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# Generative models, manifolds and symmetries: tools and applications

Danilo J. Rezende

ML4Jets, NJ, 2022

<https://danilorezende.com/slides/>



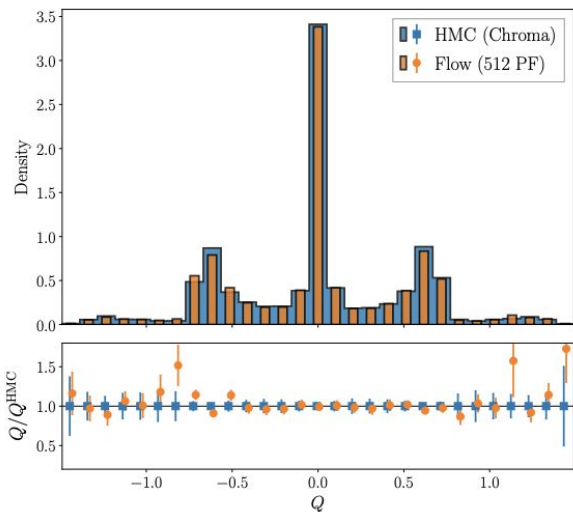
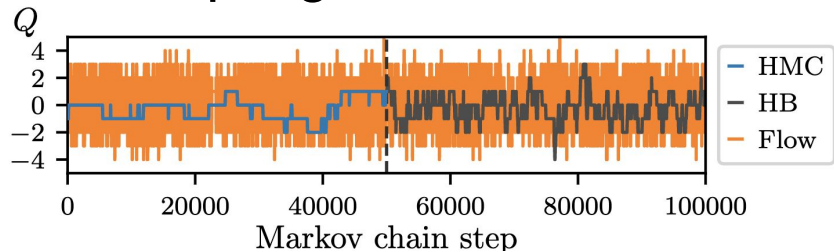
# Abstract

The study of symmetries in physics has revolutionized our understanding of the world. Inspired by this, the development of methods to incorporate internal (Gauge) and external (space-time) symmetries into machine learning models is a very active field of research. We will discuss general methods for incorporating symmetries in ML, and our work on invariant generative models. We will then present its applications to quantum field theory on the lattice (LQFT) and molecular dynamics (MD) simulations. In the MD front, we'll talk about how we constructed permutation and translation-invariant normalizing flows on a torus for free-energy estimation. In the LQFT front, we'll present our work that introduced the first  $U(N)$  and  $SU(N)$  Gauge-equivariant normalizing flows for pure Gauge simulations and its extension to incorporate "pseudo-fermions", leading to the first proof of principle of a full QCD simulation with normalizing flows in 2D.



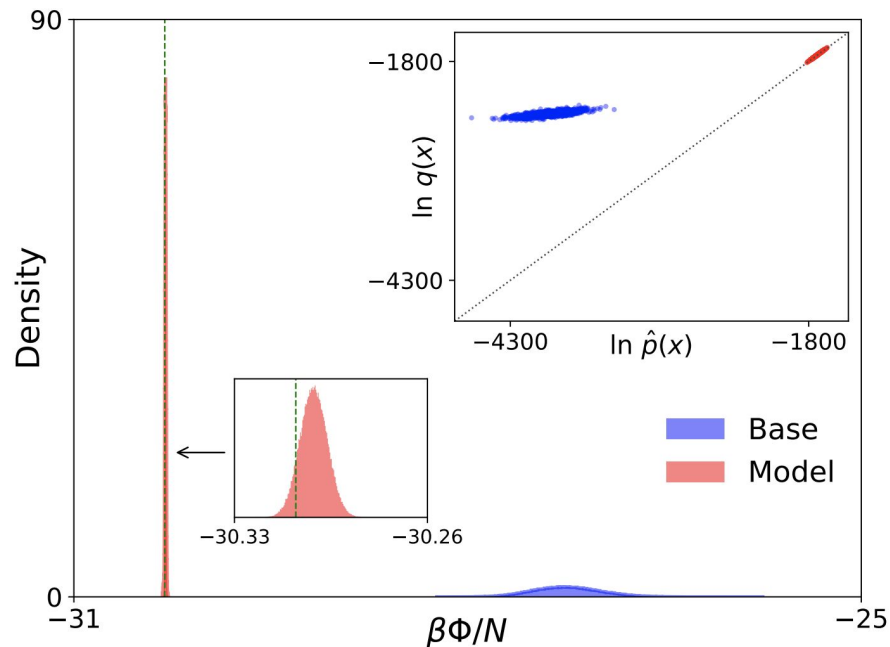
# ML-facilitated sampling for LQFT and molecular systems

## Sampling in LQCD



(d) Topological charge at  $t/a^2 = 4$

## Free energy of solids



# The problem

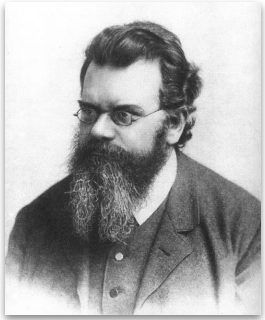


Image credit:  
[Wikipedia](#)

$$p(x) = \frac{e^{-\beta U(x)}}{Z}$$

Diagram illustrating the Boltzmann distribution formula with annotations:

- $x$ : coordinates
- $\beta$ : inverse temperature
- $U(x)$ : energy
- $Z$ : normalizing constant

$$Z = \int dx e^{-\beta U(x)}$$



# The problem

$$p(x) = \frac{e^{-\beta U(x)}}{Z}$$

inverse temperature  $\beta$   
energy  $U(x)$   
coordinates  $x$   
normalizing constant  $Z$

## Goals

- 1) Draw samples
- 2) Expectations under  $p(x)$   $\implies$  **Material properties**
- 3) Estimate  $Z$   $\implies$  **Free energy**



# Problem summary

We are **given an energy function** with known invariances...

... that defines a Boltzmann distribution ...

... under which **we want to compute expectations and free energies.**

$$U(x)$$

$$p(x) = \frac{e^{-\beta U(x)}}{Z}$$

$$\langle O \rangle = \mathbb{E}_{p(x)} [O(x)]$$



# Using transport maps: An idea that emerged independently in LQCD, Molecular dynamics and computer science

CERN-PH-TH/2009-118

Trivializing maps, the Wilson flow and  
the HMC algorithm

Martin Lüscher

*CERN, Physics Department, 1211 Geneva 23, Switzerland*

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## Abstract

In lattice gauge theory, there exist field transformations that map the theory to the trivial one, where the basic field variables are completely decoupled from one another. Such maps can be constructed systematically by integrating certain flow equations in field space. The construction is worked out in some detail and it is proposed to combine the Wilson flow (which generates approximately trivializing maps for the Wilson gauge action) with the HMC simulation algorithm in order to improve the efficiency of lattice QCD simulations.

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**Targeted free energy perturbation**

C. Jarzynski

*Complex Systems, T-13, MS B213*

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LAUR-01-2157

## Abstract

A generalization of the free energy perturbation identity is derived, and a computational strategy based on this result is presented. A simple example illustrates the efficiency gains that can be achieved with this method.

A family of non-parametric density estimation  
algorithms

E. G. Tabak\* and C. V. Turner †

December 29, 2011

## Abstract

A new methodology for density estimation is proposed. The methodology, which builds on the one developed in [15], normalizes the data points through the composition of simple maps. The parameters of each map are determined through the maximization of a local quadratic approximation to the log-likelihood. Various candidates for the elementary maps of each step are proposed; criteria for choosing one includes robustness, computational simplicity and good behavior in high-dimensional settings. A good choice is that of localized radial expansions, which depend on a single parameter: all the complexity of arbitrary, possibly convoluted probability densities can be built through the composition of such simple maps.

- [1] Lüscher, M., 2010. Trivializing maps, the Wilson flow and the HMC algorithm. *Communications in Mathematical Physics*, 293(3), pp.899–919.
- [2] Jarzynski, C., 2002. Targeted free energy perturbation. *Physical Review E*, 65(4), p.046122.
- [3] Tabak, E.G. and Turner, C.V., 2013. A family of nonparametric density estimation algorithms. *Communications on Pure and Applied Mathematics*, 66(2), pp.145–164.



# Why introducing transport maps seem like a good idea?

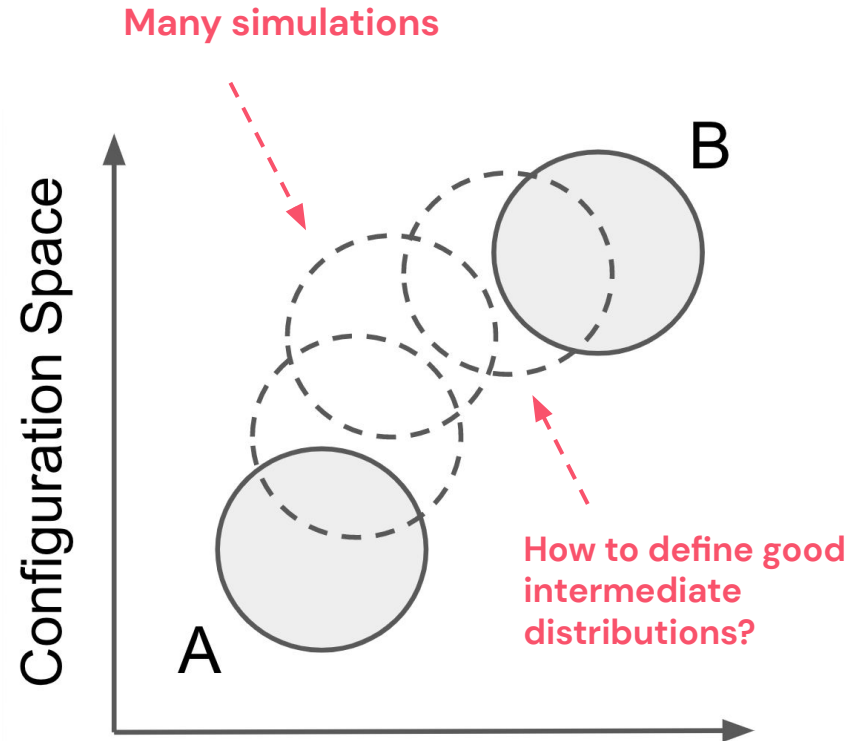
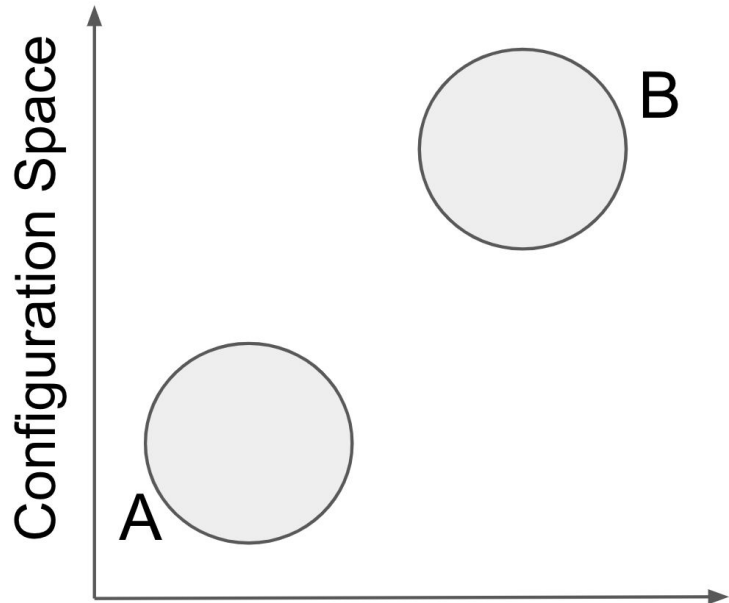


Image credit: Wirnsberger, Ballard, et al., [JCP](#) (2020).





## Where ML fits in?

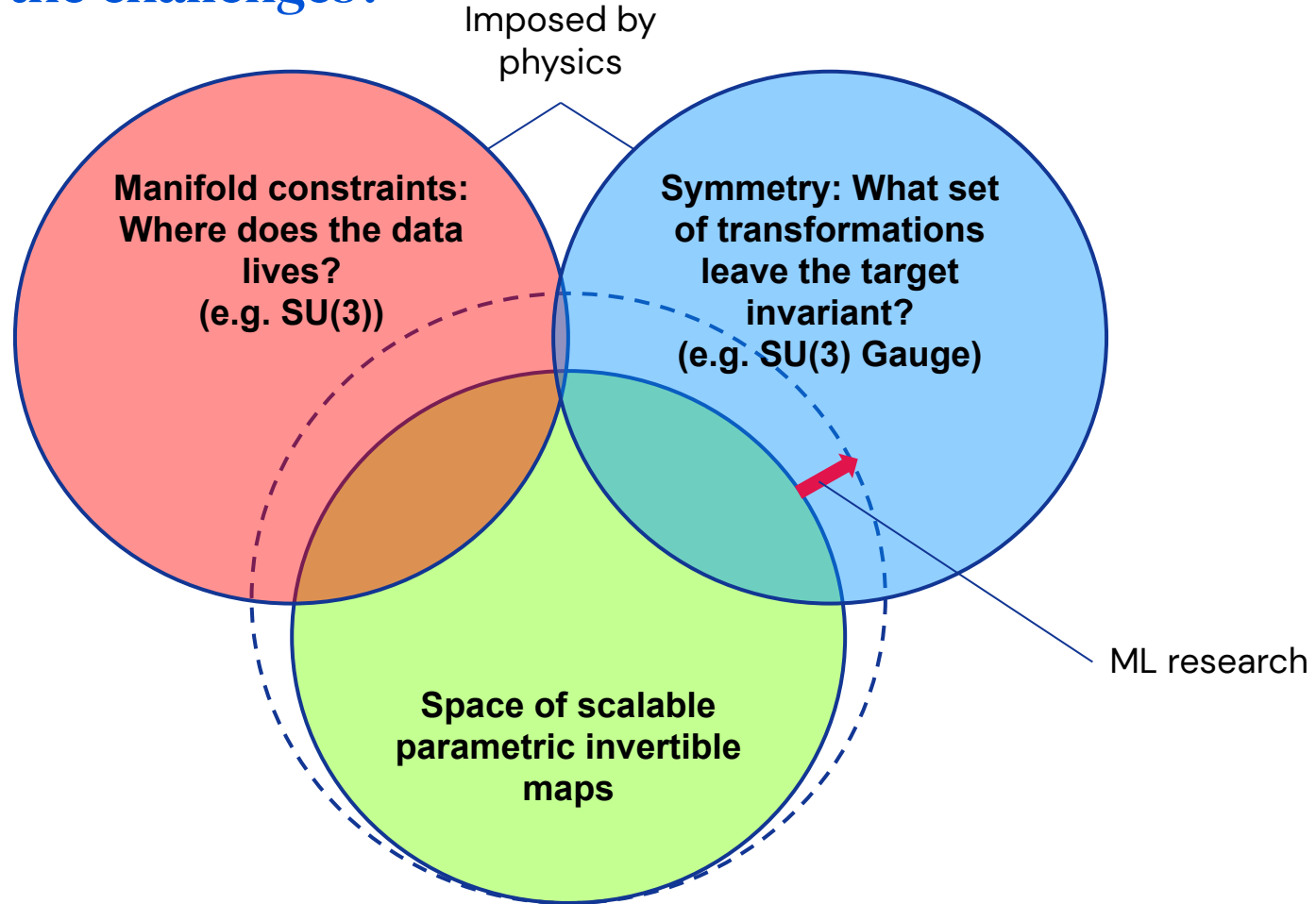
In both LQCD and free energy estimation, the original idea was to come up with transport maps manually

This created an opportunity: replace simple families of hand-crafted maps by expressive parametric families of maps optimised to the specific problem at hand

This is a theme repeated in other places such as quantum monte-carlo



# What are the challenges?



# Desiderata

- Scientific applications require *high-accuracy predictions with reliable systematic error estimation*
- Model de-biasing methods (e.g. IS, MCMC) require fast *exact model likelihoods and sampling*
- This excludes certain families of generative models such as GANs, energy-based and diffusion models
- Auto-regressive, latent variable and flow models are compatible with the desiderata of MCMC corrections



# Guarantees of correctness (controlled systematic errors)

Model **inaccurate** → Results **correct** but **slow**

Model **accurate** → Results **correct** and **fast**



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# Normalizing flows



## Change of variable formula

Our goal is to define a density  $q(\mathbf{x})$  over a  $D$ -dimensional vector  $\mathbf{x}$ .

We can achieve this by transforming samples from a **base distribution**  $\mathbf{u} \sim \pi(\mathbf{u})$ ,

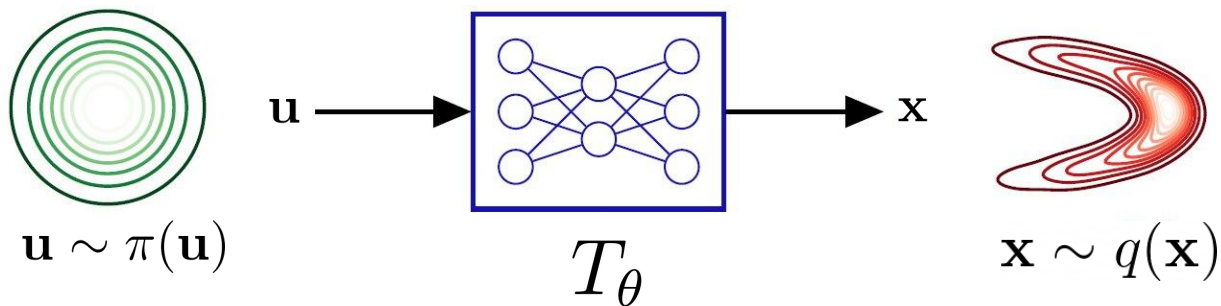
$$q(\mathbf{x}) = \pi(\mathbf{u}) |\det J_T(\mathbf{u})|^{-1}$$

where  $T$  is an invertible transformation and  $\mathbf{x} = T(\mathbf{u})$ .



# Basic concept of NFs

**Goal:** Use ML to transform a simple base density into a complex density.



We assume the transformation to be a diffeomorphism with tractable Jacobian determinant.

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Rezende and Mohamed, *Variational inference with normalizing flows*, [ICML](#) (2015)

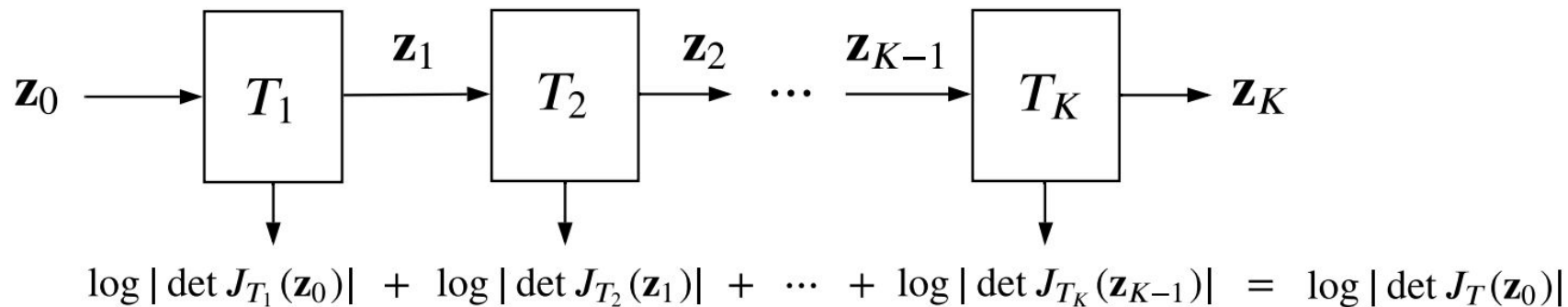
Papamakarios et al., *Normalizing flows for probabilistic modeling and inference*, [JMLR](#) (2021)

Kobyzev, Prince and Brubaker, *Normalizing Flows: An Introduction and Review of Current Methods*, [IEEE PAM](#) (2021)



## Composing multiple layers

$$T = T_K \circ \dots \circ T_1$$





## Composing multiple layers

$$T = T_K \circ \cdots \circ T_1$$

$$\log |\det J_T(\mathbf{z}_0)| = \log \left| \prod_{k=1}^K \det J_{T_k}(\mathbf{z}_{k-1}) \right| = \sum_{k=1}^K \log |\det J_{T_k}(\mathbf{z}_{k-1})|$$



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# Manifold Constraints



## General principles

- Most existing ML techniques and tools assume data lives in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  and cannot be adapted in a straightforward way to manifolds
- There are very few tools that can be broadly applied to manifold data
- Solutions need to be custom-made for each problem in general



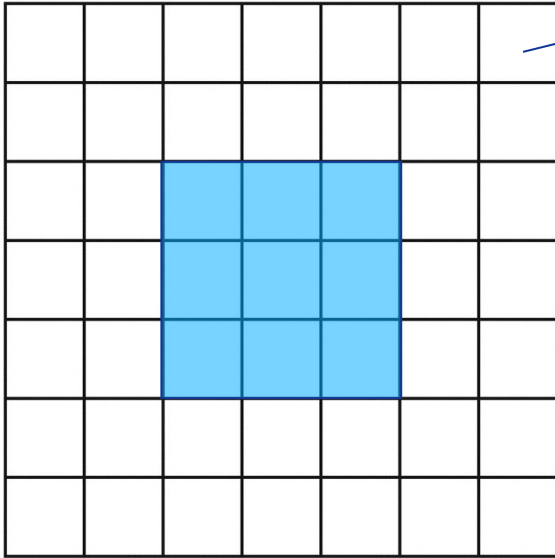
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# Convnets on manifolds and fiber bundles: A general solution, formulation



# Convnets on manifolds and fiber bundles

**Convnets  
in  $\mathbb{R}^n$**



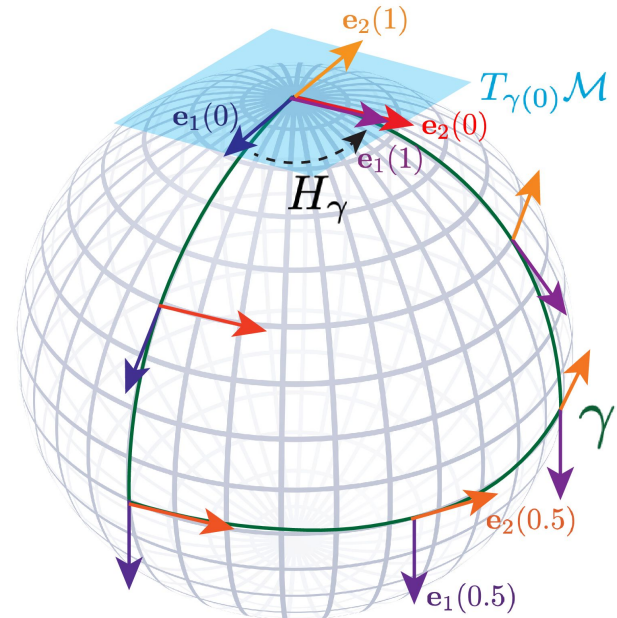
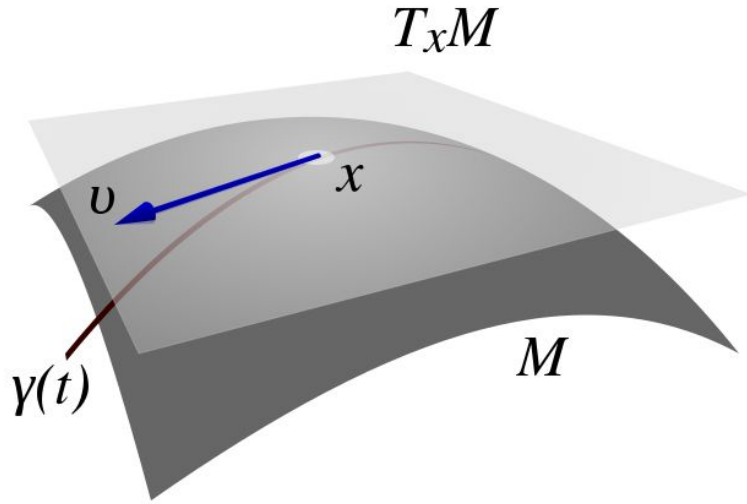
$X_\nu(y)$

$$Y_\mu(x) = \sum_{y \in N(x), \nu} w_{\mu, \nu}(x, y) X_\nu(y)$$



# Convnets on manifolds and fiber bundles

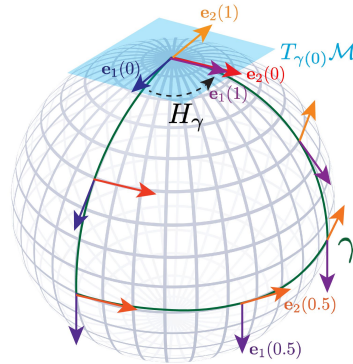
**We can't trivially extend convnets to fiber bundles:  
Linear combinations of elements belonging to different  
fibers are neither invariant nor equivariant**



# Convnets on manifolds and fiber bundles

General solution: Elements of different fibers need to be "parallel transported" to a "common fiber" before taking linear combinations

$$Y_{\mu}(x) = \sum_{y \in N(x)} w(x, y) [\Gamma(x, y) \circ X(y)]_{\mu}$$



# Convnets on manifolds and fiber bundles: Gauge symmetries, a concrete example.

## Matrix-conjugation equivariant convnets

$$T_{\Omega} W_{x,i} = \Omega_x W_{x,i} \Omega_x^{\dagger}$$

**Parallel transport of W**

$$W_{x,i} \rightarrow \sum_{j,\mu,k} \omega_{i,j,\mu,k} U_{x,k\cdot\mu} W_{x+k\cdot\mu,j} U_{x,k\cdot\mu}^{\dagger}$$

## Examples of non-linearities that preserve equivariance

$$W_{x,i} \rightarrow \sum_{j,k} \alpha_{i,j,k} W_{x,j} W'_{x,k}$$

$$W_{x,i} \rightarrow g_{x,i}(\mathcal{U}, \mathcal{W}) W_{x,i}$$

Favoni, M., Ipp, A., Müller, D.I. and Schuh, D., 2022. Lattice gauge equivariant convolutional neural networks. *Physical Review Letters*, 128(3), p.032003.

Gerken, J.E., Aronsson, J., Carlsson, O., Linander, H., Ohlsson, F., Petersson, C. and Persson, D., 2021. Geometric deep learning and equivariant neural networks. arXiv preprint arXiv:2105.13926.





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# Symmetry Constraints



# General principles

Given a group...

... and a map

$$g \in G$$

... with group action

$$f : \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathcal{B}$$

$$T_g$$

Invariance

$$f \circ T_g = f$$

Equivariance

$$f \circ T_g = T_g \circ f$$



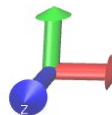
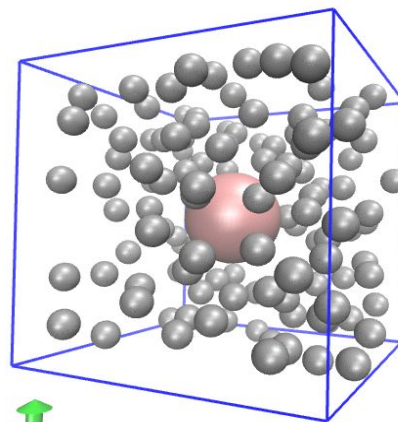
# Why respect symmetries?

Many real-world problems have **known symmetries**.

- **Physics**
  - time reversal,
  - identical particles,
  - wave functions, or
  - gauge invariance, ...
- **Point-cloud modelling** (e.g. 3D objects)
- **Image detection** (e.g. rotations)

⇒ **Can have dramatic effects on training!**

$$p(x) = \frac{e^{-\beta U(x)}}{Z}$$



# Examples of common symmetries

- **Permutations**

- symmetric

$$p(\dots, x_i, \dots, x_j, \dots) = p(\dots, x_j, \dots, x_i, \dots)$$

- antisymmetric

$$\psi(\dots, x_i, \dots, x_j, \dots) = -\psi(\dots, x_j, \dots, x_i, \dots)$$

- **Translations and/or rotations**

- SE(3)

$$x \rightarrow Rx + \mu$$

- Octahedral symmetries

- **Gauge invariance**

- U(n)

$$(\Omega \cdot U)_\mu(x) = \Omega(x)U_\mu(x)\Omega^\dagger(x + \hat{\mu})$$

- SU(n)



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# General mechanisms to incorporate symmetry and equivariance in ML



## Building Invariance: Group convolutions

**Invariant map**

$$\bar{\phi}(x) = \int d\mu(g) \phi(T_g \circ x)$$

**Equivariant map**

$$\hat{\phi}(x) = \int d\mu(g) (T_{g^{-1}} \circ \phi)(T_g \circ x)$$

**Example:**  
**group convolution nnets**



## Building Invariance: Group convolutions

**Invariant map**  $\bar{\phi}(x) = \int d\mu(g) \phi(T_g \circ x)$

**Equivariant map**  $\hat{\phi}(x) = \int d\mu(g) (T_{g^{-1}} \circ \phi)(T_g \circ x)$

**Example:**  
**group convolution nnets**

**Not scalable with dimension of G!**



## Building Invariance: Direct use of known group invariants

**Example: Pairwise interactions for translational invariance  
(e.g. graphnets, transformers)**

$$\phi(x) = \sum_{ij} f(\|x_i - x_j\|)$$





## Building Invariance: Direct use of group invariants

### Example: Trace-networks for matrix conjugation invariance

$$X \rightarrow UXU^*$$

$$U \in SU(n)$$

$$\phi(X) = f(\text{Tr}(X), \text{Tr}(XX), \dots)$$

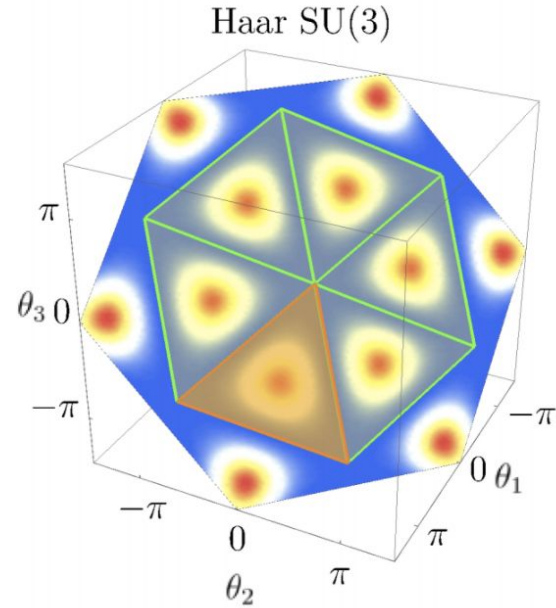
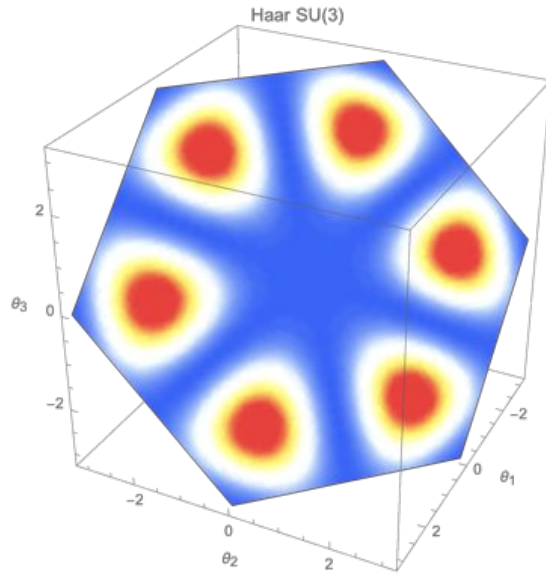
Example from Physics: Wilson loops

$$W_C = \text{Tr}(P e^{i \oint U_\mu dx^\mu})$$



# Building Invariance: Canonicalization maps

**Canonicalize -> Flow on cell -> Uncanonicalize**



# Building Equivariance: Equivariance from Invariance

**Lemma 2 (Equivariance from invariance)** *Let  $f : \mathbb{R}^D \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be invariant with respect to  $G$ , and assume that  $\mathbf{R}_g$  is orthogonal for all  $g \in G$ . Then  $\nabla_{\mathbf{u}} f(\mathbf{u})$  is equivariant with respect to  $G$ .*

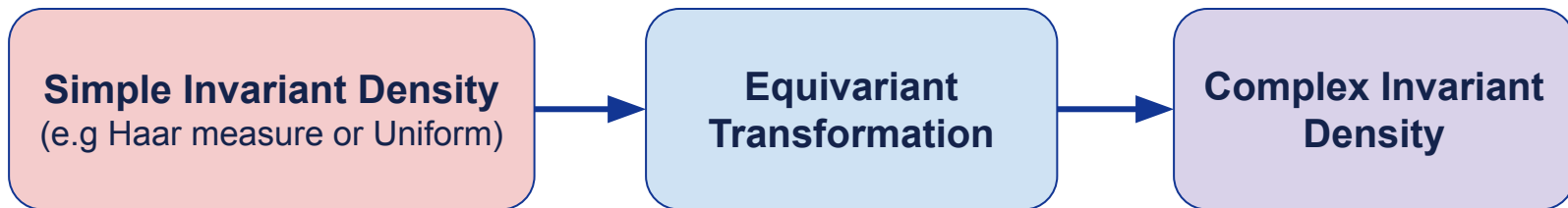
## Example: Permutation equivariant gradient maps

$$f(x) = h\left(\sum_i \phi(x_i)\right)$$

$$\nabla_{x_i} f(x) = h'\left(\sum_j \phi(x_j)\right) \nabla_{x_i} \phi(x_i)$$



# Building Invariant Densities: General principle



**Lemma 1 (Equivariant flows)** *Let  $p_{\mathbf{x}}(\mathbf{x})$  be the density function of a flow-based model with transformation  $T : \mathbb{R}^D \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^D$  and base density  $p_{\mathbf{u}}(\mathbf{u})$ . If  $T$  is equivariant with respect to  $G$  and  $p_{\mathbf{u}}(\mathbf{u})$  is invariant with respect to  $G$ , then  $p_{\mathbf{x}}(\mathbf{x})$  is invariant with respect to  $G$ .*

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Rezende et al., *Equivariant Hamiltonian Flows*, [arXiv](#) (2019)

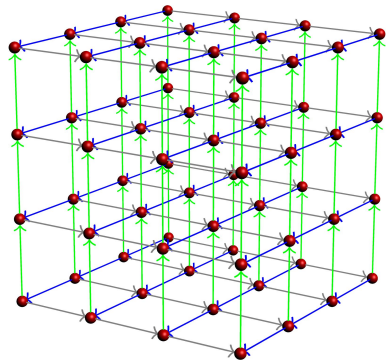
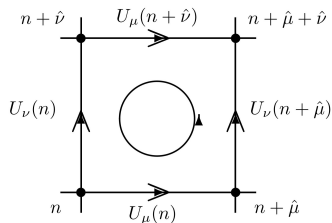
Köhler, Klein and Noe, *Equivariant Flows: Exact Likelihood Generative Learning for Symmetric Densities* [ICML](#) (2020)

Papamakarios et al., *Normalizing flows for probabilistic modeling and inference*, [JMLR](#) (2021)



# Application to LQCD: summary

## Gauge fields

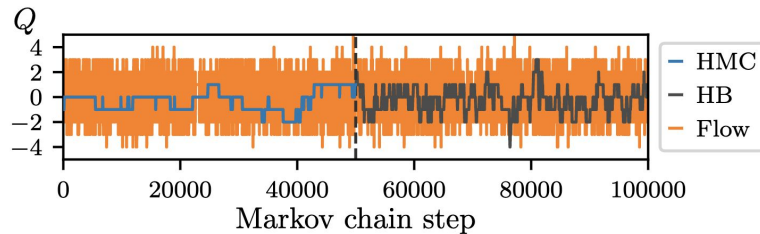


$$P_{\mu\nu}(x) := U(x, \mu)U(x + \hat{\mu}, \nu)U^\dagger(x + \hat{\nu}, \mu)U^\dagger(x, \nu)$$

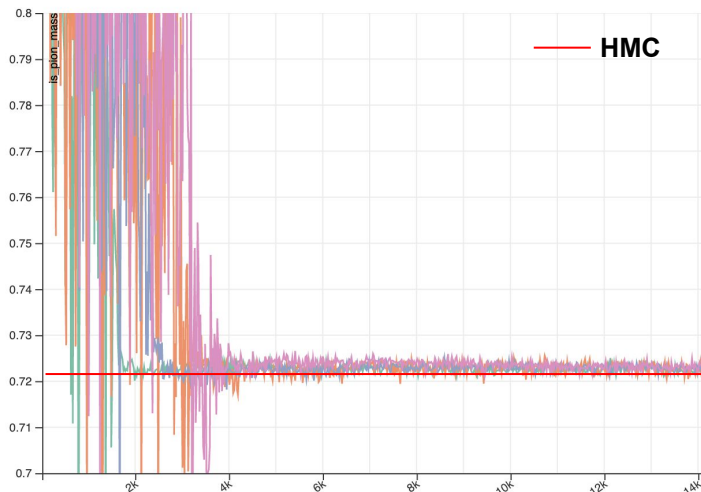
$$S := -\beta \sum_{\text{sites } x} \sum_{\mu=1}^D \sum_{\nu=\mu+1}^D \text{Re} \left[ \frac{1}{N} \text{Tr} (P_{\mu\nu}(x)) \right]$$

## Pseudo-fermion fields

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{eff}}(U, \chi) = \mathcal{L}_{\text{Gauge}}(U) - \sum_f \chi_f^\dagger (DD^\dagger)^{-1} \chi_f$$



## Pion mass vs model



# Application to molecular dynamics: summary

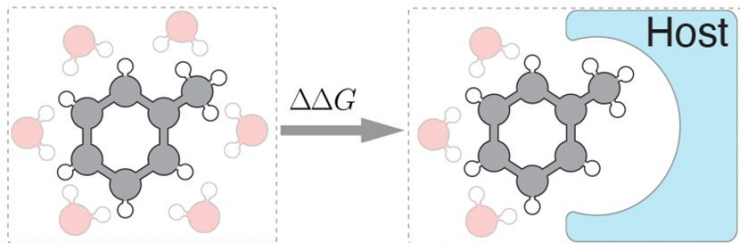
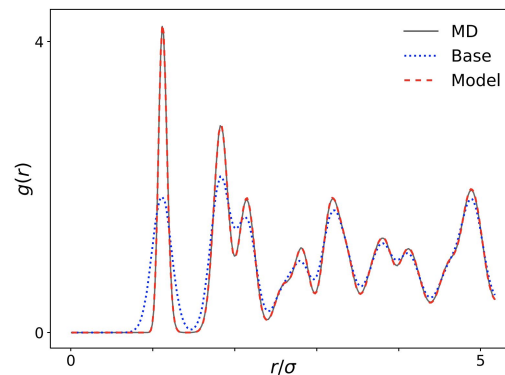
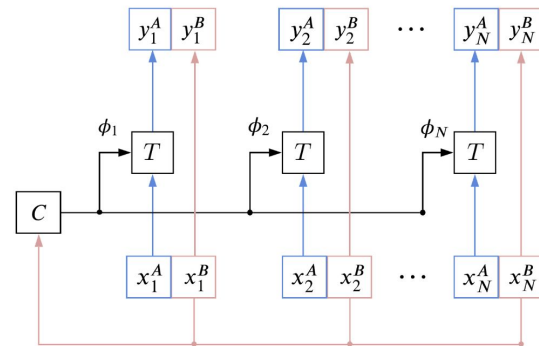
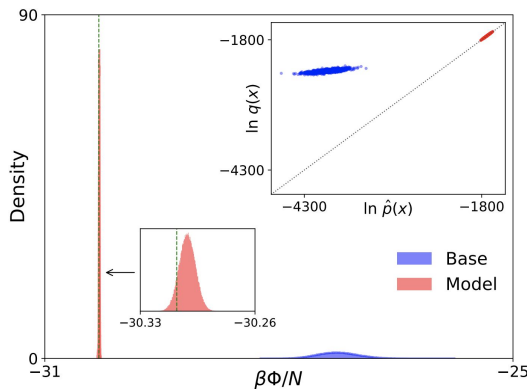


Image credit: Mey et al., [Living J Comput Mol Sci.](#) (2021)

$$p_\alpha(x) = \frac{1}{Z_\alpha} e^{-\beta U_\alpha(x)}$$

$$F_\alpha = -\beta^{-1} \log Z_\alpha$$

$$\Delta F = F_B - F_A$$



System	N	LFEP	LBAR	MBAR
LJ	256	3.10800(28)	3.10797(1)	3.10798(9)
LJ	500	3.12300(41)	3.12264(2)	3.12262(10)
Ice Ic	64	-25.16311(3)	-25.16312(1)	-25.16306(20)
Ice Ic	216	-25.08234(7)	-25.08238(1)	-25.08234(5)
Ice Ic	512	-25.06163(35)	-25.06161(1)	-25.06156(3)
Ice Ih	64	-25.18671(3)	-25.18672(2)	-25.18687(26)
Ice Ih	216	-25.08980(3)	-25.08979(1)	-25.08975(14)
Ice Ih	512	-25.06478(9)	-25.06479(1)	-25.06480(4)



# Outlook

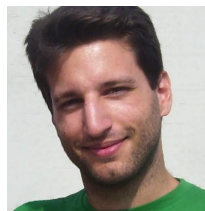
- **Remarkable progress in the development of NFs** for sampling and free energy estimation (from LQCD to molecular systems).
- NFs allow us to **address old problems in completely new ways** by leveraging the flexibility of neural networks.
- **Challenges and limitations:**
  - Training and evaluating models without ground-truth samples
  - Scaling up to realistic lattice sizes
  - Need more general and robust mechanisms to correct for model bias and bound error of expectations



# Collaborators



Peter  
Wirnsberger



George  
Papamakarios



Borja Ibarz



Andy Ballard



Stuart  
Abercrombie



Sébastien  
Racanière



Alexander  
Pritzel



Danilo  
Rezende



Charles  
Blundell

Wirnsberger, Ballard et al., *Targeted free energy estimation via learned mappings*, [JCP](#) (2020).

Wirnsberger, Papamakarios, Ibarz et al., *Normalizing flows for atomic solids*, [MLST](#) (2022).





# The team



Center for Theoretical Physics, MIT

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Gurtej Kanwar



Phiala Shanahan



Denis Boyda

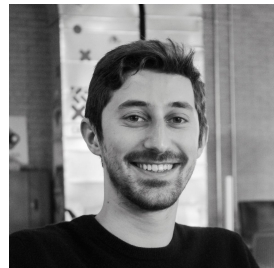


Dan Hackett



Center for Cosmology and Particle Physics, NYU

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Michael Alberg



Kyle Cranmer



Julian Urban  
(work on fermions)

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Sébastien Racanière



Danilo Rezende



Ali Razavi



Alex Matthews



Alex Botev



# THANKS

There is a lot more, check the slide deck

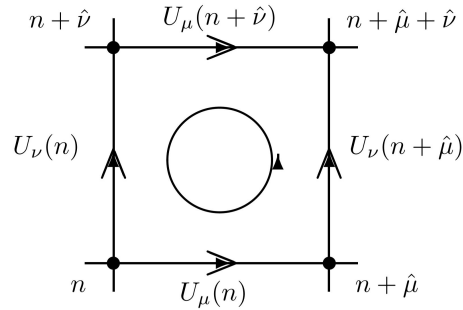


# 4

## Special Manifolds: $U(N)$ , $SU(N)$



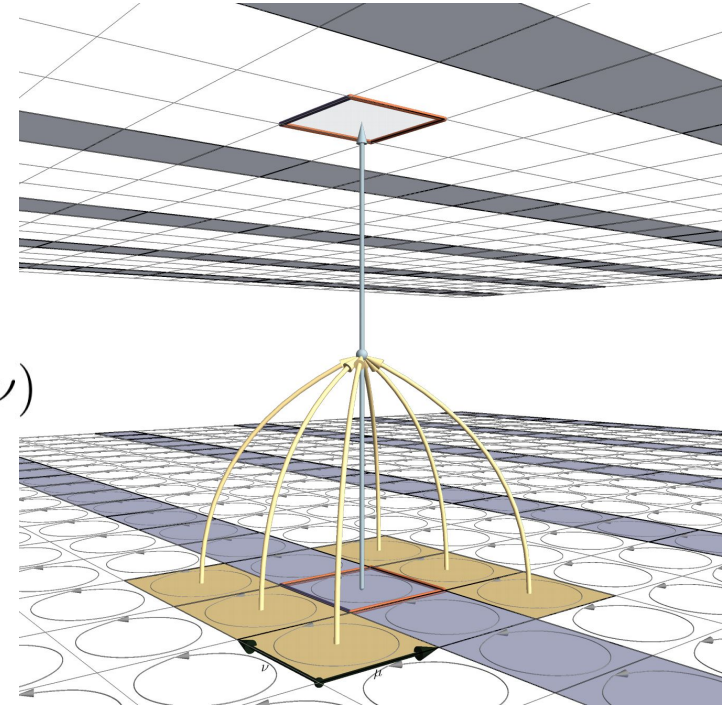
# Lattice Quantum Chromodynamics



$$P_{\mu\nu}(x) := U(x, \mu)U(x + \hat{\mu}, \nu)U^\dagger(x + \hat{\nu}, \mu)U^\dagger(x, \nu)$$

$$S := -\beta \sum_{\text{sites } x} \sum_{\mu=1}^D \sum_{\nu=\mu+1}^D \text{Re} \left[ \frac{1}{N} \text{Tr} (P_{\mu\nu}(x)) \right]$$

$$p(U) \propto e^{-\beta S[U]}$$



## Motivation: Gauge Equivariance

$$Y_\mu(x) = f(U_\mu(x); \theta)$$

$$U_\mu(x) \rightarrow \Omega(x)U_\mu(x)\Omega(x + \hat{\mu})^\dagger$$

$$Y_\mu(x) \rightarrow \Omega(x)Y_\mu(x)\Omega(x + \hat{\mu})^\dagger$$



## Motivation: Gauge Equivariance

Let  $h$  be an invertible map such that

$$h : \text{SU}(N) \rightarrow \text{SU}(N)$$

$$h(\Omega_\mu(x) X_\mu(x) \Omega_\mu(x)^\dagger) = \Omega_\mu(x) h(X_\mu(x)) \Omega_\mu(x)^\dagger$$

Then the map  $f$ ,

$$f(X_\mu(x)) = h(P_{\mu\nu}(x)) S_{\mu\nu}(x)^\dagger$$

where 
$$S_{\mu\nu}(x) = X_\mu(x)^\dagger P_{\mu\nu}(x)$$

is equivariant to Gauge transformations



## Building Equivariance: Matrix Conjugation Equivariance

$$X \rightarrow UXU^*$$

$$U \in SU(n)$$

**Proposition 1.** *Let  $f : G \rightarrow G$  be a matrix conjugation equivariant diffeomorphism. Then  $f$  restricted to  $T$  is a diffeomorphism of  $T$  that is equivariant under the action of the Weyl group.*

**T is the maximal torus of G**



## Building Equivariance: Matrix Conjugation Equivariance

In the case of  $G = \text{SU}(N)$  or  $G = \text{U}(N)$ , a maximal torus is given by the subgroup of diagonal matrices, and the Weyl group is isomorphic to the group of permutations

**Matrix Conjugation Equivariance  $\Leftrightarrow$  Permutation Equivariance of eigenvalues**





## Building Equivariance: Matrix Conjugation Equivariance

**Matrix-conjugation diffeomorphisms on  $SU(N)$  are generated by permutation-equivariant diffeomorphisms on eigenvalues**

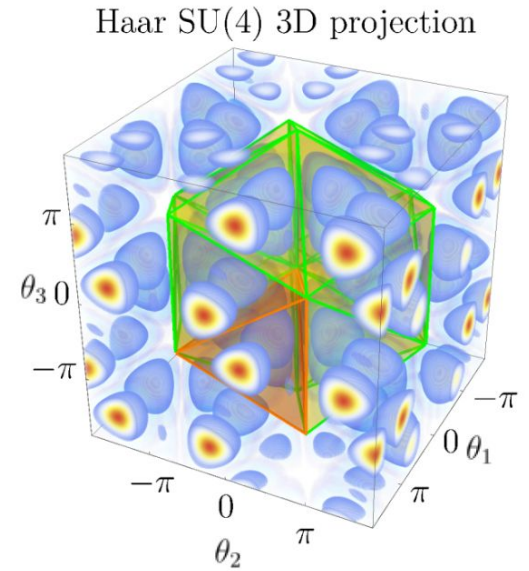
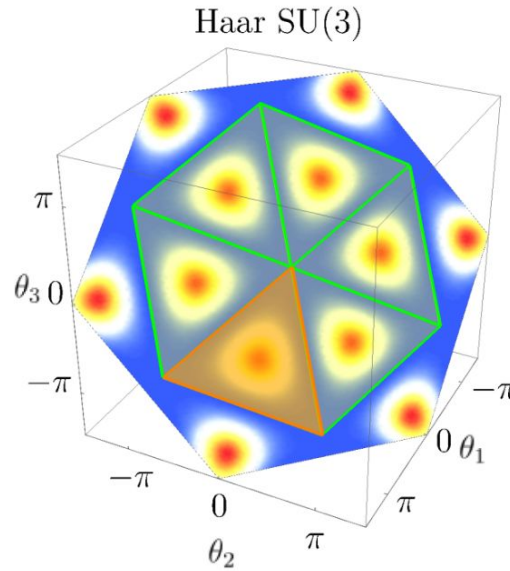
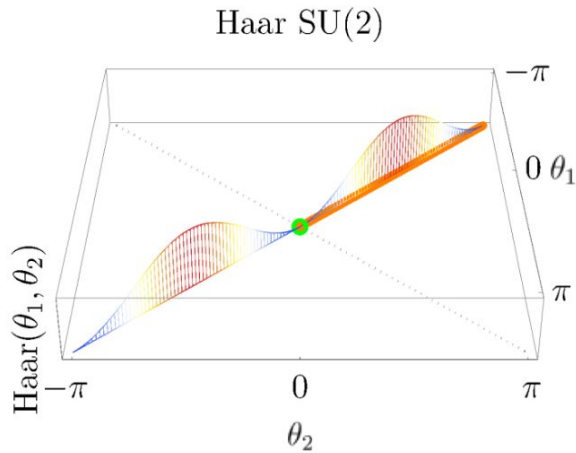
$$(X, D = \text{diag}(w)) = \text{eigen}(U)$$

$$Y = X \text{diag}(g(w)) X^\dagger$$

**If  $g$  is a permutation-equivariant flow that preserves unitarity (  $\prod g(w) = 1$  )**



# Haar measure on the maximal torus of SU(N)



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# Alternative constructions for $SU(N)$ Gauge-equivariant maps



# Alternative Gauge-equivariant map: Exp-product map

Projects to the Lie algebra

A collection of staples

$$Y_{\mu}(x) = e^{\sum_k w_k \mathcal{P}[U_{\mu}(x) S_{\mu}^k(x)]} U_{\mu}(x)$$

Invertibility requires bounded coefficients



# Alternative Gauge-equivariant map: SU(N) ODE flow, trivializing flows

Gauge-invariant scalar

Lie algebra generators

$$Y_\mu(x) = e^{\epsilon T^a} \partial_{\mu, x, a} \phi(U) U_\mu(x)$$

Invertibility requires  
bounded step-size

Right-invariant derivative



DeepMind

5

# Applications



# 5.1

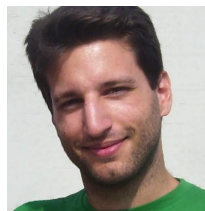
## Application: Free energy of solids



# Collaborators



Peter  
Wirnsberger



George  
Papamakarios



Borja Ibarz



Andy Ballard



Stuart  
Abercrombie



Sébastien  
Racanière



Alexander  
Pritzel



Danilo  
Rezende



Charles  
Blundell

Wirnsberger, Ballard et al., *Targeted free energy estimation via learned mappings*, [JCP](#) (2020).

Wirnsberger, Papamakarios, Ibarz et al., *Normalizing flows for atomic solids*, [MLST](#) (2022).





# Free energy

$$F = -\beta^{-1} \ln Z$$

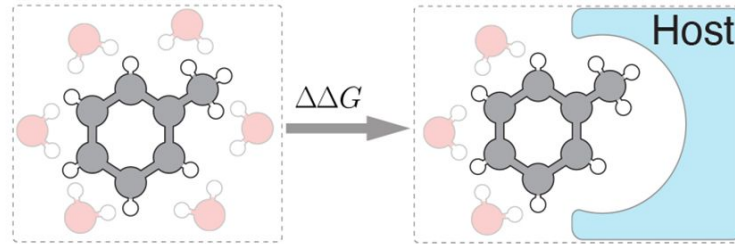


Image credit: Mey et al., [Living J Comput Mol Sci.](#) (2021)

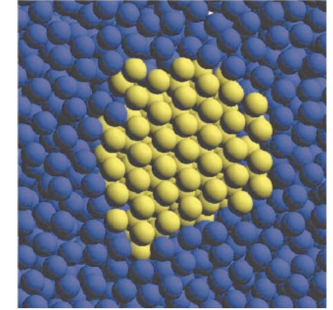


Image credit:  
Auer and Frenkel,  
[Nature](#) (2001)

## Related to:

- Phase transitions
- Molecular stability
- Drug binding and solubility
- ...

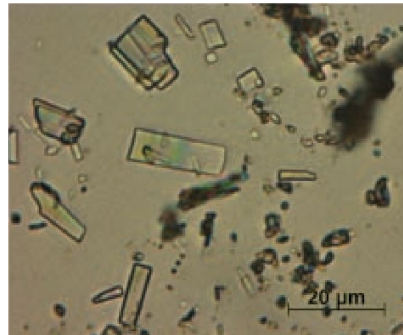


Image credit: Morissette et al., [PNAS 100](#)

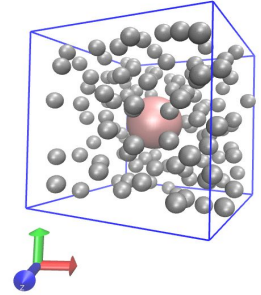


# Problem definition

Estimate **free energy changes** between two states.

state A or B  $\nearrow$

$$p_\alpha(x) = \frac{1}{Z_\alpha} e^{-\beta U_\alpha(x)}$$



$$F_\alpha = -\beta^{-1} \log Z_\alpha$$

$$\Delta F = F_B - F_A$$



# Estimators

Many specialised estimation techniques have been developed:

- Thermodynamic integration
- Free energy perturbation (FEP)
- Bennetts acceptance ratio (BAR)
- Jarzynski method / Annealed Importance Sampling
- Weighted histogram analysis method (WHAM)
- Multistate BAR (MBAR)
- Metadynamics...

**Can we use ML to improve them?**



# Traditional approaches

- **Molecular Dynamics (MD)**
- **Markov Chain Monte Carlo (MCMC)**
  - Hamiltonian Monte Carlo
  - Langevin dynamics

Animations credit: Šarić Lab, [andelasaric.com](http://andelasaric.com)

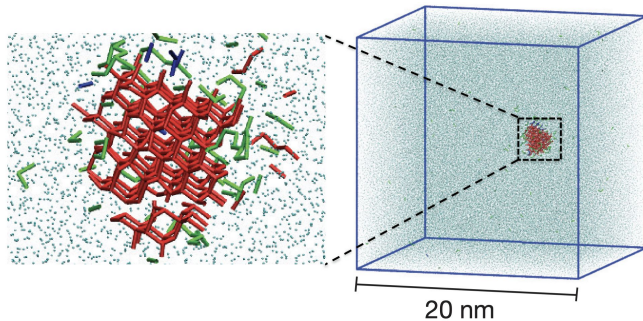
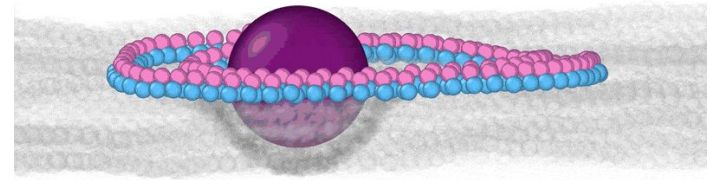
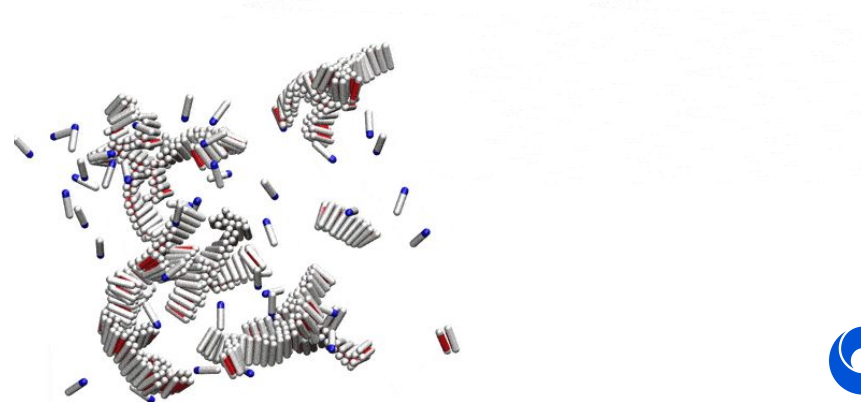


Image credit: Lupi *et al.*, [Nature 501](https://doi.org/10.1038/501011a)



# Traditional approaches

## Sampling & expectations

1. Burn-in period
2. Collecting samples

*Samples directly from*

*target distribution*

$p(x)$

$\{x_i\}_{1 \leq i \leq N}$

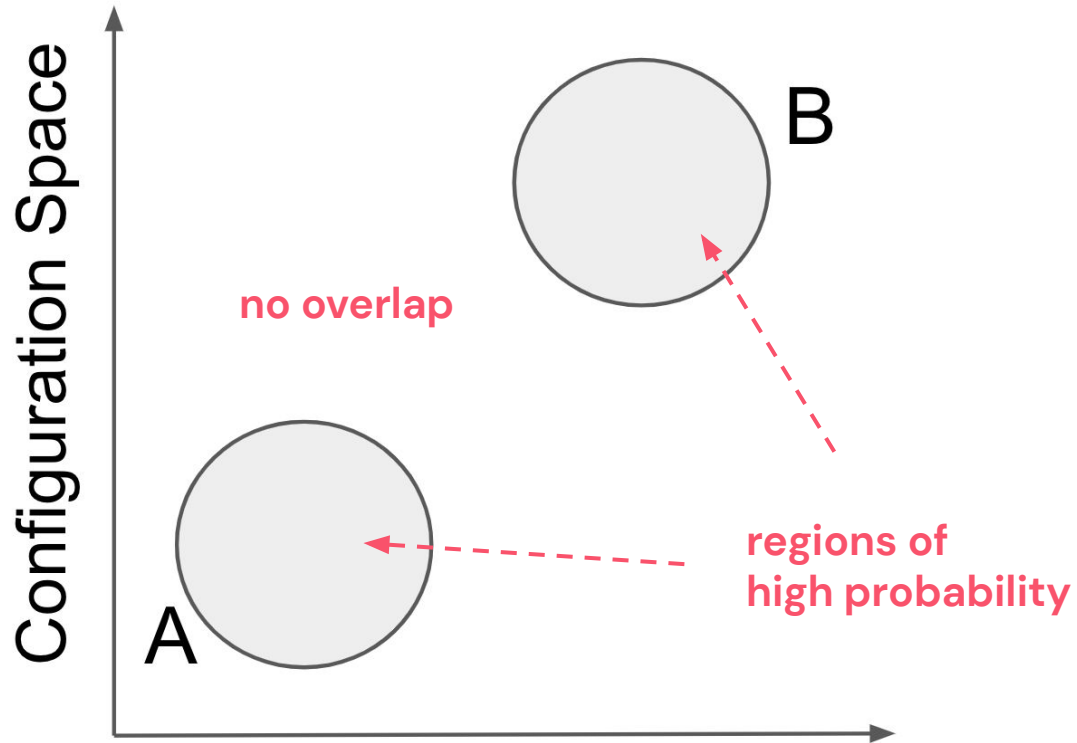
3. MC estimate

*No unbiasing required*

$$\langle O \rangle \approx \hat{O} = N^{-1} \sum_{i=1}^N O(x_i)$$



# The “overlap problem”



# Multistate methods

Introduce **intermediate distributions**:

- Thermodynamic integration
- Multistep FEP
- WHAM
- MBAR, ...

Works well but is **expensive**.

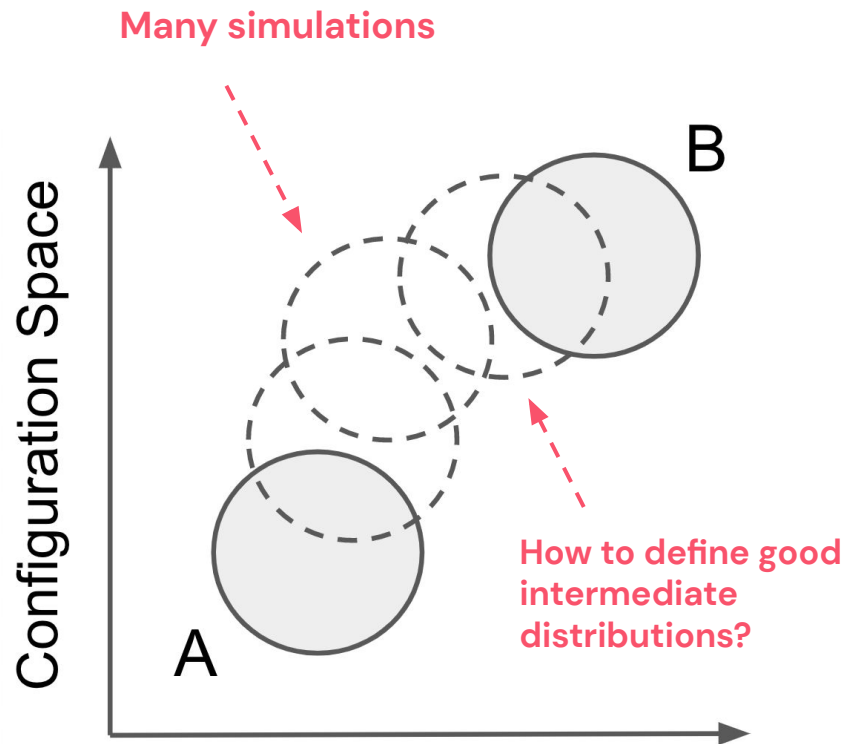
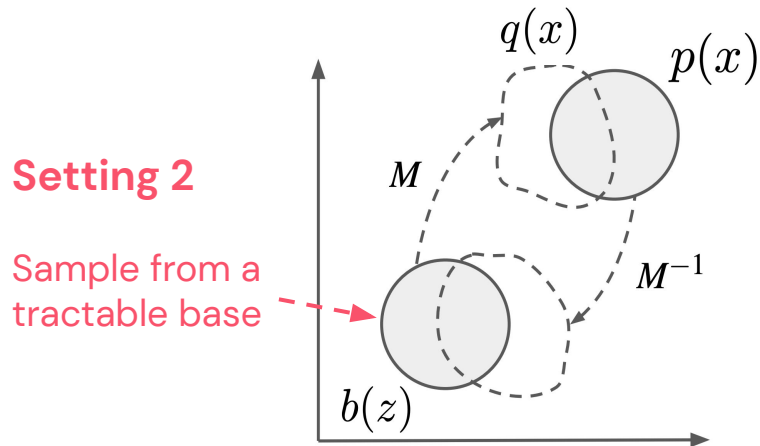
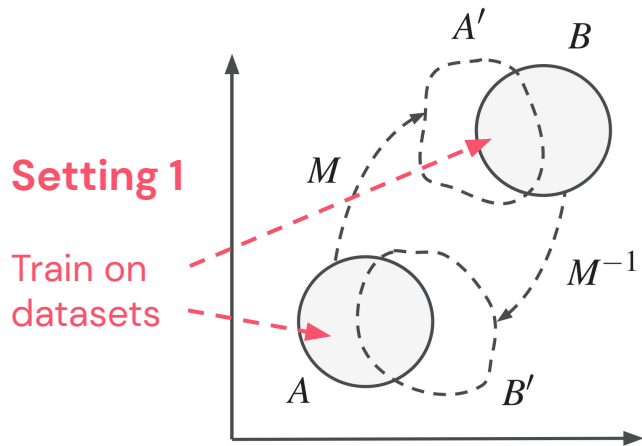


Image credit: Wirnsberger, Ballard, et al., [JCP](#) (2020).



# Learned estimators

Free energy estimation as a learning problem:  $M_\theta$  ← ML



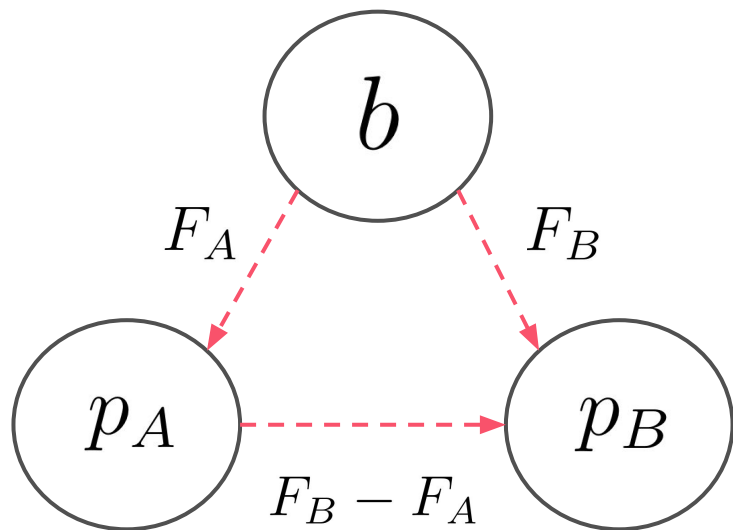
$$p_{A'}^*(M(x)) = p_A^*(x) |\det J_M(x)|^{-1}$$

$$q(x) = b(z) |\det J_M(z)|^{-1}$$

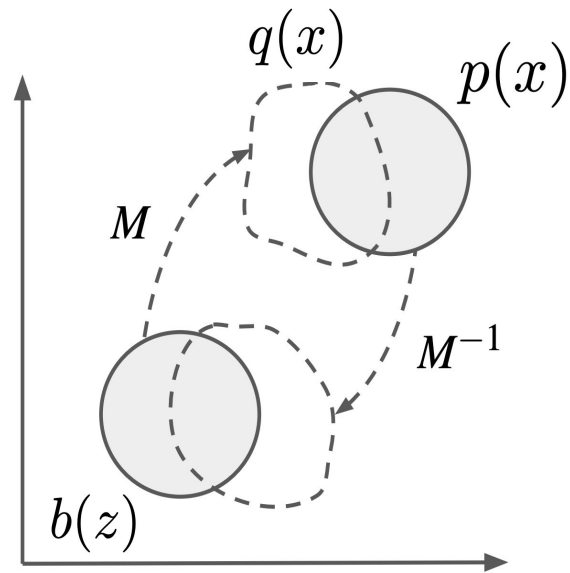




## Solids: Problem setup



Requires two experiments.



$$q(x) = b(z) |\det J_M(z)|^{-1}$$



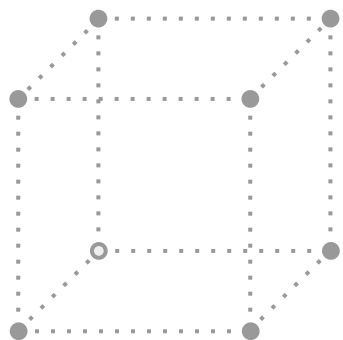
# Atomic solids: permutation equivariance

Invariant Density  
(permutation)

Equivariant  
Transformation

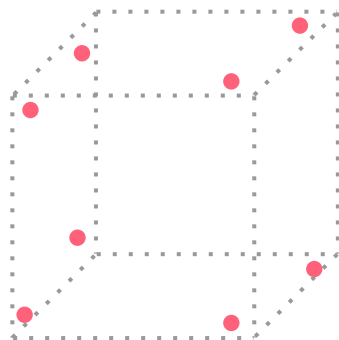
Complex  
Invariant  
Density

$$q(x) = b(z) |\det J_f(z)|^{-1}$$



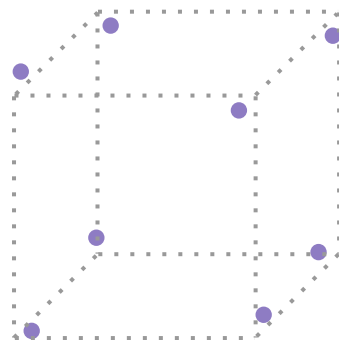
lattice

+ noise  
+ permutation



input  $b(z)$

Model



output  $q(x)$

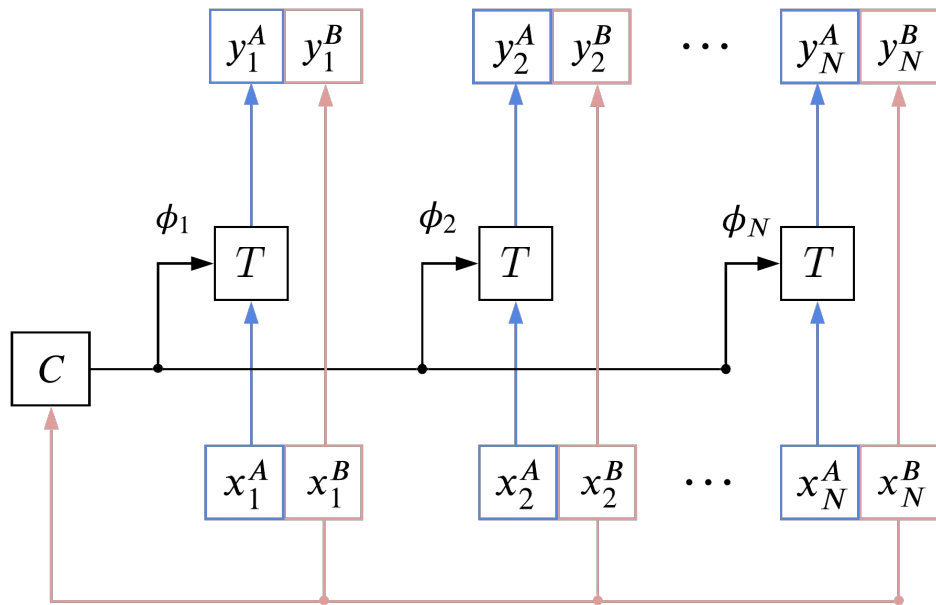


# Permutation-equivariant coupling layer

Split across particle coordinates:

$$\mathbf{x}_n = (\mathbf{x}_n^A, \mathbf{x}_n^B)$$

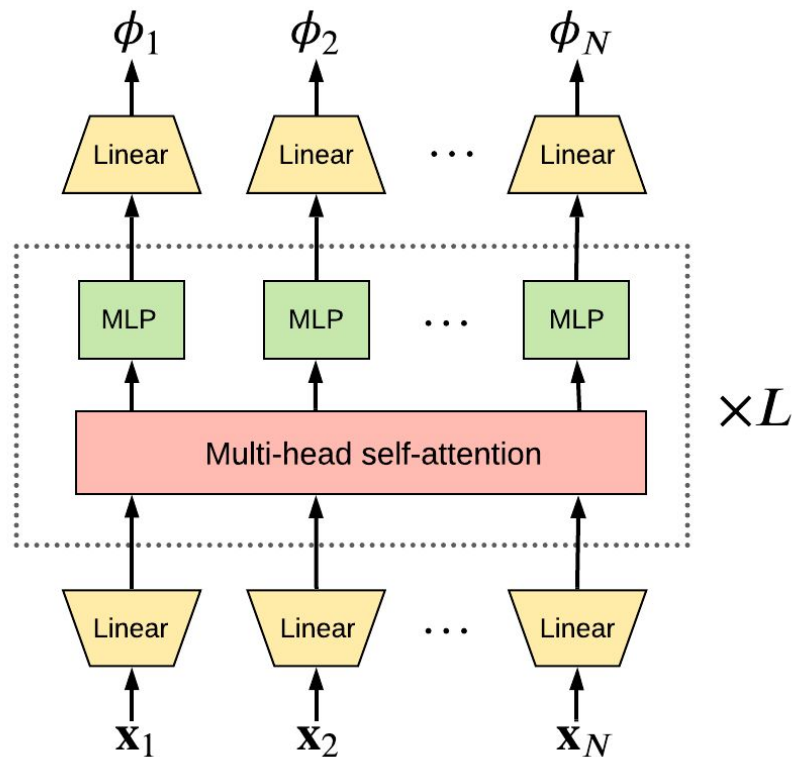
Coupling layer is permutation-equivariant if  $C$  is.



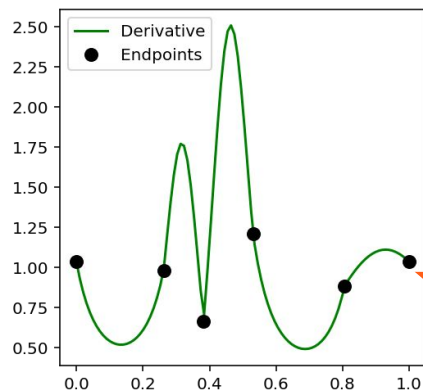
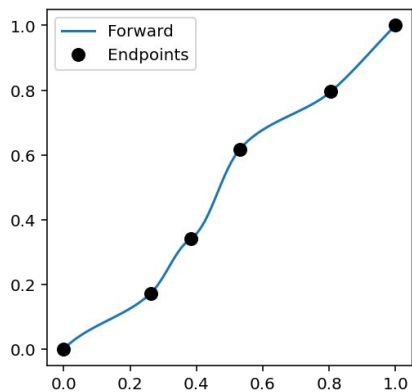
# Permutation-equivariant conditioner

**Transformer** architecture

(without positional embeddings)



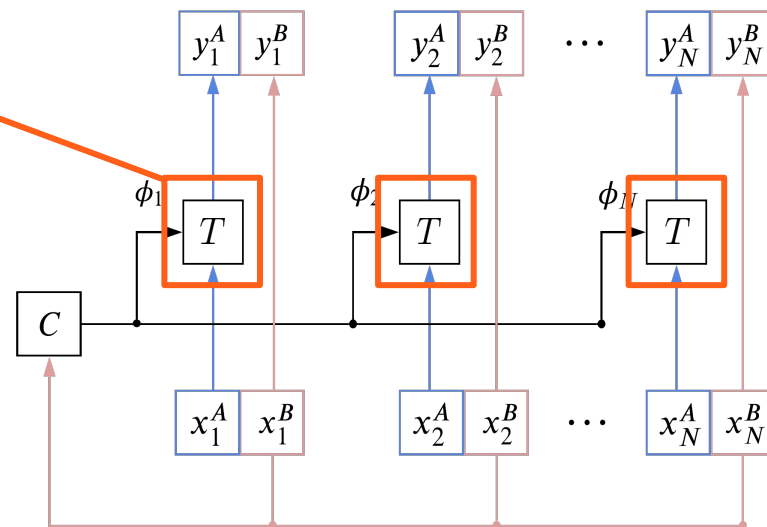
# Coupling flow on tori: Periodic boundary conditions



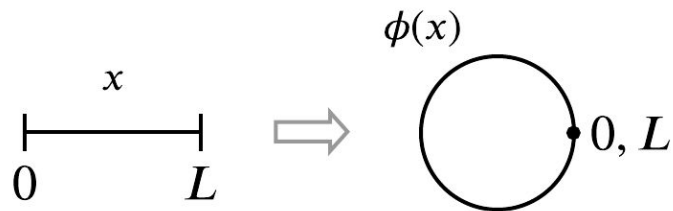
$$T(0) = 0$$

$$T(L) = L$$

$$T'(0) = T'(L)$$

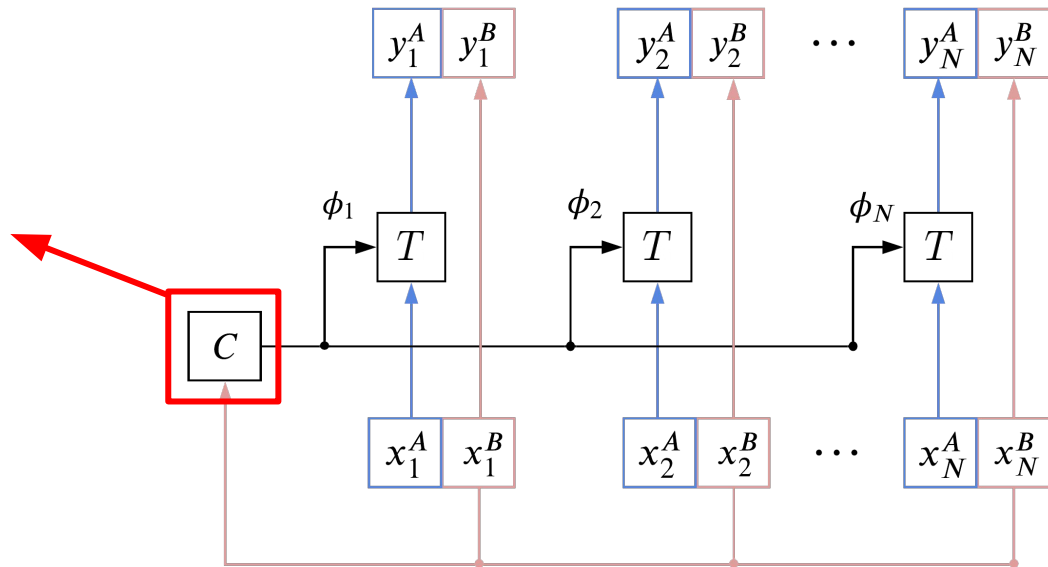


# Coupling flow on tori: Circular embedding



$$\phi(\mathbf{x}) = (\cos(\omega \mathbf{x}), \sin(\omega \mathbf{x}))$$

$$\omega = \frac{2\pi}{L} + \text{integer multiples}$$

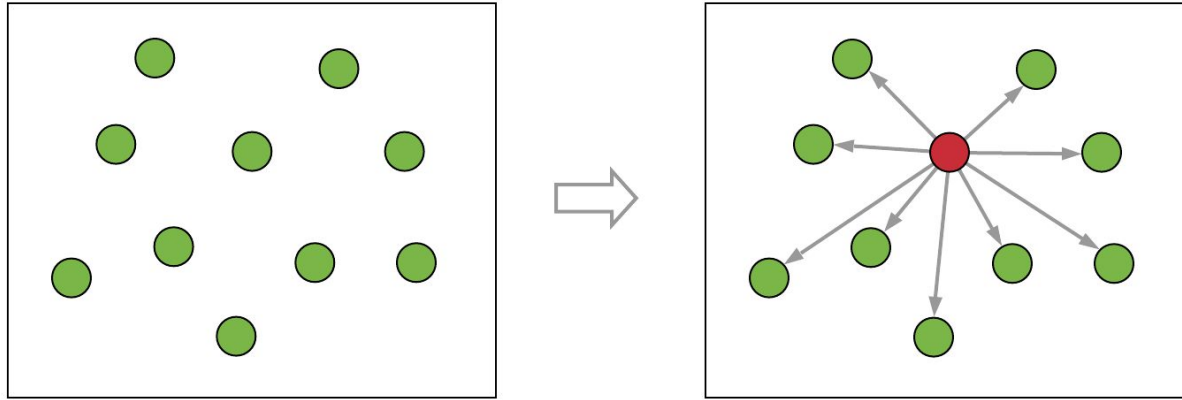


Slide credit: George Papamakarios

Image credit: Wirnsberger et al., *Targeted free energy estimation via normalizing flows*, [JCP](#) (2020).



# Global translation symmetry



- Choose a particle as reference
- Place it randomly
- Flow generates  $N-1$  other particles relative to reference



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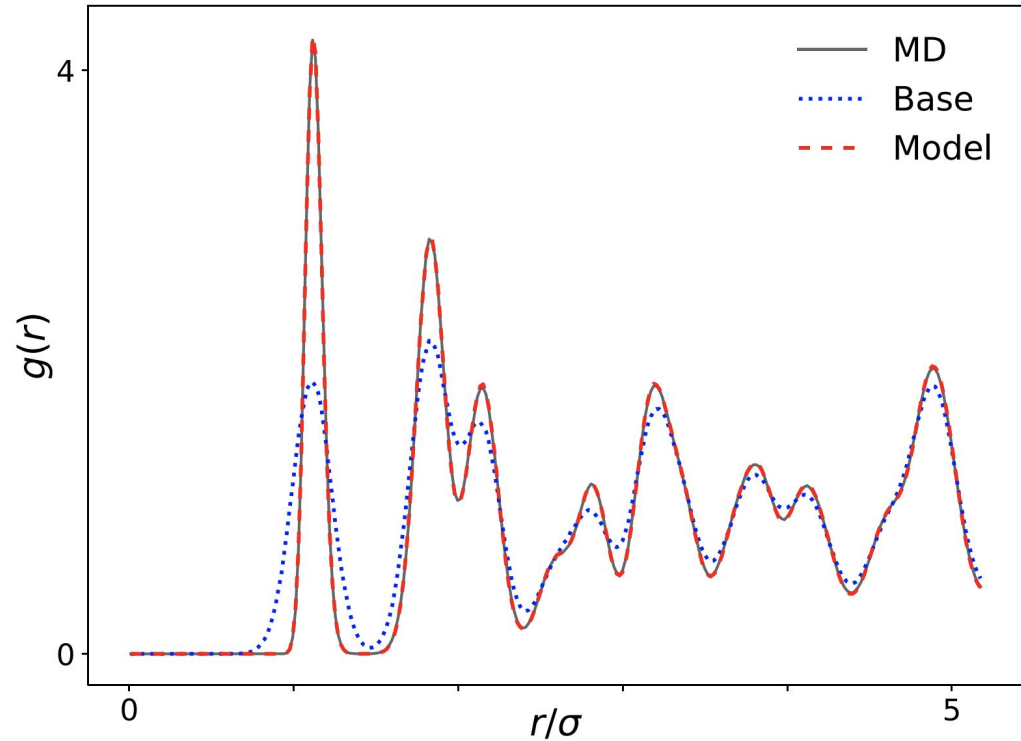
# Results





# Results: Radial distribution function

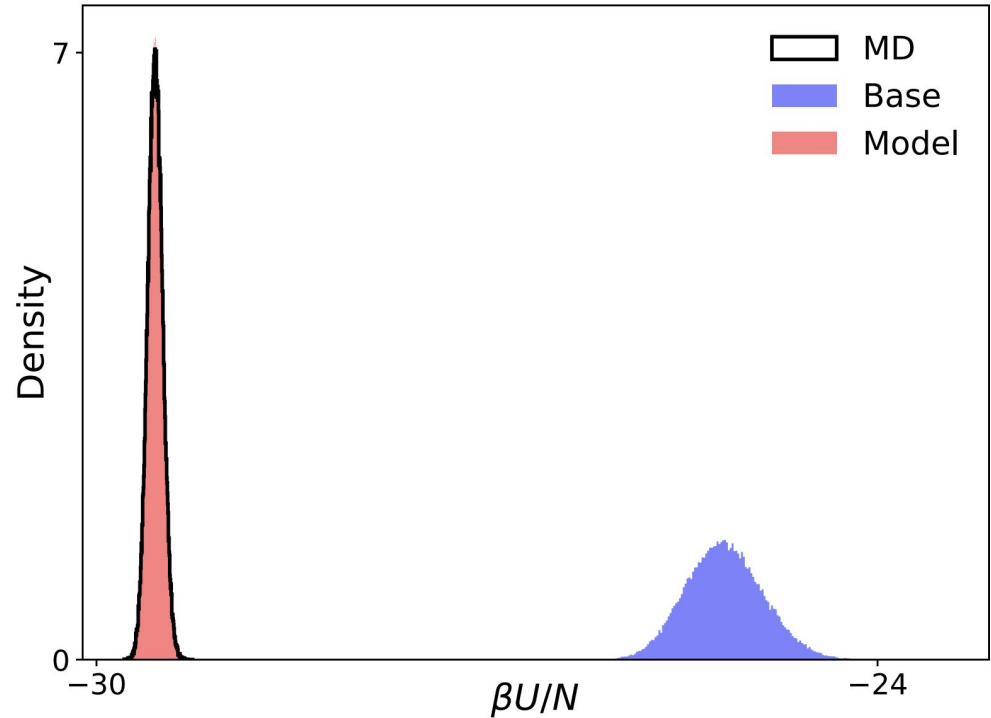
- 512 particles
- Cubic ice
- No unbiasing.



# Solids: Energy histogram

Energies computed from the **base and the model differ significantly.**

No appreciable difference between model and MD.

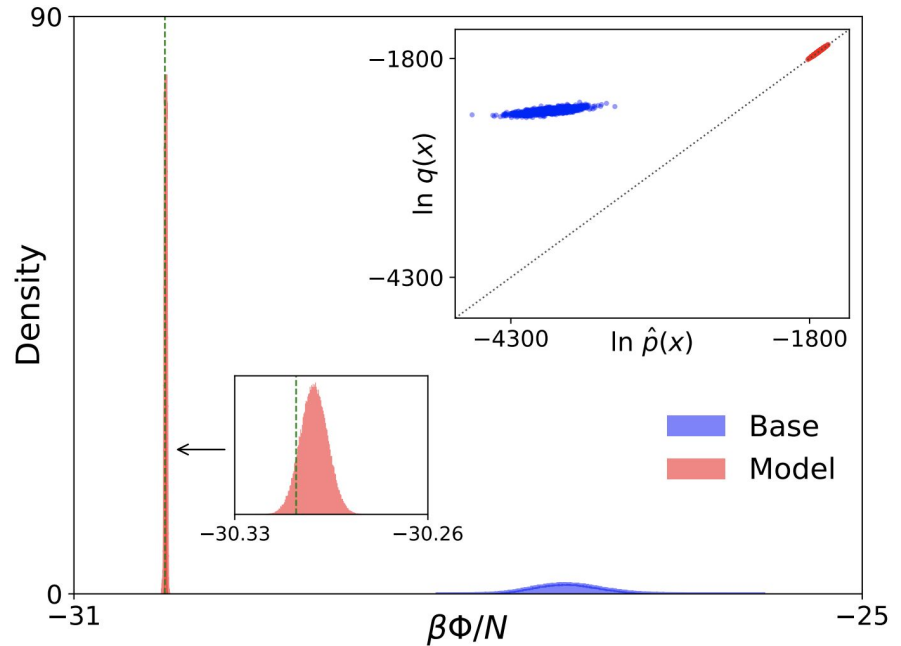


# Solids: Histogram of work values

The **distribution of work values** exhibits a sharp peak.

$$\beta\Phi(x) = \beta U(x) + \ln q(x)$$

$$\ln Z = \ln \langle \exp(-\beta\Phi(x)) \rangle_q$$



# Solids: Free energies

$$F = -\beta^{-1} (\ln Z - \ln N!)$$

no MD data

Model + MD data  
(from target)

100–200 MD runs  
(multistate)



System	$N$	LFEP	LBAR	MBAR
LJ	256	3.10800(28)	3.10797(1)	3.10798(9)
LJ	500	3.12300(41)	3.12264(2)	3.12262(10)
Ice Ic	64	−25.16311(3)	−25.16312(1)	−25.16306(20)
Ice Ic	216	−25.08234(7)	−25.08238(1)	−25.08234(5)
Ice Ic	512	−25.06163(35)	−25.06161(1)	−25.06156(3)
Ice Ih	64	−25.18671(3)	−25.18672(2)	−25.18687(26)
Ice Ih	216	−25.08980(3)	−25.08979(1)	−25.08975(14)
Ice Ih	512	−25.06478(9)	−25.06479(1)	−25.06480(4)



# 5.2

## Application: Lattice quantum chromodynamics



# The team



Center for Theoretical Physics, MIT

---



Gurtej Kanwar



Phiala Shanahan



Denis Boyda

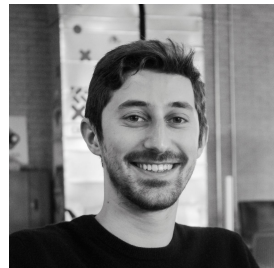


Dan Hackett



Center for Cosmology and Particle Physics, NYU

---



Michael Alberg



Kyle Cranmer



Julian Urban  
(work on fermions)

DeepMind 

---



Sébastien Racanière



Danilo Rezende



Ali Razavi



Alex Matthews



Alex Botev



# What is Lattice QCD?

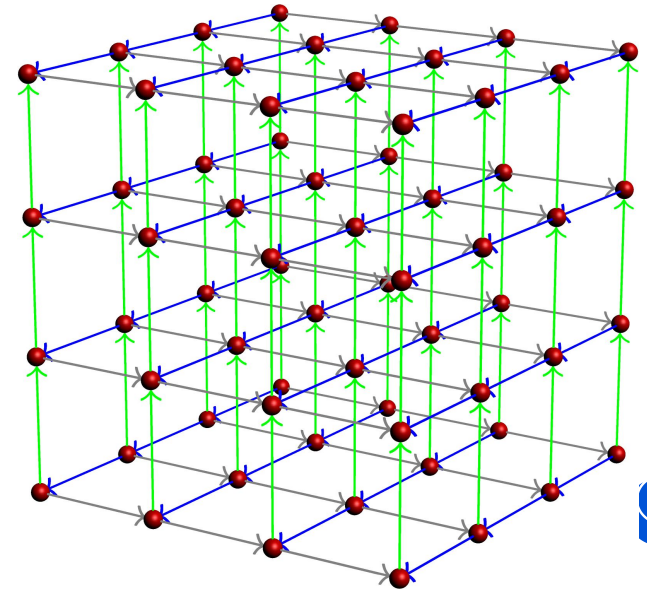
- Lattice quantum chromodynamics (LQCD) is a subfield of computational physics which aims to simulate elementary particle fields involved in the "strong interaction" called quarks and gluons.
- These simulations involve discretising space-time using a lattice and simulating quantum fluctuations of the particle fields; typically using HMC.



# The problem space: The Standard Model of Particle Physics in a box

Three axes of model complexity:

- dimension of space-time: 2D, 3D and 4D;
- lattice size (discretisation of space-time): Eg from  $L=8$  to  $L=32$ ;
- features of the theory:
  - Gauge fields: photons, gluons
    - no force ( $\phi^4$ )
    - electromagnetism with  $U(1)$
    - weak nuclear force with  $\sim SU(2)$
    - strong nuclear force with  $SU(3)$
  - Fermion fields: electrons, quarks





# Scale Enables Impact: Larger lattices allow for ab-initio study of a larger number of problems

**Lattice size = L**  
**Volume =  $L^4$**   
**Beta  $\geq 6$**

**L  $\geq 16$**

- Baryon spectroscopy (i.e. derive bound state energies / masses)

**L  $\geq 32$**

- Study nuclear fusion
- Big Bang nucleosynthesis

**L  $> 96$**   
**(exascale compute)**

- muon magnetic moment
- Study dark matter
- Study the interior of neutron stars



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# Flows for Scalar Fields



# Modelling scalar fields with flows

## Flow-based generative models for Markov chain Monte Carlo in lattice field theory

M. S. Albergo,<sup>1,2,3</sup> G. Kanwar<sup>4</sup>,, and P. E. Shanahan<sup>4,1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>*Perimeter Institute for Theoretical Physics, Waterloo, Ontario N2L 2Y5, Canada*

<sup>2</sup>*Cavendish Laboratories, University of Cambridge, Cambridge CB3 0HE, United Kingdom*

<sup>3</sup>*University of Waterloo, Waterloo, Ontario N2L 3G1, Canada*

<sup>4</sup>*Center for Theoretical Physics, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139, USA*



(Received 17 May 2019; published 22 August 2019; corrected 21 November 2019)

A Markov chain update scheme using a machine-learned flow-based generative model is proposed for Monte Carlo sampling in lattice field theories. The generative model may be optimized (trained) to produce samples from a distribution approximating the desired Boltzmann distribution determined by the lattice action of the theory being studied. Training the model systematically improves autocorrelation times in the Markov chain, even in regions of parameter space where standard Markov chain Monte Carlo algorithms exhibit critical slowing down in producing decorrelated updates. Moreover, the model may be trained without existing samples from the desired distribution. The algorithm is compared with HMC and local Metropolis sampling for  $\phi^4$  theory in two dimensions.



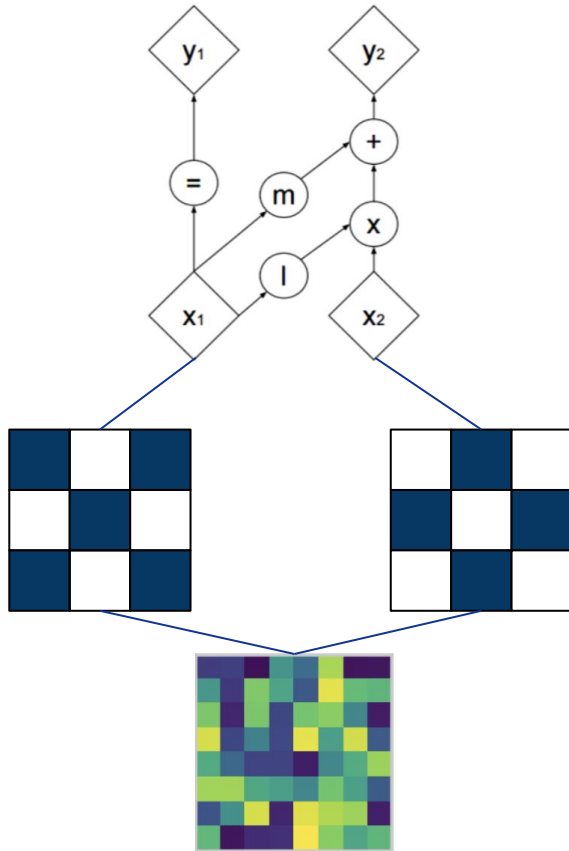
## Modelling scalar fields with flows

$$S_{\text{latt}}^E(\phi) = \sum_{\vec{n}} \phi(\vec{n}) \left[ \sum_{\mu \in \{1,2\}} 2\phi(\vec{n}) - \phi(\vec{n} + \hat{\mu}) - \phi(\vec{n} - \hat{\mu}) \right] + m^2 \phi(\vec{n})^2 + \lambda \phi(\vec{n})^4$$

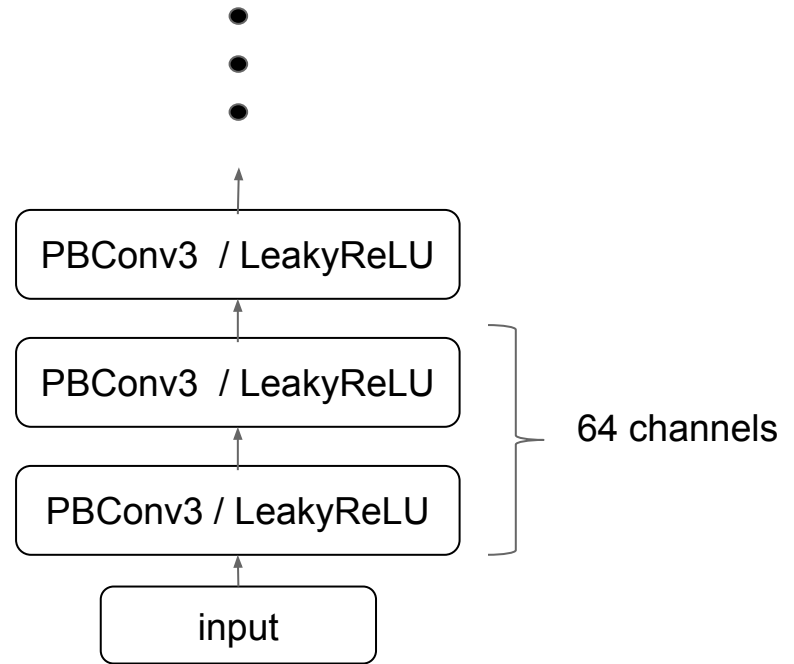
$$p(\phi) = \frac{1}{Z} e^{-S(\phi)}, \quad Z \equiv \int \prod_{\vec{n}} d\phi(\vec{n}) e^{-S(\phi)}$$



# Stack of masked flows



## Scale and offset convnets



# The learned model replicates HMC two-point functions

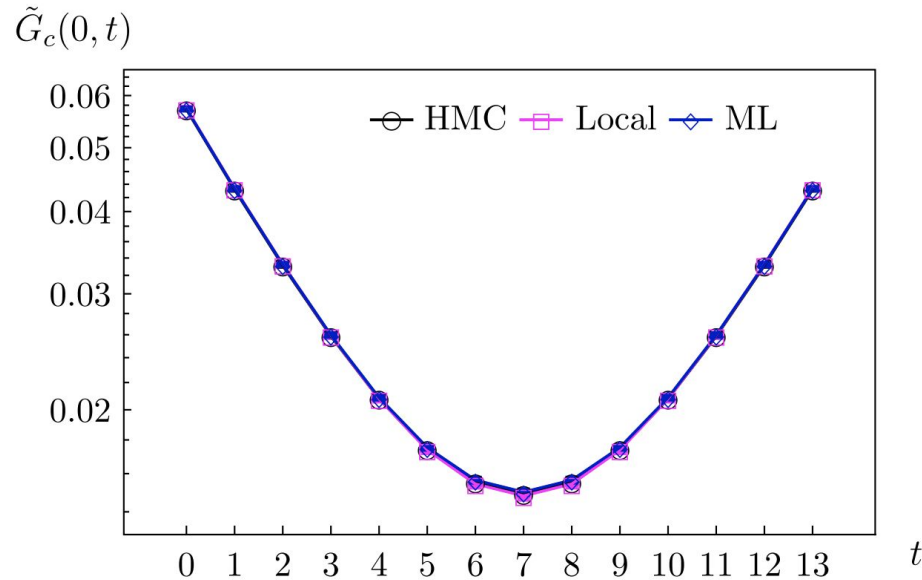


FIG. 3. Zero-momentum Green's functions evaluated for parameter set E5. Results computed using  $10^6$  configurations from the HMC, local Metropolis, and ML ensembles are consistent within statistical errors. Error bars indicate 68% confidence intervals estimated using bootstrap resampling with bins of size 100.



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# The Yukawa model: scalar fields + fermions



# Modelling scalar and fermion fields with flows

## Flow-based sampling for fermionic lattice field theories

Michael S. Albergo,<sup>1,\*</sup> Gurtej Kanwar,<sup>2,3,†</sup> Sébastien Racanière,<sup>4,‡</sup> Danilo J. Rezende,<sup>4,§</sup>  
Julian M. Urban,<sup>5,¶</sup> Denis Boyda,<sup>6,2,3</sup> Kyle Cranmer,<sup>1</sup> Daniel C. Hackett,<sup>2,3</sup> and Phiala E. Shanahan<sup>2,3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>*Center for Cosmology and Particle Physics, New York University, New York, NY 10003, US*

<sup>2</sup>*Center for Theoretical Physics, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA 02139, U.S.A.*

<sup>3</sup>*The NSF AI Institute for Artificial Intelligence and Fundamental Interactions*

<sup>4</sup>*DeepMind, London, UK*

<sup>5</sup>*Institut für Theoretische Physik, Universität Heidelberg, Philosophenweg 16, 69120 Heidelberg, Germany*

<sup>6</sup>*Argonne Leadership Computing Facility, Argonne National Laboratory, Lemont IL-60439, USA*

Algorithms based on normalizing flows are emerging as promising machine learning approaches to sampling complicated probability distributions in a way that can be made asymptotically exact. In the context of lattice field theory, proof-of-principle studies have demonstrated the effectiveness of this approach for scalar theories, gauge theories, and statistical systems. This work develops approaches that enable flow-based sampling of theories with dynamical fermions, which is necessary for the technique to be applied to lattice field theory studies of the Standard Model of particle physics and many condensed matter systems. As a practical demonstration, these methods are applied to the sampling of field configurations for a two-dimensional theory of massless staggered fermions coupled to a scalar field via a Yukawa interaction.





## Yukawa model

$$\mathcal{L} = \mathcal{L}_{\text{scalar}} + \sum_f \psi_f^\dagger D_f \psi_f$$

$$D_f = i\not{\partial} - m_f - g\phi$$



## Discussion: Yukawa model

$$\int \mathcal{L}_{\text{eff}}(\phi) := -\log \int \mathcal{D}\psi^\dagger \mathcal{D}\psi e^{-\int dx \mathcal{L}(\phi, \psi)}$$
$$\int dx \mathcal{L}_{\text{eff}}(\phi) = \int dx \mathcal{L}_{\text{scalar}}(\phi) + \log \prod_f \det D_f + \text{cst}$$

When  $N_f = 2$  and  $m_1 = m_2$

$$\begin{aligned} \det D_{f_1} \det D_{f_2} &= \det D_{f_1} \det(\gamma_5 D_{f_2} \gamma_5) \\ &= \det D_{f_1} \det D_{f_2}^\dagger \\ &= \det D D^\dagger \end{aligned}$$

Christof Gattringer and Christian B.  
Lang. Quantum chromodynamics on  
the lattice. Lect. Notes  
Phys., 788:1–343, 2010.



## Pseudo-fermions

$$(\det DD^\dagger)^{1/2} \propto \int \mathcal{D}\chi^\dagger \mathcal{D}\chi e^{-\chi^T (DD^\dagger)^{-1} \chi}$$

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{eff}}(\phi, \chi) = \mathcal{L}_{\text{scalar}}(\phi) - \sum_f \chi_f^\dagger (DD^\dagger)^{-1} \chi_f$$



# Considered many combinations of target density

Name	Probability density	Use case
Joint <sup>A</sup>	$p(\phi, \varphi) = \frac{1}{Z} \exp(-S_B(\phi) - \varphi^\dagger [\mathcal{M}(\phi)]^{-1} \varphi)$	Section III D
$\phi$ -marginal	$p(\phi) = \frac{Z_{\mathcal{N}}}{Z} \exp(-S_B(\phi)) \det \mathcal{M}(\phi)$	Sections III A and III C
$\varphi$ -conditional <sup>A,B</sup>	$p(\varphi \phi) = \frac{1}{Z_{\mathcal{N}} \det \mathcal{M}(\phi)} \exp(-\varphi^\dagger [\mathcal{M}(\phi)]^{-1} \varphi)$	Sections III A, III B and III C
$\varphi$ -marginal <sup>C</sup>	$p(\varphi) = \frac{1}{Z} \int d\phi \exp(-S_B(\phi) - \varphi^\dagger [\mathcal{M}(\phi)]^{-1} \varphi)$	–
$\phi$ -conditional <sup>A</sup>	$p(\phi \varphi) = \frac{\exp(-S_B(\phi) - \varphi^\dagger [\mathcal{M}(\phi)]^{-1} \varphi)}{\int d\phi \exp(-S_B(\phi) - \varphi^\dagger [\mathcal{M}(\phi)]^{-1} \varphi)}$	Section III B

TABLE I. List of possible distributions derived from the joint target density in Equation (14). The normalizing constant  $Z$  is given by Equation (4) and  $Z_{\mathcal{N}}$  is defined in Equation (10). Notes: (A) Only the joint,  $\varphi$ -conditional, and  $\phi$ -conditional densities can be efficiently computed (up to normalization). (B) The  $\varphi$ -conditional can be sampled exactly by the method specified in Equation (16). (C) A closed form for the  $\varphi$ -marginal density is not generally known (even unnormalized).



# Various MCMC schemes

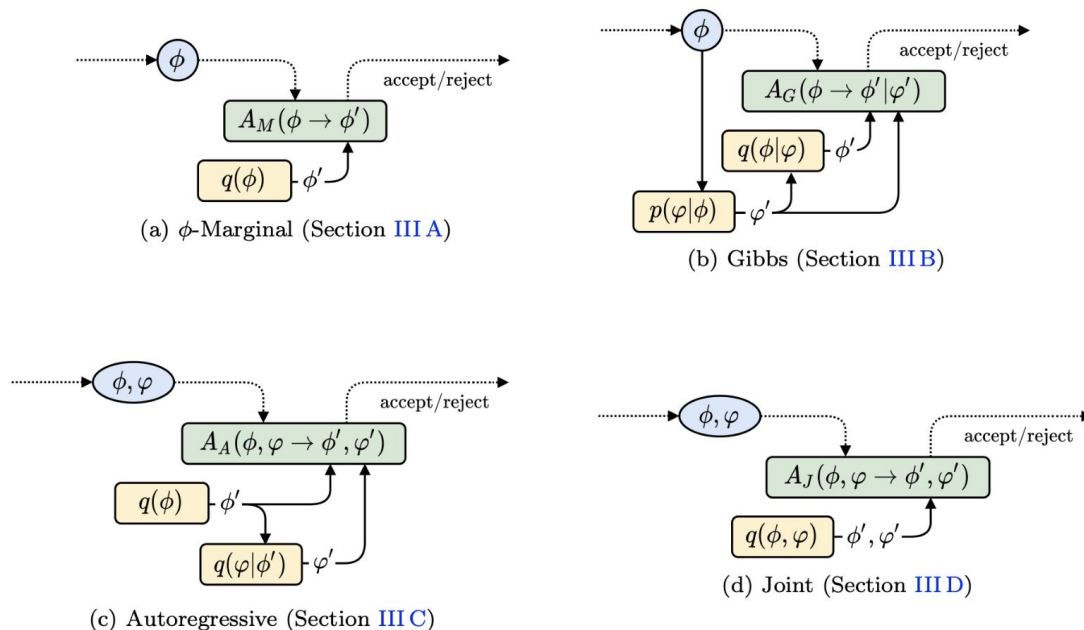


FIG. 1. Diagrams illustrating the four types of sampling schemes described in Section III. Blue circles/ellipses depict the current state of the Markov chain. Yellow boxes depict exactly sampleable densities either produced from generative models or by Equation (16). Green boxes correspond to Metropolis accept/reject steps using the acceptance probabilities defined in the text. Dotted lines indicate the Markov chain, whereas solid lines correspond to the internal operations of each Markov chain step.



## The Convex Potential Yukawa Flow

$$p(\phi, \varphi) = \frac{1}{Z} \exp(-S_B(\phi) - \varphi^\dagger [\mathcal{M}(\phi)]^{-1} \varphi)$$

P-field:  $\boxed{r_p(\zeta)} \xrightarrow{\zeta_1} \boxed{\nabla u_1(\cdot)} \xrightarrow{\zeta_2} \boxed{\nabla u_2(\cdot)} \xrightarrow{\zeta_3} \boxed{\nabla u_3(\cdot)} \xrightarrow{\dots} \boxed{\phi}$  }  $q(\phi) = r_p(\zeta) \prod_k \det H_{u_k}^{-1}$

(a)  $\phi$ -Marginal architecture based on convex potential flows (Section IV C 1).

$$q(\phi) = r_p(\zeta) \prod_k \det H_{u_k}^{-1}$$

$$\varphi = \mathcal{A}(\phi)\chi, \quad \text{where} \quad \chi \sim \frac{1}{Z_{\mathcal{N}}} e^{-\chi^\dagger \chi}$$



## Key challenge: scalable gradient estimation

$$\phi, \chi \sim \mathbf{N}(0, 1)$$

$$\phi' = \nabla H(\phi)$$

$$\chi' = D_{\phi'}(\chi)$$



## Key challenge: scalable gradient estimation

**Scalar flow grad LDJ**

$$\begin{aligned}\nabla_{\theta}\text{LDJ} &= \nabla_{\theta}\mathbb{E} [\text{stopgrad}(z^T J_{\theta}^{-1})J_{\theta}z] \\ &= \nabla_{\theta}\mathbb{E} [\text{stopgrad}(\text{CG}(J_{\theta}^T, z))^T J_{\theta}z]\end{aligned}$$

**Fermion flow grad LDJ**

$$\begin{aligned}\nabla_{\theta}\text{LDJ} &= \nabla_{\theta}\mathbb{E} [\text{stopgrad}(J_{\theta}(J_{\theta}^T J_{\theta} + \kappa\mathbb{I})^{-1}z)^T J_{\theta}z] \\ &= \nabla_{\theta}\mathbb{E} [\text{stopgrad}(J_{\theta}\text{CG}(J_{\theta}^T J_{\theta} + \kappa\mathbb{I}, z))^T J_{\theta}z]\end{aligned}$$





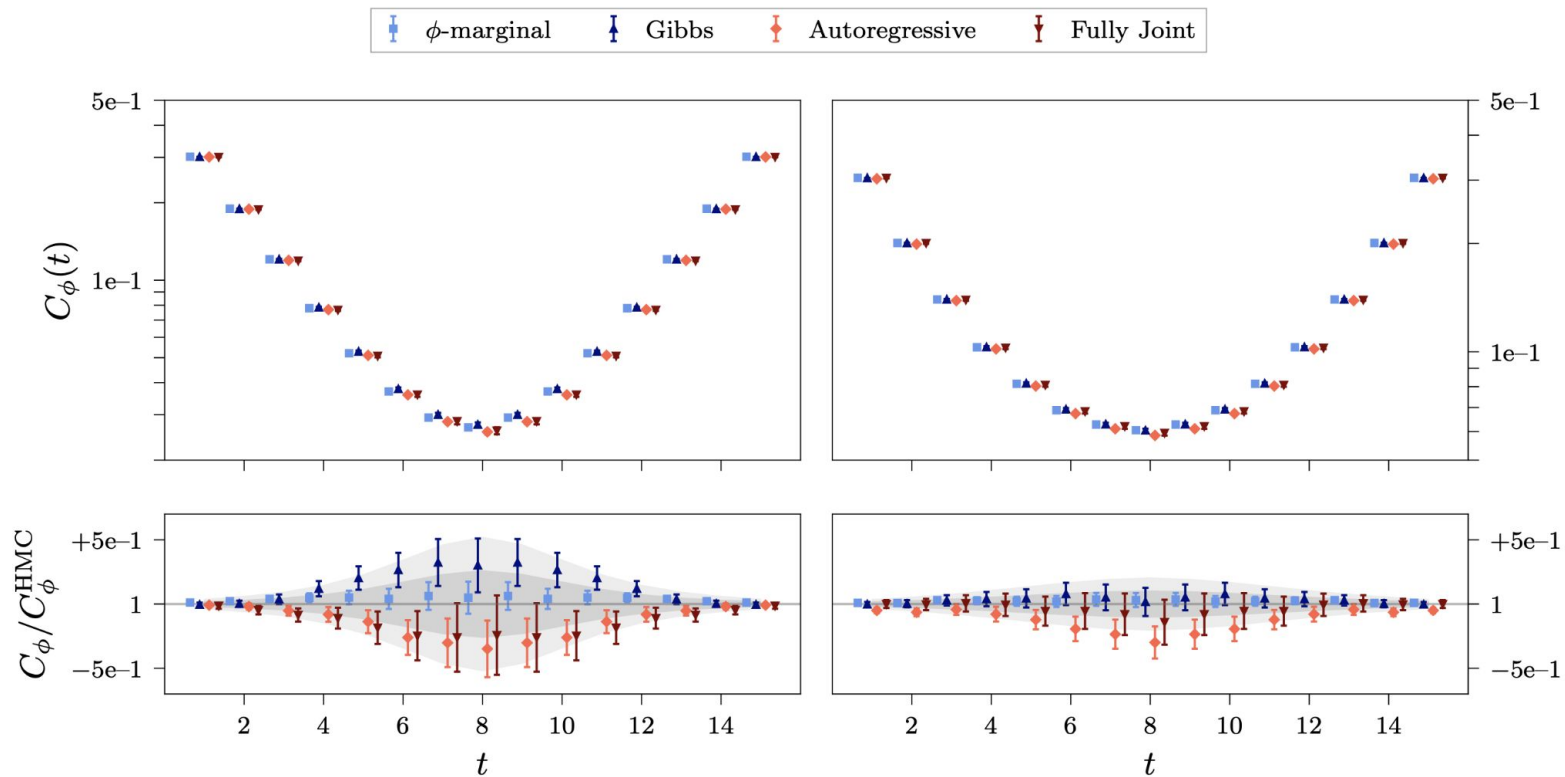
# Main Results: MCMC Acceptance rates

MCMC Approach	Modeled targets	Flow model	Parameters	Acc. rate	$\langle  M  \rangle$	$\langle  \bar{\psi}\psi  \rangle$	$\tau_M^{\text{int}}$	$\tau_{\bar{\psi}\psi}^{\text{int}}$
$\phi$ -Marginal (III A)	$p(\phi)$	IV C 1	VB 1	92%	0.0734(1)	0.0159(1)	0.72(1)	0.71(1)
				92%	0.0792(1)	0.0491(1)	0.67(1)	0.67(1)
Gibbs (III B)	$p(\phi \varphi)$	IV C 2	VB 2	60%	0.0735(1)	0.0160(1)	2.02(4)	2.02(3)
				44%	0.0792(1)	0.0490(1)	2.74(4)	2.73(4)
Autoregressive (III C)	$p(\phi), p(\varphi \phi)$	IV C 3	VB 3	53%	0.0731(1)	0.0159(1)	2.16(3)	2.16(3)
				43%	0.0790(1)	0.0489(1)	3.62(7)	3.60(7)
Fully Joint (III D)	$p(\phi, \varphi)$	IV C 4	VB 4	37%	0.0733(1)	0.0159(1)	4.98(11)	4.98(11)
				31%	0.0791(1)	0.0490(1)	8.73(30)	8.67(30)

TABLE III. Sampling performance metrics and observables for all approaches, computed from 100 Markov chains with 10k proposals each, where the first 1k are discarded for thermalization. For each model, the first row shows results obtained for  $g = 0.1$  and the second row for  $g = 0.3$ , respectively. For comparison, the values obtained with HMC listed in Table II are consistent with the measurements from our models. Autocorrelation times  $\tau^{\text{int}}$  are computed for each of the 100 chains and then averaged, and errors are obtained with statistical jackknife. The results are discussed in more detail in Section V C. All models except the autoregressive make use of even-odd preconditioning of the action.



# Main Results: Bias analysis



## Summary

- Masked normalizing flows are a good family of models for 2D scalar fields
- They can incorporate translational symmetry and boundary conditions
- Introducing fermions add substantial complexity:
  - Requires working with scalar-pseudo-fermion effective action
  - Requires inversion and gradients of the operator  $DD^*$  (expensive, can have large condition number)

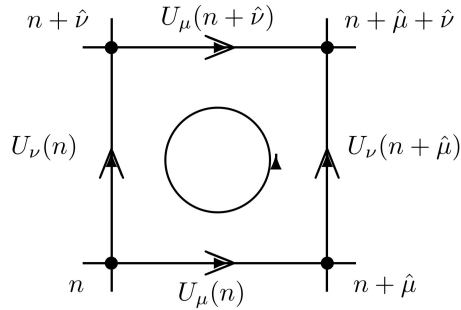


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**U(N) and SU(N)  
equivariant flows:  
Sampling gauge and  
fermion fields at  
criticality**



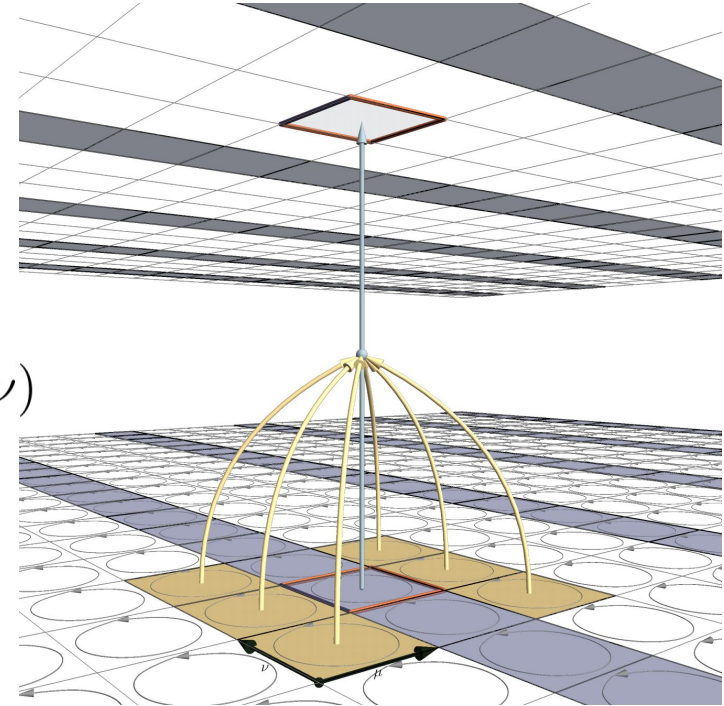
# Lattice Quantum Chromodynamics



$$P_{\mu\nu}(x) := U(x, \mu)U(x + \hat{\mu}, \nu)U^\dagger(x + \hat{\nu}, \mu)U^\dagger(x, \nu)$$

$$S := -\beta \sum_{\text{sites } x} \sum_{\mu=1}^D \sum_{\nu=\mu+1}^D \text{Re} \left[ \frac{1}{N} \text{Tr} (P_{\mu\nu}(x)) \right]$$

$$p(U) \propto e^{-\beta S[U]}$$



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# Abelian Gauge: $U(1)$



## Equivariant Flow-Based Sampling for Lattice Gauge Theory

Surtej Kanwar<sup>1</sup>, Michael S. Albergo<sup>2</sup>, Denis Boyda<sup>1</sup>, Kyle Cranmer<sup>2</sup>, Daniel C. Hackett<sup>1</sup>,  
Sébastien Racanière<sup>3</sup>, Danilo Jimenez Rezende<sup>3</sup>, and Phiala E. Shanahan<sup>1</sup>

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(Received 1 April 2020; revised 14 August 2020; accepted 24 August 2020; published 15 September 2020)

We define a class of machine-learned flow-based sampling algorithms for lattice gauge theories that are gauge invariant by construction. We demonstrate the application of this framework to U(1) gauge theory in two spacetime dimensions, and find that, at small bare coupling, the approach is orders of magnitude more efficient at sampling topological quantities than more traditional sampling procedures such as hybrid Monte Carlo and heat bath.

DOI: [10.1103/PhysRevLett.125.121601](https://doi.org/10.1103/PhysRevLett.125.121601)



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# **SU(N) Yang-Mills Theory**





## Sampling using $SU(N)$ gauge equivariant flows

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Kyle Cranmer<sup>3</sup>, Daniel C. Hackett<sup>1</sup> and Phiala E. Shanahan<sup>1</sup>

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(Received 24 September 2020; accepted 16 March 2021; published 20 April 2021)

We develop a flow-based sampling algorithm for  $SU(N)$  lattice gauge theories that is gauge invariant by construction. Our key contribution is constructing a class of flows on an  $SU(N)$  variable [or on a  $U(N)$  variable by a simple alternative] that respects matrix conjugation symmetry. We apply this technique to sample distributions of single  $SU(N)$  variables and to construct flow-based samplers for  $SU(2)$  and  $SU(3)$  lattice gauge theory in two dimensions.



## Continuous symmetries: Gauge transformations

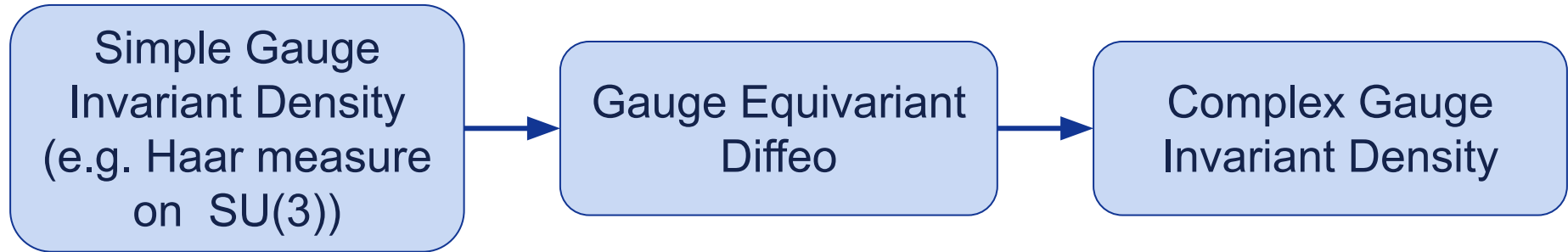
$$U_\mu(x) \rightarrow \Omega(x)U_\mu(x)\Omega(x + \hat{\mu})^\dagger$$

$$P_{\mu\nu}(x) \rightarrow \Omega(x)P_{\mu\nu}(x)\Omega(x)^\dagger$$

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Tr}P_{\mu\nu}(x) &\rightarrow \text{Tr}\Omega(x)P_{\mu\nu}(x)\Omega(x)^\dagger \\ &= \text{Tr}P_{\mu\nu}(x)\Omega(x)^\dagger\Omega(x) \\ &= \text{Tr}P_{\mu\nu}(x)\end{aligned}$$



# General architecture: Pure-Gauge equivariant flow

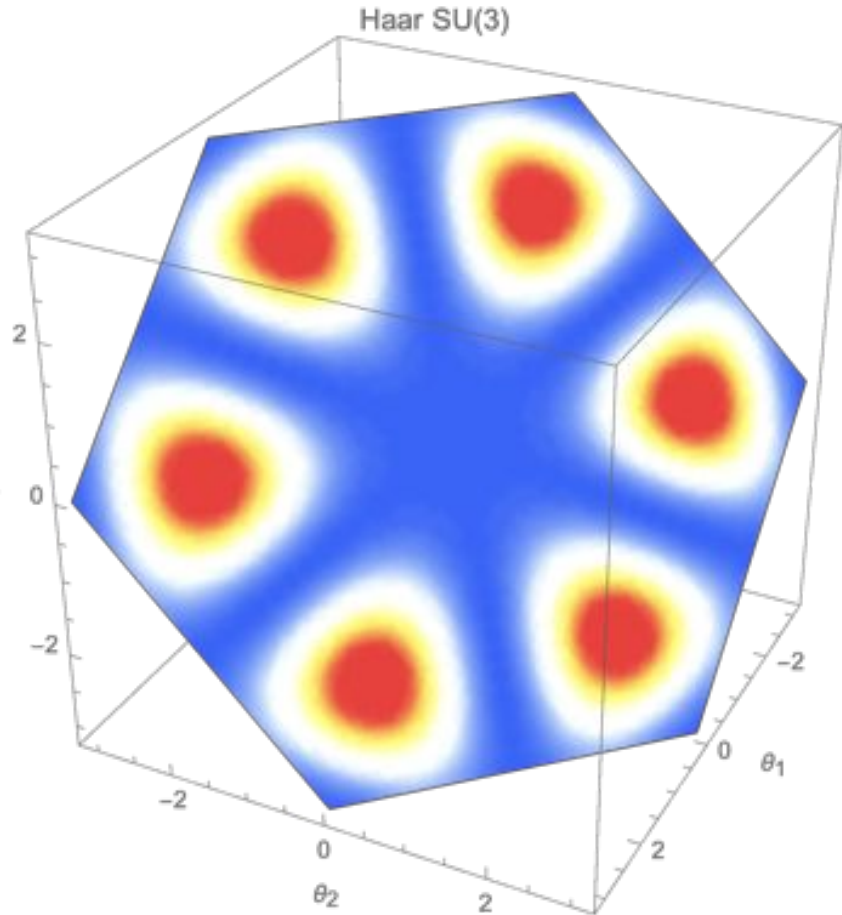


# Haar measure on SU(3)

$$X \in \text{SU}(3)$$

$$X = A \begin{pmatrix} e^{i\theta_1} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & e^{i\theta_2} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & e^{i\theta_3} \end{pmatrix} A^\dagger$$

$$\text{Haar}(X) \propto \prod_{i>j} |e^{i\theta_i} - e^{i\theta_j}|^2$$



## Gauge Equivariant Flow

$$Y_\mu(x) = f(U_\mu(x); \theta)$$

$$U_\mu(x) \rightarrow \Omega(x)U_\mu(x)\Omega(x + \hat{\mu})^\dagger$$

$$Y_\mu(x) \rightarrow \Omega(x)Y_\mu(x)\Omega(x + \hat{\mu})^\dagger$$



## Gauge Equivariant Flow

Let  $h$  be an invertible map such that

$$h : \mathrm{SU}(N) \rightarrow \mathrm{SU}(N)$$

$$h(\Omega_\mu(x) X_\mu(x) \Omega_\mu(x)^\dagger) = \Omega_\mu(x) h(X_\mu(x)) \Omega_\mu(x)^\dagger$$

Then the map  $f$ ,

$$f(X_\mu(x)) = h(P_{\mu\nu}(x)) S_{\mu\nu}(x)^\dagger$$

where 
$$S_{\mu\nu}(x) = X_\mu(x)^\dagger P_{\mu\nu}(x)$$

is equivariant to Gauge transformations



## Gauge Equivariant Flow

**This reduces the problem to finding a flow  $h$  such that**

$$h : SU(N) \rightarrow SU(N)$$

$$h(\Omega_\mu(x) X_\mu(x) \Omega_\mu(x)^\dagger; \theta) = \Omega_\mu(x) h(X_\mu(x); \theta) \Omega_\mu(x)^\dagger$$

**This is a flow equivariant to matrix conjugation transformations**



## Matrix-conjugation equivariant flows on $SU(N)$ and $U(N)$

This flow is equivariant to matrix-conjugation transformations

$$(X, D = \text{diag}(w)) = \text{eigen}(U)$$

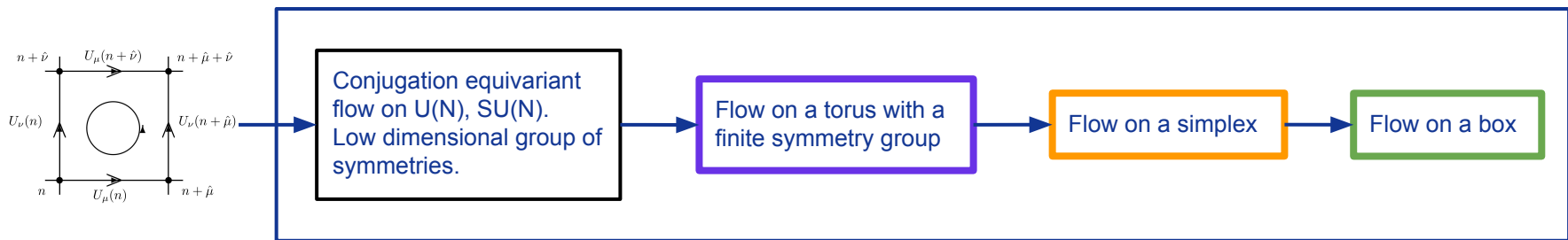
$$Y = X \text{diag}(g(w)) X^\dagger$$

If  $g$  is a permutation-equivariant flow that preserves unitarity ( $\prod g(w) = 1$ )

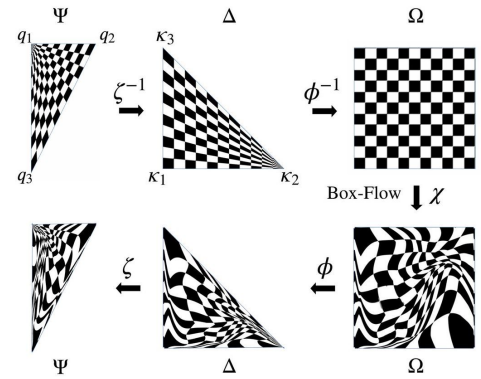
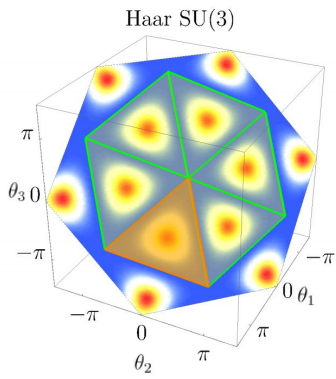




# Our approach: an onion flow

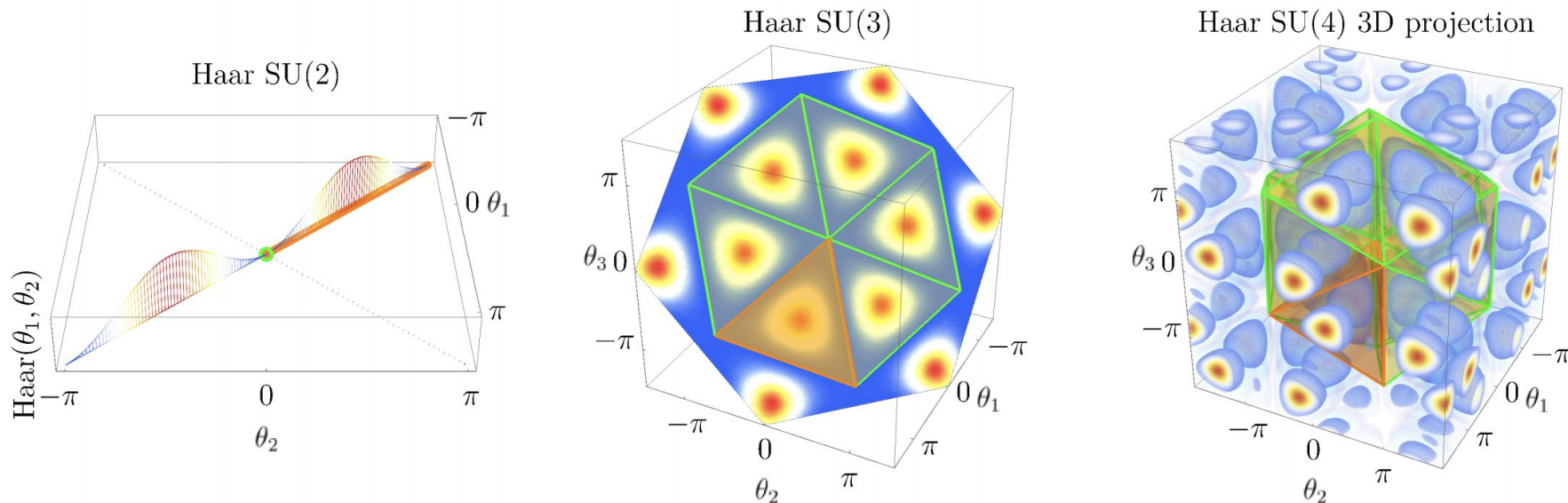


$$\begin{pmatrix} e^{i\theta_1} & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & e^{i\theta_2} & & \vdots \\ \vdots & & \ddots & 0 \\ 0 & \dots & 0 & e^{i\theta_N} \end{pmatrix}$$



# Building Equivariant flows: Permutation Equivariant Flows on maximal toruses

## Canonicalize $\rightarrow$ Flow on cell $\rightarrow$ Uncanonicalize



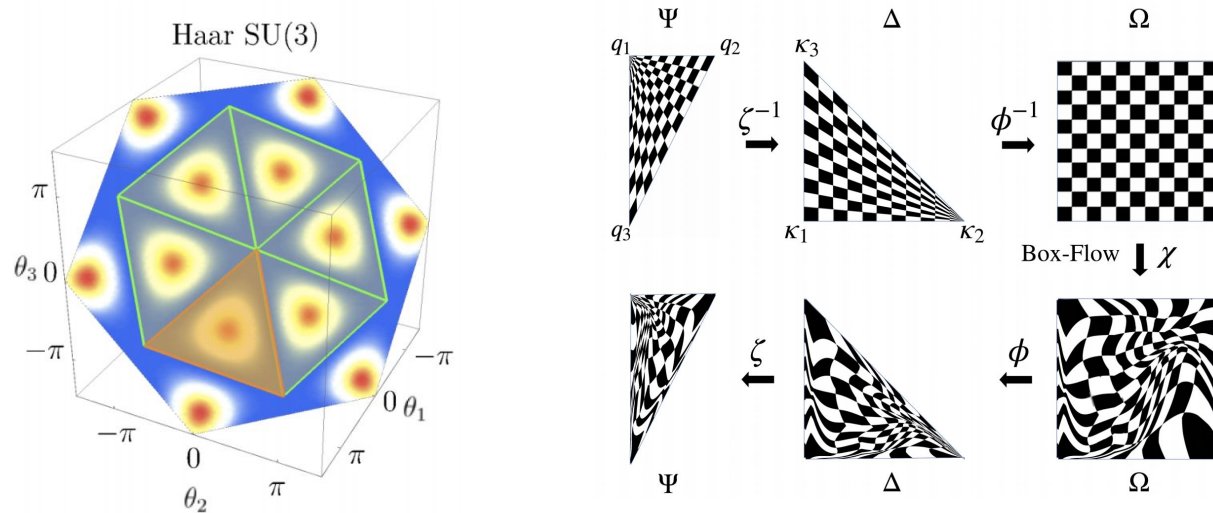
Boyda, D., Kanwar, G., Racanière, S., Rezende, D.J., Albergo, M.S., Cranmer, K., Hackett, D.C. and Shanahan, P.E., 2020. Sampling using SU(N) gauge equivariant flows. arXiv preprint arXiv:2008.05456.

Bender, C., O'Connor, K., Li, Y., Garcia, J.J., Zaheer, M. and Oliva, J., 2019. Exchangeable Generative Models with Flow Scans. arXiv preprint arXiv:1902.01967.

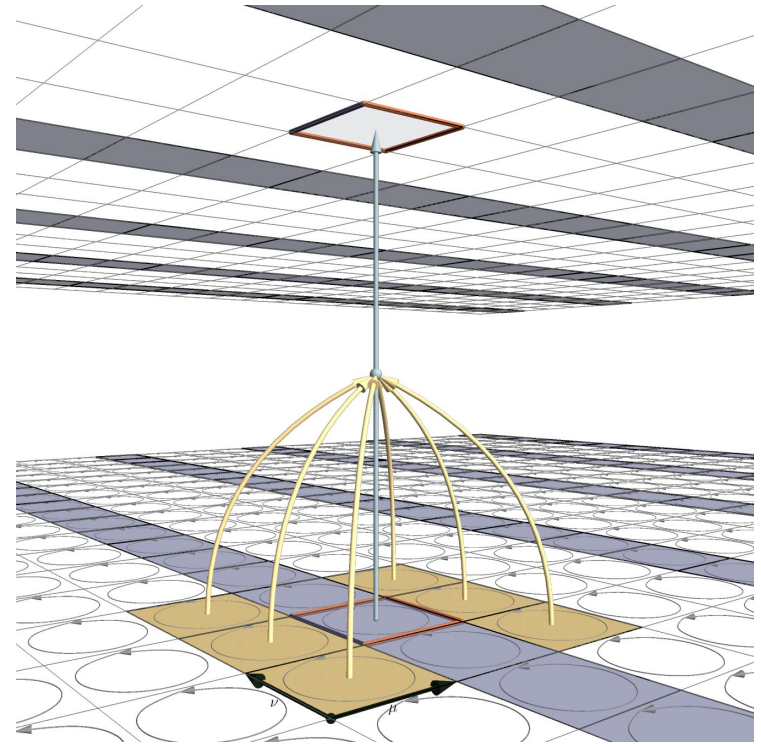
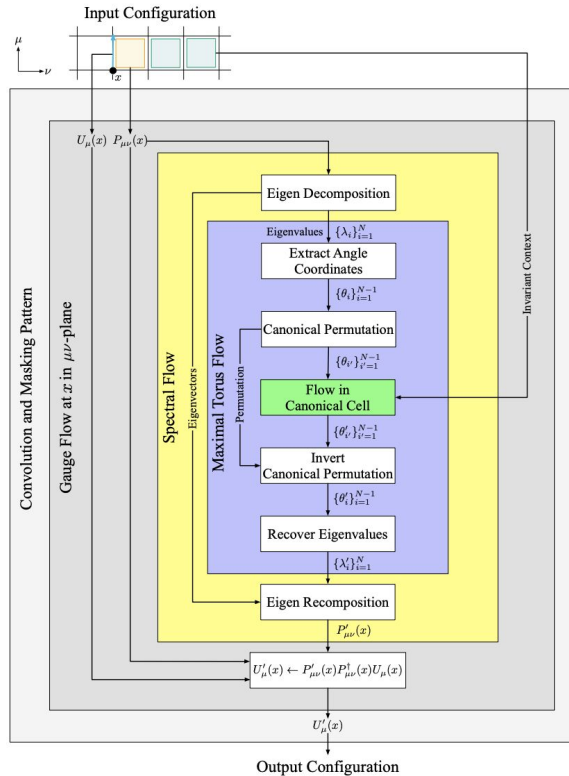


# Building Equivariant flows: Permutation Equivariant Flows

For special unitary groups permutation/Weyl equivariant flows reduces to a flow on a N-simplex



# SU(3) Gauge equivariant flow



# TL;DR Gauge equivariant Flows

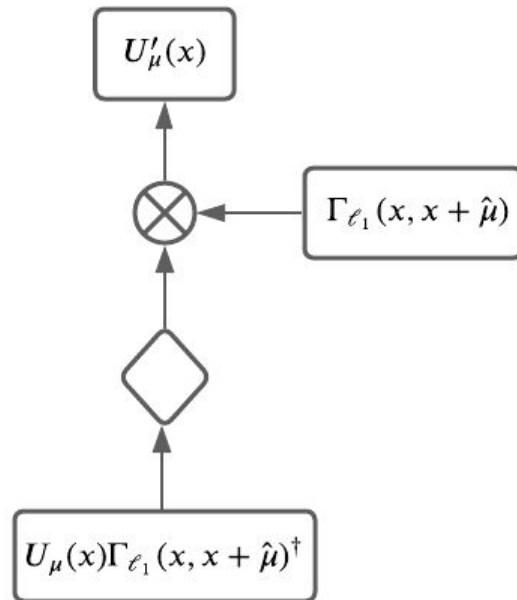


Matrix conjugation equivariant map

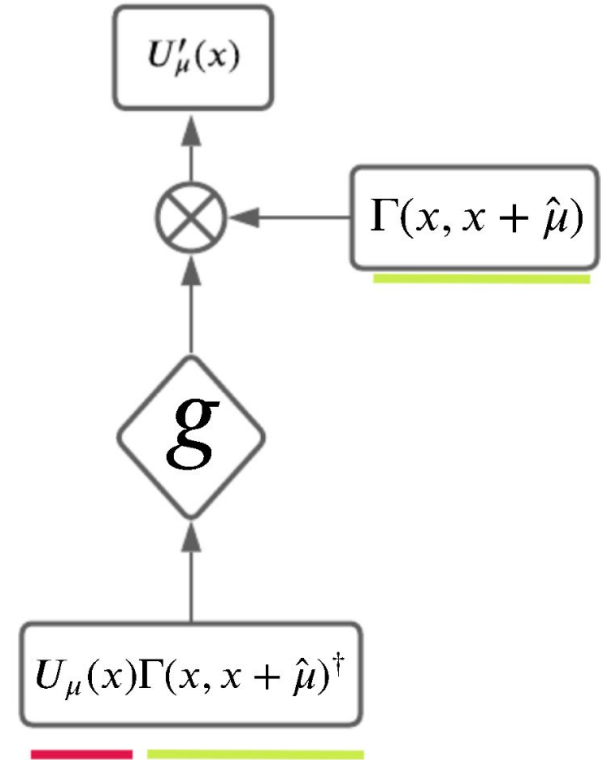
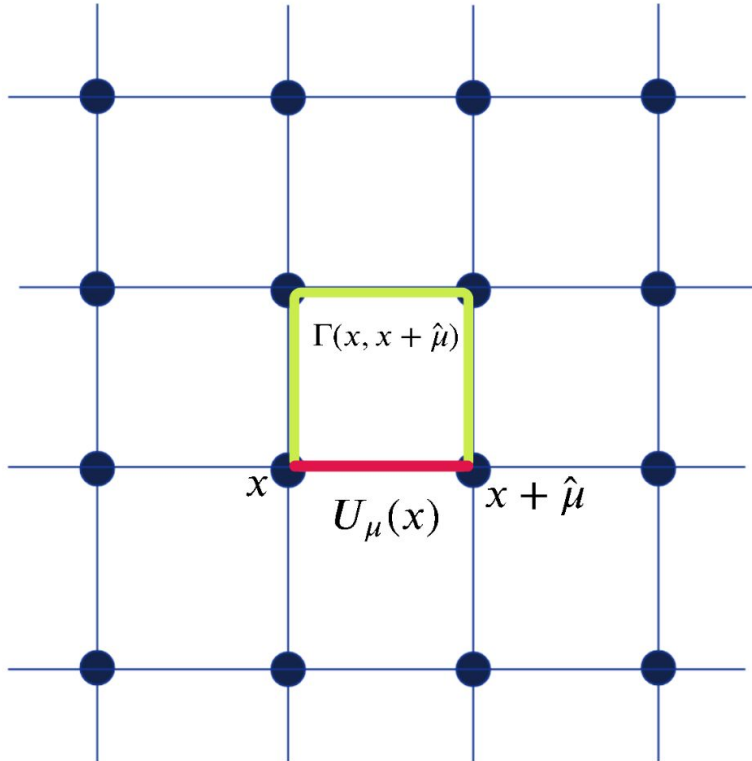


Matrix product

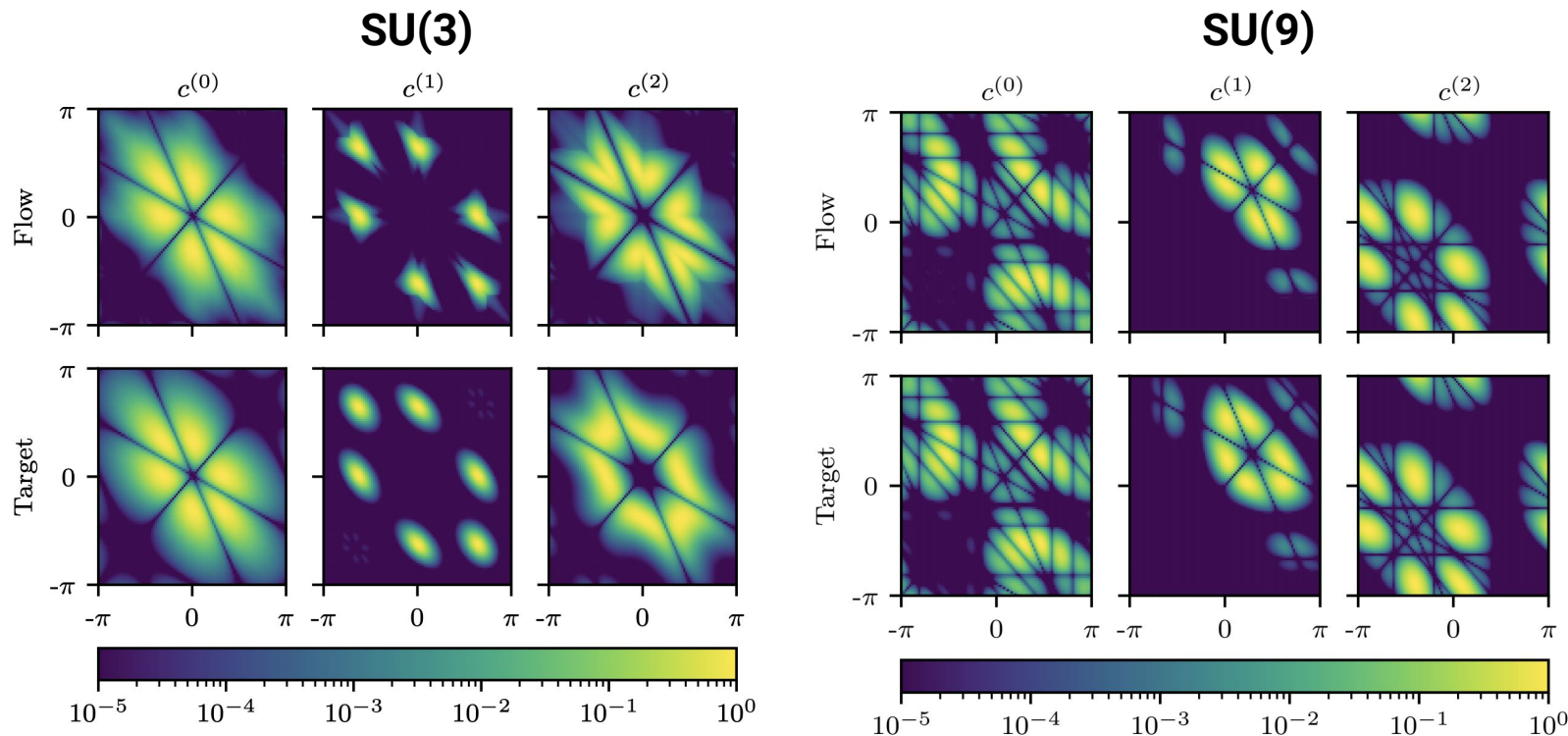
$$\diamond(\Omega X \Omega^\dagger) = \Omega \diamond(X) \Omega^\dagger$$



# High-level pure Gauge flow

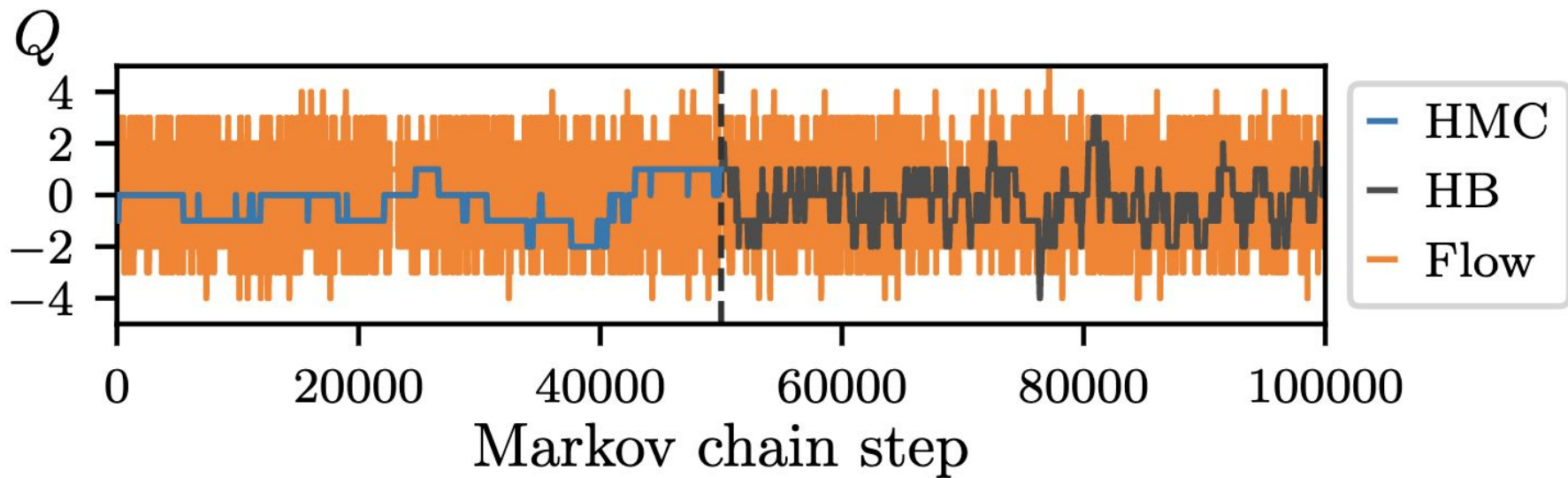


# Building Gauge Equivariant flows: SU(N>3) Gauge equivariant flows: Simulating pure Gauge QCD



# Critical slowdown regime in 2D for U(1): Evidence of faster mixing rates with flow-based MCMC

Private & Confidential





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# The Schwinger model: U(1) Gauge + fermions in 2D



# Modelling Gauge & fermion fields with flows

## Flow-based sampling in the lattice Schwinger model at criticality

Michael S. Albergo,<sup>1</sup> Denis Boyda,<sup>2,3,4</sup> Kyle Cranmer,<sup>1</sup> Daniel C. Hackett,<sup>3,4</sup> Gurtej Kanwar,<sup>5,3,4</sup>  
Sébastien Racanière,<sup>6</sup> Danilo J. Rezende,<sup>6</sup> Fernando Romero-López,<sup>3,4</sup> Phiala E. Shanahan,<sup>3,4</sup> and Julian M. Urban<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>4</sup>*The NSF AI Institute for Artificial Intelligence and Fundamental Interactions*

<sup>5</sup>*Albert Einstein Center, Institute for Theoretical Physics, University of Bern, 3012 Bern, Switzerland*

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Recent results suggest that flow-based algorithms may provide efficient sampling of field distributions for lattice field theory applications, such as studies of quantum chromodynamics and the Schwinger model. In this work, we provide a numerical demonstration of robust flow-based sampling in the Schwinger model at the critical value of the fermion mass. In contrast, at the same parameters, conventional methods fail to sample all parts of configuration space, leading to severely underestimated uncertainties.



# Schwinger model at criticality

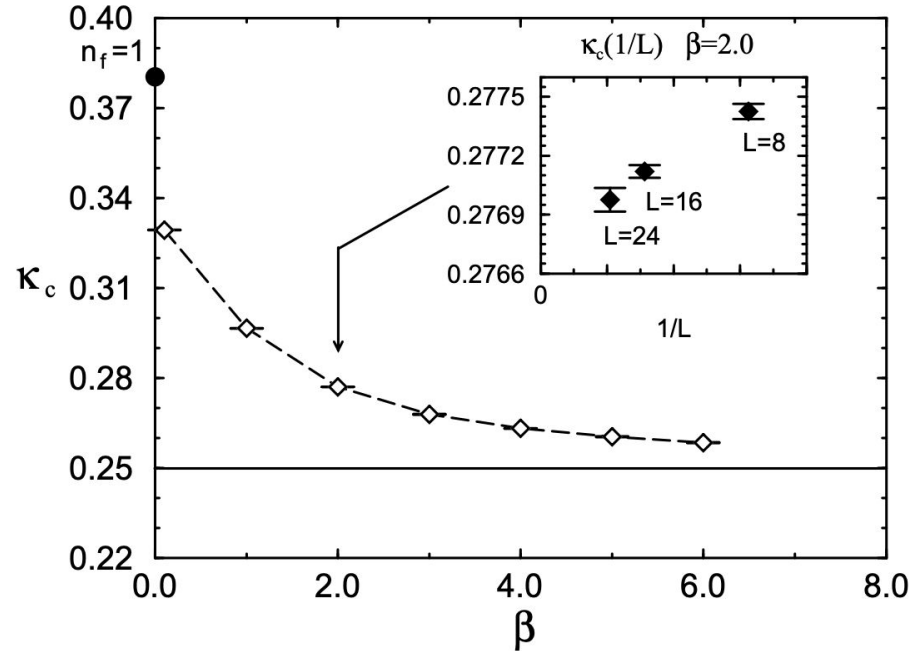
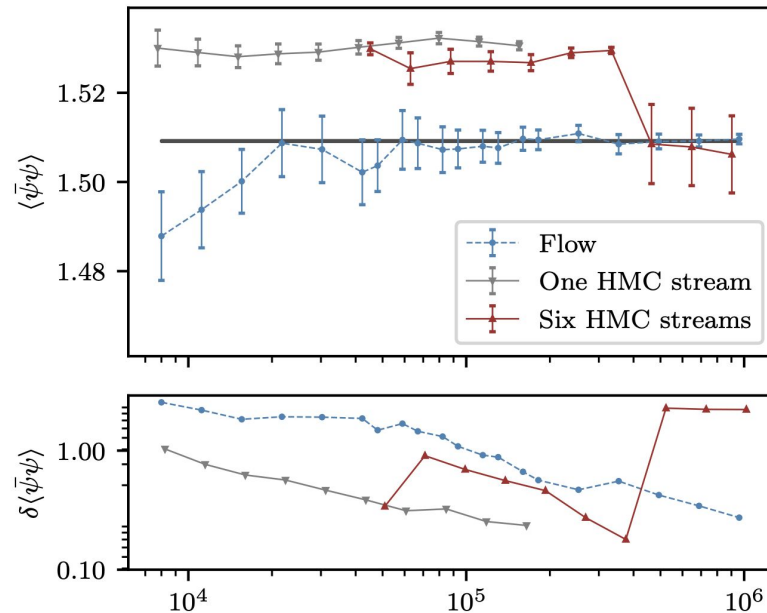
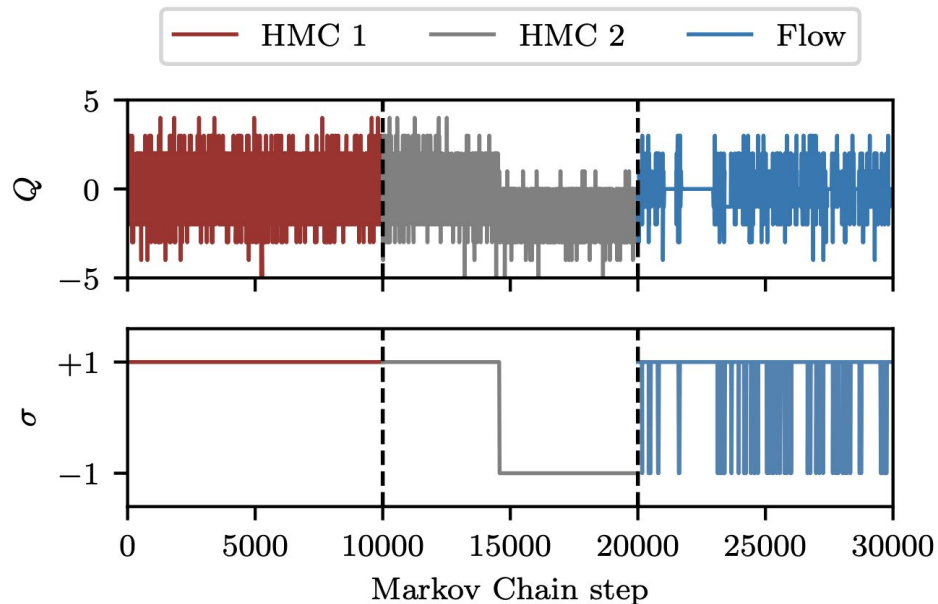


Figure 3. Phase diagram for the 2-flavour model for the  $16 \times 16$  lattice (dashed lines to guide the eye); the value for the 1-flavour model is from [7].



# Schwinger model at critical mass: Evidence of faster mixing rates with flow-based MCMC



DeepMind

# 2D QCD: SU(3) Gauge + Quarks



# Modelling Gauge & fermion fields with flows

## Gauge-equivariant flow models for sampling in lattice field theories with pseudofermions

Ryan Abbott,<sup>1,2</sup> Michael S. Albergo,<sup>3</sup> Denis Boyda,<sup>4,1,2</sup> Kyle Cranmer,<sup>3</sup>  
Daniel C. Hackett,<sup>1,2</sup> Gurtej Kanwar,<sup>5,1,2</sup> Sébastien Racanière,<sup>6</sup> Danilo J. Rezende,<sup>6</sup>  
Fernando Romero-López,<sup>1,2</sup> Phiala E. Shanahan,<sup>1,2</sup> Betsy Tian,<sup>1</sup> and Julian M. Urban<sup>7</sup>

<sup>1</sup>*Center for Theoretical Physics, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA 02139, USA*

<sup>2</sup>*The NSF AI Institute for Artificial Intelligence and Fundamental Interactions*

<sup>3</sup>*Center for Cosmology and Particle Physics, New York University, New York, NY 10003, USA*

<sup>4</sup>*Argonne Leadership Computing Facility, Argonne National Laboratory, Lemont IL-60439, USA*

<sup>5</sup>*Albert Einstein Center, Institute for Theoretical Physics, University of Bern, 3012 Bern, Switzerland*

<sup>6</sup>*DeepMind, London, UK*

<sup>7</sup>*Institut für Theoretische Physik, Universität Heidelberg, Philosophenweg 16, 69120 Heidelberg, Germany*

This work presents gauge-equivariant architectures for flow-based sampling in fermionic lattice field theories using pseudofermions as stochastic estimators for the fermionic determinant. This is the default approach in state-of-the-art lattice field theory calculations, making this development critical to the practical application of flow models to theories such as QCD. Methods by which flow-based sampling approaches can be improved via standard techniques such as even/odd preconditioning and the Hasenbusch factorization are also outlined. Numerical demonstrations in two-dimensional U(1) and SU(3) gauge theories with  $N_f = 2$  flavors of fermions are provided.



# Fermions?

$$\mathcal{L} = \mathcal{L}_{\text{Gauge}} + \sum_f \psi_f^\dagger D_f \psi_f$$

Grassmann fields

$$D_f = i\not{\partial} - m_f - g\not{\phi}$$

Commuting vector field

$$(\det DD^\dagger)^{1/2} \propto \int \mathcal{D}\chi^\dagger \mathcal{D}\chi e^{-\frac{1}{2} \chi^T (DD^\dagger)^{-1} \chi}$$

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{eff}}(U, \chi) = \mathcal{L}_{\text{Gauge}}(U) - \sum_f \chi_f^\dagger (DD^\dagger)^{-1} \chi_f$$

# Incorporating Quarks

$$S_f(\bar{q}, q, U) = a^4 \sum_{x,y} \bar{q}_f(x) D_f[U](x, y) q_f(y)$$

$\approx 2.2 \text{ MeV}/c^2$ $\frac{2}{3}$ $\frac{1}{2}$ <b>u</b> up	$\approx 1.28 \text{ GeV}/c^2$ $\frac{2}{3}$ $\frac{1}{2}$ <b>c</b> charm	$\approx 173.1 \text{ GeV}/c^2$ $\frac{2}{3}$ $\frac{1}{2}$ <b>t</b> top
$\approx 4.7 \text{ MeV}/c^2$ $-\frac{1}{3}$ $\frac{1}{2}$ <b>d</b> down	$\approx 96 \text{ MeV}/c^2$ $-\frac{1}{3}$ $\frac{1}{2}$ <b>s</b> strange	$\approx 4.18 \text{ GeV}/c^2$ $-\frac{1}{3}$ $\frac{1}{2}$ <b>b</b> bottom

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{eff}}(U, \chi) = \mathcal{L}_{\text{Gauge}}(U) - \sum_f \chi_f^\dagger (D D^\dagger)^{-1} \chi_f$$





## Continuous symmetries: Gauge transformations

$$U_\mu(x) \in \text{SU}(N) \quad \Omega(x) \in \text{SU}(N) \quad \chi(x) \in \mathbb{C}^N$$

$$U_\mu(x) \rightarrow \Omega(x) U_\mu(x) \Omega^\dagger(x + \hat{\mu})$$

$$\psi(x) \rightarrow \Omega(x) \psi(x)$$

$$\psi^\dagger(x) \rightarrow \psi^\dagger(x) \Omega^\dagger(x)$$

$$\psi(x) \psi^\dagger(y) \rightarrow \Omega(x) \psi(x) \psi^\dagger(y) \Omega^\dagger(y)$$

$$\Gamma_\ell(x, y) \rightarrow \Omega(x) \Gamma_\ell(x, y) \Omega^\dagger(y)$$

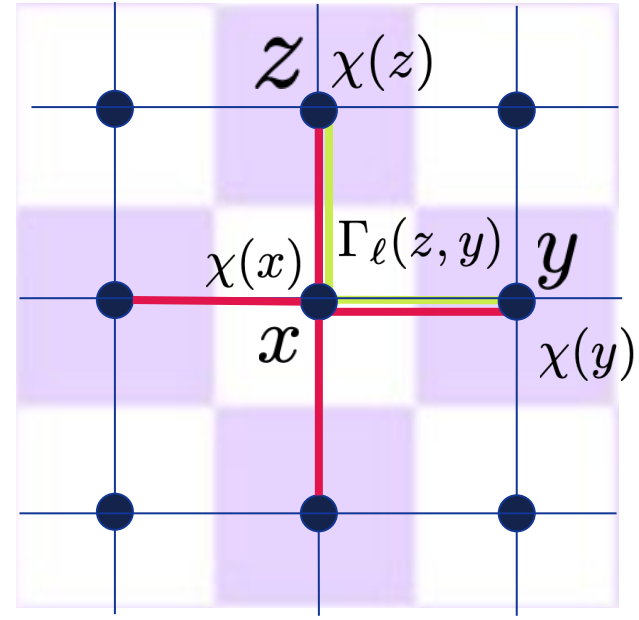
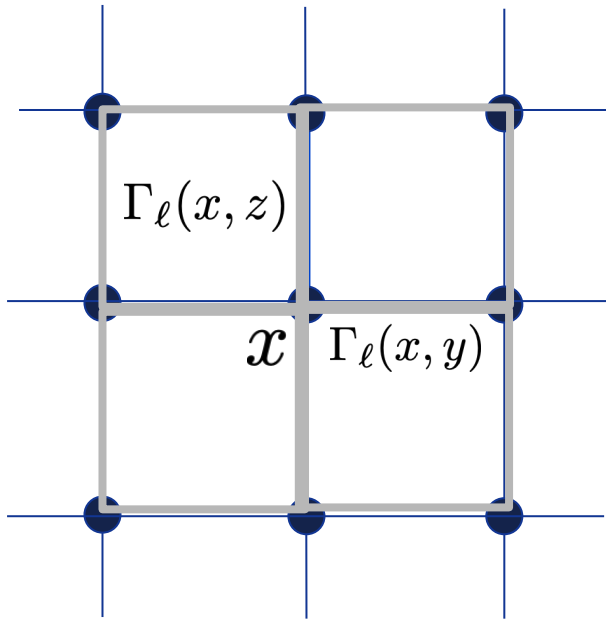
$$\Gamma_\ell(x, y) \psi(y) \rightarrow \Omega(x) \Gamma_\ell(x, y) \psi(y)$$



$$\alpha = f_{\theta}(\text{Tr}\Gamma_{\ell}(x, x), \chi(z)\Gamma_{\ell}(z, y)\chi(y))$$

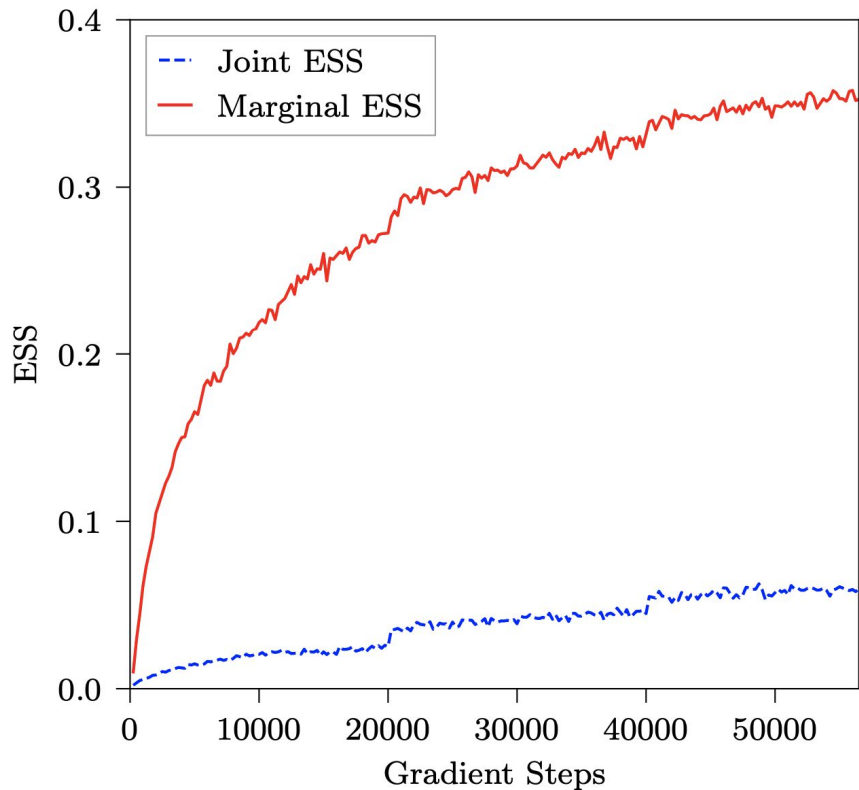
Parallel-transported fields

$$\chi(x)' = e^{s_{\alpha}} \chi(x) + \sum_{\ell \in F_o} w_{\alpha}(\ell) \Gamma_{\ell}(x, y) \chi(y)$$

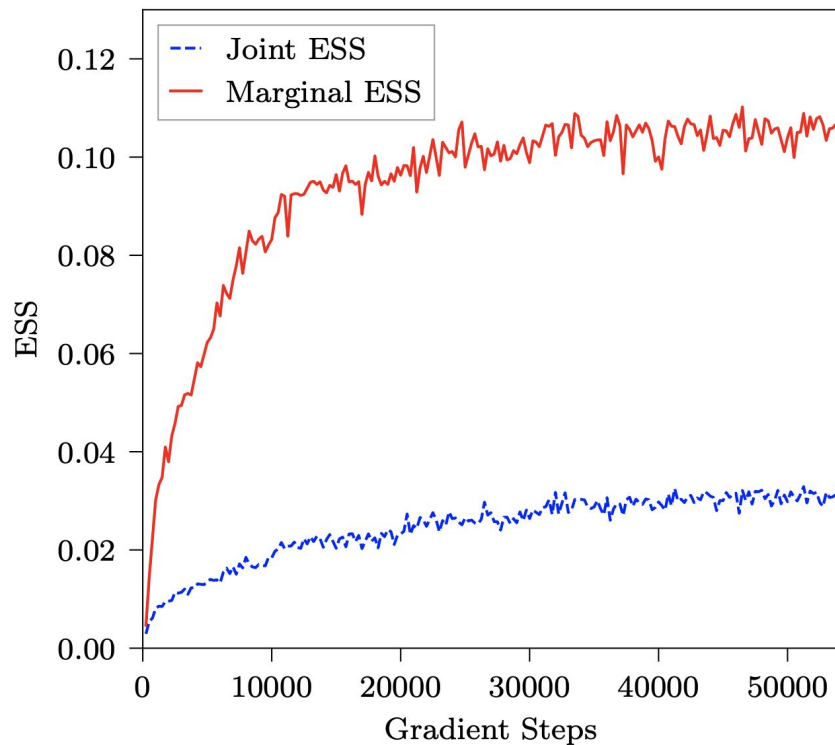


# Performance results (L=16, U(1) / SU(3) + fermions)

## U(1)



## SU(3)



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# Towards 4D QCD: $SU(3)$ Gauge + Quarks



# Modelling Gauge & fermion fields with flows

## Sampling QCD field configurations with gauge-equivariant flow models

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**Ryan Abbott,<sup>a,b</sup> Michael S. Albergo,<sup>c</sup> Aleksandar Botev,<sup>g</sup> Denis Boyda,<sup>a,b,d</sup>  
Kyle Cranmer,<sup>c,e</sup> Daniel C. Hackett,<sup>a,b</sup> Gurtej Kanwar,<sup>a,b,f</sup> Alexander G. D.  
G. Matthews,<sup>g</sup> Sébastien Racanière,<sup>g</sup> Ali Razavi,<sup>g</sup> Danilo J. Rezende,<sup>g</sup>  
Fernando Romero-López,<sup>a,b</sup> Phiala E. Shanahan<sup>a,b,\*</sup> and Julian M. Urban<sup>a,b,h</sup>**

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<sup>b</sup>The NSF AI Institute for Artificial Intelligence and Fundamental Interactions

<sup>c</sup>Center for Cosmology and Particle Physics, New York University, New York, NY 10003, USA

<sup>d</sup>Argonne Leadership Computing Facility, Argonne National Laboratory, Lemont IL 60439, USA

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Machine learning methods based on normalizing flows have been shown to address important challenges, such as critical slowing-down and topological freezing, in the sampling of gauge field configurations in simple lattice field theories. A critical question is whether this success will translate to studies of QCD. This Proceedings presents a status update on advances in this area. In particular, it is illustrated how recently developed algorithmic components may be combined to construct flow-based sampling algorithms for QCD in four dimensions. The prospects and challenges for future use of this approach in at-scale applications are summarized.



# Full QCD experiments (4D, L=4)

- Plaquette:

$$P = \frac{1}{N_c} \frac{1}{L^4} \sum_x \sum_{\mu < \nu} \text{Re tr } P_{\mu\nu}(x), \quad (2)$$

where  $N_c = 3$  is the number of colors,  $L = 4$  is the extent of the lattice geometry, and  $P_{\mu\nu}$  denotes the  $1 \times 1$  Wilson loop which extends in the  $\mu$  and  $\nu$  directions;

- Polyakov loop:

$$L = \frac{1}{L^3} \sum_{\vec{x}} \text{tr} \prod_{x_0} U_0(x_0, \vec{x}), \quad (3)$$

where  $U_0$  is the gauge link in the time direction;

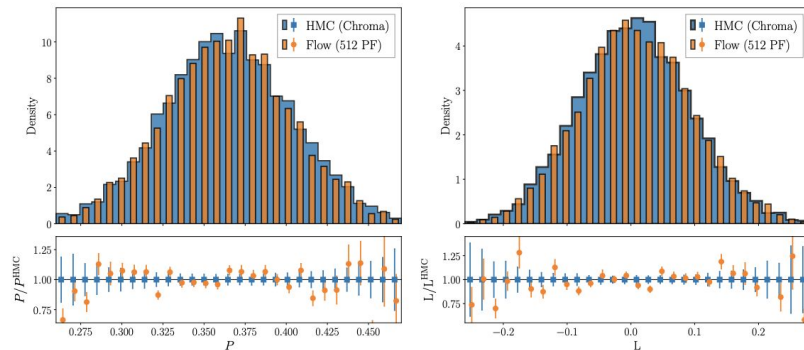
- Pion correlation function:

$$C_\pi(x_0) = - \sum_{\vec{x}} \langle [\bar{u}\gamma_5 d](x_0, \vec{x}) [\bar{d}\gamma_5 u](0, \vec{0}) \rangle, \quad (4)$$

measured using point sources;

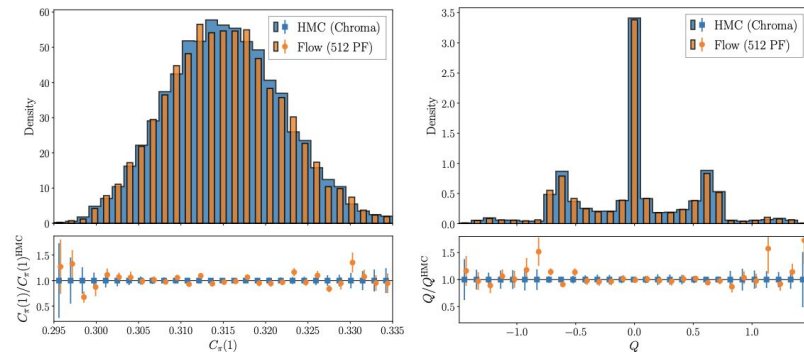
- Topological charge:

$$Q = \frac{1}{16\pi^2} \sum_x \epsilon_{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} F_{\mu\nu}(x) F_{\rho\sigma}(x), \quad (5)$$



(a) Plaquette

(b) Polyakov loop



(c) Pion correlation function at  $x_0 = 1$

(d) Topological charge at  $t/a^2 = 4$



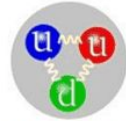
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# Towards physical calculations: Hadron Spectroscopy



# Towards real calculations: Hadron Spectroscopy

Baryons are composed of three quarks



Baryons

Hadrons



Mesons

Mesons are composed of one quark and one antiquark

## Nucleons

Particle	Mass (MeV/c <sup>2</sup> )	$\tau$ (sec)
$p$	938.2	$> 10^{11}$
$n$	939.5	$10^3$

## Hyperons

Particle	Mass (MeV/c <sup>2</sup> )	$\tau$ (sec)
$\Lambda$	1115	$2.6 \times 10^{-10}$
$\Sigma^+$	1189	$0.8 \times 10^{-10}$
$\Sigma^0$	1192	$10^{-14}$
$\Sigma^-$	1197	$1.6 \times 10^{-10}$
$\Xi^0$	1314	$3 \times 10^{-10}$
$\Xi^-$	1321	$1.8 \times 10^{-10}$
$\Omega^-$	1675	$1.3 \times 10^{-10}$

## Pions

Particle	Mass (MeV/c <sup>2</sup> )	$\tau$ (sec)
$\pi^-, \pi^+$	139	$2.5 \times 10^{-8}$
$\pi^0$	135	$1.8 \times 10^{-16}$

## Kaons

Particle	Mass (MeV/c <sup>2</sup> )	$\tau$ (sec)
$K^-, K^+$	494	$1.2 \times 10^{-8}$
$K^0$	498	
$\eta$	550	$10^{-18}$





# Spectroscopy: From correlators to particle mass

Average over model samples

$$\langle \eta_\pi(\mathbf{p}, t) \eta_\pi^\dagger(\mathbf{p}, t') \rangle = -\frac{1}{V_s} \sum_{\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}'} e^{-i\mathbf{p}(\mathbf{x}-\mathbf{x}')} \langle \text{Tr} \left[ \mathcal{D}_u^{-1}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') \gamma_4 \Gamma^\dagger \gamma_4 \mathcal{D}_d^{-1}(\mathbf{x}', \mathbf{x}) \Gamma \right] \rangle_G$$

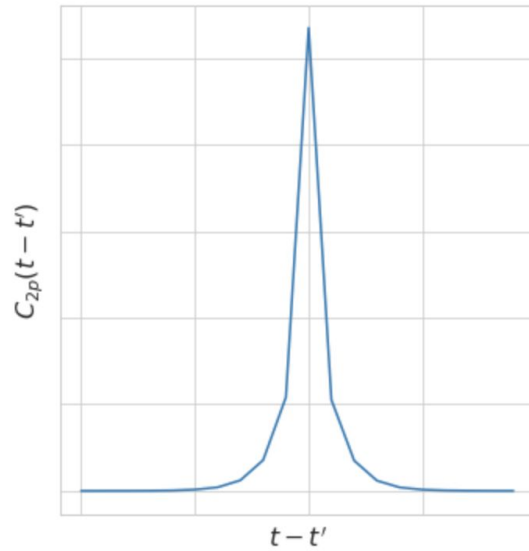
$$\langle \eta_\pi(\mathbf{p}, t) \eta_\pi^\dagger(\mathbf{p}, t') \rangle = e^{-E_\pi(\mathbf{p})T/2} |\langle 0 | \eta_\pi(\mathbf{p}) | \pi(\mathbf{p}) \rangle|^2 2 \cosh [(T/2 - (t - t')) E_\pi(\mathbf{p})] + \dots$$

Particle energy at momentum  $\mathbf{p}$

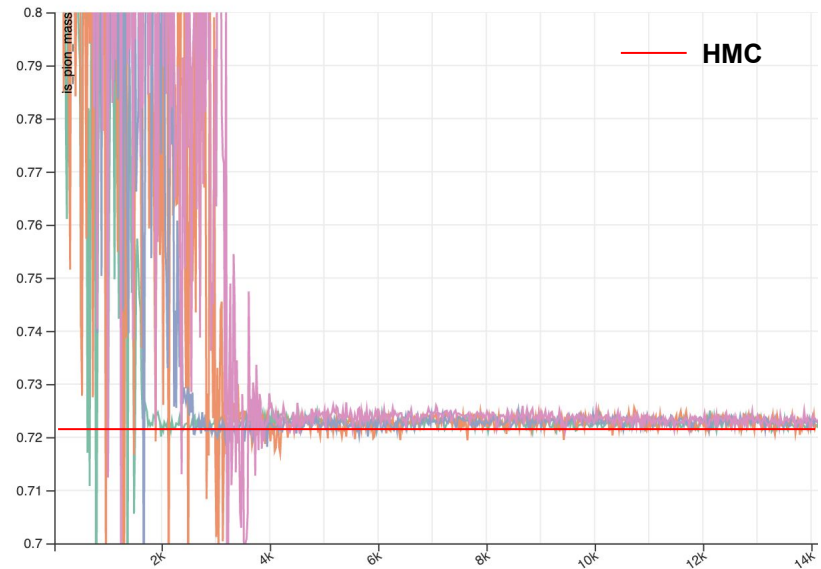
$$E^2(p) = m^2 c^4 + p^2 c^2$$



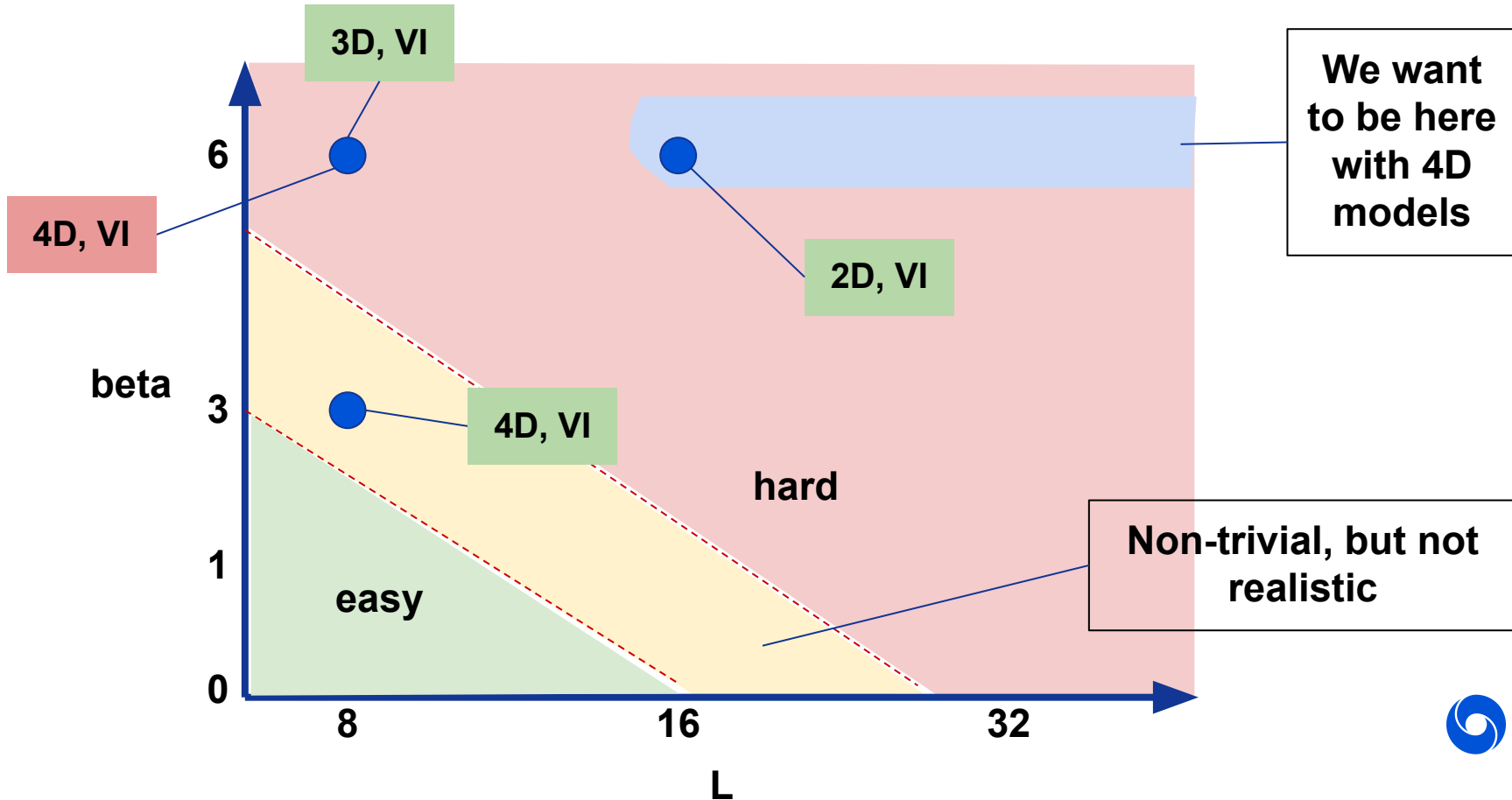
## Pion correlator ( $p=0$ )



## Pion mass vs model training



# How hard is to reach physically meaningful settings?



# Summary

- We can construct flows with  $U(N)$  and  $SU(N)$  Gauge symmetry
- In 2D results are quite promising
- They can also be extended to include pseudo-fermion transformations
- Based on Yukawa and Schwinger models, introducing fermions adds substantial complexity:
  - Require working with pseudo-fermion effective action
  - Require inversion of the operator  $DD^*$  (expensive, can have very large condition number)
  - Increased combinatorics:
    - Much larger space of Gauge-invariant quantities to consider



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# Discussion



# Summary

- **Remarkable progress in the development of NFs** for sampling and free energy estimation (from LQCD to molecular systems).
- NFs allow us to **address old problems in completely new ways** by leveraging the flexibility of neural networks.
- **Challenges and limitations:**
  - Training and evaluating models without ground-truth samples
  - Scaling up to larger and more complex systems
  - Need more general and robust mechanisms to correct for model bias and bound error of expectations

