# 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

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

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

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

# 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

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

- M-step

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

# Recap of previous lecture

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

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

$$\nabla_{\boldsymbol{\theta}} \mathcal{L}(\phi, \boldsymbol{\theta}) = \int q(\mathbf{z}|\mathbf{x}, \phi) \nabla_{\boldsymbol{\theta}} \log p(\mathbf{x}|\mathbf{z}, \boldsymbol{\theta}) d\mathbf{z} \approx$$

$$\approx \nabla_{\boldsymbol{\theta}} \log p(\mathbf{x}|\mathbf{z}^*, \boldsymbol{\theta}), \quad \mathbf{z}^* \sim q(\mathbf{z}|\mathbf{x}, \phi).$$

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

$$\nabla_{\phi} \mathcal{L}(\phi, \boldsymbol{\theta}) = \int r(\boldsymbol{\epsilon}) \nabla_{\phi} \log p(\mathbf{x}|g(\mathbf{x}, \boldsymbol{\epsilon}, \phi), \boldsymbol{\theta}) d\boldsymbol{\epsilon} - \nabla_{\phi} \text{KL}$$

$$\approx \nabla_{\phi} \log p(\mathbf{x}|g(\mathbf{x}, \boldsymbol{\epsilon}^*, \phi), \boldsymbol{\theta}) - \nabla_{\phi} \text{KL}$$

Variational assumption

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

$$\mathbf{z} = g(\mathbf{x}, \boldsymbol{\epsilon}, \phi) = \boldsymbol{\sigma}_{\phi}(\mathbf{x}) \cdot \boldsymbol{\epsilon} + \boldsymbol{\mu}_{\phi}(\mathbf{x}).$$

# Outline

1. Variational autoencoder (VAE)
2. Posterior collapse and decoder weakening techniques
3. Tighter variational bound

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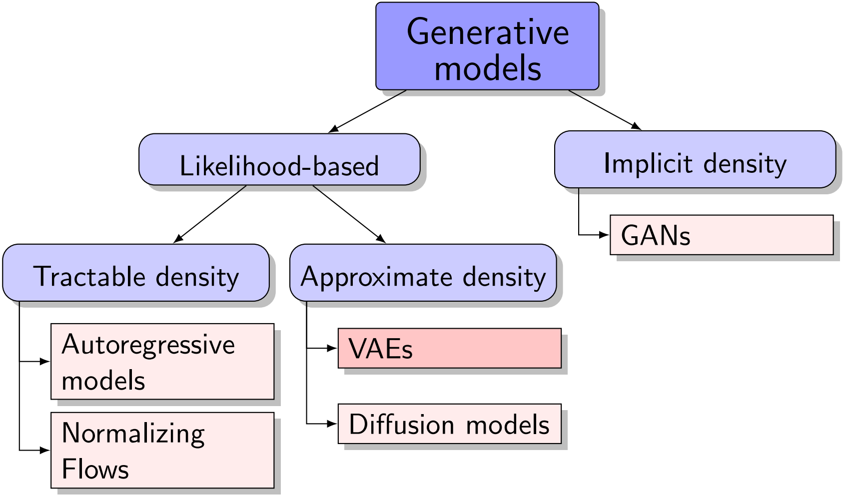
# Generative models zoo



# Variational autoencoder (VAE)

## Final EM-algorithm

- pick random sample $\mathbf{x}_i, i \sim U[1, n]$.
- compute the objective:

$$\boldsymbol{\epsilon}^* \sim r(\boldsymbol{\epsilon}); \quad \mathbf{z}^* = g(\mathbf{x}, \boldsymbol{\epsilon}^*, \boldsymbol{\phi});$$

$$\mathcal{L}(\boldsymbol{\phi}, \boldsymbol{\theta}) \approx \log p(\mathbf{x}|\mathbf{z}^*, \boldsymbol{\theta}) - KL(q(\mathbf{z}^*|\mathbf{x}, \boldsymbol{\phi})||p(\mathbf{z}^*)).$$

- compute a stochastic gradients w.r.t. $\boldsymbol{\phi}$ and $\boldsymbol{\theta}$

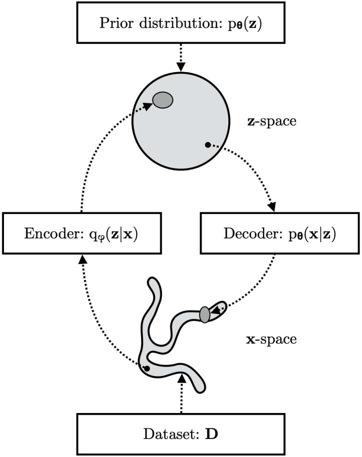
$$\nabla_{\boldsymbol{\phi}}\mathcal{L}(\boldsymbol{\phi}, \boldsymbol{\theta}) \approx \nabla_{\boldsymbol{\phi}} \log p(\mathbf{x}|g(\mathbf{x}, \boldsymbol{\epsilon}^*, \boldsymbol{\phi}), \boldsymbol{\theta}) - \nabla_{\boldsymbol{\phi}}\mathrm{KL}(q(\mathbf{z}|\mathbf{x}, \boldsymbol{\phi})||p(\mathbf{z}));$$
$$\nabla_{\boldsymbol{\theta}}\mathcal{L}(\boldsymbol{\phi}, \boldsymbol{\theta}) \approx \nabla_{\boldsymbol{\theta}} \log p(\mathbf{x}|\mathbf{z}^*, \boldsymbol{\theta}).$$

- update $\boldsymbol{\theta}, \boldsymbol{\phi}$ according to the selected optimization method (SGD, Adam, RMSProp):

$$\boldsymbol{\phi} := \boldsymbol{\phi} + \eta\nabla_{\boldsymbol{\phi}}\mathcal{L}(\boldsymbol{\phi}, \boldsymbol{\theta}),$$
$$\boldsymbol{\theta} := \boldsymbol{\theta} + \eta\nabla_{\boldsymbol{\theta}}\mathcal{L}(\boldsymbol{\phi}, \boldsymbol{\theta}).$$

# Variational autoencoder (VAE)

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




*Kingma D. P., Welling M. An introduction to variational autoencoders, 2019*

# Variational Autoencoder

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

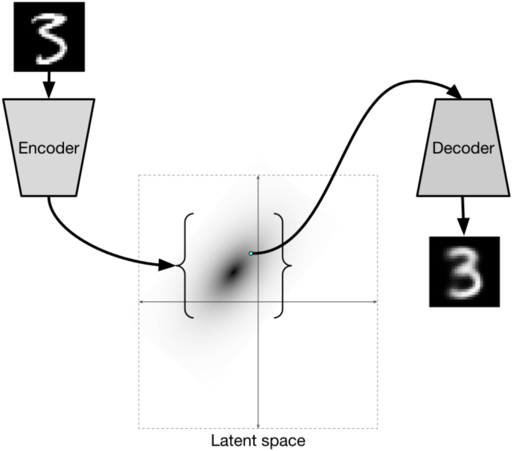



*image credit: http://ijdykeman.github.io/ml/2016/12/21/cvae.html*

# Variational autoencoder (VAE)

- Encoder $q(\mathbf{z}|\mathbf{x}, \phi) = \mathrm{NN}_e(\mathbf{x}, \phi)$ outputs $\boldsymbol{\mu}_\phi(\mathbf{x})$ and $\boldsymbol{\sigma}_\phi(\mathbf{x})$.
- Decoder $p(\mathbf{x}|\mathbf{z}, \boldsymbol{\theta}) = \mathrm{NN}_d(\mathbf{z}, \boldsymbol{\theta})$ outputs parameters of the sample distribution.

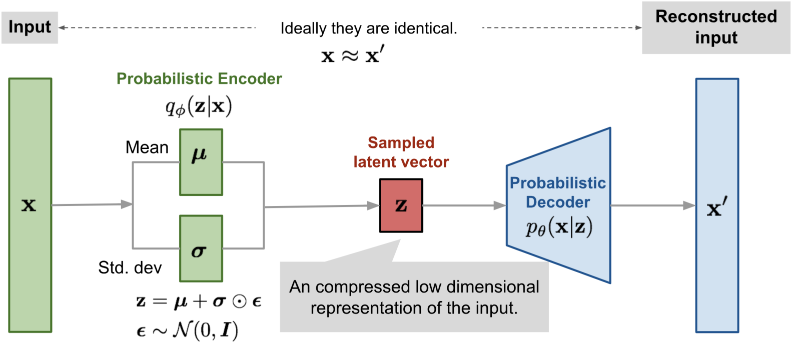



*image credit: https://lilianweng.github.io/lil-log/2018/08/12/from-autoencoder-to-beta-vae.html*

# VAE limitations

- Poor generative distribution (decoder)

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

- 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)

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

# VAE as Bayesian model

## Posterior distribution

$$p(\boldsymbol{\theta}|\mathbf{X}) = \frac{p(\mathbf{X}|\boldsymbol{\theta})p(\boldsymbol{\theta})}{p(\mathbf{X})}$$

## ELBO

$$\begin{aligned}\log p(\boldsymbol{\theta}|\mathbf{X}) &= \log p(\mathbf{X}|\boldsymbol{\theta}) + \log p(\boldsymbol{\theta}) - \log p(\mathbf{X}) \\ &= \mathcal{L}(q, \boldsymbol{\theta}) + KL(q||p) + \log p(\boldsymbol{\theta}) - \log p(\mathbf{X}) \\ &\geq [\mathcal{L}(q, \boldsymbol{\theta}) + \log p(\boldsymbol{\theta})] - \log p(\mathbf{X}).\end{aligned}$$

## EM-algorithm

- E-step
$$q(\mathbf{z}) = \arg\max_q \mathcal{L}(q, \boldsymbol{\theta}^*) = \arg\min_q KL(q||p) = p(\mathbf{z}|\mathbf{x}, \boldsymbol{\theta}^*);$$
- M-step
$$\boldsymbol{\theta}^* = \arg\max_{\boldsymbol{\theta}} \left[\mathcal{L}(q, \boldsymbol{\theta}) + \log p(\boldsymbol{\theta})\right].$$

# Outline

1. Variational autoencoder (VAE)

2. Posterior collapse and decoder weakening techniques

3. Tighter variational bound

# VAE limitations

- **Poor generative distribution (decoder)**

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

# 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

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

- More powerful $p(\mathbf{x}|\mathbf{z}, \boldsymbol{\theta})$ leads to more powerful generative model $p(\mathbf{x}|\boldsymbol{\theta})$.
- If the decoder $p(\mathbf{x}|\mathbf{z}, \boldsymbol{\theta})$ is too powerful (it could model $p(\mathbf{x}|\boldsymbol{\theta})$), then the latent variables $\mathbf{z}$ becomes irrelevant. 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 $\mathbf{x}$ .

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

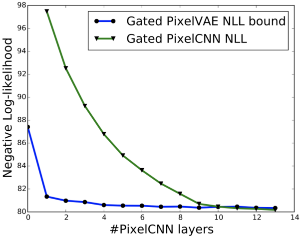
# PixelVAE

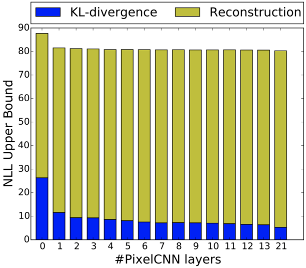
## Autoregressive decoder

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

- Global structure is captured by latent variables.
- Local statistics are captured by limited receptive field autoregressive model.

## MNIST results




*Gulrajani I. et al. PixelVAE: A Latent Variable Model for Natural Images, 2016*

# Decoder weakening techniques

- Powerful decoder $p(\mathbf{x}|\mathbf{z}, \boldsymbol{\theta})$ makes the model expressive, but posterior collapse is possible.
- PixelVAE model uses the autoregressive PixelCNN model with small number of layers to limit receptive field.

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

## KL annealing

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

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

## Free bits

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

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*

# Outline

1. Variational autoencoder (VAE)
2. Posterior collapse and decoder weakening techniques
3. Tighter variational bound

# VAE limitations

- Poor generative distribution (decoder)

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

- **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)

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

# 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

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

Could we choose better $f(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z})$?

# Importance Weighted Autoencoders (IWAE)

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

Let define

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

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

## ELBO

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

*Burda Y., Grosse R., Salakhutdinov R. Importance Weighted Autoencoders, 2015*

# 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.

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*Burda Y., Grosse R., Salakhutdinov R. Importance Weighted Autoencoders, 2015*

# Importance Weighted Autoencoders (IWAE)

### Theorem

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

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

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

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

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

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*Burda Y., Grosse R., Salakhutdinov R. Importance Weighted Autoencoders, 2015*

# Importance Weighted Autoencoders (IWAE)

## Objective

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

## Gradient

$$\Delta_K = \nabla_{\boldsymbol{\theta}, \phi} \log \left( \frac{1}{K} \sum_{k=1}^{K} \frac{p(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z}_k|\boldsymbol{\theta})}{q(\mathbf{z}_k|\mathbf{x}, \phi)} \right), \quad \mathbf{z}_k \sim q(\mathbf{z}|\mathbf{x}, \phi).$$

## Theorem

$$\text{SNR}_K = \frac{\mathbb{E}[\Delta_K]}{\sigma(\Delta_K)}; \quad \text{SNR}_K(\boldsymbol{\theta}) = O(\sqrt{K}); \quad \text{SNR}_K(\phi) = O\left(\sqrt{\frac{1}{K}}\right).$$

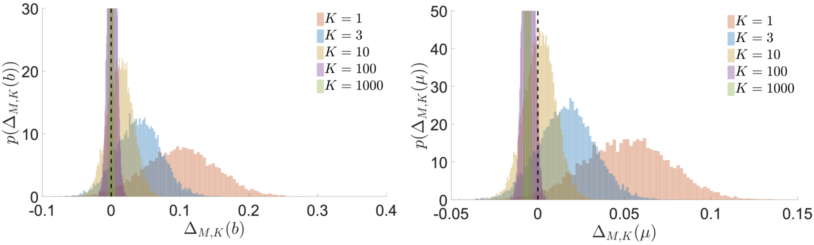
Hence, increasing $K$ vanishes gradient signal of inference network $q(\mathbf{z}|\mathbf{x}, \phi)$.

*Rainforth T. et al. Tighter variational bounds are not necessarily better, 2018*

# Importance Weighted Autoencoders (IWAE)

## Theorem

$$\text{SNR}_K = \frac{\mathbb{E}[\Delta_K]}{\sigma(\Delta_K)}; \quad \text{SNR}_K(\boldsymbol{\theta}) = O(\sqrt{K}); \quad \text{SNR}_K(\phi) = O\left(\sqrt{\frac{1}{K}}\right).$$




- 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.

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*Rainforth T. et al. Tighter variational bounds are not necessarily better, 2018*

# Summary

- The VAE model is an LVM with two neural network: stochastic encoder $q(\mathbf{z}|\mathbf{x}, \phi)$ and stochastic decoder $p(\mathbf{x}|\mathbf{z}, \boldsymbol{\theta})$.
- VAE is not a "true" bayesian model since parameters $\boldsymbol{\theta}$ do not have a prior distribution.
- Standart 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.