

From Autoencoder to Variational Autoencoder

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From Autoencoder to Variational Autoencoder

- Vanilla Autoencoder (AE)
- Denoising Autoencoder
- Sparse Autoencoder
- Contractive Autoencoder
- Stacked Autoencoder
- Variational Autoencoder (VAE)

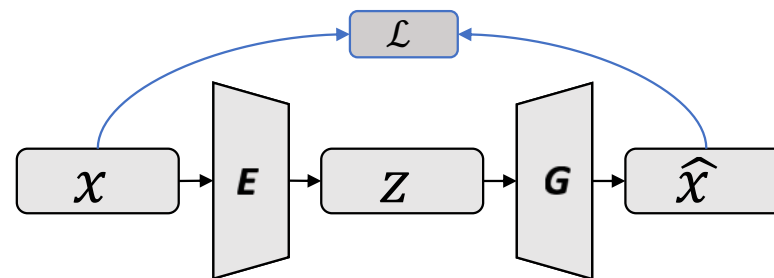
From Autoencoder to Variational Autoencoder

- Vanilla Autoencoder (AE)
 - Denoising Autoencoder
 - Sparse Autoencoder
 - Contractive Autoencoder
 - Stacked Autoencoder
 - Variational Autoencoder (VAE)
- Feature Representation
- Distribution Representation

- Vanilla Autoencoder
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- Variational Autoencoder (VAE)

Vanilla Autoencoder

- What is it?



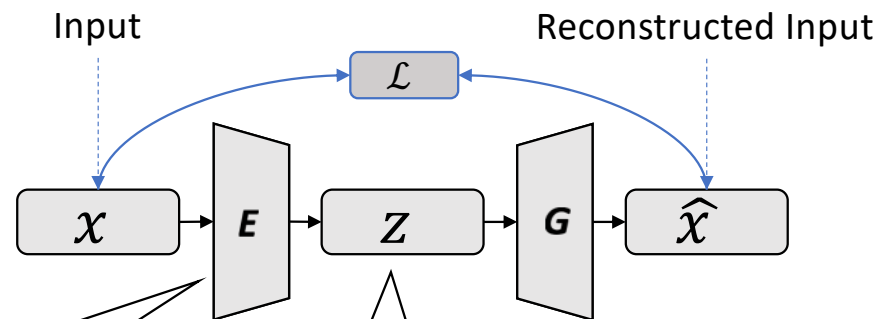
Reconstruct high-dimensional data using a neural network model with a narrow bottleneck layer.

The bottleneck layer captures the compressed latent coding, so the nice by-product is dimension reduction.

The low-dimensional representation can be used as the representation of the data in various applications, e.g., image retrieval, data compression ...

Vanilla Autoencoder

- How it works?



Ideally the input and reconstruction are identical

The encoder network is for dimension reduction, just like PCA

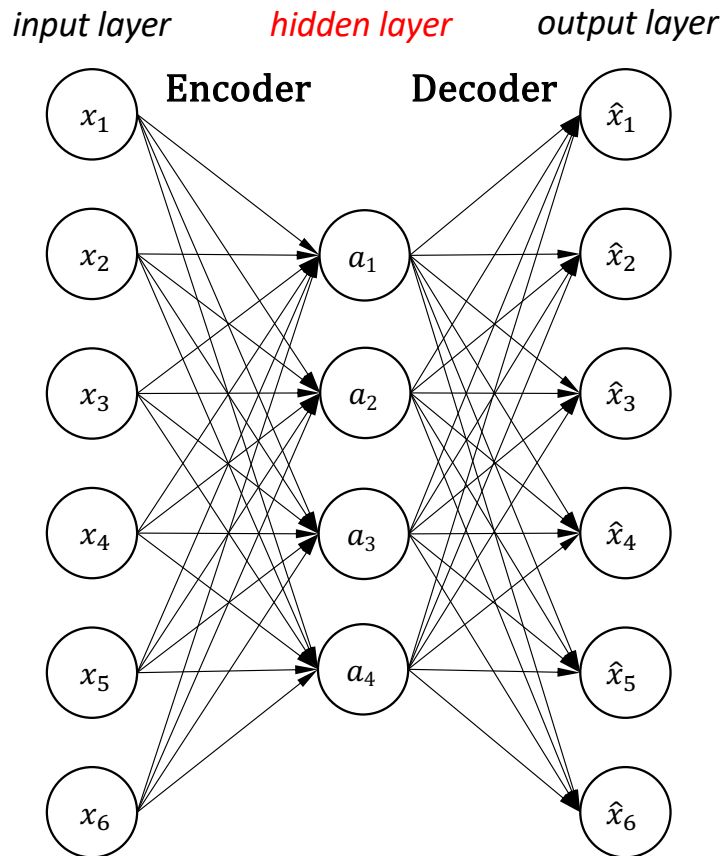
encoder
 $X \rightarrow Z$
编码器

decoder/generator
 $Z \rightarrow X$
解码器/生成器

Latent code: the compressed low dimensional representation of the input data
隐编码

Vanilla Autoencoder

- **Training**



- The hidden units are usually less than the number of inputs
- Dimension reduction --- Representation learning

The distance between two data can be measure by Mean Squared Error (MSE):

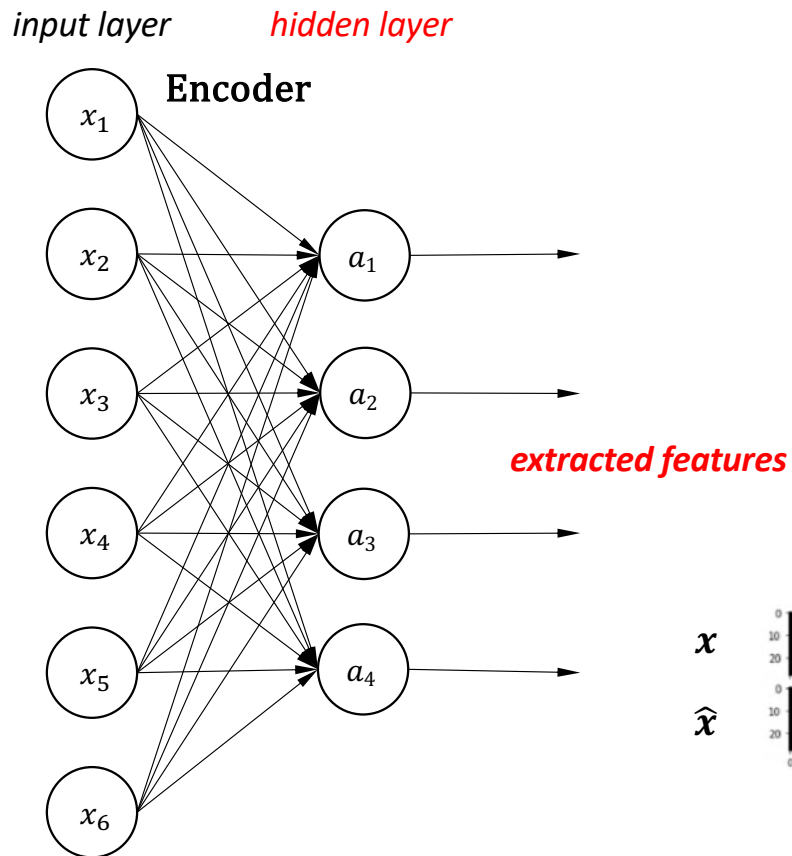
$$\mathcal{L} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (x^i - G(E(x^i)))^2$$

where n is the number of variables

- It is trying to learn an approximation to the identity function so that the input is “compress” to the “compressed” features, discovering interesting structure about the data.

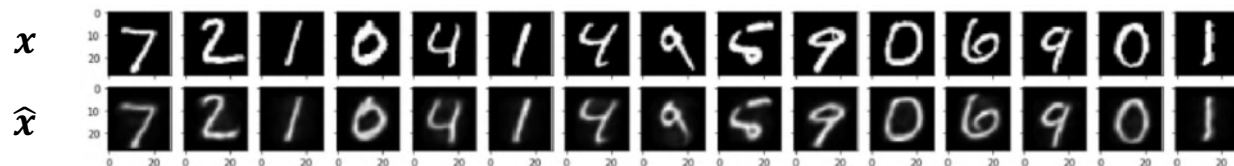
Vanilla Autoencoder

• Testing/Inferencing



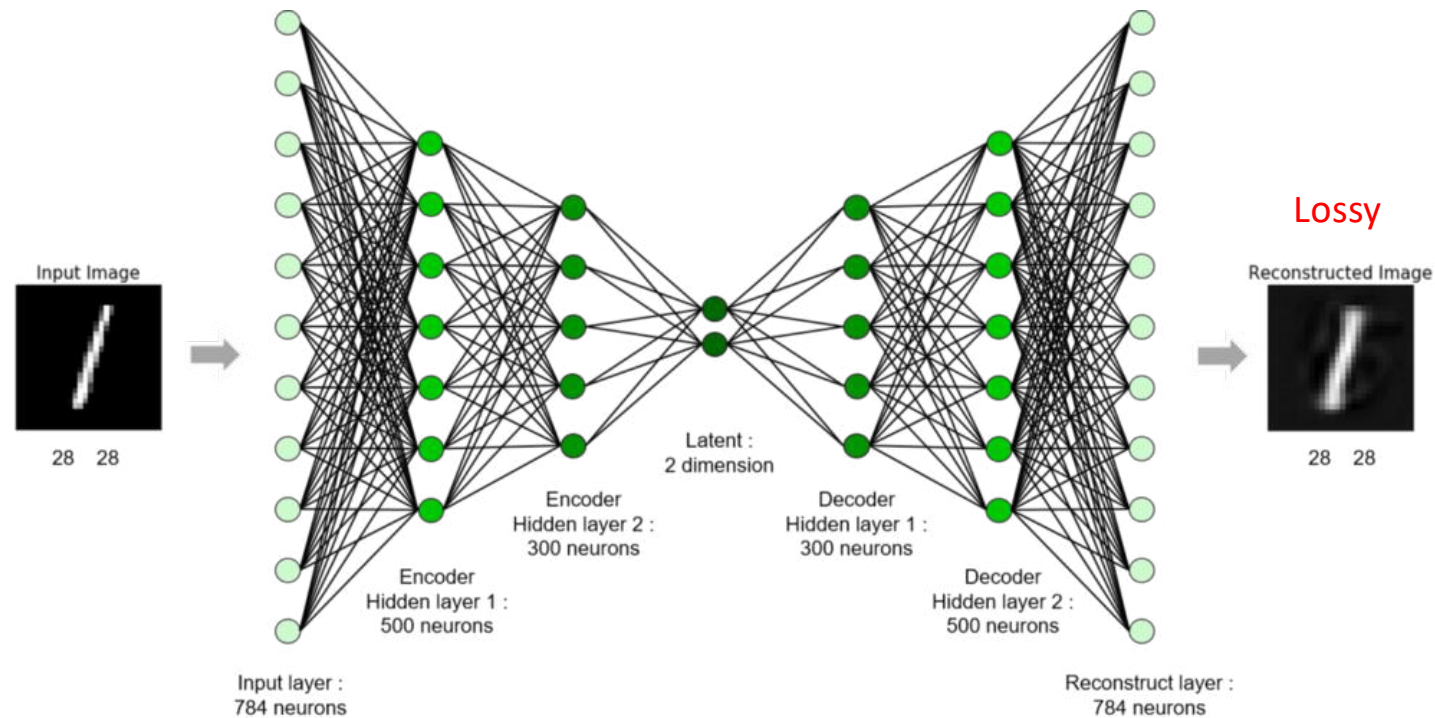
- Autoencoder is an **unsupervised learning** method if we considered the latent code as the “output”.
- Autoencoder is also a **self-supervised (self-taught) learning** method which is a type of supervised learning where the training labels are determined by the input data.
- Word2Vec (from RNN lecture) is another unsupervised, self-taught learning example.

Autoencoder for MNIST dataset ($28 \times 28 \times 1$, 784 pixels)



Vanilla Autoencoder

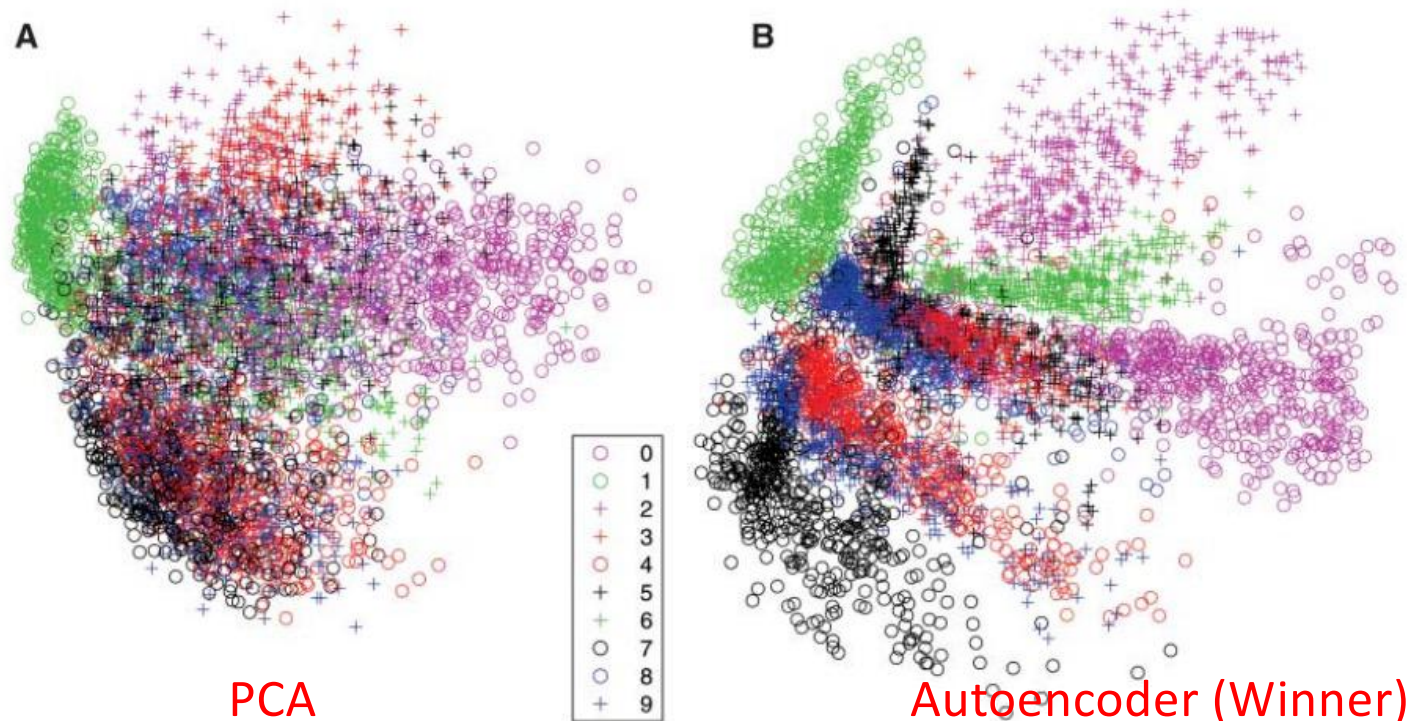
- **Example:**
 - Compress MNIST (28x28x1) to the latent code with only 2 variables



Vanilla Autoencoder

- **Power of Latent Representation**
 - t-SNE visualisation on MNIST: PCA vs. Autoencoder

Fig. 3. (A) The two-dimensional codes for 500 digits of each class produced by taking the first two principal components of all 60,000 training images. (B) The two-dimensional codes found by a 784-1000-500-250-2 autoencoder. For an alternative visualization, see (8).



Vanilla Autoencoder

- **Discussion**
 - Hidden layer is overcomplete if greater than the input layer

Vanilla Autoencoder

- **Discussion**
 - Hidden layer is overcomplete if greater than the input layer
 - No compression
 - No guarantee that the hidden units extract meaningful feature

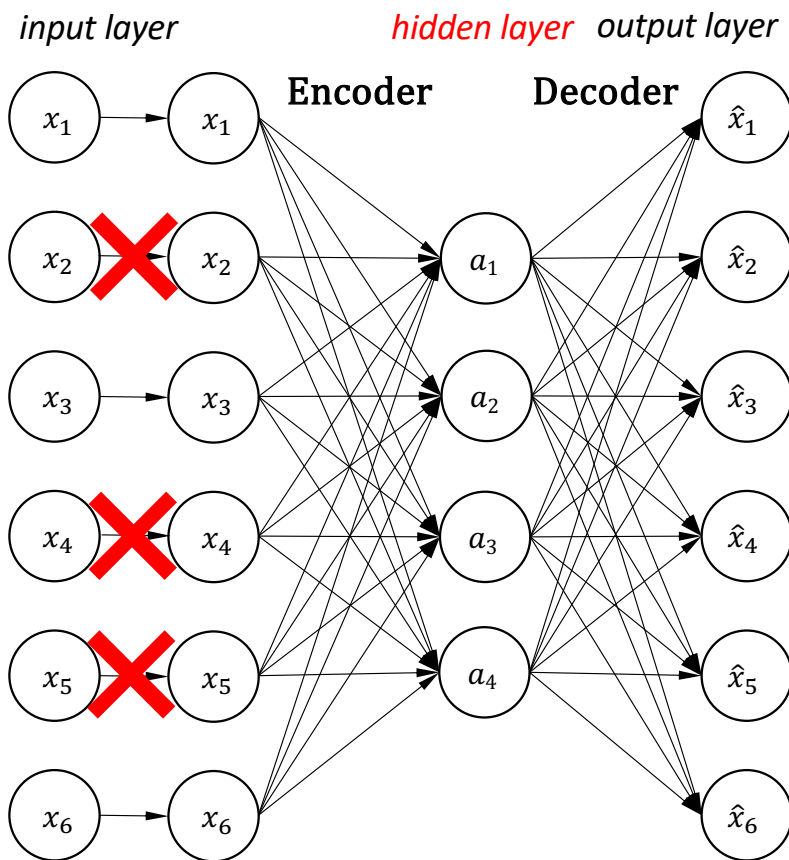
- Vanilla Autoencoder
- **Denoising Autoencoder**
- Sparse Autoencoder
- Contractive Autoencoder
- Stacked Autoencoder
- Variational Autoencoder (VAE)

Denoising Autoencoder (DAE)

- **Why?**
 - **Avoid overfitting**
 - **Learn robust representations**

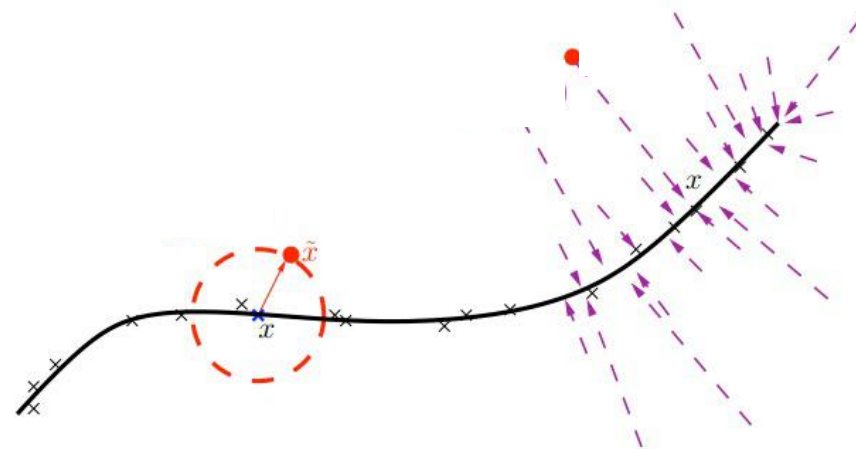
Denoising Autoencoder

• Architecture



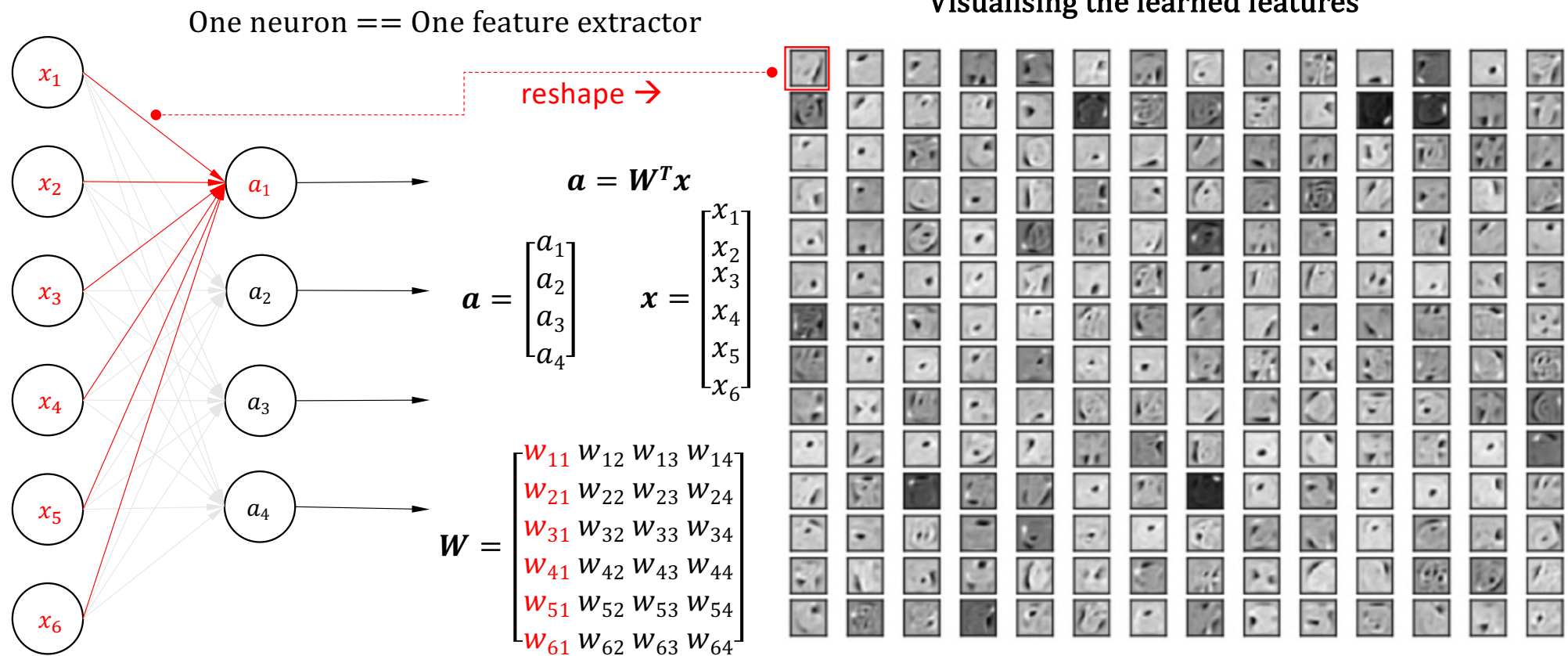
Applying dropout between the input and the first hidden layer

- Improve the robustness



Denoising Autoencoder

- Feature Visualisation



Denoising Autoencoder

- **Denoising Autoencoder & Dropout**

Denoising autoencoder was proposed in 2008, 4 years before the dropout paper (Hinton, et al. 2012).

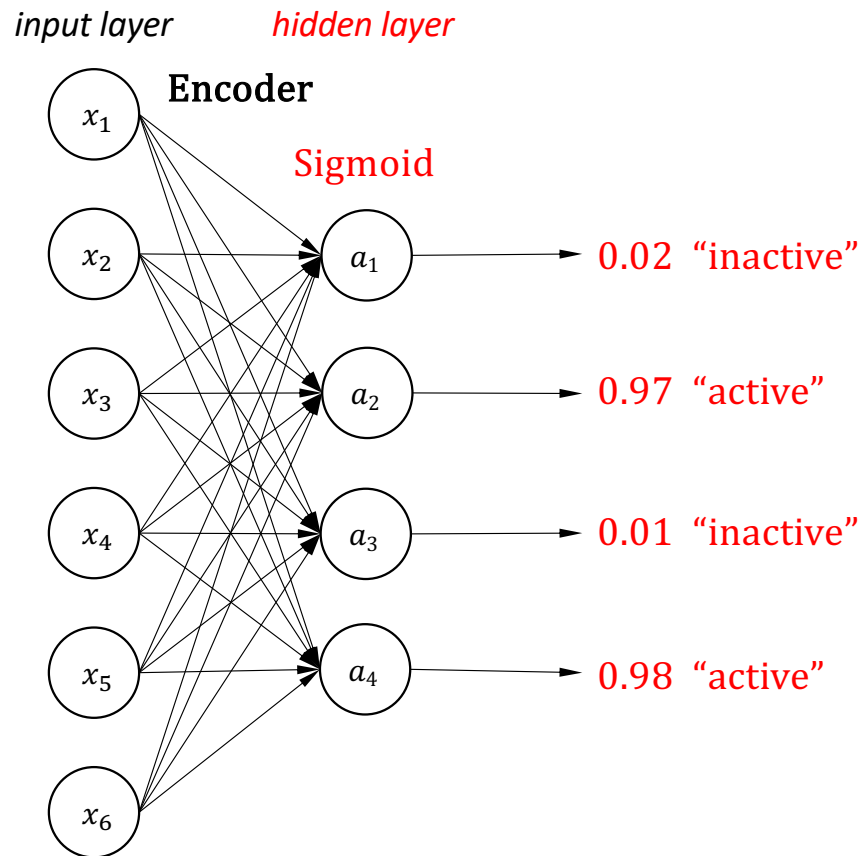
Denoising autoencoder can be seen as applying dropout between the input and the first layer.

Denoising autoencoder can be seen as one type of data augmentation on the input.

- Vanilla Autoencoder
- Denoising Autoencoder
- **Sparse Autoencoder**
- Contractive Autoencoder
- Stacked Autoencoder
- Variational Autoencoder (VAE)

Sparse Autoencoder

- Why?



- Even when the number of hidden units is large (perhaps even greater than the number of input pixels), we can still discover interesting structure, by imposing other constraints on the network.
- In particular, if we impose a "sparsity" constraint on the hidden units, then the autoencoder will still discover interesting structure in the data, even if the number of hidden units is large.

Sparse Autoencoder

- Recap: KL Divergence

$$KL(p(x) \parallel q(x)) = \int p(x) \ln \frac{p(x)}{q(x)} dx = \mathbb{E}_{x \sim p(x)} \left[\ln \frac{p(x)}{q(x)} \right]$$

Smaller == Closer

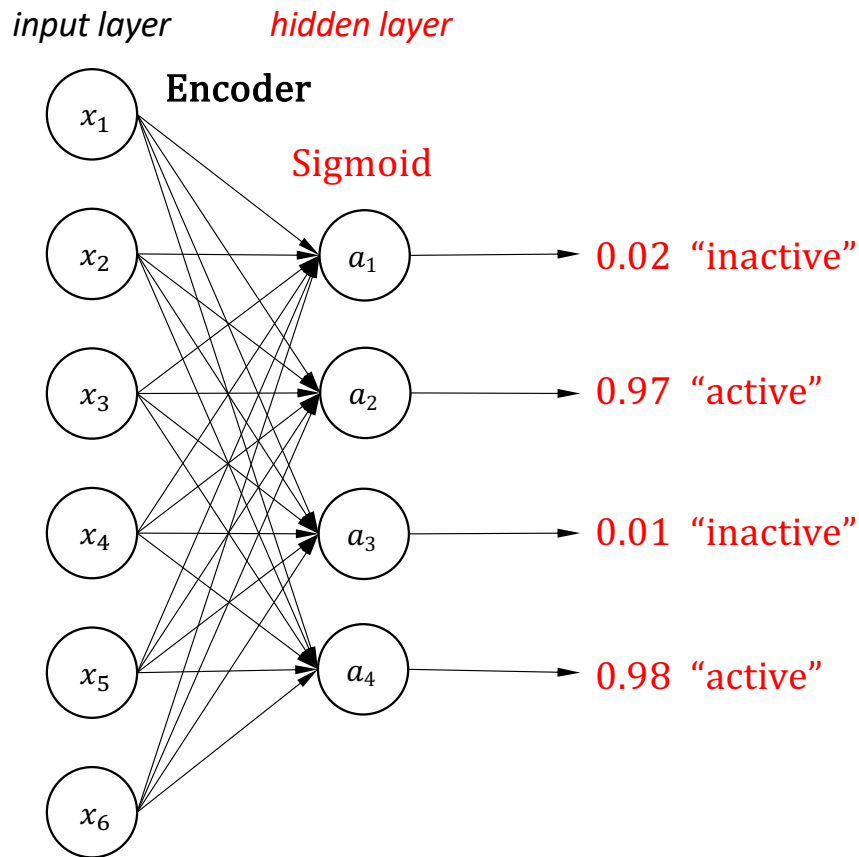
$$KL(p(x) \parallel q(x)) = 0 \Leftrightarrow p(x) = q(x)$$

$$KL(p(x) \parallel q(x)) = 0 \Leftrightarrow p(x) = q(x)$$

$$D_B(p(x), q(x)) = -\ln \int \sqrt{p(x)q(x)} dx$$

Sparse Autoencoder

- Sparsity Regularisation



The number of hidden units can be greater than the number of input variables.

Given M data samples (batch size) and Sigmoid activation function, the active ratio of an input a_j :

$$\hat{\rho}_j = \frac{1}{M} \sum_{m=1}^M a_j$$

To make the output “sparse”, we would like to enforce the following constraint, where ρ is a “sparsity parameter”, such as 0.2 (20% of the neurons)

$$\hat{\rho}_j = \rho$$

The penalty term is as follow, where s is the number of activation outputs.

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}_\rho &= \sum_{j=1}^s KL(\rho || \hat{\rho}_j) \\ &= \sum_{j=1}^s (\rho \log \frac{\rho}{\hat{\rho}_j} + (1 - \rho) \log \frac{1 - \rho}{1 - \hat{\rho}_j}) \end{aligned}$$

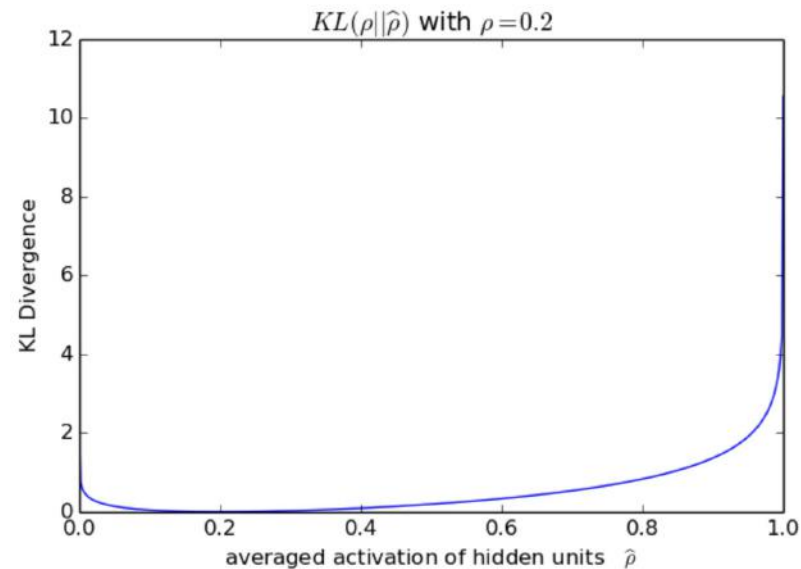
The total loss:

$$\mathcal{L}_{total} = \mathcal{L}_{MSE} + \lambda \mathcal{L}_\rho$$

Sparse Autoencoder

- Sparsity Regularisation

Smaller ρ == More sparse



Autoencoders for MNIST dataset



Sparse Autoencoder

- Different regularisation loss

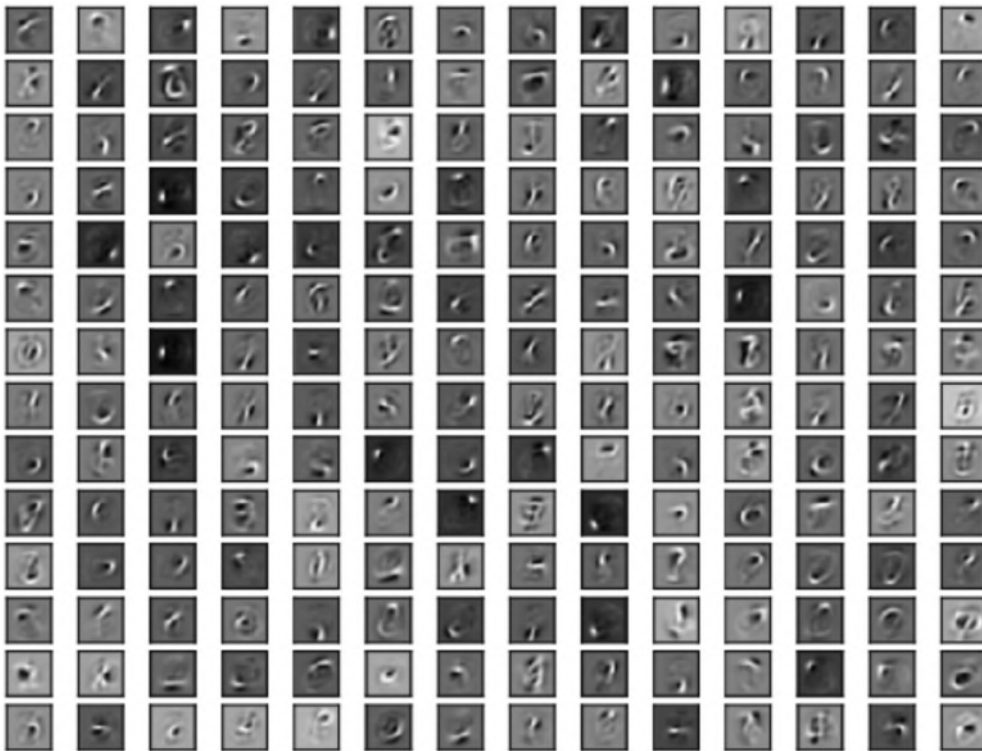
Method	Hidden Activation	Reconstruction Activation	Loss Function
Method 1	Sigmoid	Sigmoid	$\mathcal{L}_{total} = \mathcal{L}_{MSE} + \mathcal{L}_{\rho}$
Method 2	ReLU	Softplus	$\mathcal{L}_{total} = \mathcal{L}_{MSE} + \ \mathbf{a}\ $

\mathcal{L}_1 on the hidden activation output

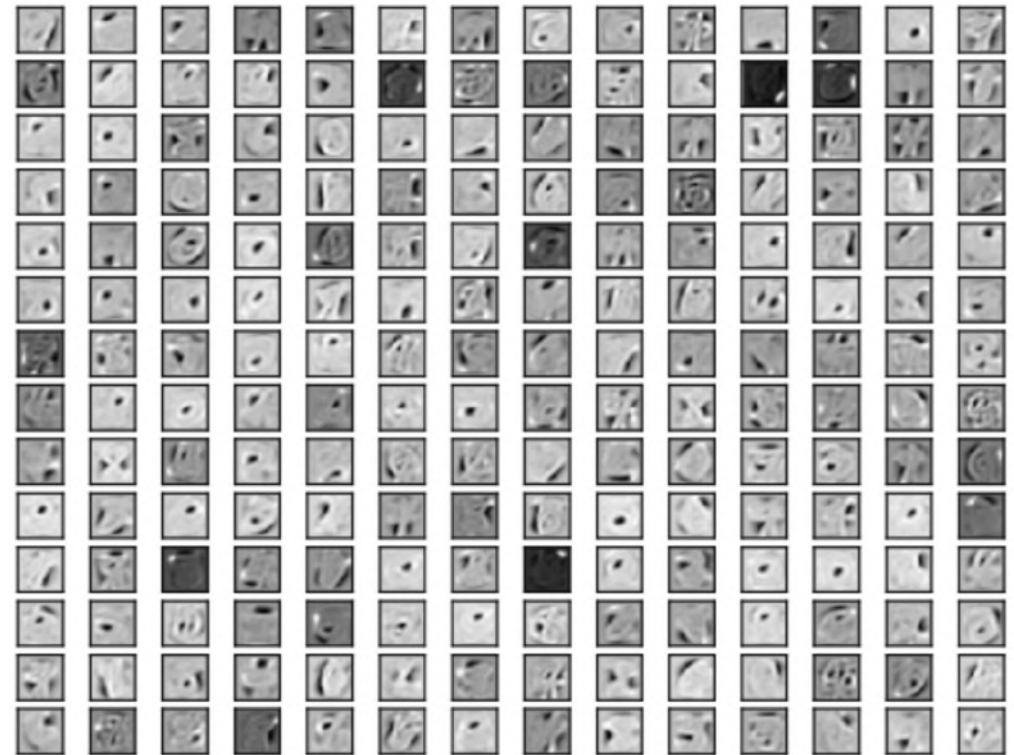
Sparse Autoencoder

- **Sparse Autoencoder vs. Denoising Autoencoder**

Feature Extractors of Sparse Autoencoder

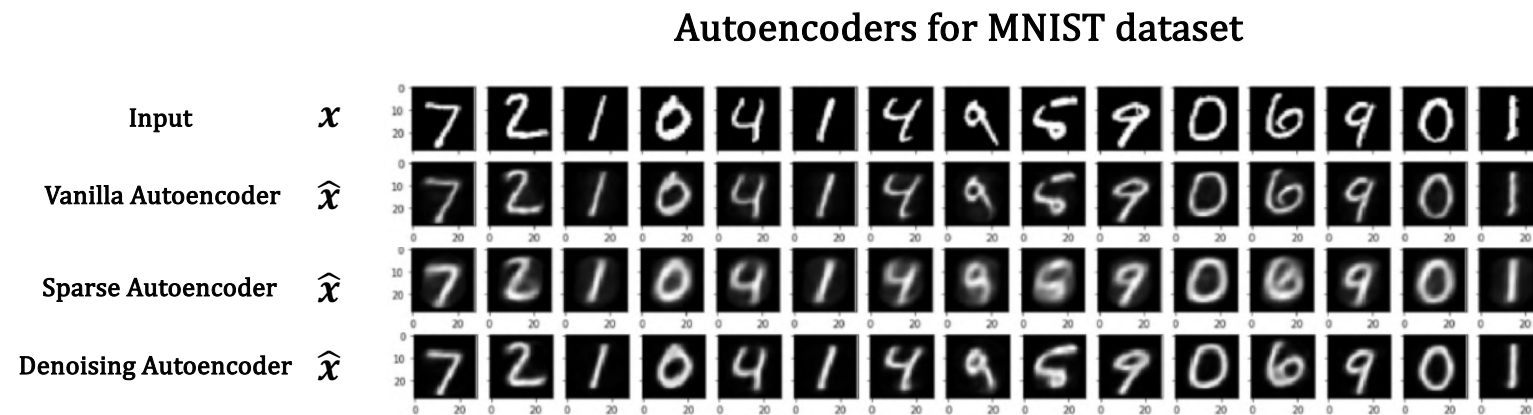


Feature Extractors of Denoising Autoencoder



Sparse Autoencoder

- Autoencoder vs. Denoising Autoencoder vs. Sparse Autoencoder



- Vanilla Autoencoder
- Denoising Autoencoder
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- **Contractive Autoencoder**
- Stacked Autoencoder
- Variational Autoencoder (VAE)

Contractive Autoencoder

- **Why?**

- Denoising Autoencoder and Sparse Autoencoder overcome the overcomplete problem via the input and hidden layers.
- Could we add an explicit term in the loss to avoid uninteresting features?

We wish the features that ONLY reflect variations observed in the training set

Contractive Autoencoder

- **How**

- Penalise the representation being too sensitive to the input
- Improve the robustness to small perturbations
- Measure the sensitivity by the Frobenius norm of the Jacobian matrix of the encoder activations

Contractive Autoencoder

- Recap: Jacobian Matrix

$$z = \begin{bmatrix} z_1 \\ z_2 \end{bmatrix} \quad x = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix} \quad \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} z_1 + z_2 \\ 2z_1 \end{bmatrix} = f \left(\begin{bmatrix} z_1 \\ z_2 \end{bmatrix} \right)$$

$$x = f(z) \quad z = f^{-1}(x) \quad \begin{bmatrix} z_1 \\ z_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} x_2/2 \\ x_1 - x_2/2 \end{bmatrix} = f^{-1} \left(\begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix} \right)$$

$$J_f = \begin{array}{c} \text{input} \\ \hline \begin{bmatrix} \partial x_1 / \partial z_1 & \partial x_1 / \partial z_2 \\ \partial x_2 / \partial z_1 & \partial x_2 / \partial z_2 \end{bmatrix} \text{output} \end{array} \quad J_f = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 2 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$J_{f^{-1}} = \begin{bmatrix} \partial z_1 / \partial x_1 & \partial z_1 / \partial x_2 \\ \partial z_2 / \partial x_1 & \partial z_2 / \partial x_2 \end{bmatrix} \quad J_{f^{-1}} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1/2 \\ 1 & -1/2 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$J_f J_{f^{-1}} = I$$

单位矩阵 Identity 矩阵



Contractive Autoencoder

- **Jacobian Matrix**

$$y = \begin{bmatrix} f_1(x) \\ f_2(x) \\ f_3(x) \\ \vdots \\ f_n(x) \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} y_1 \\ y_2 \\ y_3 \\ \vdots \\ y_n \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} f_1(x_1, x_2, x_3, \dots, x_n) \\ f_2(x_1, x_2, x_3, \dots, x_n) \\ f_3(x_1, x_2, x_3, \dots, x_n) \\ \vdots \\ f_n(x_1, x_2, x_3, \dots, x_n) \end{bmatrix}$$

$$J(x_1, x_2, x_3, \dots, x_n) =$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial f_1}{\partial x_1} & \frac{\partial f_1}{\partial x_2} & \frac{\partial f_1}{\partial x_3} & \dots & \frac{\partial f_1}{\partial x_n} \\ \frac{\partial f_2}{\partial x_1} & \frac{\partial f_2}{\partial x_2} & \frac{\partial f_2}{\partial x_3} & \dots & \frac{\partial f_2}{\partial x_n} \\ \frac{\partial f_3}{\partial x_1} & \frac{\partial f_3}{\partial x_2} & \frac{\partial f_3}{\partial x_3} & \dots & \frac{\partial f_3}{\partial x_n} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \frac{\partial f_n}{\partial x_1} & \frac{\partial f_n}{\partial x_2} & \frac{\partial f_n}{\partial x_3} & \dots & \frac{\partial f_n}{\partial x_n} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$y(x) \approx y(p) + J \bullet (x - p)$$

Contractive Autoencoder

- **New Loss**

$$\|J_f(x)\|_F^2 = \sum_{ij} \left(\frac{\partial h_j(x)}{\partial x_i} \right)^2$$

$$\mathcal{J}_{CAE}(\theta) = \sum_{x \in D_n} (L(x, g(f(x))) + \lambda \|J_f(x)\|_F^2)$$

reconstruction

new regularisation

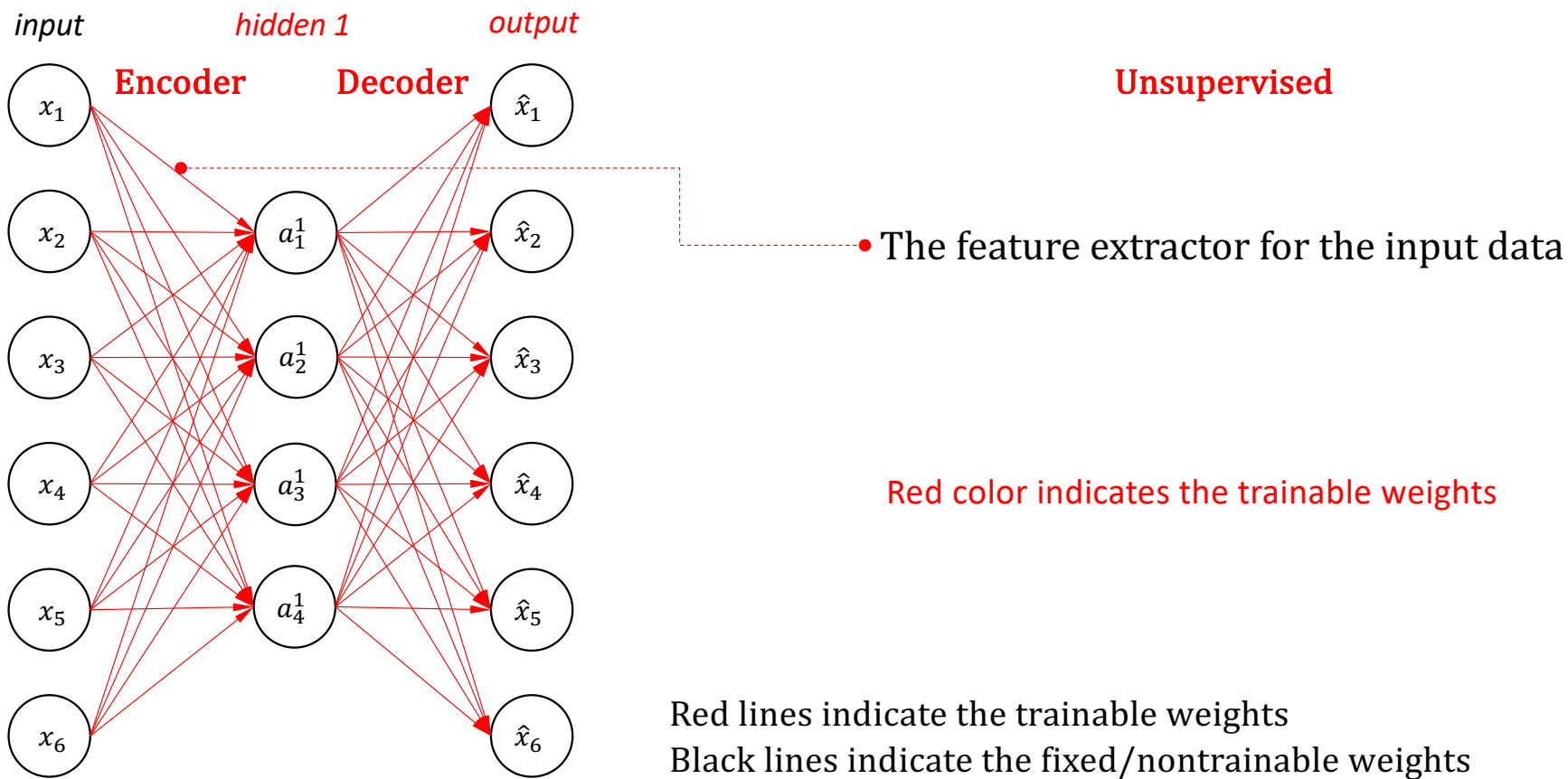
Contractive Autoencoder

- **vs. Denoising Autoencoder**
 - Advantages
 - CAE can better model the distribution of raw data
 - Disadvantages
 - DAE is easier to implement

- Vanilla Autoencoder
- Denoising Autoencoder
- Sparse Autoencoder
- Contractive Autoencoder
- **Stacked Autoencoder**
- Variational Autoencoder (VAE)

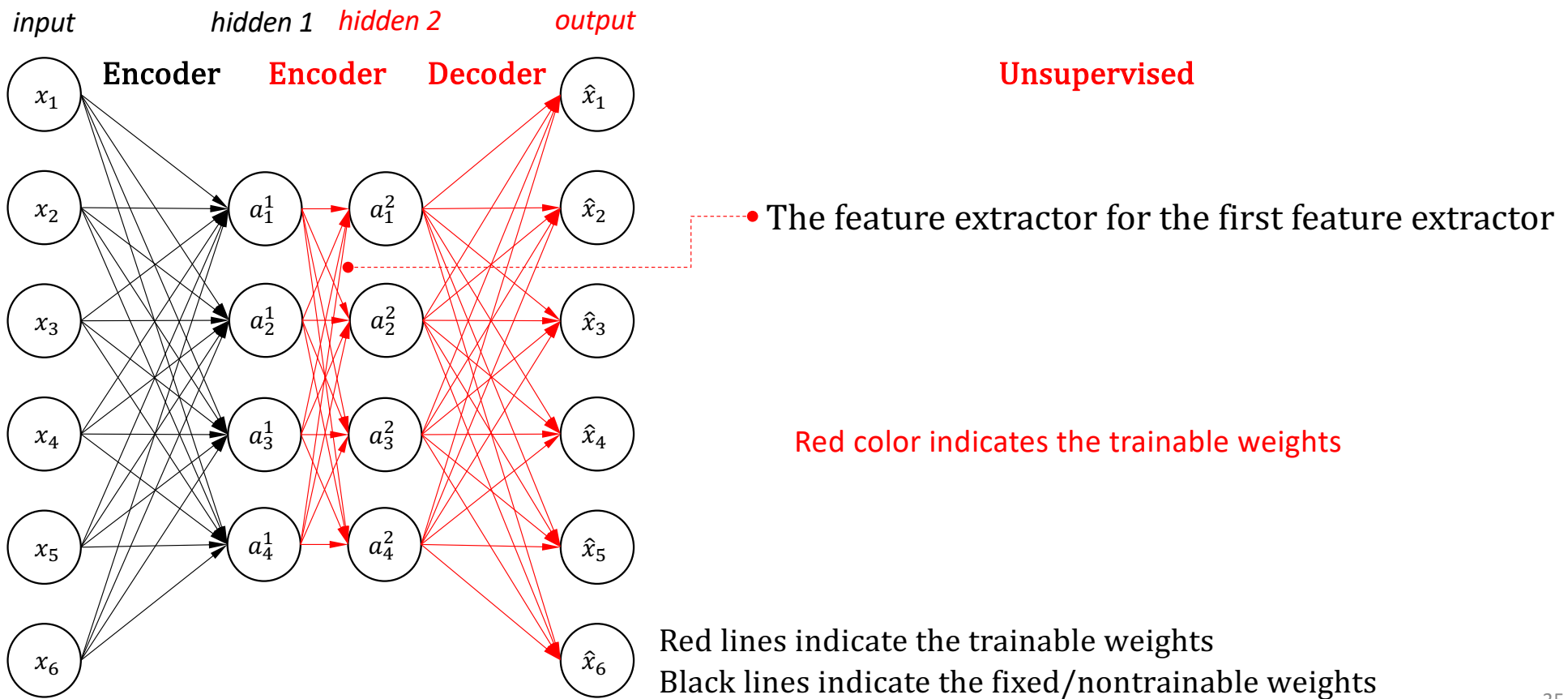
Stacked Autoencoder

- **Start from Autoencoder: Learn Feature From Input**



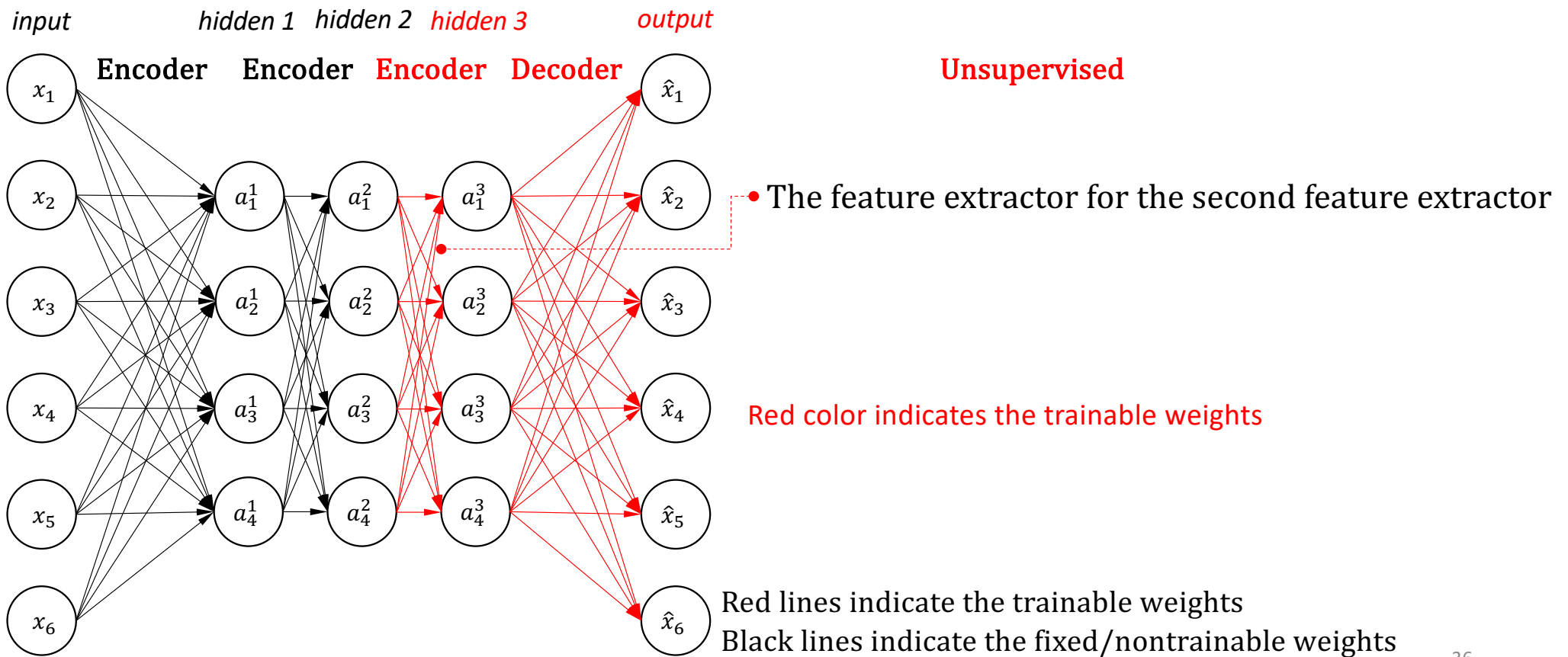
Stacked Autoencoder

• 2nd Stage: Learn 2nd Level Feature From 1st Level Feature



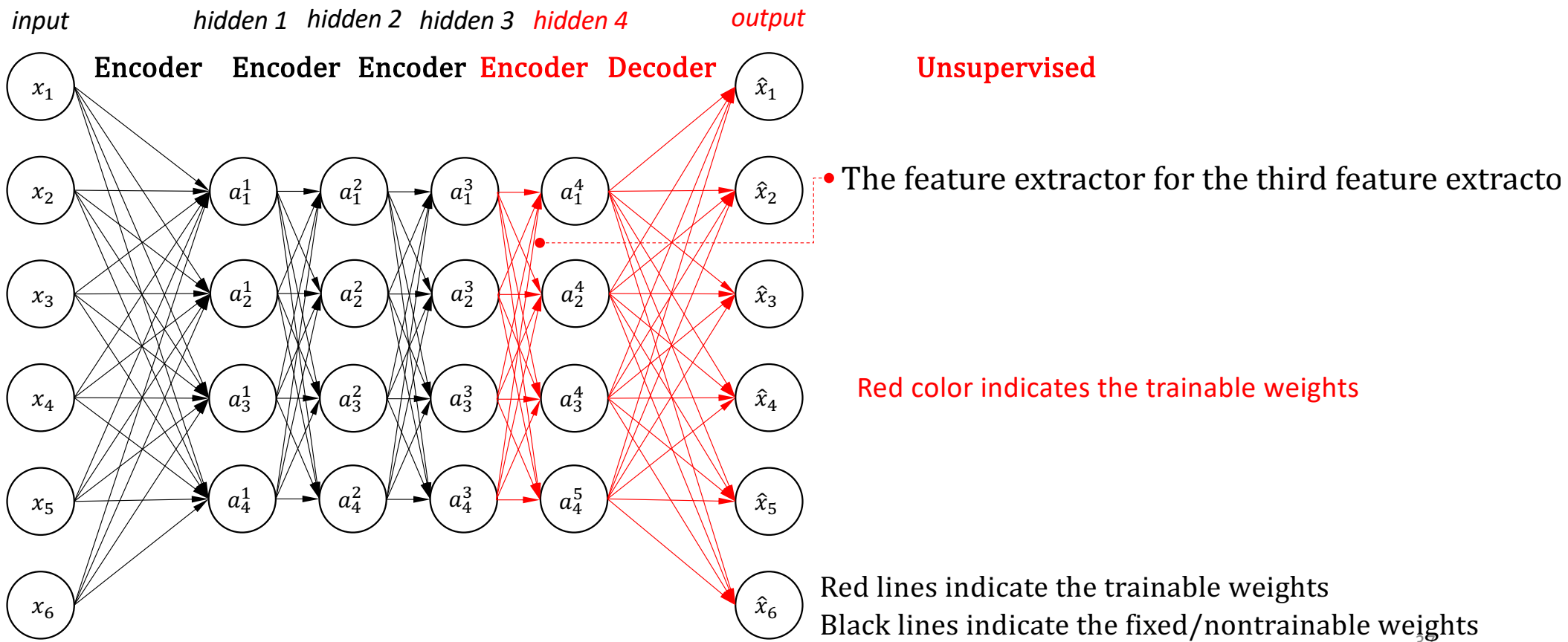
Stacked Autoencoder

• 3rd Stage: Learn 3rd Level Feature From 2nd Level Feature



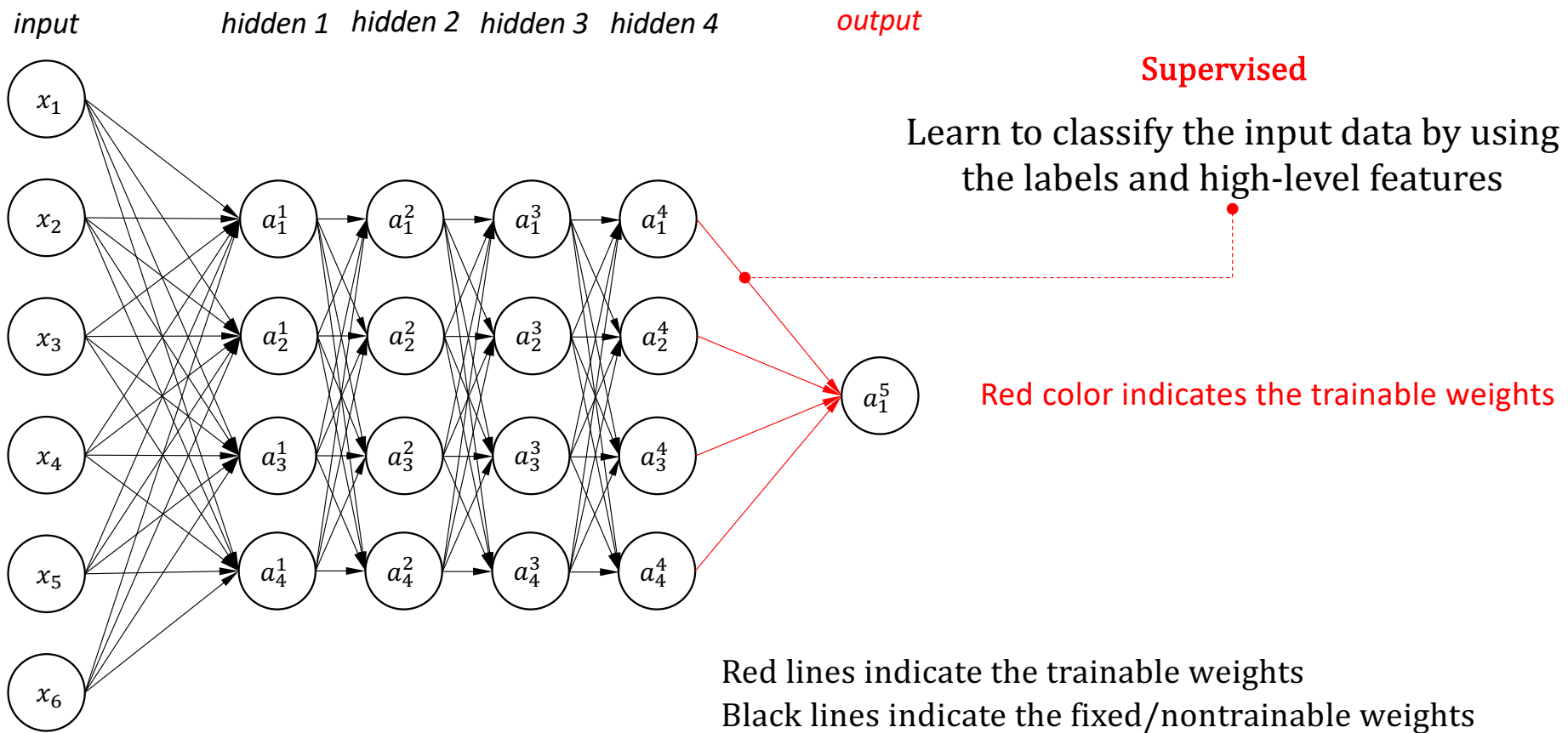
Stacked Autoencoder

• 4th Stage: Learn 4th Level Feature From 3rd Level Feature



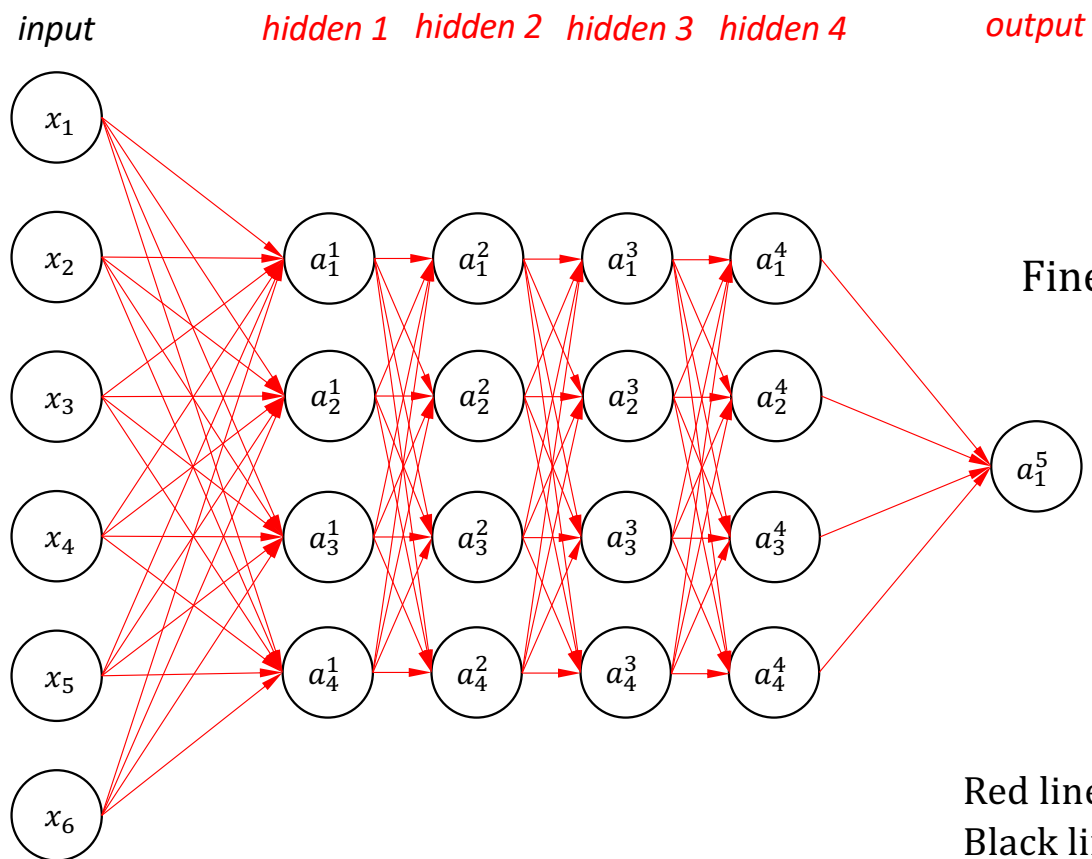
Stacked Autoencoder

- Use the Learned Feature Extractor for Downstream Tasks



Stacked Autoencoder

- Fine-tuning**



Supervised

Fine-tune the entire model for classification

Red color indicates the trainable weights

Red lines indicate the trainable weights
Black lines indicate the fixed/nontrainable weights

Stacked Autoencoder

- **Discussion**
 - Advantages
 - ...
 - Disadvantages
 - ...

- Vanilla Autoencoder
- Denoising Autoencoder
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- Variational Autoencoder (VAE)
 - From Neural Network Perspective
 - From Probability Model Perspective

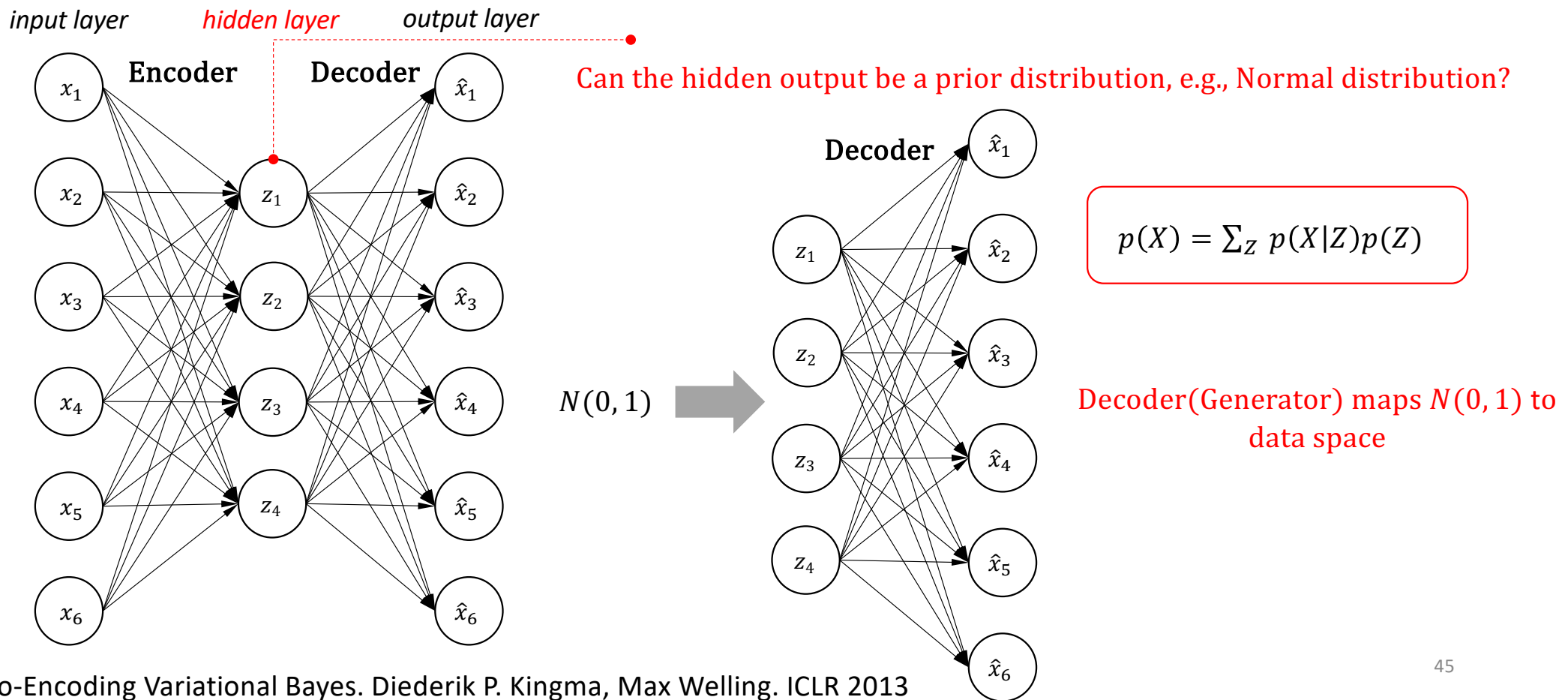
Before we start

- **Question?**
 - Are the previous Autoencoders generative model?
 - Recap: We want to learn a probability distribution $p(x)$ over x
 - **Generation (sampling):** $\mathbf{x}_{new} \sim p(\mathbf{x})$
(NO, The compressed latent codes of autoencoders are not prior distributions, autoencoder cannot learn to represent the data distribution)
 - **Density Estimation:** $p(\mathbf{x})$ high if \mathbf{x} looks like a real data
NO
 - **Unsupervised Representation Learning:**
Discovering the underlying structure from the data distribution (e.g., ears, nose, eyes ...)
(YES, Autoencoders learn the feature representation)

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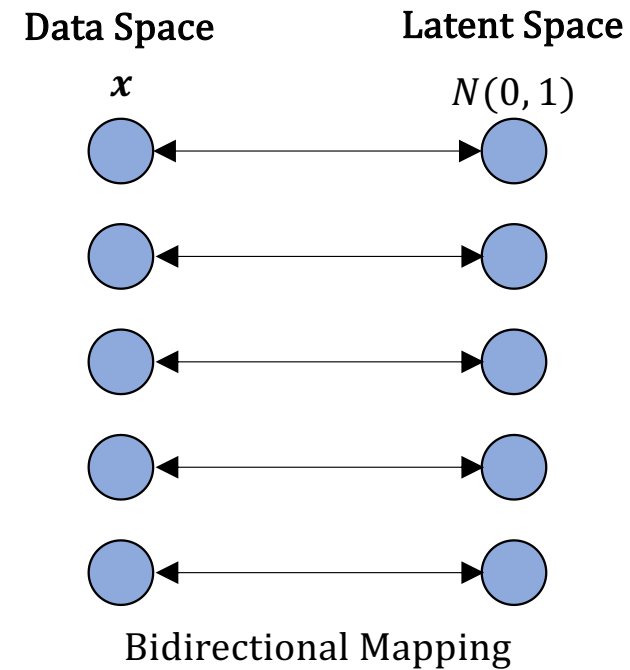
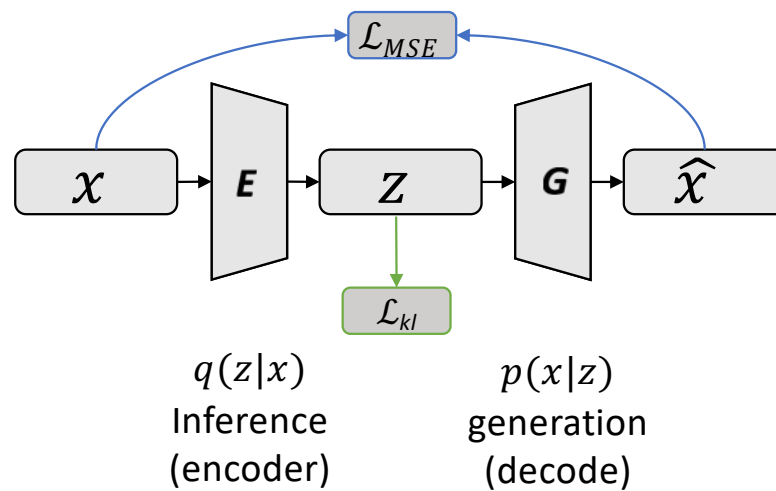
Variational Autoencoder

- How to perform generation (sampling)?



Variational Autoencoder

- Quick Overview



Variational Autoencoder

- **The neural net perspective**
 - A variational autoencoder consists of an encoder, a decoder, and a loss function

Variational Autoencoder

- Loss function

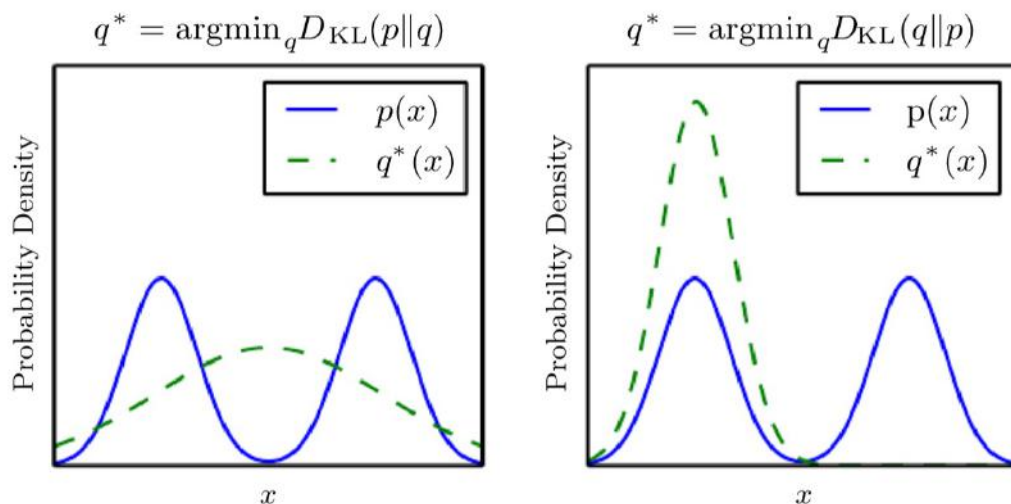
$$l_i(\theta, \phi) = -\mathbb{E}_{z \sim q_\theta(z|x_i)} [\log p_\phi(x_i | z)] + \text{KL}(q_\theta(z | x_i) || p(z))$$

Can be represented by MSE

regularisation

Variational Autoencoder

- Why $KL(Q || P)$ not $KL(P || Q)$



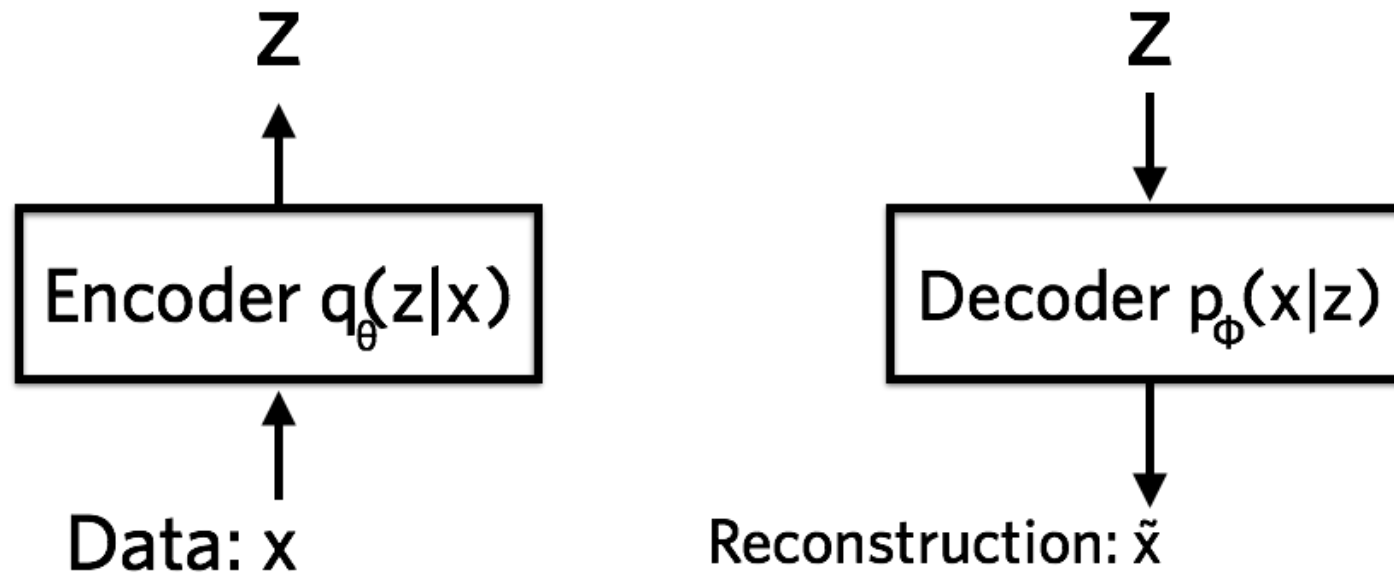
- Which direction of the KL divergence to use?
 - Some applications require an approximation that usually places high probability anywhere that the true distribution places high probability: left one
 - VAE requires an approximation that rarely places high probability anywhere that the true distribution places low probability: right one

lf:

$$D_{KL}(P||Q) = \mathbb{E}_{x \sim P} \left[\log \frac{P(x)}{Q(x)} \right] = \mathbb{E}_{x \sim P} [\log P(x) - \log Q(x)] .$$

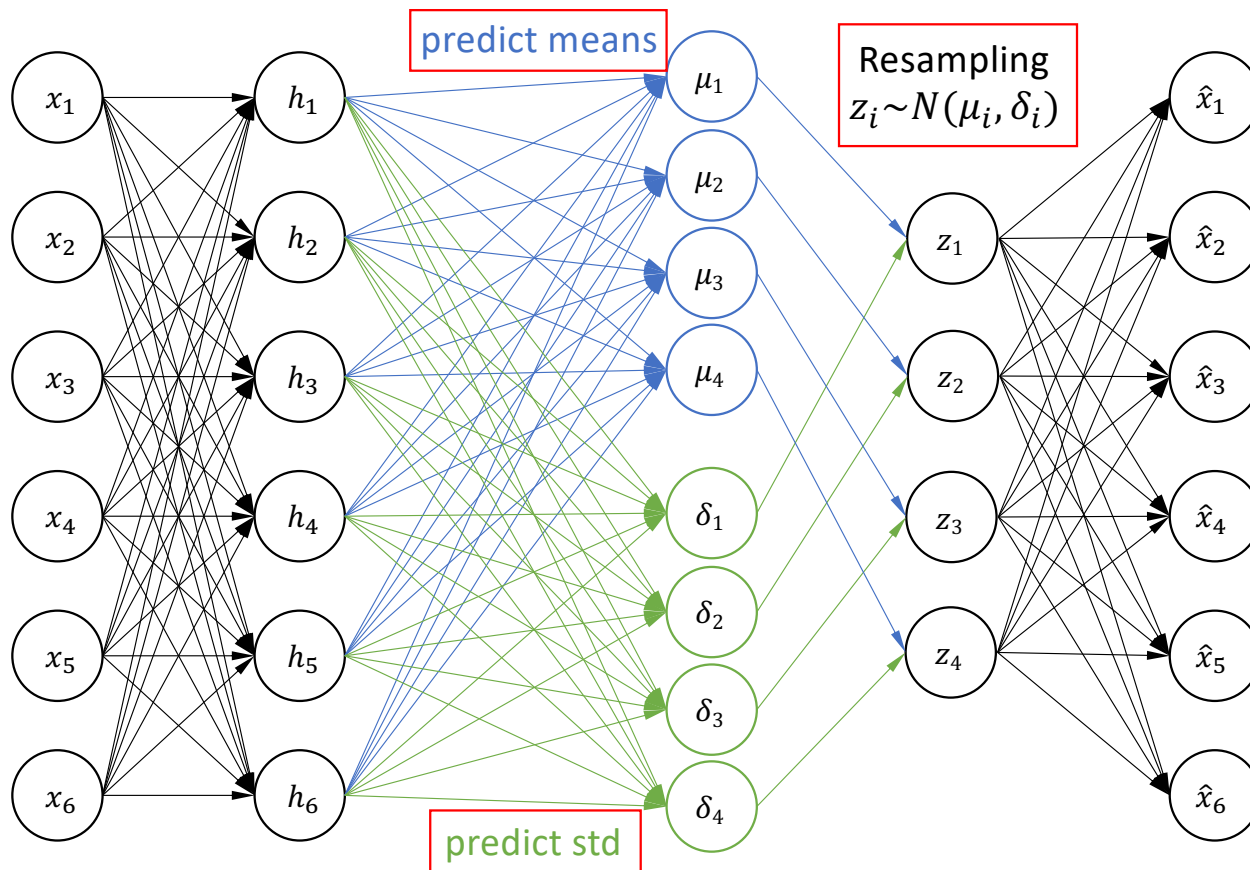
Variational Autoencoder

- Encoder, Decoder



Variational Autoencoder

- Reparameterisation Trick



1. Encode the input
2. Predict means
3. Predict standard derivations
4. Use the predicted means and standard derivations to sample new latent variables individually
5. Reconstruct the input

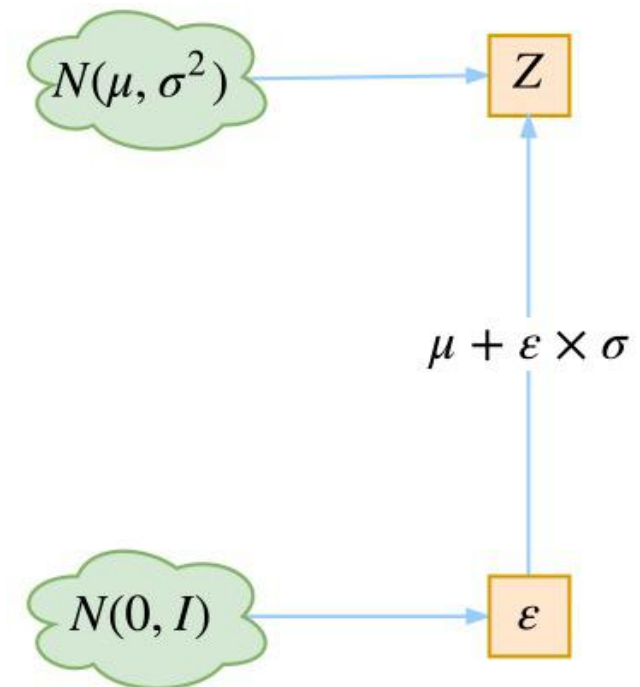
Auto-Encoding Variational Bayes. Diederik P. Kingma, Max Welling. ICLR 2013

Variational Autoencoder

- **Reparameterisation Trick**

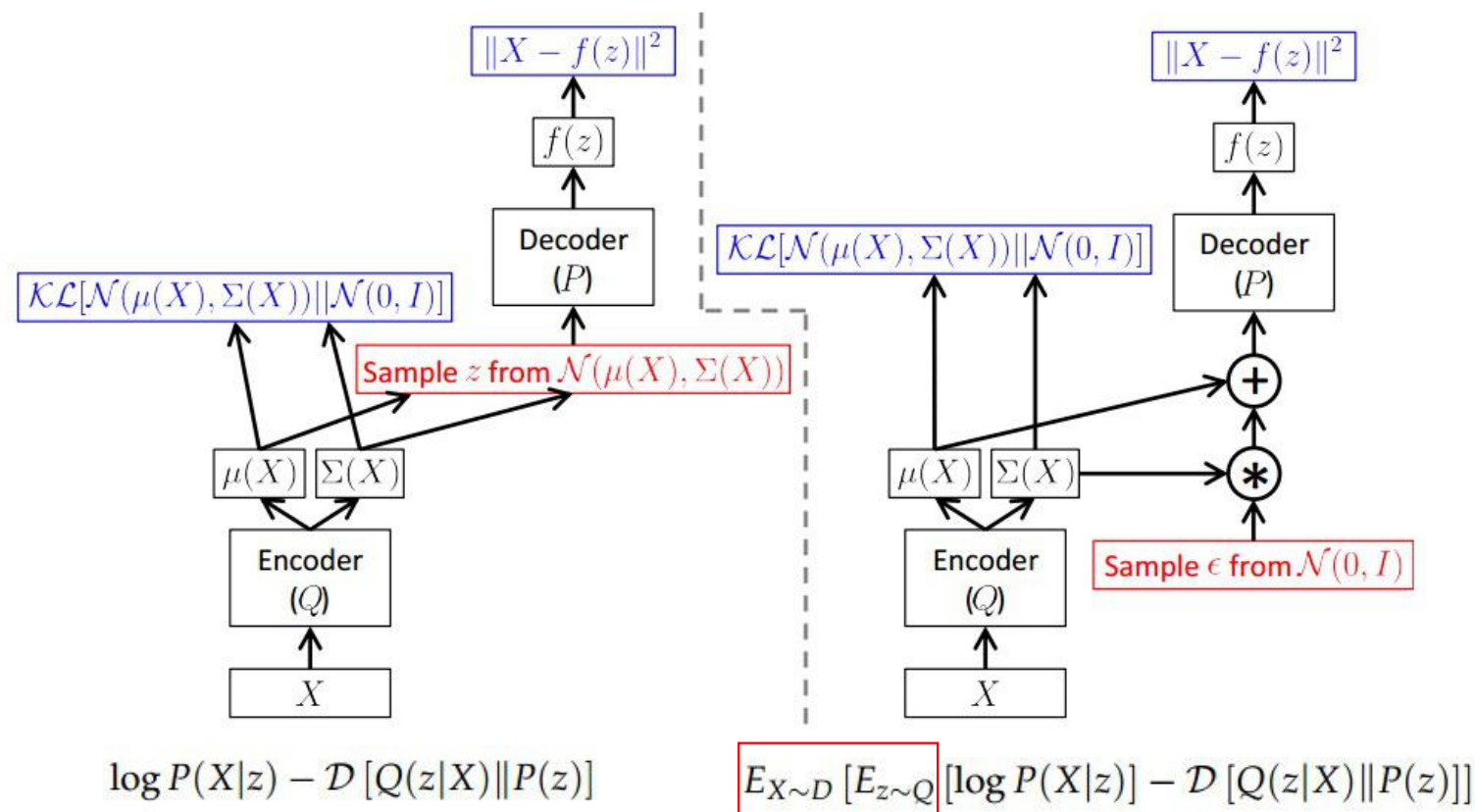
- $z \sim N(\mu, \sigma)$ is not differentiable
- To make sampling z differentiable
- $z = \mu + \sigma * \epsilon$ $\epsilon \sim N(0, 1)$

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma^2}} \exp\left(-\frac{(z-\mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}\right) dz \\ &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \exp\left[-\frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{z-\mu}{\sigma}\right)^2\right] d\left(\frac{z-\mu}{\sigma}\right) \end{aligned}$$



Variational Autoencoder

- Reparameterisation Trick



Variational Autoencoder

- Loss function

$$\text{KL}(q_{\theta}(z | x_i) || p(z))$$

Variational Autoencoder

- Where is ‘variational’?

$$\text{KL}(q_{\theta}(z \mid x_i) \parallel p(z))$$

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 - From Neural Network Perspective
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Variational Autoencoder

- **Problem Definition**

Goal: Given $X = \{x_1, x_2, x_3 \dots, x_n\}$, find $p(X)$ to represent X

How: It is difficult to directly model $p(X)$, so alternatively, we can ...

$$p(X) = \sum_Z p(X|Z)p(Z)$$

where $p(Z) = N(0,1)$ is a prior/known distribution

i.e., sample X from Z

Variational Autoencoder

- **The probability model perspective**
 - $P(X)$ is hard to model

$$p(X) = \sum_Z p(X|Z)p(Z)$$

- Alternatively, we learn the joint distribution of X and Z

$$p(X, Z) = p(Z)p(X|Z)$$

$$p(X) = \sum_Z p(X, Z)$$

Variational Autoencoder

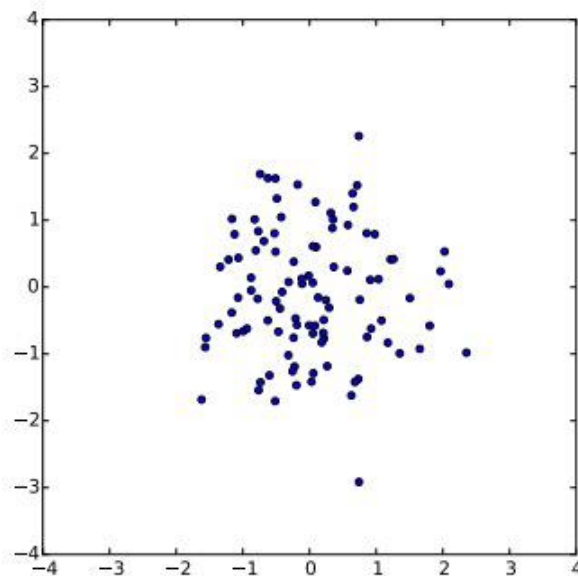
- **Assumption**

$$P(z) = \mathcal{N}(z|0, I)$$

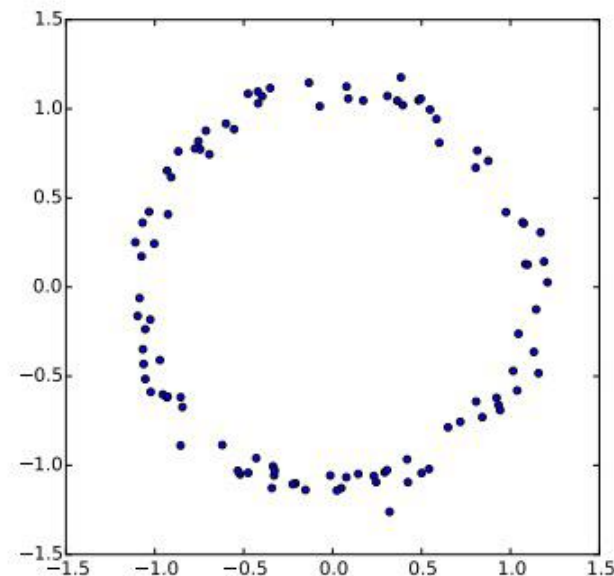
Variational Autoencoder

- Assumption

$$P(z) = \mathcal{N}(z|0, I)$$



$$g(z) = z/10 + z/\|z\|$$



Variational Autoencoder

- **Recap: Variational Inference**
 - VI turns inference into optimisation

$$p(x) = \int p(x, z) dz$$

$$\mathcal{D} = \{q_{\theta}(z)\}$$

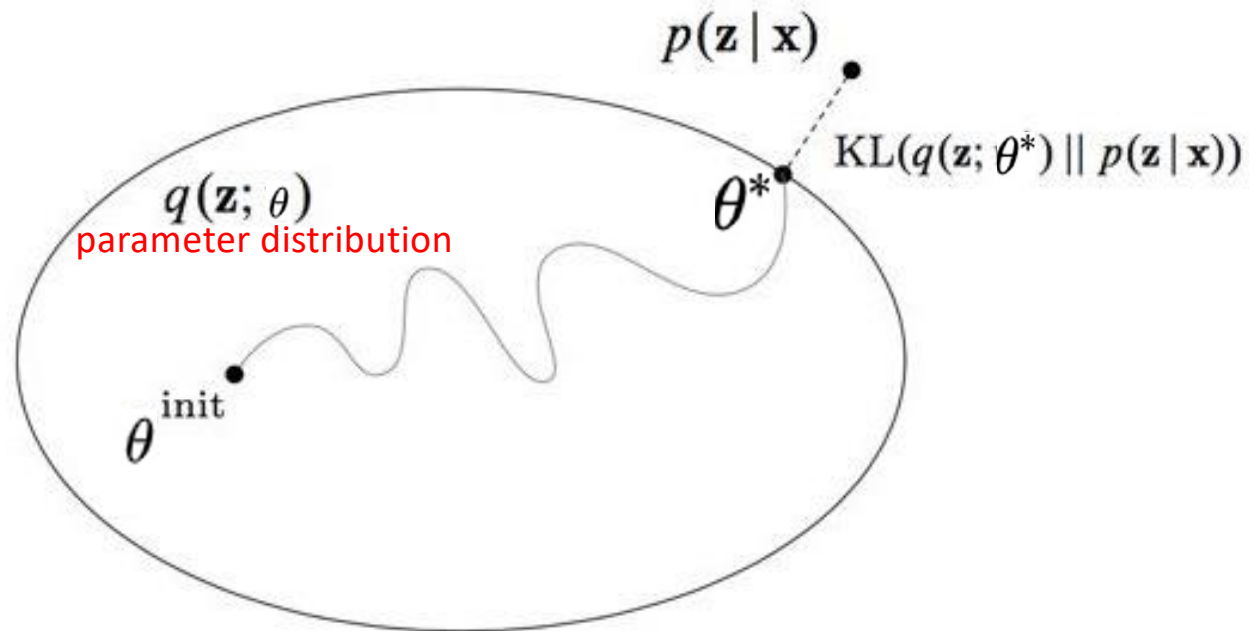
$$\theta^* = \arg \min_{\theta} \text{KL}(\underbrace{q_{\theta}(z)}_{\text{approximation}} \parallel \underbrace{p(z|x)}_{\text{ideal}})$$

$$p(z|x) = \frac{p(x, z)}{p(x)} \propto p(x, z)$$

$$\theta^* = \arg \max_{\theta} \mathbb{E}_q[\log p(x, z) - \log q_{\theta}(z)]$$

Variational Autoencoder

- **Variational Inference**
 - VI turns inference into optimisation



Variational Autoencoder

- **Setting up the objective**

- Maximise $P(X)$
- Set $Q(z)$ to be an arbitrary distribution

$$p(z|X) = \frac{p(X|z)p(z)}{p(X)}$$

$$\mathcal{D}[Q(z) \| P(z|X)] = E_{z \sim Q} [\log Q(z) - \log P(z|X)]$$

$$\mathcal{D}[Q(z) \| P(z|X)] = E_{z \sim Q} [\log Q(z) - \log P(X|z) - \log P(z)] + \log P(X)$$

$$\log P(X) - \mathcal{D}[Q(z) \| P(z|X)] = E_{z \sim Q} [\log P(X|z)] - \mathcal{D}[Q(z) \| P(z)]$$

$$\log P(X) - \mathcal{D}[Q(z|X) \| P(z|X)] = E_{z \sim Q} [\log P(X|z)] - \mathcal{D}[Q(z|X) \| P(z)]$$

Goal: maximise this $\log P(x)$

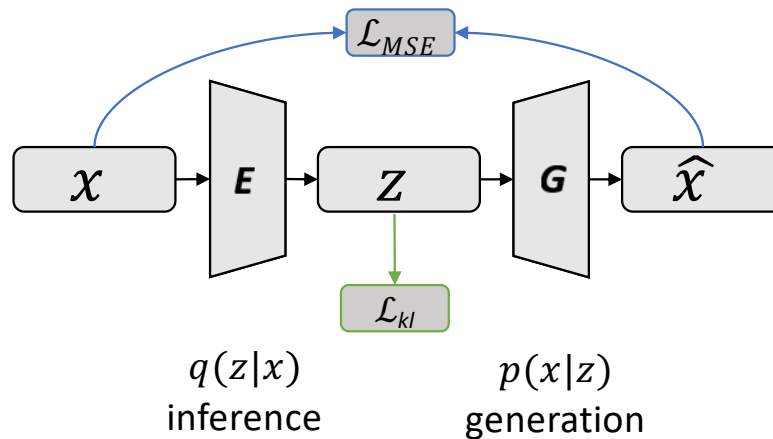
Variational Autoencoder

- Setting up the objective

$$\log P(X) - \mathcal{D}[Q(z|X) \| P(z|X)] = E_{z \sim Q} [\log P(X|z)] - \mathcal{D}[Q(z|X) \| P(z)]$$

Goal: maximise this encoder ideal reconstruction/decoder KLD

difficult to compute Goal becomes: optimize this



$$\mathcal{L}_{total} = \mathcal{L}_{MSE} + \mathcal{L}_{kl}$$

Variational Autoencoder

- Setting up the objective : **ELBO** (Evidence Lower Bound)

$$p(z|X) = \frac{p(X, z)}{p(X)}$$

$$\mathcal{D}_{KL}(Q(z | x) || P(z | x)) =$$

encoder ideal

$$\mathbf{E}_q[\log Q(z | x)] - \mathbf{E}_q[\log P(x, z)] + \log P(x)$$

-ELBO

$$Q^*(z | x) = \arg \min_{\theta} \mathcal{D}_{KL}(Q(z | x) || P(z | x))$$

$$ELBO(\theta) = \mathbf{E}_q[\log P(x, z)] - \mathbf{E}_q[\log Q(z | x)]$$

Variational Autoencoder

- Recap: The KL Divergence Loss

$$\begin{aligned} & KL(\mathcal{N}(\mu, \sigma^2) || \mathcal{N}(0, 1)) \\ &= \int \mathcal{N}(\mu, \sigma^2) \log \frac{\mathcal{N}(\mu, \sigma^2)}{\mathcal{N}(0, 1)} dx \\ &= \int \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma^2}} e^{\frac{-(x-\mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}} \left(\log \frac{\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma^2}} e^{\frac{-(x-\mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}}}{\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{\frac{-x^2}{2}}} \right) dx \\ &= \int \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma^2}} e^{\frac{-(x-\mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}} \log \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{\sigma^2}} e^{\frac{x^2 - (x-\mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}} \right) dx \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \int \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma^2}} e^{\frac{-(x-\mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}} \left[-\log \sigma^2 + x^2 - \frac{(x-\mu)^2}{\sigma^2} \right] dx \end{aligned}$$

Variational Autoencoder

- Recap: The KL Divergence Loss

$$\begin{aligned} & KL(\mathcal{N}(\mu, \sigma^2) || \mathcal{N}(0, 1)) \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \int \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma^2}} e^{\frac{-(x-\mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}} \left[-\log\sigma^2 + x^2 - \frac{(x-\mu)^2}{\sigma^2} \right] dx \\ &= \frac{1}{2} (-\log\sigma^2 + \mu^2 + \sigma^2 - 1) \end{aligned}$$

Variational Autoencoder

- **Recap: The KL Divergence Loss**

$$\mathcal{D}[\mathcal{N}(\mu_0, \Sigma_0) \parallel \mathcal{N}(\mu_1, \Sigma_1)] = \frac{1}{2} \left(\text{tr} \left(\Sigma_1^{-1} \Sigma_0 \right) + (\mu_1 - \mu_0)^\top \Sigma_1^{-1} (\mu_1 - \mu_0) - k + \log \left(\frac{\det \Sigma_1}{\det \Sigma_0} \right) \right)$$

Variational Autoencoder

- Optimising the objective

$$\log P(X) - \underbrace{\mathcal{D}[Q(z|X) \| P(z|X)]}_{\text{encoder ideal}} = \underbrace{E_{z \sim Q}[\log P(X|z)]}_{\text{reconstruction}} - \underbrace{\mathcal{D}[Q(z|X) \| P(z)]}_{\text{KLD}}$$



$$\underbrace{E_{X \sim D}}_{\text{dataset}} [\log P(X) - \mathcal{D}[Q(z|X) \| P(z|X)]] = \underbrace{E_{X \sim D}}_{\text{dataset}} [E_{z \sim Q}[\log P(X|z)] - \mathcal{D}[Q(z|X) \| P(z)]]$$

Variational Autoencoder

- VAE is a Generative Model

$p(Z|X)$ is not $N(0,1)$

Can we input $N(0,1)$ to the decoder for sampling?

YES: the goal of KL is to make $p(Z|X)$ to be $N(0,1)$

Variational Autoencoder

- **VAE vs. Autoencoder**
 - VAE : distribution representation, $p(z|x)$ is a distribution
 - AE: feature representation, $h = E(x)$ is deterministic

Variational Autoencoder

- **Challenges**
 - Low quality images
 - ...

Summary: Take Home Message

- Autoencoders learn data representation in an unsupervised/ self-supervised way.
- Autoencoders learn data representation but cannot model the data distribution $p(X)$.
- Different with vanilla autoencoder, in sparse autoencoder, the number of hidden units can be greater than the number of input variables.
- VAE
- ...
- ...
- ...
- ...
- ...
- ...

Thanks