

# Kotlin $\nabla$ : A Shape-safe DSL for Differentiable Programming

Breandan Considine, Michalis Famelis, Liam Paull

## Main Idea

- We create an embedded DSL for differentiable programming in Kotlin
- Supports shape checking and inference for multi-dimensional arrays
- Implementable in any language with first-class functions and generics

## Shape errors

There are three broad strategies for handling shape errors:

- Perform type coercion by implicitly broadcasting or reshaping arrays
- Raise a runtime error (e.g. `tf.errors.InvalidArgumentError`)
- Do not allow programs which can result in a shape error to compile

In Kotlin $\nabla$ , we prefer the last strategy. Consider the following scenario:

```
a = np.array('0 1 2 3 4 5')
b = np.array('6 7 8 9')
c = a + b
```

```
val a = Vec(0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5)
val b = Vec(6, 7, 8, 9)
val c = a + b
```

Similarly, when the inner dimensions of two matrices do not match:

```
a = np.matrix('0 1 2 ; 3 4 5')
b = np.matrix('6 7 ; 8 9')
c = a @ b
```

```
val a = Mat2x3(0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5)
val b = Mat2x2(6, 7, 8, 9)
val c = a * b
```

We can detect the presence and location of the error within the editor.

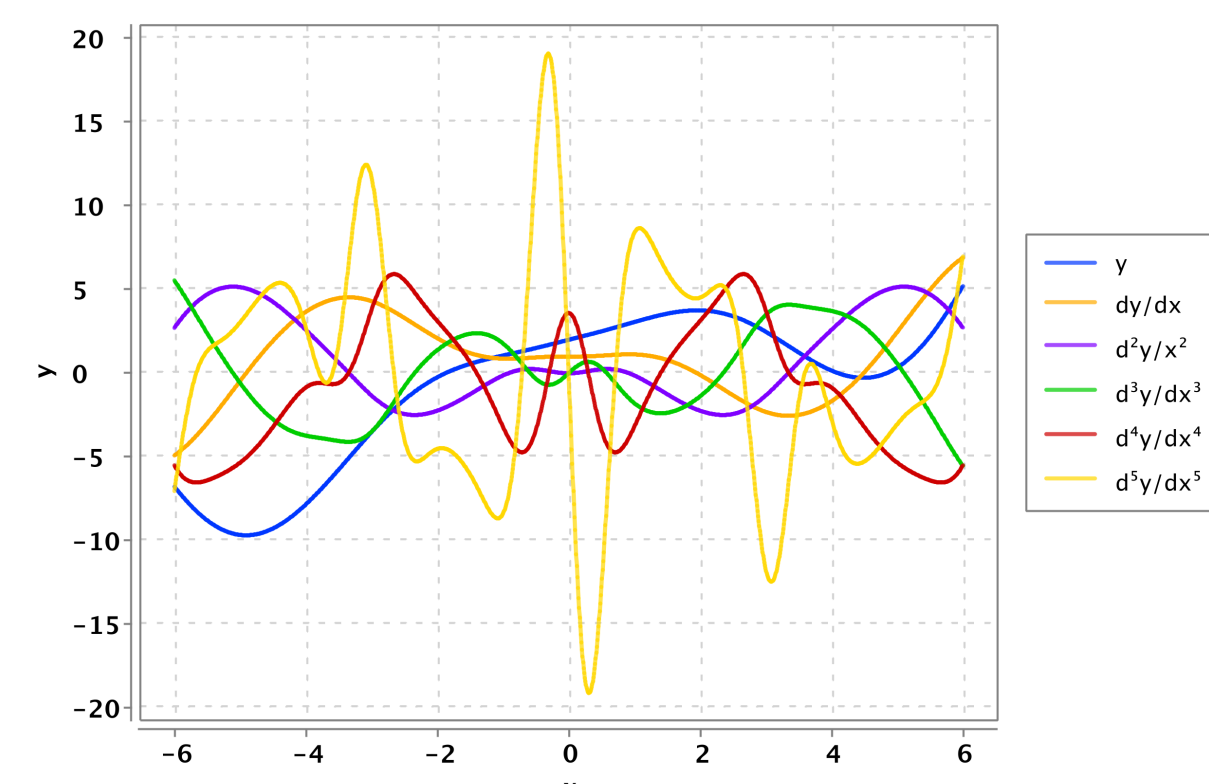
## Type system

| Math              | Infix   | Prefix                   | Postfix               | Operator Type Signature   |
|-------------------|---|--------------------------|-----------------------|---|
| $A(B), A \circ B$ | <code>a(b)</code>                             |                          |                       | $(a: \mathbb{R}^r \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n, b: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^r) \rightarrow (\mathbb{R}^r \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n)$                                  |
| $A \pm B$         | <code>a + b, a - b</code>                     | <code>plus(a, b)</code>  |                       | $(a: \mathbb{R}^r \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n, b: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^r) \rightarrow (\mathbb{R}^r \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n)$                                  |
| $AB$              | <code>a * b, a.times(b)</code>                | <code>times(a, b)</code> |                       | $(a: \mathbb{R}^r \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}, b: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{p \times q}) \rightarrow (\mathbb{R}^r \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{m \times p})$ |
| $\frac{A}{B}$     | <code>a / b</code>                            |                          |                       | $(a: \mathbb{R}^r \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}, b: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{p \times q}) \rightarrow (\mathbb{R}^r \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{m \times p})$ |
| $AB^{-1}$         | <code>a.div(b)</code>                         | <code>div(a, b)</code>   |                       | $(a: \mathbb{R}^r \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}, b: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{p \times q}) \rightarrow (\mathbb{R}^r \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{m \times p})$ |
| $\log_b A$        | <code>a.log(b)</code>                         | <code>log(a, b)</code>   |                       | $(a: \mathbb{R}^r \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}, b: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{p \times q}) \rightarrow (\mathbb{R}^r \rightarrow \mathbb{R})$              |
| $A^b$             | <code>a.pow(b)</code>                         | <code>pow(a, b)</code>   |                       | $(a: \mathbb{R}^r \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}, b: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}) \rightarrow (\mathbb{R}^r \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{m \times n})$              |
| $\nabla a$        |   | <code>grad(a)</code>     | <code>a.grad()</code> | $(a: C(\mathbb{R}^r \rightarrow \mathbb{R})) \rightarrow (\mathbb{R}^r \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^r)$   |
| $\nabla_B a$      | <code>a.d(b)</code><br><code>a.grad(b)</code> | <code>grad(a, b)</code>  |                       | $(a: C(\mathbb{R}^r \rightarrow \mathbb{R}), b: C(\mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n)) \rightarrow (\mathbb{R}^r \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n)$                              |

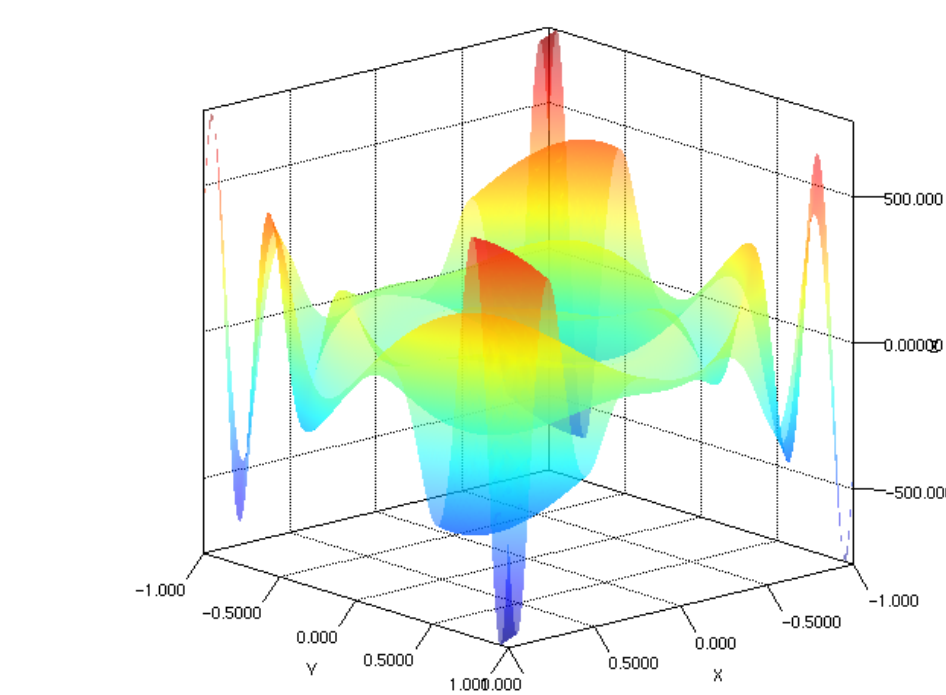
## Visualization

Kotlin $\nabla$  is capable of computing arbitrarily high order derivatives.

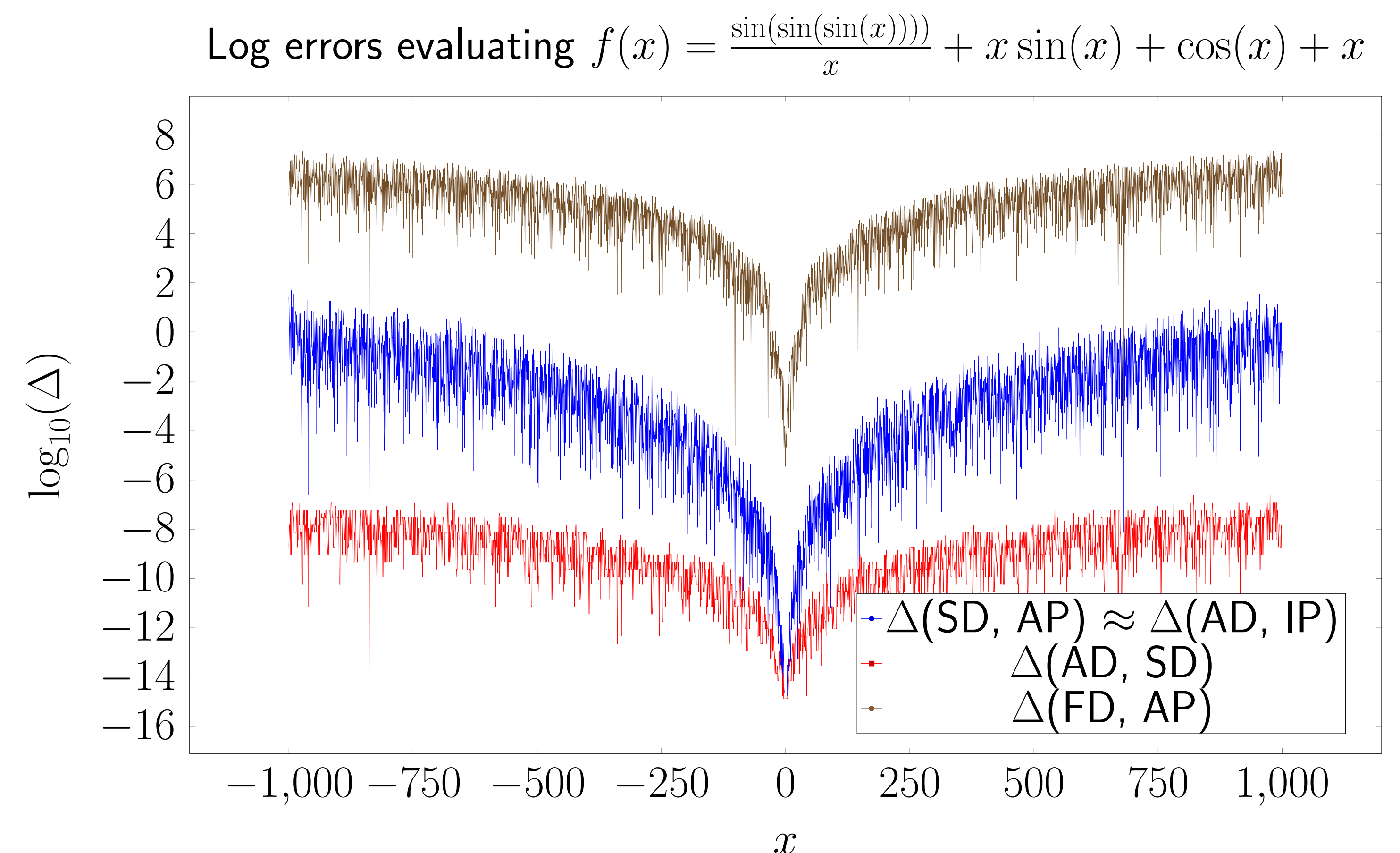
```
val y = sin(sin(sin(x))) / x
val z = y + sin(x) * x + cos(x) + x
val d1 = d(z) / d(x)
val d2 = d(d1) / d(x)
val d3 = d(d2) / d(x)
val d4 = d(d3) / d(x)
val d5 = d(d4) / d(x)
plot2D(-6..6, z, d1, d2, d3, d4, d5)
```



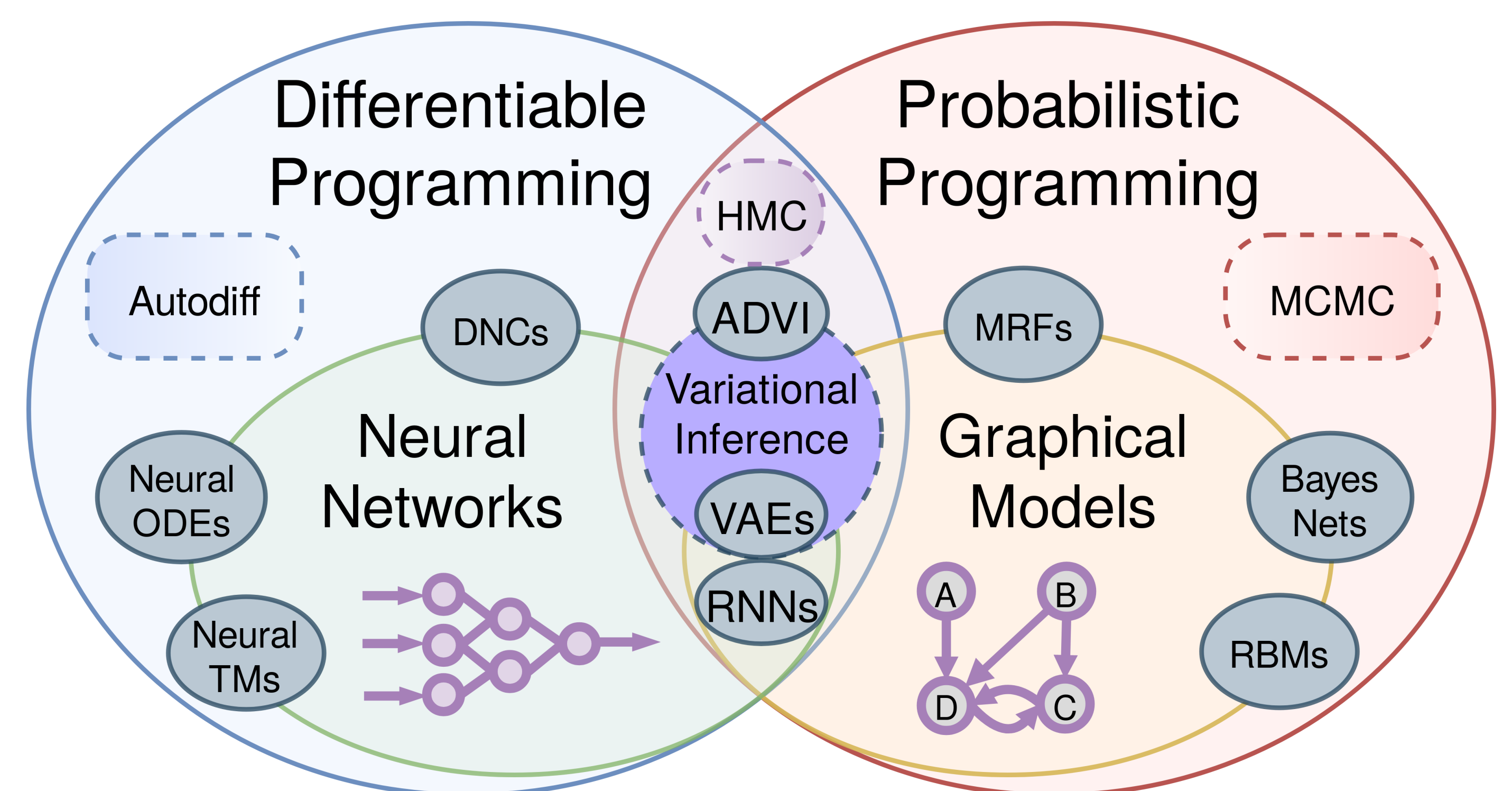
```
val Z = 10 * (x * x + pow(y, 2))
val sinZ = sin(Z)
val sinZ_10 = sinZ / 10
val dZ_dx = d(sinZ_10) / d(x)
val d2Z_dxdy = d(dZ_dx) / d(y)
val d3Z_d2xdy = grad(d2Z_dxdy)[x]
plot3D(-1..1, d3Z_d2xdy)
```



## Testing

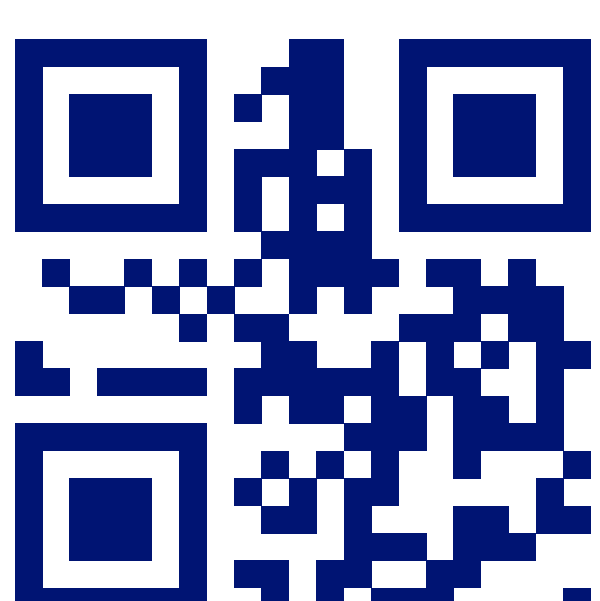
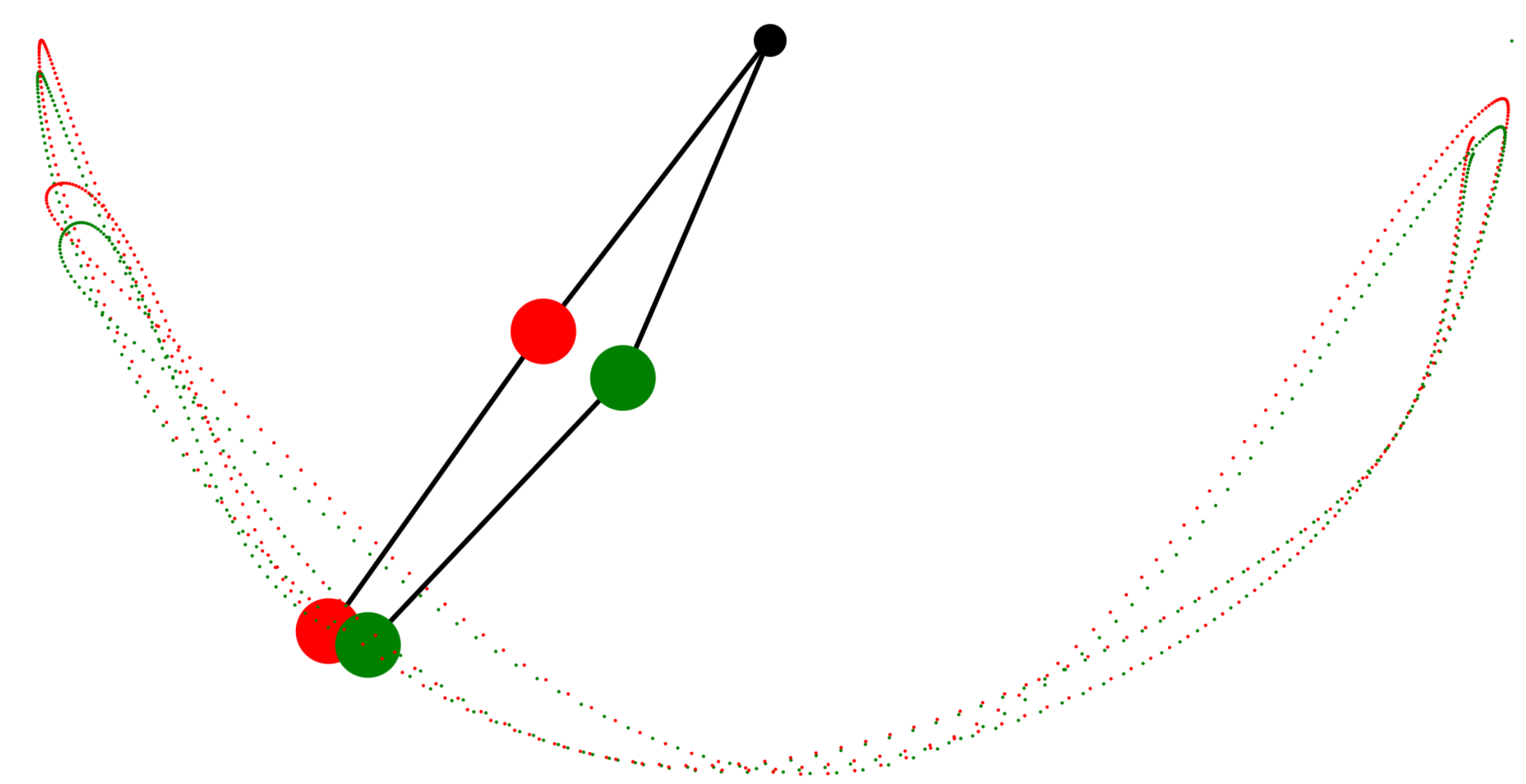


## Differentiable Programming



## Double Pendulum

$$\begin{aligned}\dot{\theta}_1 &= \frac{6}{ml^2} \frac{2p_{\theta_1} - 3 \cos(\theta_1 - \theta_2)p_{\theta_2}}{16 - 9 \cos^2(\theta_1 - \theta_2)} \\ \dot{\theta}_2 &= \frac{6}{ml^2} \frac{8p_{\theta_2} - 3 \cos(\theta_1 - \theta_2)p_{\theta_1}}{16 - 9 \cos^2(\theta_1 - \theta_2)} \\ \dot{p}_{\theta_1} &= \frac{\partial L}{\partial \theta_1} = -\frac{1}{2}ml^2 \left( \dot{\theta}_1 \dot{\theta}_2 \sin(\theta_1 - \theta_2) + 3 \frac{g}{l} \sin \theta_1 \right) \\ \dot{p}_{\theta_2} &= \frac{\partial L}{\partial \theta_2} = -\frac{1}{2}ml^2 \left( -\dot{\theta}_1 \dot{\theta}_2 \sin(\theta_1 - \theta_2) + \frac{g}{l} \sin \theta_2 \right).\end{aligned}$$



Université  
de Montréal

