

ELBO as a Lower Bound

(setting $p(z|x) = p(x,z)/p(x)$)

Theorem: for any q , $\log p(x) \geq \text{ELBO}(q)$
 i.e. $\text{ELBO}(q)$ is a lower bound on $\log p(x)$

Proof #1:

Recall Jensen's Inequality: $f(E[x]) \geq E[f(x)]$, for concave f

$$\log p(x) = \log \int_{\mathbf{z}} p(x, \mathbf{z}) d\mathbf{z} \quad (\text{marginal})$$

$$= \log \int_{\mathbf{z}} p(x, \mathbf{z}) \frac{q(\mathbf{z})}{q(\mathbf{z})} d\mathbf{z} \quad (\text{mult. by 1})$$

$$= \log E_{q(\mathbf{z})} [p(x, \mathbf{z}) / q(\mathbf{z})] \quad (\text{def. of expectation})$$

$$\geq E_{q(\mathbf{z})} [\log (p(x, \mathbf{z}) / q(\mathbf{z}))] \quad (\text{by Jensen's Ineq.})$$

$$= E_{q(\mathbf{z})} [\log p(x, \mathbf{z})] - E_{q(\mathbf{z})} [\log q(\mathbf{z})] = \text{ELBO}(q)$$

$$\Rightarrow \log p(x) \geq \text{ELBO}(q)$$

Proof #2:

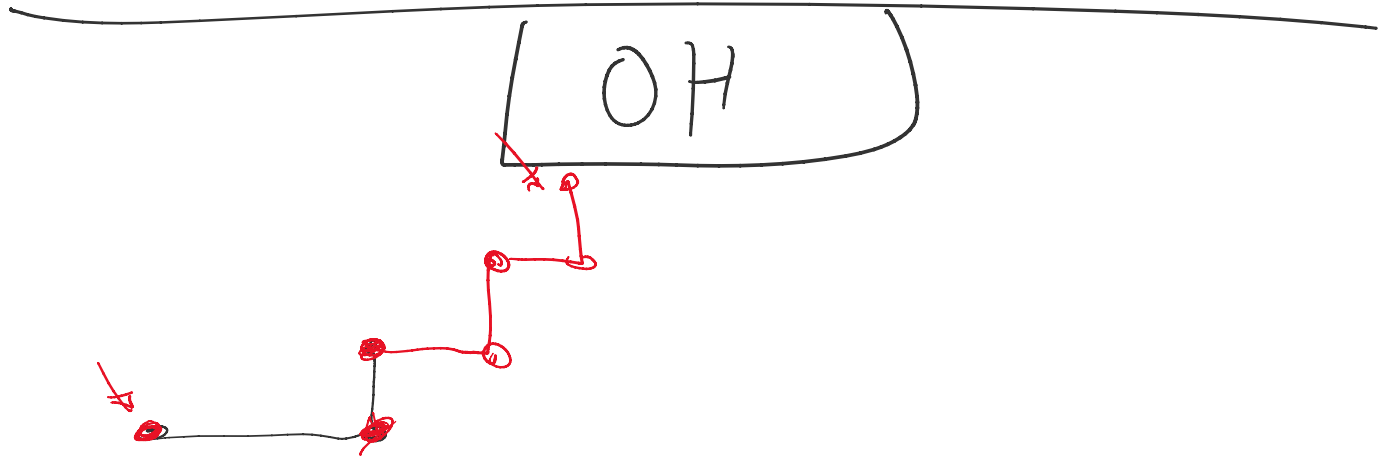
$$\textcircled{1} \log p(x) = \text{KL}(q \| p) + \text{ELBO}(q)$$

$$\textcircled{2} \text{KL}(q \| p) \geq 0 \quad (\text{without proof})$$

$$\textcircled{3} \Rightarrow \log p(x) \geq \text{ELBO}(q)$$

Take away: minimizing KL is the same as

finding a tight $\text{ELBO}(q)$ lower bound for $\log p(x)$



$$A_{t,0} \sim p(A_{t,0} | x, y, A_{7t,0}, B, \alpha, \beta)$$

↑ └──────────────────┘
data, hyperparameter