



Enhancing Sampling with Learning: MCMC, Generative Models and Overlaps

ML x Science Summer School
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High-dimensional probabilistic models

▷ Statistical mechanics / Chemistry

$$\rho(x) = \frac{1}{Z_\beta} e^{-\beta U(x)}$$

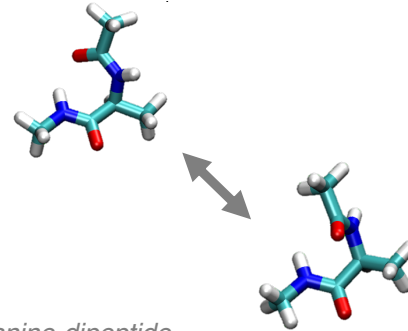
▷ Quantum mechanics (wave functions)

▷ Bayesian statistical modelling

$$\rho(\theta|D) = \frac{1}{Z_D} \rho(D|\theta)\rho(\theta)$$

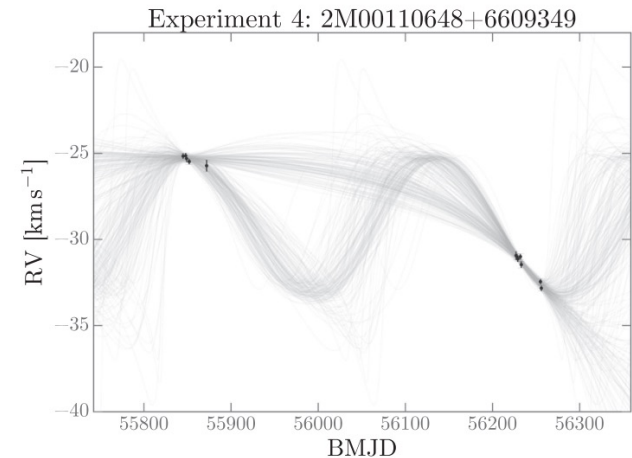
▷ Typically known up to normalization constant

ex: molecular configurations



Alanine-dipeptide
Jiang et al *J. Phys. Chem. B* 2019

ex: Astrophysics data modelling



Price-Whelan et al. *The Astrophysical Journal* 2017

Monte Carlo Methods

▷ Random variable $x \in \Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^D$, and density $\rho(x) = \frac{1}{Z} e^{-U(x)}$ with unknown Z

▷ Task: Compute expectations $\mathbb{E}_\rho[f(x)] = \int_\Omega f(x)\rho(x)dx$

▷ Method: Monte Carlo approximations, generate x_1, \dots, x_N, \dots

such that
$$\mathbb{E}_\rho[f(x)] = \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N f(x_i)$$

In particular if x_1, \dots, x_N, \dots are i.i.d. draws from $\rho(x)$

▷ Monte Carlo **Markov Chains** idea to obtain samples:

Design transition kernel $\pi(x_{t+1}|x_t)$ such that

chain $x_0, x_1, \dots, x_t =$ samples from $\rho(x) \propto e^{-U(x)}$ for t large enough

1. Inference and sampling: motivation and challenges

1.1 - Metropolis-Hasting

1.2 - Variational inference

1.3 - Importance sampling

2. Unsupervised learning / generative models

2.1 - Latent deep generative models

2.2 - Normalizing flows

3. Combining traditional inference method and learning

3.1 - Borrowing from Variational Inference & Importance sampling

3.2 - Reparametrization

3.2 - Adaptive algorithms

3.3 - Incorporating more physics in models

1.1 How to obtain samples? Markov Chain MC

▷ Idea: design transition kernel $\pi(x_{t+1}|x_t)$ such that chain x_0, x_1, \dots, x_t produces samples from ρ_* for t large enough

▷ Important example:

Metropolis-Hastings sampler

Initialize: x_0

Iterate:

○ Propose $x_{t+1} \sim \rho_p(x_{t+1}|x_t)$

○ Accept/Reject with prob.

$$\text{acc}(x_{t+1}|x_t) = \min \left[1, \frac{\rho_*(x_{t+1})\rho_p(x_t|x_{t+1})}{\rho_*(x_t)\rho_p(x_{t+1}|x_t)} \right]$$

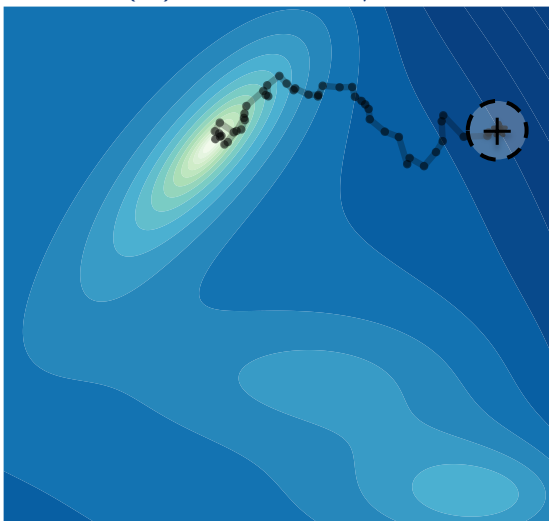
○ If reject stay $x_{t+1} = x_t$

Examples of Metropolis-Hastings MCMC

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▷ Gaussian random walk $\rho_p(x_{t+1}|x_t) = \mathcal{N}(x_t, \Sigma)$

e.g. 2d Müller-Brown potential
 $\rho_*(x) = e^{-U_*(x)} / Z$



T = 100 steps

▷ (Metropolis Adjusted) Langevin algorithm (MALA)

$$\rho_p(x_{t+1}|x_t) = \mathcal{N}(x_t - dt\nabla U(x), \sqrt{2dt}I_d)$$

Metropolis-Hastings sampler

Initialize: x_0

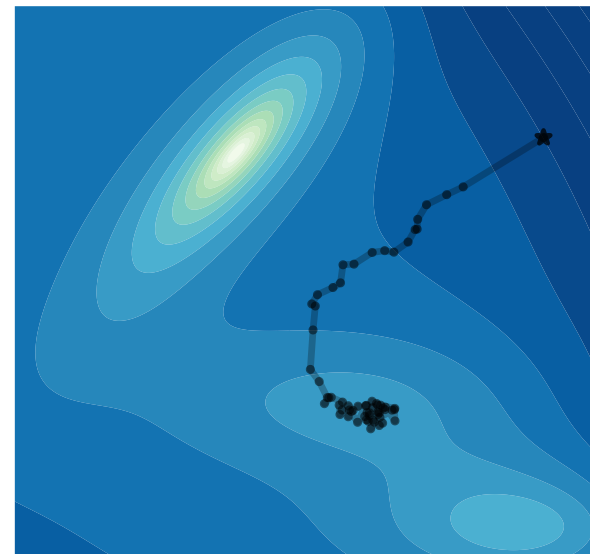
Iterate:

○ Propose $x_{t+1} \sim \rho_p(x_{t+1}|x_t)$

○ Accept/Reject with prob.

$$\text{acc}(x_{t+1}|x_t) = \min \left[1, \frac{\rho_*(x_{t+1})\rho_p(x_t|x_{t+1})}{\rho_*(x_t)\rho_p(x_{t+1}|x_t)} \right]$$

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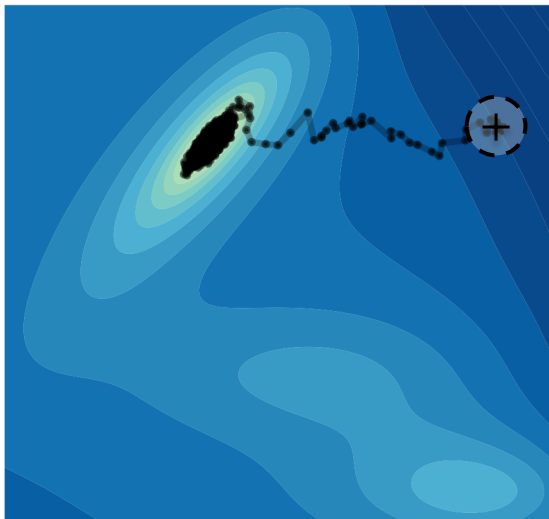
T = 100 steps

Challenge: Decorrelation and convergence

▷ Gaussian random walk $\rho_p(x_{t+1}|x_t) = \mathcal{N}(x_t, \Sigma)$

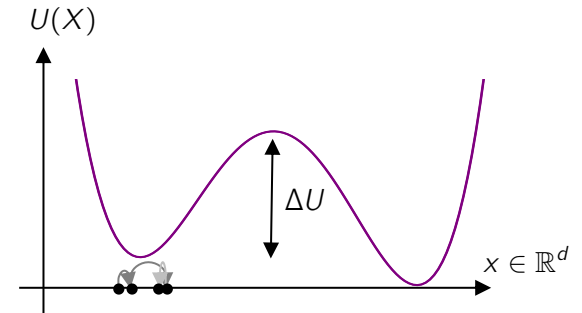
e.g. 2d Müller-Brown potential

$$\rho_*(x) = e^{-U_*(x)} / Z$$

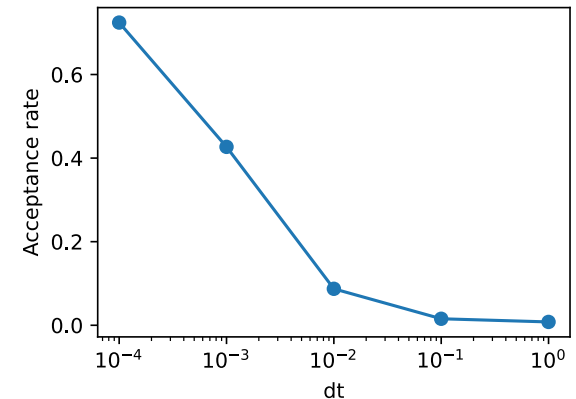


T = 10000 steps

$$\rho_*(x) = e^{-U(x)} / Z$$



▷ Trade-off size local moves / acceptance



▷ Many many proposition for faster “mixing”

- Use gradient information: Langevin dynamics, Hamiltonian MC
- Gradually approach the target: Sequential Monte Carlo, Annealed Importance Sampling

1.2. Variational Inference

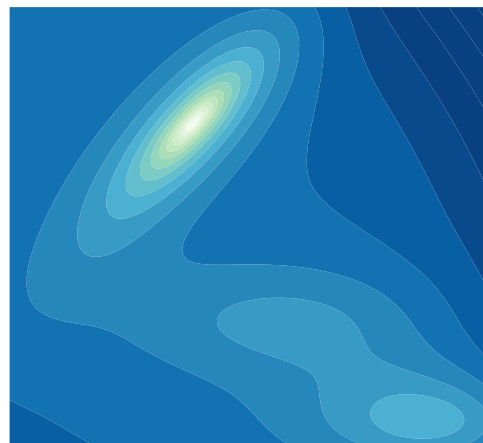
▷ Task: Compute expectations $\mathbb{E}_\rho[f(x)] = \int_\Omega f(x)\rho(x)dx$

▷ Variational inference (original idea from statistical mechanics!)

- Optimize surrogate tractable distribution: minimize Kullback-Leibler divergence

$$D_{\text{KL}}(\rho_\theta \parallel \rho_*) = \int \log \frac{\rho_\theta(x)}{\rho_*(x)} \rho_\theta(x) dx \quad \implies \quad L[\rho_\theta] = - \sum_{i=1}^N \log \frac{\rho_\theta(x_i)}{\rho_*(x_i)} \quad x_i \sim \rho_\theta(x)$$

- e.g. Gaussian $\rho_\theta(x) = \mathcal{N}(x; \mu_\theta, \Sigma_\theta)$



▷ Issue: expressiveness of surrogate model? How to control the quality?

Weiss, P. (1907). L'hypothèse du champ moléculaire et la propriété ferromagnétique.

Wainwright, M. J., & Jordan, M. I. (2008). Graphical Models, Exponential Families, and Variational Inference.

1.3 Importance Sampling

▷ Task: Compute expectations $\mathbb{E}_\rho[f(x)] = \int_{\Omega} f(x)\rho(x)dx$

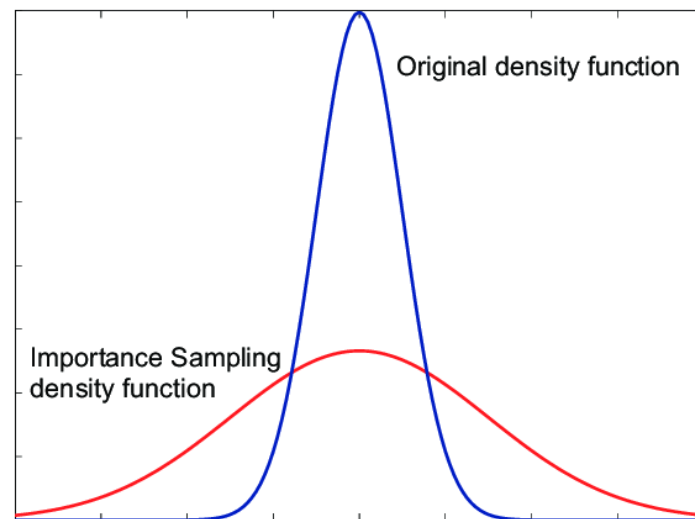
▷ Importance sampling

○ Samples from proposal distribution $x_i \sim \rho_p(x_i)$

○ Reweight $w_i = \frac{\rho_*(x_i)/\rho_p(x_i)}{\sum_{i=1}^N \rho_*(x_i)/\rho_p(x_i)}$

○ Compute $\mathbb{E}_{\rho^*}[f(x)] \approx \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N w_i f(x_i)$

○ Issue: correspondence target/proposal?



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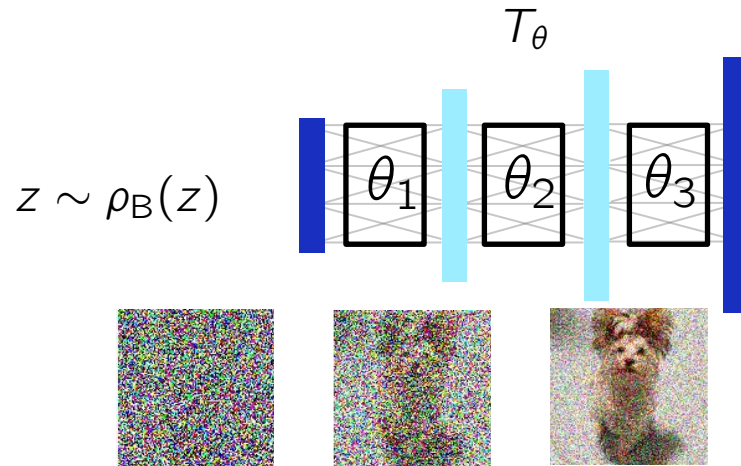
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3.3 - Incorporating more physics in models

2.1 Deep generative models

▷ Use transformation T_θ (deep neural network) from simple base distribution ρ_B :



[“GANs” Goodfellow et al. *NeurIPS* 2014,
 “VAEs” Kingma & Welling *ICLR* 2014,
 “Normalizing flows” Papamakarios et al. *JMLR* 2021]

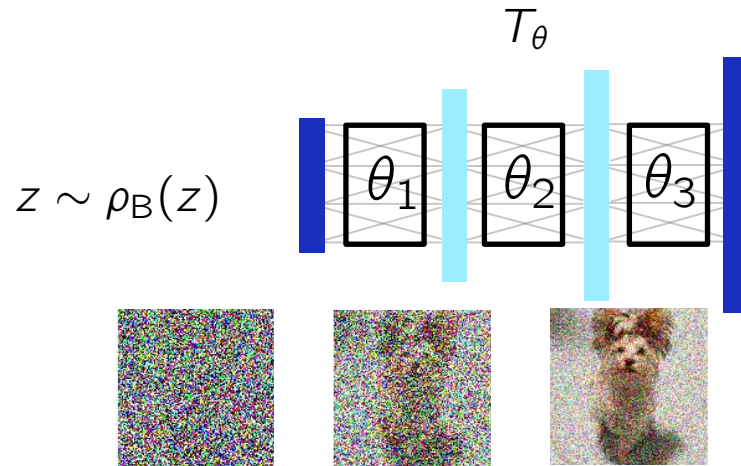
$x = T_\theta(z) \sim \rho_\theta(x)$ “push-forward”
 distribution

Song et al. *ICLR* 2021

[“GANs” Goodfellow et al. *NeurIPS* 2014, “VAEs” Kingma & Welling *ICLR* 2014, “Normalizing flows” Papamakarios et al. *JMLR* 2021, “Score based diffusion models” Song et al. *ICLR* 2021, Tabak & V.-E. *Commun. Math. Sci.* 2010, Dinh et al *ICLR* 2017, Papamakarios et al *JMLR* 2021, Kingma et al *Neurips* 2018]

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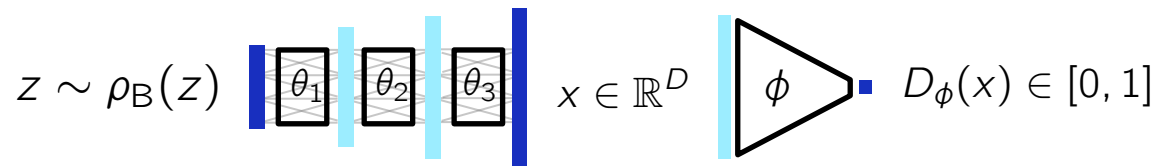
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$$x = T_\theta(z) \sim \rho_\theta(x) \quad \text{“push-forward” distribution}$$

Song et al. *ICLR* 2021

- ▷ Two main training methods of unsupervised learning:

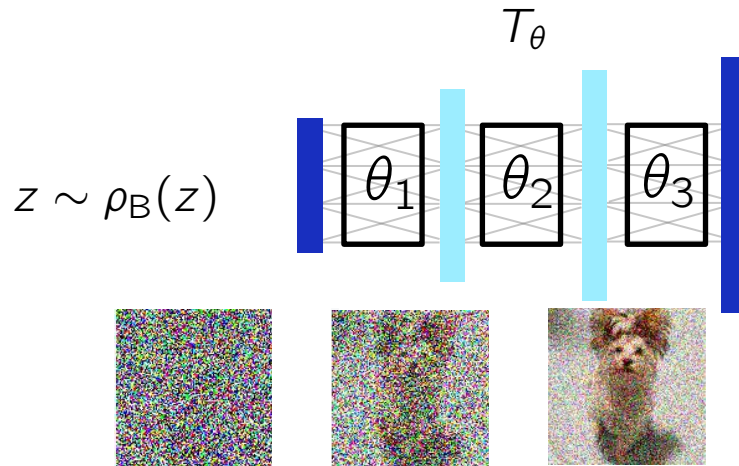
- Maximum likelihood: $L[\rho_\theta] = -\sum_{i=1}^N \log \rho_\theta(x_i)$ with x_i data samples + SGD!
- Adversarial training: $\min_{\theta} \max_{\phi} [\mathbb{E}_{\rho_D} [\ln D_\phi(x)] + \mathbb{E}_{\rho_B} [\ln(1 - D_\phi(T_\theta(z)))]]$ with ρ_D data distribution



[“GANs” Goodfellow et al. *NeurIPS* 2014, “VAEs” Kingma & Welling *ICLR* 2014, “Normalizing flows” Papamakarios et al. *JMLR* 2021, “Score based diffusion models” Song et al. *ICLR* 2021, Tabak & V.-E. *Commun. Math. Sci.* 2010, Dinh et al *ICLR* 2017, Papamakarios et al *JMLR* 2021, Kingma et al *Neurips* 2018]

2.1 Deep generative models

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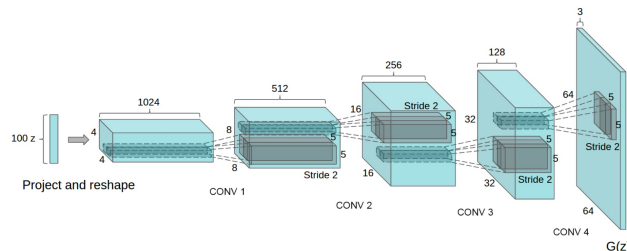
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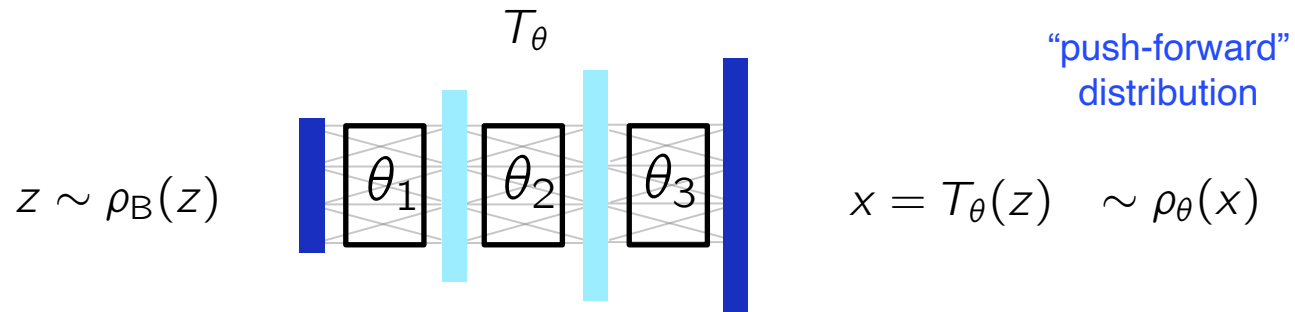
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[Radford et al *ICLR* 2016; Karras et al *CVPR* 2019]

Nota Bene: Intractability of the push-forward of many latent generative models

- ▷ In general latent dimension much smaller than data dimension



- Push-forward computation involves marginalization ...

$$\rho_\theta(x)dx = \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} dz \rho_B(z) \delta(T_\theta(z) - x)$$

- ▷ Hence difficult to do maximum likelihood:
e.g. optimize ELBLO (evidence lower bound in VAE)

2.2 A special type of Deep Generative Models

Normalizing Flows (NF): Invertible networks

▷ Parametrized invertible map $T_\theta: \Omega \mapsto \Omega \quad \Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^d$

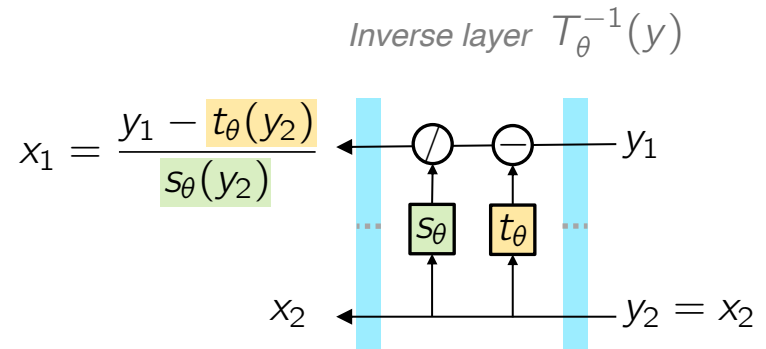
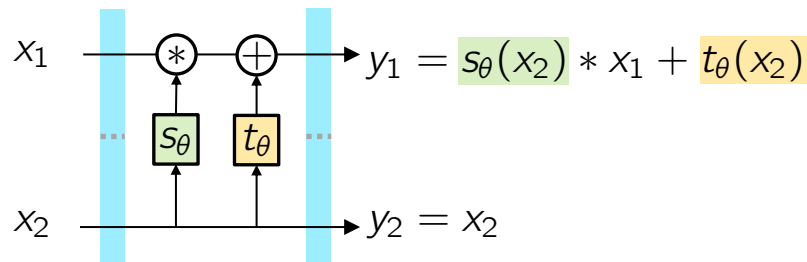
○ Base distribution $z \sim \rho_B(z)$

○ Push-forward distribution $x = T_\theta(z) \sim \rho_\theta(x) = \rho_B(T_\theta^{-1}(x)) \det |\nabla_x T_\theta^{-1}|$

Most generative model are not invertible!
Intractable push-forward.

▷ e.g. “Coupling layers”: easy-to-compute inverse and Jacobian

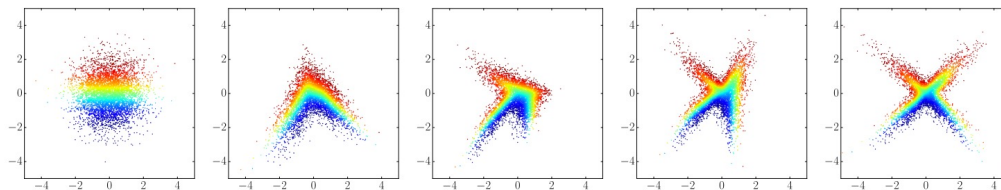
Affine coupling layer $T_\theta(x)$



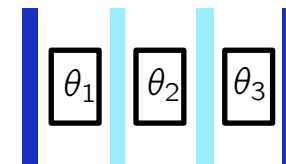
Block diagonal Jacobian: $\nabla_x T_\theta(x) = \begin{bmatrix} s_\theta(x_2) I_{d/2} & 0 \\ 0 & I_{d/2} \end{bmatrix}$

Easy to **sample** and
easy to **evaluate density**

▷ Composition to encode for sophisticated transformations



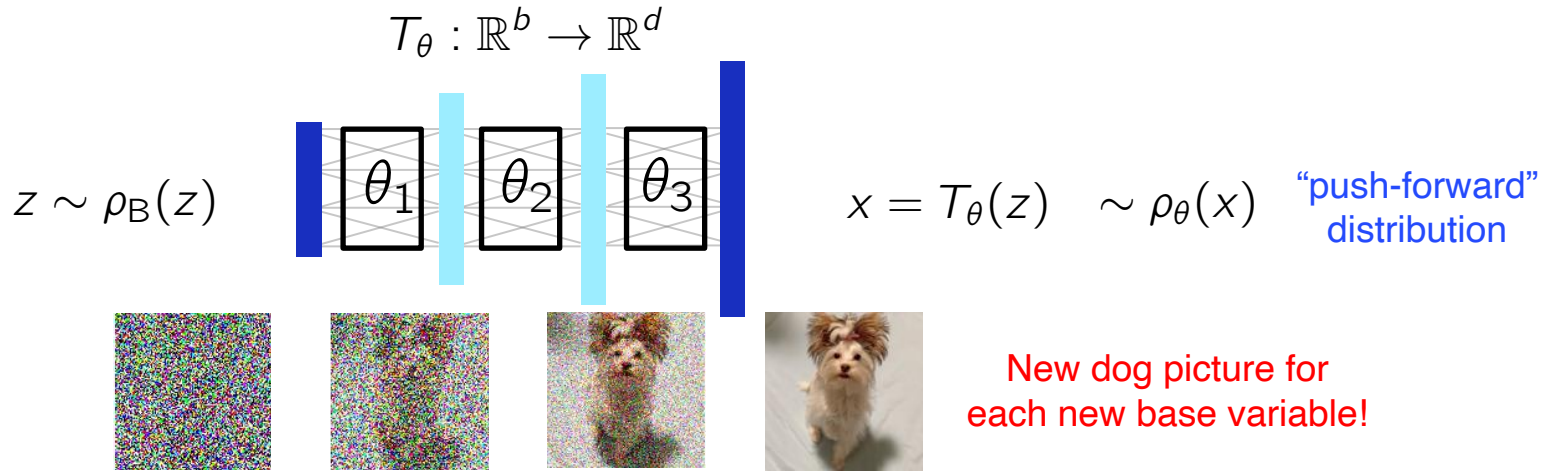
$$T_\theta = T_{\theta_3} \circ T_{\theta_2} \circ T_{\theta_1}$$



Deep generative models for sampling target $\rho_*(x)$

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- ▷ Parametric model: Simple base random variable transformed by a deep neural network T_θ

Song et al. *ICLR* 2021

- ▷ Sample complicated $\rho_*(x)$ by modelling it with deep generative model? Well ...

- Need to learn T_θ for which we need data - $x_i \sim \rho_*(x)$ - do we?
- Even with data $x_i \sim \rho_*(x)$ to learn, unlikely to learn perfect model $\rho_\theta(x) = \rho_*(x)$, right?

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3.1 Training NF with variational principle

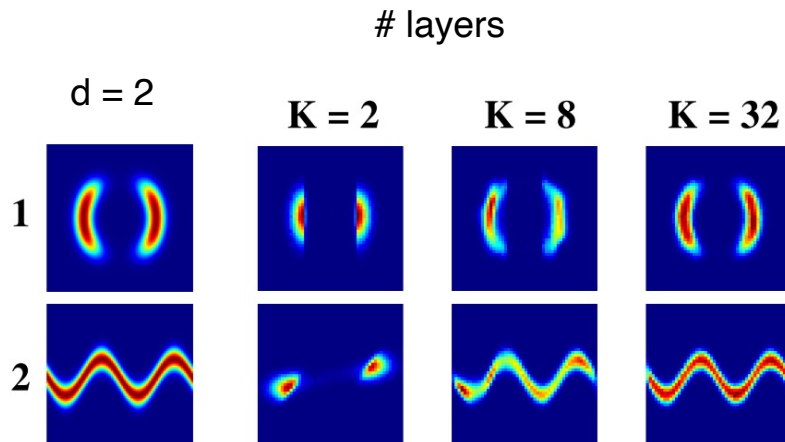
▷ No need for data?

- minimize Kullback-Leibler $D_{KL}(\rho_\theta || \rho_*) =$ variational principle with expressive $\rho_\theta(x)$ ansatz

$$D_{KL}(\rho_\theta || \rho_*) = \int \log \frac{\rho_\theta(x)}{\rho_*(x)} \rho_\theta(x) dx \approx \sum_{i=1}^N \log \frac{\rho_\theta(x_i)}{\rho_*(x_i)} \quad x_i \sim \rho_\theta(x) \quad \text{easy to obtain!}$$

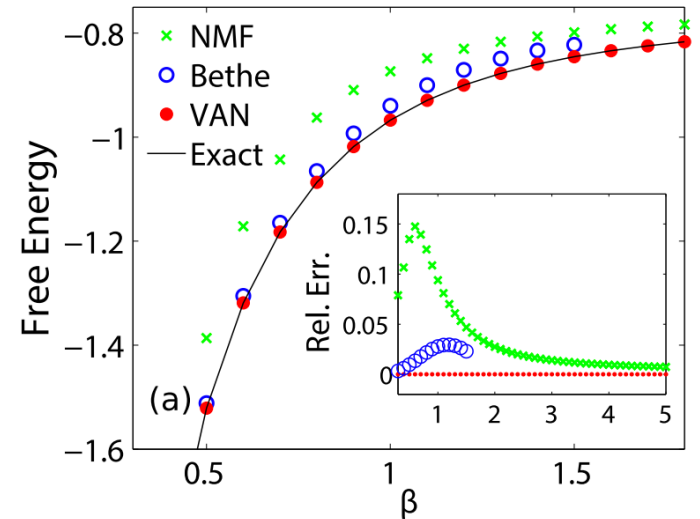
$$\rho_\theta(x) = \rho_B(T_\theta^{-1}(x)) \det |\nabla_x T_\theta^{-1}| \quad \text{explicit!}$$

▷ First results: quality as a function of expressivity



How to control the quality of surrogate model?

Spin system with random couplings d = 20



Requires annealing of target distribution!

3.1 Training NF with variational principle

▷ No need for data?

- minimize Kullback-Leibler $D_{KL}(\rho_\theta || \rho_*) =$ variational principle with expressive $\rho_\theta(x)$ ansatz

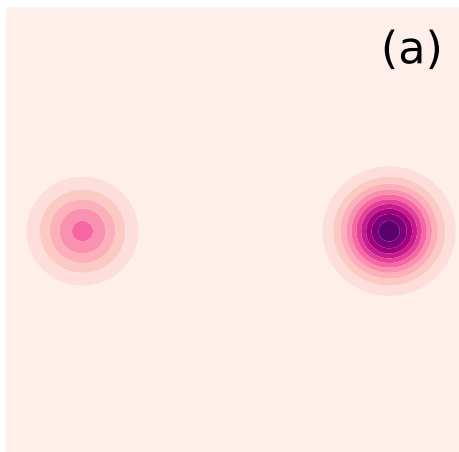
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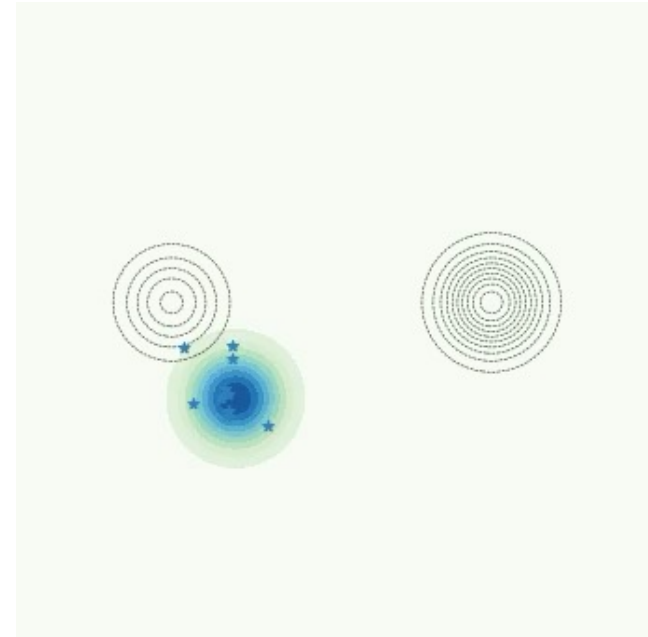
▷ Annealing of target? Why?

example:

$\rho_*(x)$ mixture of 2 Gaussians (2d)



$$\rho_{\theta_t}(x) = \rho_B(T_{\theta_t}^{-1}(x)) \det |\nabla_x T_{\theta_t}^{-1}|$$



prone to mode collapse !

3.2 VI + max likelihood + importance sampling

“Boltzmann generator” Noé et al. (Science 2019)

▷ Training scheme

- Parametrized push-forward

$$\rho_\theta(x) = \rho_B(T_\theta^{-1}(x)) \det |\nabla_x T_\theta^{-1}|$$

- Minimize combined loss $L_{VI}[\rho_\theta] + L_{data}[\rho_\theta]$

$$L_{VI}[\rho_\theta] = - \sum_{i=1}^N \log \frac{\rho_\theta(x_i)}{\rho_*(x_i)} \quad x_i \sim \rho_\theta(x)$$

$$L_{data}[\rho_\theta] = - \sum_{i=1}^N \log \rho_\theta(x_{d,i}) \quad x_{d,i} \text{ small data set (from MD)}$$

▷ Importance sampling

- Sample from flow

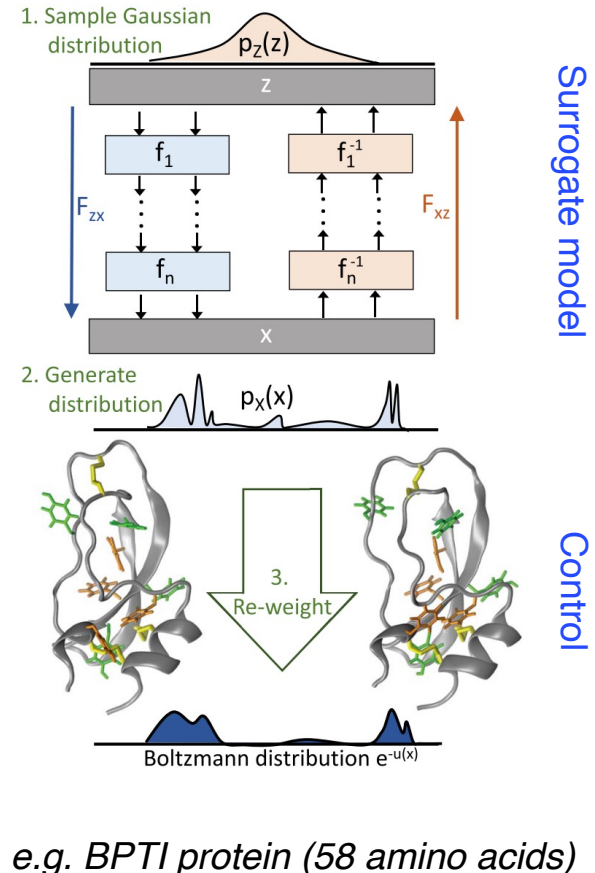
$$x_i \sim \rho_\theta(x)$$

- Compute importance weights

$$w_i = \frac{\rho_*(x_i)/\rho_\theta(x_i)}{\sum_{i=1}^N \rho_*(x_i)/\rho_\theta(x_i)}$$

- Estimate

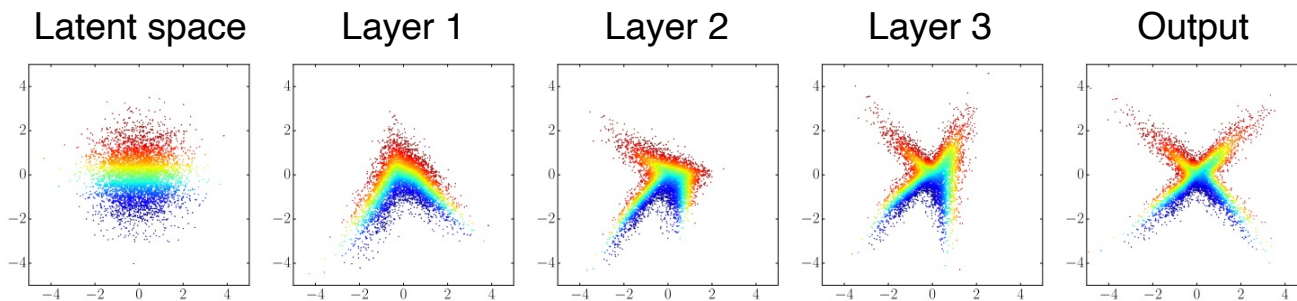
$$\mathbb{E}_{\rho_*}[f(x)] \approx \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N w_i f(x_i)$$



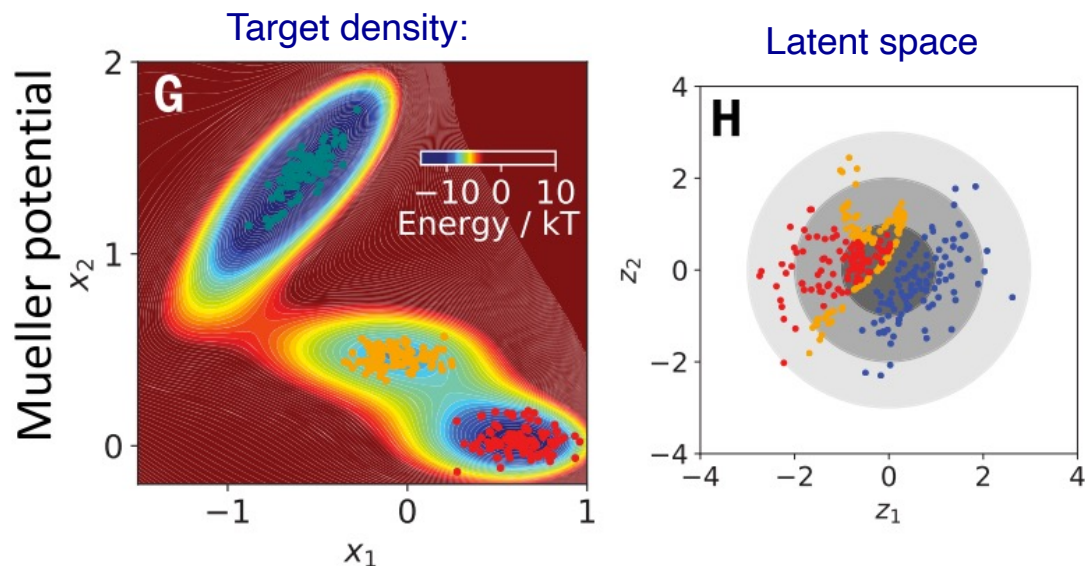
data/model – chicken and egg problem

3.3 Reparametrization: reverse NF for MCMC

- ▷ Reverse transformation is normalizing = “Gaussianizing”

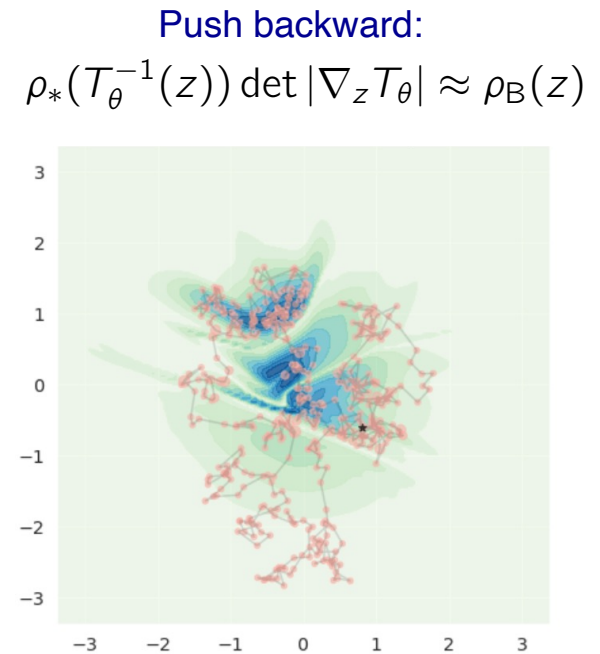
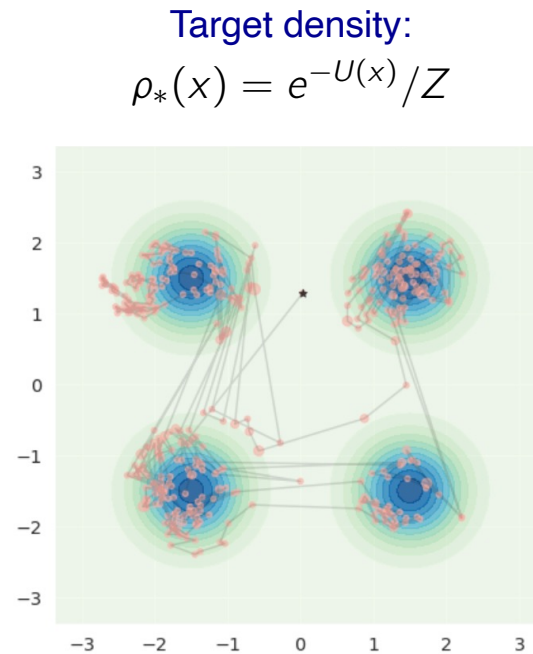
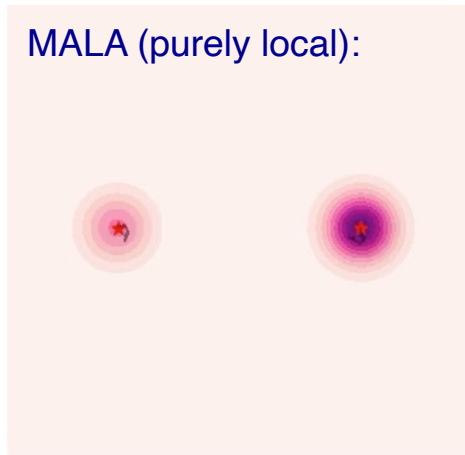
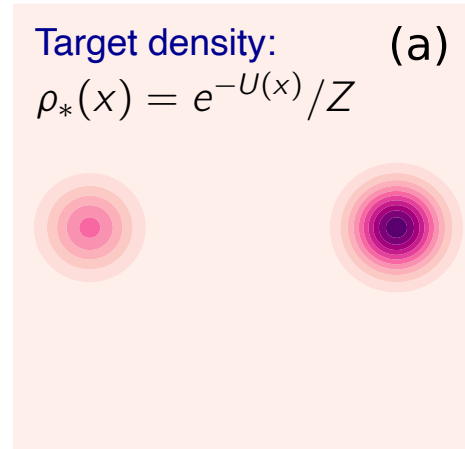


- ▷ Idea: train normalizing flow and use latent space to run traditional MCMC



3.3 Reparametrization: reverse NF for MCMC

- ▶ NeuTra-lizing Bad Geometry in Hamiltonian Monte Carlo Using Neural Transport. (Hoffman et al 2019)



Louis Grenioux

3.4 Adaptive MCMC with normalizing flow

Target density: $\rho_*(x) = e^{-U_*(x)} / Z$

Generative model parametrized density: $\rho_\theta(x)$

▷ Algorithm: Metropolis-Hastings with generative model proposal

Initialize: $x_0^i \quad i = 1 \dots N$

Loop:

Loop over parallel chains: $i = 1 \dots N$

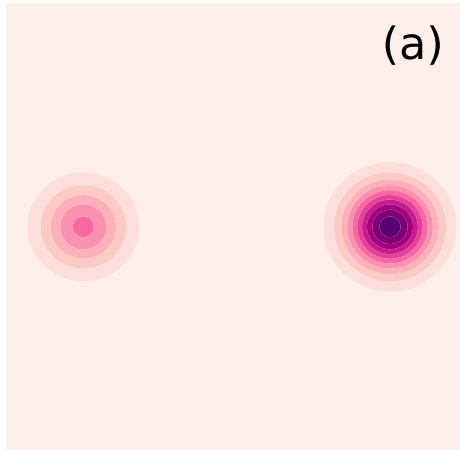
- Draw from generative model $x_{t+1}^i \sim \rho_\theta(x)$
- Accept-reject $\text{acc}(x_{t+1}^i | x_t^i) = \min \left[1, \frac{\rho_*(x_{t+1}^i) \rho_\theta(x_t^i)}{\rho_*(x_t^i) \rho_\theta(x_{t+1}^i)} \right]$
- Local resampling $x_{t+1}^i \sim \pi_{\text{local}}(x_{t+1}^i | x_t^i)$
- Update NF paramters $\theta \leftarrow \theta + \eta \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \nabla_\theta \log \rho_\theta(x_{t+1}^i)$

Metropolis-Hastings
with NF

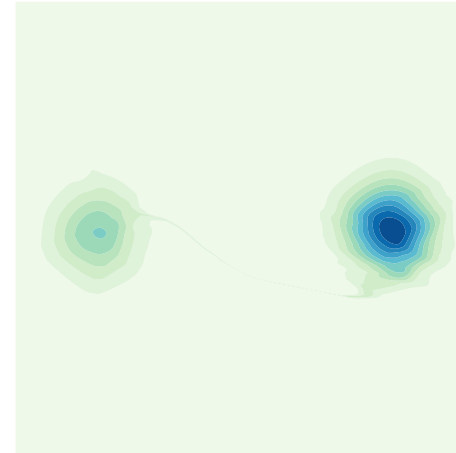
Maximum
likelihood GD

3.4 Adaptive MCMC – 2d Mixture of two Gaussians

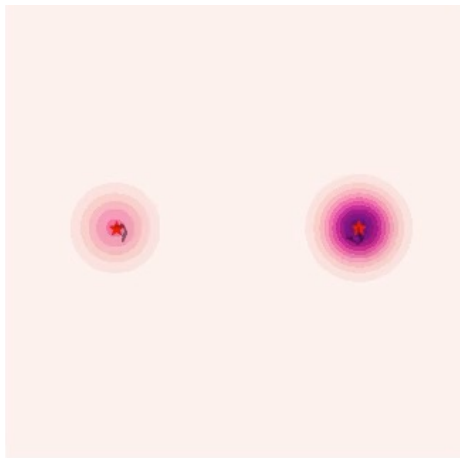
Target density:



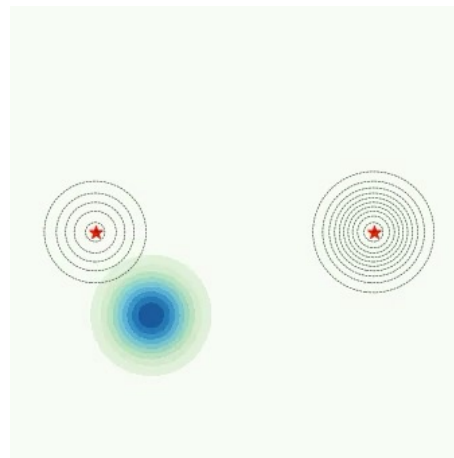
Final learned density:



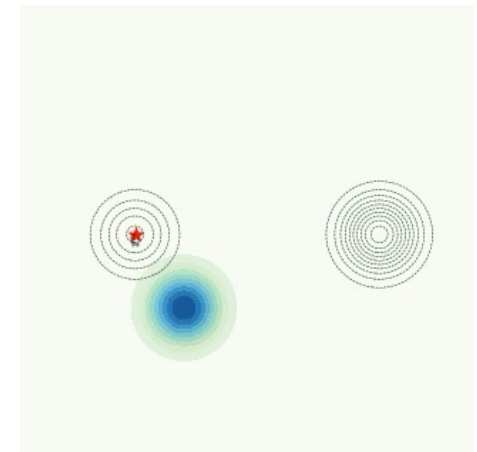
Local method only:



Concurrent:
careful initialization

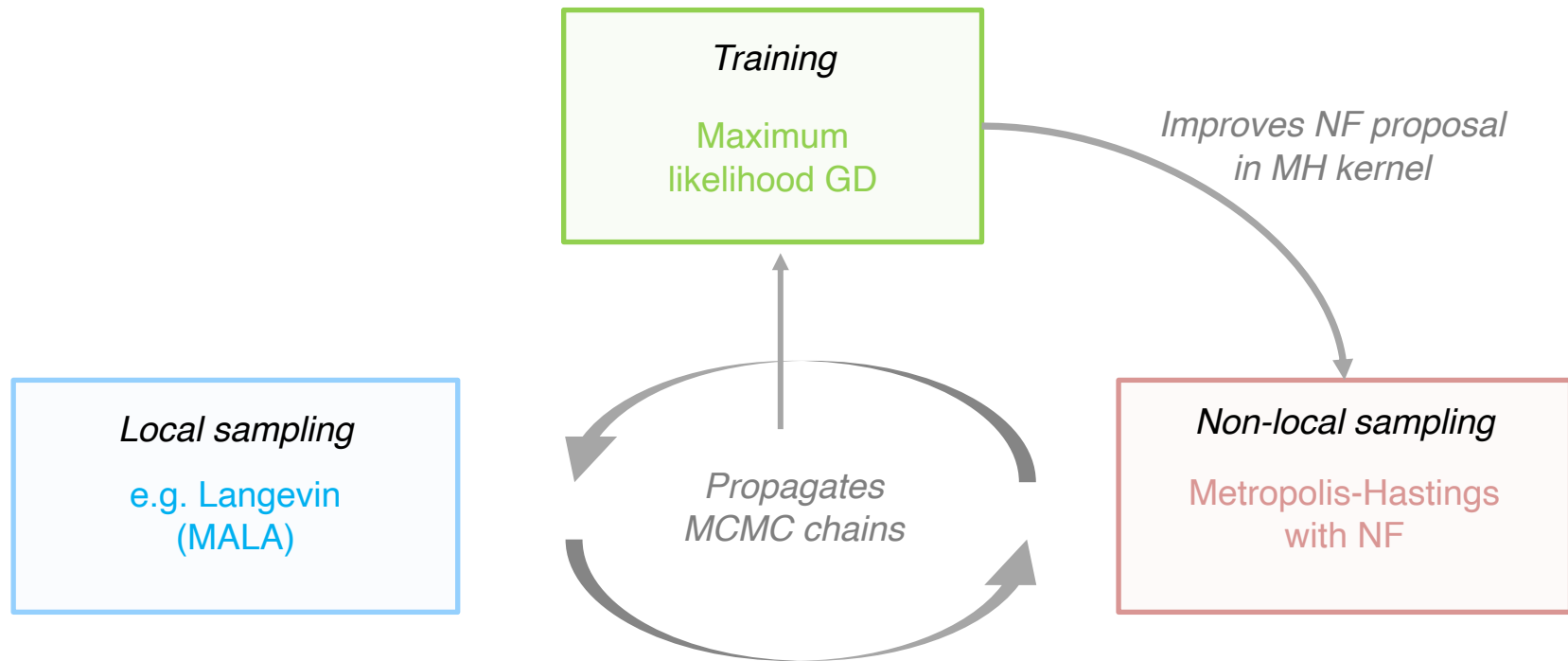


Concurrent:
starting with one walker



No mode discovery!

3.4 Adaptive MCMC with normalizing flow



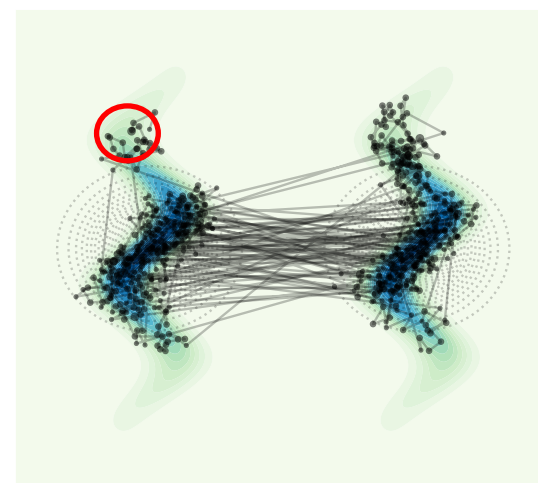
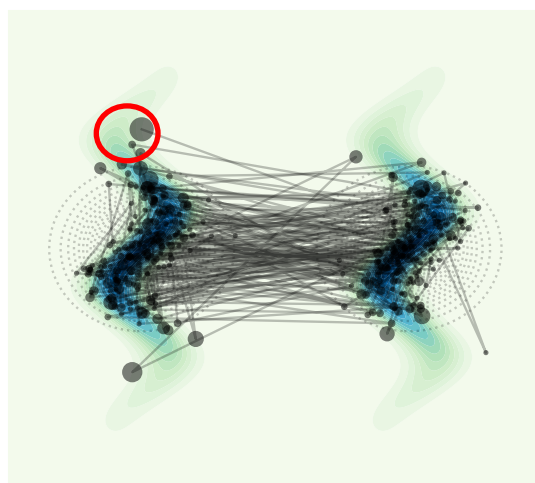
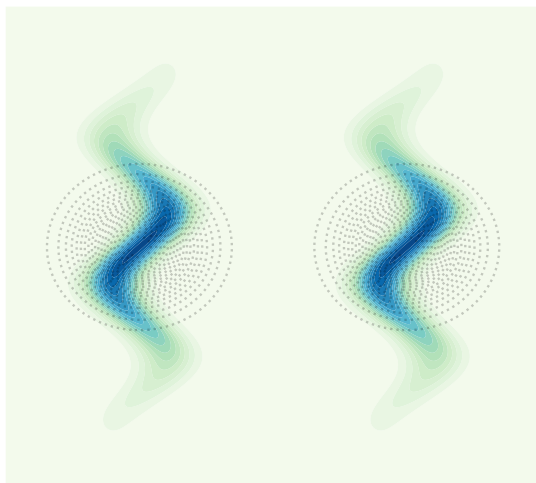
- Adaptive / “non-linear” Monte Carlo [Haario et al Bernoulli 2001, Jasra et al Statistics and Computing, 2007, Andrieu et al Bernoulli 2011, Sejdinovic et al ICML 2014, Parno & Marzouk 2018, Naesseth et al. Neurips 2020, Gabrié et al. PNAS 2022, ...]
- Local + Mode jumping methods [Sminchisescu & Welling AISTAT 2017, Pompe et al. Ann. Stat 2020, Sbailò et al. J. Chem. Phys. 2021, ...]

Why keep a local kernel on top of adaptive MCMC? 25

- ▷ In general tails of the distribution will be learned poorly

Global only

Local + global



- Exploration – Exploitation compromise
- Compensate for mismatch proposal/target

- 1) We cannot learn it all
- 2) Traditional local kernels still of great help!

1. Inference and sampling: motivation and challenges

1.1 - Metropolis-Hasting

1.2 - Variational inference

1.3 - Importance sampling

2. Unsupervised learning / generative models

2.1 - Latent deep generative models

2.2 - Normalizing flows

3. Combining traditional inference method and learning

3.1 - Borrowing from Variational Inference & Importance sampling

3.2 - Reparametrization

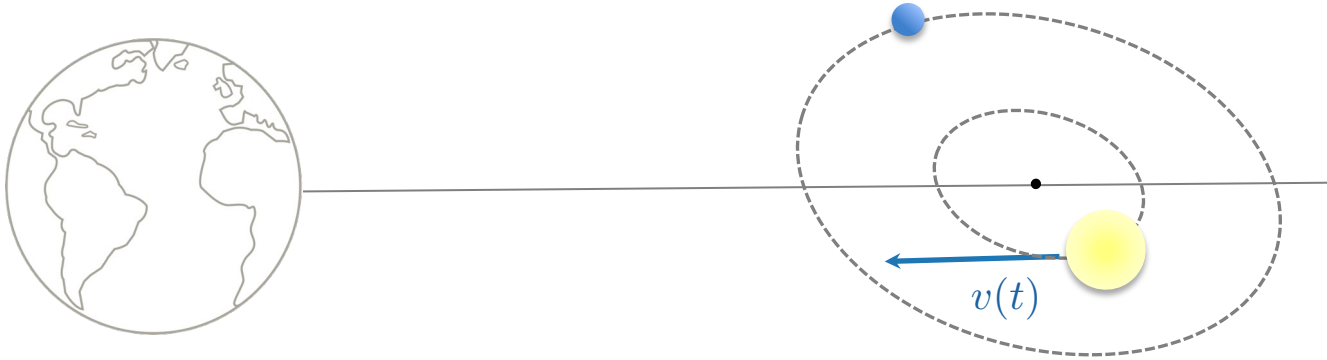
3.2 - Adaptive algorithms

3.3 - Incorporating more physics in models

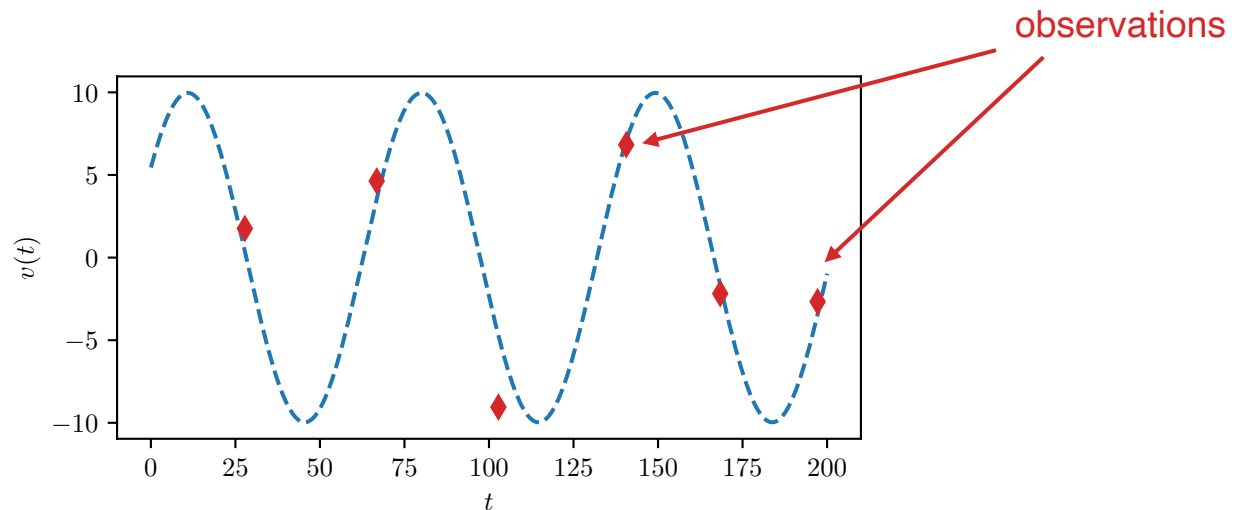
EXAMPLES

Bayesian inference: An example of model selection from astrophysics

- ▷ Star-exoplanet system orbiting center of mass



- ▷ Radial velocity along the orbit $v(t; x) = v_0 + K \cos\left(\frac{2\pi}{P}t + \phi_0\right)$



Bayesian model for velocity parameters

▷ **Radial velocity** $v(t; x) = v_0 + K \cos\left(\frac{2\pi}{P}t + \phi_0\right)$

▷ **Parameters** $x = (v_0, K, \phi_0, \ln P) \in \Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^4$

▷ **Likelihood from observations** $L(x) = \mathcal{N}(v_k; v(t_k; x), \sigma_{\text{obs}}^2)$

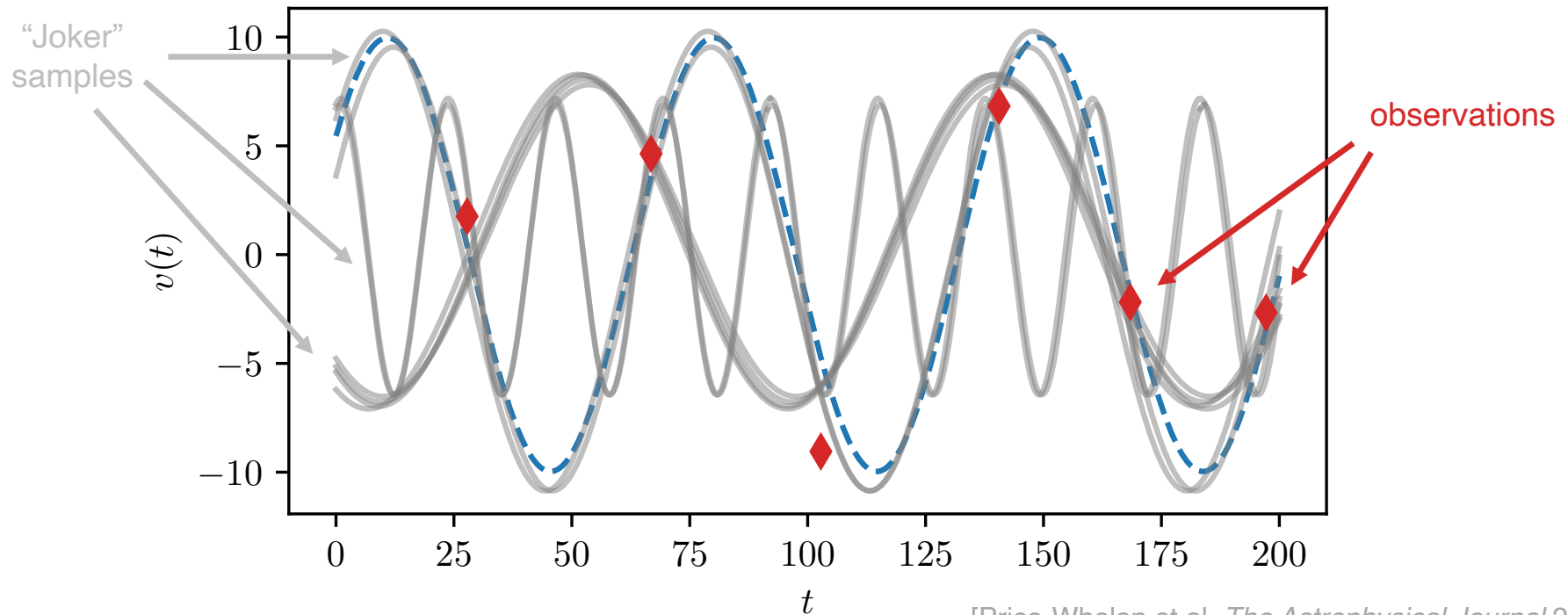
▷ **Priors**

$\ln P \sim \mathcal{U}(\ln P_{\text{min}}, \ln P_{\text{max}}),$

$\phi_0 \sim \mathcal{U}(0, 2\pi),$

$K \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu_K, \sigma_K^2),$

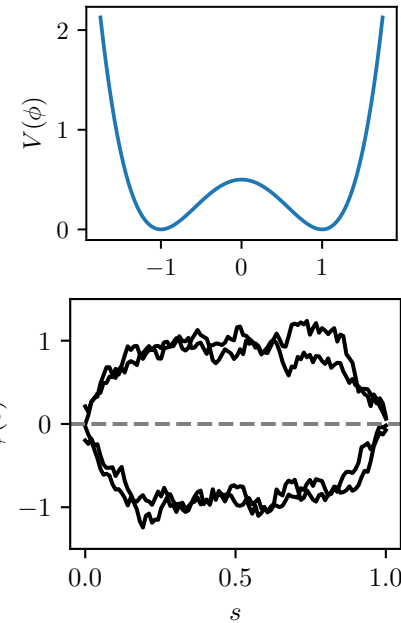
$v_0 \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma_{v_0}^2).$



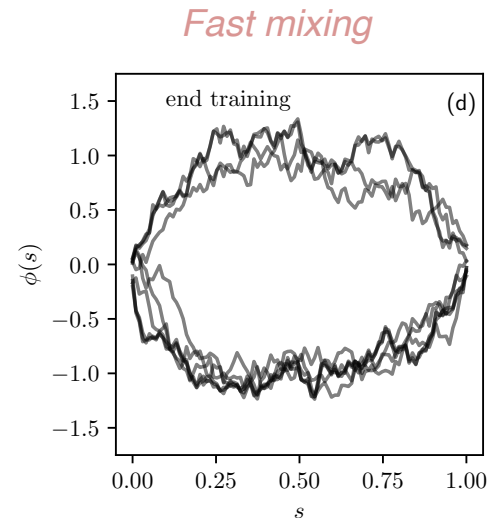
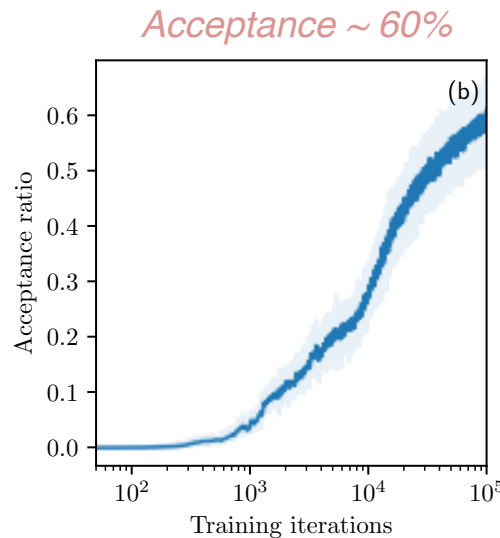
High-dimensional field models

▷ Examples: ϕ^4 model

- Random field $\phi: [0, 1] \mapsto \mathbb{R} \in C([0, 1]; \mathbb{R})$ *local potential*
- Energy functional $U_*(\phi) = \int_{[0,1]} \left(\frac{a}{2} |\nabla_s \phi|^2 + V(\phi) \right) ds$
- Local potential $V(\phi) = \frac{1}{2} (\phi^2 - 1)^2$ *coupling term*
- Dirichlet boundary conditions $\phi(0) = 0, \phi(1) = 0$
- Target distribution $\rho(\phi) = \frac{1}{Z_\beta} e^{-\beta U(\phi)}$



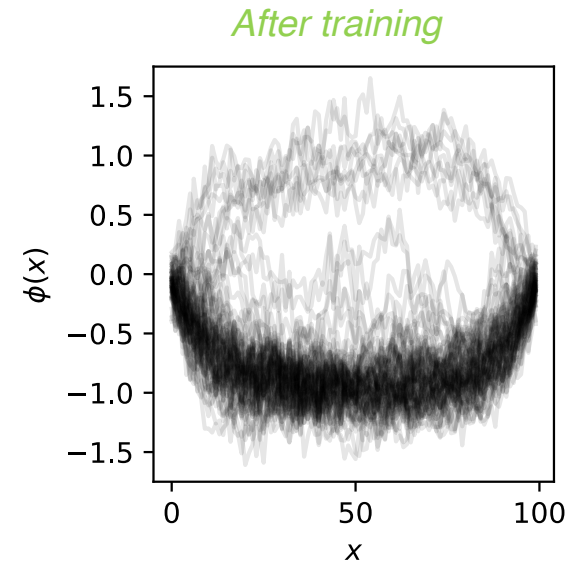
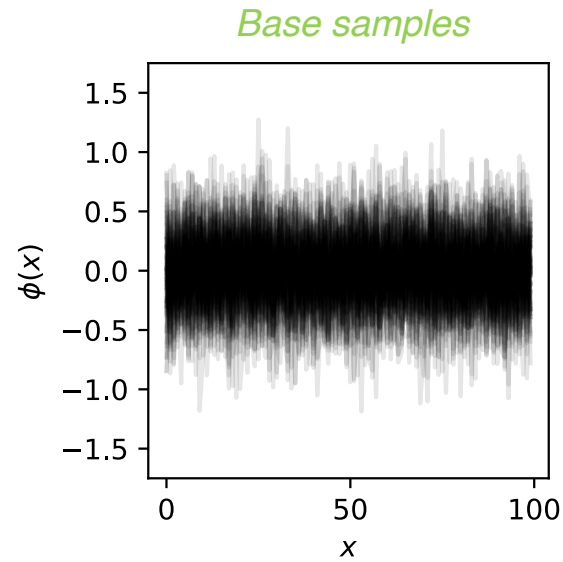
▷ Discretized: N=100



Uncoupled vs coupled base distributions

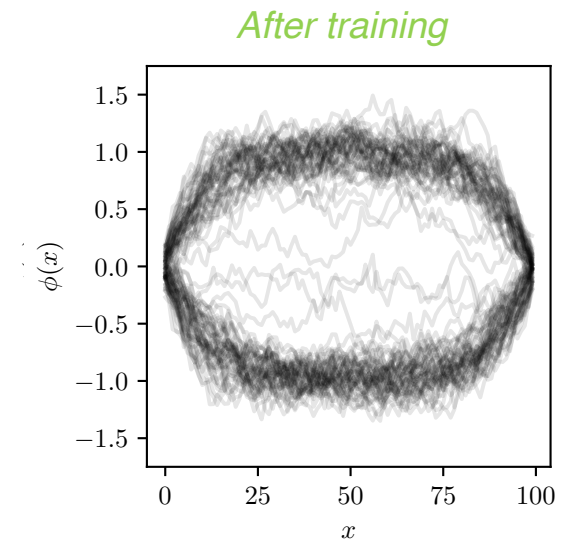
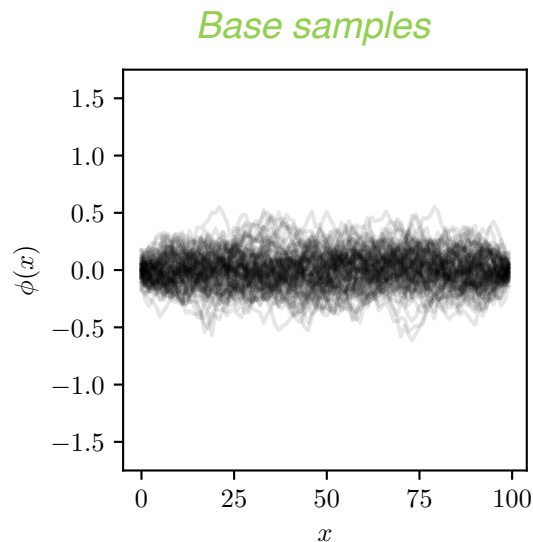
*Gaussian uninformed
(uncoupled)*

$$U_B(\phi) = \int \frac{1}{2\sigma^2} \phi^2 dx$$



*Gaussian informed
(coupled)*

$$U_B(\phi) = \int \left(\frac{a}{2} |\nabla_x \phi|^2 + \frac{1}{2\sigma^2} \phi^2 \right) dx$$

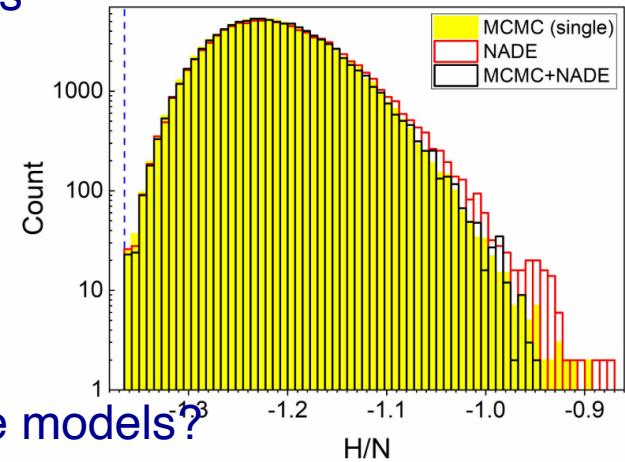


▷ Disordered systems = highly multimodal systems

- Some promising results using annealing / Sequential Monte Carlo

2d – Edwards Anderson

S. Pilati *PRE* 2020



▷ Can surrogate probabilistic models scale to large models?

- Metropolis acceptance

$$\text{acc}(x_{t+1}|x_t) = \min \left[1, e^{-(\Delta U_* - \Delta U_\theta)} \right]$$

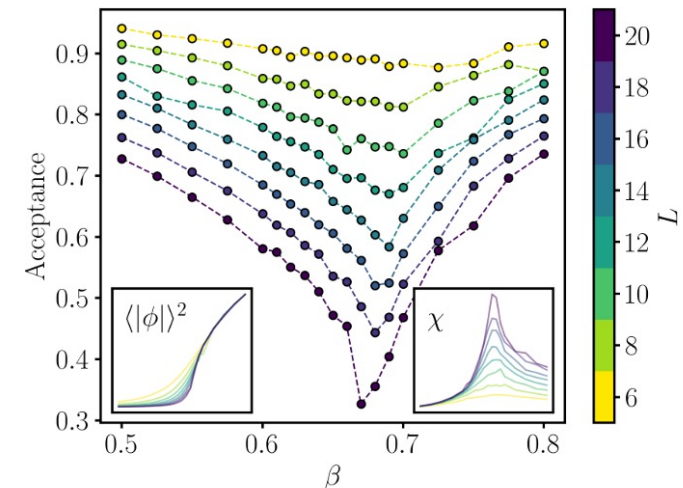
$$\Delta U_* = U_*(x_{t+1}) - U_*(x_t)$$

$$\Delta U_\theta = -\log \rho_\theta(x_{t+1}) + \log \rho_\theta(x_t)$$

- Also in importance weights

2d - Φ^4 model

Del Debbio et al *PRD* 2021

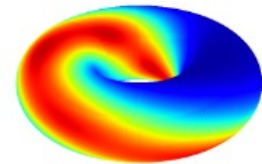


▷ Opportunities

- VI, IS and MCMC can be powered by normalizing flows
- Substantial speed up gains for

▷ Challenges for scaling things up

- Blending domain knowledge and learning is key!
e.g. Rezende et al (2020). Normalizing flows on tori and spheres.
- Research direction: physically conditioned models
- Research direction: dimensionality reduction? separation of scales?



▷ Softwares

- Pytorch [marylou-gabrie / flonaco](#) Public
- Jax [kazewong / NFSampler](#) Public