



UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI  
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# Normalizing Flows for higher dimensional data sets. (work in progress)

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# Motivation.

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- In HEP we find complex Probability Distribution Functions (PDFs) **EVERYWHERE!**
- What do we want to do with them? -> (Re)-interpret, preserve, sample, combine, invert, ...
- Can Normalizing Flows (NFs) help us on these endeavours?...

- **Normalizing flows** are a powerful brand of *generative models*.
- They map simple to complex distributions.
- They **allow for efficient sampling** of complex PDFs...
- ... and include **density estimation** by construction!

## **(Some) Applications on HEP already on the market:**

- Numerical integration (arXiv:2001.05486, arXiv:2001.05478)
- Unfolding (arXiv:2006.06685)
- Calorimeter shower simulation (arXiv:2106.05285)
- Event generation (arXiv:2001.10028, arXiv:2110.13632)
- ...

## **IN THIS TALK:**

### **We want to find out...**

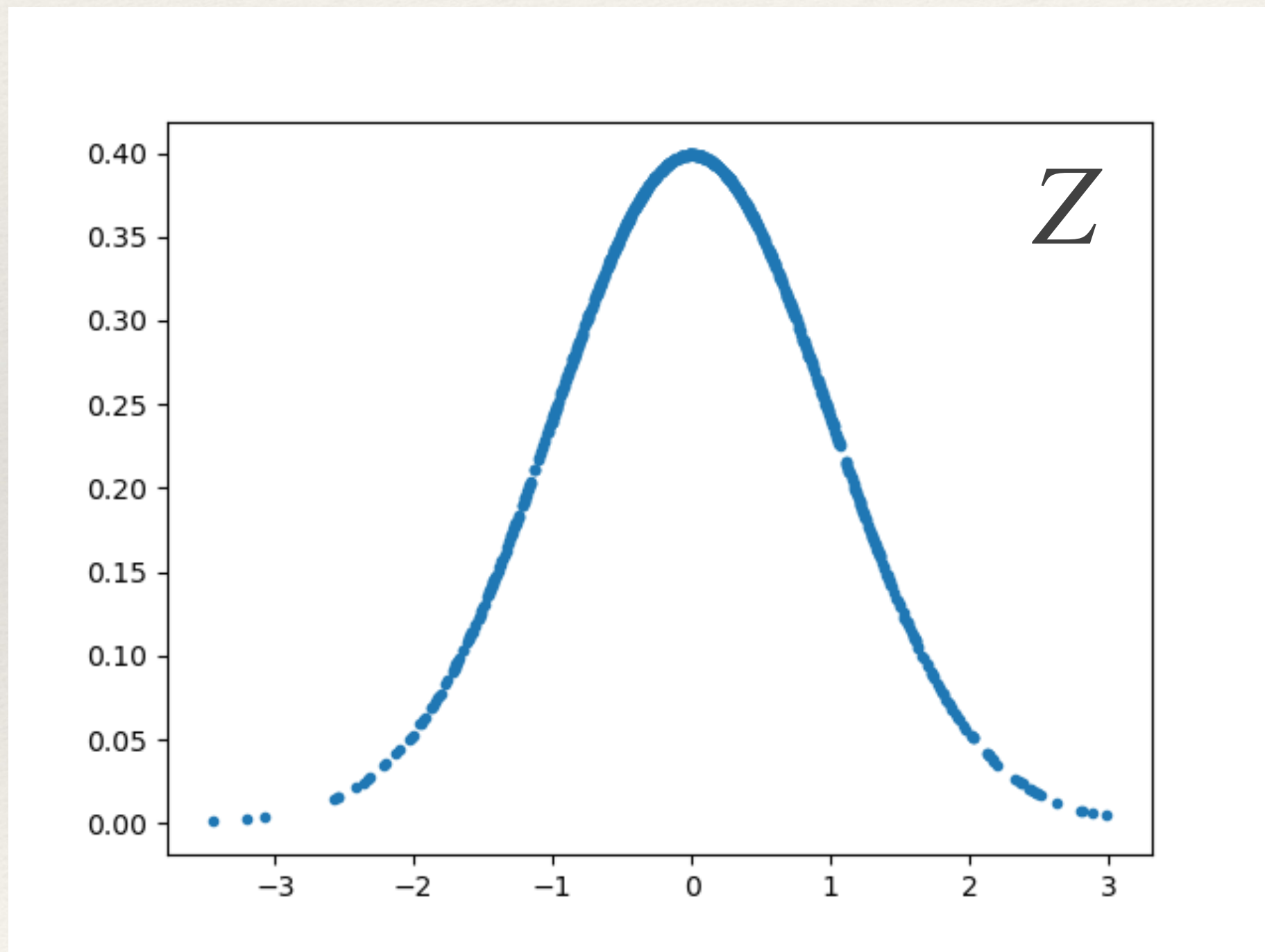
- How far can we go dimension-wise?
- Can NFs learn the *high-dimensional Likelihood functions of LHC results*?



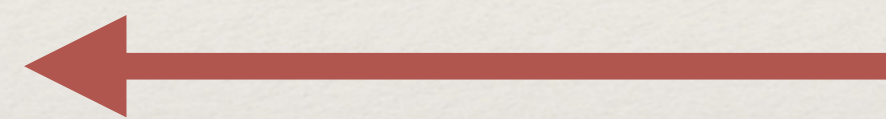
# Introduction.

## BASIC PRINCIPLE:

Following the change of variables formula, perform a series of **bijective, continuous, invertible** transformations on a *simple* probability density function (pdf) to obtain a *complex* one.

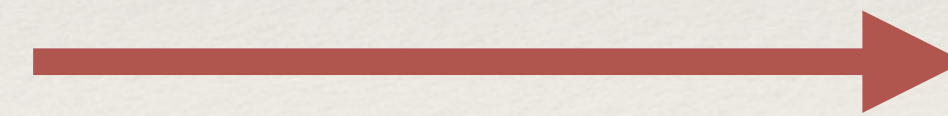


Normalizing direction

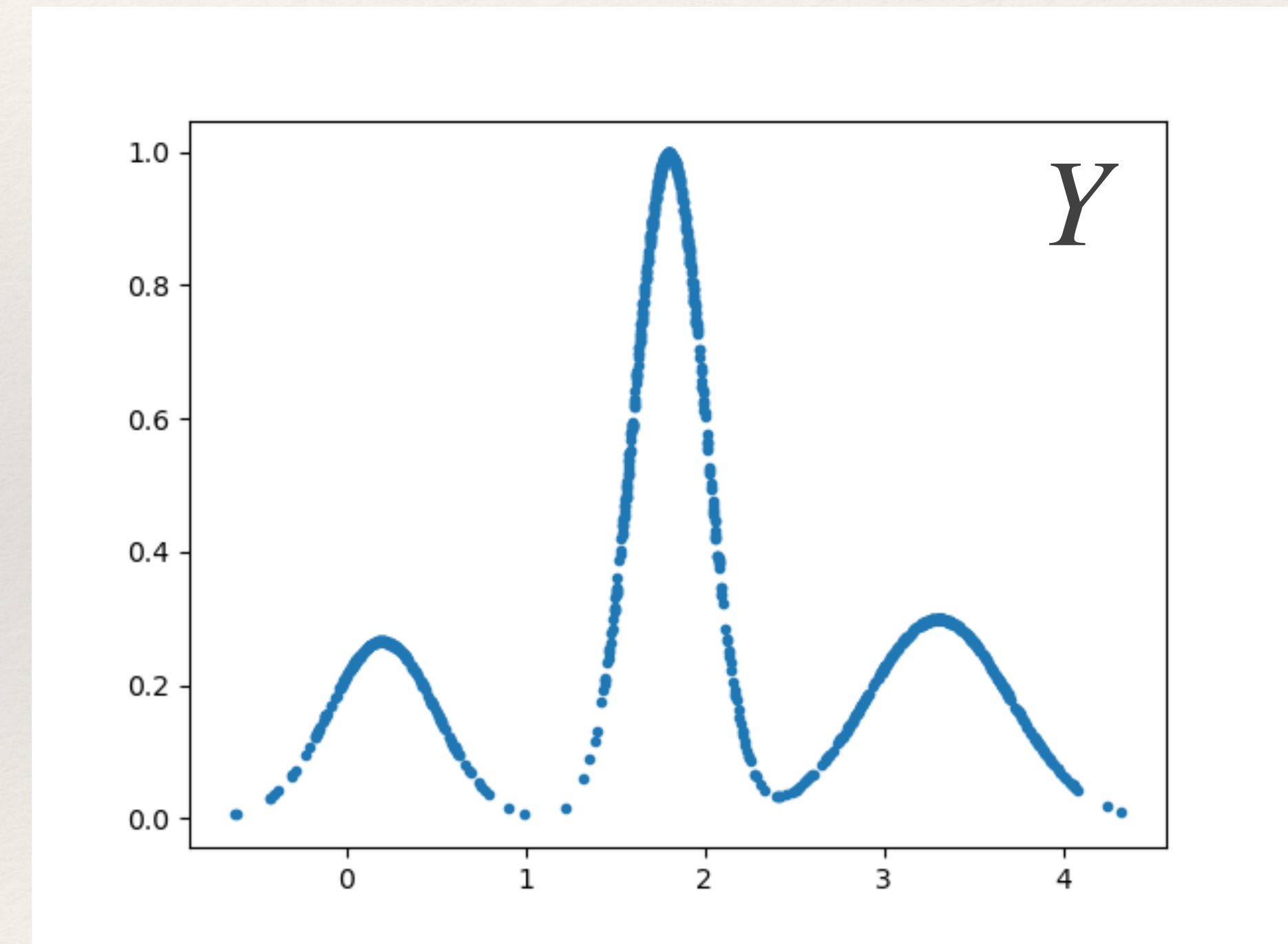


$$Z = f(Y)$$

Generative direction



$$Y = g(Z)$$





# Choosing the transformations

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## THE OBJECTIVE:

To perform the right transformations to accurately estimate the complex underlying distribution of some observed data.

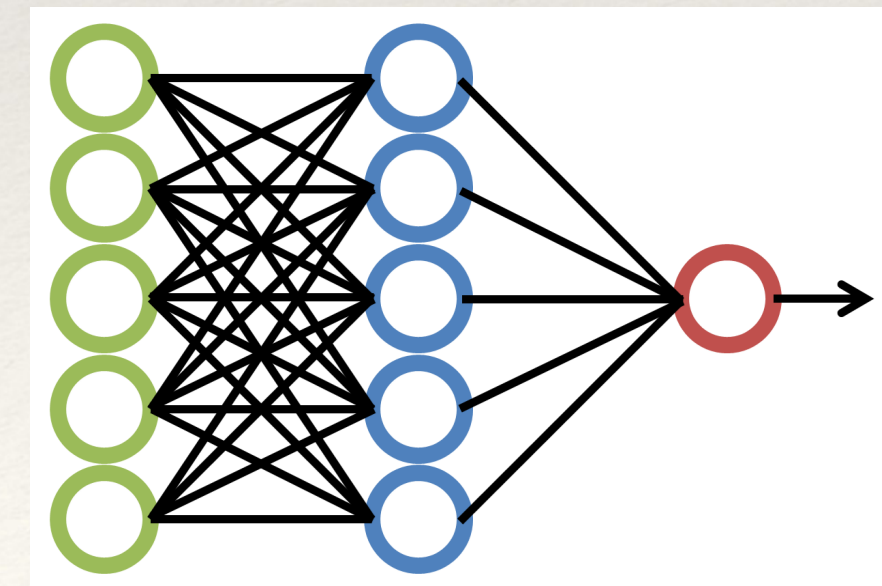
## THE RULES OF THE GAME:

- The transformations must be invertible
- They should be sufficiently expressive
- And computationally efficient (including Jacobian)



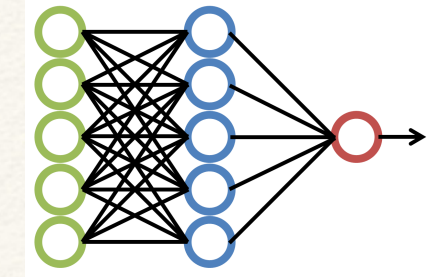
## THE STRATEGY

Let *Neural Networks* learn the parameters of *Autoregressive Normalizing Flows*.





# Autoregressive Flows

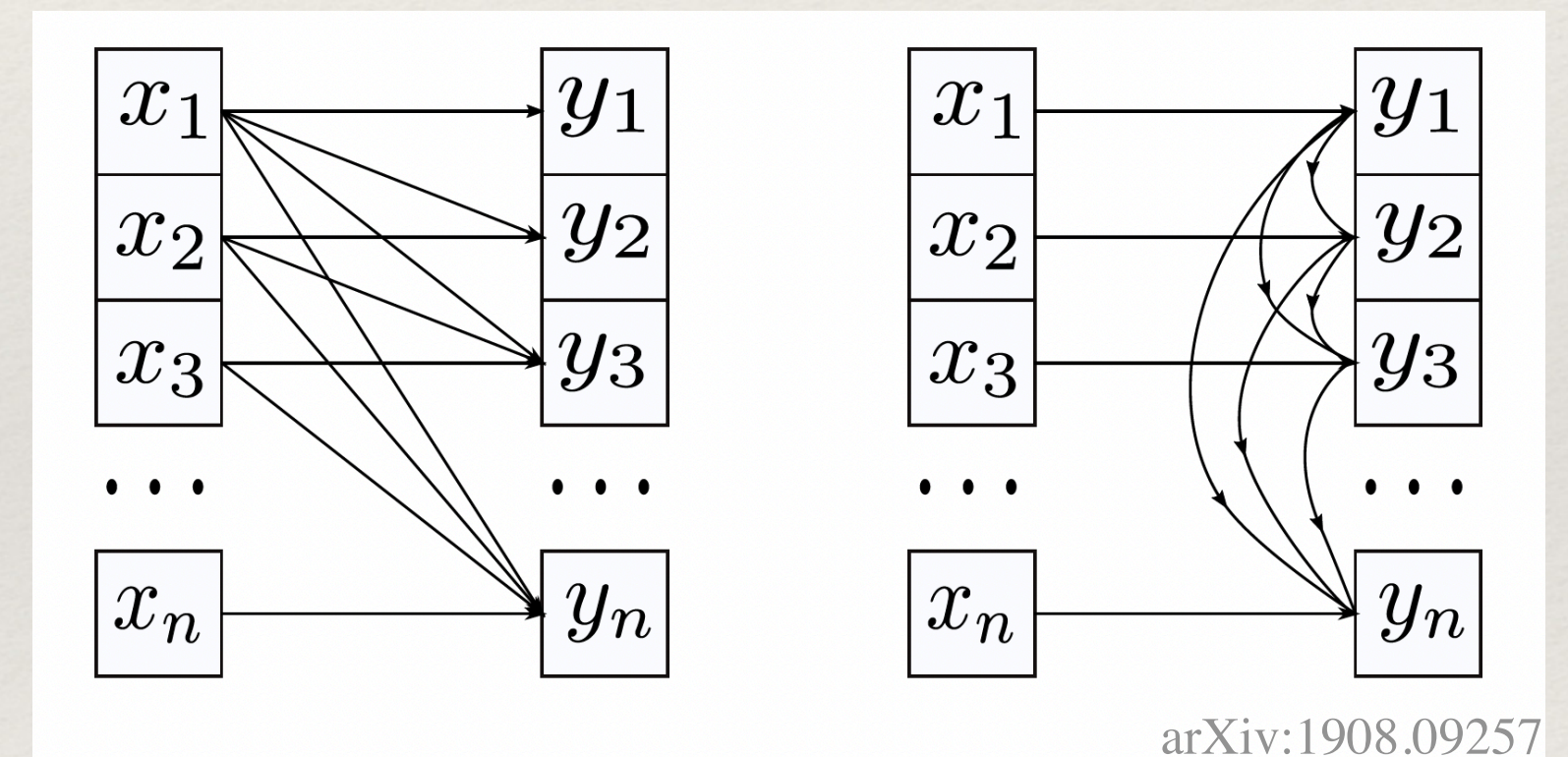
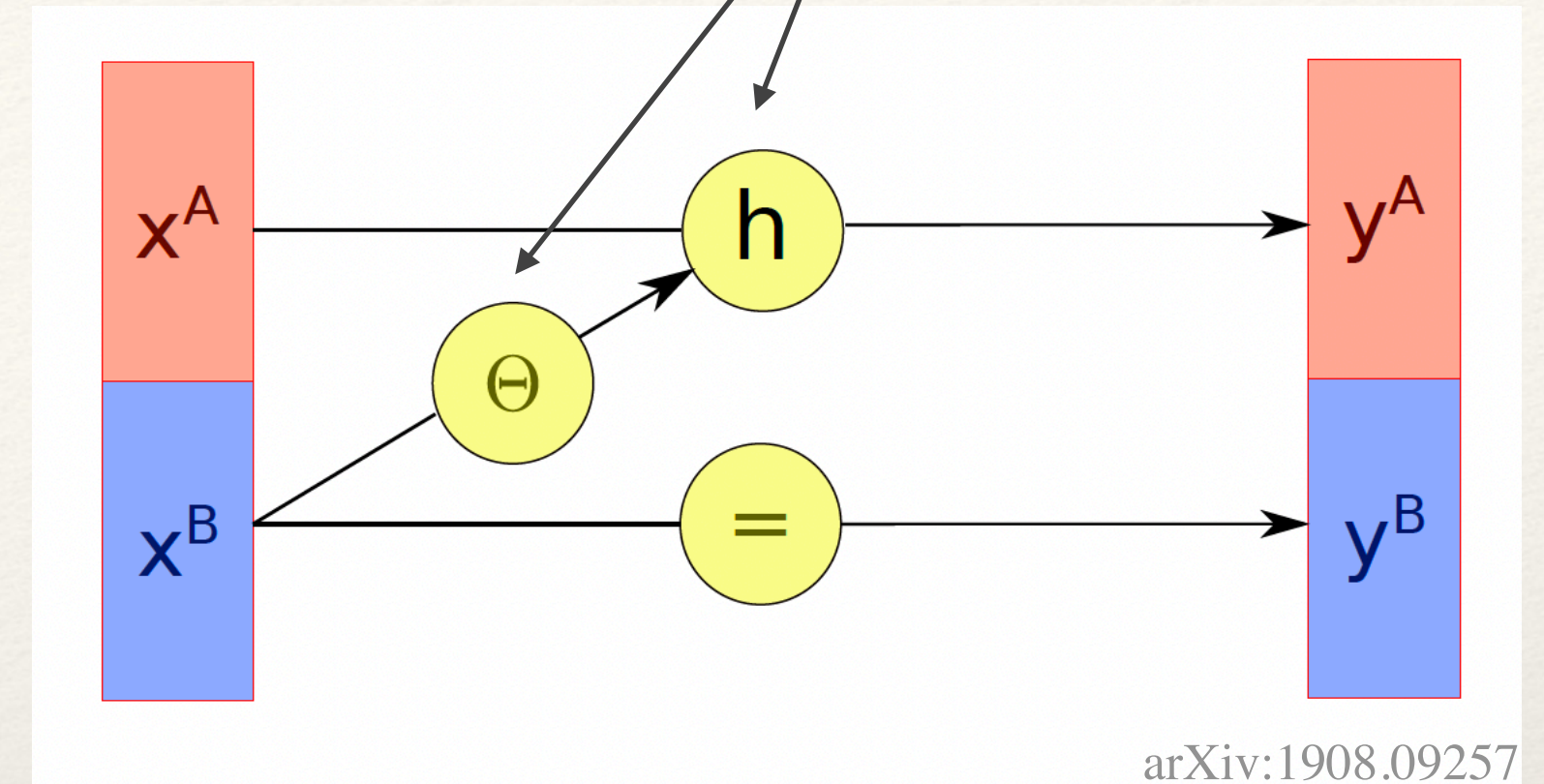


## Coupling Flows :

- Dimensions are divided in two sets:  $x^A$  and  $x^B$
- We transform  $x^B$  with bijectors trained with  $x^A$ .
- The bijector parameters are functions of a NN.
- The Jacobian  $J$  is triangular  $\rightarrow \det J = \prod_i J_{ii}$
- **Jacobian is easily computed!**
- **Direct sampling AND density estimation.**
- **Less expressive.**

## Autoregressive Flows :

- Dimension  $x^i$  is transformed with bijectors trained with  $y_{1:i-1}$
- Bijector parameters are trained with Autoregressive NNs.
- The Jacobian  $J$  is also triangular thus...
- **Jacobian is easily computed!**
- **Direct sampling OR density estimation.**
- **More expressive.**



**The loss function:**  
 $-\log(p_{AF}(target_{dist}))$



# Our Autoregressive Flows

RealNVP

Real-Valued Non-Volume  
Preserving (arXiv:1605.08803)

Coupling Flow

Affine

MAF

Masked Autoregressive  
Flow (arXiv:1705.07057)

Autoregressive Flow

Affine

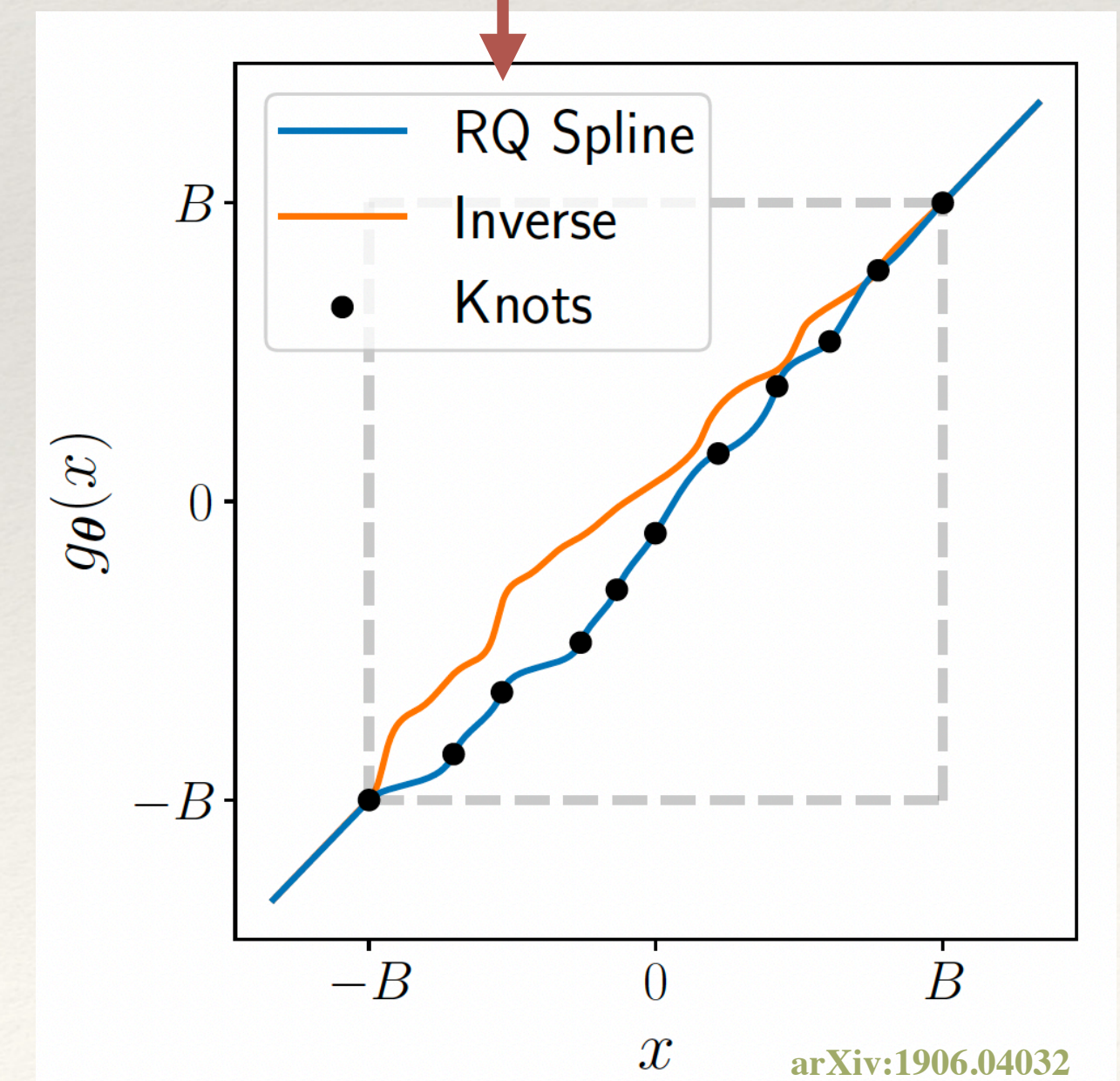
A-NSF

(Autoregressive)  
Neural Spline Flows (arXiv:1906.04032)

Autoregressive Flow

Rational Quadratic Spline

$$y(x; \mu, b) = \mu \cdot x + b$$



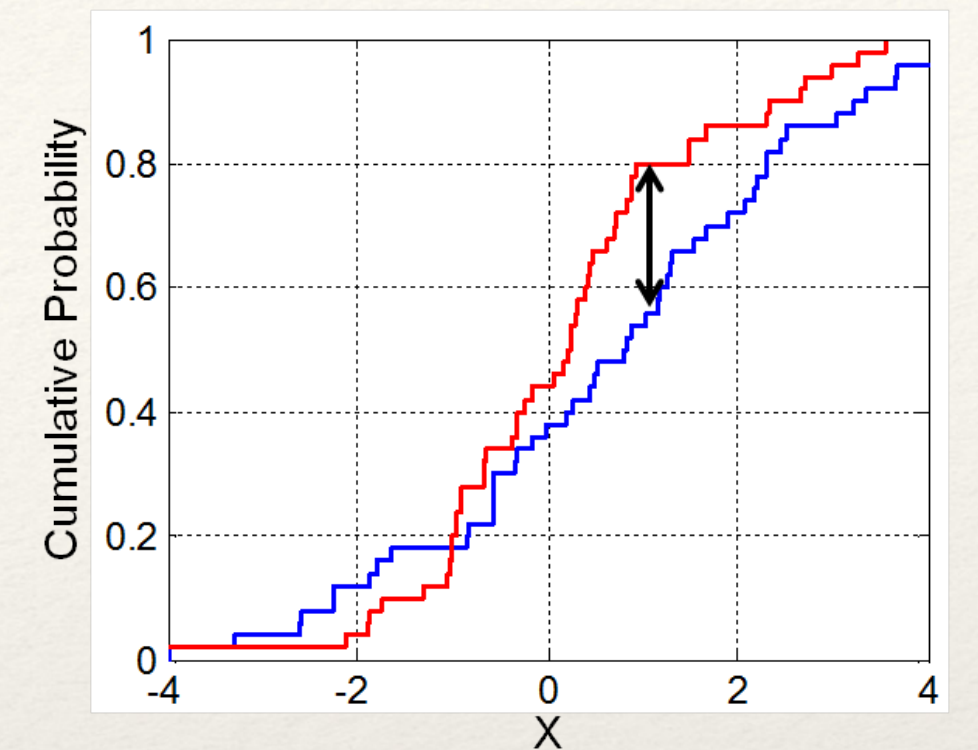


# (PDF agnostic) metrics.

## - Two-sample 1D Kolmogorov - Smirnov test (ks test):

$$D_{n,m} = \sup_x |F_n(x) - F_m(x)|$$

- Computes the p-value for two sets of 1D samples coming from the same *unknown* distribution.
- We average over ks test estimations and compute the median over dimensions.
- Optimal value 0.5

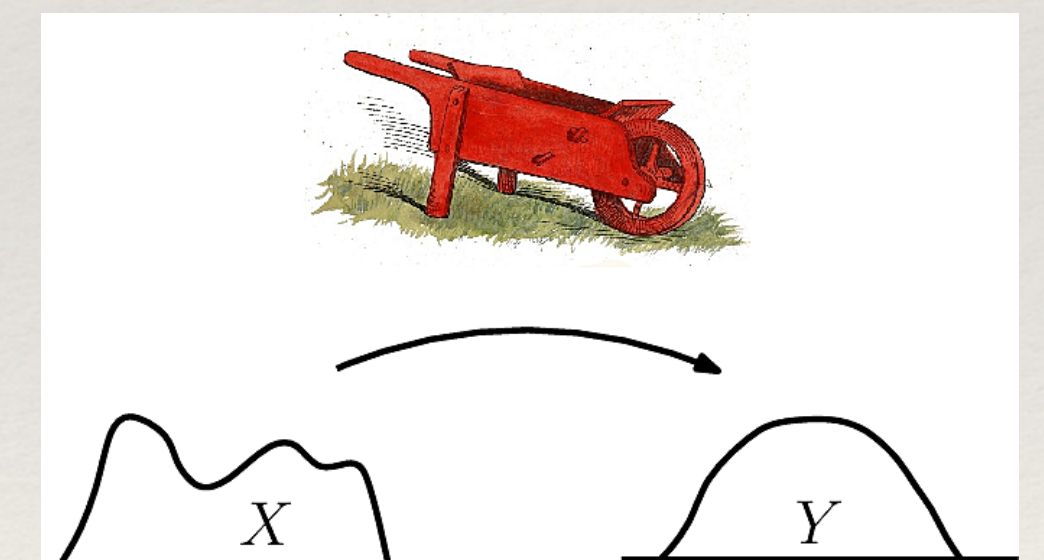


[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kolmogorov-Smirnov\\_test](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kolmogorov-Smirnov_test)

## - 1D Wasserstein distance (Earth mover's distance)

$$l(f_n, f_m) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |F_n - F_m|$$

- Computes the minimum *energy* required to transform  $f_n$  into  $f_m$
- We compute the median over dimensions.
- Optimal value 0.0



[https://sbl.inria.fr/doc/Earth\\_mover\\_distance-user-manual.html](https://sbl.inria.fr/doc/Earth_mover_distance-user-manual.html)

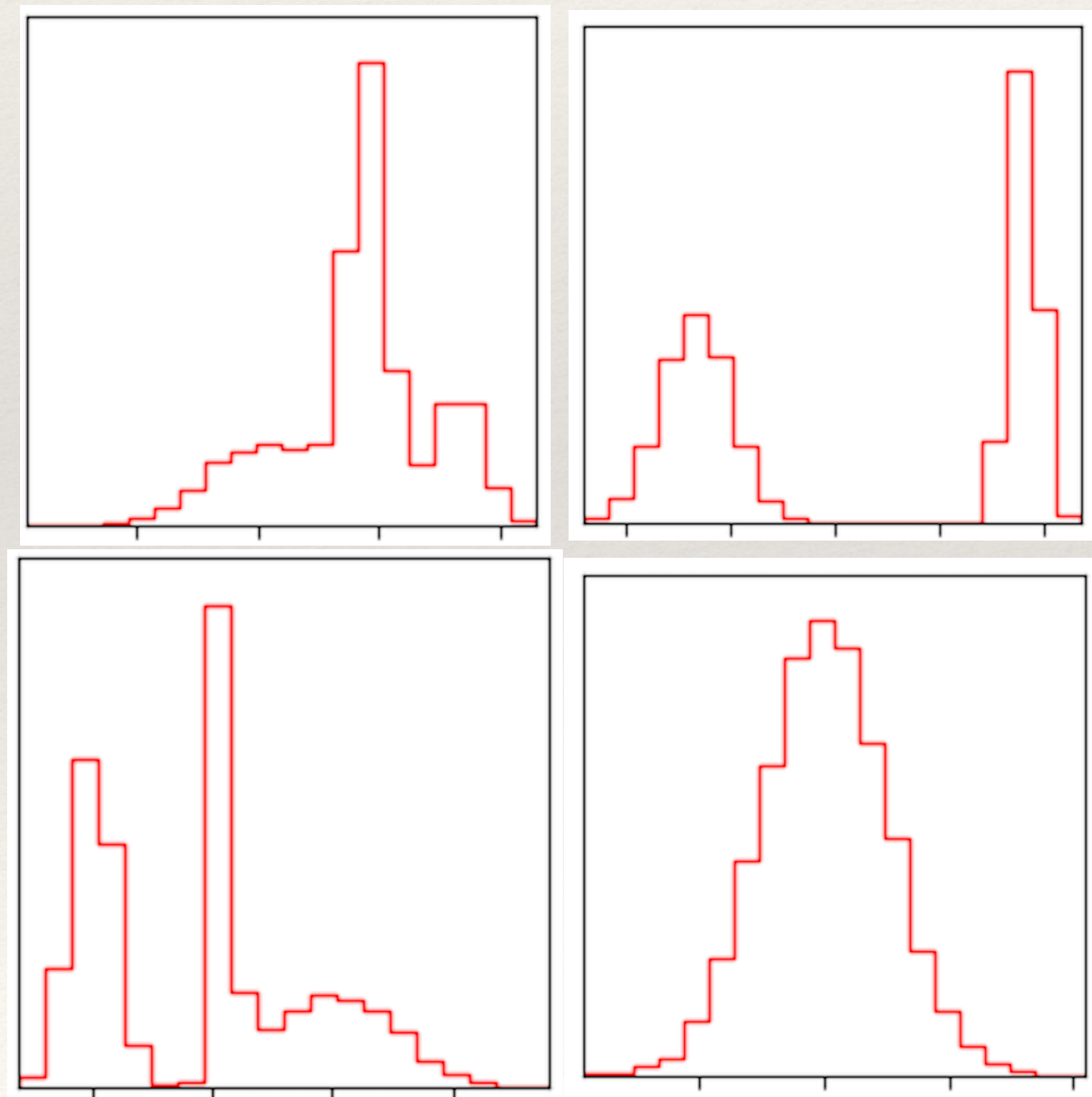


# Testing the Flows.

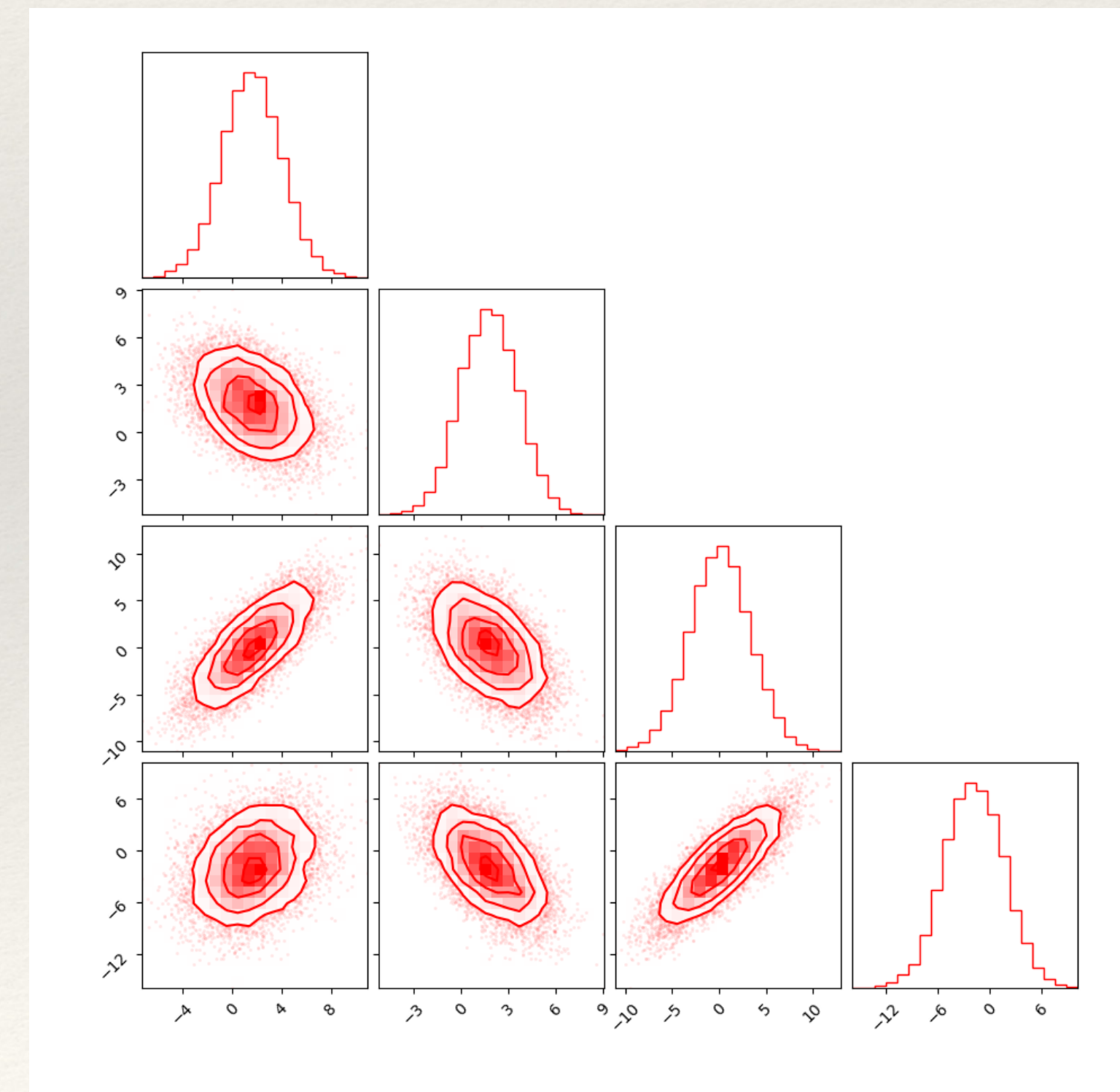
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Toy distributions from 4 to 100 dims:

**Uncorrelated Mixture of Gaussians**



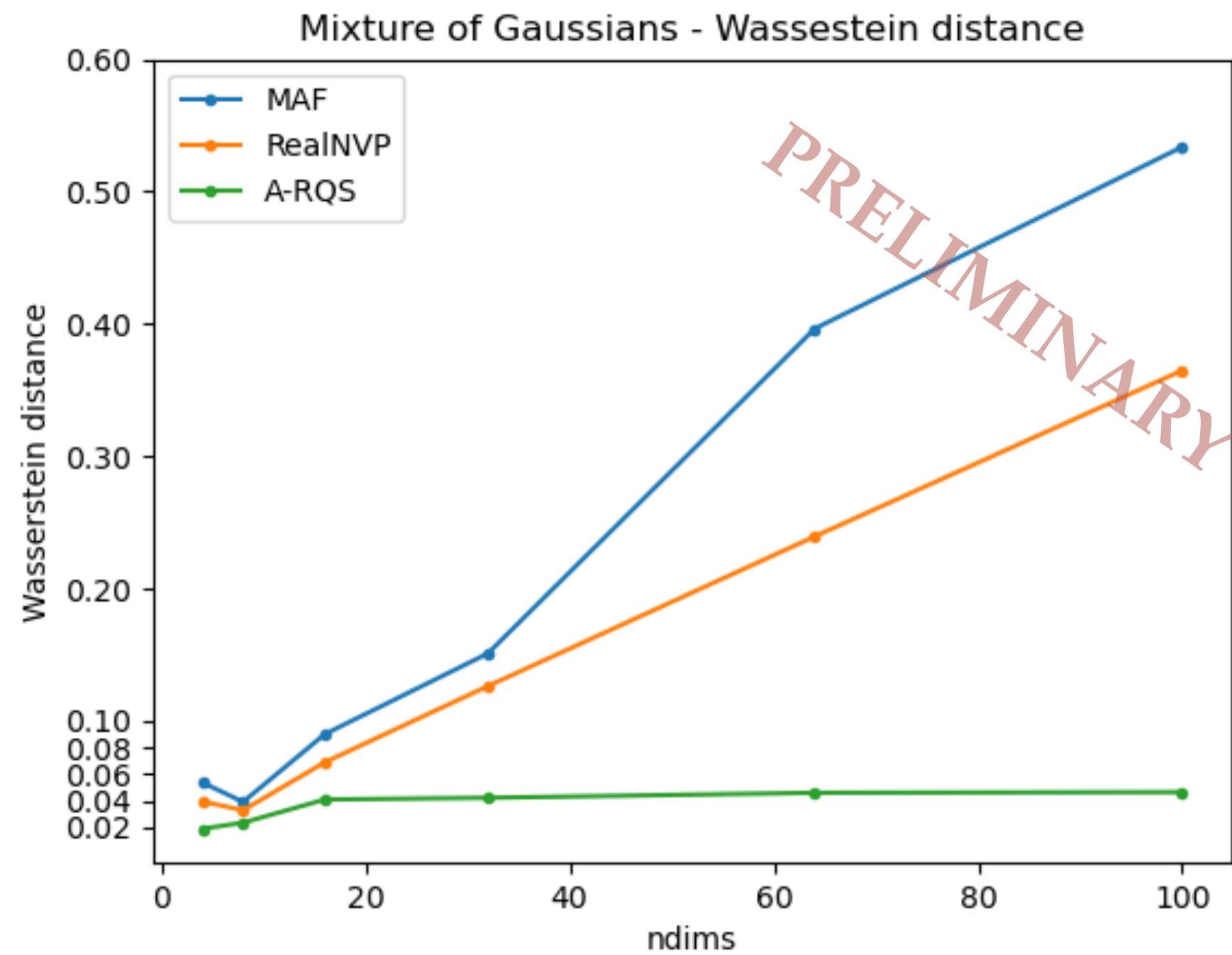
**Correlated Gaussians**



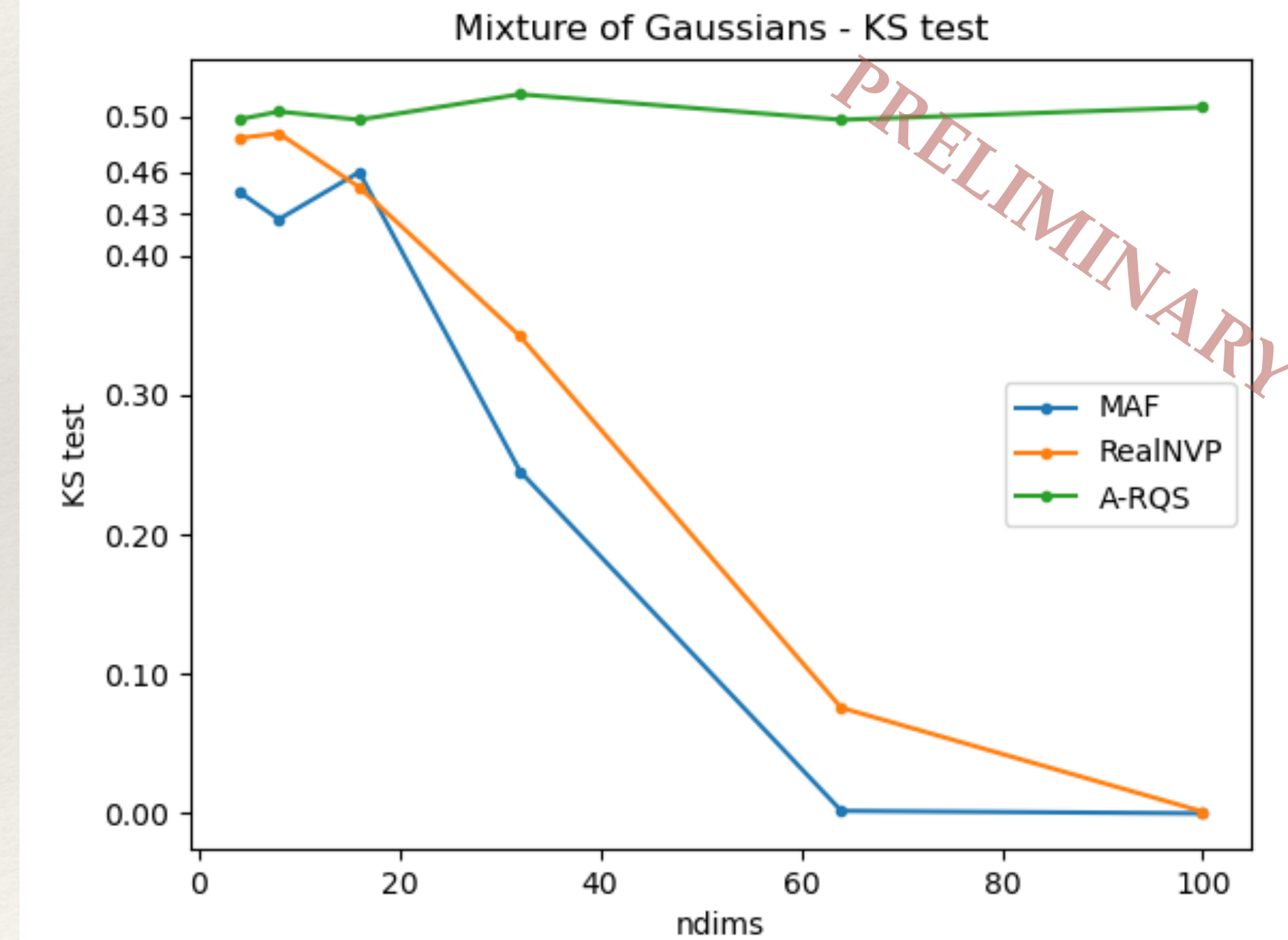


# Uncorrelated Mixture of Gaussians

	N bijectors	Hidden layers	N samples
MAF	3, 5, 10	128x3, 256x3	100k, 300k
RealNVP	10	128x3, 256x3	100k, 300k
 A-NSF (8knots)	2	128x3, 256x3	100k



Wasserstein distance

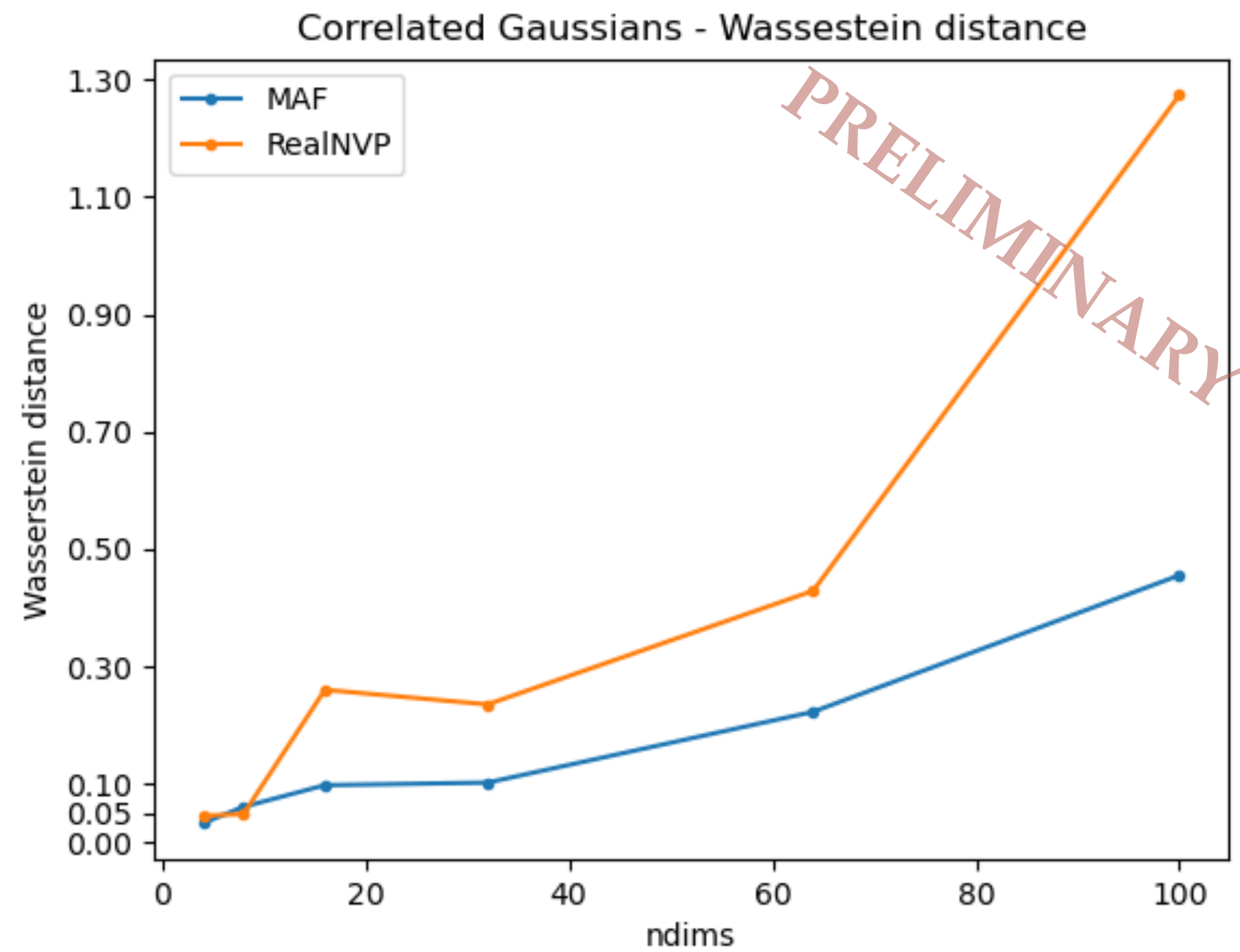


KS test

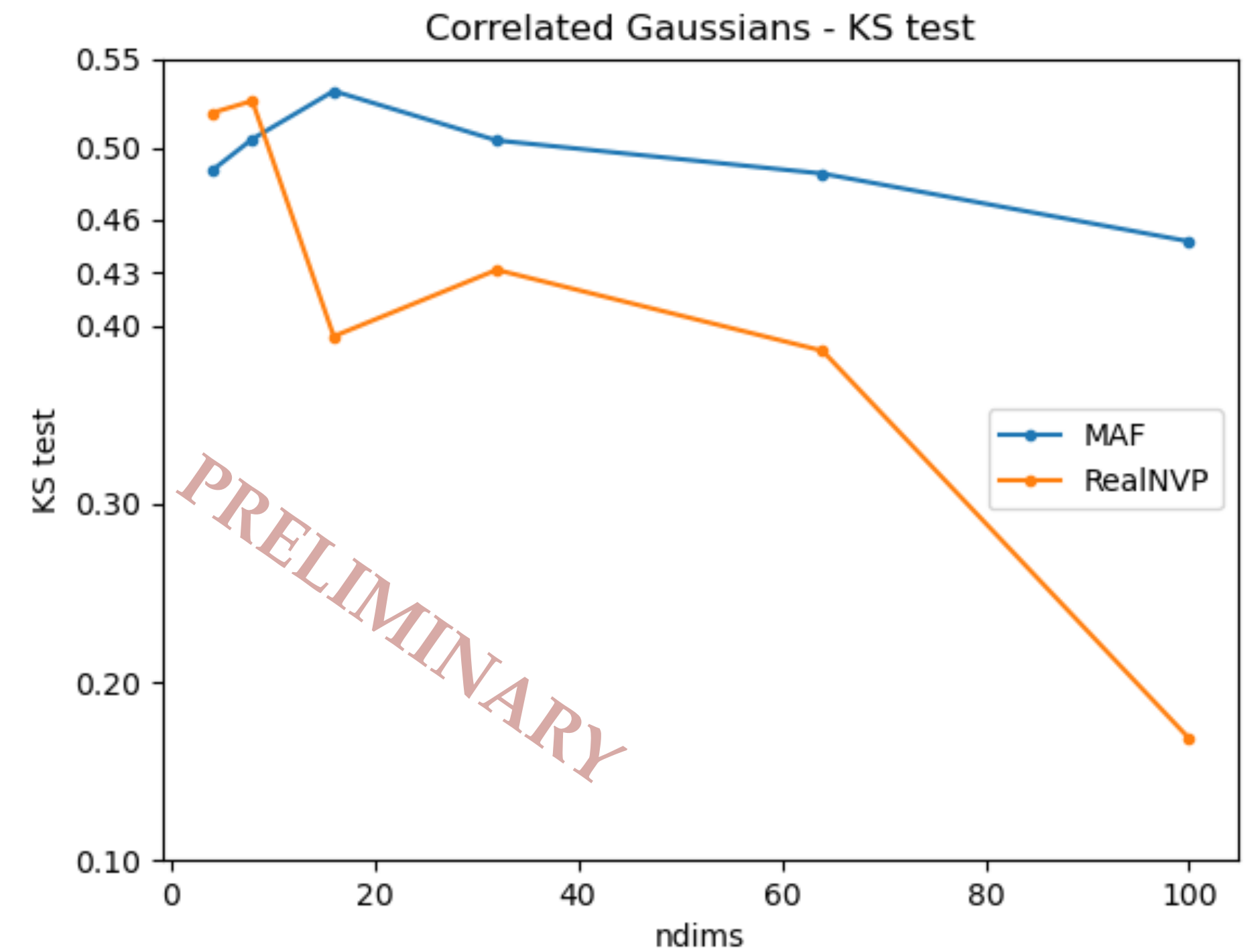


# Correlated Gaussians

	N bijectors	Hidden layers	N samples
 <b>MAF</b>	3, 10	32x3, 64x3, 128x3	100k, 300k
<b>RealNVP</b>	3, 10	32x3, 64x3, 128x3	100k, 300k



Wasserstein distance



KS test



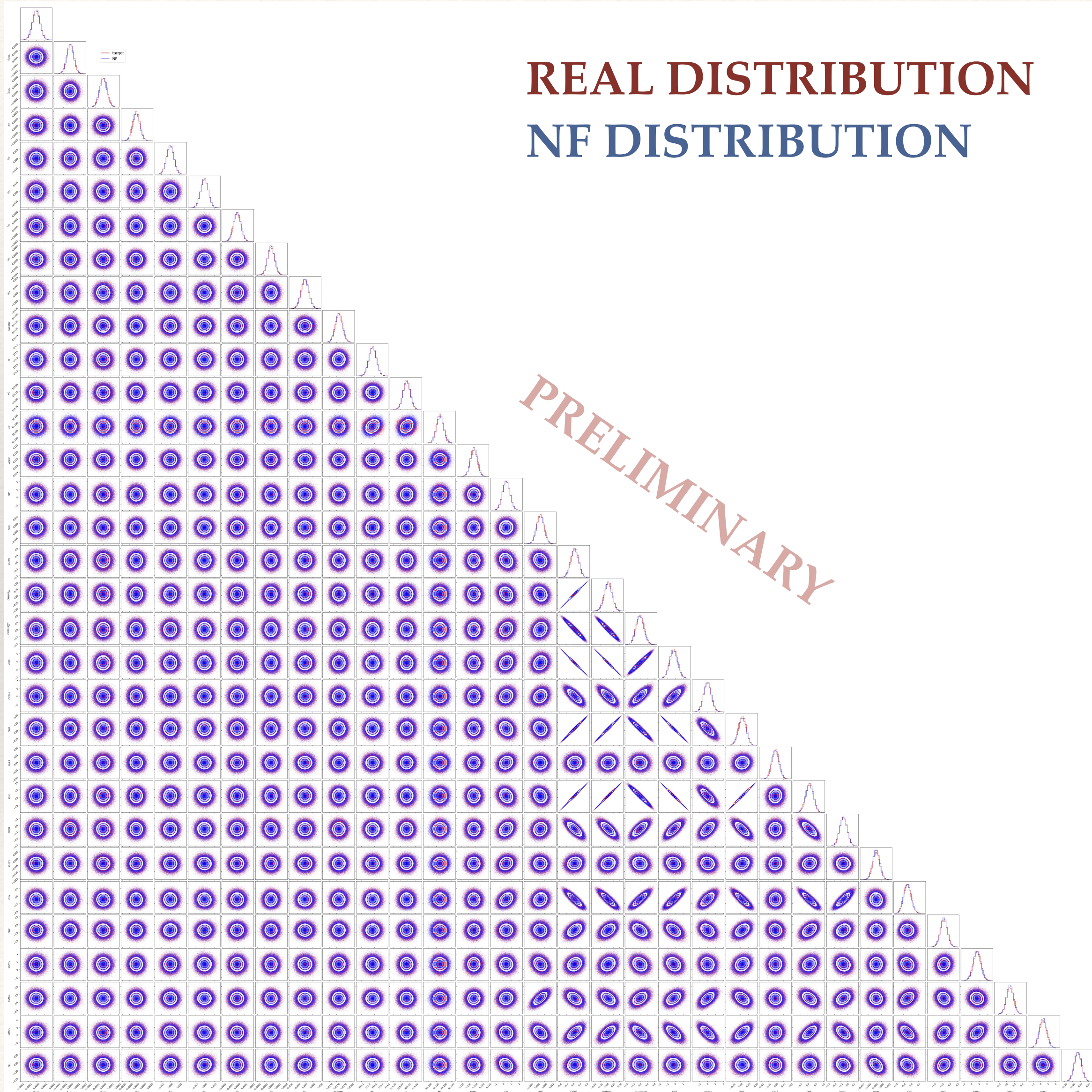
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Let's get real...

Learning LHC Likelihoods.



# EW-fit (32 dims)



*Likelihood of global EW-fit at LHC:*

**18 parameters of interest (Wilson coefficients)**

**14 nuisance parameters (uncertainties)**

Data provided by authors -> arXiv:1710.05402

*Weapon of choice:*

**MAF, 3 Bijectors, 128x3 layers, 650k samples**

*Metrics:*

**Wasserstein distance: .000315**

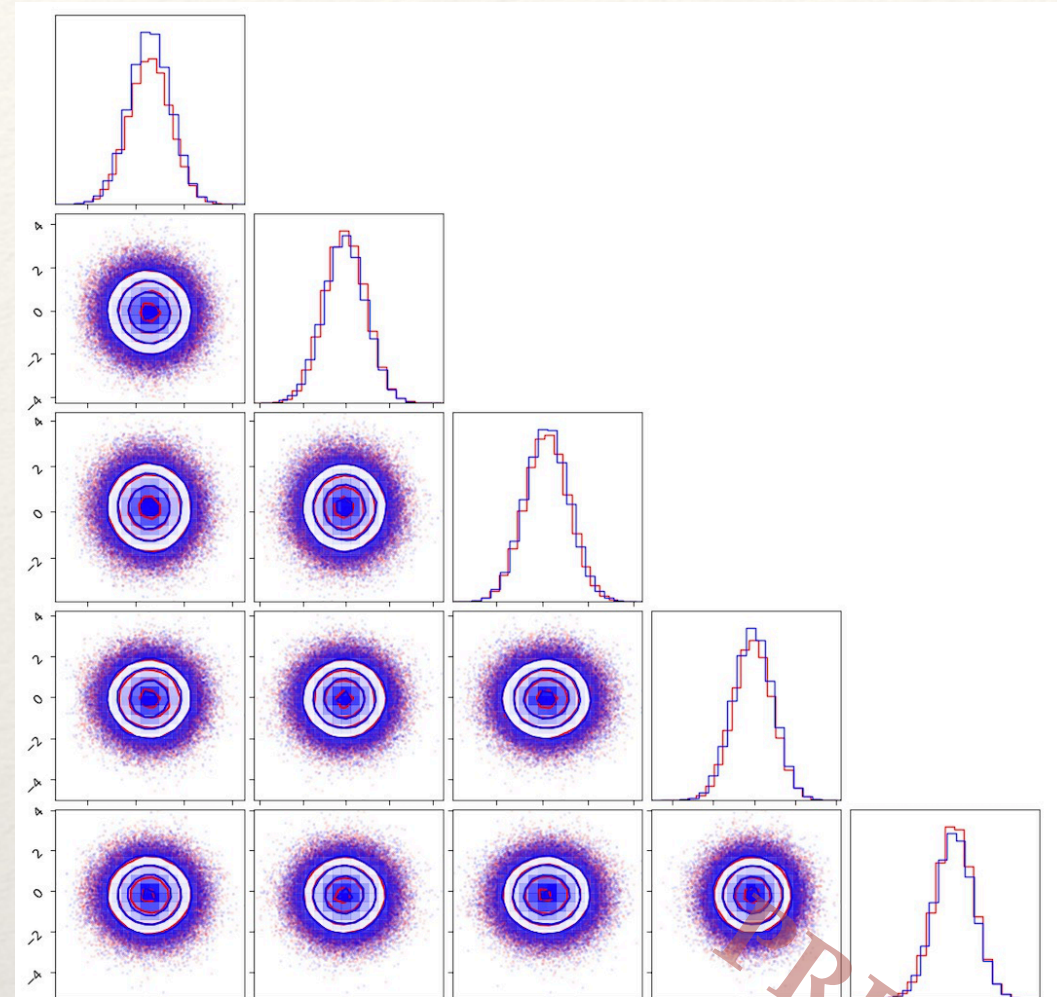
**KS test: 0.484**

**Training time: 2.8 hrs.**

**THE RESEMBLANCE IS GREAT!**



# LHC-like New Physics search (95 dims).



**REAL DISTRIBUTION**  
**NF DISTRIBUTION**

*Likelihood of LHC-like New Physics search:*  
1 parameter of interest.  
94 nuisance parameters.

arXiv:1911.03305

arXiv:1809.05548

*Weapon of choice:*

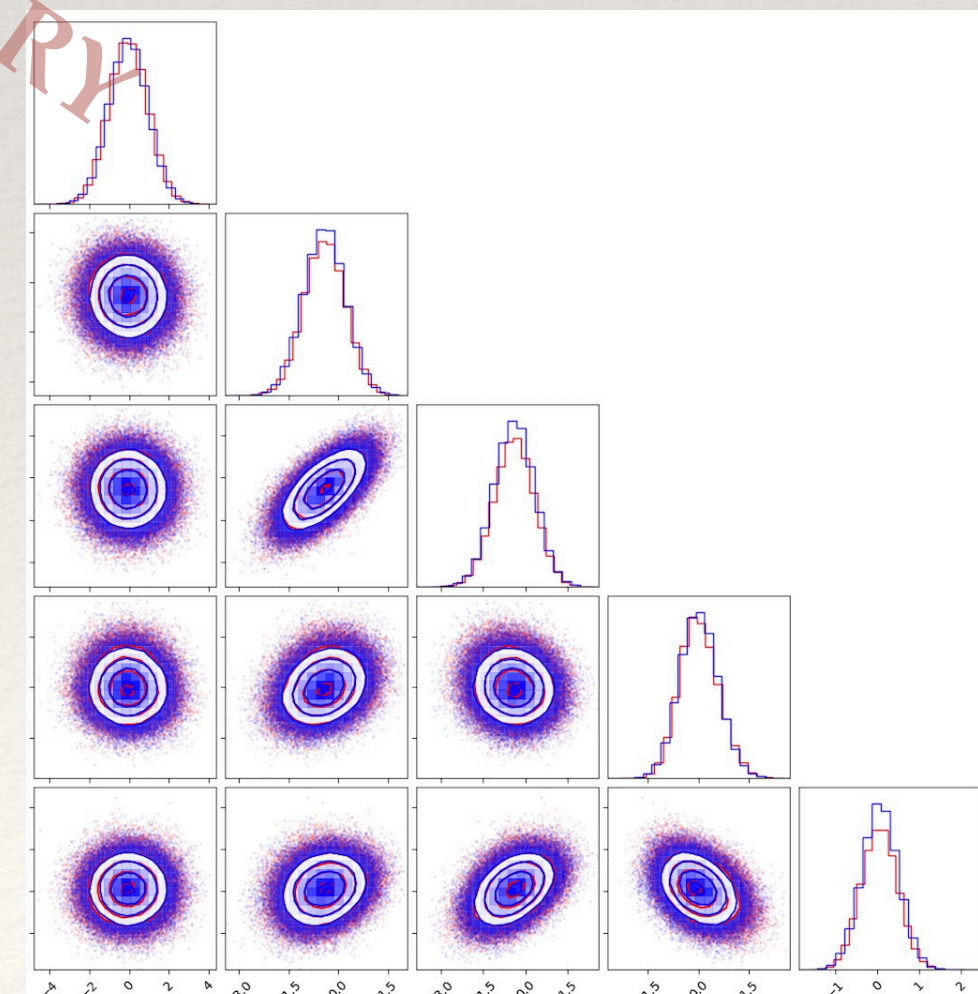
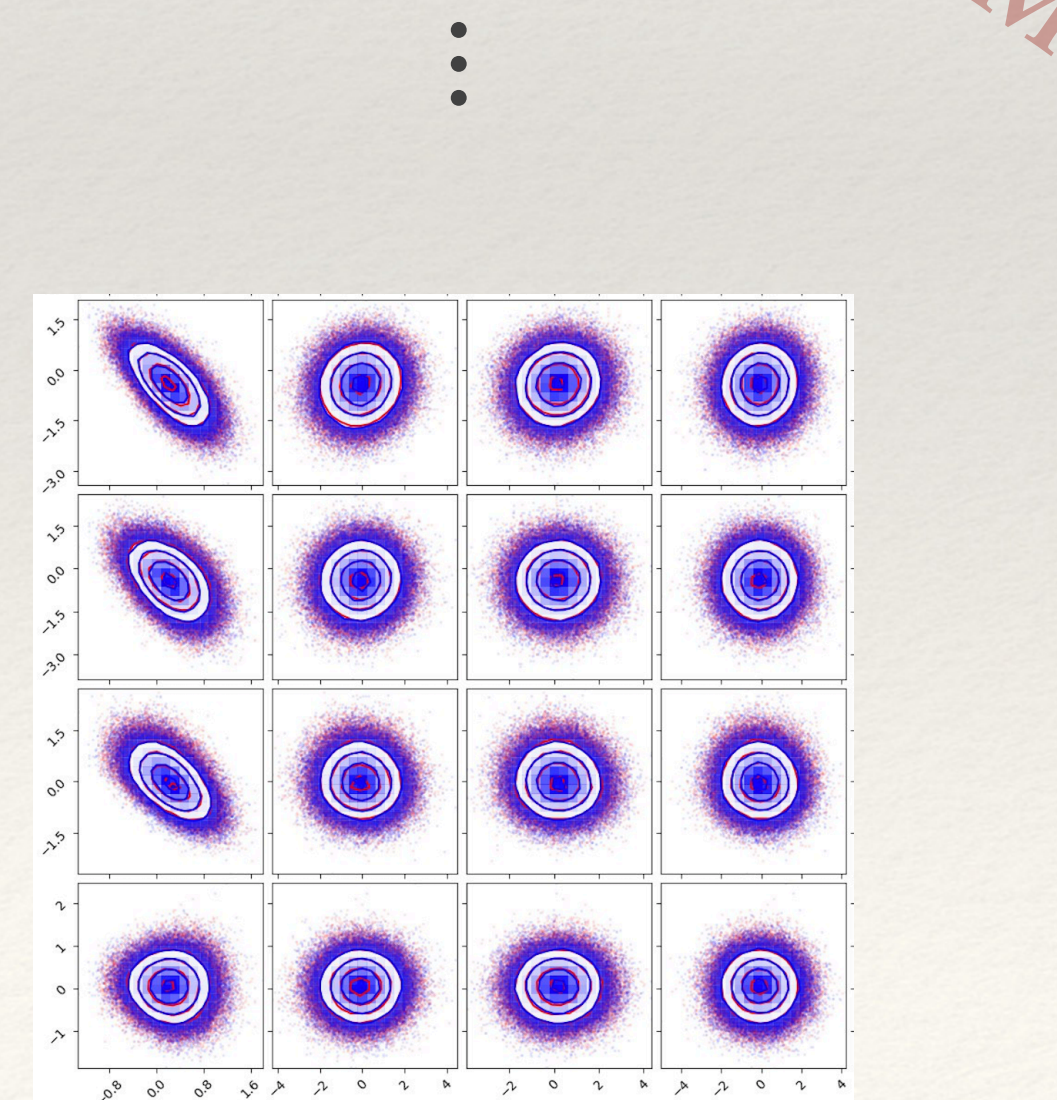
MAF, 3 Bijectors, 128x3 layers, 500k samples

*Metrics:*

Wasserstein distance: .0067

KS test: 0.507

Training time: 9.3 mins



**ANOTHER GREAT RESEMBLANCE!**



# Conclusion.

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- Can Normalizing Flows (NFs) help us on these endeavours?...**YES**

## **At high dimensions...**

- A-NSF can very effectively describe (uncorrelated) high-dimensional complex distributions.
- Fully correlated distributions are harder to describe, but autoregressive flows hold their ground.

- **We presented for the first time Unsupervised Learning of LHC Likelihood functions using Normalizing Flows!!**

...more to come



THANK YOU!

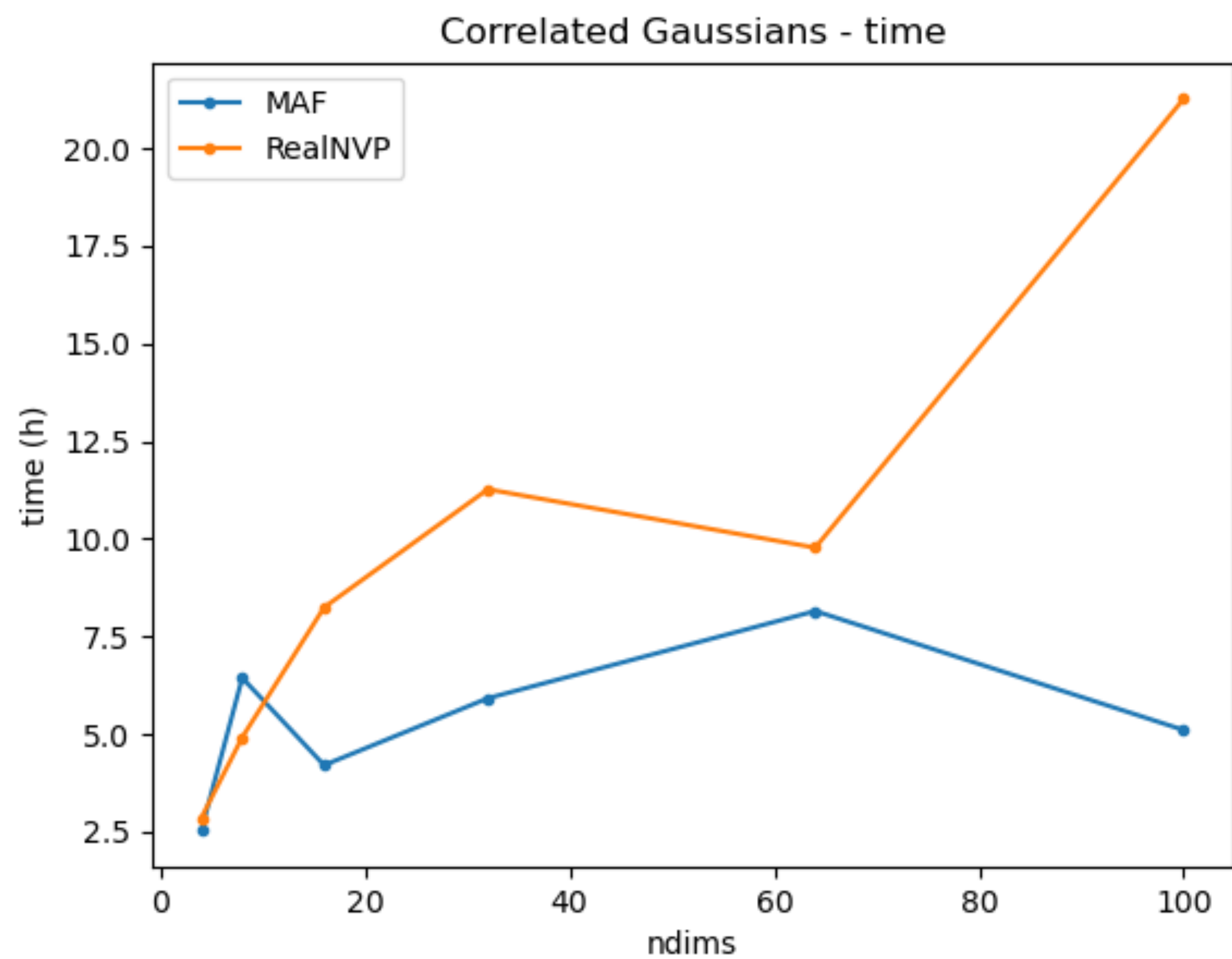


# BACK UP

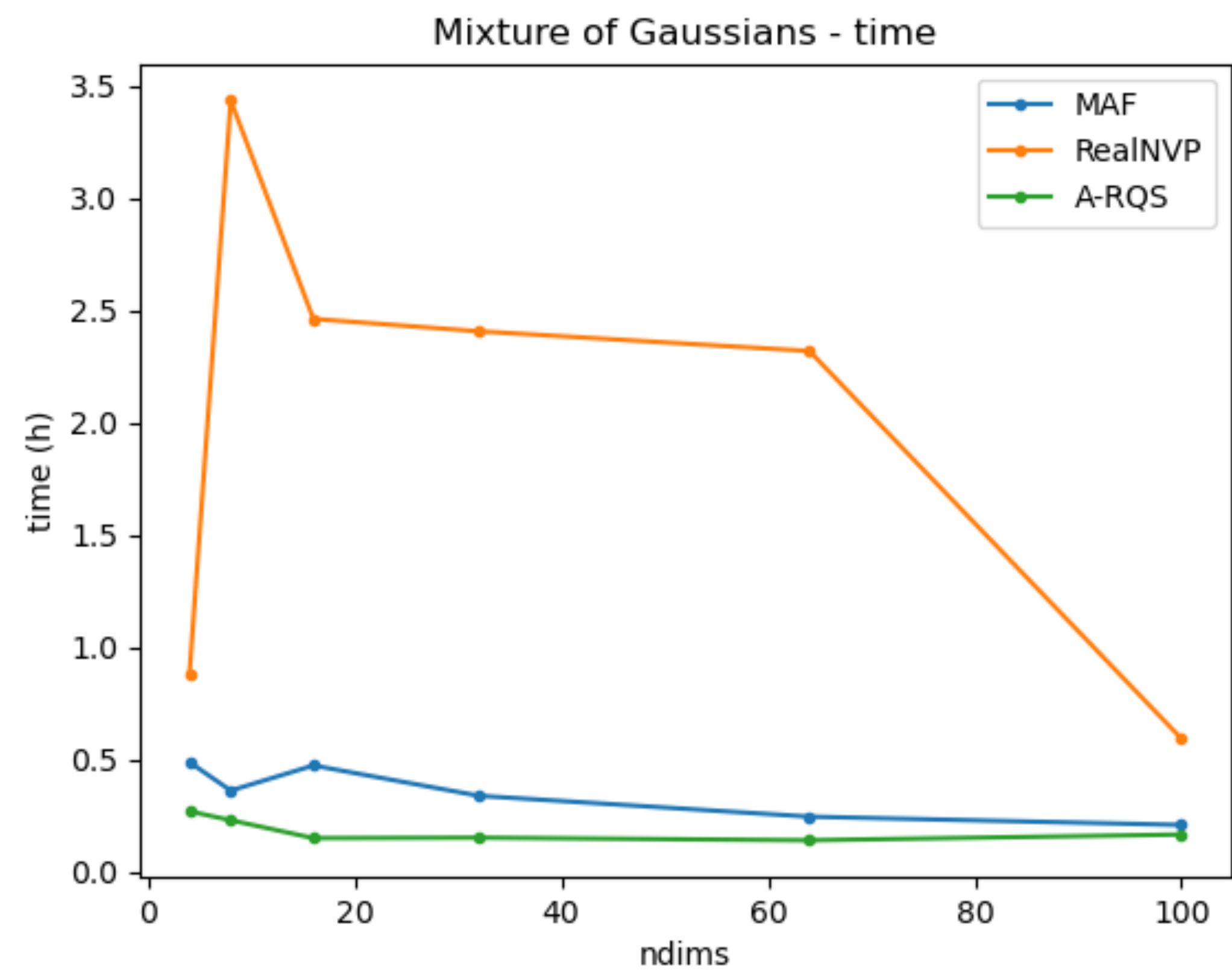


# Training time.

## Correlated Gaussians



## Mixture of Gaussians





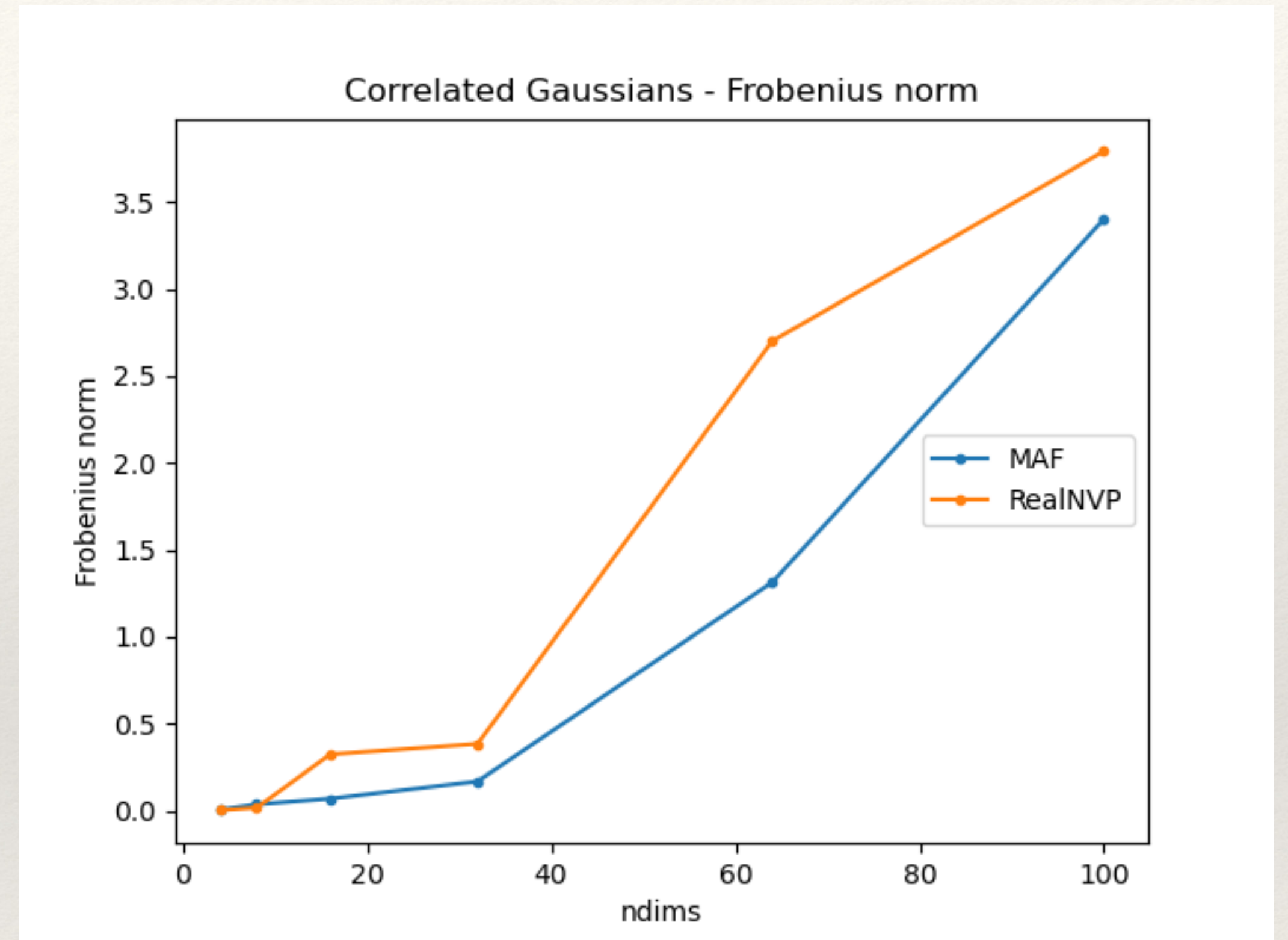
# Are correlations well learned?

Frobenius norm.

$$\|A\| = \left( \sum_{i,j} \text{abs}(a_{i,j})^2 \right)^{1/2}$$

where

$$A = \text{Corr}_{NF} - \text{Corr}_{real}$$

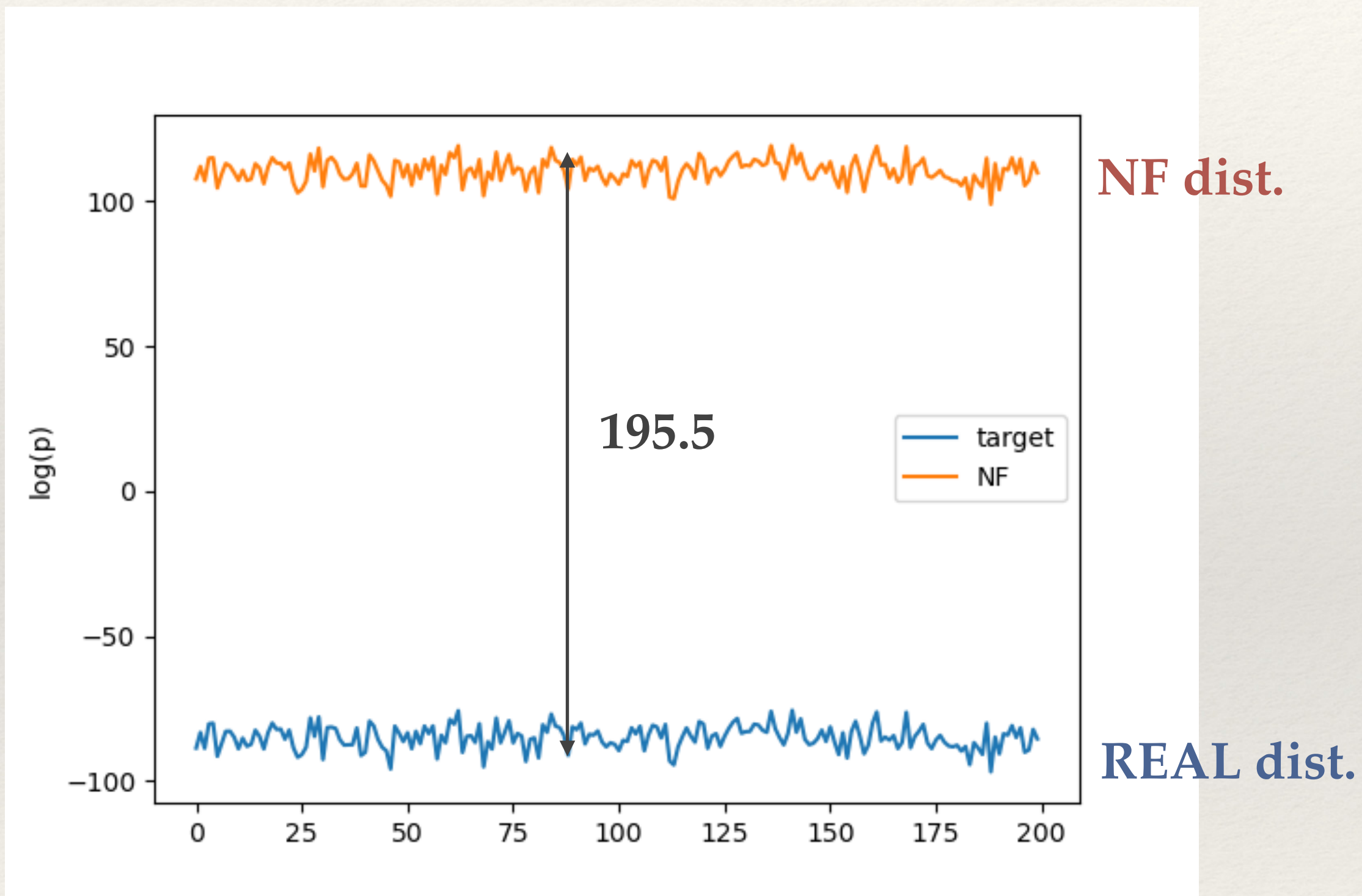


**WARNING: Not dimension-scaled**

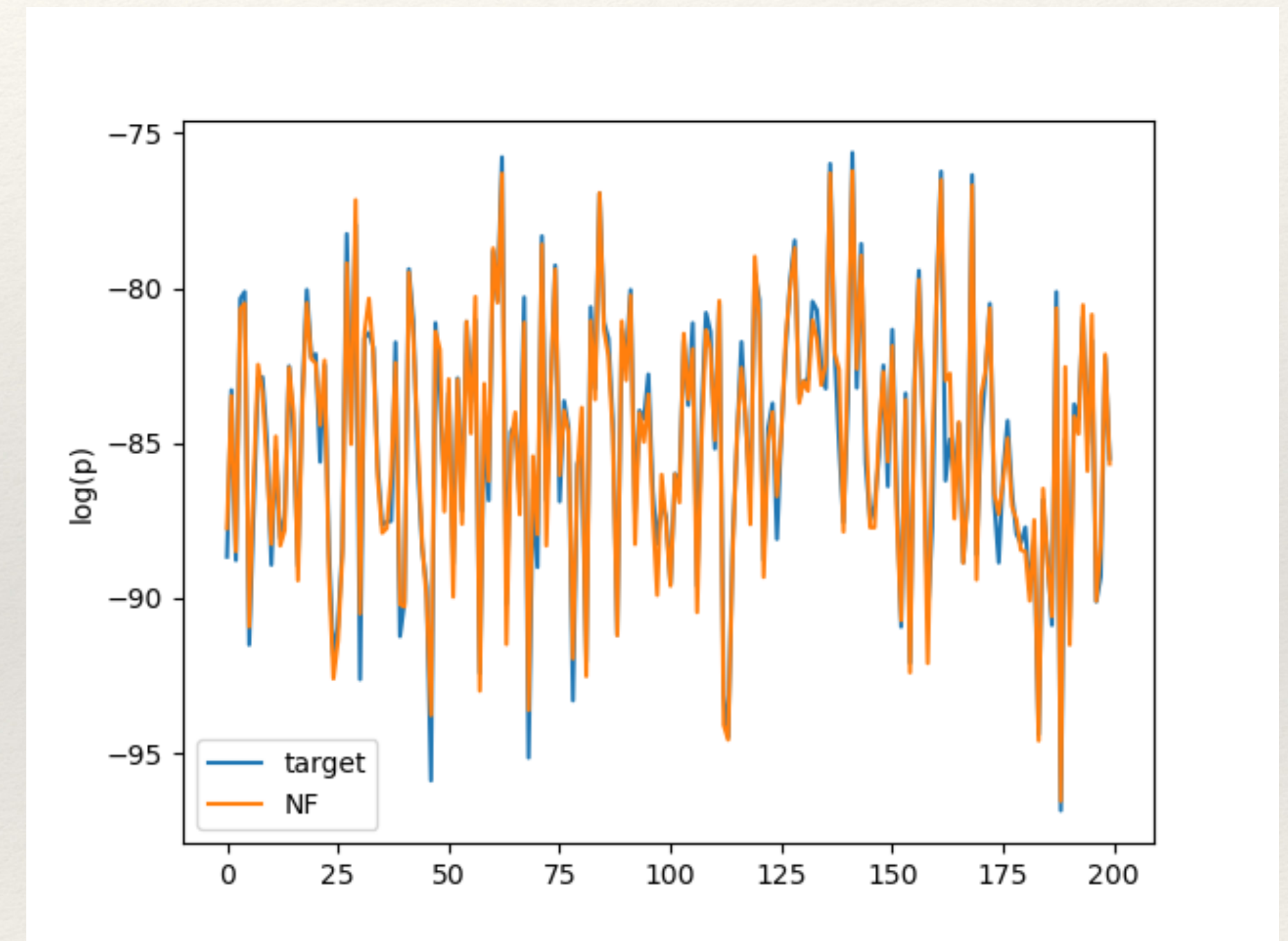


# On probability volumes

## EXAMPLE: EW-Fit.



KL divergence=-195.5, however  
Correlation between log probs=.996



Normalization might be required!



# Introduction.



Let's get formal...

- If  $Z$  is a random variable with pdf  $p_Z$ ,  $g$  is an invertible function such that  $Y = g(Z)$  and  $f = g^{-1}$ , then we can obtain the pdf  $p_Y$  of the random variable  $Y$  as

$$p_Y(y) = p_Z(f(y)) | \det(Df(y)) | = p_Z(f(y)) | \det(Dg(f(y))) |^{-1} \quad \text{where} \quad Dg(z) = \frac{\partial g}{\partial z} \quad Df(y) = \frac{\partial f}{\partial y}$$

Jacobians

- $N$  transformations are possible since...

$$f = f_1 \circ \dots \circ f_{N-1} \circ f_N$$

$$\det Df(y) = \prod_{i=1}^N \det(Df_i(x_i)) \quad \text{where} \quad x_i = g_i \circ \dots \circ g_1(z) = f_{i+1} \circ \dots \circ f_N(y)$$

- Since  $p_Z$  is parametrised by  $\phi$  and the bijector  $g$  by  $\theta$ , we can compute the **log probability** of some measured data  $\mathcal{D} = \{y^{(i)}\}_{i=1}^M$  given the parameters  $\Theta = (\theta, \phi)$  as

$$\log p(\mathcal{D} | \Theta) = \sum_{i=1}^M \log p_Y(y^{(i)} | \Theta) = \sum_{i=1}^M \log p_Z(f(y^{(i)} | \theta) | \phi) + \log | \det Df(y^{(i)} | \theta) |$$