

# Gradient Flows on Kernel Divergence Measures

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and Optimal Transportation in Statistics, 2022

# Outline

## MMD and MMD flow

- Introduction to MMD as an integral probability metric
- Connection with neural net training
- Wasserstein-2 Gradient Flow on the MMD, consistency
- Noise injection for improved convergence

## KALE and KALE flow

- Introduction to KALE as a variational lower bound on the KL divergence
- Wasserstein-2 gradient flow on KALE
- Properties in relation to MMD

Arbel, Korba, Salim, G., Maximum Mean Discrepancy Gradient Flow (NeurIPS 2019)

Glaser, Arbel, G., KALE Flow: A Relaxed KL Gradient Flow for Probabilities with Disjoint Support (NeurIPS 2021)

# Motivation

Main motivation: gradient flow when the target distribution represented by samples

## Gradient flow on MMD

- MMD (and related IPMs) are GAN critics
- Understand dynamics of GAN training
- Neural network training dynamics

## Gradient flow on KALE

- The KALE (and other lower bounds on  $\phi$ -divergences) are GAN critics
- Understand dynamics of GAN training

Source and target might have disjoint support: KL undefined!

Binkowski, Sutherland, Arbel, G., Demystifying MMD GANs (ICLR 2018)

Chizat, Bach. "On the global convergence of gradient descent for over-parameterized models using optimal transport", NeurIPS (2018)

Arbel, Zhou, G. Generalized Energy-Based Models, (ICLR 2021)

Nowozin, Cseke, Tomioka, NeurIPS (2016)

# Divergences

Integral prob. metrics

$$D_{\mathcal{H}}(P, Q) = \sup_{g \in \mathcal{H}} |\mathbf{E}_{X \sim P} g(X) - \mathbf{E}_{Y \sim Q} g(Y)|$$

$\phi$ -divergences

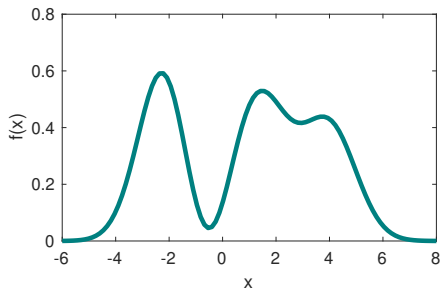
$$D_{\phi}(P, Q) = \int_{\mathcal{X}} q(x) \phi\left(\frac{p(x)}{q(x)}\right) dx$$

# The MMD, and MMD flow

# All of kernel methods

“The kernel trick”

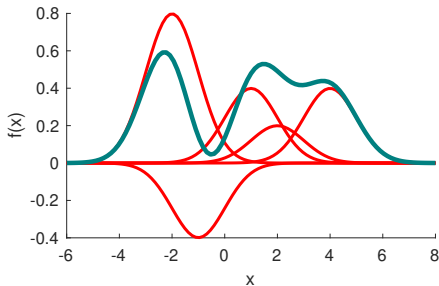
$$\begin{aligned} f(x) &= \sum_{\ell=1}^{\infty} f_{\ell} \varphi_{\ell}(x) \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^m \alpha_i \underbrace{k(x_i, x)}_{\langle \varphi(x_i), \varphi(x) \rangle_{\mathcal{F}}} \end{aligned}$$



# All of kernel methods

“The kernel trick”

$$\begin{aligned} f(x) &= \sum_{\ell=1}^{\infty} f_{\ell} \varphi_{\ell}(x) \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^m \alpha_i \underbrace{k(x_i, x)}_{\langle \varphi(x_i), \varphi(x) \rangle_{\mathcal{F}}} \end{aligned}$$



$$f_{\ell} := \sum_{i=1}^m \alpha_i \varphi_{\ell}(x_i)$$

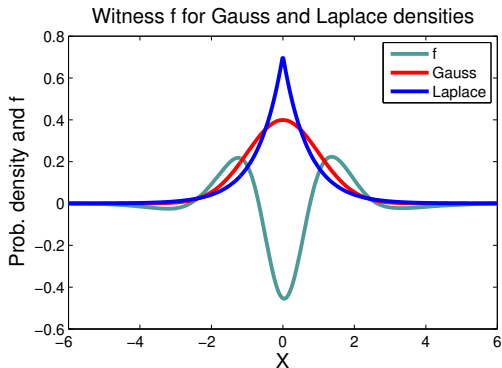
Function of **infinitely many features** expressed using  $m$  coefficients.

# MMD as an integral probability metric

Maximum mean discrepancy: smooth function for  $P$  vs  $Q$

$$MMD(P, Q; \mathcal{F}) := \sup_{\|f\| \leq 1} [\mathbb{E}_P f(X) - \mathbb{E}_Q f(Y)]$$

( $\mathcal{F}$  = unit ball in RKHS  $\mathcal{F}$ )





## MMD as an integral probability metric

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$(\mathcal{F} = \text{unit ball in RKHS } \mathcal{F})$

For characteristic RKHS  $\mathcal{F}$ ,  $MMD(P, Q; \mathcal{F}) = 0$  iff  $P = Q$

Other choices for witness function class:

- Bounded continuous [Dudley, 2002]
- Bounded variation 1 (Kolmogorov metric) [Müller, 1997]
- Bounded Lipschitz (Wasserstein distances) [Dudley, 2002]

## MMD as an integral probability metric

Maximum mean discrepancy: smooth function for  $P$  vs  $Q$

$$MMD(P, Q; F) := \sup_{\|f\| \leq 1} [\mathbb{E}_P f(X) - \mathbb{E}_Q f(Y)]$$

( $F$  = unit ball in RKHS  $\mathcal{F}$ )

A result for the proof on the next slide:

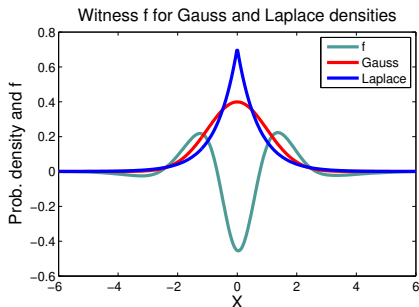
$$\mathbb{E}_P(f(X)) = \mathbb{E}_P \langle f, \varphi(X) \rangle_{\mathcal{F}} = \langle f, \mathbb{E}_P \varphi(X) \rangle_{\mathcal{F}} = \langle f, \mu_P \rangle_{\mathcal{F}}$$

(always true if kernel is bounded)

# Integral prob. metric vs feature difference

The MMD:

$$\begin{aligned} &MMD(P, Q; F) \\ &= \sup_{\|f\|_{\mathcal{F}} \leq 1} [\mathbb{E}_P f(X) - \mathbb{E}_Q f(Y)] \end{aligned}$$



## Integral prob. metric vs feature difference

The MMD:

$$MMD(P, Q; F)$$

$$= \sup_{\|f\|_{\mathcal{F}} \leq 1} [\mathbb{E}_P f(X) - \mathbb{E}_Q f(Y)]$$

$$= \sup_{\|f\|_{\mathcal{F}} \leq 1} \langle f, \mu_P - \mu_Q \rangle_{\mathcal{F}}$$

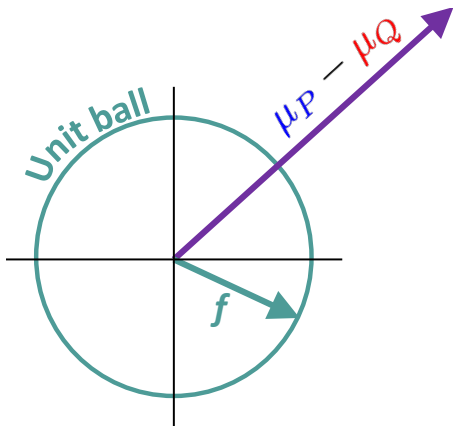
use

$$\mathbb{E}_P f(X) = \langle \mu_P, f \rangle_{\mathcal{F}}$$

## Integral prob. metric vs feature difference

The MMD:

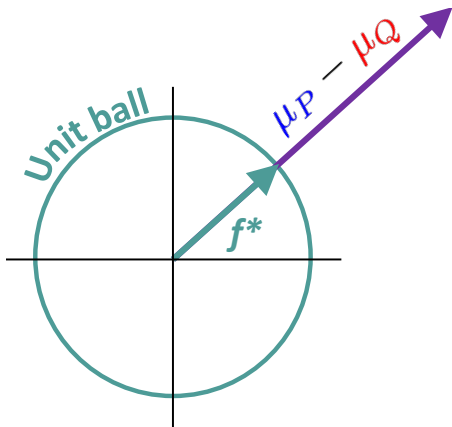
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$$f^* = \frac{\mu_P - \mu_Q}{\|\mu_P - \mu_Q\|}$$

## Integral prob. metric vs feature difference

The MMD:

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$$f^*(x) \propto \mu_P(x) - \mu_Q(x) = \mathbb{E}_P k(X, x) - \mathbb{E}_Q k(Y, x)$$

Function view and feature view  
equivalent

## Computing the MMD

The maximum mean discrepancy is the distance between feature means:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{MMD}^2(P, Q) &= \|\mu_P - \mu_Q\|_{\mathcal{F}}^2 \\ &= \underbrace{\mathbb{E}_P k(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}')}_{(a)} + \underbrace{\mathbb{E}_Q k(\mathbf{y}, \mathbf{y}')}_{(a)} - 2\underbrace{\mathbb{E}_{P, Q} k(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y})}_{(b)} \end{aligned}$$

(a)= within distrib. similarity, (b)= cross-distrib. similarity.



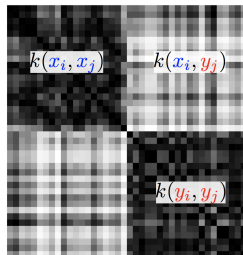
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Empirical estimate:

$$\begin{aligned} \widehat{\text{MMD}}^2 &= \frac{1}{n(n-1)} \sum_{i \neq j} k(\mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{x}_j) \\ &+ \frac{1}{n(n-1)} \sum_{i \neq j} k(\mathbf{y}_i, \mathbf{y}_j) \\ &- \frac{2}{n^2} \sum_{i, j} k(\mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{y}_j) \end{aligned}$$



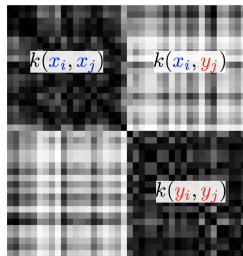
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Empirical witness:

$$\hat{f}_{\nu^*, \nu_i}(z) \propto \sum_j k(z, x_j) - \sum_j k(z, y_j)$$

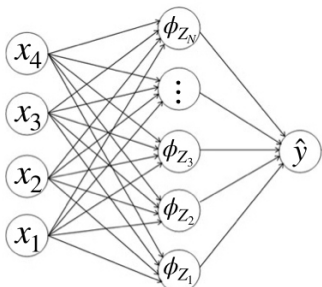


# MMD Flow



## Motivation: Neural Net training

$(x, y) \sim data$



$$\min_{Z_1, \dots, Z_N} \mathbb{E}_{data} \left[ \left\| y - \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \phi_{Z_i}(x) \right\|^2 \right]$$

$$\min_{Z_1, \dots, Z_N \in \mathcal{Z}} \mathcal{L} \left( \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \delta_{Z_i} \right)$$

Optimization using gradient descent:

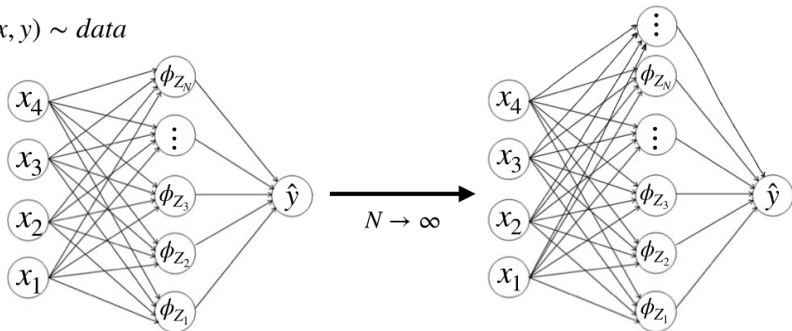
$$Z_i^{t+1} = Z_i^t - \gamma \nabla_{Z_i} \mathcal{L} \left( \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \delta_{Z_i^t} \right)$$

Chizat, Bach. "On the global convergence of gradient descent for over-parameterized models using optimal transport", NeurIPS (2018)

# Motivation: Neural Net training

$$\min_{Z_1, \dots, Z_n \in \mathcal{Z}} \mathcal{L} \left( \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \delta_{Z_i} \right) \xrightarrow{n \rightarrow \infty} \min_{\nu \in \mathcal{P}} \mathcal{L}(\nu)$$

$(x, y) \sim \text{data}$



$$\min_{Z_1, \dots, Z_N} \mathbb{E}_{\text{data}} \left[ \|y - \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \phi_{Z_i}(x)\|^2 \right] \xrightarrow{N \rightarrow \infty} \min_{\nu \in \mathcal{P}} \mathbb{E}_{\text{data}} \left[ \|y - \mathbb{E}_{Z \sim \nu} [\phi_Z(x)]\|^2 \right]$$

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## Motivation: Neural Net training

From previous slide:

$$\min_{\nu \in \mathcal{P}} \mathcal{L}(\nu) := \mathbb{E}_{(x,y)} [\|y - \mathbb{E}_{Z \sim \nu} [\phi_Z(x)]\|^2]$$

Want to prove global convergence of GD when  $n \rightarrow \infty$  and

$$\phi_Z(x) = w g_\theta(x), \quad Z = (w, \theta)$$

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### Connection to the MMD:

- Assume well-specified setting,  $y = \mathbb{E}_{U \sim \nu^*} [\phi_U(x)]$
- Random feature formulation,

$$\mathcal{L}(\nu) = \mathbb{E}_x \left[ \|\mathbb{E}_{U \sim \nu^*} [\phi_U(x)] - \mathbb{E}_{Z \sim \nu} [\phi_Z(x)]\|^2 \right] = \text{MMD}^2(\nu, \nu^*)$$

- The kernel is:  $k(U, Z) = \mathbb{E}_x [\phi_U(x)^\top \phi_Z(x)]$ .

Chizat, Bach. "On the global convergence of gradient descent for over-parameterized models using optimal transport", NeurIPS (2018)

## Preliminaries: Wasserstein gradient flow on MMD

Assume henceforth

$$\nu, \nu^* \in \mathcal{P}_2(\mathbb{R}^d) := \left\{ \mu \in \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{R}^d) : \int \|x\|^2 d\mu(x) < \infty \right\}.$$

MMD as free energy: target  $\nu^*$ , current distribution  $\nu$

$$\mathcal{F}(\nu) := \frac{1}{2} \text{MMD}^2(\nu^*, \nu) = \frac{1}{2} \underbrace{\mathbb{E}_{\nu} k(x, x')}_{\text{interaction}} + \frac{1}{2} \underbrace{\mathbb{E}_{\nu^*} k(y, y')}_{\text{constant}} - \underbrace{\mathbb{E}_{\nu, \nu^*} k(x, y)}_{\text{confinement}}$$

[A] Ambrosio, Gigli, and Savaré. Gradient flows: in metric spaces and in the space of probability measures. (2008)



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Consider  $\{y_i\}_{i=1}^n \stackrel{\text{i.i.d.}}{\sim} \nu^*$  and  $\{x_i\}_{i=1}^n \stackrel{\text{i.i.d.}}{\sim} \nu$ .

Force on a particle  $z$ :

$$-\sum_j \nabla_z k(z, x_j) + \sum_j \nabla_z k(z, y_j) = -\nabla_z \hat{f}_{\nu^*, \nu_t}(z)$$

[A] Ambrosio, Gigli, and Savaré. Gradient flows: in metric spaces and in the space of probability measures. (2008)

## Wasserstein gradient flows

Tangent space of  $(\mathcal{P}_2(\mathbb{R}^d), W_2)$  is  $h \in L^2(\mu)$  where  $h : \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^d$ .

Define  $\nabla_{W_2} \mathcal{F}(\mu)$  of  $\mathcal{F}$  at  $\mu$  using Taylor expansion

$$\mathcal{F}((\text{Id} + \epsilon h)_{\#} \mu) = \mathcal{F}(\mu) + \epsilon \langle \nabla_{W_2} \mathcal{F}(\mu), h \rangle_{\mu} + o(\epsilon) \quad (1)$$

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Under reasonable assumptions [A. Theorem 10.4.13]

$$\nabla_{W_2} \mathcal{F}(\mu) = \nabla \mathcal{F}'(\mu).$$

where **first variation** in direction  $\xi$ :

$$\mathcal{F}(\mu + \epsilon \xi) = \mathcal{F}(\mu) + \epsilon \int \mathcal{F}'(\mu)(x) d\xi(x) + o(\epsilon) \quad \mu + \epsilon \xi \in \mathcal{P}_2(\mathbb{R}^d) \quad (2)$$

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The gradient flow is then:

$$\partial_t \nu_t = \text{div}(\nu_t \nabla_{W_2} \mathcal{F}(\nu_t))$$

[A] Ambrosio, Gigli, and Savaré. Gradient flows: in metric spaces and in the space of probability measures. (2008)

## Wasserstein gradient flow on MMD

First variation of  $\frac{1}{2}MMD^2(\nu^*, \nu) =: \mathcal{F}(\nu)$

$$\mathcal{F}'(\nu)(z) := f_{\nu^*, \nu}(z) = 2(\mathbb{E}_{U \sim \nu^*}[k(U, z)] - \mathbb{E}_{U \sim \nu}[k(U, z)])$$

The  $W_2$  gradient flow of the MMD:

$$\partial_t \nu_t = \operatorname{div}(\nu_t \nabla_{W_2} \mathcal{F}(\nu_t)) = \operatorname{div}(\nu_t \nabla f_{\nu^*, \nu_t})$$

Ambrosio, Gigli, and Savaré. Gradient flows: in metric spaces and in the space of probability measures. (2008, Ch. 10)

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McKean-Vlasov dynamics for particles (existence and uniqueness under **Assumption A**):

$$dZ_t = -\nabla_{Z_t} f_{\nu^*, \nu_t}(Z_t) dt, \quad Z_0 \sim \nu_0$$

**Assumption A:**  $k(x, x) \leq K$ , for all  $x \in \mathbb{R}^d$ ,  $\sum_{i=1}^d \|\partial_i k(x, \cdot)\|^2 \leq K_{1d}$  and  $\sum_{i,j=1}^d \|\partial_i \partial_j k(x, \cdot)\|^2 \leq K_{2d}$ ,  $d$  indicates scaling with dimension.

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## Wasserstein gradient flow on the MMD

Forward Euler scheme [A, Section 2.2]:

$$\begin{aligned}\nu_{n+1} &= (I - \gamma \nabla f_{\nu^*, \nu_t}) \# \nu_n \\ Z_{n+1} &= Z_n - \gamma \nabla_{Z_n} f_{\nu^*, \nu_n}(Z_n), \quad Z_0 \sim \nu_0, Z_n \sim \nu_n\end{aligned}$$

Under **Assumption A**,  $\nu_n$  approaches  $\nu_t$  as  $\gamma \rightarrow 0$

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Under **Assumption A**,  $\nu_n$  approaches  $\nu_t$  as  $\gamma \rightarrow 0$

**Consistency?** Does  $\nu_t$  converge to  $\nu^*$  as  $t \rightarrow \infty$ ?

[A] Arbel, Korba, Salim, G. (NeurIPS 2019)



## Consistency (1)

Can we use geodesic (displacement) convexity?

- A geodesic  $\rho_t$  between  $\nu_1$  and  $\nu_2$  is given by the transport map

$$T_{\nu_1}^{\nu_2} : \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^d:$$

$$\rho_t = ((1 - t)\text{Id} + tT_{\nu_1}^{\nu_2})_{\#}\nu_1$$

- A functional  $\mathcal{F}$  is displacement convex if:

$$\mathcal{F}(\rho_t) \leq (1 - t)\mathcal{F}(\nu_1) + t\mathcal{F}(\nu_2)$$

MMD is not displacement convex in general (it is always mixture<sup>1</sup> convex).

---

$${}^1\mathcal{F}(t\nu_1 + (1 - t)\nu_2) \leq t\mathcal{F}(\nu_1) + (1 - t)\mathcal{F}(\nu_2) \quad \forall t \in [0, 1]$$

## Consistency (2)

Dissipation inequalities:

- Rate by which  $\mathcal{F}$  decreases along the gradient flow [A, Proposition 2]

$$\frac{d\mathcal{F}(\nu_t)}{dt} = -\mathbb{E}_{\nu_t}[\|\nabla f_{\nu^*, \nu_t}\|^2]$$

- Assume the dissipation rate is controlled (path-dependent Lojasiewicz inequality)

$$\mathcal{F}(\nu_t) \leq C\mathbb{E}_{\nu_t}[\|\nabla f_{\nu^*, \nu_t}\|^2]$$

- From above, [A, Proposition 7]:

$$\mathcal{F}(\nu_t) \leq \frac{1}{\mathcal{F}(\nu_0)^{-1} + 2C^{-1}t}$$

[A] Arbel, Korba, Salim, G. (NeurIPS 2019)

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## Consistency (2)

Check: Lojasiewicz inequality for MMD?

- Does there exist  $C > 0$  such that

$$\mathcal{F}(\nu_t) \leq C \mathbb{E}_{\nu_t} [\|\nabla f_{\nu^*, \nu_t}\|^2]$$

- By Cauchy-Schwarz in the RKHS, [A, eq. 16]

$$\mathcal{F}(\nu_t) =: \frac{1}{2} \text{MMD}^2(\nu_t, \nu^*) \leq S(\nu^* | \nu_t) \mathbb{E}_{\nu_t} [\|\nabla f_{\nu^*, \nu_t}\|^2]$$

where  $S(\nu^* | \nu_t)$  is the Negative Sobolev Distance<sup>2</sup>

- Require  $S(\nu^* | \nu_t) < C$  for entire sequence  $\nu_t$ : hard to check in theory, fails in practice.

[A] [Arbel, Korba, Salim, G. \(NeurIPS 2019\)](#)

$$^2 S(\nu^* | \nu_t) = \sup_{g, \mathbb{E}_{Z \sim \nu_t} [\|\nabla g(Z)\|^2] \leq 1} |\mathbb{E}_{Z \sim \nu_t} [g(Z)] - \mathbb{E}_{U \sim \nu^*} [g(U)]|$$

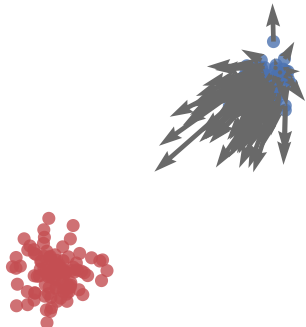
# MMD flow in practice

- Data
- Particles



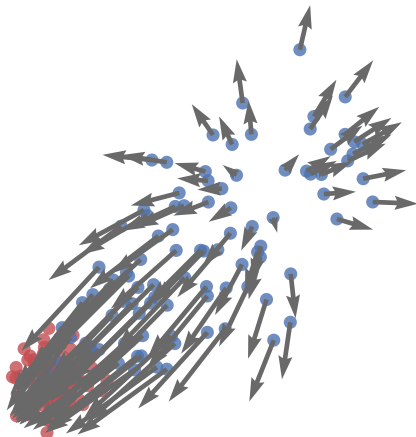
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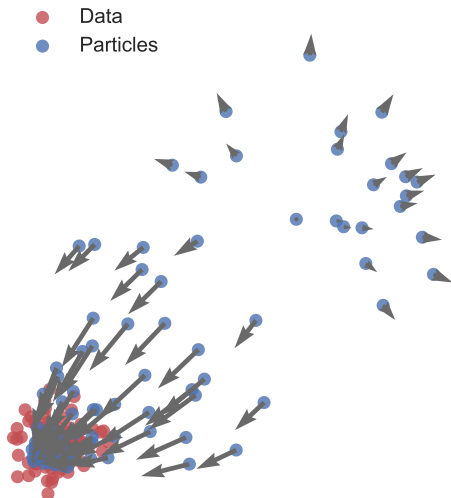
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- Data
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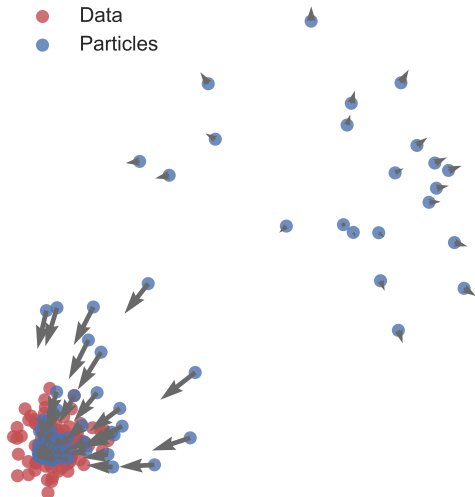




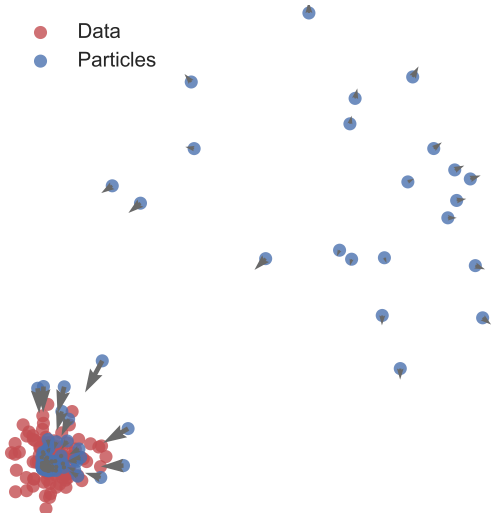
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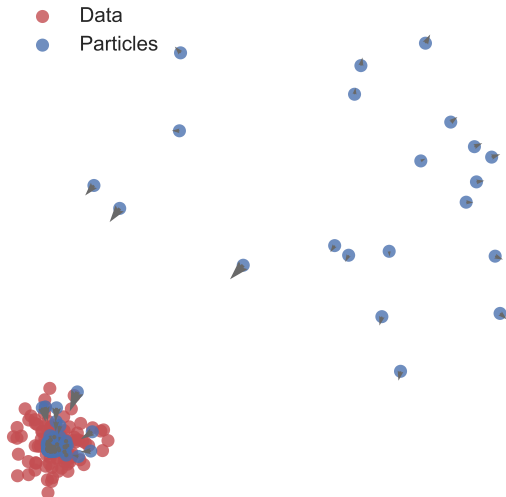
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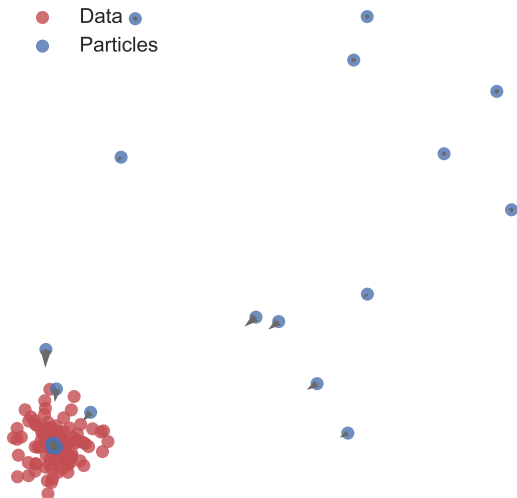
# MMD flow in practice



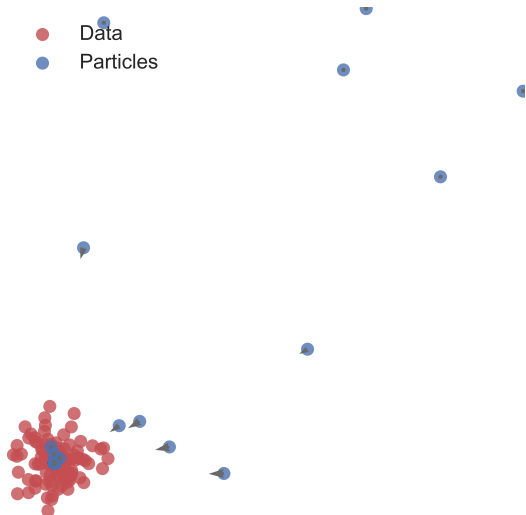
# MMD flow in practice



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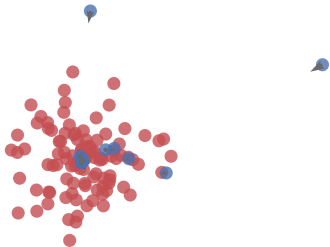


# MMD flow in practice



# MMD flow in practice

- Data
- Particles



# MMD flow in practice

- Data
- Particles





## Empirical observations

Some observations:

- Almost all particles tend to collapse at the center of mass  $m$  of the target  $\nu^*$ , i.e.: ( $\nu_t \simeq \delta_m$ )
  - However, the loss stops decreasing:  $\nabla f_{\nu^*, \nu_t}(z) \simeq 0$  for  $z$  on the support of  $\nu_t$  (and is small when far from  $\nu^*$ )...
  - ...and in general,  $\nabla f_{\nu^*, \nu_t}(z) \neq 0$  outside the support of  $\nu_t$ .

Can these observations be used to improve convergence?

## Noise injection to improve convergence

**Noise injection:** Evaluate  $\nabla f_{\nu^*, \nu_t}$  outside of the support of  $\nu_t$  to get a better signal!

- Sample  $u_t \sim \mathcal{N}(0, 1)$  and  $\beta_t$  is the noise level:

$$Z_{t+1} = Z_t - \gamma \nabla f_{\nu^*, \nu_t}(Z_t + \beta_t u_t); \quad Z_t \sim \nu_t$$

- Similar to continuation methods,<sup>3</sup> but extended to interacting particles.
- Different from entropic regularization:

$$Z_{t+1} = Z_t - \gamma \nabla f_{\nu^*, \nu_t}(Z_t) + \beta_t u_t$$

---

<sup>3</sup>Chaudhari, Oberman, Osher, Soatto, Carlier. Deep relaxation: partial differential equations for optimizing deep neural networks. Research in the Mathematical Sciences (2017)

Hazan, Levy, Shalev-Shwartz. On graduated optimization for stochastic non-convex problems. ICML (2016).

## Noise injection: consistency

Recall:  $Z_{t+1} = Z_t - \gamma \nabla f_{\nu^*, \nu_t}(Z_t + \beta_t u_t); \quad Z_t \sim \nu_t$

Tradeoff for  $\beta_t$

- Large  $\beta_t$ :  $\nu_{t+1} - \nu_t$  not a descent direction any more:  
 $\mathcal{F}(\nu_{t+1}) > \mathcal{F}(\nu_t)$
- Small  $\beta_t$ : Back to the failure mode:  $\nabla f_{\nu^*, \nu_t}(Z_t + \beta_t u_t) \simeq 0$

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Need  $\beta_t$  such that:

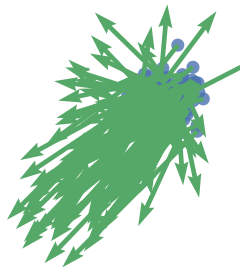
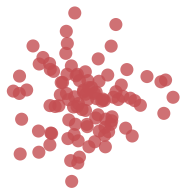
$$\mathcal{F}(\nu_{t+1}) - \mathcal{F}(\nu_t) \leq -C\gamma \mathbb{E}_{\substack{X_t \sim \nu_t \\ u_t \sim \mathcal{N}(0,1)}} [\|\nabla f_{\nu^*, \nu_t}(X_t + \beta_t u_t)\|^2]$$
$$\sum_i^t \beta_i^2 \xrightarrow{t \rightarrow \infty} \infty$$

Then [A, Proposition 8]

$$\mathcal{F}(\nu_t) \leq \mathcal{F}(\nu_0) e^{-C\gamma \sum_i^t \beta_i^2}.$$

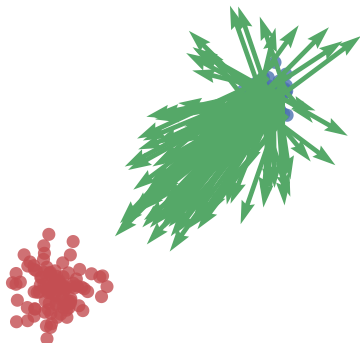
# Noise injected MMD flow in practice

- Data
- Particles



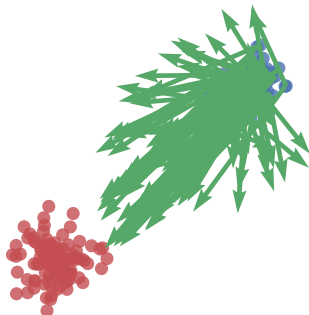
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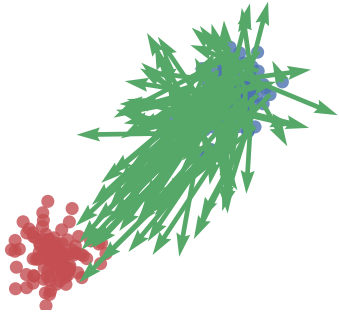
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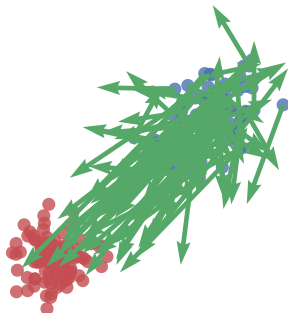
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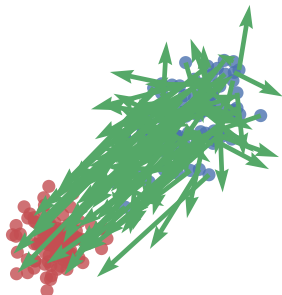
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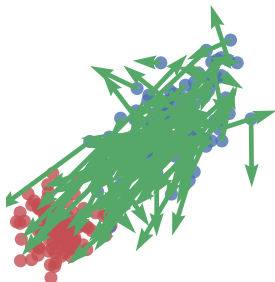
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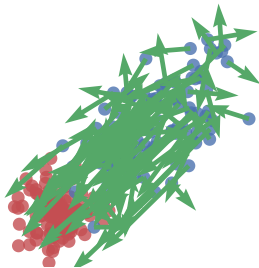
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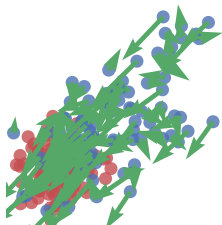
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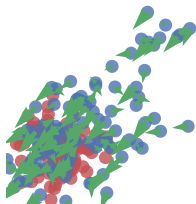
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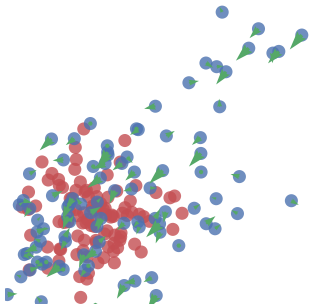
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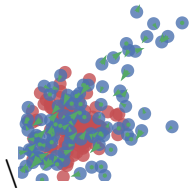
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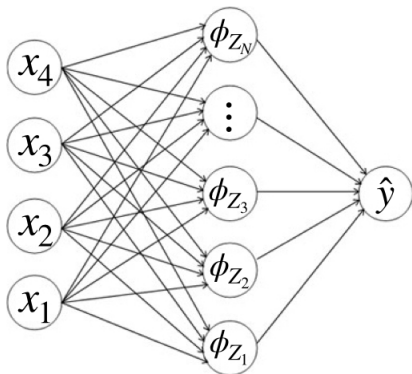
- Data
- Particles





## Noise injection: neural net setting

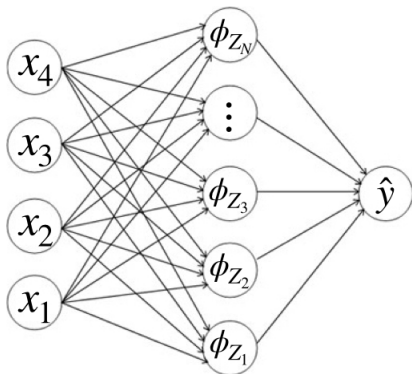
$(x, y) \sim data$



$$\min_{Z_1, \dots, Z_N} \mathbb{E}_{data} \left[ \left\| \frac{1}{M} \sum_m \phi_{U^m}(x) - \frac{1}{N} \sum_{n=1}^N \phi_{Z^n}(x) \right\|^2 \right]$$

## Noise injection: neural net setting

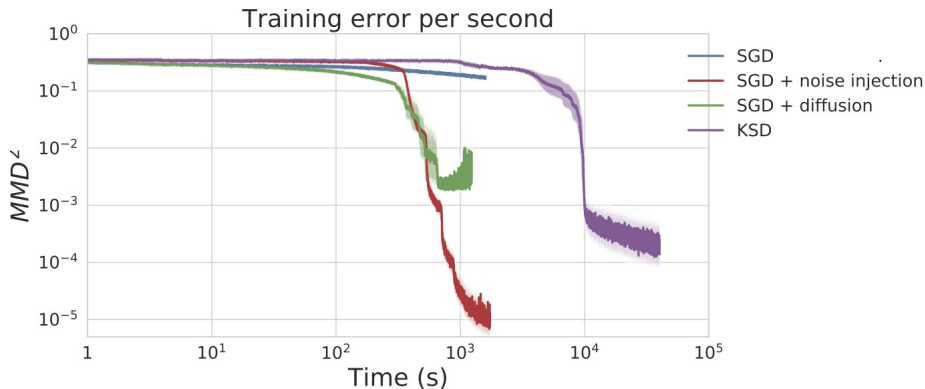
$(x, y) \sim data$



$$\min_{Z_1, \dots, Z_N} MMD^2(\nu^*, \frac{1}{N} \sum_{n=1}^N \delta_{Z^n})$$

$$k(Z, Z') = \mathbb{E}_{data}[\phi_Z(x)\phi_{Z'}(x)]$$

## Noise injection: neural net setting



# The KALE, and KALE flow



## The $\phi$ -divergences

Define the  $\phi$ -divergence ( $f$ -divergence):

$$D_{\phi}(P, Q) = \int \phi \left( \frac{p(z)}{q(z)} \right) q(z) dz$$

where  $\phi$  is convex, lower-semicontinuous,  $\phi(1) = 0$ .

■ **Example:**  $\phi(u) = u \log(u)$  gives KL divergence,

$$\begin{aligned} D_{KL}(P, Q) &= \int \log \left( \frac{p(z)}{q(z)} \right) p(z) dz \\ &= \int \left( \frac{p(z)}{q(z)} \right) \log \left( \frac{p(z)}{q(z)} \right) q(z) dz \end{aligned}$$

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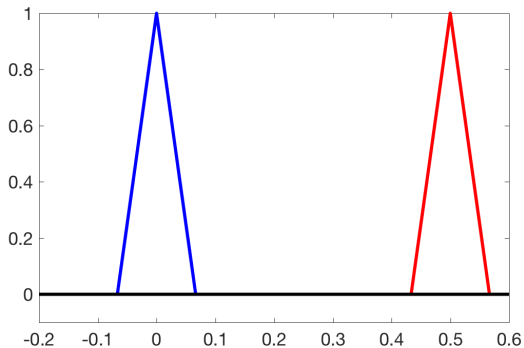
# The challenge of disjoint support



Simple example: disjoint support.

Goodfellow et al. (NeurIPS 2014), Arjovsky and Bottou [ICLR 2017]

$$D_{KL}(P, Q) = \infty \quad D_{JS}(P, Q) = \log 2$$



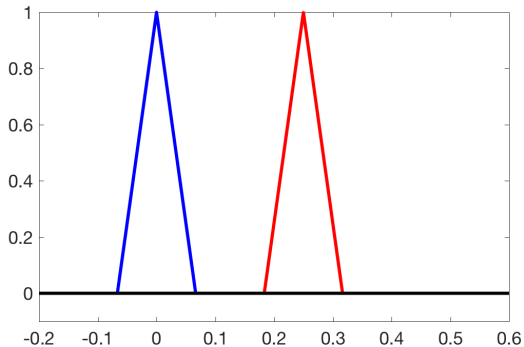
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$$D_{KL}(P, Q) = \infty \quad D_{JS}(P, Q) = \log 2$$

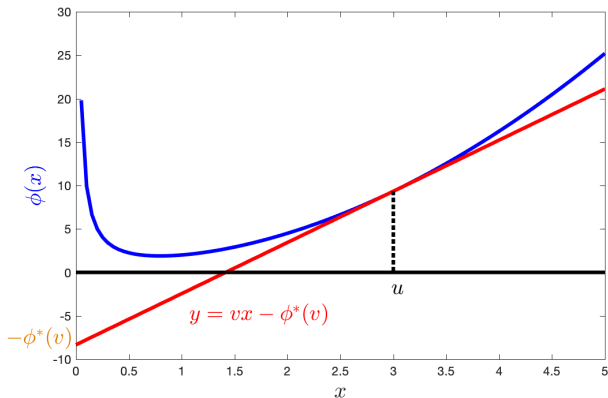




## $\phi$ -divergences in practice

**Notation:** the conjugate (Fenchel) dual

$$\phi^*(v) = \sup_{u \in \mathbb{R}} \{uv - \phi(u)\}.$$



- $\phi^*(v)$  is negative intercept of tangent to  $\phi$  with slope  $v$

## $\phi$ -divergences in practice

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■ For a convex l.s.c.  $\phi$  we have

$$\phi^{**}(x) = \phi(x) = \sup_{v \in \mathbb{R}} \{xv - \phi^*(v)\}$$

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■ **KL divergence:**

$$\phi(x) = x \log(x) \quad \phi^*(v) = \exp(v - 1)$$

## A variational lower bound

A lower-bound  $\phi$ -divergence approximation:

$$D_{\phi}(P, Q) = \int q(z) \phi\left(\frac{p(z)}{q(z)}\right) dz$$

Nguyen, Wainwright, Jordan, IEEE Transactions on Information Theory (2010);  
Nowozin, Cseke, Tomioka, NeurIPS (2016)

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$\phi^*(v)$  is dual of  $\phi(x)$ .

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(restrict the function class)

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(restrict the function class)

Bound tight when:

$$f^{\diamond}(z) = \partial \phi\left(\frac{p(z)}{q(z)}\right)$$

if ratio defined.

## Case of the KL

$$D_{KL}(P, Q) = \int \log \left( \frac{p(z)}{q(z)} \right) p(z) dz$$

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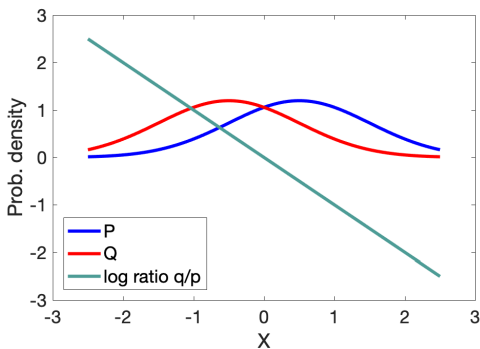
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$$\geq \sup_{f \in \mathcal{H}} \mathbb{E}_P f(X) + 1 - \mathbb{E}_Q \exp(f(Y))$$

$$\approx \sup_{f \in \mathcal{H}} \left[ \frac{1}{n} \sum_{j=1}^n f(x_j) - \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \exp(f(y_i)) \right] + 1$$

$x_i \stackrel{\text{i.i.d.}}{\sim} P$

$y_i \stackrel{\text{i.i.d.}}{\sim} Q$

Nguyen, Wainwright, Jordan, IEEE Transactions on Information Theory (2010);  
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## Case of the KL

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This is a

KL

Approximate

Lower-bound

Estimator.

## Case of the KL

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This is a

**K**  
**A**  
**L**  
**E**

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## The KALE divergence

Nguyen, Wainwright, Jordan, IEEE Transactions on Information Theory (2010);  
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# Empirical properties of KALE



$$KALE(P, Q; \mathcal{H}) = \sup_{f \in \mathcal{H}} E_P f(X) - E_Q \exp(f(Y)) + 1$$

$$f = \langle w, \phi(x) \rangle_{\mathcal{H}} \quad \mathcal{H} \text{ an RKHS}$$

$$\|w\|_{\mathcal{H}}^2 \text{ penalized}$$

# Empirical properties of KALE

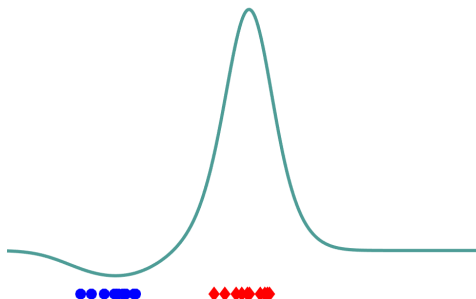


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$$KALE(Q, P; \mathcal{H}) = 0.18$$





# Empirical properties of KALE

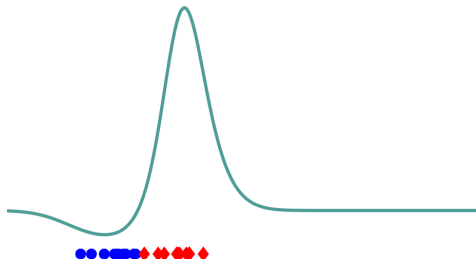


$$KALE(P, Q; \mathcal{H}) = \sup_{f \in \mathcal{H}} E_P f(X) - E_Q \exp(f(Y)) + 1$$

$$f = \langle w, \phi(x) \rangle_{\mathcal{H}} \quad \mathcal{H} \text{ an RKHS}$$

$$\|w\|_{\mathcal{H}}^2 \text{ penalized}$$

$$KALE(Q, P; \mathcal{H}) = 0.12$$



## Topological properties of KALE (1)

Key requirements on  $\mathcal{H}$  and  $\mathcal{X}$ :

- Compact domain  $\mathcal{X}$ ,
- $\mathcal{H}$  dense in the space  $C(\mathcal{X})$  of continuous functions on  $\mathcal{X}$  wrt  $\|\cdot\|_\infty$ .
- If  $f \in \mathcal{H}$  then  $-f \in \mathcal{H}$  and  $cf \in \mathcal{H}$  for  $0 \leq c \leq C_{\max}$ .

**Theorem:**  $KALE(P, Q; \mathcal{H}) \geq 0$  and  $KALE(P, Q; \mathcal{H}) = 0$  iff  $P = Q$ .

Zhang, Liu, Zhou, Xu, and He. "On the Discrimination-Generalization Tradeoff in GANs"

(ICLR 2018, Corollary 2.4; Theorem B.1)

Arbel, Liang, G. (ICLR 2021, Proposition 1)

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$\mathcal{H}$  dense in  $C(\mathcal{X})$  for  $\mathcal{X} \subset \mathbb{R}^d$  when:

$$\mathcal{H} = \text{span}\{\sigma(w^\top x + b) : [w, b] \in \Theta\}$$

$$\sigma(u) = \max\{u, 0\}^\alpha, \alpha \in \mathbb{N}, \text{ and } \{\lambda\theta : \lambda \geq 0, \theta \in \Theta\} = \mathbb{R}^{d+1}.$$

Zhang, Liu, Zhou, Xu, and He. "On the Discrimination-Generalization Tradeoff in GANs"

(ICLR 2018, Corollary 2.4; Theorem B.1)

Arbel, Liang, G. (ICLR 2021, Proposition 1)

## Topological properties of KALE (2)

Additional requirement: all functions in  $\mathcal{H}$  Lipschitz in their inputs with constant  $L$

**Theorem:**  $\text{KALE}(P, Q^n; \mathcal{H}) \rightarrow 0$  iff  $Q^n \rightarrow P$  under the weak topology.

Liu, Bousquet, Chaudhuri. "Approximation and Convergence Properties of Generative Adversarial Learning" (NeurIPS 2017); Arbel, Liang, G. (ICLR 2021, Proposition 1)

## Topological properties of KALE (2)

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**Theorem:**  $\text{KALE}(P, Q^n; \mathcal{H}) \rightarrow 0$  iff  $Q^n \rightarrow P$  under the weak topology.

Partial proof idea:

$$\begin{aligned}\text{KALE}(P, Q; \mathcal{H}) &= \int f dP - \int \exp(f) dQ + 1 \\ &= - \int f(x) dQ(x) + \int f(x') dP(x') \\ &\quad - \underbrace{\int (\exp(f) - f - 1) dQ}_{\geq 0} \\ &\leq \int f(x') dP(x') - \int f(x) dQ(x) \leq LW_1(P, Q)\end{aligned}$$

Liu, Bousquet, Chaudhuri. "Approximation and Convergence Properties of Generative Adversarial Learning" (NeurIPS 2017); Arbel, Liang, G. (ICLR 2021, Proposition 1)

## KALE vs KL vs MMD

A scaled KALE (non-degenerate for  $\lambda = 0$  or  $\lambda \rightarrow \infty$ ):

$$\text{KALE}_\lambda(P, Q; \mathcal{H}) = (1 + \lambda) \sup_{f \in \mathcal{H}} \left[ E_P f(X) - E_Q \exp(f(Y)) + 1 - \frac{\lambda}{2} \|f\|_{\mathcal{H}}^2 \right]$$

MMD limit:

$$\lim_{\lambda \rightarrow +\infty} \text{KALE}_\lambda(P, Q; \mathcal{H}) = \frac{1}{2} \text{MMD}^2(P, Q).$$

KL limit (assuming  $\log \frac{dP}{dQ} \in \mathcal{H}$ ):

$$\lim_{\lambda \rightarrow 0} \text{KALE}_\lambda(P, Q; \mathcal{H}) = \text{KL}(P, Q).$$

Glaser, Arbel, G. (NeurIPS 2021, Proposition 1)

## Wasserstein gradient flow on KALE

First variation of the  $KALE_\lambda(\nu, \nu^*)$

$$\frac{\partial KALE_\lambda}{\partial \nu}(\nu)(z) := (1 + \lambda) f_{\nu, \nu^*}(z)$$

where  $f_{\nu, \nu^*}$  is the solution of

$$f_{\nu, \nu^*} = \arg \max_{f \in \mathcal{H}} \{ \mathcal{K}(f, \nu) \},$$

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where

$$\mathcal{K}(f, \nu) := E_\nu f(X) - E_{\nu^*} \exp(f(Y)) + 1 - \frac{\lambda}{2} \|f\|_{\mathcal{H}}^2$$

Proof (idea):

$$\frac{\partial KALE_\lambda}{\partial \nu} = \frac{\partial \mathcal{K}(f_{\nu, \nu^*}, \nu)}{\partial \nu} + \underbrace{\frac{\partial \mathcal{K}(f, \nu)}{\partial f} \Big|_{f=f_{\nu, \nu^*}}}_{=0} \frac{\partial f_{\nu, \nu^*}}{\partial \nu}$$

as long as  $\frac{\partial f_{\nu, \nu^*}}{\partial \nu}$  exists (via implicit function theorem)



## Wasserstein gradient flow on KALE

The  $W_2$  gradient flow of the KALE:

$$\partial_t \nu_t = -(1 + \lambda) \operatorname{div}(\nu_t \nabla f_{\nu_t, \nu^*}), \quad \nu_0 = P_0$$

where

$$f_{\nu, \nu^*} = \arg \max_f \mathcal{K}(f, \nu)$$

Glaser, Arbel, G. (NeurIPS 2021, Lemma 3)

## Consistency (2)

Again, under the (strong!) assumption

$$\begin{aligned} S(\nu^* | \nu_t) &:= \sup_{g, \mathbb{E}_{Z \sim \nu_t} [\|\nabla g(Z)\|^2] \leq 1} |\mathbb{E}_{Z \sim \nu_t} [g(Z)] - \mathbb{E}_{U \sim \nu^*} [g(U)]| \\ &\leq C \end{aligned}$$

we have

$$\text{KALE}(\nu_t) \leq \frac{1}{\text{KALE}(\nu_0)^{-1} + C^{-1}t}$$

Once again, **noise injection** can be used (similar result to MMD flow).

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Once again, [noise injection](#) can be used (similar result to MMD flow).

Compare with [linear rate for Wasserstein-2 flow on KL](#) when  $\nu^*$  satisfies log-Sobolev inequality with constant  $\rho$ :

$$\frac{d}{dt} \text{KL}(\nu_t, \nu^*) \leq -2\rho \text{KL}(\nu_t, \nu^*)$$

Glaser, Arbel, G. (NeurIPS 2021, Proposition 3)

# KALE flow vs MMD flow in practice

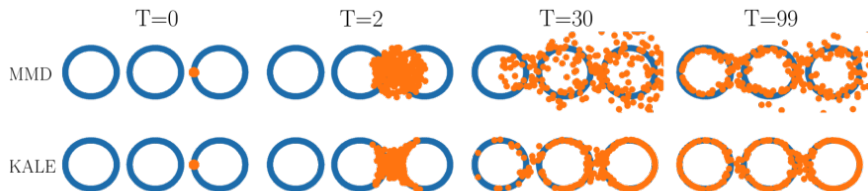


Figure 1: MMD and KALE flow trajectories for “three rings” target

Glaser, Arbel, G. (NeurIPS 2021)

# Summary

- Gradient flows based on kernel dependence measures:
  - MMD flow is simpler, KALE flow is mode-seeking
  - Noise injection can improve convergence
- NeurIPS 2019, NeurIPS 2021

## NeurIPS 2019:

arXiv > stat > arXiv:1906.04370

Statistics > Machine Learning

*[Submitted on 11 Jun 2019 (v1), last revised 3 Dec 2019 (this version, v2)]*

**Maximum Mean Discrepancy Gradient Flow**

Michael Arbel, Anna Korba, Adil Salim, Arthur Gretton

## NeurIPS 2021:

arXiv > stat > arXiv:2106.08929

Statistics > Machine Learning

*[Submitted on 16 Jun 2021 (v1), last revised 29 Oct 2021 (this version, v2)]*

**KALE Flow: A Relaxed KL Gradient Flow for Probabilities with Disjoint Support**

Pierre Glaser, Michael Arbel, Arthur Gretton

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## KALE as GAN critic:

## ICLR 2021:

arXiv.org > stat > arXiv:2003.05033

Statistics > Machine Learning

*[Submitted on 10 Mar 2020 (v1), last revised 24 Jun 2020 (this version, v3)]*

**Generalized Energy Based Models**

Michael Arbel, Liang Zhou, Arthur Gretton

## NeurIPS 2020:

arXiv.org > cs > arXiv:2003.06060

Computer Science > Machine Learning

*[Submitted on 12 Mar 2020 (v1), last revised 24 Mar 2020 (this version, v2)]*

**Your GAN is Secretly an Energy-based Model and You Should use Discriminator Driven Latent Sampling**

Tong Che, Ruixiang Zhang, Jascha Sohl-Dickstein, Hugo Larochelle, Liam Paull, Yuan Cao, Yoshua Bengio

# Questions?

