Deep Unsupervised Learning using Nonequilibrium Thermodynamics

Jascha Sohl-Dickstein¹, Eric Weiss², Niru Maheswaranathan³, Surya Ganguli³

¹ Google Brain, ² UC Berkeley, ³ Stanford University







Niru



Surya

Outline

- Motivation: The promise of deep unsupervised learning
- Physical intuition: Diffusion processes and time reversal
- Diffusion probabilistic model: Derivation and experimental results
- Other projects: Inverse Ising, non-equilibrium Monte Carlo, stat. mech. of neural networks

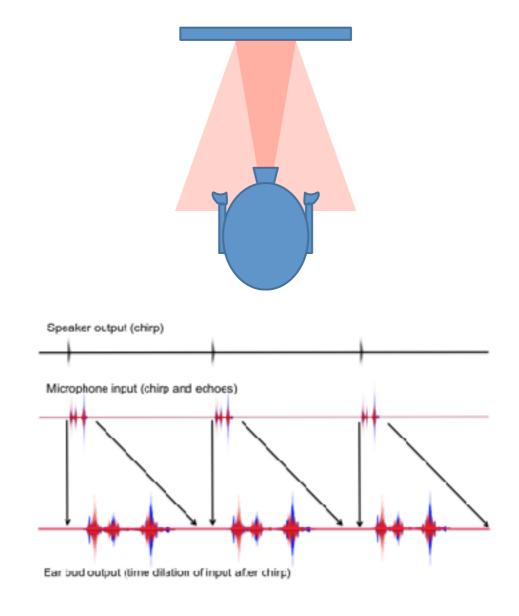
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Unknown features/labels

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 - Novel modalities

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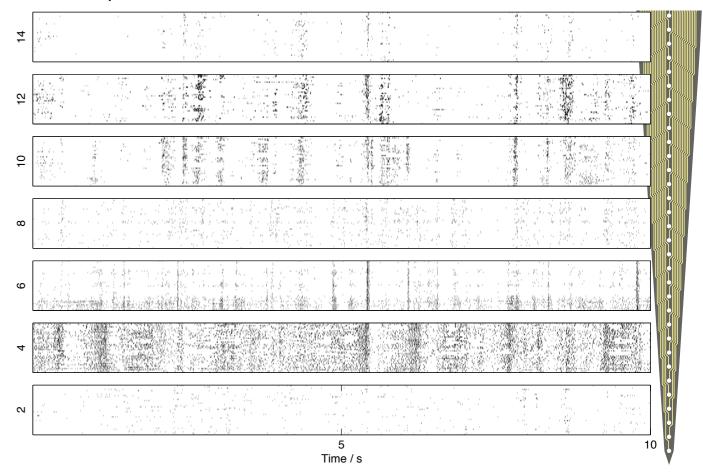
[Trans Biomed Eng, 2015]

- Unknown features/labels
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 - Exploratory data analysis

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 - Novel modalities
 - Exploratory data analysis

7 exemplar multiunits responding to 40 repeated trials of natural video in cat V1



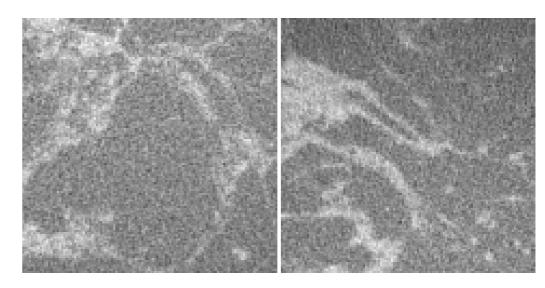
[PLoS Comp Bio 2014] [Neuron 2013]

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- Expensive labels

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Coronal breast CT



[SPIE 2009] [Med Phys 2014]

- Unknown features/labels
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- Unknown features/labels
 - Novel modalities
 - Exploratory data analysis
- Expensive labels
- Unpredictable tasks / one shot learning

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Outline

- Motivation: The promise of deep unsupervised learning
- Physical intuition: Diffusion processes and time reversal
 - Destroy structure in data
 - Carefully characterize the destruction
 - Learn how to reverse time
- Diffusion probabilistic model: Derivation and experimental results
- Other projects: Inverse Ising, non-equilibrium Monte Carlo, stat. mech. of neural networks



Dye density represents probability density



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- Goal: Learn structure of probability density



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Data distribution





What if we could reverse time?



What if we could reverse time?



What if we could reverse time?

Data distribution





- What if we could reverse time?
- Recover data distribution by starting from uniform distribution and running dynamics backwards

Data distribution



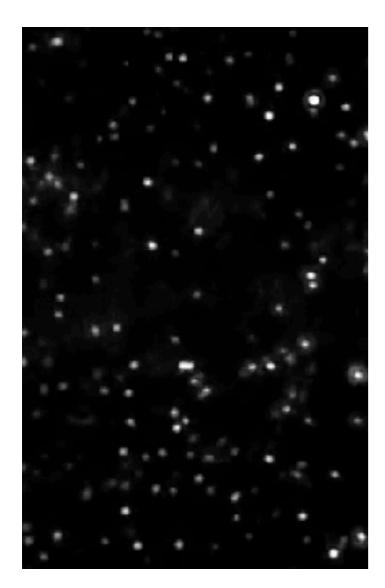


- What if we could reverse time?
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Data distribution

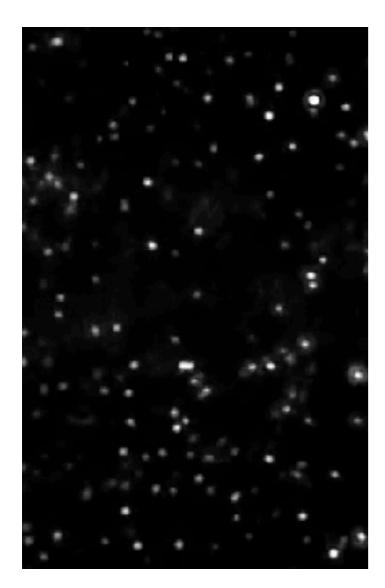






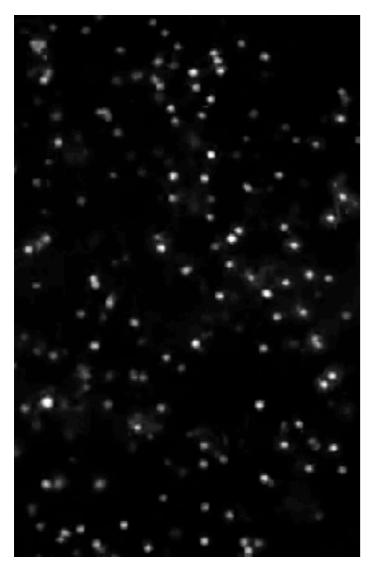
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- Microscopic view
- Brownian motion



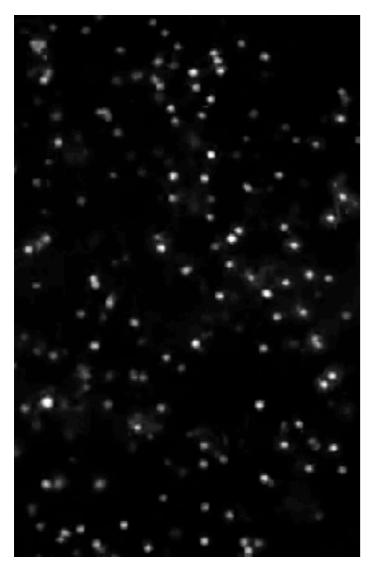
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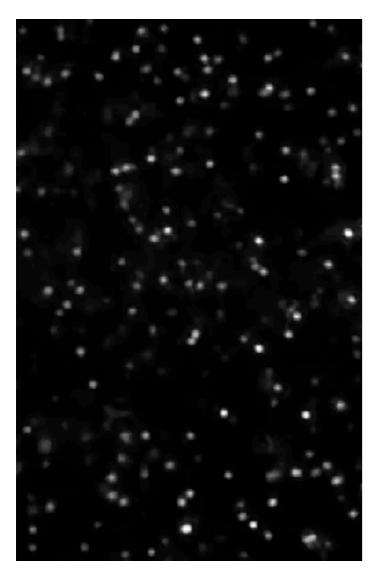
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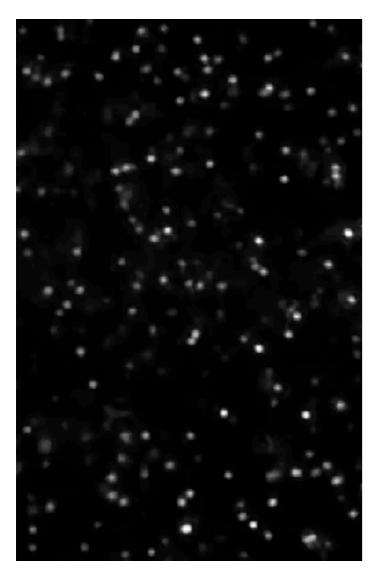
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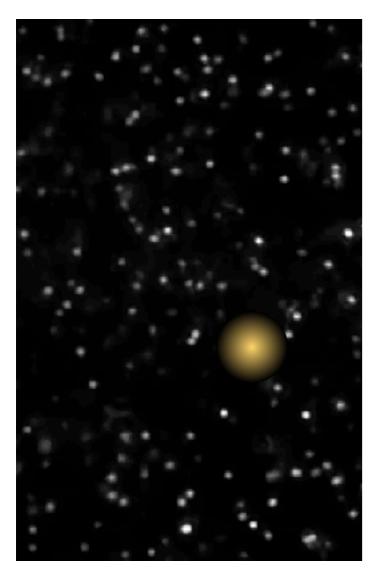
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- Microscopic view
- Brownian motion
- Position updates are small Gaussians



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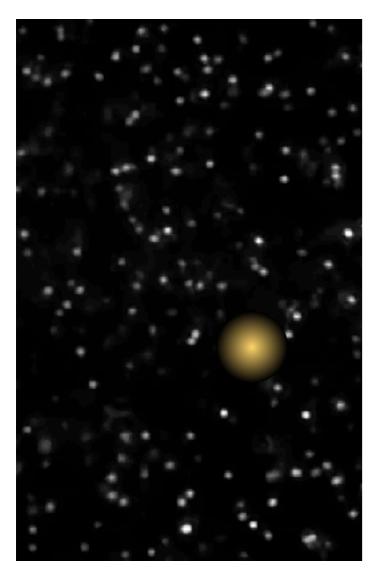
- Microscopic view
- Brownian motion
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- Microscopic view
- Brownian motion
- Position updates are small Gaussians

Observation 2: Microscopic Diffusion is Time Reversible



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- Microscopic view
- Brownian motion
- Position updates are small Gaussians
 - Both forwards and backwards in time

Destroy all structure in data distribution using diffusion process

- Destroy all structure in data distribution using diffusion process
- Learn reversal of diffusion process
 - Estimate function for mean and covariance of each step in the reverse diffusion process (binomial rate for binary data)

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- Learn reversal of diffusion process
 - Estimate function for mean and covariance of each step in the reverse diffusion process (binomial rate for binary data)
- Reverse diffusion process is the model of the data

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Data distribution

$$q\left(\mathbf{x}^{(0)}\right)$$

Data distribution

Forward diffusion

$$q\left(\mathbf{x}^{(0)}\right)$$

$$q\left(\mathbf{x}^{(t)}|\mathbf{x}^{(t-1)}\right) = \mathcal{N}\left(\mathbf{x}^{(t)};\mathbf{x}^{(t-1)}\sqrt{1-\beta_t},\mathbf{I}\beta_t\right)$$

Data distribution

Forward diffusion

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Decay towards origin

Data distribution

Forward diffusion

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Decay towards origin

Add small noise

Data distribution

Forward diffusion

Noise distribution

$$q\left(\mathbf{x}^{(0)}\right)$$

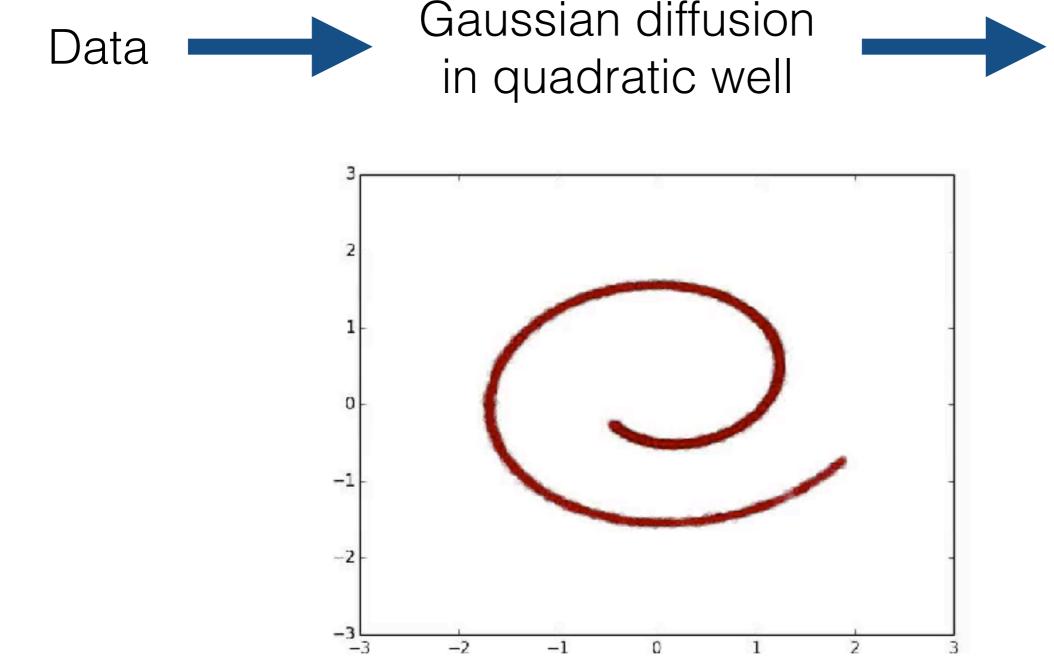
$$q\left(\mathbf{x}^{(T)}\right) \approx \mathcal{N}\left(\mathbf{x}^{(T)}; 0, \mathbf{I}\right)$$

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Decay towards origin

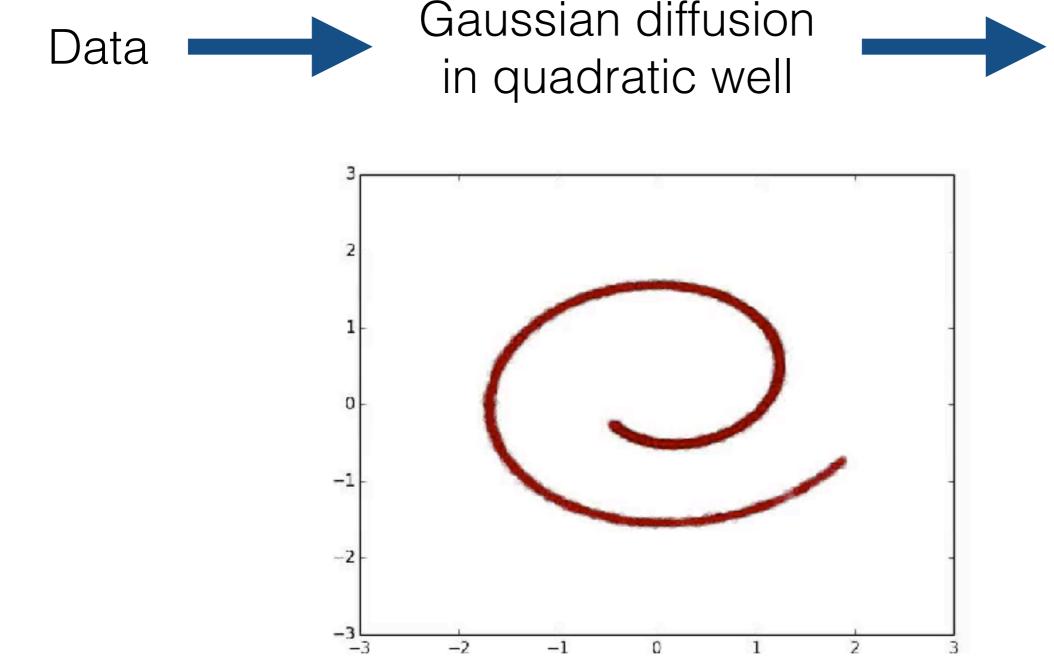
Add small noise

Forward Diffusion Process on Swiss Roll



Isotropic Gaussian

Forward Diffusion Process on Swiss Roll



Isotropic Gaussian

Noise distribution

$$p\left(\mathbf{x}^{(T)}\right) = \mathcal{N}\left(\mathbf{x}^{(T)}; 0, \mathbf{I}\right)$$

Reverse diffusion

Noise distribution



$$p\left(\mathbf{x}^{(T)}\right) = \mathcal{N}\left(\mathbf{x}^{(T)}; 0, \mathbf{I}\right)$$

$$p\left(\mathbf{x}^{(t-1)}|\mathbf{x}^{(t)}\right) = \mathcal{N}\left(\mathbf{x}^{(t-1)}; f_{\mu}\left(\mathbf{x}^{(t)}, t\right), f_{\Sigma}\left(\mathbf{x}^{(t)}, t\right)\right)$$

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Learned drift and covariance functions

Data distribution

Reverse diffusion

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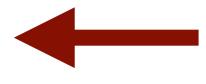
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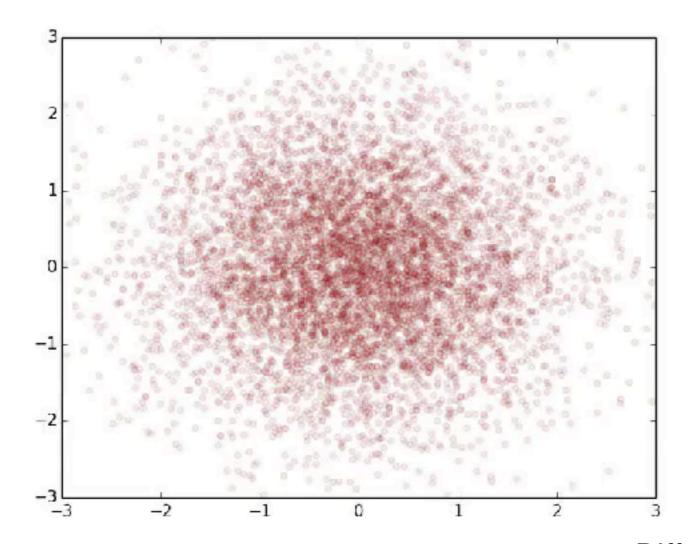
Learned Reverse Diffusion Process on Swiss Roll

Data dist.

Gaussian diffusion w/ learned kernel



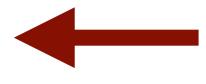
Isotropic Gaussian



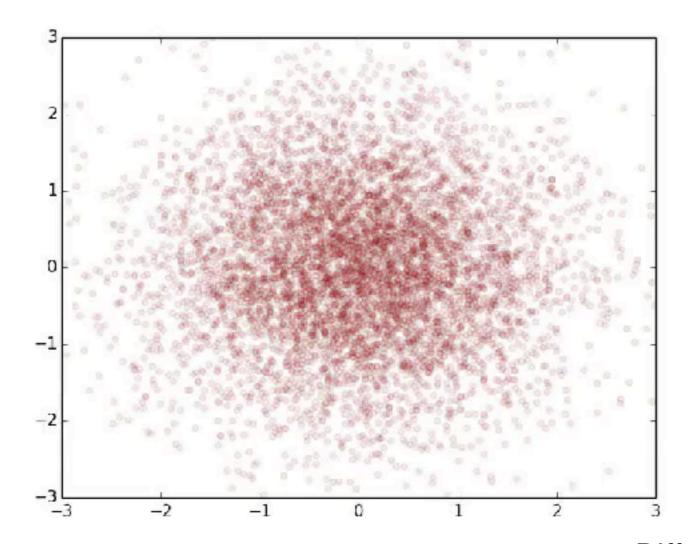
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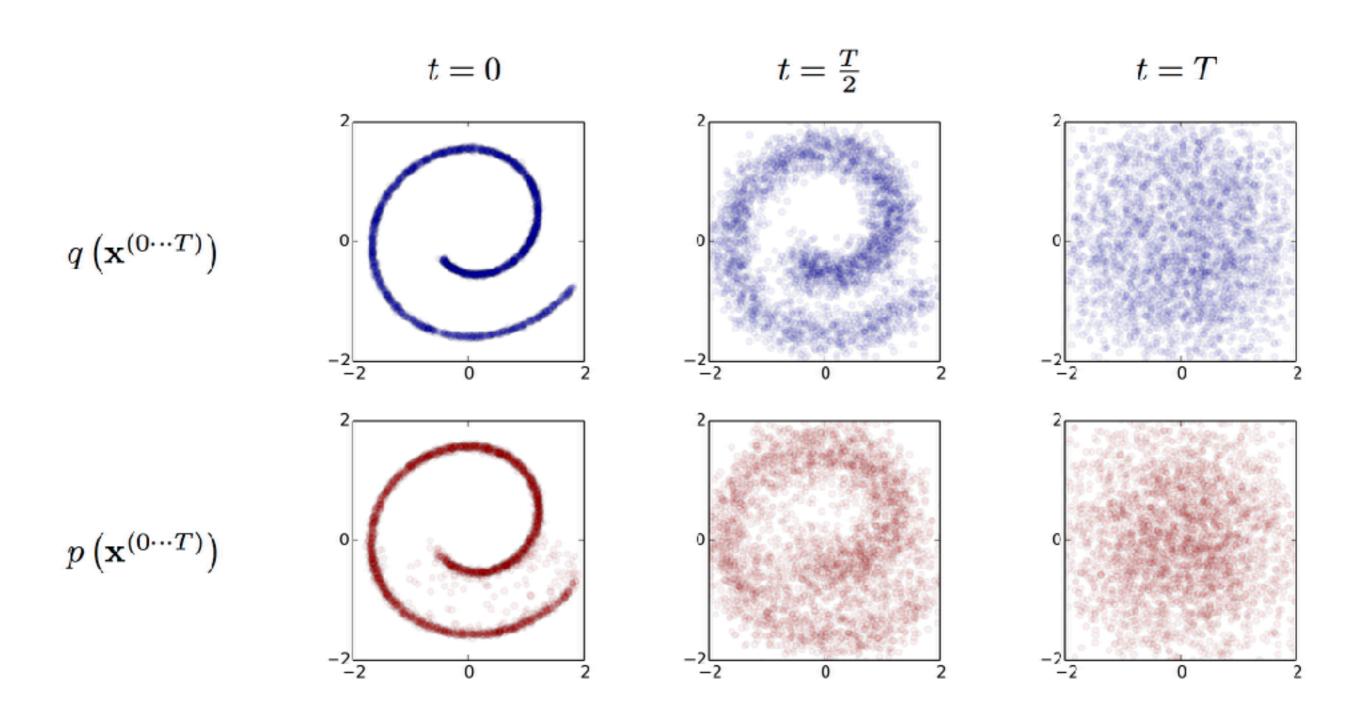
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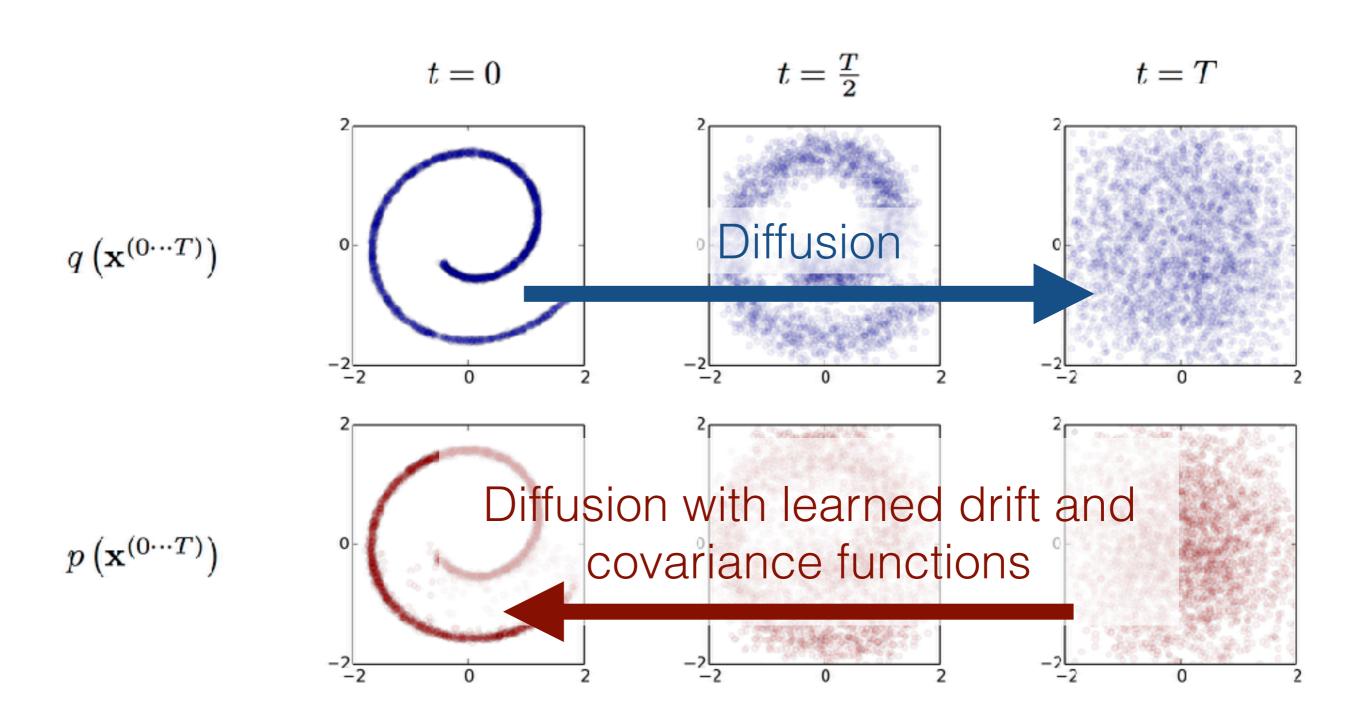
Isotropic Gaussian



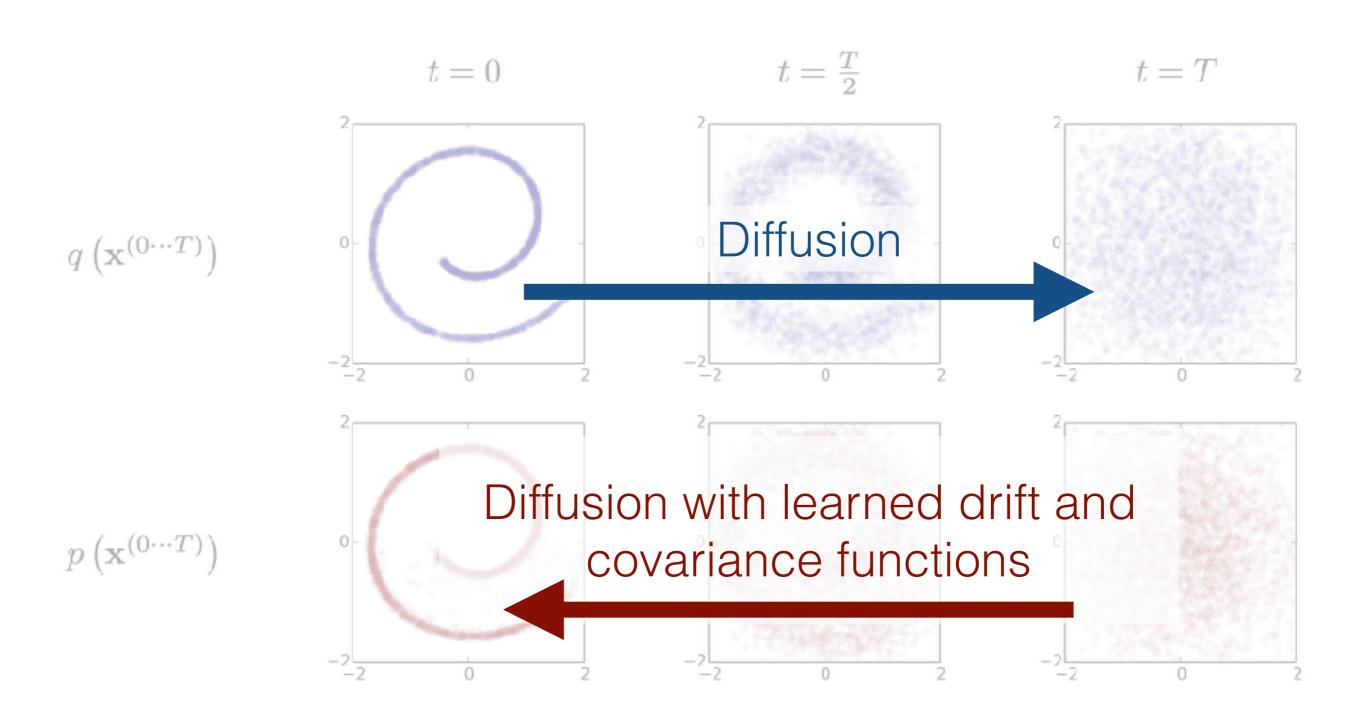
Summary of Forward and Reverse Diffusion on Swiss Roll



Summary of Forward and Reverse Diffusion on Swiss Roll



Summary of Forward and Reverse Diffusion on Swiss Roll



Training the Reverse Diffusion Process

Model probability

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

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Annealed importance sampling / Jarzynski equality

$$p\left(\mathbf{x}^{(0)}\right) = \int d\mathbf{x}^{(1\cdots T)} q\left(\mathbf{x}^{(1\cdots T)} | \mathbf{x}^{(0)}\right) \frac{p\left(\mathbf{x}^{(0\cdots T)}\right)}{q\left(\mathbf{x}^{(1\cdots T)} | \mathbf{x}^{(0)}\right)}$$

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Log Likelihood

$$L = \int d\mathbf{x}^{(0)} q\left(\mathbf{x}^{(0)}\right) \log \left[\int d\mathbf{x}^{(1\cdots T)} q\left(\mathbf{x}^{(1\cdots T)}\right) \frac{p\left(\mathbf{x}^{(0\cdots T)}\right)}{q\left(\mathbf{x}^{(1\cdots T)}\right)} \right]$$

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Jensen's inequality

$$L \ge \int d\mathbf{x}^{(0\cdots T)} q\left(\mathbf{x}^{(0\cdots T)}\right) \log \left| \frac{p\left(\mathbf{x}^{(0\cdots T)}\right)}{q\left(\mathbf{x}^{(1\cdots T)}|\mathbf{x}^{(0)}\right)} \right|$$

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... algebra ...

$$L \ge -\sum_{t=2}^{T} \int d\mathbf{x}^{(0)} d\mathbf{x}^{(t)} q\left(\mathbf{x}^{(0)}, \mathbf{x}^{(t)}\right) D_{KL} \left(q\left(\mathbf{x}^{(t-1)} | \mathbf{x}^{(t)}, \mathbf{x}^{(0)}\right) \middle| \left| p\left(\mathbf{x}^{(t-1)} | \mathbf{x}^{(t)}\right)\right) + \text{const}$$

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Gaussian

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+ const





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Training

$$\underset{f_{\mu}\left(\mathbf{x}^{(t)},t\right),f_{\Sigma}\left(\mathbf{x}^{(t)},t\right)}{\operatorname{argmin}} \mathbb{E}\left[D_{KL}\left(q\left(\mathbf{x}^{(t-1)}|\mathbf{x}^{(t)},\mathbf{x}^{(0)}\right)\middle|\middle|p\left(\mathbf{x}^{(t-1)}|\mathbf{x}^{(t)}\right)\right)\right]$$

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Training

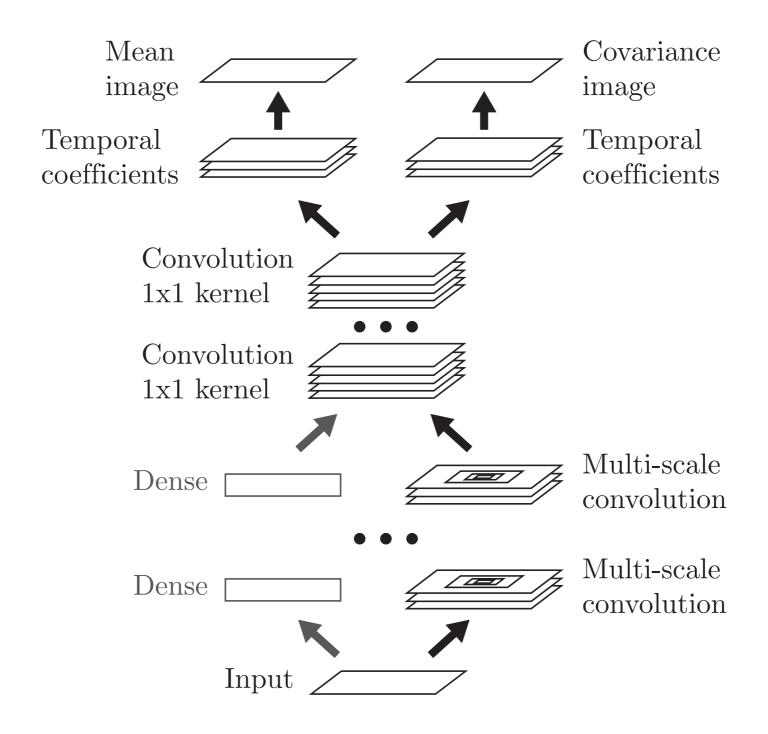
$$\underset{f_{\mu}\left(\mathbf{x}^{(t)},t\right),f_{\Sigma}\left(\mathbf{x}^{(t)},t\right)}{\operatorname{argmin}} \mathbb{E}\left[D_{KL}\left(q\left(\mathbf{x}^{(t-1)}|\mathbf{x}^{(t)},\mathbf{x}^{(0)}\right)\middle|\left|p\left(\mathbf{x}^{(t-1)}|\mathbf{x}^{(t)}\right)\right)\right]\right]$$

Unsupervised Regression learning

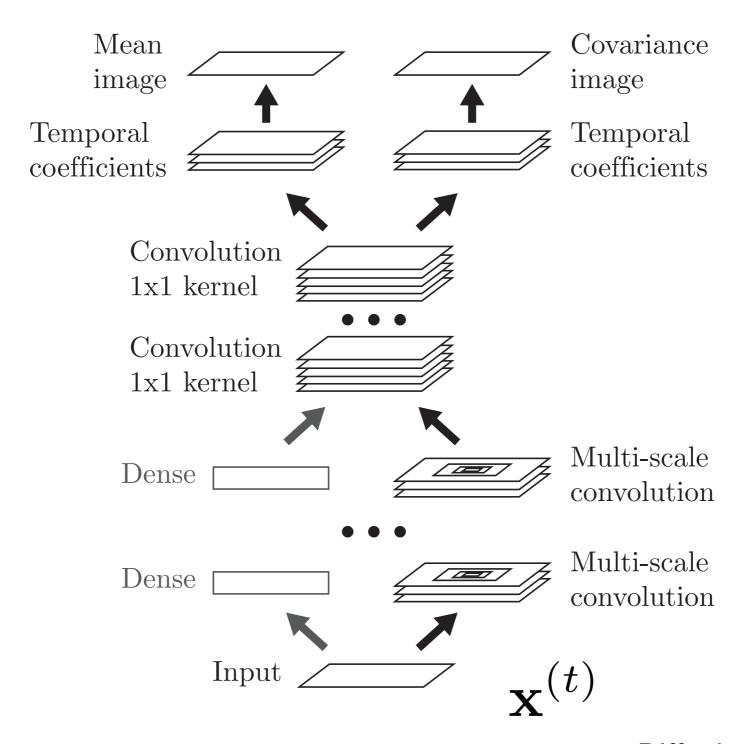
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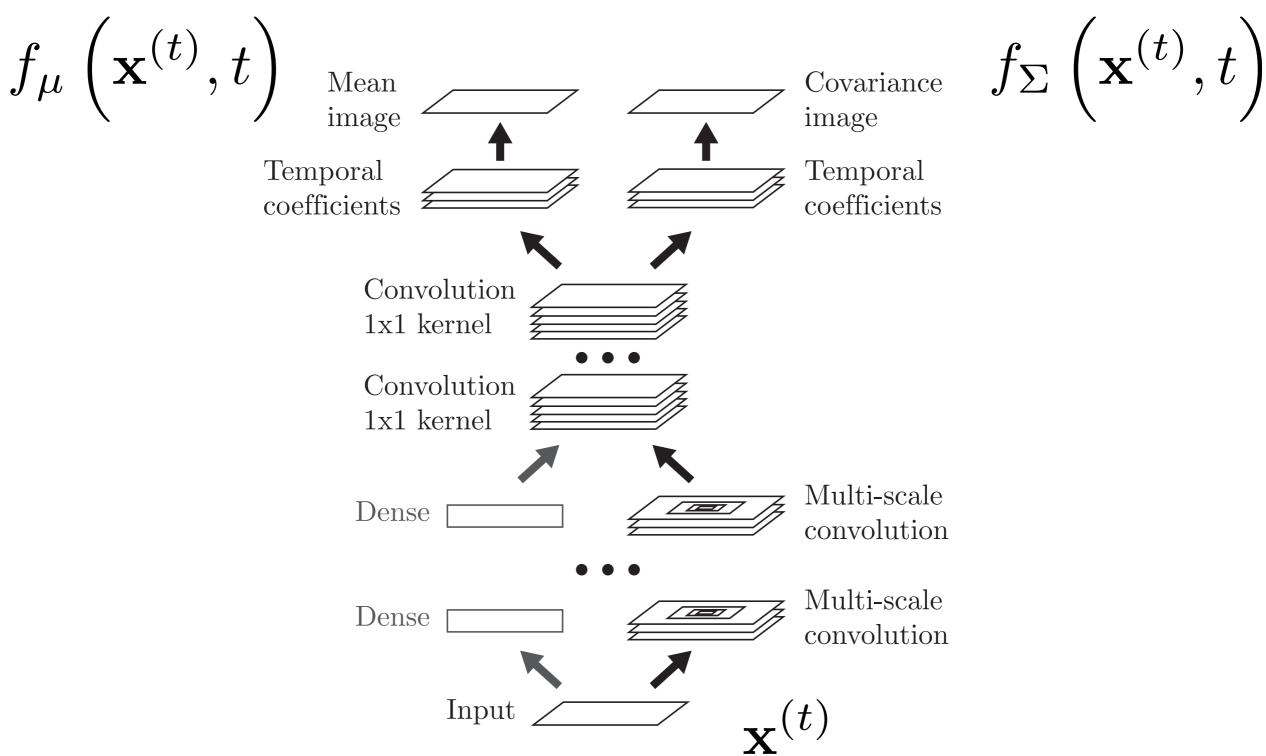
Use Deep Network as Function Approximator for Images



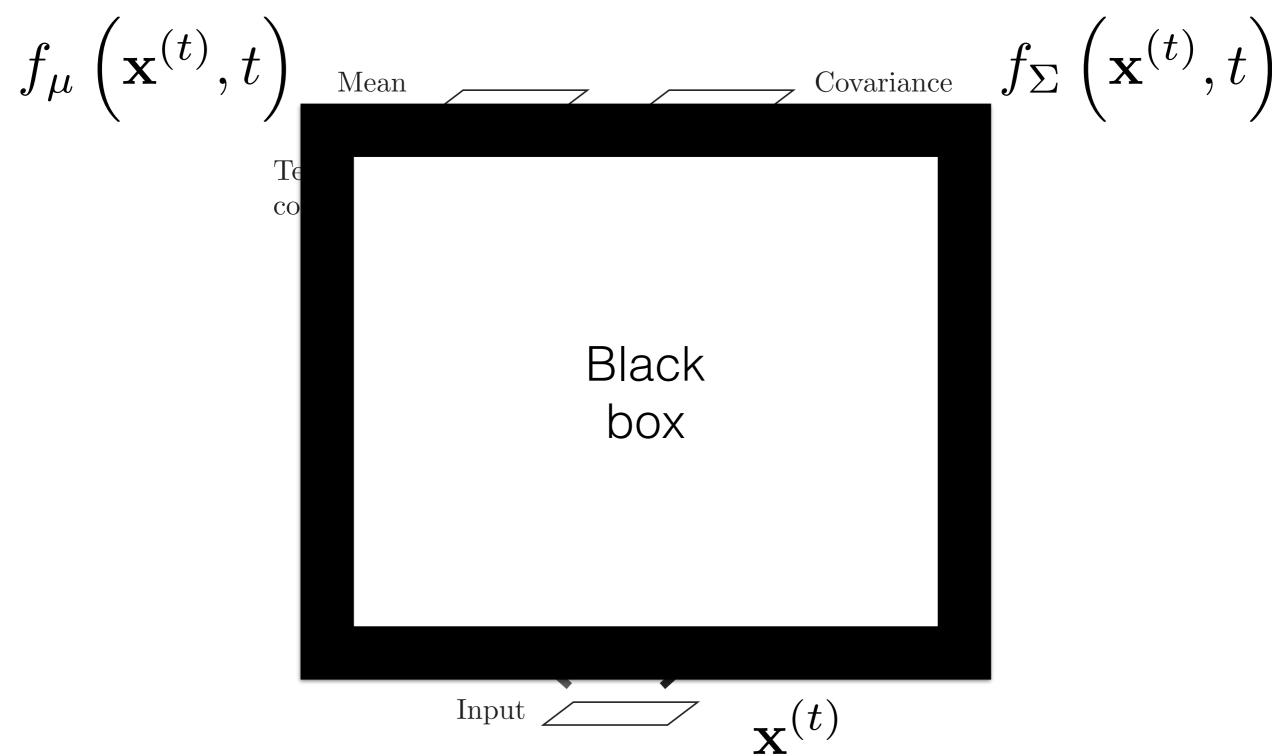
Use Deep Network as Function Approximator for Images

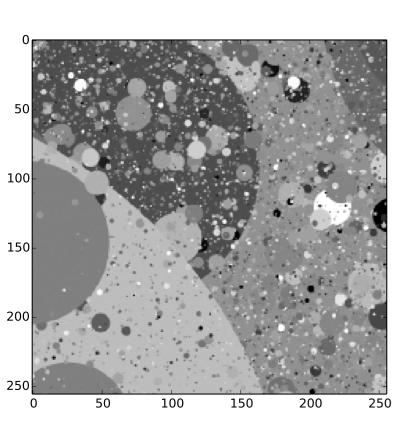


Use Deep Network as Function Approximator for Images

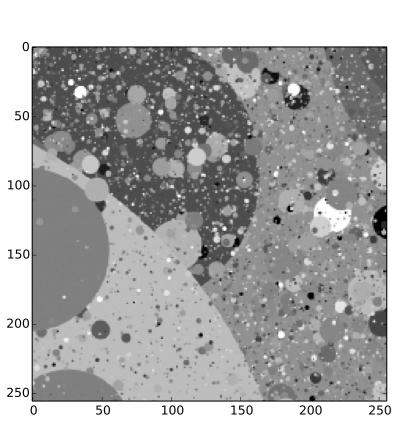


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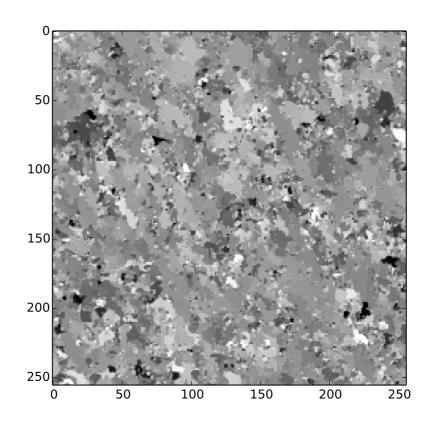




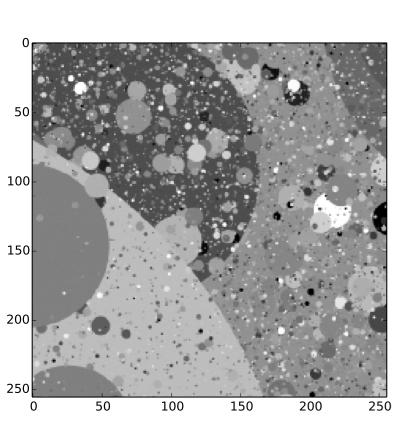
Training Data



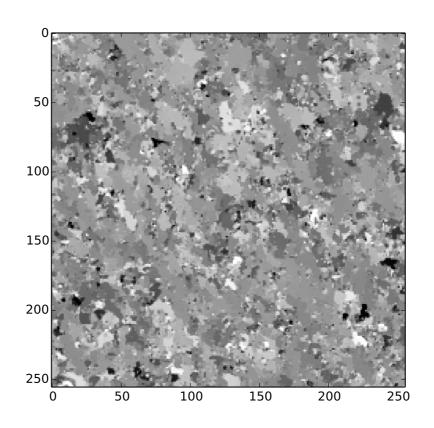
Training Data



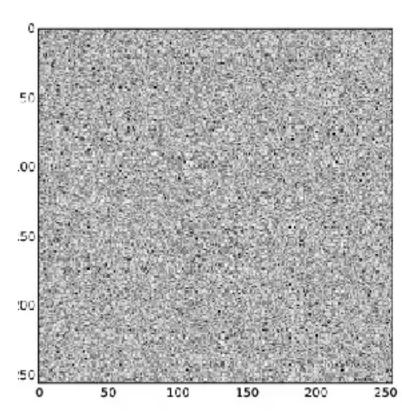
Sample from [Theis *et al*, 2012]



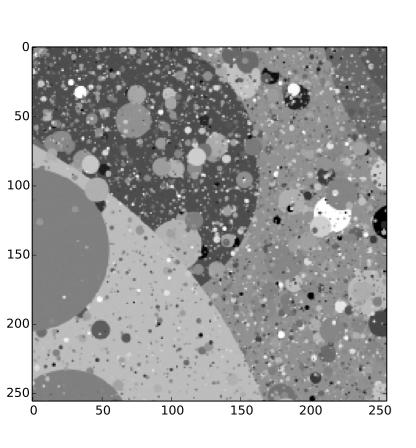
Training Data



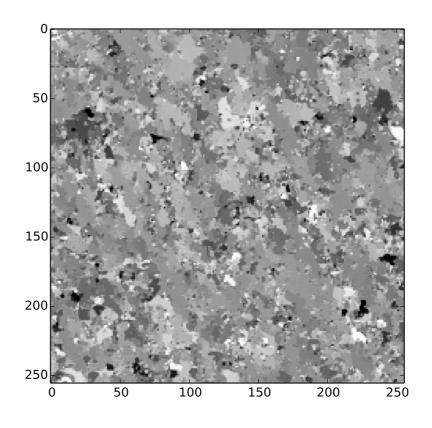
Sample from [Theis *et al*, 2012]



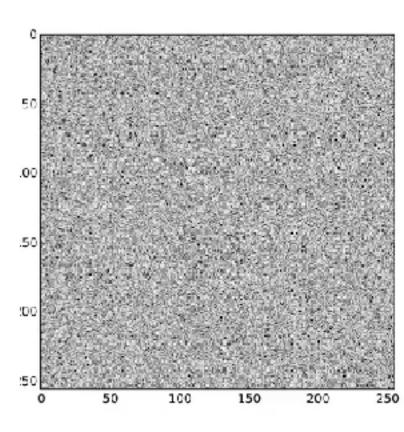
Jascha Sohl-Dickstein



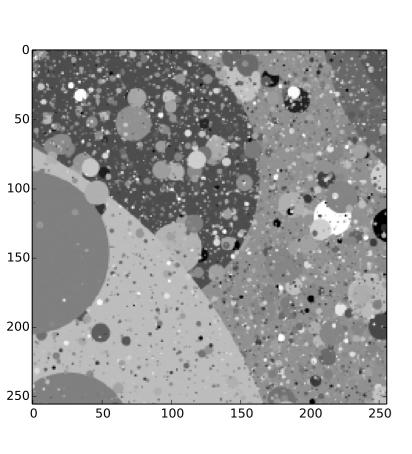
Training Data



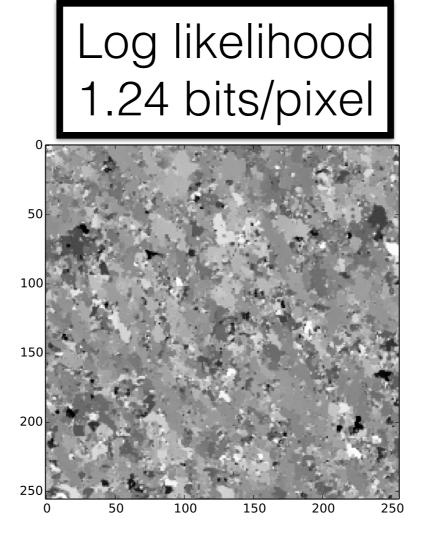
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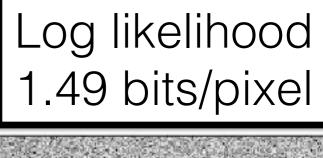
Sample from diffusion model

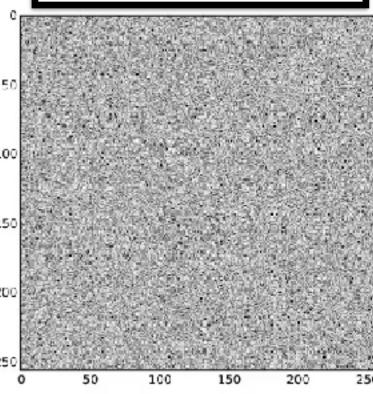


Training Data

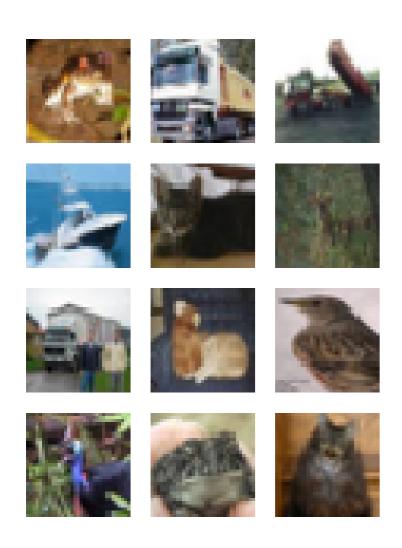


Sample from [Theis *et al*, 2012]

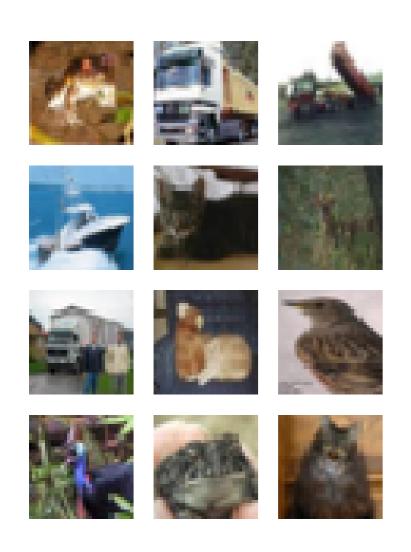




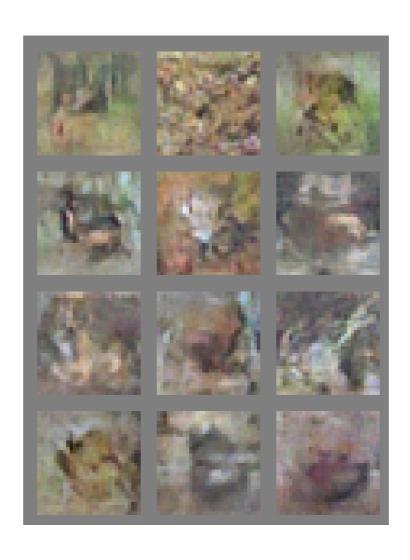
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Training Data



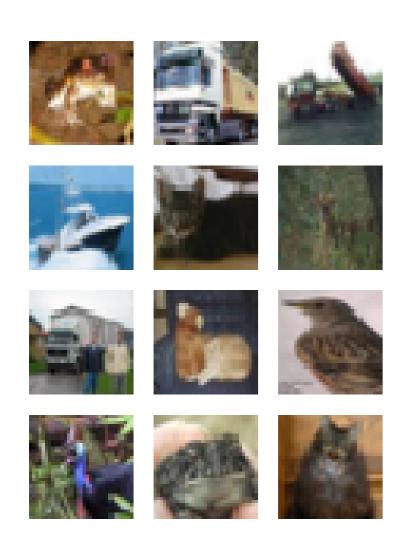




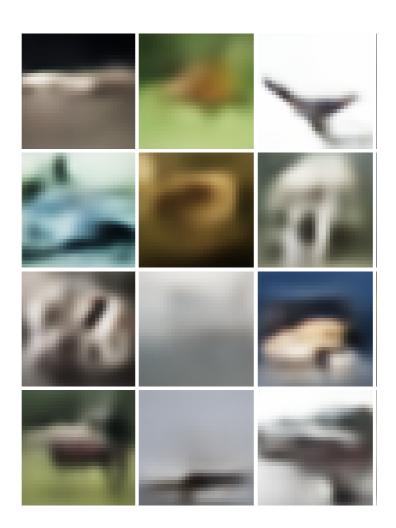
Samples from Generative Adverserial [Goodfellow *et al*, 2014]

Jascha Sohl-Dickstein

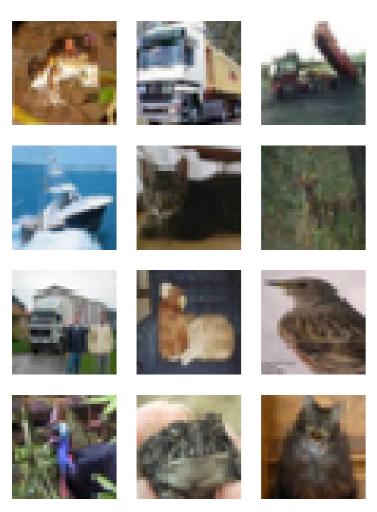
Diffusion Probabilistic Models



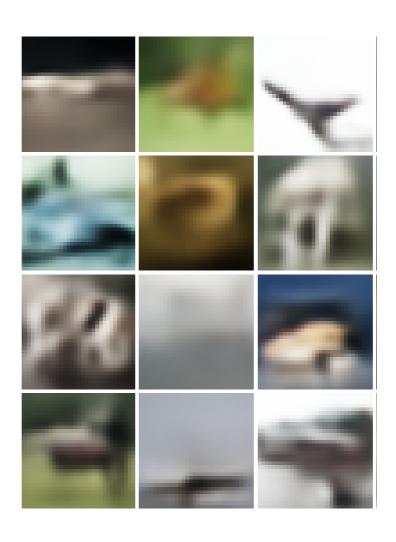




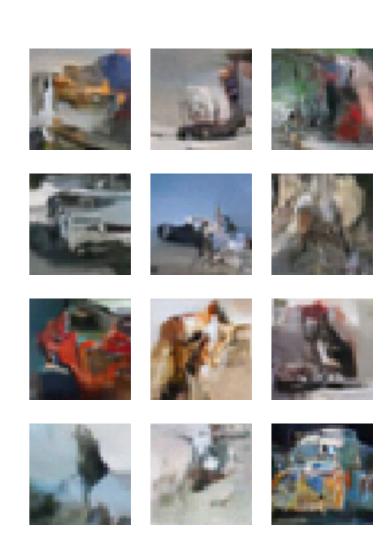
Samples from DRAW [Gregor *et al*, 2015]







Samples from DRAW [Gregor *et al*, 2015]



Samples from diffusion model

Diffusion Probabilistic Models

Outline

- Motivation: The promise of deep unsupervised learning
- Physical intuition: Diffusion processes and time reversal
- Diffusion probabilistic model: Derivation and experimental results
 - Algorithm
 - Deep convolutional network: Universal function approximator
 - Multiplying distributions: Inputation, denoising, computing posteriors
- Other projects: Inverse Ising, non-equilibrium Monte Carlo, stat. mech. of neural networks

Interested in
$$\tilde{p}\left(\mathbf{x}^{(0)}\right) \propto p\left(\mathbf{x}^{(0)}\right) r\left(\mathbf{x}^{(0)}\right)$$

- Required to compute posterior distributions
 - Missing data (inpainting)
 - Corrupted data (denoising)

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- Required to compute posterior distributions
 - Missing data (inpainting)
 - Corrupted data (denoising)
- Difficult and expensive using competing techniques
 - e.g. VAEs, GSNs, NADEs, GANs, RNVP, most graphical models

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Acts as small perturbation to diffusion process

Interested in
$$\tilde{p}\left(\mathbf{x}^{(0)}\right) \propto p\left(\mathbf{x}^{(0)}\right) r\left(\mathbf{x}^{(0)}\right)$$



$$p\left(\mathbf{x}^{(t-1)}|\mathbf{x}^{(t)}\right) = \mathcal{N}\left(\mathbf{x}^{(t-1)}; f_{\mu}\left(\mathbf{x}^{(t)}, t\right), f_{\Sigma}\left(\mathbf{x}^{(t)}, t\right)\right)$$

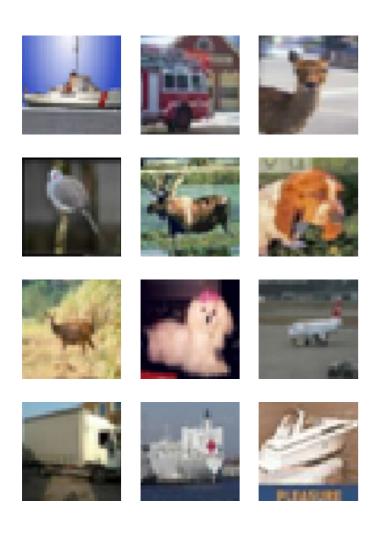


$$\tilde{p}\left(\mathbf{x}^{(t-1)} \mid \mathbf{x}^{(t)}\right) \approx \mathcal{N}\left(x^{(t-1)}; \mathbf{f}_{\mu}\left(\mathbf{x}^{(t)}, t\right) + \mathbf{f}_{\Sigma}\left(\mathbf{x}^{(t)}, t\right) \frac{\partial \log r\left(\mathbf{x}^{(t-1)'}\right)}{\partial \mathbf{x}^{(t-1)'}} \bigg|_{\mathbf{x}^{(t-1)'} = f_{\mu}\left(\mathbf{x}^{(t)}, t\right)}, \mathbf{f}_{\Sigma}\left(\mathbf{x}^{(t)}, t\right)\right)$$

Jascha Sohl-Dickstein

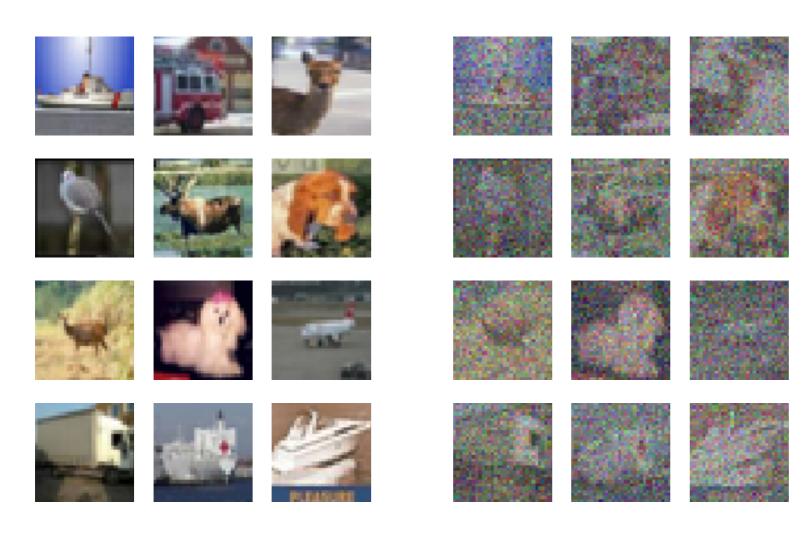
Diffusion Probabilistic Models

Image Denoising by Sampling from Posterior



Holdout Data

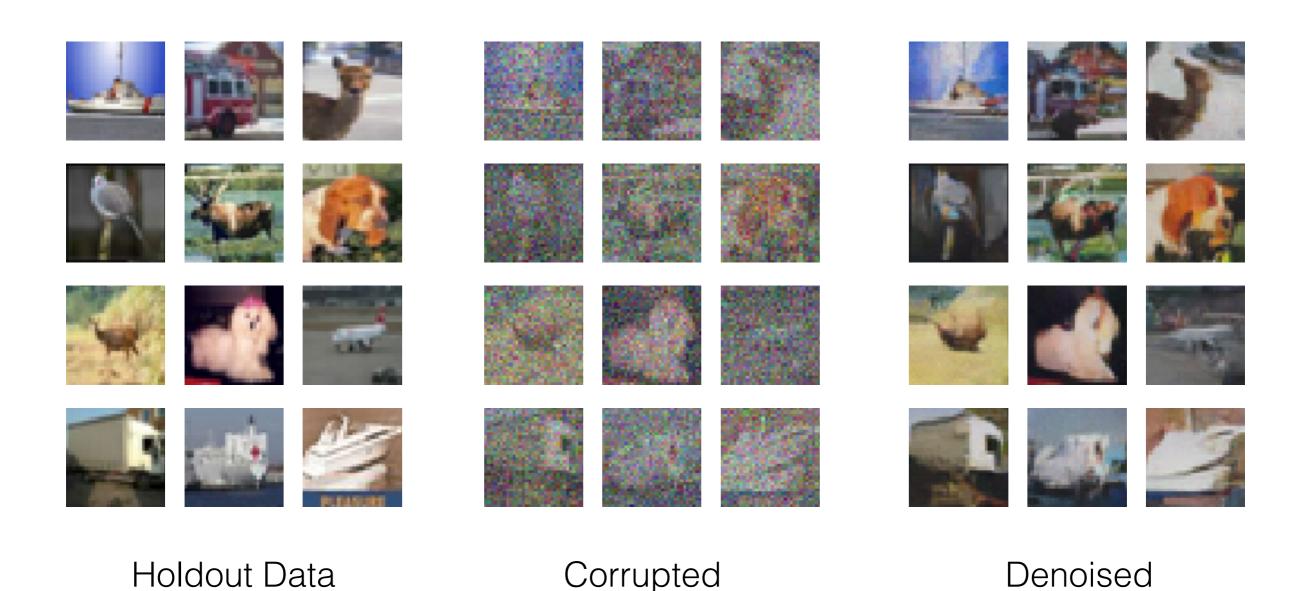
Image Denoising by Sampling from Posterior



Holdout Data

Corrupted (SNR = 1)

Image Denoising by Sampling from Posterior

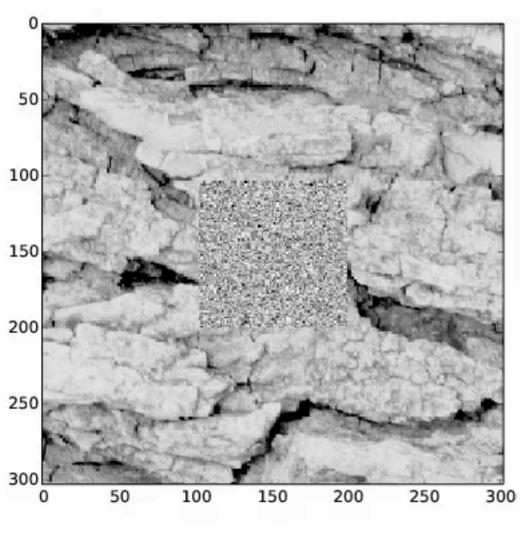


(SNR = 1)

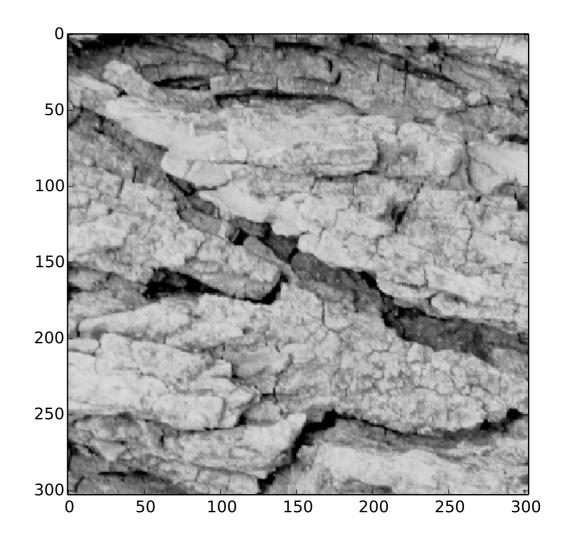
Jascha Sohl-Dickstein

Diffusion Probabilistic Models

Image Inpainting by Sampling from Posterior

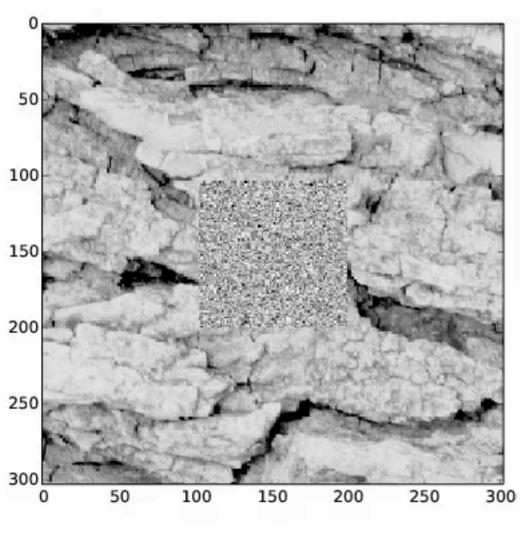


Inpainted image

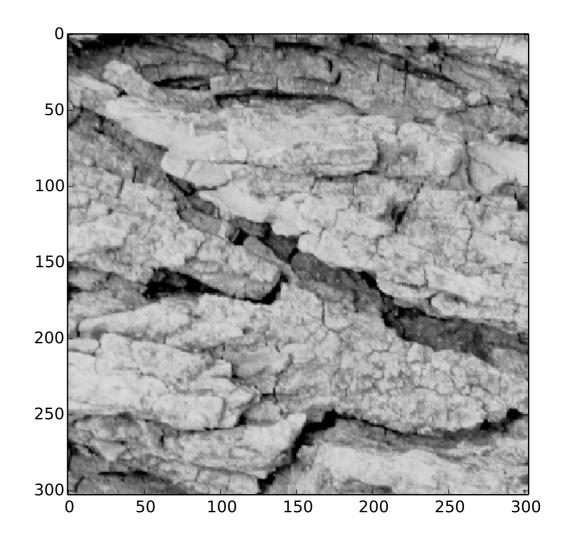


True image

Image Inpainting by Sampling from Posterior



Inpainted image



True image

• Flexible: Diffusion process for any (smooth) distribution

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 - Binary or continuous state space

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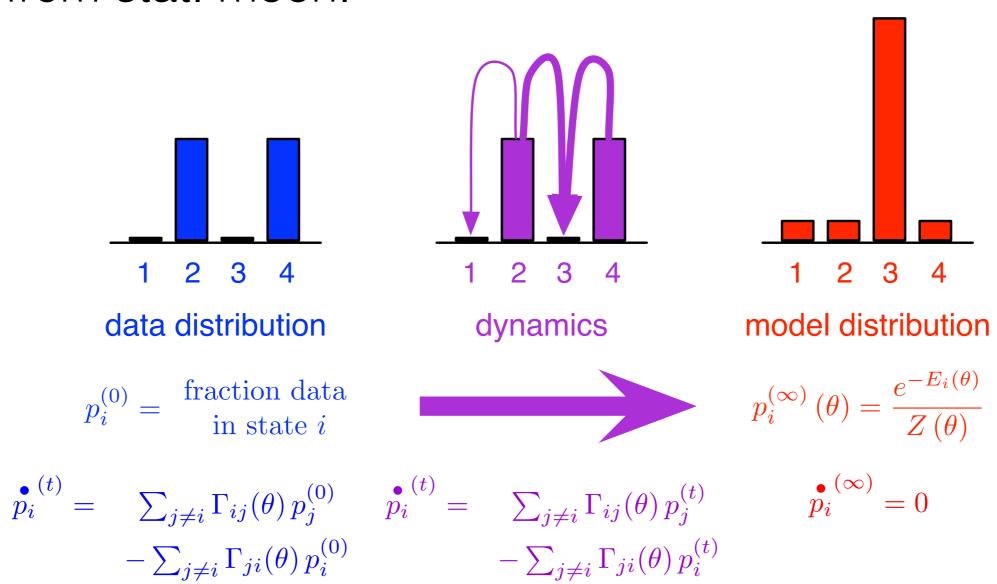
- Flexible: Diffusion process for any (smooth) distribution
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- Bounds on entropy production

Outline

- Motivation: The promise of deep unsupervised learning
- Physical intuition: Diffusion processes and time reversal
- Diffusion probabilistic model: Derivation and experimental results
- Other projects: Inverse Ising, non-equilibrium
 Monte Carlo, stat. mech. of neural networks

Minimum Probability Flow Learning

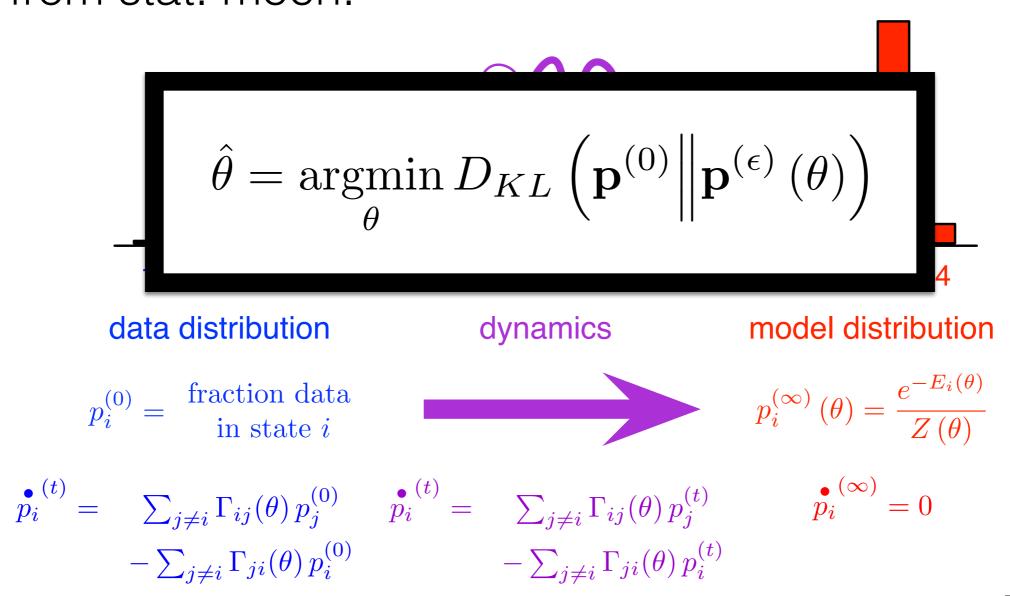
 Estimate parameters in energy based models, by minimizing probability flow under master equation from stat. mech.



[PRL, 2011] [ICML, 2011]

Minimum Probability Flow Learning

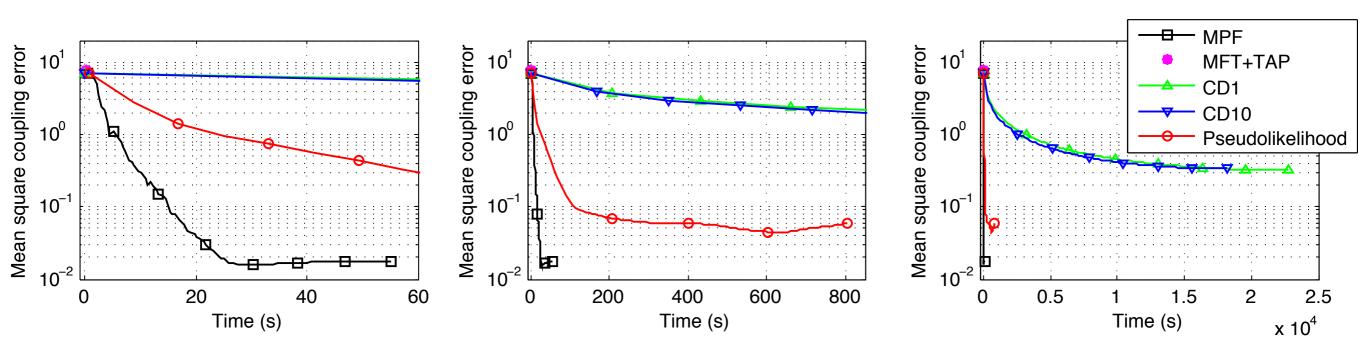
 Estimate parameters in energy based models, by minimizing probability flow under master equation from stat. mech.



[PRL, 2011] [ICML, 2011]

Minimum Probability Flow Learning

 More rapidly solves inverse Ising problem (estimate Ising couplings from samples)



First 60 seconds

First 800 seconds

First 25,000 seconds

[PRL, 2011] [ICML, 2011]

Hamiltonian (hybrid) Monte Carlo Without Detailed Balance

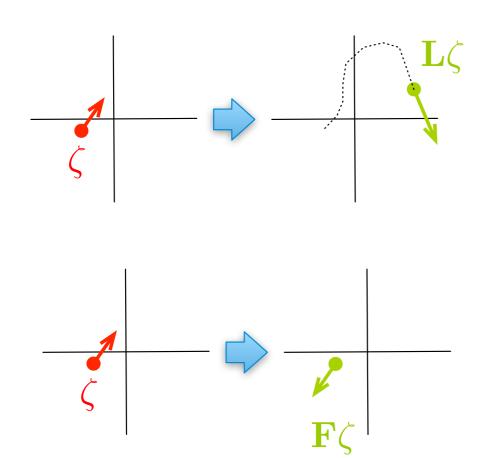
HMC as operators on discrete state space

[ICML, 2014]

Hamiltonian (hybrid) Monte Carlo Without Detailed Balance

HMC as operators on discrete state space

Operators:



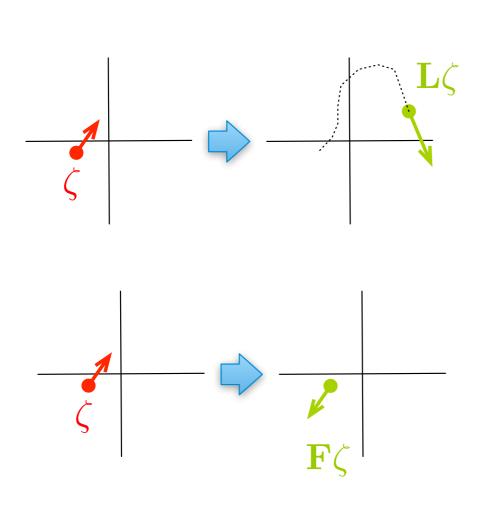
[ICML, 2014]

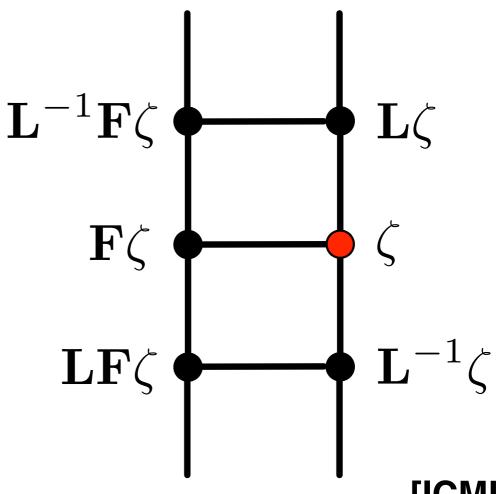
Hamiltonian (hybrid) Monte Carlo Without Detailed Balance

HMC as operators on discrete state space

Operators:

State space:

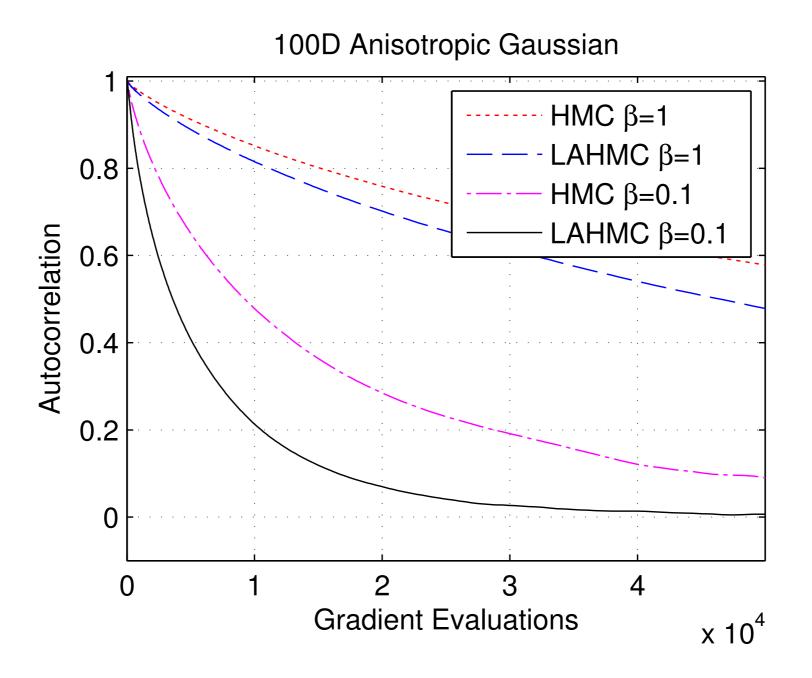




[ICML, 2014]

Hamiltonian (hybrid) Monte Carlo Without Detailed Balance

Improved mixing by violating detailed balance



[ICML, 2014]

Neural network after random initialization:

$$z_i^l = \sum_j W_{ij}^l y_j^l + b^j$$

$$y_i^{l+1} = \phi(z_i^l)$$

$$W_{ij}^l \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma_w^2/N_{l-1})$$

$$b_i^l \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma_b^2)$$

[NIPS, 2016] [ICLR, 2017]

Neural network after random initialization:

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$$W_{ij}^l \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma_w^2/N_{l-1})$$

$$b_i^l \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma_b^2)$$

Central limit theorem → recurrence relation:

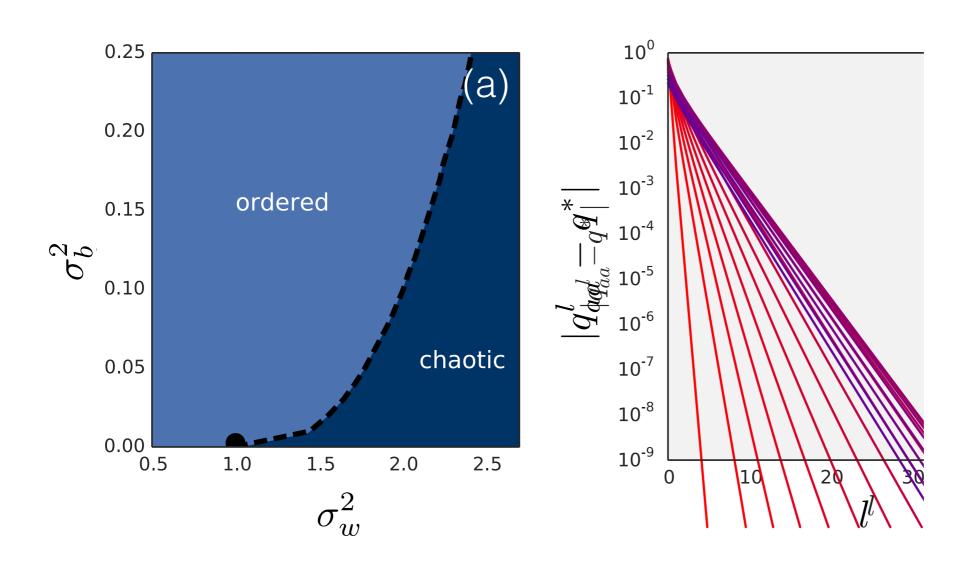
$$z_i^l \sim \mathcal{N}(0, q^l)$$

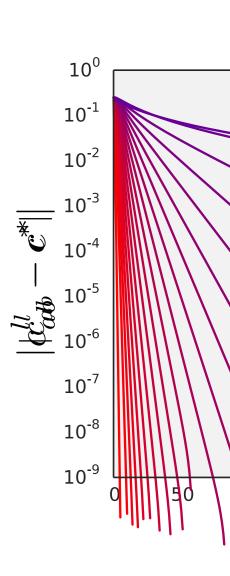
$$q^{l} = \sigma_{w}^{2} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int dz e^{-\frac{1}{2}z^{2}} \phi^{2}(\sqrt{q^{l-1}}z) + \sigma_{b}^{2}$$

[NIPS, 2016] [ICLR, 2017]

[NIPS, 2016] [ICLR, 2017]

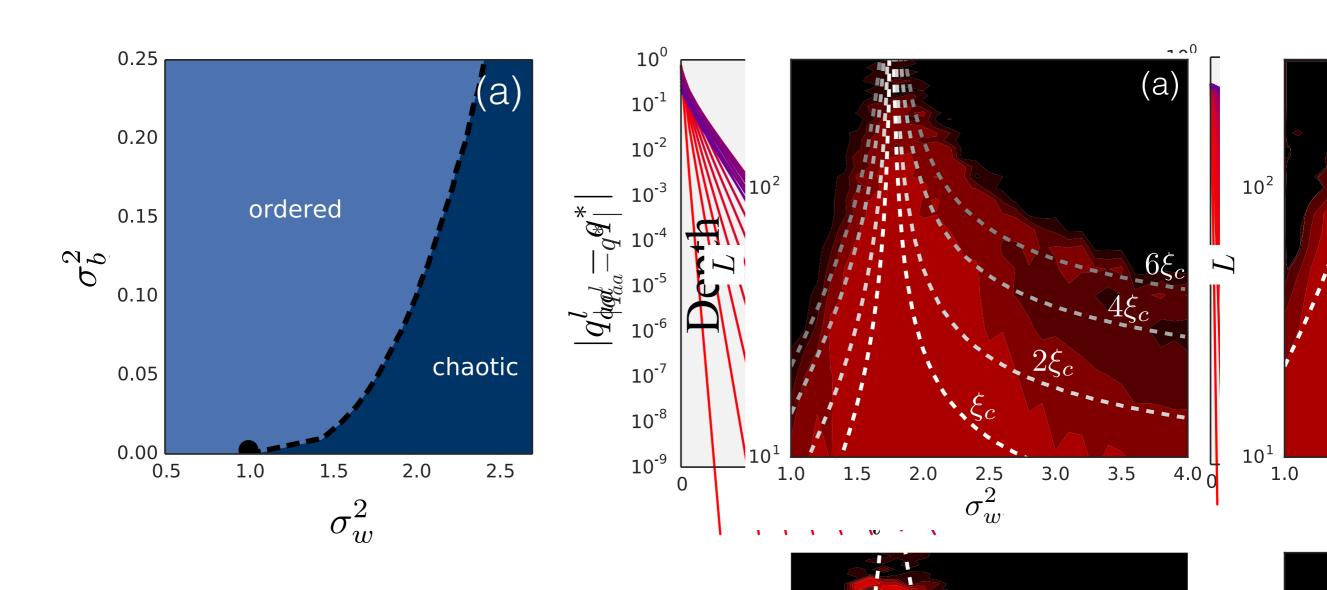
Phase diagram:





Phase diagram:

Predict trainable depth:



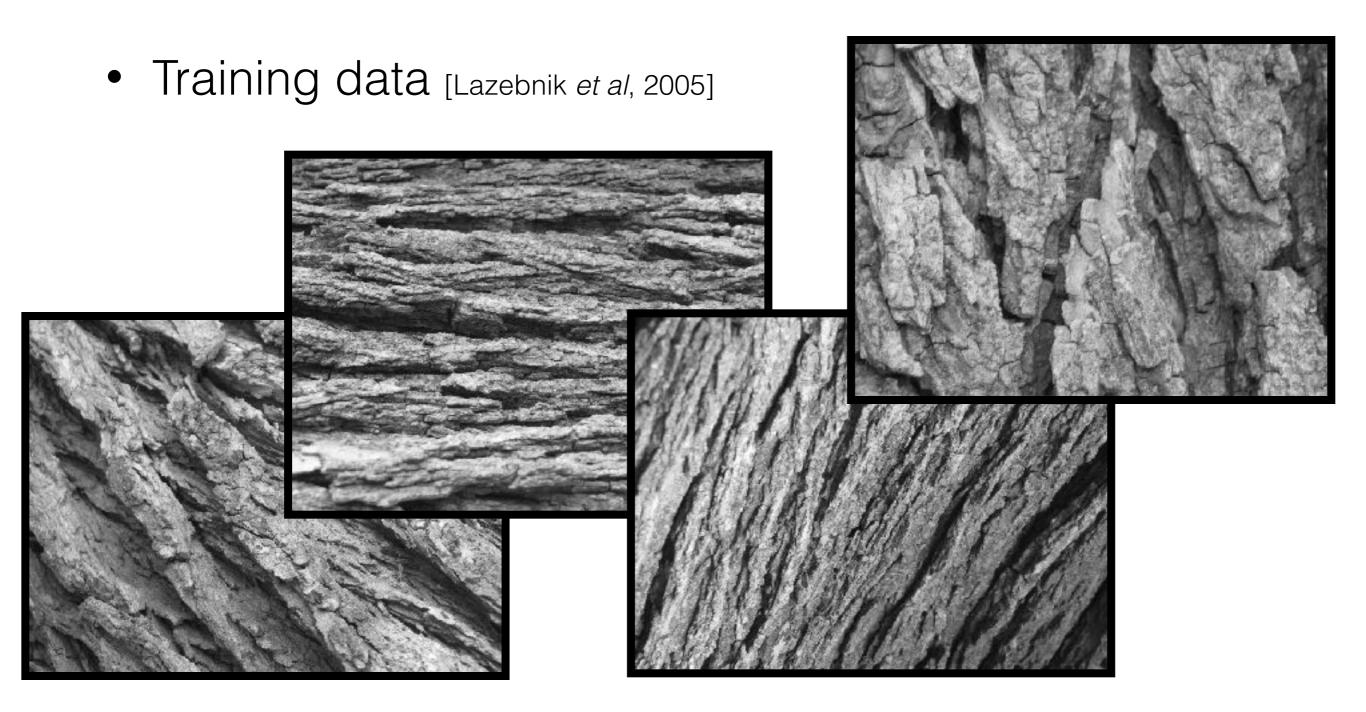
Thanks!

- Unsupervised Learning using Nonequilibrium Thermodynamics
 - Eric Weiss
 - Niru Maheswaranathan
 - Surya Ganguli
- Minimum Probability Flow
 - Peter Battaglino
 - Michael R. DeWeese
- Hamiltonian Monte Carlo without Detailed Balance
 - Mayur Mudigonda
 - Michael R. DeWeese

- Statistical Physics of Deep Networks
 - Sam Schoenholz
 - Ben Poole
 - Jeffrey Pennington
 - Justin Gilmer
 - Surya Ganguli
 - Maithra Raghu
 - Subhaneil Lahiri

SCRAP SLIDES FROM HERE ON

Image Inpainting by Sampling from Posterior

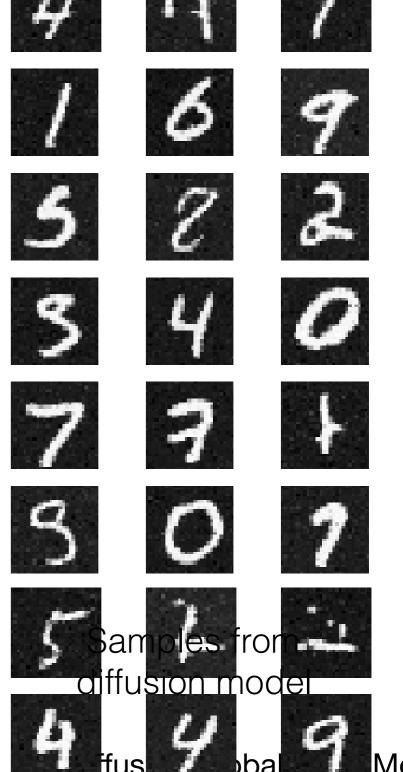


Diffusion Probabilistic Model Applied to MNUST

Model	Log likelihood estimate*
Stacked CAE	121 ± 1.6 bits
DBN	138 ± 2 bits
Deep GSN	214 ± 1.1 bits
Diffusion	220 ± 1.9 bits
Adversarial net	225 ± 2 bits

^{*} via Parzen window code from [Goodfellow et al, 2014]

Jascha Sohl-Dickstein



Continuous time formulation

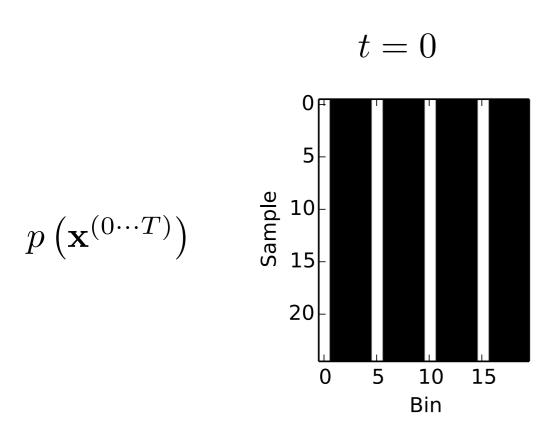
- Continuous time formulation
- Perturbation around energy based model

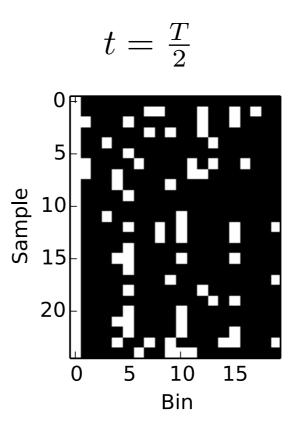
- Continuous time formulation
- Perturbation around energy based model
- Binary data (e.g. spike trains)

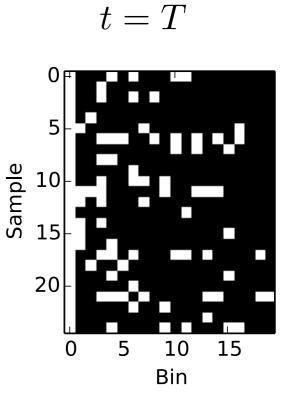
Outline

- Other projects: Training energy based models,
 Monte Carlo, deep learning theory
- Motivation: The promise of deep unsupervised learning
- Physical intuition: Diffusion processes and time reversal
- Diffusion probabilistic model: Derivation and experimental results

Toy Binary Sequence Learning







Outline

- Motivation: The promise of deep unsupervised learning
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 Extremely flexible, parametric, function approximation

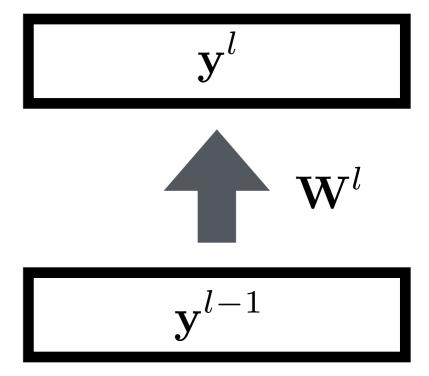
- Extremely flexible, parametric, function approximation
- Single layer: linear transformation, pointwise nonlinearity

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$$\mathbf{y}^l = \sigma\left(\mathbf{W}^l \mathbf{y}^{l-1}\right)$$

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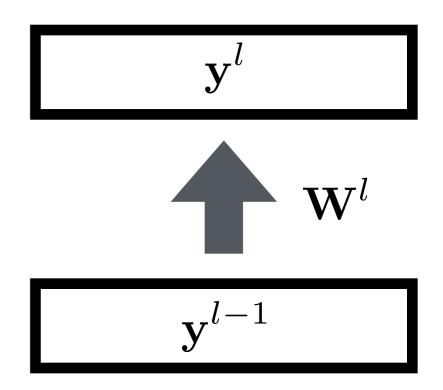


- Extremely flexible, parametric, function approximation
- Single layer: linear transformation, pointwise nonlinearity

$$\mathbf{y}^{l} = \sigma \left(\mathbf{W}^{l} \mathbf{y}^{l-1} \right)$$

$$\sigma \left(u \right) \equiv \text{leaky ReLU}$$

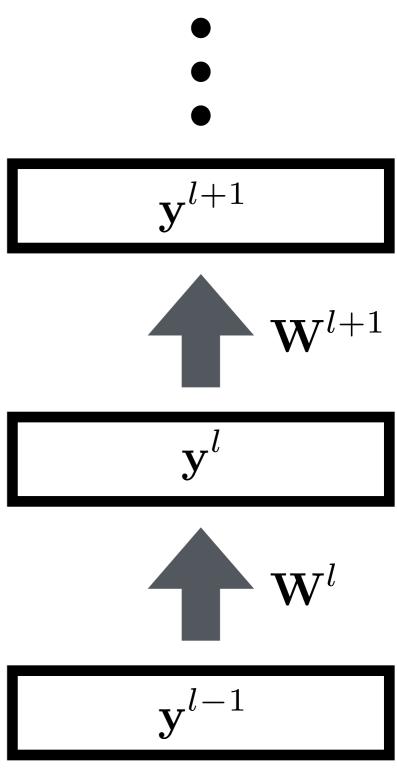
$$= \begin{cases} u & u \geq 0 \\ 0.05u & u < 0 \end{cases}$$



- Extremely flexible, parametric, function approximation
- Single layer: linear transformation, pointwise nonlinearity

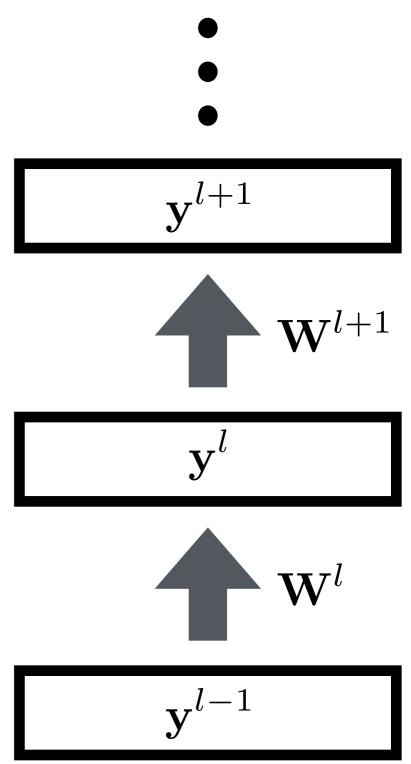
- Extremely flexible, parametric, function approximation
- Single layer: linear transformation, pointwise nonlinearity
- Deep network: stack single layers

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- Extremely flexible, parametric, function approximation
- Single layer: linear transformation, pointwise nonlinearity
- Deep network: stack single layers

$$\mathbf{y}^{L} = \sigma \left(\mathbf{W}^{L} \sigma \left(\mathbf{W}^{L-1} \cdots \sigma \left(\mathbf{W}^{1} \mathbf{y}^{0} \right) \right) \right)$$

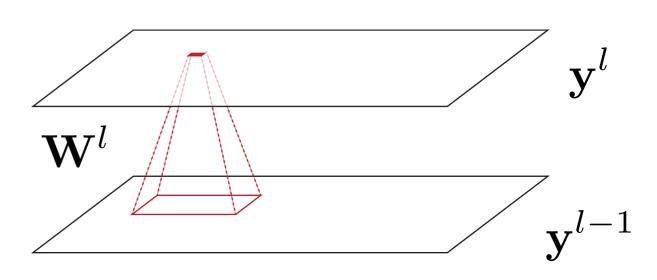


Convolutional Neural Network

- Single convolutional layer:
 - Same linear transform for every pixel
 - Pointwise nonlinearity

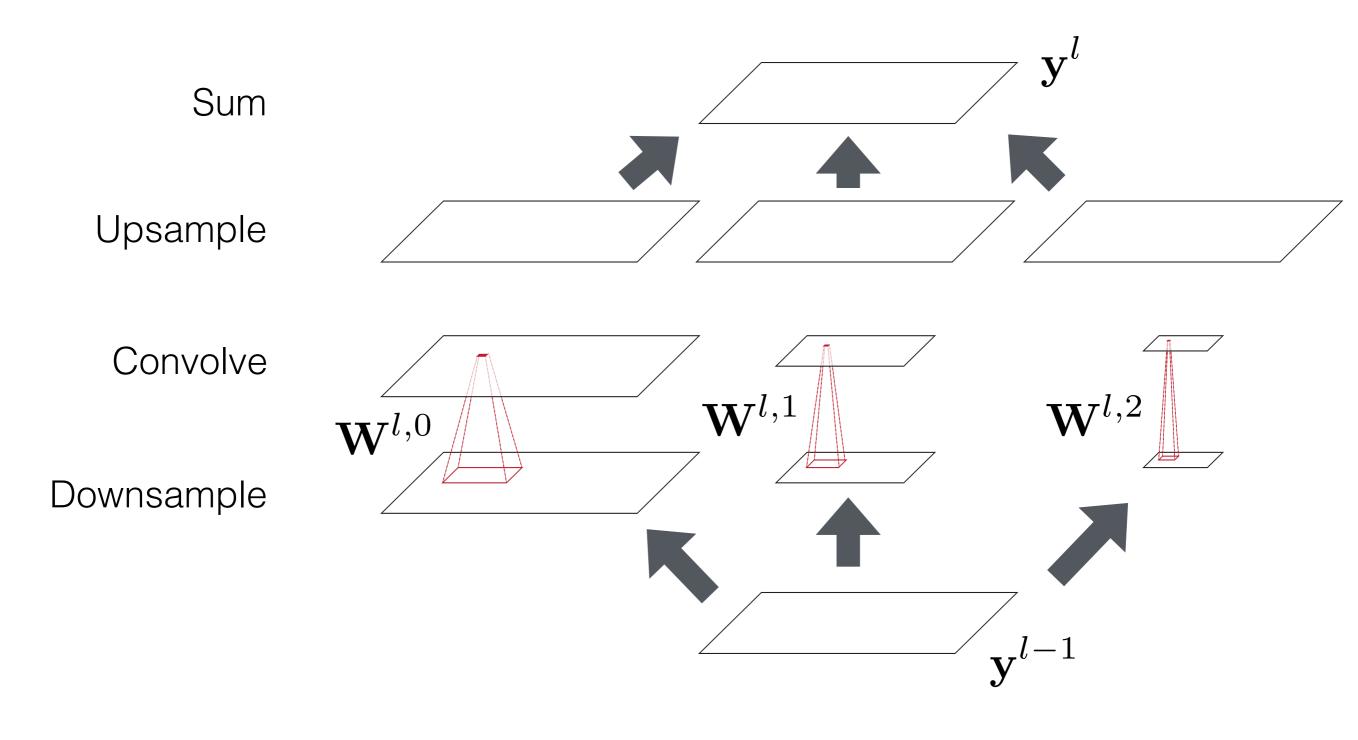
Convolutional Neural Network

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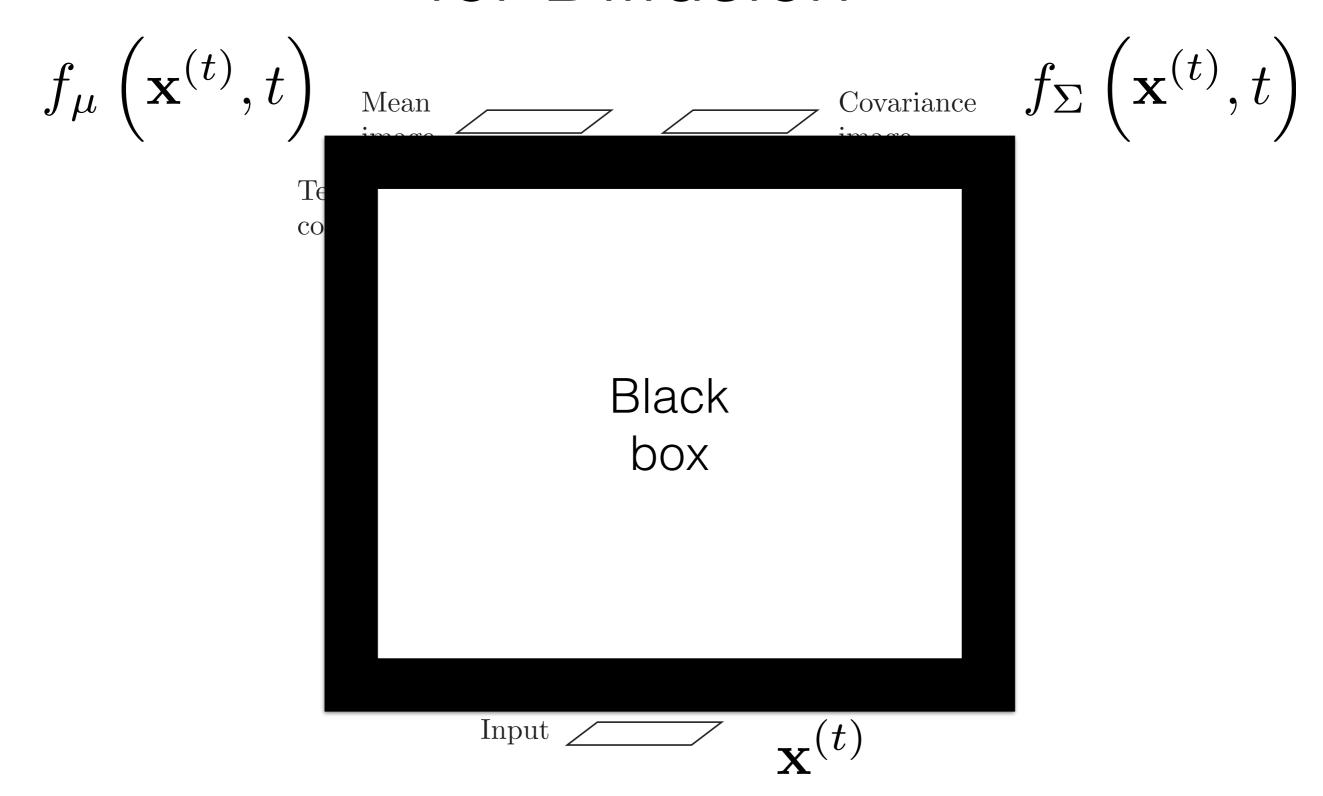


Multiscale Convolution

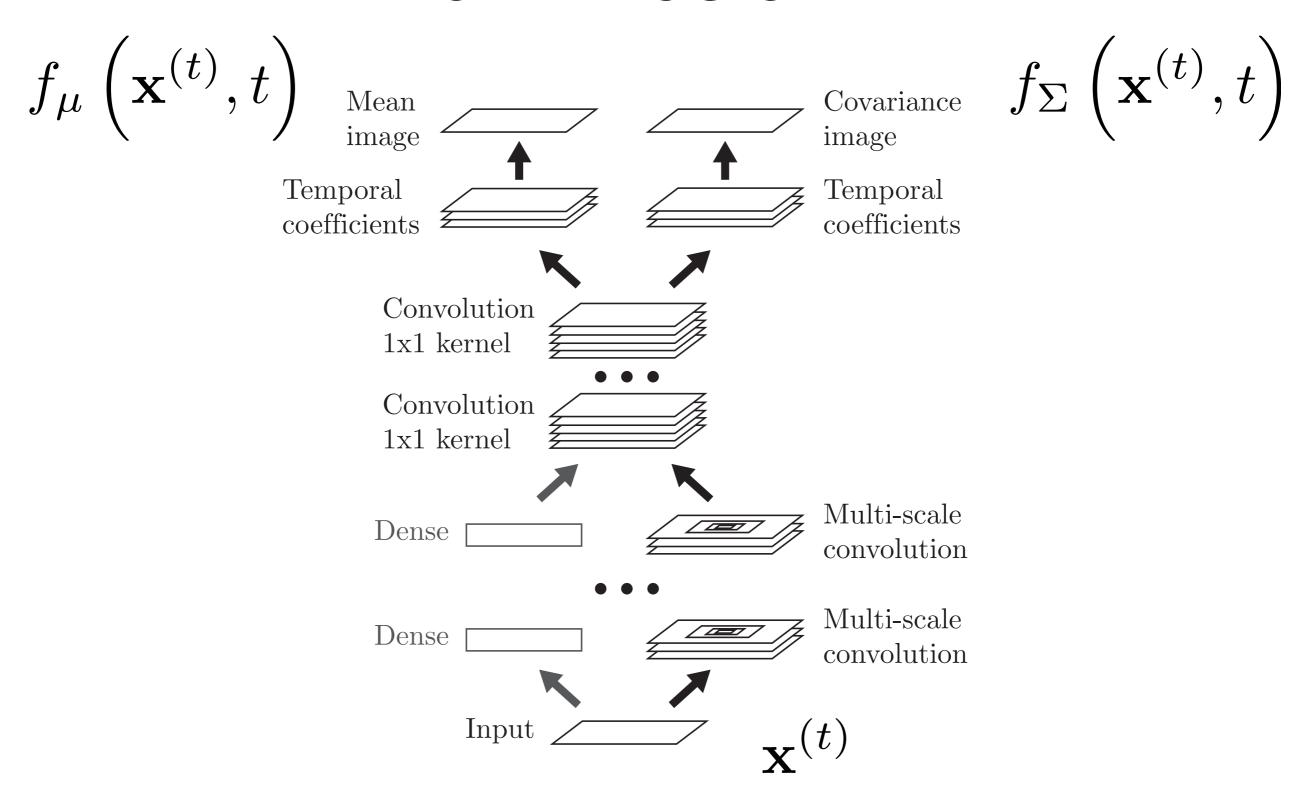
Single multi-scale convolutional layer:



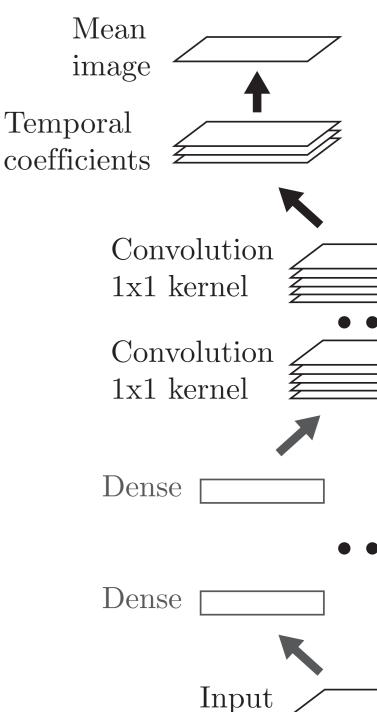
Deep Network Architecture for Diffusion

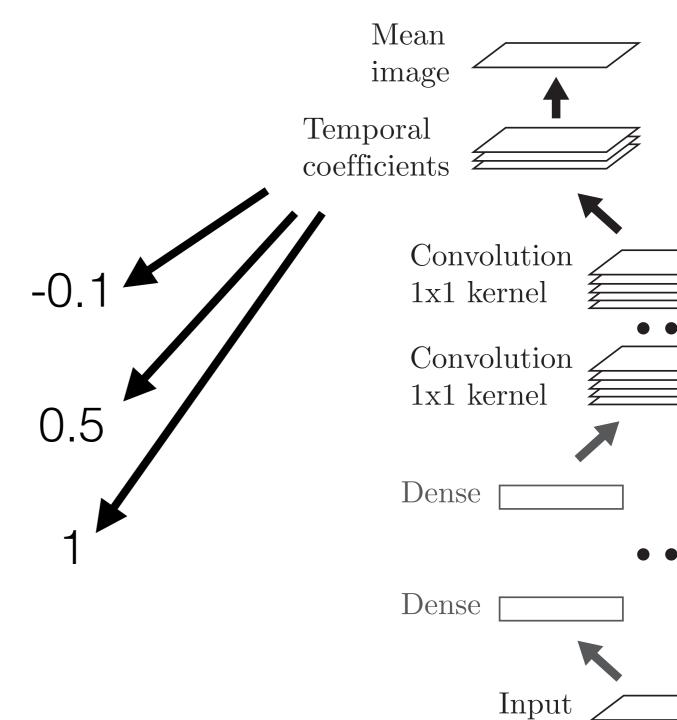


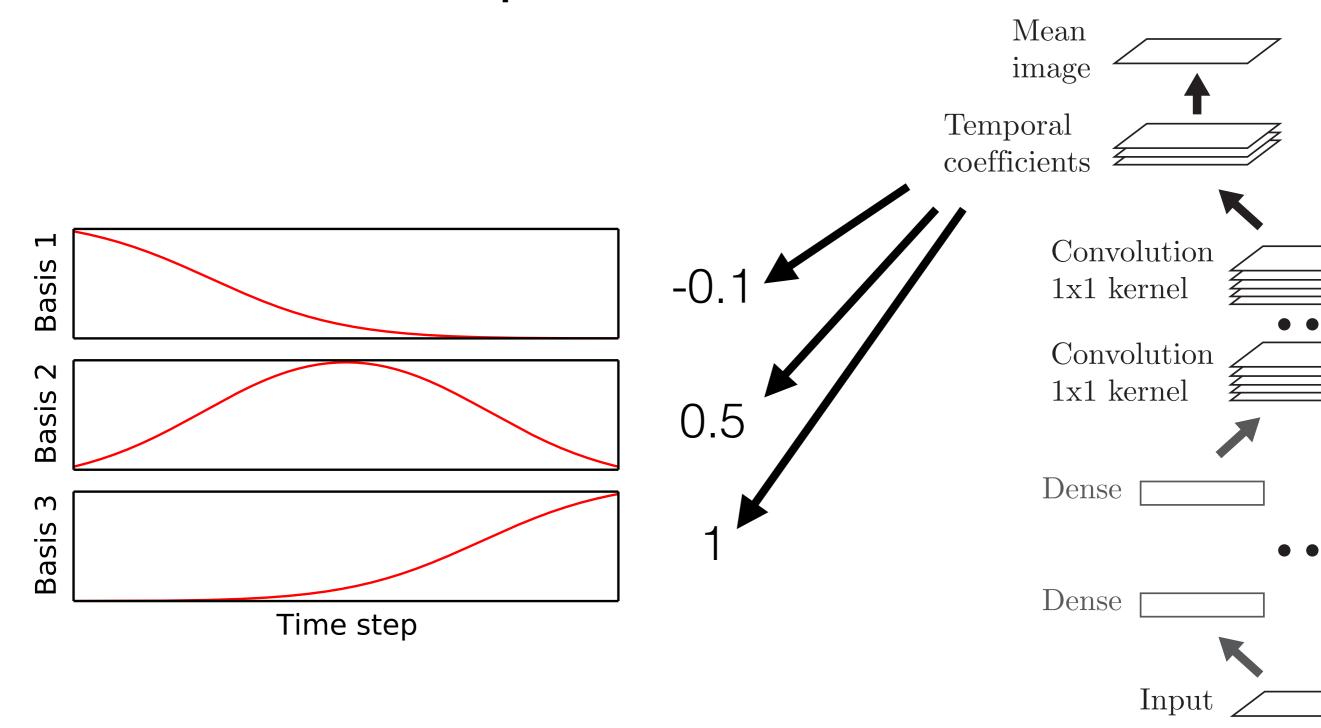
Deep Network Architecture for Diffusion

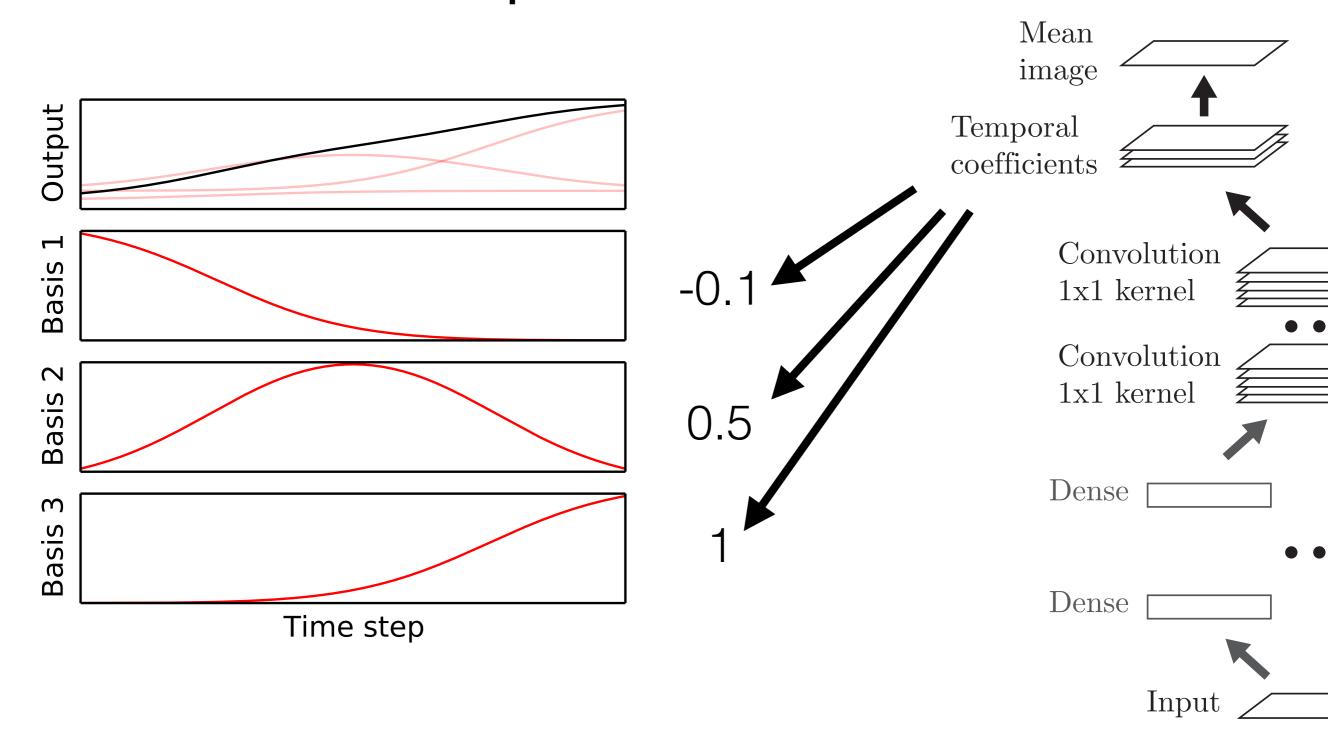


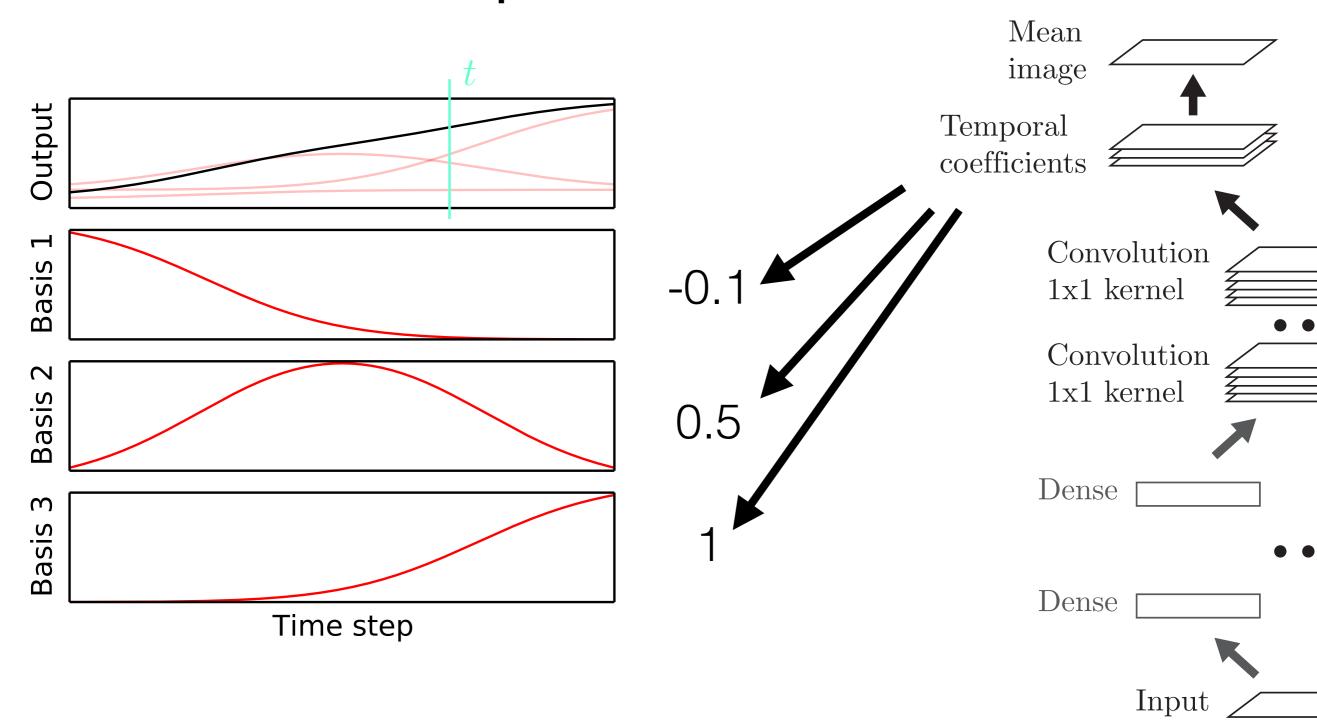
Time Dependence using Temporal Basis

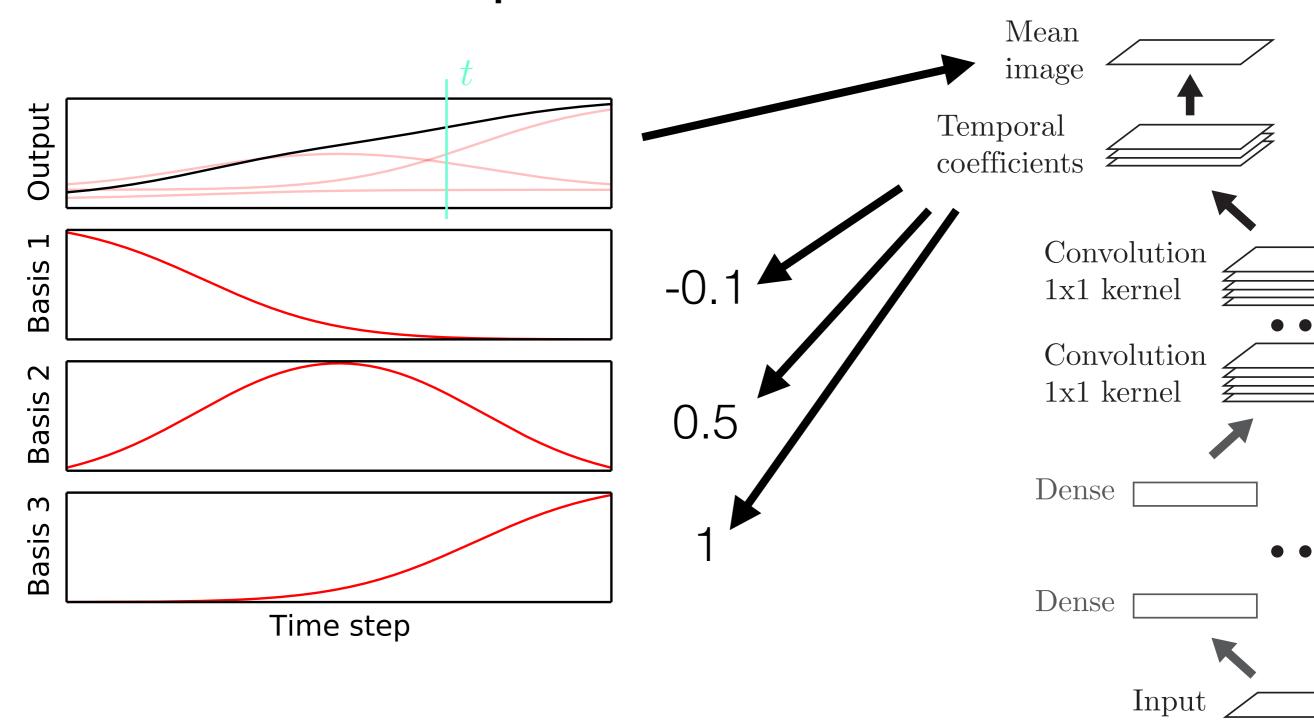












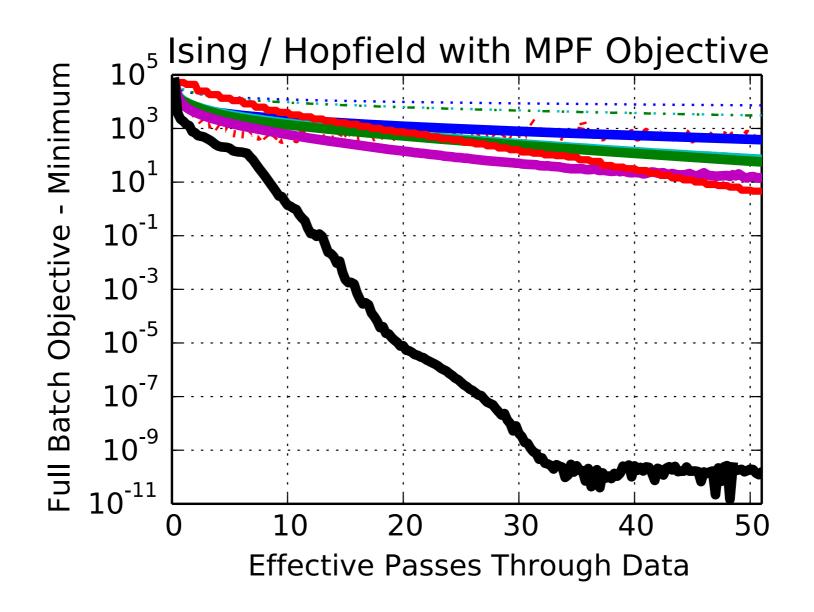
Setting Diffusion Rate

Erase constant fraction of stimulus variance each step

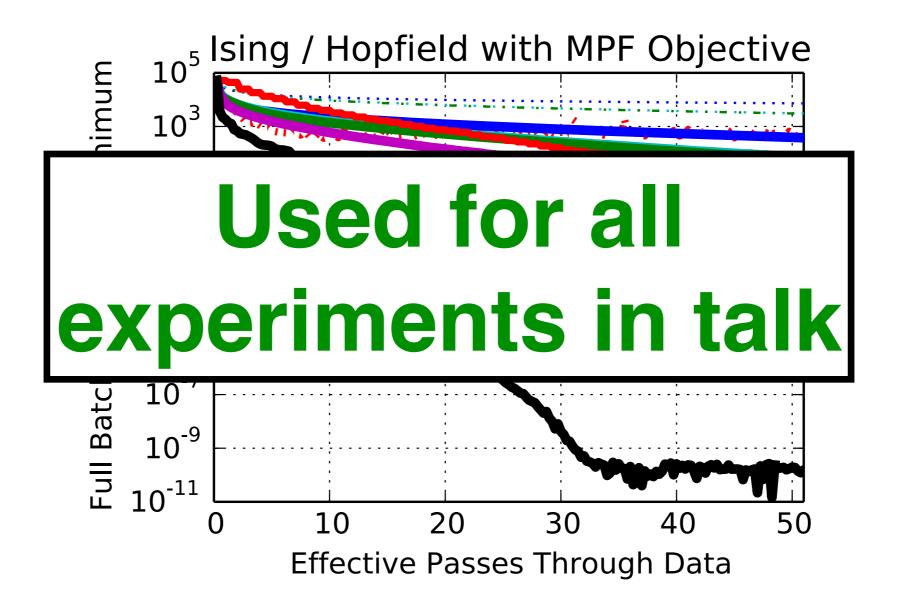
$$\beta_t = \frac{1}{T - t + 1}$$

• Can also train β_t

Optimization: Combining SGD and quasi-Newton optimization (SFO optimizer) [ICML 2014]

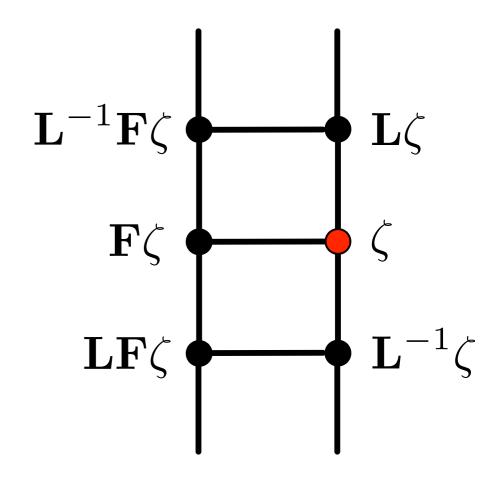


• Optimization: Combining SGD and quasi-Newton optimization (SFO optimizer) [ICML 2014]

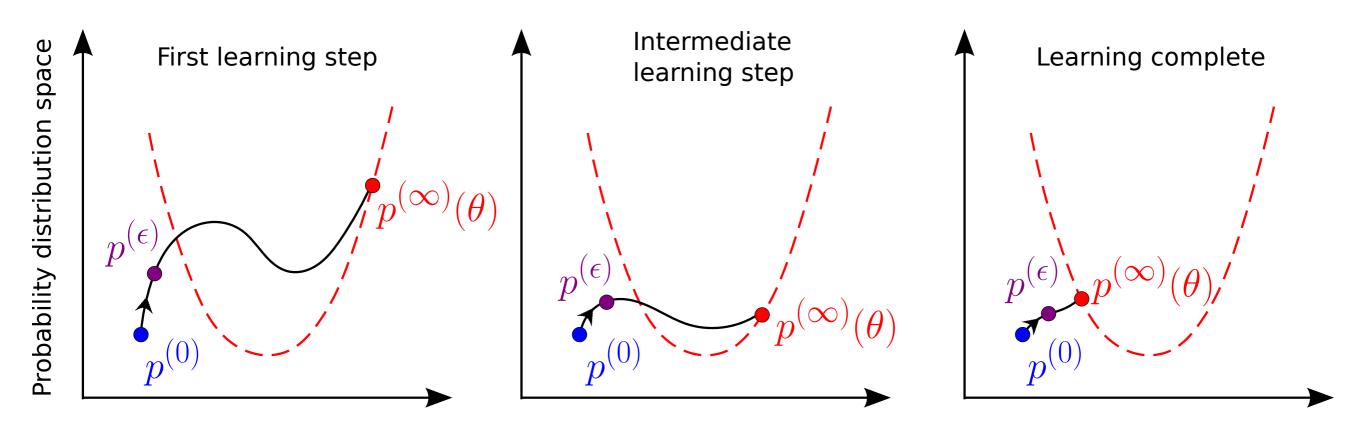


• Sampling and evaluation: Hamiltonian Monte Carlo without detailed balance [ICML 2014] and for log likelihood evaluation [Tech Report 2012], fast sampling for natural image models [NIPS 2012]



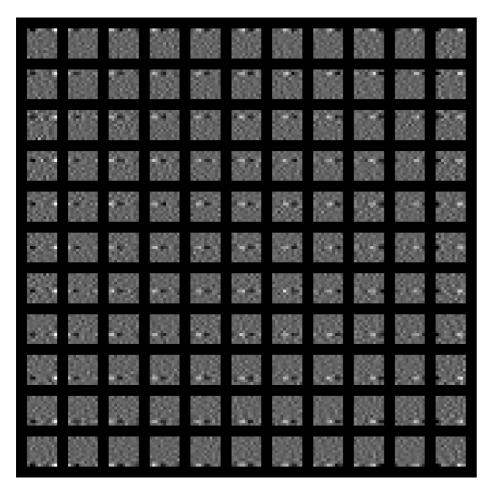


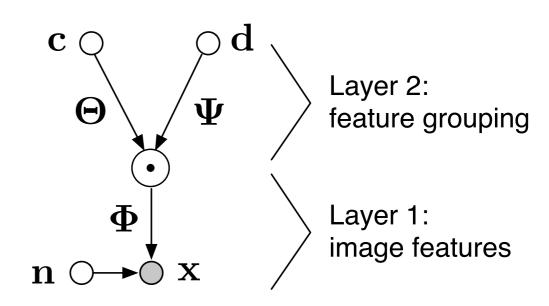
• Training energy-based models: Minimum Probability Flow learning [ICML 2011] [PRL 2011]



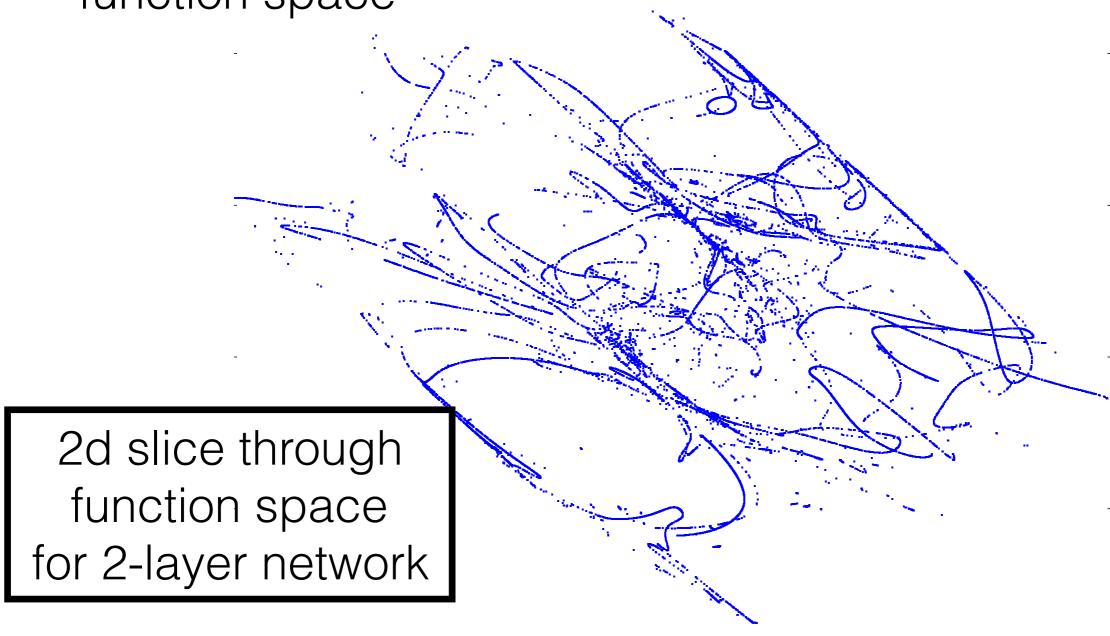
Model design: capturing dynamics with Lie groups
 [Under Revision at NECO], bilinear generative models [ICCV 2011]

Horizontal Translation

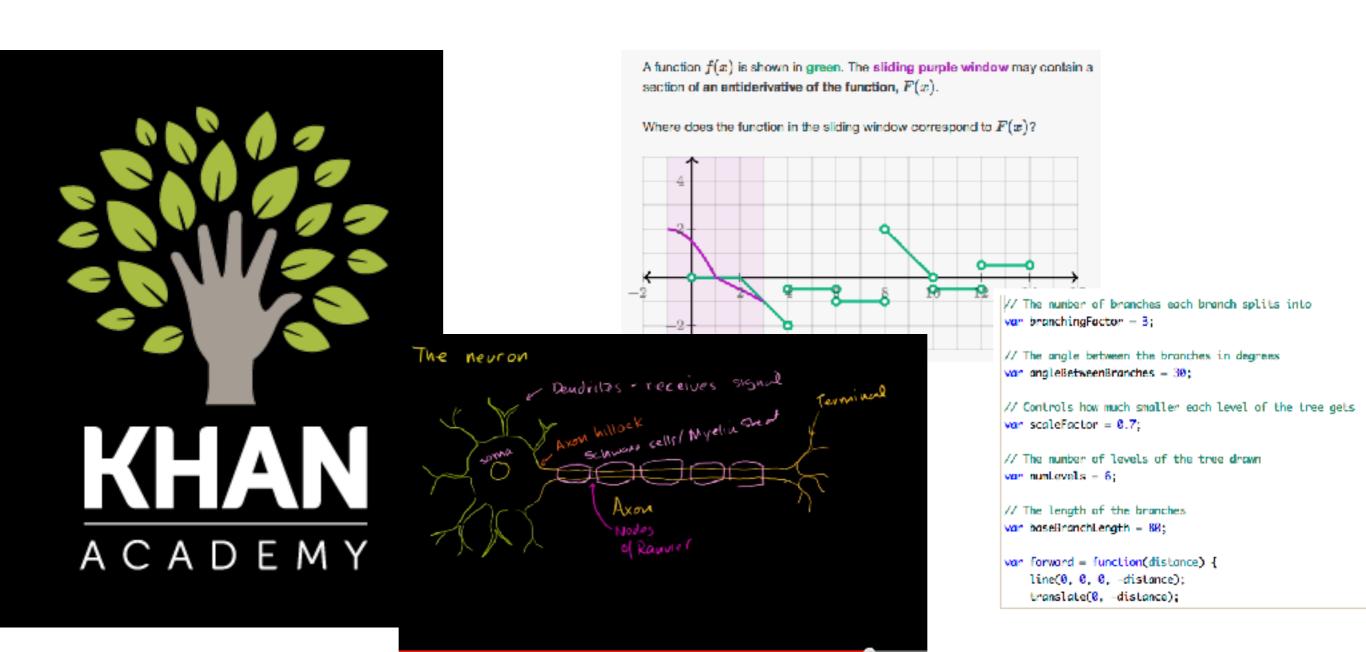




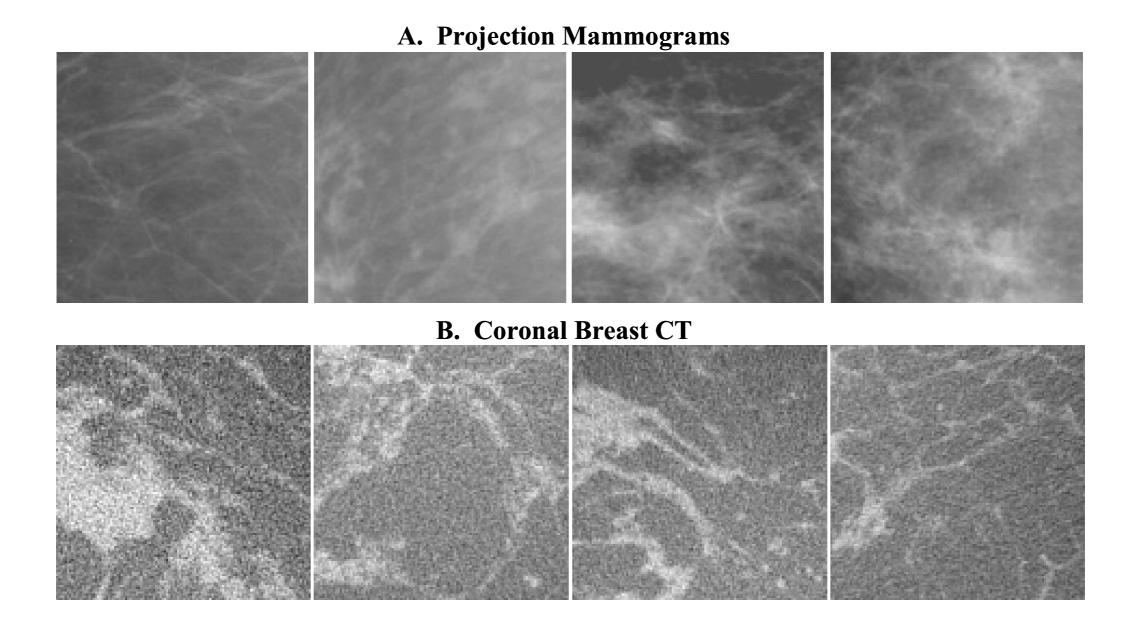
 Properties of deep networks: Characterization in function space



Online education data



Medical imaging data [SPIE 2009] [Med Phys 2014]



 Neuroscience ele [Neuron 2013]

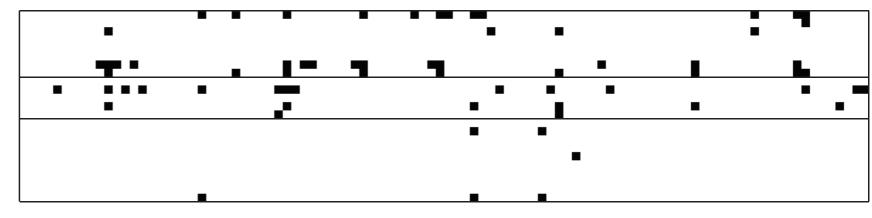


ata: [PLoS Comp Bio 2014]

a) Stimulus frames

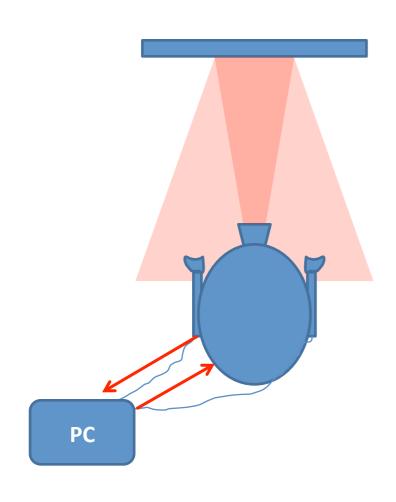


b) Example data, 2s of data in 20ms bins



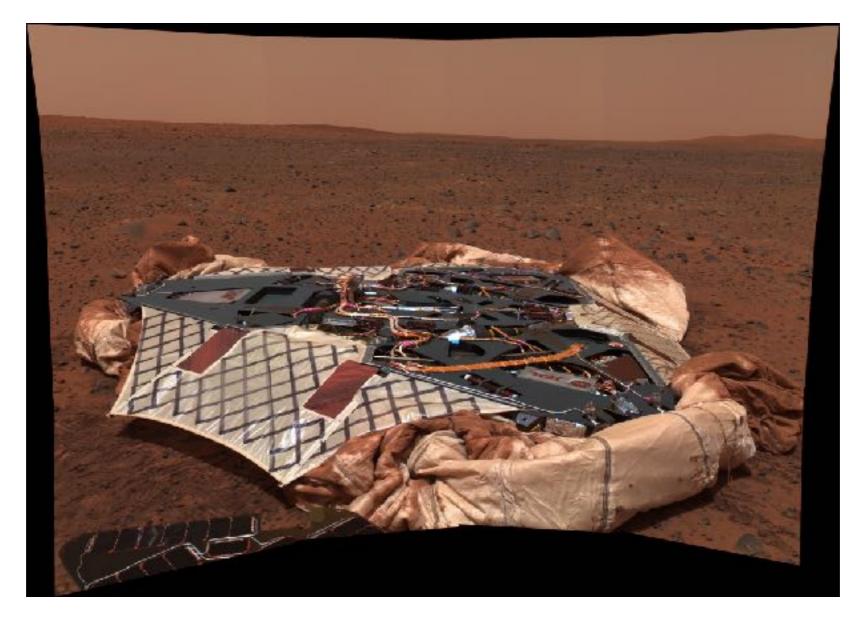


 Human ultrasonic echolocation: Blind assistive device [TBME 2015]





Planetary science: multispectral observations
 [Science 2004a] [Science 2004b]



Thanks!

Collaborators

- Craig Abbey
- Peter Battaglino
- Shaowen Bao
- Matthias Bethge
- Jack Culpepper
- Liberty Hamilton
- Chris Hillar
- Alex Huth
- Kilian Koepsell
- Urs Köster
- Niru Maheswaranathan
- Mayur Mudigonda
- Ben Poole
- Lucas Theis
- Jimmy Wang
- Eric Weiss

Mentors

- Surya Ganguli
- Bruno Olshausen
- Michael R.
 DeWeese
- James F. Bell III

Endless discussion

- The Redwood Center for Theoretical Neuroscience
- The Ganguli Gang



Eric Weiss



Niru Maheswaranathan



Surya Ganguli

Differences from Variational Autoencoders

- Can analytically evaluate KL divergence between steps in forward and reverse trajectories.
- Can multiply with other distributions, and compute posteriors
- Erases structure, rather than transforming it
- Thousands of layers or time steps, rather than only a small handful
- Connections to nonequilibrium statistical mechanics

Continuous Time

$$q\left(\mathbf{x}^{t}|\mathbf{x}^{0},\mathbf{x}^{t+dt}\right) = \mathcal{N}\left(\mathbf{x}^{t};\mathbf{x}^{t+dt} - \mathbf{x}^{t+dt}\frac{\exp\left(-\beta t\right)}{1 - \exp\left(-\beta t\right)}\beta dt - \frac{1}{2}\mathbf{x}^{t+dt}\beta dt + \frac{1}{2}\mathbf{x}^{0}\operatorname{csch}\left(\frac{\beta t}{2}\right)\beta dt,\beta dt\right)$$

$$p\left(\mathbf{x}^{t}|\mathbf{x}^{t+dt}\right) = \mathcal{N}\left(\mathbf{x}^{t};\mathbf{x}^{t+dt} - \mathbf{x}^{t+dt}\frac{\exp\left(-\beta t\right)}{1 - \exp\left(-\beta t\right)}\beta dt - \frac{1}{2}\mathbf{x}^{t+dt}\beta dt + \frac{1}{2}f_{0}\left(\mathbf{x}^{t+dt},t\right)\operatorname{csch}\left(\frac{\beta t}{2}\right)\beta dt,\beta dt\right)$$

$$D_{KL}\left(q\left(\mathbf{x}^{t}|\mathbf{x}^{0},\mathbf{x}^{t+dt}\right)||p\left(\mathbf{x}^{t}|\mathbf{x}^{t+dt}\right)\right) = \frac{1}{2}\frac{\Sigma_{q}}{\Sigma_{p}} + \frac{1}{2}\log\frac{\Sigma_{p}}{\Sigma_{q}} + \frac{1}{2}\frac{(\mu_{p} - \mu_{q})^{2}}{\Sigma_{p}} - \frac{1}{2}$$
$$= \frac{1}{8}\left(f_{0}\left(\mathbf{x}^{t+dt},t\right) - \mathbf{x}^{0}\right)^{2}\operatorname{csch}^{2}\left(\frac{\beta t}{2}\right)\beta dt$$

Denoising autoencoder penalty

Related Methods

- Generative stochastic networks
- Variational autoencoders
- (Deep) (Recurrent) Neural Autoregressive Distribution Estimators

- Variational Bayesian(e.g. variational autoencoder)
 - Posterior over intermediate layers has analytic form — > KL divergence has analytic form
 - Can multiply distributions
 - Generative model is small perturbation around inference model — makes learning easier
 - Models have thousands of layers (or time steps)