

**Title:** Architectural bias in a transport-based generative model : an asymptotic perspective

**Speakers:** Hugo Cui

**Collection/Series:** Theory + AI Workshop: Theoretical Physics for AI

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**Abstract:**

We consider the problem of learning a generative model parametrized by a two-layer auto-encoder, and trained with online stochastic gradient descent, to sample from a high-dimensional data distribution with an underlying low-dimensional structure. We provide a tight asymptotic characterization of low-dimensional projections of the resulting generated density, and evidence how mode(l) collapse can arise. On the other hand, we discuss how in a case where the architectural bias is suited to the target density, these simple models can efficiently learn to sample from a binary Gaussian mixture target distribution.

# Architectural bias in generative models —an asymptotic viewpoint

*Hugo Cui*

PI Theory + AI workshop

## Based on

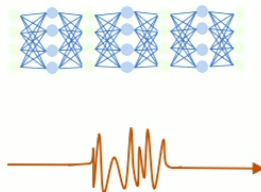
**HC**, Pehlevan, Lu, *Precise asymptotics of learning diffusion models: theory & insights*, **ArXiv 2025**

**HC**, Krzakala, Vanden-Eijnden, Zdeborová, *Analysis of a learning a flow-based generative model from finite sample complexity*, **ICLR 2024**





Training set  $\sim \rho$



new generated samples

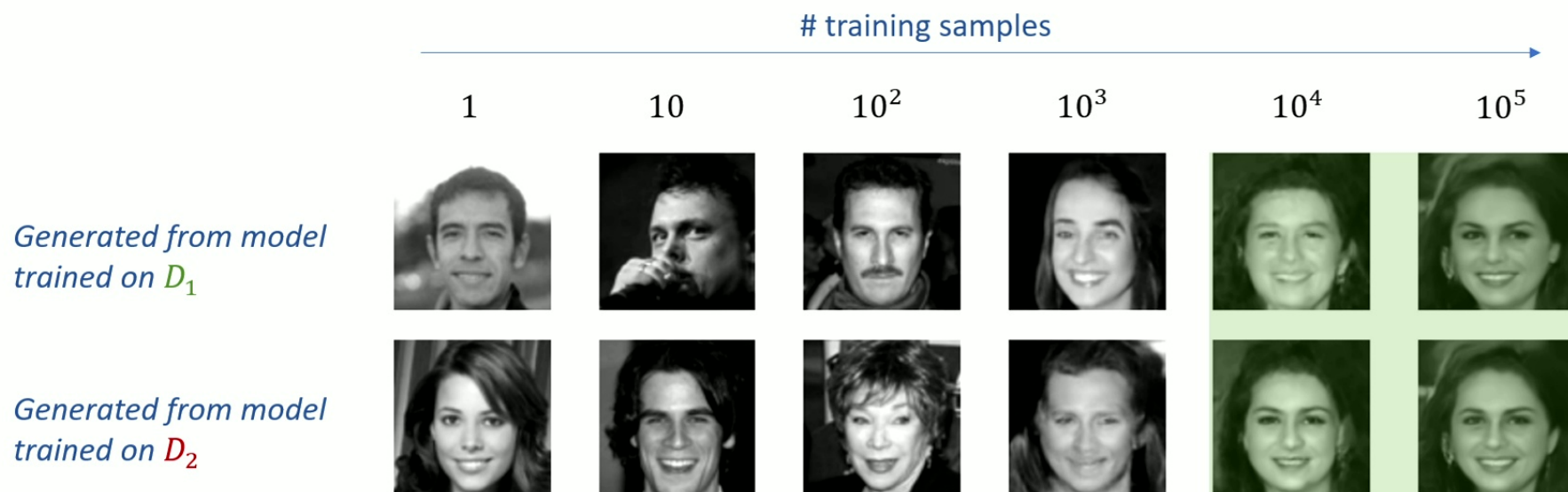
**Transport-based generative models** learn to sample (generate) complex distributions in **high-dimensions** from moderate training sets.

→ Existence of strong **inductive biases** in the architecture.

Ho, Jain, Abbeel, *Denoising Diffusion Probabilistic Models*, NeurIPS 2020

Sohl-Dickstein et al., *unsupervised learning using nonequilibrium thermodynamics*, ICML 2015

Song and Ermon, *Generative modeling by estimating gradients of the data distribution*. NeurIPS 2019



Kadkhodaie et al., *Generalization in diffusion models arises from geometry-adaptive harmonic representation*, ICLR 2024

Two models trained on **disjoint** training sets  $D_1$  and  $D_2$  generate the **same image** from a given prompt when trained with sufficiently many samples ( $\sim 2 - 16\times$  dimension).



How is the distribution of generated samples shaped by the network architecture?

→ Try to understand in simple models.

### Analysis of the transport only

Chen et al,. Sampling is as easy as learning the score: theory for diffusion models with minimal data assumptions. arXiv:2209.11215, 2022.

Biroli et al, Dynamical regimes of diffusion models. Nature Communications, 15(1):9957, 2024

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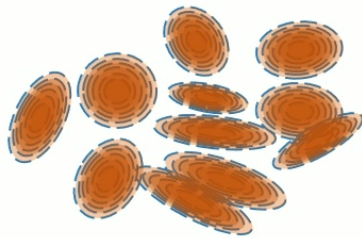
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### Sample bounds when density can be perfectly learnt by the model class with enough samples:

Boffi et al., Shallow diffusion networks provably learn hidden low-dimensional structure., arXiv:2410.11275, 2024.

Chen et al., *Score approximation, estimation and distribution recovery of diffusion models on low-dimensional data*, ICML 2023

Oko, Akiyama and Suzuki, *Diffusion models are minimax optimal distribution estimators*, ICML 2023



Target density  $\rho$   
Generated density  $\hat{\rho}$

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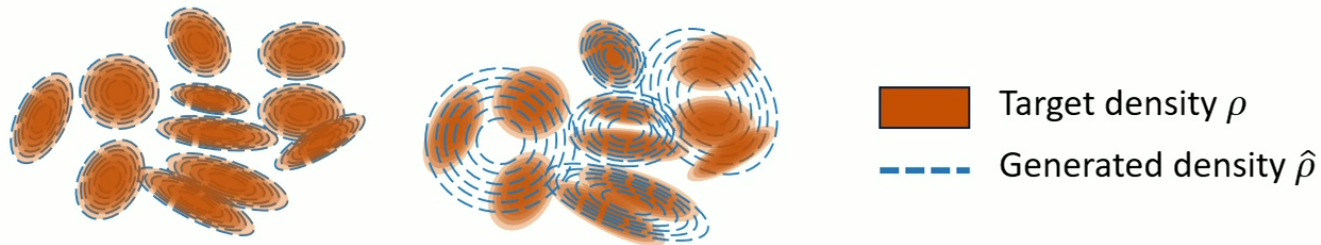
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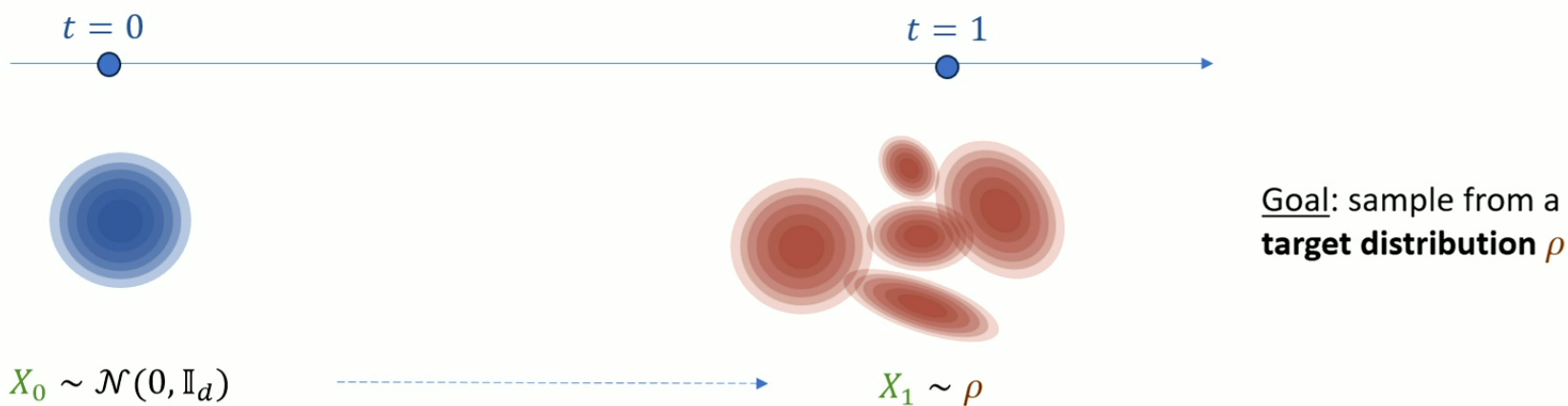
Oko, Akiyama and Suzuki, *Diffusion models are minimax optimal distribution estimators*, ICML 2023

→ To complement these results : a **tight** characterization of the generated density in the case **where architecture and target distribution are not perfectly matched**.

1. Generated density for an auto-encoder parametrized model
2. Failure modes : mode(l) collapse
3. Aligned case: binary isotropic Gaussian mixture distribution.

**HC**, Pehlevan, Lu, *Precise asymptotics of learning diffusion models: theory & insights*, **ArXiv 2025**

**HC**, Krzakala, Vanden-Eijnden, Zdeborová, *Analysis of a learning a flow-based generative model from finite sample complexity*, **ICLR 2024**



Albergo, Boffi, and Vanden-Eijnden, *Stochastic interpolants: A unifying framework for flows and diffusions*. arXiv:2303.08797, 2023.

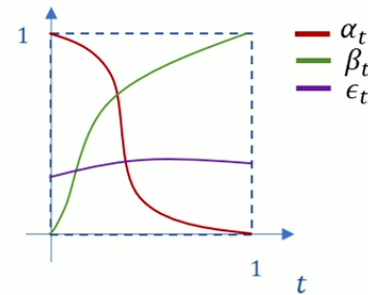


The sampling can be done by transporting  $X_0$  through the SDE for  $t \in [0,1]$

$$\frac{d}{dt} X_t = \left( \dot{\beta}_t - \frac{\dot{\alpha}_t}{\alpha_t} \beta_t + \epsilon_t \frac{\beta_t}{\alpha_t^2} \right) f(t, X_t) + \left( \frac{\dot{\alpha}_t}{\alpha_t} - \frac{\epsilon_t}{\alpha_t^2} \right) X_t + \sqrt{2\epsilon_t} dW_t$$

For any choice of interpolation schedules st:

$$\begin{aligned} \alpha, \beta &\in \mathcal{C}^2([0,1]) \\ \alpha_0 = \beta_1 &= 1, \alpha_1 = \beta_0 = 0 \\ \epsilon_t &\geq 0 \end{aligned}$$







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*Denoising function* is the minimizer of a **denoising objective**

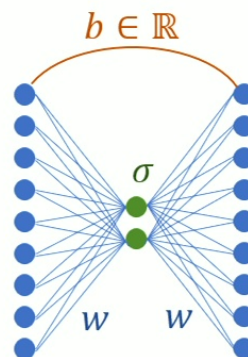
$$f = \min_h \int_0^1 \mathbb{E}_{x_1 \sim \rho, x_0 \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \mathbb{I}_d)} \|h(t, \alpha_t x_0 + \beta_t x_1) - x_1\|^2 dt$$

Learnable from data  
Empirical average  
Network param.

$$\forall x \in \mathbb{R}^d, \quad f_{b,w}(x) = bx + \frac{w}{\sqrt{d}} \sigma\left(\frac{w^\top x}{\sqrt{d}}\right)$$

Trainable skip connection  $b \in \mathbb{R}$

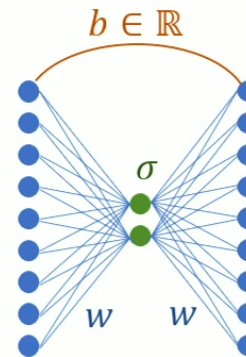
Weight matrix  $w \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times r}$



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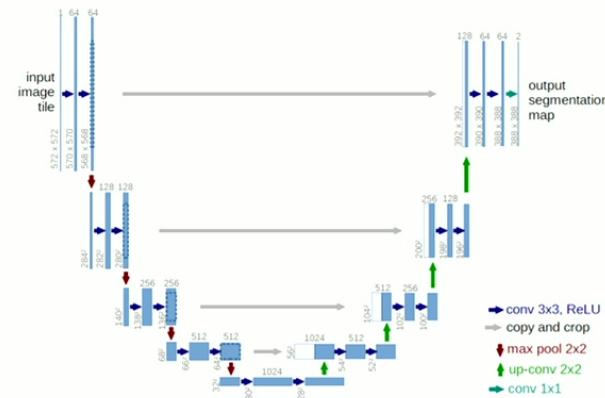
Trainable skip connection  $b \in \mathbb{R}$

Weight matrix  $w \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times r}$



Remark: U-Nets are used in practice.

- skip connections
- bottlenecks
- convolutional layers



Ronneberger, Fischer, and Brox *U-net: Convolutional networks for biomedical image segmentation*. MICCAI 2015

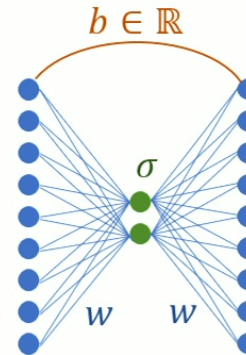
Vincent et al., *Stacked denoising AEs: Learning useful representations in a deep net. with a local denoising criterion*, JMLR 2010

14

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Trainable skip connection  $b \in \mathbb{R}$

Weight matrix  $w \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times r}$



Given a training set of  $n$  i.i.d samples  $\{x_1^\mu \sim \rho, x_0^\mu \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \mathbb{I}_d)\}_{\mu=1}^n$  one can train the network  $f_{b,w}(x)$  with online SGD

$$b_{\mu+1} - b_\mu = -\frac{\eta}{d^2} \left( \partial_b \mathbb{E}_t \|x_1^\mu - f_{b_\mu, w_\mu}(\alpha_t x_0^\mu + \beta_t x_1^\mu)\|^2 \right)$$

$$w_{\mu+1} - w_\mu = -\eta \left( \nabla_w \mathbb{E}_t \|x_1^\mu - f_{b_\mu, w_\mu}(\alpha_t x_0^\mu + \beta_t x_1^\mu)\|^2 + \lambda/d w_\mu \right)$$

Note  $\tau = 2\eta n/d$  and  $w_\tau, b_\tau$  the trained parameters.



$$\frac{d}{dt} X_t = \left( \dot{\beta}_t - \frac{\dot{\alpha}_t}{\alpha_t} \beta_t + \epsilon_t \frac{\beta_t}{\alpha_t^2} \right) f(t, X_t) + \left( \frac{\dot{\alpha}_t}{\alpha_t} - \frac{\epsilon_t}{\alpha_t^2} \right) X_t + \sqrt{2\epsilon_t} dW_t$$



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Using the trained AE in the generative SDE

$$\hat{\rho}_\tau(t) = \text{Law}[X_t] ?$$

Gaussian mixture supported on *a low-dimensional latent manifold*

$$\rho = \int_{\mathbb{R}^K} d\pi(c) \mathcal{N}(\mu(c), \Sigma(c))$$

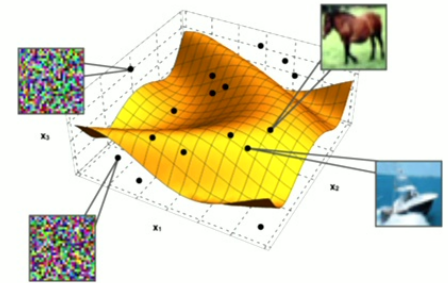


Figure from Goldt et al., *Modelling the influence of data structure in learning in neural networks: the hidden manifold model*, PRX 2020.

Tenenbaum., Silva and Langford, *A global geometric framework for nonlinear dimensionality reduction*. science, 2000

Weinberger and Saul, *Unsupervised learning of image manifolds by semidefinite programming*. Int. journal of computer vision, 2006.



Gaussian mixture supported on *a low-dimensional latent manifold*

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centroids

$$\mu: \mathbb{R}^K \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^d$$

$$\exists D > 0, \text{ w.p. } 1, \|\mu(c)\| \leq D$$

$$K = \dim \text{span}\{\mu(c)\}_c \text{ is low}$$

covariances

$$\Sigma: \mathbb{R}^K \rightarrow \mathcal{S}^d(\mathbb{R})$$

assumed jointly diagonalizable, with a well-defined joint limiting spectral density.

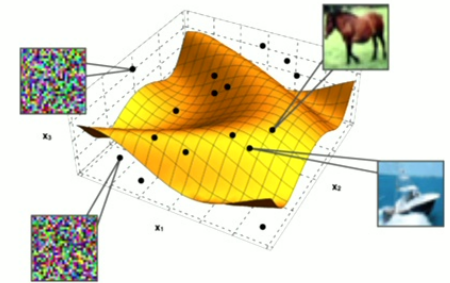


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Average extension of the density

$$\Lambda = \int d\pi(c) \frac{1}{d} \text{Tr}[\Sigma(c)]$$

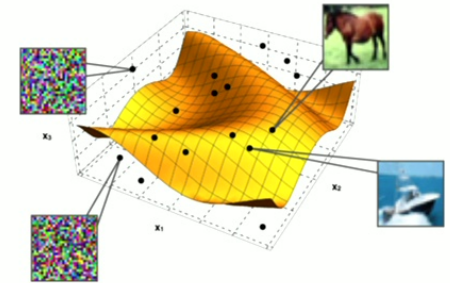


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Target density	$\rho = \int_{\mathbb{R}^k} d\pi(c) \mathcal{N}(\mu(c), \Sigma(c))$	
Architecture	$f_{b,w}(x) = bx + \frac{w}{\sqrt{d}} \sigma\left(\frac{w^\top x}{\sqrt{d}}\right)$	
Learning	$b_{\mu+1} - b_\mu = -\frac{\eta}{d^2} \left( \partial_b \mathbb{E}_t \ x_1^\mu - f_{b_\mu, w_\mu}(\alpha_t x_0^\mu + \beta_t x_1^\mu)\ ^2 \right)$ $w_{\mu+1} - w_\mu = -\eta \left( \nabla_w \mathbb{E}_t \ x_1^\mu - f_{b_\mu, w_\mu}(\alpha_t x_0^\mu + \beta_t x_1^\mu)\ ^2 + \lambda/dw_\mu \right)$	for a time $\tau$
Sampling	$\frac{d}{dt} X_t = \Gamma_t \frac{w_\tau}{\sqrt{d}} \sigma\left(\frac{w_\tau^\top X_t}{\sqrt{d}}\right) + \Delta_t^\tau X_t + \sqrt{2\epsilon_t} dW_t$	for a time $t$
	with $\Gamma_t = \left( \dot{\beta}_t - \frac{\dot{\alpha}_t}{\alpha_t} \beta_t + \epsilon_t \frac{\beta_t}{\alpha_t^2} \right)$	$\Delta_t^\tau = b_\tau \Gamma_t + \frac{\dot{\alpha}_t}{\alpha_t} - \frac{\epsilon_t}{\alpha_t^2}$
Generated density	$\hat{\rho}_\tau(t) = \text{Law}[X_t]$	

Asymptotic limit

$$n, d \rightarrow \infty \text{ with } n/d, \kappa, r, D, K = \Theta_d(1)$$

**Finite width, large amount of data, large dimension**

Saad and Solla, *Exact solution for on-line learning in multilayer neural networks*, PRL 1995,  
...

Gabrielé, Mean-Field inference methods for neural networks, J. Phys. A 2020.

**HC**, High-dimensional learning of narrow networks, J.Stat Mech 2025

Tight characterization of low-dimensional projections of the generated density  $\hat{\rho}_\tau(t)$ 

Consider a low-dimensional subspace  $\mathcal{E} \subset \mathbb{R}^d$ , with  $\dim \mathcal{E} = R = \Theta_d(1)$ . The distribution of the  $R$  –dimensional projection  $\Pi_{\mathcal{E}} X_t$  is given by

$$\Pi_{\mathcal{E}} X_t =^d \Theta_\tau^\top Q_\tau^+ Z_t + Y_t$$

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$$\boxed{\Pi_{\mathcal{E}} X_t = {}^d \Theta_\tau^\top Q_\tau^+ Z_t + Y_t}$$

Where:

►  $Y_t \in \mathbb{R}^R$  is Gaussian

$$Y_t \sim \mathcal{N} \left( 0_R, e^{2 \int_0^t \Delta_s^\tau ds} \left[ 1 + 2 \int_0^t \epsilon_s e^{-2 \int_0^s \Delta_z^\tau dz} ds \right] (\mathbb{I}_R - \Theta_\tau^\top Q_\tau^+ \Theta_\tau) \right)$$

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►  $Z_t \in \mathbb{R}^r$  is distributed as the solution of the SDE

$$\frac{d}{dt} Z_t = \Delta_t^\tau Z_t + \Gamma_t Q_\tau \sigma(Z_t) + \sqrt{2\epsilon_t} Q_\tau^{1/2} W_t$$

From initialization  $Z_0 \sim \mathcal{N}(0_r, Q_\tau)$

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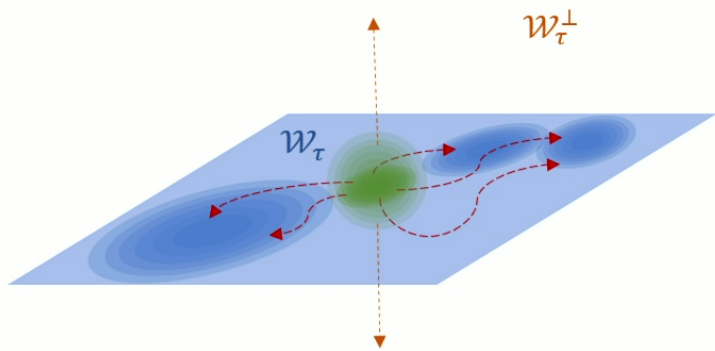
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- The parameters  $\Theta_\tau \in \mathbb{R}^{r \times R}$ ,  $Q_\tau \in \mathbb{R}^{r \times r}$  are the solutions of a set of 5 coupled **low-dimensional** deterministic **ODEs**.



$$\frac{d}{dt} X_t =$$

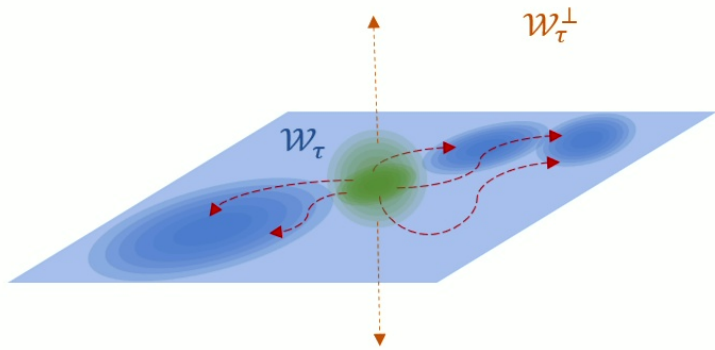
$$\Gamma_t \frac{w_{\tau}}{\sqrt{d}} \sigma \left( \frac{w_{\tau}^{\top} X_t}{\sqrt{d}} \right)$$

Non-linear transport in  
 $\mathcal{W}_{\tau} = \text{span}(\{w_i\}_{i=1}^r)$

$$+ \Delta_t^{\tau} X_t + \sqrt{2\epsilon_t} dW_t$$

Linear in  $\mathcal{W}_{\tau}^{\perp}$





$$\frac{d}{dt} X_t =$$

$$\Gamma_t \frac{w_{\tau}}{\sqrt{d}} \sigma \left( \frac{w_{\tau}^{\top} X_t}{\sqrt{d}} \right)$$

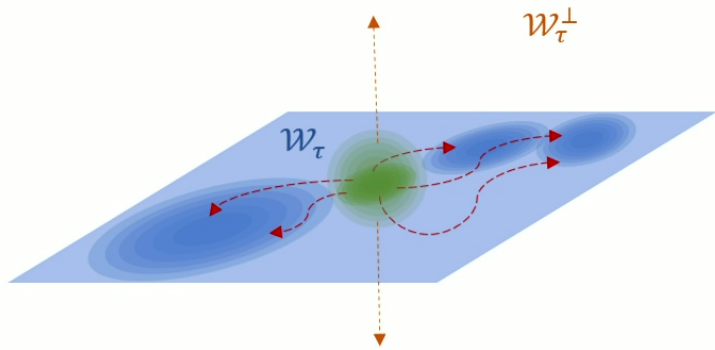
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Linear in  $W_{\tau}^{\perp}$

Dynamics of  $Z_t = \frac{w_{\tau}^{\top} X_t}{\sqrt{d}}$

$$\frac{d}{dt} Z_t = \Delta_t^{\tau} Z_t + \Gamma_t \frac{w_{\tau}^{\top} w_{\tau}}{d} \sigma(Z_t) + \sqrt{2\epsilon_t} \left( \frac{w_{\tau}^{\top} w_{\tau}}{d} \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} W_t$$



$$\frac{d}{dt} X_t =$$

$$\Gamma_t \frac{w_{\tau}}{\sqrt{d}} \sigma \left( \frac{w_{\tau}^T X_t}{\sqrt{d}} \right)$$

Non-linear transport in  
 $\mathcal{W}_{\tau} = \text{span}(\{w_i\}_{i=1}^r)$

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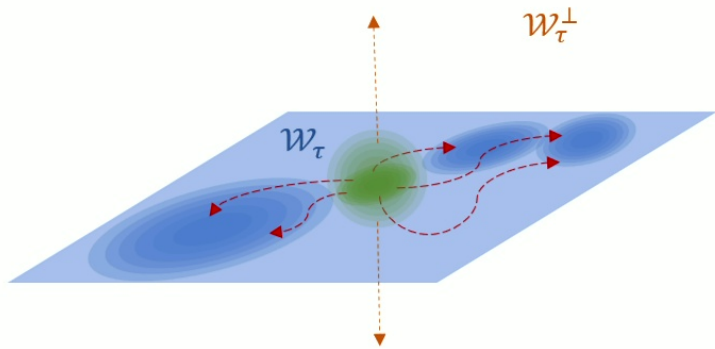
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The SGD dynamics of the summary statistic  $Q_{\tau} = \frac{w_{\tau}^T w_{\tau}}{d}$  (and others) self-average and can be characterized in closed-form by a set of low-dimensional ODEs.

Saad and Solla, *Exact solution for on-line learning in multilayer neural networks*, PRL 1995

Intuition:

- The network **identifies** a  $r$  –dimensional  $\mathcal{W}_\tau$  subspace where the target  $\rho$  has important structure, and implements a non-linear transport.
- It approximates  $\rho$  in the orthogonal space by an **isotropic Gaussian**, whose variance is tuned by the skip connection strength.

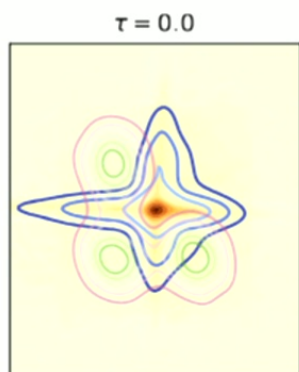
Special case: linear networks  $\sigma(x) = x$ 

- Linear networks approximately learn  $\approx$  **principal components**  $\mathcal{W}_\tau \approx \text{PCA}_r[\{x_1^\mu\}_\mu]$

Pretorius et al., *Learning dynamics of linear denoising autoencoders*. ICML, 2018. , .....

- The linear diffusion model does a Gaussian approximation in the principal space. In the orthogonal space, approximates by an isotropic Gaussian.

$\sigma$  = ReLU activation,  
 $r$  = 4 hidden units

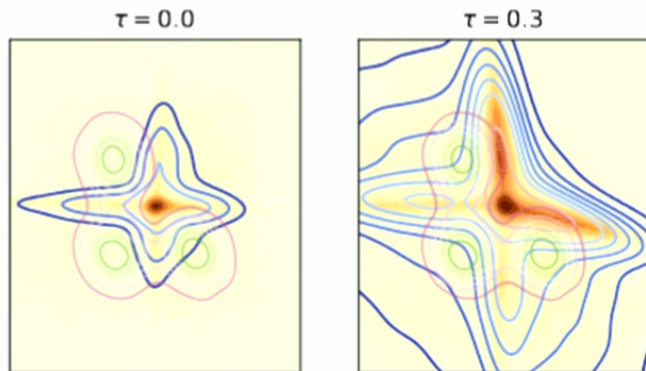


 Target density  $\rho$

 (**theory**) Generated density  $\hat{\rho}$

 (**exp**) Generated density  $\hat{\rho}$

$\sigma = \text{ReLU activation,}$   
 $r = 4 \text{ hidden units}$

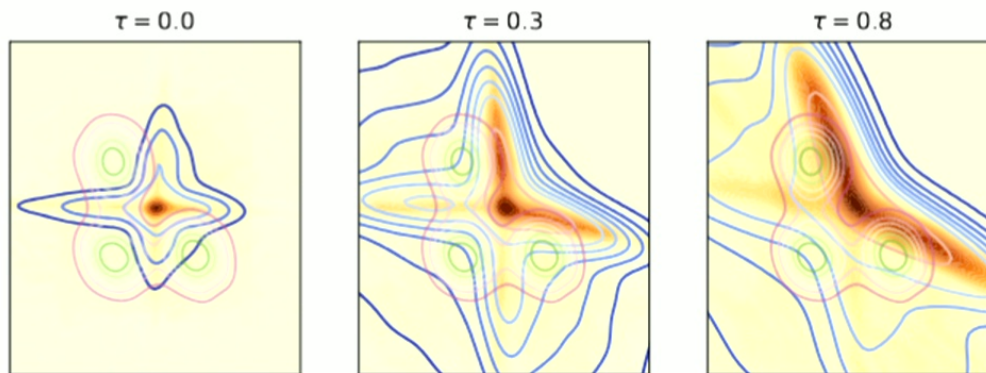


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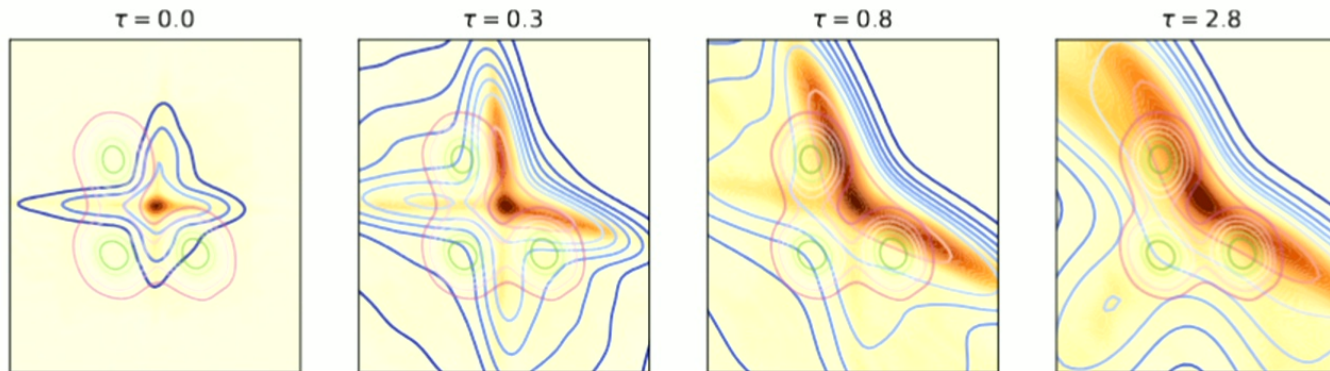



 Target density  $\rho$

 **(theory)** Generated density  $\hat{\rho}$

 **(exp)** Generated density  $\hat{\rho}$

$\sigma = \text{ReLU activation,}$   
 $r = 4 \text{ hidden units}$

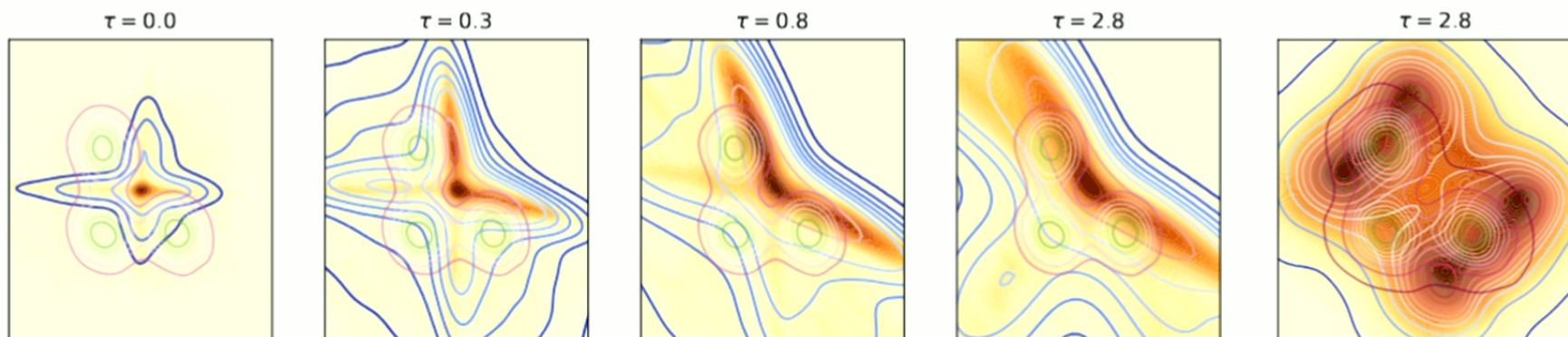


 Target density  $\rho$        **(theory)** Generated density  $\hat{\rho}$        **(exp)** Generated density  $\hat{\rho}$



$\sigma = \text{ReLU activation,}$   
 $r = 4 \text{ hidden units}$

$\sigma = \tanh \text{ activation,}$   
 $r = 2 \text{ hidden units}$

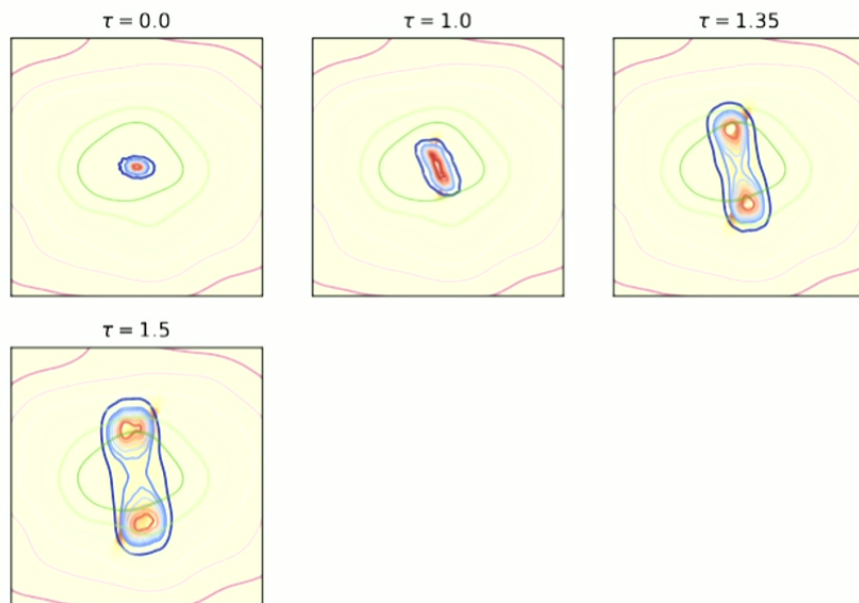


 Target density  $\rho$

 **(theory)** Generated density  $\hat{\rho}$

 **(exp)** Generated density  $\hat{\rho}$



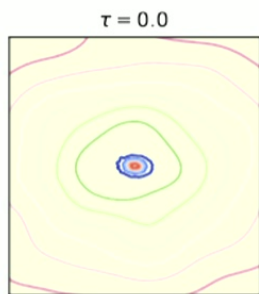


$\sigma = \tanh$  activation,  
 $r = 2$  hidden units  
 Gaussian  $\rho$  with MNIST covariance

 Target density  $\rho$

 (theory) Generated density  $\hat{\rho}$

 (exp) Generated density  $\hat{\rho}$

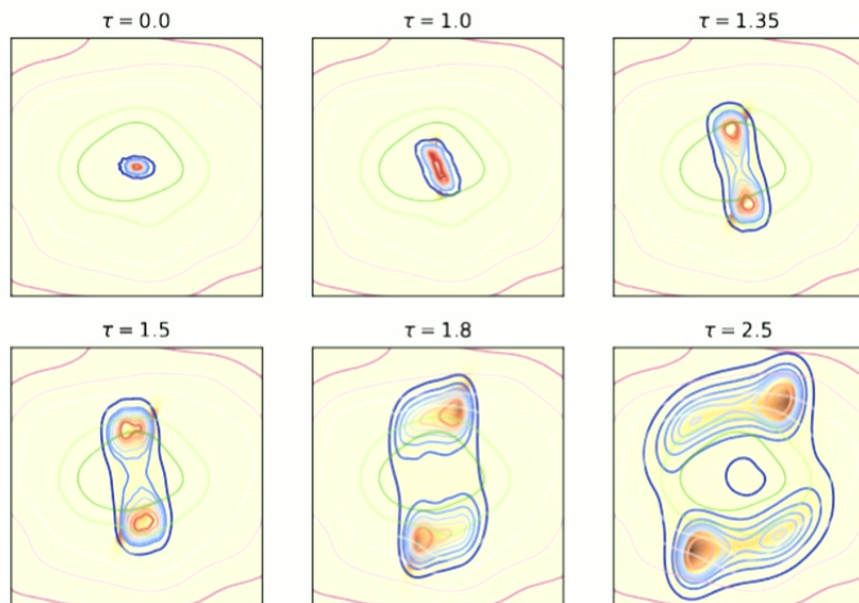


$\sigma = \tanh$  activation,  
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 Target density  $\rho$

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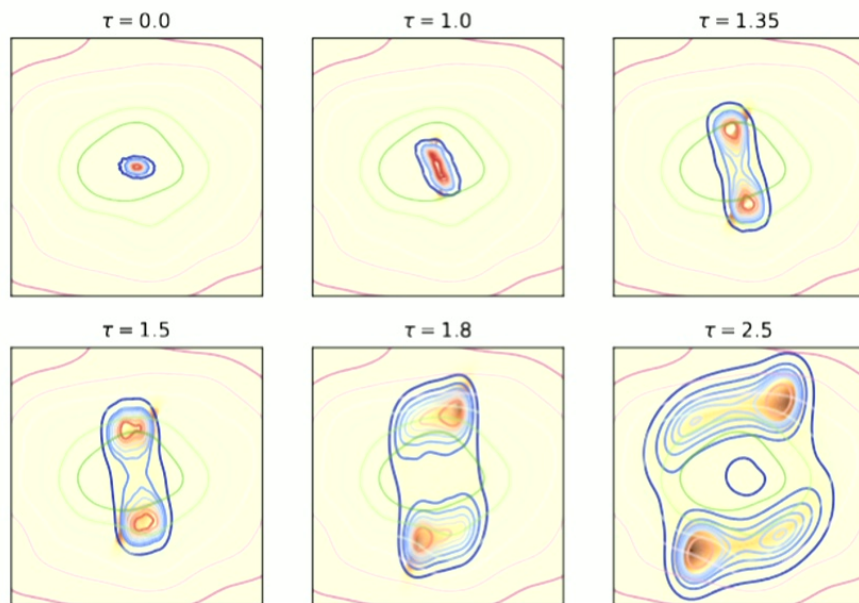


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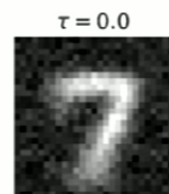
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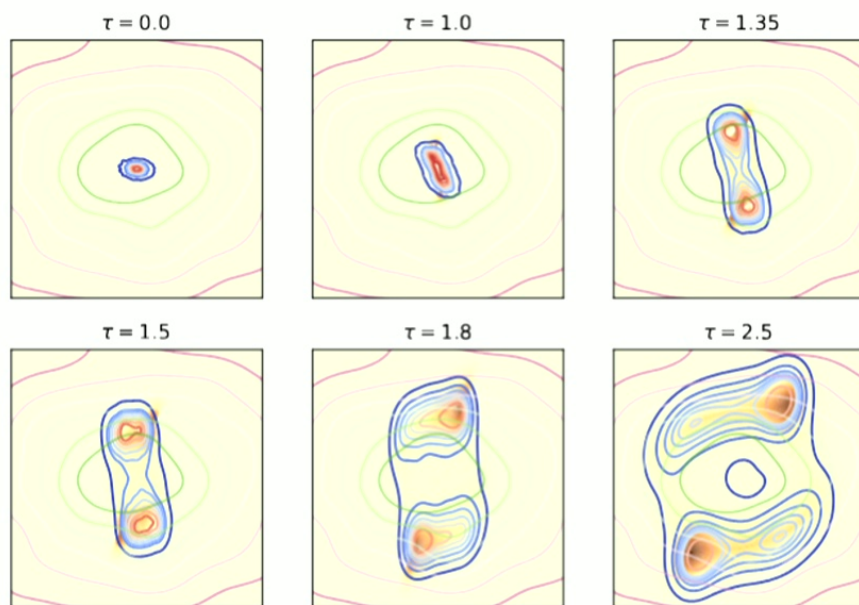
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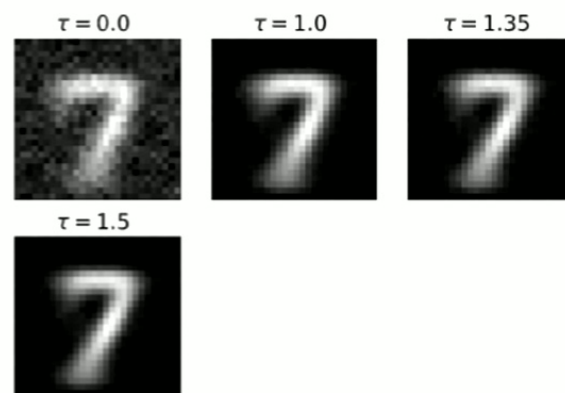
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— Target density  $\rho$      
 = (theory) Generated density  $\hat{\rho}$      
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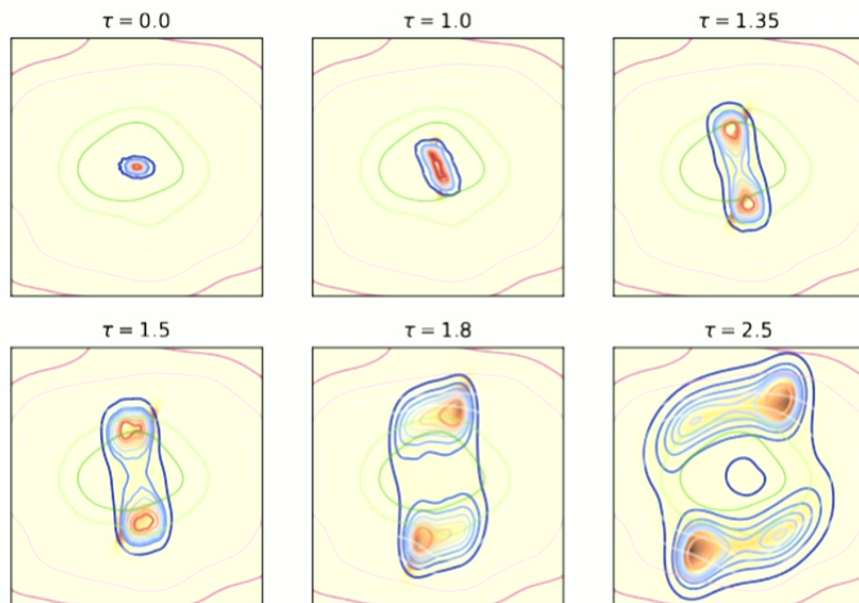
$\sigma = \tanh$  activation,  
 $r = 2$  hidden units  
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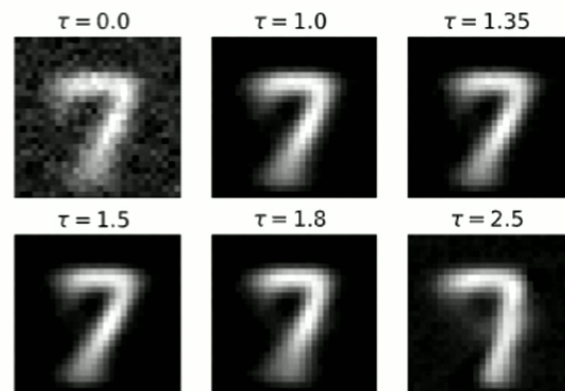
 Target density  $\rho$

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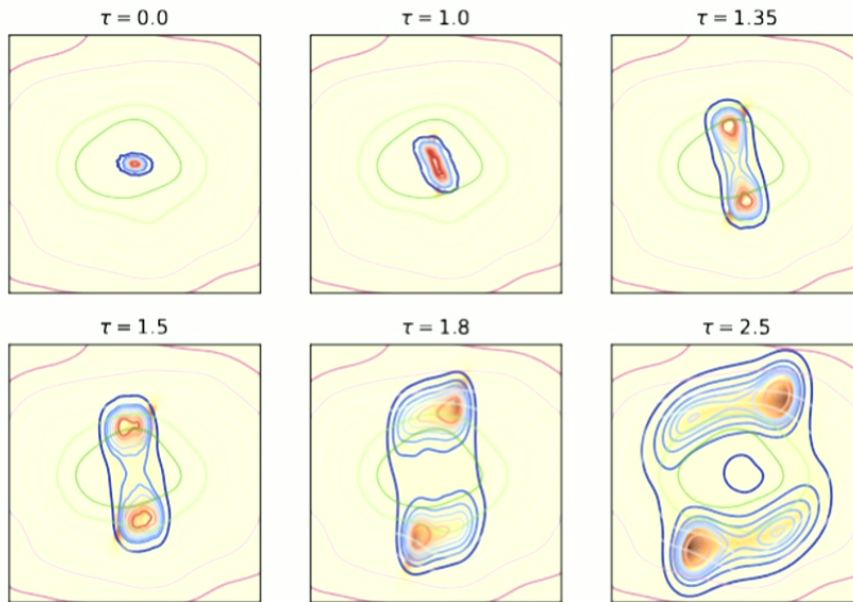


 Target density  $\rho$

 (theory) Generated density  $\hat{\rho}$

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 Target density  $\rho$

 (theory) Generated density  $\hat{\rho}$

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Closed-form expression for the trained skip connection

$$b_\tau = \frac{\Lambda \mathbb{E}_t[\beta_t] \left[ 1 - (1 - b_0) e^{-(\Lambda \mathbb{E}_t[\beta_t^2] + \mathbb{E}_t[\alpha_t^2])\tau} \right]}{\Lambda \mathbb{E}_t[\beta_t^2] + \mathbb{E}_t[\alpha_t^2]}$$

Average cov. eigenvalue  $\Lambda = \int d\pi(c) \frac{1}{d} \text{Tr}[\Sigma(c)]$

is typically **small** in real datasets, causing  
 $\approx$  **mode collapse**

Goodfellow et al., *Generative adversarial nets*. NeurIPS 2014.

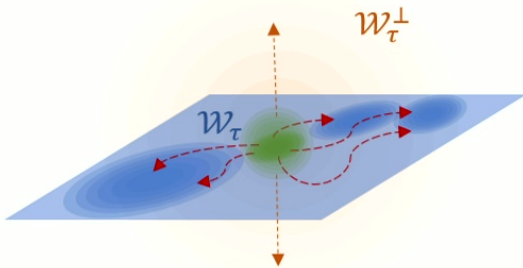
Can this bias be **aggravated** when using synthetic data to train a new generative model ?

$$\rho \rightarrow \hat{\rho}^{(1)} \rightarrow \hat{\rho}^{(2)} \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow \hat{\rho}^{(g)}$$



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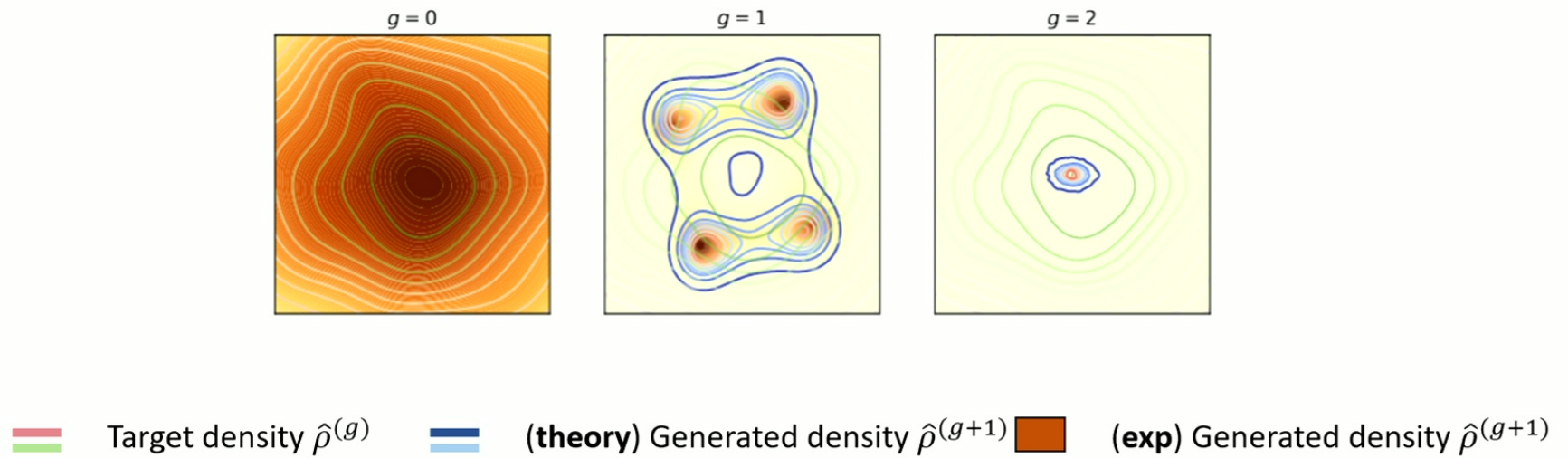


**Remark:** Manifold form of the generated density

$\hat{\rho}^{(1)}$  is still of the form  $\int d\pi(c) \mathcal{N}(\mu(c), \Sigma(c))$ , with  $\mu(c) = c$  and

$$\begin{aligned} \pi &= \Pi_{\mathcal{W}_\tau} \hat{\rho}^{(1)} \\ \Sigma(c) &= e^{2 \int_0^t \Delta_s^\tau ds} \left[ 1 + 2 \int_0^t \epsilon_s e^{-2 \int_0^s \Delta_z^\tau dz} ds \right] \Pi_{\mathcal{W}_\tau^\perp} \end{aligned}$$

Thus the analysis *carries over iteratively* to generations  $\hat{\rho}^{(2)}, \dots$



Shumailov et al., *Ai models collapse when trained on recursively generated data*. Nature, 2024

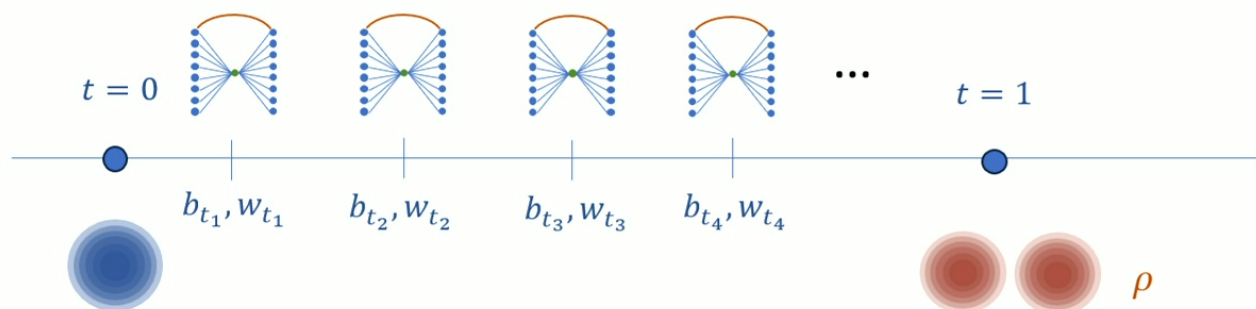
Binary, isotropic Gaussian mixture  $\rho = \frac{1}{2} \mathcal{N}(-\mu, \sigma^2 \mathbb{I}_d) + \frac{1}{2} \mathcal{N}(+\mu, \sigma^2 \mathbb{I}_d)$



Binary, isotropic Gaussian mixture  $\rho = 1/2 \mathcal{N}(-\mu, \sigma^2 \mathbb{I}_d) + 1/2 \mathcal{N}(+\mu, \sigma^2 \mathbb{I}_d)$

At *each sampling time*, train a **separate** AE with  $r = 1$  hidden unit and  $\sigma = \text{sign}$  activation

$$b_t, w_t = \operatorname{argmin}_{\theta \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times r}} \sum_{\mu=1}^n \|f_{b,w}(\alpha_t x_0^\mu + \beta_t x_1^\mu) - x_1^\mu\|_2^2 + \lambda \|w\|^2$$



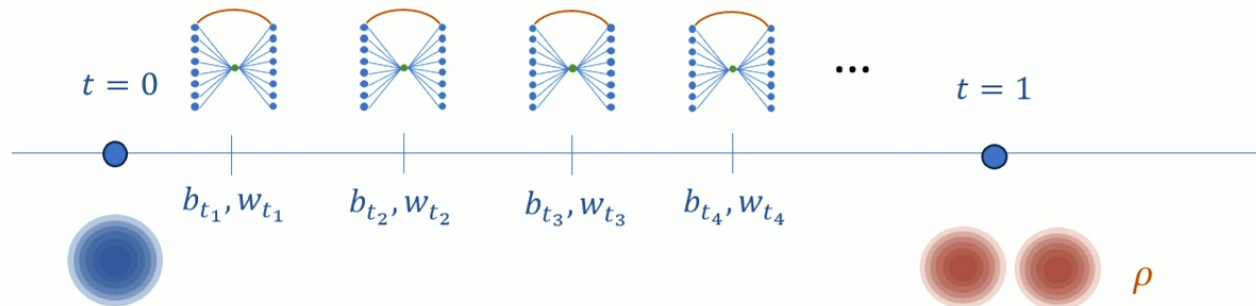
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Sampling :

$$\frac{d}{dt} X_t = \left( \dot{\beta}_t - \frac{\dot{\alpha}_t}{\alpha_t} \beta_t \right) f_{b_t, w_t}(X_t) + \frac{\dot{\alpha}_t}{\alpha_t} X_t$$



### Closed form characterization of the dynamics

In the asymptotic limit  $d \rightarrow \infty$  with  $n = \Theta_d(1)$ ,  $\|\mu\| = \Theta_d(\sqrt{d})$ , the sampling dynamic is non-linear in  $\text{span}(\mu, \xi, \eta)$  where

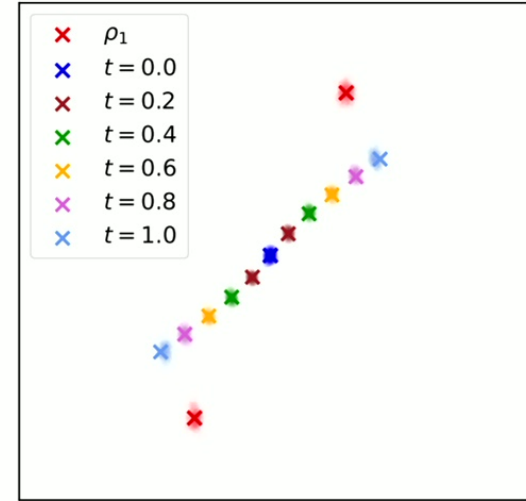
$$\xi \equiv \sum_{\mu=1}^n s^\mu x_0^\mu, \quad \eta \equiv \sum_{\mu=1}^n s^\mu (x_1^\mu - s^\mu \mu),$$

The coordinates  $M_t, Q_t^\xi, Q_t^\eta$  of a sample  $X_t$  follow the ODEs

$$\begin{cases} \frac{d}{dt} M_t = \frac{(\dot{\beta}(t)\beta(t)(\lambda(1+\sigma^2)+(n-1)\sigma^2)+\dot{\alpha}(t)\alpha(t)(\lambda+n-1))M_t + (\alpha(t)\dot{\beta}(t)-\dot{\alpha}(t)\beta(t))\frac{n\alpha(t)(\lambda+n-1)}{\lambda+n}}{\alpha(t)^2(\lambda+n-1)+\beta(t)^2(\lambda(1+\sigma^2)+(n-1)\sigma^2)} \\ \frac{d}{dt} Q_t^\xi = \frac{(\dot{\beta}(t)\beta(t)(\lambda(1+\sigma^2)+(n-1)\sigma^2)+\dot{\alpha}(t)\alpha(t)(\lambda+n-1))Q_t^\xi - (\alpha(t)\dot{\beta}(t)-\dot{\alpha}(t)\beta(t))\frac{\beta(t)(\lambda(1+\sigma^2)+(n-1)\sigma^2)}{\lambda+n}}{\alpha(t)^2(\lambda+n-1)+\beta(t)^2(\lambda(1+\sigma^2)+(n-1)\sigma^2)} \\ \frac{d}{dt} Q_t^\eta = \frac{(\dot{\beta}(t)\beta(t)(\lambda(1+\sigma^2)+(n-1)\sigma^2)+\dot{\alpha}(t)\alpha(t)(\lambda+n-1))Q_t^\eta + (\alpha(t)\dot{\beta}(t)-\dot{\alpha}(t)\beta(t))\frac{\alpha(t)(\lambda+n-1)}{\lambda+n}}{\alpha(t)^2(\lambda+n-1)+\beta(t)^2(\lambda(1+\sigma^2)+(n-1)\sigma^2)} \end{cases}$$

The component  $X_t^\perp$  orthogonal to  $\text{span}(\mu, \xi, \eta)$  evolves linearly

$$\frac{d}{dt} X_t^\perp = \frac{(\dot{\beta}(t)\beta(t)(\lambda(1+\sigma^2)+(n-1)\sigma^2)+\dot{\alpha}(t)\alpha(t)(\lambda+n-1))}{\alpha(t)^2(\lambda+n-1)+\beta(t)^2(\lambda(1+\sigma^2)+(n-1)\sigma^2)} X_t^\perp$$



Corollary

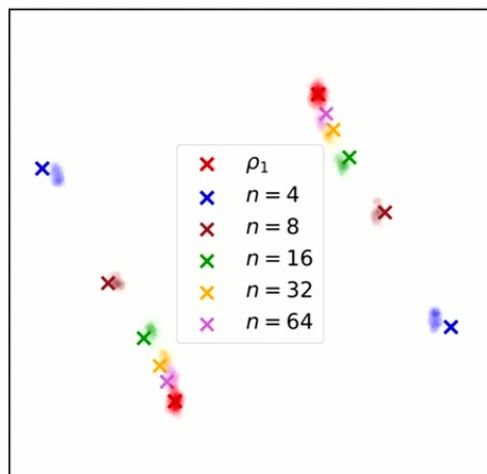
The *mixture Wasserstein distance* between the target  $\rho$  and the generated density  $\hat{\rho}$  decays as

$$\text{M}\mathcal{W}_2[\rho, \hat{\rho}] = o\left(\frac{1}{n}\right)$$

Corollary

The *mixture Wasserstein distance* between the target  $\rho$  and the generated density  $\hat{\rho}$  decays as

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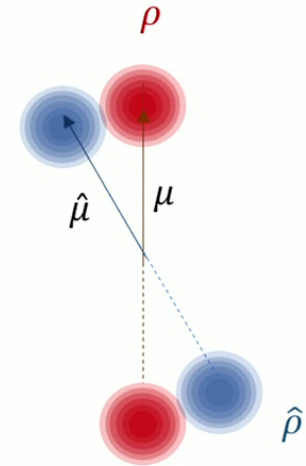
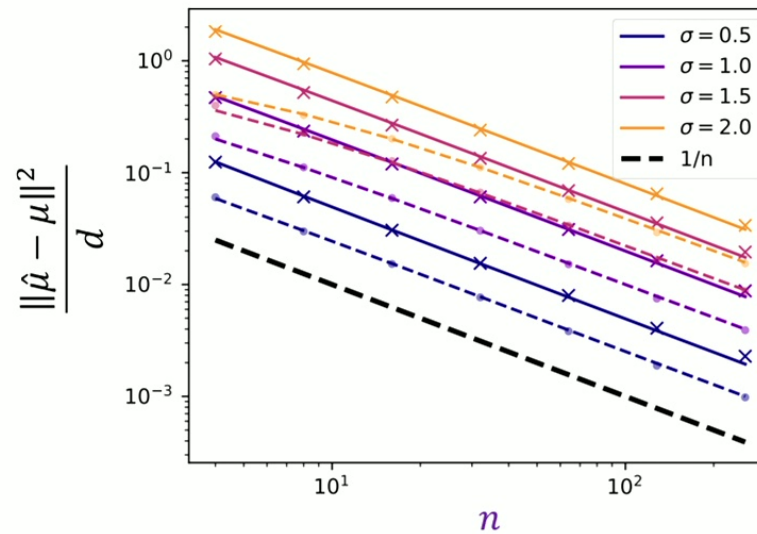
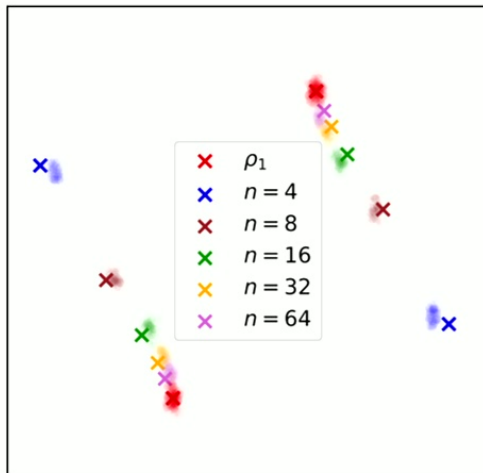




Corollary

The *mixture Wasserstein distance* between the target  $\rho$  and the generated density  $\hat{\rho}$  decays as

$$\text{MW}_2[\rho, \hat{\rho}] = o\left(\frac{1}{n}\right)$$



**Intuition** : The optimal denoising function follows from *Tweedie's formula* (Empirical Bayes) and is of the **same functional form** as the AE

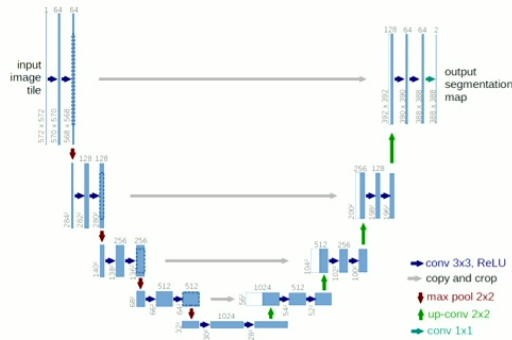
$$f_t^*(x) = \frac{\beta(t)\sigma^2}{\alpha(t)^2 + \beta(t)^2\sigma^2}x + \frac{\alpha(t)^2}{\alpha(t)^2 + \beta(t)^2\sigma^2}\mu \times \tanh\left(\frac{\beta(t)}{\alpha(t)^2 + \beta(t)^2\sigma^2}\mu^\top x\right)$$

→ The architectural bias is **aligned** with the target distribution.

Bradley Efron. *Tweedie's formula and selection bias*. Journal of the American Statistical Association, 2011

Robbins, Proceedings of the Third Berkeley Symposium on Mathematical Statistics and Probability, vol. 1: Contributions to the Theory of Statistics.

Koichi Miyasawa. *An empirical Bayes estimator of the mean of a normal population*. Bulletin of the International Statistical Institute, 1961



## Inductive bias of **Unets**?

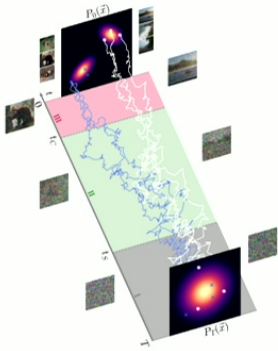
U-nets are suited to data with a *hierarchical structure*

Kadkhodaie et al., *Generalization in diffusion models arises from geometry-adaptive harmonic representation*, ICLR 2024

Mei, S. *U-nets as belief propagation: Efficient classification, denoising, and diffusion in generative hierarchical models*, arXiv:2404.18444, 2024.

(Recall also Alessandro's talk!)

Ronneberger, Fischer, and Brox *U-net: Convolutional networks for biomedical image segmentation*. MICCAI 2015



For infinitely expressive networks who can perfectly overfit the data, *dynamical transitions in the sampling process*.

Biroli et al, *Dynamical Regimes of Diffusion Models*, Nature Comm. 2024

How are they altered for networks with finite expressivity?

## Collaborators

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Thank you for your attention !