

Deep Unsupervised Learning using Nonequilibrium Thermodynamics



서울시립대학교
UNIVERSITY OF SEOUL



CIDA Lab.

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“In machine learning, diffusion models, also known as diffusion probabilistic models or score-based generative models, are a class of latent variable generative models.

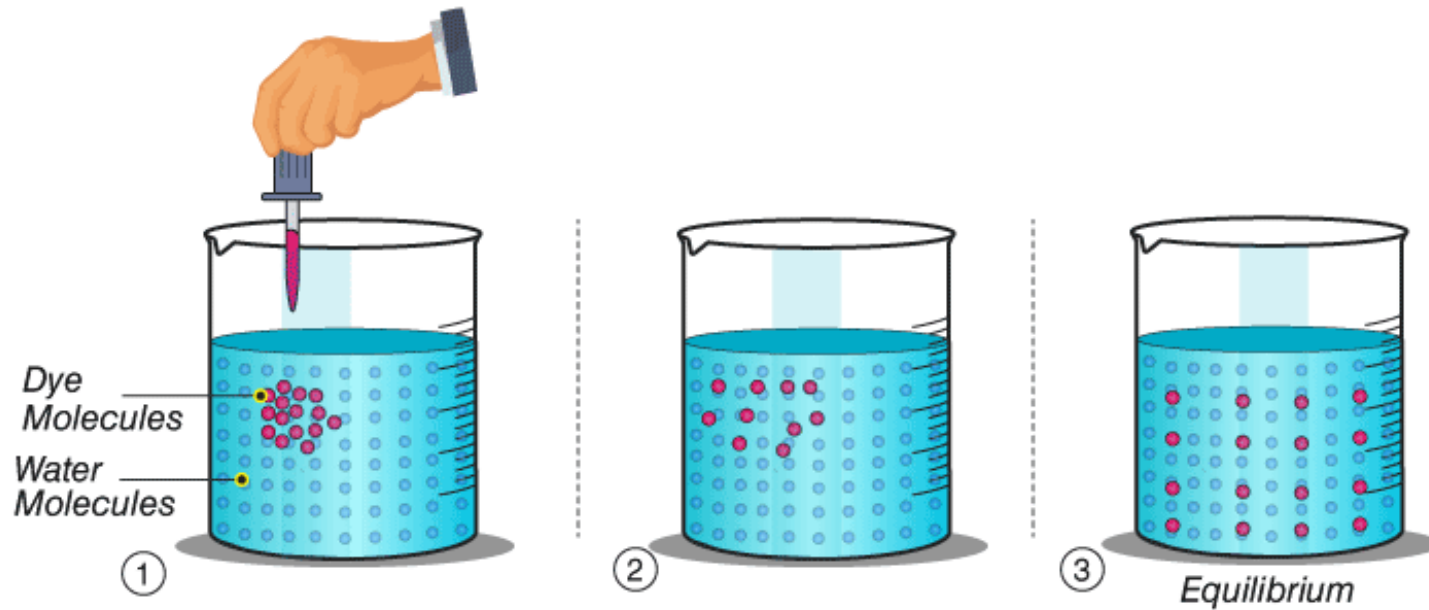
(...)

Diffusion-based image generators have seen widespread commercial interest, such as Stable Diffusion and DALL-E. These models typically combine diffusion models with other models, such as text-encoders and cross-attention modules to allow text-conditioned generation.

*Other than computer vision, diffusion models have also found applications in **natural language processing** such as text generation and summarization, **sound generation**, and **reinforcement learning**. ”*

Preliminary

DIFFUSION



Diffusion models have three foundation theories:

Annealed importance sampling (AIS) (Neal, 2001)

Fokker-Planck Equation

Kolmogorov forward and backward equation

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Sampling theory (or **Monte Carlo methods**) generally discuss about drawing samples from complex distribution. e.g. How can we draw random sample from a Gaussian $\mathcal{N}(0,1)$?

There are many famous sampling methods, such as:

- **Inverse CDF** converts uniform distribution to others.
- **Importance sampling** converts some random distribution to target distribution.
- **Rejection sampling** is much faster in some cases.
- **The Metropolis-Hastings method** (MH) is feasible in high-dimensional distributions.
- **Gibbs sampling** is specialized form of MH, which can be utilized in high-dimensional and complex distribution.
- **Markov chain Monte Carlo** (MCMC) utilizes Markov chain with Gibbs sampling.

We want to utilize a simple distribution (e.g. uniform or gaussian) to sample from extremely complex high-dimensional distribution.

Idea: Sometimes, states distribution of Markov chain converges to a unique distribution.

The probability distribution of the state at $(t + 1)$ th iteration of the Markov chain, $p^{t+1}(\mathbf{x})$, is given by:

$$p^{(t+1)}(\mathbf{x}') = \int d^N \mathbf{x} P_{\mathbf{x}}^{\mathbf{x}'} p^{(t)}(\mathbf{x}).$$

State distribution of Markov chain converges to some invariant distribution of the chain $\pi(\mathbf{x}')$ under two condition.

1. π must be the eigenvector of stochastic matrix P , and its eigenvalue is 1.
 - “... every right stochastic matrix has an "obvious" column eigenvector associated to the eigenvalue 1.” [Stochastic matrix – Wikipedia](#), obtained 2024.09.28.
2. The chain must be ergodic: $p^{(t)}(\mathbf{x}) \rightarrow \pi(\mathbf{x})$ as $t \rightarrow \infty$, for any $p^{(0)}(\mathbf{x})$. In other words, there is only one eigenvalue $|\lambda| = 1$.
 - ... Its matrix might be reducible, which means that the state space contains two or more subsets of states that can never be reached from each other. (...) The chain might have a periodic set, which means that, for some initial conditions, $p(t)(\mathbf{x})$ doesn't tend to an invariant distribution, but instead tends to a periodic limit-cycle. – MacKay (2003). 373p.

But MCMC still has the problem: It takes a lot of time to converge.

Simulated Annealing was introduced by Kirkpatrick, Gelatt, and Vecchi (1983).

Instead of simple iteration of P_π matrix, we progressively transform our distribution in many steps:

$$P_{\pi_0} \rightarrow P_{\pi_1} \rightarrow P_{\pi_2} \rightarrow \cdots \rightarrow P_\pi.$$

e.g. We get \mathbf{s}_1 by k iteration of P_{π_0} over \mathbf{s}_0 , get \mathbf{s}_2 by $(P_{\pi_1})^k$ over \mathbf{s}_1, \dots

Annealed importance sampling applies this technic to MCMC, making fast convergence.

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Let X_t be t-th trial in an infinite number of trials.

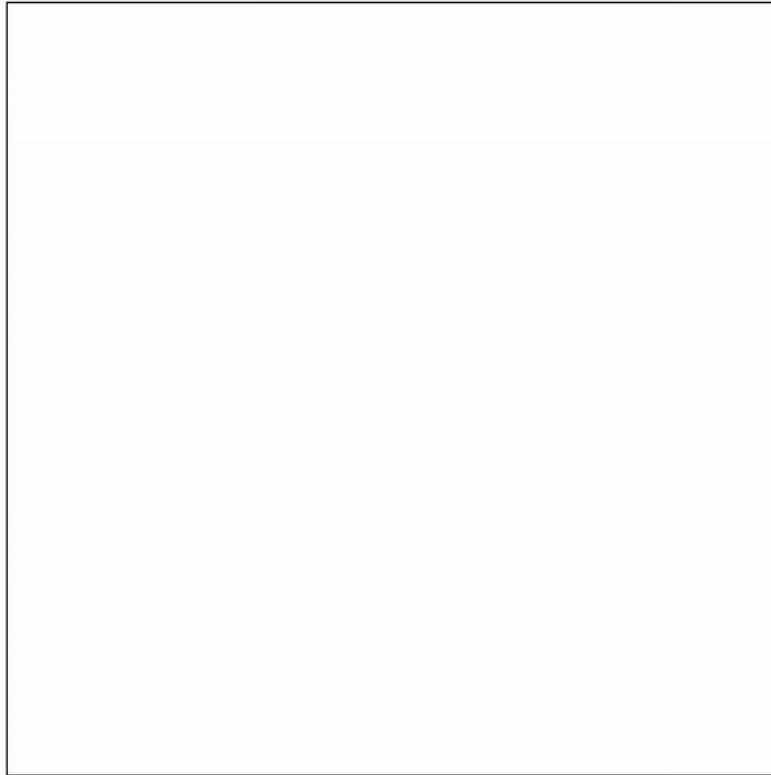
$\{X_t\}_{t=1}^T$ is stochastic process from infinite trials.

e.g. Random Walk, Markov process.

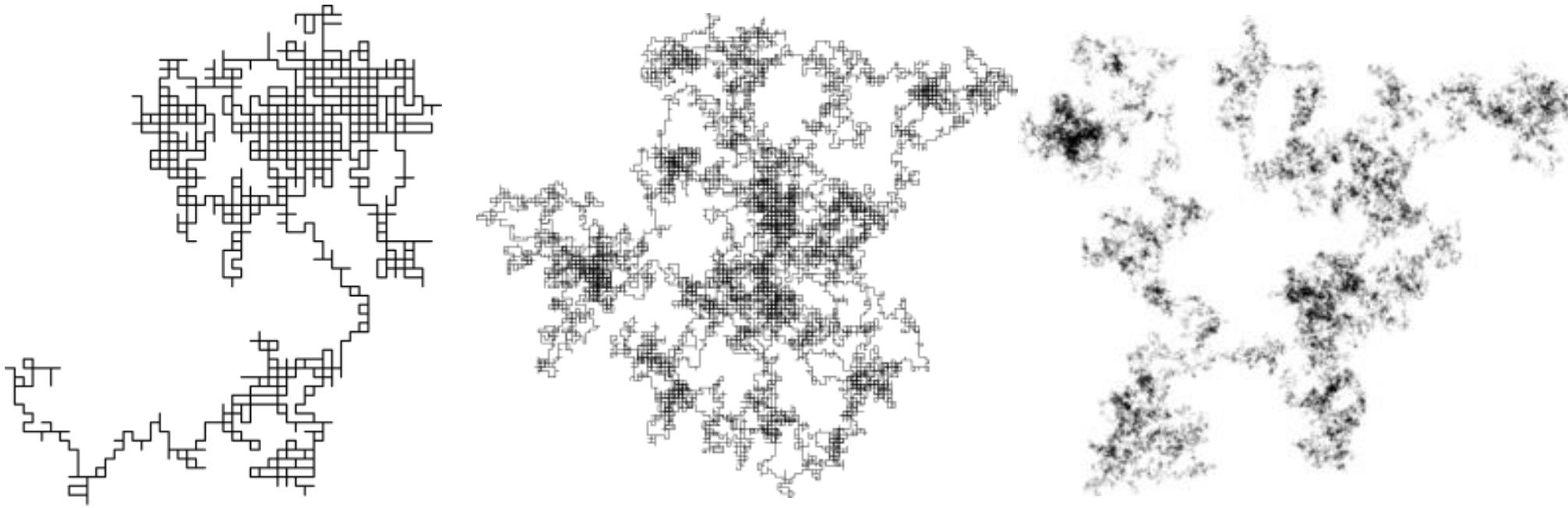
Random Walk

“In mathematics, a random walk, sometimes known as a drunkard's walk, is a stochastic process that describes a path that consists of a succession of random steps on some mathematical space.” - [Random walk – Wikipedia](#), obtained 2024.09.28.

$$P(\Delta W = 1) = P(\Delta W = -1) = 0.5$$



Random Walk Cont'd



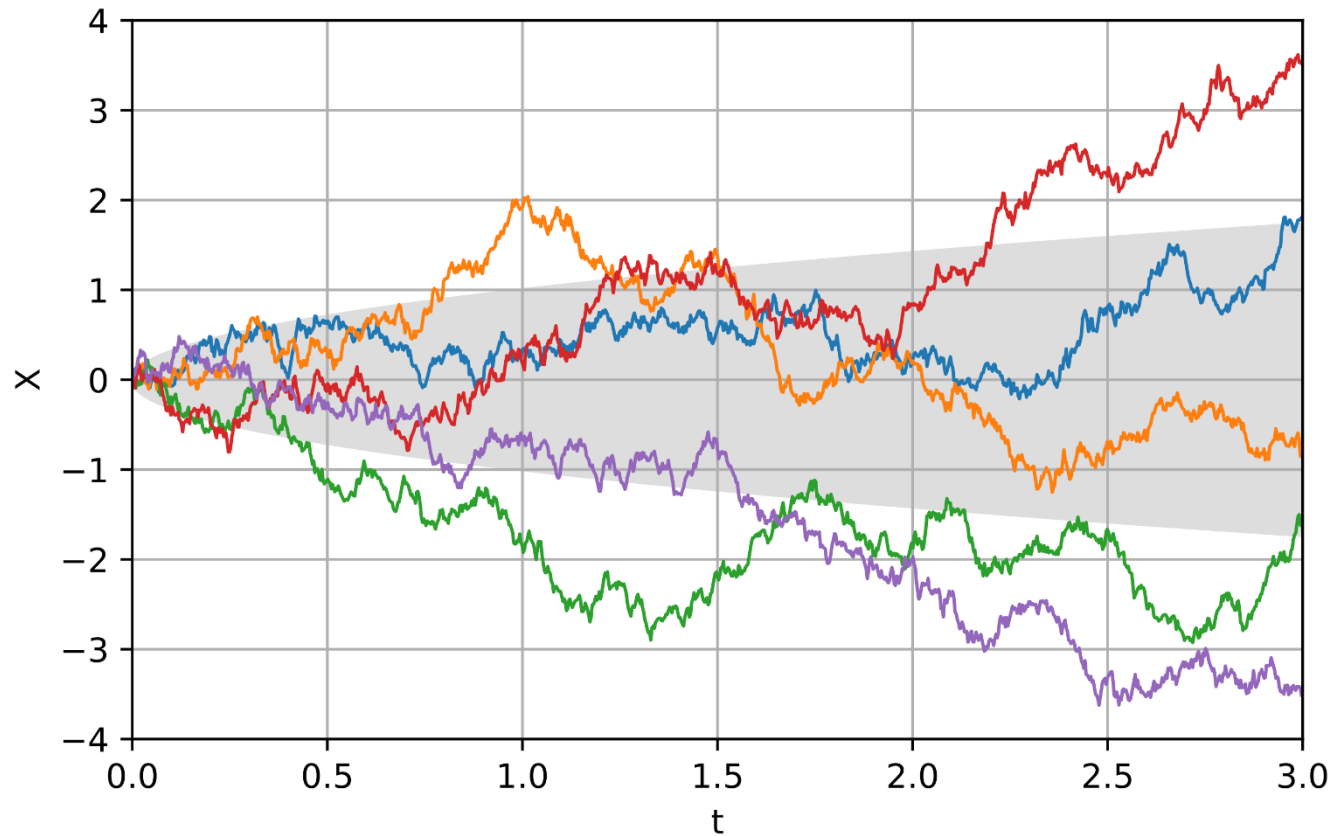
But it is in discrete space. Let ΔZ be continuous.

At large N , binomial distributed random walk becomes normal distribution.



Winner process is stochastic process on infinitesimal.

$$dW \sim \mathcal{N}(0, dt)$$



Now we can define diffusion process with differential equation form.

This is called stochastic differential equation.

$$dX_t = \mu(X_t, t)dt + \sigma(X_t, t)dW_t$$

Ito's lemma gives us the way to differentiate stochastic process.

For random process $Y_t = f(X_t, t)$,

$$dY_t = \left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial f}{\partial X_t} \mu + \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial X_t^2} \mu^2 \right) dt + \left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial X_t} \sigma \right) dW_t.$$

Fokker-Planck equation uses Ito's lemma to get $P(t, x_t)$.

$$\frac{\partial p(t, x_t)}{\partial t} = - \frac{\partial [p\mu]}{\partial x_t} + \frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial^2 [p\sigma^2]}{\partial x_t^2}$$

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For stochastic matrix $P(t)$ and infinitesimal generator matrix $Q := P'(0)$,

$$\frac{dP(t)}{dt} = QP(t) = P(t)Q.$$

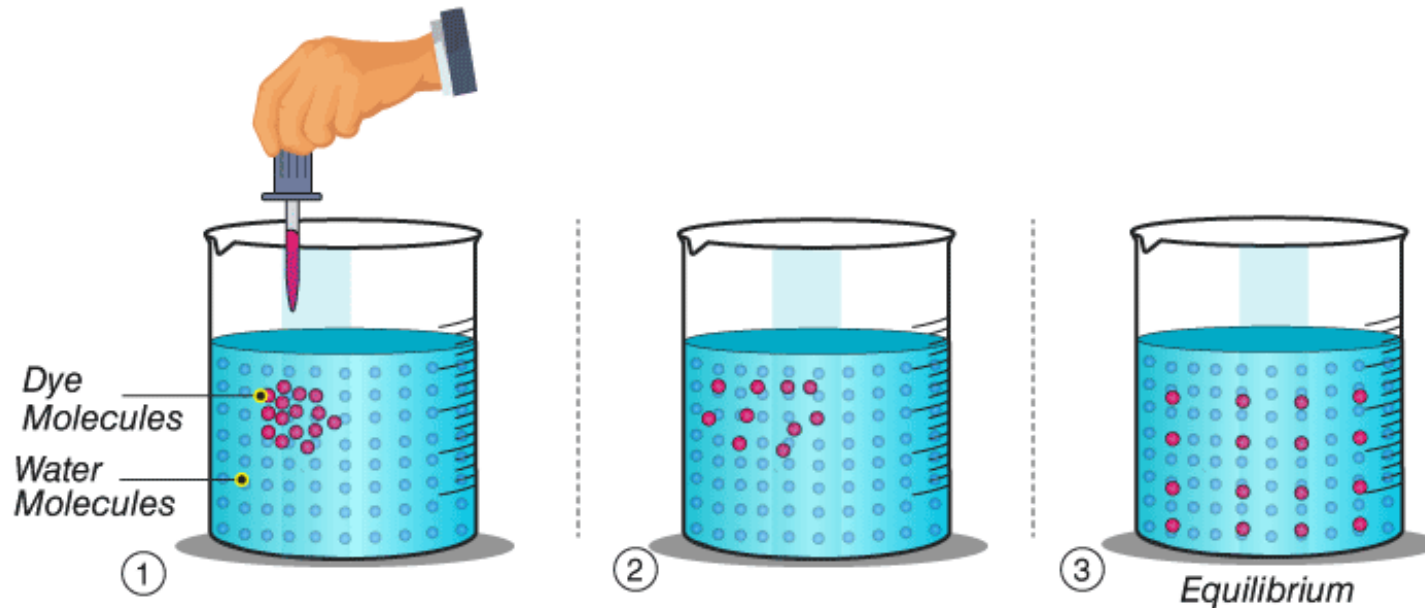
$\frac{dP(t)}{dt} = P(t)Q$ is called backward Kolmogorov equation.

$\frac{dP(t)}{dt} = QP(t)$ is called forward Kolmogorov equation.

This means that for infinitesimal t , reverse Markov process can be described in same functional form.

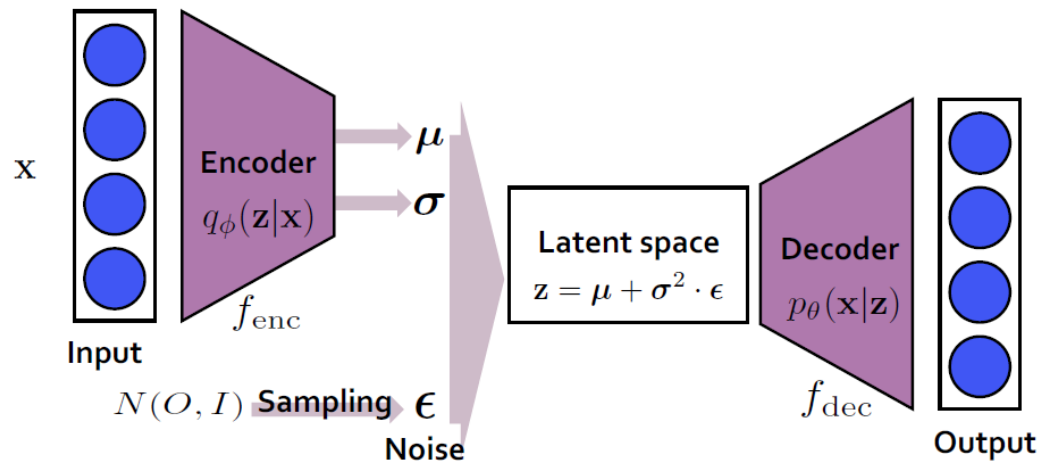
Deep Unsupervised Learning using Nonequilibrium Thermodynamics

DIFFUSION



GAN is unstable, highly dependent on hyperparameters, and not probability distribution.
VAE is stable, but generated sample is too blurry, because of ELBO maximization, and tends to utilize only a piece of latent space. (from Goodfellow, (2016))

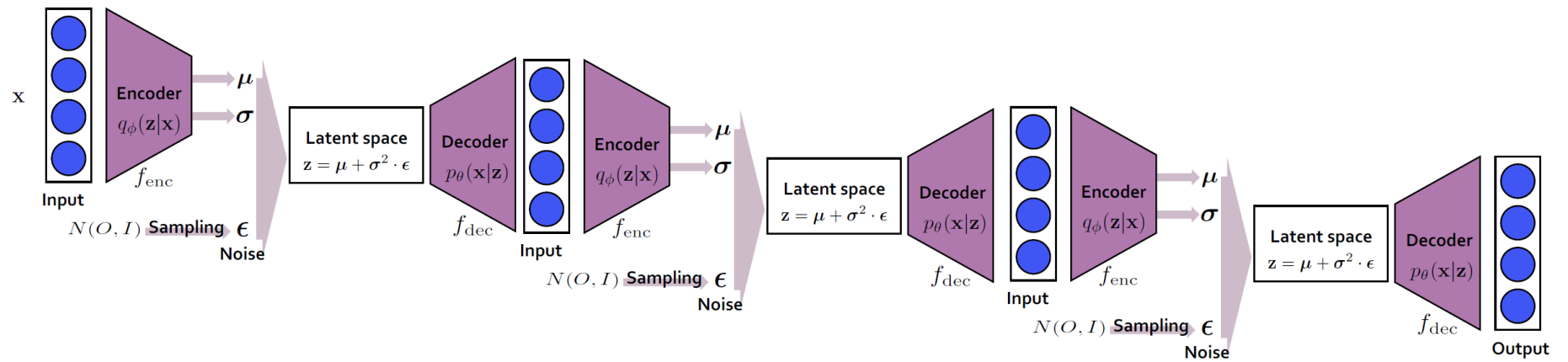
Idea*: Multi-step VAE looks like Monte Carlo Markov chain!



Goodfellow, I. (2016). Deep learning.

[VAE 설명 \(Variational autoencoder란? VAE ELBO 증명\) - 유니의 공부 \(tistory.com\)](http://tistory.com)

Introduction Cont'd





Multi-step VAE looks like Monte Carlo Markov chain!

We can interpret diffusion models as AIS over VAE generation: generating complex input distribution by shifting prior distribution, with restricted complexity. This method constraints the function family of neural network.

Data distribution: $q(\mathbf{x}^{(0)})$

Prior distribution: $\pi(\mathbf{y})$

Markov diffusion kernel

$$\pi(\mathbf{y}) = \int d\mathbf{y}' T_{\pi}(\mathbf{y}|\mathbf{y}'; \beta) \pi(\mathbf{y}') \quad \text{where } \beta \text{ is a diffusion rate.}$$

$$q(\mathbf{x}^{(t)}|\mathbf{x}^{(t-1)}) = T_{\pi}(\mathbf{x}^{(t)}|\mathbf{x}^{(t-1)}; \beta_t)$$

Joint distribution:

$$q(\{\mathbf{x}\}_{t=0}^T) = q(\mathbf{x}_0) \prod_{t=1}^T q(\mathbf{x}^{(t)}|\mathbf{x}^{(t-1)})$$

Prior distribution: $p(\mathbf{x}^{(T)}) = \pi(\mathbf{x}^{(T)})$

Joint distribution

$$p\left(\{\mathbf{x}^{(t)}\}_{t=1}^T\right) = p(\mathbf{x}^{(T)}) \prod_{t=1}^T p(\mathbf{x}^{t-1} | \mathbf{x}^t)$$

In the real learning, we only need to estimate the mean and the variance of the distribution: (Feller, 1949) guarantees that the forms of the forward and backward process are equal in infinitesimal. If the forward process is gaussian, the reverse also is.

The probability of a data is

$$p(\mathbf{x}^{(0)}) = \int d\mathbf{x}^{(1..T)} p(\mathbf{x}^{(0..T)}).$$

But can we calculate it?

1. Integrate it exactly. (every $p(\mathbf{x}^t)$ is separable, so we can disassemble $p(\mathbf{x}^{(0..T)})$.)
2. Approximate it by Riemann sum.

But both ways are not feasible in this case. We need another option:

AIS gives us the way to approximate the marginal probability!

$$\begin{aligned}
 p(\mathbf{x}^{(0)}) &= \int d\mathbf{x}^{(1..T)} p(\mathbf{x}^{(0..T)}) \\
 &= \int d\mathbf{x}^{(1..T)} p(\mathbf{x}^{(0..T)}) \frac{q(\mathbf{x}^{(1..T)}|\mathbf{x}^{(0)})}{q(\mathbf{x}^{(1..T)}|\mathbf{x}^{(0)})} \\
 &= \int d\mathbf{x}^{(1..T)} q(\mathbf{x}^{(1..T)}|\mathbf{x}^{(0)}) \frac{p(\mathbf{x}^{(0..T)})}{q(\mathbf{x}^{(1..T)}|\mathbf{x}^{(0)})} \\
 &= \int d\mathbf{x}^{(1..T)} q(\mathbf{x}^{(1..T)}|\mathbf{x}^{(0)}) p(\mathbf{x}^{(T)}) \prod_{t=1}^T \frac{p(\mathbf{x}^{(t-1)}|\mathbf{x}^{(t)})}{q(\mathbf{x}^{(t)}|\mathbf{x}^{(t-1)})} \\
 &= \mathbb{E}_{q(\mathbf{x}^{(1..T)})} \left[p(\mathbf{x}^{(T)}) \prod_{t=1}^T \frac{p(\mathbf{x}^{(t-1)}|\mathbf{x}^{(t)})}{q(\mathbf{x}^{(t)}|\mathbf{x}^{(t-1)})} \right]
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\operatorname{argmin}_p D_{KL}(q||p)?$$

$$D_{KL}(q||p) = \mathbb{E} \left[q \log \frac{1}{p} \right] - \mathbb{E} \left[q \log \frac{1}{q} \right]$$

$$= \text{CE}(q, p) - H(q)$$

$$\operatorname{argmin}_p D_{KL}(q||p) = \operatorname{argmax}_p [-\text{CE}(q, p)]$$

We will maximize negative cross entropy of q about p.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{CE}(q, p) &= \int dx^{(0)} q(x^{(0)}) \log p(x^{(0)}) \\ &= \int dx^{(0)} q(x^{(0)}) \log \int d\mathbf{x}^{(1..T)} q(\mathbf{x}^{(1..T)} | \mathbf{x}^{(0)}) p(\mathbf{x}^{(T)}) \prod_{t=1}^T \frac{p(\mathbf{x}^{(t-1)} | \mathbf{x}^{(t)})}{q(\mathbf{x}^{(t)} | \mathbf{x}^{(t-1)})} \\ &\geq \int d\mathbf{x}^{(0..T)} q(\mathbf{x}^{(0..T)}) \log \left[p(\mathbf{x}^{(T)}) \prod_{t=1}^T \frac{p(\mathbf{x}^{(t-1)} | \mathbf{x}^{(t)})}{q(\mathbf{x}^{(t)} | \mathbf{x}^{(t-1)})} \right] \end{aligned}$$

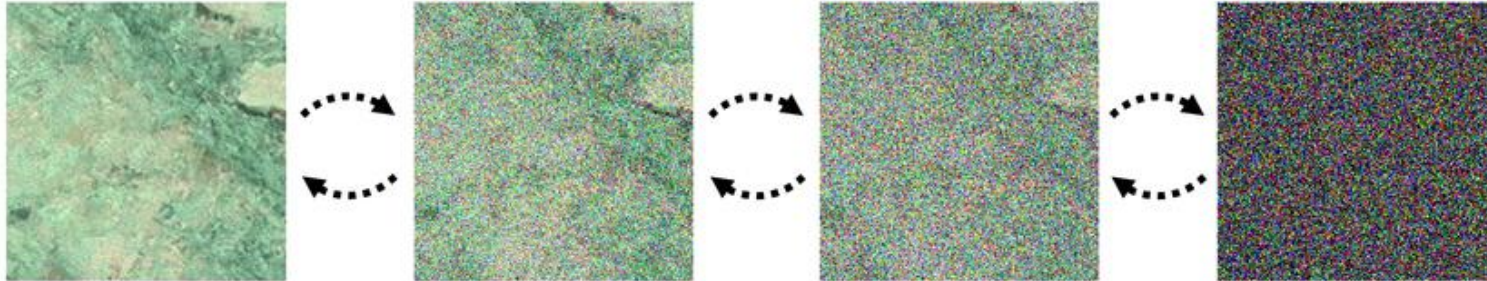
∴ log function is concave, jensen inequality.

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{CE}(q, p) &\geq \int d\mathbf{x}^{(0..T)} q(\mathbf{x}^{(0..T)}) \log \left[p(\mathbf{x}^{(T)}) \prod_{t=1}^T \frac{p(\mathbf{x}^{(t-1)} | \mathbf{x}^{(t)})}{q(\mathbf{x}^{(t)} | \mathbf{x}^{(t-1)})} \right] \\
 &= - \sum_{t=2}^T \int dx^{(0)} dx^{(t)} q(x^{(0)}, x^{(t)}) \cdot D_{KL}(q(x^{(t-1)} | x^{(t)}, x^{(0)}) || p(x^{(t-1)} | x^{(t)})) \\
 &\quad + H_q(X^{(T)} | X^{(0)}) - H_q(X^{(1)} | X^{(0)}) - H_p(X^{(T)})
 \end{aligned}$$

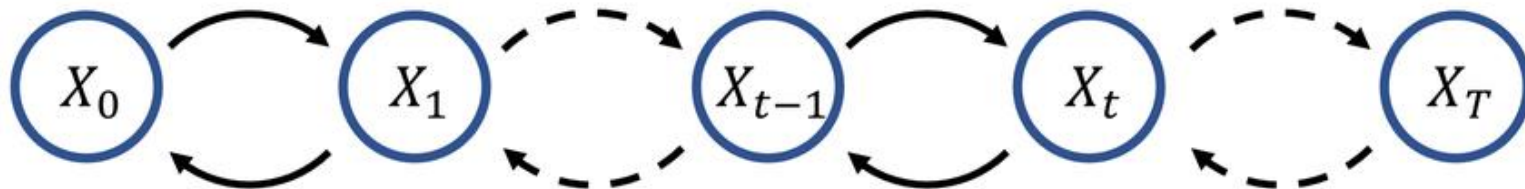
The choice of β_t is very important for the performance of AIS. In diffusion model, β_t is learned by gradient ascent.

[Papers-in-100-Lines-of-Code/Deep_Unsupervised_Learning_using_Nonequilibrium_Thermodynamics/diffusion_models.py at main · MaximeVandegar/Papers-in-100-Lines-of-Code \(github.com\)](#)

Denoising Diffusion Probabilistic Model



$$q(X_t|X_{t-1}) = \mathcal{N}(X_t|\sqrt{\alpha_t}X_{t-1}, (1 - \alpha_t)I)$$



$$p(X_{t-1}|X_t) \approx \mathcal{N}(X_{t-1}|\mu_\theta(\cdot, t), \sigma_t)$$

[Papers-in-100-Lines-of-Code/Denoising_Diffusion_Probabilistic_Models/diffusion_models.py at main · MaximeVandegar/Papers-in-100-Lines-of-Code \(github.com\)](#)

Discussion