

Diffusion Models in Medical Imaging and Analysis. Hype or Hope?

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Turing Fellow & ELLIS Fellow

<https://vios.science/tutorials/diffusion>

Special thanks to Pedro Sanchez and all colleagues who shared slides

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At VIOS we do interdisciplinary AI



Text2Image

Stable Diffusion (Stability AI)

“Holy festival of colors with dancing people in India”



Imagen (Google Brain)

“A photo of a Persian cat wearing a cowboy hat and black leather jacket riding a bike on a beach”



Dall-E 2 (OpenAI)

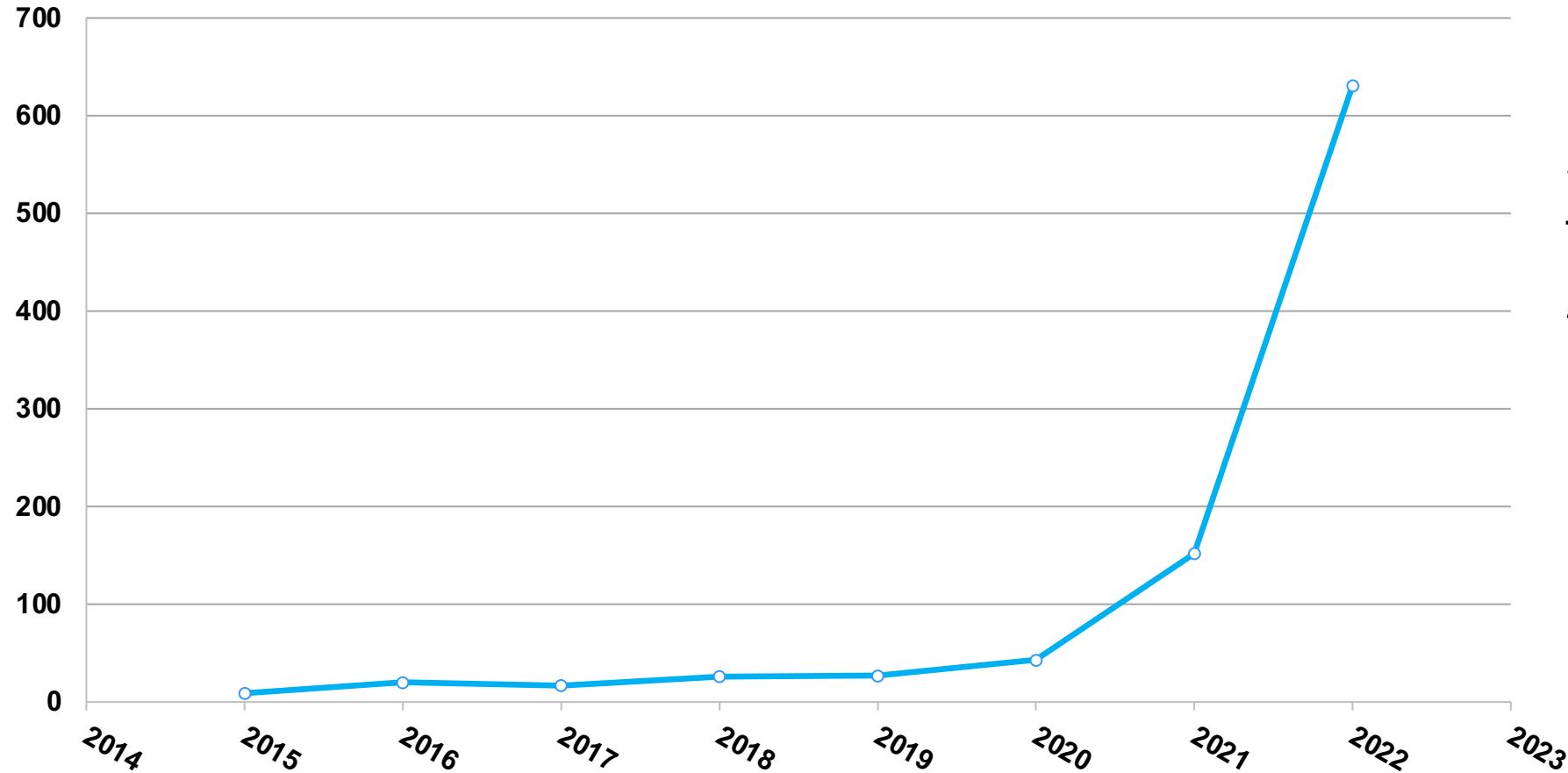
“An astronaut riding a horse in a photorealistic style”



1. Saharia et al (2022). Photorealistic Text-to-Image Diffusion Models with Deep Language Understanding. arXiv:2205.11487
2. Ramesh et al (2022). Hierarchical text-conditional image generation with clip latents. arXiv:2204.06125
3. Rombach et al (2022). High-Resolution Image Synthesis with Latent Diffusion Models. CVPR

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Popularity



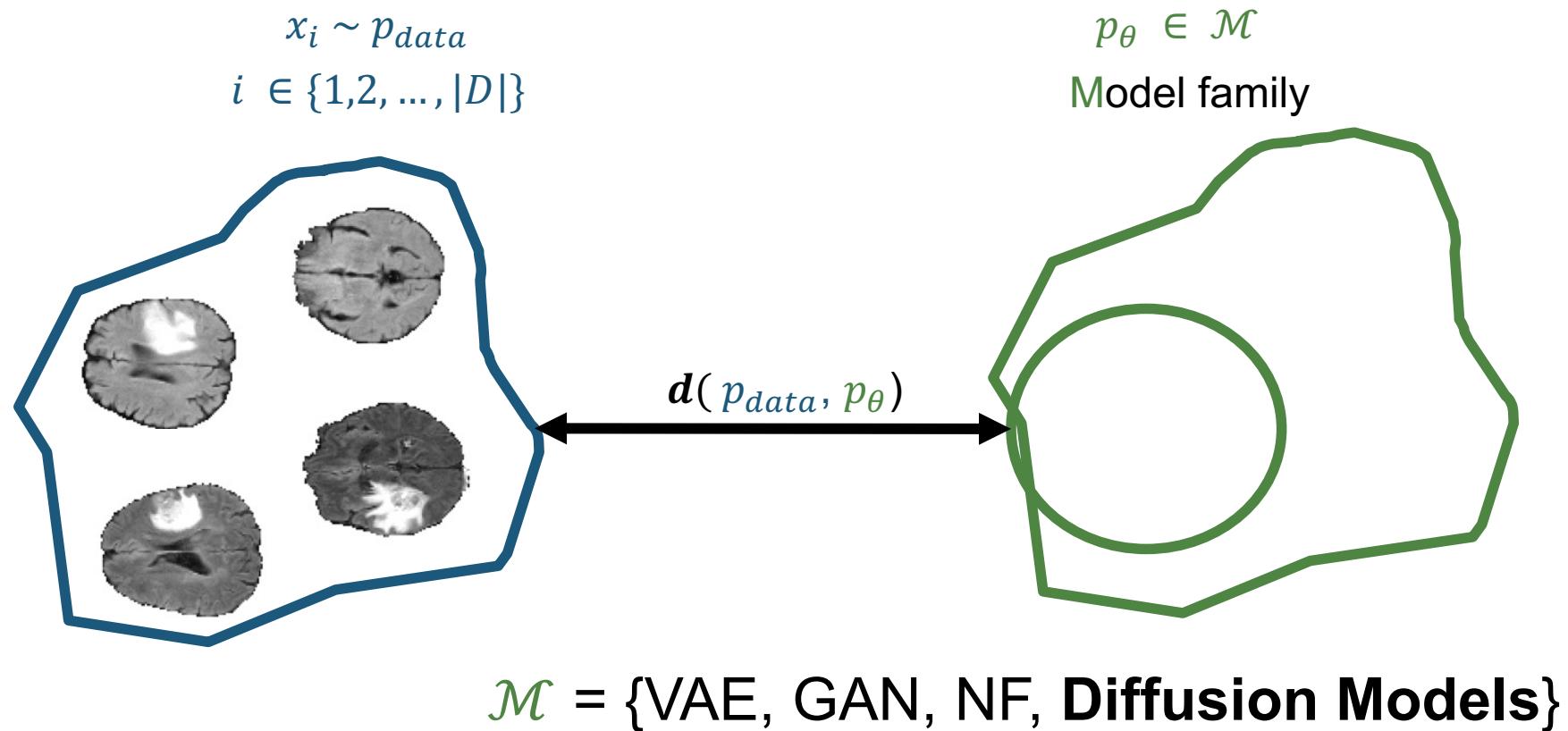
**36 in our
field since
2021**

The rest of the talk

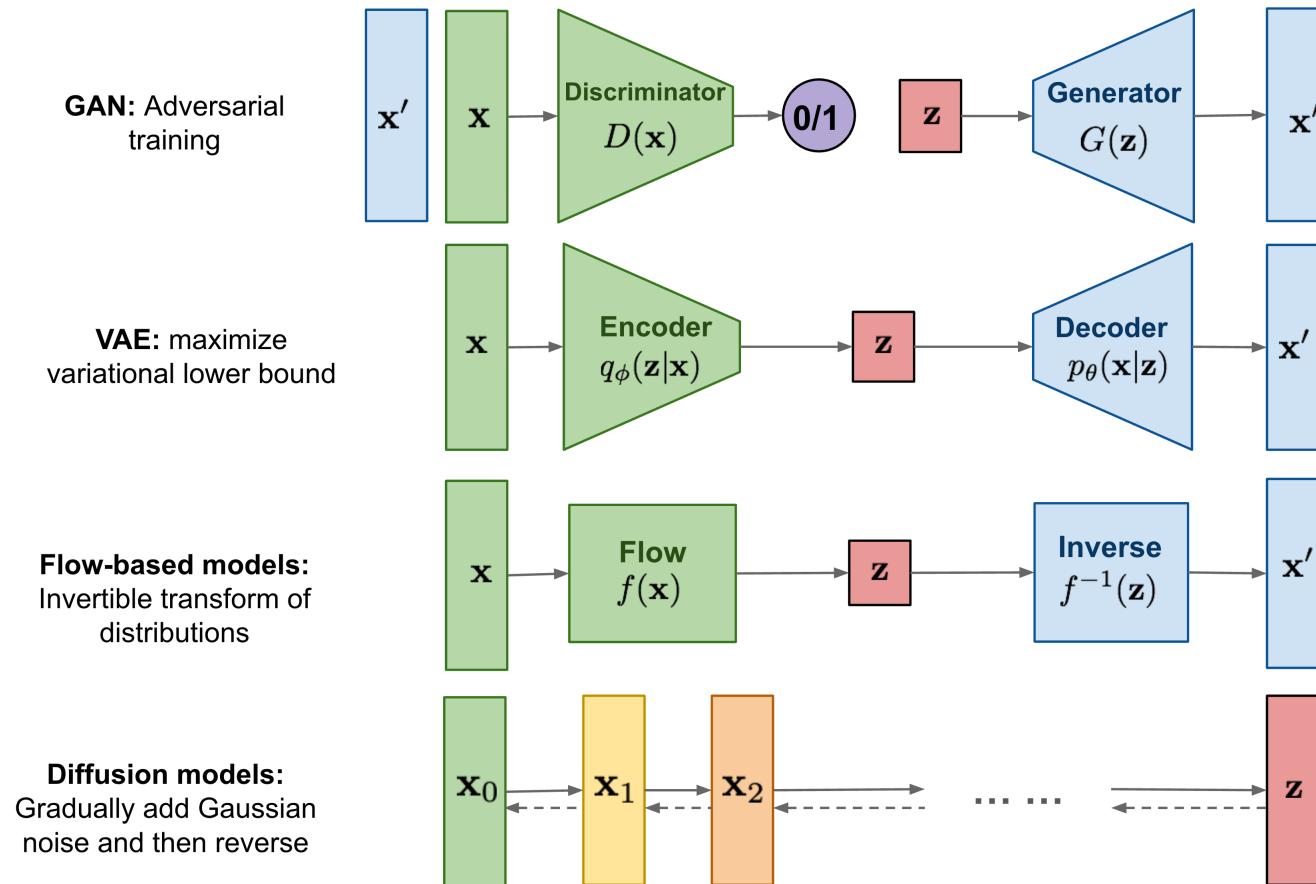
- Diffusion models (a brief illustration)
- Diffusion models in medical imaging analysis
- Conclusion

Diffusion models

Generative Models



Generative models



likelihood-based models

Require

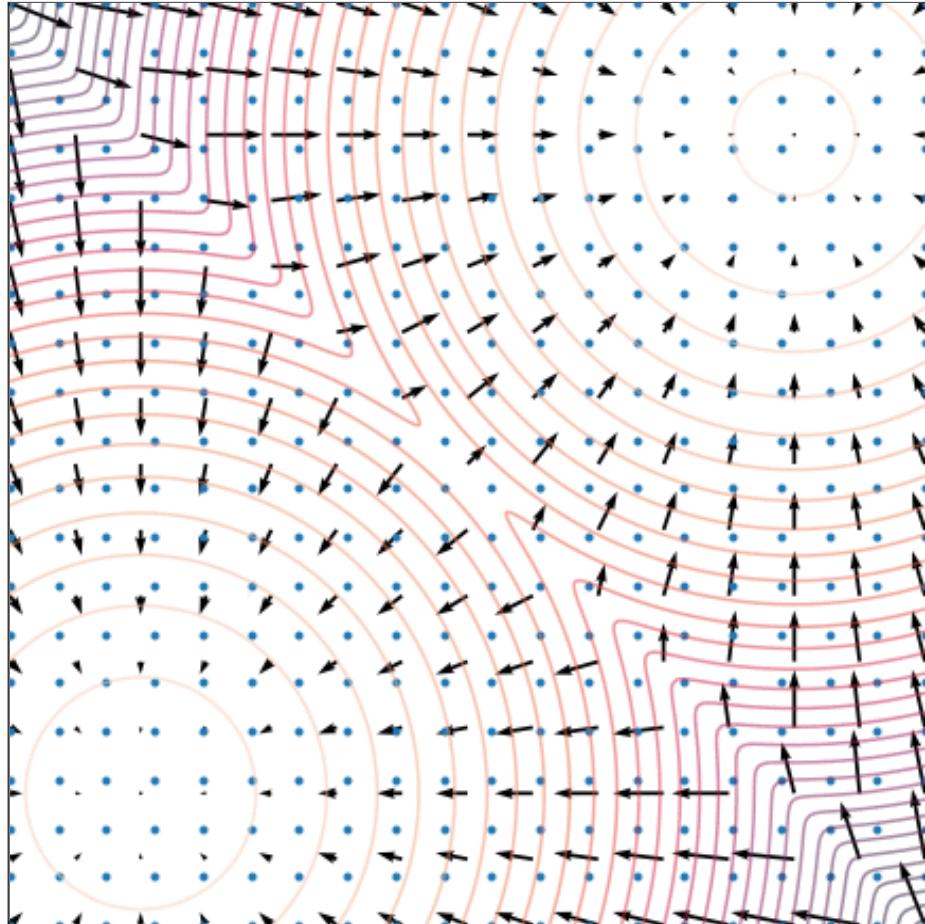
- inductive bias to ensure a tractable normalizing constant for likelihood computation; or
- surrogate objectives to approximate ML training.

implicit generative models

- Require adversarial training:
 - notoriously unstable; leading to
 - mode collapse

diffusion models bypass both with neat tricks

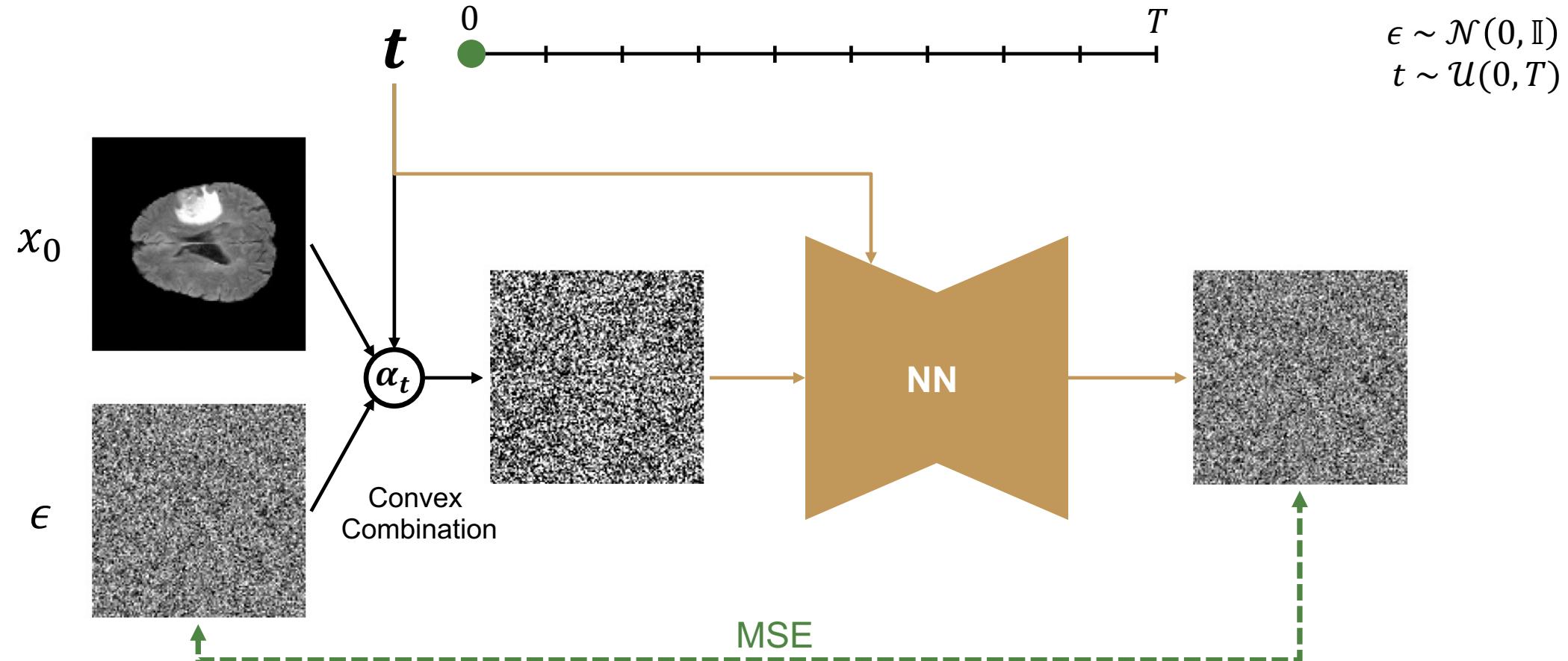
The score



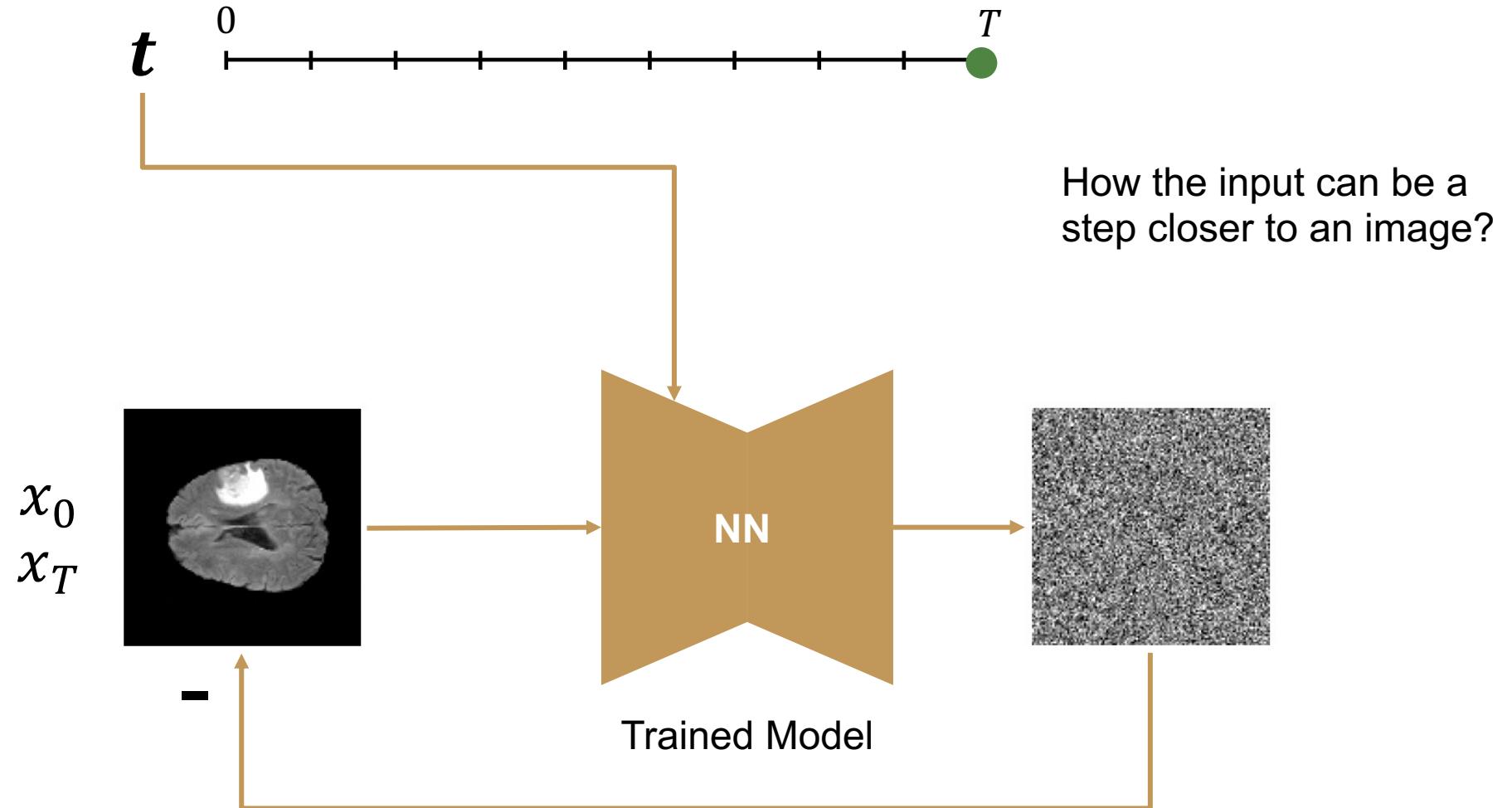
The main idea:
learn how to iteratively
modify noise to move
towards the data
distribution

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

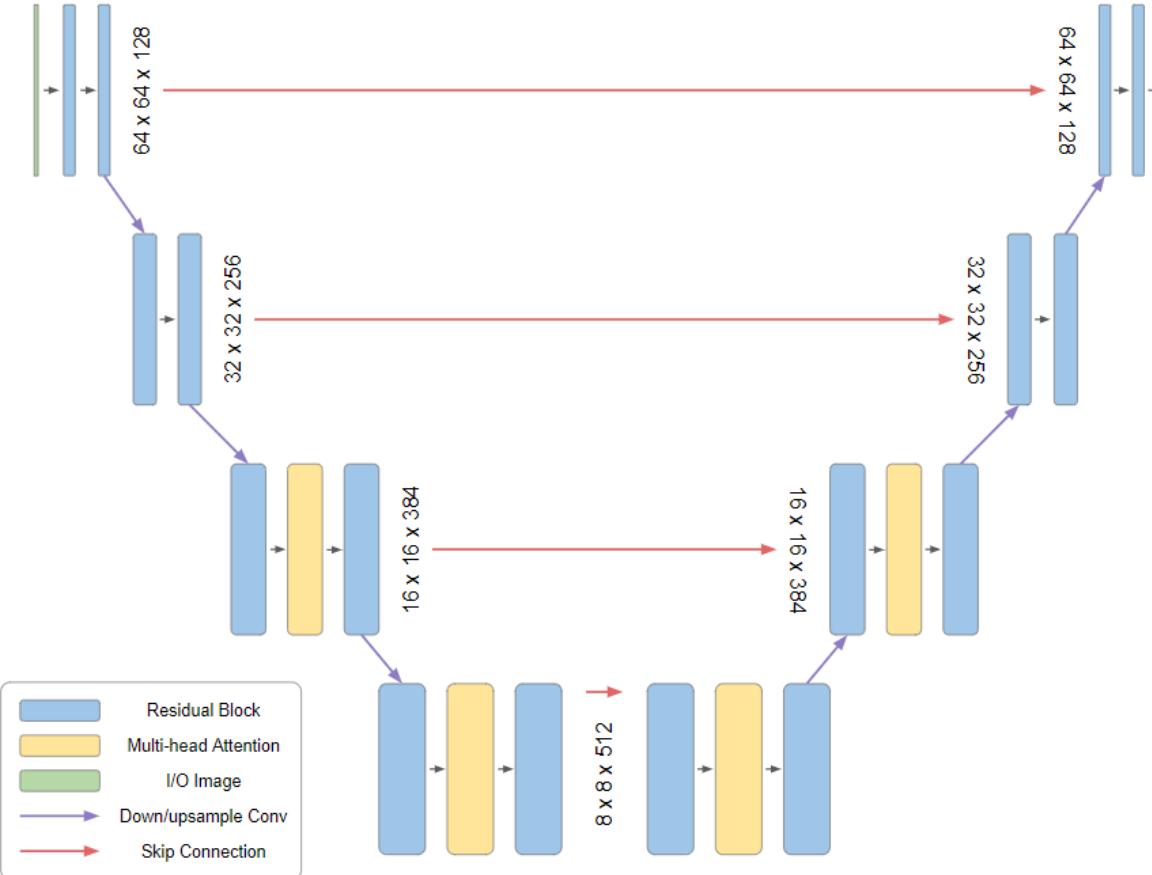
How? Training by Denoising



How? Inference



Architecture – Reusing the *classics*, and the SoTA, and *conditioning*



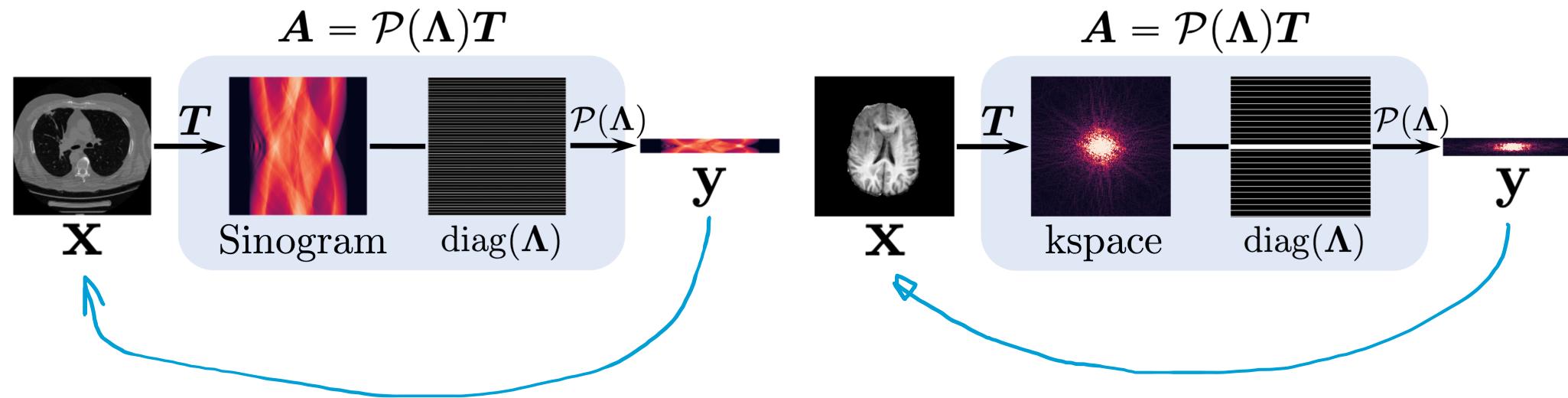
Unet!

Or transformers
Or VQ-VAEs
Or...

Image reconstruction

Examples from the community

What is the task



Song et al (2022) Solving Inverse Problems in Medical Imaging with Score-Based Generative Models. ICLR

Chung et al. (2022) Come-Closer-Diffuse-Faster: Accelerating Conditional Diffusion Models for Inverse Problems through Stochastic Contraction. CVPR

Luo et al. (2022) MRI Reconstruction via Data-Driven Markov Chains with Joint Uncertainty Estimation arxiv:2202.01479

Xie et al. (2022) Measurement-Conditioned Denoising Diffusion Probabilistic Model for Under-Sampled Medical Image Reconstruction. MICCAI

Peng et al. (2022) Towards Performant and Reliable Undersampled MR Reconstruction via Diffusion Model Sampling. MICCAI

Gungor et al. (2022) Adaptive Diffusion Priors for Accelerated MRI Reconstruction. arxiv:2207.05876

Cui et al. (2022) Self-Score: Self-Supervised Learning on Score-Based Models for MRI Reconstruction. Arxiv:2209.00835

Cao et al. (2022) High-Frequency Space Diffusion Models for Accelerated MRI. arxiv:2208.05481

Chung et al.(2022) Improving Diffusion Models for Inverse Problems using Manifold Constraints. arxiv:2206.00941

Chung et al. (2022) MR Image Denoising and Super-Resolution Using Regularized Reverse Diffusion. arxiv:2203.12621

Chung et al. (2021) Score-based diffusion models for accelerated MRI. MIA 2021

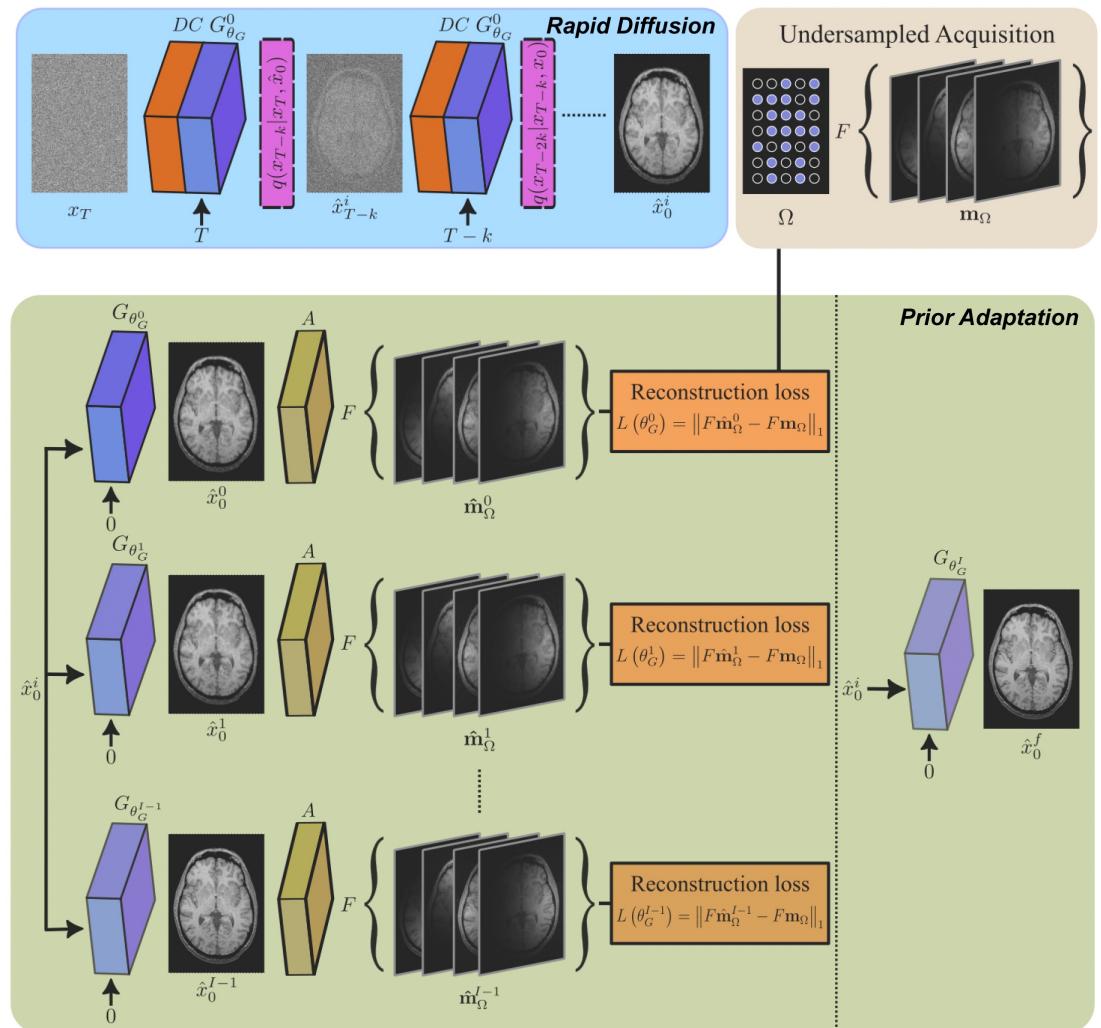
Hu et al. (2022) Unsupervised Denoising of Retinal OCT with Diffusion Probabilistic Model. arxiv:2201.11760

Gong et al (2022) PET image denoising based on denoising diffusion probabilistic models. arxiv:2209.06167

MRI Reconstruction with Adaptive Diffusion Priors

AdaDiff: an adaptive diffusion model for accelerated MRI reconstruction

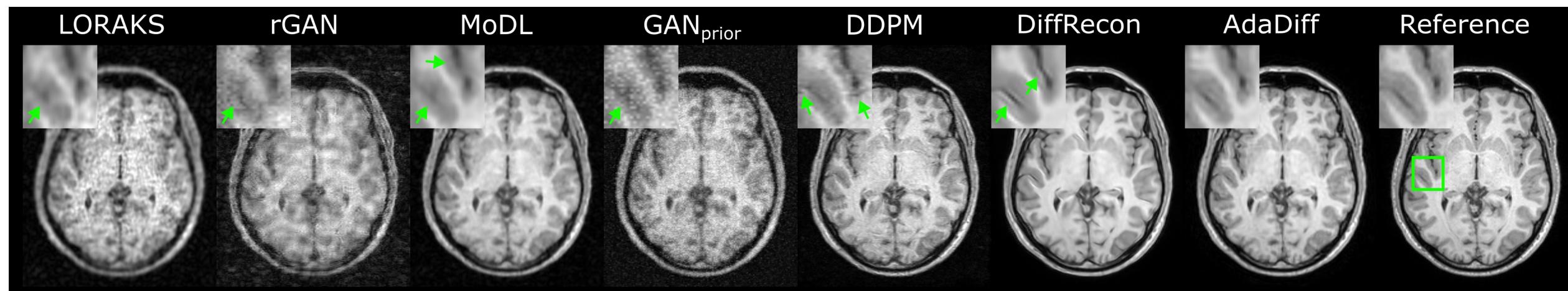
- An **unconditional** diffusion prior is trained on fully-sampled MR acquisitions
- The diffusion prior is **adapted** to the test subject by enforcing data consistency
- SoTA image fidelity and generalization performance under domain shifts



Slides courtesy of Tolga Cukur

MRI Reconstruction with Adaptive Diffusion Priors

Models trained on the fastMRI dataset, tested on the IXI dataset at R=8x



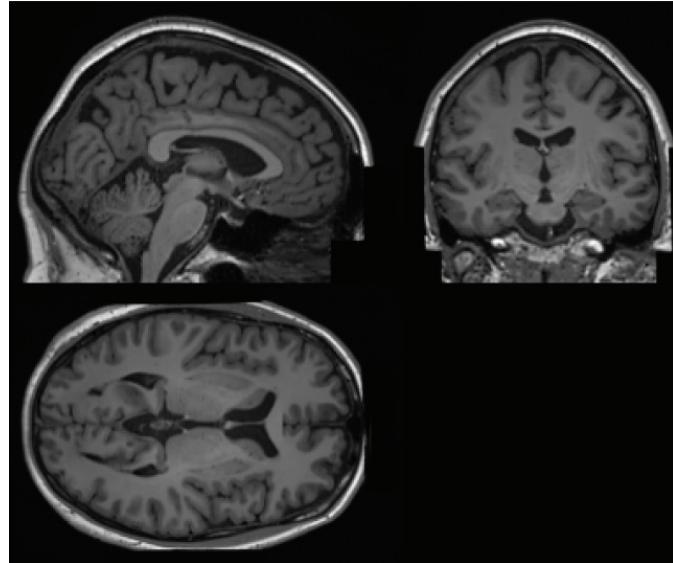
Slides courtesy of Tolga Cukur

Image synthesis

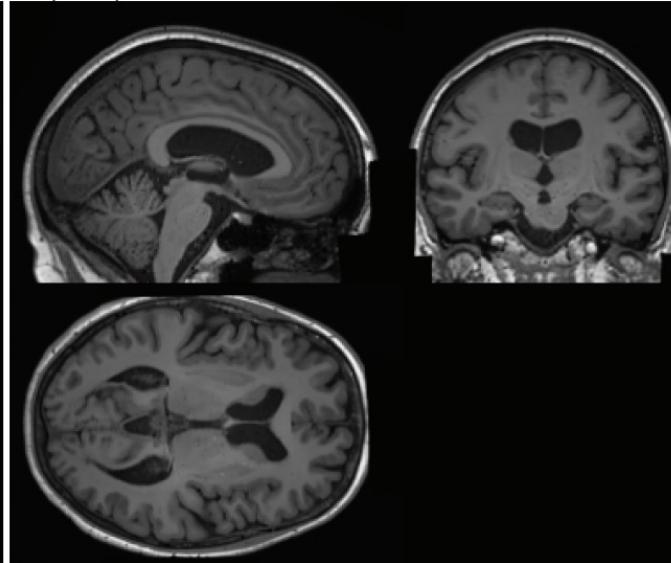
Examples from the community

What is the task?

Real



Synthetic



Pinaya et al (2022) Brain Imaging Generation with Latent Diffusion Models. MICCAI workshop

Kim et al. (2022) Diffusion Deformable Model for 4D Temporal Medical Image Generation. MICCAI

Khader et al. (2022) Medical Diffusion -- Denoising Diffusion Probabilistic Models for 3D Medical Image Generation. arXiv:2211.03364

Packhäuser et al. (2022) Generation of Anonymous Chest Radiographs Using Latent Diffusion Models for Training Thoracic Abnormality Classification Systems. arXiv:2211.01323

Ali et al. (2022) Spot the fake lungs: Generating Synthetic Medical Images using Neural Diffusion Models. arXiv:2211.00902

Rouzrokh et al. (2022) Multitask Brain Tumor Inpainting with Diffusion Models: A Methodological Report. arXiv:2210.12113

Chambon et al (2022) Adapting Pretrained Vision-Language Foundational Models to Medical Imaging Domains. arXiv:2210.04133

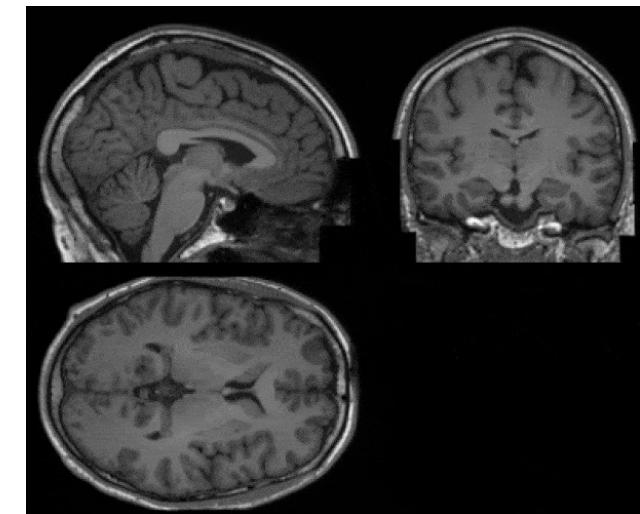
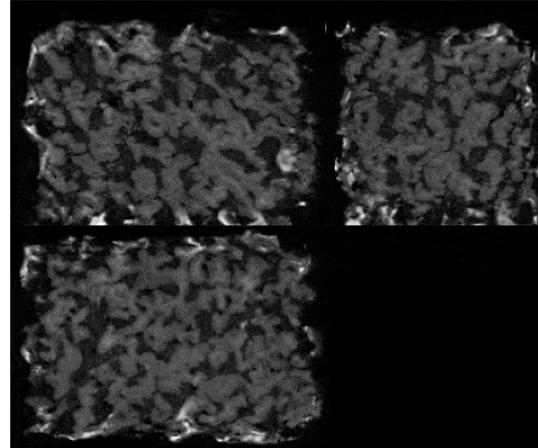
Lyu et al. (2022) Conversion Between CT and MRI Images Using Diffusion and Score-Matching Models. arXiv:2209.12104

Ozbey et al. (2022) Unsupervised Medical Image Translation with Adversarial Diffusion Models. arXiv:2207.08208

Meng et al. (2022) A Novel Unified Conditional Score-based Generative Framework for Multi-modal Medical Image Completion. arXiv:2207.03430

Generating high-resolution 3D brain data

- Latent Diffusion Models trained on data from UK Biobank ($N = 31,740$)
 - T1 MRI brain images with 1 mm^3 voxel size ($160 \times 224 \times 160$ voxels)
- Conditioned on covariates, such as:
 - Age
 - Gender
 - Ventricular and Brain volumes
- Released dataset with 100,000 synthetic brains!



Slides courtesy of Walter H.L. Pinaya

Generation of anonymous chest radiographs

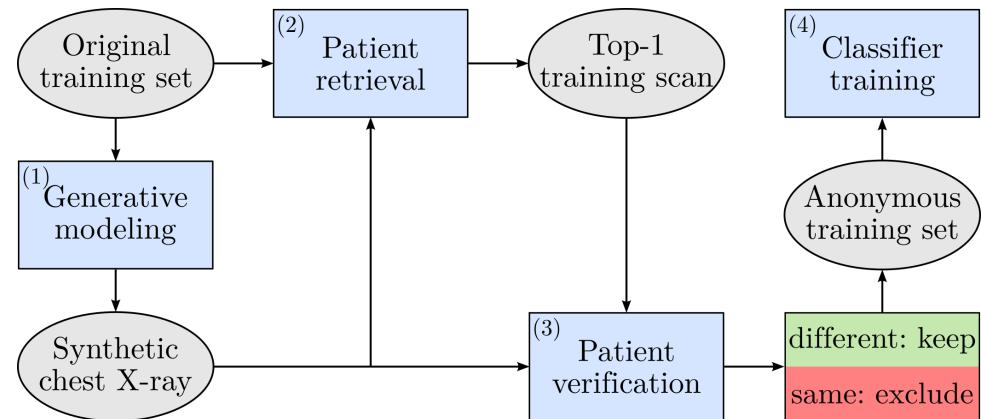


Fig. 1: Proposed privacy-enhancing image sampling strategy. Image taken from [1].

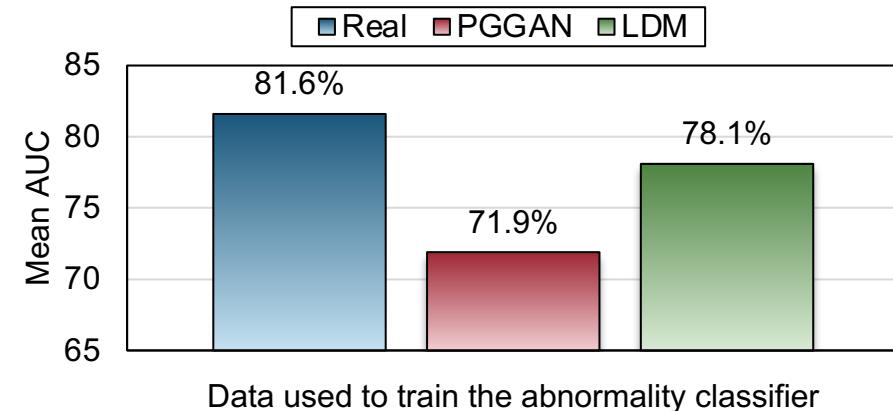


Fig. 2: Synthetic data can be used in lieu of real ones.

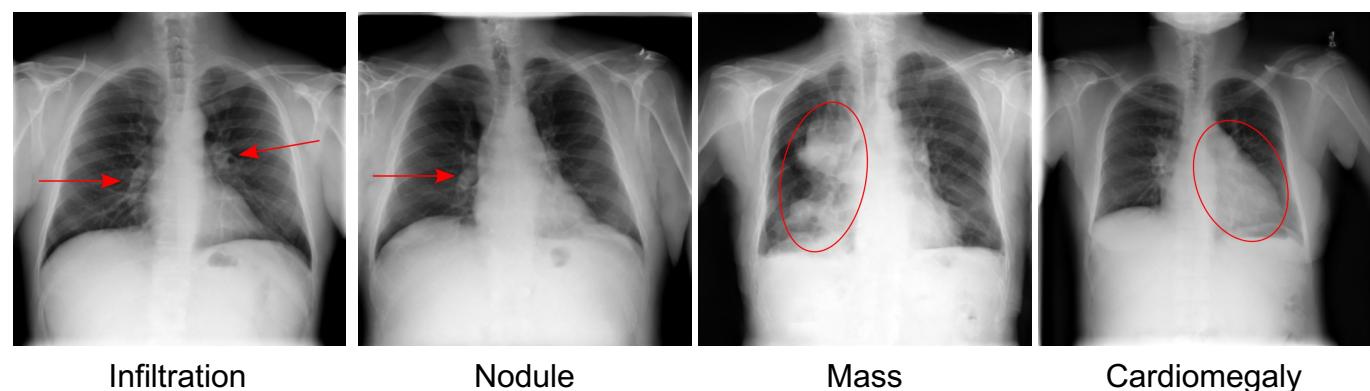


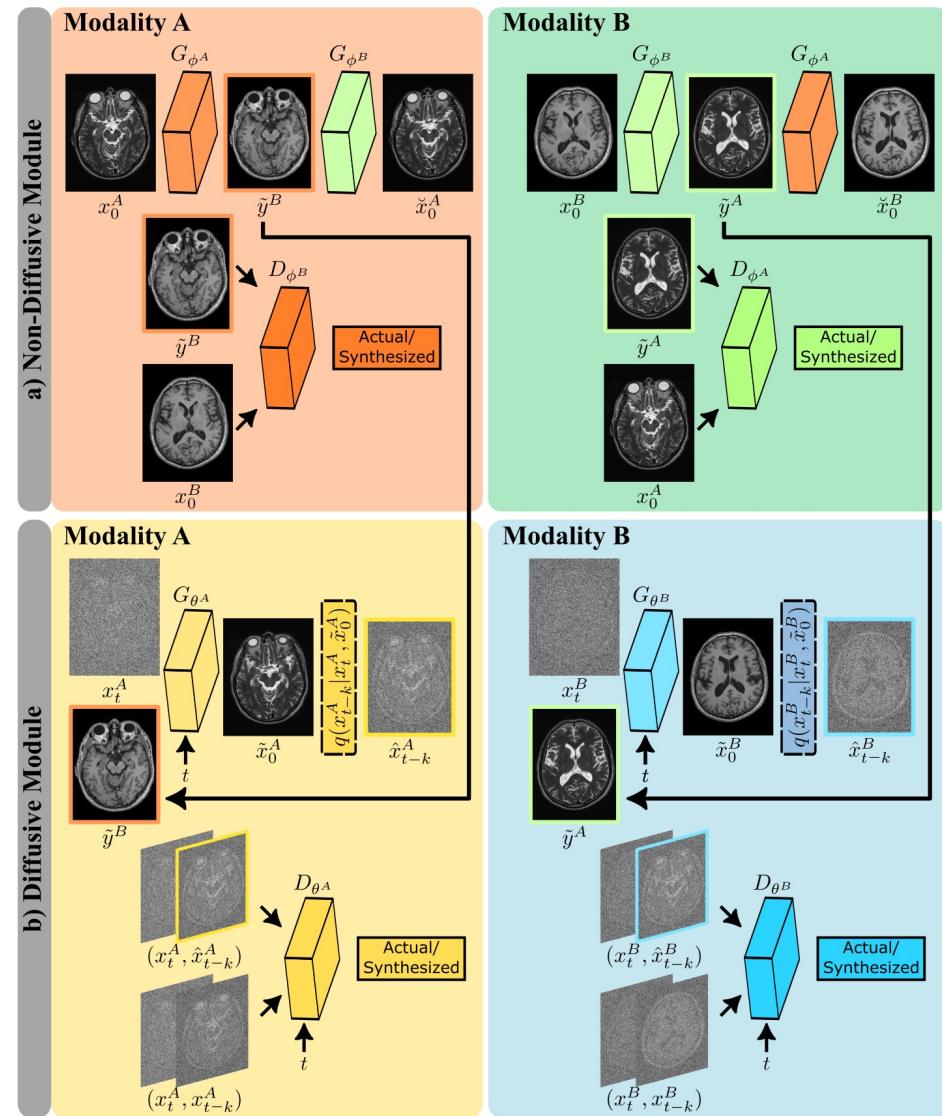
Fig. 3: Randomly selected images generated by the trained LDM. Images taken from [1].

Slides courtesy of Kai Packhäuser

Medical Image Translation with Adversarial Diffusion

SynDiff: an unsupervised diffusion model for medical image translation

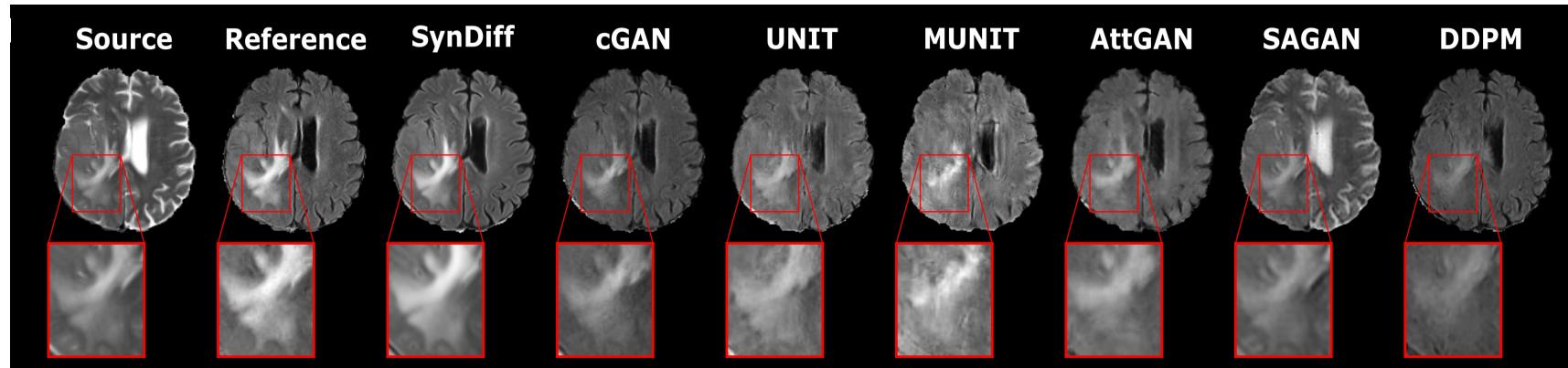
- A non-diffusive module with cycle-consistency loss enables training on unpaired datasets
- An adversarial diffusive module maps fast source → target
- Inference: 180ms with 4 steps (SynDiff) vs. 45000ms with 1000 steps (DDPM)



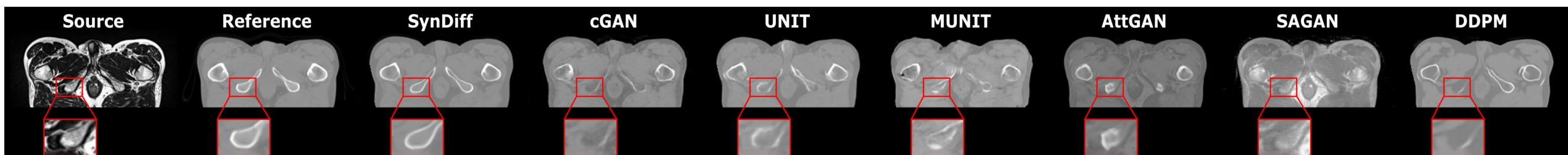
Slides courtesy of Tolga Cukur

Medical Image Translation with Adversarial Diffusion

MRI Contrast Translation



MRI to CT Translation

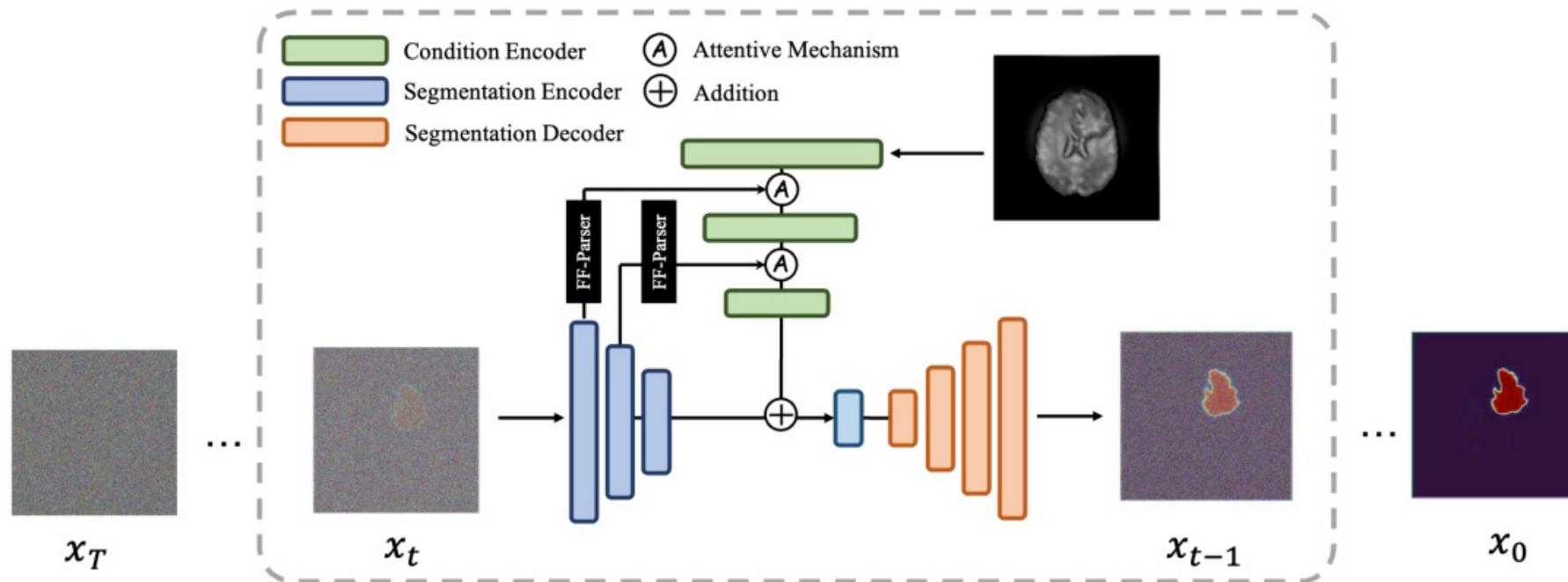


Slides courtesy of Tolga Cukur

Image segmentation

Examples from the community

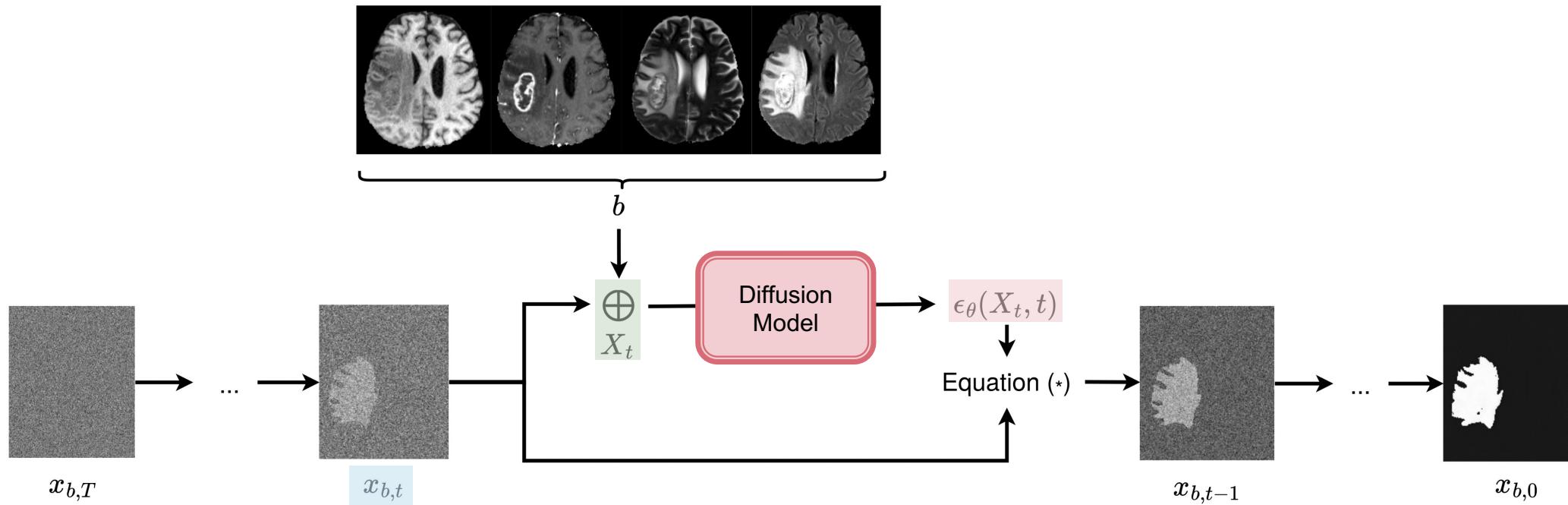
What is the task?



- Guo et al (2022) Accelerating Diffusion Models via Pre-segmentation Diffusion Sampling for Medical Image Segmentation. arXiv:2210.17408
 La Barbera et al. (2022) Anatomically constrained CT image translation for heterogeneous blood vessel segmentation. arXiv:2210.01713
 Kim et al. (2022) Diffusion Adversarial Representation Learning for Self-supervised Vessel Segmentation. arXiv:2209.14566
 Wu et al (2022) MedSegDiff: Medical Image Segmentation with Diffusion Probabilistic Model. arXiv:2211.00611

Figure by Wu et al arXiv 2022.
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Diffusion Models for Segmentation

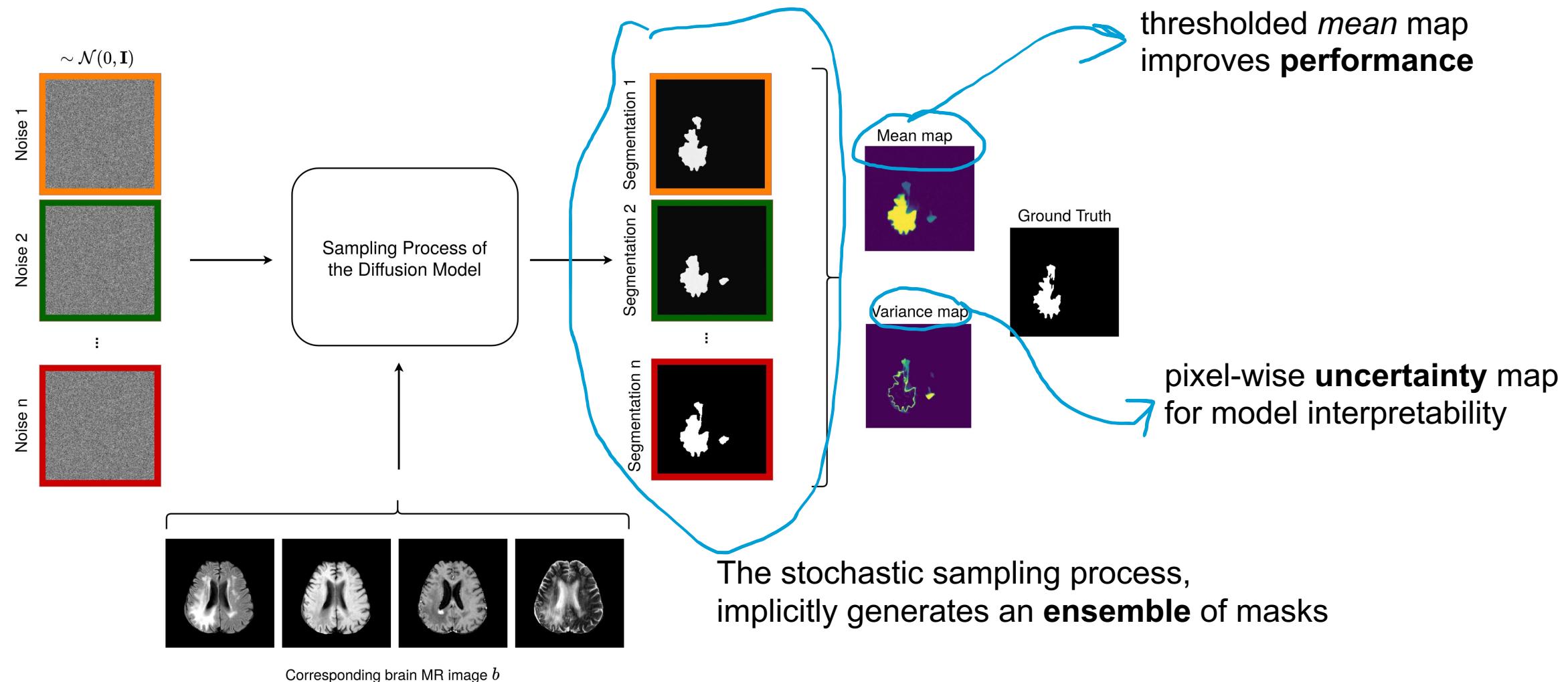


$$(*) \quad x_{b,t-1} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\alpha_t}} \left(x_{b,t} - \frac{1 - \alpha_t}{\sqrt{1 - \alpha_t}} \epsilon_\theta(X_t, t) \right) + \sigma_t \mathbf{z}, \quad \text{with } \mathbf{z} \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \mathbf{I})$$

- Anatomical information is added by concatenating the input images b to the noisy segmentation mask $x_{b,t}$ in every step t .

Slides courtesy of Julia Wolleb

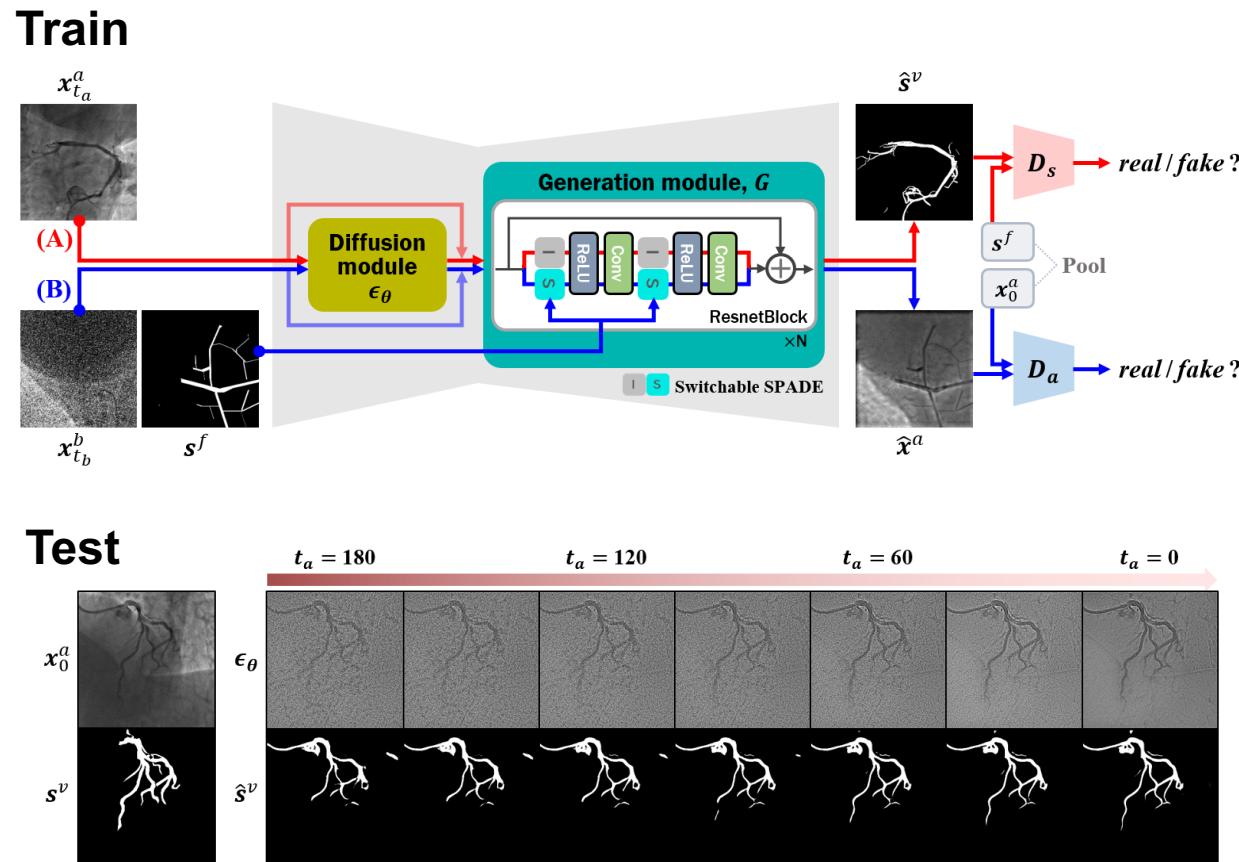
Diffusion Models for Segmentation



Slides courtesy of Julia Wolleb

Diffusion adversarial representation learning

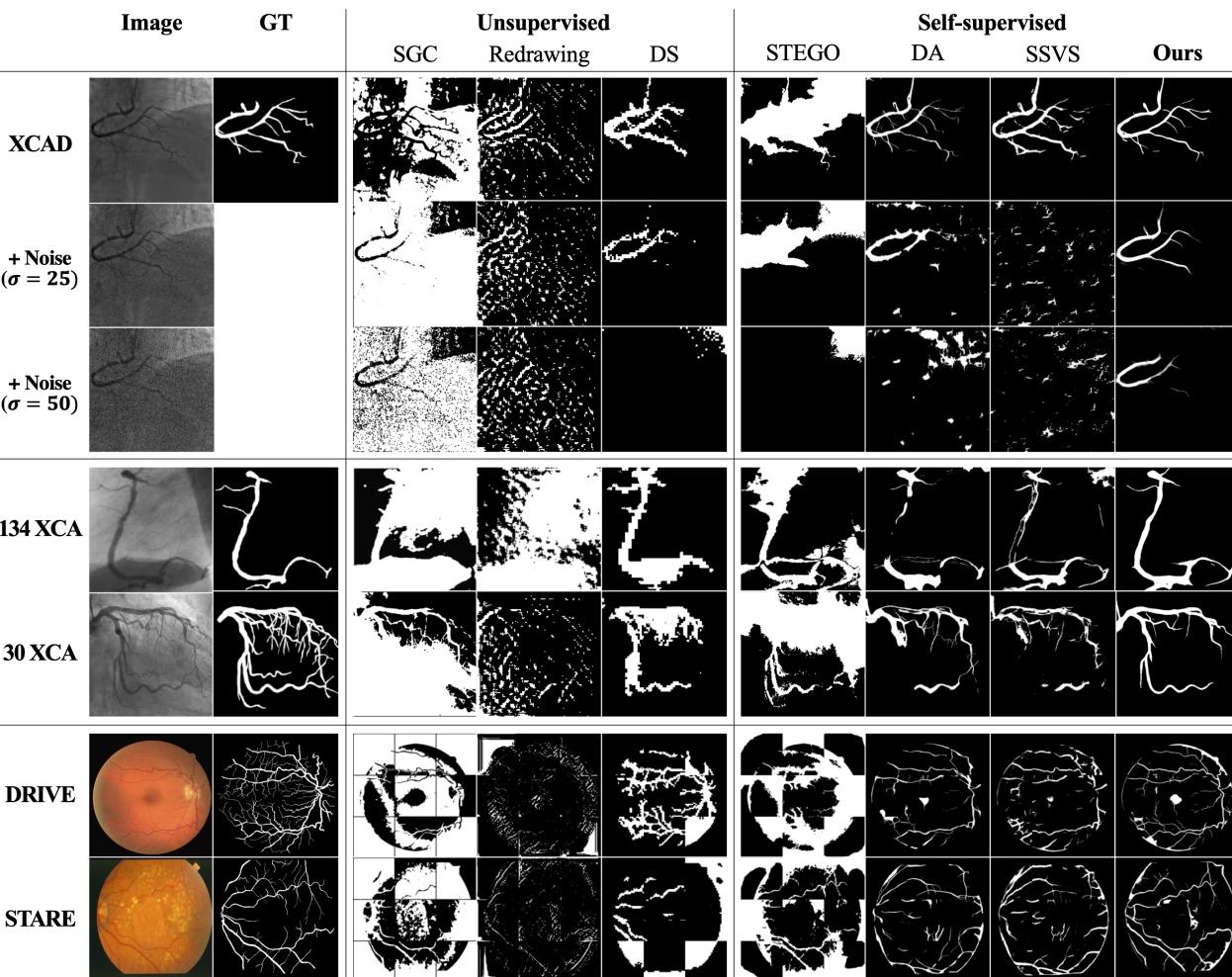
- Segment vessels of angiography images without labelled data
- **Diffusion module:** Provides latent features of background signals/vessel structures
- **Generation module:** Generates both synthetic images and vessel masks using our switchable SPADE layer



Slides courtesy of Boah Kim & Jong Chul Ye

Diffusion adversarial representation learning

- Achieves state-of-the-art performance among the un-/self-supervised methods
- Robust to noisy images
- Generalisation capability on
 - 1) External data of X-ray angiography
 - 2) Cross-modal data of retinal imaging



Slides courtesy of Boah Kim & Jong Chul Ye

Image registration

Examples from the community

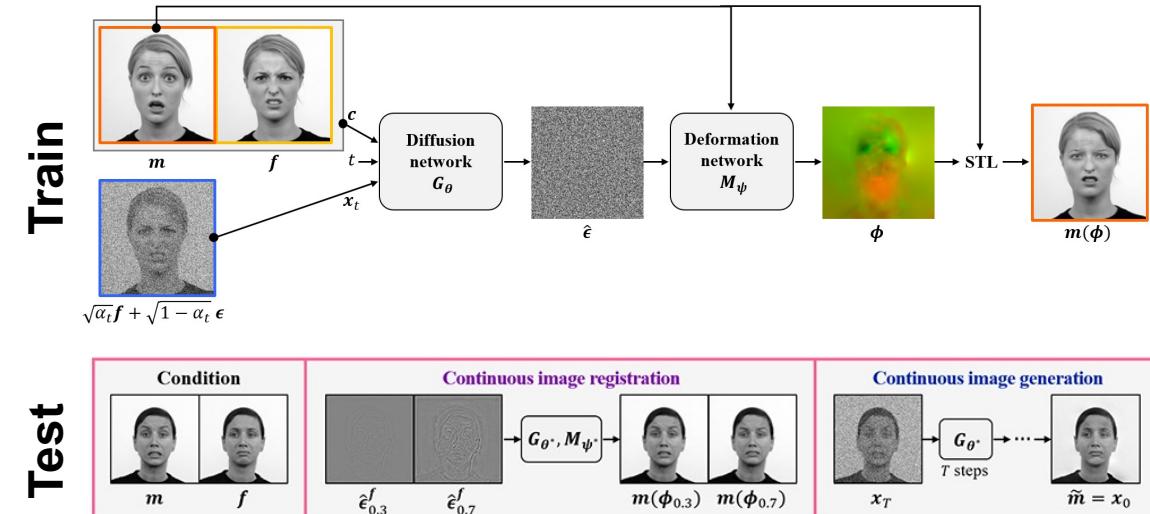
DiffuseMorph

- Image registration along the continuous trajectory
- **Diffusion network**: estimates a conditional score function
- **Deformation network**: yields the registration fields & provide the deformed image

Loss function

$$\min_{G_\theta, M_\psi} L_{diffusion}(c, x_t, t) + \lambda L_{regist}(m, f)$$

$L_{diffusion}(c, x_t, t) = \mathbb{E}_{\epsilon, x_t, t} \|G_\theta(c, x_t, t) - \epsilon\|_2^2$
 $L_{regist}(m, f) = -(m(\phi) \otimes f) + \lambda_\phi \sum \|\nabla \phi\|^2$



Algorithm 1 Continuous image registration

```

1: Input: Conditional images,  $c = (m, f)$ 
2: Output: Deformed moving image,  $m(\phi_\eta)$ 
3: Set the latent feature  $\hat{\epsilon}^f = G_{\theta^*}(c, f, 0)$ 
4: for  $\eta \in [0, 1]$  do
5:    $\hat{\epsilon}_\eta^f \leftarrow \eta \cdot \hat{\epsilon}^f$ 
6:    $\phi_\eta \leftarrow M_{\psi^*}(m, \hat{\epsilon}_\eta^f)$ 
7: end for=
8: return  $m(\phi_\eta)$ 

```

Algorithm 2 Synthetic image generation process

```

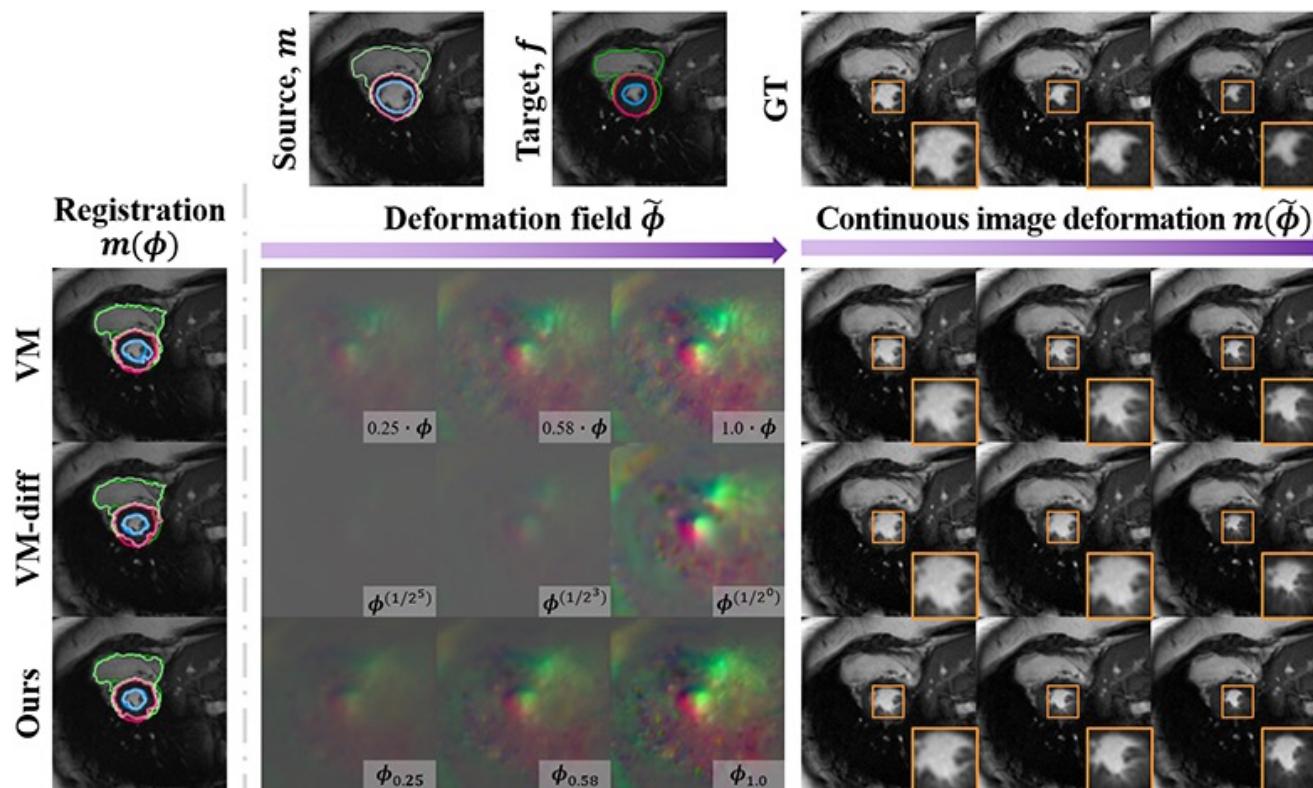
1: Input: Conditional images,  $c = (m, f)$ 
2: Output: Synthetic deformed image,  $x$ 
3: Set  $T \in (0, T_{train})$ 
4: Sample  $x_T = \sqrt{\alpha_T}m + \sqrt{1 - \alpha_T}\epsilon$ , where  $\epsilon \sim \mathcal{N}(0, I)$ 
5: for  $t = T, T - 1, \dots, 1$  do
6:    $z \sim \mathcal{N}(0, I)$ 
7:    $x_{t-1} \leftarrow \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 - \beta_t}}(x_t - \frac{\beta_t}{\sqrt{1 - \alpha_t}}G_{\theta^*}(c, x_t, t)) + \sigma_t z$ 
8: end for
9: return  $x_0$ 

```

Slides courtesy of Boah Kim & Jong Chul Ye

DiffuseMorph

- Intra-subject 3D cardiac MR image registration



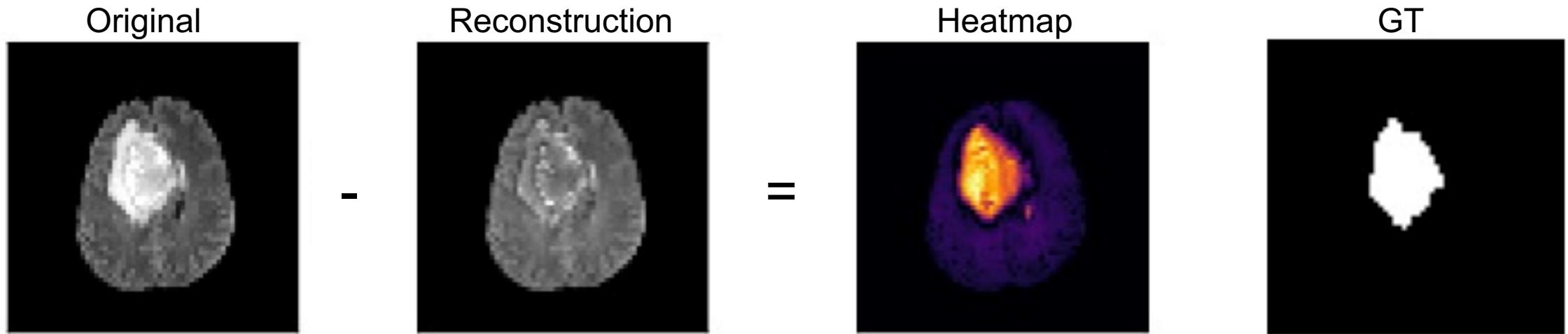
Methods	Dice	$ J_\phi \leq 0 (\%)$
Initial	0.642 (0.188)	-
VM [1]	0.787 (0.113)	0.169 (0.109)
VM-diff [2]	0.794 (0.104)	0.291 (0.188)
Ours	0.802 (0.109)	0.161 (0.082)

Slides courtesy of Boah Kim & Jong Chul Ye

Anomaly detection

Examples from the community

What is the task?



Sanchez et al. (2022) What is Healthy? Generative Counterfactual Diffusion for Lesion Localization. MICCAI workshop

Pinaya et al (2022) Fast Unsupervised Brain Anomaly Detection and Segmentation with Diffusion Models. MICCAI

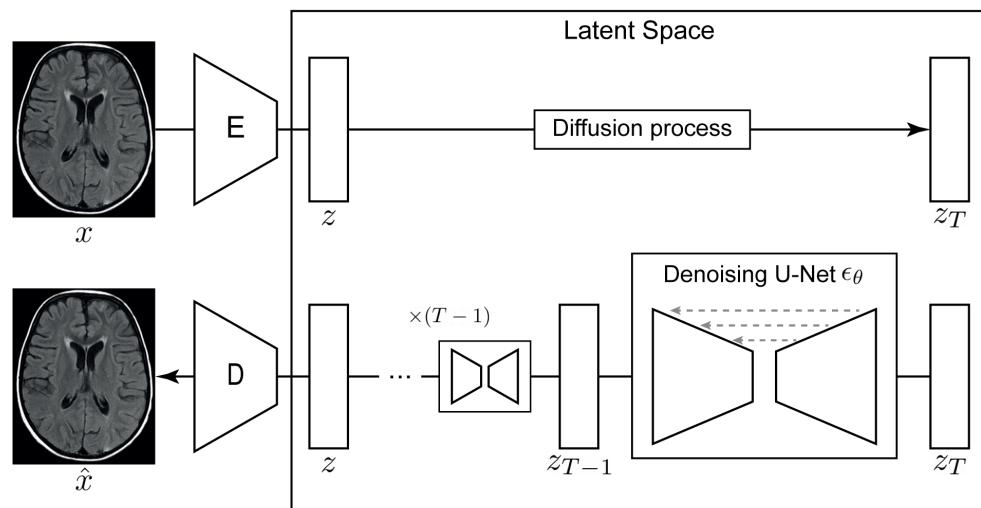
Wolleb et al (2022) Diffusion Models for Medical Anomaly Detection. MICCAI

Wyatt et al (2022) AnoDDPM: Anomaly Detection with Denoising Diffusion Probabilistic Models using Simplex Noise. CVPR workshop

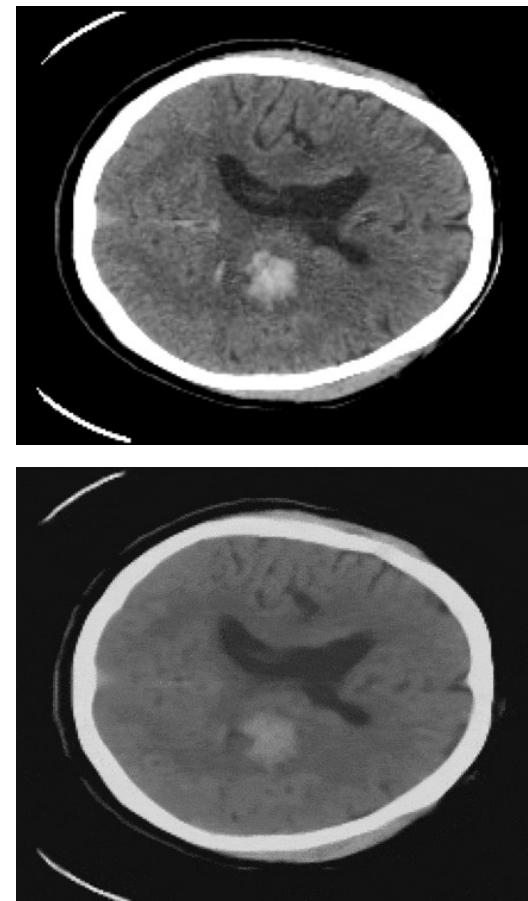
Unsupervised Anomaly Segmentation

- Latent Diffusion Model (LDM) learns the distribution of healthy brain data
- Compression (Vector-Quantised VAE) scales for high-resolution images

LDM identify regions with a **low likelihood** of belonging to a healthy dataset



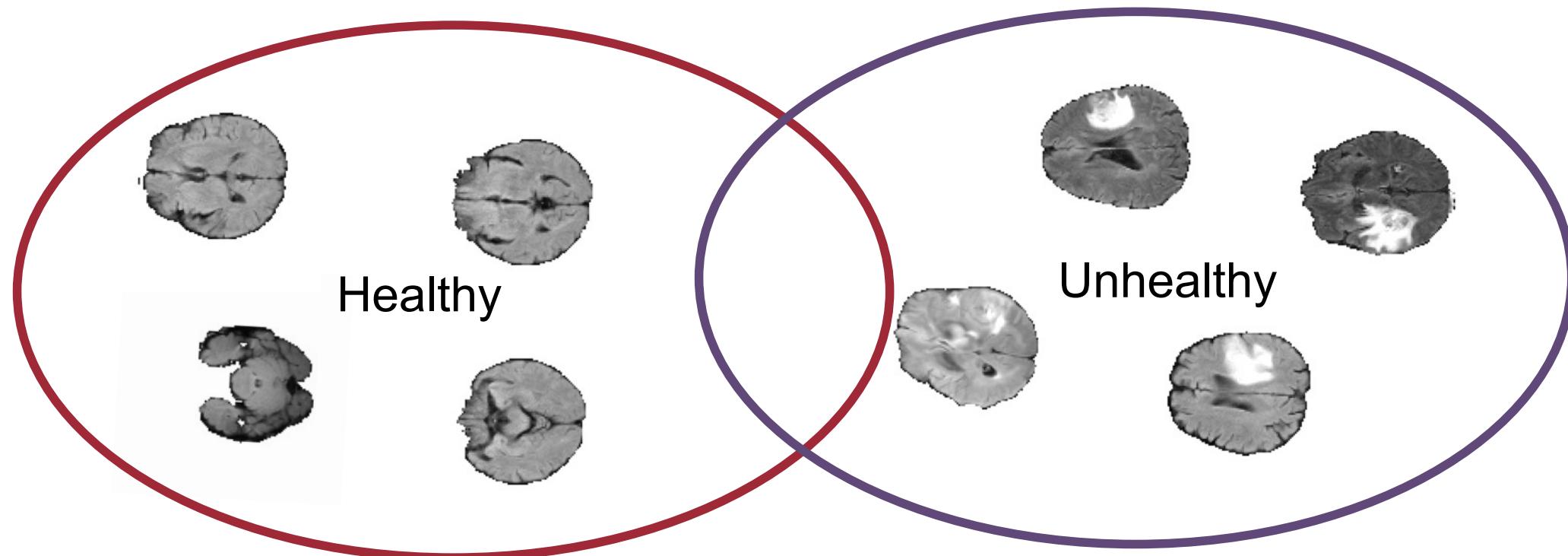
Reverse/denoising process is used to **inpaint** these regions and “**heal**” the possible anomalies



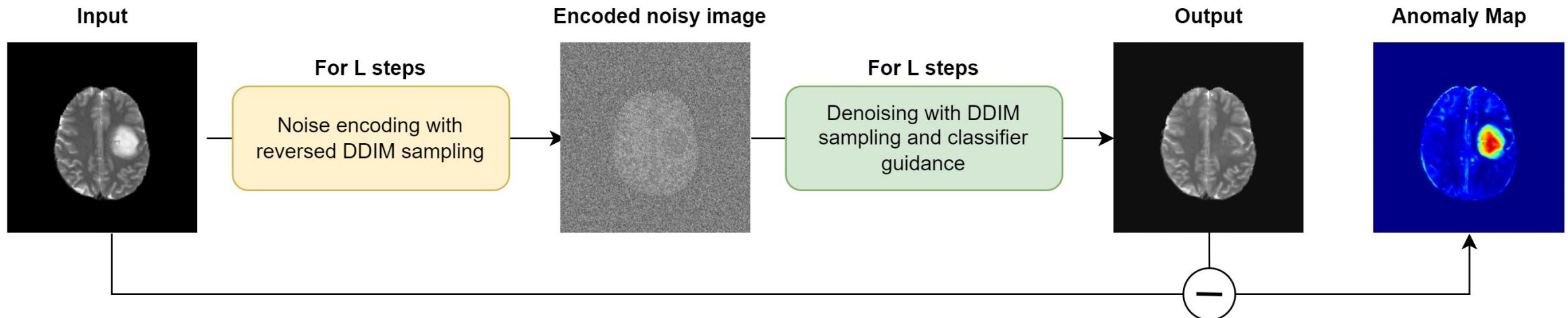
Slides courtesy of Walter H.L. Pinaya

Weakly-supervised Lesion Segmentation

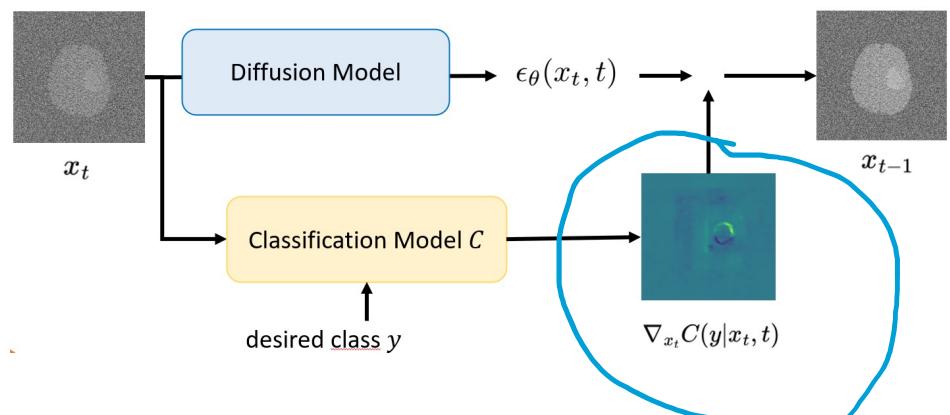
- *Image-wise* labels to *pixel-wise* prediction
- **Manipulate** images between two classes



Diffusion Models for Medical Anomaly Detection



- Uses the iterative deterministic encoding and decoding scheme of **denoising diffusion implicit models**
- Translation to a healthy subject is based on **gradient guidance** of an external binary classifier

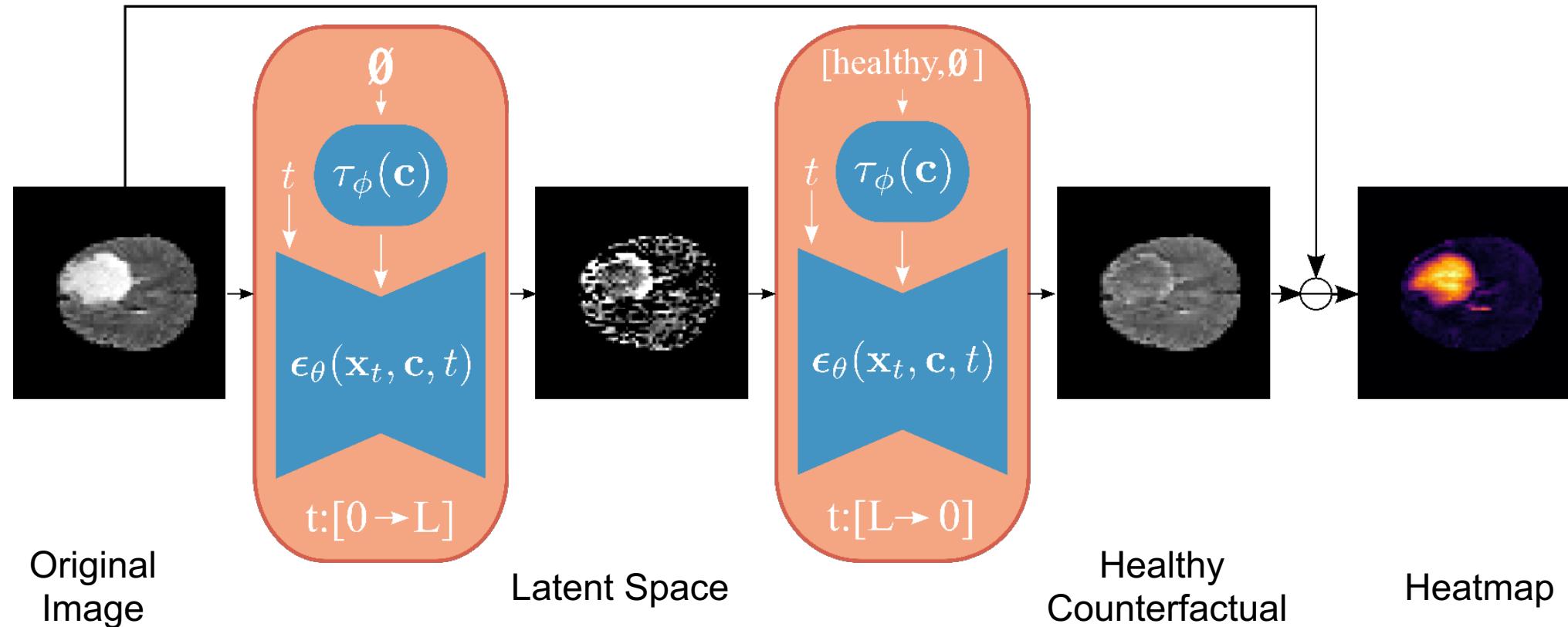


Slides courtesy of Julia Wolleb

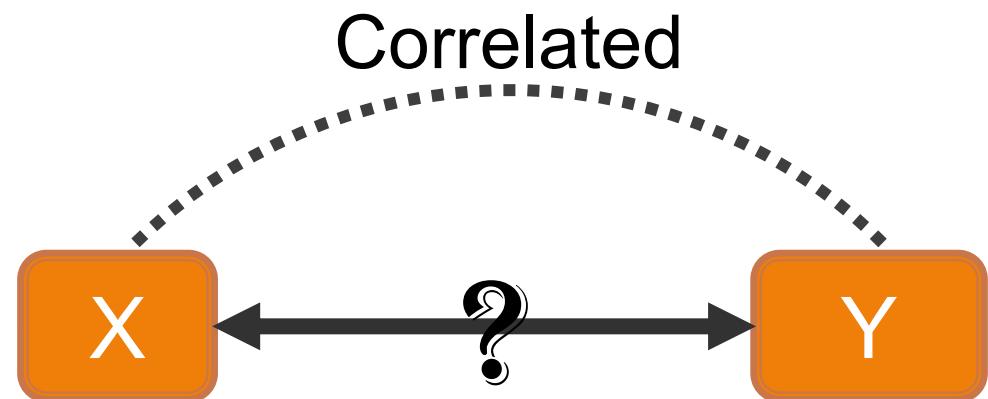
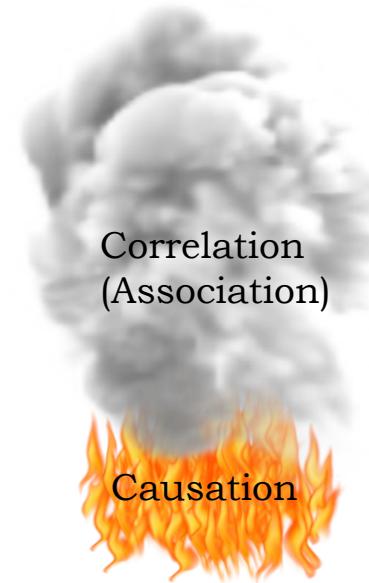
Lesion Localization with Diffusion

Classifier-free guidance

1. Encoding - Empty condition
2. Decoding - Target class

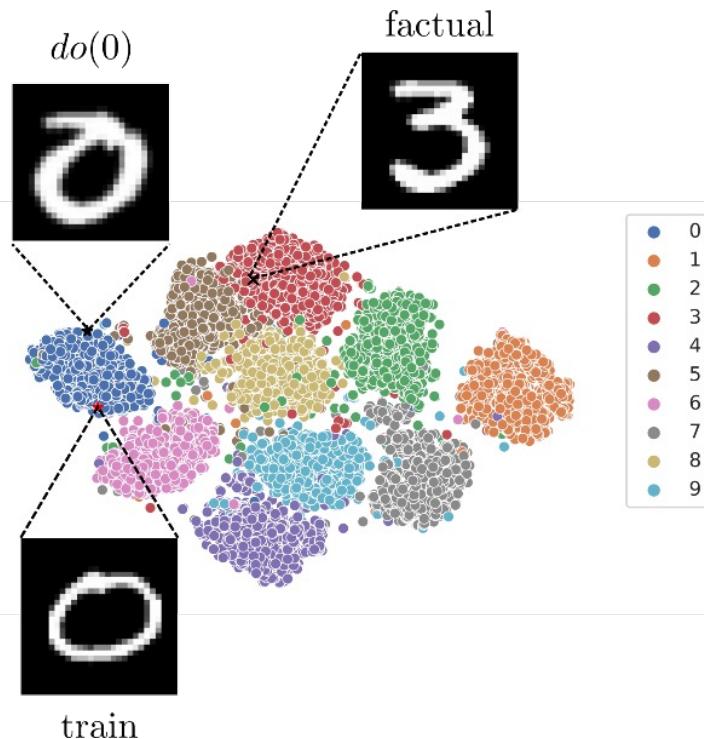


Causality



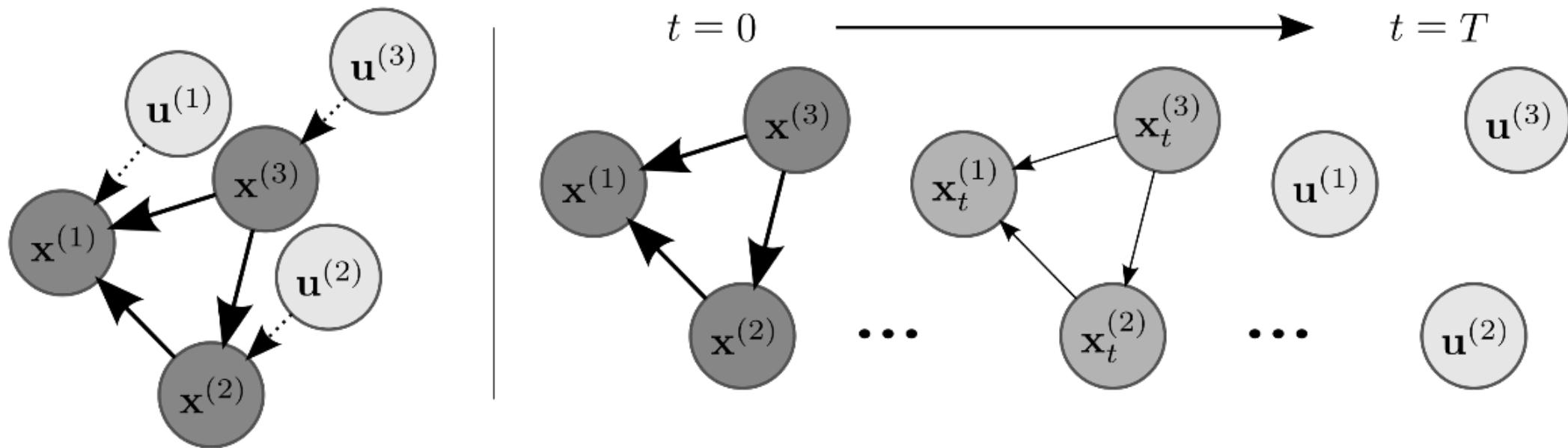
Diffusion for causal counterfactuals

“how an image should change to be classified as another class?”

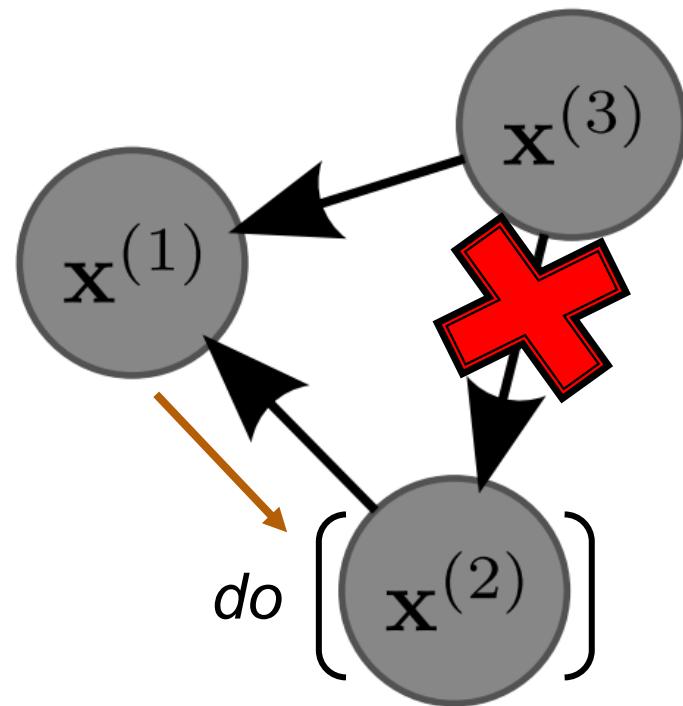


Diffusion for causal counterfactuals

We use diffusion ODE for estimating a “latent space” at $t = T$



Diffusion for causal counterfactuals

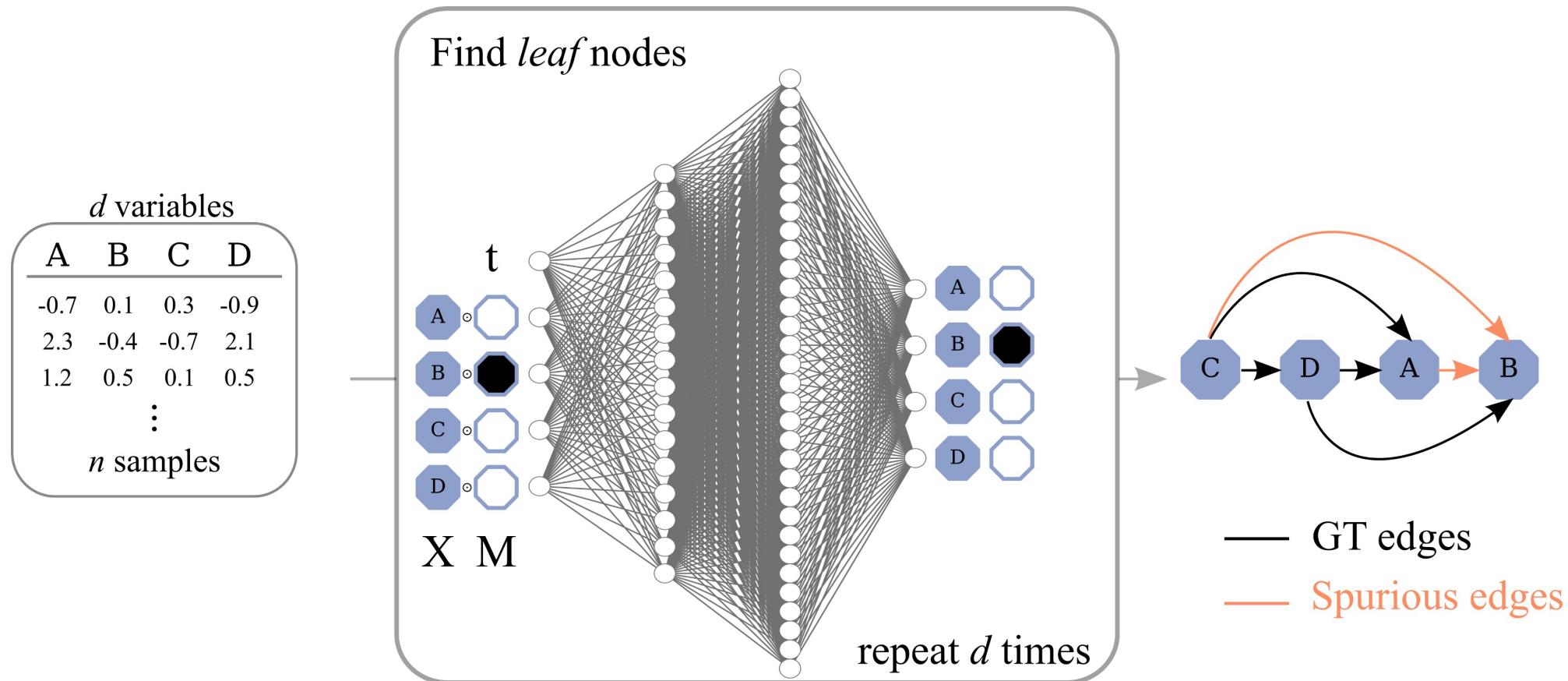


Given a **known** causal structure,
learn to **estimate** causal effect
of an **intervention**

$$\nabla_{x^{(1)}} \log p(\mathbf{x}^{(1)} | \mathbf{x}^{(2)}) \\ + \infty \\ \nabla_{x^{(1)}} \boxed{\log p(\mathbf{x}^{(2)} | \mathbf{x}^{(1)})} + \nabla_{x^{(1)}} \log p(\mathbf{x}^{(1)})$$

Diffusion for causal discovery

- Discovering causal (graph) structure from data
- Diffusion models help **identifying causal relationships**



Conclusion

Hype or Hope?

- Tremendous growth points to hope

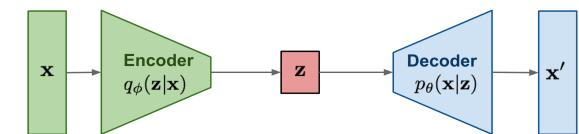
Opportunities

- Data manipulation
- Multimodal integration

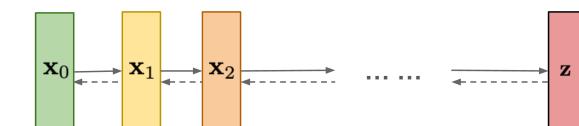
Challenges

- Sampling speed
 - ✓ Deterministic sampling helps (ODE reparameterization)^[1]
- Latent space
 - Are the Unet deepest representations the latent space?^[2]
 - Is the noise the latent space?^[3]
 - Are the conditions the latent space?^[4]

VAE: maximize variational lower bound



Diffusion models:
Gradually add Gaussian noise and then reverse



1. Song et al. (2021) Denoising Diffusion Implicit Models. ICLR
2. Kwon et al. (2022) Diffusion Models already have a Semantic Latent Space. arxiv:2210.10960
3. Ho et al. (2020) Denoising Diffusion Probabilistic Models. NeurIPS
4. Abstreiter et al (2021) Diffusion-Based Representation Learning. arXiv:2105.14257

Useful key references, gits to watch etc

<https://vios.science/tutorials/diffusion>

- Surveys:
 - <https://arxiv.org/abs/2209.02646> (general)
 - <https://arxiv.org/abs/2209.00796> (general)
 - <https://arxiv.org/abs/2209.04747> (vision)
 - <https://arxiv.org/abs/2211.07804> (in medical imaging and analysis)
- Github collections:
 - <https://github.com/amirhossein-kz/Awesome-Diffusion-Models-in-Medical-Imaging>
 - <https://github.com/heejkoo/Awesome-Diffusion-Models>
- Tutorials:
 - <https://lilianweng.github.io/posts/2021-07-11-diffusion-models/> (A nice introductory blog)
 - <https://yang-song.github.io/blog/2021/score/> (An amazing blog from one the pioneers)
 - <https://arxiv.org/abs/2208.11970> (a VAE perspective)
 - <https://cvpr2022-tutorial-diffusion-models.github.io>
 - <https://huggingface.co/blog/annotated-diffusion>
 - <https://huggingface.co/docs/diffusers>

Thanks to my team



We have several PhD/RA openings if you want to join us!

vios.science

...my collaborators... and those who shared slides

UK

- S. Weir
- A. Smout
- A. O'Neil
- A. Frangi
- D. Newby
- S. Semple
- G. Papanastasiou
- M. Williams

World

- R. Dharmakumar
- T. Arbel
- L. Maier-Hein
- S. Bakas
- X. Papademetris
- N. Merchant
- H. Scharr
- P. Perata

Shared slides:

- K. Packhäuser, A. Maier, FAU
- T. Çukur, Bilkent
- J. Cardoso, W. Diaz Sanz, KCL
- J. Wolleb, P. Cattin, U Basel
- J Chul Ye, KAIST

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