

Lecture 5

# Diffusion Models

6.S978 Deep Generative Models

Kaiming He

Fall 2024, EECS, MIT



# Overview

- Diffusion Models
- Energy-based Models and Score Matching

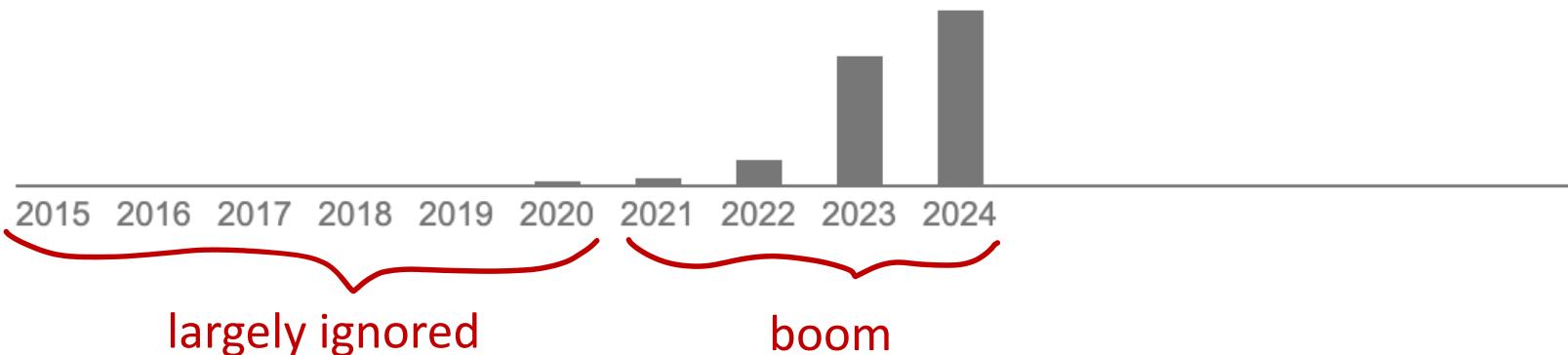
# Deep unsupervised learning using nonequilibrium thermodynamics

Authors Jascha Sohl-Dickstein, Eric A Weiss, Niru Maheswaranathan, Surya Ganguli

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Journal International Conference on Machine Learning

Total citations [Cited by 5630](#)



# Diffusion Models

# Diffusion Models

## Forward process

- add noise to data

## Reverse process

- learn to denoise

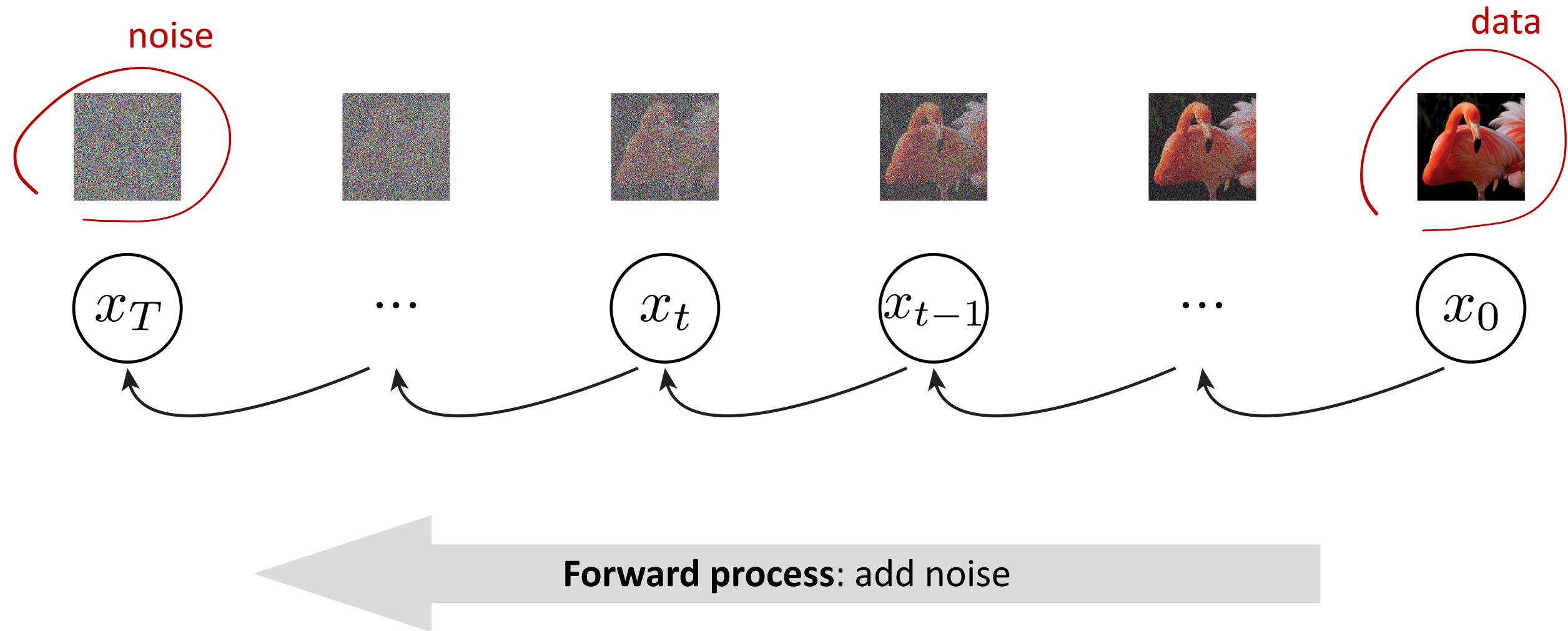
## Training objective

- from Hierarchical VAE to L2 loss

## Noise Conditional Network

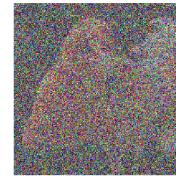
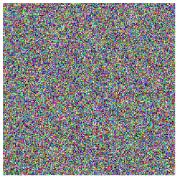
- represent distributions

# ... in a nutshell

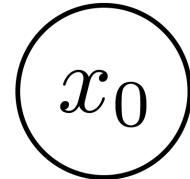
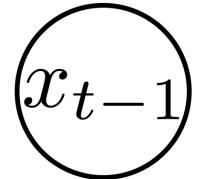
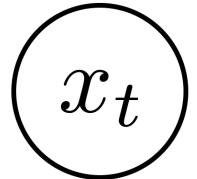
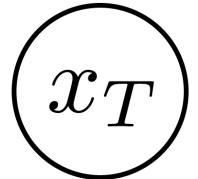


# ... in a nutshell

noise



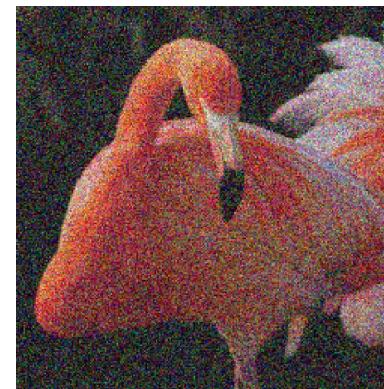
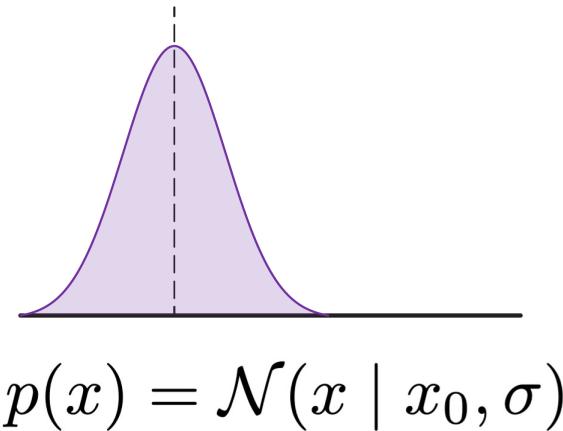
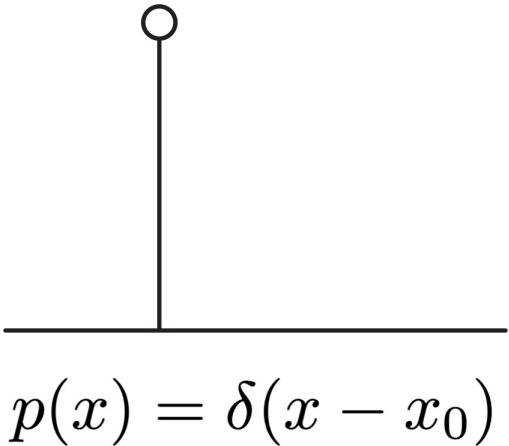
data



Reverse process: denoise

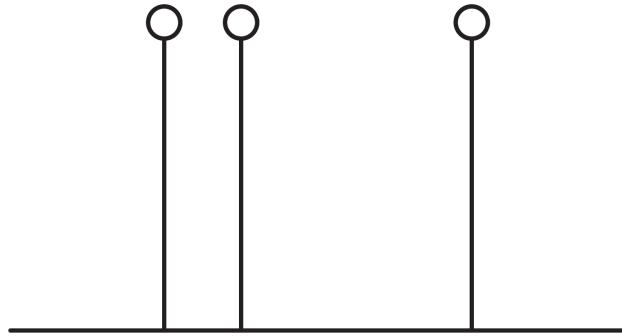
# What is noise?

- Adding Gaussian noise  $\Leftrightarrow$  sampling  $x \sim \mathcal{N}(x \mid x_0, \sigma)$

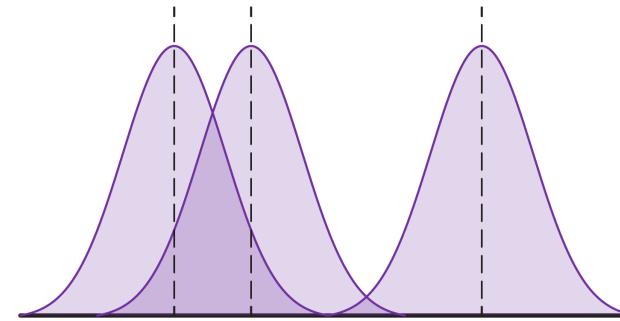


# What is noise?

- Adding Gaussian noise  $\Leftrightarrow$  sampling  $x \sim \mathcal{N}(x \mid x_0, \sigma)$



$$p_{\text{data}}(x)$$

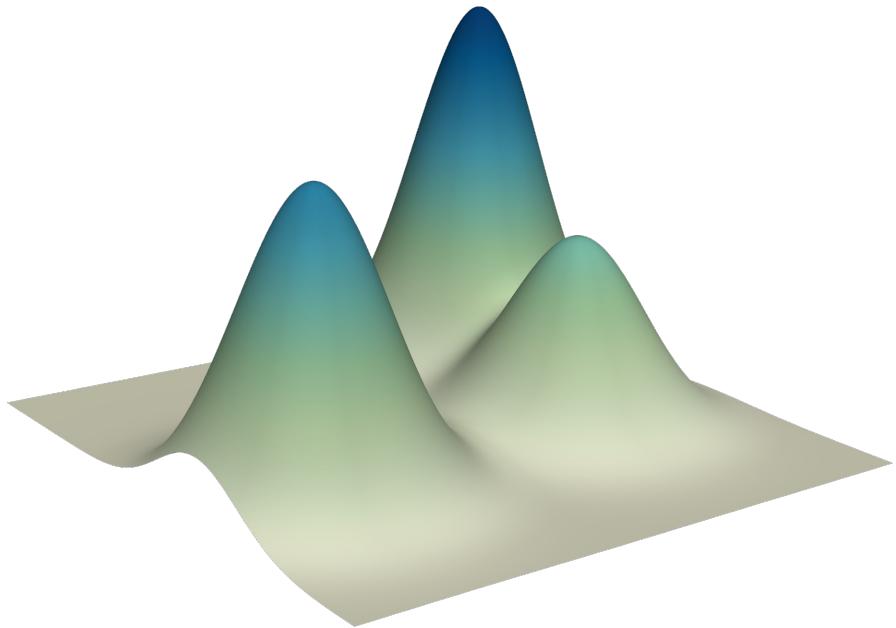


$$p_{\text{data}}(x) \circledast \mathcal{N}(x \mid 0, \sigma)$$

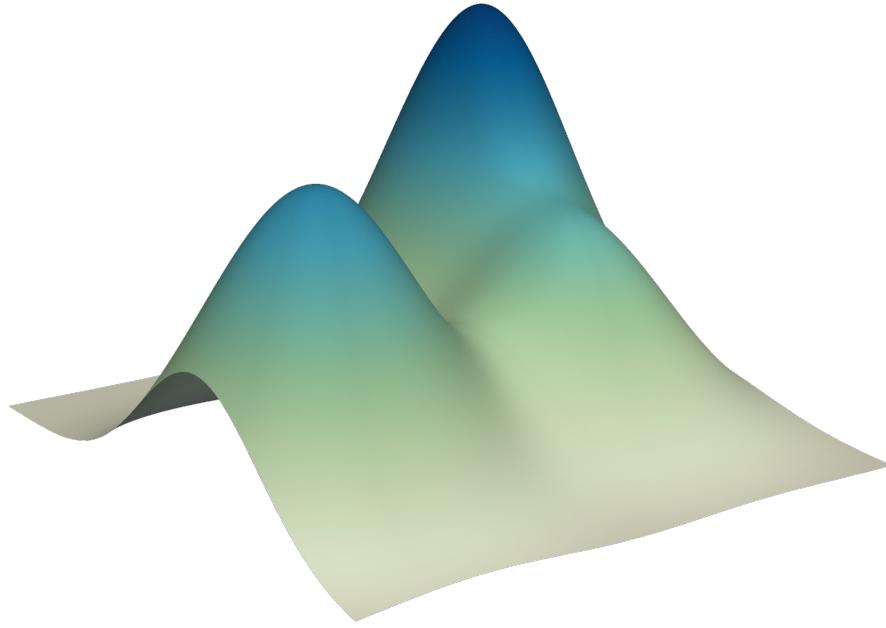
convolution  
(of pdf)

# What is noise?

- Adding Gaussian noise  $\Leftrightarrow$  sampling  $x \sim \mathcal{N}(x \mid x_0, \sigma)$



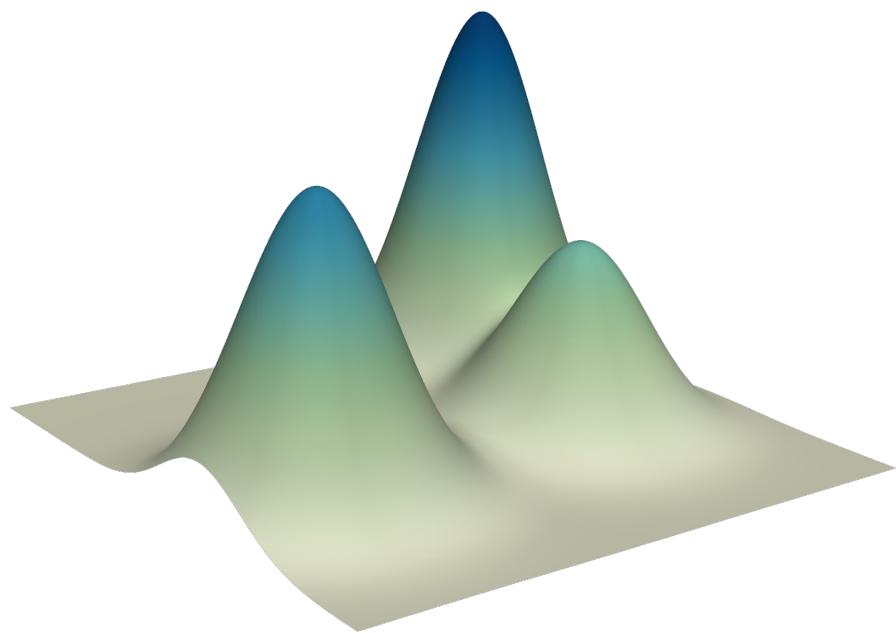
$$p_{\text{data}}(x)$$



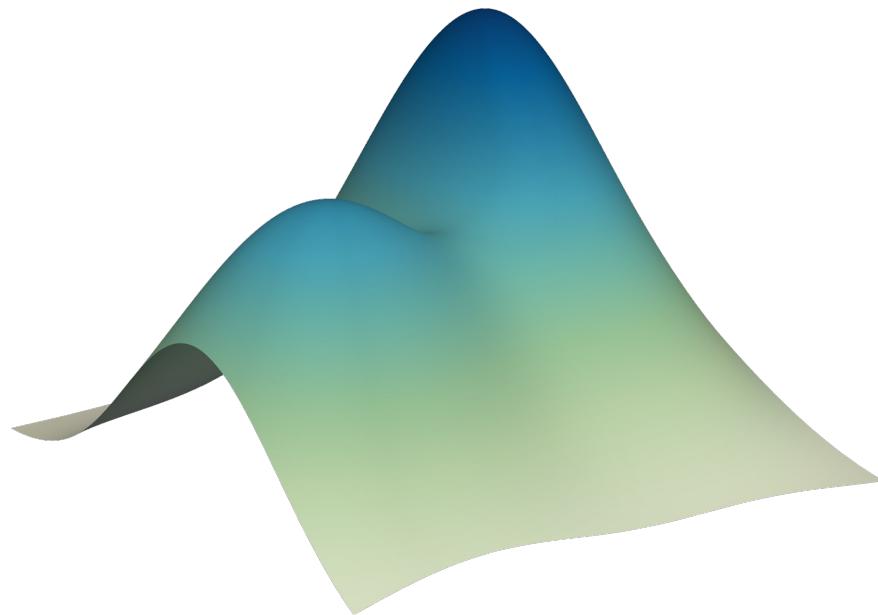
$$p_{\text{data}}(x) * \mathcal{N}(x \mid 0, \sigma)$$

# What is noise?

- Adding Gaussian noise  $\Leftrightarrow$  sampling  $x \sim \mathcal{N}(x \mid x_0, \sigma)$



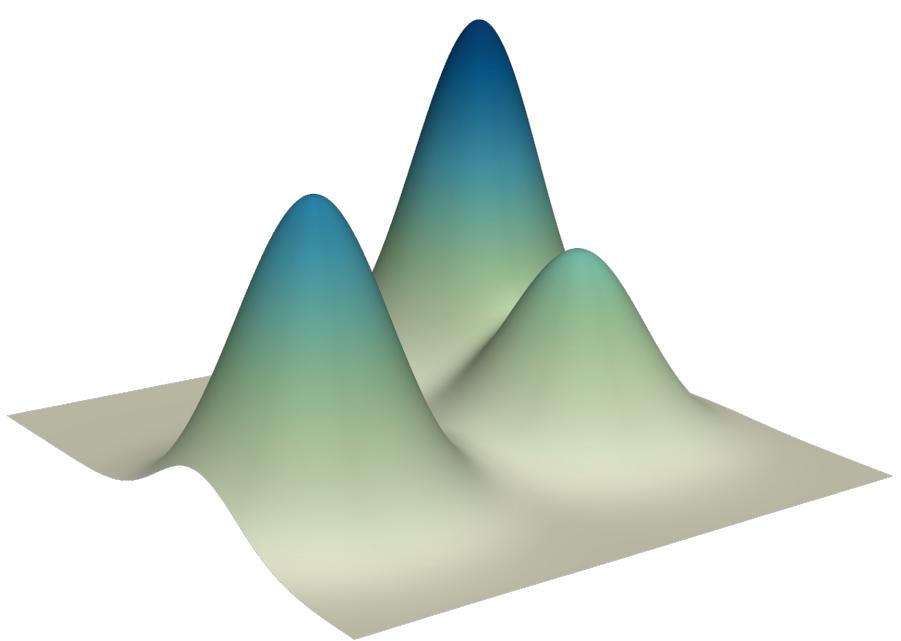
$$p_{\text{data}}(x)$$



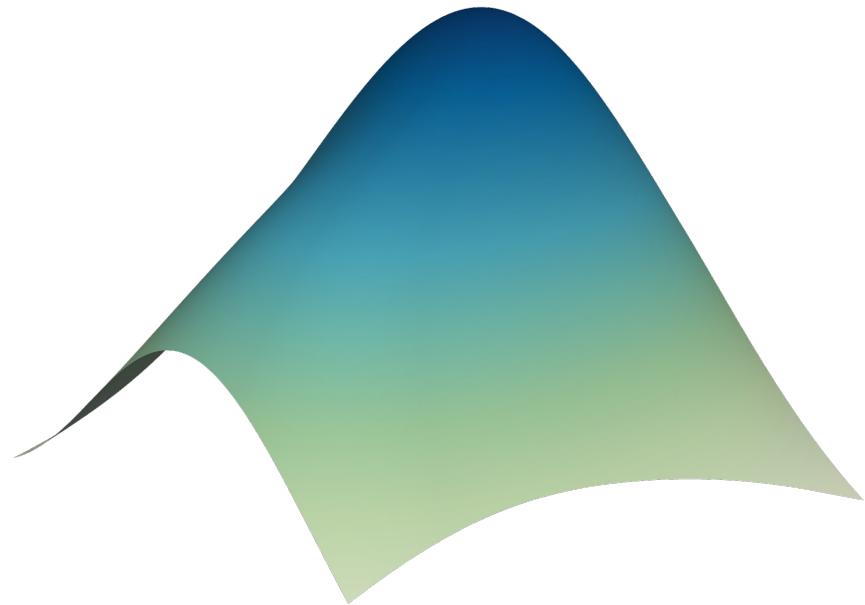
$$p_{\text{data}}(x) * \mathcal{N}(x \mid 0, \sigma)$$

# What is noise?

- Adding Gaussian noise  $\Leftrightarrow$  sampling  $x \sim \mathcal{N}(x \mid x_0, \sigma)$



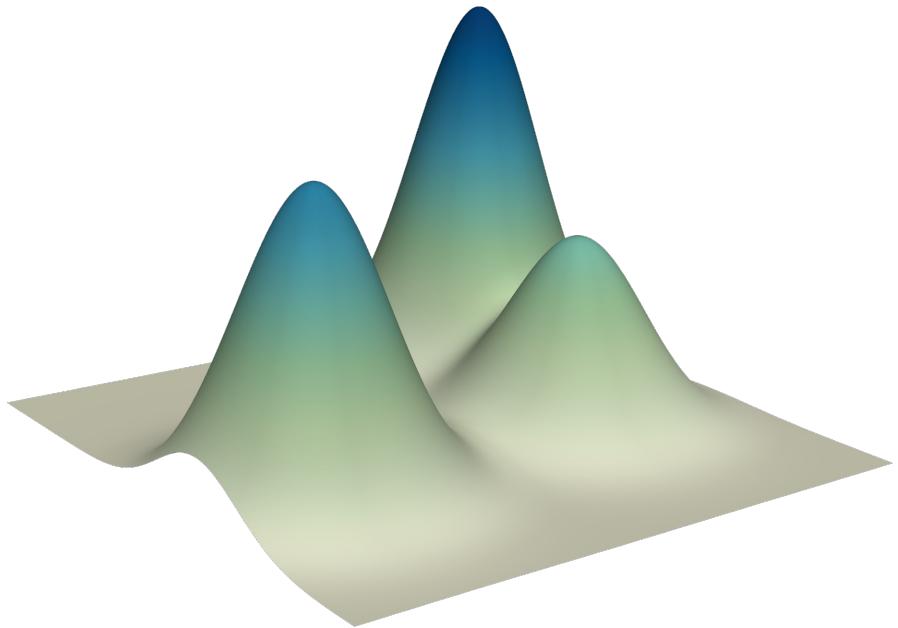
$$p_{\text{data}}(x)$$



$$p_{\text{data}}(x) * \mathcal{N}(x \mid 0, \sigma)$$

# What is noise?

- Adding Gaussian noise  $\Leftrightarrow$  sampling  $x \sim \mathcal{N}(x \mid x_0, \sigma)$

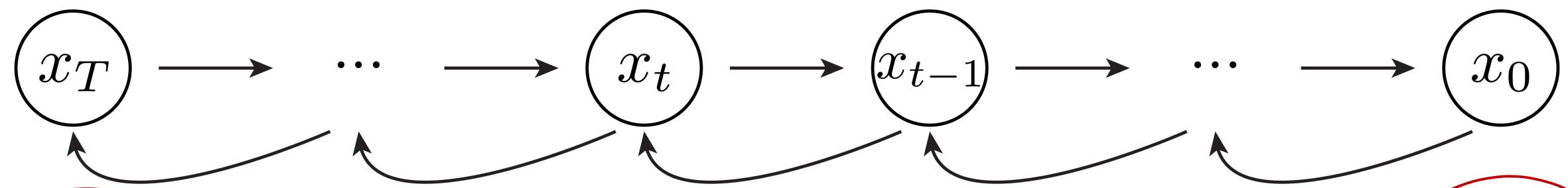


$$p_{\text{data}}(x)$$



$$p_{\text{data}}(x) * \mathcal{N}(x \mid 0, \sigma)$$

# What is noise?



noise  
distribution

data  
distribution

# Diffusion Models

## Forward process

- add noise to data

## Reverse process

- learn to denoise

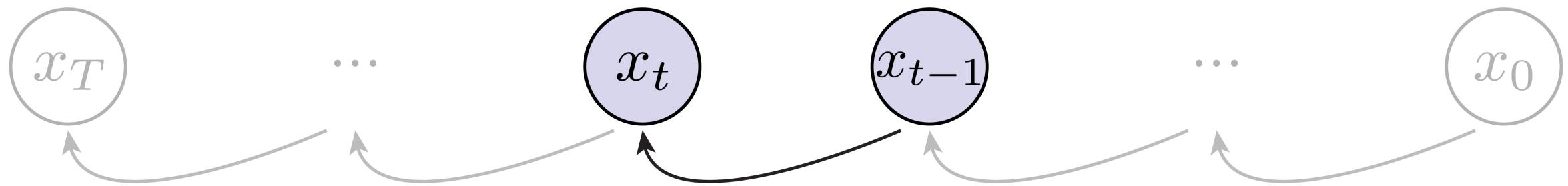
## Training objective

- from Hierarchical VAE to L2 loss

## Noise Conditional Network

- represent distributions

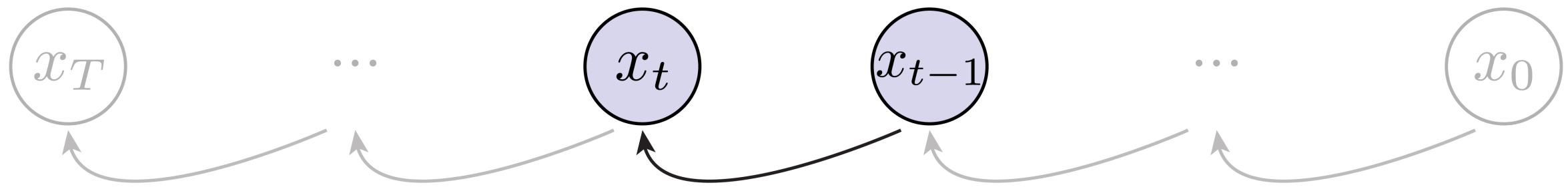
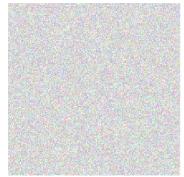
# Forward Process



$$x_t = \underbrace{\sqrt{1 - \beta_t}}_{\text{coefficients: variance preserving}} x_{t-1} + \underbrace{\sqrt{\beta_t} \epsilon}_{\epsilon \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \mathbf{I})},$$

coefficients:  
variance preserving

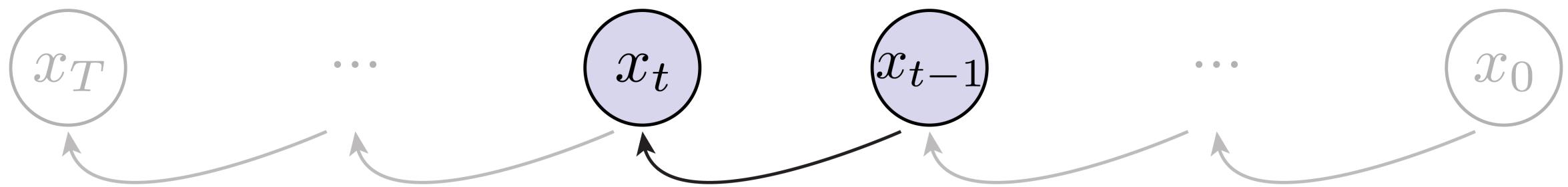
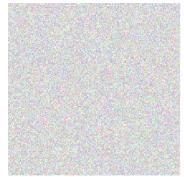
# Forward Process



$$x_t = \sqrt{1 - \beta_t} x_{t-1} + \sqrt{\beta_t} \epsilon, \quad \epsilon \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \mathbf{I})$$

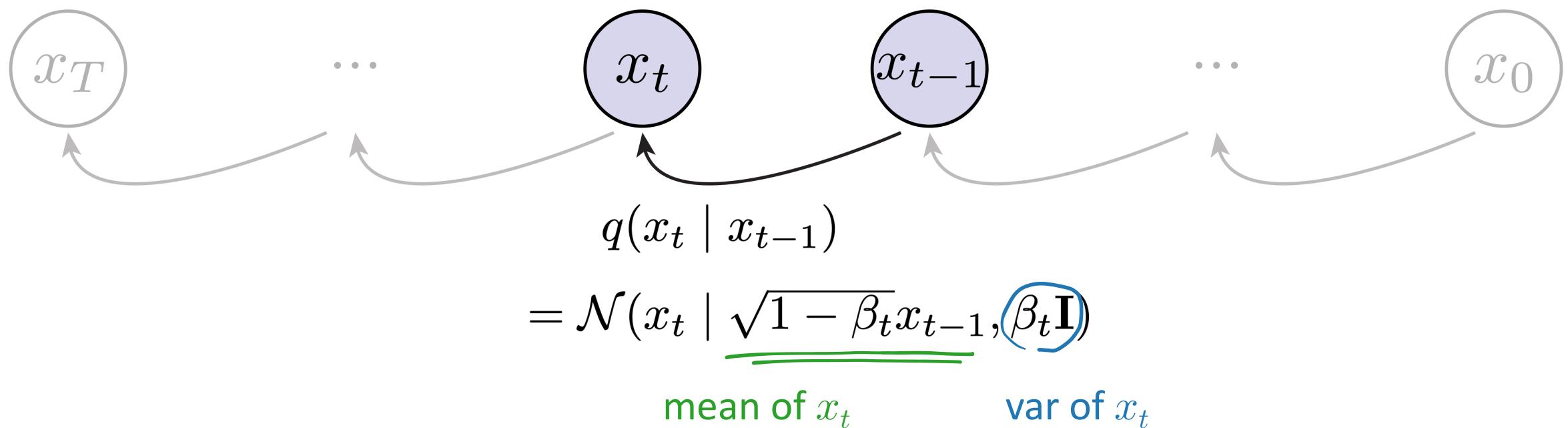
*t*: “schedule”,  
key to Diffusion Models’ success

# Forward Process

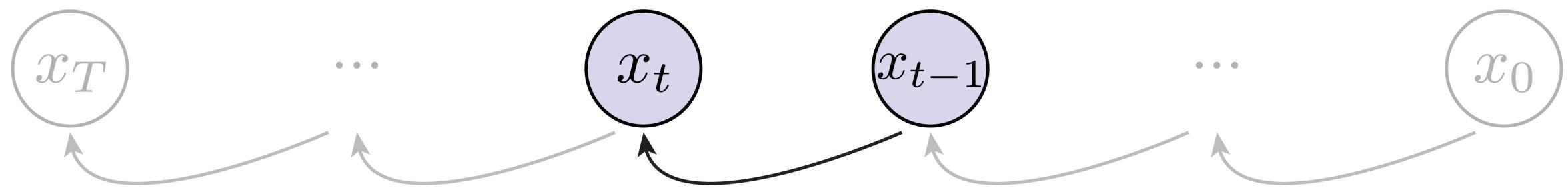
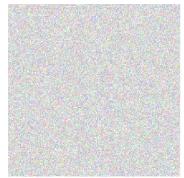


$$x_t = \underbrace{\sqrt{1 - \beta_t} x_{t-1}}_{\text{mean of } x_t} + \underbrace{\sqrt{\beta_t} \epsilon}_{\text{std of } x_t}, \quad \epsilon \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \mathbf{I})$$

# Forward Process



# Forward Process

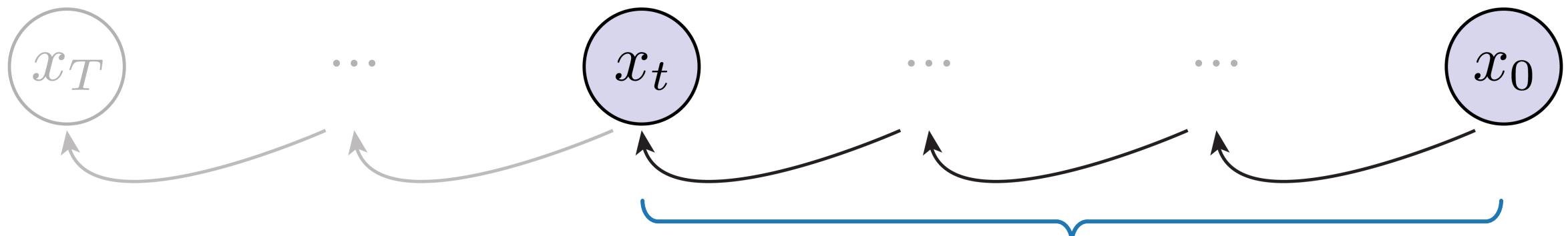


$$q(x_t | x_{t-1}) = \mathcal{N}(x_t | \sqrt{1 - \beta_t} x_{t-1}, \beta_t \mathbf{I})$$

identity matrix

- sampling is i.i.d.
- dim = dim of data

# Forward Process



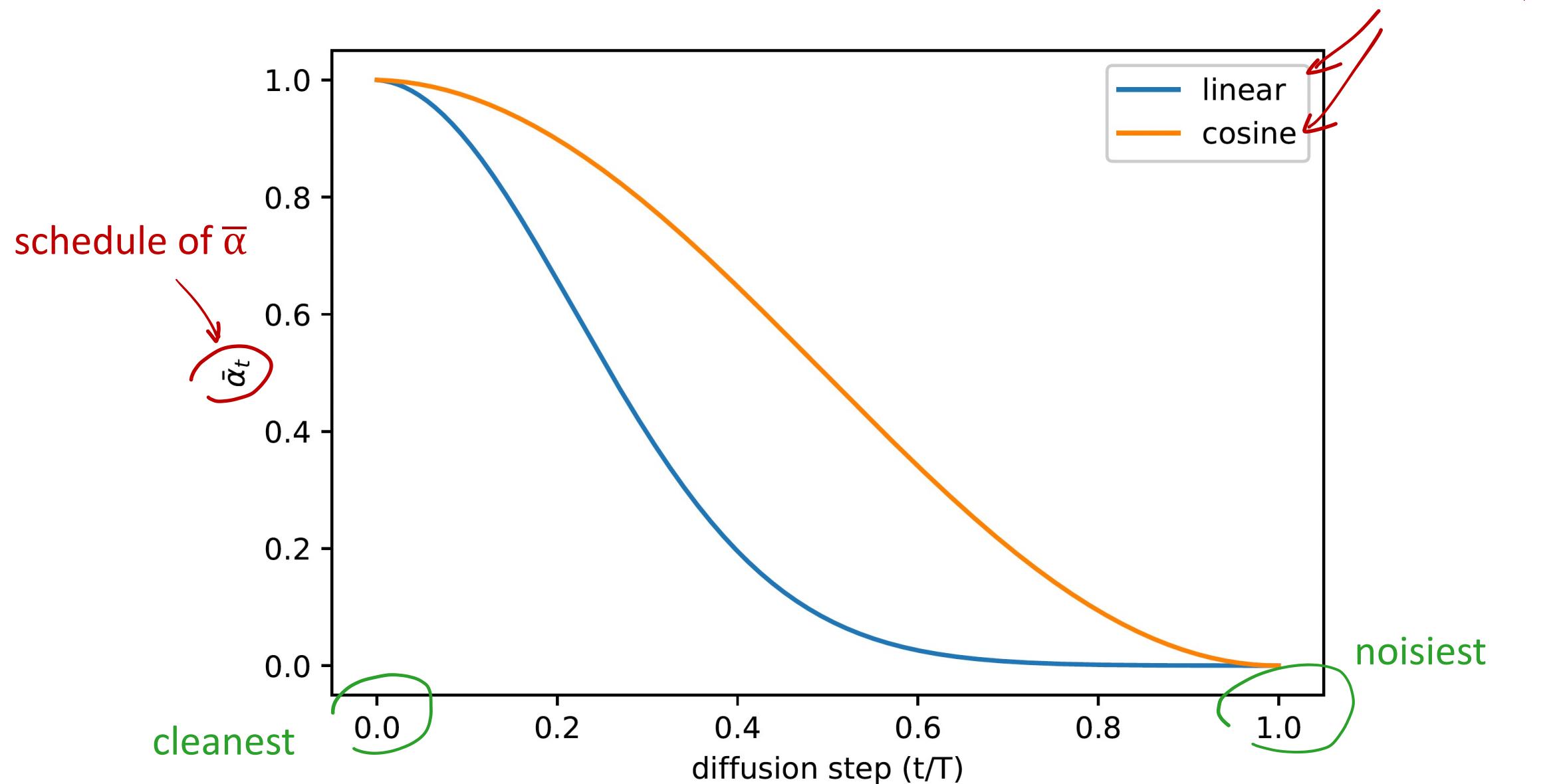
- sampling without simulation
- $x_t$  from  $x_0$  in closed form

$$q(x_t | x_0) = \mathcal{N}(x_t | \underbrace{\sqrt{\alpha_t} x_0}_{\text{coefficients given by } \beta}, \underbrace{(1 - \bar{\alpha}_t) \mathbf{I}}_{\bar{\alpha}_t := \prod_{s=1}^t \alpha_s})$$

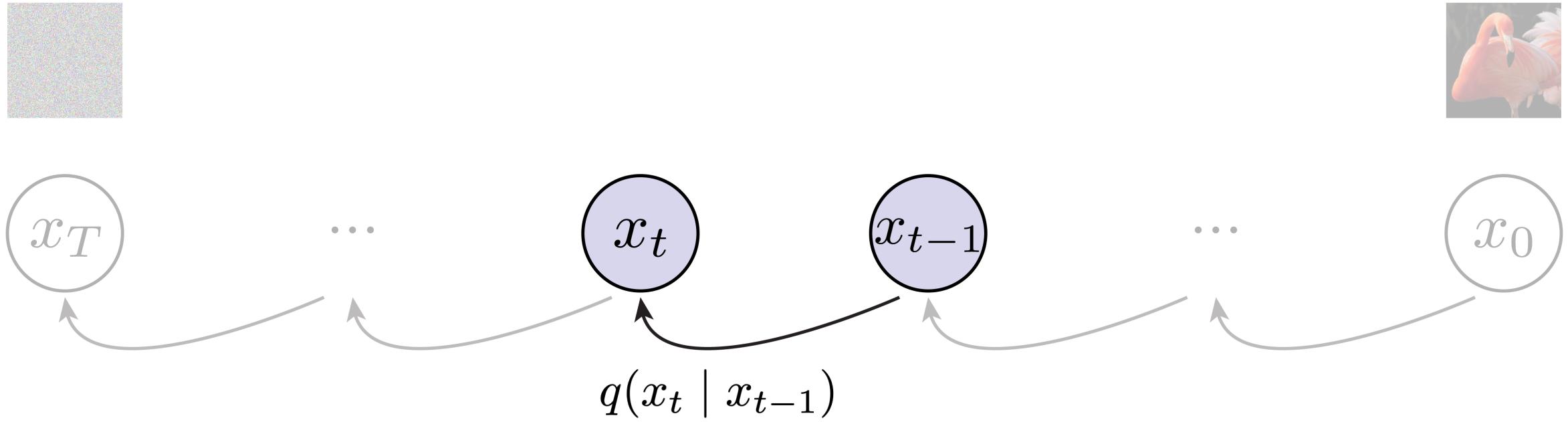
coefficients  
given by  $\beta$

$$\alpha_t := 1 - \beta_t$$
$$\bar{\alpha}_t := \prod_{s=1}^t \alpha_s$$

# Forward Process: Noise Schedule



# Forward Process



tl; dr:

- pre-defined conditional distributions
- Gaussian w/ controllable mean/std
- divide and conquer

# Diffusion Models

## Forward process

- add noise to data

## Reverse process

- learn to denoise

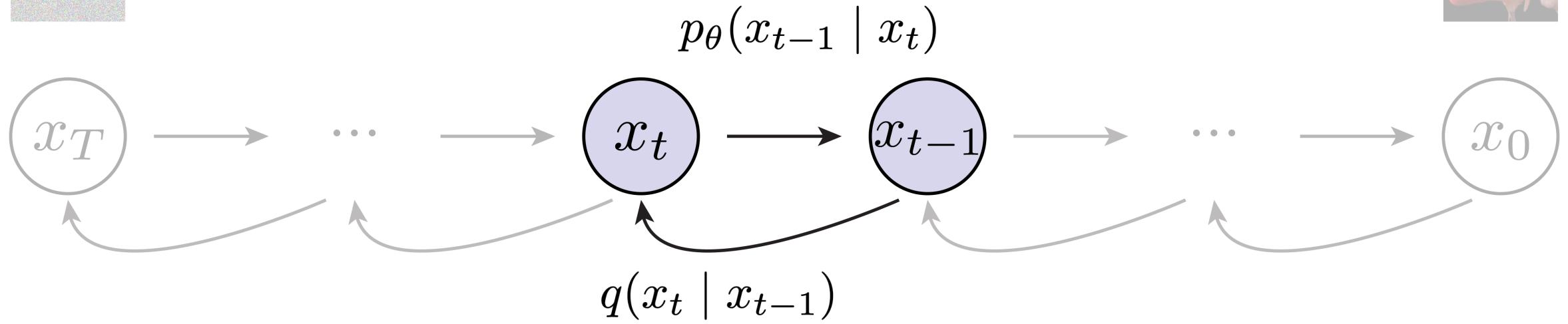
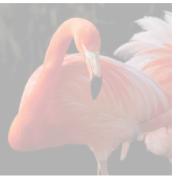
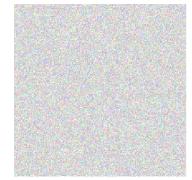
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- from Hierarchical VAE to L2 loss

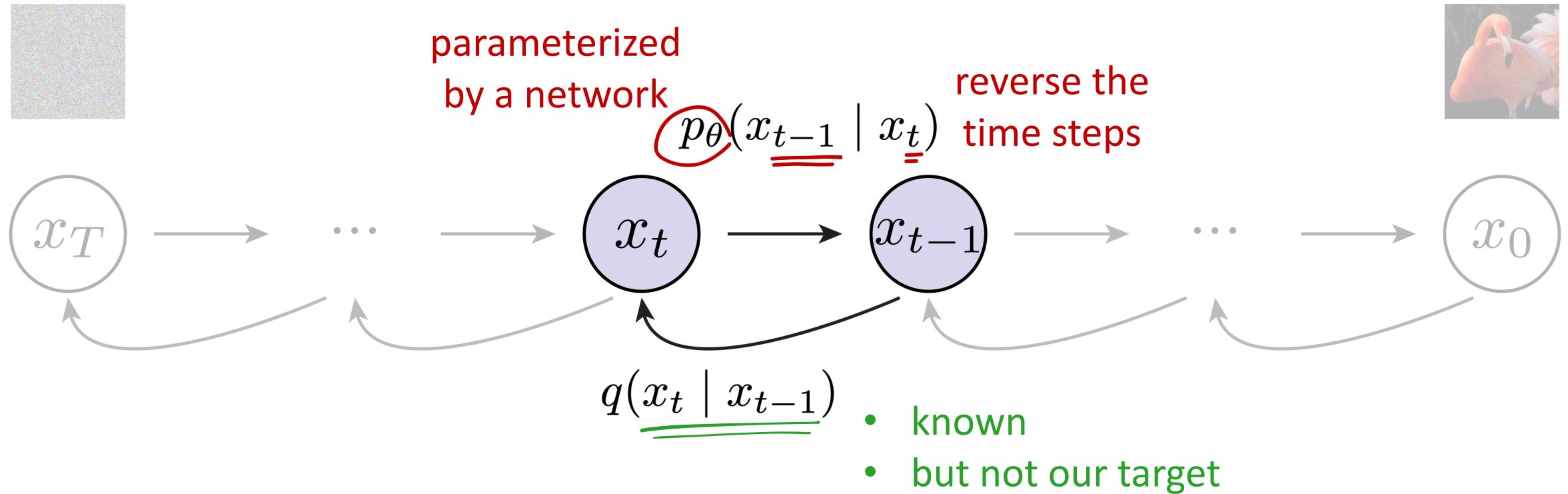
## Noise Conditional Network

- represent distributions

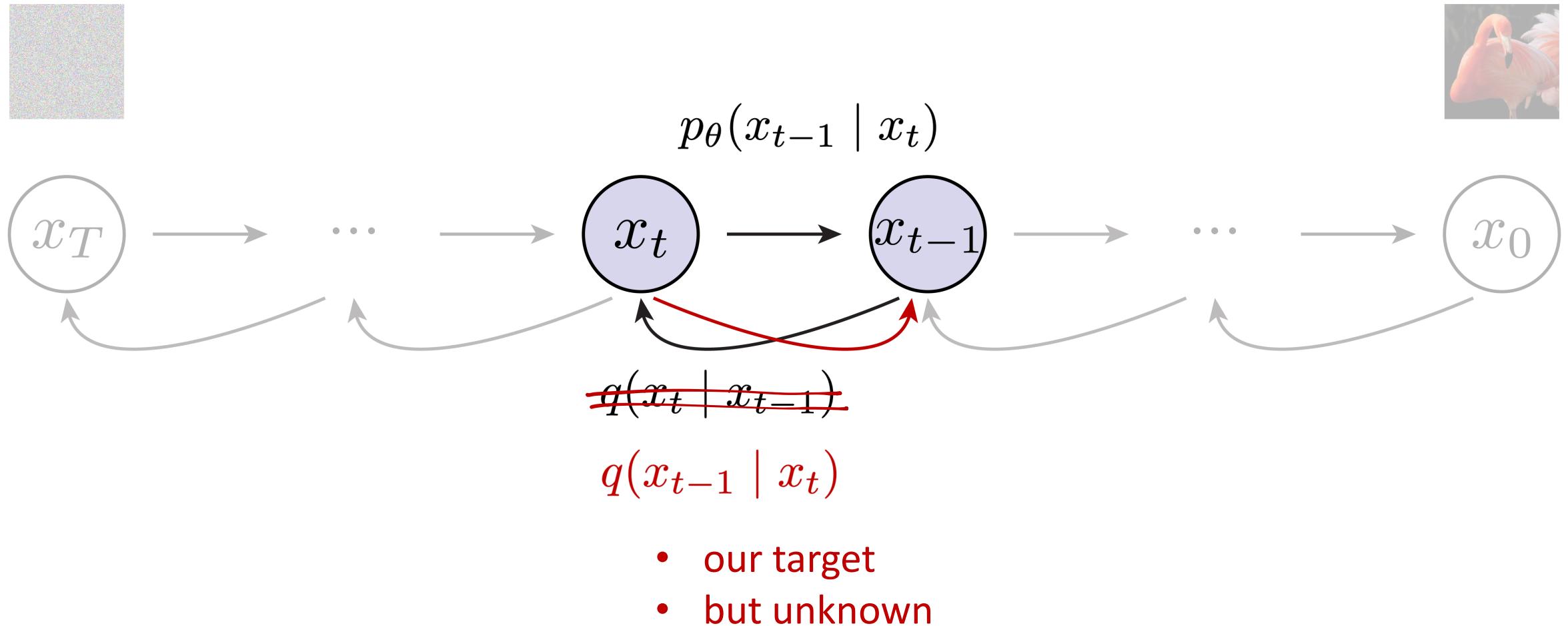
# Reverse Process



# Reverse Process



# Reverse Process



# Why are the reverse conditionals unknown?

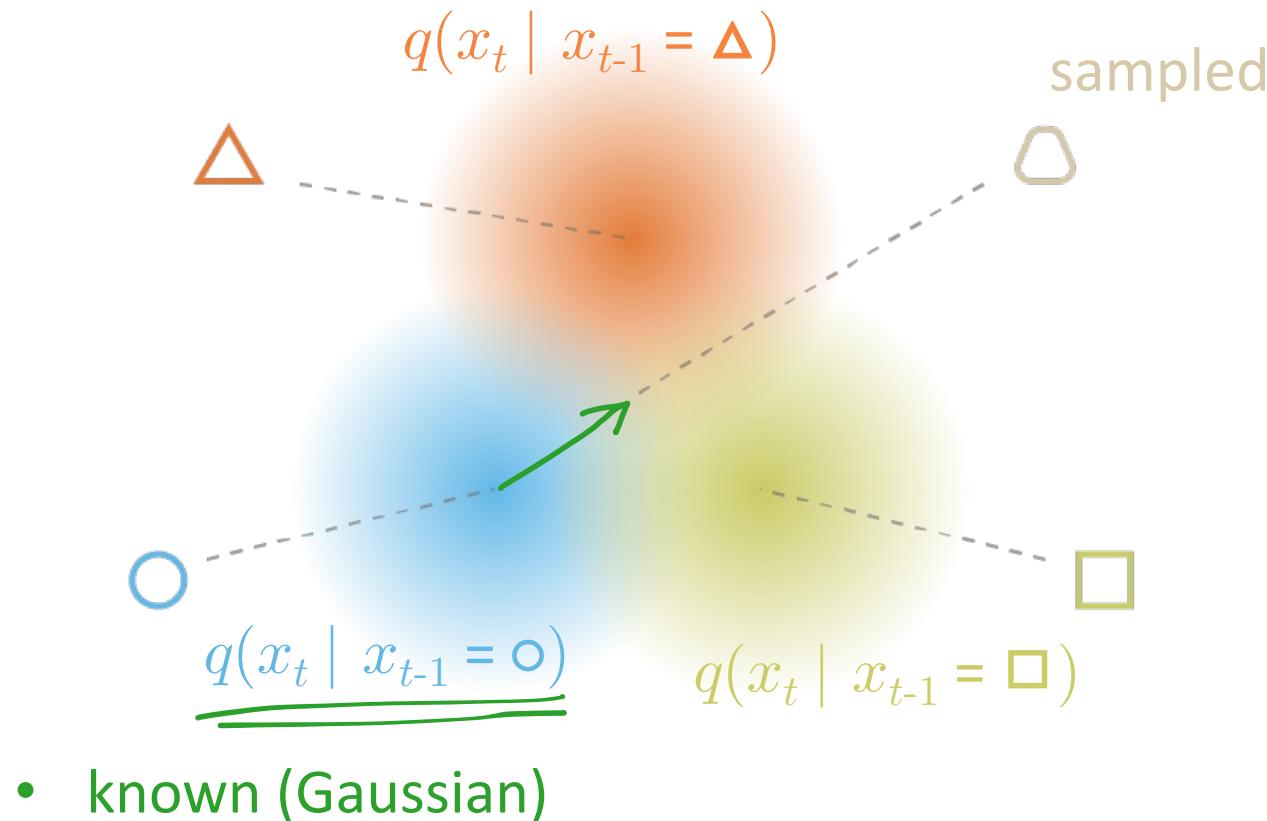


Figure adapted from: Joseph Rocca "Understanding Variational Autoencoders (VAEs)"  
<https://towardsdatascience.com/understanding-variational-autoencoders-vae-f70510919f73>

# Why are the reverse conditionals unknown?

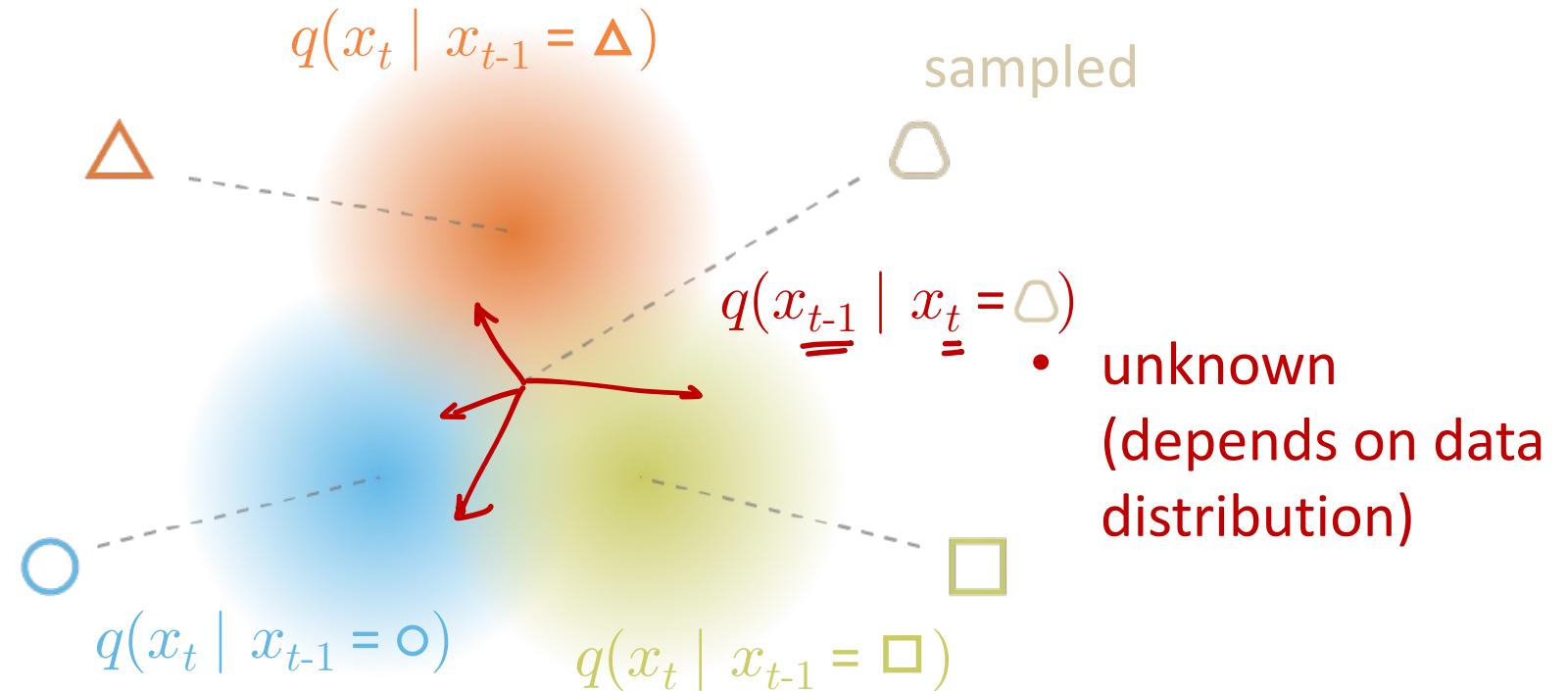
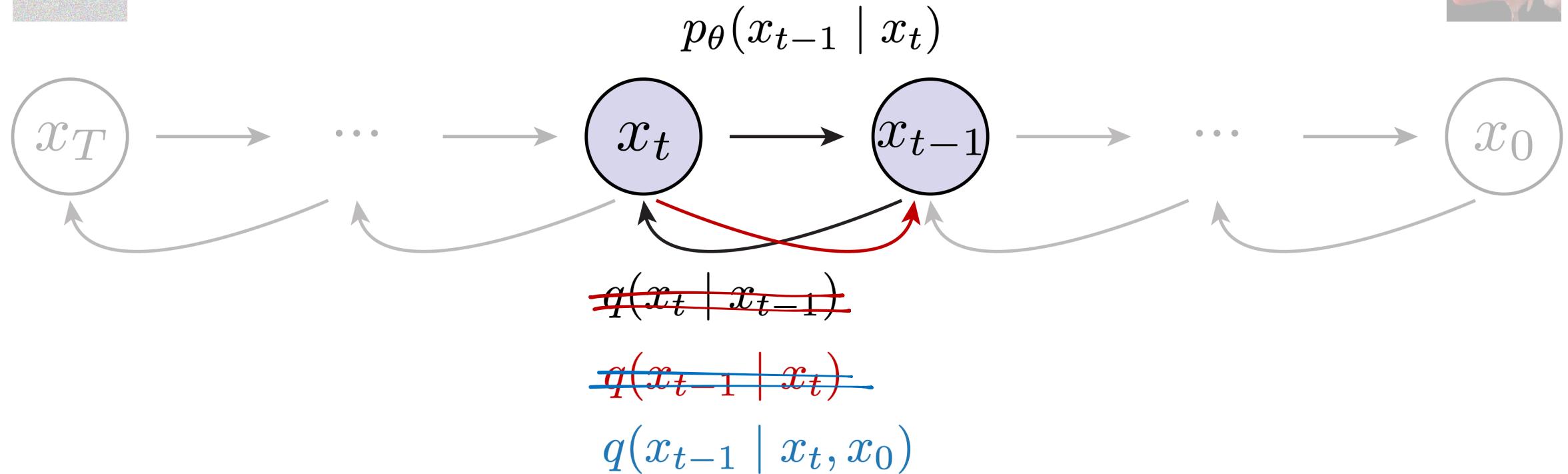
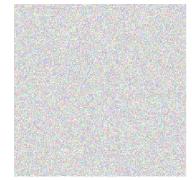


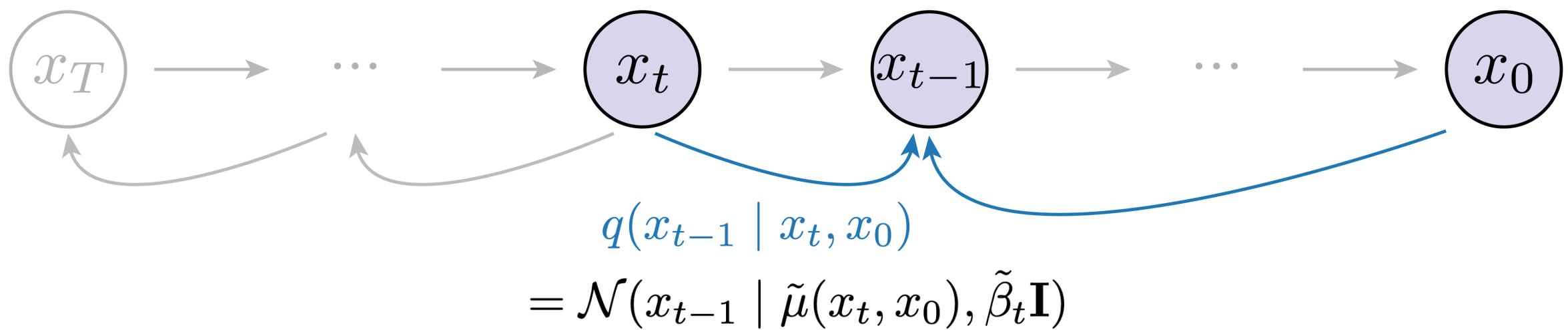
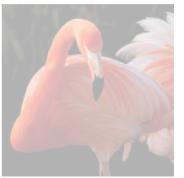
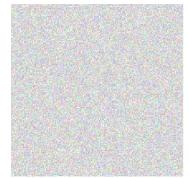
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# Reverse Process

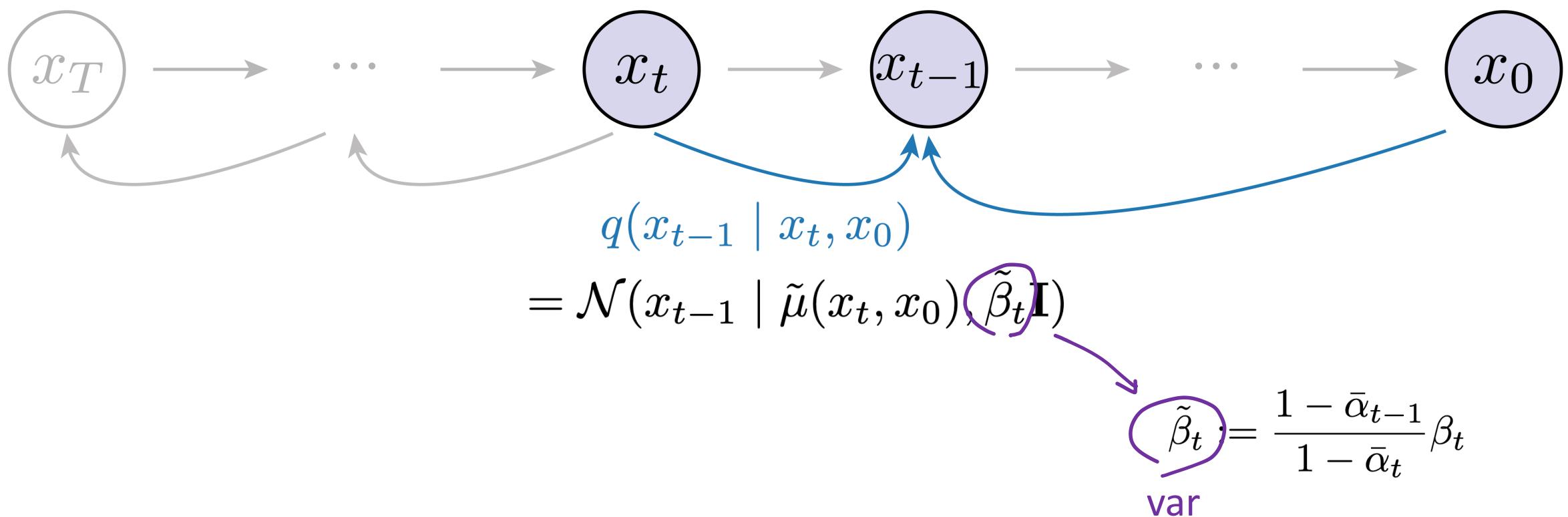
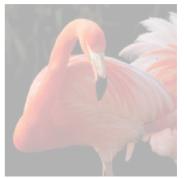
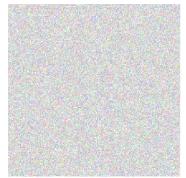


- known
- Gaussian

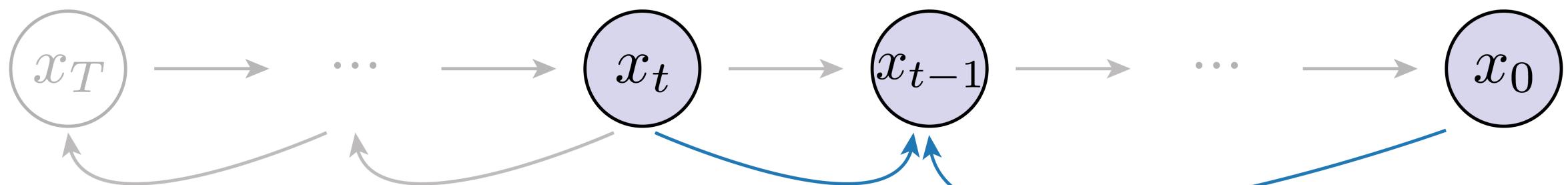
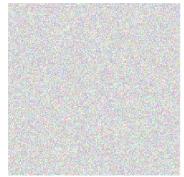
# Reverse Process



# Reverse Process



# Reverse Process



$$q(x_{t-1} | x_t, x_0) = \mathcal{N}(x_{t-1} | \tilde{\mu}(x_t, x_0), \tilde{\beta}_t \mathbf{I})$$

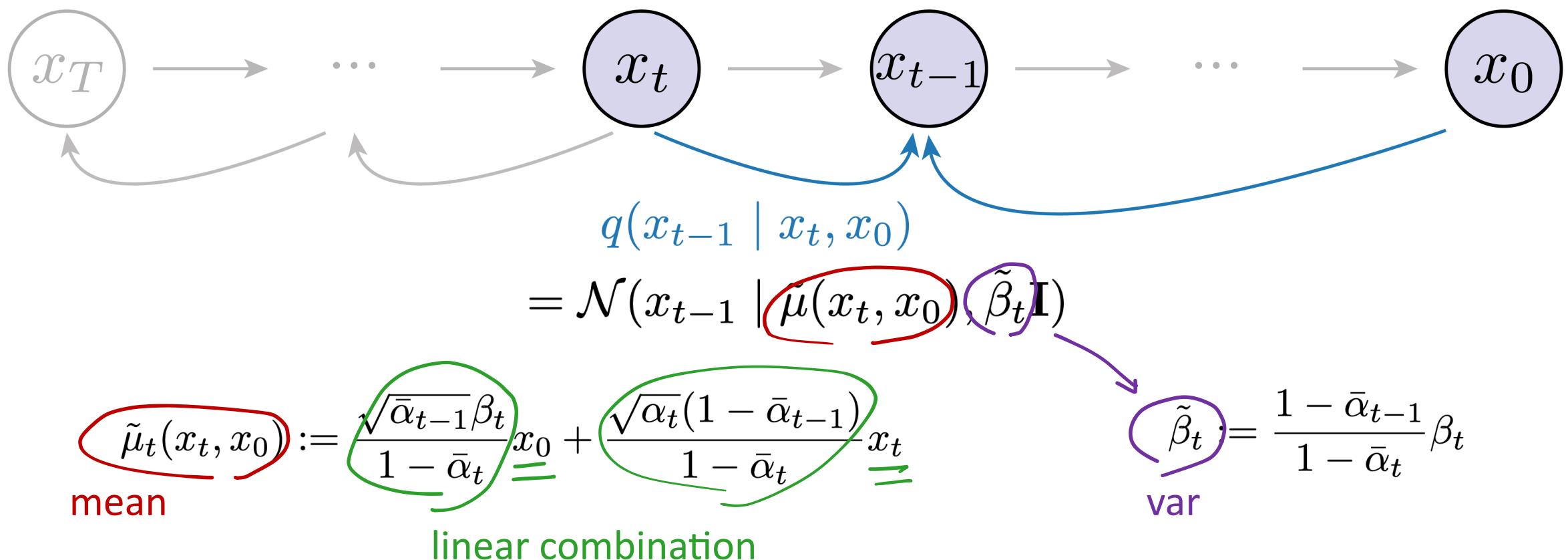
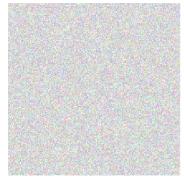
$$\tilde{\mu}_t(x_t, x_0) := \frac{\sqrt{\bar{\alpha}_{t-1}} \beta_t}{1 - \bar{\alpha}_t} x_0 + \frac{\sqrt{\alpha_t} (1 - \bar{\alpha}_{t-1})}{1 - \bar{\alpha}_t} x_t$$

mean

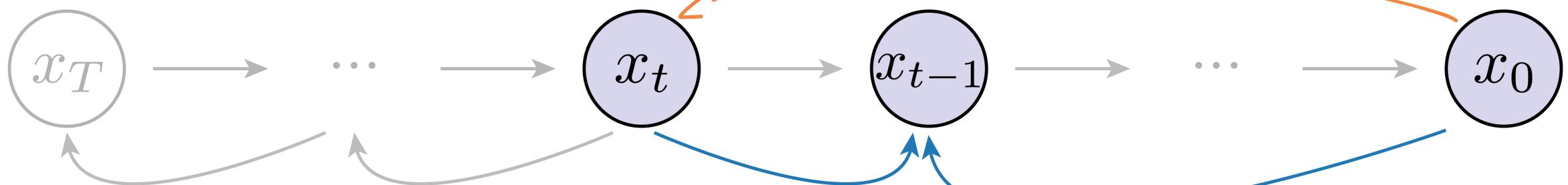
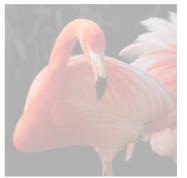
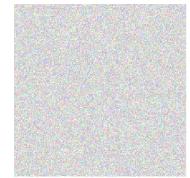
$$\tilde{\beta}_t = \frac{1 - \bar{\alpha}_{t-1}}{1 - \bar{\alpha}_t} \beta_t$$

var

# Reverse Process



# Reverse Process



$$x_t = \sqrt{\bar{\alpha}_t}x_0 + \sqrt{1 - \bar{\alpha}_t}\epsilon$$

$x_t$

$x_{t-1}$

$x_0$

$$q(x_{t-1} | x_t, x_0)$$

$$= \mathcal{N}(x_{t-1} | \tilde{\mu}(x_t, x_0), \tilde{\beta}_t \mathbf{I})$$

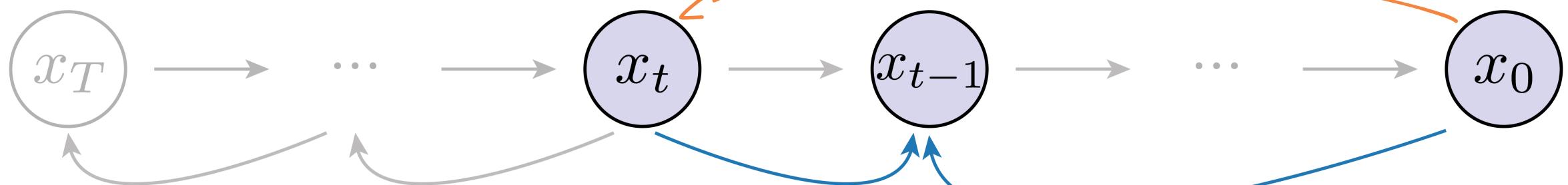
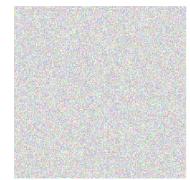
$$\tilde{\mu}_t(x_t, x_0) := \frac{\sqrt{\bar{\alpha}_{t-1}}\beta_t}{1 - \alpha_t}x_0 + \frac{\sqrt{\alpha_t}(1 - \bar{\alpha}_{t-1})}{1 - \bar{\alpha}_t}x_t$$

mean

$$\tilde{\beta}_t = \frac{1 - \bar{\alpha}_{t-1}}{1 - \bar{\alpha}_t} \beta_t$$

var

# Reverse Process



$$q(x_{t-1} | x_t, x_0) = \mathcal{N}(x_{t-1} | \tilde{\mu}(x_t, x_0), \tilde{\beta}_t \mathbf{I})$$

$$\tilde{\mu}_t(x_t, x_0) := \frac{\sqrt{\bar{\alpha}_{t-1}}\beta_t}{1 - \alpha_t}x_0 + \frac{\sqrt{\alpha_t}(1 - \bar{\alpha}_{t-1})}{1 - \bar{\alpha}_t}x_t$$

mean

$$= \frac{1}{\sqrt{\bar{\alpha}_t}} \left( x_t - \frac{1 - \alpha_t}{\sqrt{1 - \bar{\alpha}_t}} \epsilon \right)$$

“noise”

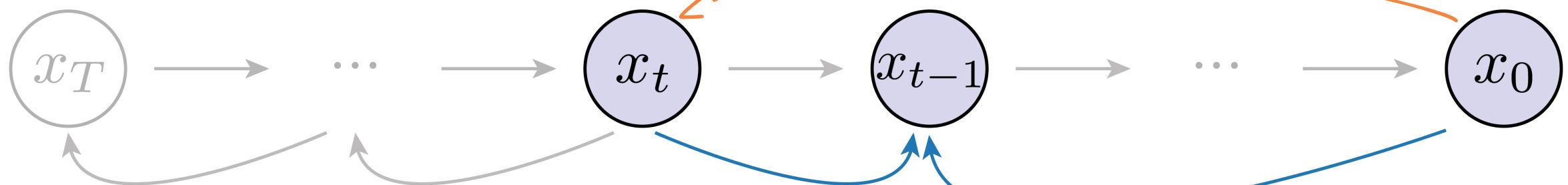
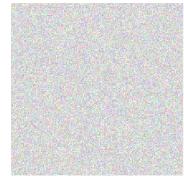
var

$$\tilde{\beta}_t = \frac{1 - \bar{\alpha}_{t-1}}{1 - \bar{\alpha}_t} \beta_t$$

# Reverse Process

tl; dr:

- outcome of the dependency graph
- some linear combinations



$$q(x_{t-1} | x_t, x_0)$$

$$= \mathcal{N}(x_{t-1} | \tilde{\mu}(x_t, x_0), \tilde{\beta}_t \mathbf{I})$$

$$\tilde{\mu}_t(x_t, x_0) := \frac{\sqrt{\bar{\alpha}_{t-1}} \beta_t}{1 - \alpha_t} x_0 + \frac{\sqrt{\alpha_t} (1 - \bar{\alpha}_{t-1})}{1 - \bar{\alpha}_t} x_t$$

mean

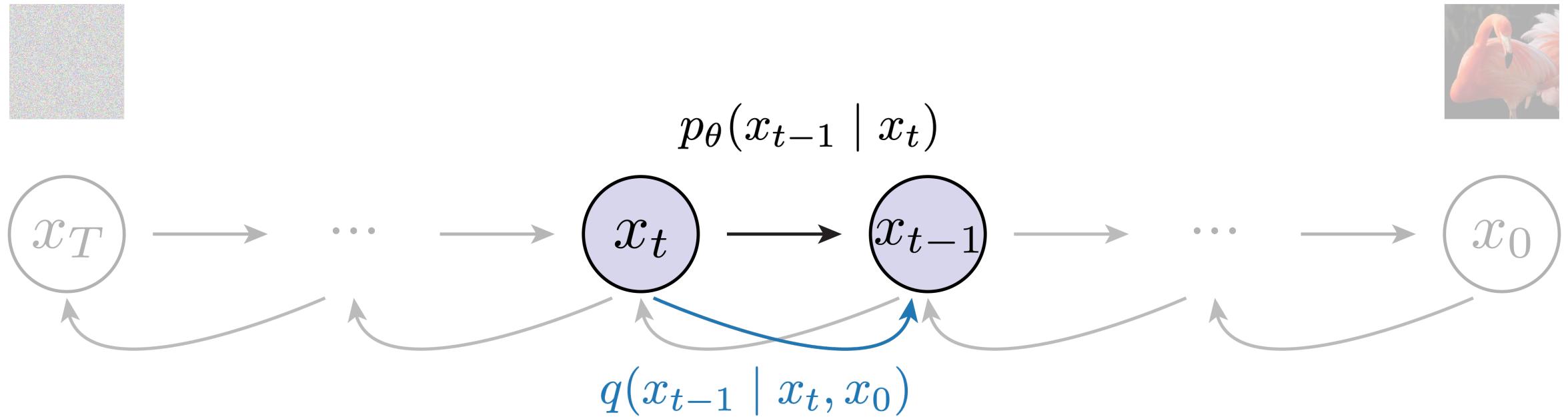
$$= \frac{1}{\sqrt{\bar{\alpha}_t}} \left( x_t - \frac{1 - \alpha_t}{\sqrt{1 - \bar{\alpha}_t}} \epsilon \right)$$

“noise”

$$\tilde{\beta}_t = \frac{1 - \bar{\alpha}_{t-1}}{1 - \bar{\alpha}_t} \beta_t$$

var

# Reverse Process

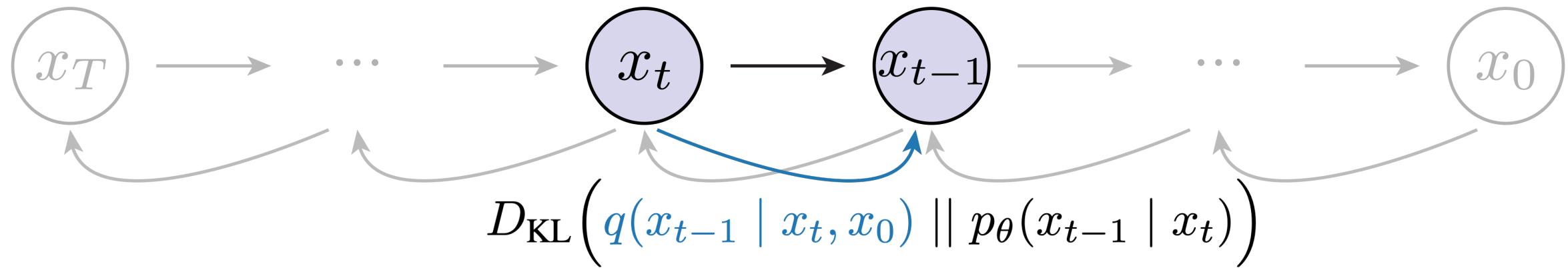
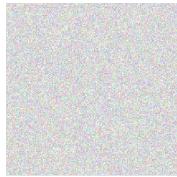


- tl; dr: a known Gaussian
- we want to learn it by  $p_{\theta}$
- we can represent  $p_{\theta}$  by a Gaussian
- minimize KL divergence

# Reverse Process

$D_{\text{KL}}$  of two Gaussians is like L2 loss: (pset 1)

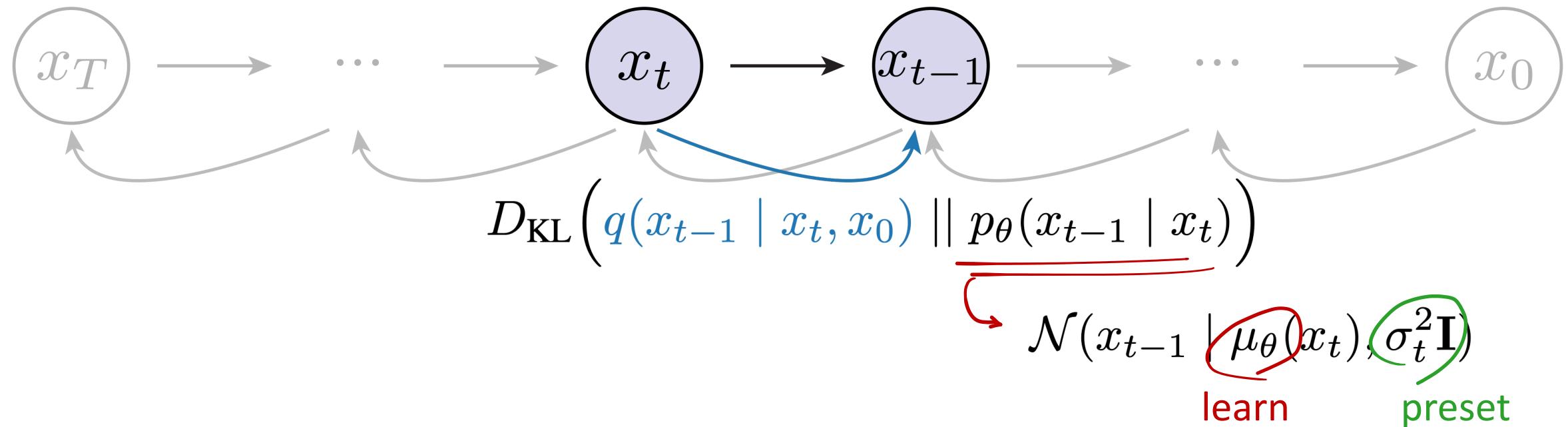
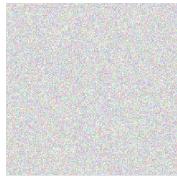
$$D_{KL}(\mathcal{N}_1 \parallel \mathcal{N}_2) = \log\left(\frac{\sigma_2}{\sigma_1}\right) + \frac{\sigma_1^2 + \|\mu_1 - \mu_2\|^2}{2\sigma_2^2} - \frac{1}{2}$$



# Reverse Process

$D_{\text{KL}}$  of two Gaussians is like L2 loss: (pset 1)

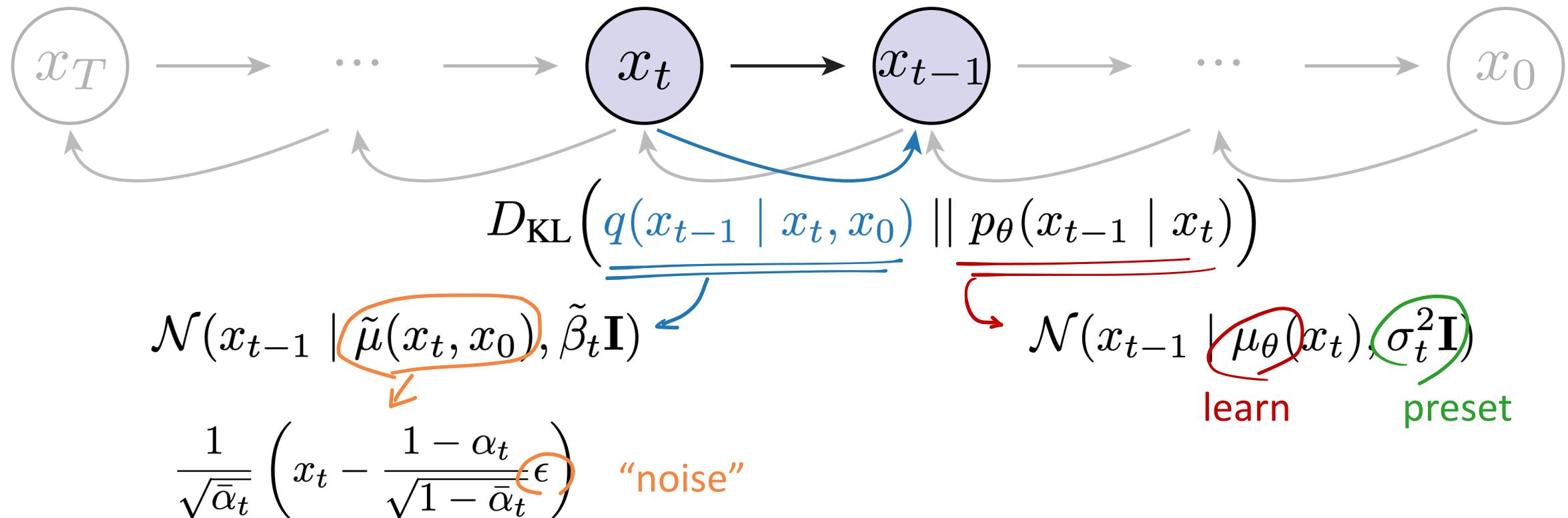
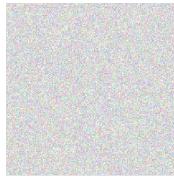
$$D_{KL}(\mathcal{N}_1 \parallel \mathcal{N}_2) = \log\left(\frac{\sigma_2}{\sigma_1}\right) + \frac{\sigma_1^2 + \|\mu_1 - \mu_2\|^2}{2\sigma_2^2} - \frac{1}{2}$$



# Reverse Process

$D_{\text{KL}}$  of two Gaussians is like L2 loss: (pset 1)

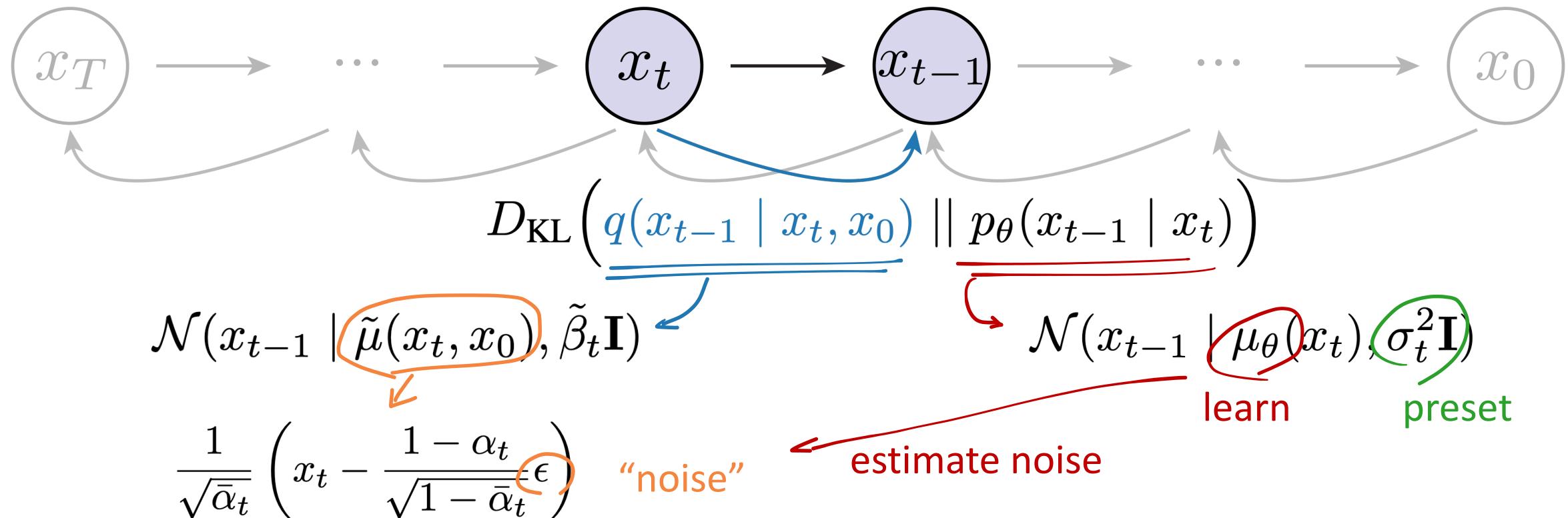
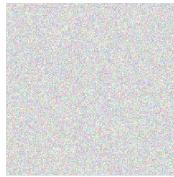
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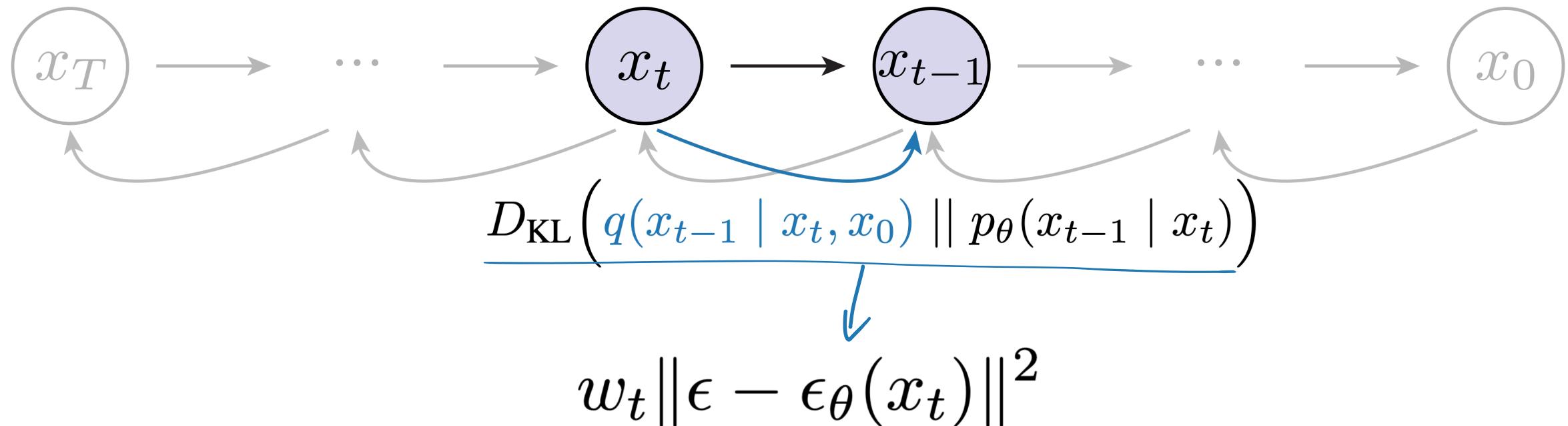
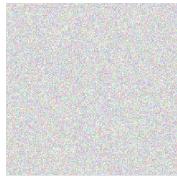
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# Reverse Process

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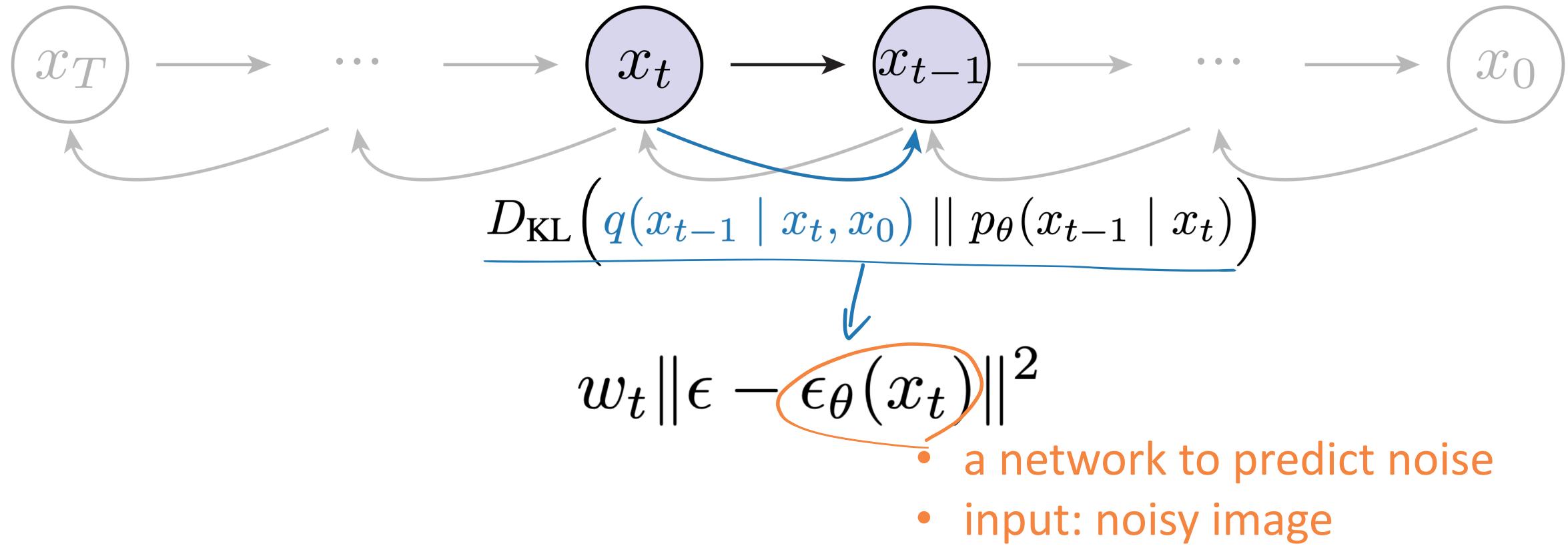
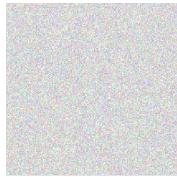
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# Reverse Process

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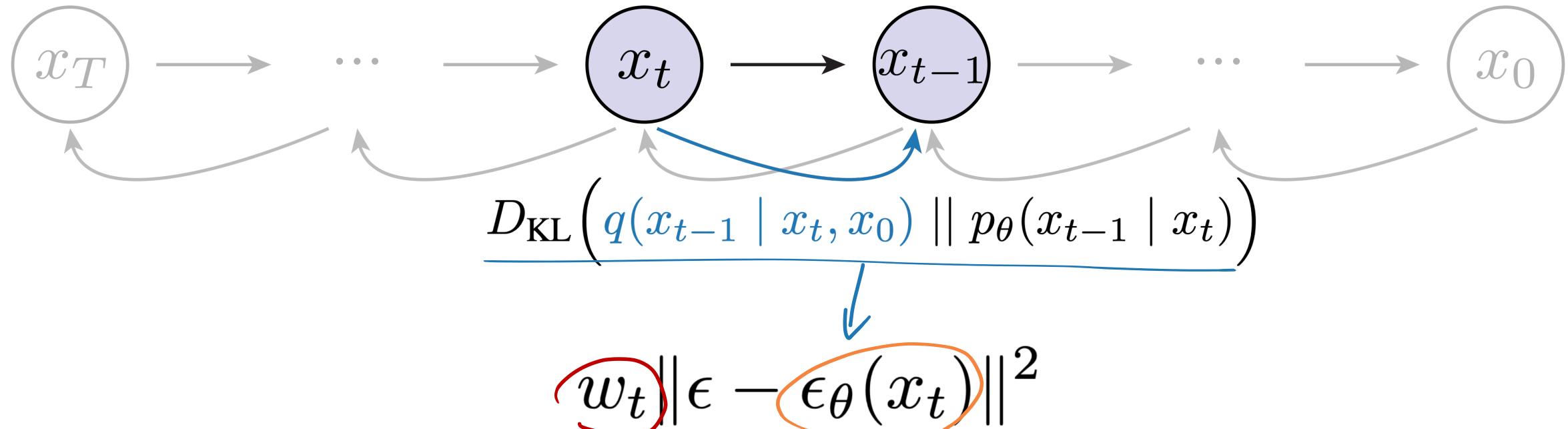
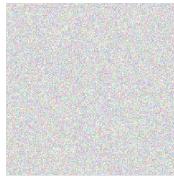
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# Reverse Process

$D_{\text{KL}}$  of two Gaussians is like L2 loss: (pset 1)

$$D_{KL}(\mathcal{N}_1 \parallel \mathcal{N}_2) = \log\left(\frac{\sigma_2}{\sigma_1}\right) + \frac{\sigma_1^2 + \|\mu_1 - \mu_2\|^2}{2\sigma_2^2} - \frac{1}{2}$$



- weights due to  $\alpha_t, \beta_t$
- but set as 1 (**critical**)

- a network to predict noise
- input: noisy image

tl; dr

- some dependency graphs
- some linear combinations
- $D_{KL}$
- L2 loss of noise

# Diffusion Models

## Forward process

- add noise to data

## Reverse process

- learn to denoise

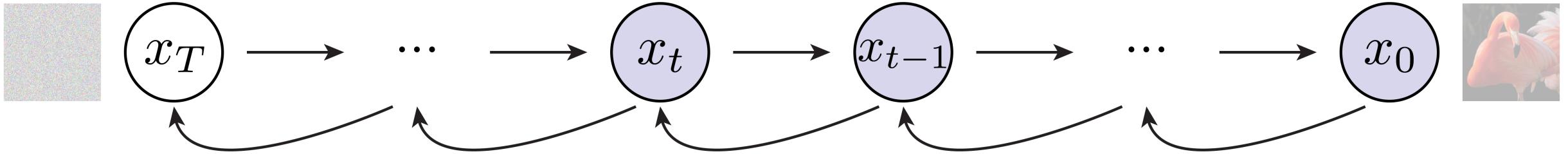
## Training objective

- from Hierarchical VAE to L2 loss

## Noise Conditional Network

- represent a distribution

# Training Objective



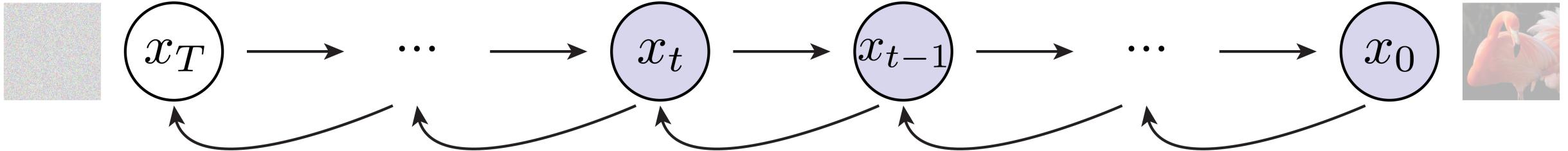
$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{VLB}} := \mathcal{L}_T + \mathcal{L}_{T-1} + \dots + \mathcal{L}_0$$

$$\mathcal{L}_T := D_{\text{KL}}\left(q(x_T \mid x_0) \parallel p_{\theta}(x_T)\right)$$

$$\mathcal{L}_{t-1} := D_{\text{KL}}\left(q(x_{t-1} \mid x_t, x_0) \parallel p_{\theta}(x_{t-1} \mid x_t)\right)$$

$$\mathcal{L}_0 := -\log p_{\theta}(x_0 \mid x_1)$$

# Training Objective



- variational lower bound
- like ELBO

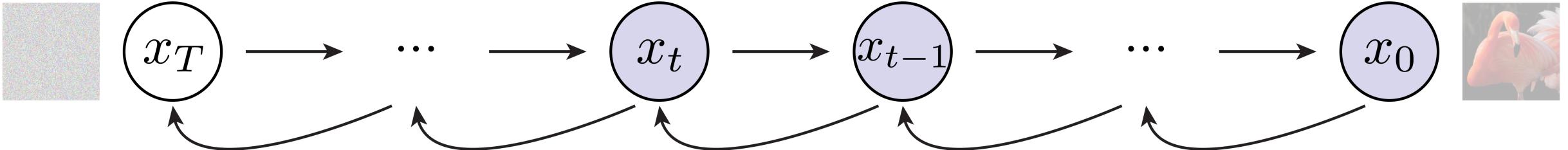
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# Training Objective



- variational lower bound
- like ELBO

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{VLB}} := \mathcal{L}_T + \mathcal{L}_{T-1} + \dots + \mathcal{L}_0$$

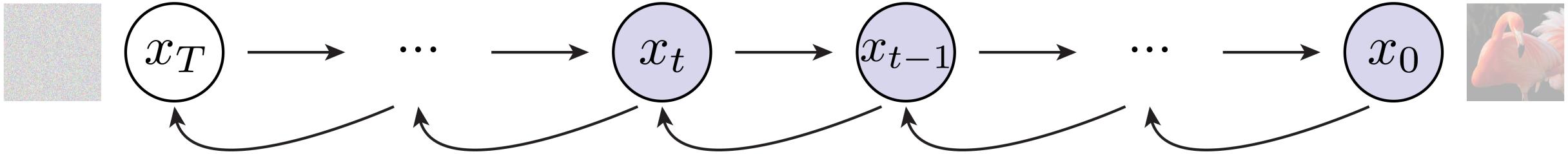
$$\mathcal{L}_T := D_{\text{KL}}\left(q(\mathbf{x}_T^{\mathcal{Z}} | x_0) \parallel p_{\theta}(\mathbf{x}_T^{\mathcal{Z}})\right)$$

it's ELBO if one step

~~$$\mathcal{L}_{t-1} := D_{\text{KL}}\left(q(x_{t-1} | x_t, x_0) \parallel p_{\theta}(x_{t-1} | x_t)\right)$$~~

$$\mathcal{L}_0 := -\log p_{\theta}(x_0 | \mathbf{x}_1^{\mathcal{Z}})$$

# Training Objective



$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{VLB}} := \mathcal{L}_T + \mathcal{L}_{T-1} + \dots + \mathcal{L}_0$$

no parameter, unlike VAE's  $q_\phi$

$$\mathcal{L}_T := D_{\text{KL}}\left(\underline{\underline{q(x_T | x_0)}} \parallel \underline{\underline{p_\theta(x_T)}}\right)$$

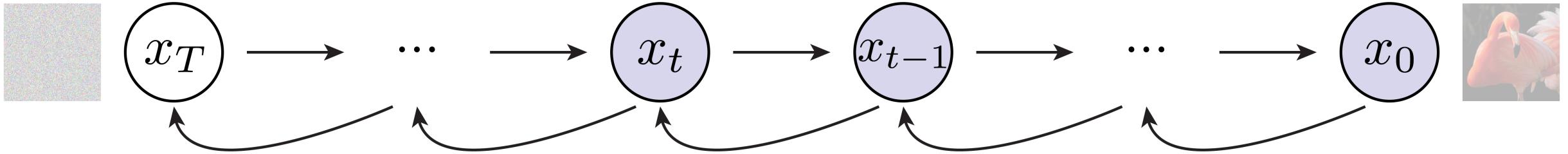
constant

Gaussian

$$\mathcal{L}_{t-1} := D_{\text{KL}}\left(q(x_{t-1} | x_t, x_0) \parallel p_\theta(x_{t-1} | x_t)\right)$$

$$\mathcal{L}_0 := -\log p_\theta(x_0 | x_1)$$

# Training Objective



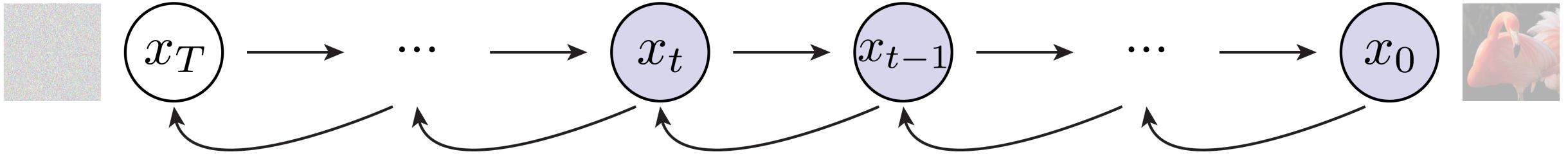
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$$\mathcal{L}_{t-1} := D_{\text{KL}}\left(q(x_{t-1} \mid x_t, x_0) \parallel p_{\theta}(x_{t-1} \mid x_t)\right)$$

reconstruction loss,  
like VAE  $\mathcal{L}_0 := -\log p_{\theta}(x_0 \mid x_1)$

# Training Objective



$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{VLB}} := \mathcal{L}_T + \mathcal{L}_{T-1} + \dots + \mathcal{L}_0$$

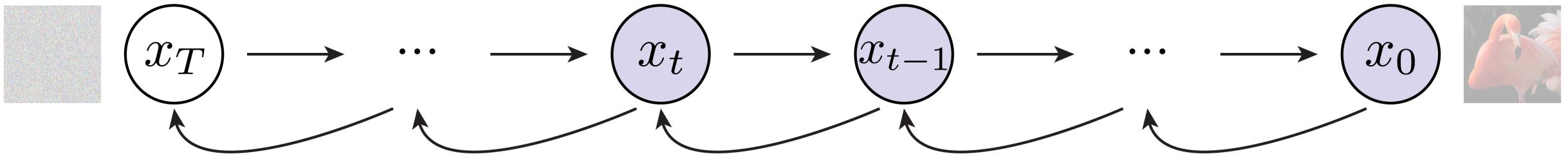
$$\mathcal{L}_T := D_{\text{KL}}\left(q(x_T \mid x_0) \parallel p_{\theta}(x_T)\right)$$

L2 loss on noise

$$\mathcal{L}_{t-1} := D_{\text{KL}}\left(q(x_{t-1} \mid x_t, x_0) \parallel p_{\theta}(x_{t-1} \mid x_t)\right)$$

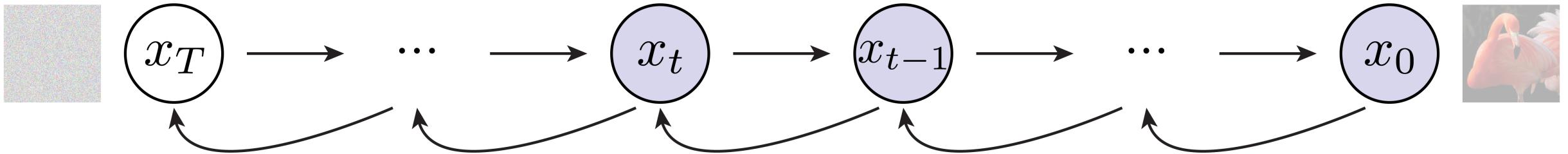
$$\mathcal{L}_0 := -\log p_{\theta}(x_0 \mid x_1)$$

# Training Objective



$$\mathcal{L} = \mathbb{E}_{x_0, t, \epsilon} \left[ w_t \|\epsilon - \epsilon_\theta(x_t, t)\|^2 \right]$$

# Training Objective



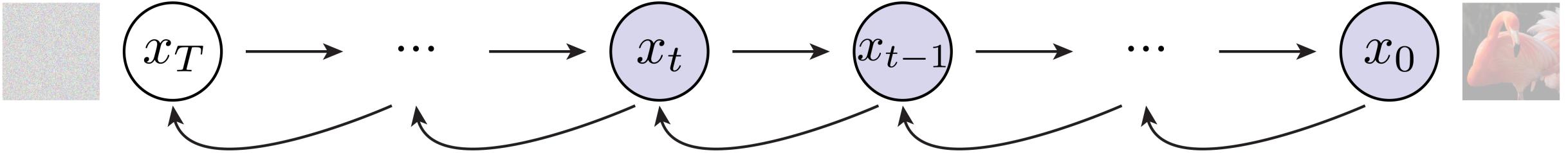
$$\mathcal{L} = \mathbb{E}_{x_0, t, \epsilon} \left[ w_t \|\epsilon - \epsilon_\theta(x_t, t)\|^2 \right]$$

over  $p_{data}$

over  $[1, T]$

over  $\mathcal{N}(0, \mathbf{I})$

# Training Objective



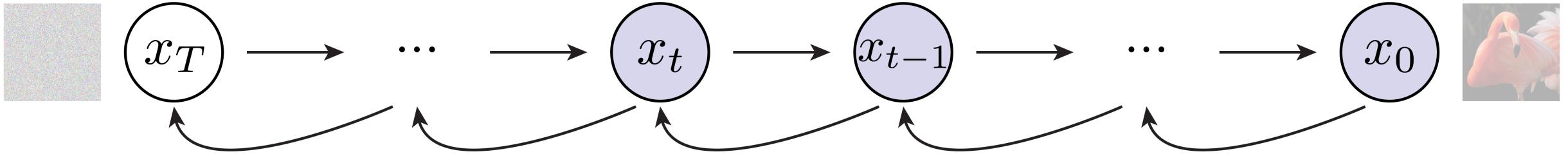
$$\mathcal{L} = \mathbb{E}_{x_0, t, \epsilon} \left[ \left\| \mathbf{w}_t \right\| \epsilon - \epsilon_\theta(x_t, t) \right\|^2 \right]$$

set as 1 (critical)

Objective	IS	FID
$L$ , learned diagonal $\Sigma$	—	—
$L$ , fixed isotropic $\Sigma$	$7.67 \pm 0.13$	$13.51$
$\ \tilde{\epsilon} - \epsilon_\theta\ ^2$ ( $L_{\text{simple}}$ )	$9.46 \pm 0.11$	$3.17$

[Ho et al. 2020]; see more in [Salimans & Ho, 2022]

# Training Objective



$$\mathcal{L} = \mathbb{E}_{x_0, t, \epsilon} \left[ w_t \|\epsilon - \epsilon_\theta(x_t, t)\|^2 \right]$$

network  
predict noise

conditioned on  
noise level (**critical**)

# Diffusion Models

## Forward process

- add noise to data

## Reverse process

- learn to denoise

## Training objective

- from Hierarchical VAE to L2 loss

## Noise Conditional Network

- represent a distribution

# Noise Conditional Network

- Diffusion models decompose a distribution into **many** simpler ones.
- We need the same # networks to fit **all** of them.
- We can **combine** all into one “powerful” network.
- This network is conditioned on noise level  $t$ .
- **Noise Conditional Network** [Song & Ermon 2019]: things made work

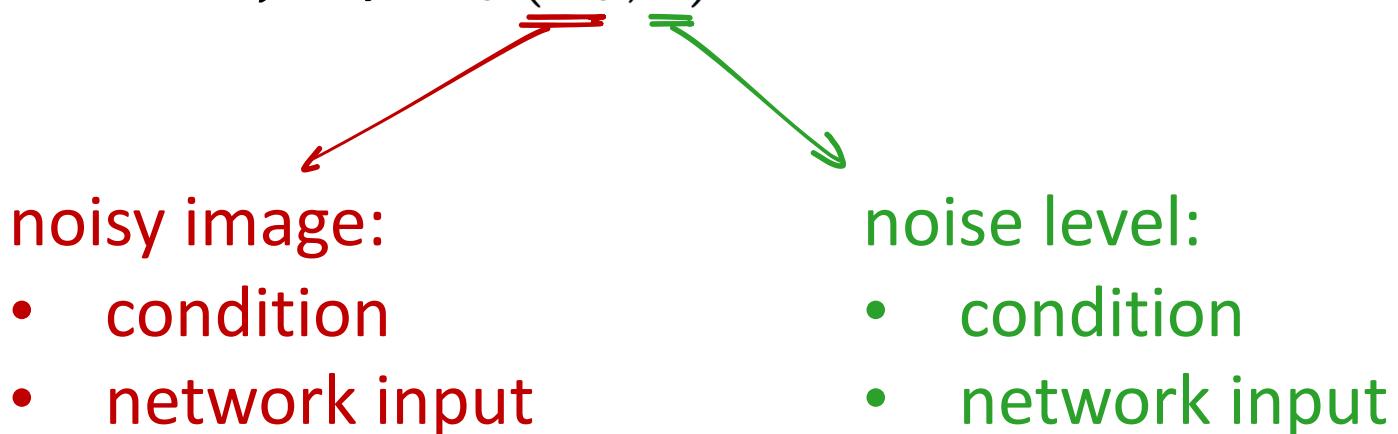
\*It is called Noise Conditional Score Network (NCSN) in [Song & Ermon 2019] in the context of score matching.

# Noise Conditional Network

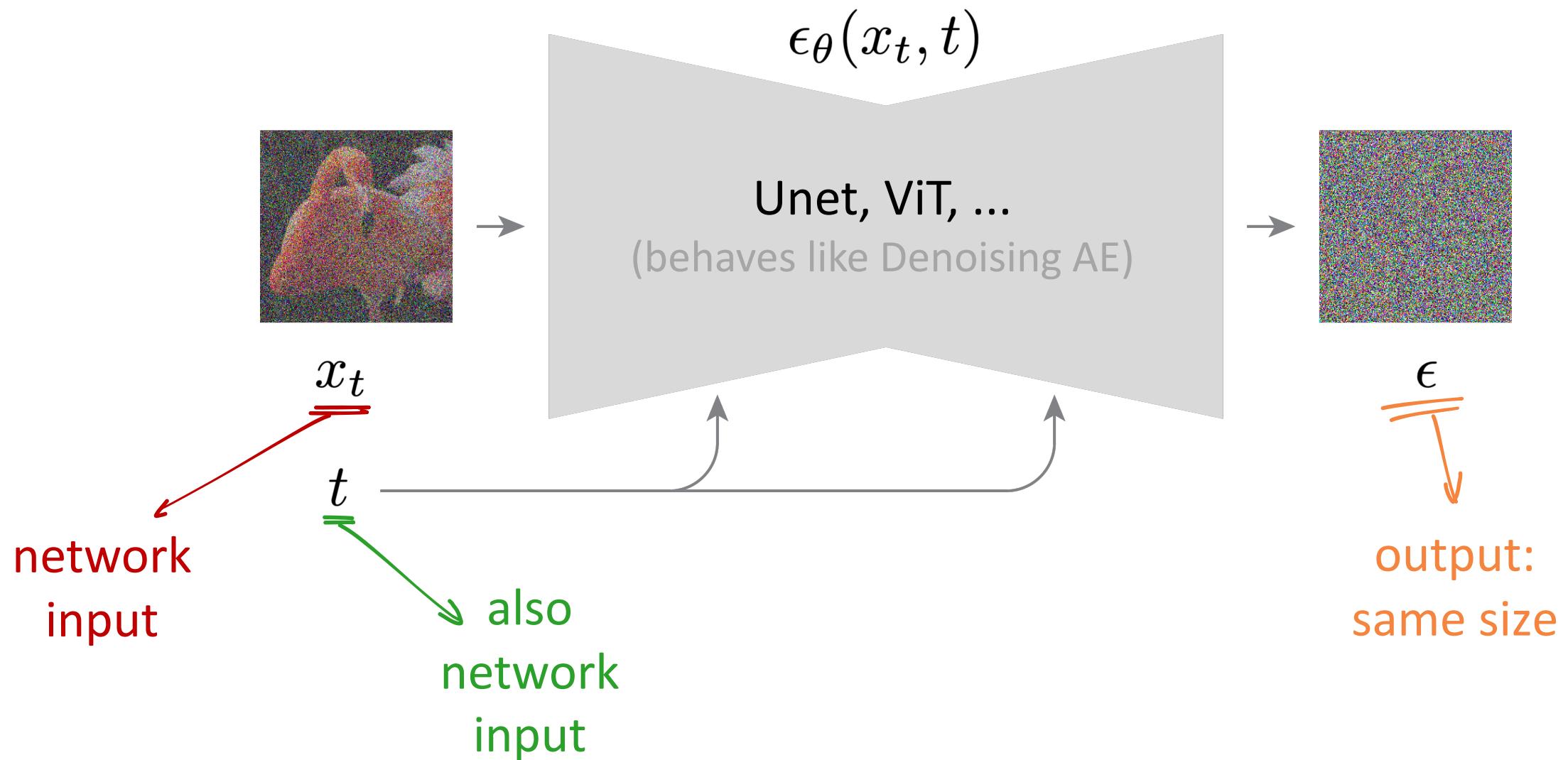
How to represent  $p_\theta(x_{t-1} | x_t)$

- network input:  $x_t$
- network output:  $\mu$  and  $\sigma$  of a distribution

- parametrize  $\mu$  by:  $\epsilon_\theta(x_t, t)$



# Noise Conditional Network



# Diffusion algorithm annotated:

---

## Algorithm 1 Training

---

```
1: repeat  
2:  $\mathbf{x}_0 \sim q(\mathbf{x}_0)$   
3:  $t \sim \text{Uniform}(\{1, \dots, T\})$   
4:  $\boldsymbol{\epsilon} \sim \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{I})$   
5: Take gradient descent step on  $\nabla_{\theta} \|\boldsymbol{\epsilon} - \boldsymbol{\epsilon}_{\theta}(\sqrt{\bar{\alpha}_t} \mathbf{x}_0 + \sqrt{1 - \bar{\alpha}_t} \boldsymbol{\epsilon}, t)\|^2$   
6: until converged
```

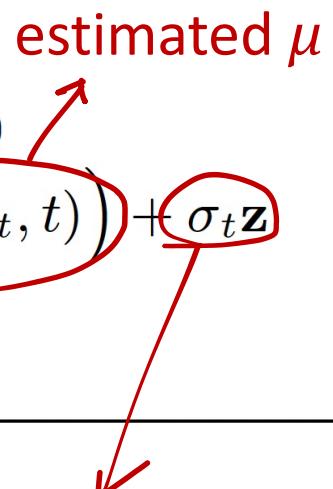
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---

## Algorithm 2 Sampling

---

```
1:  $\mathbf{x}_T \sim \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{I})$   
2: for  $t = T, \dots, 1$  do  
3:  $\mathbf{z} \sim \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{I})$  if  $t > 1$ , else  $\mathbf{z} = \mathbf{0}$   
4:  $\mathbf{x}_{t-1} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\alpha_t}} \left( \mathbf{x}_t - \frac{1 - \alpha_t}{\sqrt{1 - \bar{\alpha}_t}} \boldsymbol{\epsilon}_{\theta}(\mathbf{x}_t, t) \right) + \sigma_t \mathbf{z}$   
5: end for  
6: return  $\mathbf{x}_0$ 
```



---

estimated  $\mu$

estimated  $\mu$

sampling from  
estimated distribution

# Diffusion algorithm annotated:

---

## Algorithm 1 Training

---

```
1: repeat  
2:    $\mathbf{x}_0 \sim q(\mathbf{x}_0)$   
3:    $t \sim \text{Uniform}(\{1, \dots, T\})$   
4:    $\boldsymbol{\epsilon} \sim \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{I})$   
5:   Take gradient descent step on  
       $\nabla_{\theta} \|\boldsymbol{\epsilon} - \boldsymbol{\epsilon}_{\theta}(\sqrt{\bar{\alpha}_t} \mathbf{x}_0 + \sqrt{1 - \bar{\alpha}_t} \boldsymbol{\epsilon}, t)\|^2$   
6: until converged
```

---

---

## Algorithm 2 Sampling

---

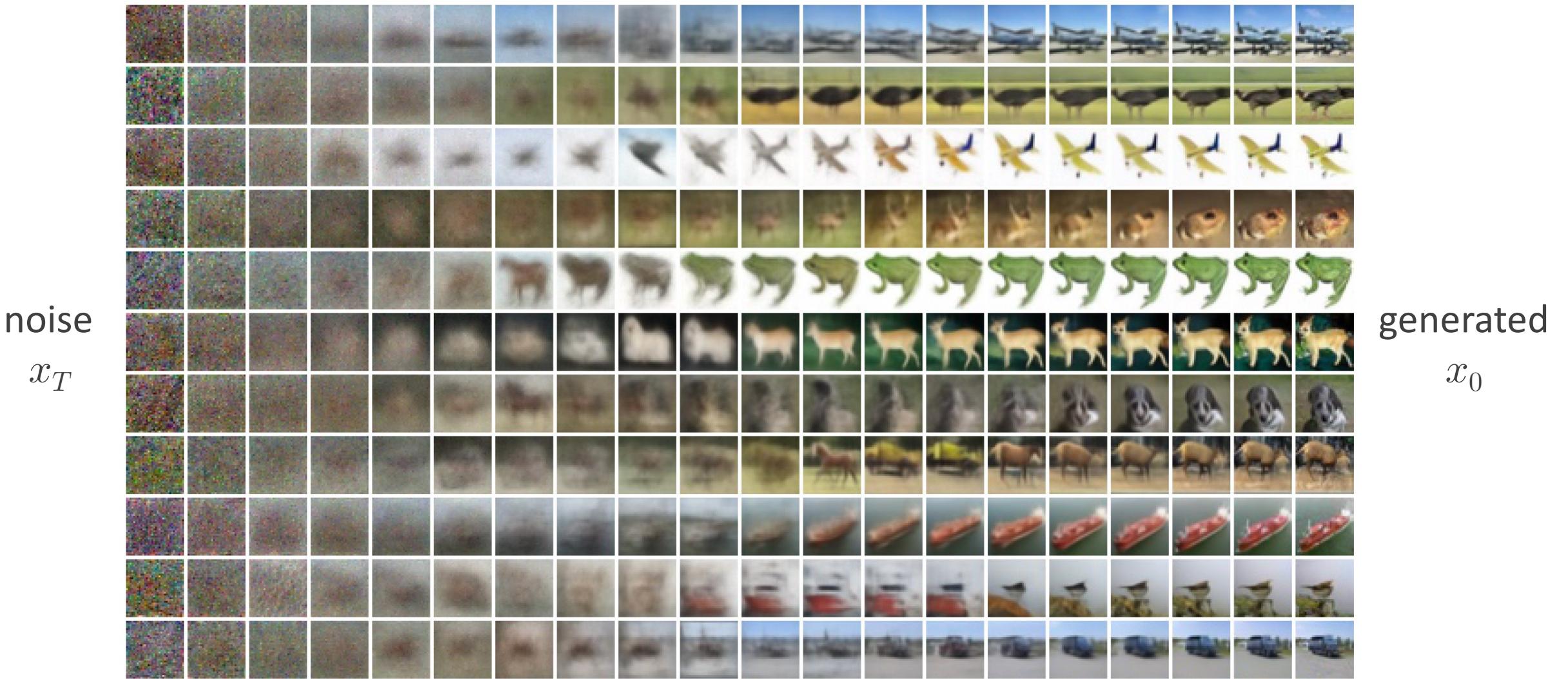
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5: end for  
6: return  $\mathbf{x}_0$ 
```

---

### tl; dr: noising and denoising

- Turns out to be extremely simple
- Being “simple and effective” moves the needle

# Example: Unconditional Generation on CIFAR-10



# Example: shared intermediate latents



# Summary

## Forward process

- add noise to data

## Reverse process

- learn to denoise

## Training objective

- from Hierarchical VAE to L2 loss

## Noise Conditional Network

- represent distributions

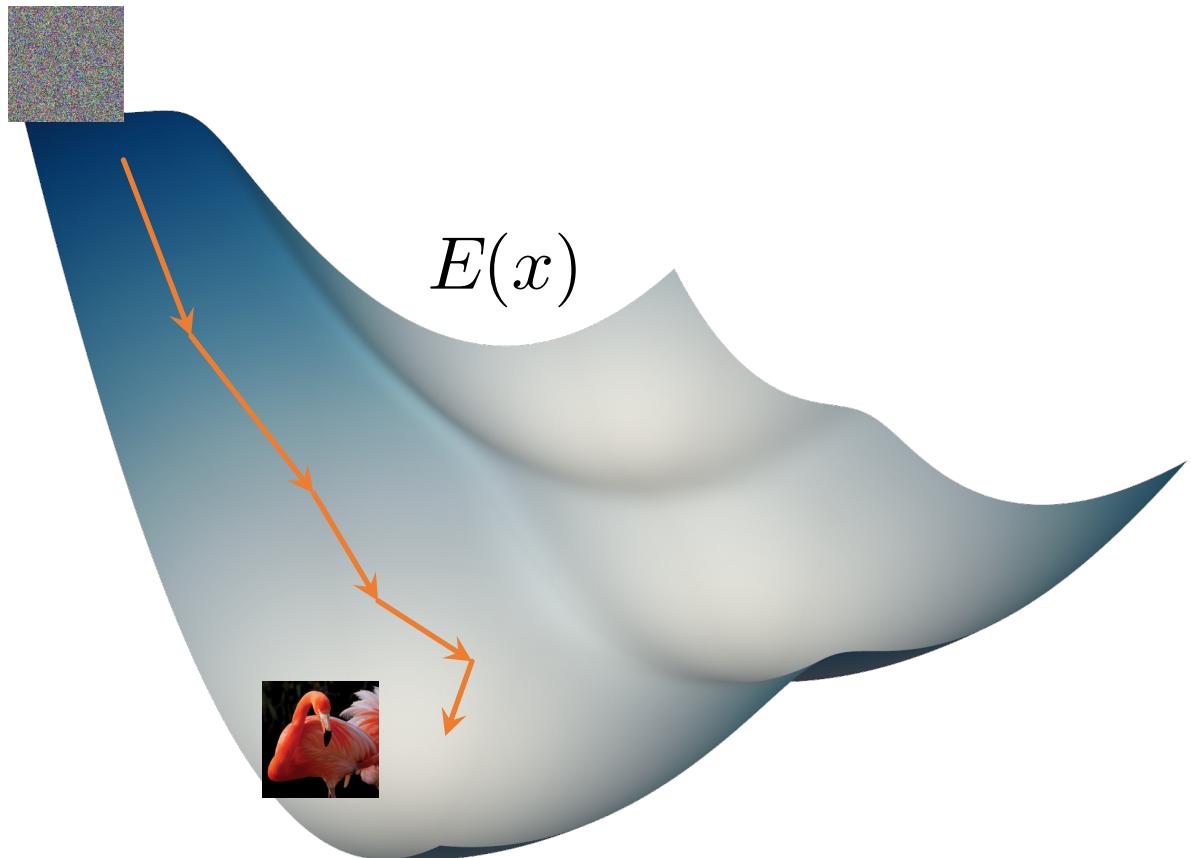
# Energy-based Models and Score Matching

# Diffusion and Score Matching

- Diffusion Models are closely related to **Score Matching**.
- Score Matching is one solution to **Energy-based Models**.
- Energy-based Models:
  - can be probabilistic or non-probabilistic
  - can be generative or discriminative
- Many useful concepts in diffusion co-evolved w/ score matching
  - Annealed importance sampling [Neal 1998]
  - Denoising score matching [Vincent 2011]
  - Noise Conditional Score Network [Song & Ermon 2019]

# Energy-based Models

- Define a scalar function, called “energy”.
- At inference time, find  $x$  that minimizes energy

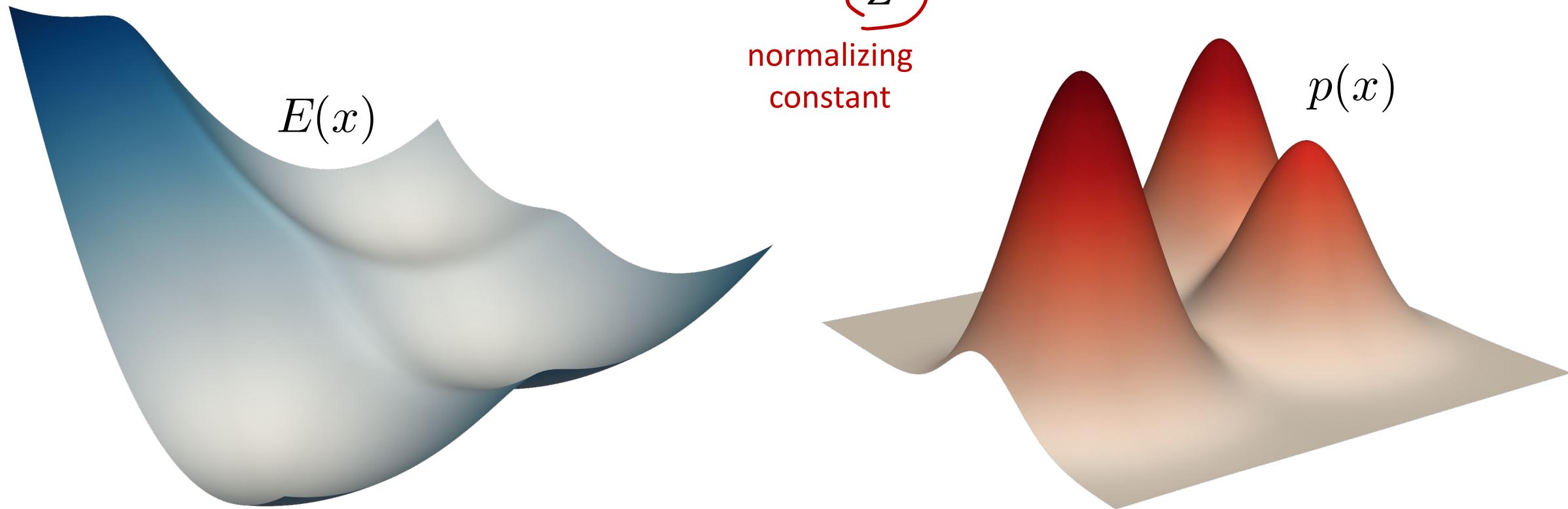


# Energy-based Models

- We can use an energy to model a probability distribution

$$p(x) = \frac{\exp(-E(x))}{Z}$$

normalizing  
constant

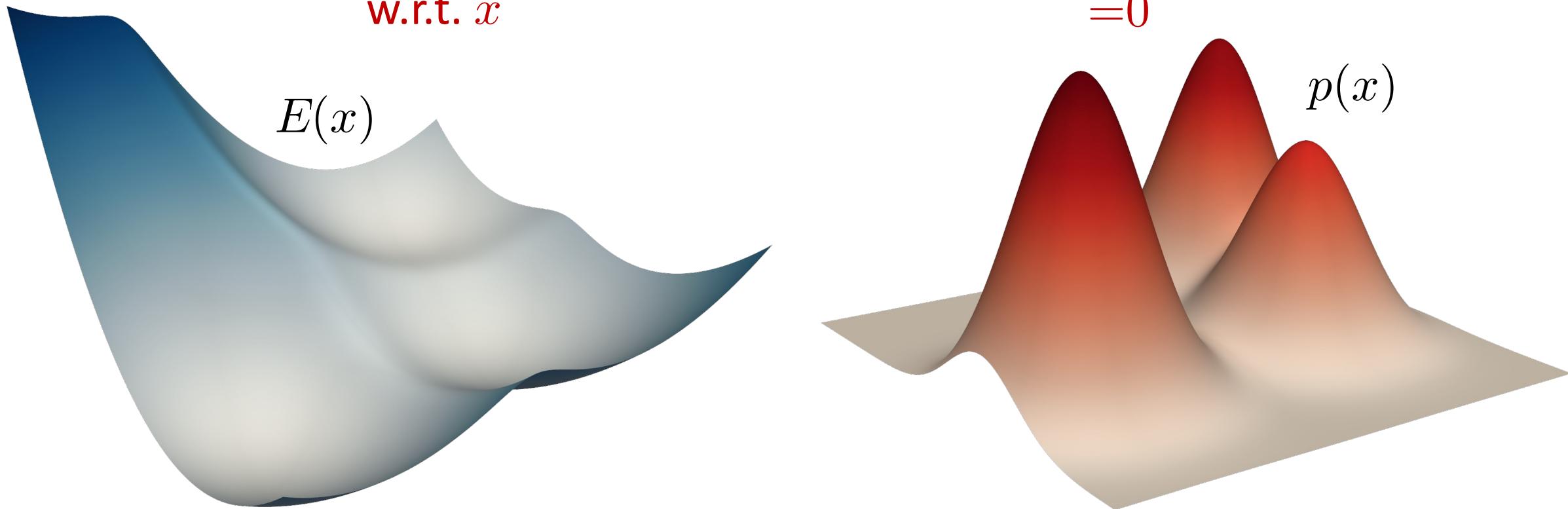


# Energy-based Models

- “Score function”: gradient of log-probability

$$\nabla_x \log p(x) = -\nabla_x E(x) - \nabla_x \log Z = 0$$

w.r.t.  $x$

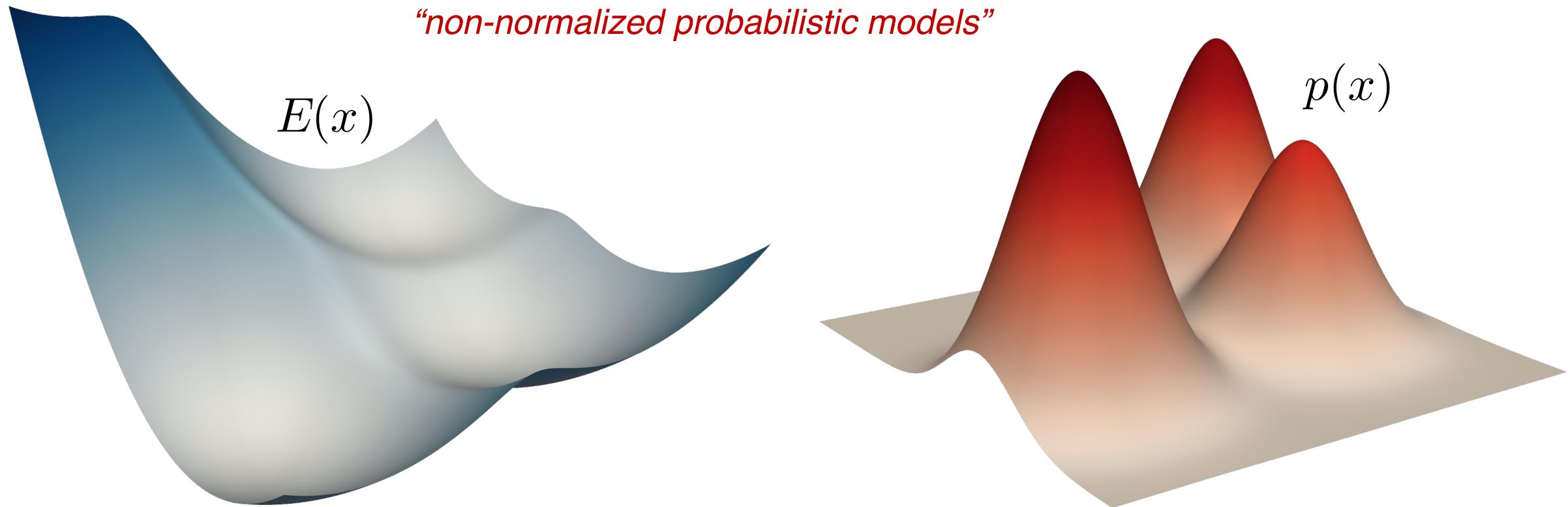


# Energy-based Models

- “Score function”: gradient of log-probability

$$\nabla_x \log p(x) = -\nabla_x E(x)$$

*“non-normalized probabilistic models”*

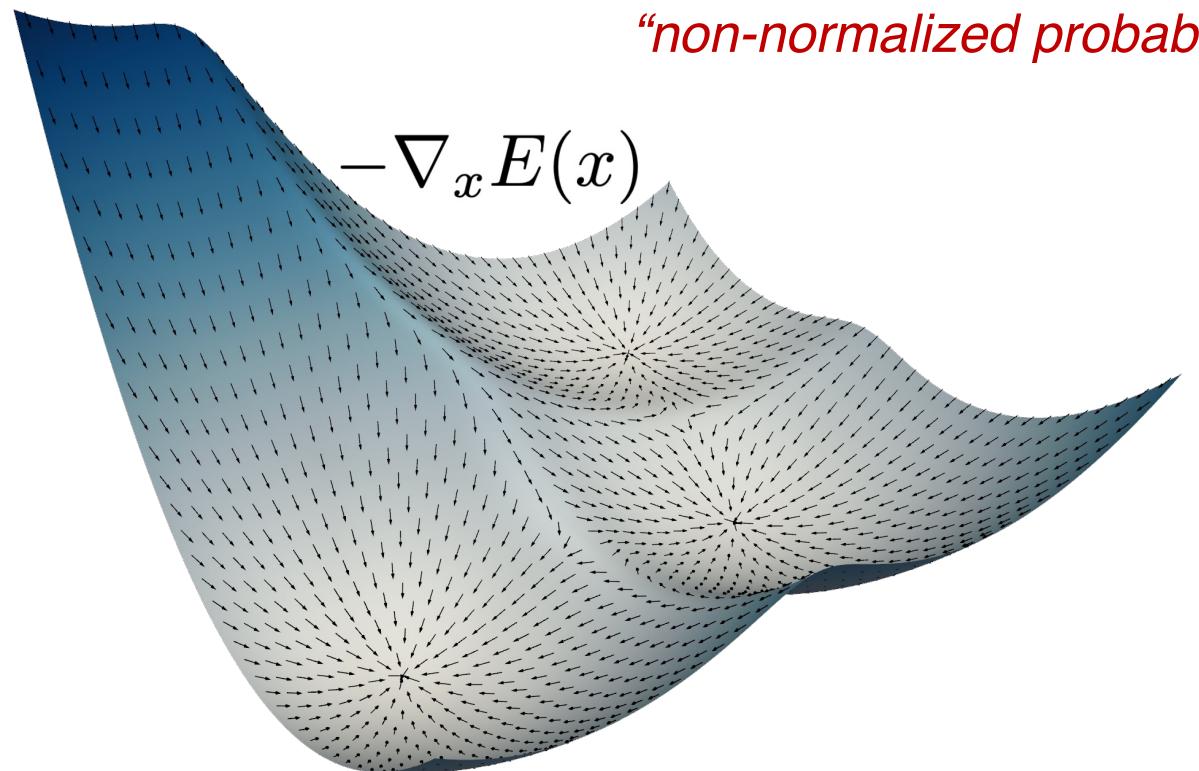


# Energy-based Models

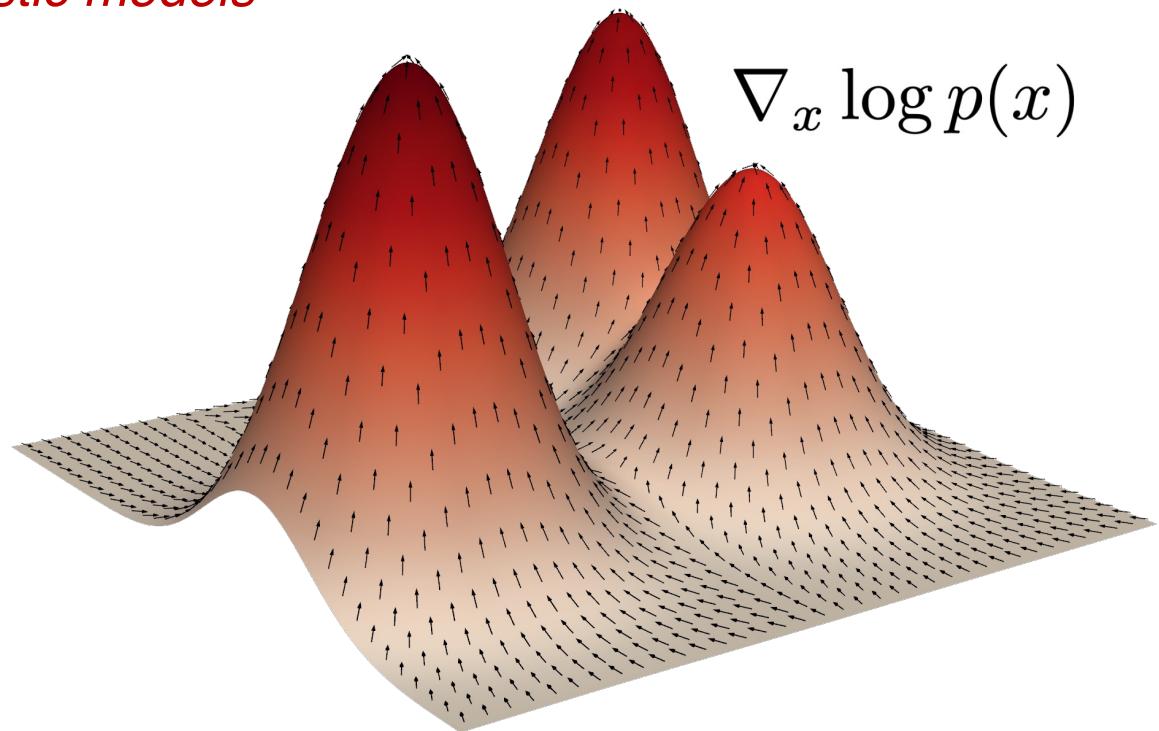
- “Score function”: gradient of log-probability

$$\nabla_x \log p(x) = -\nabla_x E(x)$$

*“non-normalized probabilistic models”*



$$-\nabla_x E(x)$$



$$\nabla_x \log p(x)$$

\*only visualize directions

# Score Matching

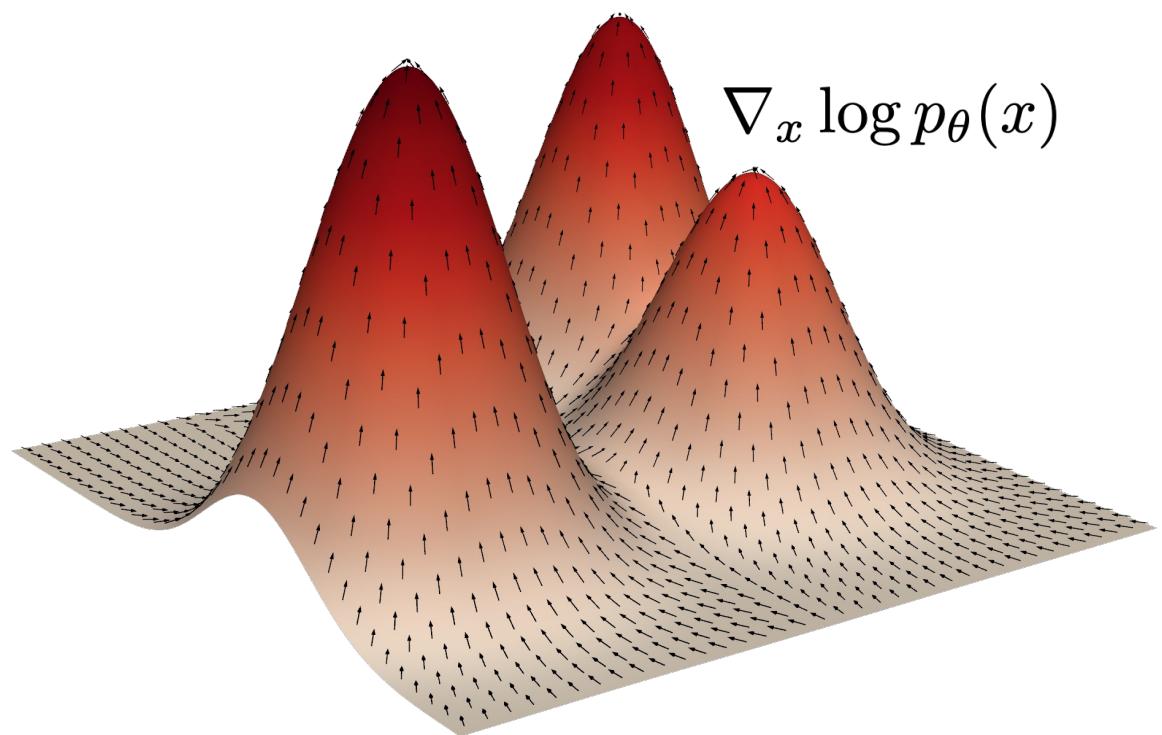
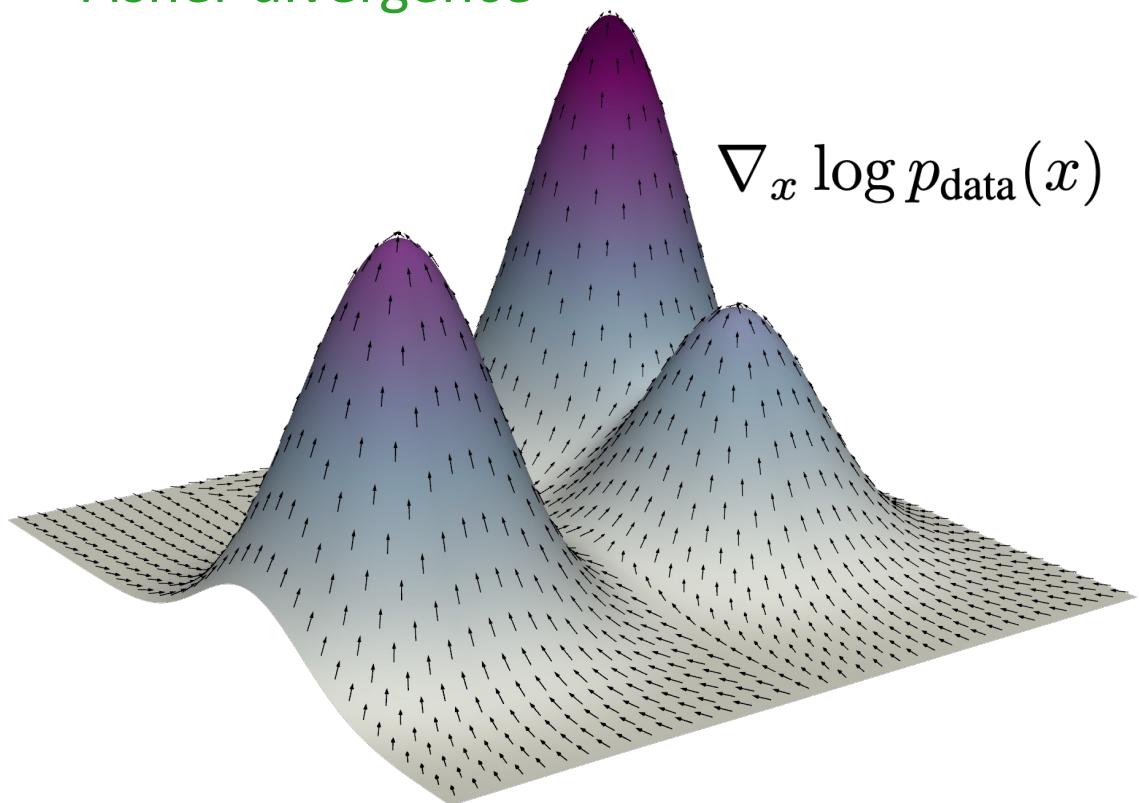
- Instead of parametrizing  $p$ , we can parametrize the score

$$\underline{D_F(p_{\text{data}}(x) \parallel p_{\theta}(x))} = \mathbb{E}_{p_{\text{data}}(x)} \left[ \frac{1}{2} \left\| \underline{\nabla_x \log p_{\text{data}}(x)} - \underline{\nabla_x \log p_{\theta}(x)} \right\|^2 \right]$$

Fisher divergence

score of data

parameterized score



\*only visualize directions

# Score Matching

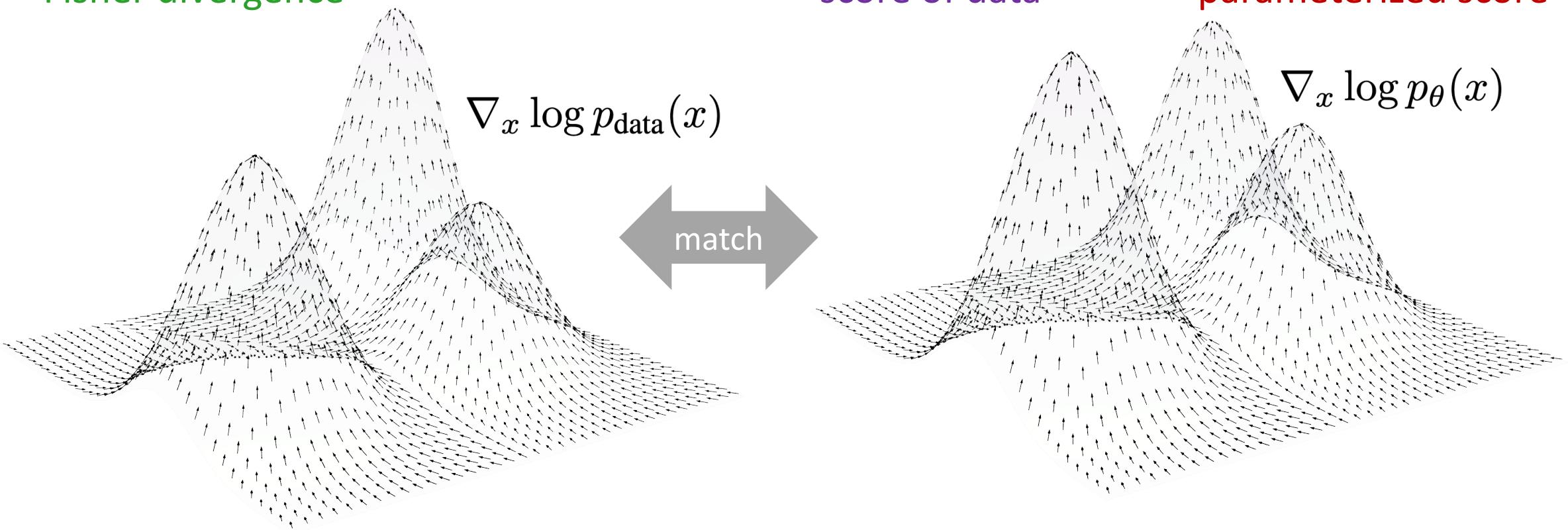
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Fisher divergence

score of data

parameterized score



\*only visualize directions

# Denoising Score Matching

- with noised data  $\tilde{x} := x + \epsilon$ , it can be proven: [Vincent, 2011]

$$\underline{D_F(q(\tilde{x}) \parallel p_\theta(\tilde{x}))} = \mathbb{E}_{\underline{q(x, \tilde{x})}} \left[ \frac{1}{2} \left\| \underline{\nabla_{\tilde{x}} \log q(\tilde{x} \mid x)} - \underline{\nabla_{\tilde{x}} \log p_\theta(\tilde{x})} \right\|^2 \right] + \text{constant}$$

Fisher divergence of noised data      joint distribution      score of conditional      parameterized score

# Denoising Score Matching

- with noised data  $\tilde{x} := x + \epsilon$ , it can be proven: [Vincent, 2011]

$$D_F(q(\tilde{x}) \parallel p_\theta(\tilde{x})) = \mathbb{E}_{q(x, \tilde{x})} \left[ \frac{1}{2} \left\| \underline{\nabla_{\tilde{x}} \log q(\tilde{x} \mid x)} - \underline{\nabla_{\tilde{x}} \log p_\theta(\tilde{x})} \right\|^2 \right] + \text{constant}$$

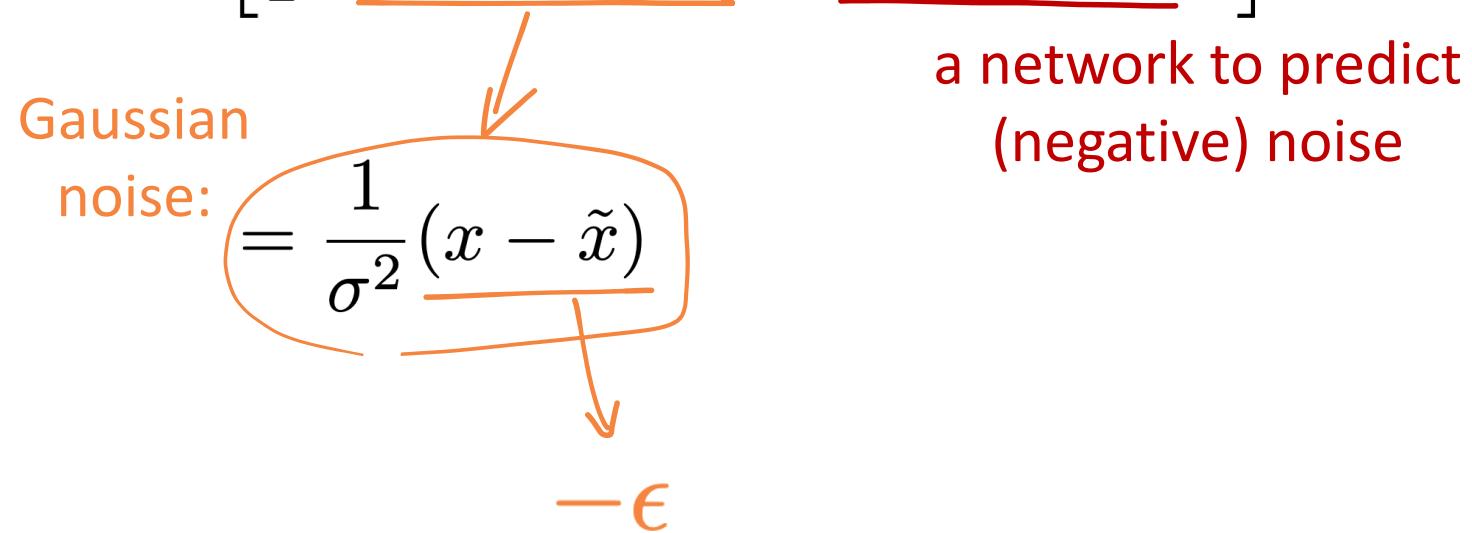
Gaussian noise:

$$= \frac{1}{\sigma^2} (x - \tilde{x})$$

$\tilde{x}$

$\epsilon$

a network to predict (negative) noise



# Langevin Dynamics

- Given a score function, we can sample  $x$  from  $p$  by iterating:

$$x_t \leftarrow x_{t-1} + \underbrace{\frac{\sigma^2}{2} \nabla_x \log p_\theta(x_{t-1})}_{\text{step size}} + \sigma z_t \mathcal{N}(0, \mathbf{I})$$

(don't need to know  $p$ )

(neg) gradient of energy

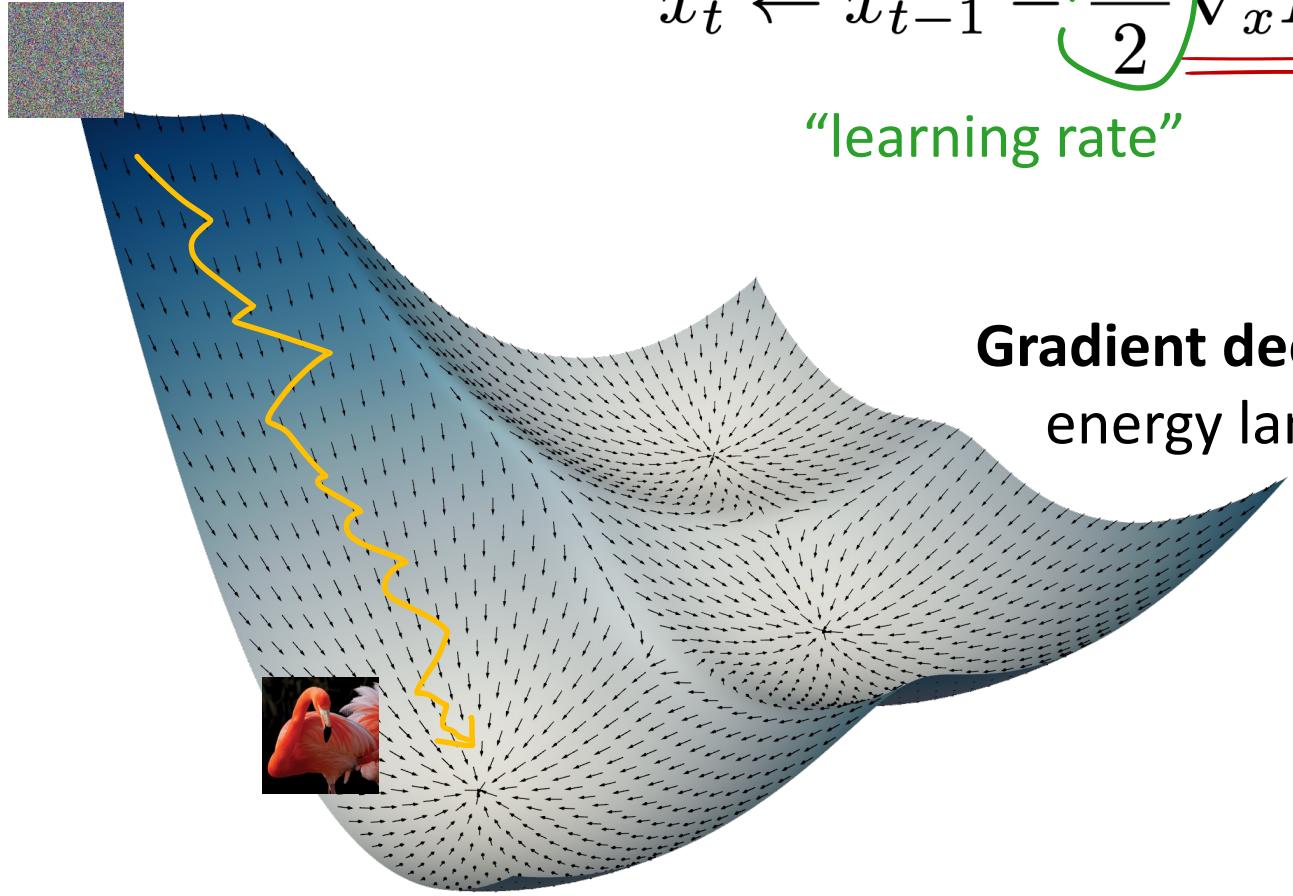
$$-\nabla_x E_\theta(x_{t-1})$$

# Langevin Dynamics

- Given a score function, we can sample  $x$  from  $p$  by iterating:

$$x_t \leftarrow x_{t-1} - \frac{\sigma^2}{2} \nabla_x E_\theta(x_{t-1}) + \sigma z_t$$

“learning rate”      gradient      perturbation



**Gradient decent** in the  
energy landscape

# (Recap) Diffusion algorithm

---

## Algorithm 1 Training

---

```
1: repeat  
2:  $\mathbf{x}_0 \sim q(\mathbf{x}_0)$   
3:  $t \sim \text{Uniform}(\{1, \dots, T\})$   
4:  $\boldsymbol{\epsilon} \sim \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{I})$   
5: Take gradient descent step on  
    $\nabla_{\theta} \|\boldsymbol{\epsilon} - \epsilon_{\theta}(\sqrt{\bar{\alpha}_t} \mathbf{x}_0 + \sqrt{1 - \bar{\alpha}_t} \boldsymbol{\epsilon}, t)\|^2$   
6: until converged
```

---

score function

---

## Algorithm 2 Sampling

---

```
1:  $\mathbf{x}_T \sim \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{I})$   
2: for  $t = T, \dots, 1$  do  
3:  $\mathbf{z} \sim \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{I})$  if  $t > 1$ , else  $\mathbf{z} = \mathbf{0}$   
4:  $\mathbf{x}_{t-1} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\alpha_t}} \left( \mathbf{x}_t - \frac{1 - \alpha_t}{\sqrt{1 - \bar{\alpha}_t}} \epsilon_{\theta}(\mathbf{x}_t, t) \right) + \sigma_t \mathbf{z}$   
5: end for  
6: return  $\mathbf{x}_0$ 
```

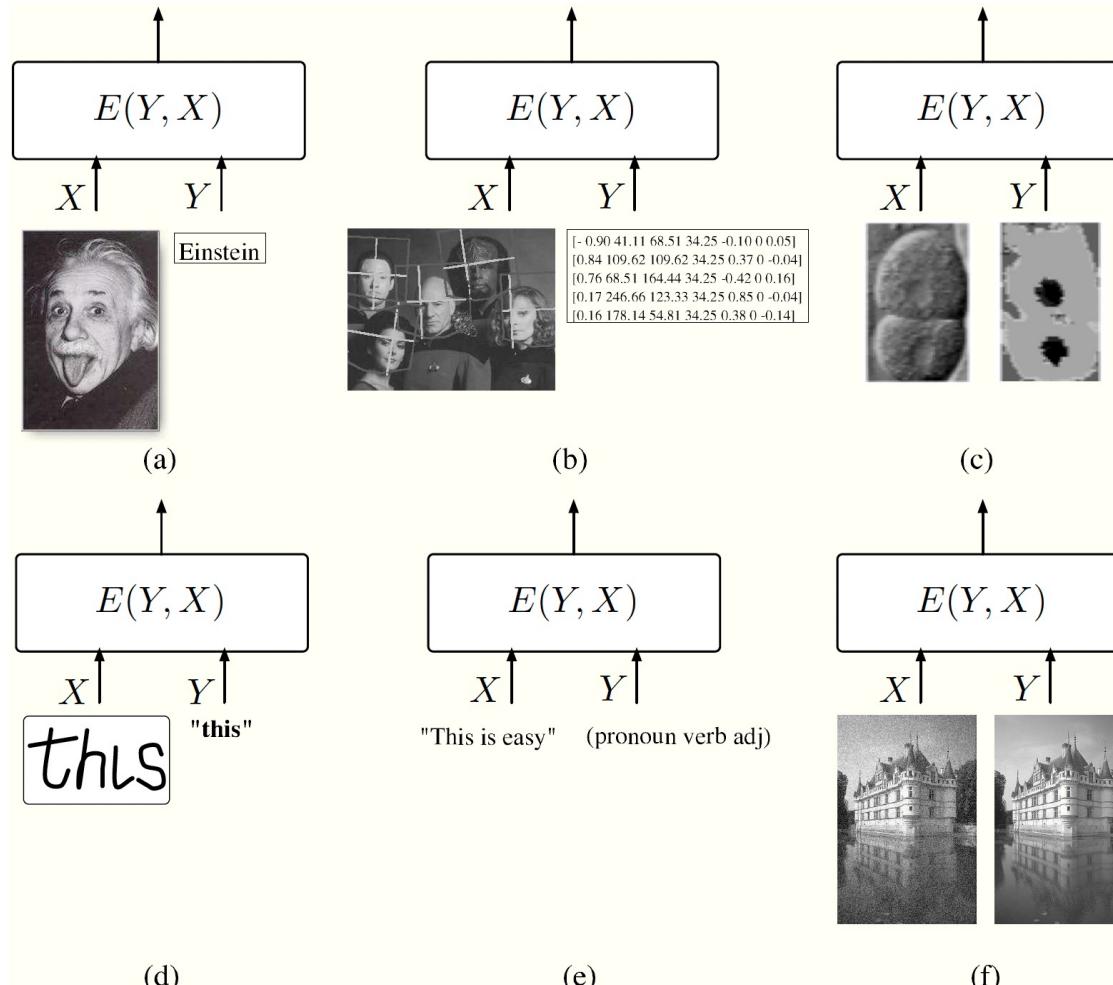
---

score function

Langevin Dynamics

# More about Energy-based Models ...

- At inference time, find a solution that minimizes energy



# Various Perspectives on Diffusion Models ...

- Hierarchical VAE
- Energy-based Models and Score Matching
- **Autoregressive models**

be a fully expressive conditional distribution. With these choices,  $D_{\text{KL}}(q(\mathbf{x}_T) \parallel p(\mathbf{x}_T)) = 0$ , and minimizing  $D_{\text{KL}}(q(\mathbf{x}_{t-1}|\mathbf{x}_t) \parallel p_{\theta}(\mathbf{x}_{t-1}|\mathbf{x}_t))$  trains  $p_{\theta}$  to copy coordinates  $t+1, \dots, T$  unchanged and to predict the  $t^{\text{th}}$  coordinate given  $t+1, \dots, T$ . Thus, training  $p_{\theta}$  with this particular diffusion is training an autoregressive model.

[Ho et al, 2020]

- SDE and ODE
- Normalizing Flows
- Recurrent Neural Networks

# This Lecture

- Diffusion Models
- Energy-based Models and Score Matching

## Main References

- Sohl-Dickstein et al. “Deep Unsupervised Learning using Nonequilibrium Thermodynamics”, ICML 2015
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