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# Neural Networks for Natural Language Processing

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Jun.-Prof. Dr. Sophie Fellenz

## Week 12 – Self-Supervised Learning – Style Transfer

27 Jan 2025



# Course Organization

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- Scheduling of Q&A Session
- Last Exercise Sheet due today

# Outline Self-Supervised

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- Preliminaries
- Pretext Tasks
- Self-Supervised Learning Concepts
- Contrastive Learning
  - Quick-Thoughts
  - CLIP
- Summary

# What is self-supervision?

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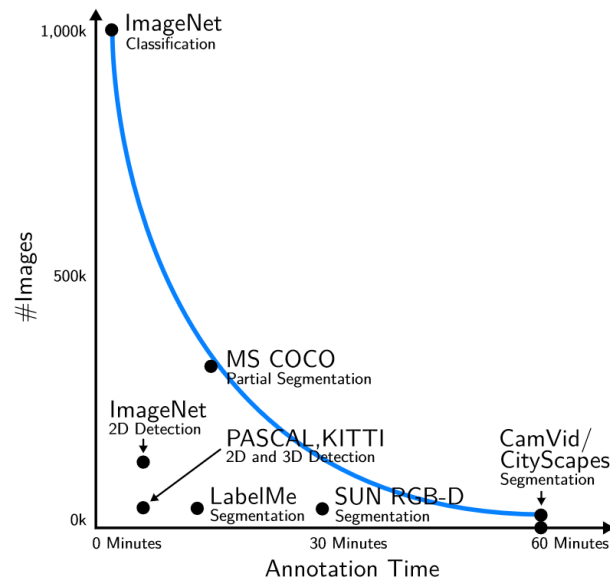


[https://t3.ftcdn.net/jpg/03/12/24/14/360\\_F\\_312241475\\_OywwPQNBkO4xkSpT9vYDuJZyppn37aHM.jpg](https://t3.ftcdn.net/jpg/03/12/24/14/360_F_312241475_OywwPQNBkO4xkSpT9vYDuJZyppn37aHM.jpg)



[https://ais-akamai.rtl.de/masters/1373178/1686x0/babyentwicklung-lung-baby-spielt-mit-bunten-ringen.jpg](https://ais-akamai.rtl.de/masters/1373178/1686x0/babyentwicklung-baby-spielt-mit-bunten-ringen.jpg)

# Why self-supervision?

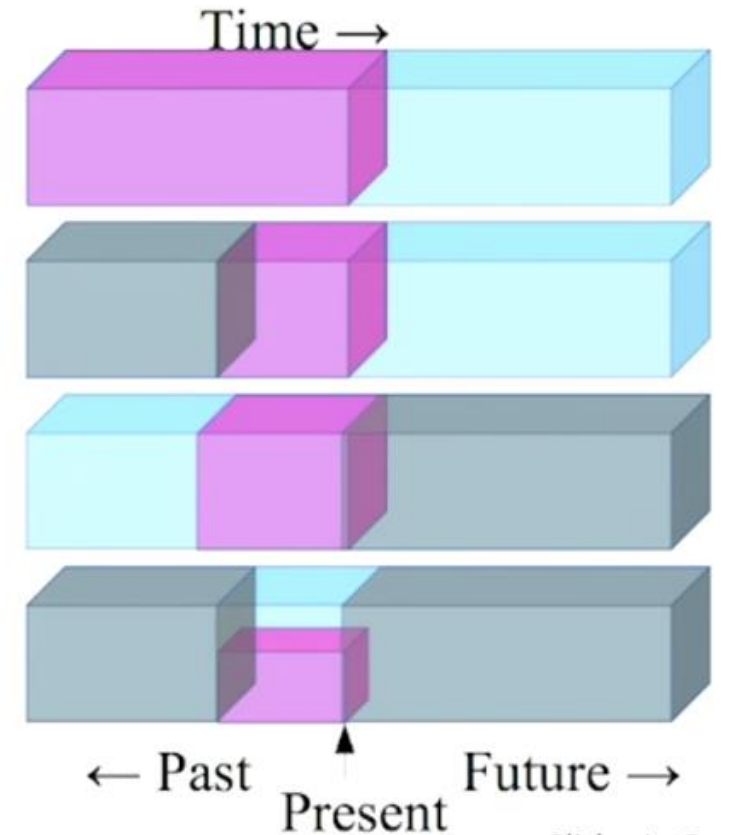


<https://uni-tuebingen.de/fakultaeten/mathematisch-naturwissenschaftliche-fakultaet/fachbereiche/informatik/lehrstuehle/autonomous-vision/lectures/computer-vision/>

- Getting labels for supervision is expensive
  - E.g. Labeling Imagenet took 22 human years
- Self-supervision from pseudo-labels for free

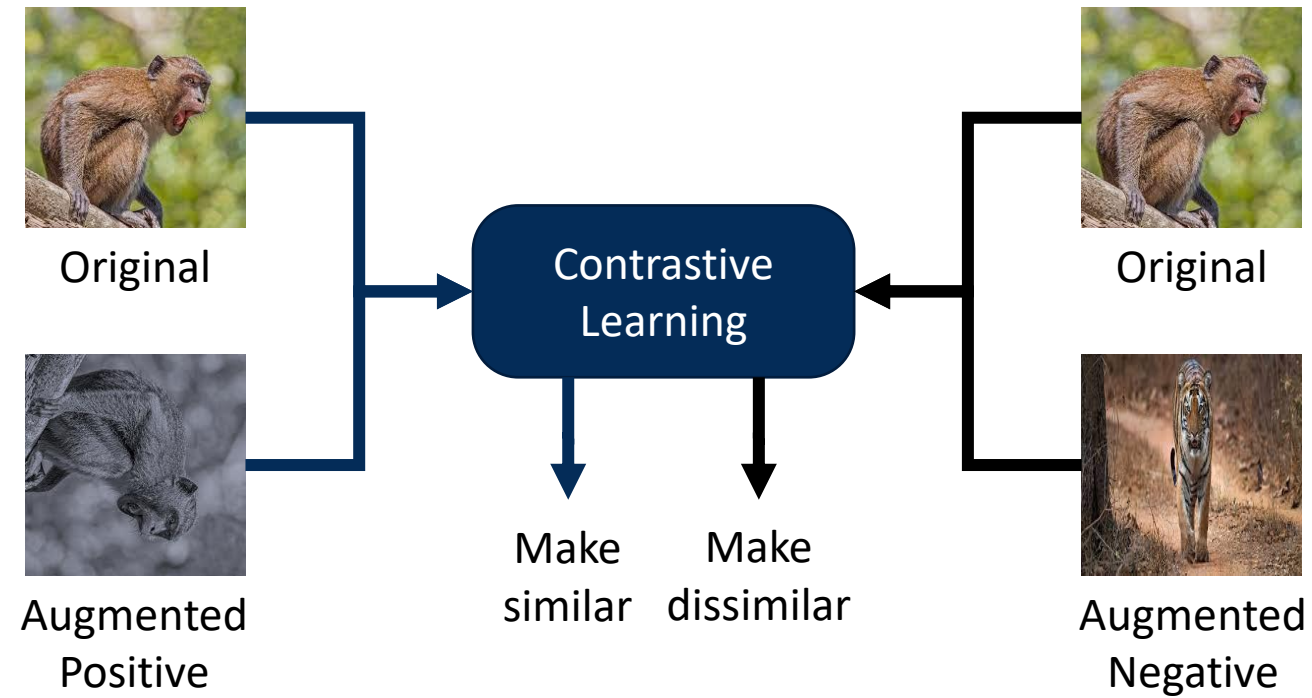
# Idea of Self-Supervision

- ▶ Predict any part of the input from any other part.
- ▶ Predict the **future** from the **past**.
- ▶ Predict the **future** from the **recent past**.
- ▶ Predict the **past** from the **present**.
- ▶ Predict the **top** from the **bottom**.
- ▶ Predict the occluded from the visible
- ▶ **Pretend there is a part of the input you don't know and predict that.**



Slide: LeCun

Slide credits: Yann LeCun and Ishan Misra



Jaiswal 2020, <https://images.app.goo.gl/cehS4AmHg1tvjzcF9>;  
<https://images.app.goo.gl/u8UthNzMf7ooyDj86>

# Learning problems

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- Unsupervised learning
  - Learn model parameters using data without labels  $\{\mathbf{x}_i\}_{i=1}^N$
  - Examples: Clustering, dimensionality reduction, generative models
- Supervised learning
  - Learn model parameters using data with labels  $\{(\mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{y}_i)\}_{i=1}^N$
  - Examples: Classification, regression
- Self-supervised learning
  - Learn model parameters using data-data pairs  $\{(\mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{x}_i')\}_{i=1}^N$
  - Examples: Contrastive learning



# Pretext task to learn representations

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- Learn more general representations using self-supervision
- Use lots of unlabeled data for pre-training on pretext task
- Pretext Task  $\neq$  Target Task

# Skip-Gram

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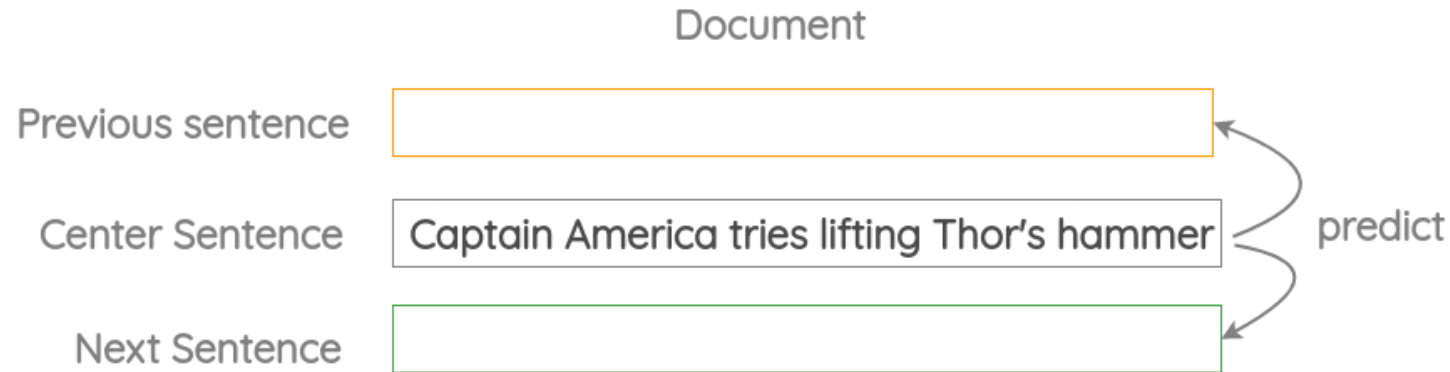
A quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog

- Goal: Predict context words from center word
- Example
  - Context size 1
  - Predict 2 surrounding words from center word

<https://amitnness.com/2020/05/self-supervised-learning-nlp/>  
[Mikolov et al. 2013]

# Skip-Thoughts

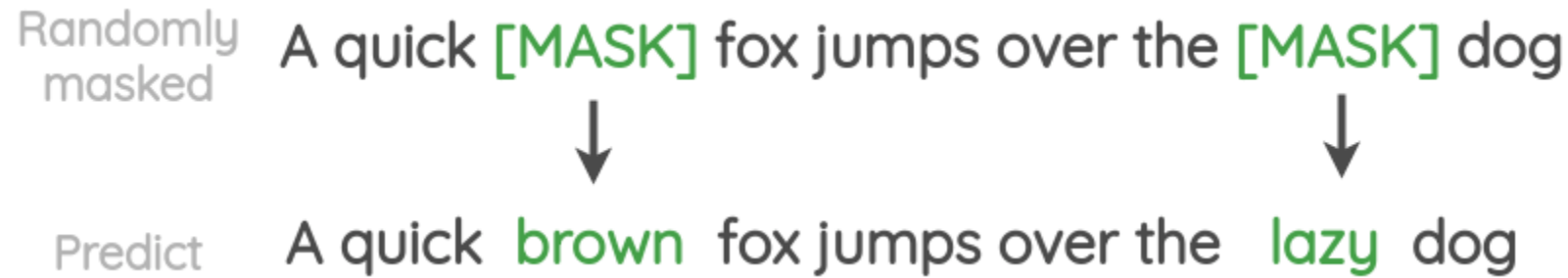
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- Goal: Predict neighboring sentences
- Example
  - Context size 1
  - Predict 2 surrounding sentences from center sentence

<https://amitness.com/2020/05/self-supervised-learning-nlp/>  
[Kiros et al. 2015]

# Masked language model

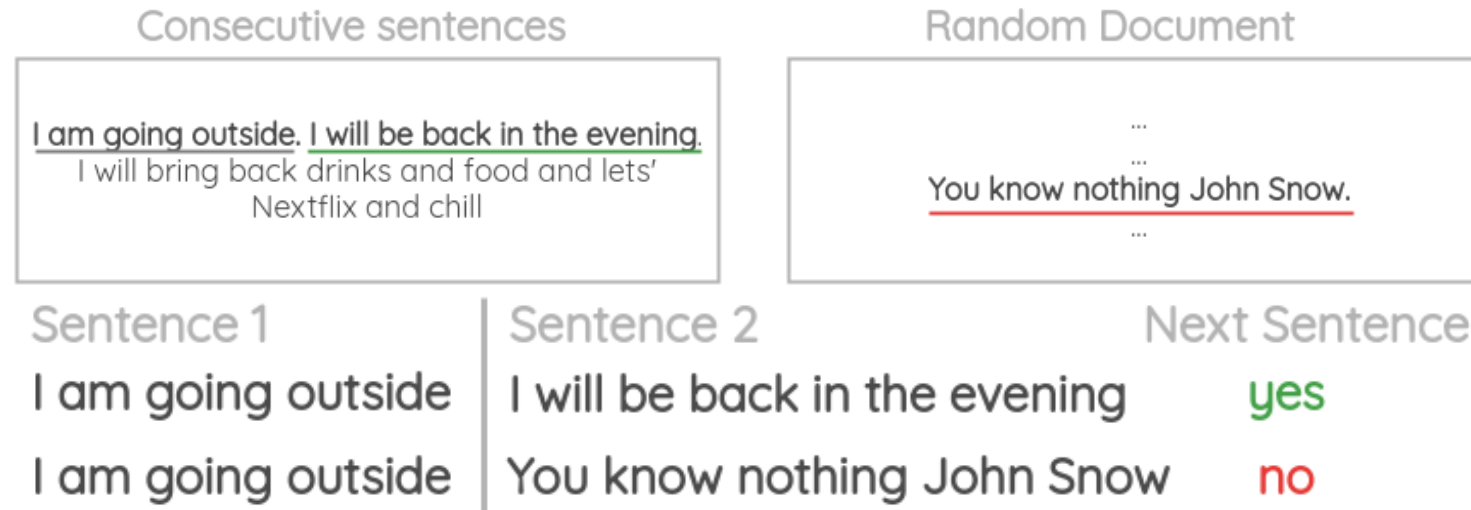


- Randomly mask text
- Model predicts masked text from surrounding words
- Used in combination with next sentence prediction for pre-training BERT

<https://amitness.com/2020/05/self-supervised-learning-nlp/>  
[Devlin et al. 2019]

# Next sentence prediction

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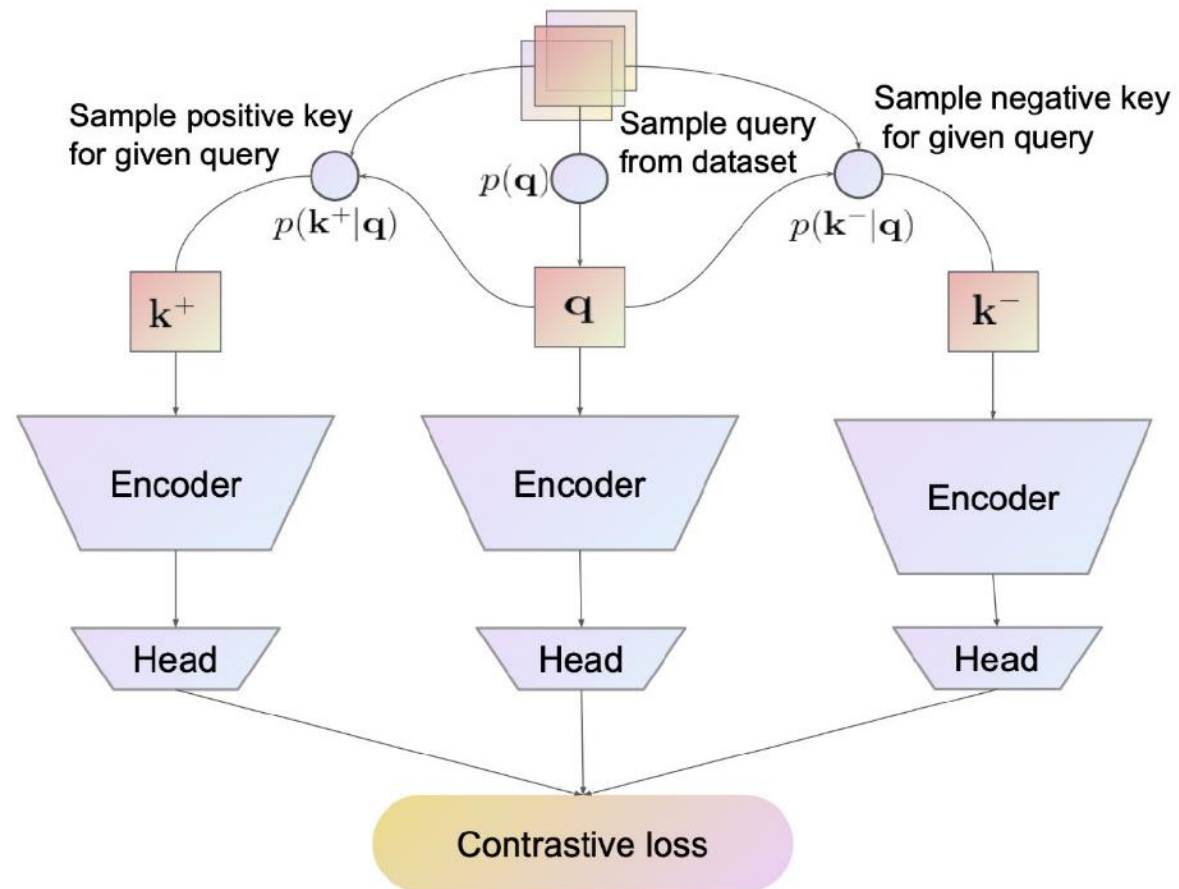
<https://amitness.com/2020/05/self-supervised-learning-nlp/>  
[Devlin et al. 2019]

# Pretext Tasks in NLP

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- Generative
  - Auto-regressive language modeling
  - Continuous Bag of Words, Skip-Gram
  - Skip-Thoughts
  - Masked language model, next sentence prediction
- Contrastive
  - Quick-Thoughts
  - MI Maximization
- Generative-Contrastive
  - Replaced token detection

# Contrastive loss



[Le-Khac et al. 2020]

# Contrastive losses

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- Traditional losses
  - Discriminative models measure losses with respect to prediction label
  - Generative models measure losses in the input space
- Contrastive losses
  - Target is defined in terms of metric embeddings instead of fixed targets
  - Loss measured in embedding space
  - Decomposed into scoring functions and the actual form

[Le-Khac et al. 2020]



# Contrastive learning objective - similarity

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$$\mathcal{L} = \mathbb{E}_{x, x^+, x^-} \left[ -\log \left( \frac{\exp(\text{sim}(f(x), f(x^+)))}{\exp(\text{sim}(f(x), f(x^+))) + \exp(\text{sim}(f(x), f(x^-)))} \right) \right]$$

- Similarity functions

- Distance: Euclidean

$$\text{sim}(x, y) = \|x - y\|_2$$

- Similarity: Inner product or (normalized) cosine similarity

$$\text{sim}(x, y) = \|f(x)^T f(y)\|_2$$

# Noise Contrastive Estimation

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$$\mathcal{L} = \mathbb{E}_{x, x^+, x^-} \left[ -\log \left( \frac{e^{f(x)^T f(x^+)}}{e^{f(x)^T f(x^+)} + e^{f(x)^T f(x^-)}} \right) \right]$$

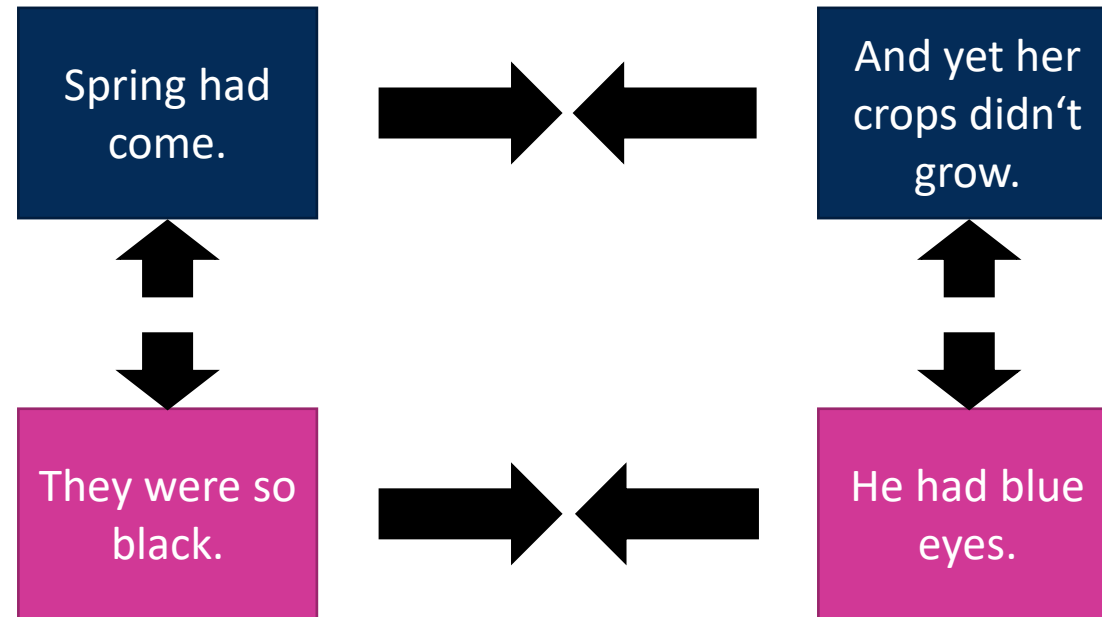
- Encoder  $f$  and similarity measure (here inner product) may be exchanged based on the task, framework stays the same
- For more negative samples: InfoNCE

$$\mathcal{L} = \mathbb{E}_{x, x^+, x^k} \left[ -\log \left( \frac{e^{f(x)^T f(x^+)}}{e^{f(x)^T f(x^+)} + \sum_{k=1}^K e^{f(x)^T f(x^k)}} \right) \right]$$

[Gutmann et al. 2010, Oord et al. 2018]

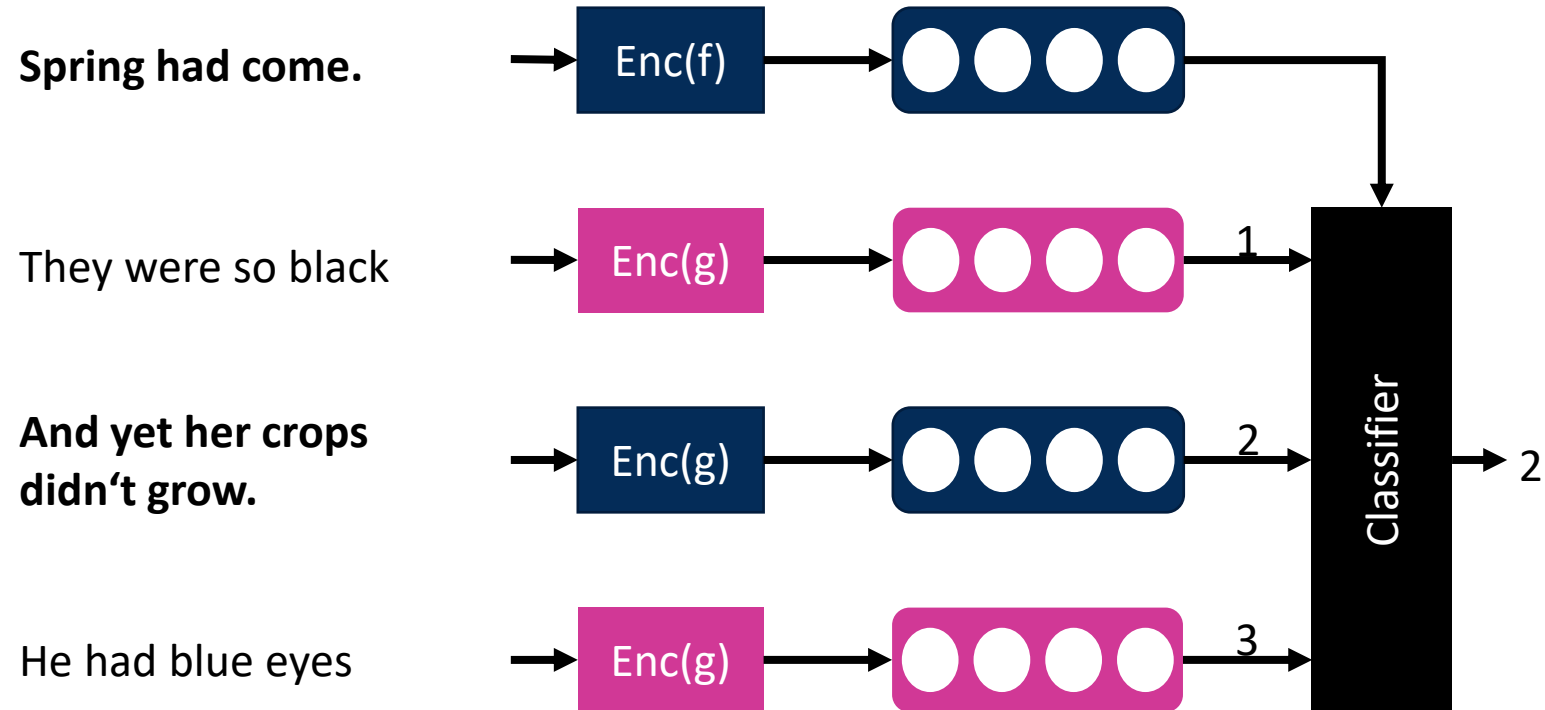
# Quick-Thoughts basic idea

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[Logeswaran et al. 2018]

# Quick-Thoughts basic architecture

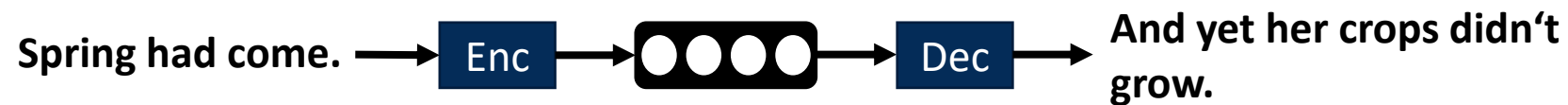
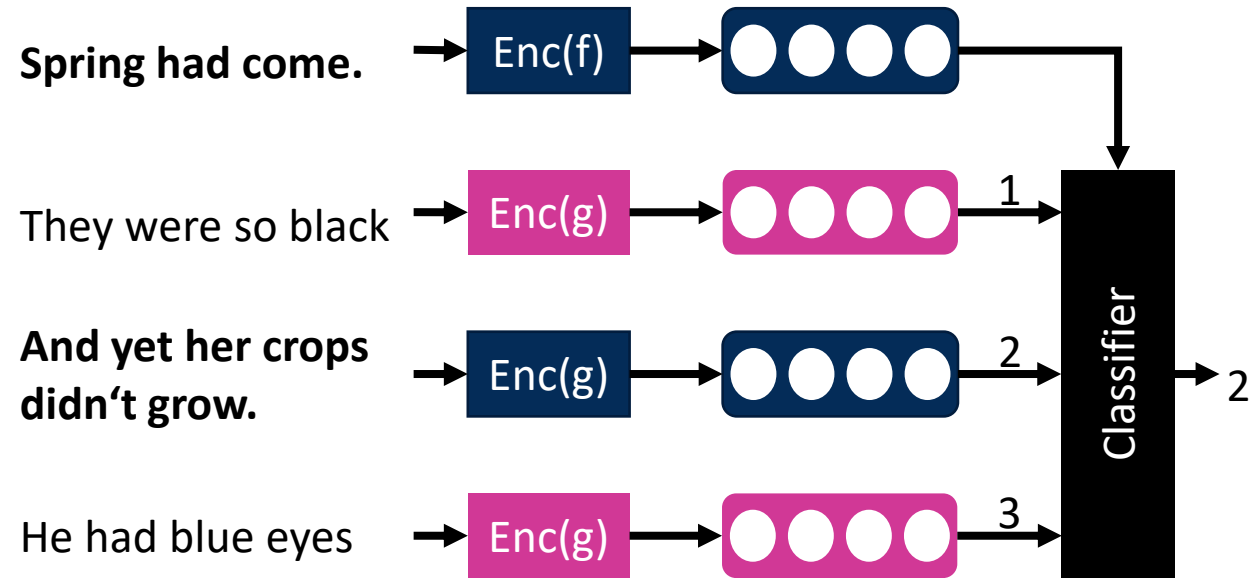


[Logeswaran et al. 2018]

Quick-Thoughts

VS

Skip-Thoughts



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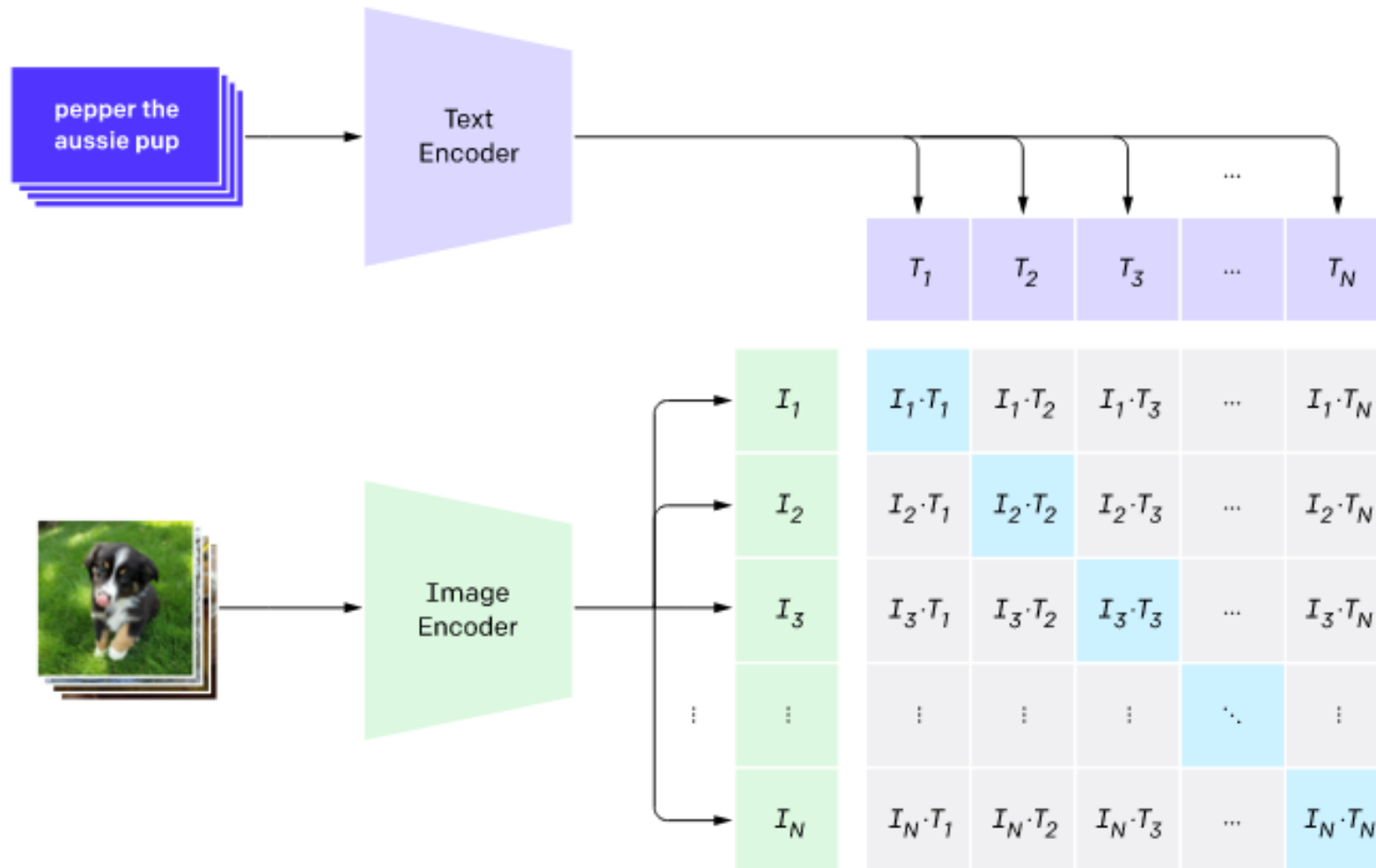
# CLIP – Contrastive Language-Image Pre-Training

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- Learns to associate images and natural language by connecting visual concepts with natural language supervision
- Dataset is created from abundance of image-caption pairs from the internet

[Radford et al. 2021]

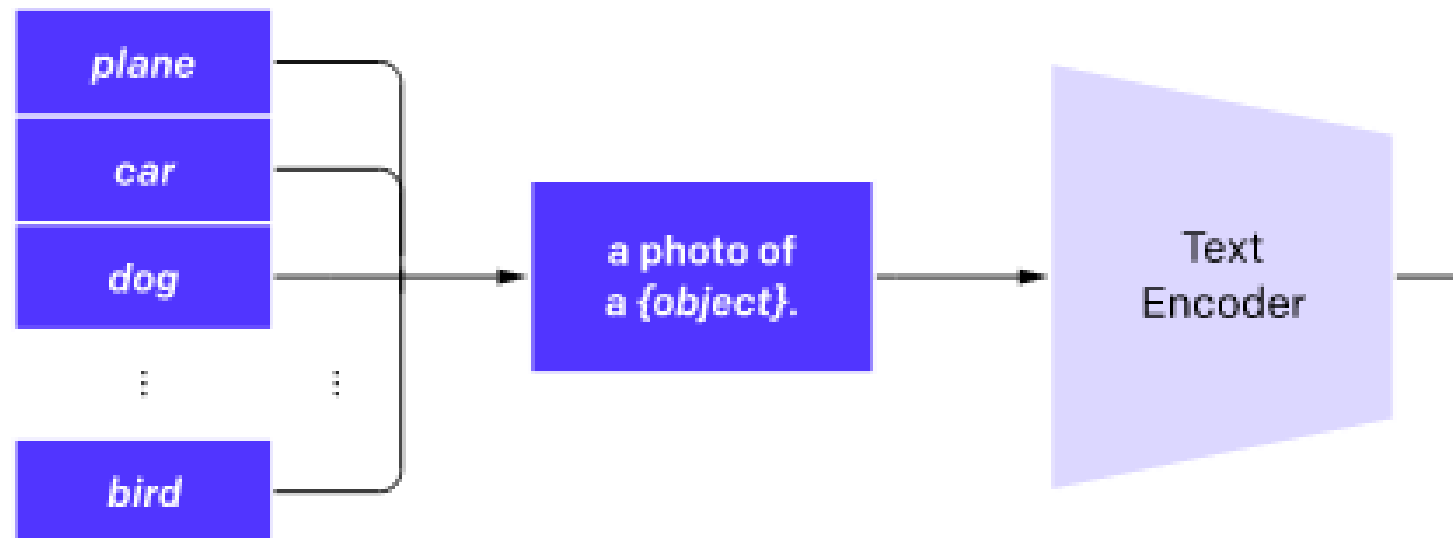
# CLIP - Pre-training



# CLIP

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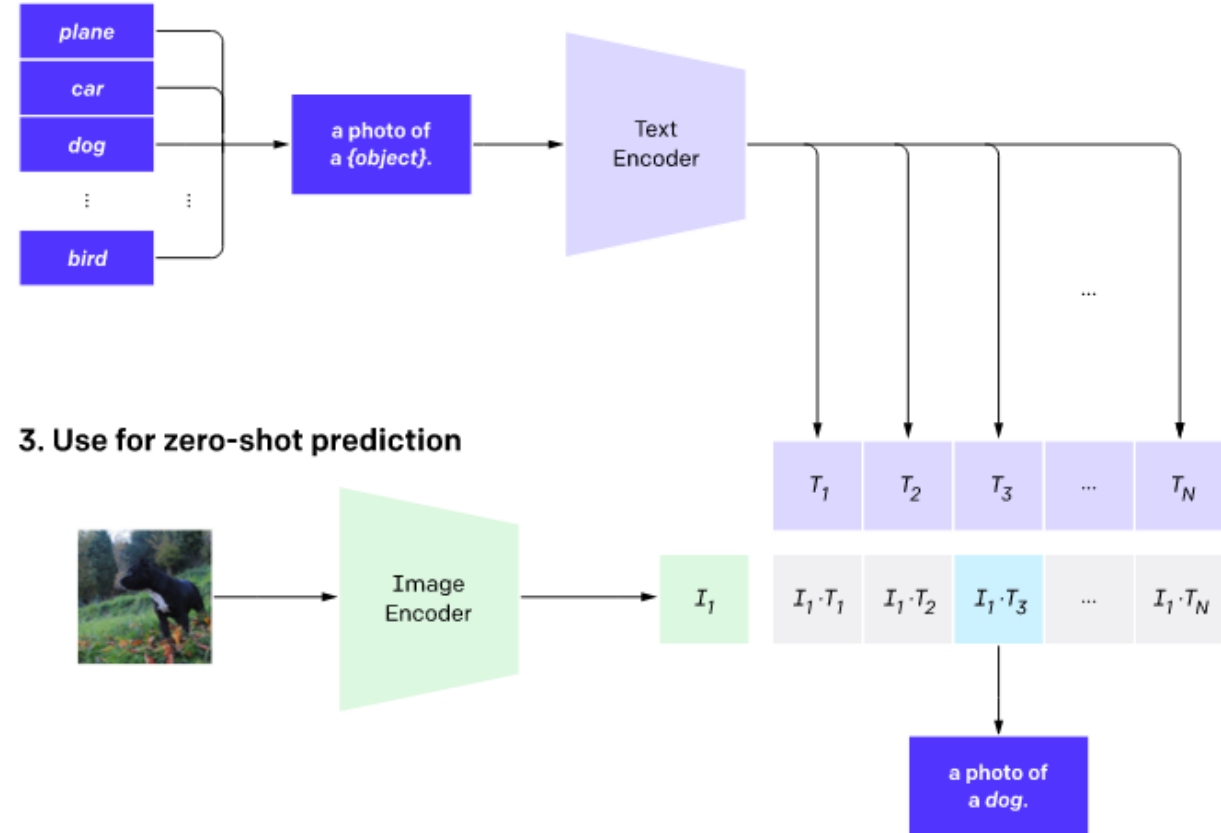
Transfer dataset labels to common format











# CLIP

Use transferred dataset labels to create classifier for zero-shot prediction



# CLIP performance

DATASET	IMAGENET RESNET101	CLIP VIT-L
 ImageNet	76.2%	76.2%
 ImageNet V2	64.3%	70.1%
 ImageNet Rendition	37.7%	88.9%
 ObjectNet	32.6%	72.3%
 ImageNet Sketch	25.2%	60.2%
 ImageNet Adversarial	2.7%	77.1%

# CLIP takeaways

## FOOD101

**guacamole (90.1%)** Ranked 1 out of 101 labels



✓ a photo of **guacamole**, a type of food.

✗ a photo of **ceviche**, a type of food.

✗ a photo of **edamame**, a type of food.

✗ a photo of **tuna tartare**, a type of food.

✗ a photo of **hummus**, a type of food.

## YOUTUBE-BB

**airplane, person (89.0%)** Ranked 1 out of 23



✓ a photo of a **airplane**.

✗ a photo of a **bird**.

✗ a photo of a **bear**.

✗ a photo of a **giraffe**.

✗ a photo of a **car**.

## SUN397

**television studio (90.2%)** Ranked 1 out of 397



✓ a photo of a **television studio**.

✗ a photo of a **podium indoor**.

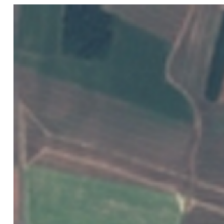
✗ a photo of a **conference room**.

✗ a photo of a **lecture room**.

✗ a photo of a **control room**.

## EUROSAT

**annual crop land (12.9%)** Ranked 4 out of 10



✗ a centered satellite photo of **permanent crop land**.

✗ a centered satellite photo of **pasture land**.

✗ a centered satellite photo of **highway or road**.

✓ a centered satellite photo of **annual crop land**.

✗ a centered satellite photo of **brushland or shrubland**.

# CLIP takeaways

## YOUTUBE-BB

**airplane, person (89.0%)** Ranked 1 out of 23



✓ a photo of a **airplane**.

✗ a photo of a **bird**.

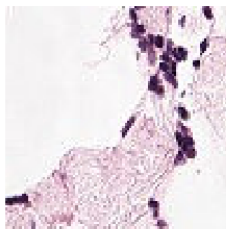
✗ a photo of a **bear**.

✗ a photo of a **giraffe**.

✗ a photo of a **car**.

## PATCHCAMELYON (PCAM)

**healthy lymph node tissue (22.8%)** Ranked 2 out of 2



✗ this is a photo of **lymph node tumor tissue**

✓ this is a photo of **healthy lymph node tissue**

## EUROSAT

**annual crop land (12.9%)** Ranked 4 out of 10



✗ a centered satellite photo of **permanent crop land**.

✗ a centered satellite photo of **pasture land**.

✗ a centered satellite photo of **highway or road**.

✓ a centered satellite photo of **annual crop land**.

✗ a centered satellite photo of **brushland or shrubland**.

## IMAGENET-A (ADVERSARIAL)

**lynx (4.2%)** Ranked 5 out of 200



✗ a photo of a **fox squirrel**.

✗ a photo of a **mongoose**.

✗ a photo of a **skunk**.

✗ a photo of a **red fox**.

✓ a photo of a **lynx**.

# CLIP objective

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- $x_{i,j}$  is the cosine similarity between the  $i$ -th image representation  $I(p_i)$  and  $j$ -th text representation  $T(t_j)$
- $y_i$  is the label index
- Overall loss comprises loss term for image-to-text similarity  $\mathcal{L}_I$  and text-to-image similarity  $\mathcal{L}_T$

$$x_{i,j} = \frac{I(p_i) * T(t_j)}{\|I(p_i)\| * \|T(t_j)\|}$$

$$\mathcal{L}_I = -\frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \log \frac{\exp(x_{i,y_i})}{\sum_{j=1}^N \exp(x_{i,j})} \quad \mathcal{L}_T = -\frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \log \frac{\exp(x_{y_i,i})}{\sum_{j=1}^N \exp(x_{j,i})}$$

$$\mathcal{L}_{CLIP} = \frac{\mathcal{L}_I + \mathcal{L}_T}{2}$$

# CLIP code

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```
# image_encoder - ResNet or Vision Transformer
# text_encoder  - CBOW or Text Transformer
# I[n, h, w, c] - minibatch of aligned images
# T[n, l]       - minibatch of aligned texts
# W_i[d_i, d_e] - learned proj of image to embed
# W_t[d_t, d_e] - learned proj of text to embed
# t            - learned temperature parameter

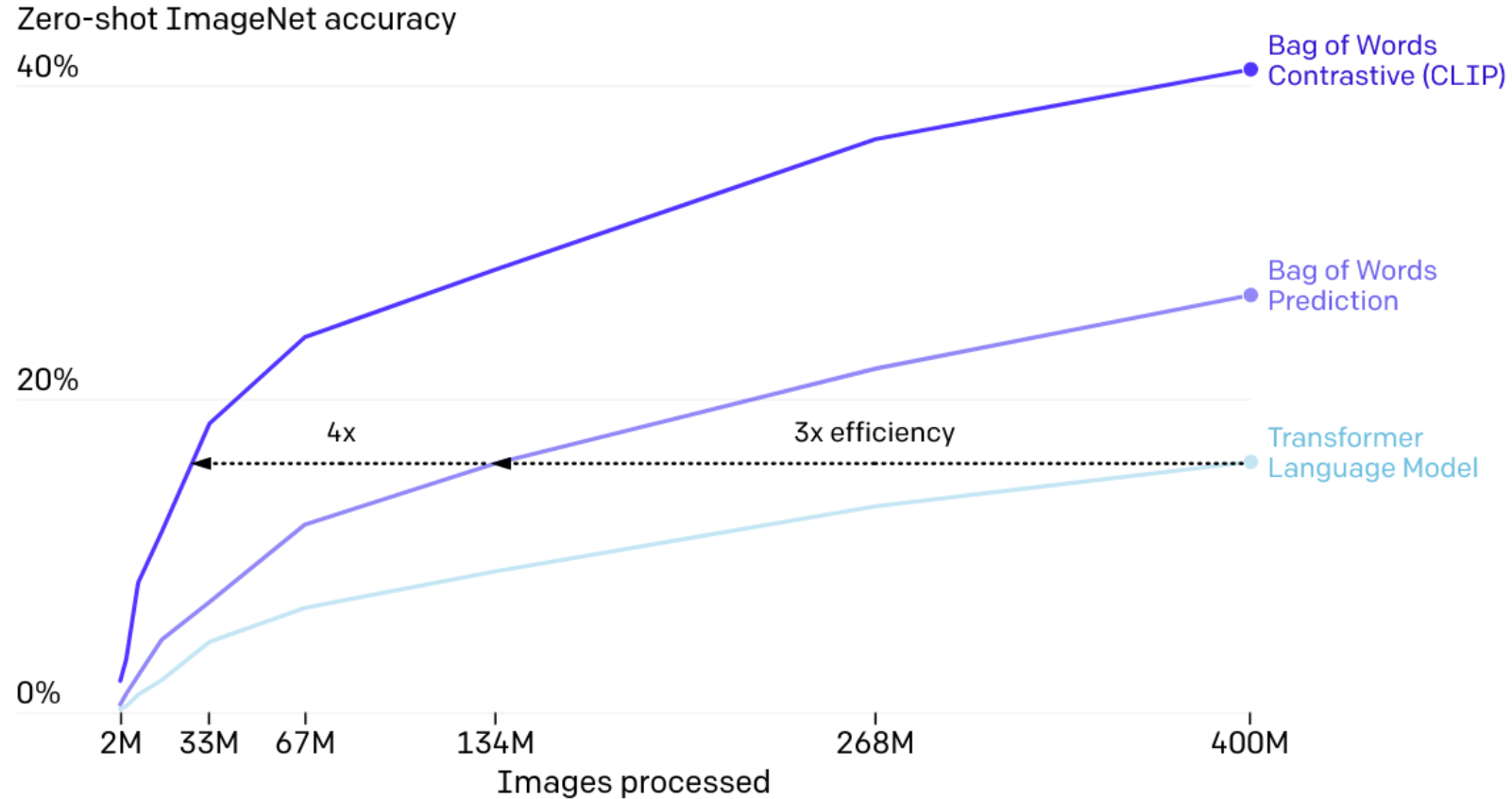
# extract feature representations of each modality
I_f = image_encoder(I) #[n, d_i]
T_f = text_encoder(T)  #[n, d_t]

# joint multimodal embedding [n, d_e]
I_e = l2_normalize(np.dot(I_f, W_i), axis=1)
T_e = l2_normalize(np.dot(T_f, W_t), axis=1)

# scaled pairwise cosine similarities [n, n]
logits = np.dot(I_e, T_e.T) * np.exp(t)

# symmetric loss function
labels = np.arange(n)
loss_i = cross_entropy_loss(logits, labels, axis=0)
loss_t = cross_entropy_loss(logits, labels, axis=1)
loss   = (loss_i + loss_t)/2
```

# CLIP performance



# CLIP takeaways

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- Very efficient due to contrastive training objective
- Flexible and general: good zero-shot performance on many tasks
- Prompt engineering is important for good performance
- Poor generalization to anything not covered in the training set
- On fine-grained or abstract classification tasks, task-specific models are still better



# Summary

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- Self-Supervised Learning as a workaround for missing labels
- High quality representations from pretext tasks
- NCE as the foundation of contrastive learning
- Contrastive Learning examples
  - Quick-Thoughts for sentence representations
  - CLIP for connecting visual and textual representations

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# Text Style Transfer

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# Outline

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- Adversarial learning (GANs)
- Introduction to text style transfer
- Definition of text style
- Style transfer models
  - Parallel
  - Non-parallel
  - Examples
- Style transfer evaluation

# Adversarial Training

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- „Training a model in a worst-case scenario, with inputs chosen by an adversary“
- Examples:
  - An agent playing against a copy of itself in a board game [Samuel, 1959]
  - Robust optimization / robust control [e.g. Rustem and Howe 2002]
  - Training neural networks on adversarial examples [Szegedy et al. 2013, Goodfellow et al. 2014]

# Generative Adversarial Networks

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- Both players are neural networks
- Worst case input for one network is produced by another network
- Goal: Generate new samples that look like examples from the training dataset

# GANs

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Cop (discriminator)  
Tries to distinguish real from  
fake profiles



Cyber criminal (generator)  
Attempts to create online  
identities that resemble ordinary  
citizens

# Generative Adversarial Nets (GANs)

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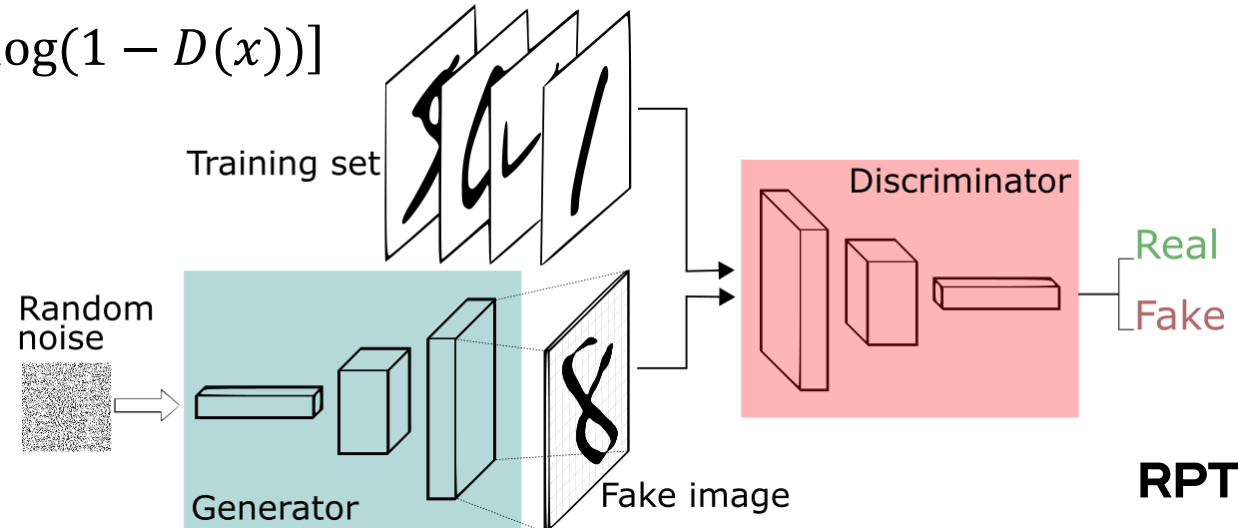
- [Goodfellow et al. 2014]
- Generative model  $x = G_{\theta}(z), z \sim p(z)$ 
  - Map noise variable  $z$  to data space  $x$
- Discriminator  $D_{\phi}(x)$ 
  - Output the probability that  $x$  came from the data rather than the generator
- No explicit inference model
- No obvious connection to previous models with inference networks like VAEs

# Generative Adversarial Nets (GANs)

- Learning
  - A minimax game between the generator and the discriminator
  - Train  $D$  to maximize the probability of assigning the correct label to both training examples and generated samples
  - Train  $G$  to fool the discriminator

$$\max_D L_D = \max_D \mathbb{E}_{x \sim p_{data}(x)} [\log D(x)] + \mathbb{E}_{x \sim G(z), z \sim p(z)} [\log(1 - D(x))]$$

$$\min_G L_G = \min_G \mathbb{E}_{x \sim G(z), z \sim p(z)} [\log(1 - D(x))]$$



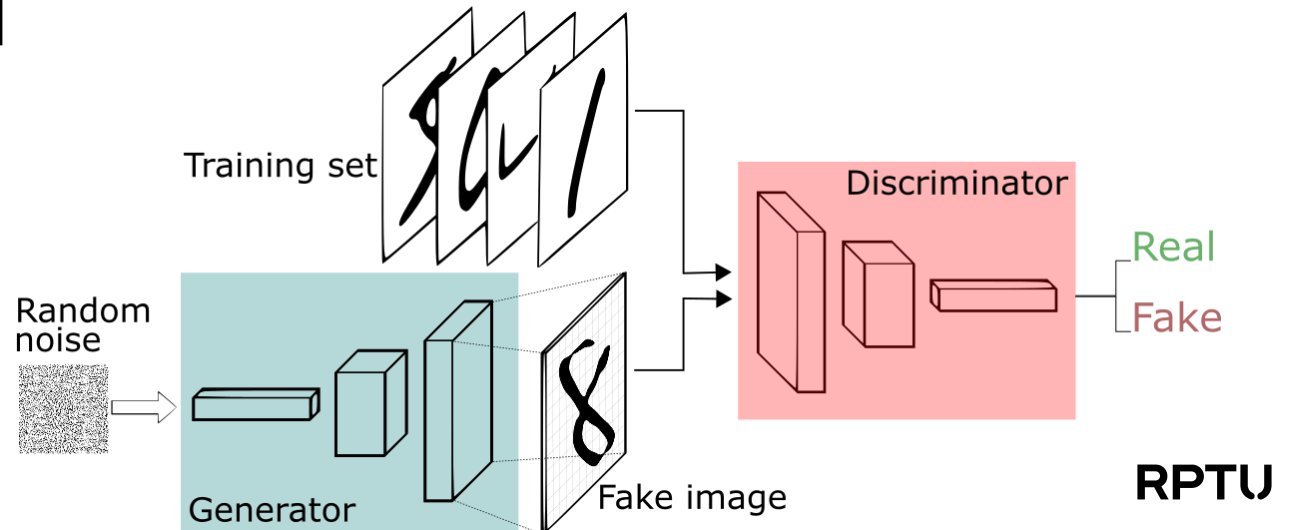


# Generative Adversarial Nets (GANs)

$$\min_G L_G = \min_G \mathbb{E}_{x \sim G(z), z \sim p(z)} [\log(1 - D(x))]$$

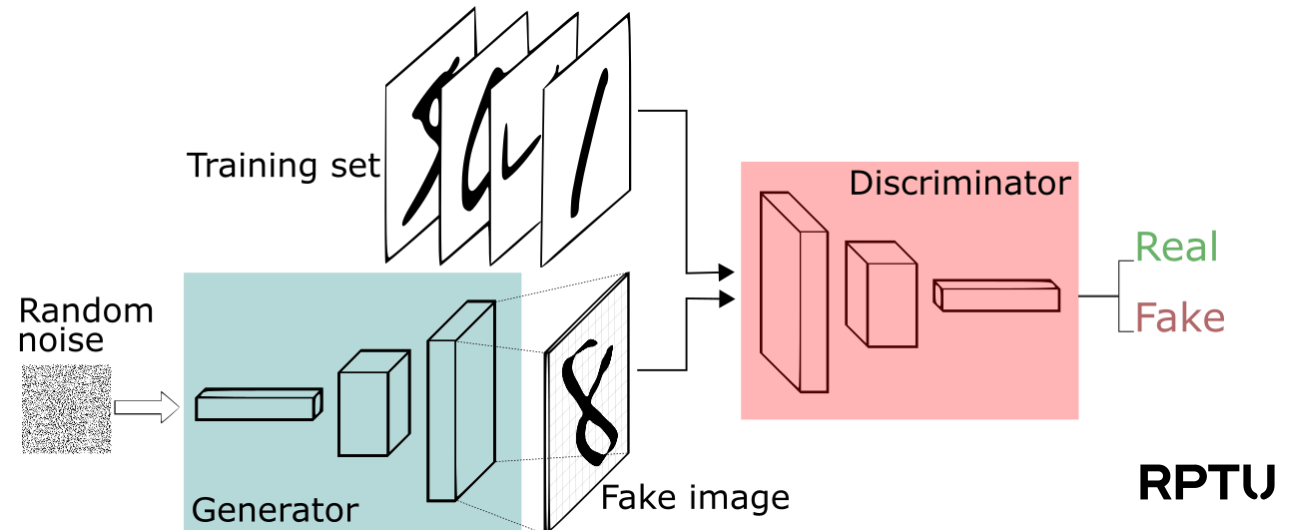
- Learning
  - Train G to fool the discriminator
    - The original loss suffers from vanishing gradients when D is too strong
    - Instead use the following in practice

$$\max_G L_G = \mathbb{E}_{x \sim G(z), z \sim p(z)} [\log D(x)]$$

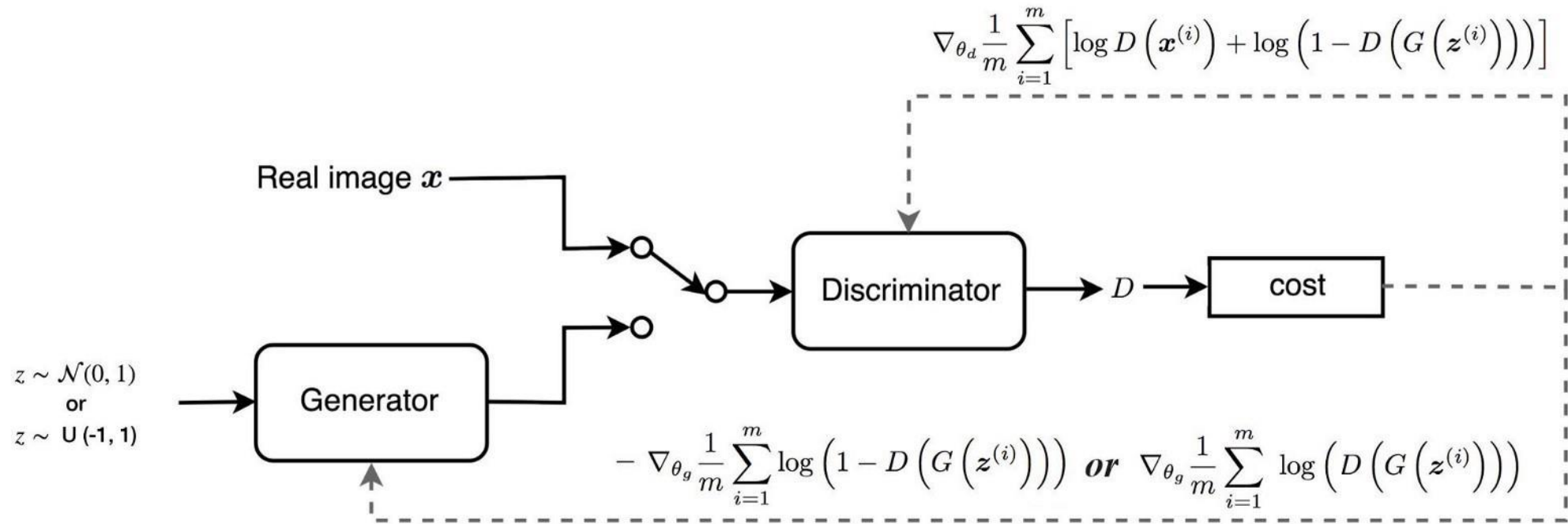


# Generative Adversarial Nets (GANs)

- Learning
  - Aim to achieve equilibrium of the game
  - Optimal state:
    - $p_g(x) = p_{data}(x)$
    - $D(x) = \frac{p_{data}(x)}{p_{data}(x) + p_g(x)} = \frac{1}{2}$

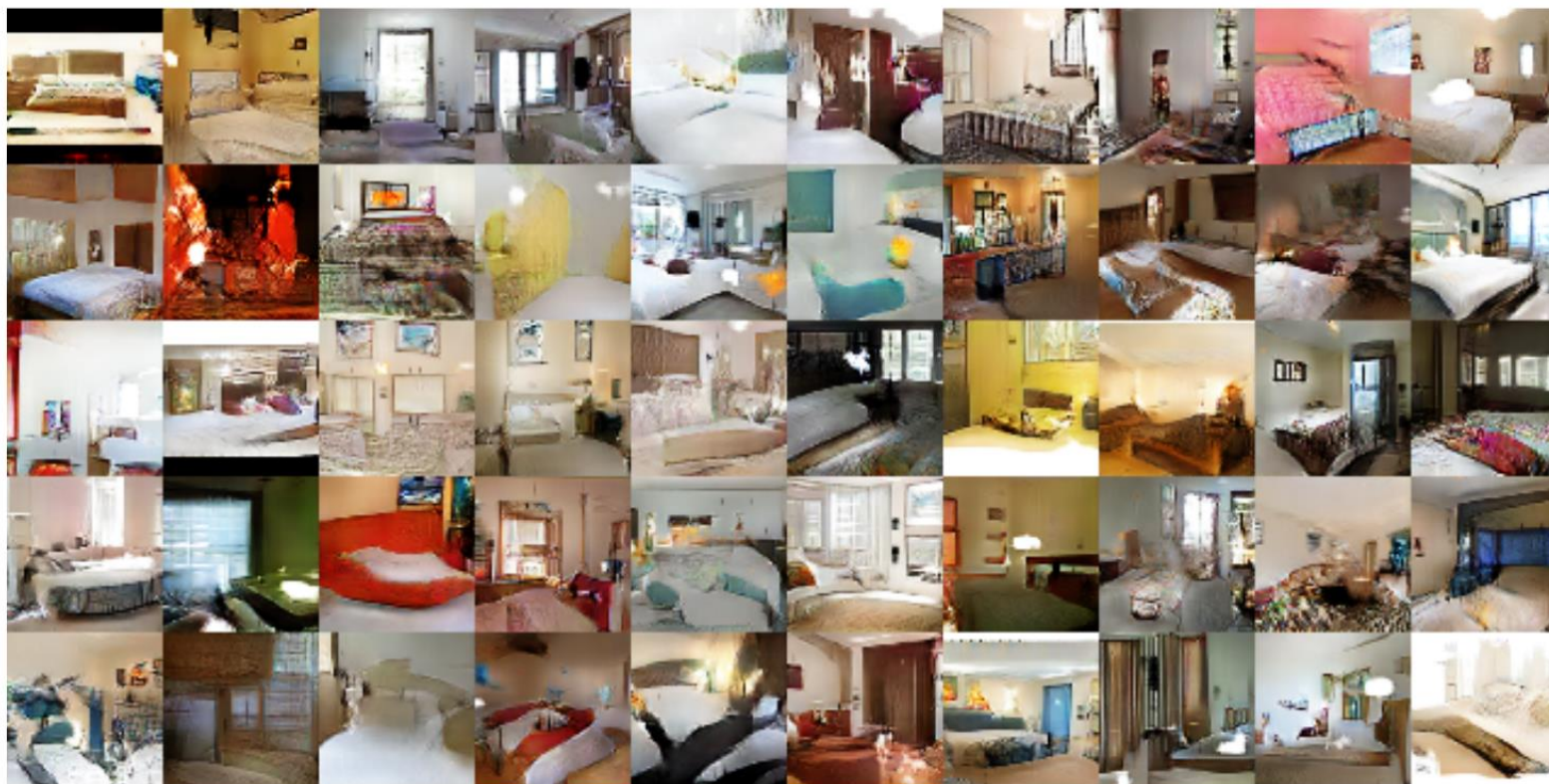


# Summary: GAN training



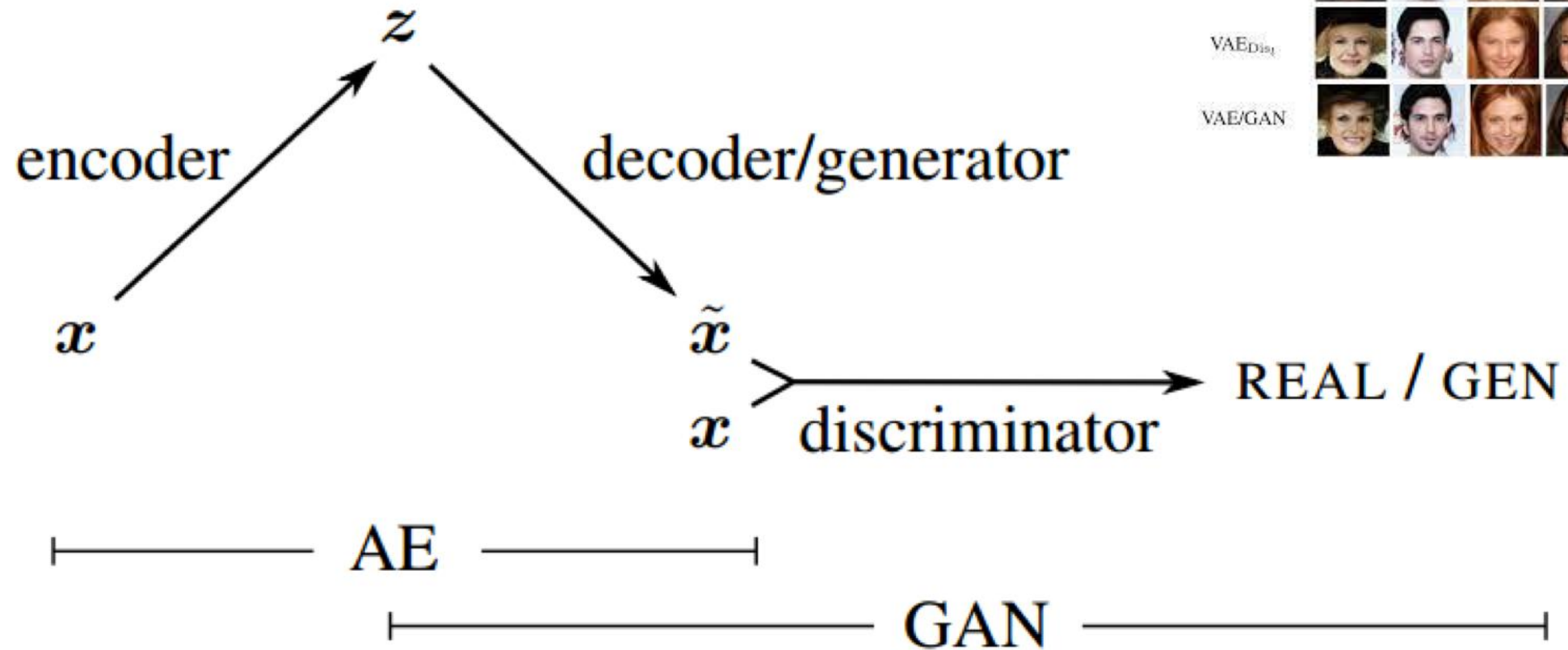
# GANs: Example Results

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Generated bedrooms [Radford et al. 2016]

# VAE-GANs

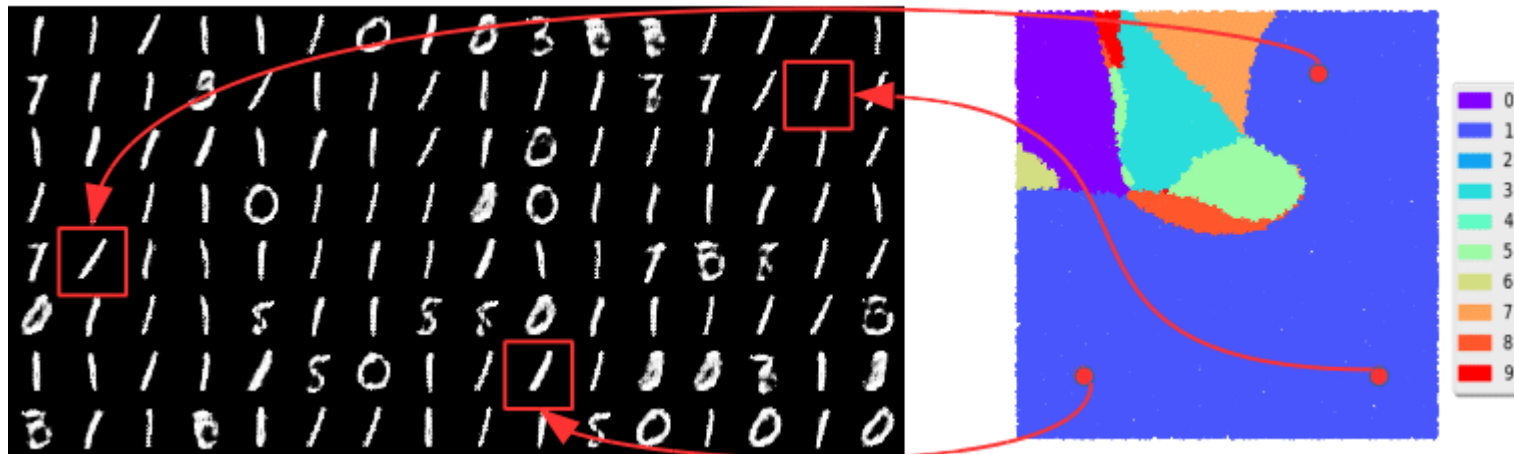


Can potentially improve the blurriness of VAE outputs

# Mode Collapse/Convergence issues

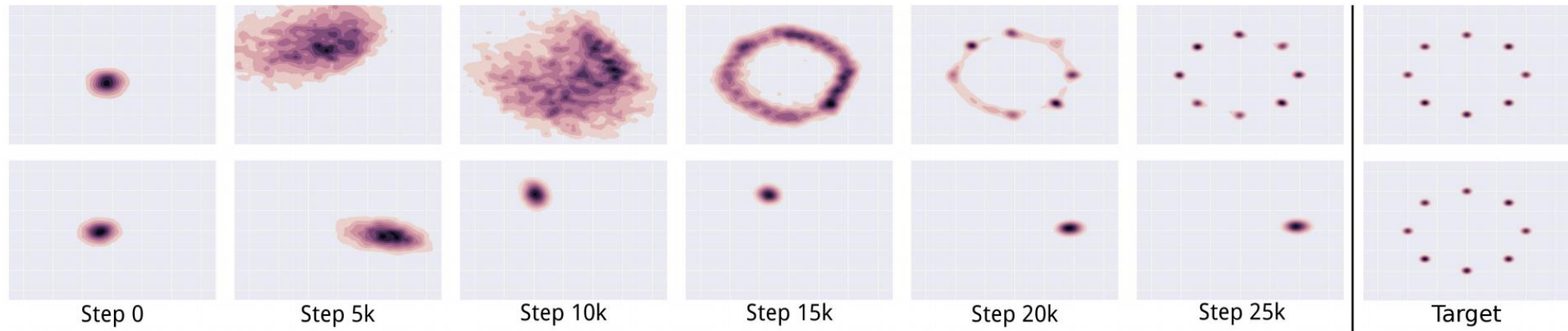
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- Mode collapse refers to a phenomenon where only very similar images are generated.
  - If the discriminator does not change much, the best solution would be to continue to produce the one image that fools the discriminator most
- Optimization algorithms often approach a saddle point or local minimum rather than a global minimum
- Game solving algorithms may not approach an equilibrium at all





# Mode Collapse



- The upper row shows a GAN that converges to the target distribution
- The lower row shows how the GAN only produces one mode and rotates to the next one as soon as the discriminator catches up
- Not always unwanted behavior: E.g. in style transfer we just need to find one good image rather than a diverse set of possible variants

# GAN Problems

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- Non-convergence: model parameters oscillate, destabilize and never converge
- Mode collapse: the generator collapses which produces limited variety of examples
- Diminished gradient: The discriminator becomes too successful and the generator gradient vanishes and learns nothing
- Unbalance between generator and discriminator causing overfitting
- Highly sensitive to hyperparameter selection



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# Text Style Transfer Introduction

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# Style is important

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Image Source:  
<https://www.apple.com/de/siri/>

Will it rain tomorrow?

Ain't gonna rain, bro.  
Ya won't need ya  
brolly.

It will not rain  
tomorrow, you will  
not need your  
umbrella, sir.

# Definition of text style

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- Data-driven
  - Definition existing datasets used by the community
  - E.g. Amazon or Yelp reviews for sentiment transfer
- Linguistic
  - High level: Formality, simplification,...
  - Low level: Lexical, syntactic,...

# Examples for style transfer

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You have to consider both sides of the story.  
Gotta see both sides of the story.

Formality [Rao et al. 2018]



At the first God made the heaven and the earth.  
In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

Simplification  
[Carlson et al. 2018]



This is just awful.  
*This is pure genius.*

Sentiment [Shen et al. 2017]

# Style transfer models

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- Supervised models use style labels
  - Parallel methods
  - Non-parallel methods
- Unsupervised models do not use style labels

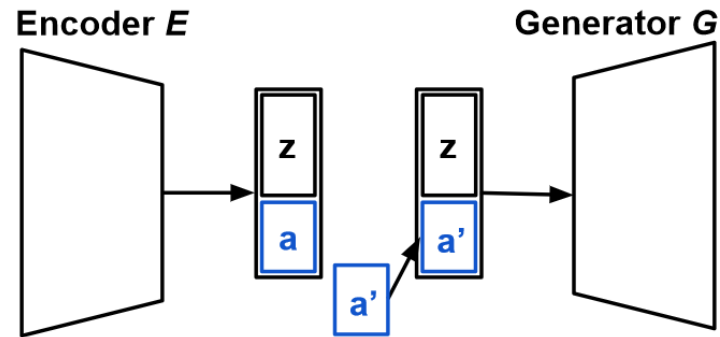
# Parallel text style transfer

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- Usually, adopting seq2seq models from neural machine translation
  - Bi-directional LSTM + attention [Bahdanau et al. 2015] used by Rao et al. [2018] and Jhamtani et al. [2017]
  - Transformer-based [Vaswani et al. 2017]
- Data augmentation using back-translation to expand the dataset [Rao et al. 2018]

# Latent representation manipulation

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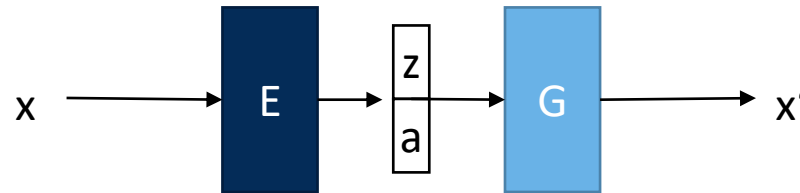


- Latent representation splitting (e.g. John et al. [2019])
  - Disentangle latent representation into semantic representation  $z$  and attribute (style) representation  $a$
  - Replace  $a$  by  $a'$
  - Decode for style transfer

# Training objectives

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- Target attribute is fully and exclusively controlled by  $a$ 
  - Style-oriented losses
- Attribute-independent information is fully and exclusively controlled and captured by  $z$ 
  - Content-oriented losses





# Style-oriented losses

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- Attribute classifier on outputs: Make output carry target attribute  $a'$  according to pre-trained classifier  $f_c$  [Prabhumoye et al. 2018]

$$\mathcal{L}_{ACO}(\theta_G, a') = -\mathbb{E}_{p(x)} \log f_c(x')$$

- Attribute classifier on representations: Enforce style in hidden representation [John et al. 2019]

$$\mathcal{L}_{ACR}(\theta_E, \theta_{f_c}) = -\mathbb{E}_{p(x)} \log f_c(a)$$

# Style-oriented losses

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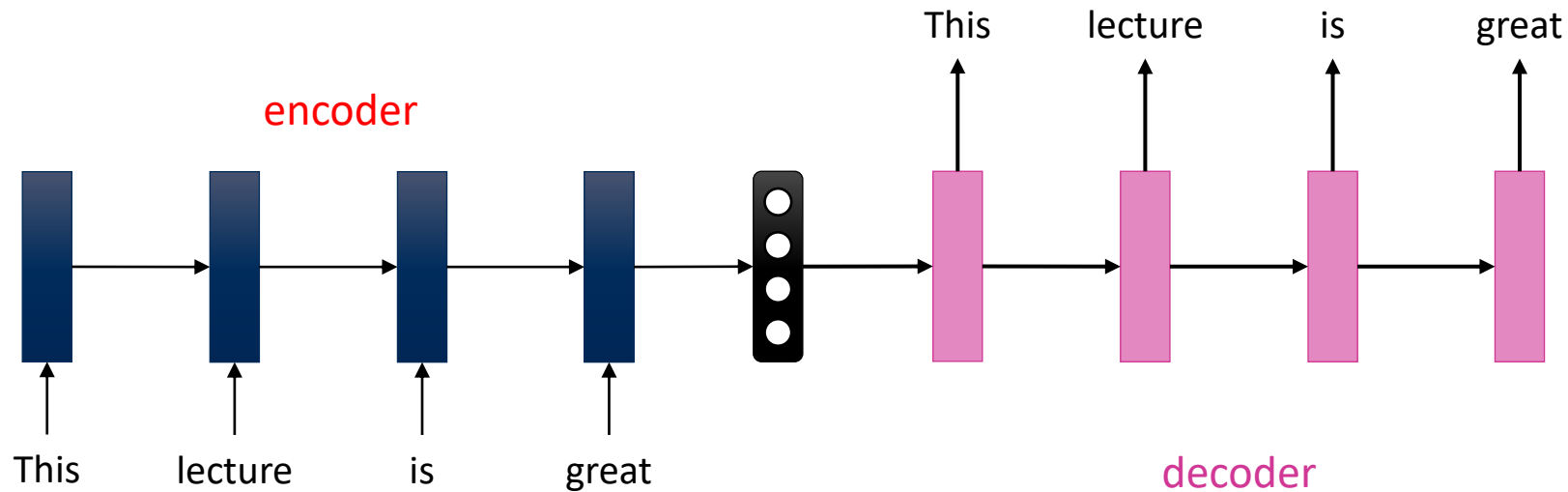
- Adversarial learning on representations: Enforce  $z$  to not contain any information about  $a$  [John et al. 2019]

$$\max_E \min_{f_c} \mathcal{L}_{AdvR}(\theta_E, \theta_{f_c}) = -\mathbb{E}_{p(x)} \log f_c(E(x))$$

# Educating Text Autoencoders: Latent Representation Guidance via Denoising

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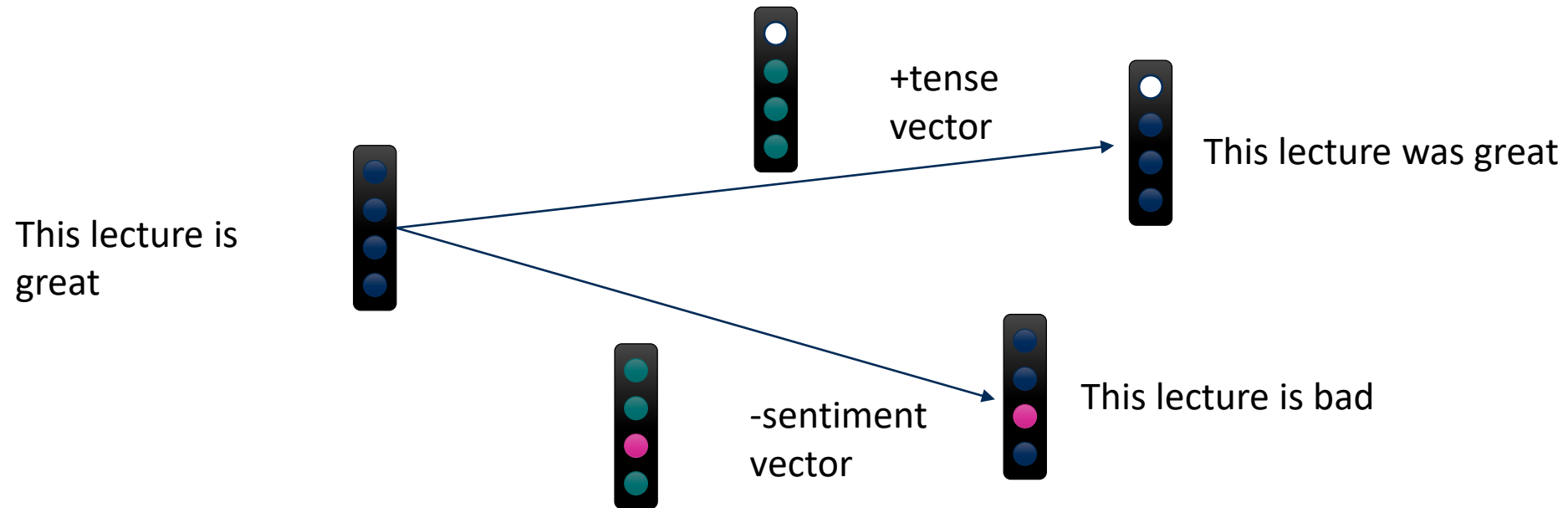
- Text autoencoders represent sentences as vectors in latent space



[Shen et al. 2020]

# Manipulate sentences by modifying the latent representation

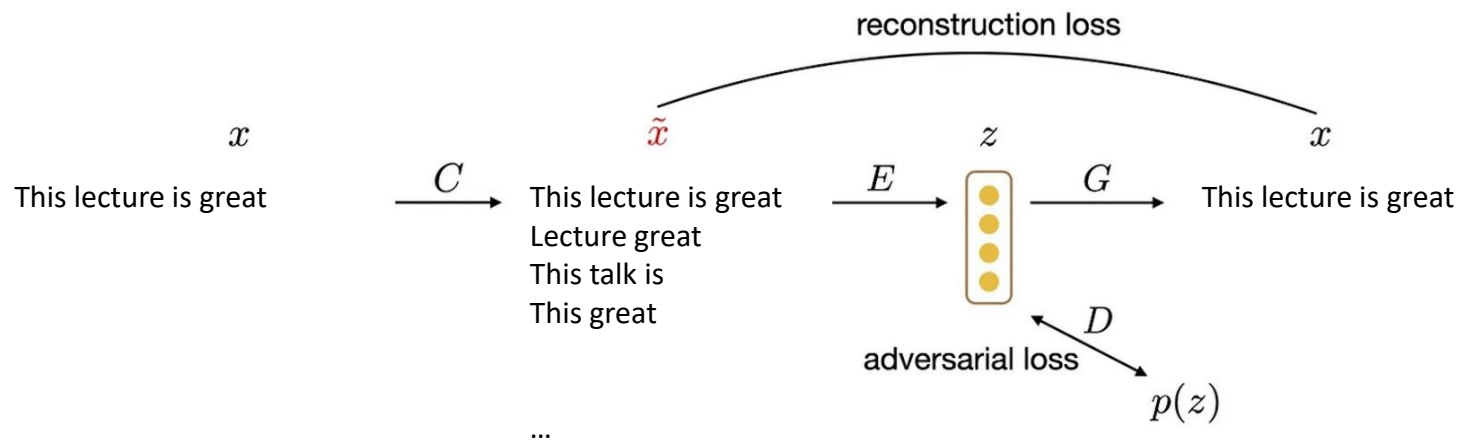
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[Shen et al. 2020]

# Denoising adversarial autoencoder

- Add perturbation process  $C$  that maps  $x$  to nearby  $\tilde{x}$  and ask model to reconstruct  $x$  from  $\tilde{x}$

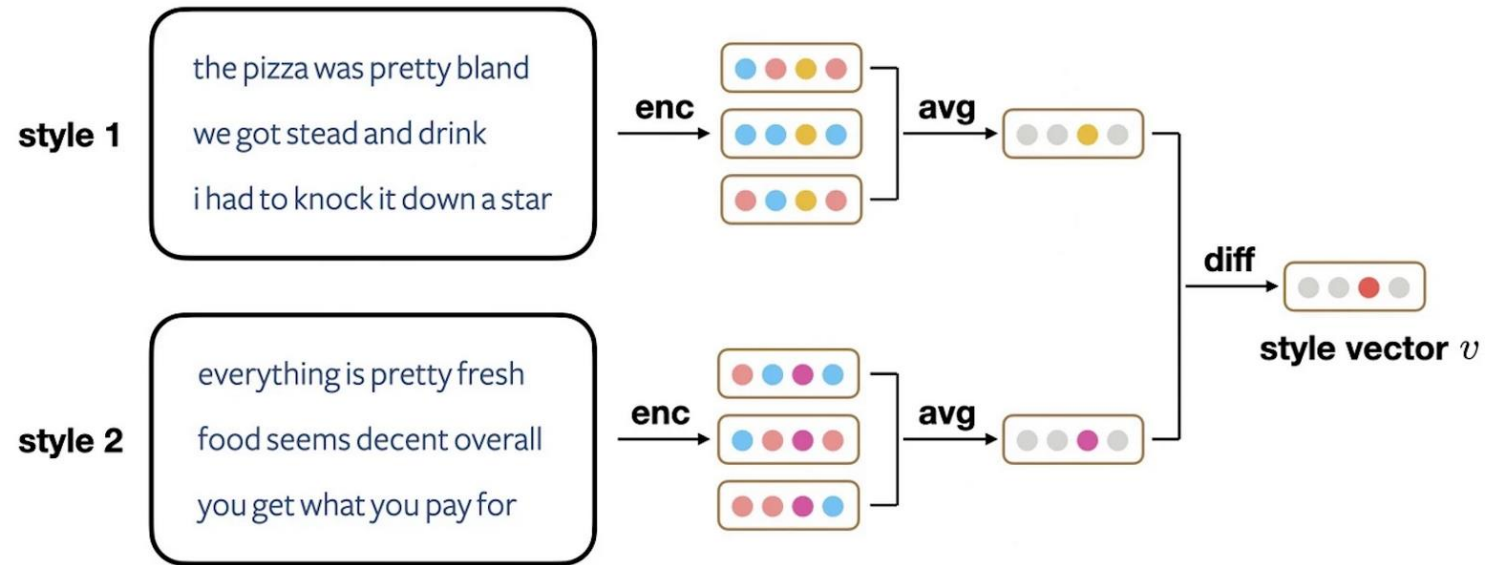


$$\min_{E,G} \max_D \mathcal{L}_{rec}(\theta_E, \theta_G) - \lambda \mathcal{L}_{adv}(\theta_E, \theta_G)$$

[Shen et al. 2020]

The discriminator  $D$  ensures that the latent encodings  $z_1, \dots, z_n$  of training examples  $x_1, \dots, x_n$  are indistinguishable from prior samples  $z \sim p(z)$

# Unsupervised style transfer with DAAE



[Shen et al. 2020]

# Arbitrary text style transfer with large language models

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Original	I decided to say hello to him, and we stood there until he had to go.
more melodramatic	I decided to go meet him in the pouring rain, to declare my undying love for him in the rain.
more comic	I decided to make a funny face at the creepy man who was starrng and we stood there making faces at each other until he had to go.
include the word "balloon"	I decided that he needed to be cheered up as well, and we stood there and talked until he had all the smiles he needed. Then he gave me a balloon, before he left.
include the word "park"	I decided to go for a walk in the park and there I met a man who had an uncanny resemblance to my friend. After that serendipitous encounter we went our seperate ways.
includes a metaphor	A snowflake landed on his nose and melted, and that was my cue to leave.

[Reif et al. 2022]

# Arbitrary text style transfer with large language models

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- Idea: Use natural language to describe the task (text style transfer)
- Prompts
  - Zero-Shot: transfer without examples
  - Few-Shot: transfer with few examples of the wanted style transferred
  - Augmented Zero-Shot: transfer with few examples of arbitrary styles

[Reif et al. 2022]



# Arbitrary text style transfer with large language models

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- Zero-Shot

- Here is some text: {That is an ugly dress}. Here is a rewrite of the text, which is more positive: {

- Few-Shot

- **Here** is some text: {I was really sad about the loss}. Here is a rewrite of the text, which is **more positive**: {I was able to accept and work through the loss to move on.} **Here** is some text: {The eggnog was tasteless}. Here is a rewrite of the text, which is **more positive**: {The eggnog had a great, festive taste to it.} ... **Here** is some text: {That is an ugly dress}. Here is a rewrite of the text, which is **more positive**: {

[Reif et al. 2022]

# Arbitrary text style transfer with large language models

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- Augmented Zero-Shot

- **Here** is some text: {When the doctor asked Linda to take the medicine, he smiled and gave her a lollipop}. Here is a rewrite of the text, which is **more scary**: {When the doctor told Linda to take the medicine, there had been a malicious gleam in her eye that Linda didn't like at all} **Here** is some text: {They asked loudly, over the sound of the train}. Here is a rewrite of the text, which is **more intense**: {They yelled aggressively, over the clanging of the train} ... **Here** is some text: {That is an ugly dress}. Here is a rewrite of the text, which is **more positive**:

- Augmented Zero-Shot works best in this setting
- Tested with several LLMs, LLM optimized for dialogs works best

[Reif et al. 2022]

# Style transfer evaluation

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- Dimensions
  - Fluency
  - Content Preservation
  - Style Transfer Accuracy
- Human annotation or automated metrics

# Conclusion

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- Different definitions of text style
- Text style transfer and its evaluation easy on parallel data that is scarce
- Non-parallel methods
  - Disentanglement-based
  - Prototype editing
  - Pseudo-parallel corpus construction
- Evaluation conducted on three dimensions

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