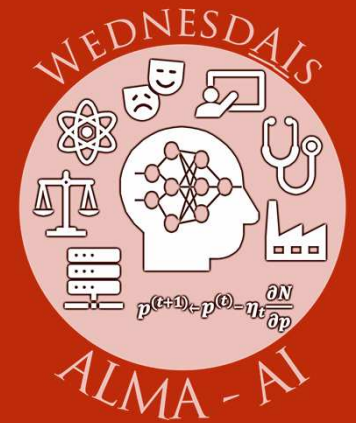




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# Unsupervised learning: AIs don't need no education?

**Samuele Salti**

Dipartimento di Informatica – Scienza e Ingegneria (DISI)

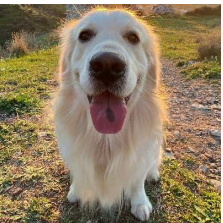
# Let's leave the AIs alone...

Supervised dataset (i.e. labeled)

Example: cats versus dogs



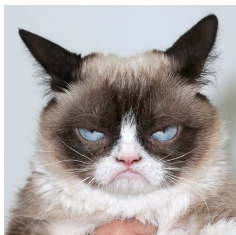
Cat



Dog



Cat

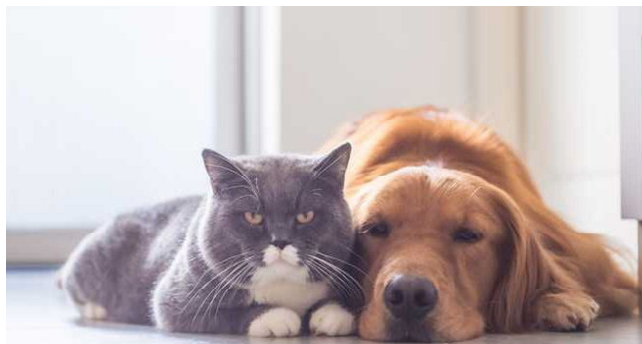


Cat

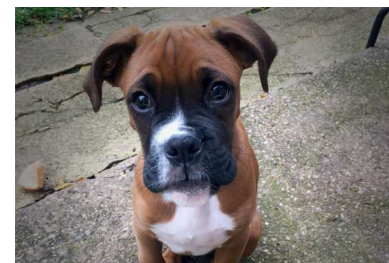


Dog

Unsupervised dataset (i.e. no labels)



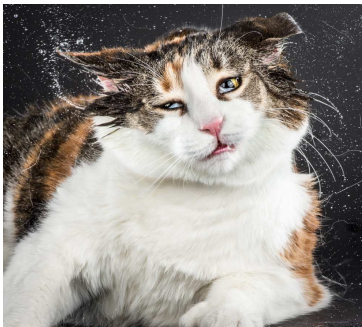
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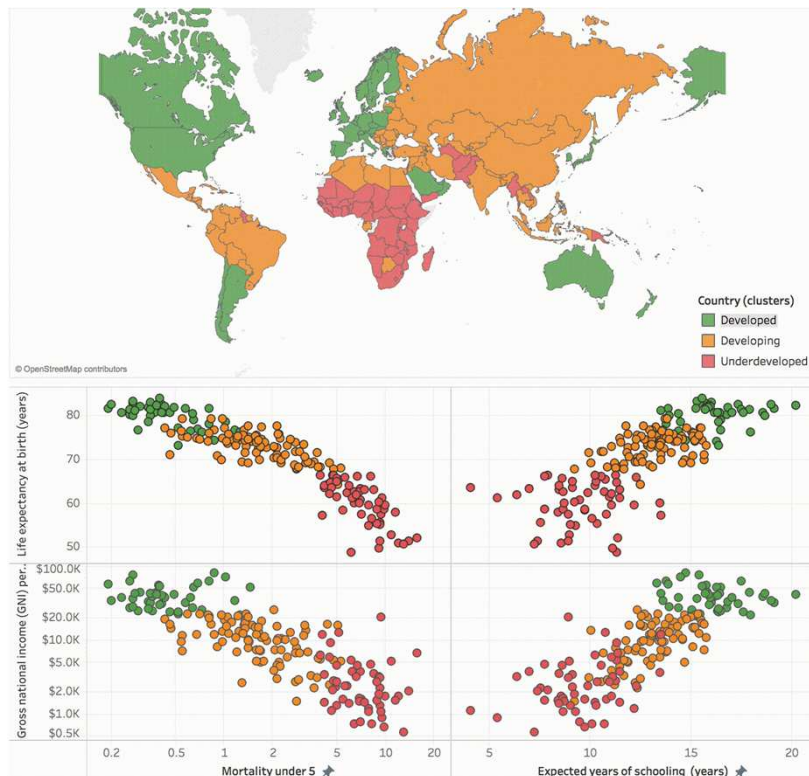
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# Traditional use cases of unsupervised learning

## Clustering



## Dimensionality reduction

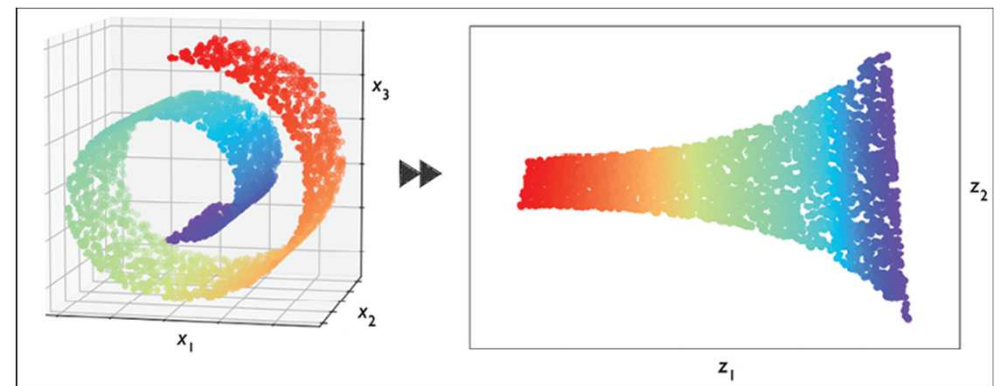


Image from: <https://subscription.packtpub.com/book/data/9781789955750/1/ch01/vl1sec03/the-three-different-types-of-machine-learning>

- Association (market/basket analysis)
- Probability density estimation
- ...



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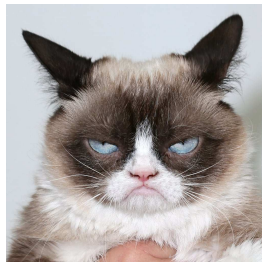
Image from: <https://www.tableau.com/about/blog/2016/7/uncover-patterns-your-data-tableau-10s-clustering-feature-56373>

# Can unlabeled data help to solve better/faster the supervised problems?

**Manifold assumption:** real data is high dimensional, but lie close to a low-dimensional manifold

Example: images

<https://onlineimagetools.com/generate-random-image>



Example: text

<http://randomtextgenerator.com/>

Style too own civil out along.  
Perfectly offending attempted  
add arranging age gentleman  
concluded. Get who uncommonly  
our expression ten increasing  
considered occasional travelling.

Up maids me an ample stood  
given. Certainty say suffering  
his him collected intention  
promotion. Hill sold ham men  
made lose case.

In the common parlance,  
randomness is the apparent lack  
of pattern or predictability in  
events.[1][2] A random  
sequence of events, symbols or  
steps often has no order and  
does not follow an intelligible  
pattern or combination.

Natural-language  
generation (NLG) is a  
software process that  
transforms structured data  
into natural language. It can  
be used to produce long  
form...

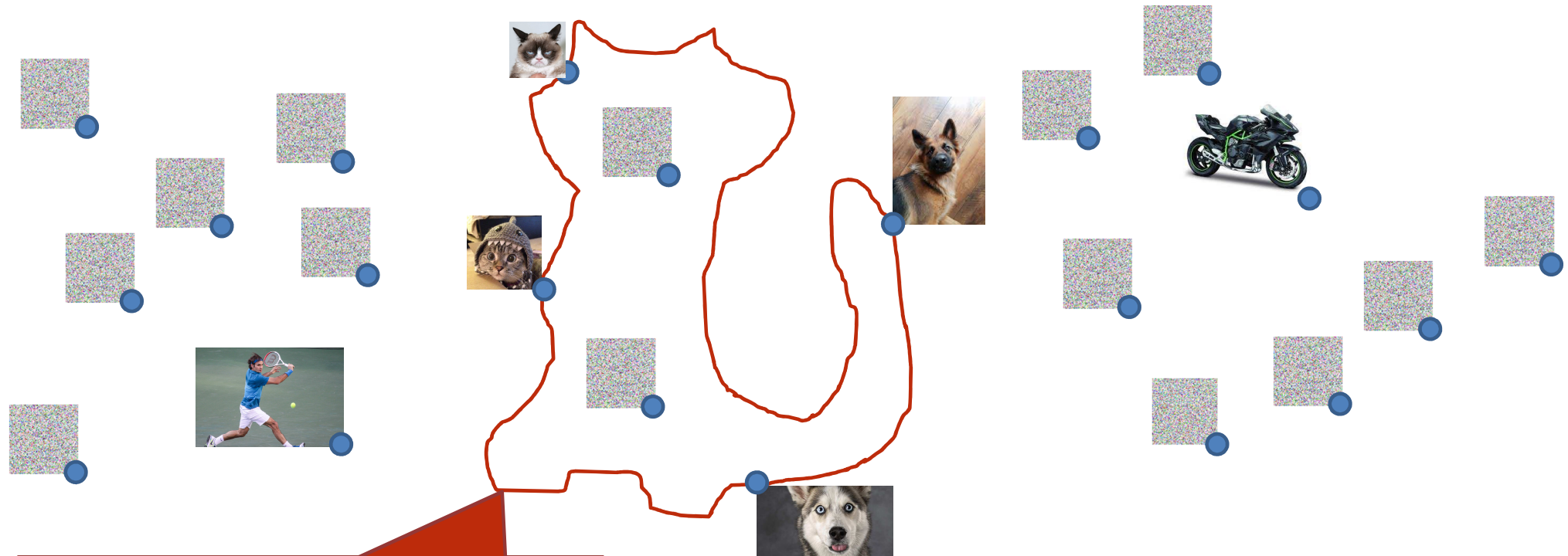


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# Yes, they ~~cat~~ can

**Effective low-dimensional representations** (i.e. the manifold) can be learned from unsupervised data

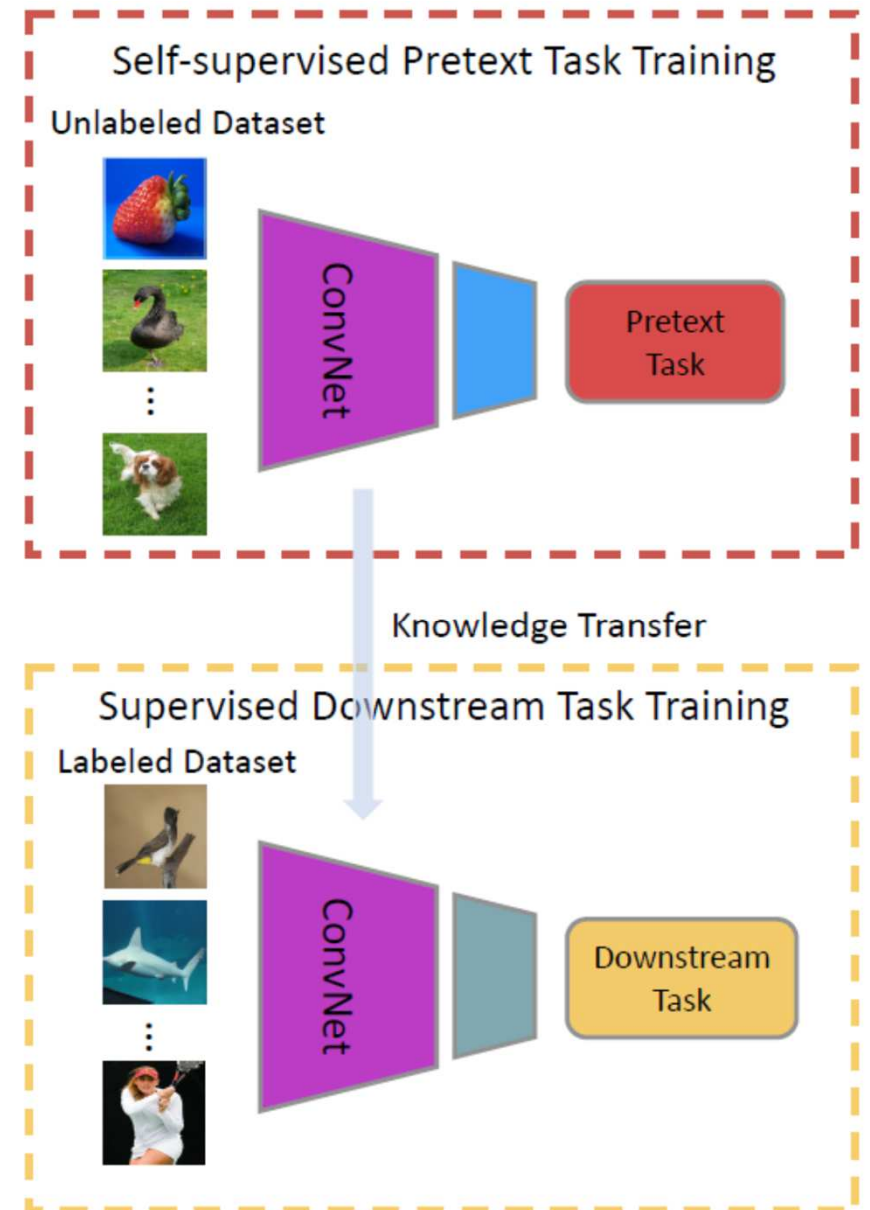


Unsupervised data helps to identify/learn the manifold

## Self-supervised learning

- When used to learn effective representations to bootstrap/improve supervised learning, unsupervised learning is (often) referred to as **self-supervised learning**.
- “Self-supervised learning is a subset of unsupervised learning methods [...] in which [neural networks] **are explicitly trained with automatically generated labels (pseudo-labels)**.”

Longlong Jing and Yingli Tian, “Self-supervised Visual Feature Learning with Deep Neural Networks: A Survey”, <https://arxiv.org/abs/1902.06162>

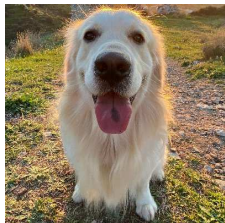


# Let's go back in the classroom...

## Semi-supervised dataset



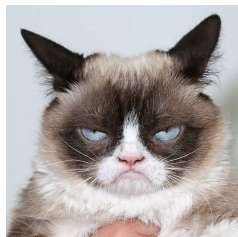
Cat



Dog



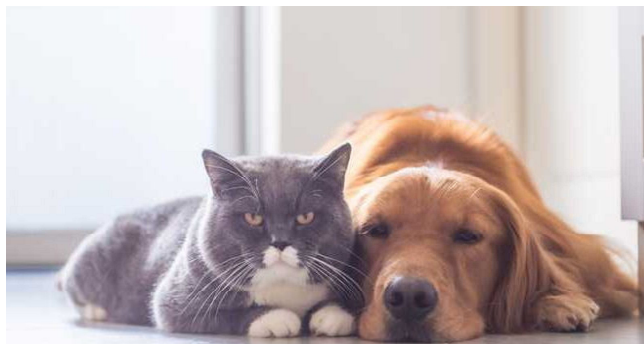
Cat



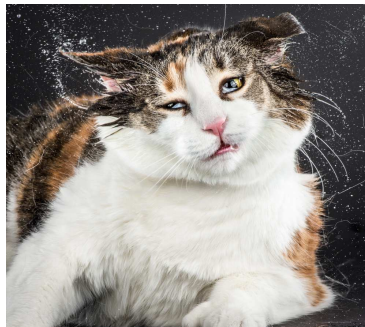
Cat



Dog



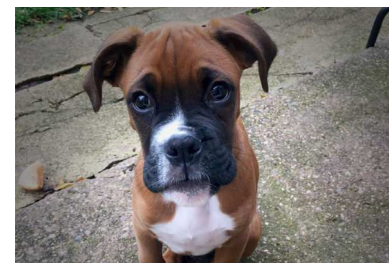
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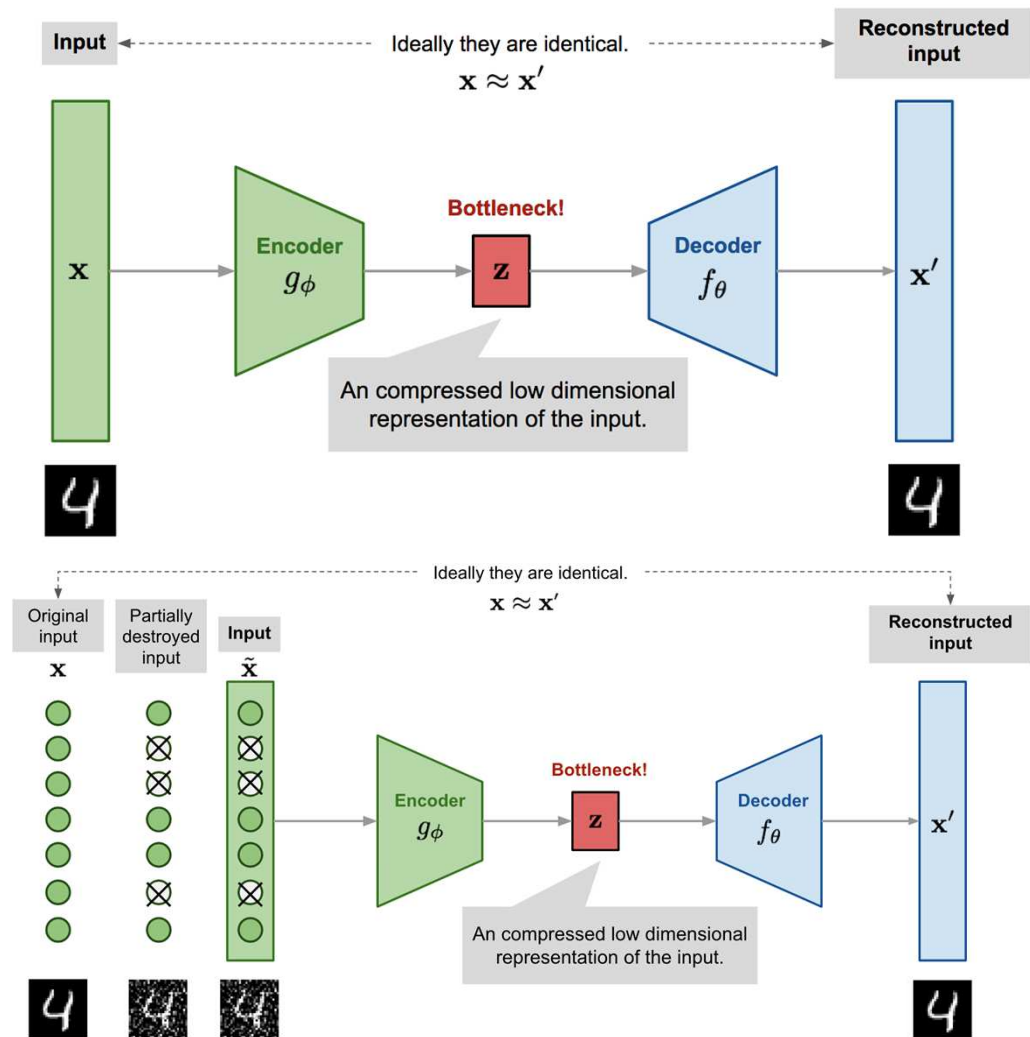
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# Auto-encoders

The simplest pretext task is the **autoencoder**: reconstruct the input data.

We usually categorize them according to how the task is made difficult

- **Autoencoder**: an information bottleneck whose dimensionality is smaller than the input data (auto-encoder)
- **Denoising auto-encoder**: the bottleneck is smaller, and the input is distorted
- **Sparse auto-encoder**: the bottleneck is larger than the input, but we require sparse activations



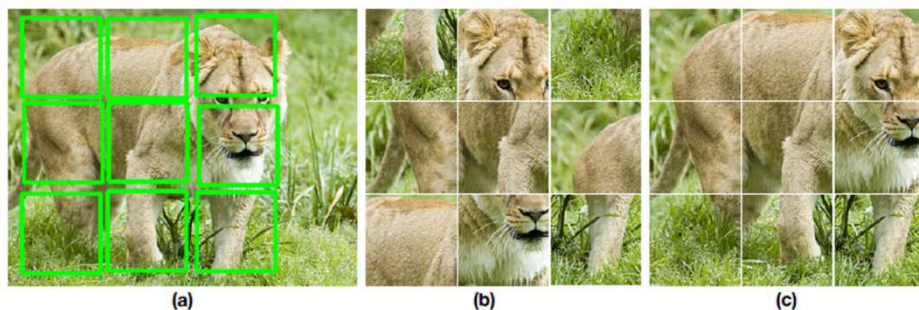
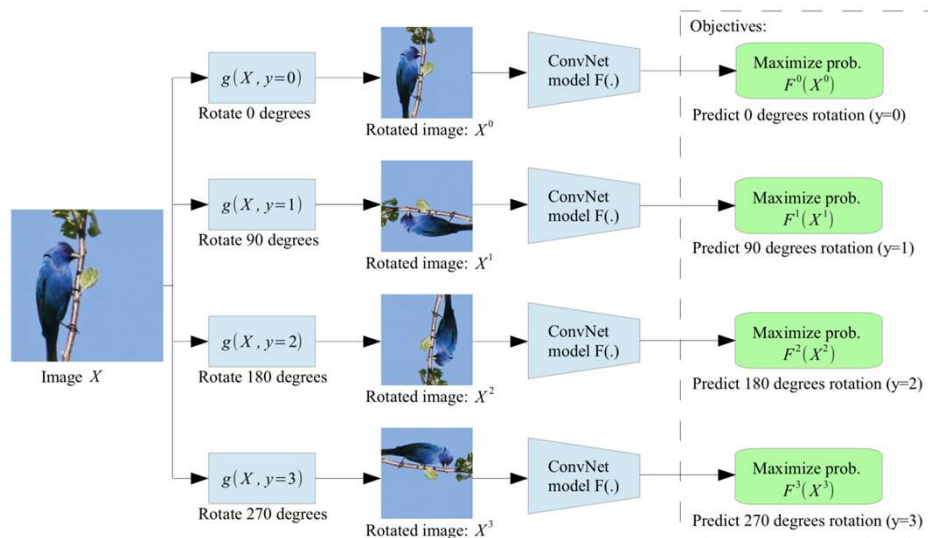
Images from: <https://lilianweng.github.io/lil-log/2018/08/12/from-autoencoder-to-beta-vae.html#denoising-autoencoder>



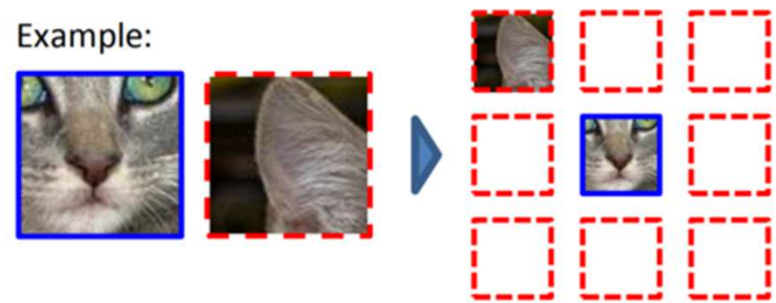
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# Self-supervision from (spatial) context



Example:



Question 1:



Question 2:



Figure 1. Our task for learning patch representations involves randomly sampling a patch (blue) and then one of eight possible neighbors (red). Can you guess the spatial configuration for the two pairs of patches? Note that the task is much easier once you have recognized the object!

Answer key: Q1: Bottom right Q2: Top center

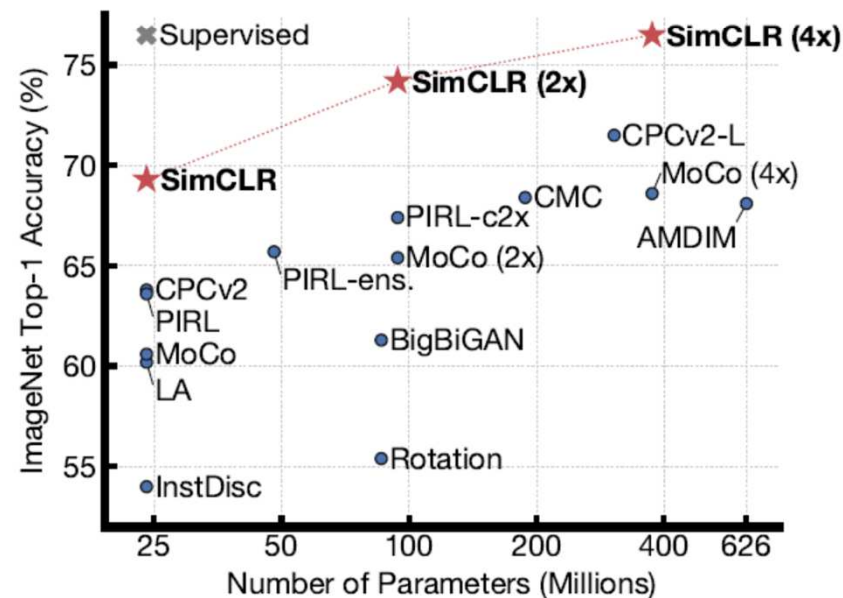
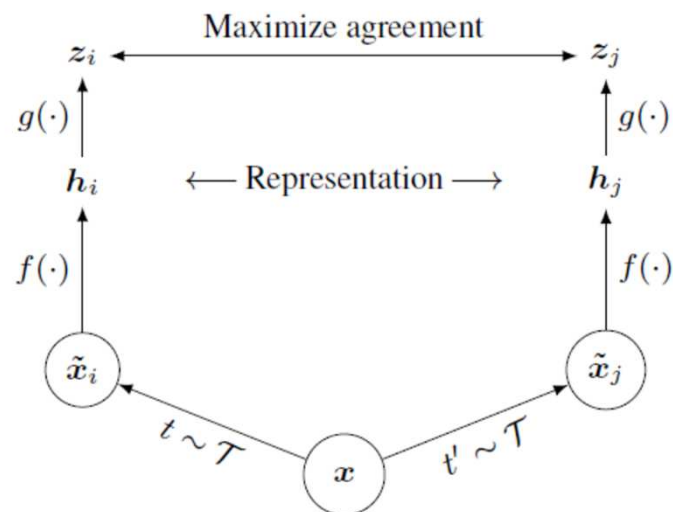
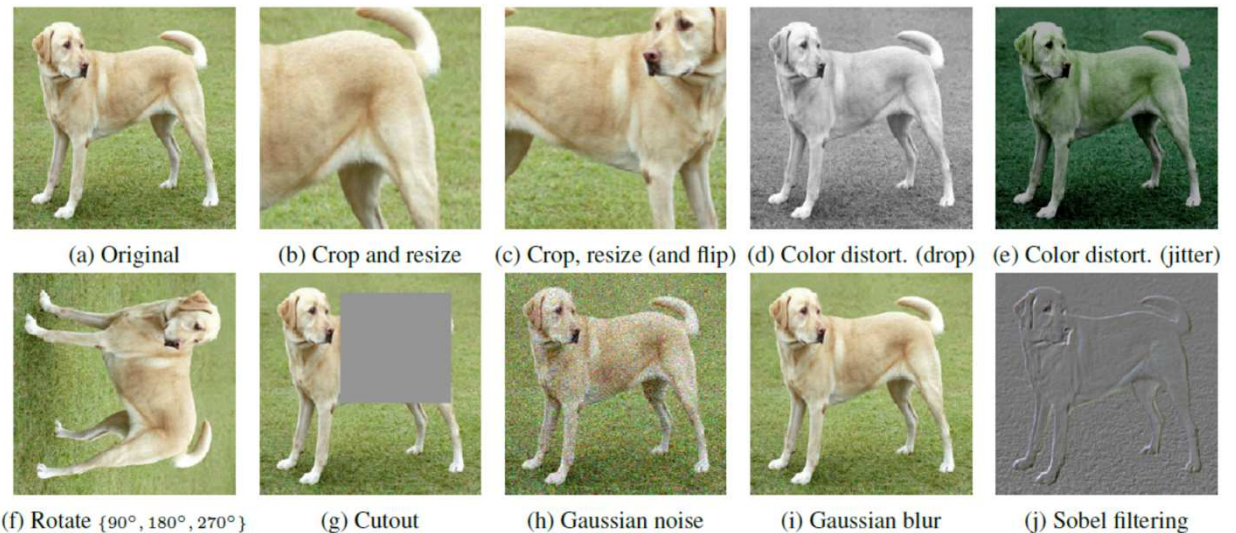
S. Gidaris, P. Singh, and N. Komodakis, "Unsupervised representation learning by predicting image rotations" in ICLR 2018.  
Doersch et al. "Unsupervised Visual Representation Learning by Context Prediction", ICCV 2015  
M. Noroozi and P. Favaro, "Unsupervised learning of visual representations by solving jigsaw puzzles", ECCV 2016.



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# Self-supervision by contrastive learning

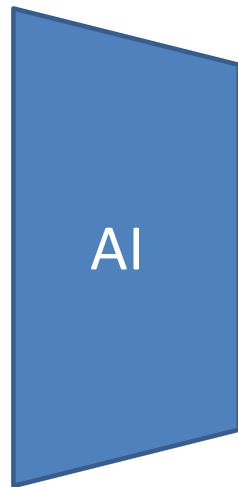
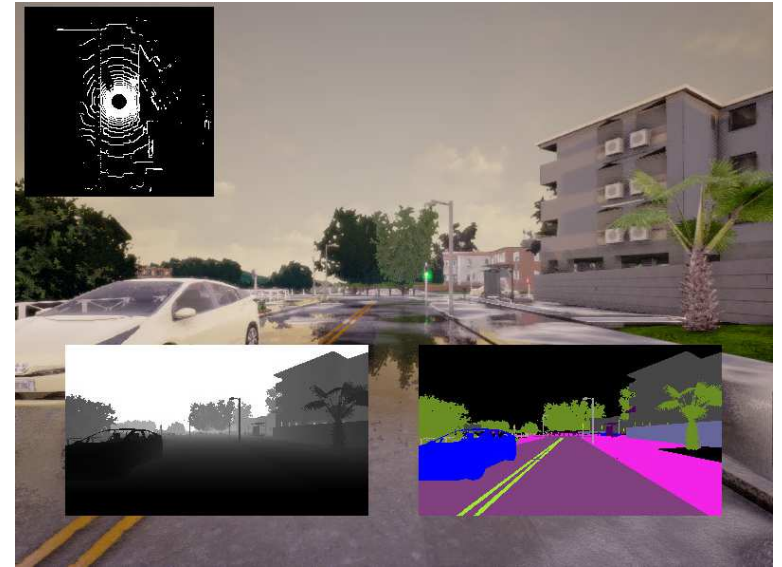
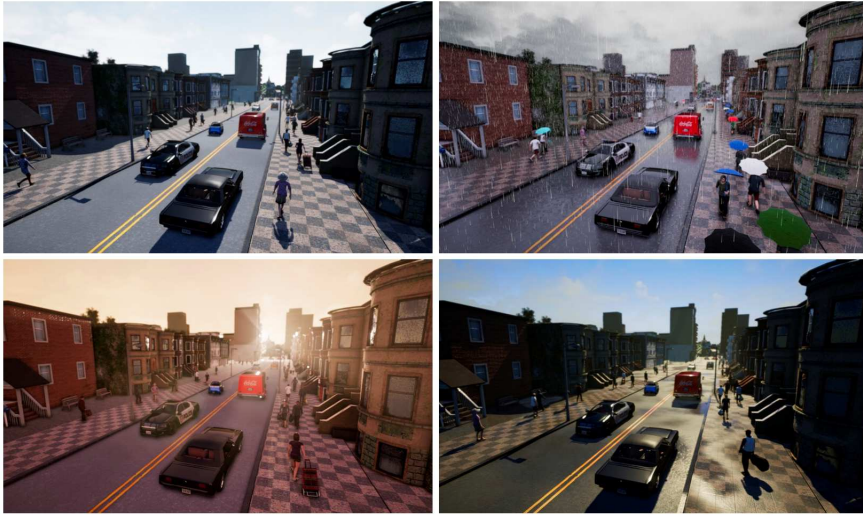
State-of-the-art self-supervised methods **are closing the gap** with respect to the supervised counterpart in some tasks.



Ting Chen et al. , "A Simple Framework for Contrastive Learning of Visual Representations", <https://arxiv.org/abs/2002.05709>

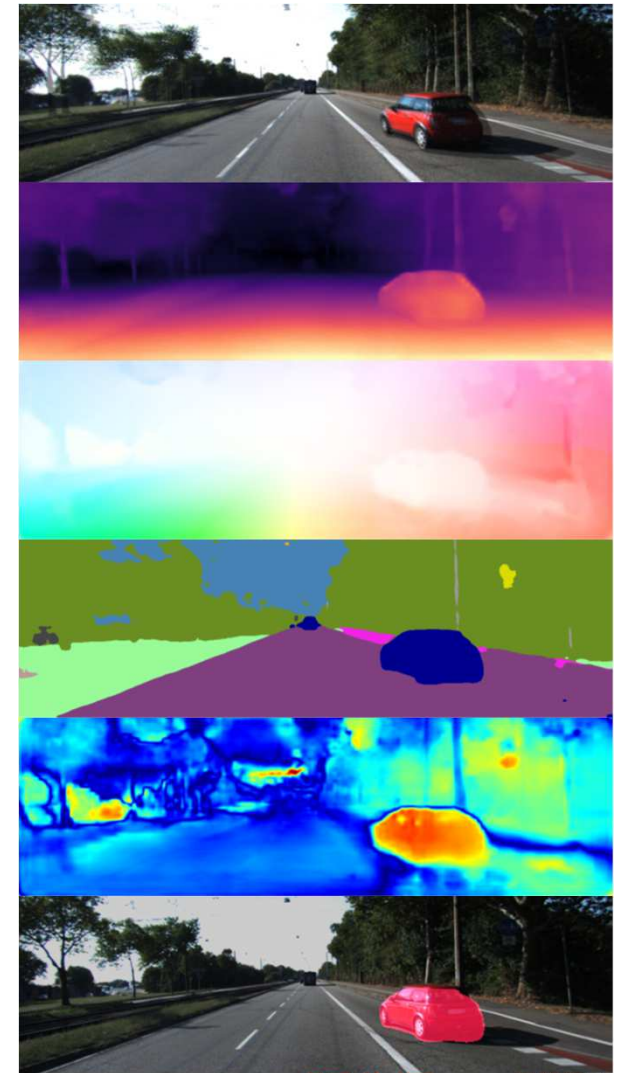
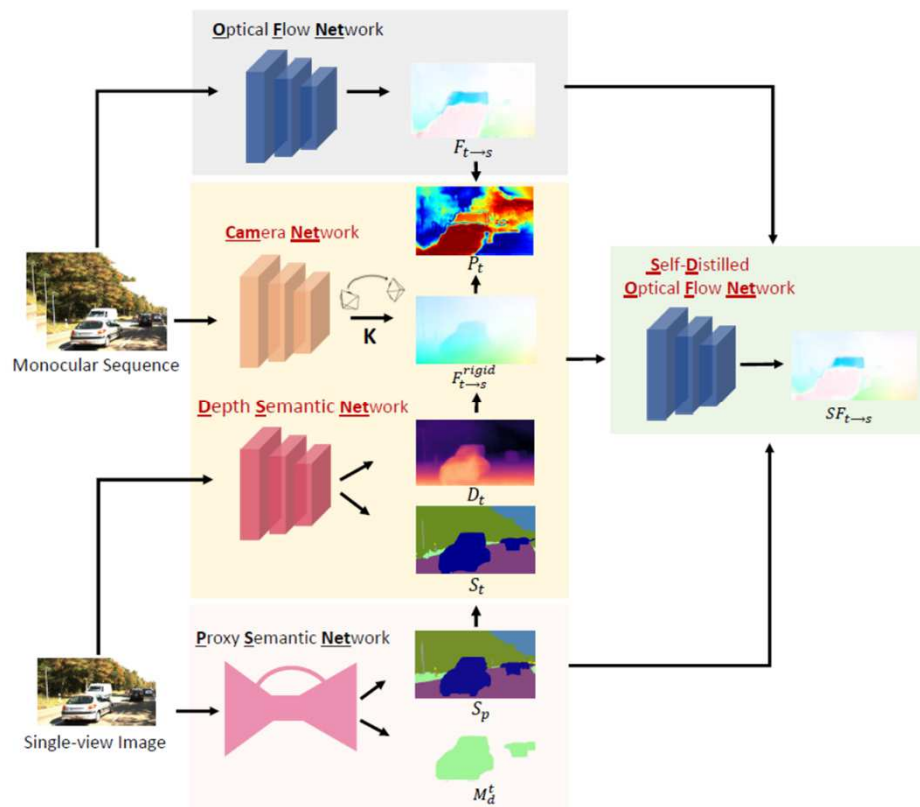


# Domain adaptation



## A personal example: «Real-time comprehensive scene understanding» (CVPR 2020)

Learning of multiple related tasks by **self-supervision** and **proxy labels**



Tosi et al. , «Distilled Semantics for Comprehensive Scene Understanding from Videos», <http://arxiv.org/abs/2003.14030>





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**Samuele Salti**

Dipartimento di Informatica – Scienza e Ingegneria (DISI)

[samuele.salti@unibo.it](mailto:samuele.salti@unibo.it)

[www.unibo.it](http://www.unibo.it)