

Derivation and Discussion of Variational Autoencoder Model

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Abstract

Variational Autoencoder (VAE) is a powerful generative model based on auto-generated-encoder. This paper presents a detailed derivation about how the VAE is derived, and discusses the advantages and disadvantages of the model. In the experiment part, I implement the VAE model on MNIST dataset, which hidden dimension are 1 or 2. The minimal loss of validation set is 000 and 000 for hidden dimension 1 and 2 respectively.

Introduction

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$$\cos^3 \theta = \frac{1}{4} \cos \theta + \frac{3}{4} \cos 3\theta \quad (1)$$

Automatically referencing an equation number using its label: Equation 1.

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Derivation

PCA and VAE

At the beginning, we should find an encoder and decoder function to encode image into a low dimension, and decode it back to the original image as close as possible. We know that PCA seems to be an example of this kind of function, whose encoder is a matrix W and decoder is W^T . Can we just change the matrix W and W^T to two neural networks?

That's a great idea, but there are some questions. If we just do like this, the model will not generate new images from unknown low dimension vectors. For instance, we have low dimension vector α_1 for full moon, and α_2 for half moon. But when I input vector $(\alpha_1 + \alpha_2)/2$ in decoder, the model will not output 3/4 moon image, which is what we want. That

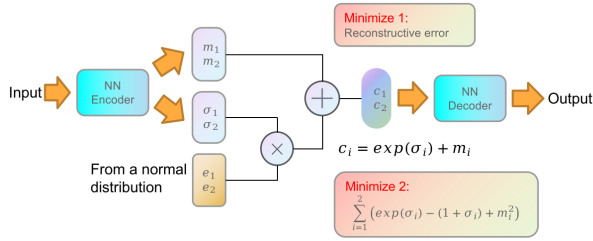


Figure 1: VAE model

Table 1: Example single column table.

Location		
East Distance	West Distance	Count
100km	200km	422
350km	1000km	1833
600km	1200km	890

is because the model only learn reconstructing image close to the original image, not generating new images from low dimension vectors.

So what VAE do to solve this problem is to add global noise distruction to the low dimension vector, so that the model will generate new images from unknown low dimension vectors. The core idea of VAE is how to add this noise distruction.

Noise Distruction

Figure 1 shows the structure of VAE which hidden dim is 2. To add proper noise distribution, the encoder should output two vectors, m_i is the origin encoded vector, and e_i aims to control the influence of each noise, and e_i is a random vector from normal distribution. So the noise is added into vector as follows 2:

$$\begin{aligned} e_i &\sim \mathcal{N}(0, 1) \\ \text{noise} &= \exp(\alpha_i) \cdot e_i \\ c_i &= \text{noise} + m_i \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

For the loss function, in addition to the existing image reconstruction loss, VAE also add a new loss funtion. If we do not add this loss function, the model will finally get a -inf in σ_i to make the noise to zero, which is not what we want. So we should make a loss to σ_i to be to small.

$$\text{loss}_2 = \sum_{i=1}^2 (\exp(\sigma_i) - (1 + \sigma_i) + m_i^2) \quad (3)$$

Results

Referencing a table using its label: Table 1.

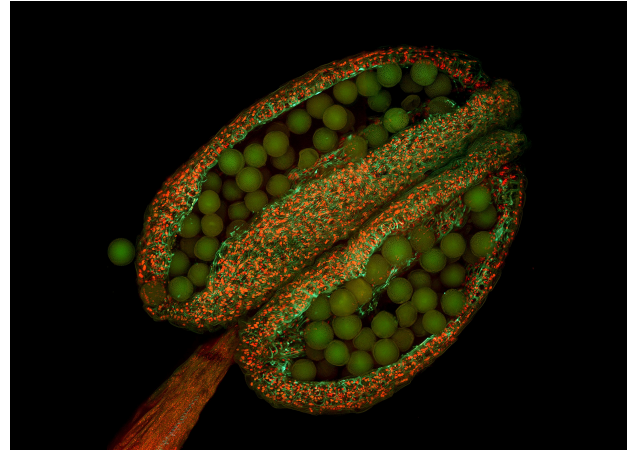


Figure 2: Anther of thale cress (*Arabidopsis thaliana*), fluorescence micrograph. Source: Heiti Paves, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Tolmukapea.jpg>.

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Table 2: Example two column table with fixed-width columns.

Location		Count
East Distance	West Distance	
100km	200km	422
350km	1000km	1833
600km	1200km	890

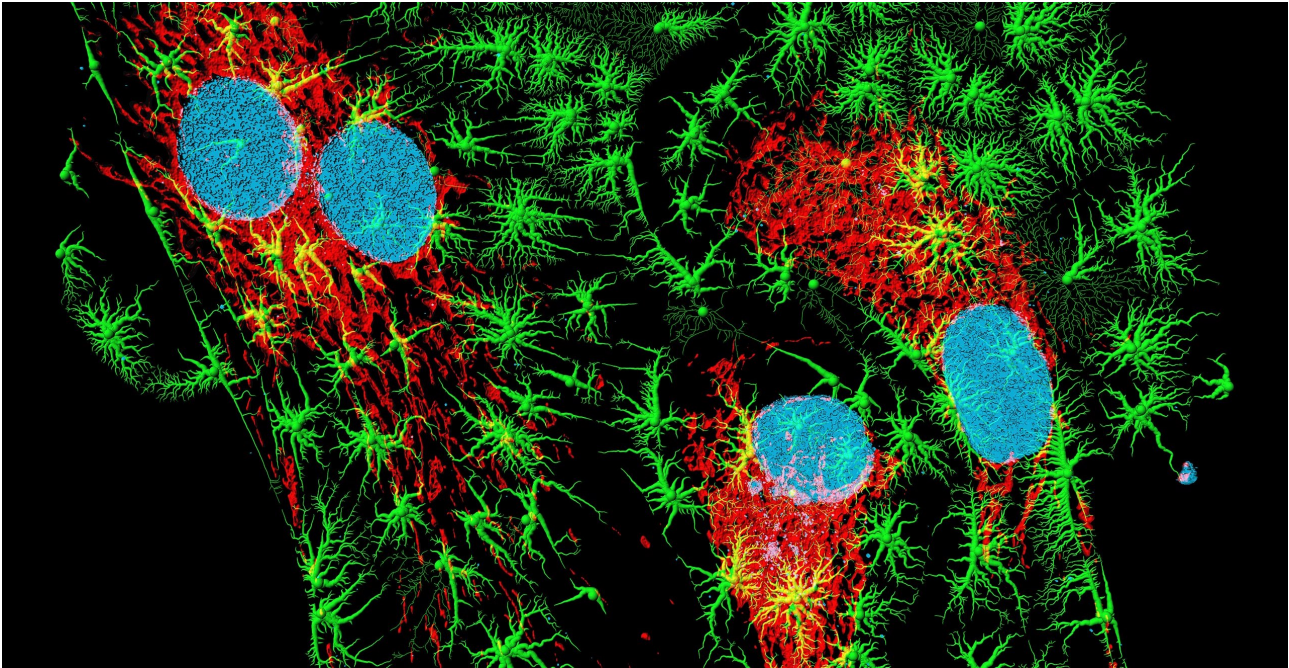


Figure 3: Bovine pulmonary artery endothelial cells in culture. Blue: nuclei; red: mitochondria; green: microfilaments. Computer generated image from a 3D model based on a confocal laser scanning microscopy using fluorescent marker dyes. Source: Heiti Paves, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Fibroblastid.jpg>.

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Links

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Discussion

This statement requires citation [1]. This statement requires multiple citations [1, 2]. This statement contains an in-text citation, for directly referring to a citation like so: Jones and Smith [2].

Subsection One

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Subsection Two

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References

- [1] J. M. Smith and A. B. Jones. *Book Title*. 7th. Publisher, 2023.

- [2] A. B. Jones and J. M. Smith. "Article Title". In: *Journal title* 13.52 (Mar. 2024), pp. 123–456. doi: 10.1038/s41586-021-03616-x.