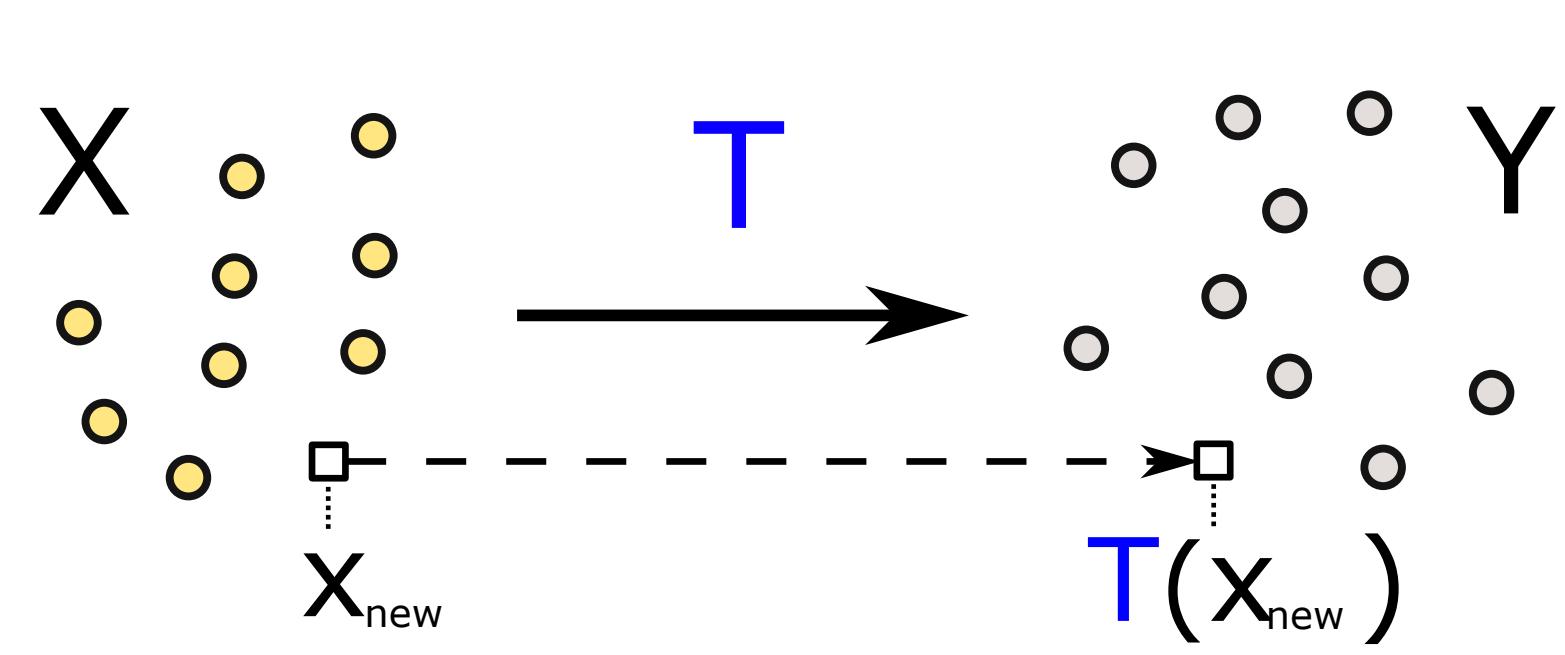


## I

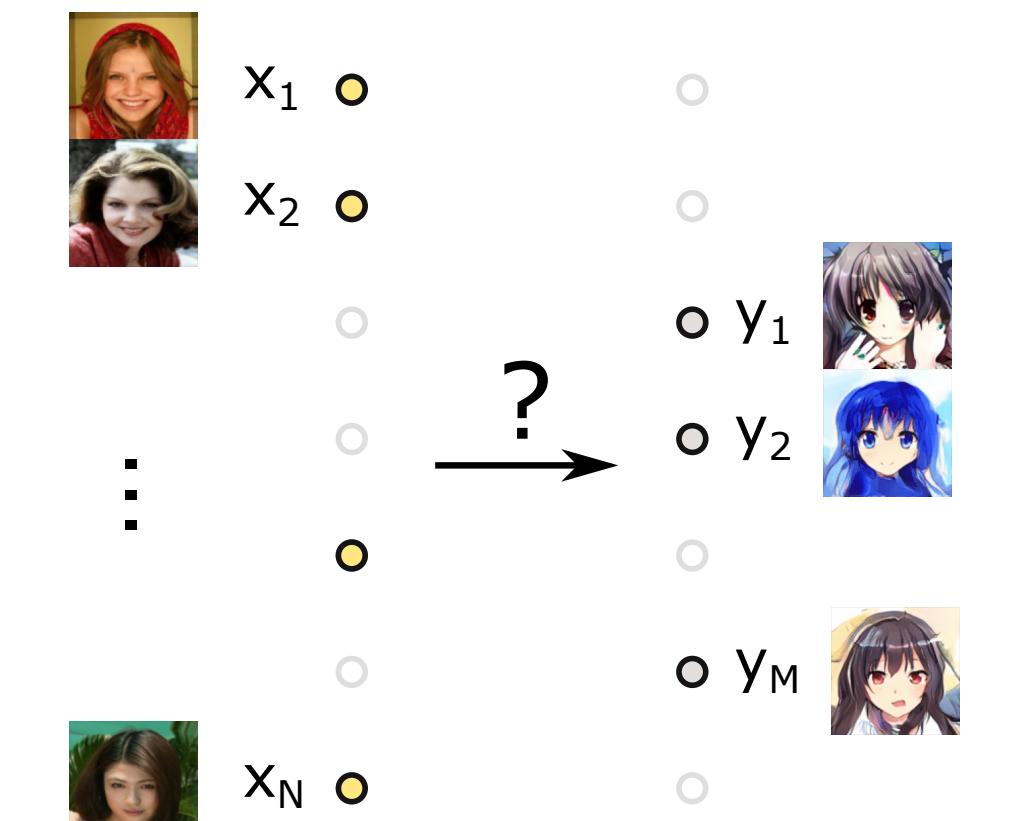
### Motivation: Unpaired Domain Translation



**The (informal) task:** given samples  $X, Y$  from two domains, construct a map  $T$  which can translate new samples from the input domain to the target domain.

#### Unpaired setup

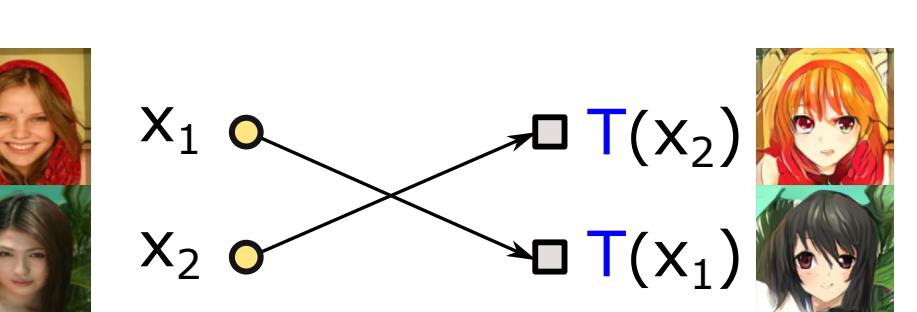
No paired training examples are available.



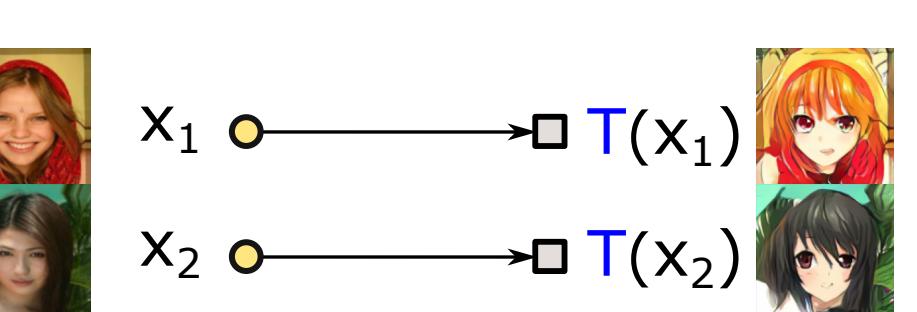
#### Main problem

Ambiguity in translations

*Bad solution (changes the content)*



*Good solution (keeps the content)*



## III

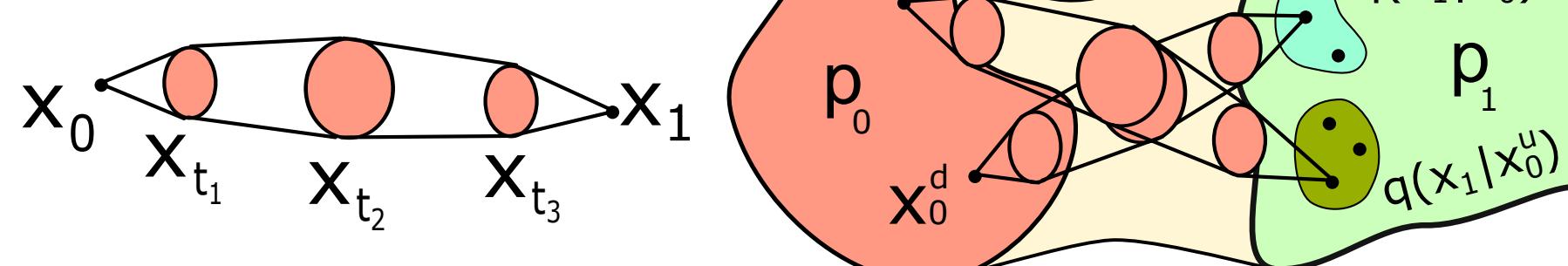
### Theory: Discrete in time Bridge Matching and D-IMF

#### Discrete Reciprocal Projection.

Makes a mixture of Discrete Brownian bridges  $p^{W^e}(x_{t_1}, \dots, x_{t_N} | x_0, x_1)$  with the distribution  $p(x_0, x_1)$  of discrete stochastic process  $q$  at times  $t=0$  and  $t=1$ .

Discrete Brownian Bridge

$$p^{W^e}(x_{t_1}, x_{t_2}, x_{t_3} | x_0, x_1).$$



#### Theorem (D-IMF)

Consider a sequence of discrete in time Markovian and Reciprocal projections:  $q^{2l+1} = \text{proj}_{\mathcal{M}}(q^{2l})$ ,  $q^{2l+2} = \text{proj}_{\mathcal{R}}(q^{2l+1})$ , that starts from  $q^0$ , s.t.,  $q^0(x_0, x_1) = q^{\text{init}}(x_0, x_1)$  has marginals  $p_0$  and  $p_1$ .

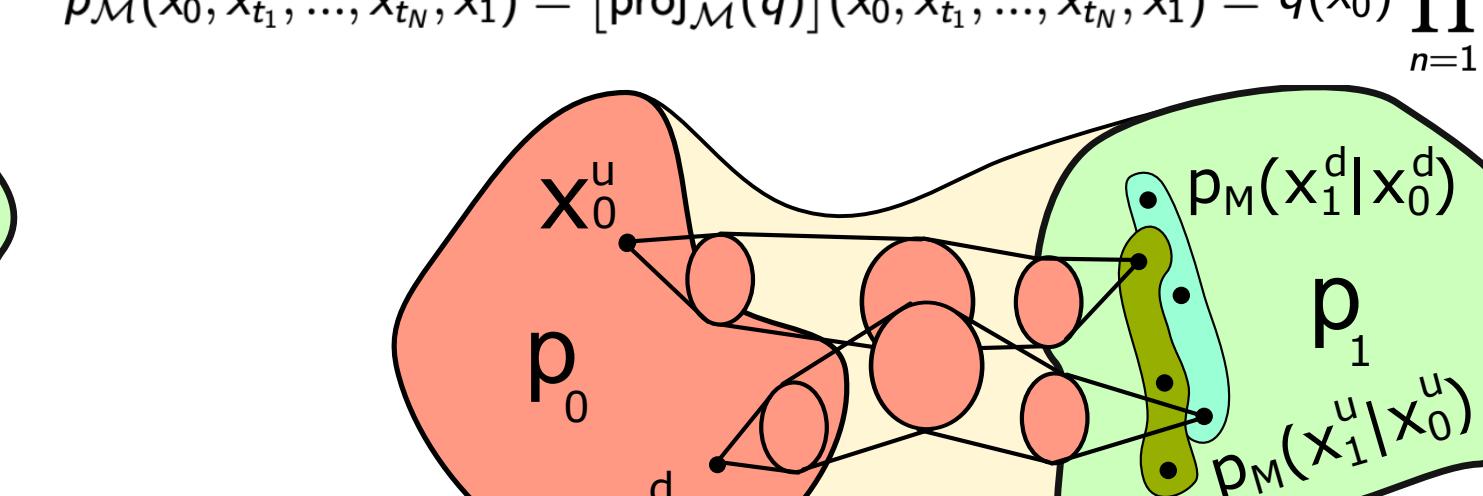
We call it **D-IMF** sequence.

Under mild assumptions D-IMF sequence converges in KL to  $p^*$ , where  $p^*(x_0, x_1)$  is a static SB solution between  $p_0$  and  $p_1$ , i.e.,  $\lim_{l \rightarrow \infty} \text{KL}(q^l(x_0, x_1) \| p^*(x_0, x_1)) = 0$ .

#### Discrete Markovian Projection.

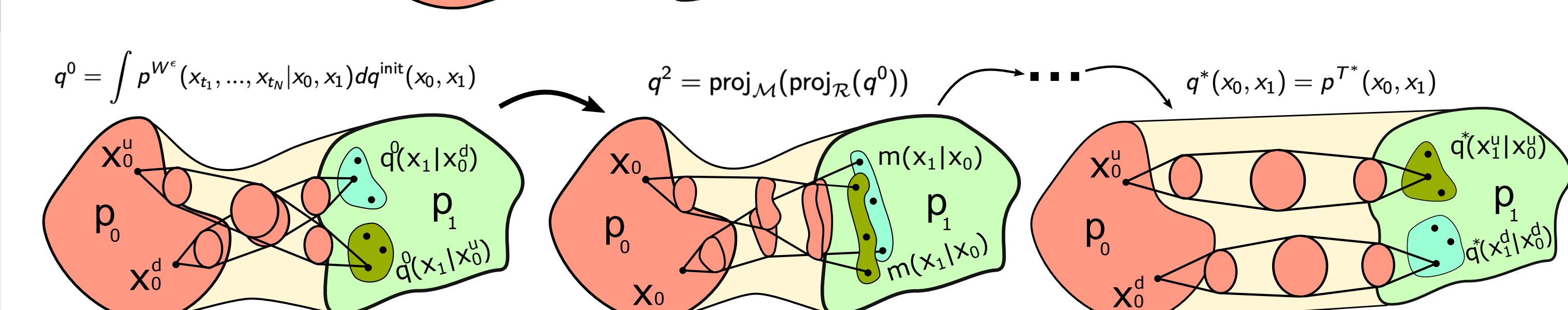
Finds the markovian discrete stochastic process  $p_{\mathcal{M}}$  which is the most similar to a process  $q$ .

$$p_{\mathcal{M}}(x_0, x_{t_1}, \dots, x_{t_N}, x_1) = [\text{proj}_{\mathcal{M}}(q)](x_0, x_{t_1}, \dots, x_{t_N}, x_1) = q(x_0) \prod_{n=1}^{N+1} q(x_{t_n} | x_{t_{n-1}})$$



#### Theorem (Reciprocal and Markovian fixed point)

Consider discrete in time stochastic process  $q$ . If  $q$  is not changed by both Reciprocal and Markovian projections, i.e.,  $q = \text{proj}_{\mathcal{M}}(q)$  and  $q = \text{proj}_{\mathcal{R}}(q)$ , then  $q(x_0, x_1)$  is the static Schrödinger Bridge.



## II

### Background: Schrödinger Bridges

**Static SB problem setup.** For two continuous distributions  $p_0$  and  $p_1$  on  $\mathbb{R}^D$  the Static Schrödinger Bridge Problem is:

$$\inf_{q \in \Pi(p_0, p_1)} \int \frac{\|x_0 - x_1\|^2}{2} dq(x_0, x_1) - \epsilon \text{Entropy}(q).$$

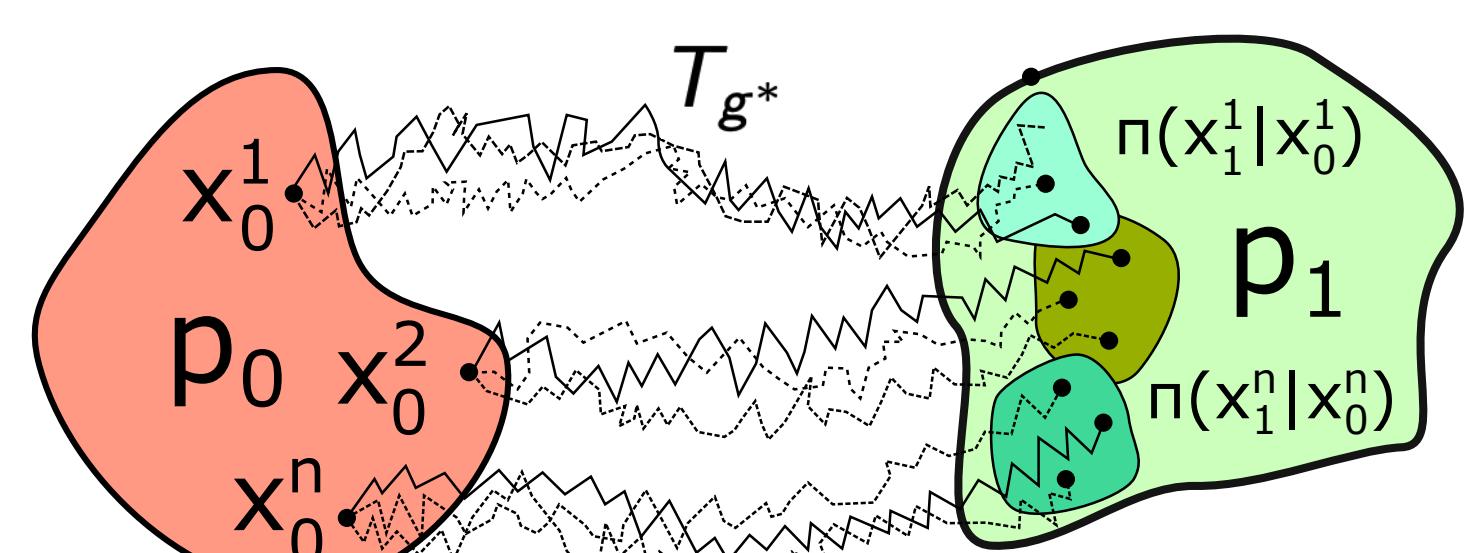
An equivalent dynamic formulation of this problem called the Schrödinger Bridge with Wiener prior (or just Schrödinger Bridge).

**SB problem setup with Wiener prior.** For two continuous distributions  $p_0$  and  $p_1$  on  $\mathbb{R}^D$ , the Schrödinger Bridge Problem with Wiener prior is:

$$\inf_{T_g \in \mathcal{D}(p_0, p_1)} \frac{1}{2\epsilon} \mathbb{E}_{T_g} \left[ \int_0^1 \|g(X_t, t)\|^2 dt \right]$$

$$T_g : dX_t = g(X_t, t) dt + \sqrt{\epsilon} dW_t.$$

where  $\mathcal{D}(p_0, p_1)$  is the set of diffusions with marginals  $p_0, p_1$  at  $t=0$  and  $t=1$ , respectively



The minimizer  $T^* = T_{g^*}$  is called the **Schrödinger Bridge** and  $p^*(x_0, x_1)$  is the solution to static SB problem.

Bridge Matching is a recent alternative to Diffusion Models. It learns a diffusion between two distributions  $p_0$  and  $p_1$ .

#### Reciprocal Projection

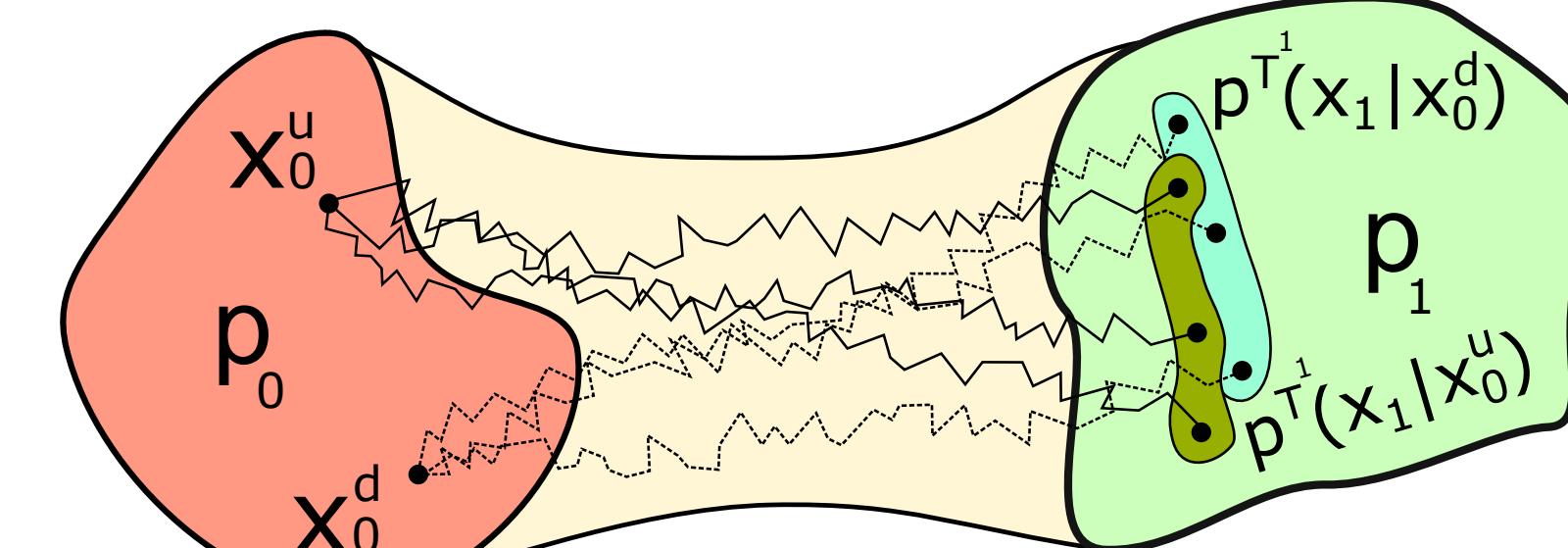
$$\text{proj}_{\mathcal{R}}(T) = \int W_{x_0, x_1}^\epsilon dp^T(x_0, x_1)$$

#### Markovian Projection

$$\text{proj}_{\mathcal{M}}(T) : dX_t = g_{\mathcal{M}}(X_t, t) dt + \sqrt{\epsilon} dW_t$$

$$g_{\mathcal{M}} = \underset{g}{\text{argmin}} \int \|g(x_t, t) - \frac{x_1 - x_t}{1-t}\|^2 dp^T(x_t, x_1)$$

Combination of Reciprocal and Markovian projections is called Bridge Matching, i.e.,  $BM(T) = \text{proj}_{\mathcal{M}}(\text{proj}_{\mathcal{R}}(T))$ .



The Schrödinger Bridge is the **only process** in  $\mathcal{D}(p_0, p_1)$  that isn't changed by both Reciprocal and Markovian projections, hence to solve SB it is sufficient to find a process  $T = T^*$ , s.t.  $T = \text{proj}_{\mathcal{M}}(\text{proj}_{\mathcal{R}}(T))$ .

### Background: Schrödinger Bridges via Bridge Matching

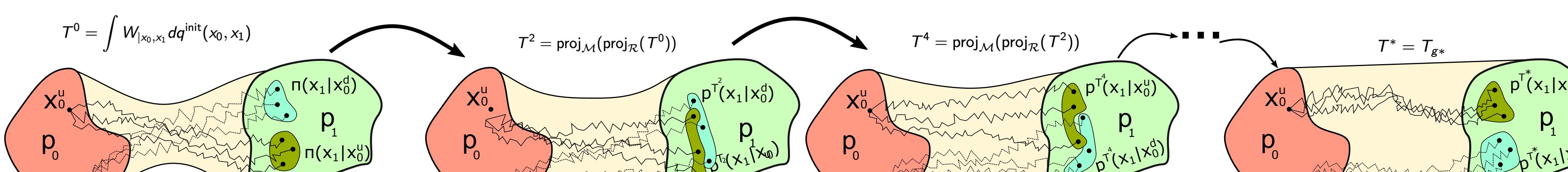
#### Iterative Diffusion Bridge Matching.

Consider a sequence of alternating Markovian and Reciprocal projections, starting from  $T^0$ , s.t.,  $T_{t=0,1}^0 = q^{\text{init}}(x_0, x_1)$  with  $p_0$  and  $p_1$  marginals.

Let us call it the IMF sequence.

$$T^{2l+1} = \text{proj}_{\mathcal{M}}(T^{2l}) \quad T^{2l+2} = \text{proj}_{\mathcal{R}}(T^{2l+1})$$

IMF sequence converges to a fixed point, i.e.,  $\lim_{l \rightarrow \infty} \text{KL}(T^l \| T^{l+1}) = 0$ . In other words it converges to the Schrödinger Bridge between  $p_0$  and  $p_1$ .



Practical implementation of this algorithm performs sequential Bridge Matching and is called Diffusion Schrödinger Bridge Matching (DSBM).

**Problem:** many NFE is required

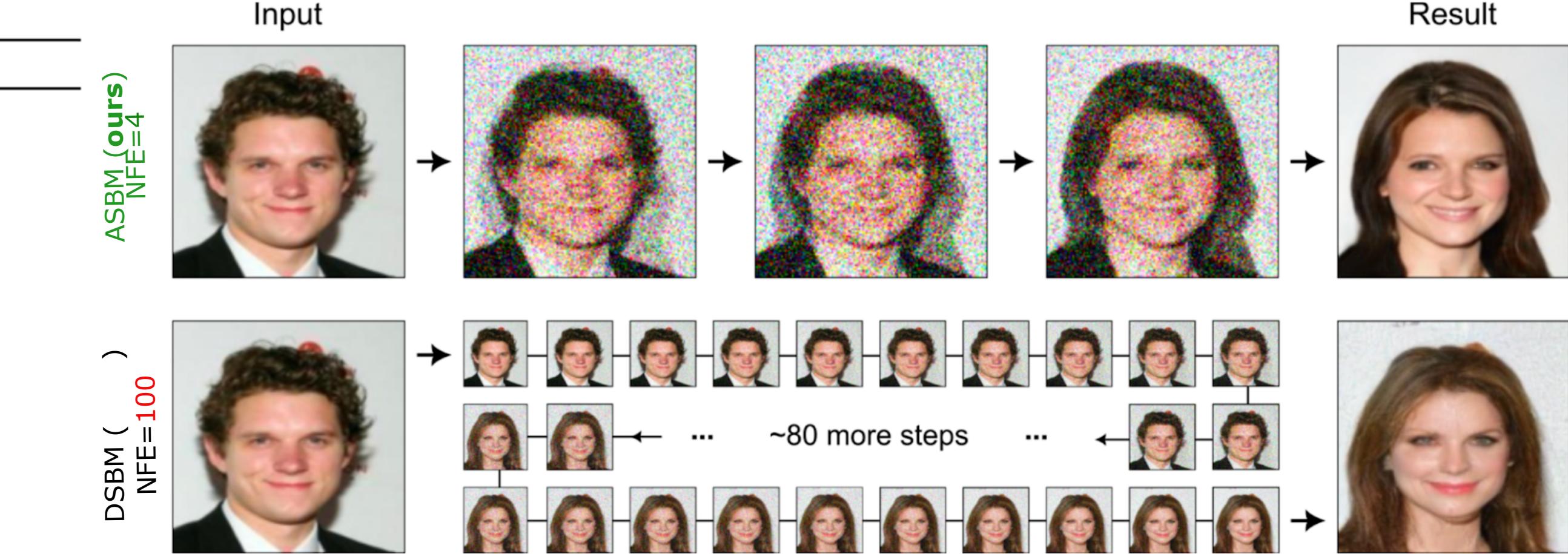
## IV

### Algorithm: Adversarial Schrödinger Bridge Matching

Reciprocal projection and sampling from it are available in closed form. Result of markovian projection is a sequence of transition kernels  $q(x_{t_n} | x_{t_{n-1}})$ . Each kernel is parametrized by a **conditional GAN**  $q_\theta(x_{t_n} | x_{t_{n-1}})$  as in DD-GAN model. To battle either  $p_0$  or  $p_1$  distribution shift we implement D-IMF with both **forward** and **backward** in time markovian projections.

#### Algorithm 1: Adversarial SB matching (ASBM).

**Input :** number of intermediate steps  $N$ ;  
initial process  $q^0(x_0, x_1, \dots, x_N, x_1)$  accessible by samples;  
number of outer iteration  $K \in \mathbb{N}$ ;  
forward transitional density network  $\{q_\theta(x_{t_n} | x_{t_{n-1}})\}_{n=1}^{N+1}$ ;  
backward transitional density network  $\{q_\eta(x_{t_{n-1}} | x_{t_n})\}_{n=1}^{N+1}$ ;  
**Output:**  $p_0(x_0) \prod_{n=1}^{N+1} q_\theta(x_{t_n} | x_{t_{n-1}}) \approx p_1(x_1) \prod_{n=1}^{N+1} q_\eta(x_{t_{n-1}} | x_{t_n}) \approx p^*(x_0, x_1, \dots, x_N, x_1)$ .  
**for**  $k = 0$  **to**  $K - 1$  **do**  
 $\{q_{\theta}(x_{t_n} | x_{t_{n-1}})\}_{n=1}^{N+1} := \arg \min_{q_\theta} \sum_{n=1}^{N+1} \mathbb{E}_{q(x_{t_n} | x_{t_{n-1}})} D_{\text{adv}}(q^{4k}(x_{t_n} | x_{t_{n-1}}) \| q_\theta(x_{t_n} | x_{t_{n-1}}))$   
Let  $q^{4k+1}$  be given by  $p_0(x_0) \prod_{n=1}^{N+1} q_\theta(x_{t_n} | x_{t_{n-1}})$ ;  
Let  $q^{4k+2}$  be given by  $p^{W^e}(x_{t_1}, \dots, x_{t_N} | x_0, x_1) q^{4k+1}(x_1, x_0)$ ;  
 $\{q_\eta(x_{t_{n-1}} | x_{t_n})\}_{n=1}^{N+1} = \arg \min_{q_\eta} \sum_{n=1}^{N+1} \mathbb{E}_{q(x_{t_{n-1}} | x_{t_n})} D_{\text{adv}}(q^{4k+2}(x_{t_{n-1}} | x_{t_n}) \| q_\eta(x_{t_{n-1}} | x_{t_n}))$ ;  
Let  $q^{4k+3}$  be given by  $p_1(x_1) \prod_{n=1}^{N+1} q_\eta(x_{t_{n-1}} | x_{t_n})$ ;  
Let  $q^{4k+4}$  be given by  $p^{W^e}(x_{t_1}, \dots, x_{t_N} | x_0, x_1) q^{4k+3}(x_0, x_1)$ ;



We call our algorithm Adversarial Schrödinger Bridge Matching (**ASBM**)

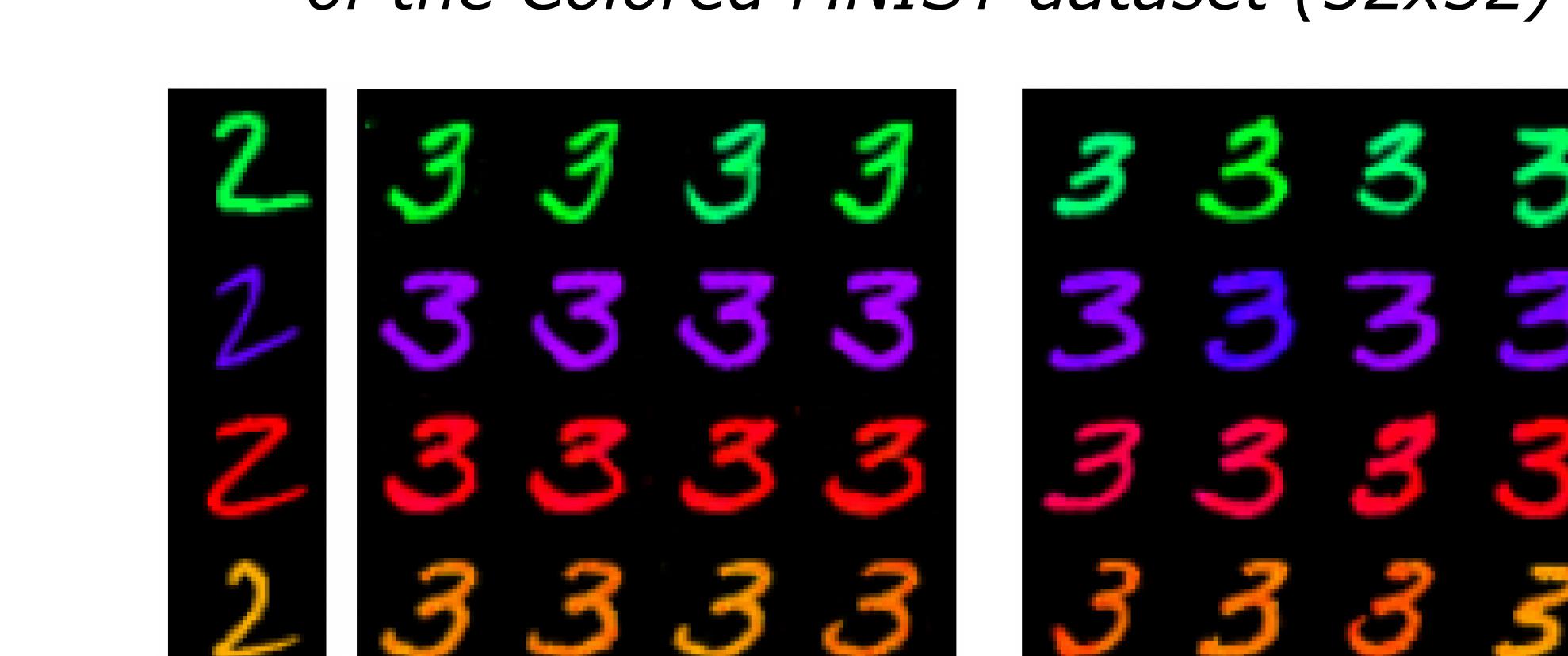
**Problem solved:** NFE=4 is required

## V

### Experiments: Unpaired Image-to-Image Translation

**Qualitative** results of our solver for solving the domain translation problem

- 1) between Men and Women on the Celeba dataset (128x128)
- 2) between digits "2" and digits "3" of the Colored MNIST dataset (32x32)



Input ASBM (ours)  $\epsilon = 1$  ASBM (ours)  $\epsilon = 10$



Model	ASBM (NFE=4)	DSBM (NFE=100)
$\epsilon = 1$	16.08	37.8
$\epsilon = 10$	14.73	89.19

Table 1: FID values male  $\rightarrow$  female translation on Celeba dataset with 128 resolution size