



Learning Energy-Based Prior Model with Diffusion-Amortized MCMC

Peiyu Yu¹, Yaxuan Zhu¹, Sirui Xie¹, Xiaojian Ma^{1,2}, Ruiqi Gao³, Ying Nian Wu¹, Song-Chun Zhu²

¹UCLA, ²BIGAI, ³Google DeepMind

Overview

How to learn the latent space energy-based prior model through MLE?

MLE Pros:

- Principled
- Good asymptotic properties
- Etc.

MLE Cons:

- Requires MCMC
- Short-run MCMC is **biased**
- Long-run MCMC is **slow**

Our Solution:

Diffusion-Based Amortization of MCMC

Method

Background: Latent Space Energy-Based Prior Model

Complete data distribution:

$$p_{\theta}(\mathbf{z}, \mathbf{x}) := p_{\alpha}(\mathbf{z})p_{\beta}(\mathbf{x}|\mathbf{z}), \quad p_{\alpha}(\mathbf{z}) := \frac{1}{Z_{\alpha}} \exp(f_{\alpha}(\mathbf{z})) p_0(\mathbf{z}),$$

Learning gradients of the prior model:

$$\delta_{\alpha}(\mathbf{x}) := \mathbb{E}_{p_{\theta}(\mathbf{z}|\mathbf{x})} [\nabla_{\alpha} f_{\alpha}(\mathbf{z})] - \mathbb{E}_{p_{\alpha}(\mathbf{z})} [\nabla_{\alpha} f_{\alpha}(\mathbf{z})], \quad \delta_{\beta}(\mathbf{x}) := \mathbb{E}_{p_{\theta}(\mathbf{z}|\mathbf{x})} [\nabla_{\beta} \log p_{\beta}(\mathbf{x}|\mathbf{z})].$$

Langevin dynamics for sampling:

$$\mathbf{z}_{t+1} = \mathbf{z}_t + \frac{s^2}{2} \nabla_{\mathbf{z}_t} \log \pi(\mathbf{z}_t) + s \mathbf{w}_t, \quad t = 0, 1, \dots, T-1, \quad \mathbf{w}_t \sim \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{I}_d)$$

Method

Amortizing MCMC

$$q_{\phi_k} \leftarrow \arg \min_{q_{\phi} \in \mathcal{Q}} \mathcal{D}[q_{\phi_{k-1}, T} || q_{\phi}], \quad q_{\phi_{k-1}, T} := \mathcal{K}_T q_{\phi_{k-1}}, \quad q_{\phi_0} \approx \pi_0, \quad k = 0, \dots, K - 1.$$

Given the transition kernel K :

- a) Employ a T-step short-run LD initialized with the current sampler $q_{\phi_{k-1}}$ to approximate $K_T q_{\phi_{k-1}}$ as the target distribution of the current sampler
- b) Update the current sampler $q_{\phi_{k-1}}$ to q_{ϕ_k}

Method

Diffusion-based amortization:

$$\phi_{k-1}^{(i+1)} \leftarrow \phi_{k-1}^{(i)} - \eta \nabla_{\phi} \mathbb{E}_{\epsilon, \lambda} [\|\epsilon(z_{\lambda}) - \epsilon\|_2^2], \quad \phi_k^{(0)} \leftarrow \phi_{k-1}^{(M)}, \quad i = 0, 1, \dots, M-1$$

- a) For the choice of q_{ϕ} , let us consider distilling the gradient field of target q in each iteration, so that the resulting sampler is close to the target distribution.
- b) This naturally points to the DDPMs. To be specific, learning a DDPM with ϵ -prediction parameterization is equivalent to fitting the finite-time marginal of a sampling chain resembling annealed LD.
- c) We can plug in the objective of DDPM, which is a lower bound of $\log q_{\phi}$, to obtain the gradient-based update rule for q_{ϕ} .

Method

Diffusion-based amortization:

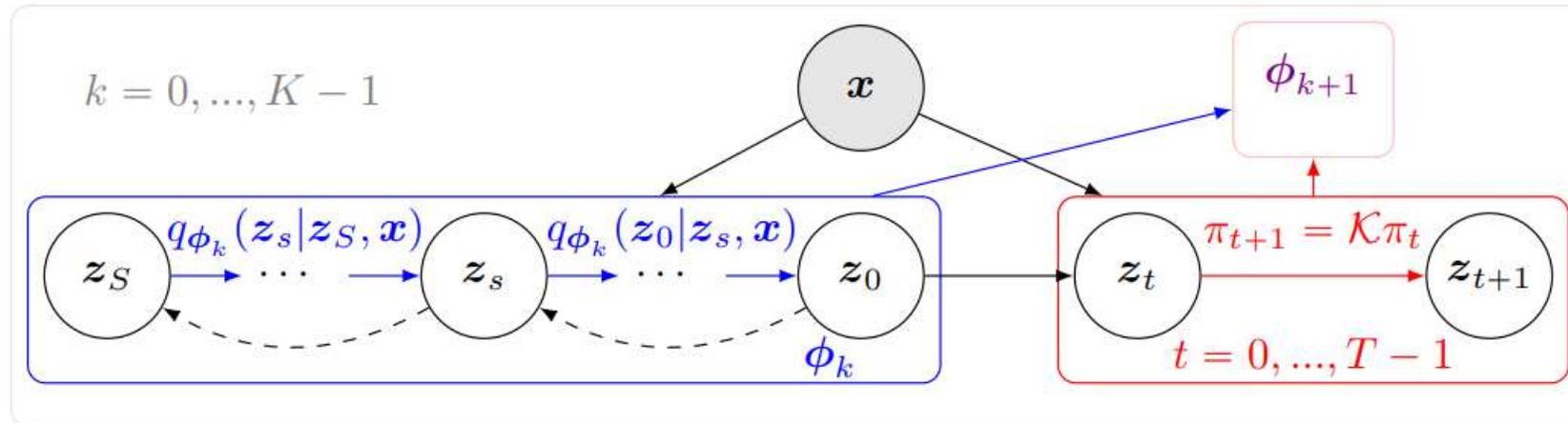
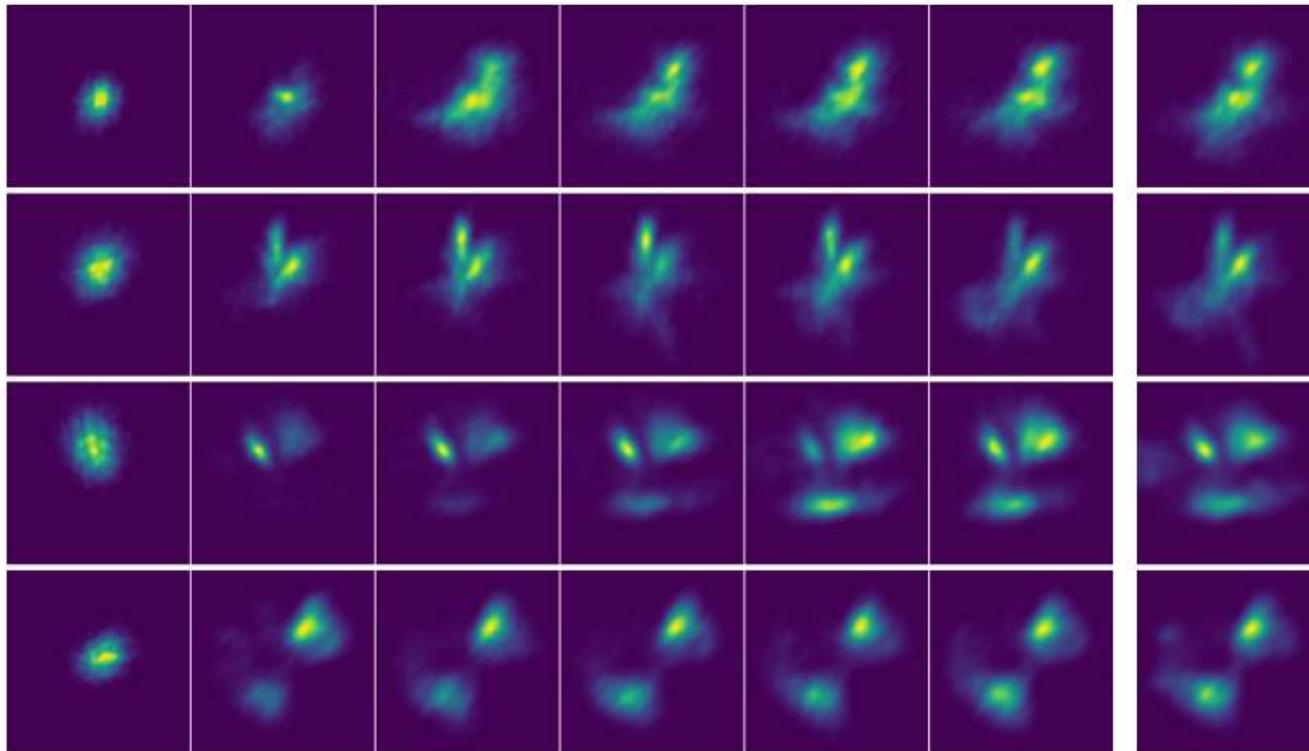


Figure 1: **Learning the DAMC sampler.** The training samples for updating the sampler to ϕ_{k+1} is obtained by *T-step short-run LD*, initialized with the samples from the current learned sampler ϕ_k . Best viewed in color.

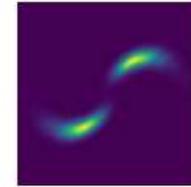
Experiments

Amortizing Long-Run (1k-3k stps.) MCMC



(a) Evolution of the learned posterior distributions

(b) GT



The 2-arm pinwheel-shaped prior distribution used in the toy example.

Neural likelihood experiment:

- a) The true posterior distributions are multimodal.
- b) Posterior obtained by performing LD sampling until convergence.
- c) Our method can amortize long-run chains w/ the length of 1k-3k steps.

Experiments

Generation and Inference: Prior and Posterior Sampling

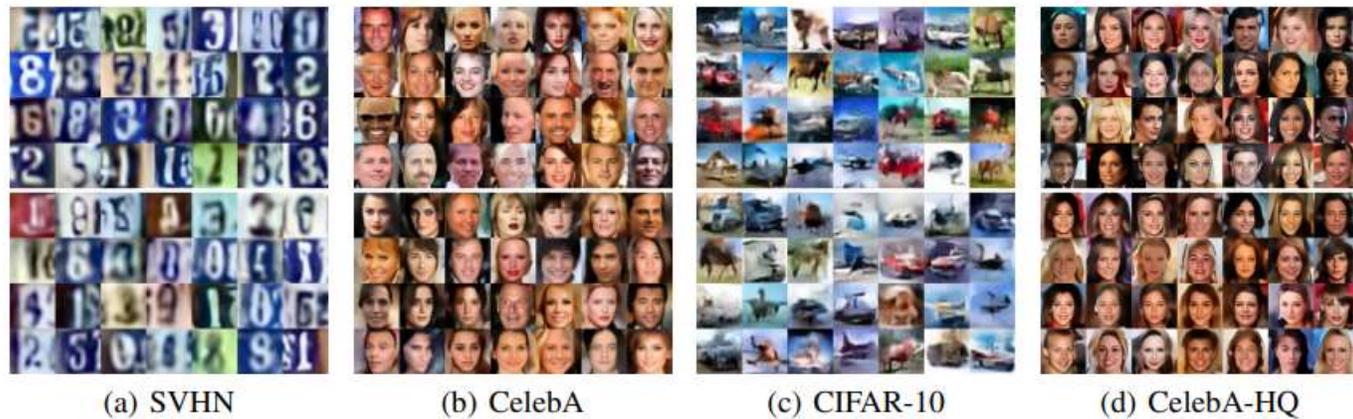


Figure 2: Samples generated from the DAMC sampler and LEBM trained on SVHN, CelebA, CIFAR-10 and CelebA-HQ datasets. In each sub-figure, the first four rows are generated by the DAMC sampler. The last four rows are generated by LEBM trained with the DAMC sampler.

Model	SVHN		CelebA		CIFAR-10		CelebA-HQ	
	MSE	FID	MSE	FID	MSE	FID	MSE	FID
VAE [1]	0.019	46.78	0.021	65.75	0.057	106.37	0.031	180.49
2s-VAE [48]	0.019	42.81	0.021	44.40	0.056	72.90	-	-
RAE [49]	0.014	40.02	0.018	40.95	0.027	74.16	-	-
NCP-VAE [50]	0.020	33.23	0.021	42.07	0.054	78.06	-	-
Adaptive CE* [41]	<u>0.004</u>	26.19	<u>0.009</u>	35.38	0.008	65.01	-	-
ABP [51]	-	49.71	-	51.50	0.018	90.30	0.025	160.21
SRI [24]	0.018	44.86	0.020	61.03	-	-	-	-
SRI (L=5) [24]	0.011	35.32	0.015	47.95	-	-	-	-
LEBM [22]	0.008	29.44	0.013	37.87	0.020	70.15	<u>0.025</u>	133.07
Ours-LEBM	0.002	<u>21.17</u>	0.005	<u>35.67</u>	<u>0.015</u>	<u>60.89</u>	0.023	<u>89.54</u>
Ours-DAMC		18.76		30.83		57.72		85.88

- Prior model learned by our method demonstrates better generation quality.
- Posterior samples from the proposed method produces sharper reconstruction results.



Thank you