

# Introduction

```
In [79]: import torch
from AutoDecoder import AutoDecoder
from utils import create_dataloaders, plot_tsne
from evaluate import evaluate_model
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
import matplotlib.image as mpimg
import os

In [80]: # Load the dataset (train and test splits are handled in the function)
train_ds, train_dl, test_ds, test_dl = create_dataloaders(data_path='dataset', ba
# Debugging:
print(f"Training dataset size: {len(train_ds)}")
print(f"Test dataset size: {len(test_ds)}")
print(f"Number of batches in training DataLoader: {len(train_dl)}")
print(f"Number of batches in test DataLoader: {len(test_dl)}")

Training dataset size: 1000
Test dataset size: 1000
Number of batches in training DataLoader: 16
Number of batches in test DataLoader: 16

In [81]: #explore the training dataset
plt.figure(1)
num_samples = 4
for i in range(num_samples):
    plt.subplot(221+i)
    plt.imshow(train_ds[i][1], cmap='gray')
plt.show()

#lets see the size of the images
print(f"Image size: {train_ds[0][1].shape}")
```

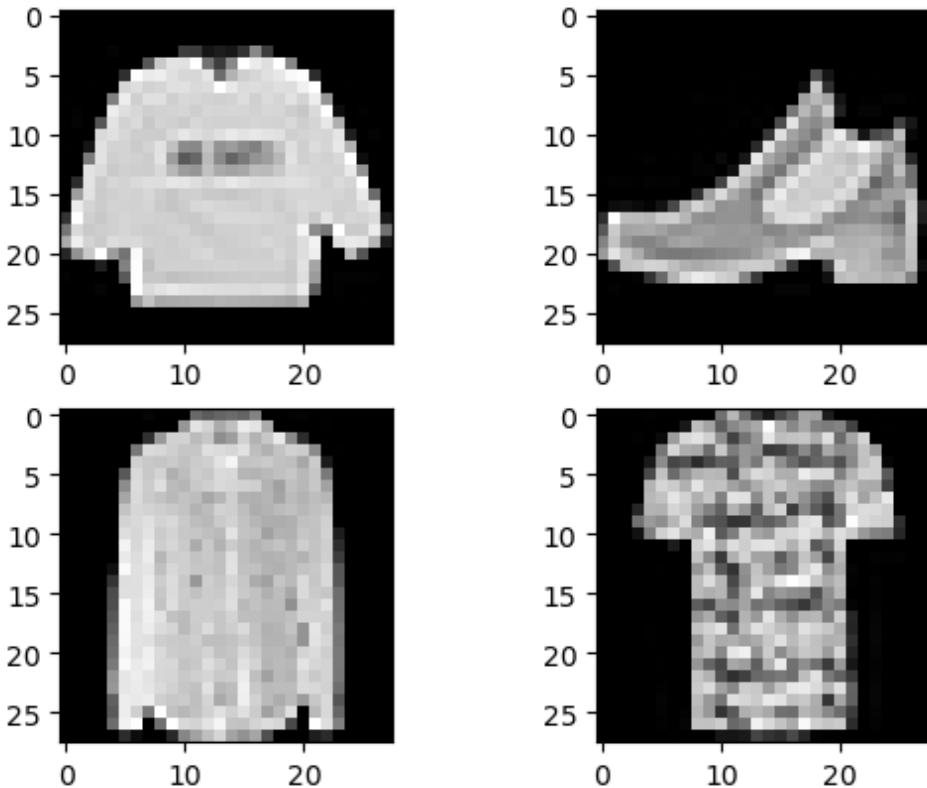


Image size: torch.Size([28, 28])

```
In [82]: #lets have a look at the values of the pixels of the images
print(f"Min pixel value: {train_ds[0][1].min()}")
print(f"Max pixel value: {train_ds[0][1].max()}")

# TODO: consider if we need to normalize the images
# for i in range(len(train_ds)):
#     train_ds[i] = (train_ds[i][0], train_ds[i][1].float()/255)
```

Min pixel value: 0  
Max pixel value: 255

## AutoDecoder

### AutoDecoder Implementation Overview

```
In [83]: from AutoDecoder import Trainer
trainer = Trainer()
print(trainer.model)
```

```

AutoDecoder(
    decoder): Sequential(
        (0): ConvTranspose2d(128, 256, kernel_size=(7, 7), stride=(1, 1), bias=False)
        (1): BatchNorm2d(256, eps=1e-05, momentum=0.1, affine=True, track_running_stats=True)
        (2): ReLU(inplace=True)
        (3): ConvTranspose2d(256, 128, kernel_size=(4, 4), stride=(2, 2), padding=(1, 1), bias=False)
        (4): BatchNorm2d(128, eps=1e-05, momentum=0.1, affine=True, track_running_stats=True)
        (5): ReLU(inplace=True)
        (6): ConvTranspose2d(128, 64, kernel_size=(4, 4), stride=(2, 2), padding=(1, 1), bias=False)
        (7): BatchNorm2d(64, eps=1e-05, momentum=0.1, affine=True, track_running_stats=True)
        (8): ReLU(inplace=True)
        (9): ConvTranspose2d(64, 1, kernel_size=(3, 3), stride=(1, 1), padding=(1, 1), bias=False)
        (10): Sigmoid()
    )
)

```

## Architecture and Design Choices

### 1. Decoder Architecture

The AutoDecoder reconstructs images from a latent space representation using a fully convolutional structure with transposed convolution layers. The reason we are using transposed convolution layers is for upsampling, and also we want to imitate "mirror imaging" of the Encoder (which is not present). Moreover, the transposed convolutions are used to effectively expand spatial dimensions, which is essential for reconstructing images from compressed latent vectors. In addition we reduce the number of channels across layers. This helps refine features during each upsampling step. Also, we took inspiration for the architecture of the decoder from the following paper - arXiv:1512.09300v2 [here](#).

Below is the architecture:

- **Input:** Latent vector of size  $latent\_dim$ , reshaped to  $(batch\_size, latent\_dim, 1, 1)$ .
- **Output:** Reconstructed images of size  $28 \times 28$  with pixel values scaled to  $[0, 255]$ .

### Layer Details:

#### 1. Transposed Convolution Layers:

- **Layer 1:** Converts the latent vector into a feature map of size  $7 \times 7$  with 256 channels.
- **Layer 2:** Upsamples the feature map to  $14 \times 14$  with 128 channels.
- **Layer 3:** Further upsamples to  $28 \times 28$  with 64 channels.
- **Layer 4:** Outputs the final image with 1 channel (grayscale as the inputs) using a  $3 \times 3$ .

#### 2. Activation Functions:

- **ReLU:** Used in intermediate layers to introduce non-linearity.

- **Sigmoid:** Used in the output layer to normalize pixel values to  $[0, 1]$ . This output is multiplied by 255 in order for the values to be in the same scale as the data.

### 3. Batch Normalization:

- Applied after each transposed convolution (except the last layer) to stabilize training and improve convergence.

### 4. Upsampling:

- Achieved through transposed convolutions, which increase the spatial dimensions while learning meaningful patterns to fill in details. We remind that the input vector to the decoder is a vector in a smaller dimension so we need to "fill in" patterns in order to compare to the data.
- 

## Model Parameters

### 1. Kernel Size:

- Larger  $7 \times 7$  kernel at the first layer captures broad features, while smaller kernels in later layers refine finer details.
- We also used the following equations from the pytorch documentation [here](#):
- $H_{\text{out}} = (H_{\text{in}} - 1) \times \text{stride}[0] - 2 \times \text{padding}[0] + \text{dilation}[0] \times (\text{kernel\_size}[0] - 1)$
- $W_{\text{out}} = (W_{\text{in}} - 1) \times \text{stride}[1] - 2 \times \text{padding}[1] + \text{dilation}[1] \times (\text{kernel\_size}[1] - 1)$

### 2. Strides and Padding:

- Configured such that it would ensure smooth upsampling.

### 3. Model Depth:

- Four transposed convolution layers provide sufficient capacity to reconstruct  $28 \times 28$  images without overfitting. Recall we took inspiration from the above paper.

### 4. Latent Dimension:

- We needed to choose a dimension that is smaller than the dimension of the data  $28 \times 28 = 784$ . This is because the latent space represents a more compressed space of the data.
  - After experimentation where we observed the latent dimension's effect on the model's ability to generalize, we chose  $\text{latent\_dim} = 128$ .
  - The latent dimension gives a good balance between reducing the dimensionality of the latent space for compact representation and maintaining a higher dimensional size to enable the model to capture more complex features for better reconstruction.
- 

## Training Parameters

### 1. Optimizer:

- **Adam Optimizer:** Selected for its adaptive learning rate and momentum, ensuring stable and efficient optimization.

- Adaptive learning rate is when the learning rate for each parameter is adjusted individually based on how frequently it has been updated. Momentum uses past gradient information to smooth out updates and avoid oscillations.

## 2. Learning Rate:

- Set to 0.005, a starting value that gave stable convergence.

## 3. Loss Function:

- **Reconstruction Loss:** Gave by the staff to use. This loss measures the discrepancy between the original and reconstructed images, ensuring the AutoDecoder prioritizes accurate image reconstruction.

## 4. Batch Size:

- *batch\_size* = 64: Provided a balance between computational efficiency and stable gradient updates.

## 5. Epochs:

- Trained for 100 epochs in order to minimize reconstruction loss.

```
In [84]: trainer.train_and_evaluate()
```

Epoch 1/100  
Epoch [1/100], Loss: 0.5514  
Epoch 2/100  
Epoch [2/100], Loss: 0.4765  
Epoch 3/100  
Epoch [3/100], Loss: 0.4364  
Epoch 4/100  
Epoch [4/100], Loss: 0.3958  
Epoch 5/100  
Epoch [5/100], Loss: 0.3686  
Epoch 6/100  
Epoch [6/100], Loss: 0.3540  
Epoch 7/100  
Epoch [7/100], Loss: 0.3425  
Epoch 8/100  
Epoch [8/100], Loss: 0.3382  
Epoch 9/100  
Epoch [9/100], Loss: 0.3452  
Epoch 10/100  
Epoch [10/100], Loss: 0.3416  
Epoch 11/100  
Epoch [11/100], Loss: 0.3330  
Epoch 12/100  
Epoch [12/100], Loss: 0.3307  
Epoch 13/100  
Epoch [13/100], Loss: 0.3145  
Epoch 14/100  
Epoch [14/100], Loss: 0.3085  
Epoch 15/100  
Epoch [15/100], Loss: 0.3058  
Epoch 16/100  
Epoch [16/100], Loss: 0.3014  
Epoch 17/100  
Epoch [17/100], Loss: 0.2885  
Epoch 18/100  
Epoch [18/100], Loss: 0.2712  
Epoch 19/100  
Epoch [19/100], Loss: 0.2625  
Epoch 20/100  
Epoch [20/100], Loss: 0.2511  
Epoch 21/100  
Epoch [21/100], Loss: 0.2146  
Epoch 22/100  
Epoch [22/100], Loss: 0.1768  
Epoch 23/100  
Epoch [23/100], Loss: 0.1915  
Epoch 24/100  
Epoch [24/100], Loss: 0.1700  
Epoch 25/100  
Epoch [25/100], Loss: 0.1483  
Epoch 26/100  
Epoch [26/100], Loss: 0.1401  
Epoch 27/100  
Epoch [27/100], Loss: 0.1422  
Epoch 28/100  
Epoch [28/100], Loss: 0.1390  
Epoch 29/100  
Epoch [29/100], Loss: 0.1266  
Epoch 30/100  
Epoch [30/100], Loss: 0.1256  
Epoch 31/100

Epoch [31/100], Loss: 0.1227  
Epoch 32/100  
Epoch [32/100], Loss: 0.1128  
Epoch 33/100  
Epoch [33/100], Loss: 0.1163  
Epoch 34/100  
Epoch [34/100], Loss: 0.1138  
Epoch 35/100  
Epoch [35/100], Loss: 0.1224  
Epoch 36/100  
Epoch [36/100], Loss: 0.1213  
Epoch 37/100  
Epoch [37/100], Loss: 0.0957  
Epoch 38/100  
Epoch [38/100], Loss: 0.0901  
Epoch 39/100  
Epoch [39/100], Loss: 0.0939  
Epoch 40/100  
Epoch [40/100], Loss: 0.1010  
Epoch 41/100  
Epoch [41/100], Loss: 0.0977  
Epoch 42/100  
Epoch [42/100], Loss: 0.0904  
Epoch 43/100  
Epoch [43/100], Loss: 0.0923  
Epoch 44/100  
Epoch [44/100], Loss: 0.0890  
Epoch 45/100  
Epoch [45/100], Loss: 0.0843  
Epoch 46/100  
Epoch [46/100], Loss: 0.0839  
Epoch 47/100  
Epoch [47/100], Loss: 0.0854  
Epoch 48/100  
Epoch [48/100], Loss: 0.0821  
Epoch 49/100  
Epoch [49/100], Loss: 0.0794  
Epoch 50/100  
Epoch [50/100], Loss: 0.0820  
Epoch 51/100  
Epoch [51/100], Loss: 0.0797  
Epoch 52/100  
Epoch [52/100], Loss: 0.0809  
Epoch 53/100  
Epoch [53/100], Loss: 0.0881  
Epoch 54/100  
Epoch [54/100], Loss: 0.0962  
Epoch 55/100  
Epoch [55/100], Loss: 0.1037  
Epoch 56/100  
Epoch [56/100], Loss: 0.1036  
Epoch 57/100  
Epoch [57/100], Loss: 0.0857  
Epoch 58/100  
Epoch [58/100], Loss: 0.0717  
Epoch 59/100  
Epoch [59/100], Loss: 0.0675  
Epoch 60/100  
Epoch [60/100], Loss: 0.0676  
Epoch 61/100  
Epoch [61/100], Loss: 0.0678

Epoch 62/100  
Epoch [62/100], Loss: 0.0699  
Epoch 63/100  
Epoch [63/100], Loss: 0.0687  
Epoch 64/100  
Epoch [64/100], Loss: 0.0654  
Epoch 65/100  
Epoch [65/100], Loss: 0.0632  
Epoch 66/100  
Epoch [66/100], Loss: 0.0625  
Epoch 67/100  
Epoch [67/100], Loss: 0.0632  
Epoch 68/100  
Epoch [68/100], Loss: 0.0645  
Epoch 69/100  
Epoch [69/100], Loss: 0.0629  
Epoch 70/100  
Epoch [70/100], Loss: 0.0599  
Epoch 71/100  
Epoch [71/100], Loss: 0.0579  
Epoch 72/100  
Epoch [72/100], Loss: 0.0573  
Epoch 73/100  
Epoch [73/100], Loss: 0.0586  
Epoch 74/100  
Epoch [74/100], Loss: 0.0604  
Epoch 75/100  
Epoch [75/100], Loss: 0.0577  
Epoch 76/100  
Epoch [76/100], Loss: 0.0579  
Epoch 77/100  
Epoch [77/100], Loss: 0.0578  
Epoch 78/100  
Epoch [78/100], Loss: 0.0597  
Epoch 79/100  
Epoch [79/100], Loss: 0.0604  
Epoch 80/100  
Epoch [80/100], Loss: 0.0574  
Epoch 81/100  
Epoch [81/100], Loss: 0.0569  
Epoch 82/100  
Epoch [82/100], Loss: 0.0592  
Epoch 83/100  
Epoch [83/100], Loss: 0.0622  
Epoch 84/100  
Epoch [84/100], Loss: 0.0600  
Epoch 85/100  
Epoch [85/100], Loss: 0.0574  
Epoch 86/100  
Epoch [86/100], Loss: 0.0567  
Epoch 87/100  
Epoch [87/100], Loss: 0.0565  
Epoch 88/100  
Epoch [88/100], Loss: 0.0540  
Epoch 89/100  
Epoch [89/100], Loss: 0.0494  
Epoch 90/100  
Epoch [90/100], Loss: 0.0491  
Epoch 91/100  
Epoch [91/100], Loss: 0.0464  
Epoch 92/100

```
Epoch [92/100], Loss: 0.0472
Epoch 93/100
Epoch [93/100], Loss: 0.0523
Epoch 94/100
Epoch [94/100], Loss: 0.0536
Epoch 95/100
Epoch [95/100], Loss: 0.0522
Epoch 96/100
Epoch [96/100], Loss: 0.0520
Epoch 97/100
Epoch [97/100], Loss: 0.0505
Epoch 98/100
Epoch [98/100], Loss: 0.0459
Epoch 99/100
Epoch [99/100], Loss: 0.0448
Epoch 100/100
Epoch [100/100], Loss: 0.0439
Training Loss: 0.0439
Test Loss: 0.1270
Training and Evaluation Complete!
```

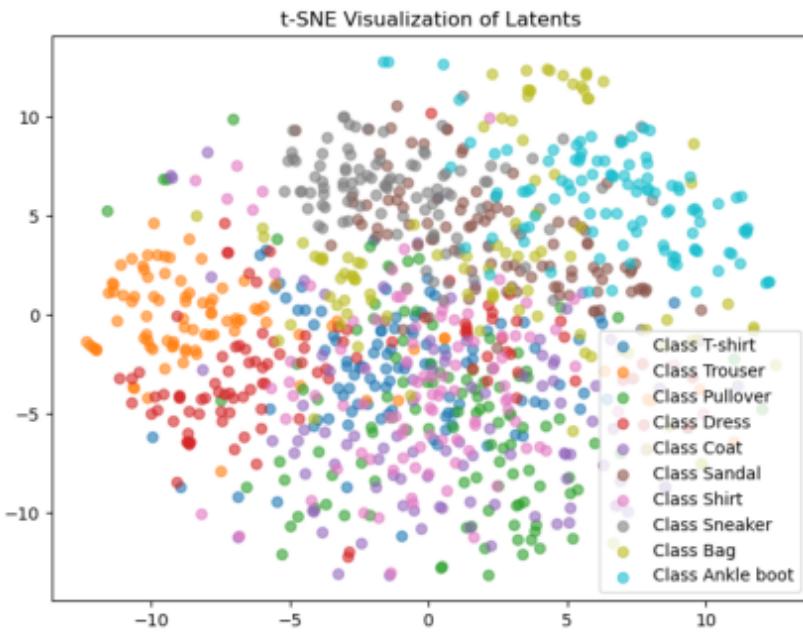
## TSNE Plot

Plotting TSNE plot.

```
In [85]: trainer.plot_tsne()
```

```
Generating t-SNE plot...
<Figure size 800x600 with 0 Axes>
```

```
In [86]: file_name = 'tsne_plot_AD'
image_path = f'{file_name}.png'
img = mpimg.imread(image_path)
plt.imshow(img)
plt.axis('off') # Hide axes
plt.show()
```



We can see from the plot that there are some classes are organized well, but overall the classes aren't separated well. This is probably due to the fact that the model didn't learn a continuous space but rather a mapping from latent vectors to a reconstructed image similar to the data.

## Testing Samples

```
In [9]: trainer.test_samples()
```

```
Generating random samples...
Saving images...
Images saved to output_images/random_latents_images.png
Saving images...
Images saved to output_images/test_set_latents_images.png
```

```
In [10]: image_paths = ['output_images/random_latents_images.png', 'output_images/test_set_latents_images.png']

fig, axs = plt.subplots(1, len(image_paths), figsize=(15, 5)) # 1 row, len(image_paths) columns

for i, image_path in enumerate(image_paths):
    img = mpimg.imread(image_path)
    axs[i].imshow(img)
    axs[i].axis('off') # Hide axes

plt.show()
```



## Comparing Random & Test Images

### Results Comparison

- We can see that the decoded test set latents gave far better results than the decoded latents from  $N(0, I)$ .
- The decoder learned to take a mapping of a certain image in the latent space and to construct it to an image that is close to the original one. The test latents were fitted to a close mapping in the latent space of similar images. Then the Decoder can take the test latent and reconstruct an image that is similar to the images in the data.
- On the other hand, latent vectors that were sampled randomly from  $N(0, I)$  were not fitted and therefore the decoder did not learn how to construct images similar to the data images from their mappings in the latent space.
- The decoder learned to reconstruct specific latent mappings to reconstructions closely resembling the original images. Test latents, optimized to align with the learned latent space, enabled the decoder to produce accurate reconstructions. However, randomly sampled latents do not align with the learnt latent mappings, resulting in less coherent and detailed images. This reflects the model's reliance on a latent space shaped by training (not continuous) and its limited ability to generalize to unseen latent points.

## Variational Auto Decoder - VAD

### VariationalAutoDecoder Implementation Overview

The Variational AutoDecoder is designed to reconstruct images by learning distributions in the latent space, unlike a standard AutoDecoder, which uses fixed latent vectors. This approach leverages learned distributions, making the architecture more versatile for tasks involving random sampling from the latent space.

In this design, two key parameters are initialized for each sample: the mean ( $\mu$ ) and standard deviation ( $\sigma$ ) of the latent distribution. These trainable parameters enable the model to learn a unique distribution for each sample, improving generalization when generating new latents. The decoder consists of a sequence of linear layers followed by transposed convolutional layers.

The reparameterization trick was used to scale and shift Gaussian noise using the learned  $\mu$  and  $\sigma$  for each sample. This approach ensures differentiability, enabling backpropagation through the random sampling process.

Lastly, in the training process an ELBO loss function was used, which combines reconstruction loss, quantifying the difference between the original and reconstructed images, and a KL divergence term that ensures the learned distribution remains close to a standard normal distribution. This balance between reconstruction accuracy and distribution regularization is essential for effective training and generalization.

```
In [1]: from VariationalAutoDecoder import VariationalAutoDecoderNormal, VariationalAutoDecoder
import numpy as np
import torch
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
import matplotlib.image as mpimg
```

```
In [2]: learning_rate = 0.02
latent_dim = 60
model_normal = VariationalAutoDecoderNormal(latent_dim=latent_dim, lr=learning_rate)
print(model_normal.decoder)

VAD_Decoder(
    (decoder): Sequential(
        (0): Linear(in_features=60, out_features=12544, bias=True)
        (1): ReLU(inplace=True)
        (2): Unflatten(dim=1, unflattened_size=(256, 7, 7))
        (3): ConvTranspose2d(256, 128, kernel_size=(4, 4), stride=(2, 2), padding=(1, 1), bias=False)
        (4): BatchNorm2d(128, eps=1e-05, momentum=0.1, affine=True, track_running_stats=True)
        (5): ReLU(inplace=True)
        (6): ConvTranspose2d(128, 64, kernel_size=(4, 4), stride=(2, 2), padding=(1, 1), bias=False)
        (7): BatchNorm2d(64, eps=1e-05, momentum=0.1, affine=True, track_running_stats=True)
        (8): ReLU(inplace=True)
        (9): ConvTranspose2d(64, 1, kernel_size=(3, 3), stride=(1, 1), padding=(1, 1), bias=False)
        (10): Sigmoid()
    )
)
```

## Architecture and Design Choices

### 1. Decoder Architecture

The Decoder architecture in the VAD is very similar to the AutoDecoder architecture: We first use a fully connected layer for the decoder to learn how to upsample a vector from the latent space. We then use RELU to introduce non-linearity and after that we unflatten the result vector in order for it to be in proper dimensions for the convolutional layers.

Then we use fully convolutional structure with transposed convolution layers. The reason we are using transposed convolution layers was stated in the AD architecture above. Below is the architecture:

- **Input:** Latent vector of size  $latent\_dim$ .
- **Output:** Reconstructed images of size  $28 \times 28$  with pixel values scaled to  $[0, 255]$ .

### Layer Details

#### 1. Fully Connected Layer and Reshaping:

- **Layer 0:** Maps the latent vector into a feature vector of size  $256 \times 7 \times 7 = 12544$ .

- **Reshape:** Converts the output into a feature map with dimensions  $7 \times 7$  and 256 channels, preparing it for convolutional decoding.

## 2. Transposed Convolution Layers:

- **Layer 1:** Upsamples the feature map from  $7 \times 7$  to  $14 \times 14$  with 128 channels.
- **Layer 2:** Further upsamples the feature map to  $28 \times 28$  with 64 channels.
- **Layer 3:** Outputs the final image with 1 channel (grayscale, as the inputs) using a  $3 \times 3$  kernel.

## 3. Activation Functions:

- **ReLU:** Applied after each intermediate layer to introduce non-linearity and allow the model to learn complex relationships.
- **Sigmoid:** Applied in the output layer to normalize pixel values to the range  $[0, 1]$ , and then multiplied by 255 aligning with the expected intensity values of the data.

## 4. Batch Normalization:

- Included after each transposed convolution layer (except the last) to stabilize learning by normalizing activations, improving convergence and reducing overfitting.

## 5. Upsampling:

- Performed using transposed convolutions, which increase the spatial dimensions of the feature maps while learning patterns to generate meaningful reconstructions.
  - This step is crucial as the input vector to the decoder is a compressed representation, and the decoder must "expand" and "fill in" details to recreate an image comparable to the original data.
- 

# Model Parameters

## 1. Kernel Size:

- A  $4 \times 4$  kernel is used in the first two transposed convolution layers to upsample and capture broad patterns efficiently. The final layer uses a smaller  $3 \times 3$  kernel to refine details in the reconstructed image.
- The output dimensions after each layer were calculated using the equations from the PyTorch documentation [here](#):
  - $H_{\text{out}} = (H_{\text{in}} - 1) \times \text{stride}[0] - 2 \times \text{padding}[0] + \text{dilation}[0] \times (\text{kernel\_size}[0] - 1) + 1$
  - $W_{\text{out}} = (W_{\text{in}} - 1) \times \text{stride}[1] - 2 \times \text{padding}[1] + \text{dilation}[1] \times (\text{kernel\_size}[1] - 1) + 1$

## 2. Stride:

- A stride of  $2 \times 2$  in the first two layers doubles the spatial dimensions of the feature maps, enabling effective upsampling.

## 3. Padding:

- Padding of  $1 \times 1$  ensures the output dimensions grow proportionally while maintaining spatial consistency during upsampling.

#### 4. Model Depth:

- Three transposed convolution layers provide sufficient capacity to reconstruct  $28 \times 28$  images without overfitting. Recall we took inspiration from the above paper.

#### 5. Latent Dimension:

- After experimentation where we observed the latents dimesion's effect on the VAD loss and the model's ability to generalize, we chose  $latent\_dim = 60$ .
  - The latent dimension gives a good balance between reducing the dimensionality of the latent space for compact representation and maintaining a higher dimensional size to enable the model to capture more complex features for better reconstruction.
- 

## Training Parameters

### Overview:

The parametes that were trained in the model except for the decoder, were the log of the variance and the mean for each training sample. Training the log of the variance helps ensure numerical stability and precision during the training process.

After experimanting we found that the following hyper-parameters balance well between the reconstruction of images and the orginaization of a learned continuos latent space.

#### 1. Optimizer:

- **Adam Optimizer:** Selected for its adaptive learning rate and momentum, ensuring stable and efficient optimization.
- Adaptive learning rate is when the learning rate for each parameter is adjusted individually based on how frequently it has been updated. Momentum uses past gradient information to smooth out updates and avoid oscillations.

#### 2. Learning Rate:

- Set to 0.02, a starting value that gave stable convergence.

#### 3. Loss Function:

- The loss function combines two key components: the **reconstruction loss** and the **KL-Divergence loss**. These terms work together to balance reconstruction accuracy and the organization of the latent space.

#### • Reconstruction Loss:

- The reconstruction term in the loss function measures how accurately the decoder can generate an image that is similar to the original input. This guides the model in outputing new images that are similar to the input images during training.
- We use Mean Squared Error (MSE) for the reconstruction term.

- **Purpose:** MSE measures the pixel-wise difference between the original input image and the reconstructed image, providing an evaluation of reconstruction quality. It penalizes larger errors more heavily, ensuring that even small differences in pixel values are minimized.
- **Why MSE?**: MSE aligns well with our goal of producing outputs visually close to the input. It was also used in the tutorials robust loss for tasks involving grayscale images.
- **KL-Divergence Loss:**
  - The KL divergence term in the loss measures how closely the learned latent space distribution matches the target distribution, which is a standard normal distribution. Its purpose is to guide the model in generating better samples from the latent space. This enables us to sample from the prior target distribution, decode the samples, and obtain reconstructions that are consistent with the distribution  $P(X)$ .
  - **Purpose:** This term ensures that the latent space remains structured and meaningful, allowing for smooth interpolation. Without it, the latent space might become disorganized, leading to poor generalization when decoding random samples. Also, this term gives a regularization effect.

- **Total Loss:**

- The total loss is computed as the weighted sum of the two terms:  

$$\text{Loss} = \text{Reconstruction Loss (MSE)} + \beta \cdot \text{KL-Divergence Loss}$$
. Where  $\beta$  controls the trade-off between the reconstruction of the image and latent space regularization.
- A good balance ensures that the decoder reconstructs images accurately while also allowing meaningful latent space manipulation for generative tasks.

#### 4. Batch Size:

- $batch\_size = 64$ : Provided a balance between computational efficiency and stable gradient updates.

#### 5. Epochs:

- After experimenting with fixed hyper-parameters, we observed that as we increased the epochs the KL-divergence term increased resulting in a disorganized latent space. On the other hand the reconstruction quality becomes better.

Training VAD With Normal Distribution.

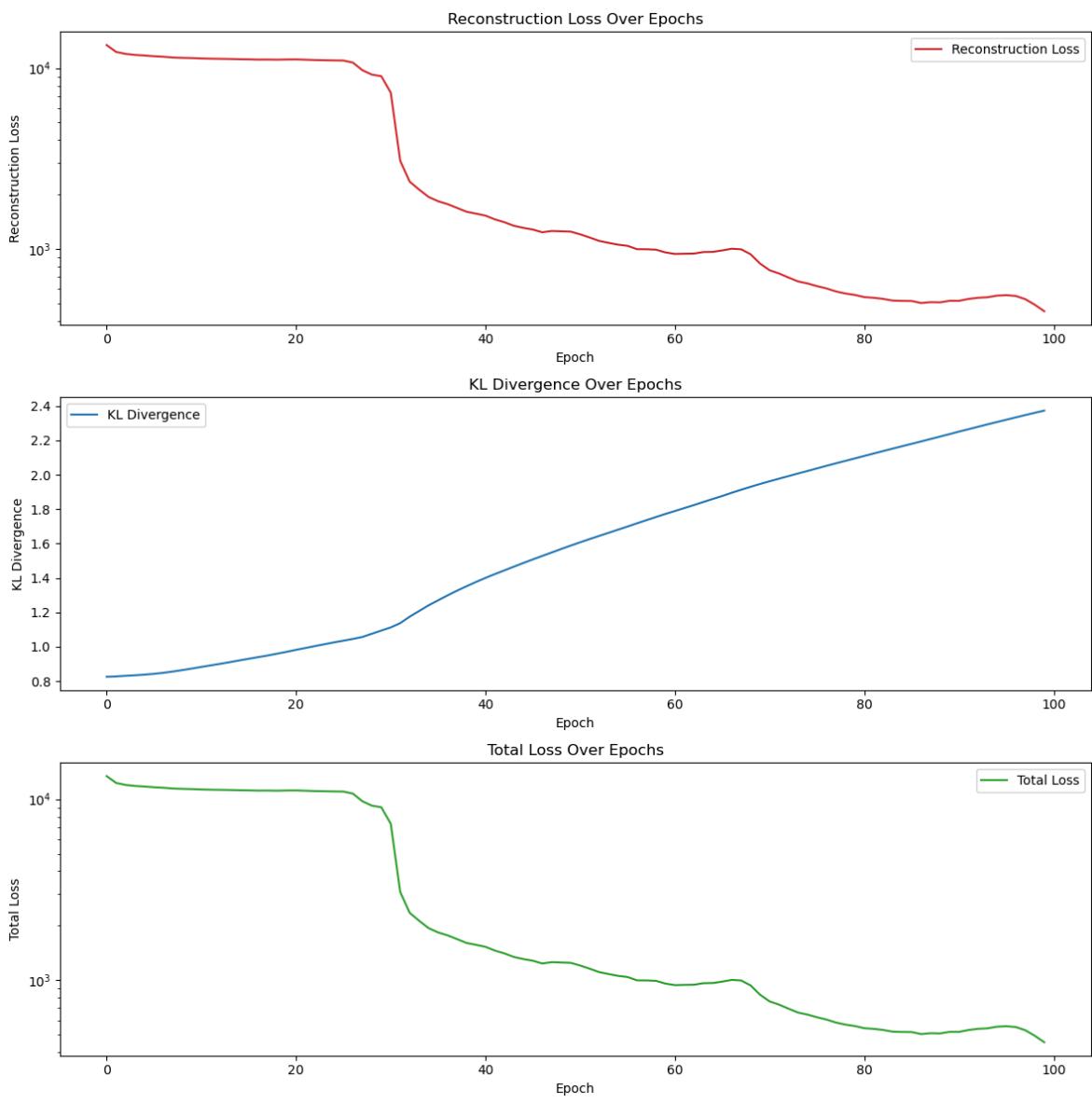
```
In [8]: epochs = 100
beta = 1
learning_rate = 0.02
latent_dim = 60
model_normal = VariationalAutoDecoderNormal(latent_dim=latent_dim, lr=learning_rate)
train_loss, _, _ = model_normal.fit_and_train(num_epochs=epochs, beta=beta)
print(f'Training loss: {train_loss:.4f}')
```

```
test_loss = model_normal.test_vad(num_epochs=epochs, learning_rate=learning_rate)
print(f'Test loss: {test_loss:.4f}')
```

Training the VAD model...

Epoch 1, Loss: 13412.0275  
Epoch 2, Loss: 12295.4293  
Epoch 3, Loss: 11987.2966  
Epoch 4, Loss: 11835.2003  
Epoch 5, Loss: 11748.7730  
Epoch 6, Loss: 11639.7417  
Epoch 7, Loss: 11566.9484  
Epoch 8, Loss: 11454.3896  
Epoch 9, Loss: 11405.9931  
Epoch 10, Loss: 11369.3024  
Epoch 11, Loss: 11318.7924  
Epoch 12, Loss: 11283.7548  
Epoch 13, Loss: 11261.3706  
Epoch 14, Loss: 11238.8860  
Epoch 15, Loss: 11206.0403  
Epoch 16, Loss: 11191.6157  
Epoch 17, Loss: 11154.7577  
Epoch 18, Loss: 11161.7433  
Epoch 19, Loss: 11139.7089  
Epoch 20, Loss: 11171.9247  
Epoch 21, Loss: 11181.9141  
Epoch 22, Loss: 11133.9845  
Epoch 23, Loss: 11085.0201  
Epoch 24, Loss: 11061.1423  
Epoch 25, Loss: 11035.4640  
Epoch 26, Loss: 11017.7168  
Epoch 27, Loss: 10731.7625  
Epoch 28, Loss: 9740.6093  
Epoch 29, Loss: 9209.7742  
Epoch 30, Loss: 9022.1972  
Epoch 31, Loss: 7311.8362  
Epoch 32, Loss: 3067.3180  
Epoch 33, Loss: 2353.8813  
Epoch 34, Loss: 2126.5519  
Epoch 35, Loss: 1937.2821  
Epoch 36, Loss: 1834.2201  
Epoch 37, Loss: 1767.2689  
Epoch 38, Loss: 1685.4140  
Epoch 39, Loss: 1604.6907  
Epoch 40, Loss: 1566.7514  
Epoch 41, Loss: 1527.4735  
Epoch 42, Loss: 1455.8788  
Epoch 43, Loss: 1404.7006  
Epoch 44, Loss: 1342.2911  
Epoch 45, Loss: 1307.0476  
Epoch 46, Loss: 1279.6443  
Epoch 47, Loss: 1235.6010  
Epoch 48, Loss: 1256.7415  
Epoch 49, Loss: 1250.9291  
Epoch 50, Loss: 1246.0749  
Epoch 51, Loss: 1204.0565  
Epoch 52, Loss: 1156.6501  
Epoch 53, Loss: 1107.4404  
Epoch 54, Loss: 1080.3976  
Epoch 55, Loss: 1055.7768  
Epoch 56, Loss: 1040.4172  
Epoch 57, Loss: 996.9813  
Epoch 58, Loss: 996.1762  
Epoch 59, Loss: 990.9617  
Epoch 60, Loss: 956.8306

Epoch 61, Loss: 938.3430  
Epoch 62, Loss: 940.9349  
Epoch 63, Loss: 942.9159  
Epoch 64, Loss: 961.4120  
Epoch 65, Loss: 963.7977  
Epoch 66, Loss: 981.4424  
Epoch 67, Loss: 1003.0753  
Epoch 68, Loss: 995.7081  
Epoch 69, Loss: 934.1452  
Epoch 70, Loss: 829.9614  
Epoch 71, Loss: 763.0854  
Epoch 72, Loss: 731.9277  
Epoch 73, Loss: 695.4336  
Epoch 74, Loss: 662.1157  
Epoch 75, Loss: 645.2271  
Epoch 76, Loss: 623.4058  
Epoch 77, Loss: 605.6898  
Epoch 78, Loss: 583.0952  
Epoch 79, Loss: 567.9419  
Epoch 80, Loss: 557.7659  
Epoch 81, Loss: 542.4434  
Epoch 82, Loss: 537.8825  
Epoch 83, Loss: 530.2899  
Epoch 84, Loss: 518.9950  
Epoch 85, Loss: 517.1479  
Epoch 86, Loss: 516.5048  
Epoch 87, Loss: 503.3692  
Epoch 88, Loss: 508.8968  
Epoch 89, Loss: 507.5735  
Epoch 90, Loss: 517.7974  
Epoch 91, Loss: 517.5896  
Epoch 92, Loss: 530.0786  
Epoch 93, Loss: 538.0578  
Epoch 94, Loss: 541.5439  
Epoch 95, Loss: 552.9220  
Epoch 96, Loss: 556.2973  
Epoch 97, Loss: 550.5939  
Epoch 98, Loss: 528.5003  
Epoch 99, Loss: 492.7271  
Epoch 100, Loss: 453.6254



Training loss: 453.6254

Testing the VAD model...

Test loss: 0.1279

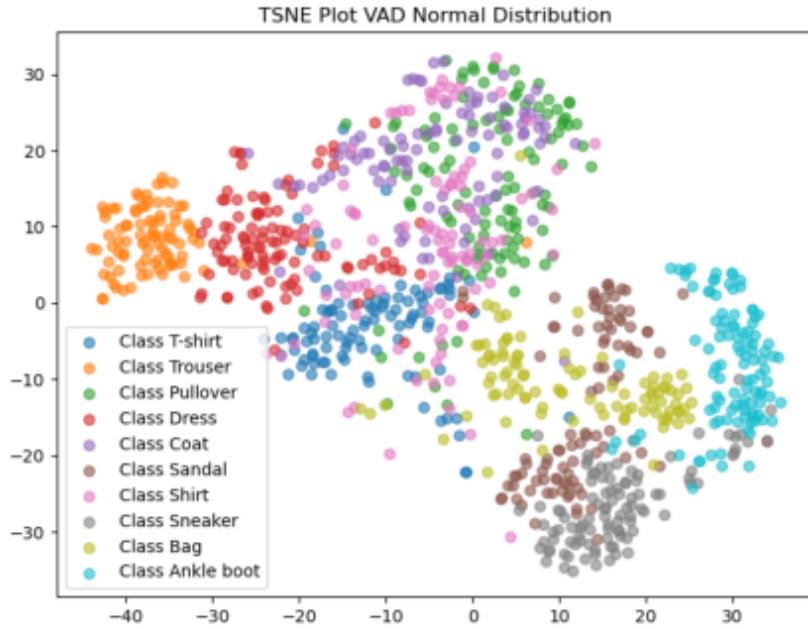
Plotting TSNE plot.

```
In [9]: file_name = 'tsne_plot_VAD_normal'
image_title = 'TSNE Plot VAD Normal Distribution'
model_normal.plot_tsne(file_name=file_name, plot_title=image_title)
```

Generating t-SNE plot...

<Figure size 800x600 with 0 Axes>

```
In [10]: image_path = f'{file_name}.png'
img = mpimg.imread(image_path)
plt.imshow(img)
plt.axis('off') # Hide axes
plt.show()
```



## Results Explanation

We can see that over all the classes are organized well. From the plot we can observe that the different shoe classes are near each others, but the model learnt to distinguish between the different kind of shoes (sandals, sneakers, ankle boots). The same explanation applies to the dress and trousers classes. Besides that we can observe that the classes coat, pullover and shirt are not seperated well in the latent space. This due to the fact that these classes have features that are difficult for the model to capture and differentiate between them. Lastly we see that the bag class is very much apart from other classes but has two different clusters. This is probably due to the fact that are two kinds of bags.

### Bags & Sandals Classes - different bags & Sandals

```
In [11]: BAG_CLASS = 8
SANDALS_CLASS = 5
bag_images = [model_normal.train_ds.X[i] for i in range(len(model_normal.train_ds))]
bag_images = bag_images[-5:] + bag_images[:5]

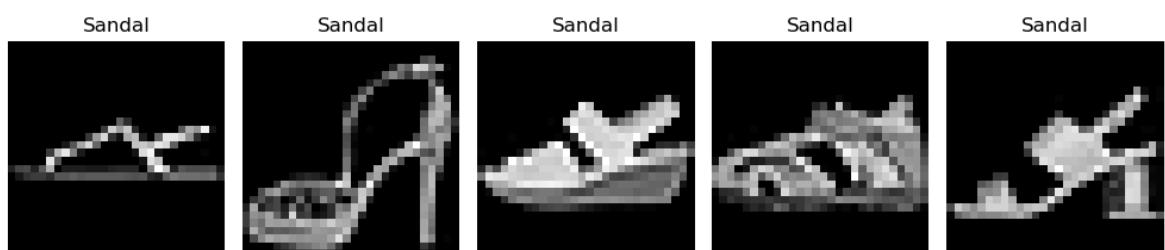
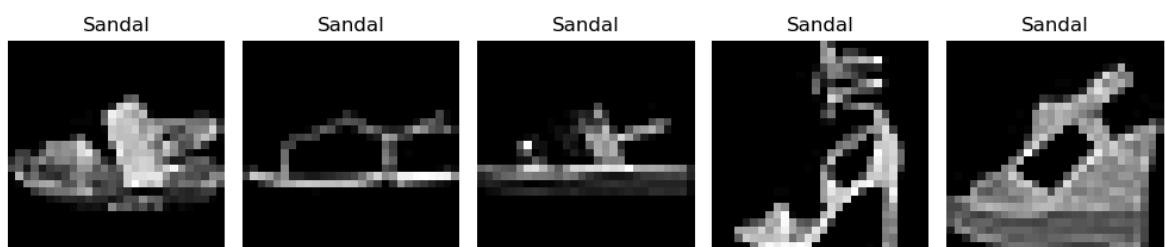
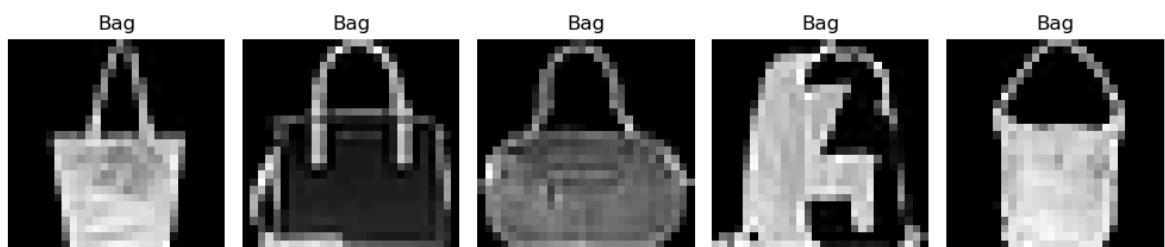
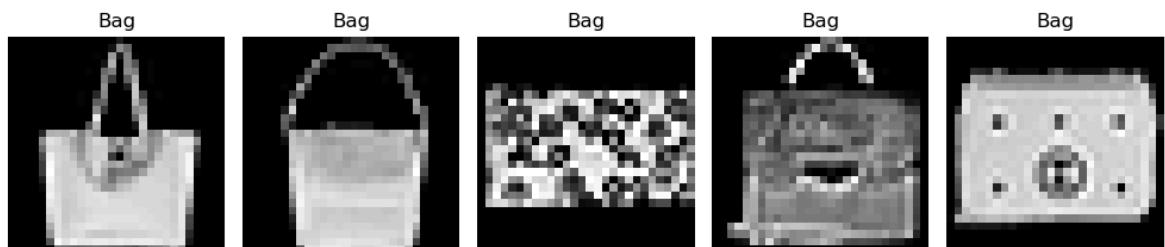
sandals_images = [model_normal.train_ds.X[i] for i in range(len(model_normal.train_ds))]
sandals_images = sandals_images[-5:] + sandals_images[:5]

# Plot 10 bag images
plt.figure(figsize=(10, 10))
for i, img in enumerate(bag_images):
    plt.subplot(2, 5, i + 1)
    plt.imshow(img.numpy(), cmap="gray")
    plt.axis("off")
    plt.title("Bag")
plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()
```

```

# Plot 10 sandals images
plt.figure(figsize=(10, 10))
for i, img in enumerate(sandals_images):
    plt.subplot(2, 5, i + 1)
    plt.imshow(img.numpy(), cmap="gray")
    plt.axis("off")
    plt.title("Sandal")
plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()

```



We can see that there are two different types of bags - bags with a strap and amore enveloped type of bag. In addition there are two different types of sandals - flat sandals and heeled sandals.

## Shirt, Pullover & Coat Classes

```
In [12]: PULLOVER_CLASS = 2
COAT_CLASS = 4
SHIRT_CLASS = 6

pullover_images = [model_normal.train_ds.X[i] for i in range(len(model_normal.train_ds))]
pullover_images = pullover_images[-5:] + pullover_images[:5]

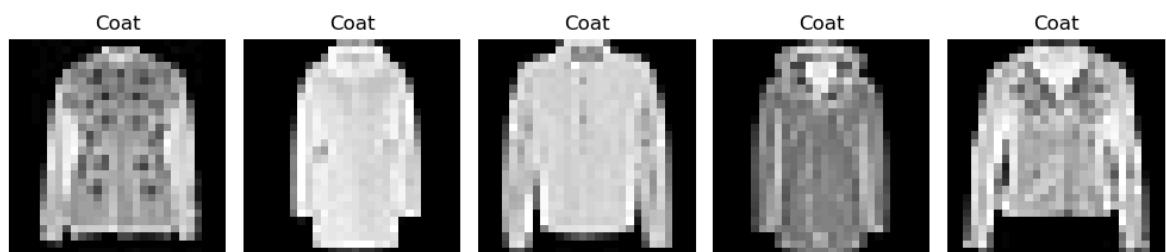
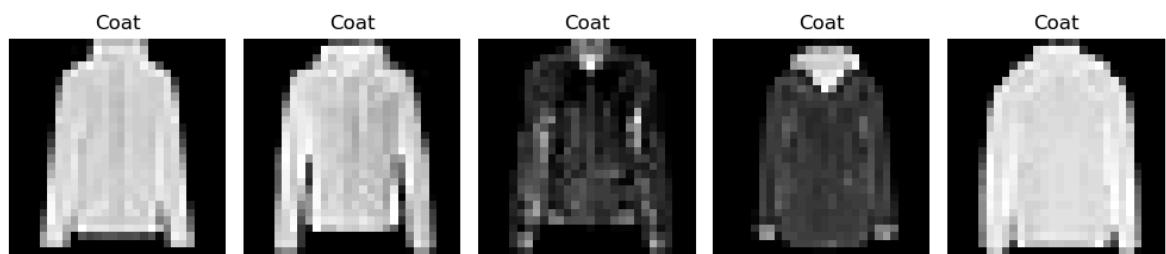
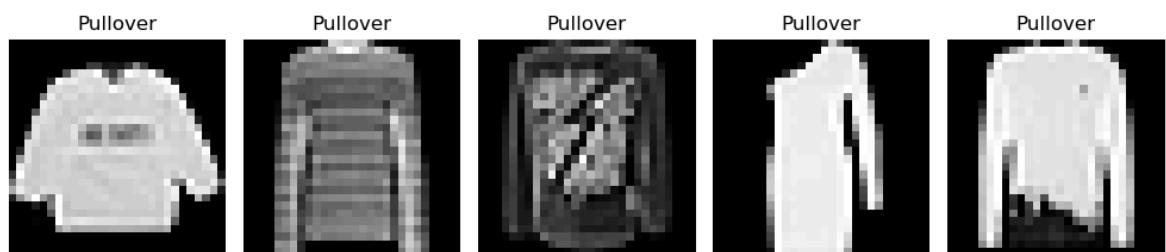
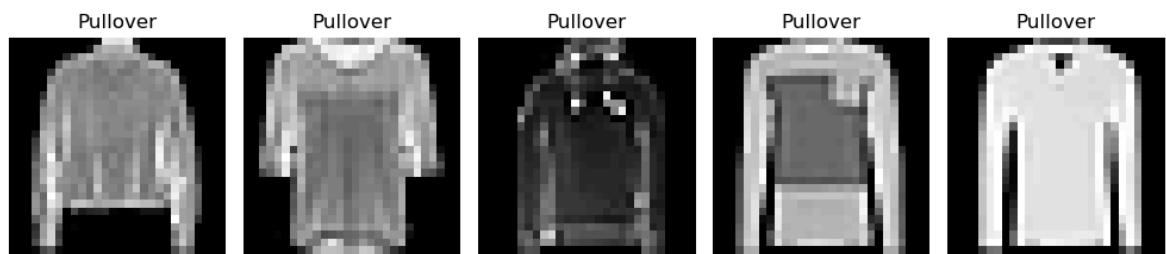
coat_images = [model_normal.train_ds.X[i] for i in range(len(model_normal.train_ds))]
coat_images = coat_images[-5:] + coat_images[:5]

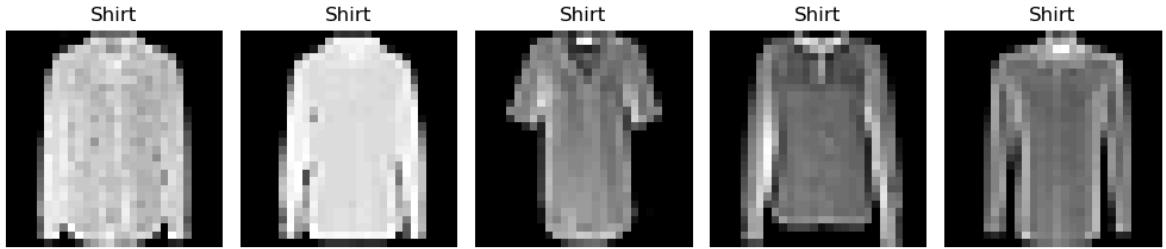
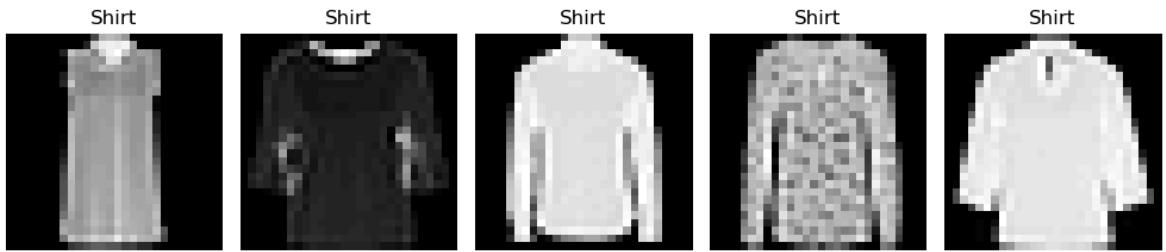
shirt_images = [model_normal.train_ds.X[i] for i in range(len(model_normal.train_ds))]
shirt_images = shirt_images[-5:] + shirt_images[:5]
```

```
In [13]: # Plot 10 pullover images
plt.figure(figsize=(10, 10))
for i, img in enumerate(pullover_images):
    plt.subplot(2, 5, i + 1)
    plt.imshow(img.numpy(), cmap="gray")
    plt.axis("off")
    plt.title("Pullover")
plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()

# Plot 10 coat images
plt.figure(figsize=(10, 10))
for i, img in enumerate(coat_images):
    plt.subplot(2, 5, i + 1)
    plt.imshow(img.numpy(), cmap="gray")
    plt.axis("off")
    plt.title("Coat")
plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()

# Plot 10 shirt images
plt.figure(figsize=(10, 10))
for i, img in enumerate(shirt_images):
    plt.subplot(2, 5, i + 1)
    plt.imshow(img.numpy(), cmap="gray")
    plt.axis("off")
    plt.title("Shirt")
plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()
```





As we can see from the images above, it is very hard to tell the difference between the three classes.

## Testing Samples

```
In [98]: random_latents = torch.randn(5, model_normal.latent_dim).to(model_normal.device)
random_decoded = model_normal.decode(random_latents) # Decode the sampled Latent

test_indices = torch.randint(0, len(model_normal.test_ds), (5,))
test_parameters = model_normal.test_parameters[test_indices]

test_mu = test_parameters[:, :model_normal.latent_dim]
test_log_var = test_parameters[:, model_normal.latent_dim:]

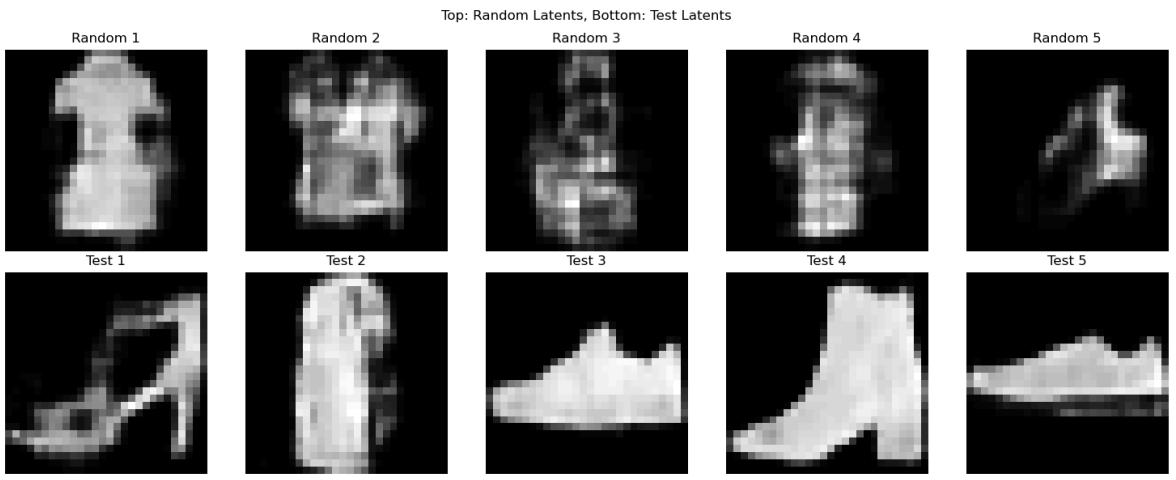
test_latents = model_normal._reparameterize(test_mu, test_log_var)
test_decoded = model_normal.decode(test_latents)

fig, axes = plt.subplots(2, 5, figsize=(15, 6))

for i, (random_img, test_img) in enumerate(zip(random_decoded, test_decoded)):
    axes[0, i].imshow(random_img.cpu().detach().numpy(), cmap='gray')
    axes[0, i].axis('off')
    axes[0, i].set_title(f"Random {i + 1}")

    axes[1, i].imshow(test_img.cpu().detach().numpy(), cmap='gray')
    axes[1, i].axis('off')
    axes[1, i].set_title(f"Test {i + 1}")

plt.suptitle("Top: Random Latents, Bottom: Test Latents")
plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()
```



## Explanation

The images reconstructed from test latents are generally better because:

1. Test latent vectors are optimized during inference to minimize the reconstruction loss, ensuring that the latent representations capture meaningful features of the input data. This means they're found in regions of the latent space that the decoder has learned to map to realistic images during training.
2. While we train the VAD to push the latent distributions towards  $N(0, I)$ , the actual learned distribution might not perfectly match this target distribution. There might be specific regions within the  $N(0, I)$  space that the model learns to associate with realistic images, while other regions might map to less realistic outputs. Random latents sampled from  $N(0, I)$  are not specific to the data distribution and may lie in regions of latent space that are less meaningful or poorly supported by the decoder. This highlights how the latent space learned by the model is data-dependent and structured to capture patterns in the training data.

## Interpolating Samples

It was unclear from the task how many interpolated samples we need to present - that task stated five, but also referred to an example with 10 images with 8 interpolations (original images in the start and the end).

```
In [99]: TROUSERS_CLASS = 1
DRESS_CLASS = 3

trousers_images = [i for i in range(len(model_normal.test_ds)) if model_normal.test_ds[i].label == TROUSERS_CLASS]
dress_images = [i for i in range(len(model_normal.test_ds)) if model_normal.test_ds[i].label == DRESS_CLASS]

trousers_index = trousers_images[0]
dress_index = dress_images[0]

trousers_params = model_normal.test_parameters[trousers_index]
dress_params = model_normal.test_parameters[dress_index]

trousers_mu = trousers_params[:model_normal.latent_dim]
trousers_log_var = trousers_params[model_normal.latent_dim:]
```

```

dress_mu = dress_params[:model_normal.latent_dim]
dress_log_var = dress_params[model_normal.latent_dim:]

latent_trousers = model_normal._reparameterize(trousers_mu, trousers_log_var)
latent_dress = model_normal._reparameterize(dress_mu, dress_log_var)

interpolation_coeffs = torch.linspace(0.1, 0.9, steps=9)

# Step 2: Interpolate between Latent_bag and Latent_sandal
interpolated_latents = [
    (1 - t) * latent_trousers + t * latent_dress for t in interpolation_coeffs
]

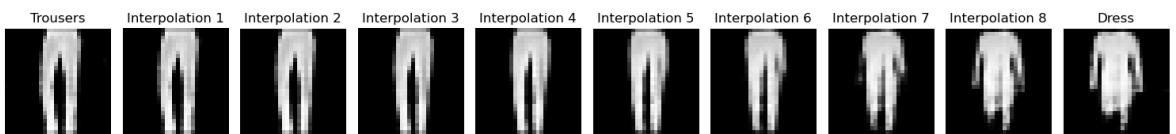
# Step 3: Decode the original and interpolated Latent vectors
decoded_images = [model_normal.decode(latent.squeeze(0)).squeeze(0) for latent in
                  interpolated_latents]

# Step 4: Plot the images
fig, axes = plt.subplots(1, len(decoded_images)-1, figsize=(15, 3))
titles = ['Trousers', 'Interpolation 1', 'Interpolation 2', 'Interpolation 3', 'Interpolation 4',
          'Interpolation 5', 'Interpolation 6', 'Interpolation 7', 'Interpolation 8', 'Dress']

for ax, image, title in zip(axes, decoded_images, titles):
    ax.imshow(image.cpu().detach().numpy(), cmap='gray')
    ax.axis('off')
    ax.set_title(title)

plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()

```



## Using Different Distributions

### Laplace Distribution

We decided to use the laplace distribution. The laplace distribution is known for producing sparse representations due to its sharper peak around the mean. Sparse representations allow the latent space to focus on the most important features of the data. Moreover, the laplace distribution has a sharp peak around the mean, and the probability for extreme values decreases more slowly than it does for the normal distribution. This is why the distribution's extreme values are still relatively more likely. In data that contains rare but significant features, the laplace distribution can represent such variability. This can help distinguish between similar classes. In addition, it can potentially improve the model's ability to generate realistic and varied samples.

### Modifying The Reparametrization Trick

The trick transforms a sample from  $\text{Uniform}(0, 1)$  into a sample from  $\text{Laplace}(\mu, b)$ .

#### 1. Laplace Distribution Properties

- PDF:

$$f(x) = \frac{1}{2b} \exp\left(-\frac{|x - \mu|}{b}\right)$$

- **CDF:**

$$F(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{2} \exp\left(\frac{x-\mu}{b}\right) & \text{if } x \leq \mu, \\ 1 - \frac{1}{2} \exp\left(-\frac{x-\mu}{b}\right) & \text{if } x > \mu. \end{cases}$$

**2. Using Cases** The Laplace CDF is piecewise-defined:

- For  $x \leq \mu$ , the CDF grows exponentially toward ( 0.5 ).
- For  $x > \mu$ , the CDF grows exponentially from ( 0.5 ) to ( 1 ).

This requires splitting the inverse CDF into two cases:

- $u \leq 0.5$ : Corresponds to the left half of the Laplace distribution.
- $u > 0.5$ : Corresponds to the right half.

**Deriving the Inverse CDF** To reparameterize, we solve (  $u = F(x)$  ) for (  $x$  ):

- For  $u \leq 0.5$ :

$$u = \frac{1}{2} \exp\left(\frac{x-\mu}{b}\right) \implies x = \mu + b \log(2u).$$

- For  $u > 0.5$ :

$$u = 1 - \frac{1}{2} \exp\left(-\frac{x-\mu}{b}\right) \implies x = \mu - b \log(2 - 2u).$$

**4. Final Reparameterization Formula** To sample  $z \sim \text{Laplace}(\mu, b)$ :

$$z = \mu + b \cdot F^{-1}(u),$$

where  $F^{-1}(u)$  is the inverse CDF:

- If  $u \leq 0.5$ :

$$z = \mu + b \cdot \log(2u).$$

- If  $u > 0.5$ :

$$z = \mu - b \cdot \log(2 - 2u).$$

### KL Divergence

The KL divergence between a posterior Laplace distribution  $q(z)$  and a prior Laplace distribution  $p(z)$  is:

- Posterior:  $q(z) \sim \text{Laplace}(0, 1)$

$$q(z) = \frac{1}{2} \exp(-|z|)$$

- Prior:  $p(z) \sim \text{Laplace}(\mu_p, b_p)$

$$p(z) = \frac{1}{2b_p} \exp\left(-\frac{|z - \mu_p|}{b_p}\right)$$

The formula for KL divergence is:

$$D_{KL}(q(z) || p(z)) = \mathbb{E}_{z \sim q(z)} \left[ \log \frac{q(z)}{p(z)} \right]$$

**Step 1: Substitute the formulas for  $q(z)$  and  $p(z)$**

$$\log \frac{q(z)}{p(z)} = \log \left( \frac{\frac{1}{2} \exp(-|z|)}{\frac{1}{2b_p} \exp\left(-\frac{|z - \mu_p|}{b_p}\right)} \right)$$

Simplifying:

$$= \log\left(\frac{b_p}{1}\right) - \left(|z| - \frac{|z - \mu_p|}{b_p}\right)$$

**Step 2: Compute the expectation**

$$D_{KL}(q(z) || p(z)) = \mathbb{E}_{z \sim q(z)} \left[ \log(b_p) - |z| + \frac{|z - \mu_p|}{b_p} \right]$$

Breaking it into terms:

1.  $\mathbb{E}_{z \sim q(z)} [\log(b_p)] = \log(b_p)$
2.  $\mathbb{E}_{z \sim q(z)} [|z|] = 1$  (since  $b_q = 1$ )
3.  $\mathbb{E}_{z \sim q(z)} [|z - \mu_p|] = 1 + |\mu_p|$

**Final Expression:**

$$D_{KL}(q(z) || p(z)) = \log(b_p) - 1 + \frac{1 + |\mu_p|}{b_p}$$

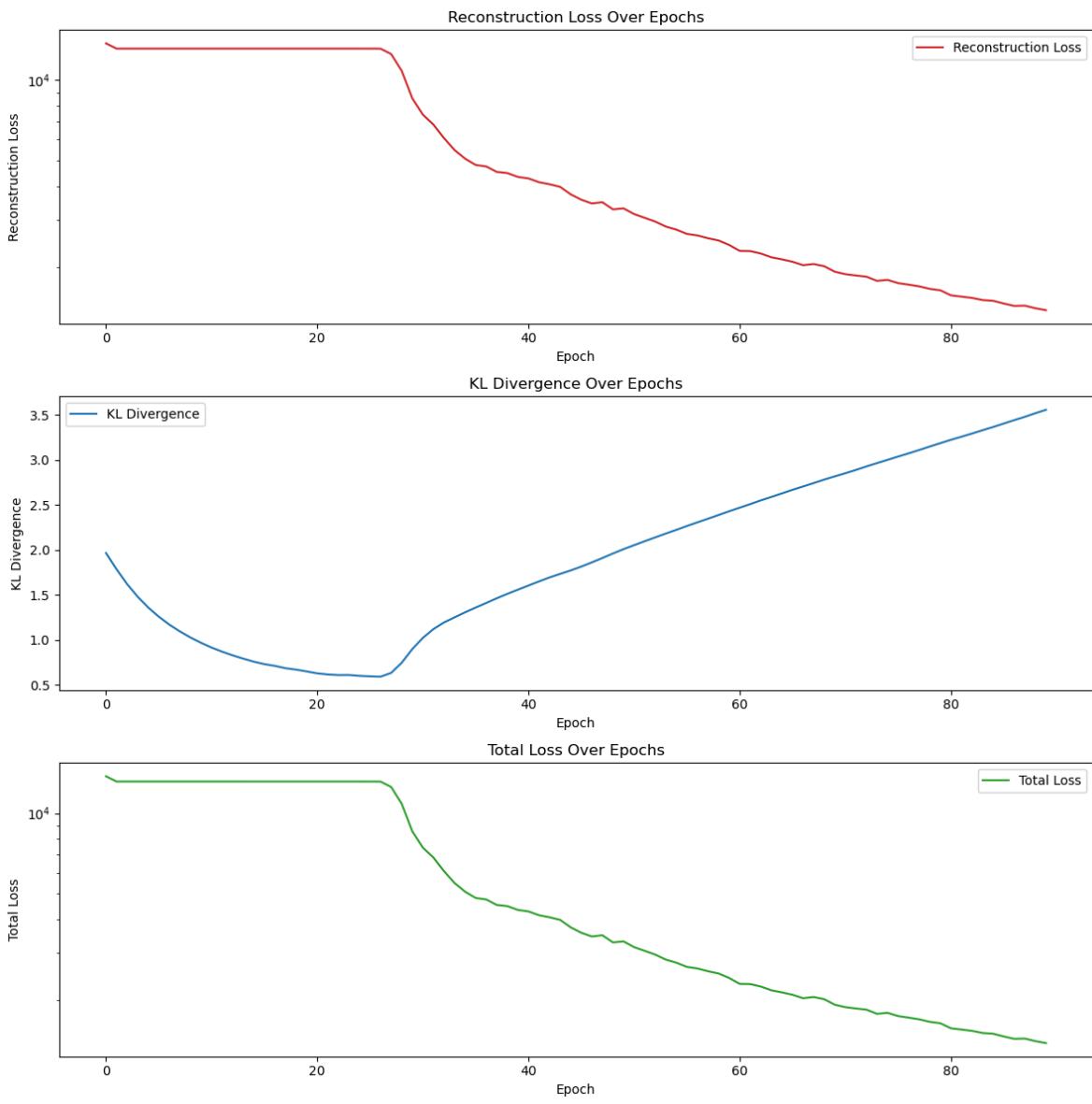
## Training VAD with Laplace Distribution

```
In [2]: epochs = 90
beta = 1
learning_rate = 0.02
latent_dim = 60
model_laplace = VariationalAutoDecoderLaplace(latent_dim=latent_dim, lr=learning_rate)
train_loss, _, _ = model_laplace.fit_and_train(num_epochs=epochs, beta=beta)
print(f'Training loss: {train_loss:.4f}')
test_loss = model_laplace.test_vad(num_epochs=epochs, learning_rate=learning_rate)
print(f'Test loss: {test_loss:.4f}'')
```

Training the VAD model...

Epoch 1, Loss: 13743.8640  
Epoch 2, Loss: 13134.5948  
Epoch 3, Loss: 13134.4305  
Epoch 4, Loss: 13134.2817  
Epoch 5, Loss: 13134.1601  
Epoch 6, Loss: 13134.0676  
Epoch 7, Loss: 13133.9484  
Epoch 8, Loss: 13133.9030  
Epoch 9, Loss: 13133.8365  
Epoch 10, Loss: 13133.7779  
Epoch 11, Loss: 13133.7101  
Epoch 12, Loss: 13133.6739  
Epoch 13, Loss: 13133.6288  
Epoch 14, Loss: 13133.5950  
Epoch 15, Loss: 13133.5382  
Epoch 16, Loss: 13133.4032  
Epoch 17, Loss: 13133.5184  
Epoch 18, Loss: 13133.3806  
Epoch 19, Loss: 13133.4402  
Epoch 20, Loss: 13133.4518  
Epoch 21, Loss: 13133.2715  
Epoch 22, Loss: 13132.9129  
Epoch 23, Loss: 13133.2447  
Epoch 24, Loss: 13133.2500  
Epoch 25, Loss: 13132.8489  
Epoch 26, Loss: 13131.6227  
Epoch 27, Loss: 13125.5274  
Epoch 28, Loss: 12529.9809  
Epoch 29, Loss: 10844.6006  
Epoch 30, Loss: 8561.9750  
Epoch 31, Loss: 7436.5455  
Epoch 32, Loss: 6826.2465  
Epoch 33, Loss: 6075.0935  
Epoch 34, Loss: 5482.9710  
Epoch 35, Loss: 5090.4682  
Epoch 36, Loss: 4821.6385  
Epoch 37, Loss: 4759.9085  
Epoch 38, Loss: 4540.2810  
Epoch 39, Loss: 4496.3453  
Epoch 40, Loss: 4350.2697  
Epoch 41, Loss: 4293.7078  
Epoch 42, Loss: 4154.3269  
Epoch 43, Loss: 4082.1231  
Epoch 44, Loss: 3993.5322  
Epoch 45, Loss: 3742.9174  
Epoch 46, Loss: 3574.5239  
Epoch 47, Loss: 3461.4798  
Epoch 48, Loss: 3498.4614  
Epoch 49, Loss: 3288.6298  
Epoch 50, Loss: 3317.4967  
Epoch 51, Loss: 3158.6140  
Epoch 52, Loss: 3059.6849  
Epoch 53, Loss: 2961.4515  
Epoch 54, Loss: 2836.7270  
Epoch 55, Loss: 2763.0870  
Epoch 56, Loss: 2663.6425  
Epoch 57, Loss: 2628.2404  
Epoch 58, Loss: 2565.9812  
Epoch 59, Loss: 2516.6151  
Epoch 60, Loss: 2422.1553

Epoch 61, Loss: 2301.4221  
Epoch 62, Loss: 2298.1621  
Epoch 63, Loss: 2249.5881  
Epoch 64, Loss: 2177.7917  
Epoch 65, Loss: 2139.8567  
Epoch 66, Loss: 2096.2815  
Epoch 67, Loss: 2034.8020  
Epoch 68, Loss: 2056.2908  
Epoch 69, Loss: 2017.3422  
Epoch 70, Loss: 1924.4603  
Epoch 71, Loss: 1884.4903  
Epoch 72, Loss: 1863.1423  
Epoch 73, Loss: 1843.9804  
Epoch 74, Loss: 1778.5161  
Epoch 75, Loss: 1793.7593  
Epoch 76, Loss: 1744.1486  
Epoch 77, Loss: 1721.2694  
Epoch 78, Loss: 1696.4536  
Epoch 79, Loss: 1660.7898  
Epoch 80, Loss: 1640.4129  
Epoch 81, Loss: 1570.2993  
Epoch 82, Loss: 1553.4363  
Epoch 83, Loss: 1536.0896  
Epoch 84, Loss: 1508.2995  
Epoch 85, Loss: 1498.7517  
Epoch 86, Loss: 1464.4112  
Epoch 87, Loss: 1434.3290  
Epoch 88, Loss: 1437.8208  
Epoch 89, Loss: 1405.9732  
Epoch 90, Loss: 1382.7998



Training loss: 1382.7998

Testing the VAD model...

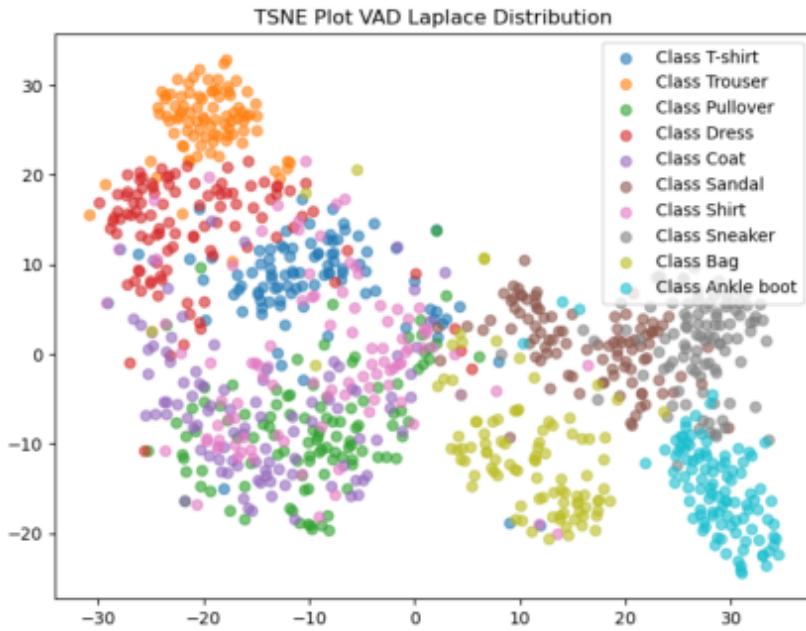
Test loss: 0.1538

```
In [47]: file_name = 'tsne_plot_VAD_laplace'
image_title = 'TSNE Plot VAD Laplace Distribution'
model_laplace.plot_tsne(file_name=file_name, plot_title=image_title)
```

Generating t-SNE plot...

<Figure size 800x600 with 0 Axes>

```
In [48]: image_path = f'{file_name}.png'
img = mpimg.imread(image_path)
plt.imshow(img)
plt.axis('off') # Hide axes
plt.show()
```



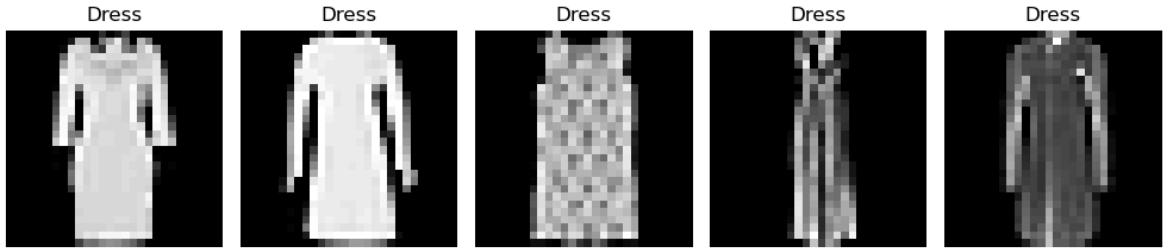
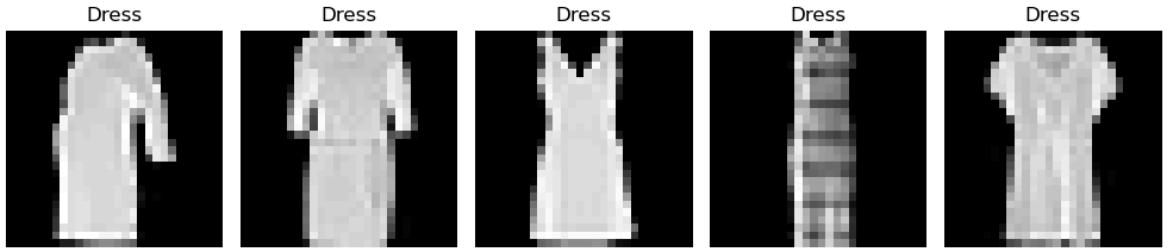
## Results Explanation

We can observe that the dress class is more scattered rather than in the previous plot. This is probably due to characteristics of the laplace distribution - able to represent rare features in the data. So, the model learnt to distinguish well between the different dresses - with and without sleeve (see below). The pullover class is more concentrated than in the previous plot, suggesting that the model learnt its features better.

```
In [52]: DRESS_CLASS = 3

dress_images = [model_laplace.train_ds.X[i] for i in range(len(model_laplace.train_ds))]
dress_images = dress_images[-5:] + dress_images[:5]

# Plot 10 dress images
plt.figure(figsize=(10, 10))
for i, img in enumerate(dress_images):
    plt.subplot(2, 5, i + 1)
    plt.imshow(img.numpy(), cmap="gray")
    plt.axis("off")
    plt.title("Dress")
plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()
```



We can see that there are dresses without sleeves and some are with. The model probably learnt this difference in the between the kind of dresses.

## Testing Samples

```
In [29]: laplace_dist = torch.distributions.Laplace(0,1)
random_latents = laplace_dist.sample((5, model_laplace.latent_dim)).to(model_laplace)
random_decoded = model_laplace.decode(random_latents) # Decode the sampled latents

test_indices = torch.randint(0, len(model_laplace.test_ds), (5,))
test_parameters = model_laplace.test_parameters[test_indices]

test_mu = test_parameters[:, :model_laplace.latent_dim]
test_log_b = test_parameters[:, model_laplace.latent_dim:]

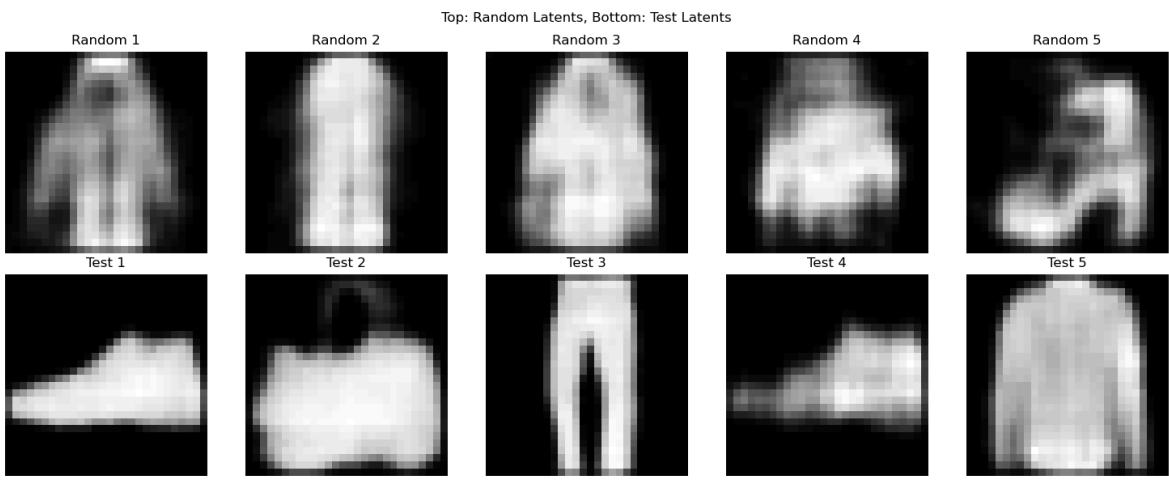
test_latents = model_laplace._reparameterize(test_mu, test_log_b)
test_decoded = model_laplace.decode(test_latents)

fig, axes = plt.subplots(2, 5, figsize=(15, 6))

for i, (random_img, test_img) in enumerate(zip(random_decoded, test_decoded)):
    axes[0, i].imshow(random_img.cpu().detach().numpy(), cmap='gray')
    axes[0, i].axis('off')
    axes[0, i].set_title(f"Random {i + 1}")

    axes[1, i].imshow(test_img.cpu().detach().numpy(), cmap='gray')
    axes[1, i].axis('off')
    axes[1, i].set_title(f"Test {i + 1}")

plt.suptitle("Top: Random Latents, Bottom: Test Latents")
plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()
```



## What's Happening in the Images

**Top Row (Random Latents)** These images are generated by sampling random values from a  $\text{Laplace}(0, 1)$  distribution and passing them through the model's decoder. Since the model was trained to make its latent space follow this distribution, we expect the outputs to resemble items from the dataset.

The images do look somewhat like pieces of clothing, but they're blurrier and lack detail. This suggests that while the model has learned the general structure of the dataset, it struggles to fully capture fine details when generating from purely random latent points.

**Bottom Row (Test Latents)** These images come from latent vectors directly tied to test data. The model predicts specific parameters (mean and scale) for each test sample, and these parameters are used to generate the latent vectors.

Since these latents are "informed" by real data, the decoder produces clearer and sharper images that closely resemble the original dataset. This shows that the model is effective at reconstructing real examples from the test set.

## What This Comparison Shows

- The random latent images (top row) show how well the model can generate new, unseen examples based only on the prior distribution it was trained on. While the outputs are plausible, the blurriness suggests the model struggles to generate highly detailed images from purely random inputs.
- The test latent images (bottom row) highlight how well the model can recreate data it has seen during training. These images are much clearer and more detailed, indicating that the model has learned to represent the dataset effectively in its latent space.

## Interpolating Samples

```
In [37]: TROUSERS_CLASS = 1
DRESS_CLASS = 3

trousers_images = [i for i in range(len(model_laplace.test_ds)) if model_laplace.
dress_images = [i for i in range(len(model_laplace.test_ds)) if model_laplace.tes
```

```

trousers_index = trousers_images[0]
dress_index = dress_images[-4]

trousers_params = model_laplace.test_parameters[trousers_index]
dress_params = model_laplace.test_parameters[dress_index]

trousers_mu = trousers_params[:model_laplace.latent_dim]
trousers_log_b = trousers_params[model_laplace.latent_dim:]

dress_mu = dress_params[:model_laplace.latent_dim]
dress_log_b = dress_params[model_laplace.latent_dim:]

latent_trousers = model_laplace._reparameterize(trousers_mu, trousers_log_b)
latent_dress = model_laplace._reparameterize(dress_mu, dress_log_b)

interpolation_coeffs = torch.linspace(0.1, 0.9, steps=9)

interpolated_latents = [
    (1 - t) * latent_trousers + t * latent_dress for t in interpolation_coeffs
]

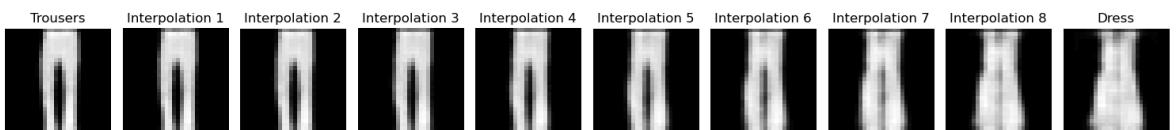
decoded_images = [model_laplace.decode(latent.unsqueeze(0)).squeeze(0) for latent in interpolated_latents]

fig, axes = plt.subplots(1, len(decoded_images)-1, figsize=(15, 3))
titles = ['Trouser', 'Interpolation 1', 'Interpolation 2', 'Interpolation 3', 'Interpolation 4', 'Interpolation 5', 'Interpolation 6', 'Interpolation 7', 'Interpolation 8', 'Dress']

for ax, image, title in zip(axes, decoded_images, titles):
    ax.imshow(image.cpu().detach().numpy(), cmap='gray')
    ax.axis('off')
    ax.set_title(title)

plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()

```



## Exponential Distribution

We chose the exponential distribution because it has similar characteristics to the Laplace distribution - Sparse and heavy tail. The probability density peaks near 0 and decreases rapidly. That means the exponential distribution tends to produce values close to 0 with usually larger values. As a result, most latent dimensions remain inactive (close to zero), and only a few become active. Moreover, regarding the heavy tail - the exponential decay still allows large values, this helps balance sparsity and the ability to capture significant deviations. In addition, the exponential distribution is strictly defined for positive real numbers. This makes it particularly suited for exploring how non-Gaussian, positive-only latent representations influence model behavior.

### Modifying the Reparameterization Trick:

The reparameterization trick for the exponential distribution transform a sample from a

uniform distribution  $\text{Uniform}(0, 1)$  into a sample from  $\text{Exponential}(\lambda)$  using the inverse cumulative distribution function (CDF).

## 1. Exponential Distribution Properties

- **PDF:**

$$f(x; \lambda) = \lambda e^{-\lambda x}, \quad x \geq 0$$

- **CDF:**

$$F(x; \lambda) = 1 - e^{-\lambda x}, \quad x \geq 0$$

## 2. Deriving the Inverse CDF and the Final Reparameterization Formula

The reparameterization involves solving  $u = F(x; \lambda)$  for  $x$ , where  $u \sim U(0, 1)$

Substituting the exponential CDF:

$$u = 1 - e^{-\lambda x} \implies e^{-\lambda x} = 1 - u \implies x = -\frac{\ln(1 - u)}{\lambda}$$

Here,  $u \sim U(0, 1)$ , so  $1 - u$  is also uniform, ensuring consistent sampling. To avoid numerical issues with  $\ln(0)$ ,  $u$  is clamped between  $(0 + \epsilon, 1 - \epsilon)$ , where  $\epsilon$  is a small constant.

To sample  $z \sim \text{Exponential}(\lambda)$ , we use the formula:

$$z = -\frac{1}{\lambda} \ln(\epsilon), \quad \epsilon \sim U(0, 1)$$

## KL Divergence

The KL divergence measures the difference between the posterior  $q(z) \sim \text{Exponential}(\lambda_q)$  and the prior  $p(z) \sim \text{Exponential}(\lambda_p)$ . The formula for KL divergence is:

$$D_{KL}(q(z) || p(z)) = \mathbb{E}_{z \sim q(z)} \left[ \log \frac{q(z)}{p(z)} \right]$$

### Step 1: Substitute the PDFs

The PDFs for the posterior and prior are:

- $q(z) = \lambda_q e^{-\lambda_q z}$
- $p(z) = \lambda_p e^{-\lambda_p z}$

The log ratio is:

$$\log \frac{q(z)}{p(z)} = \log \left( \frac{\lambda_q e^{-\lambda_q z}}{\lambda_p e^{-\lambda_p z}} \right) = \log \left( \frac{\lambda_q}{\lambda_p} \right) + (\lambda_p - \lambda_q)z.$$

### Step 2: Compute the Expectation

The expectation is taken over  $z \sim q(z)$ , whose mean is  $\mathbb{E}_{z \sim q(z)}[z] = \frac{1}{\lambda_q}$ :

$$D_{KL}(q(z) \parallel p(z)) = \log\left(\frac{\lambda_q}{\lambda_p}\right) + \lambda_p \mathbb{E}[z] - 1 = \log\left(\frac{\lambda_q}{\lambda_p}\right) + \frac{\lambda_p}{\lambda_q} - 1.$$

Breaking this into terms:

- $\mathbb{E}[z] \log\left(\frac{\lambda_q}{\lambda_p}\right) = \log\left(\frac{\lambda_q}{\lambda_p}\right)$
- $(\lambda_p - \lambda_q)\mathbb{E}_{z \sim q(z)}[z] = (\lambda_p - \lambda_q)\frac{1}{\lambda_q}$

### Final Expression:

$$D_{KL}(q(z) \parallel p(z)) = \log\left(\frac{\lambda_q}{\lambda_p}\right) + \lambda_p \mathbb{E}[z] - 1 = \log\left(\frac{\lambda_q}{\lambda_p}\right) + \frac{\lambda_p - \lambda_q}{\lambda_q}.$$

This is minimized when  $\lambda_q = \lambda_p$ , reflecting minimal divergence between the prior and posterior. The divergence increases as the two distributions become more dissimilar.

When  $\lambda_p = 1$  we get the expression that we used:

$$D_{KL}(q(z) \parallel p(z)) = -\log(\lambda_q) + \lambda_q - 1$$

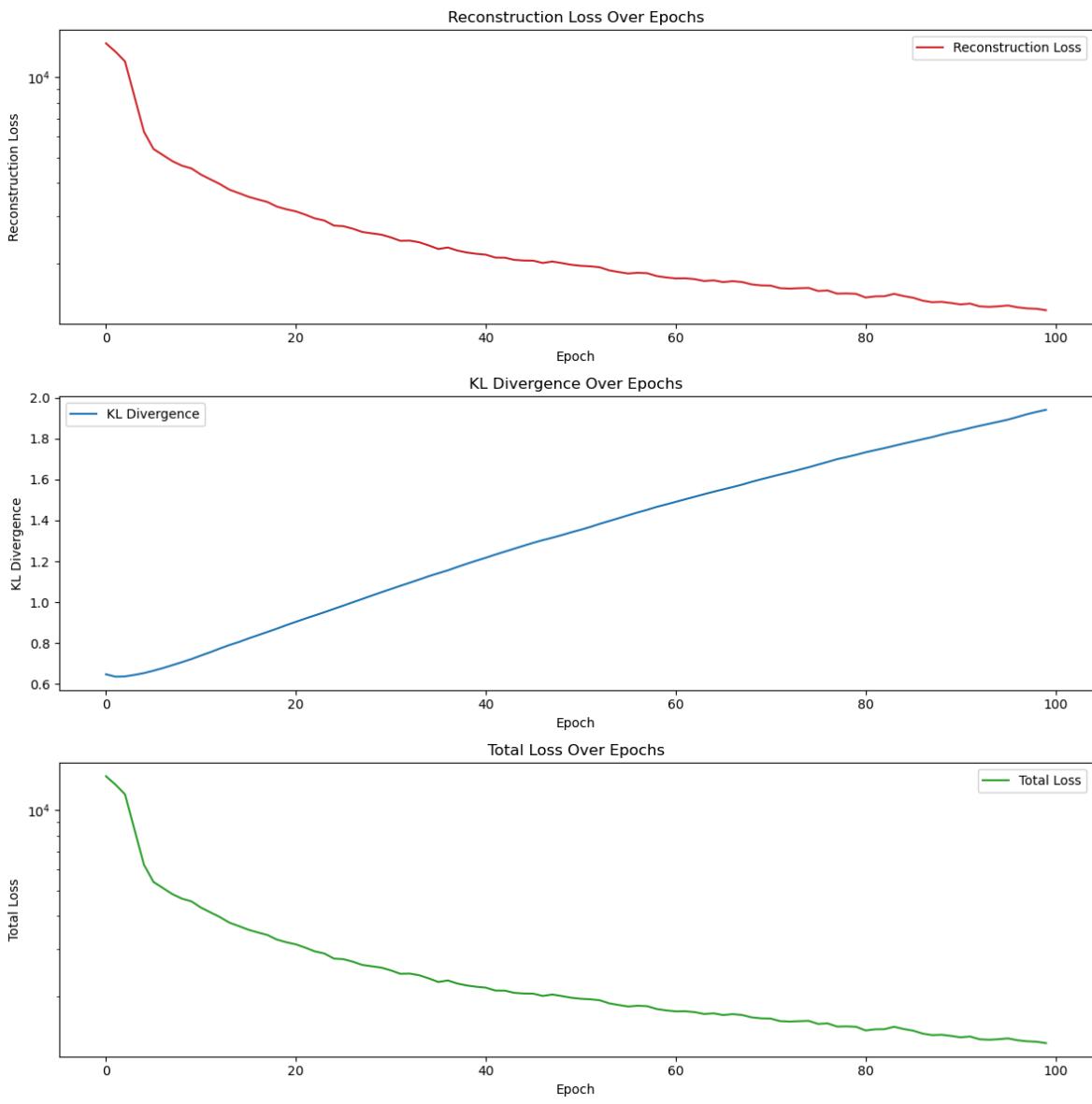
## Training VAD with Exponential Distribution

```
In [2]: epochs = 100
beta = 1
learning_rate = 0.015
latent_dim = 60
model_exp = VariationalAutoDecoderExponential(latent_dim=latent_dim, lr=learning_rate)
train_loss, _, _ = model_exp.fit_and_train(num_epochs=epochs, beta=beta)
print(f'Training loss: {train_loss:.4f}')
test_loss = model_exp.test_vad(num_epochs=epochs, learning_rate=learning_rate)
print(f'Test loss: {test_loss:.4f}')
```

Training the VAD model...

Epoch 1, Loss: 13411.9787  
Epoch 2, Loss: 12476.5875  
Epoch 3, Loss: 11470.8912  
Epoch 4, Loss: 8449.1745  
Epoch 5, Loss: 6233.2014  
Epoch 6, Loss: 5374.5296  
Epoch 7, Loss: 5096.2209  
Epoch 8, Loss: 4834.8177  
Epoch 9, Loss: 4650.3209  
Epoch 10, Loss: 4541.3203  
Epoch 11, Loss: 4304.9546  
Epoch 12, Loss: 4129.5786  
Epoch 13, Loss: 3964.6228  
Epoch 14, Loss: 3777.5795  
Epoch 15, Loss: 3665.2741  
Epoch 16, Loss: 3552.9413  
Epoch 17, Loss: 3470.6985  
Epoch 18, Loss: 3395.8602  
Epoch 19, Loss: 3262.2724  
Epoch 20, Loss: 3187.2619  
Epoch 21, Loss: 3129.8760  
Epoch 22, Loss: 3042.2386  
Epoch 23, Loss: 2945.3713  
Epoch 24, Loss: 2891.9413  
Epoch 25, Loss: 2768.2652  
Epoch 26, Loss: 2753.3766  
Epoch 27, Loss: 2694.1624  
Epoch 28, Loss: 2618.8780  
Epoch 29, Loss: 2587.8409  
Epoch 30, Loss: 2558.6253  
Epoch 31, Loss: 2498.9043  
Epoch 32, Loss: 2426.4816  
Epoch 33, Loss: 2430.5914  
Epoch 34, Loss: 2395.5582  
Epoch 35, Loss: 2331.2984  
Epoch 36, Loss: 2259.8536  
Epoch 37, Loss: 2290.4155  
Epoch 38, Loss: 2230.7927  
Epoch 39, Loss: 2193.3756  
Epoch 40, Loss: 2169.0323  
Epoch 41, Loss: 2152.5364  
Epoch 42, Loss: 2099.1901  
Epoch 43, Loss: 2097.7612  
Epoch 44, Loss: 2057.9557  
Epoch 45, Loss: 2046.0984  
Epoch 46, Loss: 2043.7347  
Epoch 47, Loss: 2002.9436  
Epoch 48, Loss: 2028.8836  
Epoch 49, Loss: 2001.8856  
Epoch 50, Loss: 1972.9262  
Epoch 51, Loss: 1955.2859  
Epoch 52, Loss: 1946.9052  
Epoch 53, Loss: 1930.2156  
Epoch 54, Loss: 1879.0369  
Epoch 55, Loss: 1852.2991  
Epoch 56, Loss: 1828.5104  
Epoch 57, Loss: 1840.9393  
Epoch 58, Loss: 1833.6712  
Epoch 59, Loss: 1789.5923  
Epoch 60, Loss: 1768.2239

Epoch 61, Loss: 1753.4436  
Epoch 62, Loss: 1755.2789  
Epoch 63, Loss: 1742.0172  
Epoch 64, Loss: 1713.8098  
Epoch 65, Loss: 1723.8653  
Epoch 66, Loss: 1698.2150  
Epoch 67, Loss: 1711.9423  
Epoch 68, Loss: 1699.0881  
Epoch 69, Loss: 1664.0707  
Epoch 70, Loss: 1650.0088  
Epoch 71, Loss: 1646.9860  
Epoch 72, Loss: 1611.0081  
Epoch 73, Loss: 1605.0023  
Epoch 74, Loss: 1610.3782  
Epoch 75, Loss: 1614.7724  
Epoch 76, Loss: 1572.6675  
Epoch 77, Loss: 1579.8177  
Epoch 78, Loss: 1536.5796  
Epoch 79, Loss: 1539.4570  
Epoch 80, Loss: 1533.8085  
Epoch 81, Loss: 1485.9058  
Epoch 82, Loss: 1500.7580  
Epoch 83, Loss: 1502.8049  
Epoch 84, Loss: 1534.2171  
Epoch 85, Loss: 1504.8327  
Epoch 86, Loss: 1483.3520  
Epoch 87, Loss: 1446.6629  
Epoch 88, Loss: 1427.1662  
Epoch 89, Loss: 1431.6863  
Epoch 90, Loss: 1417.4828  
Epoch 91, Loss: 1400.0999  
Epoch 92, Loss: 1410.3471  
Epoch 93, Loss: 1377.0797  
Epoch 94, Loss: 1370.8479  
Epoch 95, Loss: 1377.3468  
Epoch 96, Loss: 1387.2319  
Epoch 97, Loss: 1365.2977  
Epoch 98, Loss: 1353.0387  
Epoch 99, Loss: 1348.0644  
Epoch 100, Loss: 1331.9361



Training loss: 1331.9361

Testing the VAD model...

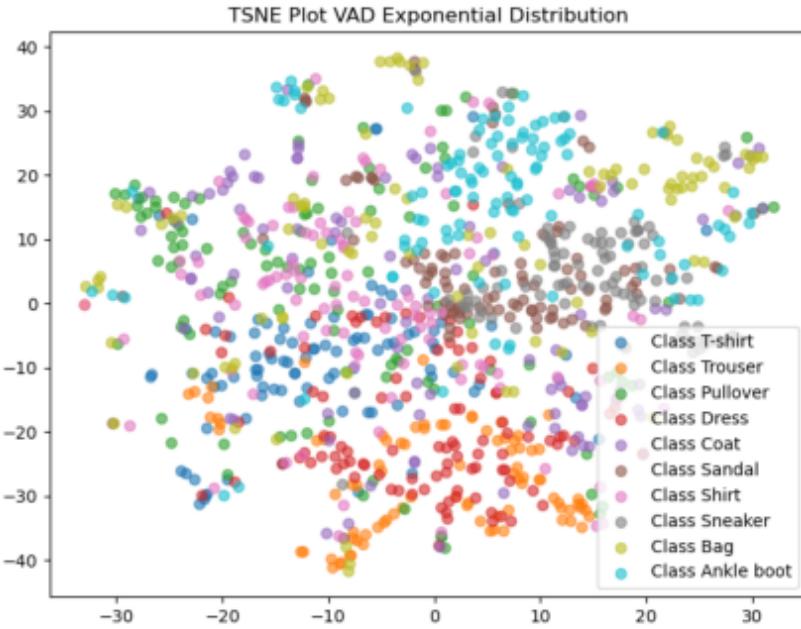
Test loss: 0.1758

```
In [3]: file_name = 'tsne_plot_VAD_exp'
image_title = 'TSNE Plot VAD Exponential Distribution'
model_exp.plot_tsne(file_name=file_name, plot_title=image_title)
```

Generating t-SNE plot...

<Figure size 800x600 with 0 Axes>

```
In [4]: image_path = f'{file_name}.png'
img = mpimg.imread(image_path)
plt.imshow(img)
plt.axis('off') # Hide axes
plt.show()
```



## Results Explanation

We can see that most of the classes are mixed inside the picture and only a few classes are almost separate so we can think about them as clusters. This happens because the exponential distribution is probably not a good prior decision for this dataset, which means it is difficult for the model to organize the latent space effectively when using this distribution.

## Testing Samples

```
In [12]: exponential_dist = torch.distributions.exponential.Exponential(1.0)

random_latents = exponential_dist.sample((5, model_exp.latent_dim)).to(model_exp)
random_decoded = model_exp.decode(random_latents) # Decode the sampled latents

test_indices = torch.randint(0, len(model_exp.test_ds), (5,))
test_log_lambda = model_exp.test_log_lambda[test_indices]

test_latents = model_exp._reparameterize(test_log_lambda)
test_decoded = model_exp.decode(test_latents)

fig, axes = plt.subplots(2, 5, figsize=(15, 6))

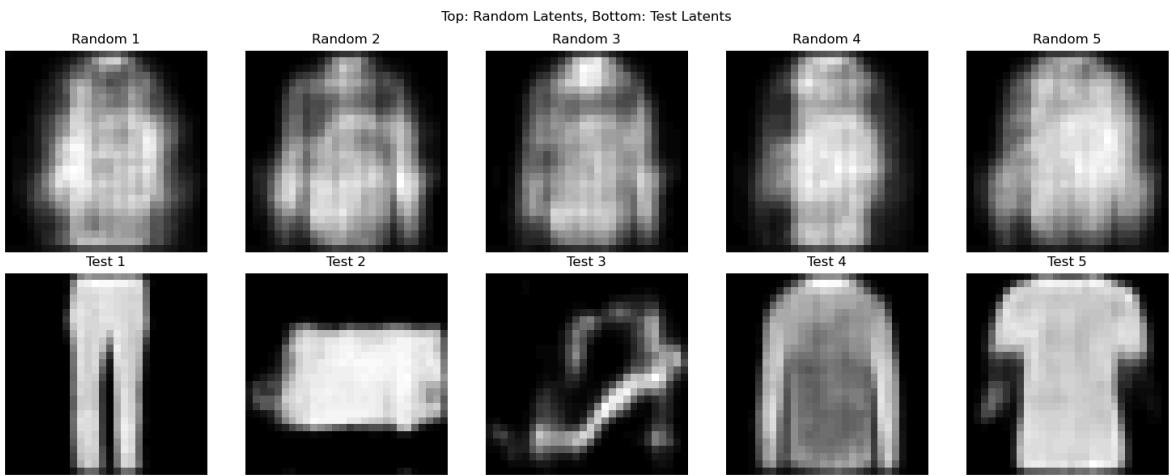
for i, (random_img, test_img) in enumerate(zip(random_decoded, test_decoded)):
    axes[0, i].imshow(random_img.cpu().detach().numpy(), cmap='gray')
    axes[0, i].axis('off')
    axes[0, i].set_title(f"Random {i + 1}")

    axes[1, i].imshow(test_img.cpu().detach().numpy(), cmap='gray')
    axes[1, i].axis('off')
    axes[1, i].set_title(f"Test {i + 1}")
```

```

plt.suptitle("Top: Random Latents, Bottom: Test Latents")
plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()

```



## What's Happening in the Images

When decoding latent vectors into images, the quality of the decoded results heavily depends on how well the latent space aligns with the data distribution.

**Exponential Random Samples (Top Row):** These fail to produce meaningful images because the Exponential distribution is a poor prior for this dataset. It skews the sampling process, leading to latent vectors that fall outside the meaningful regions of the latent space, where the decoder cannot map them to valid outputs.

**Test Set Latents (Bottom Row):** These are better aligned with the latent space, as they originate from the same distribution as the training data. Decoding these latents results in high-quality images because the decoder was explicitly trained to reconstruct data from these regions of the latent space.

## Interpolating Samples

```

In [13]: TROUSERS_CLASS = 1
DRESS_CLASS = 3

trousers_images = [i for i in range(len(model_exp.test_ds)) if model_exp.test_ds.y[i] == TROUSERS_CLASS]
dress_images = [i for i in range(len(model_exp.test_ds)) if model_exp.test_ds.y[i] == DRESS_CLASS]

trousers_index = trousers_images[0]
dress_index = dress_images[-4]

trousers_test_log_lambda = model_exp.test_log_lambda[trousers_index]
dress_test_log_lambda = model_exp.test_log_lambda[dress_index]

latent_trousers = model_exp._reparameterize(trousers_test_log_lambda)
latent_dress = model_exp._reparameterize(dress_test_log_lambda)

```

```

interpolation_coeffs = torch.linspace(0.1, 0.9, steps=9)

interpolated_latents = [
    (1 - t) * latent_trousers + t * latent_dress for t in interpolation_coeffs
]

decoded_images = [model_exp.decode(latent.unsqueeze(0)).squeeze(0) for latent in
                  interpolated_latents]

fig, axes = plt.subplots(1, len(decoded_images)-1, figsize=(15, 3))
titles = ['Trousers', 'Interpolation 1', 'Interpolation 2', 'Interpolation 3', 'I',
          'Interpolation 4', 'Interpolation 5', 'Interpolation 6', 'Interpolation 7', 'Interpolation 8', 'Dress']

for ax, image, title in zip(axes, decoded_images, titles):
    ax.imshow(image.cpu().detach().numpy(), cmap='gray')
    ax.axis('off')
    ax.set_title(title)

plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()

```

