





8 years in math, physics and computer science

For the last 4 years mostly work with machine learning

Currently do voice conversion in



for applications in movie industry, audiobooks and games

Occasional Kaggler: currently top 1 in Ukraine and top 70 worldwide

VOICE CONVERSION IN A NUTSHELL





Very high dimensionality

Typical sample rate ranges from **16000** to **44000** samples per second



Samples are strongly correlated

We need to **jointly** model **thousands** of random variables





Issues with conventional methods

- Hard to control **prosody** (emotional content)
- Require a lot of **labeled** data
- Inexpressive models (such as HMM)
- Rely heavily on **domain knowledge**
- Hard to get **natural** sounding

Idea:

Reformulate the task as a **joint** probability function (or density) estimation:

p(--| text)

Which waveforms are likely to correspond to a given text?

Analogy to machine translation

- Multiple outcomes
- Joint distribution of words (language model)







Parameter estimation is typically performed via **maximum likelihood** estimation

Recap: the maximum likelihood

. . . .

$$f(\mathbf{x}) = rac{1}{\sqrt{(2\pi)^k |\mathbf{\Sigma}|}} \expigg(-rac{1}{2} (\mathbf{x}-oldsymbol{\mu})^\mathrm{T} \mathbf{\Sigma}^{-1} (\mathbf{x}-oldsymbol{\mu})igg)$$

Maximize the probability of observing the data

Autoregressive models





Time series forecasting (ARIMA, SARIMA, FARIMA)

Language models (typically with recurrent neural networks)

Basic idea: the next value can be represented as **a function of the previous values**

WaveNet

amplitudes Output Hidden Layer Hidden Layer Hidden Layer 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 text + previous amplitudes

Waveform is modeled by a stack of dilated causal convolutions

 \mathbf{X}

https://arxiv.org/abs/1609.03499

Source: DeepMind blog

WaveNet

Training: maximize the probability estimated by the model according to the maximum likelihood principle. **Can be done in parallel for all time steps:**

$$p(x_t) = f(x_{t-1}, x_{t-2}, x_{t-3}, \dots, x_1)$$

Generation: sequentially generate samples **one by one**, sampling from a predicted distribution on every time step

Data scientists when their model is training



Deep learning engineers when their WaveNet is generating





Variational autoencoder



Variational autoencoder: sampling



Typically a normal distribution

By tweaking the latent variables, we can control **prosody**, **tempo**, **accent** and much more

Variational autoencoder: latent space



Source: https://blog.fastforwardlabs.com/2016/08/12/introducing-variational-autoencoders-in-prose-and.html



Now the latent space is **discrete** and represented by an **autoregressive** model

https://arxiv.org/abs/1711.00937

Normalizing flows

Take a random variable \mathbf{z} with distribution $q(\mathbf{z})$, apply some **invertible** mapping: $\mathbf{z}' = f(\mathbf{z})$



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Take a random variable \mathbf{z} with distribution $q(\mathbf{z})$, apply some invertible mapping: $\mathbf{z}' = f(\mathbf{z})$

Recall the **change of variables** rule:

$$q(\mathbf{z}') = q(\mathbf{z}) \left| \det \frac{\partial f^{-1}}{\partial \mathbf{z}'} \right| = q(\mathbf{z}) \left| \det \frac{\partial f}{\partial \mathbf{z}} \right|^{-1}$$

The change of variables rule

$$z \sim N(0,1) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-z^2/2} = f(z),$$

$$y = z\sigma + \mu \quad \text{so that} \quad z = (y - \mu)/\sigma$$

$$g(y) = f\{z(y)\} \left| \frac{dz}{dy} \right| = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \exp\left\{ -\frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{y - \mu}{\sigma} \right)^2 \right\} \frac{1}{\sigma}$$

$$= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma^2}} \exp\left\{ -\frac{1}{2} \frac{(y - \mu)^2}{\sigma^2} \right\}.$$

For multidimensional random variables, replace the derivative with the **Jacobian (a matrix of derivatives)**

General case (multiple transforms)

$$\mathbf{z}_{K} = f_{K} \circ \dots \circ f_{2} \circ f_{1}(\mathbf{z}_{0}) \qquad \text{a flow}$$

$$\ln q_{K}(\mathbf{z}_{K}) = \ln q_{0}(\mathbf{z}_{0}) - \sum_{k=1}^{K} \ln \left| \det \frac{\partial f_{k}}{\partial \mathbf{z}_{k-1}} \right|$$

$$p_{\theta}(\mathbf{x})$$

Can be optimized directly, e.g. with a stochastic gradient ascent

 $p(x_t) = f(x_{t-1}, x_{t-2}, x_{t-3}, \dots, x_1)$

Waveform •••••••••••••



 \mathcal{X}_t

Key idea: represent WaveNet with a normalizing flow

This approach is called **Inverse Autoregressive Flow**

$$p(x_t) = f(z_{t-1}, z_{t-2}, z_{t-3}, \dots, z_1)$$

Waveform

White noise

https://deepmind.com/blog/article/hig h-fidelity-speech-synthesis-wavenet **Text**

 $\mathbf{Z} \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \mathbf{I})$

 \mathbf{X}



Parallel WaveNet: the voice of Google Assistant



https://arxiv.org/abs/1609.03499 - WaveNet https://arxiv.org/abs/1312.6114 - Variational Autoencoder https://arxiv.org/abs/1711.00937 - VQ-VAE https://arxiv.org/abs/1711.10433 - Parallel WaveNet https://deepmind.com/blog/article/wavenet-generative-model-raw-audio - DeepMind's blogpost on WaveNet https://deepmind.com/blog/article/high-fidelity-speech-synthesis-wavenet - DeepMind's blogbost on Parallel Wavenet https://avdnoord.github.io/homepage/vgvae/ - VQ-VAE explanation from the author https://deepgenerativemodels.github.io/notes/autoregressive/ - a good tutorial on deep autoregressive models https://blog.evjang.com/2018/01/nf1.html - a nice intro to normalizing flows https://medium.com/@kion.kim/wavenet-a-network-good-to-know-7caaae735435 - introductory blogpost on WaveNet http://anotherdatum.com/vae.html - a good explanation of principles and math behind VAE





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