

KL divergence of factored distributions

Notation:

- $p(x)$ and $q(x)$ are two different distributions of scalar random variable x
- $p(y)$ and $q(y)$ are two different distributions of scalar random variable y

Derivation:

$$\begin{aligned} & D_{\text{KL}}(p(x)p(y)||q(x)q(y)) \\ &= \mathbb{E}_{p(x)p(y)}[\log(p(x)p(y)) - \log(q(x)q(y))] \\ &= \sum_{x,y} p(x)p(y)[\log(p(x)p(y)) - \log(q(x)q(y))] \\ &= \sum_{x,y} p(x)p(y)[\log p(x) - \log q(x) + \log p(y) - \log q(y)] \\ &= \sum_{x,y} p(x)p(y)[\log p(x) - \log q(x)] + \sum_{x,y} p(x)p(y)[\log p(y) - \log q(y)] \\ &= \sum_x \sum_y p(x)p(y)[\log p(x) - \log q(x)] + \sum_x \sum_y p(x)p(y)[\log p(y) - \log q(y)] \\ &= \sum_x p(x)[\log p(x) - \log q(x)] + \sum_y p(y)[\log p(y) - \log q(y)] \\ &= D_{\text{KL}}(p(x)||q(x)) + D_{\text{KL}}(p(y)||q(y)) \end{aligned}$$