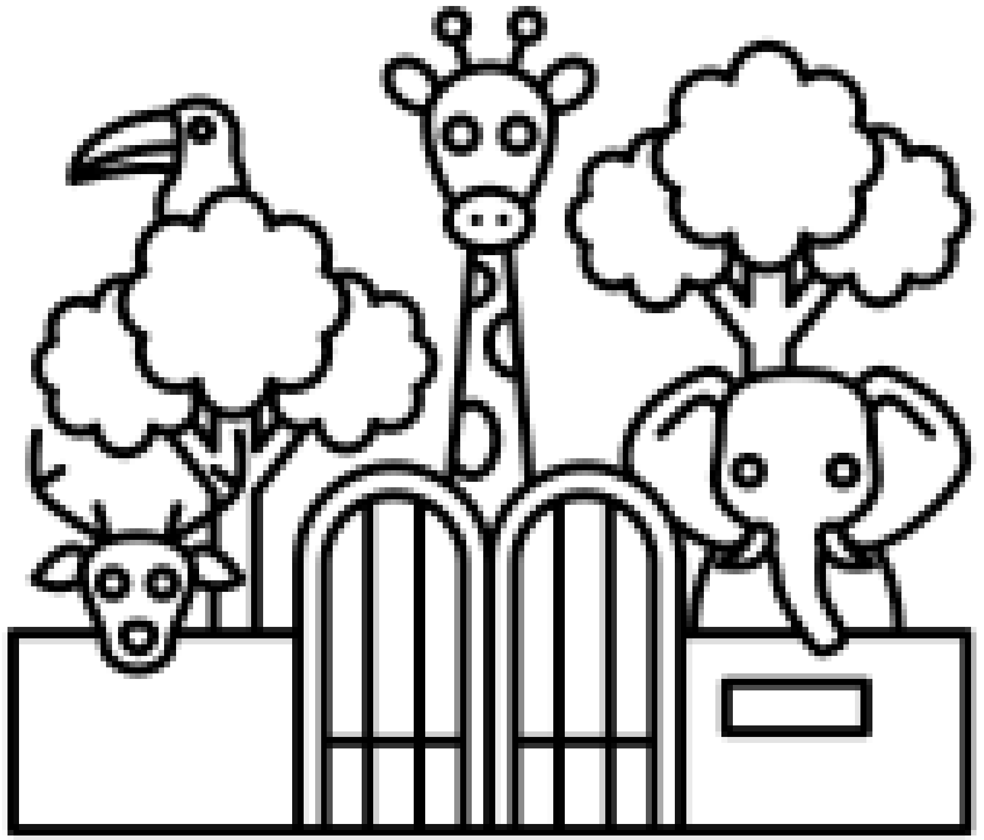


1

Generative Model Zoo (part III)

Jun-Yan Zhu

16-726 Learning-based Image Synthesis, Spring 2025

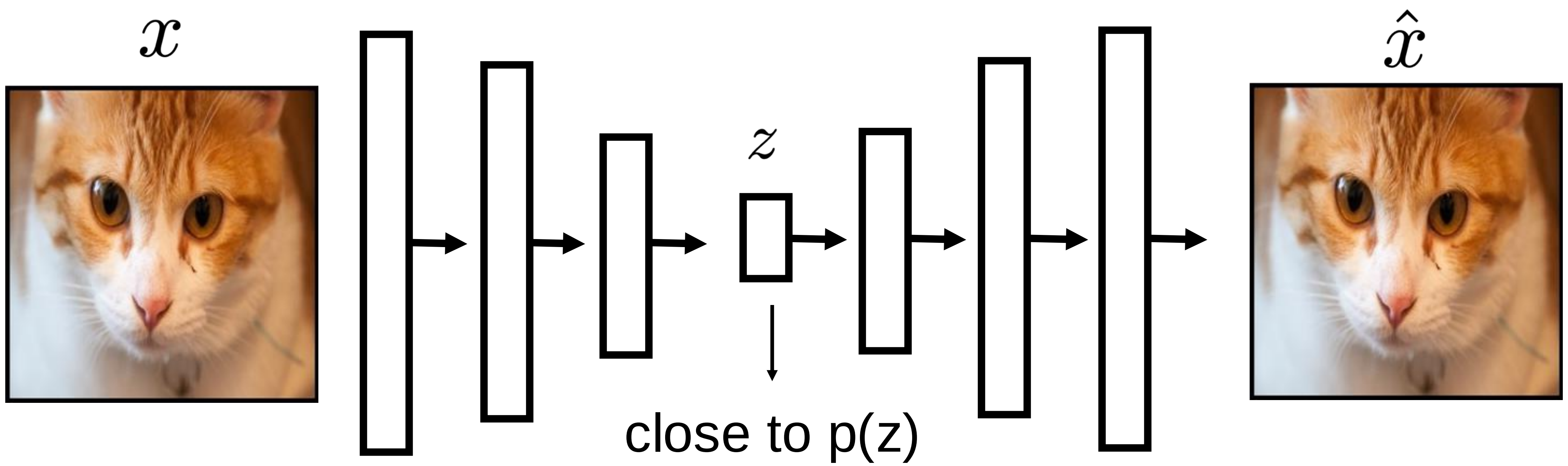
many slides from Robin Rombach, Karsten Kreis, Ruiqi Gao, Arash Vahdat, Phillip Isola, Richard Zhang, Alyosha Efros, etc.

Variational Auto-encoder

Variational Autoencoders (VAEs)

encoder $q_\psi(z|x)$ $z = E^\mu_\psi(x) + E^\sigma_\psi(x) \cdot \epsilon_z$

generator $p_\theta(x|z)$ $\hat{x} = G^\mu_\theta(z)$



ELBO: Evidence Lower Bound

$$\max_\theta \mathbb{E}_{x \sim p_{\texttt{data}}}[\log p_\theta(x)]$$

Multi-variate Gaussian

$$\geq \max_{\theta,\psi} \mathbb{E}_{x_i \sim p_{\texttt{data}}}[\mathbb{E}_{q_\psi(z|x_i)}[p_\theta(x|z)] - \mathrm{KL}(q_\psi(z|x_i)||p(z))]$$

reconstruction loss

$$||x - \hat{x}||_2$$

KLD loss

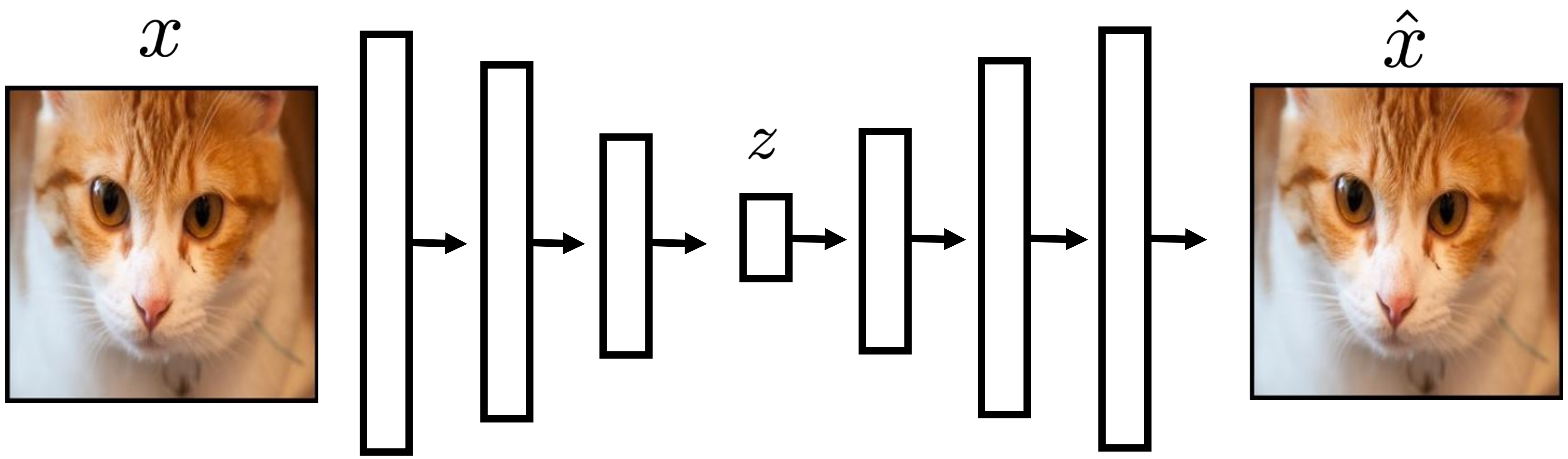
$$\mathrm{KLD}(\mathcal{N}(E^\mu_\psi(x), E^\sigma_\psi(x)) \mid \mathcal{N}(0, I))$$

[Kingma and Welling, 2014]

Autoencoders (AEs)

encoder $z = E^{\mu}_{\psi}(x)$ $q_{\psi}(z|x)$

generator $\hat{x} = G^{\mu}_{\theta}(z)$ $p_{\theta}(x|z)$



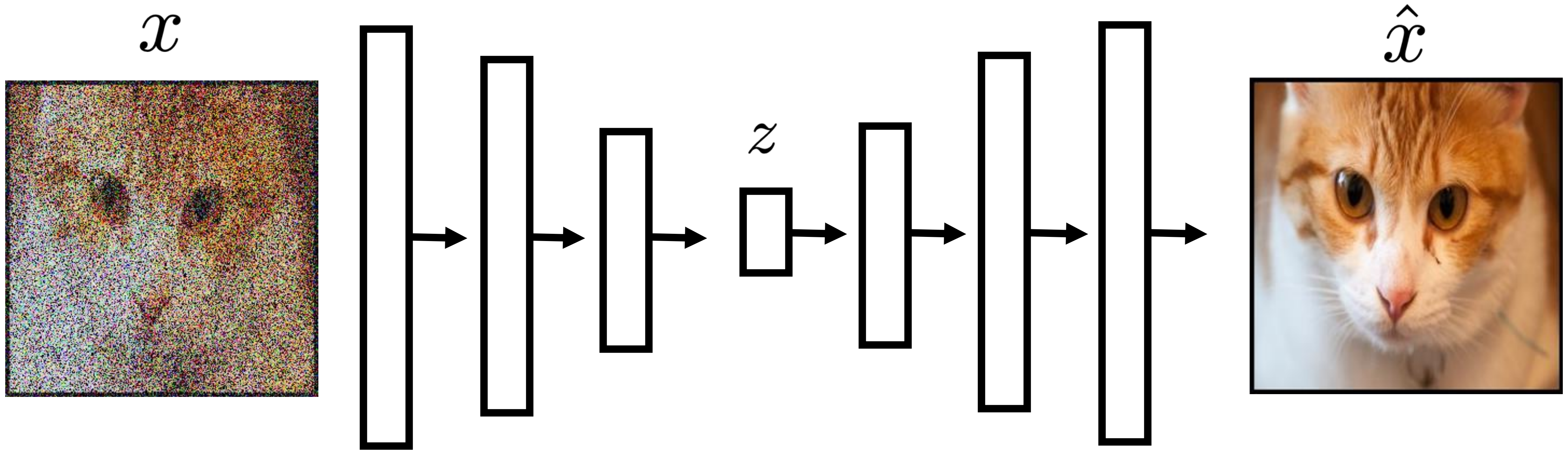
$$\max_{\theta,\psi} \mathbb{E}_{x_i \sim p_{\texttt{data}}}[\mathbb{E}_{q_{\psi}(z|x_i)}[p_{\theta}(x|z)]$$

reconstruction loss

$$||x - \hat{x}||_2$$

[Hinton and Salakhutdinov, Science 2006]

Denoising Autoencoders (AEs)



$$\max_{\theta,\psi} \mathbb{E}_{x_i \sim p_{\texttt{data}}}[\mathbb{E}_{q_\psi(z|x_i)}[p_\theta(x|z)]]$$

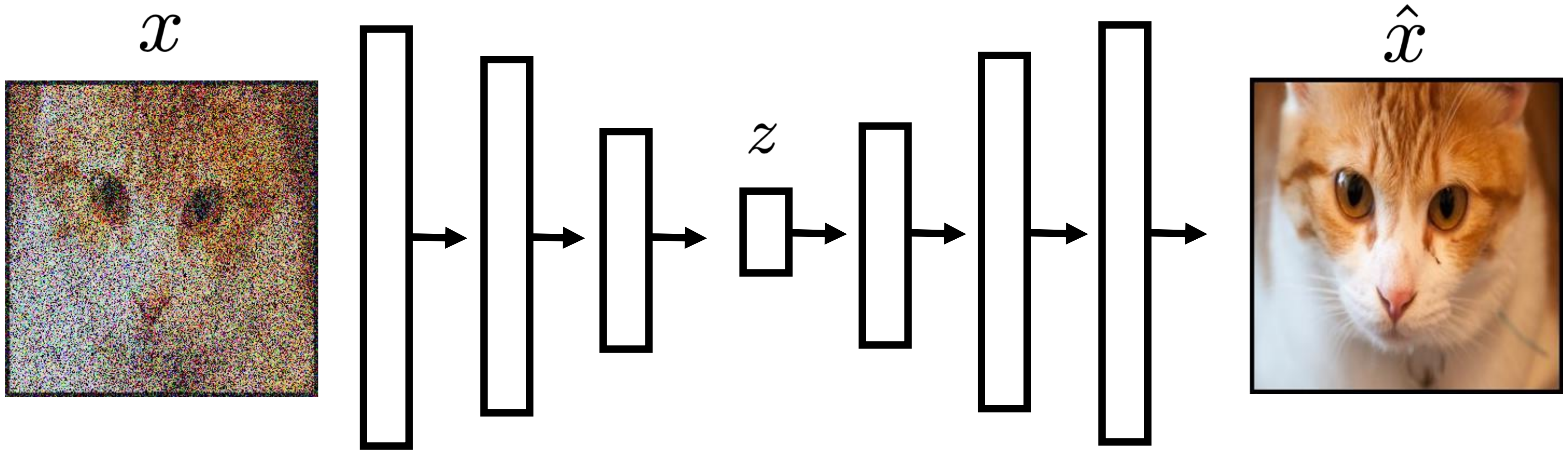
reconstruction loss
corrupt input

Denoising vs.
Compression

[Hinton and Salakhutdinov, Science 2006]

Diffusion Models

Denoising Autoencoders (AEs)



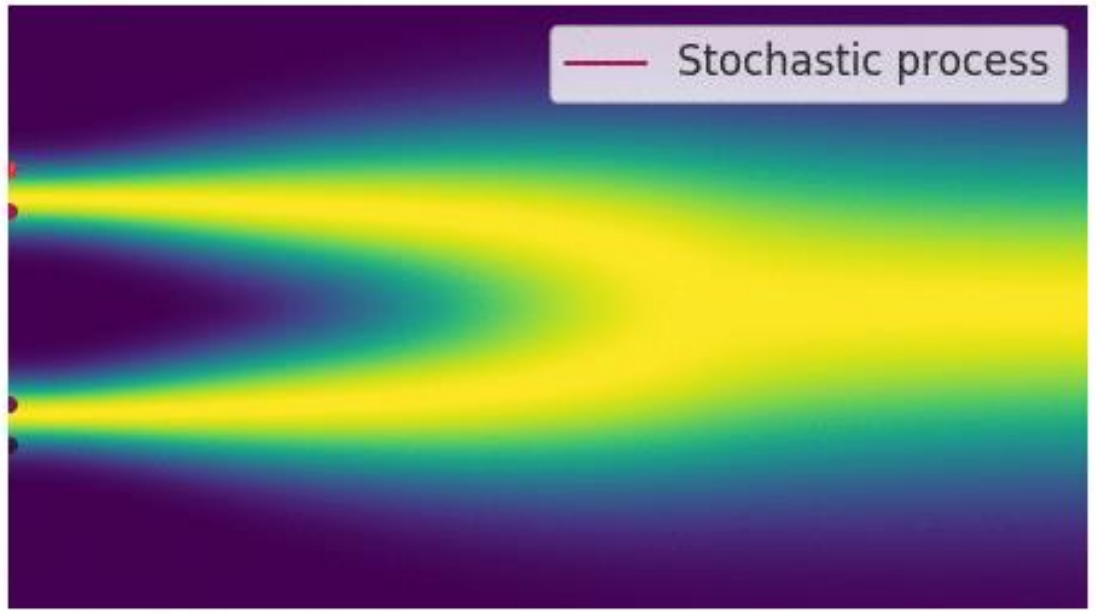
$$\max_{\theta,\psi} \mathbb{E}_{x_i \sim p_{\text{data}}}[\mathbb{E}_{q_\psi(z|x_i)}[p_\theta(x|z)]]$$

reconstruction loss
corrupt input

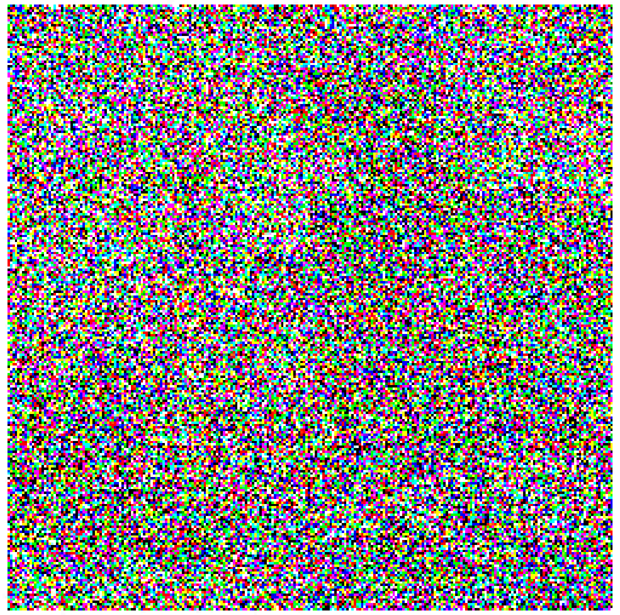
Denoising vs. Compression

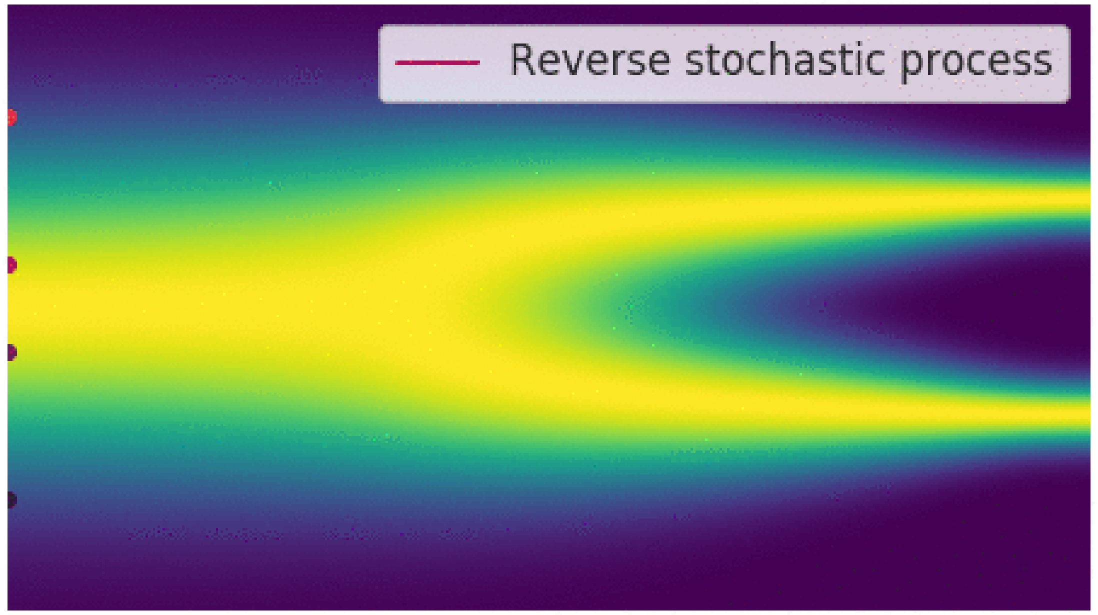
[Hinton and Salakhutdinov, Science 2006]

Diffusion Models



- “destroy” the data by gradually adding small amounts of gaussian noise

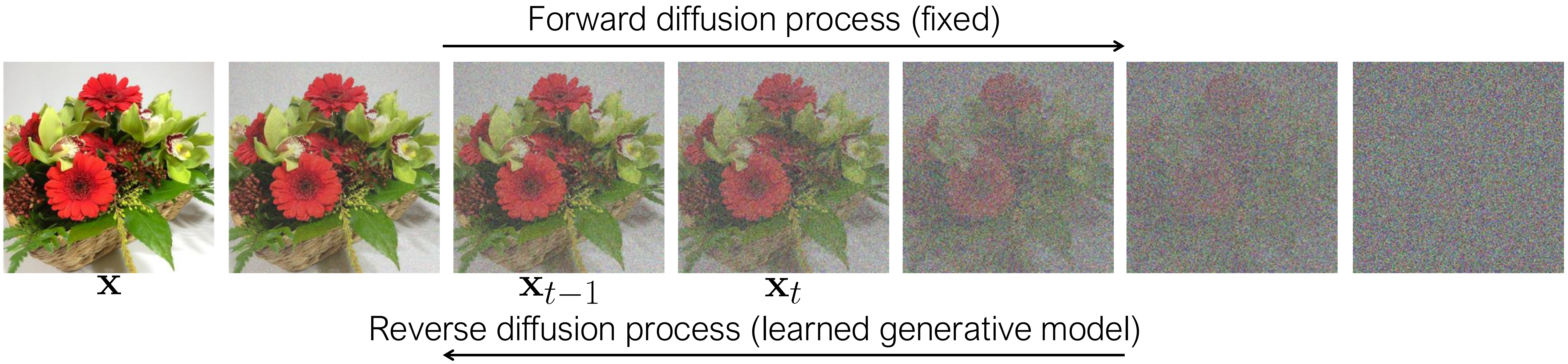




- “create” data by gradually denoising a noisy code from a stationary distribution

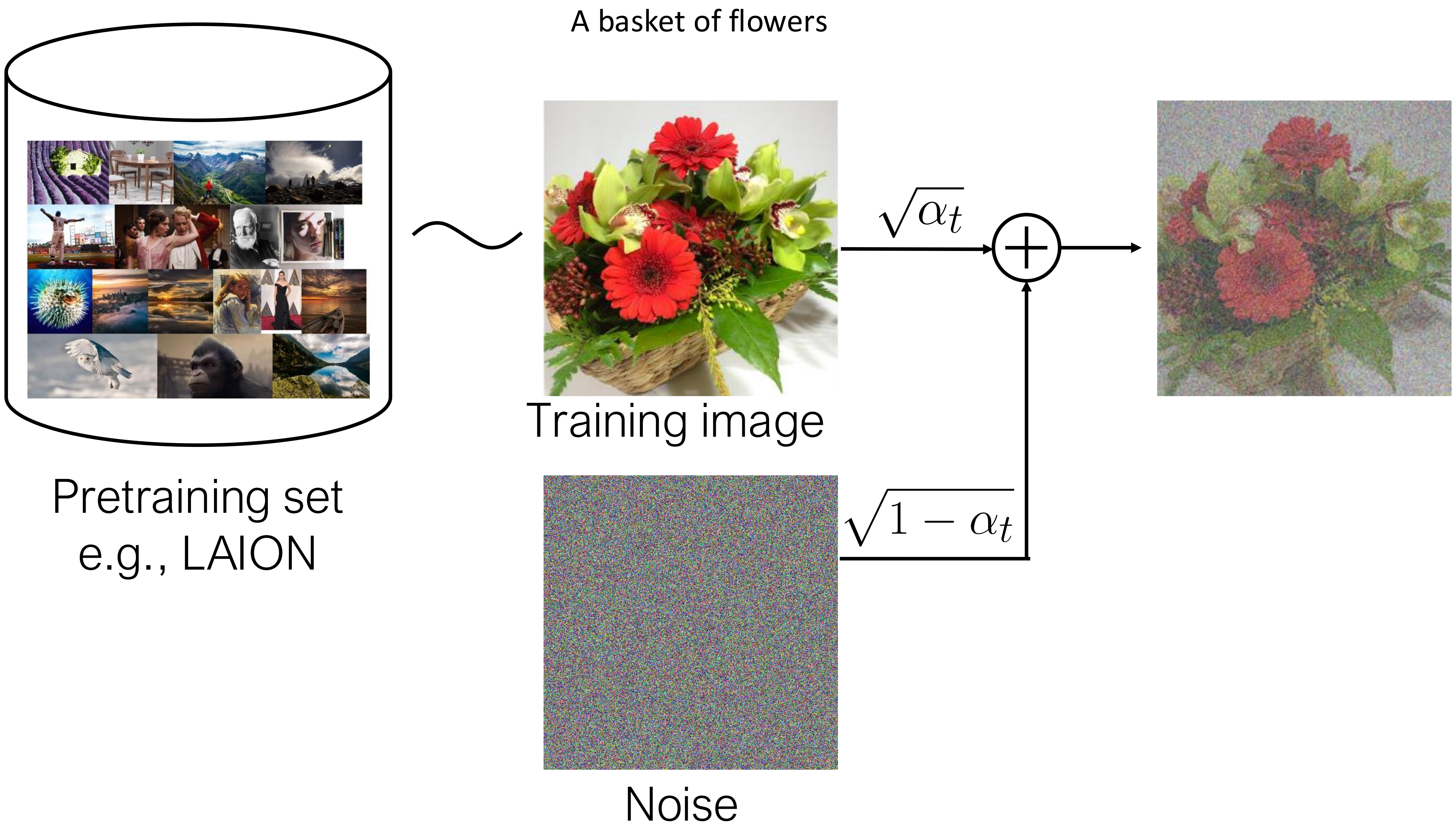
Animations from https://yang-song.github.io/blog/2021/score/

Diffusion Model Overview

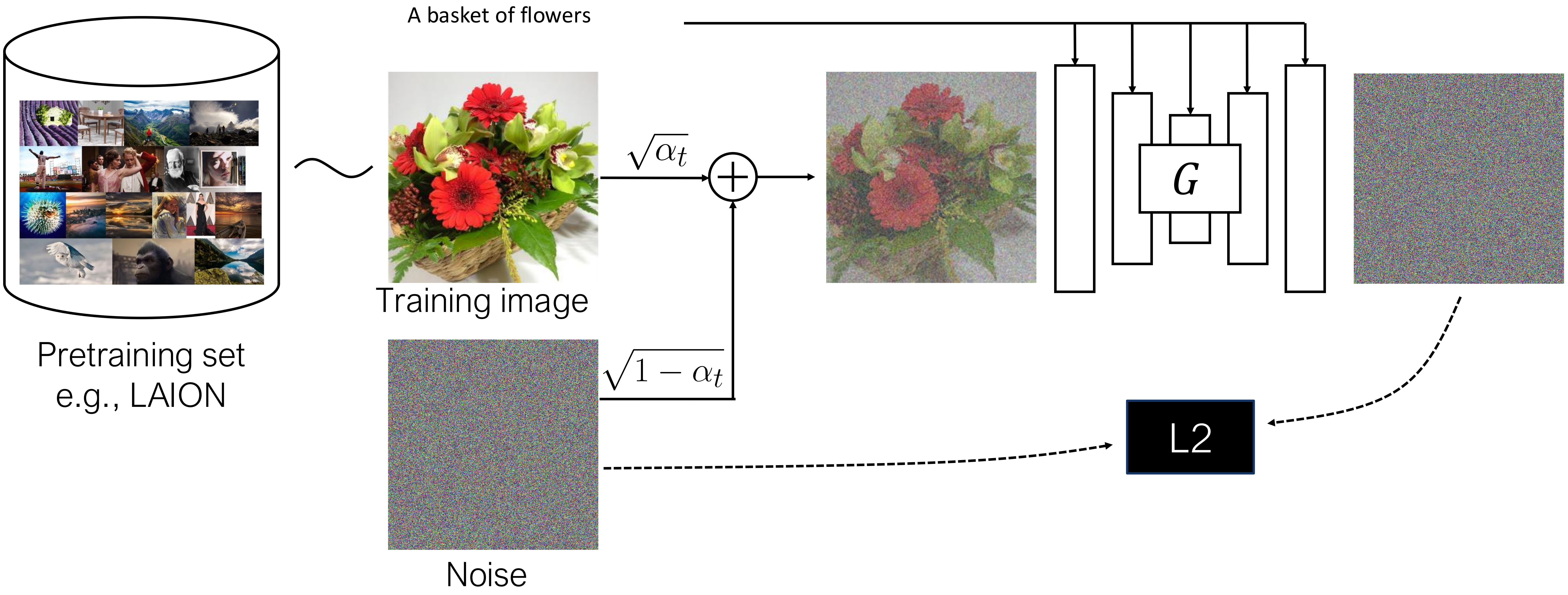


*slides motivated from https://cvpr2022-tutorial-diffusion-models.github.io

Diffusion Model Training



Diffusion Model Training



*slides motivated from https://cvpr2022-tutorial-diffusion-models.github.io

Denoising Diffusion Models

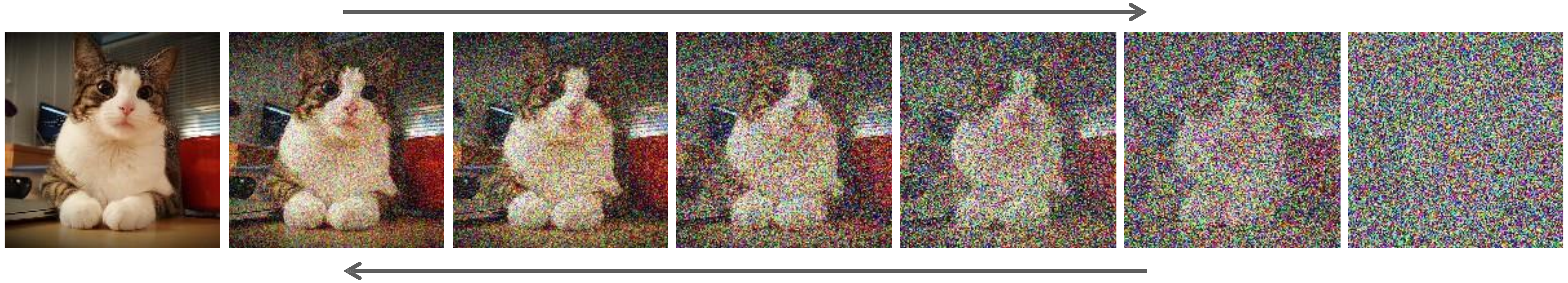
Learning to generate by denoising

Denoising diffusion models consist of two processes:

- Forward diffusion process that gradually adds noise to input
- Reverse denoising process that learns to generate data by denoising

Forward diffusion process (fixed)

Data



Noise

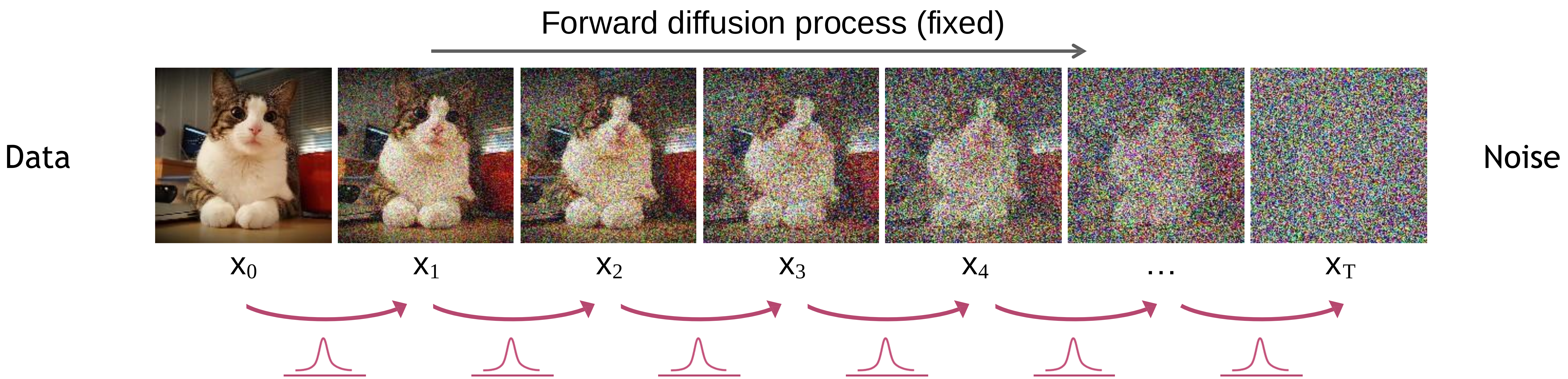
Reverse denoising process (generative)

Sohl-Dickstein et al., Deep Unsupervised Learning using Nonequilibrium Thermodynamics, ICML 2015
Ho et al., Denoising Diffusion Probabilistic Models, NeurIPS 2020
Song et al., Score-Based Generative Modeling through Stochastic Differential Equations, ICLR 2021

Slide credit: Karsten Kreis et al.

Forward Diffusion Process

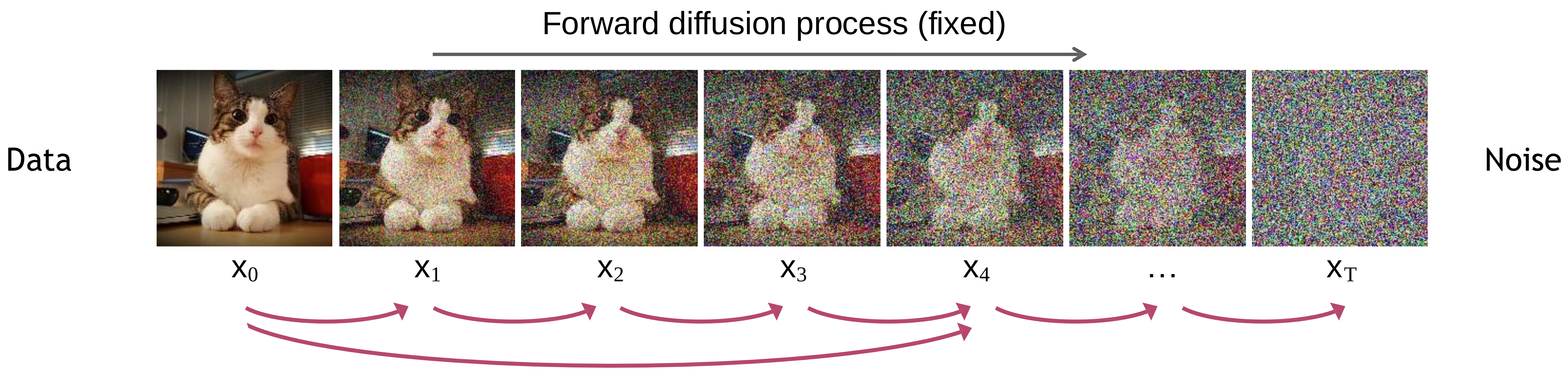
The formal definition of the forward process in T steps:



$$q(\mathbf{x}_t|\mathbf{x}_{t-1}) = \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{x_t}; \sqrt{1-\beta_t}\mathbf{x_{t-1}}, \beta_t\mathbf{I}) \quad \Rightarrow \quad q(\mathbf{x}_{1:T}|\mathbf{x}_0) = \prod_{t=1}^{T} q(\mathbf{x}_t|\mathbf{x}_{t-1}) \quad \text{(joint)}$$

Slide credit: Karsten Kreis et al.

Diffusion Kernel



Define $\bar{\alpha}_t = \prod_{s=1}^{t}(1-\beta_s)$ ➡ $q(\mathbf{x}_t|\mathbf{x}_0) = \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{x}_t; \sqrt{\bar{\alpha}_t}\mathbf{x}_0, (1-\bar{\alpha}_t)\mathbf{I}))$ (Diffusion Kernel)

For sampling: $\mathbf{x}_t = \sqrt{\bar{\alpha}_t}\ \mathbf{x}_0 + \sqrt{(1-\bar{\alpha}_t)}\ \epsilon$ where $\epsilon \sim \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{I})$

β_t values schedule (i.e., the noise schedule) is designed such that $\bar{\alpha}_T \to 0$ and $q(\mathbf{x}_T|\mathbf{x}_0) \approx \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{x}_T; \mathbf{0}, \mathbf{I}))$

Slide credit: Karsten Kreis et al.

Mathematic details: Merge Multiple Gaussian

- **Reparameterization Trick** $\alpha_t = 1 - \beta_t \quad \bar{\alpha}_t = \prod_{i=1}^{t} \alpha_i$

"What are Diffusion Models?" Blog

Mathematatic details: Merge Multiple Gaussian

- **Reparameterization Trick** $\alpha_t = 1 - \beta_t$ $\bar{\alpha}_t = \prod_{i=1}^{t} \alpha_i$

$$\mathbf{x}_t = \sqrt{\alpha_t}\mathbf{x}_{t-1} + \sqrt{1-\alpha_t}\boldsymbol{\epsilon}_{t-1}$$

"What are Diffusion Models?" Blog

Mathematic details: Merge Multiple Gaussian

- **Reparameterization Trick** $\alpha_t = 1 - \beta_t \qquad \bar{\alpha}_t = \prod_{i=1}^{t} \alpha_i$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{x}_t &= \sqrt{\alpha_t}\mathbf{x}_{t-1} + \sqrt{1-\alpha_t}\boldsymbol{\epsilon}_{t-1} \\ &= \sqrt{\alpha_t \alpha_{t-1}}\mathbf{x}_{t-2} + \sqrt{1-\alpha_t \alpha_{t-1}}\bar{\boldsymbol{\epsilon}}_{t-2} \end{aligned}$$

“What are Diffusion Models?” Blog

Mathematic details: Merge Multiple Gaussian

- **Reparameterization Trick** $\alpha_t = 1 - \beta_t \qquad \bar{\alpha}_t = \prod_{i=1}^{t} \alpha_i$

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathbf{x}_t &= \sqrt{\alpha_t}\mathbf{x}_{t-1} + \sqrt{1-\alpha_t}\boldsymbol{\epsilon}_{t-1} \\
&= \sqrt{\alpha_t \alpha_{t-1}}\mathbf{x}_{t-2} + \sqrt{1-\alpha_t \alpha_{t-1}}\bar{\boldsymbol{\epsilon}}_{t-2} \\
&= \dots \\
&= \sqrt{\bar{\alpha}_t}\mathbf{x}_0 + \sqrt{1-\bar{\alpha}_t}\boldsymbol{\epsilon}
\end{aligned}$$

“What are Diffusion Models?” Blog

Mathematic details: Merge Multiple Gaussian

- **Reparameterization Trick** $\alpha_t = 1 - \beta_t \quad \bar{\alpha}_t = \prod_{i=1}^{t} \alpha_i$

$$
\begin{aligned}
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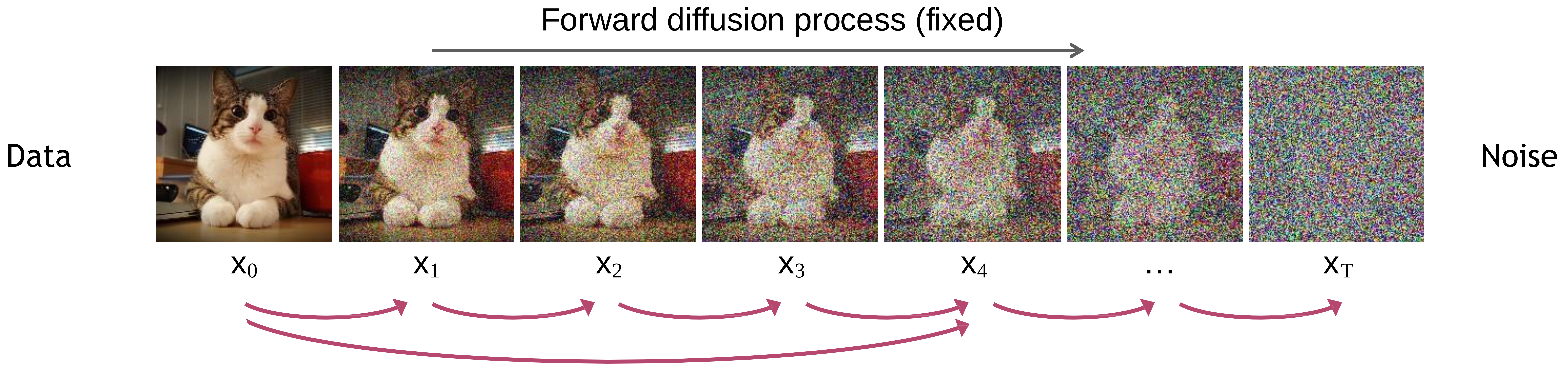
&= \dots \\
&= \sqrt{\bar{\alpha}_t}\mathbf{x}_0 + \sqrt{1-\bar{\alpha}_t}\boldsymbol{\epsilon}
\end{aligned}
$$

$$
q(\mathbf{x}_t|\mathbf{x}_0) = \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{x}_t; \sqrt{\bar{\alpha}_t}\mathbf{x}_0, (1-\bar{\alpha}_t)\mathbf{I})
$$

Direct sampling from 0 → t

“What are Diffusion Models?” Blog

Diffusion Kernel



Define $\bar{\alpha}_t = \prod_{s=1}^{t}(1-\beta_s)$ ➡ $q(\mathbf{x}_t|\mathbf{x}_0) = \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{x}_t; \sqrt{\bar{\alpha}_t}\mathbf{x}_0, (1-\bar{\alpha}_t)\mathbf{I}))$ (Diffusion Kernel)

For sampling: $\mathbf{x}_t = \sqrt{\bar{\alpha}_t}\ \mathbf{x}_0 + \sqrt{(1-\bar{\alpha}_t)}\ \epsilon$ where $\epsilon \sim \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{I})$

β_t values schedule (i.e., the noise schedule) is designed such that $\bar{\alpha}_T \rightarrow 0$ and $q(\mathbf{x}_T|\mathbf{x}_0) \approx \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{x}_T; \mathbf{0}, \mathbf{I}))$

Slide credit: Karsten Kreis et al.

Summary

Training and Sample Generation

Algorithm 1 Training

repeat
  $\mathbf{x}_0 \sim q(\mathbf{x}_0)$
  $t \sim \text{Uniform}(\{1, \ldots, T\})$
  $\boldsymbol{\epsilon} \sim \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{I})$
  Take gradient descent step on
  $$\nabla_\theta \left\| \boldsymbol{\epsilon} - \boldsymbol{\epsilon}_\theta(\sqrt{\bar{\alpha}_t}\mathbf{x}_0 + \sqrt{1-\bar{\alpha}_t}\boldsymbol{\epsilon}, t) \right\|^2$$
until converged

Algorithm 2 Sampling

$\mathbf{x}_T \sim \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{I})$
for $t = T, \ldots, 1$ **do**
  $\mathbf{z} \sim \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{I})$
  $$\mathbf{x}_{t-1} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\alpha_t}}\left(\mathbf{x}_t - \frac{1-\alpha_t}{\sqrt{1-\bar{\alpha}_t}}\boldsymbol{\epsilon}_\theta(\mathbf{x}_t, t)\right) + \sigma_t \mathbf{z}$$
end for
return $\mathbf{x}_0$

They propose to represent the mean of the denoising model using a *noise-prediction* network:

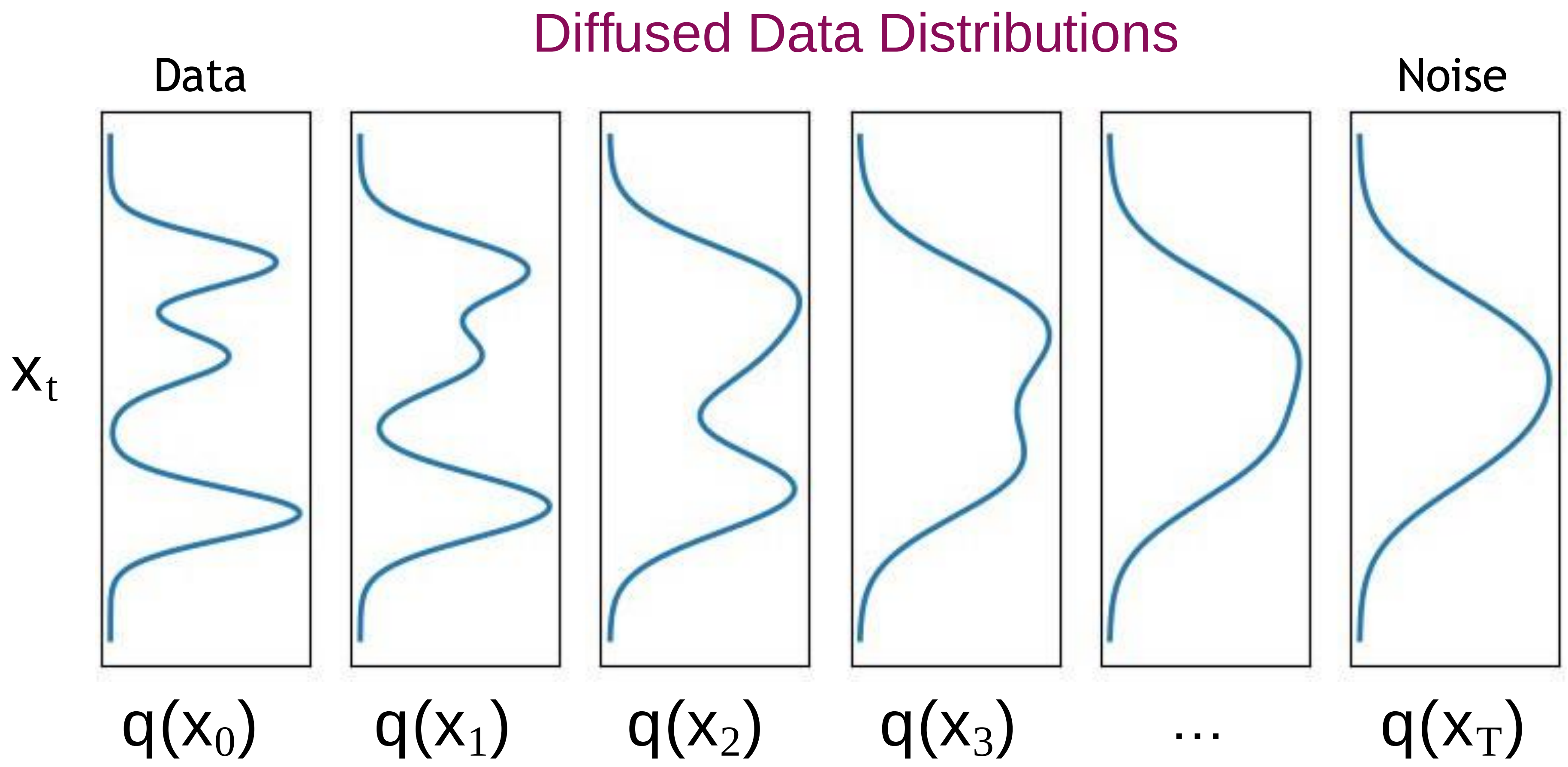
$$\mu_\theta(\mathbf{x}_t, t) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-\beta_t}}\left(\mathbf{x}_t - \frac{\beta_t}{\sqrt{1-\bar{\alpha}_t}}\epsilon_\theta(\mathbf{x}_t, t)\right)$$

Slide credit: Karsten Kreis et al.

What happens to a distribution in the forward diffusion?

So far, we discussed the diffusion kernel $q(\mathbf{x}_t|\mathbf{x}_0)$ but what about $q(\mathbf{x}_t)$?

$$\underbrace{q(\mathbf{x}_t)}_{\text{Diffused data dist.}} = \int \underbrace{q(\mathbf{x}_0, \mathbf{x}_t)}_{\text{Joint dist.}} \, d\mathbf{x}_0 = \int \underbrace{q(\mathbf{x}_0)}_{\text{Input data dist.}} \, \underbrace{q(\mathbf{x}_t|\mathbf{x}_0)}_{\text{Diffusion kernel}} \, d\mathbf{x}_0$$



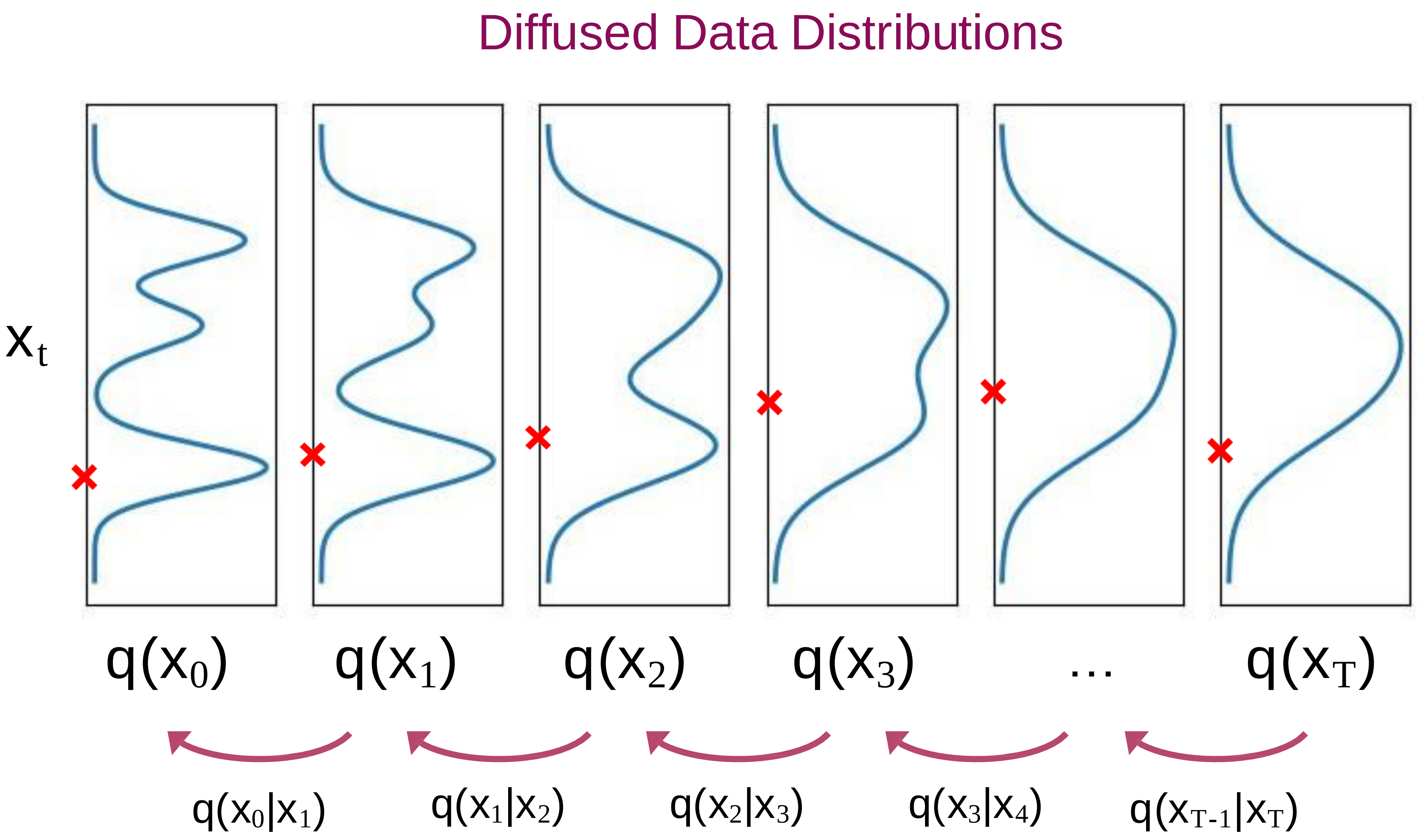
The diffusion kernel is Gaussian convolution.

We can sample $\mathbf{x}_t \sim q(\mathbf{x}_t)$ by first sampling $\mathbf{x}_0 \sim q(\mathbf{x}_0)$ and then sampling $\mathbf{x}_t \sim q(\mathbf{x}_t|\mathbf{x}_0)$

Slide credit: Karsten Kreis et al.

Generative Learning by Denoising

Recall, that the diffusion parameters are designed such that $q(\mathbf{x}_T) \approx \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{x}_T; \mathbf{0}, \mathbf{I}))$



Generation:

Sample $\mathbf{x}_T \sim \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{x}_T; \mathbf{0}, \mathbf{I})$

Iteratively sample $\mathbf{x}_{t-1} \sim \underbrace{q(\mathbf{x}_{t-1}|\mathbf{x}_t)}_{\text{True Denoising Dist.}}$

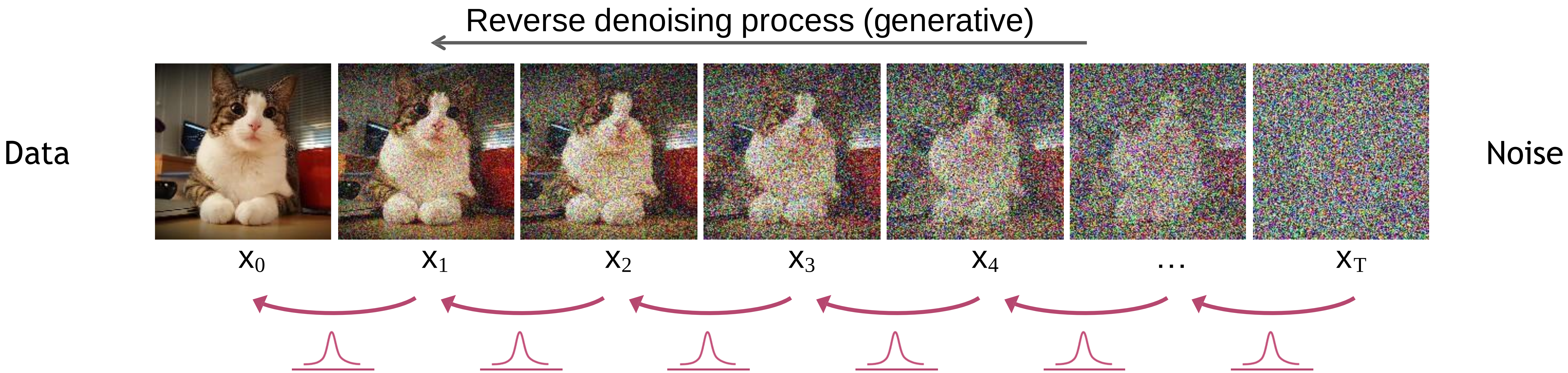
In general, $q(\mathbf{x}_{t-1}|\mathbf{x}_t) \propto q(\mathbf{x}_{t-1})q(\mathbf{x}_t|\mathbf{x}_{t-1})$ is intractable.

Can we approximate $q(\mathbf{x}_{t-1}|\mathbf{x}_t)$? Yes, we can use a Normal distribution if β_t is small in each forward diffusion step.

Slide credit: Karsten Kreis et al.

Reverse Denoising Process

Formal definition of forward and reverse processes in T steps:



$$p(\mathbf{x}_T) = \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{x}_T; \mathbf{0}, \mathbf{I})$$

$$p_\theta(\mathbf{x}_{t-1}|\mathbf{x}_t) = \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{x}_{t-1}; \underbrace{\mu_\theta(\mathbf{x}_t, t)}_{\text{Trainable network (U-net, Denoising Autoencoder)}}, \sigma_t^2\mathbf{I})$$

Trainable network
(U-net, Denoising Autoencoder)

$$\Rightarrow \quad p_\theta(\mathbf{x}_{0:T}) = p(\mathbf{x}_T)\prod_{t=1}^{T} p_\theta(\mathbf{x}_{t-1}|\mathbf{x}_t)$$

Slide credit: Karsten Kreis et al.

Learning Denoising Model

Variational upper bound

For training, we can form variational upper bound that is commonly used for training variational autoencoders:

$$\mathbb{E}_{q(\mathbf{x}_0)}\left[-\log p_\theta(\mathbf{x}_0)\right] \leq \mathbb{E}_{q(\mathbf{x}_0)q(\mathbf{x}_{1:T}|\mathbf{x}_0)}\left[-\log \frac{p_\theta(\mathbf{x}_{0:T})}{q(\mathbf{x}_{1:T}|\mathbf{x}_0)}\right] =: L$$

Sohl-Dickstein et al. ICML 2015 and Ho et al. NeurIPS 2020 show that:

$$L = \mathbb{E}_q\left[\underbrace{D_{\mathrm{KL}}(q(\mathbf{x}_T|\mathbf{x}_0)||p(\mathbf{x}_T))}_{L_T} + \sum_{t>1}\underbrace{D_{\mathrm{KL}}(q(\mathbf{x}_{t-1}|\mathbf{x}_t,\mathbf{x}_0)||p_\theta(\mathbf{x}_{t-1}|\mathbf{x}_t))}_{L_{t-1}}\underbrace{-\log p_\theta(\mathbf{x}_0|\mathbf{x}_1))}_{L_0}\right]$$

where $q(\mathbf{x}_{t-1}|\mathbf{x}_t, \mathbf{x}_0)$ is the tractable posterior distribution:

Slide credit: Karsten Kreis et al.

Learning Denoising Model

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where $q(\mathbf{x}_{t-1}|\mathbf{x}_t,\mathbf{x}_0)$ is the tractable posterior distribution:

$$q(\mathbf{x}_{t-1}|\mathbf{x}_t,\mathbf{x}_0) = q(\mathbf{x}_t|\mathbf{x}_{t-1},\mathbf{x}_0)\frac{q(\mathbf{x}_{t-1}|\mathbf{x}_0)}{q(\mathbf{x}_t|\mathbf{x}_0)}$$

$$q(\mathbf{x}_{t-1}|\mathbf{x}_t,\mathbf{x}_0) = \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{x}_{t-1};\tilde{\mu}_t(\mathbf{x}_t,\mathbf{x}_0),\tilde{\beta}_t\mathbf{I}),$$

$$\text{where}\quad \tilde{\mu}_t(\mathbf{x}_t,\mathbf{x}_0) := \frac{\sqrt{\bar{\alpha}_{t-1}}\beta_t}{1-\bar{\alpha}_t}\mathbf{x}_0 + \frac{\sqrt{1-\beta_t}(1-\bar{\alpha}_{t-1})}{1-\bar{\alpha}_t}\mathbf{x}_t \quad\text{and}\quad \tilde{\beta}_t := \frac{1-\bar{\alpha}_{t-1}}{1-\bar{\alpha}_t}\beta_t$$

Slide credit: Karsten Kreis et al.

Parameterizing the Denoising Model

Since both $q(\mathbf{x}_{t-1}|\mathbf{x}_t, \mathbf{x}_0)$ and $p_\theta(\mathbf{x}_{t-1}|\mathbf{x}_t)$ are Normal distributions, the KL divergence has a simple form:

$$L_{t-1} = D_{\mathrm{KL}}(q(\mathbf{x}_{t-1}|\mathbf{x}_t, \mathbf{x}_0)||p_\theta(\mathbf{x}_{t-1}|\mathbf{x}_t)) = \mathbb{E}_q\left[\frac{1}{2\sigma_t^2}||\tilde{\mu}_t(\mathbf{x}_t, \mathbf{x}_0) - \mu_\theta(\mathbf{x}_t, t)||^2\right] + C$$

$$KL(p,q) = -\int p(x)\log q(x)dx + \int p(x)\log p(x)dx$$

$$= \frac{1}{2}\log(2\pi\sigma_2^2) + \frac{\sigma_1^2 + (\mu_1 - \mu_2)^2}{2\sigma_2^2} - \frac{1}{2}(1 + \log 2\pi\sigma_1^2)$$

$$= \log\frac{\sigma_2}{\sigma_1} + \frac{\sigma_1^2 + (\mu_1 - \mu_2)^2}{2\sigma_2^2}.$$

Slide credit: Karsten Kreis et al.

Parameterizing the Denoising Model

Since both $q(\mathbf{x}_{t-1}|\mathbf{x}_t, \mathbf{x}_0)$ and $p_\theta(\mathbf{x}_{t-1}|\mathbf{x}_t)$ are Normal distributions, the KL divergence has a simple form:

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Recall that $\mathbf{x}_t = \sqrt{\bar{\alpha}_t}\ \mathbf{x}_0 + \sqrt{(1-\bar{\alpha}_t)}\ \epsilon$. Ho et al. NeurIPS 2020 observe that:

$$\tilde{\mu}_t(\mathbf{x}_t, \mathbf{x}_0) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-\beta_t}}\left(\mathbf{x}_t - \frac{\beta_t}{\sqrt{1-\bar{\alpha}_t}}\epsilon\right)$$

They propose to represent the mean of the denoising model using a *noise-prediction* network:

$$\mu_\theta(\mathbf{x}_t, t) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-\beta_t}}\left(\mathbf{x}_t - \frac{\beta_t}{\sqrt{1-\bar{\alpha}_t}}\ \epsilon_\theta(\mathbf{x}_t, t)\right)$$

With this parameterization

$$L_{t-1} = \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{x}_0 \sim q(\mathbf{x}_0), \epsilon \sim \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{I})}\left[\frac{\beta_t^2}{2\sigma_t^2(1-\beta_t)(1-\bar{\alpha}_t)}||\epsilon - \epsilon_\theta(\underbrace{\sqrt{\bar{\alpha}_t}\ \mathbf{x}_0 + \sqrt{1-\bar{\alpha}_t}\ \epsilon}_{\mathbf{x}_t}, t)||^2\right] + C$$

Slide credit: Karsten Kreis et al.

Training Objective Weighting

Trading likelihood for perceptual quality

$$L_{t-1} = \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{x}_0 \sim q(\mathbf{x}_0), \epsilon \sim \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{I})} \left[\underbrace{\frac{\beta_t^2}{2\sigma_t^2 (1-\beta_t)(1-\bar{\alpha}_t)}}_{\lambda_t} ||\epsilon - \epsilon_\theta(\sqrt{\bar{\alpha}_t}\, \mathbf{x}_0 + \sqrt{1-\bar{\alpha}_t}\, \epsilon, t)||^2 \right]$$

The time dependent λ_t ensures that the training objective is weighted properly for the maximum data likelihood training.

However, this weight is often very large for small t's.

Ho et al. NeurIPS 2020 observe that simply setting $\lambda_t = 1$ improves sample quality. So, they propose to use:

$$L_{\text{simple}} = \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{x}_0 \sim q(\mathbf{x}_0), \epsilon \sim \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{I}), t \sim \mathcal{U}(1,T)} \left[||\epsilon - \epsilon_\theta(\underbrace{\sqrt{\bar{\alpha}_t}\, \mathbf{x}_0 + \sqrt{1-\bar{\alpha}_t}\, \epsilon}_{\mathbf{x}_t}, t)||^2 \right]$$

For more advanced weighting see Choi et al., Perception Prioritized Training of Diffusion Models, CVPR 2022.

Slide credit: Karsten Kreis et al.

Summary

Training and Sample Generation

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

Algorithm 2 Sampling

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

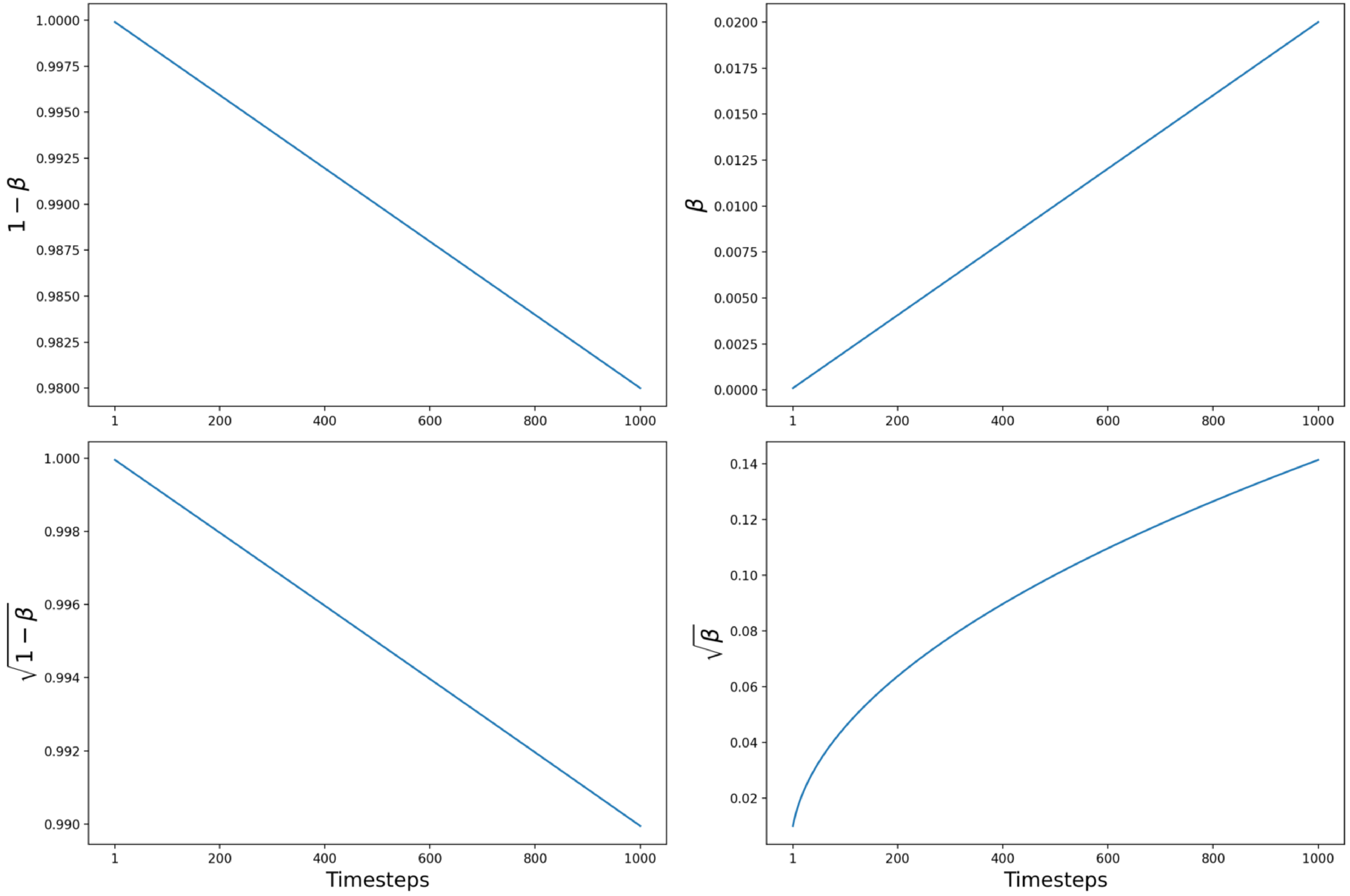
They propose to represent the mean of the denoising model using a *noise-prediction* network:

$$\mu_\theta(\mathbf{x}_t, t) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-\beta_t}}\left(\mathbf{x}_t - \frac{\beta_t}{\sqrt{1-\bar{\alpha}_t}}\,\epsilon_\theta(\mathbf{x}_t, t)\right)$$

Slide credit: Karsten Kreis et al.

Implementation Considerations

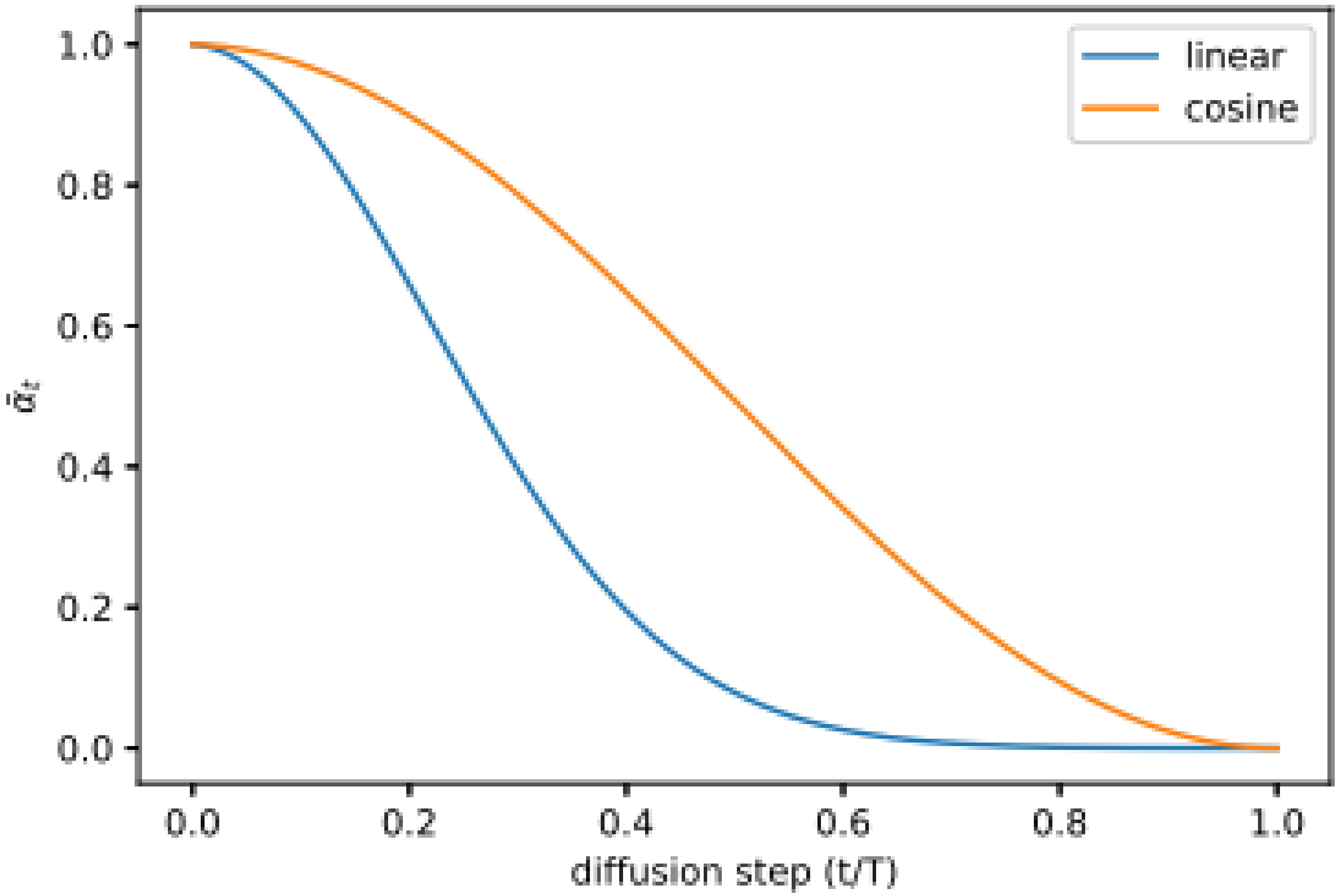
Noise Schedule



Credit: https://learnopencv.com/denoising-diffusion-probabilistic-models/

Implementation Considerations

Noise Schedule



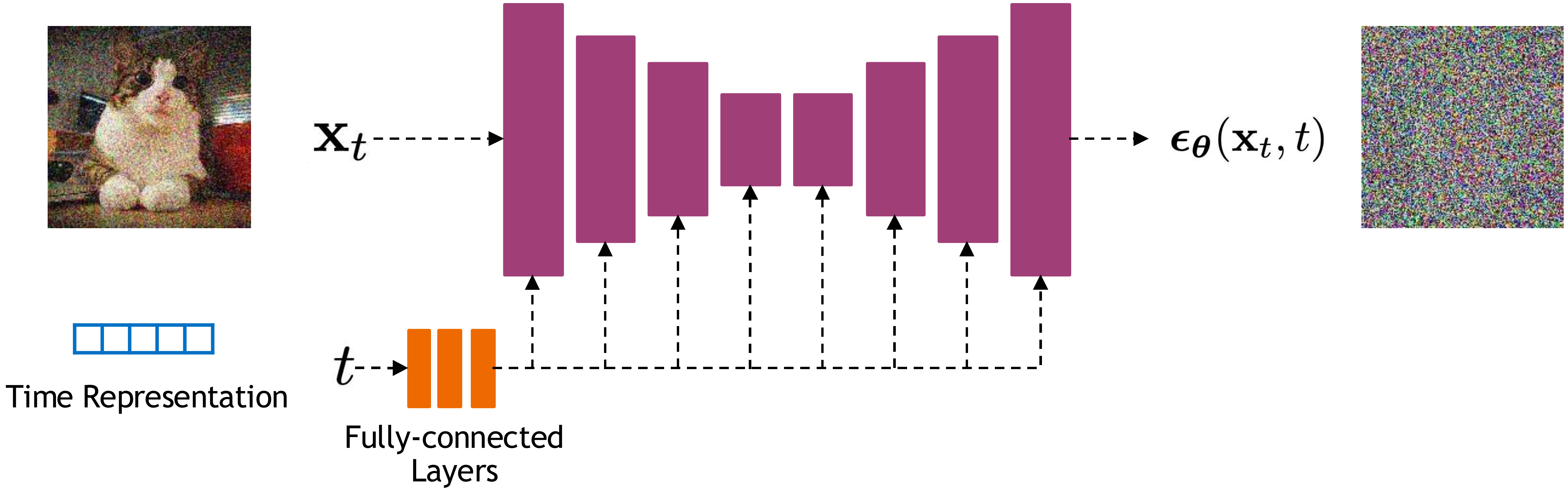
Latent samples from linear (top) and cosine (bottom)

Credit: https://learnopencv.com/denoising-diffusion-probabilistic-models/

Implementation Considerations

Network Architectures

Diffusion models often use U-Net architectures with ResNet blocks and self-attention layers to represent $\epsilon_\theta(\mathbf{x}_t, t)$



Time representation: sinusoidal positional embeddings or random Fourier features.

Time features are fed to the residual blocks using either simple spatial addition or using adaptive group normalization layers. (see Dharivwal and Nichol NeurIPS 2021)

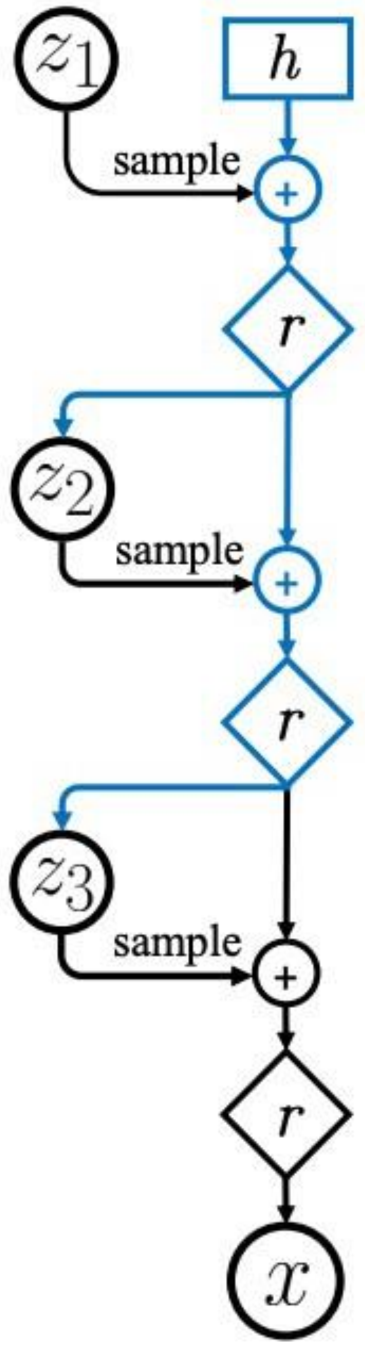
Slide credit: Karsten Kreis et al.

Connection to VAEs

Diffusion models can be considered as a special form of hierarchical VAEs.

However, in diffusion models:

- The encoder is fixed
- The latent variables have the same dimension as the data
- The denoising model is shared across different timestep
- The model is trained with some reweighting of the variational bound.



[Vahdat and Kautz, NVAE: A Deep Hierarchical Variational Autoencoder, NeurIPS 2020](#)
[Sønderby, et al., Ladder variational autoencoders, NeurIPS 2016.](#)

Slide credit: Karsten Kreis et al.