# Theoretical guarantees for Deep Generative Models: A PAC-Bayesian Approach

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# Summary

#### Context

#### Preliminary Concepts

- Generative models
- PAC-Bayesian Theory

#### Results for GANs

- Bound for Wasserstein GANs
- Numerical Experiments

#### Results for VAEs

- Variational Autoencoders
- Bound for the Generative Model

#### Conclusion

- Generative models are widely used.
- Determining if a generative model generalizes well is a difficult problem.
- PAC-Bayes is a powerful tool in statistical learning theory.

Goal: Use PAC-Bayes to study the properties of generative models.

# Next up

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# Generative Modelling

#### • Given finite iid samples:

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# Generative Modelling

#### • Given finite iid samples:



• The goal is to learn to generate samples from the same distribution.



The goal is to learn a neural network that transforms noise into data.



Analyzing a generative model is a challenging because:

- The data-generating distribution is unknown;
- Unlike supervised learning, one cannot simply compute the accuracy on the test set;
- Different ways of defining the similarity between probability measures yield different results and have different interpretations.

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- PAC-Bayes provides high-probability generalization bounds for machine learning models.
- The theory requires very few assumptions, e.g. no assumption on the data-generating distribution.
- The bounds are numerically computable.

We consider the following concepts.

- An instance space  $\mathcal{X}$  and an *unknown* distribution  $P^*$  on  $\mathcal{X}$ .
- A set  $S = {x_1, ..., x_n}$  of observations iid sampled from  $P^*$ .
- $\bullet$  A class  ${\cal H}$  of models, called the hypothesis class.
- A loss function  $\ell : \mathcal{H} \times \mathcal{X} \to [0, \infty)$ .

Instead of individual hypotheses  $h \in \mathcal{H}$ , most PAC-Bayes bounds consider aggregate hypotheses  $\rho \in \mathcal{M}^1_+(\mathcal{H})$ .

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Given a loss function  $\ell : \mathcal{H} \times \mathcal{X} \to [0, \infty)$ , the empirical and true risks of  $\rho \in \mathcal{M}^1_+(\mathcal{H})$  are defined as follows.

### **Empirical Risk**

$$\hat{\mathcal{R}}_{\mathcal{S}}(\rho) = \mathop{\mathbb{E}}_{h \sim \rho} \left[ \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^{n} \ell(h, \mathbf{x}_i) \right]$$

#### True Risk

$$\mathcal{R}(\rho) = \mathop{\mathbb{E}}_{h \sim \rho} \left[ \mathop{\mathbb{E}}_{\mathbf{x} \sim \mathcal{P}^*} \left[ \ell(h, \mathbf{x}) \right] \right]$$

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#### Definition

Given probability distributions P, Q on  $\mathcal{H}$  with densities p and q,

$$\mathrm{KL}(P \mid\mid Q) = \int_{\mathcal{H}} p(h) \log \frac{p(h)}{q(h)} \, dh.$$

### Theorem (Catoni (2003))

Given a distribution  $P^*$  over  $\mathcal{X}$ , a hypothesis class  $\mathcal{H}$ , a loss function  $\ell : \mathcal{H} \times \mathcal{X} \to [0, 1]$ , a prior distribution  $\pi$  over  $\mathcal{H}$ , a real number  $\delta \in (0, 1)$ , and a real number  $\lambda > 0$ , with probability at least  $1 - \delta$  over the choice of  $S \stackrel{iid}{\sim} P^{* \otimes n}$ , the following holds for any posterior distribution  $\rho \in \mathcal{M}^1_+(\mathcal{H})$ :

$$\mathcal{R}(
ho) \leq \hat{\mathcal{R}}_{\mathcal{S}}(
ho) + rac{\lambda}{8n} + rac{\mathrm{KL}(
ho \,|| \, \pi) + \log rac{1}{\delta}}{\lambda}.$$

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# Generative Adversarial Networks (GANs) (Goodfellow et al., 2014)



We consider the following concepts.

• Instance Space:  $\mathcal{X}$ , data-generating distribution  $P^* \in \mathcal{M}^1_+(\mathcal{X})$ , and training set

$$S = {\mathbf{x}_1, \ldots, \mathbf{x}_n} \stackrel{\text{iid}}{\sim} P^*.$$

- Generator Family  $\mathcal{G}$ : Each generator  $g \in \mathcal{G}$  induces a distribution  $P^g \in \mathcal{M}^1_+(\mathcal{X}).$
- Critic Family  $\mathcal{F}$ : A family  $\mathcal{F}$  of functions  $f : \mathcal{X} \to \mathbb{R}$ .

#### Definition

Let  $P, Q \in \mathcal{M}^1_+(\mathcal{X})$ . The Wasserstein distance between P and Q is defined as

$$W_1(P,Q) = \sup_{f \in \operatorname{Lip}_1(\mathcal{X})} \left[ \mathop{\mathbb{E}}_{\mathbf{x} \sim P} f(\mathbf{x}) - \mathop{\mathbb{E}}_{\mathbf{x} \sim Q} f(\mathbf{x}) \right],$$

where

$$\operatorname{Lip}_1(\mathcal{X}) = \{ f : \mathcal{X} \to \mathbb{R} \text{ s.t. } |f(\mathbf{x}) - f(\mathbf{y})| \le d(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) \}.$$

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- The goal is to minimize the Wasserstein distance  $W_1(P^*, P^g)$ .
- $\operatorname{Lip}_1(\mathcal{X})$  is approximated by a subset  $\mathcal{F} \subseteq \operatorname{Lip}_1(\mathcal{X})$  parameterized by a neural network.
- The optimization objective is

$$\min_{g \in \mathcal{G}} \max_{f \in \mathcal{F}} \left\{ \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{x} \sim \mathcal{P}^*} \left[ f(\mathbf{x}) \right] - \mathbb{E}_{\hat{\mathbf{x}} \sim \mathcal{P}^g} \left[ f(\hat{\mathbf{x}}) \right] \right\}.$$

In practice, these expectations are approximated using finite samples.

## Risk

Given iid samples  $S = {\mathbf{x}_1, ..., \mathbf{x}_n} \stackrel{\text{iid}}{\sim} P^*$  and  $S_g = {\{ \hat{\mathbf{x}}_1, ..., \hat{\mathbf{x}}_n \}} \stackrel{\text{iid}}{\sim} P^g$ , let  $P_n^*$  and  $P_n^g$  denote the corresponding empirical distributions:

$$P_n^* = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \delta_{\mathbf{x}_i}$$
 and  $P_n^g = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \delta_{\hat{\mathbf{x}}_i}$ .

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## Risk

Given iid samples  $S = {\mathbf{x}_1, ..., \mathbf{x}_n} \stackrel{\text{iid}}{\sim} P^*$  and  $S_g = {\{ \hat{\mathbf{x}}_1, ..., \hat{\mathbf{x}}_n \}} \stackrel{\text{iid}}{\sim} P^g$ , let  $P_n^*$  and  $P_n^g$  denote the corresponding empirical distributions:

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 and  $P_n^g = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \delta_{\hat{\mathbf{x}}_i}$ .

We define the empirical risk of a hypothesis  $g \in \mathcal{G}$  as :

$$\mathcal{W}_{\mathcal{F}}(P_n^*, P^g) = \underset{S_g}{\mathbb{E}} \left[ d_{\mathcal{F}}(P_n^*, P_n^g) \right]$$

where

$$d_{\mathcal{F}}(P,Q) = \sup_{f \in \mathcal{F}} \left[ \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{x} \sim P} \left[ f(\mathbf{x}) \right] - \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{x} \sim Q} \left[ f(\mathbf{x}) \right] \right]$$

- The *n*-sized training set S is iid sampled from a distribution  $P^*$  on  $\mathcal{X}$ .
- Each generator  $g \in \mathcal{G}$  induces a distribution  $P^g \in \mathcal{M}^1_+(\mathcal{X})$ .
- The prior distribution  $\pi \in \mathcal{M}^1_+(\mathcal{G})$  is independent of S.
- $\lambda > 0$  and  $\delta \in (0, 1)$  are some given real numbers.
- The critic family  $\mathcal{F} \subseteq \operatorname{Lip}_1$  is symmetric.
- $(\mathcal{X}, d)$  is a metric space with finite diameter  $\Delta = \sup_{\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}' \in \mathcal{X}} d(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}')$ .

#### Theorem (Mbacke et al. (2023a))

The following holds with probability  $\geq 1 - \delta$  over the random draw of S, for any  $\rho \in \mathcal{M}^1_+(\mathcal{G})$ :

$$\mathbb{E}_{g \sim \rho} \mathbb{E}_{S} \left[ \mathcal{W}_{\mathcal{F}}(P_{n}^{*}, P^{g}) \right] \leq \mathbb{E}_{g \sim \rho} \left[ \mathcal{W}_{\mathcal{F}}(P_{n}^{*}, P^{g}) \right] + \frac{1}{\lambda} \left[ \mathrm{KL}(\rho \mid\mid \pi) + \log \frac{1}{\delta} \right] + \frac{\lambda \Delta^{2}}{4n},$$

where

$$\mathcal{W}_{\mathcal{F}}(P_n^*, P^g) = \underset{S_g}{\mathbb{E}} \left[ d_{\mathcal{F}}(P_n^*, P_n^g) \right].$$

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# We performed experiments with a WGAN on the following Gaussian Mixtures:



**Objective**: Determine the order of magnitude of the numerical values of the bounds.

#### Numerical values for the ring dataset:



#### Numerical values for the grid dataset:



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# Variational Autoencoders (VAEs) (Kingma and Welling, 2014)



We consider the following concepts.

- An instance space  $\mathcal{X} \subseteq \mathbb{R}^D$ , and a data-generating distribution  $\mu \in \mathcal{M}^1_+(\mathcal{X})$ .
- A latent space  $\mathcal{Z} = \mathbb{R}^{d_{\mathcal{Z}}}$ .
- A prior distribution  $p(\mathbf{z}) = \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{I})$  on the latent space.
- A posterior  $q_{\phi}(\mathbf{z}|\mathbf{x})$  is parameterized by the encoder.



The encoder is a function

$$Q_{\phi}: \mathcal{X} o \mathbb{R}^{2d_{\mathcal{Z}}}, \quad Q_{\phi}\left(\mathsf{x}
ight) = egin{bmatrix} \mu_{\phi}\left(\mathsf{x}
ight) \ \sigma_{\phi}\left(\mathsf{x}
ight) \end{bmatrix},$$

where the distribution  $q_{\phi}(\mathbf{z}|\mathbf{x}) = \mathcal{N}\left(\mu_{\phi}(\mathbf{x}), \operatorname{diag}(\sigma_{\phi}^{2}(\mathbf{x}))\right)$ .



The decoder is a function

$$g_{\theta}: \mathcal{Z} \rightarrow \mathcal{X}.$$

We assume  $g_{\theta}$  is  $K_{\theta}$ -Lipschitz:

$$\|g_{ heta}(\mathsf{z}_1) - g_{ heta}(\mathsf{z}_2)\| \leq K_{ heta} \, \|\mathsf{z}_1 - \mathsf{z}_2\|$$
 .

# The Optimization Objective

Given a training set  $S = {x_1, ..., x_n}$ , minimize:

$$\mathcal{L}_{\mathsf{VAE}}(\phi, \theta) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^{n} \left[ \underbrace{\mathbb{E}}_{\substack{\mathbf{z} \sim q_{\phi}(\mathbf{z} | \mathbf{x}_{i}) \\ \mathsf{Reconstruction loss}}}_{\mathsf{Reconstruction loss}} + \beta \underbrace{\mathrm{KL}(q_{\phi}(\mathbf{z} | \mathbf{x}_{i}) || \, p(\mathbf{z}))}_{\mathsf{KL loss}} \right]$$

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# The Optimization Objective

Given a training set  $S = {x_1, ..., x_n}$ , minimize:

$$\mathcal{L}_{\mathsf{VAE}}(\phi,\theta) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^{n} \left[ \underbrace{\mathbb{E}}_{\substack{\mathbf{z} \sim q_{\phi}(\mathbf{z}|\mathbf{x}_{i}) \\ \mathsf{Reconstruction loss}}}^{\mathbb{E}} \ell_{\mathsf{rec}}^{\theta}(\mathbf{z},\mathbf{x}_{i}) + \beta \underbrace{\mathrm{KL}(q_{\phi}(\mathbf{z}|\mathbf{x}_{i}) || \, p(\mathbf{z}))}_{\mathsf{KL loss}} \right].$$

We define the reconstruction loss as:  $\ell^{\theta}_{\text{rec}} : \mathcal{Z} \times \mathcal{X} \to [0, \infty)$ ,

$$\ell^{\theta}_{\mathsf{rec}}(\mathsf{z},\mathsf{x}) = \|\mathsf{x} - g_{\theta}(\mathsf{z})\|.$$

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# The VAE's generative model



• Once trained, the VAE defines the following generative model:

 $g_{\theta} \sharp p(\mathbf{z}).$ 

• Our goal is to bound the distance:

 $W_1(\mu, g_\theta \sharp p(\mathbf{z})).$ 

- $\mu \in \mathcal{M}^1_+(\mathcal{X})$  is the data-generating distribution;
- $S = {\mathbf{x}_1, \dots, \mathbf{x}_n} \stackrel{\text{iid}}{\sim} \mu$  is a set of observed samples;
- $p(\mathbf{z}) = \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{I})$  is the prior distribution on  $\mathcal{Z}$ ;
- $\lambda > 0$  and  $\delta \in (0,1)$ ;
- $\mathcal{X}$  has finite diameter:  $\Delta = \sup_{\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}' \in \mathcal{X}} d(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') < \infty$ .

#### Theorem (Mbacke et al. (2023b))

With probability at least  $1 - \delta$  over the random draw of  $S \sim \mu^{\otimes n}$ , the following holds for any posterior  $q_{\phi}(\mathbf{z}|\mathbf{x})$ :

$$\begin{split} W_1(\mu, g_{\theta} \sharp p(\mathbf{z})) &\leq \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \left\{ \mathop{\mathbb{E}}_{q_{\phi}(\mathbf{z} | \mathbf{x}_i)} \ell_{rec}^{\theta}(\mathbf{z}, \mathbf{x}_i) \right\} + \frac{1}{\lambda} \left( \sum_{i=1}^n \operatorname{KL}(q_{\phi}(\mathbf{z} | \mathbf{x}_i) || \, p(\mathbf{z})) \right. \\ &\left. + \log \frac{1}{\delta} + \frac{\lambda^2 \Delta^2}{8n} \right) + \frac{\kappa_{\theta}}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \sqrt{\|\mu_{\phi}(\mathbf{x}_i)\|^2 + \left\|\sigma_{\phi}(\mathbf{x}_i) - \vec{1}\right\|^2}. \end{split}$$

- Generative models are widely used in machine learning and difficult to analyze.
- PAC-Bayes is a powerful tool of statistical learning theory that can be used to analyze generative models (GANs, VAEs, diffusion models (Mbacke and Rivasplata, 2023)).
- PAC-Bayes bounds for generative models are empirical, hence they may enable new applications in practice.

## References

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# Questions?

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$$\mathop{\mathbb{E}}_{g \sim \rho} \mathop{\mathbb{E}}_{S} \left[ \mathcal{W}_{\mathcal{F}}(P_n^*, P^g) \right] \leq \mathop{\mathbb{E}}_{g \sim \rho} \left[ \mathcal{W}_{\mathcal{F}}(P_n^*, P^g) \right] + \frac{1}{\lambda} \left[ \operatorname{KL}(\rho \mid\mid \pi) + \log \frac{1}{\delta} \right] + \frac{\lambda \Delta^2}{4n}$$

- WGAN with probabilistic layers for the generator.
- Lipschitz constraint with Björck Orthonormalization(Björck and Bowie, 1971) and GroupSort activations (Anil et al., 2019).
- We used part of the training set to learn the prior  $\pi$ , and the remaining part to compute the bound.
- The standard deviation of the prior's parameters  $\sigma_0 \in \{10^{-7}, 10^{-6}, 10^{-5}, 10^{-4}, 0.001, 0.01, 0.1\}.$

- $\mu \in \mathcal{M}^1_+(\mathcal{X})$  is the data-generating distribution;
- $S = {\mathbf{x}_1, \dots, \mathbf{x}_n} \stackrel{\text{iid}}{\sim} \mu$  is a set of observed samples;
- $p(\mathbf{z}) \in \mathcal{M}^1_+(\mathcal{Z})$  is the prior distribution on  $\mathcal{Z}$ ;
- $\lambda > 0$  and  $\delta \in (0, 1)$ ;
- $\mathcal{X}$  has finite diameter:  $\Delta = \sup_{\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}' \in \mathcal{X}} d(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') < \infty$ .

#### Theorem

Given a decoder  $\theta$ , with probability at least  $1 - \delta$  over the random draw of  $S \sim \mu^{\otimes n}$ , the following holds for any posterior  $q_{\phi}(\mathbf{z}|\mathbf{x})$ :

$$\mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{x}\sim\mu} \mathbb{E}_{q_{\phi}(\mathbf{z}|\mathbf{x})} \ell_{rec}^{\theta}(\mathbf{z},\mathbf{x}) \leq \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^{n} \left\{ \mathbb{E}_{q_{\phi}(\mathbf{z}|\mathbf{x}_{i})} \ell_{rec}^{\theta}(\mathbf{z},\mathbf{x}_{i}) \right\} + \frac{1}{\lambda} \sum_{i=1}^{n} \mathrm{KL}(q_{\phi}(\mathbf{z}|\mathbf{x}_{i}) || p(\mathbf{z})) \\ + \frac{1}{\lambda} \log \frac{1}{\delta} + K_{\phi} K_{\theta} \Delta + \frac{\lambda \Delta^{2}}{8n}.$$

# Regenerated Distribution



#### Define

$$\hat{\mu}_{\phi,\theta} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^{n} g_{\theta} \sharp q_{\phi}(\mathbf{z}|\mathbf{x}_i).$$

The triangle inequality implies

$$W_1(\mu,g_ heta \sharp p(\mathsf{z})) \leq W_1(\mu,\hat{\mu}_{\phi, heta}) + W_1(\hat{\mu}_{\phi, heta},g_ heta \sharp p(\mathsf{z})).$$