# DPM-Solver: A Fast ODE Solver for Diffusion Probabilistic Model Sampling in Around 10 Steps

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First, we review the algorithm of DDPM.

It consists of two processes: forward and reverse.

- *forward* process:

$$q(\mathbf{x}_t | \mathbf{x}_{t-1}) = \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{x}_t; \sqrt{1 - \beta_t} \mathbf{x}_{t-1}, \beta_t \mathbf{I})$$
(1)

- *reverse* process:

$$q(\mathbf{x}_{t-1}|\mathbf{x}_t, \mathbf{x}_0) = \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{x}_{t-1}; \tilde{\boldsymbol{\mu}}(\mathbf{x}_t, \mathbf{x}_0), \tilde{\beta}_t \mathbf{I})$$
(2)

where

$$\tilde{\beta}_{t} = 1/(\frac{\alpha_{t}}{\beta_{t}} + \frac{1}{1 - \bar{\alpha}_{t-1}}) = \frac{1 - \bar{\alpha}_{t-1}}{1 - \bar{\alpha}_{t}} \cdot \beta_{t}$$

$$\tilde{\mu}_{t}(\mathbf{x}_{t}, \mathbf{x}_{0}) = (\frac{\sqrt{\alpha_{t}}}{\beta_{t}}\mathbf{x}_{t} + \frac{\sqrt{\bar{\alpha}_{t}}}{1 - \bar{\alpha}_{t}}\mathbf{x}_{0})/(\frac{\alpha_{t}}{\beta_{t}} + \frac{1}{1 - \bar{\alpha}_{t-1}}) = \frac{\sqrt{\alpha_{t}}(1 - \bar{\alpha}_{t-1})}{1 - \bar{\alpha}_{t}}\mathbf{x}_{t} + \frac{\sqrt{\bar{\alpha}_{t-1}}\beta_{t}}{1 - \bar{\alpha}_{t}}\mathbf{x}_{0}$$
(3)

The two processes are shown in the discrete way.

For simplicity, we rewrite the forward process as:

$$q_{0t}(\boldsymbol{x}_t | \boldsymbol{x}_0) = \mathcal{N}(\boldsymbol{x}_t | \boldsymbol{\alpha}(t) \boldsymbol{x}_0, \sigma^2(t) \boldsymbol{I})$$
(4)

Yang Song\* proved that the forward process can be described in the

continuous way based on SDE (stochastic differential equation):

$$d\boldsymbol{x}_t = f(t)\boldsymbol{x}_t dt + g(t)d\boldsymbol{w}_t, \quad \boldsymbol{x}_0 \sim q_0(\boldsymbol{x}_0)$$
(5)

where

$$f(t) = \frac{\mathrm{d}\log\alpha_t}{\mathrm{d}t}, \quad g^2(t) = \frac{\mathrm{d}\sigma_t^2}{\mathrm{d}t} - 2\frac{\mathrm{d}\log\alpha_t}{\mathrm{d}t}\sigma_t^2 \tag{6}$$

Y. Song, J. Sohl-Dickstein, D. P. Kingma, A. Kumar, S. Ermon, and B. Poole, "Score-based generative modeling through stochastic differential equations", in ICLR 2021.

The reverse process via SDE is given as:

$$d\boldsymbol{x}_{t} = \left[f(t)\boldsymbol{x}_{t} + \frac{g^{2}(t)}{\sigma_{t}}\boldsymbol{\epsilon}_{\theta}(\boldsymbol{x}_{t}, t)\right]dt + g(t)d\bar{\boldsymbol{w}}_{t}, \quad \boldsymbol{x}_{T} \sim \mathcal{N}(\boldsymbol{0}, \tilde{\sigma}^{2}\boldsymbol{I})$$
(7)

Yang Song also proved that we can depict the reverse process of DDPM via

ODE by analyzing the marginal distribution at each time t of SDE.

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}\boldsymbol{x}_t}{\mathrm{d}t} = \boldsymbol{h}_{\theta}(\boldsymbol{x}_t, t) \coloneqq f(t)\boldsymbol{x}_t + \frac{g^2(t)}{2\sigma_t}\boldsymbol{\epsilon}_{\theta}(\boldsymbol{x}_t, t), \quad \boldsymbol{x}_T \sim \mathcal{N}(\boldsymbol{0}, \tilde{\sigma}^2 \boldsymbol{I})$$
(8)

When discretizing SDEs, the step size is limited by the randomness of the

Wiener process.

For sampling with fewer steps, we consider the associated ODE.

This paper proposed the k-th-order solution of Eqn. 8 and a method of

sampling DDPM with ODE.

It should be noticed that the work of analyzing and solving SDE is *Analytic DPM*, which is the outstanding paper of ICLR 22'. This work is also done by the group of *Jun Zhu*.

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The diffusion ODE is shown below:

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}\boldsymbol{x}_t}{\mathrm{d}t} = \boldsymbol{h}_{\theta}(\boldsymbol{x}_t, t) \coloneqq f(t)\boldsymbol{x}_t + \frac{g^2(t)}{2\sigma_t}\boldsymbol{\epsilon}_{\theta}(\boldsymbol{x}_t, t), \quad \boldsymbol{x}_T \sim \mathcal{N}(\boldsymbol{0}, \tilde{\sigma}^2 \boldsymbol{I})$$
(8)

which a semi-linear ODE. This kind of ODEs can be solved by variation of

*constants*. The solution is shown below:

$$\boldsymbol{x}_{t} = e^{\int_{s}^{t} f(\tau) \mathrm{d}\tau} \boldsymbol{x}_{s} + \int_{s}^{t} \left( e^{\int_{\tau}^{t} f(\tau) \mathrm{d}\tau} \frac{g^{2}(\tau)}{2\sigma_{\tau}} \boldsymbol{\epsilon}_{\theta}(\boldsymbol{x}_{\tau}, \tau) \right) \mathrm{d}\tau$$
(9)

where *s>t*.

We propose:

$$g^{2}(t) = \frac{\mathrm{d}\sigma_{t}^{2}}{\mathrm{d}t} - 2\frac{\mathrm{d}\log\alpha_{t}}{\mathrm{d}t}\sigma_{t}^{2} = 2\sigma_{t}^{2}\left(\frac{\mathrm{d}\log\sigma_{t}}{\mathrm{d}t} - \frac{\mathrm{d}\log\alpha_{t}}{\mathrm{d}t}\right) = -2\sigma_{t}^{2}\frac{\mathrm{d}\lambda_{t}}{\mathrm{d}t}$$
(10)  
where  $\lambda_{t} \coloneqq \log(\alpha_{t}/\sigma_{t})$ 

The Eqn. 9 can be simplified as:

$$\boldsymbol{x}_{t} = \frac{\alpha_{t}}{\alpha_{s}} \boldsymbol{x}_{s} - \alpha_{t} \int_{s}^{t} \left(\frac{\mathrm{d}\lambda_{\tau}}{\mathrm{d}\tau}\right) \frac{\sigma_{\tau}}{\alpha_{\tau}} \boldsymbol{\epsilon}_{\theta}(\boldsymbol{x}_{\tau}, \tau) \mathrm{d}\tau$$
(11)

By replacing the integrand variable from  $\tau$  to  $\lambda$ , we can get:

$$\boldsymbol{x}_{t} = \frac{\alpha_{t}}{\alpha_{s}} \boldsymbol{x}_{s} - \alpha_{t} \int_{\lambda_{s}}^{\lambda_{t}} e^{-\lambda} \hat{\boldsymbol{\epsilon}}_{\theta}(\hat{\boldsymbol{x}}_{\lambda}, \lambda) \mathrm{d}\lambda$$
(12)

By replacing *t* and *s*, we can get:

$$\boldsymbol{x}_{t_{i-1}\to t_i} = \frac{\alpha_{t_i}}{\alpha_{t_{i-1}}} \tilde{\boldsymbol{x}}_{t_{i-1}} - \alpha_{t_i} \int_{\lambda_{t_{i-1}}}^{\lambda_{t_i}} e^{-\lambda} \hat{\boldsymbol{\epsilon}}_{\theta}(\hat{\boldsymbol{x}}_{\lambda}, \lambda) \mathrm{d}\lambda$$
(13)

The (k-1)-th-order of Taylor Expansion of  $\hat{\epsilon}_{\theta}(\hat{x}_{\lambda}, \lambda)$  w.r.t  $\lambda$  at  $\lambda_{t_{i-1}}$  is:

$$\hat{\epsilon}_{\theta}(\hat{\boldsymbol{x}}_{\lambda},\lambda) = \sum_{n=0}^{k-1} \frac{(\lambda - \lambda_{t_{i-1}})^n}{n!} \hat{\epsilon}_{\theta}^{(n)}(\hat{\boldsymbol{x}}_{\lambda_{t_{i-1}}},\lambda_{t_{i-1}}) + \mathcal{O}((\lambda - \lambda_{t_{i-1}})^k)$$
(14)

Combining Eqn. 10 and 11, we can get:

$$\boldsymbol{x}_{t_{i-1}\to t_{i}} = \frac{\alpha_{t_{i}}}{\alpha_{t_{i-1}}} \tilde{\boldsymbol{x}}_{t_{i-1}} - \alpha_{t_{i}} \sum_{n=0}^{k-1} \hat{\boldsymbol{\epsilon}}_{\theta}^{(n)}(\hat{\boldsymbol{x}}_{\lambda_{t_{i-1}}}, \lambda_{t_{i-1}}) \int_{\lambda_{t_{i-1}}}^{\lambda_{t_{i}}} e^{-\lambda} \frac{(\lambda - \lambda_{t_{i-1}})^{n}}{n!} \mathrm{d}\lambda + \mathcal{O}(h_{i}^{k+1})$$
(15)

Considering k = 1:

$$\tilde{\boldsymbol{x}}_{t_i} = \frac{\alpha_{t_i}}{\alpha_{t_{i-1}}} \tilde{\boldsymbol{x}}_{t_{i-1}} - \sigma_{t_i} (e^{h_i} - 1) \boldsymbol{\epsilon}_{\theta} (\tilde{\boldsymbol{x}}_{t_{i-1}}, t_{i-1}), \quad \text{where } h_i = \lambda_{t_i} - \lambda_{t_{i-1}}$$
(16)

We name it DPM-Solver-1. We can find out that this is the formulation of DDIM. In other words, DDIM is the k - 1 = 0-th-order Taylor Expansion of diffusion ODE. That is not a good estimation.

J. Song, C. Meng, and S. Ermon, "Denoising Diffusion Implicit Models," in ICLR 2021.

Considering k = 2:

#### Algorithm 1 DPM-Solver-2.

**Require:** initial value  $\boldsymbol{x}_T$ , time steps  $\{t_i\}_{i=0}^M$ , model  $\boldsymbol{\epsilon}_{\theta}$ 1:  $\tilde{x}_{t_0} \leftarrow x_T$ 2: for  $i \leftarrow 1$  to M do 3:  $s_i \leftarrow t_\lambda \left(\frac{\lambda_{t_{i-1}} + \lambda_{t_i}}{2}\right)$ 4:  $\boldsymbol{u}_{i} \leftarrow \frac{\alpha_{s_{i}}}{\alpha_{t_{i-1}}} \tilde{\boldsymbol{x}}_{t_{i-1}} - \sigma_{s_{i}} \left( e^{\frac{h_{i}}{2}} - 1 \right) \boldsymbol{\epsilon}_{\theta} (\tilde{\boldsymbol{x}}_{t_{i-1}}, t_{i-1})$ 5:  $\tilde{\boldsymbol{x}}_{t_{i}} \leftarrow \frac{\alpha_{t_{i}}}{\alpha_{t_{i-1}}} \tilde{\boldsymbol{x}}_{t_{i-1}} - \sigma_{t_{i}} \left( e^{h_{i}} - 1 \right) \boldsymbol{\epsilon}_{\theta} (\boldsymbol{u}_{i}, s_{i})$ 6: end for 7: return  $\tilde{x}_{t_M}$ 

Considering k = 3:

Algorithm 2 DPM-Solver-3.

**Require:** initial value  $\boldsymbol{x}_T$ , time steps  $\{t_i\}_{i=0}^M$ , model  $\boldsymbol{\epsilon}_{\theta}$ 1:  $\tilde{\boldsymbol{x}}_{t_0} \leftarrow \boldsymbol{x}_T, r_1 \leftarrow \frac{1}{2}, r_2 \leftarrow \frac{2}{2}$ 2: for  $i \leftarrow 1$  to M do  $s_{2i-1} \leftarrow t_{\lambda} \left( \lambda_{t_{i-1}} + r_1 h_i \right), \quad s_{2i} \leftarrow t_{\lambda} \left( \lambda_{t_{i-1}} + r_2 h_i \right)$ 3:  $\boldsymbol{u}_{2i-1} \leftarrow \frac{\alpha_{s_{2i-1}}}{\alpha_{t_{i-1}}} \tilde{\boldsymbol{x}}_{t_{i-1}} - \sigma_{s_{2i-1}} \left( e^{r_1 h_i} - 1 \right) \boldsymbol{\epsilon}_{\theta} \left( \tilde{\boldsymbol{x}}_{t_{i-1}}, t_{i-1} \right)$ 4:  $\boldsymbol{D}_{2i-1} \leftarrow \boldsymbol{\epsilon}_{\theta}(\boldsymbol{u}_{2i-1}, s_{2i-1}) - \boldsymbol{\epsilon}_{\theta}(\tilde{\boldsymbol{x}}_{t_{i-1}}, t_{i-1})$ 5:  $\boldsymbol{u}_{2i} \leftarrow \frac{\alpha_{s_{2i}}}{\alpha_{t_{i-1}}} \tilde{\boldsymbol{x}}_{t_{i-1}} - \sigma_{s_{2i}} \left( e^{r_2 h_i} - 1 \right) \boldsymbol{\epsilon}_{\theta} \left( \tilde{\boldsymbol{x}}_{t_{i-1}}, t_{i-1} \right) - \frac{\sigma_{s_{2i}} r_2}{r_1} \left( \frac{e^{r_2 h_i} - 1}{r_2 h_i} - 1 \right) \boldsymbol{D}_{2i-1}$ 6:  $\boldsymbol{D}_{2i} \leftarrow \boldsymbol{\epsilon}_{\theta}(\boldsymbol{u}_{2i}, s_{2i}) - \boldsymbol{\epsilon}_{\theta}(\tilde{\boldsymbol{x}}_{t_{i-1}}, t_{i-1})$ 7:  $\tilde{\boldsymbol{x}}_{t_i} \leftarrow \frac{\alpha_{t_i}}{\alpha_{t_{i-1}}} \tilde{\boldsymbol{x}}_{t_{i-1}} - \sigma_{t_i} \left( e^{h_i} - 1 \right) \boldsymbol{\epsilon}_{\theta} \left( \tilde{\boldsymbol{x}}_{t_{i-1}}, t_{i-1} \right) - \frac{\sigma_{t_i}}{r_2} \left( \frac{e^{h_i} - 1}{h} - 1 \right) \boldsymbol{D}_{2i}$ 8: 9: end for

10: return  $\tilde{x}_{t_M}$ 

DPM-Solver-k takes k diffusion steps per time. How to deploy it to a sampling process?

- Indicate the number of steps *NFE* of the entire diffusion process.

- Apply DPM-Solver-3 as much as possible. If the NFE is not divisible by 3,

add a single step of DPM-Solver-2 or DPM-Solver-1 (dependent on the remainder).

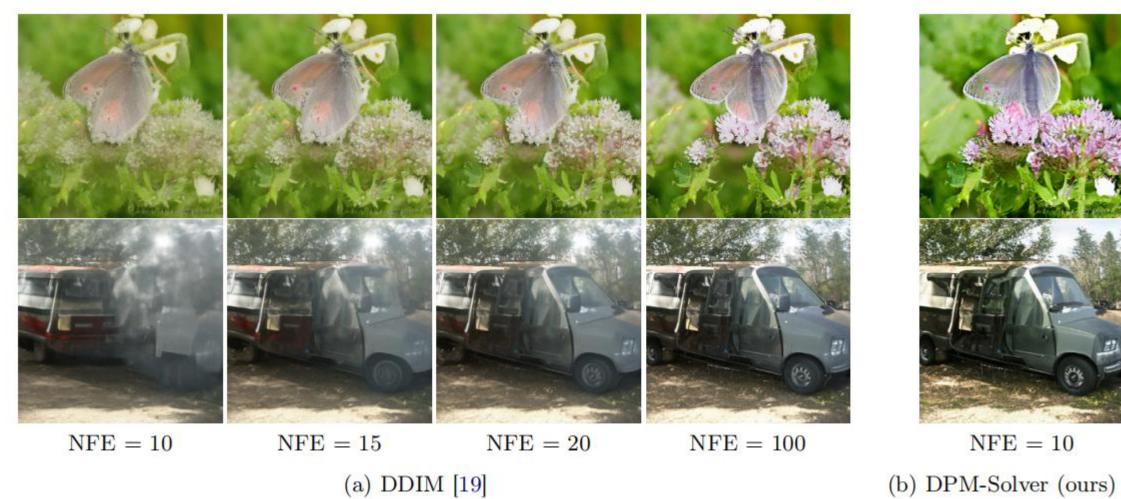
The sampling step schedule is uniformly split the interval of  $[\lambda_T, \lambda_0]$ , i.e.:

$$\lambda_{t_i} = \lambda_T + \frac{i}{M}(\lambda_0 - \lambda_T), i = 0, \dots, M$$

which is different from the uniformly  $\beta$  in previous works.

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#### ResultsNFE = 10NFE = 12NFE = 15NFE = 20



DDIM [19]

DPM-Solver (ours)



Any drawbacks?

- DPM Solver performs quite bad when using classifier-free guidance with large scale factors.

Further work to solve the problem:

C. Lu, Y. Zhou, F. Bao, J. Chen, C. Li, and J. Zhu, "DPM-Solver++: Fast Solver for

Guided Sampling of Diffusion Probabilistic Models"

Thanks for watching.

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