



Introduction to Computer Vision

Lecture 15 Generative Model

Prof. He Wang

Logistics

- Assignment 4 (Point Cloud Learning, Detection & RNN)
 - Released on 5/24
 - Due on 6/8 11:59PM

Logistics

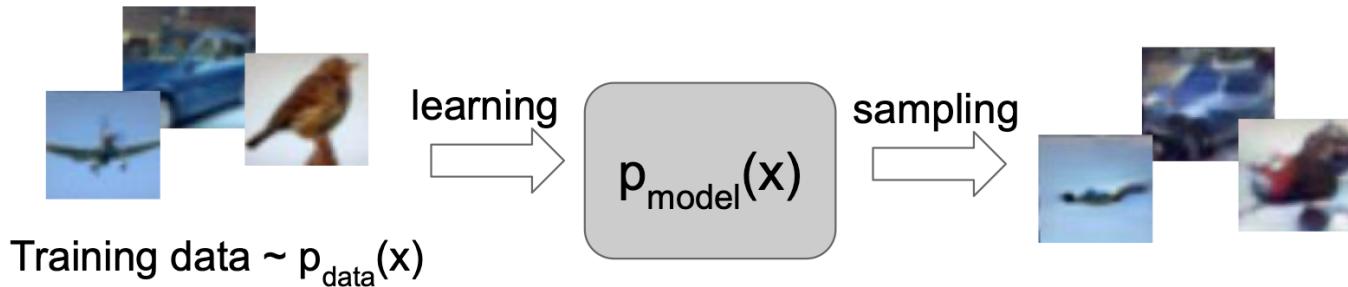
- Final exam
 - Time: 6/18
 - Scope: all the lectures after midterm including today's lecture.
 - Question types: similar to midterm exam.
 - In English, all terms included in our slides won't be explained.
 - 1-page A4-size cheat sheet is allowed .

Generative Models

Some slides are borrowed from Stanford CS231N.

Generative Modeling

Given training data, generate new samples from same distribution

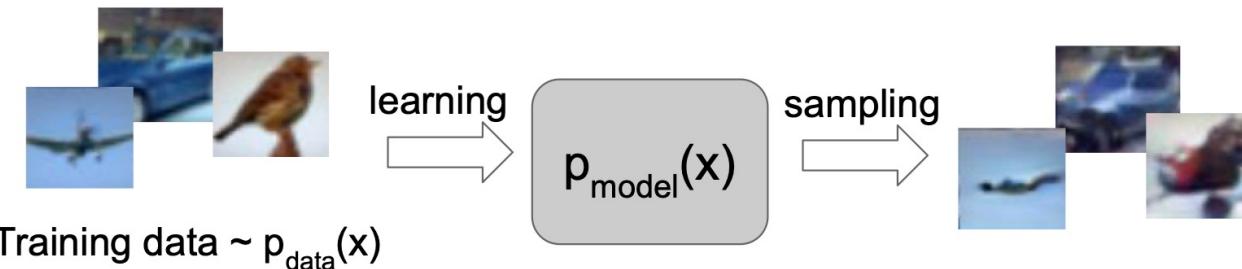


Objectives:

1. Learn $p_{\text{model}}(x)$ that approximates $p_{\text{data}}(x)$
2. **Sampling new x from $p_{\text{model}}(x)$**

Generative Modeling

Given training data, generate new samples from same distribution



Formulate as density estimation problems:

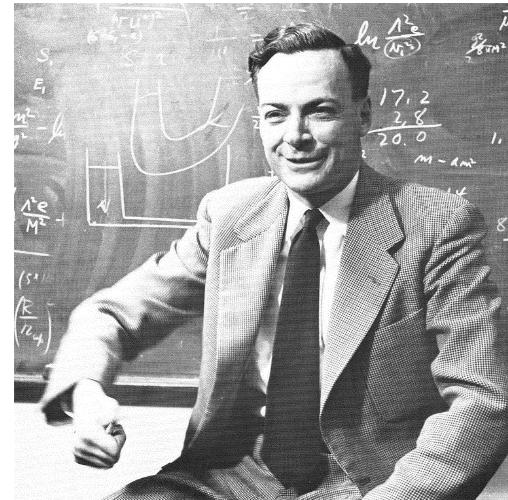
- **Explicit density estimation:** explicitly define and solve for $p_{\text{model}}(x)$
- **Implicit density estimation:** learn model that can sample from $p_{\text{model}}(x)$ **without explicitly defining it.**

Why Generative Model?



- Realistic samples for artwork, super-resolution, colorization, etc.
- Learn useful features for downstream tasks such as classification.
- Getting insights from high-dimensional data (physics, medical imaging, etc.)
- Modeling physical world for simulation and planning (robotics and reinforcement learning applications)
- Many more ...

Generative Modeling

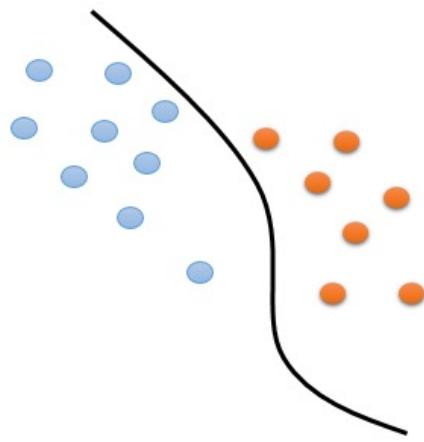


Richard Feynman: “*What I cannot create, I do not understand*”

Generative modeling: “*What I understand, I can create*”

Discriminative vs. Generative

Discriminative



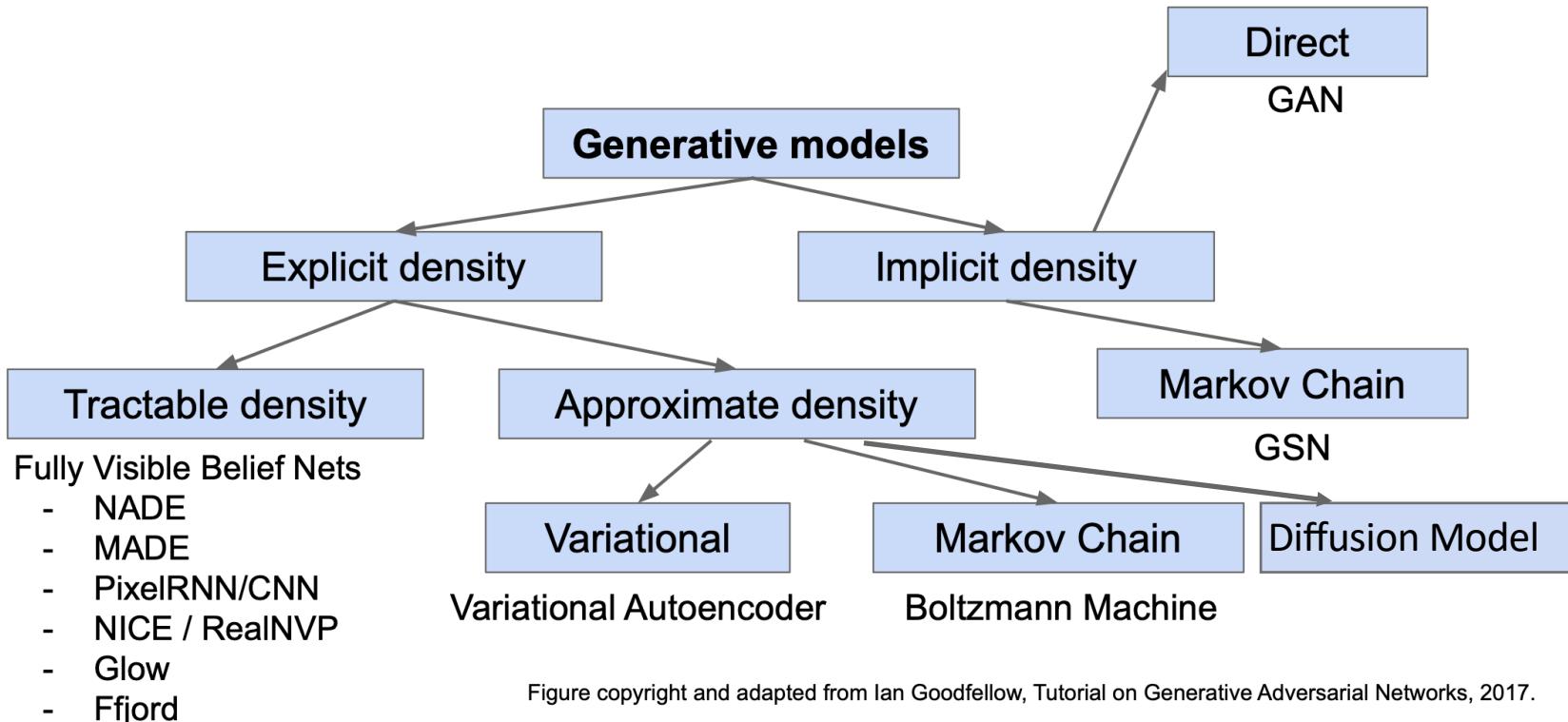
Generative



- Y: labels, X: inputs
- Learn $P(Y|X)$

- X is all the variables
- $P(X)$ or $P(X, Y)$ (if labels are available)

Taxonomy of Generative Model



Taxonomy of Generative Model

Today we mainly discuss
the most popular three

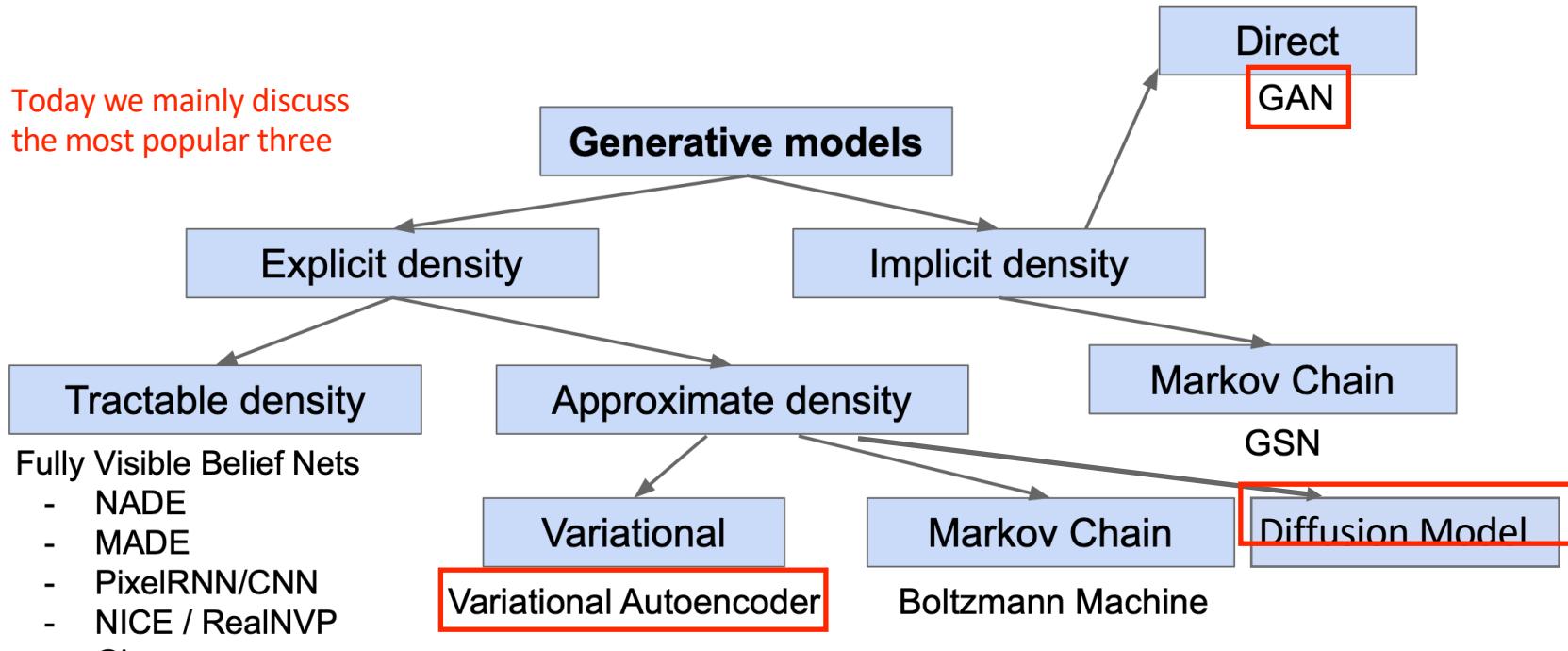


Figure copyright and adapted from Ian Goodfellow, Tutorial on Generative Adversarial Networks, 2017.

Fully Visible Belief Network (FVBN)

Explicit density model

$$p(x) = p(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n)$$



Likelihood of
image x



Joint likelihood of each
pixel in the image

Fully Visible Belief Network (FVBN)

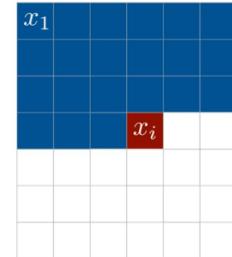
Explicit density model

Use chain rule to decompose likelihood of an image x into product of 1-d distributions:

$$p(x) = \prod_{i=1}^n p(x_i | x_1, \dots, x_{i-1})$$

↑ ↑

Likelihood of image x Probability of i 'th pixel value given all previous pixels



Then maximize likelihood of training data

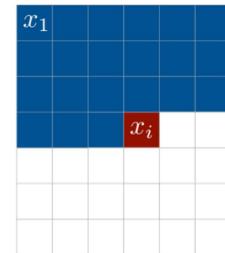
Fully Visible Belief Network (FVBN)

Explicit density model

Use chain rule to decompose likelihood of an image x into product of 1-d distributions:

$$p(x) = \prod_{i=1}^n p(x_i|x_1, \dots, x_{i-1})$$

↑ ↑
Likelihood of image x Probability of i 'th pixel value
 given all previous pixels



Complex distribution over pixel values => Express using a neural network!

Then maximize likelihood of training data

Taxonomy of Generative Model

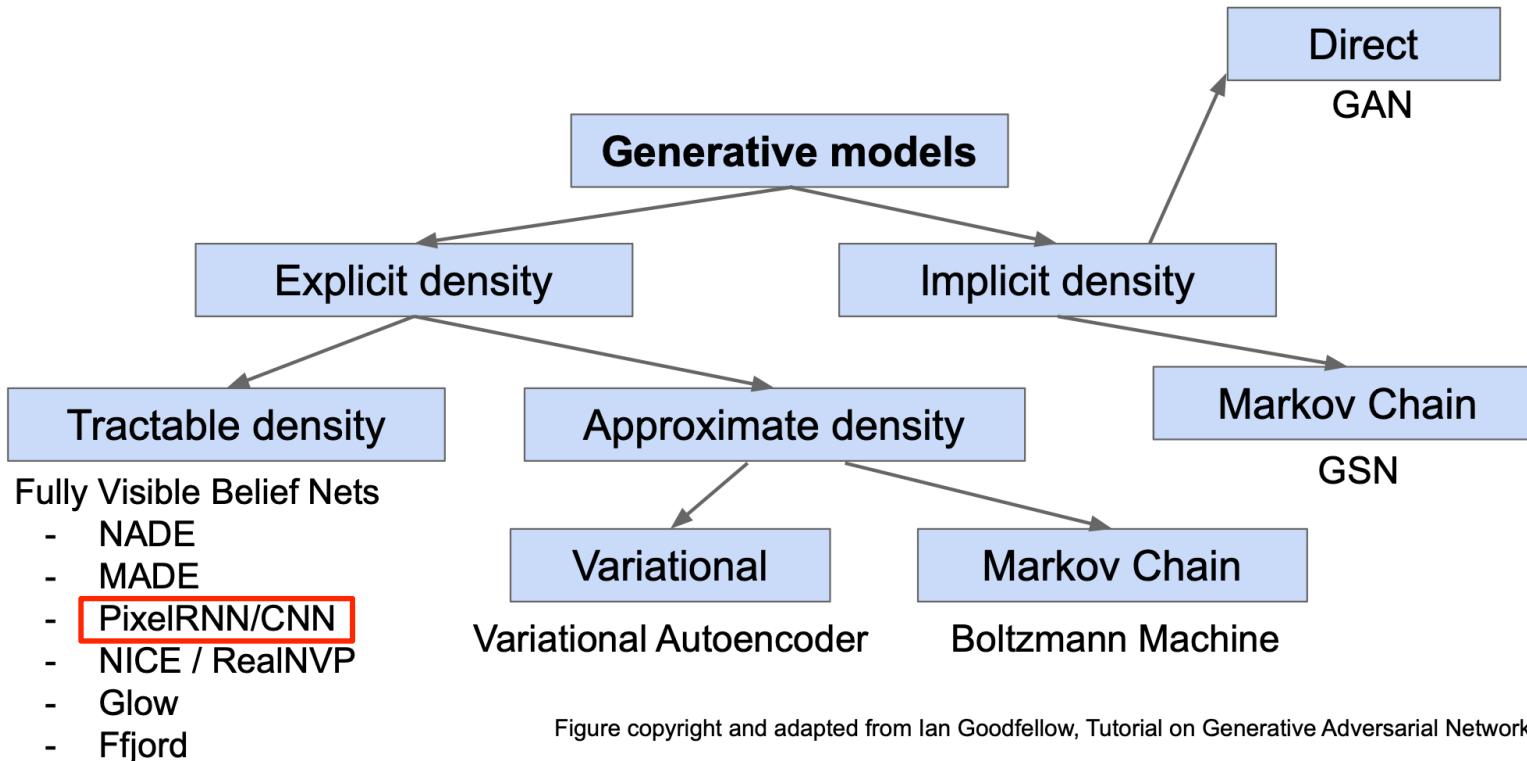


Figure copyright and adapted from Ian Goodfellow, Tutorial on Generative Adversarial Networks, 2017.

PixelRNN and PixelCNN

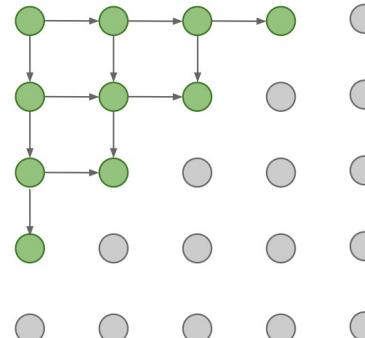
Pros:

- Can explicitly compute likelihood $p(x)$
- Easy to optimize
- Good samples

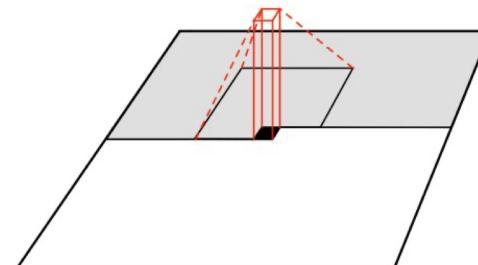
Con:

- Sequential generation => slow

PixelRNN



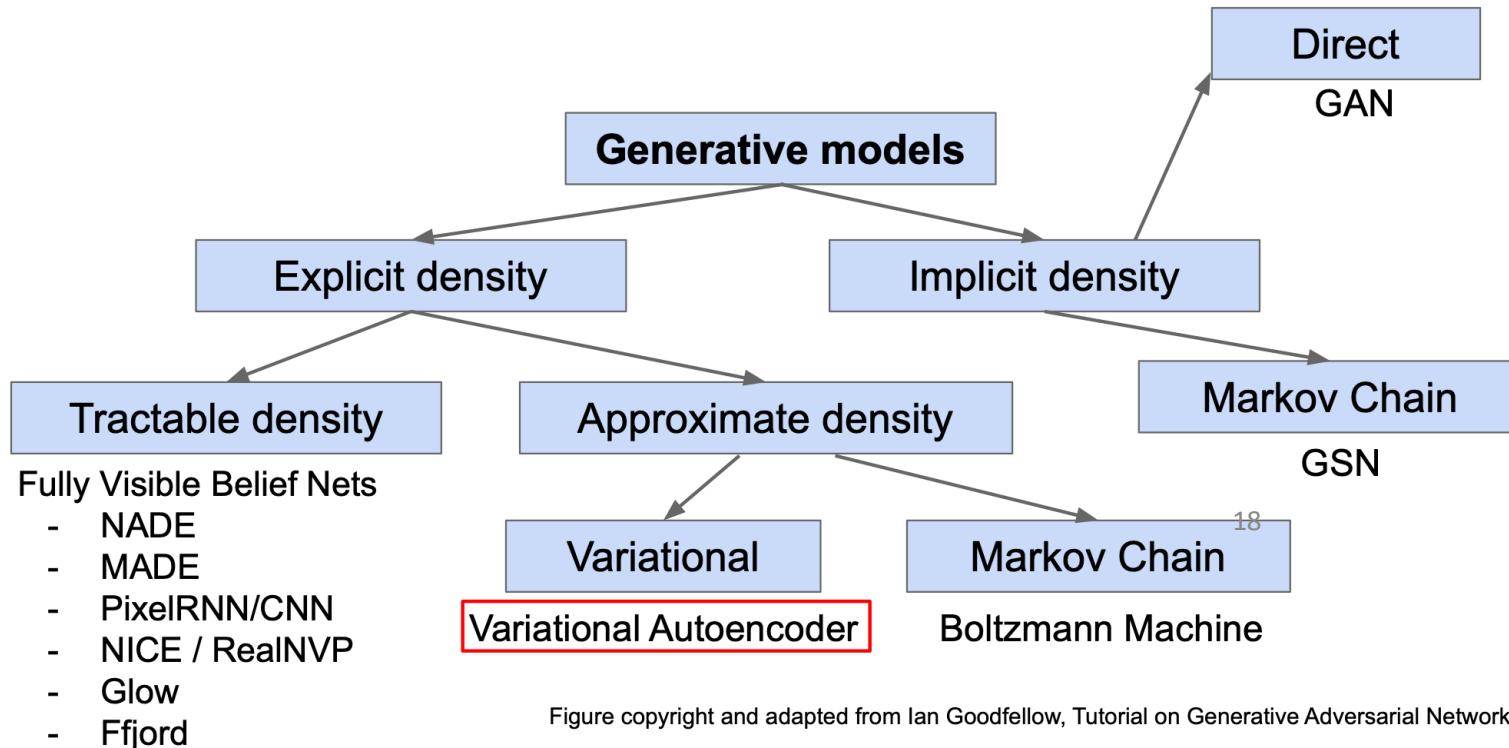
PixelCNN



Variational Autoencoders (VAE)

Some slides are borrowed from Stanford CS231N.

Taxonomy of Generative Model



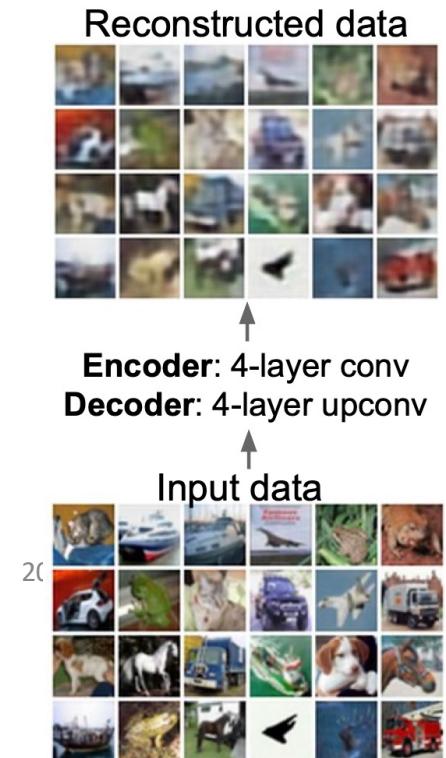
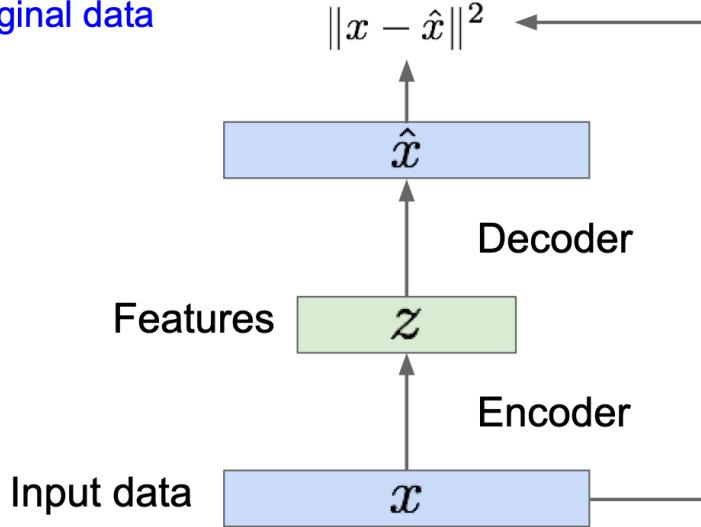
Variational Autoencoders

Probabilistic spin on autoencoders - will let us sample from the model to generate data!

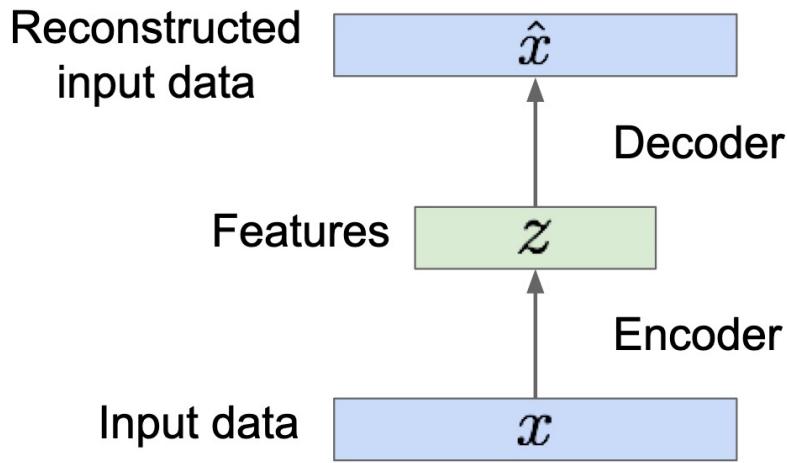
Recap of Autoencoder

Train such that features can be used to reconstruct original data

L2 Loss function:
Doesn't use labels!



Recap of Autoencoder



Autoencoders can reconstruct data, and can learn features to initialize a supervised model

Features capture factors of variation in training data.

But we can't generate new images from an autoencoder because we don't know the space of z .

How do we make autoencoder a **generative model**?

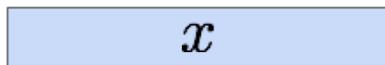
Variational Autoencoders

Probabilistic spin on autoencoders - will let us sample from the model to generate data!

Assume training data $\{x^{(i)}\}_{i=1}^N$ is generated from the distribution of unobserved (latent) representation z

Sample from
true conditional

$$p_{\theta^*}(x \mid z^{(i)})$$



Sample from
true prior

$$z^{(i)} \sim p_{\theta^*}(z)$$

Kingma and Welling, "Auto-Encoding Variational Bayes", ICLR 2014

Variational Autoencoders

Probabilistic spin on autoencoders - will let us sample from the model to generate data!

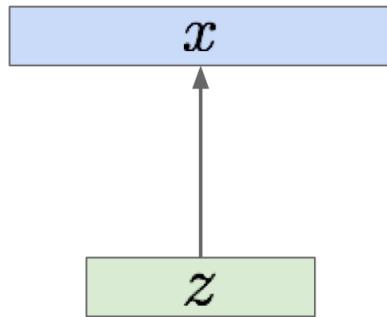
Assume training data $\{x^{(i)}\}_{i=1}^N$ is generated from the distribution of unobserved (latent) representation \mathbf{z}

Sample from
true conditional

$$p_{\theta^*}(x \mid z^{(i)})$$

Sample from
true prior

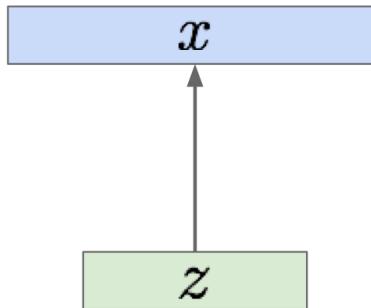
$$z^{(i)} \sim p_{\theta^*}(z)$$



Intuition (remember from autoencoders!):
 \mathbf{x} is an image, \mathbf{z} is latent factors used to generate \mathbf{x} : attributes, orientation, etc.

Variational Autoencoders

Sample from
true conditional
 $p_{\theta^*}(x \mid z^{(i)})$



Sample from
true prior
 $z^{(i)} \sim p_{\theta^*}(z)$

We want to estimate the true parameters θ^* of this generative model given training data x .

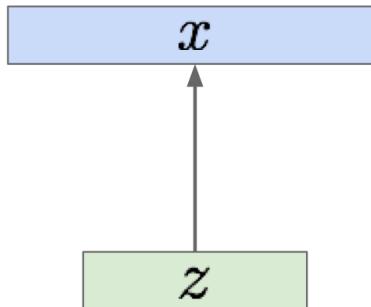
How should we represent this model?

Choose prior $p(z)$ to be simple, e.g. a standard normal distribution $\mathcal{N}(0, I)$. Reasonable for latent attributes, e.g. pose, how much smile.

Conditional $p(x|z)$ is complex (generate image) => represent with a probabilistic neural network that is also a Gaussian.

Variational Autoencoders

Sample from
true conditional
 $p_{\theta^*}(x \mid z^{(i)})$



Sample from
true prior
 $z^{(i)} \sim p_{\theta^*}(z)$

We want to estimate the true parameters θ^* of this generative model given training data x .

How to train?

Learn model parameters to maximize likelihood of training data

$$p_\theta(x) = \int p(z)p_\theta(x|z)dz$$

25

Q: What is the problem with this?

Intractable!

Variational Autoencoders: Intractability

Data likelihood: $p_\theta(x) = \int p(z)p_\theta(x|z)dz$



Standard normal distribution $\mathcal{N}(0, I)$

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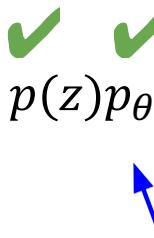
Data likelihood: $p_\theta(x) = \int p_\theta(z)p_\theta(x|z)dz$

Variational Autoencoders: Intractability

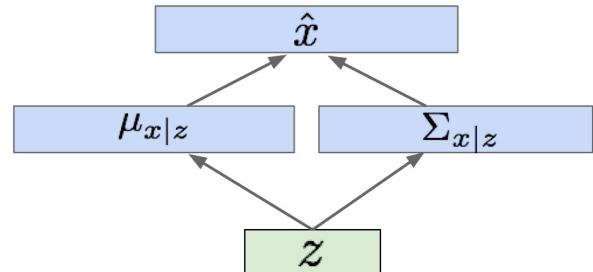
Data likelihood:

$$p_\theta(x) = \int p(z)p_\theta(x|z)dz$$

Decoder neural network



Note that this decoder $p_\theta(x|z)$ needs to be a probabilistic function, we will assume this probability distribution is also a Gaussian and then this decoder network only needs to predict $\mu_{x|z}, \Sigma_{x|z}$.



Probabilistic decoder $p_\theta(x|z)$

Variational Autoencoders: Intractability

Data likelihood: $p_\theta(x) = \int p(z)p_\theta(x|z)dz$



Intractable to compute $p(x|z)$ for every z !

Variational Autoencoders: Intractability

Data likelihood: $p_\theta(x) = \int p(z)p_\theta(x|z)dz$



Intractable to compute $p(x|z)$ for every z !

$$p_\theta(x) = \mathbf{E}_{z \sim p(z)}[p_\theta(x|z)]$$

Can we use Monte Carlo estimation?

$$\log p(x) \approx \log \frac{1}{k} \sum_{i=1}^k p_\theta(x|z^{(i)}), \text{ where } z^{(i)} \sim p(z)$$

Unbiased but the variance is very high!

Variational Autoencoders: Intractability

Data likelihood:

$$p_{\theta}(x) = \int p(z)p_{\theta}(x|z)dz$$

← Computing integral is intractable

Try another way:

$$p_{\theta}(x) = \frac{p_{\theta}(x, z)}{p_{\theta}(z|x)} = \frac{1}{p_{\theta}(z|x)} p(z)p_{\theta}(x|z)$$

✓

↑
Standard normal distribution $\mathcal{N}(0, I)$

Variational Autoencoders: Intractability

Data likelihood:

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✓

↑

Probabilistic decoder

Variational Autoencoders: Intractability

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Computing integral is intractable

Try another way:

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Variational Autoencoders: Intractability

Data likelihood:

$$p_{\theta}(x) = \int p_{\theta}(z)p_{\theta}(x|z)dz$$



Computing integral is intractable

Try another way:

$$p_{\theta}(x) = \frac{p_{\theta}(x, z)}{p_{\theta}(z|x)} = \frac{p_{\theta}(z)p_{\theta}(x|z)}{p_{\theta}(z|x)}$$

Unfortunately, all we know about this term is

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

33



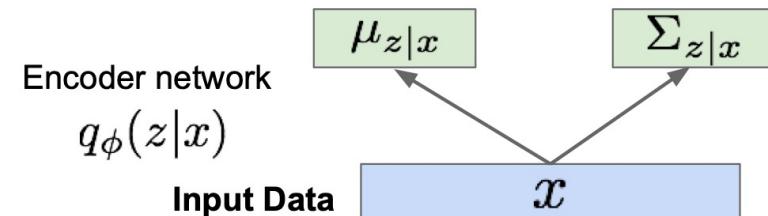
Intractable data likelihood

Variational Autoencoders

Can we learn a distribution $q_\phi(z|x)$ to approximate $p_\theta(z|x)$?

Probabilistic encoder

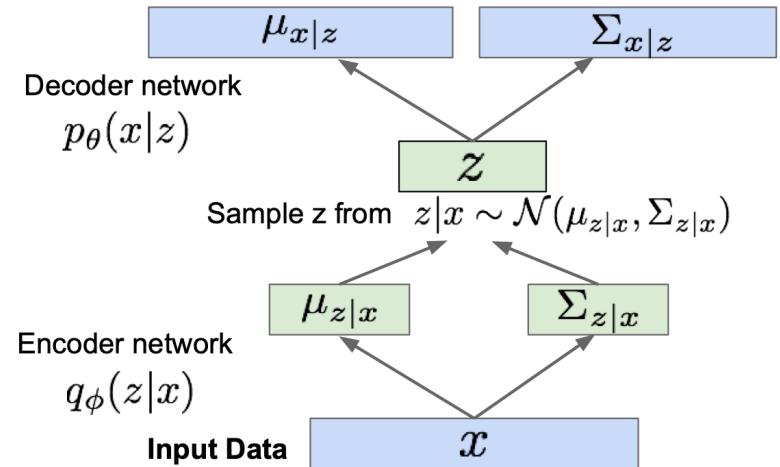
The probabilistic encoder $q_\phi(z|x)$ will also be a Gaussian distribution, which takes input x and outputs $\mu_{z|x}, \Sigma_{z|x}$.



How to Learn Variational Autoencoders

- VAE is a probabilistic autoencoder.
- How to learn:
 - Build a loss (negative log-likelihood) $\mathcal{L} = -\log p_{\theta, \phi}(x)$
 - Minimize \mathcal{L} with respect to ϕ and θ (or maximize $\log p_{\theta, \phi}(x)$)
 - However, this term $\log p_{\theta, \phi}(x)$ is still intractable

Variational Autoencoder (VAE)



Variational Autoencoders

$$\begin{aligned}\log p_\theta(x^{(i)}) &= \mathbf{E}_{z \sim q_\phi(z | x^{(i)})} [\log p_\theta(x^{(i)})] \quad (p_\theta(x^{(i)}) \text{ Does not depend on } z) \\ &= \mathbf{E}_z \left[\log \frac{p_\theta(x^{(i)} | z) p(z)}{p_\theta(z | x^{(i)})} \right] \quad (\text{Bayes' Rule}) \\ &= \mathbf{E}_z \left[\log \frac{p_\theta(x^{(i)} | z) p(z)}{p_\theta(z | x^{(i)})} \frac{q_\phi(z | x^{(i)})}{q_\phi(z | x^{(i)})} \right] \quad (\text{Multiply by constant}) \\ &= \mathbf{E}_z [\log p_\theta(x^{(i)} | z)] - \mathbf{E}_z \left[\log \frac{q_\phi(z | x^{(i)})}{p_\theta(z)} \right] + \mathbf{E}_z \left[\log \frac{q_\phi(z | x^{(i)})}{p_\theta(z | x^{(i)})} \right] \quad (\text{Logarithms}) \\ &= \mathbf{E}_z [\log p_\theta(x^{(i)} | z)] - D_{KL}(q_\phi(z | x^{(i)}) || p(z)) + D_{KL}(q_\phi(z | x^{(i)}) || p_\theta(z | x^{(i)}))\end{aligned}$$

The expectation wrt. z (using encoder network) let us write nice KL terms

Variational Autoencoders

$$\log p_\theta(x^{(i)}) = \mathbf{E}_{z \sim q_\phi(z|x^{(i)})} [\log p_\theta(x^{(i)})] \quad (p_\theta(x^{(i)}) \text{ Does not depend on } z)$$



$$= \mathbf{E}_z \left[\log \frac{p_\theta(x^{(i)} | z) p(z)}{p_\theta(z | x^{(i)})} \right] \quad (\text{Bayes' Rule})$$

We want to
maximize the
data
likelihood

$$= \mathbf{E}_z \left[\log \frac{p_\theta(x^{(i)} | z) p(z)}{p_\theta(z | x^{(i)})} \frac{q_\phi(z | x^{(i)})}{q_\phi(z | x^{(i)})} \right] \quad (\text{Multiply by constant})$$

$$= \mathbf{E}_z [\log p_\theta(x^{(i)} | z)] - \mathbf{E}_z \left[\log \frac{q_\phi(z | x^{(i)})}{p_\theta(z)} \right] + \mathbf{E}_z \left[\log \frac{q_\phi(z | x^{(i)})}{p_\theta(z | x^{(i)})} \right] \quad (\text{Logarithms})$$

$$= \mathbf{E}_z [\log p_\theta(x^{(i)} | z)] - D_{KL}(q_\phi(z | x^{(i)}) || p(z)) + D_{KL}(q_\phi(z | x^{(i)}) || p_\theta(z | x^{(i)}))$$



Decoder network gives $p_\theta(x|z)$, can
compute estimate of this term through
sampling (need some trick to
differentiate through sampling).

Variational Autoencoders

We want to
maximize the
data
likelihood

$$\begin{aligned}\log p_{\theta}(x^{(i)}) &= \mathbf{E}_{z \sim q_{\phi}(z|x^{(i)})} \left[\log p_{\theta}(x^{(i)}) \right] \quad (p_{\theta}(x^{(i)}) \text{ Does not depend on } z) \\ &= \mathbf{E}_z \left[\log \frac{p_{\theta}(x^{(i)} | z) p(z)}{p_{\theta}(z | x^{(i)})} \right] \quad (\text{Bayes' Rule}) \\ &= \mathbf{E}_z \left[\log \frac{p_{\theta}(x^{(i)} | z) p(z)}{p_{\theta}(z | x^{(i)})} \frac{q_{\phi}(z | x^{(i)})}{q_{\phi}(z | x^{(i)})} \right] \quad (\text{Multiply by constant}) \\ &= \mathbf{E}_z \left[\log p_{\theta}(x^{(i)} | z) \right] - \mathbf{E}_z \left[\log \frac{q_{\phi}(z | x^{(i)})}{p_{\theta}(z)} \right] + \mathbf{E}_z \left[\log \frac{q_{\phi}(z | x^{(i)})}{p_{\theta}(z | x^{(i)})} \right] \quad (\text{Logarithms}) \\ &= \mathbf{E}_z \left[\log p_{\theta}(x^{(i)} | z) \right] - D_{KL}(q_{\phi}(z | x^{(i)}) || p(z)) + D_{KL}(q_{\phi}(z | x^{(i)}) || p_{\theta}(z | x^{(i)}))\end{aligned}$$

↑
Decoder network gives $p_{\theta}(x|z)$, can
compute estimate of this term through
sampling (need some trick to
differentiate through sampling).

↑
This KL term (between
Gaussians for encoder and z
prior) has nice closed-form
solution!

↑
 $p_{\theta}(z|x)$ intractable (saw
earlier), can't compute this KL
term :(But we know KL
divergence always ≥ 0 .

ELBO

We want to
maximize the
data
likelihood

$$\begin{aligned}\log p_{\theta}(x^{(i)}) &= \mathbf{E}_{z \sim q_{\phi}(z|x^{(i)})} [\log p_{\theta}(x^{(i)})] \quad (p_{\theta}(x^{(i)}) \text{ Does not depend on } z) \\ &= \mathbf{E}_z \left[\log \frac{p_{\theta}(x^{(i)} | z) p(z)}{p_{\theta}(z | x^{(i)})} \right] \quad (\text{Bayes' Rule}) \\ &= \mathbf{E}_z \left[\log \frac{p_{\theta}(x^{(i)} | z) p(z)}{p_{\theta}(z | x^{(i)})} \frac{q_{\phi}(z | x^{(i)})}{q_{\phi}(z | x^{(i)})} \right] \quad (\text{Multiply by constant}) \\ &= \mathbf{E}_z [\log p_{\theta}(x^{(i)} | z)] - \mathbf{E}_z \left[\log \frac{q_{\phi}(z | x^{(i)})}{p_{\theta}(z)} \right] + \mathbf{E}_z \left[\log \frac{q_{\phi}(z | x^{(i)})}{p_{\theta}(z | x^{(i)})} \right] \quad (\text{Logarithms}) \\ &= \underbrace{\mathbf{E}_z [\log p_{\theta}(x^{(i)} | z)] - D_{KL}(q_{\phi}(z | x^{(i)}) || p_{\theta}(z))}_{\mathcal{L}(x^{(i)}, \theta, \phi)} + \underbrace{D_{KL}(q_{\phi}(z | x^{(i)}) || p_{\theta}(z | x^{(i)}))}_{\geq 0}\end{aligned}$$

Tractable lower bound which we can take
gradient of and optimize! ($p_{\theta}(x|z)$ differentiable,
KL term differentiable)

This lower bound is widely referred as **Evidence Lower BOund (ELBO)**.

ELBO

Decoder:
reconstruct
the input data

$$\begin{aligned}
 \log p_\theta(x^{(i)}) &= \mathbf{E}_{z \sim q_\phi(z|x^{(i)})} [\log p_\theta(x^{(i)})] \quad (p_\theta(x^{(i)}) \text{ Does not depend on } z) \\
 &= \mathbf{E}_z \left[\log \frac{p_\theta(x^{(i)} | z) p(z)}{p_\theta(z | x^{(i)})} \right] \quad (\text{Bayes' Rule}) \\
 &= \mathbf{E}_z \left[\log \frac{p_\theta(x^{(i)} | z) p(z)}{p_\theta(z | x^{(i)})} \frac{q_\phi(z | x^{(i)})}{q_\phi(z | x^{(i)})} \right] \quad (\text{Multiply by constant}) \\
 &= \mathbf{E}_z [\log p_\theta(x^{(i)} | z)] - \mathbf{E}_z \left[\log \frac{q_\phi(z | x^{(i)})}{p_\theta(z)} \right] + \mathbf{E}_z \left[\log \frac{q_\phi(z | x^{(i)})}{p_\theta(z | x^{(i)})} \right] \quad (\text{Logarithms}) \\
 &= \underbrace{\mathbf{E}_z [\log p_\theta(x^{(i)} | z)] - D_{KL}(q_\phi(z | x^{(i)}) || p(z))}_{\mathcal{L}(x^{(i)}, \theta, \phi)} + \underbrace{D_{KL}(q_\phi(z | x^{(i)}) || p_\theta(z | x^{(i)}))}_{\geq 0}
 \end{aligned}$$

Encoder:
make approximate
posterior distribution
close to prior

Tractable lower bound which we can take
gradient of and optimize! ($p_\theta(x|z)$ differentiable,
KL term differentiable)

This lower bound is widely referred as Evidence Lower BOund (**ELBO**).

Variational Autoencoders

Putting it all together: maximizing the likelihood lower bound (ELBO)

$$\underbrace{\mathbf{E}_z \left[\log p_\theta(x^{(i)} | z) \right] - D_{KL}(q_\phi(z | x^{(i)}) || p(z))}_{\mathcal{L}(x^{(i)}, \theta, \phi)}$$

Variational Autoencoders

Putting it all together: maximizing the likelihood lower bound

$$\underbrace{\mathbf{E}_z \left[\log p_\theta(x^{(i)} | z) \right] - D_{KL}(q_\phi(z | x^{(i)}) || p(z)}_{\mathcal{L}(x^{(i)}, \theta, \phi)}$$

Let's look at computing the KL divergence between the estimated posterior and the prior given some data

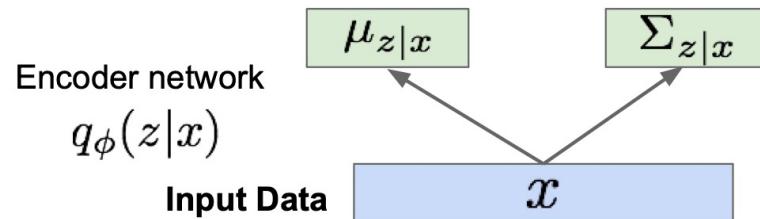
Input Data

x

Variational Autoencoders

Putting it all together: maximizing the likelihood lower bound

$$\underbrace{\mathbf{E}_z \left[\log p_\theta(x^{(i)} | z) \right] - D_{KL}(q_\phi(z | x^{(i)}) || p(z))}_{\mathcal{L}(x^{(i)}, \theta, \phi)}$$



Variational Autoencoders

Putting it all together: maximizing the likelihood lower bound

$$\underbrace{\mathbb{E}_z \left[\log p_\theta(x^{(i)} | z) \right] - D_{KL}(q_\phi(z | x^{(i)}) || p(z))}_{\mathcal{L}(x^{(i)}, \theta, \phi)}$$

$$D_{KL}(\mathcal{N}(\mu_{z|x}, \Sigma_{z|x}) || \mathcal{N}(0, I))$$

Have analytical solution

Make approximate posterior distribution close to prior

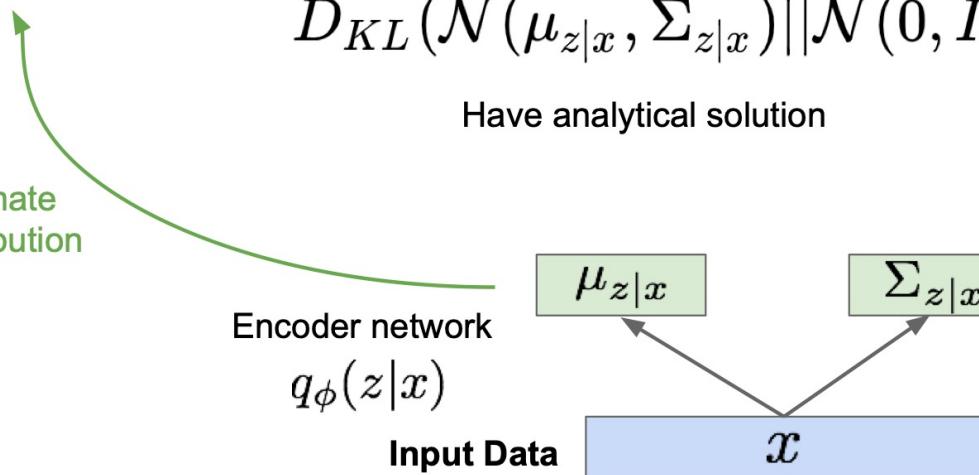
Encoder network

$$q_\phi(z|x)$$

Input Data

$$\mu_{z|x}$$

$$\Sigma_{z|x}$$



Variational Autoencoders

Putting it all together: maximizing the likelihood lower bound

$$\underbrace{\mathbf{E}_z \left[\log p_\theta(x^{(i)} | z) \right]}_{\mathcal{L}(x^{(i)}, \theta, \phi)} - D_{KL}(q_\phi(z | x^{(i)}) || p(z))$$

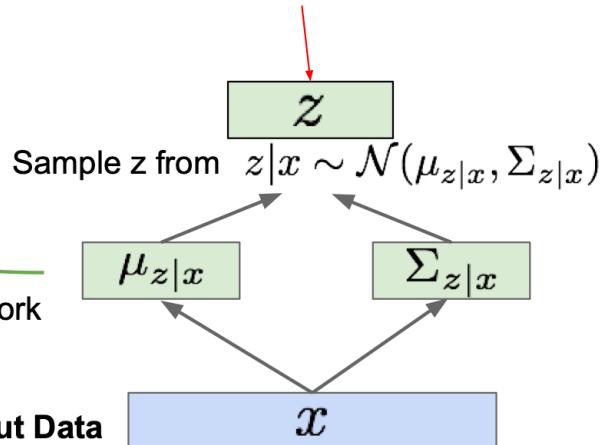
Make approximate posterior distribution close to prior

Encoder network

$$q_\phi(z|x)$$

Input Data

Not part of the computation graph!



Variational Autoencoders

Putting it all together: maximizing the likelihood lower bound

$$\underbrace{\mathbf{E}_z \left[\log p_\theta(x^{(i)} | z) \right] - D_{KL}(q_\phi(z | x^{(i)}) || p(z)}_{\mathcal{L}(x^{(i)}, \theta, \phi)}$$

Make approximate posterior distribution close to prior

Encoder network

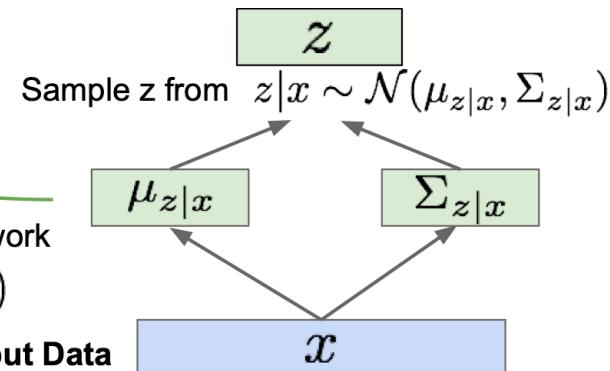
$$q_\phi(z|x)$$

Input Data

Reparameterization trick to make sampling differentiable:

$$\text{Sample } \epsilon \sim \mathcal{N}(0, I)$$

$$z = \mu_{z|x} + \epsilon \sigma_{z|x}$$



Variational Autoencoders

Putting it all together: maximizing the likelihood lower bound

$$\mathcal{L}(x^{(i)}, \theta, \phi) = \underbrace{\mathbb{E}_z [\log p_\theta(x^{(i)} | z)]}_{\text{Expected log likelihood}} - D_{KL}(q_\phi(z | x^{(i)}) || p(z))$$

Make approximate posterior distribution close to prior

Encoder network

$$q_\phi(z|x)$$

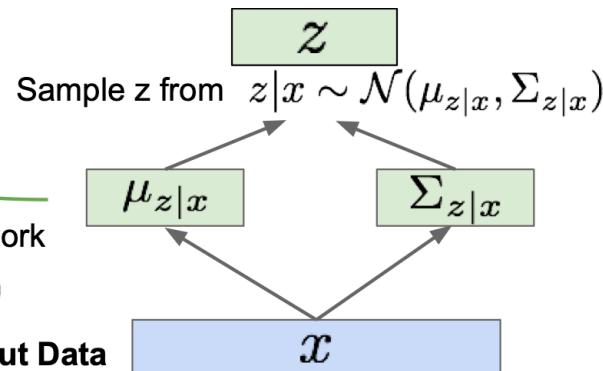
Input Data

Reparameterization trick to make sampling differentiable:

$$z = \mu_{z|x} + \epsilon \sigma_{z|x}$$

Sample $\epsilon \sim \mathcal{N}(0, I)$ Input to the graph

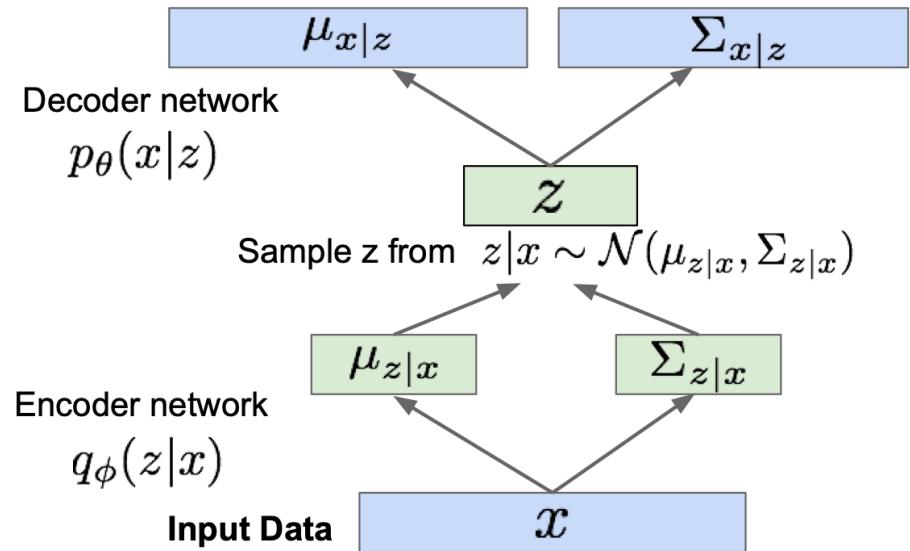
Part of computation graph



Variational Autoencoders

Putting it all together: maximizing the likelihood lower bound

$$\mathcal{L}(x^{(i)}, \theta, \phi) = \underbrace{\mathbf{E}_z \left[\log p_\theta(x^{(i)} | z) \right]} - D_{KL}(q_\phi(z | x^{(i)}) || p(z))$$

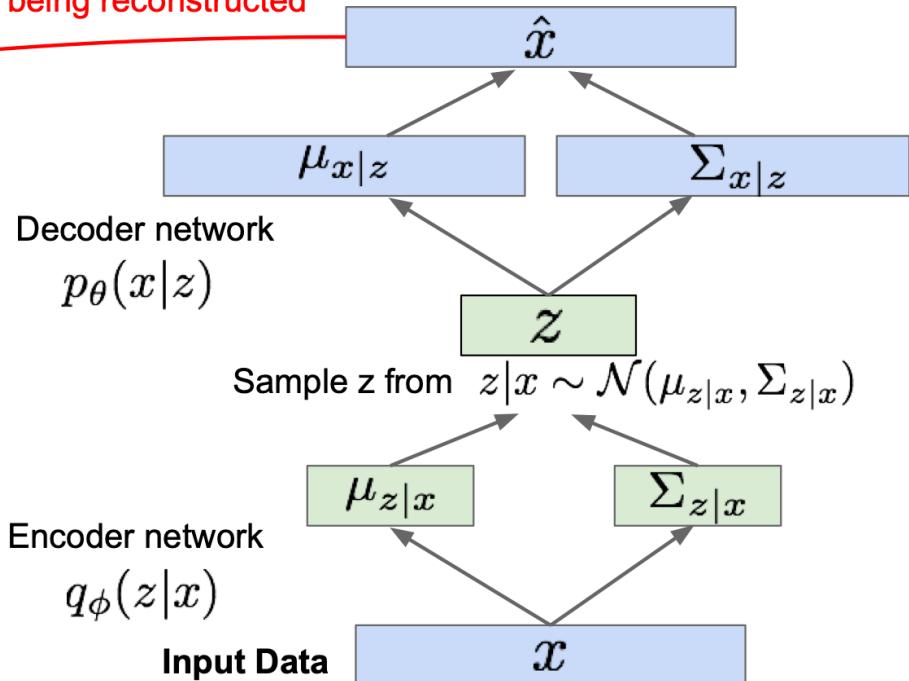


Variational Autoencoders

Putting it all together: maximizing the likelihood lower bound

$$\mathcal{L}(x^{(i)}, \theta, \phi) = \mathbb{E}_z \left[\log p_\theta(x^{(i)} | z) \right] - D_{KL}(q_\phi(z | x^{(i)}) || p(z))$$

Maximize likelihood of original input being reconstructed



Note that this term is still intractable, which we need to use Monte Carlo estimation, which simply removes E_z .

Variational Autoencoders

Putting it all together: maximizing the likelihood lower bound

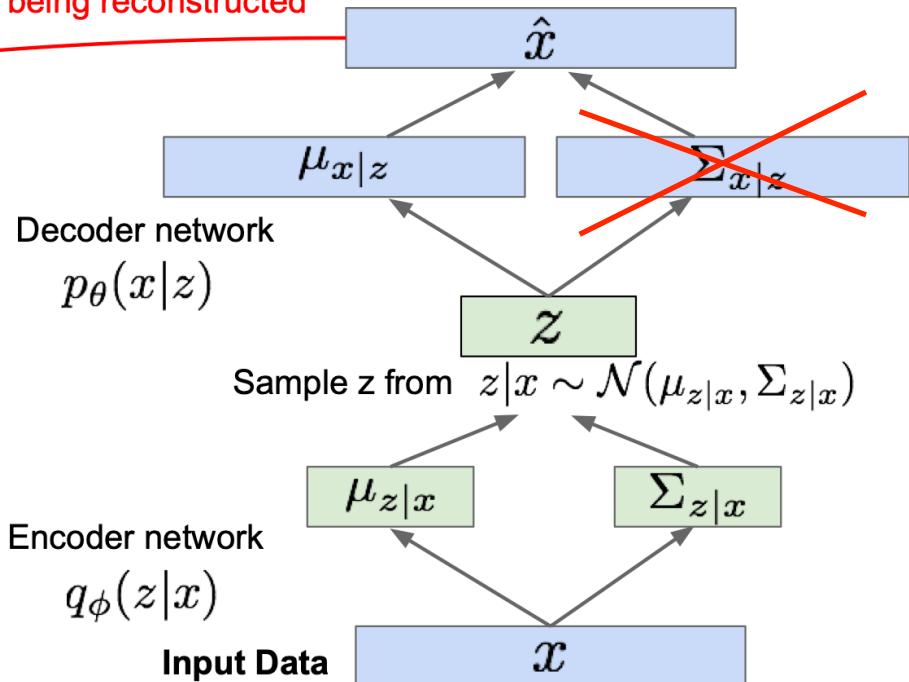
$$\log p_\theta(x^{(i)} | z) - D_{KL}(q_\phi(z | x^{(i)}) || p(z))$$

$\underbrace{\quad\quad\quad}_{\mathcal{L}(x^{(i)}, \theta, \phi)}$

In practice, some implementations simply set $\Sigma_{x|z} = I$, then this reconstruction term becomes MSE loss:

$$\|x^{(i)} - \mu_{x|z}\|^2$$

Maximize likelihood of original input being reconstructed



Variational Autoencoders

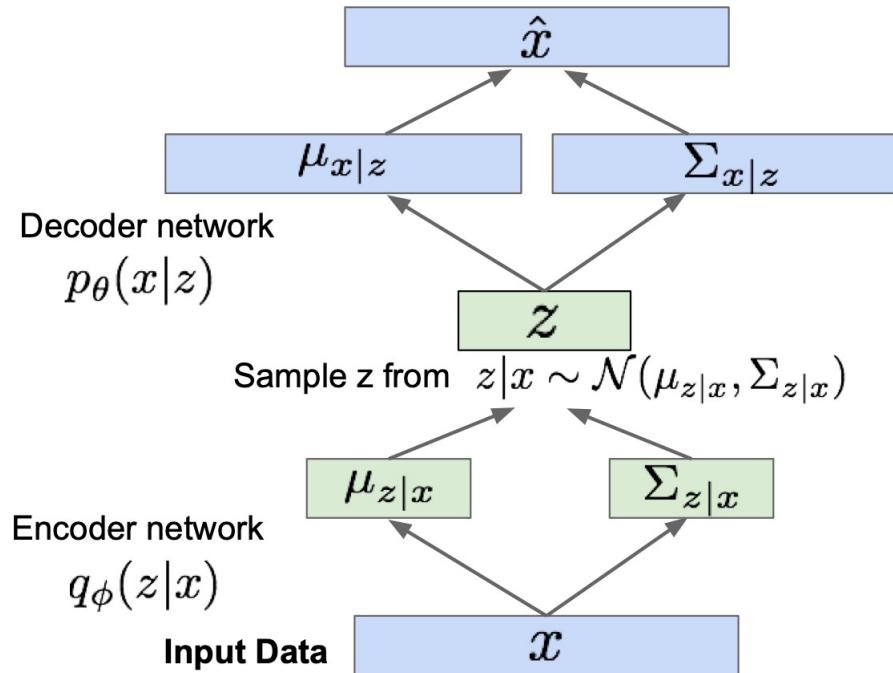
Putting it all together: maximizing the likelihood lower bound

$$\log p_\theta(x^{(i)} | z) - D_{KL}(q_\phi(z | x^{(i)}) || p(z))$$

$\mathcal{L}(x^{(i)}, \theta, \phi)$

For every minibatch of input data: compute this forward pass, and then backprop!

Why called variational?



Variation and Functional

- Functional: mappings from a set of functions to the real numbers, where the independent variable is a function.
- Variations δ : small changes in functions and functionals, to find maxima and minima (collectively called extrema) of functionals.

Variation and Functional

- Functional: mappings from a set of functions to the real numbers, where the independent variable is a function.
- Variations δ : small changes in functions and functionals, to find maxima and minima (collectively called extrema) of functionals.
- Example: Find the shortest curve to connect two⁵⁵ points, A and B, in a 2D plane.
 - Independent variable: the function of the curve $f(x, y)$
 - Functional l : $f(x, y) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ (length $l = \int_A^B f(x, y) ds$)

Why Called Variational?

- Training VAE can be seen as solving a **variational problem** (to obtain the extrema of the functional):
 - $ELBO$ is a functional of $\hat{q}(z|x)$ and $\hat{p}(x|z)$.
 - The variational problem to solve: $\hat{p}, \hat{q} = argmax_{p,q} ELBO$
 - Solving this particular problem is called **variational inference**.
 - This is a kind of approximate inference, since it can't give you the true data log probability $\log p(x)$.⁵⁶
 - Instead, it gives you the lower bound of $\log p(x)$, that is ELBO.

Variational Autoencoders

- In reality, we use θ, ϕ to parameterize p, q :
 - The set of functions (or called **variational family**):
$$q_\phi(z|x), p_\theta(z|x)$$
 ^ ^
 - Problem to solve: $\hat{\phi}, \hat{\theta} = \operatorname{argmax}_{\phi, \theta} ELBO$
 - Becomes a known problem: to obtain the maximum of a function (not a functional anymore!)
 - We can use gradient descent on ϕ and θ .

Variational Inference

- From the perspective of classic statistical learning, this approximate inference is done via solving a variational problem (another mainstream method is MCMC sampling), so it is called variational.
- From a modern perspective, training VAE is essentially the same with training other neural networks.
 - All neural network trainings can be seen as solving variational problems!
 - Functional: your loss function
 - Independent variable: your neural network function
 - However nobody calls it in this way any more

Variational Autoencoders: Generating Data

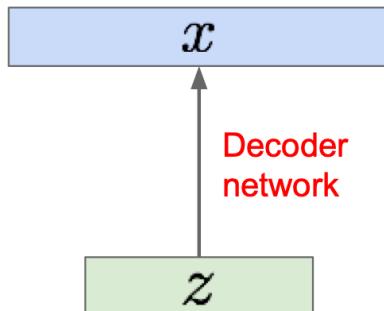
Our assumption about data generation process

Sample from true conditional

$$p_{\theta^*}(x \mid z^{(i)})$$

Sample from true prior

$$z^{(i)} \sim p_{\theta^*}(z)$$



Variational Autoencoders: Generating Data

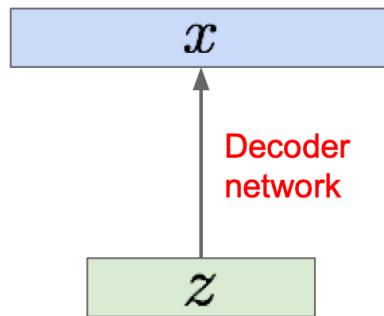
Our assumption about data generation process

Sample from true conditional

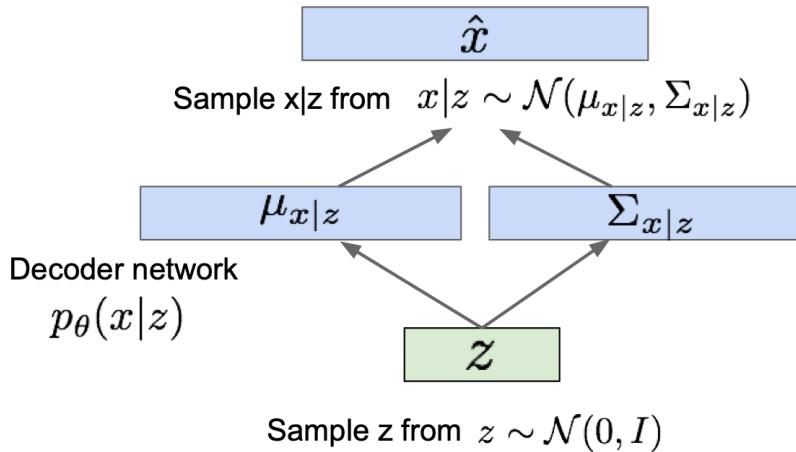
$$p_{\theta^*}(x \mid z^{(i)})$$

Sample from true prior

$$z^{(i)} \sim p_{\theta^*}(z)$$



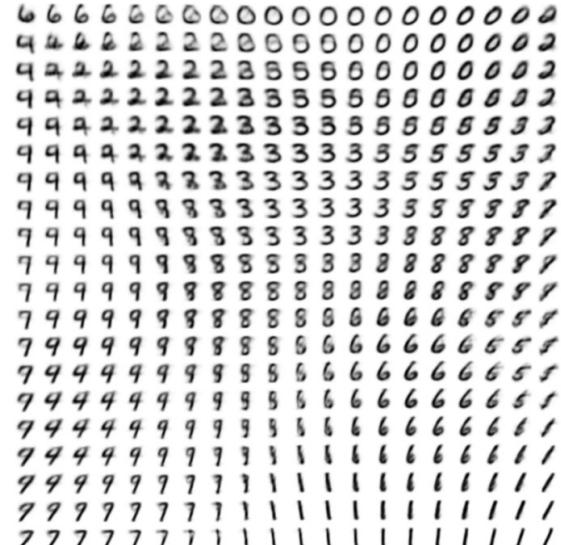
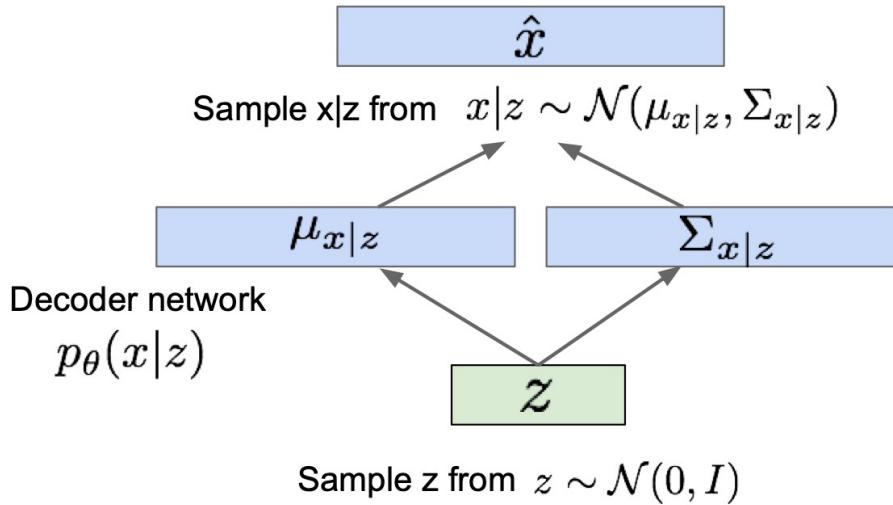
Now given a trained VAE:
use decoder network & sample z from prior!



Kingma and Welling, "Auto-Encoding Variational Bayes", ICLR 2014

Variational Autoencoders: Generating Data

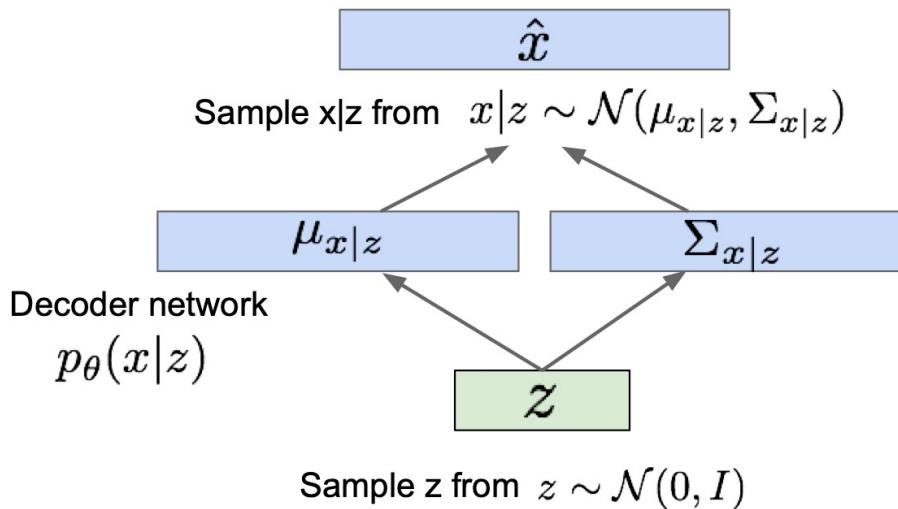
Use decoder network. Now sample z from prior!



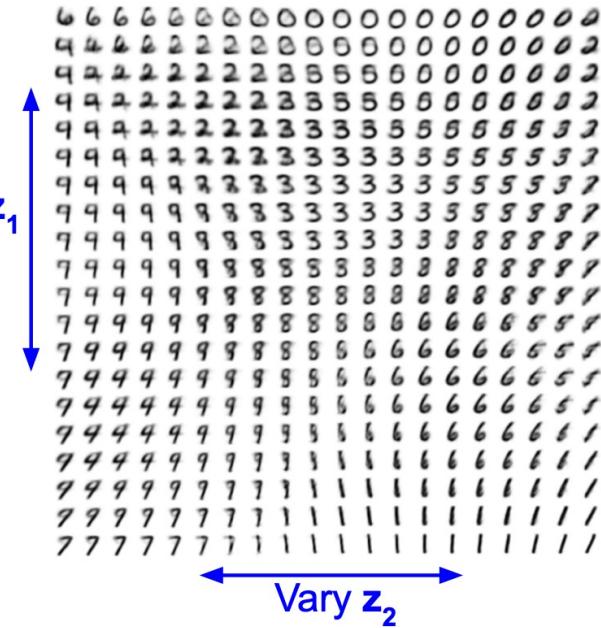
Kingma and Welling, "Auto-Encoding Variational Bayes", ICLR 2014

Variational Autoencoders: Generating Data

Use decoder network. Now sample z from prior!



Data manifold for 2-d z



Kingma and Welling, "Auto-Encoding Variational Bayes", ICLR 2014

Variational Autoencoders: Generating Data

Diagonal prior on \mathbf{z}
=> independent
latent variables

Different
dimensions of \mathbf{z}
encode
interpretable factors
of variation

Degree of smile

Vary \mathbf{z}_1



Vary \mathbf{z}_2

Head pose

Variational Autoencoders: Generating Data

Diagonal prior on \mathbf{z}
=> independent
latent variables

Different
dimensions of \mathbf{z}
encode
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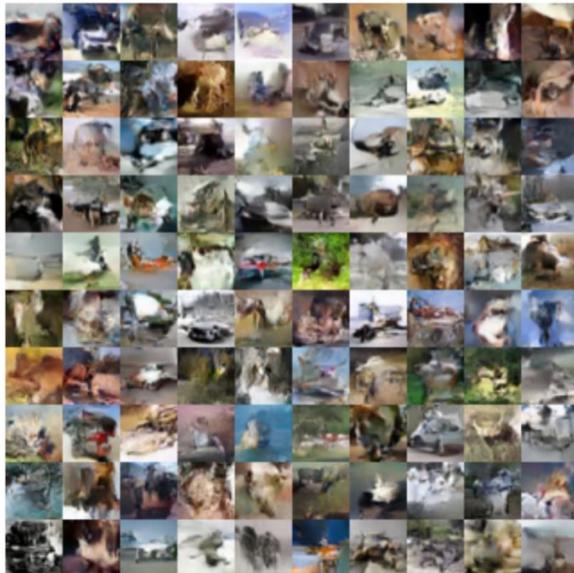
Also good feature representation that
can be computed using $q_{\phi}(z|x)$!

Degree of smile
Vary z_1



Vary z_2 Head pose

Variational Autoencoders: Generating Data



32x32 CIFAR-10



Labeled Faces in the Wild

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Variational Autoencoders

Probabilistic spin to traditional autoencoders => allows generating data

Defines an intractable density => derive and optimize a (variational) lower bound

Pros:

- Principled approach to generative models
- Interpretable latent space.
- Allows inference of $q(z|x)$, can be useful feature representation for other tasks

Cons:

- Maximizes lower bound of likelihood: okay, but not as good evaluation as PixelRNN/PixelCNN
- Samples blurrier and lower quality compared to state-of-the-art (GANs)

Active areas of research:

- More flexible approximations, e.g. richer approximate posterior instead of diagonal Gaussian, e.g., Gaussian Mixture Models (GMMs), Categorical Distributions.
- Learning disentangled representations.

Generative Adversarial Networks (GAN)

Some slides are borrowed from Stanford CS231N.

Taxonomy of Generative Models

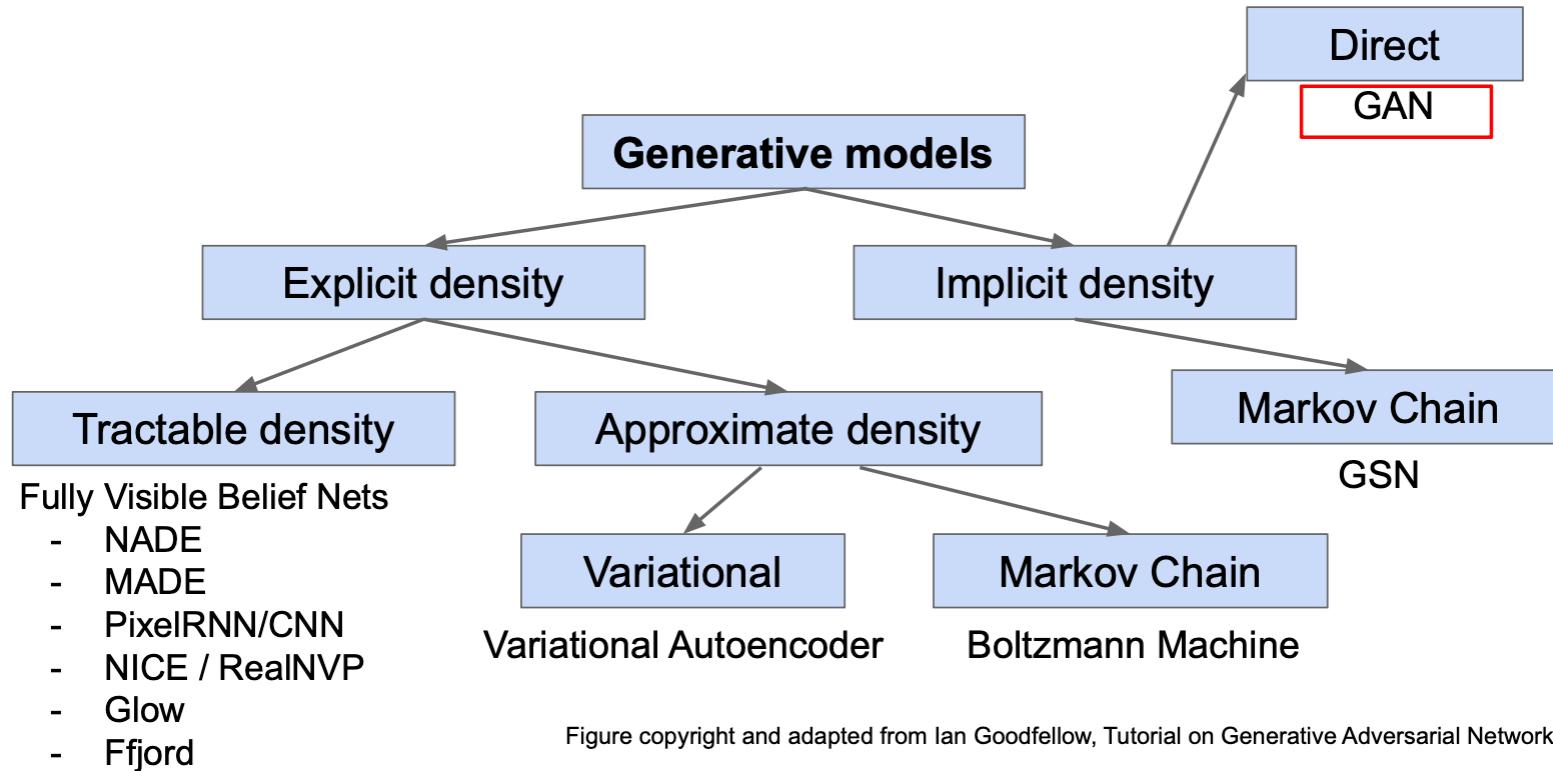


Figure copyright and adapted from Ian Goodfellow, Tutorial on Generative Adversarial Networks, 2017.

Motivation

So far...

PixelRNN/CNNs define tractable density function, optimize likelihood of training data:

$$p_{\theta}(x) = \prod_{i=1}^n p_{\theta}(x_i|x_1, \dots, x_{i-1})$$

VAEs define intractable density function with latent \mathbf{z} :

$$p_{\theta}(x) = \int p_{\theta}(z)p_{\theta}(x|z)dz$$

Cannot optimize directly, derive and optimize lower bound on likelihood instead

What if we give up on explicitly modeling density, and just want ability to sample?

GANs: not modeling any explicit density function!

Generative Adversarial Networks

Problem: Want to sample from complex, high-dimensional training distribution. No direct way to do this!

Solution: Sample from a simple distribution we can easily sample from, e.g. random noise. Learn transformation to training distribution.

Generative Adversarial Networks

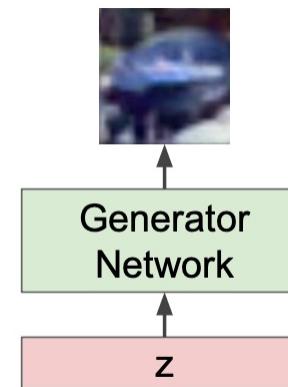
Problem: Want to sample from complex, high-dimensional training distribution. No direct way to do this!

Solution: Sample from a simple distribution we can easily sample from, e.g. random noise. Learn transformation to training distribution.

But we don't know which sample z maps to which training image -> can't learn by reconstructing training images

Output: Sample from training distribution

Input: Random noise



What loss function should we use?

Generative Adversarial Networks

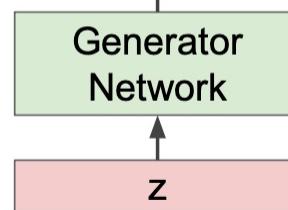
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But we don't know which sample z maps to which training image -> can't learn by reconstructing training images

Output: Sample from training distribution

Input: Random noise



Objective: generated images should look "real"

Generative Adversarial Networks

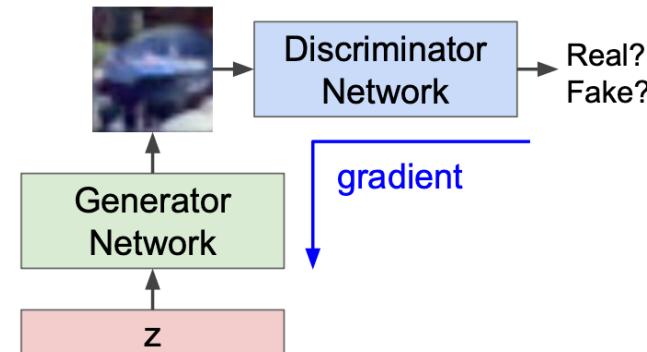
Problem: Want to sample from complex, high-dimensional training distribution. No direct way to do this!

Solution: Sample from a simple distribution we can easily sample from, e.g. random noise. Learn transformation to training distribution.

Solution: Use a discriminator network to tell whether the generate image is within data distribution ("real") or not

Output: Sample from training distribution

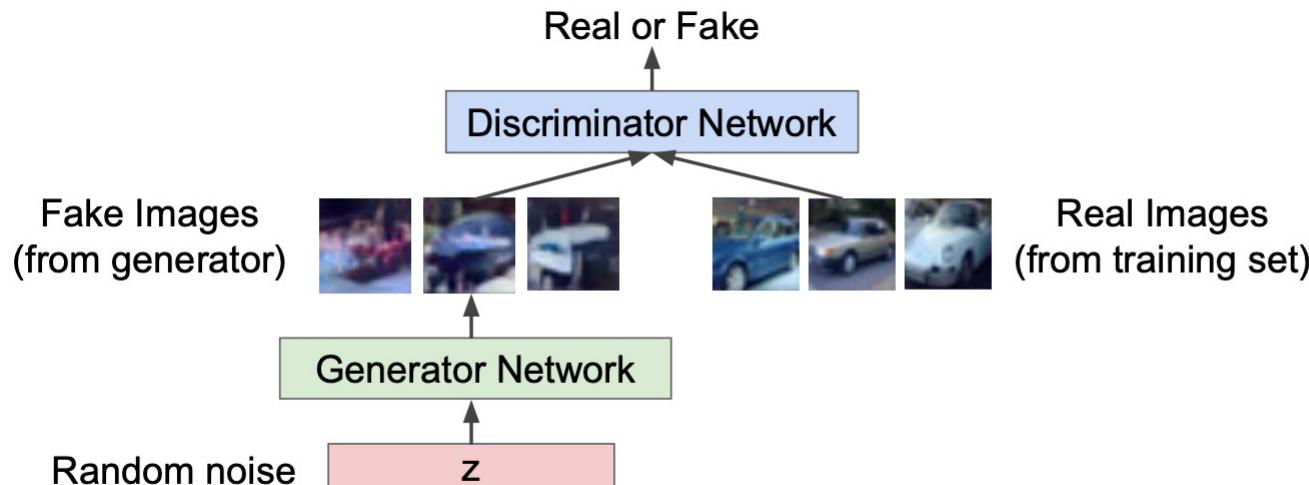
Input: Random noise



Training GANs: Two-Player Games

Discriminator network: try to distinguish between real and fake images

Generator network: try to fool the discriminator by generating real-looking images

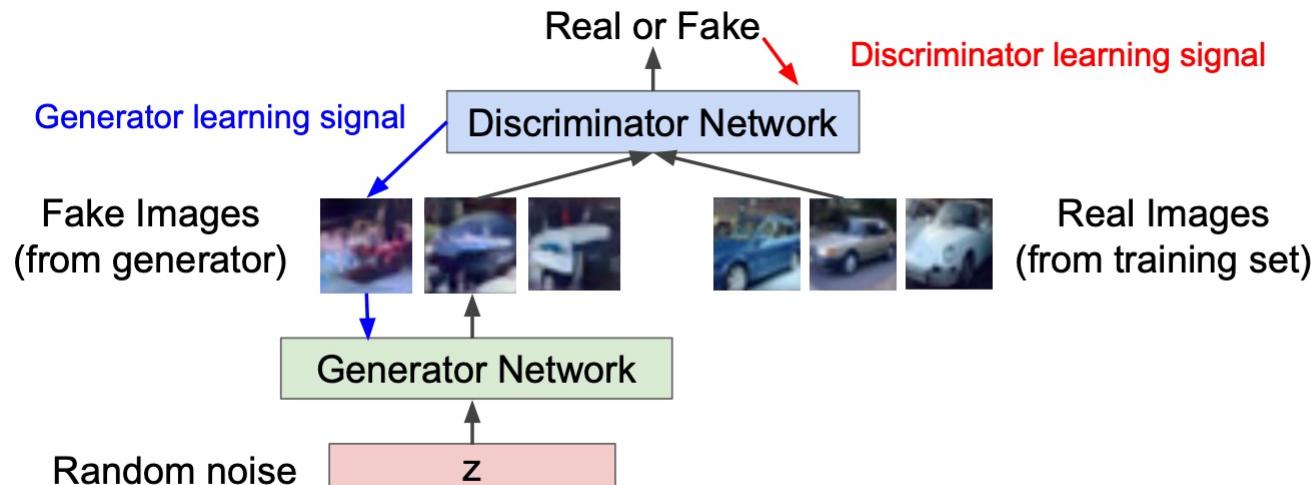


Fake and real images copyright Emily Denton et al. 2015. Reproduced with permission.

Training GANs: Two-Player Games

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Training GANs: Two-Player Games

Discriminator network: try to distinguish between real and fake images

Generator network: try to fool the discriminator by generating real-looking images

Train jointly in **minimax game**

Minimax objective function:

$$\min_{\theta_g} \max_{\theta_d} \left[\mathbb{E}_{x \sim p_{data}} \log D_{\theta_d}(x) + \mathbb{E}_{z \sim p(z)} \log(1 - D_{\theta_d}(G_{\theta_g}(z))) \right]$$

Generator objective
Discriminator objective

Training GANs: Two-Player Games

Discriminator network: try to distinguish between real and fake images

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Train jointly in **minimax game**

Minimax objective function:

$$\min_{\theta_g} \max_{\theta_d} \left[\mathbb{E}_{x \sim p_{data}} \log \underbrace{D_{\theta_d}(x)}_{\text{Discriminator output for real data } x} + \mathbb{E}_{z \sim p(z)} \log(1 - \underbrace{D_{\theta_d}(G_{\theta_g}(z))}_{\text{Discriminator output for generated fake data } G(z)}) \right]$$



Discriminator output
for real data x

Discriminator output for
generated fake data G(z)



Training GANs: Two-Player Games

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- Discriminator (θ_d) wants to **maximize objective** such that $D(x)$ is close to 1 (real) and $D(G(z))$ is close to 0 (fake)
- Generator (θ_g) wants to **minimize objective** such that $D(G(z))$ is close to 1 (discriminator is fooled into thinking generated $G(z)$ is real)

Training GANs: Two-Player Games

Minimax objective function:

$$\min_{\theta_g} \max_{\theta_d} \left[\mathbb{E}_{x \sim p_{data}} \log D_{\theta_d}(x) + \mathbb{E}_{z \sim p(z)} \log(1 - D_{\theta_d}(G_{\theta_g}(z))) \right]$$

Alternate between:

1. **Gradient ascent** on discriminator

$$\max_{\theta_d} \left[\mathbb{E}_{x \sim p_{data}} \log D_{\theta_d}(x) + \mathbb{E}_{z \sim p(z)} \log(1 - D_{\theta_d}(G_{\theta_g}(z))) \right]$$

2. **Gradient descent** on generator

$$\min_{\theta_g} \mathbb{E}_{z \sim p(z)} \log(1 - D_{\theta_d}(G_{\theta_g}(z)))$$

Training GANs: Two-Player Games

Minimax objective function:

$$\min_{\theta_g} \max_{\theta_d} \left[\mathbb{E}_{x \sim p_{data}} \log D_{\theta_d}(x) + \mathbb{E}_{z \sim p(z)} \log(1 - D_{\theta_d}(G_{\theta_g}(z))) \right]$$

Alternate between:

1. **Gradient ascent** on discriminator

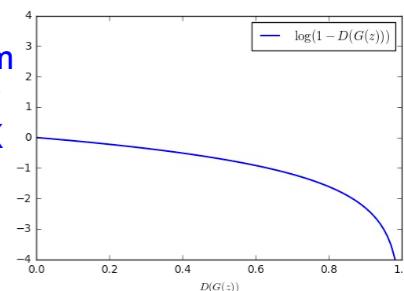
$$\max_{\theta_d} \left[\mathbb{E}_{x \sim p_{data}} \log D_{\theta_d}(x) + \mathbb{E}_{z \sim p(z)} \log(1 - D_{\theta_d}(G_{\theta_g}(z))) \right]$$

2. **Gradient descent** on generator

$$\min_{\theta_g} \mathbb{E}_{z \sim p(z)} \log(1 - D_{\theta_d}(G_{\theta_g}(z)))$$

In practice, optimizing this generator objective does not work well!

When sample is likely fake, want to learn from it to improve generator (move to the right on X axis).



Training GANs: Two-Player Games

Minimax objective function:

$$\min_{\theta_g} \max_{\theta_d} \left[\mathbb{E}_{x \sim p_{data}} \log D_{\theta_d}(x) + \mathbb{E}_{z \sim p(z)} \log(1 - D_{\theta_d}(G_{\theta_g}(z))) \right]$$

Alternate between:

1. Gradient ascent on discriminator

$$\max_{\theta_d} \left[\mathbb{E}_{x \sim p_{data}} \log D_{\theta_d}(x) + \mathbb{E}_{z \sim p(z)} \log(1 - D_{\theta_d}(G_{\theta_g}(z))) \right]$$

2. Gradient descent on generator

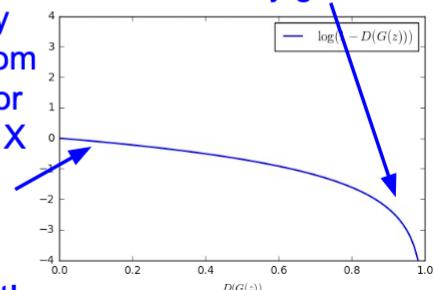
$$\min_{\theta_g} \mathbb{E}_{z \sim p(z)} \log(1 - D_{\theta_d}(G_{\theta_g}(z)))$$

In practice, optimizing this generator objective does not work well!

When sample is likely fake, want to learn from it to improve generator (move to the right on X axis).

But gradient in this region is relatively flat!

Gradient signal dominated by region where sample is already good



Training GANs: Two-Player Games

Minimax objective function:

$$\min_{\theta_g} \max_{\theta_d} \left[\mathbb{E}_{x \sim p_{data}} \log D_{\theta_d}(x) + \mathbb{E}_{z \sim p(z)} \log(1 - D_{\theta_d}(G_{\theta_g}(z))) \right]$$

Alternate between:

1. Gradient ascent on discriminator

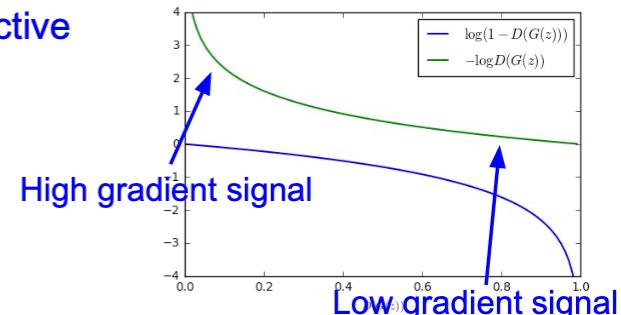
$$\max_{\theta_d} \left[\mathbb{E}_{x \sim p_{data}} \log D_{\theta_d}(x) + \mathbb{E}_{z \sim p(z)} \log(1 - D_{\theta_d}(G_{\theta_g}(z))) \right]$$

2. Instead: Gradient ascent on generator, different objective

$$\max_{\theta_g} \mathbb{E}_{z \sim p(z)} \log(D_{\theta_d}(G_{\theta_g}(z)))$$

Instead of minimizing likelihood of discriminator being correct, now maximize likelihood of discriminator being wrong.

Same objective of fooling discriminator, but now higher gradient signal for bad samples => works much better! Standard in practice.



Training GANs: Two-Player Games

Putting it together: GAN training algorithm

```
for number of training iterations do
    for  $k$  steps do
        • Sample minibatch of  $m$  noise samples  $\{\mathbf{z}^{(1)}, \dots, \mathbf{z}^{(m)}\}$  from noise prior  $p_g(\mathbf{z})$ .
        • Sample minibatch of  $m$  examples  $\{\mathbf{x}^{(1)}, \dots, \mathbf{x}^{(m)}\}$  from data generating distribution  $p_{\text{data}}(\mathbf{x})$ .
        • Update the discriminator by ascending its stochastic gradient:
            
$$\nabla_{\theta_d} \frac{1}{m} \sum_{i=1}^m \left[ \log D_{\theta_d}(x^{(i)}) + \log(1 - D_{\theta_d}(G_{\theta_g}(z^{(i)}))) \right]$$

    end for
    • Sample minibatch of  $m$  noise samples  $\{\mathbf{z}^{(1)}, \dots, \mathbf{z}^{(m)}\}$  from noise prior  $p_g(\mathbf{z})$ .
    • Update the generator by ascending its stochastic gradient (improved objective):
            
$$\nabla_{\theta_g} \frac{1}{m} \sum_{i=1}^m \log(D_{\theta_d}(G_{\theta_g}(z^{(i)})))$$

end for
```

Training GANs: Two-Player Games

Putting it together: GAN training algorithm

for number of training iterations **do**

for k steps **do**

- Sample minibatch of m noise samples $\{\mathbf{z}^{(1)}, \dots, \mathbf{z}^{(m)}\}$ from noise prior $p_g(\mathbf{z})$.
- Sample minibatch of m examples $\{\mathbf{x}^{(1)}, \dots, \mathbf{x}^{(m)}\}$ from data generating distribution $p_{\text{data}}(\mathbf{x})$.
- Update the discriminator by ascending its stochastic gradient:

$$\nabla_{\theta_d} \frac{1}{m} \sum_{i=1}^m \left[\log D_{\theta_d}(\mathbf{x}^{(i)}) + \log(1 - D_{\theta_d}(G_{\theta_g}(\mathbf{z}^{(i)}))) \right]$$

Some find $k=1$
more stable,
others use $k > 1$,
no best rule.

Followup work
(e.g. Wasserstein
GAN, BEGAN)
alleviates this
problem, better
stability!

end for

- Sample minibatch of m noise samples $\{\mathbf{z}^{(1)}, \dots, \mathbf{z}^{(m)}\}$ from noise prior $p_g(\mathbf{z})$.
- Update the generator by ascending its stochastic gradient (improved objective):

$$\nabla_{\theta_g} \frac{1}{m} \sum_{i=1}^m \log(D_{\theta_d}(G_{\theta_g}(\mathbf{z}^{(i)})))$$

end for

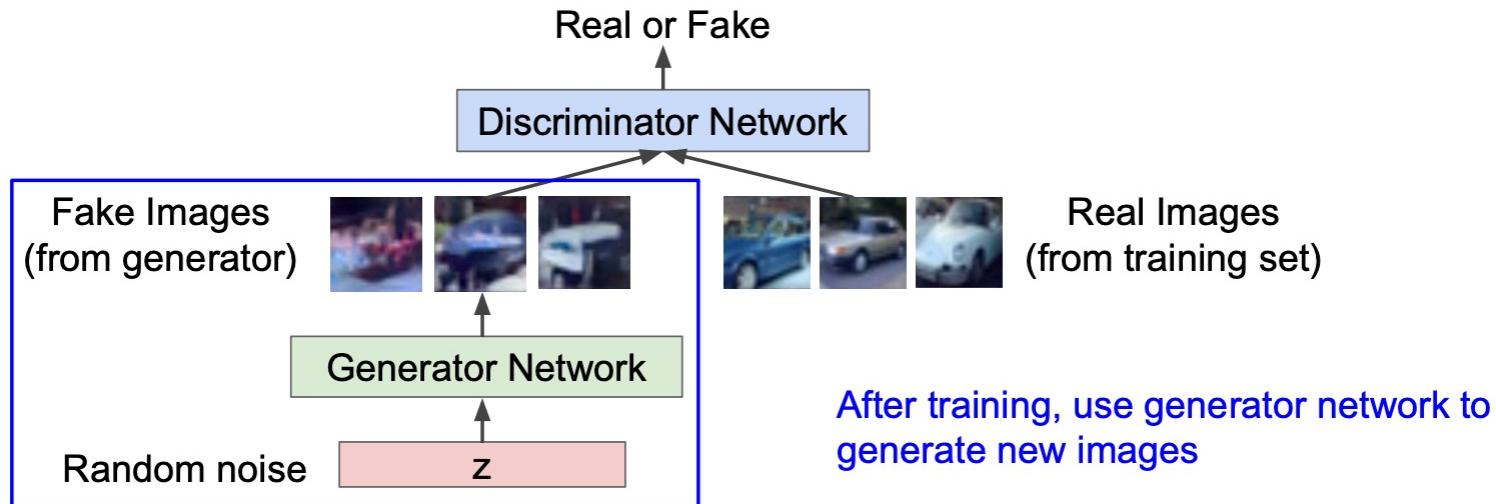
Arjovsky et al. "Wasserstein gan." arXiv preprint arXiv:1701.07875 (2017)

Berthelot, et al. "Began: Boundary equilibrium generative adversarial networks." arXiv preprint arXiv:1703.10717 (2017)

Training GANs: Two-Player Games

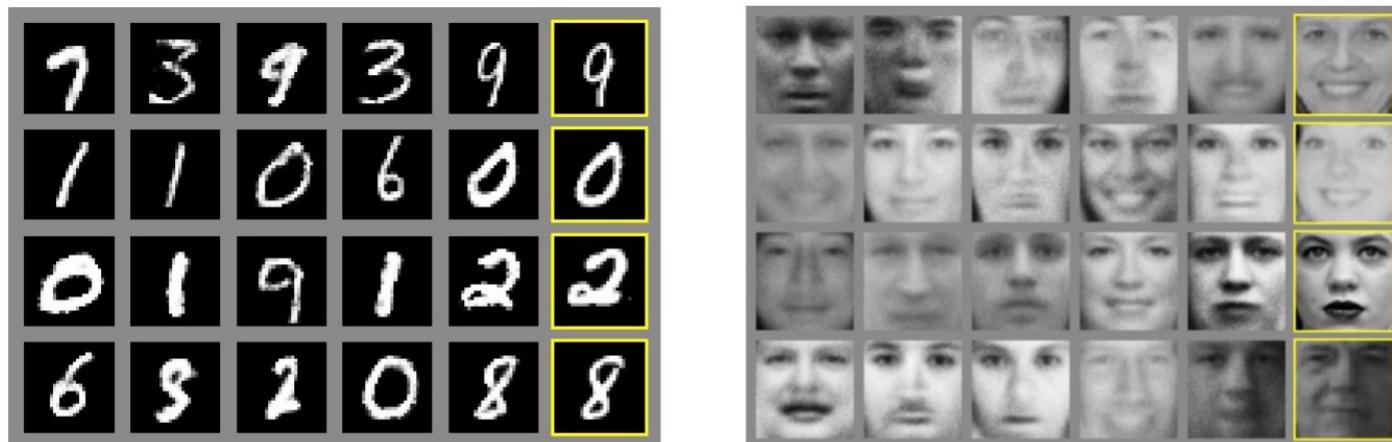
Generator network: try to fool the discriminator by generating real-looking images

Discriminator network: try to distinguish between real and fake images



Fake and real images copyright Emily Denton et al. 2015. Reproduced with permission.

Generated Samples by GAN

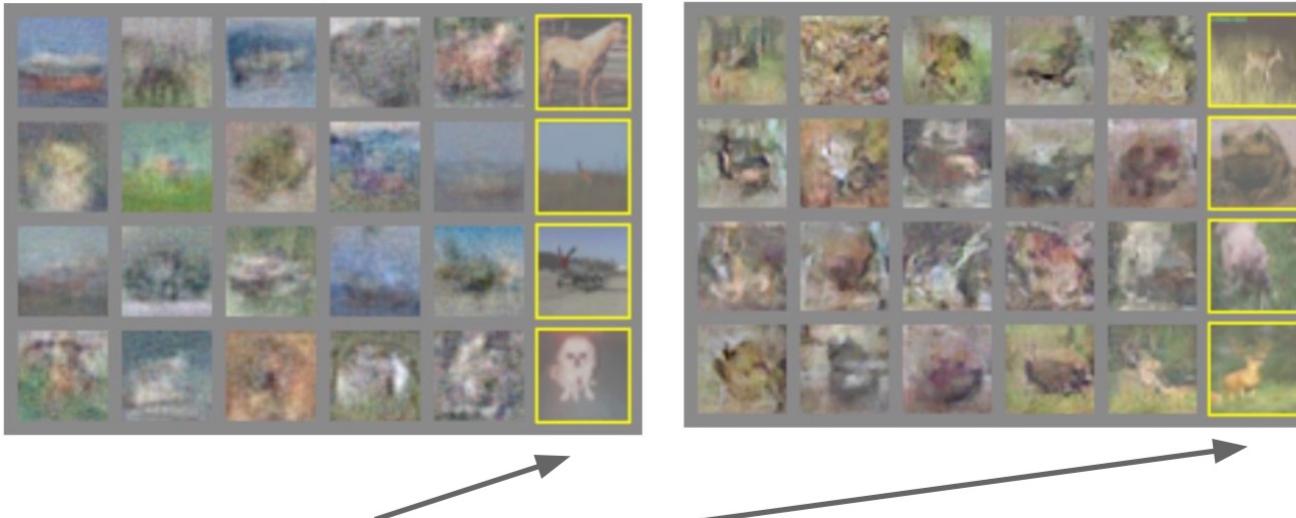


Nearest neighbor from training set

Figures copyright Ian Goodfellow et al., 2014. Reproduced with permission.

Generated Samples by GAN

Generated samples (CIFAR-10)



Figures copyright Ian Goodfellow et al., 2014. Reproduced with permission.

GAN: Convolutional Architectures

Generator is an upsampling network with fractionally-strided convolutions
Discriminator is a convolutional network

Architecture guidelines for stable Deep Convolutional GANs

- Replace any pooling layers with strided convolutions (discriminator) and fractional-strided convolutions (generator).
- Use batchnorm in both the generator and the discriminator.
- Remove fully connected hidden layers for deeper architectures.
- Use ReLU activation in generator for all layers except for the output, which uses Tanh.
- Use LeakyReLU activation in the discriminator for all layers.

Radford et al, "Unsupervised Representation Learning with Deep Convolutional Generative Adversarial Networks", ICLR 2016

Samples from Convolutional GAN

Samples
from the
model look
much
better!

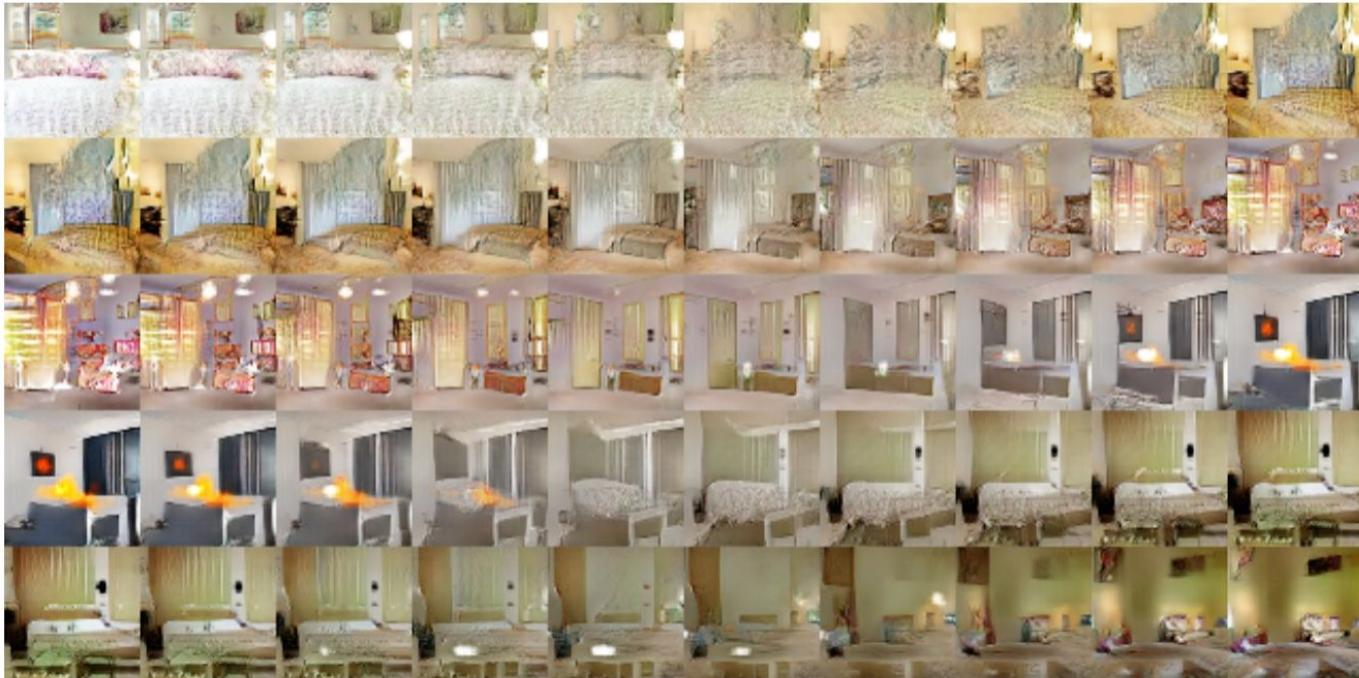
Radford et al,
ICLR 2016



Samples from Convolutional GAN

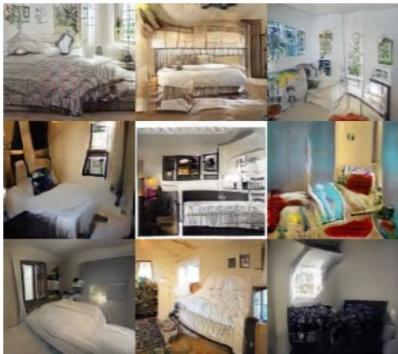
Interpolating
between
random
points in latent
space

Radford et al,
ICLR 2016



2017: Explosion of GANs

Better training and generation



LSGAN, Zhu 2017.



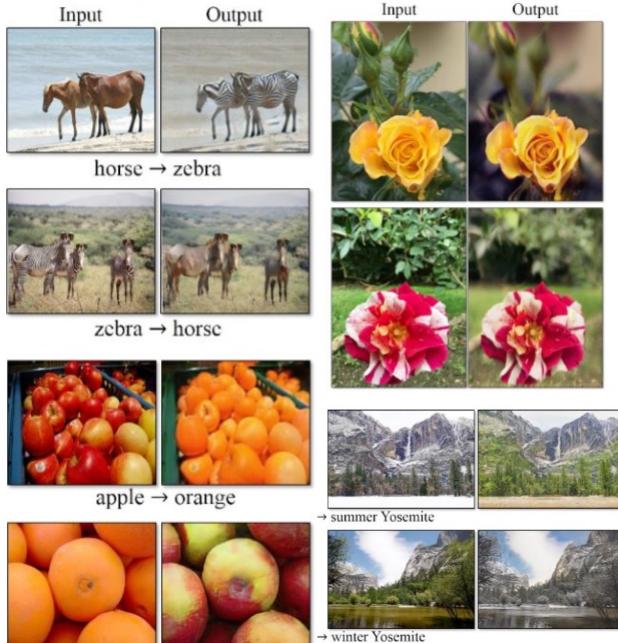
Wasserstein GAN,
Arjovsky 2017.
Improved Wasserstein
GAN, Gulrajani 2017.



Progressive GAN, Karras 2018.

2017: Explosion of GANs

Source->Target domain transfer



CycleGAN. Zhu et al. 2017.

Text -> Image Synthesis

this small bird has a pink breast and crown, and black primaries and secondaries.



this magnificent fellow is almost all black with a red crest, and white cheek patch.



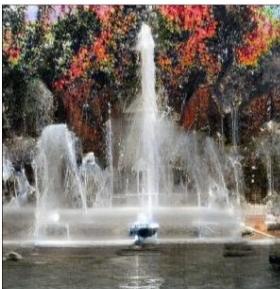
Reed et al. 2017.

Many GAN applications



Pix2pix. Isola 2017. Many examples at <https://phillipi.github.io/pix2pix/>

2019: BigGAN



Brock et al., 2019

StyleGAN Series



StyleGAN v1



StyleGAN v2



StyleGAN v3

Evaluation Metric

- There is no objective function used when training GAN generator models, meaning models must be evaluated using the quality of the generated synthetic images.
- Manual inspection of generated images is a good starting point when getting started.
- **Quantitative measures**, such as the inception score and the Frechet inception distance, can be combined with **qualitative assessment** to

Qualitative GAN Generator Evaluation

- 1. Nearest neighbors:** to detect overfitting, generated samples are shown next to their nearest neighbors in the training set
- 2. User study:** in these experiments, participants are asked to distinguish generated samples from real images in a short presentation time (e.g. 100 ms), i.e. real v.s fake; or, participants are asked to rank models in terms of the fidelity of their generated images
- 3. Mode drop and mode collapse:** Over datasets with known modes (e.g. a GMM or a labeled dataset), modes are computed as by measuring the distances of generated data to mode centers

Quantitative Measurement: FID

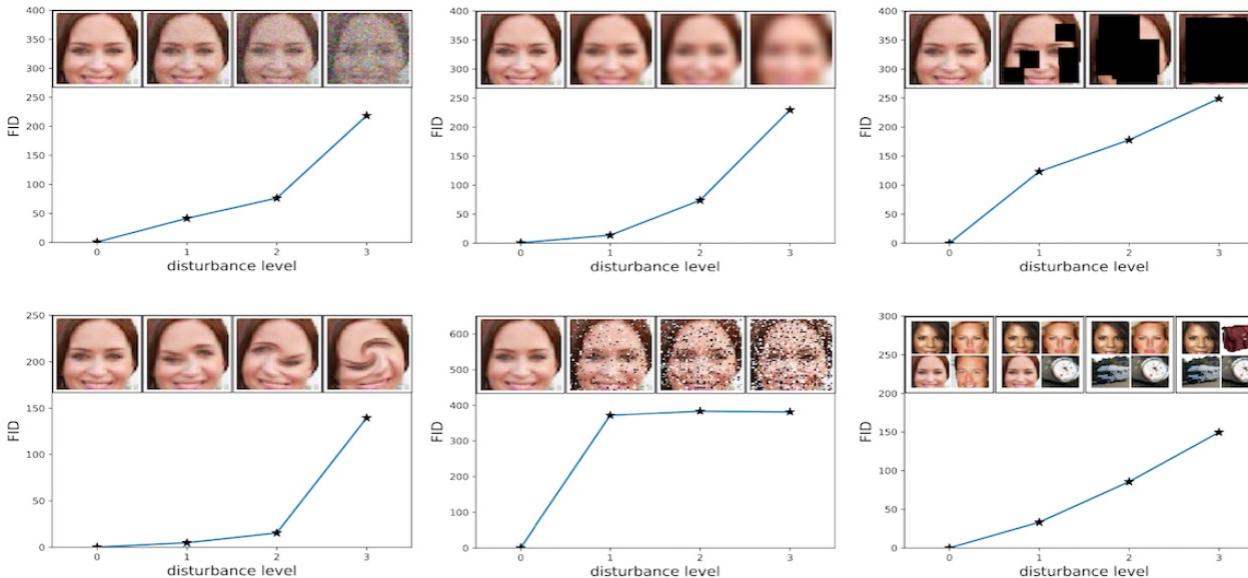
Fréchet Inception Distance (FID)

- FID embeds a set of generated samples into a feature space given by a specific layer of Inception Net (or any CNN).
- Viewing the embedding layer as a continuous multivariate Gaussian, the mean and covariance are estimated for both the generated data and the real data.
- The Fréchet distance between these two Gaussians (a.k.a Wasserstein-2 distance) is then used to quantify the quality of generated samples

$$FID(r, g) = \|\mu_r - \mu_g\|_2^2 + \text{Tr} \left(\Sigma_r + \Sigma_g - 2(\Sigma_r \Sigma_g)^{\frac{1}{2}} \right)$$

Lower FID means smaller distances between synthetic and real data distributions.

FID Measurement



FID measure is sensitive to image distortions. From upper left to lower right: Gaussian noise, Gaussian blur, implanted black rectangles, swirled images, salt and pepper noise, and CelebA dataset contaminated by ImageNet images.

GAN: Interpretable Vector Math

Smiling woman Neutral woman Neutral man

Radford et al, ICLR 2016

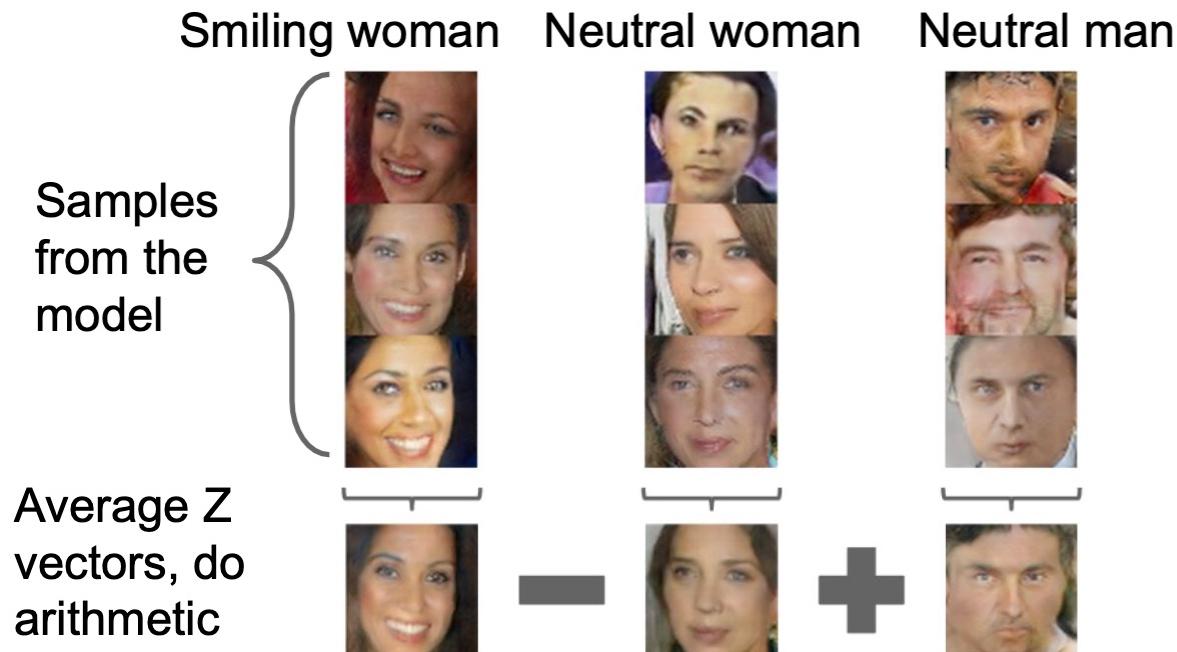
Samples
from the
model



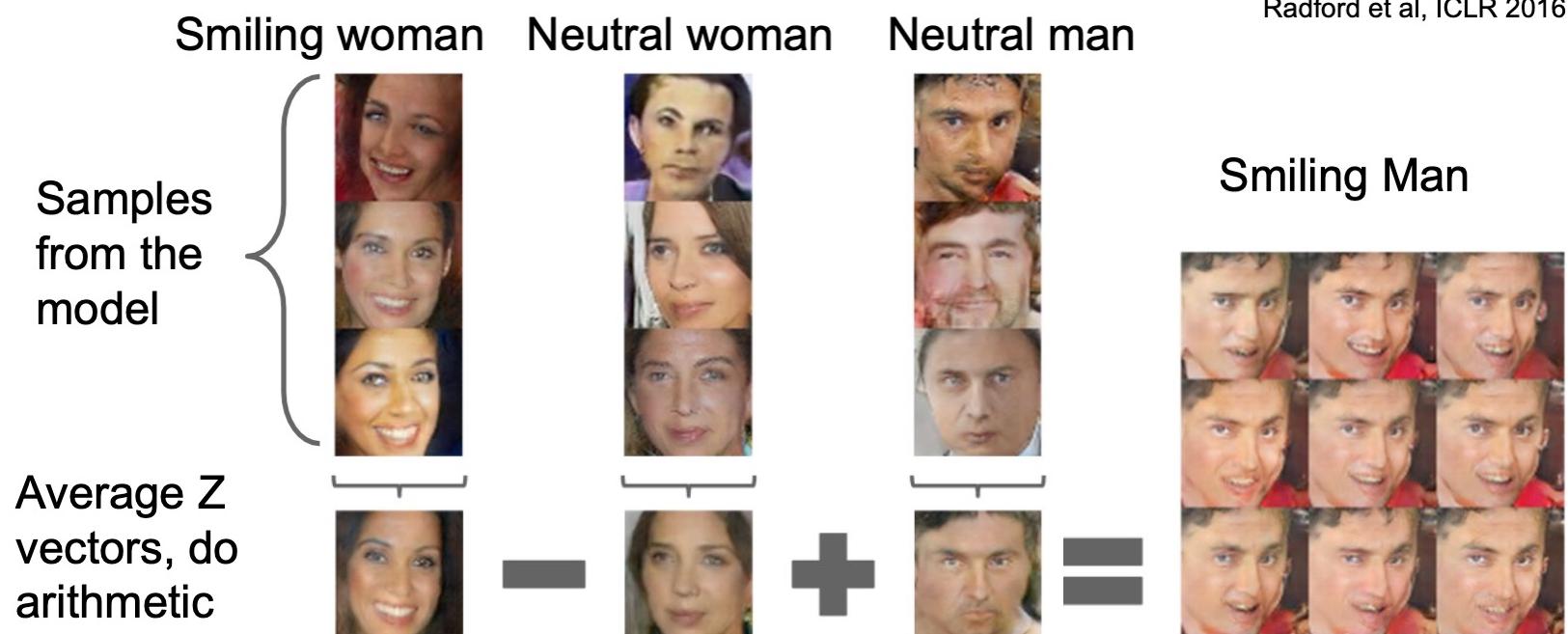
100

GAN: Interpretable Vector Math

Radford et al, ICLR 2016



GAN: Interpretable Vector Math



GAN: Interpretable Vector Math

Glasses man



No glasses man



No glasses woman



Radford et al,
ICLR 2016

Woman with glasses



$$\text{Glasses man} - \text{No glasses man} + \text{No glasses woman} = \text{Woman with glasses}$$

The GAN Zoo

- GAN - Generative Adversarial Networks
- 3D-GAN - Learning a Probabilistic Latent Space of Object Shapes via 3D Generative-Adversarial Modeling
- acGAN - Face Aging With Conditional Generative Adversarial Networks
- AC-GAN - Conditional Image Synthesis With Auxiliary Classifier GANs
- AdaGAN - AdaGAN: Boosting Generative Models
- AEGAN - Learning Inverse Mapping by Autoencoder based Generative Adversarial Nets
- AffGAN - Amortised MAP Inference for Image Super-resolution
- AL-CGAN - Learning to Generate Images of Outdoor Scenes from Attributes and Semantic Layouts
- ALI - Adversarially Learned Inference
- AM-GAN - Generative Adversarial Nets with Labeled Data by Activation Maximization
- AnoGAN - Unsupervised Anomaly Detection with Generative Adversarial Networks to Guide Marker Discovery
- ArtGAN - ArtGAN: Artwork Synthesis with Conditional Categorical GANs
- b-GAN - b-GAN: Unified Framework of Generative Adversarial Networks
- Bayesian GAN - Deep and Hierarchical Implicit Models
- BEGAN - BEGAN: Boundary Equilibrium Generative Adversarial Networks
- BiGAN - Adversarial Feature Learning
- BS-GAN - Boundary-Seeking Generative Adversarial Networks
- CGAN - Conditional Generative Adversarial Nets
- CaloGAN - CaloGAN: Simulating 3D High Energy Particle Showers in Multi-Layer Electromagnetic Calorimeters with Generative Adversarial Networks
- CCGAN - Semi-Supervised Learning with Context-Conditional Generative Adversarial Networks
- CatGAN - Unsupervised and Semi-supervised Learning with Categorical Generative Adversarial Networks
- CoGAN - Coupled Generative Adversarial Networks
- Context-RNN-GAN - Contextual RNN-GANs for Abstract Reasoning Diagram Generation
- C-RNN-GAN - C-RNN-GAN: Continuous recurrent neural networks with adversarial training
- CS-GAN - Improving Neural Machine Translation with Conditional Sequence Generative Adversarial Nets
- CVAE-GAN - CVAE-GAN: Fine-Grained Image Generation through Asymmetric Training
- CycleGAN - Unpaired Image-to-Image Translation using Cycle-Consistent Adversarial Networks
- DTN - Unsupervised Cross-Domain Image Generation
- DCGAN - Unsupervised Representation Learning with Deep Convolutional Generative Adversarial Networks
- DiscoGAN - Learning to Discover Cross-Domain Relations with Generative Adversarial Networks
- DR-GAN - Disentangled Representation Learning GAN for Pose-Invariant Face Recognition
- DualGAN - DualGAN: Unsupervised Dual Learning for Image-to-Image Translation
- EBGAN - Energy-based Generative Adversarial Network
- f-GAN - f-GAN: Training Generative Neural Samplers using Variational Divergence Minimization
- FF-GAN - Towards Large-Pose Face Frontalization in the Wild
- GAWWN - Learning What and Where to Draw
- GeneGAN - GeneGAN: Learning Object Transfiguration and Attribute Subspace from Unpaired Data
- Geometric GAN - Geometric GAN
- GoGAN - Gang of GANs: Generative Adversarial Networks with Maximum Margin Ranking
- GP-GAN - GP-GAN: Towards Realistic High-Resolution Image Blending
- IAN - Neural Photo Editing with Introspective Adversarial Networks
- iGAN - Generative Visual Manipulation on the Natural Image Manifold
- IcGAN - Invertible Conditional GANs for image editing
- ID-CGAN - Image De-raining Using a Conditional Generative Adversarial Network
- Improved GAN - Improved Techniques for Training GANs
- InfoGAN - InfoGAN: Interpretable Representation Learning by Information Maximizing Generative Adversarial Nets
- LAGAN - Learning Particle Physics by Example: Location-Aware Generative Adversarial Networks for Physics Synthesis
- LAPGAN - Deep Generative Image Models using a Laplacian Pyramid of Adversarial Networks

<https://github.com/hindupuravinash/the-gan-zoo>

Resources

My recommended reading list:

- [WGAN](#)
- [WGAN-gp](#)
- [GAN landscape](#)
- [Progressive Growing GAN](#)
- [StyleGAN](#)

Courses:

Stanford [CS236: Deep Generative Models](#)

Summary: GAN

Don't work with an explicit density function

Take game-theoretic approach: learn to generate from training distribution through 2-player game

Pros:

- Beautiful, state-of-the-art samples!

Cons:

- Trickier / more unstable to train
- Can't solve inference queries such as $p(x)$, $p(z|x)$

Active areas of research:

- Better loss functions, more stable training (Wasserstein GAN, LSGAN, many others)
- Conditional GANs, GANs for all kinds of applications

VAE vs. GAN

- VAE
 - Blurry
 - Full coverage of the data
 - Support approximate inference
- GAN
 - More realistic
 - Only penalize fake and therefore can suffer from mode collapse
 - Can't infer probability

Diffusion Model

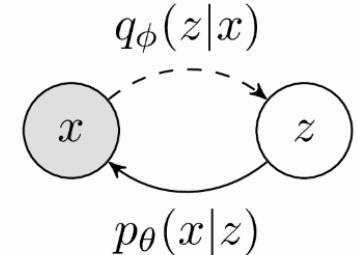
Variational Autoencoders

Figure 1 - Graphical Model for VAE

- Generative model and goal:

$$p_{\theta}(x) = \int_z p_{\theta}(x|z)p_{\theta}(z) \quad \theta^* = \operatorname{argmax}_{\theta} \mathbb{E}_{x \sim \hat{p}(x), z \sim p(z)} [\log p_{\theta}(x|z; \theta)]$$

x : data; z : latent variable



- VAE solves it by sampling z from a new distribution $q_{\phi}(z|x)$

$$p(x) = \int q_{\phi}(z|x) \frac{p_{\theta}(x|z)p(z)}{q_{\phi}(z|x)}$$

$$\log p(x) = \log \mathbb{E}_{z \sim q_{\phi}(z|x)} \left[\frac{p_{\theta}(x|z)p(z)}{q_{\phi}(z|x)} \right]$$

$$\log p(x) \geq \mathbb{E}_{z \sim q_{\phi}(z|x)} \left[\log \frac{p_{\theta}(x|z)p(z)}{q_{\phi}(z|x)} \right]$$

The right-hand side is the evidence lower-bound(ELBO) $\mathcal{L}(\theta, \phi)$

Hierarchical Variational Autoencoders

- VAE with two latent variables, consider joint distribution $p(x, z_1, z_2)$

$$p(x) = \int_{z_1} \int_{z_2} p_\theta(x, z_1, z_2) dz_1, dz_2$$

- Introduce a variational approximation to the true posterior and get the ELBO:

$$p(x) = \iint q_\phi(z_1, z_2|x) \frac{p_\theta(x, z_1, z_2)}{q_\phi(z_1, z_2|x)}$$

$$p(x) = \mathbb{E}_{z_1, z_2 \sim q_\phi(z_1, z_2|x)} \left[\frac{p_\theta(x, z_1, z_2)}{q_\phi(z_1, z_2|x)} \right]$$

$$\log p(x) \geq \mathbb{E}_{z_1, z_2 \sim q_\phi(z_1, z_2|x)} \left[\log \frac{p_\theta(x, z_1, z_2)}{q_\phi(z_1, z_2|x)} \right]$$

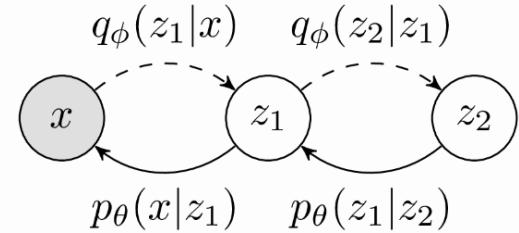
We are free to factorize the inference and generative models as we see fit

Hierarchical Variational Autoencoders

Figure 2 - A Hierarchical VAE

- Consider following model:

$$p(x, z_1, z_2) = p(x|z_1)p(z_1|z_2)p(z_2)$$
$$q(z_1, z_2|x) = q(z_1|x)q(z_2|z_1)$$



- Substituting these factorizations into the ELBO, we get

$$\mathcal{L}(\theta, \phi) = \mathbb{E}_{q(z_1, z_2|x)} [\log p(x|z_1) - \log q(z_1|x) + \log p(z_1|z_2) - \log q(z_2|z_1) + \log p(z_2)]$$

This can be alternatively written as a “reconstruction term”, and $\text{tl} = \mathbb{E}_{q(z_1|z_2)} [\log p(x|z_1)] - D_{KL}(q(z_1|x) \| p(z_1|x)) - D_{KL}(q(z_2|z_1) \| p(z_2))$ its corresponding prior:

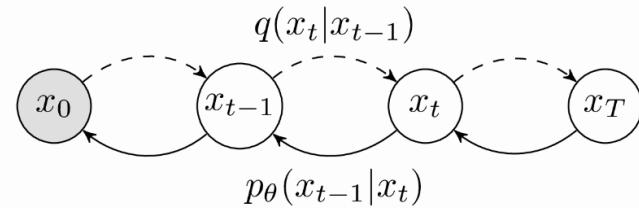
Diffusion Probabilistic Models

- Consider the following model with a sequence of T variables:

$x_0 \sim p(x)$: observed data

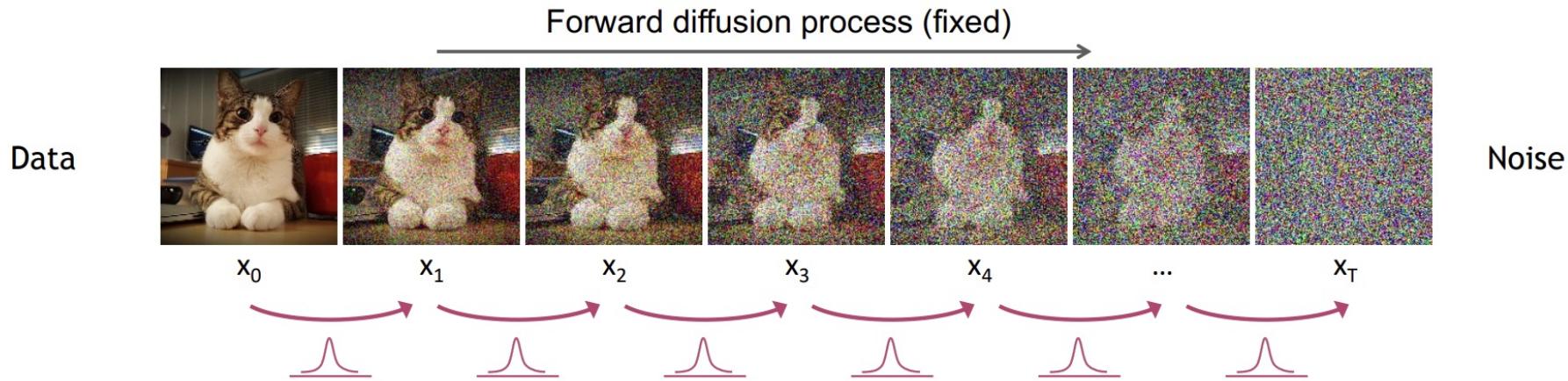
$x_{1:T}$: latent variables

Figure 3 - Diffusion Probabilistic Model



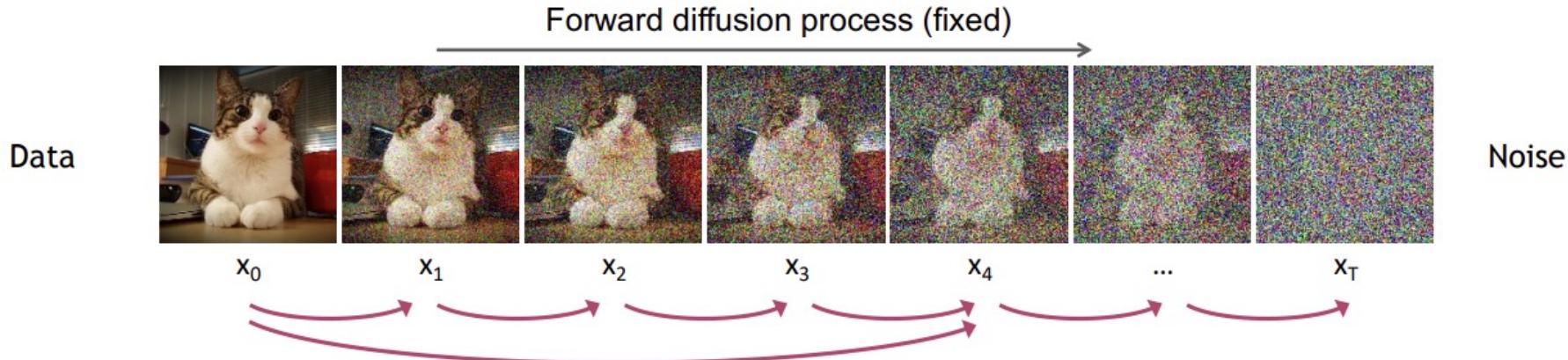
In fact, we can think of diffusion models as a specific realization of a hierarchical VAE. What contains no learnable parameters is the inference model, which converges to a standard gaussian

Forward Diffusion Process



$$q(\mathbf{x}_t | \mathbf{x}_{t-1}) = \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{x}_t; \sqrt{1 - \beta_t} \mathbf{x}_{t-1}, \beta_t \mathbf{I}) \quad q(\mathbf{x}_{1:T} | \mathbf{x}_0) = \prod_{t=1}^T q(\mathbf{x}_t | \mathbf{x}_{t-1})$$

Forward Diffusion Process — Diffusion Kernel



Define: $\bar{\alpha}_t = \prod_{s=1}^t (1 - \beta_s)$ we have: $q(\mathbf{x}_t | \mathbf{x}_0) = \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{x}_t; \sqrt{\bar{\alpha}_t} \mathbf{x}_0, (1 - \bar{\alpha}_t) \mathbf{I})$ (Diffusion Kernel)

For sampling: $\mathbf{x}_t = \sqrt{\bar{\alpha}_t} \mathbf{x}_0 + \sqrt{(1 - \bar{\alpha}_t)} \boldsymbol{\epsilon}$ where $\boldsymbol{\epsilon} \sim \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{I})$

β_t values schedule (i.e., the noise schedule) is designed such that $\bar{\alpha}_T \rightarrow 0$ and $q(\mathbf{x}_T | \mathbf{x}_0) \approx \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{x}_T; \mathbf{0}, \mathbf{I})$)

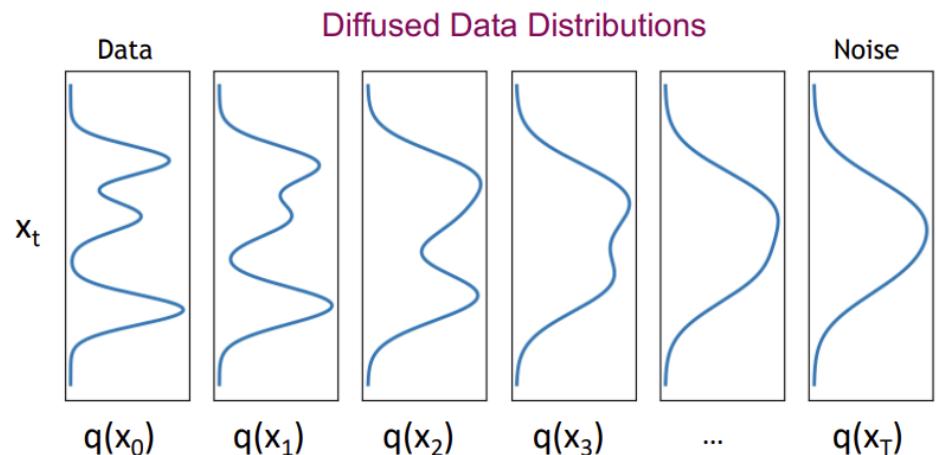
Forward Diffusion Process

What happens to a distribution in the forward diffusion?

So far, we discussed the diffusion kernel $q(\mathbf{x}_t|\mathbf{x}_0)$ but what about $q(\mathbf{x}_t)$?

$$q(\mathbf{x}_t) = \underbrace{\int q(\mathbf{x}_0, \mathbf{x}_t) d\mathbf{x}_0}_{\text{Diffused data dist.}} = \underbrace{\int q(\mathbf{x}_0) q(\mathbf{x}_t|\mathbf{x}_0) d\mathbf{x}_0}_{\text{Joint dist.} \quad \text{Input data dist.} \quad \text{Diffusion kernel}}$$

The diffusion kernel is Gaussian convolution.



We can sample $\mathbf{x}_t \sim q(\mathbf{x}_t)$ by first sampling $\mathbf{x}_0 \sim q(\mathbf{x}_0)$ and then sampling $\mathbf{x}_t \sim q(\mathbf{x}_t|\mathbf{x}_0)$ (i.e., ancestral sampling).

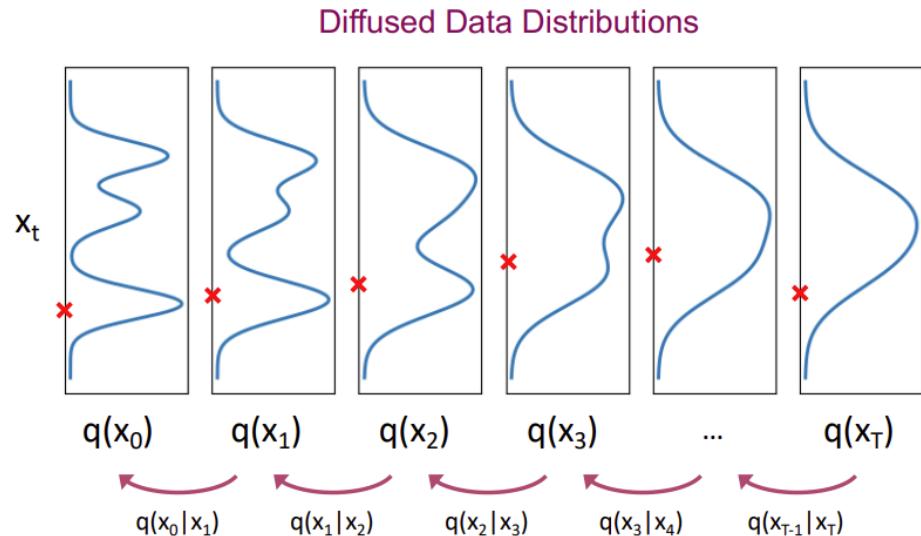
Generative Learning by Denoising

Recall, that the diffusion parameters are designed such that $q(\mathbf{x}_T) \approx \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{x}_T; \mathbf{0}, \mathbf{I})$

Generation:

Sample $\mathbf{x}_T \sim \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{x}_T; \mathbf{0}, \mathbf{I})$

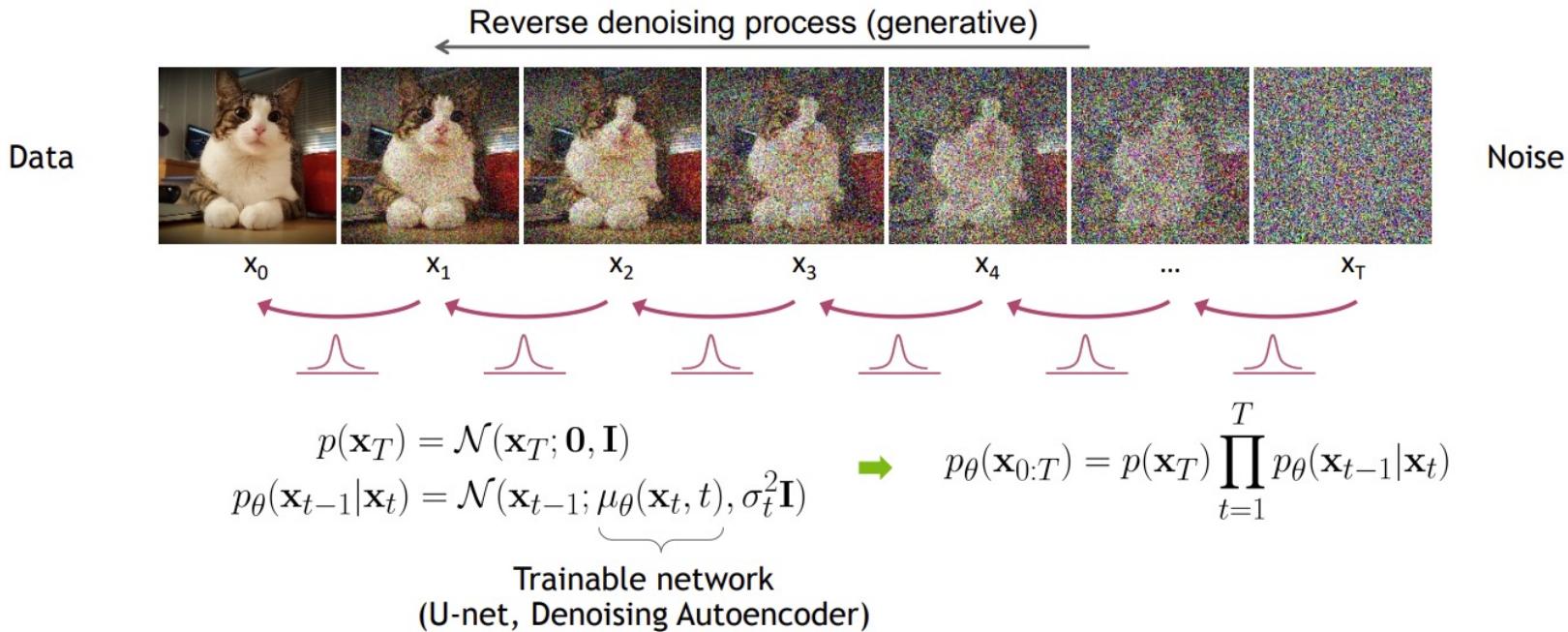
Iteratively sample $\mathbf{x}_{t-1} \sim \underbrace{q(\mathbf{x}_{t-1} | \mathbf{x}_t)}_{\text{True Denoising Dist.}}$



Can we approximate $q(\mathbf{x}_{t-1} | \mathbf{x}_t)$? Yes, we can use a **Normal distribution** if β_t is small in each forward diffusion step.

Reverse Denoising Process

Formal definition of forward and reverse processes in T steps:



Learning Denoising Model – Variational upper bound

For training, we can form variational upper bound that is commonly used for training variational autoencoders:

$$\mathbb{E}_{q(\mathbf{x}_0)} [-\log p_\theta(\mathbf{x}_0)] \leq \mathbb{E}_{q(\mathbf{x}_0)q(\mathbf{x}_{1:T}|\mathbf{x}_0)} \left[-\log \frac{p_\theta(\mathbf{x}_{0:T})}{q(\mathbf{x}_{1:T}|\mathbf{x}_0)} \right] =: L$$

Recall that $\mathbf{x}_t = \sqrt{\bar{\alpha}_t} \mathbf{x}_0 + \sqrt{(1 - \bar{\alpha}_t)} \epsilon$. [Ho et al. NeurIPS 2020](#) parameterized the mean of denoising model via:

$$\mu_\theta(\mathbf{x}_t, t) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 - \beta_t}} \left(\mathbf{x}_t - \frac{\beta_t}{\sqrt{1 - \bar{\alpha}_t}} \epsilon_\theta(\mathbf{x}_t, t) \right)$$

Using a few simple arithmetic operations, we can write down the variational objective as:

$$L = \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{x}_0 \sim q(\mathbf{x}_0), t \sim \mathcal{U}\{1, T\}, \epsilon \sim \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{I})} \left[\lambda_t \|\epsilon - \epsilon_\theta(\sqrt{\bar{\alpha}_t} \mathbf{x}_0 + \sqrt{1 - \bar{\alpha}_t} \epsilon, t)\|^2 \right]$$

[Ho et al. NeurIPS 2020](#) observe that simply setting λ_t to 1 for all t works best in practice.

Training and Sample Generation

Algorithm 1 Training

```
1: repeat
2:    $\mathbf{x}_0 \sim q(\mathbf{x}_0)$ 
3:    $t \sim \text{Uniform}(\{1, \dots, T\})$ 
4:    $\boldsymbol{\epsilon} \sim \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{I})$ 
5:   Take gradient descent step on
      
$$\nabla_{\theta} \|\boldsymbol{\epsilon} - \boldsymbol{\epsilon}_{\theta}(\sqrt{\bar{\alpha}_t} \mathbf{x}_0 + \sqrt{1 - \bar{\alpha}_t} \boldsymbol{\epsilon}, t)\|^2$$

6: until converged
```

Algorithm 2 Sampling

```
1:  $\mathbf{x}_T \sim \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{I})$ 
2: for  $t = T, \dots, 1$  do
3:    $\mathbf{z} \sim \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{I})$ 
4:   
$$\mathbf{x}_{t-1} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\alpha_t}} \left( \mathbf{x}_t - \frac{1 - \alpha_t}{\sqrt{1 - \bar{\alpha}_t}} \boldsymbol{\epsilon}_{\theta}(\mathbf{x}_t, t) \right) + \sigma_t \mathbf{z}$$

5: end for
6: return  $\mathbf{x}_0$ 
```

Conditional Diffusion Model

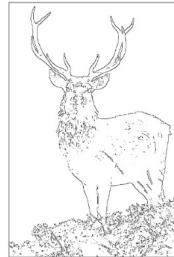
Conditional generation is of great importance!

Text-to-image



a teddy bear on a skateboard in times square

Spatial control



Input Canny edge



Default



Input human pose



Default



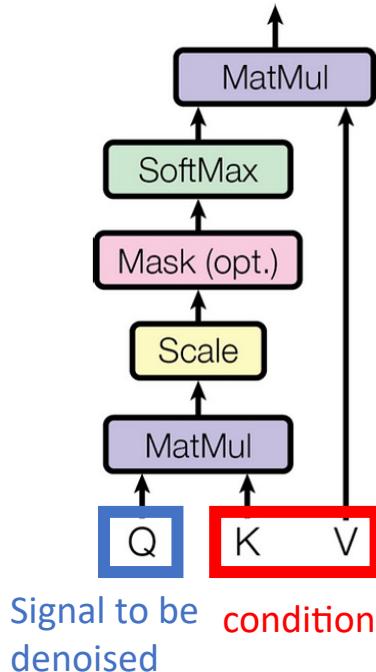
Conditional Diffusion Model

Almost the same as unconditional diffusion!

	Unconditional	Conditional
Forward	$q(x_1, \dots, x_T x_0) := \prod_{t=1}^T q(x_t x_{t-1})$	$q(x_1, \dots, x_T x_0, y) := \prod_{t=1}^T q(x_t x_{t-1}, \textcolor{red}{y})$
Model	$\epsilon_\theta(x_t, t)$	$\epsilon_\theta(x_t, \textcolor{red}{y}, t)$
Loss	$\mathbb{E}_{t \sim U(0,T), x_t \sim p(x_t)} [\ \epsilon - \epsilon_\theta(x_t, t) \ ^2]$	$\mathbb{E}_{x_t, \textcolor{red}{y} \sim p(x_t, \textcolor{red}{y}), t \sim U(0,T)} [\ \epsilon - \epsilon_\theta(x_t, \textcolor{red}{y}, t) \ ^2]$

Condition Schemas

1. Cross attention

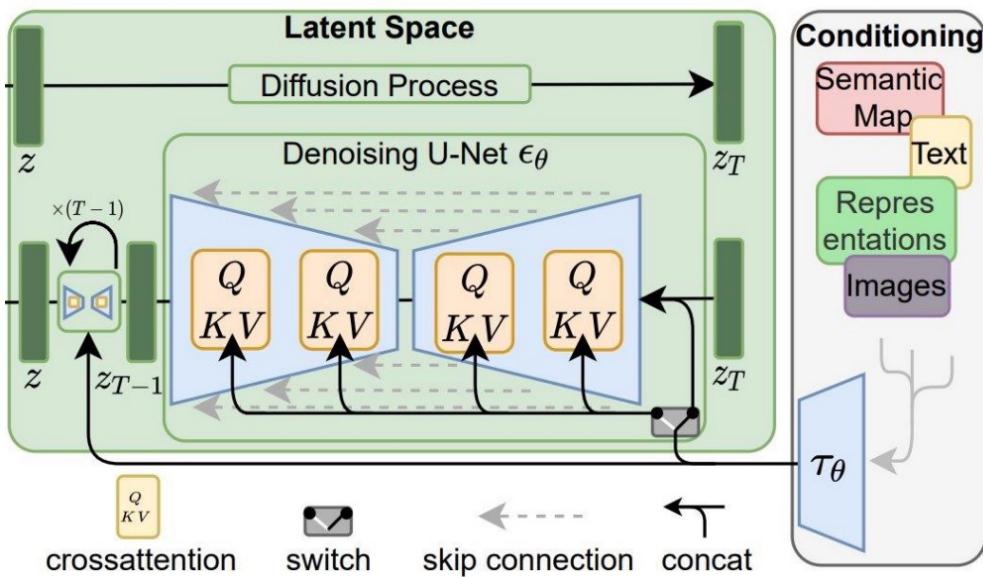


$$Q = W_Q \cdot \varphi_i(x_t), K = W_K \cdot \tau_\theta(y), V = W_V \cdot \tau_\theta(y)$$

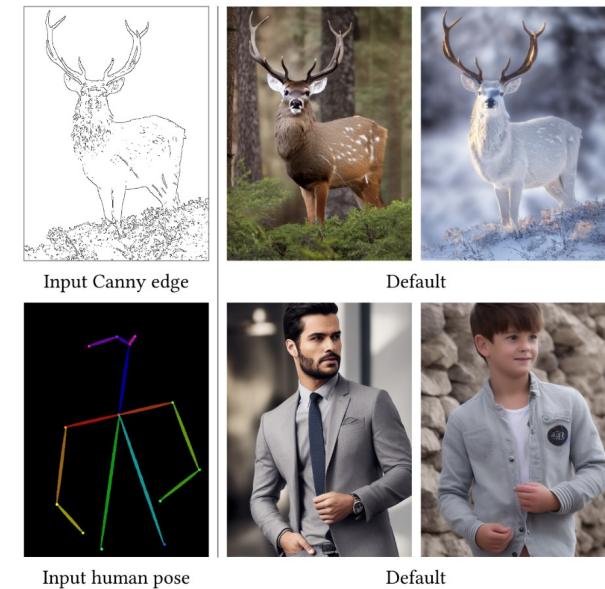
- y is the condition signal (e.g. text)
- τ_θ is a domain specific encoder (e.g. text en
- $\varphi_i(x_t)$ is the signal to be denoised

Condition Schemas

1. Cross attention



Stable Diffusion



ControlNet

Condition Schemas

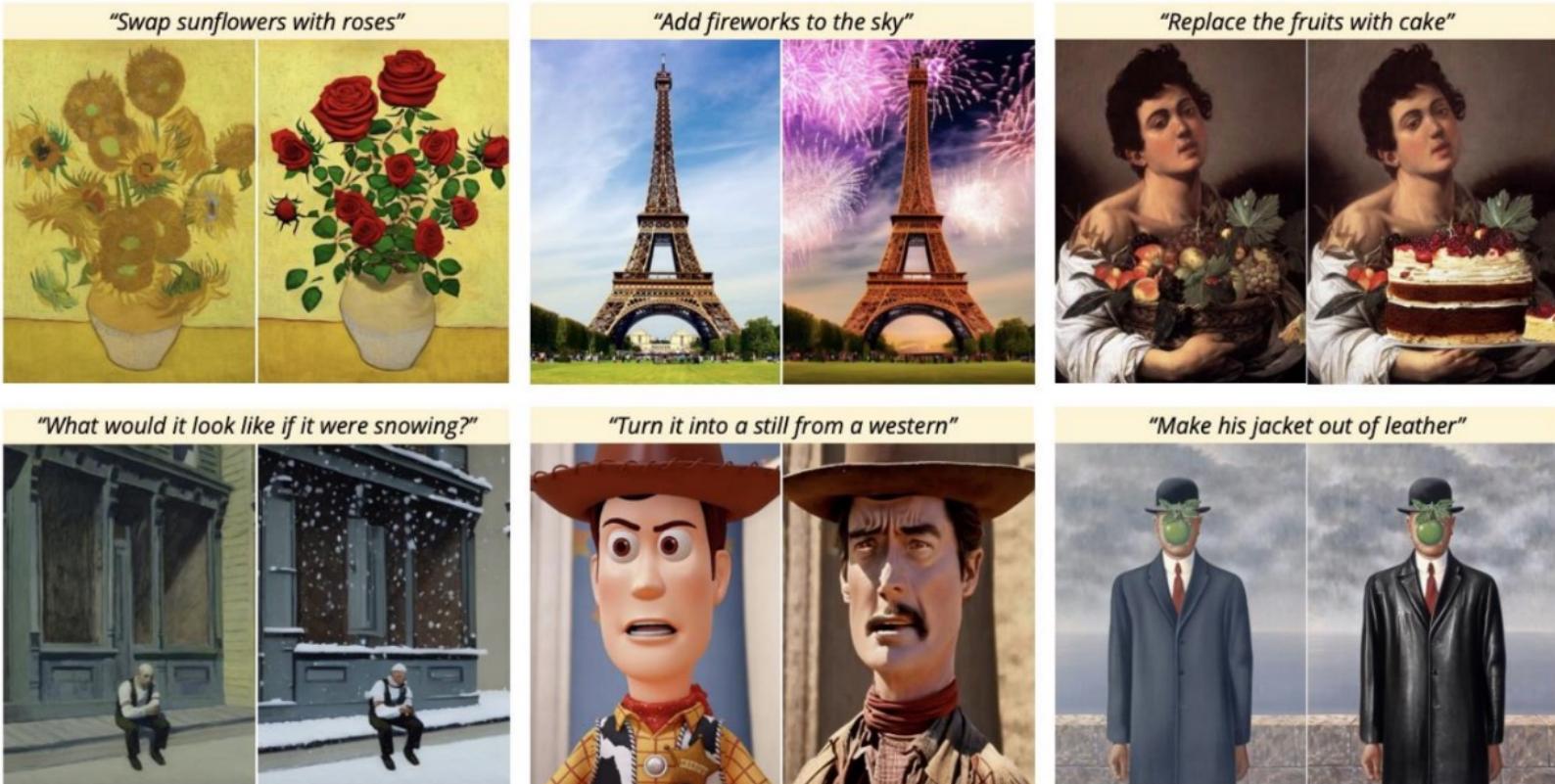
1. Cross attention
2. Simple concatenation (image to image tasks)
3. Conditional normalization
4. ...

More applications: Text-to-Video



A stylish woman walks down a Tokyo street filled with warm glowing neon and animated city signage. She wears a black leather jacket, a long red dress, and black boots, and carries a black purse. She wears sunglasses and red lipstick. She walks confidently and casually. The street is damp and reflective, creating a mirror effect of the colorful lights. Many pedestrians walk about.

More applications: Image Editing



More applications: Personalization



Input images



in the Acropolis



in a doghouse in a bucket

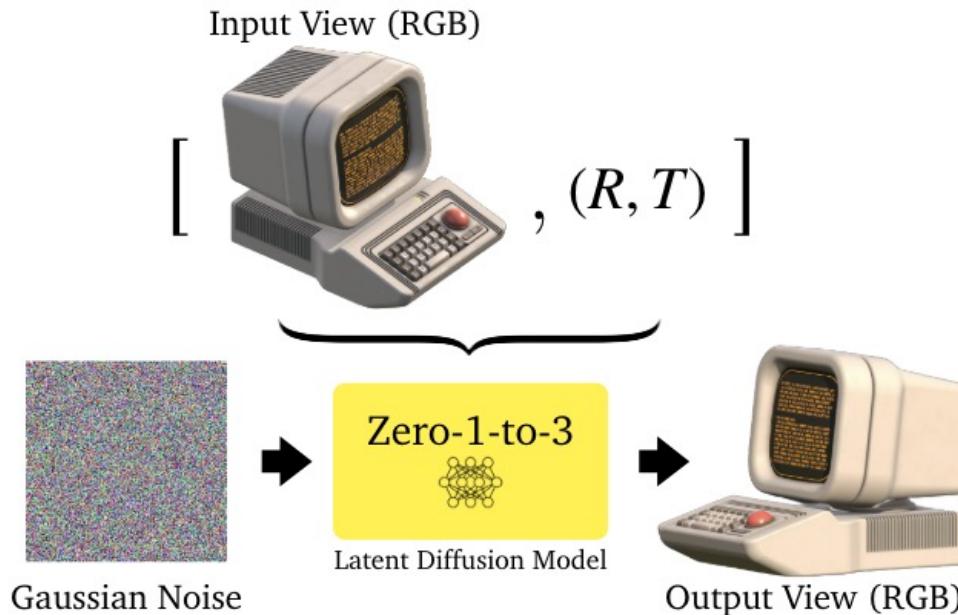


getting a haircut

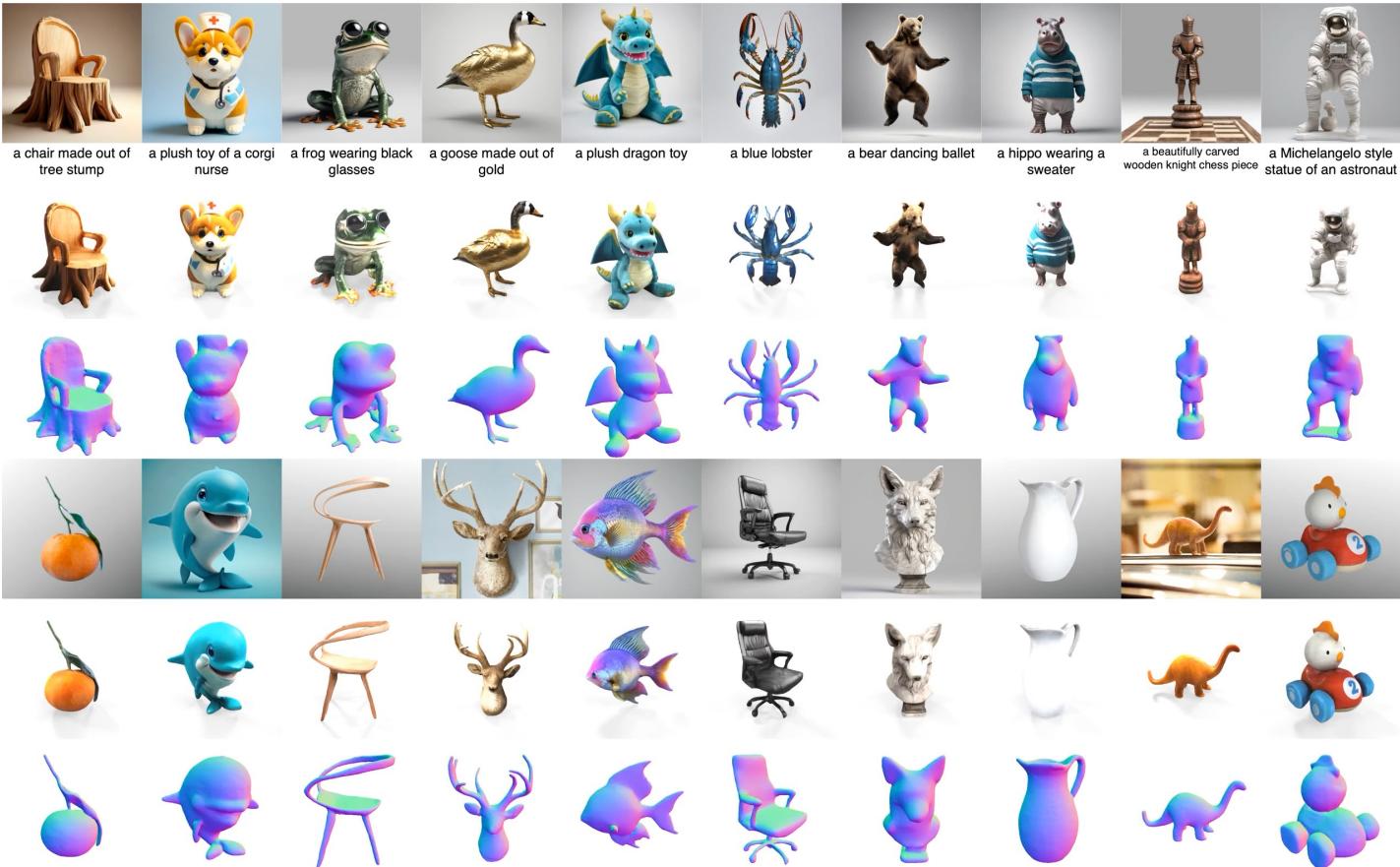
Generated images

More applications: Text-to-3D

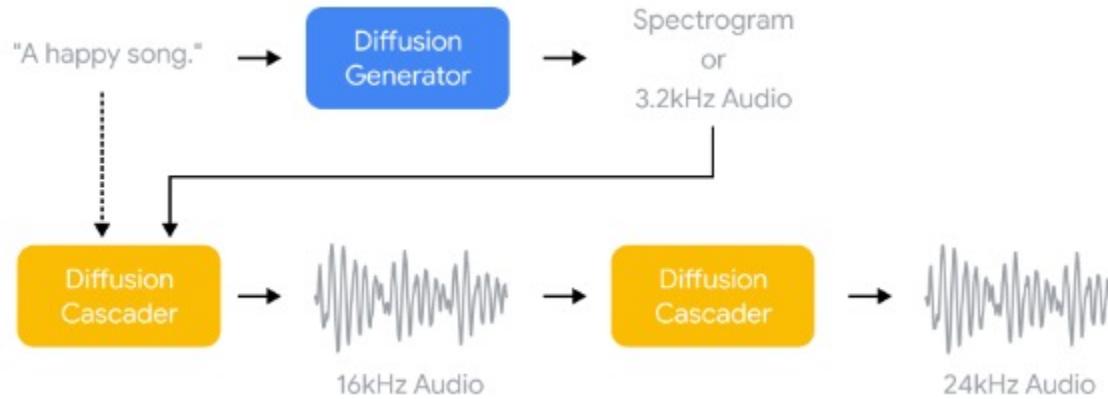
Finetune stable diffusion to **stimulate its awareness of camera poses**



More applications: Text-to-3D



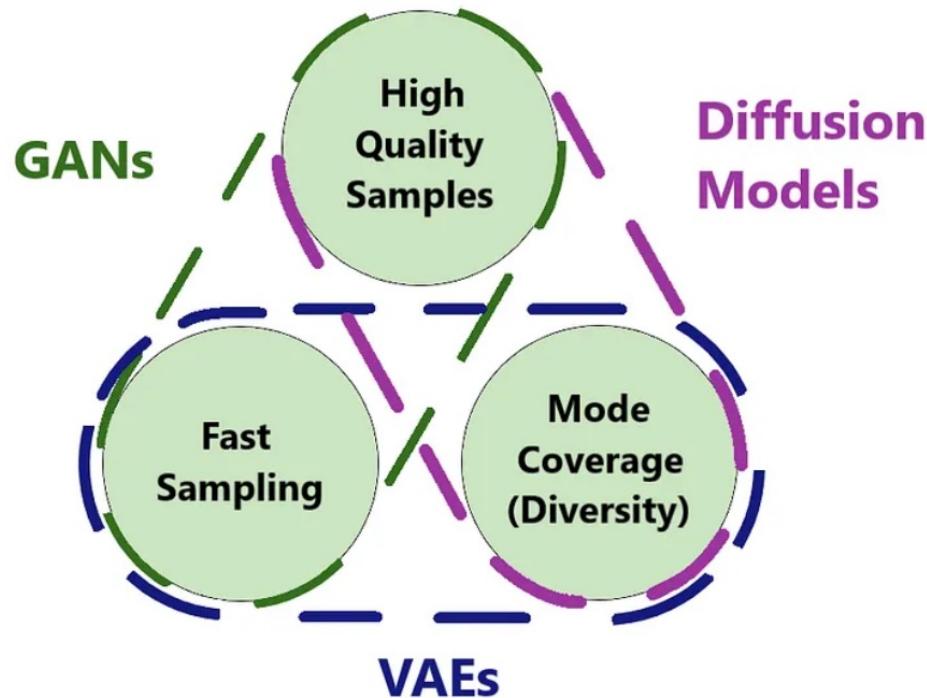
More applications: Text-to-Music



Smooth soft R&B song with tender vocals, romantic piano and groovy, funky bass.

Bright and groovy song featuring the piano that sounds like an opening theme for a comedy series.

Summary



Summary of Computer Vision

- Compared to human vision, computer vision deals with the following tasks:
 - visual **data acquisition** (similar to human eyes but comes with many more choices)
 - image processing and feature extraction (mostly **low-level**)
 - analyze local structures and then 3D reconstruct the original scene (from **mid-level** to high-level)
 - understanding (mostly **high-level**)
 - generation (beyond the scope of human vision system)

Summary of Computer Vision

- Compared to human vision, computer vision deals with the following tasks:
 - visual **data acquisition** (similar to human eyes but comes with many more choices)
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 - analyze local structures and then 3D reconstruct the original scene (from **mid-level** to high-level)
 - understanding (mostly **high-level**)
 - generation (beyond the scope of human vision system)
 - and further serving **embodied agents** to make decisions and take actions.

Please take Introduction to Embodied AI!



Introduction to Computer Vision

Thank You!