

1 We thank the reviewers for their feedback. We plan to release source code for all experiments done in the paper.

2 **Comparison to Other Models / Drawbacks (R1)** We compare EBMs to other generative models in Figure 1 on
3 CIFAR-10. EBMs are faster to train than other likelihood models, with fewer parameters, but are more expensive
4 than GAN based models (due to Langevin dynamics sampling), and slower to sample. Training time for PixelCNN++
5 and Glow are from reported values in their papers, while sampling time and parameters were obtained from released
6 code repositories. We have added the table to the appendix of the paper and added discussion on these trade-offs and
7 intractability of likelihood evaluation in the main paper.

8 **Formatting (R1, R3)** Following R1, R3’s comments,
9 we have added captions to all figures.

10 **Clarifications on Experiments (R1)** Following R1’s
11 suggestion, we have added a more detailed description
12 of the experimental setup for each task from section 4-7
13 in the appendix of the paper. We further plan to release
14 source code for every section to further clarify experi-
15 ments, as well as pretrained models.

16 **Minor Issues (R1, R2, R3)** Following R1, we
17 have changed the Helmholtz Machine reference to
18 RBMs/Boltzmann machines in our paper. We have fixed the spelling issues pointed out by both R2 and R3.

19 **Online Learning/Discussion (R2)** Our motivation to include online learning experiments is the same as our mo-
20 tivation to include out-of-distribution and adversarial robustness experiments: current deep learning models exhibit
21 a number of peculiar failure modes. Susceptibility to adversarial perturbations and distribution shift are two, but
22 catastrophic forgetting is another. Excitingly, we are finding that energy-based models don’t seem to be as susceptible to
23 these failure modes. Although a more detailed study on each of these topics is needed, we hope that by highlighting all
24 these intriguing results (including online learning), we can better stimulate the machine learning community to conduct
25 further research on EBMs. But if the reviewers still feel that online learning results are superfluous, please let us know
26 in the meta-review and we will be happy to shorten or remove them.

27 Following R2’s suggestion, we have added an additional paragraph of discussion on future work. Algorithmically, we
28 think it would be interesting to explore methods for faster sampling, such as adaptive HMC, as well as other techniques
29 such as score/moment matching training of EBMs. Empirically, we think it would be interesting to explore, extend, and
30 better understand results we’ve found, in directions such as compositionality, out-of-distribution detection, adversarial
31 robustness, and online learning. Furthermore, we think it may be interesting to apply EBMs on other domains, such as
32 text, where predominant models are likelihood based and as a means for representation learning.

33 **Historical Ensembles (R2)** We find that generation diversity appears to improve logarithmically with the number of
34 ensembles, with marginal gains above an ensemble of 10 models. We have add this to the paper.

35 **Mode Evaluation (R3)** Following R3, we evaluated the number of modes under the stacked MNIST task. We
36 obtained all 1000 modes with a KL divergence of 0.79, which compares favorably to [Metz et al., 2016]. However,
37 such quantitative metrics do not measure mode coverage well in EBMs, as they measure the probability distribution
38 of the sampler as opposed to that of an EBM. Sampling with finite steps of MCMC can be biased towards certain
39 images and completely ignore other high likelihood modes of the EBM. Instead, we believe our qualitative evaluation
40 of mode coverage allows mode coverage even in regions that are difficult for a sampler to generate. Furthermore our
41 compositionality results, where we are able to combine independent conditional EBMs to generate precise dSprites
42 images, show that each conditional model has modes at all 737280 combinations in dSprites.

43 **Saturation/Image Recovery (R3)** We illustrated the worst case recoveries of
44 images in the bottom row of the figure 4b in the paper. In such scenarios, gradients
45 for MCMC sampling may be biased towards a different image, leading to an
46 overall image change. However, this does not imply a lack of a mode at the
47 correspond image, as when the model is initialized with a ground truth image,
48 the image is maintained. The saturation effect in the corresponding images is due
49 to sampling converging to high likelihood modes. Such high likelihood modes
50 are saturated images because these saturated images are smoother and thus more
51 explainable. This phenomenon is a ubiquitous trait of many likelihood based deep
52 generative models. We illustrate in Figure 2 the same effect in GLOW, where
53 lower temperature samples (high likelihood images) (right) and more saturated
54 than higher temperature samples (low likelihood images) (left). We have added these clarifications to the paper.

55 **Related Work (R3)** We have addressed and added the related work suggested by R3 in the paper. Xie et al. [2016]
56 applies Langevin sampling on simple datasets of up to 4 images. Ingraham et al. applies Langevin sampling on the
57 separate domain of protein folding, and add multiple explicit losses on sampling as well as an additional refinement
58 network on top of sampling to allow effective generation.

Models	Parameters	Training Time	Sampling Time
EBM	5M	48	3 Hour (Variable)
PixelCNN++	160M	1300	72 Hour
Glow	115M	1300	0.5 Hour
SNGAN	5M	9	0.02 Hour

Figure 1: Comparison of parameters, training time (GPU hours), and sampling time (for 50000 images) on CIFAR-10. For EBM, sampling time depends on steps of sampling. We used 3 hours of sampling to generate quantitative metrics, but sampling can be much faster (around 0.2 hour) with reduced diversity.

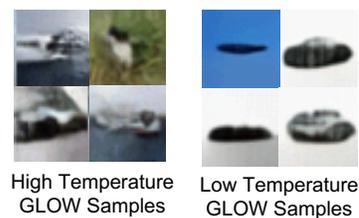


Figure 2: Low Temperature (High likelihood mode) vs High Temperature (Low Likelihood mode) in Glow Model