

Deep Generative Models: Image Editing with Diffusion Models

Fall Semester 2025

René Vidal

Director of the Center for Innovation in Data Engineering and Science (IDEAS)

Rachleff University Professor, University of Pennsylvania

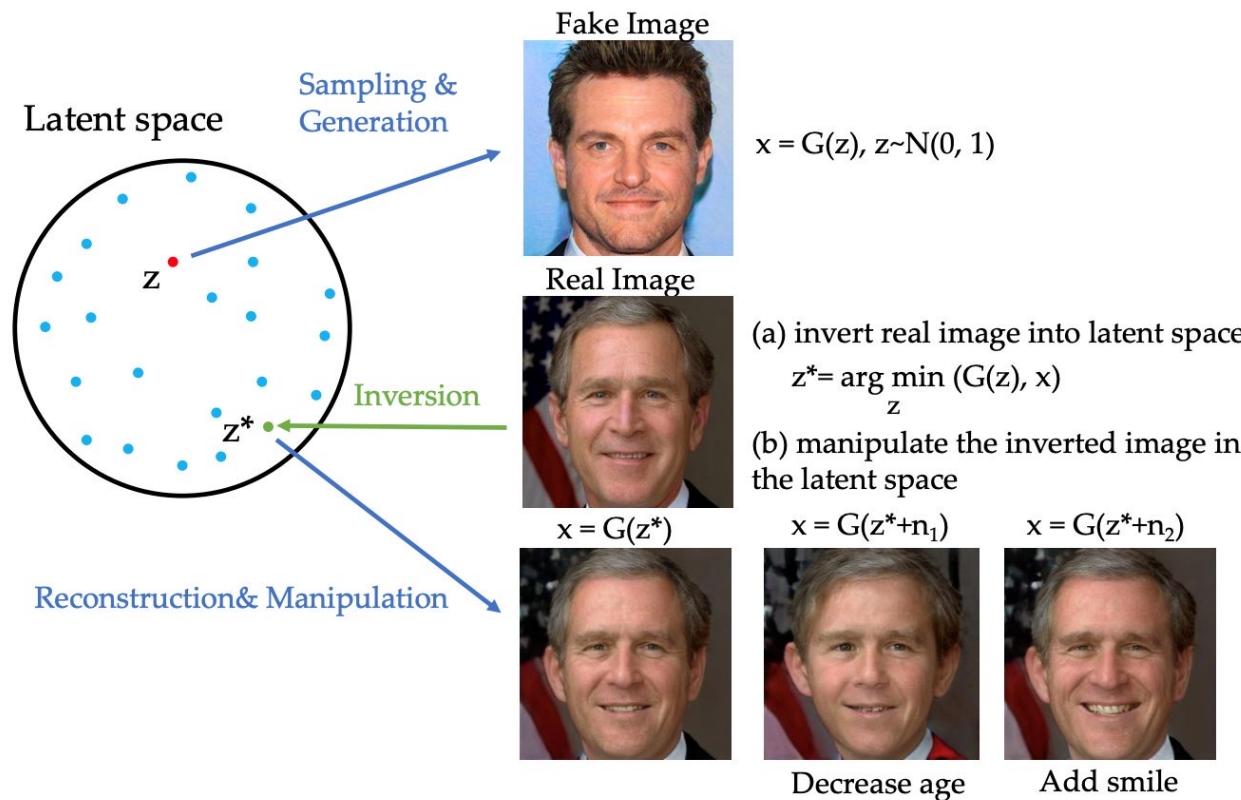
Amazon Scholar & Chief Scientist at NORCE

Outline

- Markov Hierarchical Variational Auto Encoders (MHVAEs)
 - Autoregressive Encoder and Autoregressive Decoder of an MHVAE
 - Derivation of the ELBO of an MHVAE
- Diffusion Models as MHVAEs with a Linear Gaussian Autoregressive Latent Space
 - Forward Diffusion Process
 - Reverse Diffusion Process
 - ELBO for Diffusion Models as a particular case of the ELBO for MHVAEs
 - Implementation Details: UNet Architecture, Training and Sampling Strategies
- Applications of Diffusion Models
 - Stable Diffusion: Text-Conditioned Diffusion Model
 - ControlNet: Multimodal Control for Consistent Synthesis
 - **Image Editing: DDIM, P2P**

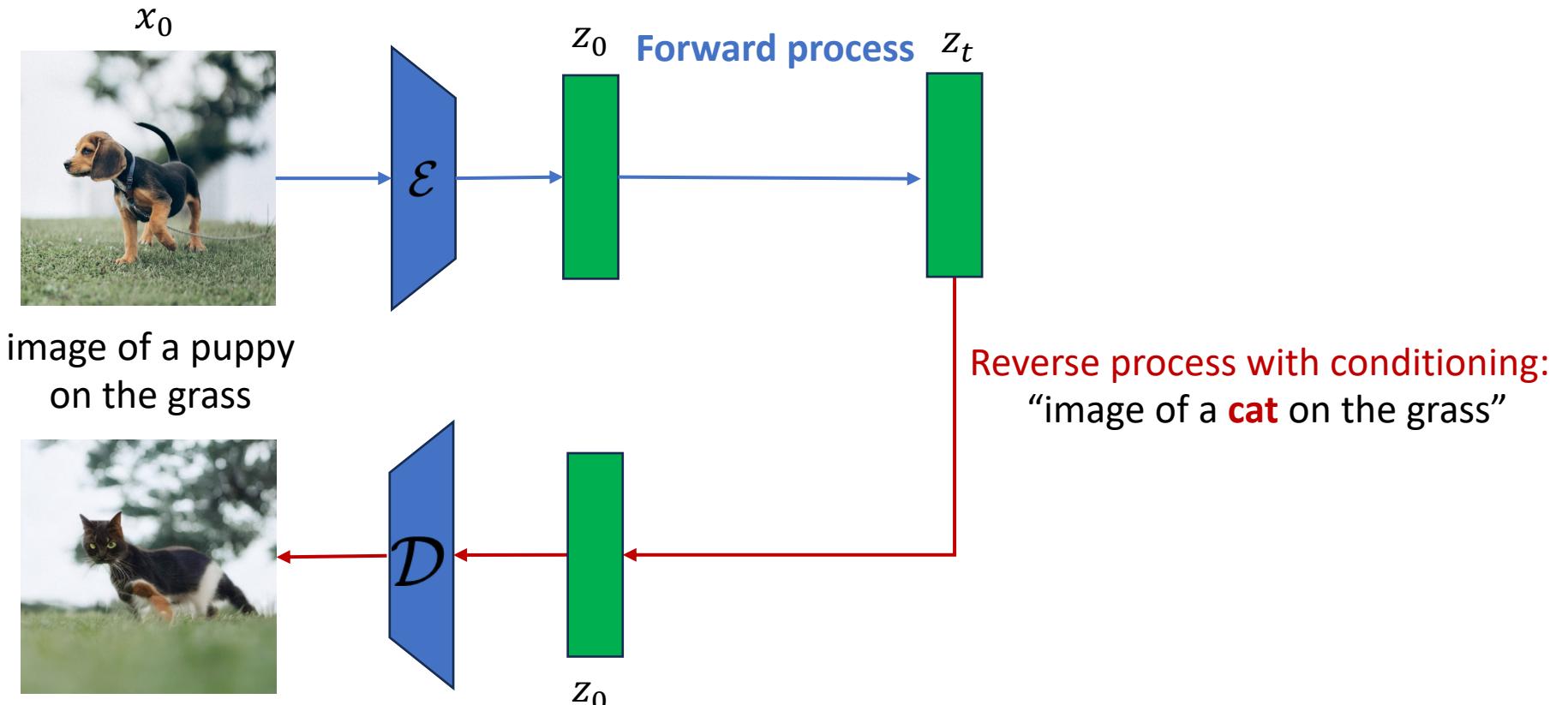
Latent Space Image Editing: Inversion + Manipulation

- Diffusion models so far can be used for image generation.
- Stable Diffusion performs text-to-image conditioning in a rich latent space.
- Can we use the **latent space** of diffusion models to perform **image editing**?



Naïve Image Editing Idea

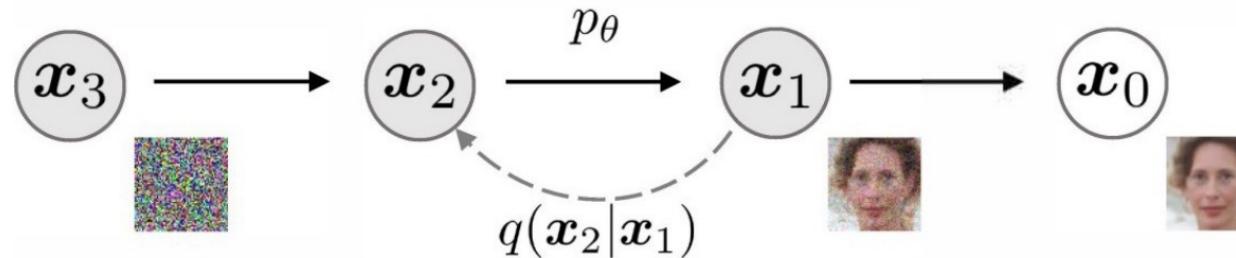
- Instead of starting from pure noise, let us perform naïve inversion using the forward process and a fixed image.



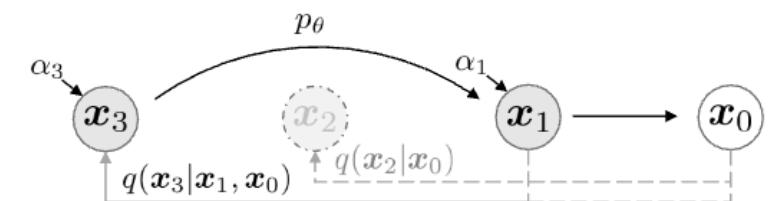
- Depending on how much noise is added, we can change a lot of features in the image or not enough features.

How to improve the inversion?

- Problems
 - **Randomness in the model:** if we encode x_0 to x_t using the forward process and then run the reverse process, we will **not get x_0** .
 - The reverse process requires T sequential steps, which can be **slow**.



- What if we had a **different sampling mechanism?**
- We will introduce a sampling process that allows for better inversion and image editing.



Designing Faster Processes

- In diffusion models, the reverse process is designed to approximate the forward process.
- **Intuition:** If we had a forward process with few steps, the backward process would also require a small number of steps to sample a new image.
- How can we design sampling processes with **less number of steps?**



- We will generalize the Markovian forward process of DDPM to **non-Markovian processes** to obtain a large family of models.
- Then, we can select a diffusion process that can be simulated in few steps to achieve **fast sampling!**

Generalized Non-Markovian Processes

- Define the generalized posterior distribution

$$q_\sigma(x_{t-1} | x_t, x_0) = \mathcal{N} \left(\sqrt{\alpha_{t-1}} x_0 + \sqrt{1 - \alpha_{t-1} - \sigma_t^2} \frac{x_t - \sqrt{\alpha_t} x_0}{\sqrt{1 - \alpha_t}}, \sigma_t^2 I \right),$$

where $\sigma_t \geq 0$ is a variance parameter.

- The generalized posterior q_σ is designed such that it maintains the same forward distribution $q(x_t | x_0)$ as in DDPM.
- Different choices of $\sigma_t \geq 0$ result in different generative models.
 - For $\sigma_t = \sqrt{\beta_t}$, we obtain **DDPM**.
 - For $\sigma_t = 0, \forall t \geq 0$, the process is **deterministic!**
- We will see that setting $\sigma_t = 0, \forall t \geq 0$, will allow for deterministic denoising and **faster sampling!**

$$\sigma_q^2(t) = \sigma_t^2$$

ELBO for the Generalized Process

- Recall our ELBO derivation

$$\log p(x) \geq \underbrace{\mathbb{E}_{q_\phi(x_1|x_0)}[\log p_\theta(x_0|x_1)]}_{\text{reconstruction term}} - \underbrace{D_{\text{KL}}(q_\phi(x_T|x_0) \parallel p_\theta(x_T))}_{\text{prior matching term}} - \sum_{t=2}^T \underbrace{\mathbb{E}_{q_\phi(x_t|x_0)}[D_{\text{KL}}(q_\phi(x_{t-1}|x_t, x_0) \parallel p_\theta(x_{t-1}|x_t))]}_{\text{score matching term}}$$

- The KL divergence for Gaussians

$$D_{\text{KL}}(\mathcal{N}(x; \mu_x, \Sigma_x) \parallel \mathcal{N}(y; \mu_y, \Sigma_y)) = \frac{1}{2} \left[\log \frac{|\Sigma_y|}{|\Sigma_x|} - d + \text{tr}(\Sigma_y^{-1} \Sigma_x) + (\mu_y - \mu_x)^T \Sigma_y^{-1} (\mu_y - \mu_x) \right]$$

- Choosing mean of $p_\theta(x_{t-1}|x_t)$ to match form of mean of $q(x_{t-1}|x_t, x_0)$

$$\mu_q(x_t, x_0) = \sqrt{\bar{\alpha}_{t-1}} \textcolor{green}{x_0} + \sqrt{1 - \bar{\alpha}_{t-1} - \sigma_t^2} \frac{x_t - \sqrt{\bar{\alpha}_t} \textcolor{green}{x_0}}{\sqrt{1 - \bar{\alpha}_t}}, \quad \mu_\theta(x_t, t) = \sqrt{\bar{\alpha}_{t-1}} \widehat{x_\theta}(x_t, t) + \sqrt{1 - \bar{\alpha}_{t-1} - \sigma_t^2} \frac{x_t - \sqrt{\bar{\alpha}_t} \widehat{x_\theta}(x_t, t)}{\sqrt{1 - \bar{\alpha}_t}}$$

- The ELBO reduces to:

$$\begin{aligned} D_{\text{KL}}(q(x_{t-1}|x_t, x_0) \parallel p_\theta(x_{t-1}|x_t)) &= D_{\text{KL}}(\mathcal{N}(x_{t-1}; \mu_q(x_t, x_0), \Sigma_q) \parallel \mathcal{N}(x_{t-1}; \mu_\theta(x_t, t), \Sigma_q)) \\ &= \frac{1}{2\sigma_q^2(t)} [\|\mu_\theta - \mu_q\|_2^2] \end{aligned}$$

What have we achieved so far?

$$\mu_\theta(x_t, t) = \sqrt{\alpha_{t-1}} \widehat{x}_\theta(x_t, t) + \sqrt{1 - \alpha_{t-1} - \sigma_t^2} \frac{x_t - \sqrt{\alpha_t} \widehat{x}_\theta(x_t, t)}{\sqrt{1 - \alpha_t}}$$

- We created a **new generalized inference distribution** with the same training objective as in DDPM.
- The generalized process captures a rich family of generative processes depending on the selection of the parameter σ_t .
- We can select σ_t to achieve much **faster sampling!**
- Recall that $p_\theta(x_{t-1} | x_t) = \mathcal{N}(x_{t-1}; \mu_\theta(x_t, t), \sigma_t^2 I)$ and thus

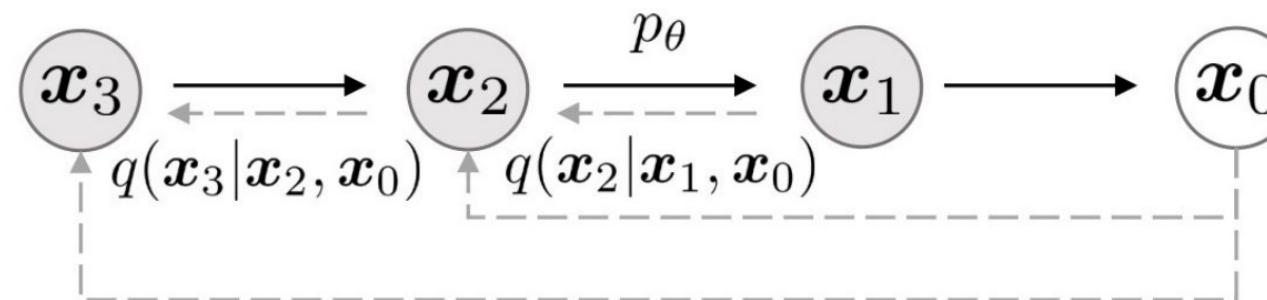
$$x_{t-1} = \underbrace{\sqrt{\alpha_{t-1}} \widehat{x}_\theta(x_t, t)}_{\text{predicted } x_0} + \underbrace{\sqrt{1 - \alpha_{t-1} - \sigma_t^2} \frac{x_t - \sqrt{\alpha_t} \widehat{x}_\theta(x_t, t)}{\sqrt{1 - \alpha_t}}}_{\text{direction pointing to } x_t} + \underbrace{\sigma_t \epsilon_t}_{\text{random noise}}, \epsilon_t \sim \mathcal{N}(0, I)$$

Denoising Diffusion Implicit Models (DDIM)

- DDIM uses $\sigma_t = 0, \forall t \geq 0$ in the generalized process.
- We can sample using the equation

$$x_{t-1} = \underbrace{\sqrt{\alpha_{t-1}} \widehat{x}_\theta(x_t, t)}_{\text{predicted } x_0} + \underbrace{\sqrt{1 - \alpha_{t-1}} \frac{x_t - \sqrt{\alpha_t} \widehat{x}_\theta(x_t, t)}{\sqrt{1 - \alpha_t}}}_{\text{direction pointing to } x_t}$$

- This gives us deterministic sampling.
- **Faster sampling:** Consider the forward process $x_{1:T}$ of DDPM. DDIM uses a subset $\{\tau_1, \dots, \tau_s\}$ of length S of the whole DDPM process and inverses that process.
- In practice, $S \ll T$ and in this way we can obtain faster sampling!



Sample Efficiency of DDIM

- DDIM with only $S = 10$ **steps** of reverse process achieves **better FID score** than DDPM with 1000 steps in the reverse process.

η : noise added at each step of the reverse process

		CIFAR10 (32 × 32)					CelebA (64 × 64)				
		10	20	50	100	1000	10	20	50	100	1000
S		10	20	50	100	1000	10	20	50	100	1000
η	0.0	13.36	6.84	4.67	4.16	4.04	17.33	13.73	9.17	6.53	3.51
	0.2	14.04	7.11	4.77	4.25	4.09	17.66	14.11	9.51	6.79	3.64
	0.5	16.66	8.35	5.25	4.46	4.29	19.86	16.06	11.01	8.09	4.28
DDIM	1.0	41.07	18.36	8.01	5.78	4.73	33.12	26.03	18.48	13.93	5.98
DDPM											

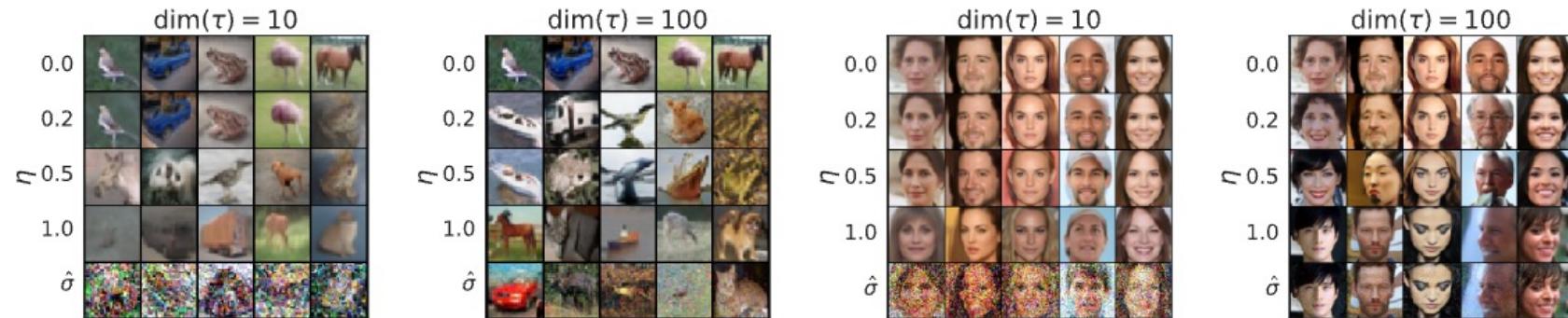


Figure 3: CIFAR10 and CelebA samples with $\dim(\tau) = 10$ and $\dim(\tau) = 100$.

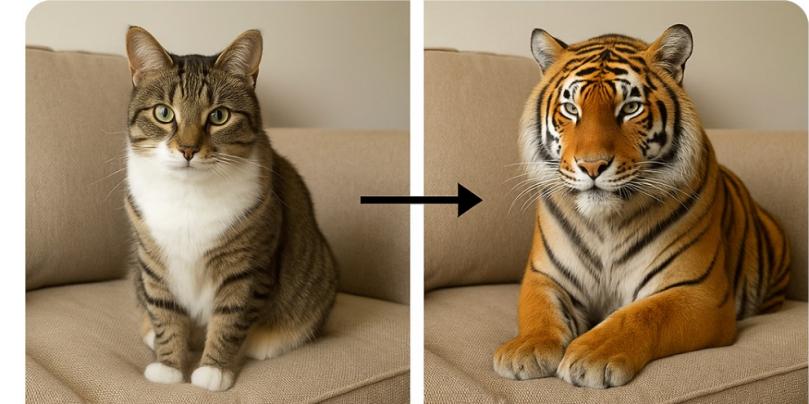
What have we achieved so far?

- For image editing, we required **exact inversion** of the diffusion model and **fast sampling**.
- DDIM with $\sigma_t = 0$ provides **deterministic sampling** in a **few steps**.

- To perform image editing with DDIM:

1. **Encode**: Run the forward process to get x_t for some intermediate t (partial noising of x_0).
2. **Edit**: Modify the conditioning input.
3. **Decode**: Run the reverse DDIM process using the new conditioning to get the modified image.

Input: “A photo of a **cat** on a couch”

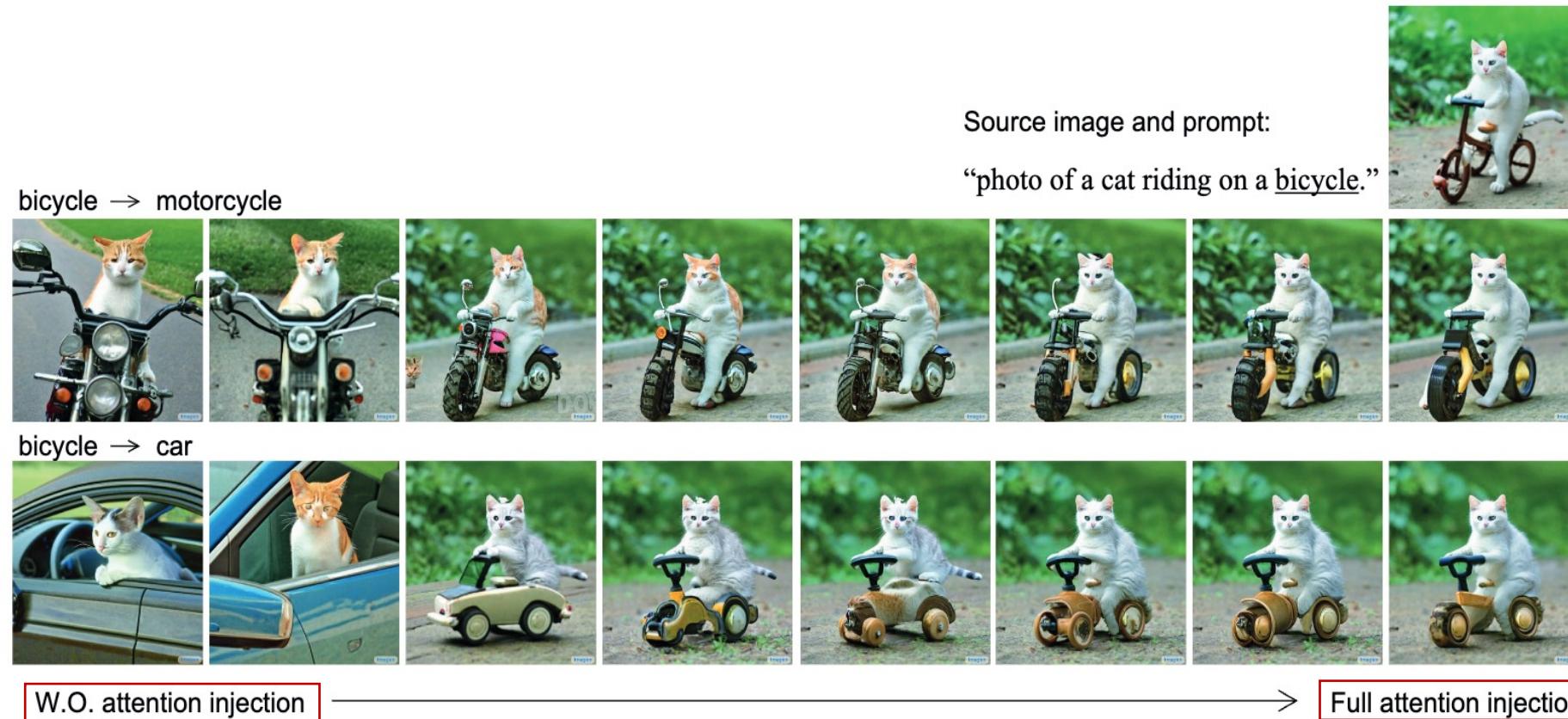


Edit: “A photo of a **tiger** on a couch”

- Next, we will see how to perform even more advanced edits in this space.
 - One example: Prompt2Prompt (P2P)

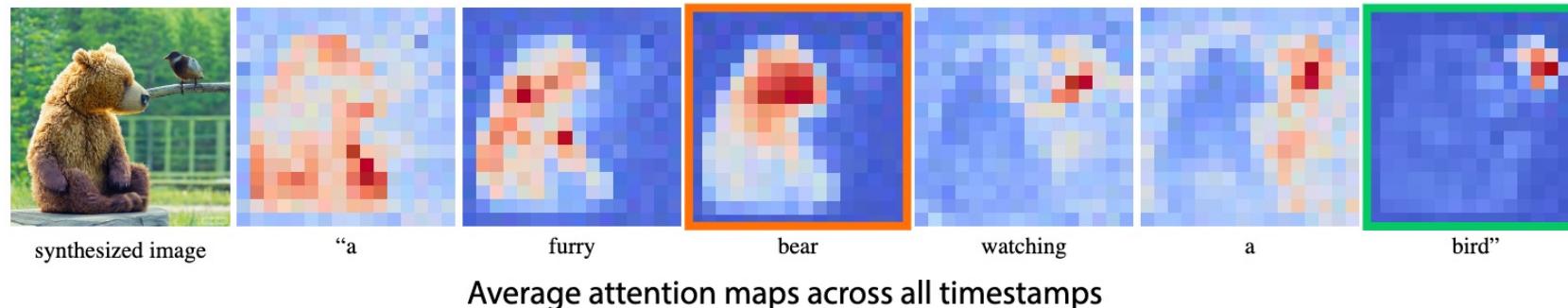
Prompt2Prompt

- DDIM Inversion has no symbolic (rigid) control for **structural consistency**.
- Prompt2Prompt (P2P) proposes to save the **cross-attention maps** during the forward process, edit the image and reuse the **same** attention maps during the reverse process.



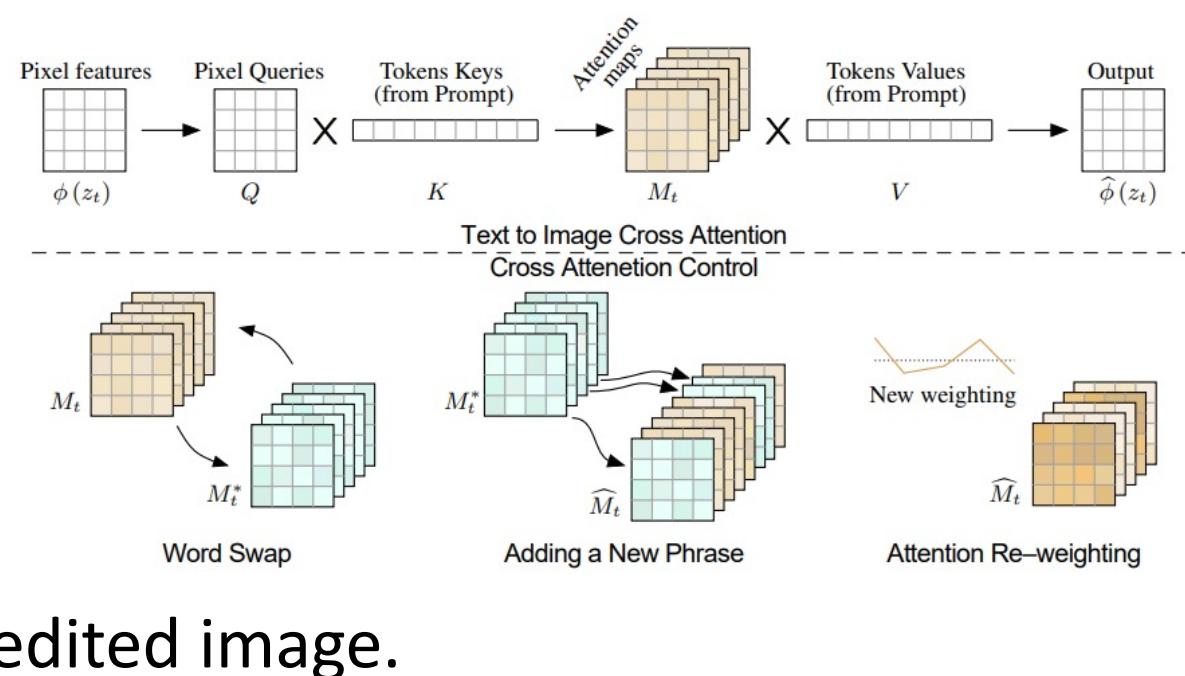
Prompt2Prompt

- The spatial layout and geometry of the generated image depends on the cross-attention maps.



- To edit an image with P2P:

- Run the forward DDIM process to **save the attention maps** of the **initial image**.
- Edit:** Compute the **attention maps** corresponding to the **edit prompt**.
- Decode:** Inject the **edited** attention maps to the reverse process and get edited image.



Samples of Edited Images

“Photo of a cat riding on a bicycle.”



source image



cat → dog

“A photo of a butterfly on a flower.”



source image



“...on a spiky flower.”

“Photo of a house with a flag on a mountain.”



source image



house → hotel



house → tent



house → car



house → tree

Conclusion on Image Editing

- The latent space of diffusion models can be used for image editing.
- Image editing using DDPM faces the problems of **inversion** and **slow sampling**.
- To speed up the sampling process, we considered a generalized non-Markovian forward process.
- DDIM provides **deterministic** reverse process and **fast sampling**.
- **Prompt2Prompt** allows for edits in the image, while maintaining the structural properties of the initial image.

