## 10417-617 Deep Learning: Fall 2020

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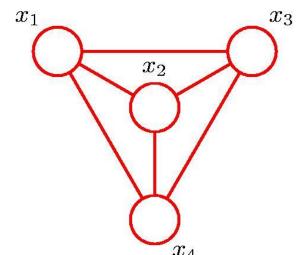
Machine Learning Department

Lecture 13:

Variational methods

### Graphical Models

Recall: graph contains a set of nodes connected by edges.



In a probabilistic graphical model, each node represents a random variable, links represent "probabilistic dependencies" between random variables.

Graph specifies how joint distribution over all random variables decomposes into a **product** of factors, each factor depending on a subset of the variables.

#### Two types of graphical models:

- **Bayesian networks**, also known as Directed Graphical Models (the links have a particular directionality indicated by the arrows)
- Markov Random Fields, also known as Undirected Graphical Models (the links do not carry arrows and have no directional significance).

### Algorithmic pros/cons of latent-variable models (so far)

#### RBM's

- (In fact, #P-hard provably, even in Ising models)
- Easy to sample posterior distribution over latents



#### **Directed models**

S Easy to draw samples



Hard to sample posterior distribution over latents



### Algorithmic approaches

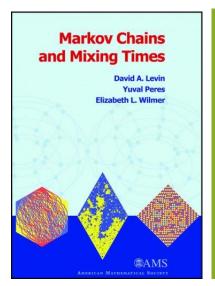
When faced with a difficult to calculate probabilistic quantity (partition function, difficult posterior), there are two families of approaches:

#### MARKOV CHAIN MONTE CARLO

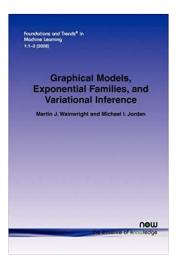
#### **VARIATIONAL METHODS**

\*Random walk w/ equilibrium distribution the one we are trying to sample from.

Based on solving an optimization problem.







## Part I: approximating posteriors via variational methods

### Sampling posteriors in latentvariable directed models

Recall, sampling from the posterior distribution P(z|x) is **hard**:

$$P(Diseases, Symptoms) = P(Diseases) P(Symptoms|Diseases)$$

Latent

Data

Simple, explicit

By Bayes rule,  $P(\text{Diseases}|\text{Symptoms}) \propto P(\text{Diseases},\text{Symptoms})$ 

Up to normalizing const, simple...

Complicated partition function:

 $\sum_{\text{Diseases}} P(\text{Diseases}, \text{Symptoms})$ 

Again, can be #P-hard to sample from!!

*Gibbs variational principle*: Let p(z,x) be a joint distribution over latent variables and observables. Then,

$$p(z|x) = \underset{q(z|x): \text{distribution over } Z}{\operatorname{argmax}} \mathbb{E}_{q(z|x)} \log q(z|x) - \mathbb{E}_{q(z|x)} \log p(z,x)$$
$$-H(q(z|x)) - \mathbb{E}_{z \sim q} [\log p(z,x)]$$

In fact, for every q(z|x), we have

$$\log p(x) = -\left(-H(q(z|x)) - \mathbb{E}_{z \sim q}[\log p(z,x)]\right) + KL(q(z|x)) |p(z|x)|$$

# Variational methods for partition functions

*Gibbs variational principle*: Let p(z,x) be a joint distribution over latent variables and observables. Then,

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$$\log p(x) = KL(q(z|x)) \left| p(z|x) \right| - \left( -H(q(z|x)) - \mathbb{E}_{z \sim q}[\log p(z,x)] \right)$$

Why: 
$$0 \le KL(q(z|x)) | p(z|x) = \mathbb{E}_{q(z|x)} \log q(z|x) - \mathbb{E}_{q(z|x)} p(z|x)$$
$$= -H(q(z|x)) - \mathbb{E}_{q(z|x)} \log \frac{p(z,x)}{p(x)}$$
$$= -H(q(z|x)) - \mathbb{E}_{q(z|x)} \log p(z,x) + \log p(x)$$

Equality is attained if and only if KL(q(z|x)||p(z|x))=0 i. e. q(z|x)=p(z|x)

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$$\log p(x) = -\left(-H(q(z|x)) - \mathbb{E}_{z \sim q}[\log p(z,x)]\right) + KL(q(z|x))|p(z|x)$$

Why is this useful?

(1) Instead of finding the argmax over **all** distributions over Z, we can maximize over some **simpler** parametric family Q, i.e. we can solve

$$\max_{q(z|x)\in\mathcal{Q}} \mathbb{E}_{q(z|x)} \log q(z|x) - \mathbb{E}_{q(z|x)} \log p(z,x)$$

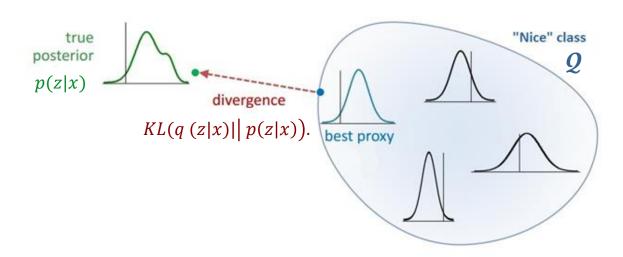
The argmax of the above distribution solves  $\min_{q(z|x) \in Q} KL(q(z|x)) |p(z|x)$ .

In other words, we are finding the **projection** of p(z|x) onto Q.

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$$\max_{q(z|x)\in\mathcal{Q}} \mathbb{E}_{q(z|x)} \log q(z|x) - \mathbb{E}_{q(z|x)} \log p(z,x) \}$$

There are several common families *Q* that are used for which the above optimization is solveable – we will see **mean-field** family today, **neural-net** parametrized families when we study variational autoencoders.

*Gibbs variational principle*: Let p(z, x) be a joint distribution over latent variables and observables. Then,

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$$\log p(x) = -\left(-H(q(z|x)) - \mathbb{E}_{z \sim q}[p(z,x)]\right) + KL(q(z|x)||p(z|x))$$

Why is this useful?

(2) Provides a lower bound on  $\log p(x)$  -- sometimes called the **ELBO (evidence lower bound)**, since

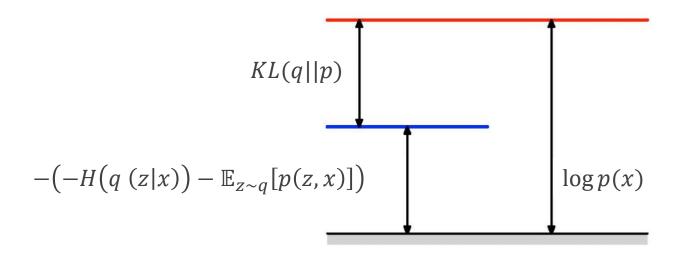
$$\log p(x) \ge \max_{q(z|x) \in Q} \mathbb{E}_{q(z|x)} \log q(z|x) - \mathbb{E}_{q(z|x)} \log p(z,x)$$

This will be useful when learning latent-variable directed models (stay tuned!).

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## Solving the mean-field relaxation: coordinate ascent

**Inspiration from physics**: consider the case where Q contains product distributions, that is, for every  $q(\cdot | x) \in Q$ :

$$q(z|x) = \prod_{i=1}^{d} q_i(z_i|x).$$

Consider updating a **single** coordinate of the mean-field distribution, that is keep  $q_{-i}$  ( $z_i|x$ ) fixed and optimize for  $q_i$  ( $z_i|x$ ). We have:

$$\min_{\boldsymbol{q}(\boldsymbol{Z}|\boldsymbol{X}) \in \mathcal{Q}} KL(q(\boldsymbol{z}|\boldsymbol{x})||p(\boldsymbol{z}|\boldsymbol{x})) = \min_{\boldsymbol{q}(\boldsymbol{Z}|\boldsymbol{X}) \in \mathcal{Q}} \mathbb{E}_{q(\boldsymbol{z}|\boldsymbol{x})} \log q(\boldsymbol{z}|\boldsymbol{x}) - \mathbb{E}_{q(\boldsymbol{z}|\boldsymbol{x})} \log p(\boldsymbol{z},\boldsymbol{x})$$

$$= \min_{\boldsymbol{q}(\boldsymbol{Z}|\boldsymbol{X}) \in \mathcal{Q}} \sum_{i} \mathbb{E}_{q_{i}(z_{i}|\boldsymbol{x})} \log q_{i}(z_{i}|\boldsymbol{x}) - \mathbb{E}_{q_{i}(z_{i}|\boldsymbol{x})} \left[ \mathbb{E}_{q_{-i}(\boldsymbol{z}_{-i}|\boldsymbol{x})} \log p(\boldsymbol{z}_{i},\boldsymbol{z}_{-i},\boldsymbol{x}) \right]$$

$$= \min_{\boldsymbol{q}(\boldsymbol{z}|\boldsymbol{X}) \in \mathcal{Q}} \mathbb{E}_{q_{i}(z_{i}|\boldsymbol{x})} \log q_{i}(z_{i}|\boldsymbol{x}) - \mathbb{E}_{q_{i}(z_{i}|\boldsymbol{x})} [\log \tilde{p}(z_{i},\boldsymbol{x})] + C$$

Renormalize to make it a distribution

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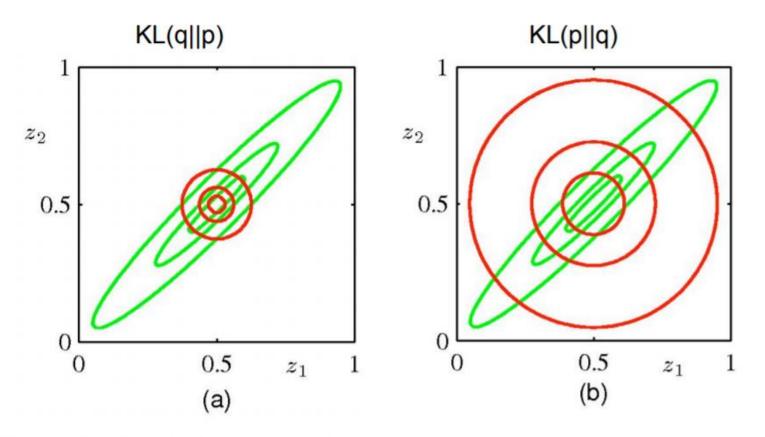
$$\min_{\boldsymbol{q}(\boldsymbol{z}|\boldsymbol{x}) \in \mathcal{Q}} KL(\boldsymbol{q}(\boldsymbol{z}|\boldsymbol{x})| \left| p(\boldsymbol{z}|\boldsymbol{x}) \right| = \min_{\boldsymbol{q}(\boldsymbol{z}|\boldsymbol{x}) \in \mathcal{Q}} \mathbb{E}_{q(\boldsymbol{z}|\boldsymbol{x})} \log q(\boldsymbol{z}|\boldsymbol{x}) - \mathbb{E}_{q(\boldsymbol{z}|\boldsymbol{x})} \log p(\boldsymbol{z},\boldsymbol{x})$$

$$= \min_{q(\boldsymbol{z}|\boldsymbol{x}) \in \mathcal{Q}} KL(q_i(\boldsymbol{z}_i|\boldsymbol{x})||\tilde{p}(\boldsymbol{z}_i,\boldsymbol{x})) + C$$

Optimum is  $q_i(z_i|x) = \tilde{p}(z_i,x)$   $= \frac{\mathbb{E}_{q_{-i}(Z_{-i}|x)} \log p(z_i, z_{-i}, x)}{\int_{Z_i} \mathbb{E}_{q_{-i}(Z_{-i}|x)} \log p(z_i, z_{-i}, x)}$ 

Coordinate ascent: iterate above updates!

### A tale of two KL divergences



Approximation is too compact.

Approximation is too spread.

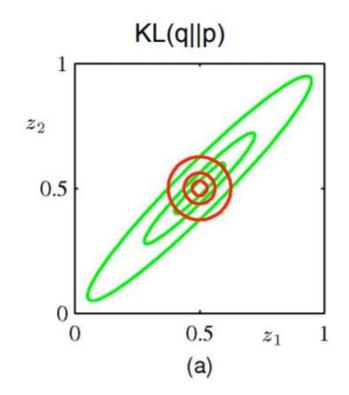
### The "variational" KL divergence

$$\mathrm{KL}(q||p) = -\int q(\mathbf{Z}) \ln \frac{p(\mathbf{Z})}{q(\mathbf{Z})} d\mathbf{Z}.$$

There is a large positive contribution to the KL divergence from regions of Z space in which:

- p(Z) is near zero
- unless q(Z) is also close to zero.

Minimizing KL(q||p) leads to distributions q(Z) that avoid regions in which p(Z) is small.



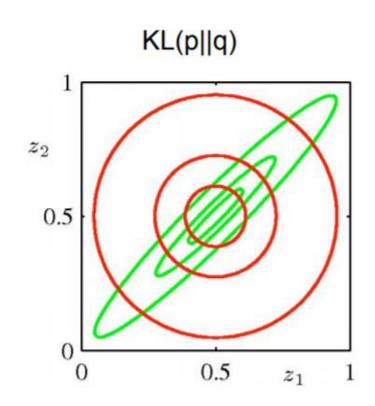
# The "maximum likelihood" KL divergence

$$\mathrm{KL}(p||q) = -\int p(\mathbf{Z}) \ln \frac{q(\mathbf{Z})}{p(\mathbf{Z})} \mathrm{d}\mathbf{Z}.$$

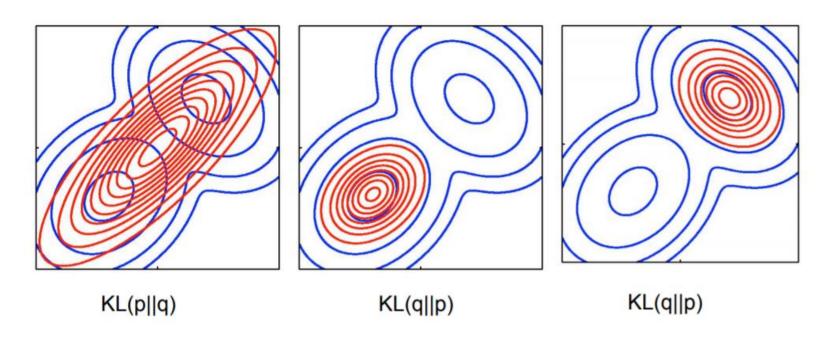
There is a large positive contribution to the KL divergence from regions of Z space in which:

- -q(Z) is near zero,
- unless p(Z) is also close to zero.

Minimizing KL(p||q) leads to distributions q(Z) that are nonzero in regions where p(Z) is nonzero.



# What happens when distribution class for Q is not rich enough?



Blue contours show bimodal distribution, red contours single Gaussian distribution that best approximates it.

KL(q||p) will tend to find a single mode, whereas KL(p||q) will average across all of the modes.

## Part II: learning latent-variable directed models

# Learning latent-variable directed graphical models

How should we try to learn the parameters of a graphical model?

The most obvious strategy: maximum likelihood estimation

Given data  $x_1, x_2, ..., x_n$ , solve the optimization problem

$$\max_{\theta \in \Theta} \sum_{i=1}^{n} \log p(x_i)$$

Latent variables: we will use the Gibbs variational principle again!

$$\log_{\theta} p(x) = \max_{q(z|x): \text{ distribution over } \mathcal{Z}} H(q(z|x)) + \mathbb{E}_{q(z|x)}[\log p_{\theta}(x,z)]$$

Hence, MLE objective can be written as double maximization:

$$\max_{\theta \in \Theta} \max_{\{q_i(z|x_i)\}} \sum_{i=1}^n H(q_i(z|x_i)) + \mathbb{E}_{q_i(z|x_i)}[\log p_{\theta}(x_i, z)]$$

## Expectation-maximization/variational inference

The canonical algorithm for learning a single-layer latent-variable Bayesian network is an iterative algorithm as follows.

Consider the max-likelihood objective, rewritten as in the previous slide:

$$\max_{\theta \in \Theta} \max_{\{q_i(z|x_i) \in \mathbf{Q}\}} \sum_{i=1}^n H(q_i(z|x_i)) + \mathbb{E}_{q_i(z|x_i)}[\log p_{\theta}(x_i, z)]$$

Algorithm maintains iterates  $\theta^t$ ,  $\{q_i^t(z|x_i)\}$ , and updates them iteratively

(1) Expectation (E)-step:

Keep  $\theta^t$  fixed, set  $\{q_i^{t+1}(z|x_i) \in Q\}$ , s.t. they maximize the objective above.

(2) Maximization (M)-step:

Keep  $\{q_i^t(z|x_i)\}$  fixed, set  $\theta^{t+1}$  s.t. it maximizes the objective above.

Clearly, every step cannot make the objective worse!

Does \*not\* mean it converges to global optimum – could, e.g. get stuck in a local minimum.

## Expectation-maximization/variational inference

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Algorithm maintains iterates  $\theta^t$ ,  $q_i^t(z|x_i)$ , and updates them iteratively

#### (1) Expectation step:

Keep  $\theta^t$  and set  $q_i^{t+1}(z|x_i)$ , s.t. they maximize the objective above.

If the class is infinitely rich, the optimum is  $q_i^{t+1}(z|x_i) = p_{\theta^t}(z|x_i)$ 

This is called **expectation-maximization (EM)**. If class is not infinitely rich, it's called **variational inference**.

### Example

### Mixture of spherical Gaussians

Consider a mixture of K Gaussians with unknown means  $p = \sum_{i=1}^{K} \frac{1}{K} \mathcal{N}(\mu_i, I_d)$ 

Let's try to calculate the E and M steps.

**E-step**: the optimal  $q_i^{t+1}(z|x_i)$  is  $p_{\theta^t}(z|x_i)$ . Can we calculate this?

By Bayes rule, 
$$p_{\theta^t}(z = k|x_i) \propto p(x_i|z = k) \propto e^{-\left||x_i - \mu_k^t|\right|^2}$$

Writing out the normalizing constant, we have

$$p_{\theta^t}(z = k|x_i) = \frac{e^{-||x_i - \mu_k^t||^2}}{\sum_{k'} e^{-||x_i - \mu_{k'}^t||^2}}$$

"Soft" version of assigning point to nearest cluster

### Example

### Mixture of spherical Gaussians

Consider a mixture of K Gaussians with unknown means  $p = \sum_{i=1}^{K} \frac{1}{K} \mathcal{N}(\mu_i, I_d)$ 

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**M-step**: given a quess  $q_i^t(z|x_i)$  , we can rewrite the maximization for  $\theta$  as:

$$\max_{\theta \in \Theta} \sum_{i=1}^{n} H(q_i^t(z|x_i)) + \mathbb{E}_{q_i^t(z|x_i)}[\log p_{\theta}(x_i, z)]$$

$$= \mathbb{E}_{q_i^t(z|x_i)}[\log p_{\theta}(x|z)]$$

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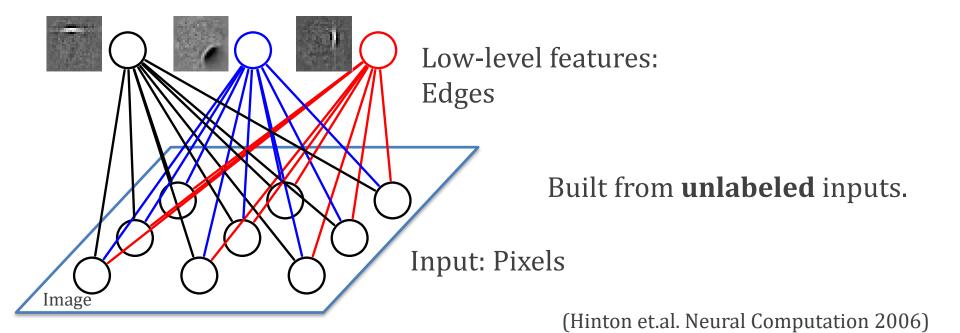
**M-step**: given a quess  $q_i^t(z|x_i)$ , we can rewrite the maximization for  $\theta$  as:

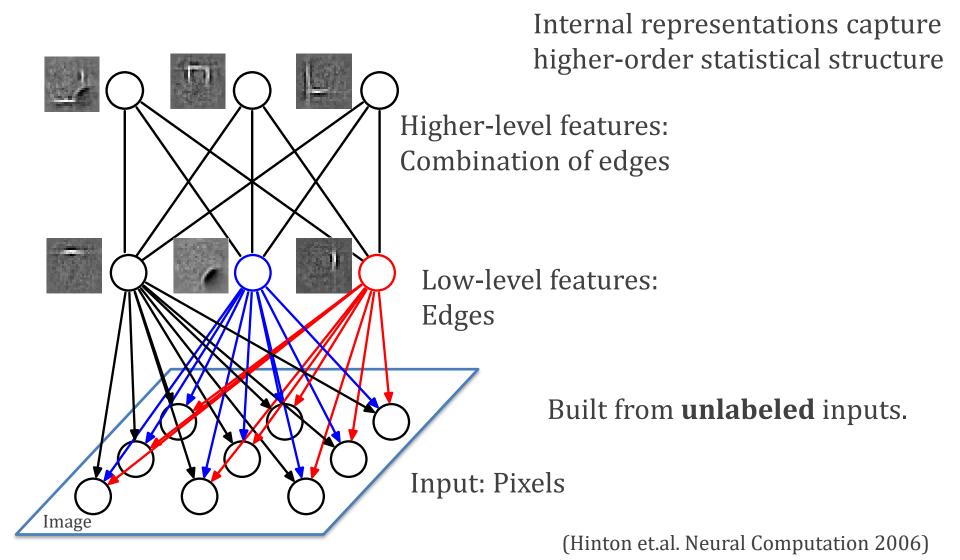
$$\max_{\theta} \mathbb{E}_{q_i^t(z|x_i)}[\log p_{\theta}(x|z)] = \max_{\theta} -\sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{k=1}^K q_i^t(z=k|x_i)||x_i - \mu_k||^2$$

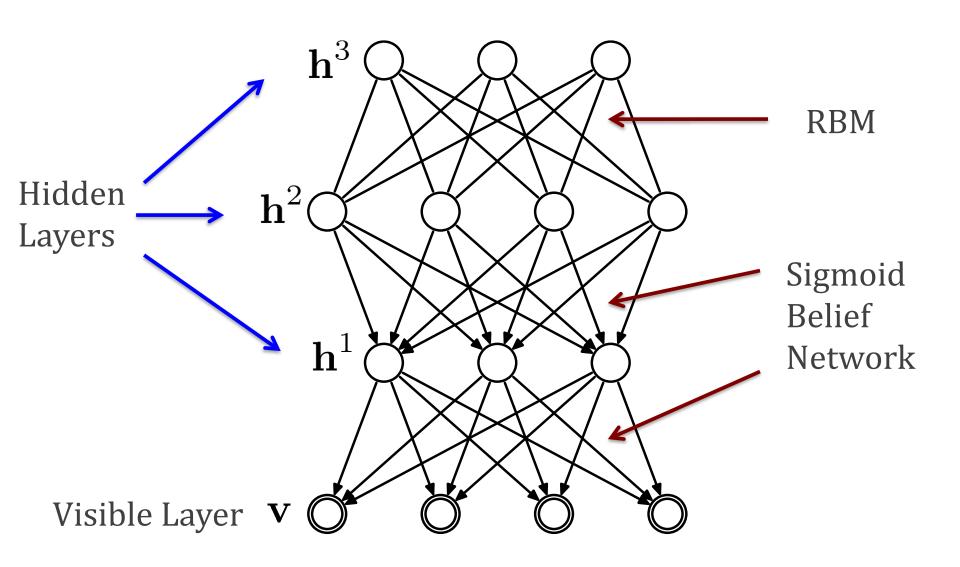
Setting the derivative wrt to  $\mu_k$  to 0, we have:

$$\mu_k^{t+1} = \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{e^{-\left||x_i - \mu_k^t|\right|^2}}{\sum_{k'} e^{-\left||x_i - \mu_{k'}^t|\right|^2}} x_i$$
Average points, weighing nearby points more

Part III: Deep Belief Networks (DBNs)



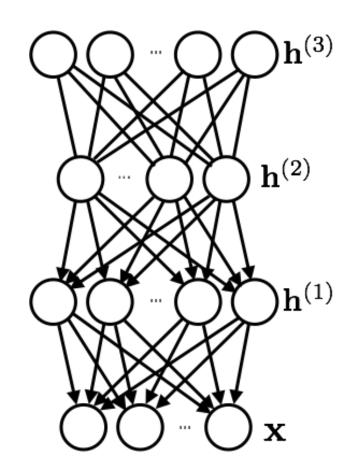




- > it is a generative model that mixes undirected and directed connections between variables
- > top 2 layers' distribution  $p(\mathbf{h}^{(2)}, \mathbf{h}^{(3)})$  is an RBM!
- other layers form a Bayesian network with conditional distributions:

$$p(h_j^{(1)} = 1 | \mathbf{h}^{(2)}) = \text{sigm}(\mathbf{b}^{(1)} + \mathbf{W}^{(2)}^{\top} \mathbf{h}^{(2)})$$

$$p(x_i = 1 | \mathbf{h}^{(1)}) = \text{sigm}(\mathbf{b}^{(0)} + \mathbf{W}^{(1)} \mathbf{h}^{(1)})$$



The joint distribution of a DBN is as follows

$$p(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{h}^{(1)}, \mathbf{h}^{(2)}, \mathbf{h}^{(3)}) = p(\mathbf{h}^{(2)}, \mathbf{h}^{(3)}) p(\mathbf{h}^{(1)}|\mathbf{h}^{(2)}) p(\mathbf{x}|\mathbf{h}^{(1)})$$

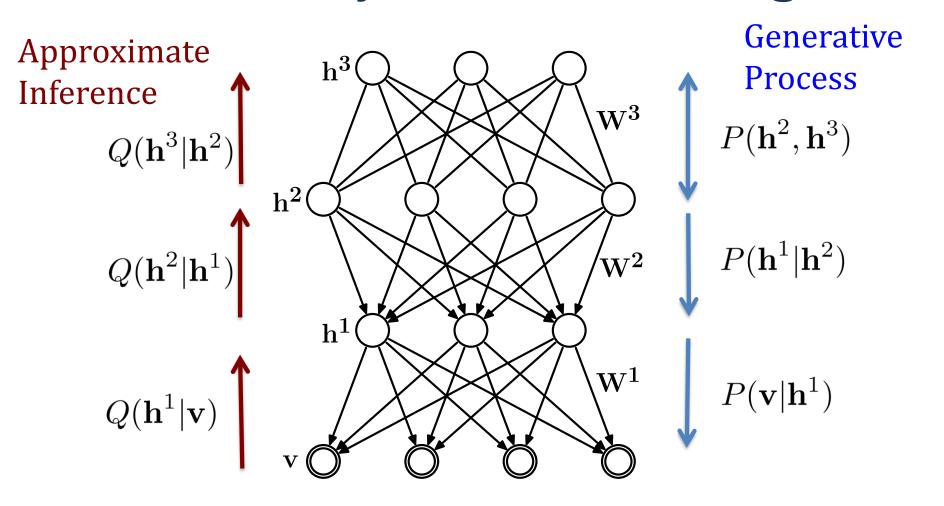
where

$$p(\mathbf{h}^{(2)}, \mathbf{h}^{(3)}) = \exp\left(\mathbf{h}^{(2)}^{\top} \mathbf{W}^{(3)} \mathbf{h}^{(3)} + \mathbf{b}^{(2)}^{\top} \mathbf{h}^{(2)} + \mathbf{b}^{(3)}^{\top} \mathbf{h}^{(3)}\right) / Z$$

$$p(\mathbf{h}^{(1)}|\mathbf{h}^{(2)}) = \prod_{j} p(h_j^{(1)}|\mathbf{h}^{(2)})$$

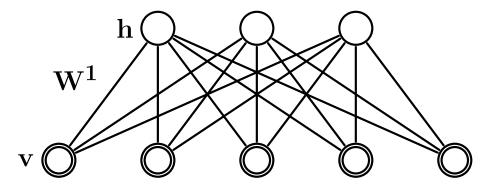
$$p(\mathbf{x}|\mathbf{h}^{(1)}) = \prod_i p(x_i|\mathbf{h}^{(1)})$$

(I realize this looks odd.)



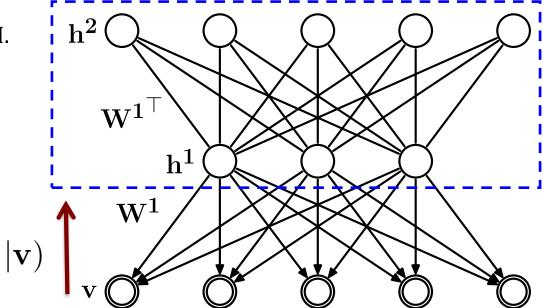
$$Q(h^t = 1 | h^{t-1}), P\left((h^{t-1})_j = 1 \middle| h^t\right) \text{ are product distributions, s.t.:}$$
 
$$Q\left((h^t)_j = 1 \middle| h^{t-1}\right) = \frac{1}{1 + \exp(W_{t,.}h^{t-1})} \quad P\left((h^{t-1})_j = 1 \middle| h^t\right) = \frac{1}{1 + \exp((h^t)^T W_{.,t})}$$

 Learn an RBM with an input layer v=x and a hidden layer h.



- Learn an RBM with an input layer v=x and a hidden layer h.
- Treat inferred values  $Q(\mathbf{h}^1|\mathbf{v}) = P(\mathbf{h}^1|\mathbf{v})$  as the data for training 2<sup>nd</sup>-layer RBM.

• Learn and freeze 2<sup>nd</sup> layer RBM.



 Learn an RBM with an input layer v=x and a hidden layer h.

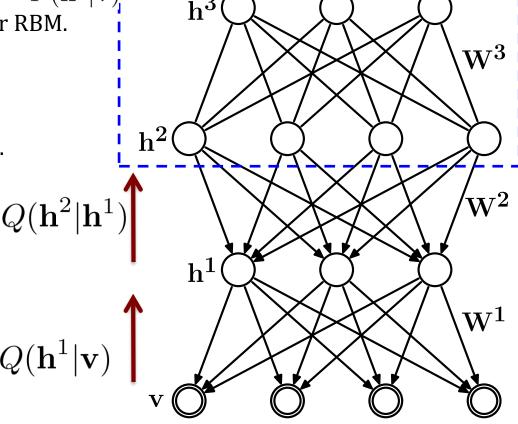
Unsupervised Feature Learning.

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Learn and freeze 2<sup>nd</sup> layer RBM.

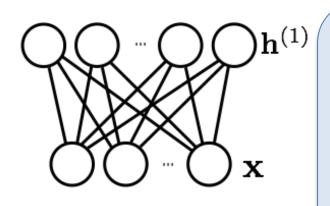
Proceed to the next layer.

Where does this training come from??



Let's write the marginal p(x) in terms of the Gibbs variational principle.

Recall, we have:



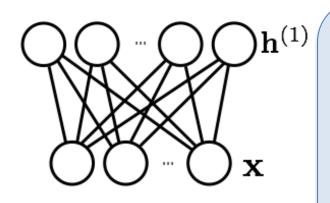
For every distribution  $q(\mathbf{h}^{(1)}|\mathbf{x})$ :

$$\log p(\mathbf{x}) \geq \sum_{\mathbf{h}^{(1)}} q(\mathbf{h}^{(1)}|\mathbf{x}) \log p(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{h}^{(1)})$$
$$-\sum_{\mathbf{h}^{(1)}} q(\mathbf{h}^{(1)}|\mathbf{x}) \log q(\mathbf{h}^{(1)}|\mathbf{x})$$

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The idea will be to add layers, s.t. we improve the variational bound (i.e. the right-hand side)

adding 2nd layer means untying the parameters

$$\log p(\mathbf{x}) \geq \sum_{\mathbf{h}^{(1)}} q(\mathbf{h}^{(1)}|\mathbf{x}) \left(\log p(\mathbf{x}|\mathbf{h}^{(1)}) + \log p(\mathbf{h}^{(1)})\right)$$
$$-\sum_{\mathbf{h}^{(1)}} q(\mathbf{h}^{(1)}|\mathbf{x}) \log q(\mathbf{h}^{(1)}|\mathbf{x})$$

- When adding a second layer, we model  $\,p(\mathbf{h}^{(1)})\,$  using a separate set of parameters
  - $\succ$  they are the parameters of the RBM involving  $\,{f h}^{(1)}$  and  $\,{f h}^{(2)}$
  - $ho p(\mathbf{h}^{(1)})$  is now the marginalization of the second hidden layer

$$p(\mathbf{h}^{(1)}) = \sum_{\mathbf{h}^{(2)}} p(\mathbf{h}^{(1)}, \mathbf{h}^{(2)})$$

adding 2nd layer means untying the parameters

$$\log p(\mathbf{x}) \geq \sum_{\mathbf{h}^{(1)}} q(\mathbf{h}^{(1)}|\mathbf{x}) \left(\log p(\mathbf{x}|\mathbf{h}^{(1)}) + \log p(\mathbf{h}^{(1)})\right)$$
$$-\sum_{\mathbf{h}^{(1)}} q(\mathbf{h}^{(1)}|\mathbf{x}) \log q(\mathbf{h}^{(1)}|\mathbf{x})$$

we can train the parameters of bound. This is equivalent to m terms are constant:

Layerwise training improves variational lower bound

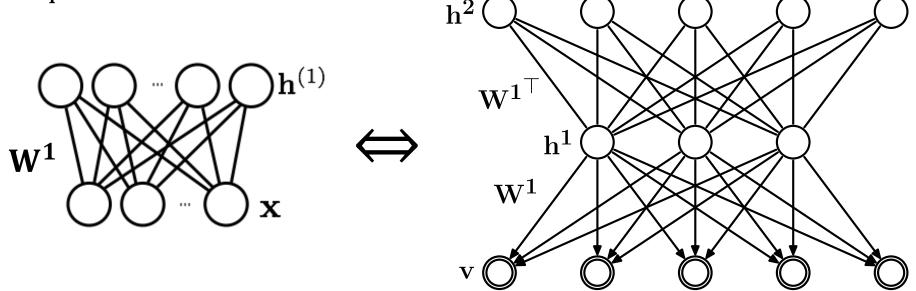
$$-\sum_{\mathbf{h}^{(1)}} q(\mathbf{h}^{(1)}|\mathbf{x}) \log p(\mathbf{h}^{(1)})$$

 $\succ$  this is like training an RBM on data  ${\sf generated}$  from  $\,q({f h}^{(1)}|{f x})$  !

# Idea: weight-tied DBN is equivalent to a RBM

Observation: a two-layer DBN with appropriately tied weights is

equivalent to an RBM:



Formal proof is a little annoying. Intuition:

- Gibbs sampling converges to model distribution in first case.
- Gibbs sampling on top two layers, plus one last sample of x given  $h^{(1)}$  converges to model distribution in second.
- The steps in these two random walks are \*exactly\* the same.

# Idea: weight-tied DBN is equivalent to a RBM

adding 2nd layer means untying the parameters

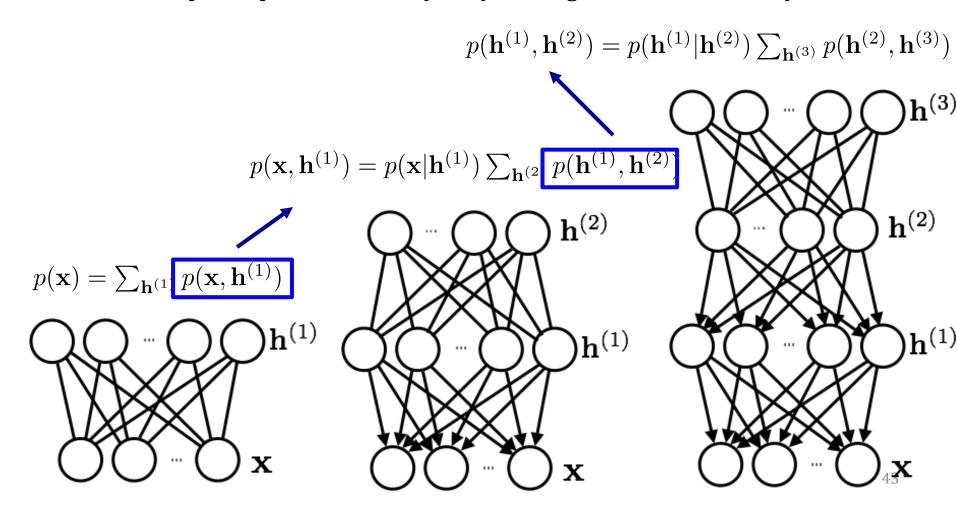
$$\log p(\mathbf{x}) \geq \sum_{\mathbf{h}^{(1)}} q(\mathbf{h}^{(1)}|\mathbf{x}) \left(\log p(\mathbf{x}|\mathbf{h}^{(1)}) + \log p(\mathbf{h}^{(1)})\right)$$
$$-\sum_{\mathbf{h}^{(1)}} q(\mathbf{h}^{(1)}|\mathbf{x}) \log q(\mathbf{h}^{(1)}|\mathbf{x})$$

- ightharpoonup for  $q(\mathbf{h}^{(1)}|\mathbf{x})$  we use **the posterior of the first layer RBM**.
- by initializing the weights of the second layer RBM as the transpose of the first layer weights, the bound is initially tight! (As we showed, a 2layer DBN with tied weights is equivalent to a 1-layer RBM)
- Need not keep being tight: as  $p(\mathbf{h}^{(1)})$  changes, so does  $p(\mathbf{h}^{(1)}|\mathbf{x})$ , and so does the KL to  $q(\mathbf{h}^{(1)}|\mathbf{x})$

## Stacking the layers

This is where the RBM stacking procedure comes from:

idea: improve prior on last layer by adding another hidden layer



### Deep Belief Networks

This process of adding layers can be repeated recursively

> we obtain the greedy layer-wise pre-training procedure for neural networks

We now see that this procedure corresponds to maximizing a bound on the likelihood of the data in a DBN

- ightharpoonup in theory, if our approximation  $q(\mathbf{h}^{(1)}|\mathbf{x})$  is very far from the true posterior, the bound might be very loose
- this only means we might not be improving the true likelihood
- we might still be extracting better features!

Fine-tuning is done by the Up-Down algorithm

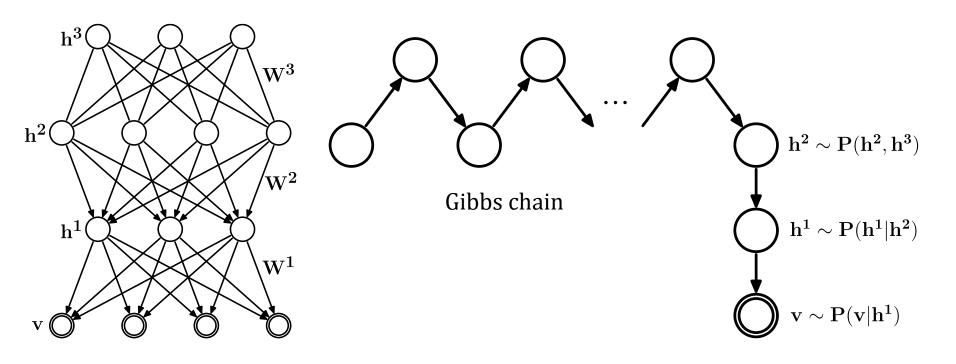
A fast learning algorithm for deep belief nets. Hinton, Teh, Osindero,
 2006.

# Sampling from DBNs

To sample from the DBN model:

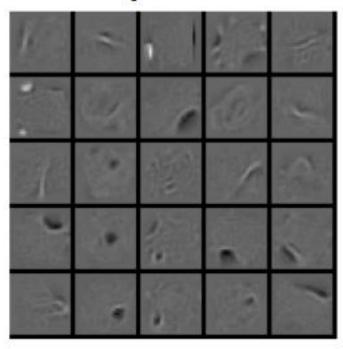
$$P(\mathbf{v}, \mathbf{h}^1, \mathbf{h}^2, \mathbf{h}^3) = P(\mathbf{v}|\mathbf{h}^1)P(\mathbf{h}^1|\mathbf{h}^2)P(\mathbf{h}^2, \mathbf{h}^3)$$

- Sample h<sup>2</sup> using alternating Gibbs sampling from RBM.
- Sample lower layers using sigmoid belief network.

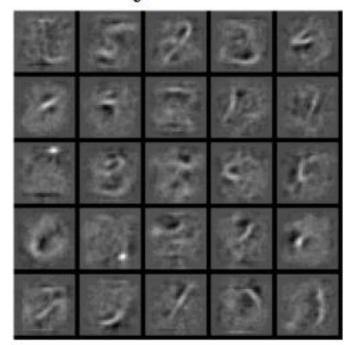


## Learned Features

 $1^{st}$ -layer features

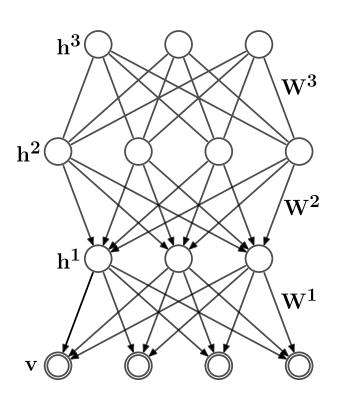


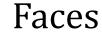
 $2^{nd}$ -layer features

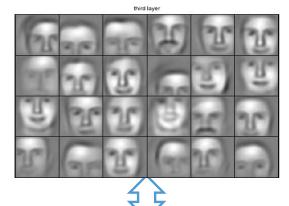


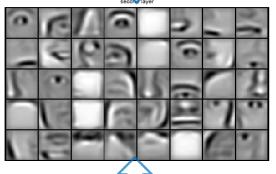
## Learning Part-based Representation

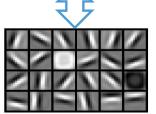
Convolutional DBN









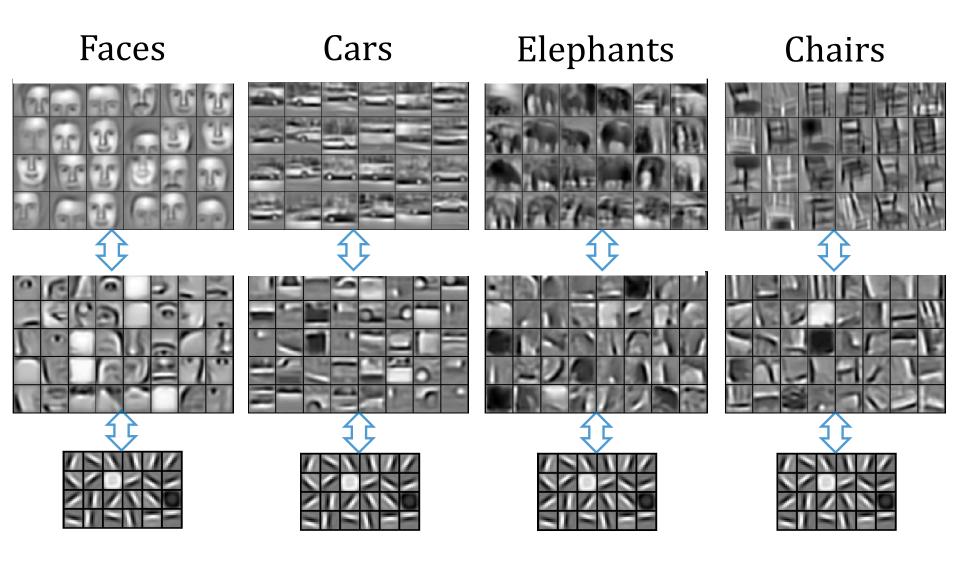


Groups of parts.

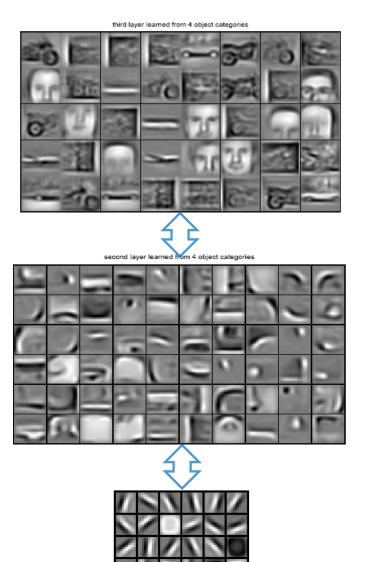
**Object Parts** 

Trained on face images.

## Learning Part-based Representation



# Learning Part-based Representation



Groups of parts.

Class-specific object parts

Trained from multiple classes (cars, faces, motorbikes, airplanes).