

Imitation Learning Tutorial

Chenyu Yang
Davide Liconti

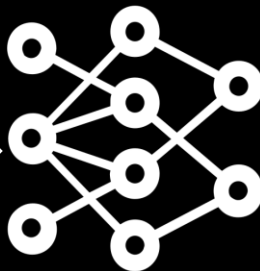
Overview



Observations



Z_{obs}



Z_{act}



Actions



What observations can we use?

What's the best Z_{obs} ?

What's the best Z_{act} ?

What's the best way to learn?

For robotic hands !

Contents



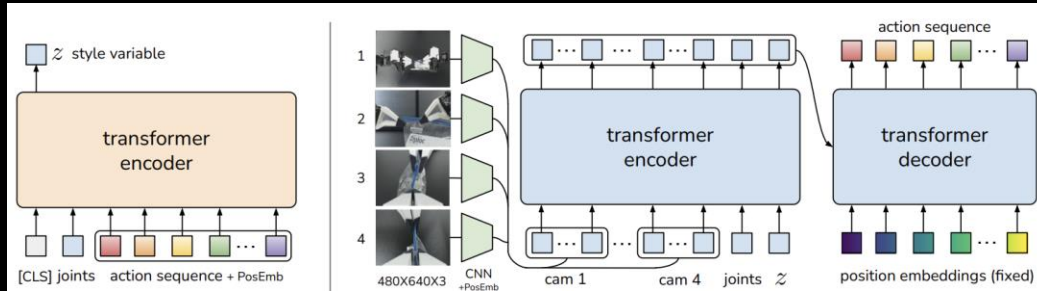
2 architectures for downstream-task imitation learning for robotics

ACT ([paper](#))

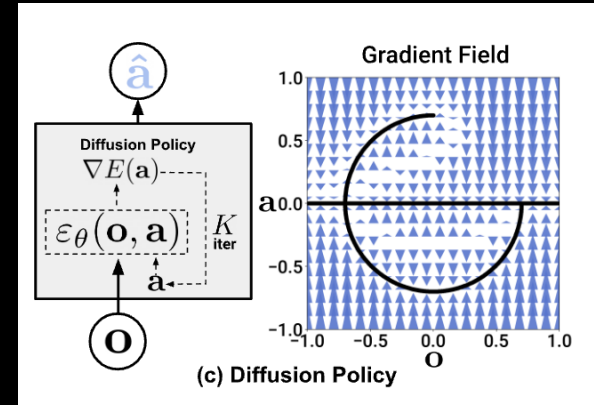
Diffusion Policy ([paper](#))

What we need to understand today:

1. Transformer Architecture
2. Variational Autoencoder
3. Diffusion Mechanism

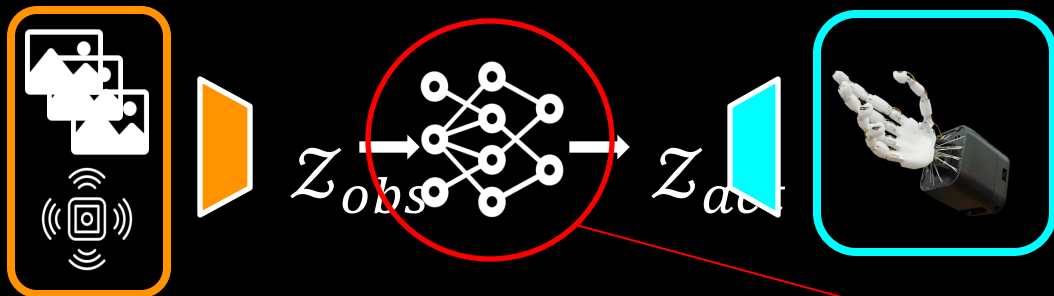


ACT



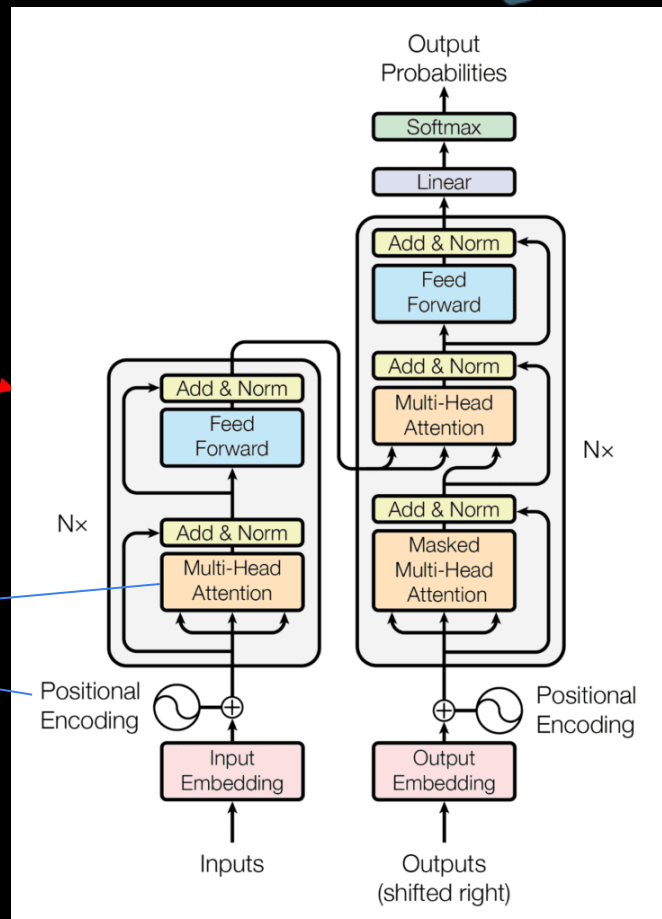
Diffusion Policy

Transformers



The core model is usually a transformer-based architecture (ACT, OCTO, OpenVLA, ...)

1. Positional Encoding
2. Self-Attention



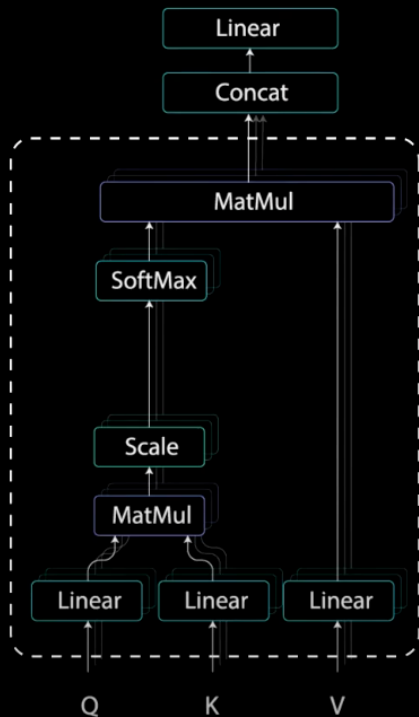


Positional Embeddings

- Unlike RNNs, transformers don't inherently understand sequence order
Positional embeddings add information about token positions in sequences.
- Positional information is added to token embeddings, often using sinusoidal functions to allow model generalization to various sequence lengths.

$$PE_{pos,2i} = \sin\left(\frac{pos}{10000^{\frac{2i}{d_{model}}}}\right) \quad PE_{pos,2i+1} = \cos\left(\frac{pos}{10000^{\frac{2i}{d_{model}}}}\right)$$

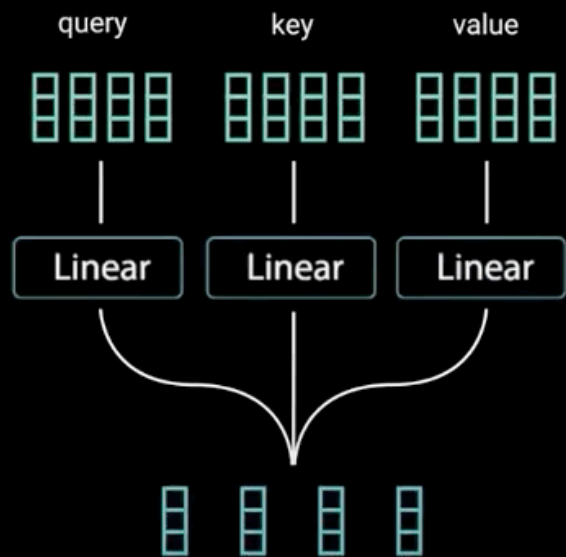
Attention



From input embedding use 3 distinct linear layers to create query, key and value vectors

“For example, when you type a query to search for some video on Youtube, the search engine will map your **query** against a set of **keys** (video title, description etc.) associated with candidate videos in the database, then present you the best matched videos (**values**).”


Attention



	Hi	how	are	you
Hi	98	27	10	12
how	27	89	31	67
are	10	31	91	54
you	12	67	54	92

Attention



Softmax() =

	Hi	how	are	you
Hi	0.7	0.1	0.1	0.1
how	0.1	0.6	0.2	0.1
are	0.1	0.3	0.6	0.1
you	0.1	0.3	0.3	0.3

$$\text{softmax}(x)_i = \frac{\exp(x_i)}{\sum_j \exp(x_j)}$$

attention weights

A 4x4 grid representing attention weights, with a red border.

x

value

A 4x4 grid representing the value matrix, with a red border.

=

output

A 4x4 grid representing the output matrix, with a red border.

Decoder



The decoder is autoregressive

-> How to prevent conditioning on future tokens?

Hi,
how
are
you?




<start>

	<start>	I	am	fine
<start>	0.7	0.1	0.1	0.1
I	0.1	0.6	0.2	0.1
am	0.1	0.3	0.6	0.1
fine	0.1	0.3	0.3	0.3

Scaled Scores

0.7	0.1	0.1	0.1
0.1	0.6	0.2	0.1
0.1	0.3	0.6	0.1
0.1	0.3	0.3	0.3

Look-Ahead Mask

0	-inf	-inf	-inf
0	0	-inf	-inf
0	0	0	-inf
0	0	0	0

Masked Scores

0.7	-inf	-inf	-inf
0.1	0.6	-inf	-inf
0.1	0.3	0.6	-inf
0.1	0.3	0.3	0.3

Transformer explainer

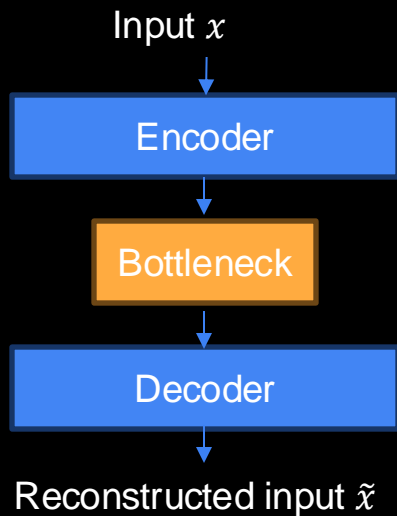


- <https://poloclub.github.io/transformer-explainer/>

Variational Autoencoder



- Autoencoder



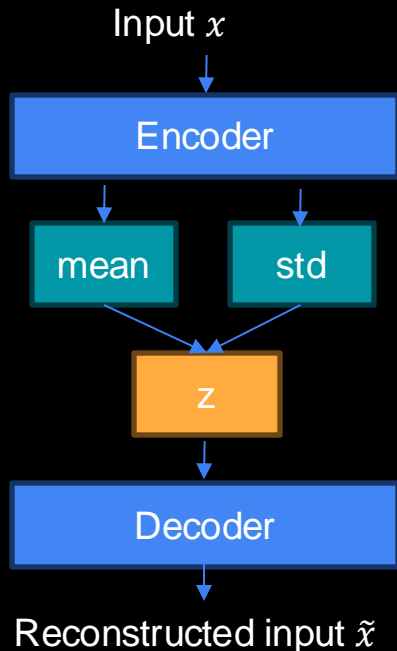
```
def forward(self, x):  
    z = self.encode(x)  
    return self.decode(z)
```

```
def loss_function(recon_x, x):  
    l2 = F.mse_loss(recon_x, x, reduction='sum')  
    return l2
```



Variational Autoencoder

- Variational Autoencoder



```
def reparameterize(self, mu, logvar):  
    std = torch.exp(0.5 * logvar)  
    eps = torch.randn_like(std)  
    return mu + eps * std
```

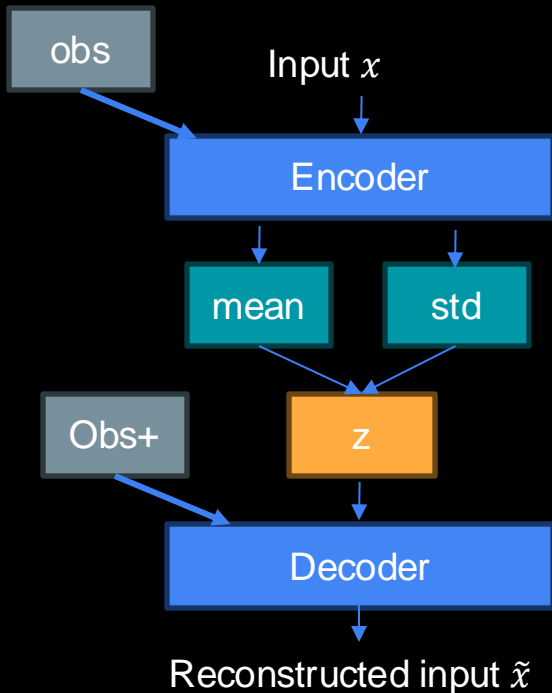
```
def forward(self, x):  
    mu, logvar = self.encode(x)  
    z = self.reparameterize(mu, logvar)  
    return self.decode(z), mu, logvar
```

```
def loss_function(recon_x, x, mu, logvar):  
    kld = -0.5 * torch.sum(1 + logvar - mu.pow(2) - logvar.exp())  
    BCE = F.mse_loss(recon_x, x, reduction='sum')  
    return BCE
```



Conditional Variational Autoencoder

- Variational Autoencoder

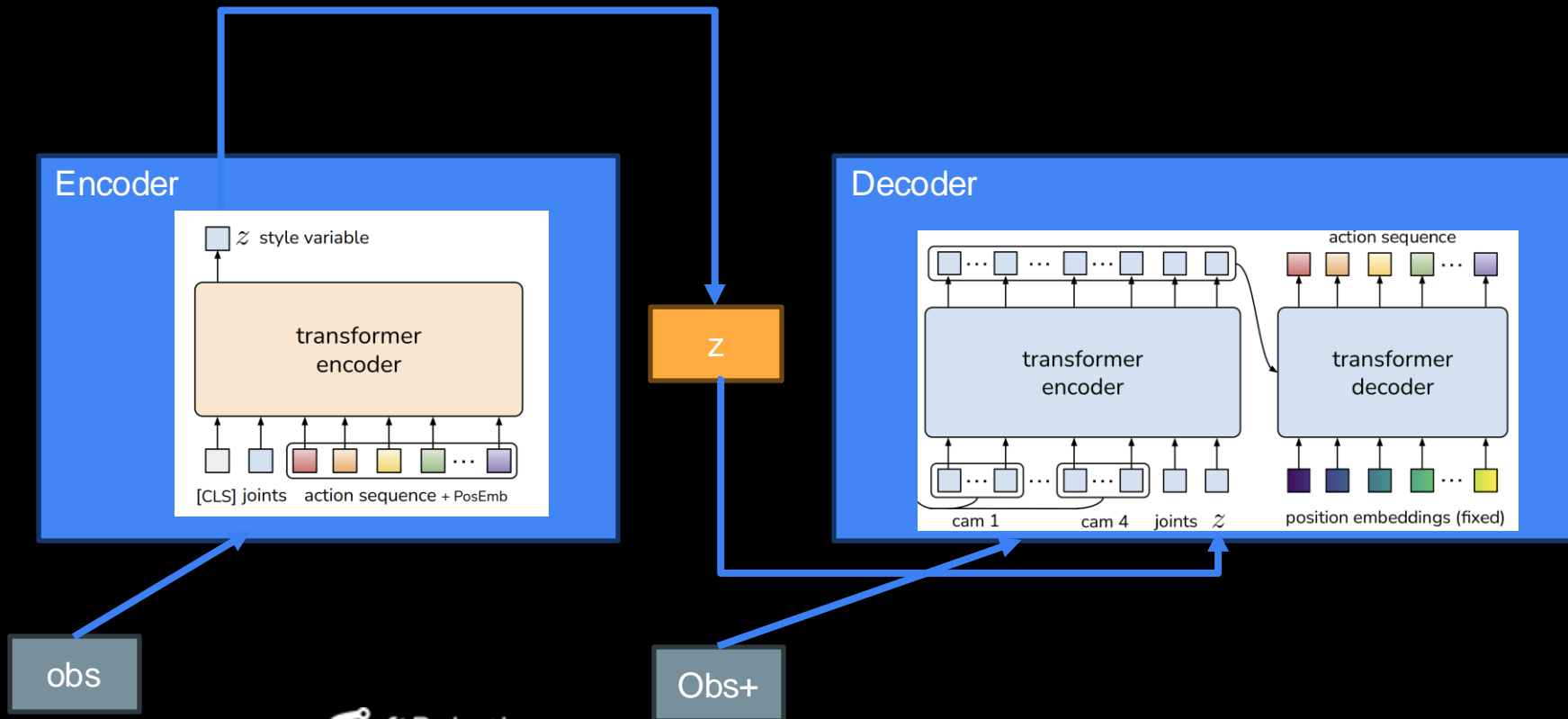


```
def reparameterize(self, mu, logvar):
    std = torch.exp(0.5 * logvar)
    eps = torch.randn_like(std)
    return mu + eps * std
```

```
def forward(self, x, obs):
    mu, logvar = self.encode(x)
    z = self.reparameterize(mu, logvar)
    return self.decode(z, self.obs_encode(obs))
```

```
def loss_function(recon_x, x, mu, logvar):
    kld = -0.5 * torch.sum(1 + logvar - mu.pow(2) - logvar.exp())
    BCE = F.mse_loss(recon_x, x, reduction='sum')
    return BCE
```

Action Chunking Transformers

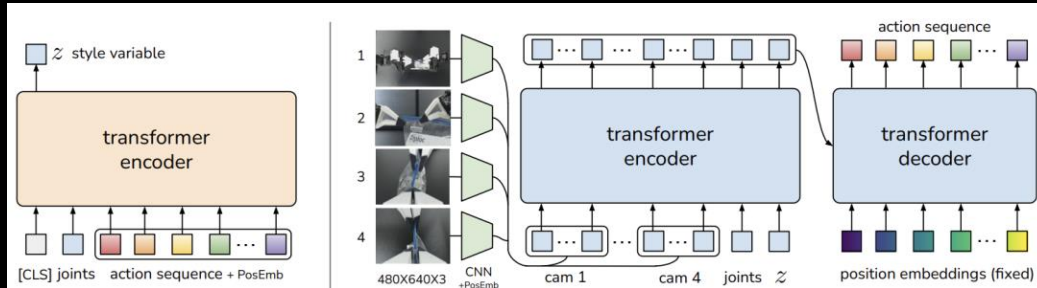


Contents

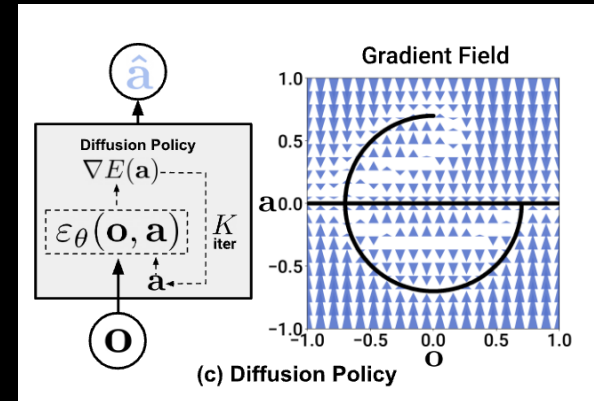


What we need to understand today:

1. Transformer Architecture
2. Variational Autoencoder
3. Diffusion Mechanism



ACT

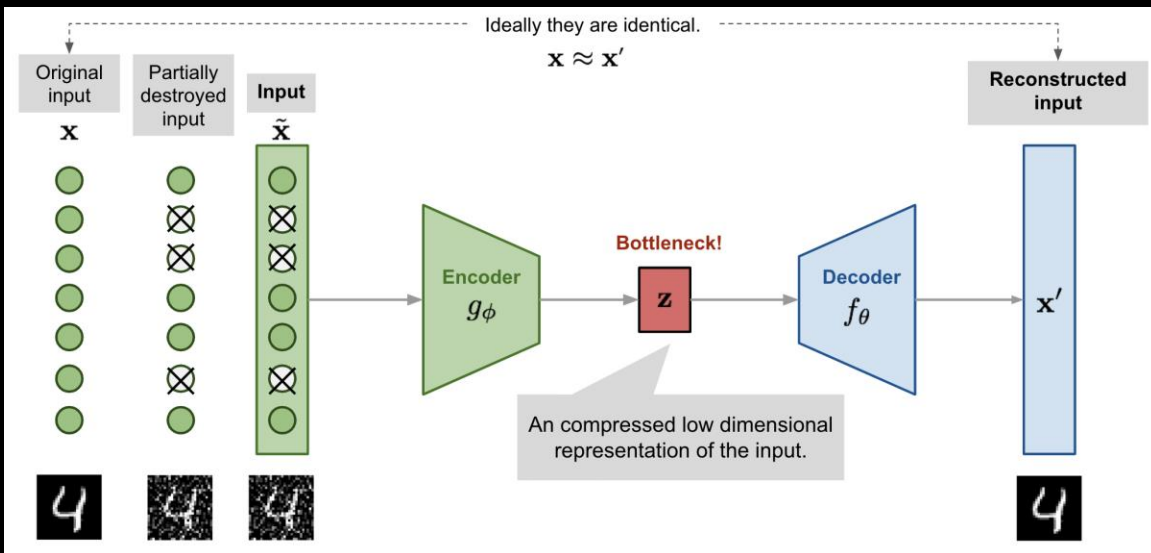


Diffusion Policy



Denosing

Besides compressing, vae models can be trained to recover the original input.



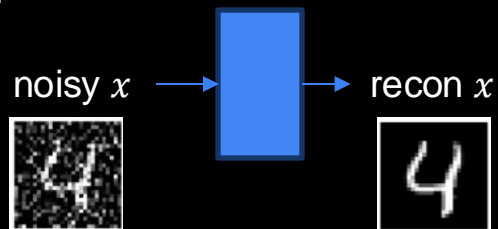
```
def train_iter(self, x):  
    x_noise = x + torch.rand_like(x)  
    recon_x = self.forward(x)  
    loss = F.mse_loss(x, recon_x)  
    loss.backward()
```

Resource: <https://lilianweng.github.io/posts/2018-08-12-vae/>

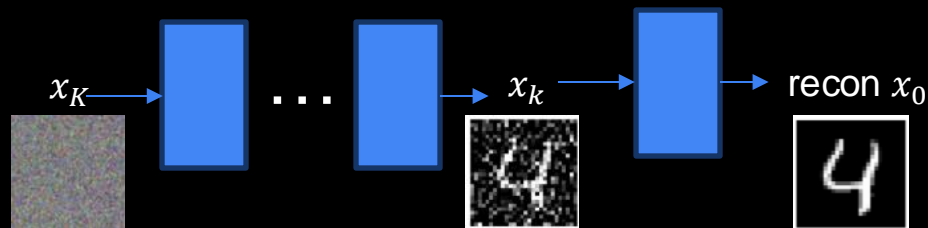
Diffusion Models



- Given a denoise model



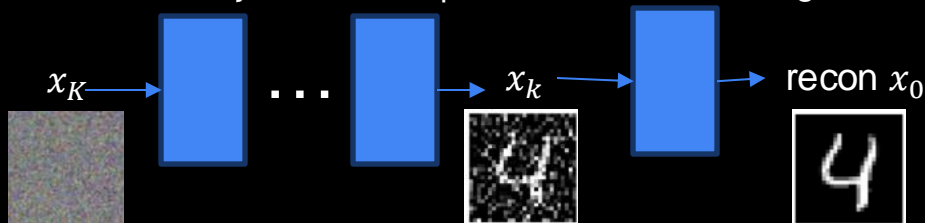
- What about stacking them many times





Diffusion Models

- We stack many denoise steps to reconstruct from gaussian noise



- How to train the network
 - aka: how to define the loss $\text{Loss} = \text{MSE}(x_k, \tilde{x}_k)$
 - aka: how to find x_k and x_{k+1}
- x_{k+1} is can be computed by adding noise from x_k (Forward diffusion process)

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

- But we only have x_0
 - Good news: x_{k+1} can be directly computed from x_0

The screenshot shows the Hugging Face website page for 'Schedulers'. The title is 'Schedulers' and the subtitle is 'Diffusers provides many scheduler functions for the diffusion process. A scheduler takes a model's output (the sample which the diffusion process is iterating ...'. The page includes a navigation menu with 'api', 'schedulers', and 'overview'.

Diffusion Models: Train with Scheduler



```
noise_scheduler = DDPM Scheduler(num_train_timesteps=1000)
def train_iter(batch):
    clean_images = batch["images"]
    # Sample noise to add to the images
    noise = torch.randn(clean_images.shape).to(clean_images.device)
    bs = clean_images.shape[0]
    # Sample a random timestep for each image
    timesteps = torch.randint(
        0, noise_scheduler.config.num_train_timesteps, (bs,),
    ).long()
    # Add noise to the clean images according to the noise magnitude at each timestep
    # (this is the forward diffusion process)
    noisy_images = noise_scheduler.add_noise(clean_images, noise, timesteps)
    # Predict the noise residual
    noise_pred = model(noisy_images, timesteps)
    loss = F.mse_loss(noise_pred, noise)
```

Diffusion Models: Generate with Scheduler



```
# Initialize random noise as the starting point for generation
target = torch.randn((num_samples,) + image_shape)
# Iteratively remove noise step by step
for t in noise_scheduler.timesteps:
    # Model prediction for noise residuals
    with torch.no_grad():
        noise_pred = model(target, t).long()
    # Compute the previous image state by reversing the diffusion process
    target = noise_scheduler.step(noise_pred, t, target).prev_sample
```

srl_il

