A tutorial on score-based generative models with medical imaging applications



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> Acknowledgments: Jason Hu, Xiaojian Xu, Mike McCann (LANL)





Introduction / tutorial

Generative models Score matching / diffusion models Medical imaging applications

Patch-based score modeling

Current results Summary

Bibliography

Extra: toy exploration

Generative models are hot in graphics







Computer ("AI") generated stills from hypothetical movie: Chilean director Alejandro Jodorowsky's 1976 version of "Tron" using midjourney.com as reported in 2023-01-13 NY Times article "This film does not exist" by director Frank Pavich.

Generative models are hot in the news

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- 2020-11-21 NY Times "Designed to Deceive: Do These People Look Real to You?" Article about generated (aka fake) faces.
- 2022-10-21 NY Times "A Coming-Out Party for Generative A.I., Silicon Valley's New Craze" (about "Stable Diffusion" image generator) https://nyti.ms/3SjsNOk
- 2023-01-09 NY Times "A.I. Turns Its Artistry to Creating New Human Proteins" https://nyti.ms/3IzY66m









Generative models are hot in imaging / inverse problems

Zhao, Ye, Bresler: Jan. 2023 IEEE SpMag survey paper [1]

- Generative adversarial network (GAN) models
- ► Variation auto-encoder (VAE) models [2]
- Normalizing flows [3, 4]
- Score-based diffusion models
 - Zaccharie Ramzi et al., NeurIPS Workshop 2020 [5]
 - Yang Song & Liyue Shen et al., NeurIPS Workshop 2021, ICLR 2022 [6, 7]
 - Ajil Jalal et al. ... Jon Tamir, NeurIPS 2021 [8]
 - o Hyungjin Chung & Jong Chul Ye, MIA, Aug. 2022 [9]
 - Luo et al., MRM, 2023 [10]

o ...

- ▶ Kazerouni et al. [11] have github catalog, including 17 (!) survey papers
- ... (hopelessly incomplete lists)

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Medical example: Low-dose sparse-view X-ray CT imaging

From Song & Shen et al., ICLR 2022. Trained with 47K 2D images, 23 projection views [7]



PSNR: 20.30, SSIM: 0.778 PSNR: 22.94, SSIM: 0.552 PSNR: 22.78, SSIM: 0.603 PSNR: 31.76, SSIM: 0.882 PSNR: 35.23, SSIM: 0.912



(a) FISTA-TV (b) cGAN (c) Neumann (d) SIN-4c-PRN (e) Ours (f) Ground truth



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"generation" (think: random number generator)

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 - \circ Numbers
 - 0



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- Challenge 1: Learning the parameters θ from some training data. Hopefully that data is representative of the population of interest. (skin color, brain lesions...)
- Challenge 2: Drawing samples (generating) efficiently from $p(\mathbf{x}; \theta)$.

Toy example





Training data, *e.g.*, upper left pixel value in each of a set of face images How to generate samples from this distribution?

Toy example





Trivial option for data generation: draw samples at random from training data.

- + Nonparameteric (no model bias)
- No generalization (nothing new)
- + "Memorization" no hallucinations!
- $-\,$ Curse of dimensionality

Toy example





- Maximum-likelihood (ML) estimation to fit the two Gamma distribution parameters requires an iterative method.
- After fitting, drawing samples (aka generation) is not trivial, involving an acceptance-rejection method.



 Generating samples, *e.g.*, computer-assisted content creation computer-generated graphics, music, poetry, college essays, . . .























Bayesian inference (e.g., science and engineering)
 o



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 - \circ Given (test) data **y** related to a latent variable **x**
 - \circ Known likelihood function p(y|x), e.g., for human-made sensors
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 - \circ Maximum-likelihood estimation is insufficient for under-determined problems

$$\arg \max_{x} p(y|x)$$

(sparse-view X-ray CT, accelerated MRI scans, ...)

 \circ Bayesian methods use the posterior

$$p(\boldsymbol{x}|\boldsymbol{y}) = rac{p(\boldsymbol{y}|\boldsymbol{x}) p(\boldsymbol{x})}{p(\boldsymbol{y})}$$



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• Here the prior p(x) is for quantifying (prior) probability, not necessarily for generation.

Benefits of Bayesian methods

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A model for the posterior $p(\mathbf{x}|\mathbf{y})$ opens many doors:

- Maximizing p(x|y) is maximum a posteriori (MAP) estimation
- The conditional mean $E[\mathbf{x}|\mathbf{y}] = \int \mathbf{x} p(\mathbf{x}|\mathbf{y}) d\mathbf{x}$ is the MMSE estimator
- Sampling from the posterior facilitates uncertainty quantification in inference

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All of these require the prior $p(x; \theta)$. Or do they?

Sampling from the *prior* $p(x; \theta)$ just needs its score function $\nabla_x \log p(x; \theta)$. using Langevin dynamics, aka stochastic gradient ascent of log-prior:

 $\mathbf{x}_t = \mathbf{x}_{t-1} + \alpha_t \nabla \log p(\mathbf{x}_{t-1}; \boldsymbol{\theta}) + \beta_t \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, \boldsymbol{I}), \quad t = 1, \dots, T.$

• Draws samples from $p(\mathbf{x}; \boldsymbol{\theta})$ for suitable choices of $\{\alpha_t\}, \{\beta_t\}, \text{ and (large) } \mathcal{T}$ [12]. • If $\alpha_t = 0$ and $\beta_t = \beta$, then akin to (isotropic) diffusion or Brownian motion

Langevin example: traces
























Langevin example: histogram





Langevin example: histogram







Sampling from the *posterior* p(x|y) and MAP estimation is similar, using Langevin dynamics, aka stochastic gradient ascent of log-posterior:

 $\mathbf{x}_{t} = \mathbf{x}_{t-1} + \alpha_{t} \left(\nabla_{\mathbf{x}} \log p(\mathbf{x}_{t-1}; \boldsymbol{\theta}) + \nabla_{\mathbf{x}} \log p(\mathbf{y} | \mathbf{x}_{t-1}; \boldsymbol{\theta}) \right) + \beta_{t} \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{I}), \quad t = 1, \dots, T.$

• Draws samples from $p(\mathbf{x}|\mathbf{y}; \boldsymbol{\theta})$ for suitable choices of $\{\alpha_t\}$, $\{\beta_t\}$, and (large) T.



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• Draws samples from $p(\mathbf{x}|\mathbf{y}; \boldsymbol{\theta})$ for suitable choices of $\{\alpha_t\}$, $\{\beta_t\}$, and (large) T. • So how do we learn a score function?

Distribution learning vs score learning



- Typical distribution models: $p(\mathbf{x}; \boldsymbol{\theta}) = \frac{1}{Z(\boldsymbol{\theta})} e^{-U(\mathbf{x}; \boldsymbol{\theta})}$. Goal: learn $\boldsymbol{\theta}$ from training data $\mathbf{x}_1, \dots, \mathbf{x}_T$
- For IID samples $\{x_t\}$, one could try to learn θ by ML estimation:

$$\hat{\theta} = \arg \max_{\theta} p(\mathbf{x}_1, \dots, \mathbf{x}_T; \theta) = \arg \max_{\theta} \sum_{t=1}^T \log(p(\mathbf{x}_t; \theta))$$
$$= \arg \max_{\theta} \left(-TZ(\theta) + \sum_{t=1}^T -U(\mathbf{x}_t; \theta) \right).$$

Typically intractable due to the partition function $Z(\theta)$.

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Typically intractable due to the partition function $Z(\theta)$.

In contrast, the score function is easier to handle:

$$\boldsymbol{s}(\boldsymbol{x};\boldsymbol{\theta}) \triangleq \nabla_{\boldsymbol{x}} \log p(\boldsymbol{x};\boldsymbol{\theta}) = \nabla_{\boldsymbol{x}} \left(-\log Z(\boldsymbol{\theta}) - U(\boldsymbol{x};\boldsymbol{\theta}) \right) = -\nabla_{\boldsymbol{x}} U(\boldsymbol{x};\boldsymbol{\theta})$$

Score function example: 1D Gaussian



Score function example: 1D Gamma



Note sign of score function to left and right of mode.

Score function example: 1D GMM



Score function example: 1D GMM



• Could you recover the pdf p(x) from its score function s(x) in 1D?

Score function example: 2D

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Total variation (TV) prior for 2×1 patch:

 $\mathsf{p}(\pmb{x}) \propto \mathrm{e}^{-eta |x_2 - x_1|}$

 $egin{aligned} & s(m{x}) =
abla_{m{x}} \log p(m{x}) \ & \propto \operatorname{sign}(x_1 - x_2) \left[egin{aligned} & 1 \ -1 \end{array}
ight] \end{aligned}$





Learning score functions



• Given training data x_1, \ldots, x_T , learn score function

 $m{s}(m{x}) =
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but p(x) is unknown

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Nonparametric density estimation approach?

• Kernel density estimation: $q_{\sigma}(\mathbf{x}) \triangleq \frac{1}{T} \sum_{t=1}^{T} g_{\sigma}(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_i) \stackrel{?}{\approx} p(\mathbf{x})$ • Apply score definition to q_{σ} :

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$$\boldsymbol{s}_{\sigma}(\boldsymbol{x}) \triangleq \nabla_{\boldsymbol{x}} \log \boldsymbol{q}_{\sigma}(\boldsymbol{x}) = \frac{\frac{1}{T} \sum_{t=1}^{T} \nabla g_{\sigma}(\boldsymbol{x} - \boldsymbol{x}_{i})}{\frac{1}{T} \sum_{t=1}^{T} g_{\sigma}(\boldsymbol{x} - \boldsymbol{x}_{i})}$$

• Seems impractical:

O(1) training time, but O(T) work at test time; curse of dimensionality

Score from kernel density estimate





x

Score from kernel density estimate





x



• Given training data x_1, \ldots, x_T , learn score function $s(x; \theta) \stackrel{?}{=} \nabla_x \log p(x; \theta)$



- Given training data x_1, \ldots, x_T , learn score function $s(x; \theta) \stackrel{?}{=} \nabla_x \log p(x; \theta)$
- Explicit score matching (ESM)
 - Estimate data distribution (kernel density estimation): $q_{\sigma}(\mathbf{x}) = \sum_{t=1}^{T} g_{\sigma}(\mathbf{x} \mathbf{x}_i)$
 - Match model score to data score (Hyvärinen, 2005 [13]):

$$\hat{oldsymbol{ heta}} = rgmin_{oldsymbol{ heta}} J_{ ext{ESM}, \mathsf{q}}(oldsymbol{ heta}) riangleq rac{1}{2} \, \mathsf{E}_{\mathsf{q}(oldsymbol{x})} \Big[\|oldsymbol{s}(oldsymbol{x};oldsymbol{ heta}) -
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 Denoising score matching (DSM)

Denoising score matching



▶ Vincent, 2011 [14] showed this remarkable equivalence between ESM and DSM:

$$\begin{split} J_{\mathrm{ESM},\mathsf{q}_{\sigma}}(\boldsymbol{\theta}) &= \mathsf{E}_{\mathsf{q}_{\sigma}(\boldsymbol{x})} \left[\frac{1}{2} \left\| \boldsymbol{s}(\boldsymbol{x};\boldsymbol{\theta}) - \nabla \log \mathsf{q}_{\sigma}(\boldsymbol{x}) \right\|_{2}^{2} \right] \\ &= \frac{1}{T} \sum_{t=1}^{T} \int \frac{1}{2} \left\| \boldsymbol{s}(\boldsymbol{x};\boldsymbol{\theta}) - \nabla \log \mathsf{q}_{\sigma}(\boldsymbol{x}) \right\|_{2}^{2} \left. \boldsymbol{g}_{\sigma}(\boldsymbol{x} - \boldsymbol{x}_{t}) \, \mathrm{d}\boldsymbol{x} \\ &\stackrel{!}{=} J_{\mathrm{DSM},\mathsf{q}_{\sigma}}(\boldsymbol{\theta}) \triangleq \frac{1}{T} \sum_{t=1}^{T} \mathsf{E}_{\boldsymbol{g}_{\sigma}(\boldsymbol{z})} \left[\frac{1}{2} \left\| \boldsymbol{s}(\boldsymbol{x}_{t} + \boldsymbol{z};\boldsymbol{\theta}) + \frac{\boldsymbol{z}}{\sigma^{2}} \right\|_{2}^{2} \right] \\ &\approx \frac{1}{T} \sum_{t=1}^{T} \frac{1}{M} \sum_{m=1}^{M} \frac{1}{2} \left\| \boldsymbol{s}(\boldsymbol{x}_{t} + \boldsymbol{z}_{t,m};\boldsymbol{\theta}) + \frac{\boldsymbol{z}_{t,m}}{\sigma^{2}} \right\|_{2}^{2} \end{split}$$

Denoising score matching



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The last term is a kind of denoising operation.



• Q: How much noise (what σ) to use in DSM?



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- ► A: many!



- Q: How much noise (what σ) to use in DSM?
- ► A: many!
- ▶ Noise-conditional score matching (NCSM) [15, eqn. (5)]:

$$\ell(\boldsymbol{\theta}; \sigma) \triangleq \frac{1}{2} \mathsf{E}_{\mathsf{q}_0(\boldsymbol{x})} \bigg[\mathsf{E}_{g_\sigma(\boldsymbol{z})} \bigg[\left\| \boldsymbol{s}(\boldsymbol{x} + \boldsymbol{z}; \boldsymbol{\theta}, \sigma) + \frac{\boldsymbol{z}}{\sigma^2} \right\|_2^2 \bigg] \bigg], \quad \mathcal{L}(\boldsymbol{\theta}; \{\sigma_l\}) = \frac{1}{L} \sum_{l=1}^L \sigma_l^2 \, \ell(\boldsymbol{\theta}; \sigma_l),$$

where $s(\mathbf{x}; \boldsymbol{\theta}, \sigma)$ denotes a *noise-conditional score network* (NCSN).

▶ Recommended choice [16]: $s(\mathbf{x}; \boldsymbol{\theta}, \sigma) \triangleq \tilde{\mathbf{s}}(\mathbf{x}; \boldsymbol{\theta}) / \sigma$, where $\tilde{\mathbf{s}}$ is unitless

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T = 100 training samples



Noise-conditional score network training / sampling



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Score-based diffusion models: trade-offs

No adversarial training needed

High quality sample generation (if enough training data)



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Score-based diffusion models: trade-offs

- No adversarial training needed
- High quality sample generation (if enough training data)
- Expensive sample generation (vs GAN models)
 - \circ Distillation methods [17]
 - \circ Consistency models [18]
 - \circ Geometric decomposition [19]
 - \circ Multi-scale [20, 21] and pyramidal [22] and coarse-to-fine [23] models
 - Faster ODE solvers [24]
 - \circ Warm starts [25]
 - \circ Latent diffusion models: use VAE and diffuse in latent space [26–28]. Used in Stable Diffusion by start-up Stability Al
 - \circ 3D image reconstruction using 2D models [29, 30]



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- Segmentation [31]
- Sparse-view CT reconstruction [32]
- Motion correction in MRI [33]
- Image analysis [11]
- Denoising / super-resolution [34]



Example: MR image denoising

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Chung et al., IEEE T-MI 2023 [34]



Example: Microscopy image segmentation

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- Bogensperger et al., 2023 [31]; signed distance function instead of binary mask MoNuSeg microscopy images, Haematoxylin and Eosin (H&E) stained 30 train, 14 test, size 1000 × 1000, >21,000 annotated nuclei



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- J. Fessler Tut. Gen.
- Bogensperger et al., 2023 [31]; signed distance function instead of binary mask MoNuSeg microscopy images, Haematoxylin and Eosin (H&E) stained 30 train, 14 test, size 1000 × 1000, >21,000 annotated nuclei



Uncertainty map indicates possible segmentation errors



Ramzi et al., NeurIPS Workshop 2020 [5]

Fully sampled x, zero-filled A'y, Primal-dual enhanced U-Net:

 $4\times$ acceleration



Posterior samples via neural score matching and annealed Hamiltonian Monte-Carlo





See video of posterior samples Ramzi et al., 2020 [5]
Risks or pitfalls of generative models?

J. Fessler Tut. Gen.

NY Times article about fake faces

See it?



Long history of generative models and inverse problems



Markov random field models

(e.g.) Geman & Geman 1984 [35]



(a)

dы

GEMAN AND GEMAN: STOCHASTIC RELAXATION, GIBBS DISTRIBUTIONS, AND BAYESIAN RESTORATION

()





Mostly for inference?

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MRF as generators?

[36] T-PAMI 1994

An Empirical Study of the Simulation of Various Models Used for Images

A. J. Gray, J. W. Kay, and D. M. Titterington

Abstract— Markov random fields are typically used as priors in Bayesian image restoration methods to represent spatial information in the image. Commonly used Markov random fields are not in fact capable of representing the moderate-to-large scale clustering present in naturally occurring images and can also be time consuming to simulate



(b)



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(g)

Whole images vs patches?

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Jan. 2023 survey paper on generative models [1] does not mention "patch" once!?

MRI k-space sampling:



Patch-based models have long history in inverse problems, e.g.,

- patch GAN [40-42]
- patch dictionary models [43, 44]
- non-local means, BM3D
- Wasserstein patch prior [45, 46] ...



- Could patch-based generative models provide better robustness to distribution shifts, perhaps at the cost of reduced in-distribution performance?
- Especially in applications with very limited training data?
 e.g., dynamic MRI
- Can we use the "latest" generative models, namely score-based models, for patches?

Patch-based score modeling



$$\mathsf{p}(\mathbf{x};\boldsymbol{\theta}) = \frac{1}{Z(\boldsymbol{\theta})} e^{-\sum_{c} V_{c}(\mathbf{x};\boldsymbol{\theta})} = \frac{1}{Z(\boldsymbol{\theta})} \prod_{c} e^{-V_{c}(\mathbf{x};\boldsymbol{\theta})}$$

- $oldsymbol{ heta}$: parameter vector that describes the prior
- V_c : *clique potential* for the *c*th image *patch*
- $Z(\theta)$: intractable partition function
- Assume statistical spatial stationarity (image shift invariance):

$$V_c(\boldsymbol{x};\boldsymbol{\theta}) = V(\boldsymbol{G}_c\boldsymbol{x};\boldsymbol{\theta}),$$

G_c: wide binary matrix that grabs pixels of the cth patch from image x
V(z; θ): common parent clique function



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Patch-based score modeling



Resulting log-prior:

$$\log p(\boldsymbol{x}; \boldsymbol{\theta}) = -\log Z(\boldsymbol{\theta}) - \sum_{c} V(\boldsymbol{G}_{c}\boldsymbol{x}; \boldsymbol{\theta})$$

Corresponding overall image score function arises from patch score function:

$$\boldsymbol{s}(\boldsymbol{x};\boldsymbol{\theta}) \triangleq \nabla_{\boldsymbol{x}} \log p(\boldsymbol{x};\boldsymbol{\theta}) = -\sum_{c} \boldsymbol{G}_{c}' \boldsymbol{s}_{V}(\boldsymbol{G}_{c}\boldsymbol{x};\boldsymbol{\theta}), \qquad \boldsymbol{s}_{V}(\boldsymbol{v};\boldsymbol{\theta}) \triangleq \nabla_{\boldsymbol{v}} V(\boldsymbol{v};\boldsymbol{\theta}).$$

- ▶ All we must learn is the patch score function $s_V(\mathbf{v}; \theta) : \mathbb{R}^n \mapsto \mathbb{R}^n, e.g.$, a MLP.
- For training image patches {ν₁,..., ν_T}, apply *denoising score matching* (DSM) of Vincent, 2011 [14], typically for a range of noise variances σ² [12]:

$$\hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}} = \arg\min_{\boldsymbol{\theta}} \frac{1}{T} \sum_{t=1}^{T} \mathsf{E}_{\sigma \sim \boldsymbol{p}(\sigma)} \left[\sigma^{2} \, \mathsf{E}_{\boldsymbol{z} \sim \mathcal{N}(\boldsymbol{0}, \sigma^{2} \boldsymbol{I}_{n})} \left[\frac{1}{2} \left\| \boldsymbol{s}_{V}(\boldsymbol{v}_{t} + \boldsymbol{z}; \boldsymbol{\theta}, \sigma) + \frac{\boldsymbol{z}}{\sigma^{2}} \right\|_{2}^{2} \right] \right].$$

Final patch score model is $\mathbf{s}_V(\mathbf{v}; \hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}}, \sigma_{\min})$.

- \blacktriangleright 3 \times 3 patches
- MLP patch score model (9, 40, 80, 160, 320, 320, 160, 80, 40, 9) first 5 with leaky ReLU. last 3 with tanh
- ▶ 1000 similar training examples





Noisy Image



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Denoising results



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- BM3D from https://webpages.tuni.fi/foi/GCF-BM3D
- TV regularization parameter optimized by oracle for best PSNR.
- MAP estimate by greedy gradient ascent of log posterior:

$$\mathbf{x}_{k+1} = \mathbf{x}_k + \alpha_k \nabla_{\mathbf{x}} \log p(\mathbf{x}_k | \mathbf{y}; \hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}}) = \mathbf{x}_k + \alpha_k \left(\nabla_{\mathbf{x}} \log p(\mathbf{y} | \mathbf{x}_k) - \sum_c \mathbf{G}'_c \mathbf{s}_V(\mathbf{G}_c \mathbf{x}_k; \hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}}) \right).$$

(no β !)

Generalizability to distribution shift? (pitfalls...)

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What changed?

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MAP from random noise





Result of Random Initializations

Distribution shift: rectangle test image







Whole-image vs patch models



- Whole-image diffusion model of Hu et al. (SPIE, 2022) [48]
- https://github.com/ DeweiHu/OCT_DDPM
- Based on Ho et al. (NeurIPS, 2020) [49] denoising diffusion prob. model (DDPM)
- ► Trained with 1000 disk images.
- Tested with noisy disk phantom
- One sample from posterior



Whole-image models and generalizability?



 Diffusion model of Hu et al. (SPIE, 2022) [48] trained with 3600 flower images.





- Tested with noisy disk phantom (PSNR 20.3 dB)
- One sample from posterior https://github.com/ DeweiHu/OCT_DDPM

Summary / future directions

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- ► Learning patch score models is feasible with denoising score matching
- Amplitude scale invariance is not inherent to score-based models Easily (?) fixed by patch normalization, but what other more subtle pitfalls exist?
- Integrate invariances: amplitude scale / rotation / flip / DC offset
- Compare with whole-image models:
 - "pure" CNN score models with small receptive fields
 multi-scale score models [20, 21]
 - o . . .
- Explore trade-offs between generalizability and in-distribution performance
- ▶ Is the "optimal" patch size the whole image? (Even for 3D+T?)

Tutorial Julia code: https://github.com/JeffFessler/ScoreMatching.jl

Resources



Talk and code available online at http://web.eecs.umich.edu/~fessler



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A simple exploration





- Stochastic image model with random: center, width, orientation, background $\mathcal{N}(1, 0.1^2)$, rectangle foreground $\mathcal{N}(1, 0.03^2)$
- 10^6 training images of size 16×16 with partial volume effects.
- Data lies on 7-dimensional manifold.

Patch statistics: joint distribution





Patch statistics: posterior distributions

$$p((x[m, n], x[m, n-1]) | y = x[m, n] + x[m, n-1])$$

- MRI "center of k-space"
- \bullet MRI "2× acceleration





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Patch statistics: score functions

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(Manifold data \implies score function $s(x) = \nabla_x \log p(x)$ is not well-defined.)

"TV" score function

J. Fessler Tut. Gen. UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Total variation (TV) prior for 2×1 patch:

$$\mathsf{p}(\pmb{x}) \propto \mathrm{e}^{-eta |x_2 - x_1|}$$



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Following trends in score matching [12, 14] Adding gaussian noise to training data \equiv smoothing score function



MAP denoising via gradient ascent (test images)

J. Fessler Tut. Gen.

Noisy 29.5dB, MAP 29.9dB, True



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Uncertainty?



- Sample from p(x|y)
- Perform multiple realizations

30 noise realizations



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Multiple realizations





30 denoised images

Standard deviation across realizations



