



UNIVERSITY  
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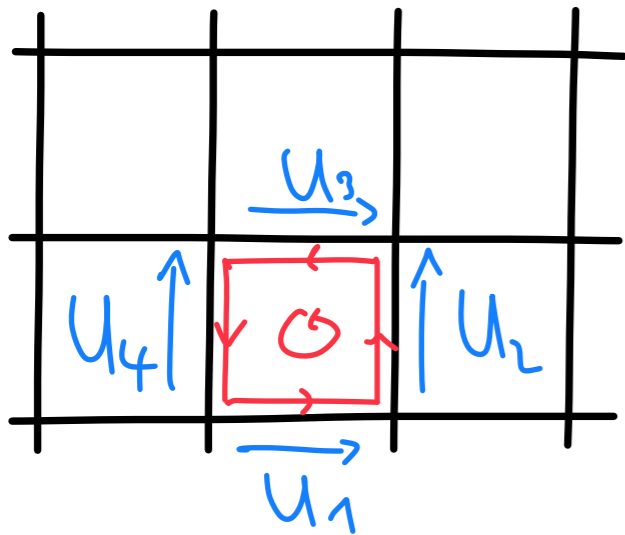
with Pim de Haan,  
Roberto Bondesan &  
Miranda Cheng

# Continuous flows for gauge theories

[arxiv:2410.1316]

# Lattice gauge theory

Wilson action



Wilson loop trace

$$W = \text{tr}(U_1 U_2 U_3^\dagger U_4^\dagger)$$

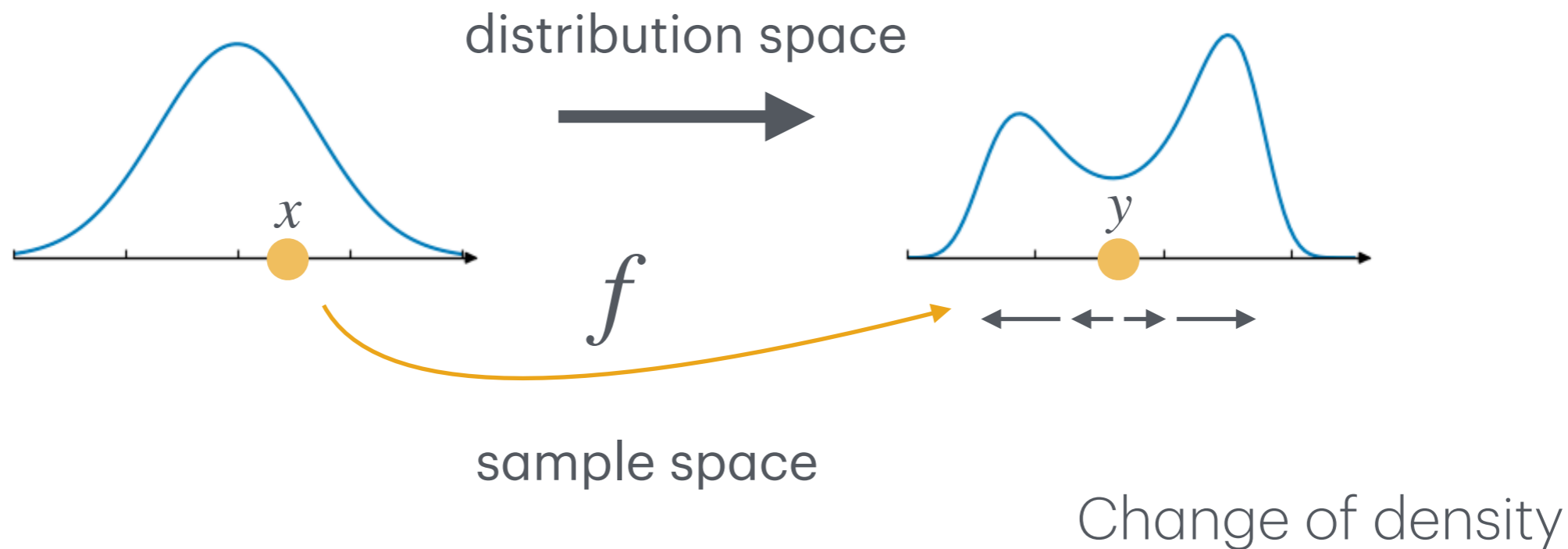
$$\text{Wilson action } S = -\frac{\beta}{N} \sum_x \text{Re} [W(x)]$$

→ Want to sample  $U \in SU(N)^{|E|}$

$$U \sim e^{-S[U]}$$

# Change of variables

Transforming probability densities



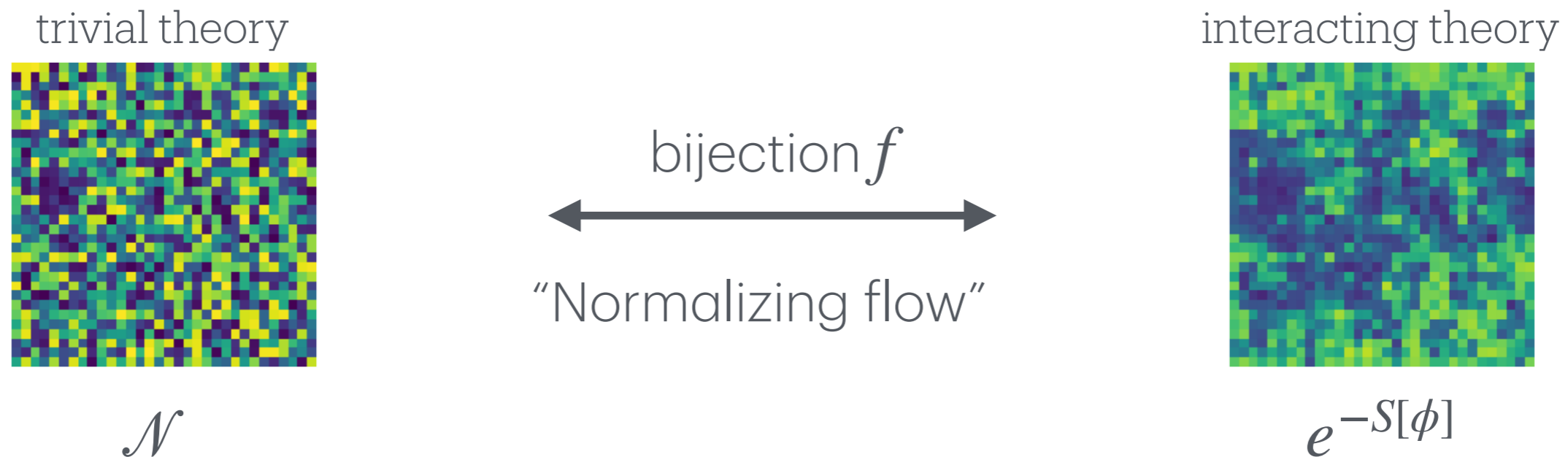
$$p(y) = p(f^{-1}(y)) \cdot \left| \det \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \right|^{-1}$$

Source point



# Normalizing flows

Learning  $f$



We want to **learn** a trivializing map  $f$ .

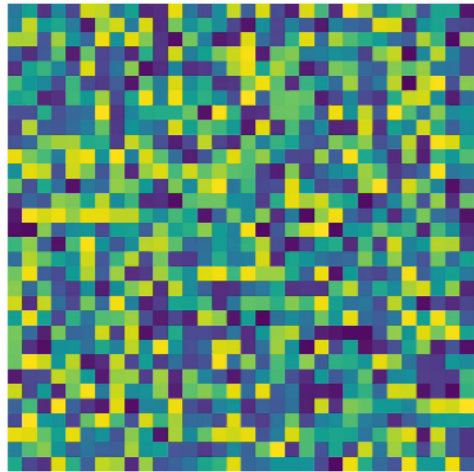
To compute model probability:

$$p(y) = p(f^{-1}(y)) \cdot \left| \det \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \right|^{-1}$$

- $f$  must be bijective.

- Computing the det-Jacobian must be tractable.

# Continuous normalizing flows



Sample  $\phi^0 \sim \mathcal{N}$

Final proposal  $\phi^{t=1}$

$$\text{Solve } \frac{d}{dt}\phi = g_{\theta}(\phi, t)$$

- ODE always invertible, architecture of  $g_{\theta}$  unconstrained!
- ODE for  $p(\phi^t)$  given by divergence:

$$\frac{d}{dt} \log p(\phi) = -\nabla \cdot \dot{\phi}$$

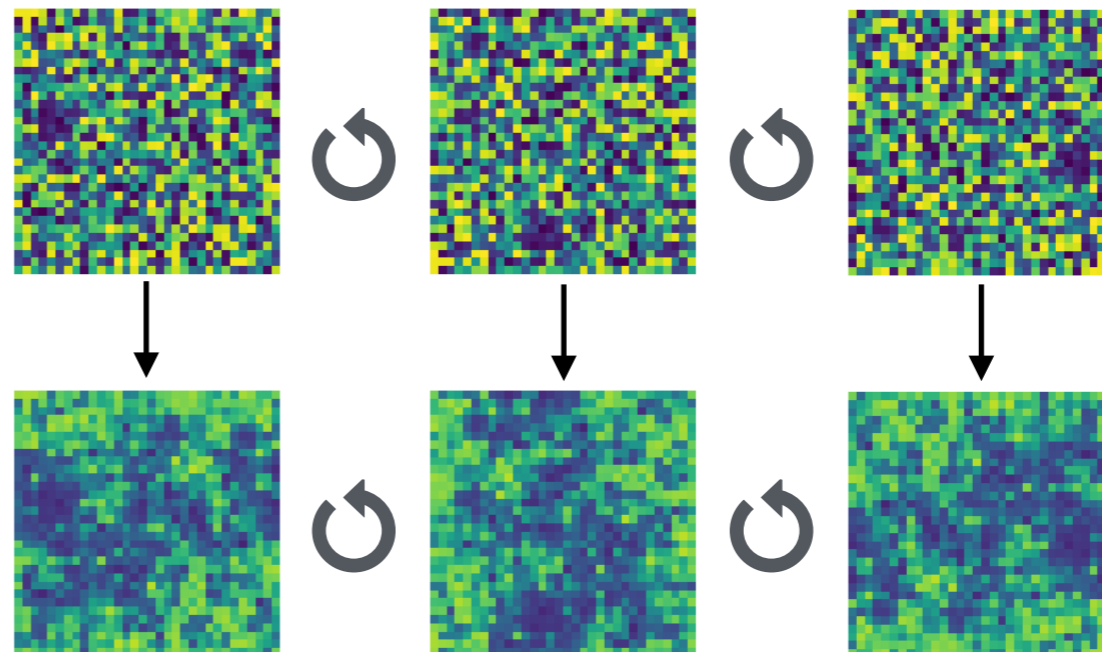
# Symmetries

And the need for equivariant flows

If action is invariant under transformation  $S(\phi) = S(g \cdot \phi)$

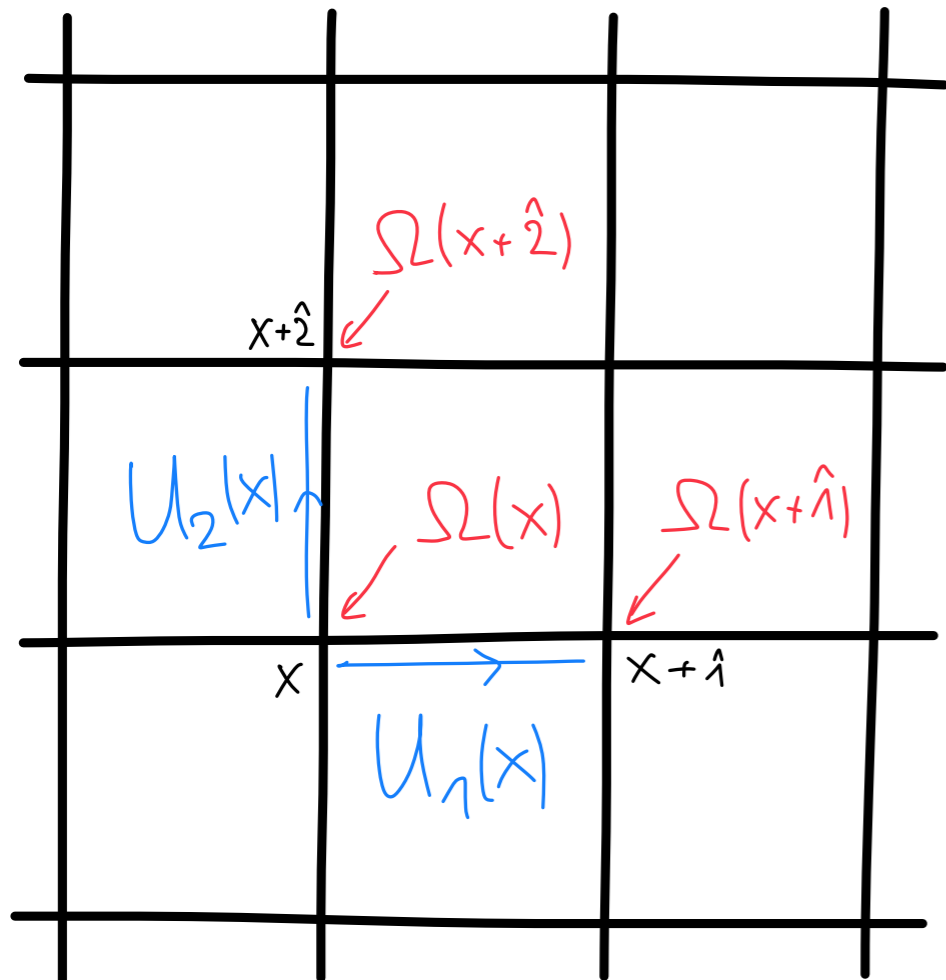
then  $p(\phi) = p(g \cdot \phi)$ , should be proposed equally likely.

$$f_{\theta}(g \cdot \phi) = g \cdot f_{\theta}(\phi)$$



etc.

# Gauge symmetry



Under gauge symmetry links transform as

$$U_\mu(x) \mapsto \Omega(x) U_\mu(x) \Omega(x + \hat{\mu})$$

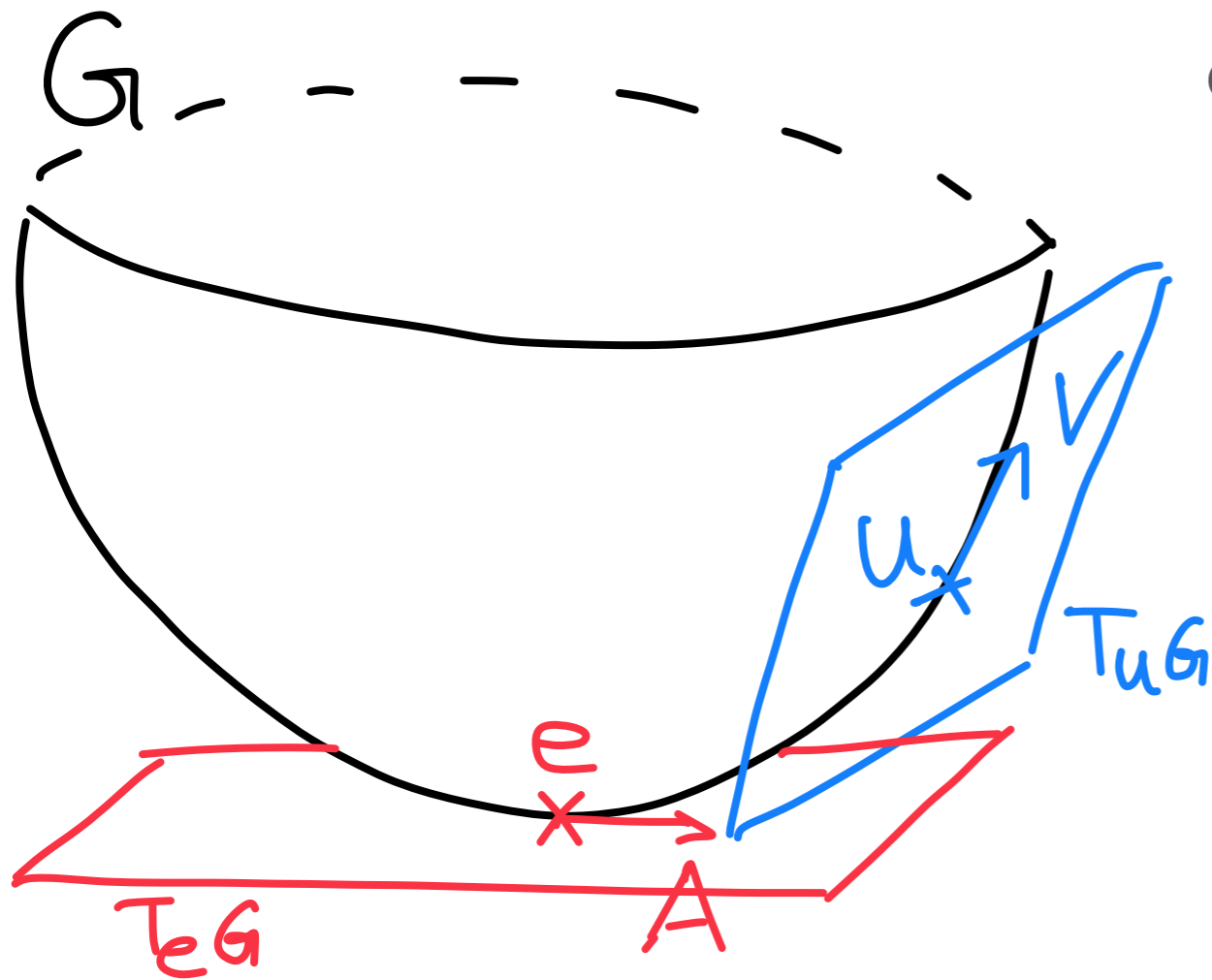
How can we define gauge equivariant transformations?

# Continuous flows for gauge theories



# Lie groups

A brief reminder



We can parametrize the vector space at  $U$  via the Lie algebra:

$$V \in T_U G \quad A := VU^\dagger \in \mathfrak{g} = T_e G$$

$$V = AU$$

Transporting  $A$  to  
vector space at  $U$

Lie algebra is spanned by generators  $T^a$

In components,  $V = A^a T^a U$

# Challenges

Training gauge-neural ODEs

Define  
equivariant

$$\dot{U} = Z_{\theta}(U, t)U$$

Solve ODE  
& gradients

$$\partial_{\theta} L_{KL}[U(T)]$$

Efficient  
divergence

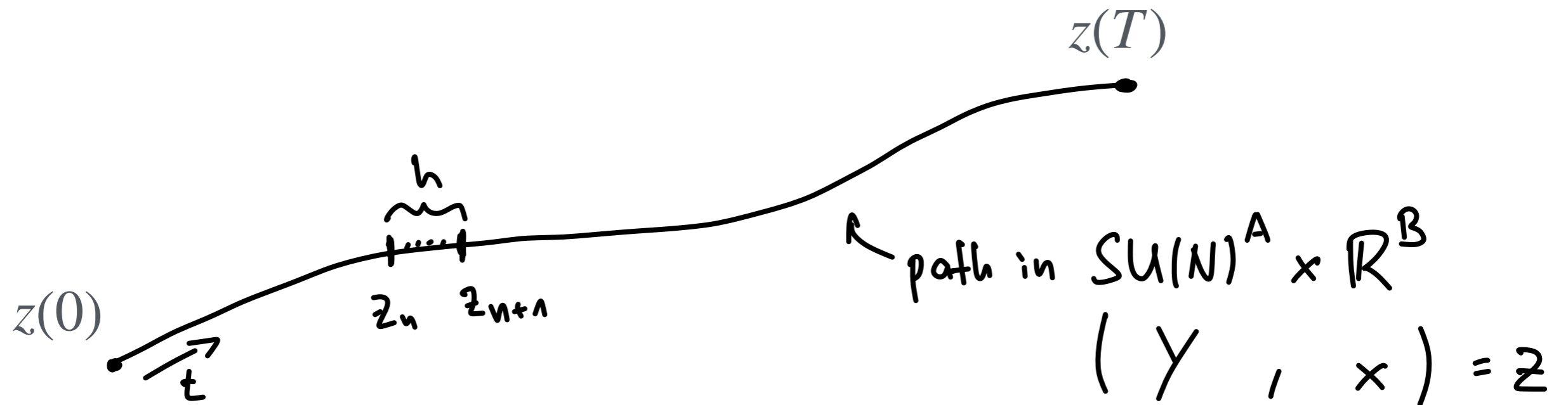
$$\partial_a Z^a(U, t)$$

Actually  $L[p(U(T))]$

$$\frac{d}{dt} \log p(U) = - \partial_a Z^a$$

# Crouch-Grossmann

Discretize integration



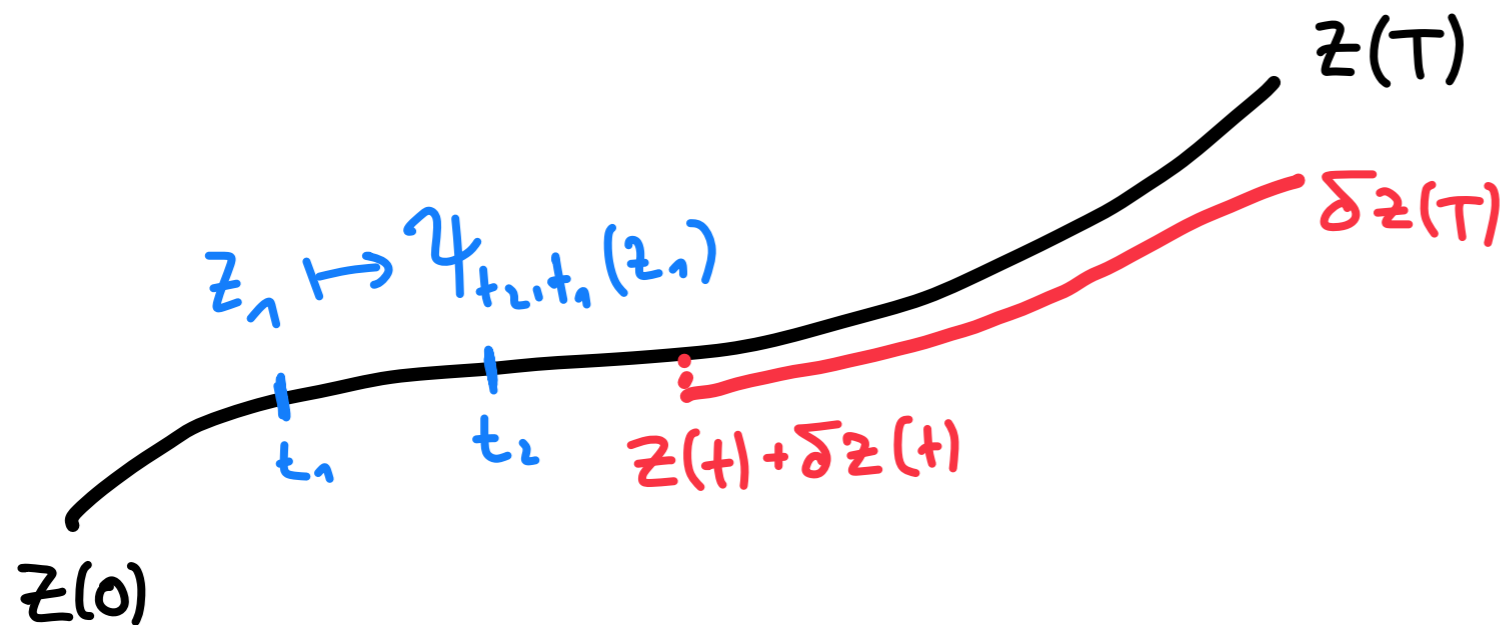
Real

$$x_{n+1} = x_n + h \sum_{i=1}^s b_i f(x_i^{(n)}, Y_i^{(n)})$$

Matrix Lie group

$$Y_{n+1} = \exp\left(hb_s Z_s^{(n)}\right) \cdots \exp\left(hb_1 Z_1^{(n)}\right) Y_n$$

# Adjoint sensitivity method



Continuous flow  
ODE  $\dot{z} = f_\theta(z, t)$

We have a loss function  $L : M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ , so  $dL_z \in T_z^*M$

Adjoint state:  $a(t) = \psi_{T,t}^* dL_{z(T)}$ .

In words: maps  $\delta z(t)$  to  $\delta L$ .

“Compute gradients by back-integrating”

$$\frac{da(t)}{dt} = -a(t) \frac{\partial f_\theta(z, t)}{\partial z}$$

$$\frac{dL}{d\theta} = - \int_T^0 a(t) \frac{\partial f(z, t)}{\partial \theta} dt$$

# Defining an ODE

Continuous flows for  $SU(N)$

In coordinates  $Z^a$ , general vector at  $U$  is:  $V = (T^a Z^a)U$ .

Path derivative  $\partial_a f(U) = \left. \frac{d}{ds} \right|_{s=0} f(e^{sT^a} U)$ .

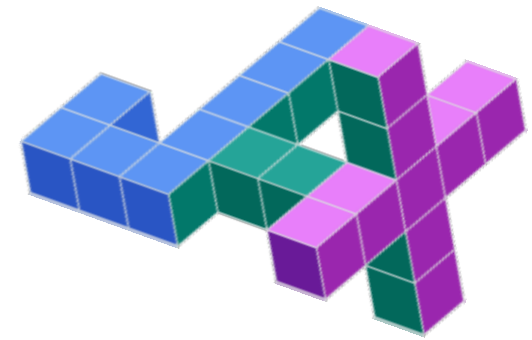
Then, the gradient is  $\nabla f(U) = \partial_a f(U) T^a U$ .

To define our flow, the network should output an algebra element:

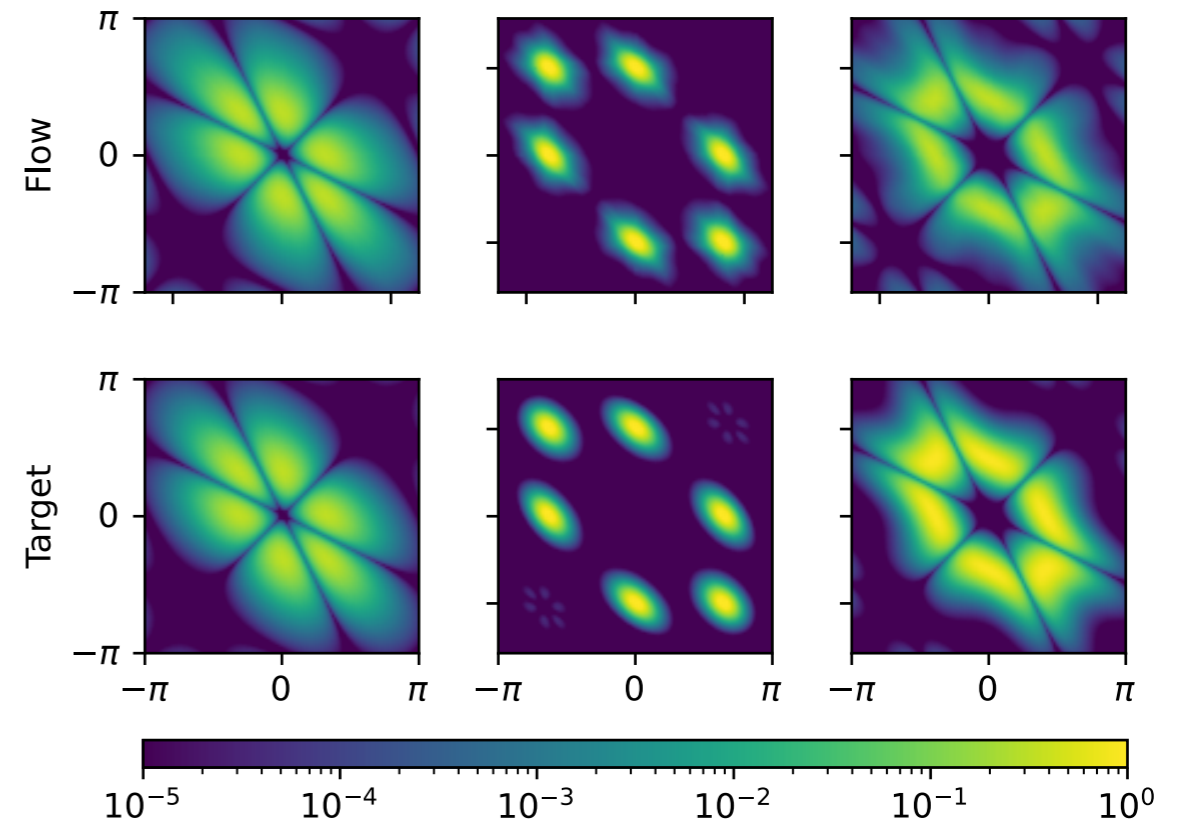
$$\frac{d}{dt} U = Z^a(U) T^a U$$

# General implementation

Thanks to JAX



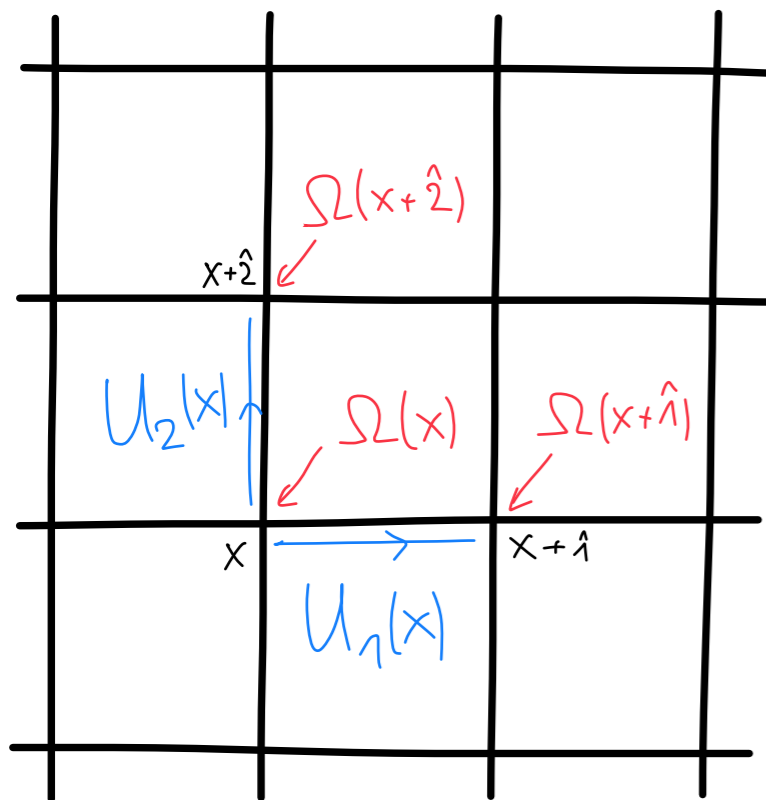
- Integration & gradients for any “real  $\times$  matrix” Lie group d.o.f.
- Test on single  $SU(N)$ :  
targets  $p(U) = p(V^\dagger UV)$ .
- Define  $Z^a = \partial_a \Phi_\theta(U, t)$   
& use autograd.



# Gauge symmetry

Object transformations

$$U_\mu(x) \mapsto \Omega(x) U_\mu(x) \Omega(x + \hat{\mu})^\dagger$$



Wilson loop

$$P_{12} = U_1(x) U_2(x + \hat{1}) U_1(x + \hat{2})^\dagger U_2(x)^\dagger$$

are **equivariant**  $P_{12} \mapsto \Omega(x) P_{12} \Omega(x)^\dagger$ .

Trace of Wilson loops

$W = \text{tr } P_{12}$  are **invariant**.

Gradients of invariants

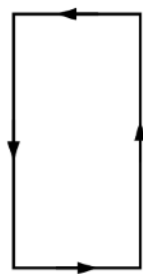
e.g.  $V = \nabla_U W$  are **equivariant**

$$V \mapsto \Omega(x) V \Omega(x)^\dagger$$

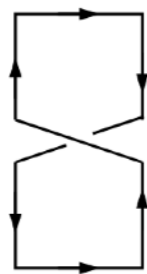
# Continuous flows for $SU(N)$

## Gradient flows

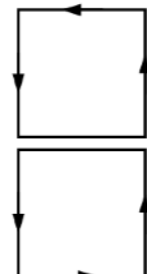
Define  $Z^a = \partial^a \mathcal{S}$  as the gradient of potential:  
sums and products of Wilson loops.



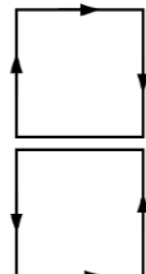
(1)



(2)



(3)



(4)

Can extend/do better by learning coefficients by gradient descent

Trivializing maps, the Wilson flow and  
the HMC algorithm

Martin Lüscher

**Learning Trivializing Gradient Flows for Lattice Gauge Theories**

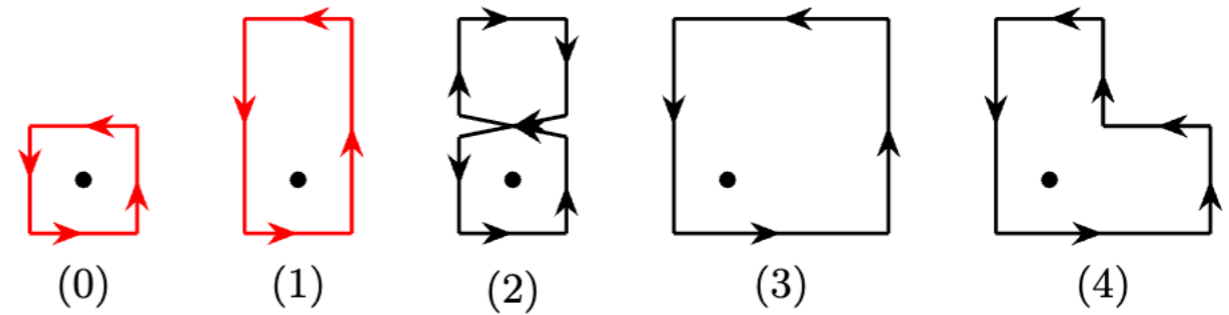
Simone Bacchio,<sup>1</sup> Pan Kessel,<sup>2,3</sup> Stefan Schaefer,<sup>4</sup> and Lorenz Vaitl<sup>2</sup>



Can we define a more  
general ML architecture?

# Network

Idea for construction



Equivariant  
vector field

“Basis” vectors:  
Built to be gauge  
equivariant

Superposition function:  
Built out of invariant  
quantities

$$Z_e^a(U) =$$

$$\sum_{k, \bar{x}}$$

$$\partial_{e,a} W_{\bar{x}}^{(k)}$$

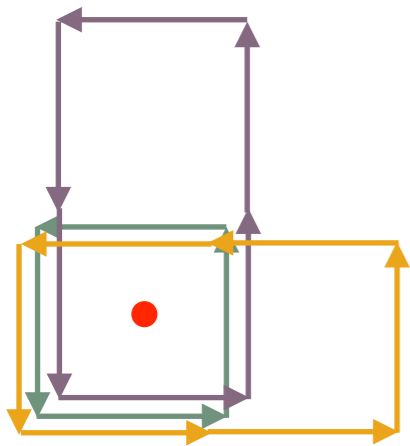
·

$$S_{\bar{x}}^k(W^{(1)}, W^{(2)}, \dots)$$

# Network

Idea for construction

$$Z_e^a(U) = \sum_{k, \bar{x}} \partial_{e,a} W_{\bar{x}}^{(k)} \cdot S_{\bar{x}}^k(W^{(1)}, W^{(2)}, \dots)$$



$$W_{\bar{x}}^{(k)}$$

$$S_{\bar{x}}^k = \sum_{\bar{y}, l} C_{\bar{x}\bar{y}}^{k,l} \text{NN}_{\bar{y}}^l(\{W_{\bar{y}}^{(m)}\})$$

Local “stack” of  
Wilson loops



Non-linear *local*  
neural network



(Equivariant)  
Convolution

# Divergence computation

$$\sum_{e,a} \partial_{a,e} Z_e^a(U, t)$$

**JVP  
forward-  
mode**

$$v \mapsto Df \cdot v$$

**VJP  
backward-  
mode**

$$w^\dagger \mapsto w^\dagger \cdot Df$$

$$\partial_i Z^i = \hat{e}_i^\dagger (DZ) \hat{e}_i$$

→ scales with extra  $|E|$ .

# Divergence computation

$$\sum_{e,a} \partial_{a,e} Z_e^a(U, t)$$

$$= \sum_{k,\bar{x}} \partial_{e,a}^2 W_{\bar{x}}^{(k)} \cdot S_{\bar{x}}^k(\{W\}) + \partial_{e,a} W_{\bar{x}}^{(k)} \cdot \partial_{e,a} S_{\bar{x}}^k(\{W\})$$

$$\partial_e^a S_e^k = \sum_{l,x} C_{e,x}^{k,l} D(\text{NN}_x^l)(\{\partial_e^a W_x^{(m)}\})$$

→ start with  $\partial_{e,a} W$  and apply forward mode!

# Divergence computation

$$Z_e^a(U) = \sum_{k, \bar{x}} \partial_{e,a} W_{\bar{x}}^{(k)} \cdot S_{\bar{x}}^k(W^{(1)}, W^{(2)}, \dots)$$

```
conv = algebra.Convolution(vec_count, kernel_size)
superpos = conv(trace_stack.no_first_grad(), t_emb)
potential = superpos @ trace_stack
# take first & second derivative
vect, div = potential.sum_all_appearances().vect_div_origin(lat_dim)
return vect, div
```

→ start with  $\partial_{e,a} W$  and apply forward mode!

# Results SU(2), SU(3)

In two dimensions

## 16 × 16

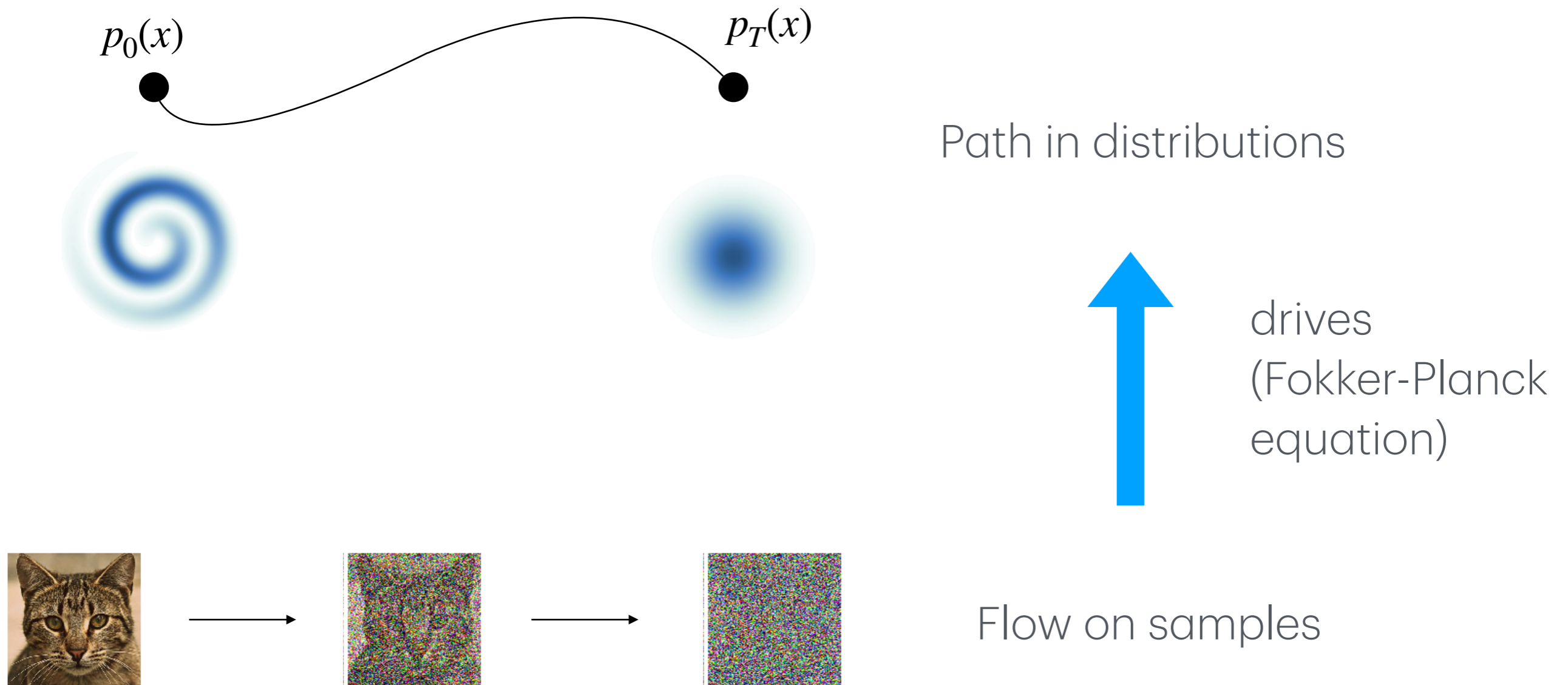
| ESS [%]                            | SU(2)         |               | SU(3)       |             |             |
|------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
|                                    | $\beta = 2.2$ | $\beta = 2.7$ | $\beta = 5$ | $\beta = 6$ | $\beta = 8$ |
| Continuous flow                    | <b>87</b>     | <b>68</b>     | 86          | <b>76</b>   | <b>23</b>   |
| Bacchio et al <a href="#">[13]</a> | –             | –             | <b>88</b>   | 70          | –           |
| Boyda et al <a href="#">[8]</a>    | 80            | 56            | 75          | 48          | –           |

## 8 × 8

| ESS [%]                                | $\beta = 8$ | $\beta = 12$ |
|--|-------------|--------------|
| Continuous flow                        | <b>64</b>   | <b>27</b>    |
| Multiscale + flow <a href="#">[23]</a> | 35          | 13           |
| Haar + flow <a href="#">[23]</a>       | 25          | 3            |

- Shallow ResNet activation.
- Transform from Haar measure.
- 2nd order integrator.
- Switch to 64bit after some training.
- Standard reverse KL loss.

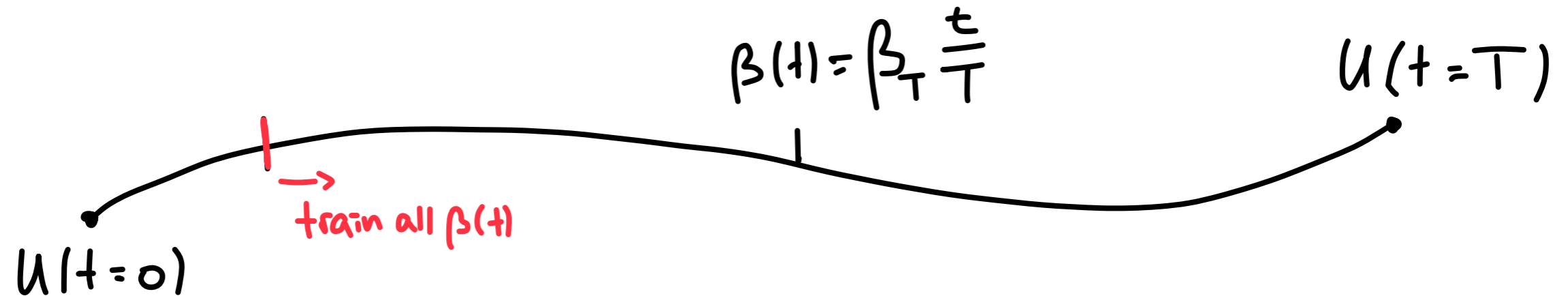
# Paths in distribution space



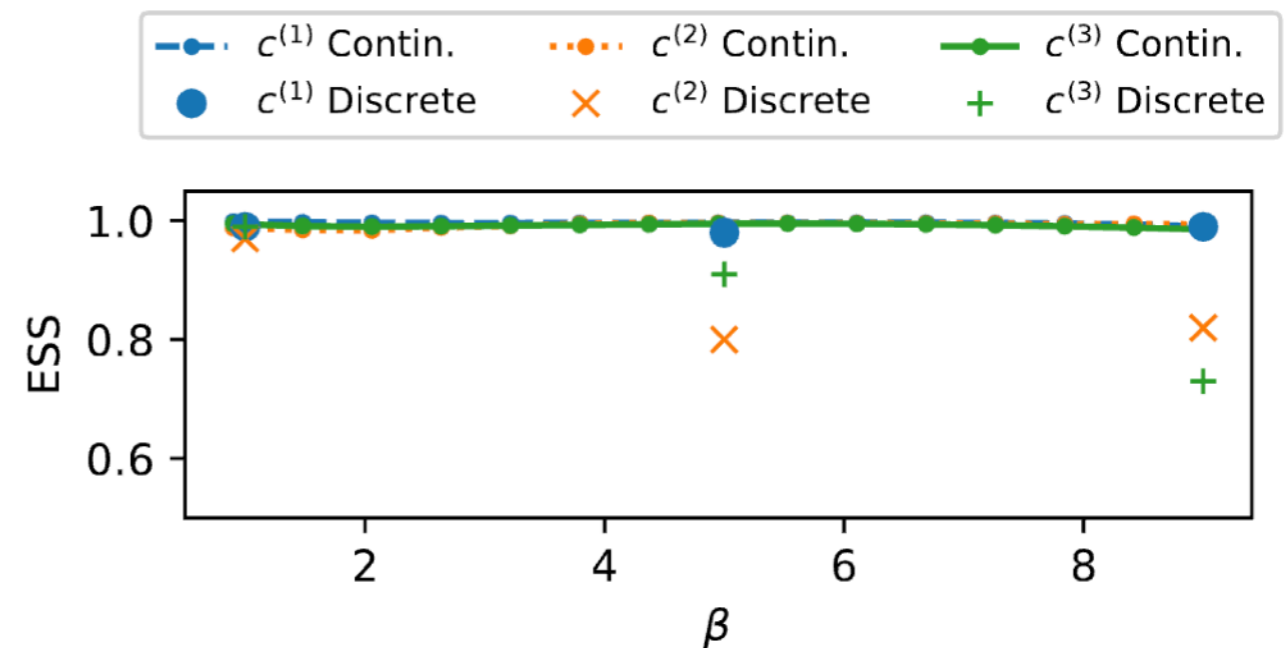
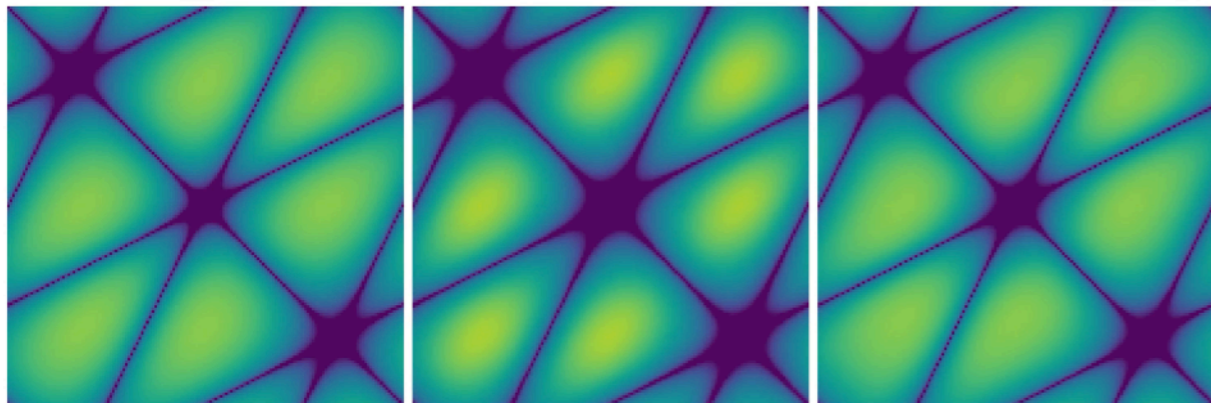


# Identify $\beta$ with flow time

Simplest theory-conditioned flow



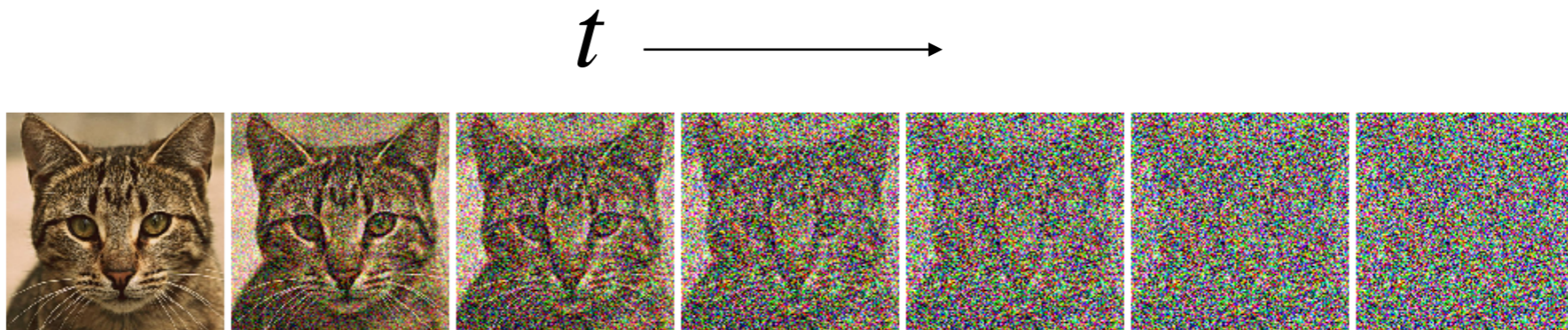
$$Z^a = \partial_a \Phi_\theta(U, t)$$



# Takeaways

- Integration & adjoint sensitivity for any  $\mathbb{R} \times SU(N)$ .
- Tractable divergence computation.
- Experiments confirm architecture improvements.
- Straight-forward temperature-conditioning.

# Diffusion Models



Brownian motion SDE from images to noise:  $d\phi = -\frac{1}{2}\beta \phi dt + \beta dw$

Solving the SDE starting at  $p_0(\phi)$   
leads to a path in distributions  $p_t(\phi)$ .

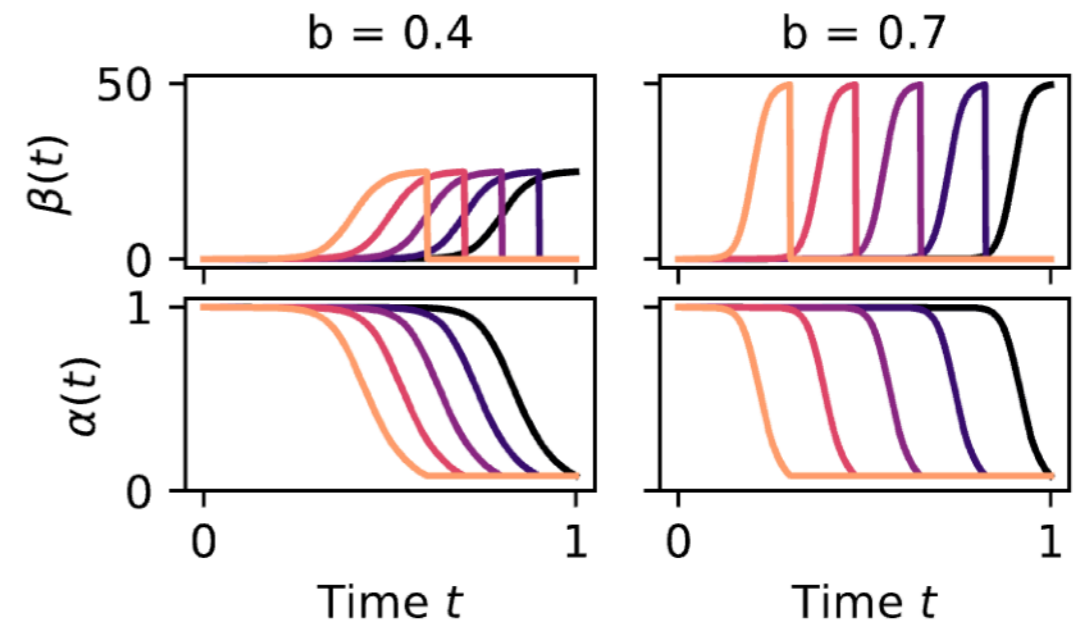
All information about the flow is encoded in the Stein score:

Want to learn  $s_\theta(\phi, t) \approx -\nabla_\phi \log p_t(\phi) \longrightarrow$  Know inverse SDE!

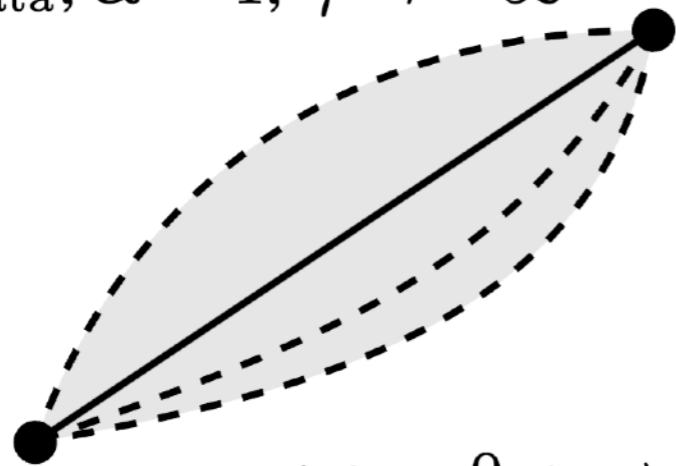
# Controlled destruction (GUD)

Forward OU:

$$\phi(t) = \alpha_t \phi(0) + \sigma_t \epsilon$$



$p_{\text{data}}; \alpha = 1, \gamma \rightarrow -\infty$



$p_{\text{prior}}; \alpha = 0, \gamma \rightarrow \infty$

