

### Anomaly detection can be formulated as density estimation

- This is probably the cleanest formulation for the problem
- ...And usually leads to good results

### KDE as an estimation technique

- ...Works reasonably well for low-dimensional data
- ...Becomes slower and more data hungry for higher-dimensional data

#### Autoencoders overcome some of these limitations

- They are faster and less data hungry for high-dimensional data
- They can provide additional insight in the anomalies
- ...But they tend to be worse than D.E. in terms of pure detection power

# Let's try to understand why this may be the case...

### Anomaly Detection based on D.E. checks whether:

$$-\log f(\mathbf{x}, \lambda) \ge \theta$$

- lacktriangle Where lacktriangle is the input vector, f the density estimator, and lacktriangle its parameter vector
- lacksquare is the anomaly detection threshold

### Anomaly Detection based on autoencoders usually relies on:

$$\|g(\mathbf{x}, \lambda) - \mathbf{x}\|_2^2 \ge \theta'$$

- lacksquare Where g is the autoencoder, with parameter vector  $\lambda$
- lacksquare is again a suitably-chosen detection threshold

# The detection condition for autoencoders admits a probabilistic interpretation

Like we did for linear regression, we can rewrite:

$$\|g(\mathbf{x},\lambda) - \mathbf{x}\|_2^2 \longrightarrow \sum_{j=1}^m (g_j(\mathbf{x},\lambda) - x_j)^2 \longrightarrow \log \prod_{j=1}^m \exp((g_j(\mathbf{x},\lambda) - x_j)^2)$$

From which, with an affine transformation, for some fixed  $\sigma$  we get:

$$\log \frac{1}{\sigma \sqrt{2\pi}} + \frac{1}{\sigma^2} \log \prod_{j=1}^m \exp((g_j(\mathbf{x}, \lambda) - x_j)^2) \longrightarrow$$

$$\longrightarrow \log \prod_{j=1}^m \frac{1}{\sigma \sqrt{2\pi}} \exp\left(\left(\frac{g_j(\mathbf{x}, \lambda) - x_j}{\sigma}\right)^2\right)$$

### Therefore, optimizing the MSE is equivalent to optimizing

$$-\log \prod_{j=1}^{m} \varphi(x_j \mid g_j(\mathbf{x}, \lambda), \sigma)$$

- I.e. the log likelihood (estimated conditional probability of the data)...
- lacktriangleright ...Assuming that the prediction for each  $x_i$  is independent and normally distributed
- lacktriangleright ...with mean equal to the predictions  $g_j(\mathbf{x},\lambda)$  and fixed standard deviation  $\sigma$

### This is similar to what we observed for Linear Regression

- In LR, we assume normality, independence and fixed variance on the samples
- Here, we do it also on the features

#### The bottomline

- Even with autoencoders, at training time we solve a density estimation problem
- ...But we do it with some limiting assumptions

This is why D.E.-based anomaly detection tends to work better

#### So we have

- Either a density estimator with issues on high-dimensional data (KDE)
- ...Or a worse D.E. with good support for high-dimensional data (autoencoders)

Can we get the best of both worlds?

### Flow Models

# Ideally, we wish a neural approach for density estimation

There are only a handful of approaches, often referred to as flow models:

- Normalizing Flows
- Real Non-Volume Preserving transformations (Real NVP)
- Generative Flow with 1x1 convolutions (Glow)

# These are all (fairly) advanced and recent approaches

- Main idea: transforming a simple (and known) probability distribution...
- ...Into a complex (and unknown) distribution that matches that of the available data

As many ML models, they are trained for maximum likelihood

■ I.e. to maximize the estimated probability of the available data

### Flow Models

### All flow models rely on the change of variable formula

- $\blacksquare$  Let x be a random variable representing the source of our data
- Let  $p_x(x)$  be its (unknown) density function
- Let z be a random latent variable with known distribution  $p_z$
- $\blacksquare$  Let f be a bijective (i.e. invertible) transformation

Then, the change of variable formula states that:

$$p_x(x) = p_z(f(x)) \left| \det \left( \frac{\partial f(x)}{\partial x^T} \right) \right|$$

lacksquare Where  $\det$  is the determinant and  $\partial f/\partial x^T$  is the Jacobian of f

The formula links the two distributions via the flow model f

### Flow Models

#### Let's consider how we can use the formula

$$p_x(x) = p_z(f(x)) \left| \det \left( \frac{\partial f(x)}{\partial x^T} \right) \right|$$

- $\blacksquare$  Given an example x (e.g. from our dataset)
- We compute the mapping f(x), i.e. the corresponding value for the latent variable z
- lacksquare ...Plus the determinant of the Jacobian  $\partial f/\partial x^T$  in x
- Then we can use the formula to compute the probability of the example

# The challenge is defining the transformation f (i.e. the mapping)

- It must be invertible (for the formula to hold)
- It must be non-linear (to handle any distribution)
- It should allow for an easy computation of the determinant

### **Real NVP**

# We will use Real Non-Volume Preserving transformations as an example

Real NVPs are a type of neural network

- $\blacksquare$  Input: a vector  $\boldsymbol{x}$  representing an example
- Output: a vector z of values for the latent variable
- Key property: z should have a chosen probability distribution
- ...Typically: standard Normal distribution for each  $z_i$ :

$$z \sim \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, I)$$

In other words

- z follows a multivariate distribution
- ...But the covariance matrix is diagonal, i.e. each component is independent

### **Real NVP**

### A Real NVP architecture consists of a stack of affine coupling layers

Each layer treats its input x as split into two components, i.e.  $x = (x^1, x^2)$ 

- One component is passed forward as it is
- The second is processed via an affine transformation

$$y^{1} = x^{1}$$
  
 $y^{2} = e^{s(x^{1})} \odot x^{2} + t(x^{1})$ 

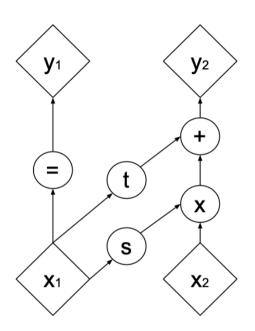
# The affine transformation is parameterized with two functions:

- $\blacksquare$   $x^2$  is scaled using  $e^{s(x^1)}$ ,  $x^2$  is translated using  $t(x^1)$
- o is the element-wise product (Hadamard product)

Since we have functions rather than fixed vectors, the transformation is nonlinear

# **Real NVP - Affine Coupling Layers**

Visually, each layer has the following compute graph:



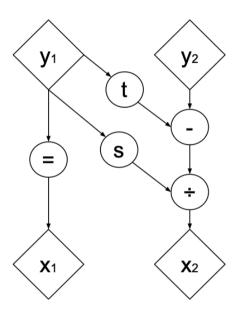
- We are using part of the input (i.e.  $x^1$ )...
- ...To transform the remaining part (i.e.  $x^2$ )

# Both s and t are usually implemented as Multilayer Perceptrons

lacktriangle I.e. pretend there are a few fully connected layers when you see s and t

# **Real NVP - Affine Coupling Layers**

# Each affine coupling layer is easy to invert



Since part of the input (i.e.  $x^1$ ) has been passed forward unchanged, we have that:

$$x^{1} = y^{1}$$
  
 $x^{2} = (y^{2} - t(y^{1})) \oslash e^{s(y^{1})}$ 

■ Ø is the element-wise division

# **Real NVP - Affine Coupling Layers**

### The determinant of each layer is easy to compute

The Jacobian of the transformation is:

$$\frac{\partial y}{\partial x^{T}} = \begin{pmatrix} I & 0 \\ \frac{\partial t(x^{1})}{\partial x^{T}} & \text{diag}(e^{s(x^{1})}) \end{pmatrix}$$

The most (only, actually) important thing is that the matrix is triangular:

■ ...Hence, its determinant is the product of the terms on the main diagonal:

$$\det\left(\frac{\partial y}{\partial x^T}\right) = \prod_{j \in I_{x_1}} e^{s(x_i^1)} = \exp\left(\sum_{j \in I_{x_1}} s(x_i^1)\right)$$

# **Real NVP - Considerations**

### Overall, we have a transformation that:

- ...Is non-linear, and can be made arbitrarily deep
- ...Is Invertible (so as to allow application of the change of variable formula)
- ...Is well suited for determinant computation

### Depth and non-linearity are very important:

- lacktriangleright The whole approach works only if we can construct a mapping between  $oldsymbol{x}$  and  $oldsymbol{z}$ ...
- ...l.e. if we can transform one probability distribution into the other

A poor mapping will lead to poor estimates

# **Real NVP - Considerations**

### At training time we maximize the log likelihood...

...Hence we care about log probabilities:

$$\log p_x(x) = \log p_z(f(x)) + \log \left| \det \left( \frac{\partial f(x)}{\partial x^T} \right) \right|$$

- lacktriangleright If we choose a Normal distribution for  $m{z}$ , the log cancels all exponentials in the formula
- I.e. the one in the Normal PDF and the one in the determinant computation

# In general, we want to make sure that all variables are transformed

- lacksquare We need to be careful to define the  $x^1, x^2$  components on different layers...
- ...So that no variable is passed forward unchanged along the whole network

A simple approach: alternate the roles (i.e. swap the role of  $x^1, x^2$  at every layer)

### Real NVP as Generative Models

# Since Real NVPs are invertible, they can be used as generative models

Formally, they can sample from the distribution they have learned

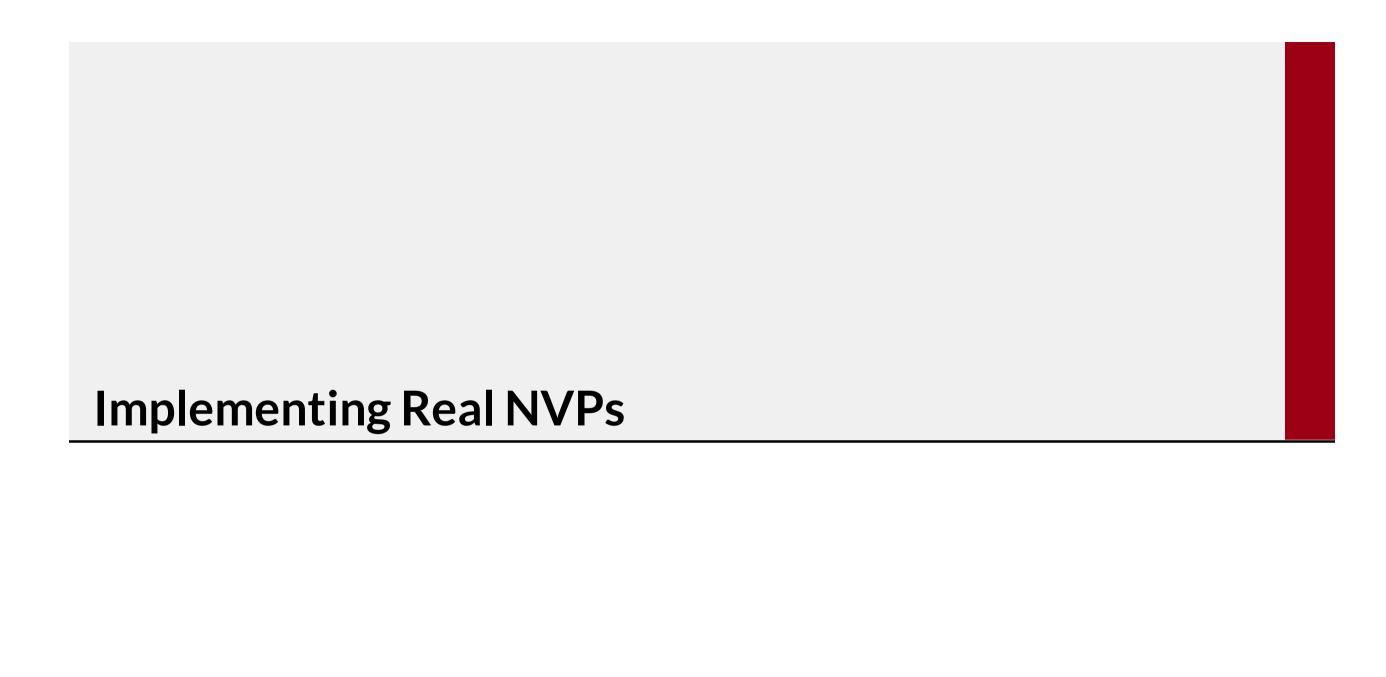
- $\blacksquare$  We just need to sample from  $p_z$ , i.e. on the latent space
  - ...And this is easy since the distribution is simple an known
- Then we go through the whole architecture backwards
  - ...Using the inverted version of the affine coupling layers

### In fact, generating data is often their primary purpose

They can (or could) be used for:

- Super resolution
- Procedural content generation
- Data augmentation (relevant in an industrial context)

Recent versions allow for data generation with controlled attributes



# Implementing Real NVPs

### We will now see how to implement Real NVPs

The basis from our code comes from the official keras documentation

■ It will rely partially on low-level APIs of keras

We start by importing several packages:

```
import tensorflow as tf
import tensorflow_probability as tfp
from tensorflow.keras.layers import Dense
from tensorflow.keras.callbacks import EarlyStopping
from tensorflow.keras.regularizers import 12
from sklearn.datasets import make_moons
```

- tensorflow\_probability is a tensorflow extension for probabilistic computations
- ...And allows for easy manipulation of probability distributions

### Then we define a function to build each affine coupling layer:

```
def coupling (input shape, nunits=64, nhidden=2, reg=0.01):
    assert(nhidden >= 0)
    x = keras.layers.Input(shape=input shape)
    # Build the layers for the t transformation (translation)
    t. = x
    for i in range(nhidden):
        t = Dense(nunits, activation="relu", kernel regularizer=12(reg))(t)
    t = Dense(input shape, activation="linear", kernel regularizer=12(reg))(t)
    # Build the layers for the s transformation (scale)
    s = x
    for i in range(nhidden):
        s = Dense(nunits, activation="relu", kernel regularizer=12(reg))(s)
    s = Dense(input shape, activation="tanh", kernel regularizer=12(reg))(s)
    # Return the layers, wrapped in a keras Model object
    return keras.Model(inputs=x, outputs=[s, t])
```

# This part of the code builds the translation (i.e. *t*) function:

- It's just a Multi-Layer Perceptron built using the functional API
- The output represents an offset, hence the "linear" activation function in the last layer

# This part of the code builds the translation (i.e. t) function:

```
def coupling(input_shape, nunits=64, nhidden=2, reg=0.01):
    ...
    x = keras.layers.Input(shape=input_shape)
    t = x
    for i in range(nhidden):
        t = Dense(nunits, activation="relu", kernel_regularizer=12(reg))(t)
    t = Dense(input_shape, activation="linear", kernel_regularizer=12(reg))(t)
    ...
```

- The output and input have the same shape, but  $x^1$  and  $x^2$  may have different size
- This will be resolved by masking some of the output of the affine layer
- ...The masked portions will have no effect, with effectively the same result
- The main drawback is higher memory consumption (and computational cost)

### This part of the code builds the scaling (i.e. s) function:

- Another MLP, with a bipolar sigmoid ("tanh") activation function in the output layer
- Using "tanh" limits the amount of scaling per affine coupling layer
- ...Which in turn makes training more numerically stable
- For the same reason, we use L2 regularizers on the MPL weights

### Then, we define a Real NVP architecture by subclassing keras.model

- We will now discuss the most important methods
- Sometimes with a few simplifications (for sake of clarity)

# The \_\_init\_ method (constructor) initializes the internal fields

```
def init (self, input shape, num coupling, units coupling=32, depth coupling=0,
            reg coupling=0.01):
        super(RealNVP, self). init ()
        self.distribution = tfp.distributions.MultivariateNormalDiag(
            loc=np.zeros(input shape, dtype=np.float32),
            scale diag=np.ones(input shape, dtype=np.float32)
       half n = int(np.ceil(input shape/2))
       m1 = ([0, 1] * half n)[:input shape]
        m2 = ([1, 0] * half n)[:input shape]
        self.masks = np.array([m1, m2] * (num coupling // 2), dtype=np.float32)
        self.loss tracker = keras.metrics.Mean(name="loss")
        self.layers list = [coupling(input shape, units coupling, depth coupling, reg cou
ing)
                            for i in range(num coupling)]
```

### The \_\_init\_\_ method (constructor) initializes the internal fields

Here we build a tfp object to handle the known distribution

- As it is customary, we chosen a Multivariate Normal distribution
- ...With independent components, zero mean, and unary standard deviation

### The \_\_init\_\_ method (constructor) initializes the internal fields

Here we build the masks to discriminate the  $x_1$  and  $x_2$  components at each layer

- As in the original RNVP paper, we use an alternating checkboard pattern
  - I.e. we take even indexes at one layer, and odd indexes at the next layer
- ...So that all variables are transformed, if we have at least 2 affine coupling layers

### The \_\_init\_\_ method (constructor) initializes the internal fields

Finally, here we build the model layers

- Each one consists in an affine coupling
- ...And contains in turn two Multi Layer Perceptrons
- Recall that we need at least 2 affine couplings to transform all variables

### The call method handles the transformation, in both directions

```
def call(self, x, training=True):
    log det inv, direction = 0, 1
    if training: direction = -1
    for i in range(self.num coupling)[::direction]:
        x masked = x * self.masks[i]
        reversed mask = 1 - self.masks[i]
        s, t = self.layers list[i](x masked)
        s, t = s*reversed mask, t*reversed mask
        gate = (direction - 1) / 2
        x = reversed mask * (x * tf.exp(direction * s) + direction * t * tf.exp(gate * s)
            + x masked
        log det inv += gate * tf.reduce sum(s, axis=1)
    return x, log det inv
```

### The call method handles the transformation, in both directions

```
def call(self, x, training=True):
    log_det_inv, direction = 0, 1
    if training: direction = -1
    for i in range(self.num_coupling)[::direction]:
    ...
```

The direction variable controls the direction of the transformation

- lacksquare By default, this implementation transforms z into x
  - I.e. it works backwards, compared to our theoretical discussion
- This is the case since RNVP are often mainly used as generative models
- lacksquare At training time, we always want to transform  $oldsymbol{x}$  into  $oldsymbol{z}$
- ...And this is why direction = -1 when training is True

#### The call method handles the transformation, in both directions

```
def call(self, x, training=True):
    for i in range(self.num_coupling)[::direction]:
        x_masked = x * self.masks[i]
        reversed_mask = 1 - self.masks[i]
        s, t = self.layers_list[i](x_masked)
        s, t = s*reversed_mask, t*reversed_mask
        ...
```

- lacktriangle Here we mask x, i.e. filter the  $x_1$  subset of variables
- lacktriangleright ...We compute the value of the s and t function
- Then we filter such values using a the reversed (i.e. negated) mask
- I.e. prepare s and t for their application to the  $x_2$  subset

### The call method handles the transformation, in both directions

Here we compute the main transformation (backwards, as mentioned):

■ If training = True, we have direction = -1 and we compute:

$$x^{1} = y^{1}$$
  
 $x^{2} = (y^{2} - t(y^{1})) \oslash e^{s(y^{1})}$ 

### The call method handles the transformation, in both directions

Here we compute the main transformation (backwards, as mentioned):

■ If training = False, we have direction = 1 and we compute:

$$y^{1} = x^{1}$$
  
 $y^{2} = e^{s(x^{1})} \odot x^{2} + t(x^{1})$ 

### The call method handles the transformation, in both directions

```
def call(self, x, training=True):
    ...
    for i in range(self.num_coupling)[::direction]:
        ...
        log_det_inv += gate * tf.reduce_sum(s, axis=1)
    return x, log_det_inv
```

At each layer, we also compute the  $\log \det$  of the Jacobian

- $\blacksquare$  ...Which is simply the sum of the s function values
- Determinants of different layers should be multiplied (due to the chain rule)...
- lacktriangleright ...Which means that their  $\log$  is simply summed

At then end of the process, the determinant has been computed

### The score\_samples method performs density estimation

```
def score_samples(self, x):
    y, logdet = self(x)
    log_probs = self.distribution.log_prob(y) + logdet
    return log_probs
```

The process relies on the change of variable formula:

- First, it triggers the call method with training=True
  - lacksquare I.e. transforms data points  $oldsymbol{x}$  into their latent representation  $oldsymbol{z}$
- $\blacksquare$  Then, it computes the (log) density of z
  - Using tensorfllow\_probability comes in handy at this point
- ...And then sums the log determinant

### The log\_loss method computes the loss function

```
def log_loss(self, x):
    log_densities = self.score_samples(x)
    return -tf.reduce_mean(log_densities)
```

#### This is done by:

- Obtaining the estimated densities via score\_samples
- ...Summing up (in log scale, i.e. a product in the original scale)
- ...And finally swapping the sign of the resut
  - ...Since we want to maximize the likelihood

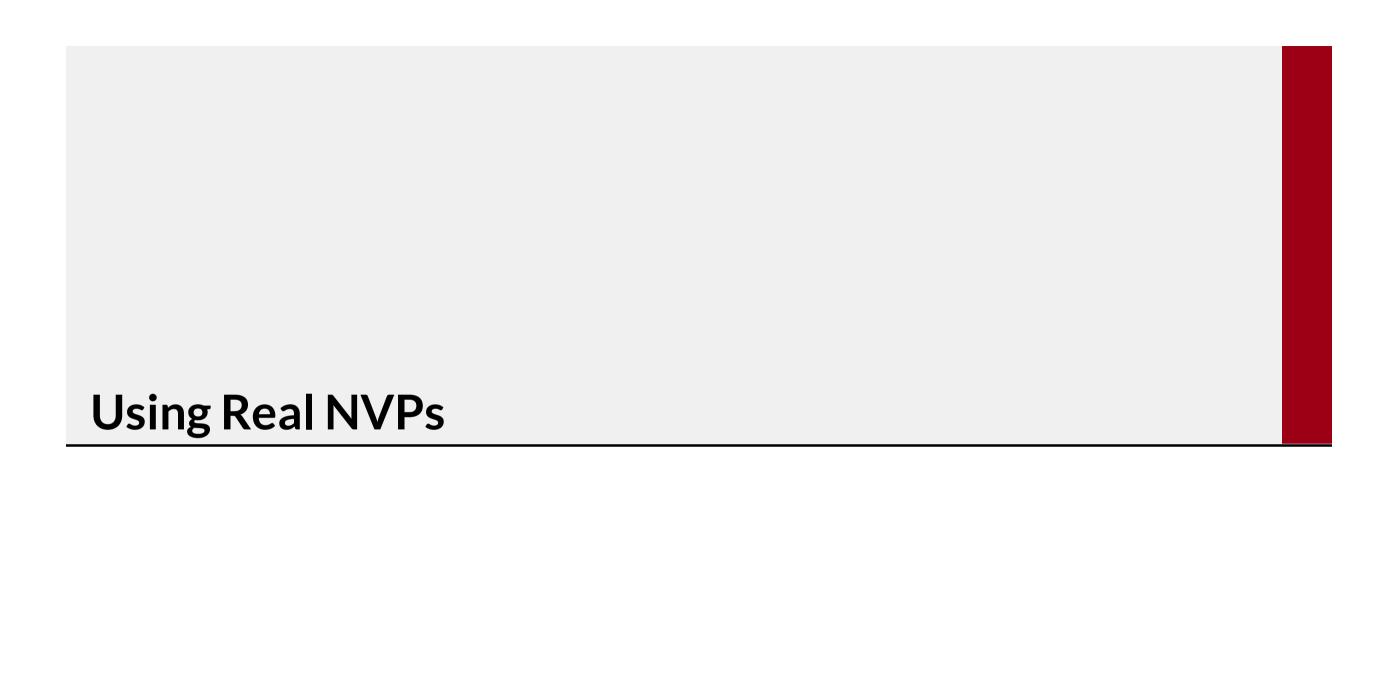
#### **RNVP Model**

### The train\_step method is called by the keras fit method

```
def train_step(self, data):
    with tf.GradientTape() as tape:
        loss = self.log_loss(data)
    g = tape.gradient(loss, self.trainable_variables)
    self.optimizer.apply_gradients(zip(g, self.trainable_variables))
    self.loss_tracker.update_state(loss)
    return {"loss": self.loss_tracker.result()}
```

The Gradient Tape is how tensorflow handles differentiation

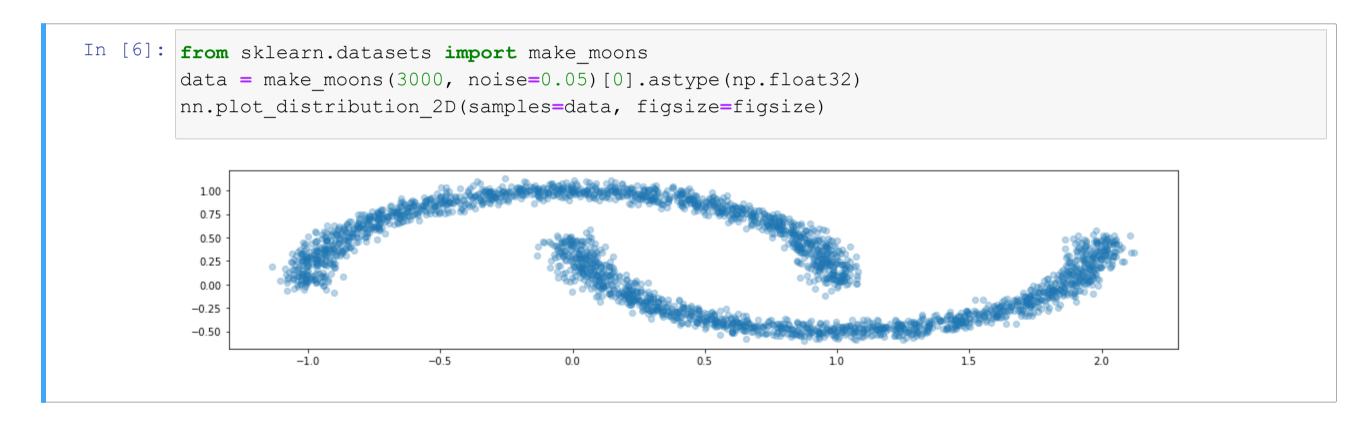
- All tensor operations made in the scope of a GradientTape are tracked
- ...So that a gradient can then be extracted
- Then we apply the gradient to the model weights (using the optimizer)
- ...And finally we track the loss



# **Using Real NVP**

### We are ready to test our model

We will use a classical benchmark for density estimation (shaped like two half moons)



■ We use float32 numbers for easier interplay with tensorflow

#### Now, we need to train a Real NVP model

- We will use the whole dataset (this is just a simple test)
- ...But first, we need to standardize it

```
In [7]: data_s = (data - data.mean(axis=0)) / data.std(axis=0)
```

### Standardization is very important when using Real NVPs

- This is true for Neural Networks in general, for the usual reasons
- $\blacksquare$  But even more in this case, since the distribution for z is standardized
  - Standardizing the data makes it easier to learn a mapping

#### Next we can perform training, as usual in keras

```
In [8]: | from tensorflow.keras.callbacks import EarlyStopping
                model = nn.RealNVP(input shape=2, num coupling=10, units coupling=32, depth coupling=2, reg coupling=10, units coupling=32, depth coupling=2, reg coupling=10, units coupling=32, depth coupling=2, reg coupling=32, depth coupling=32, reg 
                model.compile(optimizer='Adam')
                 cb = [EarlyStopping(monitor='loss', patience=40, min delta=0.0001, restore best weights=True)]
                history = model.fit(data s, batch size=256, epochs=200, verbose=1, callbacks=cb)
                 Epoch 1/200
                 Epoch 2/200
                 Epoch 3/200
                 Epoch 4/200
                 Epoch 5/200
                 Epoch 6/200
                 Epoch 7/200
                 Epoch 8/200
                 Epoch 9/200
                 Epoch 10/200
                 Enach 11/200
```

#### As usual with NNs, choosing the right architecture can be complicated

```
model = RealNVP(input_shape=2, num_coupling=16, units_coupling=32, depth_coupling=2, reg_
upling=0.01)
```

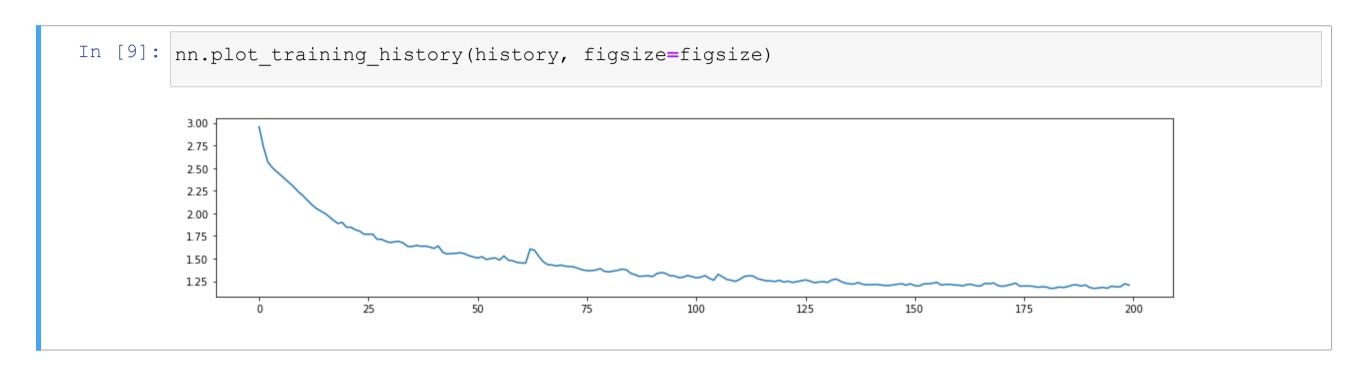
- We went for a relatively deep model (10 affine coupling)
- Each coupling has also a good degree of non-linearity (2 hidden layers)
- We used a small degree of L2 regularization to stabilize the training process

#### We also use relatively large batch size

```
history = model.fit(data_s, batch_size=256, epochs=200, verbose=2, callbacks=cb)
```

- Large batch sizes are usually a good choice with density estimation approaches
- Batches should be ideally be representative of the distribution

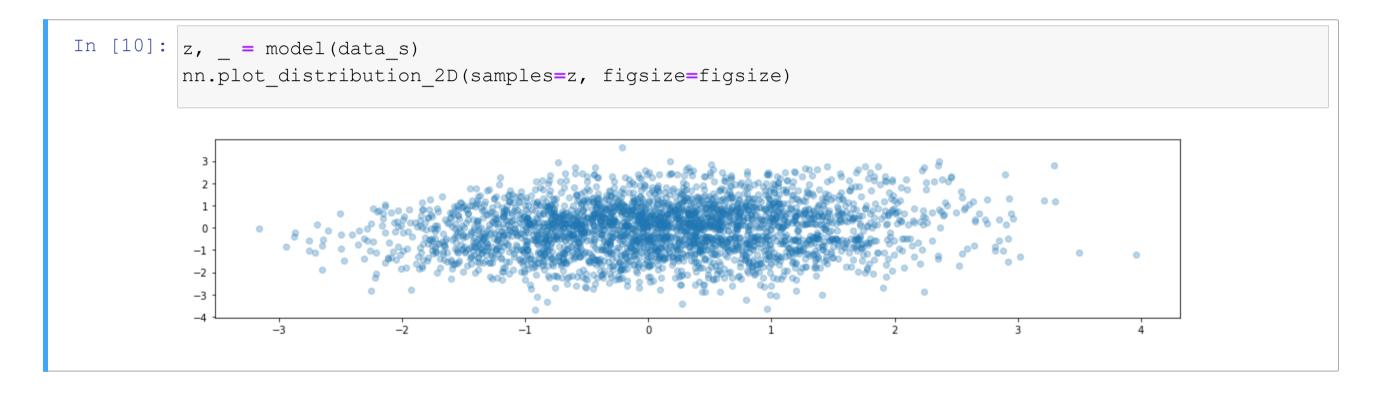
### Let's see the evolution of the training loss over time



# **Latent Space Representation**

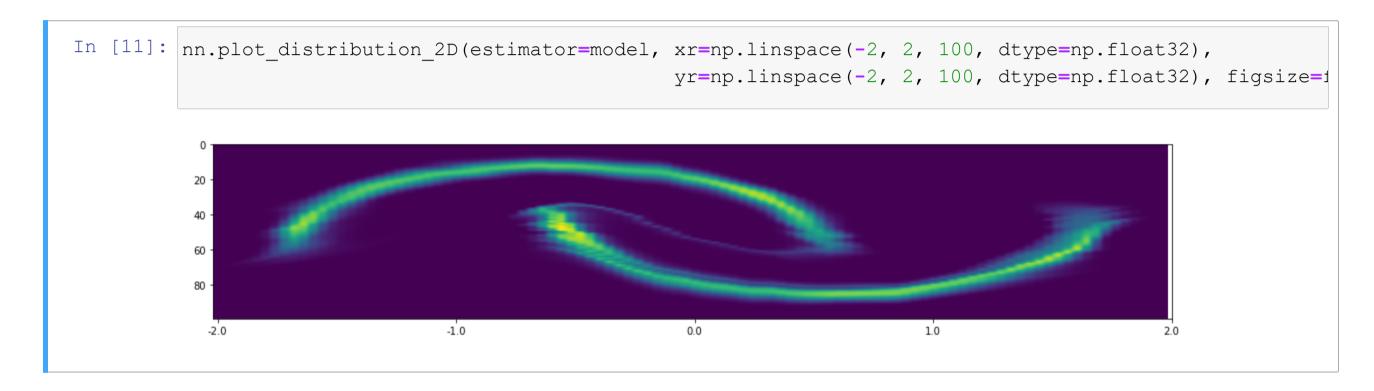
### We can obtain the latent space representation by calling the trained model

This will trigger the call method with default parameters (i.e. training=True)



# **Density Estimation**

### We can estimate the density of any data point



■ A good approximation! With a strange low-density connection between the moons

#### **Data Generation**

### We can also generate data, by sampling from $p_z$ and then calling predict

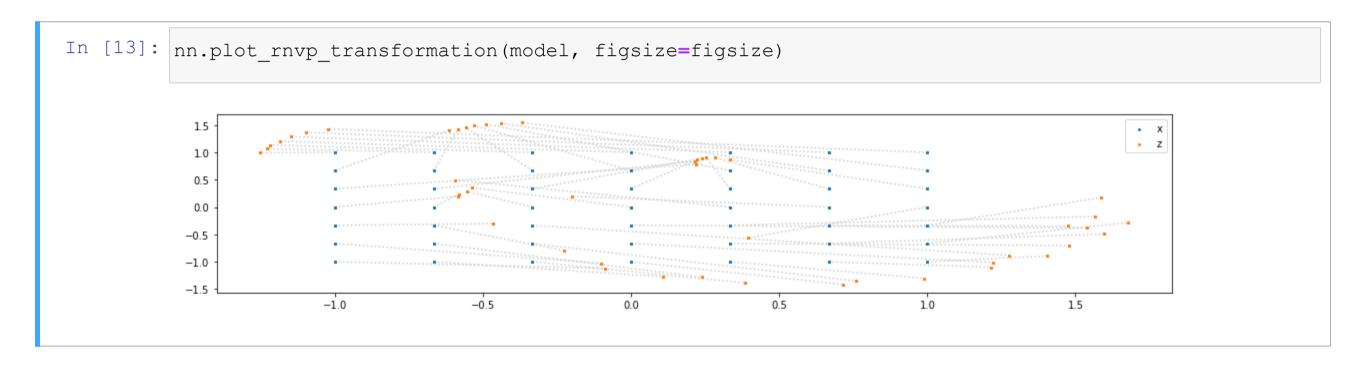
This will trigger the call method with training=False

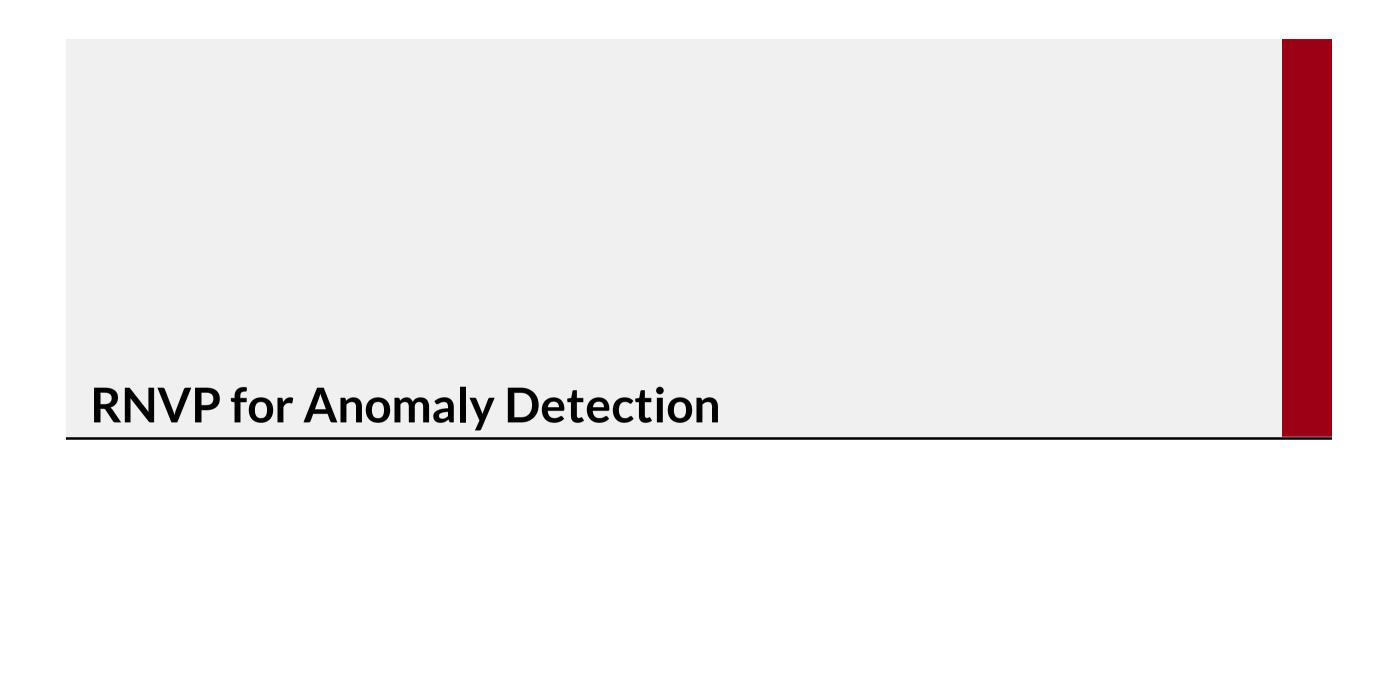
```
In [12]: samples = model.distribution.sample(3000)
x, _ = model.predict(samples)
nn.plot_distribution_2D(samples=x, figsize=figsize)
```

### **Data Generation**

### We can also plot the mapping for selected data points...

...Which gives and intuition of how the transformation works





### RNVPs can be used for anomaly detection like any other density estimator

First, we build and compile the model (for the HPC data)

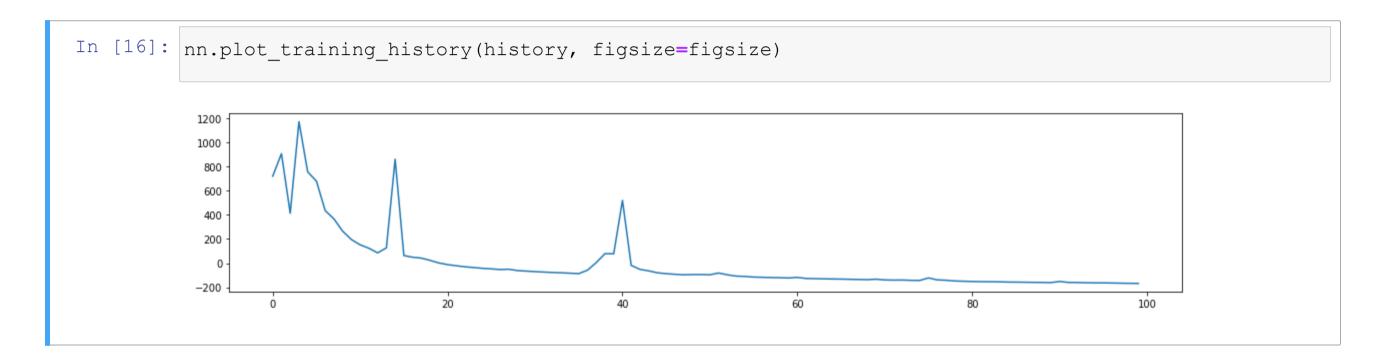
We chose a simpler architecture this time

- With RNVP, dealing with higher dimensional data has actually some advantage
- lacksquare In particular, we have richer input for the s and t functions
  - In the "moons" dataset, s and t had 2/2 = 1 input feature
  - Now we have 159/2 = 79--80 features

#### Then we perform training as usual

```
In [15]: X = trdata[hpc in].astype(np.float32).values
  cb = [EarlyStopping(monitor='loss', patience=10, min delta=0.001, restore best weights=True)]
  history = hpc rnvp.fit(X, batch size=256, epochs=100, verbose=1, callbacks=cb)
   Epoch 1/100
   Epoch 2/100
   Epoch 3/100
   Epoch 4/100
   Epoch 5/100
   Epoch 6/100
   Epoch 7/100
   Epoch 8/100
   Epoch 9/100
   Epoch 10/100
   Epoch 11/100
```

#### Here is the loss evolution over time



### Then we can generate a signal as usual

```
In [17]: X = hpcs[hpc_in].astype(np.float32).values
    signal_hpc = pd.Series(index=hpcs.index, data=-hpc_rnvp.score_samples(X))
    nn.plot_signal(signal_hpc, hpc_labels, figsize=figsize)
```

■ The signal is very similar to that of KDE (not a surprise)

#### Finally, we can tune the threshold

- Once again, the performance is on par with KDE
- ...But we have better support for high-dimensional data!