# **Geometric Neural Diffusion Processes**

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- 2015. Bachelor's & Master's in Engineering at Ghent University (Belgium)
- 2017. Research Scientist at Secondmind.io (formerly PROWLER.io)
- 2020. PhD student at University of Cambridge with Prof Zoubin Ghahramani
- 2022. Research Internship at DeepMind
- 2023. Submitting thesis on Generative Modelling in Function Space

- 1. An introduction to generative modelling
- 2. Background on continuous diffusion models
- 3. Diffusion models on functions
- 4. Incorporating geometry and invariances
- 5. Conditional Sampling

## Papers of Reference and Collaborators

Neural Diffusion Processes, ICML 2023.



Vincent Dutordoir

Alan Saul

Zoubin Ghahramani



Fergus Simpson

Geometric Neural Diffusion Processes. Under submission.



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Valentin De Bortoli



Yee Whye Teh



Richard E. Turner

# Deep generative modelling

## Motivating examples

Molecular conformation generation (Xu et al., 2022) Motif-Scaffolding (Trippe et al., 2022)









## Motivating examples (Cont'd)

Probabilistic near future (nowcasting) prediction of precipitation (Ravuri et al., 2021)



Context Past 20mins Deep Generative Model of Rain Nowcast Next 90mins Given  $x_1, x_2, \ldots, x_n \sim p(x)$ 

How to model the (unknown) density p(x) and sample from it?



#### Deep generative models



Figure 1: (Albergo and Vanden-Eijnden, 2022)

# **Continuous diffusion models**

## Principles of continuous diffusion models



Figure 2: (Song et al., 2021)

- ▶ Idea: Destruct data with *continuous* series of noise.
- ▶ Do this by constructing an **SDE** forward noising process  $(\mathbf{Y}_t)_{t \in [0,T]}$ .
- Have this noising converge to a known distribution.
- ▶ Invert this SDE noising process to get  $(\bar{\mathbf{Y}}_t)_{t \in [0,T]} = (\mathbf{Y}_{T-t})_{t \in [0,T]}$ .

The Forward process progressively perturbs the data following a SDE

$$d\mathbf{Y}_t = b(t, \mathbf{Y}_t) dt + \sigma(t, \mathbf{Y}_t) d\mathbf{B}_t$$
(1)

characterised by a drift b and diffusion  $\sigma$ .  $d\mathbf{B}_t$  is Brownian motion (think of it conceptually as  $d\mathbf{B}_t/dt \sim \mathcal{N}(0, dt)$ .

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**Euler–Maruyama** discretisation with time step  $\Delta_T \ll 1$  yields a Markov kernel:

$$p(\mathbf{Y}_{n+1}|\mathbf{Y}_n) \approx \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{Y}_{n+1}|\mathbf{Y}_n + \Delta_T \mathbf{b}(t_n, \mathbf{Y}_n), \Delta_T \mathbf{\sigma}^2(t_n, \mathbf{Y}_n) \mathbf{I}).$$
  
where  $t_n = n\Delta T$ .

#### Example: Ornstein–Uhlenbeck process on $\mathbb{R}^2$

Let the data  $\mathbf{Y}_0 \in \mathbb{R}^2$  be distributed according to a *known* 2D Gaussian with a correlation coefficient  $\rho \approx 1$ .

We specify the drift to be linear and the diffusion coefficient to be constant

$$\mathrm{d}\mathbf{Y}_t = -\mathbf{Y}_t \,\mathrm{d}t + \sqrt{2} \,\mathrm{d}\mathbf{B}_t. \tag{2}$$



Figure 3: Forward OU process on 2D data.

Theorem 1: (Cattiaux et al., 2021; Haussmann and Pardoux, 1986)

The time-reversed process  $(\bar{\mathbf{Y}}_t)_{t\geq 0} = (\mathbf{Y}_{T-t})_{t\in[0,T]}$ , with forward process  $d\mathbf{Y}_t = b(t, \mathbf{Y}_t) dt + \sigma(t) d\mathbf{B}_t$ , also satisfies an SDE given by

$$\mathrm{d}\bar{\mathbf{Y}}_t = \left[-b(T-t,\bar{\mathbf{Y}}_t) + \sigma(T-t)\right]^2 \nabla \log p_{T-t}(\bar{\mathbf{Y}}_t) \,\mathrm{d}t + \sigma(T-t) \,\mathrm{d}\mathbf{B}_t,$$

assuming  $\bar{\mathbf{Y}}_0$  is distributed the same as  $\mathbf{Y}_T$ .

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Challenges:

- 1. We do not have access to  $\mathbf{Y}_T \Rightarrow \mathsf{Approximate}$  by  $\mathcal{N}(0, \mathrm{Id})$
- 2. The score  $\nabla \log p_t = \nabla \log \int p_{data}(\mathbf{Y}_0) p_{t|0}(\mathbf{Y}_t \mid \mathbf{Y}_0) d\mathbf{Y}_0$  is intractable  $\Rightarrow$  learn it.
- 3. Cannot solve the SDE exactly  $\Rightarrow$  discretise.

• The Stein score  $\nabla \log p_t = \nabla \log \int p_{data}(\mathbf{Y}_0) p_{t|0}(\mathbf{Y}_t \mid \mathbf{Y}_0) d\mathbf{Y}_0$  is intractable.

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- However, it can be shown that the score is the minimiser of regression objective

$$\nabla_{\mathbf{Y}_t} \log p_t(\mathbf{Y}_t) = \operatorname*{arg\,min}_{s \in \mathcal{S}} \mathbb{E}\Big[ \|\mathbf{s}(t, \mathbf{Y}_t) - \nabla_{\mathbf{Y}_t} \log p_{t|0}(\mathbf{Y}_t | \mathbf{Y}_0) \|^2 \Big],$$
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- We have access to the conditional forward density  $p_{t\mid 0}$  in closed form for OU processes.
- This readily gives a loss to train a neural network  $\mathbf{s}_{\theta} : [0, T] \times \mathbb{R}^d \to \mathbb{R}^d$ parameterisation of the score

$$\mathcal{L}(\theta) = \mathbb{E}[\lambda(t) \| \mathbf{s}_{\theta}(t, \mathbf{Y}_{t}) - \nabla \log p_{t}(\mathbf{Y}_{t} | \mathbf{Y}_{0}) \|^{2}].$$
(4)

#### Sampling from the reverse process in practice

The (true) reverse process is given by

$$\mathrm{d}\bar{\mathbf{Y}}_{t} = \left[-b(T-t,\bar{\mathbf{Y}}_{t}) + \sigma(T-t)^{2} \nabla \log p_{T-t}(\bar{\mathbf{Y}}_{t})\right] \mathrm{d}t + \sigma(T-t)\mathrm{d}\mathbf{B}_{t}, \quad \bar{\mathbf{Y}}_{0} \sim p(\mathbf{Y}_{T})$$

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The approximate sampling process is given by

$$\mathrm{d}\bar{\mathbf{Y}}_t = \left[ -b(T-t,\bar{\mathbf{Y}}_t) + \sigma(T-t)^2 \, \boldsymbol{s}_{\theta}(T-t,\bar{\mathbf{Y}}_t) \, \right] \mathrm{d}t + \sigma(T-t) \mathrm{d}\mathbf{B}_t, \quad \bar{\mathbf{Y}}_0 \sim \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0},\mathrm{Id})$$

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Figure 4: Reverse process

## Improved sampling using Langevin dynamics

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Langevin dynamics:

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As  $t \to \infty$ , the dynamics converges towards the distribution  $p(\cdot)$ .

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**Predictor-Corrector sampling** 



Credits to Valentin De Bortoli for graphic.



- Continuously noise data samples with forward SDE
- Aim: time-reversal of this process  $\Rightarrow$  **denoising** process

# Motivation Geometric Neural Diffusion Processes

Goal



Goal



## Why

- Many physical and natural phenomena are better characterised as functions.
- Meta-learn and treat limited data as originating from a function

## Feature Fields: $f : \mathcal{X} \to \mathbb{R}^d$

- Mathematical framework for modelling natural phenomena.
- Examples: Temperature  $f : \mathcal{X} \to \mathbb{R}$ , and wind direction on globe  $f : \mathcal{S}^2 \to T\mathcal{S}^2$ .



(a) Temperature map and wind vector fields.



#### **Prior invariances**

Encode invariances w.r.t. group transformations. For a group G, we want  $\forall g \in G$ 

$$p(f) = p(g \cdot f) \quad \text{with} \quad g \cdot f = \rho(g) f(g^{-1}x).$$

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 with  $g \cdot f = \rho(g)f(g^{-1}x).$ 

Examples translation invariance (stationarity) and rotational invariance.



## **Conditional process**

- Interested in the conditional process given a set of observations  $C = \{(x_n, y_n)\}_{n=1}$ .
- If the prior is G-invariant, then the conditional is G-equivariant:

 $p(f \mid \mathcal{C}) = p(g \cdot f \mid g \cdot \mathcal{C}) \text{ where } g \cdot \mathcal{C} = \{(g \cdot x_n, \rho(g)y_n)\}.$ 



# **Diffusion on Function Spaces**

#### **Continuous noising process**



We construct the forward **noising process**  $(\mathbf{Y}_t(x))_{t\geq 0} \triangleq (\mathbf{Y}_t(x^1), \dots, \mathbf{Y}_t(x^n))_{t\geq 0}$ defined by the multivariate SDE (multivariate Ornstein-Uhlenbeck process)

$$d\mathbf{Y}_t(x) = \frac{1}{2} \{m(x) - \mathbf{Y}_t(x)\} \beta_t dt + \frac{\beta_t^{1/2} \mathbf{K}(x, x)^{1/2}}{d\mathbf{B}_t} d\mathbf{B}_t,$$
(6)

where  $K(x, x)_{i,j} = k(x^i, x^j)$  with  $k : \mathcal{X} \times \mathcal{X} \to \mathbb{R}$  a kernel and  $m : \mathcal{X} \to \mathcal{Y}$ .


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- $\mathbf{Y}_t(x) \to \mathcal{N}(m(x), \mathcal{K}(x, x))$  with geometric rate, for any  $x \in \mathcal{X}^n$ .
- $\mathbf{Y}_t \to \operatorname{GP}(m,k) \triangleq \mathbf{Y}_{\infty}$  (Phillips et al., 2022).



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- $\mathbf{Y}_t \to \operatorname{GP}(m,k) \triangleq \mathbf{Y}_{\infty}$  (Phillips et al., 2022).
- $\mathbf{Y}_t$  interpolates between  $\mathbf{Y}_0$  and  $\mathbf{Y}_{\infty}$ .

$$k(x, x') = k_{\rm rbf}(x, x') = \sigma^2 \exp\left(\frac{\|x - x'\|^2}{2l^2}\right), \text{ with } l = 1.$$

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 $k(x,x')=\delta_x(x')$  (The tranditional DDPM settings).



## **Denoising process**

As before, the time-reversal process  $(\bar{\mathbf{Y}}_t(x))_{t\geq 0}$  also satisfies an SDE given by

$$d\bar{\mathbf{Y}}_{t}(x) = \{-\frac{1}{2}(m(x) - \bar{\mathbf{Y}}_{t}(x)) + \mathbf{K}(x, x)\nabla\log p_{T-t}(\bar{\mathbf{Y}}_{t}(x))\}\beta_{T-t}dt + \beta_{T-t}^{1/2}\mathbf{K}(x, x)^{1/2}d\mathbf{B}_{t},$$
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with  $\bar{\mathbf{Y}}_0 \sim \mathrm{GP}(m,k)$ .

To simulate the reverse process we learn the (preconditioned) score

$$\mathbf{s}_{\theta}^{K}(t, \bar{\mathbf{Y}}_{t}(x), x) \approx \mathbf{K}(x, x) \nabla \log p_{T-t}(\bar{\mathbf{Y}}_{t}(x)),$$

where  $s_{\theta}^{K} : \mathbb{R} \times \mathcal{Y}^{m} \times \mathcal{X}^{m} \to T\mathcal{Y}^{m}$ . We accomplish this using the score matching objective

$$\mathcal{L}(\theta) = \mathbb{E}\left[\lambda(t) \| \boldsymbol{s}_{\theta}^{K}(t, \mathbf{Y}_{t}(x), x) + \mathbf{K}^{1/2} \boldsymbol{\epsilon} \|_{2}^{2}\right].$$

## **Encoding Invariances**

#### **Prior and Conditional Symmetries**



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Proposition 1: Invariant Neural Diffusion Processes

The denoising process on functions as defined above and with initial sample given by  $p(\bar{\mathbf{Y}}_0)=\mathrm{GP}(m,k)$  is G-invariant if

Proposition 2: Invariant Neural Diffusion Processes

The denoising process on functions as defined above and with initial sample given by  $p(\bar{\mathbf{Y}}_0)=\mathrm{GP}(m,k)$  is G-invariant if

1. m and k are both G-equivariant (i.e. G-invariant Gaussian process), i.e.

$$m(g \cdot x) = \rho(g)m(x)$$
 and  $k(g \cdot x, g \cdot x') = \rho(g)k(x, x')\rho(g)^{\top}$ ,

Proposition 3: Invariant Neural Diffusion Processes

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2. the score network is G-equivariant vector field, i.e.

$$\mathbf{s}_{\theta}(t, g \cdot x, \rho(g)y) = \rho(g)\mathbf{s}_{\theta}(t, x, y),$$

for all  $x \in \mathcal{X}, g \in G$ .

#### E(d)-invariant Gaussian processes



• E(d)-equivariant means  $m : \mathbb{R}^d \to \mathbb{R}^d$  are constant functions.

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- E(d)-equivariant kernels  $k: \mathbb{R}^d \times \mathbb{R}^d \to \mathbb{R}^{d \times d}$  include
  - Diagonal kernels  $k = k_0 \operatorname{Id}$  with  $k_0$  invariant (Holderrieth et al., 2021).

► 
$$k_{\text{curl}} = k_0 A$$
 with  $A(x, x') = \text{Id} - \frac{(x-x')(x-x')^\top}{l^2}$  (Macêdo and Castro, 2010).

• 
$$k_{\text{div}} = k_0 B$$
 with  $B(x, x') = \frac{(x-x')(x-x')^{\top}}{l^2} + \left(n - 1 - \frac{\|x-x'\|^2}{l^2}\right) \text{Id.}$ 

## Invariant neural diffusion processes (Cont'd)



Figure 10:  $(g \cdot \mathbf{Y}_t(x))_{x \in \mathcal{X}}$ 

## **Conditional sampling**

## Conditional sampling in diffusion models

**Goal:** Sample from  $y \sim p(\cdot | C)$  given a condition C.

## Conditional sampling in diffusion models

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'a hedgehog using a calculator" "a corgi wearing a red bowtie and a purple party hat" "robots meditating in a vipassana retreat" "a fall landscape with a small cottage next to a lake"

Figure 11:  $p(image \mid text)$ 

Often the condition is a property (e.g., caption).

## **Conditional sampling in Neural Diffusion Processes**

Condition is a subspace of the state space:  $\mathbf{Y}^{\mathcal{C}} = (y^{(1)}, \dots, y^{(m)}).$ 



**Figure 12:** Conditional samples  $p(\cdot | \mathbf{Y}^{\mathcal{C}})$ .

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**Figure 12:** Conditional samples  $p(\cdot | \mathbf{Y}^{\mathcal{C}})$ .



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## Conditional sampling in diffusion models

In the reverse process we need to follow the conditional score

$$\nabla \log p_t(\mathbf{Y}_t) \to \nabla \log p_t(\mathbf{Y}_t \mid \mathbf{Y}^{\mathcal{C}})$$

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- 1. Amortisation / Classifier-free (Ramesh et al., 2022)
- 2. Classifier-guidance (Dhariwal and Nichol, 2021)
- 3. Replacement methods RePaint (Lugmayr et al., 2022)
- 4. Reconstruction guidance (Finzi et al., 2023)
- 5. SMC-based (Trippe et al., 2022)

## Langevin Dynamics based Conditional Sampling

Applying Bayes' rule to the conditional score gives

 $\nabla_{\mathbf{Y}_t} \log p_t(\mathbf{Y}_t \mid \mathbf{Y}^{\mathcal{C}}) = \nabla_{\mathbf{Y}_t} \log p_t(\mathbf{Y}_t, \mathbf{Y}^{\mathcal{C}}) - \nabla_{\mathbf{Y}_t} \log p_t(\mathbf{Y}^{\mathcal{C}}) = \nabla_{\mathbf{Y}_t} \log p_t(\mathbf{Y}_t, \mathbf{Y}^{\mathcal{C}})$ 

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#### Sampling algorithm

Predictor Use standard EM reverse process with score  $s_{\theta}^{K}(t, x, [\mathbf{Y}_{t}, \mathbf{Y}_{0}^{C}])$ . Corrector Correct discretisation errors using Langevin dynamics

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## **Experimental results**

## 1D regression: Datasets



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### 1D regression: Predictive log-likelihood (Cont'd)

Table 1: Mean test log-likelihood (higher is better)

		SE	$\operatorname{Matérn}(\frac{5}{2})$	Weakly Per.	Sawtooth	MIXTURE
GP (OP	гімим)	$0.70 {\pm} 0.00$	$0.31 {\pm} 0.00$	$-0.32 \pm 0.00$	-	-
T(1)-G	ЕОMNDP	$0.72 \pm 0.03$	$0.32 \pm 0.03$	$-0.38 \pm 0.03$	$3.39 {\pm} 0.04$	$0.64 \pm 0.08$
MDP		$0.71 \pm 0.03$	$0.30 \pm 0.03$	$-0.37 \pm 0.03$	$3.39 {\pm} 0.04$	$0.64 \pm 0.08$
$\frac{1}{2}$ GNP		$0.70 {\pm} 0.01$	$0.30 {\pm} \scriptscriptstyle 0.01$	$-0.47 \pm 0.01$	$0.42 {\pm} 0.01$	$0.10 {\pm} 0.02$
<sup>¬</sup> ConvNI	2	$-0.46 {\pm} 0.01$	$-0.67 {\pm} 0.01$	$-1.02 \pm 0.01$	$1.20 {\pm} 0.01$	$-0.50 {\pm} 0.02$

## 1D regression: Predictive log-likelihood (Cont'd)

Table 2: Mean test log-likelihood (higher is better)

		SE	$\operatorname{Matérn}(\frac{5}{2})$	Weakly Per.	Sawtooth	MIXTURE
INTERPOLAT.	GP (optimum)	$0.70 {\pm} 0.00$	$0.31 {\pm} 0.00$	$-0.32 {\pm} 0.00$	-	-
	T(1)-GEOMNDP	$0.72 \pm 0.03$	$0.32 \pm 0.03$	$-0.38\pm$ 0.03	$3.39 {\pm} 0.04$	$0.64{\pm}0.08$
	NDP	$0.71 \pm 0.03$	$0.30 \pm 0.03$	$-0.37 \pm 0.03$	$3.39 {\pm} 0.04$	$0.64 {\pm} 0.08$
	GNP	$0.70 {\pm} \scriptscriptstyle 0.01$	$0.30{\pm}_{0.01}$	$-0.47 \pm 0.01$	$0.42 {\pm} 0.01$	$0.10 {\pm} 0.02$
	ConvNP	$-0.46 \pm 0.01$	$-0.67 {\pm} 0.01$	$-1.02 \pm 0.01$	$1.20 {\pm} 0.01$	$-0.50 {\pm} 0.02$
GENERALISAT.	GP (optimum)	$0.70 {\pm} 0.00$	$0.31 {\pm} 0.00$	$-0.32 \pm 0.00$	-	-
	T(1)-GEOMNDP	$0.70{\pm}_{0.02}$	$0.31 \pm 0.02$	$-0.38 \pm 0.03$	$3.39 {\pm} 0.03$	$0.62{\scriptstyle \pm 0.02}$
	NDP	*	*	*	*	*
	GNP	$0.69{\pm}_{0.01}$	$0.30{\pm}_{0.01}$	$-0.47 \pm 0.01$	$0.42 {\pm} 0.01$	$0.10 {\pm} 0.02$
	ConvNP	$-0.46 {\pm} 0.01$	$-0.67 \pm 0.01$	$-1.02 \pm 0.01$	$1.19 {\pm} 0.01$	$-0.53 \pm 0.02$

#### 2D invariant Gaussian vector fields



Model	SE	CURL-FREE	DIV-FREE
GP	$0.56_{\pm 0.00}$	$0.66_{\pm 0.00}$	$0.66_{\pm 0.00}$
NDP	$0.55_{\pm 0.00}$	$0.62_{\pm 0.01}$	$0.62_{\pm 0.01}$
E(2)-GeomNDP	$0.56_{\pm 0.01}$	$0.65_{\pm0.01}$	$0.66_{\pm 0.01}$

#### 2D invariant Gaussian vector fields (Cont'd)



## Global tropical cyclone trajectory prediction

- $f: \mathbb{R} \to S^2$  with hurricane trajectory data from (Knapp et al., 2018).
- $d\mathbf{Y}_t(x_k) = -\underline{b}(\mathbf{Y}_t(x_k))^{\bullet 0} dt + \sqrt{\beta_t} d\mathbf{B}_t^{\mathcal{M}} \forall k = 1, \dots, n$  (Bortoli et al., 2022)
- $p(\mathbf{Y}_t(x)) \xrightarrow[t \to \infty]{} \mathrm{U}(\mathcal{S}^2)^{\otimes n}.$



Figure 14: Left: 1000 samples from the training data. Right: 1000 samples from trained model.

## Global tropical cyclone trajectory prediction (Cont'd)

					L.C.
(a) Interpolation	(b) Extrapolation				
Model	Test data Likelihood	INTERP Likelihood	OLATION MSE (km)	Extraf Likelihood	OLATION MSE (km)
$\operatorname{GeomNDP}(\mathbb{R} \to S^2)$	$802_{\pm 5}$	$535_{\pm4}$	$162_{\pm 6}$	$536_{\pm 4}$	$496_{\pm 14}$
Stereo GP $(\mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{R}^2 / \{0\})$	$393_{\pm 3}$	$266_{\pm 3}$	$2619_{\pm 13}$	$245_{\pm 2}$	$6587_{\pm 55}$
NDP $(\mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{R}^2)$	-	-	$166_{\pm 22}$	-	$769_{\pm 48}$
$\operatorname{GP} (\mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{R}^2)$	-	-	$6852_{\pm 41}$	-	$8138_{\pm 8}$

- Aim: probabilistic model over features fields.
- Constructed diffusion models over function space by correlating finite marginals
- Incorporating group invariance by
  - targetting invariant Gaussian processes and
  - parameterising the score with an equivariant neural network
- Sampling from the conditional process with Langevin corrector
- Empirically demonstrated modelling capacity on scalar and vector fields, with Euclidean and spherical output space

#### Thank you for your attention. Questions?



Credits to Michael Hutchinson for this 3D render.

# Appendix
## Steerable feature fields

A feature field is a tuple  $(f, \rho)$  with  $f : \mathcal{X} \to \mathbb{R}^d$  a mapping between  $x \in \mathcal{X}$  to some feature f(x) with representation  $\rho : G \to \operatorname{GL}(\mathbb{R}^d)$  (Scott and Serre, 1996). The action of  $G = \operatorname{E}(d) = \operatorname{T}(d) \rtimes \operatorname{O}(d)$  on the feature field f given by

$$g \cdot f(x) = (uh) \cdot f(x) \triangleq \rho(h) f\left(h^{-1}(x-u)\right)$$
(8)

Typical examples of feature fields include:

▶ Scalar fields  $\rho_{triv}(h) \triangleq 1$  e.g. temperature or potential fields.

▶ Vectors fields  $\rho_{Id}(h) \triangleq h$  e.g. wind or force fields.

f(x)	$f(g^{-1}x)$	$\rho(h)f(g^{-1}x)$
ATTIC		
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## 1D regression: Kernel ablation



Figure 16: Ablation study targeting different limiting kernels and score parametrisations.

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