

Sampling Methods on Manifolds and Their View from Probability Manifolds

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1 Introduction

2 Sampling on Manifolds

- Manifold Concepts
- MCMCs on Manifolds
- ParVIs on Manifolds

3 Understanding Sampling Methods on Probability Manifolds

- The Wasserstein Space
- Understanding ParVIs on the Wasserstein Space
- Understanding MCMCs on the Wasserstein Space

Introduction: the Sampling Task

The need of drawing samples from a distribution:

- Bayesian inference: $p(z|x) = p(z)p(x|z)/p(x) \propto p(z)p(x|z)$:



- Generative model generation (e.g., MRF generation).
- Monte Carlo estimation (e.g., MRF likelihood gradient, doubly-stochastic gradient).

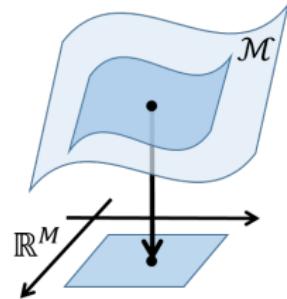
Introduction: Sampling Methods

Methods:

- Monte Carlo:
 - Directly draw i.i.d. samples.
 - Efficient but requires exact density.
- Markov Chain Monte Carlo (MCMC):
 - Draw samples by simulating a Markov chain with desired stationary distribution.
 - Admit unnormalized density but introduce autocorrelation.
- Particle-Based Variational Inference (ParVI):
 - Optimize a set of particles (i.e. samples) to drive the particle distribution towards the target distribution.
 - Admit unnormalized density but require assumption on the particle distribution (which affects performance).

Introduction: Manifold

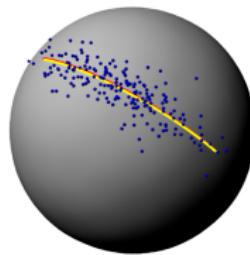
- Concept (M -dim manifold \mathcal{M}):
topological space locally homeomorphic to an open subset of \mathbb{R}^M .
- Merits:
 - Inclusive concept: globally releases linearity.
 - Rich structures can be equipped: distance, gradient, distribution, dynamics, etc.
 - Fundamental view of geometry:
parameterization-invariant.



Introduction: Sampling and Manifolds

Sampling from a distribution supported on a manifold.

- Spherical Admixture Model (SAM) [61]:
topics on spheres for better representation.

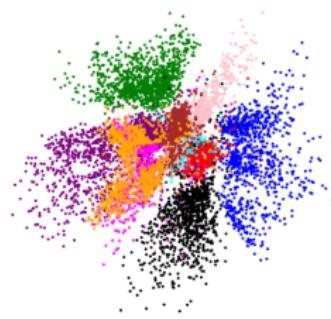


Model	Overall	Accuracy (%)			
		prin.	war	cond.	Italy
Bag-of-Words	57.9 ± 3.4	60.5	71.3	55.3	45.1
LDA	57.3 ± 3.0	59.4	63.9	58.1	34.9
movMF	49.6 ± 8.3	47.6	11.7	55.8	0.0
MH SAM $[\mathbb{S}_+]$	46.1 ± 6.9	46.5	31.8	54.4	8.3
MH SAM $[\mathbb{S}]$	59.4 ± 5.4	60.9	51.7	64.8	31.4
VEM SAM $[\mathbb{S}_+]$	58.7 ± 0.6	64.9	71.1	60.8	13.9
VEM SAM $[\mathbb{S}]$	65.2 ± 0.3	71.3	65.1	62.5	50.6

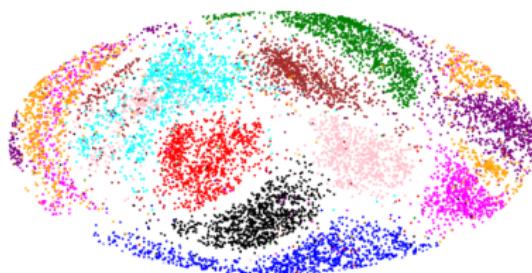
Introduction: Sampling and Manifolds

Sampling from a distribution supported on a manifold.

- Hyperspherical Variational Auto-Encoder [19, 30]: spherical latent space for uninformative prior.



(a) \mathbb{R}^2 latent space of the \mathcal{N} -VAE.

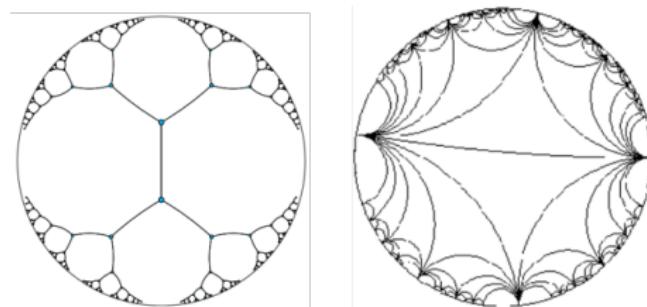


(b) Hammer projection of S^2 latent space of the \mathcal{S} -VAE.

Introduction: Sampling and Manifolds

Sampling from a distribution supported on a manifold.

- Hyperbolic Variational Auto-Encoders [53, 30, 59, 55]:
hyperbolic latent space (\mathcal{R}) for the analogy to a tree structure (\mathcal{L}).



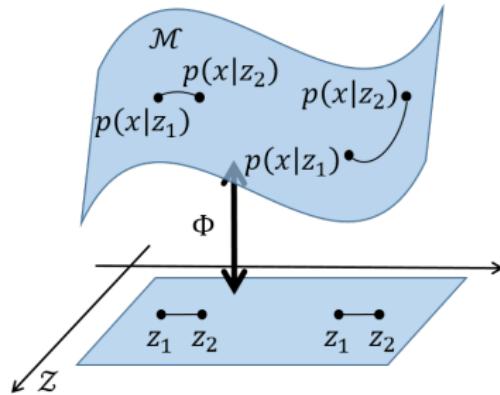
- Bayesian Matrix Factorization [64, 66, 73]:
factor matrices on Stiefel manifold [68, 33]
 $\{M \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n} \mid M^\top M = I_m\}$.

Introduction: Sampling and Manifolds

Sampling from a distribution supported on a manifold.

- Information Geometry [3, 4]:

for Bayesian inference $p(z|x)$ for a Bayesian model $\{p(z), p(x|z)\}$:



Introduction: Sampling and Manifolds

- Sampling from a distribution supported on a manifold:
How to comply to the manifold geometry while being efficient?
- Viewing Sampling Methods on Probability Manifolds:
 - ParVIs have a natural optimization interpretation on a probability space. Can it be made concrete?
 - Do MCMCs have a similar interpretation?

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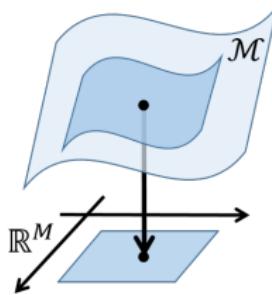
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Manifolds

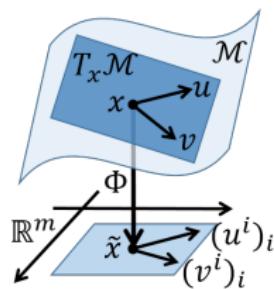
M -dim. manifold \mathcal{M} (a):

topological space locally homeomorphic to an open subset of \mathbb{R}^M .

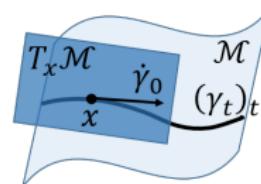
- Tangent vector v at $x \in \mathcal{M}$ (b): linear function $C^\infty(\mathcal{M}) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ satisfying the Leibniz rule (directional derivative).
 - A smooth curve γ_t through x defines a tangent vector (derivative along the curve) (c).
- Tangent space $T_x\mathcal{M}$ at x (b): M -dim. linear space.
- Flow of a vector field V (d): the set of curves $\{(\varphi_t)_t\}$ s.t. $\dot{\varphi}_t = V(\varphi_t)$ (exists at least locally).



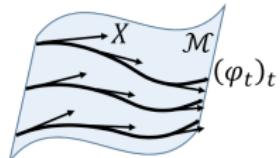
(a)



(b)



(c)



(d)

Manifolds

Riemannian structure: inner product in every tangent space $T_x\mathcal{M}$.

- Coordinate expression:

$$\langle u, v \rangle_{T_x\mathcal{M}} = g_{ij}(x)u^i v^j.$$

- Gradient of f :

$$\langle \text{grad } f(x), v \rangle_{T_x\mathcal{M}} = v[f] := v^i \partial_i f(x).$$

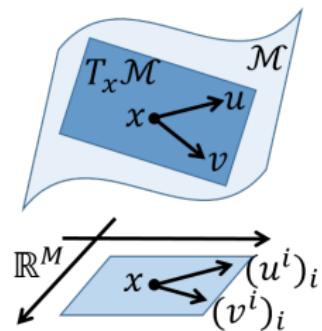
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Steepest ascending direction:

$$\text{grad } f(x) = \max \cdot \underset{\|v\|_{T_x\mathcal{M}}=1}{\text{argmax}} \frac{d}{dt} f(\varphi_t).$$

Coordinate expression:

$$(\text{grad } f(x))^i = g^{ij}(x) \partial_j f(x).$$



Manifolds

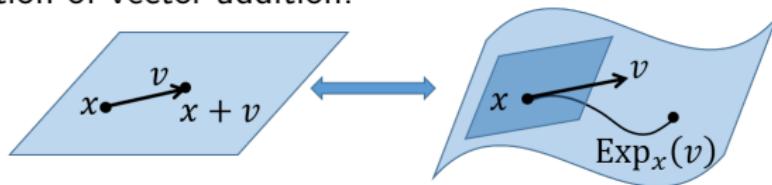
Riemannian structure: inner product in every tangent space $T_x \mathcal{M}$.

- Distance: $d(x, y) = \sqrt{\inf_{\gamma_t: \gamma_0=x, \gamma_1=y} \int_0^1 \langle \dot{\gamma}_t, \dot{\gamma}_t \rangle_{T_{\gamma_t} \mathcal{M}} dt}$.
- Geodesic: the minimizing curve(s) when it exists (e.g., when \mathcal{M} is complete as a metric space [32]).
 - More fundamental definition: auto-parallel curves under an affine connection (covariant derivative).
 - Generalization of straight lines.

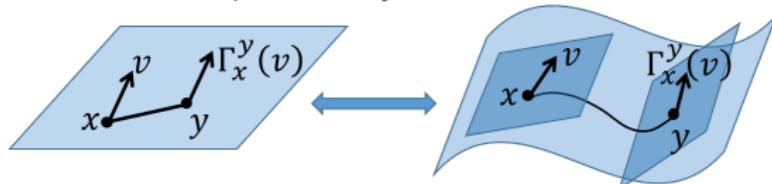
Manifolds

Riemannian structure: inner product in every tangent space $T_x\mathcal{M}$.

- Exponential map $\text{Exp}_x(v)$: maps $v \in T_x\mathcal{M}$ to the end point of the geodesic tangent to v at x with length $\|v\|_{T_x\mathcal{M}}$.
 - Generalization of vector addition.



- Parallel transport $\Gamma_x^y(v)$: moves $v \in T_x\mathcal{M}$ to $T_y\mathcal{M}$ (in a certain sense of) parallelly, along the geodesic from x to y .
 - Generalization of conventional parallel transport.
 - Generally is path-dependent.
 - More fundamental def.: specified by an affine connection.



Manifolds

Measures on orientable manifolds can be expressed by volume forms:

- Volume form: alternative linear $(T_x \mathcal{M})^M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ for every x .
- Lebesgue measure of a coordinate space: $dx^1 \wedge \cdots \wedge dx^M$.
- Riemannian volume form (Riemannian measure): coordinate invariant volume form $\sqrt{|G|} dx^1 \wedge \cdots \wedge dx^M$.

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MCMCs on Euclidean Space

Classical MCMCs: high autocorrelation.

- Metropolis-Hastings algorithm [54, 31].
- Gibbs sampling [27].

Dynamics-Based MCMCs: more effective move.

- Dynamics: continuous-time no-jump Markov process:

$$dx = V(x) dt + \sqrt{2D(x)} dB_t(x).$$

- Key tool: the Fokker-Planck Equation:

$$\partial_t p_t = -\partial_i(p_t V^i) + \partial_i \partial_j(p_t D^{ij}).$$

MCMCs on Euclidean Space

Dynamics-Based MCMCs: more effective move.

- Langevin Dynamics (LD) [39] ([63, 62, 71]):

$$dx = \Sigma^{-1} \nabla \log p dt + \sqrt{2\Sigma^{-1}} dB_t(x).$$

- Hamiltonian Dynamics (Hamiltonian Monte Carlo (HMC) [21, 56, 10]):

$$\begin{cases} dx = \Sigma^{-1} r dt, \\ dr = \nabla \log p dt. \end{cases}$$

- Stochastic Gradient Hamiltonian Monte Carlo (SGHMC) [37, 15]:

$$\begin{cases} dx = \Sigma^{-1} r dt, \\ dr = \nabla \log p dt - Cr dt + \sqrt{2C\Sigma} dB_t(r). \end{cases}$$

- Stochastic Gradient Nosé-Hoover Thermostats (SGNHT) [20]:

$$\begin{cases} dx = \Sigma^{-1} r dt, \\ dr = \nabla \log p dt - \xi r dt + \sqrt{2C\Sigma} dB_t(r), \\ d\xi = (\frac{1}{M} r^\top \Sigma^{-1} r - 1) dt. \end{cases}$$

MCMCs on Euclidean Space

Dynamics-Based MCMCs: more effective move.

- The complete recipe [51] for the dynamics:

$$\begin{aligned} dx &= V(x) dt + \sqrt{2D(x)} dB_t(x), \\ V^i(x) &= \partial_j \left(p(x) (D^{ij}(x) + Q^{ij}(x)) \right) / p(x), \end{aligned} \tag{1}$$

for some pos. semi-def. $D_{M \times M}$ (diffusion matrix) and skew-symm. $Q_{M \times M}$ (curl matrix), keeps p invariant.

- The inverse also holds.
- If D is pos. def., then p is the unique stationary distribution.

MCMCs on Euclidean Space

Dynamics-Based MCMCs: more effective move.

- Stochastic Gradient MCMC: for Bayesian inference,

$$\nabla_z \log p(z | \{x^{(n)}\}_{n=1}^N) = \nabla_z \log p(z) + \sum_{n=1}^N \nabla_z \log p(x^{(n)} | z),$$

$$\begin{aligned}\tilde{\nabla}_z \log p(z | \{x^{(n)}\}_{n=1}^N) &:= \nabla_z \log p(z) + \frac{N}{|\mathcal{S}|} \sum_{n \in \mathcal{S}} \nabla_z \log p(x^{(n)} | z) \\ &\approx \nabla_z \log p(z | \{x^{(n)}\}_{n=1}^N) + \mathcal{N}(0, A(z)).\end{aligned}$$

Influence on the dynamics $\mathrm{d}x = V(x) \mathrm{d}t + \sqrt{2D(x)} \mathrm{d}B_t(x)$:

$$\mathrm{Var}(V(x) \mathrm{d}t) = \mathrm{Var}(V(x)) \mathrm{d}t^2 = o(\mathrm{d}t),$$

$$\mathrm{Var}(\sqrt{2D(x)} \mathrm{d}B_t(x)) = 2D(x) \mathrm{d}t.$$

- HMC cannot be simulated using stochastic gradient [15, 9].

MCMCs on Riemannian Manifolds

In the coordinate space (p is the density w.r.t. the Lebesgue meas.):

- Riemann Manifold Langevin Dynamics (RMLD) [28, 60]:

$$dx = G^{-1} \nabla \log p dt + \nabla \cdot G^{-1} dt + \sqrt{2G^{-1}} dB_t(x).$$

- Riemann Manifold Hamiltonian Monte Carlo (RMHMC) [28]:

$$\begin{cases} dx = G^{-1}r dt, \\ dr = \nabla \log(p/\sqrt{|G|}) dt - \frac{1}{2}\nabla(r^\top G^{-1}r) dt. \end{cases}$$

- Stochastic Gradient Riemann Hamiltonian Monte Carlo (SGRHMC) [51]:

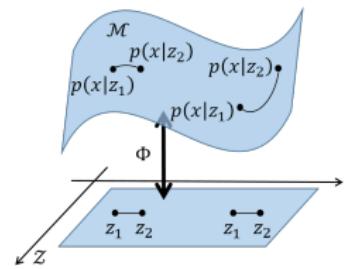
$$\begin{cases} dx = G^{-1/2}r dt, \\ dr = G^{-1/2}\nabla \log p dt + \nabla \cdot G^{-1/2} dt - G^{-1}r dt + \sqrt{2G^{-1}} dB_t(r). \end{cases}$$

MCMCs on Riemannian Manifolds

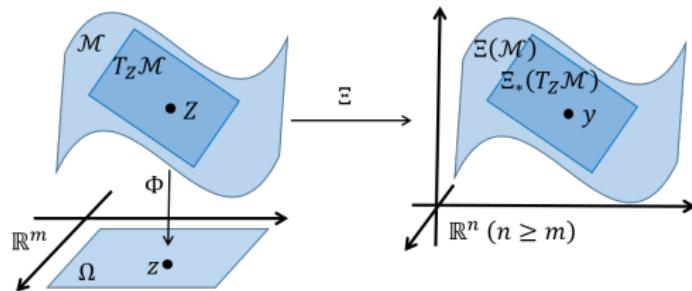
In the coordinate space: application using the Fisher-Rao Metric
 (information geometry [3, 4]):

- Given a Bayesian model $p(z), p(x|z)$, z is a coordinate of the manifold $\{p(x|z) \mid z \in \mathcal{Z}\}$.
- Fisher-Rao metric:

$$G(z) := \mathbb{E}_{p(x|z)}[\nabla_z^\top \log p(x|z) \nabla_z \log p(x|z)].$$
 - Derived from the KL divergence.
 - Corresp. distance is the $(\sqrt{8} \times)$ JS divergence.
 - Invariant under reparameterization of z .
- HMC (L) and RMHMC (R) [28]:



MCMCs on Riemannian Manifolds



Problems of coordinate space: a global one may not exist (e.g. hyperspheres $\mathbb{S}^{n-1} := \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n \mid \|x\|_2 = 1\}$).

- Cumbersome to switch between coordinate systems.
- G would be singular near the edge of a coordinate space.

Simulation in an embedded space $\Xi(\mathcal{M})$: homeo. injective $\Xi : \mathcal{M} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$.

- Global representation.
- Common manifolds have a natural (isometric) embedding.
- Hausdorff meas. on $\Xi(\mathcal{M})$ (isom. emb.) is the Riem. meas. on \mathcal{M} .

MCMCs on Riemannian Manifolds

RMHMC in the embedded space:

- Constraint HMC (CHMC) [11].
- Geodesic Monte Carlo (GMC) [12].

Stochastic Gradient MCMCs in the embedded space [42]:

- Stochastic Gradient Geodesic Monte Carlo (SGGMC).
- Geodesic Stochastic Gradient Nosé-Hoover Thermostats (gSGNHT).

Stochastic Gradient MCMCs in the Embedded Space

Table: A summary of MCMCs on Riemannian Manifolds. –: sampling on manifold not supported; †: The integrators are not in the SSI scheme (It is unclear whether the claimed “2nd-order” is equivalent to ours); ‡: 2nd-order integrators for SGHMC and mSGNHT are developed by [13] and [40], respectively.

methods	stochastic gradient	no inner iteration	no global coordinates	order of integrator
LD [63, 62]	×	✓	–	1st
HMC [56]	×	✓	–	2nd
GMC [12]	×	✓	✓	2nd
RMLD [28]	×	✓	✗	1st
RMHMC [28]	×	✗	✗	2nd†
CHMC [11]	×	✗	✓	2nd†
SGLD [71]	✓	✓	–	1st
SGHMC [15] / SGNHT [20]	✓	✓	–	1st‡
SGRLD [60] / SGRHMC [51]	✓	✓	✗	1st
SGGMC / gSGNHT [42]	✓	✓	✓	2nd

Stochastic Gradient MCMCs in the Embedded Space

SGGMC dynamics (coordinate space):

- Augment with the momentum $r \in \mathbb{R}^m$ (more precisely, covector $\in T_x^*\mathcal{M}$).
- Augmented target distribution:

$$-\log p(z, r) = \underbrace{-\log p(z|x)}_{\text{potential energy}} + \frac{1}{2} \log |G(z)| + \underbrace{\frac{1}{2} r^\top G(z)^{-1} r}_{\text{kinetic energy}}.$$

- Let \mathcal{M} isom. emb. in \mathbb{R}^n via $y = \Xi(x)$. Define:

$$D(z) = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & J(z)^\top C J(z) \end{pmatrix}, \quad Q(z) = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -I \\ I & 0 \end{pmatrix},$$

where $J_{n \times m} : J_{ai} = \frac{\partial y^a}{\partial x^i}$ ($J^\top J = G$).

Stochastic Gradient MCMCs in the Embedded Space

SGGMC dynamics (coordinate space):

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} dz = G^{-1} r dt \\ dr = \nabla_z \log p(z|x) dt - \frac{1}{2} \nabla_z \log |G(z)| dt \\ \quad - J^\top C J G^{-1} r dt - \frac{1}{2} \nabla_z [r^\top G^{-1} r] dt \\ \quad + \mathcal{N}(0, 2J^\top C J dt) \end{array} \right.$$

Stochastic Gradient MCMCs in the Embedded Space

SGGMC simulation (emb. sp.): Symmetric Splitting Integrator (SSI) [13].

- Split SGGMC dynamics (in the coordinate space):

$$\begin{cases} \mathrm{d}z = G^{-1} r \mathrm{d}t \\ \mathrm{d}r = \nabla_z \log p(z|x) \mathrm{d}t - \frac{1}{2} \nabla_z \log |G(z)| \mathrm{d}t \\ \quad - J^\top C J G^{-1} r \mathrm{d}t - \frac{1}{2} \nabla_z [r^\top G^{-1} r] \mathrm{d}t \\ \quad + \mathcal{N}(0, 2J^\top C J \mathrm{d}t) \end{cases}$$

$$A : \begin{cases} \mathrm{d}z = G^{-1} r \mathrm{d}t \\ \mathrm{d}r = -\frac{1}{2} \nabla_z [r^\top G^{-1} r] \mathrm{d}t \end{cases} \Rightarrow (z_t, r_t) = \text{GeodFlow}(z_0, r_0) \quad [1, 12]$$

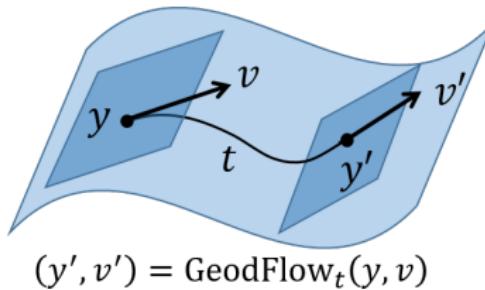
$$B : \begin{cases} \mathrm{d}z = 0 \\ \mathrm{d}r = -J^\top C J G^{-1} r \mathrm{d}t \end{cases} \Rightarrow \begin{cases} z_t = z_0 \\ r_t = J^\top \expm{-Ct} J G^{-1} r_0 \end{cases}$$

$$O : \begin{cases} \mathrm{d}z = 0 \\ \mathrm{d}r = \nabla_z \log p(z|x) \mathrm{d}t \\ \quad - \frac{1}{2} \nabla_z \log |G(z)| \mathrm{d}t \\ \quad + \mathcal{N}(0, 2J^\top C J \mathrm{d}t) \end{cases} \Rightarrow \begin{cases} z_t = z_0 \\ r_t = \nabla_z \log p(z_0|x) t \\ \quad - \frac{1}{2} \nabla_z \log |G(z_0)| t \\ \quad + \mathcal{N}(0, 2J^\top C J t) \end{cases}$$

Stochastic Gradient MCMCs in the Embedded Space

SGGMC simulation (emb. sp.): Symmetric Splitting Integrator (SSI) [13].

- Dynamics A in the **embedded space**: geodesic flow (i.e., exponential map + parallel transport).



Example 1 (Geodesic flow of hypersphere \mathbb{S}^{n-1} in the embedded space)

$$\begin{cases} y(t) = y(0) \cos(\alpha t) + (v(0)/\alpha) \sin(\alpha t) \\ v(t) = -\alpha y(0) \sin(\alpha t) + v(0) \cos(\alpha t) \end{cases},$$

where $y \in \mathbb{S}^{n-1}$, $v = \dot{y} \in T_y(\mathbb{S}^{n-1})$, and $\alpha = \|v(0)\|$.

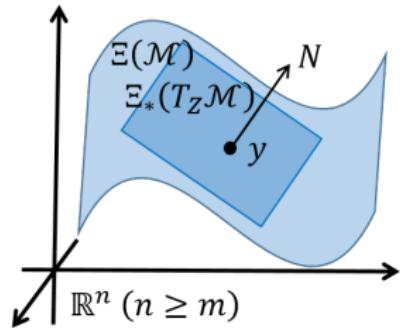
Stochastic Gradient MCMCs in the Embedded Space

SGGMC simulation (emb. sp.): Symmetric Splitting Integrator (SSI) [13].

- Dynamics B and O in the **embedded space**:

$$B : \begin{cases} y(t) = y(0) \\ v(t) = \Lambda(y(0)) \exp\{-Ct\}v(0) \end{cases}$$

$$O : \begin{cases} y(t) = y(0) \\ v(t) = v(0) + \Lambda(y(0))[\nabla_y \log p_{\mathcal{H}}(y(0)|x)t \\ \quad + \mathcal{N}(0, 2Ct)], \end{cases}$$



where: $p_{\mathcal{H}}$ is the density function w.r.t. the Hausdorff measure, and $\Lambda(y) = I_n - P(y)P(y)^\top$ is the projection onto $\Xi_*(T_z \mathcal{M})$.

Example 2 (The projection $\Lambda(y)$ for hypersphere in the embedded space)

$$\Lambda(y) = I_n - yy^\top.$$

Stochastic Gradient MCMCs in the Embedded Space

SGGMC simulation (emb. sp.): Symmetric Splitting Integrator (SSI) [13].

- Simulate following the sequence “ABOBA”:

Algorithm 1 Sampling procedure of SGGMC

Sample a subset \mathcal{S} for computing $\tilde{\nabla}_y \log p_{\mathcal{H}}(y)$. $(y_0, v_0) \leftarrow (y^{(n-1)}, v^{(n-1)})$.

for $l = 1, 2, \dots, L$ **do**

A: Update $(y^*, v^*) \leftarrow (y_{l-1}, v_{l-1})$ by the geodesic flow for time step $\frac{\varepsilon_n}{2}$.

B: $v^* \leftarrow \exp\{-C\frac{\varepsilon_n}{2}\}v^*$.

O: $v^* \leftarrow v^* + \Lambda(y^*) \cdot \left[\tilde{\nabla}_y \log p_{\mathcal{H}}(y^*) \varepsilon_n + \mathcal{N}(0, (2C - \varepsilon_n V(y^*)) \varepsilon_n) \right]$.

B: $v^* \leftarrow \exp\{-C\frac{\varepsilon_n}{2}\}v^*$.

A: Update $(y_l, v_l) \leftarrow (y^*, v^*)$ by the geodesic flow for time step $\frac{\varepsilon_n}{2}$.

end for

- Second-order simulation: $\text{MSE} = O(L^{-2K/(2K+1)})$ [13].

Stochastic Gradient MCMCs in the Embedded Space

gSGNHT dynamics:

$$\begin{cases} dz = G^{-1} r \, dt, \\ dr = \nabla_z \log p(z|x) \, dt - \frac{1}{2} \nabla_z \log |G| \, dt - \xi r \, dt - \frac{1}{2} \nabla_z [r^\top G^{-1} r] \, dt + \mathcal{N}(0, 2CG \, dt), \\ d\xi = \left(\frac{1}{m} r^\top G^{-1} r - 1 \right) \, dt. \end{cases}$$

gSGNHT simulation:

Algorithm 2 Sampling procedure of gSGNHT

- A: Update $(y^*, v^*) \leftarrow (y_{l-1}, v_{l-1})$ by the geodesic flow for time step $\frac{\varepsilon_n}{2}$,
 $\xi^* \leftarrow \xi_{l-1} + \left(\frac{1}{m} v_{l-1}^\top v_{l-1} - 1 \right) \frac{\varepsilon_n}{2}$.
- B: $v^* \leftarrow \exp\{-\xi^* \frac{\varepsilon_n}{2}\} v^*$.
- O: $v^* \leftarrow v^* + \Lambda(y^*) \cdot \left[\tilde{\nabla}_y \log p_{\mathcal{H}}(y^*) \varepsilon_n + \mathcal{N}(0, (2C - \varepsilon_n V(y^*)) \varepsilon_n) \right]$.
- B: $v^* \leftarrow \exp\{-\xi^* \frac{\varepsilon_n}{2}\} v^*$.
- A: Update $(y_l, v_l) \leftarrow (y^*, v^*)$ by the geodesic flow for time step $\frac{\varepsilon_n}{2}$,

Stochastic Gradient MCMCs in the Embedded Space

Experimental results:

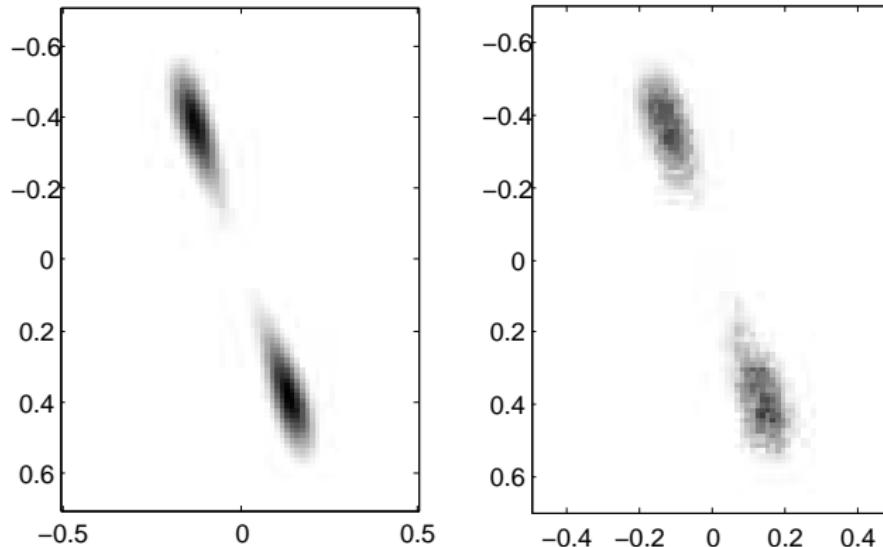
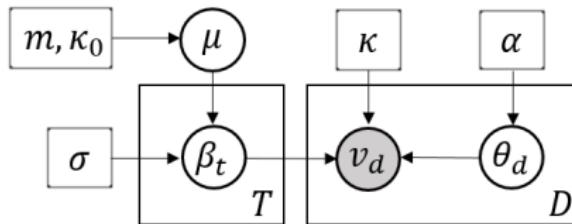


Figure: Joint posterior of z_1 and z_2 in gray scale. Left: true distribution; Right: empirical distribution by samples of SGGMC.

Stochastic Gradient MCMCs in the Embedded Space

Experimental results: inference for Spherical Admixture Model (SAM) [61]

- Model structure:



- Document v (e.g., normalized tf-idf), topic β , corpus mean μ : on hyperspheres.
- Posterior of interest: $p(\beta|v)$.

$$\nabla_{\beta} \log p(\beta|v) = \frac{1}{p(\beta|v)} \nabla_{\beta} \int p(\beta, \theta|v) d\theta = \mathbb{E}_{p(\theta|\beta, v)} [\nabla_{\beta} \log p(\beta, \theta|v)].$$

Run another MCMC (GMC [12]) to sample from $p(\theta|\beta, v)$ (supported on simplex) to estimate the expectation.

Stochastic Gradient MCMCs in the Embedded Space

Experimental results: inference for Spherical Admixture Model (SAM) [61]

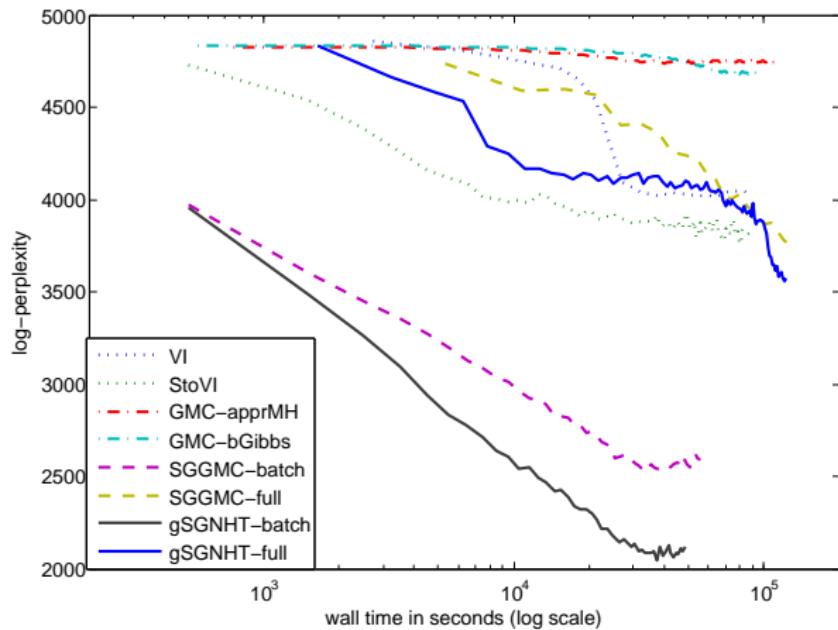


Figure: Results on the 150K Wikipedia subset (150K training and 1K test, 50 topics)

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ParVIs on Euclidean Space

Particle-Based Variational Inference (ParVI):

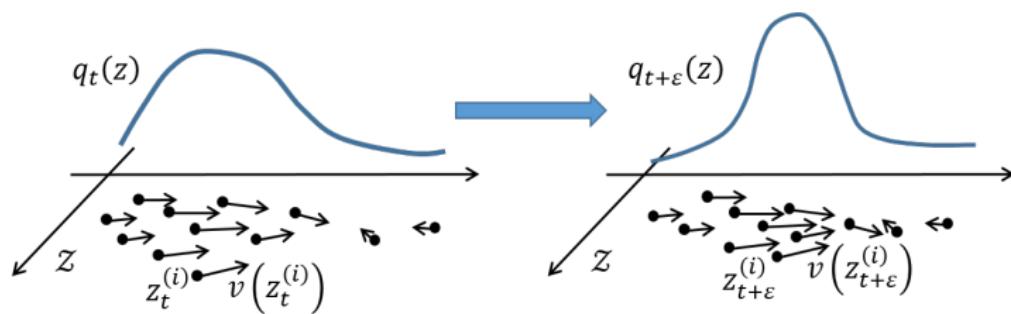
optimize a set of particles (i.e. samples) to drive the particle distribution towards the target distribution.

- More flexible and accurate than classical (i.e., statistical-model-based) variational inference.
- Has a better convergence perspective than MCMCs.
- More particle-efficient than MCMCs.

ParVIs on Euclidean Space

Stein Variational Gradient Descent (SVGD) [46]:

- A deterministic dynamics $\dot{z}_t = v(z_t)$ on $\mathcal{M} = \mathbb{R}^m$ induces a continuously-evolving distribution $(q_t)_t$ on \mathcal{M} :



$$\partial_t q_t = -\nabla \cdot (q_t v). \text{ (continuity equation / det. FPE)}$$

ParVIs on Euclidean Space

Stein Variational Gradient Descent (SVGD) [46]:

- To drive $(q_t)_t$ towards p , let it minimize $\text{KL}(q_t \| p)$:
 - Find the decreasing rate (directional derivative):

$$-\frac{d}{dt} \text{KL}(q_t \| p) = \mathbb{E}_q[v \cdot \nabla \log p + \nabla \cdot v].$$

- Find v maximizing the decreasing rate

$$v^* := \max \cdot \operatorname{argmax}_{\|v\|_{\mathfrak{X}}=1} -\frac{d}{dt} \text{KL}(q_t \| p) \text{ (functional gradient).}$$

- Taking $\mathfrak{X} = \mathcal{T}(\mathcal{M}) = \{\mathbb{R}^m \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m \text{ functions}\}$: solution not estimable.
- Taking $\mathfrak{X} = \mathcal{H}^m$ where \mathcal{H} is the RKHS [67] of a kernel K :

$$v^*(x') = \mathbb{E}_{q(x)}[K(x, x') \nabla_x \log p(x) + \nabla_x K(x, x')].$$

The expectation can be estimated directly by the particles!

- Simulate the particles by applying the dynamics:

$$x^{(i)} \leftarrow x^{(i)} + \varepsilon v^*(x^{(i)}).$$

ParVIs on Riemannian Manifolds

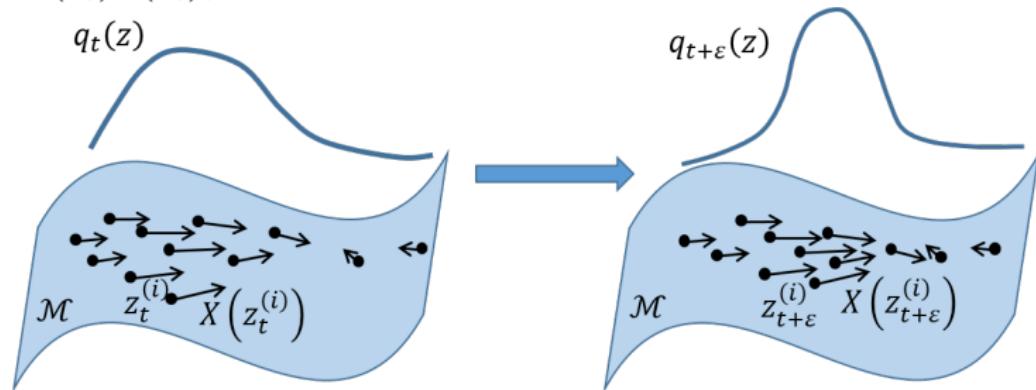
Riemannian SVGD [41]:

- Utilize information geometry to enhance efficiency (coordinate space).
- Enable ParVIs on manifolds like hyperspheres (embedded space).

ParVIs on Riemannian Manifolds

Dynamics on a Riemannian manifold:

- $\dot{z}_t = X(z_t)$, $(z_t)_t$ is a curve of the flow of X .



- Evolving distribution: let all densities be w.r.t. the Riem. meas.

Lemma 3 (Continuity Equation on Riemannian Manifold)

$$\begin{aligned}\partial_t q_t &= -\operatorname{div}(q_t X) = -X[q_t] - q_t \operatorname{div}(X) \\ &= -X^i \partial_i q_t - q_t \partial_i X^i - q_t X^i \partial_i \log \sqrt{|G|}.\end{aligned}$$

ParVIs on Riemannian Manifolds

Directional derivative:

Theorem 4 (Directional Derivative)

Let p be a fixed distribution. Then the directional derivative is

$$-\frac{d}{dt} \text{KL}(q_t \| p) = \mathbb{E}_{q_t} [\text{div}(pX)/p] = \mathbb{E}_{q_t} [X[\log p] + \text{div}(X)].$$

- $X[q_t]$: the action of the vector field X on the smooth function q_t .
In any coordinate system, $X[q_t] = X^i \partial_i q_t$.
- $\text{div}(X)$: the divergence of vector field X .
In any coordinate system, $\text{div}(X) = \partial_i(\sqrt{|G|} X^i) / \sqrt{|G|}$.

ParVIs on Riemannian Manifolds

Functional gradient:

$$X^* := \underset{X \in \mathfrak{X}, \|X\|_{\mathfrak{X}}=1}{\operatorname{argmax}} \mathcal{J}(X) := \mathbb{E}_q [X[\log p] + \operatorname{div}(X)],$$

where \mathfrak{X} is a subspace of vector fields on \mathcal{M} , such that:

- X^* is a valid vector field on \mathcal{M} .

Example 5 (Nontriviality of a valid vector field)

Vector fields on an even-dimensional hypersphere must have one zero point (hairy ball theorem ([2], Thm 8.5.13)). The choice in SVGD $\mathfrak{X} = \mathcal{H}^m$ cannot guarantee this requirement.

- X^* is coordinate invariant.

- Concept: the expression in any coordinate system is the same.
- Necessary for avoiding the arbitrariness of the solution.
- The choice in SVGD $\mathfrak{X} = \mathcal{H}^m$ cannot guarantee this requirement.

- X^* can be expressed in closed form.

ParVIs on Riemannian Manifolds

Functional gradient:

Our Solution

$\mathfrak{X} = \{\text{grad } f \mid f \in \mathcal{H}\}$, where \mathcal{H} is the RKHS of a kernel K .

The gradient a function is a valid, coordinate invariant vector field.

Lemma 6

For Gaussian RKHS, \mathfrak{X} is isometrically isomorphic to \mathcal{H} .

Theorem 7 (Functional Gradient)

$$X^{*'} = \text{grad}' f^{*'}, \quad f^{*'} = \mathbb{E}_q[(\text{grad } K)[\log p] + \Delta K],$$

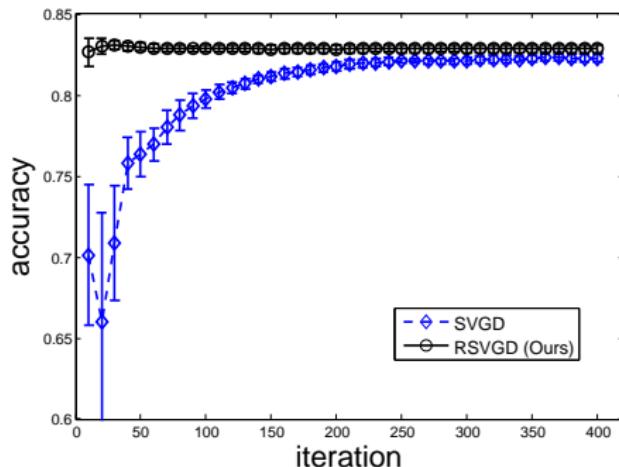
where “!” takes x' as argument, and $\Delta f := \text{div}(\text{grad } f)$.

$$X^{*'}{}^i = g'^{ij} \partial'_j \mathbb{E}_q \left[(g^{ab} \partial_a \log(p\sqrt{|G|}) + \partial_a g^{ab}) \partial_b K + g^{ab} \partial_a \partial_b K \right].$$

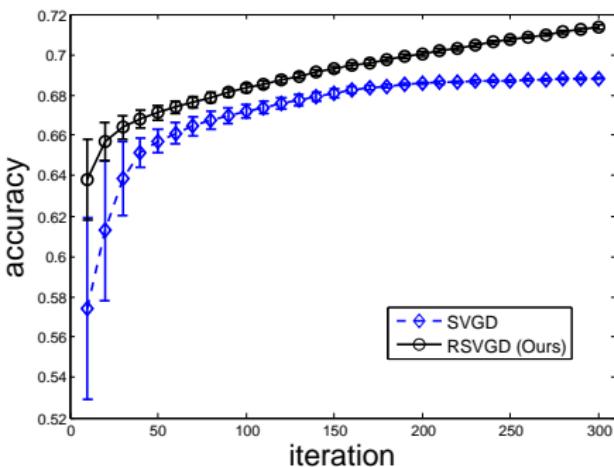
Simulate the dynamics: $z^{(s)} \leftarrow z^{(s)} + \varepsilon X^*(z^{(s)})$.

ParVIs on Riemannian Manifolds

Experimental Results (coordinate space):



(a) On Splice19 dataset



(b) On Covertype dataset

Figure: Test accuracy along iteration for BLR. Both methods are run 20 times on Splice19 and 10 times on Covertype.

ParVIs on Riemannian Manifolds

Functional gradient in the embedded space:

Proposition 8 (Functional Gradient in the Embedded Space)

Let m -dim \mathcal{M} isometrically embedded in \mathbb{R}^n (with orthonormal basis $\{y^\alpha\}_{\alpha=1}^n$) via $\Xi : \mathcal{M} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$. Then $X^{*\prime} = (I_n - N'N'^\top)\nabla' f^{*\prime}$,

$$\begin{aligned} f^{*\prime} = \mathbb{E}_q & \left[\left(\nabla \log(p\sqrt{|G|}) \right)^\top \left(I_n - PP^\top \right) (\nabla K) + \nabla^\top \nabla K \right. \\ & \left. - \text{tr} \left(P^\top (\nabla \nabla^\top K) P \right) + \left((J^\top \nabla)^\top (G^{-1} J^\top) \right) (\nabla K) \right], \end{aligned}$$

where $\nabla = (\partial_{y^1}, \dots, \partial_{y^n})^\top$, $J_{n \times m} : J_{ai} = \frac{\partial y^a}{\partial z^i}$, and $P \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times (n-m)}$ is the set of orthonormal basis of the orthogonal complement of $\Xi_*(T_z \mathcal{M})$.

Simulate the dynamics with exponential map:

$$y^{(s)} \leftarrow \text{Exp}_{y^{(s)}}(\varepsilon X^*(y^{(s)})).$$

(Is a coordinate-independent expression possible?)

ParVIs on Riemannian Manifolds

Functional gradient on hyperspheres:

Proposition 9 (Functional Gradient for Embedded Hyperspheres)

For \mathbb{S}^{n-1} isometrically embedded in \mathbb{R}^n with orthonormal basis $\{y^\alpha\}_{\alpha=1}^n$, we have $X^{*\prime} = (I_n - y'y'^\top) \nabla' f^{*\prime}$, where $f^{*\prime} =$

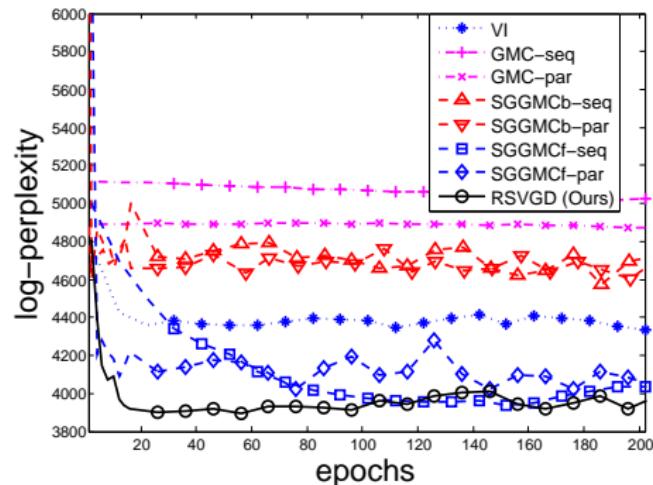
$$\mathbb{E}_q \left[(\nabla \log p)^\top (\nabla K) + \nabla^\top \nabla K - y^\top (\nabla \nabla^\top K) y - (y^\top \nabla \log p + n - 1) y^\top \nabla K \right].$$

Simulate the dynamics with exponential map on \mathbb{S}^{n-1} :

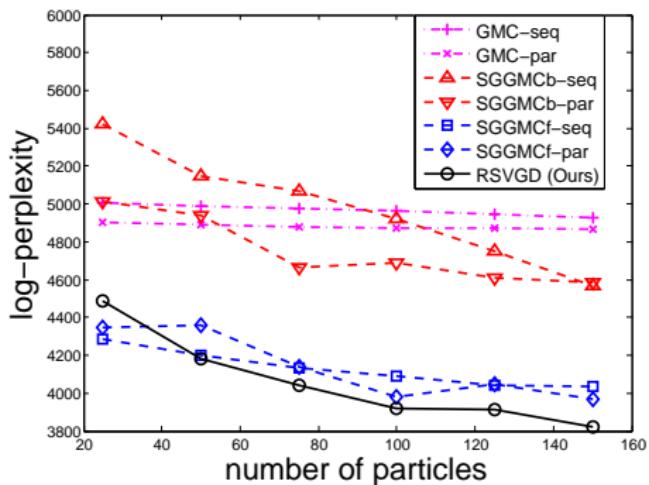
$$\text{Exp}_y(v) = y \cos(\|v\|) + (v/\|v\|) \sin(\|v\|).$$

ParVIs on Riemannian Manifolds

Experimental Results (embedded space):



(a) Results with 100 particles



(b) Results at 200 epochs

Figure: Results on the SAM inference task on 20News-different dataset, in log-perplexity.

SGGM Cf: full batch; SGGMCb: mini-batch of size 50.

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- Understanding ParVIs on the Wasserstein Space
- Understanding MCMCs on the Wasserstein Space

Questions on ParVIs and MCMCs

- ParVIs exhibit the intuition of minimizing $\text{KL}_p(\cdot)$ on a probability space, along the steepest descending direction. Can this be made concrete?
 - Liu (2017) [45] conceives a probability manifold where SVGD simulates the gradient flow. But the validity of the artificial manifold is unknown.
- ParVIs do not assume a parametric statistical model, but need a kernel (or other treatment). Do they need an assumption / make an approximation?
- Do general MCMCs have a flow/optimization interpretation?

Things are made clear on the Wasserstein space.

The Wasserstein Space

For a metric space (\mathcal{M}, d) :

$$\mathcal{P}_2(\mathcal{M}) := \left\{ q: \text{distribution on } \mathcal{M} \mid \exists x_0 \in \mathcal{M} \text{ s.t. } \mathbb{E}_q[d(x_0, x)^2] < +\infty \right\}.$$

- $\mathcal{P}_2(\mathcal{M})$ is a metric space ([70], Def 6.4) with the Wasserstein distance:

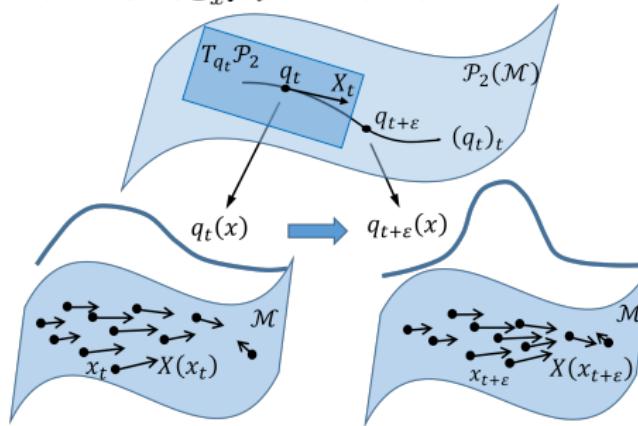
$$d_W(q, p) := \left(\inf_{\pi \in \Pi(q, p)} \mathbb{E}_{\pi(x, y)} [d(x, y)^2] \right)^{1/2},$$

where

$$\Pi(q, p) := \left\{ \pi: \text{distribution on } \mathcal{M} \times \mathcal{M} \middle| \begin{array}{l} \int_{\mathcal{M}} \pi(x, y) \, dy = q(x), \\ \int_{\mathcal{M}} \pi(x, y) \, dx = p(y) \end{array} \right\}.$$

The Wasserstein Space: Riemannian Structure

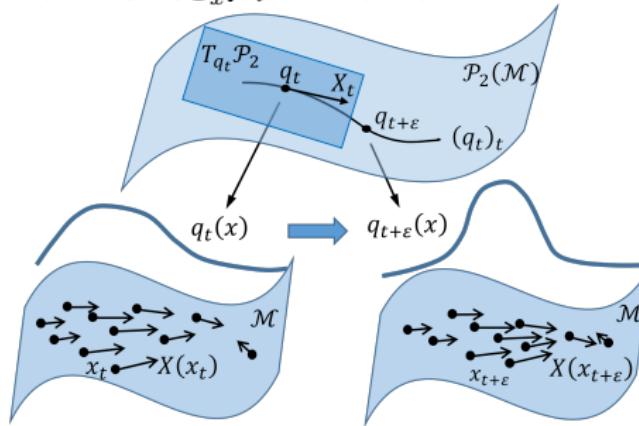
For a Riem. manif. $(\mathcal{M}, \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle_{T_x \mathcal{M}})$, $\mathcal{P}_2(\mathcal{M})$ also has a Riem. str. [58, 70, 6]:



- Tangent vector $v \iff$ vector field X on \mathcal{M} .
- Tangent space at q : $T_q \mathcal{P}_2(\mathcal{M}) = \overline{\{\text{grad } f \mid f \in \mathcal{C}_c^\infty(\mathcal{M})\}}^{\mathcal{L}_q^2(\mathcal{M})}$ is a subspace of $\mathcal{L}_q^2(\mathcal{M}) := \{X \mid \mathbb{E}_{q(x)}[\langle X(x), X(x) \rangle_{T_x \mathcal{M}}] < \infty\}$. ([70], Thm 13.8; [6], Thm 8.3.1, Def 8.4.1, Prop 8.4.5)

The Wasserstein Space: Riemannian Structure

For a Riem. manif. $(\mathcal{M}, \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle_{T_x \mathcal{M}})$, $\mathcal{P}_2(\mathcal{M})$ also has a Riem. str. [58, 70, 6]:



- Riemannian structure: $T_q \mathcal{P}_2$ inherits the inner product of \mathcal{L}_q^2 :

$$\langle X, Y \rangle_{T_q \mathcal{P}_2} = \mathbb{E}_{q(x)} [\langle X(x), Y(x) \rangle_{T_x \mathcal{M}}].$$

It is consistent with d_W [8].

The Wasserstein Space: Riemannian Structure

- Gradient flow on $\mathcal{P}_2(\mathcal{M})$ for $\text{KL}_p(q) := \mathbb{E}_q[\log(q/p)]$ (using Riem. meas):
 - $\mathcal{P}_2(\mathcal{M})$ as a Riemannian manifold:

$$V^{\text{GF}} := -\text{grad } \text{KL}_p(q) = -\text{grad} \left(\frac{\delta}{\delta q} \text{KL}_p(q) \right) = \text{grad} \log(p/q).$$

([70], Thm 23.18; [6], Example 11.1.2)

- $\mathcal{P}_2(\mathcal{M})$ as a metric space: e.g., Minimizing Movement Scheme (MMS) ([6], Def. 2.0.6):

$$q_{t+\varepsilon} = \operatorname{argmin}_{q \in \mathcal{P}_2(\mathcal{M})} \text{KL}_p(q) + \frac{1}{2\varepsilon} d_W^2(q, q_t).$$

They coincide under the Riemannian structure. ([70], Prop. 23.1,

Rem. 23.4; [6], Thm. 11.1.6; [24], Lem. 2.7)

Exponential convergence when p is log-concave. ([70], Thm 23.25, Thm 24.7; [6], Thm 11.1.4)

Langevin Dynamics as Wasserstein Gradient Flow

- The Langevin dynamics

$$dx = \nabla \log p(x) dt + \sqrt{2} dB_t(x)$$

produces the same [14] evolving distr. $(q_t)_t$ as:

$$dx = \nabla \log(p(x)/q_t(x)) dt,$$

which is the gradient flow of KL_p on $\mathcal{P}_2(\mathcal{M})$ for Euclidean \mathcal{M} .

- The gradient flow interpretation of LD is known earlier from the MMS perspective [34].

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- **Understanding ParVIs on the Wasserstein Space**
- Understanding MCMCs on the Wasserstein Space

Understanding ParVIs on the Wasserstein Space

Understand and accelerate ParVIs from the Wasserstein gradient flow perspective [43].

- Consider Euclidean $\mathcal{M} = \mathbb{R}^m$ for brevity.

SVGD Approximates the Wasserstein Gradient Flow

Reformulate V^{GF} as:

$$V^{\text{GF}} = \max_{V \in \mathcal{L}_q^2, \|V\|_{\mathcal{L}_q^2}=1} \langle V^{\text{GF}}, V \rangle_{\mathcal{L}_q^2}. \quad (2)$$

We find:

Theorem 10 (V^{SVGD} approximates V^{GF})

$$V^{\text{SVGD}} = \max_{V \in \mathcal{H}^D, \|V\|_{\mathcal{H}^D}=1} \langle V^{\text{GF}}, V \rangle_{\mathcal{L}_q^2}.$$

- \mathcal{H}^D is a subspace of \mathcal{L}_q^2 , so V^{SVGD} is the projection of V^{GF} on \mathcal{H}^D .

ParVIs Approx. the Wass. Gradient Flow by Smoothing

Smoothing Functions

- SVGD restricts the optimization domain \mathcal{L}_q^2 to \mathcal{H}^D .

Theorem 11 (\mathcal{H}^D smooths \mathcal{L}_q^2)

For $\mathcal{M} = \mathbb{R}^D$, a Gaussian kernel K on \mathcal{M} and an absolutely continuous q , the vector-valued RKHS \mathcal{H}^D of K is isometrically isomorphic to the closure $\mathcal{G} := \overline{\{\phi * K : \phi \in \mathcal{C}_c^\infty\}}^{\mathcal{L}_q^2}$.

$$\overline{\mathcal{C}_c^\infty}^{\mathcal{L}_q^2} = \mathcal{L}_q^2 \quad ([36], \text{Thm. 2.11}) \implies \mathcal{G} \text{ is roughly the kernel-smoothed } \mathcal{L}_q^2.$$

Smoothing the Density

- The Blob method (w -SGLD-B) [14]: partially smooths the density.

$$V^{\text{GF}} = -\nabla \left(\frac{\delta}{\delta q} \mathbb{E}_q[\log(\mathbf{q}/p)] \right) \implies V^{\text{Blob}} = -\nabla \left(\frac{\delta}{\delta q} \mathbb{E}_q[\log(\tilde{q}/p)] \right),$$

where $\tilde{q} := q * K$ is the kernel-smoothed density.

ParVIs Approx. the Wass. Gradient Flow by Smoothing

- Equivalence:

Smoothing-function objective = $\mathbb{E}_q[L(V)]$, $L : \mathcal{L}_q^2 \rightarrow L_q^2$ linear.

$$\implies \mathbb{E}_{\tilde{q}}[L(V)] = \mathbb{E}_{q * K}[L(V)] = \mathbb{E}_q[L(V) * K] = \mathbb{E}_q[L(V * K)].$$

- Necessity: $\text{grad } \text{KL}_p(q)$ undefined at $q = \hat{q} := \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \delta_{x^{(i)}}$.

Theorem 12 (Necessity of smoothing for SVGD)

For $q = \hat{q}$ and $V \in \mathcal{L}_p^2$, problem (2):

$$\max_{V \in \mathcal{L}_p^2, \|V\|_{\mathcal{L}_p^2}=1} \langle V^{\text{GF}}, V \rangle_{\mathcal{L}_{\hat{q}}^2},$$

has no optimal solution. In fact the supremum of the objective is infinite, indicating that a maximizing sequence of V tends to be ill-posed.

ParVIs rely on the smoothing assumption! No free lunch!

New ParVIs with Smoothing

- Gradient Flow with Smoothed Density (GFSD):
Fully smooth the density:

$$V^{\text{GFSD}} := \nabla \log p - \nabla \log \tilde{q}.$$

- Gradient Flow with Smoothed test Functions (GFSF):

$$V^{\text{GF}} = \nabla \log p - \nabla \log q$$

$$\implies V^{\text{GF}} = \nabla \log p + \operatorname{argmin}_{U \in \mathcal{L}^2} \max_{\substack{\phi \in \mathcal{C}_c^\infty, \\ \|\phi\|_{\mathcal{L}_q^2}=1}} (\mathbb{E}_q[\phi \cdot U - \nabla \cdot \phi])^2.$$

Smooth ϕ : take ϕ from \mathcal{H}^D :

$$V^{\text{GFSF}} := \nabla \log p + \operatorname{argmin}_{U \in \mathcal{L}^2} \max_{\substack{\phi \in \mathcal{H}^D, \\ \|\phi\|_{\mathcal{H}^D}=1}} (\mathbb{E}_q[\phi \cdot U - \nabla \cdot \phi])^2.$$

Solution: $\hat{V}^{\text{GFSF}} = \hat{V} + \hat{K}' \hat{K}^{-1}$. (Note $\hat{V}^{\text{SVGD}} = \hat{V}^{\text{GFSF}} \hat{K}$.)

$$\hat{V}_{:,i} = \nabla_{x^{(i)}} \log p(x^{(i)}), \hat{K}_{ij} = K(x^{(i)}, x^{(j)}), \hat{K}'_{:,i} = \sum_j \nabla_{x^{(j)}} K(x^{(j)}, x^{(i)}).$$

Bandwidth Selection via the Heat Equation

Note

Under the dynamics $dx = -\nabla \log q_t(x) dt$, q_t evolves following the heat equation (HE): $\partial_t q_t(x) = \Delta q_t(x)$.

Smoothing the density: $q_t(x) \approx \tilde{q}(x) = \tilde{q}(x; \{x^{(i)}\}_{i=1}^N)$. Then for $q_{t+\varepsilon}(x)$,

- Due to HE, $q_{t+\varepsilon}(x) \approx \tilde{q}(x) + \varepsilon \Delta \tilde{q}(x)$.
- Due to the effect of the dynamics, updated particles $\{x^{(i)} - \varepsilon \nabla \log \tilde{q}(x^{(i)})\}_{i=1}^N$ approximate $q_{t+\varepsilon}$, so $q_{t+\varepsilon}(x) \approx \tilde{q}(x; \{x^{(i)} - \varepsilon \nabla \log \tilde{q}(x^{(i)})\}_{i=1}^N)$.

Objective: $\sum_k \left(\tilde{q}(x^{(k)}) + \varepsilon \Delta \tilde{q}(x^{(k)}) - \tilde{q}(x^{(k)}; \{x^{(i)} - \varepsilon \nabla \log \tilde{q}(x^{(i)})\}_{i=1}^N) \right)^2$.

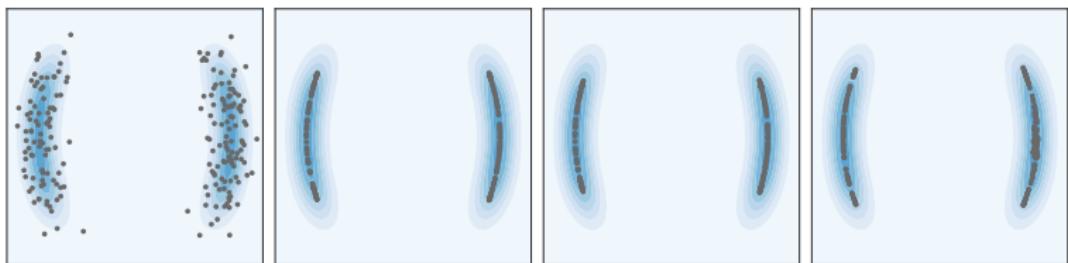
Take $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$, make the objective dimensionless (h/x^2 is dimensionless):

$$\frac{1}{h^{D+2}} \sum_k \left[\Delta \tilde{q}(x^{(k)}; \{x^{(i)}\}_i) + \sum_j \nabla_{x^{(j)}} \tilde{q}(x^{(k)}; \{x^{(i)}\}_i) \cdot \nabla \log \tilde{q}(x^{(j)}; \{x^{(i)}\}_i) \right]^2.$$

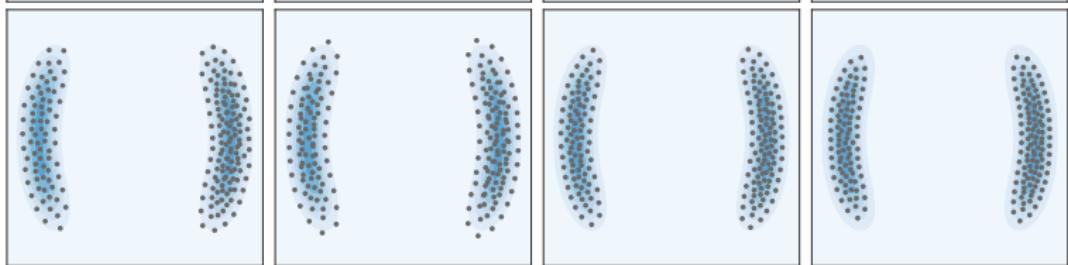
Also applicable to smoothing functions.

Bandwidth Selection via the Heat Equation

Median:



HE:



SVGD

Blob

GFSD

GFSF

Figure: Comparison of HE (bottom row) with the median method (top row) for bandwidth selection.

Accelerated First-Order Methods on the Wasserstein Space

Nesterov's Acceleration Methods on Riemannian Manifolds:

$\rho_k \in \mathcal{P}_2(\mathcal{M})$: auxiliary variable. $V_k := -\text{grad KL}(\rho_k)$.

- Riemannian Accelerated Gradient (RAG) [47] (with simplification):

$$\begin{cases} q_k = \text{Exp}_{\rho_{k-1}}(\varepsilon V_{k-1}), \\ \rho_k = \text{Exp}_{q_k} \left[-\Gamma_{\rho_{k-1}}^{q_k} \left(\frac{k-1}{k} \text{Exp}_{\rho_{k-1}}^{-1}(q_{k-1}) - \frac{k+\alpha-2}{k} \varepsilon V_{k-1} \right) \right]. \end{cases}$$

- Riemannian Nesterov's method (RNes) [74] (with simplification):

$$\begin{cases} q_k = \text{Exp}_{\rho_{k-1}}(\varepsilon V_{k-1}), \\ \rho_k = \text{Exp}_{q_k} \left\{ c_1 \text{Exp}_{q_k}^{-1} \left[\text{Exp}_{\rho_{k-1}} \left((1-c_2) \text{Exp}_{\rho_{k-1}}^{-1}(q_{k-1}) + c_2 \text{Exp}_{\rho_{k-1}}^{-1}(q_k) \right) \right] \right\}. \end{cases}$$

Required:

- Exponential map $\text{Exp}_q : T_q \mathcal{P}_2(\mathcal{M}) \rightarrow \mathcal{P}_2(\mathcal{M})$ and its inverse.
- Parallel transport $\Gamma_q^\rho : T_q \mathcal{P}_2(\mathcal{M}) \rightarrow T_\rho \mathcal{P}_2(\mathcal{M})$.

Accelerated First-Order Methods on the Wasserstein Space

Leveraging the Riemannian Structure of $\mathcal{P}_2(\mathcal{M})$:

- Exponential map ([70], Coro. 7.22; [6], Prop. 8.4.6; [24], Prop. 2.1):
 $\text{Exp}_q(V) = (\text{id} + V)_\# q$, i.e.,
 $\{x^{(i)}\}_i \sim q \Rightarrow \{x^{(i)} + V(x^{(i)})\}_i \sim \text{Exp}_q(V)$.
- Inverse exponential map: require the optimal transport map.
 - Sinkhorn methods [17, 72] appear costly and unstable.
 - Make approximations when $\{x^{(i)}\}_i$ and $\{y^{(i)}\}_i$ are pairwise close:
 $d(x^{(i)}, y^{(i)}) \ll \min \left\{ \min_{j \neq i} d(x^{(i)}, x^{(j)}), \min_{j \neq i} d(y^{(i)}, y^{(j)}) \right\}$.

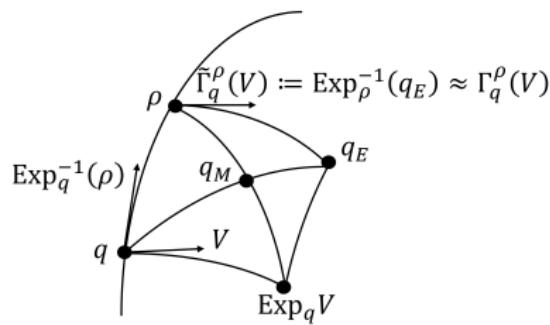
Proposition 13 (Inverse exponential map)

For pairwise close samples $\{x^{(i)}\}_i$ of q and $\{y^{(i)}\}_i$ of ρ , we have
 $(\text{Exp}_q^{-1}(\rho))(x^{(i)}) \approx y^{(i)} - x^{(i)}$.

Accelerated First-Order Methods on the Wasserstein Space

Leveraging the Riemannian Structure of $\mathcal{P}_2(\mathcal{M})$:

- Parallel transport
 - Hard to implement analytical results [49, 50].
 - Use Schild's ladder method [23, 35] for approximation.



Proposition 14 (Parallel transport)

For pairwise close samples $\{x^{(i)}\}_i$ of q and $\{y^{(i)}\}_i$ of ρ , we have
 $(\Gamma_q^\rho(V))(y^{(i)}) \approx V(x^{(i)}), \forall V \in T_q \mathcal{P}_2$.

Accelerated First-Order Methods on the Wasserstein Space

Algorithm 3 The acceleration framework with Wasserstein Accelerated Gradient (WAG) and Wasserstein Nesterov's method (WNes)

- 1: WAG: select acceleration factor $\alpha > 3$;
WNes: select or calculate $c_1, c_2 \in \mathbb{R}^+$;
- 2: Initialize $\{x_0^{(i)}\}_{i=1}^N$ distinctly; let $y_0^{(i)} = x_0^{(i)}$;
- 3: **for** $k = 1, 2, \dots, k_{\max}$, **do**
- 4: **for** $i = 1, \dots, N$, **do**
- 5: Find $V(y_{k-1}^{(i)})$ by SVGD/Blob/GFSD/GFSF;
- 6: $x_k^{(i)} = y_{k-1}^{(i)} + \varepsilon V(y_{k-1}^{(i)})$;
- 7: $y_k^{(i)} = x_k^{(i)} + \begin{cases} \text{WAG: } \frac{k-1}{k}(y_{k-1}^{(i)} - x_{k-1}^{(i)}) + \frac{k+\alpha-2}{k}\varepsilon V(y_{k-1}^{(i)}); \\ \text{WNes: } c_1(c_2-1)(x_k^{(i)} - x_{k-1}^{(i)}); \end{cases}$
- 8: **end for**
- 9: **end for**
- 10: Return $\{x_{k_{\max}}^{(i)}\}_{i=1}^N$.

Accelerated First-Order Methods on the Wasserstein Space

Experimental results: Bayesian inference for Latent Dirichlet Allocation:

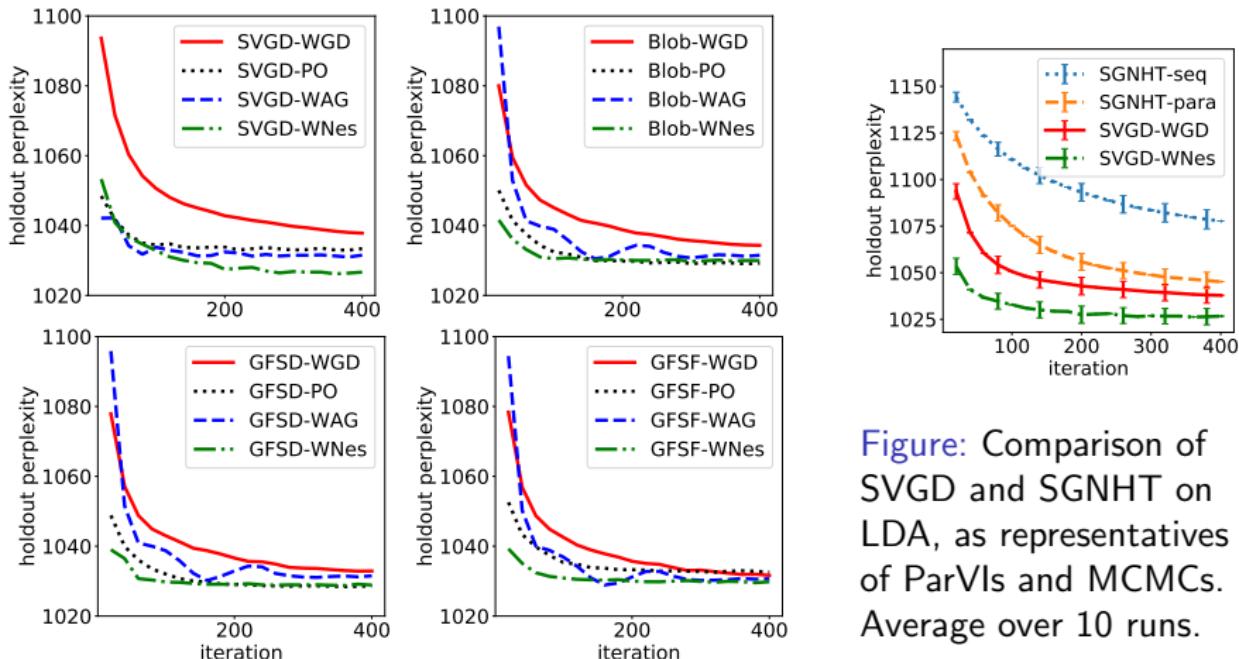


Figure: Comparison of SVGD and SGNHT on LDA, as representatives of ParVIs and MCMCs. Average over 10 runs.

Figure: Acceleration effect of WAG and WNes on LDA (measured by hold-out perplexity).

1 Introduction

2 Sampling on Manifolds

- Manifold Concepts
- MCMCs on Manifolds
- ParVIs on Manifolds

3 Understanding Sampling Methods on Probability Manifolds

- The Wasserstein Space
- Understanding ParVIs on the Wasserstein Space
- Understanding MCMCs on the Wasserstein Space

Understanding MCMCs on the Wasserstein Space

Understanding MCMC dynamics as flows on the Wasserstein Space [44]:

- The Langevin dynamics (LD) is recognized as the Wasserstein gradient flow of the KL divergence [34].
 - Benefits its asymptotic [63] and non-asymptotic [22, 16] behaviors.
 - Relates it to ParVIs [14, 43].
- Does a general MCMC dynamics correspond to an interpretable flow on the Wasserstein space?

The First Reformulation

Lemma 15 (Equivalent deterministic MCMC dynamics)

A general MCMC dynamics specified by a symm. pos. semi-def. D and skew-symm. Q via Eq. (1) produces the same distr. evolution as the deterministic dynamics:

$$dx = W_t(x) dt,$$

$$(W_t)^i(x) = D^{ij}(x) \partial_j \log(p(x)/q_t(x)) + Q^{ij}(x) \partial_j \log p(x) + \partial_j Q^{ij}(x), \quad (3)$$

where q_t is the distribution density of x at time t .

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- \implies Barbour's generator [7]

$$\mathcal{A}f := \frac{d}{dt} \mathbb{E}_{q_t}[f] \Big|_{q_t=\delta_x} = \frac{1}{p} \partial_j [p (D^{ij} + Q^{ij}) (\partial_i f)] \text{ (c.f. [29])}.$$

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How to interpret $W_t(x)$?

Interpret MCMC Dynamics

$$(W_t)^i(x) = D^{ij}(x) \partial_j \log(p(x)/q_t(x)) + Q^{ij}(x) \partial_j \log p(x) + \partial_j Q^{ij}(x).$$

1 $D^{ij}(x) \partial_j \log(p(x)/q_t(x))$ seems like a gradient flow on $\mathcal{P}_2(\mathcal{M})$.

- Euclidean \mathcal{M} : $D = I$.
- Hilbert \mathcal{M} : constant and non-singular D .
- Riemannian \mathcal{M} : non-singular $D(x)$.

We need positive *semi*-definite $D(x)$.

Interpret MCMC Dynamics

$$(W_t)^i(x) = D^{ij}(x) \partial_j \log(p(x)/q_t(x)) + Q^{ij}(x) \partial_j \log p(x) + \partial_j Q^{ij}(x).$$

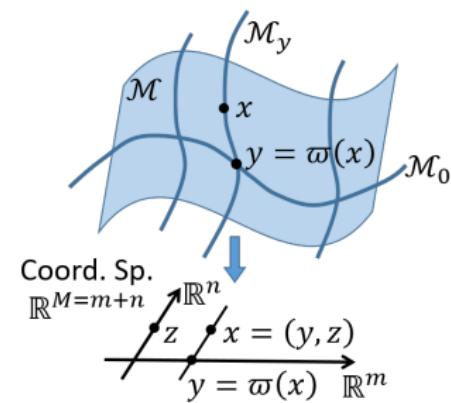
1 $D^{ij}(x) \partial_j \log(p(x)/q_t(x))$ seems like a gradient flow on $\mathcal{P}_2(\mathcal{M})$.

- Fiber Bundle \mathcal{M} (of dim. $M = m + n$)
(known knowledge):

- \mathcal{M} is locally $\mathcal{M}_0 \times \mathcal{F}$ ($\dim(\mathcal{M}_0) = m$, $\dim(\mathcal{F}) = n$) [57] in terms of a projection ϖ :

$$\varpi : \mathcal{M} \rightarrow \mathcal{M}_0 \xrightleftharpoons{\text{locally}} \mathcal{M}_0 \times \mathcal{F} \rightarrow \mathcal{M}_0.$$

- The *fiber* through $y \in \mathcal{M}_0$:
 $\mathcal{M}_y := \varpi^{-1}(y)$ (diffeom. to \mathcal{F}).
- Coordinate decomposition: $x = (y, z)$,
 $y \in \mathbb{R}^m$: coord. of \mathcal{M}_0 ;
 $z \in \mathbb{R}^n$: coord. of \mathcal{M}_y .



Interpret MCMC Dynamics

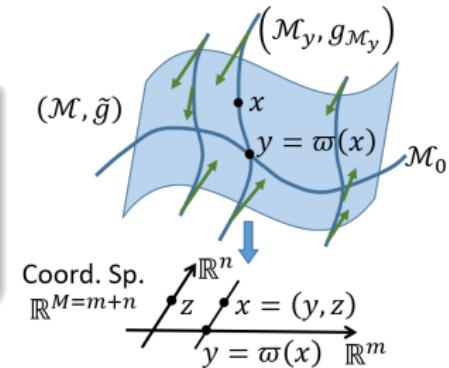
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- Fiber-Riemannian manifold \mathcal{M} :

Definition 3 (Fiber-Riemannian manifold)

\mathcal{M} is a *fiber-Riemannian manifold* if it is a fiber bundle and there is a Riemannian structure $g_{\mathcal{M}_y}$ on each *fiber* \mathcal{M}_y .



Interpret MCMC Dynamics

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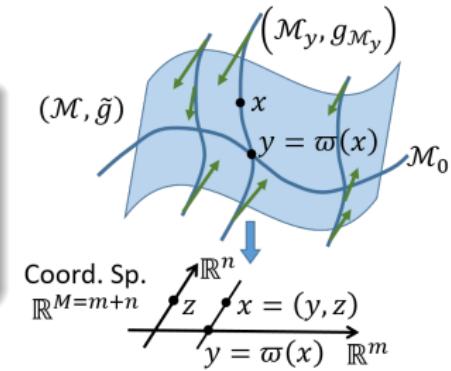
\mathcal{M} is a *fiber-Riemannian manifold* if it is a fiber bundle and there is a Riemannian structure $g_{\mathcal{M}_y}$ on each *fiber* \mathcal{M}_y .

- **Gradient** on fiber \mathcal{M}_y :

$$(\text{grad}_{\mathcal{M}_y} f(y, z))^a = (g_{\mathcal{M}_y}(z))^{ab} \partial_{z^b} f(y, z), 1 \leq a, b \leq n.$$

- Define *fiber-gradient* on \mathcal{M} by taking union over y :

$$(\text{grad}_{\text{fib}} f(x))_M := (0_m, (\text{grad}_{\mathcal{M}_{\varpi(x)}} f(\varpi(x), z))_n).$$



Interpret MCMC Dynamics

$$(W_t)^i(x) = D^{ij}(x) \partial_j \log(p(x)/q_t(x)) + Q^{ij}(x) \partial_j \log p(x) + \partial_j Q^{ij}(x).$$

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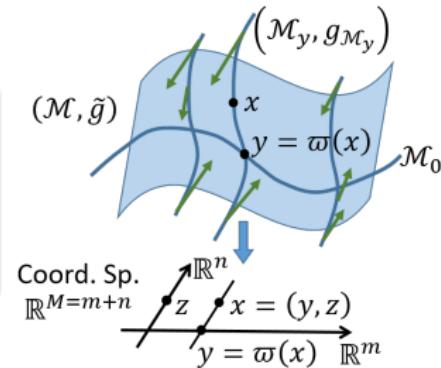
\mathcal{M} is a *fiber-Riemannian manifold* if it is a fiber bundle and there is a Riemannian structure $g_{\mathcal{M}_y}$ on each *fiber* \mathcal{M}_y .

- Alternatively, the **fiber-gradient** on \mathcal{M} is:

$$(\text{grad}_{\text{fib}} f(x))^i = \tilde{g}^{ij}(x) \partial_j f(x), \quad 1 \leq i, j \leq M,$$

$$(\tilde{g}^{ij}(x))_{M \times M} := \begin{pmatrix} 0_{m \times m} & 0_{m \times n} \\ 0_{n \times m} & ((g_{\mathcal{M}_{\varpi(x)}}(z))^{ab})_{n \times n} \end{pmatrix}. \quad (4)$$

We use \tilde{g} to denote the fiber-Riemannian structure.



Interpret MCMC Dynamics

$$(W_t)^i(x) = D^{ij}(x) \partial_j \log(p(x)/q_t(x)) + Q^{ij}(x) \partial_j \log p(x) + \partial_j Q^{ij}(x).$$

1 $D^{ij}(x) \partial_j \log(p(x)/q_t(x))$ seems like a gradient flow on $\mathcal{P}_2(\mathcal{M})$.

- Structures on $\mathcal{P}_2(\mathcal{M})$ with fiber-Riemannian \mathcal{M} .

- Hard to decompose $\mathcal{P}_2(\mathcal{M})$.
- $\tilde{\mathcal{P}}_2(\mathcal{M}) := \{q(z|y) \in \mathcal{P}_2(\mathcal{M}_y) \mid y \in \mathcal{M}_0\} \xrightleftharpoons[\text{fiber-Riemannian!}]{\text{locally}} \mathcal{M}_0 \times \mathcal{P}_2(\mathcal{M}_y)$:
- On $\mathcal{P}_2(\mathcal{M}_y)$, $(\text{grad } \text{KL}_{p(\cdot|y)}(q(\cdot|y))(z))^a = (g_{\mathcal{M}_y}(z))^{ab} \partial_{z^b} \log \frac{q(z|y)}{p(z|y)} = (g_{\mathcal{M}_y}(z))^{ab} \partial_{z^b} \log \frac{q(y, z)}{p(y, z)}$, $1 \leq a, b \leq n$.

- Taking union over $y \in \mathcal{M}_0$, the **fiber-gradient** on $\tilde{\mathcal{P}}_2(\mathcal{M})$ is:

$$(\text{grad}_{\text{fib}} \text{KL}_p(q)(x))_M = (\tilde{g}^{ij}(x) \partial_j \log (q(x)/p(x)))_M.$$

Interpret MCMC Dynamics

$$(W_t)^i(x) = D^{ij}(x) \partial_j \log(p(x)/q_t(x)) + Q^{ij}(x) \partial_j \log p(x) + \partial_j Q^{ij}(x).$$

1 $D^{ij}(x) \partial_j \log(p(x)/q_t(x))$ seems like a gradient flow on $\mathcal{P}_2(\mathcal{M})$.

- $(\text{grad}_{\text{fib}} \text{KL}_p(q)(x))^i = \tilde{g}^{ij}(x) \partial_j \log(q(x)/p(x)),$
 $(\tilde{g}^{ij}(x)) = \begin{pmatrix} 0_{m \times m} & 0_{m \times n} \\ 0_{n \times m} & (g_{\mathcal{M}_{\varpi(x)}})_{n \times n} \end{pmatrix}.$

Assumption 4 (Regular MCMC dynamics (1/2))

(a) $D = C$ or $D = 0$ or $D = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & C \end{pmatrix}$, for a symm. positive definite $C(x)$.

(b) ...

- Satisfied by existing MCMC instances.
- Could be relaxed by coordinate transformation.
- $D^{ij} \partial_j \log(p/q_t)$ is the fiber-gradient with fiber-Riemannian support (\mathcal{M}, \tilde{g}) where $(\tilde{g}^{ij}) = D$.

Interpret MCMC Dynamics

$$(W_t)^i(x) = D^{ij}(x) \partial_j \log(p(x)/q_t(x)) + Q^{ij}(x) \partial_j \log p(x) + \partial_j Q^{ij}(x).$$

2 $Q^{ij}(x) \partial_j \log p(x) + \partial_j Q^{ij}(x)$ makes a Hamiltonian flow.

- The common Hamiltonian flow: $\mathcal{M} = \mathbb{R}^{2\ell}$, $Q = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & I_\ell \\ -I_\ell & 0 \end{pmatrix}$.
- Symplectic manifold [18, 52]: \mathcal{M} even-dim., Q non-singular.
- Poisson manifold \mathcal{M} [25]:
 - Poisson structure: bivector field $\beta = \beta^{ij} \partial_i \otimes \partial_j = \sum_{i < j} \beta^{ij} \partial_i \wedge \partial_j$ (anti-symm. 2nd-order contravariant tensor field; (β_{ij}) is skew-symm.) that satisfies the Jacobian identity:

$$\beta^{il} \partial_l \beta^{jk} + \beta^{jl} \partial_l \beta^{ki} + \beta^{kl} \partial_l \beta^{ij} = 0, \forall i, j, k. \quad (5)$$

- Hamiltonian flow X_f of a smooth function f :

$$(X_f(x))[h] := (\beta(df, dh))(x) = \beta^{ij}(x) \partial_i f(x) \partial_j h(x).$$

Coordinate expression: $(X_f(x))^i = \beta^{ij}(x) \partial_j f(x).$
 X_f conserves f : $\frac{d}{dt} f(\varphi_t) = 0$.

Interpret MCMC Dynamics

$$(W_t)^i(x) = D^{ij}(x) \partial_j \log(p(x)/q_t(x)) + Q^{ij}(x) \partial_j \log p(x) + \partial_j Q^{ij}(x).$$

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- Poisson structure on $\mathcal{P}_2(\mathcal{M})$ [49, 5, 26] (*known knowledge*):
 - Hamiltonian flow of a function F on $\mathcal{P}_2(\mathcal{M})$:

$$\mathcal{X}_F(q) = \pi_q(X_f),$$

where func. f on \mathcal{M} relates to F via $\text{grad}_q \mathbb{E}_q[f] = \text{grad}_q F(q)$, and π_q is the orthogonal projection $\mathcal{L}_q^2(\mathcal{M}) \rightarrow T_q \mathcal{P}_2(\mathcal{M})$, which does not change distribution evolution.

- Hamiltonian flow of KL on $\mathcal{P}_2(\mathcal{M})$:

Lemma 2 (Hamiltonian flow of KL on $\mathcal{P}_2(\mathcal{M})$)

The Hamiltonian flow of KL_p on $\mathcal{P}_2(\mathcal{M})$ is:

$$\mathcal{X}_{\text{KL}_p}(q) = \pi_q(X_{\log(q/p)}), \text{ where } (X_{\log(q/p)}(x))^i = \beta^{ij}(x) \partial_j \log(q(x)/p(x)).$$

Interpret MCMC Dynamics

$$(W_t)^i(x) = D^{ij}(x) \partial_j \log(p(x)/q_t(x)) + Q^{ij}(x) \partial_j \log p(x) + \partial_j Q^{ij}(x).$$

2 $Q^{ij}(x) \partial_j \log p(x) + \partial_j Q^{ij}(x)$ makes a Hamiltonian flow.

- $-(X_{\log(q/p)}(x))^i = \beta^{ij}(x) \partial_j \log p(x) - \beta^{ij}(x) \partial_j \log q(x).$

Assumption 4 (Regular MCMC dynamics (2/2))

- (a) $D = C$ or $D = 0$ or $D = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & C \end{pmatrix}$, for a symm. positive definite $C(x)$.
- (b) $Q(x)$ satisfies Eq. (5): $Q^{il} \partial_l Q^{jk} + Q^{jl} \partial_l Q^{ki} + Q^{kl} \partial_l Q^{ij} = 0, \forall i, j, k.$

- Satisfied by MCMCs except for SGNHT-related methods [20, 75].
- Required to match Poisson structure; unnecessary for conservation of Hamiltonian.

Interpret MCMC Dynamics

$$(W_t)^i(x) = D^{ij}(x) \partial_j \log(p(x)/q_t(x)) + Q^{ij}(x) \partial_j \log p(x) + \partial_j Q^{ij}(x).$$

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- Satisfied by MCMCs except for SGNHT-related methods [20, 75].
- Required to match Poisson structure; unnecessary for conservation of Hamiltonian.

$$Q^{ij} \partial_j \log p + \partial_j Q^{ij} \Leftrightarrow Q^{ij} \partial_j \log p - Q^{ij} \partial_j \log q? \text{ Yes!}$$

Interpret MCMC Dynamics: Main Theorem

Theorem 5 (Equivalence between regular MCMC dynamics on \mathbb{R}^M and fGH flows on $\mathcal{P}_2(\mathcal{M})$.)

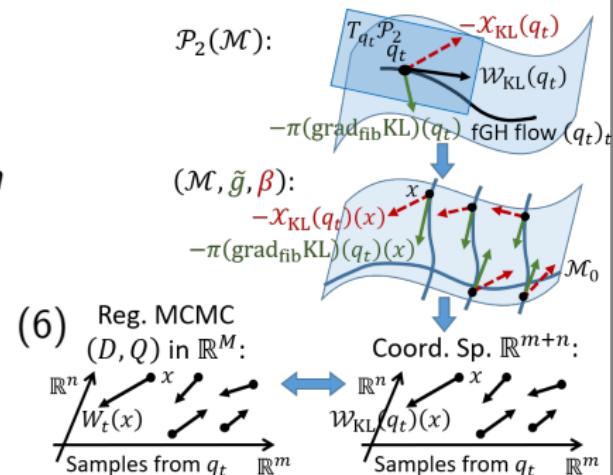
We call $(\mathcal{M}, \tilde{g}, \beta)$ a fiber-Riemannian Poisson (fRP) manifold, and define the fiber-gradient Hamiltonian (fGH) flow on $\mathcal{P}_2(\mathcal{M})$ as:

$$\mathcal{W}_{\text{KL}_p} := -\pi(\text{grad}_{\text{fib}} \text{KL}_p) - \mathcal{X}_{\text{KL}_p},$$

$$(\mathcal{W}_{\text{KL}_p}(q))^i = \pi_q((\tilde{g}^{ij} + \beta^{ij}) \partial_j \log(p/q)).$$

Then:

Regular MCMC dynamics \iff fGH flow with fRP \mathcal{M} ,
 $(D, Q) \iff (\tilde{g}, \beta)$.



Interpret MCMC Dynamics: Case Study

Type 1: D is non-singular ($m = 0$ in Eq. (4)).

- \mathcal{M}_0 degenerates, \mathcal{M} is the unique fiber.
- \mathcal{M} is Riemannian, fiber gradient \Rightarrow gradient.
- The fGH flow: $\mathcal{W}_{\text{KL}_p} = -\pi(\text{grad KL}_p) - \mathcal{X}_{\text{KL}_p}$,
 - $-\pi(\text{grad KL}_p)$: minimizes KL_p steepestly on $\mathcal{P}_2(\mathcal{M})$.
 - $-\mathcal{X}_{\text{KL}_p}$: conserves KL_p on $\mathcal{P}_2(\mathcal{M})$ and helps mixing/exploration.
- Converges to p uniquely (c.f. [51]).
- Robust to SG (c.f. [65, 69]).

Instances:

- LD [62] / SGLD [71]: $Q = 0$, \mathcal{M} is Euclidean.
- RLD [28] / SGRLD [60]: $Q = 0$, \mathcal{M} is the manifold under consideration.

Interpret MCMC Dynamics: Case Study

Type 2: $D = 0$ ($n = 0$ in Eq. (4)).

- $\mathcal{M}_0 = \mathcal{M}$, fibers degenerate.
- \mathcal{M} has no (fiber-)Riemannian structures.
- The fGH flow: $\mathcal{W}_{\text{KL}_p} = -\mathcal{X}_{\text{KL}_p}$ conserves KL_p on $\mathcal{P}_2(\mathcal{M})$ and helps mixing/exploration.
- Fragile against SG: no stabilizing forces (i.e. (fiber-)gradient flows) (c.f. [15, 9]).
- Hard to extend to ParVIs.

Instances (ℓ -dim. sample space \mathcal{S}):

- HMC [21, 56, 10] ($\mathcal{S} = \mathbb{R}^\ell$): $\mathcal{M} = \mathbb{R}^{2\ell}$.
- HMC relies on *geometric ergodicity* for convergence [48, 10].
- RHMC [28] / LagrMC [38] / GMC [12] (manifold \mathcal{S}): $\mathcal{M} = T^*\mathcal{S}$.

Interpret MCMC Dynamics: Case Study

Type 3: $D \neq 0$ and D is singular ($m, n \geq 1$ in Eq. (4)).

- Non-degenerate \mathcal{M}_0 and \mathcal{M}_y .
- \mathcal{M} is a non-trivial fRP manifold.
- The fGH flow: $\mathcal{W}_{\text{KL}_p} := -\pi(\text{grad}_{\text{fib}} \text{KL}_p) - \mathcal{X}_{\text{KL}_p}$,
 - $-\pi(\text{grad}_{\text{fib}} \text{KL}_p)$: minimizes $\text{KL}_{p(\cdot|y)}(q(\cdot|y))$ steepest on each fiber $\mathcal{P}_2(\mathcal{M}_y)$.
 - $-\mathcal{X}_{\text{KL}_p}$: conserves KL_p on $\mathcal{P}_2(\mathcal{M})$ and helps mixing/exploration.
- Robust to SG (SG appears on each fiber) (c.f. [15, 13]).

Instances (ℓ -dim. sample space \mathcal{S}):

- SGHMC [15] ($\mathcal{S} = \mathbb{R}^\ell$), SGRHMC [51] / SGGMC [42] (manifold \mathcal{S}):
 $\mathcal{M}_0 = \mathcal{S}$, $\mathcal{M}_\theta = T_\theta^*\mathcal{S}$.
- SGNHT [20] ($\mathcal{S} = \mathbb{R}^\ell$), gSGNHT [42] (manifold \mathcal{S}):
 $\mathcal{M}_0 = \mathcal{S}$, $\mathcal{M}_\theta = \mathbb{R} \times T_\theta^*\mathcal{S}$.

ParVI Simulation for SGHMC

Simulate the deterministic dynamics of SGHMC: (take $C(x)$ as constant $C\Sigma$)

$$\text{By Lemma 15 (Eq. (3))}: \begin{cases} \frac{d\theta}{dt} = \Sigma^{-1}r, \\ \frac{dr}{dt} = \nabla_\theta \log p(\theta) - Cr - C\Sigma \nabla_r \log q(r). \end{cases}$$

$$\text{By Theorem 5 (Eq. (6))}: \begin{cases} \frac{d\theta}{dt} = \Sigma^{-1}r + \nabla_r \log q(r), \\ \frac{dr}{dt} = \nabla_\theta \log p(\theta) - Cr - C\Sigma \nabla_r \log q(r) - \nabla_\theta \log q(\theta). \end{cases}$$

To estimate $\nabla \log q$ with particles, use ParVI techniques [43], e.g. Blob [14]:

$$-\nabla_r \log q(r^{(i)}) \approx -\frac{\sum_k \nabla_{r^{(i)}} K_r^{(i,k)}}{\sum_j K_r^{(i,j)}} - \sum_k \frac{\nabla_{r^{(i)}} K_r^{(i,k)}}{\sum_j K_r^{(j,k)}},$$

where $K_r^{(i,j)} := K_r(r^{(i)}, r^{(j)})$.

ParVI Simulation for SGHMC

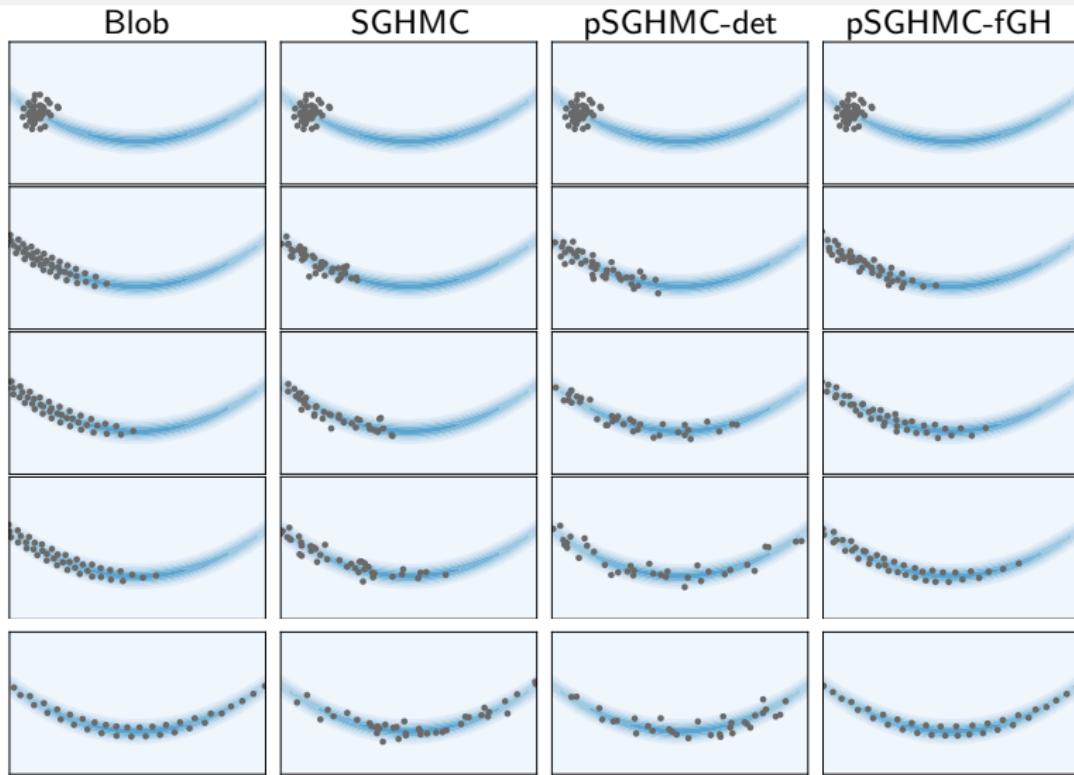
Simulate the deterministic dynamics of SGHMC:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{pSGHMC-det: } & \begin{cases} \frac{\Delta\theta^{(i)}}{\varepsilon} = \Sigma^{-1} r^{(i)}, \\ \frac{\Delta r^{(i)}}{\varepsilon} = \nabla_\theta \log p(\theta^{(i)}) - Cr^{(i)} - C\Sigma \left(\frac{\sum_k \nabla_{r^{(i)}} K_r^{(i,k)}}{\sum_j K_r^{(i,j)}} + \sum_k \frac{\nabla_{r^{(i)}} K_r^{(i,k)}}{\sum_j K_r^{(j,k)}} \right). \end{cases} \\ \text{pSGHMC-fGH: } & \begin{cases} \frac{\Delta\theta^{(i)}}{\varepsilon} = \Sigma^{-1} r^{(i)} + \frac{\sum_k \nabla_{r^{(i)}} K_r^{(i,k)}}{\sum_j K_r^{(i,j)}} + \sum_k \frac{\nabla_{r^{(i)}} K_r^{(i,k)}}{\sum_j K_r^{(j,k)}}, \\ \frac{\Delta r^{(i)}}{\varepsilon} = \nabla_\theta \log p(\theta^{(i)}) - \left(\frac{\sum_k \nabla_{\theta^{(i)}} K_\theta^{(i,k)}}{\sum_j K_\theta^{(i,j)}} + \sum_k \frac{\nabla_{\theta^{(i)}} K_\theta^{(i,k)}}{\sum_j K_\theta^{(j,k)}} \right) \\ \quad - Cr^{(i)} - C\Sigma \left(\frac{\sum_k \nabla_{r^{(i)}} K_r^{(i,k)}}{\sum_j K_r^{(i,j)}} + \sum_k \frac{\nabla_{r^{(i)}} K_r^{(i,k)}}{\sum_j K_r^{(j,k)}} \right). \end{cases} \end{aligned}$$

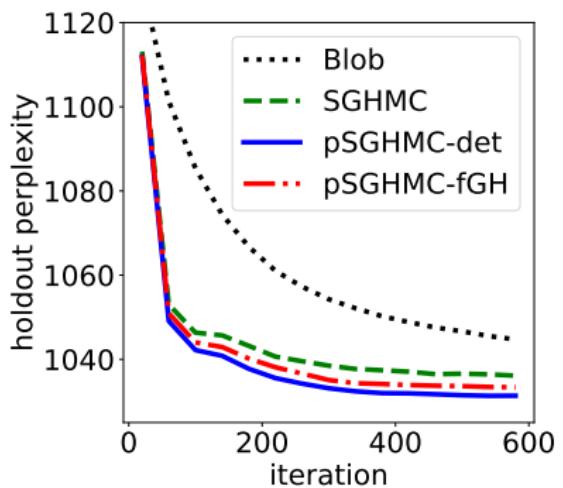
Advantages:

- Over SGHMC: particle-efficiency, ParVI techniques like HE [43].
- Over ParVIs: more efficient dynamics over LD.

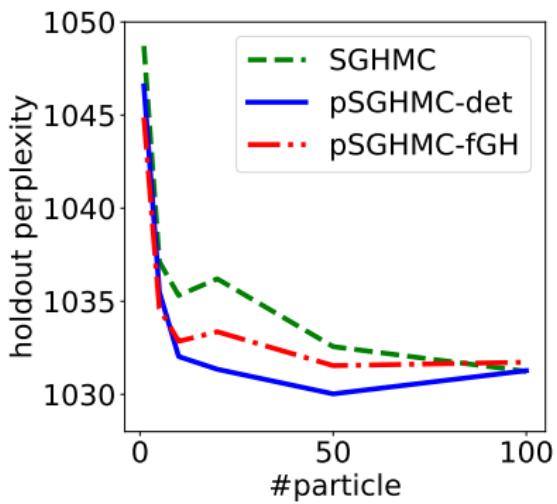
Experimental Results: Synthetic



Experimental Results: Latent Dirichlet Allocation (LDA)



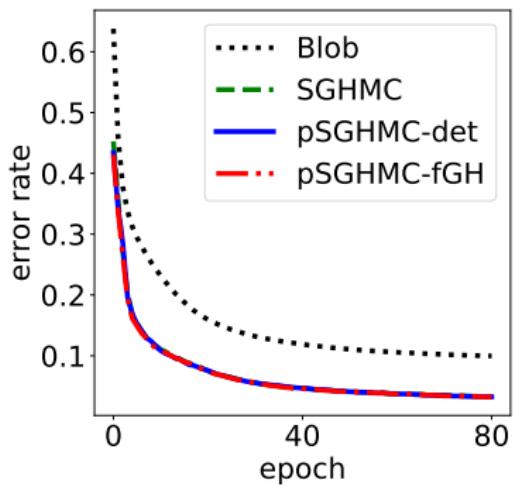
(a) Learning curve (20 ptcls)



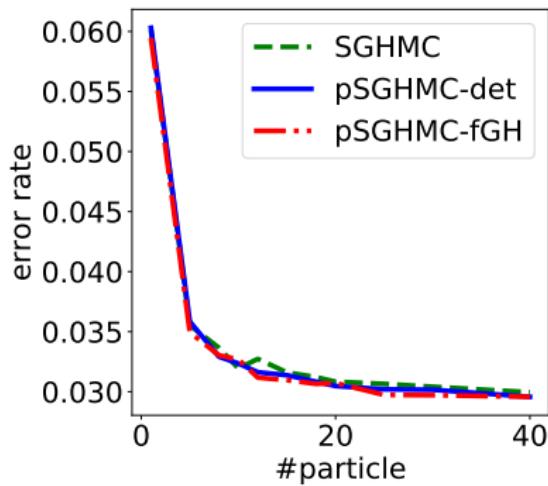
(b) Particle efficiency (iter 600)

Figure: Performance on LDA with the ICML data set.

Experimental Results: Bayesian Neural Networks (BNNs)



(a) Learning curve (10 ptcls)



(b) Particle efficiency (epch 80)

Figure: Performance on BNN with MNIST data set.

Thanks!
Questions?



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