

# **Generative models in the arts:**

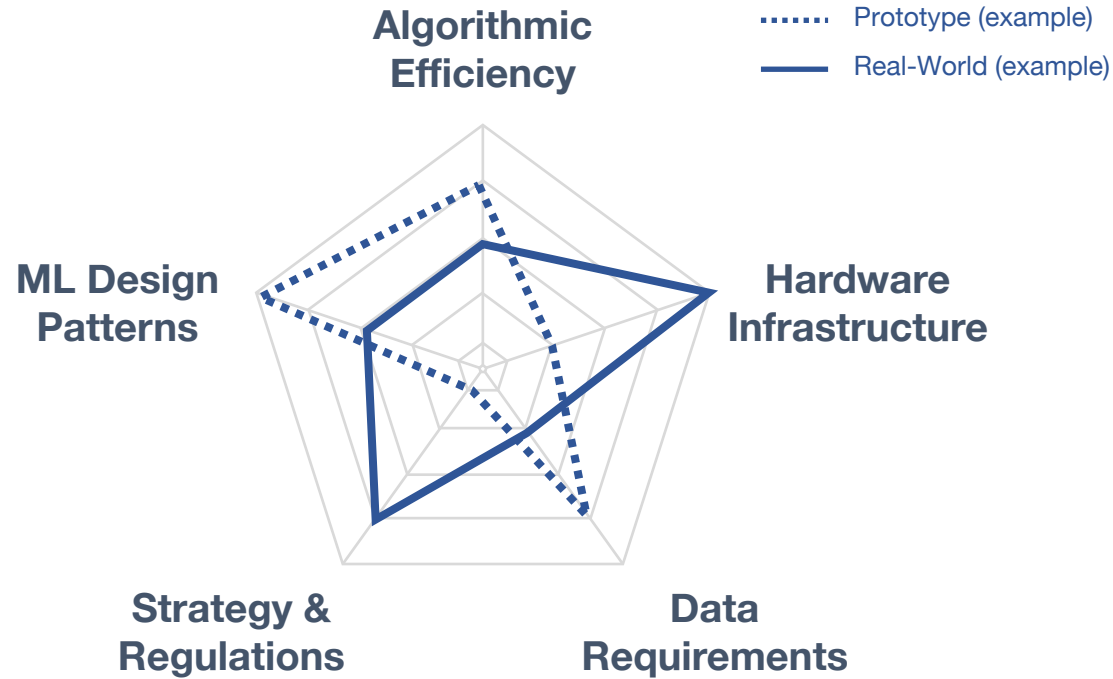
## **Exploring creative possibilities with underspecified objectives**

ARIC Brown-Bag Sessions  
19.01.2021

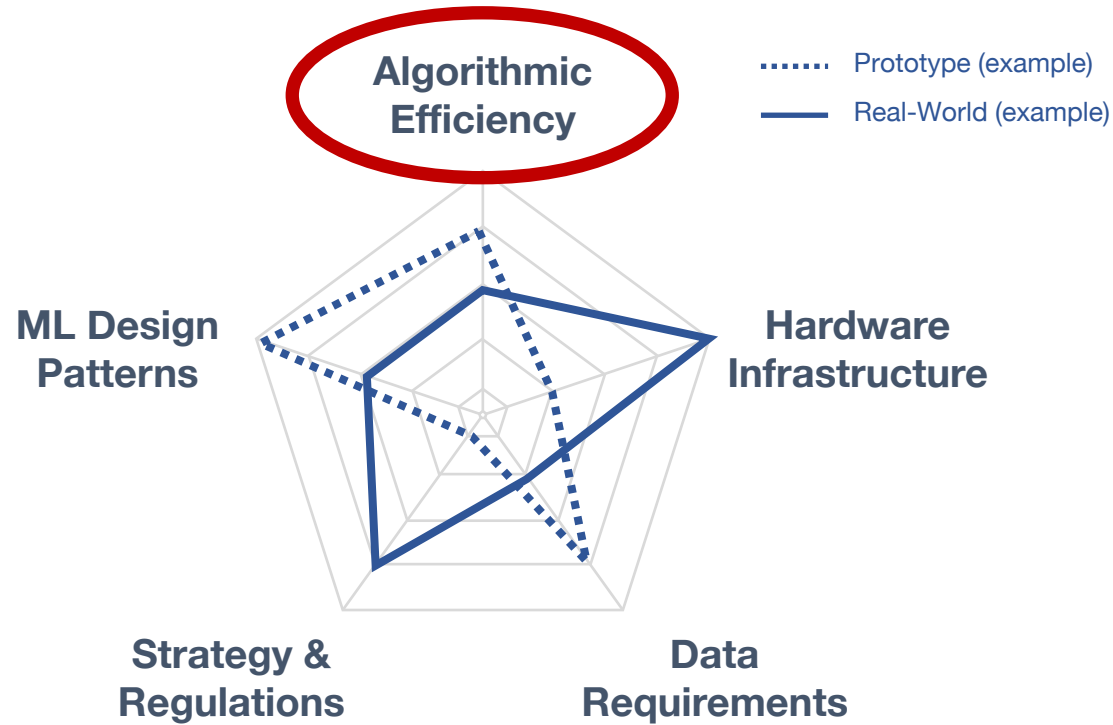
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Co-founder and CTO  
Heldenkombinat Technologies GmbH

# 5 Dimensions of ML Projects



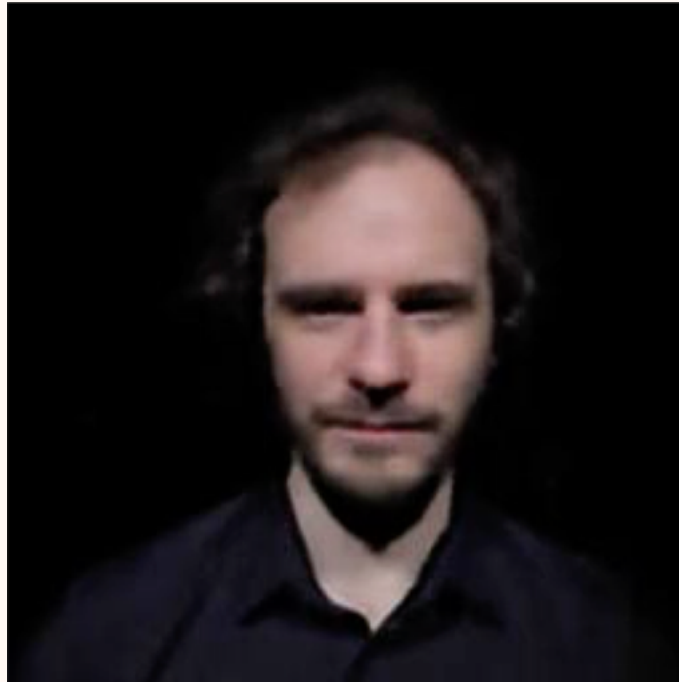
# 5 Dimensions of ML Projects



# **Instrumental Convergence**

# Starting point

## VAE



# Constraints

- Increase resolution as much as possible.
- Allow the reconstruction of video input.
- Images should be aesthetically interesting, the focus is not on the accuracy of the image reconstruction.
- Discover ways for exploring the latent space and control image features.
- Training data and features are not fixed in advance.

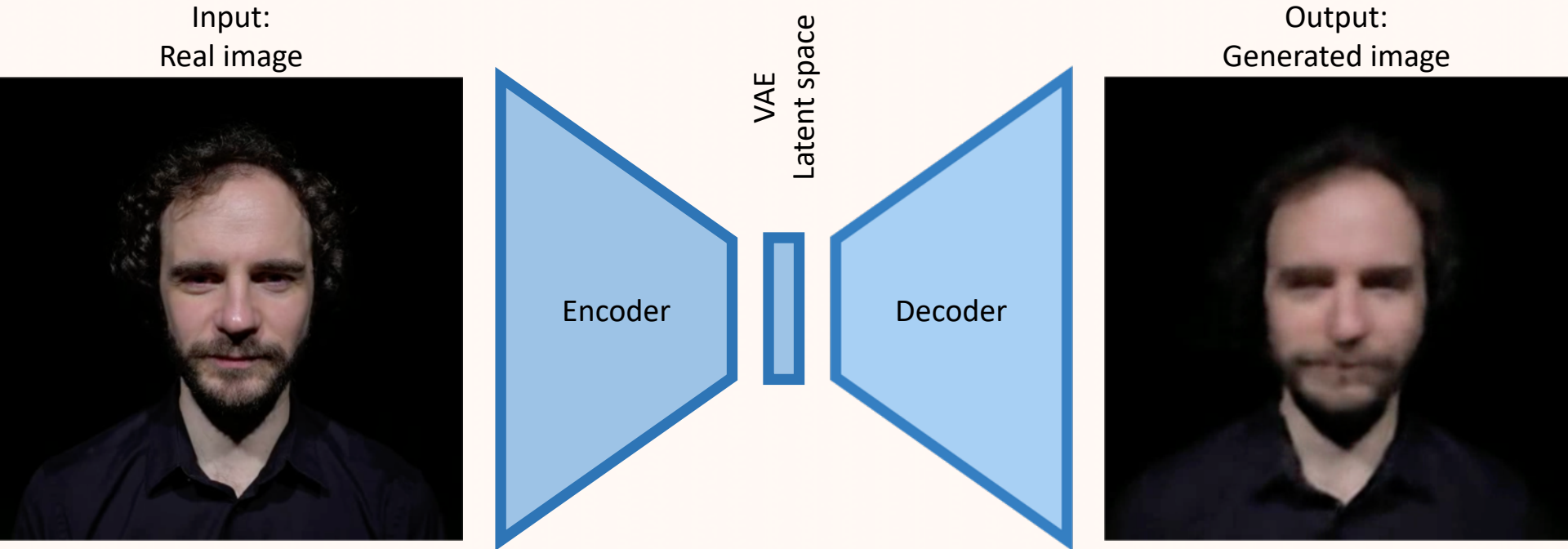
# Architecture

- VAEs [1] produce a smoother, more continuous, latent space than the good old AEs [2] and can take images as input.

Which GAN variant should we choose?

- DCGANs [3] (the first GAN using CNNs): Capture more high-frequency components in the images. They are unstable and data-hungry.
- WGAN [4]: Improves stability during learning (the algorithm converges more often to a good optimum).
- WGAN-GP [5]: reduces the amount of data needed to train the network.
- Pix2Pix [6]: Can produce interpolations and domain-transfer. More data-hungry.
- CycleGANs [7]: Perform style-transfer without the need for lots of paired translations between both domains.

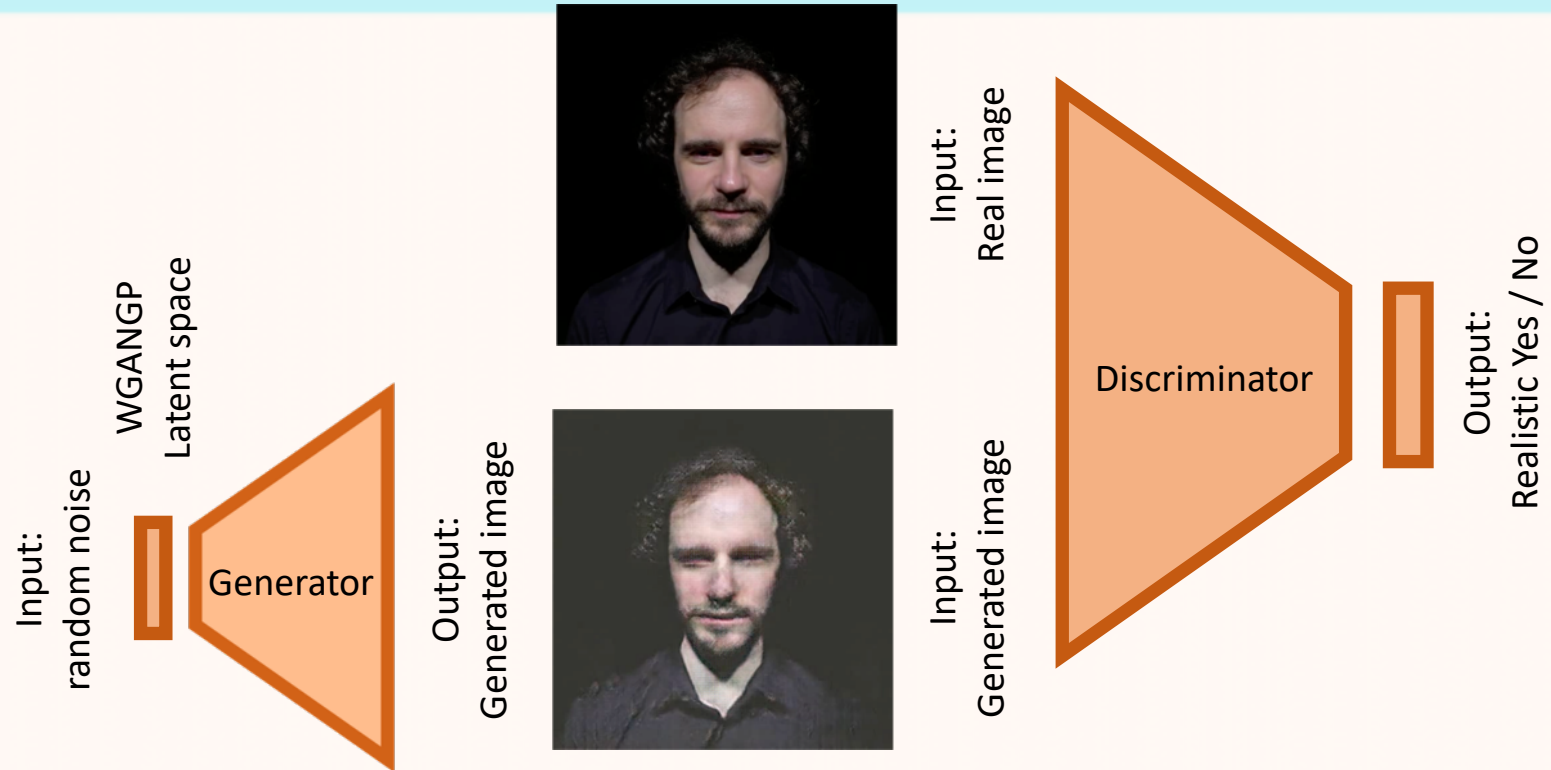
# Variational Autoencoder (VAE)



Kingma, D. P., & Welling, M. (2013). Auto-encoding variational bayes. *arXiv preprint arXiv:1312.6114*.



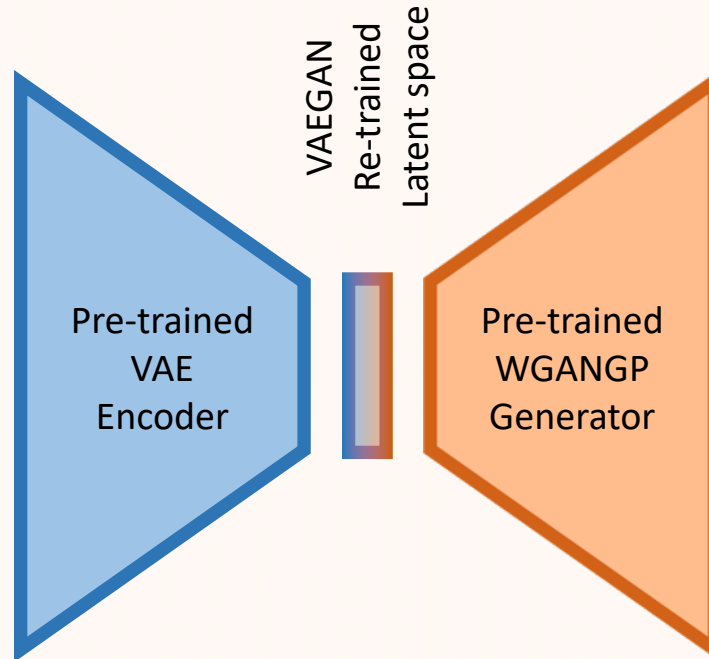
# Wasserstein GAN with Gradient Penalty (WGAN-GP)



Gulrajani, I., Ahmed, F., Arjovsky, M., Dumoulin, V., & Courville, A. C. (2017). Improved training of wasserstein gans. In *Advances in neural information processing systems* (pp. 5767-5777).

# Custom architecture: VAE + WGAN-GP (VAEGAN)

Input:  
Real image



Output:  
Generated image



# First results

Original

VAE

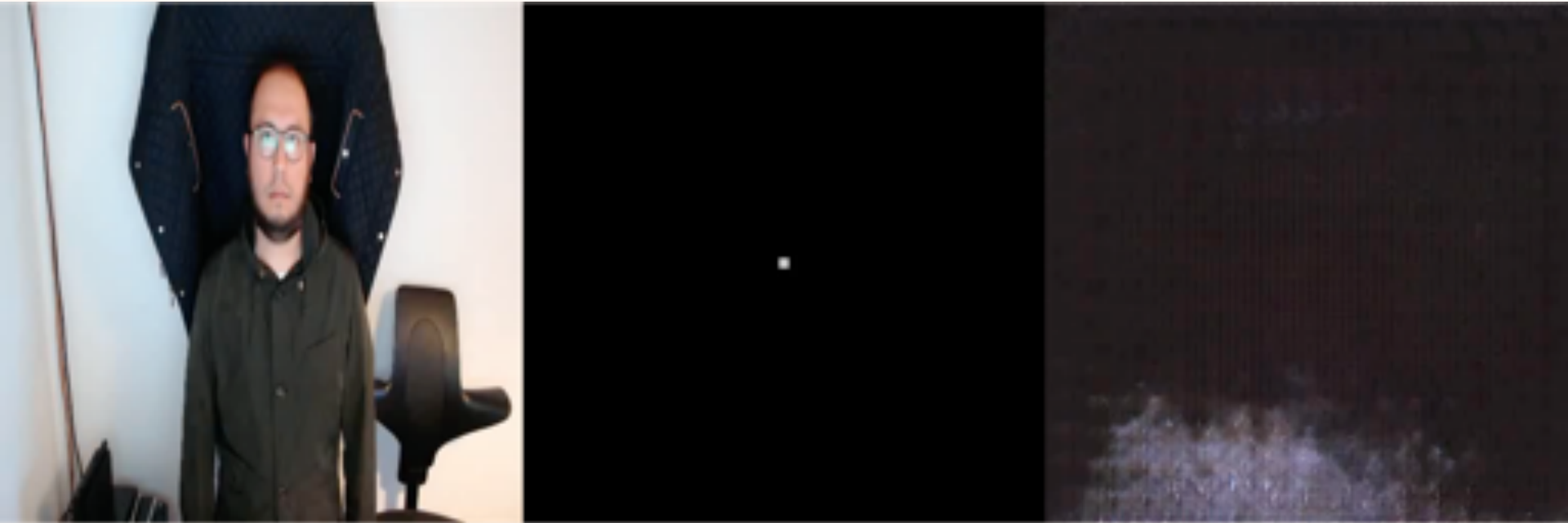
GAN

VAE-GAN



# Interactive output

## Face tracking



Composition: **Alexander Schubert** ([www.alexanderschubert.net](http://www.alexanderschubert.net))  
Performance: **Ensemble Resonanz** ([www.ensembleresonanz.com](http://www.ensembleresonanz.com))

# Composition

# Festival PODIUM Esslingen #BeBeethoven



Composition: **Alexander Schubert** ([www.alexanderschubert.net](http://www.alexanderschubert.net))  
Performance: **Ensemble Resonanz** ([www.ensembleresonanz.com](http://www.ensembleresonanz.com))

# References

- [1] VAE: <https://arxiv.org/pdf/1312.6114.pdf>
- [2] AE: [https://web.stanford.edu/class/psych209a/ReadingsByDate/02\\_06/PDPVolIChapter8.pdf](https://web.stanford.edu/class/psych209a/ReadingsByDate/02_06/PDPVolIChapter8.pdf)
- [3] DCGAN: <https://arxiv.org/pdf/1511.06434.pdf>
- [4] WGAN: <https://arxiv.org/pdf/1701.07875.pdf>
- [5] WGAN-GP: <https://arxiv.org/pdf/1704.00028.pdf>
- [6] Pix2Pix: <https://arxiv.org/pdf/1611.07004.pdf>
- [7] CycleGAN: <https://arxiv.org/pdf/1703.10593.pdf>



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