



Trading Information between Latents in Hierarchical Variational Autoencoders

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Controlling Information in β -VAEs

$$\underbrace{\mathbb{E}_{q_\phi(\mathbf{z}|\mathbf{x})} [\log p_\theta(\mathbf{x}|\mathbf{z})]}_{\text{-- distortion } D} - \beta \underbrace{D_{\text{KL}}(q_\phi(\mathbf{z}|\mathbf{x}) \parallel p(\mathbf{z}))}_{\text{rate } R}$$

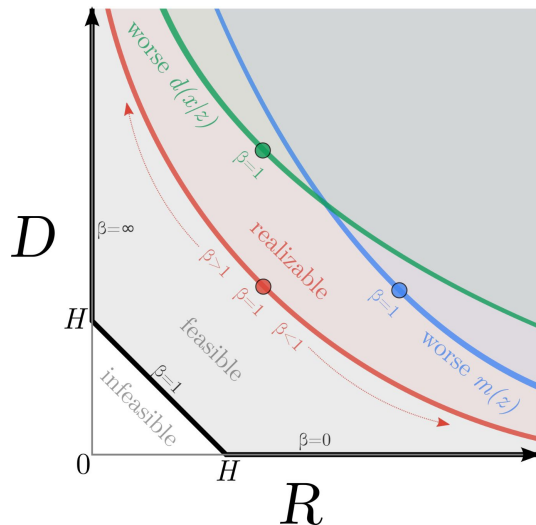
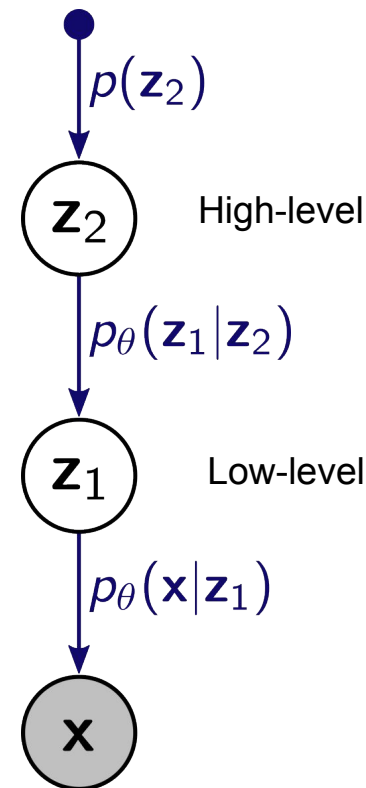


Figure taken from Alemi et al.,
Fixing a Broken ELBO, ICML 2018.



Defining Layer-Wise Bit Rates

For one architecture, total bit rate separates into:

$$R = R(z_L) + R(z_{L-1}|z_L) + R(z_{L-2}|z_{L-1}, z_L) + \dots + R(z_1|z_{\geq 2})$$

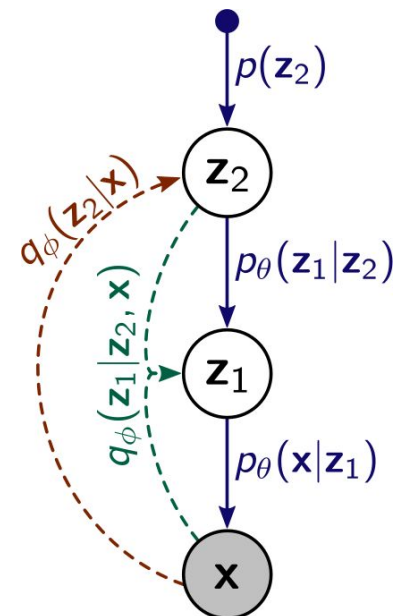
where:

$$R(z_\ell|z_{\geq \ell+1}) = \mathbb{E}_{q(z_{\geq \ell+1}|\mathbf{x})} [D_{\text{KL}} [q_\phi(z_\ell | z_{\geq \ell+1}, \mathbf{x}) \| p_\theta(z_\ell | z_{\geq \ell+1})]]$$

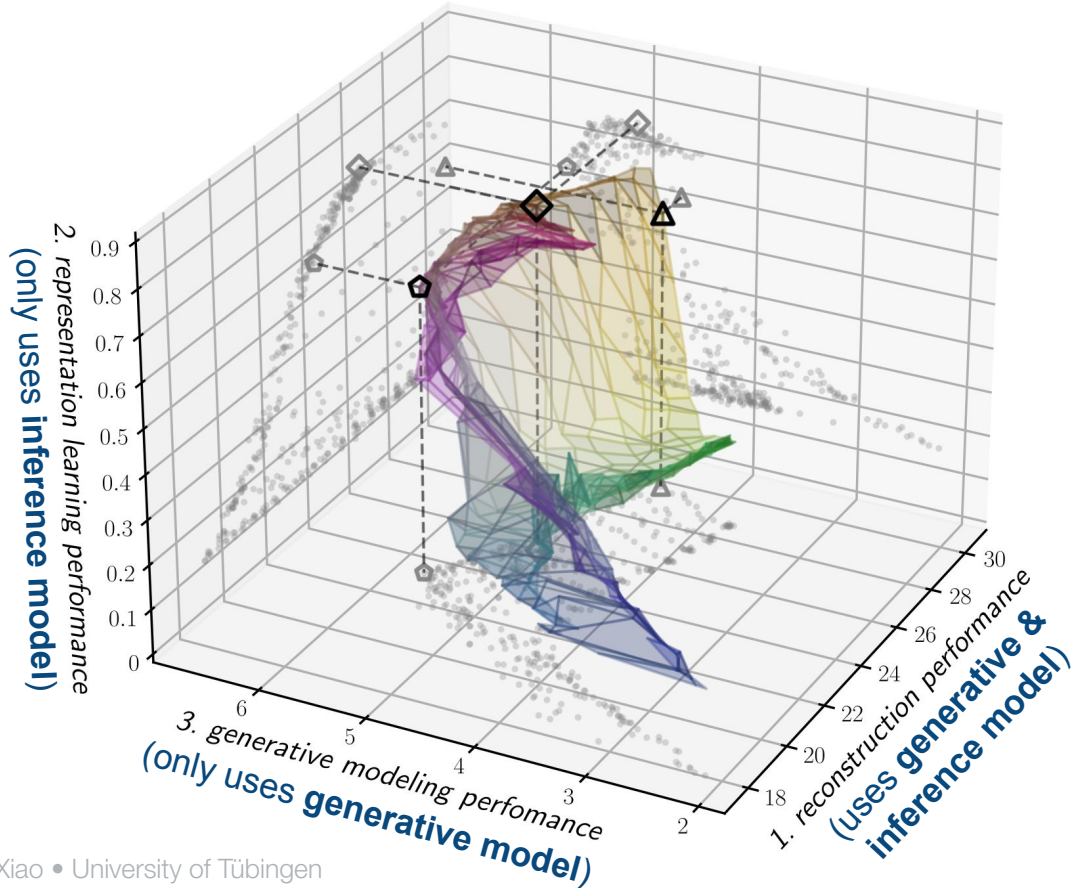
⇒ Proposed training objective:

$$\mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{x} \sim \mathbb{X}_{\text{train}}} [D + \beta_L R(z_L) + \beta_{L-1} R(z_{L-1}|z_L) + \dots + \beta_1 R(z_1|z_{\geq 2})]$$

L independent
Lagrange multipliers



There is no “One VAE Fits All”



diverse application domains



need fine-grained control
(no one-size-fits-all hierarchical VAE)

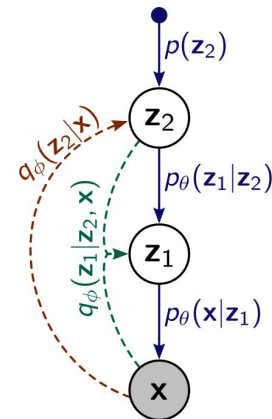
Application Type 1: Reconstruction



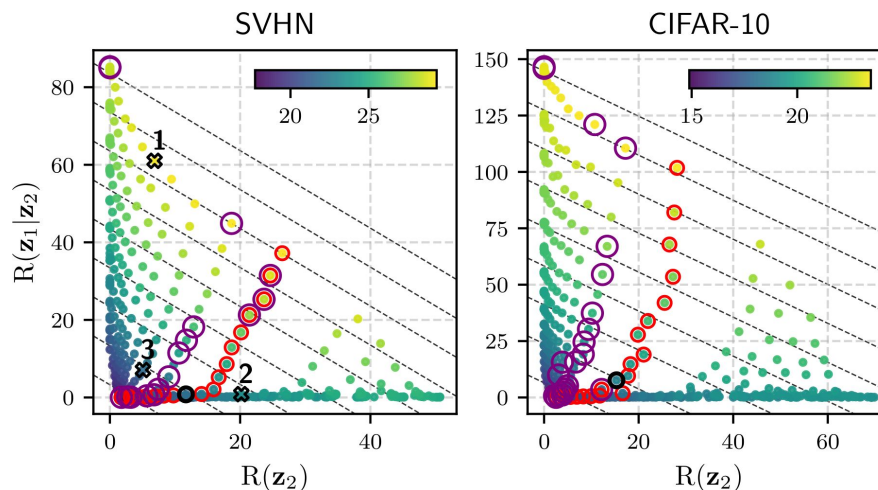
Theory:

$$\mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{x} \in p_{\text{data}}} [D] \geq H[p_{\text{data}}] - E_{\mathbf{x} \in p_{\text{data}}} [R(\mathbf{z}_L) + R(\mathbf{z}_{L-1}|\mathbf{z}_L) + \dots + R(\mathbf{z}_1|\mathbf{z}_{\geq 2})]$$

distortion



Experiment:

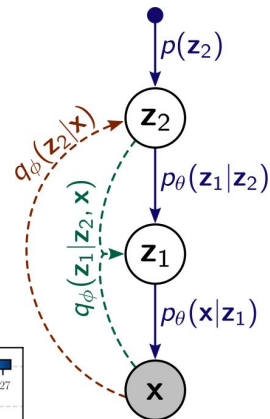


Application Type 2: Rep. Learning

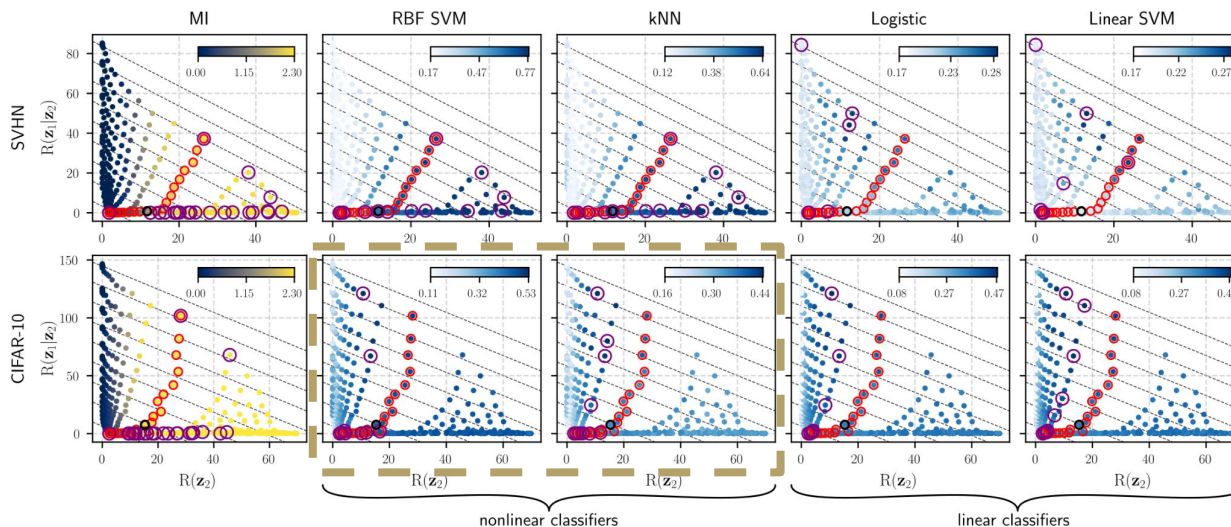
Theory: consider classifier operating on \mathbf{z}_2

$$\Rightarrow \text{accuracy} \leq f^{-1}(I_q(\text{label}; \mathbf{z}_2)) \leq f^{-1}(\mathbb{E}_{p_{\text{data}}}[R(\mathbf{z}_2)])$$

$$f(\alpha) = H[p_{\text{data}}(y)] + \alpha \log \alpha + (1 - \alpha) \log \frac{1 - \alpha}{M - 1} \quad [\text{analogous to Meyen, 2016}]$$



Experiment:

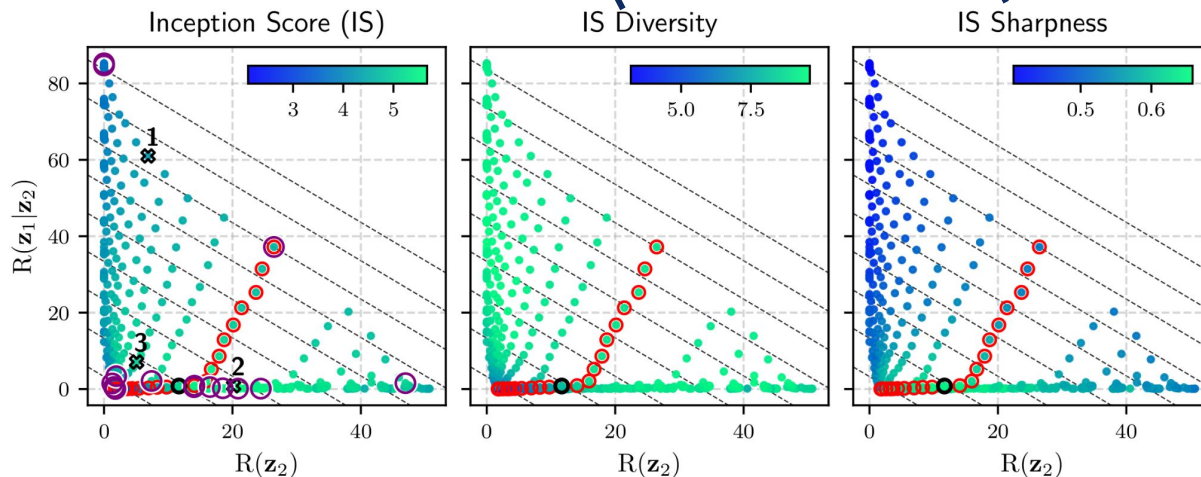
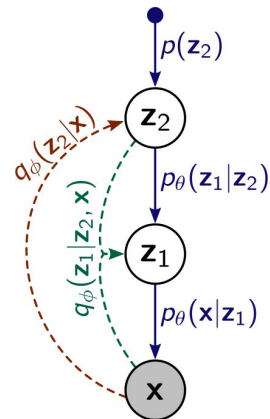


Application Type 3: Generation

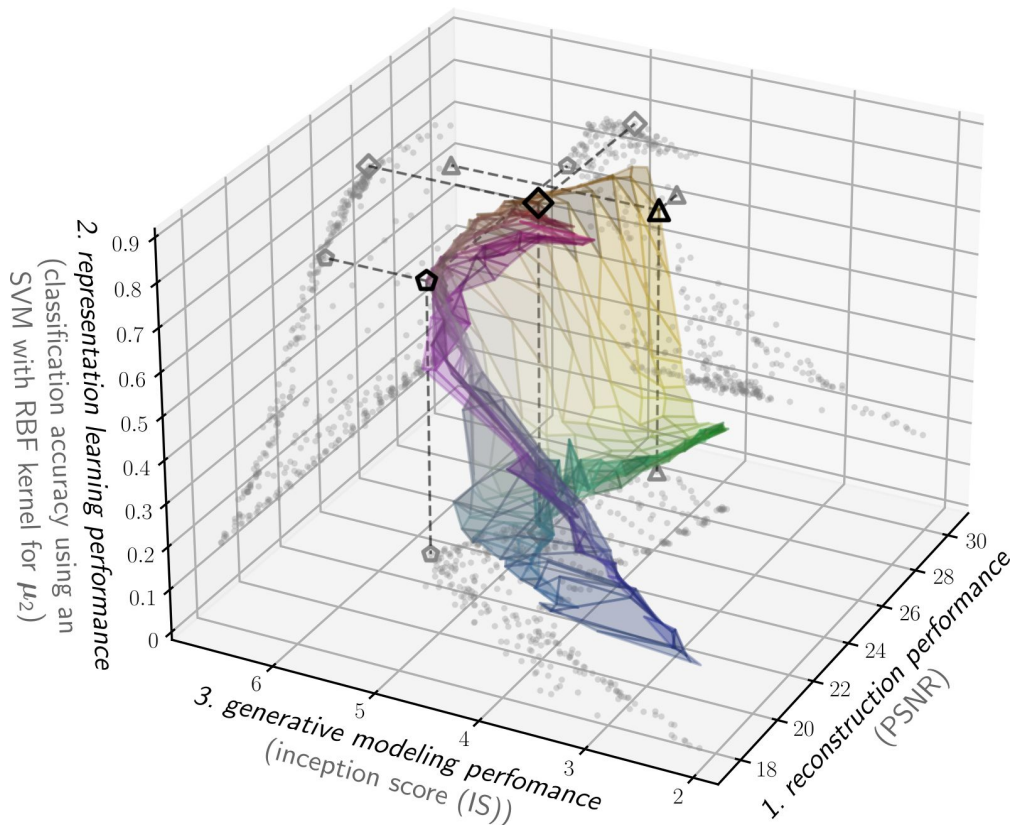
Theory: expect best generative performance when all $\beta = 1$

Experiment:
$$\text{IS} = \exp \left\{ \mathbb{E}_{p_{\theta}(\mathbf{x})} \left[D_{\text{KL}} \left[p_{\text{cls.}}(y|\mathbf{x}) \parallel p_{\text{cls.}}(y) \right] \right] \right\}$$

$$= e^{H[p_{\text{cls.}}(y)]} \times e^{-\mathbb{E}_{p_{\theta}(\mathbf{x})} [H[p_{\text{cls.}}(y|\mathbf{x})]]}$$
 [Salimans et al., 2016]



Summary



diverse application domains



need fine-grained control



control layer-wise rates