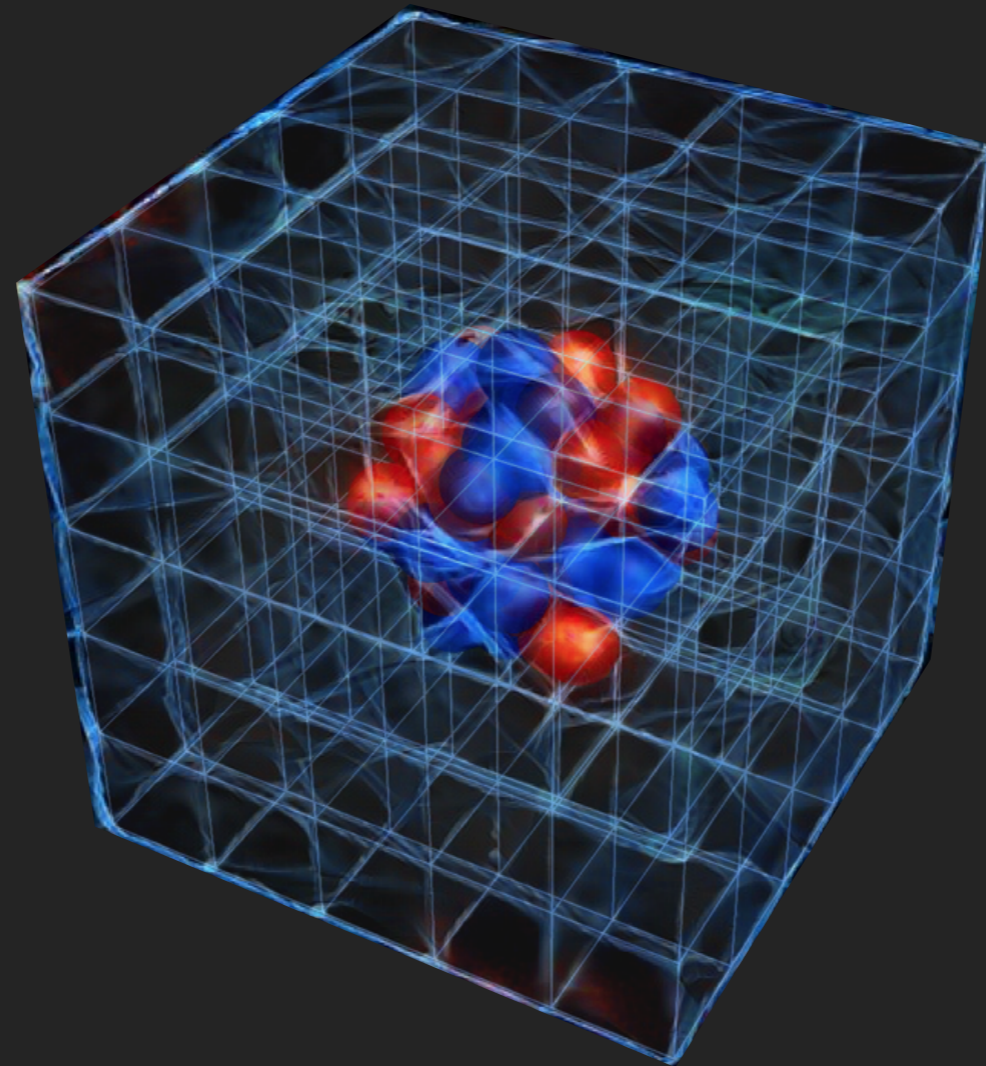


# Machine learning for lattice field theory

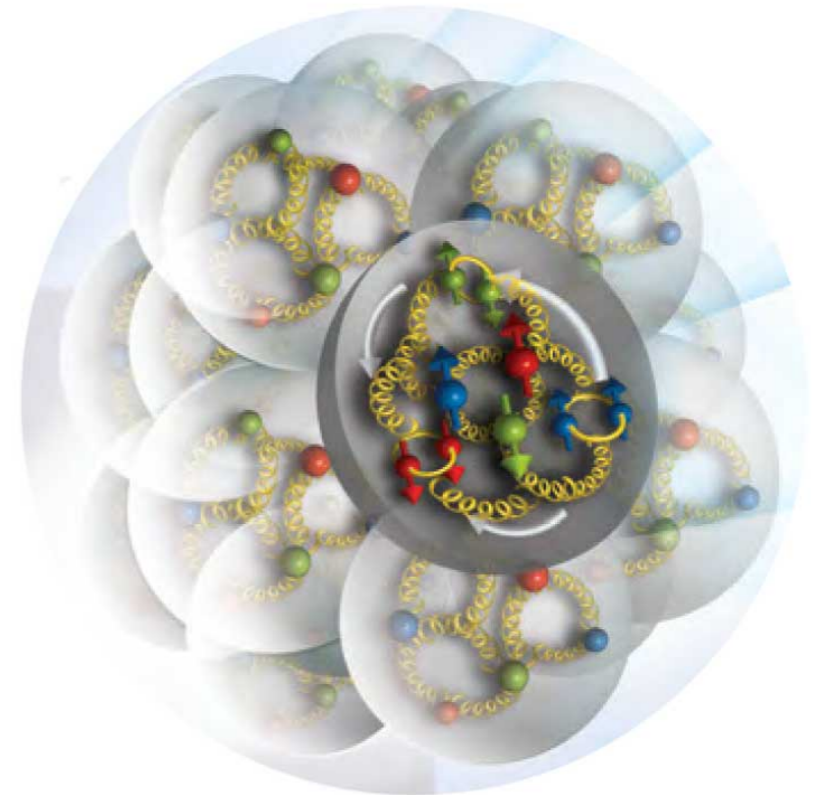


# Matter from QCD

Hadron and nuclear physics  
from the Standard Model

Emergence  
of complex  
structure in  
nature

Backgrounds  
and benchmarks  
for searches for  
new physics

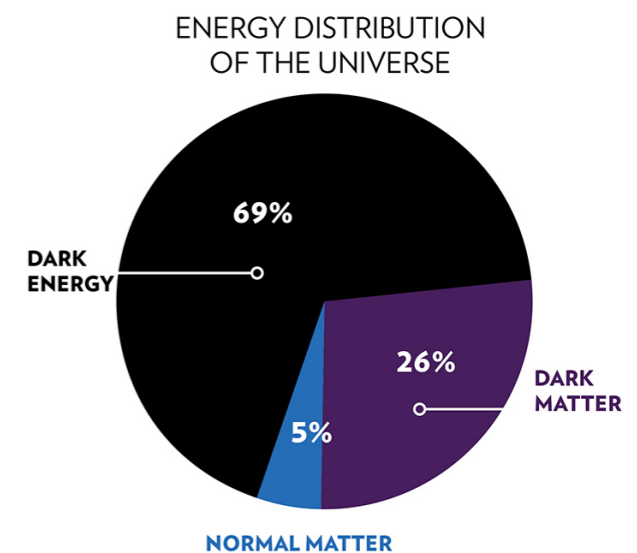
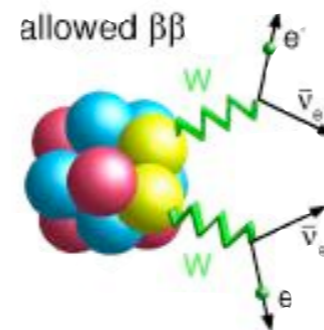


# The search for new physics

## Precise experiments seek new physics at the “Intensity Frontier”

- Sensitivity to probe the rarest Standard Model interactions
- Search for beyond—Standard-Model effects

- Dark matter direct detection
- Neutrino physics
- Charged lepton flavour violation,  $\beta\beta$ -decay, proton decay, neutron-antineutron oscillations...



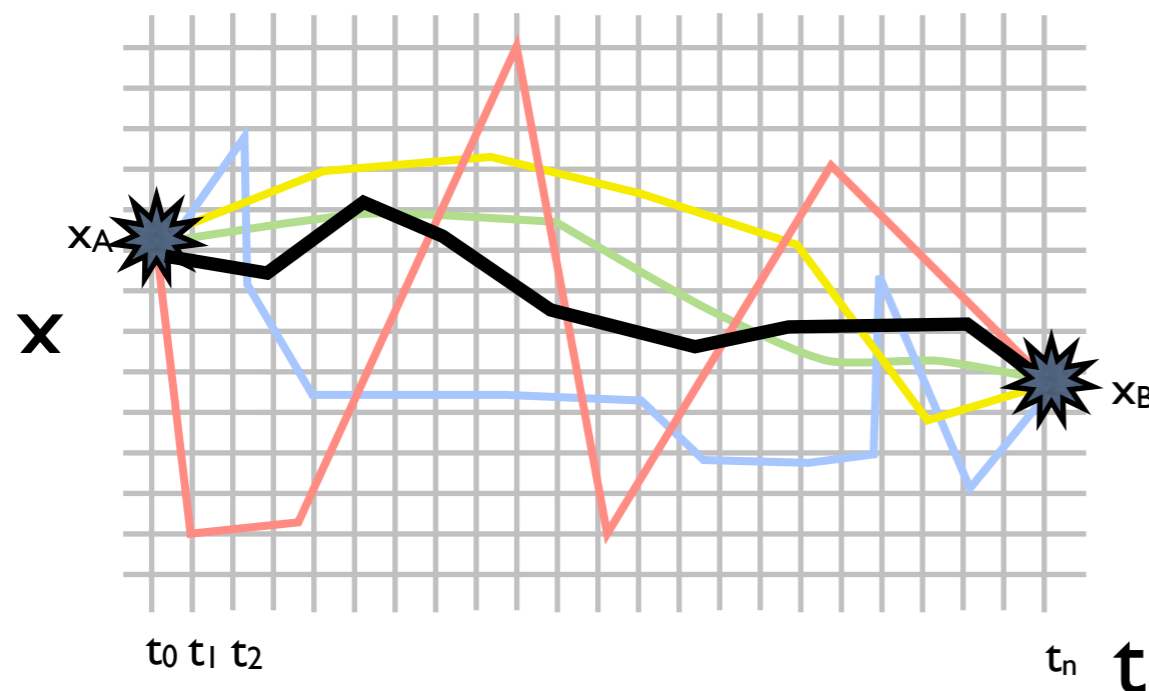
**CHALLENGE:** understand the physics of nuclei used as targets

# Lattice QCD

Numerical first-principles approach to non-perturbative QCD

- Discretise QCD onto 4D space-time lattice
- QCD equations  $\longleftrightarrow$  integrals over the values of quark and gluon fields on each site/link (QCD path integral)

●  $\sim 10^{12}$  variables (for state-of-the-art)

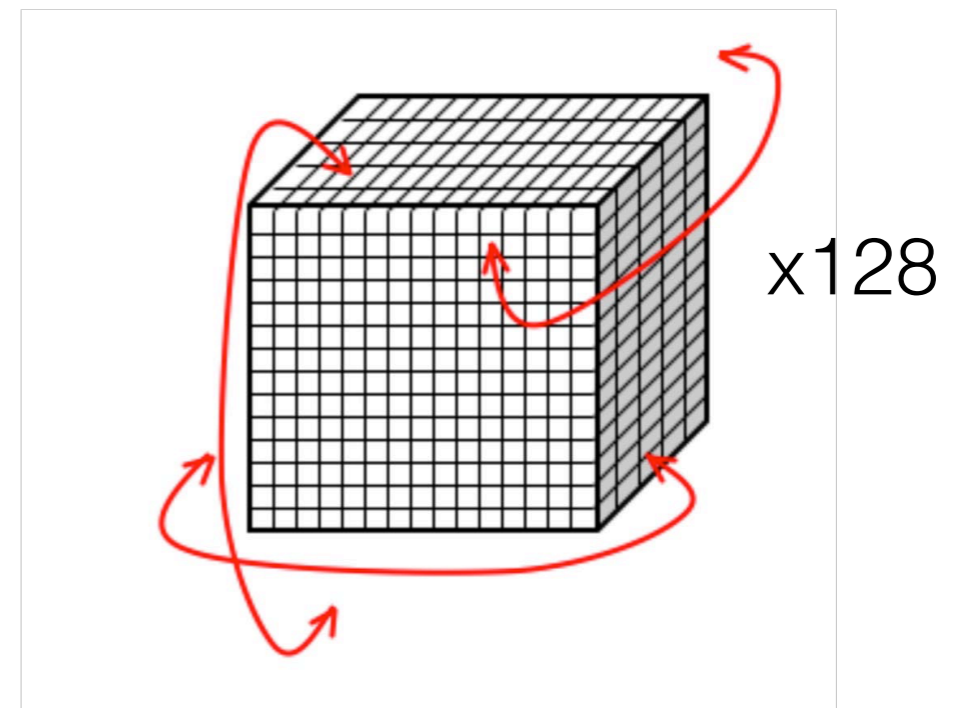


- Evaluate by importance sampling
- Paths near classical action dominate
- Calculate physics on a set (ensemble) of samples of the quark and gluon fields

# Lattice QCD

Numerical first-principles approach to non-perturbative QCD

- Euclidean space-time  $t \rightarrow i\tau$
- Finite lattice spacing  $a$
- Volume  $L^3 \times T = 64^3 \times 128$
- Boundary conditions



Approximate the QCD path integral by **Monte Carlo**

$$\langle \mathcal{O} \rangle = \frac{1}{Z} \int \mathcal{D}A \mathcal{D}\bar{\psi} \mathcal{D}\psi \mathcal{O}[A, \bar{\psi}\psi] e^{-S[A, \bar{\psi}\psi]} \rightarrow \langle \mathcal{O} \rangle \simeq \frac{1}{N_{\text{conf}}} \sum_i^{N_{\text{conf}}} \mathcal{O}([U^i])$$

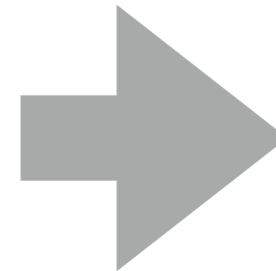
with field configurations  $U^i$  distributed according to  $e^{-S[U]}$

# Lattice QCD

Numerical first-principles approach to  
non-perturbative QCD

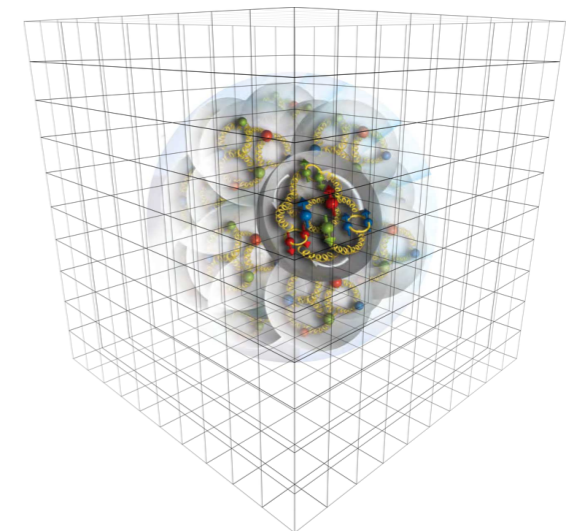
## INPUT

- Lattice QCD action has same free parameters as QCD: quark masses,  $\alpha_S$
- Fix quark masses by matching to measured hadron masses, e.g.,  $\pi, K, D_s, B_s$  for  $u, d, s, c, b$
- One experimental input to fix lattice spacing in GeV (and also  $\alpha_S$ ), e.g.,  $2S-1S$  splitting in  $Y$ , or  $f_\pi$  or  $\Omega$  mass



## OUTPUT

Calculations of all other quantities are QCD predictions



# Machine learning for LQCD

## MACHINE LEARNING IS

A class of tools for optimising the parameters of **complex models** to describe data



In the context of LQCD, must rigorously account/correct for the effects of modelling in provably exact/unbiased ways

## MACHINE LEARNING IS NOT

A black box or model-independent solution to e.g., inverse problems



Applications without **formal quantification and propagation of the effects of modelling, correlations, and systematics**, compromise the rigour of LQCD

# Lattice QCD

## Workflow of a lattice QCD calculation

- 1 Generate field configurations via Hybrid Monte Carlo
  - Leadership-class computing
  - $\sim 100\text{K}$  cores or  $1000\text{GPU}$ s,  $10$ 's of TF-years
  - $O(100-1000)$  configurations, each  $\sim 10-100\text{GB}$



- 2 Compute propagators
  - Large sparse matrix inversion
  - $\sim$ few  $100$ s GPU's
  - $10\times$  field config in size, many per config

- 3 Contract into correlation functions
  - $\sim$ few GPU's
  - $O(100\text{k}-1\text{M})$  copies

Computational cost grows exponentially with size of nuclear system



# Machine learning for LQCD

Existing efforts to apply ML tools to many aspects of the lattice QCD workflow

Field configuration generation by e.g.,

- Multi-scale approaches
- Accelerated HMC
- Direct sampling methods
- ...

Shanahan et al., Phys.Rev.D 97 (2018)  
Albergo et al., Phys.Rev.D 100 (2019)  
Rezende et al., 2002.02428 (2020)  
Kanwar et al., Phys.Rev.Lett. 125 (2020)  
Boyda et al., 2008.05456 (2020)

Tanaka and Tomiya, 1712.03893 (2017)  
Zhou et al., Phys.Rev.D 100 (2019)  
Li et al., PRX 10 (2020)  
Pawlowski and Urban 1811.03533 (2020)  
Nagai, Tanaka, Tomiya 2010.11900 (2020)

Efficient computations of correlation functions/observables

Yoon, Bhattacharya, Gupta, Phys. Rev. D 100, 014504 (2019)  
Zhang et al, Phys. Rev. D 101, 034516 (2020)  
Nicoli et al., 2007.07115 (2020)

Analysis, order parameters, insights

Tanaka and Tomiya, Journal of the Physical Society of Japan, 86 (2017)  
Wetzel and Scherzer, Phys. Rev. B 96 (2017)  
S. Blücher et al., Phys. Rev. D 101 (2020)  
Boyda et al., 2009.10971 (2020)

Sign-problem avoidance via contour deformation of path integrals

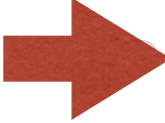
Alexandru et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. 121 (2020),  
Detmold et al., 2003.05914 (2020)

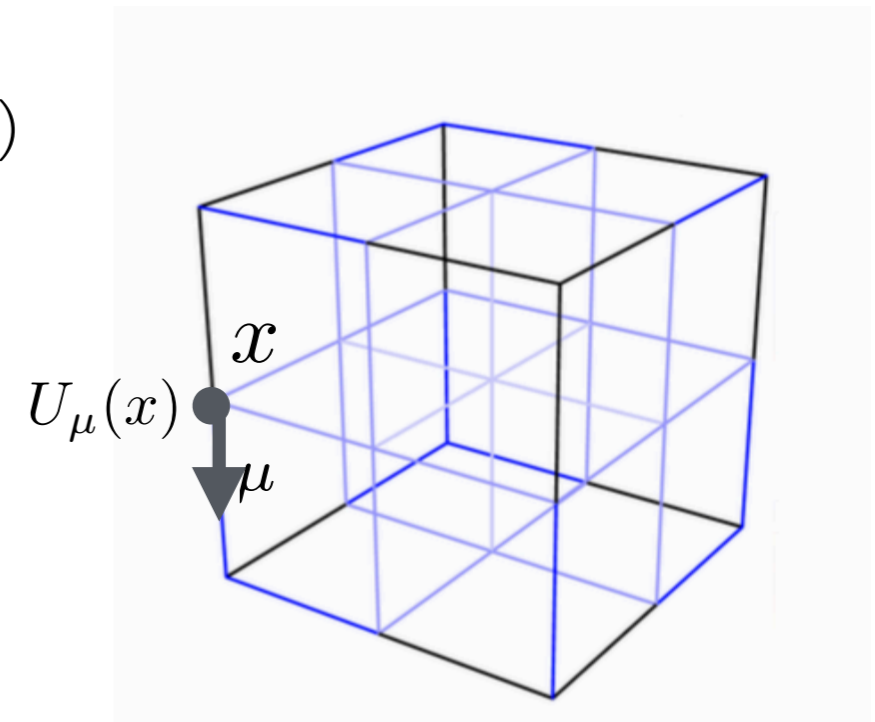
\*Early developmental stage — many of these papers use toy theories instead of QCD  
\*Much more related work in e.g., condensed matter context

# Generate QCD gauge fields

Generate field configurations  $\phi(x)$  with probability

$$P[\phi(x)] \sim e^{-S[\phi(x)]}$$

- Gauge field configurations represented by  
~ $10^{10}$  links  $U_\mu(x)$  encoded as SU(3) matrices  
(3x3 complex matrix  $M$  with  $\det[M] = 1$  ,  $M^{-1} = M^\dagger$  )  
i.e., ~ $10^{12}$  double precision numbers
- Configurations sample probability distribution  
corresponding to LQCD action  $S[\phi]$   
(function that defines the quark and gluon dynamics)  
 Weighted averages over configurations determine  
physical observables of interest
- Calculations use ~ $10^3$  configurations

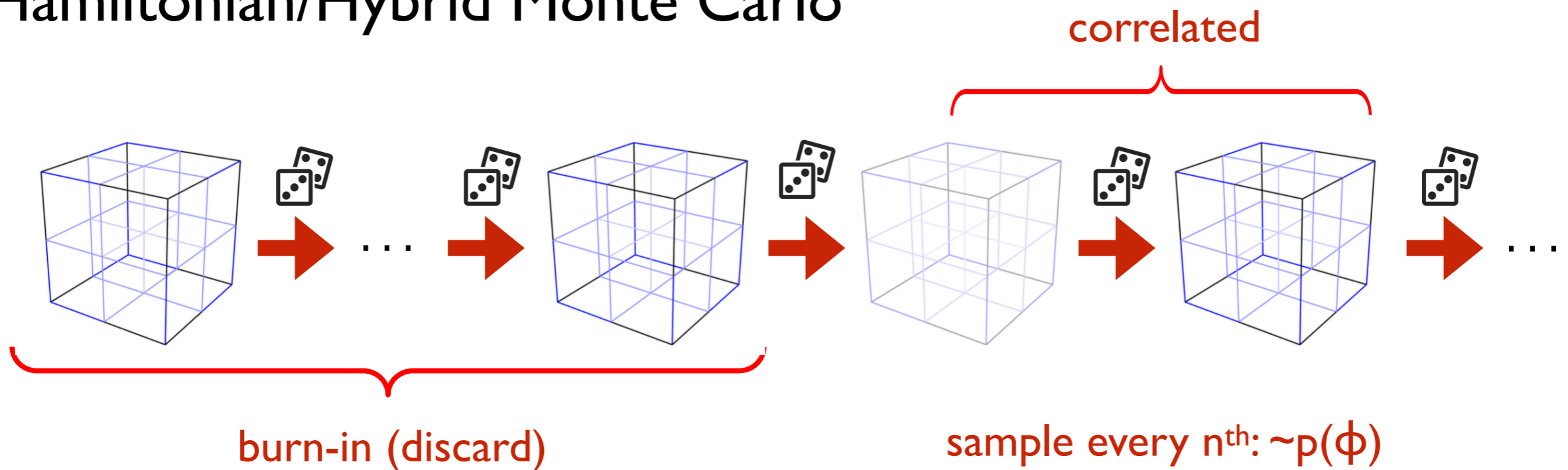


# Generate QCD gauge fields

Generate field configurations  $\phi(x)$  with probability

$$P[\phi(x)] \sim e^{-S[\phi(x)]}$$

## Hamiltonian/Hybrid Monte Carlo

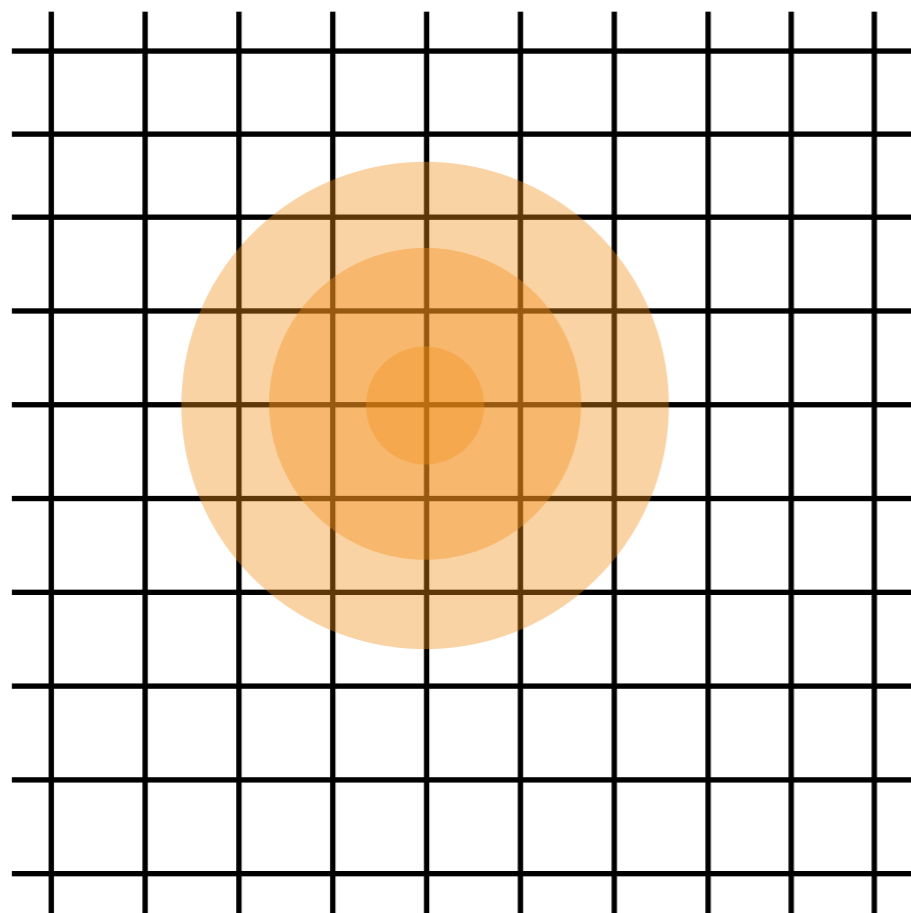


Burn-in time and correlation length dictated by Markov chain  
**'autocorrelation time'**: shorter autocorrelation time implies less computational cost

# Generate QCD gauge fields


QCD gauge field configurations sampled via

Hamiltonian dynamics + Markov Chain Monte Carlo



Updates diffusive

Lattice spacing  0

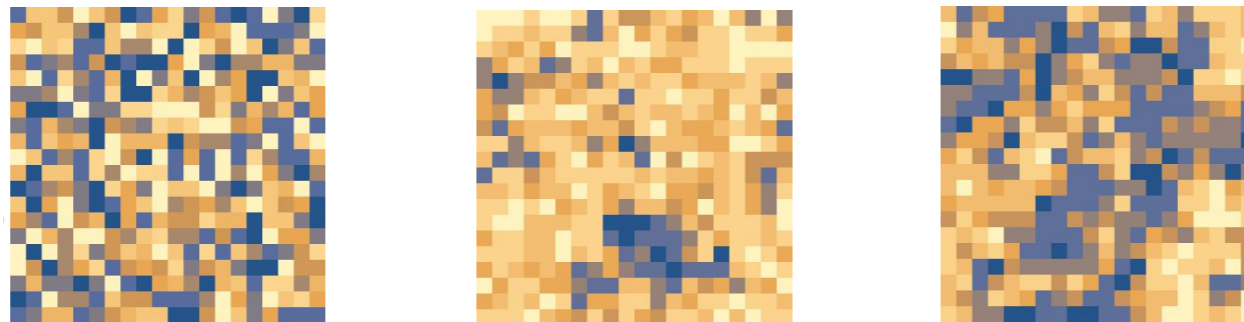
Number of updates to change fixed physical length scale   $\infty$

“Critical slowing-down”  
of generation of uncorrelated samples

# Scalar lattice field theory

## Test case: scalar lattice field theory

- One real number  $\phi(x) \in (-\infty, \infty)$  per lattice site  $x$  (2D lattice)



- Action: kinetic terms and quartic coupling

$$S(\phi) = \sum_x \left( \sum_y \frac{1}{2} \phi(x) \square(x, y) \phi(y) + \frac{1}{2} m^2 \phi(x)^2 + \lambda \phi(x)^4 \right)$$

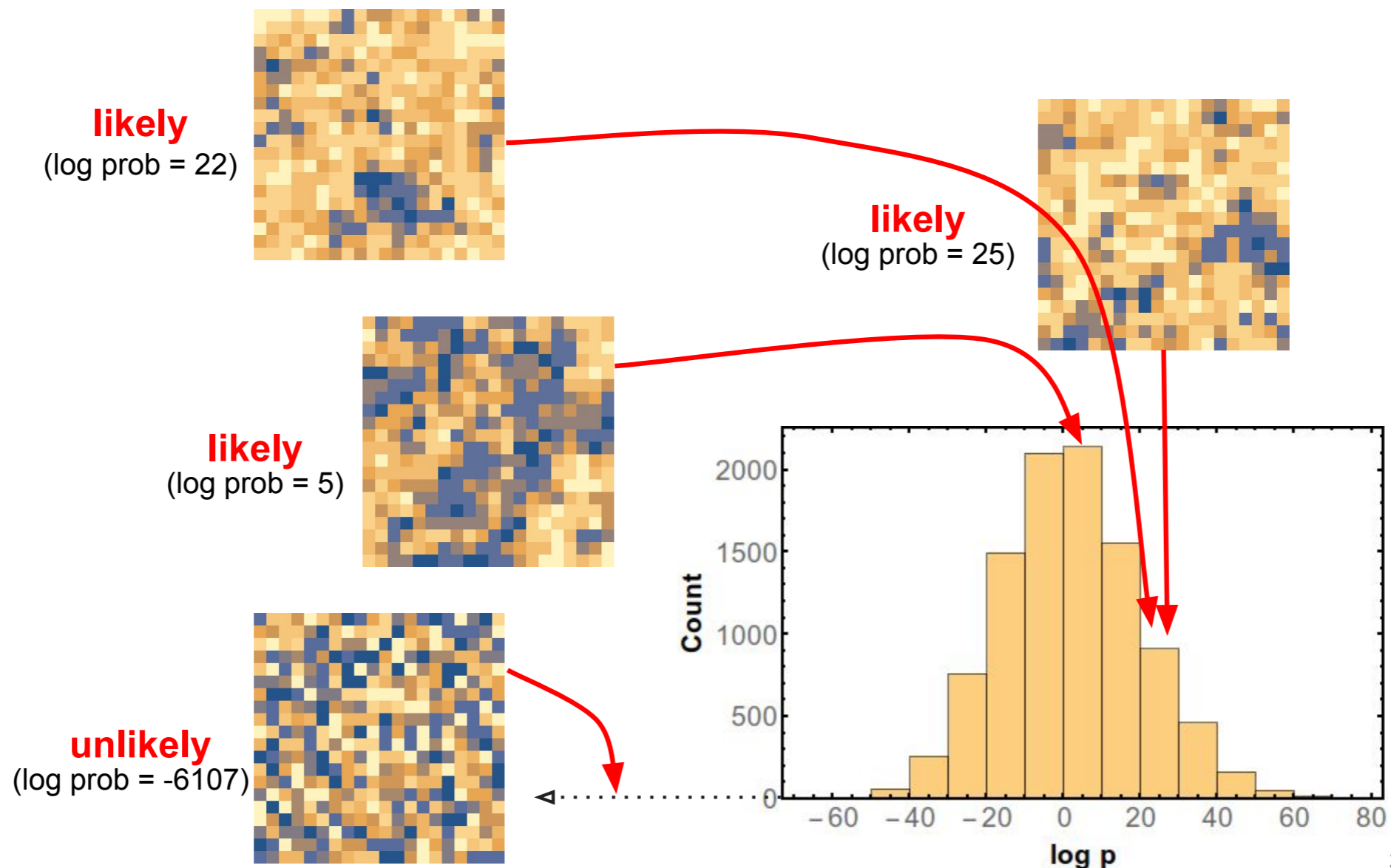
Generate field configurations  $\phi(x)$  with probability

$$P[\phi(x)] \sim e^{-S[\phi(x)]}$$

# Sampling gauge field configs

Generate field configurations  $\phi(x)$  with probability

$$P[\phi(x)] \sim e^{-S[\phi(x)]}$$



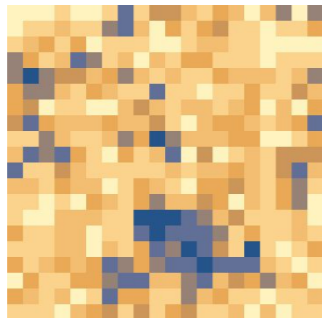
# Sampling gauge field configs

Generate field configurations  $\phi(x)$  with probability

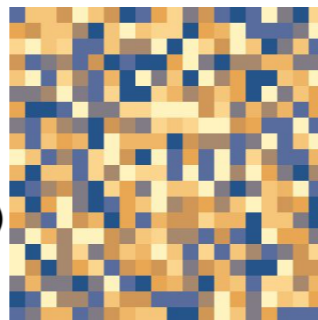
$$P[\phi(x)] \sim e^{-S[\phi(x)]}$$

Parallels with image generation problem

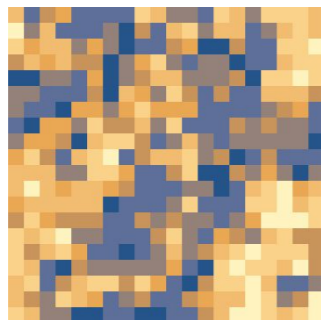
**likely**  
(log prob = 22)



**unlikely**  
(log prob = -6107)



**likely**  
(log prob = 5)



⋮

**likely**

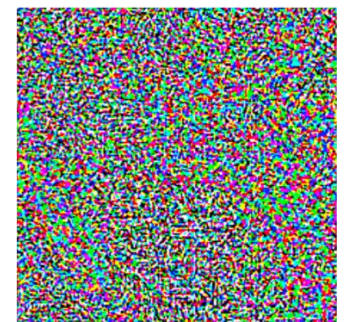


[Karras, Lane, Aila / NVIDIA 1812.04948]

**likely**



**unlikely**



# Machine learning QCD

## Ensemble of lattice QCD gauge fields

- $64^3 \times 128 \times 4 \times N_c^2 \times 2 \approx 10^9$  numbers
- $\sim 1000$  samples
- Ensemble of gauge fields has meaning
- Long-distance correlations are important
- Gauge and translation-invariant with periodic boundaries

## CIFAR benchmark image set for machine learning

- $32 \times 32$  pixels  $\times$  3 cols  $\approx 3000$  numbers
- 60000 samples
- Each image has meaning
- Local structures are important
- Translation-invariance within frame



# Machine learning QCD

Ensemble of lattice QCD

gauge fields

$12 \times 2$

**Out-of-the-box ML tools are not appropriate  
Need custom ML for physics from the ground up**

meaning

- Long-distance correlations are important

- Gauge and translation-invariant with periodic boundaries

CIFAR benchmark image set for machine learning

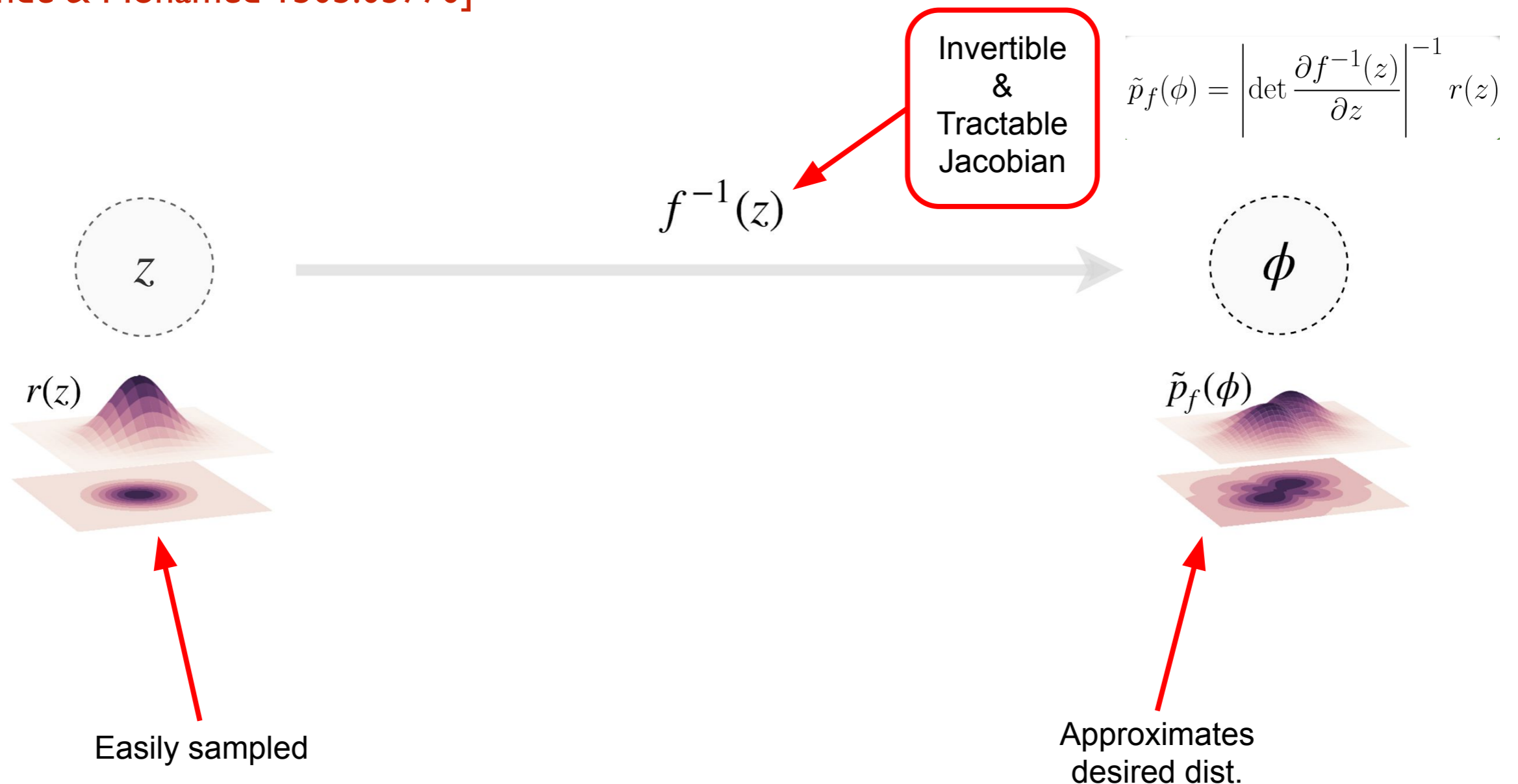
- $32 \times 32$  pixels  $\times$  3 cols  
 $\approx 3000$  numbers

- Translation-invariant within frame

# Generative flow models

Flow-based models learn a change-of-variables that transforms a known distribution to the desired distribution

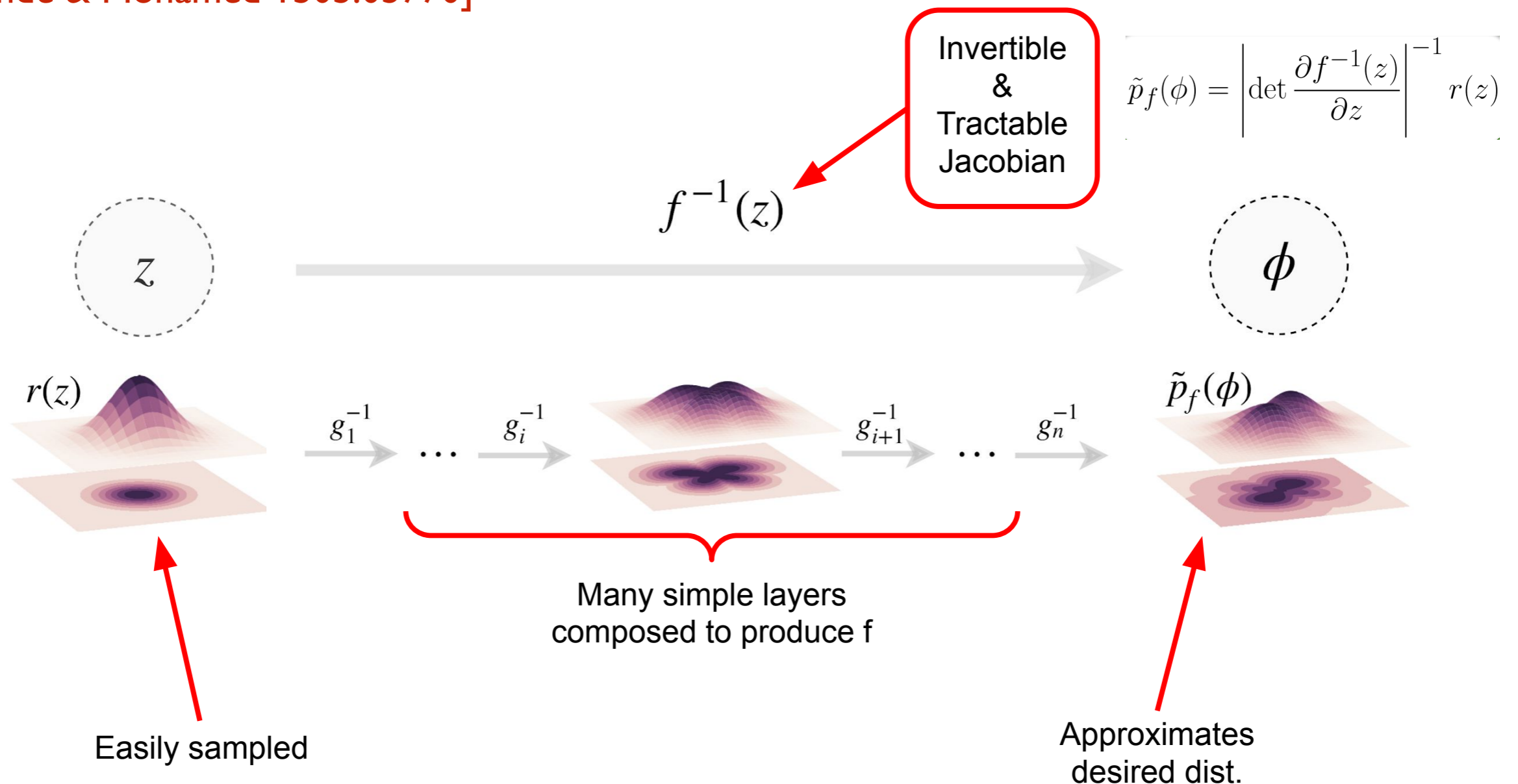
[Rezende & Mohamed 1505.05770]



# Generative flow models

Flow-based models learn a change-of-variables that transforms a known distribution to the desired distribution

[Rezende & Mohamed 1505.05770]

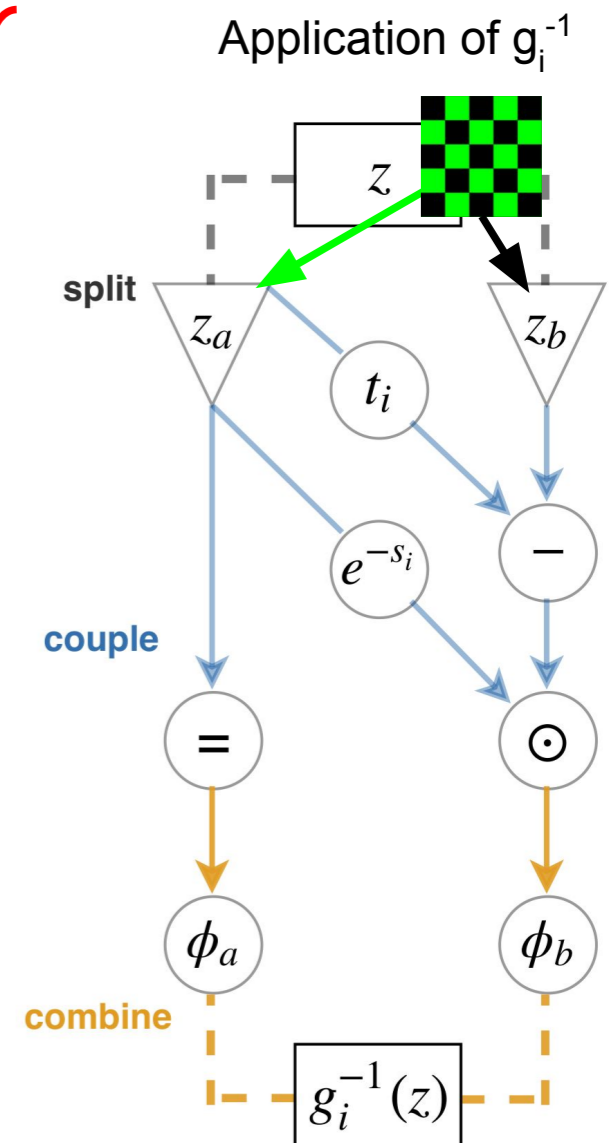
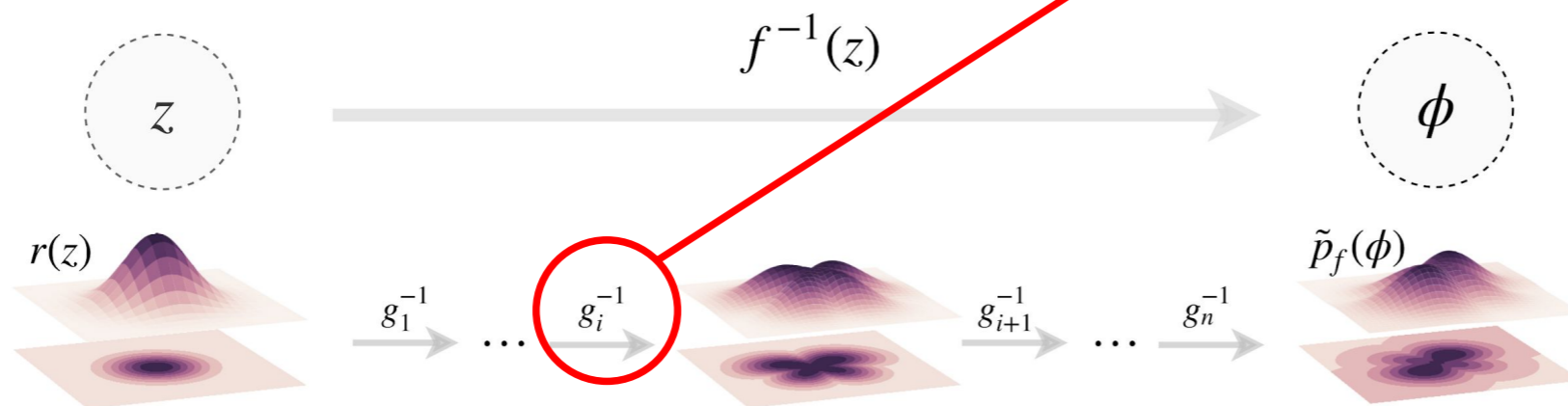


# Generative flow models

Choose real non-volume preserving flows:

[Dinh et al. 1605.08803]

- Affine transformation of half of the variables:
  - scaling by  $\exp(s)$
  - translation by  $t$
  - $s$  and  $t$  arbitrary neural networks depending on untransformed variables only
- Simple inverse and Jacobian



# Training the model

Target distribution is known up to normalisation

$$p(\phi) = e^{-S(\phi)} / Z$$

Train to minimise shifted KL divergence: [Zhang, E, Wang 1809.10188]

$$\begin{aligned} L(\tilde{p}_f) &:= D_{KL}(\tilde{p}_f || p) - \log Z \\ &= \int \underbrace{\prod_j d\phi_j}_{\tilde{p}_f(\phi)} \tilde{p}_f(\phi) (\log \tilde{p}_f(\phi) + S(\phi)) \end{aligned}$$

shift removes unknown normalisation  $Z$

allows **self-training**: sampling with respect to model distribution  $\tilde{p}_f(\phi)$  to estimate loss

# Exactness via Markov chain

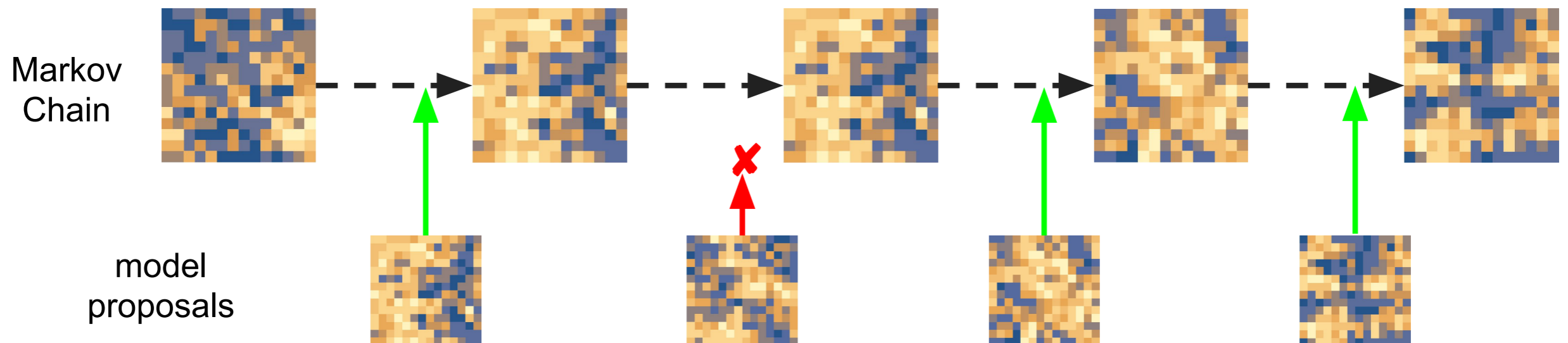
**Guarantee exactness** of generated distribution by forming a Markov chain: accept/reject with Metropolis-Hastings step

Acceptance probability

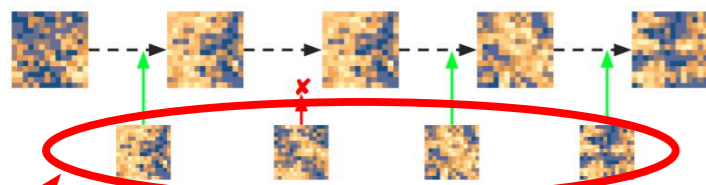
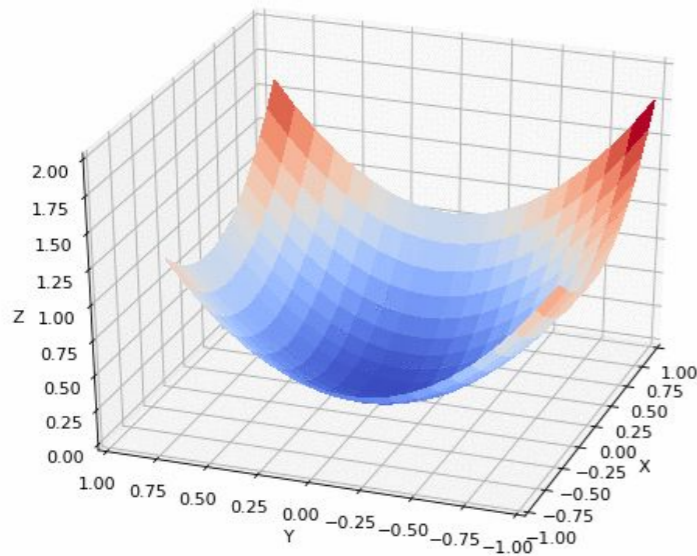
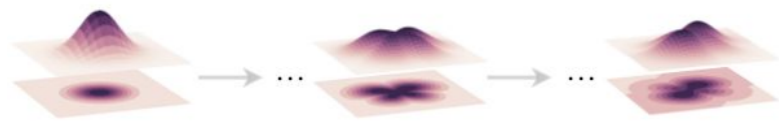
$$A(\phi^{(i-1)}, \phi') = \min \left( 1, \frac{\tilde{p}(\phi^{(i-1)}) p(\phi')}{p(\phi^{(i-1)}) \tilde{p}(\phi')} \right)$$

True dist  
Model dist

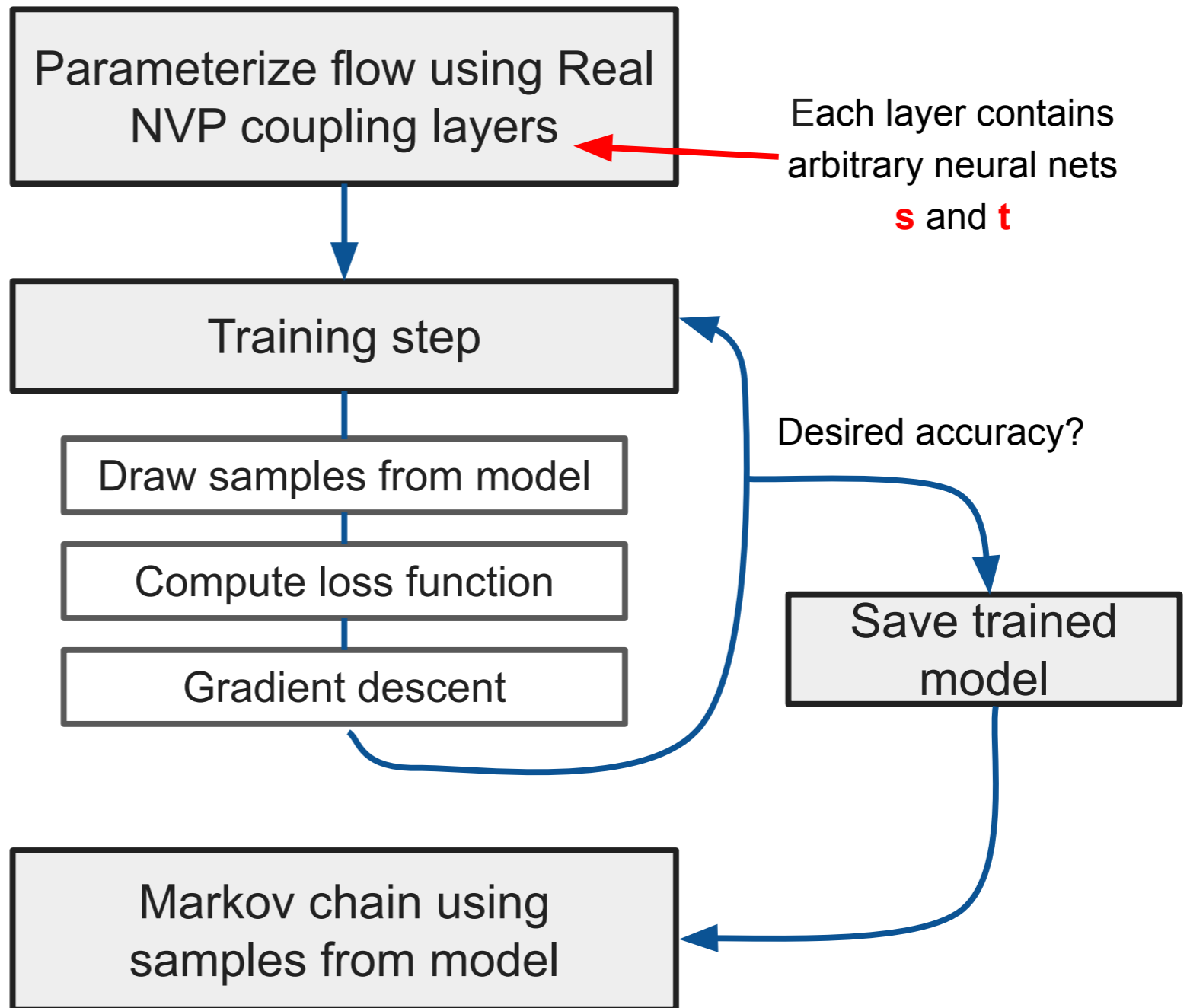
proposal independent of previous sample



# Fields via flow models



generating samples is  
"embarrassingly parallel"

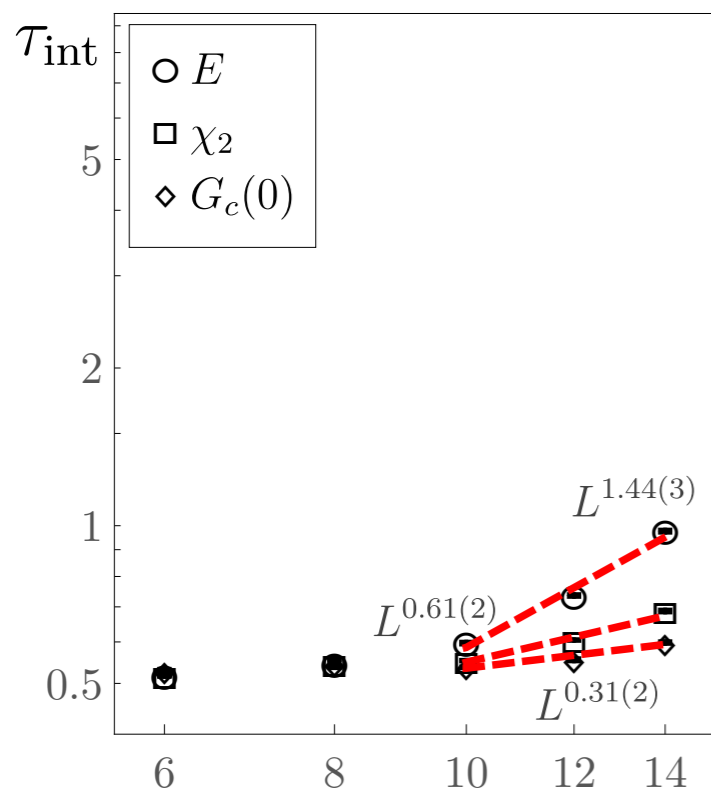


# Application: scalar field theory

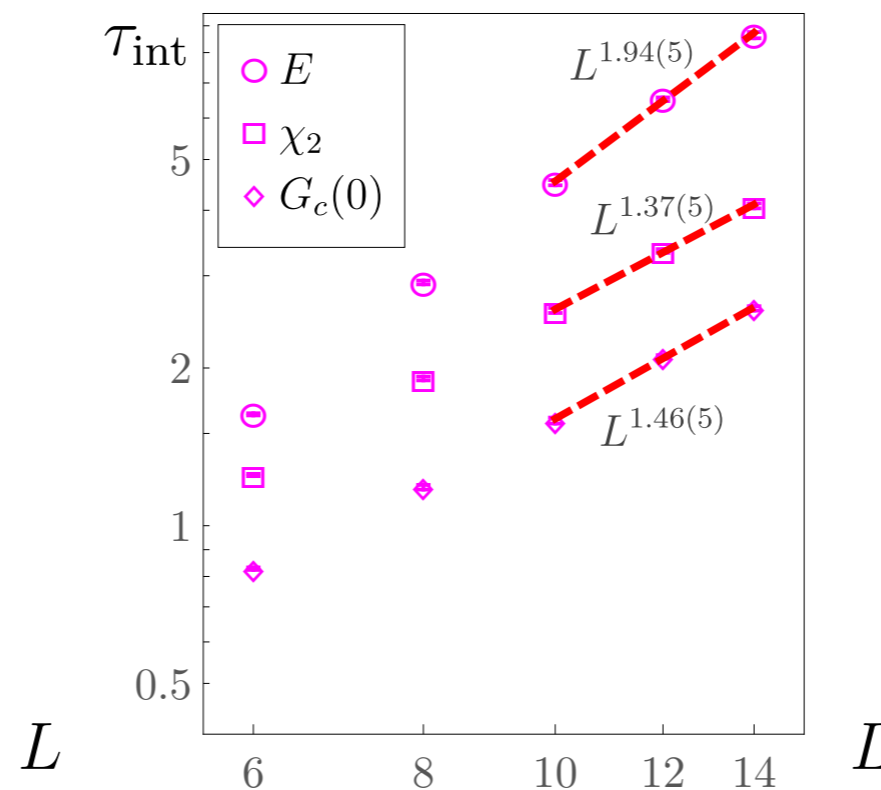
## First application: scalar lattice field theory

**Success:** Critical slowing down is eliminated

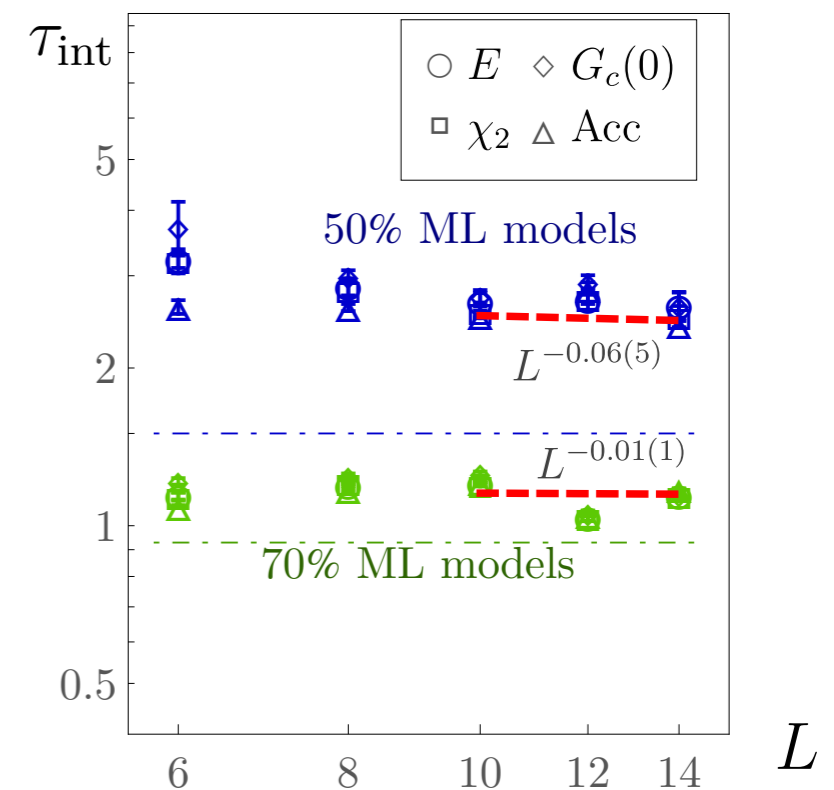
**Cost:** Up-front training of the model



(a) HMC ensembles



(b) Local Metropolis ensembles



(c) Flow-based MCMC ensembles

**Dynamical critical exponents consistent with zero**

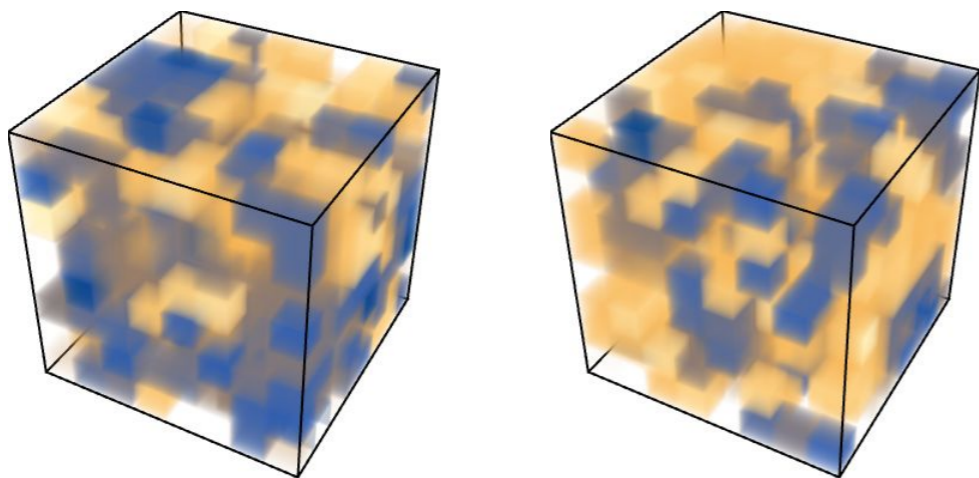


# Next steps: ML for LQCD

Target application: Lattice QCD for nuclear physics

1. Scale number of dimensions  $\rightarrow$  4D
2. Scale number of degrees of freedom  $\rightarrow 48^3 \times 96$
3. Methods for gauge theories

[Phys.Rev.D 100 (2019), Phys.Rev.Lett. 125 (2020), 2002.02428, 2008.05456 ]

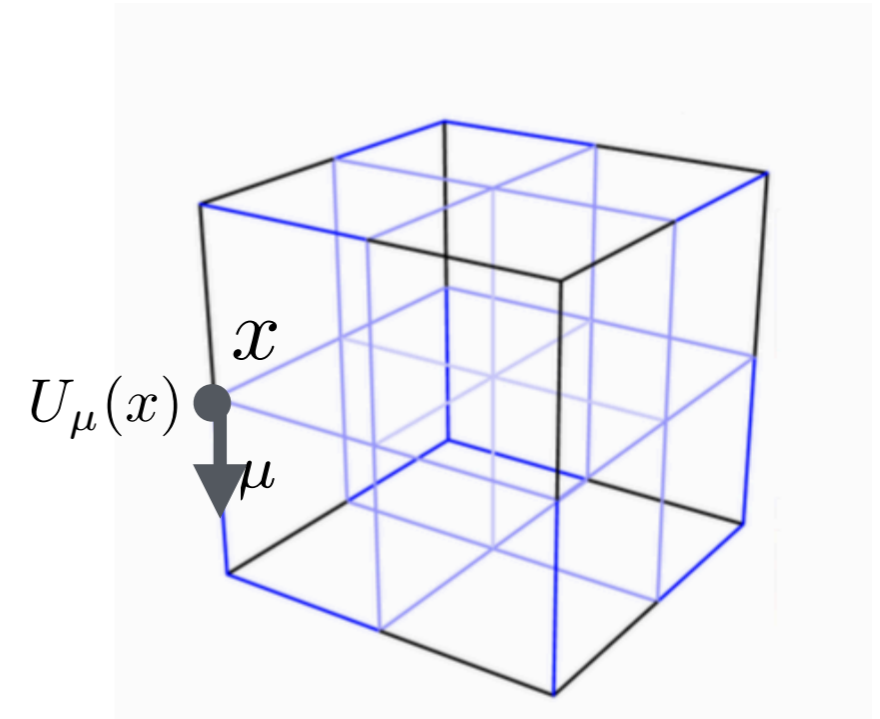


Aurora21 Early Science Project

# Incorporating symmetries

## Gauge field theories

- Field configurations represented by links  $U_\mu(x)$  encoded as matrices
- e.g., for Quantum Chromodynamics, SU(3) matrices (3x3 complex matrices  $M$  with  $\det[M] = 1$ ,  $M^{-1} = M^\dagger$ )
- Group-valued fields live not on real line but on compact manifolds
- Action is invariant under group transformations on gauge fields



1. Flows on compact, connected manifolds
2. Incorporate symmetries: gauge-equivariant flows

# Incorporating symmetries

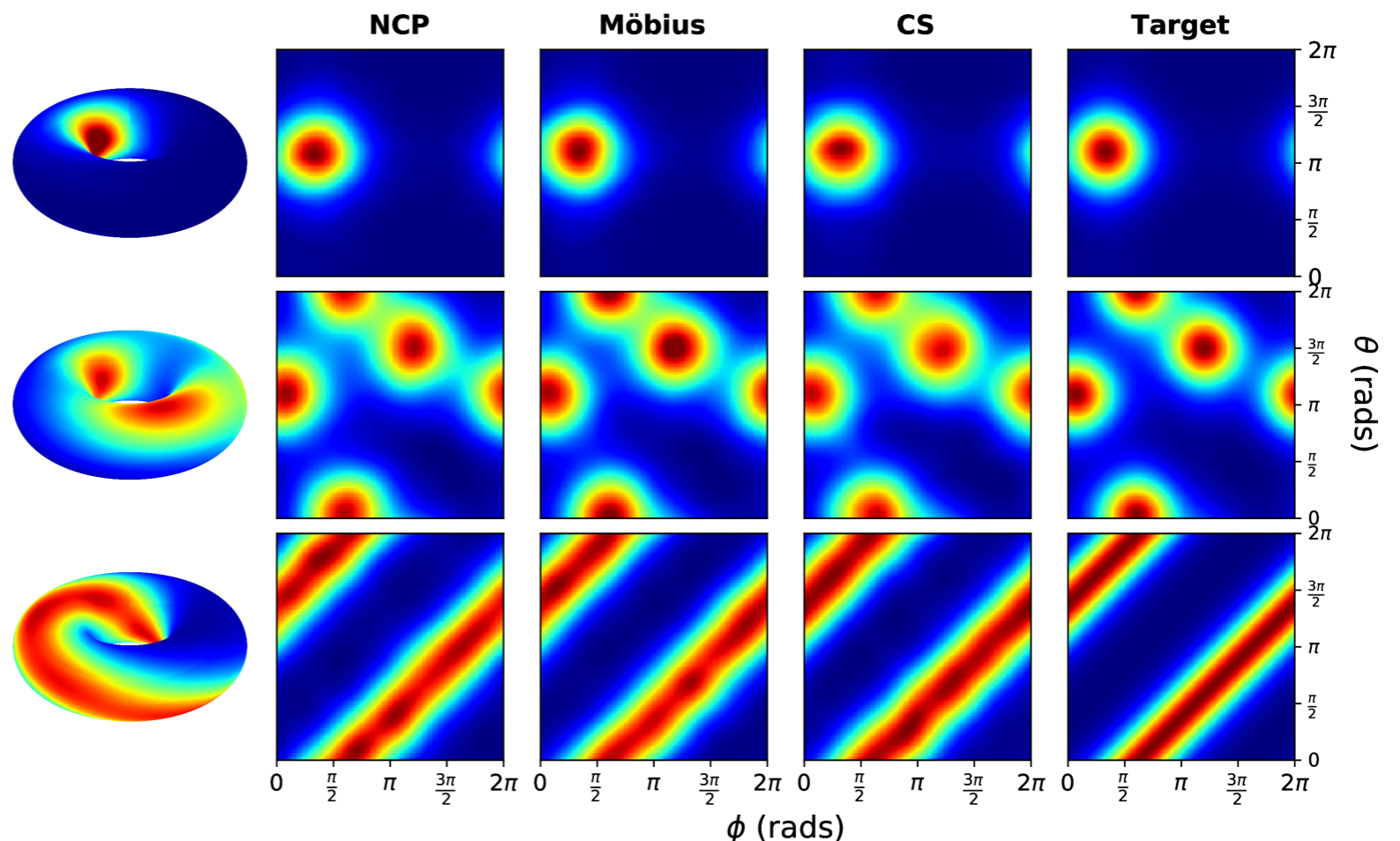
[MIT + Google DeepMind, arXiv:2002.02428]

## Normalizing Flows on Tori and Spheres

Danilo Jimenez Rezende<sup>\*1</sup> George Papamakarios<sup>\*1</sup> Sébastien Racanière<sup>\*1</sup> Michael S. Albergo<sup>2</sup>  
Gurtej Kanwar<sup>3</sup> Phiala E. Shanahan<sup>3</sup> Kyle Cranmer<sup>2</sup>

Arbitrarily flexible  
model architectures  
designed for compact  
and connected  
manifolds

e.g., physics data on compact  
domains OR robot arm  
positions



# Incorporating symmetries

## Incorporating symmetries

- Not essential for correctness of ML-generated ensembles
- BUT: Likely important in training high-dimensional models especially with high-dimensional symmetries

Flow defined from coupling layers will be invariant under symmetry if

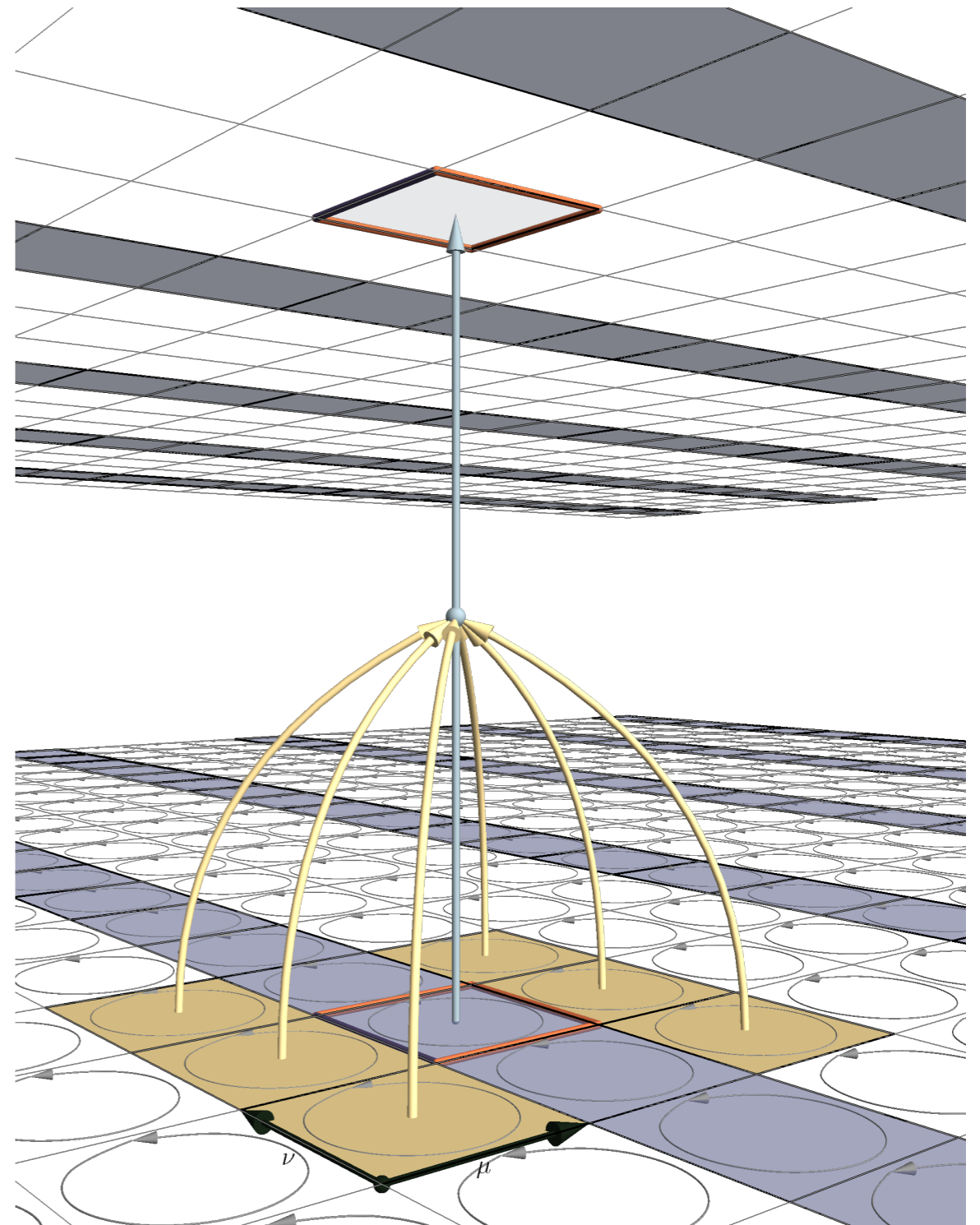
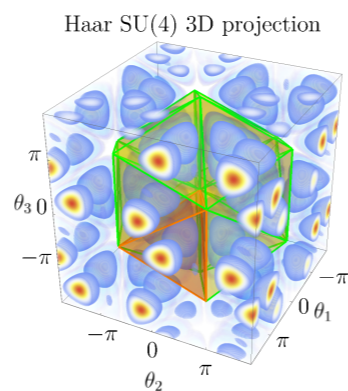
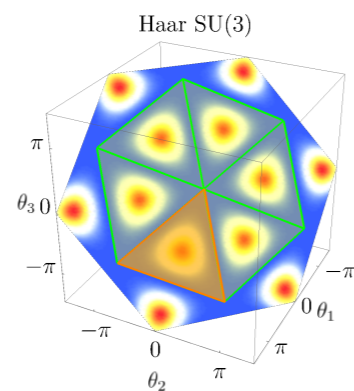
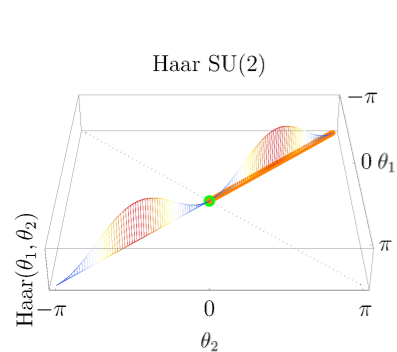
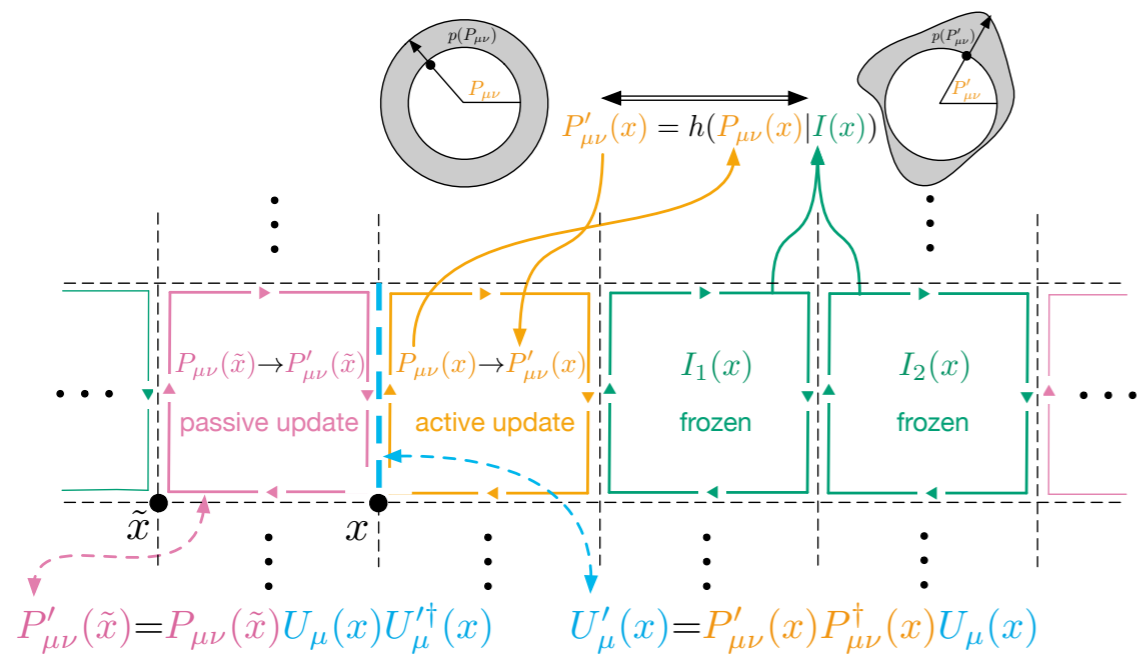
1. **The prior distribution is symmetric**
2. **Each coupling layer is equivariant under the symmetry**  
i.e., all transformations commute through application of the coupling layer

# Incorporating symmetries

## Generative flow architecture that is *gauge-equivariant*

Kanwar et al., Phys.Rev.Lett. 125 (2020)

Boyda et al., 2008.05456 (2020)



# Application: U(1) field theory

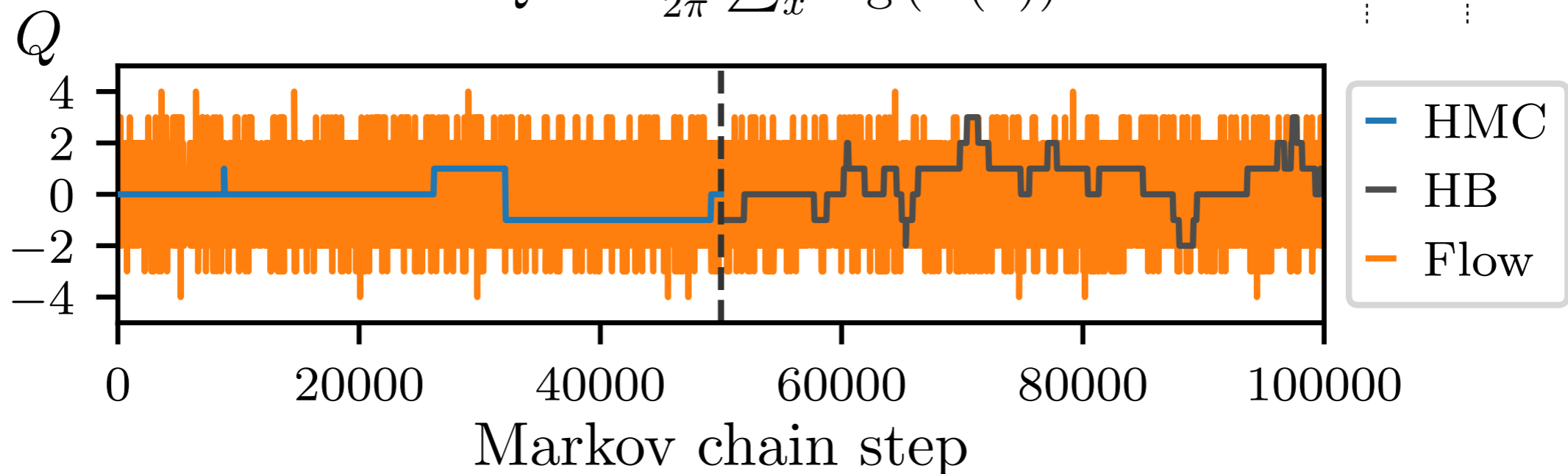
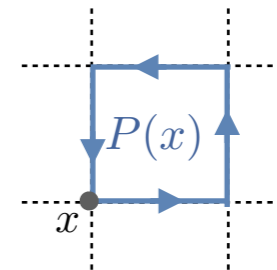
## First gauge theory application: U(1) field theory

**Success:** Critical slowing down is significantly reduced

**Cost:** Up-front training of the model

### Sampling of the topological charge

$$Q := \frac{1}{2\pi} \sum_x \arg(P(x))$$



2D,  $L=16$ ,  $\beta=6$

[Kanwar et al., PRL 125 (2020)]

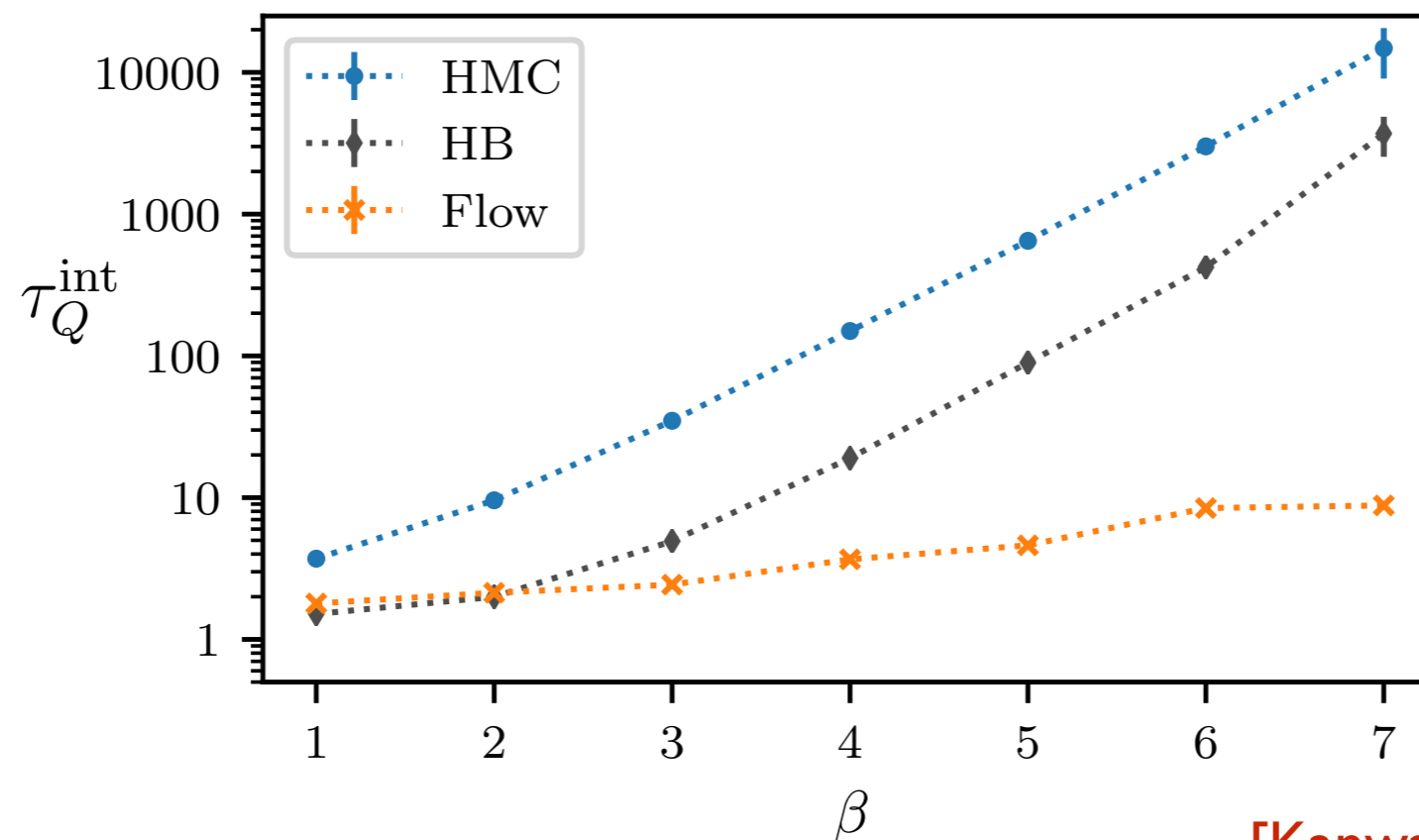
# Application: U(1) field theory

## First gauge theory application: U(1) field theory

**Success:** Critical slowing down is significantly reduced

**Cost:** Up-front training of the model

### Integrated autocorrelation time



2D,  $L=16$

[Kanwar et al., PRL 125 (2020)]

# Application: $U(1)$ field theory

First gauge theory application:  $U(1)$  field theory

Success: Critical slowing down is significantly reduced

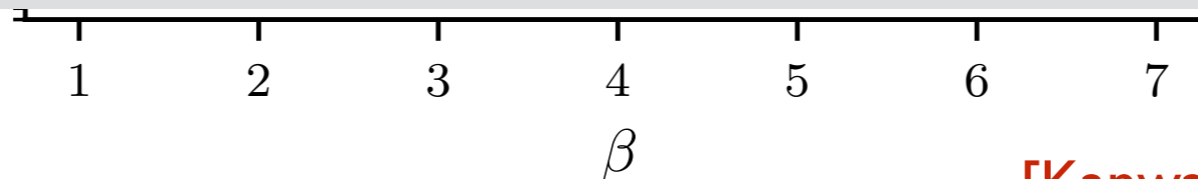
Co

**SUCCESS!**

Proof-of-principle of efficient,  
exact, ML algorithm for  $U(N)$  and  
 $SU(N)$  LQFT



Significant work required to scale  
to state-of-the-art



2D,  $L=16$

[Kanwar et al., PRL 125 (2020)]



# Interdisciplinary applications

Molecular genetics and drug design

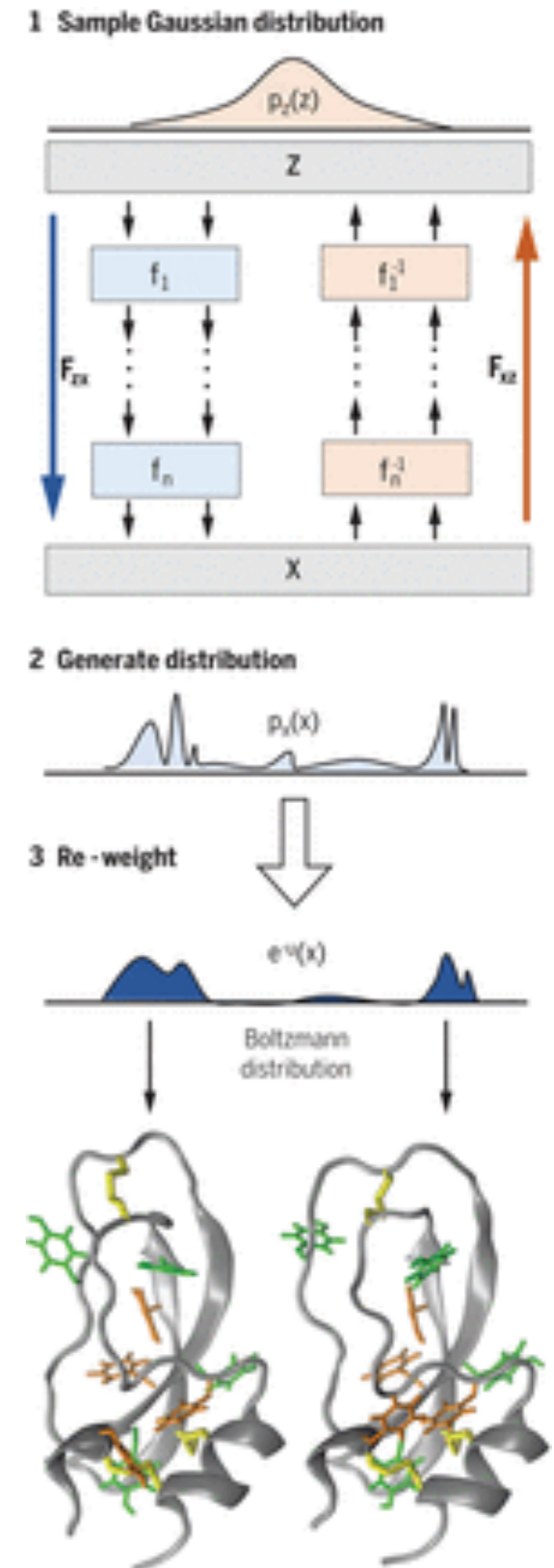


**RESEARCH ARTICLE SUMMARY**

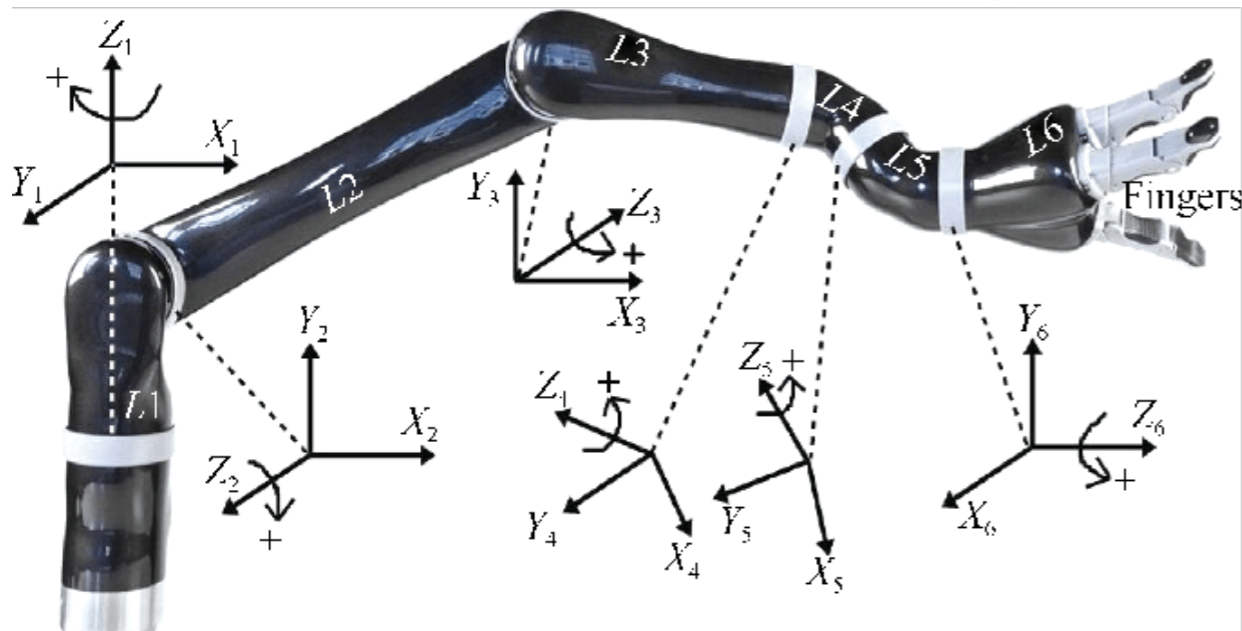
**MACHINE LEARNING**

**Boltzmann generators: Sampling equilibrium states of many-body systems with deep learning**

Frank Noé<sup>\*†</sup>, Simon Olsson<sup>\*</sup>, Jonas Köhler<sup>\*</sup>, Hao Wu



Robotics



## H. Application: Multi-Link Robot Arm

As a concrete application of flows on tori, we consider the problem of approximating the posterior density over joint angles  $\theta_{1,\dots,6}$  of a 6-link 2D robot arm, given (soft) constraints on the position of the tip of the arm. The possible configurations of this arm are points in  $\mathbb{T}^6$ . The position  $r_k$  of a joint  $k = 1, \dots, 6$  of the robot arm is given by

$$r_k = r_{k-1} + \left( l_k \cos \left( \sum_{j \leq k} \theta_j \right), l_k \sin \left( \sum_{j \leq k} \theta_j \right) \right),$$

where  $r_0 = (0, 0)$  is the position where the arm is affixed

# Joint software effort

Our codes exploit and extend existing ML software frameworks

- Tensorflow
- Pytorch
- JAX



TensorFlow

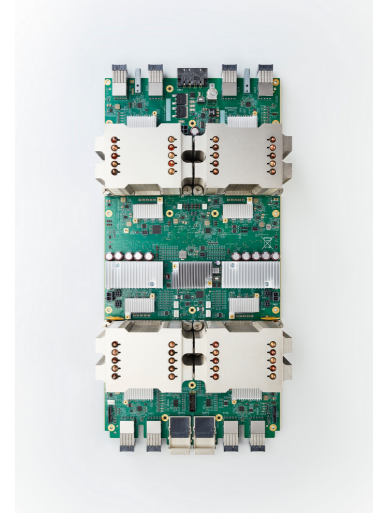
PYTORCH

Active research projects into training protocols:

- Pruning
- Hyperparameter searches
- Initialisation frameworks
- ...

We run on

- CPUs
- GPUs
- TPUs



Targeting exascale hardware for nuclear physics projects



# Outlook

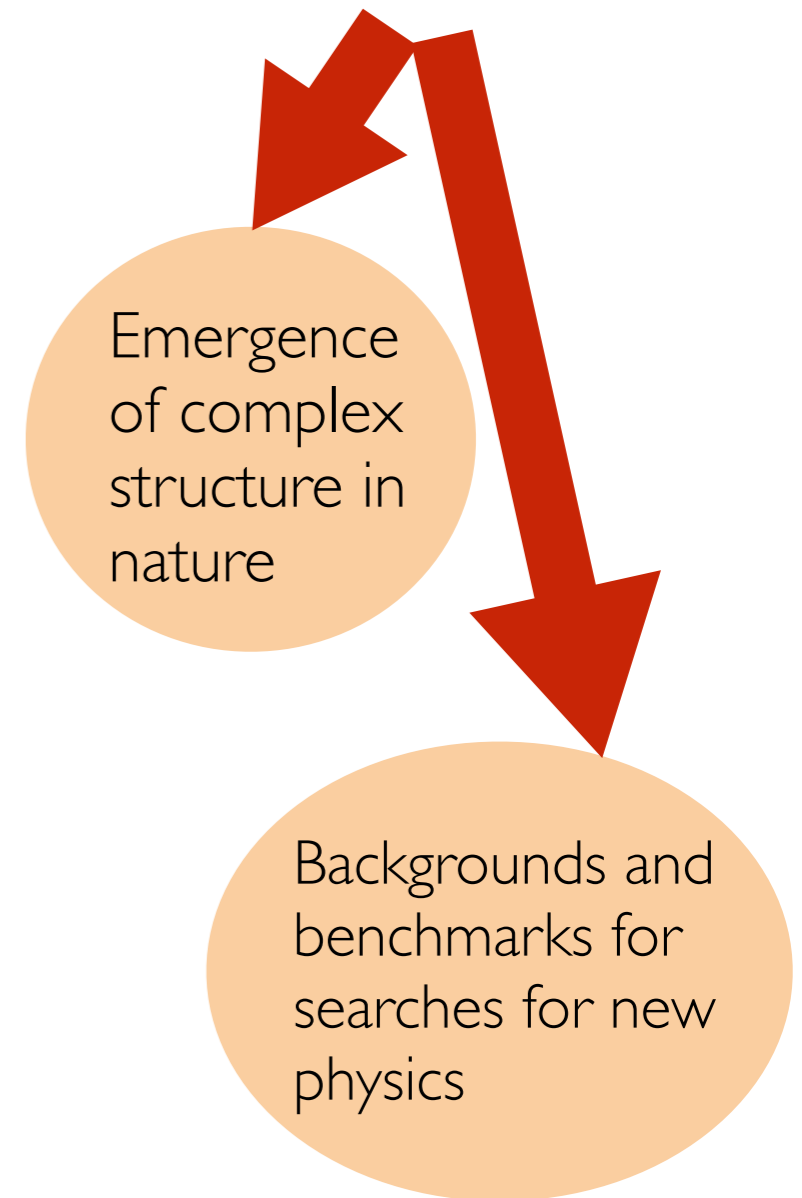
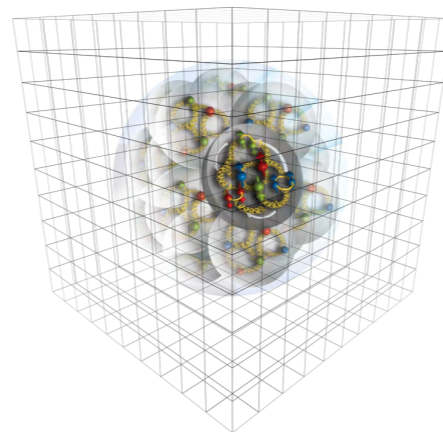
ML-accelerated algorithms have huge potential to enable first-principles lattice QCD physics studies

Flow-based generation of QCD gauge fields at scale would

- \* Enable fast, embarrassingly parallel sampling  
→ high-statistics calculations
- \* Allow parameter-space exploration (re-tune trained models)
- \* Reduce storage challenges (store only model, not samples)

Implementations of flow models at scale (e.g., 4D,  $64^3 \times 128$ ) conceptually straightforward, but work needed

- \* Training paradigms
- \* Model parallelism
- \* Exascale-ready implementations
- \* ....



# Outlook

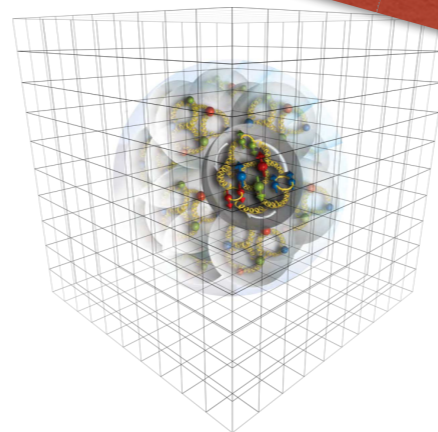
ML-accelerated algorithms have huge potential to enable first-principles lattice QCD physics studies

F... gauge fields at scale would

**CAUTION REQUIRED**  
**ML can accelerate LQCD while preserving rigour, but out-of-the-box tools aren't always appropriate**

Implementations of flow models are conceptually straightforward, but work in

- \* Training paradigms
- \* Model parallelism
- \* Exascale-ready implementations
- \* ....



Emergence  
lex

physics

w

# Ab-initio AI Center

## The NSF AI Institute for Artificial Intelligence and Fundamental Interactions (IAIFI) “eye-phi”



Senior Investigators: 20 Physicists + 7 AI Experts

Junior Investigators:  $\approx$ 20 PhD Students,  $\approx$ 7 IAIFI Fellows in steady state



Pulkit Agrawal  
Lisa Barsotti  
Isaac Chuang  
William Detmold  
Bill Freeman  
Philip Harris  
Kerstin Perez  
Alexander Rakhlin

Phiala Shanahan  
Tracy Slatyer  
Marin Soljacic  
Justin Solomon  
Washington Taylor  
Max Tegmark  
Jesse Thaler  
Mike Williams

Demba Ba  
Edo Berger  
Cora Dvorkin  
Daniel Eisenstein  
Doug Finkbeiner  
Matthew Schwartz  
Yaron Singer  
Todd Zickler

James Halverson  
Brent Nelson



Taritree Wongjirad

# Ab-initio AI Center



*Machine learning* that incorporates  
*first principles, best practices, and domain knowledge*  
*from fundamental physics*

*Symmetries, conservation laws, scaling relations, limiting behaviors, locality, causality,  
unitarity, gauge invariance, entropy, least action, factorization, unit tests,  
exactness, systematic uncertainties, reproducibility, verifiability,...*

# Ab-initio AI Center



Physics  
Theory



AI Foundations

Physics  
Experiment

## AI<sup>2</sup> for Theoretical Physics

Standard Model of Nuclear & Particle Physics  
String Theory & Physical Mathematics  
Astroparticle Physics  
Automated Discovery of Physics Models

## AI<sup>2</sup> for Experimental Physics

Particle Physics Experiments  
Gravitational Wave Interferometry  
(Multi-Messenger) Astrophysics

## AI<sup>2</sup> for Foundational AI

Symmetries & Invariance  
Speeding up Control & Inference  
Physics-Informed Architectures  
Neural Networks Theory

