

# Mixture of Dynamical Variational Autoencoders for Multi-Source Trajectory Modeling and Separation

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[1] Lin, X., Girin, L., & Alameda-Pineda, X., 2023. Mixture of Dynamical Variational Autoencoders for Multi-Source Trajectory Modeling and Separation. *Transactions on Machine Learning Research*.



# Probabilistic Generative Models

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# Motivations

- Understand complex real-world data

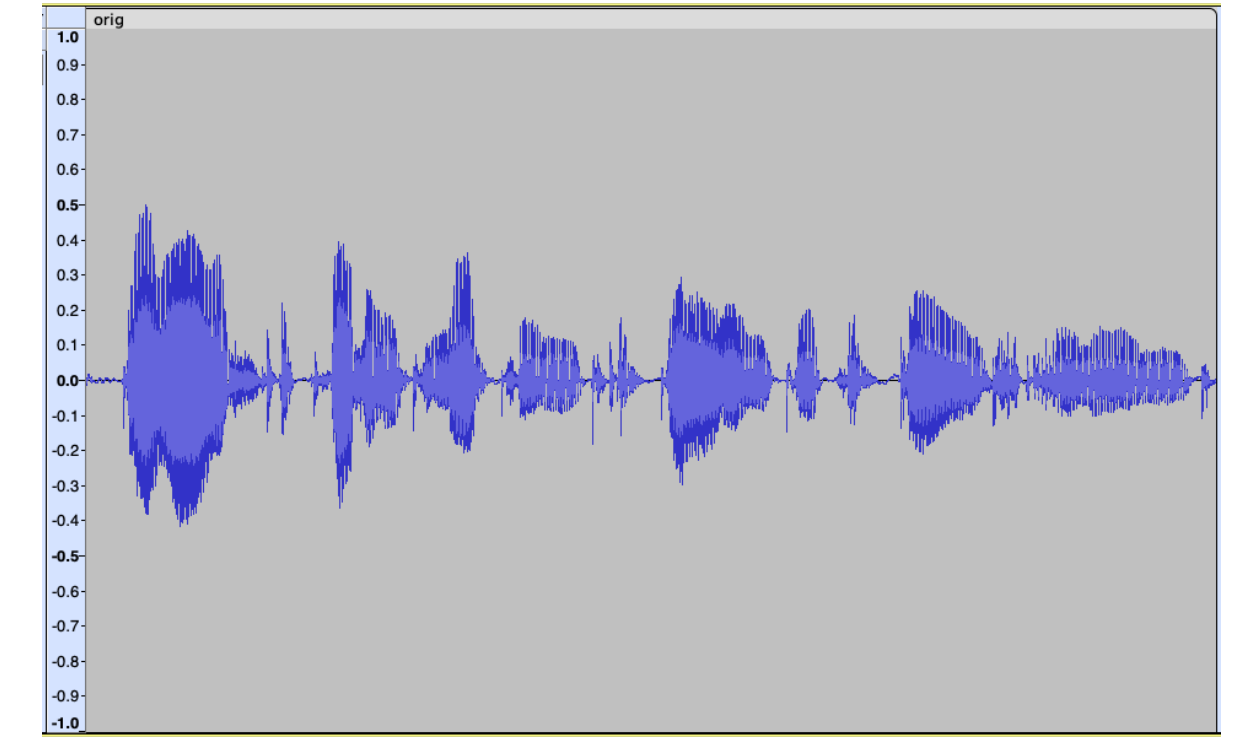


## Image

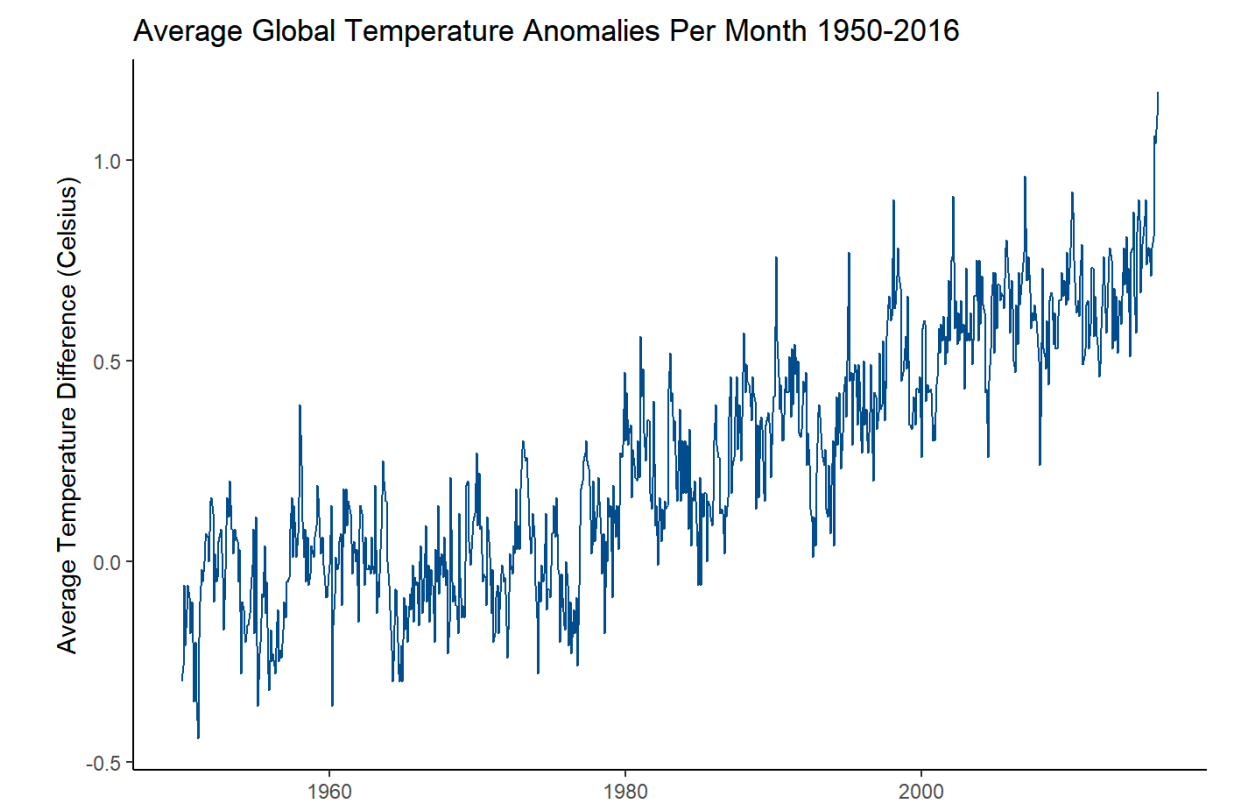
Hello, here is some text without a meaning. This text should show what a printed text will look like at this place. If you read this text, you will get no information. Really? Is there no information? Is there a difference between this text and some nonsense like “Huardest gefburn”? Kjift – not at all! A blind text like this gives you information about the selected font, how the letters are written and an impression of the look. This text should contain all letters of the alphabet and it should be written in of the original language. There is no need for special content, but the length of words should match the language.

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## Text



## Audio

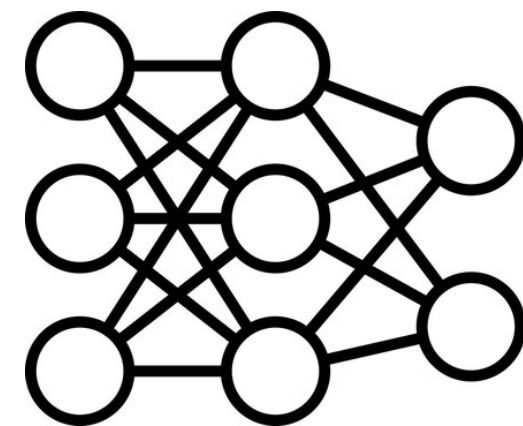


## Time series

# Motivations

- Understand complex real-world data
- Generate new data points

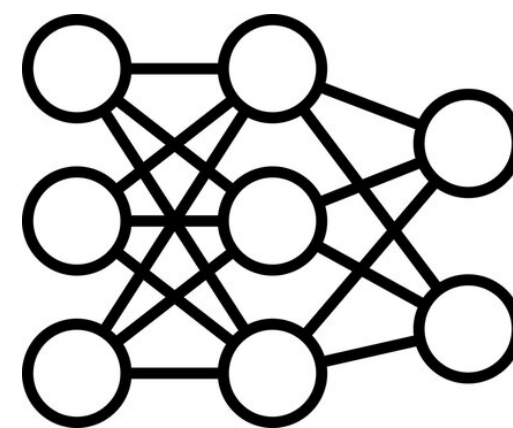
“An astronaut riding a horse”



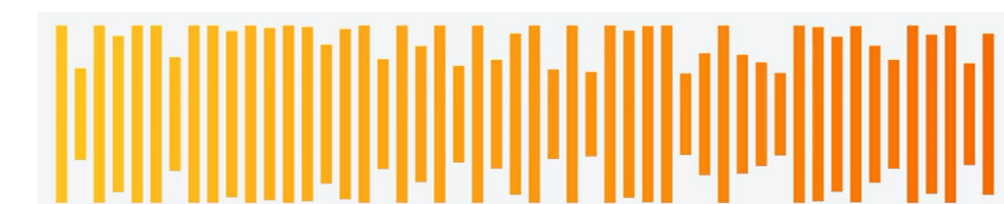
generative model



“An 80s driving pop song with heavy drums and synth pads in the background”



generative model

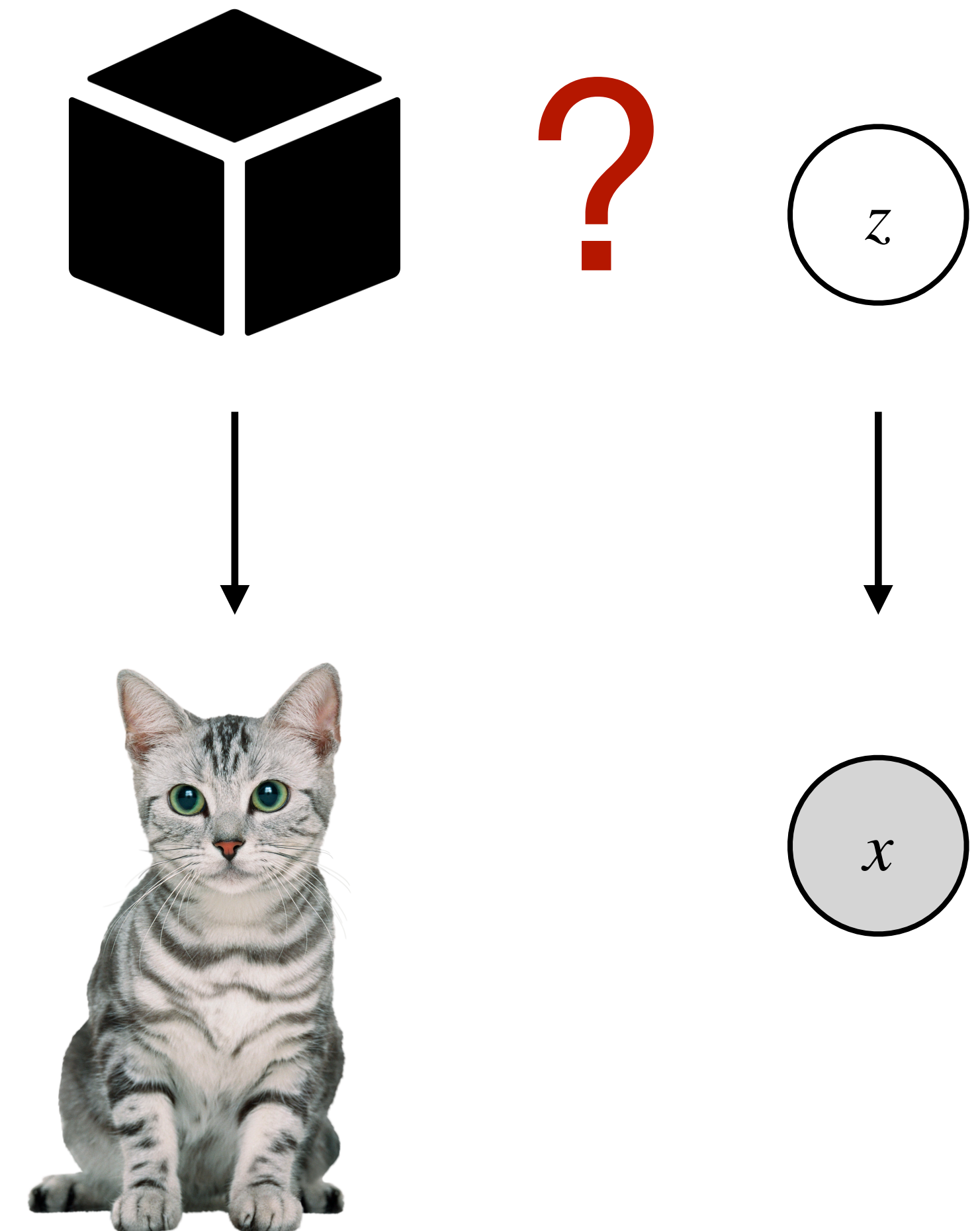


\* Examples from DALLE 2 and MusicGen

# Motivations

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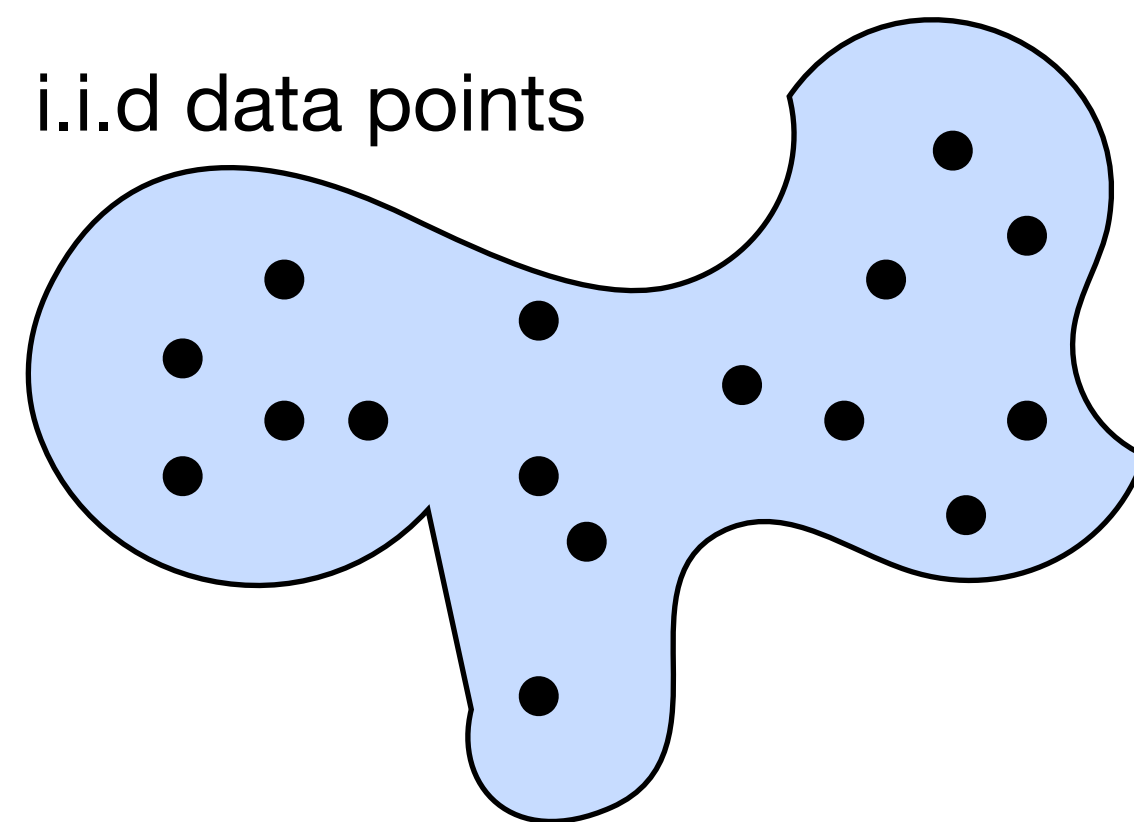
- Understand complex real-world data
- Generate new data points
- Discover unknown quantities / data representations



# Approaches

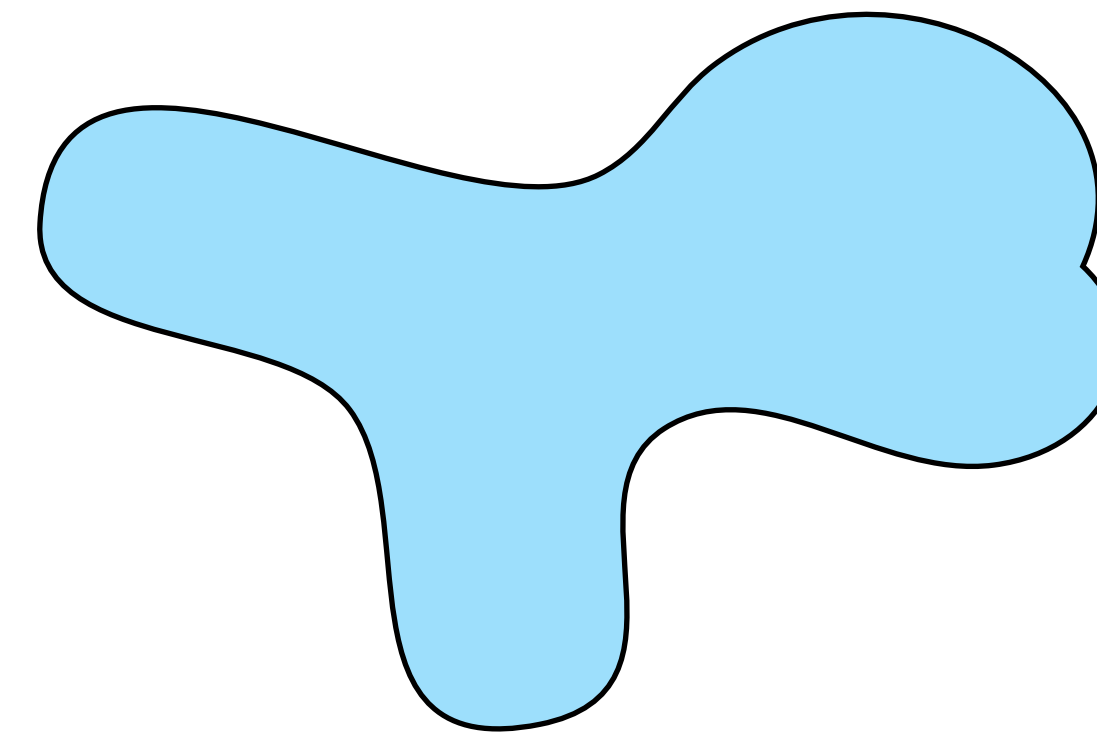
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- Implicit generative models
  - Generative Adversarial Networks (GANs)
- Explicit generative models: explicitly model the probability density function (PDF)



True data distribution

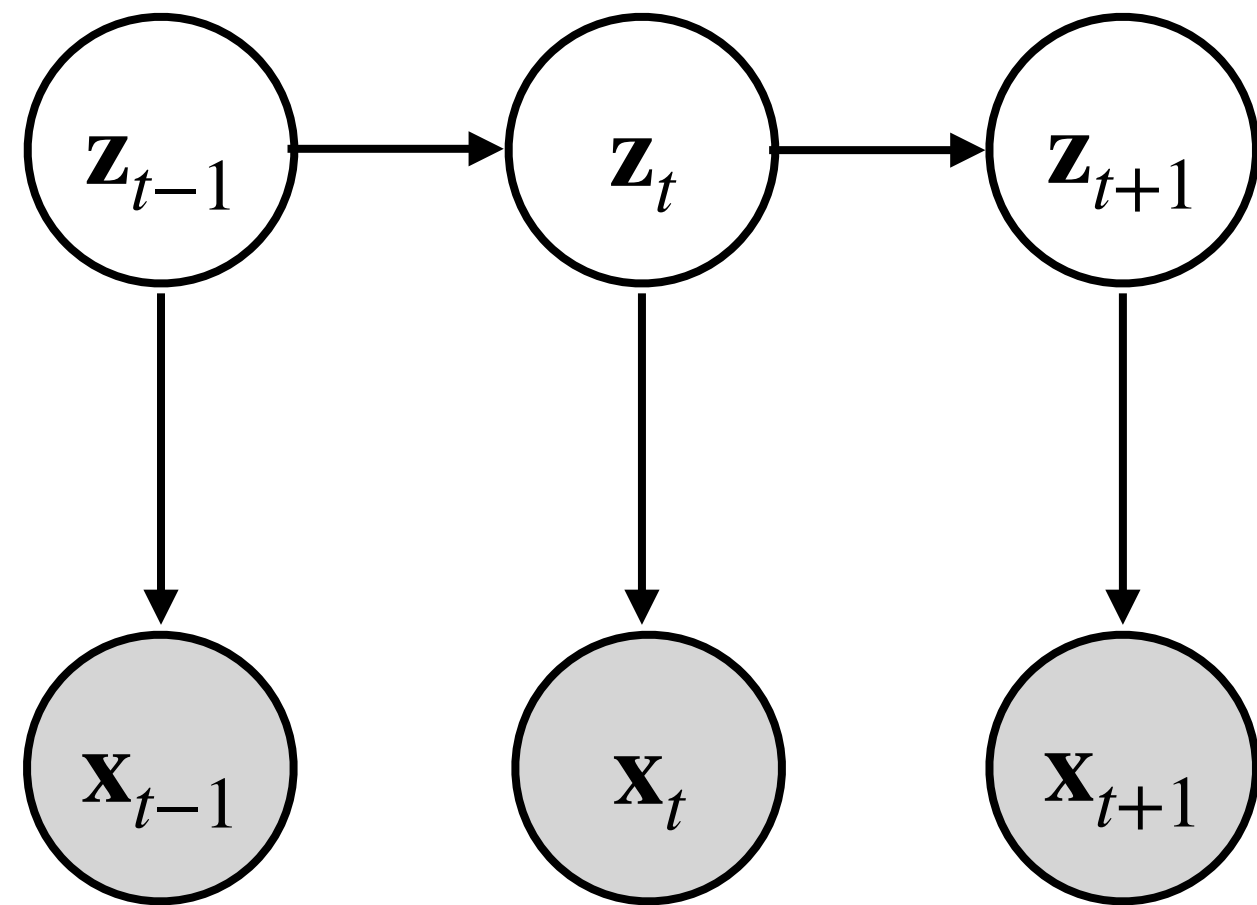
$$P_{data}(\mathbf{x})$$



Parametric probabilistic model

$$p_{\theta}(\mathbf{x})$$

# Example: probabilistic modeling of sequential data



$$p_{\theta}(\mathbf{x}_{1:T}) = \int p_{\theta}(\mathbf{z}_1) \prod_{t=2}^T p_{\theta}(\mathbf{z}_t | \mathbf{z}_{t-1}) \prod_{t=1}^T p_{\theta}(\mathbf{x}_t | \mathbf{z}_t) d\mathbf{z}_{1:T}$$

$\mathbf{z}$  discrete

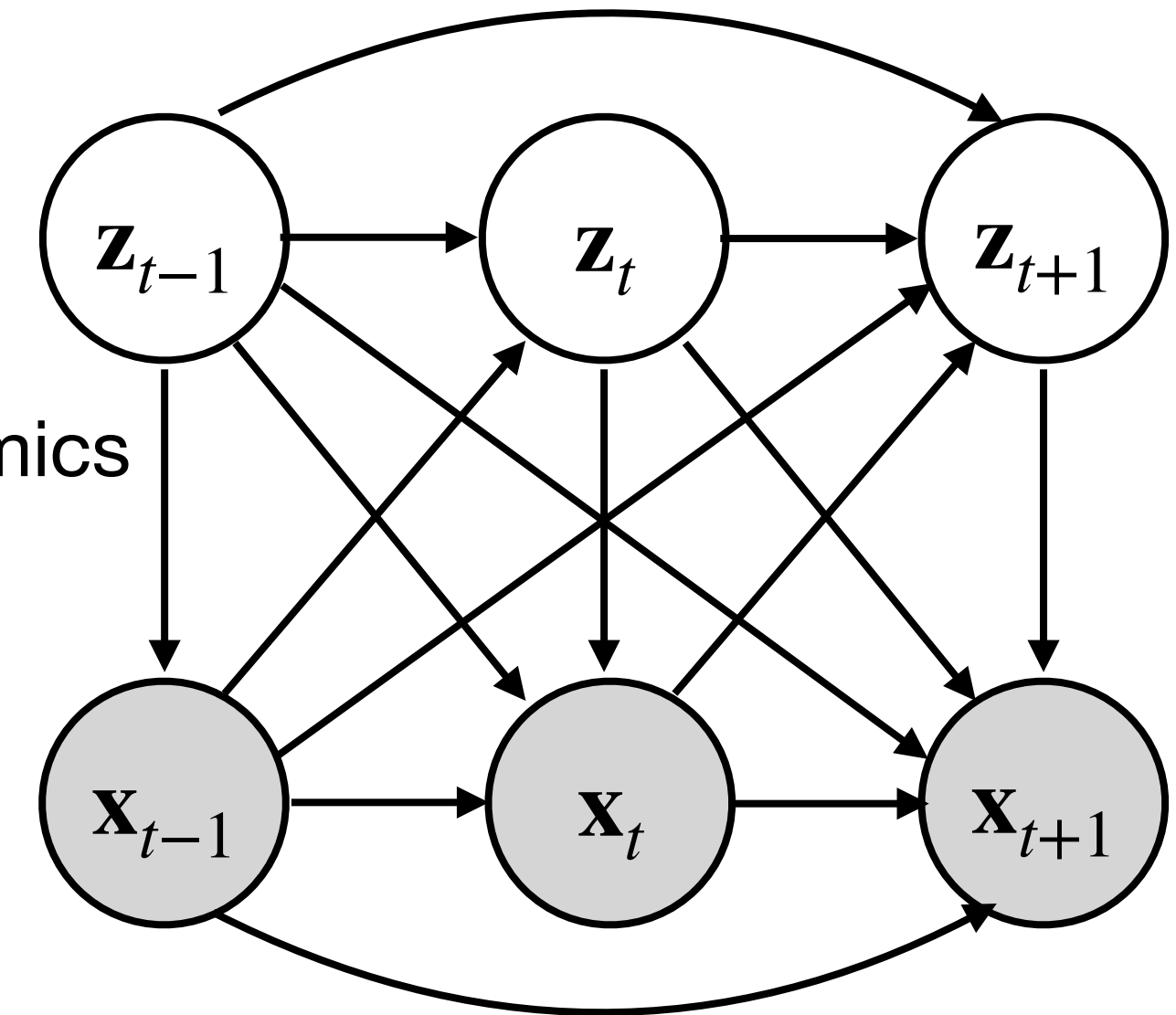
State Space Models (SSM)

$\mathbf{z}$  continuous and Linear dynamics

Hidden Markov Model (HMM)

Linear Dynamical System (LDS)

Non-linear dynamics



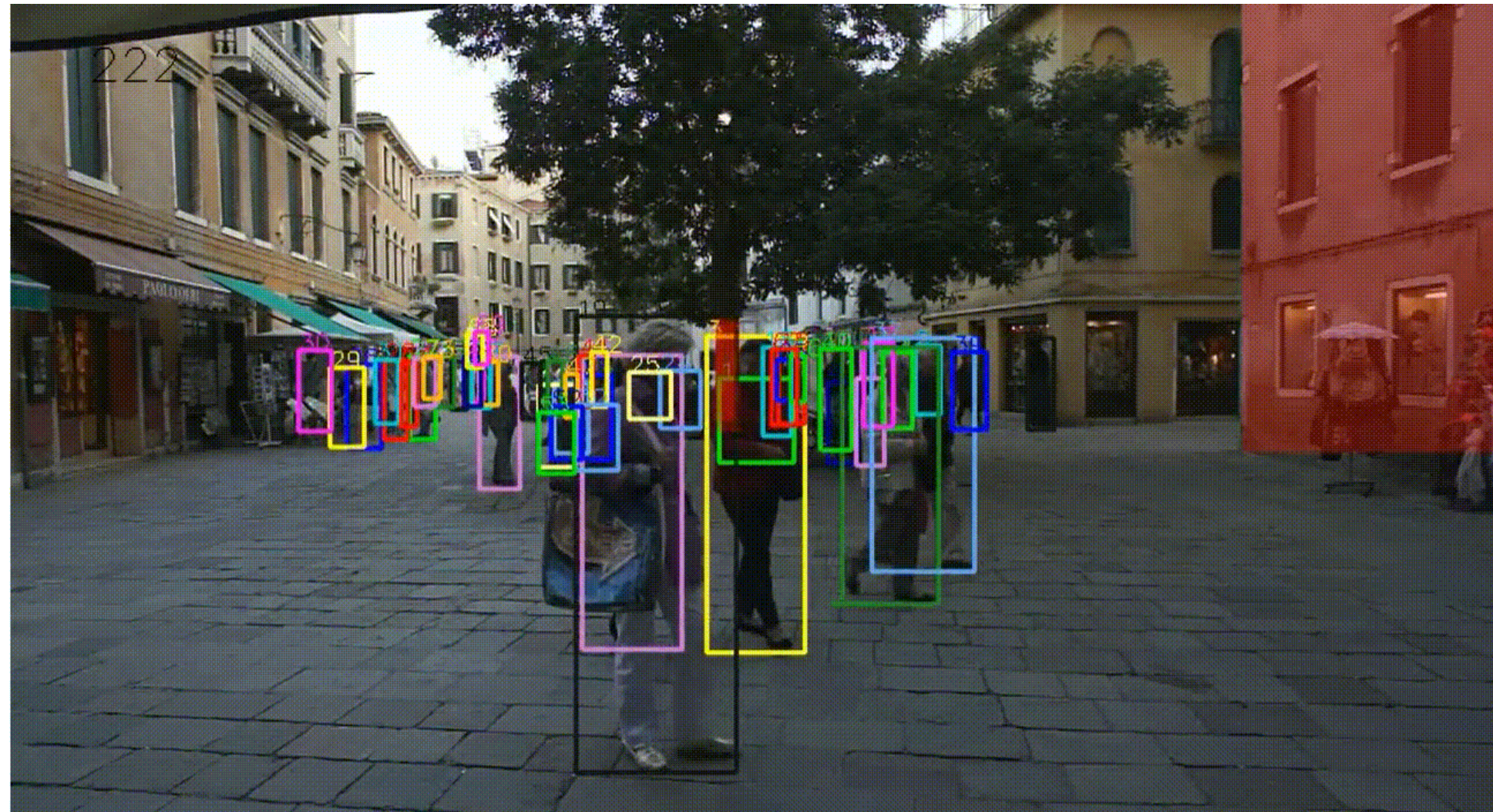
$$p_{\theta}(\mathbf{x}_{1:T}) = \int p(\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{z}_1) \prod_{t=2}^T p_{\theta}(\mathbf{x}_t | \mathbf{x}_{1:t-1}, \mathbf{z}_{1:t}) p_{\theta}(\mathbf{z}_t | \mathbf{x}_{1:t-1}, \mathbf{z}_{1:t-1}) d\mathbf{z}_{1:T}$$

Dynamical Variational Auto-encoders (DVAEs) [1]

[1] Laurent Girin et al., 2021, "Dynamical Variational Autoencoders: A Comprehensive Review", Foundations and Trends in Machine Learning.

# Application scenarios: multi-source trajectory separation

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Multi-Object Tracking

Audio Source Separation

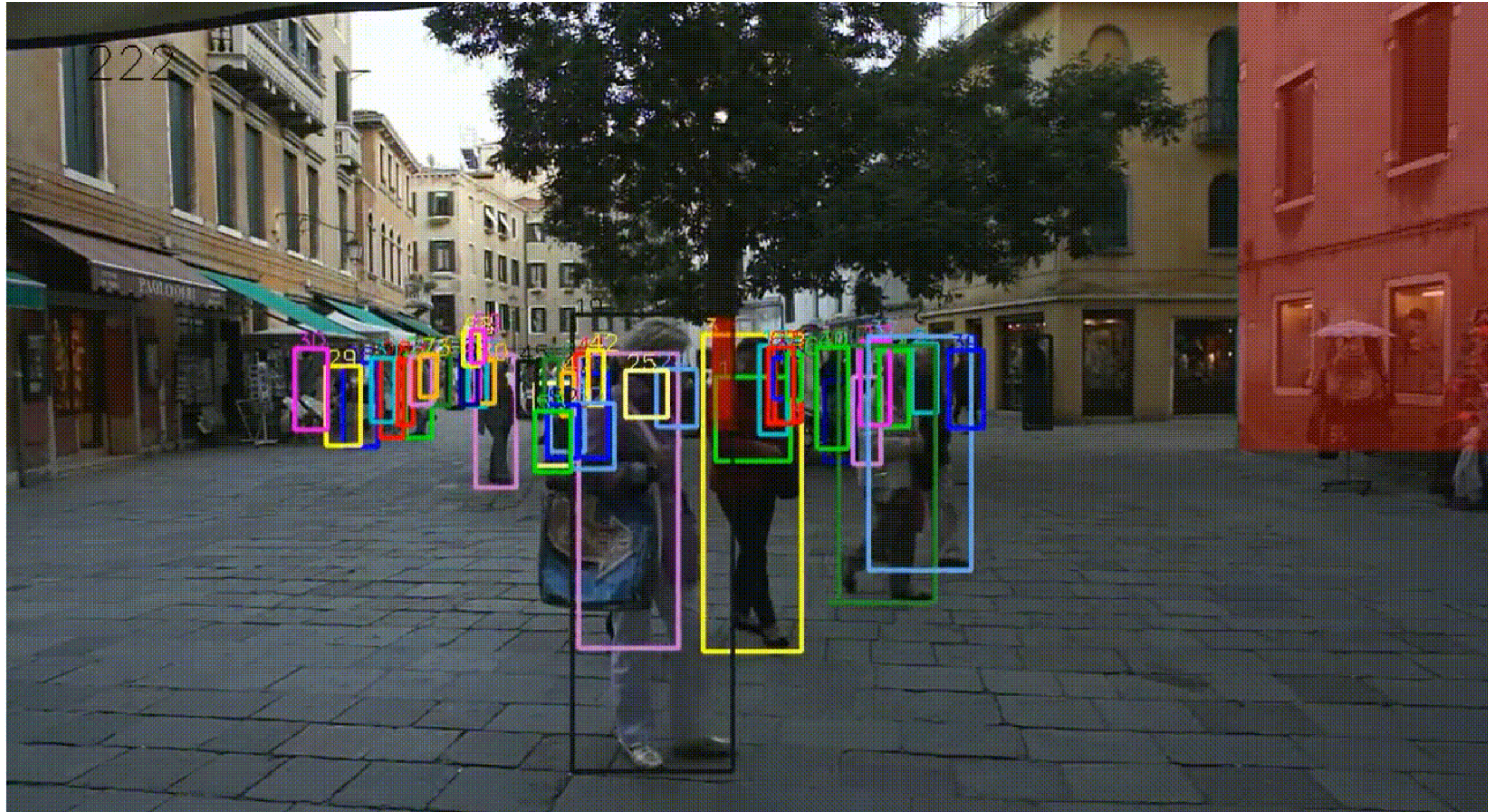


# Unsupervised multi-object tracking (MOT) with MixDVAE

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# MOT task definition

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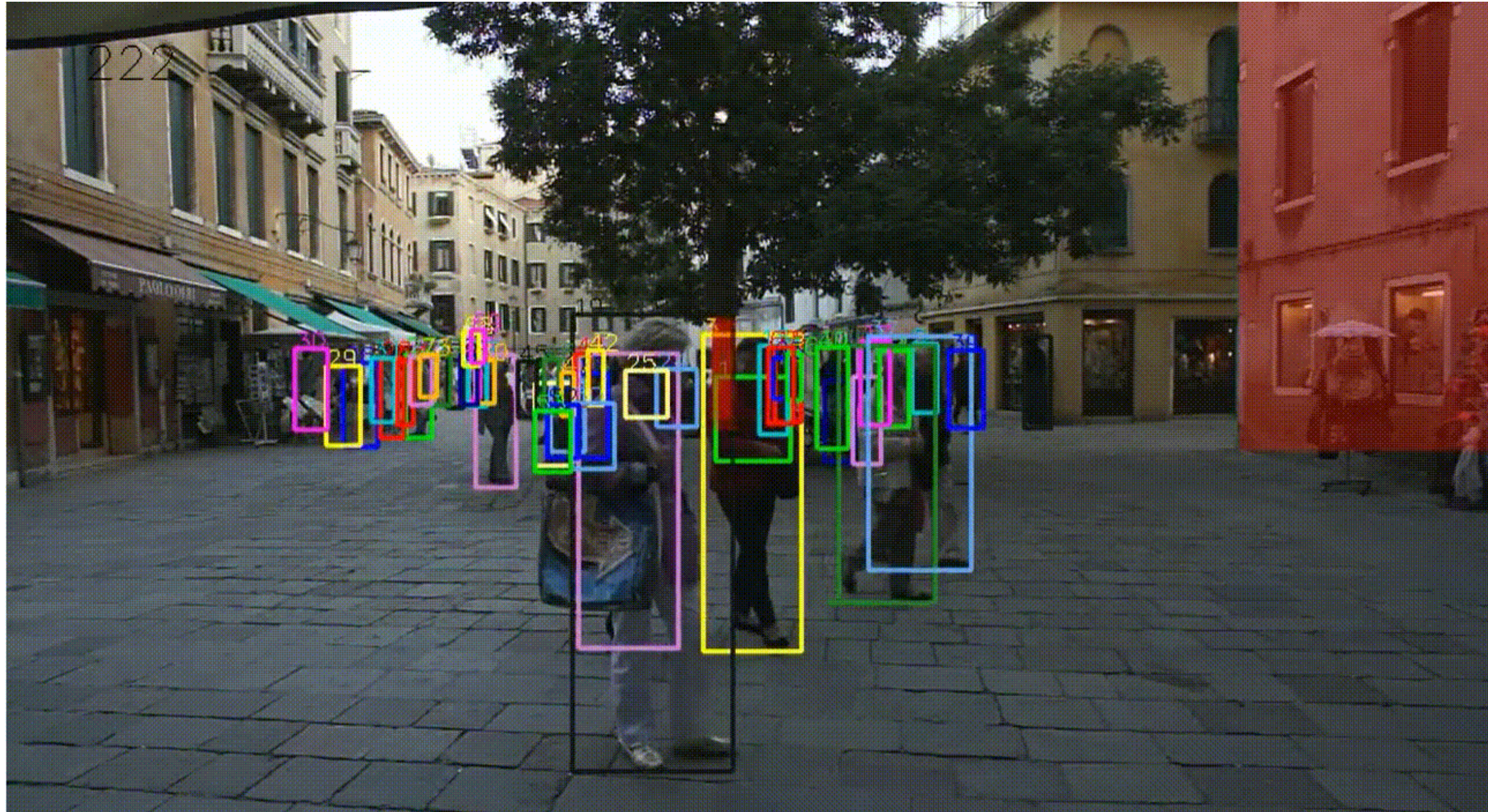


## 4 main sub-tasks in MOT

- Extracting source observations (detections) at each time frame
- Modeling the dynamics of the sources' movements
- Associating observations to sources consistently over time
- Accounting for birth and death process of source trajectories

# Motion-based MOT

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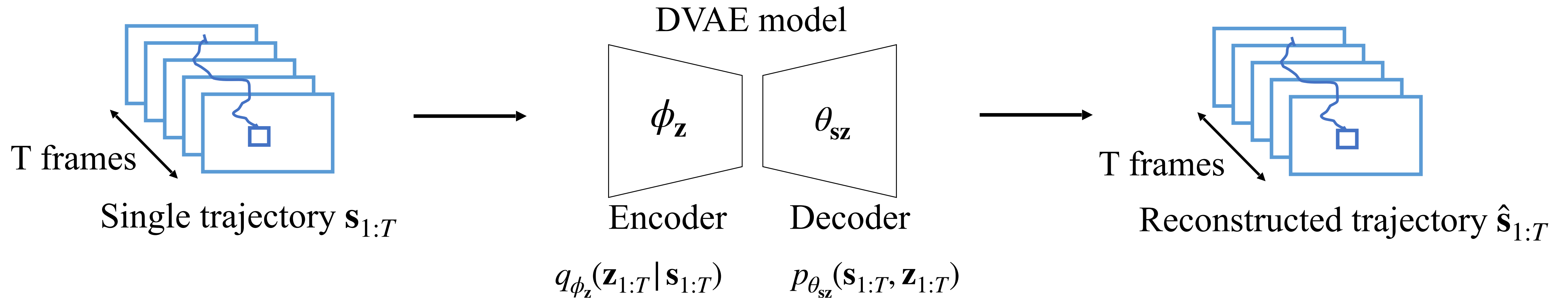
## 4 main sub-tasks in MOT

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- Modeling the dynamics of the sources' movements
- Associating observations to sources consistently over time
- Accounting for birth and death process of source trajectories

➔ Tracking-by-detection, known number of sources

# Use DVAEs for source motion dynamics modeling

Non-linear probabilistic sequential latent variable generative models



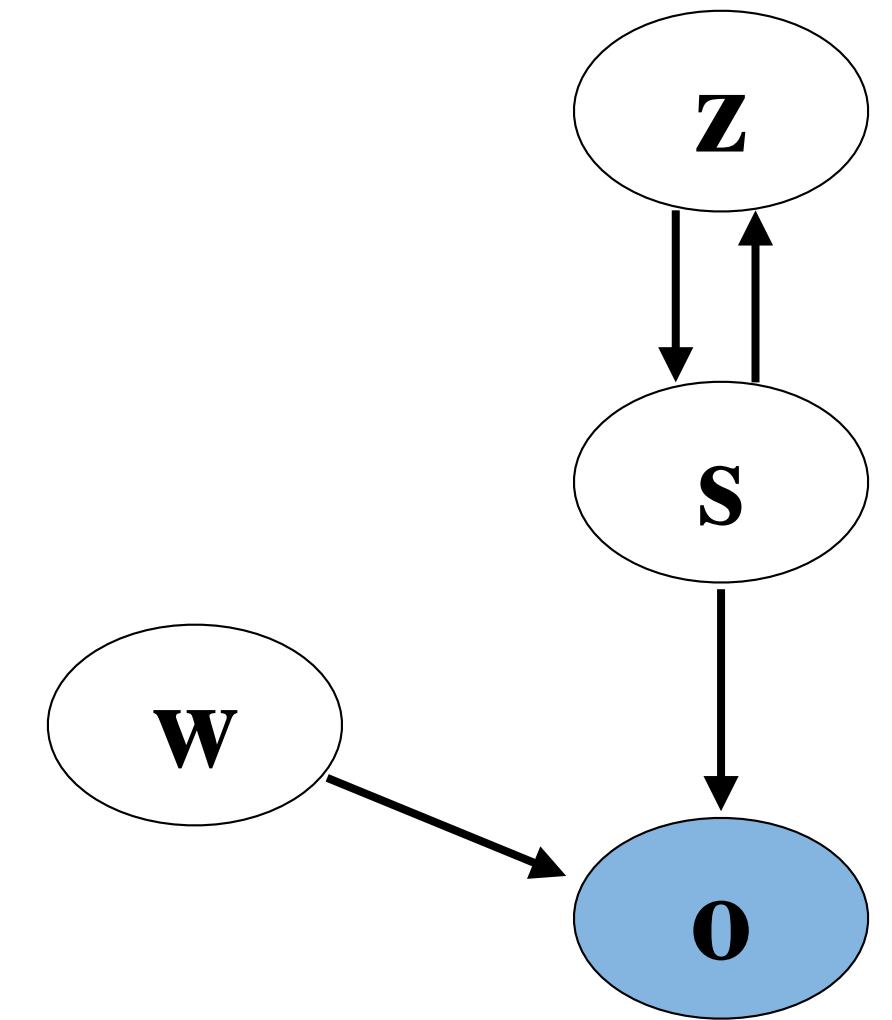
Training by maximizing the Evidence Lower Bound (ELBO)

$$\mathcal{L}(\theta, \phi; \mathbf{s}_{1:T}) = \mathbb{E}_{q_{\phi_{\mathbf{z}}}(\mathbf{z}_{1:T} | \mathbf{s}_{1:T})} [\log p_{\theta_{s\mathbf{z}}}(\mathbf{s}_{1:T}, \mathbf{z}_{1:T}) - \log q_{\phi_{\mathbf{z}}}(\mathbf{z}_{1:T} | \mathbf{s}_{1:T})]$$

## Define MOT from a probabilistic perspective

### Definition of random variables

- $\mathbf{o} = \{\mathbf{o}_{1:T,1:K_t}\} \in \mathbb{R}^{T \times K_t \times 4}$ : positions of detection bounding boxes
- $\mathbf{s} = \{\mathbf{s}_{1:T,1:N}\} \in \mathbb{R}^{T \times N \times 4}$ : true positions of sources
- $\mathbf{z} = \{\mathbf{z}_{1:T,1:N}\} \in \mathbb{R}^{T \times N \times L}$ : latent sequences of DVAE models
- $\mathbf{w} = \{w_{1:T,1:K_t}\} \in \{1, \dots, N\}^{T \times K_t}$ : discrete assignment variables,  $w_{tk} = n$  means the observation  $\mathbf{o}_{tk}$  is assigned to source  $n$

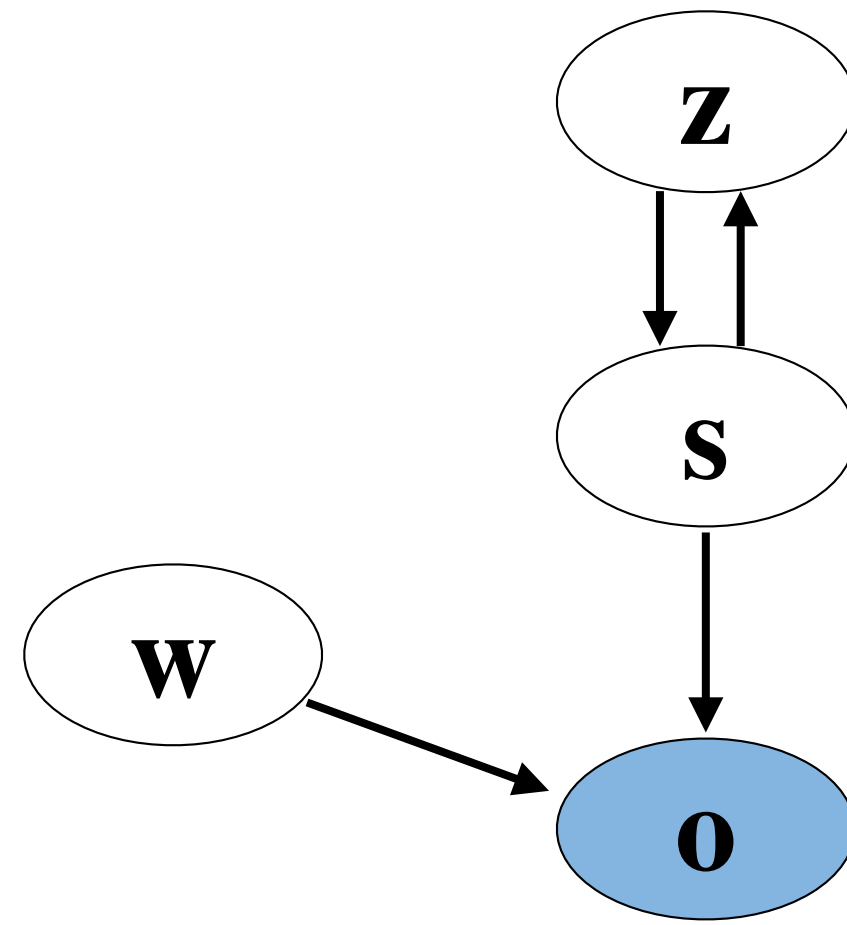


Observed variable:  $\mathbf{o}$       Latent variables:  $\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{z}, \mathbf{w}$

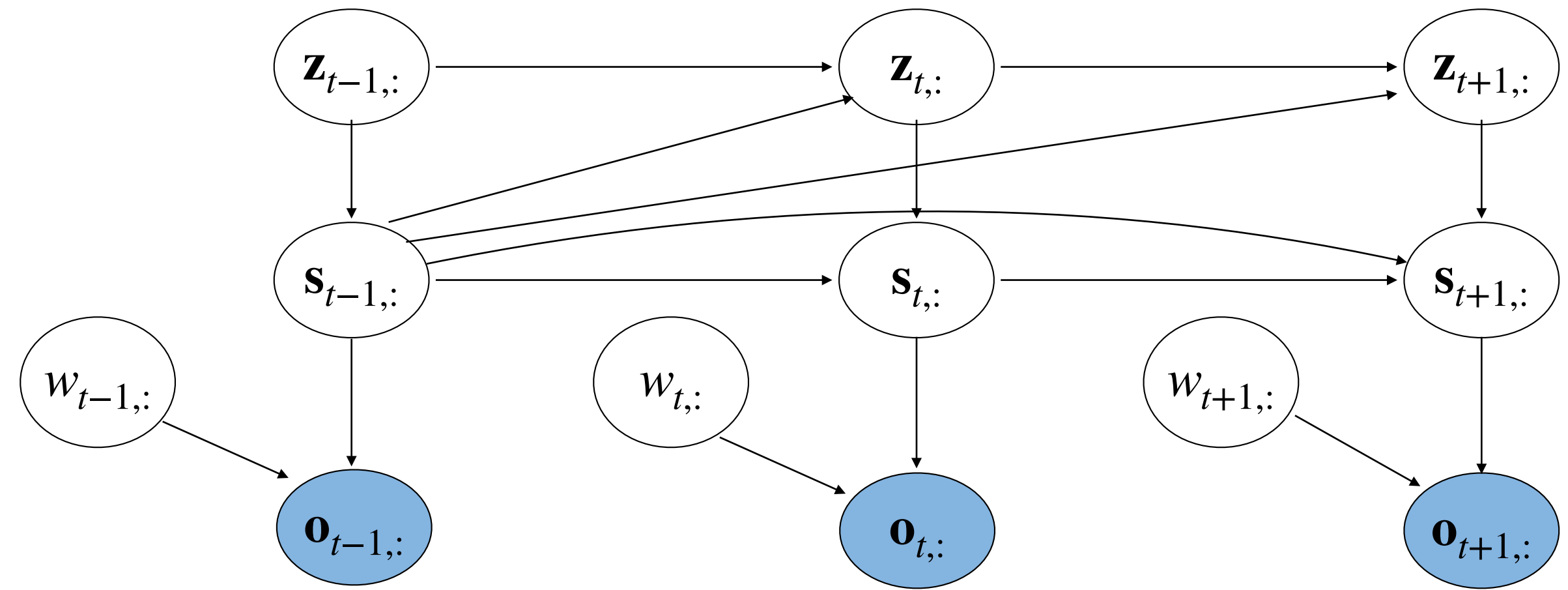
MOT objective: estimate the posterior distribution  $p(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{z}, \mathbf{w} | \mathbf{o})$

# Resolve MOT through Variational Inference (VI)

## Associated graphical model



Folded graphical model



Extended graphical model over time frames

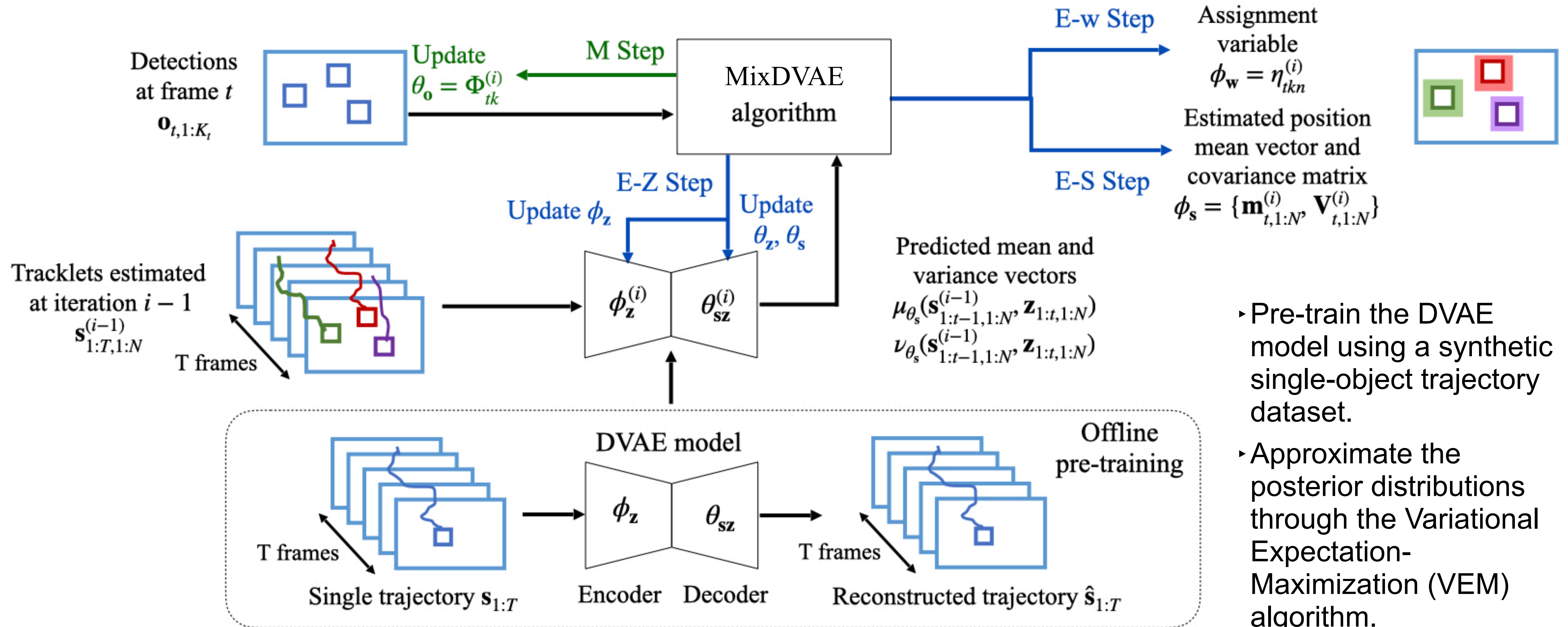
**Generative model:**  $p_{\theta}(\mathbf{o}, \mathbf{w}, \mathbf{s}, \mathbf{z}) = p_{\theta_0}(\mathbf{o} | \mathbf{w}, \mathbf{s})p_{\theta_w}(\mathbf{w})p_{\theta_{sz}}(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{z})$

Intractable true posterior distribution  $p_{\theta_{szw}}(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{z}, \mathbf{w} | \mathbf{o})$

**Inference model:** mean-field like approximation  $p_{\theta_{szw}}(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{z}, \mathbf{w} | \mathbf{o}) \approx q_{\phi_w}(\mathbf{w} | \mathbf{o})q_{\phi_z}(\mathbf{z} | \mathbf{s})q_{\phi_s}(\mathbf{s} | \mathbf{o})$

Optimization by maximizing the ELBO  $\mathcal{L}(\theta, \phi; \mathbf{o}) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \mathbb{E}_{q_{\phi}(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{z}, \mathbf{w} | \mathbf{o})}[\log p_{\theta}(\mathbf{o}, \mathbf{s}, \mathbf{z}, \mathbf{w}) - \log q_{\phi}(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{z}, \mathbf{w} | \mathbf{o})]$

# Resolve MOT through Variational Inference (VI)



- ▶ Pre-train the DVAE model using a synthetic single-object trajectory dataset.
- ▶ Approximate the posterior distributions through the Variational Expectation-Maximization (VEM) algorithm.

# Experimental settings

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## Datasets

- DVAE pre-training

A synthetic single-source motion trajectories dataset

- Evaluation

MOT17-3T dataset created from the MOT17 training set:

- Subsequences of length  $T$  ( $T = 60, 120, 300$  frames are tested)
- No birth / death process
- 3 tracking sources per test data sample

## Baselines

ArTIST (Saleh et al., 2021), VKF (Ban et al., 2020), Deep AR



# Comparison with the SoTA models

Table 2: MOT results for short ( $T = 60$ ), medium ( $T = 120$ ), and long ( $T = 300$ ) sequences.

Dataset	Method	MOTA $\uparrow$	MOTP $\uparrow$	IDF1 $\uparrow$	#IDS $\downarrow$	%IDS $\downarrow$	MT $\uparrow$	ML $\downarrow$	#FP $\downarrow$	%FP $\downarrow$	#FN $\downarrow$	%FN $\downarrow$
Short	ArTIST	63.7	<b>84.1</b>	48.7	86371	28.0	<b>4684</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>9962</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>15525</b>	<b>5.0</b>
	VKF	56.0	82.7	77.3	5660	1.8	3742	761	64945	21.1	64945	21.1
	Deep AR	67.4	76.1	83.1	5248	1.7	3670	129	49595	16.0	49595	16.0
	MixDVAE	<b>79.1</b>	81.3	<b>88.4</b>	<b>4966</b>	<b>1.6</b>	4370	50	29808	9.7	29808	9.7
Medium	ArTIST	61.0	<b>84.2</b>	43.9	102978	24.6	<b>2943</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>25388</b>	<b>6.1</b>	<b>34812</b>	<b>8.3</b>
	VKF	57.5	83.3	77.6	7657	1.8	2563	487	85053	20.3	85053	20.3
	Deep AR	65.3	76.0	81.8	<b>5387</b>	<b>1.3</b>	2435	149	71775	17.0	71775	17.0
	MixDVAE	<b>78.6</b>	82.2	<b>88.0</b>	6107	1.5	2907	120	41747	9.9	41747	9.9
Long	ArTIST	53.5	84.5	40.7	205263	20.1	2513	<b>4</b>	135401	13.2	135401	13.2
	VKF	74.4	<b>86.2</b>	84.4	30069	2.9	2756	100	116160	11.4	116160	11.4
	Deep AR	75.5	76.6	87.1	26506	2.6	2555	18	123262	12.1	123262	12.1
	MixDVAE	<b>83.2</b>	82.4	<b>90.0</b>	<b>23081</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>2890</b>	12	<b>74550</b>	<b>7.3</b>	<b>74550</b>	<b>7.3</b>

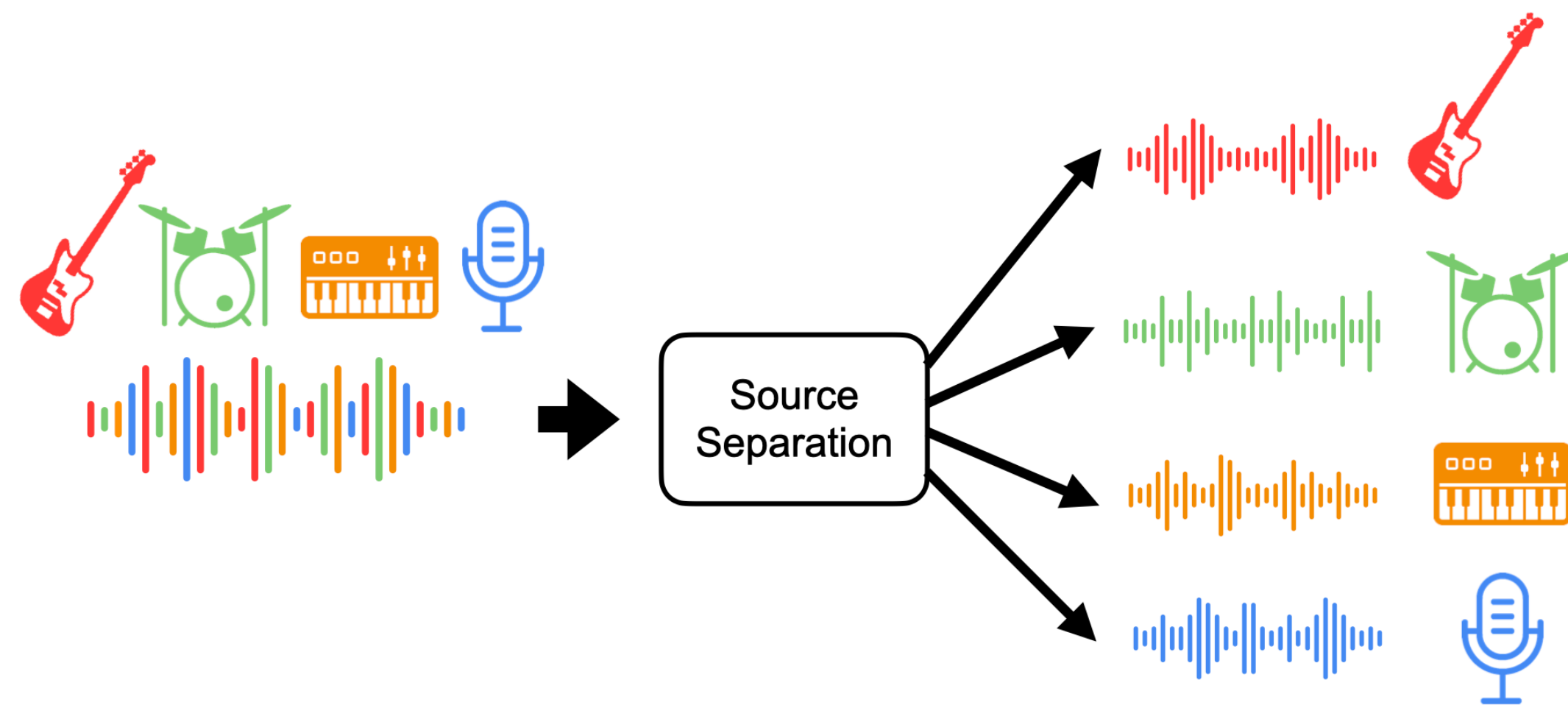


# Weakly supervised single-channel audio source separation with MixDVAE

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# Audio source separation

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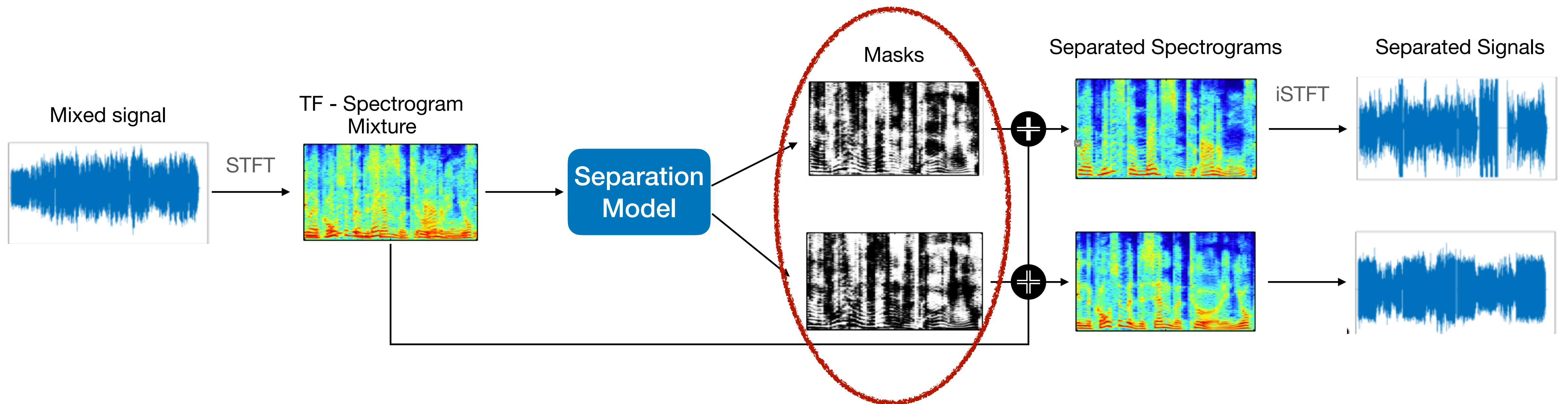


“Cocktail Party Effect” — Bregman 1990

## Applications

- real-time speaker separation
- speech enhancement within hearing aids
- voice cancellation for karaoke
- ...

# SC-ASS: Time-Frequency Masking with probabilistic models

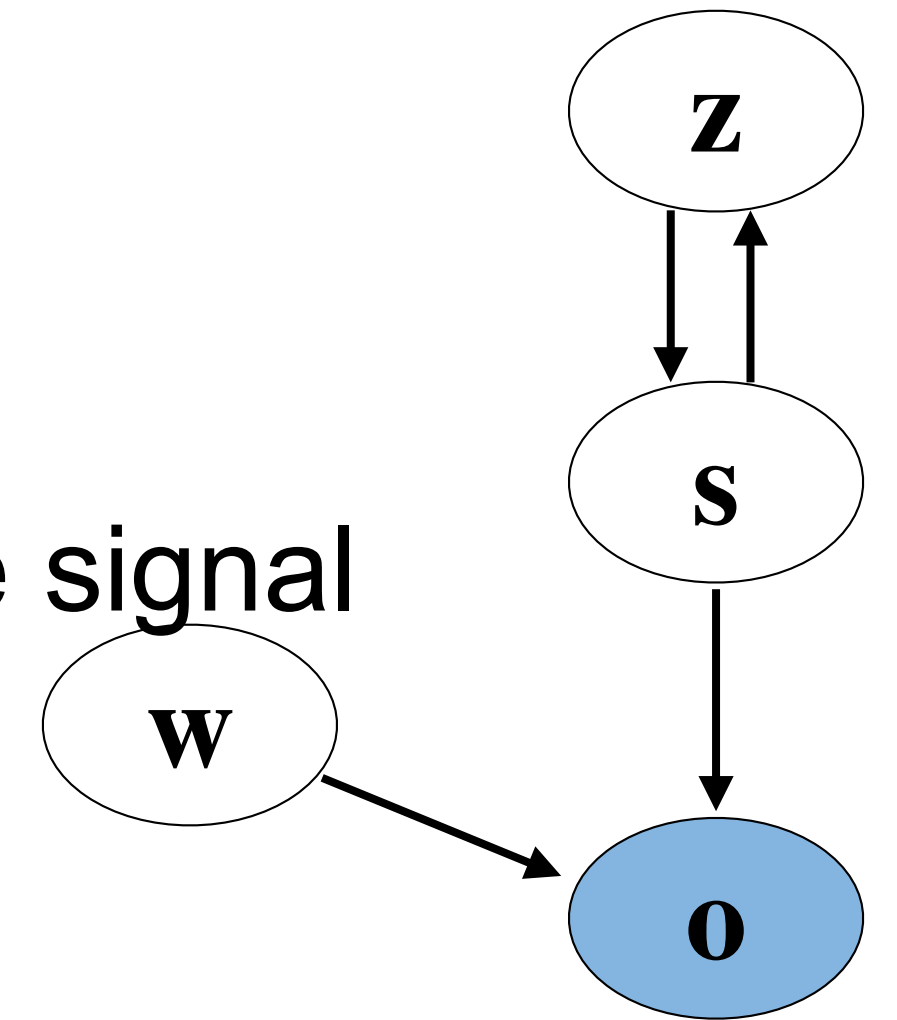


Key question: how to obtain the masks?

## Define SC-ASS from a probabilistic perspective

### Definition of random variables

- $\mathbf{o} = \{o_{1:T,1:F}\} \in \mathbb{C}^{T \times F}$ : STFT spectrogram of the observed mixture signal
- $\mathbf{s} = \{s_{1:N,1:T,1:F}\} \in \mathbb{C}^{N \times T \times F}$ : STFT spectrograms of  $N$  sources
- $\mathbf{z} = \{\mathbf{z}_{1:N,1:T}\} \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times T \times L}$ : latent sequences of DVAE models
- $\mathbf{w} = \{w_{1:T,1:F}\} \in \{1, \dots, N\}^{T \times F}$ : discrete assignment variables,  $w_{tf} = n$  means the mixture signal at TF bin  $[t, f]$   $o_{t,f}$  is assigned to source  $n$

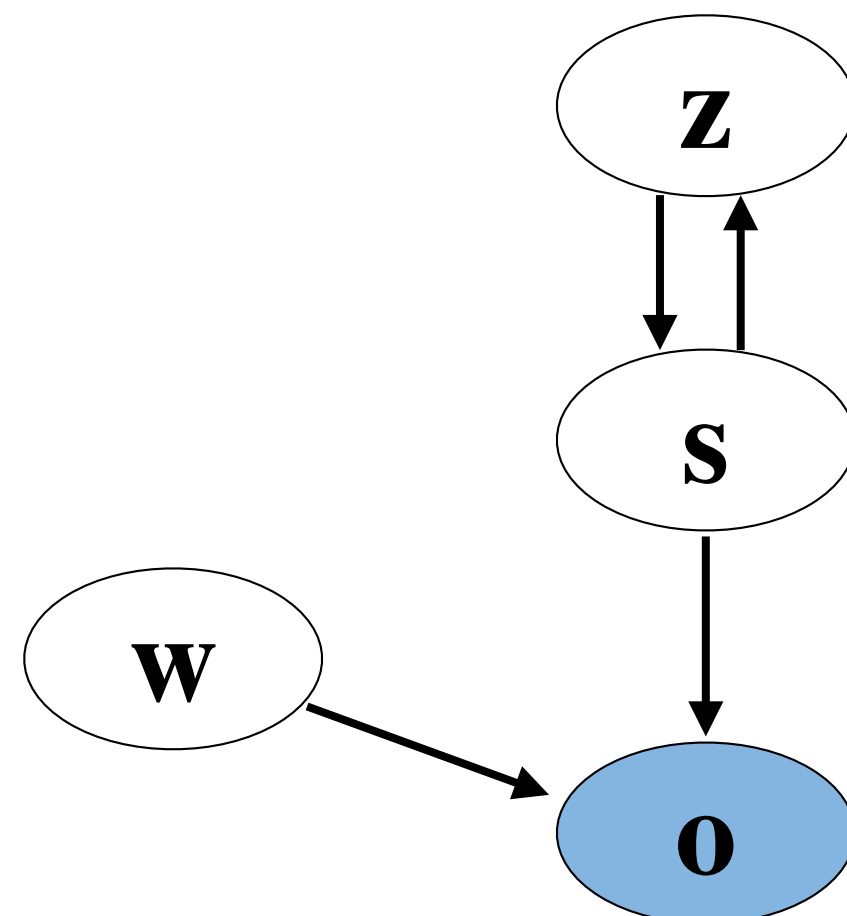


Observed variable:  $\mathbf{o}$       Latent variables:  $\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{z}, \mathbf{w}$

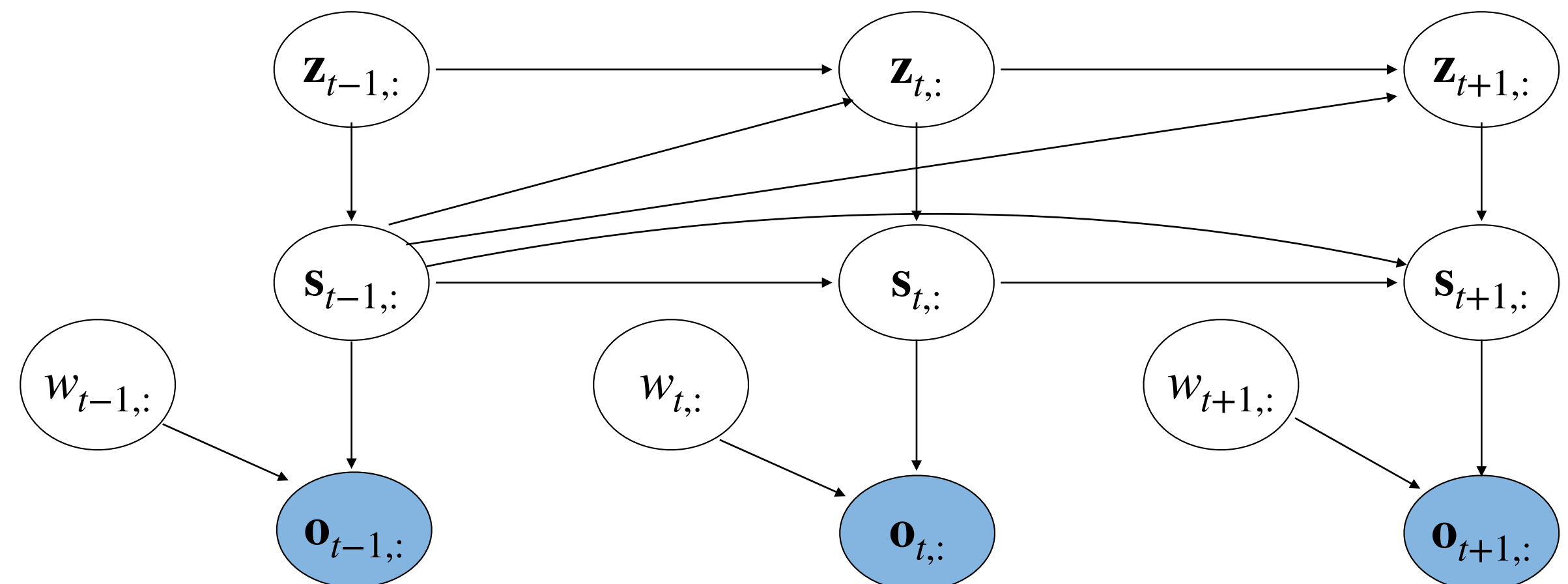
SC-ASS objective: estimate the posterior distribution  $p(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{z}, \mathbf{w} | \mathbf{o})$

# Resolve SC-ASS through Variational Inference (VI)

## Associated graphical model



Folded graphical model



Extended graphical model over time frames

**Generative model:**  $p_{\theta}(\mathbf{o}, \mathbf{w}, \mathbf{s}, \mathbf{z}) = \underline{p_{\theta_0}(\mathbf{o} | \mathbf{w}, \mathbf{s})} \underline{p_{\theta_w}(\mathbf{w})} \underline{p_{\theta_{sz}}(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{z})}$

These distributions are different from that of the MOT problem.

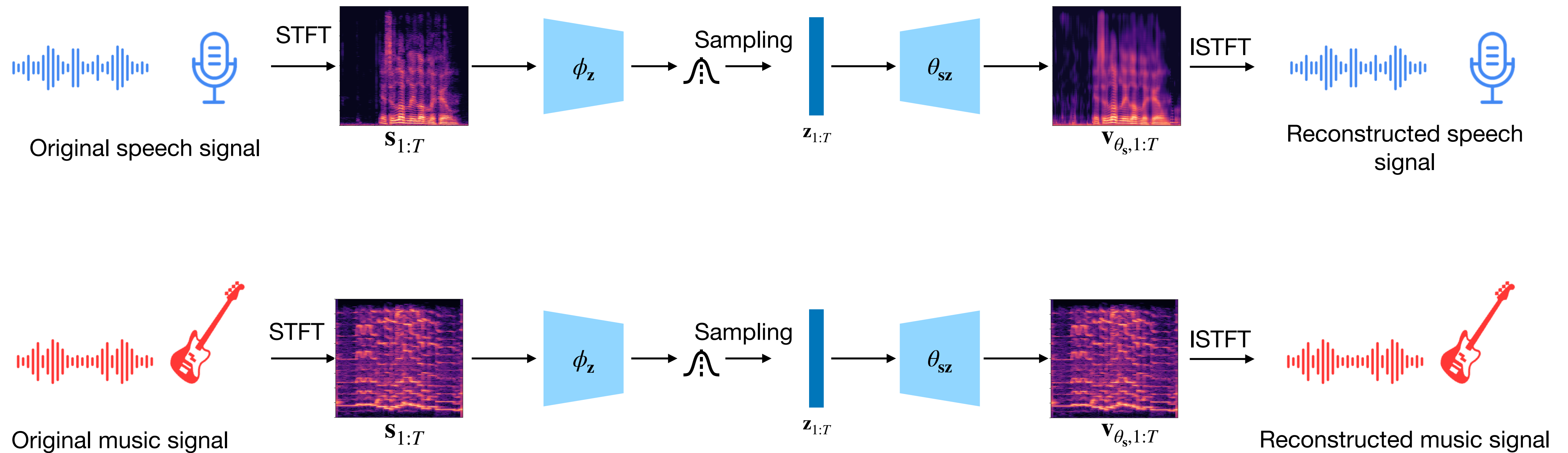
Intractable true posterior distribution  $p_{\theta_{szw}}(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{z}, \mathbf{w} | \mathbf{o})$

**Inference model:** mean-field like approximation  $p_{\theta_{szw}}(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{z}, \mathbf{w} | \mathbf{o}) \approx q_{\phi_w}(\mathbf{w} | \mathbf{o}) q_{\phi_z}(\mathbf{z} | \mathbf{s}) q_{\phi_s}(\mathbf{s} | \mathbf{o})$

Optimization by maximizing the ELBO  $\mathcal{L}(\theta, \phi; \mathbf{o}) \stackrel{23}{=} \mathbb{E}_{q_{\phi}(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{z}, \mathbf{w} | \mathbf{o})} [\log p_{\theta}(\mathbf{o}, \mathbf{s}, \mathbf{z}, \mathbf{w}) - \log q_{\phi}(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{z}, \mathbf{w} | \mathbf{o})]$

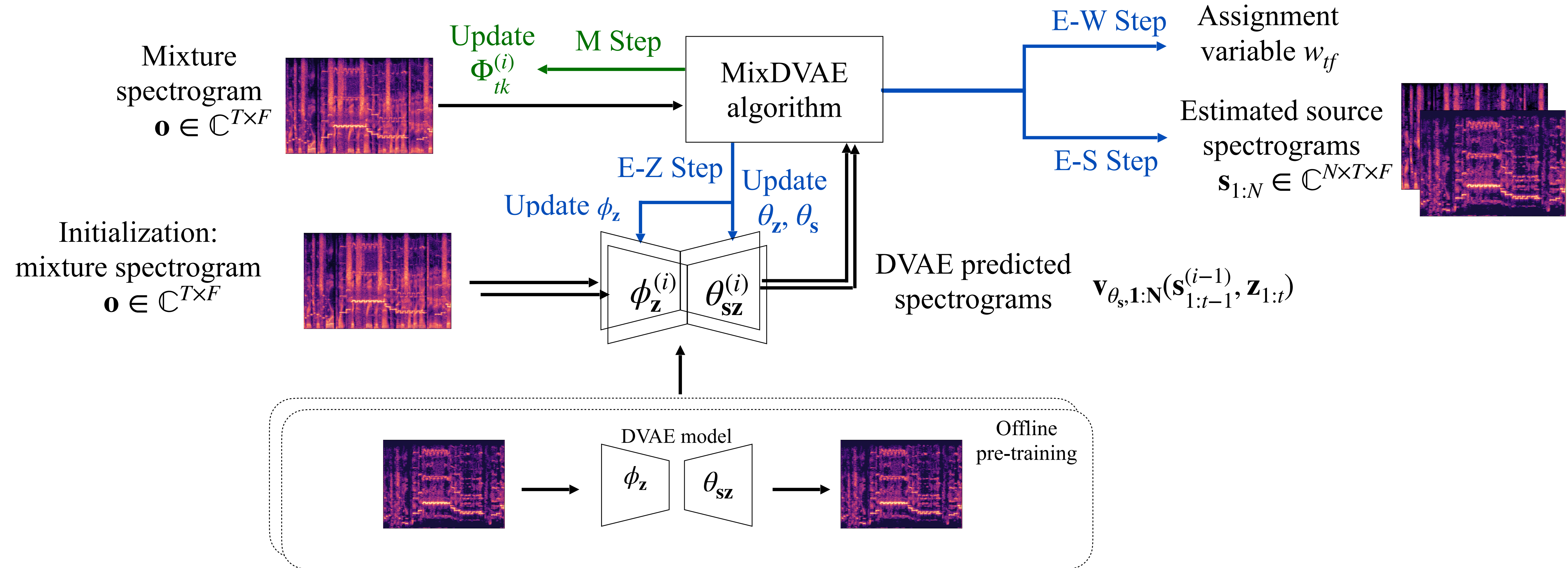
# Resolve SC-ASS through Variational Inference (VI)

Pre-train a DVAE model on each single audio source signal





# Resolve SC-ASS through Variational Inference (VI)



# Experimental settings

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## Datasets

- DVAE pre-training
  - Wall Street Journal (WSJ0) dataset (Garofolo et al., 1993)
  - Chinese Bamboo Flute (CBF) dataset (Wang et al., 2022)
- Evaluation

Mixture signal created from the WSJ0 and CBF test sets with different speech-to-music ratios and three different sequence lengths ( $T=50, 100, 300$ ).

## Baselines

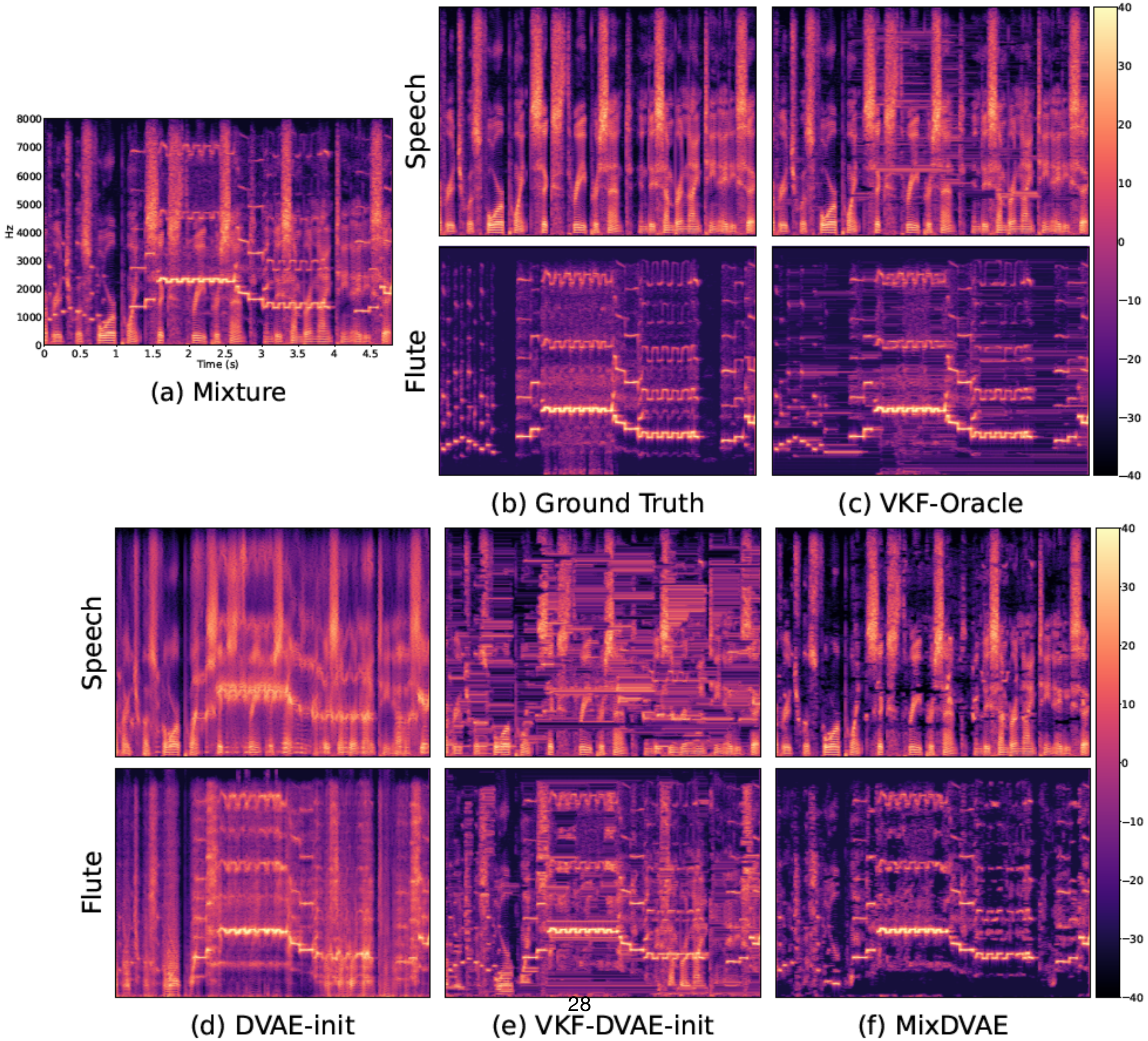
VKF, Deep AR, MixIT (Wisdom et al., 2020), Vanilla NMF (Févotte et al., 2018), temporal NMF (Virtanen, 2007)

# Comparison with baseline models

Table 3: SC-ASS results for short ( $T = 50$ ), medium ( $T = 100$ ), and long ( $T = 300$ ) sequences.

Dataset	Method	Speech			Chinese bamboo flute		
		RMSE ↓	SI-SDR ↑	PESQ ↑	RMSE ↓	SI-SDR ↑	PESQ ↑
Short	Mixture	0.016	-4.94	1.22	0.016	4.93	1.09
	VKF-Oracle	0.004	14.83	2.00	0.004	20.15	2.33
	DVAE-init	0.013	-0.51	1.20	0.019	3.04	1.44
	VKF-DVAE-init	0.012	2.24	1.21	0.012	8.06	1.33
	Deep AR	0.009	5.32	1.29	0.018	5.19	1.48
	MixIT	0.011	3.26	-	0.009	7.15	-
	Vanilla NMF	0.011	3.01	1.40	0.012	9.09	1.37
	Temporal NMF	0.009	4.99	1.53	0.011	10.26	1.53
MixDVAE	<b>0.006</b>	<b>9.23</b>	<b>1.73</b>	<b>0.007</b>	<b>13.50</b>	<b>2.30</b>	
Medium	Mixture	0.016	-4.44	1.17	0.016	4.44	1.08
	VKF-Oracle	0.004	14.88	1.88	0.003	20.24	2.41
	DVAE-init	0.014	0.10	1.15	0.020	2.42	1.27
	VKF-DVAE-init	0.013	1.25	1.12	0.013	7.42	1.26
	Deep AR	0.010	4.88	1.21	0.017	5.17	1.35
	MixIT	0.009	4.75	-	0.009	8.74	-
	Vanilla NMF	0.011	3.28	1.41	0.011	8.88	1.35
	Temporal NMF	0.010	5.12	1.48	0.011	9.96	1.44
MixDVAE	<b>0.007</b>	<b>9.32</b>	<b>1.65</b>	<b>0.007</b>	<b>13.05</b>	<b>2.16</b>	
Long	Mixture	0.016	-4.52	1.19	0.016	4.53	1.10
	VKF-Oracle	0.004	14.65	1.89	0.003	20.45	2.60
	DVAE-init	0.013	0.20	1.15	0.020	2.29	1.22
	VKF-DVAE-init	0.013	0.34	1.10	0.013	7.35	1.24
	Deep AR	0.010	3.87	1.17	0.017	4.74	1.27
	MixIT	<b>0.006</b>	<b>10.2</b>	-	0.007	11.76	-
	Vanilla NMF	0.011	3.31	1.40	0.011	8.98	1.35
	Temporal NMF	0.010	5.01	1.47	0.011	10.06	1.42
MixDVAE	0.007	9.06 <sup>27</sup>	1.64	<b>0.007</b>	<b>12.92</b>	<b>2.06</b>	

# SC-ASS example visualization



# Conclusions

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## **Advantages**

- Data efficiency: no need for large amount of annotated data
- Interpretability
- Prediction uncertainty calibration

## **Limitations**

- Computational efficiency

# Further discussions

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## Context

- Boom of large models trained over large datasets: generative models, foundation models.
- Practical concerns about model transparency, interpretability, uncertainty calibration, data efficiency, and human-model interaction.

## Open question

- How can statistical and probabilistic knowledge be effectively integrated into DL architectures to enhance the design of more robust models?

## Evaluation factors

- Performance
- Computation efficiency
- Generalization ability
- ...



## New Learning framework

- Training configurations: un/semi/self-supervision
- Optimization methods
- Model design
- ....

# Q & A