallel p_\theta(z)), \quad (8)$$

The R.H.S of equation 8 is referred to as the **Evidence Lower Bound (ELBO)** since it is upper-bounded by the logarithm of the evidence  $p_\theta(x_i)$ .  $\mathbb{E}[\ln p_\theta(x_i|z)]$  is the reconstruction loss while  $D_{KL}(q_\phi(z|x_i) \parallel p_\theta(z))$  is a tractable regulation term known as Kullback-Leibler Divergence which ensures that the approximate posterior of the encoder  $q_\phi(z|x_i)$  does not deviate far from its latent prior  $p(z)$ .

the loss or objective function to be maximized is given by,

$$\mathcal{L}_{VAE}(\theta, \phi) = \mathbb{E}_{z \sim q_\phi(z|x_i)} [\log p_\theta(x_i|z)] - D_{KL}(q_\phi(z|x_i) \parallel p_\theta(z)) \quad (9)$$

For two multivariate normal distribution the closed-form for the objective loss function of VAE is given by,

$$\mathcal{L}_{VAE}(\theta, \phi) = \mathbb{E}_{z \sim q_\phi(z|x_i)} [\log p_\theta(x_i|z)] + \frac{1}{2} \left[ \ln \left| \frac{\Sigma_1}{\Sigma_0} \right| + m - \text{tr}(\Sigma_1 \Sigma_0^{-1}) - (\mu_1 - \mu_0)^T \Sigma_0^{-1} (\mu_1 - \mu_0) \right] \quad (10)$$

We train the VAE to find the optimal parameters

$$(\theta^*, \phi^*) = \text{argmax}_{(\theta, \phi)} \mathcal{L}_{VAE}(\theta, \phi), \quad (11)$$

Due to the lack of statistical independence of the observation in the latent space generated by VAE, we will adopt the Inverse-Wishart(IW) prior for latent space disentanglement, on the covariance matrix Ansari and Soh (2019). The inverse-Wishart distribution  $\mathcal{W}^{-1}(\Psi, \nu)$  is parameterized by a positive-definite scale matrix  $\Phi \in \mathbb{R}^{p \times p}$  and a degrees of freedom (DoF)  $\nu \geq p - 1$ . An inverse-Wishart distributed random matrix  $X \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times m}$  has probability density function given by,

$$p(X) = \frac{\Phi^{\frac{\nu}{2}}}{2^{\frac{\nu p}{2}} \Gamma_p(\frac{\nu}{2})} X^{-\frac{(\nu+p+1)}{2}} \exp^{-\frac{1}{2} \text{tr}(\Phi X^{-1})}, \quad (12)$$

where  $\Gamma_p(\cdot)$  is the multivariate gamma function. For the inference update,

$$p(\Sigma) \sim \mathcal{W}_p^{-1}(\Sigma|\Phi, \nu), \quad (13)$$

$$p(z|\Sigma) \sim \mathcal{N}(z|0, \Phi), \quad (14)$$

Where  $\Sigma$  is the covariance of the matrix  $X$ .

## 2.1 Objective function: Gaussian distribution

We recall the objective function for the VAE as,

$$\mathcal{L}_{VAE}(\theta, \phi) = \underbrace{-D_{KL}(q_\phi(z|x_i) \parallel p_\theta(z))}_{1 \text{ regularizer}} + \underbrace{\mathbb{E}_{z \sim q_\phi(z|x_i)} [\log p_\theta(x_i|z)]}_{2 \text{ reconstruction}} \quad (15)$$

We assume that the latent prior and the approximate posterior both follow a Gaussian distribution  $\mathcal{N}(\mu_0, \Sigma_0)$  and  $\mathcal{N}(\mu_1, \Sigma_1)$  respectively. We can compute the analytic closed form solutions for the two terms in the loss.

The Kullback-Liebler divergence  $D_{KL}(q_\phi(z|x_i) \parallel p_\theta(z))$  is given as,

$$D_{KL}(q_\phi(z|x_i) \parallel p_\theta(z)) = \mathbb{E}_{z \sim q_\phi(z|x_i)} \left[ \ln \frac{q_\phi(z|x_i)}{p_\theta(z)} \right] \quad (16)$$

$$D_{KL}(q_\phi(z|x_i) \parallel p_\theta(z)) = \mathbb{E}_{z \sim q_\phi(z|x_i)} [\ln q_\phi(z|x_i) - \ln p_\theta(z)] \quad (17)$$

$$D_{KL}(q_\phi(z|x_i) \parallel p_\theta(z)) = \mathbb{E}_{z \sim q_\phi(z|x_i)} [\ln \mathcal{N}(\mu_1, \Sigma_1) - \ln \mathcal{N}(\mu_0, \Sigma_0)] \quad (18)$$

$$D_{KL}(q_\phi(z|x_i) \parallel p_\theta(z)) = \mathbb{E}_{z \sim q_\phi(z|x_i)} \left[ \ln \frac{1}{(2\pi)^{\frac{m}{2}} |\Sigma_1|^{\frac{1}{2}}} e^{-\frac{1}{2} \|x - \mu_1\|_{\Sigma_1^{-1}}^2} \right] \\ - \mathbb{E}_{z \sim q_\phi(z|x_i)} \left[ \ln \frac{1}{(2\pi)^{\frac{m}{2}} |\Sigma_0|^{\frac{1}{2}}} e^{-\frac{1}{2} \|x - \mu_0\|_{\Sigma_0^{-1}}^2} \right] \quad (19)$$

$$D_{KL}(q_\phi(z|x_i) \parallel p_\theta(z)) = \mathbb{E}_{z \sim q_\phi(z|x_i)} \left[ -\frac{d}{2} \ln 2\pi - \frac{1}{2} \ln |\Sigma_1| - \frac{1}{2} \|x - \mu_1\|_{\Sigma_1^{-1}}^2 \right] \\ - \mathbb{E}_{z \sim q_\phi(z|x_i)} \left[ -\frac{d}{2} \ln 2\pi - \frac{1}{2} \ln |\Sigma_0| - \frac{1}{2} \|x - \mu_0\|_{\Sigma_0^{-1}}^2 \right] \quad (20)$$

$$D_{KL}(q_\phi(z|x_i) \parallel p_\theta(z)) = \mathbb{E}_{z \sim q_\phi(z|x_i)} \left[ \frac{1}{2} \ln \left| \frac{\Sigma_0}{\Sigma_1} \right| - \frac{1}{2} \|x - \mu_1\|_{\Sigma_1^{-1}}^2 + \frac{1}{2} \|x - \mu_0\|_{\Sigma_0^{-1}}^2 \right] \quad (21)$$

$$D_{KL}(q_\phi(z|x_i) \parallel p_\theta(z)) = \frac{1}{2} \mathbb{E}_{z \sim q_\phi(z|x_i)} \left[ \ln \left| \frac{\Sigma_0}{\Sigma_1} \right| - (x - \mu_1)^T \Sigma_1^{-1} (x - \mu_1) + \|x - \mu_0\|_{\Sigma_0^{-1}}^2 \right] \quad (22)$$

Introducing the trace operator, we have that,

$$D_{KL}(q_\phi(z|x_i) \parallel p_\theta(z)) = \frac{1}{2} \mathbb{E}_{z \sim q_\phi(z|x_i)} \left[ \ln \left| \frac{\Sigma_0}{\Sigma_1} \right| - \text{tr}[(x - \mu_1)^T \Sigma_1^{-1} (x - \mu_1)] + \|x - \mu_0\|_{\Sigma_0^{-1}}^2 \right] \quad (23)$$

$$D_{KL}(q_\phi(z|x_i) \parallel p_\theta(z)) = \frac{1}{2} \mathbb{E}_{z \sim q_\phi(z|x_i)} \left[ \ln \left| \frac{\Sigma_0}{\Sigma_1} \right| - \text{tr}[(x - \mu_1)(x - \mu_1)^T \Sigma_1^{-1}] + \|x - \mu_0\|_{\Sigma_0^{-1}}^2 \right] \quad (24)$$

$$D_{KL}(q_\phi(z|x_i) \parallel p_\theta(z)) = \frac{1}{2} \mathbb{E}_{z \sim q_\phi(z|x_i)} \left[ \ln \left| \frac{\Sigma_0}{\Sigma_1} \right| - \text{tr}[\Sigma_1 \Sigma_1^{-1}] + \|x - \mu_0\|_{\Sigma_0^{-1}}^2 \right] \quad (25)$$

$$D_{KL}(q_\phi(z|x_i) \parallel p_\theta(z)) = \frac{1}{2} \mathbb{E}_{z \sim q_\phi(z|x_i)} \left[ \ln \left| \frac{\Sigma_0}{\Sigma_1} \right| - \text{tr}[I] + \|x - \mu_0\|_{\Sigma_0^{-1}}^2 \right] \quad (26)$$

$$D_{KL}(q_\phi(z|x_i) \parallel p_\theta(z)) = \frac{1}{2} \left[ \ln \left| \frac{\Sigma_0}{\Sigma_1} \right| - m \right] + \frac{1}{2} \mathbb{E}_{z \sim q_\phi(z|x_i)} \left[ \text{tr}[\|x - \mu_0\|_{\Sigma_0^{-1}}^2] \right] \quad (27)$$

We expand the second term on the right hand side (R.H.S) as follows,

$$\frac{1}{2} \mathbb{E}_{z \sim q_\phi(z|x_i)} \left[ \text{tr}[\|x - \mu_0\|_{\Sigma_0^{-1}}^2] \right] = \frac{1}{2} \mathbb{E}_{z \sim q_\phi(z|x_i)} \left[ \text{tr} \left[ (x_i - \mu_0)^T \Sigma_0^{-1} (x_i - \mu_0) \right] \right] \quad (28)$$

$$\frac{1}{2} \mathbb{E}_{z \sim q_\phi(z|x_i)} \left[ \text{tr}[\|x - \mu_0\|_{\Sigma_0^{-1}}^2] \right] = \frac{1}{2} \mathbb{E}_{z \sim q_\phi(z|x_i)} \left[ \text{tr} \left[ (x_i - \mu_1 + \mu_1 - \mu_0)^T \Sigma_0^{-1} (x_i - \mu_1 + \mu_1 - \mu_0) \right] \right] \quad (29)$$

$$\frac{1}{2} \mathbb{E}_{z \sim q_\phi(z|x_i)} \left[ \text{tr}[\|x - \mu_0\|_{\Sigma_0^{-1}}^2] \right] = \frac{1}{2} \mathbb{E}_{z \sim q_\phi(z|x_i)} \left[ \text{tr} \left[ (x_i - \mu_1)^T \Sigma_0^{-1} (x_i - \mu_1) \right] \right] \\ + \mathbb{E}_{z \sim q_\phi(z|x_i)} \left[ \text{tr} \left[ (x_i - \mu_1)^T \Sigma_0^{-1} (\mu_0 - \mu_1) \right] \right] \\ + \frac{1}{2} \mathbb{E}_{z \sim q_\phi(z|x_i)} \left[ \text{tr} \left[ (\mu_1 - \mu_0)^T \Sigma_0^{-1} (\mu_1 - \mu_0) \right] \right] \quad (30)$$

Since  $\mathbb{E}_{z \sim q_\phi(z|x_i)} [(x_i - \mu_1)]$  is zero, we have that

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{2} \mathbb{E}_{z \sim q_\phi(z|x_i)} \left[ \text{tr}[\|x - \mu_0\|_{\Sigma_0^{-1}}^2] \right] &= \frac{1}{2} \text{tr} \left[ \mathbb{E}_{z \sim q_\phi(z|x_i)} \left[ (x_i - \mu_1)(x_i - \mu_1)^T \Sigma_0^{-1} \right] \right] \\ &\quad + \frac{1}{2} \text{tr} \left[ \mathbb{E}_{z \sim q_\phi(z|x_i)} \left[ \underbrace{(\mu_1 - \mu_0)^T \Sigma_0^{-1} (\mu_1 - \mu_0)}_{\text{constant}} \right] \right] \end{aligned} \quad (31)$$

$$\frac{1}{2} \mathbb{E}_{z \sim q_\phi(z|x_i)} \left[ \text{tr}[\|x - \mu_0\|_{\Sigma_0^{-1}}^2] \right] = \frac{1}{2} [\text{tr}(\Sigma_1 \Sigma_0^{-1}) + \|\mu_1 - \mu_0\|_{\Sigma_0^{-1}}^2] \quad (32)$$

By substituting equation 32 into 27, the KL divergence can be rewritten as,

$$D_{KL}(q_\phi(z|x_i) \parallel p_\theta(z)) = \frac{1}{2} \left[ \ln \left| \frac{\Sigma_0}{\Sigma_1} \right| - m + \text{tr}(\Sigma_1 \Sigma_0^{-1}) + \|\mu_1 - \mu_0\|_{\Sigma_0^{-1}}^2 \right] \quad (33)$$

The negative KL is given as

$$-D_{KL}(q_\phi(z|x_i) \parallel p_\theta(z)) = \frac{1}{2} \left[ \ln \left| \frac{\Sigma_1}{\Sigma_0} \right| + m - \text{tr}(\Sigma_1 \Sigma_0^{-1}) - \|\mu_1 - \mu_0\|_{\Sigma_0^{-1}}^2 \right] \quad (34)$$

However, if  $p_\theta(z) \sim \mathcal{N}(z; 0, I)$ , then the negative KL reduces to,

$$-D_{KL}(q_\phi(z|x_i) \parallel p_\theta(z)) = \frac{1}{2} \left[ \ln |\Sigma_1| + m - \text{tr}(\Sigma_1) - (\mu_1)^T (\mu_1) \right] \quad (35)$$

Finally, the objective functions can be written as,

$$\mathcal{L}_{VAE}^G(\theta, \phi) = \mathbb{E}_{z \sim q_\phi(z|x_i)} [\log p_\theta(x_i|z)] + \frac{1}{2} \left[ \ln \left| \frac{\Sigma_1}{\Sigma_0} \right| + m - \text{tr}(\Sigma_1 \Sigma_0^{-1}) - \|\mu_1 - \mu_0\|_{\Sigma_0^{-1}}^2 \right] \quad (36)$$

## 2.2 Objective function: Inverse-Wishart distributions

As previously shown for Gaussian distribution, we derive similarly the KL-divergence  $D_{KL}(\mathcal{W}^{-1}(\nu_1, \Phi_1) \parallel \mathcal{W}^{-1}(\nu_0, \Phi_0))$  for two Inverse-Wishart distributions. We note that for a random variable  $X$  which follows an Inverse-Wishart distribution,  $\mathbb{E}[\ln |X|] = \ln |\Phi| - m \ln 2 - \psi_m(\frac{\nu}{2})$  and  $\mathbb{E}[X^{-1}] = (\nu - m - 1)\Phi^{-1}$  von Rosen (1988); where  $\psi_m$  is a derivative of the log of the multivariate gamma function. The KL is given as,

$$D_{KL}(\mathcal{W}_1^{-1}(\nu_1, \Phi_1) \parallel \mathcal{W}_0^{-1}(\nu_0, \Phi_0)) = \mathbb{E}_{z \sim \mathcal{W}^{-1}} \left[ \ln \frac{\mathcal{W}_1^{-1}(\nu_1, \Phi_1)}{\mathcal{W}_0^{-1}(\nu_0, \Phi_0)} \right] \quad (37)$$

We denote  $D_{KL}(\mathcal{W}_1^{-1}(\nu_1, \Phi_1) \parallel \mathcal{W}_0^{-1}(\nu_0, \Phi_0))$  using the compact form  $D_{KL}(\mathcal{W}_1^{-1} \parallel \mathcal{W}_0^{-1})$ , so that,

$$D_{KL}(\mathcal{W}_1^{-1} \parallel \mathcal{W}_0^{-1}) = \underbrace{\mathbb{E}_{z \sim \mathcal{W}_1^{-1}} \left[ \ln \mathcal{W}_1^{-1}(\nu_1, \Phi_1) \right]}_{1\text{term}} - \underbrace{\mathbb{E}_{z \sim \mathcal{W}_1^{-1}} [\mathcal{W}_0^{-1}(\nu_0, \Phi_0)]}_{2\text{term}} \quad (38)$$

We expand the first term as follow,

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E}_{z \sim \mathcal{W}_1^{-1}} \left[ \ln \mathcal{W}^{-1}(\nu_1, \Phi_1) \right] &= \mathbb{E}_{z \sim \mathcal{W}_1^{-1}} \left[ \frac{\nu_1}{2} \ln |\Phi_1| \right] - \mathbb{E}_{z \sim \mathcal{W}_1^{-1}} \left[ \frac{\nu_1 + m + 1}{2} \ln |X| \right] \\ &\quad - \mathbb{E}_{z \sim \mathcal{W}_1^{-1}} \left[ \frac{1}{2} \text{tr}(\Phi_1 X^{-1}) \right] - \mathbb{E}_{z \sim \mathcal{W}_1^{-1}} \left[ \frac{\nu_1 m}{2} \ln 2 + \ln \Gamma_m\left(\frac{\nu_1}{2}\right) \right] \end{aligned} \quad (39)$$

Which is further expanded as,

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E}_{z \sim \mathcal{W}_1^{-1}} \left[ \ln \mathcal{W}^{-1}(\nu_1, \Phi_1) \right] &= \frac{\nu_1}{2} \ln |\Phi_1| - \frac{v_1 m}{2} \ln 2 - \ln \Gamma_m\left(\frac{\nu_1}{2}\right) - \left(\frac{\nu_1 + m + 1}{2}\right) \mathbb{E}_{z \sim \mathcal{W}_1^{-1}} [\ln |X|] \\ &\quad - tr \left[ \frac{1}{2} \left( \Phi_1 \mathbb{E}_{z \sim \mathcal{W}_1^{-1}} [X^{-1}] \right) \right] \end{aligned} \quad (40)$$

The expectation of the log of the determinant of a matrix is expanded as follow,

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E}_{z \sim \mathcal{W}_1^{-1}} \left[ \ln \mathcal{W}^{-1}(\nu_1, \Phi_1) \right] &= \frac{\nu_1}{2} \ln |\Phi_1| - \frac{v_1 m}{2} \ln 2 - \ln \Gamma_m\left(\frac{\nu_1}{2}\right) - \frac{\nu_1 + m + 1}{2} \left[ \ln \frac{|\Phi_1|}{2^m} - \psi_m\left(\frac{\nu_1}{2}\right) \right] \\ &\quad - \frac{\nu_1 + m + 1}{2} [m \ln 2] - tr \left[ \frac{1}{2} \left( \Phi_1 \mathbb{E}_{z \sim \mathcal{W}_1^{-1}} [X^{-1}] \right) \right] \end{aligned} \quad (41)$$

We apply the expectation of the random variable  $X$  which follows an Inverse-Wishart distribution as,

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E}_{z \sim \mathcal{W}_1^{-1}} \left[ \ln \mathcal{W}^{-1}(\nu_1, \Phi_1) \right] &= \frac{\nu_1}{2} \ln |\Phi_1| - \frac{v_1 m}{2} \ln 2 - \ln \Gamma_m\left(\frac{\nu_1}{2}\right) - \frac{\nu_1 + m + 1}{2} \left[ \ln \frac{|\Phi_1|}{2^m} - \psi_m\left(\frac{\nu_1}{2}\right) \right] \\ &\quad - \frac{\nu_1 + m + 1}{2} [m \ln 2] - tr \left[ \frac{1}{2} \left( \Phi_1 \frac{\Phi_1^{-1}}{(\nu_1 - m - 1)^{-1}} \right) \right] \end{aligned} \quad (42)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E}_{z \sim \mathcal{W}_1^{-1}} \left[ \ln \mathcal{W}^{-1}(\nu_1, \Phi_1) \right] &= \frac{\nu_1}{2} \ln |\Phi_1| - \frac{v_1 m}{2} \ln 2 - \ln \Gamma_m\left(\frac{\nu_1}{2}\right) - \frac{\nu_1 + m + 1}{2} \left[ \ln \frac{|\Phi_1|}{2^m} - \psi_m\left(\frac{\nu_1}{2}\right) \right] \\ &\quad - \frac{\nu_1 + m + 1}{2} [m \ln 2] - tr \left[ \frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{I_m}{(\nu_1 - m - 1)^{-1}} \right) \right] \end{aligned} \quad (43)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E}_{z \sim \mathcal{W}_1^{-1}} \left[ \ln \mathcal{W}^{-1}(\nu_1, \Phi_1) \right] &= \frac{\nu_1}{2} \ln |\Phi_1| - \frac{v_1 m}{2} \ln 2 - \ln \Gamma_m\left(\frac{\nu_1}{2}\right) - \frac{\nu_1 + m + 1}{2} \left[ \ln \frac{|\Phi_1|}{2^m} - \psi_m\left(\frac{\nu_1}{2}\right) \right] \\ &\quad - \frac{\nu_1 + m + 1}{2} [m \ln 2] - \frac{(\nu_1 - m - 1)}{2} m \end{aligned} \quad (44)$$

Similarly, we expand the second term to obtain,

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E}_{z \sim \mathcal{W}_0^{-1}} \left[ \ln \mathcal{W}^{-1}(\nu_0, \Phi_0) \right] &= \frac{\nu_0}{2} \ln |\Phi_0| - \frac{v_0 m}{2} \ln 2 - \ln \Gamma_m\left(\frac{\nu_0}{2}\right) - \frac{\nu_0 + m + 1}{2} \left[ \ln \frac{|\Phi_1|}{2^m} - \psi_m\left(\frac{\nu_1}{2}\right) \right] \\ &\quad - \frac{\nu_0 + m + 1}{2} [m \ln 2] - \frac{1}{2} tr \left( \frac{\Phi_0 \Phi_1^{-1}}{(\nu_1 - m - 1)^{-1}} \right) \end{aligned} \quad (45)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E}_{z \sim \mathcal{W}_1^{-1}} \left[ \ln \mathcal{W}^{-1}(\nu_0, \Phi_0) \right] &= \frac{\nu_0}{2} \ln |\Phi_0| - \frac{v_0 m}{2} \ln 2 - \ln \Gamma_m\left(\frac{\nu_0}{2}\right) - \frac{\nu_0 + m + 1}{2} \left[ \ln \frac{|\Phi_1|}{2^m} - \psi_m\left(\frac{\nu_0}{2}\right) \right] \\ &\quad - \frac{\nu_0 + m + 1}{2} [m \ln 2] - \frac{v_1 - m - 1}{2} tr(\Phi_0 \Phi_1^{-1}) \end{aligned} \quad (46)$$

If we assume that both Inverse-Wishart distributions have the same degree of freedom, such that  $v_1 = v_0$ , it follows that after eliminating some terms by combining equations (44) and (46) we obtain,

$$D_{KL}(\mathcal{W}_1^{-1} \parallel \mathcal{W}_0^{-1}) = \frac{\nu_1}{2} \ln |\Phi_1 \Phi_0^{-1}| + \frac{\nu_1 - m - 1}{2} (tr(\Phi_0 \Phi_1^{-1}) - m) \quad (47)$$

Since the degree of freedom can be very large compared to the dimension of the matrix, we can effectively assume that  $v_1 \gg m$ , so that the (47) reduces to,

$$D_{KL}(\mathcal{W}_1^{-1} \parallel \mathcal{W}_0^{-1}) = \frac{\nu_1}{2} \ln |\Phi_1 \Phi_0^{-1}| + \frac{\nu_1}{2} (tr(\Phi_0 \Phi_1^{-1}) - m) \quad (48)$$

We can further expand equation (48) to obtain,

$$D_{KL}(\mathcal{W}_1^{-1} \parallel \mathcal{W}_0^{-1}) = \frac{\nu_1}{2} \ln |\Phi_1| - \frac{\nu_1}{2} |\Phi_0^{-1}| + \frac{\nu_1}{2} \text{tr}(\Phi_0 \Phi_1^{-1}) - \frac{\nu_1 m}{2} \quad (49)$$

By regrouping the terms, we obtain the following,

$$D_{KL}(\mathcal{W}_1^{-1} \parallel \mathcal{W}_0^{-1}) = \frac{\nu_1}{2} \ln |\Phi_1| + \frac{\nu_1}{2} \text{tr}(\Phi_0 \Phi_1^{-1}) - \underbrace{\left( \frac{\nu_1}{2} |\Phi_0^{-1}| - \frac{\nu_1 m}{2} \right)}_{\text{constant}} \quad (50)$$

The two last terms are constants and can be ignored. We obtain the KL-divergence for two Inverse-Wishart distributions as,

$$D_{KL}(\mathcal{W}_1^{-1} \parallel \mathcal{W}_0^{-1}) = \frac{\nu_1}{2} \ln |\Phi_1| + \frac{\nu_1}{2} \text{tr}(\Phi_0 \Phi_1^{-1}) \quad (51)$$

Finally, the loss function for the Inverse-Wishart VAE can be given as,

$$\mathcal{L}_{VAE}^{\mathcal{W}^{-1}} = \underset{z \sim q_\phi(z|x_i)}{E} [\log p_\theta(x_i|z)] - \frac{\nu_0}{2} \ln |\Phi_1| - \frac{\nu_1}{2} \text{tr}(\Phi_0 \Phi_1^{-1}) \quad (52)$$

We can optimize the above loss function if  $p_\theta(x_i|z)$  follows either a Bernoulli or Gaussian distribution.

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