

# Variational Autoencoder



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# Outline

- 1 Prerequisite knowledge
- 2 Manifold structure
- 3 Unsupervised Learning

# Neural Network (NN)

**Question:** Why a neural net can approximate functions?

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<sup>1</sup>Lu et al., The Expressive power of Neural Networks: A View from the Width, NIPS 2017

# Neural Network (NN)

**Question:** Why a neural net can approximate functions? <sup>1</sup>

## Theorem (Universal Approximation Theorem With ReLU Network)

*For any Lebesgue-integrable function  $f : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  and any  $\varepsilon > 0$ , there exist a fully-connected ReLU network  $\mathcal{Q}$  with width  $\leq n + 4$  and depth  $\leq 4n + 1$  such that the function  $F_{\mathcal{Q}}$  represented by this network satisfies*

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^n} |f(x) - F_{\mathcal{Q}}| dx < \varepsilon$$

<sup>1</sup>Lu et al., The Expressive power of Neural Networks: A View from the Width, NIPS 2017

# Convolutional Neural Network (CNN)

# Manifold structure

## Manifold

Let  $\Sigma$  be a topological space, covered by a set of open sets  $\Sigma \subset \bigcup_{\alpha} U_{\alpha}$ . For each open set  $U_{\alpha}$ , there is a homeomorphism  $\varphi_{\alpha} : U_{\alpha} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ , the pair  $(U_{\alpha}, \varphi_{\alpha})$  form a chart. The union of charts form an atlas  $\mathcal{A} = \{(U_{\alpha}, \varphi_{\alpha})\}$ . If  $U_{\alpha} \cap U_{\beta} \neq \emptyset$ , then the chart transition map is given by

$$\varphi_{\alpha\beta} : \varphi_{\alpha}(U_{\alpha} \cap U_{\beta}) \rightarrow \varphi_{\beta}(U_{\alpha} \cap U_{\beta}),$$

where  $\varphi_{\alpha\beta} = \varphi_{\beta} \circ \varphi_{\alpha}^{-1}$ .

# Manifold structure

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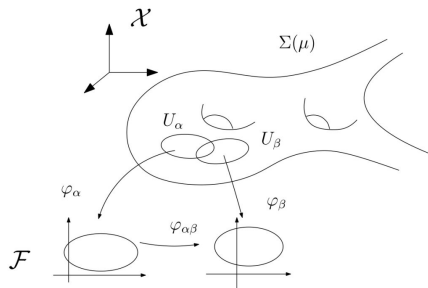
$$\varphi_{\alpha\beta} : \varphi_{\alpha}(U_{\alpha} \cap U_{\beta}) \rightarrow \varphi_{\beta}(U_{\alpha} \cap U_{\beta}),$$

where  $\varphi_{\alpha\beta} = \varphi_{\beta} \circ \varphi_{\alpha}^{-1}$ .

## Manifold assumption

Natural high dimensional data concentrates close to a non-linear low-dimensional manifold.

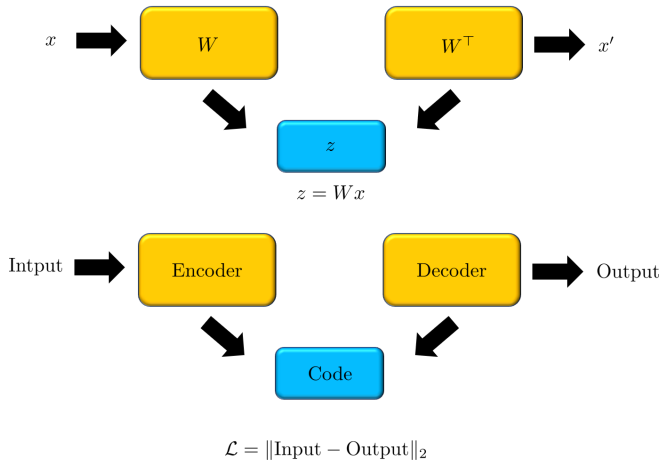
# Manifold structure



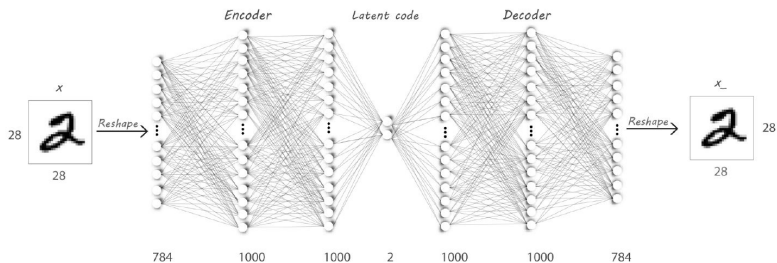
- $\mathcal{X}$  is the ambient space,  $\mathcal{F}$  is latent space.
- $\Sigma$  is a low-dimensional manifold.
- $\varphi_\alpha$  is encoding map, and  $\varphi_\alpha^{-1}$  is decoding map.
- $x \in \Sigma$  is a sample, and  $\varphi_\alpha(x)$  is the code of  $x$ .



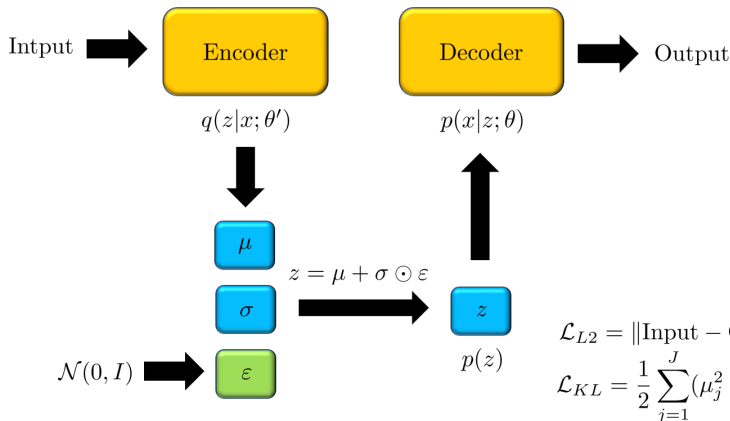
# PCA vs Autoencoder



# Autoencoder



# Variational Autoencoder (VAE)



$$\mathcal{L}_{L2} = \|\text{Input} - \text{Output}\|_2$$

$$\mathcal{L}_{KL} = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{j=1}^J (\mu_j^2 + \sigma_j^2 - \log \sigma_j^2 - 1)$$

# Variational Autoencoder (VAE)

- A probabilistic generative model with latent variables that is built on top of end-to-end trainable neural networks.
- By approximation theory, assume that

$$p(\mathbf{z}) = \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{z}; 0, I)$$
$$p(\mathbf{x}|\mathbf{z}) = \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{x}; \mu(\mathbf{z}), \Sigma(\mathbf{z}))$$

# Approximation theory

Our goal is to find the probability distribution function that has maximal differential entropy. The problem is

$$\arg \max_{p(x)} H[p(x)]$$

subject to

$$\begin{cases} \int_{x \in X} p(x) dx = 1 \\ E(X) = \mu \\ E[(X - \mu)^2] = \sigma^2 \end{cases},$$

where  $H[p(x)] = - \int_{x \in X} p(x) \log p(x) dx$ .<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> $H[p(x)]$  is expectation of the entropy.

# Approximation theory

This constrained optimization problem can be solved by setting up a Lagrangian functional

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{L}(p, \lambda_1, \lambda_2, \lambda_3) = & - \int_{x \in X} p(x) \log p(x) dx \\ & + \lambda_1 \left( \int_{x \in X} p(x) dx - 1 \right) \\ & + \lambda_2 \left( \int_{x \in X} xp(x) dx - \mu \right) \\ & + \lambda_3 \left( \int_{x \in X} (x - \mu)^2 p(x) dx - \sigma^2 \right)\end{aligned}$$

We set the functional derivative w.r.t.  $p(x)$  to 0

$$\frac{\delta}{\delta p(x)} \mathcal{L} = -\log p(x) - 1 + \lambda_1 + \lambda_2 + \lambda_3(x - \mu)^2 = 0.$$

# Approximation theory

Then we have

$$p(x) = \exp(\lambda_1 + \lambda_2 x + \lambda_3(x - \mu)^2 - 1),$$

and take

$$\lambda_1 = 1 - \log \sigma \sqrt{2\pi}, \quad \lambda_2 = 0, \quad \lambda_3 = -\frac{1}{2\sigma^2}.$$

Therefore, we can get

$$p(x) = \mathcal{N}(x; \mu, \sigma^2).$$

That is, the normal distribution has the maximum entropy. So, when we do not know the true distribution, we can assume the normal distribution.

# Maximal Likelihood

- To determine  $\theta$ , we would intuitively hope to maximize the marginal distribution  $p(\mathbf{x}; \theta)$

$$p(\mathbf{x}; \theta) = \int_{\mathbf{z} \in \mathbf{Z}} p(\mathbf{x}|\mathbf{z}; \theta) p(\mathbf{z}) d\mathbf{z}$$

- The marginal likelihood is composed of a sum over the marginal likelihoods of individual datapoints

$$\log p(\mathbf{x}_1, \dots, \mathbf{x}_N; \theta) = \log \prod_{i=1}^N p(\mathbf{x}_i; \theta) = \sum_{i=1}^N \log p(\mathbf{x}_i; \theta)$$



# Maximal Likelihood

Since  $\int_{\mathbf{z} \in \mathbf{Z}} q(\mathbf{z}|\mathbf{x}; \boldsymbol{\theta}') d\mathbf{z} = 1$ ,

$$\begin{aligned}
 \log p(\mathbf{x}; \boldsymbol{\theta}) &= \int_{\mathbf{z} \in \mathbf{Z}} q(\mathbf{z}|\mathbf{x}; \boldsymbol{\theta}') \log p(\mathbf{x}; \boldsymbol{\theta}) d\mathbf{z} \\
 &= \int_{\mathbf{z} \in \mathbf{Z}} q(\mathbf{z}|\mathbf{x}; \boldsymbol{\theta}') \log \frac{p(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z}; \boldsymbol{\theta})}{p(\mathbf{z}|\mathbf{x}; \boldsymbol{\theta})} d\mathbf{z} \\
 &= \int_{\mathbf{z} \in \mathbf{Z}} q(\mathbf{z}|\mathbf{x}; \boldsymbol{\theta}') \log \frac{p(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z}; \boldsymbol{\theta})}{q(\mathbf{z}|\mathbf{x}; \boldsymbol{\theta}')} \cdot \frac{q(\mathbf{z}|\mathbf{x}; \boldsymbol{\theta}')}{p(\mathbf{z}|\mathbf{x}; \boldsymbol{\theta})} d\mathbf{z} \\
 &= \int_{\mathbf{z} \in \mathbf{Z}} q(\mathbf{z}|\mathbf{x}; \boldsymbol{\theta}') \log \frac{p(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z}; \boldsymbol{\theta})}{q(\mathbf{z}|\mathbf{x}; \boldsymbol{\theta}')} d\mathbf{z} \\
 &\quad + \int_{\mathbf{z} \in \mathbf{Z}} q(\mathbf{z}|\mathbf{x}; \boldsymbol{\theta}') \log \frac{q(\mathbf{z}|\mathbf{x}; \boldsymbol{\theta}')}{p(\mathbf{z}|\mathbf{x}; \boldsymbol{\theta})} d\mathbf{z}
 \end{aligned}$$

# Maximal Likelihood

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

where

$$\mathcal{L}(\mathbf{x}, q, \boldsymbol{\theta}) = \int_{\mathbf{z} \in \mathbf{Z}} q(\mathbf{z}|\mathbf{x}; \boldsymbol{\theta}') \log \frac{p(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z}; \boldsymbol{\theta})}{q(\mathbf{z}|\mathbf{x}; \boldsymbol{\theta}')} d\mathbf{z}$$

$$\text{KL}(q(\mathbf{z}|\mathbf{x}; \boldsymbol{\theta}') \| p(\mathbf{z}|\mathbf{x}; \boldsymbol{\theta})) = \int_{\mathbf{z} \in \mathbf{Z}} q(\mathbf{z}|\mathbf{x}; \boldsymbol{\theta}') \log \frac{q(\mathbf{z}|\mathbf{x}; \boldsymbol{\theta}')}{p(\mathbf{z}|\mathbf{x}; \boldsymbol{\theta})} d\mathbf{z}$$

Note that

$$\text{KL}(q(\mathbf{z}|\mathbf{x}; \boldsymbol{\theta}') \| p(\mathbf{z}|\mathbf{x}; \boldsymbol{\theta})) \approx 0 \text{ if and only if } p(\mathbf{z}|\mathbf{x}; \boldsymbol{\theta}) \approx q(\mathbf{z}|\mathbf{x}; \boldsymbol{\theta}')$$

# Variational lower bound

$$\begin{aligned}
 \mathcal{L}(x, q, \theta) &= \int_{\mathbf{z} \in \mathbf{Z}} q(\mathbf{z} | x; \theta') \log \frac{p(x, \mathbf{z}; \theta)}{q(\mathbf{z} | x; \theta')} d\mathbf{z} \\
 &= \int_{\mathbf{z} \in \mathbf{Z}} q(\mathbf{z} | x; \theta') \log \frac{p(x | \mathbf{z}; \theta) p(\mathbf{z})}{q(\mathbf{z} | x; \theta')} d\mathbf{z} \\
 &= \int_{\mathbf{z} \in \mathbf{Z}} q(\mathbf{z} | x; \theta') \log \frac{p(\mathbf{z})}{q(\mathbf{z} | x; \theta')} d\mathbf{z} \\
 &\quad + \int_{\mathbf{z} \in \mathbf{Z}} q(\mathbf{z} | x; \theta') \log p(x | \mathbf{z}; \theta) d\mathbf{z} \\
 &= -\text{KL}(q(\mathbf{z} | x; \theta') \| p(\mathbf{z})) + E_{\mathbf{z} \sim q(\mathbf{z} | x; \theta')} [\log p(x | \mathbf{z}; \theta)]
 \end{aligned}$$

# KL term

By previous assumption,

$$p(\mathbf{z}) = \log \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{z}; 0, I) \text{ and } q(\mathbf{z}|\mathbf{x}; \boldsymbol{\theta}') = \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{z}; \boldsymbol{\mu}, \sigma^2)$$

We can get

$$\begin{aligned} -\text{KL}(q\|p) &= \int_{\mathbf{z} \in \mathcal{Z}} q(\mathbf{z}|\mathbf{x}; \boldsymbol{\theta}') \log \frac{p(\mathbf{z})}{q(\mathbf{z}|\mathbf{x}; \boldsymbol{\theta}')} d\mathbf{z} \\ &= \int_{\mathbf{z} \in \mathcal{Z}} \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{z}; \boldsymbol{\mu}, \sigma^2) (\log \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{z}; 0, I) - \log \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{z}; \boldsymbol{\mu}, \sigma^2)) d\mathbf{z} \end{aligned}$$

Note that

- $\int_{\mathbf{z} \in \mathcal{Z}} \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{z}; \boldsymbol{\mu}, \sigma^2) \log \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{z}; 0, I) d\mathbf{z} = -\frac{J}{2} \log 2\pi - \frac{1}{2} \sum_{j=1}^J (\mu_j^2 + \sigma_j^2)$
- $\int_{\mathbf{z} \in \mathcal{Z}} \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{z}; \boldsymbol{\mu}, \sigma^2) \log \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{z}; \boldsymbol{\mu}, \sigma^2) d\mathbf{z} = -\frac{J}{2} \log 2\pi - \frac{1}{2} \sum_{j=1}^J (1 + \log \sigma_j^2)$

## KL term

Therefore,

$$-\text{KL}(q(\mathbf{z}|\mathbf{x}; \boldsymbol{\theta}') \| p(\mathbf{z})) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{j=1}^J (\mu_j^2 + \sigma_j^2 - \log \sigma_j^2 - 1)$$

# Expectation term

By Monte Carlo estimate,

$$E_{z \sim q(z|x; \theta')} [\log p(x|z; \theta')] \approx \frac{1}{K} \sum_{k=1}^K \log p(x|z^{(k)}; \theta)$$

where  $z \sim q(z|x; \theta')$ .

# Reparameterization trick

$$z \sim q(z|x; \theta') \implies \begin{cases} \text{auxiliary variable: } \varepsilon \sim p(\varepsilon) \\ \text{deterministic variable: } z = g(x, \varepsilon; \theta') \end{cases}$$

For example, we can take

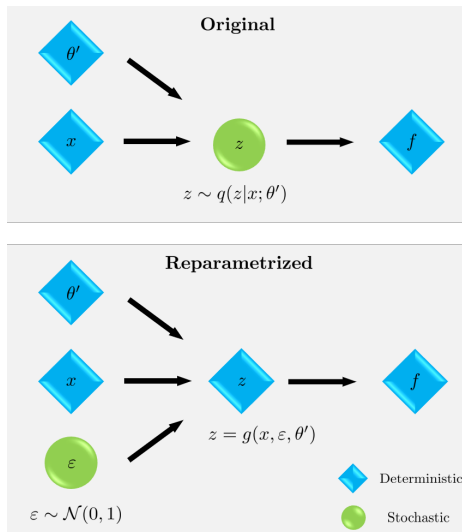
$$p(\varepsilon) = \mathcal{N}(0, I) \text{ and } g(x, \varepsilon; \mu, \sigma) = \mu + \sigma \odot \varepsilon,$$

then

$$E_{z \sim q(z|x; \theta')} [\log p(x|z; \theta')] \approx \frac{1}{K} \sum_{k=1}^K \log p(x|z^{(k)}; \theta')$$

where  $z^{(k)} = \mu^{(k)} + \sigma^{(k)} \odot \varepsilon^{(k)}$  and  $\varepsilon^{(k)} \sim \mathcal{N}(0, I)$ .

# Reparameterization trick





# Training VAE

- $p(x|z; \theta)$  and  $q(z|x; \theta')$  are modeled by distinct neural networks.
- A by-product of this training process is a stochastic encoder

$$p(x|z; \theta) \approx q(z|x; \theta')$$

THE END

**Thanks for listening!**