

Exercise: ELBO for univariate Gaussians

Considering computing the posterior for the parameters of a univariate Gaussian, $p(\mu, \lambda | \mathcal{D})$, using the prior

$$p(\mu, \lambda) = \mathcal{N}(\mu | \mu_0, (\kappa_0 \lambda)^{-1}) \text{Ga}(\lambda | a_0, b_0) \quad (1)$$

and a fully factored posterior

$$q(\mu, \lambda) = \mathcal{N}(\mu | \mu_N, \kappa_N^{-1}) \gamma(\lambda | a_N, b_N) \quad (2)$$

Show that the ELBO is given by

$$L(q) = \text{const} + 1/2 \ln \frac{1}{\kappa_N} + \ln \Gamma(a_N) - a_N \ln b_N \quad (3)$$

Hint: the entropies of the variational posteriors are given by

$$\mathbb{H}(\mathcal{N}(\mu_N, \kappa_N^{-1})) = -1/2 \log \kappa_N + 1/2 (1 + \log(2\pi)) \quad (4)$$

$$\mathbb{H}(\text{Ga}(a_N, b_N)) = \log \Gamma(a_N) - (a_N - 1)\psi(a_N) - \log(b_N) + a_N \quad (5)$$

where $\psi()$ is the digamma function. Also, the expectations of various terms wrt these distributions are given below.

$$\mathbb{E}[\log x | x \sim \text{Ga}(a, b)] = \psi(a) - \log(b) \quad (6)$$

$$\mathbb{E}[x | x \sim \text{Ga}(a, b)] = \frac{a}{b} \quad (7)$$

$$\mathbb{E}[x | x \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu, \sigma^2)] = \mu \quad (8)$$

$$\mathbb{E}[x^2 | x \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu, \sigma^2)] = \mu^2 + \sigma^2 \quad (9)$$