

Here are the comprehensive lecture notes covering the mathematical derivations and concepts from the provided PDF regarding Diffusion Models, Tweedie's Formula, and DDPM.

# Lecture Notes: Diffusion Models & Mathematical Preliminaries

## 1. Tweedie's Formula (Preliminary)

**Goal:** To find the posterior mean  $E[X|Y = y]$  and variance  $\text{Var}[X|Y = y]$  given a noisy observation, using the score function (gradient of the log-likelihood).

### A. Problem Setup

Consider a clean signal  $X$  and a noisy observation  $Y$ :

$$Y = X + \sigma Z$$

- $X \sim P_X$  (Unknown data distribution)
- $Z \sim \mathcal{N}(0, I)$  (Gaussian noise)
- $Y|X \sim \mathcal{N}(X, \sigma^2 I)$

We define  $\phi_\sigma(u)$  as the probability density function (PDF) of the noise  $\mathcal{N}(0, \sigma^2 I_d)$ :

$$\phi_\sigma(u) = \frac{1}{(2\pi\sigma^2)^{d/2}} \exp\left(-\frac{\|u\|^2}{2\sigma^2}\right)$$

The marginal density of  $Y$  is:

$$P_Y(y) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} P_X(x)\phi_\sigma(y - x)dx$$

### B. Derivation of the Gradient

We compute the gradient of the marginal density  $\nabla_y P_Y(y)$ :

1. **Differentiation under the integral:**

$$\nabla_y P_Y(y) = \int P_X(x) \nabla_y \phi_\sigma(y-x) dx$$

## 2. Kernel Derivative Property:

Note that for the Gaussian kernel:

$$\nabla_y \phi_\sigma(y-x) = -\frac{y-x}{\sigma^2} \phi_\sigma(y-x)$$

## 3. Substitution:

Substituting this back into the integral:

$$\nabla_y P_Y(y) = -\frac{1}{\sigma^2} \int (y-x) P_X(x) \phi_\sigma(y-x) dx$$

$$\nabla_y P_Y(y) = -\frac{1}{\sigma^2} \left[ y \underbrace{\int P_X(x) \phi_\sigma(y-x) dx}_{P_Y(y)} - \int x P_X(x) \phi_\sigma(y-x) dx \right]$$

## 4. Bayes' Rule Identity:

Recall that  $P_{X,Y}(x,y) = P_X(x) \phi_\sigma(y-x) = P_Y(y) P_{X|Y}(x|y)$ .

Therefore, the second integral becomes:

$$\int x P_{X,Y}(x,y) dx = P_Y(y) \int x P_{X|Y}(x|y) dx = P_Y(y) E[X|Y=y]$$

## 5. Final Equation:

$$\nabla_y P_Y(y) = -\frac{1}{\sigma^2} (y P_Y(y) - P_Y(y) E[X|Y=y])$$

## C. Resulting Formula (Tweedie's Formula)

Rearranging the terms to solve for  $E[X|Y]$ :

$$\frac{\nabla_y P_Y(y)}{P_Y(y)} = \frac{1}{\sigma^2} (E[X|Y=y] - y)$$

$$\nabla_y \log P_Y(y) = \frac{1}{\sigma^2} (E[X|Y=y] - y)$$

### Expectation:

$$E[X|Y = y] = y + \sigma^2 \nabla_y \log P_Y(y)$$

**Variance:**

$$\text{Var}[X|Y = y] = \sigma^2(I + \sigma^2 \nabla_y^2 \log P_Y(y))$$

## 2. Gaussian Approximation of the Posterior

**Goal:** Prove that if  $\sigma$  is sufficiently small, the posterior  $P_{X|Y}(x|y)$  approximates a Gaussian distribution.

### A. Bayes' Expansion

$$P_{X|Y}(x|y) = \frac{P_{Y|X}(y|x)P_X(x)}{P_Y(y)}$$

Ignoring the normalization constant  $P_Y(y)$ , we focus on the numerator:

$$P_{X|Y}(x|y) \propto \exp\left(-\frac{\|y - x\|^2}{2\sigma^2}\right) P_X(x)$$

### B. Taylor Expansion

We expand  $P_X(x)$  around  $y$  (assuming  $\sigma \rightarrow 0$ ,  $x$  is close to  $y$ ):

$$P_X(x) \approx P_X(y) + \langle \nabla P_X(y), x - y \rangle + O(\|x - y\|^2)$$

Using the approximation  $1 + a \approx e^a$ , we rewrite the linear term in log-space:

$$P_X(x) \approx P_X(y) (1 + \langle \nabla \log P_X(y), x - y \rangle)$$

$$P_X(x) \approx P_X(y) \exp(\langle \nabla \log P_X(y), x - y \rangle)$$

### C. Completing the Square

Combining the likelihood and the prior approximation:

$$P_{X|Y}(x|y) \propto \exp \left( -\frac{\|x - y\|^2}{2\sigma^2} + \langle \nabla \log P_X(y), x - y \rangle \right)$$

Let  $l_1 = x - y$  and  $l_2 = \nabla \log P_X(y)$ . We seek to complete the square for the term in the exponent:

$$-\frac{1}{2\sigma^2} \|l_1\|^2 + \langle l_1, l_2 \rangle = -\frac{1}{2\sigma^2} (\|l_1\|^2 - 2\sigma^2 \langle l_1, l_2 \rangle)$$

By adding and subtracting the squared term  $\sigma^4 \|l_2\|^2$ :

$$= -\frac{1}{2\sigma^2} \|l_1 - \sigma^2 l_2\|^2 + \frac{\sigma^2}{2} \|l_2\|^2$$

Substituting  $l_1$  and  $l_2$  back:

$$\text{Exponent} \approx -\frac{1}{2\sigma^2} \|(x - y) - \sigma^2 \nabla \log P_X(y)\|^2 + \text{Constant}$$

## D. Final Approximation

The posterior follows a Gaussian distribution:

$$P_{X|Y}(x|y) \approx \mathcal{N}(y + \sigma^2 \nabla \log P_X(y), \sigma^2 I)$$

*Note: For small  $\sigma$ ,  $\nabla \log P_X(y) \approx \nabla \log P_Y(y)$ , making this consistent with Tweedie's formula.*

# 3. Denoising Diffusion Probabilistic Models (DDPM)

## A. Forward Diffusion Process

We define a forward process that gradually adds noise to data  $x_0 \sim P_{\text{data}}$ .

For  $t = 1, \dots, T$ :

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

where  $0 < \beta_t < 1$  represents the variance schedule.

Let  $\alpha_t = 1 - \beta_t$ . The transition can be written using reparameterization:

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

## B. Deriving the Marginal $q(x_t | x_0)$

We want to sample  $x_t$  directly from  $x_0$ .

Define  $\bar{\alpha}_t = \prod_{s=1}^t \alpha_s$ .

### Recursive Substitution:

1. Start with  $x_t$ :

$$x_t = \sqrt{\alpha_t} x_{t-1} + \sqrt{1 - \alpha_t} z_t$$

2. Substitute  $x_{t-1} = \sqrt{\alpha_{t-1}} x_{t-2} + \sqrt{1 - \alpha_{t-1}} z_{t-1}$ :

$$x_t = \sqrt{\alpha_t} (\sqrt{\alpha_{t-1}} x_{t-2} + \sqrt{1 - \alpha_{t-1}} z_{t-1}) + \sqrt{1 - \alpha_t} z_t$$

$$x_t = \sqrt{\alpha_t \alpha_{t-1}} x_{t-2} + \sqrt{\alpha_t (1 - \alpha_{t-1})} z_{t-1} + \sqrt{1 - \alpha_t} z_t$$

### Gaussian Summation Tip:

If  $X_1 \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma_1^2 I)$  and  $X_2 \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma_2^2 I)$  are independent, then:

$$X_1 + X_2 \sim \mathcal{N}(0, (\sigma_1^2 + \sigma_2^2)I)$$

Applying this to the noise terms:

- Variance of first noise term:  $\alpha_t (1 - \alpha_{t-1})$
- Variance of second noise term:  $(1 - \alpha_t)$
- Total Variance:  $\alpha_t - \alpha_t \alpha_{t-1} + 1 - \alpha_t = 1 - \alpha_t \alpha_{t-1}$

Thus, the merged noise term is  $\sqrt{1 - \alpha_t \alpha_{t-1}} \bar{z}$ .

## C. General Result

By induction, extending this to  $t = 0$ :

$$x_t = \sqrt{\bar{\alpha}_t} x_0 + \sqrt{1 - \bar{\alpha}_t} \epsilon, \quad \epsilon \sim \mathcal{N}(0, I)$$

This yields the marginal distribution:

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