

A Poisson-process AutoDecoder for X-ray Sources

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X-ray Sources

- X-ray surveys [1, 4, 2] produce massive X-ray data.
- The data contain event files of photon arrivals:

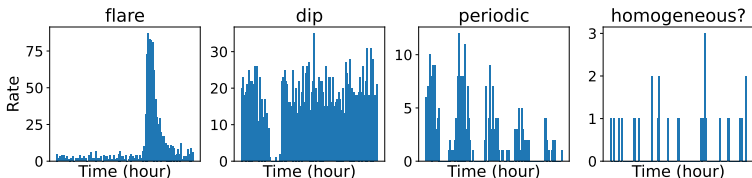
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X-ray Sources

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- Want to learn these sources automatically.
 - Source type classification
 - Anomaly detection



Previous Works

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- One line of work: manual feature selection.
 - Requires domain knowledge.
 - May require time-consuming pipelines.

Previous works

Property name	Description
hard_hm	ACIS hard (2.0–7.0 keV) – medium (1.2–2.0 keV) energy band hardness ratio – basically the ratio between the hard and medium energy bands
hard_hs	ACIS hard (2.0–7.0 keV) – soft (0.5–1.2 keV) energy band hardness ratio – basically the ratio between the hard and soft energy bands
hard_ms	ACIS medium (1.2–2.0 keV) – soft (0.5–1.2 keV) energy band hardness ratio – basically the ratio between the medium and soft energy bands
bb_kt	Temperature (kT) of the best-fitting absorbed blackbody model spectrum to the source region aperture PI spectrum – temperature of the object estimated by a blackbody model.
powlaw_gamma	Photon index of the best fitting absorbed power-law model spectrum to the source region aperture
var_prob_*	Intra-observation Gregory–Loredo variability probability (highest value across all stacked observations) for each science energy band – variability probability in a single observation with Gregory–Loredo technique
var_ratio_*	The ratio of flux variability mean value to its standard deviation
var_newq_b	Proportion of the average of minimum and maximum count rates (i.e. data points in the light curve) during an observation relative to the mean count rate

Figure 1: Features selected in [3].

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 - CNN, RNN, etc.
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 - Consider all stepwise light curves up to a certain frequency.
 - Uniform Prior + Poisson likelihood.
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 - Consider all stepwise light curves up to a certain frequency.
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 - Superimpose all proposals weighted by posterior.
 - Drawbacks of GL:
 - Resolution limited due to computational complexity.
 - Only reconstructs rate function. Need separate pipeline for learning.

Previous Works

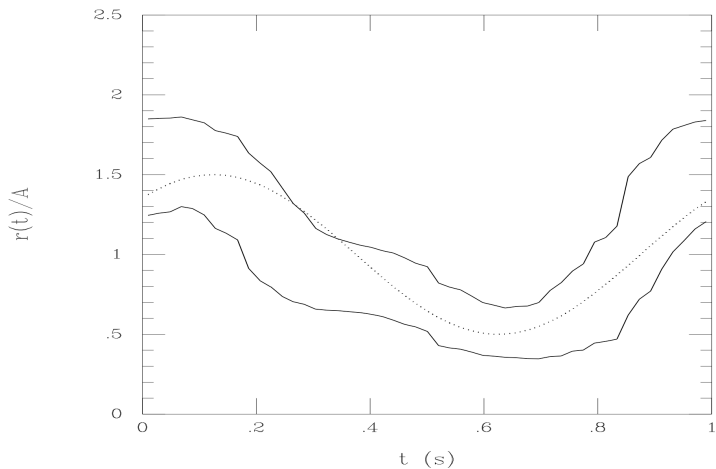


Figure 2: Reconstruction by GL algorithm.

Contribution

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- Respects the Poisson nature
- Has adaptive resolution
- Is end-to-end: rate function reconstruction + representation learning

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Loglikelihood

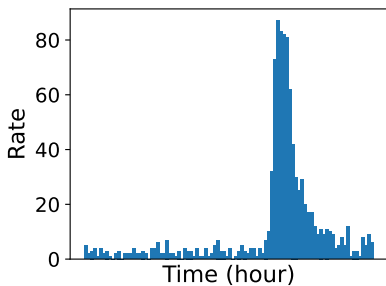
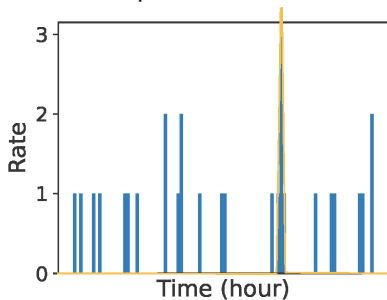
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- Use negative log likelihood as the loss function.

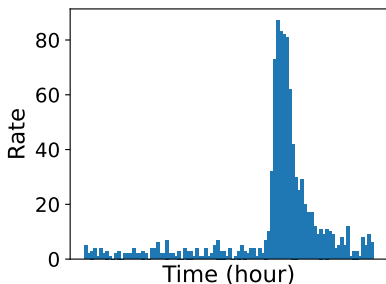
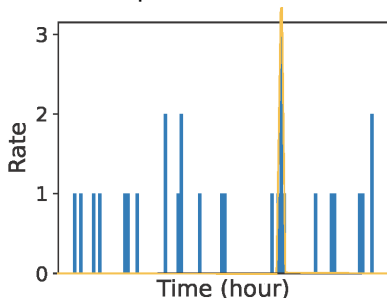
Regularization

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- Need to add "smoothness" regularization
- Total variation penalty:

$$\text{TV}(r; \tau_1, \dots, \tau_N) = \frac{1}{N-1} \sum_{i=1}^{N-1} |r(\tau_i) - r(\tau_{i+1})|$$

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 - Not efficient in learning high frequencies.
- Positional encoding:

$$\gamma(t) = [\bar{t}, \sin(2^0 \pi \bar{t}), \cos(2^0 \pi \bar{t}), \dots, \sin(2^{L-1} \pi \bar{t}), \cos(2^{L-1} \pi \bar{t})]. \quad (1)$$

where $\bar{t} = t/T$.

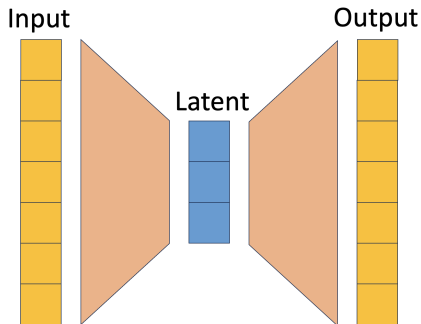
- Input $\gamma(t)$ to the network: $r_\phi(\gamma(t))$.

Representation learning

- Rate function reconstruction is complete. Where is the representation?

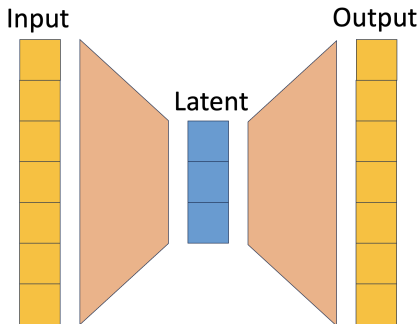
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Representation learning

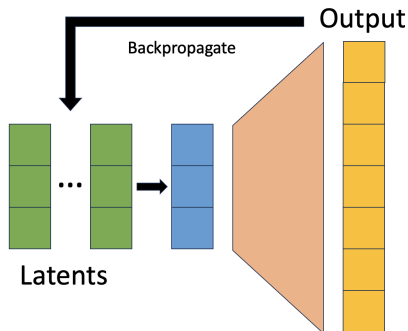
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- What's the problem on event files?
 - Input has variable length.
 - Extremely low SNR
 - High variance in information throughput

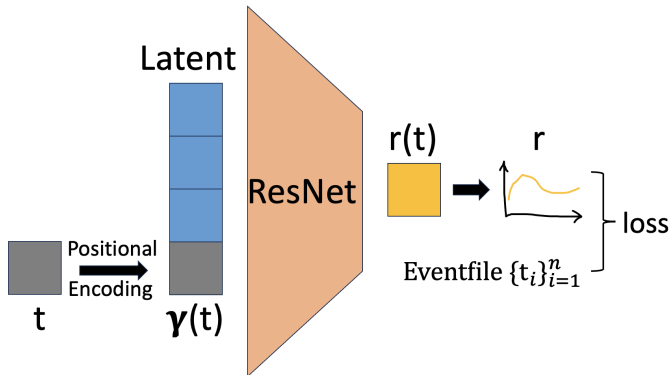
Autodecoders

- Autodecoder: no encoder!



- Directly "prepare" latent representations.
- Learn them together with the neural net.
- At test time: optimize the new latent.

PPAD



PPAD

- $j = 1, \dots, M$ event files, $k = 1, \dots, K$ energy bins, $i = 1, \dots, n_{j,k}$ events.

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{total}}(\phi; \{\mathbf{z}_j\}_{j=1}^M) = \sum_{j=1}^M \left(\sum_{k=1}^K \left(\mathcal{L}_{\text{neg-loglikelihood}}^{(j,k)} + \lambda_{\text{TV}} \mathcal{L}_{\text{TV}}^{(j,k)} \right) + \lambda_{\text{latent}} \mathcal{L}_{\text{latent}}^{(j)} \right)$$

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{neg-loglikelihood}}^{(j,k)} = - \sum_{i=1}^{n_{j,k}} \log r_{\phi}^{(k)}(\gamma(t_{i,k}); \mathbf{z}^{(j)}) + \int_0^T r_{\phi}^{(k)}(\gamma(t); \mathbf{z}^{(j)}) dt,$$

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{TV}}^{(j,k)} = \left[\frac{1}{N-1} \sum_{i=1}^{N-1} |r_{\phi}^{(k)}(\gamma(\tau_i); \mathbf{z}^{(j)}) - r_{\phi}^{(k)}(\gamma(\tau_{i+1}); \mathbf{z}^{(j)})| \right. \\ \left. + \frac{1}{n-1} \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} |r_{\phi}^{(k)}(\gamma(t_i); \mathbf{z}^{(j)}) - r_{\phi}^{(k)}(\gamma(t_{i+1}); \mathbf{z}^{(j)})| \right],$$

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{latent}}^{(j,k)} = \|\mathbf{z}^{(j)}\|_2^2,$$

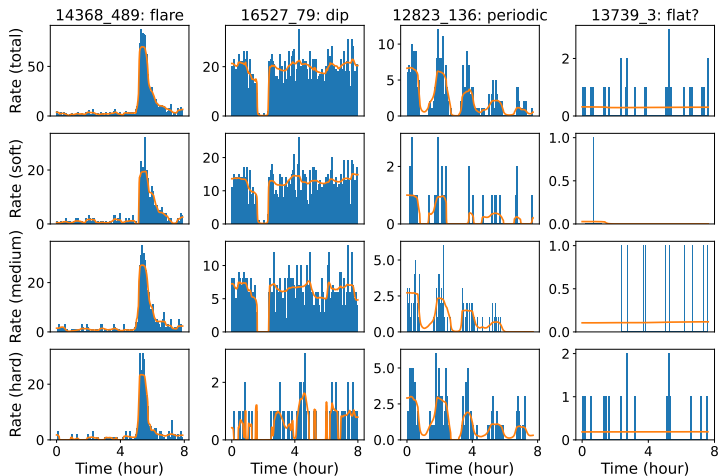
$$\text{Training : } \hat{\phi}, \{\hat{\mathbf{z}}^{(j)}\}_{j=1}^M := \arg \min_{\phi; \{\mathbf{z}_j\}_{j=1}^M} \mathcal{L}_{\text{total}}(\phi; \{\mathbf{z}^{(j)}\}_{j=1}^M). \quad (2)$$

$$\text{Inference : } \hat{\mathbf{z}} := \arg \min_{\mathbf{z}} \mathcal{L}_{\text{total}}(\hat{\phi}; \mathbf{z}). \quad (3)$$

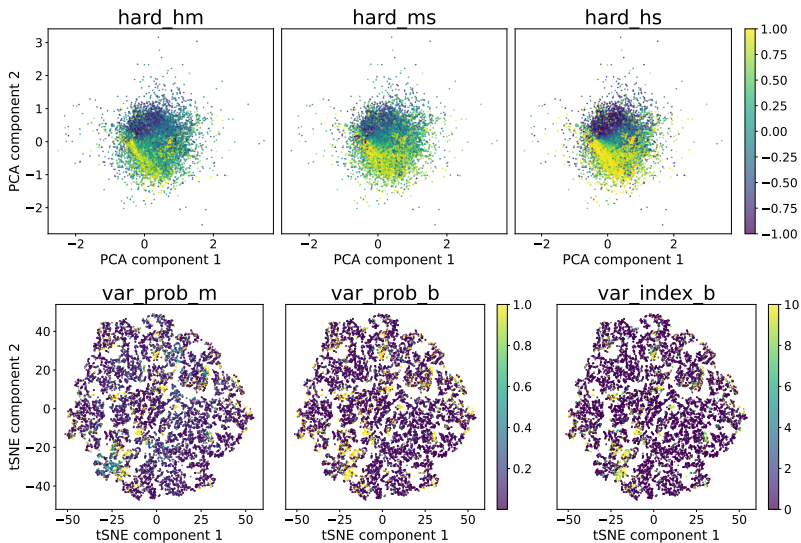
Data

- $\sim 10^5$ event files from the Chandra Source Catalog [1]
- Truncated to 8 hours
- Energy bins:
 - Soft: 0.5-1.2kV
 - Medium: 1.2-2kV
 - Hard: 2-7kV

Rate function reconstruction



Latent space

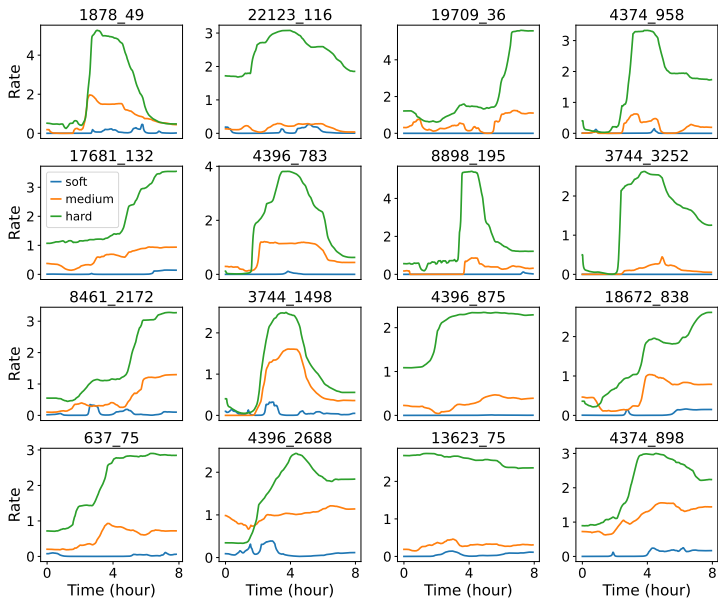


Prediction Results

Regression Target	MSE	R²
hard_ms	0.02	0.87
hard_hm	0.01	0.88
hard_hs	0.02	0.93
Classification Target	Accuracy	F1 Score
var_index_b > 5?	0.92	0.63
source type	0.62	0.25
YSO vs AGN	0.75	0.70

Table 1: Regression/classification performance using learned latent features. All models use a random forest with 100 trees and default hyperparameters. Train-test split is 0.8 – 0.2 without validation set. SMOTE is applied in classification case to resolve class imbalance.

Anomaly detection



Future Works

- Trade-off between reconstruction and representation.
- Allows sampling and UQ: variational autoencoders.
- Autoencoders.
- Invariance w.r.t. phase, total rate, etc.

Thank you!

References I

- [1] Ian N. Evans et al. “The Chandra Source Catalog Release 2 Series”. In: *arXiv e-prints*, arXiv:2407.10799 (July 2024), arXiv:2407.10799. DOI: 10.48550/arXiv.2407.10799. arXiv: 2407.10799 [astro-ph.HE].
- [2] A. Merloni et al. “The SRG/eROSITA all-sky survey. First X-ray catalogues and data release of the western Galactic hemisphere”. In: 682, A34 (Feb. 2024), A34. DOI: 10.1051/0004-6361/202347165. arXiv: 2401.17274 [astro-ph.HE].
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- [4] N. A. Webb et al. “The XMM-Newton serendipitous survey. IX. The fourth XMM-Newton serendipitous source catalogue”. In: 641, A136 (Sept. 2020), A136. DOI: 10.1051/0004-6361/201937353. arXiv: 2007.02899 [astro-ph.HE].