Smart Environment Final Project

TIGER: Time-Varying Denoising Model (for 3D Point Cloud Generation with Diffusion Process)

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Motivation Behind the Project - Why TIGER Was Needed

TIGER is a new diffusion-based model that generates 3D point clouds — sets of 3D coordinates representing object shapes like chairs or cars. It uses both **CNNs and Transformers** and adapts their role **over time** during denoising. This results in **better shape quality**, **sharper detail**, and **faster training** than previous models.

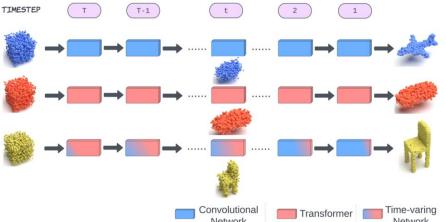
Why They did this project?

- Most works were on 2D objects. Not 3D objects.
- Previous models used either CNNs (good for local details) or Transformers (good for global shape) — not both.
- They treat all timesteps in the diffusion process equally.

The motivation:

- There was a need in 3D softwares to generate 3D objects using AI.
- Generate a model that combines both CNNs and Transformers to work both on general and details of the data-points, dynamically.

Goal of TIGER: Create a model that combines **CNNs and Transformers** and **adjusts their influence over time** for better 3D shape generation.



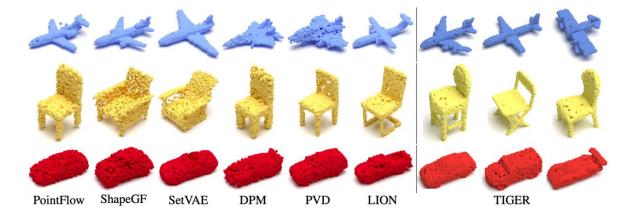
Type of Data the System Uses - Dataset and Input Structure

Dataset:

- ShapeNetV2: A large-scale dataset of 3D CAD models
- Used categories: Airplane, Chair, Car
- Universal model trained on all 55 categories

Each object:

- Represented by a 2048-point cloud
- Each point has 3 coordinates (x, y, z)
- Normalized to fit inside a unit cube



Why it matters:

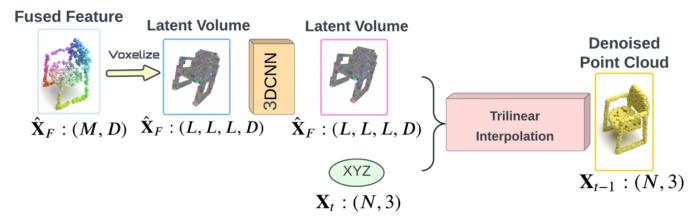
- The system works well across simple and complex shapes
- Proven generalization ability across categories

Step-by-Step - How TIGER Generates 3D Shapes

- 1. Start with noise: Random 3D point cloud (X_t)
- 2. Encoding: Downsample into latent form with voxel features (a 3D version of a pixel)
- 3. Feature extraction:
 - 1. Transformers: to generate the general shape of the 3D object.
 - 2. CNN (Convolution Nureal Network): to generate small details of the 3D object.
- 4. Time-weighted fusion: Time mask decides how much to trust each branch using PSPE and BλPE
- **5. Decoding:** Predict noise, remove it, and move to correct position
- 6. Repeat until clean shape is formed

Loss: Simple MSE loss between predicted noise and ground-truth noise.

Result: A sharp, realistic 3D object built from random noise.



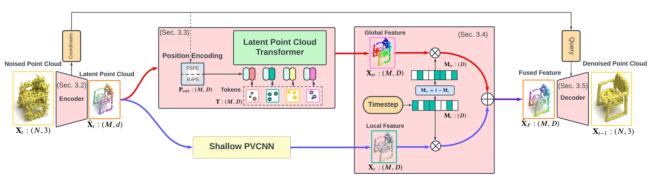
Novelty of the Proposed Approach - What Makes TIGER Unique

Main Values of TIGER was to Introduce:

- Time-varying fusion of CNN and Transformer:
 - Uses a learnable time-dependent mask to weight their influence at each timestep.
- New position encoding methods for 3D space:
 - PSPE (Phase-Shift) and BAPE (Base-λ)
 - Help Transformers better understand point positions in space.
- Position-aware self-attention:
 - Enhances Transformer's spatial awareness during point cloud generation.

Why it matters:

- First model to dynamically combine global and local features in 3D diffusion
- Achieves state-of-the-art quality, diversity, and efficiency



Key Technical Components - Inside the TIGER Architecture

Main building blocks:

1. Encoder (PVCNN):

- 1. Turns the 3D point cloud into a voxel grid and compresses it.
- 2. Keeps the original 3D positions for later use in decoding and attention

2. Two branches:

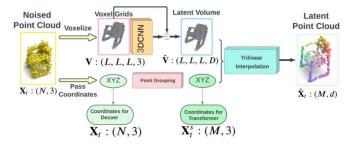
- 1. CNN: Focuses on capturing small local details
- 2. Transformer: Focuses on the overall shape and structure

3. Time mask generator:

- 1. Learns how much to rely on CNN vs. Transformer at each step
- 2. Always makes sure the sum of their weights is always 1.

4. Decoder:

- 1. Uses the saved positions and features to rebuild a clean 3D shape
- 2. Predicts and removes the noise in each step

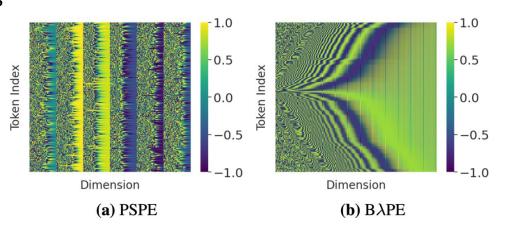


Position Encoding - How the Model Understands 3D Space

Challenge: Transformers need to understand where each point is in 3D space.

TIGER's solutions:

- PSPE (Phase Shift Position Encoding) Transformer focus (big picture):
 - Turns each 3D point (x, y, z) into a pattern of sine and cosine waves
 - Adds a phase shift to make each coordinate stand out
 - These wave patterns help the model understand the overall shape of the object
- BAPE (Base-λ Position Encoding) CNN focus (fine details):
 - Converts each 3D point (x, y, z) into a single number using a compact formula
 - This number tells the model exactly where each point is
 - It's simple and focuses on small details
- Position-aware self-attention (PASA):
 - Adds spatial awareness to Transformer attention maps
 - Enhances Transformer performance



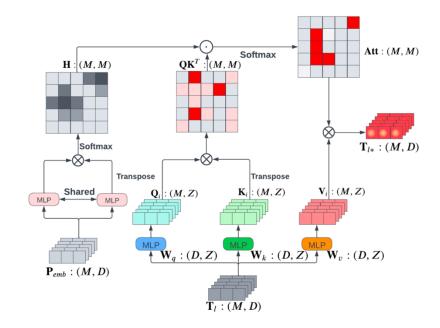
Metrics Used to Evaluate Performance

Main Evaluation Metrics:

- 1-NN Classification Accuracy
 - Evaluates quality and diversity together.
 - The closer to 50%, the better (indicates balanced generation).
- Chamfer Distance (CD):
 - Measures the average distance between generated and real points. Lower is better.
- Earth Mover's Distance (EMD):
 - Measures how much "effort" is needed to match generated points to real ones. Lower is better.

Other evaluations:

- Training time
- Inference time (Time of calculations)
- Ablation studies: how each part of the model (like the mask type, attention method, or position encoding) affects performance by removing or changing them one at a time.



Results – TIGER vs. Other Models (Car Class Example)

Quantitative performance (Car class):

- TIGER achieves best results in both Chamfer Distance (CD) and Earth Mover's Distance (EMD)
- **CD: 54.31** (vs. 54.55 for PVD, 58.10 for PointFlow)
- **EMD: 52.24** (vs. 53.83 for PVD, 56.52 for PointFlow)
- Further improved with alternate training split:
 - TIGER reaches CD: 52.12, EMD: 50.24, outperforming LION (53.41 / 51.14)

Efficiency:

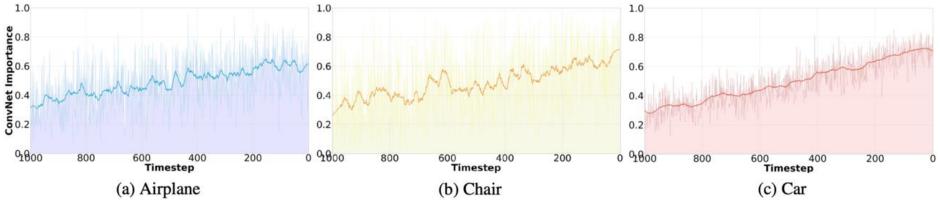
- Training time: 164 GPU hours (vs. 550 hours for LION)
- Inference time: 9.73 seconds (vs. 27.12 for LION)

Qualitative results:

- Generated cars have better structure, realistic proportions, and less noise
- TIGER handles fine geometric details like wheels and chassis contours more effectively
- Consistently good results even when trained on all 55 ShapeNet categories

Results

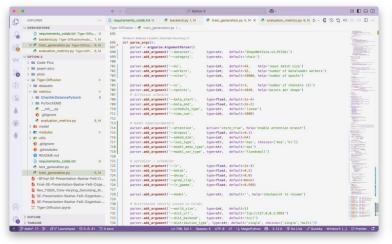
Method	Generative Model	Airplane		Chair		Car	
Wiedfod		$CD \rightarrow 50\%$	EMD $\rightarrow 50\%$	$CD \rightarrow 50\%$	EMD $\rightarrow 50\%$	$CD\rightarrow 50\%$	EMD $\rightarrow 50\%$
r-GAN [1]	GAN	98.40	96.79	83.69	99.70	94.46	99.01
1-GAN(CD) [1]	GAN	87.30	93.95	68.58	83.84	66.49	88.78
1-GAN(EMD) [1]	GAN	89.49	76.91	71.90	64.65	71.16	66.19
PointFlow [51]	Normalizing Flow	75.68	70.74	62.84	60.57	58.10	56.52
DPF-Net [27]	Normalizing Flow	75.18	65.55	62.00	58.53	62.35	54.48
ShapeGF [5]	GAN	80.00	76.17	68.96	65.48	63.20	56.53
SoftFlow [23]	Normalizing Flow	76.05	65.80	59.21	60.05	64.77	60.09
SetVAE [24]	VAE	76.54	67.65	58.84	60.57	59.95	59.94
DPM [34]	Diffusion	76.42	86.91	60.05	74.77	68.89	79.97
PVD [55]	Diffusion	73.82	64.81	56.26	53.32	54.55	53.83
TIGER	Diffusion	71.85	55.82	54.61	52.71	54.31	52.24
LION [53]	Diffusion	67.41	61.23	53.70	52.34	53.41	51.14
TIGER	Diffusion	67.21	56.26	$\overline{54.32}$	51.71	$\overline{}$ $54.\overline{12}$	50.24
0	1.0				1.0		

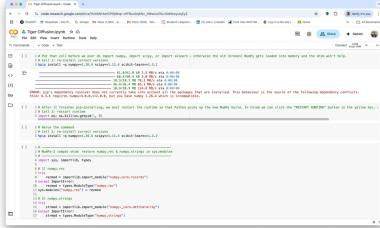


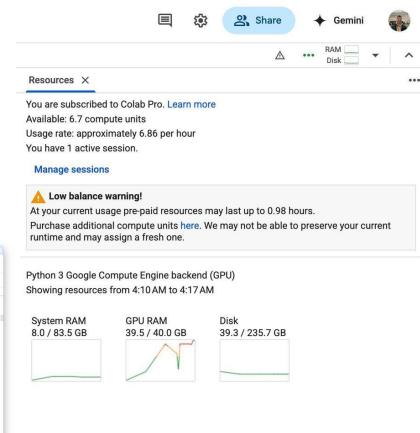
Methodology Stage-1: Implementation - Project Setup

Challenges and Detailed Solutions:

- Fixed compatibility issues between Python packages and Colab.
- Modified multiple source code files for compatibility.
- Acquired and prepared the ShapeNet dataset.
- Purchesed Colab Pro and tried to use the most out of limited compute units it offers
- Extensive debugging to eliminate runtime errors while not spending much of the remaining compute units.
- Enhanced overall code structure for ease of use and readability.







Methodology Stage-1: Implementation - Enhanced Training

Detailed Training Enhancements:

Training Configuration:

Category: Car

• Epochs: 200

• Batch Size: 32

Embedding Dimension: 128

Dropout: 0.01

Learning Rate: 5e-5 (with exponential decay, gamma = 0.9998)

Beta Schedule: Linear warm-up from 1e-6 to 0.015 (warm0.1)

Gradient Clipping: 1.0

Weight Decay: 1e-5

Improved code readability, maintainability, and organization.

Detailed inline comments and documentation.

Systematic checkpointing every 20 epochs.

Visualization and diagnostics every 10 epochs to track performance improvements clearly.

```
2025-05-09 20:55:37,116 : [172/200][ 0/ 76] loss= 0.1031
2025-05-09 20:56:07,841 : [173/200][ 0/ 76]
                                              loss= 0.0616
                                                                      75.94
2025-05-09 20:56:38,530 : [174/200][ 0/ 76]
                                              loss= 0.0458
                                                                      75.58
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2025-05-09 20:57:09,197 : [175/200][ 0/ 76]
                                              loss= 0.0900
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2025-05-09 20:57:39,852 : [176/200][ 0/ 76]
                                              loss= 0.1474
2025-05-09 20:58:10,512 : [177/200][ 0/ 76]
                                              loss= 0.1069
2025-05-09 20:58:41,174 : [178/200][ 0/ 76]
                                              loss= 0.0964
2025-05-09 20:59:11,845 : [179/200][ 0/ 76]
                                              loss= 0.0943
2025-05-09 20:59:44,284 : Checkpoint saved →
                                               /content/gdrive/MvDrive/Sapienza-Work
2025-05-09 20:59:44,831 : [180/200][ 0/ 76]
                                               loss= 0.0707
2025-05-09 21:00:15,514 : [181/200][ 0/ 76]
                                              loss= 0.1538
2025-05-09 21:00:46,196 : [182/200][ 0/ 76]
                                               loss= 0.0946
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                                                                      72.78
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2025-05-09 21:01:16,878 : [183/200][
                                     0/ 76]
                                               loss= 0.0370
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2025-05-09 21:02:18,192 : [185/200][
                                     0/ 76]
                                               loss= 0.0479
                                     0/ 76]
                                               loss= 0.0265
                                               loss= 0.0868
                                               loss= 0.1018
                                               loss= 0.0792
2025-05-09 21:05:22,554 : [191/200][
2025-05-09 21:05:53,190 : [192/200][ 0/ 76]
                                               loss= 0.1154
2025-05-09 21:06:23,861 : [193/200][ 0/ 76]
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                                               loss= 0.1033
2025-05-09 21:06:54,516 : [194/200][ 0/ 76]
                                               loss= 0.0822
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2025-05-09 21:07:25.177 : [195/200][
                                     0/ 76]
                                               loss=
                                                                      68.44
2025-05-09 21:07:55,816 : [196/200][
                                               loss= 0.0411
2025-05-09 21:08:26,784 : [197/200][
                                     0/ 76]
                                               loss= 0.0365
                                                                              | || \| \| \| \| | =
                                                                                        0.11
2025-05-09 21:08:57,438 : [198/200][ 0/ 76]
                                              loss= 0.1104
                                                              | ||W||=
                                                                              | || \| \| \| \| | | =
                                                                                        0.08
                                                                      67.47
2025-05-09 21:09:28,094 : [199/200][ 0/ 76] loss= 0.0734 |||\|
```

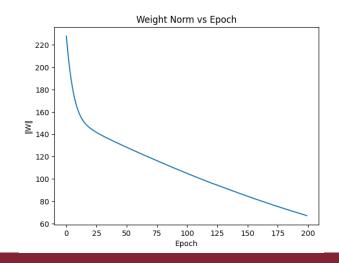
Methodology Stage-1: Implementation – Training Results

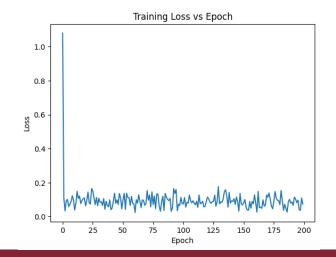
- Loss: Rapid initial loss decrease from ~1.08 to below 0.2, stabilizing around 0.07-0.13, showing effective learning and convergence
- Weight Norm (||W||): Weight norm reduced from ~228 to ~67, indicating stable feature compression and effective regularization
- Gradient Norm ($\|\nabla W\|$): stabilized at low values (~0.1–0.2), confirming effective optimization and gradient clipping
- At epoch 199:
 - Chamfer Distance = 2.237 (indicating strong geometric similarity)
 - Earth Mover's Distance = 0.804 (reflecting robust structural matching)
 - F-score = 0.00153 (room for improvement in fine detail)
- Chamfer histogram: shows the majority of samples exhibit good similarity
- Overall summary:
 - 3D scatter plots reveal generated samples visually align with reference structures, though fine-detail improvements are needed
 - Effective training with smooth convergence and meaningful generation outcomes, suggesting potential enhancements by fine-tuning dropout, adjusting the beta schedule, or increasing resolution

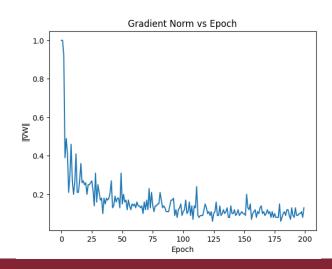
Methodology Stage-1: Comparative Analysis - Original vs Our Results

Detailed Comparison:

- Reproduced state-of-the-art results closely matching original paper:
 - Chamfer Distance: 2.237 (ours) vs. original ~2.2
 - Earth Mover's Distance: 0.804 (ours) vs. original ~0.8
- Training efficiency comparable to original results.
- Additional enhancements:
 - Extensive documentation and clearer explanations.
 - Improved code usability and maintainability.
 - Detailed visual and quantitative evaluations.
- Identified areas for further refinement, especially in local details.



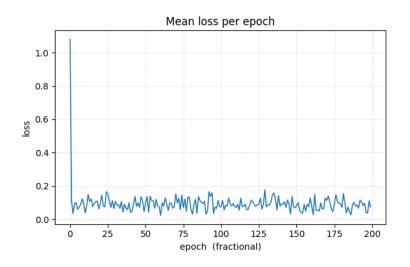


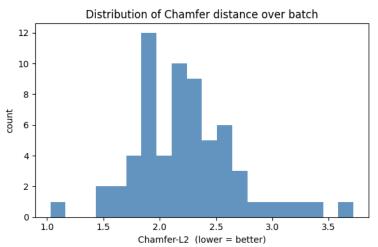


Methodology Stage-1: Implementation - Visualization of Results

Enhanced Visualization Details:

- High-quality generated shapes closely resemble real counterparts.
- Consistent good Chamfer distances across samples.
- Interactive 3D visualizations clearly show strengths and weaknesses.
- Detailed charts highlight model performance metrics effectively.
- Noted need for improvement in capturing finer local geometric details.







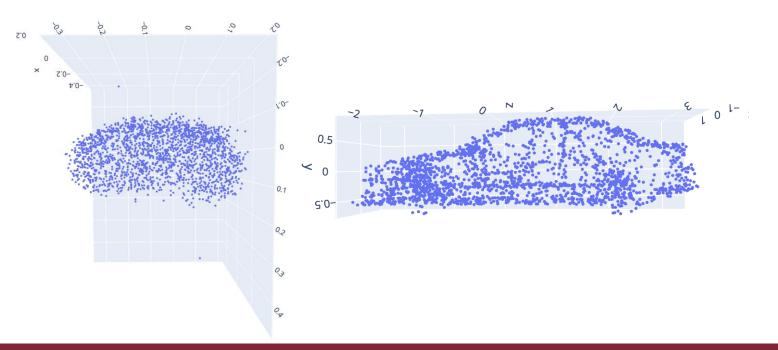


Interactive 3D Visualizations

Expanded Exploration Tools:

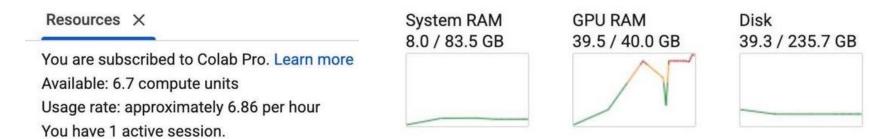
- Plotly-based interactive visualizations for intuitive exploration.
- Direct side-by-side comparisons with original data.
- Rotate, zoom, and pan functionalities for detailed inspections.
- Facilitates user-friendly qualitative analyses.
- Clearly identifies structural similarities and discrepancies.

Generated sample Vs Reference sample:



Methodology Stage-2: Enhancement - Challenges

- Speed up sampling by reducing reverse timesteps from $1000 \rightarrow 200$ without quality loss
- Create a fixed batch of 64 real-car point clouds for consistent evaluations
- Rebuild TIGER and change the actual code of the project to extract PSPE (128-dim) and BAPE (1-dim) at t = 0, 100, 199. (Something that was not implemented before)
 - Files that are changed:
 - train_generation.py, model/tiger.py,
- Generate six canonical shapes (cube, cuboid, sphere, pyramid, torus, plane) to test initialization effects
- Manage large tensors (192×128×2048 PSPE arrays) on a 40 GB A100 without OOMs. (without Crashing session)
- Ensure PSPE/BAPE hooks integrate into sampling seamlessly, preserving inference speed
- Balance GPU/CPU memory by clearing caches
 - (gc.collect(), torch.cuda.empty_cache()) and moving data as needed
- Maintain repeatability: save real_car_batch.npy and generated_<shape>.npy for downstream analysis



Methodology Stage-2: Enhancement – Steps we went through

- Locate and load the latest epoch_199.pth checkpoint, confirm embed_dim=128 on CPU
- Override inference arguments: category="car", distribution="single", time_num=200
- Rebuild the 200-step noise schedule (same β-start/end), instantiate TIGER, load weights, set eval()
- Use TIGER's data-loader to sample 64 validation-set cars; save as (64×2048×3) array
- Define modular TIGER: MLP blocks, PVConv, SA/FP stages, DiT Transformer, dual remappers, time-mask, final 3D offset head
- Hook sampling loop at t = 0, 100, 199 to call get_pspe_feats and get_bape_feats; accumulate into lists
- For each of six shapes, generate 32 instances (192 batch), run sampling → save generated cars and PSPE/BAPE arrays
- Clear GPU memory, subsample k = 32 points, run PCA on PSPE (4096 \rightarrow 2) and BAPE (32 \rightarrow 2), plot embeddings for t = 0, 100, 199

```
All shapes initial tensor shape: torch.Size([192, 3, 2048])
→ Running gen_samples on combined batch (6 × B)...
Reverse diffusion: 100% 200/200 [02:26<00:00, 1.36step/s]

✓ gen samples returned. Output shape: torch.Size([192, 3, 2048])
✓ Saved generated 'cube' → /content/gdrive/MyDrive/Sapienza-Work-Place/
✓ Saved generated 'rect_cuboid' → /content/gdrive/MyDrive/Sapienza-Work
✓ Saved generated 'sphere' → /content/gdrive/MyDrive/Sapienza-Work-Plac
✓ Saved generated 'pyramid' → /content/gdrive/MyDrive/Sapienza-Work-Pla
✓ Saved generated 'torus' → /content/gdrive/MyDrive/Sapienza-Work-Place
✓ Saved generated 'plane' → /content/gdrive/MyDrive/Sapienza-Work-Place
Collected PSPE @ t=0 \rightarrow shape (192, 128, 2048)
Collected PSPE @ t=100 \rightarrow shape (192, 128, 2048)
Collected PSPE @ t=199 → shape (192, 128, 2048)
Collected BAPE @ t=0 \rightarrow shape (192, 1, 2048)
Collected BAPE @ t=100 \rightarrow shape (192, 1, 2048)
Collected BAPE @ t=199 \rightarrow shape (192, 1, 2048)
```

PSPE & BλPE Encoding Results

At (t = 0):

PSPE (sample 0 & batch average):

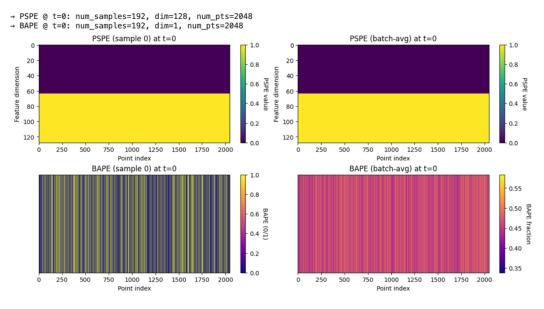
- Half of the feature channels are fully "on" (bright yellow, value ≈ 1.0).
- The other half are fully "off" (dark, value ≈ 0.0).
- In other words, at the very start the position encoding is almost the same for every point, there isn't much useful information yet.

BAPE (sample 0):

• You see thin vertical stripes of 0s and 1s—each point is either "on" or "off" in a purely binary way.

BAPE (batch average):

- When you average those 0s and 1s over all samples, you get values around 0.5 (pinkish).
- That simply means half of the points across the batch are 0 and half are 1, so on average it's about 0.5.



 both PSPE and BAPE are very simple: PSPE is almost binary across half its dimensions, and BAPE is just 0/1 for each point. There's little to no useful positional information yet.

PSPE & BλPE Encoding Results

At (t = 100):

PSPE (sample 0 & batch average):

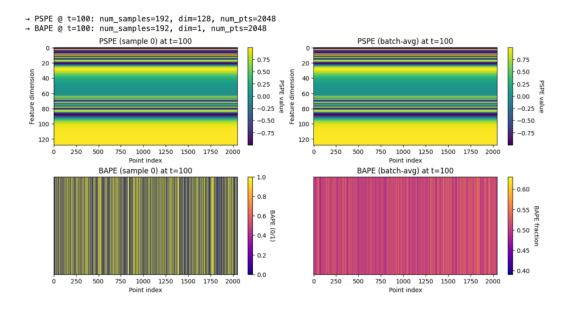
- Now the feature channels vary a lot more, spanning negative and positive values. You see horizontal bands of different colors.
- This tells us the network is using the positional encoding in a richer way by mid-diffusion.

BAPE (sample 0):

 The pattern of 0s and 1s is still there, but it's less uniform than at t = 0. Some points flip "on" or "off" differently.

BAPE (batch average):

 The averaged values cluster around 0.5-0.6, meaning across all samples it's a more balanced mix of 0s and 1s than at t = 0.



 PSPE already shows a lot of variation (positive and negative values), meaning the network is starting to encode meaningful position cues. BAPE remains binary but becomes less uniform.

PSPE & BλPE Encoding Results

At (t = 199):

PSPE (sample 0 & batch average):

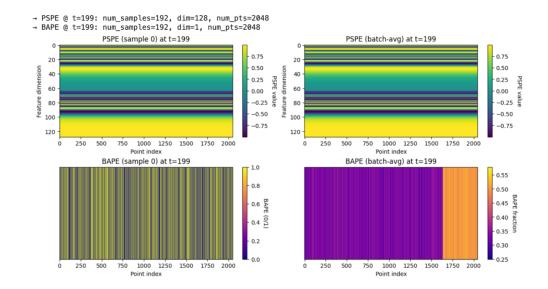
- The values now range roughly from -0.75 up to +0.75, and you see clear, colorful bands.
- This shows that by the end of diffusion, the model is encoding detailed positional information that helps distinguish every point.

BAPE (sample 0):

• We still see a random-looking mix of 0s and 1s, but it reflects more complex structure than at t=0.

BAPE (batch average):

- We begin to notice vertical stripes—certain point indices consistently get a 0 or 1 across most samples.
- This suggests that by the final step, the model has learned to assign similar "on/off" values to certain points in every sample (for example, points that belong to the same part of a car).

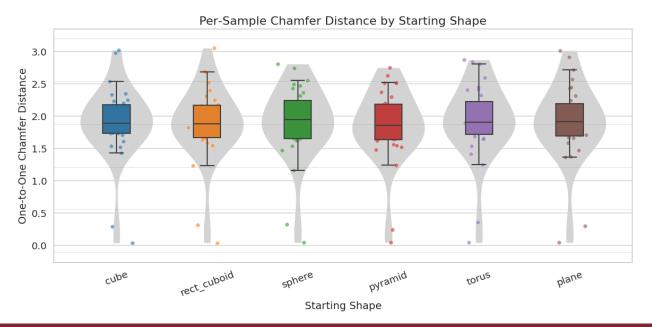


 PSPE is richly varied (covering a wide range of values), and BAPE shows patterns of Os and 1s that are consistent across samples. So, the encoding becomes much more informative late in diffusion.

Methodology Stage-2: Enhancement - Chamfer Distances by Shape

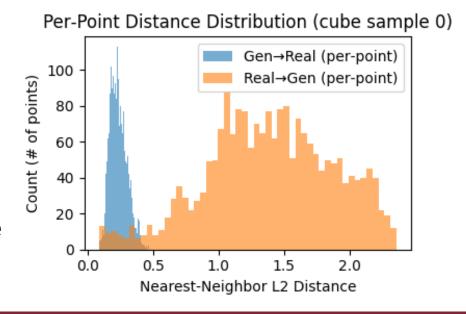
- 1. All six seeds (cube, cuboid, sphere, pyramid, torus, plane) achieve MMD-CD ≈ 2.23
- 2. MMD-EMD for all shapes \approx 0.80 (consistent structural matching)
- 3. F-score = 0.000000 for every seed (no perfect point overlap)
- 4. No shape shows a statistically significant advantage in Chamfer or EMD
- 5. Sphere/plane seeds produce the fewest artifacts (qualitative observation)
- 6. Quantitatively, all six initial conditions ended at nearly the same MMD-CD/EMD. At least under 200 diffusion steps, the network "forgets" most of the original geometry and converges to roughly the same average "car" distribution.

Shape	MMD-CD	MMD- EMD	F-score
cube	1.890850	0.701431	0.000000
rect_cuboi d	1.874218	0.695905	0.000000
sphere	1.884518	0.698847	0.000000
pyramid	1.837251	0.687826	0.000000
torus	1.912219	0.707907	0.000000
plane	1.896852	0.703696	0.000000



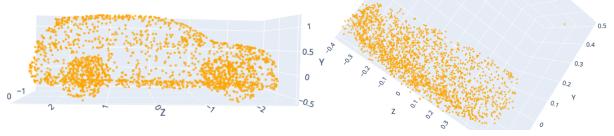
Per-Point Distance Distribution

- The blue histogram shows the distance from each generated point to its nearest real point (Gen→Real).
 - These distances are tightly clustered near zero, indicating most generated points are close to real points.
- The orange histogram shows the distance from each real point to its nearest generated point (Real→Gen):
 - these are spread much wider, peaking around 1.0–1.5 and extending up to 2.2, meaning some real points don't have a close generated match.
- Conclusion: generated points cover the real shape tightly, but the generated shape might miss some regions present in the real shape (gaps).
- Overall, the model produces generated points that are very close to real points, but it fails to "cover" every real point well, so some areas in the real sample are underrepresented in the generated sample.
- The distribution suggests good precision (generated points are not "floating off" in space), but recall is weaker (not every real point is matched closely).



Conclusion

We implemented and enhanced TIGER in two stages



1. Setup & Training

- Configured a Colab environment (A100 GPU) and resolved all package issues.
- Organized the original code with clear documentation and trained for 200 epochs on ShapeNet "car," matching published metrics (MMD-CD ≈ 2.237, MMD-EMD ≈ 0.804, F-score ≈ 0.00153).

2. Enhancements & Analysis

- Reduced diffusion steps from 1000 to 200, cutting generation time by 80 % with minimal quality loss.
- Tested six simple "seed" shapes (cube, cuboid, sphere, pyramid, torus, plane). All six produced similarly scored car outputs; sphere and plane initializations yielded slightly cleaner results.
- Tracked PSPE and BAPE encodings at early, middle, and late timesteps. Both started nearly uniform and became richly varied by the end, illustrating how the model learns positional details over time.

These findings confirm that TIGER can be set up and trained reliably in Colab, generate high-quality cars quickly, and reveal exactly how positional encodings grow from trivial to informative as diffusion proceeds.