

A Quick Tour of Computer Vision

SAST Summer Training 2023

Kevin Zhang

THU CST

July 30th, 2023



Today's Goal

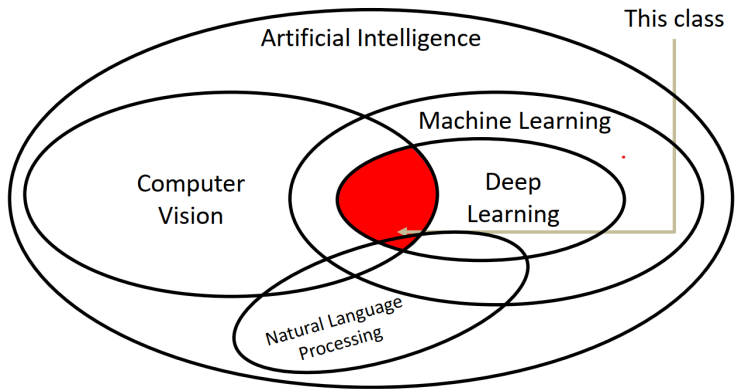
- Explore the applications of previously learned neural networks (e.g. CNN, Transformers) in basic computer vision tasks.
- Understand the fundamentals of cutting-edge generative models: VAE, GANs, and Diffusion Models.
- Explore the widely used open-source diffusion model codebase: *StableDiffusion*.
- Develop your interest and spark your inspiration :)

What's Computer Vision?

Wiki: Computer vision tasks include methods for **acquiring, processing, analyzing and understanding** digital images, and extraction of high-dimensional data from the real world in order to produce numerical or symbolic information.

Note: Computer Vision $\not\subset$ Deep Learning

What's Computer Vision?



Today's Focus

A WIDE range of computer vision tasks:

- Different modalities
 - **Image** → *Basic*
 - Video
 - 3D Object/Scene
 - **Multi-modal (Vision, Language, Speech...)** → *Exciting*
- Different targets
 - **Recognition** → *Basic*
 - Segmentation
 - Detection
 - Stylization
 - Captioning
 - **Generation** → *Exciting*
 - ...

1 Introduction

2 Basic Task: Image Classification

Introduction

CNN for Image Classification

Vision Transformer (ViT): Towards Larger Model

3 Recent Progress: Generation Models

4 Reference

Why Image Classification?

- Core computer vision task: make computer perceive the world
- Building blocks for other tasks: detection, captioning, and even AlphaGo...
- The first challenge that deep learning made great success over classical methods
- A good chance to review and get a deeper understanding of previously learned neural network architectures, such as CNN and Transformers

What's Image Classification?



This image by Nikita is licensed under [CC-BY 2.0](#)

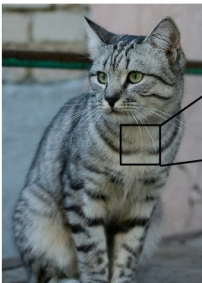
(assume given a set of labels)
{dog, cat, truck, plane, ...}



cat
dog
bird
deer
truck

Challenge for Image Classification

The Problem: Semantic Gap



This image by [Nobita](#) is licensed under [CC-BY 2.0](#)

1185	112	100	111	104	99	106	99	96	103	112	119	104	97	93	871
95	90	102	106	104	79	98	103	99	105	123	136	118	105	94	851
76	85	90	105	128	105	87	96	95	99	115	112	106	103	99	851
90	81	81	120	131	127	100	95	98	102	99	96	93	101	941	
106	91	61	64	60	91	88	85	101	107	109	98	75	84	96	951
114	100	85	55	55	69	64	54	64	87	112	129	98	74	84	911
133	137	147	103	65	81	88	65	52	54	74	84	102	93	85	821
120	137	144	148	109	95	86	70	62	65	63	63	68	73	86	1011
125	133	148	137	119	121	117	94	85	79	88	85	54	64	72	981
127	125	131	147	133	127	126	131	111	96	89	75	61	64	72	841
115	114	109	123	150	148	131	118	113	109	100	92	74	65	72	781
89	93	98	97	100	147	131	118	113	114	113	109	106	95	77	881
63	77	86	81	77	79	102	123	117	115	117	125	125	130	116	871
62	65	82	89	78	71	88	101	124	126	119	101	107	114	131	1151
63	65	75	88	89	71	62	81	120	138	135	105	81	98	118	1181
87	65	71	87	106	95	69	45	76	138	126	107	92	94	105	1121
118	97	82	86	117	123	116	66	41	51	95	93	89	95	102	1071
164	146	112	88	82	128	124	104	76	48	45	66	88	101	102	1091
157	170	157	128	93	86	114	132	112	97	69	55	78	62	99	941
138	128	134	161	139	100	109	118	121	134	114	87	65	53	69	861
128	112	96	117	158	144	128	115	104	107	102	93	87	81	72	791
123	107	96	88	83	112	153	149	122	109	104	75	88	107	112	991
122	121	102	88	82	86	94	117	145	148	153	102	58	78	92	1071
122	164	148	103	71	56	78	83	93	103	119	139	102	61	69	8411

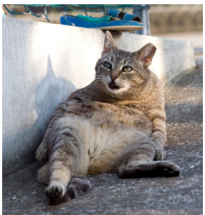
What the computer sees

An image is a tensor of integers between $[0, 255]$:

e.g. $800 \times 600 \times 3$
(3 channels RGB)

Challenge for Image Classification

So many different cats!



This image by Umberto Salvatori is licensed under [CC-BY 2.0](#)



This image by Umberto Salvatori is licensed under [CC-BY 2.0](#)



This image by Sara Boaz is licensed under [CC-BY 2.0](#)



This image by Tom Thai is licensed under [CC-BY 2.0](#)

Challenge for Image Classification

So many different cats (or cat tails)!



[This image](#) is [CC0 1.0](#) public domain



[This image](#) is [CC0 1.0](#) public domain



[This image](#) by [jasonku](#) is licensed under [CC-BY 2.0](#)

Opportunity: Big data

The poster for the IMAGENET Large Scale Visual Recognition Challenge is set against a background of a dense grid of small, colorful images. At the top, a white banner contains the text "IMAGENET Large Scale Visual Recognition Challenge", where "IMAGENET" is in a stylized font with colored blocks and "Large Scale Visual Recognition Challenge" is in a bold, black sans-serif font.

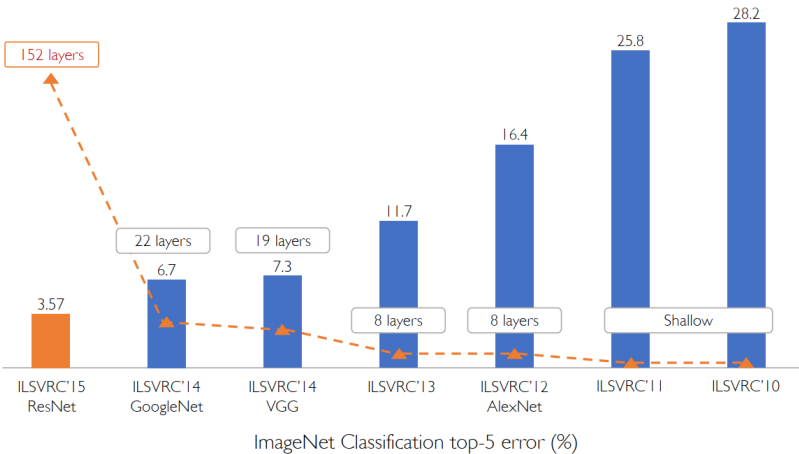
In the center-left, a white rectangular box contains the text: "The Image Classification Challenge: 1,000 object classes 1,431,167 images".

To the right of this box is an inset photograph of a young child in a green shirt sitting on the floor, playing a large, circular, metallic steel drum with mallets. A smaller drum is visible nearby.

To the right of the photograph is another white rectangular box containing the text: "Output: Scale T-shirt Steel drum Drumstick Mud turtle". The words "Steel drum", "Drumstick", and "Mud turtle" are underlined.

At the bottom right of the poster, a small grey box lists the organizers: "Deng et al, 2009 Russakovsky et al. IJCV 2015".

Imagenet ILSVRC



1 Introduction

2 Basic Task: Image Classification

Introduction

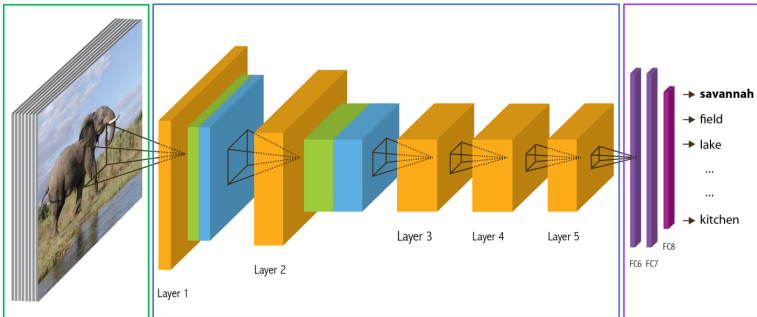
CNN for Image Classification

Vision Transformer (ViT): Towards Larger Model

3 Recent Progress: Generation Models

4 Reference

Recap: CNN architecture



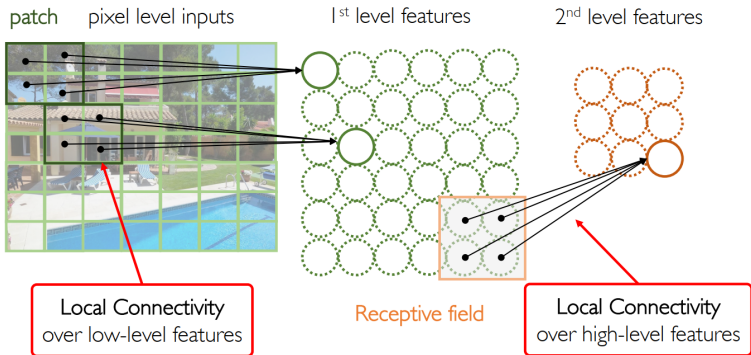
Scan
the image

Generate
hierarchy of features

Recognize from
high level features

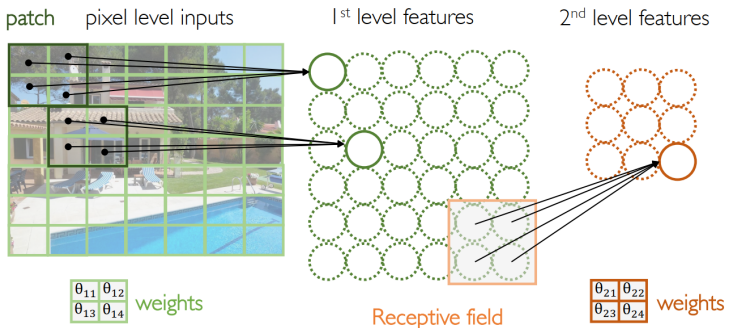
Extract features: convolution layers + pooling layers + normalization layers

Recap: Local Connectivity in CNN



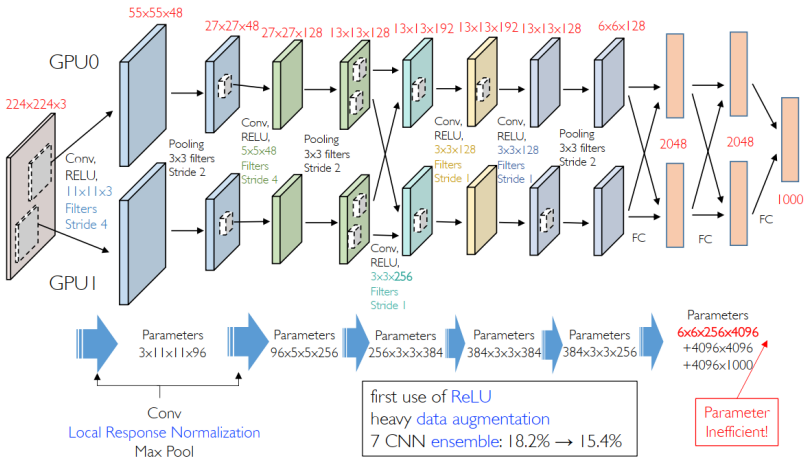
Key assumption 1 (Locality): Assume local information is enough for feature extraction and recognition.

Recap: Parameter Sharing in CNN



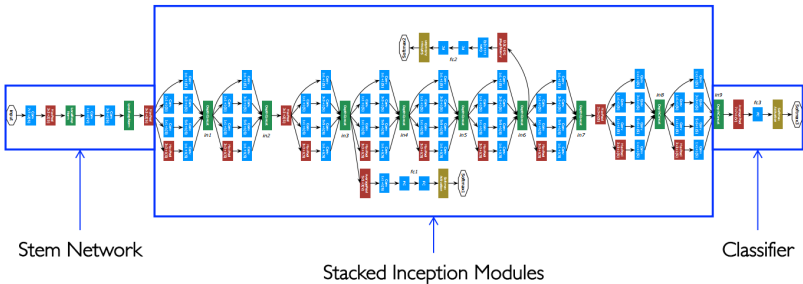
Key assumption 2 (Shift invariance): If a feature is useful at one position, then it should also be useful at other positions.

AlexNet (2012)



GoogLeNet (Inception, 2014): Going deeper

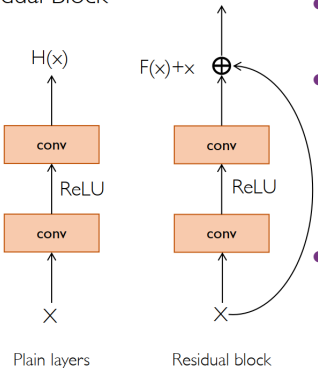
Deeper networks, with computational efficiency



- 22 layers
- Efficient Inception modules
- The first one without FC layers
- Only 5 million parameters! **12x** less than AlexNet
- ILSVRC'14 classification winner (6.7% top 5 error)

ResNet (CVPR best paper, 2015): Going really deep

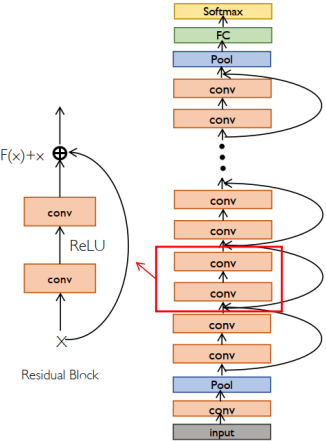
Residual Block



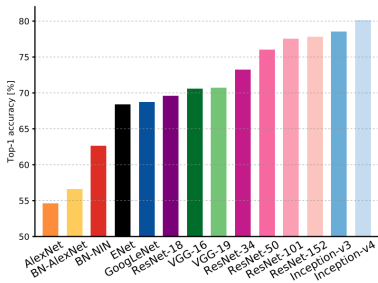
- Key observation: Deeper models are hard to optimize.
- Idea:
 - Copying the learned layer from the shallow model
 - Setting additional layers to identical mapping
- Solution: Instead of learning $H(x)$ directly, learn the residual $F(x) = H(x) - x$.

ResNet (CVPR best paper, 2015): Going really deep

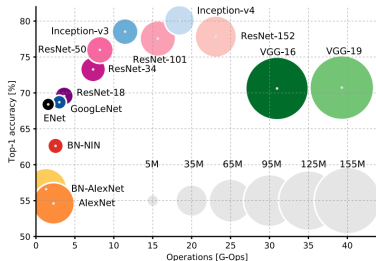
- ResNet architecture:
 - Stack residual blocks
 - Every residual block has **two 3x3 conv** layers
 - Periodically, double #filters and downsample spatially using **stride 2** (/2 in each dimension)
 - **Additional conv layer** at the beginning
 - **Global average pooling** at the end (FC layer only to output classes)



Well-known CNN models that emerged between 2012 and 2017



Top1 vs. Architectures



Top1 vs. Operations, Size \propto Parameters

搭积木？知乎：像 ResNet、SENet 这些网络是怎么想出来的？

1 Introduction

2 Basic Task: Image Classification

Introduction

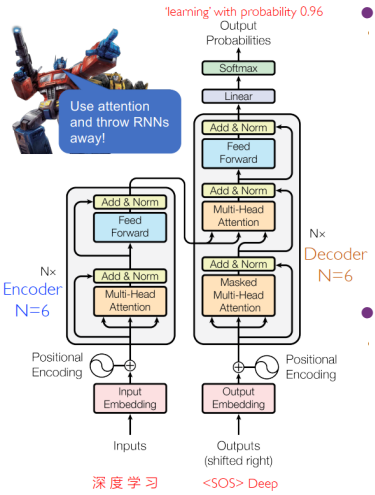
CNN for Image Classification

Vision Transformer (ViT): Towards Larger Model

3 Recent Progress: Generation Models

4 Reference

Recap: Transformer



Main Components:

- Scaled Dot-product Attention
- (Masked) Multi-head Attention
- Position-wise FFN
- Residual Connections
- Layer Normalization
- Positional Encoding

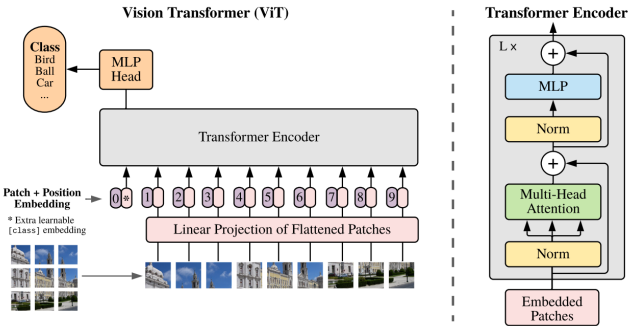
Architecture:

- Encoder → *A new way to extract features!*
- Decoder with Masking
- Encoder-Decoder Attention

ViT: An image is worth 16×16 words

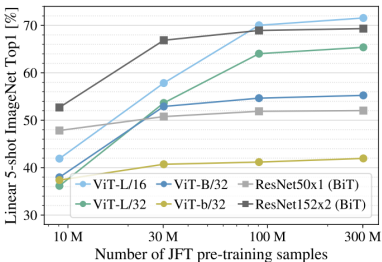
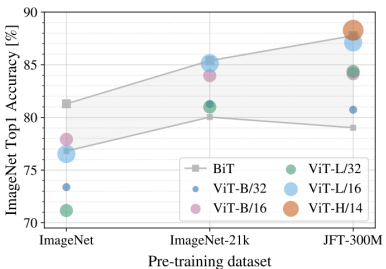
Simple idea: Split the image into fixed-size patches and treat the image as **a sequence of patches!** (The same Transformer Encoder architecture as before)

$$\mathbf{x}^{H \times W \times C} \rightarrow \mathbf{x}_p^{N \times (P^2 \cdot C)} \rightarrow \mathbf{z}^{N \times D}$$



ViT: An image is worth 16×16 words

- Less inductive bias → One architecture for **multi-modal data** and **multiple downstream tasks**!
- Easy to **scale up**! (Demanding for extremely large scale dataset, model regularization and data augmentation)



1 Introduction

2 Basic Task: Image Classification

3 Recent Progress: Generation Models

- Transformer-based Auto-regressive Models
- Generative Adversarial Networks (GANs)
- Diffusion Models

4 Reference

AIGC: A new opportunity

Runners-up



Perennial rice promises easier farming



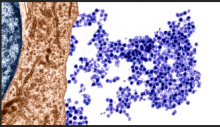
AI gets creative



A surprisingly massive microbe



RSV vaccines near the finish line



Virus fingered as cause of multiple sclerosis



United States passes landmark climate law



Black Death's legacy detected in the genes



Asteroid deflected



Ancient ecosystem reconstructed from 2-

① Introduction

② Basic Task: Image Classification

③ Recent Progress: Generation Models
Transformer-based Auto-regressive Models
Generative Adversarial Networks (GANs)
Diffusion Models

④ Reference

Transformer again: Unify texts and images

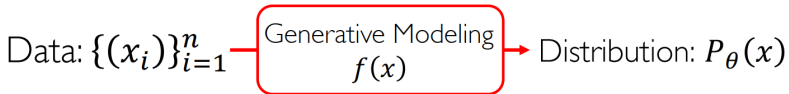
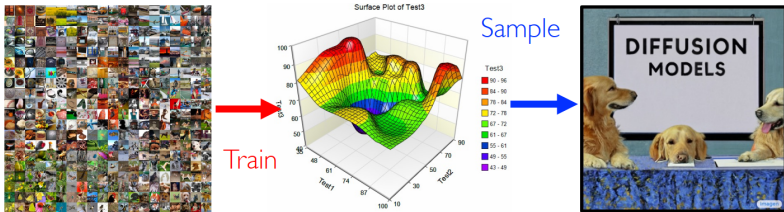
Challenges for applying GPT-like large models to image generation:

- Huge computation consumption if generating in pixel space (A single image might have tens of thousands of pixels)
- Two-dimensional information is probably ignored in sequence generation

Initial solution: Reduce dimensions and generate in the latent space

Generative Modeling

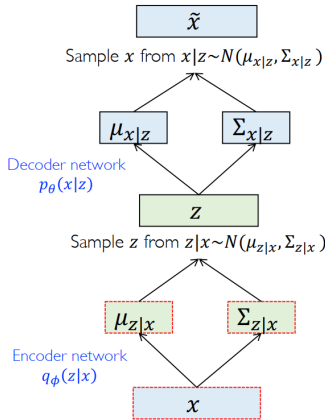
Learn the probability distribution $p_{\theta}(x)$ that generates the data.



Variational Auto-Encoder (VAE)

Training:

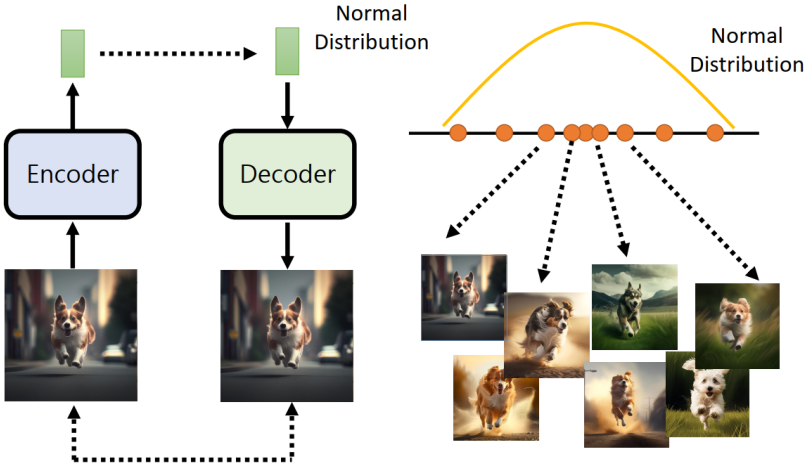
- **Encoder** output should match the prior distribution, e.g. $\mathcal{N}(0, 1)$.
- **Decoder** output should reconstruct the input distribution.



Inference:

- Throw the encoder away, sample from the prior distribution and use the decoder to get output image.

Variational Auto-Encoder (VAE)

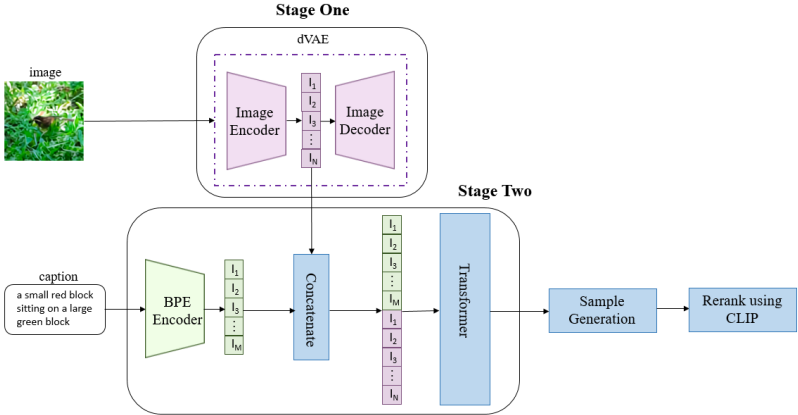


You want more math? (For those interested, not required)

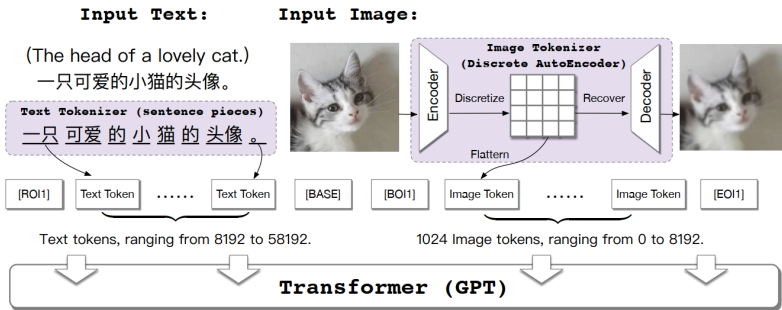
Goal: Maximize $p_\theta(x) \rightarrow$ Objective: Evidence lower Bound, ELBO
(θ : Decoder parameters, ϕ : Encoder parameters)

$$\begin{aligned}\log p_\theta(x_i) &= \mathbb{E}_{z \sim q_\phi(z|x_i)}[\log p_\theta(x_i)] \\ &= \mathbb{E}_z \left[\log \frac{p_\theta(x_i|z) p_\theta(z)}{p_\theta(z|x_i)} \right] \\ &= \mathbb{E}_z \left[\log p_\theta(x_i|z) \frac{p_\theta(z)}{q_\phi(z|x_i)} \frac{q_\phi(z|x_i)}{p_\theta(z|x_i)} \right] \\ &= \mathbb{E}_z [\log p_\theta(x_i|z)] - \mathbb{E}_z \left[\log \frac{q_\phi(z|x_i)}{p_\theta(z)} \right] + \mathbb{E}_z \left[\log \frac{q_\phi(z|x_i)}{p_\theta(z|x_i)} \right] \\ &= \mathbb{E}_z [\log p_\theta(x_i|z)] - KL(q_\phi(z|x_i) || p_\theta(z)) \\ &\quad + KL(q_\phi(z|x_i) || p_\theta(z|x_i)) \\ &\geq \mathbb{E}_z [\log p_\theta(x_i|z)] - KL(q_\phi(z|x_i) || p_\theta(z))\end{aligned}$$

DALL-E (OpenAI)



CogView (Tsinghua)



The framework of CogView. [ROI1], [BASE1], etc., are separator tokens.

Pros and cons of VAE

Pros:

- Principled approach to generative models with solid mathematics basis.
- Allow inference of encoder $q_{\phi}(z|x_i)$, can be useful low-dimension feature representation for other tasks and models.

Cons:

- Evidence Lower bound: an over-simplified approximation.
- Intractable for complex distributions.
- Blurrier and lower quality than GANs and Diffusion models.

1 Introduction

2 Basic Task: Image Classification

3 Recent Progress: Generation Models
Transformer-based Auto-regressive Models
Generative Adversarial Networks (GANs)
Diffusion Models

4 Reference

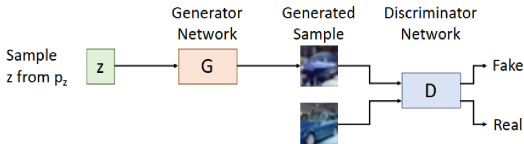
GAN: A two-player game

Jointly train generator G and discriminator D with a **minimax game**

Discriminator wants
 $D(x) = 1$ for real data

Discriminator wants
 $D(x) = 0$ for fake data

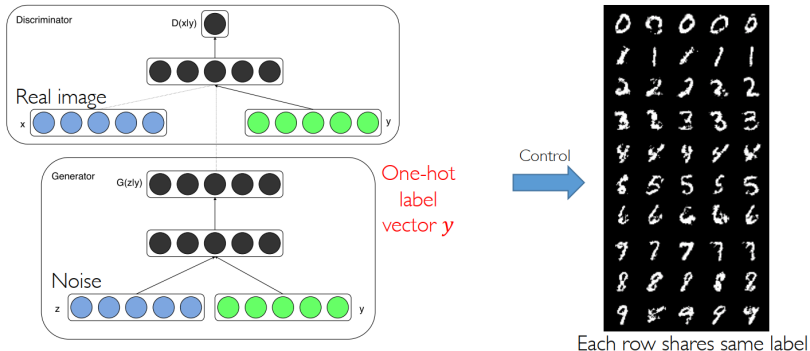
$$\min_G \max_D \left(E_{x \sim p_{data}} [\log D(x)] + E_{z \sim p(z)} \left[\log \left(1 - D(G(z)) \right) \right] \right)$$



Generator wants
 $D(x) = 1$ for fake data

- The center of GAN is an adversarial loss! → An idea easy to generalize.

Conditional GAN



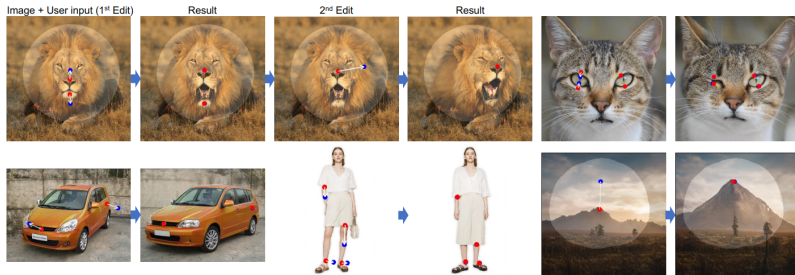
- Provide condition information to indicate what to generate.

StyleGAN



- Latent $z \rightarrow$ style features, noise \rightarrow content features (diverse details).

DragGAN (SIGGRAPH 2023)



- Utilizing the continuous and discriminative latent space of *StyleGAN* to apply natural and meaningful editing.

Pros and cons of GAN

Pros:

- High-quality generated images (enough to fool the discriminator and also your eyes!)
- High sampling efficiency!
- Relatively continuous latent space (which stores meaningful semantic information).

Cons:

- Hard to train! (A minimax game) → Relatively difficult to scale up.
- Mode collapse (Relatively low diversity) → A lot of follow-up works to mitigate the problem, e.g. *WGAN*.

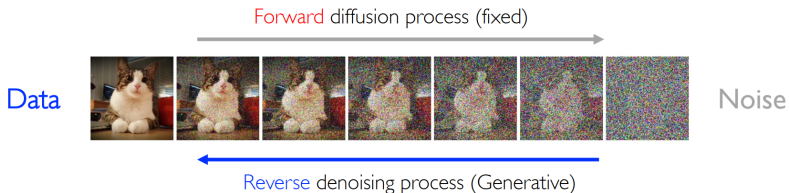
① Introduction

② Basic Task: Image Classification

③ Recent Progress: Generation Models
Transformer-based Auto-regressive Models
Generative Adversarial Networks (GANs)
Diffusion Models

④ Reference

Denoising Diffusion Probabilistic Model (DDPM)



Denoising diffusion models consist of two processes:

- **Forward diffusion process:** Adds noise to input gradually.
- **Reverse denoising process:** learns to generate by denoising.

Training



x_0 : clean image



ϵ : noise

Algorithm 1 Training

1: **repeat**

2: $x_0 \sim q(x_0) \leftarrow \dots$ sample clean image

3: $t \sim \text{Uniform}(\{1, \dots, T\})$

4: $\epsilon \sim \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{I}) \leftarrow \dots$ sample a noise

5: Take gradient descent step on

$$\nabla_{\theta} \|\epsilon - \epsilon_{\theta}(\underbrace{\sqrt{\bar{\alpha}_t} x_0 + \sqrt{1 - \bar{\alpha}_t} \epsilon, t)}_{\text{Noisy image}})\|^2$$

6: **until** converged

$\bar{\alpha}_1, \bar{\alpha}_2, \dots, \bar{\alpha}_T$
smaller \rightarrow

Target
Noise

Noise
predictor

Training



x_0



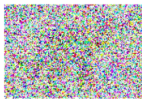
ϵ

Sample t



x_0

+ $\sqrt{1 - \bar{\alpha}_t}$

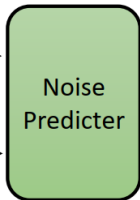


ϵ

=



t



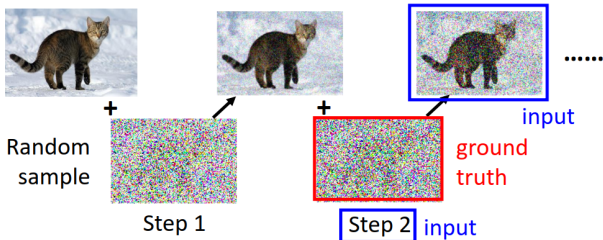
?????



ϵ

Training

What you imagine...



Actually...

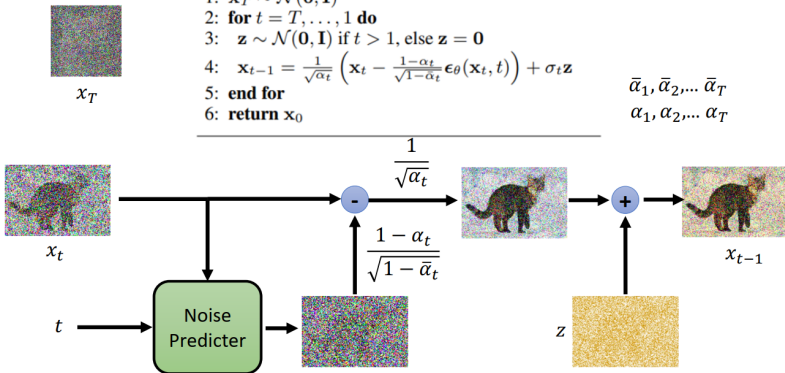
$$\sqrt{\bar{\alpha}_t} x_0 + \sqrt{1 - \bar{\alpha}_t} \varepsilon = \text{input}$$

x_0 ε input
 ground truth ground truth

Inference

Algorithm 2 Sampling

- 1: $\mathbf{x}_T \sim \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{I})$
 - 2: **for** $t = T, \dots, 1$ **do**
 - 3: $\mathbf{z} \sim \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{I})$ if $t > 1$, else $\mathbf{z} = \mathbf{0}$
 - 4: $\mathbf{x}_{t-1} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\alpha_t}} \left(\mathbf{x}_t - \frac{1-\alpha_t}{\sqrt{1-\alpha_t}} \epsilon_\theta(\mathbf{x}_t, t) \right) + \sigma_t \mathbf{z}$
 - 5: **end for**
 - 6: **return** \mathbf{x}_0
-

 $\bar{\alpha}_1, \bar{\alpha}_2, \dots, \bar{\alpha}_T$
 $\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \dots, \alpha_T$


You want more math? (For those interested, not required at all)

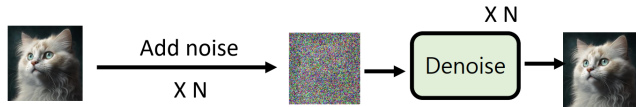
- Lil's blog: What are Diffusion Models?
- 知乎: 扩散模型之 DDPM
- My own notes (uploaded in Tsinghua Cloud)

VAE v.s. DDPM

VAE

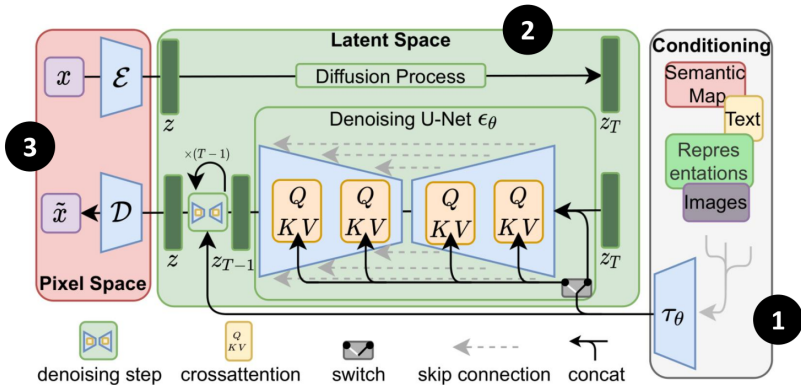


Diffusion



- One step v.s. N steps: Efficiency & Quality tradeoff
- Latent low-dimension representation v.s. Gaussian noise of the same shape

Stable Diffusion: Conditional diffusion in latent space



- Try it on huggingface: <https://huggingface.co/spaces/stabilityai/stable-diffusion>

Something practical: Stable Diffusion open-source codebase

- Github repo:
`https://github.com/CompVis/stable-diffusion`
- Built on PyTorch Lightning
- Widely used by mountains of downstream tasks

Usage: Inference

1 Create conda environment:

```
1 conda env create -f environment.yaml
2 conda activate ldm
```

2 Download checkpoints from huggingface and put or link it in */models* folder:

```
1 mkdir -p models/ldm/stable-diffusion-v1/
2 ln -s <path/to/model.ckpt>
3     models/ldm/stable-diffusion-v1/model.ckpt
```

3 Edit config file in the */config* folder

4 Sample images:

```
1 python scripts/txt2img.py --prompt "..."
```

Usage: Training

```
1 python main.py -t -b <config-files> -l <log-file>
```

(The preceding procedure is the same as inference)

Code structure

