Deep Generative Models

Lecture 3

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Jacobian matrix

Let $\mathbf{f}: \mathbb{R}^m \to \mathbb{R}^m$ be a differentiable function.

$$\mathbf{z} = \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}), \quad \mathbf{J} = \frac{\partial \mathbf{z}}{\partial \mathbf{x}} = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{\partial z_1}{\partial x_1} & \cdots & \frac{\partial z_1}{\partial x_m} \\ \cdots & \cdots & \cdots \\ \frac{\partial z_m}{\partial x_1} & \cdots & \frac{\partial z_m}{\partial x_m} \end{pmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times m}$$

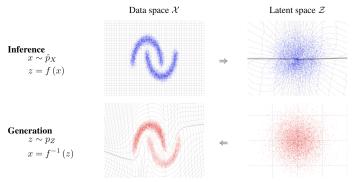
Change of variable theorem (CoV)

Let \mathbf{x} be a random variable with density function $p(\mathbf{x})$ and $\mathbf{f}: \mathbb{R}^m \to \mathbb{R}^m$ is a differentiable, invertible function. If $\mathbf{z} = \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x})$, $\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{f}^{-1}(\mathbf{z}) = \mathbf{g}(\mathbf{z})$, then

$$\begin{aligned} & p(\mathbf{x}) = p(\mathbf{z}) |\det(\mathbf{J_f})| = p(\mathbf{z}) \left| \det\left(\frac{\partial \mathbf{z}}{\partial \mathbf{x}}\right) \right| = p(\mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x})) \left| \det\left(\frac{\partial \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x})}{\partial \mathbf{x}}\right) \right| \\ & p(\mathbf{z}) = p(\mathbf{x}) |\det(\mathbf{J_g})| = p(\mathbf{x}) \left| \det\left(\frac{\partial \mathbf{x}}{\partial \mathbf{z}}\right) \right| = p(\mathbf{g}(\mathbf{z})) \left| \det\left(\frac{\partial \mathbf{g}(\mathbf{z})}{\partial \mathbf{z}}\right) \right|. \end{aligned}$$

Definition

Normalizing flow is a *differentiable, invertible* mapping from data \mathbf{x} to the noise \mathbf{z} .



Log likelihood

$$\log p(\mathbf{x}|\boldsymbol{\theta}) = \log p(\mathbf{f}_K \circ \cdots \circ \mathbf{f}_1(\mathbf{x})) + \sum_{k=1}^K \log |\det(\mathbf{J}_{\mathbf{f}_k})|$$

Flow log-likelihood

$$\log p(\mathbf{x}|\boldsymbol{\theta}) = \log p(\mathbf{f}_{\boldsymbol{\theta}}(\mathbf{x})) + \log |\det(\mathbf{J}_{\mathbf{f}})|$$

The main challenge is a determinant of the Jacobian.

Linear flows

$$z = f_{\theta}(x) = Wx$$
, $W \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times m}$, $\theta = W$, $J_f = W^T$

► LU-decomposition

$$W = PLU$$
.

QR-decomposition

$$W = QR$$
.

Decomposition should be done only once in the beggining. Next, we fit decomposed matrices (P/L/U or Q/R).

Kingma D. P., Dhariwal P. Glow: Generative Flow with Invertible 1x1 Convolutions, 2018

Hoogeboom E., et al. Emerging convolutions for generative normalizing flows, 2019

Consider an autoregressive model

$$p(\mathbf{x}|\boldsymbol{\theta}) = \prod_{i=1}^{m} p(x_i|\mathbf{x}_{1:j-1},\boldsymbol{\theta}), \quad p(x_i|\mathbf{x}_{1:j-1},\boldsymbol{\theta}) = \mathcal{N}\left(\mu_{j,\boldsymbol{\theta}}(\mathbf{x}_{1:j-1}), \sigma_{j,\boldsymbol{\theta}}^2(\mathbf{x}_{1:j-1})\right).$$

Gaussian autoregressive NF

$$\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{g}_{\theta}(\mathbf{z}) \quad \Rightarrow \quad x_{j} = \sigma_{j,\theta}(\mathbf{x}_{1:j-1}) \cdot \mathbf{z}_{j} + \mu_{j,\theta}(\mathbf{x}_{1:j-1}).$$

$$\mathbf{z} = \mathbf{f}_{\theta}(\mathbf{x}) \quad \Rightarrow \quad \mathbf{z}_{j} = (x_{j} - \mu_{j,\theta}(\mathbf{x}_{1:j-1})) \cdot \frac{1}{\sigma_{j,\theta}(\mathbf{x}_{1:j-1})}.$$

- We have an **invertible** and **differentiable** transformation from p(z) to $p(x|\theta)$.
- Jacobian of such transformation is triangular!

Generation function $\mathbf{g}_{\theta}(\mathbf{z})$ is **sequential**. Inference function $\mathbf{f}_{\theta}(\mathbf{x})$ is **not sequential**.

Papamakarios G., Pavlakou T., Murray I. Masked Autoregressive Flow for Density Estimation, 2017

Let split x and z in two parts:

$$\mathbf{x} = [\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2] = [\mathbf{x}_{1:d}, \mathbf{x}_{d+1:m}]; \quad \mathbf{z} = [\mathbf{z}_1, \mathbf{z}_2] = [\mathbf{z}_{1:d}, \mathbf{z}_{d+1:m}].$$

Coupling layer

$$\begin{cases} \mathbf{x}_1 = \mathbf{z}_1; \\ \mathbf{x}_2 = \mathbf{z}_2 \odot \boldsymbol{\sigma}_{\boldsymbol{\theta}}(\mathbf{z}_1) + \boldsymbol{\mu}_{\boldsymbol{\theta}}(\mathbf{z}_1). \end{cases} \begin{cases} \mathbf{z}_1 = \mathbf{x}_1; \\ \mathbf{z}_2 = (\mathbf{x}_2 - \boldsymbol{\mu}_{\boldsymbol{\theta}}(\mathbf{x}_1)) \odot \frac{1}{\boldsymbol{\sigma}_{\boldsymbol{\theta}}(\mathbf{x}_1)}. \end{cases}$$

Estimating the density takes 1 pass, sampling takes 1 pass!

Jacobian

$$\det\left(\frac{\partial \mathbf{z}}{\partial \mathbf{x}}\right) = \det\left(\frac{\mathbf{I}_d}{\frac{\partial \mathbf{z}_2}{\partial \mathbf{x}_1}} \quad \frac{0_{d \times m - d}}{\frac{\partial \mathbf{z}_2}{\partial \mathbf{x}_2}}\right) = \prod_{i=1}^{m - d} \frac{1}{\sigma_{j,\theta}(\mathbf{x}_1)}.$$

Coupling layer is a special case of autoregressive NF.

Outline

1. Forward and Reverse KL for NF

- 2. Latent variable models (LVM)
- 3. Variational lower bound (ELBO)
- 4. EM-algorithm

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Forward KL vs Reverse KL

Forward KL ≡ MLE

$$KL(\pi||p) = \int \pi(\mathbf{x}) \log \frac{\pi(\mathbf{x})}{p(\mathbf{x}|\theta)} d\mathbf{x}$$

= $-\mathbb{E}_{\pi(\mathbf{x})} \log p(\mathbf{x}|\theta) + \text{const} \to \min_{\theta}$

Forward KI for NF model

$$\begin{split} \log p(\mathbf{x}|\boldsymbol{\theta}) &= \log p(\mathbf{f}_{\boldsymbol{\theta}}(\mathbf{x})) + \log |\det(\mathbf{J_f})| \\ \mathcal{K} \textit{L}(\pi||p) &= -\mathbb{E}_{\pi(\mathbf{x})} \left[\log p(\mathbf{f}_{\boldsymbol{\theta}}(\mathbf{x})) + \log |\det(\mathbf{J_f})| \right] + \text{const} \end{split}$$

- ▶ We need to be able to compute $f_{\theta}(x)$ and its Jacobian.
- ▶ We need to be able to compute the density p(z).
- We don't need to think about computing the function $\mathbf{g}_{\theta}(\mathbf{z}) = \mathbf{f}_{\theta}^{-1}(\mathbf{z})$ until we want to sample from the NF.

Forward KL vs Reverse KL

Reverse KL

$$KL(p||\pi) = \int p(\mathbf{x}|\theta) \log \frac{p(\mathbf{x}|\theta)}{\pi(\mathbf{x})} d\mathbf{x}$$
$$= \mathbb{E}_{p(\mathbf{x}|\theta)} [\log p(\mathbf{x}|\theta) - \log \pi(\mathbf{x})] \to \min_{\theta}$$

Reverse KL for NF model (LOTUS trick)

$$\begin{split} \log p(\mathbf{x}|\boldsymbol{\theta}) &= \log p(\mathbf{z}) + \log |\det(\mathbf{J_f})| = \log p(\mathbf{z}) - \log |\det(\mathbf{J_g})| \\ & \mathcal{K}L(p||\boldsymbol{\pi}) = \mathbb{E}_{p(\mathbf{z})} \left[\log p(\mathbf{z}) - \log |\det(\mathbf{J_g})| - \log \pi(\mathbf{g_{\boldsymbol{\theta}}}(\mathbf{z})) \right] \end{split}$$

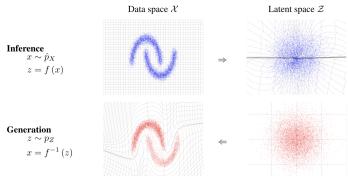
- ▶ We need to be able to compute $\mathbf{g}_{\theta}(\mathbf{z})$ and its Jacobian.
- We need to be able to sample from the density $p(\mathbf{z})$ (do not need to evaluate it) and to evaluate(!) $\pi(\mathbf{x})$.
- We don't need to think about computing the function $\mathbf{f}_{\theta}(\mathbf{x})$.

Normalizing flows KL duality

Theorem

Fitting NF model $p(\mathbf{x}|\boldsymbol{\theta})$ to the target distribution $\pi(\mathbf{x})$ using forward KL (MLE) is equivalent to fitting the induced distribution $p(\mathbf{z}|\boldsymbol{\theta})$ to the base $p(\mathbf{z})$ using reverse KL:

$$\underset{\boldsymbol{\theta}}{\operatorname{arg\,min}\,KL(\pi(\mathbf{x})||p(\mathbf{x}|\boldsymbol{\theta}))} = \underset{\boldsymbol{\theta}}{\operatorname{arg\,min}\,KL(p(\mathbf{z}|\boldsymbol{\theta})||p(\mathbf{z}))}.$$



Papamakarios G. et al. Normalizing flows for probabilistic modeling and inference, 2019

Normalizing flows KL duality

Theorem

$$\mathop{\arg\min}_{\boldsymbol{\theta}} \mathit{KL}(\pi(\mathbf{x})||p(\mathbf{x}|\boldsymbol{\theta})) = \mathop{\arg\min}_{\boldsymbol{\theta}} \mathit{KL}(p(\mathbf{z}|\boldsymbol{\theta})||p(\mathbf{z})).$$

Proof

- ightharpoonup $z \sim p(z), x = g_{\theta}(z), x \sim p(x|\theta);$
- $ightharpoonup \mathbf{x} \sim \pi(\mathbf{x}), \ \mathbf{z} = \mathbf{f}_{\boldsymbol{\theta}}(\mathbf{x}), \ \mathbf{z} \sim p(\mathbf{z}|\boldsymbol{\theta});$

$$\log p(\mathbf{z}|\boldsymbol{\theta}) = \log \pi(\mathbf{g}_{\boldsymbol{\theta}}(\mathbf{z})) + \log |\det(\mathbf{J}_{\mathbf{g}})|;$$

$$\log p(\mathbf{x}|\boldsymbol{\theta}) = \log p(\mathbf{f}_{\boldsymbol{\theta}}(\mathbf{x})) + \log |\det(\mathbf{J}_{\mathbf{f}})|.$$

$$\begin{split} \mathit{KL}\left(p(\mathbf{z}|\boldsymbol{\theta})||p(\mathbf{z})\right) &= \mathbb{E}_{p(\mathbf{z}|\boldsymbol{\theta})} \big[\log p(\mathbf{z}|\boldsymbol{\theta}) - \log p(\mathbf{z})\big] = \\ &= \mathbb{E}_{p(\mathbf{z}|\boldsymbol{\theta})} \left[\log \pi(\mathbf{g}_{\boldsymbol{\theta}}(\mathbf{z})) + \log |\det(\mathbf{J}_{\mathbf{g}})| - \log p(\mathbf{z})\right] = \\ &= \mathbb{E}_{\pi(\mathbf{x})} \left[\log \pi(\mathbf{x}) - \log |\det(\mathbf{J}_{\mathbf{f}})| - \log p(\mathbf{f}_{\boldsymbol{\theta}}(\mathbf{x}))\right] = \\ &= \mathbb{E}_{\pi(\mathbf{x})} \big[\log \pi(\mathbf{x}) - \log p(\mathbf{x}|\boldsymbol{\theta})\big] = \mathit{KL}(\pi(\mathbf{x})||p(\mathbf{x}|\boldsymbol{\theta})). \end{split}$$

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1. Forward and Reverse KL for NF

2. Latent variable models (LVM)

Variational lower bound (ELBO)

4. EM-algorithm

Bayesian framework

Bayes theorem

$$p(\theta|\mathbf{x}) = \frac{p(\mathbf{x}|\theta)p(\theta)}{p(\mathbf{x})} = \frac{p(\mathbf{x}|\theta)p(\theta)}{\int p(\mathbf{x}|\theta)p(\theta)d\theta}$$

- x observed variables, θ unobserved variables (latent variables/parameters);
- $ightharpoonup p(\mathbf{x}|\boldsymbol{\theta})$ likelihood;
- $p(\mathbf{x}) = \int p(\mathbf{x}|\theta)p(\theta)d\theta$ evidence;
- $ightharpoonup p(\theta)$ prior distribution, $p(\theta|\mathbf{x})$ posterior distribution.

Meaning

- We have unobserved variables θ and some prior knowledge about them $p(\theta)$.
- ▶ Then, the data x has been observed.
- Posterior distribution $p(\theta|\mathbf{x})$ summarizes the knowledge after the observations \mathbf{x} .

Bayesian framework

Let consider the case, where the unobserved variables θ are the model parameters (we treat model parameters θ as random variables).

- $ightharpoonup X = \{x_i\}_{i=1}^n$ observed samples;
- \triangleright $p(\theta)$ prior distribution.

Posterior distribution

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

If evidence p(X) is intractable (due to multidimensional integration), we can't get posterior distribution.

Maximum a posteriori (MAP) estimation

$$\boldsymbol{\theta}^* = \argmax_{\boldsymbol{\theta}} p(\boldsymbol{\theta}|\mathbf{X}) = \argmax_{\boldsymbol{\theta}} \left(\log p(\mathbf{X}|\boldsymbol{\theta}) + \log p(\boldsymbol{\theta})\right)$$

Latent variable models (LVM)

MLE problem

$$m{ heta}^* = rg \max_{m{ heta}} p(\mathbf{X}|m{ heta}) = rg \max_{m{ heta}} \prod_{i=1}^n p(\mathbf{x}_i|m{ heta}) = rg \max_{m{ heta}} \sum_{i=1}^n \log p(\mathbf{x}_i|m{ heta}).$$

The distribution $p(\mathbf{x}|\boldsymbol{\theta})$ could be complicated and intractable (as well as real distribution $\pi(\mathbf{x})$).

Extended probabilistic model

Introduce latent variable z for each sample x

$$p(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z}|\theta) = p(\mathbf{x}|\mathbf{z}, \theta)p(\mathbf{z}); \quad \log p(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z}|\theta) = \log p(\mathbf{x}|\mathbf{z}, \theta) + \log p(\mathbf{z}).$$

$$p(\mathbf{x}|\theta) = \int p(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z}|\theta)d\mathbf{z} = \int p(\mathbf{x}|\mathbf{z}, \theta)p(\mathbf{z})d\mathbf{z}.$$

Motivation

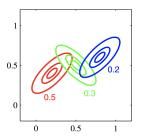
The distributions $p(\mathbf{x}|\mathbf{z}, \theta)$ and $p(\mathbf{z})$ could be quite simple.

Latent variable models (LVM)

$$\log p(\mathbf{x}|oldsymbol{ heta}) = \log \int p(\mathbf{x}|\mathbf{z},oldsymbol{ heta}) p(\mathbf{z}) d\mathbf{z}
ightarrow \max_{oldsymbol{ heta}}$$

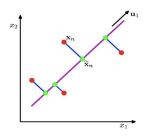
Examples

Mixture of gaussians



- $ightharpoonup p(z) = \operatorname{Categorical}(\pi)$

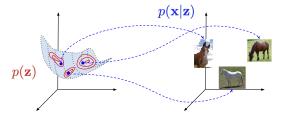
PCA model



- $p(\mathbf{x}|\mathbf{z},\boldsymbol{\theta}) = \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{W}\mathbf{z} + \boldsymbol{\mu}, \sigma^2 \mathbf{I})$
- $ho(z) = \mathcal{N}(0, \mathbf{I})$

MLE for LVM

$$\sum_{i=1}^n \log p(\mathbf{x}_i|\boldsymbol{\theta}) = \sum_{i=1}^n \log \int p(\mathbf{x}_i|\mathbf{z}_i,\boldsymbol{\theta}) p(\mathbf{z}_i) d\mathbf{z}_i \to \max_{\boldsymbol{\theta}}.$$



Naive approach

$$p(\mathbf{x}|\boldsymbol{\theta}) = \int p(\mathbf{x}|\mathbf{z}, \boldsymbol{\theta}) p(\mathbf{z}) d\mathbf{z} = \mathbb{E}_{p(\mathbf{z})} p(\mathbf{x}|\mathbf{z}, \boldsymbol{\theta}) \approx \frac{1}{K} \sum_{k=1}^{K} p(\mathbf{x}|\mathbf{z}_k, \boldsymbol{\theta}),$$

where $\mathbf{z}_k \sim p(\mathbf{z})$.

Challenge: to cover the space properly, the number of samples grows exponentially with respect to dimensionality of **z**.

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ELBO derivation I

Inequality derivation

$$\log p(\mathbf{x}|\boldsymbol{\theta}) = \log \int p(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z}|\boldsymbol{\theta}) d\mathbf{z} = \log \int \frac{q(\mathbf{z})}{q(\mathbf{z})} p(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z}|\boldsymbol{\theta}) d\mathbf{z} =$$

$$= \log \mathbb{E}_q \left[\frac{p(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z}|\boldsymbol{\theta})}{q(\mathbf{z})} \right] \ge \mathbb{E}_q \log \frac{p(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z}|\boldsymbol{\theta})}{q(\mathbf{z})} = \mathcal{L}_{q, \boldsymbol{\theta}}(\mathbf{x})$$

Here q(z) is an arbitrary distribution $(\int q(z)dz = 1)$.

Variational lower bound (ELBO)

$$\mathcal{L}_{q, oldsymbol{ heta}}(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbb{E}_q \log rac{
ho(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z} | oldsymbol{ heta})}{q(\mathbf{z})} \leq \log p(\mathbf{x} | oldsymbol{ heta})$$

This inequality holds for every distribution $q(\mathbf{z})$.

ELBO derivation II

$$p(\mathbf{z}|\mathbf{x}, \boldsymbol{\theta}) = \frac{p(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z}|\boldsymbol{\theta})}{p(\mathbf{x}|\boldsymbol{\theta})}$$

Equality derivation

$$\mathcal{L}_{q,\theta}(\mathbf{x}) = \int q(\mathbf{z}) \log \frac{p(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z}|\theta)}{q(\mathbf{z})} d\mathbf{z} =$$

$$= \int q(\mathbf{z}) \log \frac{p(\mathbf{z}|\mathbf{x}, \theta)p(\mathbf{x}|\theta)}{q(\mathbf{z})} d\mathbf{z} =$$

$$= \int q(\mathbf{z}) \log p(\mathbf{x}|\theta) d\mathbf{z} + \int q(\mathbf{z}) \log \frac{p(\mathbf{z}|\mathbf{x}, \theta)}{q(\mathbf{z})} d\mathbf{z} =$$

$$= \log p(\mathbf{x}|\theta) - KL(q(\mathbf{z})||p(\mathbf{z}|\mathbf{x}, \theta))$$

Variational decomposition

$$\log p(\mathbf{x}|\boldsymbol{\theta}) = \mathcal{L}_{q,\boldsymbol{\theta}}(\mathbf{x}) + KL(q(\mathbf{z})||p(\mathbf{z}|\mathbf{x},\boldsymbol{\theta})) \geq \mathcal{L}_{q,\boldsymbol{\theta}}(\mathbf{x}).$$

Here $KL(q(\mathbf{z})||p(\mathbf{z}|\mathbf{x},\boldsymbol{\theta})) \geq 0$.

Variational lower bound (ELBO)

$$\mathcal{L}_{q,\theta}(\mathbf{x}) = \int q(\mathbf{z}) \log \frac{p(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z}|\theta)}{q(\mathbf{z})} d\mathbf{z} =$$

$$= \int q(\mathbf{z}) \log p(\mathbf{x}|\mathbf{z}, \theta) d\mathbf{z} + \int q(\mathbf{z}) \log \frac{p(\mathbf{z})}{q(\mathbf{z})} d\mathbf{z}$$

$$= \mathbb{E}_q \log p(\mathbf{x}|\mathbf{z}, \theta) - KL(q(\mathbf{z})||p(\mathbf{z}))$$

Log-likelihood decomposition

$$\log p(\mathbf{x}|\theta) = \mathcal{L}_{q,\theta}(\mathbf{x}) + KL(q(\mathbf{z})||p(\mathbf{z}|\mathbf{x},\theta))$$

$$= \mathbb{E}_q \log p(\mathbf{x}|\mathbf{z},\theta) - KL(q(\mathbf{z})||p(\mathbf{z})) + KL(q(\mathbf{z})||p(\mathbf{z}|\mathbf{x},\theta)).$$

▶ Instead of maximizing incomplete likelihood, maximize ELBO

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

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

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

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EM-algorithm

$$egin{aligned} \mathcal{L}_{q, heta}(\mathbf{x}) &= \mathbb{E}_q \log p(\mathbf{x}|\mathbf{z}, oldsymbol{ heta}) - \mathit{KL}(q(\mathbf{z})||p(\mathbf{z})) = \ &= \mathbb{E}_q \left[\log p(\mathbf{x}|\mathbf{z}, oldsymbol{ heta}) - \log rac{q(\mathbf{z})}{p(\mathbf{z})}
ight] d\mathbf{z}
ightarrow \max_{q, oldsymbol{ heta}}. \end{aligned}$$

Block-coordinate optimization

- lnitialize θ^* ;
- ▶ **E-step** $(\mathcal{L}_{a,\theta}(\mathbf{x}) \to \max_a)$

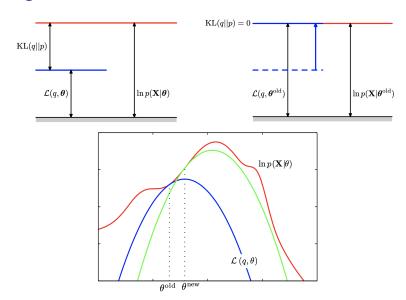
$$egin{aligned} q^*(\mathbf{z}) &= rg \max_q \mathcal{L}_{q, oldsymbol{ heta}^*}(\mathbf{x}) = \ &= rg \min_q \mathit{KL}(q(\mathbf{z}) || \mathit{p}(\mathbf{z}|\mathbf{x}, oldsymbol{ heta}^*)) = \mathit{p}(\mathbf{z}|\mathbf{x}, oldsymbol{ heta}^*); \end{aligned}$$

▶ M-step $(\mathcal{L}_{q,\theta}(\mathsf{x}) \to \mathsf{max}_{\theta})$

$$\theta^* = \arg\max_{\boldsymbol{\theta}} \mathcal{L}_{q^*,\boldsymbol{\theta}}(\mathbf{x});$$

Repeat E-step and M-step until convergence.

EM-algorithm illustration



Summary

- ► Flow duality connects data space and latent space via forward and reverse KL formulations.
- Bayesian framework is a generalization of most common machine learning tasks.
- ► LVM introduces latent representation of observed samples to make model more interpretative.
- ► LVM maximizes variational evidence lower bound (ELBO) to find MLE for the parameters.
- The general variational EM algorithm maximizes ELBO objective for LVM model to find MLE for parameters θ.