

Flows for simultaneous manifold learning and density estimation (by Johann Brehmer and Kyle Cranmer)

\mathcal{M} -Flows

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1 Introduction

- Normalizing Flow
- Manifold

2 Contribution

- Comparison of models
- \mathcal{M} -Flows

3 Training

4 Experiments

- Polynomial surface
- Image manifolds

5 Critic

6 Discussion

Section 1: Introduction

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Introduction

- Generative modeling: Infer a probability distribution over a random variable X given observations $\{x^{(i)}\}_{i=1}^N$
 - Generative adversarial networks (GANs)
 - intractable density
 - lower dimensional latent space
 - Variational autoencoders (VAEs)
 - approx. tractable density
 - lower dimensional latent space
 - Normalizing Flows
 - tractable density
 - no lower dimensional latent space
- \mathcal{M} anifold-Flow is a combination of these methods
 - ① Learns a **lower dimensional data space**
 - ② Learns a **tractable probability density** on the data manifold
 - Claim: allows for dimensionality reduction, denoising and out-of-distribution detection

Normalizing Flow I

- A normalizing flow describes the transformation of a probability density through a sequence of **invertible** mappings¹

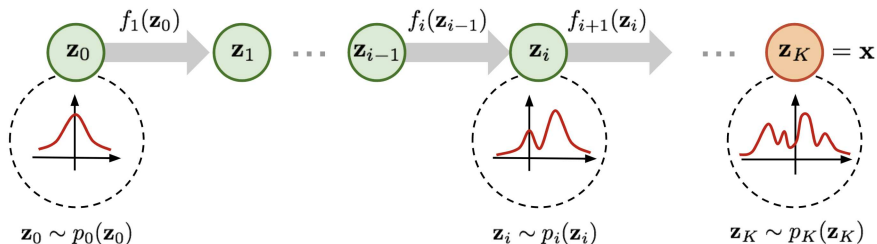


Figure: Normalizing flow²

Normalizing Flow II

- Let f be an **invertible smooth** function $f : \mathbb{R}^d \mapsto \mathbb{R}^d$ with **smooth inverse** f^{-1} . Further let z_0 be a random variable $z_0 \sim p(z_0)$. Using the change-of-variable formula the random variable $z_1 = f(z_0)$ has distribution:

$$p_1(z_1) = p_0(f^{-1}(z_1)) \left| \det \frac{\partial f^{-1}}{\partial z_1} \right| = p_0(z_0) \left| \det \frac{\partial f}{\partial z_0} \right|^{-1}$$

- Through successive application of such transformations we can obtain a complex probability density

$$z_K = f_K \circ \dots \circ f_2 \circ f_1(z_0)$$
$$\ln p_K(z_K) = \ln p_0(z_0) - \sum_{k=1}^K \ln \left| \det \frac{\partial f_k}{\partial z_{k-1}} \right|$$

¹Variational Inference with Normalizing Flows, Danilo Jimenez Rezende Shakir Mohamed

²<https://lilianweng.github.io/lil-log/2018/10/13/flow-based-deep-generative-models.html>

Manifold³

- An n -manifold is a topological space that locally resembles an n -dimensional Euclidean space near each point
- Coordinate chart / map: An invertible map between a subset of the manifold and a simpler space (homeomorphism)
- Atlas: Collection of charts which cover a manifold
- Transition map: Mapping between overlapping charts
- Differentiable manifold
 - 1 Charts need to be diffeomorphisms
 - 2 Transition maps need to be diffeomorphisms
- Given two Manifolds M, N . A **diffeomorphism** is a smooth bijective function $f : M \mapsto N$ of which the inverse f^{-1} is also smooth.

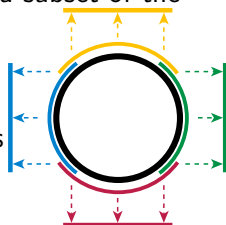


Figure: Circle with charts

³<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manifold>

Section 2: Contribution

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Comparison of different approaches I

- General setting: $x \in \mathcal{M}^* \subset X = \mathbb{R}^d$ with $x \sim p^*(x)$, where
 - x is a sample
 - X is the d -dimensional data space
 - \mathcal{M}^* is a n -dimensional manifold
- Given training samples $\{x_i\} \sim p^*(x)$ the goal is to estimate the
 - Density $p^*(x)$
 - Manifold \mathcal{M}^*
- Let $u \in U$ and $v \in V$ be latent variables, where
 - $U = \mathbb{R}^n$ is the latent space that maps to the manifold \mathcal{M} (coordinates of the manifold)
 - $V = \mathbb{R}^{d-n}$ represents the remaining latent variables (direction "off the manifold")

Comparison of different approaches II

- Assumptions for simplification

- 1 The dimension of the manifold is known and it is n
- 2 The manifold is topologically equal to $\mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow$ can be mapped by a single chart and it is connected

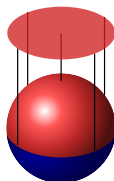


Figure: Sphere
2-Manifold

Different flow models I

$X = \mathbb{R}^d$ data space
 $U = \mathbb{R}^n$ coordinates of the manifold
 $V = \mathbb{R}^{d-n}$ direction "off" the manifold

- Normalizing flow (Ambient Flow)

$$\text{AF: } x \xleftarrow{f} (u, v) \sim p_{uv}$$

- Flow on a prescribed Manifold (FOM)

$$\text{FOM: } x \xleftarrow{g^*} u \xleftarrow{h} \tilde{u} \sim p_{\tilde{u}}$$

- Pseudo-invertible encoder (PIE)

$$\text{PIE: } x \xleftarrow{f} (u, v) \begin{array}{l} \xrightarrow{\text{Split}} u \xleftarrow{h} \tilde{u} \sim p_{\tilde{u}} \\ \xrightarrow{\quad} v \sim p_v \end{array}$$

Different flow models II

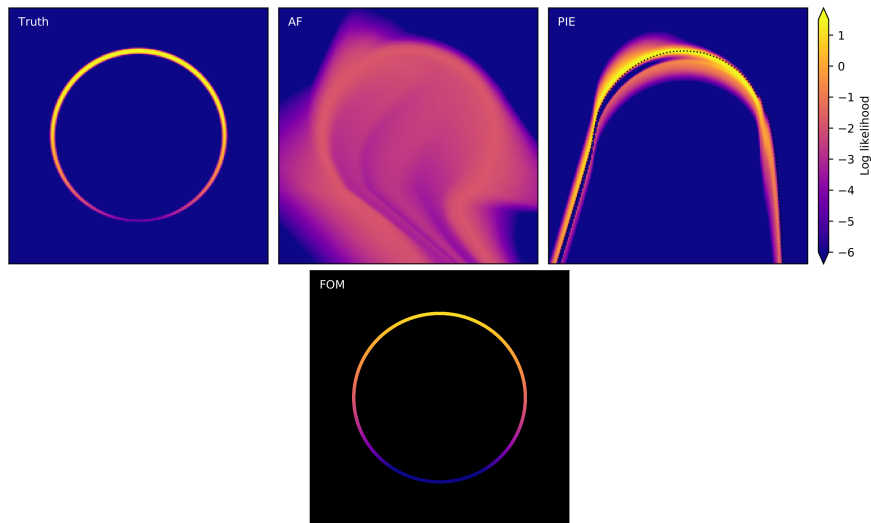
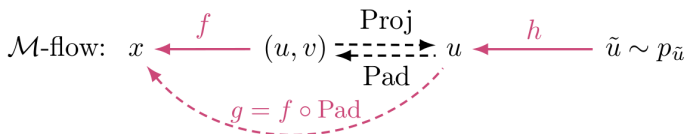


Figure: Gaussian on circle

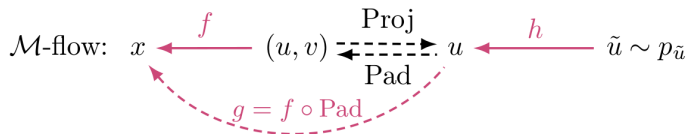
$X = \mathbb{R}^d$ data space
 $U = \mathbb{R}^n$ coordinates of the manifold
 $V = \mathbb{R}^{d-n}$ direction "off" the manifold



- Given base density $p_{\tilde{u}}(\tilde{u})$
- Learn a n -dimensional flow h , that maps u to \tilde{u}

$$h : \tilde{U} \mapsto U, \quad \tilde{U}, U = \mathbb{R}^n$$

$$p_u(u) = p_{\tilde{u}}(h^{-1}(u)) |\det J_h(h^{-1}(u))|^{-1}$$



- Learn diffeomorphism $f : U \times V \mapsto X = \mathbb{R}^d$ between latent space and data space
- Let the model manifold \mathcal{M} be defined by the level set

$$g : U \mapsto M \subset X \text{ with } u \mapsto g(u) = f(u, 0)$$

$$g = f_k \circ \dots \circ f_1 \circ \text{Pad}$$

where Pad represents a n -dimensional vector with zero padding

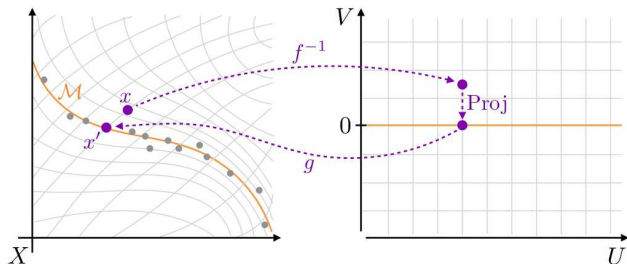
$$\text{Pad}(u) = (u_0, \dots, u_{n-1}, 0, \dots, 0)^T$$

- Then the probability density on the manifold is

$$p_{\mathcal{M}}(x) = p_{\tilde{u}}(h^{-1}(g^{-1}(x))) \left| \det J_h(h^{-1}(g^{-1}(x))) \right|^{-1} \\ \times \left| \det \left[J_g^T(g^{-1}(x)) J_g(g^{-1}(x)) \right] \right|^{-\frac{1}{2}}$$

where J_g is a $d \times n$ dimensional Jacobian matrix

- The density is equal to the FOM models, except the transformation g is learnable rather than given
- Sampling from an \mathcal{M} -flow: Draw $\tilde{u} \sim p_{\tilde{u}}(\tilde{u})$, $u = h(\tilde{u})$ and compute $x = g(u) = f(u, 0)$



- g is a **decoder**: maps from a lower dimensional space to the data space
- Let g^{-1} be the **encoder** defined as $g^{-1} : X \mapsto U$

$$g^{-1}(x) = \text{Proj}(f^{-1}(x)), \text{ with } \text{Proj}(u, v) = u$$

Like that the inverse of g is extended to the entire data space X and not only defined for $x \in \mathcal{M}$.

- Encoder and decoder are exact inverses of each other for points on the manifold!
- **Reconstruction error**

$$\|x - x'\| = \|x - g(g^{-1}(x))\|$$

- \mathcal{M} -flows allow for
 - Computation of the likelihood on the manifold $p_{\mathcal{M}}(x')$
 - **Denosing** of the input: by using the projection $x' = g(g^{-1}(x))$
 - Anomaly or **out-of-distribution detection** by using the reconstruction error $\|x - x'\|$

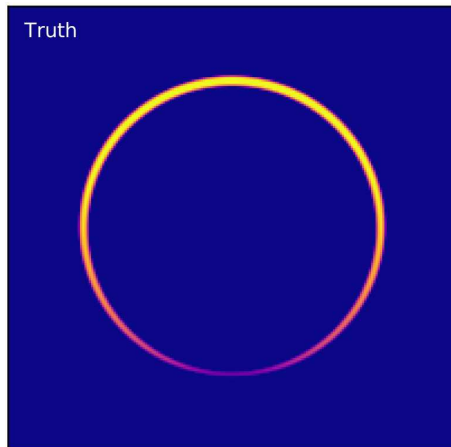
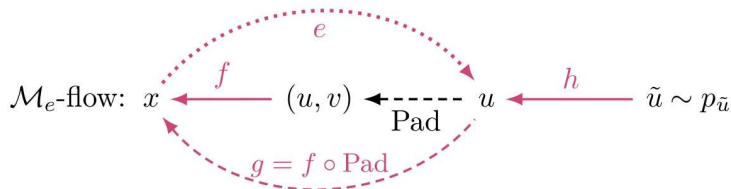


Figure: Gaussian on a circle - Truth



Figure: \mathcal{M} -Flow

Manifold-learning flows with separate encoder (\mathcal{M}_e -flow)



- Is a variant of \mathcal{M} -flows
- We replace the encoder g^{-1} with a separate function

$$e : X \mapsto U$$

- The encoder is not restricted to be invertible this increases the expressiveness
- Encoder and decoder may be inconsistent, which during training has to be penalized (similar to VAEs)

Probabilistic autoencoder (PAE)



- Like the M_e -flow but we replace the invertible transformation g with a decoder

$$e : U \mapsto X$$

that does not need to be invertible

- This is an autoencoder where the latent space is modeled with a flow
- Pro: decoder gains expressivity
- Con: the density of the model is intractable

- Learn the dimensionality
 - Brute force search for the right dimension n
 - Evaluate different n with the reconstruction error
- Manifold with multiple disjoint pieces
 - Suggestion: mixture model with separate transformations from latent to data space
- Still open research how we can learn manifolds with complex topology

Section 3: Training

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① Maximum likelihood not good enough:

- Maximizing the likelihood $p(x \mid \phi_f, \phi_h)$ does not encourage the network to learn the correct manifold
- Extreme case: model manifold is perpendicular to the true data manifold (might project all points to a small region with high density)

② Computing the determinant of $J_g^T J_g$ is not efficient ($J_g \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times d}$ is not square)

$$L[h] = -\frac{1}{n} \sum_x \left(\log p_{\tilde{u}}(h^{-1}(u)) - \log \det J_h(h^{-1}(u)) - \frac{1}{2} \log \det [J_g^T(u) J_g(u)] \right)$$

- Different training strategies are possible
- Separate manifold and density training (M/D) into two phases
 - In the same spirit as the EM-algorithm
 - ① Manifold phase: only learn function g using the reconstruction error
 - ② Density phase: only learn function h using maximum likelihood
- Loss of the density phase with $u = g^{-1}(x)$ is

$$L[h] = -\frac{1}{n} \sum_x \left(\log p_{\tilde{u}}(h^{-1}(u)) - \log \det J_h(h^{-1}(u)) - \frac{1}{2} \log \det [J_g^T(u) J_g(u)] \right)$$

- Using maximum likelihood only to update h allows for efficient computation, because we do not need to evaluate $\det [J_g^T(u) J_g(u)]$

- M/D-training schedule: Alternating vs Sequential update
- Likelihood evaluation during inference or testing is still problematic for high dimensional data

Section 4: Experiments

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Mixture model on a polynomial surface I

- Comparison of \mathcal{M} -flow, \mathcal{M}_e -flow, AF, PIE and PAE

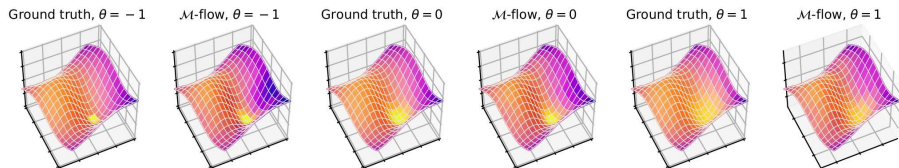


Figure: Polynomial Surface

- Synthetic example with a two-dimensional manifold in \mathbb{R}^3
- Training and test data is generated by a mixture of two Gaussians in the latent space, conditioned on the parameter $\theta \in [-1, 1]$
- In all metrics except out-of-distribution detection \mathcal{M} -flows provide the best results

Mixture model on a polynomial surface II

- MMD: Maximum mean discrepancies between the true and the approximate posteriors
- OOD: Out-of-distribution detection

Model	Manifold distance	Reconstruction error	Posterior MMD	OOD AUC
AF	0.005	–	0.071	0.990
PIE (original)	0.035	1.278	0.131	0.933
PIE (uncond. manifold)	0.006	1.253	0.075	0.972
PAE	0.002	0.002	–	0.990
\mathcal{M} -flow (alternating M/D)	0.002	0.003	0.020	0.986
\mathcal{M} -flow (sequential M/D)	0.009	0.013	0.017	0.961
\mathcal{M}_e -flow (alternating M/D)	0.003	0.003	0.030	0.985
\mathcal{M}_e -flow (sequential M/D)	0.002	0.002	0.007	0.987

Figure: Polynomial Surface Results

- Three image datasets

- The images are generated with a Style-GAN2 model trained on the Flickr-Faces-HQ (FFHQ) dataset downsampled to 64x64
 - Sample n latent variable of the GAN while keeping others fixed
 - $n = 2$ and $n = 64$ (training set size: 10'000 and 20'000 images)
- Third dataset is the real-world CelebA-HQ set downsampled to 64x64 images (existence of a manifold nor its dimension is known)
 - n was set to 512

- Results

- \mathcal{M} -flows better on StyleGAN
- Slightly worse than AF on the CelebA-HQ dataset (possible reason: suboptimal choice of n)

- FID: Fréchet inception distance

Model	FID scores			Log posterior
	$n = 2$	$n = 64$	CelebA	$n = 64$
AF	58.3 ± 1.5	24.0 ± 0.0	33.6 ± 0.2	0.17 ± 1.18
PIE	139.5 ± 5.0	32.2 ± 0.8	75.7 ± 5.1	-6.40 ± 1.54
\mathcal{M} -flow	43.9 ± 0.2	20.8 ± 0.5	37.4 ± 0.2	2.67 ± 0.27
\mathcal{M}_e -flow	43.5 ± 0.2	23.7 ± 0.2	35.8 ± 0.4	1.81 ± 0.70

Figure: Image Manifolds: Results

Image manifolds III

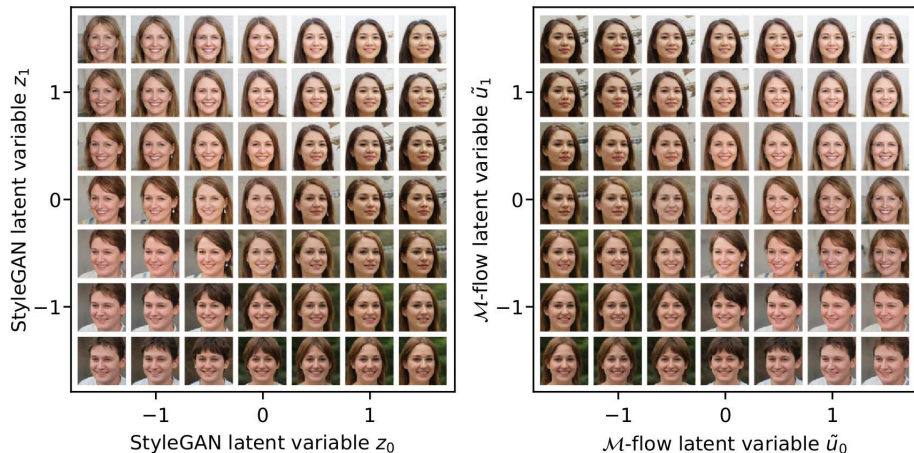


Figure: StyleGAN: Latent Representation

Image manifolds IV

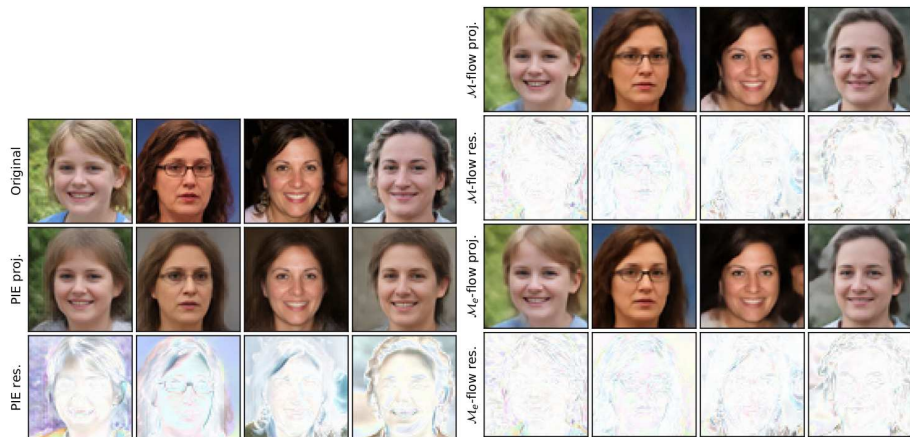


Figure: StyleGAN: Projection onto manifold ($n=64$)

Section 5: Critic

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- Good
 - Well structured
 - Motivation through comparison of different models
 - Novel model to learn both the manifold and the density
- Improvements
 - Experiments
 - More real data (mostly synthetic or simulation data was used)
 - Comparison to GAN
 - In depth analysis of \mathcal{M} -Flow versus \mathcal{M}_e -Flow performance
 - Deeper analysis of computational complexity

Section 6: Discussion

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- Particle physics

11 Change of variable

Generative adversarial networks⁵

- Generator
 - Prior distribution on input noise variables $p_z(z)$
 - Mapping from z to the data space X modeled by a differential function $G(z; \theta_g)$ (modeled by a MLP with parameters θ_g)
- Discriminator
 - $D(x; \theta_d)$ modeled by a MLP that outputs a single output the probability that x came from real data rather than from p_G the generator
- Goal learn the distribution of the generator $p_G(x)$
- Training
 - train D to maximize the probability of discriminating the correct label
 - train simultaneously G to minimize $\log(1 - D(G(z)))$

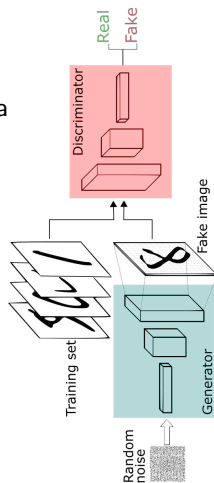


Figure: GAN⁴

⁴TDS: Generative Adversarial Networks — Explained

⁵Generative Adversarial Nets, Ian J. Goodfellow et al.

Variational Autoencoders⁶⁷

- Dataset $X = \{x^{(i)}\}_{i=1}^N$ of N i.i.d samples
- Assumption: Data is generated by some random process
 - 1 $z^{(i)}$ is generated from prior $p_{\theta^*}(z)$
 - 2 $x^{(i)}$ is generated from $p_{\theta^*}(x | z)$
- θ^* and the values of the latent variables $z^{(i)}$ are unknown
- Goal: compute approximation $q_{\phi}(z | x)$ of the intractable true posterior
$$p_{\theta}(z | x) = \frac{p_{\theta}(z)p_{\theta}(x|z)}{p_{\theta}(x)}$$
- Training is done by optimizing the ELBO

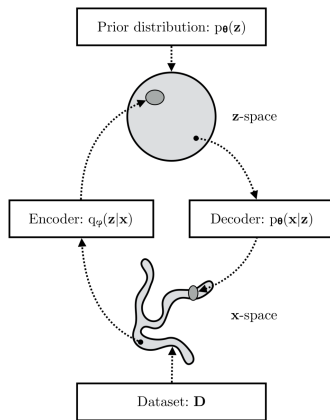


Figure: VAE

⁶Auto-Encoding Variational Bayes, Diederik P. Kingma, Max Welling

⁷An Introduction to Variational Autoencoders, Diederik P. Kingma, Max Welling

Section 8: Model comparison

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Ambient flow (AF) I

$$\text{AF: } x \xleftarrow{f} (u, v) \sim p_{uv}$$

- Euclidean normalizing flow $f : U \times V \mapsto X$
 - is a diffeomorphism in the ambient/surrounding space
 - can be modeled as a neural network
- Tractable base density $p_{u,v}(u, v)$
- The density of the data is then given by

$$p_x(x) = p_{u,v}(f^{-1}(x)) \left| \det J_f(f^{-1}(x)) \right|^{-1}$$

- Generative mode:
 - sample $(u, v) \sim p_{u,v}$
 - apply the transformation $x = f(u, v)$, which leads to samples $x \sim p_x(x)$

Ambient flow (AF) II

- No explicit alignment of the latent variables u, v
→ no notion of the data manifold

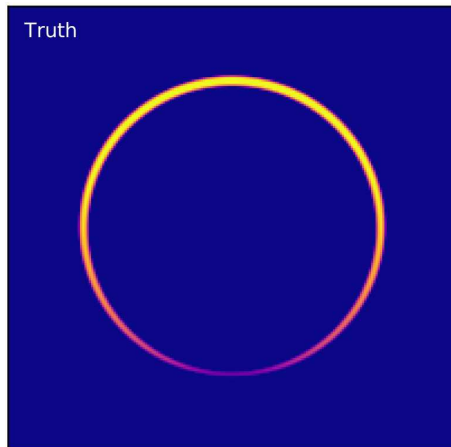


Figure: Gaussian on a circle - Truth

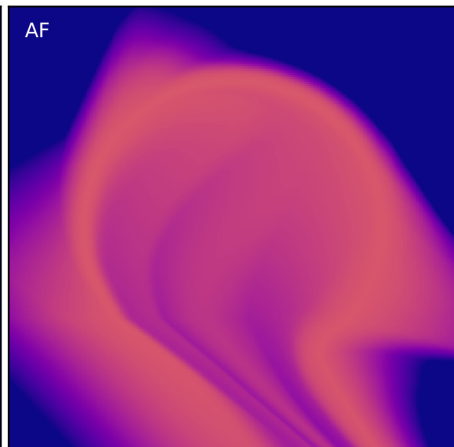


Figure: Gaussian on a circle - AF

Flow on a prescribed manifold (FOM) I

$$\text{FOM: } x \xleftarrow{g^*} \cdots u \xleftarrow{h} \tilde{u} \sim p_{\tilde{u}}$$

- Given a priori: Chart $g^* : U \mapsto \mathcal{M}^* \subset X$ for the data manifold
- Then the density (only defined) over \mathcal{M}^* is

$$p_{\mathcal{M}^*}(x) = p_u(g^{*-1}(x)) \left| \det \left[J_g^T(g^{*-1}(x)) J_g(g^{*-1}(x)) \right] \right|^{-\frac{1}{2}},$$

where J_g is the Jacobian a $n \times d$ matrix of g^*

- $p_u(u)$ is modeled with a normalizing flow (diffeomorphism) h
- h maps from a set of latent variables $\tilde{u} \sim p_{\tilde{u}}(\tilde{u})$ to u and is **learnable**

Flow on a prescribed manifold (FOM) II

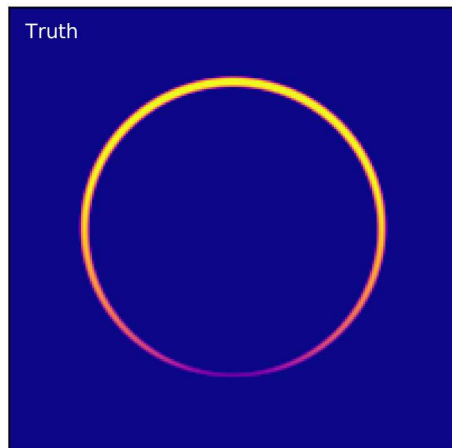


Figure: Gaussian on a circle - Truth



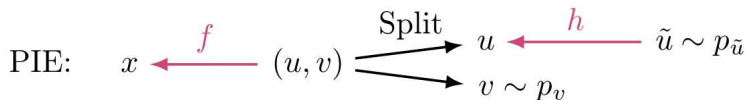
Figure: Gaussian on a circle - FOM

Generative adversarial networks (GAN)

$$\text{GAN: } x \xleftarrow{g} u \sim p_u$$

- Learn a mapping from the n -dimensional latent space U to the data space: $g : U \mapsto M \subset X$
- g might not be invertible nor injective
- Hence g is not a chart and the transformation not a manifold
- Pro: g is not restricted, which increases the expressiveness of the neural network
- Con: Model density is intractable

Pseudo-invertible encoder (PIE) I



- Splits the latent variables u, v of an ambient flow into two vectors sampled from different base densities
- The distribution of u models the coordinates on the manifold. h is again a n -dim. euclidian flow that maps to the latent variable \tilde{u} .
- v should represent the off-dimension-direction of the manifold in the latent space. $p_v(v)$ is the base density that sharply peaks around 0.
- In practice with this bias an alignment of u with the data manifold can be achieved.
- Sampling: $u \sim p_u(u)$ and apply $x = f(u, 0)$

Pseudo-invertible encoder (PIE) II

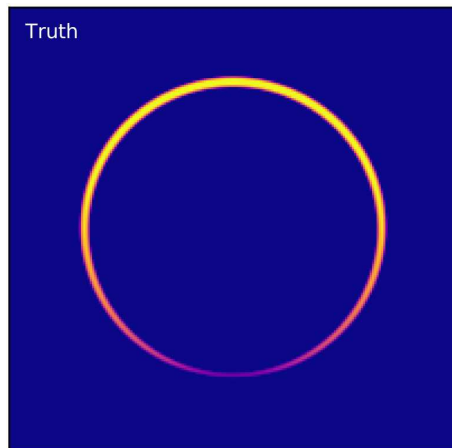


Figure: Gaussian on a circle - Truth

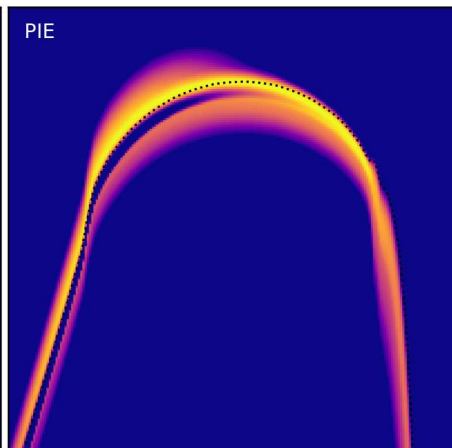


Figure: Gaussian on a circle - PIE

Model comparison overview

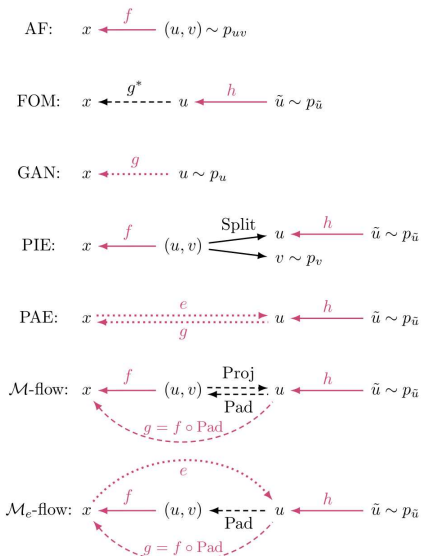


Figure: Model overview

Model	Manifold	Chart	Tractable density	Restr. to \mathcal{M}
AF	no manifold	×	✓	×
FOM	prescribed	✓	✓	✓
GAN	learned	×	×	✓
VAE	learned	×	only ELBO	(×)
PIE	learned	✓	✓	(×)
PAE	learned	×	×	✓
\mathcal{M} -flow	learned	✓	✓	✓
\mathcal{M}_e -flow	learned	✓	✓	✓

Figure: Model comparison

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Naive maximum likelihood training

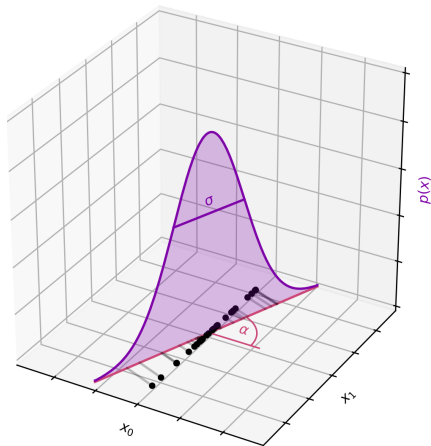


Figure: Setup

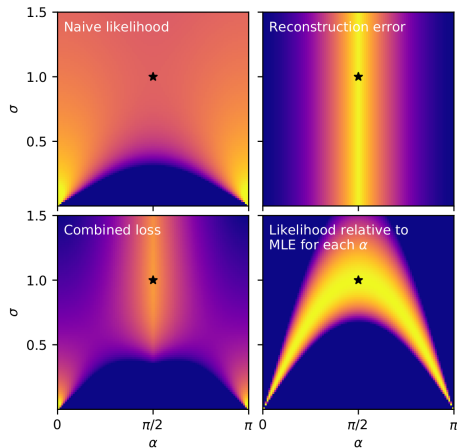


Figure: Loss function

① M: manifold phase

- Update the parameters of f
- f defines the manifold \mathcal{M} and the chart g
- We minimize the squared reconstruction error

$$L_{manifold}^{M/D}[g] = \frac{1}{b} \sum_x ||x - g(g^{-1}(x))||_2^2$$

where b is the batch size.

- For the \mathcal{M}_e model we also update the parameters of the encoder e

② D: density phase

- Update only the parameters of h by maximum likelihood
- The manifold stays fixed, because h only affects the density p_u
- We minimize the negative log likelihood

$$L_{density}^{M/D}[h] = -\frac{1}{b} \sum_x \log p_u(g^{-1}(x))$$

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Experiments general architecture

- Comparison of: \mathcal{M} , \mathcal{M}_e -flows, AF, PIE, PAE
- Based on rational-quadratic neural spline flows
- For tabular datasets
 - model transformations f and h by alternating coupling layers (20-35 layers)
- For image datasets
 - f is based on a multi-scale architecture (20-28 layers) across four levels interspersed with actnorm and 1×1 convolution layers
 - for \mathcal{M} -flows, \mathcal{M}_e -flows and PIE: additionally for a subset of the channels two invertible transformations are applied before the projection to the manifold coordinates u
 - h is the same as for the tabular datasets

StyleGAN Samples

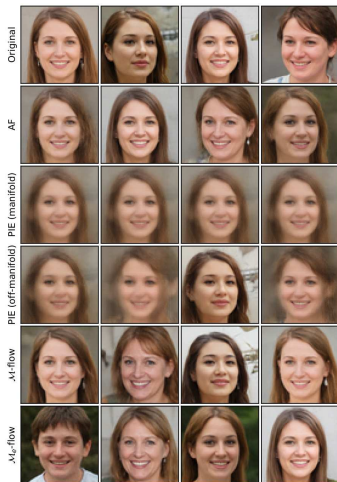


Figure: StyleGAN: Generated Samples
($n = 2$)

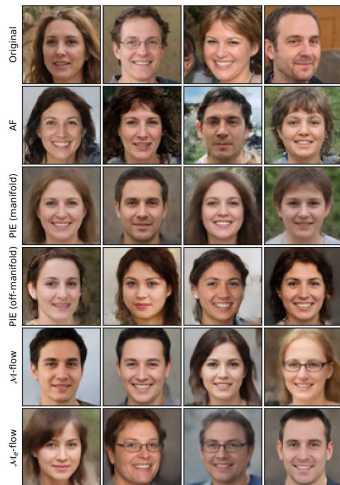


Figure: StyleGAN: Generated Samples
($n = 64$)

CelebA-HQ Results

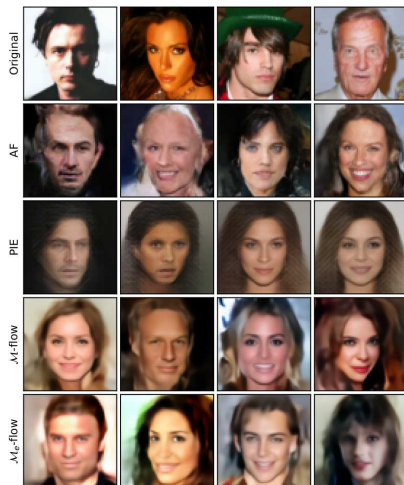


Figure: CelebA-HQ

Model	FID score	Reconstruction error
AF	33.6 ± 0.2	—
PIE	75.7 ± 5.1	6970 ± 97
\mathcal{M} -flow	37.4 ± 0.2	830 ± 5
\mathcal{M}_e -flow	35.8 ± 0.4	991 ± 4

Figure: CelebA-HQ: Results

Lorenz attractor

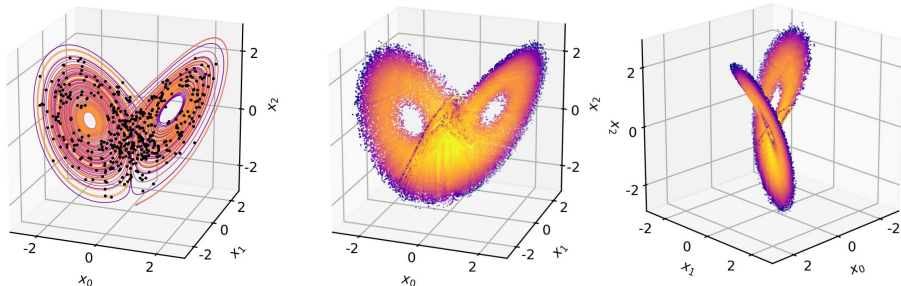


Figure: Lorenz Attractor

- $x \in \mathbb{R}^3$ changes with time based on **three differential equations**
- With certain initial parameter choices the solution tends towards the Lorenz attractor
- Generated 100 trajectories with different initial conditions (from $t = 0$ to $t = 1000$)

- Proton-proton collision at the Large Hadron Collider
- Observations $x \in \mathbb{R}^{40}$
- $p(x \mid \theta)$ is conditional on 3 constants of nature θ
- By the laws of particle physics the data must be restricted by a 14-dimensional manifold
- The goal is to infer the posterior over θ given observations x_i
- Trained on 10^6 samples generated by a simulator

Particle physics II

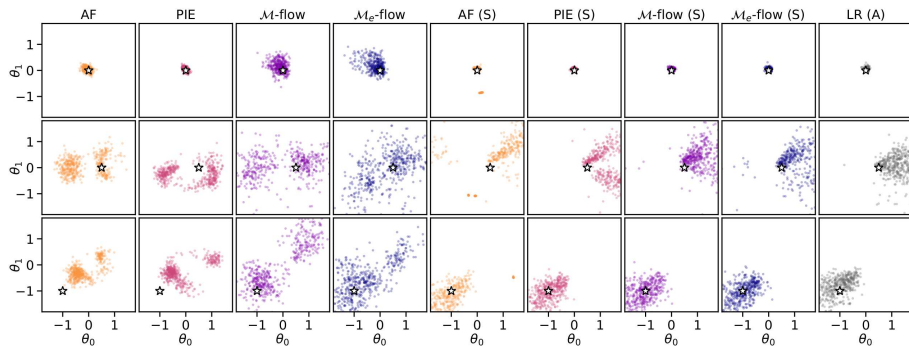


Figure: Posterior samples from an MCMC

Particle physics III

Model (algorithm)	Sample closure	Mean reconstruction error	Log posterior
AF	0.0019 \pm 0.0001	–	–3.94 \pm 0.87
PIE (original)	0.0023 \pm 0.0001	2.054 \pm 0.076	–4.68 \pm 1.56
PIE (unconditional manifold)	0.0022 \pm 0.0001	1.681 \pm 0.136	–1.82 \pm 0.18
PAE	0.0073 \pm 0.0001	0.052 \pm 0.001	–
\mathcal{M} -flow	0.0045 \pm 0.0004	0.012 \pm 0.001	–1.71 \pm 0.30
\mathcal{M}_e -flow	0.0046 \pm 0.0002	0.029 \pm 0.001	–1.44 \pm 0.34
AF (SCANDAL)	0.0565 \pm 0.0059	–	–0.40 \pm 0.09
PIE (original, SCANDAL)	0.1293 \pm 0.0218	3.090 \pm 0.052	0.03 \pm 0.17
PIE (uncond. manifold, SCANDAL)	0.1019 \pm 0.0104	1.751 \pm 0.064	0.23 \pm 0.05
PAE (SCANDAL)	0.0323 \pm 0.0010	0.053 \pm 0.001	–
\mathcal{M} -flow (SCANDAL)	0.0371 \pm 0.0030	0.011 \pm 0.001	0.11 \pm 0.04
\mathcal{M}_e -flow (SCANDAL)	0.0291 \pm 0.0010	0.030 \pm 0.002	0.14 \pm 0.09
Likelihood ratio estimator (ALICES)	–	–	0.05 \pm 0.05

Figure: Results

Section 11: Change of variable

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Change of variable⁸

- $M \subset \mathbb{R}^m$ where M is a n -manifold and $n < m$
- $\vec{x} = \phi(\vec{u}) : \mathbb{R}^n \mapsto \mathbb{R}^m$ maps the embedded manifold to its intrinsic Euclidean space
- $d\vec{x} = \sqrt{\det J_\phi^T J_\phi} d\vec{u}$ describes the change of volumes
- Formula to compute the density over M

$$\int_{M \subset \mathbb{R}^m} f(\vec{x}) d\vec{x} = \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} (f \circ \phi)(\vec{u}) \sqrt{\det J_\phi^T J_\phi} d\vec{u}$$

- Then the density becomes

$$p(\vec{u}) = (f \circ \phi)(\vec{u}) \sqrt{\det J_\phi^T J_\phi(\vec{u})} = f(\vec{x}) \sqrt{\det J_\phi^T J_\phi(\phi^{-1}(\vec{x}))}$$

⁸Normalizing Flows on Riemannian Manifolds, Mevlana C. Gemici et al.