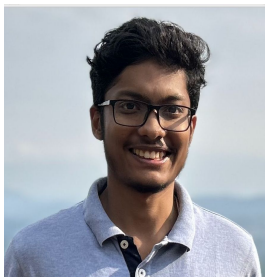


Understanding Hallucinations in Diffusion Models through Mode Interpolation



Sumukh Aithal



Pratyush Maini



Zachary Lipton



Zico Kolter

Diffusion Models generate strange artifacts

Hands with extra (or missing) fingers are commonly seen in generated images.



Toy Experiment

Let's start with a simple toy experiment

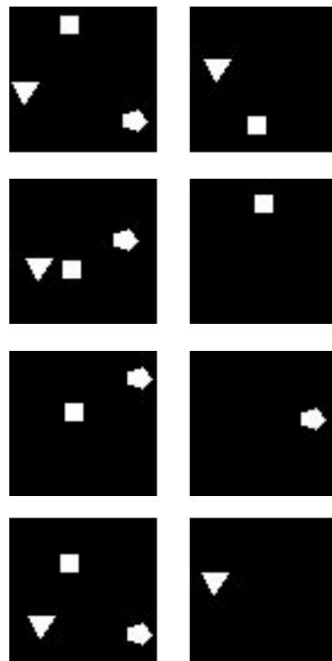
Dataset of 3 shapes:

1. Triangle
2. Square
3. Pentagon

All 64x64 grayscale images

Atmost one occurrence of each shape.

Training
Samples



Diffusion
Model



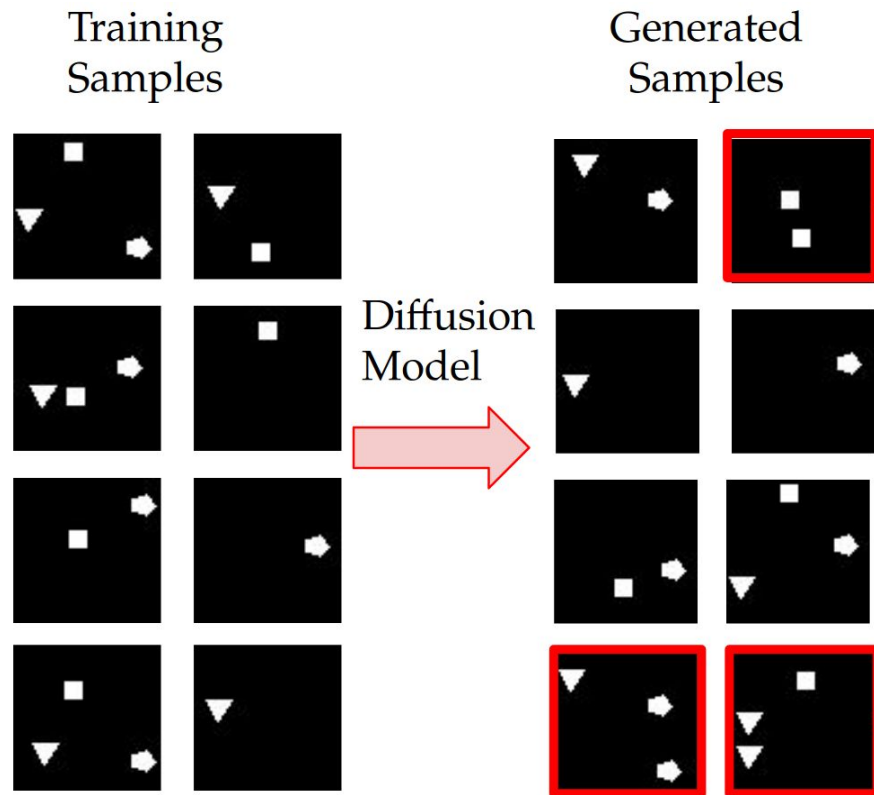
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Let's start with a simple toy experiment

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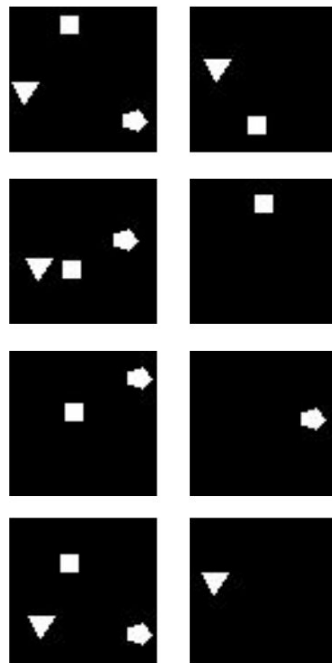
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All 64x64 grayscale images

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Surprising?

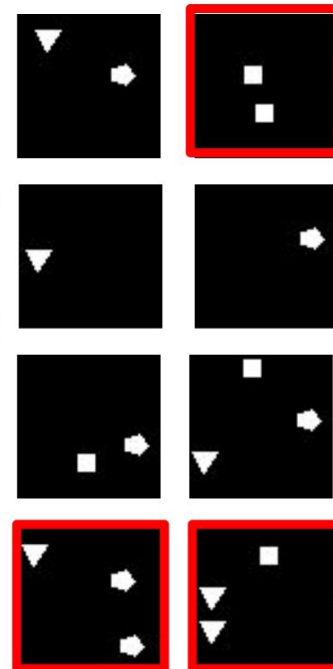
Training
Samples



Diffusion
Model



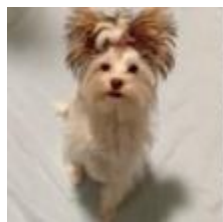
Generated
Samples



What are Diffusion Models?

What are Diffusion Models?

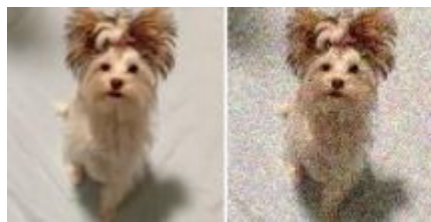
Forward Process (Data to Noise): Perturbing an image with multiple scales of Gaussian noise.



\mathbf{X}_0 —

What are Diffusion Models?

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\mathbf{X}_0

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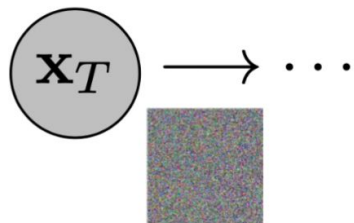
\mathbf{x}_0 \mathbf{x}_T

$$q(\mathbf{x}_t|\mathbf{x}_{t-1}) = \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{x}_t; \sqrt{1 - \beta_t}\mathbf{x}_{t-1}, \beta_t\mathbf{I}) \quad q(\mathbf{x}_{1:T}|\mathbf{x}_0) = \prod_{t=1}^T q(\mathbf{x}_t|\mathbf{x}_{t-1})$$

$$q(\mathbf{x}_t|\mathbf{x}_0) = \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{x}_t; \sqrt{\bar{\alpha}_t}\mathbf{x}_0, (1 - \bar{\alpha}_t)\mathbf{I})$$

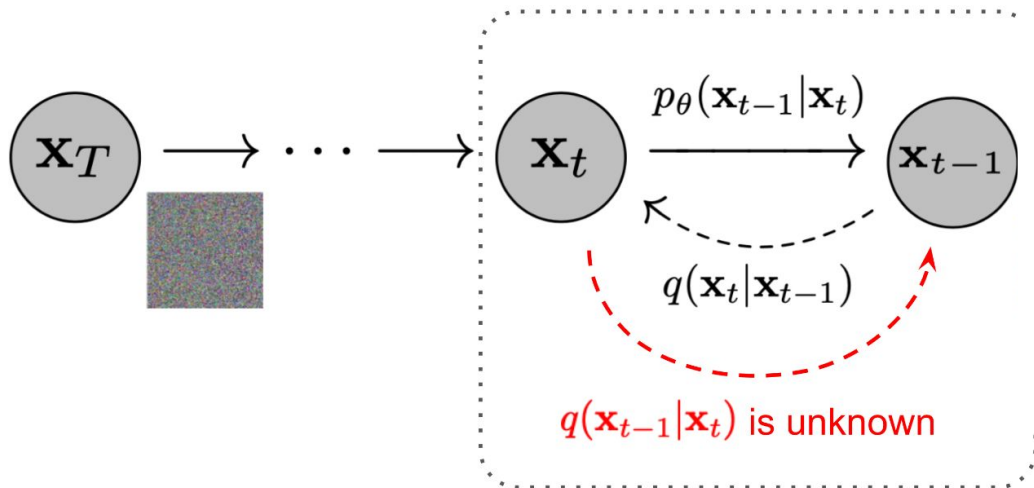
What are Diffusion Models?

Reverse Process (Noise to Data): Predict the noise added in the previous timestep



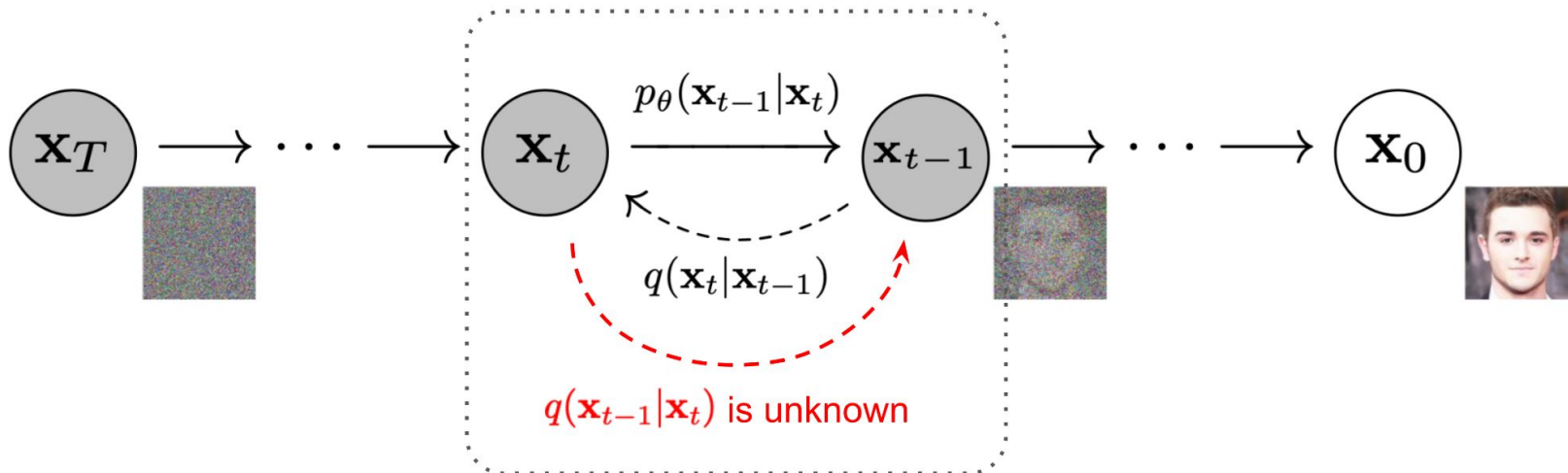
What are Diffusion Models?

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What are Diffusion Models?

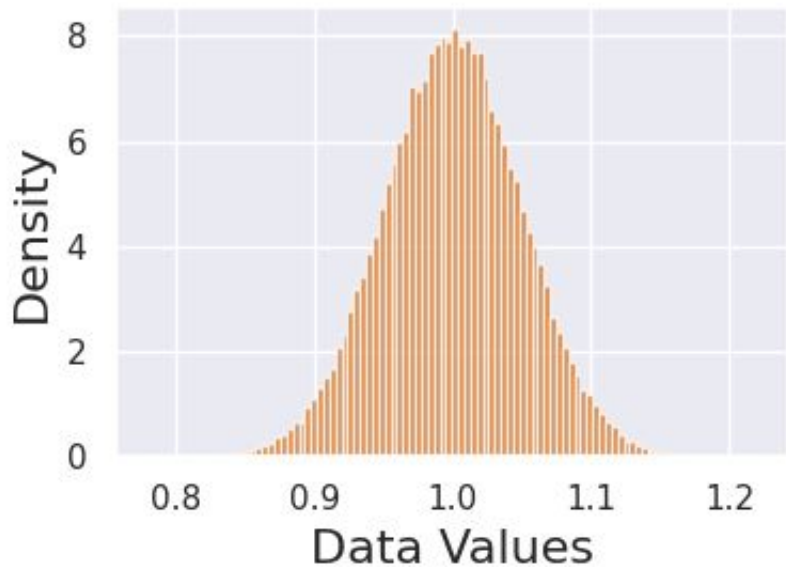
Reverse Process (Noise to Data): Predict the noise added in the previous timestep



Mode Interpolation

Mode Interpolation: 1D Gaussian

Let's start with a simple 1D Gaussian with mean 1.

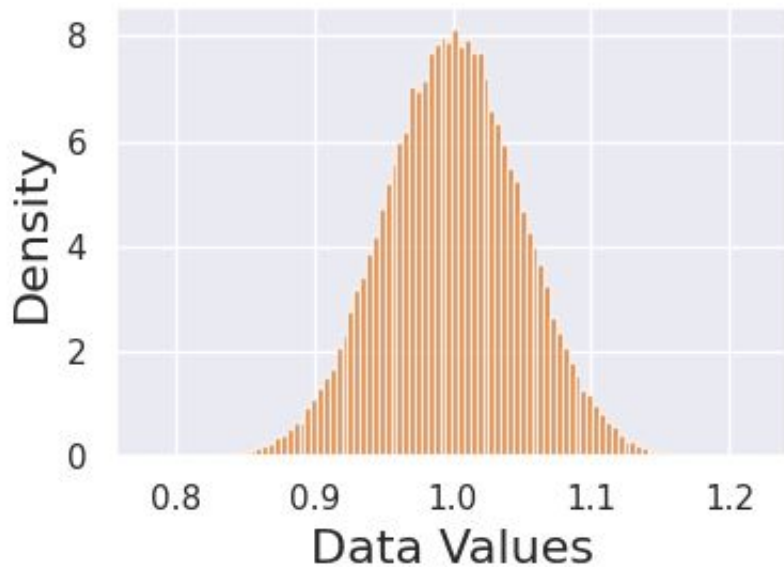


Diffusion
Model

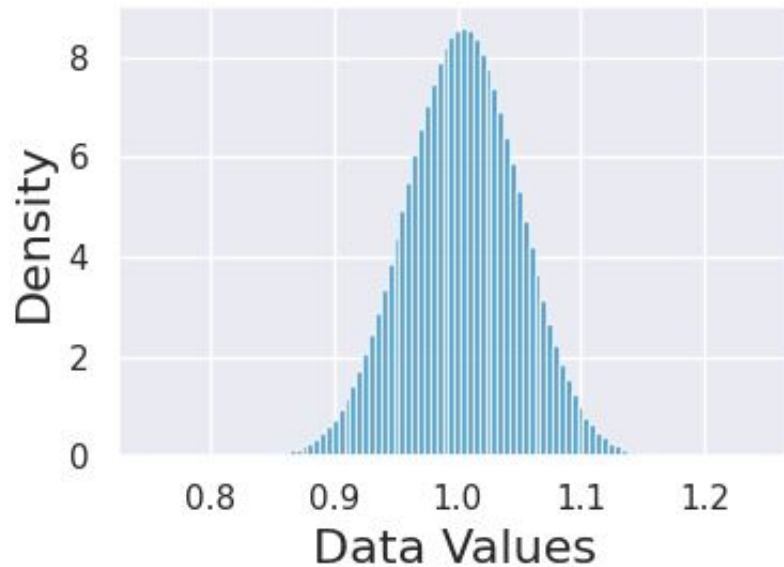


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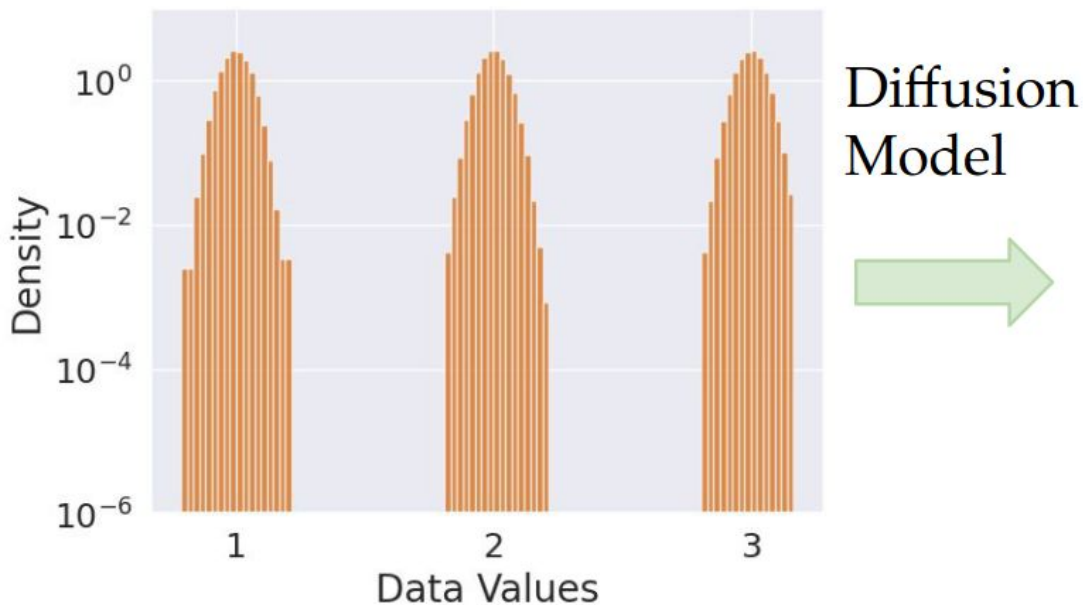


Diffusion
Model



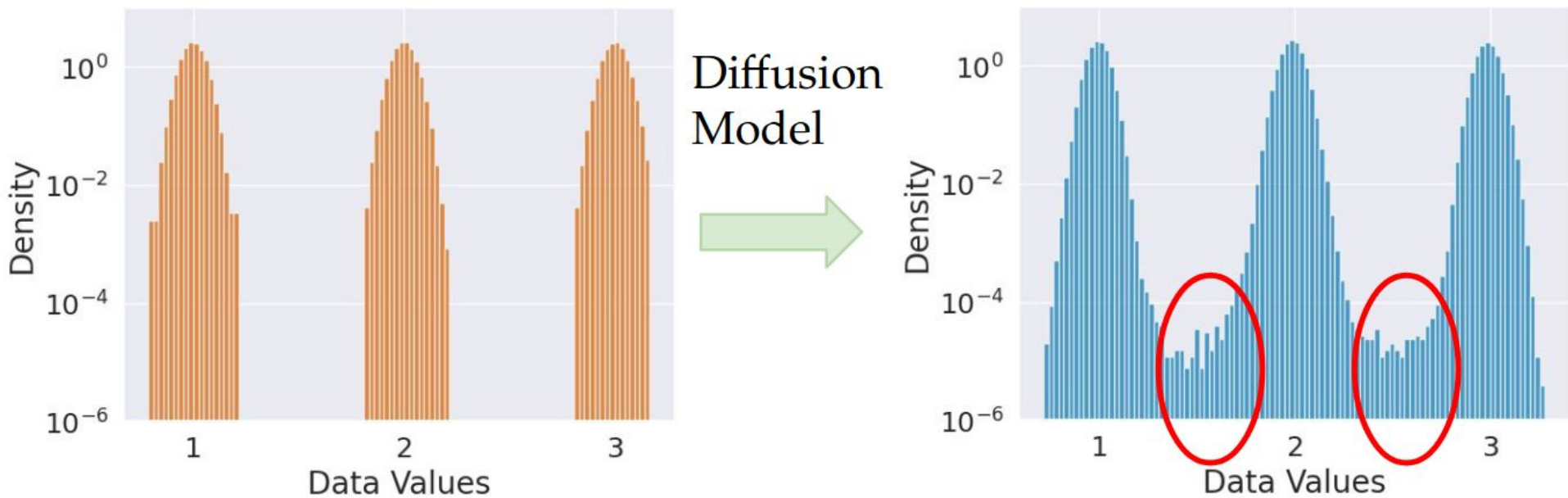
Mode Interpolation: 1D Gaussian

Consider a simple mixture of 1D Gaussians: $p(x) = \frac{1}{3}\mathcal{N}(\mu_1, \sigma^2) + \frac{1}{3}\mathcal{N}(\mu_2, \sigma^2) + \frac{1}{3}\mathcal{N}(\mu_3, \sigma^2)$



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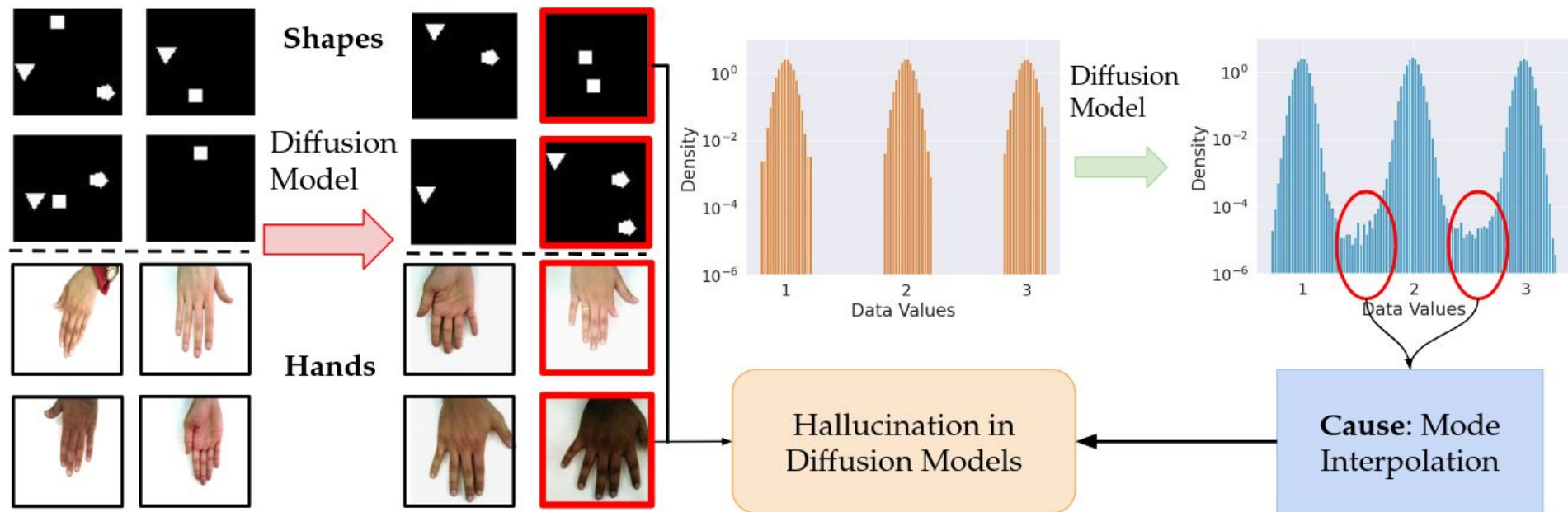
What is Mode Interpolation?

Training Samples

Generated Samples

Real data has various non-overlapping 'modes'

Diffusion models interpolate b/w neighboring modes

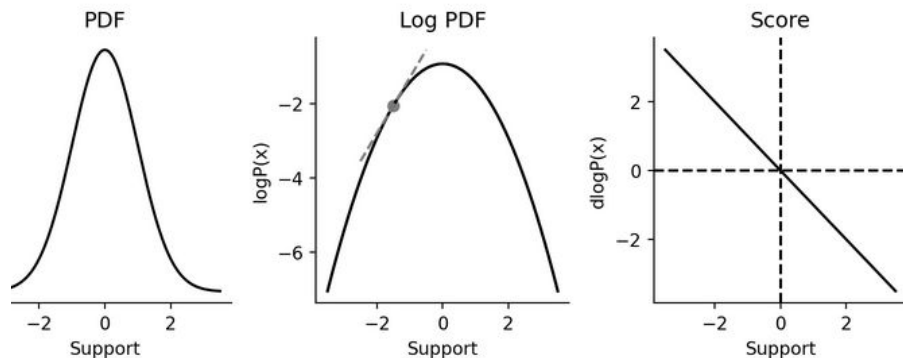


**What causes Mode
Interpolation?**

What causes mode interpolation?

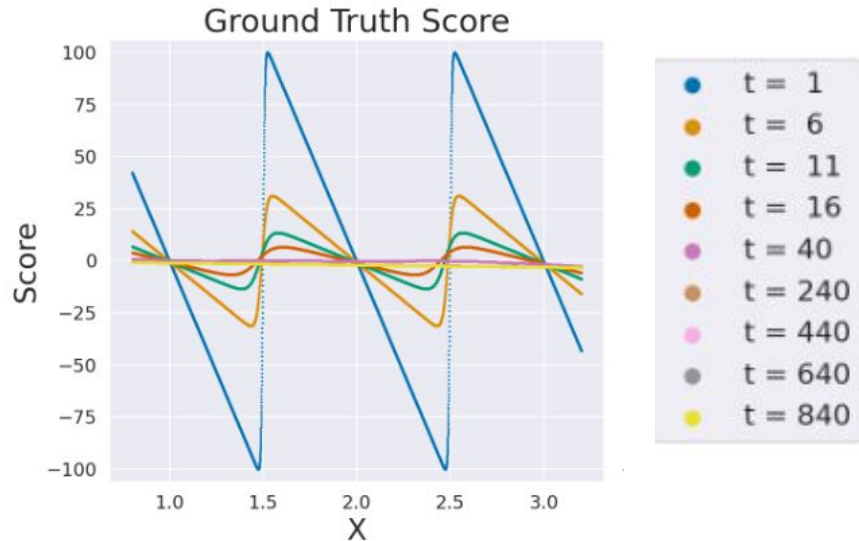
Diffusion models are score-based generative models

$$\text{Score Function} = \nabla_{\mathbf{x}} \log q(\mathbf{x})$$



What causes mode interpolation?

Diffusion models are score-based generative models



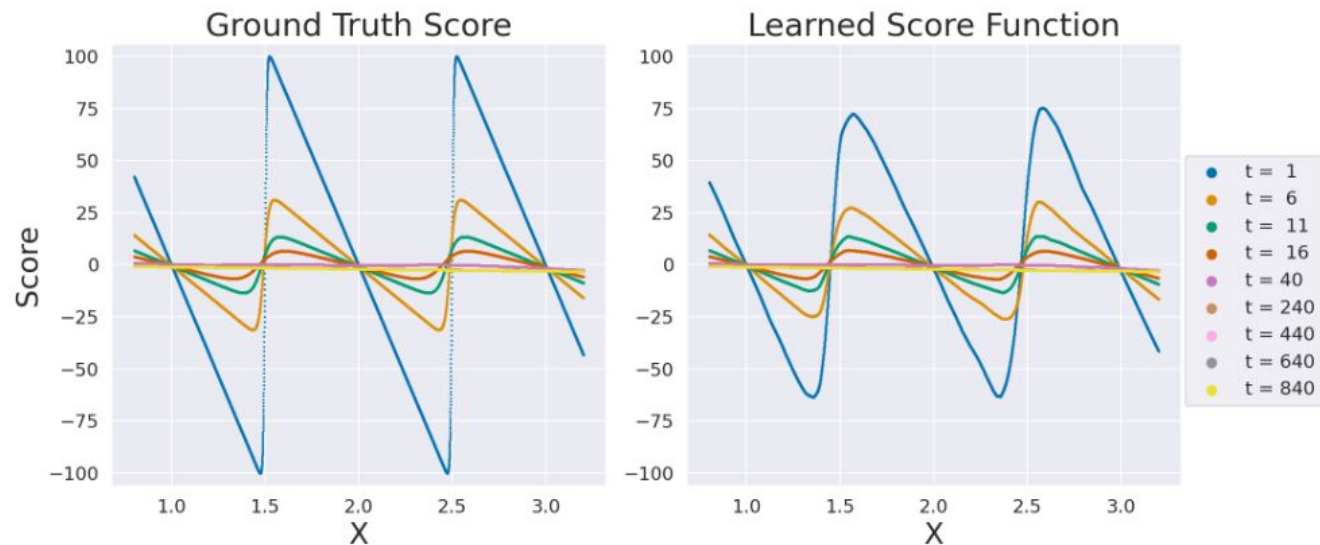
$$\text{Score Function} = \nabla_{\mathbf{x}} \log q(\mathbf{x})$$

Ground truth score for 1D Mixture of Gaussians at various timesteps

At $t=T$ (1000), the ground truth score would be same as the score of a isotropic Gaussian

What causes mode interpolation?

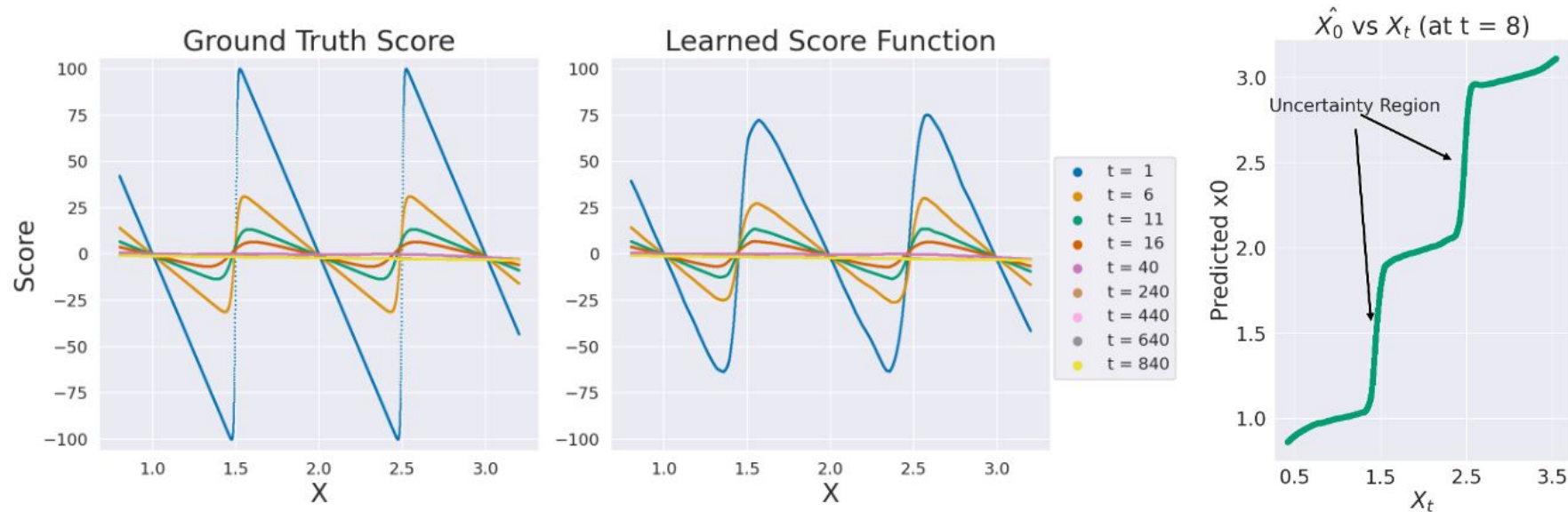
Diffusion models smoothly approximates the true score function



Smooth approximation of the true score function, particularly around the regions between disjoint modes of the distribution.

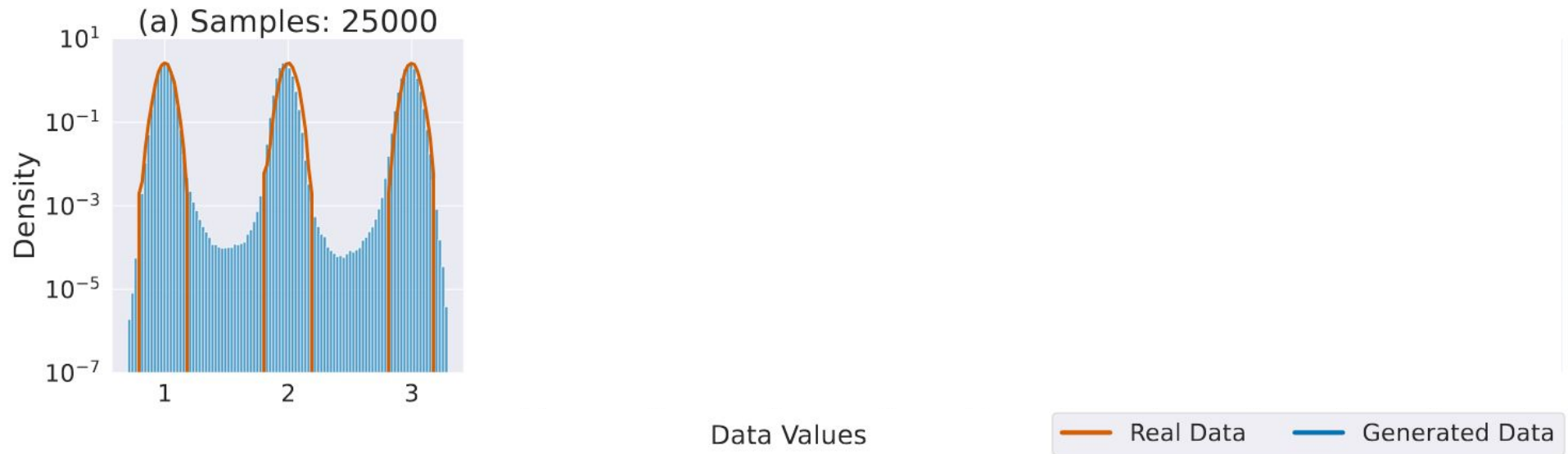
What causes mode interpolation?

Diffusion models smoothly approximates the true score function



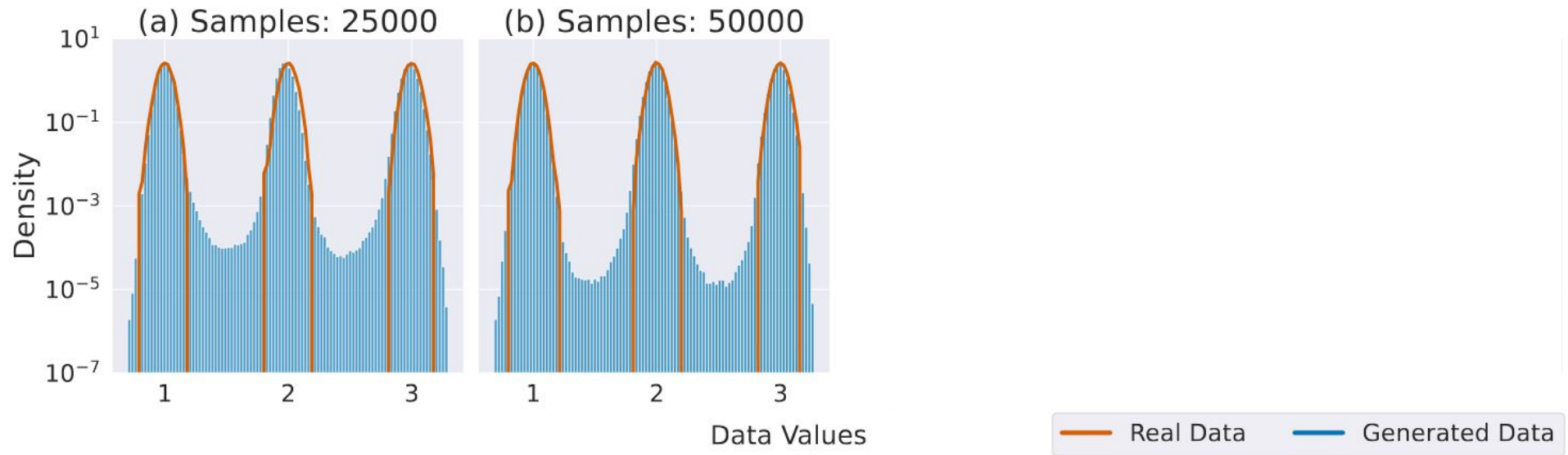
Mode Interpolation: 1D Gaussian

Rate of mode interpolation decreases as the number of training samples increases



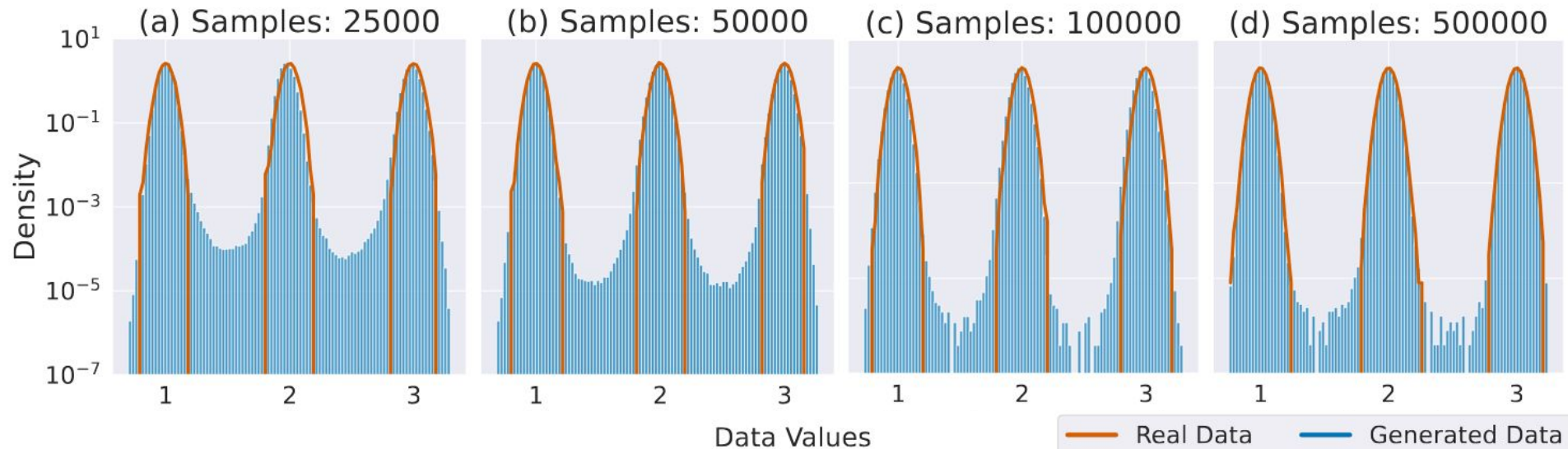
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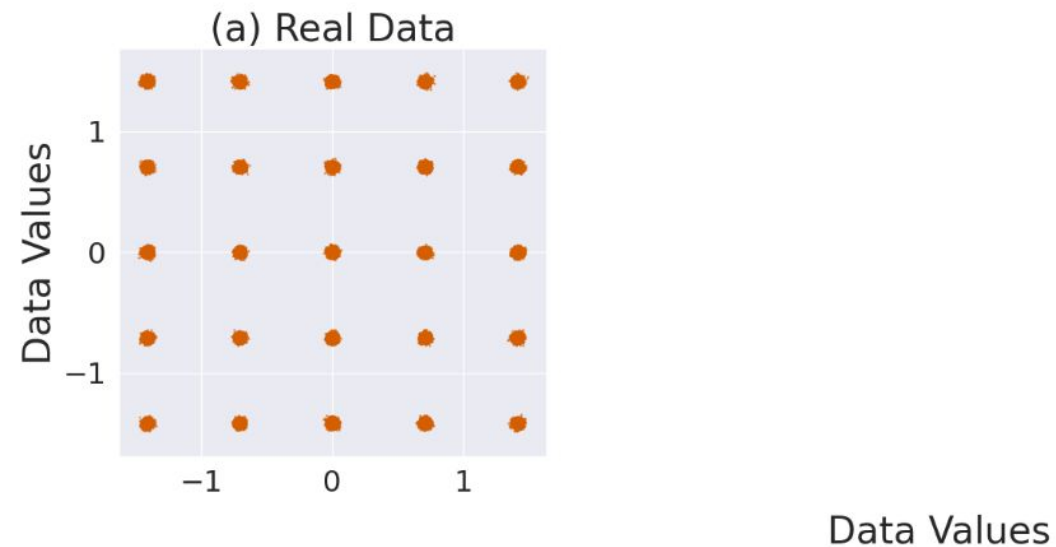


Mode Interpolation: 1D Gaussian

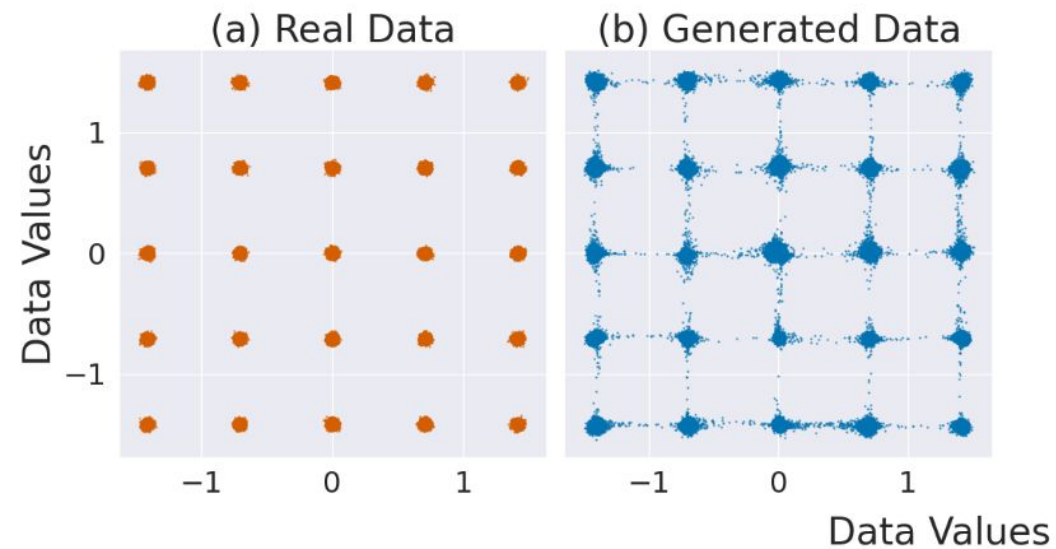
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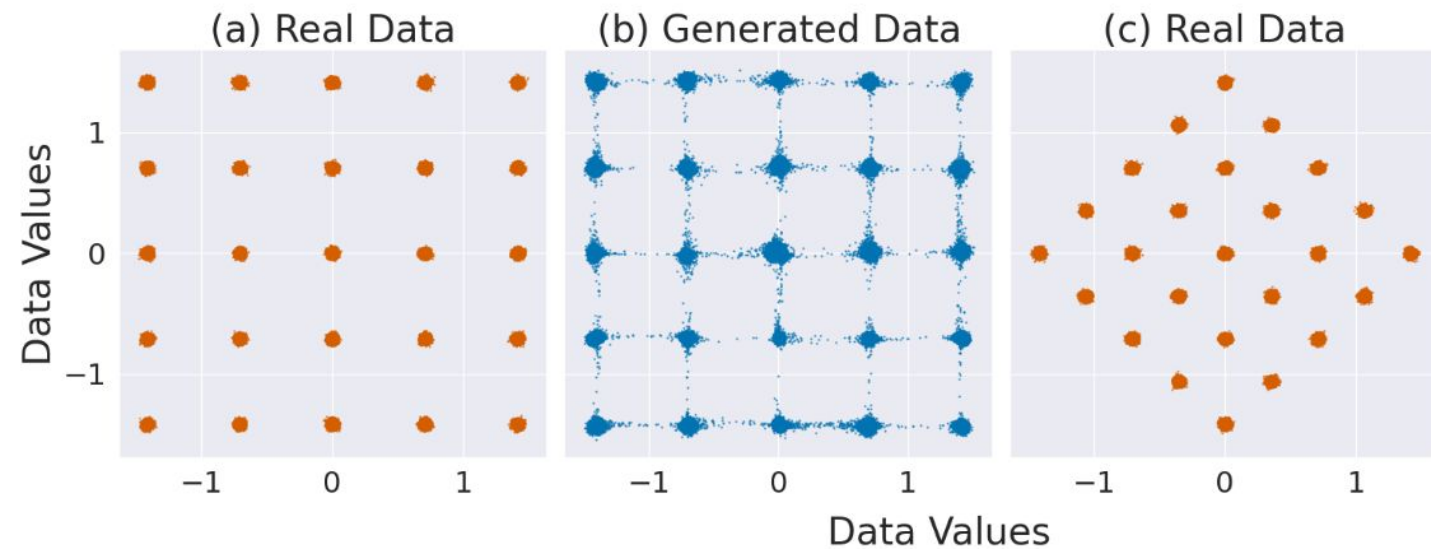
Mode Interpolation: 2D Gaussian



Mode Interpolation: 2D Gaussian

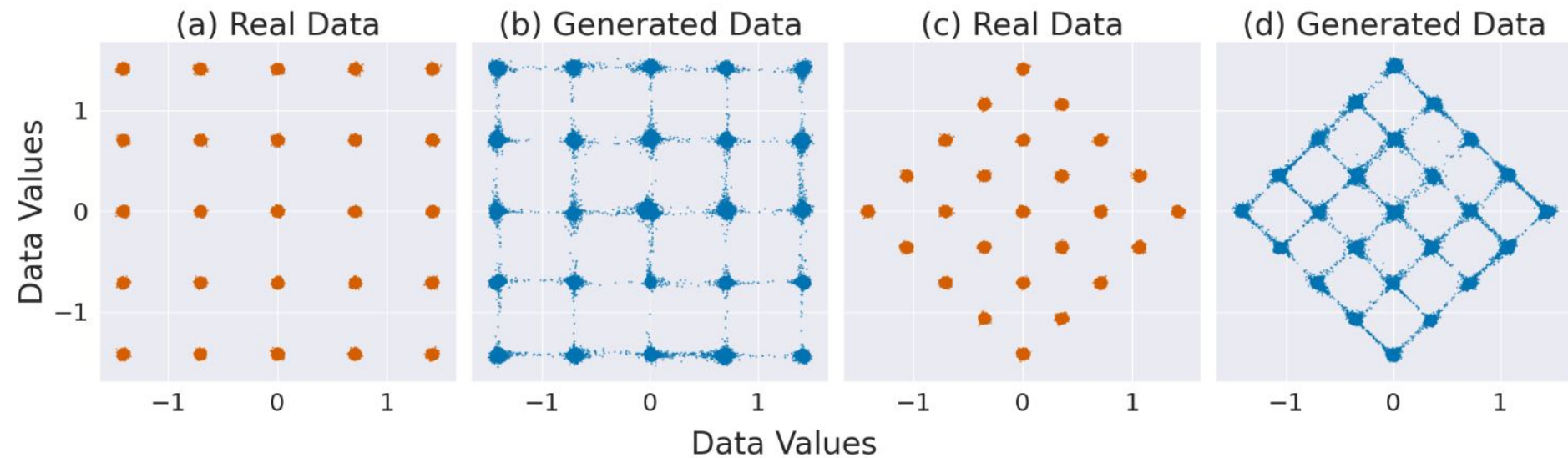


Mode Interpolation: 2D Gaussian



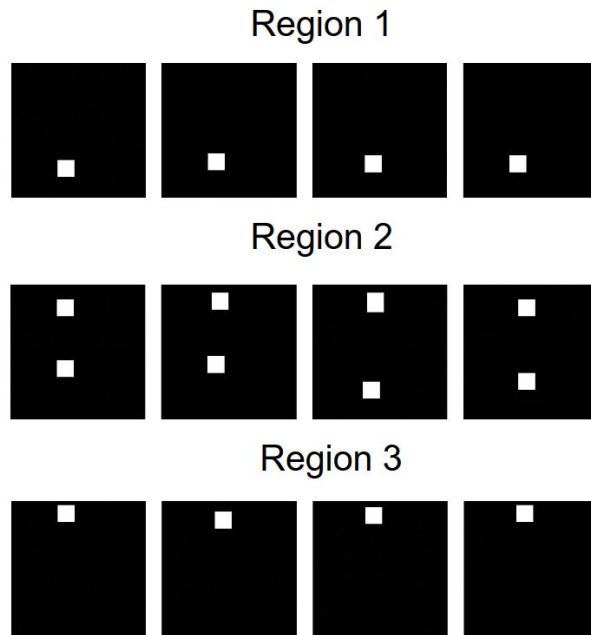
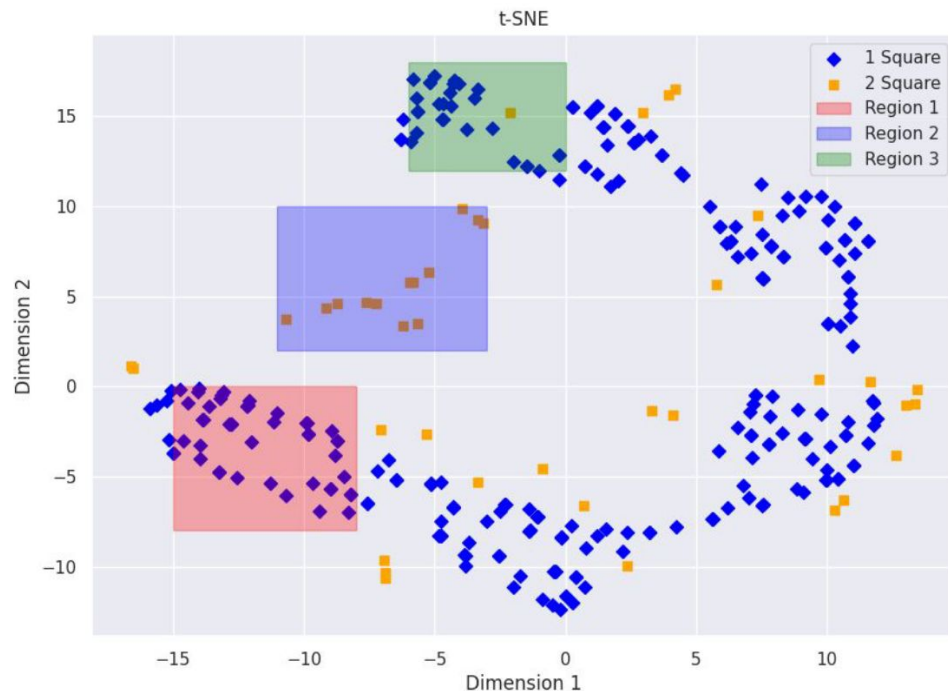
Mode Interpolation: 2D Gaussian

Diffusion models choose to interpolate between nearest modes



What is happening in the case of shapes?

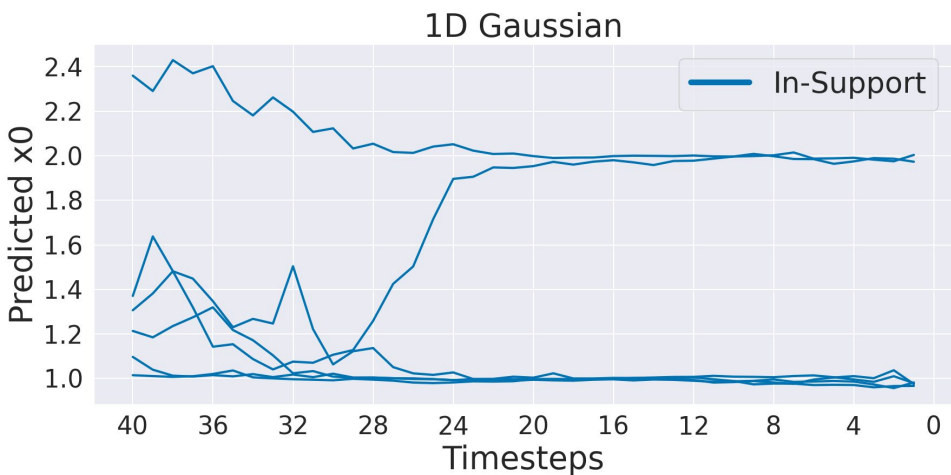
Interpolation happens in representation space



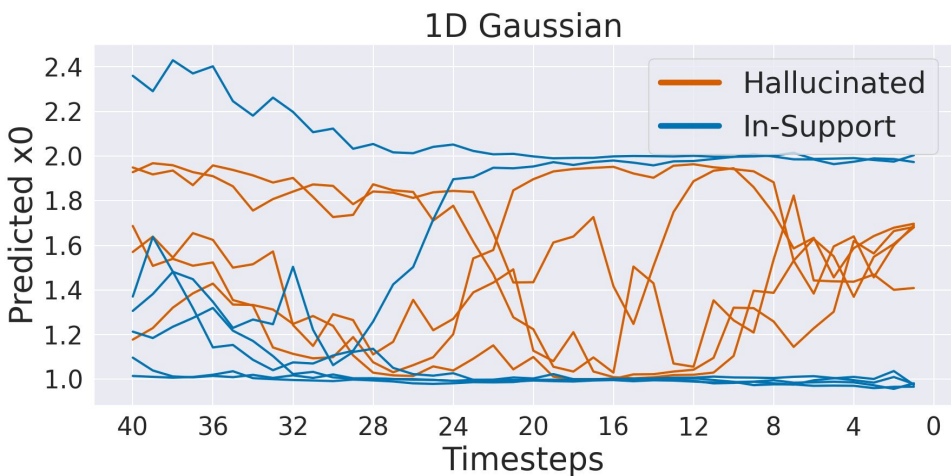
**Diffusion Models know when
they Hallucinate**

Diffusion Models know when they Hallucinate

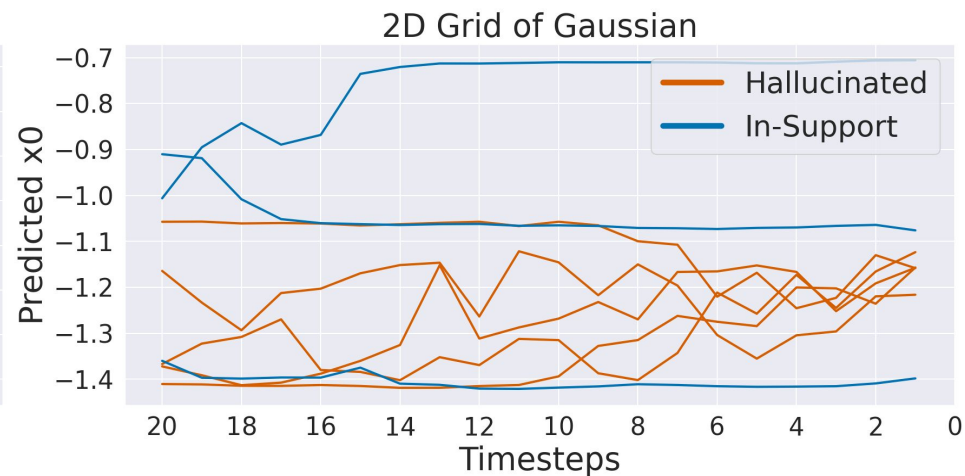
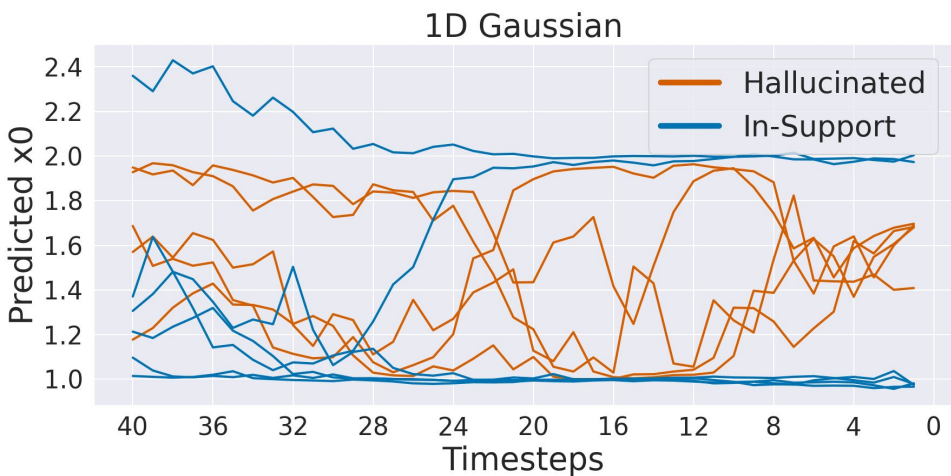
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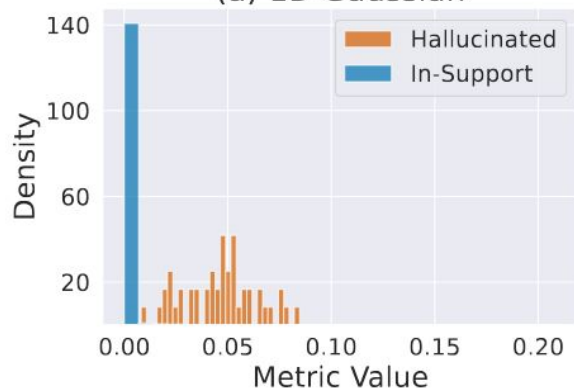
Diffusion Models know when they Hallucinate

$$\text{Hal}(x) = \frac{1}{|T_2 - T_1|} \sum_{i=T_1}^{T_2} \left(\hat{x}_0^{(i)} - \overline{\hat{x}_0^{(t)}} \right)^2$$

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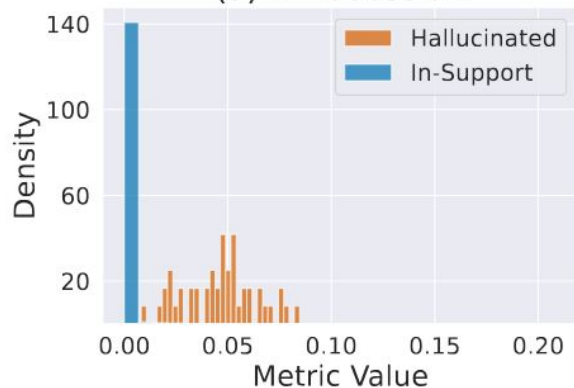
(a) 1D Gaussian



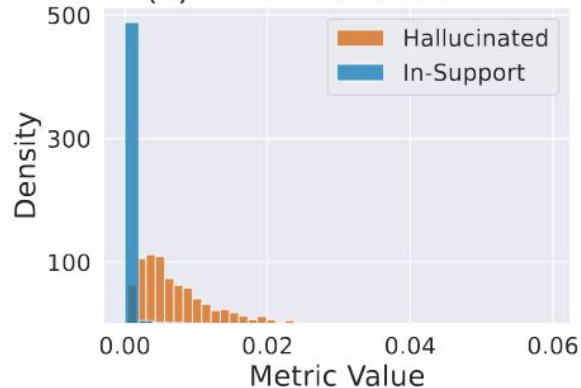
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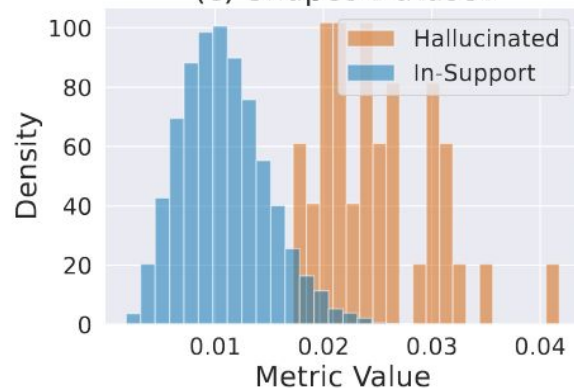
(a) 1D Gaussian



(b) 2D Grid of Gaussians



(c) Shapes Dataset



Realistic Settings

Let's move on to realistic settings

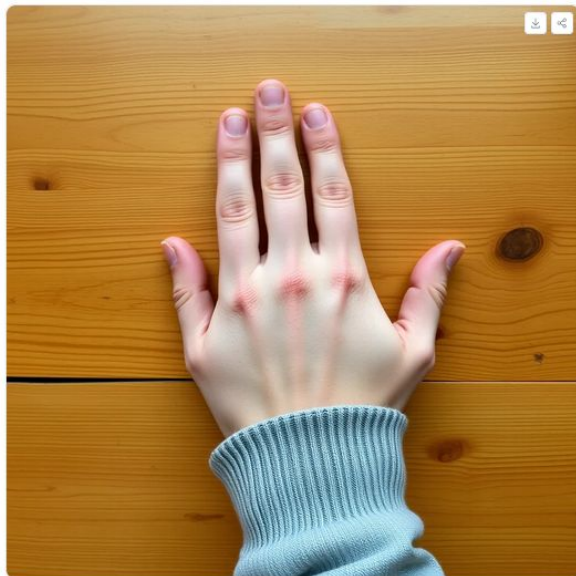
Let's move on to realistic settings

FLUX.1 [schnell]

12B param rectified flow transformer distilled from [FLUX.1 \[pro\]](#) for 4 step generation
[\[blog\]](#) [\[model\]](#)

image of a left hand placed on a wooden table. top view

Run

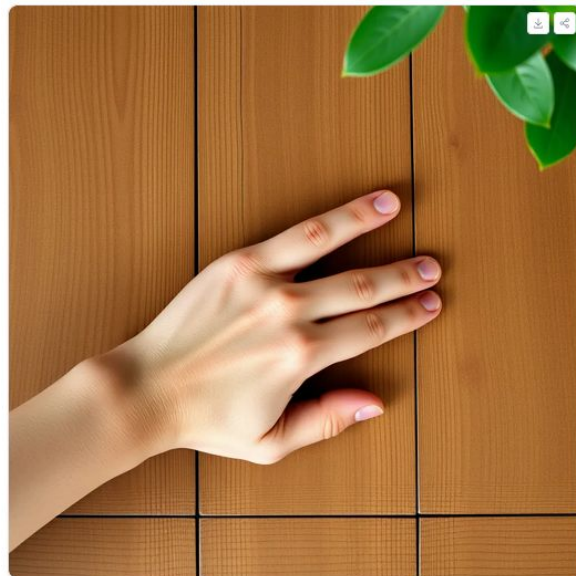


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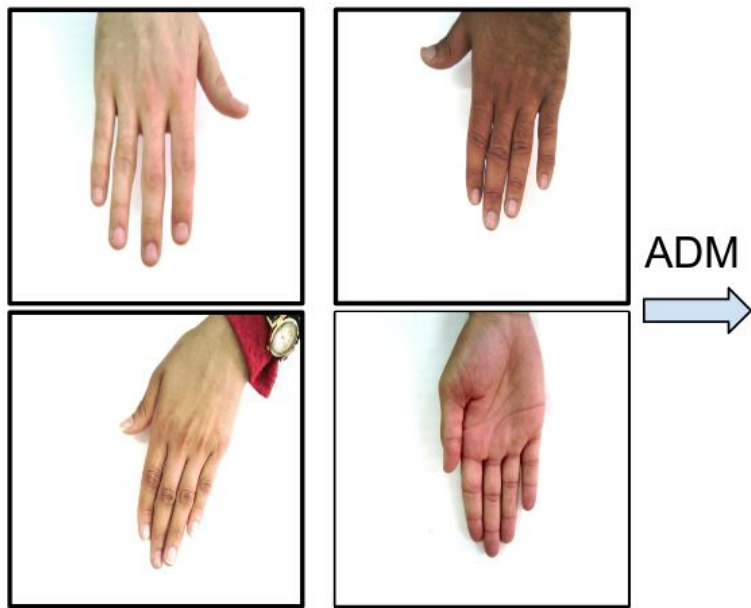
image of a right hand placed on a wooden table. top view

Run



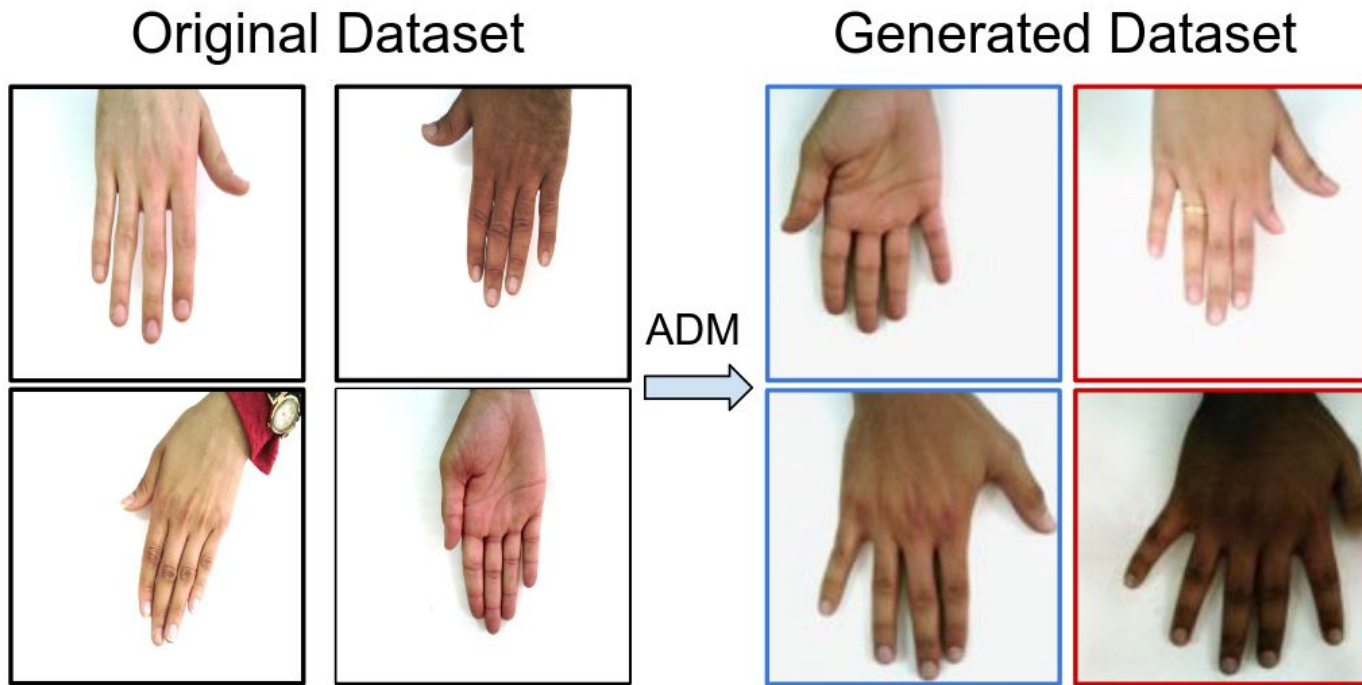
Hands Dataset

Original Dataset



Affif, Mahmoud. "11K Hands: Gender recognition and biometric identification using a large dataset of hand images." *Multimedia Tools and Applications* 78 (2019): 20835-20854.

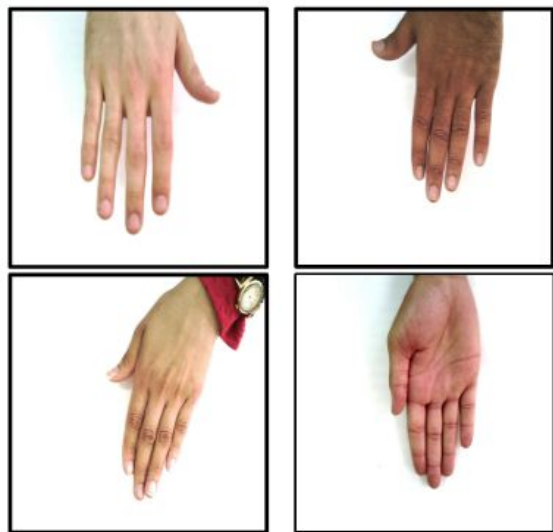
Hands Dataset



Affif, Mahmoud. "11K Hands: Gender recognition and biometric identification using a large dataset of hand images." *Multimedia Tools and Applications* 78 (2019): 20835-20854.

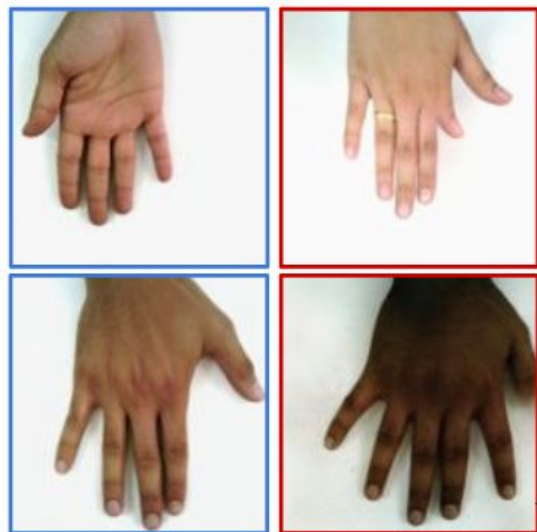
Hands Dataset

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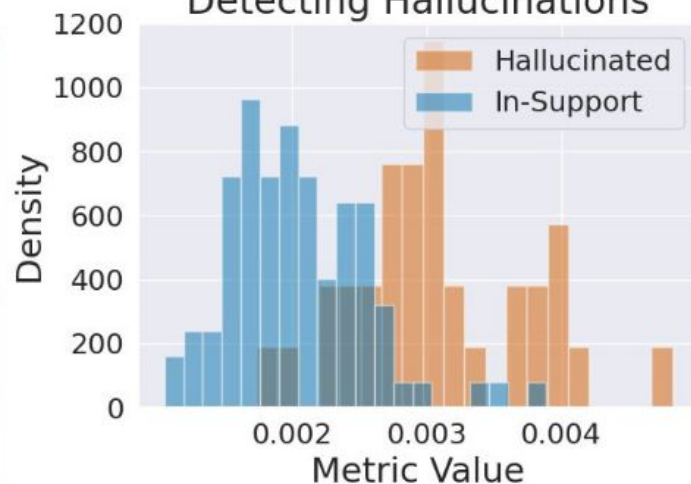


ADM
→

Generated Dataset



Detecting Hallucinations

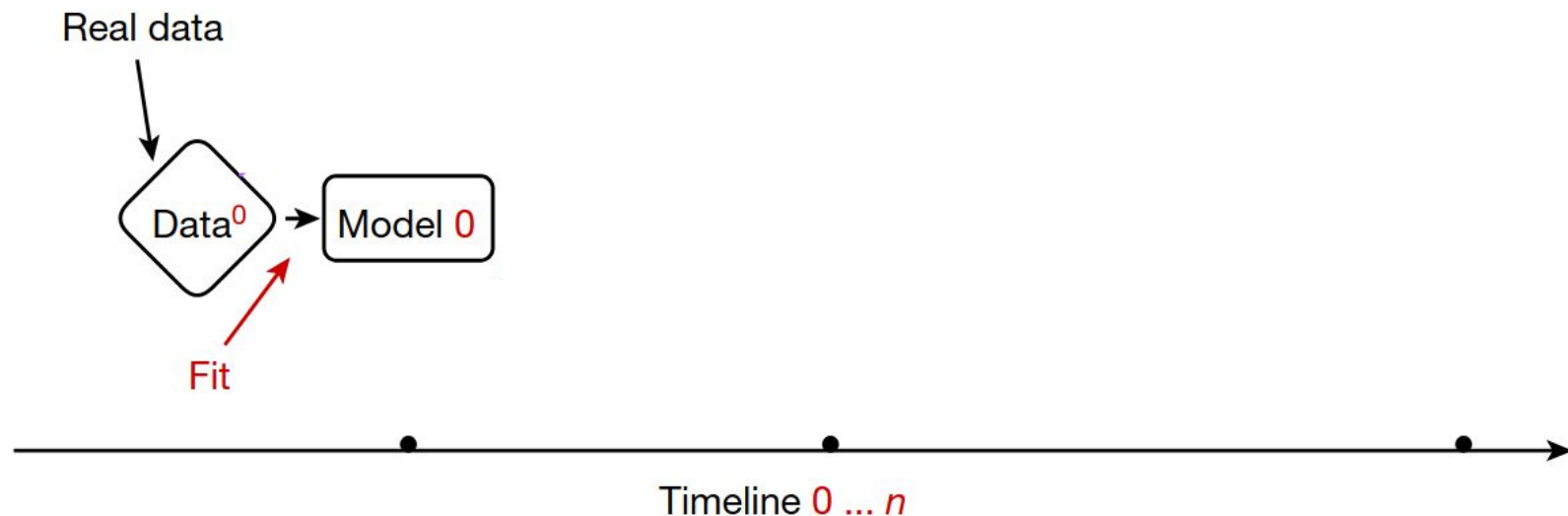


Hallucinations (extra fingers)

Recursive Model Training

Recursive Model Training

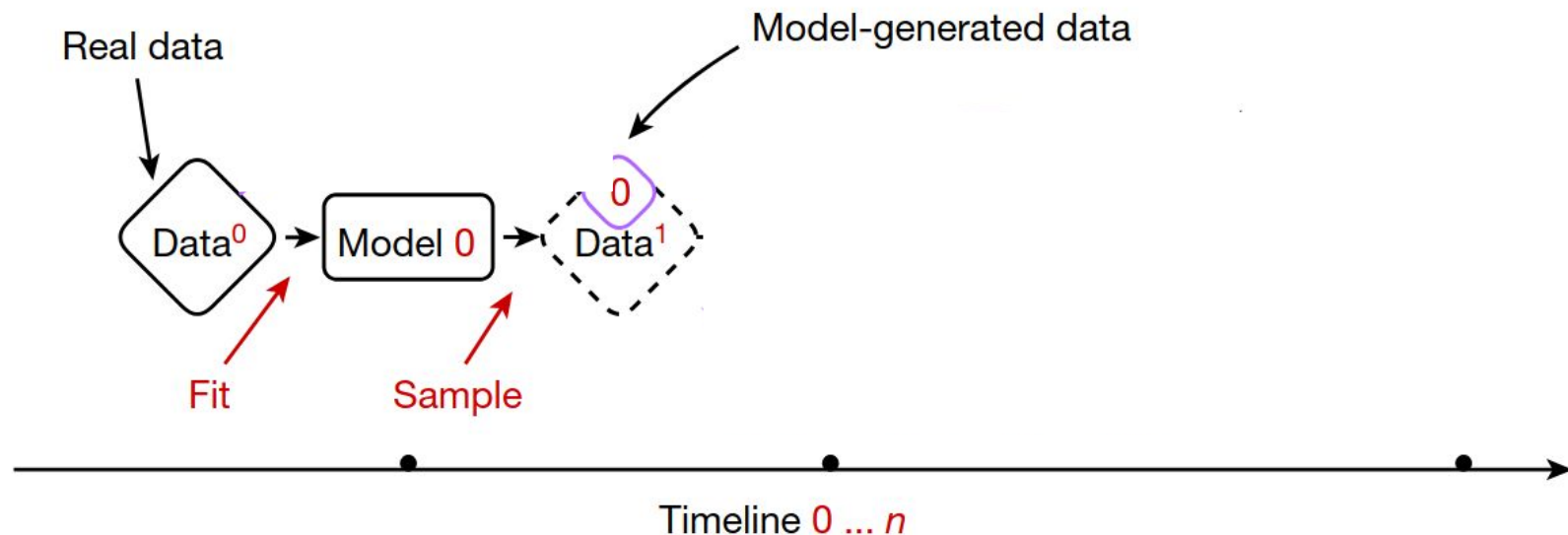
The internet is increasingly populated by more and more synthetic data.
Recursive training on synthetic data leads to mode collapse



Shumailov, I., Shumaylov, Z., Zhao, Y. *et al.* AI models collapse when trained on recursively generated data. *Nature* **631**, 755–759 (2024). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41586-024-07566-y>

Recursive Model Training

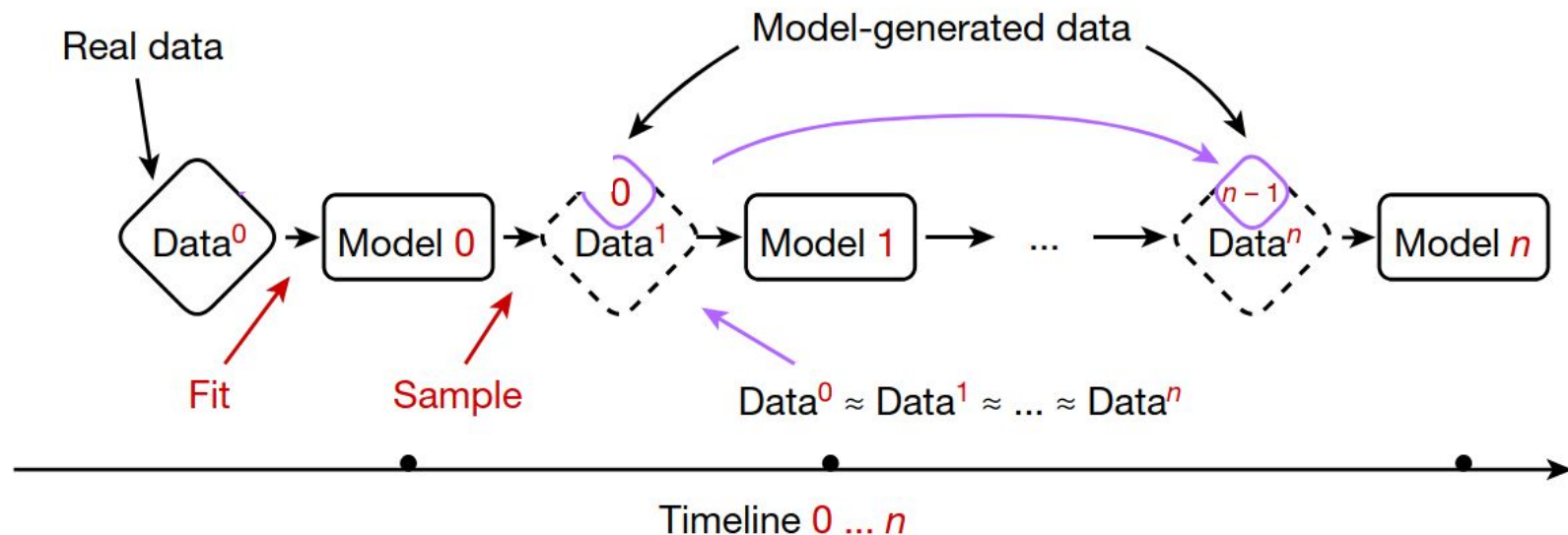
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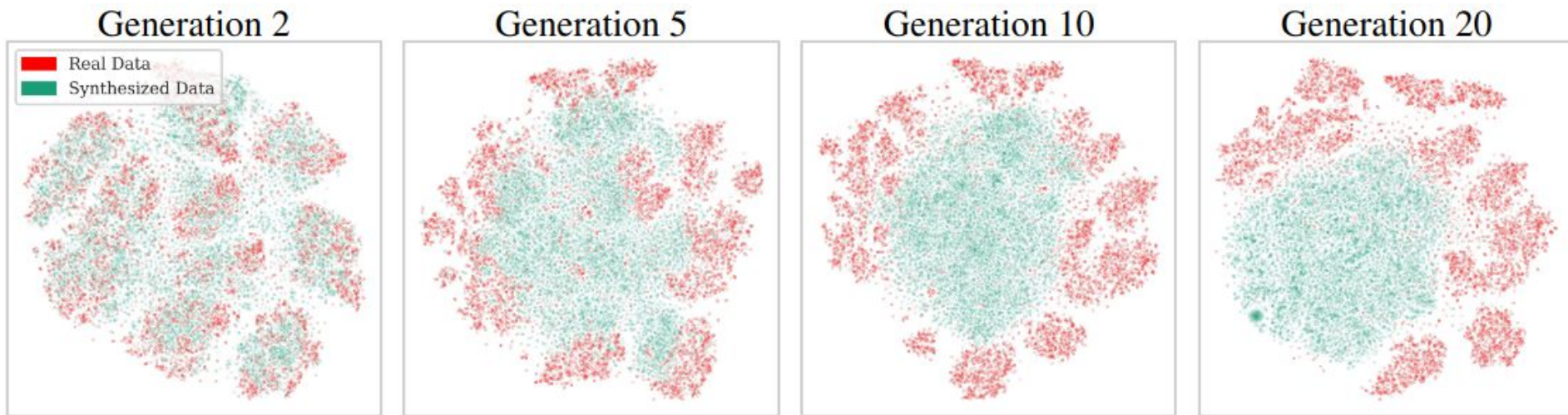
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Recursive Model Training: Model Collapse

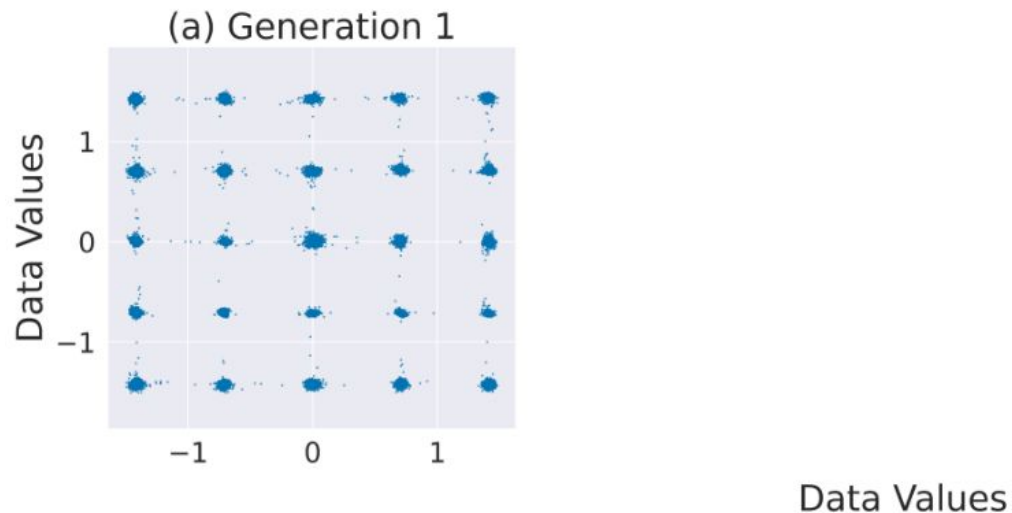
Past work has focused on model collapse without considering the interaction between the modes



Alemohammad, Sina, et al. "Self-consuming generative models go mad." arXiv preprint arXiv:2307.01850 (2023).

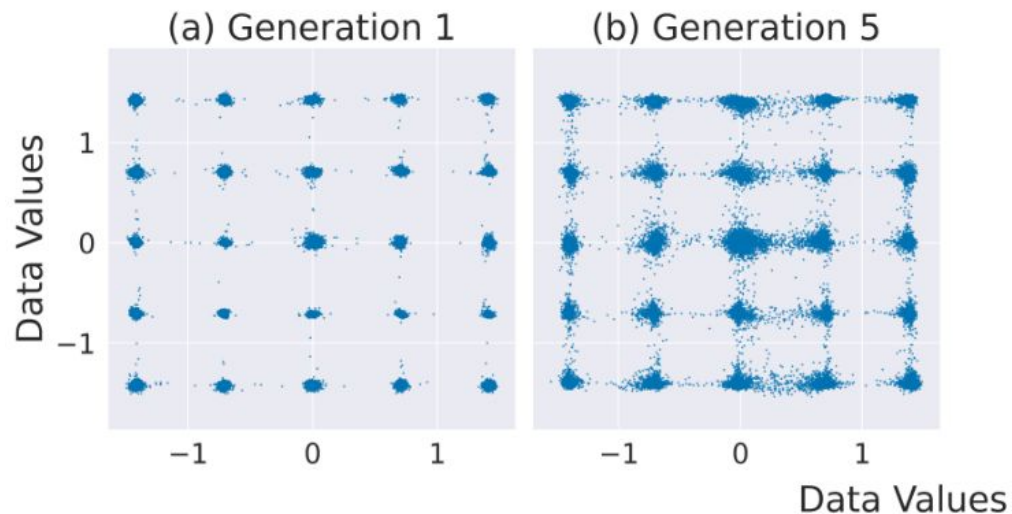
Recursive Model Training

Recursively training a DDPM on its own generated data using a square grid of 2D Gaussians



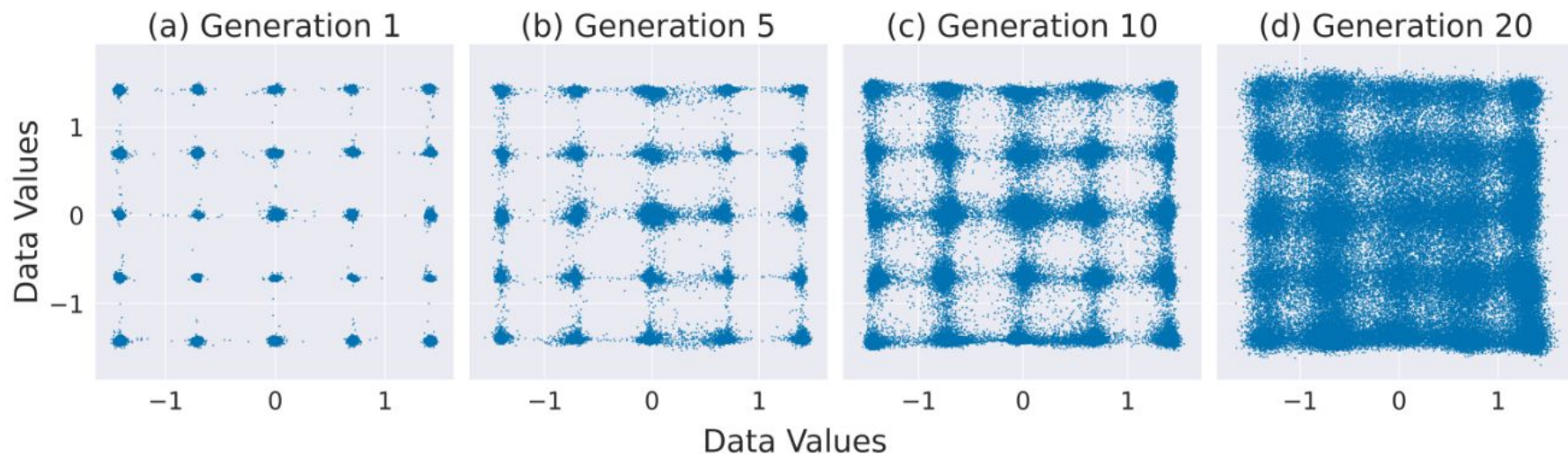
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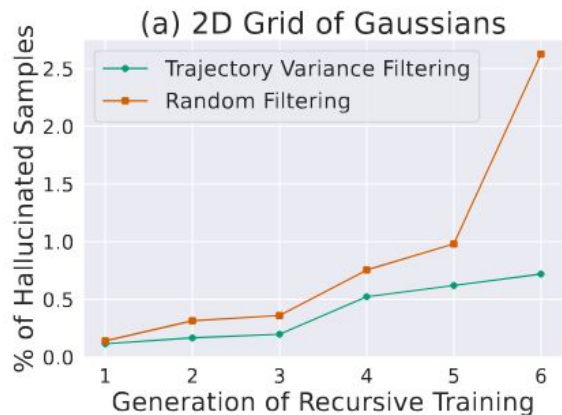
Recursive Model Training

Recursively training a DDPM on its own generated data using a square grid of 2D Gaussians



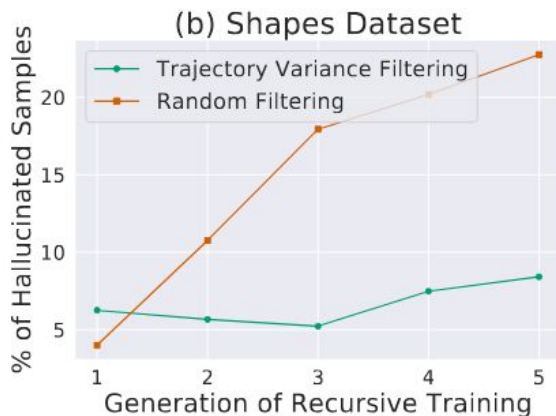
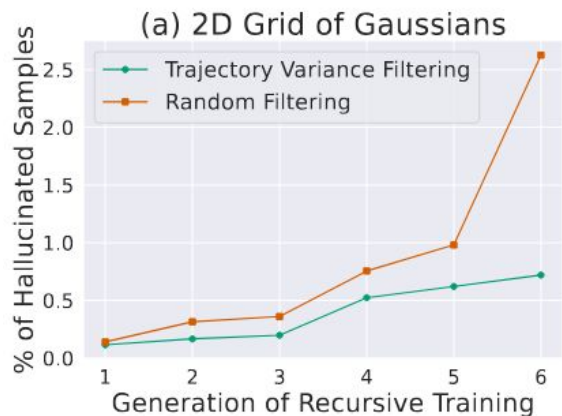
Mitigating Hallucinations with Pre-emptive Detection

Filter out hallucinated samples using the metric before training on samples from the previous generation of the diffusion model



Mitigating Hallucinations with Pre-emptive Detection

Filter out hallucinated samples using the metric before training on samples from the previous generation of the diffusion model



Summary

- Introduce a failure-mode of diffusion models: mode interpolation
- Explanation of why mode interpolation occurs
- Metric to detect hallucinations in diffusion models
- Potential hypothesis for inaccurate modeling of hands/limbs in modern text-to-image generative models.
- Novel Perspective on the Recursive Training of Generative Models