

Latent Diffusion (Stable-Diffusion) Model



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UCLA SCAI Lab Course Reading Group Winter 2023

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Introduction



High-Resolution Image Synthesis with Latent Diffusion Models
(CVPR'22)

- ▶ Operating on **latent space** of pre-trained auto-encoders, instead of on **pixel space**.
- ▶ Code: <https://github.com/CompVis/latent-diffusion> and <https://github.com/CompVis/stable-diffusion>

A YouTube video from **Lightning AI**:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AQrMWH8aC0Q>

Prerequisites:

- ▶ U-Net: Convolutional Networks for Biomedical Image Segmentation (MICCAI'15)

Related Works:

- ▶ GLIDE: Towards Photorealistic Image Generation and Editing with Text-Guided Diffusion Models (CVPR'21)
- ▶ **(CLIP)** Learning Transferable Visual Models From Natural Language Supervision (CVPR'21)
- ▶ **(DALLE)** Zero-Shot Text-to-Image Generation
- ▶ **(DALLE-2)** Hierarchical Text-Conditional Image Generation with CLIP Latents (CVPR'22)

Quick Recap: Generative Models

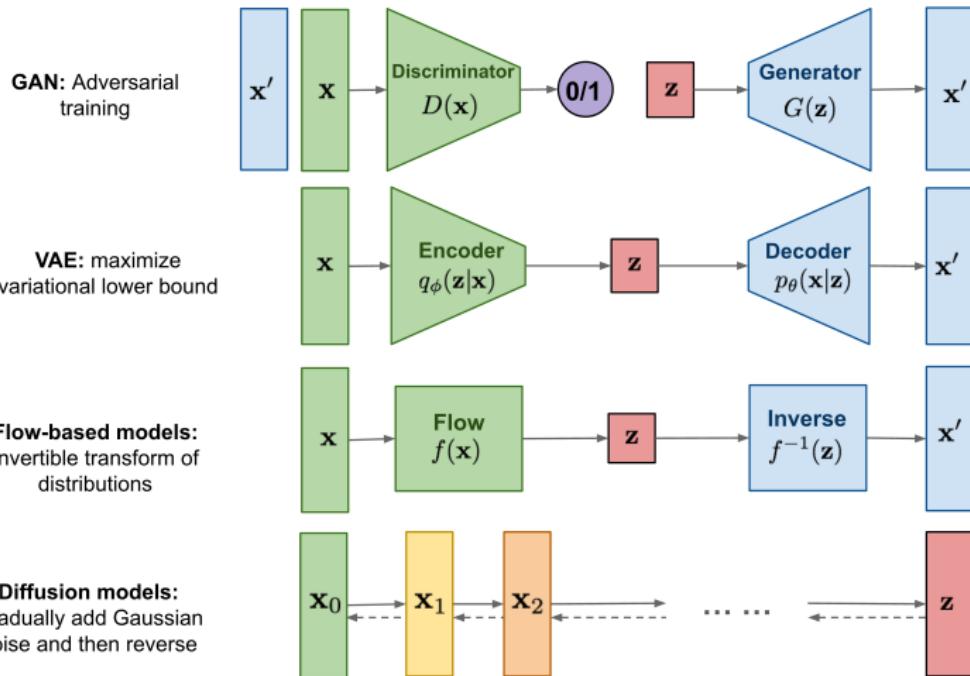


Figure: Overview of different types of generative models.¹

¹[lilianweng.github.io 2021 post on diffusion models](https://lilianweng.github.io/2021/post/diffusion-models/)

Table: Advantage & Disadvantage of the Generative Models

Model	likelihood-based?	Good At	Not Good At
GAN	NO	efficient sampling; perceptual quality	optimize; capture data distribution
VAE/ Flow- based	YES	capture data distribution; opti- mize	perceptual qual- ity
DMs	YES	capture data dis- tribution; percep- tual quality	computation cost

To put it in other words:

- ▶ Capture Full Data Distribution: being able to generate unobserved samples, e.g. ridiculous photos
- ▶ Perceptual Quality: high fidelity, looks like real and much detailed, e.g. producing photo-realistic images
- ▶ Optimize: stable training, easy to optimize.

Earlier days: being able to identify objects in images.

2015: Automated Image Captioning (Images to Natural Language Descriptions)

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2016: Images from Captions

- ▶ “We can do image to text, why not try doing text to image and see how it works?” – Elman Mansimov (AWS)
- ▶ Generating Images from Captions with Attention (ICLR’16)
 - ▶ LM: Bidirectional Attention RNN
 - ▶ IM: Conditional DRAW Network (stochastic RNN that consists of a sequence of latent variables)
- ▶ Blurred but reasonable results. Being able to generate something unobserved before. e.g. Blue school bus.



A yellow school bus
parked in a parking lot.



A red school bus parked
in a parking lot.



A green school bus
parked in a parking lot.



A blue school bus parked
in a parking lot.



The decadent chocolate
desert is on the table.



A bowl of bananas is on
the table.



A vintage photo of a cat.



A vintage photo of a dog.

Figure 3: **Top:** Examples of changing the color while keeping the caption fixed. **Bottom:** Examples of changing the object while keeping the caption fixed. The shown images are the probabilities $\sigma(c_T)$. Best viewed in colour.

AI Art isn't new. e.g. Morphing portraits, style transfer, etc.

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2021: OpenAI introduced DALL-E

- ▶ Usage: <https://github.com/openai/DALL-E>
- ▶ Source code NOT released.
- ▶ Not diffusion model yet. GPT-like model, auto-regressively generating an image from text + start of an image.

2021: GLIDE comes after: arxiv.org/abs/2112.10741

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<https://github.com/openai/glide-text2im>

Prompt Engineering: the craft of communicating with these zero-shot pre-trained deep learning models.

The successor of DALL·E in 2022 is DALL·E-2 (<https://openai.com/dall-e-2/>). With:

- ▶ Higher resolution;
- ▶ Greater comprehension;
- ▶ New capabilities e.g. in-painting.

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Latent (Stable) Diffusion is probably not the best model, but it has a great advantage being **open-sourced** (and released parameters). Therefore, everyone adapted their model and play with this version of text-to-image generator (e.g. <https://nvlай.net/>).

- ▶ Note: can do much more than text-to-image generation.
(Condition can be more than text.)

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And in a way, these models help reveal “how AI understands our world”.

Time	Model	Availability
Dec 2021	Stable/Latent Diffusion	official code
Mar 2022	MidJourney	no paper yet
Apr 2022	DALL·E-2	unofficial code

Table: The star AI painting tools in year 2022.

Latent Diffusion





Figure: Input: Random Noise (of the size of the image); Output Sequence: De-noised result from the previous step; Final Output: Image. *Trained via learning parameters to apply noise to images iteratively until it is complete noise, and inference by going through the opposite way.* (from video YouTube Video mentioning Imagen)

Diffusion Process: go from little noise to more noise.

Backward Diffusion Process: the reverse, from more noisy version to clearer image.

Why having T steps?

Diffusion Process: go from little noise to more noise.

Backward Diffusion Process: the reverse, from more noisy version to clearer image.

Why having T steps?

- ▶ Breaking-down a hard problem (generating images from noise).
- ▶ Easier to inject condition (e.g. text information) gradually than all at once.

Belong to the class of likelihood-based probabilistic models.

Learn a data distribution $p(x)$ by gradually denoising a normally-distributed variable x_T , i.e. learning the **reverse process** of a fixed Markov Chain of length T .

$$L_{DM} = \mathbb{E}_{x, \epsilon \sim \mathcal{N}(0,1), t} \left[\|\epsilon - \epsilon_\theta(x_t, t)\|_2^2 \right],$$

where t is uniformly sampled from $\{1, 2, \dots, T\}$, and the models can be interpreted as an equally-weighted sequence of denoising autoencoders $\epsilon_\theta(x_t, t)$ (ϵ_θ is typically implemented as **U-Net**), trained to predict the denoised version of x_t , namely x . *The above version works well in **image** settings.*

Diffusion models are capable of modeling conditional distributions $p(x|y)$ via using a conditional denoising autoencoder $\epsilon_\theta(x_t, t, y)$.

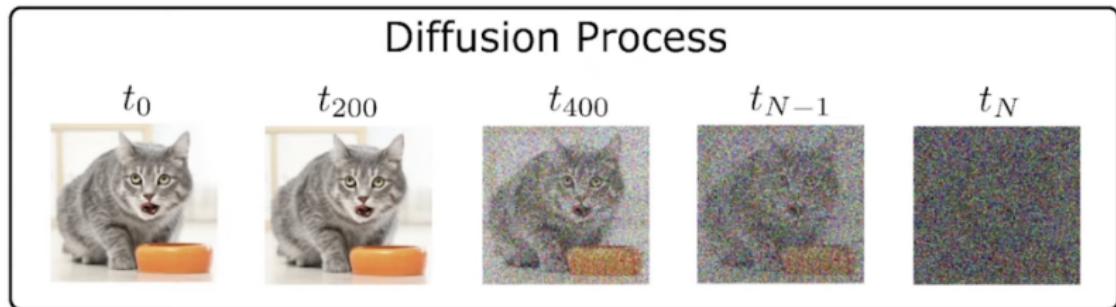


Figure: Diffusion Process. Illustration comes from Lightning AI YouTube video.

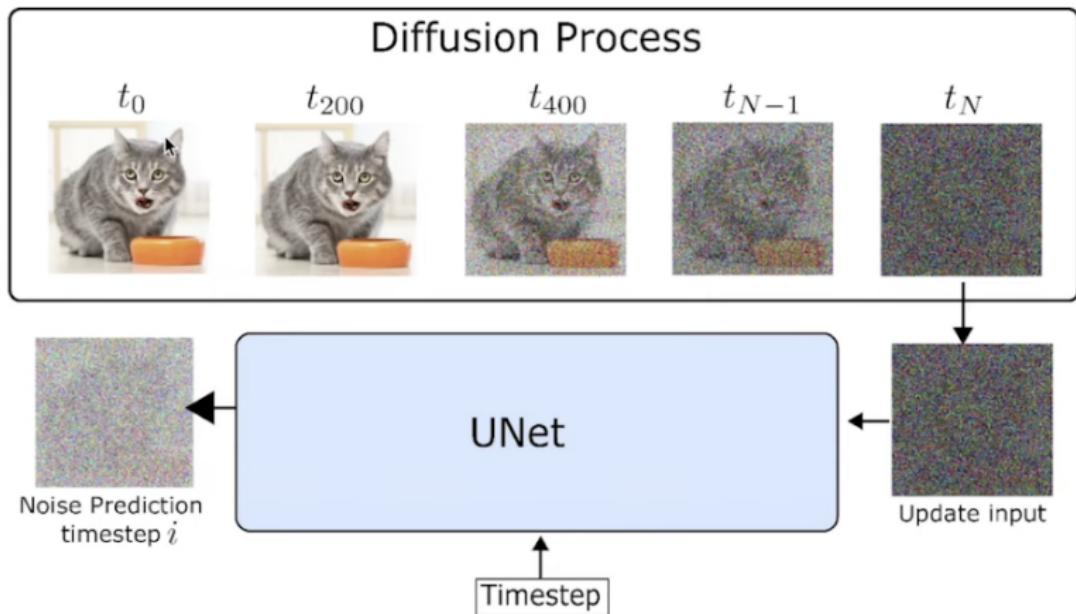


Figure: Backward Diffusion Process in general. Illustration comes from Lightning AI YouTube video.

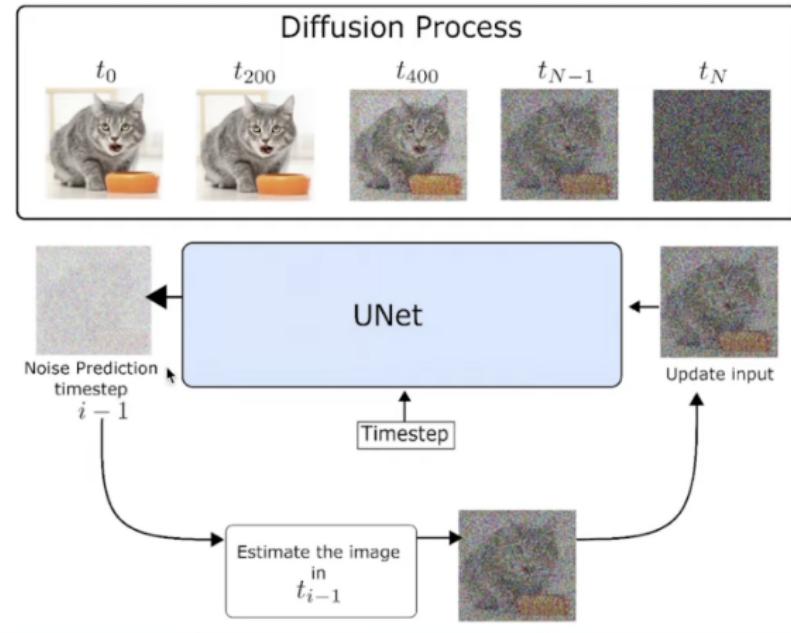


Figure: Backward Diffusion Process iteration i . Illustration comes from Lightning AI YouTube video.

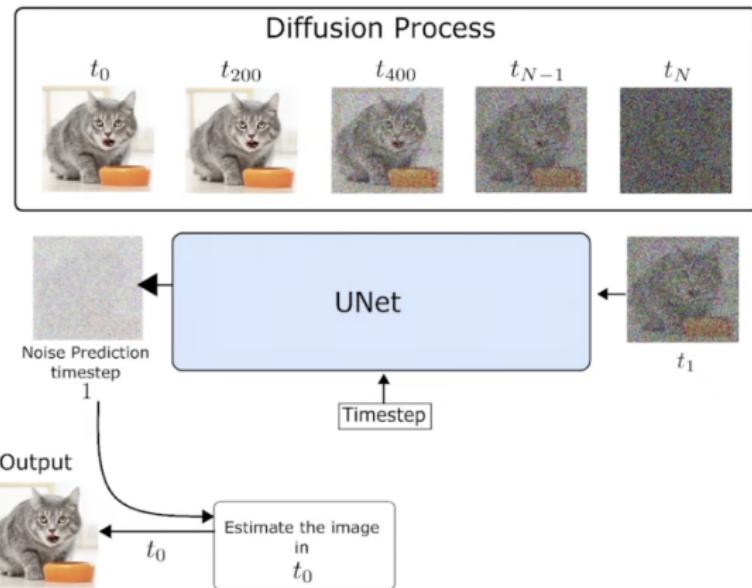


Figure: Backward Diffusion Process gets the final outcome.
Illustration comes from Lightning AI YouTube video.

$$L_{DM} = \mathbb{E}_{x,\epsilon \sim \mathcal{N}(0,1),t} \left[\|\epsilon - \epsilon_\theta(x_t, t)\|_2^2 \right]$$

The most powerful DMs are often computationally demanding.

- ▶ Costly Training: UNet has typically $\approx 800M$ parameters; the model takes hundreds of GPU days to train, prone to spend excessive amounts of capacity on modeling imperceptible details;²
- ▶ Costly Evaluation: cost a lot of time and memory, must run the same architecture sequentially for many of steps.
- ▶ e.g. Diffusion Models Beat GANs on Image Synthesis (NeurIPS'21) takes 150 - 1000 *V100 days* to train, 25 - 1000 steps to evaluate.

²This is because of the Mode-Covering behavior (reference)

Minimize difference between $Q(x)$ and $P(x)$ at data distribution
 $P(x) > 0$:

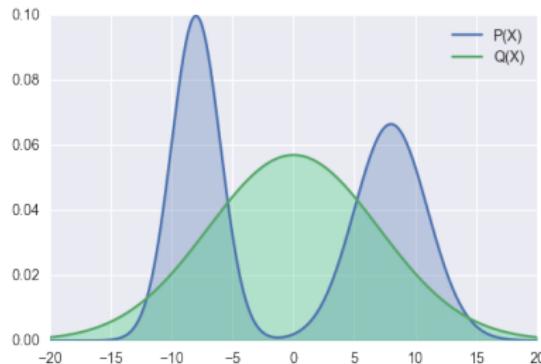
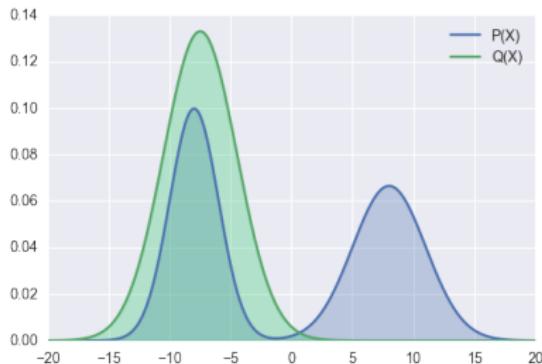


Figure: Bad v.s. Good mode-covering. On the left (bad) example, the right hand side **mode** is not covered by $Q(x)$, but it is the case that $P(x) > 0$. (from agustinus.kristia.de)

This behavior makes the DMs costly.

Previous solutions of the cost:

- ▶ Weighted importance of steps. (still expensive)

$$L_{DM} = \mathbb{E}_{x, \epsilon \sim \mathcal{N}(0,1), t} \left[\lambda(t) \|\epsilon - \epsilon_\theta(x_t, t)\|_2^2 \right]$$

- ▶ Having an extra model to learn upsampling & sharpening of images. (still working on image space) e.g. GLIDE.

Observation: Most bits of a digital image correspond to imperceptible details, but we still need to train and evaluate on all pixels if we work on pixel spaces.

Highlighted Novelty: Do Diffusion on **Latent** Space, and accept more general types of conditions.

- ▶ Operating on latent space (perceptually equivalent space) of powerful pre-trained auto-encoders, instead of directly on pixel space (*compared with standard Diffusion Models*).
- ▶ **Less Costly:** Fast sampling, efficient training, one-step decoding to image space.
- ▶ **More Flexibility:** More general conditions. (Besides, operation on latent space makes it easier to add other signals.)

Three Major Components, trained **separately**:

- ▶ Autoencoder: Implemented as Variational Autoencoder (VAE); Handling perceptual image compression.
 - ▶ Encoder \mathcal{E} , Decoder \mathcal{D}
 - ▶ $z = \mathcal{E}(x)$ where the RGB image $x \in \mathbb{R}^{H \times W \times 3}$ turns into latent representation $z \in \mathbb{R}^{h \times w \times c}$, while $\tilde{x} = \mathcal{D}(z)$ tries to reconstruct x .
 - ▶ Some regularization terms applied (e.g. KL-penalty towards a standard normal) to avoid arbitrarily high-variance.
- ▶ Denoiser: **Latent Diffusion Models**

$$L_{LDM} = \mathbb{E}_{\mathcal{E}(x), \epsilon \sim \mathcal{N}(0,1), t} \left[\|\epsilon - \epsilon_\theta(z_t, t)\|_2^2 \right],$$

where the neural backbone ϵ_θ of LDM is realized as a time-conditional attention UNet.

- ▶ Conditioning Encoder: can be arbitrary encoder that produces a sequence of tokens.

DMs are capable of modeling conditional distribution $p(z|y)$, by using a conditional denoiser $\epsilon_\theta(z_t, t, y)$.

LDMs propose to augment the UNet backbone implementing ϵ_θ with the cross-attention mechanism. Q , K , V are projection of $\phi_i(z_t)$, $\tau_\theta(y)$, $\tau_\theta(y)$ respectively, where $\phi_i(z_t)$ is the flattened intermediate representation of the U-Net implementing ϵ_θ .

$$L_{LDM} = \mathbb{E}_{\mathcal{E}(x), \epsilon \sim \mathcal{N}(0,1), t} \left[\|\epsilon - \epsilon_\theta(z_t, t, \tau_\theta(y))\|_2^2 \right],$$

τ_θ is a domain specific encoder used to project y , e.g. τ_θ can be transformers when y are text prompts.

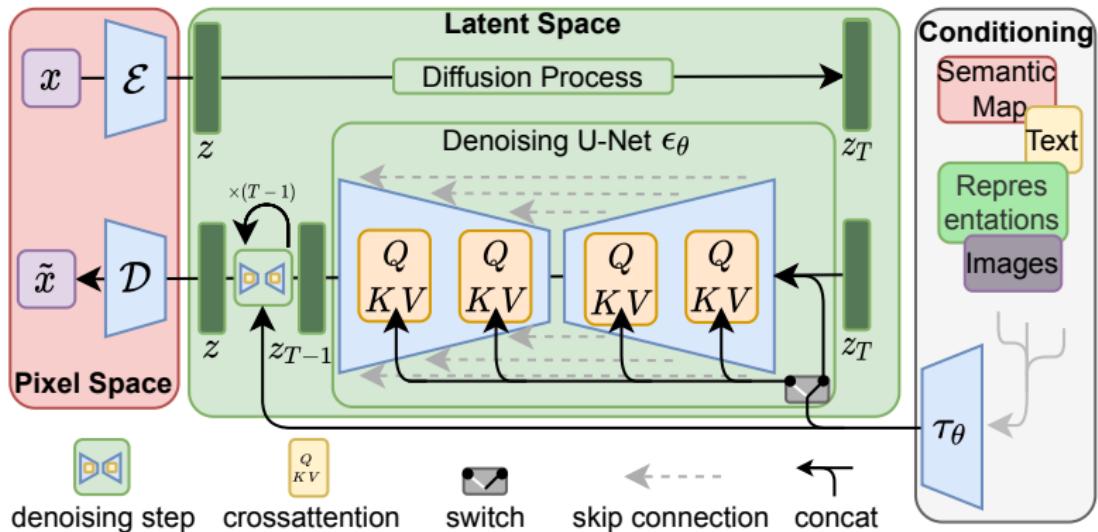


Figure: Figure 3 in the original paper.

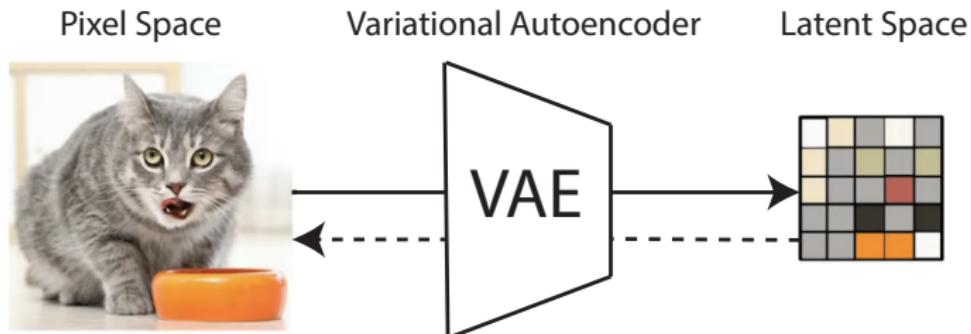
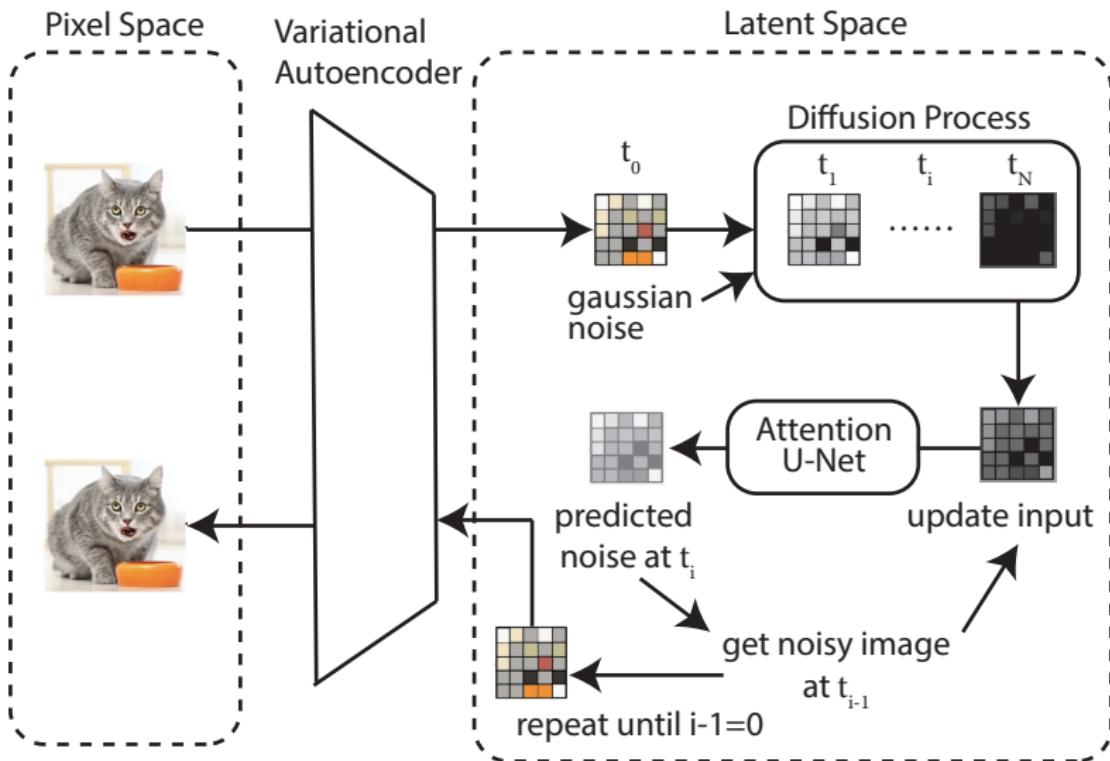
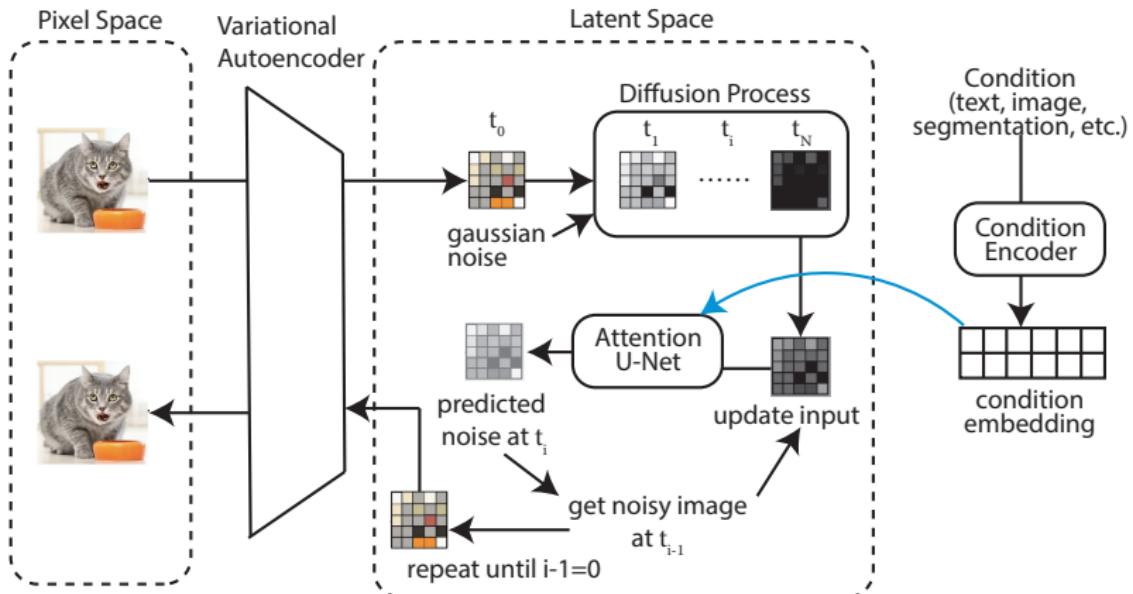


Figure: The role autoencoder plays in the model. Note: we actually use **separated** encoder \mathcal{E} and decoder \mathcal{D} . But this detail is not illustrated in this figure precisely for simplicity concern.





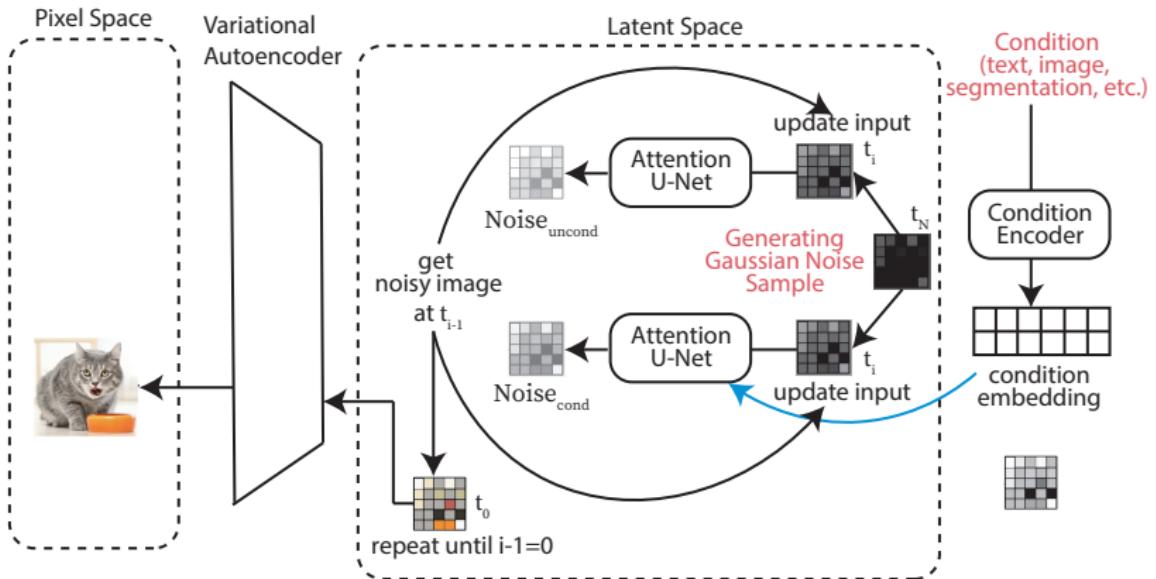


Figure: $Noise = Noise_{uncond} + \beta(Noise_{cond} - Noise_{uncond})$

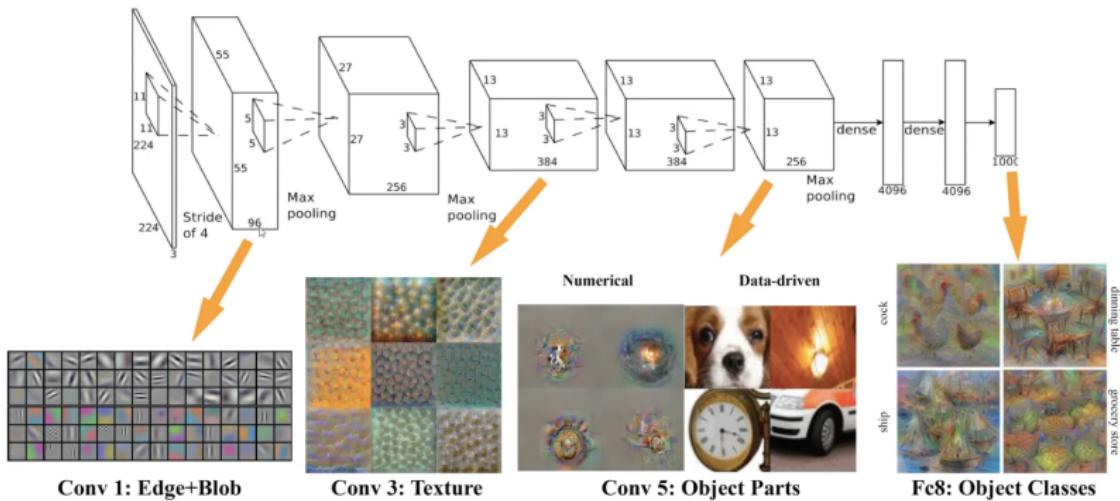


Figure: An example of a convolutional-based model. Image from YouTube. **U-Net** is a special kind of convolutional-based model.

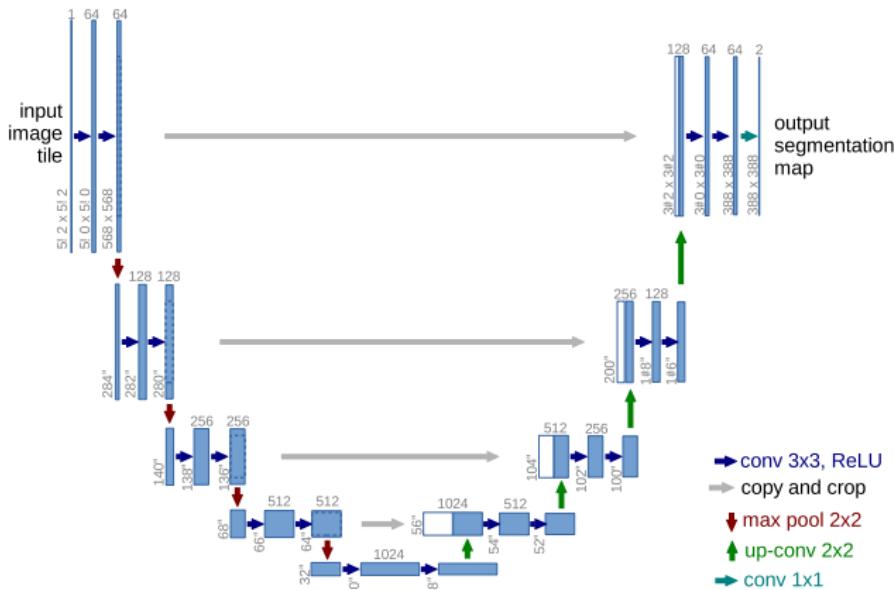


Figure: Blue box: a multi-channel feature map; White box: copied feature maps. Very common tool for image segmentation. Preserves the dimensionality.

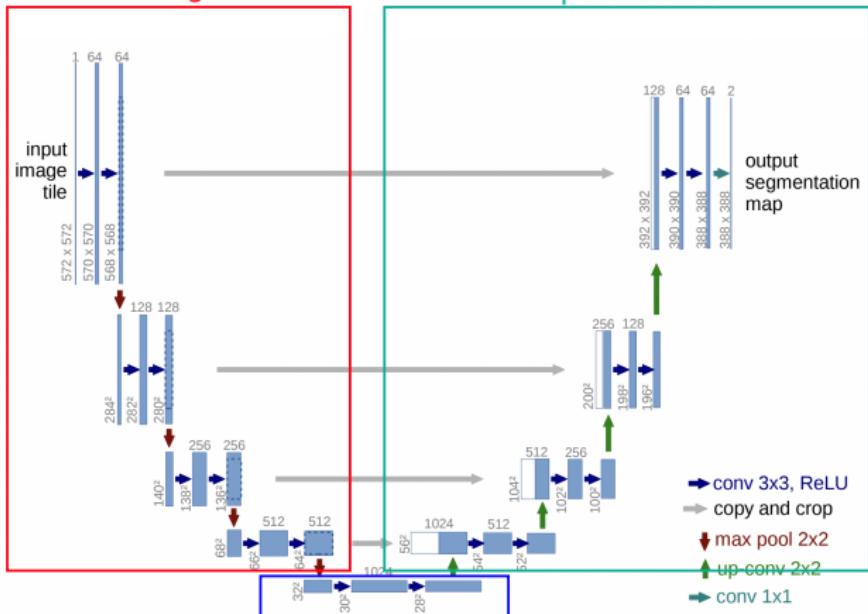
Quick Recap: U-Net

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decreasing size
increasing feature
capture context

increasing size
decreasing feature
combining contextual information
enables localization
Expansive Block

Contracting Block



Bottleneck
keep the same size
increasing feature
capture context

UCLA

How LDM uses Unet?

LDM changes convolution + ReLu layers by **ResNet+Spatial Transformer** layers.

LDM adds timestep information and context information.

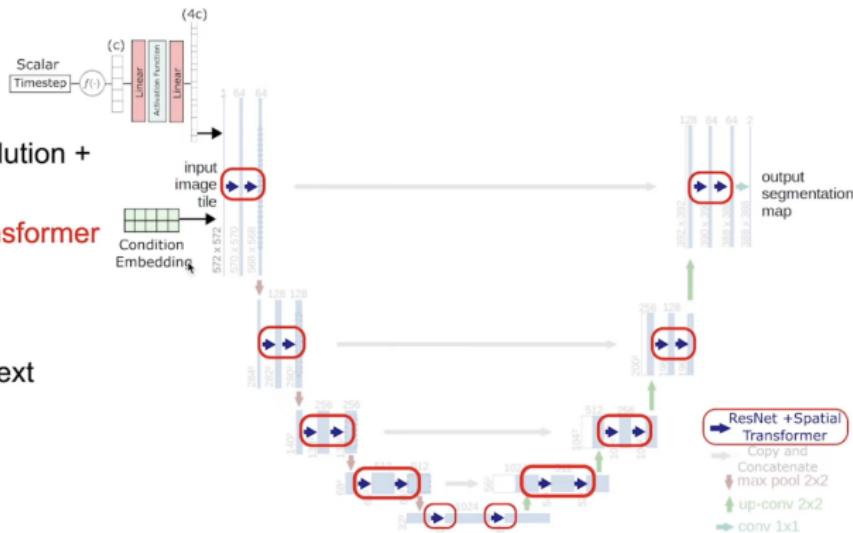


Figure: from Lightning AI video. *Context embedding* is the *condition embedding*.

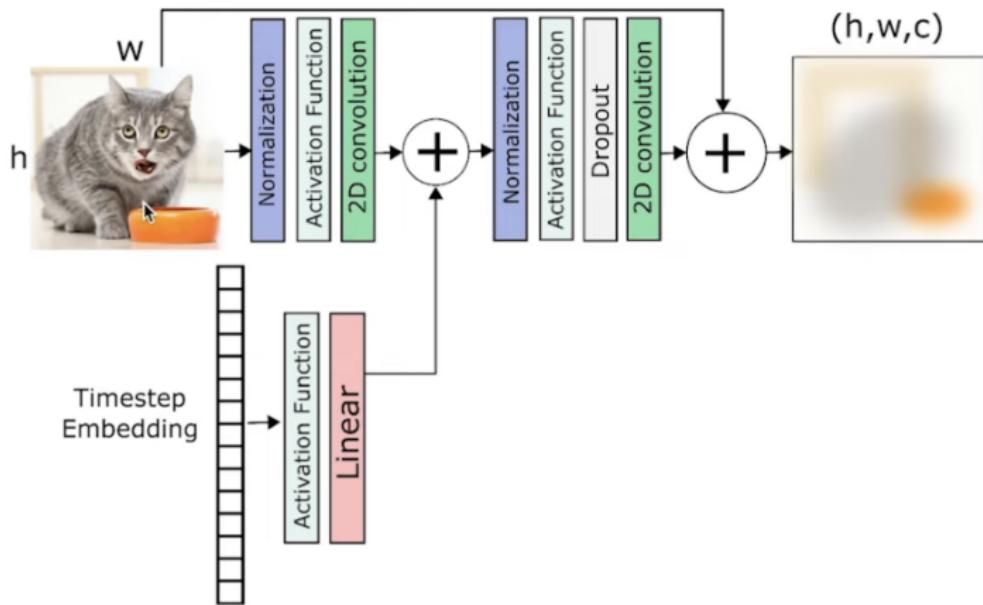


Figure: from Lightning AI video. Takes in time-step embedding.

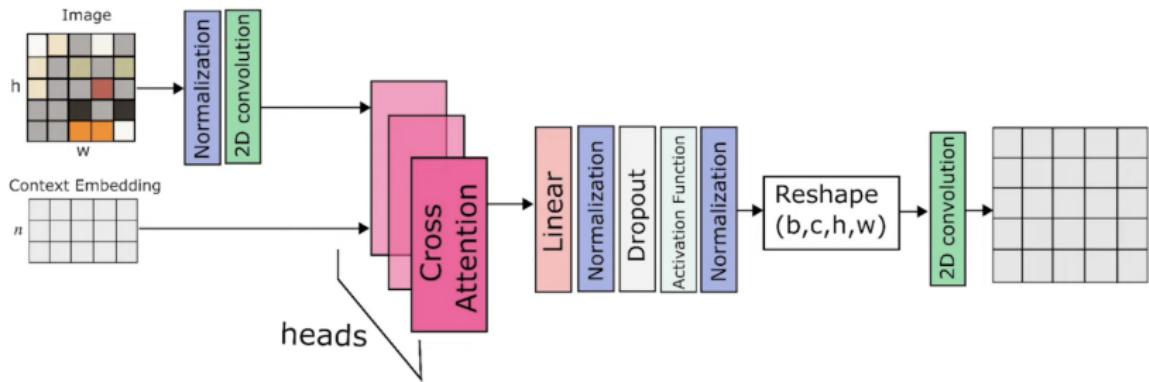


Figure: from Lightning AI video. Takes in context (condition) embedding.

Quick Recap: Attention

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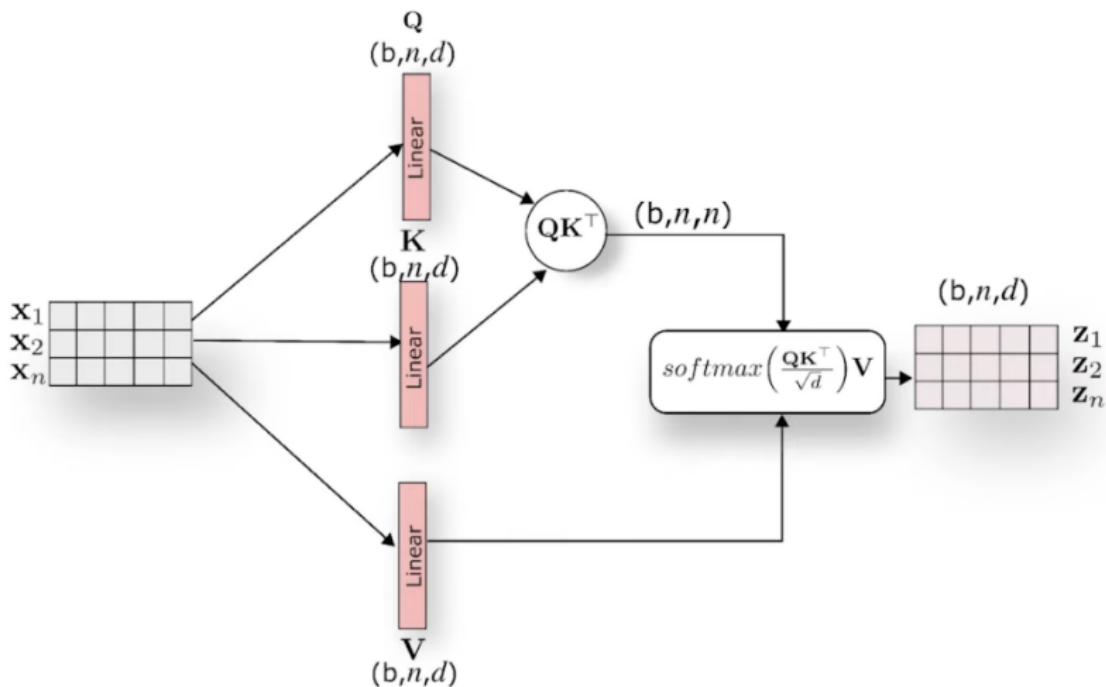


Figure: from Lightning AI video.

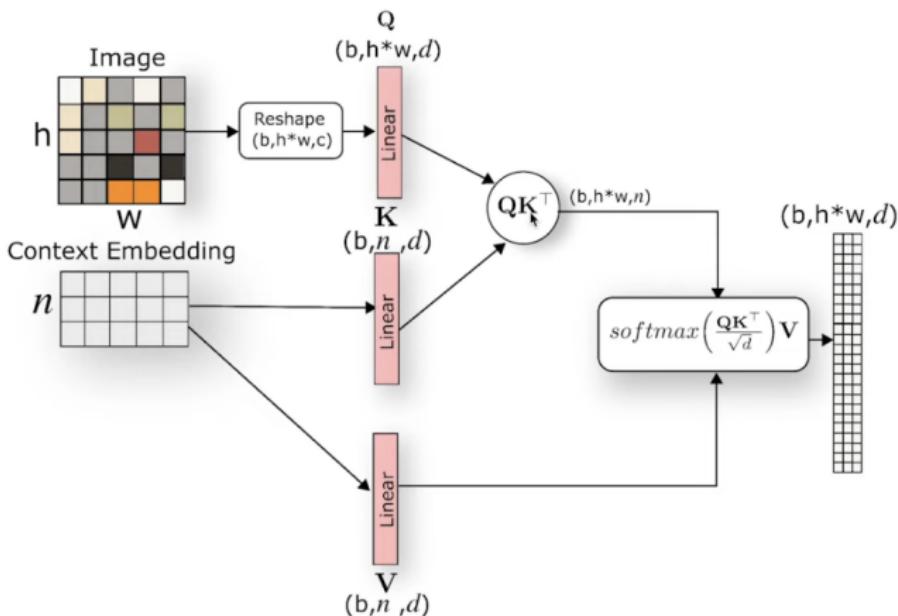
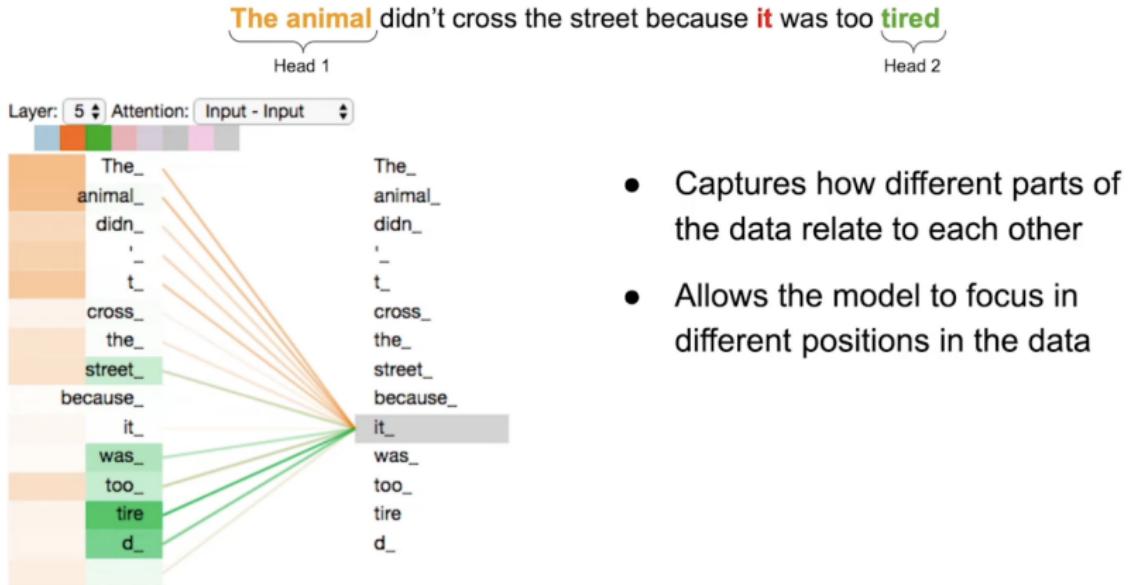


Figure: from Lightning AI video. Q from image embedding, K and V both from context (condition) embedding.

Quick Recap: Multi-Head Attention

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- Captures how different parts of the data relate to each other
- Allows the model to focus in different positions in the data

Figure: from Lightning AI video. For more examples like this visit [this blog](#).

A **Hedgehog** crossing the **street**



Figure: from Lightning AI video.

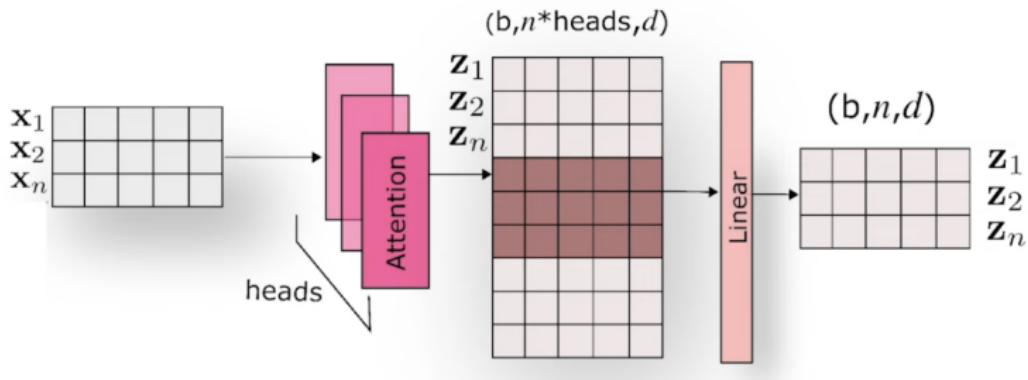


Figure: from Lightning AI video. Allows for more flexible attention.

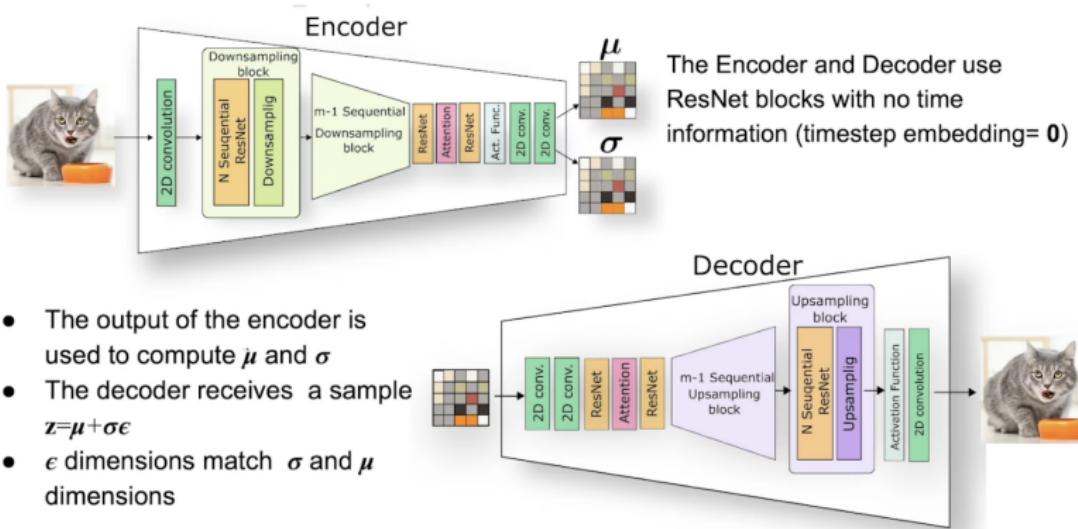


Figure: from Lightning AI video. Note: μ and σ can be vector instead of matrices, making implementation easier.

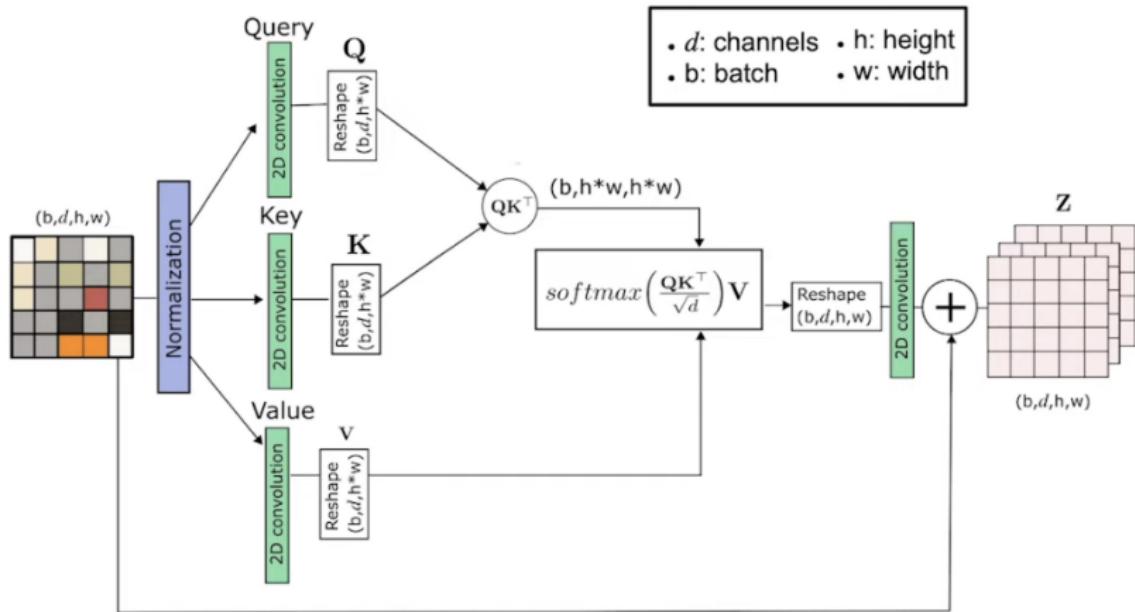


Figure: from Lightning AI video. Attention mechanism in the VAE.

The condition encoder can be arbitrary in theory. e.g. Can be a BERT transformer when condition is text.

The condition can be text or layout, thus they chose to implement the condition encoder as CLIP.

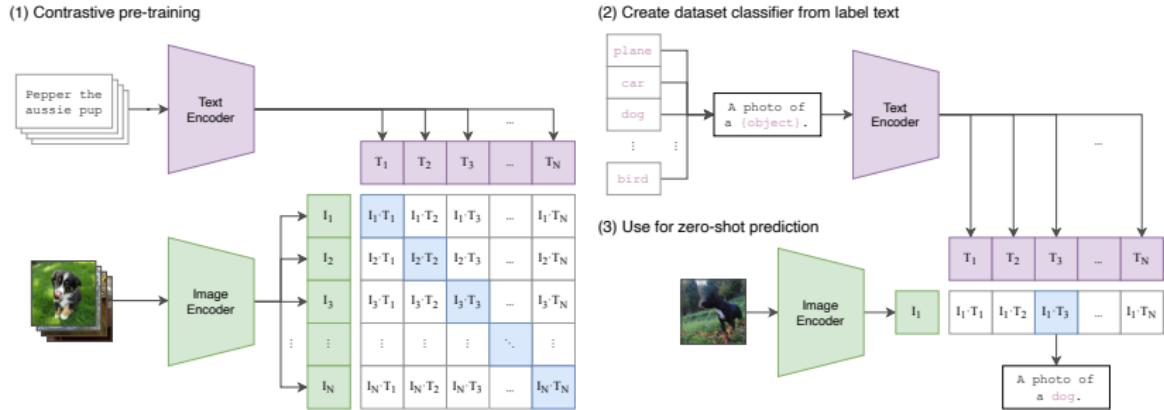


Figure: Standard image models jointly train an image encoder and a linear classifier, whereas CLIP jointly trains an image encoder and a text encoder, to predict the correct pairings of *(image, text)*. Enables zero-shot prediction at inference stage.

Components:

- ▶ Text Encoder: transformers
- ▶ Image Encoder: different variants of ResNets, and Visual Transformer (ViT)
 - ▶ Visual transformers divide images into small blocks processed as “words”.

Besides:

- ▶ Contrastive-learning framework.
- ▶ The model shows in different flavors, also do ensembles to achieve higher performance.
- ▶ Linear probing could be replaced by a classification layer that needs fine-tune.
- ▶ Prompt engineering matters (a lot).

Quick Recap: CLIP Performance

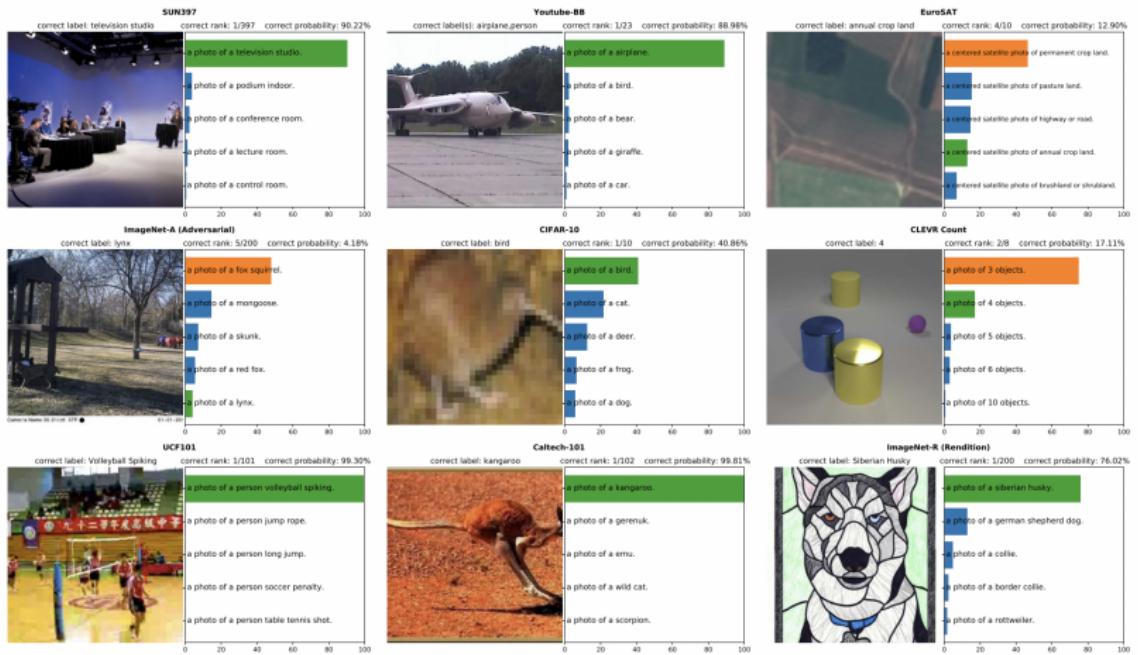


Figure: Zero-shot results. Selected from CLIP paper Figure 21 in their Appendix. Not always good on some fine-grained classification tasks.

- ▶ Scaling: continued improvement on Zero-Shot CLIP to reach overall SOTA performance will require 1000x increase in compute. (current hardware infeasible)
- ▶ Not amazing on all tasks. e.g. trouble with MNIST. Limited by training data set's coverage.
- ▶ No caption generation, only caption retrieval (i.e. select text, not compose new text).
- ▶ Does not address any problem (e.g. data efficiency problem, fairness problem etc.) in deep learning.

- ▶ Image-Searching Engine. (e.g., “car driving in a wood”)
- ▶ Can be used as a discriminator in a GAN framework.

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- ▶ Can be used as a discriminator in a GAN framework.
- ▶ VQ-GAN+CLIP: a powerful model to create image from text. (An Online Tutorial available)
 - ▶ VQ-GAN: generating images that are similar to others (no prompt)
 - ▶ CLIP: text to image
 - ▶ Implementations were made public on Google Colab, no coding needed.
- ▶ etc.

The three components are trained separately. In particular:

1. The autoencoders (VAE \mathcal{E} and \mathcal{D}) are trained first, thus the model knows how to convert images from pixel space to latent space.
2. The denoiser ϵ_θ and condition encoder τ_θ are jointly optimized.

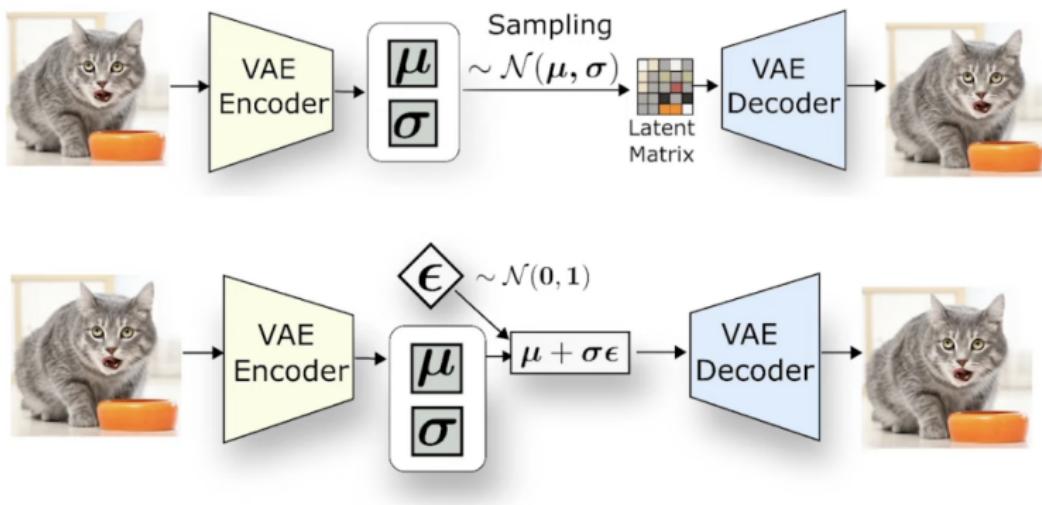


Figure: from Lightning AI video. Re-parameterization trick.

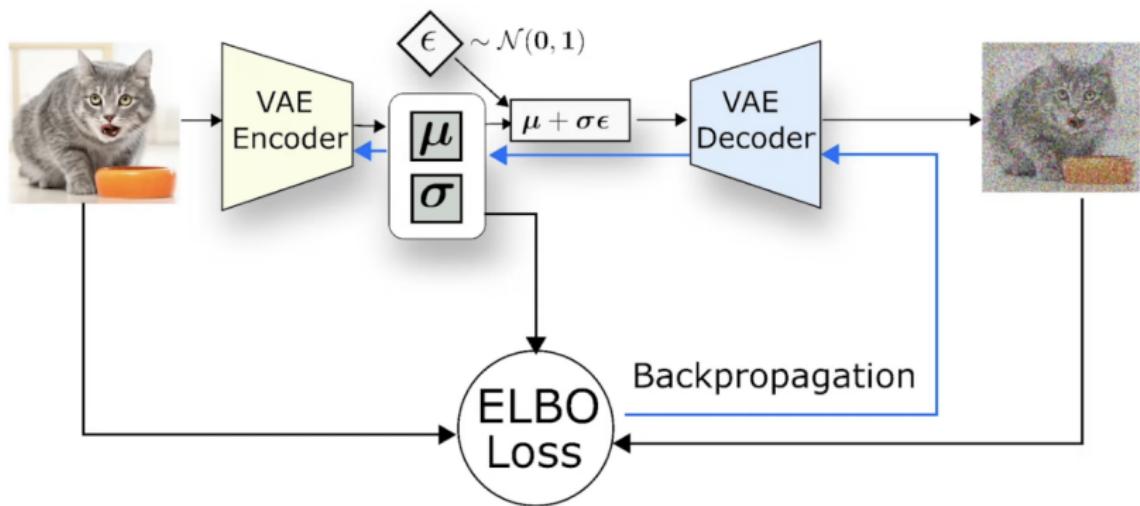


Figure: from Lightning AI video. Evidence Lower Bound Objective (ELBO): $likelihood(\text{input} - \text{output}) - KLD(\mathcal{N}(\mu, \sigma) || \mathcal{N}(0, 1))$

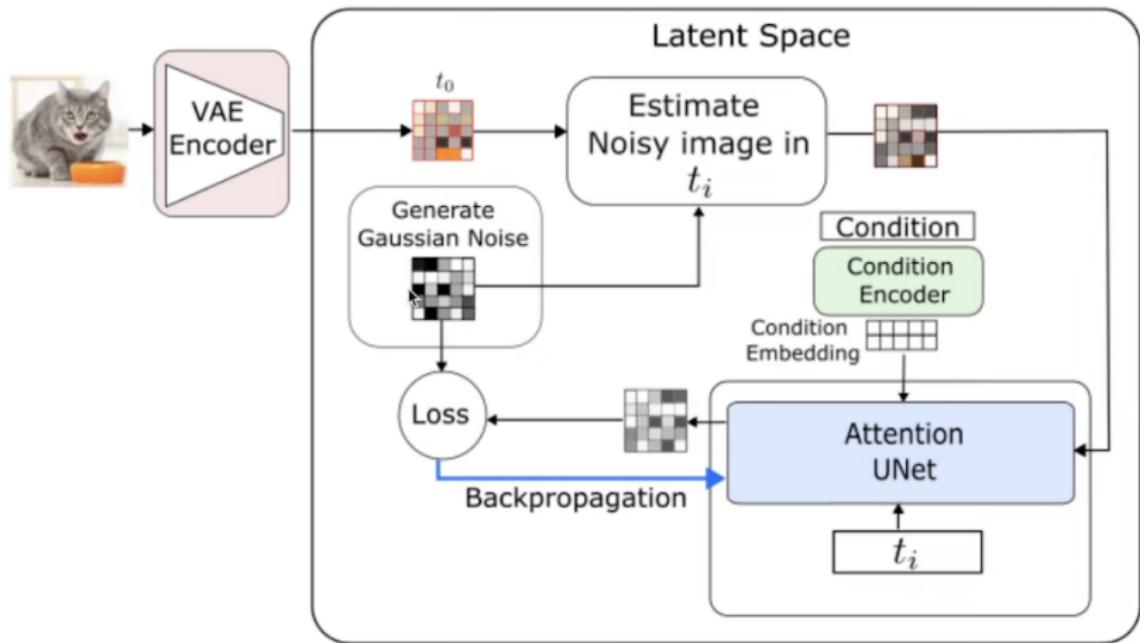


Figure: from Lightning AI video. Loss can be ℓ_p norm.

Condition Encoder (CLIP) Training

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Use the cross entropy across images and text to define the loss

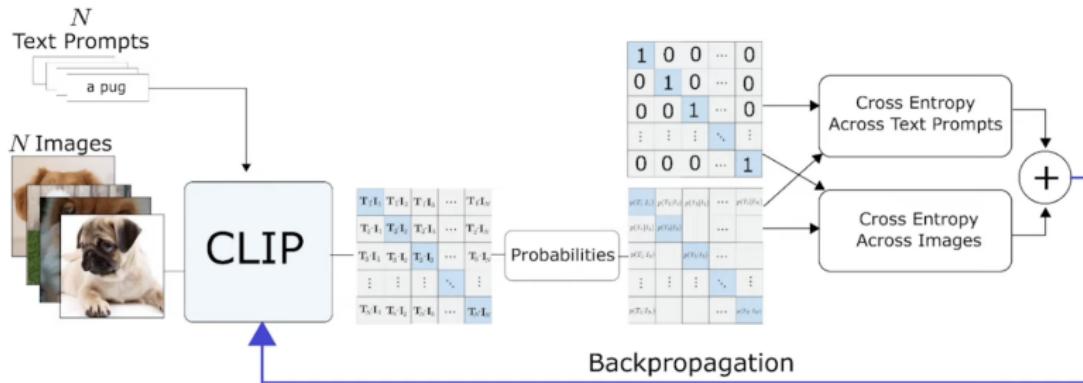


Figure: from Lightning AI video. Sum the loss across rows and columns (i.e., across text and across images) as loss.

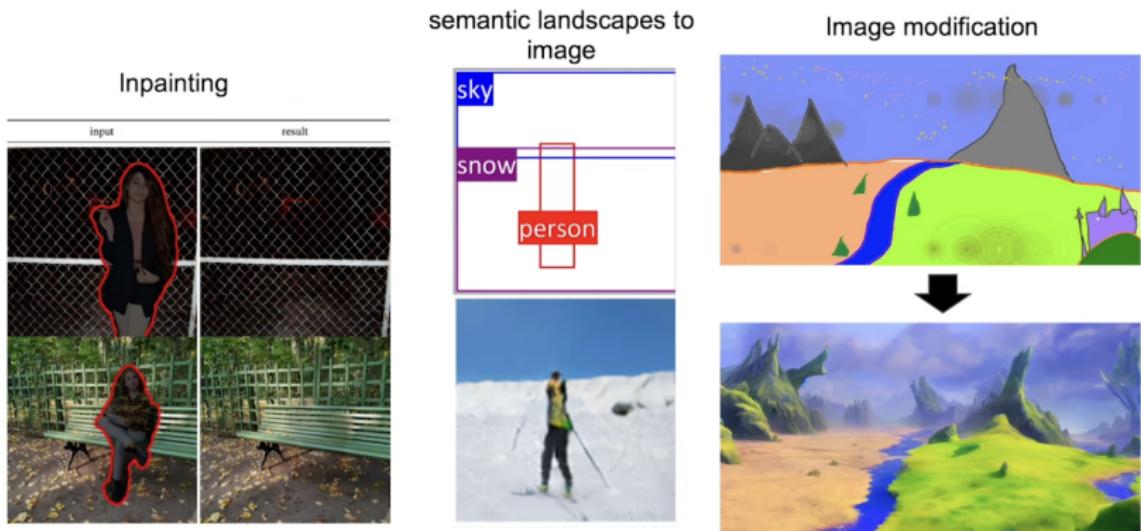


Figure: from Lightning AI video. Achieved via different conditions.
Inpainting: segmentation map; Semantic Landscape: text explaining the coordinates and objects; Image modification: condition — text, input — original image.



Figure: ImageNet 64 → 256 super-resolution on ImageNet-Val.
LDM-SR has advantages at rendering realistic textures but SR3 can
synthesize more coherent fine structures.

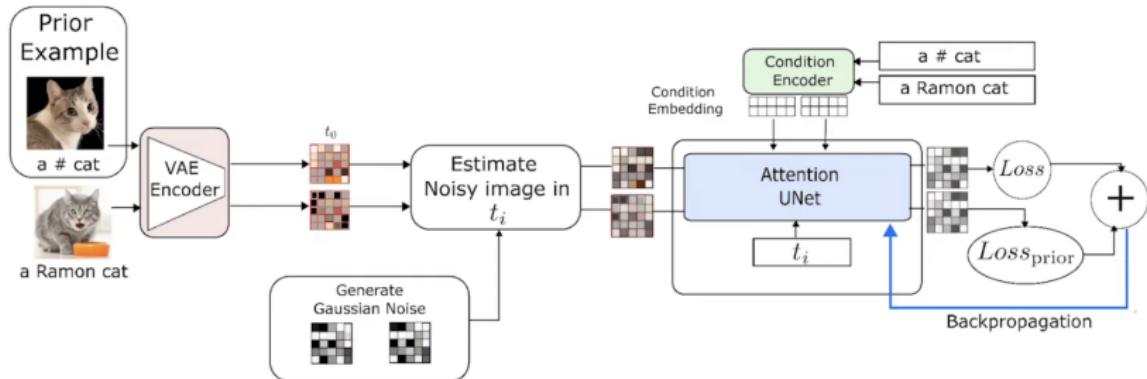


Figure: from Lightning AI video. In this example, a more general sample is provided to avoid language drift. An example of fine-tuning. A few-shot learning scenario.

Conclusion



- ▶ Model follows the Latent Diffusion paper & code (both open-sourced);
- ▶ Teamed up with StabilityAI;
- ▶ Worked with communities e.g. LAION.

For Stable Diffusion:³

*The core dataset was trained on LAION-Aesthetics, a soon to be released subset of LAION 5B. LAION-Aesthetics was created with a new CLIP-based model that filtered LAION-5B based on how “**beautiful**” an image was, building on ratings from the alpha testers of Stable Diffusion. LAION-Aesthetics will be released with other subsets in the coming days on <https://laion.ai>.*

Training set matters, a lot.

³Official Announcement

DALL-E: <https://arxiv.org/abs/2102.12092>

- ▶ Two stages:
 - ▶ Stage 1: Learning Visual Codebook. Train a discrete variational autoencoder (dVAE) to compress images into tokens.
 - ▶ Stage 2: Learning Prior. Concatenate BPE-encoded text tokens with the image tokens, train an autoregressive transformer to model the joint distribution over the text and image tokens.
 - ▶ Training Procedure: maximizing the evidence lower bound (ELB).
- ▶ gibberish also works: Discovering the Hidden Vocabulary of DALL-E-2

DALL-E-2

- ▶ Hierarchical Text-Conditional Image Generation with CLIP Latents
- ▶ The three **separated** components to train:
 1. training of CLIP: the most important step;
 2. train the Decoder: generate images based on the CLIP image embedding; Need the trained CLIP from the first step;
 3. train Diffusion Prior Network: takes the CLIP text embeddings and generate the CLIP image embeddings; Need the trained CLIP from the first step.
- ▶ (Unofficial) Code:
<https://github.com/lucidrains/DALLE2-pytorch>

GLIDE: <https://arxiv.org/abs/2112.10741>

- ▶ Using image down-sampling / up-sampling algorithm to reduce parameter size.
- ▶ Less parameter but slower inference than DALL-E.

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Another Platform mentioned together – MidJourney:

- ▶ An independent research lab
<https://www.midjourney.com/home/>
- ▶ Users create artwork with Midjourney using Discord bot commands.

Main differences:

- ▶ Used different data sets.
- ▶ LDM works on latent space. GLIDE works on pixel space, reducing parameter size via image down-sampling and up-sampling algorithms.
- ▶ LDM can handle more general conditions, while GLIDE considers only text condition.
- ▶ Different ways of injecting text condition.

Two standard ways of injecting text conditions in DMs:

1. Concatenate the encoded text from a language transformer (usually sentence level, [CLS]) to the image input.
2. Multi-head Cross Attention: Letting **every** U-Net attention layer attend to **all** the text tokens (from language transformer).

GLIDE uses them BOTH, but it is still **not sufficient** in inference time.

- ▶ They used CLIP-guided diffusion to make the generated image better correspond to text.
- ▶ Takes the de-noised image, and move it towards the direction of “more similar to text goal” (by considering ∇ of CLIP score).

What is the other way of making the text information more obvious to GLIDE?

At each diffusion step, they applied this trick:

1. Produce the image twice: once with text, once without access to text.
2. Compute the difference between the version with-and-without text, and then move towards the direction of text information.

Isn't it familiar?

Recall LDM:

$$\text{Noise} = \text{Noise}_{uncond} + \beta(\text{Noise}_{cond} - \text{Noise}_{uncond})$$

The trick is the **Classifier-Free Guidance**. (Worked well in practice!)

- ▶ <https://openreview.net/forum?id=qw8AKxfYbI>
- ▶ Classifier Guidance: the diffusion score include the gradient of the log likelihood of an auxiliary classifier model $p(z|c)$, where c is the condition information (e.g. text embedding) and z is the noisy image. Downside: requires an additional classifier model.
- ▶ Classifier-Free Guidance: jointly train the same architecture with & without the condition, computes a linear combination of the conditional and unconditional score.

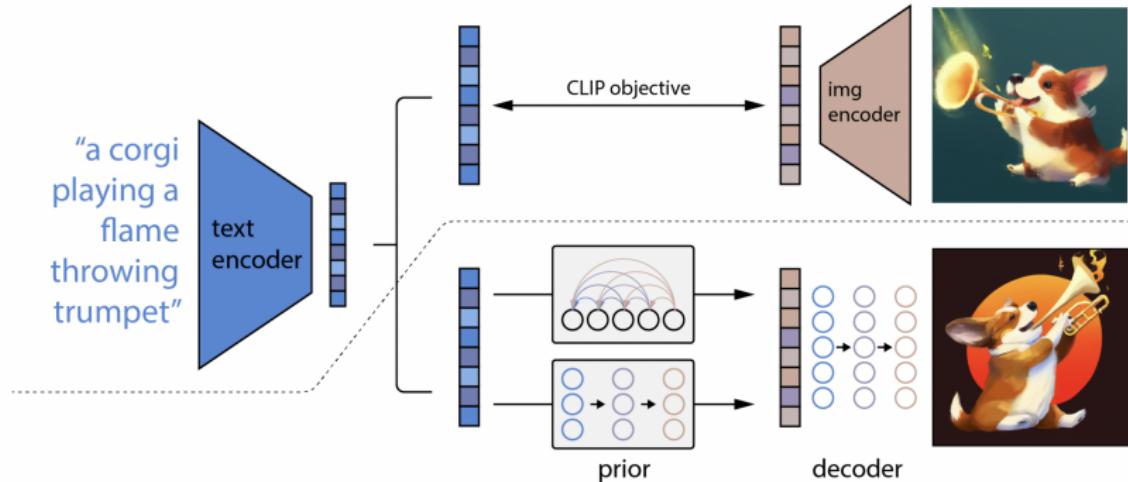


Figure: High-level overview of DALL·E-2. Above the dotted line: training; Below the dotted line: generation. z_i is the CLIP image embedding, y is the caption/condition, x is the image output. Need to train a **prior** $p(z_i|y)$ (conditioning), a **decoder** $p(x|z_i, y)$ (implemented as diffusion models).

$$p(x|y) = p(x, z_i|y) = p(x|z_i, y)p(z_i|y)$$

Main differences:

- ▶ Used different data sets.
- ▶ Different architectures:
 - ▶ LDM: VAE, Denoiser, Condition Encoder
 - ▶ DALL·E-2: CLIP, Decoder, Prior (condition encoder)
- ▶ Different ways of injecting condition.

DALL-E-2 Decoder $p(x|z_i, y)$, producing image x from CLIP image embeddings z_i (and, optionally, text captions y).

- ▶ Similar to GLIDE pipeline, but project CLIP embeddings into 4 extra tokens of context, then concatenated to the sequence of outputs from the GLIDE text encoder.
Classifier-free guidance (with v.s. without CLIP embedding) applied.
- ▶ Also trained two diffusion upsampler models to generate high resolution images. Found it useless to consider y while upsampling, thus ignored it.

Two versions of DALL·E-2 prior $p(z_i|y)$, modeling CLIP image embedding z_i from caption y :

- ▶ Autoregressive (AR) prior: ⁴ converted z_i into a sequence of discrete codes predicted autoregressively conditioned on y . Principal Component Analysis (PCA) is applied to reduce the dimensionality of z_i . Predict the resulting sequence using a Transformer model with a causal attention mask.
- ▶ Diffusion prior: directly model z_i using a Gaussian diffusion model conditioned on y . Train a decoder-only Transformer.

$$L_{prior} = \mathbb{E}_{t \sim [1, T], z_i^{(t)} \sim q_t} [\|f_\theta(z_i^{(t)}, t, y) - z_i\|^2]$$

⁴A note on autoregressive v.s. autoencoding.

In addition, both options use CLIP text embedding z_t since it is a deterministic function of the caption.

- ▶ AR: add y and z_t as a prefix to the sequence. Prepend a token $z_i \cdot z_t$ as well.
- ▶ DM: use z_t as part of the input sequence of the decoder-only Transformer. Used to improve quality during sampling, generating two samples of z_i and selecting the one with a higher dot product with z_t .



Figure: Theatre D'opera Spatial, won the Colorado State Fair digital art contest Aug 2022.

Social Impact: on the other side

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PH AI
@fofrAI

With #stablediffusion img2img, I can help bring my 4yr old's sketches to life.

Baby and daddy ice cream robot monsters having a fun day at the beach. 😊

#AiArtwork



The image shows a side-by-side comparison of two versions of a child's drawing. The left side displays a simple, hand-drawn sketch of two characters: one with a large, bulbous head and a body made of yellow lines, and another with a more complex, grid-like structure. The right side shows a highly detailed, computer-generated version of the same characters. In the generated version, the character with the grid-like body is transformed into a tall, articulated robot with a white torso, orange legs, and a large, expressive head. The character with the yellow-lined body is also transformed into a smaller, similar robot. They are set against a background of a sandy beach, a blue sky with clouds, and a small beach ball floating in the air. The overall effect is a remarkable transformation of a simple sketch into a vibrant, professional-looking digital artwork.

UCLA

People (who do not have to know AI well) had great fun playing with those tools.

Some artists are greatly upset these days.

- ▶ There has been **serious** ethics concern on the copyright of the online images (to train, we need a lot of images + text descriptions).
- ▶ AI-generated works started to confuse the judge and won prize. [Report from NY Times](#).
- ▶ Anti-AI Movement has been started. See more discussions on [Reddit](#).

Can AI tools replace human artists? What AI art means for human artists? www.youtube.com/watch?v=sFBfrZ-N3G4