

# Generative AI | GenAI

## Zusammenfassung

### 1. LATENT SPACE

- Latent space:** learned hidden vector space where inputs are encoded; sampling/moving yields meaningful variations.
- Nearby points = semantically similar.
  - Vector arithmetic can encode relations king - man + woman = queen.

### 2. DEEP NEURAL NETWORKS (DNN) -> RECAP

**N-Grams:** Fixed-size context windows -> sparse reps, limited generalization; cannot capture long-range deps beyond window size n.

**Hyperparameters:** Learning rate, number of epochs, batch size, architecture choices (layers, neurons per layer, activations), regularization (L1, L2, dropout).

#### 2.1. TRAINING A NEURAL NETWORK

**Stochastic Gradient Descent (SGD):** Update weights based on mini-batches to reduce loss

$$w_{t+1} \leftarrow w_t - \alpha \frac{\partial}{\partial w} \log(p(x_i))$$

where  $\alpha$  is learning rate

**Batch Gradient Descent:** Update weights based on entire dataset

$$w_{t+1} \leftarrow w_t - \alpha \left( \frac{1}{M} \sum_{i=1}^M \frac{\partial}{\partial w} \log(p(x_i)) \right)$$

More stable but computationally expensive

**Mini-batch Gradient Descent:** Compromise between SGD and Batch GD

$$w_{t+1} \leftarrow w_t - \alpha \left( \frac{1}{M} \sum_{i=1}^M \frac{\partial}{\partial w} \log(p(x_i)) \right)$$

Balances stability and computational efficiency

#### 2.2. ACTIVATION FUNCTIONS

Function	Formula	Pros	Cons
ReLU	$f(x) = \max(0, x)$	Computationally efficient, mitigates vanishing gradient	"Dying ReLU" problem where neurons can become inactive
Sigmoid	$f(x) = \frac{1}{1+e^{-x}}$	Outputs in (0, 1), useful for probabilities	Vanishing gradient for large inputs, not zero-centered
Tanh	$f(x) = \frac{e^x - e^{-x}}{e^x + e^{-x}}$	Outputs in (-1, 1), zero-centered	Vanishing gradient for large inputs
Leaky ReLU	$f(x) = \max(\alpha x, x)$ ( $\alpha = 0.01$ )	Mitigates dying ReLU, allows small gradient when inactive	Introduces hyperparameter $\alpha$
Softmax	$f(x_i) = \frac{e^{x_i}}{\sum_j e^{x_j}}$	Outputs probability distribution, used in final layer	Only suitable for output layer

**Derivative of ReLU:**  $f'(x) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } x > 0 \\ 0 & \text{if } x \leq 0 \end{cases}$

**Derivative of Sigmoid:**  $f'(x) = f(x)(1 - f(x))$

**Derivative of Tanh:**  $f'(x) = 1 - f(x)^2$

#### 2.3. LOSS FUNCTIONS

Loss Function	Formula	Use Case
Mean Squared Error (MSE)	$L = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - \hat{y}_i)^2$	Regression
Mean Absolute Error (MAE)	$L = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n  y_i - \hat{y}_i $	Regression (robust to outliers)
Binary Cross-Entropy	$L = -\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n [y_i \log(\hat{y}_i) + (1 - y_i) \log(1 - \hat{y}_i)]$	Binary classification
Categorical Cross-Entropy	$L = -\sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{c=1}^C y_{i,c} \log(\hat{y}_{i,c})$	Multi-class classification

**Cross-Entropy** measures the difference between two probability distributions. Lower values indicate better match between predicted and true distributions.

#### 2.4. CONVOLUTIONAL NEURAL NETWORKS (CNN)

**Why CNNs for images?** Fully-connected networks ignore spatial structure and have too many parameters for high-resolution images.

**Key concepts:**

- Convolution:** slide kernel/filter over input to detect local patterns
- Padding:** add borders to maintain spatial dimensions (SAME padding: output size = input size; VALID: no padding)
- Stride:** step size of kernel movement, controls overlap of receptive fields

$$\text{output size} = \left( \frac{n + 2p - f}{s} \right) + 1$$

where  $n$  = input size,  $p$  = padding,  $f$  = filter size,  $s$  = stride

**Pooling:** downsample feature maps to reduce dimensions and computation (Max pooling: take maximum value; Average pooling: take mean)

**Typical CNN architecture:** Input -> Conv + ReLU -> Pool -> Conv + ReLU -> Pool -> Flatten -> FC -> Softmax

#### 2.5. EVALUATION METRICS

Metric	Formula	When to Use
Accuracy	$\frac{TP + TN}{TP + FP + TN + FN}$	Balanced datasets
Precision	$\frac{TP}{TP + FP}$	When false positives are costly
Recall (Sensitivity)	$\frac{TP}{TP + FN}$	When false negatives are costly
F1 Score	$\frac{2 \cdot \text{Precision} \cdot \text{Recall}}{\text{Precision} + \text{Recall}}$	Imbalanced datasets, balance precision/recall
Specificity	$\frac{TN}{TN + FP}$	True negative rate

**Confusion Matrix:**

	Predicted Positive	Predicted Negative
Actual Positive	True Positive (TP)	False Negative (FN)
Actual Negative	False Positive (FP)	True Negative (TN)

**Precision-Recall Trade-off:** Increasing classification threshold typically increases precision but decreases recall, and vice versa.

#### 2.6. REGULARIZATION TECHNIQUES

**L1 Regularization (Lasso):**

$$L = L_{\text{original}} + \lambda \sum_i |w_i|$$

Promotes sparsity (many weights become exactly zero)

GenAI | HS25 | Jonas Gerber

#### L2 Regularization (Ridge):

Encourages small weights, prevents overfitting

**Dropout:** Randomly deactivate neurons during training with probability  $p$  (typically  $p = 0.5$ ). Forces network to learn robust features by stopping with different subnetworks.

**Early Stopping:** Monitor validation loss and stop training when it stops improving. (prevents overfitting to training data).

**Data Augmentation:** Artificially expand training set with transformations (rotation, scaling, flipping for images).

#### 3. TRANSFORMERS

**A transformer** is a model that uses attention to boost the speed with which the models can be trained.

##### 3.1. FLAVORS OF TRANSFORMERS

- Encoder-Only** (e.g., BERT): Good for understanding tasks like classification, QA (Embedding Models)
- Decoder-Only** (e.g., GPT): Good for generation tasks like text generation (Causal ML / autoregressive)
- Encoder-Decoder** (e.g., T5): Good for seq2seq tasks like translation (Seq2Seq, MT models)

##### 3.2. INPUTS: TOKENS, EMBEDDINGS, POSITIONAL ENCODING

**Tokenization:** Text split into tokens (subwords), mapped to integer ids

**Embedding:** Matrix  $E$  maps token ids to vectors in  $d_{\text{model}}$  dimensions

**Positional Encoding:** Explicit position information added to embeddings

Let  $\text{pos}$  be the position  $(0, n - 1)$ , and  $i$  be the embedding dimension index.

$$\text{PE}(\text{pos}, 2i) = \sin\left(\frac{\text{pos}}{10000^{\frac{2i}{d_{\text{model}}}}}\right), \text{PE}(\text{pos}, 2i + 1) = \cos\left(\frac{\text{pos}}{10000^{\frac{2i}{d_{\text{model}}}}}\right)$$

Final input vectors  $X = \text{Embedding}(\text{tokens}) + \text{PE}$  with  $X \in \mathbb{R}^{\text{tokens} \times d_{\text{model}}}$

(There are also learned positional embeddings and newer variants, but sinusoidal is a classic baseline.)

##### 3.3. SELF-ATTENTION

**Q (queries):**  $XW_Q$  "What am I looking for?"

**K (keys):**  $XW_K$  "What do I offer / how should others match me?"

**V (values):**  $XW_V$  "the content to be transferred if a match is strong"

$$\text{Attention}(Q, K, V) = \text{softmax}\left(\frac{QK^T}{\sqrt{d_k}}\right)V$$

Here  $QK^T \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$  are similarity scores; dividing by  $\sqrt{d_k}$  stabilizes training; each row of the softmax matrix sums to 1.

##### 3.4. ATTENTION HEADS

**An attention head** is one independent attention computation with its own parameters  $W_Q^h, W_K^h, W_V^h$ .

**Multi-head attention (MHA)** runs  $H$  heads in parallel:

$$Y_h = \text{Attention}(Q_h, K_h, V_h), \quad \text{MHA}(X) = \text{Concat}(Y_1, \dots, Y_H)W_O$$

##### 3.5. FEED-FORWARD LAYER (FFN)

Position-wise **MLP** (multi layer perceptron) applied independently to each position:

$$\text{FFN}(x) = W_2(\text{ReLU}(W_1 x + b_1)) + b_2$$

Shapes (per token):  $x \in \mathbb{R}^{d_{\text{model}}}$ , hidden dim  $d_{\text{ffn}}$  (often  $\approx 4d_{\text{model}}$ ), output in  $\mathbb{R}^{d_{\text{model}}}$ .

Parameters per layer:

-  $W_1 \in \mathbb{R}^{d_{\text{model}} \times d_{\text{ffn}}}, b_1 \in \mathbb{R}^{d_{\text{ffn}}}$

-  $W_2 \in \mathbb{R}^{d_{\text{ffn}} \times d_{\text{model}}}, b_2 \in \mathbb{R}^{d_{\text{model}}}$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{FFN} &= (d_{\text{model}} * d_{\text{ffn}} + d_{\text{ffn}}) + (d_{\text{ffn}} * d_{\text{model}} + d_{\text{model}}) \\ &= 2 * d_{\text{model}} * d_{\text{ffn}} + d_{\text{ffn}} + d_{\text{model}} \end{aligned}$$

##### 3.6. LAYER NORMALIZATION

Normalization across the feature dimension for each token independently

$$\mu = \frac{1}{d} \sum_{j=1}^d x_j, \quad \sigma^2 = \frac{1}{d} \sum_{j=1}^d (x_j - \mu)^2$$

$$\text{LN}(x) = \gamma \odot \frac{x - \mu}{\sqrt{\sigma^2 + \epsilon}} + \beta$$

Where  $\gamma$  and  $\beta$  are learnable parameters,  $\mu$  and  $\sigma^2$  are mean and variance of features.  $\odot$  means element-wise multiplication.

##### 3.6.1. BatchNorm

BatchNorm normalizes per feature/channel using statistics computed over the **mini-batch** (and, for images, often also over spatial positions). For a given feature  $k$ :

$$\mu_k = \left( \frac{1}{m} \right) \sum_{b=1}^m x_{b,k}, \quad \sigma_k^2 = \left( \frac{1}{m} \right) \sum_{b=1}^m (x_{b,k} - \mu_k)^2$$

$$\text{BN}(x_{b,k}) = \gamma_k \odot \frac{x_{b,k} - \mu_k}{\sqrt{\sigma_k^2 + \epsilon}} + \beta_k$$

Here,  $m$  is the batch size and  $(b, k)$  indexes example  $b$  and feature  $k$ . BatchNorm behaves differently in training vs. inference: during inference it typically uses running averages of  $\mu_k$  and  $\sigma_k^2$  computed during training.

##### 3.7. CROSS-ATTENTION

In encoder-decoder models: Encoder output  $H \in \mathbb{R}^{n_{\text{enc}} \times d}$ , decoder states  $D \in \mathbb{R}^{n_{\text{dec}} \times d}$

$$\text{CrossAttention}(D, H) = \text{Attention}(DW_Q, HW_K, HW_V)$$

The decoder can attend to the most relevant source tokens while generating each target token.

##### 3.8. CAUSAL MASKING

Presents seeing the future tokens. In self attention we apply a **triangular mask** so position  $i$  can only attend to position  $\leq i$ . Scores for  $j > i$  are set to  $-\infty$  before **softmax**, making their attention weight 0

##### 3.9. EXAMPLE

Vocabulary size:  $|V| = 100$ , model dimension:  $d_{\text{model}} = 32$ , number of heads:  $h = 4 \Rightarrow d_{\text{head}} = \frac{d_{\text{model}}}{h} = 8$ , feed-forward hidden dimension:  $d_{\text{ff}} = 64$ , Layer  $L = 2$  (only Encoder), Seq-length  $n = 10$ .

**Token-Embeddings:**  $V \times d_{\text{model}} = 100 \times 32 = 3200$

**Positional-Embeddings:**  $n \times d_{\text{model}} = 10 \times 32 = 320$

$W_Q, W_K, W_V \rightarrow 3 \times (d_{\text{model}} \times d_{\text{model}}) = 3/32 \times 32 = 3072$ , Output  $W_O: (h \times d_{\text{head}}) \times d_{\text{model}} = (4 \times 8) \times 32 = 1024$

**Total attention params per layer:**  $3072 + 1024 = 4096$

**FFN Parameter per layer:**  $2 \times d_{\text{model}} \times d_{\text{ff}} + d_{\text{ff}} + d_{\text{model}} = 2(32 \times 64) + 64 + 32 = 4192$

**LayerNorm params per layer:**  $2 \times 32 = 64$

**Total per layer:**  $4096 + 4192 + 128 = 8416$

**Overall parameters:**  $L \times \text{Total per layer} + \text{Embedding} + \text{Positional Embedding} = 2 \times 8416 + 3200 + 320 = 20352$

#### 4. LLMs

**Auto-regressive LLMs:** Predict next token given previous tokens. Trained with causal masking.

##### 4.1. KV CACHE

In autoregressive decoding, recomputing KV for all past tokens is wasteful. Cache per layer:  $K_{1:L} = [K_1; \dots; K_L]$ ,  $V_{1:L} = [V_1; \dots; V_L]$ . At step  $i + 1$ , compute only  $K_{i+1}, V_{i+1}$  and reuse the cache:

$$y_i = \text{softmax}\left(\frac{Q_i K_{1:i}^T}{\sqrt{d_k}}\right) V_{1:i}$$

Benefit: faster inference; cost: extra memory.

##### 4.2. TRAINING VS INFERENCE (DECODER-ONLY LLM)

**Training:** predict all next tokens in parallel with a causal mask.  $L = -\sum_{t=1}^T \log p(x_t | x_{<t})$ .

**Inference:** generate step-by-step.  $x_{t+1} \sim p(\cdot | x_{<t})$ . Often use KV cache to reuse past KV.

##### 4.3. ENCODER-ONLY (BERT, DISTILBERT)

Encoder-only Transformers use bidirectional self-attention to produce contextual embeddings for each token (good for understanding tasks, not autoregressive generation).

**BERT** (Bidirectional Encoder Representations from Transformers): pretrained with Masked Language Modeling (MLM) and in the original paper Next Sentence Prediction (NSP). Mask: mask tokens and predict them using left+right context.

**DistBERT:** a smaller BERT-like encoder trained with knowledge distillation (student mimics teacher). DistBERT reduces depth (about half the layers) and uses distillation losses (incl. cosine loss aligning hidden states) during training.

##### 4.4. SPECIAL TOKENS

Special tokens are reserved tokens used for structure/control (not normal text).

- <pad> / [PAD]: padding for batching (ignored via attention\_mask)

- <unk> / [UNK]: unknown token

- <bos> / <eos>: begin/end of sequence

- <eos> / <cls>: end of sequence (often stops generation)

- [CLS]: sequence-level representation for classification (BERT-style)

- [SEP]: separates segments/sentences (BERT-style)

- [MASK]: masked LM pre-training target (BERT-style)

##### 4.5. POST-TRAINING (MAKE AN ASSISTANT)

Language modeling != assisting users: we want the model to follow instructions and align with safety/helpfulness goals.

Problem: high-quality "desired behavior" data is scarce/expensive compared to web-scale pre-training data.

**Supervised Fine-Tuning (SFT):** train on instructions -> response pairs

**Full Fine-Tuning (FFT):** update all model weights -> expensive, SFT data is smaller than pre-trained

- **Less is more idea (LLM4):** little instruction data can teach format/behavior; most knowledge is in pre-trained weights.

##### 4.6. PREFERENCE TUNING / RLHF (REINFORCEMENT LEARNING WITH HUMAN FEEDBACK)

- Train on **reward model** from human preferences (preferred vs rejected answers), then optimize the policy model

- Multiple reward models possible (helpfulness, safety, etc.)

- Methods: **Proximal Policy Optimization (PPO)** (classic RL), and **Direct Preference Optimization** (DPO) alternative without RL loop

- InstructGPT pipeline: collect demos (SFT) -> collect comparisons (reward model) -> optimize with RL (PPO).

##### 4.7. PEFT (PARAMETER-EFFICIENT FINE-TUNING)

- Motivation: FFT is costly in time, memory, storage.

- Methods: **Adapters, LoRA, QLoRA, Prefix / Prompt tuning**

- **Adapters:** small modules inside transformer; different adapters can specialize per task.

- **LoRA:** freeze  $W$ , learn low-rank update:  $W' = W + \alpha \cdot A \cdot B$  ( $\text{rank } r$ ). Only  $A, B$  trained.

- **QLoRA:** quantize original weights (e.g., 4-bit) to reduce memory, then apply LoRA.

#### 5. PROMPT / CONTEXT ENGINEERING

##### 6. RAG (RETRIEVAL-AUGMENTED GENERATION)

LLMs have limited context windows and may not know up-to-date facts. **RAG** augments generation by retrieving relevant documents from an external knowledge base.

##### 6.1. CORE PIPELINE

Query -> Embed -> Search Vector DB -> get relevant context -> append to prompt -> LLM answers ("grounded generation").

##### 6.2. RETRIEVAL BASICS

- Dense retrieval uses **embeddings** and similarity search (e.g., cosine similarity) to find relevant documents.

- Vector databases (e.g., FAISS, Pinecone) store embeddings for efficient similarity search

##### 6.3. CHUNKING

Need chunking because LLM context window is limited; can not feed whole long docs. Techniques:

- 1 vector per doc (too compressed / loses detail)

- truncate (loses info)

- split into chunks (lines/paragraphs), possibly overlapping windows.

##### 6.4. RETRIEVING EVALUATION

Precision@K =  $\frac{\# \text{relevant in top } K}{K}$  and Recall@K =  $\frac{\# \text{relevant retrieved in top } K}{\# \text{relevant in dataset}}$

##### 6.5. RETRIEVAL SHORTCOMINGS + FIX

- **Top-K cutoff / threshold matters**

- Exact phrase match -> dense retrieval may fail -> use **hybrid search** (semantic + keyword)

- Domain shift: retrieval trained on web/Wikipedia may perform worse on legal/medical unless trained with domain data.

- Long-context issue ("lost in the middle"): LLM may miss relevant info if it is buried in the prompt.

##### 6.6. RERANKING (SOLUTION)

- Goal tradeoff: **retrieve** many (high retrieval recall) but **send few** to LLM (LLM uses short context better)

- Two-stage: first retrieve (dense/keyword/hybrid) -> rerank -> take top-n.

- How: cross-encoder scores each (query, doc) pair jointly -> reorder by relevance score.

#### 7. EVALUATION

##### 7.1. QUALITY OF GENERATED TEXT: BLEU (MT / NLP)

- **BLEU:** compares **candidate** vs **reference** using overlapping **n-grams** (often for translation/summarization).

- BLEU  $n$  intuition:

- small  $n$  -> more about meaning/word choice

- large  $n$  -> more about fluency/well-formedness

- Common practice: geometric mean of BLEU<sub>n</sub> for  $n=1..4$  (often called mean BLEU).

- **Brevity Penalty (BP):** penalizes candidates shorter than reference.

- Final: **BLEU = BP \* MEAN\_BLEU**

##### 7.1.1. BLEU limitations (know these)

- Doesn't truly capture meaning/semantics.

- Doesn't directly capture sentence structure.

- Weak for morphologically rich languages.

- Correlates imperfectly with human judgment.

##### 7.2. SUMMARIZATION: ROUGE (RECALL-FOCUSED)

- **ROUGE:** compares machine summary to references via overlap; emphasizes **recall** (getting important content).

- ROUGE variants:

- **ROUGE-N:** n-gram overlap (like BLEU but recall-oriented).

- **ROUGE-L:** longest common subsequence (captures sequence/structure).

- **ROUGE-S:** skip-bigram overlap (words in same order, not necessarily adjacent).

##### 7.3. LLM EVALUATION: PERPLEXITY (PPL)

- Perplexity = exp(average negative log-likelihood) over a token sequence.

- Range:  $\sim 1$  (best) to  $|V|$  (vocab size, worst-case).

```
# start MCP server subprocess + get (read_stream, write_stream)
self.read, self.write = await self._exit_stack.enter_async_context(
    stdio_client(params)
)

# create client session (JSON-RPC over stdio)
self._session = await self._exit_stack.enter_async_context(
    ClientSession(read_stream=self.read, write_stream=self.write)
)

# capability negotiation + ready
await self._session.initialize()
self._connected = True

async def close(self) -> None:
    await self._exit_stack.aclose()
    self._connected = False

8.13. LISTING TOOLS AND CALLING A TOOL (TYPICAL USAGE)
async def list_tools(self):
    assert self._session is not None
    tools = await self._session.list_tools()
    # tools.tools is usually the list of tool descriptors (name, schema, etc.)
    return tools

async def call_add(self, a: float, b: float):
    assert self._session is not None
    # Tool name must match the @mcp.tool registration name (often the function name)
    result = await self._session.call_tool("add", {"a": a, "b": b})
    return result

8.14. CLIENT CALLBACKS (SERVER -> CLIENT REQUESTS)
- Sampling: server asks host app to run an LLM completion (server stays model-independent)
- Elicitation: server asks user for extra info/confirmation
- Logging: server emits logs to client (debug/monitoring)

async def handle_logs(self, level: str, message: str, **kwargs):
    print(f"[{level}] {message}")

async def handle_sampling(self, messages, **kwargs):
    # host decides which model to use + returns completion
    # (pseudo-code: call your LLM provider here)
    return {"content": "model completion here"}

async def handle_elicitation(self, prompt: str, **kwargs):
    # ask user for extra info (CLI example)
    return input(prompt + "\n> ")

async def connect_with_callbacks(self) -> None:
    params = StdioServerParameters(command=self.command, args=self.server_args, env=self.env_vars or None)
    self.read, self.write = await self._exit_stack.enter_async_context(stdio_client(params))

    self._session = await self._exit_stack.enter_async_context(
        ClientSession(
            read_stream=self.read,
            write_stream=self.write,
            logging_callback=self._handle_logs,
            sampling_callback=self._handle_sampling,
            elicitation_callback=self._handle_elicitation,
        )
    )
    await self._session.initialize()
    self._connected = True

8.15. TRANSPORT: STREAMABLE HTTP (SHAPE UNIFY)
- Same JSON-RPC messages, different transport.
- HTTP: client->server via POST; streaming responses via SSE possible.
- Auth: bearer/API key headers; OAuth commonly used to obtain tokens.

# Pseudocode: the core idea is JSON-RPC requests over HTTP.
# (Exact client helpers differ; conceptually:)

request = {
    "jsonrpc": "2.0",
    "id": 1,
    "method": "tools/call",
    "params": {"name": "add", "arguments": {"a": 2, "b": 3}},
}

# send POST /mcp with Authorization: Bearer <token>
# optionally open SSE stream for incremental server messages

8.16. WHY ASYNCEXISTSTACK?
- Manages multiple async context managers (stdio transport, session, etc.) cleanly.
- Ensures subprocess + streams close even if errors occur.

8.17. MULTIPLE SERVERS / CONCURRENCY
- Host may connect to many servers at once; run multiple sessions concurrently.
- Pattern: maintain a list of ClientSession objects (or a SessionGroup helper) and route tool calls per server.
```

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## 9. AE / VAE

### 9.1. AUTOENCODER (AE)

- AE = encoder + decoder trained to **reconstruct** input (output = input).
- "Magic": latent space gives compressed embeddings; sampling/interpolating in latent can generate variants (via decoder).

### 9.1.1. Convolution notes (for image AEs)

Encoder/decoder often use *conv* + (transposed conv) for down/up-sampling.

### 9.1.2. Activation: ReLU vs LeakyReLU

- ReLU:  $f(x) = \max(0, x)$  (dead neurons possible for negative region).
- LeakyReLU: small slope for  $x < 0$  (keeps gradients alive).

### 9.1.3. Problems with vanilla AE latent space (why VAE exists)

- Latent clusters uneven; distribution unknown -> hard to sample "good" points.
- Gaps / discontinuities: many latent points possible for negative region.
- Not forced to be smooth/continuous; nearby latent points may not decode similarly.
- Higher latent dimensions -> "empty space" problem worsens.

### 9.1.4. Reconstruction losses (examples)

- RMSE (L2-style reconstruction).
- Binary cross entropy (often for normalized pixel outputs; asymmetric).

### 9.2. VARIATIONAL AUTOENCODER (VAE)

- Instead of mapping  $x$  -> single latent point, map  $x$  -> **distribution** in latent space.
- Each input produces parameters of a multivariate normal distribution.

### 9.2.1. Encoder outputs (per input)

- Latent dim =  $d$
- Encoder predicts:
  - mean vector:  $z_{\text{mean}} \in \mathbb{R}^d$
  - variance (often via log-variance):  $z_{\text{log\_var}} \in \mathbb{R}^d$
- Use **log variance** because variance must be positive, but log-var can be any real number.

### 9.2.2. Reparameterization trick (crucial)

- Sample using:  $z = \mu + \sigma \epsilon$  where  $\epsilon \sim \mathcal{N}(0, I)$
- With log variance:
 
$$\sigma = \exp(0.5 * z_{\text{log\_var}})$$

$$z = z_{\text{mean}} + \exp(0.5 * z_{\text{log\_var}}) * \epsilon$$

### 9.3. VAE LOSS (2 PARTS)

- Total loss = **reconstruction loss** + **KL divergence** term.
- KL term pushes learned latent distributions toward standard normal  $\mathcal{N}(0, I)$  -> smoother, more "fillable" latent space.

### 9.3.1. KL divergence (common form shown)

- KL\_loss:  $-0.5 * \sum (1 + z_{\text{log\_var}} - z_{\text{mean}}^2 - \exp(z_{\text{log\_var}}))$
- Minimized -> 0 when  $z_{\text{mean}} = 0$  and  $z_{\text{log\_var}} = 0$  for all dims.

### 9.4. NICE PROPERTIES (INTUITION)

- Sampling: pick  $z \sim \mathcal{N}(0, I)$  -> decode -> plausible outputs (less "gaps" than AE).
- Smoothness: nearby latent samples decode to similar outputs (ideally).

### 9.5. LATENT SPACE ARITHMETIC / EDITING

- Attribute direction vector (e.g., "smile"):
  - take average latent of smiling faces minus average latent of non-smiling faces ->  $z_{\text{diff}}$
- Edit:  $z_{\text{new}} = z_{\text{original}} + \alpha * z_{\text{diff}}$

### 9.6. MORPHING / INTERPOLATION

- Linear interpolation between two latent points:  $z_{\text{mix}} = z_A * (1 - \alpha) + z_B * \alpha$
- Decode along the path -> gradual transition from A to B.

## 10. VISION TRANSFORMERS + CLIP

### 10.1. WHY VISION TRANSFORMERS (VIT)?

- Transformers successful in NLP -> applied to images.
- Naive self-attention on pixels is **quadratic** in # pixels -> too expensive.
- Fix: split image into **patches** and treat patches as **tokens** (like words).

### 10.1.1. VIT core pipeline (must know)

1. Split image into patches (e.g.,  $16 \times 16$ ).
2. Flatten each patch and linearly project to  $d_{\text{model}}$ .
3. Add [CLS] token + **positional embeddings**.
4. Feed sequence into **Transformer Encoder** (encoder-only).
5. Use CLS output + MLP head for classification logits -> probabilities.

### Patch math (from original paper slides)

- Input image:  $X \in \mathbb{R}^{H \times W \times C}$
- Patch size:  $P \times P$
- # patches (sequence length):  $N = \frac{H \times W}{P^2}$

### 10.1.2. VIT "flavors" (scale table idea)

- ViT-Base / Large / Huge vary by # layers, hidden size D, # heads, params.

### 10.1.3. VIT advantages

- Inherits Transformer **scaling** behavior.
- Can model **long-range/global dependencies** via self-attention across patches.

### 10.2. VIT vs CNN (KEY CONCEPTUAL DIFFERENCES)

### 10.2.1. Locality / receptive field

- CNNs assume **nearby pixels are related** (locality inductive bias).
- VIT makes no locality assumption -> attention can be **global** from early layers.

### Mean attention distance (definition)

For a query pixel/patch  $q$ : 1) compute distance  $d_i$  to each key  $k_i$ ; 2) weight by attention  $a_i$ ; 3) weighted distance =  $\sum a_i * d_i$ ; 4) average over queries + images -> layer mean attention distance.

### 10.2.2. Translational invariance

- CNNs: translation invariance (object recognized even if shifted).
- VIT: no built-in translation invariance -> often needs **more data** to learn it.

### 10.2.3. When to use VIT vs CNN (rules of thumb)

- Limited data / small compute / real-time (edge/mobile) -> CNNs.
- Need global spatial relationships + can use big pretraining/transfer -> VIT.

### 10.3. IMPLEMENTATION NOTES (HUGGING FACE)

### 10.3.1. Pretrained VIT (ImageNet-1k)

- ViTForImageClassification.from\_pretrained("google/vit-base-patch16-224")
- Pretrained on ImageNet-1k -> 1000 classes.

### 10.3.2. Feature extractor / preprocessing

- VIT expects RGB, resized to  $224 \times 224$ , normalized (ImageNet stats).
- Newer API: AutoImageProcessor (unified).

```
from transformers import AutoImageProcessor, ViTForImageClassification
from PIL import Image
import requests

image = Image.open(requests.get("https://example.com/image.jpg", stream=True).raw)

processor = AutoImageProcessor.from_pretrained("google/vit-base-patch16-224")
model = ViTForImageClassification.from_pretrained("google/vit-base-patch16-224")

inputs = processor(images=image, return_tensors="pt") # pixel_values: [1, 3, 224, 224]
outputs = model(**inputs)
logits = outputs.logits
```

### 10.3.3. Embedding shape + CLS token

- Example shown: embeddings shape = [1, 197, 768]
- 196 patches (14 x 14 for 224 with 16 x 16 patches) + 1 CLS token.

### 10.3.4. Hybrid CNN + VIT (patch embedding via convolution)

- Idea: use a conv layer to embed patches (instead of explicit patch flattening).
- For  $224 \times 224$  with  $16 \times 16$  stride:
  - $14 \times 14 = 196$  patch tokens
  - often 768 conv filters -> embedding dim 768.

### 10.4. MULTI-MODAL TRANSFORMERS: CLIP (CONTRASTIVE LANGUAGE-IMAGE PRETRAINING) (+ SIGUP)

- Two encoders:
  - text encoder -> text embedding  $v_t$
  - image encoder (often ViT) -> image embedding  $v_i$
- Train on many image-text pairs; map both modalities into a shared embedding space.

### 10.5. CONTRASTIVE LEARNING OBJECTIVE (BATCH)

- Compute cosine similarities between all (text, image) combos in batch.
- Maximize similarity for matching pairs (i=j), minimize for mismatches.
- Implementation view: for each  $v_i$ , softmax over similarities to all  $w_j$  cross-entropy with correct  $w_i$  as target.

### 10.6. SIGUP (SIGMOID LOSS VARIANT)

- Instead of softmax over all negatives, uses binary (sigmoid) loss per pair:
- classify each pair as positive (i=j) or negative (i!=j)
- No global normalization across batch required.

### 10.7. ZERO-SHOT CLASSIFICATION WITH CLIP

- Turn labels into text prompts (e.g., "a photo of a").
- Encode image + all label texts; choose label with max cosine similarity.

### 10.8. CLIP IN GENERATION (DALL-E NOTE)

- CLIP text encoder can be used to embed prompts (DALL-E 2 mentioned).

## 11. DIFFUSION

- Train a network to **denoise** images with different noise levels.
- Inference: start from **pure Gaussian noise** and iteratively denoise -> sample from training distribution.
- Key difference vs VAE/GAN: VAE/GAN generate in **one** forward pass; diffusion does **many refinement steps** (can "correct itself").

### 11.1. TWO PHASES

- 1) **Forward diffusion**  $q$  (fixed): gradually add Gaussian noise until image = standard normal noise.
- 2) **Reverse diffusion**  $p_\theta$  (learned): neural net gradually removes noise to recover an image.

### 11.2. PREPROCESSING

- Normalize training images to **zero mean, unit variance** (per-pixel over dataset).

### 11.3. FORWARD DIFFUSION $q$

### 11.3.1. One-step noising

- Add small noise at each timestep  $t = 1..T$  with variance  $\beta_t$ :
  - Sample  $z \sim \mathcal{N}(0, I)$
  - $x_t = \sqrt{1 - \beta_t} * x_{(t-1)} + \sqrt{\beta_t} * \epsilon$
  - Scaling ensures: if  $x_{(t-1)}$  has mean 0 and var 1, then  $x_t$  also stays mean 0, var 1.

### 11.3.2. Why "final image becomes Gaussian noise"?

- With enough steps  $T$  and a schedule  $\beta_t$ ,  $x_T$  becomes indistinguishable from  $\mathcal{N}(0, I)$ .

### 11.3.3. Jump-to-any-timestep (reparameterization)

- Define  $\alpha_t = 1 - \beta_t$  and  $[(\alpha)_t = \prod_{s=1..t} \alpha_s]$
- Then we can sample directly from  $x_q$ :  $x_t = \sqrt{[(\alpha)_t]} * x_0 + \sqrt{1 - [(\alpha)_t]} * \epsilon$
- Benefit: training can pick a random  $t$  without simulating all intermediate steps.

### 11.3.4. Noise schedules

- $\beta_t$  (or equivalently  $[(\alpha)_t]$  changes with time.
- Linear schedule (example):  $\beta_t$  increases linearly (e.g., 0.0001 -> 0.02):
  - early: tiny noising steps
  - late: larger steps (image already very noisy)
- Cosine schedule: noise increases more gradually -> often improves training efficiency + generation quality.

### 11.4. REVERSE DIFFUSION $p_\theta$

### 11.4.1. Goal

- We want  $p(\epsilon_{t-1} | x_t)$  (denoise), but true distribution is **intractable**.
- Learn an approximation with a neural network (parameters  $\theta$ ).

### 11.4.2. What the NN predicts (DDPM training simplification)

- Provide network with: noisy image  $x_t$  + timestep (or schedule value).
- Network predicts the noise  $\epsilon_{\theta(x_t, t)}$ .
- Train with squared error: minimize  $\|\epsilon - \epsilon_{\theta(x_t, t)}\|^2$ .

### 11.4.3. Reverse process model form (Gaussian assumption)

- Assume reverse step is Gaussian:
  - $p_\theta(x_{t-1} | x_t) = \mathcal{N}(x_{(t-1)}; \mu_{\theta(x_t, t)}, \Sigma_{\theta(x_t, t)})$
- DDPM choice: keep variance fixed, learn only the mean (later "improved diffusion" also learns variance).

### 11.5. TRAINING (RECIPE)

- Sample real image  $x_0 \sim q(x_0)$
- Sample timestep  $t \sim \text{Uniform}(1..T)$
- Sample noise  $\epsilon \sim \mathcal{N}(0, I)$
- Form  $x_t$  using known schedule
- Train NN to predict  $\epsilon$  from  $(x_t, t)$  (SGD on batches)

### 11.6. ARCHITECTURE: U-NET

- Use U-Net rather than AE/VAE for pixel-precise noise prediction.
- U-Net structure:
  - downsampling blocks (conv + pooling/downsample)
  - upsampling blocks (conv + upsample / transposed conv)
  - **skip connections** copy features from down path to up path (preserve details)
  - Residual blocks + skips help gradient flow (avoid vanishing gradients in deep nets).

### 11.6.1. Timestep encoding

- Use **sinusoidal embedding** to map scalar timestep/noise-level to a higher-dim vector (like Transformers).

### 11.7. GENERATION (SAMPLING)

- Start with  $x_T \sim \mathcal{N}(0, I)$
- For  $t = T..1$ :
  - predict noise (or mean)
  - compute  $x_{(t-1)}$  (denoise one step)
- Model predicts total noise component; iterative updates move from noisy -> clean.

### 11.8. LATENT DIFFUSION / STABLE DIFFUSION / IMAGEN

### 11.8.1. Latent Diffusion Models (LDM)

- Key idea: run diffusion in **latent space** instead of pixel space:
  - autoencoder encodes image -> latent
  - diffusion operates on latent (cheaper)
  - decoder reconstructs final image

### 11.8.2. Stable Diffusion (key points)

- Released Aug 2022 (public weights via Hugging Face).
- Denoising U-Net can be **lighter** because it operates in latent space.
- Autoencoder handles encoding/decoding "heavy lifting"
- Can be guided by text prompt via text encoder (v1 used CLIP; later versions use OpenCLIP).

### 11.8.3. Imagen (pipeline idea)

- Frozen text encoder: T5-XL
- Text-to-image diffusion model (U-Net conditioned on text embeddings).
- Super-resolution diffusion upsamplers:  $64 \times 64 \rightarrow 256 \times 256 \rightarrow 1024 \times 1024$  (still conditioned on text).

## 12. MULTI-MODALITY (DALL-E, FLAMINGO)

- Learn to convert between **different modalities** (e.g., text  $\leftrightarrow$  image, text  $\leftrightarrow$  video).
- Key requirement: learn a **shared representation** to "bridge" modalities.
- Text-to-image: generate high-quality images from a text prompt.

### 12.1. DALL-E 2

### 12.1.1. Architecture overview (3 parts)

- **Text encoder** -> text embedding
- **Prior** -> converts text embedding -> image embedding
- **Decoder** -> generates image conditioned on (text + predicted image embedding)

### 12.1.2. Text encoder

- Need discrete text -> continuous vector (latent embedding).

### 12.1.4. Decoder (image generation)

- Decoder is a **diffusion model**:
  - U-Net + denoiser
  - Transformer text encoder provides conditioning
- Generates a base image at  $64 \times 64$  conditioned on:
  - the text prompt
  - the predicted CLIP image embedding (from the prior)
- Then apply **Upsamplers** (two diffusion models):
  - $64 \times 64$  to  $256 \times 256$ ,
  - $256 \times 256$  to  $1024 \times 1024$

### 12.1.5. Image variations (how)

- Compute **CLIP image embedding** for an input image using CLIP image encoder.
- Feed that embedding into decoder -> generate variations.

### 12.1.6. Limitations (know these)

- **Attribute binding**:
  - Must distinguish relationships in prompts (e.g., "red cube on blue cube" vs reversed).
- DALL-E 2 can struggle with correct binding.
- **Text rendering**:
  - Often fails to reproduce text accurately in images.
  - Explanation on slides: CLIP embeddings capture high-level semantics, not exact spelling.

### 12.2. FLAMINGO (VISION-LANGUAGE MODEL)

- A VLM that can handle **interleaved text + visual inputs** (images + video frames).

### 12.3. CORE COMPONENTS (3)

- Vision encoder (frozen)
- Perceiver Resampler
- Language model

### 12.4. VIDEO HANDLING (SLIDES' RECIPE)

- Sample video at 1 frame/sec.
- Run each frame through the vision encoder -> feature grids.
- Add learned temporal encodings, flatten, concatenate.

### 12.5. PERCEIVER RESAMPLER (WHY + HOW)

- Problem: images produce many spatial tokens (e.g.,  $14 \times 14 \times 1024$ ) -> too expensive for LLM.
- Solution: compress to a **fixed-size** smaller set of visual tokens:
  - Learn latent queries (few) that attend over all image tokens.
- Cross-attention form:
 
$$Z = \text{softmax}(QK^T)V$$
 where:
  - $Q$  = latent queries (small count),
  - $KV$  = image tokens.
- Output: compact visual embeddings usable by the language model.