

In the lecture of VAE, we've talked about VAE by introducing it as a tweak of Autoencoder. In this problem set for VAE, we are going to explore the probability intuition of VAE as a generative model.

1. Assume the observed variable  $x$  is random sample from a distribution  $p^*(x)$  that's unknown, our VAE is going to approximate a model  $p_\theta(x) \approx p^*(x)$

$$\log p_\theta(x) = \mathbb{E}_{q_\phi(z|x)} [\log q_\theta(x)]$$

rewrite it to separate it into 2 models: inference model and generative model;

Answer:

$$= \mathbb{E}_{q_\phi(z|x)} \left[ \log \left[ \frac{p_\theta(x, z)}{p_\theta(z|x)} \right] \right]$$

$$= \mathbb{E}_{q_\phi(z|x)} \left[ \log \left[ \frac{p_\theta(x, z)}{q_\phi(z|x)} \cdot \frac{q_\phi(z|x)}{p_\theta(z|x)} \right] \right]$$

$$= \underbrace{\mathbb{E}_{q_\phi(z|x)} \left[ \log \left[ \frac{p_\theta(x, z)}{q_\phi(z|x)} \right] \right]}_{= L_{\theta, \phi}(x) \text{ (ELBO)}} + \underbrace{\mathbb{E}_{q_\phi(z|x)} \left[ \log \left[ \frac{q_\phi(z|x)}{p_\theta(z|x)} \right] \right]}_{= D_{KL}(q_\phi(z|x) \| p_\theta(z|x)) \text{ KL Divergence}}$$

$= L_{\theta, \phi}(x)$   
(ELBO)

$= D_{KL}(q_\phi(z|x) \| p_\theta(z|x))$   
KL Divergence