

# Autoencoders and Reduced Bases

**Peter Binev**

University of South Carolina

**Nonlinear Approximation for High-Dimensional Problems**

Paris, France

July 3, 2025

*Supported in part by NSF DMS 2038080, and 2245097*

Happy Birthday Albert!

Gourmet Dining ...

in Honor of Albert Cohen





# Deep Neural Networks (DNN) Autoencoders

Analyze a compact set  $K$  in a metric space  $X$  by transforming its elements to a low dimensional space  $Y$  and keeping the essential information about them.

- ▶ *encoder*  $E : X \rightarrow Y$  and *decoder*  $D : Y \rightarrow X$
- ▶ for any element  $x \in K$  we want  $\text{dist}_X(x, D(E(x)))$  to be small
- ▶ given a measure  $\mu$  on  $K$  consider  $\int_K \text{dist}_X(x, D(E(x))) d\mu$
- ▶ other measures of closeness  $\sup_{x \in K} \text{dist}_X(x, D(E(x)))$   
or if  $X$  is a normed space,  $\int_K \|x - D(E(x))\|_X^2 d\mu$

Autoencoders are DNNs that have an encoder part  $E$  and a decoder part  $D$ .

- ▶  $X$  can be an infinite dimensional or a very high dimensional space
- ▶ consider a discretization of  $X$  to  $\mathbb{R}^N \rightsquigarrow$  use  $X$  for it, e.g.  $X = \ell_2(\mathbb{R}^N)$
- ▶ usually  $Y = \ell_2(\mathbb{R}^d)$  with  $N \gg d$  but we can consider other norms/metrics
- ▶ typical *loss function*  $L(E, D) = \sum_{j=1}^K \|x_j - D(E(x_j))\|_X^2$

# Autoencoders Setup

- ▶ the objective is to consider  $K \subset X$  via random sampling of its elements and attempt to describe it in terms of the elements of a *latent* space  $Y$
- ▶ the *autoencoder*  $A(x) := D(E(x))$  and aiming at  $x \approx A(x)$
- ▶ the encoder  $E : X \rightarrow Y$  depends on several parameters  $\mathcal{E}$ :  $E(x) = E(\mathcal{E}; x)$  it is composed of several layers  $E(x) = E_{\ell_E}(\dots(E_2(E_1(x))))$ :

$$x^{[1]} = E_1(\mathcal{E}_1; x), x^{[2]} = E_2(\mathcal{E}_2; x^{[1]}), \dots, y = x^{[\ell_E]} = E_{\ell_E}(\mathcal{E}_{\ell_E}; x^{[\ell_E-1]})$$

with parameter set  $\mathcal{E} = \cup_{j=1}^{\ell_E} \mathcal{E}_j$

- ▶ the decoder  $D : Y \rightarrow X$  depends on the parameters  $\mathcal{D}$ :  $D(y) = D(\mathcal{D}; y)$  it is composed of several layers  $D(y) = D_{\ell_D}(\dots(D_2(D_1(y))))$ :

$$y^{[1]} = D_1(\mathcal{D}_1; y), y^{[2]} = D_2(\mathcal{D}_2; y^{[1]}), \dots, \tilde{x} = y^{[\ell_D]} = D_{\ell_D}(\mathcal{D}_{\ell_D}; y^{[\ell_D-1]})$$

with parameter set  $\mathcal{D} = \cup_{j=1}^{\ell_D} \mathcal{D}_j$

# Autoencoders Setup

- ▶ for  $x \in K$  set  $y = E(x)$  and  $\tilde{x} = D(y) = A(x)$ ; data points  $x_j \in K$ ,  $j \in J$
- ▶ the loss function can be  $L(E, D) = \frac{1}{\#J} \sum_{j \in J} \|x_j - A(x_j)\|_X^2$   
 or  $L(E, D) = \frac{1}{\#J} \sum_{j \in J} \|x_j - A(x_j)\|_X^2 + \frac{1}{\#J} \sum_{j \in J} \|E(x_j)\|_Y^2$
- ▶ the setup can use a distance instead of a norm and any  $\ell_p$  averaging,  $1 \leq p \leq \infty$ , instead of the averaged  $\ell_2$ -norms
- ▶ the main issue is to define the sets  $\mathfrak{E}$  and  $\mathfrak{D}$  over which the search for (the parameter sets  $\mathcal{E}$  and  $\mathcal{D}$  of)  $E \in \mathfrak{E}$  and  $D \in \mathfrak{D}$  is performed
- ▶ note that the performance of the autoencoder depends on

$$\inf_{D \in \mathfrak{D}} \sup_{x \in K} \inf_{y \in Y} \|x - D(y)\|_X$$

# Reduced Basis

Find a basis of a low-dimensional linear space that approximates well a compact set  $K$  of interest – often the set of solutions of a parametric PDE

[Maday, Y., Patera, A.T., Turinici, G.: A priori convergence theory for reduced-basis approximations of single-parametric elliptic partial differential equations. J. Sci. Comput. 17, 437–446 (2002)]

Use a greedy algorithm to find such a basis:

- ▶ [Buffa, A., Maday, Y., Patera, A.T., Prud'homme, C., Turinici, G.: A Priori convergence of the greedy algorithm for the parameterized reduced basis. Modél. Math. Anal. Numér. 46, 595–603 (2012)]
- ▶ [Binev, P., Cohen, A., Dahmen, W., DeVore, R., Petrova, G., Wojtaszczyk, P.: Convergence rates for greedy algorithms in reduced bases Methods. SIAM J. Math. Anal. 43, 1457–1472 (2011)]
- ▶ [DeVore, R., Petrova, G., Wojtaszczyk, P.: Greedy algorithms for reduced bases in Banach spaces, Constructive Approximation 37, 455–466 (2013)]

# Building of a Reduced Basis by a *Random* Greedy Selection

- ▶  $x_j$  – independent and identically distributed (iid) random drawings from  $K$
- ▶ choose  $u_1 := x_m$  for  $m = \operatorname{argmax}_{j \in J} \|x_j\|_X$
- ▶ choose  $u_{k+1} := x_m$  for  $m = \operatorname{argmax}_{j \in J} \min_{u \in \operatorname{span}\{u_1, \dots, u_k\}} \|x_j - u\|_X$
- ▶ it is convenient to orthonormalize the basis  $u_1, u_2, \dots, u_n$
- ▶ to use the theorems about the greedy selection of the reduced basis we need that for  $U_k := \operatorname{span}\{u_1, \dots, u_k\}$

$$\min_{u \in U_k} \|u_{k+1} - u\|_X \geq \gamma \sup_{x \in K'} \min_{u \in U_k} \|x - u\|_X$$

for some fixed  $\gamma \in (0, 1]$  with **high probability** on  $x \in K$

meaning that the set  $K' \subset K$  has measure  $\mu(K') \geq 1 - \delta$  for some very small  $\delta > 0$ , where  $\mu$  is the probability measure of  $K$

# Reduced Basis Greedy Selection using Random Training Sets

[Cohen, A., Dahmen, W., DeVore, R., Nichols, J.: Reduced Basis Greedy Selection Using Random Training Sets, ESAIM: M2AN 54, 1509–1524 (2020)]

- ▶ fine discretization by a random training set of size polynomial in  $\varepsilon^{-1}$  to obtain a final approximation error  $\varepsilon$  with high probability
- ▶  $\Sigma_m$  – union of polynomial spaces with downward closed bases of size  $m$
- ▶  $K \subset X$  is a compact set of mappings  $v \rightarrow x(v)$  for parameter sets  $v \in V$
- ▶ approximation class  $\mathcal{A}^r := \{x \in X : \inf_{P \in \Sigma_m} \sup_{v \in V} \|x(v) - P(v)\|_X < Cm^{-r}\}$

**Theorem.** Let  $K \subset \mathcal{A}^r$  for  $r > 2$  and  $C \leq M_0$  in the definition be bounded. Then with probability greater than  $1 - \eta$  the weak greedy algorithm produces a reduced basis space  $U_n$  such that  $\text{dist}(K, U_n) \leq \varepsilon$  and if for some  $s > 0$  the Kolmogorov width  $d_n(K)$  behaves as  $n^{-s}$ , then  $n = n(\varepsilon) \leq C_0 e^{-(\frac{1}{s} + \frac{3}{s(r-2)})}$  and the error bound evaluations are  $N(\varepsilon) \leq C_0 e^{-\frac{2s+r+1}{s(r-2)}} (|\log \varepsilon| + |\log \eta|)$ .

# Probability Inequalities

We assume minimal requirements about the set  $K$  and the random selection  $\{x_j\}_{j \in J}$  that include the assumption that can estimate well the first three moments  $\mathbf{E}\mathcal{Z}$ ,  $\mathbf{E}\mathcal{Z}^2$ , and  $\mathbf{E}\mathcal{Z}^3$  of random variables  $\mathcal{Z}$  under consideration

$\mathcal{Z}$  is the random variable representing the approximation error on the  $k$ -th step of the greedy algorithm. We estimate it by the random sampling  $\{x_j\}_{j \in J}$  from  $K$ . The estimation  $z_k$  should be bounded by  $z_k \geq \gamma M_k$  with  $\gamma > 0$  large enough, where  $M_k$  is the actual maximum of such an error over all elements of  $K$

- ▶ Chebyshev inequality:  $\mathbf{Prob}\left(\mathcal{Z} - \mathbf{E}\mathcal{Z} \geq \alpha(\mathbf{E}\mathcal{Z}^2 - [\mathbf{E}\mathcal{Z}]^2)\right) \leq \frac{1}{\alpha^2}$
- ▶ set  $\alpha = \frac{M}{\mathbf{E}\mathcal{Z}^2 - [\mathbf{E}\mathcal{Z}]^2}$ , where  $M$  is the predicted maximal value of  $\mathcal{Z}$  on  $K$ , so we have to increase  $M$  and by this decrease  $\gamma$  to make  $\delta = \frac{1}{\alpha^2}$  very small
- ▶ the above estimate does not depend on the number of drawings  $\#J$  we have
- ▶ we need inverted Chebyshev inequality to have such an estimate

# Estimate of the Maximum of the Errors

- ▶ consider the realizations  $z_j$  of  $\mathcal{Z}$  representing the errors at the  $k$ -th step of the greedy algorithm
- ▶  $\mathbf{Prob}(\max_{j \in J} z_j < \gamma M_k) = \left( \mathbf{Prob}(z_j < \gamma M_k) \right)^{\#J}$   
 $= \left( 1 - \mathbf{Prob}(z_j \geq \gamma M_k) \right)^{\#J}$
- ▶ [Rohatgi, V.K., Szekely, G.J.: An Inverse Markov-Chebyshev Inequality, Periodica Polytechnica Ser. Civil Eng. 36, 455–458 (1992)]
- ▶ estimates of  $\mathbf{Prob}(\mathcal{Z} > a)$  from below using the first three moments of  $\mathcal{Z}$   
for example,  $\mathbf{Prob}(\mathcal{Z} > a) \geq -2 \frac{\mathbf{E}\mathcal{Z}}{a} + \frac{11}{4} \frac{\mathbf{E}\mathcal{Z}^2}{a^2} - \frac{3}{4} \frac{\mathbf{E}\mathcal{Z}^3}{a^3}$
- ▶ work in progress with Edsel Pena, Henry Simmons, and Josh Moorehead



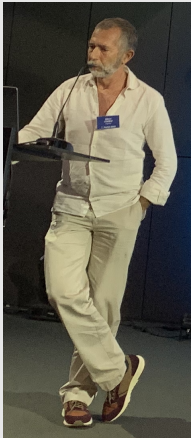
# Happy Birthday Albert!



60



Happy Birthday Albert!



Best wishes and good luck!