The 9th HuaDa QCD School

Normalizing Flow



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(Some contents are borrowed from Laurent Dinh's slides)

Background

Sampling from Boltzmann distributions





Input: Reduced potential energy $u(\mathbf{x})$ in coordinates $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n$.

Aim: Sample equilibrium (Boltzmann) distribution

 $\mu(\mathbf{x}) \propto e^{-u(\mathbf{x})}$

Limitations of Monte Carlo / MCMC sampling

Problem 1: For large n,

 $\frac{\text{Vol(low-energy configurations)}}{\text{Vol(possible configurations)}} \ll 1$ Problem 2: Multiple potential wells yields

 $\frac{\text{mixing time}}{\text{simulation time}} \geq \mathcal{O}(1)$

Example: Protein folding/unfolding needs 10⁹ – 10¹⁵ MD simulation steps.

Direct MCMC/MD is hopeless for many-body systems.

Standard methods are INSANELY expensive





Burn a Saturn V rocket and deliver 50 ton payload to lunar orbit

1500 gigajoule

Enhanced sampling

Draw samples according to biased but more "efficient" potentials



Source: Cragnolini, JPCM, 2014



Transition State



Parallel tempering

Umbrella sampling



Source: Pietrucci, Rev. Phys., 2017

Metadynamics

Computational effort remains enormous.

Idea: Sampling in latent space

Sample tractable latent distribution:

$$\mathbf{z} \sim p_Z(\mathbf{z})$$

Learn a nonlinear transformation from the latent space to the configuration space: $\mathbf{x} = F_{ZX}(\mathbf{z}; \theta) \sim p_X(\mathbf{x}) = \mu(\mathbf{x})$

Example:



Computational cost can be extremely small after learning.

Idea: Sampling in latent space

Similar ideas have been widely applied in machine learning community.



Well-known architectures:

- Generative adversarial net (Goodfellow et al., NeurIPS, 2014)
- Variational autoencoder (Kingma et al., ICLR, 2014)

Generative adversarial network (training by data)



Amortized SVGD (training by energy)



Disadvantage: The estimation bias cannot be reduced by more samples.

(Wang, arXiv:1611.01722; Liu, arXiv:1612.00081)

What if we have an invertible mapping

Scalar case



What if we have an invertible mapping

Scalar case



A trivial example

 $\mathcal{N}(x|\mu,\sigma) = \mathcal{N}(z|0,1)\sigma^{-1}$

A non-trivial example

Inverse transform sampling
$$x \mapsto z = CDF(x)$$

 $p_X(x) = \mathcal{U}(z; [0, 1]) \frac{\partial CDF}{\partial x}(x)$



Multi-dimensional case \mathbb{R}^d

$$p_X(x) = p_Z(z) \left| \frac{dz}{dx} \right|$$

Multi-dimensional case \mathbb{R}^d

$$p_X(x) = p_Z(z) \left| \det \left(\frac{\partial z}{\partial x} \right) \right|$$

Applications

Density estimation

$$f_{\theta} = g_{\theta}^{-1}$$



Applications

Draw samples

$$f_{\theta} = g_{\theta}^{-1}$$



Advantage: The bias can be removed by importance sampling / MCMC.

Normalizing flow

Normalizing flow

Motiviation: Probability manipulation by invertible nerual networks



(Kingma & Dhariwal, 2018)

Challenges

Jacobian determinant

• Inversion



 $f_{\theta}(x)$









Determinant

 $\frac{\partial f_{\theta}}{\partial x} \in \mathbb{M}(d,d)$

Determinant



- Computational time is from $O(d^{2.376})$ to O(d!).
- High variance unbiased estimator exists (Hutchinson estimator).

More tractable determinants





More tractable determinants



 $det(D + UV^{\top})$ = det(D) · det(I + D^{-1}UV^{\top}) = det(D) · det(I + V^{\top}D^{-1}U) (Sylvester's determinant identity)

More tractable determinants



Deep learning with tractable Jacobian determinant



(Baird et al., 2005)





Fourier convolution

(Periodic) convolution theorem

$$\mathcal{F}(x \ast w) = \mathcal{F}(x) \cdot \mathcal{F}(w)$$



(Hoogeboom et al., 2019; Karami et al., 2019)

Sylvester normalizing flows





(van den Berg, Hansclever et al., 2018)

Autoregressive models


Autoregressive models



Autoregressive models



(Deco & Brauer, 1995; Hyvarinen & Pajunen, 1998; Moselhy & Marzouk, 2012)

Neural autoregressive models



(Bengio, 1999; Larochelle & Murray, 2011; van den Oord et al., 2015; Uria et al., 2016)

Convolutional autoregressive models

Masked convolutions







(van den Oord et al., 2016)

Study case: density estimation



Study case: density estimation



Inverting a neural network



Generation through process reversion



Generation through process reversion



Generation through process reversion



Iterative inversion

- Bisection / binary search
- Root finding algorithm (Newton Raphson)
- Fixed point iteration

Bisection



(Ho, Chen et al., 2019)

Root finding algorithm

$$x^{(t+1)} = x^{(t)} - \alpha \left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial x}\right)^{-1} \left(f(x^{(t)}) - y\right)$$

Newton-Raphson: Local convergence

(Song et al., 2019)

Residual flow



$$\begin{split} x \mapsto x + f(x) &= y \\ \|f(x^{(1)}) - f(x^{(2)})\| \leq c \|x^{(1)} - x^{(2)}\| \\ x^{(t+1)} &= y - f(x^{(t)}) \end{split}$$

A block of residual learning

Fix-point iteration: Global convergence

(Behrmann et al., 2019)

Closed form inverse: scalar case

Invertible piecewise functions



(Müller et al., 2019; Durkan, Bekasov et al., 2019)

Autoregressive case

Forward substitution

$$z_d = f_d(x_d; x_{< d})$$

$$\boldsymbol{x_d} = f_d^{-1}(\boldsymbol{z_d}; \boldsymbol{x_{< d}})$$

Non parallel

Coupling layer





$$\mathbf{y}_1 = \mathbf{x}_1$$
$$\mathbf{y}_2 = \mathbf{x}_2 + T_a(\mathbf{x}_1)$$

$$\mathbf{x}_1 = \mathbf{y}_1$$
$$\mathbf{x}_2 = \mathbf{y}_2 - T_a(\mathbf{y}_1)$$

 T_a : Deep netural networks

(Dinh et al., 2015)

Coupling layer





$$\mathbf{y}_1 = \mathbf{x}_1$$

$$\mathbf{y}_2 = S_a(\mathbf{x}_1) * \mathbf{x}_2 + T_a(\mathbf{x}_1)$$

$$\mathbf{x}_1 = \mathbf{y}_1$$

$$\mathbf{x}_2 = (\mathbf{y}_2 - T_a(\mathbf{y}_1))/S_a(\mathbf{y}_1)$$

 T_a , log S_a : Deep netural networks

(Dinh et al., 2017)

Composing flows

 $f_3 \circ f_2 \circ f_1$



Composing flows

Inversion and sampling

$$(f_2 \circ f_1)^{-1} = f_1^{-1} \circ f_2^{-1}$$

Determinant and inference

$$\nabla (f_2 \circ f_1)(x) = \nabla f_2(f_1(x)) \nabla f_1(x)$$
$$\det(A \cdot B) = \det(A) \cdot \det(B)$$

Combining coupling layers: RealNVP





$$\mathbf{y}_1 = \mathbf{x}_1$$

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 T_a , log S_a : Deep netural networks

(Dinh et al., 2017)

Combining coupling layers: RealNVP



 $T_a, T_b, \log S_a, \log S_b$: Deep netural networks

(Dinh et al., 2017)

Some recent progress

• Continuous time flow

• Discrete value flows

Time reversibility in physics

In classical mechanics, the time-reversibility is common







Continuous time flow



 $z \rightarrow x$ is invertible if f is uniformly Lipschitz continuous in z and continuous in t.

Continuous time flow

$$\frac{z = z(0)}{dt} = f(z(t), t, \theta) \qquad x = z(1)$$

$$x = z(0) + \int_0^1 f(z(t), t, \theta) dt$$
$$\log p(x) = \log p(z(0)) - \int_0^1 tr\left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial z(t)}\right) dt$$

Chen, et al., 2018. Grathwohl, Chen, et al., 2019.

Continuous time flow



https://github.com/rtqichen/ffjord

Discrete values flow





$$\mathbf{y}_d = \boldsymbol{\mu}_d \oplus \mathbf{x}_d,$$

$$\mathbf{y}_d = (\boldsymbol{\mu}_d + \boldsymbol{\sigma}_d \cdot \mathbf{x}_d) \bmod K.$$

$$p(\mathbf{y} = y) = p(\mathbf{x} = f^{-1}(y))$$

NFs for energy landscape exploration

NFs for energy landscape exploration



Spin systems: Li and Wang, PRL, 2018





Molecular systems: Noé, Olsson, Köhler and Wu, Science, 2019

Lattice QCD: Kanwar et al., PRL, 2020

Why are NFs interesting?



Normalizing flows (NFs) can be trained based on both energy and data:

Energy based learning: $\min J_{KL} = \mathbb{E}_{p_Z}[\log q_X(F_{ZX}(\mathbf{z})) + u(F_{ZX}(\mathbf{z}))]$

Data (likelihood) based learning: $\min J_{ML} = \mathbb{E}_{data}[-\log p_X(x)]$

Why are NFs interesting?



Asymptotically unbiased estimation can be obtained based on the exact density:

 $\mathbb{E}_{\mu}[O(x)] = \mathbb{E}_{p_X}\left[\frac{\mu(x)}{p_X(x)}O(x)\right]$

Why are NFs interesting?



The free energy difference can be directly calculated:

 $KL(q_X || \mu)$ = $\mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{z} \sim q_Z}[\log q_X(F_{ZX}(\mathbf{z})) + u(F_{ZX}(\mathbf{z}))] + \text{const}$ = J_{KL} + free energy



Boltzmann Generators: NF + MCMC

- 1. Sample batch $\{\mathbf{x}_1, \dots, \mathbf{x}_B\}$ from *X*.
- 2. Update normalizing flow parameters θ by training on batch.
- 3. For each **x** in batch, project it to the latent space with $\mathbf{z} = F_{XZ}(\mathbf{x})$
- 4. For each **z**, perform MCMC with target distribution $\mu_Z(\mathbf{z}) = \left| \frac{\partial F_{XZ}(\mathbf{x})}{\partial \mathbf{x}} \right|^{-1} \mu_X(\mathbf{x}), \text{ and get a new sample } \mathbf{z}'.$
- 5. Replace **x** by $\mathbf{x}' = F_{ZX}(\mathbf{x})$.

Towards proteins



Towards proteins


Towards proteins





Towards proteins



Free energy differences





Stochastic normalizing flows

Combining normalizing flows and MCMC samplers



Wu, et al., NeurIPS).

77

Equivariant flows



Köhler, Klein and Noé, ICML 2020.



Thanks! Questions?

