

# CS 4644-DL / 7643-A: Lecture 18

## Danfei xu

Generative Models:  
Denoising Diffusion Probabilistic Models (DDPMs)

# Taxonomy of Generative Models

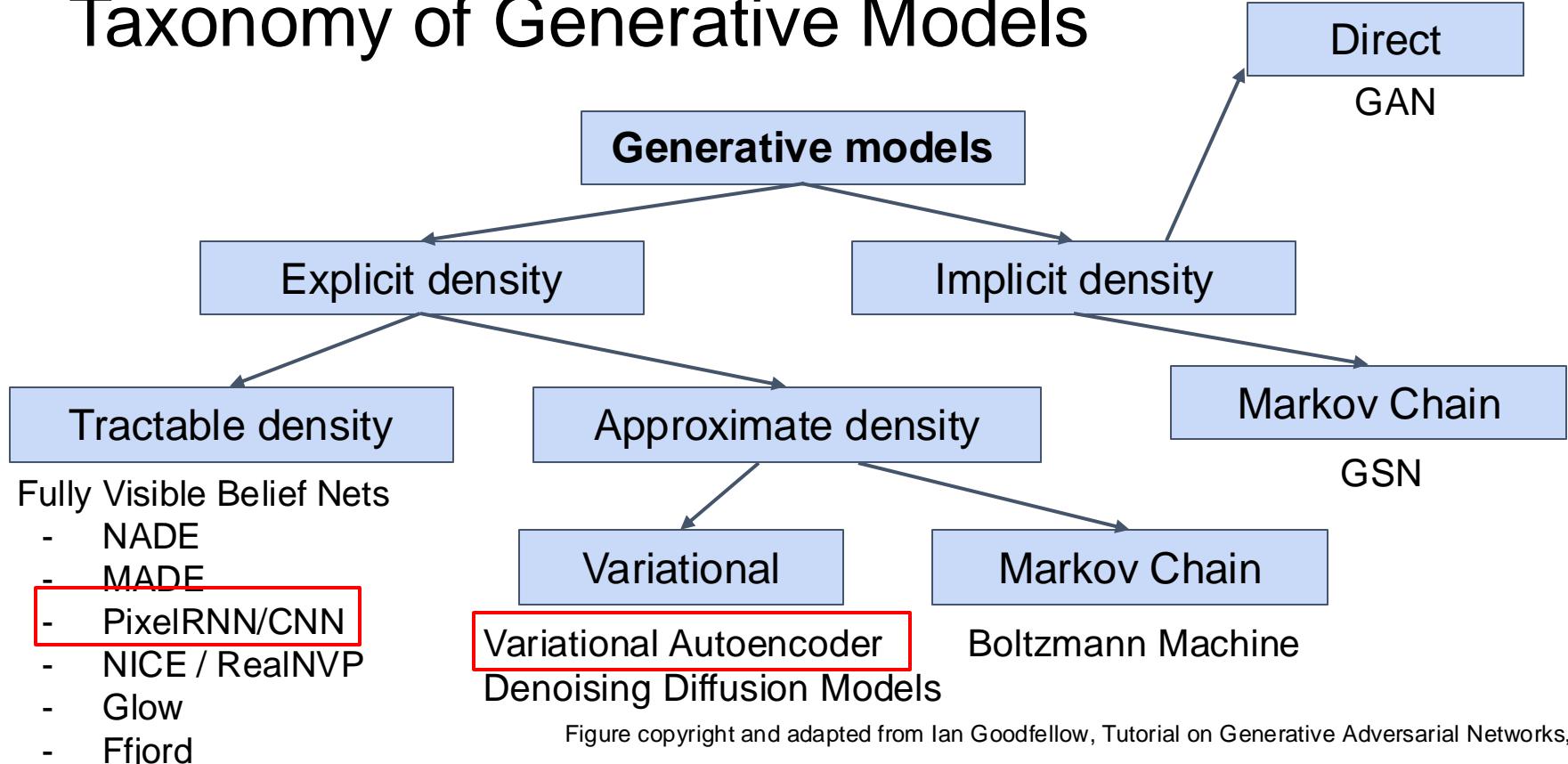


Figure copyright and adapted from Ian Goodfellow, Tutorial on Generative Adversarial Networks, 2017.

# Fully visible belief network (FVBN)

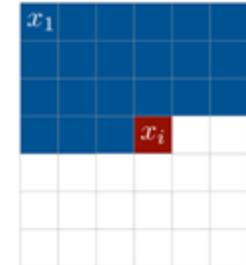
Explicit density model

Use probability chain rule to decompose likelihood of an image  $x$  into product of 1-d distributions:

$$p(x) = \prod_{i=1}^n p(x_i|x_1, \dots, x_{i-1})$$

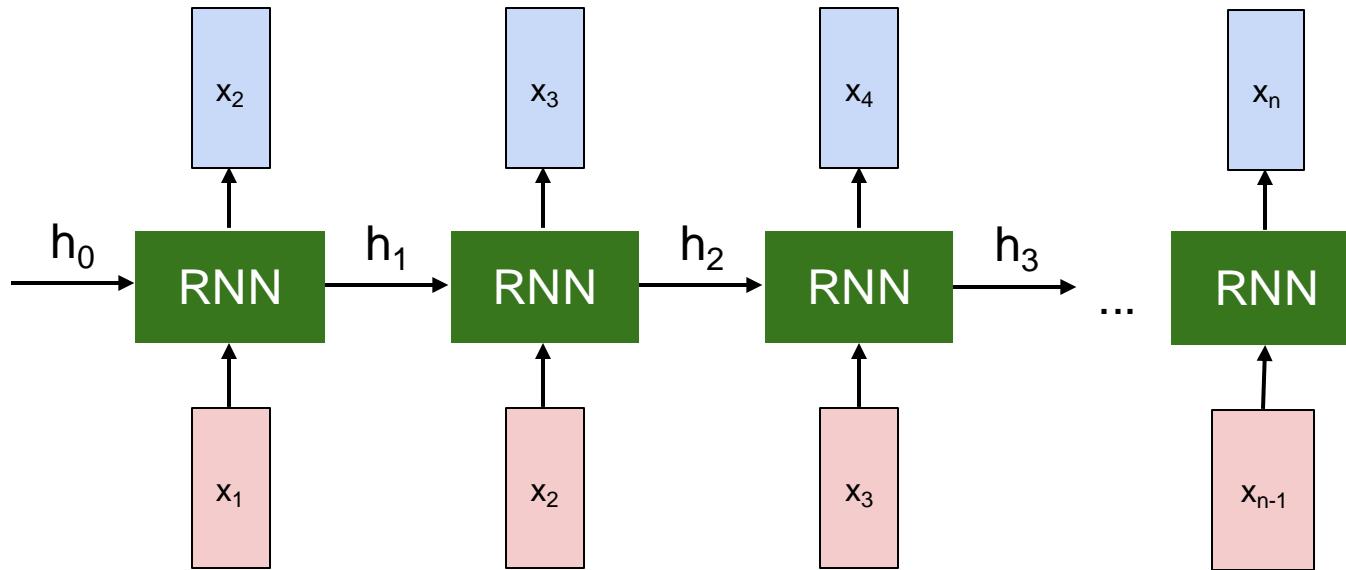
↑                      ↑

Likelihood of image  $x$       Probability of  $i$ 'th pixel value given all previous pixels



Then maximize likelihood of training data

# Recurrent Neural Network



$$p(x_i|x_1, \dots, x_{i-1})$$

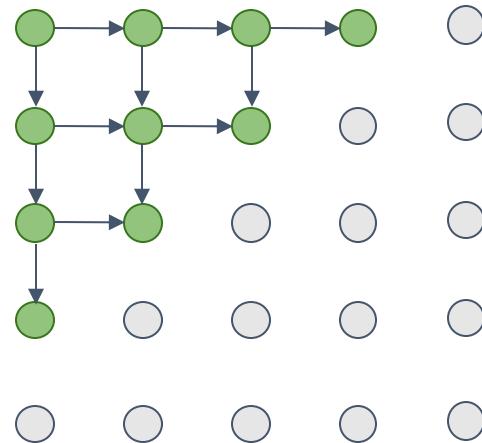
# PixelRNN

[van der Oord et al. 2016]

Generate image pixels starting from corner

Dependency on previous pixels modeled using an RNN (LSTM)

Drawback: sequential generation is slow in both training and inference!



# PixelCNN

[van der Oord et al. 2016]

Still generate image pixels starting from corner

Dependency on previous pixels now modeled using a CNN over context region  
**(masked convolution)**

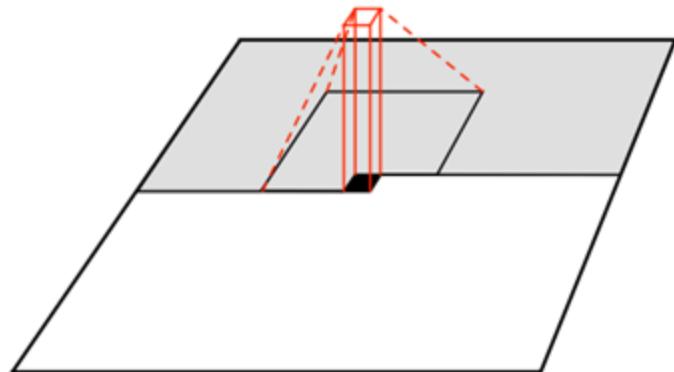


Figure copyright van der Oord et al., 2016. Reproduced with permission.

# Taxonomy of Generative Models

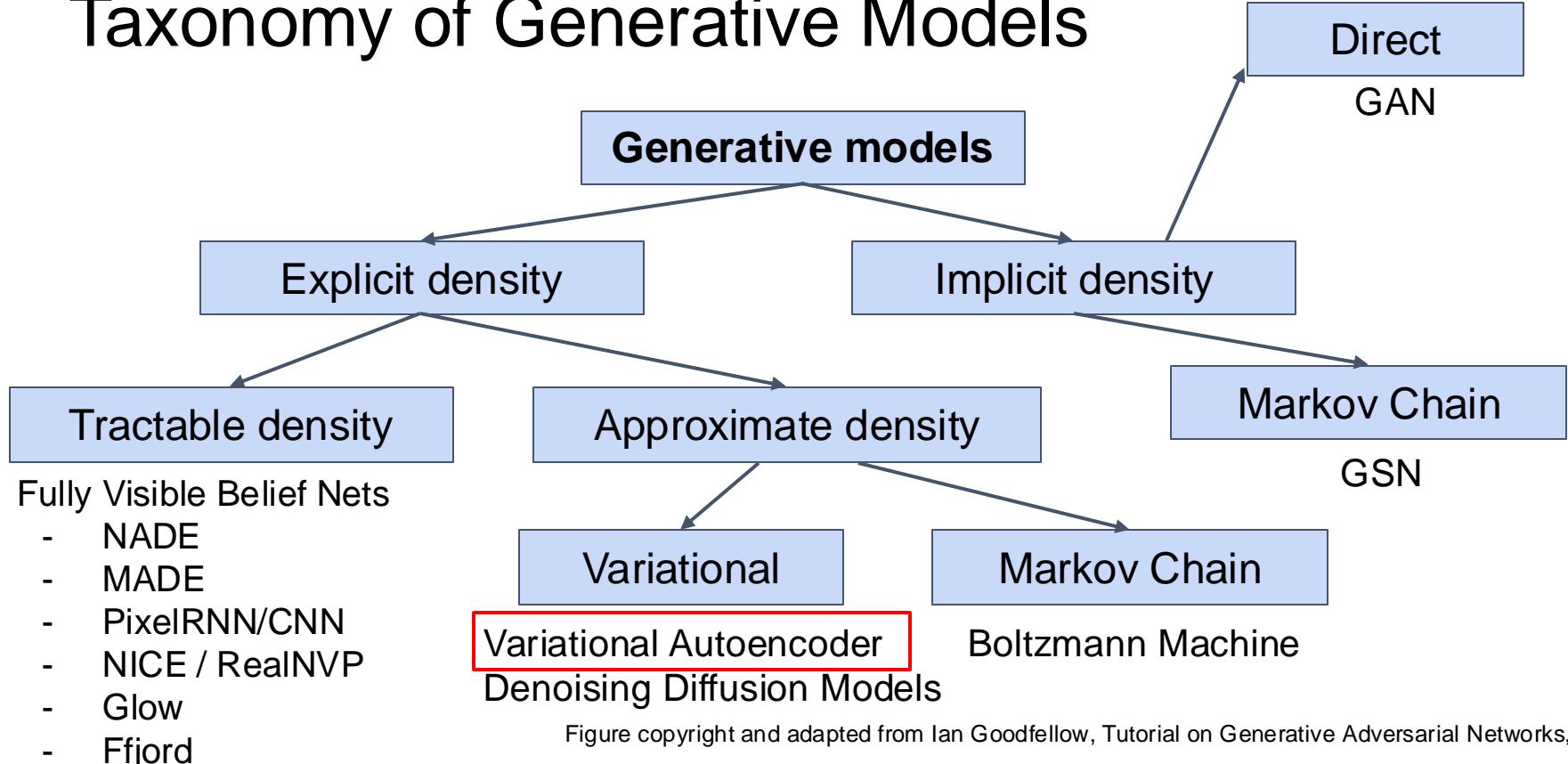


Figure copyright and adapted from Ian Goodfellow, Tutorial on Generative Adversarial Networks, 2017.

# So far...

PixelR/CNNs define tractable density function, optimize likelihood of training data:

$$p_{\theta}(x) = \prod_{i=1}^n p_{\theta}(x_i|x_1, \dots, x_{i-1})$$

Variational Autoencoders (VAEs) define intractable density function with latent  $\mathbf{z}$ :

$$p_{\theta}(x) = \int p_{\theta}(z)p_{\theta}(x|z)dz$$

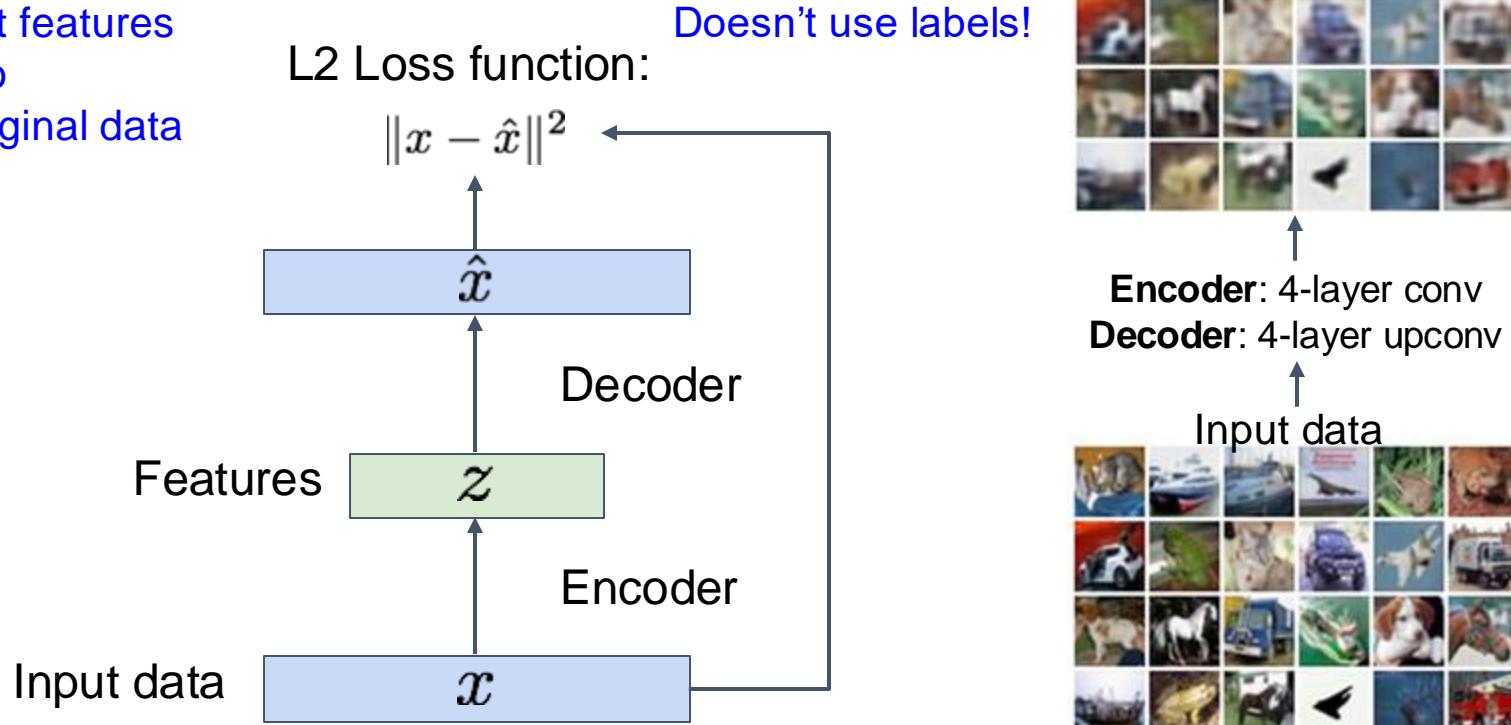
No dependencies among pixels, can generate all pixels at the same time!

**Latent variable  $\mathbf{z}$  that captures important *factors of variations* in dataset**

Cannot optimize (maximum likelihood estimation) directly, derive and optimize lower bound on likelihood instead

# Some background first: Autoencoders

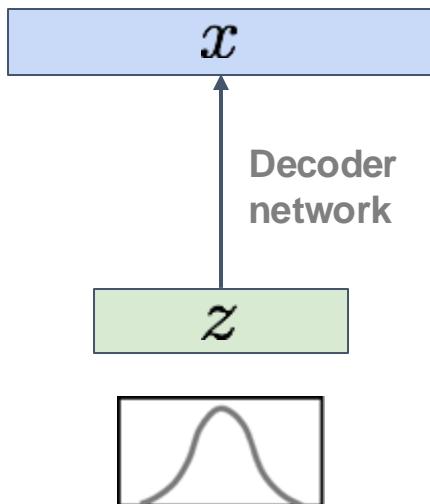
Train such that features  
can be used to  
reconstruct original data



# Variational Autoencoders



Sample from  
true conditional  
 $p_{\theta^*}(x \mid z^{(i)})$



Sample from  
true prior  
 $z^{(i)} \sim p_{\theta^*}(z)$

We want to estimate the true parameters  $\theta^*$  of this generative model given training data  $x$ .

How should we represent this model?

Assume  $p(z)$  is *known* and **simple**, e.g. isotropic Gaussian. Reasonable for latent attributes, e.g. pose, how much smile.

Conditional  $p(x|z)$  is **complex** (generates image) => represent with neural network

# Variational Autoencoders: Intractability



Data likelihood:  $p_{\theta}(x) = \int p_{\theta}(z)p_{\theta}(x|z)dz$

Can we do Monte Carlo sampling?

$$\log p(x) \approx \log \frac{1}{k} \sum_{i=1}^k p(x|z^{(i)}), \text{ where } z^{(i)} \sim p(z)$$

Can we estimate posterior density? Not quite, but ...

$$p_{\theta}(z|x) = p_{\theta}(x|z)p_{\theta}(z)/p_{\theta}(x)$$

VAE: We can use an approximate posterior  $q_{\theta}(z|x)$  (variational distribution) to form a *tractable lower bound* of the data likelihood  $p(x)$ .

# Variational Autoencoders

$$\log p_{\theta}(x^{(i)}) = \mathbf{E}_{z \sim q_{\phi}(z|x^{(i)})} [\log p_{\theta}(x^{(i)})] \quad (p_{\theta}(x^{(i)}) \text{ Does not depend on } z)$$

$$= \mathbf{E}_z \left[ \log \frac{p_{\theta}(x^{(i)} | z)p_{\theta}(z)}{p_{\theta}(z | x^{(i)})} \right] \quad (\text{Bayes' Rule})$$

$$= \mathbf{E}_z \left[ \log \frac{p_{\theta}(x^{(i)} | z)p_{\theta}(z)}{p_{\theta}(z | x^{(i)})} \frac{q_{\phi}(z | x^{(i)})}{q_{\phi}(z | x^{(i)})} \right] \quad (\text{Multiply by constant})$$

$$= \mathbf{E}_z [\log p_{\theta}(x^{(i)} | z)] - \mathbf{E}_z \left[ \log \frac{q_{\phi}(z | x^{(i)})}{p_{\theta}(z)} \right] + \mathbf{E}_z \left[ \log \frac{q_{\phi}(z | x^{(i)})}{p_{\theta}(z | x^{(i)})} \right] \quad (\text{Logarithms})$$

$$= \underbrace{\mathbf{E}_z [\log p_{\theta}(x^{(i)} | z)]}_{\mathcal{L}(x^{(i)}, \theta, \phi)} - D_{KL}(q_{\phi}(z | x^{(i)}) || p_{\theta}(z))$$

Decoder:  
reconstruct  
the input data

**Encoder:**  
make approximate  
posterior distribution  
close to prior

Sample  $z$  from the  
learned posterior  
(encoder) to train  
the decoder to  
reconstruct!

**Tractable lower bound** which we can take  
gradient of and optimize! ( $p_{\theta}(x|z)$  differentiable,  
KL term differentiable)

# Variational Autoencoders

Putting it all together: maximizing the likelihood lower bound

$$\underbrace{\mathbf{E}_z \left[ \log p_\theta(x^{(i)} | z) \right] - D_{KL}(q_\phi(z | x^{(i)}) || p_\theta(z))}_{\mathcal{L}(x^{(i)}, \theta, \phi)}$$

$$D_{KL}(\mathcal{N}(\mu_{z|x}, \Sigma_{z|x}) || \mathcal{N}(0, I))$$

Have analytical solution

Make approximate posterior distribution close to prior

Encoder network

$$q_\phi(z|x)$$

Input Data

$$\mu_{z|x}$$

$$\Sigma_{z|x}$$



# Variational Autoencoders

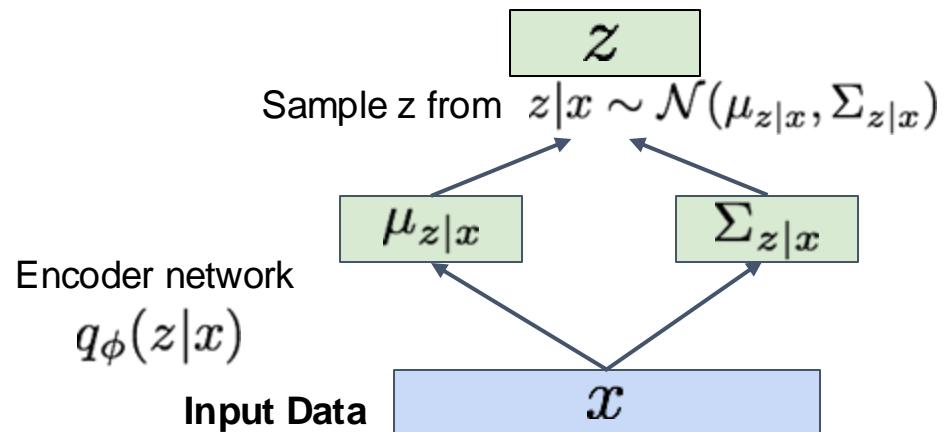
Putting it all together: maximizing the likelihood lower bound

$$\underbrace{\mathbf{E}_z \left[ \log p_\theta(x^{(i)} | z) \right] - D_{KL}(q_\phi(z | x^{(i)}) || p_\theta(z))}_{\mathcal{L}(x^{(i)}, \theta, \phi)}$$

Reparameterization trick to make sampling differentiable:

$$\text{Sample } \epsilon \sim \mathcal{N}(0, I)$$

$$z = \mu_{z|x} + \epsilon \sigma_{z|x}$$



# Variational Autoencoders

Putting it all together: maximizing the likelihood lower bound

$$\mathcal{L}(x^{(i)}, \theta, \phi) = \underbrace{\mathbf{E}_z \left[ \log p_\theta(x^{(i)} | z) \right]} - D_{KL}(q_\phi(z | x^{(i)}) || p_\theta(z))$$

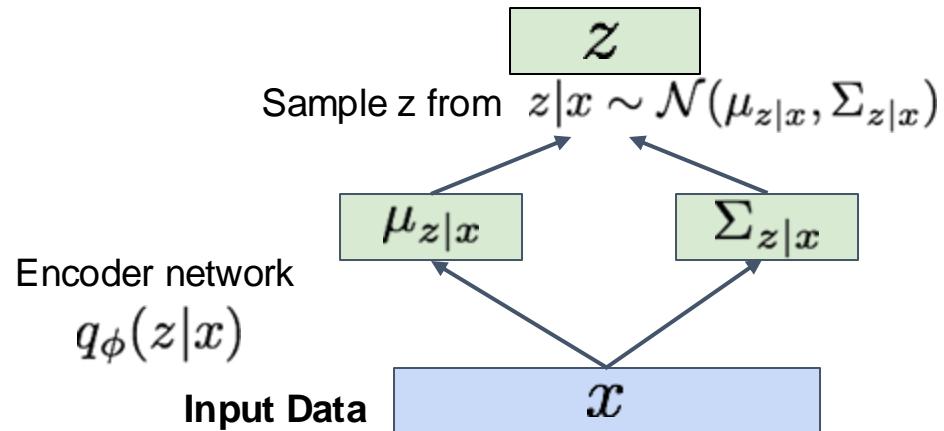
Reparameterization trick to make sampling differentiable:

$$z = \mu_{z|x} + \epsilon \sigma_{z|x}$$

Sample  $\epsilon \sim \mathcal{N}(0, I)$

Part of computation graph

Input to the graph

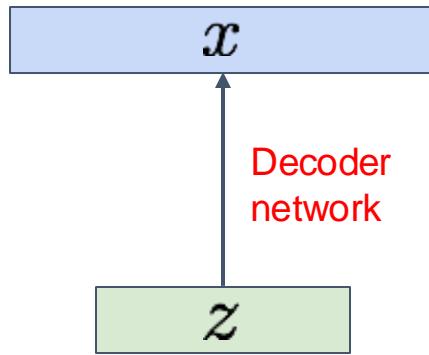


# Variational Autoencoders: Generating Data!

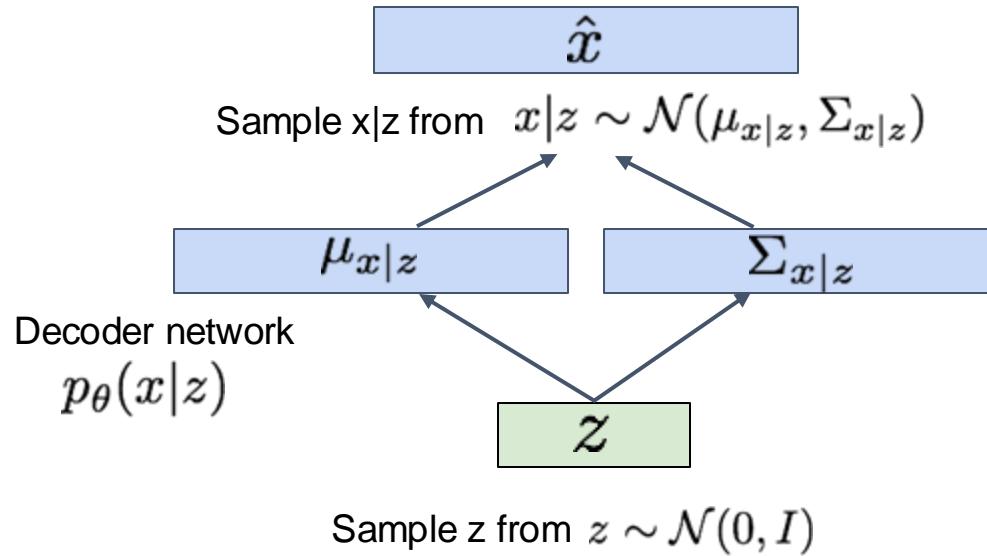
Our assumption about data generation process

Sample from true conditional  
 $p_{\theta^*}(x | z^{(i)})$

Sample from true prior  
 $z^{(i)} \sim p_{\theta^*}(z)$

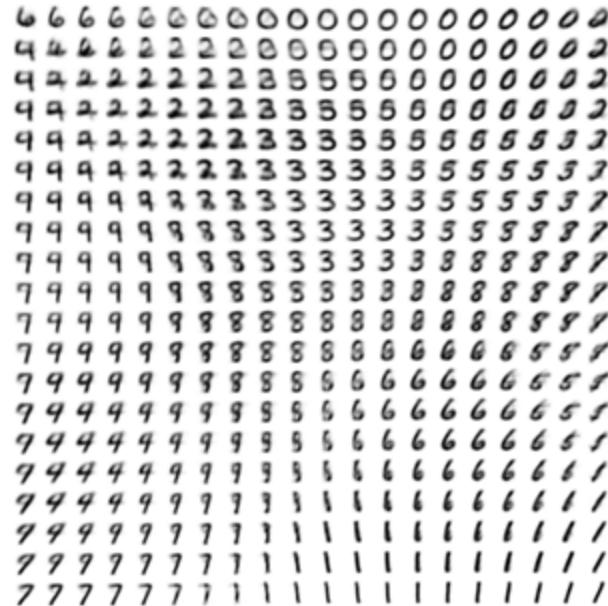
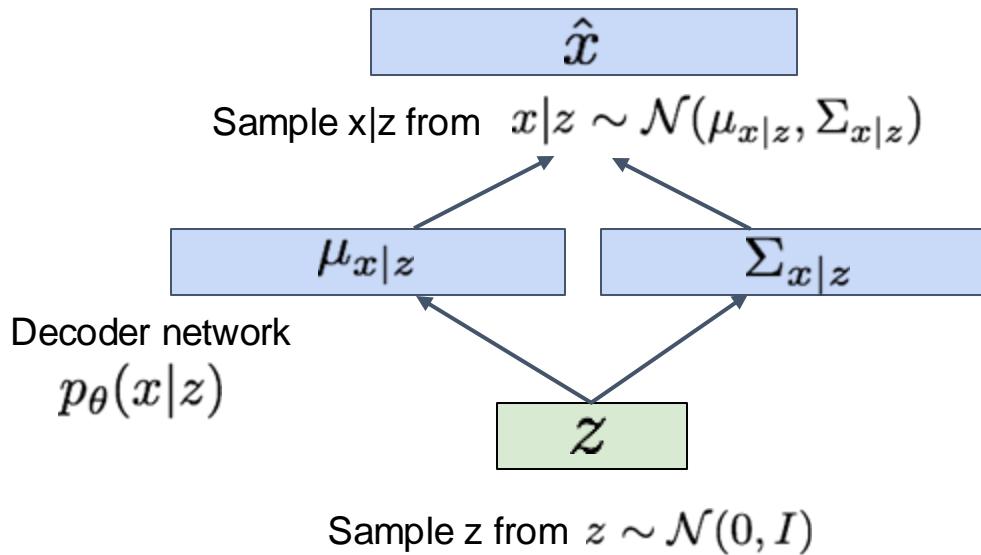


Now given a trained VAE:  
use decoder network & sample  $z$  from prior!



# Variational Autoencoders: Generating Data!

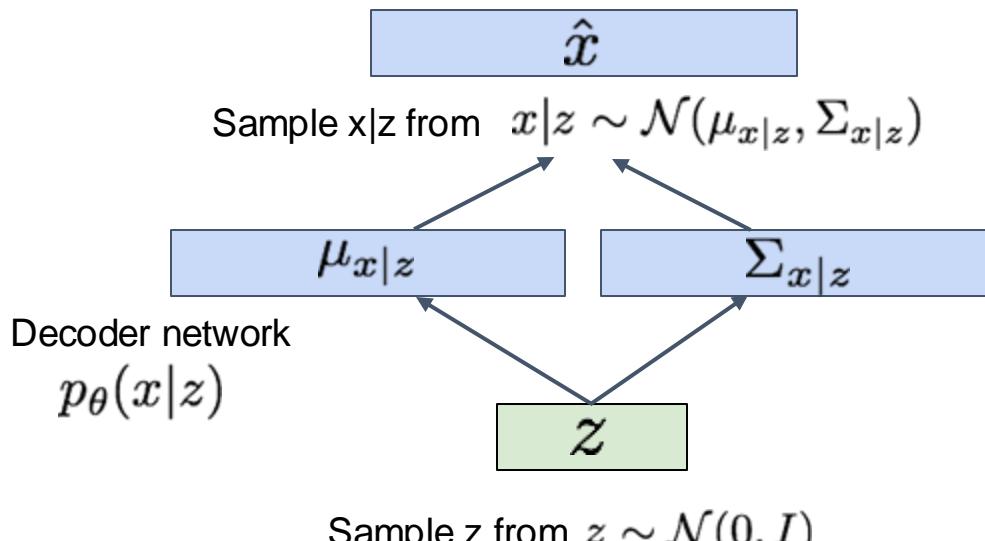
Use decoder network. Now sample z from prior!



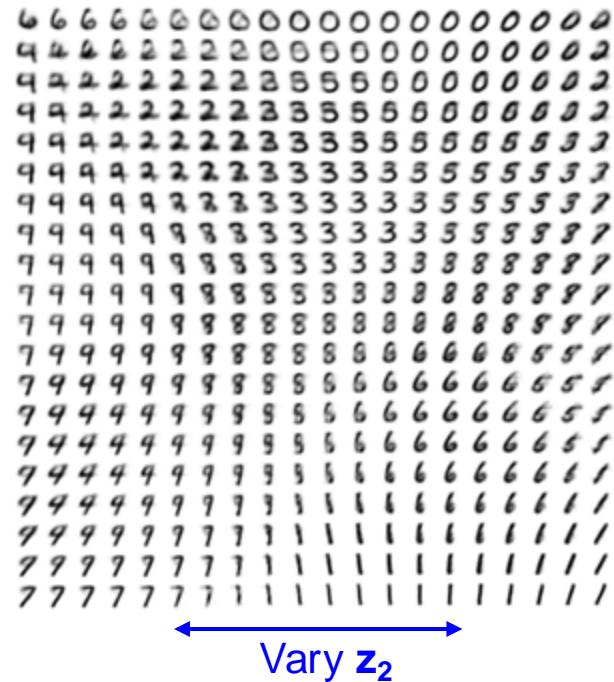
Kingma and Welling, "Auto-Encoding Variational Bayes", ICLR 2014

# Variational Autoencoders: Generating Data!

Use decoder network. Now sample z from prior!



Data manifold for 2-d  $z$



# Variational Autoencoders: Generating Data!

Diagonal prior on  $\mathbf{z}$   
=> independent  
latent variables

Different  
dimensions of  $\mathbf{z}$   
encode  
interpretable factors  
of variation

Degree of smile  
 $\swarrow$   
Vary  $\mathbf{z}_1$   
 $\downarrow$



$\leftarrow$  Vary  $\mathbf{z}_2$   $\rightarrow$  Head pose

# Variational Autoencoders: Generating Data!

Diagonal prior on  $\mathbf{z}$   
=> independent  
latent variables

Different  
dimensions of  $\mathbf{z}$   
encode  
interpretable factors  
of variation

Also good feature representation that  
can be computed using  $q_\phi(\mathbf{z}|\mathbf{x})$ !

Degree of smile  
 $\swarrow$   
Vary  $\mathbf{z}_1$   
 $\downarrow$



Head pose  
 $\swarrow$   
Vary  $\mathbf{z}_2$

# Variational Autoencoders: Generating Data!



32x32 CIFAR-10



Labeled Faces in the Wild

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# Variational Autoencoders

Probabilistic spin to traditional autoencoders => allows generating data

Defines an intractable density => derive and optimize a (variational) lower bound

## Pros:

- Principled approach to generative models
- Latent space  $z$  is interpretable and may be useful for other downstream tasks.

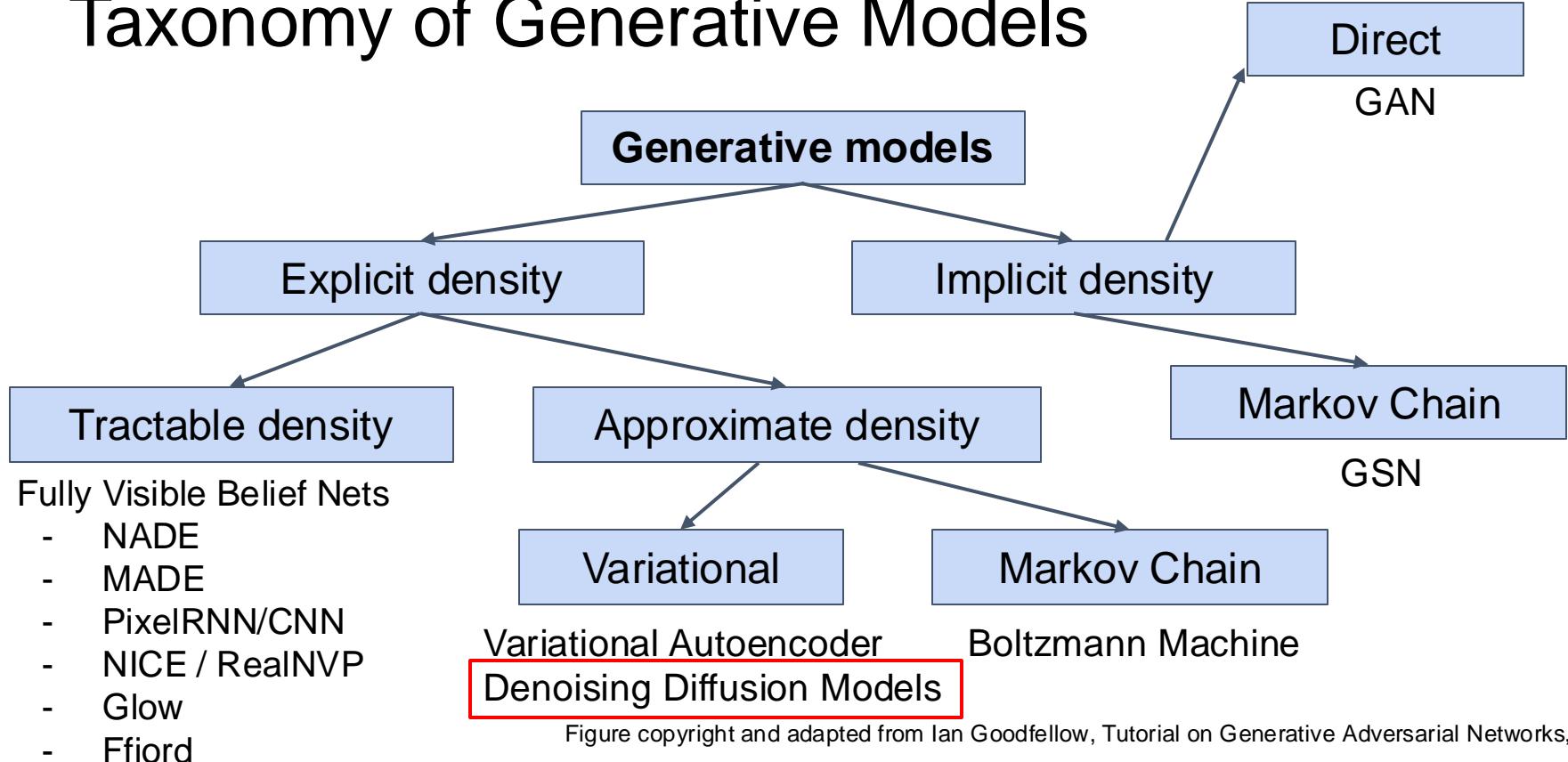
## Cons:

- Samples are blurry
- KL weights are hard to tune
- Latent distributions are aggressive representation bottlenecks that may limit the expressiveness of the model.

Can be made more powerful by making VAE hierarchical (multiple layers of latents).

**Diffusion model (denoising diffusion) can be thought of a type of hierarchical VAE!**

# Taxonomy of Generative Models



# Denoising Diffusion Probabilistic Models (DDPMs)

And Conditional Diffusion Models

TEXT DESCRIPTION

DALL-E 2

An astronaut Teddy bears A bowl of soup

riding a horse lounging in a tropical resort  
in space playing basketball with cats in  
space

in a photorealistic style in the style of Andy  
Warhol as a pencil drawing



TEXT DESCRIPTION

An astronaut **Teddy bears** A bowl of  
soup

mixing sparkling chemicals as mad  
scientists shopping for groceries **working**  
on new AI research

as kids' crayon art **on the moon in the**  
1980s underwater with 1990s technology

DALL-E 2





<https://openai.com/dall-e-2/>

[main](#) [1 branch](#) [0 tags](#)[Go to file](#)[Add file](#) ▾[Code](#) ▾ **pesser** Release under CreativeML Open RAIL M License ...69ae4b3 on Aug 22  29 commits

 assets	Release under CreativeML Open RAIL M License	2 months ago
 configs	stable diffusion	3 months ago
 data	stable diffusion	3 months ago
 ldm	stable diffusion	3 months ago
 models	add configs for training unconditional/class-conditional ldms	11 months ago
 scripts	Release under CreativeML Open RAIL M License	2 months ago
 LICENSE	Release under CreativeML Open RAIL M License	2 months ago
 README.md	Release under CreativeML Open RAIL M License	2 months ago
 Stable_Diffusion_v1_Model_Card.md	Release under CreativeML Open RAIL M License	2 months ago
 environment.yaml	Release under CreativeML Open RAIL M License	2 months ago
 main.py	add configs for training unconditional/class-conditional ldms	11 months ago
 notebook_helpers.py	add code	11 months ago
 setup.py	add code	11 months ago

[README.md](#)

## Stable Diffusion

Stable Diffusion was made possible thanks to a collaboration with [Stability AI](#) and [Runway](#) and builds upon our previous work:

[High-Resolution Image Synthesis with Latent Diffusion Models](#)

Robin Rombach\*, Andreas Blattmann\*, Dominik Lorenz, Patrick Esser, Björn Ommer

[CVPR '22 Oral](#) | [GitHub](#) | [arXiv](#) | [Project page](#)

### About

A latent text-to-image diffusion model

🔗 [ommer-lab.com/research/latent-diffus...](#)

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 33k stars

 321 watching

 5k forks

### Releases

No releases published

### Packages

No packages published

### Contributors



### Languages



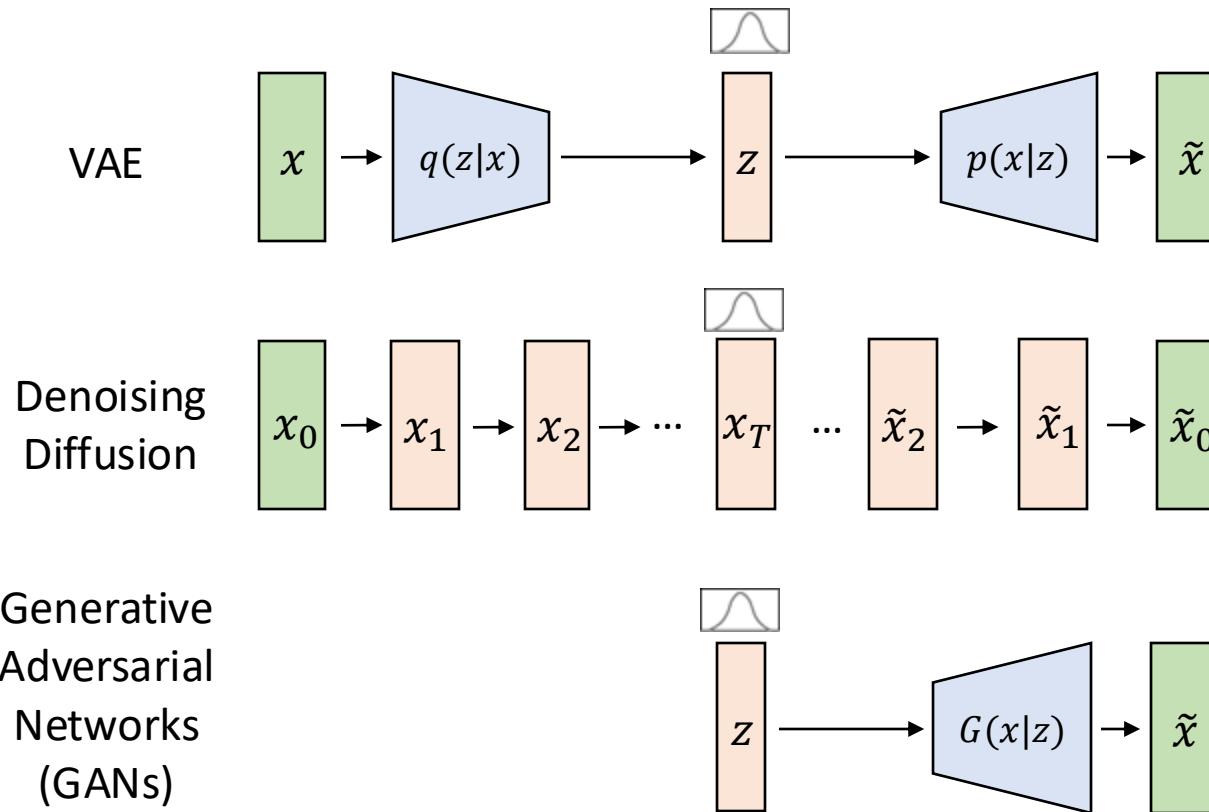
# Landscape Highlights of Diffusion Models (Nov 2022)

- basic principles
  - *Diffusion probabilistic models* ([Sohl-Dickstein et al., 2015](#))
  - *Noise-conditioned score network* (**NCSN**; [Yang & Ermon, 2019](#))
  - *Denoising diffusion probabilistic models* (**DDPM**; [Ho et al. 2020](#))
- conditional & high-res image generation
  - *Classifier-guided conditional generation* ([Dhariwal and Nichole, 2021](#))
  - *Classifier-free Diffusion Guidance* ([Ho and Salimans, 2022](#))
  - *Latent-space Diffusion* (**StableDiffusion**; [Rombach and Blattmann et al., 2022](#))
- new applications
  - *Planning with Diffusion for Flexible Behavior Synthesis* (**Diffuser**; [Janner et al., 2022](#))
  - *DreamFusion: Text-to-3D using 2D Diffusion* ([Poole and Jain et al., 2022](#))
  - *Make-A-Video: Text-to-Video Generation without Text-Video Data* ([Singer et al., 2022](#))

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# Denoising Diffusion: Image to Noise and Back



# The Denoising Diffusion Process

image from  
dataset

$x_0$



# The Denoising Diffusion Process

image from  
dataset

The “forward diffusion” process:  
add Gaussian noise each step

$$x_0 \longrightarrow x_1 \longrightarrow$$

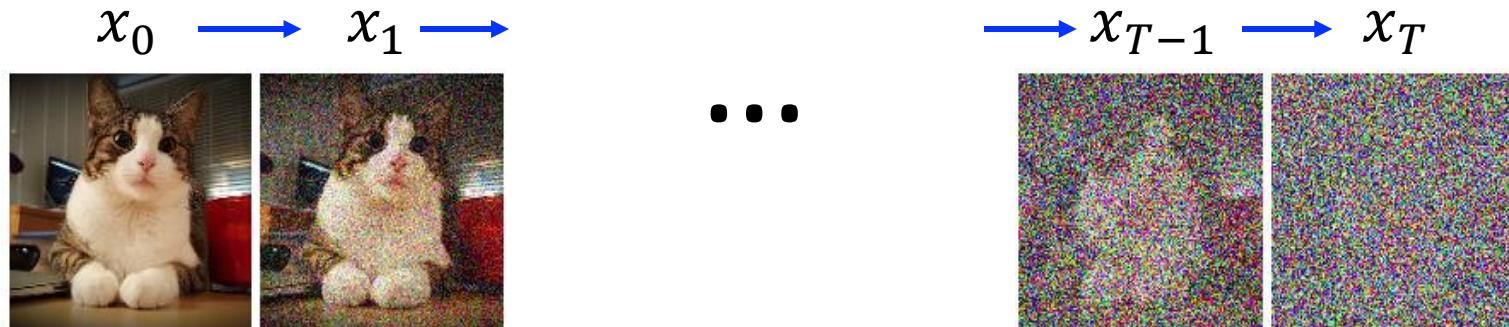


# The Denoising Diffusion Process

image from  
dataset

The “forward diffusion” process:  
add Gaussian noise each step

noise  $\mathcal{N}(0, I)$

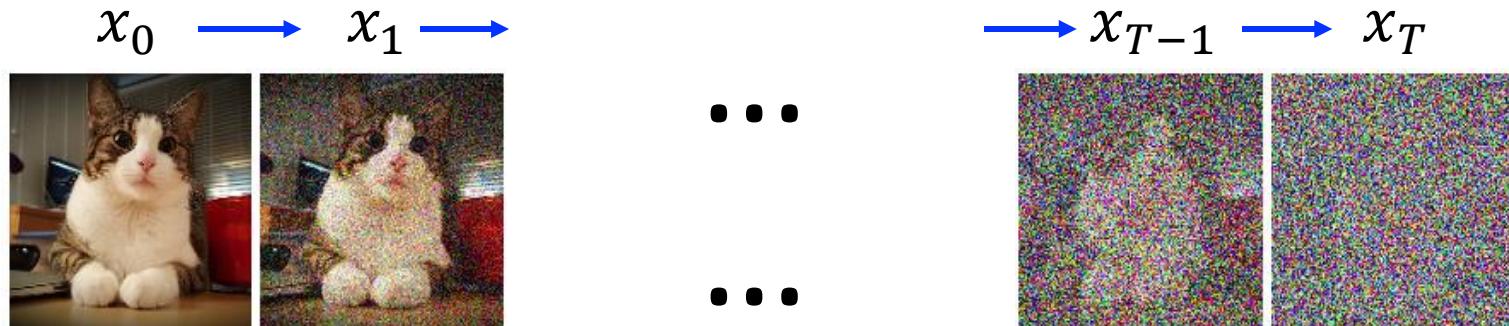


# The Denoising Diffusion Process

image from  
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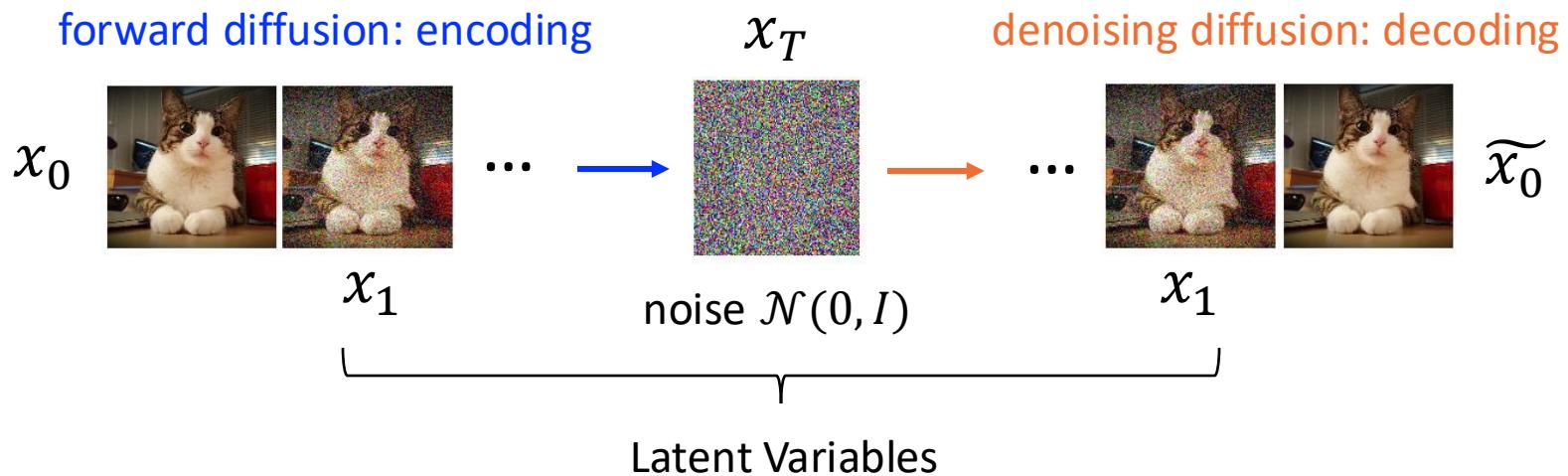
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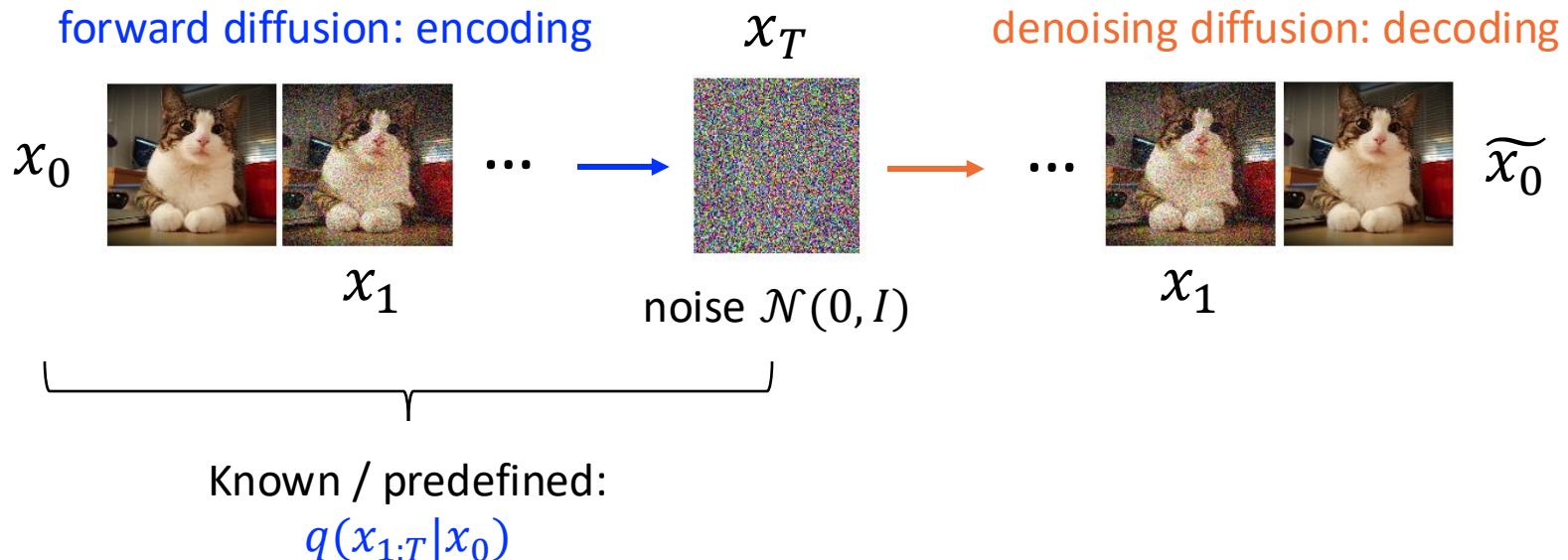


The “denoising diffusion” process:  
generate an image from noise by  
*denoising* the gaussian noises

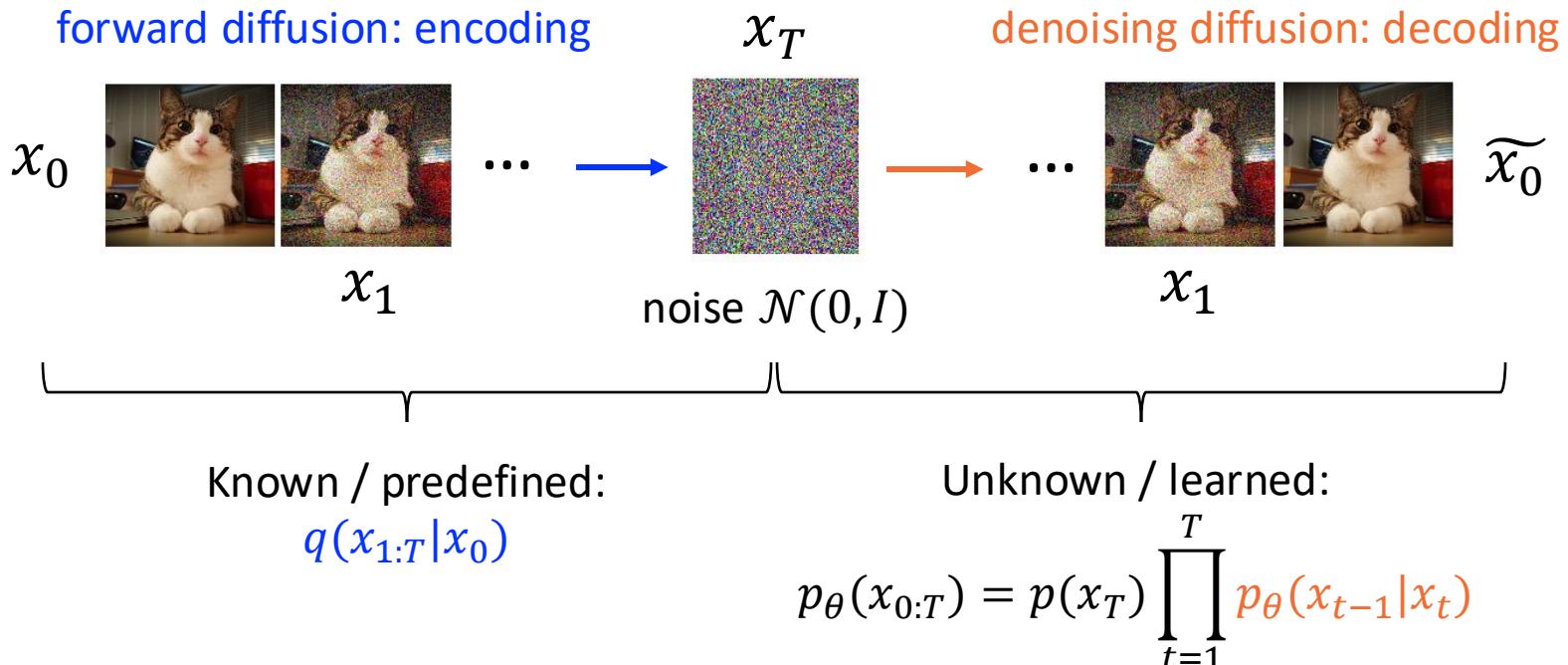
## Connection to VAEs



# Connection to VAEs

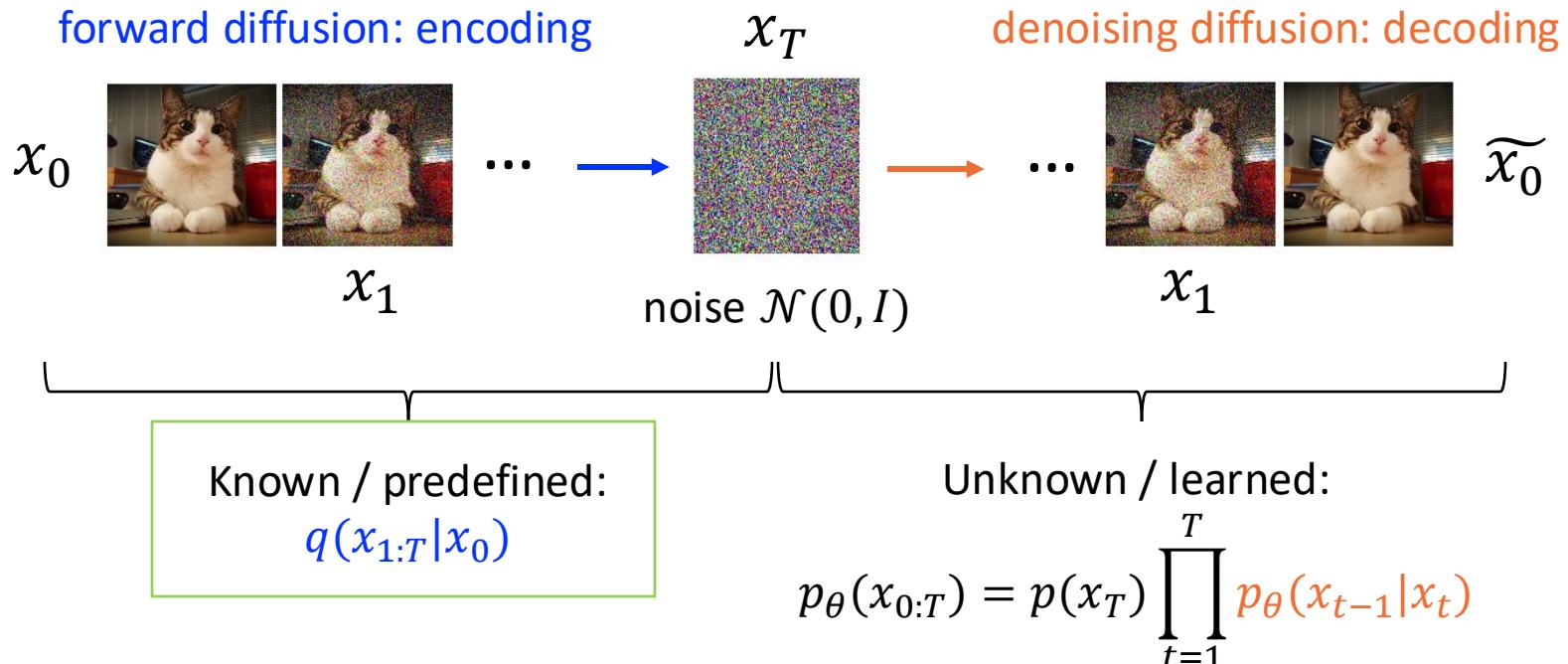


# Connection to VAEs



Similar to VAEs, use the denoising decoding process to generate new images.

# Connection to VAEs



Similar to VAEs, use the denoising decoding process to generate new images.

# The Diffusion (Encoding) Process

The **known** forward process

$$x_0 \longrightarrow x_1 \longrightarrow \dots \longrightarrow x_T$$

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$$x_0 \longrightarrow x_1 \longrightarrow \dots \longrightarrow x_T$$

$$q(x_{1:T}|x_0) = \prod_{t=1}^T q(x_t|x_{t-1}) \quad \text{Probability Chain Rule (Markov Chain)}$$

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$$q(x_t|x_{t-1}) = \mathcal{N}(x_t; (1 - \beta_t)x_{t-1}, \beta_t I) \quad \text{Conditional Gaussian}$$

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Notation: A Gaussian distribution “for”  $x_t$

Plain English: the distribution for  $x_t$  is a Gaussian with mean of  $(1 - \beta_t)x_{t-1}$ , where  $x_{t-1}$  is a sample from the previous step, and variance of  $\beta_t I$

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$\beta_t$  is the *variance schedule* at the diffusion step  $t$

$0 < \beta_1 < \beta_2 < \dots < \beta_T < 1$ , typical value range  $[0.0001, 0.02]$ , with  $T = 1000$

# The Diffusion (Encoding) Process

The **known** forward process

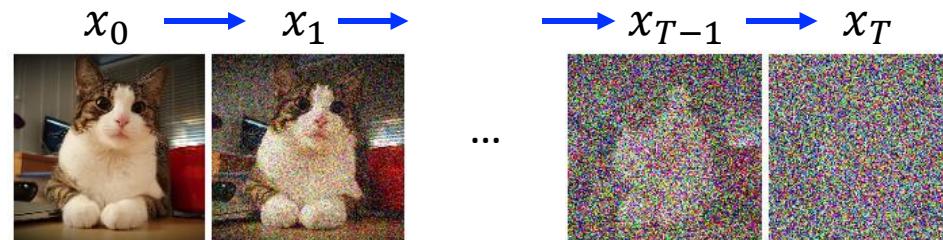
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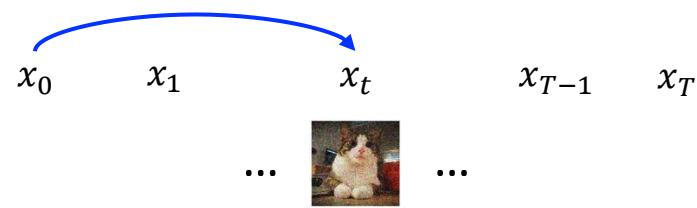
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**Nice property:** samples from an *arbitrary forward step* are also Gaussian-distributed!

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

, where  $a_t = (1 - \beta_t)$ ,  $\bar{\alpha}_t = \prod_{s=1}^t \alpha_s$



# The Diffusion (Encoding) Process

The **known** forward process

$$x_0 \longrightarrow x_1 \longrightarrow \dots \longrightarrow x_T$$

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

**Gaussian reparameterization trick** (recall from VAEs!):

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

# The Diffusion (Encoding) Process

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**Nice property:** samples from an *arbitrary forward step* are also Gaussian-distributed!

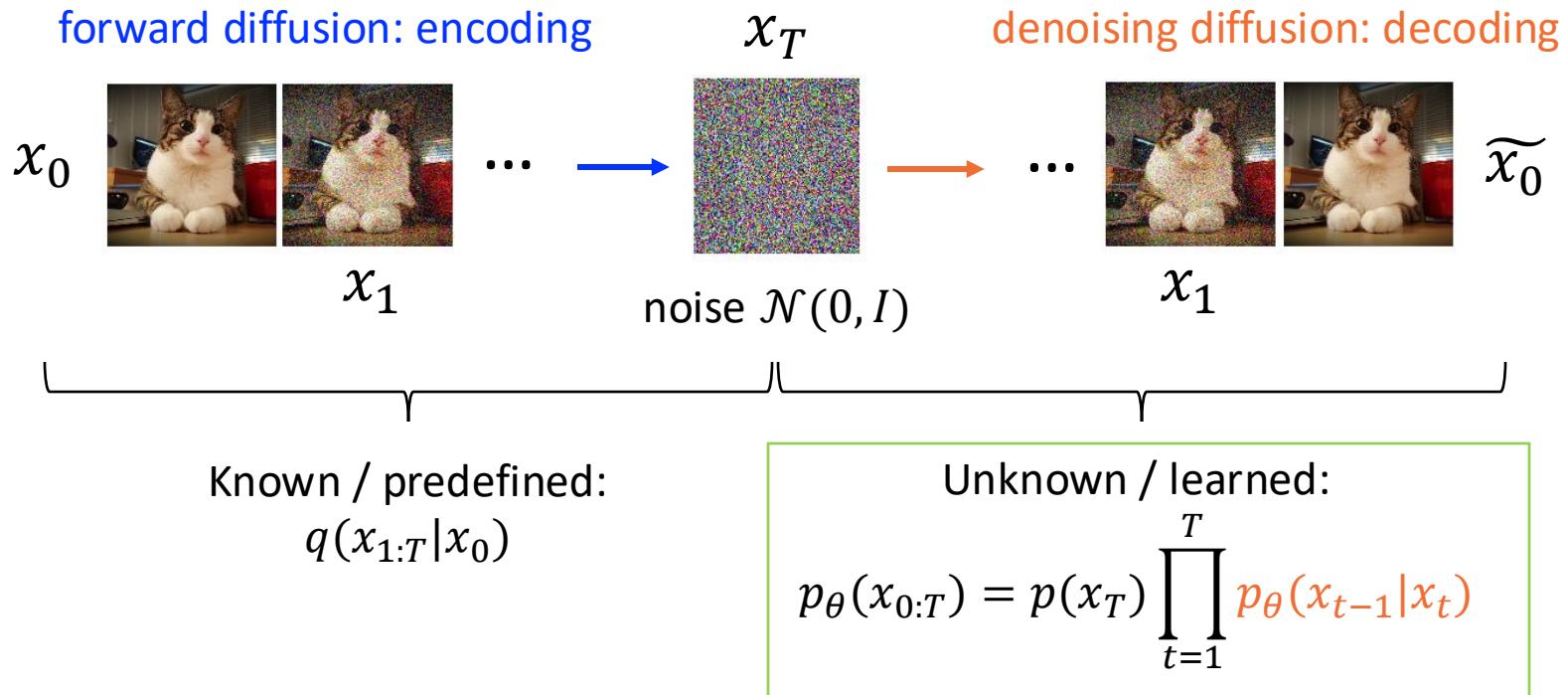
$$q(x_t|x_0) = \mathcal{N}(x_t; \sqrt{\bar{\alpha}_t}x_0, (1 - \bar{\alpha}_t)I)$$

**Gaussian reparameterization trick** (recall from VAEs!):

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

**Intuition:** We can directly compute noised sample at arbitrary step  $t$  without going through the Markov chain

# The Diffusion and Denoising Process



# The Denoising (Decoding) Process

The **learned** denoising process  $x_0 \leftarrow x_1 \leftarrow \dots \leftarrow x_T$

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Want to learn time-  
dependent mean

Assume fixed / known variance  
(simplification)

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Want to learn time-  
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Assume fixed / known variance  
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How do we form a learning objective?

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The “ground truth” noise that brought  $x_{t-1}$  to  $x_t$ .  
We know this during training because we took this sample during the forward process!

# The Denoising (Decoding) Process

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What does it look like?  $q(x_{t-1}|x_t, x_0) = \mathcal{N}(x_{t-1}; \mu_q(t), \Sigma_q(t))$

Assuming identical variance  $\Sigma_q(t)$ , we have:

$$\text{argmin}_\theta D_{KL}(q(x_{t-1}|x_t, x_0) || p_\theta(x_{t-1}|x_t)) = \text{argmin}_\theta w \|\mu_q(t) - \mu_\theta(x_t, t)\|$$

Should be variance-dependent, but constant  
works better in practice

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Intuition: learn to estimate the added noise and remove it!

Should be variance-dependent, but constant works better in practice

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We know how to learn

Assume fixed / known variance

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Assume fixed / known variance

$$x_T \sim \mathcal{N}(0, I)$$



$$x_{T-1}$$



$$p_\theta(x_{T-1}|x_{T-2})$$

...

$$p_\theta(x_1|x_0)$$

$$x_0$$



Generate new images!

# The Denoising (Decoding) Process

The **learned** denoising process  $x_0 \leftarrow x_1 \leftarrow \dots \leftarrow x_T$

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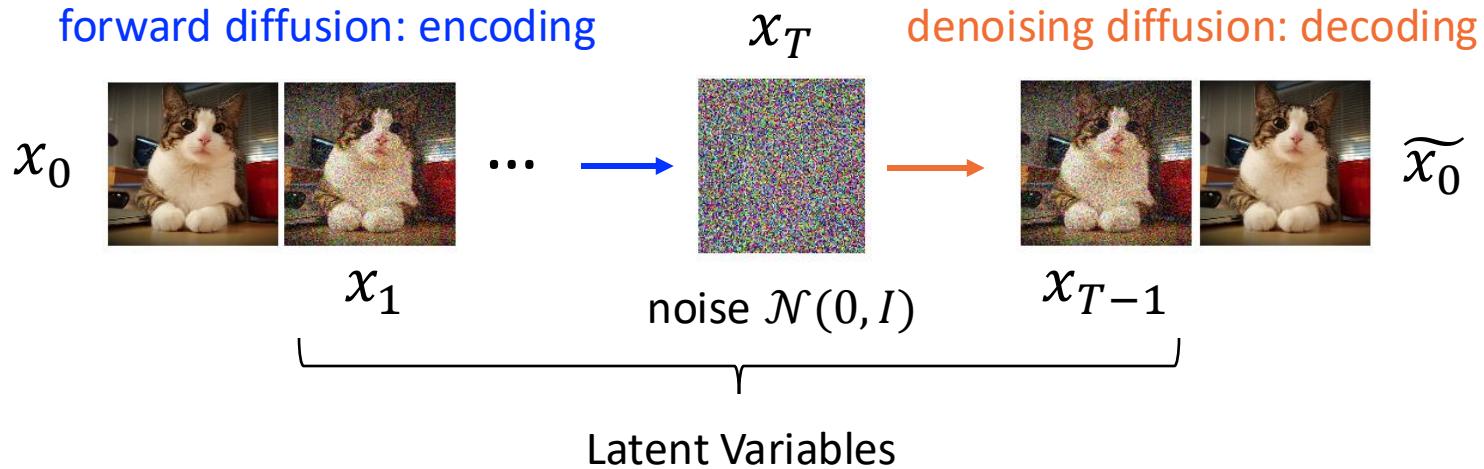
We know how to learn

Assume fixed / known variance

How did we arrive at the learning objective? Why is this mathematically correct?

Let's go back to the basics of variational models ...

# Connection to VAEs



$$p(x) = \int p(x|z)p(z)dz \quad \text{Intractable to estimate!}$$

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$$\begin{aligned} \log p(x) &= E_q \left[ \log \frac{p(x|z)p(z)}{q(z|x)} \right] + D_{KL}(q(z|x)||p(z|x)) \\ &\geq E_q \left[ \log \frac{p(x|z)p(z)}{q(z|x)} \right] \end{aligned}$$

Evidence Lower Bound (ELBO)

Known forward noise (posterior)



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$$\log p(x_0) \geq E_q \left[ \log \frac{p(x_0|x_{1:T})p(x_{1:T})}{q(x_{1:T}|x_0)} \right] \quad x = x_0, z = x_{1:T}$$

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$$= E_q \left[ \log \frac{p(x_T) \prod_{t=1}^T p_\theta(x_{t-1}|x_t)}{\prod_{t=1}^T q(x_t|x_{t-1})} \right]$$

← reverse denoising  
← forward diffusion

$$p(x) = \int p(x|z)p(z)dz \quad \text{Intractable to estimate!}$$

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... (derivation omitted, see Sohl-Dickstein *et al.*, 2015 Appendix B)

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$$= -E_q[D_{KL}(q(x_T|x_0)||p(x_T))] - \sum_{t=2}^T D_{KL}(q(x_{t-1}|x_t, x_0)||p_\theta(x_{t-1}|x_t)) + \log p_\theta(x_0|x_1)$$

$$p(x) = \int p(x|z)p(z)dz \quad \text{Intractable to estimate!}$$

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known



Easy to optimize / sometimes omitted

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Maximize the agreement between the predicted reverse diffusion distribution  $p_\theta$  and the “ground truth” reverse diffusion distribution  $q$

$$p(x) = \int p(x|z)p(z)dz \quad \text{Intractable to estimate!}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \log p(x) &= E_q \left[ \log \frac{p(x|z)p(z)}{q(z|x)} \right] + D_{KL}(q(z|x)||p(z|x)) \\ &\geq E_q \left[ \log \frac{p(x|z)p(z)}{q(z|x)} \right] \end{aligned} \quad \text{Evidence Lower Bound (ELBO)}$$

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$$\begin{aligned} &= -E_q[D_{KL}(q(x_T|x_0)||p(x_T))] - \sum_{t=2}^T D_{KL}(q(x_{t-1}|x_t, x_0)||p_\theta(x_{t-1}|x_t)) + \log p_\theta(x_0|x_1) \\ q(x_{t-1}|x_t) &= q(x_{t-1}|x_t, x_0) \quad (\text{markov assumption}) \\ &= \frac{q(x_t|x_{t-1}, x_0)q(x_{t-1}|x_0)}{q(x_t|x_0)} \quad (\text{Bayes rule}) \\ &= \frac{\mathcal{N}(x_t; \sqrt{a_t}x_{t-1}, \beta_t I) \mathcal{N}(x_{t-1}; \sqrt{\bar{a}_{t-1}}x_{t-1}, (1-\bar{a}_{t-1})I)}{\mathcal{N}(x_t; \sqrt{\bar{a}_t}x_0, (1-\bar{a}_{t-1})I)} \\ &\propto \mathcal{N}\left(x_{t-1}; \frac{\sqrt{a_t}(1-\bar{a}_{t-1})x_t + \sqrt{\bar{a}_{t-1}}(1-a_t)x_0}{1-\sqrt{\bar{a}_t}}, \Sigma_q(t)\right) \quad (\text{Property of Gaussian}) \end{aligned}$$

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Proof using bayes rule and gaussian reparameterization trick

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Proof using bayes rule and gaussian reparameterization trick

The “ground truth” noise that brought  $x_0$  to  $x_t$

$$p(x) = \int p(x|z)p(z)dz \quad \text{Intractable to estimate!}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \log p(x) &= E_q \left[ \log \frac{p(x|z)p(z)}{q(z|x)} \right] + D_{KL}(q(z|x)||p(z|x)) \\ &\geq E_q \left[ \log \frac{p(x|z)p(z)}{q(z|x)} \right] \end{aligned} \quad \text{Evidence Lower Bound (ELBO)}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \log p(x_0) &\geq E_q \left[ \log \frac{p(x_0|x_{1:T})p(x_{1:T})}{q(x_{1:T}|x_0)} \right] \quad x = x_0, z = x_{1:T} \\ &= E_q \left[ \log \frac{p(x_T) \prod_{t=1}^T p_\theta(x_{t-1}|x_t)}{\prod_{t=1}^T q(x_t|x_{t-1})} \right] \end{aligned}$$

... (derivation omitted, see Sohl-Dickstein *et al.*, 2015 Appendix B)

$$= -E_q[D_{KL}(q(x_T|x_0)||p(x_T))] - \boxed{\sum_{t=2}^T D_{KL}(q(x_{t-1}|x_t, x_0)||p_\theta(x_{t-1}|x_t))} + \log p_\theta(x_0|x_1)$$

Minimize the difference of distribution means (assuming identical variance)

$$\operatorname{argmin}_\theta w ||\mu_q(t) - \mu_\theta(x_t, t)||$$

# Learning the Denoising Process

The **learned** denoising process  $x_0 \leftarrow x_1 \leftarrow \dots \leftarrow x_T$

$$p_\theta(x_{0:T}) = p(x_T) \prod_{t=1}^T p_\theta(x_{t-1}|x_t)$$

$$p_\theta(x_{t-1}|x_t) = \mathcal{N}(x_{t-1}; \mu_\theta(x_t, t), \Sigma(t)) \quad \text{Conditional Gaussian}$$

Learning objective:  $\operatorname{argmin}_\theta \|\mu_q(t) - \mu_\theta(x_t, t)\|$

$$\mu_q(t) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\alpha_t}} \left( x_t - \frac{\beta_t}{\sqrt{(1 - \bar{\alpha}_t)}} \epsilon \right), \quad \epsilon \sim \mathcal{N}(0, I)$$

# Learning the Denoising Process

The **learned** denoising process  $x_0 \leftarrow x_1 \leftarrow \dots \leftarrow x_T$

$$p_\theta(x_{0:T}) = p(x_T) \prod_{t=1}^T p_\theta(x_{t-1}|x_t)$$

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Do we actually need to learn the entire  $\mu_\theta(x_t, t)$ ?

# Learning the Denoising Process

The learned denoising process  $x_0 \leftarrow x_1 \leftarrow \dots \leftarrow x_T$

$$p_{\theta}(x_{0:T}) = p(x_T) \prod_{t=1}^T p_{\theta}(x_{t-1}|x_t)$$

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Learning objective:  $\text{argmin}_{\theta} \|\mu_q(t) - \mu_{\theta}(x_t, t)\|$

$$\mu_q(t) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\alpha_t}} \left( x_t - \frac{\beta_t}{\sqrt{(1 - \bar{\alpha}_t)}} \epsilon \right), \quad \epsilon \sim \mathcal{N}(0, I)$$

known during inference      Unknown during inference      Recall: this is the “ground truth” noise that brought  $x_0$  to  $x_t$

# Learning the Denoising Process

The **learned** denoising process  $x_0 \leftarrow x_1 \leftarrow \dots \leftarrow x_T$

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Learning objective:  $\operatorname{argmin}_\theta \|\mu_q(t) - \mu_\theta(x_t, t)\|$

$$\mu_q(t) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\alpha_t}} \left( x_t - \frac{\beta_t}{\sqrt{(1 - \bar{\alpha}_t)}} \epsilon \right), \quad \epsilon \sim \mathcal{N}(0, I)$$

known during inference      Unknown during inference      Recall: this is the “ground truth” noise that brought  $x_0$  to  $x_t$

Idea: just learn  $\epsilon$  with  $\epsilon_\theta(x_t, t)$ !

# Learning the Denoising Process

The **learned** denoising process  $x_0 \leftarrow x_1 \leftarrow \dots \leftarrow x_T$

$$p_\theta(x_{0:T}) = p(x_T) \prod_{t=1}^T p_\theta(x_{t-1}|x_t)$$

$$p_\theta(x_{t-1}|x_t) = \mathcal{N}(x_{t-1}; \mu_\theta(x_t, t), \Sigma(t)) \quad \text{Conditional Gaussian}$$

Simplified learning objective:  $\operatorname{argmin}_\theta \|\epsilon - \epsilon_\theta(x_t, t)\|$

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The **learned** denoising process  $x_0 \leftarrow x_1 \leftarrow \dots \leftarrow x_T$

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Simplified learning objective:  $\operatorname{argmin}_\theta \|\epsilon - \epsilon_\theta(x_t, t)\|$

Recall: the simplified  $t$ -step forward sample:

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

# Learning the Denoising Process

The **learned** denoising process  $x_0 \leftarrow x_1 \leftarrow \dots \leftarrow x_T$

$$p_\theta(x_{0:T}) = p(x_T) \prod_{t=1}^T p_\theta(x_{t-1}|x_t)$$

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Simplified learning objective:  $\operatorname{argmin}_\theta \|\epsilon - \epsilon_\theta(\sqrt{\bar{\alpha}_t}x_0 + \sqrt{1 - \bar{\alpha}_t}\epsilon, t)\|$

Recall: the simplified *t*-step forward sample:

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

# Learning the Denoising Process

The **learned** denoising process  $x_0 \leftarrow x_1 \leftarrow \dots \leftarrow x_T$

$$p_\theta(x_{0:T}) = p(x_T) \prod_{t=1}^T p_\theta(x_{t-1}|x_t)$$

$$p_\theta(x_{t-1}|x_t) = \mathcal{N}(x_{t-1}; \mu_\theta(x_t, t), \Sigma(t)) \quad \text{Conditional Gaussian}$$

Simplified learning objective:  $\operatorname{argmin}_\theta \|\epsilon - \epsilon_\theta(\sqrt{\bar{\alpha}_t}x_0 + \sqrt{1-\bar{\alpha}_t}\epsilon, t)\|$

$$\text{Inference time: } \mu_\theta(x_t, t) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\alpha_t}} \left( x_t - \frac{\beta_t}{\sqrt{1-\bar{\alpha}_t}} \epsilon_\theta(x_t, t) \right)$$

Predicted “denoising noise”

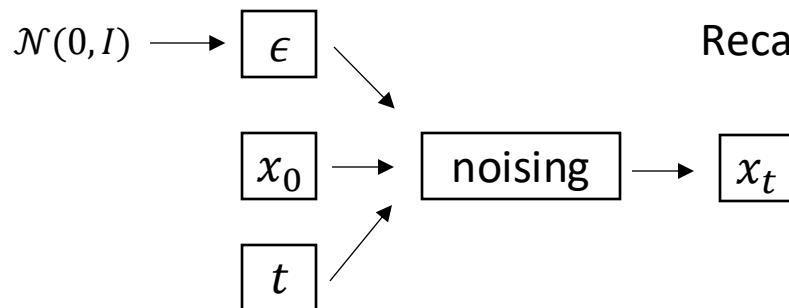
# The Denoising Diffusion Algorithm

---

## 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  
$$\nabla_{\theta} \left\| \boldsymbol{\epsilon} - \boldsymbol{\epsilon}_{\theta}(\sqrt{\bar{\alpha}_t} \mathbf{x}_0 + \sqrt{1 - \bar{\alpha}_t} \boldsymbol{\epsilon}, t) \right\|^2$$
  - 6: **until** converged
- 



Recall: the simplified  $t$ -step forward sample:

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

# The Denoising Diffusion Algorithm

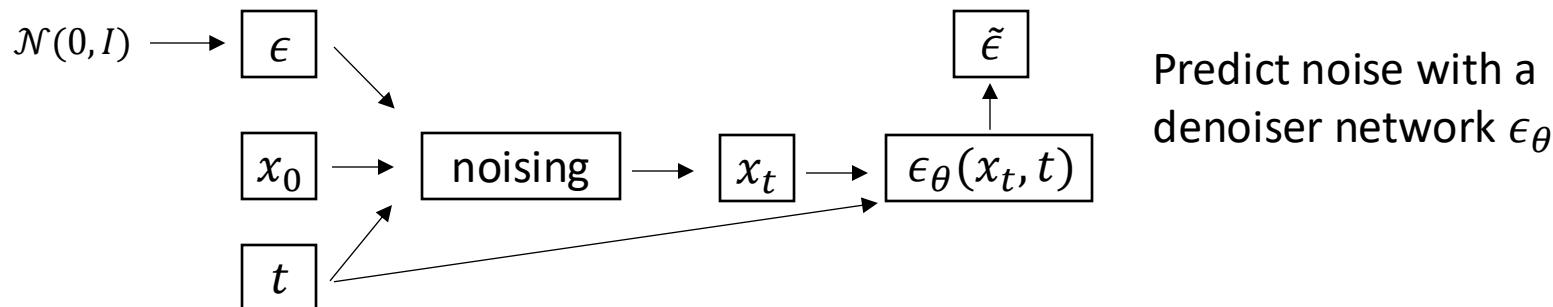
---

## Algorithm 1 Training

---

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

---



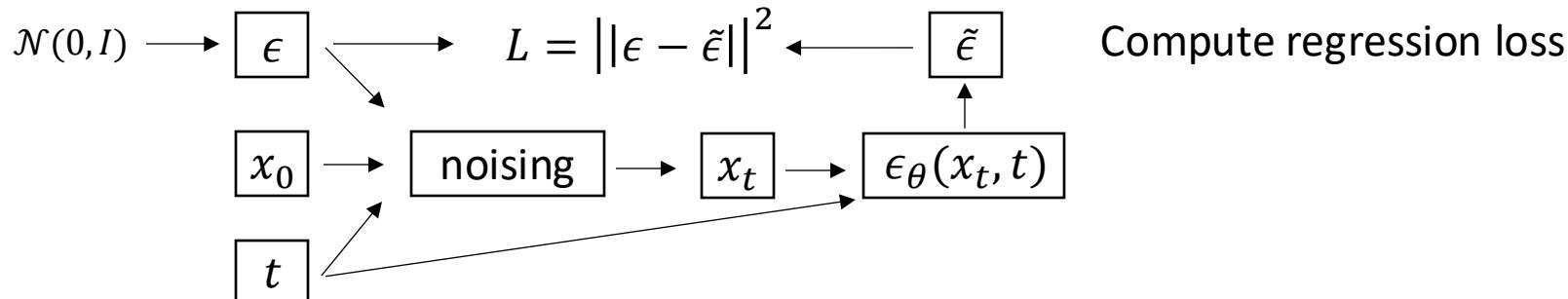
# The Denoising Diffusion Algorithm

---

## Algorithm 1 Training

---

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# The Denoising Diffusion Algorithm

---

## Algorithm 1 Training

---

```
1: repeat
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5:   Take gradient descent step on
      
$$\nabla_{\theta} \left\| \epsilon - \epsilon_{\theta}(\sqrt{\bar{\alpha}_t} \mathbf{x}_0 + \sqrt{1 - \bar{\alpha}_t} \epsilon, t) \right\|^2$$

6: until converged
```

---

---

## 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  $\mathbf{x}_0$ 
```

---

# The Denoising 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:    $\epsilon \sim \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{I})$ 
5:   Take gradient descent step on
       $\nabla_{\theta} \|\epsilon - \epsilon_{\theta}(\sqrt{\bar{\alpha}_t} \mathbf{x}_0 + \sqrt{1 - \bar{\alpha}_t} \epsilon, t)\|^2$ 
6: until converged
```

---

---

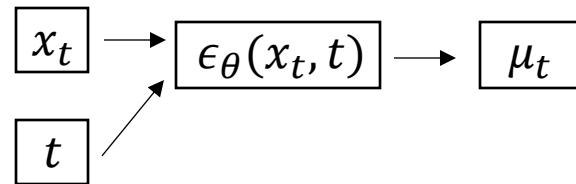
## Algorithm 2 Sampling

---

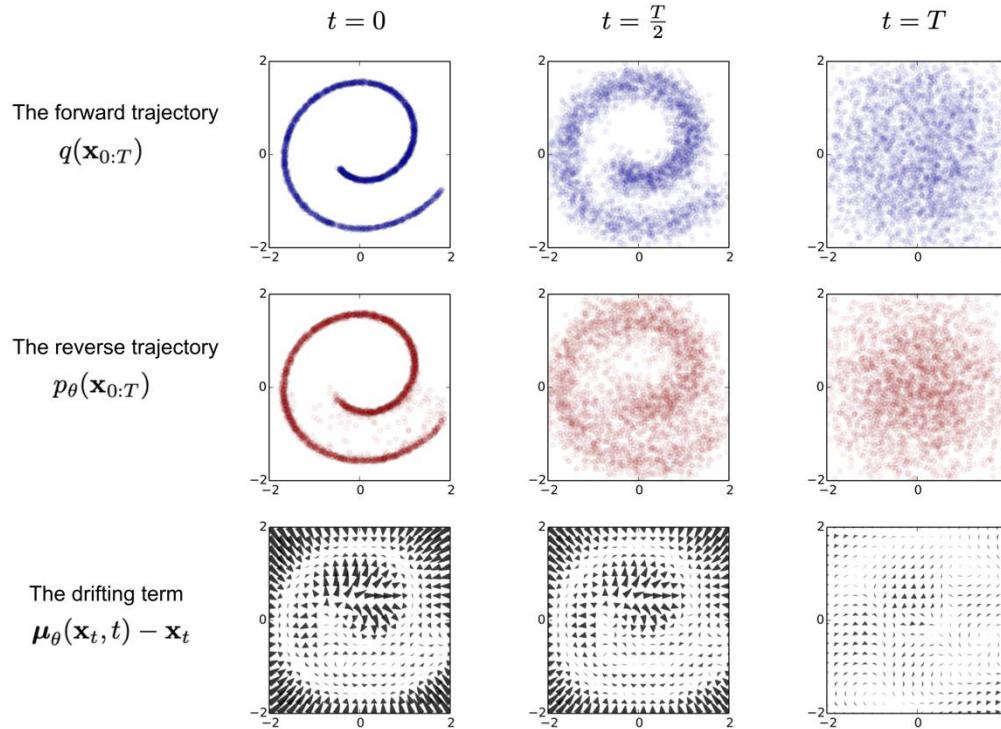
```
1:  $\mathbf{x}_T \sim \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{I})$ 
2: for  $t = T, \dots, 1$  do
3:    $\mathbf{z} \sim \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{I})$  if  $t > 1$ , else  $\mathbf{z} = \mathbf{0}$ 
4:    $\mathbf{x}_{t-1} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\alpha_t}} \left( \mathbf{x}_t - \frac{1 - \alpha_t}{\sqrt{1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

---

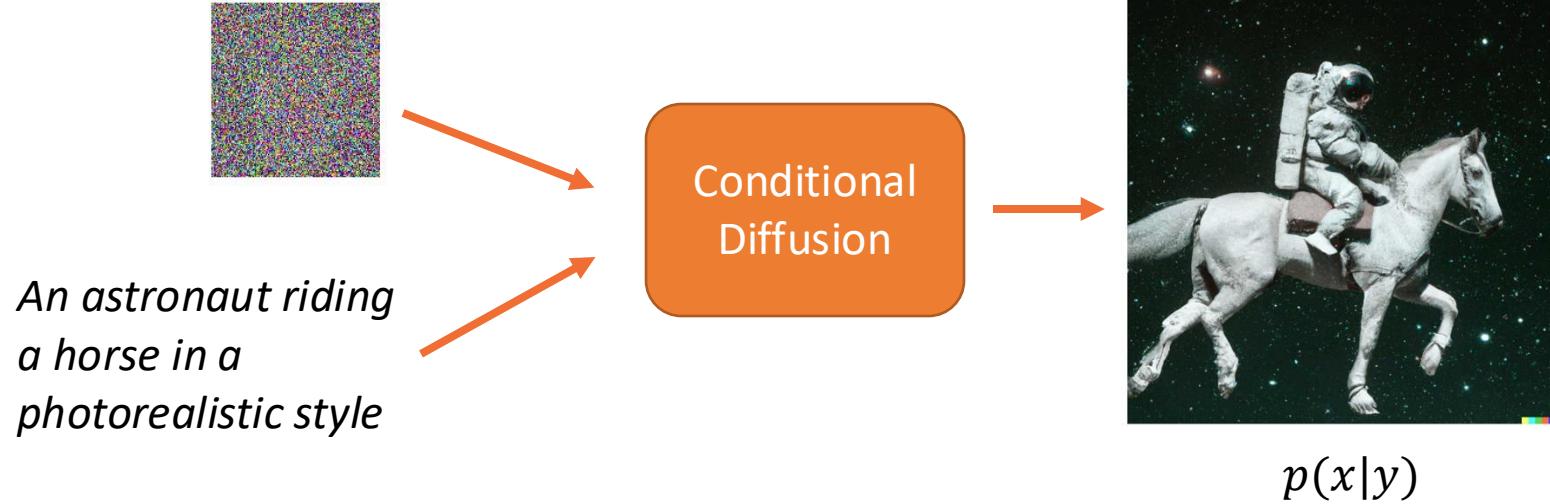
$$p_{\theta}(x_{t-1}|x_t) = \mathcal{N}(x_{t-1}; \mu(t), \Sigma(t))$$



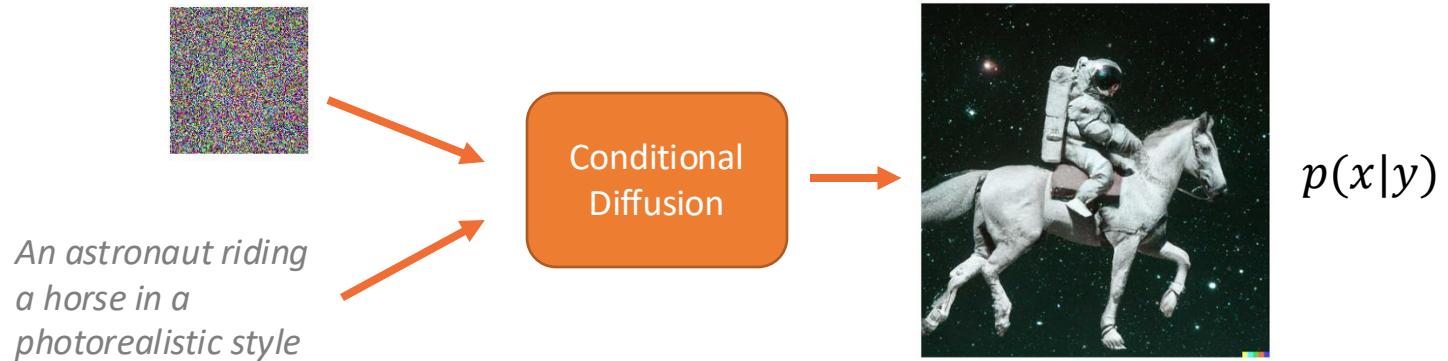
# Visualizing the Diffusion Process on 2D data



# Conditional Diffusion Models



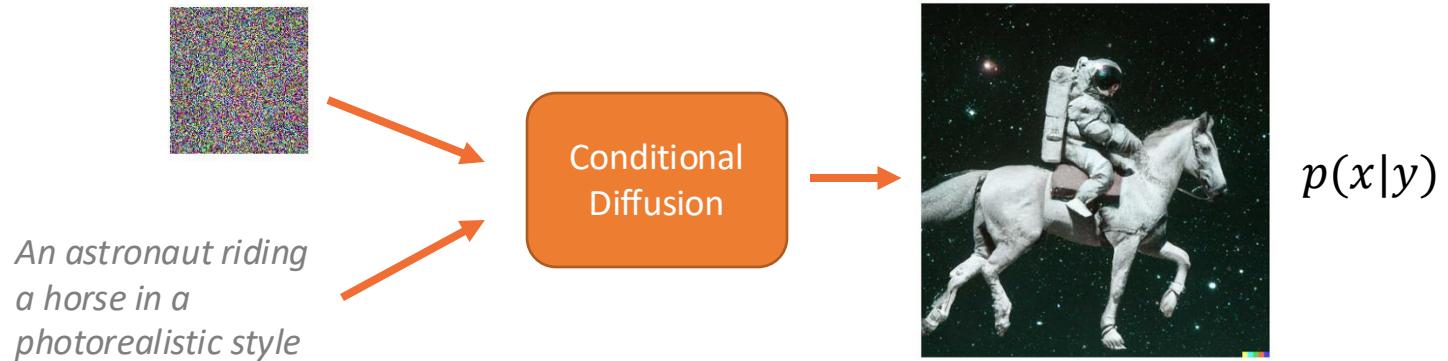
# Conditional Diffusion Models



Simple idea: just condition the model on some text labels  $y$ !

$$\epsilon_{\theta}(x_t, y, t)$$

# Conditional Diffusion Models

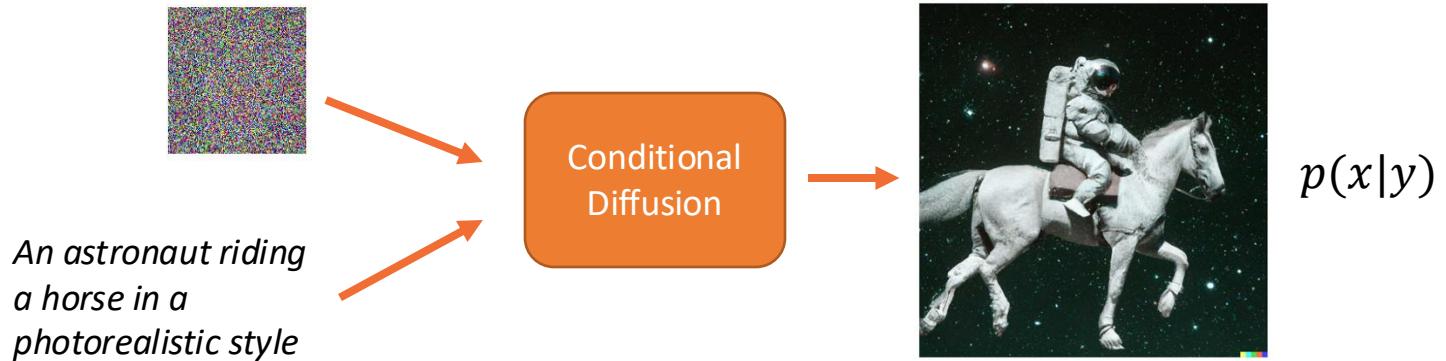


Simple idea: just condition the model on some text labels  $y$ !

$$\epsilon_\theta(x_t, y, t)$$

Problem: Very blurry generation

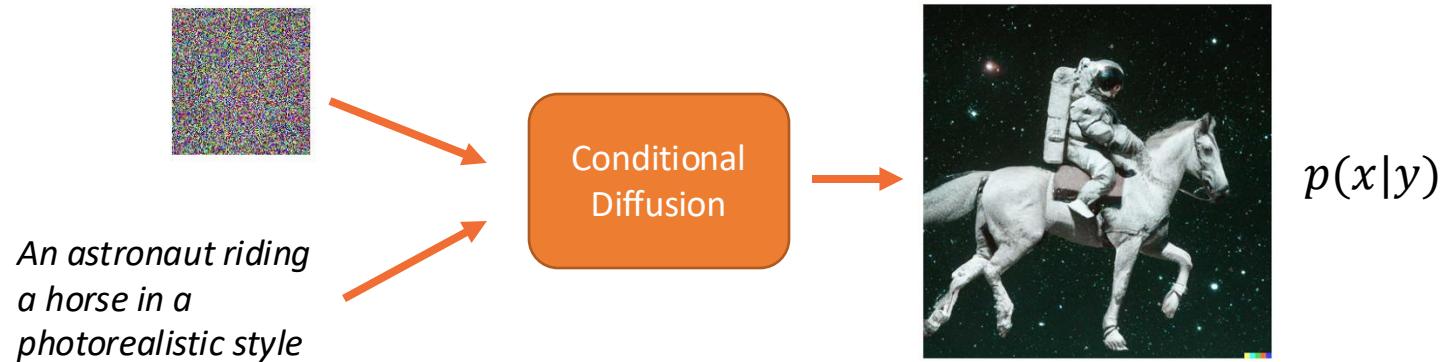
# Classifier-guided Diffusion



Better idea: use the *gradients* from an image captioning model  $f_\varphi(y|x_t)$  to guide the diffusion process!

$$\bar{\epsilon}_\theta(x_t, t) = \epsilon_\theta(x_t, t) - \sqrt{1 - \bar{\alpha}_t} \nabla_{x_t} \log f_\varphi(y|x_t)$$

# Classifier-guided Diffusion

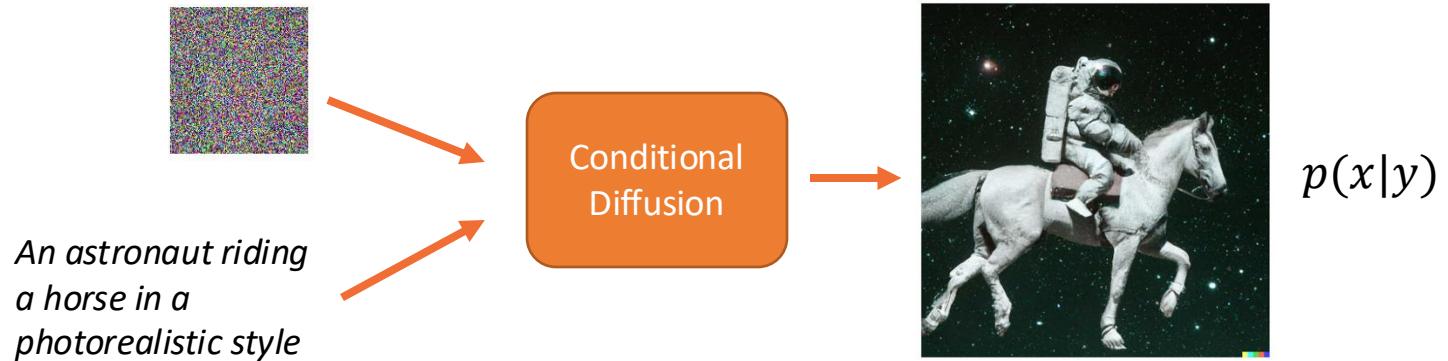


Better idea: use the *gradients* from an image captioning model  $f_\varphi(y|x_t)$  to guide the diffusion process!

$$\bar{\epsilon}_\theta(x_t, t) = \epsilon_\theta(x_t, t) - \sqrt{1 - \bar{\alpha}_t} \nabla_{x_t} \log f_\varphi(y|x_t)$$

Problem: need a classifier

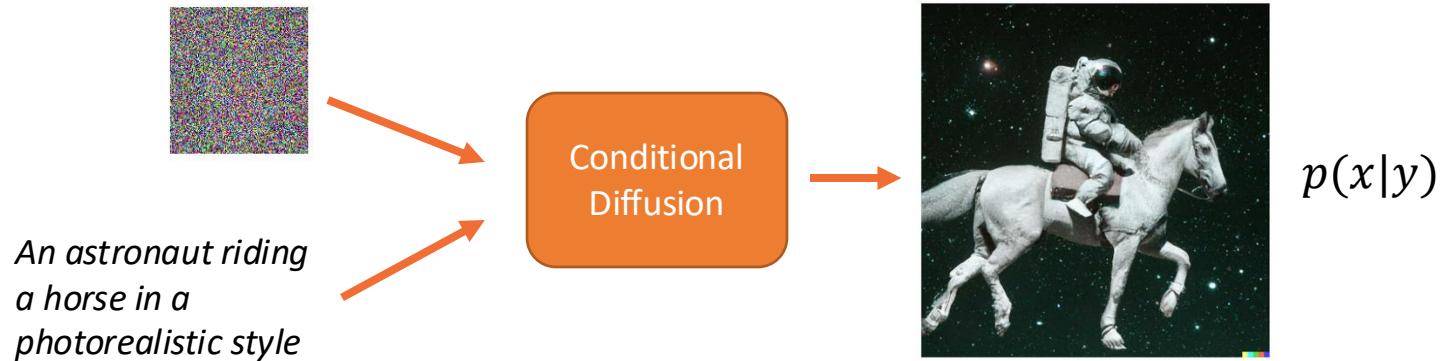
# Classifier-free Guided Diffusion



**Classifier-free Guided Diffusion:** estimate the gradient of the classifier model with conditional diffusion models!

$$\nabla_{x_t} \log f_\varphi(y|x_t) = -\frac{1}{\sqrt{1-\bar{\alpha}_t}} (\epsilon_\theta(x_t, t, y) - \epsilon_\theta(x_t, t))$$

# Classifier-free Guided Diffusion



**Classifier-free Guided Diffusion:** estimate the gradient of the classifier model with conditional diffusion models!

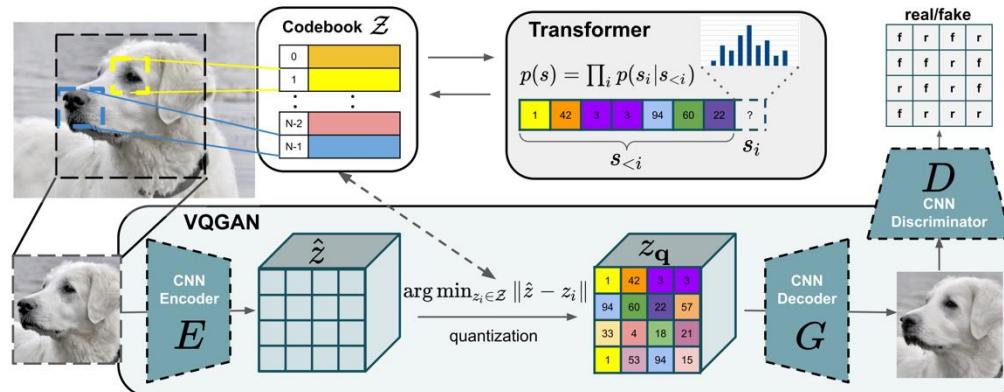
$$\nabla_{x_t} \log f_\varphi(y|x_t) = -\frac{1}{\sqrt{1-\bar{\alpha}_t}} (\epsilon_\theta(x_t, t, y) - \bar{\epsilon}_\theta(x_t, t))$$
$$\bar{\epsilon}_\theta(x_t, t, y) = (w+1)\epsilon_\theta(x_t, t, y) - w\epsilon_\theta(x_t, t)$$

Linearly combine denoisers from an unconditional distribution and a conditional distribution

# Latent-space Diffusion

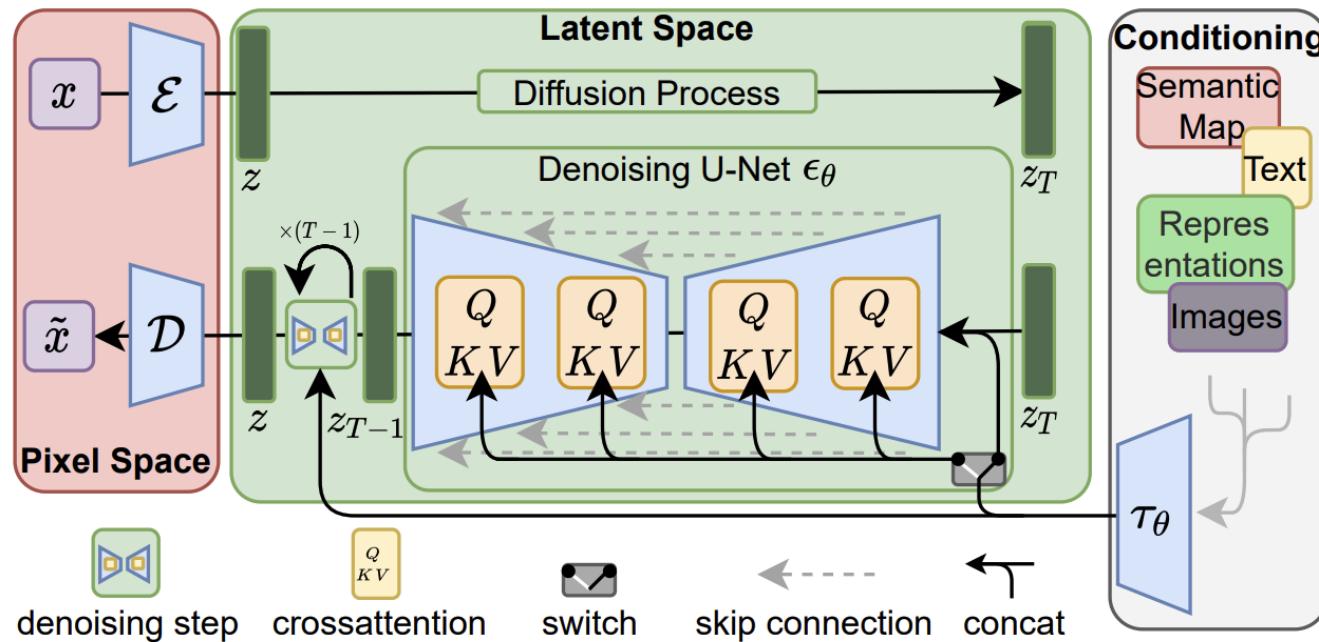
Problem: Hard to learn diffusion process on high-resolution images

Solution: learn a low-dimensional latent space using a ViT-based autoencoder and *do diffusion on the latent space!*

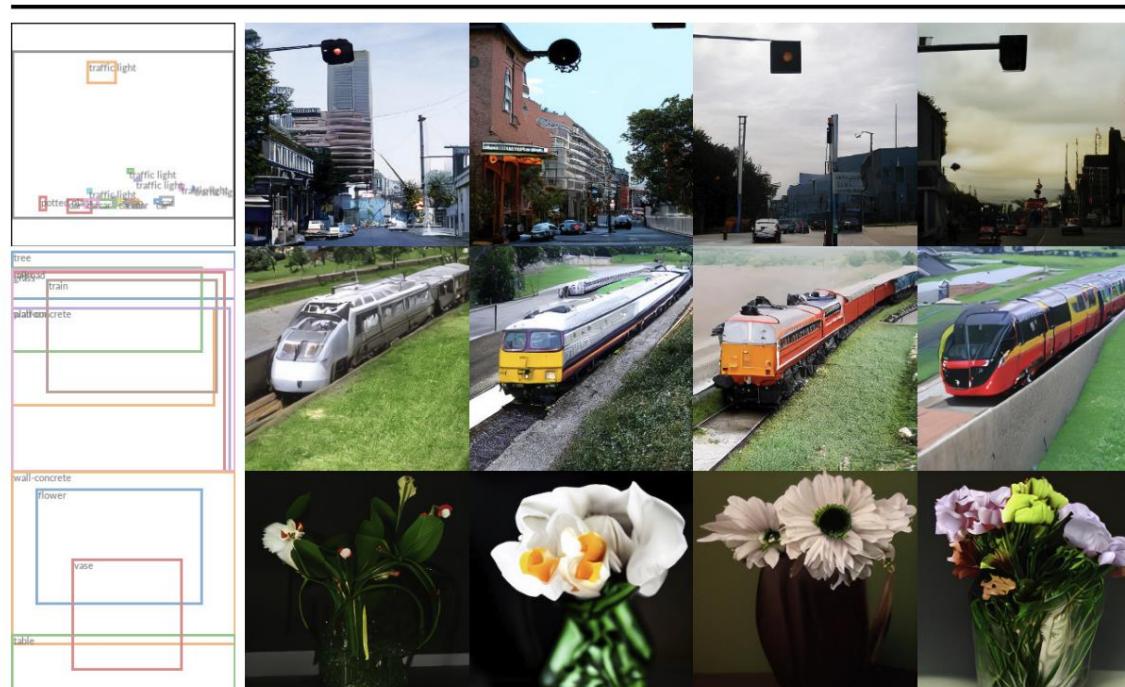


The latent space autoencoder

# “StableDiffusion”



# “StableDiffusion”



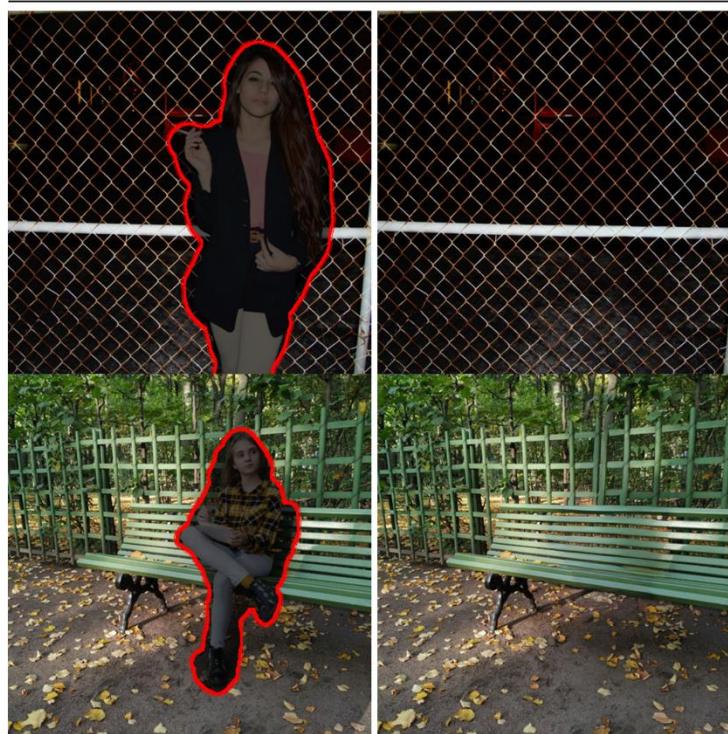
Layout-Conditional Generation

# “StableDiffusion”



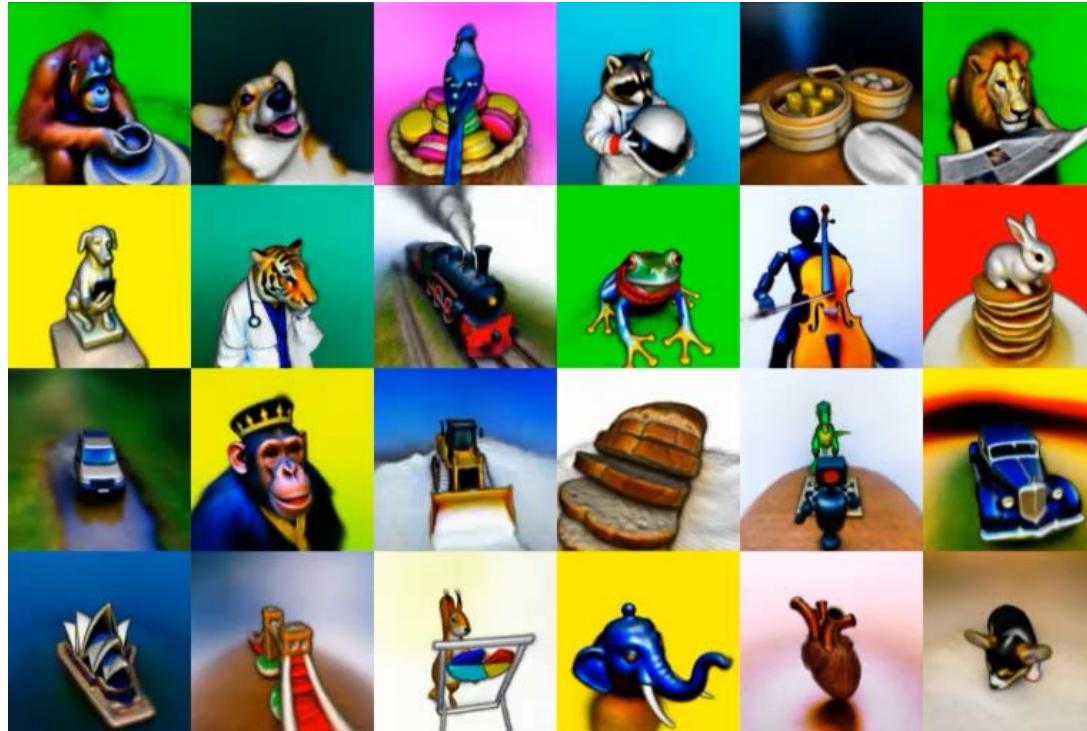
Segmentation-Conditional Generation

# “StableDiffusion”



Inpainting

# Beyond Image Generation

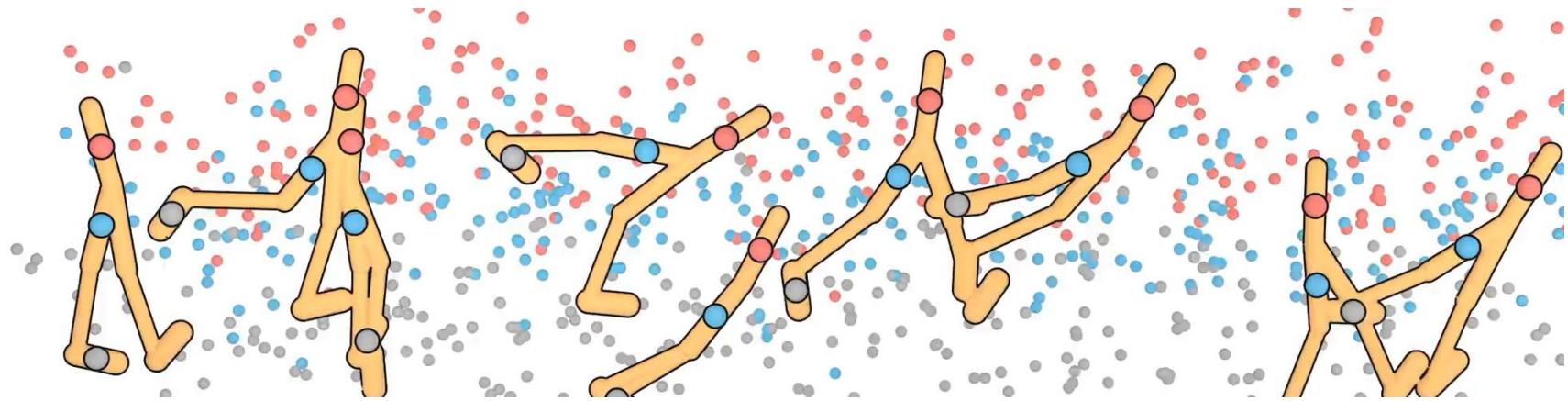


# Beyond Image Generation



<https://ai.facebook.com/blog/generative-ai-text-to-video/>

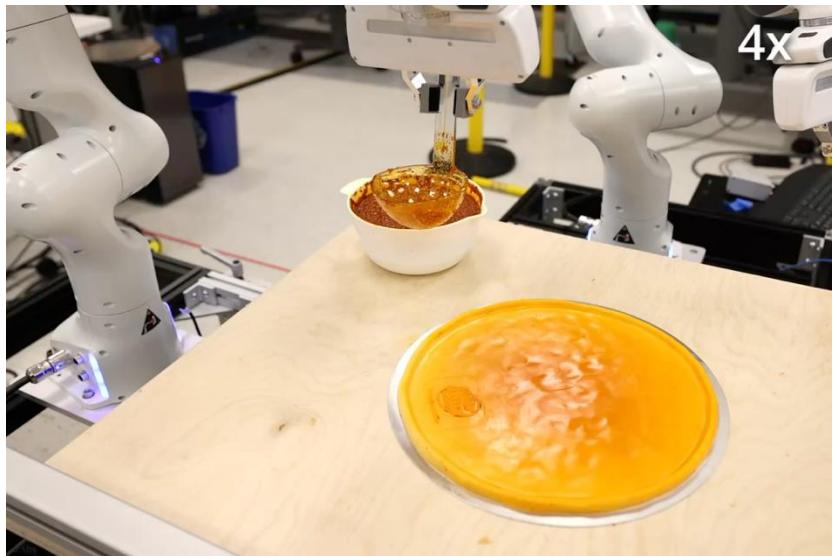
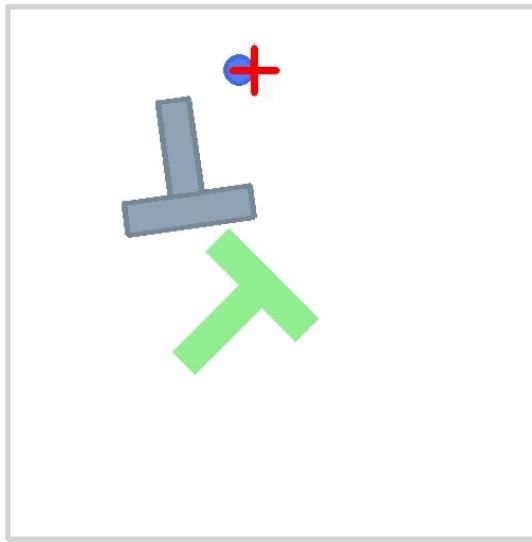
# Beyond Image Generation



DecisionDiffuser (Ajay, Gupta, Du et al., 2023)  
Model future state and reward distributions

$$p(r_{t:t+H}, s_{t:t+H} | s_t)$$

# Beyond Image Generation

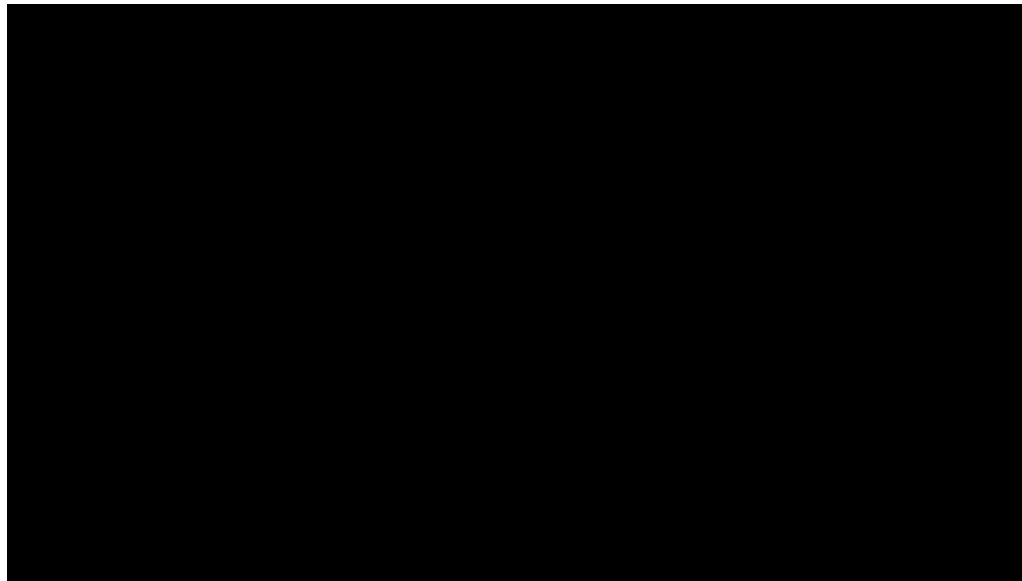


Diffusion Policy (Chi et al., 2023)

Model multimodal action distributions (implement this in your HW4!)

$$p(a_{t:t+H}|s_t)$$

# Beyond Image Generation



Generative Skill Chaining (Mishra et al., 2023)

# Additional resources / tutorials

- Overview of the research landscape: [What are Diffusion Models?](#)
- More math! [Understanding Diffusion Models: A Unified Perspective](#)
- Tutorial with hands-on example: [The Annotated Diffusion Model](#)
- Nice introduction video: [What are Diffusion Models?](#)
- CVPR Tutorial: [Denoising Diffusion-based Generative Modeling: Foundations and Applications](#)

# Summary

- Denoising Diffusion model is a type of generative model that learns the process of “denoising” a known noise source (Gaussian).
- We can construct a learning problem by deriving the evidence lower bound (ELBO) of the denoising process.
- The learning objective is to minimize the KL divergence between the “ground truth” and the learned denoising distribution.
- A simplified learning objective is to estimate the noise of the forward diffusion process.
- The diffusion process can be guided to generate targeted samples.
- Can be applied to many different domains. Same underlying principle.
- Very hot topic!