

Images from [@midjourney.gallery](https://midjourney.gallery)

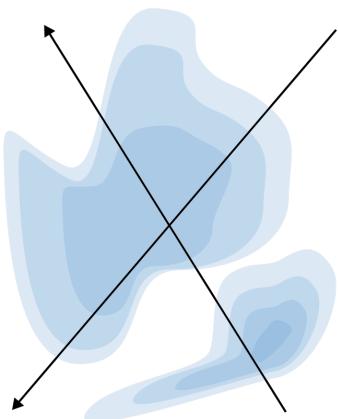
GENERATIVE MODELS

Flexibility

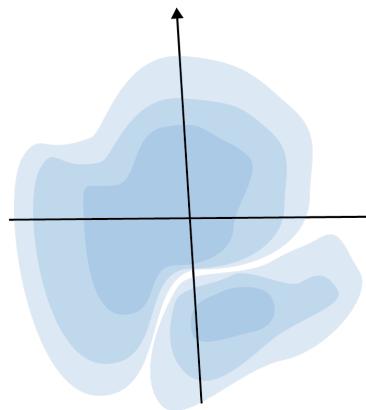
Tractability

THE DIFFUSION PROCESS

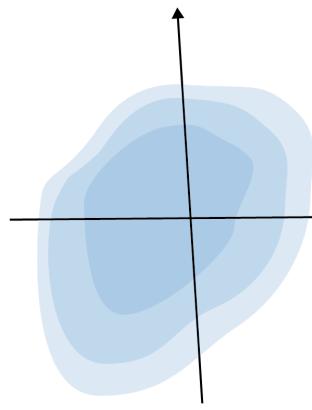
$t = 0$



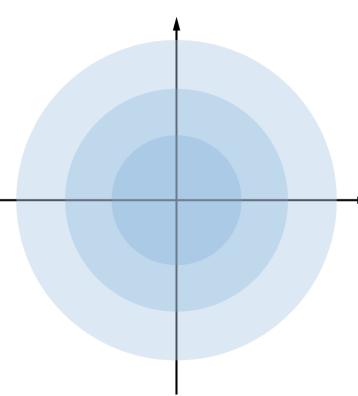
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...



$t = T$

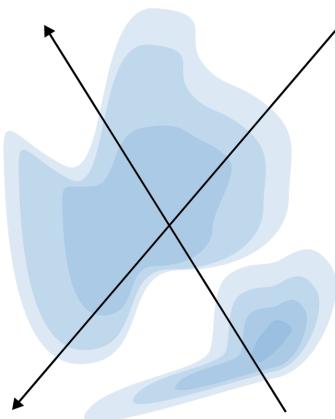


[1] Feller, W. On the theory of stochastic processes, with particular reference to applications. In Proceedings of the [First] Berkeley Symposium on Mathematical Statistics and Probability. The Regents of the University of California, 1949.

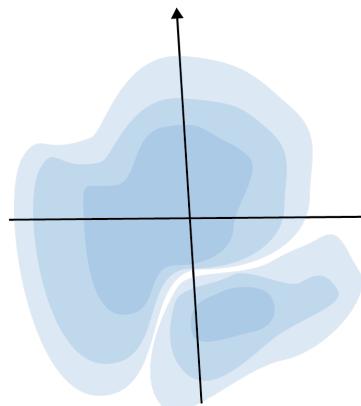
THE DIFFUSION PROCESS

In the limit of small step size, the reversal of the diffusion process has the identical functional form as the forward process [1]

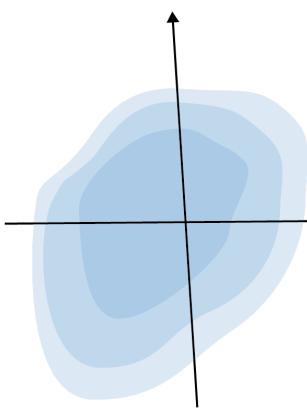
$t = 0$



...

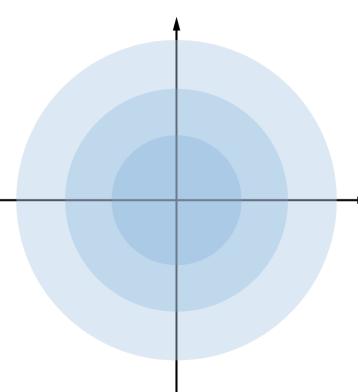


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...

$t = T$

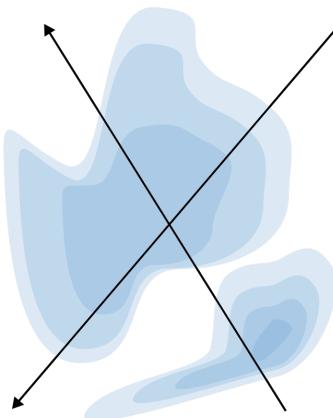


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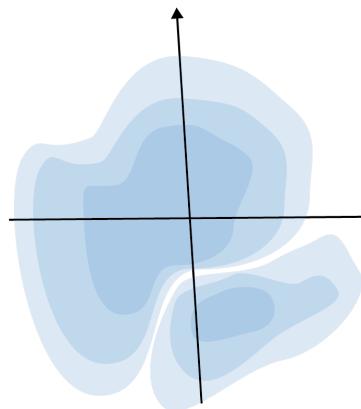
THE DIFFUSION PROCESS

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

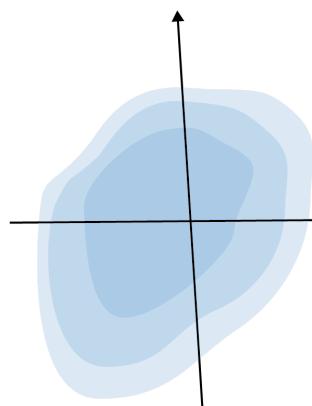
$t = 0$



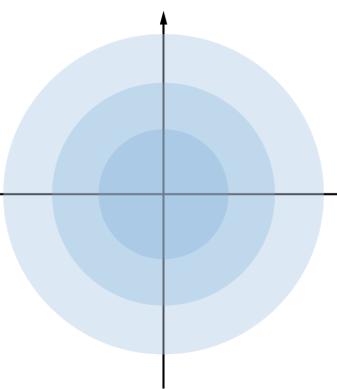
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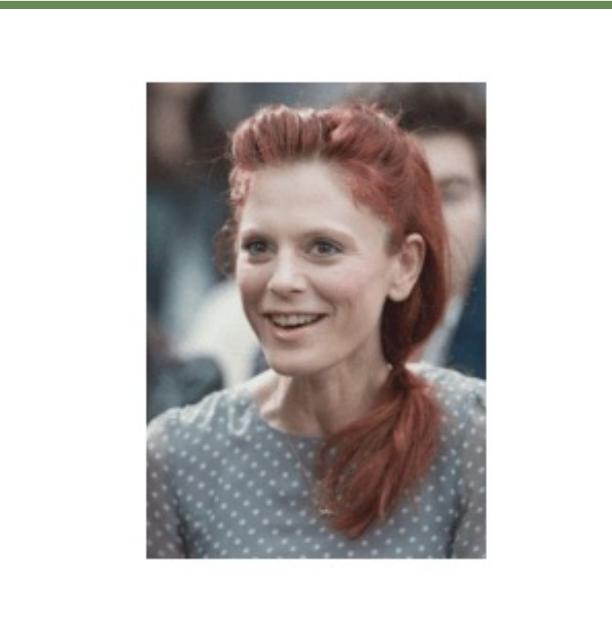
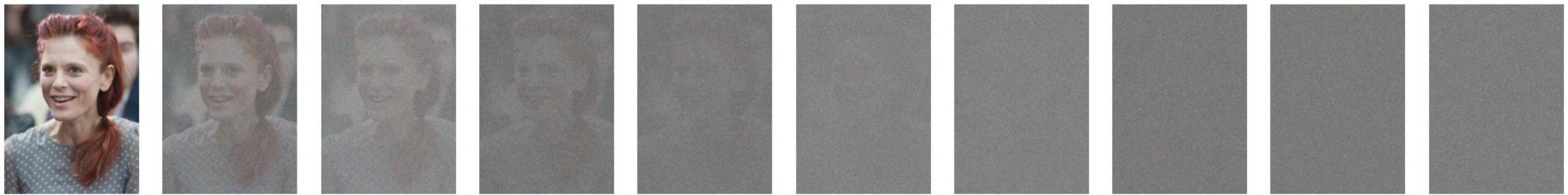
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$t = T$



$$X_t = \sqrt{1 - \beta_t} X_{t-1} + \sqrt{\beta_t} \epsilon_t$$

Take one step at a time.

THE REPARAMETERIZATION TRICK

Taking one step at a time is slow.

We need a faster way to sample to allow quick forward diffusion.

$$X_t = \sqrt{1 - \beta_t} X_{t-1} + \sqrt{\beta_t} \epsilon_t$$

Expand the recursive formulation.

$$X_t = \sqrt{1 - \beta_t} \left(\sqrt{1 - \beta_{t-1}} X_{t-2} + \sqrt{\beta_{t-1}} \epsilon_{t-1} \right) + \sqrt{\beta_t} \epsilon_t$$

Develop the calculations as an exercise (check [here](#) for the solution).

THE FORWARD PROCESS

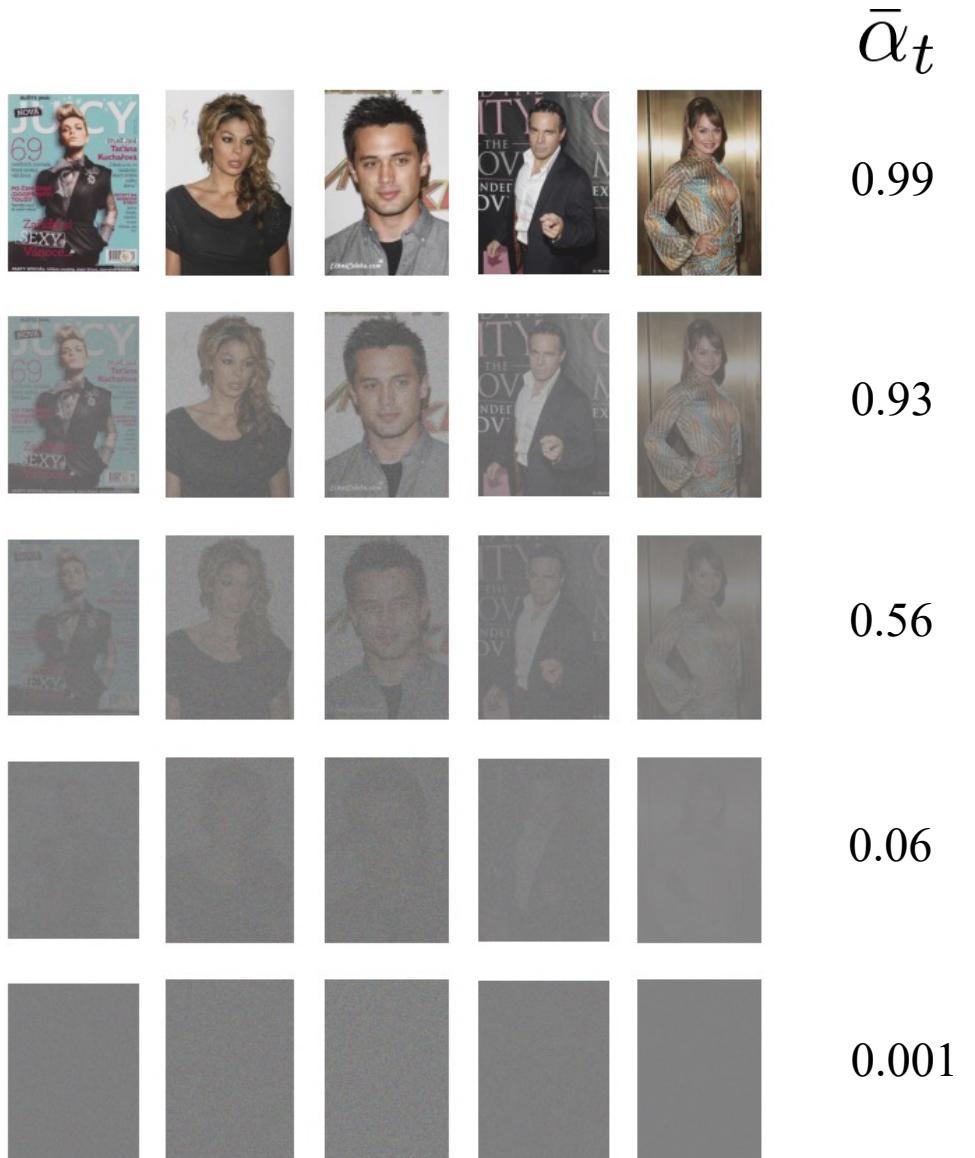
$$q(x_t|x_0) = \mathcal{N}(x_t; \boxed{\sqrt{\bar{\alpha}_t}x_0}, \boxed{(1 - \bar{\alpha}_t)I})$$

mean

variance

$$\bar{\alpha}_t = \prod_{i=1}^t (1 - \beta_i) \\ = \prod_{i=1}^t \alpha_i$$

This is used only to simplify notation



THE FORWARD PROCESS

$$q(x_t|x_0) = \mathcal{N}(x_t; \sqrt{\bar{\alpha}_t}x_0, (1 - \bar{\alpha}_t)I)$$

mean

variance



$\bar{\alpha}_t$

0.99

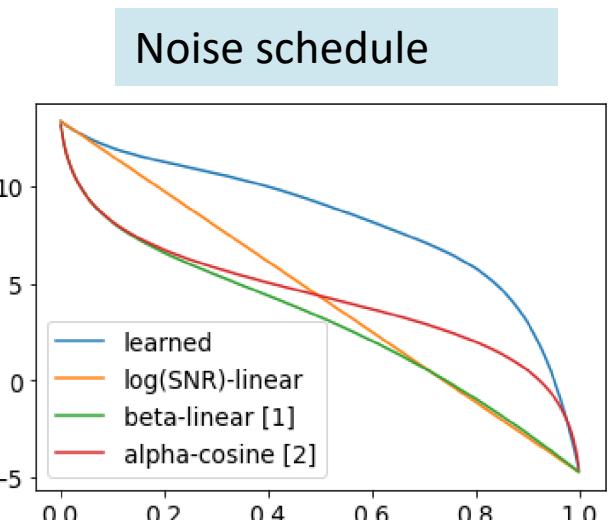


0.93

Signal-to-Noise Ratio

Direct measure of the effect of the noise on the input image

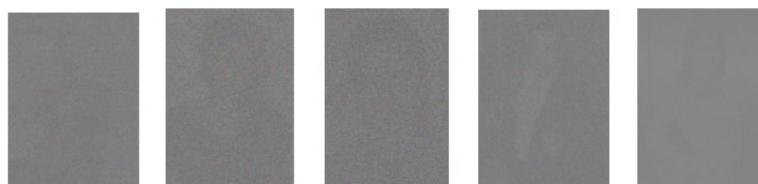
$$\text{SNR}(t) = \frac{\bar{\alpha}_t}{1 - \bar{\alpha}_t}$$



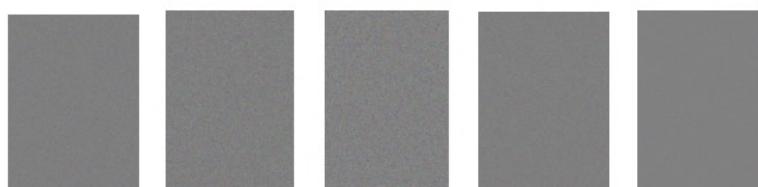
(a) log SNR vs time t



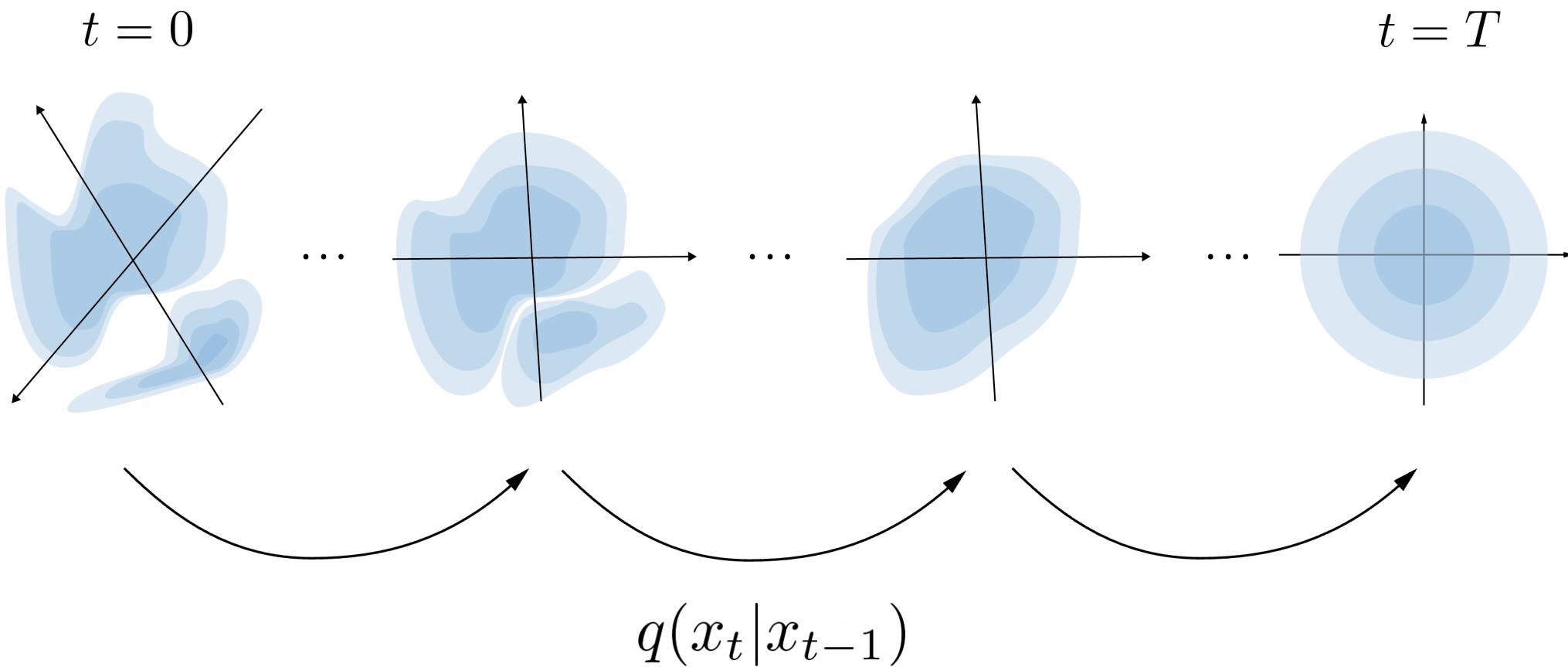
0.56



0.06

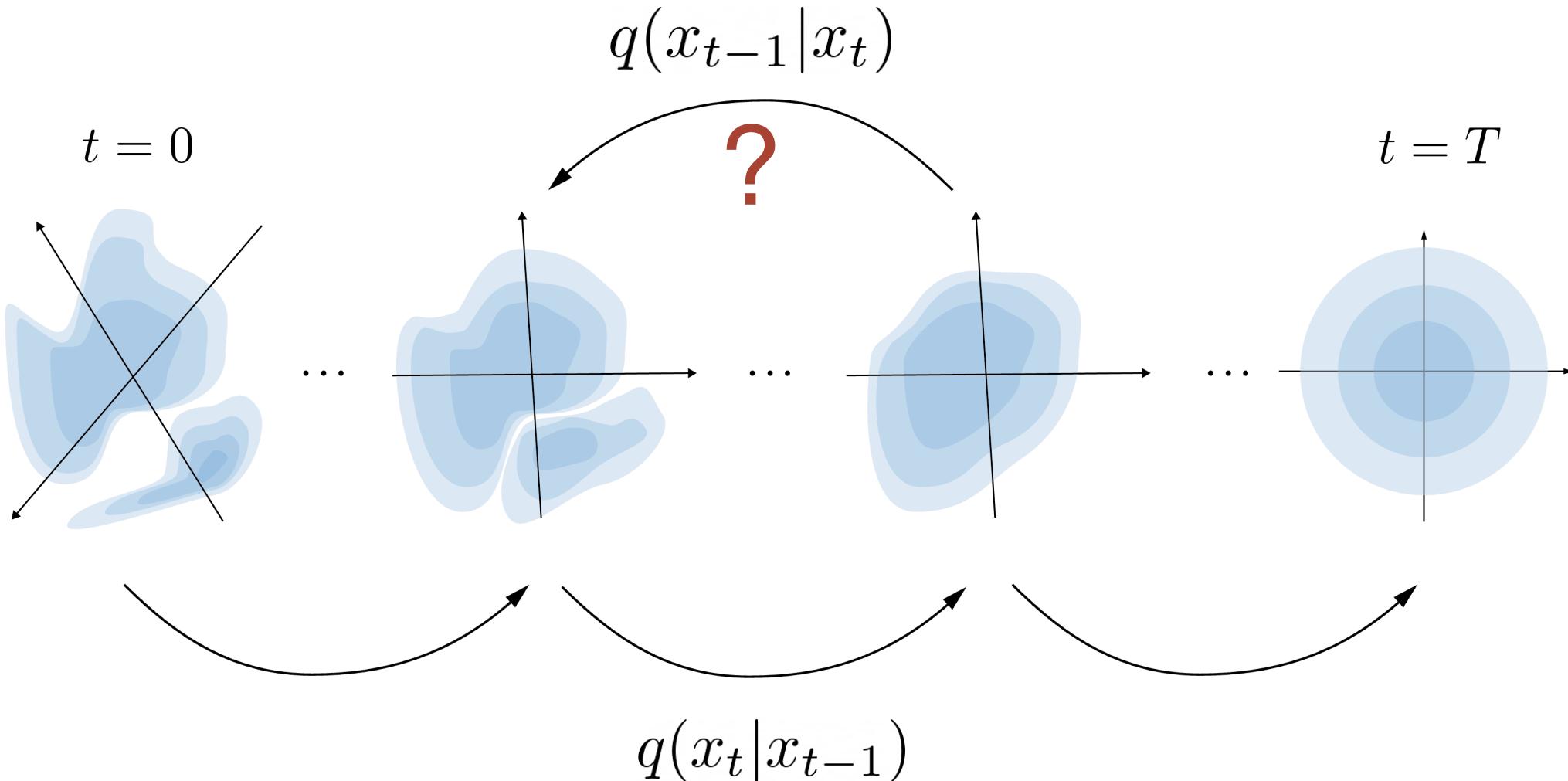


0.001



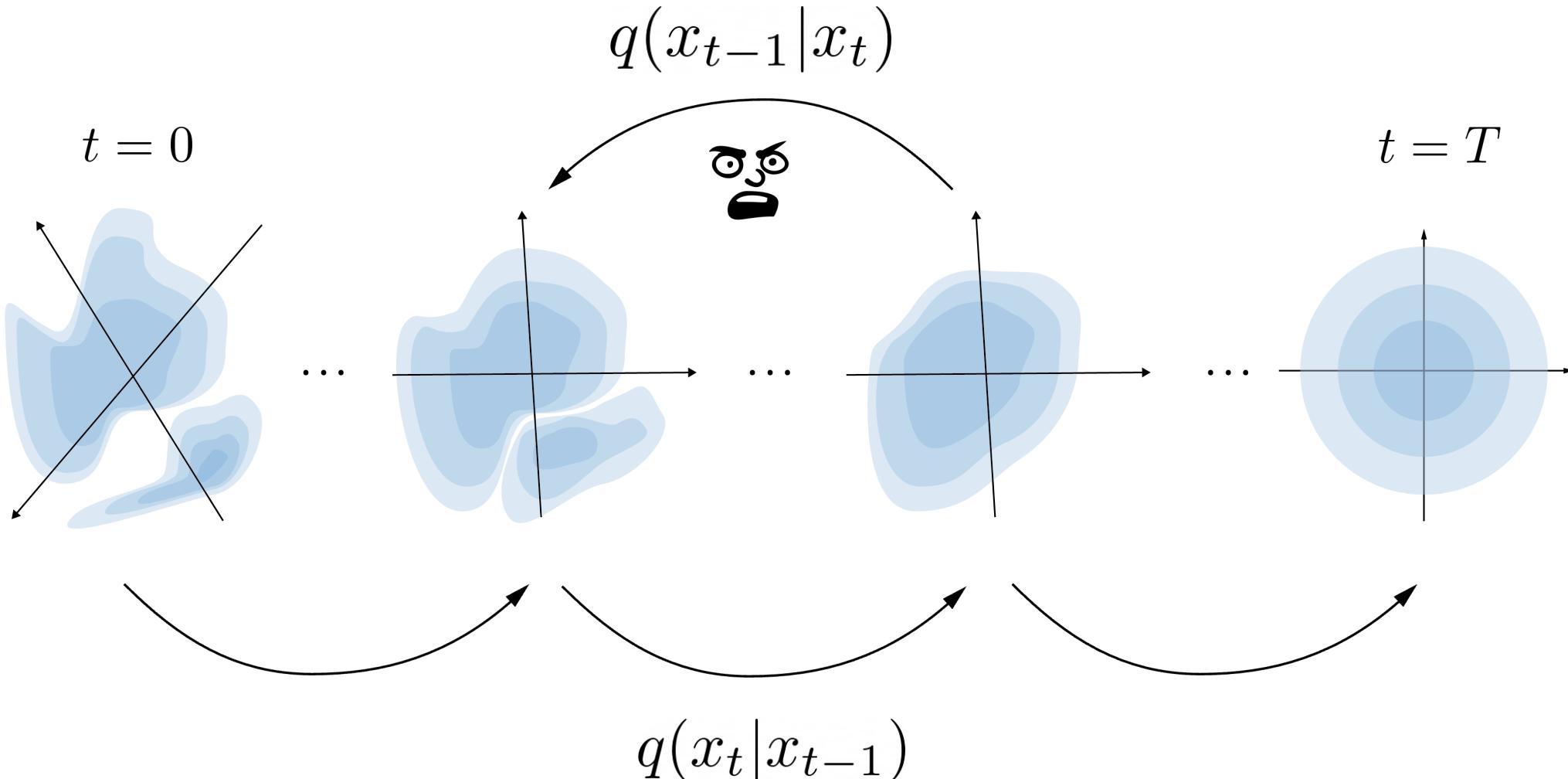
Now we know how to map from complex distribution to a simple one. How do we go back?

REVERSING THE PROCESS



Can we calculate this analytically? We know everything about the forward process.

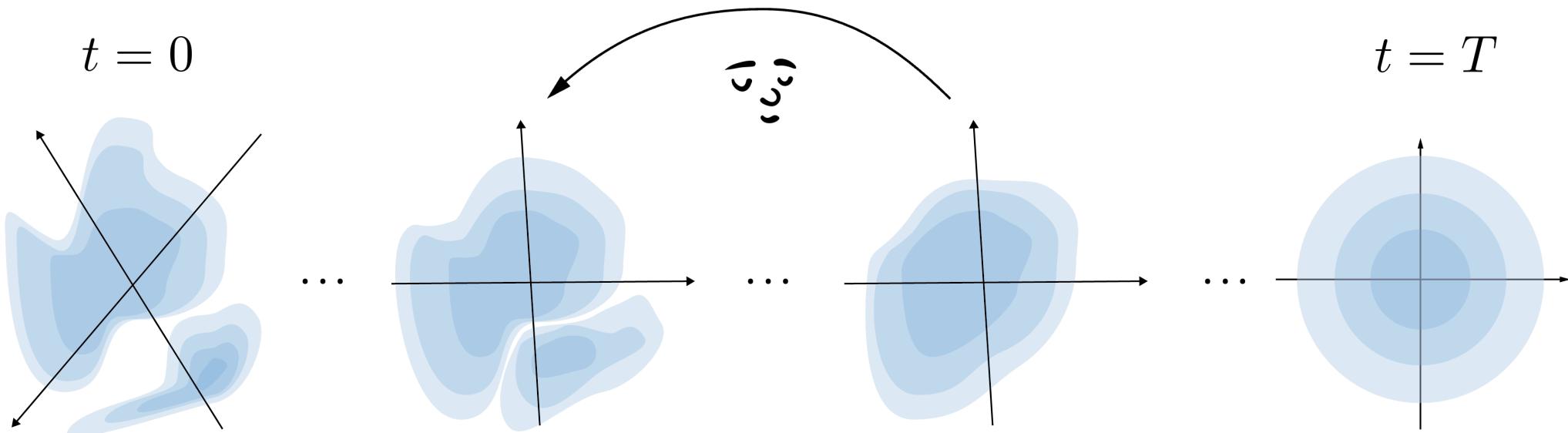
REVERSING THE PROCESS



We need marginalization over the whole dataset.

REVERSING THE PROCESS

$$p_{\theta}(x_{t-1}|x_t) = \mathcal{N}(x_t; \mu_{\theta}(x_t, t), \Sigma_{\theta}(x_t, t))$$



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

Just learn it!

LEARNING THE REVERSE

Minimize the expected negative log-likelihood

$$L = \mathbb{E}_{x_0 \sim q(x_0)} [-\log p_\theta(x_0)]$$

LEARNING THE REVERSE

A little taste of the algebra, use the total probability theorem

$$L = -\mathbb{E}_{x_0} \left[\log \int_{x_{1:T}} p_\theta(x_{0:T}) dx_{1:T} \right]$$

LEARNING THE REVERSE

Use the **Markov Chain** definition and upperbound with **Jensen's inequality**

$$\mathcal{L} = \mathbb{E}_{x_{0:T}} \left[\log \frac{q(x_T | x_{T-1})}{q(x_T)} + \sum_{t=1}^{T-1} \log \frac{q(x_t | x_{t-1})}{p_\theta(x_t | x_{t+1})} - \log p_\theta(x_0 | x_1) \right]$$


prior forward vs. reverse recon.

LEARNING THE REVERSE

Use the **Markov Chain** definition and upperbound with **Jensen's inequality**

$$\mathcal{L} = \mathbb{E}_{x_{0:T}} \left[\log \frac{q(x_T | x_{T-1})}{q(x_T)} + \sum_{t=1}^{T-1} \log \frac{q(x_t | x_{t-1})}{p_\theta(x_t | x_{t+1})} - \log p_\theta(x_0 | x_1) \right]$$


forward vs. reverse

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?


forward vs. reverse

LEARNING THE REVERSE

Use the **Markov Chain** definition and upperbound with **Jensen's inequality**

$$\mathcal{L} = \mathbb{E}_{x_{0:T}} \left[\log \frac{q(x_T | x_{T-1})}{q(x_T)} + \sum_{t=1}^{T-1} \log \frac{q(x_t | x_{t-1})}{p_\theta(x_t | x_{t+1})} - \log p_\theta(x_0 | x_1) \right]$$

HIGH VARIANCE

forward vs. reverse

REDUCING THE VARIANCE

Use Markov property and Bayes' rule

$$\tilde{q}(x_t | x_{t-1}) = q(x_t | x_{t-1}, x_0) = \frac{q(x_{t-1} | x_t, x_0)q(x_t | x_0)}{q(x_{t-1} | x_0)}$$

REDUCING THE VARIANCE

Plug the previous equation back in

$$\mathcal{L} = \underbrace{\mathbb{E}_{x_{0:T}} \left[-\log \frac{q(x_T|x_0)}{q(x_T)} \right]}_{L_T} + \sum_{t=2}^T \underbrace{\mathbb{E}_{x_{0:T}} \left[\log \frac{q(x_{t-1}|x_t, x_0)}{p_\theta(x_{t-1}|x_t)} \right]}_{L_{t-1}} - \underbrace{\mathbb{E}_{x_{0:T}} [\log p_\theta(x_0|x_1)]}_{L_0}$$



THE LOSS FUNCTION

Plug the previous equation back in

$$\mathcal{L} = \underbrace{\mathbb{E}_{x_{0:T}} \left[-\log \frac{q(x_T|x_0)}{q(x_T)} \right]}_{L_T} + \sum_{t=2}^T \underbrace{\mathbb{E}_{x_{0:T}} \left[\log \frac{q(x_{t-1}|x_t, x_0)}{p_\theta(x_{t-1}|x_t)} \right]}_{L_{t-1}} - \underbrace{\mathbb{E}_{x_{0:T}} [\log p_\theta(x_0|x_1)]}_{L_0}$$



MINIMIZING THE LOSS FUNCTION

Notice the KL divergence in the loss term

$$\mathcal{L} = \underbrace{\mathbb{E}_{x_{0:T}} \left[-\log \frac{q(x_T|x_0)}{q(x_T)} \right]}_{L_T} + \sum_{t=2}^T \underbrace{\mathbb{E}_{x_{0:T}} \left[\log \frac{q(x_{t-1}|x_t, x_0)}{p_\theta(x_{t-1}|x_t)} \right]}_{L_{t-1}} - \underbrace{\mathbb{E}_{x_{0:T}} [\log p_\theta(x_0|x_1)]}_{L_0}$$



$$L_{t-1} = \mathbb{E}_{x_0, x_t} [\text{KL}(q(x_{t-1}|x_t, x_0) \parallel p_\theta(x_{t-1}|x_t))]$$

HOW TO CALCULATE THE LOSS?

They are both Gaussian distributions

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

$$p_\theta(x_{t-1} | x_t) = \mathcal{N}(x_t; \mu_\theta(x_t, t), \Sigma_\theta(x_t, t))$$

WE CAN NOW SIMPLIFY

Write down the formula for the KL divergence

$$L_{t-1} = \mathbb{E}_{x_0, x_t} \left[\frac{1}{2} \left[\log \frac{|\Sigma_\theta|}{\tilde{\beta}_t} - d + \text{tr} \left(\Sigma_\theta^{-1} \tilde{\beta}_t \right) + (\tilde{\mu} - \mu_\theta)^T \Sigma_\theta^{-1} (\tilde{\mu} - \mu_\theta) \right] \right]$$

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WE CAN NOW SIMPLIFY

What assumption can we make to simplify this formula

?

$$L_{t-1} = \mathbb{E}_{x_0, x_t} \left[\frac{1}{2} \left[\log \frac{|\Sigma_\theta|}{\tilde{\beta}_t} - d + \text{tr} \left(\Sigma_\theta^{-1} \tilde{\beta}_t \right) + (\tilde{\mu} - \mu_\theta)^T \Sigma_\theta^{-1} (\tilde{\mu} - \mu_\theta) \right] \right]$$

WE CAN NOW SIMPLIFY

Just don't learn it!



$$L_{t-1} = \mathbb{E}_{x_0, x_t} \left[\frac{1}{2} \left[\log \frac{|\Sigma_\theta|}{\tilde{\beta}_t} - d + \text{tr} \left(\Sigma_\theta^{-1} \tilde{\beta}_t \right) + (\tilde{\mu} - \mu_\theta)^T \Sigma_\theta^{-1} (\tilde{\mu} - \mu_\theta) \right] \right]$$

NEW LOSS FUNCTION

Assuming we don't learn the forward variance

$$\Sigma_\theta = \sigma_t^2$$

$$L_{t-1} = \mathbb{E}_{x_0, x_t} \left[\frac{1}{2\sigma_t^2} \|\tilde{\mu}(x_t, x_0) - \mu_\theta(x_t, t)\|_2^2 \right] + C$$

THE FORMULATIONS

Change the formulation of the model

$$L_{t-1} = \mathbb{E}_{x_0, x_t} \left[\frac{1}{2\sigma_t^2} \|\tilde{\mu}(x_t, x_0) - \mu_\theta(x_t, t)\|_2^2 \right] + C$$



image denoiser



noise predictor



score matching



IMAGE DENOISER

$$L_{t-1} = \mathbb{E}_{x_0, x_t} \left[\frac{1}{2\sigma_t^2} \|\tilde{\mu}(x_t, x_0) - \mu_\theta(x_t, t)\|_2^2 \right] + C$$

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



IMAGE DENOISER

$$L_{t-1} = \mathbb{E}_{x_0, x_t} \left[\frac{1}{2\sigma_t^2} \|\tilde{\mu}(x_t, x_0) - \mu_\theta(x_t, t)\|_2^2 \right] + C$$

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↑
input



IMAGE DENOISER

$$L_{t-1} = \mathbb{E}_{x_0, x_t} \left[\frac{1}{2\sigma_t^2} \|\tilde{\mu}(x_t, x_0) - \boxed{\mu_\theta(x_t, t)}\|_2^2 \right] + C$$

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

$$\mu_\theta(x_t, t) = \frac{\sqrt{\alpha_t}(1 - \bar{\alpha}_{t-1})}{1 - \bar{\alpha}_t} x_t + \frac{\sqrt{\bar{\alpha}_{t-1}}\beta_t \hat{x}_0(x_t, t)}{1 - \bar{\alpha}_t}$$



IMAGE DENOISER

$$L_{t-1} = \mathbb{E}_{x_0, x_t} \left[\frac{1}{2\sigma_t^2} \frac{\bar{\alpha}_{t-1} \beta_t^2}{(1 - \bar{\alpha}_t)^2} \|x_0 - \hat{x}_0(x_t, t)\|_2^2 \right]$$



NOISE PREDICTOR

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



NOISE PREDICTOR

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

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



NOISE PREDICTOR

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

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

$$\hat{x}_0(x_t, t) = \frac{x_t - \sqrt{1 - \bar{\alpha}_t} \hat{\epsilon}_\theta(x_t, t)}{\sqrt{\bar{\alpha}_t}}$$



NOISE PREDICTOR

$$L_{t-1} = \mathbb{E}_{x_0, x_t} \left[\frac{1}{2\sigma_t^2} \frac{\beta_t^2}{(1 - \bar{\alpha}_t)\alpha_t} \|\epsilon - \hat{\epsilon}_\theta(x_t, t)\|_2^2 \right]$$



SAMPLING

Just sample from the distribution!

~~~~~

$$p_{\theta}(x_{t-1}|x_t) = \mathcal{N}(x_{t-1}; \mu_{\theta}(x_t, t), \sigma_t^2)$$

Then follow the Markov Chain in reverse



# SAMPLING

This is the simplest form of sampling. **Very slow!**

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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**  $\mathbf{x}_0$

---



# SCORE-MATCHING

$$X_t = \sqrt{1 - \beta_t} X_{t-1} + \sqrt{\beta_t} \epsilon_t$$

Langevin dynamics for sampling from a known distribution.

$$X_t = X_t + \tau \nabla_X \log p(X_{t-1}) + \sqrt{2\tau} \epsilon_t$$

We can learn a **score** function

It can be written in terms of noise

$$s_\theta(X_{t-1}) = \nabla_X \log p_\theta(X_{t-1}) \quad \nabla_X \log p_\theta(X_t) = \frac{\epsilon_\theta}{\sqrt{1 - \bar{\alpha}_t}}$$

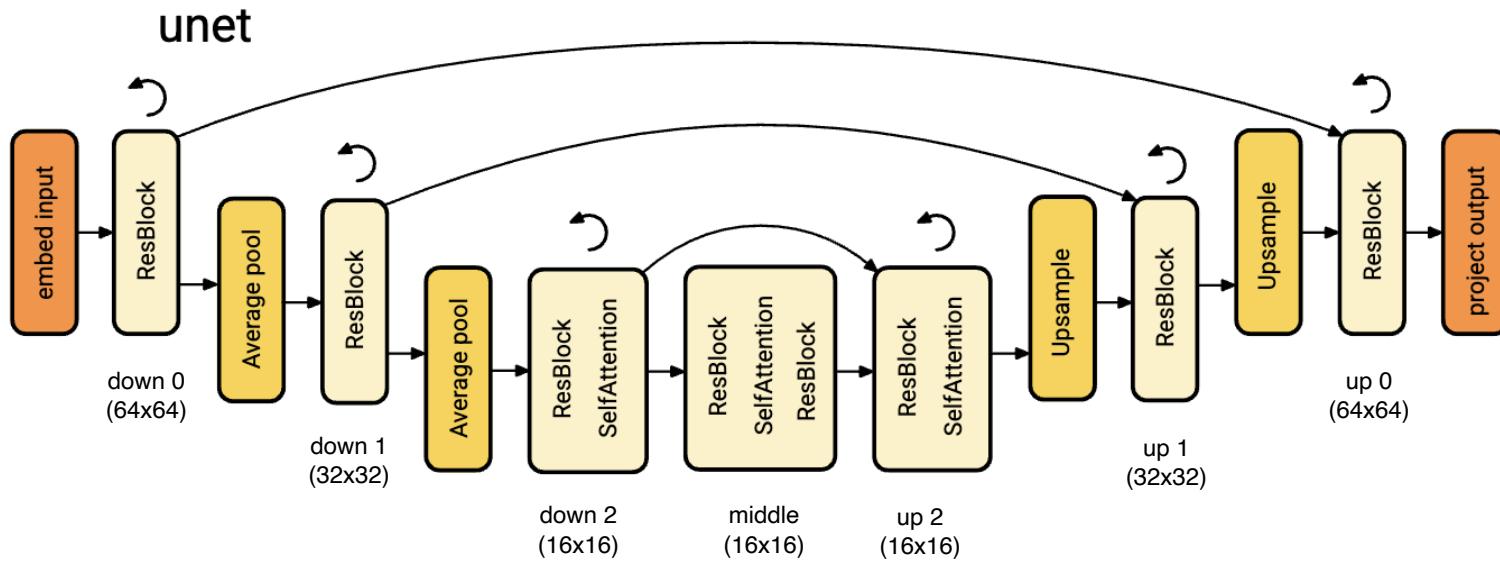


# SCORE-MATCHING

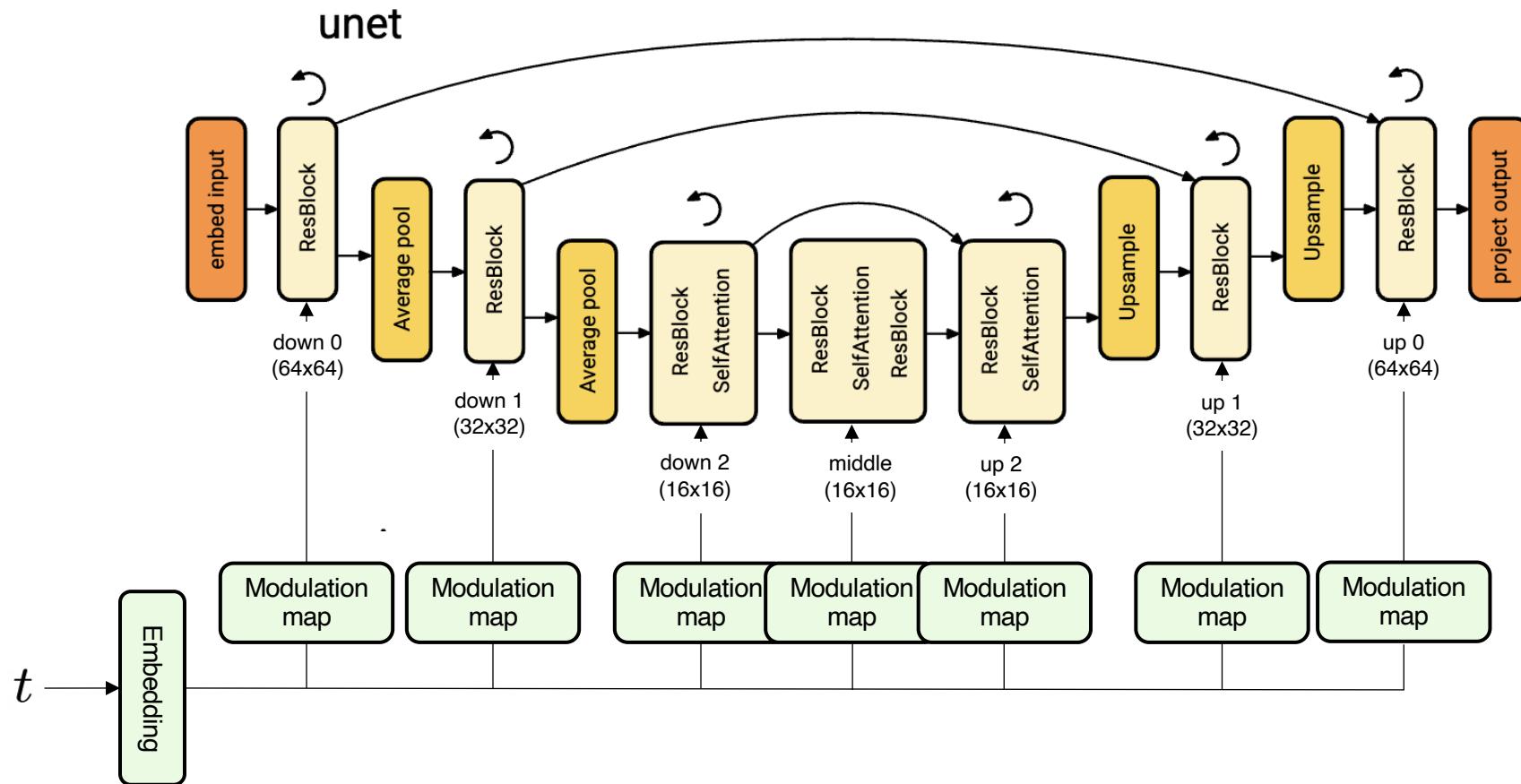
One can show:

$$L_{t-1} = \mathbb{E}_{x_0, x_t} \left[ \frac{1}{2\sigma_t^2} \frac{\beta_t^2}{\alpha_t} \left\| \frac{\epsilon}{\sqrt{1 - \bar{\alpha}_t}} + s_\theta(x_t, t) \right\|_2^2 \right]$$

# TRAINING ARCHITECTURE



# TRAINING ARCHITECTURE



# SAMPLING IN PRACTICE

One can choose different samplers even when given the same trained model

**Denoising Diffusion Implicit Models (DDIM)** makes  
sampling deterministic

$$X_{t-1} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\alpha_t}} \left( X_t - \sqrt{1 - \bar{\alpha}_t} \epsilon_\theta(X_t, t) \right) + \sqrt{1 - \bar{\alpha}_{t-1} - \sigma_t^2} \epsilon_\theta(X_t, t) + \sigma_t z$$

predicted "image"

direction pointing towards  
single-step denoising

# SAMPLING IN PRACTICE

$$X_{t-1} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\alpha_t}} \left( X_t - \sqrt{1 - \bar{\alpha}_t} \epsilon_\theta(X_t, t) \right) + \sqrt{1 - \bar{\alpha}_{t-1} - \sigma_t^2} \epsilon_\theta(X_t, t) + \sigma_t z$$

 predicted "image"

 direction pointing towards  
single-step denoising

$\sigma_t$  is the amount of randomness in the sampling

DDPM sampling

$$\sigma_t = \sqrt{\frac{1 - \bar{\alpha}_{t-1}}{1 - \bar{\alpha}_t}} \sqrt{\frac{1 - \bar{\alpha}_t}{\bar{\alpha}_{t-1}}}$$

Deterministic

$$\sigma_t = 0$$

# SUMMARY

- Diffusion models balance **flexibility** and **tractability**.
- They minimize a version of the **ELBO** from VAEs (they are hierarchical VAEs with infinite layers).
- **Different formulations** can be obtained with only practical consequence, no theoretical difference in the loss optimized.
- **Sampling** can be seen separately from training and made deterministic.

# BIBLIOGRAPHY

## The fundamental papers

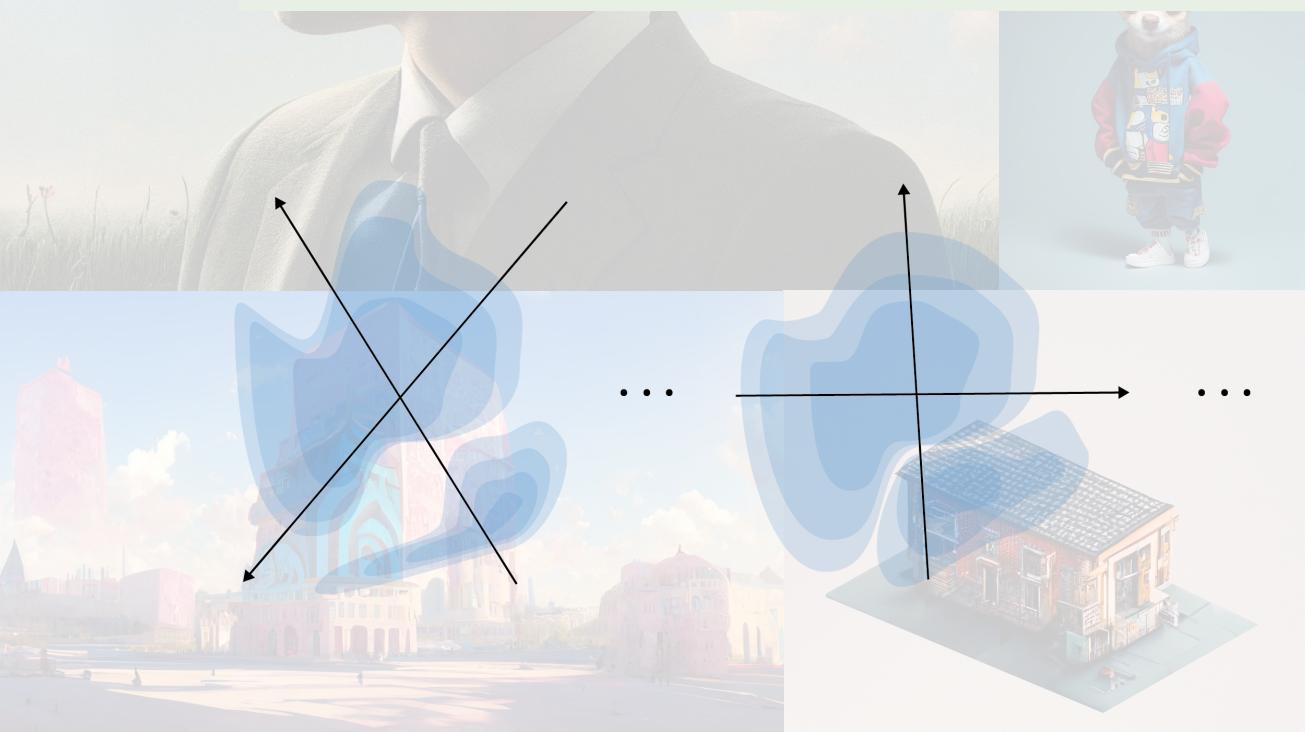
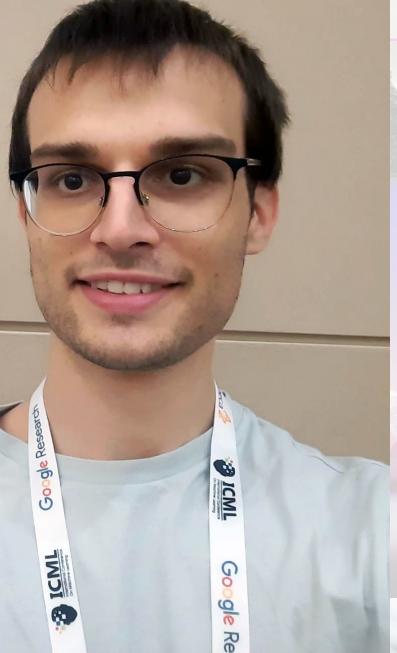
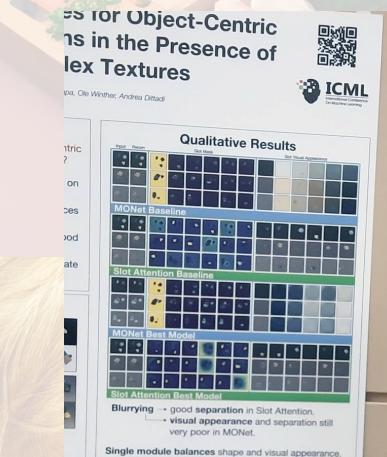
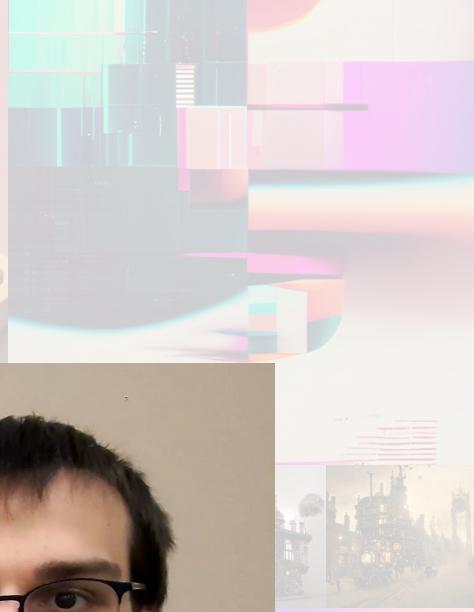
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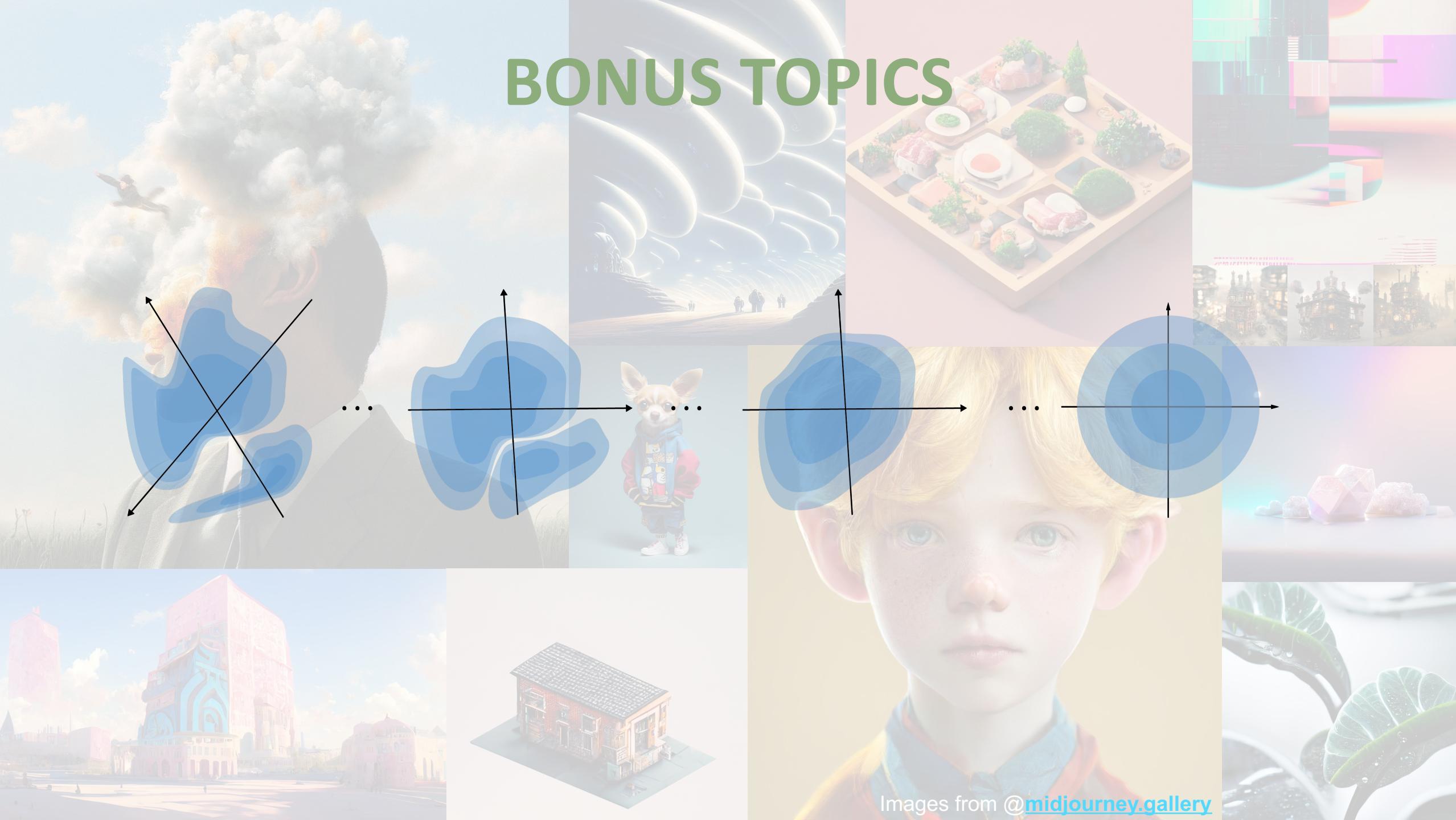
# ABOUT ME

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Images from [@midjourney.gallery](#)

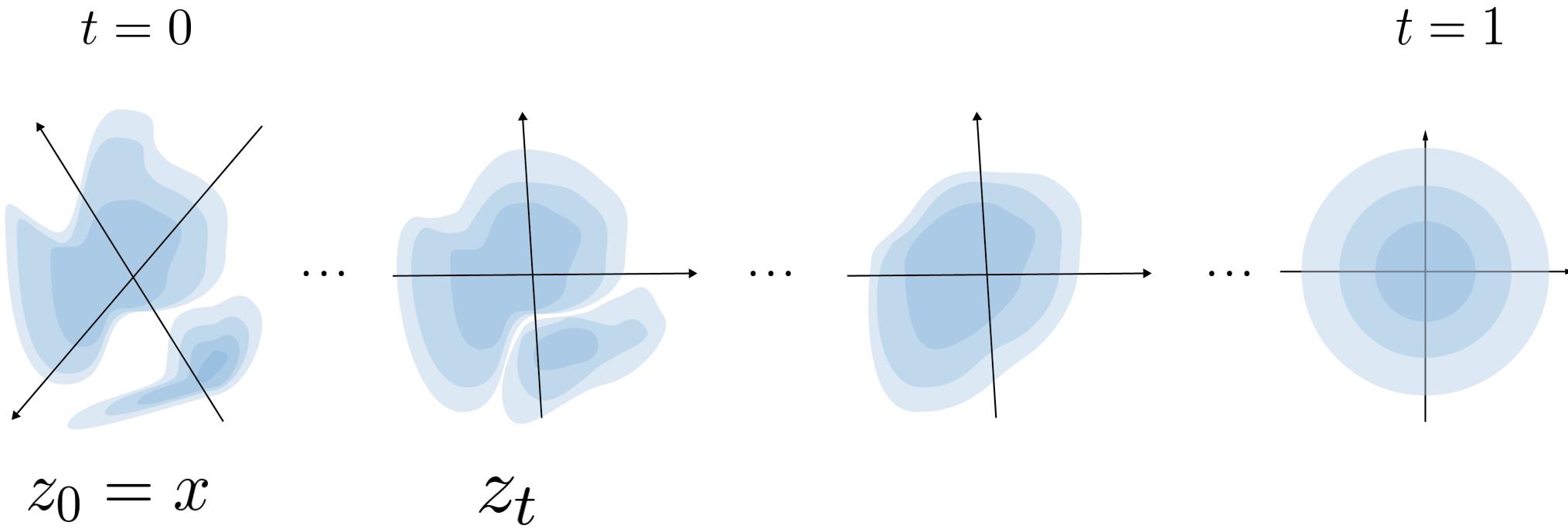
# BONUS TOPICS



Images from [@midjourney.gallery](https://midjourney.gallery)

# SIMPLIFIED NOTATION

$$q(\mathbf{z}_t | \mathbf{x}) = \mathcal{N}(\alpha_t \mathbf{x}, \sigma_t^2 \mathbf{I})$$



# LEARNED NOISE SCHEDULE

Define notation based on accumulated steps

$$q(\mathbf{z}_t | \mathbf{x}) = \mathcal{N}(\alpha_t \mathbf{x}, \sigma_t^2 \mathbf{I}) \quad \text{SNR}(t) = \alpha_t^2 / \sigma_t^2$$

Learned noise schedule

$$\sigma_t^2 = \text{sigmoid}(\gamma_{\eta}(t))$$

$$\alpha_t^2 = \text{sigmoid}(-\gamma_{\eta}(t))$$

Simple expression for SNR

$$\text{SNR}(t) = \exp(-\gamma_{\eta}(t))$$

# GENERAL FORMULATIONS

Loss function with new notation, VLB is the Variational Lower Bound

$$-\log p(\mathbf{x}) \leq -\text{VLB}(\mathbf{x}) = \underbrace{D_{KL}(q(\mathbf{z}_1|\mathbf{x})||p(\mathbf{z}_1))}_{\text{Prior loss}} + \underbrace{\mathbb{E}_{q(\mathbf{z}_0|\mathbf{x})} [-\log p(\mathbf{x}|\mathbf{z}_0)]}_{\text{Reconstruction loss}} + \underbrace{\mathcal{L}_T(\mathbf{x})}_{\text{Diffusion loss}}.$$

**Discrete-time**, i.e.  $s(i) = (i - 1)/T, t(i) = i/T$

Generic form

$$\mathcal{L}_T(\mathbf{x}) = \sum_{i=1}^T \mathbb{E}_{q(\mathbf{z}_{t(i)}|\mathbf{x})} D_{KL}[q(\mathbf{z}_{s(i)}|\mathbf{z}_{t(i)}, \mathbf{x})||p(\mathbf{z}_{s(i)}|\mathbf{z}_{t(i)})].$$

Simplifies to

$$\mathcal{L}_T(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{T}{2} \mathbb{E}_{\epsilon \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \mathbf{I}), i \sim U\{1, T\}} [(\text{SNR}(s) - \text{SNR}(t)) \|\mathbf{x} - \hat{\mathbf{x}}_{\boldsymbol{\theta}}(\mathbf{z}_t; t)\|_2^2]$$

# DISCRETE-TIME

**Discrete-time**, i.e.  $s(i) = (i - 1)/T, t(i) = i/T$

Generic form

$$\mathcal{L}_T(\mathbf{x}) = \sum_{i=1}^T \mathbb{E}_{q(\mathbf{z}_{t(i)}|\mathbf{x})} D_{KL}[q(\mathbf{z}_{s(i)}|\mathbf{z}_{t(i)}, \mathbf{x}) || p(\mathbf{z}_{s(i)}|\mathbf{z}_{t(i)})].$$

Simplifies to

$$\mathcal{L}_T(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{T}{2} \mathbb{E}_{\boldsymbol{\epsilon} \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \mathbf{I}), i \sim U\{1, T\}} [(\text{SNR}(s) - \text{SNR}(t)) \|\mathbf{x} - \hat{\mathbf{x}}_{\boldsymbol{\theta}}(\mathbf{z}_t; t)\|_2^2]$$

$$\mathcal{L}_T(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{T}{2} \mathbb{E}_{\boldsymbol{\epsilon} \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \mathbf{I}), i \sim U\{1, T\}} [(\exp(\gamma_{\boldsymbol{\eta}}(t) - \gamma_{\boldsymbol{\eta}}(s)) - 1) \|\boldsymbol{\epsilon} - \hat{\boldsymbol{\epsilon}}_{\boldsymbol{\theta}}(\mathbf{z}_t; t)\|_2^2]$$

# CONTINUOUS-TIME

Keep the timesteps continuous and take derivative of SNR w.r.t. time.

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{L}_\infty(\mathbf{x}) &= -\frac{1}{2} \mathbb{E}_{\boldsymbol{\epsilon} \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \mathbf{I})} \int_0^1 \text{SNR}'(t) \|\mathbf{x} - \hat{\mathbf{x}}_{\boldsymbol{\theta}}(\mathbf{z}_t; t)\|_2^2 dt, \\ &= -\frac{1}{2} \mathbb{E}_{\boldsymbol{\epsilon} \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \mathbf{I}), t \sim \mathcal{U}(0, 1)} \left[ \text{SNR}'(t) \|\mathbf{x} - \hat{\mathbf{x}}_{\boldsymbol{\theta}}(\mathbf{z}_t; t)\|_2^2 \right]\end{aligned}$$

Simplifies to (note the analogy to discrete-time):

$$\mathcal{L}_\infty(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{1}{2} \mathbb{E}_{\boldsymbol{\epsilon} \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \mathbf{I}), t \sim \mathcal{U}(0, 1)} \left[ \gamma'_{\boldsymbol{\eta}}(t) \|\boldsymbol{\epsilon} - \hat{\boldsymbol{\epsilon}}_{\boldsymbol{\theta}}(\mathbf{z}_t; t)\|_2^2 \right]$$

# EQUIVALENCE OF DIFFUSION MODELS

Let  $v \equiv \text{SNR}(t)$  and use this to change the variables in the continuous-time loss:

$$\tilde{\mathbf{x}}_{\theta}(\mathbf{z}, v) \equiv \hat{\mathbf{x}}_{\theta}(\mathbf{z}, \text{SNR}^{-1}(v))$$

$$\mathcal{L}_{\infty}(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{1}{2} \mathbb{E}_{\epsilon \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \mathbf{I})} \int_{\text{SNR}_{\min}}^{\text{SNR}_{\max}} \|\mathbf{x} - \tilde{\mathbf{x}}_{\theta}(\mathbf{z}_v, v)\|_2^2 dv$$

The functions for the noise (aka the noise schedule) has no effect on the loss function itself, which is only dependent on the SNR at the start and end of the schedule.

**Noise schedule still has an effect during training.** This is because this perfect situation does not happen and the timesteps effectively sampled will affect how the model is trained.

# PROGRESSIVE DISTILLATION

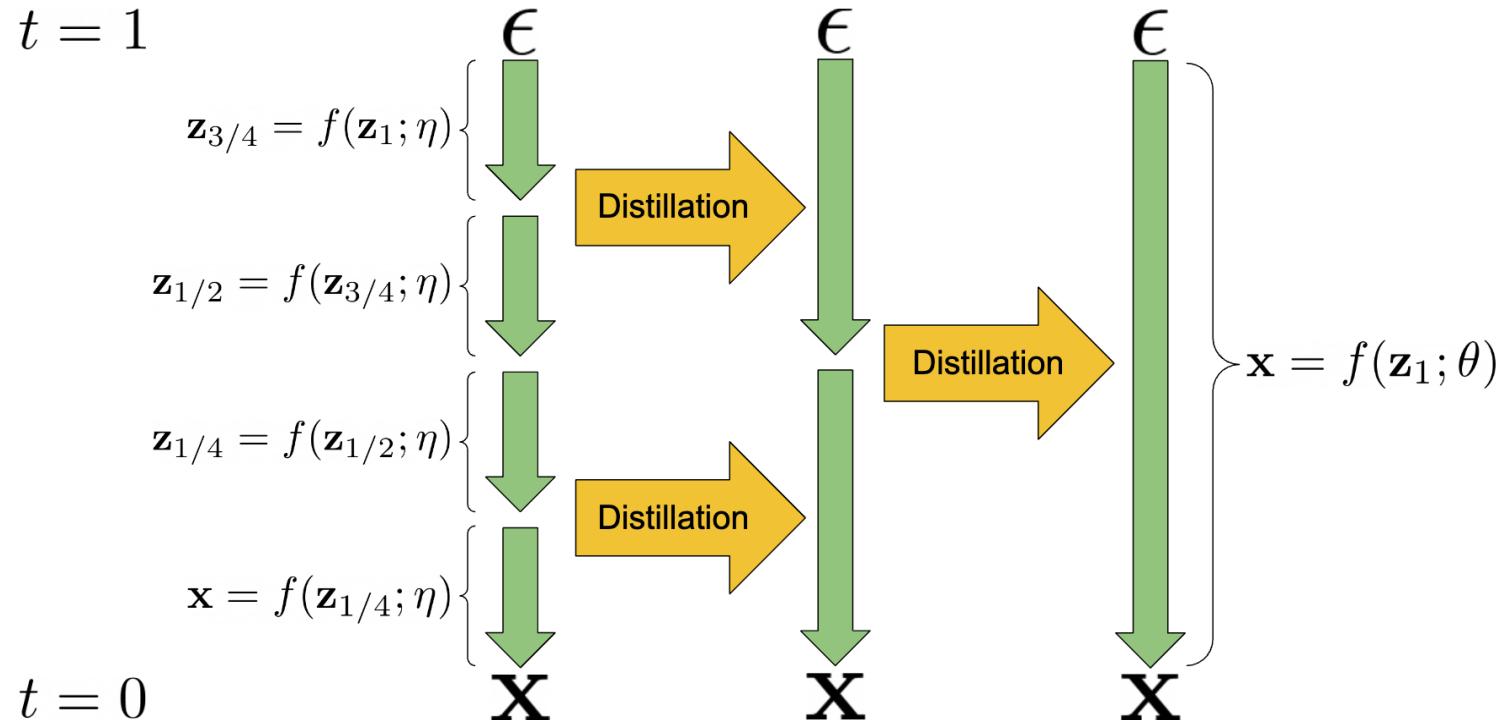


Figure 1: A visualization of two iterations of our proposed *progressive distillation* algorithm. A sampler  $f(\mathbf{z}; \eta)$ , mapping random noise  $\epsilon$  to samples  $\mathbf{x}$  in 4 deterministic steps, is distilled into a new sampler  $f(\mathbf{z}; \theta)$  taking only a single step. The original sampler is derived by approximately integrating the *probability flow ODE* for a learned diffusion model, and distillation can thus be understood as learning to integrate in fewer steps, or *amortizing* this integration into the new sampler.

# PROGRESSIVE DISTILLATION

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**Algorithm 1** Standard diffusion training

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**Require:** Model  $\hat{\mathbf{x}}_\theta(\mathbf{z}_t)$  to be trained  
**Require:** Data set  $\mathcal{D}$   
**Require:** Loss weight function  $w()$

**while** not converged **do**  
     $\mathbf{x} \sim \mathcal{D}$                                           ▷ Sample data  
     $t \sim U[0, 1]$                                           ▷ Sample time  
     $\epsilon \sim N(0, I)$                                           ▷ Sample noise  
     $\mathbf{z}_t = \alpha_t \mathbf{x} + \sigma_t \epsilon$    ▷ Add noise to data

$\tilde{\mathbf{x}} = \mathbf{x}$                                           ▷ Clean data is target for  $\hat{\mathbf{x}}$   
     $\lambda_t = \log[\alpha_t^2 / \sigma_t^2]$                           ▷ log-SNR  
     $L_\theta = w(\lambda_t) \|\tilde{\mathbf{x}} - \hat{\mathbf{x}}_\theta(\mathbf{z}_t)\|_2^2$    ▷ Loss  
     $\theta \leftarrow \theta - \gamma \nabla_\theta L_\theta$                           ▷ Optimization

**end while**

---

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**Algorithm 2** Progressive distillation

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**Require:** Trained teacher model  $\hat{\mathbf{x}}_\eta(\mathbf{z}_t)$   
**Require:** Data set  $\mathcal{D}$   
**Require:** Loss weight function  $w()$   
**Require:** Student sampling steps  $N$

**for**  $K$  iterations **do**  
     $\theta \leftarrow \eta$                                           ▷ Init student from teacher  
    **while** not converged **do**  
         $\mathbf{x} \sim \mathcal{D}$   
         $t = i/N, i \sim Cat[1, 2, \dots, N]$   
         $\epsilon \sim N(0, I)$   
         $\mathbf{z}_t = \alpha_t \mathbf{x} + \sigma_t \epsilon$   
        # 2 steps of DDIM with teacher  
         $t' = t - 0.5/N, t'' = t - 1/N$   
         $\mathbf{z}_{t'} = \alpha_{t'} \hat{\mathbf{x}}_\eta(\mathbf{z}_t) + \frac{\sigma_{t'}}{\sigma_t} (\mathbf{z}_t - \alpha_t \hat{\mathbf{x}}_\eta(\mathbf{z}_t))$   
         $\mathbf{z}_{t''} = \alpha_{t''} \hat{\mathbf{x}}_\eta(\mathbf{z}_{t'}) + \frac{\sigma_{t''}}{\sigma_{t'}} (\mathbf{z}_{t'} - \alpha_{t'} \hat{\mathbf{x}}_\eta(\mathbf{z}_{t'}))$   
         $\tilde{\mathbf{x}} = \frac{\mathbf{z}_{t''} - (\sigma_{t''}/\sigma_t) \mathbf{z}_t}{\alpha_{t''} - (\sigma_{t''}/\sigma_t) \alpha_t}$                           ▷ Teacher  $\hat{\mathbf{x}}$  target  
         $\lambda_t = \log[\alpha_t^2 / \sigma_t^2]$   
         $L_\theta = w(\lambda_t) \|\tilde{\mathbf{x}} - \hat{\mathbf{x}}_\theta(\mathbf{z}_t)\|_2^2$   
         $\theta \leftarrow \theta - \gamma \nabla_\theta L_\theta$   
    **end while**  
     $\eta \leftarrow \theta$                                           ▷ Student becomes next teacher  
     $N \leftarrow N/2$                                           ▷ Halve number of sampling steps

**end for**

---

# CONSISTENCY MODELS

Multi-step sampling directly in the design of the model to trade-off speed and quality.

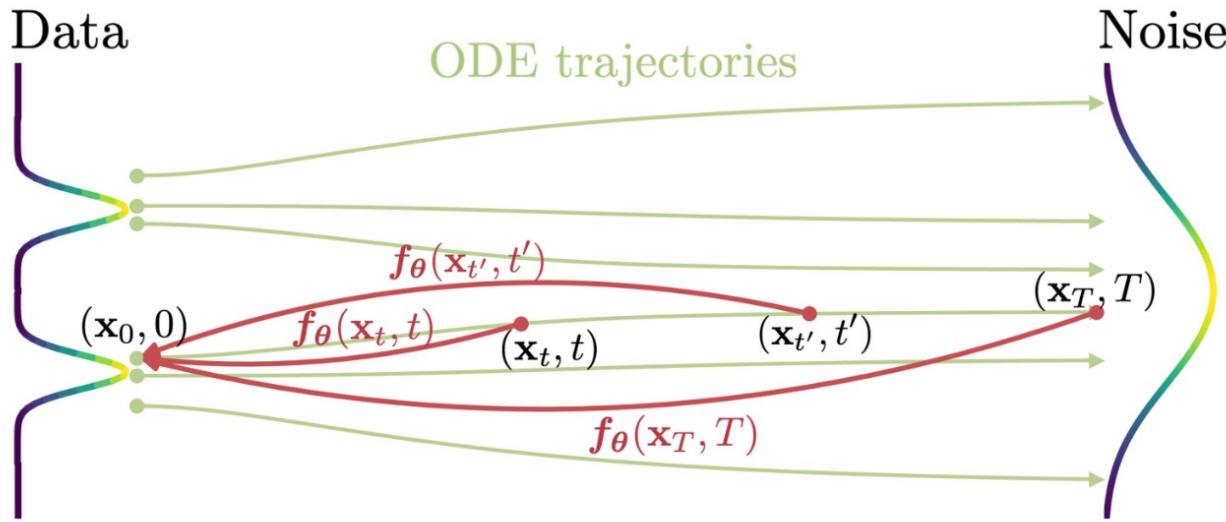


Figure 2: **Consistency models** are trained to map points on any trajectory of the **PF ODE** to the trajectory's origin.

# CONSISTENCY MODELS

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**Algorithm 2** Consistency Distillation (CD)

**Input:** dataset  $\mathcal{D}$ , initial model parameter  $\theta$ , learning rate  $\eta$ , ODE solver  $\Phi(\cdot, \cdot; \phi)$ ,  $d(\cdot, \cdot)$ ,  $\lambda(\cdot)$ , and  $\mu$

$\theta^- \leftarrow \theta$

**repeat**

- Sample  $\mathbf{x} \sim \mathcal{D}$  and  $n \sim \mathcal{U}[1, N - 1]$
- Sample  $\mathbf{x}_{t_{n+1}} \sim \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{x}; t_{n+1}^2 \mathbf{I})$
- $\hat{\mathbf{x}}_{t_n}^\phi \leftarrow \mathbf{x}_{t_{n+1}} + (t_n - t_{n+1})\Phi(\mathbf{x}_{t_{n+1}}, t_{n+1}; \phi)$
- $\mathcal{L}(\theta, \theta^-; \phi) \leftarrow \lambda(t_n)d(\mathbf{f}_\theta(\mathbf{x}_{t_{n+1}}, t_{n+1}), \mathbf{f}_{\theta^-}(\hat{\mathbf{x}}_{t_n}^\phi, t_n))$
- $\theta \leftarrow \theta - \eta \nabla_\theta \mathcal{L}(\theta, \theta^-; \phi)$
- $\theta^- \leftarrow \text{stopgrad}(\mu\theta^- + (1 - \mu)\theta)$

**until** convergence

---

---

**Algorithm 3** Consistency Training (CT)

**Input:** dataset  $\mathcal{D}$ , initial model parameter  $\theta$ , learning rate  $\eta$ , step schedule  $N(\cdot)$ , EMA decay rate schedule  $\mu(\cdot)$ ,  $d(\cdot, \cdot)$ , and  $\lambda(\cdot)$

$\theta^- \leftarrow \theta$  and  $k \leftarrow 0$

**repeat**

- Sample  $\mathbf{x} \sim \mathcal{D}$ , and  $n \sim \mathcal{U}[1, N(k) - 1]$
- Sample  $\mathbf{z} \sim \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{I})$
- $\mathcal{L}(\theta, \theta^-) \leftarrow \lambda(t_n)d(\mathbf{f}_\theta(\mathbf{x} + t_{n+1}\mathbf{z}, t_{n+1}), \mathbf{f}_{\theta^-}(\mathbf{x} + t_n\mathbf{z}, t_n))$
- $\theta \leftarrow \theta - \eta \nabla_\theta \mathcal{L}(\theta, \theta^-)$
- $\theta^- \leftarrow \text{stopgrad}(\mu(k)\theta^- + (1 - \mu(k))\theta)$
- $k \leftarrow k + 1$

**until** convergence

---

# FREQUENCY INTERPRETATION

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

# FREQUENCY INTERPRETATION

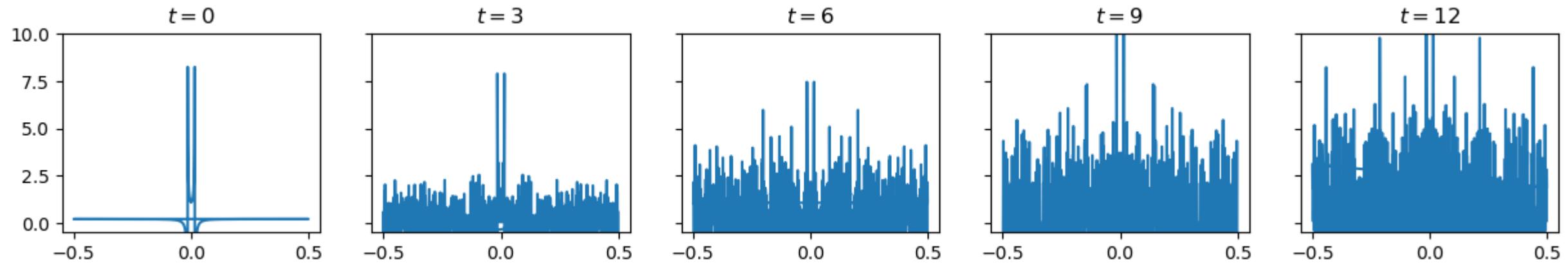
$$x_t = \sqrt{\bar{\alpha}_t} x_0 + \sqrt{1 - \bar{\alpha}_t} \epsilon$$

$$\mathcal{F}[x_t] = \sqrt{\bar{\alpha}_t} \mathcal{F}[x_0] + \sqrt{1 - \bar{\alpha}_t} \mathcal{F}[\epsilon]$$

# FREQUENCY INTERPRETATION

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

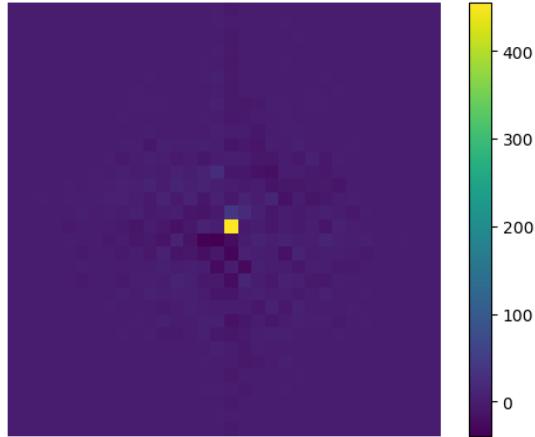
$$\mathcal{F}[x_t] = \sqrt{\bar{\alpha}_t} \mathcal{F}[x_0] + \sqrt{1 - \bar{\alpha}_t} \mathcal{F}[\epsilon]$$



# FREQUENCY INTERPRETATION

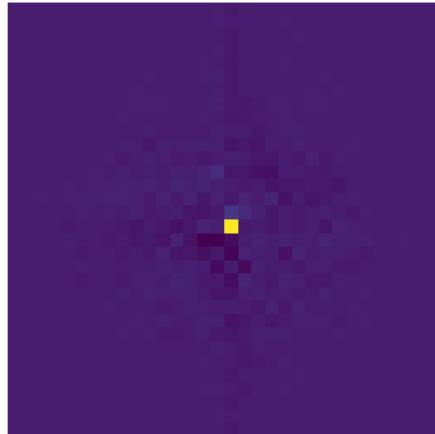


# FREQUENCY INTERPRETATION



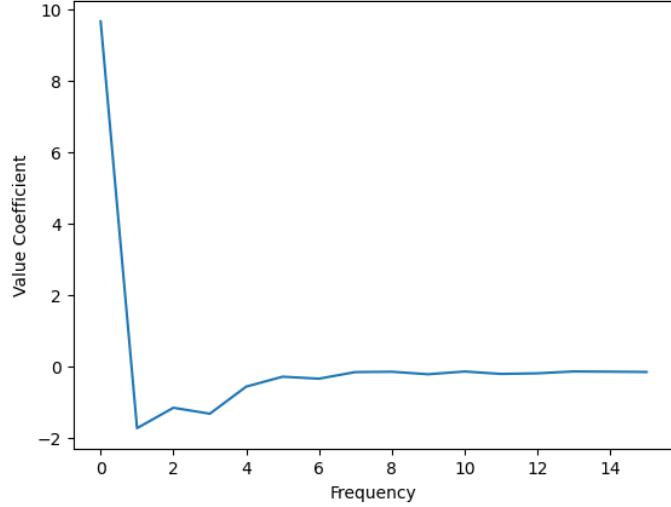
1. Find the 2D Fourier Transform

# FREQUENCY INTERPRETATION



1. Find the 2D Fourier Transform
2. Average power across noise samples

# FREQUENCY INTERPRETATION



1. Find the 2D Fourier Transform
2. Average power across noise samples
3. Average across height to get 1D plot

# FREQUENCY INTERPRETATION



1. Find the 2D Fourier Transform
2. Average power across noise samples
3. Average across height to get 1D plot

Power Spectral Density of the image.

