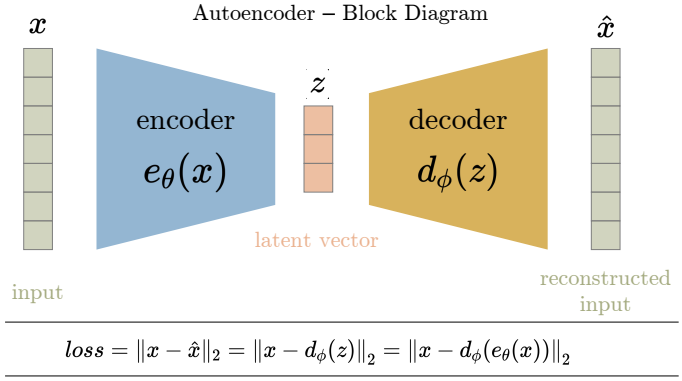
Cheat Sheet – Autoencoder & Variational Autoencoder

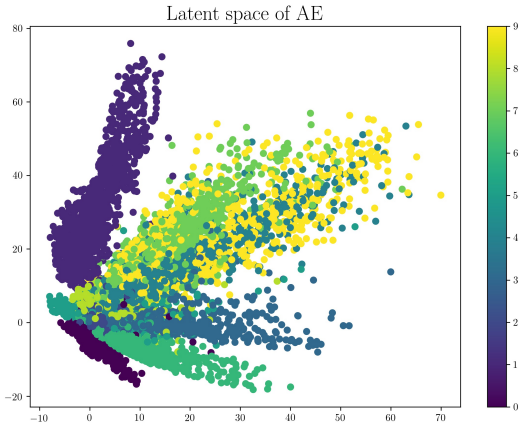
Context – Data Compression

- Data compression is an essential phase in training a network. The idea is to compress the data so that the same amount of information can be represented by fewer bits.

Auto Encoder (AE)

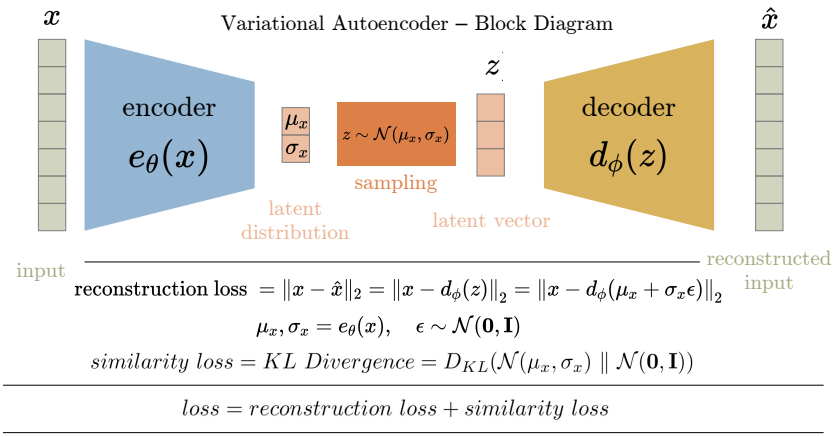
- Autoencoder is used to learn efficient embeddings of unlabeled data for a given network configuration. It consists of two parts, an **encoder**, and a **decoder**.
- The encoder compresses the data from a higher-dimensional space to a lower-dimensional space (also called the latent space),while the decoder converts the latent space back to higher-dimensional space.
- The entire encoder-decoder architecture is collectively trained on the loss function which encourages that the input is reconstructed at the output. Hence the loss function is the mean squared error between the encoder input and the decoder output.
- The latent variable is not regularized. Picking a random latent variable will generate garbage output.
- Latent variable is deterministic values and the space lacks the generative capability

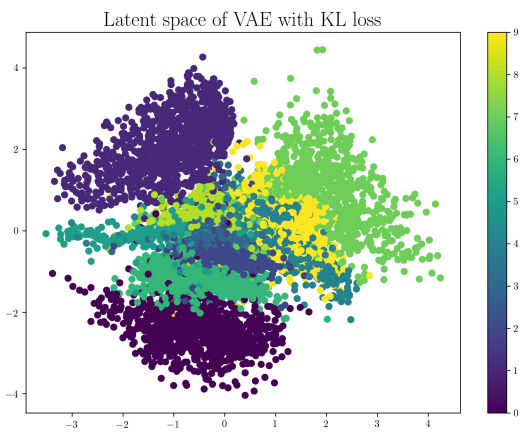




Variational Auto Encoder (VAE)

- Variational autoencoder addresses the issue of non-regularized latent space in autoencoder and provides the generative capability to the entire space.
- Instead of outputting the vectors in the latent space, the encoder of VAE outputs parameters of a pre-defined distribution in the latent space for every input.
- The VAE then imposes a constraint on this latent distribution forcing it to be a normal distribution.
- The latent variable in the compressed form is mean and variance
- The training loss of VAE is defined as the sum of the reconstruction loss and the similarity loss (the KL divergence between the unit gaussian and decoder output distribution.
- The latent variable is smooth and continuous i.e., random values of latent variable generates meaningful output at the decoder, hence the latent space has generative capabilities.
- The input of the decoder is sampled from a gaussian with mean/variance of the output of encoder.





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