Diffusion

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• Have a complicated distribution (say over images) q₀, would like to *learn* the distribution and then *sample* from it

• Idea: Add noise to training images, learn how to denoise



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• Formally, consider the forward SDE

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where B_t is Brownian motion.

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- Natural questions: How many samples to train? How many discretization steps?
- Remarkably, both these quantities have good theoretical bounds

Prior Work

• For γ -Wasserstein error, ε -TV error, and hypothesis class \mathcal{H} ,

Samples to Train		Steps to Sample		
$\left poly\left(d, rac{1}{arepsilon}, rac{1}{\gamma}, log\left \mathcal{H} ight ight) ight $) [BMR20] ¹	poly ($\left(d, \frac{1}{\gamma}, \frac{1}{\varepsilon}\right)$	$) [CCL+22]^2$
· · ·				

¹Adam Block, Youssef Mroueh, Alexander Rakhlin (2020)

²Sitan Chen, Sinho Chewi, Jerry Li, Yuanzhi Li, Adil Salim, Anru R. Zhang (2022)

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???	$\widetilde{O}\left(rac{d\log^2 rac{1}{\gamma}}{arepsilon^2} ight)$ [BBDD23] ³	

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Can we **train** using a number of **samples** scaling polylogarithmically in $\frac{1}{\gamma}$ just like the number of steps?

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$\widetilde{O}\left(rac{d^2}{arepsilon^5}\log^3rac{1}{\gamma}\log \mathcal{H} ight)$ [Ours]	$\widetilde{O}\left(\frac{d\log^2\frac{1}{\gamma}}{\varepsilon^2}\right)$ [BBDD23]	

Only require second moment to be between $\frac{1}{\text{poly}(d)}$ and poly(d).



⁴Hongrui Chen, Holden Lee, Jianfeng Lu (2023)

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Intuition



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- To get poly $\log \frac{1}{\gamma}$ dependence for **sampling**, [CLL23]⁴, [BBDD23] observe that score function better behaved with increasing noise. Can tolerate larger score error for small *t*, proportional to $\frac{1}{\min(1,t)}$.
- We exploit this for training show poly log ¹/_γ dependence for sample complexity to learn score*.

⁴Hongrui Chen, Holden Lee, Jianfeng Lu (2023)

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- Proof exploits the fact that we need weaker approximations for small *t*, and that scores are better behaved as *t* increases.

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