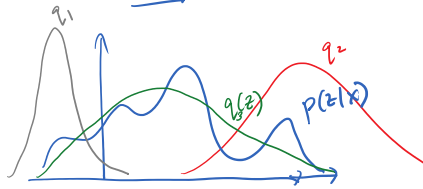
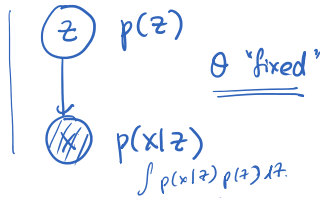


Variational Inference

Key idea: $p(z|x)$
inference \rightarrow optimization.



Example



"Distance" - Divergence btw p and q .

$$\mathbb{D}_{KL}[q||p] = - \int q(z) \log \frac{p(z)}{q(z)} dz$$

$$KL(q||p) = \int q(z) \log \frac{q(z)}{p(z)} dz$$

$$q^* = \arg \min_{q \in \mathcal{Q}} \mathbb{D}_{KL}[q||p(z|x)]$$

$$\phi^* = \arg \min_{\phi = \{ \mu, \Sigma \} \in \Phi} \mathbb{D}_{KL}[q_\phi||p(z|x)] \leftarrow \text{how to compute.}$$

Recall EM.

$$\log p(x) = \mathcal{L}(q) + \mathbb{D}_{KL}[q||p]$$

const. c wrt. q .

$$\mathcal{L}(q) = \int q(z) \log \frac{p(x, z)}{q(z)} dz.$$

$$\mathbb{D}_{KL}[q||p] = -\mathcal{L}(q) + c.$$

↓
maximize $\mathcal{L}(q)$

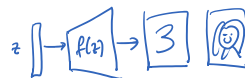
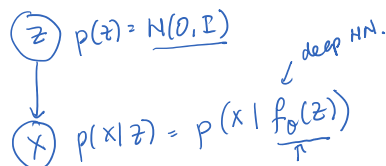
$$\mathcal{L}(q) = \int q(z) \log \frac{p(x, z)}{q(z)} dz.$$

Example:

$$= \int q(z) \log p(x|z) dz + \int q(z) \log \frac{p(z)}{q(z)} dz.$$

$$= \mathbb{E}_{q(z)} [\log p(x|z)] - \mathbb{D}_{KL}[q(z)||\underbrace{p(z)}_{\text{prior}}].$$

Learning with Variational Inf



θ is not fixed

learn θ via MLE.

$$\theta^* = \arg \max_{\theta} \log p_{\theta}(x)$$

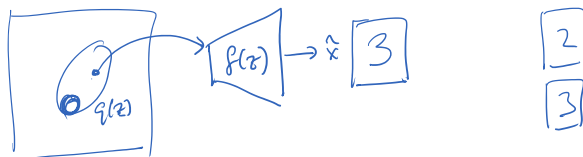
$$\log p_{\theta}(x) = \mathcal{L}(q, \theta) + \mathbb{D}_{KL}[q(z) \parallel p_{\theta}(z|x)]$$

$$\mathcal{L}(q, \theta) = \underbrace{\log p_{\theta}(x)}_{\text{evidence}} - \underbrace{\mathbb{D}_{KL}[q(z) \parallel p_{\theta}(z|x)]}_{\text{easy}}$$

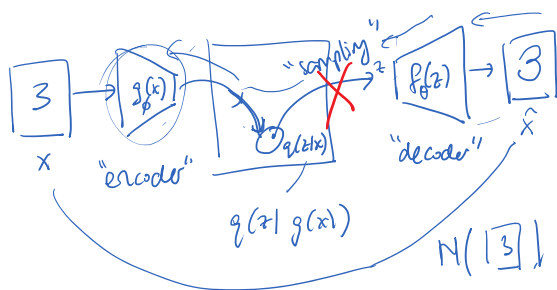
$$\mathcal{L}(q, \theta) = \underbrace{\mathbb{E}_{q(z)}[\log p(x|z)]}_{\text{sampling}} - \underbrace{\mathbb{D}_{KL}[q(z) \parallel p(z)]}_{\text{easy}}$$

Pick $q(z)$:

$$q(z) = \mathcal{N}(\mu, \Sigma)$$



$$q(z) = \mathcal{N}(z | g_{\phi}(x))$$



$$\mathbb{D}_{KL}[q(z|x) \parallel p(z)] \gg 0$$

$$\log \mathcal{N} = \log C + (-f(z) \tilde{\Sigma}^{-1} (-f(z)))$$

$$\max_{\phi, \theta} \mathcal{L}(\phi, \theta) = \underbrace{\mathbb{E}_{q_{\phi}}[\log p_{\theta}(x|z)]}_{\text{sampling}} - \underbrace{\mathbb{D}_{KL}[q_{\phi}(z|x) \parallel p(z)]}_{\text{closed form}}$$

gradient ascent

$$\phi_{t+1} = \phi_t + \eta \nabla_{\phi} \mathcal{L}(\phi, \theta)$$

$$\theta_{t+1} = \theta_t + \eta \nabla_{\theta} \mathcal{L}(\phi, \theta)$$

Problem ②

no gradients! $\hat{1}$

Problem ② no gradients! $\nwarrow \nearrow$

idea: don't sample z directly.

sample $\epsilon \sim \mathcal{N}(0, I)$

$$z = g_{\phi}^{\mu}(x) + \left(g_{\phi}^{\Sigma}(x) \right)^{1/2} \epsilon.$$

$$z \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu, \Sigma)$$

$$\epsilon \sim \mathcal{N}(0, I)$$

$$\mu + \epsilon$$

