# A Data-Driven Prism: Multi-View Source Separation with Diffusion Model Priors

#### **EUCAIF 2025**

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Gendler et al., 2014

## Motivating Examples: Galaxies

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Koekemoer et al., 2007

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- We want:
  - A **prior** for galaxies:  $p(\mathbf{x}_{gal})$
  - Posterior sampling of just the galaxy light:  $p(\mathbf{x}_{gal}|\mathbf{y}_{obs})$
- We have: line-of-sight, noise



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- What part of the light comes from the **central galaxy**? **How** do we know?
- We want:
  - A **prior** for galaxies:  $p(\mathbf{x}_{gal})$
  - **Posterior** sampling of just the galaxy light:  $p(\mathbf{x}_{gal}|\mathbf{y}_{obs})$
- We have: line-of-sight, noise, and **multi-resolution**



$$\mathbf{y}_{i_{\alpha}}^{\alpha} = \left(\sum_{\beta=1}^{N_{s}} \mathbf{A}_{i_{\alpha}}^{\alpha\beta} \mathbf{x}_{i_{\alpha}}^{\beta}\right) + \eta_{i_{\alpha}}^{\alpha}$$
$$\alpha \in \{1, \dots, N_{\text{views}}\}$$
$$\beta \in \{1, \dots, N_{s}\}$$

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- Consider:
  - A noisy observation (of a specific view i.e. galaxies or randoms)...
  - composed of a linear mixture of independent sources.
  - The mixture of each source is given by a matrix that depends on the view, the source, and the specific sample.





$$\begin{split} \mathbf{y}_{i_{\alpha}}^{\alpha} &= \left(\sum_{\beta=1}^{N_{s}} \mathbf{A}_{i_{\alpha}}^{\alpha\beta} \mathbf{x}_{i_{\alpha}}^{\beta}\right) + \eta_{i_{\alpha}}^{\alpha} \\ \alpha &\in \{1, \dots, N_{\text{views}}\} \\ \beta &\in \{1, \dots, N_{s}\} \end{split}$$







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 $p(\mathbf{x}^{\beta})$ 

• We then want to separate the sources by sampling from the joint posterior:

 $p(\{\mathbf{x}^{\beta}\}|\mathbf{y}_{i}^{\alpha},\mathbf{A}_{i}^{lphaeta})$ 



# Ingredients

- 1. Flexible Bayesian prior that can capture our unknown source distributions
- 2. Ability to train that prior given incomplete, noisy data
- 3. Ability to disentangle multiple sources from the same observation

#### Review: Diffusion Models

• Start with observed samples and perturb them through a diffusion process given by the SDE:

$$\mathrm{d}x_t = f_t x_t \mathrm{d}t + g_t \mathrm{d}w_t$$

• The reverse SDE is given by:

$$dx_t = \left[f_t x_t - g(t)^2 \nabla_{x_t} \log p(x_t)\right] dt + g(t) d\bar{w}_t$$

#### Review: Diffusion Models



- With enough perturbation, final timestep is equivalent to noise.
- Integrating backwards with reverse SDE gives a sample from the original distribution. We just need the **score**. Train a model to estimate it.

Song et al., 2021

### Review: Diffusion Models as Priors

• What if we want to condition on an observation? We need the score of the posterior:

$$dx_t = \left[f_t x_t - g(t)^2 \nabla_{x_t} \log p(x_t | y)\right] dt + g(t) d\bar{w}_t$$

• From Bayes rule:

$$\nabla_{x_t} \log p(x_t|y) = \nabla_{x_t} \log p(x_t) + \nabla_{x_t} \log p(y|x_t).$$

• First term we already have, second term comes from integral:

$$p(y|x_t) = \int p(y|x_0)p(x_0|x_t) \mathrm{d}x_0$$

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#### Review: Diffusion Priors from Observations

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## Joint Posterior Sampling with Diffusion Priors

**Observations** 







Expectation

Maximization

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Observations







Expectation



Maximization

## Joint Posterior Sampling with Diffusion Priors









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#### Image Data: Contrastive

#### $y^1$ Examples



#### $y^2$ Examples



## Image Data: Contrastive

- Two views:
  - 1. Pure grass background
  - 2. Mixture of digits and grass background
- Assume we have **noisy** and **incomplete** data
- Goal: separate two source distributions
  - Start by training initial grass distribution from first view, then train MNIST distribution using second view







Sample

 $x^2$ 

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- Assume we have **noisy** and **incomplete** data
- Goal: separate two source distributions
  - Start by training initial grass distribution from first view, then train MNIST distribution using second view
- Successfully disentangled sources!

#### Epoch 1



#### Galaxies: Contrastive

- Two views:
  - 1. Random foreground / background
  - 2. Galaxies with the foreground / background
- Goal: separate two source distributions (galaxies and randoms)



Random Posterior

Galaxy Posterior

#### Galaxies: Contrastive

- Two views:
  - 1. Random foreground / background
  - 2. Galaxies with the foreground / background
- **Goal:** separate two source distributions (galaxies and randoms)
- Convincing separation!
  - Not perfect:
    - Artifacts from random model
    - Metrics to evaluate performance



#### Conclusions

- For astrophysics, pristine, isolated observations are rare; leveraging these datasets requires solving a **source separation problem**
- We've presented a method that is **effective** even when:
  - No source is ever individually observed (mixed sources)
  - Observations are noisy and incomplete
  - Resolution and mixing varies (i.e. different observatories)
- Diffusion models enable us to directly probe what our sources look like
  - Data-driven priors form our next-generation sky surveys
  - Statistically principled and interpretable posteriors

#### Extra Slides

- Sources are two distinct 1D manifolds embedded in a 5D space
- Observations are 2D random mixture of the manifolds
- Want to disentangle both manifolds

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{y}_{i_{\alpha}}^{\alpha} &= \mathbf{A}_{i_{\alpha}} \left( \sum_{\beta=1}^{N_{s}} c^{\alpha\beta} \mathbf{x}_{i_{\alpha}}^{\beta} \right) + \eta_{i_{\alpha}}^{\alpha} \\ c^{\alpha\beta} &= \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } \alpha = \beta \\ f_{\text{mix}} & \text{if } \alpha \neq \beta \end{cases} \\ N_{\text{view}} &\geq N_{s} \end{aligned}$$





• We have samples from the two views and their corresponding mixing matrices



Wagner-Carena et al., in prep.

#### 1D Manifolds: Mixed



6/19/2025









- Can disentangle the sources, even when **no source is seen on its own**.
- Outperforms baseline Gibbs sampling approach, even for much larger mixing fractions
- Works with **significant information loss** on individual observations.

