UNSUPERVISED LEARNING

INF5860 — Machine Learning for Image Analysis

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MESSAGES

- \cdot Mandatory exercise 3 is hopefully out next week.
- · No lecture next week.
- · But there will be group sessions.

OUTLINE

- · Introduction and motivation
- · Repetition / background
 - · K nearest neighbours, k-means clustering
 - · Principal component analysis
 - · Independent component analysis
- · t-SNE
- · Autoencoders, variational autoencoders

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INTRODUCTION AND MOTIVATION

SUPERVISED LEARNING

 \cdot Given a training set with pairs of inputs x and corresponding desired outputs y

$$\Omega_{\text{train}} = \{(x^{(1)}, y^{(1)}), \dots, (x^{(m)}, y^{(m)})\}\$$

 \cdot Create a function f that "approximates" this mapping

$$f(x) \approx y, \quad \forall (x, y) \in \Omega_{\text{train}}$$

· Hope that this generalises well to unseen examples, such that

$$f(x) = \hat{y} \approx y, \quad \forall (x, y) \in \Omega_{\text{test}}$$

where Ω_{test} is a set of relevant unseen examples.

· Hope that this is also true for all unseen relevant examples.

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UNSUPERVISED LEARNING

- · In contrast with supervised learning, we have *no* labeled data points in unsupervised learning.
- · Since there is no "ground truth", there is no accuracy evaluation in the supervised sense.
- · Applications
 - · Data clustering
 - · Anomaly detection
 - · Signal generation
 - · Signal compression

SEMI-SUPERVISED LEARNING

- · We have some labeled data
- · Usually a majority of unlabeled data
- · Can be thought of as supervised learning extended to utilise unlabeled data
- · Will not be covered today

METHODS

What we will cover today

- · K-means clustering (background)
- Principal component analysis (PCA)
 (background)
- · t-SNE
- · Autoencoders
- · Variational autoencoders

What we will not cover today

- · Independent component analysis (ICA)
- · Matrix factorization and decomposition
- Expectation-maximization (EM) algorithm
- Generative-adverserial networks (GAN) (next lecture)

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DATA CLUSTERING

- · Grouping together data based on some similarity metric
- · Data points within the same group (cluster) will be more similar to each other than to data points outside the group
- · Many different versions of clustering

CONNECTIVITY-BASED CLUSTERING

- · Also called hierarchical clustering
- · See figures for example with the L_2 distance metric
- Different level thresholds yields different clusters

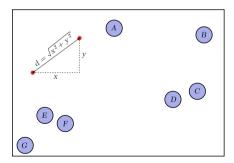


Figure 1: Raw data

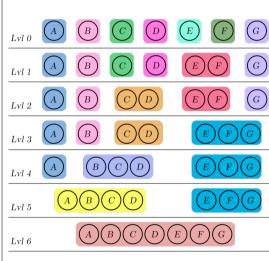


Figure 2: Bottom up (agglomerative) hierarchy of clusters

GRAPH CLUSTERING — CLIQUES

- · A clique is a set of nodes
- · A node in a clique shares an edge with all other nodes in the clique
- · Can have cliques of different sizes
- Useful in applications such as random fields

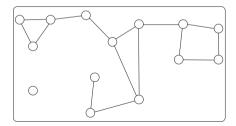


Figure 3: Undirected graph

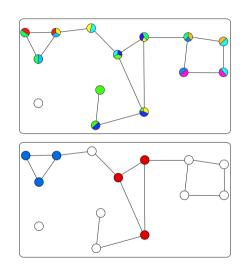


Figure 4: Top: Cliques with 2 members. Bottom: Cliques with 3 members. Nodes with multiple colors belong to more than one clique.

CENTROID-BASED CLUSTERING

- · Clusters are represented by a central vector
- · Example: K-means clustering

K-MEANS CLUSTERING

- · Conseptually simple clustering algorithm
- · We want to partition a set of data $\{x^{(1)}, x^{(2)}, \dots, x^{(m)}\}$ into k clusters.
- $x^{(i)} \in \mathbb{R}^n, i = 1, \dots, m$
- · With some distance norm $||\cdot||$ the procedure is
 - 1. Initialize at random k cluster centroids (or means) $\mu_j \in \mathbb{R}^n, j=1,\ldots,k$
 - 2. Repeat until convergence
 - 2.1 For every example $x^{(i)}, i=1,\ldots,m$, let

$$c^{(i)} = \arg\min_{j} ||x^{(i)} - \mu_{j}||.$$

2.2 For every centroid $\mu_j, j=1,\ldots,k$, set

$$\mu_j = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^m I[c^{(i)} = j] x^{(i)}}{\sum_{i=1}^m I[c^{(i)} = j]},$$

where the Iverson bracket is defined as

$$I[a=b] = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if} \quad a=b, \\ 0, & \text{if} \quad a \neq b \end{cases}.$$

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K-MEANS CLUSTERING — PROPERTIES

· Minimizes the objective function

$$J(c,\mu) = \sum_{i=1}^{m} ||x^{(i)} - \mu_{c^{(i)}}||$$

- · Not guaranteed to find a global minimum
- \cdot Common to run the algorighm several times with different initializations, and then pick the run with the smallest value of J
- · The k-means clustering algorithm partitions the feature space into Voronoi cells

K-MEANS CLUSTERING — EXAMPLE

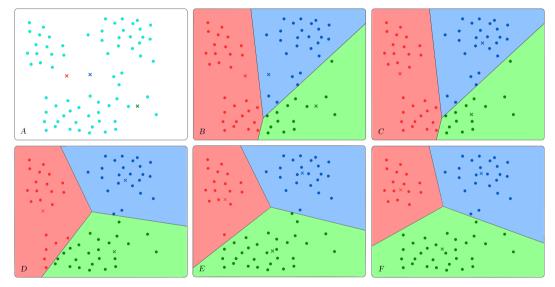


Figure 5: A: Initialize centroids. B: Assign points to clusters. C: Move centroids. D, E, F: Assign points to clusters and move centroids. No change after F (convergence).

PCA

PRINCIPAL COMPONENT ANALYSIS (PCA)

- · Reducing the dimensionality of a dataset of correlated variables
- · Retaining as much as possible of the variance present in the dataset

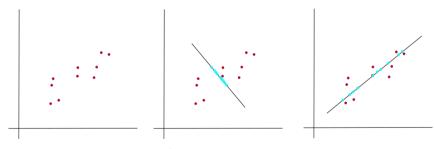


Figure 6: Representing 2D data as 1D

PCA — DERIVATION OUTLINE

- · Let $X \in \mathbb{R}^{n_d}$ be a random vector
- · We are looking for a set of uncorrelated variables Y_k which we will call the principal components of X
- \cdot The first component, Y_1 , will account for most of the variance in X
- \cdot The second component, Y_2 , will account for most of the variance in X, conditionied on being uncorrelated with Y_1
- · The third component, Y_3 , will account for most of the variance in X, conditioned on being uncorrelated with both Y_1 and Y_2
- · We continue untill we have $n_p << n_d$ principal components that account for most of the variance in X

PCA — FIRST PRINCIPAL COMPONENT

· Let $Y_1 \in \mathbb{R}$ be some linear combination of the elements in X

$$Y_1 = \sum_{i=1}^{N_d} a_{1i} X_i = a_1^{\mathsf{T}} X,$$

· This random variable has variance

$$Var[Y_1] = Var[a_1^{\mathsf{T}}X] = a_1^{\mathsf{T}}\Sigma a_1.$$

· Here, Σ is the covariance matrix of X with elements

$$\Sigma_{ij} = Cov(X_i, X_j)$$

- · We want to maximize the variance of Y_1
- \cdot In order to achieve finite solutions, we constrain the optimization on

$$a_1^{\mathsf{T}}a_1=1$$

· It turns out that, for $k=1,\dots,n_p$, a_k well be an eigenvector of Σ corresponding to the kth largest eigenvalue λ_k

PCA — ESTIMATING THE COVARIANCE MATRIX.

· For a dataset with n_s samples $\{x_{i1}, \ldots, x_{in_s}\}$ for all features $i=1, \ldots, n_d$, the elements in the covariance matrix can be estimated as

$$\hat{\Sigma}_{ij} = \frac{1}{n_s - 1} \sum_{q=1}^{n_s} (x_{iq} - \hat{\mu}_i)(x_{jq} - \hat{\mu}_j),$$

· Here $\hat{\mu}_i$ is the sample mean of the ith feature

$$\hat{\mu}_i = \frac{1}{n_s} \sum_{q=1}^{n_s} x_{iq}$$

 \cdot Arranginging the feature samples and sample means into vectors of size n_d

$$x_q = [x_{1q}, \dots, x_{n_d q}]^\mathsf{T}$$
$$\hat{\mu} = [\hat{\mu}_1, \dots, \hat{\mu}_{n_d}]^\mathsf{T}$$

· With this, the estimate of the covariance matrix can be written as

$$\hat{\Sigma} = \frac{1}{n_s - 1} \sum_{q=1}^{n_s} (x_q - \hat{\mu})(x_q - \hat{\mu})^{\mathsf{T}}.$$

PCA — OPTIMIZING THE VARIANCE

- · We use the technique of *Lagrangian multipliers* to incorporate the unit length constraint
- · This means that we are going to maximize the expression

$$J(a_1) = a_1^{\mathsf{T}} \Sigma a_1 - \lambda (a_1^{\mathsf{T}} a_1 - 1).$$

· Computing the gradient of J w.r.t. a_1 , and setting it equal to zero, yields

$$\Sigma a_1 - \lambda a_1 = 0,$$

or

$$(\Sigma - \lambda I)a_1 = 0,$$

where I is the $n_d \times n_d$ identity matrix.

PCA — OPTIMIZING THE VARIANCE

· From our last expression

$$(\Sigma - \lambda I)a_1 = 0,$$

we see that λ is an eigenvalue of Σ , and a_1 is the corresponding eigenvector.

- · Furthermore, λ is the largest eigenvalue
- This is because maximizing the variance subject to the constraint of unit length coefficients is equivalent to choosing the largest eigenvalue

$$a_1^{\mathsf{T}} \Sigma a_1 = a_1^{\mathsf{T}} \lambda a_1$$
$$= \lambda a_1^{\mathsf{T}} a_1$$
$$= \lambda.$$

· In general, the kth principal component of X is

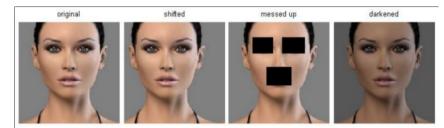
$$a_k^{\mathsf{T}} X$$

where a_k is the eigenvector of the covariance matrix Σ of X, corresponding to the kth largest eigenvalue λ_k

PCA — APPLICATIONS

- · Dimensionality reduction
- · Preprocessing in supervised learning: acts as a regularizer
- · Noise reduction

PROBLEMS WITH IMAGE DATA



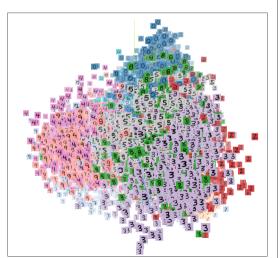
(all 3 images have same L2 distance to the one on the left)

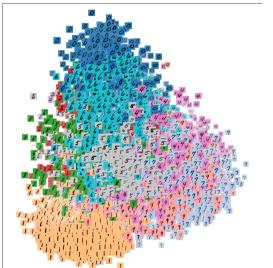




MNIST CLUSTERING WITH PCA

Explains about 26% of the variance. Not very suited.





T-SNE

STOCHASTIC NEIGHBOUR EMBEDDING (SNE)

- · Introduced by Geoffrey Hinton and Sam Roweis in 2003
- PDF: http: //papers.nips.cc/paper/2276-stochastic-neighbor-embedding.pdf
- · A stochastic dimensionality reduction method
- \cdot Transforms high-dimensional (h-d) data points to low-dimensional (l-d) data ponts
- · Aims to preserve neighbourhood identity between data points
- · Similar (close) h-d points should also be similar (close) in the l-d representation

SNE — OVERVIEW

- \cdot The high-dimensional points have some dimension h
- \cdot The low-dimensional points have some dimension l << h, which is determined manually
- \cdot For each point i, we are going to define two distributions:
 - $p_{X_i|X_j}(x_i|x_j)$: The probability that x_i and x_j are "neighbours", given the location of x_j
 - $+ q_{Y_i|Y_j}(y_i|y_j)$: The probability that y_i and y_j are "neighbours", given the location of y_j
- · We will use the following shorthand
 - $p_{i|j} := p_j(x_i) := p_{X_i|X_j}(x_i|x_j)$
 - $q_{i|j} := q_j(y_i) := p_{Y_i|Y_j}(y_i|y_j)$
- · We are then going to define a similarity measure between these distributions
- The low-dimensional representations will be altered such as to minimize this distribution similarity

SNE — HIGH-DIMENSION NEIGHBOUR PROBABILITY

- Let $\mathcal{X} = \{x_1, \dots, x_n\}$ be a set of points with h dimensions, $x_i \in \mathbb{R}^h, i = 1, \dots, n$
- · These are the data points which we want to represent in a lower dimensional space
- · We model the data point distribution as a asymmetric Gaussian

$$p_{i|j} = \frac{\exp\left\{-\frac{||x_i - x_j||^2}{\sigma_j^2}\right\}}{\sum_{k \neq j} \exp\left\{-\frac{||x_k - x_j||^2}{\sigma_j^2}\right\}}$$

- · The scaling parameter σ_i can be set manually
- · More often adjusted with a *perplexity* parameter
- · Often found by a binary search such that the entropy of the distribution over its neighbours is equal to $\log k$
- \cdot k is a *perplexity* parameter that is set by hand
- See e.g. https://distill.pub/2016/misread-tsne/ how to interpret t-SNE results

SNE — PERPLEXITY

- · We want a larger σ in sparse areas
- · We want a smaller σ in dense areas
- \cdot σ is often found by a binary search such that the entropy of the distribution over its neighbours is equal to $\log k$

$$H(p_j) = -\sum_{i} p_{i|j} \log p_{i|j}$$

- \cdot k is a *perplexity* parameter that is set by hand
- · Perplexity can be interpreted as a measure of how many neighbours we want to influence a point

SNE — LOW-DIMENSION NEIGHBOUR PROBABILITY

- · Let $\mathcal{Y}=\{y_1,\ldots,y_n\}$ be a set of points with l dimensions, $x_i\in\mathbb{R}^l, i=1,\ldots,n$
- \cdot These are the lower-dimensional data points corresponding to X, so u>>v
- \cdot We choose a Gaussian neighbourhood with fixed variance $\sigma^2=1/2$

$$q_{i|j} = \frac{\exp\{-||y_i - y_j||^2\}}{\sum_{k \neq j} \exp\{-||y_k - y_j||^2\}}$$

REPETITION: KULLBACK-LEIBLER DIVERGENCE

 \cdot The Kullback-Liebler divergence over a discrete random variable ${\mathcal X}$

$$D_{KL}(p_{\mathcal{X}}||q_{\mathcal{X}}) = \sum_{x} p_{\mathcal{X}}(x) \log \frac{p_{\mathcal{X}}(x)}{q_{\mathcal{X}}(x)}$$

- · Measures the distance between two probability distributions $p_{\mathcal{X}}$ and $q_{\mathcal{X}}$ over the same set of events, modeled with the random variable \mathcal{X} .
- · Expectation of logarithmic difference between p and q when expectation is taken w.r.t. p.
- · Measures the amount of information that is lost when using q to approximate p.
- · It is non-negative
- · Zero for p=q
- \cdot Increasing for "increasing difference" between p and q.

SNE — DISTRIBUTION SIMILARITY MEASURE

- \cdot We want to measure the similarity between p_j and q_j
- · This is done by summing the KL-divergence between the original (p_j) and the induced (q_j) distributions over neighbours of each data point

$$C = \sum_{j} \sum_{i} p_{i|j} \log \frac{p_{i|j}}{q_{i|j}}$$
$$= \sum_{j} D_{KL}(p_{j}||q_{j})$$

- · Large cost of confusing a small distance in the high-dimensional space with a large distance in the low-dimensional space (small $p_{i|j}$ and large $q_{i|j}$)
- Larger cost of confusing a large distance in the high-dimensional space with a small distance in the low-dimensional space (large $p_{i|j}$ and small $q_{i|j}$)

SNE — DISCUSSION

- · The cost can be minimized with stochastic gradient descent
- · Emphazis of local objects
- · Keeps nearby points in h-d nearby in l-d
- · Also keeps distant points in h-d relatively far apart in l-d
- · Drawback: Can be difficult to optimize
- \cdot Drawback: Tendency to crowd l-d representations at the center of the map

T-DISTRIBUTED STOCHASTIC NEIGHBOUR EMBEDDING (T-SNE)

- · A variant of the SNE method
- · Introduced by Laurens van der Maaten and Geoffrey Hinton
- · PDF:

https://lvdmaaten.github.io/publications/papers/JMLR_2008.pdf

- · An improvemet over SNE
 - · Much easier to optimize
 - · Significantly better visualization
- · Two major differences between t-SNE and SNE
 - \cdot Symmetric Gaussian point similarity distribution for the h-d data points
 - \cdot Student-t point similarity distribution for the l-d map points

T-SNE — CROWDING PROBLEM

- · Standard SNE (and other similar methods) suffer from what is known as the crowding problem
- · Too many map points are placed near the center of the map
- · Intuition of why:
 - · In h dimensions, the volume of a sphere centered at x scales as r^h , where r is the "radius" of the sphere
 - \cdot In l << h dimensions, the volume of a corresponding sphere will be much smaller
 - · Less room to place points while preserving natural cluster structure
 - \cdot This causes a crowding of points that should have been modeled with a larger distance
- · This can be leviated by forcing moderately distant data points to be placed far apart

T-SNE — SYMMETRIC COST

· Standard SNE used the asymmetric KL-divergence

$$C = \sum_{j} \sum_{i} p_{i|j} \log \frac{p_{i|j}}{q_{i|j}}$$
$$= \sum_{j} D_{KL}(p_{j}||q_{j})$$

- . This is assymmetric because $p_{i|j}
 eq p_{j|i}$ and $q_{i|j}
 eq q_{j|i}$
- · Because of this, different types of errors in the pairwise distances in the map are weighted differently
- · In particular
 - · The cost of representing distant data points as close map points is smaller than
 - · The cost of representing close data points as distant map points
- · A symmetric cost could ease optimization, and leviate the crowding problem

SYMMETRIC DISTRIBUTION IN THE LOW-DIMENSIONAL SPACE

· In a symmetric SNE, we use a joint Gaussian to model the similarity between map points y_i and y_j

$$q_{ij} = \frac{\exp\{-||y_i - y_j||^2\}}{\sum_{k \neq l} \exp\{-||y_k - y_l||^2\}}$$

· Compare this with the conditional Gaussian we used in SNE

$$q_{i|j} = \frac{\exp\{-||y_i - y_j||^2\}}{\sum_{k \neq j} \exp\{-||y_k - y_j||^2\}}$$

- · The difference is quite subtle and is present in the sum in the denominator
- · In the asymmetric version, we sum over the difference between all points $y_k, k \neq j$ and the reference point y_i
- · In the symmetric version, we sum over the difference between all unequal points y_k and y_l
- · Note that this is not what is used in t-SNE, we will come back to that in two slides

T-SNE — SYMMETRIC DISTRIBUTION IN THE HIGH-DIMENSIONAL SPACE

 \cdot We could have used the same distribution for the data points x_j

$$p_{ij} = \frac{\exp\{-||x_i - x_j||^2\}}{\sum_{k \neq l} \exp\{-||x_k - x_l||^2\}}$$

- The problem is that for an outlier x_j , $||x_i x_j||$ will be very large (and p_{ij} very small) for all points
- \cdot The placement of the corresponding map point y_j will have very little effect on the cost
- · We can fix this by simply choosing

$$p_{ij} = \frac{p_{i|j} + p_{j|i}}{2n}$$

where n is the number of data points

- · With this, we ensure that $\sum_i p_{ij} < 1/2n$ for all data points x_i
- \cdot Hence, all points x_i are guaranteed to make significant contributions to the cost

T-SNE — LOW-DIMENSIONAL SPACE PAIRWISE DISTRIBUTION

- To mitigate the crowding problem, we want to give more weight to representing moderately distant data points as close map points
- · The Student-t distribution with one degree of freedom is used

$$q_{ij} = \frac{\left(1 + ||y_i - y_j||^2\right)^{-1}}{\sum_{k \neq l} \left(1 + ||y_k - y_l||^2\right)^{-1}}$$

- · Notice that it is symmetric $q_{ij} = q_{ji}$
- · The Student-t distribution has a much heavier tail than the Gaussian distribution

AUTOENCODERS

AUTOENCODERS — INTRODUCTION

- · An autoencoder is a neural network which purpose is to discover interesting representations of data
- · The idea is to create identity mappings, that is, functions f such that $f(x) \approx x$ for some input x
- · It is able to discover interesting representations by enforcing constraints on the network
- · The method requires no labeled data, and is therefore unsupervised

AUTOENCODERS — INTRODUCTION

- \cdot An autoencoder consist of an encoder g and an decoder h
- \cdot The encoder maps the input x to some representation z

$$g(x) = z$$

- \cdot We often call this representation z for the code
- · The decoder maps this representation z to some output \hat{x}

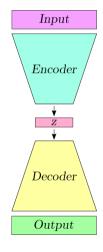
$$g(x) = \hat{x}$$

· We want to train the encoder and decoder such that

$$f(x) = h(g(x))$$
$$= \hat{x}$$

such that $\hat{x} \approx x$

. The loss is commonly either a cross-entropy loss or a mean



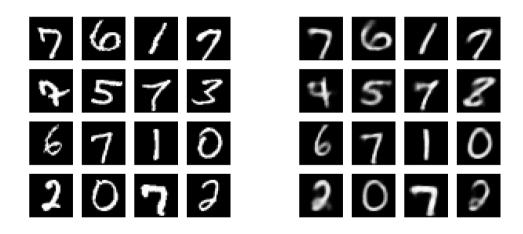
AUTOENCODERS — VARIANTS

- \cdot Different network constraints leads to different representations z
- \cdot Reducing the dimensionality of the representation z
 - \cdot If x has d_x dimensions and z has d_z dimensions, and $d_x>d_z$
 - · Most common way of constraining the network
- · Sparse autoencoder
 - \cdot z can actually have a greater dimension than x
 - · Only allowing a subset of the hidden units to fire at the same time
- Denoising autoencoder
 - \cdot Distorting the input x with some random noise
 - · Leads to robust representations, resiliant to corrupted input

COMPRESSION AUTOENCODER — MNIST EXAMPLE

- · Encoder:
 - · Input -> first hidden layer: fully connected 784 -> 128, relu
 - · 1. hidden -> 2. hidden: fully connected, 128 -> 32, relu
- · Decoder:
 - · 2.hidden -> 3. hidden: fully connected 32 -> 128, relu
 - · 3. hidden -> output: fully connected, 128 -> 784, sigmoid
- · Binary cross entropy
- · Adam optimizer

COMPRESSION AUTOENCODER — MNIST EXAMPLE

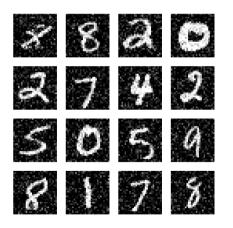


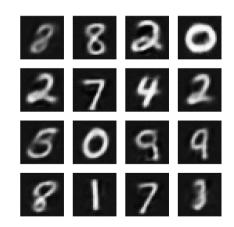
(a) Original (b) Reconstructed

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DENOISING AUTOENCODER — MNIST EXAMPLE

Same setup as for the compression autoencoder. Zero mean gaussian noise with standard deviation 0.1 is added to the input. The input values are clipped to lay in [0, 1].





Sparse autoencoder

- · We want to constrain the number of active nodes in the coding layer
- · We can think of a node being active (or firing) if is
 - · close to 1 for the sigmoid tanh activation functions
- · We can think of a node being inactive
 - · close to 0 for the sigmoid activation function
 - · close to -1 for the tanh activation function
- · We would like to constrain the nodes to be inactive most of the time

Sparse autoencoder

- · Let $a_j^{[c]}(x^{(i)})$ be the activation in node j in the coding layer [c] given an input $x^{(i)}$ to the network
- \cdot Then, activation for this node averaged over all m input examples is

$$\hat{\rho} = \frac{1}{m} \sum_{i=1}^{m} a_j^{[c]}(x^{(i)})$$

· We would like to limit this average activation by enforcing the constraint

$$\hat{\rho} = \rho$$

for some predetermined sparsity parameter ρ

 \cdot Choosing a small ho (e.g. 0.1) forces the activations to be small

SPARSE AUTOENCODER

· The way we enforce this constraint is to regularize the loss function

$$\mathcal{L} = \mathcal{L}_{reconstruction} + \beta \mathcal{L}_{sparsity}$$

with some regularization strength $\beta \in \mathbb{R}$.

 \cdot We are going to use the KL-divergence between the distributions p and q as our sparsity loss

$$\mathcal{L}_{\mathsf{sparsity}} = \sum_{j=1}^{n^{[c]}} D_{KL}(p||q_j)$$

where $n^{[c]}$ is the number of nodes in layer [c]

- \cdot p will be a Bernoulli distribution with mean ho for a node j
- \cdot q_i will be a Bernoulli distribution with mean $\hat{
 ho}_j$ for a node j
- · Remember that the Bernoulli distribution models the probability of an event with two outcomes (e.g. coin toss)
- · In our case p will represent a node being active with probability ρ , and q_i a node being active with probability $\hat{\rho}_i$

SPARSE AUTOENCODER

In this case, the KL divergence is

$$D_{KL}(p||q_i) = \int p(x) \log \frac{p(x)}{q(x)} dx$$
$$= \int p(x) \log p(x) dx - \int p(x) \log q(x) dx$$

In our case, the support of the distributions is only two outcomes $x \in \{0,1\}$, and the pmf is

$$p(x) = \begin{cases} (1 - \rho), & x = 0\\ \rho, & x = 1 \end{cases}$$

and conversely for q(x). With this, our KL divergence is simply

$$D_{KL}(p||q_i) = \rho \log \rho + (1 - \rho) \log(1 - \rho) - [\rho \log \hat{\rho} + (1 - \rho) \log(1 - \hat{\rho}_i)]$$
$$= \rho \log \frac{\rho}{\hat{\rho}_i} + (1 - \rho) \log \frac{(1 - \rho)}{(1 - \hat{\rho}_i)}.$$

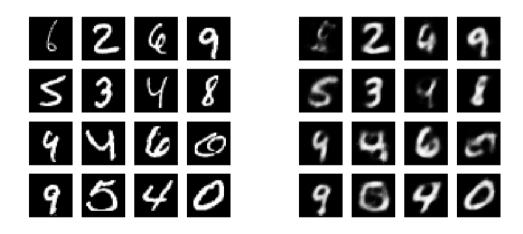
SPARSE AUTOENCODER

· With this, we get our final loss

$$\mathcal{L} = \mathcal{L}_{\text{reconstruction}} + \beta \sum_{j=1}^{n^{[c]}} \rho \log \frac{\rho}{\hat{\rho}_i} + (1 - \rho) \log \frac{(1 - \rho)}{(1 - \hat{\rho}_i)}$$

- · Note that we need to average over all examples to compute $\hat{
 ho}$
- · This means that we have to encode all said examples
- · In practice, with batch optimization, we average over all examples in a batch

Sparse autoencoder — MNIST example



(a) Original (b) Reconstructed

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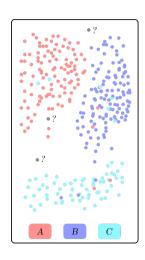
VARIATIONAL AUTOENCODERS

INTRODUCTION

- · Popular method for signal generation (images, sound, language, etc.)
- · Creating completely new signals
- · Or altering existing data
- · Especially powerful when you want to alter your data in a specific way, not just randomly

PROBLEMS WITH AUTOENCODERS FOR SIGNAL GENERATION

- · An autoencoder works great if you want to reconstruct a replica of the input
- · Not well suited for generating new signal
- The reason for this is an "unintuitive" latent variable space
- · The latent space might be discontinuous
- · Random sampling from an "unseen" region of the latent space produces undesired results
- · No reasonable way to interpolate between categories in the latent space

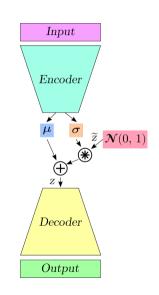


VARIATIONAL AUTOENCODERS

- A variational autoencoder is designed to have a continuous latent space
- This makes them ideal for random sampling and interpolation
- · It achieve this by forcing the encoder g to generate Gaussian representations, $z \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu, \sigma^2)$
- . More precisely, for one input, the encoder generates a mean μ and a variance σ^2
- . We sample then sample a zero-mean, unit-variance Gaussian $\tilde{z} \sim \mathcal{N}(0,1)$
- \cdot Construct the input z to the decoder from this

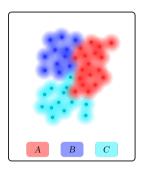
$$z = \mu + \tilde{z} \cdot \sigma^2$$

· With this, z is sampled from $q = \mathcal{N}(\mu, \sigma^2)$



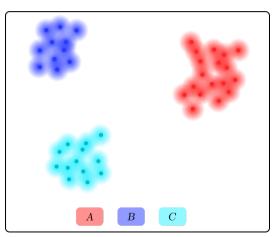
INTUITION

- · This is a stochastic sampling
- . That is, we can sample different z from the same set of (μ,σ^2)
- \cdot The intuition is that the decoder "learns" that for a given input x:
 - the point z is important for reconstruction
 - \cdot but also a neighbourhood of z
- · In this way, we have smoothed the latent space, at least locally



PROBLEM

- · No restriction on μ or σ^2
- · Realisticly, clusters of different classes can be placed far apart



GUIDING THE GENERATIVE DISTRIBUTION

- \cdot We can guide the solutions by restricting the generative distribution q
- \cdot We do this by making it approximate some distribution p
- · In that way, the latent vectors, even for different categories, will be relatively close
- . The desired distribution used in variational autoencoders is the standard normal $p=\mathcal{N}(0,1)$
- · We use the familiar KL-divergence between the desired and the generated distribution as a regularizer in the loss function
- · With this, the total loss for an example x_i is something like

$$\mathcal{L}(x_i) = |x^{(i)} - f(x^{(i)})| + D_{KL}(p||q_{\mu_i,\sigma_i})$$

- · That is, the sum what we call the reconstruction loss and the latent loss
- \cdot The latent loss for a single variable x_i can be shown to be equal to

$$D_{KL}(p||q_{\mu_i,\sigma_i}) = \frac{1}{2}(\mu_i^2 + \sigma_i^2 - \log \sigma_i^2 - 1)$$

KL DIVERGENCE BETWEEN GAUSSIAN DISTRIBUTIONS

For reference, I will spend some slide deriving the KL Divergence between two Gaussian distributions $p = \mathcal{N}(\mu_p, \sigma_p^2)$ and $q = \mathcal{N}(\mu_q, \sigma_q^2)$.

We are going to derive it for the continuous case, where the KL-Divergence can be expressed as

$$D_{KL}(p||q) = \int p(x) \log \frac{p(x)}{q(x)} dx \tag{1}$$

$$= \int p(x) \log p(x) dx - \int p(x) \log q(x) dx$$
 (2)

We will derive the two terms in the last line seperately

First, for the first term

$$\int p(x) \log p(x) = \int p(x) \log \left[(2\pi\sigma_p^2)^{-\frac{1}{2}} \exp\left\{ -\frac{(x-\mu_p)^2}{2\sigma_p^2} \right\} \right] dx$$

$$= -\frac{1}{2} \log(2\pi\sigma_p^2) \int p(x) dx - \frac{1}{2} \int p(x) \frac{(x-\mu_p)^2}{\sigma_p^2} dx$$

$$= -\frac{1}{2} \log(2\pi\sigma_p^2) - \frac{1}{2\sigma_p^2} \int p(x) (x^2 - 2x\mu_p + \mu_p^2) dx.$$

Similarly, for the second term

$$\int p(x) \log q(x) = -\frac{1}{2} \log(2\pi\sigma_q^2) - \frac{1}{2\sigma_q^2} \int p(x) (x^2 - 2x\mu_q + \mu_q^2) dx.$$

Remeber that for a random variable X with pdf f, the expectation is given by

$$E[X] = \int f(x)x \, \mathrm{d}x.$$

Also, we have

$$E[X^{2}] = \int f(x)x^{2} dx$$
$$= Var[X] + E[X]^{2}$$

For the integral in eq. (62), we then get

$$\frac{1}{2\sigma_p^2} \int p(x)(x^2 - 2x\mu_p + \mu_p^2) dx = \frac{1}{2\sigma_p^2} \int p(x)[(\sigma_p^2 + \mu_p^2) - 2\mu_p^2 + \mu_p^2] dx$$
$$= \frac{1}{2}.$$

The integral in eq. (62) is similar,

$$\frac{1}{2\sigma_q^2} \int p(x)(x^2 - 2x\mu_q + \mu_q^2) \, dx = \frac{1}{2\sigma_q^2} \int p(x)[(\sigma_p^2 + \mu_p^2) - \mu_p\mu_q + \mu_q^2] \, dx$$
$$= \frac{\sigma_p^2 + (\mu_p - \mu_q)^2}{2\sigma_q^2}.$$

Finishing up, using eq. (62) and eq. (62) via eq. (63) and eq. (64), we finally get

$$D_{KL}(p||q) = \int p(x) \log \frac{p(x)}{q(x)} dx$$

$$= \int p(x) \log p(x) dx - \int p(x) \log q(x) dx$$

$$= -\frac{1}{2} \log(2\pi\sigma_p^2) - \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} \log(2\pi\sigma_q^2) + \frac{\sigma_p^2 + (\mu_p - \mu_q)^2}{2\sigma_q^2}$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} \left[\log \frac{\sigma_q^2}{\sigma_p^2} + \frac{\sigma_p^2 + (\mu_p - \mu_q)^2}{\sigma_q^2} - 1 \right]$$

When, as in our case $p = \mathcal{N}(\mu, \sigma)$ and $q = \mathcal{N}(0, 1)$, we get

$$D_{KL}(p||q) = \frac{1}{2} \left[\mu^2 + \sigma^2 - \log \sigma^2 - 1 \right].$$

GENERATE NEW SIGNALS — INTERPOLATION

- · Say you want to generate a signal c that is an interpolation between two signals a and b
- You can do this by first computing the average of the two mean vectors

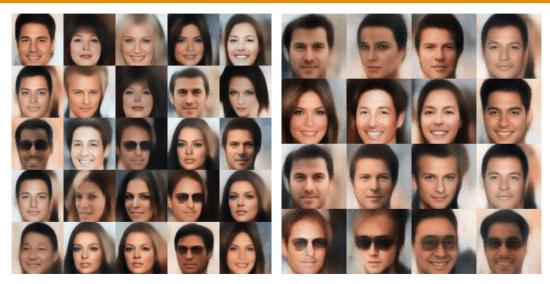
$$\mu_c = \frac{1}{2}(\mu_a + \mu_b)$$

· Then, sample a latent variable with this mean



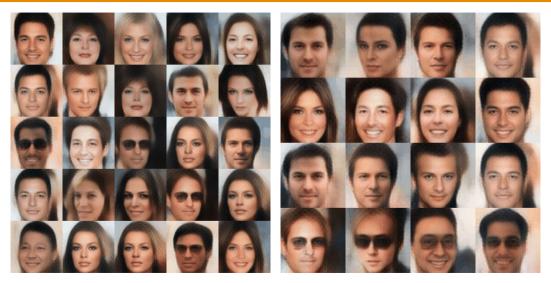
GENERATE NEW SIGNALS — ADDING FEATURES

- \cdot Say you want to add a feature of a signal a to the signal b
- \cdot You can do this by finding a signal c that is equal to a, except for the specific feature you want
- · You can then subtract the latent variable of c from the latent variable of a, and add it to the latent variable of b
- · Then you simply decode the new latent variable
- Example: "Face with glasses = face + (face with glasses face)"
- · See examples on the next slides



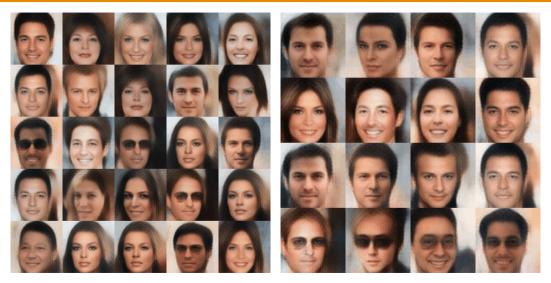
(a) Interpolation between genders

(b) Add or remove facial features



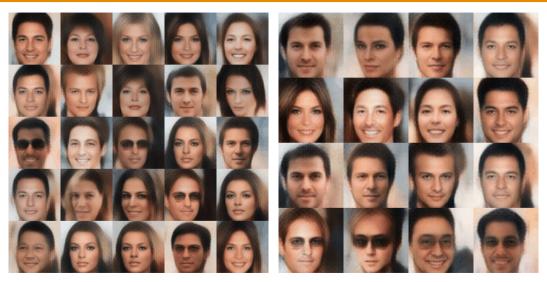
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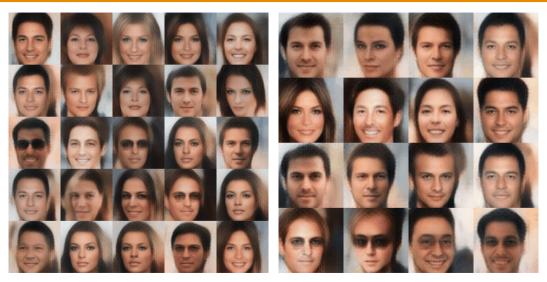
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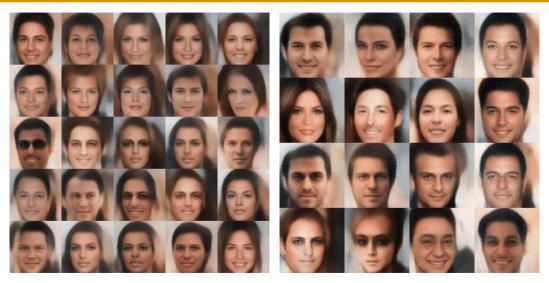
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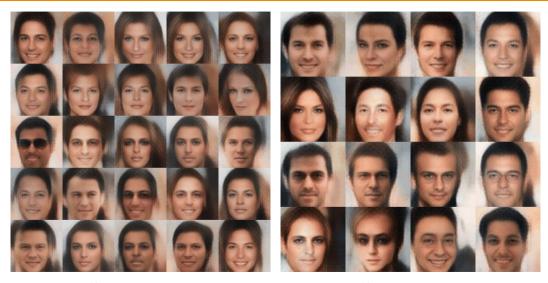
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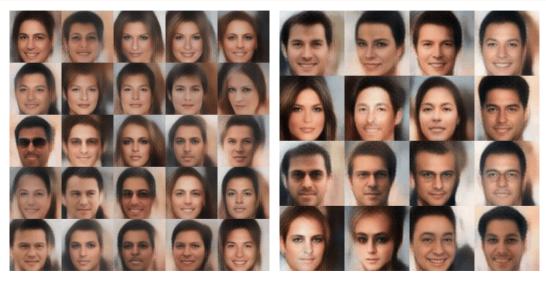
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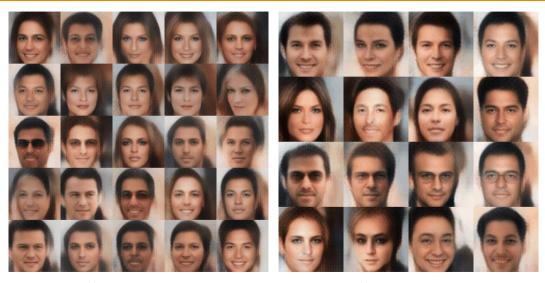
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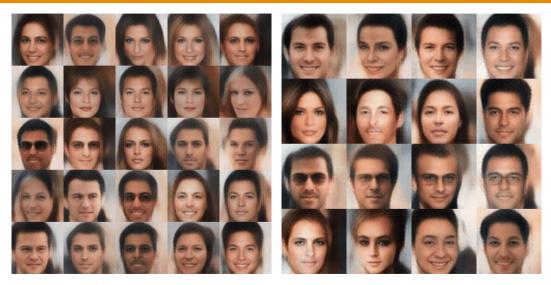
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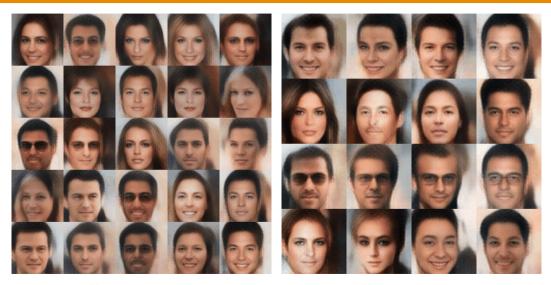
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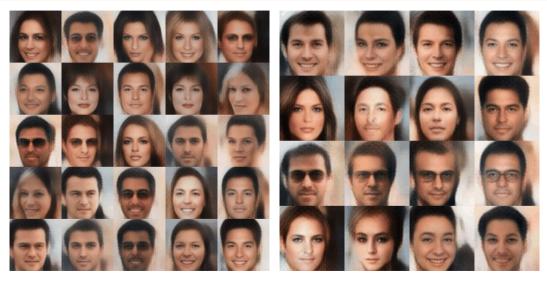
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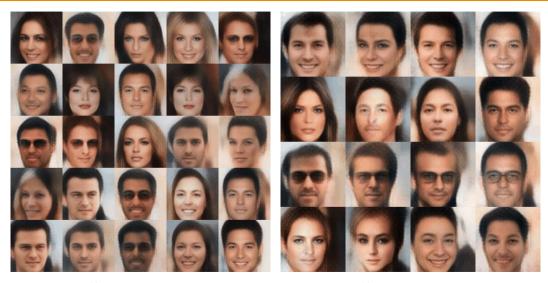
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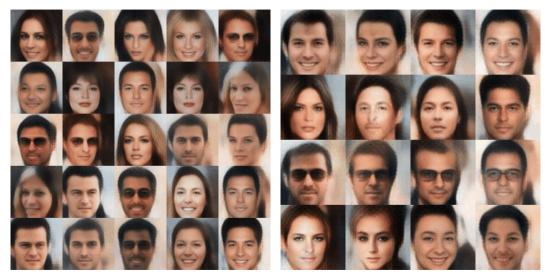
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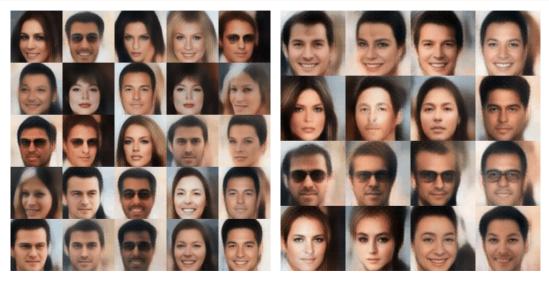
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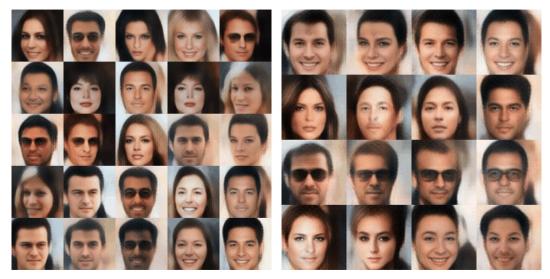
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VARIATIONAL AUTOENCODERS — FINAL NOTES

- · Autoencoders are popular for generating signals such as images and sound
- · We have now an idea of how variational autoencoders work
- · There is a lot more detail that we skipped, especially in the derivation

QUESTIONS?