

Align Your Gaussians: Text-to-4D with Dynamic 3D Gaussians and Composed Diffusion Models

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Project page: <https://research.nvidia.com/labs/toronto-ai/AlignYourGaussians/>

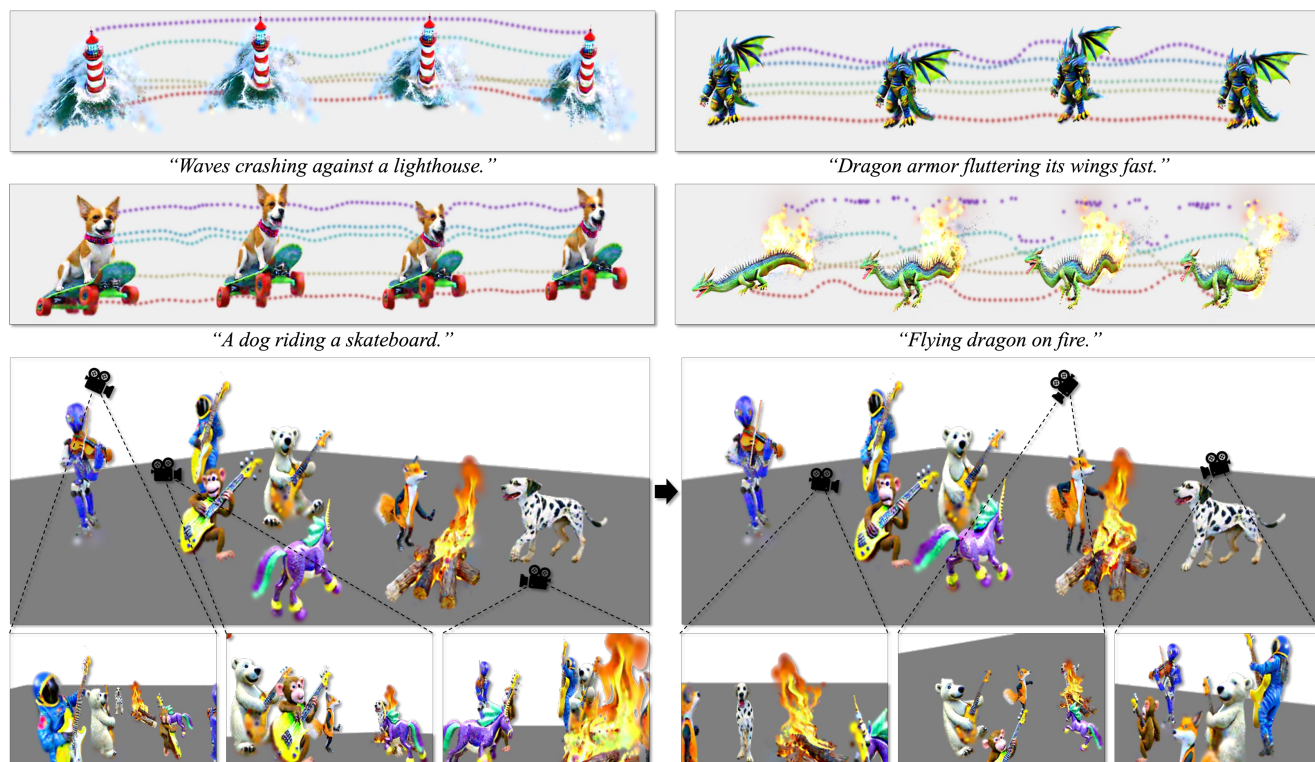


Figure 1. **Text-to-4D synthesis with *Align Your Gaussians* (AYG).** *Top:* Different dynamic 4D sequences. Dotted lines represent dynamics of deformation field. *Bottom:* Multiple dynamic 4D objects are composed within a large dynamic scene; two time frames shown.

Abstract

Text-guided diffusion models have revolutionized image and video generation and have also been successfully used for optimization-based 3D object synthesis. Here, we instead focus on the underexplored text-to-4D setting and synthesize dynamic, animated 3D objects using score distillation methods with an additional temporal dimension. Compared to previous work, we pursue a novel compositional generation-based approach, and combine text-to-image, text-to-video, and 3D-aware multiview diffusion models to provide feedback during 4D object optimization, thereby simultaneously enforcing temporal consistency, high-quality visual appearance and realistic geometry. Our method, called **Align Your Gaussians** (AYG), leverages dynamic 3D Gaussian Splatting with deformation fields as 4D representation. Crucial to AYG is a novel method to regularize the

distribution of the moving 3D Gaussians and thereby stabilize the optimization and induce motion. We also propose a motion amplification mechanism as well as a new autoregressive synthesis scheme to generate and combine multiple 4D sequences for longer generation. These techniques allow us to synthesize vivid dynamic scenes, outperform previous work qualitatively and quantitatively and achieve state-of-the-art text-to-4D performance. Due to the Gaussian 4D representation, different 4D animations can be seamlessly combined, as we demonstrate. AYG opens up promising avenues for animation, simulation and digital content creation as well as synthetic data generation.

1. Introduction

Generative modeling of dynamic 3D scenes has the potential to revolutionize how we create games, movies, simu-

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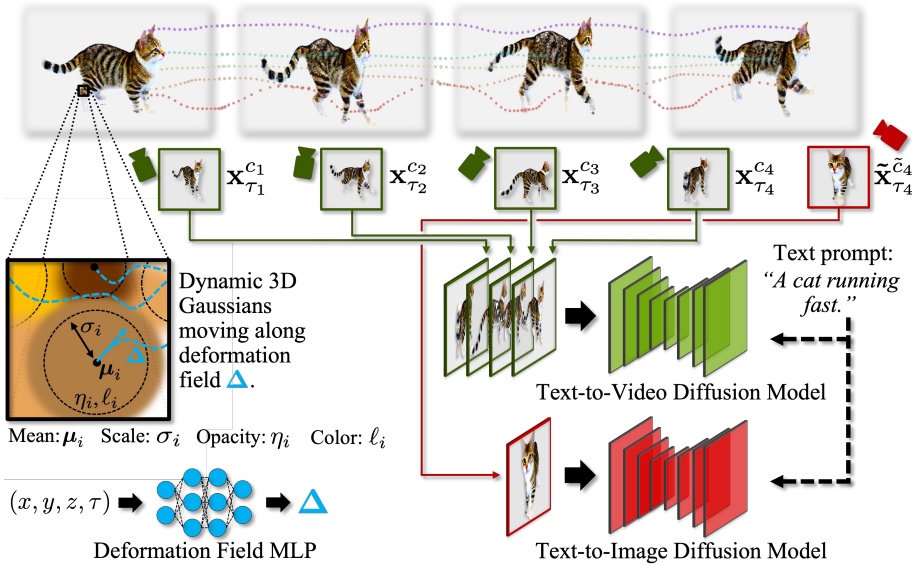


Figure 2. **Text-to-4D synthesis with AYG.** We generate dynamic 4D scenes via score distillation. We initialize the 4D sequence from a static 3D scene (generated first, Fig. 3), which is represented by 3D Gaussians with means μ_i , scales σ_i , opacities η_i and colors ℓ_i . Consecutive rendered frames $\mathbf{x}_{\tau_j}^{c_j}$ from the 4D sequence at times τ_j and camera positions c_j are diffused and fed to a text-to-video diffusion model [7] (**green arrows**), which provides a distillation gradient that is backpropagated through the rendering process into a deformation field $\Delta(x, y, z, \tau)$ (dotted lines) that captures scene motion. Simultaneously, random frames $\tilde{\mathbf{x}}_{\tau_j}^{c_j}$ are diffused and given to a text-to-image diffusion model [70] (**red arrows**) whose gradients ensure that high visual quality is maintained frame-wise.

lations, animations and entire virtual worlds. Many works have shown how a wide variety of 3D objects can be synthesized via score distillation techniques [10, 11, 31, 41, 52, 62, 79, 85, 88, 92, 109], but they typically only synthesize static 3D scenes, although we live in a moving, dynamic world. While image diffusion models have been successfully extended to video generation [1, 7, 22, 28, 78, 90, 91, 107], there is little research on similarly extending 3D synthesis to 4D generation with an additional temporal dimension.

We propose *Align Your Gaussians (AYG)*, a novel method for 4D content creation. In contrast to previous work [79], we leverage dynamic 3D Gaussians [36] as backbone 4D representation, where a deformation field [59, 63] captures scene dynamics and transforms the collection of 3D Gaussians to represent object motion. AYG takes a compositional generation-based perspective and leverages the combined gradients of latent text-to-image [70], text-to-video [7] and 3D-aware text-to-multiview-image [76] diffusion models in a score distillation-based synthesis framework. A 3D-aware multiview diffusion model and a regular text-to-image model are used to generate an initial high-quality 3D shape. Afterwards, we compose the gradients of a text-to-video and a text-to-image model; the gradients of the text-to-video model optimize the deformation field to capture temporal dynamics, while the text-to-image model ensures that high visual quality is maintained for all time frames (Fig. 2). To this end, we trained a dedicated text-to-video model; it is conditioned on the frame rate and can create useful gradients both for short and long time intervals, which allows us to generate long and smooth 4D sequences.

We developed several techniques to ensure stable optimization and learn vivid dynamic 4D scenes in AYG: We employ a novel regularization method that uses a modified version of the Jensen-Shannon divergence to regularize the locations of the 3D Gaussians such that the mean and variance of the set of 3D Gaussians is preserved as

they move. Furthermore, we use a motion amplification method that carefully scales the gradients from the text-to-video model and enhances motion. To extend the length of the 4D sequences or combine different dynamic scenes with changing text guidance, we introduce an autoregressive generation scheme which interpolates the deformation fields of consecutive sequences. We also propose a new view-guidance method to generate consistent 3D scenes for initialization of the 4D stage, and we leverage the concurrent classifier score distillation method [102].

We find that AYG can generate diverse, vivid, detailed and 3D-consistent dynamic scenes (Fig. 1), achieving state-of-the-art text-to-4D performance. We also show long, autoregressively extended 4D scenes, including ones with varying text guidance, which has not been demonstrated before. A crucial advantage of AYG’s 4D Gaussian backbone representation is that different 4D animations can trivially be combined and composed together, which we also show.

We envision broad applications in digital content creation, where AYG takes a step beyond the literature on text-to-3D and captures our world’s rich dynamics. Moreover, AYG can generate 4D scenes with exact tracking labels for free, a promising feature for synthetic data generation.

Contributions. (i) We propose AYG, a system for text-to-4D content creation leveraging dynamic 3D Gaussians with deformation fields as 4D representation. (ii) We show how to tackle the text-to-4D task through score distillation within a new compositional generation framework, combining 2D, 3D, and video diffusion models. (iii) To scale AYG, we introduce a novel regularization method and a new motion amplification technique. (iv) Experimentally, we achieve state-of-the-art text-to-4D performance and generate high-quality, diverse, and dynamic 4D scenes. (v) For the first time, we also show how our 4D sequences can be extended in time with a new autoregressive generation scheme and even creatively composed in large scenes.

2. Background

3D Gaussian Splatting [36] represents 3D scenes by N 3D Gaussians with positions μ_i , covariances Σ_i , opacities η_i and colors ℓ_i (Fig. 2). Rendering corresponds to projection of the 3D Gaussians onto the 2D camera’s image plane, producing 2D Gaussians with projected means $\hat{\mu}_i$ and covariances $\hat{\Sigma}_i$. The color $\mathcal{C}(\mathbf{p})$ of image pixel \mathbf{p} can be calculated through point-based volume rendering [111] as

$$\mathcal{C}(\mathbf{p}) = \sum_{i=1}^N \ell_i \alpha_i \prod_{j=1}^{i-1} (1 - \alpha_j), \quad (1)$$

$$\alpha_i = \eta_i \exp \left[-\frac{1}{2} (\mathbf{p} - \hat{\mu}_i)^\top \hat{\Sigma}_i^{-1} (\mathbf{p} - \hat{\mu}_i) \right], \quad (2)$$

where j iterates over the Gaussians along the ray through the scene from pixel \mathbf{p} until Gaussian i . To accelerate rendering, the image plane can be divided into tiles, which are processed in parallel. Initially proposed for 3D scene reconstruction, 3D Gaussian Splatting uses gradient-based thresholding to densify areas that need more Gaussians to capture fine details, and unnecessary Gaussians with low opacity are pruned every few thousand optimization steps.

Diffusion Models and Score Distillation Sampling. Diffusion-based generative models (DMs) [18, 27, 57, 80, 81] use a forward diffusion process that gradually perturbs data, such as images or entire videos, towards entirely random noise, while a neural network is learnt to denoise and reconstruct the data. DMs have also been widely used for score distillation-based generation of 3D objects [62]. In that case, a 3D object, represented for instance by a neural radiance field (NeRF) [54] or 3D Gaussians [36], like here, with parameters θ is rendered from different camera views and the renderings \mathbf{x} are diffused and given to a text-to-image DM. In the score distillation sampling (SDS) framework, the DM’s denoiser is then used to construct a gradient that is backpropagated through the differentiable rendering process g into the 3D scene representation and updates the scene representation to make the scene rendering look more realistic, like images modeled by the DM. Rendering and using DM feedback from many different camera perspectives then encourages the scene representation to form a geometrically consistent 3D scene. The SDS gradient [62] is

$$\nabla_{\theta} \mathcal{L}_{\text{SDS}}(\mathbf{x} = g(\theta)) = \mathbb{E}_{t, \epsilon} \left[w(t) (\hat{\epsilon}_{\phi}(\mathbf{z}_t, v, t) - \epsilon) \frac{\partial \mathbf{x}}{\partial \theta} \right],$$

where \mathbf{x} denotes the 2D rendering, t is the time up to which the diffusion is run to perturb \mathbf{x} , $w(t)$ is a weighting function, and \mathbf{z}_t is the perturbed rendering. Further, $\hat{\epsilon}_{\phi}(\mathbf{z}_t, v, t)$ is the DM’s denoiser neural network that predicts the diffusion noise ϵ . It is conditioned on \mathbf{z}_t , the diffusion time t and a text prompt v for guidance. Classifier-free guidance (CFG) [26] typically amplifies the text conditioning.

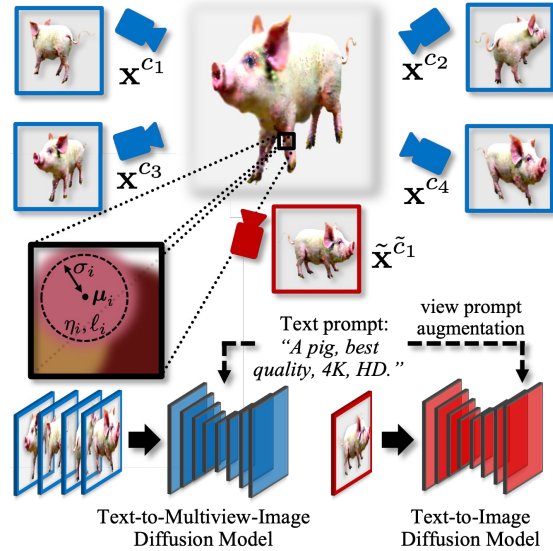


Figure 3. In AYG’s **initial 3D stage** we synthesize a static 3D scene leveraging a text-guided multiview diffusion model [76] and a regular text-to-image model [70]. The text-to-image model receives viewing angle-dependent text prompts and leverages view guidance (Sec. 3.4). See Fig. 2 for 4D stage and descriptions.

2.1. Related Work

See Supp. Material for an extended discussion. Here, we only briefly mention the most relevant related literature.

As discussed, AYG builds on text-driven image [5, 14, 21, 61, 67, 70, 72, 98], video [1, 7, 22, 25, 28, 38, 78, 90, 91, 94, 107] and 3D-aware DMs [42, 44, 45, 56, 64, 75, 76, 104], uses score distillation sampling [10, 11, 17, 31, 41, 48, 52, 62, 85, 88, 92, 96, 109] and leverages 3D Gaussian Splatting [36] as well as deformation fields [8, 59, 60, 63, 84] for its 4D representation. The concurrent works DreamGaussian [83], GSGEN [12] and GaussianDreamer [101] use 3D Gaussian Splatting to synthesize static 3D scenes, but do not consider dynamics. Dynamic 3D Gaussian Splatting has been used for 4D reconstruction [50, 93, 110], but not for 4D generation. The idea to compose the gradients of multiple DMs has been used before for controllable image generation [19, 43], but has received little attention in 3D or 4D synthesis.

Most related to AYG is *Make-A-Video3D (MAV3D)* [79], to the best of our knowledge the only previous work that generates dynamic 4D scenes with score distillation. MAV3D uses NeRFs with HexPlane [9] features as 4D representation, in contrast to AYG’s dynamic 3D Gaussians, and it does not disentangle its 4D representation into a static 3D representation and a deformation field modeling dynamics. MAV3D’s representation prevents it from composing multiple 4D objects into large dynamic scenes, which our 3D Gaussian plus deformation field representation easily enables, as we show. Moreover, MAV3D’s sequences are limited in time, while we show a novel autoregressive generation scheme to extend our 4D sequences.

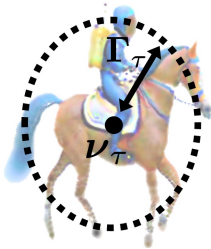


Figure 4. **AYG’s JSD-based regularization** of the evolving 4D Gaussians (see Sec. 3.4) calculates the 3D mean ν_τ and diagonal covariance matrix Γ_τ of the set of dynamic 3D Gaussians at different times τ of the 4D sequence and regularizes them to not vary too much.

AYG outperforms MAV3D qualitatively and quantitatively and synthesizes significantly higher-quality 4D scenes. Our novel compositional generation-based approach contributes to this, which MAV3D does not pursue. Finally, instead of regular SDS, used by MAV3D, in practice AYG employs classifier score distillation [102] (see Sec. 3.4).

3. Align Your Gaussians

In Sec. 3.1, we present AYG’s 4D representation, and in Sec. 3.2, we introduce its compositional generation framework with multiple DMs. In Sec. 3.3, we lay out AYG’s score distillation framework in practice, and in Sec. 3.4, we discuss several novel methods and extensions to scale AYG.

3.1. AYG’s 4D Representation

AYG’s 4D representation combines 3D Gaussian Splatting [36] with deformation fields [59, 63] to capture the 3D scene and its temporal dynamics in a disentangled manner. Specifically, each 4D scene consists of a set of N 3D Gaussians as in Sec. 2. Following Kerbl et al. [36], we also use two degrees of spherical harmonics to model view-dependent effects, this is, directional color, and thereby improve the 3D Gaussians’ expressivity. Moreover, we restrict the 3D Gaussians’ covariance matrices to be isotropic with scales σ_i . We made this choice as our 3D Gaussians move as a function of time and learning expressive dynamics is easier for spherical Gaussians. We denote the collection of learnable parameters of our 3D Gaussians as θ . The scene dynamics are modeled by a deformation field $\Delta_\Phi(x, y, z, \tau) = (\Delta x, \Delta y, \Delta z)$, defined through a multi-layer perceptron (MLP) with parameters Φ . Specifically, for any 3D location (x, y, z) and time τ , the deformation field predicts a displacement $(\Delta x, \Delta y, \Delta z)$. The 3D Gaussians smoothly follow these displacements to represent a moving and deforming 4D scene (Fig. 2). Note that in practice we preserve the initial 3D Gaussians for the first frame, *i.e.* $\Delta_\Phi(x, y, z, 0) = (0, 0, 0)$, by setting $\Delta_\Phi(x, y, z, \tau) = (\xi(\tau)\Delta x, \xi(\tau)\Delta y, \xi(\tau)\Delta z)$ where $\xi(\tau) = \tau^{0.35}$ such that $\xi(0) = 0$ and $\xi(1) = 1$. Following Luiten et al. [50], we regularize the deformation field so that nearby Gaussians deform similarly (“rigidity regularization”, see Supp. Mat.).

Apart from the intuitive decomposition into a backbone 3D representation and a deformation field to model dynamics, a crucial advantage of AYG’s dynamic 3D Gaussian-based representation is that different dynamic scenes, each with its own set of Gaussians and deformation field, can be

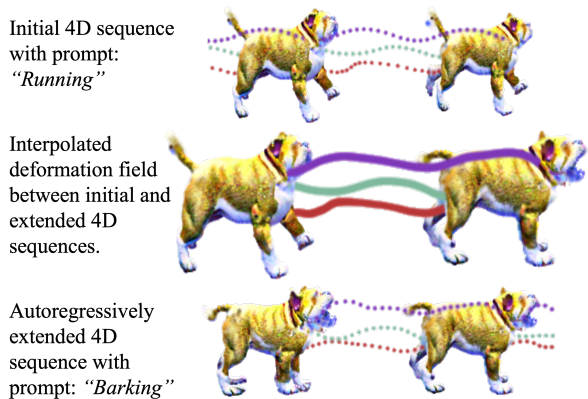


Figure 5. **AYG’s autoregressive extension scheme** interpolates the deformation fields of an initial and an extended 4D sequence within an overlap interval between the two sequences (Sec. 3.4).

easily combined, thereby enabling promising 3D dynamic content creation applications (see Fig. 1). This is due to the explicit nature of this representation, in contrast to typical NeRF-based representations. Moreover, learning 4D scenes with score distillation requires many scene renderings. This also makes 3D Gaussians ideal due to their rendering efficiency [36]. Note that early on we also explored MAV3D’s HexPlane- and NeRF-based 4D representation [79], but we were not able to achieve satisfactory results.

3.2. Text-to-4D as Compositional Generation

We would like AYG’s synthesized dynamic 4D scenes to be of high visual quality, be 3D-consistent and geometrically correct, and also feature expressive and realistic temporal dynamics. This suggests to compose different text-driven DMs during the distillation-based generation to capture these different aspects. (i) We use the text-to-image model Stable Diffusion (SD) [70], which has been trained on a broad set of imagery and provides a strong general image prior. (ii) We also utilize the 3D-aware text-conditioned multi-view DM MVDream [76], which generates multi-view images of 3D objects, was fine-tuned from SD on the object-centric 3D dataset Objaverse [15, 16] and provides a strong 3D prior. It defines a distribution over four multiview-consistent images corresponding to object renderings from four different camera perspectives c_1, \dots, c_4 . Moreover, we train a text-to-video DM, following VideoLDM [7], but with a larger text-video dataset (HDVG-130M [90] and Webvid-10M [4]) and additional conditioning on the videos’ frame rate (see Supp. Material for details). This video DM provides temporal feedback when rendering 2D frame sequences from our dynamic 4D scenes. All used DMs are *latent* DMs [70, 86], which means that in practice we first encode renderings of our 4D scenes into the models’ latent spaces, calculate score distillation gradients there, and backpropagate them through the models’ encoders. All DMs leverage the SD 2.1 backbone and share the same encoder. To keep the notation simple, we do

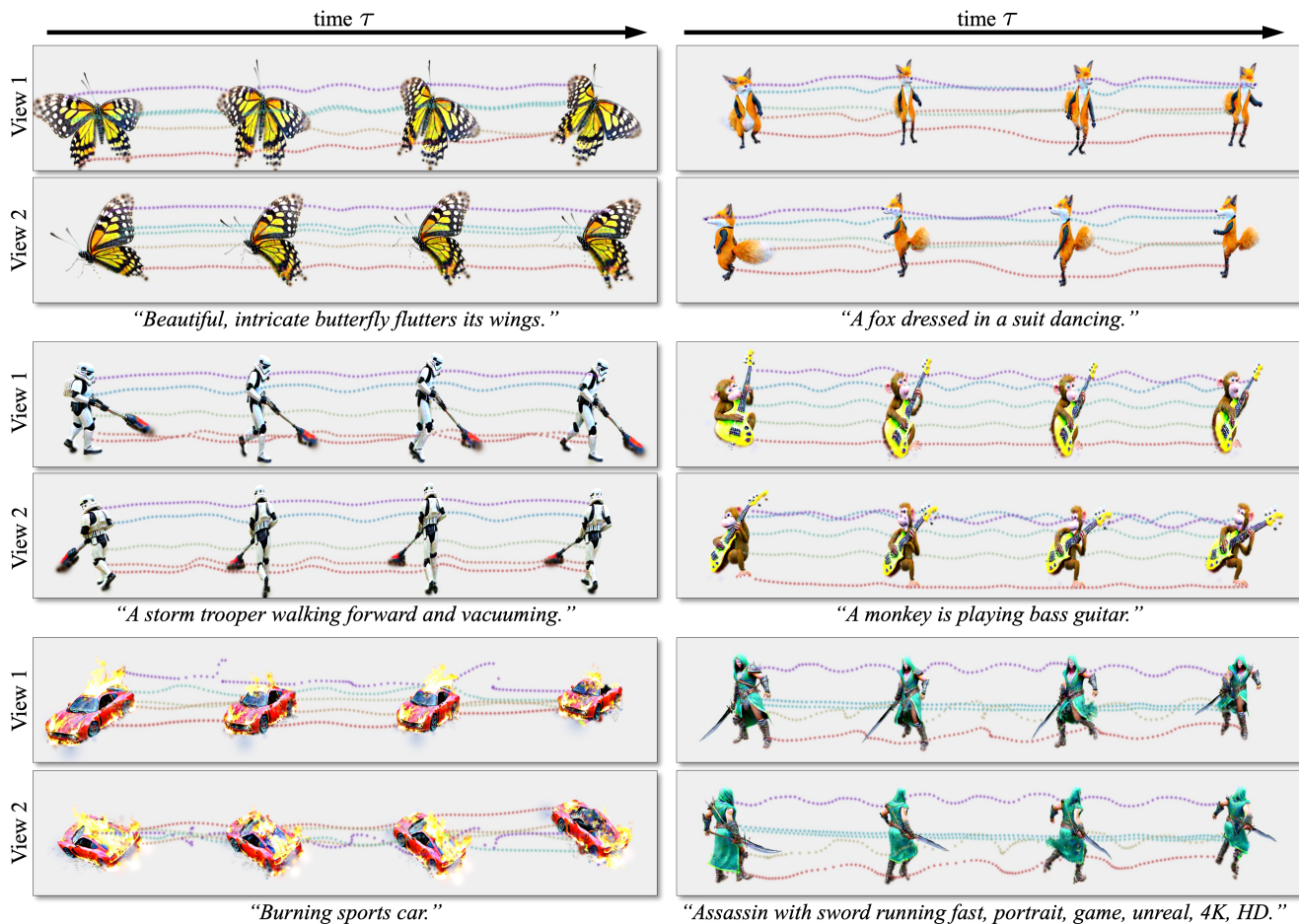


Figure 6. **Text-to-4D synthesis with AYG.** Various samples shown in two views each. Dotted lines denote deformation field dynamics.

not explicitly incorporate the encoding into our mathematical description below and the visualizations (Figs. 2 and 3).

We disentangle optimization into first synthesizing a static 3D Gaussian-based object θ , and then learning the deformation field Φ to add scene dynamics.

Stage 1: 3D Synthesis (Fig. 3). We first use MVDream’s multiview image prior to generate a static 3D scene via score distillation (Supp. Mat. for details). Since MVDream on its own would generate objects in random orientations, we enforce a canonical pose by combining MVDream’s gradients with those of regular SD, while augmenting the text-conditioning for SD with directional texts “front view”, “side view”, “back view” and “overhead view” [62]. Formally, we can derive a score distillation gradient (see Sec. 3.3) by minimizing the reverse Kullback-Leibler divergence (KLD) from the rendering distribution to the product of the composed MVDream and SD model distributions

$$\text{KL} \left(q_{\theta} \left(\{\mathbf{z}^{c_i}\}_4, \{\tilde{\mathbf{z}}^{\tilde{c}_j}\}_K \right) \left\| \left\| p_{3D}^{\alpha} \left(\{\mathbf{z}^{c_i}\}_4 \right) \prod_{j=1}^K p_{\text{im}}^{\beta} \left(\tilde{\mathbf{z}}^{\tilde{c}_j} \right) \right. \right),$$

similar to Poole et al. [62] (App. A.4). Here, $p_{3D}(\{\mathbf{z}^{c_i}\}_4)$ represents the MVDream-defined multiview image distribution over four diffused renderings from camera views c_i ,

denoted as the set $\{\mathbf{z}^{c_i}\}_4$ (we omit the diffusion time t subscript for brevity). Moreover, $p_{\text{im}}(\tilde{\mathbf{z}}^{\tilde{c}_j})$ is the SD-based general image prior and $\{\tilde{\mathbf{z}}^{\tilde{c}_j}\}_K$ is another set of K diffused scene renderings. In principle, the renderings for SD and MVDream can be from different camera angles c_i and \tilde{c}_j , but in practice we choose $K=4$ and use the same renderings. Furthermore, α and β are adjustable temperatures of the distributions p_{3D} and p_{im} , and q_{θ} denotes the distribution over diffused renderings defined by the underlying 3D scene representation θ , which is optimized through the differentiable rendering. We also use the Gaussian densification method discussed in Sec. 2 (see Supp. Material).

Stage 2: Adding Dynamics for 4D Synthesis (Fig. 2). While in stage 1, we only optimize the 3D Gaussians, in stage 2, the main 4D stage, we optimize (only) the deformation field Φ to capture motion and extend the static 3D scene to a dynamic 4D scene with temporal dimension τ . To this end, we compose the text-to-image and text-to-video DMs and formally minimize a reverse KLD of the form

$$\text{KL} \left(q_{\Phi} \left(\{\mathbf{z}_{\tau_i}^{c_i}\}_F, \{\tilde{\mathbf{z}}_{\tau_j}^{\tilde{c}_j}\}_M \right) \left\| \left\| p_{\text{vid}}^{\gamma} \left(\{\mathbf{z}_{\tau_i}^{c_i}\}_F \right) \prod_{j=1}^M p_{\text{im}}^{\kappa} \left(\tilde{\mathbf{z}}_{\tau_j}^{\tilde{c}_j} \right) \right. \right),$$

where $p_{\text{vid}}(\{\mathbf{z}_{\tau_i}^{c_i}\}_F)$ is the video DM-defined distribution

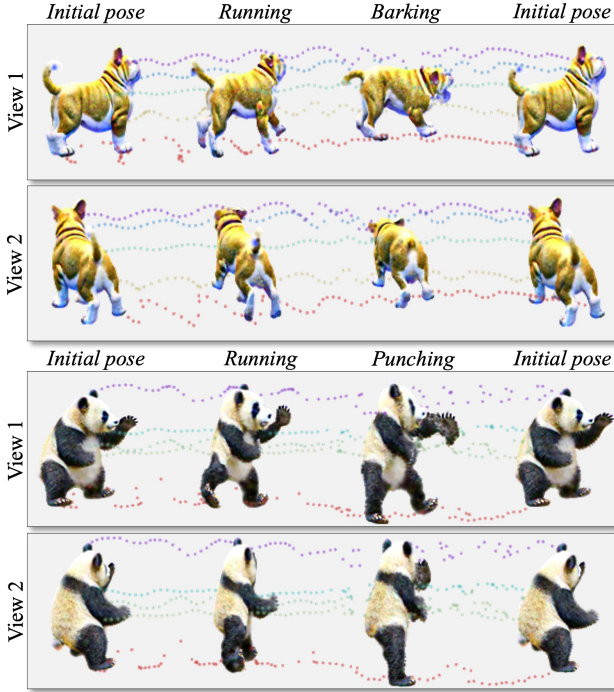


Figure 7. **Autoregressively extended text-to-4D synthesis.** AYG is able to autoregressively extend dynamic 4D sequences, combine sequences with different text-guidance, and create looping animations, returning to the initial pose (also see Supp. Video).

over F 4D scene renderings $\{\mathbf{z}_{\tau_i}^{c_i}\}_F$ taken at times τ_i and camera angles c_i ($F=16$ for our model). Similar to before, M additional renderings are given to the SD-based general image prior, and γ and κ are temperatures. The renderings $\{\tilde{\mathbf{z}}_{\tilde{\tau}_j}^{\tilde{c}_j}\}_M$ fed to regular SD can be taken at different times $\tilde{\tau}_j$ and cameras \tilde{c}_j than the video model frames, but in practice $M=4$ and we use three random renderings as well as the 8th middle frame among the ones given to the video model. q_{Φ} defines the distribution over renderings by the 4D scene with the learnable deformation field parameters Φ . We could render videos from the 4D scene with a fixed camera, but in practice dynamic cameras, *i.e.* varying c_i , help to learn more vivid 4D scenes, similar to Singer et al. [79].

Moreover, following Singer et al. [79], our video DM is conditioned on the frame rate (fps) and we choose the times $0 \leq \tau_i \leq 1$ accordingly by sampling $\text{fps} \in \{4, 8, 12\}$ and the starting time. We render videos from the 4D scene and condition the video DM with the sampled fps. This helps generating not only sufficiently long but also temporally smooth 4D animations, as different fps correspond to long-term and short-term dynamics. Therefore, when rendering short but high fps videos they only span part of the entire length of the 4D sequence. Also see Supp. Material.

Optimizing the deformation field while supervising both with a video and image DM is crucial. The video DM generates temporal dynamics, but text-to-video DMs are not as robust as general text-to-image DMs. Including the image DM during this stage ensures stable optimization and that

high visual frame quality is maintained (ablations in Sec. 4).

A crucial advantage of the disentangled two stage design is that AYG’s main 4D synthesis method—the main innovation of this work—could in the future in principle also be applied to 3D objects originating from other generation systems or even to synthetic assets created by digital artists.

3.3. AYG’s Score Distillation in Practice

Above, we have laid out AYG’s general synthesis framework. The full stage 2 score distillation gradient including CFG can be expressed as (stage 1 proceeds analogously)

$$\begin{aligned} \nabla_{\Phi} \mathcal{L}_{\text{SDS}}^{\text{AYG}} = & \mathbb{E}_{t, \epsilon^{\text{vid}}, \epsilon^{\text{im}}} \left[w(t) \left\{ \gamma \left(\omega_{\text{vid}} [\hat{\epsilon}^{\text{vid}}(\mathbf{Z}, v, t) - \hat{\epsilon}^{\text{vid}}(\mathbf{Z}, t)] \right. \right. \right. \\ & + \underbrace{\hat{\epsilon}^{\text{vid}}(\mathbf{Z}, v, t) - \epsilon^{\text{vid}}}_{\delta_{\text{gen}}^{\text{vid}}} \left. \left. \left. + \kappa \left(\omega_{\text{im}} [\hat{\epsilon}^{\text{im}}(\tilde{\mathbf{Z}}, v, t) - \hat{\epsilon}^{\text{im}}(\tilde{\mathbf{Z}}, t)] \right. \right. \right. \\ & + \underbrace{\hat{\epsilon}^{\text{im}}(\tilde{\mathbf{Z}}, v, t) - \epsilon^{\text{im}}}_{\delta_{\text{gen}}^{\text{im}}} \left. \left. \left. \right\} \frac{\partial \{\mathbf{x}\}}{\partial \Phi} \right], \quad (3) \end{aligned}$$

where $\mathbf{Z} := \{\mathbf{z}_{\tau_i}^{c_i}\}_F$, $\tilde{\mathbf{Z}} := \{\tilde{\mathbf{z}}_{\tilde{\tau}_j}^{\tilde{c}_j}\}_M$, $\omega_{\text{vid/im}}$ are the CFG scales for the video and image DMs, $\hat{\epsilon}^{\text{vid}}(\mathbf{Z}, v, t)$ and $\hat{\epsilon}^{\text{im}}(\tilde{\mathbf{Z}}, v, t)$ are the corresponding denoiser networks and ϵ^{vid} and ϵ^{im} are the diffusion noises (an analogous SDS gradient can be written for stage 1). Moreover, $\{\mathbf{x}\}$ denotes the set of all renderings from the 4D scene through which the SDS gradient is backpropagated, and which are diffused to produce \mathbf{Z} and $\tilde{\mathbf{Z}}$. Recently, ProlificDreamer [92] proposed a scheme where the control variates $\epsilon^{\text{vid/im}}$ above are replaced by DMs that model the rendering distribution, are initialized from the DMs guiding the synthesis ($\hat{\epsilon}^{\text{vid}}(\mathbf{Z}, v, t)$ and $\hat{\epsilon}^{\text{im}}(\tilde{\mathbf{Z}}, v, t)$ here), and are then slowly fine-tuned on the diffused renderings (\mathbf{Z} or $\tilde{\mathbf{Z}}$ here). This means that at the beginning of optimization the terms $\delta_{\text{gen}}^{\text{vid/im}}$ in Eq. (3) would be zero. Inspired by this observation and aiming to avoid ProlificDreamer’s cumbersome fine-tuning, we instead propose to simply set $\delta_{\text{gen}}^{\text{vid/im}} = 0$ entirely and optimize with

$$\begin{aligned} \nabla_{\Phi} \mathcal{L}_{\text{CSD}}^{\text{AYG}} = & \mathbb{E}_{t, \epsilon^{\text{vid}}, \epsilon^{\text{im}}} \left[w(t) \left\{ \omega_{\text{vid}} \underbrace{[\hat{\epsilon}^{\text{vid}}(\mathbf{Z}, v, t) - \hat{\epsilon}^{\text{vid}}(\mathbf{Z}, t)]}_{\delta_{\text{cls}}^{\text{vid}}} \right. \right. \\ & + \omega_{\text{im}} \underbrace{[\hat{\epsilon}^{\text{im}}(\tilde{\mathbf{Z}}, v, t) - \hat{\epsilon}^{\text{im}}(\tilde{\mathbf{Z}}, t)]}_{\delta_{\text{cls}}^{\text{im}}} \left. \left. \right\} \frac{\partial \{\mathbf{x}\}}{\partial \Phi} \right], \quad (4) \end{aligned}$$

where we absorbed γ and κ into $\omega_{\text{vid/im}}$. Interestingly, this exactly corresponds to the concurrently proposed classifier score distillation (CSD) [102], which points out that the above two terms $\delta_{\text{cls}}^{\text{vid/im}}$ in Eq. (4) correspond to implicit classifiers predicting v from the video or images, respectively. CSD then uses only $\delta_{\text{cls}}^{\text{vid/im}}$ for score distillation, resulting in improved performance over SDS. We discovered that scheme independently, while aiming to inherit ProlificDreamer’s strong performance. Supp. Material for details.



Figure 8. **AYG (ours) vs. MAV3D [79]**. We show four 4D frames for different times and camera angles (also see Supp. Video).

3.4. Scaling Align Your Gaussians

To scale AYG and achieve state-of-the-art text-to-4D performance, we introduce several further novel techniques.

Distribution Regularization of 4D Gaussians. We developed a method to stabilize optimization and ensure realistic learnt motion. We calculate the means ν_τ and diagonal covariances Γ_τ of the entire set of 3D Gaussians (using their means μ_i) at times τ along the 4D sequence (Fig. 4). Defining a Normal distribution $\mathcal{N}(\nu_\tau, \Gamma_\tau)$ with these means and covariances, we regularize with a modified version of the Jensen-Shannon divergence $\text{JSD}(\mathcal{N}(\nu_0, \Gamma_0) || \mathcal{N}(\nu_\tau, \Gamma_\tau))$ between the 3D Gaussians at the initial and later frames τ (see Supp. Material). This ensures that the mean and the diagonal covariance of the distribution of the Gaussians stay approximately constant and encourages AYG to generate meaningful and complex dynamics instead of simple global translations and object size changes.

Extended Autoregressive Generation. By default, AYG produces relatively short 4D sequences, which is due to the guiding text-to-video model, which itself only generates short video clips (see Blattmann et al. [7]). To overcome this limitation, we developed a method to autoregressively extend the 4D sequences. We use the middle 4D frame from a first sequence as the initial frame of a second sequence, optimizing a second deformation field, optionally using a different text prompt. As the second sequence is initialized from the middle frame of the first sequence, there is an overlap interval with length 0.5 of the total length of each sequence. When optimizing for the second deformation field, we smoothly interpolate between the first and second

Table 1. **Comparison to MAV3D [79]** by user study on synthesized 4D scenes with 28 text prompts. Numbers are percentages.

Method preference	AYG (ours) preferred	MAV3D [79] preferred	Equal preference
Overall Quality	53.6	38.8	7.6
3D Appearance	47.4	37.2	15.4
3D Text Alignment	45.9	38.8	15.3
Motion Amount	45.9	38.8	15.3
Motion Text Alignment	47.4	33.7	18.9
Motion Realism	44.4	43.9	11.7

deformation fields for the overlap region (Fig. 5). Specifically, we define $\Delta_{\Phi_{12}}^{\text{interpol}} = (1 - \chi(\tau))\Delta_{\Phi_1} + \chi(\tau)\Delta_{\Phi_2}$ where χ is a linear function with $\chi(\tau_{0.5}) = 0$ and $\chi(\tau_{1.0}) = 1$, $\tau_{0.5}$ and $\tau_{1.0}$ represent the middle and last time frames of the first sequence, $\Delta_{\Phi_{12}}^{\text{interpol}}$ is the interpolated deformation field, and Δ_{Φ_1} (kept fixed) and Δ_{Φ_2} are the deformation fields of the first and second sequence, respectively. We additionally minimize $\mathcal{L}_{\text{Interpol-Reg.}} = \|\Delta_{\Phi_1} - \Delta_{\Phi_{12}}^{\text{interpol}}\|_2^2$ within the overlap region to regularize the optimization process of Δ_{Φ_2} . For the non-overlap regions, we just use the corresponding Δ_{Φ} . With this careful interpolation technique the deformation field smoothly transitions from the first sequence’s into the second sequence’s. Without it, we obtained abrupt, unrealistic transitions.

Motion Amplification. When a set of 4D scene renderings is given to the text-to-video model, it produces a (classifier) score distillation gradient for each frame i . We expect most motion when the gradient for each frame points into a different direction. With that in mind, we propose a motion amplification technique. We post-process the video model’s individual frame scores $\delta_{\text{cls } i}^{\text{vid}}$ ($i \in \{1, \dots, F\}$) as $\delta_{\text{cls } i}^{\text{vid}} \rightarrow \langle \delta_{\text{cls } i}^{\text{vid}} \rangle + \omega_{\text{ma}} (\delta_{\text{cls } i}^{\text{vid}} - \langle \delta_{\text{cls } i}^{\text{vid}} \rangle)$, where $\langle \delta_{\text{cls } i}^{\text{vid}} \rangle$ is the average score over the F video frames and ω_{ma} is the motion amplifier scale. This scheme is inspired by CFG and reproduces regular video model scores for $\omega_{\text{ma}}=1$. For larger ω_{ma} , the difference between the individual frames’ scores and the average is amplified, thereby encouraging larger frame differences and more motion.

View Guidance. In AYG’s 3D stage, for the text-to-image model we use a new *view guidance*. We construct an additional implicit classifier term $\omega_{\text{vg}} [\hat{\epsilon}^{\text{im}}(\mathbf{z}, v^{\text{aug}}, t) - \hat{\epsilon}^{\text{im}}(\mathbf{z}, v, t)]$, where v^{aug} denotes the original text prompt v augmented with directional texts such as “front view” (see Sec. 3.2) and ω_{vg} is the guidance scale. View guidance amplifies the effect of directional text prompt augmentation.

Negative Prompting. We also use negative prompt guidance during both the 3D and 4D stages. During the 4D stage, we use “*low motion, static statue, not moving, no motion*” to encourage AYG to generate more dynamic and vivid 4D scenes. Supp. Material for 3D stage and details.

4. Experiments

Text-to-4D. In Fig. 6, we show text-to-4D sequences generated by AYG (hyperparameters and details in Supp. Ma-

Align Your Gaussians (full model)	Overall Quality	3D Appearance	3D Text Alignment	Motion Amount	Motion Text Alignment	Motion Realism
v.s. w/o rigidity regularization	45.8/13.3	43.3/19.2	38.3/15.0	40.8/15.0	42.5/18.3	30.8/26.7
v.s. w/o motion amplifier	43.3/23.3	37.5/28.3	30.8/26.7	45.8/10.8	37.5/26.7	33.3/31.7
v.s. w/o initial 3D stage	67.5/15.0	57.5/21.7	64.2/15.0	60.8/21.7	60.8/20.8	59.2/24.2
v.s. w/o JSD-based regularization	40.0/25.0	40.0/27.5	36.7/27.5	41.7/24.2	39.2/29.2	45.0/24.2
v.s. w/o image DM score in 4D stage	42.5/22.5	39.2/27.5	36.7/25.8	33.3/25.9	37.5/30.0	27.5/40.0
v.s. SDS instead of CSD	44.2/35.8	40.0/27.5	35.8/35.0	35.0/27.5	35.0/34.2	32.5/35.8
v.s. 3D stage w/o MVDream	66.7/21.7	48.3/34.2	38.3/34.2	41.7/22.5	40.0/27.5	40.8/27.5
v.s. 4D stage with MVDream	50.8/27.5	38.3/34.2	41.6/29.2	39.2/35.0	44.2/30.0	39.2/31.7
v.s. video model with only fps 4	46.7/15.8	27.5/36.7	30.0/23.3	36.7/30.0	31.7/26.7	32.5/28.3
v.s. video model with only fps 12	48.3/29.2	30.8/29.2	29.2/28.3	35.0/28.3	35.0/30.0	39.2/26.7
v.s. w/o dynamic cameras	32.5/25.0	32.5/31.7	35.0/33.3	35.0/32.5	35.8/33.3	32.5/25.0
v.s. w/o negative prompting	44.2/28.3	38.3/32.5	31.7/29.2	29.2/31.6	33.3/30.0	37.5/28.3

Table 2. **Ablation study** by user study on synthesized 4D scenes with 30 text prompts. For each pair of numbers, the left number is the percentage that the full AYG model is preferred and the right number indicates preference percentage for ablated model as described in left column. The numbers do not add up to 100 and the difference is due to users voting “no preference” (details in Supp. Material).

material). AYG can generate realistic, expressive, detailed and vivid dynamic 4D scenes (4D scenes can be rendered at varying speeds and frame rates). Importantly, our method demonstrates zero-shot generalization capabilities to creative text prompts corresponding to scenes that are unlikely to be found in the diffusion models’ training images and videos. More results in Supp. Material and on project page.

To compare AYG to MAV3D [79], we performed a comprehensive user study where we took the 28 rendered videos from MAV3D’s project page² and compared them to corresponding generations from AYG with the same text prompts (Table 1). We asked the users to rate overall quality, 3D appearance and text alignment, as well as motion amount, motion text alignment and motion realism (user study details in Supp. Material). AYG outperforms MAV3D on all metrics, achieving state-of-the-art text-to-4D performance (we also evaluated R-Precision [32, 58] on a larger prompt set used by MAV3D [78, 79], performing on par, see Supp. Mat.; however, R-Precision is a meaningless metric to evaluate *dynamic* scenes). Qualitative comparisons are shown in Fig. 8 (more in Supp. Mat.). We see that AYG produces more detailed 4D outputs. Note that MAV3D uses an extra background model, while AYG does not. Adding a similar background model would be easy but is left to future work.

Ablation Studies. Next, we performed an ablation study on AYG’s different components. We used a set of 30 text prompts and generated 4D scenes for versions of AYG with missing or modified components, see Table 2. Using the same categories as before, we asked users to rate preference of our full method vs. the ablated AYG variants. Some components have different effects with respect to 3D appearance and motion, but we generally see that all components matter significantly in terms of overall quality, *i.e.*, for all ablations our full method is strongly preferred over the ablated AYG versions. This justifies AYG’s design. A thorough discussion is presented in the Supp. Material, but we highlight some relevant observations. We see that our novel JSD-based regularization makes a major difference, and we also observe that the motion amplifier indeed has a strong effect for “Motion Amount”. Moreover, our compositional approach is crucial. Running the 4D stage without image DM

feedback produces much worse 3D and overall quality. Also the decomposition into two stages is important—carrying out 4D synthesis without initial 3D stage performs poorly.

Temporally Extended 4D Synthesis and Large Scene Composition. In Fig. 7, we show autoregressively extended text-to-4D results with changing text prompts (also see Supp. Video). AYG can realistically connect different 4D sequences and generate expressive animations with changing dynamics and behavior. We can also create sequences that loop endlessly by enforcing that the last frame of a later sequence matches the first frame of an earlier one and suppressing the deformation field there (similar to how we enforce zero deformation at $\tau=0$ in Sec. 3.1). Finally, due to the explicit nature of the dynamic 3D Gaussians, AYG’s 4D representation, multiple animated 4D objects can be easily composed into larger scenes, each shape with its own deformation field defining its dynamics. We show this in Fig. 1, where each dynamic object in the large scene is generated, except for the ground plane. These capabilities, not shown by previous work [79], are particularly promising for practical content creation applications.

5. Conclusions

We presented *Align Your Gaussians* for expressive text-to-4D synthesis. AYG builds on dynamic 3D Gaussian Splatting with deformation fields as well as score distillation with multiple composed diffusion models. Novel regularization and guidance techniques allow us to achieve state-of-the-art dynamic scene generation and we also show temporally extended 4D synthesis as well as the composition of multiple dynamic objects within a larger scene. AYG has many potential applications for creative content creation and it could also be used in the context of synthetic data generation. For example, AYG would enable synthesis of videos and 4D sequences with exact tracking labels, useful for training discriminative models. AYG currently cannot easily produce topological changes of the dynamic objects. Overcoming this limitation would be an exciting avenue for future work. Other directions include scaling AYG beyond object-centric generation and personalized 4D synthesis. The initial 3D object could be generated from a personalized diffusion model (*e.g.* DreamBooth3D [66, 71]) or with image-to-3D methods [29, 42, 44, 45, 64] and then animated with AYG.

²<https://make-a-video3d.github.io/>

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