

# Learning Representations for Time Series in Healthcare

Topics in Machine Learning for Healthcare CSC2541  
- guest lecture

Sana Tonekaboni

# Time Series in Healthcare



Wearables



Physiological signals

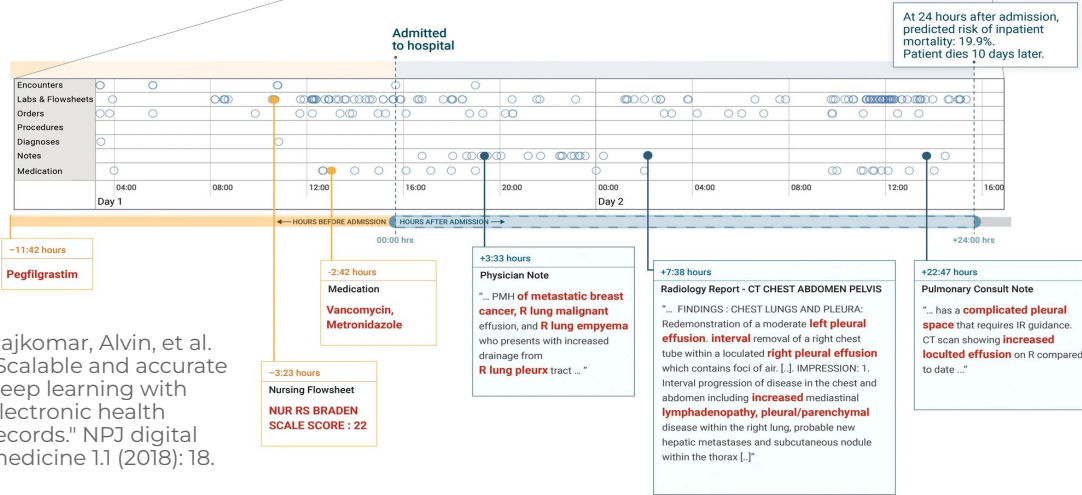
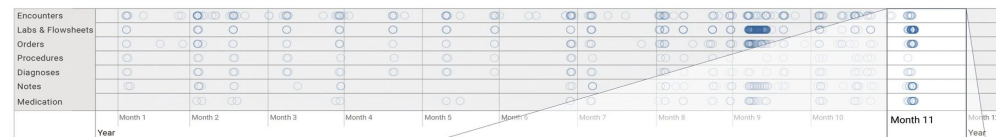


Patient records

Time series is a data modality rich in information that captures historical context and trajectory of events over time.

# Challenges with real-world Time Series

Patient Timeline



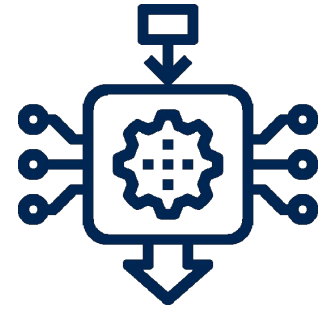
Rajkomar, Alvin, et al. "Scalable and accurate deep learning with electronic health records." NPJ digital medicine 1.1 (2018): 18.



- Irregular measurements
- Multi-modality
- Lack/quality of labels
- Multiple confounders
- Missing measurements
- ...

The complexity of time series becomes a barrier to building generalizable ML models.

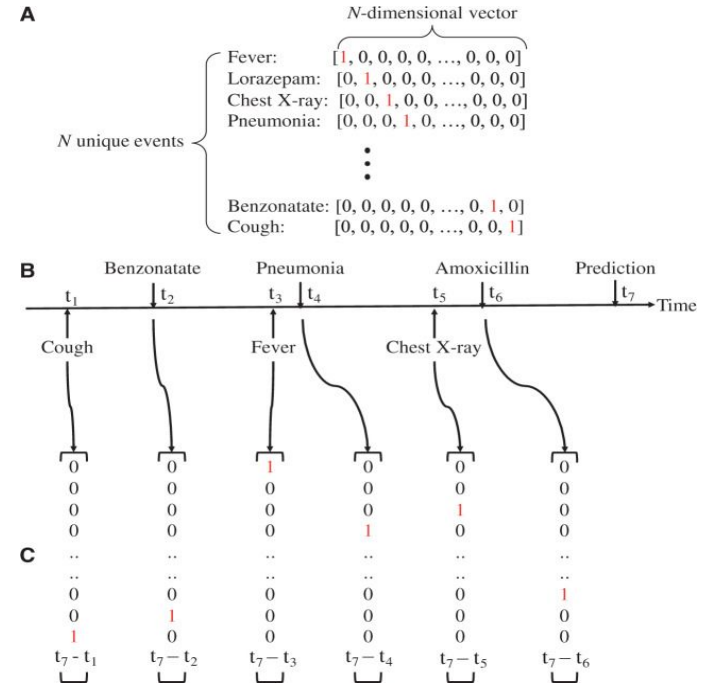
# Representation learning for Time series



# Representation Learning

Create representations of the data that summarizes key characteristics of the data for machine learning models

- **Embedding**
- Feature Engineering
- Task-specific
- Self-supervised



Choi, E., Schuetz, A., Stewart, W. F., & Sun, J. (2017). Using recurrent neural network models for early detection of heart failure onset. *Journal of the American Medical Informatics Association*, 24(2), 361-370.

# Representation Learning

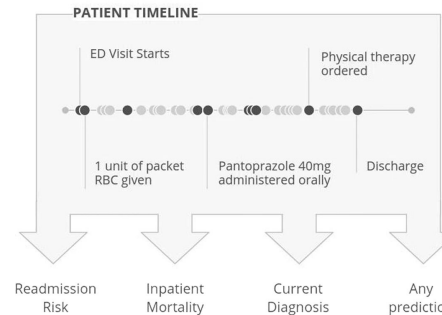
Create representations of the data that summarizes key characteristics of the data for machine learning models

- Embedding
- **Feature Engineering**
- Task-specific
- Self-supervised

Atrial Fibrillation



Other Rhythm



1 Health systems collect and store electronic health records in various formats in databases.

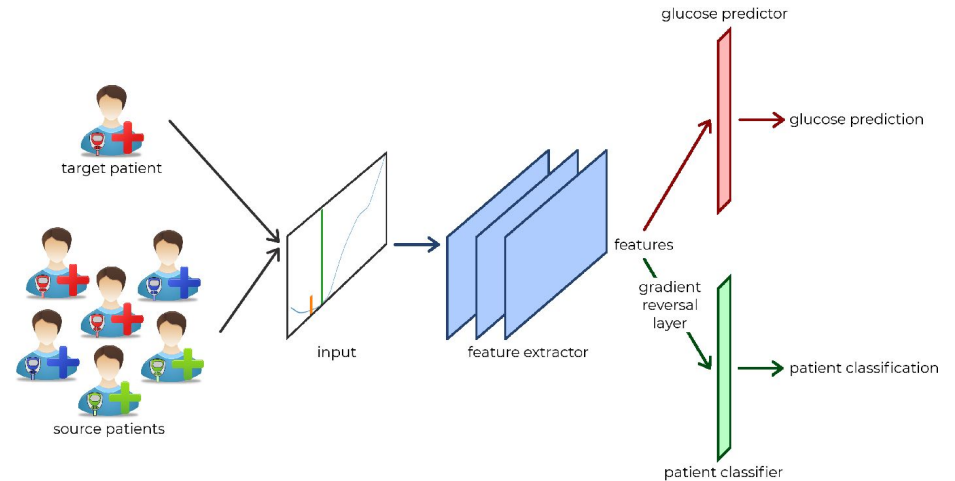
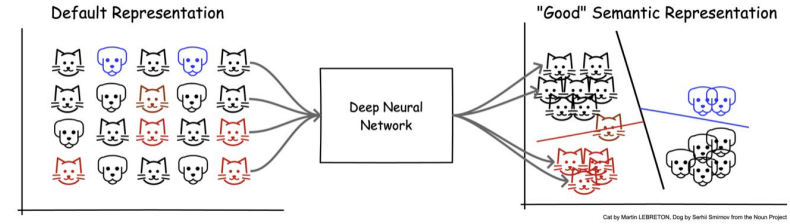
2 All available data for each patient is converted to events recorded in containers based on the Fast Healthcare Interoperability Resource (FHIR) specification.

3 The FHIR resources are placed in temporal order, depicting all events recorded in the EHR (i.e. timeline). The deep learning model uses this full history to make each prediction.

# Representation Learning

Create representations of the data that summarizes key characteristics of the data for machine learning models

- Embedding
- Feature Engineering
- **Task-specific**
- Self-supervised



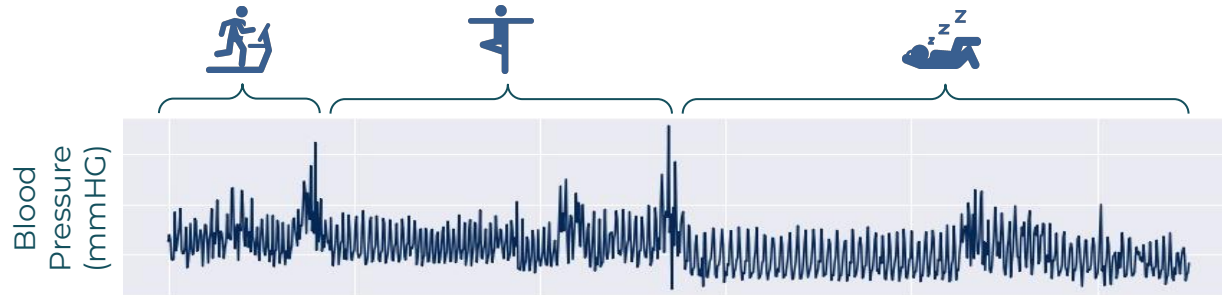
De Bois, M., El Yacoubi, M. A., & Ammi, M. (2021). Adversarial multi-source transfer learning in healthcare: Application to glucose prediction for diabetic people. *Computer Methods and Programs in Biomedicine*, 199, 105874.

# Representation Learning

Create representations of the data that summarizes key characteristics of the data for machine learning models

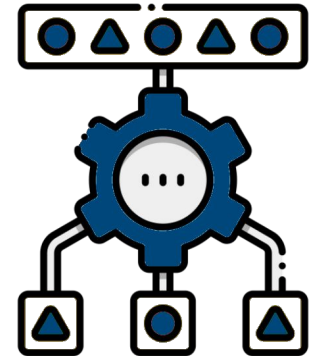
- Embedding
- Feature Engineering
- Task-specific
- **Self-supervised**

- High-dimensional/high-frequency
- Limited prior knowledge
- Expensive to label over time
- Non-stationary with multiple confounders

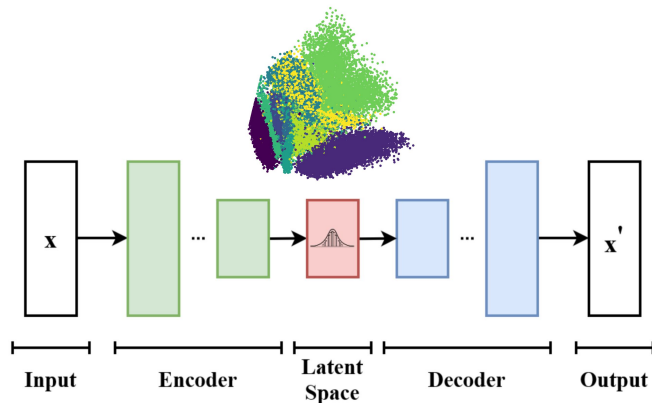




# Self-Supervised Representation learning for Time series

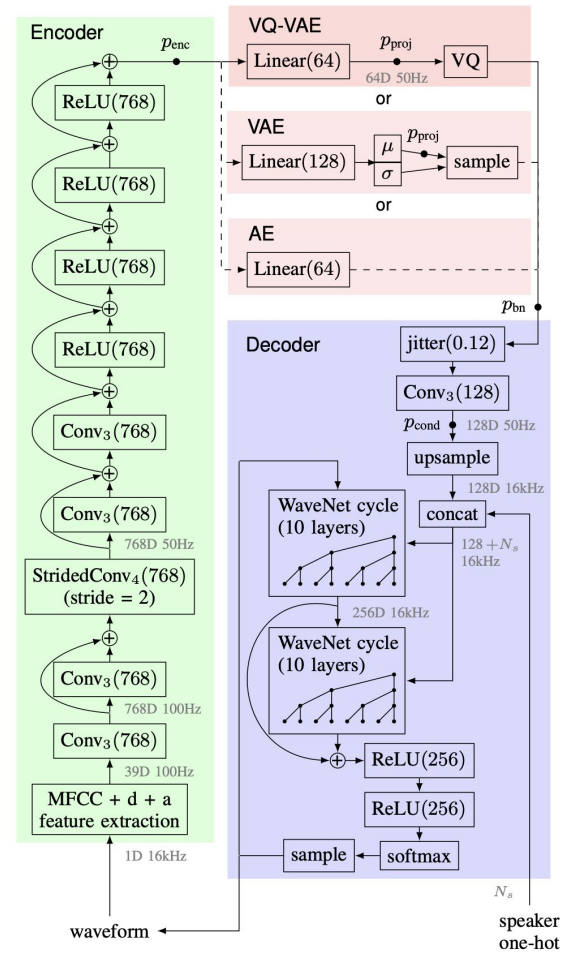


# Reconstruction-based methods



$$\text{ELBO: } \mathcal{L}(\lambda) \triangleq \mathbb{E}_{q_{\lambda}(z)} [\log p(x, z) - \log q(z)]$$

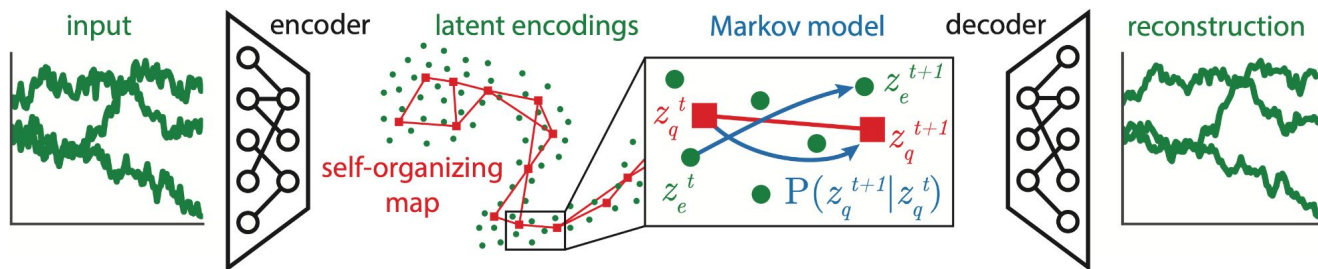
Chorowski, J., Weiss, R. J., Bengio, S., & Van Den Oord, A. (2019). **Unsupervised speech representation learning using wavenet autoencoders.** *IEEE/ACM transactions on audio, speech, and language processing*, 27(12), 2041-2053.



# Reconstruction-based methods

## SOM-VAE

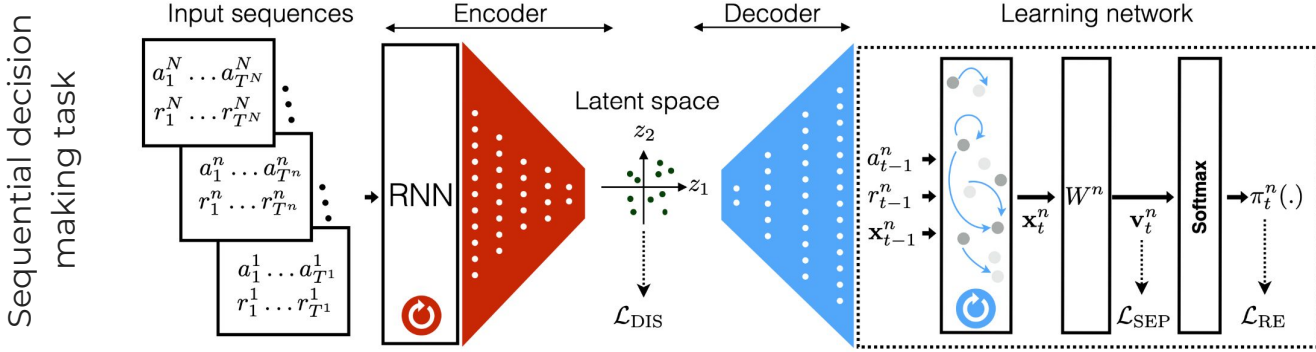
Enforces topological structure in a lower dimensional space through Self-Organizing Maps such that the representations retain their smoothness in that space



$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{SOM-VAE}}(x, \hat{x}_q, \hat{x}_e) = \mathcal{L}_{\text{reconstruction}}(x, \hat{x}_q, \hat{x}_e) + \alpha \mathcal{L}_{\text{commitment}}(x) + \beta \mathcal{L}_{\text{SOM}}(x)$$

$$\mathcal{L}(x^{t-1}, x^t, \hat{x}_q^t, \hat{x}_e^t) = \mathcal{L}_{\text{SOM-VAE}}(x^t, \hat{x}_q^t, \hat{x}_e^t) + \gamma \mathcal{L}_{\text{transitions}}(x^{t-1}, x^t) + \tau \mathcal{L}_{\text{smoothness}}(x^{t-1}, x^t)$$

# Reconstruction-based methods



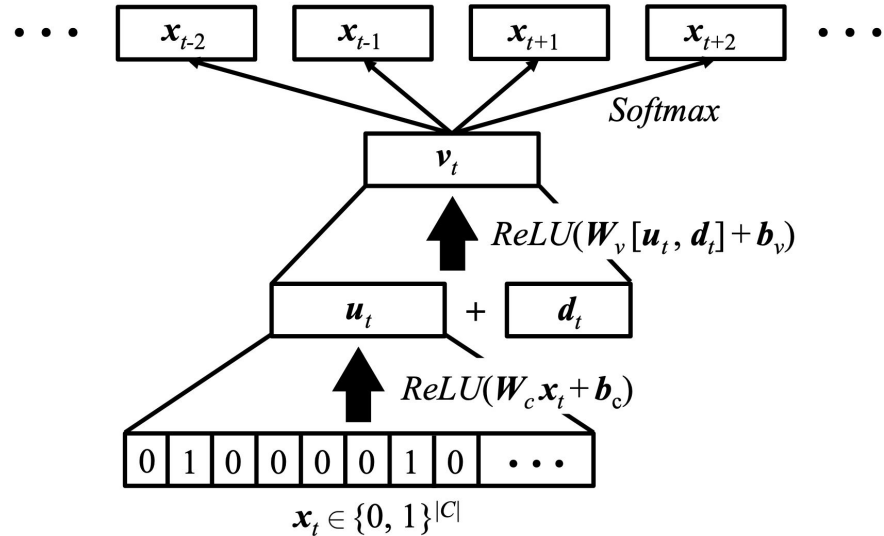
$$\mathcal{L} = \mathcal{L}_{RE} + \lambda_2 \mathcal{L}_{DIS} + \lambda_3 \mathcal{L}_{SEP}$$

- $\mathcal{L}_{RE} = -\frac{1}{N} \sum_{n=1}^N \sum_{t=1}^{T^n} \log \pi_t^n(a_t^n; a_{1..t-1}^n, r_{1..t-1}^n)$  Reconstruction
- $\mathcal{L}_{DIS} = \lambda_1 \text{MMD}(\hat{q}(\mathbf{z}), p(\mathbf{z})) + \text{KL}(g(\mathbf{z}) \| p(\mathbf{z}))$  Disentanglement
- $\hat{\mathcal{L}}_{SEP} = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{n=1}^N \sum_{t=1}^{T^n} \left| \frac{\partial^2 u_t^n}{\partial z_1 \partial z_2} \right|$  Separation

# Predictive methods

## Med2Vec

Trains an encoder neural network to learn representations that are predictive of future medical codes of visits within a context window.



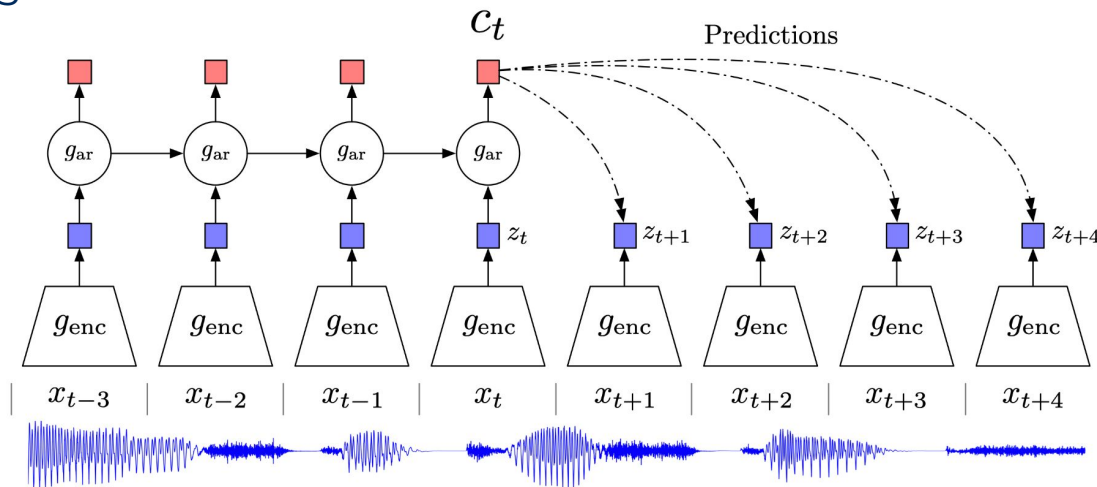
# Predictive/contrastive methods

## Contrastive Predictive Coding

$$f_k(x_{t+k}, c_t) = \exp(z_{t+k}^T W_k c_t)$$

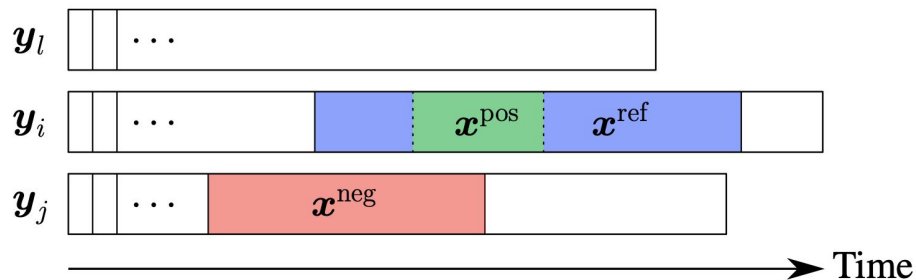
$$\mathcal{L}_N = -\mathbb{E}_X \left[ \log \frac{f_k(x_{t+k}, c_t)}{\sum_{x_j \in X} f_k(x_j, c_t)} \right]$$

Contrastive Loss



# Contrastive methods

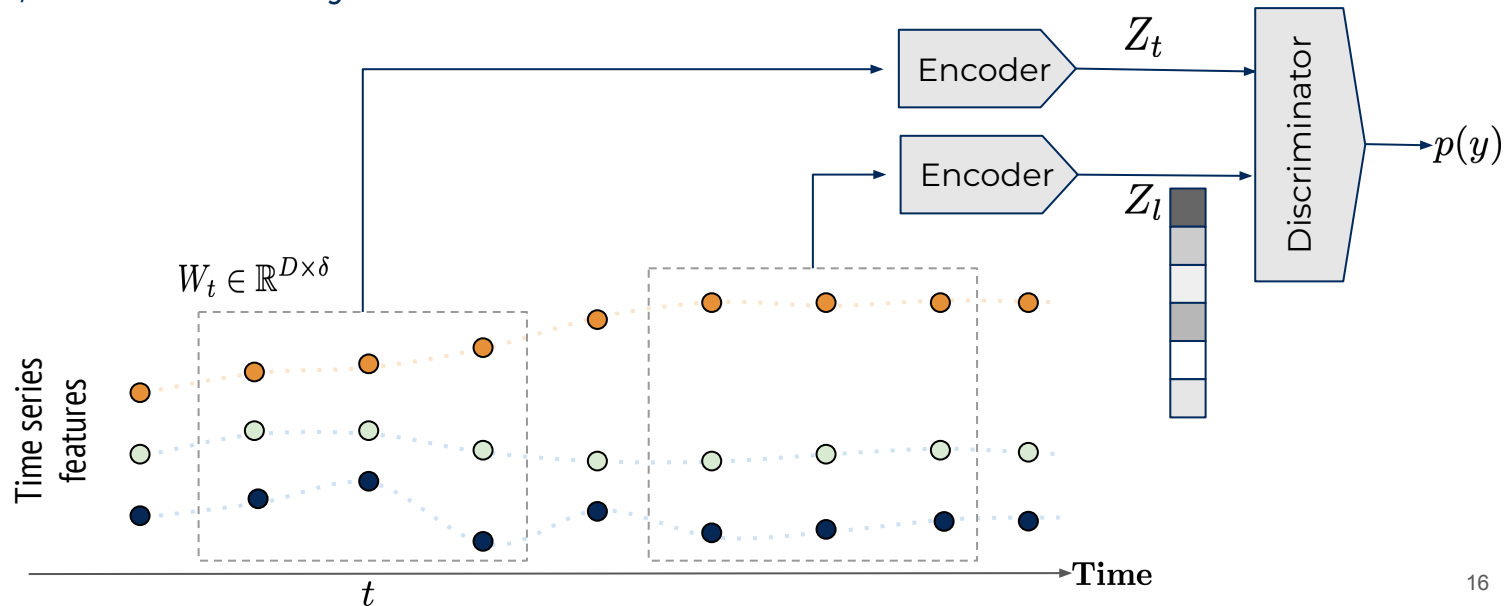
Representation learning with triplet loss



$$\underbrace{-\log\left(\sigma\left(\mathbf{f}\left(\mathbf{x}^{\text{ref}}, \boldsymbol{\theta}\right)^\top \mathbf{f}\left(\mathbf{x}^{\text{pos}}, \boldsymbol{\theta}\right)\right)\right) - \sum_{k=1}^K \log\left(\sigma\left(-\mathbf{f}\left(\mathbf{x}^{\text{ref}}, \boldsymbol{\theta}\right)^\top \mathbf{f}\left(\mathbf{x}_k^{\text{neg}}, \boldsymbol{\theta}\right)\right)\right)}_{\text{Triplet Loss}}$$

# Temporal Neighborhood Coding (TNC)

TNC is a self-supervised framework for learning representations of multivariate, non-stationary time series.



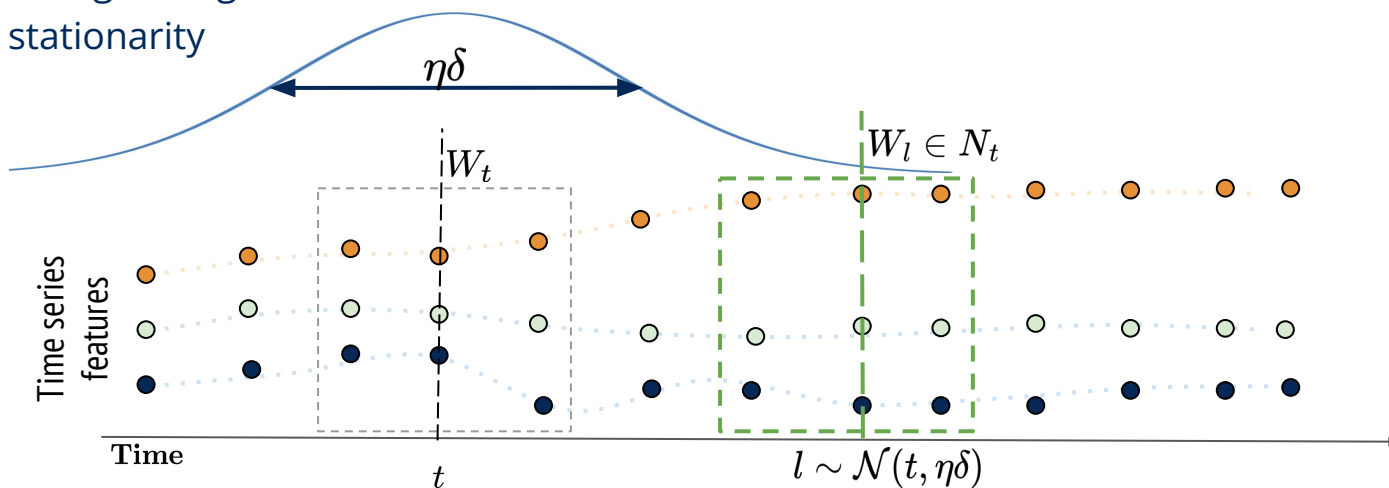




# Temporal Neighborhood

Temporal neighborhood  $N_t$  of window  $W_t$  is the set of windows with centroid  $l \sim \mathcal{N}(t, \eta\delta)$  representing the region of time series with similar underlying state.

neighborhood range using  
ADF test of stationarity

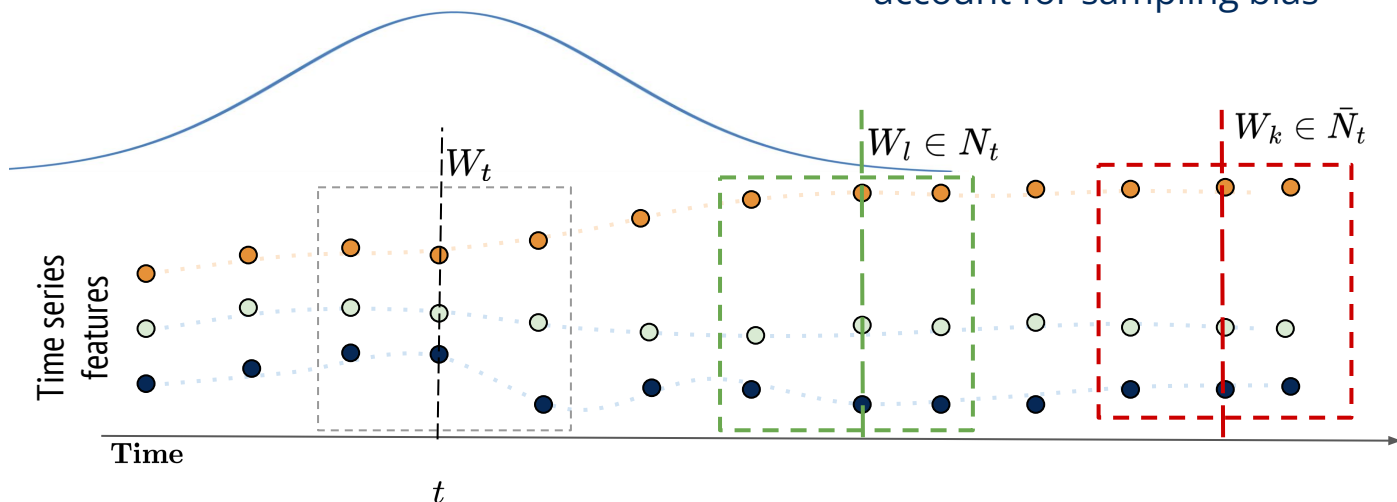




# Contrastive Objective

$$-\mathbb{E}_{W_t \sim X} [\mathbb{E}_{W_l \sim N_t} [\log \mathcal{D}(Z_t, Z_l)]] + \mathbb{E}_{W_k \sim \bar{N}_t} [(1 - w_t) \times \log (1 - \mathcal{D}(Z_t, Z_k)) + w_t \times \log \mathcal{D}(Z_t, Z_k)]$$

Weight adjustment from **PU learning** to account for sampling bias

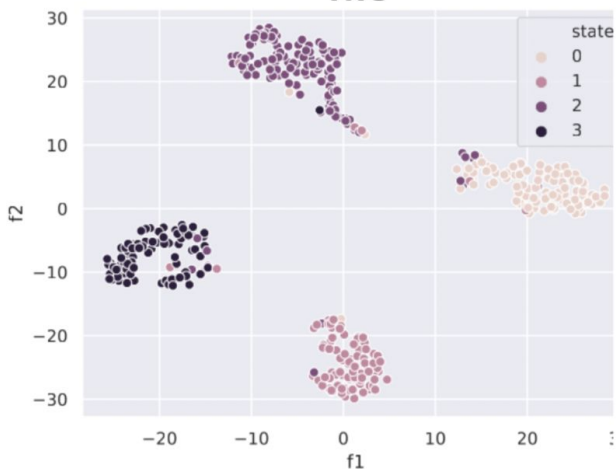


**What makes a representation a  
good representations?**

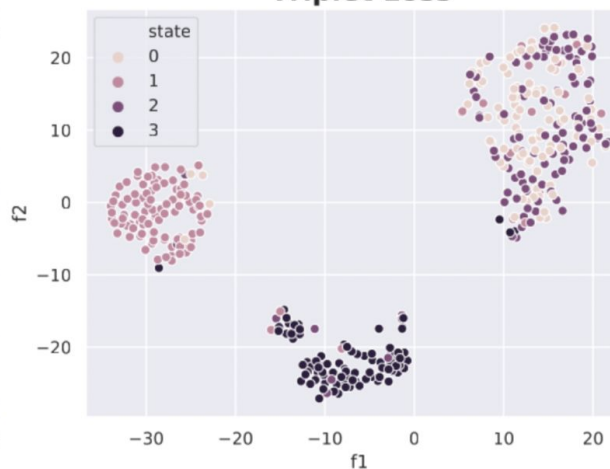
# What makes a good representations?

- 1) **clusterability** of the underlying states.
- 2) Generalizability for downstream **classification**.

TNC



Triplet Loss

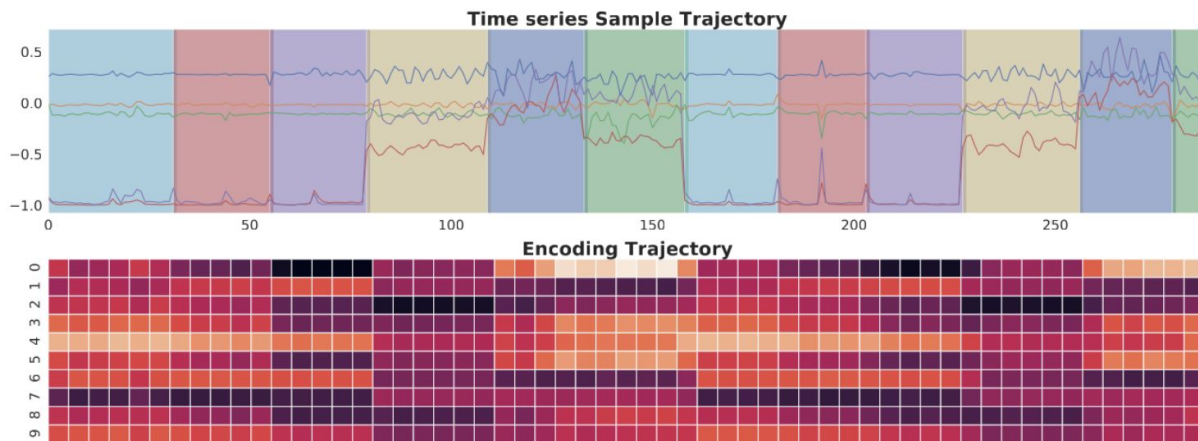


CPC



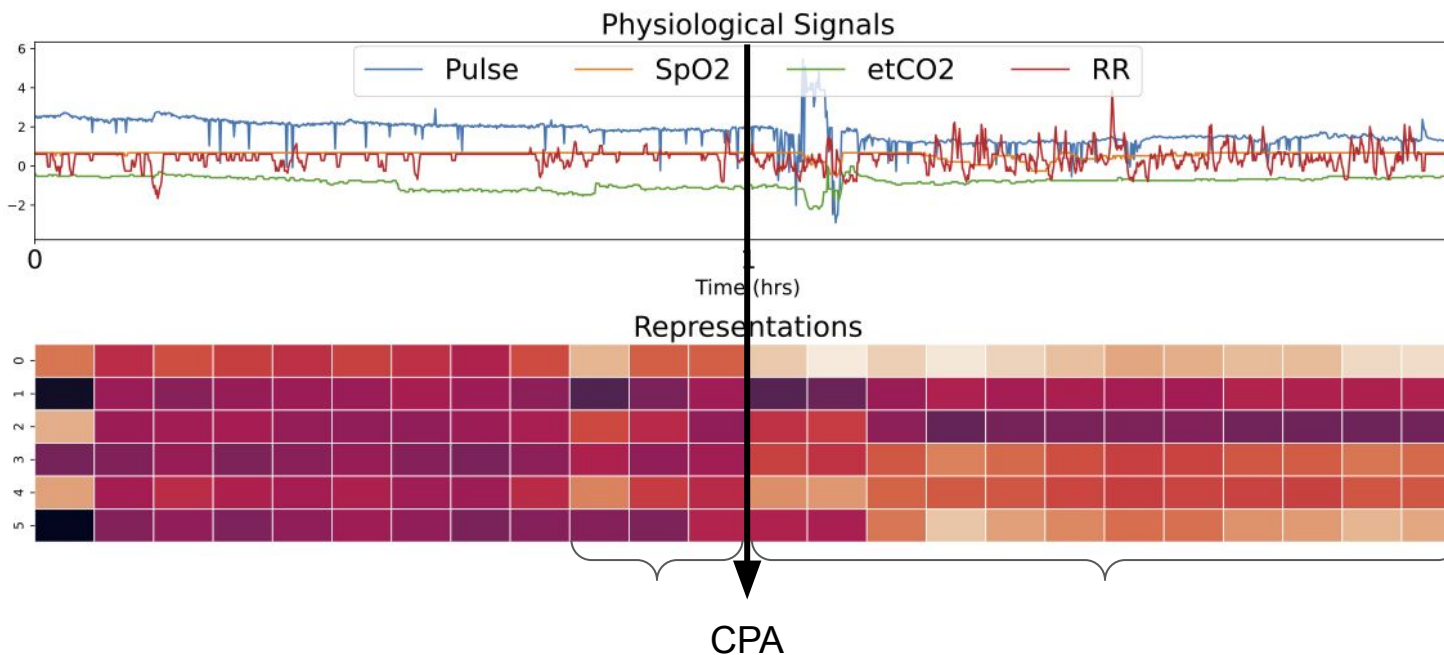
# What makes a good representations?

2) Generalizability for downstream tasks.



# What makes a good representations?

3) Identifies changes in time



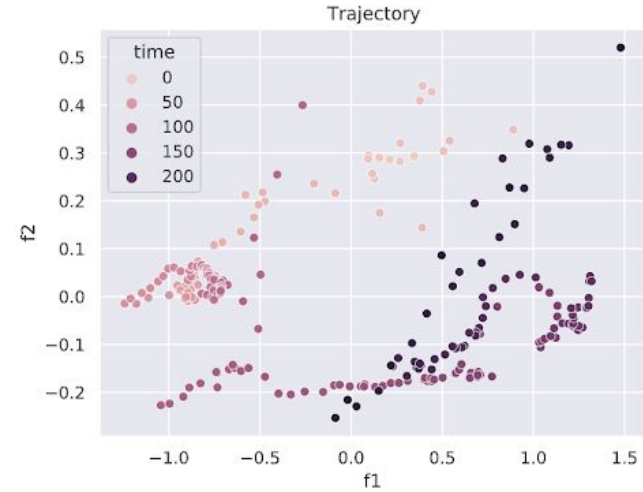
**Where do you see potential for  
unsupervised representation  
learning in healthcare?**

# Tracking and gaining insight into individual's health

Knowledge discovery

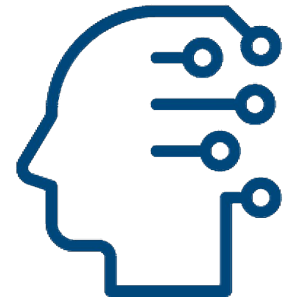
Disease subtypes

Understanding population heterogeneity





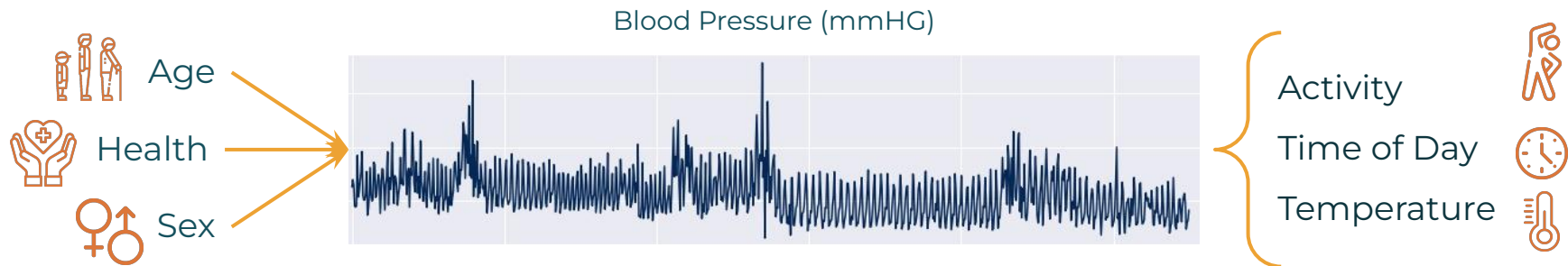
# Better understanding representations



# Decoupled Representation Learning

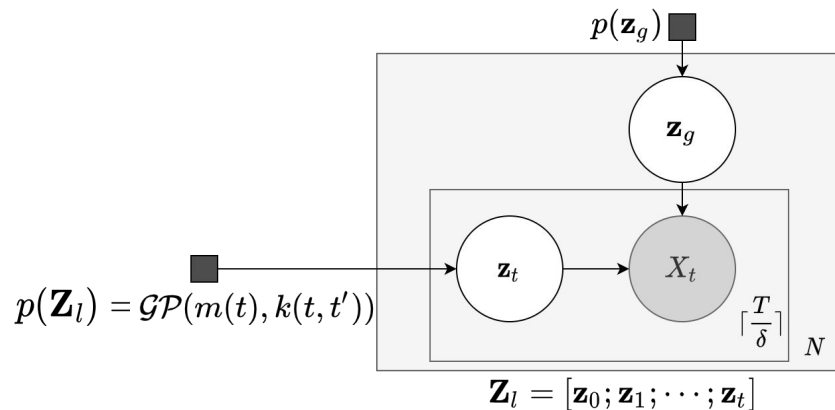
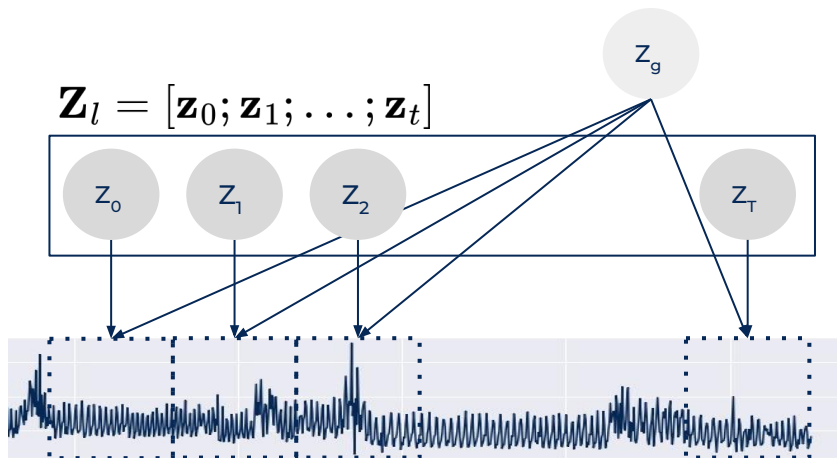
Time series data is generated from two independent sources of variation:

- **Global variable:** representation of the global behaviour of a time series
- **Local variable:** characterizes within sample variability and behaviours such as non stationarity

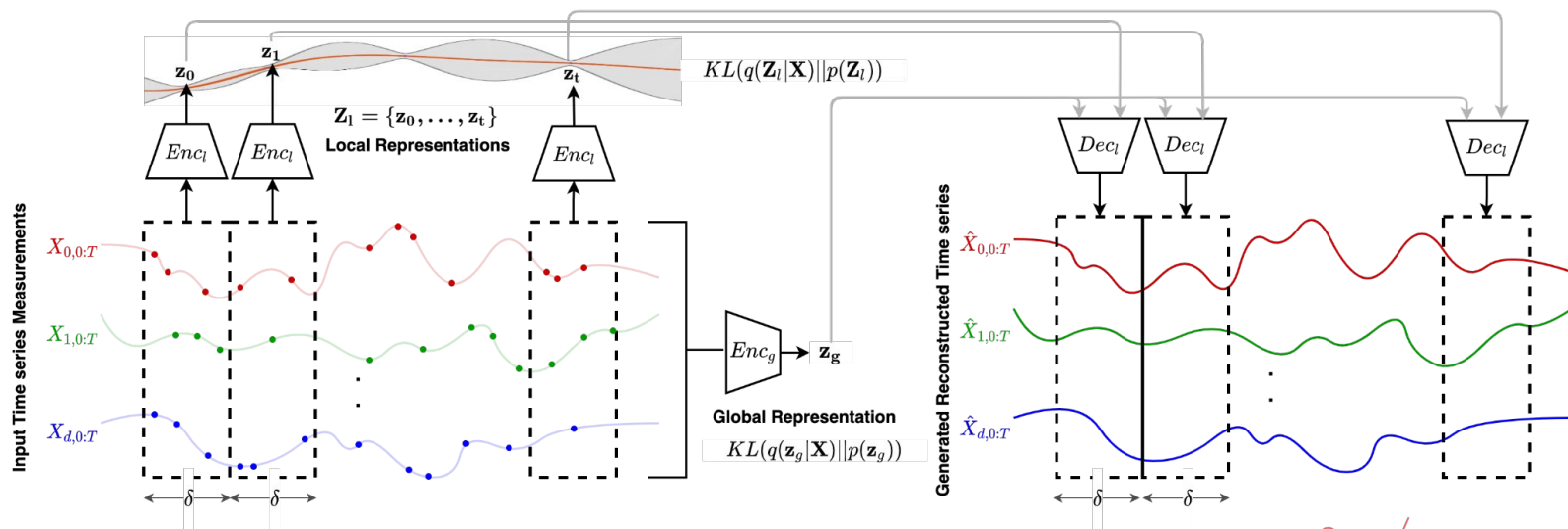


# Generative Model

Every window of time series is generated from an underlying global and local variable.  $p(X_{t:t+\delta} | \mathbf{z}_t, \mathbf{z}_g)$

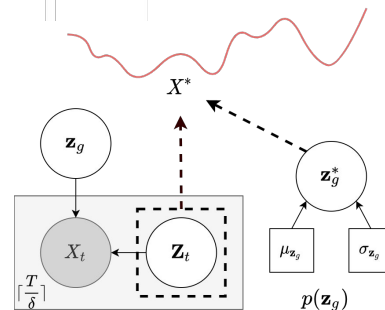


# Variational Inference:



$$ELBO + \lambda \mathbb{E}_{z_g, Z_l} \frac{q(z_g | X^*)}{q(z_g^* | X^*)}$$

Counterfactual Regularization:  
Disentangle global and local factors



# Why understanding representations is important?