

# Diffusion Model

## Denoising Diffusion Probabilistic Models

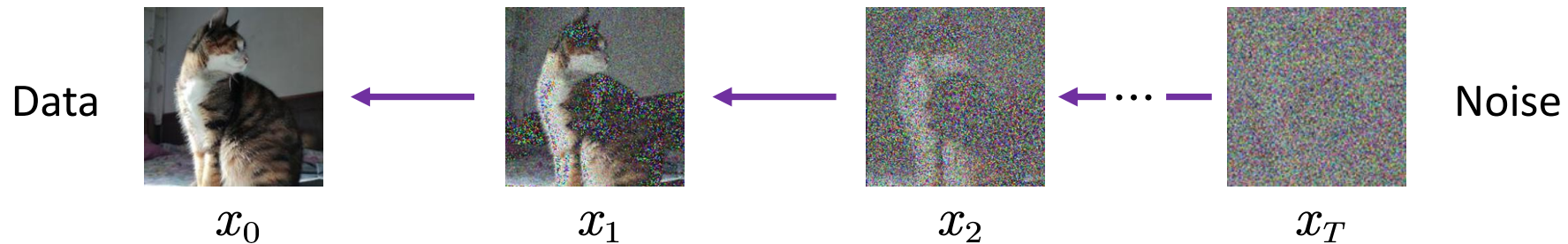
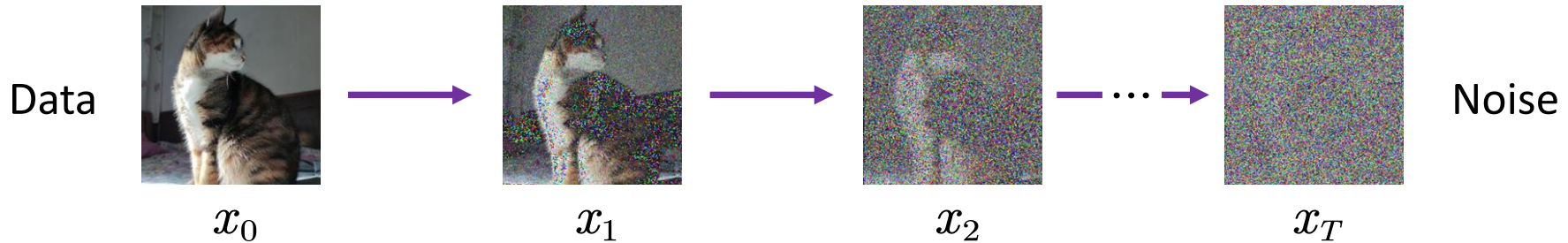
- What is the diffusion model?
- How to visually understand the diffusion model?
- How to derive the diffusion model mathematically?
- How to train a diffusion model and infer it?

Xin Zhang

# What is Diffusion Model ?

## Denoising Diffusion Probabilistic Models<sup>[1]</sup>

Forward  
Diffusion  
Process

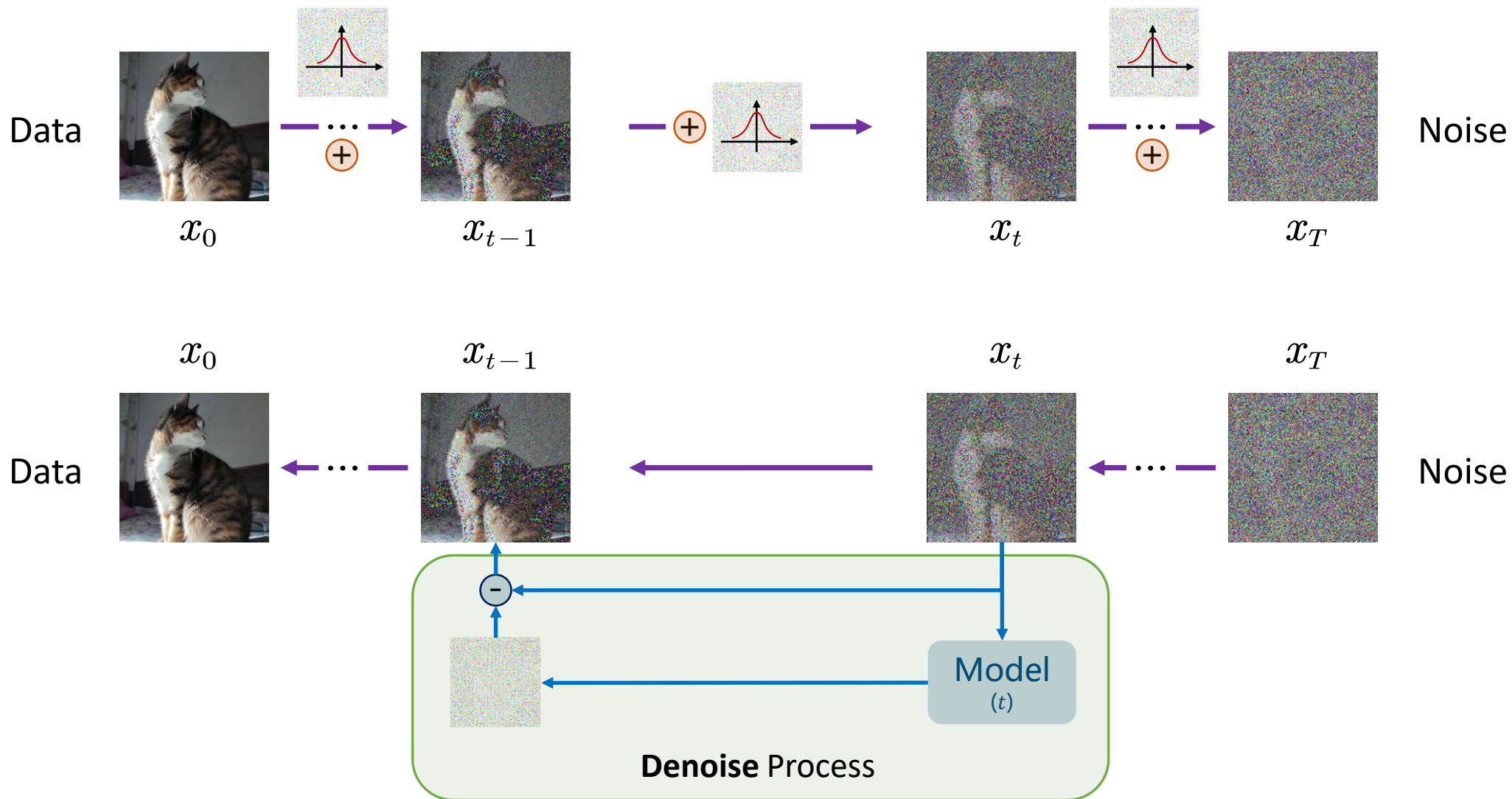


Reverse  
Diffusion  
Process

[1] Ho J, Jain A, Abbeel P. Denoising diffusion probabilistic models. NeuraIPS, 2020.



# What is Diffusion Model ?



A faint, grayscale background image of Michelangelo's David statue, showing the head and upper torso. The statue is positioned slightly to the left of the center, looking towards the right.

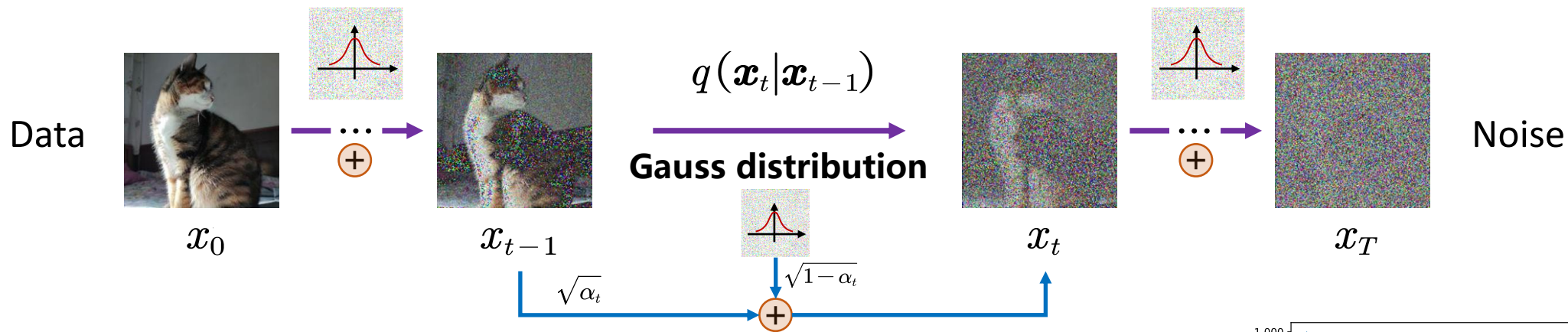
“

**The sculpture is already complete within the marble block before I start my work. It is already there, I just have to chisel away the superfluous material.**

”

**——Michelangelo**

# Forward Diffusion Process

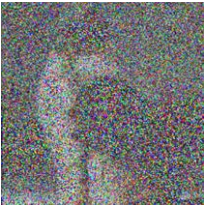

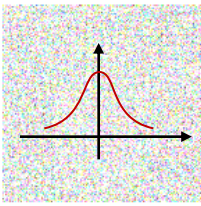


$$z \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu, \sigma^2)$$

$$\frac{z - \mu}{\sigma} \sim \mathcal{N}(0, I)$$

$$z = \mu + \sigma \cdot \varepsilon$$

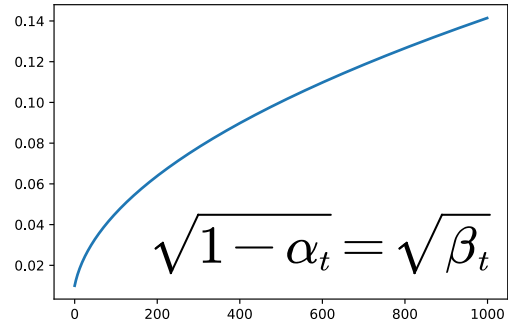
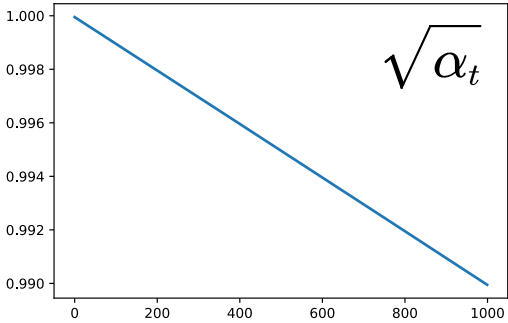
$$\varepsilon \sim \mathcal{N}(0, I)$$


 $= \sqrt{\alpha_t}$ 

 $+ \sqrt{1 - \alpha_t}$ 


gaussian
signal
noise

$$\mathbf{x}_t = \sqrt{\alpha_t} \mathbf{x}_{t-1} + \sqrt{1 - \alpha_t} \boldsymbol{\varepsilon}_{t-1}$$

$$q(\mathbf{x}_t|\mathbf{x}_{t-1}) = \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{x}_t; \underbrace{\sqrt{\alpha_t} \mathbf{x}_{t-1}}_{\text{mean}}, \underbrace{(1 - \alpha_t) \mathbf{I}}_{\text{variance}})$$



# Forward Diffusion Process

## ① forward (close-form)

$$\mathbf{x}_t = \sqrt{\alpha_t} \mathbf{x}_{t-1} + \sqrt{1 - \alpha_t} \boldsymbol{\epsilon}_{t-1}$$

$$= \sqrt{\alpha_t} (\sqrt{\alpha_{t-1}} \mathbf{x}_{t-2} + \sqrt{1 - \alpha_{t-1}} \boldsymbol{\epsilon}_{t-2}) + \sqrt{1 - \alpha_t} \boldsymbol{\epsilon}_{t-1}$$

$$= \sqrt{\alpha_t \alpha_{t-1}} \mathbf{x}_{t-2} + (\sqrt{\alpha_t - \alpha_t \alpha_{t-1}} \boldsymbol{\epsilon}_{t-2} + \sqrt{1 - \alpha_t} \boldsymbol{\epsilon}_{t-1})$$

...

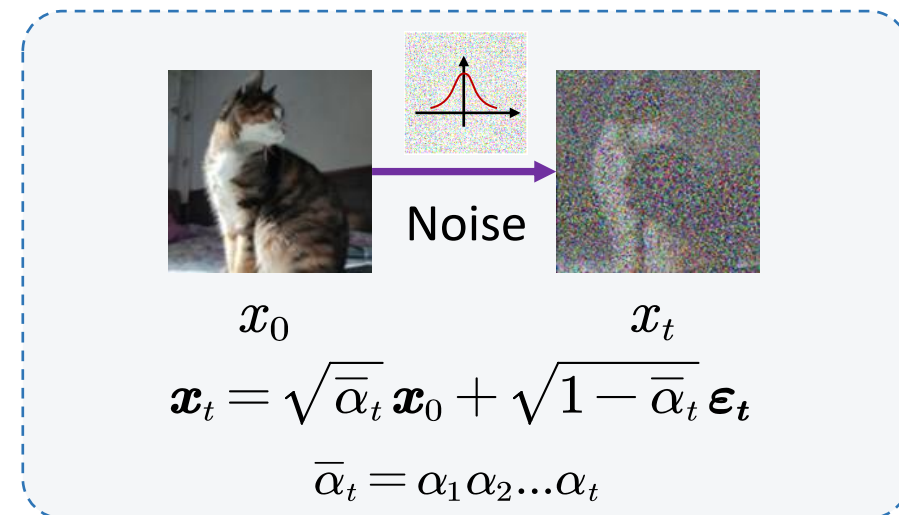
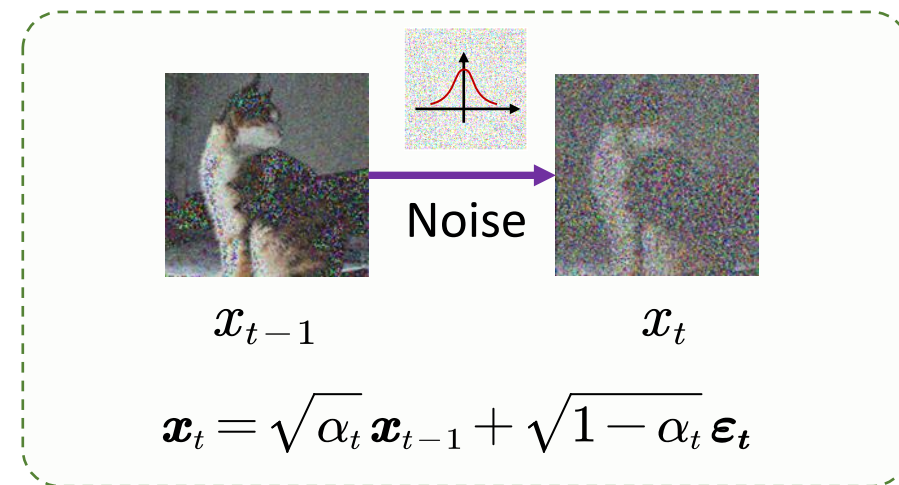
If  $X \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu_X, \sigma_X^2)$   $Y \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu_Y, \sigma_Y^2)$

$Z = X + Y$

Then  $Z \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu_X + \mu_Y, \sigma_X^2 + \sigma_Y^2)$

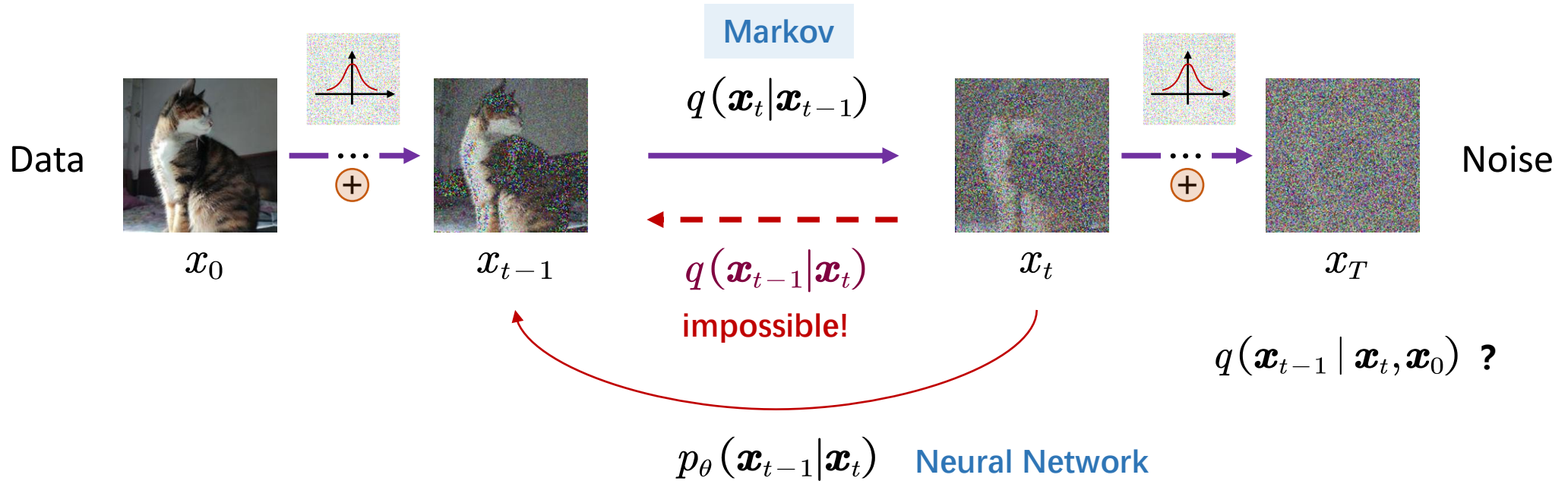
$$= \sqrt{\alpha_t \alpha_{t-1} \cdots \alpha_1} \mathbf{x}_0 + \sqrt{1 - \alpha_t \alpha_{t-1} \cdots \alpha_1} \boldsymbol{\epsilon}$$

$$= \sqrt{\bar{\alpha}_t} \mathbf{x}_0 + \sqrt{1 - \bar{\alpha}_t} \boldsymbol{\epsilon}$$





# Reverse Diffusion Process

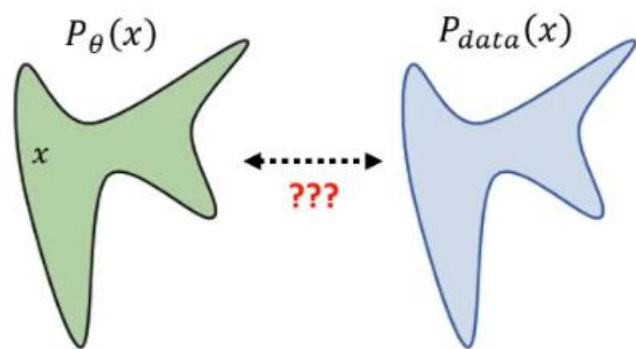


Assume: the output is gaussian

Target Distribution  $q(\mathbf{x}_{t-1} | \mathbf{x}_t) = \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{x}_{t-1}; \mu_t(\mathbf{x}_t), \Sigma_t(\mathbf{x}_t))$

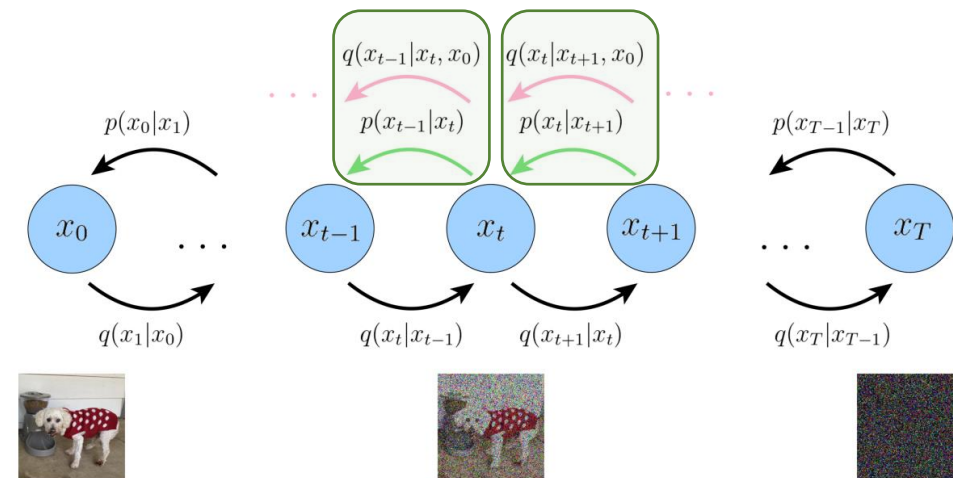
Approximated Distribution  $p_\theta(\mathbf{x}_{t-1} | \mathbf{x}_t) = \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{x}_{t-1}; \mu_\theta(\mathbf{x}_t, t), \Sigma_\theta(\mathbf{x}_t, t))$

# Maximum Likelihood Estimation



$$\arg \max_{\theta} \prod_{i=1}^t p_{\theta}(\mathbf{x}_i)$$

$$\arg \max_{\theta} \sum_{i=1}^t \log p_{\theta}(\mathbf{x}_i)$$



## ② optimization (view 1)

$$\min -\log p_{\theta}(x_0) \leq -\log p_{\theta}(x_0) + D_{KL}(q(x_{1:T}|x_0) || p_{\theta}(x_{1:T}|x_0))$$

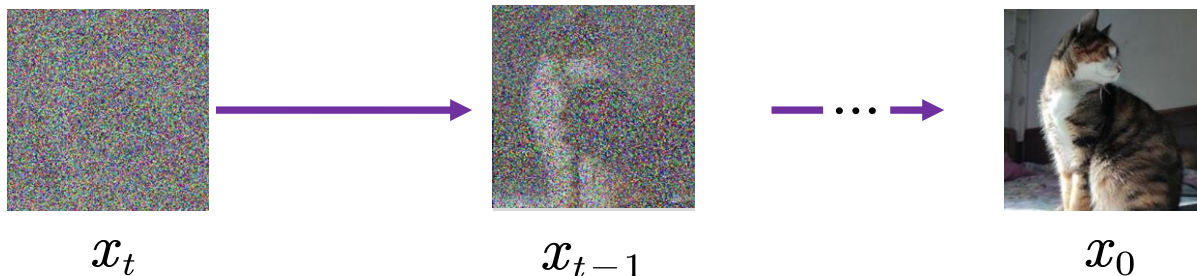
$$\min -\log p_{\theta}(x_0) \leq \mathbb{E}_{q(x_{1:T}|x_0)} \left[ \log \frac{q(x_{1:T}|x_0)}{p_{\theta}(x_{0:T})} \right] \quad \text{ELBO}$$

$$\min -\log p_{\theta}(x_0) \leq \mathbb{E}_{q(x_{1:T}|x_0)} [D_{KL}(q(x_T|x_0) || p_{\theta}(x_T))] + \sum_{t=2}^T D_{KL}(q(x_{t-1}|x_t, x_0) || p_{\theta}(x_{t-1}|x_t)) - \log p_{\theta}(x_0|x_1)$$

[1] Luo C. Understanding diffusion models: A unified perspective. arXiv, 2022.



# What is $q(x_{t-1}|x_t, x_0)$



If we know  $x_0$  and  $x_t$

$q(x_{t-1}|x_t, x_0)$  is deterministic

Assume: Markov

$$q(x_{t-1}|x_t, x_0) = \frac{q(x_{t-1}, x_t, x_0)}{q(x_t, x_0)} = \frac{q(x_t | x_{t-1}) q(x_{t-1} | x_0) q(x_0)}{q(x_t | x_0) q(x_0)} = \frac{q(x_t | x_{t-1}) q(x_{t-1} | x_0)}{q(x_t | x_0)}$$

$$q(x_t | x_{t-1}) \sim \mathcal{N}(x_t; \sqrt{\alpha_t} x_{t-1}, 1 - \alpha_t)$$

This visual equation shows a noisy image of a cat (representing  $x_t$ ) as a linear combination of a less noisy image of the same cat (representing  $x_{t-1}$ ) and a Gaussian noise vector (represented by a bell curve icon). The coefficients are  $\sqrt{\alpha_t}$  and  $\sqrt{1 - \alpha_t}$  respectively.

$$q(x_{t-1} | x_0) \sim \mathcal{N}(x_{t-1}; \sqrt{\bar{\alpha}_{t-1}} x_0, 1 - \bar{\alpha}_{t-1})$$

This visual equation shows a noisy image of a cat (representing  $x_{t-1}$ ) as a linear combination of a clear image of the cat (representing  $x_0$ ) and a Gaussian noise vector. The coefficients are  $\sqrt{\bar{\alpha}_{t-1}}$  and  $\sqrt{1 - \bar{\alpha}_{t-1}}$  respectively.

$$q(x_t | x_0) \sim \mathcal{N}(x_t; \sqrt{\bar{\alpha}_t} x_0, 1 - \bar{\alpha}_t)$$

This visual equation shows a noisy image of a cat (representing  $x_t$ ) as a linear combination of a clear image of the cat (representing  $x_0$ ) and a Gaussian noise vector. The coefficients are  $\sqrt{\bar{\alpha}_t}$  and  $\sqrt{1 - \bar{\alpha}_t}$  respectively.

[1] Luo C. Understanding diffusion models: A unified perspective. arXiv, 2022.

# What is $q(\mathbf{x}_{t-1}|\mathbf{x}_t, \mathbf{x}_0)$

$$q(\mathbf{x}_t | \mathbf{x}_{t-1}) \sim \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{x}_t; \sqrt{\alpha_t} \mathbf{x}_{t-1}, 1 - \alpha_t)$$

$$q(\mathbf{x}_{t-1} | \mathbf{x}_0) \sim \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{x}_{t-1}; \sqrt{\bar{\alpha}_{t-1}} \mathbf{x}_0, 1 - \bar{\alpha}_{t-1})$$

$$q(\mathbf{x}_t | \mathbf{x}_0) \sim \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{x}_t; \sqrt{\bar{\alpha}_t} \mathbf{x}_0, 1 - \bar{\alpha}_t)$$

③ reverse

If we know  $\mathbf{x}_0$

$$q(\mathbf{x}_{t-1}|\mathbf{x}_t, \mathbf{x}_0) = \mathcal{N}\left(\mathbf{x}_{t-1}; \underbrace{\frac{\sqrt{\alpha_t}(1 - \bar{\alpha}_{t-1})\mathbf{x}_t + \sqrt{\bar{\alpha}_{t-1}}(1 - \alpha_t)\mathbf{x}_0}{1 - \bar{\alpha}_t}}_{\boldsymbol{\mu}_q(\mathbf{x}_t, t)}, \underbrace{\frac{(1 - \alpha_t)(1 - \bar{\alpha}_{t-1})}{1 - \bar{\alpha}_t} \mathbf{I}}_{\Sigma_q(t)}\right)$$

Assume: fixed

Minimize the distance between two Gaussian distributions (refer to PRML)

$$D_{KL}(\mathcal{N}(\mathbf{x}; \boldsymbol{\mu}_x, \Sigma_x) || \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{y}; \boldsymbol{\mu}_y, \Sigma_y)) = \frac{1}{2} \left[ \log \frac{|\Sigma_y|}{|\Sigma_x|} - d + \text{tr}(\Sigma_y^{-1} \Sigma_x) + (\boldsymbol{\mu}_y - \boldsymbol{\mu}_x)^T \Sigma_y^{-1} (\boldsymbol{\mu}_y - \boldsymbol{\mu}_x) \right]$$

$$\underset{\boldsymbol{\theta}}{\text{argmin}} D_{KL}(q(\mathbf{x}_{t-1}|\mathbf{x}_t, \mathbf{x}_0) || p_{\boldsymbol{\theta}}(\mathbf{x}_{t-1}|\mathbf{x}_t))$$

$$= \underset{\boldsymbol{\theta}}{\text{argmin}} \frac{1}{2\sigma_q^2(t)} [\|\boldsymbol{\mu}_{\boldsymbol{\theta}} - \boldsymbol{\mu}_q\|_2^2]$$

[1] Luo C. Understanding diffusion models: A unified perspective. arXiv, 2022.

# Remove $x_0$

③ reverse

If we know  $x_0$

$$q(\mathbf{x}_{t-1}|\mathbf{x}_t, \mathbf{x}_0) = \mathcal{N}\left(\mathbf{x}_{t-1} \left[ \underbrace{\frac{\sqrt{\alpha_t}(1-\bar{\alpha}_{t-1})\mathbf{x}_t + \sqrt{\bar{\alpha}_{t-1}}(1-\alpha_t)\mathbf{x}_0}{1-\bar{\alpha}_t}}_{\boldsymbol{\mu}_q(\mathbf{x}_t, t)}, \underbrace{\frac{(1-\alpha_t)(1-\bar{\alpha}_{t-1})}{1-\bar{\alpha}_t}}_{\Sigma_q(t)} \mathbf{I} \right]\right)$$

① forward (close-form)

$$\mathbf{x}_t = \sqrt{\bar{\alpha}_t} \mathbf{x}_0 + \sqrt{1-\bar{\alpha}_t} \boldsymbol{\epsilon}_t \quad \Rightarrow \quad \mathbf{x}_0 = \frac{\mathbf{x}_t - \sqrt{1-\bar{\alpha}_t} \boldsymbol{\epsilon}_t}{\sqrt{\bar{\alpha}_t}}$$

$$\frac{\sqrt{\alpha_t}(1-\bar{\alpha}_{t-1})\mathbf{x}_t + \sqrt{\bar{\alpha}_{t-1}}(1-\alpha_t)\mathbf{x}_0}{1-\bar{\alpha}_t} \Rightarrow \frac{1}{\sqrt{\alpha_t}} \left( \mathbf{x}_t - \frac{1-\alpha_t}{\sqrt{1-\bar{\alpha}_t}} \boldsymbol{\epsilon}_t \right) \quad \text{noise predictor}$$

$\boldsymbol{\epsilon}_t(\mathbf{x}_0 \rightarrow \mathbf{x}_t)$

Why not predict  $\mathbf{x}_0$  directly?



# Training and Sampling

## ③ reverse

$$q(\mathbf{x}_{t-1}|\mathbf{x}_t, \mathbf{x}_0) = \mathcal{N}\left(\mathbf{x}_{t-1} \left[ \underbrace{\frac{\sqrt{\alpha_t}(1-\bar{\alpha}_{t-1})\mathbf{x}_t + \sqrt{\bar{\alpha}_{t-1}}(1-\alpha_t)\mathbf{x}_0}{1-\bar{\alpha}_t}}_{\boldsymbol{\mu}_q(\mathbf{x}_t, t)}, \underbrace{\frac{(1-\alpha_t)(1-\bar{\alpha}_{t-1})}{1-\bar{\alpha}_t}}_{\Sigma_q(t)} \mathbf{I} \right]\right)$$

$$\frac{\sqrt{\alpha_t}(1-\bar{\alpha}_{t-1})\mathbf{x}_t + \sqrt{\bar{\alpha}_{t-1}}(1-\alpha_t)\mathbf{x}_0}{1-\bar{\alpha}_t} \Rightarrow \frac{1}{\sqrt{\alpha_t}} \left( \mathbf{x}_t - \frac{1-\alpha_t}{\sqrt{1-\bar{\alpha}_t}} \boldsymbol{\epsilon}_t \right)$$

## ④ training

$$\operatorname{argmin}_{\boldsymbol{\theta}} \frac{1}{2\sigma_q^2(t)} [\|\boldsymbol{\mu}_{\boldsymbol{\theta}} - \boldsymbol{\mu}_q\|_2^2]$$

$$\operatorname{argmin}_{\boldsymbol{\theta}} \frac{1}{2\sigma_q^2(t)} \frac{(1-\alpha_t)^2}{(1-\bar{\alpha}_t)\alpha_t} [\|\boldsymbol{\epsilon}_t - \hat{\boldsymbol{\epsilon}}_{\boldsymbol{\theta}}(\mathbf{x}_t, t)\|_2^2]$$

## ⑤ sampling

$$\mathbf{x}_{t-1} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\alpha_t}} \left( \mathbf{x}_t - \frac{1-\alpha_t}{\sqrt{1-\bar{\alpha}_t}} \boldsymbol{\epsilon}_{\boldsymbol{\theta}}(\mathbf{x}_t, t) \right) + \sigma_t \mathbf{z}$$

# Training and Sampling

## Algorithm 1 Training

```

1: repeat
2:    $\mathbf{x}_0 \sim q(\mathbf{x}_0)$ 
3:    $t \sim \text{Uniform}(\{1, \dots, T\})$ 
4:    $\boldsymbol{\epsilon} \sim \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{I})$ 
5:   Take gradient descent step on
        $\nabla_{\theta} \|\boldsymbol{\epsilon} - \boldsymbol{\epsilon}_{\theta}(\sqrt{\bar{\alpha}_t}\mathbf{x}_0 + \sqrt{1 - \bar{\alpha}_t}\boldsymbol{\epsilon}, t)\|^2$ 
6: until converged
    
```

## Algorithm 2 Sampling

```

1:  $\mathbf{x}_T \sim \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{I})$ 
2: for  $t = T, \dots, 1$  do
3:    $\mathbf{z} \sim \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{I})$  if  $t > 1$ , else  $\mathbf{z} = \mathbf{0}$ 
4:    $\mathbf{x}_{t-1} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\alpha_t}} \left( \mathbf{x}_t - \frac{1 - \alpha_t}{\sqrt{1 - \bar{\alpha}_t}} \boldsymbol{\epsilon}_{\theta}(\mathbf{x}_t, t) \right) + \sigma_t \mathbf{z}$ 
5: end for
6: return  $\mathbf{x}_0$ 
    
```

### ④ training

$$\underset{\theta}{\operatorname{argmin}} \frac{1}{2\sigma_q^2(t)} [\|\boldsymbol{\mu}_{\theta} - \boldsymbol{\mu}_q\|_2^2]$$

$$\underset{\theta}{\operatorname{argmin}} \frac{1}{2\sigma_q^2(t)} \frac{(1 - \alpha_t)^2}{(1 - \bar{\alpha}_t)\alpha_t} [\|\boldsymbol{\epsilon}_t - \hat{\boldsymbol{\epsilon}}_{\theta}(\mathbf{x}_t, t)\|_2^2]$$

simplify

### ⑤ sampling

$$\mathbf{x}_{t-1} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\alpha_t}} \left( \mathbf{x}_t - \frac{1 - \alpha_t}{\sqrt{1 - \bar{\alpha}_t}} \boldsymbol{\epsilon}_{\theta}(\mathbf{x}_t, t) \right) + \sigma_t \mathbf{z}$$

[1] Luo C. Understanding diffusion models: A unified perspective. arXiv, 2022.

# The variance

## ③ reverse

$$q(\mathbf{x}_{t-1}|\mathbf{x}_t, \mathbf{x}_0) = \mathcal{N}\left(\mathbf{x}_{t-1} \left[ \underbrace{\frac{\sqrt{\alpha_t}(1-\bar{\alpha}_{t-1})\mathbf{x}_t + \sqrt{\bar{\alpha}_{t-1}}(1-\alpha_t)\mathbf{x}_0}{1-\bar{\alpha}_t}}_{\boldsymbol{\mu}_q(\mathbf{x}_t, t)}; \underbrace{\frac{(1-\alpha_t)(1-\bar{\alpha}_{t-1})}{1-\bar{\alpha}_t}\mathbf{I}}_{\boldsymbol{\Sigma}_q(t)} \right)\right)$$

$$\frac{(1-\alpha_t)(1-\bar{\alpha}_{t-1})}{1-\bar{\alpha}_t} = \frac{\bar{\beta}_{t-1}}{\bar{\beta}_t} \beta_t$$

Fixed-small

Fixed-large

hybrid

optimal

$$\sigma_t^2 = \frac{\bar{\beta}_{t-1}}{\bar{\beta}_t} \beta_t = \tilde{\beta}_t \quad [\text{GLIGEN}]$$

$$\sigma_t^2 = \beta_t \quad [\text{DDPM}]$$

$$\sigma_t^2 = \exp\left(v \log \beta_t + (1-v) \log \tilde{\beta}_t\right) \quad [\text{IDDPM}]$$

[Analytic DPM]

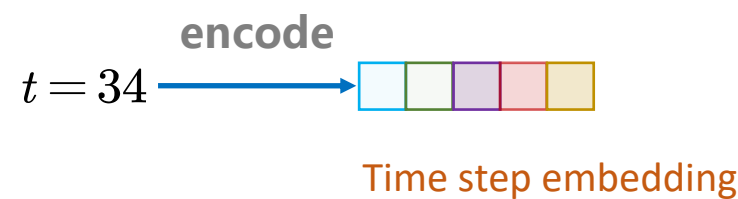
[1] Nichol A Q, Dhariwal P. Improved denoising diffusion probabilistic models. ICML, 2021.

[2] Li Y, Liu H, Wu Q, et al. Gligen: Open-set grounded text-to-image generation. CVPR, 2023.



# Illustration of training

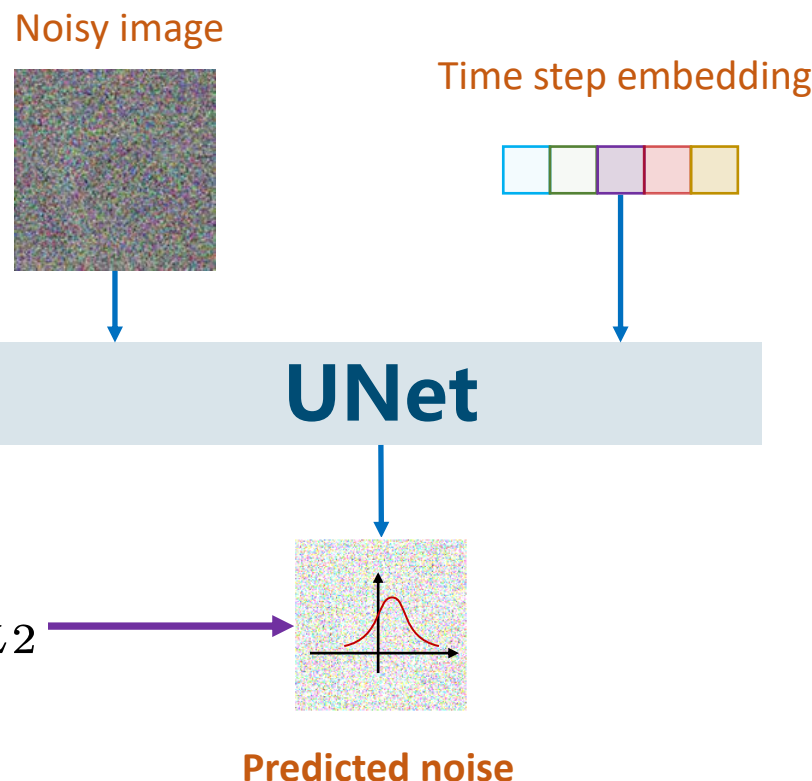
1. Randomly select a time step and encode it.



2. Add noise to image.

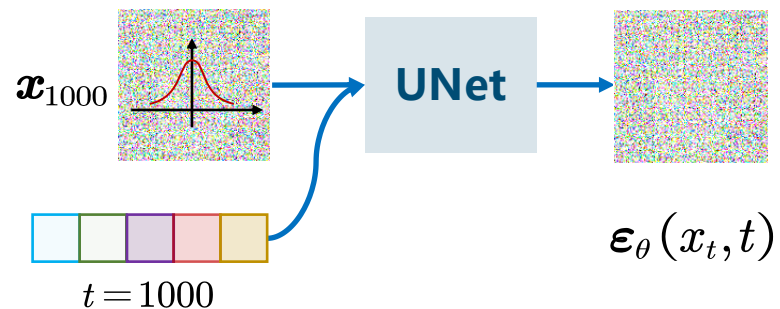


3. Train the UNet.



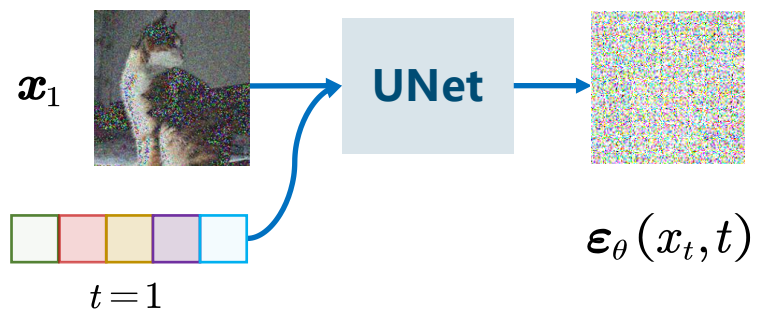
# Illustration of sampling

## 1. Iteratively denoise the image ( $T = 1000$ )



## 2. Iteratively denoise the image ( $T = 999..2$ )

## 3. Iteratively denoise the image ( $T = 1$ )



$$\mathbf{x}_{999} = \mathbf{x}_{1000} - \epsilon_{\theta}(\mathbf{x}_t, t)$$

$$\mathbf{x}_{t-1} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\alpha_t}} \left( \mathbf{x}_t - \frac{1 - \alpha_t}{\sqrt{1 - \bar{\alpha}_t}} \epsilon_{\theta}(\mathbf{x}_t, t) \right) + \sqrt{\beta_t} \epsilon$$

$$\mathbf{x}_0 = \mathbf{x}_1 - \epsilon_{\theta}(\mathbf{x}_t, t)$$

$$\mathbf{x}_{t-1} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\alpha_t}} \left( \mathbf{x}_t - \frac{1 - \alpha_t}{\sqrt{1 - \bar{\alpha}_t}} \epsilon_{\theta}(\mathbf{x}_t, t) \right)$$

# Reference

1. Ho J, Jain A, Abbeel P. Denoising diffusion probabilistic models. NeuraIPS, 2020.
2. Luo C. Understanding diffusion models: A unified perspective. arXiv, 2022.
3. Nichol A Q, Dhariwal P. Improved denoising diffusion probabilistic models. ICML, 2021.
4. <https://jalammar.github.io/illustrated-stable-diffusion/>
5. <https://lilianweng.github.io/posts/2021-07-11-diffusion-models/> (What are diffusion models? )
6. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ifCDXFdeaaM&t=210s> (李宏毅, 【生成式AI】 Diffusion Model 原理剖析 (1/4) (optional))
7. <https://kexue.fm/archives/9119>. (苏剑林, 生成扩散模型漫谈 (一) : DDPM = 拆楼 + 建楼)
8. <https://www.bilibili.com/video/BV19H4y1G73r> (sY\_007, 【较真系列】讲人话-Diffusion Model全解(原理+代码+公式))
9. <https://www.bilibili.com/video/BV1b541197HX> (deep\_thoughts, 54、Probabilistic Diffusion Model概率扩散模型理论与完整PyTorch代码详细解读)
10. <https://www.bilibili.com/video/BV1p24y1K7Pf> (Nik\_Li, 一个视频看懂扩散模型DDPM原理推导|AI绘画底层模型)



# The end

非常感谢你能看到这，希望该课件对你有帮助，视频讲解版在[B站](#)。

课件中出现的是我家的猫咪的照片，她已经陪伴了我很多年了，感谢她的友情出镜。o(\*￣▽￣\*)ブ

Thank you so much for seeing this, I hope the slide is helpful, the video explanation version is on [Bilibili](#).

The picture on the slide is of my cat, who has been with me for many years now, thanks for her friendly appearance! o(\*￣▽￣\*)ブ

“  
What I cannot create, I do not understand.  
”

——Richard Feynman