

### **DPOK: Reinforcement Learning for** Fine-tuning Text-to-Image Diffusion Models

Ying Fan\*, Olivia Watkins, Yuqing Du, Hao Liu, Moonkyung Ryu, Craig Boutilier, Pieter Abbeel, Mohammad Ghavamzadeh, Kangwook Lee, Kimin Lee\* (\*Equal technical contribution)





## **Denoising diffusion probabilistic models**

t=1

Forward (diffusion) process:  $q(x_{1:T} | x_0) = \prod q(x_t | x_{t-1}), q(x_t | x_{t-1}) = \mathcal{N}(\sqrt{1 - \beta_t} x_{t-1}, \beta_t I)$ 



### Denoising diffusion probabilistic models

Forward (diffusion) process:  $q(x_{1:T} | x_0) = \prod_{t=1}^{I}$ 

Backward process:  $p(x_T) = \mathcal{N}(0,I), p_{\theta}(x_{t-1})$ 

where 
$$\alpha_t = 1 - \beta_t$$
,  $\overline{\alpha}_t = \prod_{s=1}^t \alpha_s$ ,  $\widetilde{\beta}_t = \frac{1 - \overline{\alpha}_{t-1}}{1 - \overline{\alpha}_t} \beta_t$ ,  $\mu_{\theta}(x_t, t) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\alpha_t}} \left( x_t - \frac{\beta_t}{\sqrt{1 - \overline{\alpha}_t}} \epsilon_{\theta}(x_t, t) \right)$ 

$$\prod_{1} q(x_t | x_{t-1}), q(x_t | x_{t-1}) = \mathcal{N}(\sqrt{1 - \beta_t} x_{t-1}, \beta_t I)$$

$$|x_t) = \mathcal{N}(\mu_{\theta}(x_t, t), \Sigma_t)$$



### **Denoising diffusion probabilistic models**

t = 1

Backward process:  $p(x_T) = \mathcal{N}(0,I), p_{\theta}(x_{t-1})$ 

where 
$$\alpha_{t} = 1 - \beta_{t}, \overline{\alpha}_{t} = \prod_{s=1}^{t} \alpha_{s}, \overline{\beta}_{t} = \frac{1 - \overline{\alpha}_{t-1}}{1 - \overline{\alpha}_{t}} \beta_{t}, \mu_{\theta}(x_{t}, t) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\alpha_{t}}} \left( x_{t} - \frac{\beta_{t}}{\sqrt{1 - \overline{\alpha}_{t}}} e_{\theta}(x_{t}, t) \right)$$
  
raining a DDPM [1]: Minimizing  $\mathbb{E} \left[ \sum_{t=1}^{T} \text{KL}(q(x_{t-1} \mid x_{t}, x_{0}) \parallel p_{\theta}(x_{t-1} \mid x_{t}))) \right]$   
 $(\mathbf{x}_{T} \rightarrow \cdots \rightarrow (\mathbf{x}_{t}) \xrightarrow{p_{\theta}(\mathbf{x}_{t-1} \mid \mathbf{x}_{t})} (\mathbf{x}_{t-1} \rightarrow \cdots \rightarrow (\mathbf{x}_{0}))$ 

Tr

[1] Ho, J., Jain, A., & Abbeel, P. (2020). Denoising diffusion probabilistic models. Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems, 33.

Forward (diffusion) process:  $q(x_{1:T} | x_0) = \prod q(x_t | x_{t-1}), q(x_t | x_{t-1}) = \mathcal{N}(\sqrt{1 - \beta_t} x_{t-1}, \beta_t I)$ 

$$|x_t) = \mathcal{N}(\mu_{\theta}(x_t, t), \Sigma_t)$$



Text-to-image diffusion model as conditional generation: lacksquare

- Text-to-image diffusion model as conditional generation:  $\bullet$ 
  - Given text z, we learn both unconditional  $\epsilon_{\theta}(x_t, t)$  and conditional  $\epsilon_{\theta}(x_t, t, z)$

- Text-to-image diffusion model as conditional generation: ullet
  - Given text z, we learn both unconditional  $\epsilon_{\theta}(x_t, t)$  and conditional  $\epsilon_{\theta}(x_t, t, z)$
  - Let  $\overline{\epsilon}_{\theta} = w \epsilon_{\theta}(x_t, t, z) + (1 w) \epsilon_{\theta}(x_t, t)$  where w is the guidance scale

- Text-to-image diffusion model as conditional generation: ullet
  - Given text z, we learn both unconditional  $\epsilon_{\theta}(x_t, t)$  and conditional  $\epsilon_{\theta}(x_t, t, z)$
  - Let  $\overline{\epsilon}_{\theta} = w \epsilon_{\theta}(x_t, t, z) + (1 w) \epsilon_{\theta}(x_t, t)$  where w is the guidance scale
  - At test time, given z, the image is generated with  $\overline{\epsilon}_{\theta}$



SFT [2] objective:  $\mathbb{E}_{p(z)}$ 

[2] Lee, Kimin, Liu, Hao, Ryu, Moonkyung, Watkins, Olivia, Du, Yuqing, Boutilier, Craig, Abbeel, Pieter, Ghavamzadeh, Mohammad, and Gu, Shixiang Shane. Aligning text-to-image models using human feedback. arXiv preprint arXiv:2302.12192, 2023.

$$\mathbb{E}_{p \operatorname{pre}(x_0|z)}[-r(x_0, z)\log p_{\theta}(x_0|z)]$$



As shown by Lee et al., although effective in improving the reward, SFT often induces a lacksquaredeterioration in image quality (e.g., over-saturated or non-photorealistic images)

#### Original model



(a) Seen text prompt: Two green dogs on the table.

Fine-tuned model (ours)

• As shown by Lee et al., although effective in improving the reward, SFT often induces a deterioration in image quality (e.g., over-saturated or non-photorealistic images)

1. The reward re-weighted distribution is estimated *using samples coming from the pretrained model*, which might not be diverse and good enough to learn from

What if we do **online training**?

**Original model** 



(a) Seen text prompt: Two green dogs on the table.

Fine-tuned model (ours)

• As shown by Lee et al., although effective in improving the reward, SFT often induces a deterioration in image quality (e.g., over-saturated or non-photorealistic images)

1. The reward re-weighted distribution is estimated *using samples coming from the pretrained model*, which might not be diverse and good enough to learn from

What if we do **online training**? ullet

2. Optimization of the SFT objective could leads to images too *far away from the pre-trained distribution*, resulting in lower image quality

What if we add **some regularization**?

**Original model** 



(a) Seen text prompt: Two green dogs on the table.

Fine-tuned model (ours)

## Online RL fine-tuning of diffusion models

• MDP formulation:

 $s_{t} = (z, x_{T-t}), a_{t} = x_{T-t-1}, P_{0}(s_{0}) = (p(z), \mathcal{N}(0, I)), P(s_{t+1} | s_{t}, a_{t}) = (\delta_{z}, \delta_{a_{t}})$  $R(s_{t}, a_{t}) = \{ \begin{array}{c} r(s_{t+1}) = r(x_{0}, z) & \text{if} t = T - 1, \\ 0 & \text{otherwise}. \end{array}$ 

•  $\pi_{\theta}(a_t \mid s_t) = p_{\theta}(x_{T-t-1} \mid x_{T-t}, z)$ 

 $\min_{\theta} \mathbb{E}_{p(z)} \mathbb{E}_{p_{\theta}(x_0|z)} [-r(x_0, z)]$ 

 $\nabla_{\theta} \mathbb{E}_{p(z)} \mathbb{E}_{p_{\theta}(x_0|z)} [-r(x_0, z)] = \mathbb{E}_{p(z)} \mathbb{E}_{p_{\theta}(x_0|z)}$ 

 $\sum_{t=1}^{T} \nabla_{\theta} \log p_{\theta}(x_{t-1} \mid x_{t}, z)$ 

## **Online RL fine-tuning of diffusion models**

- MDP formulation: ullet
  - $s_t = (z, x_{T-t}), a_t = x_{T-t-1}, P_0(s_0) = (p(z), \mathcal{N}(0, I)), P(s_{t+1} | s_t, a_t) = (\delta_z, \delta_{a_t})$

• 
$$R(s_t, a_t) = \{ \begin{array}{ll} r(s_{t+1}) = r(x_0, z) & \text{if } t = T - 1, \\ 0 & \text{otherwise }. \end{array}$$

• 
$$\pi_{\theta}(a_t \mid s_t) = p_{\theta}(x_{T-t-1} \mid x_{T-t}, z)$$

## Online RL fine-tuning of diffusion models

- MDP formulation:  $\bullet$ 
  - $s_t = (z, x_{T-t}), a_t = x_{T-t-1}, P_0(s_0) = (p(z), \mathcal{N}(0, I)), P(s_{t+1} | s_t, a_t) = (\delta_z, \delta_a)$

• 
$$R(s_t, a_t) = \{ \begin{array}{ll} r(s_{t+1}) = r(x_0, z) & \text{if } t = T - 1, \\ 0 & \text{otherwise }. \end{array}$$

• 
$$\pi_{\theta}(a_t \mid s_t) = p_{\theta}(x_{T-t-1} \mid x_{T-t}, z)$$

We can show that optimizing this MDP with policy gradient is equivalent to minimizing ullet $\min_{\theta} \mathbb{E}_{p(z)} \mathbb{E}_{p_{\theta}(x_0|z)}[-r(x_0, z)] \text{ (similar to [3]):}$ 

$$\nabla_{\theta} \mathbb{E}_{p(z)} \mathbb{E}_{p_{\theta}(x_0|z)}[-r(x_0, z)] = \mathbb{E}_{p(z)} \mathbb{E}_{p_{\theta}(x_0; z|z)}$$

[3] Fan, Ying and Lee, Kangwook. Optimizing DDPM sampling with shortcut fine-tuning. Proceedings of the 40 th International Conference on Machine Learning.

$$-r(x_0, z) \sum_{t=1}^{T} \nabla_{\theta} \log p_{\theta}(x_{t-1} | x_t, z)$$

# Adding online KL regularization

• regularizer to avoid overfitting the reward:  $KL(p_{\theta}(x_0 | z) || p_{pre}(x_0 | z))$ 

We can add the KL divergence between the fine-tuned and the pre-trained model as a

# Adding online KL regularization

- We can add the KL divergence between the fine-tuned and the pre-trained model as a regularizer to avoid overfitting the reward:  $KL(p_{\theta}(x_0 | z) || p_{pre}(x_0 | z))$
- Unfortunately,  $p_{\theta}(x_0 | z)$  is not tractable, so we propose to consider an upper-bound: •

$$\mathbb{E}_{p(z)}[\mathrm{KL}(p_{\theta}(x_{0} | z)) \parallel p_{\mathrm{pre}}(x_{0} | z))] \leq \mathbb{E}_{p(z)}\left[\sum_{t=1}^{T} \mathbb{E}_{p_{\theta}(x_{t} | z)}[\mathrm{KL}(p_{\theta}(x_{t-1} | x_{t}, z) \parallel p_{\mathrm{pre}}(x_{t-1} | x_{t}, z))]\right]$$

# Adding online KL regularization

- We can add the KL divergence between the fine-tuned and the pre-trained model as a regularizer to avoid overfitting the reward:  $KL(p_{\theta}(x_0 | z) \parallel p_{pre}(x_0 | z))$
- Unfortunately,  $p_{\theta}(x_0 | z)$  is not tractable, so we propose to consider an upper-bound:

$$\mathbb{E}_{p(z)}[\mathrm{KL}(p_{\theta}(x_{0} | z)) \parallel p_{\mathrm{pre}}(x_{0} | z))] \leq \mathbb{E}_{p(z)} \left[ \sum_{t=1}^{T} \mathbb{E}_{p_{\theta}(x_{t} | z)}[\mathrm{KL}(p_{\theta}(x_{t-1} | x_{t}, z) \parallel p_{\mathrm{pre}}(x_{t-1} | x_{t}, z))] \right]$$

• We use the following gradient to optimize our KL-regularized RL training:

$$\mathbb{E}_{p(z)}\mathbb{E}_{p_{\theta}(x_{0:T}|z)}[-\alpha r(x_{0},z)\sum_{t=1}^{T}\nabla_{\theta}\log p_{\theta}(x_{t-1}|x_{t},z) + \beta \sum_{t=1}^{T}\nabla_{\theta}\mathrm{KL}(p_{\theta}(x_{t-1}|x_{t},z) \parallel p_{\mathrm{pre}}(x_{t-1}|x_{t},z))]$$

# **Results: SFT vs RL fine-tuning**

- We compare the original model, SFT model (with supervised KL regularization) and RL model (with online KL regularization), using ImageReward [4] as the reward model.
- We focus on capabilities like generating specific color, composition, count and location  $\bullet$



[4] Xu, Jiazheng, Liu, Xiao, Wu, Yuchen, Tong, Yuxuan, Li, Qinkai, Ding, Ming, Tang, Jie, and Dong, Yuxiao. ImageReward: Learning and evaluating human preferences for text-to-image



## **Results: SFT vs RL fine-tuning**

- For image quality, we adopt aesthetic score [5] as a proxy of visual quality  $\bullet$
- $\bullet$
- lacksquaretext-to-image alignment while maintaining high image quality



Laion 5b: An apon large scale detest for training next generation image text models ar Viv preprint ar Viv: 2210.08402.2022

Besides ImageReward and aesthetic score, we also conduct human evaluation on the trained models.

We observe that compared to SFT, online fine-tuning with KL regularization is more effective in **improving** 

[5] Schuhmann, Christoph, Beaumont, Romain, Vencu, Richard, Gordon, Cade, Wightman, Ross, Cherti, Mehdi, Coombes, Theo, Katta, Aarush, Mullis, Clayton, Wortsman, Mitchell, et al.



## **Results: Fine-tuning on multiple prompts**

- $\bullet$ 
  - We also utilize an extra value function for variance reduction which shows  $\bullet$ improvement in the multi-prompt training

	MS-CoCo		Drawbench	
	Original model	RL model	Original model	RL model
ImageReward score Aesthetic score	0.22 5.39	0.55 5.43	0.13 5.31	0.58 5.35

Table 1: ImageReward scores and Aesthetic scores from the original model, and RL fine-tuned model on multiple prompts from MS-CoCo (104 prompts) and Drawbench (183 prompts). We report the average ImageReward and Aesthetic scores across 3120 and 5490 images on MS-CoCo and Drawbench, respectively (30 images per each prompt).

The proposed method is effective in optimizing rewards given a larger set of prompts



Figure 7: Learning curves with and without value learning, trained on the Drawbench prompt set: Adding value learning could result in higher reward using less time.



## References

[1] Ho, J., Jain, A., & Abbeel, P. (2020). Denoising diffusion probabilistic models. *Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems*, 33.

[2] Lee, Kimin, Liu, Hao, Ryu, Moonkyung, Watkins, Olivia, Du, Yuqing, Boutilier, Craig, Abbeel, Pieter, Ghavamzadeh, Mohammad, and Gu, Shixiang Shane. Aligning text-to-image models using human feedback. arXiv preprint arXiv:2302.12192, 2023.

[3] Fan, Ying and Lee, Kangwook. Optimizing ddpm sampling with shortcut fine-tuning. *Proceedings of the 40 th International Conference on Machine Learning*.

[4] Xu, Jiazheng, Liu, Xiao, Wu, Yuchen, Tong, Yuxuan, Li, Qinkai, Ding, Ming, Tang, Jie, and Dong, Yuxiao. Imagereward: Learning and evaluating human preferences for text-to-image generation. In Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems, 2023.

[5] Schuhmann, Christoph, Beaumont, Romain, Vencu, Richard, Gordon, Cade, Wightman, Ross, Cherti, Mehdi, Coombes, Theo, Katta, Aarush, Mullis, Clayton, Wortsman, Mitchell, et al. Laion-5b: An open large-scale dataset for training next generation image-text models. arXiv preprint arXiv:2210.08402, 2022.

## Thank you!