

# Diffusion Models

How AI Learns to Create Images from Noise

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February 21, 2026

CSE 200: Technical Writing and Presentation  
**Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology**

# Outline

Introduction

Core Idea

Forward Diffusion Process

Reverse Diffusion Process

Training

Insights

Applications

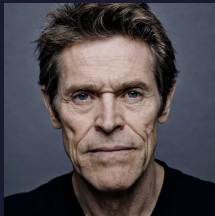
Limitations & Challenges

Conclusion

# What Problem Are We Solving?



Real face

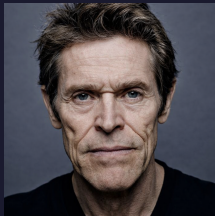


AI-generated face (*Sora*)

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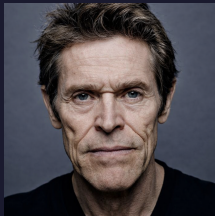
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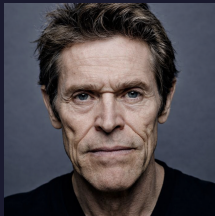
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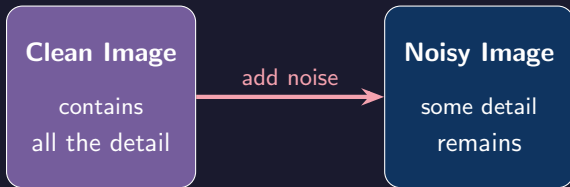
**Diffusion models** provide a *stable, high-quality* solution.

# The Core Idea: Learning by Destroying

**Clean Image**

contains  
all the detail

# The Core Idea: Learning by Destroying

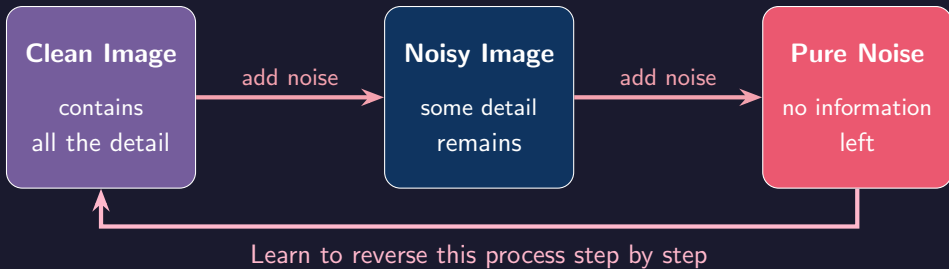




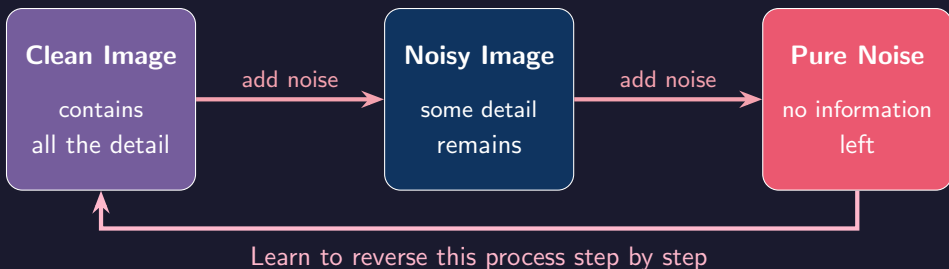
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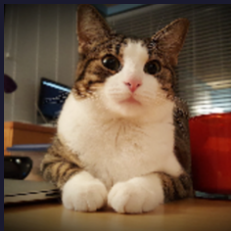
# The Core Idea: Learning by Destroying



## We Essentially Have Two Diffusion Processes

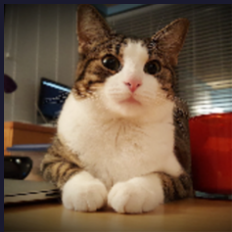
- The **Forward Diffusion Process** that gradually adds noise.
- The **Reverse Diffusion Process** that removes noise step by step.

# The Forward Diffusion Process: Adding Noise



Clean Image

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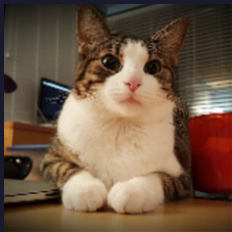


Clean Image



Slightly Noisy

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Clean Image

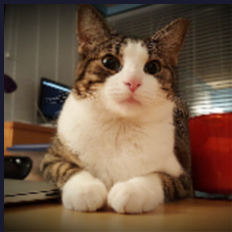


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Heavily Noisy

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Clean Image



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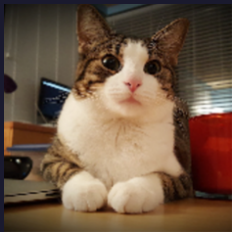


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Pure Noise

# The Forward Diffusion Process: Adding Noise



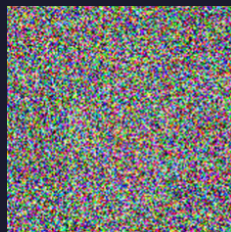
Clean Image



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Pure Noise

## What Happens

Take a real image and add a *tiny* bit of random noise. Repeat this hundreds of times until only noise remains.



# The Reverse Diffusion Process: Removing Noise



Pure Noise

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Pure Noise



Slightly Less Noisy

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Slightly Less Noisy



Almost Denoised

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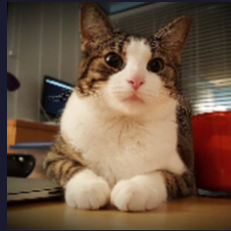
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Fully Denoised

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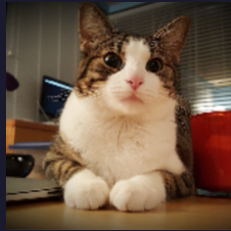
Pure Noise



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## How Generation Works

- Start from **pure noise**
- Predict and remove a little noise at each step
- Repeat until a realistic image appears

To produce realistic images, the model must **learn** to **reverse** the noise process.

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**But how does the model learn this reverse process?**

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4. Compare the prediction to the **actual noise**, minimize the error

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## Why It Works

- The task is simplified into **small, predictable steps**
- Each step only removes a tiny amount of noise
- Repeating simple steps reconstructs complex structure

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## Advantages

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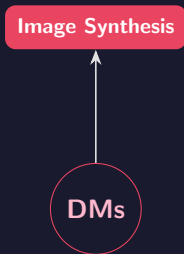
In practice, diffusion models combine reliability with strong output quality.

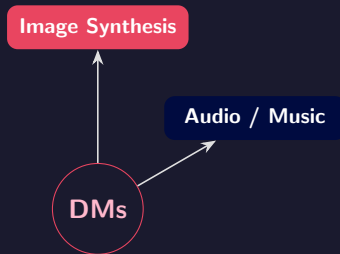
Diffusion models generate realistic data by learning the *underlying probability distribution* through reversing a *gradual, structured noise process*.

## Summary

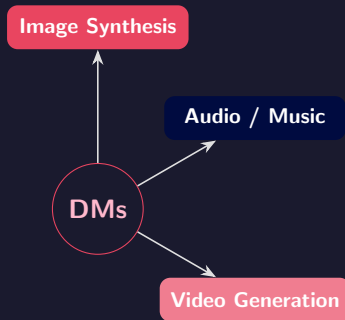
Diffusion models generate realistic data by learning the *underlying probability distribution* through reversing a *gradual, structured noise process*.

**But where is Diffusion Models actually applied?**



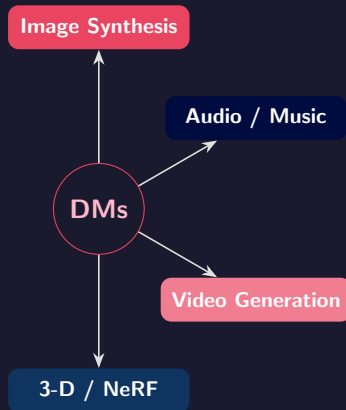


# Applications

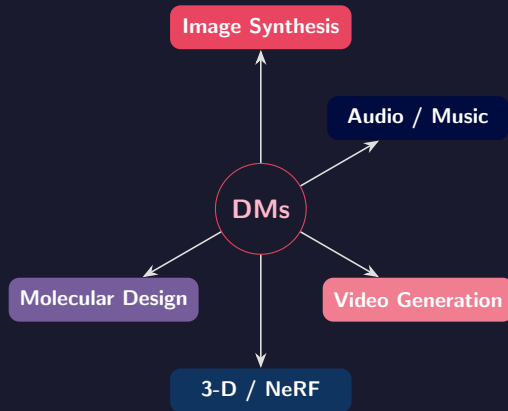




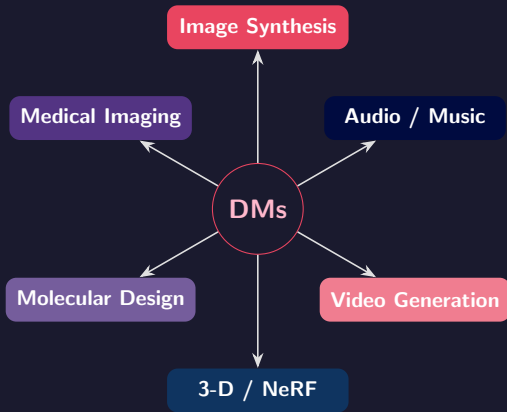
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## Some Real-World Tools Powered by Diffusion



Midjourney

## Some Real-World Tools Powered by Diffusion



Midjourney



DALL·E

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DALL-E



OpenAI Sora

## Current Limitations

- **Slow generation:** requires many denoising steps (hundreds to thousands)

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- **High compute cost:** training requires significant GPU resources
- **Large model size:** not easy to run on consumer hardware

# Open Challenges

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- Can we make generation **faster**? (Active research area)
- How do we ensure generated content is **safe and ethical**?
- Can we extend to **longer videos** and **interactive content**?

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# Thank You!

Thanks for Listening!

## References

- [1] J. Ho et al. **“Denoising diffusion probabilistic models”**. In: *Proceedings of the 34th International Conference on Neural Information Processing Systems*. NIPS '20. Vancouver, BC, Canada: Curran Associates Inc., 2020.
- [2] Y. Song and S. Ermon. **“Generative modeling by estimating gradients of the data distribution”**. In: *Advances in neural information processing systems* 32 (2019).
- [3] J. Song et al. **“Denoising diffusion implicit models”**. In: *arXiv preprint arXiv:2010.02502* (2020).
- [4] A. Q. Nichol and P. Dhariwal. **“Improved denoising diffusion probabilistic models”**. In: *International conference on machine learning*. PMLR. 2021, pp. 8162–8171.