
Fractional Diffusion Bridge Models

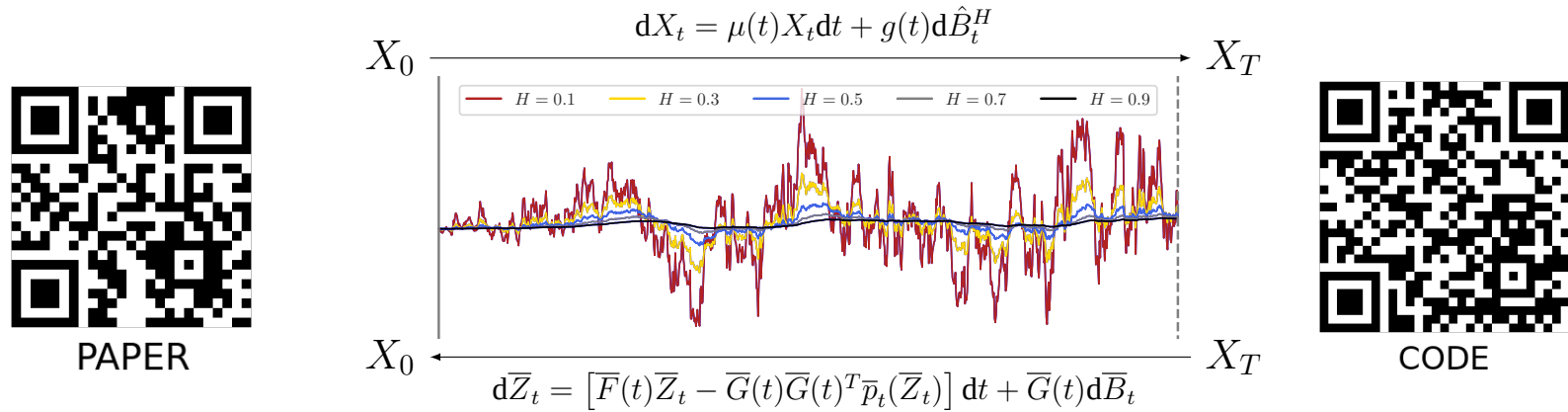
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^{*} Equal contribution; [†] Shared senior authorship



IMPERIAL

Generative Fractional Diffusion Models (NeurIPS 2024)



We extend generative fractional diffusion models to diffusion bridges.

Figure from Somnath et al. (2023), Aligned Diffusion Schrödinger Bridges, UAI 2023 (MIT license).

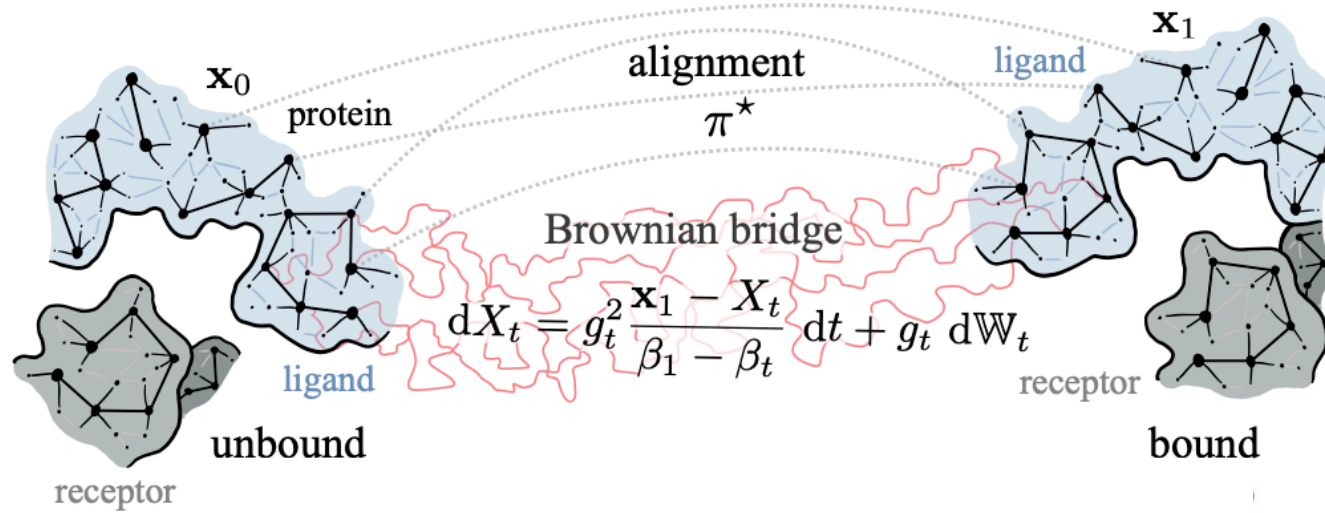
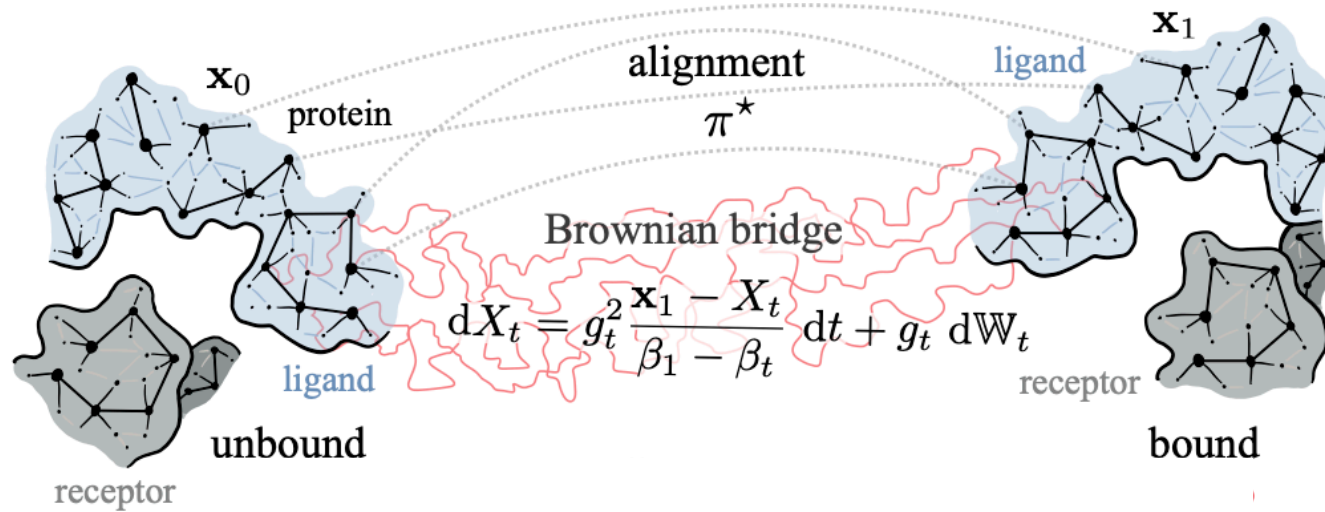


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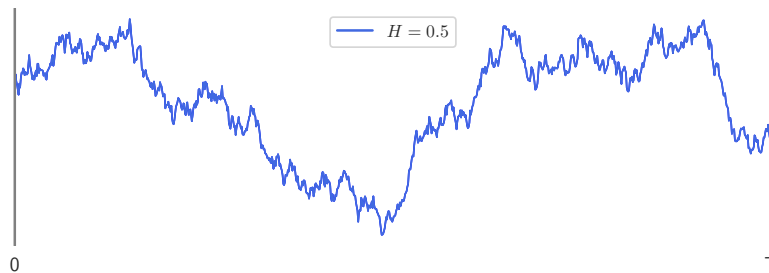
Can diffusion bridges be driven by fractional Brownian motion instead of Brownian motion?

Brownian motion (BM)



Brownian motion $B = (B_t)_{t \in [0, T]}$ is a centered Gaussian process with *independent increments*.

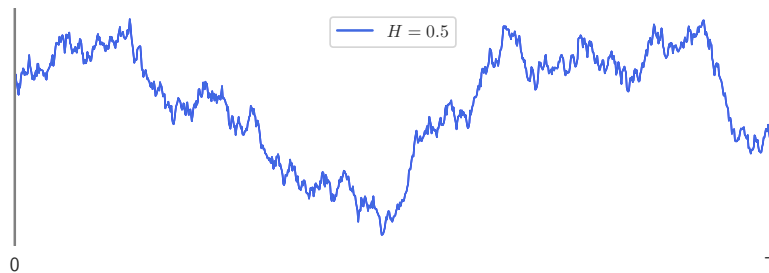
Fractional Brownian motion (fBM)



Fractional Brownian motion $B^H = (B_t^H)_{t \in [0, T]}$ with Hurst index $H \in (0, 1)$ is a centered Gaussian process that possesses *correlated increments* where we have for

$H = 0.5$: Brownian motion

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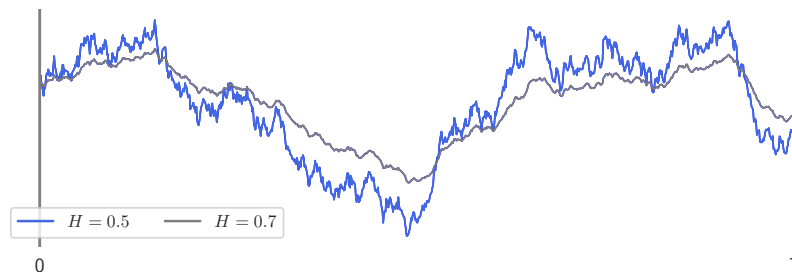


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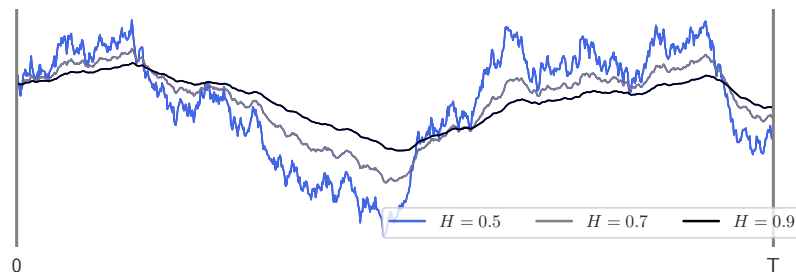


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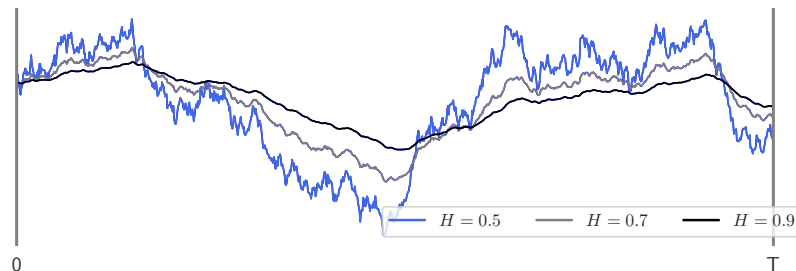


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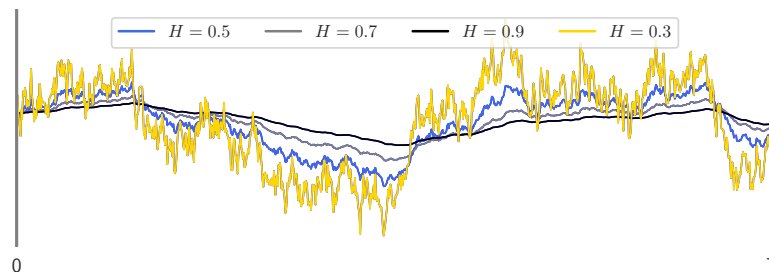
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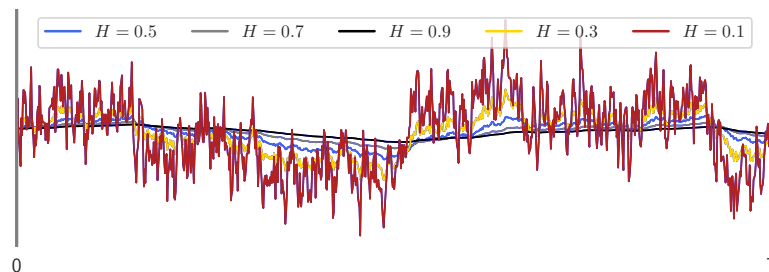
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Markovian approximation of fBM (MA-fBM)

Define for every $\gamma \in (0, \infty)$ the Ornstein-Uhlenbeck process Y^γ following

$$dY_t^\gamma = -\gamma Y_t^\gamma dt + dB_t, \quad Y_0^\gamma = 0.$$

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Given a Hurst index H and a geometrically spaced grid $\gamma_k = r^{k-n}$, define

$$B_t^H = \begin{cases} \int_0^\infty (Y_t^\gamma - Y_0^\gamma) \nu_1(\gamma) d\gamma \\ - \int_0^\infty \partial_\gamma (Y_t^\gamma - Y_0^\gamma) \nu_2(\gamma) d\gamma \end{cases}$$

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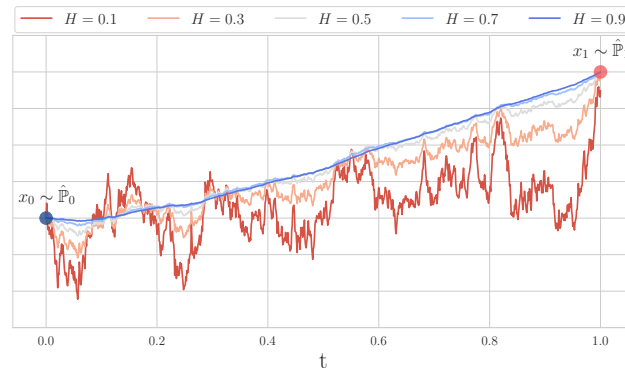
$$B_t^H = \begin{cases} \int_0^\infty (Y_t^\gamma - Y_0^\gamma) \nu_1(\gamma) d\gamma \\ - \int_0^\infty \partial_\gamma (Y_t^\gamma - Y_0^\gamma) \nu_2(\gamma) d\gamma \end{cases} \approx \sum_{k=1}^K \omega_k (Y_t^k - Y_0^k) =: \hat{B}_t^H.$$

Markov-approximate fractional Brownian bridge (MA-fBB)

Let $X = \sqrt{\varepsilon} \hat{B}_t$ be the non-Markovian reference process and $Z = (X, Y^1 \dots Y^K)$ the augmented reference process. We call the partially pinned process $Z_{|x_0, x_1} := Z | (X_0 = x_0, X_1 = x_1)$ a *Markov-approximate fractional Brownian bridge (MA-fBB)*.

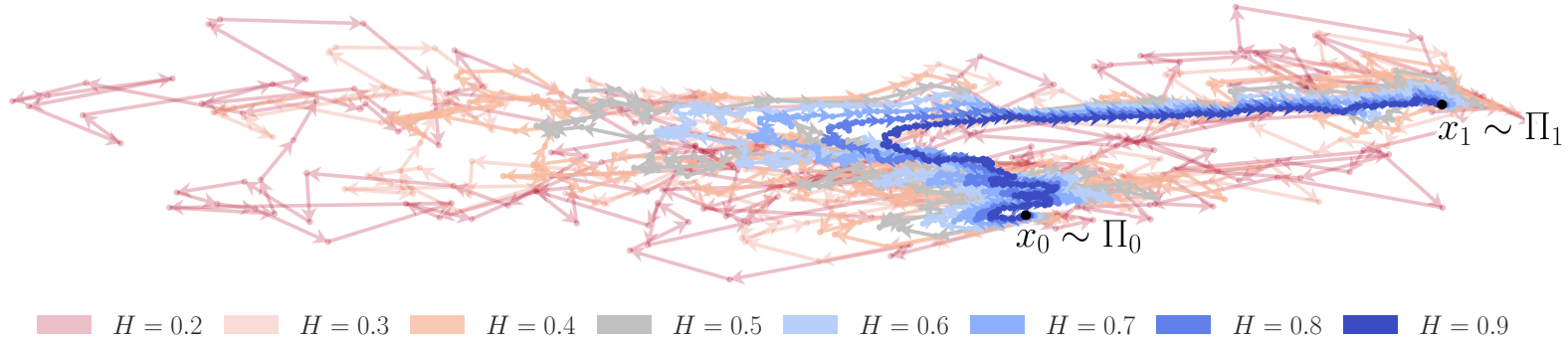
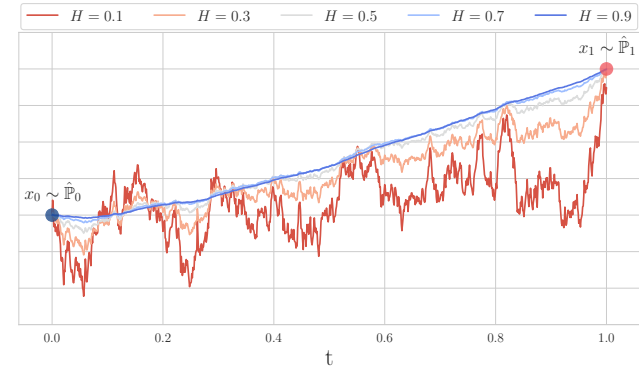
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A coupling preserving stochastic bridge driven by MA-fBM

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Proposition: Let $X = \sqrt{\varepsilon} \hat{B}^H$ be the non-Markovian with associated path measure $\mathbb{Q}$. We write $\mathbb{S}_{1|t}^1$ for the conditional distribution of $X_1|Z_t$. Assuming that $\mathbb{P} = \Pi_{0,1}\mathbb{Q}_{|0,1}$ is absolutely continuous with respect to $\mathbb{Q}$ we can lift the path measure $\mathbb{P}$ to a coupling preserving path measure $\mathbb{P}^*$ on the augmented space and the SDE

$$dZ_t^* = FZ_t^*dt + GG^T\mathbb{E}_{\mathbb{P}_{1|0,t}^*}[\nabla_z \log \mathbb{Q}_{1|t}^H(X_1^*|Z_t^*)|Z_0^*, Z_t^*]dt + GdB_t,$$

with initial vector $Z_0^* = (X_0, 0 \dots 0)$ admits a pathwise unique strong solution $Z^* = (X^*, Y^*)$ with distribution $\mathbb{P}^*$.

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$$\Rightarrow X_0^* \sim \Pi_0, X_1^* \sim \Pi_1 \text{ and } (X_0^*, X_1^*) \sim \Pi_{0,1}$$

Fractional Diffusion Bridge Models for paired data translation

We now define *Fractional Diffusion Bridge Models (FDBM)* for paired data translation as the stochastic process Z^θ associated with the path measure $\mathbb{P}^\theta$ solving

$$\begin{aligned} dZ_t^\theta &= FZ_t^\theta dt + GG^T u^\theta(t, X_0, Z_t^\theta) + GdB_t, \quad Z_0^\theta = (X_0, 0, \dots, 0), \\ u_i^\theta(t, x_0, z) &= [1, \omega_1 \zeta_1(t, 1), \dots, \omega_K \zeta_K(t, 1)]^T \tilde{u}_i^\theta(t, x_0, \mu_{1|t}(z)), \quad u^\theta = (u_1^\theta, \dots, u_d^\theta). \end{aligned}$$

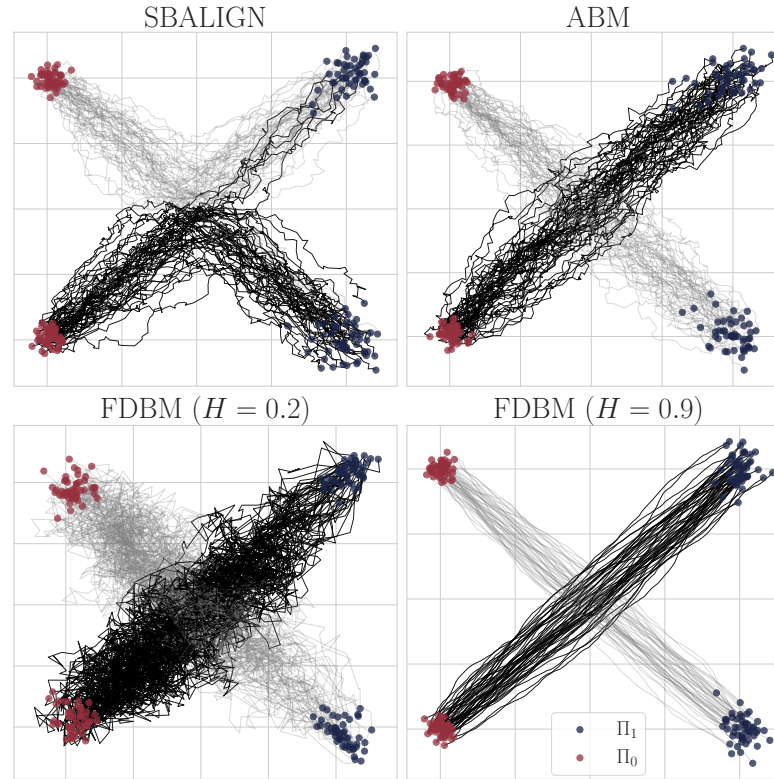
where $\tilde{u}^\theta = (\tilde{u}_1^\theta, \dots, \tilde{u}_d^\theta)$ is a time-dependent neural network-

Fractional Diffusion Bridge Models for paired data translation

To train FDBM for paired data translation, we derive the loss function as an upper bound to the KL-divergence ($\mathbb{P}^\star | \mathbb{P}^\theta$):

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{FDBM}}^{\text{paired}}(\theta) := \int_0^1 \mathbb{E}_{\mathbb{P}^\star} \left[\left\| \frac{X_1^\star - \mu_{1|t}(Z_t^\star)}{\sigma_{1|t}^2} - \tilde{u}^\theta(t, X_0, \mu_{1|t}(Z_t^\star)) \right\|^2 \right] dt.$$

Fractional Diffusion Bridge Models are coupling preserving



Predicting conformational changes in proteins

D3PM Test Set [1]	RMSD(Å) ↓			% RMSD(Å) < τ ↑			Δ RMSD(Å) ↑		
	Median	Mean	Std	$\tau = 2$	$\tau = 5$	$\tau = 10$	Median	Mean	Std
EGNN* [1]	19.99	21.37	8.21	1%	1%	3%	-	-	-
SBALIGN* _(10,10) [1]	3.80	4.98	3.95	0%	69%	93%	-	-	-
SBALIGN* _(100,100) [1]	3.81	5.02	3.96	0%	70%	93%	-	-	-
SBALIGN* [2]	3.67	4.82	3.93	0%	71%	93%	1.30	1.92	2.59
Sesame* [2]	2.87	3.65	2.95	38%	82%	96%	2.15	3.11	4.26
ABM [3] (retrained)	2.40	3.49	3.54	43%	84%	96%	2.43	3.35	4.29
FDBM($H = 0.3$) (ours)	2.33	3.42	3.42	43%	85%	97%	2.52	3.49	4.39
FDBM($H = 0.2$) (ours)	2.12	3.34	3.59	48%	86%	96%	2.44	3.39	4.28
FDBM($H = 0.1$) (ours)	2.20	3.44	3.57	46%	83%	97%	2.47	3.45	4.29

FDBM produces on average in the rough regime the highest fraction of near-native structures.

The Schrödinger bridge problem

Given two unknown distributions Π_0 and Π_1 and the non-Markovian reference process $X = \sqrt{\epsilon} \hat{B}^H$ associated with the path measure $\mathbb{Q}$, we seek to find the solution to the dynamic Schrödinger bridge problem

$$\mathbb{T}^{SB} = \arg \min_{\mathbb{T} \in \mathcal{P}(\mathcal{C}^d)} \{(\mathbb{T}|\mathbb{Q}) ; \mathbb{T}_0 = \Pi_0, \mathbb{T}_1 = \Pi_1\}.$$

The Schrödinger bridge problem on the augmented space

Given the optimal coupling $\mathbb{T}_{0,1}^{SB}$ we can construct a coupling preserving path measure $\mathbb{P}^*$. Based on the marginals of this path measure, we can define the Schrödinger bridge problem on the augmented space

$$\mathbb{V}^{SB} = \arg \min_{\mathbb{T} \in \mathcal{P}(\mathcal{C}^d)} \{(\mathbb{V}|\mathbb{Q}) ; \mathbb{V}_0 = \mathbb{P}_0^*, \mathbb{V}_1 = \mathbb{P}_1^*\},$$

where $\mathbb{S}$ is the path measure associated with the augmented reference process $Z = (X, Y)$.

Augmented reciprocal class

Definition: We say that $\mathbb{V} \in \mathcal{P}(\mathcal{C}^{d \cdot (K+1)})$ is in the augmented reciprocal class $\mathcal{R}_a(\mathbb{S})$ of $\mathbb{S}$ if

$$\mathbb{V} = \int_{\mathbb{R}^d \times \mathbb{R}^d} \mathbb{S}_{|X_0, X_1}(\cdot | x_0, x_1) d\mathbb{V}_{X_0, X_1}(x_0, x_1) =: \mathbb{V}_{X_1, X_0} \mathbb{S}_{|X_0, X_1}.$$

For any $\mathbb{V} \in \mathcal{P}(\mathcal{C}^{d \cdot (K+1)})$ we define the augmented reciprocal projection by

$$\text{proj}_{\mathcal{R}_a(\mathbb{S})}(\mathbb{V}) := \mathbb{V}_{X_0, X_1 | X_0, X_1}.$$

Augmented Markovian projection

Definition: For $\mathbb{V} \in \mathcal{P}(\mathcal{C}^{d \cdot (K+1)})$ with $\mathbb{V} \in \mathcal{R}_a(\mathbb{S})$ we define the augmented Markovian projection $\text{proj}_{\mathcal{M}_a}(\mathbb{V})$ by the path measure associated to $M = (M^1, M^2, \dots, M^{K+1})$ solving for $M_0^1 \sim \mathbb{V}_{M_0^1}$

$$dM_t = FM_t dt + GG^T \mathbb{E}_{\mathbb{V}_{1|t}} \left[\nabla_{m_t} \log_{1|t}^1(M_1^1 | M_t) | M_t \right] dt + GdB_t, \quad M_0 = (M_0^1, 0_K).$$

Fractional Diffusion Bridge Models for unpaired data translation

We generalize Schrödinger bridge flow to a MA-fBM reference process

$$\hat{\mathbb{P}}^0 = (\Pi_0 \otimes \Pi_1) \mathbb{S}_{|X_0, X_1}, \quad \partial_s \hat{\mathbb{P}}^s = \text{proj}_{\mathcal{R}_a(\mathbb{P})}(\text{proj}_{\mathcal{M}_a(\mathbb{S})}(\hat{\mathbb{P}}^s)) - \hat{\mathbb{P}}^s, \quad \tilde{\mathbb{P}}^s = \text{proj}_{\mathcal{M}_a(\mathbb{S})}(\hat{\mathbb{P}}^s),$$

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and propose the generalized loss function

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{FDBM}}^{\text{unpaired}}(\theta, \tilde{\mathbb{P}}) = \int_0^1 \int_{(\mathbb{R}^{d \cdot (K+1)})} \int_{(\mathbb{R}^d)^2} \left\| \tilde{v}^\theta(t, \mu_{1|t}(z_t)) - \frac{x_1 - \mu_{1|t}(z)}{\sigma_{1|t}^2} \right\|^2 d\tilde{\mathbb{P}}_{X_0, X_0}(x_0, x_1) d\mathbb{S}_{t|X_0, X_1}(z_t | x_0, x_1) dt.$$

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Limitations: *We do not claim convergence of the above heuristic algorithm!*

Unpaired image translation

AFHQ-32 results with $H = 0.5$ and $K = 5$:

Method	Architecture	Pretraining				Online Finetuning			
		cats $\rightarrow$ wild		cats $\leftarrow$ wild		cats $\rightarrow$ wild		cats $\leftarrow$ wild	
		FID $\downarrow$	LPIPS $\downarrow$	FID $\downarrow$	LPIPS $\downarrow$	FID $\downarrow$	LPIPS $\downarrow$	FID $\downarrow$	LPIPS $\downarrow$
SBFlow	DiT-B/2	59.04 $\pm$ 1.14	0.104 $\pm$ 0.001	74.36 $\pm$ 1.02	0.151 $\pm$ 0.001	43.85 $\pm$ 0.48	0.083 $\pm$ 0.001	64.77 $\pm$ 0.78	0.107 $\pm$ 0.000
SBFlow	DiT-L/2	50.68 $\pm$ 0.72	0.106 $\pm$ 0.001	71.77 $\pm$ 0.77	0.152 $\pm$ 0.001	33.92 $\pm$ 0.59	0.091 $\pm$ 0.000	54.10 $\pm$ 0.72	0.098 $\pm$ 0.001
FDBM (ours)	DiT-B/2	40.21 $\pm$ 1.18	0.097 $\pm$ 0.001	45.74 $\pm$ 0.69	0.154 $\pm$ 0.002	25.66 $\pm$ 0.81	0.073 $\pm$ 0.001	28.33 $\pm$ 0.35	0.078 $\pm$ 0.001
FDBM (ours)	DiT-L/2	35.99 $\pm$ 0.72	0.101 $\pm$ 0.001	48.84 $\pm$ 0.75	0.165 $\pm$ 0.002	20.26 $\pm$ 0.59	0.079 $\pm$ 0.001	26.79 $\pm$ 0.50	0.085 $\pm$ 0.001

AFHQ-256 results with $H = 0.6$ and $K = 5$:

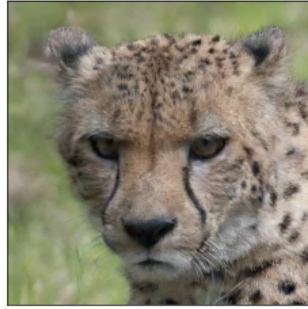
Method	Architecture	Pretraining				Online Finetuning			
		cats $\rightarrow$ wild		cats $\leftarrow$ wild		cats $\rightarrow$ wild		cats $\leftarrow$ wild	
		FID $\downarrow$	LPIPS $\downarrow$	FID $\downarrow$	LPIPS $\downarrow$	FID $\downarrow$	LPIPS $\downarrow$	FID $\downarrow$	LPIPS $\downarrow$
SBFlow	DiT-B/2	15.67 $\pm$ 0.65	0.578 $\pm$ 0.002	30.75 $\pm$ 0.88	0.594 $\pm$ 0.001	17.50 $\pm$ 0.87	0.528 $\pm$ 0.001	25.86 $\pm$ 0.32	0.537 $\pm$ 0.001
SBFlow	DiT-L/2	16.62 $\pm$ 0.83	0.604 $\pm$ 0.001	33.96 $\pm$ 0.87	0.600 $\pm$ 0.001	16.98 $\pm$ 0.53	0.560 $\pm$ 0.001	27.82 $\pm$ 0.41	0.547 $\pm$ 0.001
FDBM (ours)	DiT-B/2	16.77 $\pm$ 0.71	0.530 $\pm$ 0.002	19.14 $\pm$ 0.38	0.551 $\pm$ 0.001	–	–	–	–
FDBM (ours)	DiT-L/2	11.62 $\pm$ 0.73	0.548 $\pm$ 0.002	19.42 $\pm$ 0.41	0.561 $\pm$ 0.002	–	–	–	–

Unpaired image translation

Input



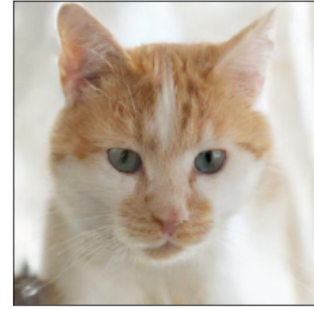
Output



Input



Output



AFHQ-512 cats $\leftrightarrow$ wild with $H = 0.4$ and $K = 5$.

Fractional Diffusion Bridge Models

- We introduce a generative diffusion bridge framework driven by fractional noise
- We prove the existence of a coupling-preserving fractional diffusion bridge
- We formulate the Schrödinger bridge problem with a non-Markovian reference process and develop a heuristic to approximate its solution



Paper



Code paired



Code unpaired



Code SBFlow