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# LEARNING PRIORS FOR ADVERSARIAL AUTOENCODERS

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A PREPRINT

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## ABSTRACT

Most deep latent factor models choose simple priors for simplicity, tractability or not knowing what prior to use. Recent studies show that the choice of the prior may have a profound effect on the expressiveness of the model, especially when its generative network has limited capacity. In this paper, we propose to learn a proper prior from data for adversarial autoencoders (AAEs). We introduce the notion of code generators to transform manually selected simple priors into ones that can better characterize the data distribution. Experimental results show that the proposed model can generate better image quality and learn better disentangled representations than AAEs in both supervised and unsupervised settings. Lastly, we present its ability to do cross-domain translation in a text-to-image synthesis task.

We took here several attempts to create a generative model. The main source of inspiration is [1]. The results are presented for MNIST and CIFAR-10 datasets. We haven't achieve the same quality as in the original paper, but learnt a lot.

## 1 Introduction

### 1.1 Goal

Our goal is to reproduce the "Learning priors for adversarial autoencoders" [1]

## 2 Algorithms

### 2.1 Adversarial Autoencoder

"Adversarial Autoencoders" [2] Sasha put here the algorithm description

## 2.2 Original paper algorithm

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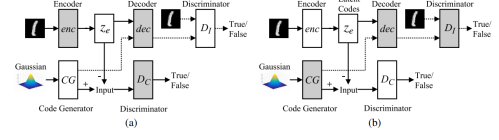
**Algorithm 1** Training algorithm for our method.

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$\theta_{enc}, \theta_{dec}, \theta_{CG}, \theta_{D_I}, \theta_{D_C}, \theta_Q \leftarrow$  Initialize network parameters  
Repeat (for each epochs  $E_i$ )  
Repeat (for each mini-batch  $x_j$ )  
// AAE phase  
 $z \sim p(z)$   
If conditional variables  $s$  exist then  
 $z_c \leftarrow CG(z, s)$   
Else  
 $z_c \leftarrow CG(z)$   
End If  
 $\mathcal{L}_{GAN}^C \leftarrow \log(D_C(z_c)) + \log(1 - D_C(enc(x)))$   
 $x_{rec} \leftarrow dec(enc(x))$   
 $\mathcal{L}_{rec} \leftarrow \frac{1}{N} \|\mathcal{F}(x) - \mathcal{F}(x_{rec})\|_2$   
// Update network parameters for AAE phase  
 $\theta_{D_C} \leftarrow \theta_{D_C} - \nabla_{\theta_{D_C}}(\mathcal{L}_{GAN}^C)$   
 $\theta_{enc} \leftarrow \theta_{enc} - \nabla_{\theta_{enc}}(-\mathcal{L}_{GAN}^C + \mathcal{L}_{rec})$   
 $\theta_{dec} \leftarrow \theta_{dec} - \nabla_{\theta_{dec}}(\lambda * \mathcal{L}_{rec})$   
// Prior improvement phase  
 $z \sim p(z)$   
If conditional variables  $s$  exist then  
 $z_c \leftarrow CG(z, s)$   
Else  
 $z_c \leftarrow CG(z)$   
End If  
 $x_{noise} \leftarrow dec(z_c)$   
 $x_{rec} \leftarrow dec(enc(x_j))$   
 $\mathcal{L}_{GAN}^I \leftarrow \log(D_I(x_j)) + \log(1 - D_I(x_{noise})) + \log(1 - D_I(x_{rec}))$   
// Update network parameters for prior improvement phase  
 $\theta_{D_I} \leftarrow \theta_{D_I} - \nabla_{\theta_{D_I}}(\mathcal{L}_{GAN}^I)$   
If conditional variables  $s$  exist then  
 $\theta_{dec} \leftarrow \theta_{dec} - \nabla_{\theta_{dec}}(-\mathcal{L}_{GAN}^I + I(s; dec(z_c)))$   
 $\theta_Q \leftarrow \theta_Q - \nabla_{\theta_Q}(I(s; dec(z_c)))$   
Else  
 $\theta_{dec} \leftarrow \theta_{dec} - \nabla_{\theta_{dec}}(-\mathcal{L}_{GAN}^I)$   
End If  
Until all mini-batches are seen  
Until terminate

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(a) Original paper algorithm pseudo code



Alternation of training phases: (a) the AAE phase and (b) the prior improvement phase.

(b) Original paper algorithm scheme

Figure 1: Original paper algorithm

## 2.3 Additional algorithm

Is inspired by "Autoencoding beyond pixels using a learned similarity metric"[3]

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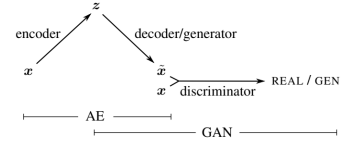
**Algorithm 1** Training the VAE/GAN model

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$\theta_{Enc}, \theta_{Dec}, \theta_{Dis} \leftarrow$  initialize network parameters  
**repeat**  
 $\mathcal{X} \leftarrow$  random mini-batch from dataset  
 $\mathcal{Z} \leftarrow Enc(\mathcal{X})$   
 $\mathcal{L}_{prior} \leftarrow D_{KL}(q(\mathcal{Z}|\mathcal{X})\|p(\mathcal{Z}))$   
 $\tilde{\mathcal{X}} \leftarrow Dec(\mathcal{Z})$   
 $\mathcal{L}_{Dis}^{Dis} \leftarrow -\mathbb{E}_{q(\mathcal{Z}|\mathcal{X})}[p(Dis(\tilde{\mathcal{X}})|\mathcal{Z})]$   
 $\mathcal{Z}_p \leftarrow$  samples from prior  $\mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{I})$   
 $\mathcal{X}_p \leftarrow Dec(\mathcal{Z}_p)$   
 $\mathcal{L}_{GAN} \leftarrow \log(Dis(\mathcal{X})) + \log(1 - Dis(\tilde{\mathcal{X}})) + \log(1 - Dis(\mathcal{X}_p))$   
// Update parameters according to gradients  
 $\theta_{Enc} \leftarrow \theta_{Enc} - \nabla_{\theta_{Enc}}(\mathcal{L}_{prior} + \mathcal{L}_{Dis}^{Dis})$   
 $\theta_{Dec} \leftarrow \theta_{Dec} - \nabla_{\theta_{Dec}}(\gamma \mathcal{L}_{Dis}^{Dis} - \mathcal{L}_{GAN})$   
 $\theta_{Dis} \leftarrow \theta_{Dis} - \nabla_{\theta_{Dis}} \mathcal{L}_{GAN}$   
**until** deadline

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(a) Additional paper algorithm pseudo code



(b) Additional paper algorithm scheme

Figure 2: Additional paper algorithm

## 3 Data

- MNIST
- CIFAR-10

## 4 Problems and solutions

### Problems

- Different formulae in the text and the pseudo code in the original paper
- 1 epoch even for MNIST takes about 17 minutes

- We had no time to try supervised setting

## Solutions

- Using other papers and do updates according to the our own understanding
- Several updates of encoder-decoder
- Adjusting learning rates

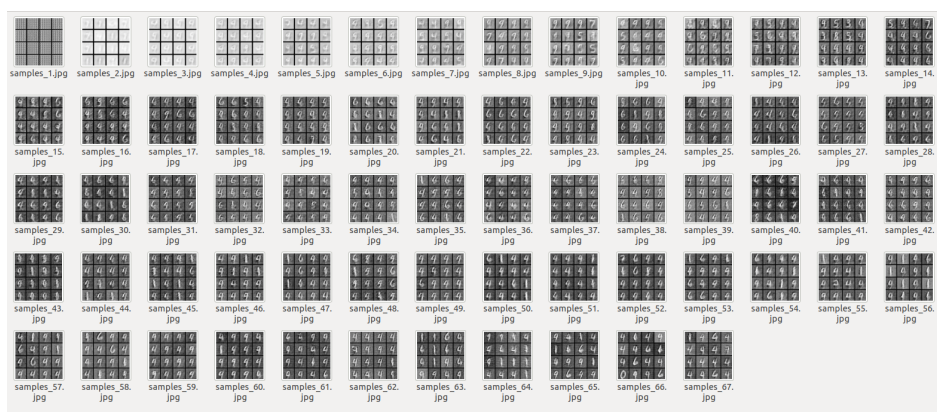
## 5 Results

### 5.1 Results for AAE

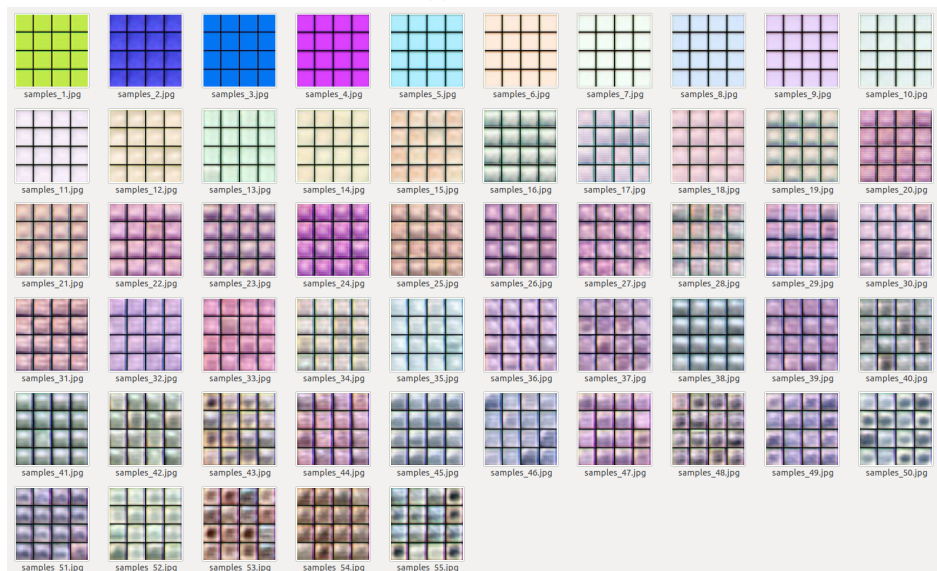
Sasha put here your pictures

### 5.2 Results for original paper

The most enchanting thing here is evolution with epochs. The results for CIFAR are not good at all. Here the latent dimension is 8 the same as for MNIST.



(a) MNIST



(b) CIFAR

Figure 3: Results evolution for original paper

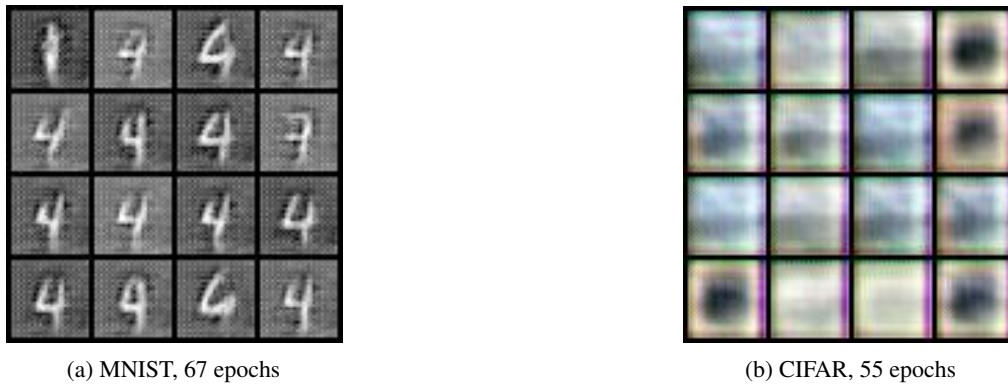


Figure 4: Original paper algorithm results for the latest epochs

### 5.3 Results for additional algorithm

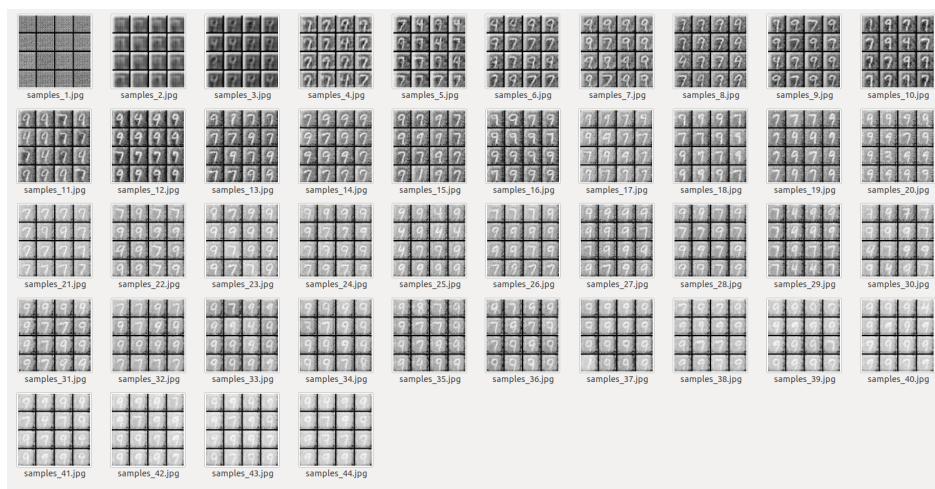


Figure 5: Results evolution for additional algorithm. MNIST

### 5.4 Conclusions

- The adversarial training is difficult
- There are a lot of different schemes of generative models combining GAN and VAE

### 5.5 Contributions

- Belozerova Polina: reading papers
- Safin Alexander: reading papers, implement the classical AAE, experiments for MNIST, corresponding parts in the presentation and report
- Pavlovskaya Natalia: reading papers, implement the original paper, implement the additional algorithm, experiments for MNIST and CIFAR-10, corresponding parts in the presentation and report

## References

- [1] Hui-Po Wang. Learning priors for adversarial autoencoders. 2018.
- [2] Alireza Makhzani, Jonathon Shlens, Navdeep Jaitly, and Ian J. Goodfellow. Adversarial autoencoders. *CoRR*, abs/1511.05644, 2015.
- [3] Anders Boesen Lindbo Larsen, Søren Kaae Sønderby, and Ole Winther. Autoencoding beyond pixels using a learned similarity metric. *CoRR*, abs/1512.09300, 2015.