

# Variational inference

Quiz, 6 questions

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1.

When  $\mathcal{KL}(q||p)$  is equal to zero?

- ☒  $p(x) = q(x), \forall x \in X$ .
  - ☐ Never.
  - ☐  $p(x) = cq(x), \forall x \in X$  and different  $c$ .
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2.

Consider true distribution  $p(x)$  which we want to approximate with some distribution  $q(x)$  minimizing either forward ( $\mathcal{KL}(p||q)$ ) or reverse ( $\mathcal{KL}(q||p)$ )  $\mathcal{KL}$ -divergence. We call *zero-forcing* the effect when  $q(x)$  is forced to be 0 in some areas even if  $p(x) > 0$ . We call *zero-avoiding* the effect when  $q(x) = 0$  is avoided whenever  $p(x) > 0$ . Select true statements.

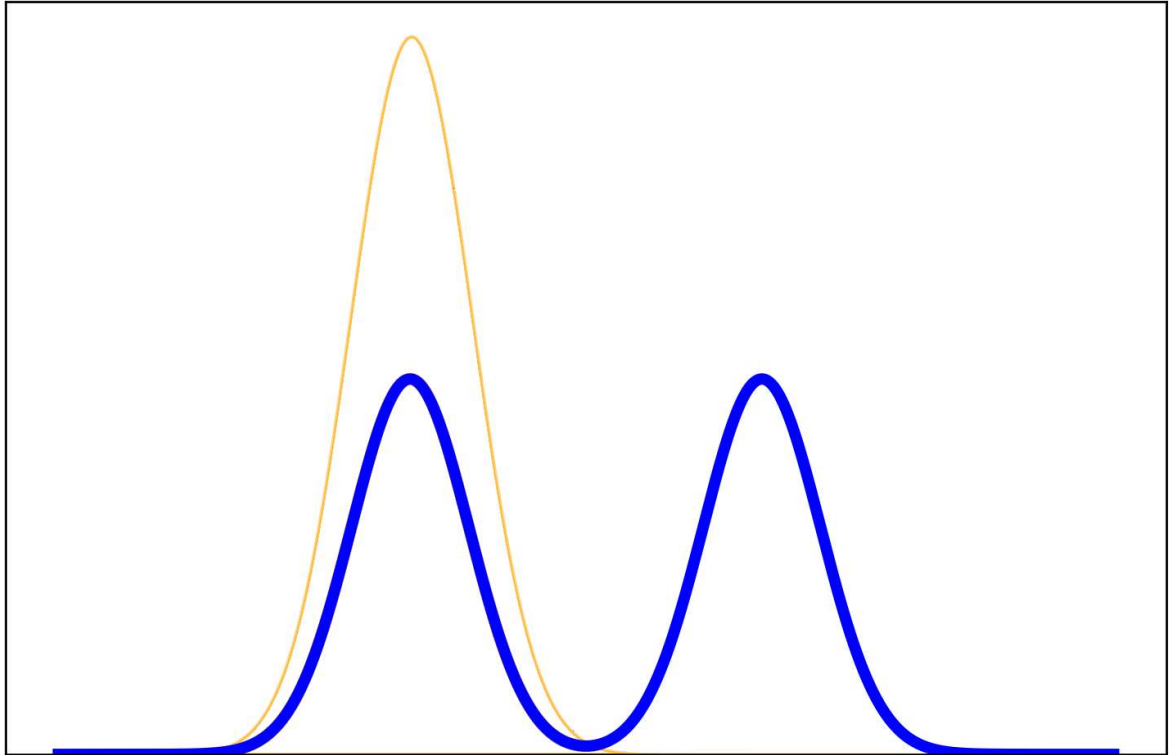
- ☒  $\mathcal{KL}(p||q)$  is zero-avoiding.
  - ☒  $\mathcal{KL}(q||p)$  is zero-forcing.
  - ☐  $\mathcal{KL}(q||p)$  is zero-avoiding.
  - ☐  $\mathcal{KL}(p||q)$  is zero-forcing.
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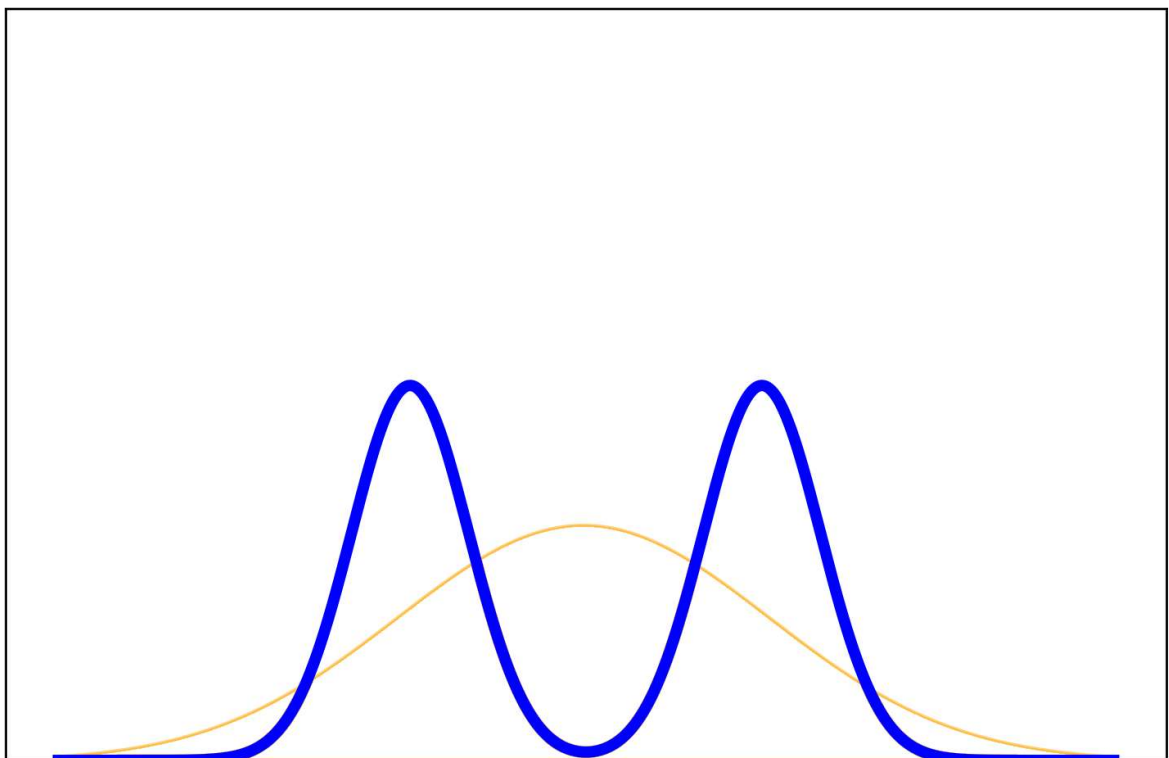
3.

Consider we learn true bimodal distribution  $p(x)$  (blue line) with Gaussian distribution  $q(x)$  (orange line) by minimizing reverse  $\mathcal{KL}$ -divergence  $\mathcal{KL}(q||p)$ . Which distribution will be fitted?

☒ a)  
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☐ b)



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4.

What variational family is used in mean field approximation method?

- ☐ Any distributions we want
  - ☐ Gaussian distribution
  - ☒ Factorised distribution
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5.

Choose update formula for mean field.

- ☐  $q_j(x_j) = \mathbb{E}_{x_{-j}} p(x) + \text{const.}$
  - ☒  $\log q_j(x_j) = \mathbb{E}_{x_{-j}} \log p(x) + \text{const.}$
  - ☐  $\log q_j(x_j) = \mathbb{E}_{x_{-j}} \log p(x).$
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6.

Can we calculate every factorized distribution for one step?

- ☐ Yes, they depend only on joint distribution.
  - ☒ No, we should update all factorized distributions one after another until they converge.
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