Constrained Diffusion Models

Yuanhao JIANG

July 7, 2025

	1		
Δ	he.	tra	ct

Abstract

Contents

1	pap	erworks	1
	1.1	Data	1
	1.2	Model Architecture	1
	1.3	Score-Based Diffusion Models	1
		1.3.1 Forward Process	1
		1.3.2 Denoising Score Matching	2
		1.3.3 Reverse Process	2
	1.4	Reimannian Score-Based Diffusion Models	3
		1.4.1 Geodesic Random Walk	3
		1.4.2 Constrained Symplectic Euler-Like Method	4

Chapter 1

paperworks

1.1 Data

CATH S40 domain structures, it contains non-redundant data with no pair of domains with $\geq 40\%$ sequence similarity (according to BLAST).

Extract the $C\alpha$ (alpha carbon) atoms for each protein domain in the dataset, so each data is a 3D point cloud of $C\alpha$ atoms

$$x = [x_1, x_2, ..., x_l], \quad x_i \in \mathbb{R}^3 \quad \forall i = 1, ..., l,$$

where l the number of $C\alpha$ atoms (residues) is varying for different domain.

1.2 Model Architecture

For variable-length, 3D point cloud data, I use Euclidean neural networks [Thomas et al., 2018, Weiler et al., 2018, Kondor et al., 2018]. It is rotation and translation invariant for 3D point cloud, and all its operations are per-node, or per-edge based, so it is compatible with variable-sized structures.

1.3 Score-Based Diffusion Models

1.3.1 Forward Process

Use Variance Preserving (VP) SDE [Song et al., 2020]

$$dx = -\frac{1}{2}\beta(t)x + \sqrt{\beta(t)}dw \tag{1.1}$$

with closed form posterior

$$p(x_t|x_0) = \mathcal{N}\left(x_t: x_0 e^{-\frac{1}{2}\int_0^t \beta(s)ds}, \left(1 - e^{-\frac{1}{2}\int_0^t \beta(s)ds}\right)I\right)$$

for data perturbation.

1.3.2 Denoising Score Matching

Ideally, for each time t, the score function of x_t can be trained via

$$\mathbb{E}_{p(x_t)} \left[\left\| \nabla_{x_t} \log p \left(x_t \right) - s_{\theta} \left(x_t, t \right) \right\|_2^2 \right].$$

The unknown term $\nabla_{x_t} \log p(x_t)$ (true score) can be eliminated with the score matching objective [Hyvärinen, 2005]

$$J_{t}^{\text{SM}}(\theta) = \mathbb{E}_{p(x_{t})} \left[\left\| \text{tr} \left(\nabla_{x_{t}} s_{\theta} \left(x_{t}, t \right) \right) - \frac{1}{2} \left\| s_{\theta}(x_{t}, t) \right\|_{2}^{2} \right\|_{2}^{2} \right].$$

Note that the term $\operatorname{tr}(\nabla_{x_t} s_{\theta}(x_t, t))$ can be computationally intensive, since we have the analytic form of the posterior, this can be eased by using instead the denoising score matching objective [Vincent, 2011]

$$J_t^{\text{DSM}} = \mathbb{E}_{p(x_0)} \mathbb{E}_{p(x_t|x_0)} \left[\| s_{\theta} (x_t, t) - \nabla_{x_t} \log p (x_t|x_0) \|_2^2 \right].$$

The overall objective is given by a weighted sum (or average)

$$J^{\mathrm{DSM}} = \mathbb{E}_{t \sim \mathcal{U}(0,1)} \left[\lambda \left(t \right) J_t^{\mathrm{DSM}} \right].$$

1.3.3 Reverse Process

For an SDE

$$dx = f(x,t)dt + q(t)dw,$$

the reverse time SDE is given by [Anderson, 1982]

$$dx = \left[f(x,t) - g^{2}(t)\nabla_{x} \log p(x_{t}) \right] dt + g(t) d\tilde{w},$$

where t goes from 1 to 0. So for VPSDE (1.1) its reverse process is

$$dx = \left[-\frac{1}{2}\beta(t) - \beta^2(t)\nabla_x \log p(x_t) \right] dt + \sqrt{\beta(t)}d\tilde{w},$$

and the true score is approximated by the trained neural network s_{θ} . For discretisation the Predictor-Corrector (PC) sampler [Song et al., 2020] is used, i.e., the predictor step steps into next time step in the reverse SDE

$$x_{k+1} \leftarrow x_k + \left[f(x,t) - g^2(t) s_\theta(x_k,t) \right] (-\delta t) + g(t) \sqrt{\delta t} z_{k+1},$$

and the corrector step corrects the sampling using MCMC method in a fixed time t

$$x_{k+1} \leftarrow x_{k+1} + \epsilon_{k+1} s_{\theta} (x_{k+1}, t) + \sqrt{2} z'_{k+1},$$

for white noises z_{k+1} and z'_{k+1} .

1.4 Reimannian Score-Based Diffusion Models

The constraints I use are

1. fixed bond lengths ($C\alpha$ - $C\alpha$ distances),

$$||x_{i+1} - x_i|| = \text{const};$$

2. fixed bond angles,

$$\angle (x_{i-1}, x_i, x_{i+1}) = \text{const};$$

3.

Suppose, for an $x \in \mathbb{R}^{l \times 3}$ on the manifold, its constraints are expressed as

$$h_i(x) = 0, \quad i = 1, ..., m,$$

the Jacobian matrix of the constraints is given by

$$J(x) = \begin{bmatrix} \nabla_x^T h_1(x) \\ \nabla_x^T h_2(x) \\ \vdots \\ \nabla_x^T h_m(x) \end{bmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times 3l}.$$

Since now we have no closed form solution to the SDE, a discretisation rule is need to perturb the data.

1.4.1 Geodesic Random Walk

The projector of the tangent space of x is given by

$$\Pi(x) = I - J^{T}(x)(J(x)J^{T}(x))^{-1}J(x),$$

so the SDE on manifold is given by

$$dx = \Pi(x)f(x,t)dt + \Pi(x)g(t)dw. \tag{1.2}$$

To sample from it, we follows the geodesic random walk in [De Bortoli et al., 2022]. At time t, first sample on tangent space of x_t

$$v_{k+1} = \Pi(x_t) \left(f(x_t, t) \delta t + g(t) \sqrt{\delta t} z_{k+1} \right),$$

then move along the geodesic on manifold \mathcal{M} defined by the constraints, i.e.,

$$x_{k+1} \leftarrow \exp_{x_k} \left(v_{k+1} \right).$$

The exponential map $\exp_x(v)$ is known for sphere and torus in [De Bortoli et al., 2022], however, for manifold defined by our constraints, it is unknown. It can be approximated by the solution of the optimisation problem

$$\widehat{\exp_x(v)} = \arg\min_{x'} \frac{1}{2} ||x' - (x+v)||^2$$
 subject to $h(x') = 0$.

Reformulate to obtain

$$\underset{\delta x}{\operatorname{arg\,min}} \frac{1}{2} \|x + \delta x - (x + v)\|^2 \quad \text{subject to} \quad h(x + \delta x) = 0.$$

Expand the constraint and only keep the first order terms $h(x + \delta x) = h(x) + J(x)\delta x$, and Lagrangian is

$$\mathcal{L}(\delta x, \lambda) = \frac{1}{2} \|\delta x - v\|^2 + \lambda^T (h(x) + J(x)\delta x).$$

Now we can solve with KKT conditions as the problem is convex, i.e.,

$$\nabla_{\delta x} \mathcal{L} (\delta x, \lambda) = 0$$
$$h(x) + J(x)\delta x = 0$$

This yields the optimal update

$$\delta x = v - J^T(x) \lambda$$

where λ solves

$$J(x)J^{T}(x)\lambda = h(x) + J(x)v = J(x)v.$$
 (since we start on manifold.)

In the end the exponential map is

$$\widehat{\exp_x(v)} = x + \delta x.$$

1.4.2 Constrained Symplectic Euler-Like Method

This is an alternative to geodesic random walk that avoid approximating the exponential map. Instead of trying to sample from (1.2), we use the equivalent

$$dx = f(x,t)dt + g(t)dw - J^{T}(x)\lambda(t)dt,$$

$$h(x) = 0.$$

We use the constrained Symplectic Euler-like method [Leimkuhler and Matthews, 2015]

$$x_{k+1} = x_k + f(x_k, t_k)\delta t + g(t_k)\sqrt{\delta t}z_{k+1} - J^T(x_k)\lambda_k\delta t$$

where λ_k is solved by the constraints

$$h(x_{k+1}) = h\left(x_k + f(x_k, t_k)\delta t + g(t_k)\sqrt{\delta t}z_{k+1} - J^T(x_k)\lambda_k\delta t\right) = 0.$$

Let $Q_k = x_k + f(x_k, t_k)\delta t + g(t_k)\sqrt{\delta t}z_{k+1}$ and $\Lambda_k = \lambda_t \delta t$ we have

$$h\left(Q_k + J^T(x_k)\Lambda_k\right) = 0,$$

which can be solved by Gauss-Newton iteration

$$Q^{\ell} := Q_k - J^T(x_k) \Lambda^{\ell}$$

$$\Lambda_k^{\ell+1} = \Lambda_k^{\ell} + \left[J(Q^{\ell}) J^T(x_k) \right]^{-1} h(Q^{\ell}).$$

Bibliography

- [Anderson, 1982] Anderson, B. D. O. (1982). Reverse-time diffusion equation models. Stochastic Processes and their Applications, 12(3):313–326.
- [De Bortoli et al., 2022] De Bortoli, V., Mathieu, E., Hutchinson, M., Thornton, J., Teh, Y. W., and Doucet, A. (2022). Riemannian score-based generative modelling. Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems, 35:2406–2422.
- [Hyvärinen, 2005] Hyvärinen, A. (2005). Estimation of Non-Normalized Statistical Models by Score Matching. *Journal of Machine Learning Research*, 6(24):695–709.
- [Kondor et al., 2018] Kondor, R., Lin, Z., and Trivedi, S. (2018). Clebsch-Gordan Nets: A Fully Fourier Space Spherical Convolutional Neural Network.
- [Leimkuhler and Matthews, 2015] Leimkuhler, B. and Matthews, C. (2015). *Molecular Dynamics: With Deterministic and Stochastic Numerical Methods*, volume 39 of *Interdisciplinary Applied Mathematics*. Springer International Publishing, Cham.
- [Song et al., 2020] Song, Y., Sohl-Dickstein, J., Kingma, D. P., Kumar, A., Ermon, S., and Poole, B. (2020). Score-based generative modeling through stochastic differential equations. arXiv preprint arXiv:2011.13456.
- [Thomas et al., 2018] Thomas, N., Smidt, T., Kearnes, S., Yang, L., Li, L., Kohlhoff, K., and Riley, P. (2018). Tensor field networks: Rotation- and translation-equivariant neural networks for 3D point clouds.
- [Vincent, 2011] Vincent, P. (2011). A Connection Between Score Matching and Denoising Autoencoders. *Neural Computation*, 23(7):1661–1674.
- [Weiler et al., 2018] Weiler, M., Geiger, M., Welling, M., Boomsma, W., and Cohen, T. (2018). 3D Steerable CNNs: Learning Rotationally Equivariant Features in Volumetric Data.