

ENGINEERING TIP:  
WHEN YOU DO A TASK BY HAND,  
YOU CAN TECHNICALLY SAY YOU  
TRAINED A NEURAL NET TO DO IT.

# Diffusion models for generating structures

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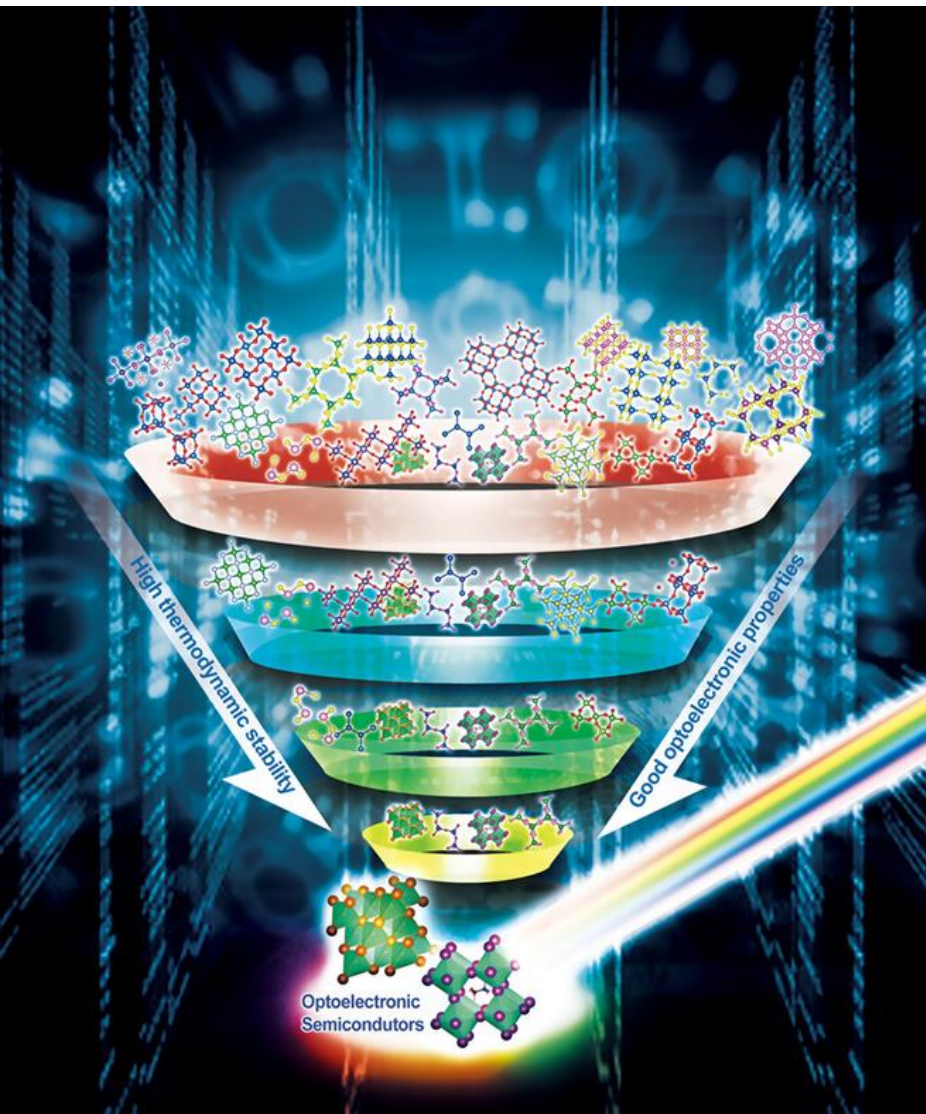
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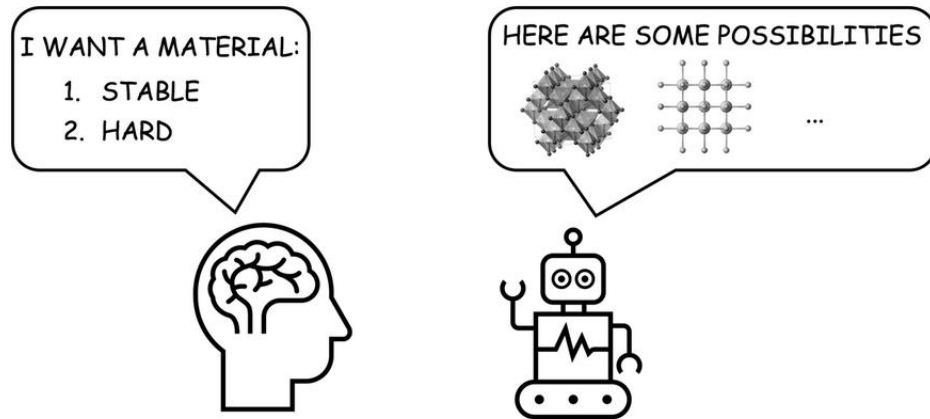
[saigautamg@iisc.ac.in](mailto:saigautamg@iisc.ac.in)<sup>1</sup>; [k.t.butler@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:k.t.butler@ucl.ac.uk)<sup>2</sup>; <https://sai-mat-group.github.io>

Jan 8, 2025

# Inverse materials design



Property  $\rightarrow$  Structure

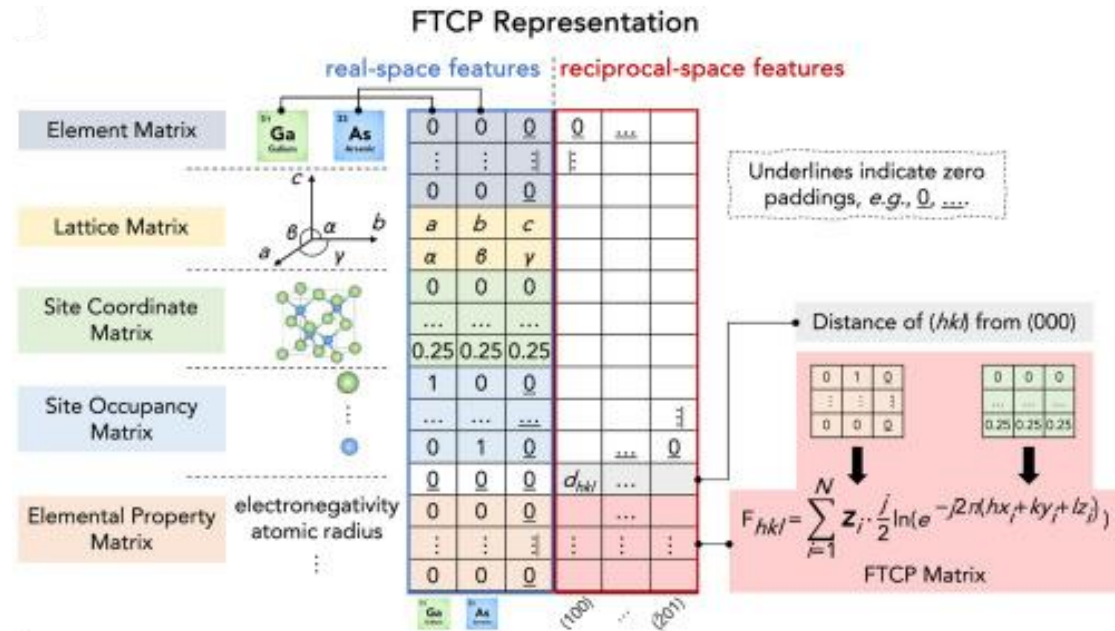
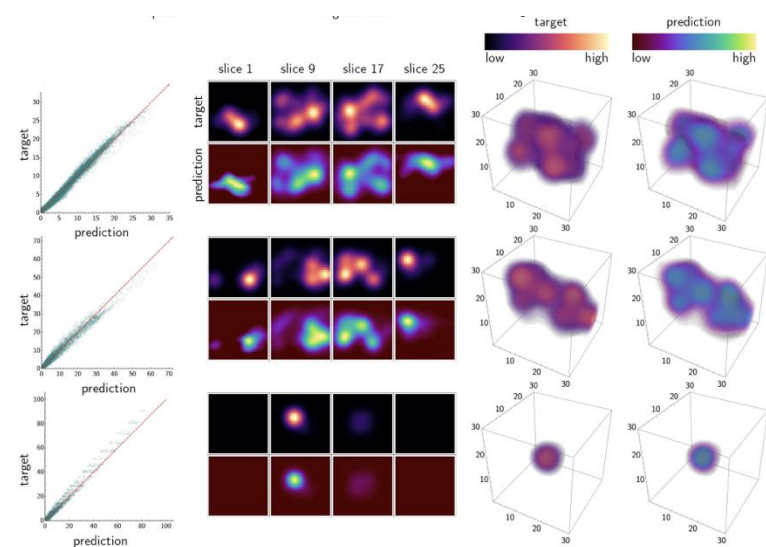
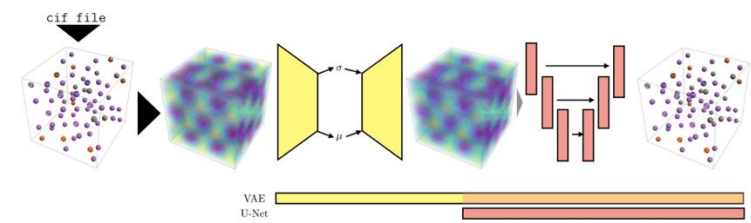


<https://news.mit.edu/2022/new-way-perform-general-inverse-design-high-accuracy-0118>

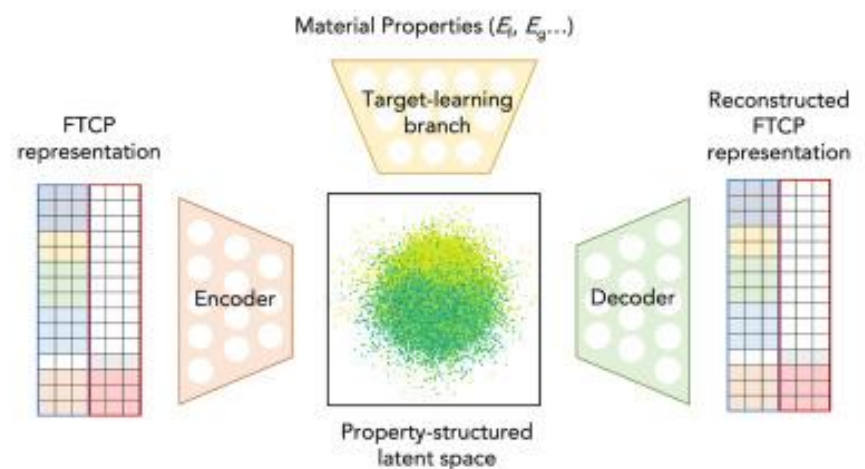
# Generative models (classic)

- Step 1: encode a configuration ( $\sigma$ ) into a latent/feature space ( $Z$ )
  - $Z = f(\sigma)$
- Critical info of any structure
  - Composition
  - Lattice parameters
  - Atomic positions
  - Use graph neural networks to obtain  $Z$
  - $Z$  can be mapped to labelled properties
- Step 2: decode configuration from latent space using a learnable function
  - $\sigma' = f'(Z)$
  - Introduces noise
  - Provides a probability distribution (compositions, lattice parameters, and positions)
- Step 3: generate configuration by sampling probabilities
  - $\sigma_{sampled} = p(Z)$
  - Given constraints on target properties, composition, and/or lattice geometry

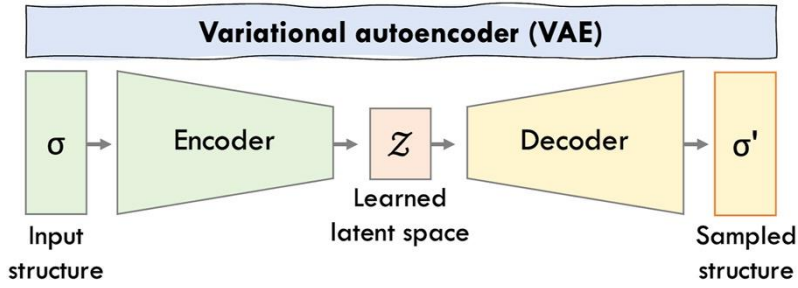
# Variational autoencoder (VAE) models: ~classic



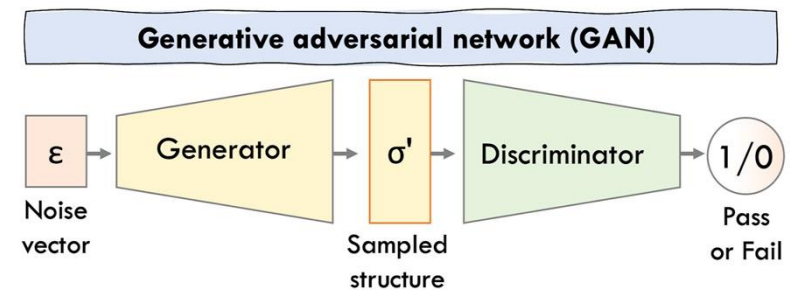
VAE Model with Property-Structured Latent Space



# Advancements in generative models

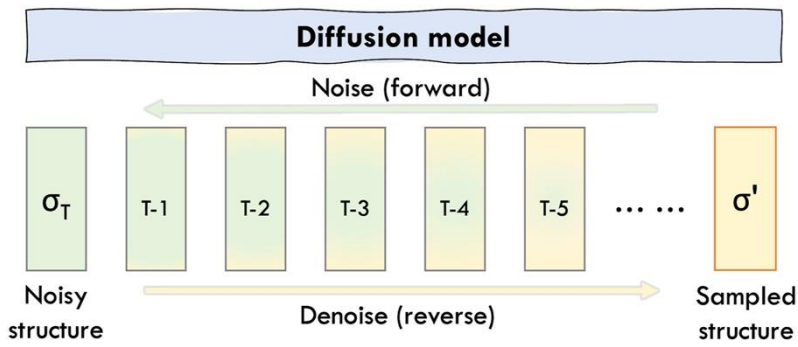


Classic

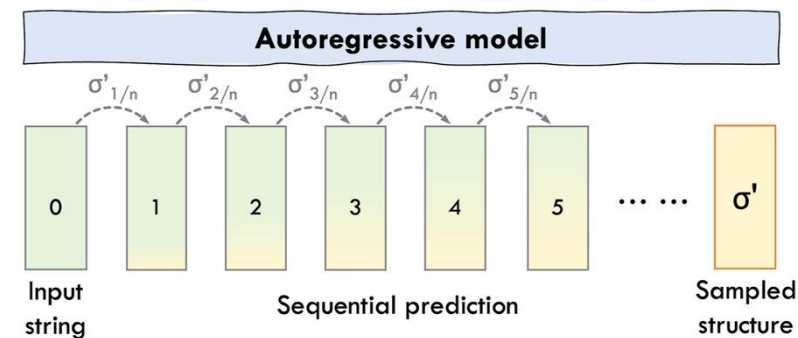


Generator confuses discriminator with synthetic data

- Beaten by diffusion models 😞



Progressive noise addition/removal



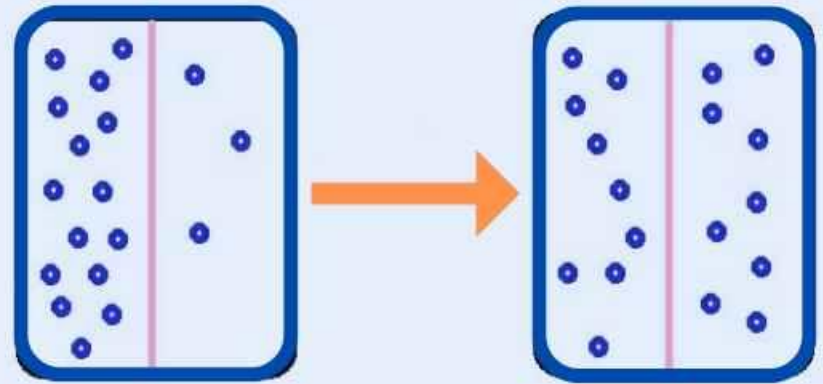
Sequential probability (language models)



# What is diffusion?

## What is Diffusion?

**Diffusion is a process that refers to the movement of particles from an area of high concentration to an area of lower concentration. This process leads to a equal distribution of particles throughout the system.**

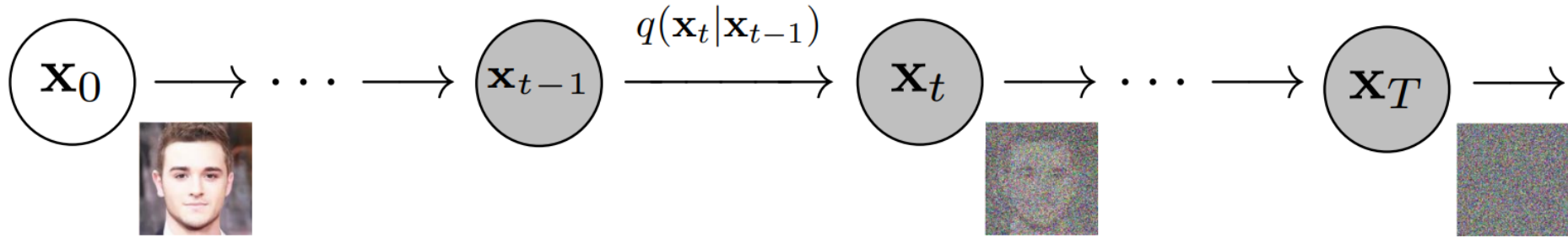


<https://eduinput.com/what-is-diffusion/>

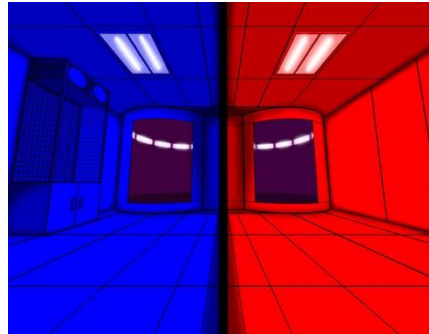
It's actually chemical potential gradients that drive...

# What is diffusion?

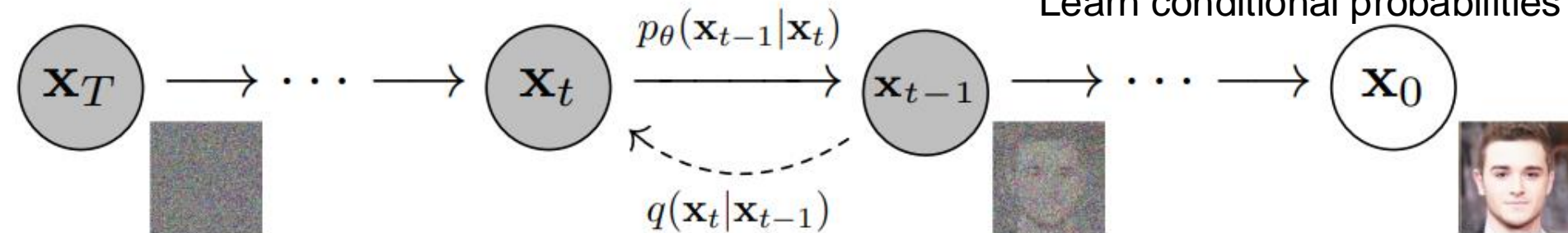
Forward diffusion



Gaussian noise added in a Markov chain



Learn conditional probabilities



Reverse diffusion

# Another example of diffusion in images

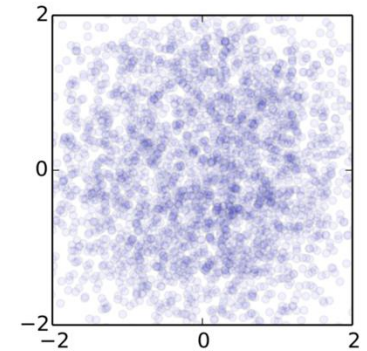
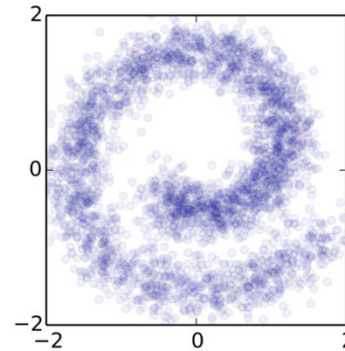
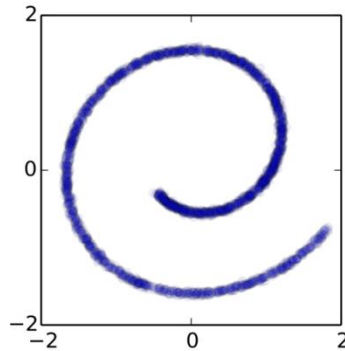
$t = 0$

$t = \frac{T}{2}$

$t = T$

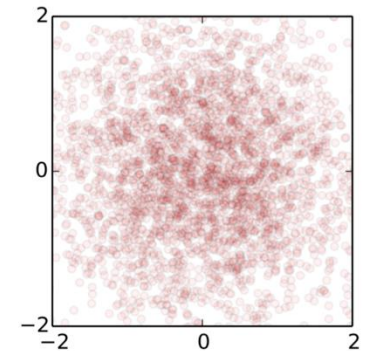
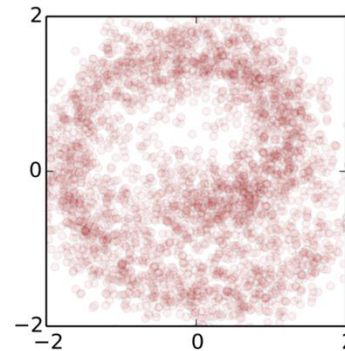
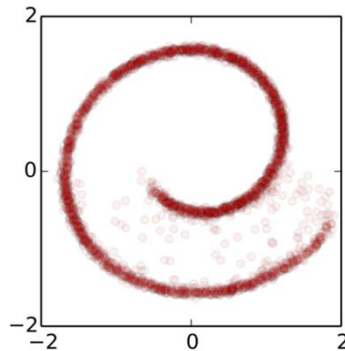
The forward trajectory

$$q(\mathbf{x}_{0:T})$$



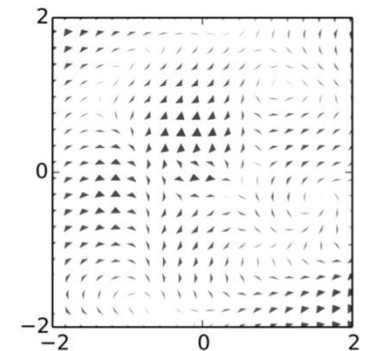
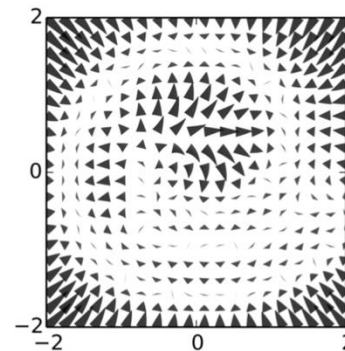
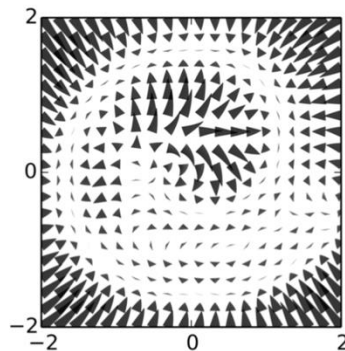
The reverse trajectory

$$p_{\theta}(\mathbf{x}_{0:T})$$



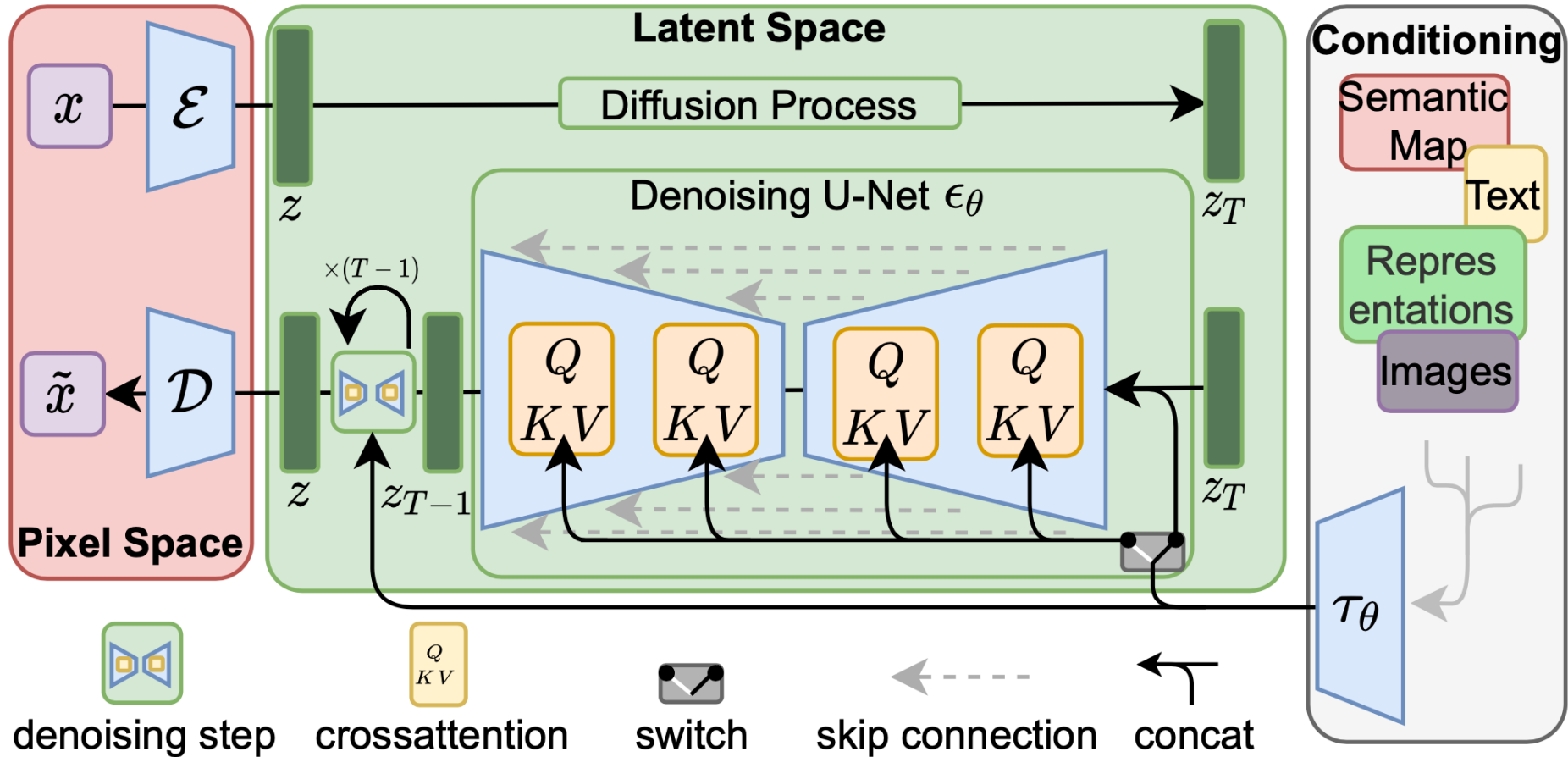
The drifting term

$$\boldsymbol{\mu}_{\theta}(\mathbf{x}_t, t) - \mathbf{x}_t$$





# Sample workflow: diffusion model in image latent space

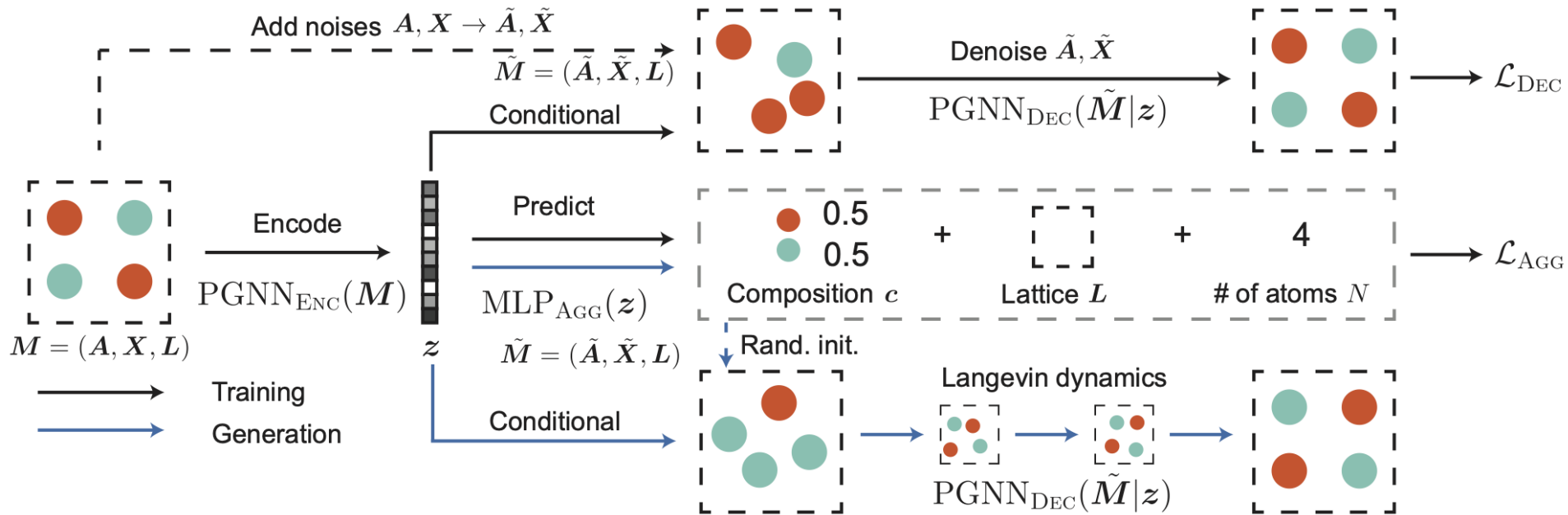


Low loss, stable,  $\sim 1000\times$  expensive to run than GANs

# Main application of diffusion models: image and video generation

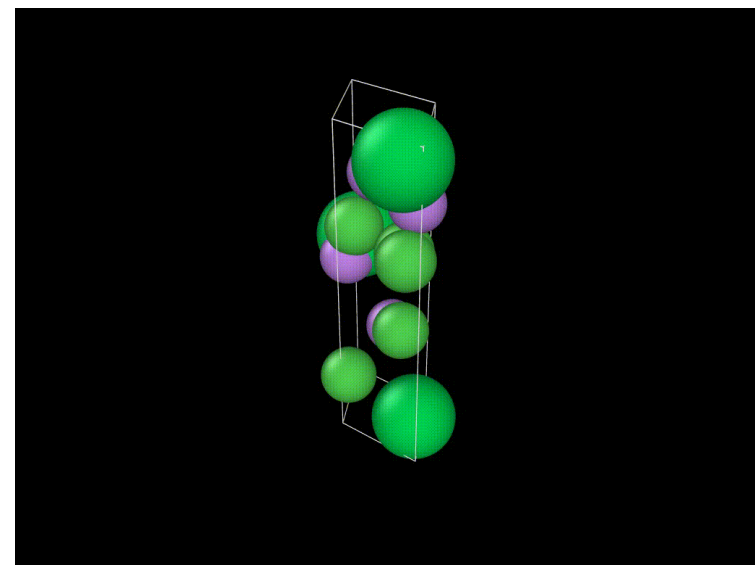


# In materials, diffusion models can be used for structure generation



## Crystal diffusion variational autoencoder (CDVAE)

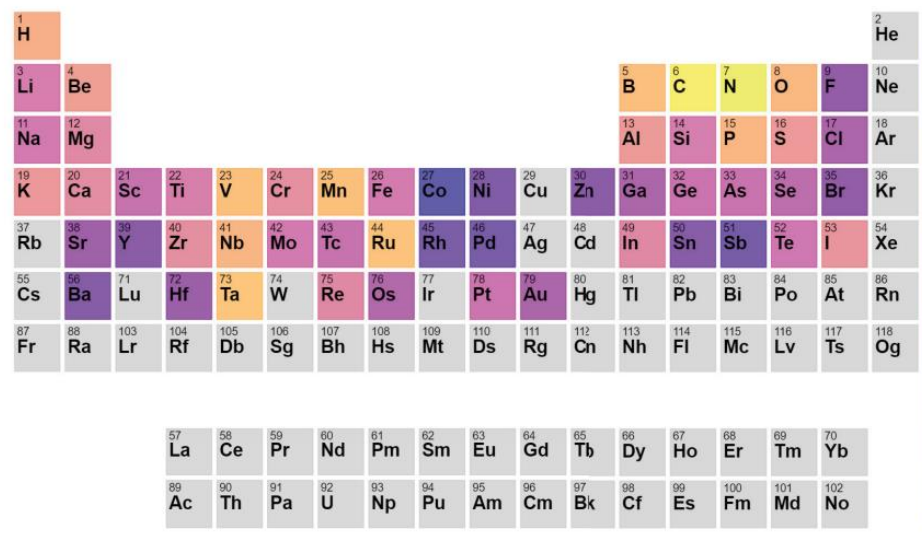
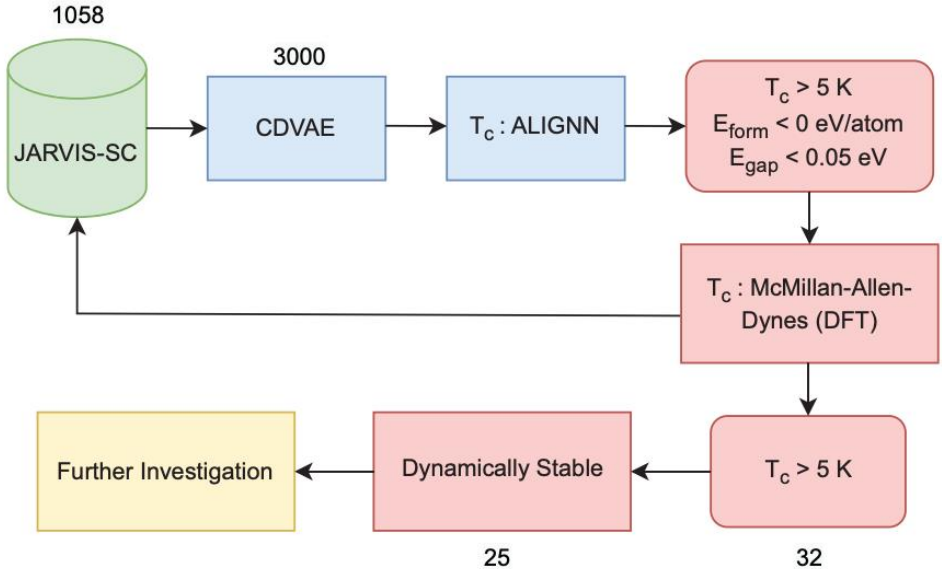
- One of the first diffusion models to be developed for structure prediction
- Periodic graph networks for encoding a latent space and denoising
- Property predictor: for composition, lattice, and number of atoms from latent space
- Langevin dynamics: final structure



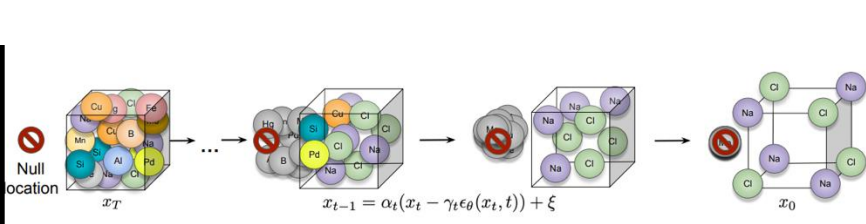


# Diffusion models in action

## Inverse design of new superconductors



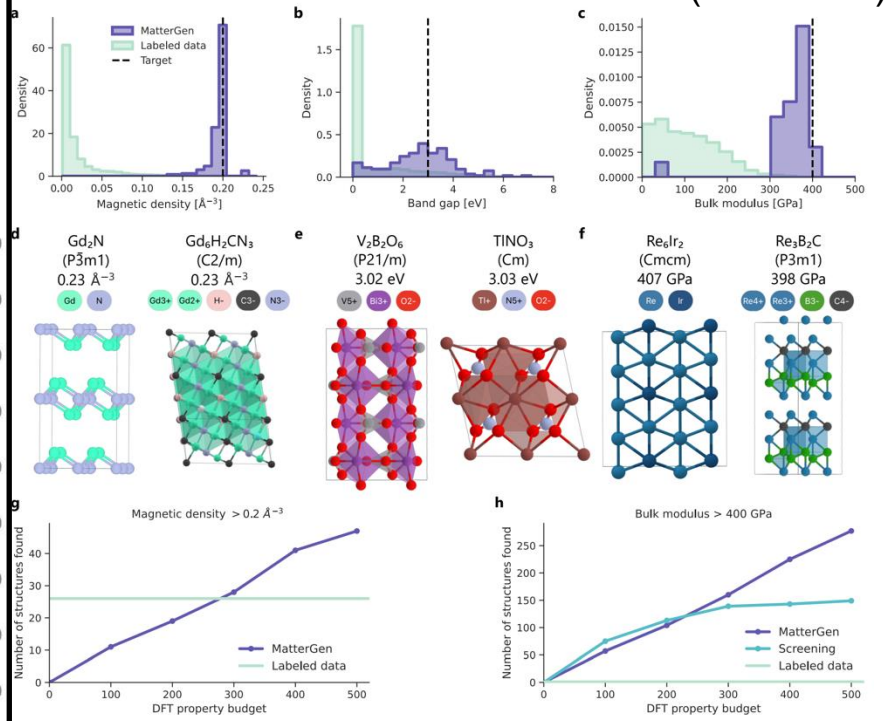
## UniMat + Diffusion (Google Deepmind)



Yang et al., arXiv, 2311.09235v2 (2023)

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## MatterGen (Microsoft)



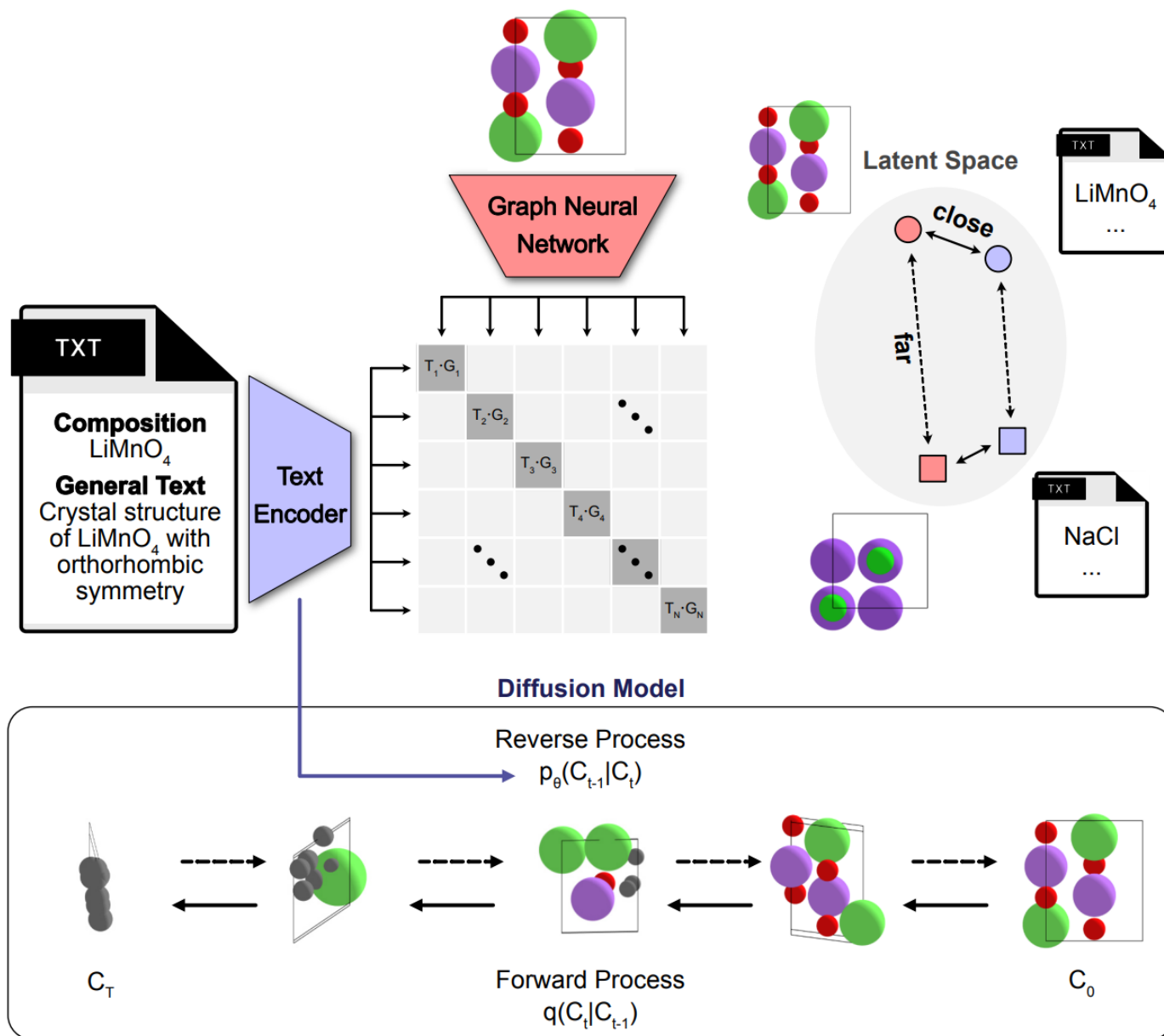
Zeni et al., arXiv, 2312.03687v2 (2024)



# Evaluating diffusion models

- Validity
  - Overlapping atoms? Large lattice parameters? Charge-neutral?
- Uniqueness
  - How diverse are the generated structures (in a randomly chosen sample size)?
- Structure matching
  - Do one of the 'best' generated structures include the known ground state?
- (Meta)stability
  - How (meta or un)stable are the generated structures?
  - Evaluated using density functional theory or a foundational interatomic potential

# Chemeleon: text + structure



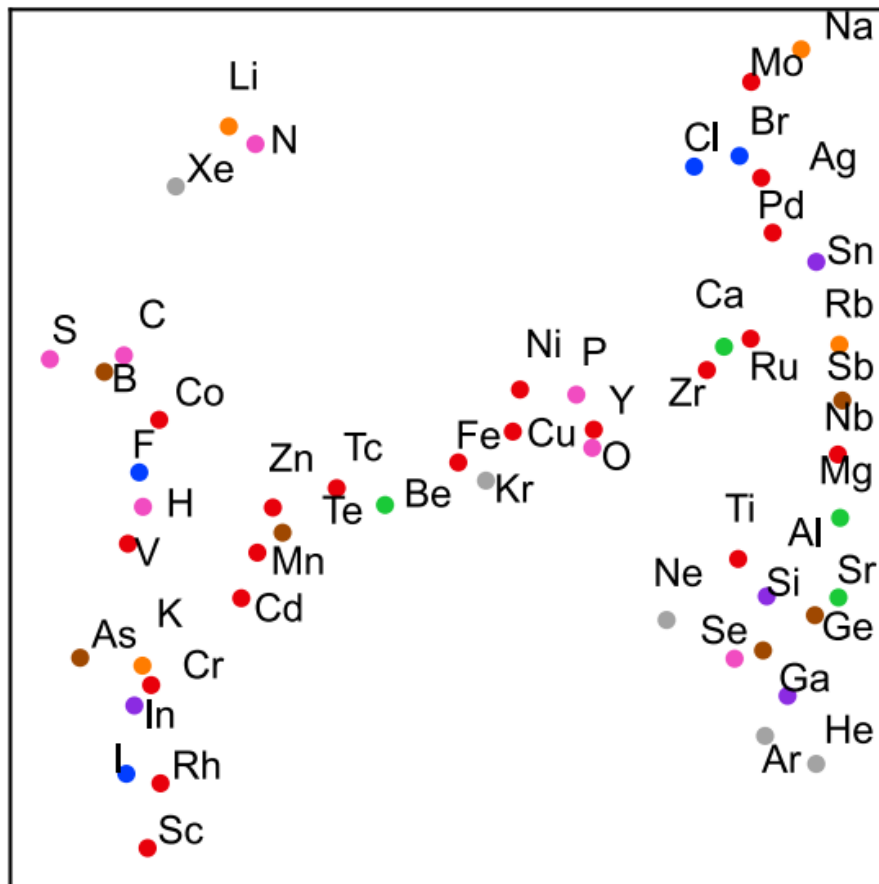
Text is aligned with graph embeddings for a given structure (contrastive learning): Crystal CLIP

Text used to predict noise during denoising

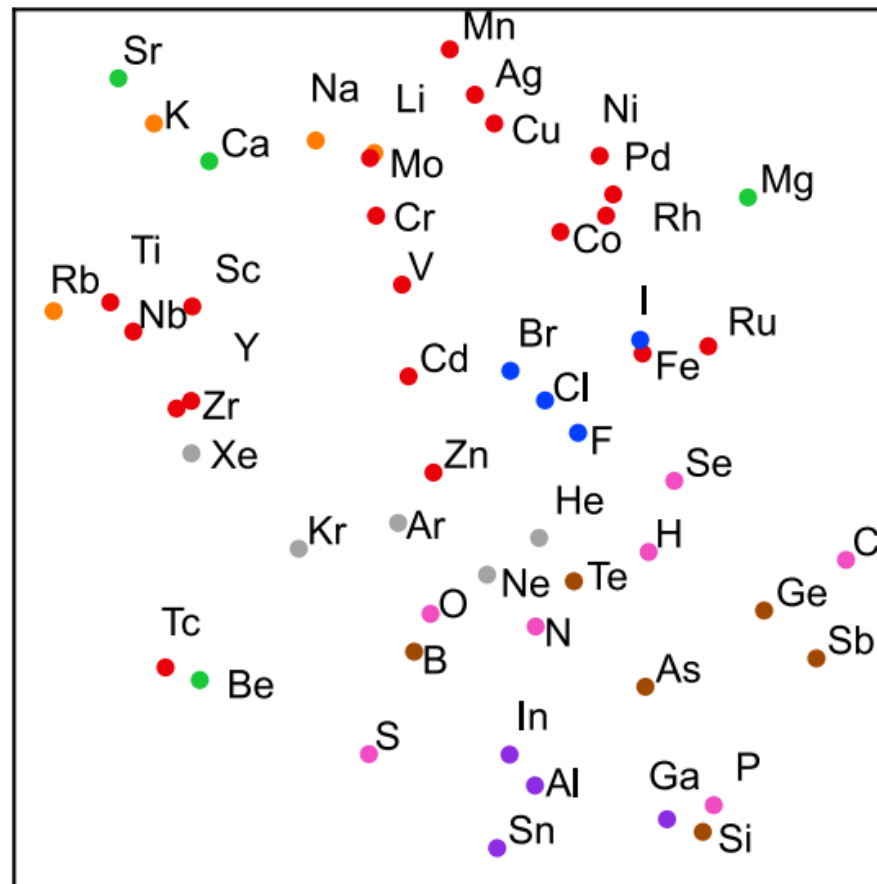
- Can eliminate need for a secondary model for property prediction

# Text+graphs: better at structure classification

Baseline BERT



Crystal CLIP

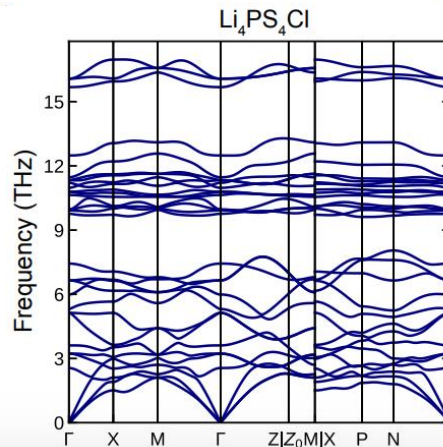
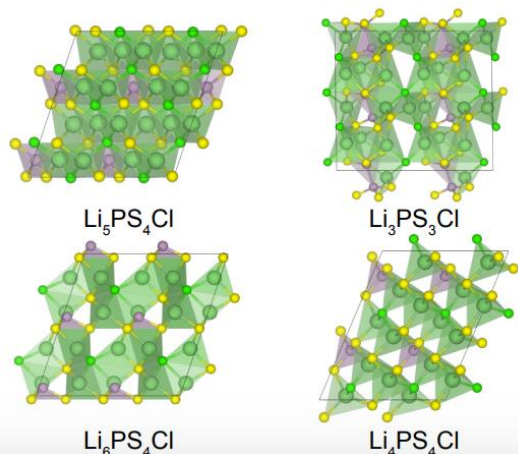
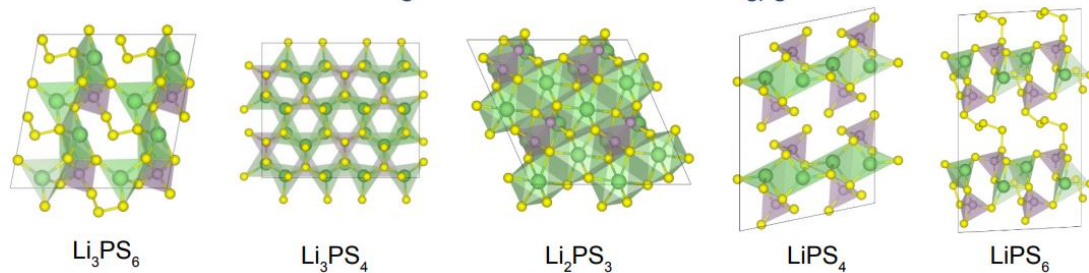
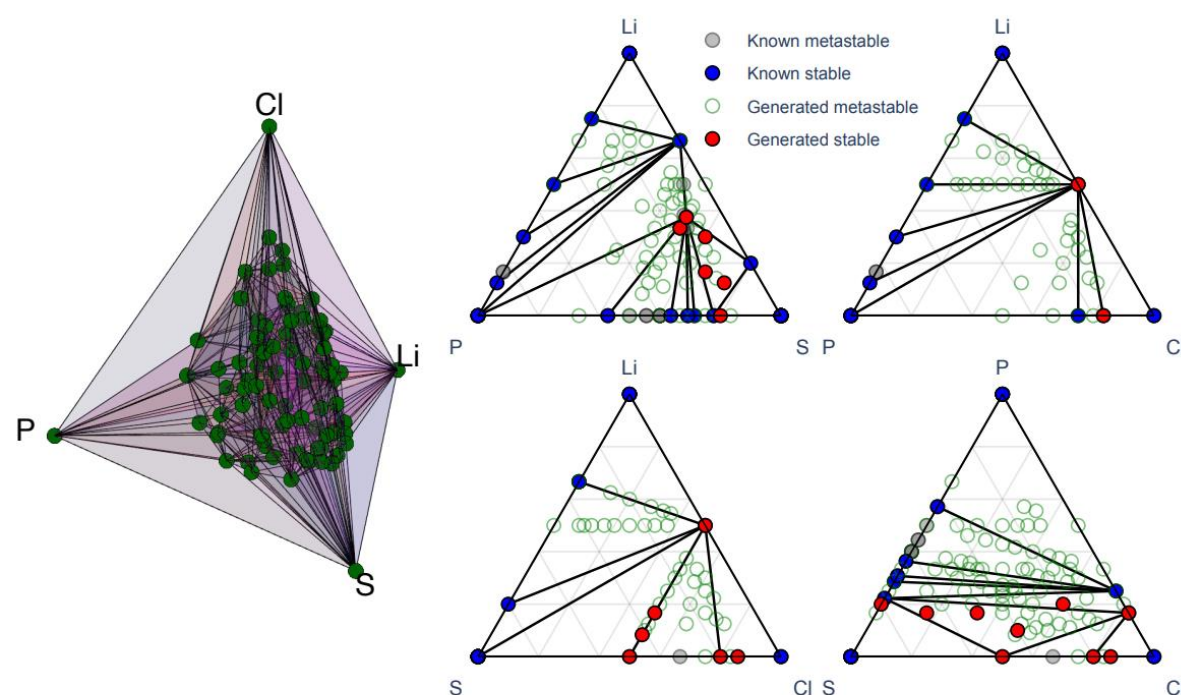


- |                |                    |                         |             |
|----------------|--------------------|-------------------------|-------------|
| ● halogen      | ● alkaline         | ● post-transition metal | ● nonmetal  |
| ● alkali metal | ● transition metal | ● metalloid             | ● noble gas |

# Chemeleon in action

Scanning the Li-P-S-Cl quaternary system

- 2400 possible compositions for a max coefficient of 6
- Use charge neutrality to restrict compositions to 781



Some generated structures are stable

- Verified using density functional theory



Hands—on session?

# Generate some structures?!

## With Chemeleon

### Set the generation parameters

Here we generate just one sample, to run quickly. But you can increase this later. Since we are using the composition only model, it can only take elements as a prompt.

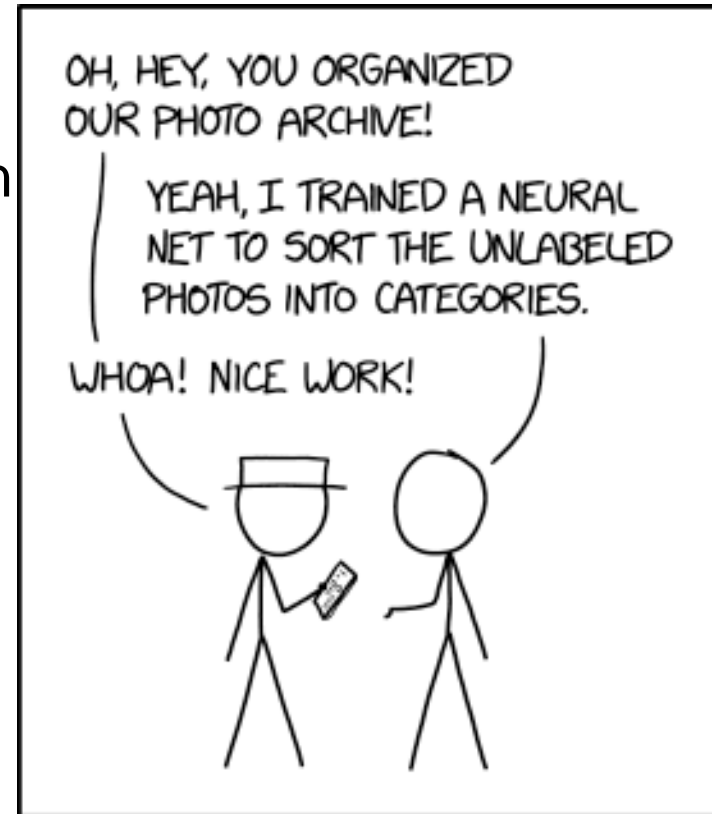
```
In [17]: # Set parameters  
n_samples = 3  
n_atoms = 5  
prompt = "Ba Ti O"
```

```
In [ ]: %%time  
# Generate crystal structures  
atoms_list = composition_model.sample(prompt, n_atoms, n_samples)
```

```
In [ ]: # Visualise  
visualizer = Visualizer(atoms_list)  
visualizer.view(index=0)
```

# Summary

- Generative models can facilitate structure generation/enumeration
  - Identify structures beyond simple human intuition
- Classical: autoencoders, modern: diffusion
- Diffusion: learn probability distributions associated with noising/denoising
- Nascent stage: can produce 'bad' structures or 'incorrect' compositions
  - More chemical constraints?
  - Experimental validation?



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