

# CONTINUOUS NORMALIZING FLOW PART II

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where does the "Trace" come from?

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Final Instantaneous Change-of-variables

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Take the derivative of  $\frac{d}{dt} \log p_t(x_t)$

$p(x(t), t)$

$$\frac{d}{dt} \log p_t(x_t) = \left. \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \log p_t(x) \right|_{x=x_0} + \nabla_x \log p_t(x_0, t) \frac{dx}{dt}$$

$$= \left. \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \log p_t(x) \right|_{x=x_0} + \nabla_x \log p_t(x_0, t) f_\theta(x_0, t)$$

How does log density of  $x$  evolve as we push it through a flow?

Recall  $\frac{dx}{dt} = f_\theta(x_t, t)$

Why the Total Derivative?

- Because 1) The density field  $p_t$  changes wrt time ( $\frac{\partial}{\partial t}$ )  
2) The sample  $x_t$  also moves ( $\nabla_x \cdot \frac{dx}{dt}$ ) through space as time evolves

Now we have the formula

$$\frac{d}{dt} \log p_t(x_t) = \left. \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \log p_t(x) \right|_{x=x_0} + \nabla_x \log p_t(x_0, t) f_\theta(x_0, t)$$

$$\frac{d}{dt} \log p_t(x_t) = \left. \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \log p_t(x) \right|_{x=x_t}$$

$$+ \nabla_x \log p_t(x_{t+1}, t) f_0(x_{t+1}, t)$$

Continuity equation

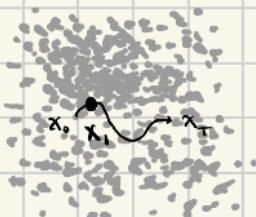
$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \log p_t(x) = - \nabla_x \cdot f_0(x_{t+1}, t) - f_0(x_{t+1}, t) \nabla_x \log p_t(x)$$

$$= \left[ - \nabla_x \cdot f_0(x_t, t) - f_0(x_t, t) \nabla_x \log p_t(x) \right]_{x=x_t} + \nabla_x \log p_t(x_{t+1}, t) f_0(x_{t+1}, t)$$

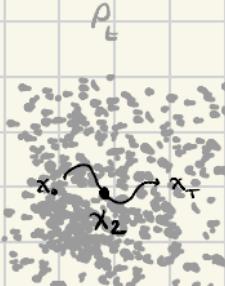
$$\therefore \frac{d}{dt} \log p_t(x_t) = - \nabla_x \cdot f_0(x_{t+1}, t)$$

Figure 1

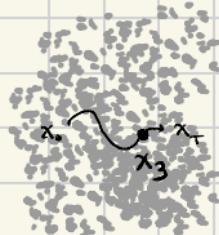
$$p_t(x) \neq p_t(x_t)$$



$t=1$

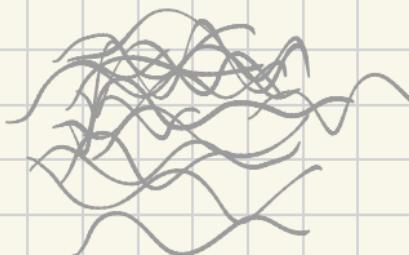
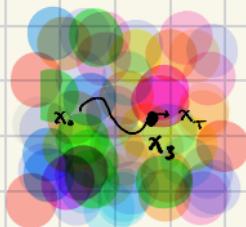


$t=2$



$t=3$

Figure 2



# How Do We Get $\frac{\partial}{\partial t} p_t(x)$ ?

## Conservation of Mass (Continuous)

Mass (particles) cannot vanish or appear

Continuity Equation (Fluid Dynamics)

$$\frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} = -\nabla \cdot (\rho \mathbf{v})$$

local rate of P  
dot product  
divergence of flux

$\rho(x, t)$  density at point  $x$  and time  $t$

$\mathbf{v}(x, t)$  the particle velocity field

+ State mass  
+ diverge out  
- converge in

Flux = flow of mass

## Continuity Equation using PDFs

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} p_t(x) + \nabla_x \cdot (f_\theta(x_t, t) p_t(x)) = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{\partial}{\partial t} p_t(x) = -\nabla_x (f_\theta(x_t, t) p_t(x))$$

$$\text{log density} \rightarrow \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \log p_t(x) = \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \log p_t(x) \frac{\partial p_t(x)}{\partial t}$$

$$= \frac{1}{p_t(x)} \frac{\partial}{\partial t} p_t(x)$$

$$= \frac{1}{p_t(x)} \left[ -\nabla_x \cdot (f_\theta(x_t, t) p_t(x)) \right]$$

$$= -\frac{1}{p_t(x)} \left( \nabla_x f_\theta(x_t, t) p_t(x) + f_\theta(x_t, t) \nabla_x p_t(x) \right)$$

by chain rule

product rule

$$= - \frac{\nabla_x \cdot f_\theta(x_t, t) p_t(x)}{p_t(x)} - \frac{f_\theta(x_t, t) \nabla_x p_t(x)}{p_t(x)}$$

$$= - \nabla_x \cdot f_\theta(x_t, t) - \frac{f_\theta(x_t, t) \nabla_x p_t(x)}{p_t(x)}$$

$$\frac{\nabla_x p_t(x)}{p_t(x)} = \frac{1}{p_t(x)} \nabla_x p_t(x)$$

$$= \nabla_x \log p_t(x)$$

$\nabla_x$  is a vector of differential operators

$$\nabla_x = \left( \frac{\partial}{\partial x_1}, \dots, \frac{\partial}{\partial x_d} \right)$$

$$\nabla_x g(x) = \sum \frac{\partial g_i(x)}{\partial x_i}$$

Multivariate Chain Rule

$$\nabla_x(g \circ h)(x) = g'(h(x)) \nabla_x h(x)$$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \log p_t(x) = - \nabla_x \cdot f_\theta(x_t, t) - \frac{f_\theta(x_t, t) \nabla_x p_t(x)}{p_t(x)}$$

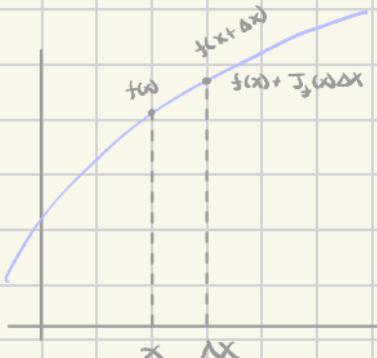
$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \log p_t(x) = - \nabla_x \cdot f_\theta(x_t, t) - f_\theta(x_t, t) \nabla_x \log p_t(x)$$

## Jacobian & Trace

$$x \in \mathbb{R}^d \quad f: \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^d$$

Jacobian: linear approximation  
of  $f$  around a small  
neighborhood of  $x$

$$f(x + \Delta x) \approx f(x) + J_f(x) \Delta x$$



## Jacobian Matrix

$$\bar{J}_f(x) = \frac{\partial f(x)}{\partial x}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} \frac{\partial f_1}{\partial x_1} & \dots & \frac{\partial f_1}{\partial x_d} \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \frac{\partial f_d}{\partial x_1} & \dots & \frac{\partial f_d}{\partial x_d} \end{pmatrix}$$

entry(i,i)

$$\frac{\partial f_i}{\partial x_i} +$$

axis i

$\frac{\partial f_i}{\partial x_j} \rightarrow$  If you judge  $x_j$ , how does the flow in the  $f_i$  direction speed up or slow down

## A Little More to Get Trace

Total Derivative

$$\frac{d}{dt} \log p_t(x_t) = -\nabla_x \cdot f_t(x_t, t)$$

Divergence

$$\nabla \cdot f(x) = \sum_{i=1}^d \frac{\partial f_i}{\partial x_i}$$

dot product

off diagonals  
of Jacobian tell us  
rotation/shear

$$= - \sum_i \frac{\partial f_i(x, t)}{\partial x_i} = -\text{Tr}\left(\frac{\partial f_t}{\partial x_t}\right)$$

The diagonals of the Jacobian  
are the only entries of the  
Jacobian that directly tells us  
how volumes expand/contract  
along each axis

## Fundamental Theorem of Calculus (FTC)

$$F'(x) = f(x) \Rightarrow F(b) - F(a) = \int_a^b f(x) dx$$

equivalently

$$\frac{dy}{dt} = g(t) \Rightarrow y(T) - y(0) = \int_0^T g(t) dt$$



So now we have

$$\frac{d}{dt} \log p_t(x_t) = -\nabla_x \cdot f_0(x_t, t) = -\text{Tr}\left(\frac{\partial f_0}{\partial x_t}\right)$$

And

$$\log p(x_T) - \log p(x_0) = -\int_0^T \text{Tr}\left(\frac{\partial f_0}{\partial x_t}\right)$$

By FTC

Instantaneous Change-of-variables  
in continuous time

$$\lg p(x_t) = \lg p(x_T) - \int_0^T \text{Tr}\left(\frac{\partial f_0}{\partial x_t}\right)$$

Problem: Trace is  
the computational  
bottleneck!

Solution:

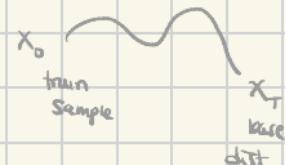
Hutchison  
Estimator  $\rightarrow$  still  
expensive

## Objective/Loss Function

Let  $x_T$  be base density (Gaussian)

$x_0$  be a training image

$$l(x; \theta) = \lg p(x_T) - \int_0^T \text{Tr}\left(\frac{\partial f_0}{\partial x_t}\right)$$



$$\text{MLE} \max_{\theta} \mathbb{E}_{x \sim \text{data}} [\log p(x)]$$

## Training -

- $x_0 \in \mathbb{R}^d$  sample
- Numerically integrate with ODE solver (PyTorch) to get  $x_T$

$$x_T = x_0 + \int_0^T f_\theta(x_t, t) dt$$

$x_0$  train sample  
 $x_T \sim N(0, I)$  true diff

FTC

$$\frac{dx}{dt} = f_\theta$$

- choose simple base PDF & compute

$$\log p(x_T), \text{ where } x_T \sim N(0, I)$$

- Integrate with same ODE solver

$$\int_0^T \text{Tr}\left(\frac{\partial f_\theta}{\partial x_t}\right) dt$$

- compute as NLL & Back propagate

$$\log p(x_0) = \log p(x_T) - \int_0^T \text{Tr}\left(\frac{\partial f_\theta}{\partial x_t}\right) dt$$