

UNIVERSITÄT  
HEIDELBERG



# Generative Modelling

L7, Structural Bioinformatics

WiSe 2023/24, Heidelberg University

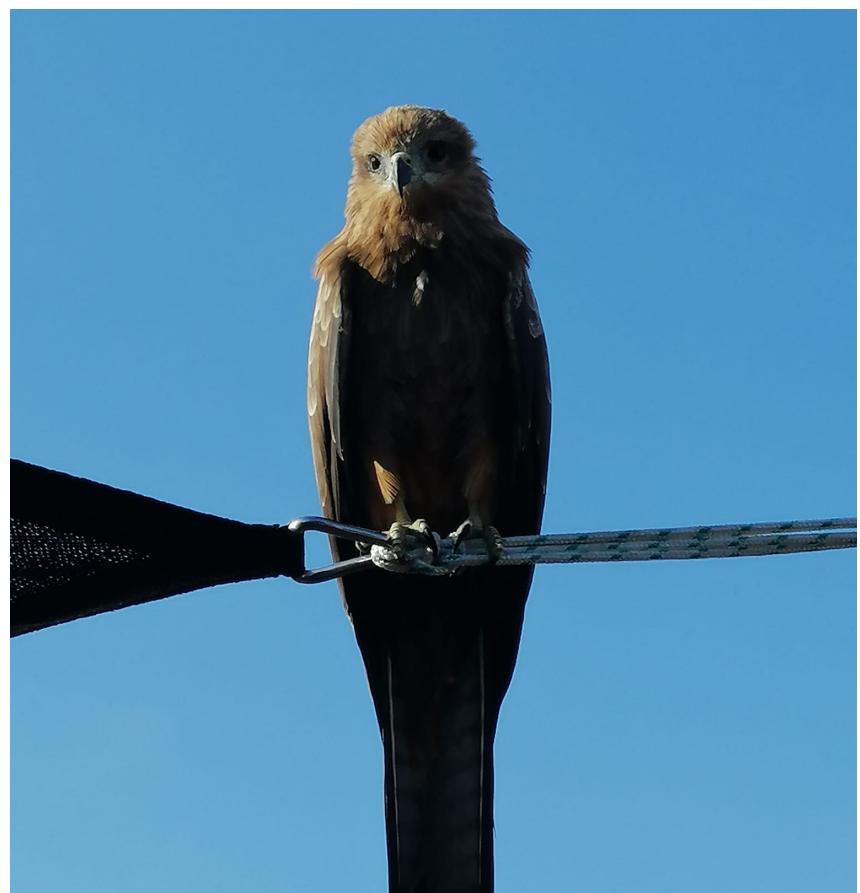
# Overview

1. What is generative modelling?
2. Autoencoders in all flavours  
(Classic/Denoising/Variational)
3. Diffusion Models
4. Applications and Outlook

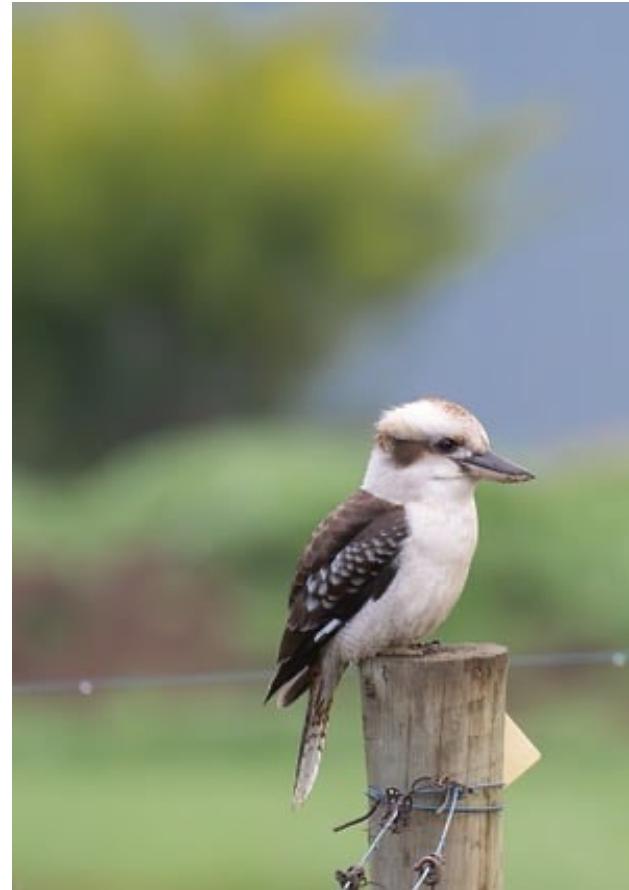
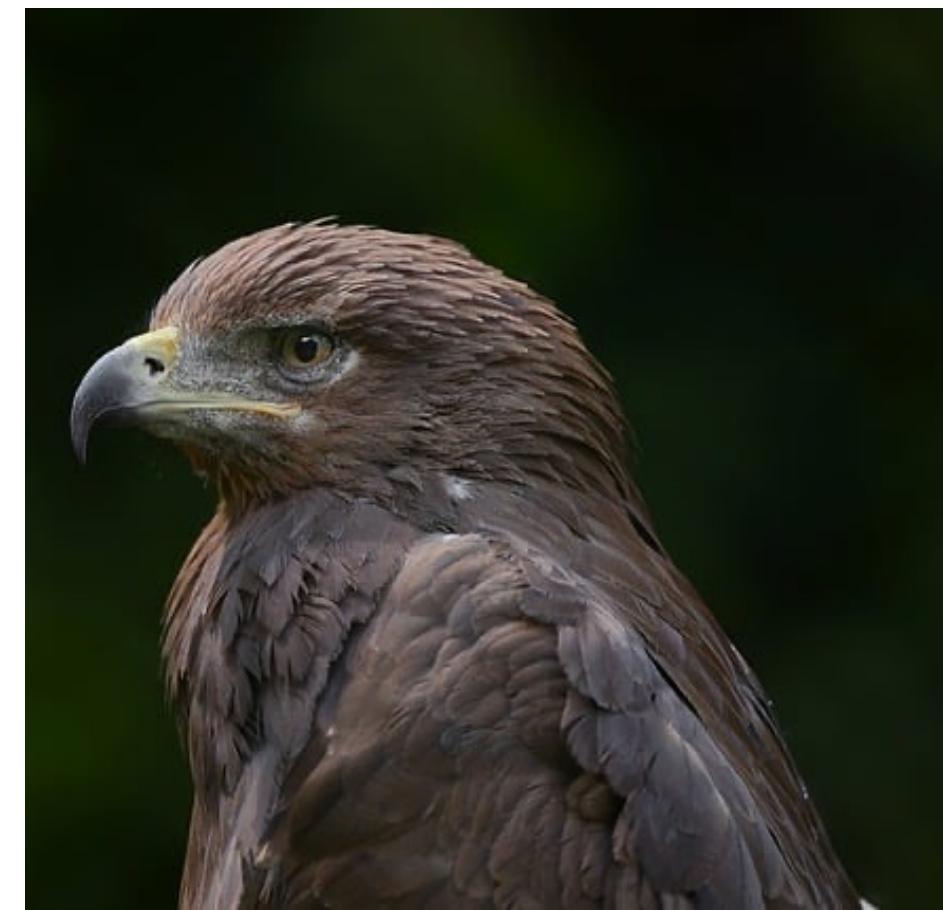
# **1. What is generative modelling?**

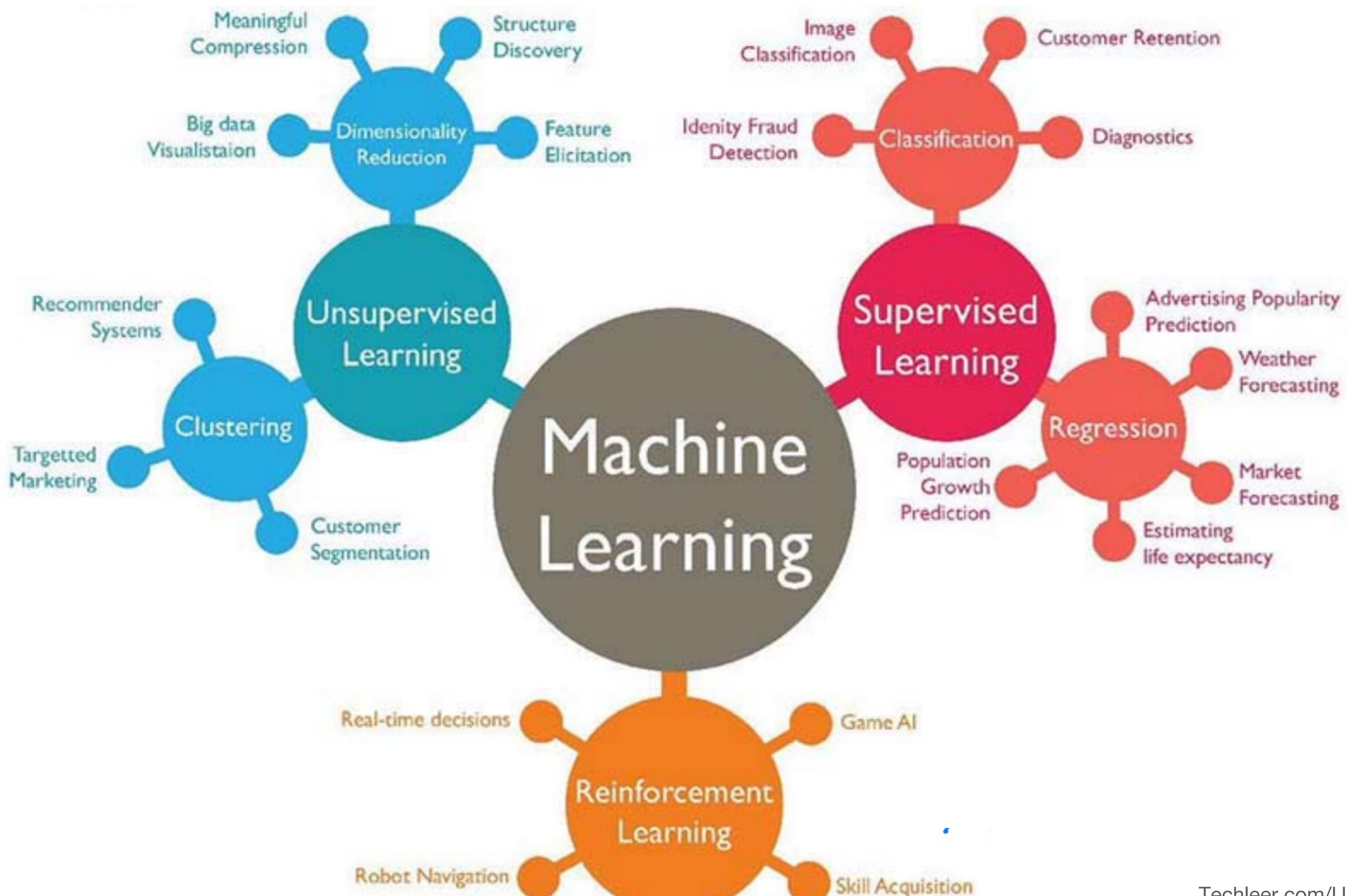
# Basic Idea of Generative Modelling

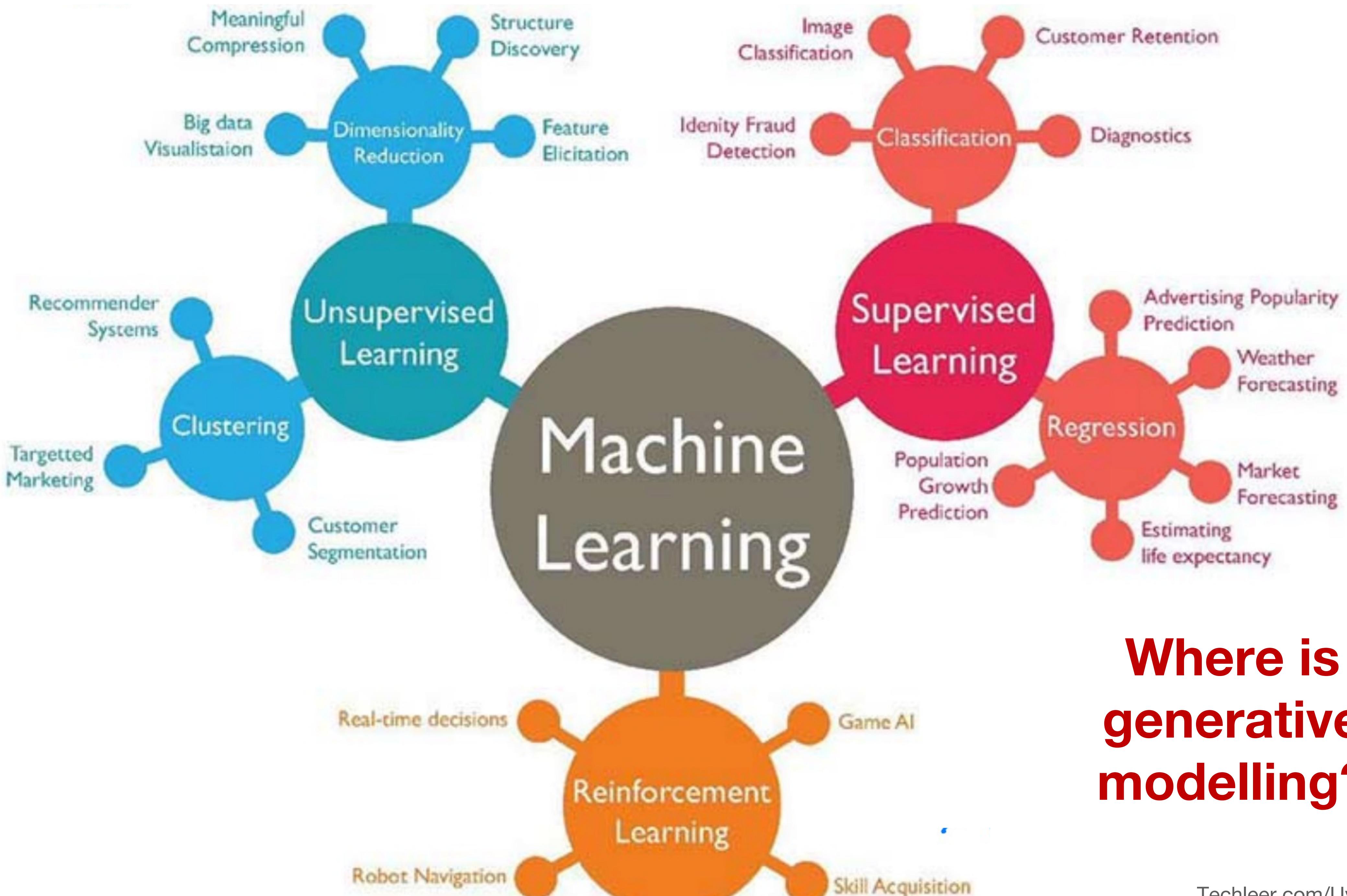
Given data, produce new data that looks similar



Generative Model







**Where is  
generative  
modelling?**

# We can do classification in several ways

Hard decisions (Decision rule)

Input Data

$x$



Class Label

$y$

Dog

Classifier



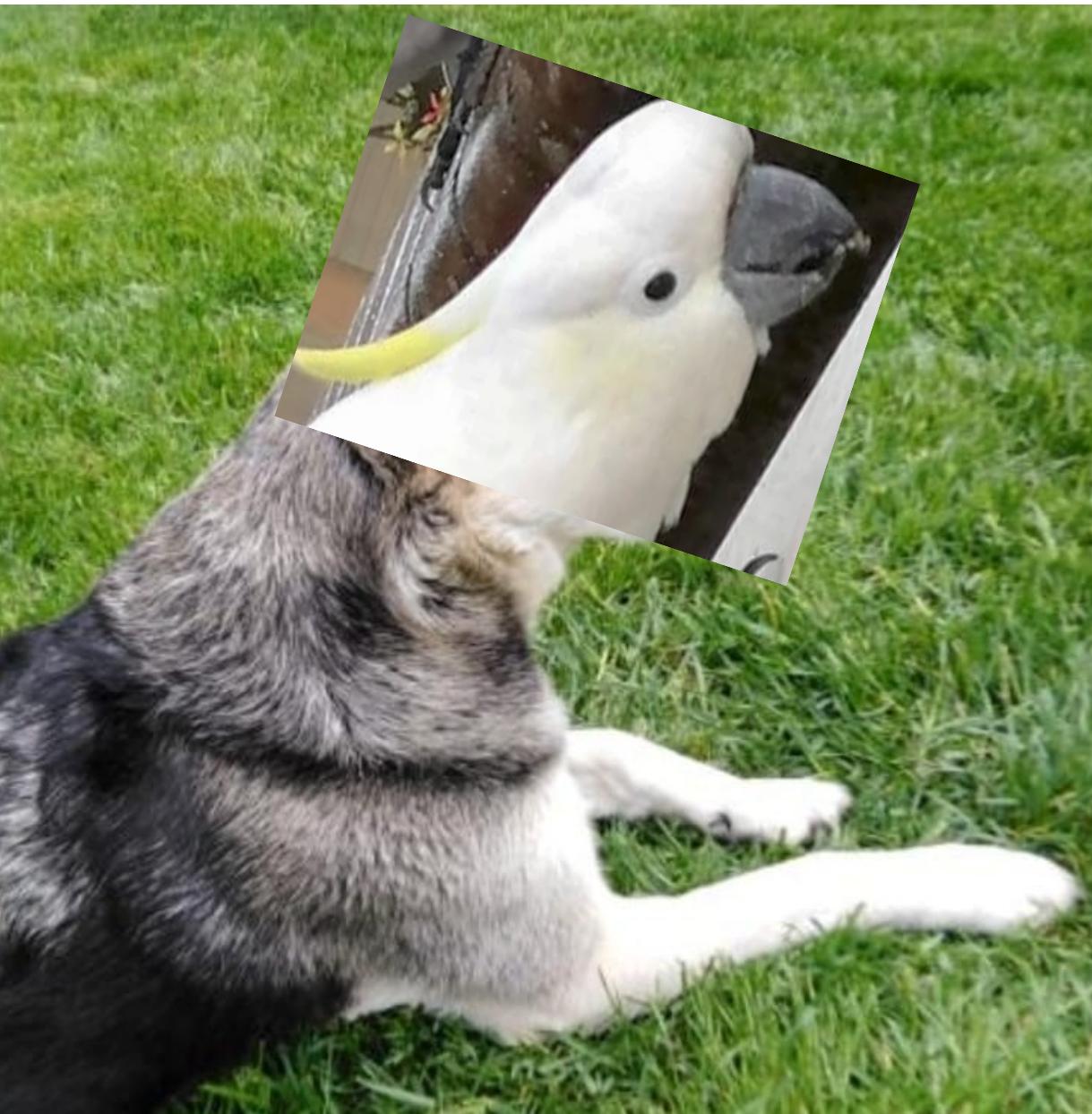
Bird

# We can do classification in several ways

Hard decisions does not tell about uncertainty!

Input Data

$x$



Class Label

$y$

Classifier



Bird

# We can do classification in several ways

## Soft decisions (probabilistic)

Input Data

$x$



Prob. of label given data  
 $p(y|x)$

Dog: 0.9  
Bird: 0.1

Classifier



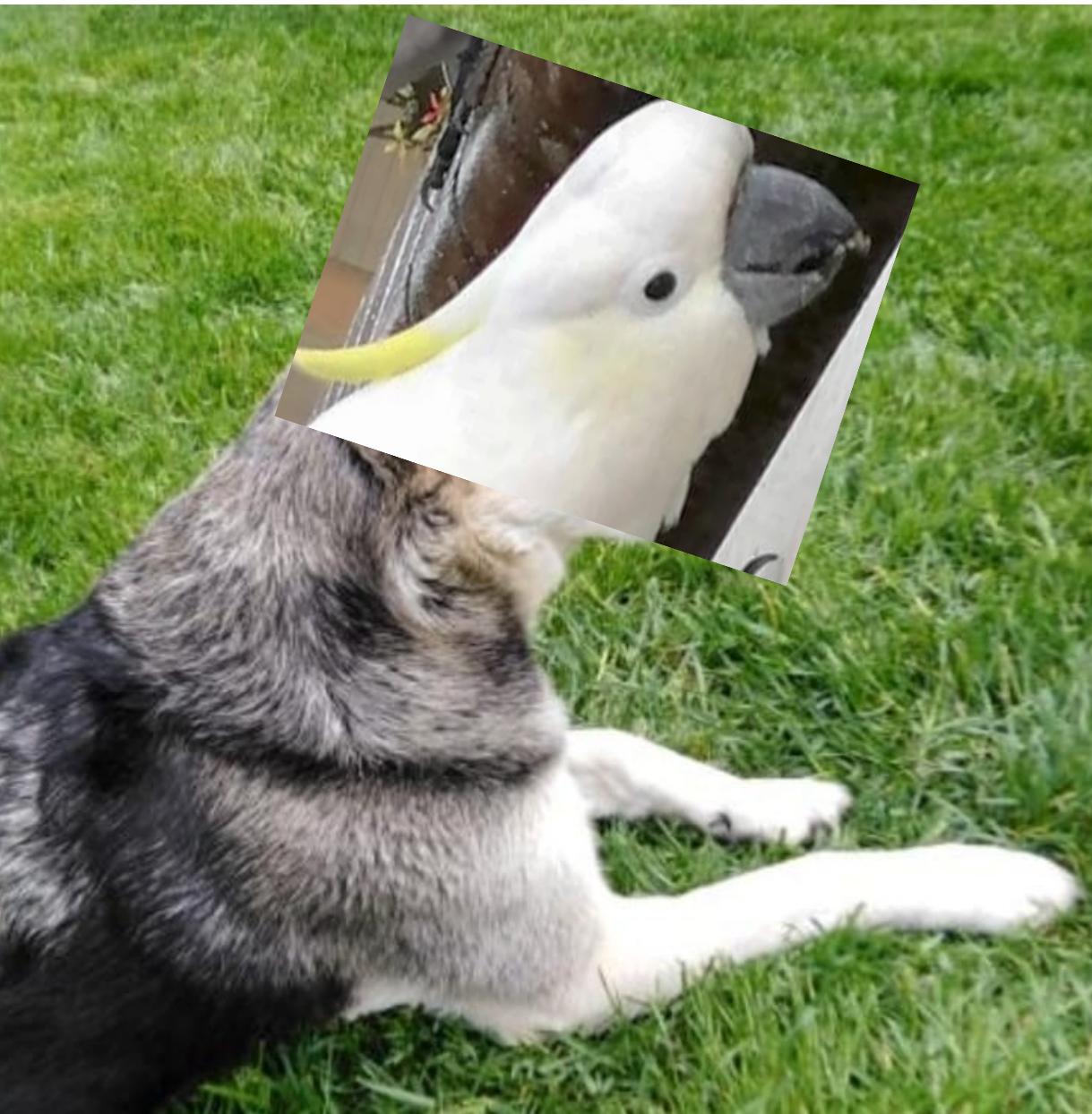
Bird: 0.95  
Dog: 0.05

# We can do classification in several ways

Soft decisions (probabilistic)

Input Data

$x$



Prob. of label given data  
 $p(y|x)$

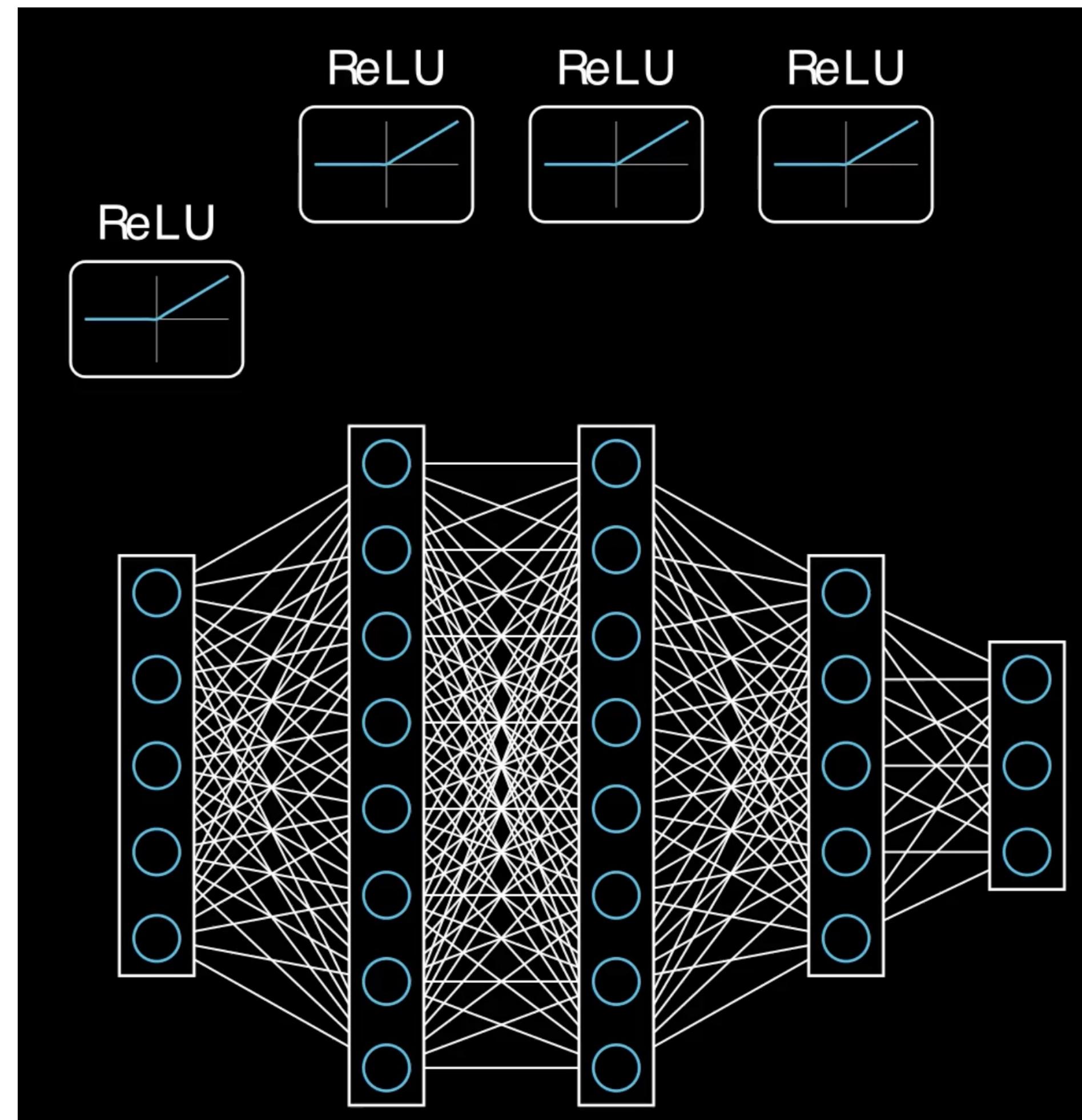
Classifier



Dog: 0.45  
Bird: 0.55

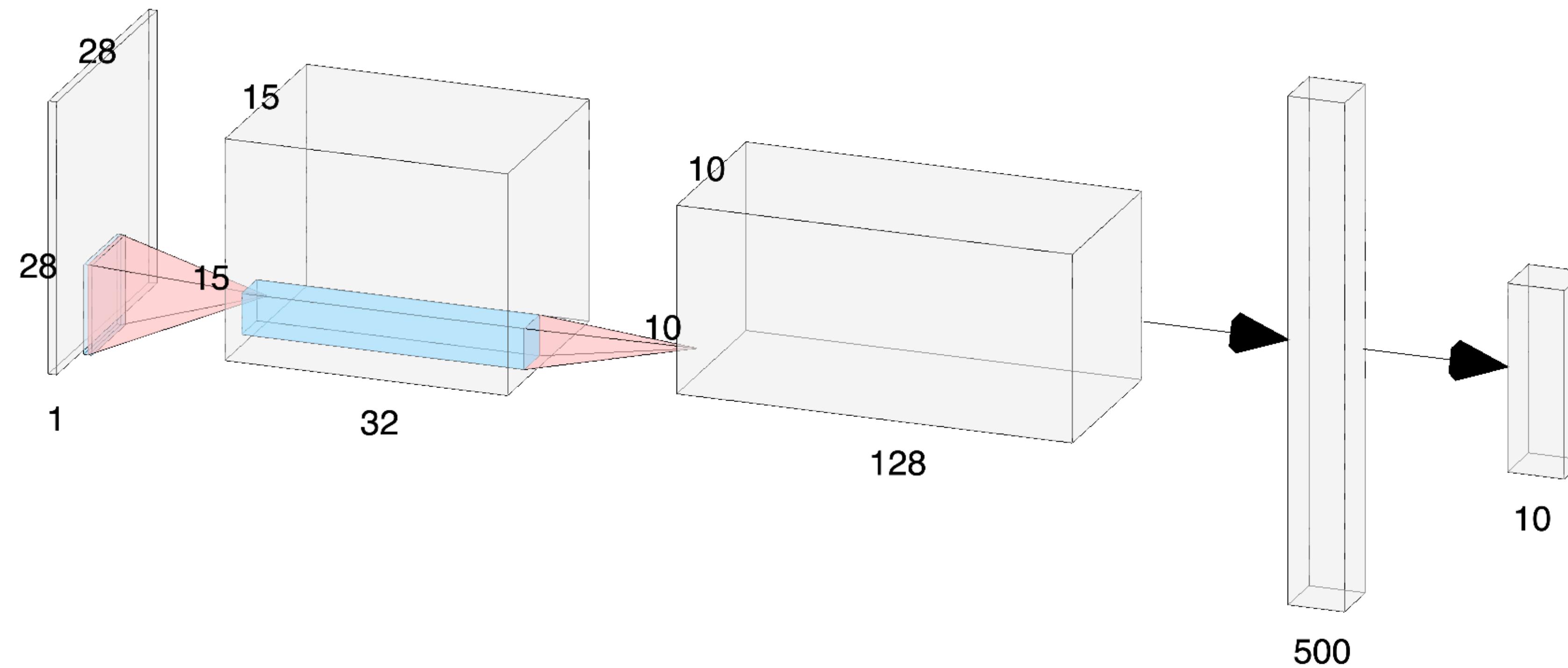
# How do we get soft decisions?

Use the representation instead of a final decision



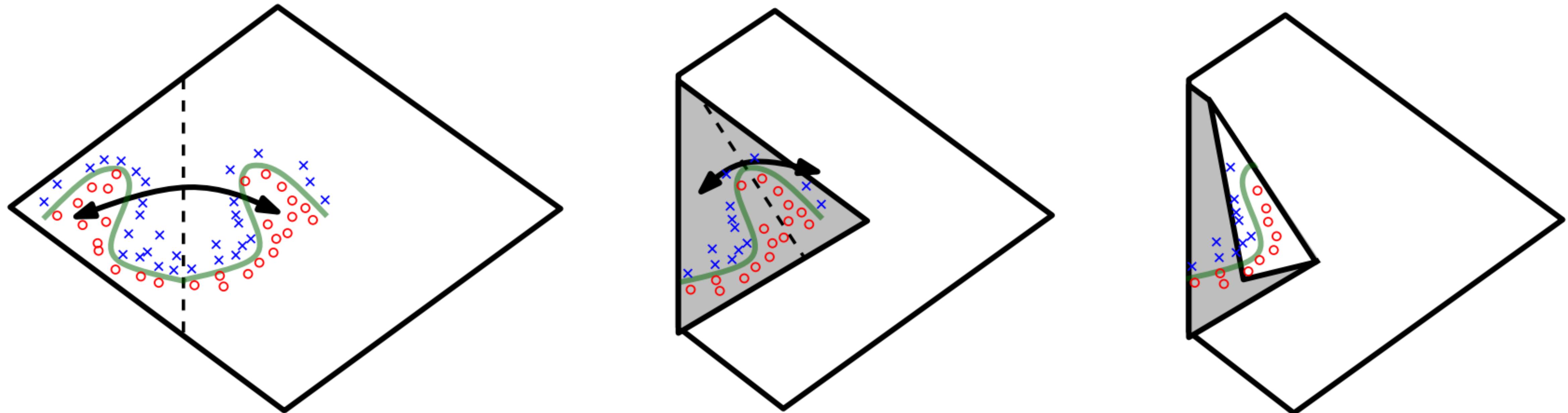
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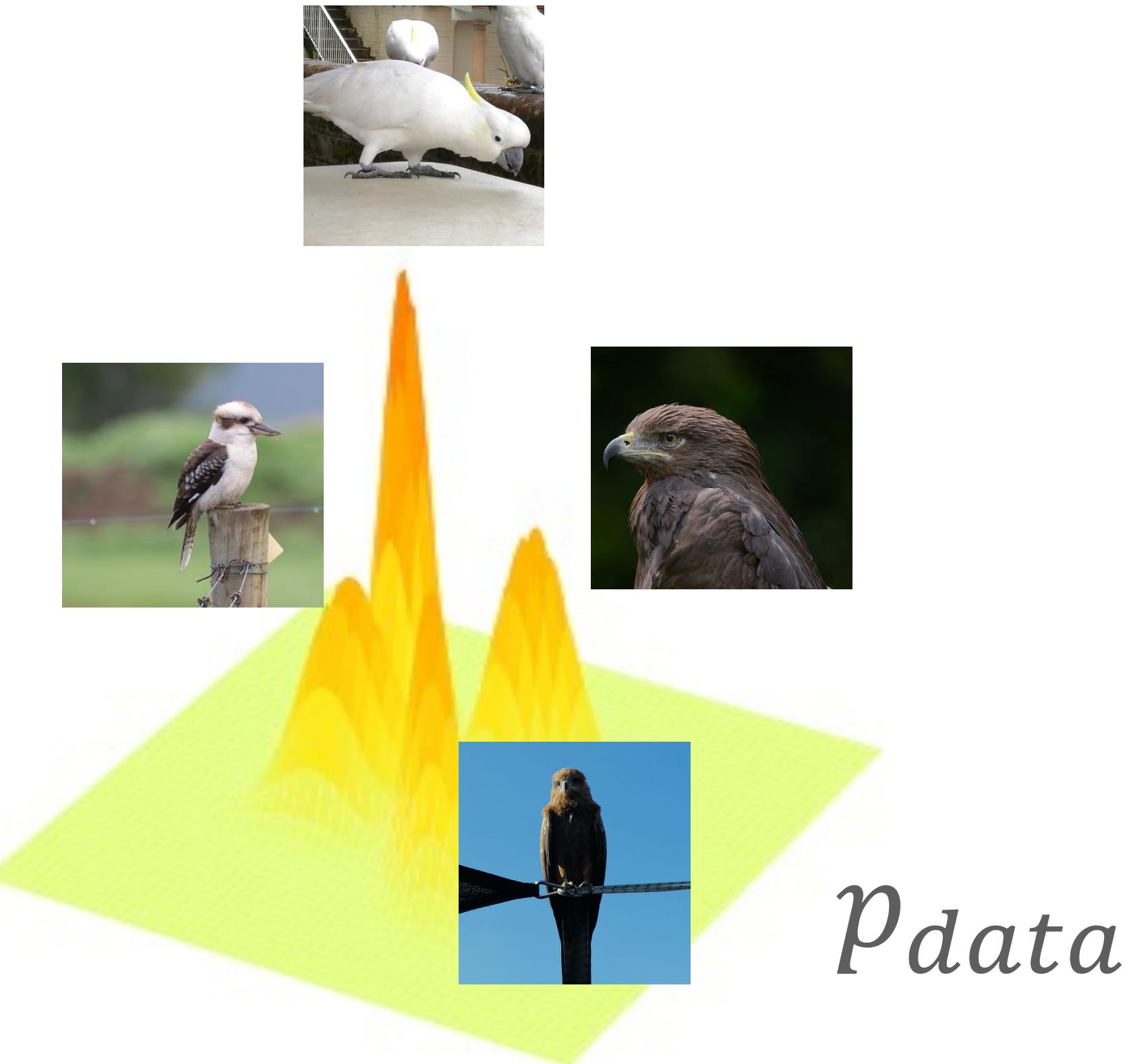
# Reminder: Representation Learning

Neural networks use non-linear transformations to deform data



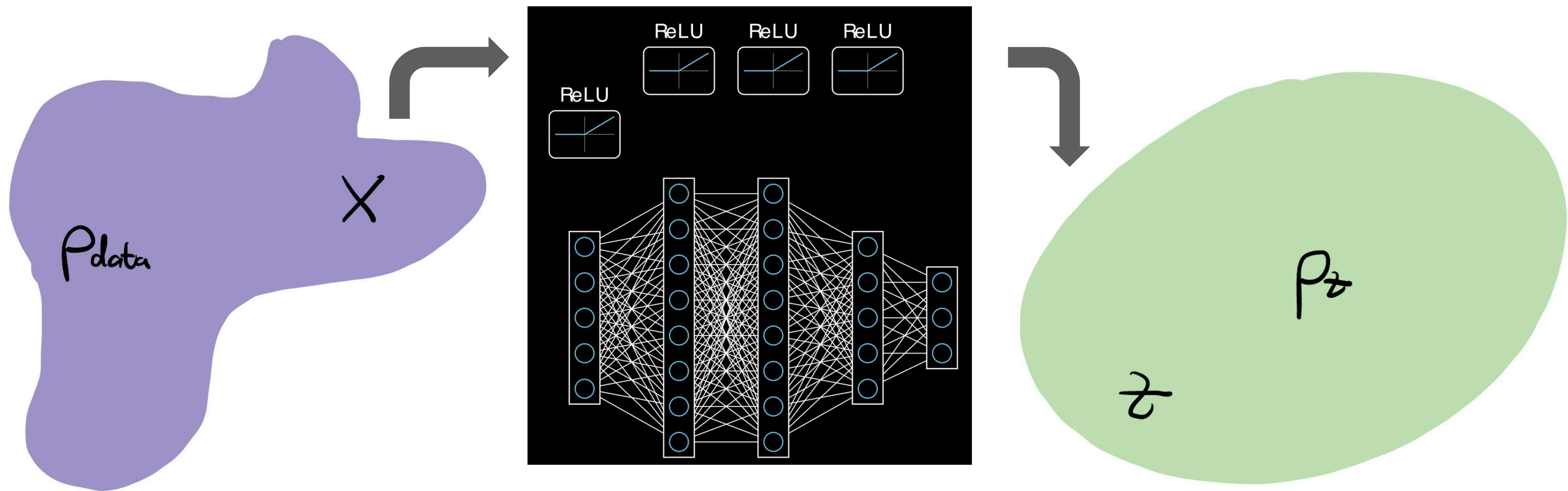
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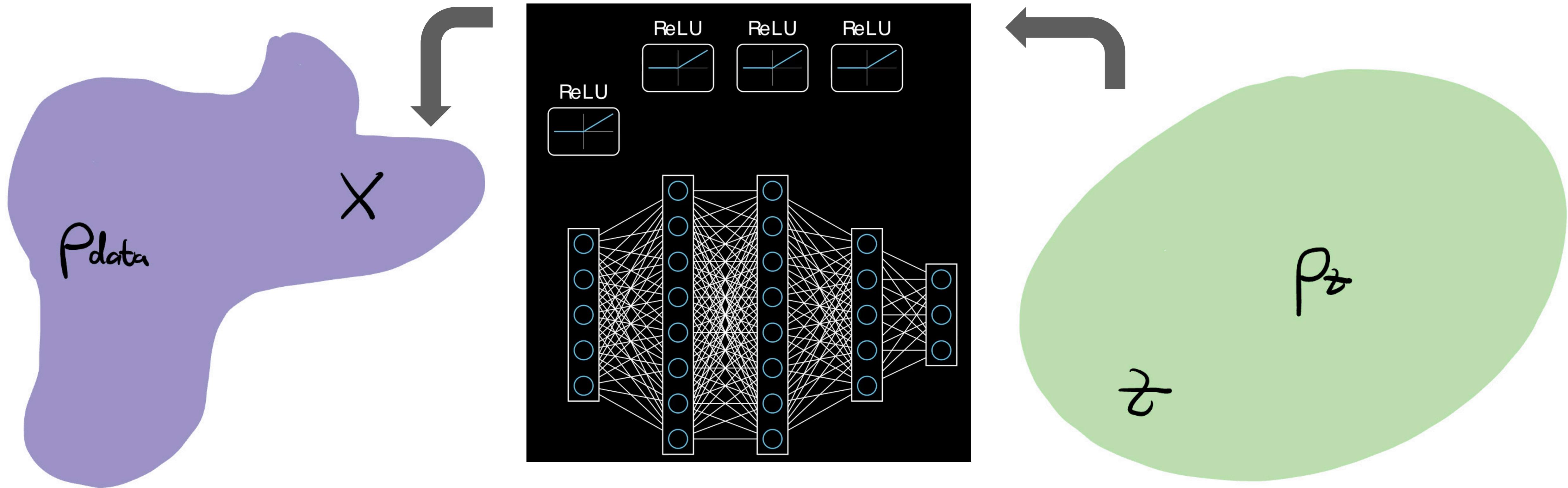
# Reminder: Representation Learning

Neural networks use non-linear transformations to deform data



# Generative Modelling: Turn it around!

Go from a representation to a data distribution



# Why is generative modelling interesting?

1. Sample new datapoints

2. Evaluate likelihood of samples

# Unconditional vs Conditional Models

Every probabilistic model is in some sense a generative model

## Conditional Model

- Supervised learning
- Observe  $x, y$  pairs
- learn  $p(y|x)$
- Ex: regression, classification

## Unconditional Model

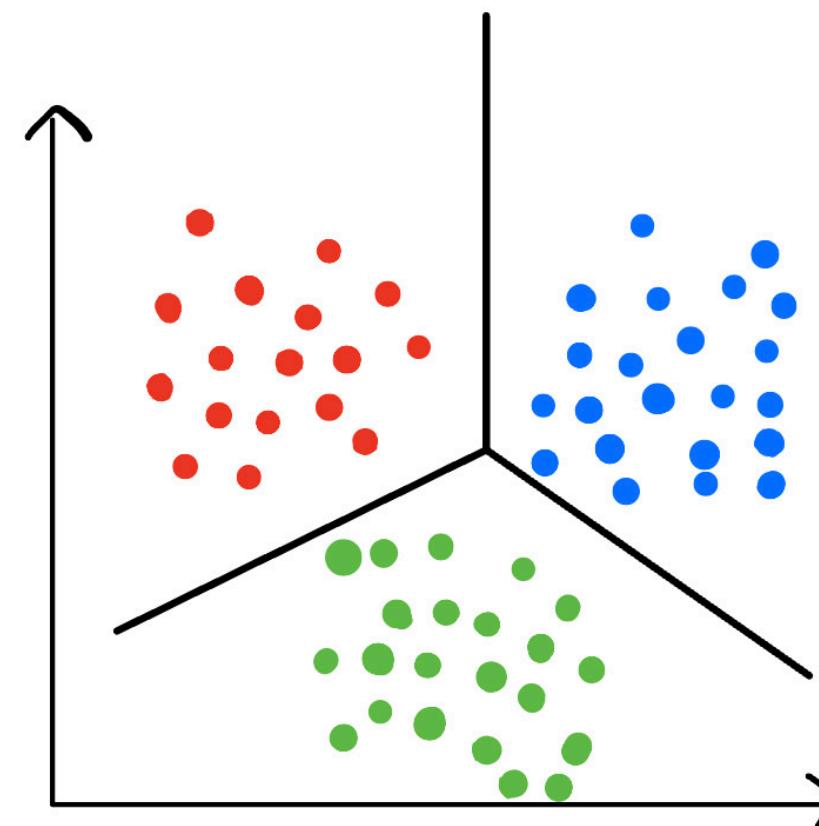
- Unsupervised learning
- Observe only data  $x$ , no labels
- learn  $p(x)$
- Ex: density estimation, dim.red.

# Unconditional vs Conditional Models

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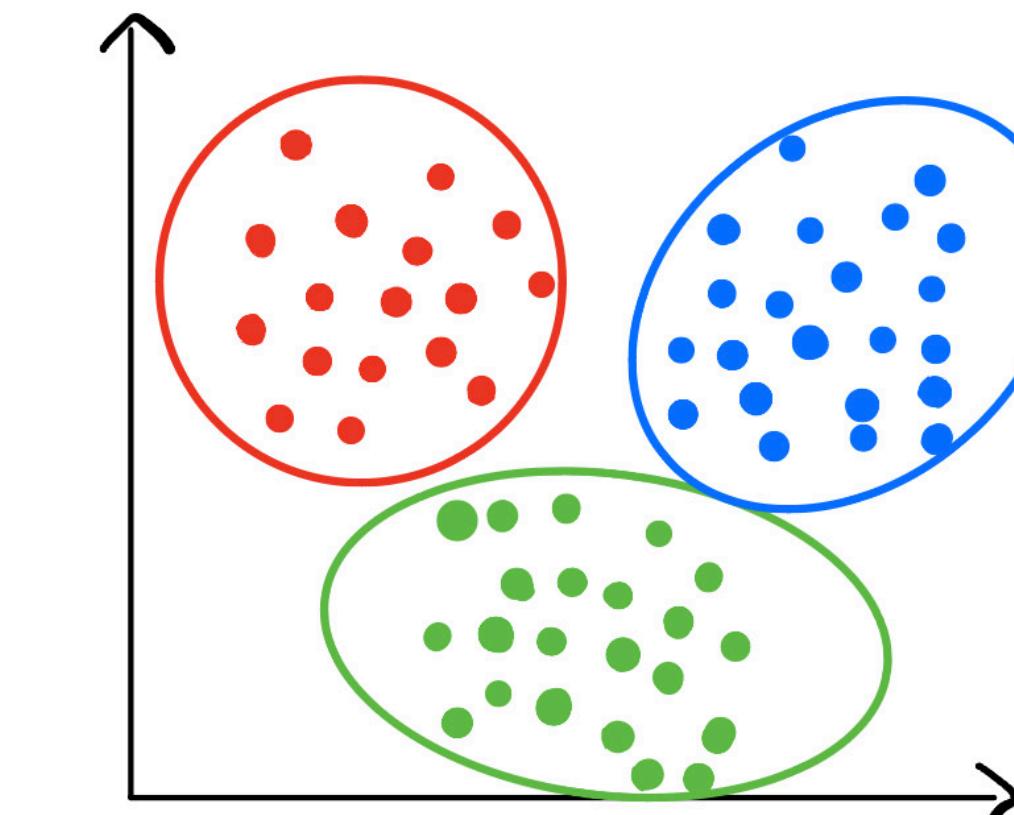
## Conditional Model

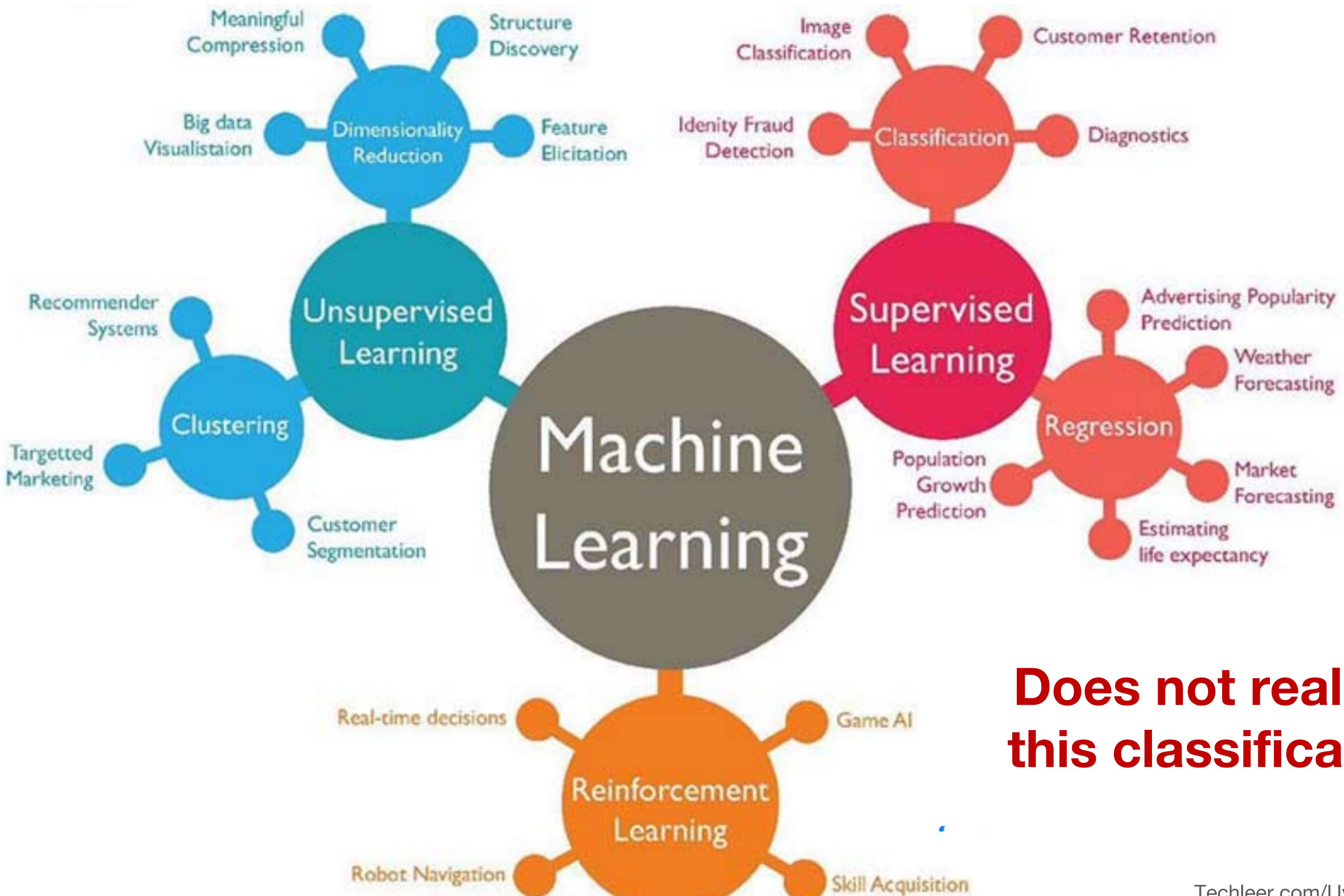
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## Unconditional Model

- Unsupervised learning
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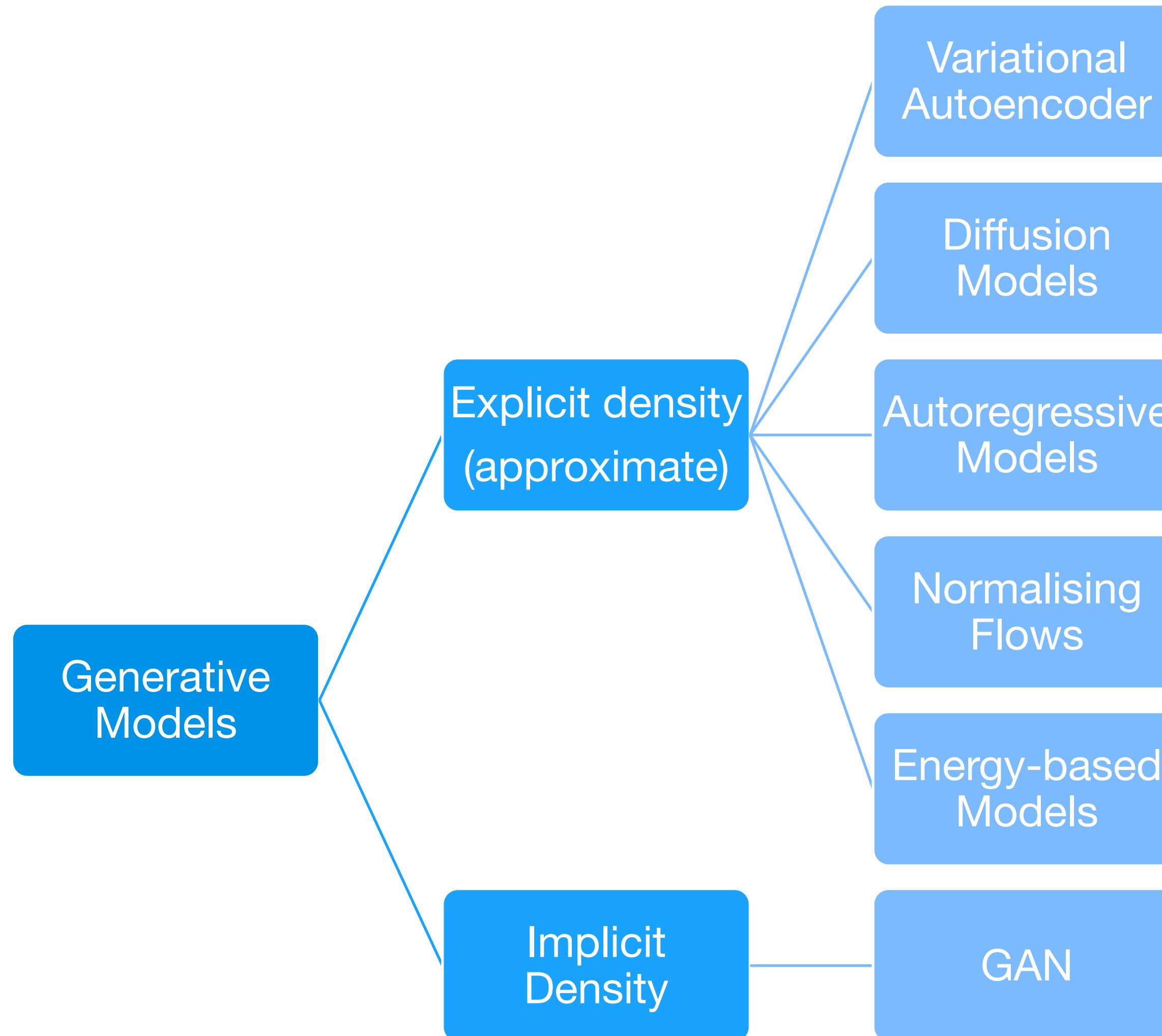




**Does not really fit  
this classification!**

# How to represent $p(x)$ ?

Approximate Density Models dominate recently



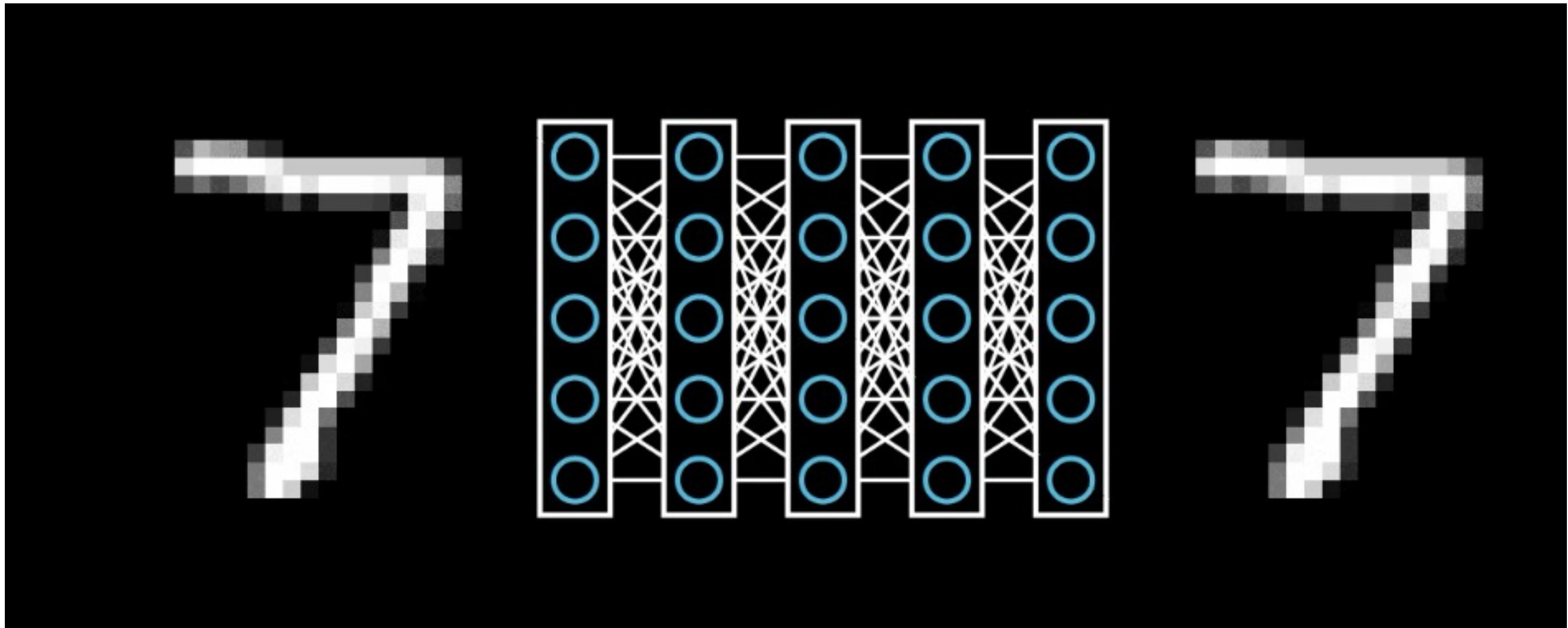
# **2. (Variational) Autoencoders**

# **How to use unlabelled data for learning?**

**Think of interesting tasks that just involve the data itself**

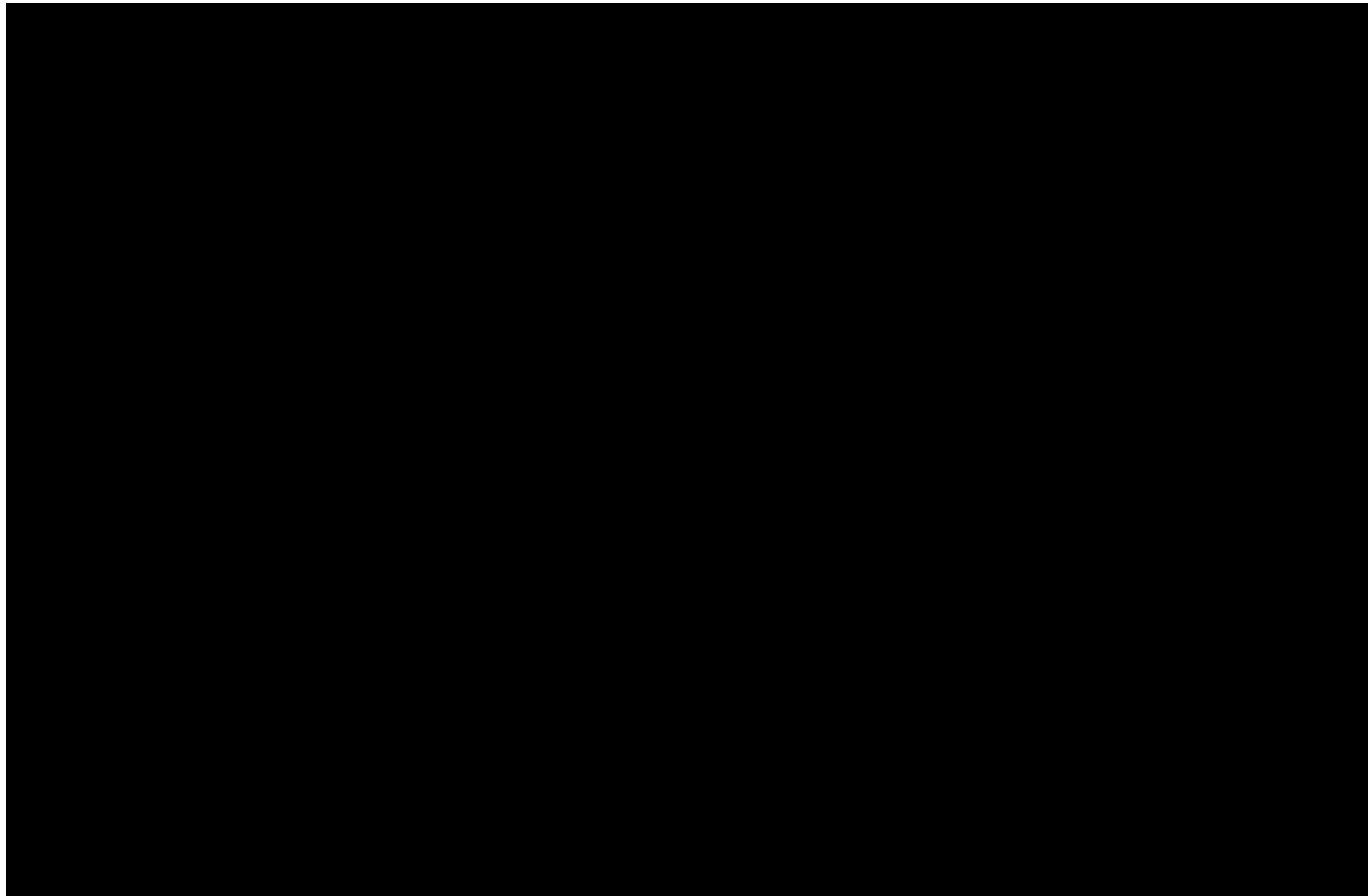
# How to use unlabelled data for learning?

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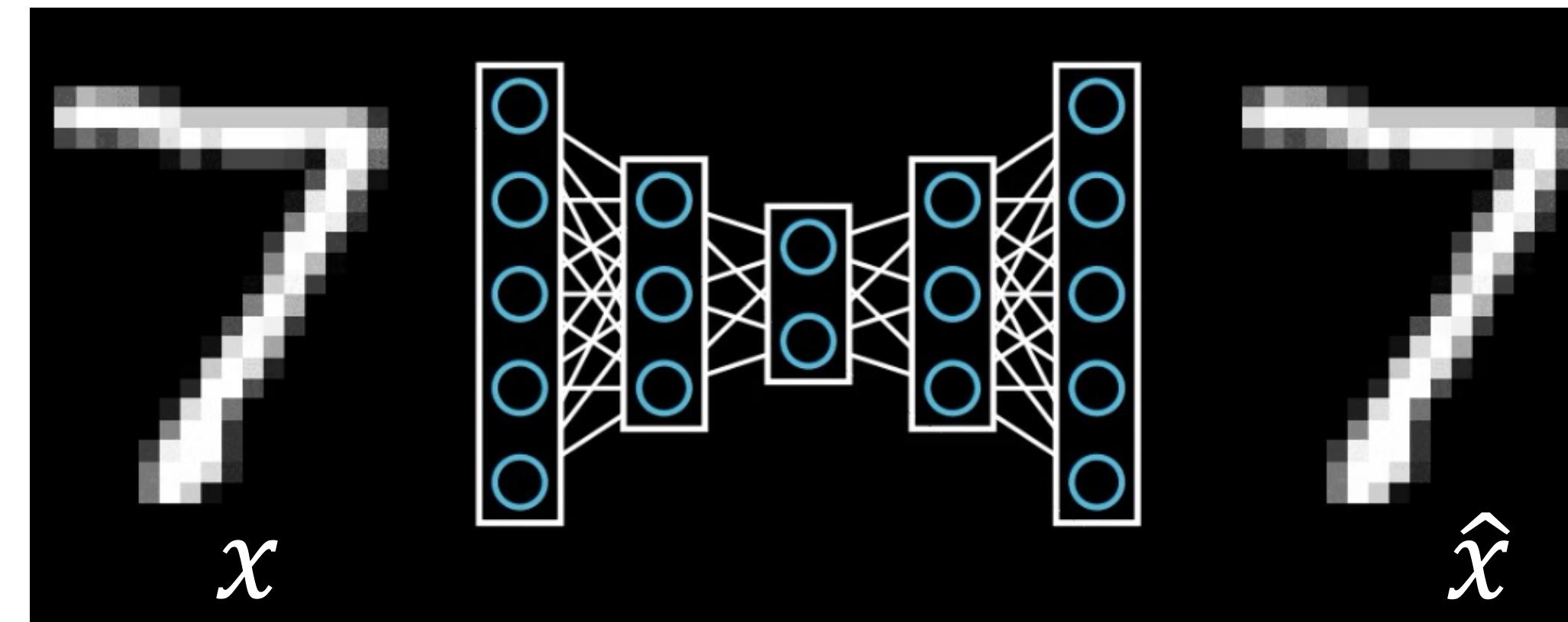
# **Autoencoders: introduce a bottleneck**

**Forcing the network to learn data compression**

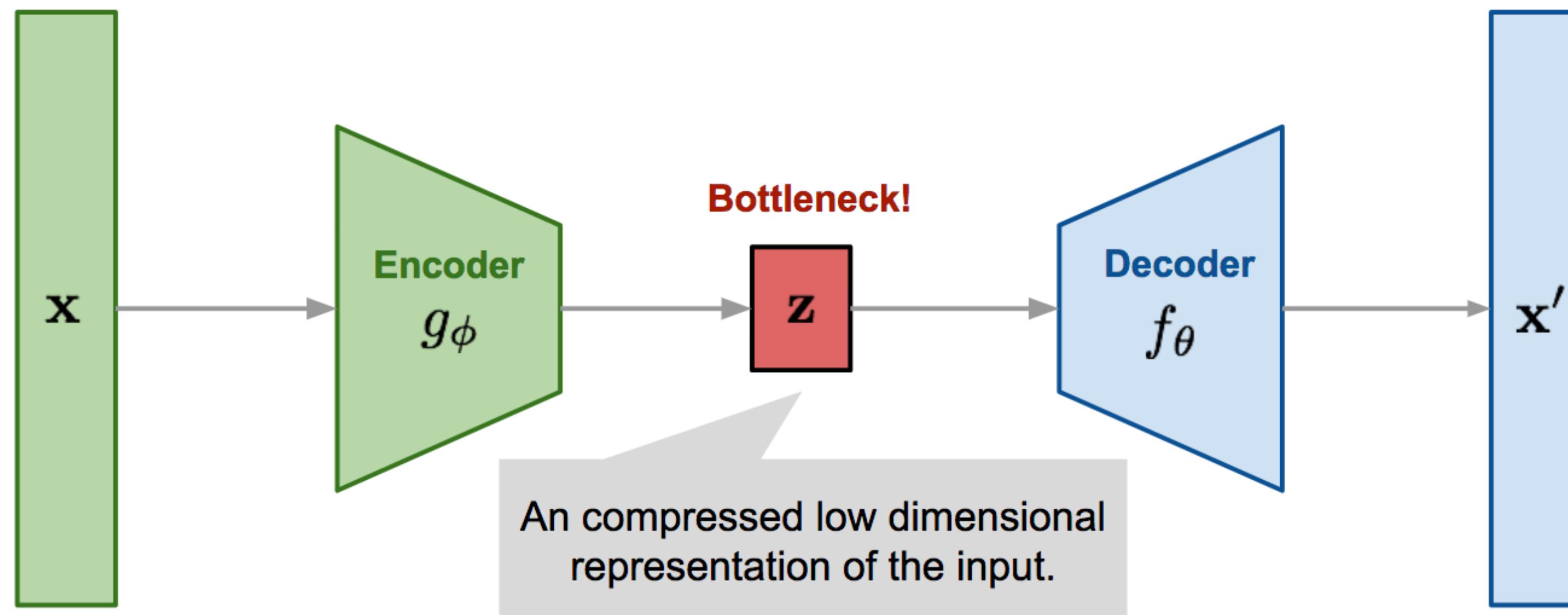


# Autoencoders: introduce a bottleneck

Learn by penalizing a reconstruction error



$$\mathcal{L}(x, \hat{x}) = ||x - \hat{x}||^2$$



# Autoencoders: introduce a bottleneck

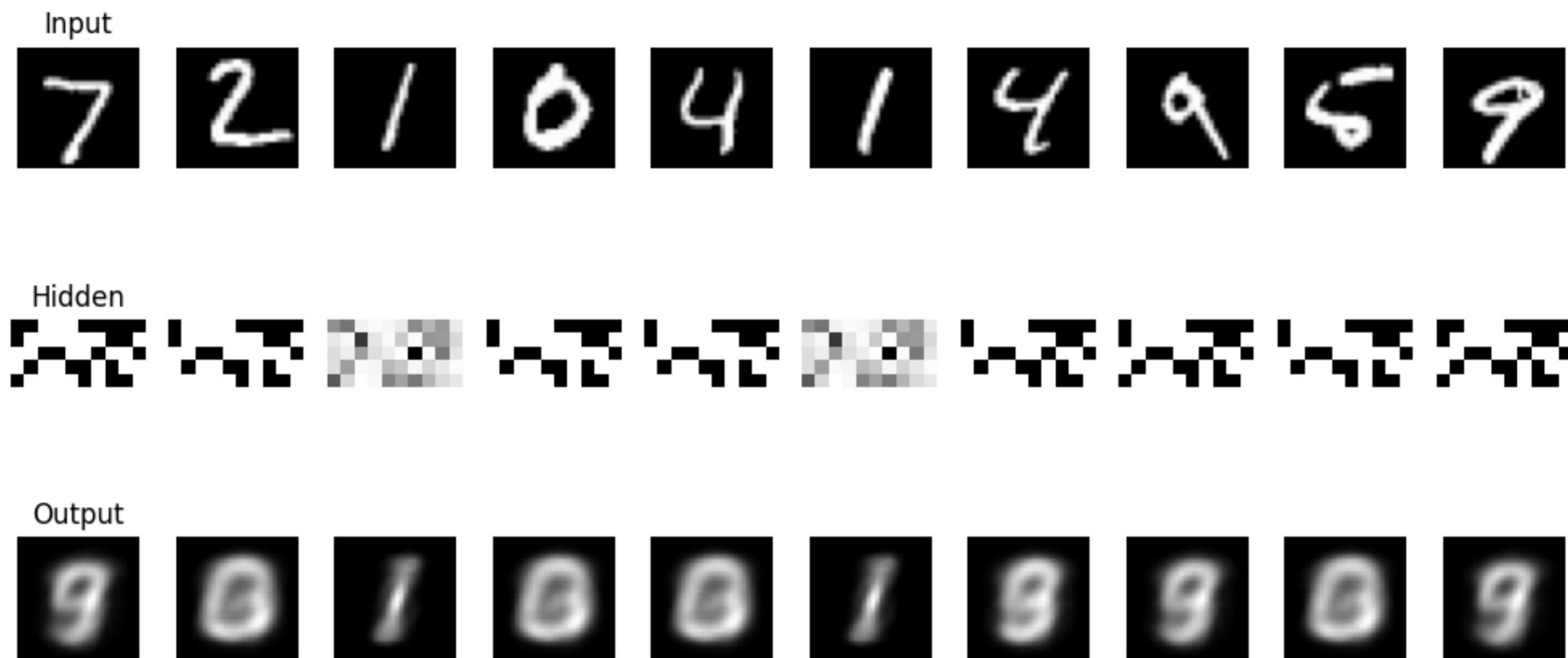
Forcing the network to learn data compression



(a) Autoencoder encodes 8-dimensional toy data as binary code.

# Autoencoders: introduce a bottleneck

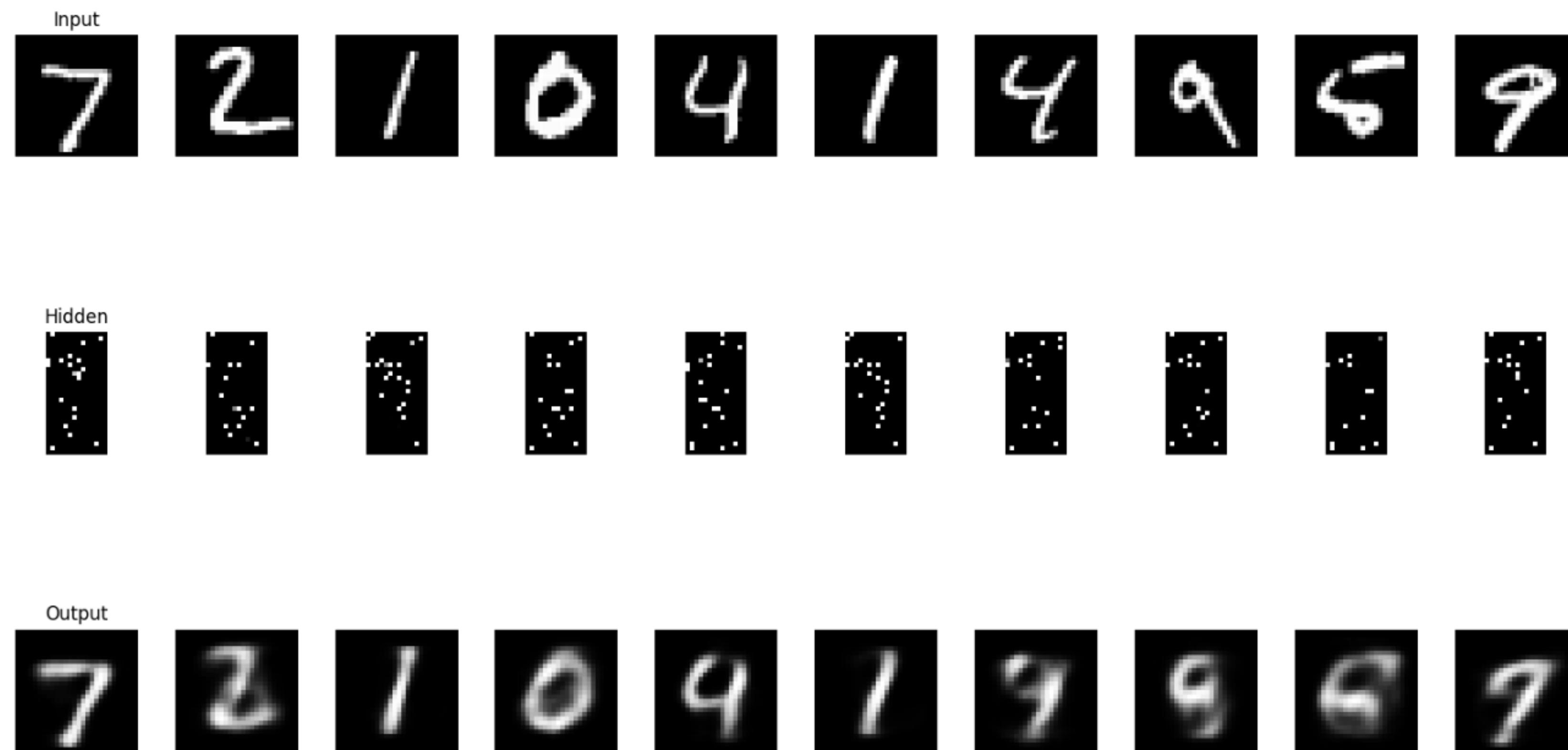
Forcing the network to learn data compression



(b) Autoencoder learns compressed version of MNIST digits (50 hidden units).

# Autoencoders: introduce a bottleneck

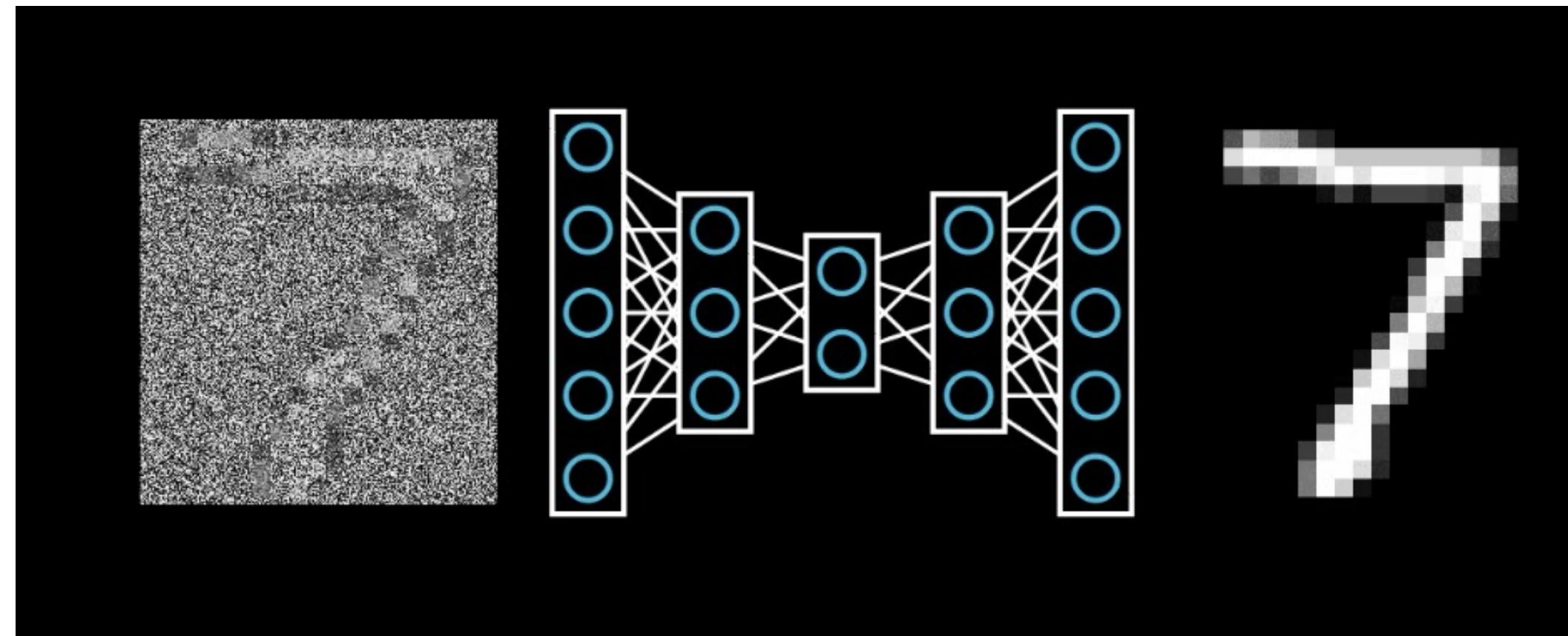
Forcing the network to learn data compression



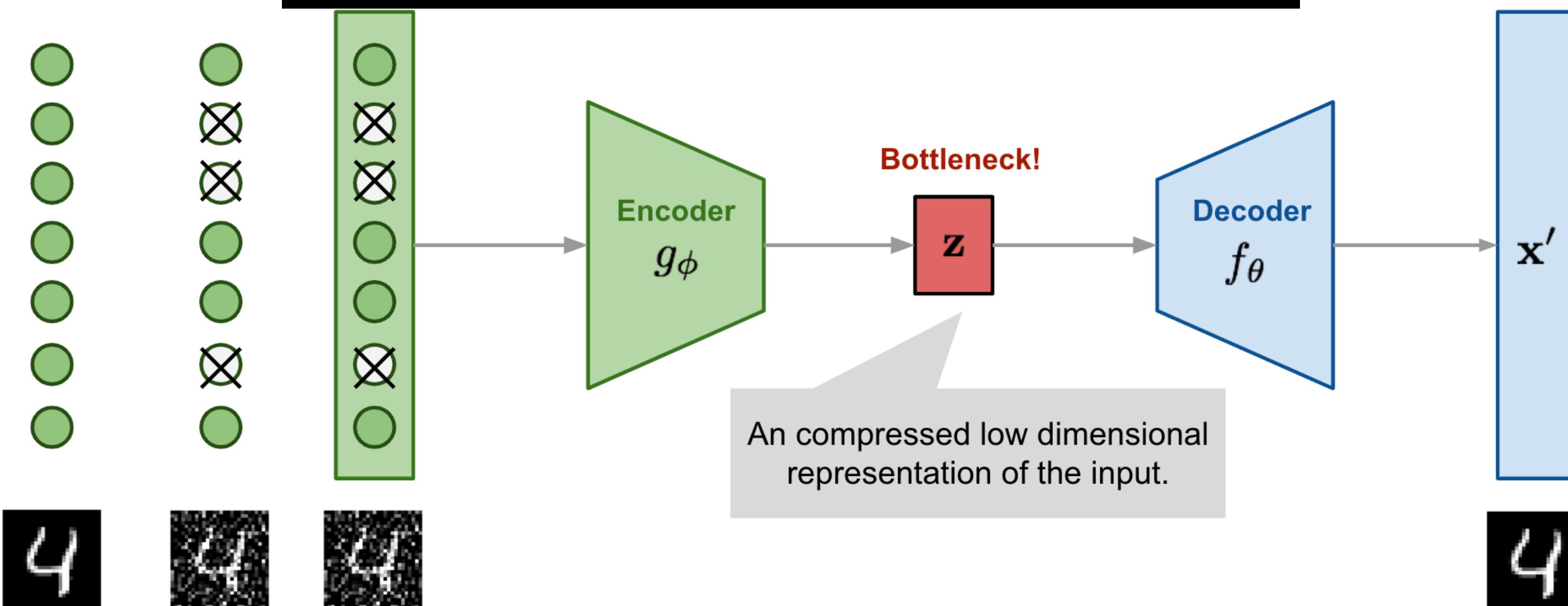
(c) More hidden units (here 392) allow the autoencoder to learn a more accurate latent representation.

# Denoising Autoencoder

Make the task harder via noisy input

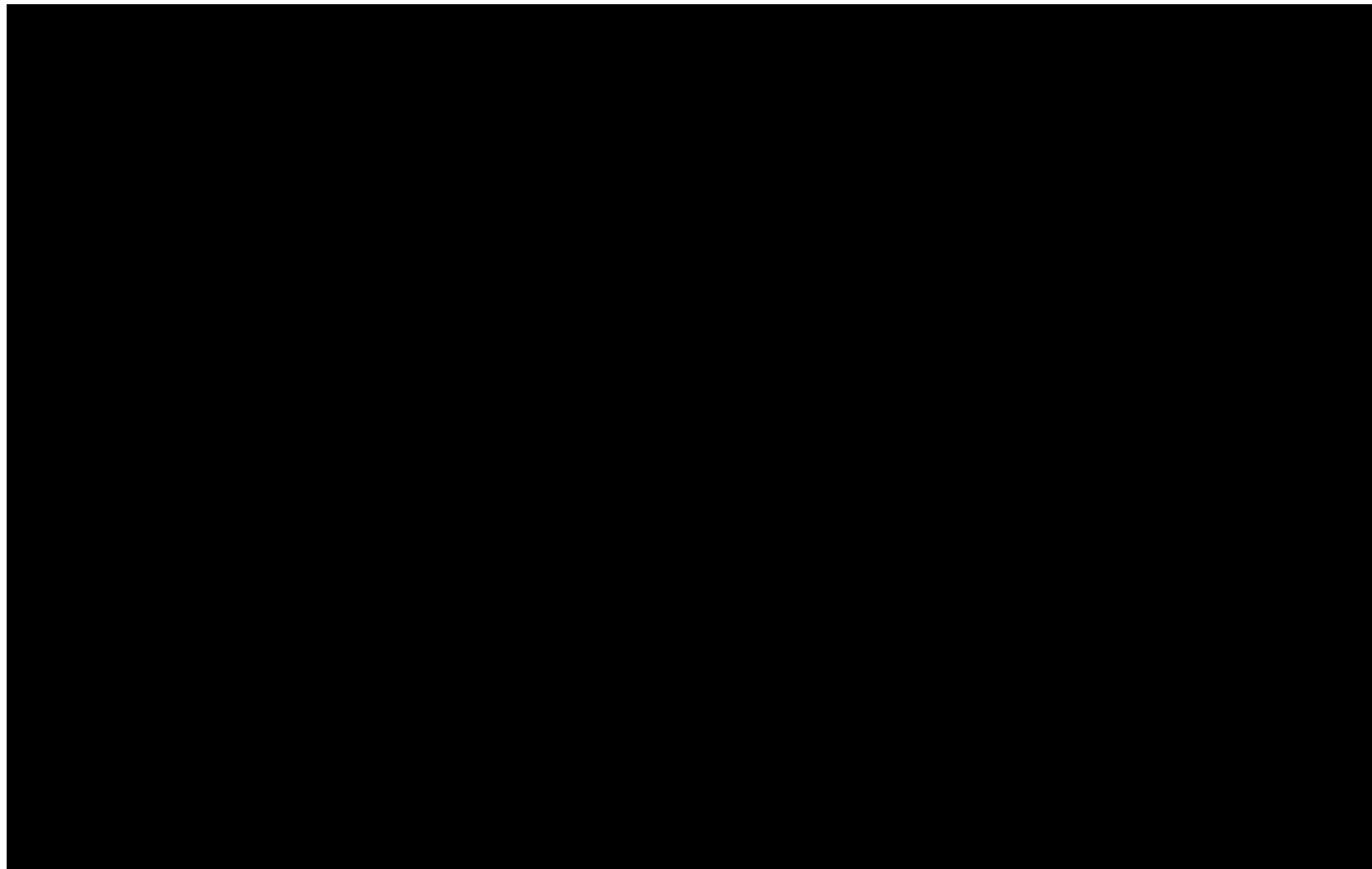


$$\mathcal{L}(x, \hat{x}) = \|x - \hat{x}\|^2$$



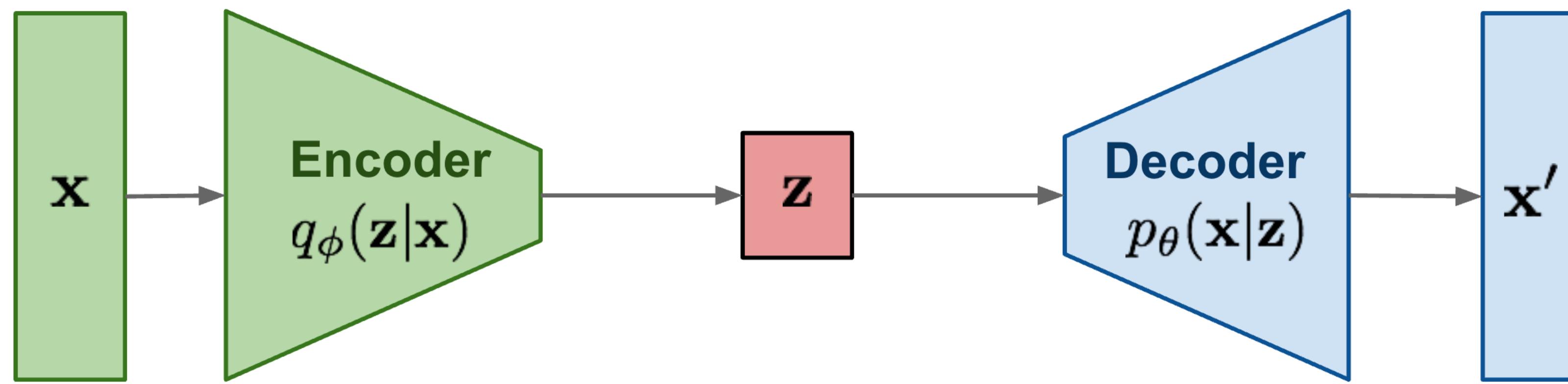
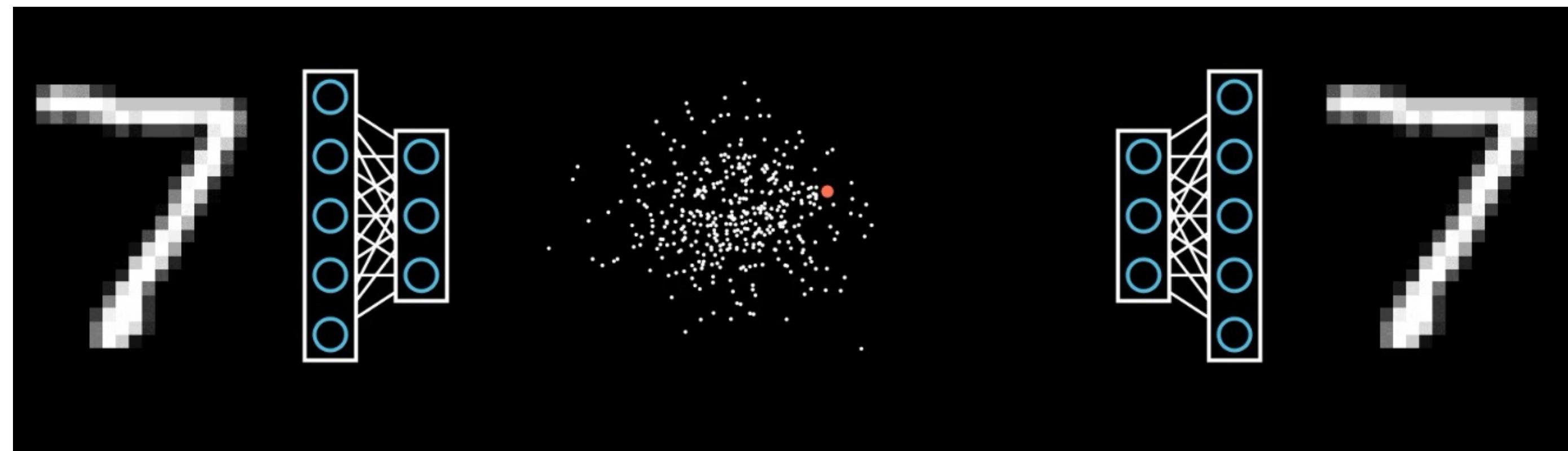
# Variational Autoencoder

Enforce a simple latent distribution via an extra loss term



# Variational Autoencoder

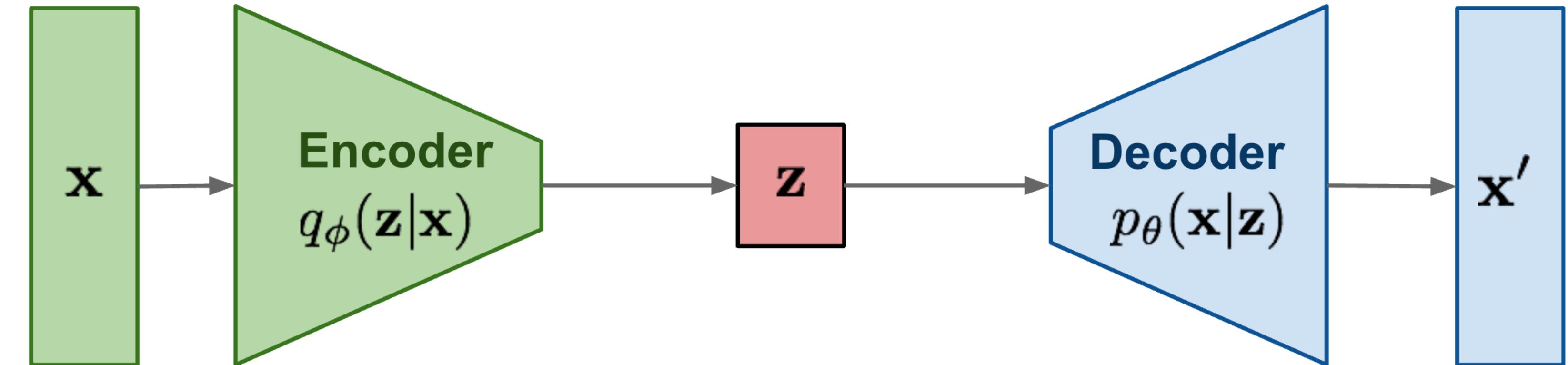
Enforce a simple latent distribution via an extra loss term



# Variational Autoencoder

Enforce a simple latent distribution via an extra loss term

**VAE:** maximize  
variational lower bound

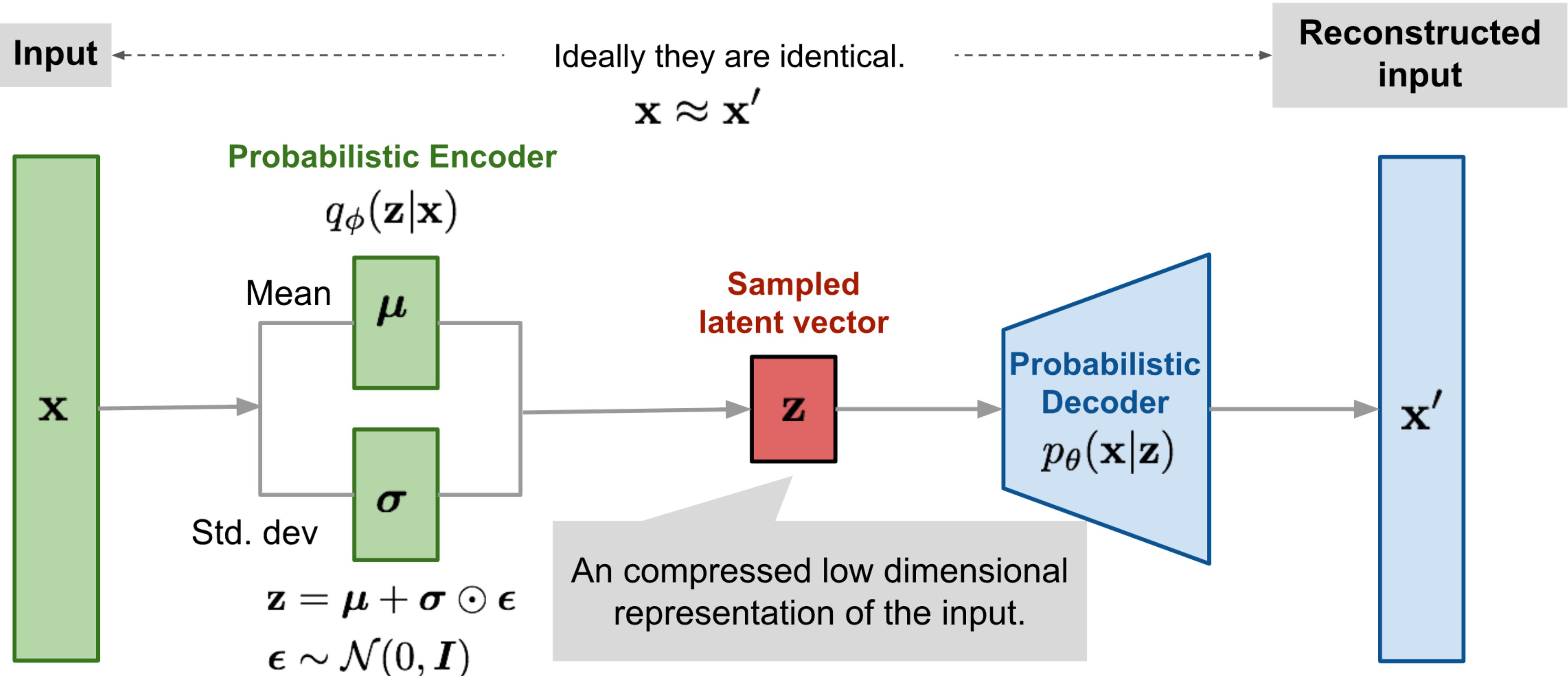


$$\begin{aligned} L_{\text{VAE}}(\theta, \phi) &= -\log p_\theta(\mathbf{x}) + D_{\text{KL}}(q_\phi(\mathbf{z}|\mathbf{x}) \| p_\theta(\mathbf{z}|\mathbf{x})) \\ &= -\mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{z} \sim q_\phi(\mathbf{z}|\mathbf{x})} \log p_\theta(\mathbf{x}|\mathbf{z}) + D_{\text{KL}}(q_\phi(\mathbf{z}|\mathbf{x}) \| p_\theta(\mathbf{z})) \end{aligned}$$

$$\theta^*, \phi^* = \arg \min_{\theta, \phi} L_{\text{VAE}}$$

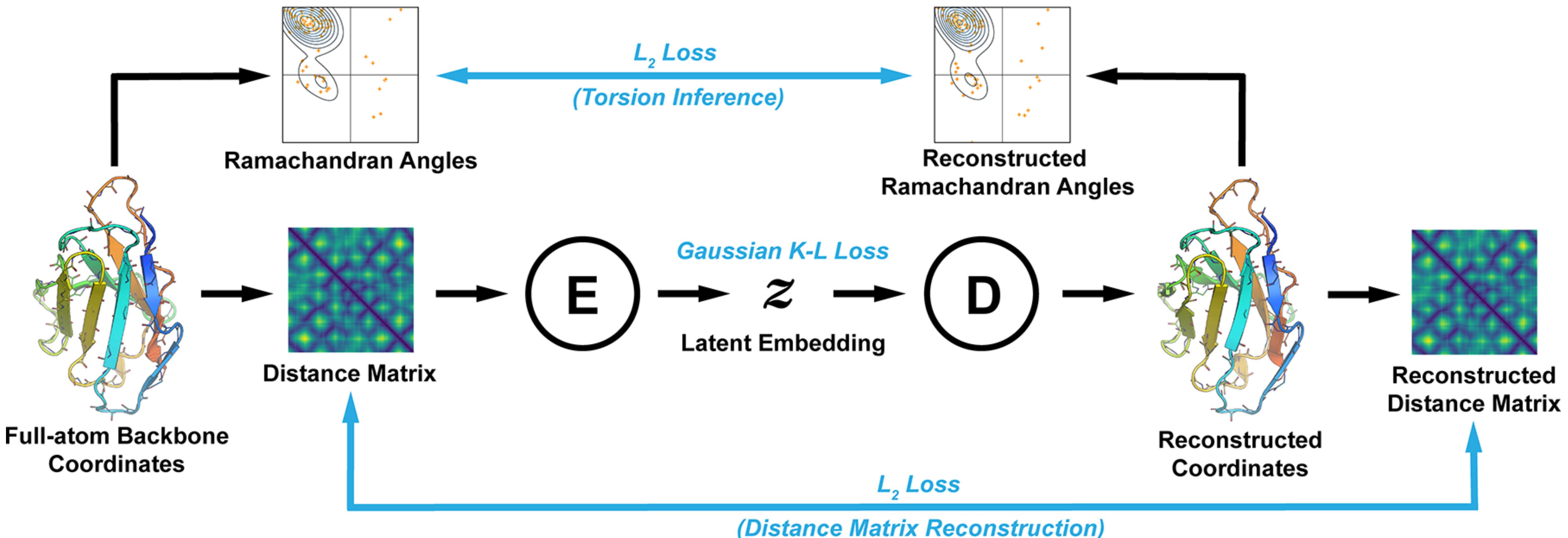
# Variational Autoencoder

Enforce a simple latent distribution via an extra loss term



# VAEs: Applications

## Antibody Design (IgVAE)



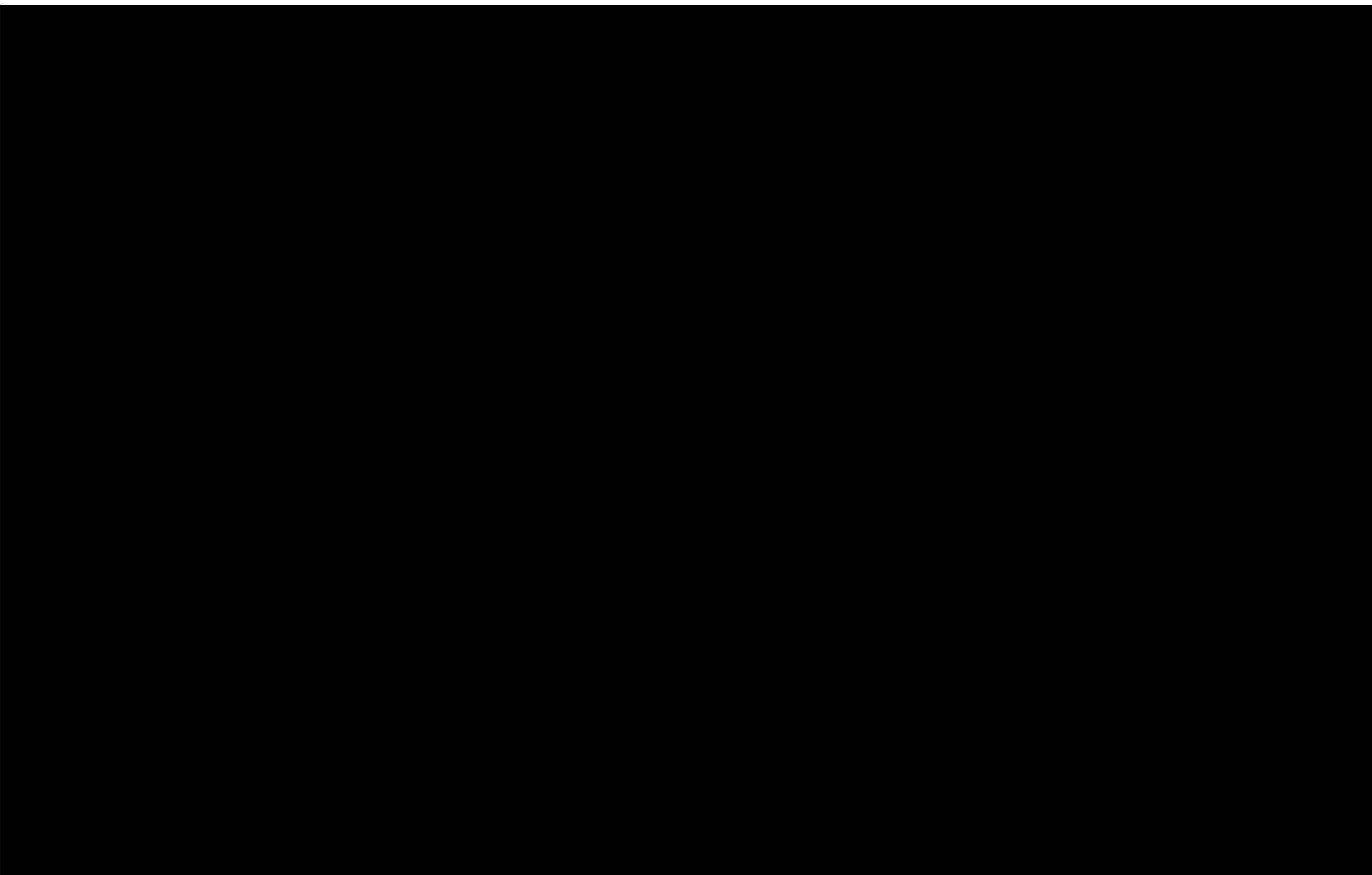
# 3. Diffusion Models

*“Creating noise from data is easy;  
creating data from noise is generative modelling.”*

— Yang Song

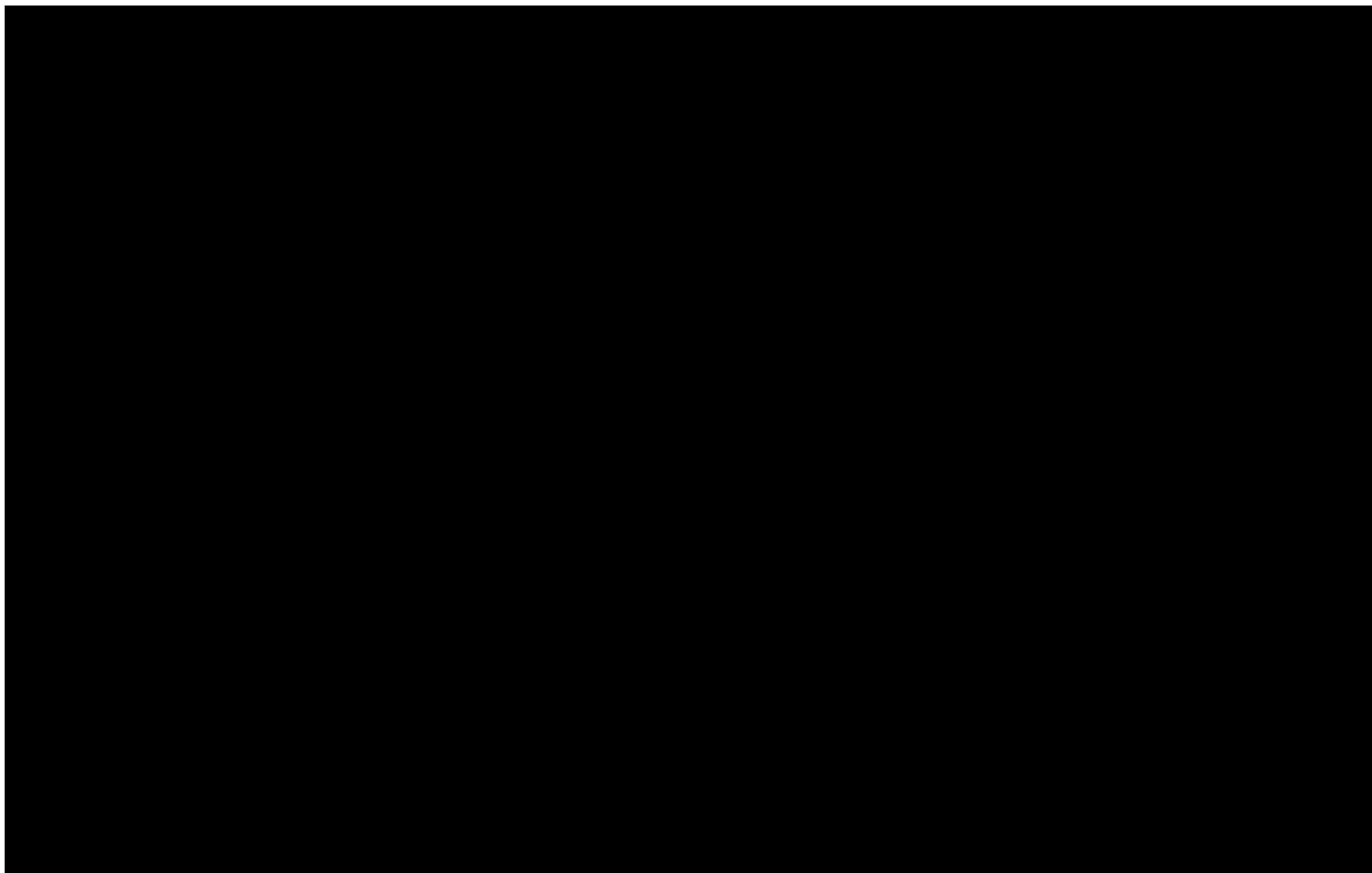
# Diffusion Models

No bottleneck, but a sequence of noising steps



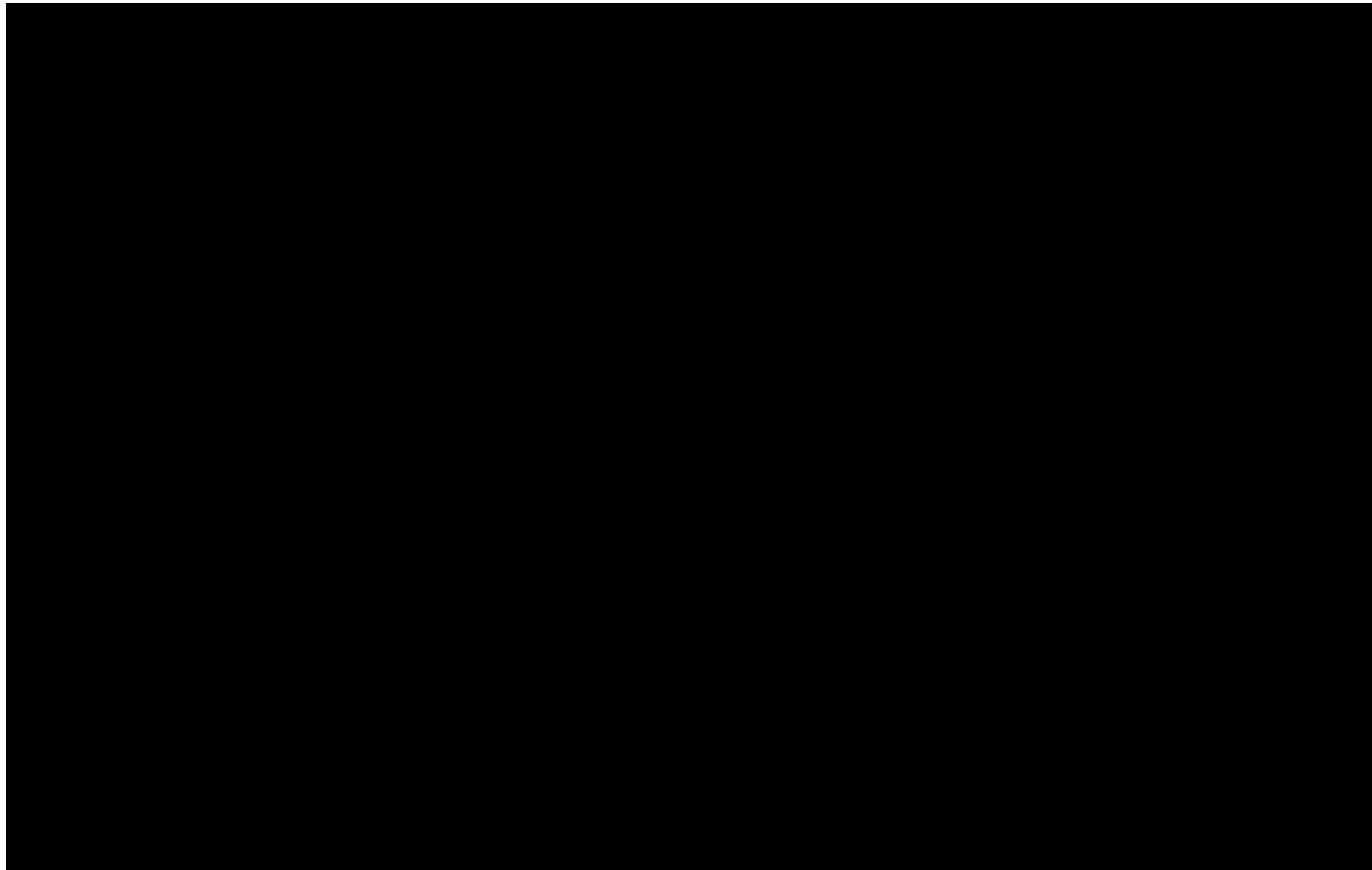
# Diffusion Models

**Task: given noise level and noised image, predict denoised image**



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# Diffusion Models

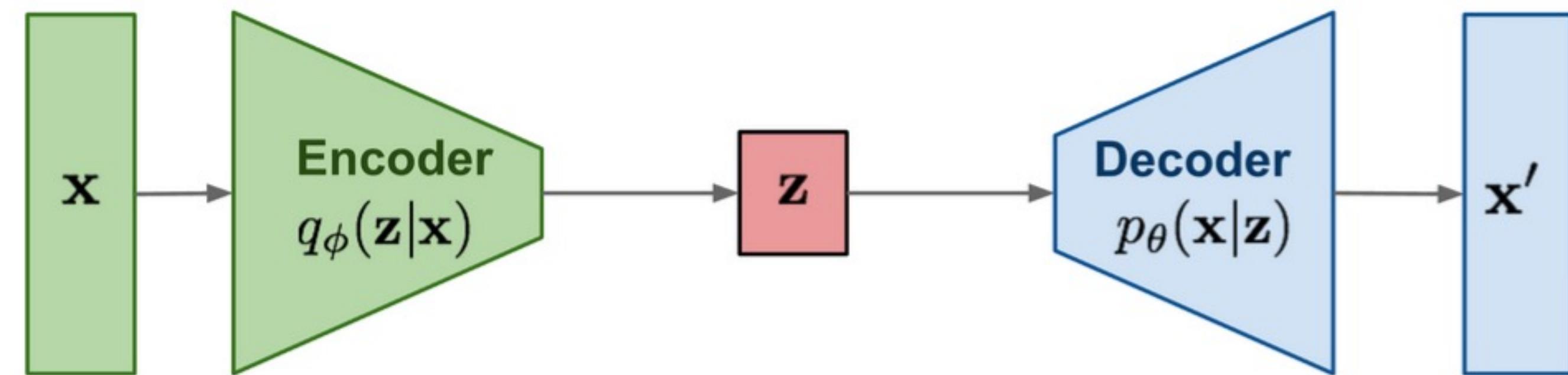
## Level 1: Mapping noise back to data



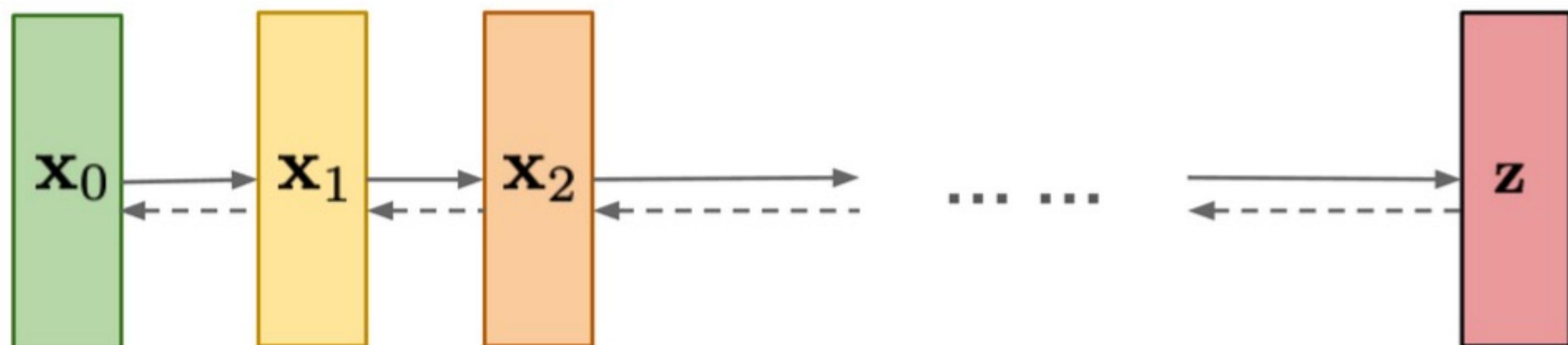
# Diffusion Models

## Level 1: Mapping noise back to data

**VAE:** maximize  
variational lower bound

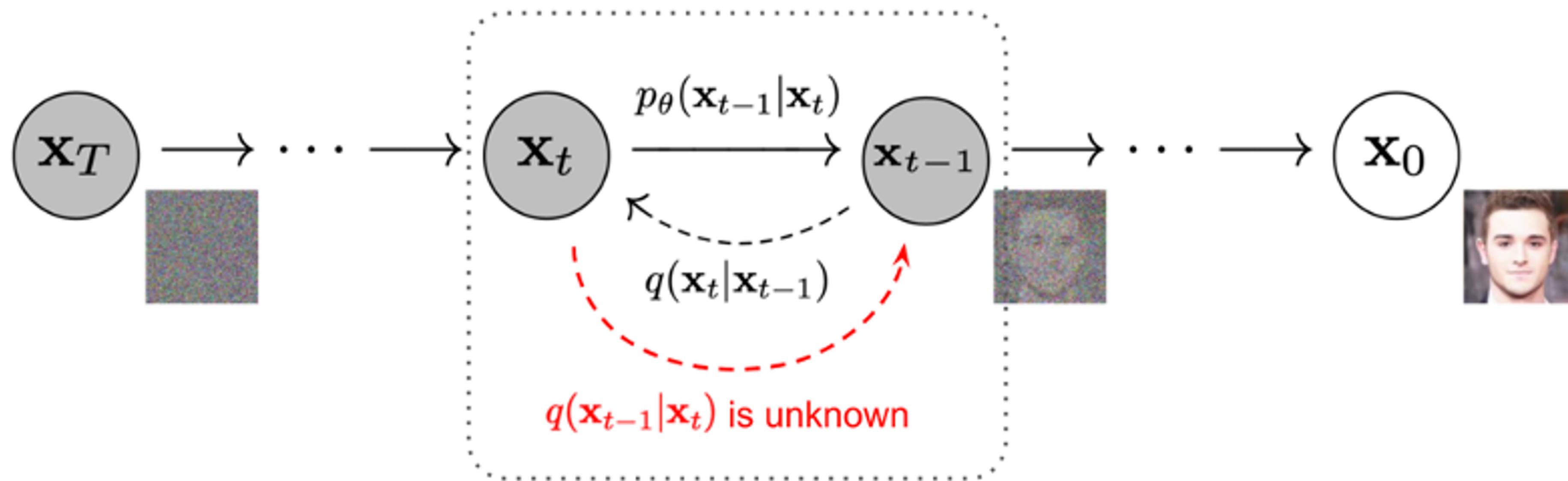


**Diffusion models:**  
Gradually add Gaussian  
noise and then reverse



# Diffusion Models

Level 2: Each noising step is Gaussian

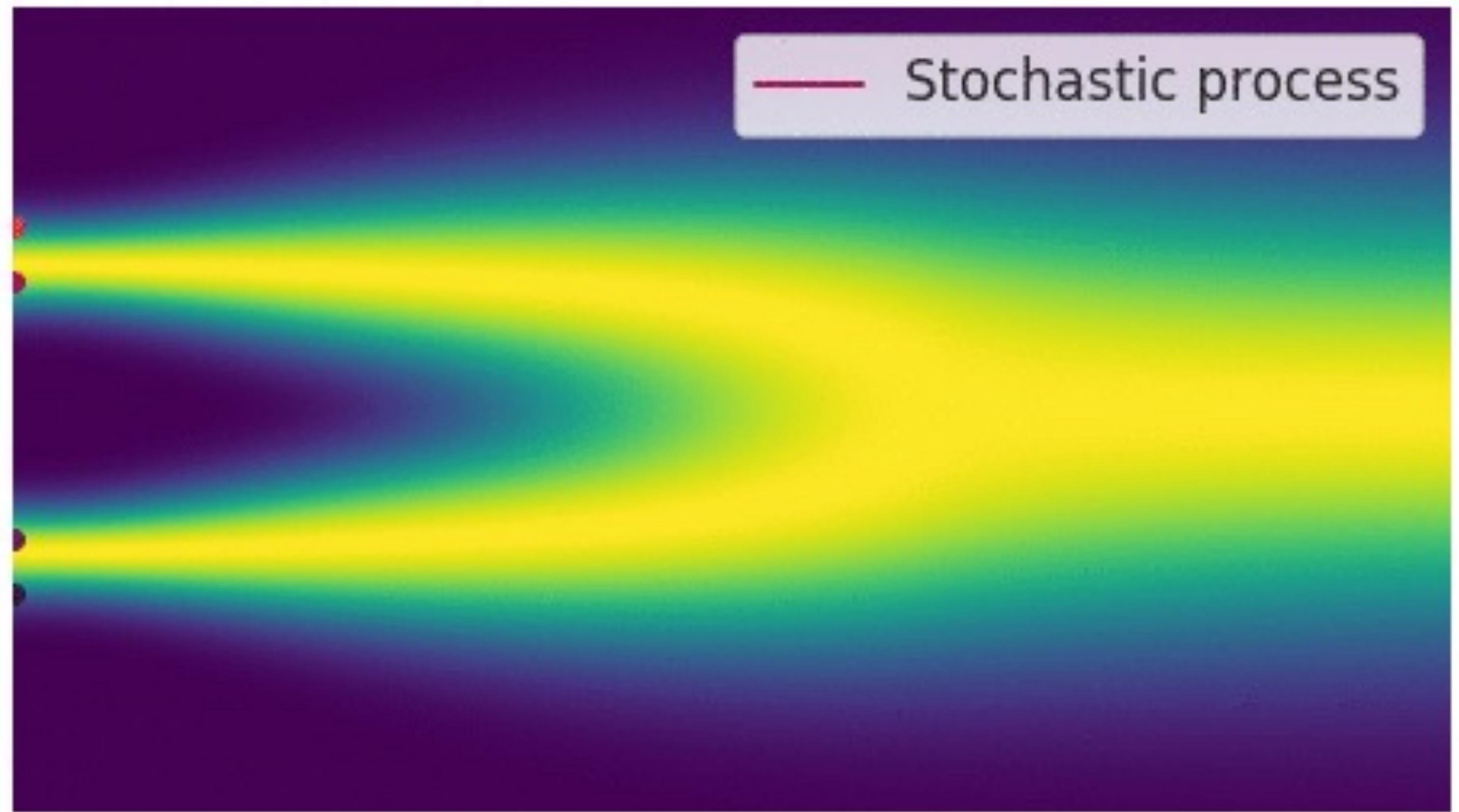


Forward Diffusion:  $q(\mathbf{x}_t | \mathbf{x}_{t-1}) = \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{x}_t; \sqrt{1 - \beta_t} \mathbf{x}_{t-1}, \beta_t \mathbf{I})$

Reverse Diffusion:  $p_\theta(\mathbf{x}_{t-1} | \mathbf{x}_t) = \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{x}_{t-1}; \boldsymbol{\mu}_\theta(\mathbf{x}_t, t), \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_\theta(\mathbf{x}_t, t))$

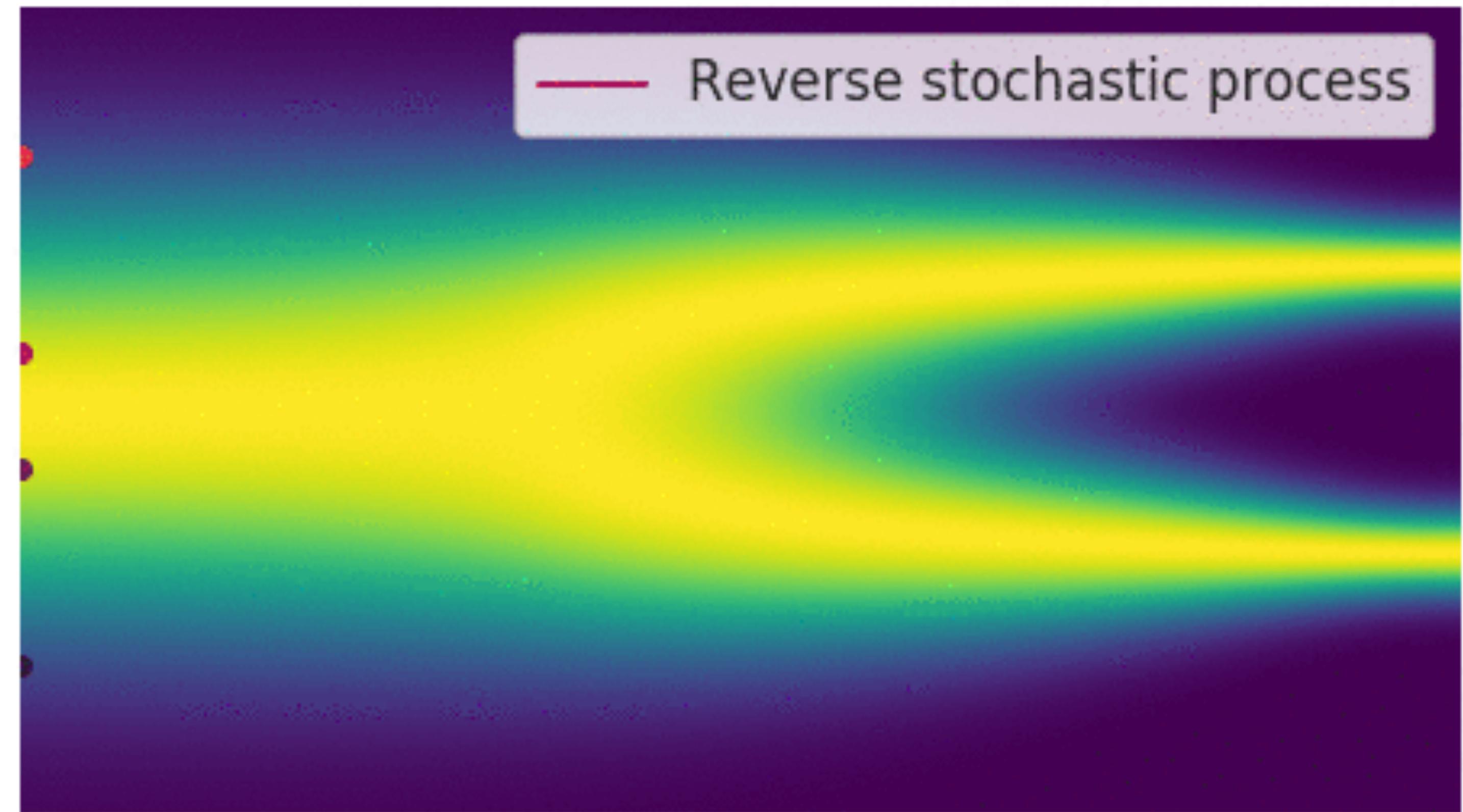
# Diffusion Models

Forward Process = Noising to a reference distribution



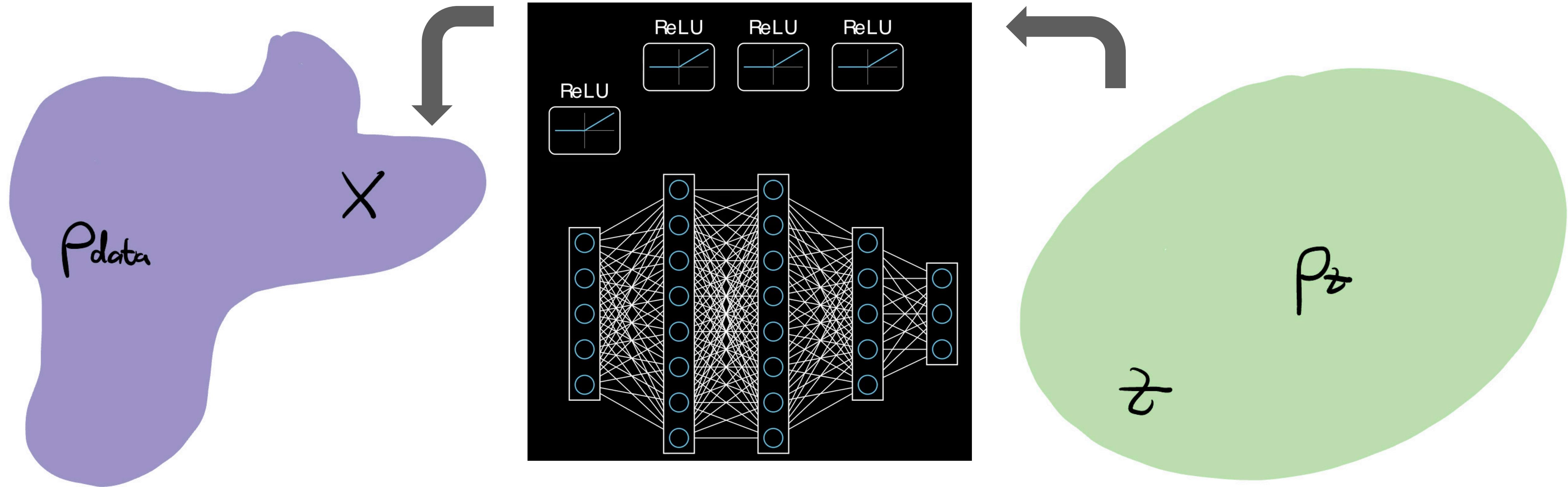
# Diffusion Models

Reverse Process: Denoising to our target distribution



# Diffusion Models

Reverse Process: Denoising to our target distribution



# Loss Function of Diffusion Models

In theory: very similar to the VAE loss

$$L_{VLB} = \mathbb{E}_q[\log p_\theta(\mathbf{x}_0 | \mathbf{x}_T)] - \sum_{t=1}^T D_{\text{KL}}(q(\mathbf{x}_t | \mathbf{x}_0) \| p_\theta(\mathbf{x}_t))$$

**Intuition:** Encourage the model to maximise the expected density applied to the  $\mathbf{x}_0$

**Intuition:** Encourage the learned posterior to be similar to the prior latent variable

# Loss Function of Diffusion Models

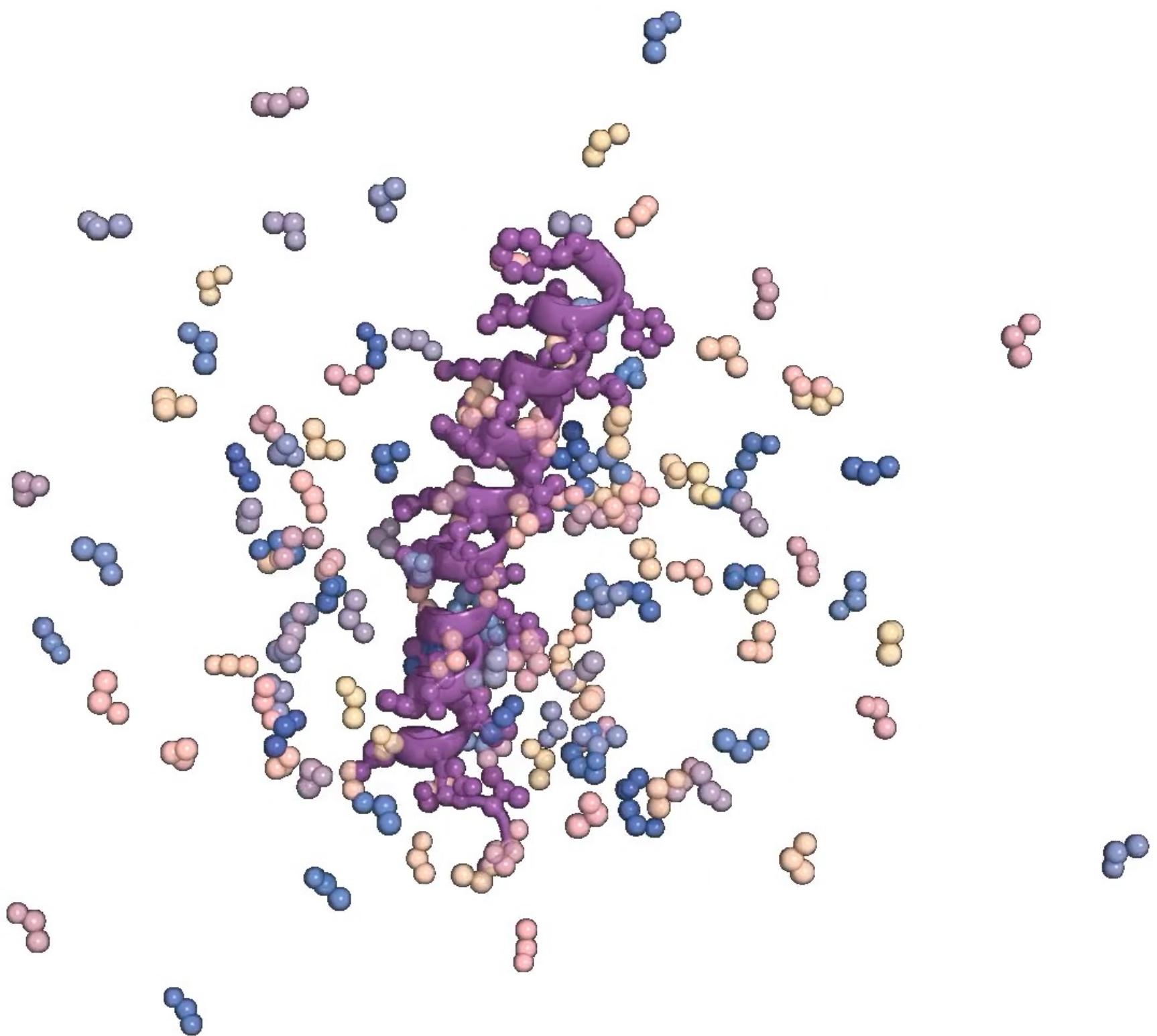
In practice: simpler objectives work better

$$L_t^{\text{simple}} = \mathbb{E}_{t \sim [1, T], \mathbf{x}_0, \epsilon_t} \left[ \|\epsilon_t - \epsilon_\theta(\mathbf{x}_t, t)\|^2 \right]$$

# **4. Applications and Outlook**

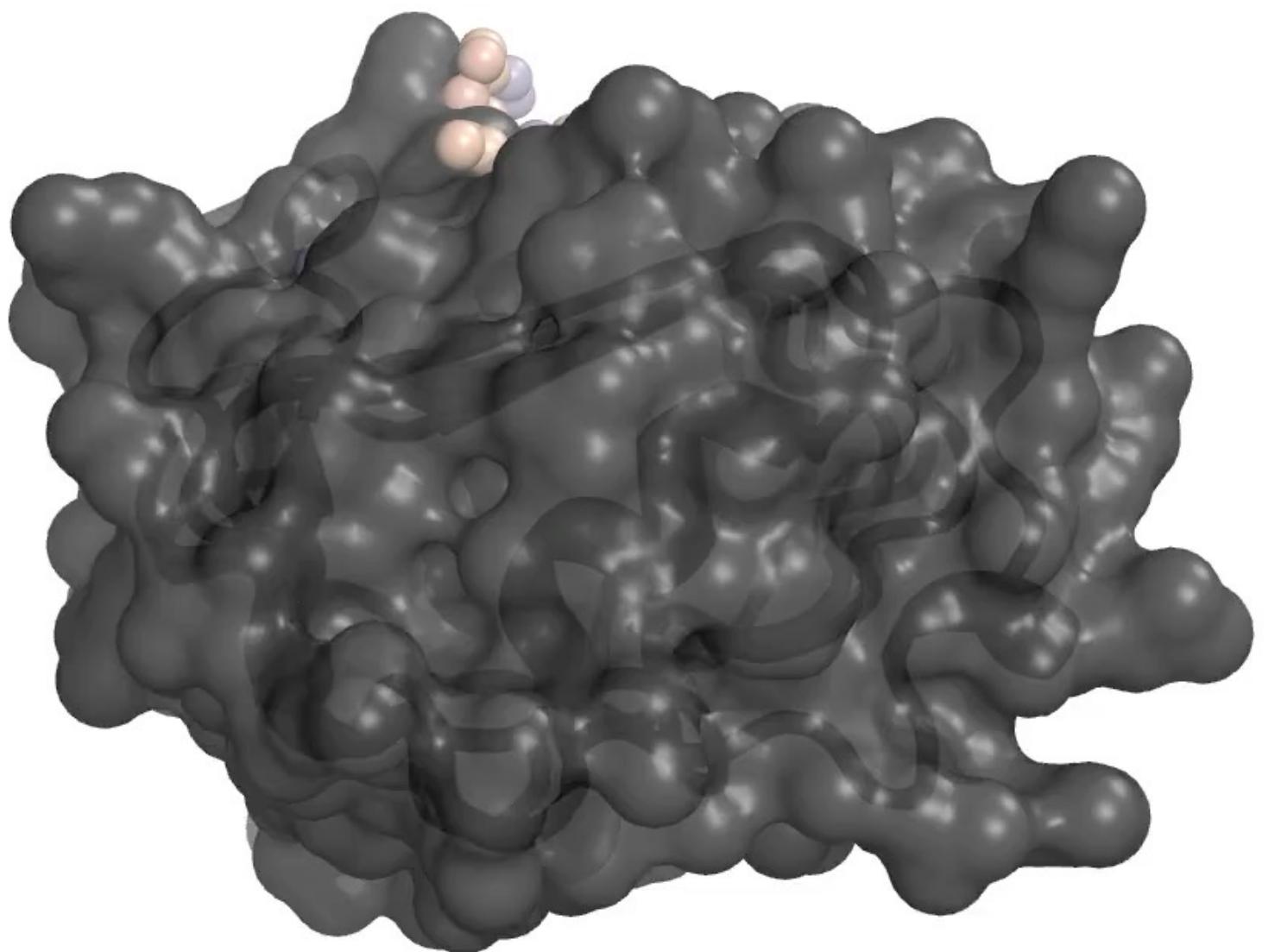
# RFDiffusion

Designing new proteins



# RFDiffusion

Designing new proteins





# Takeaway



We can **condition** a generative backbone model such that a **pre-specified motif** is present, while **retaining realistic, novel samples**.