

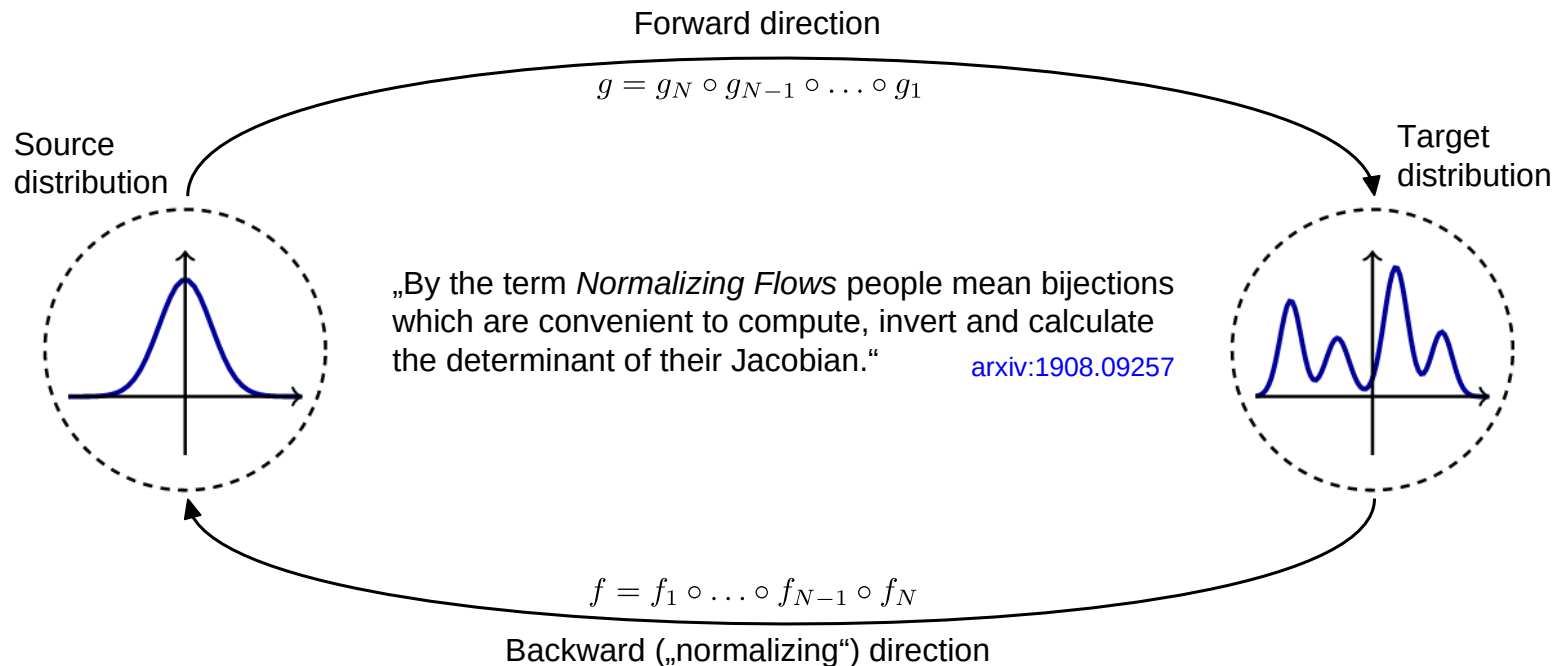
# Deep Learning Train-the-Trainer workshop

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Bergische Universität Wuppertal

## Normalizing Flows

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# 1. Basic neural networks (NNs)

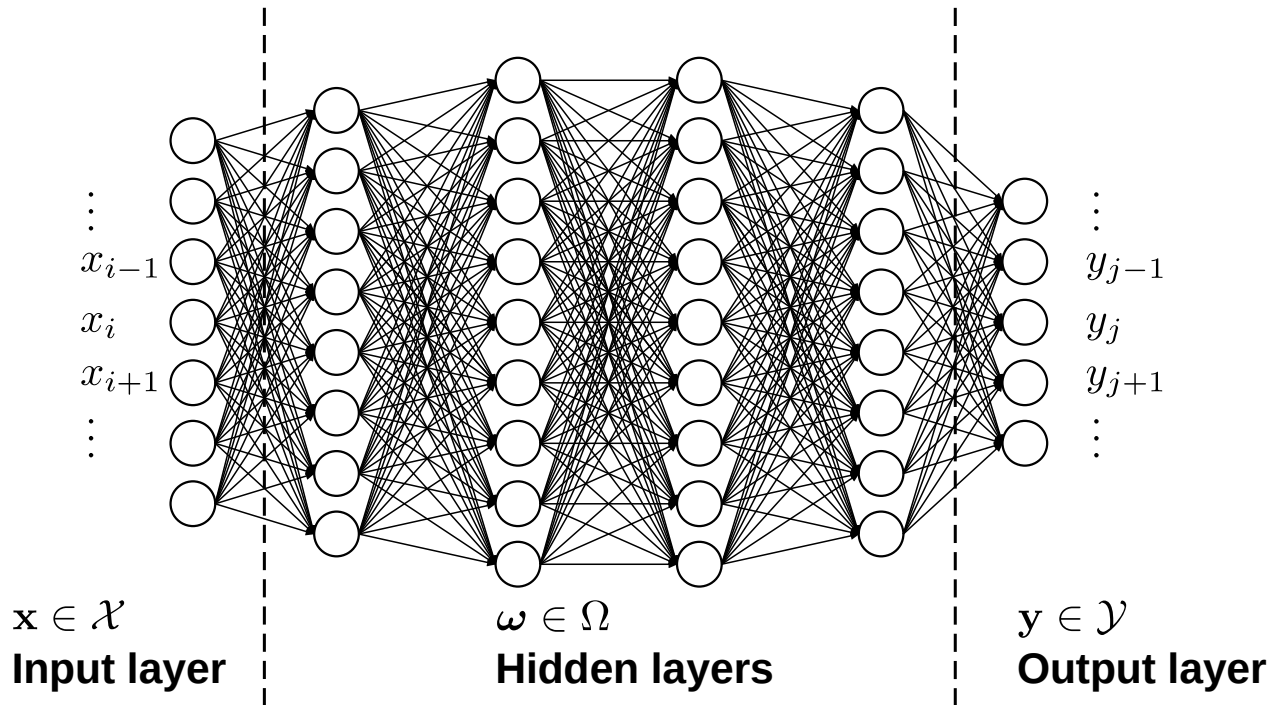
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- NN basics
- The perceptron
- ANN, CNN, RNN, graphNN

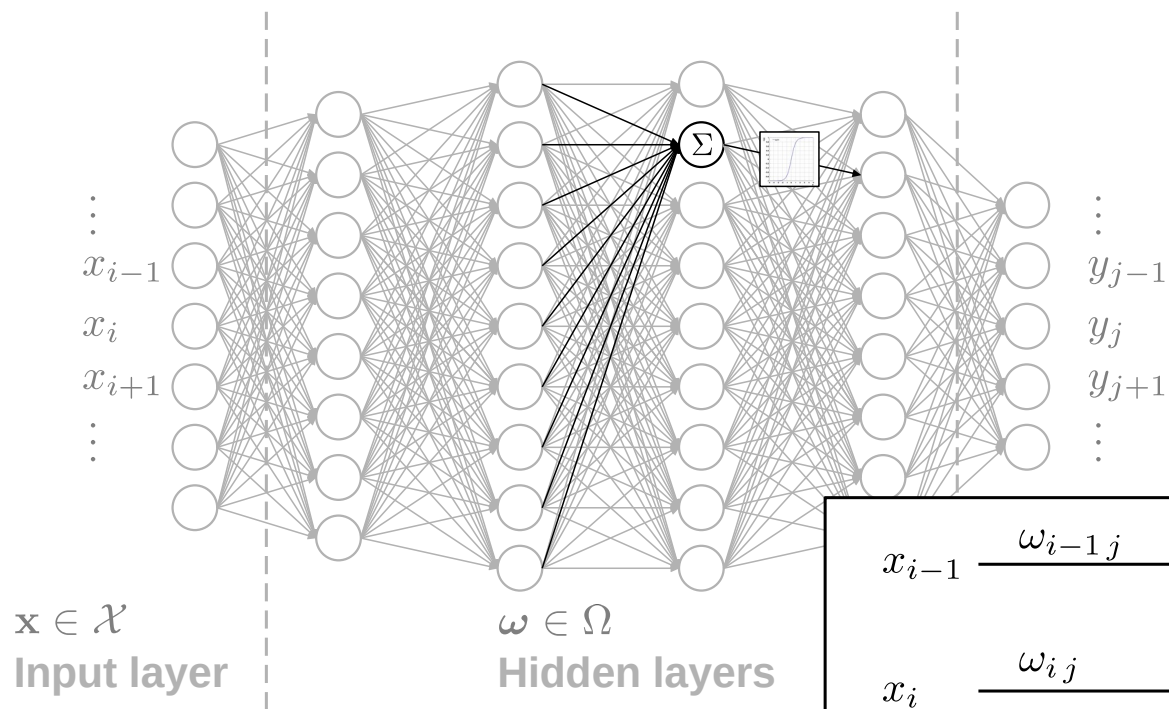
# Neural network (NNs) basics

- A neural network (NN) is a **mapping**  $\mathbf{x} \rightarrow \mathbf{y}(\mathbf{x}, \boldsymbol{\omega})$  between an eventually high-dimensional input space ( $\mathcal{X}$ ) and a usually lower dimensional value space ( $\mathcal{Y}$ ).

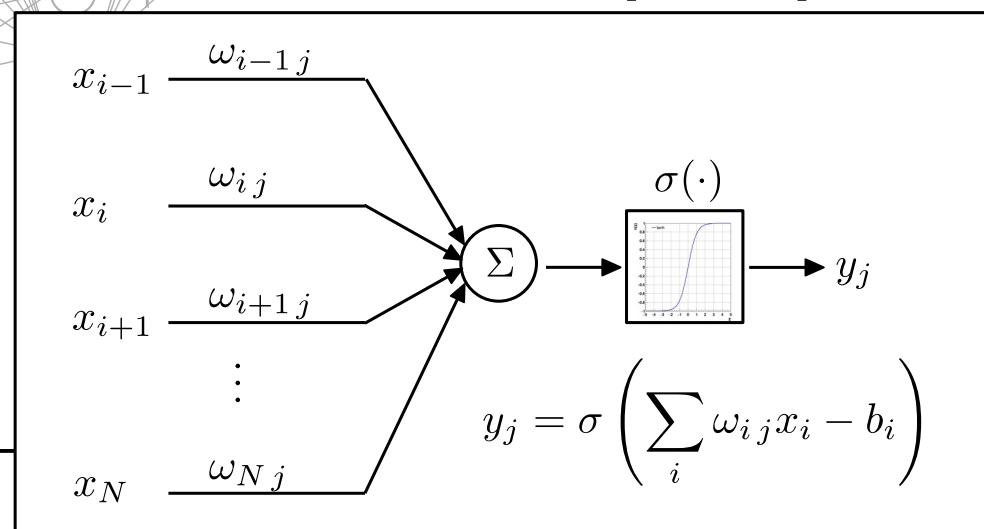


- When doing event classification  $\mathbf{y} \in \mathcal{Y}$  usually serves as **test statistic**.

# The main building block is ...

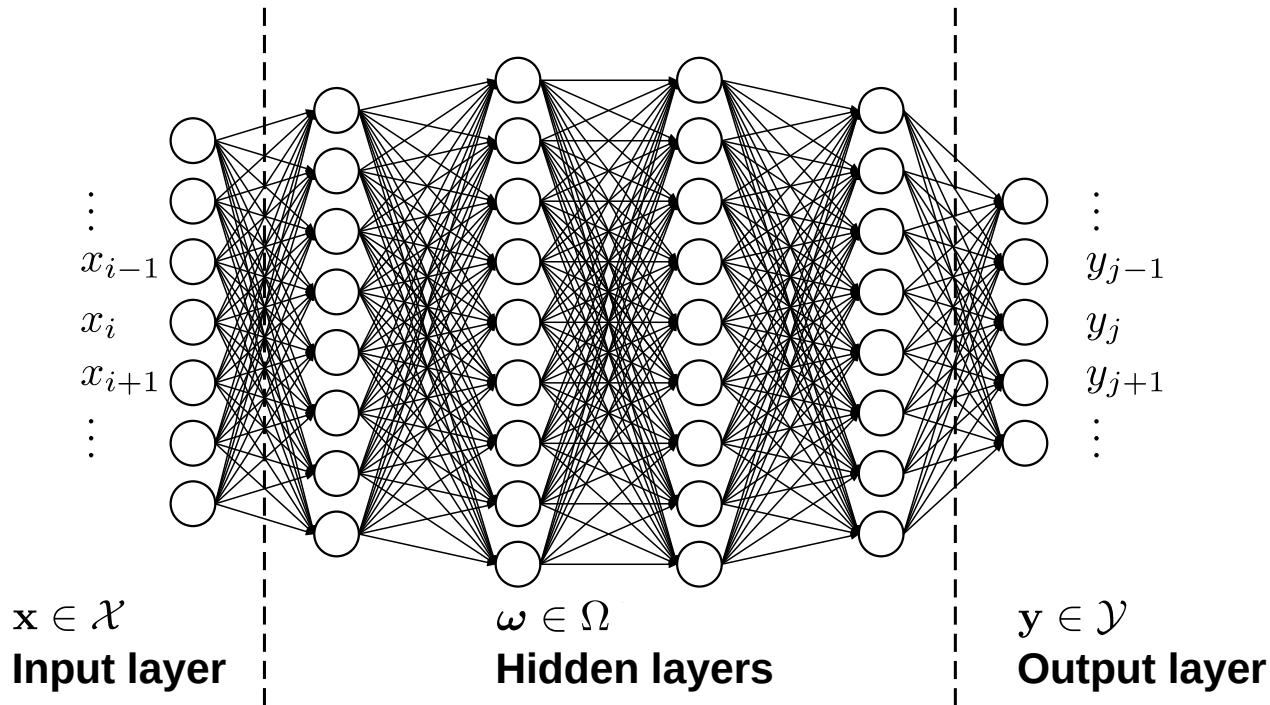


... the perceptron:



# Fully connected feed-forward NN (MLP, ANN)

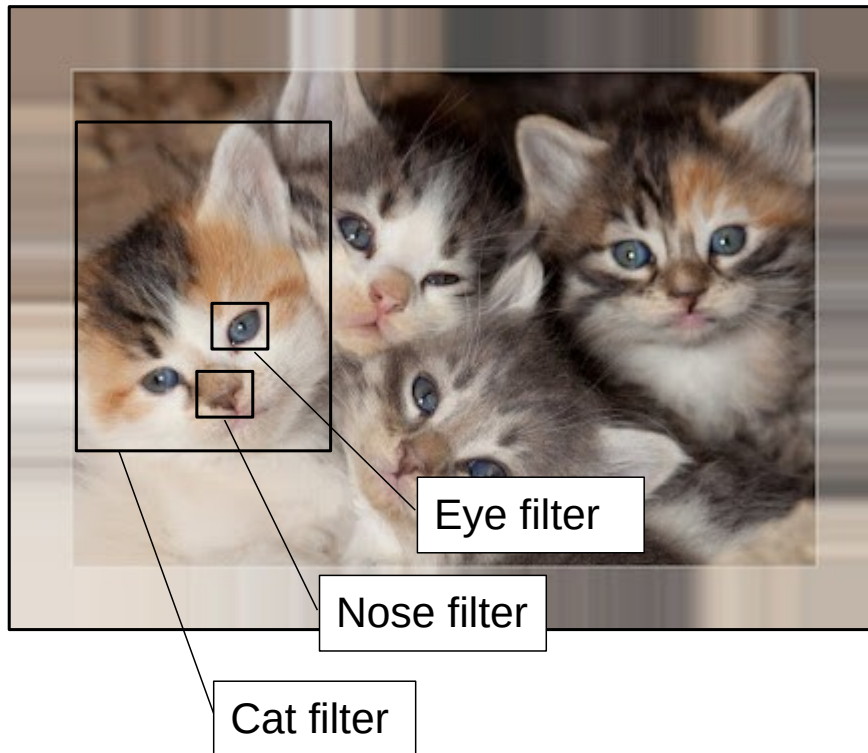
- All nodes of consecutive layers are *connected* with each other.
- Inputs are propagated only in *forward* direction.



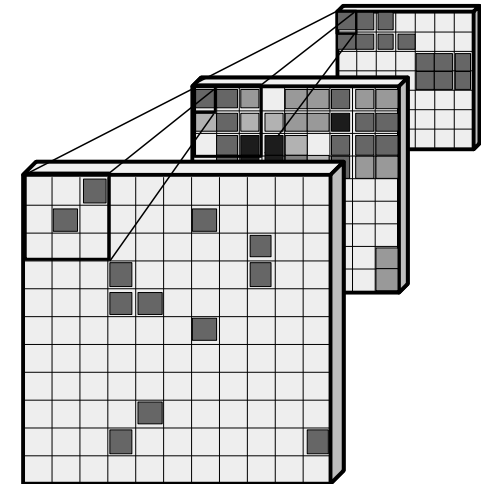
- An ANN is called **deep** if it has  $\geq 2$  hidden layers.

# Convolutional NN (CNN)

- Inspired by 2D image processing.
- Reduce complexity by convolutional layers and *filters* (→ subnets scanning full images).



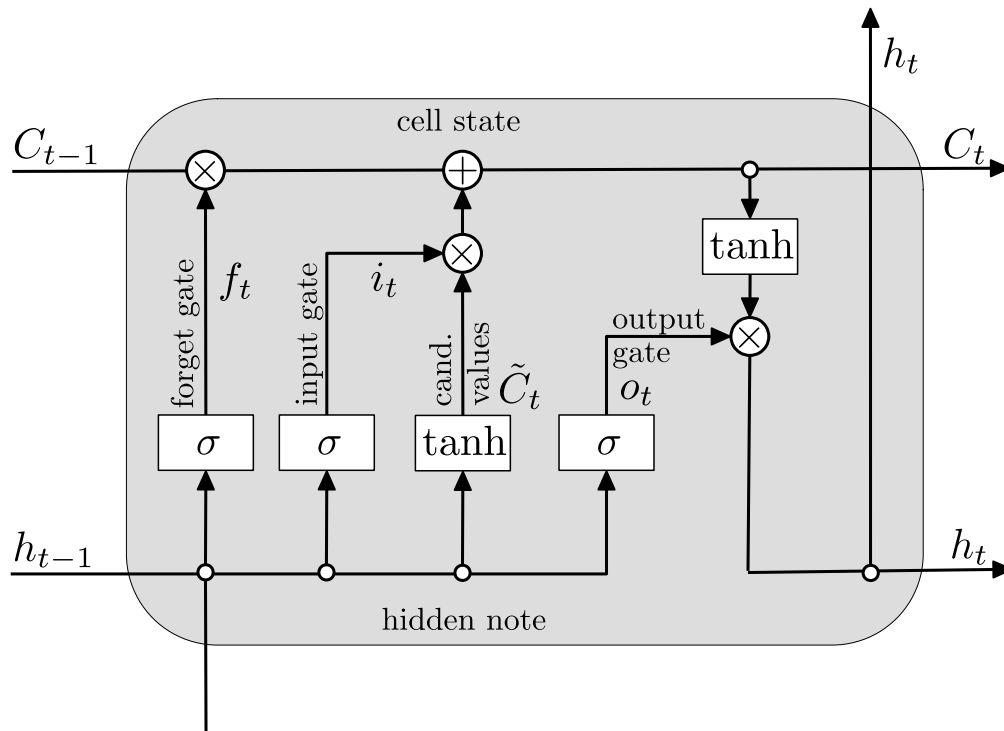
**Example:** 3-fold 3x3 convolution by summing



- Supports *2D translation invariance* of specific features (e.g. cats, eyes, noses) in images.

# Recurrent NN (RNN)

- Inspired by **language processing** (→ sequential problem).
- Allow backward propagation and loops in the NN architecture (→ identify recurring features in sequences).



$$f_t = \sigma \left( \omega_{hh}^{(f)} \mathbf{h}_{t-1} + \omega_{hx}^{(f)} \mathbf{x}_t + \mathbf{b}_f \right)$$

$$i_t = \sigma \left( \omega_{hh}^{(i)} \mathbf{h}_{t-1} + \omega_{hx}^{(i)} \mathbf{x}_t + \mathbf{b}_i \right)$$

$$\tilde{C}_t = \tanh \left( \omega_{hh}^{(C)} \mathbf{h}_{t-1} + \omega_{hx}^{(C)} \mathbf{x}_t + \mathbf{b}_C \right)$$

$$C_t = f_t \cdot C_{t-1} + i_t \cdot \tilde{C}_t$$

$$o_t = \sigma \left( \omega_{hh}^{(o)} \mathbf{h}_{t-1} + \omega_{hx}^{(o)} \mathbf{x}_t + \mathbf{b}_o \right)$$

$$h_t = o_t \cdot \tanh(C_t)$$

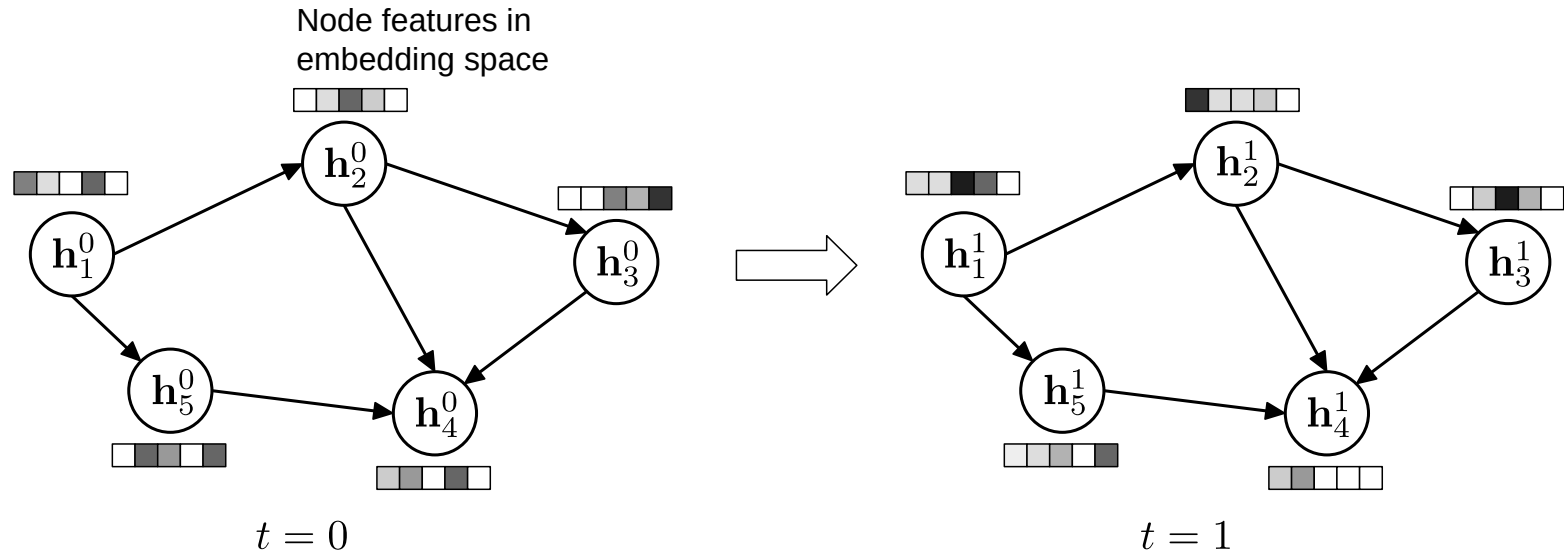
From „Understanding LSTM Networks“ (visited 30.05.22)

- Supports *translation invariance* of specific features (e.g. words) in sequences.



# Graph NN (graphNN)

- Inspired by **unordered graph-like structures** with arbitrary number of nodes (→ particle clusters, traffic networks, molecules, ... ). Allows node, edge, and graph classification.



Message passing/neighbor aggregation:

$$\mathbf{h}_i^{t+1} = \sigma \left( \frac{1}{|N_i|} \mathbf{W}_t \mathbf{h}_i^t + \sum_{j \in N_i} \mathbf{W}_t \mathbf{h}_j^t \right), \quad N_i : \text{Neighborhood of } i.$$

- Supports *permutation invariance* and versatility of the data.

## 2. Probabilistic generative NNs (PGNs)

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- Applications
- GAN, VAE, **normalizing flow**
- Normalizing flow – in a nutshell

# Cool applications ...

- **Create new examples** based on (implicit) rules, learned from (unlabeled) training data (→ prime example of *unsupervised learning*).



## Example-1: Creation of non-existing faces

D. Kingma & P. Dariwahl *Glow: Generative Flow with invertible 1x1 convolutions*, [NIPS 2018](#).



## Example-2: Coloring of b/w pictures

[arxiv:1907.02392](#) Guess which picture is the original one



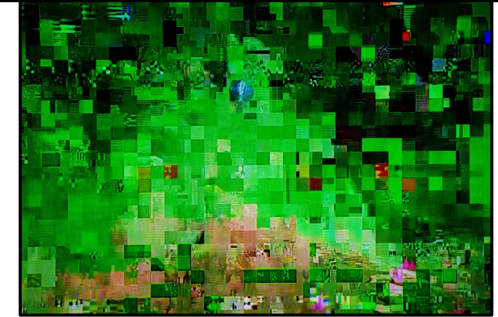
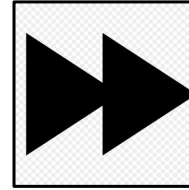
# More useful applications ...

**Examples-5:**  
Error correction.

**Example-3:** (Lossless [1])  
compression of data



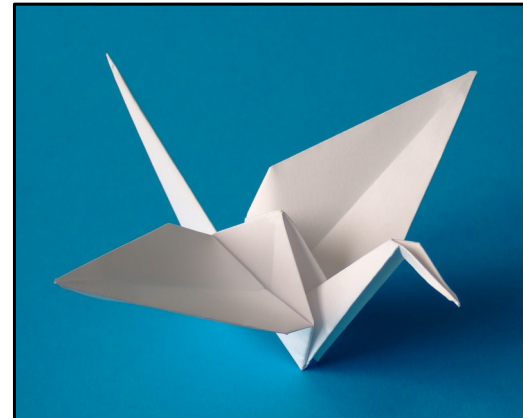
**Example-4:**  
(Fast) simulation  
(→ sampling of  
likelihoods).



**Examples-6:** Approximation  
of untractable likelihoods [2].



**Example-7:** Regularized  
unfolding [1].

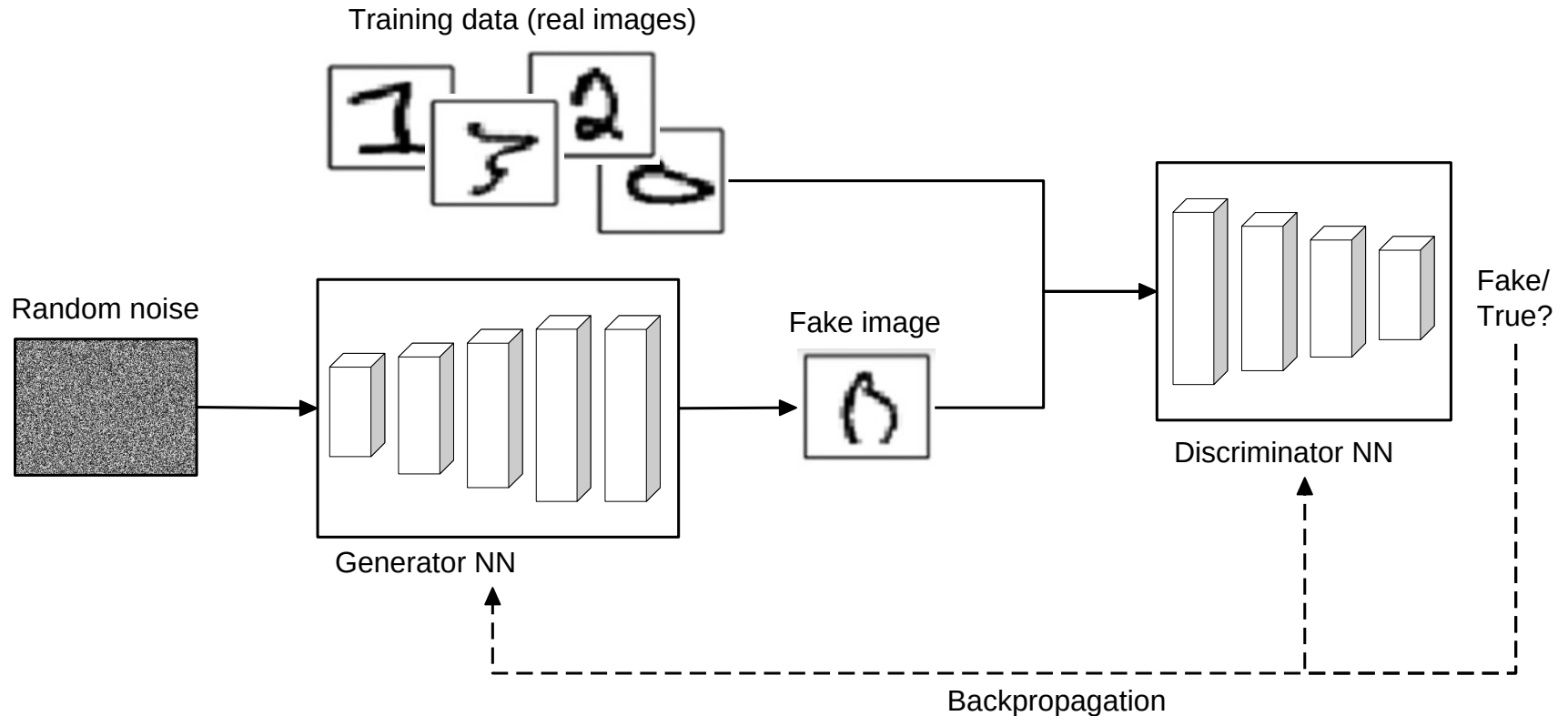


[1] Properties which are exclusive for normalizing flows.

[2] Either not analytically calculable or calculation generally unfeasible.

# Generative adversarial NN (GAN)

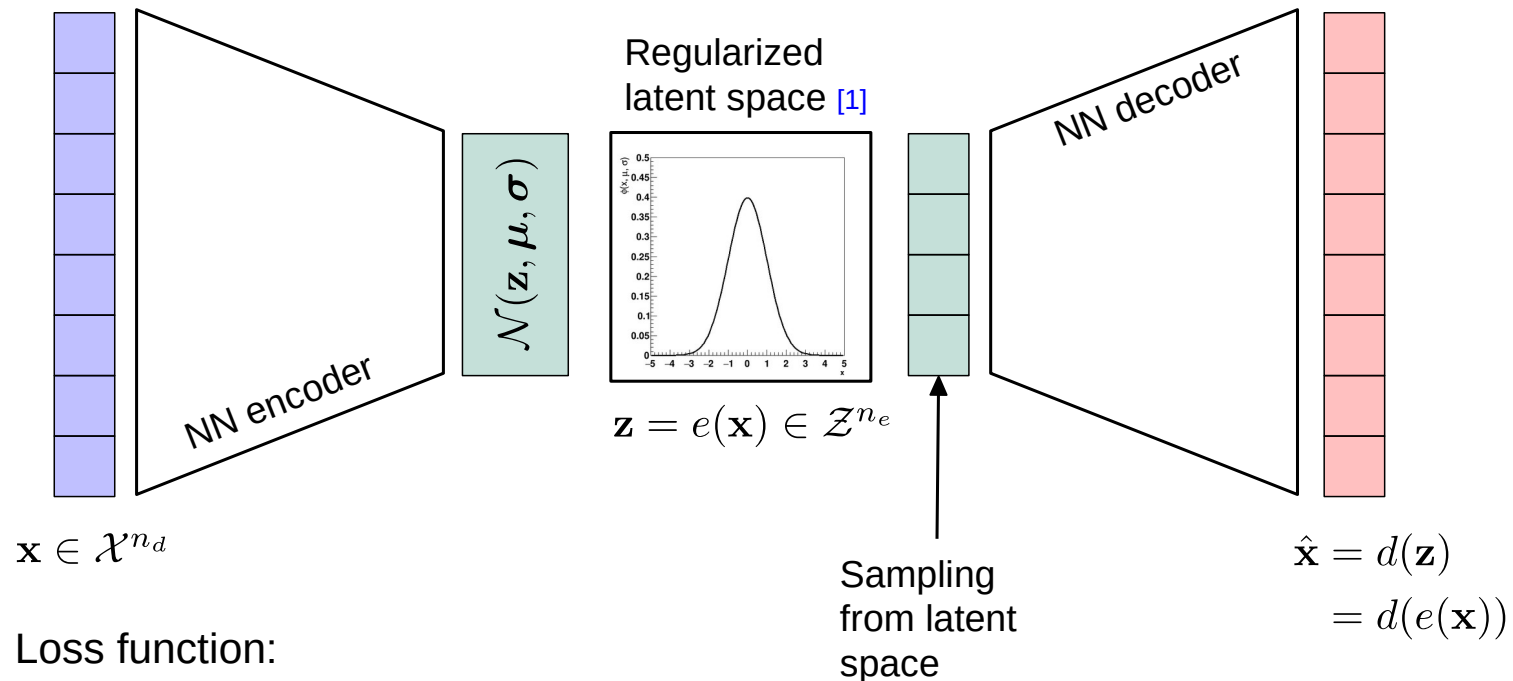
- **Generator NN competing** with (adversarial) *discriminator* NN ( $\mathcal{D}$ ). Successful training, if  $\mathcal{D}$  cannot distinguish between „Fake“ and „True“ outputs.



- MINIMAX problem → convergence not guaranteed.

# Variational Auto Encoder (VAE)

- Map samples of the input space ( $\mathcal{X}$ ) into a (high-dimensional) *latent space* ( $\mathcal{Z}$ , Encoder) and back (Decoder).
- After training, the Decoder can be used to **create new samples from  $\mathcal{Z}$** .



Loss function:

$$L = \|\mathbf{x} - \hat{\mathbf{x}}\|^2 + \underbrace{\text{KL}[\mathcal{N}(\mathbf{z}, \boldsymbol{\mu}, \boldsymbol{\sigma}), \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{z}, 0, 1)]}_{\text{Kullback-Leibler divergence}}$$

Kullback-Leibler divergence

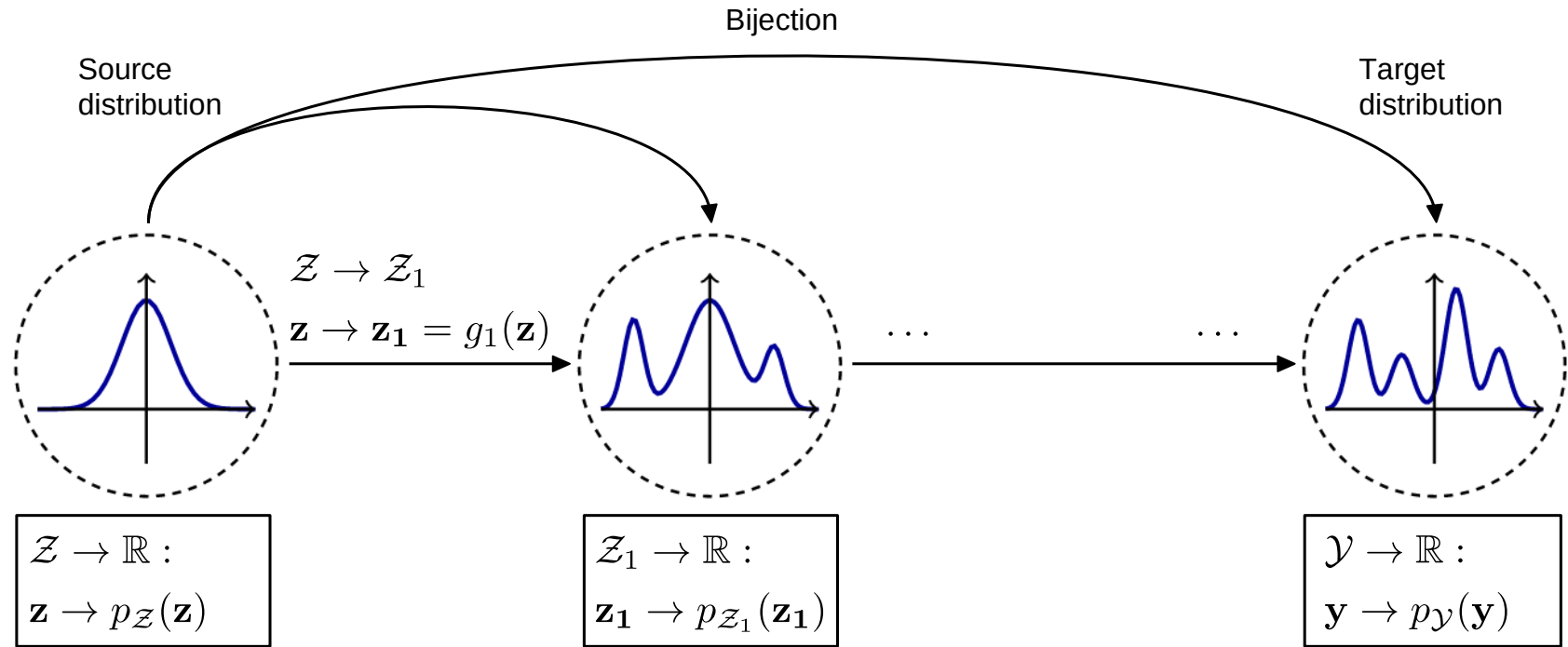
$$[1] \quad \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{z}, 0, 1) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}^{n_e}} \exp\left(-\frac{z^2}{2}\right)$$

# Normalizing flow

- Transform a (presumably simple) **source distribution**  $p_{\mathcal{Z}}(\mathbf{z})$ <sup>[1]</sup> into any arbitrary **target distribution**  $p_{\mathcal{Y}}(\mathbf{y})$  by (repeated,) cleverly chosen *bijective variable transformation(s)*  $\{g_i\}$ .

$$\mathcal{Z} \rightarrow \mathcal{Y} \text{ [2]}$$

$$\mathbf{z} \rightarrow \mathbf{y} = \underbrace{g_N \circ g_{N-1} \circ \dots \circ g_1}_{\equiv g}(\mathbf{z})$$



# Properties of $g_i$

$$\mathcal{Z} \rightarrow \mathcal{Y}$$
$$\mathbf{z} \rightarrow \mathbf{y} = \underbrace{g_N \circ g_{N-1} \circ \dots \circ g_1}_{\equiv g}(\mathbf{z})$$

cleverly chosen

## Properties/constraints of $g_i$ :

- $g_i$  must be a bijection, thus invertible (with  $g_i^{-1} = f_i$ );
- $f_i$  should have an analytically closed form;
- both,  $g_i$  and  $f_i$  should be differentiable ( $\rightarrow$  backpropagation);
- The Jacobian determinant  $\det(J_{g_i}(\mathbf{z}_i))$  should be *easily calculable*;



# Properties of $g_i$

$$\mathcal{Z} \rightarrow \mathcal{Y}$$

$$\mathbf{z} \rightarrow \mathbf{y} = \underbrace{g_N \circ g_{N-1} \circ \dots \circ g_1}_{\equiv g}(\mathbf{z})$$

cleverly chosen

- $g_i$  is referred to as (forward) flow.
- $f_i$  is referred to as (backward) **normalizing flow**.

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$$\mathcal{Z} \rightarrow \mathcal{Y}$$

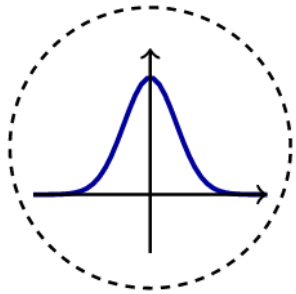
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For reasons that will become clear soon people usually choose a standard Normal  $\mathcal{N}(\mathbf{z}, 0, 1)$  <sup>[1]</sup> as source distribution.

### 3. Math prerequisites

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial a} \ln f_{a, \sigma^2}(\xi_1) = \frac{(\xi_1 - a)}{\sigma^2} f_{a, \sigma^2}(\xi_1) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma}} \exp\left(-\frac{(\xi_1 - a)^2}{2\sigma^2}\right)$$

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}_n} T(x) \cdot \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} f(x, \theta) dx = M\left(T(\xi) \cdot \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \ln L(\xi, \theta)\right)$$

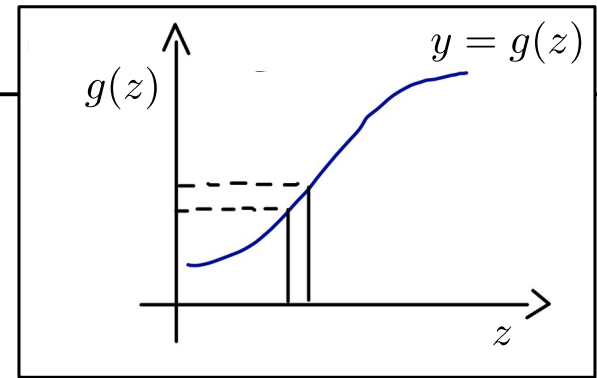
$$\int_{\mathbb{R}_n} T(x) \cdot \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \ln L(x, \theta)\right) \cdot f(x, \theta) dx = \int_{\mathbb{R}_n} T(x) \cdot \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \frac{f(x, \theta)}{f(x, \theta)}\right) f(x, \theta) dx$$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \int_{\mathbb{R}_n} T(x) f(x, \theta) dx = \int_{\mathbb{R}_n} T(x) \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} f(x, \theta) dx = \int_{\mathbb{R}_n} T(x) \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \frac{f(x, \theta)}{f(x, \theta)} f(x, \theta) dx$$

- Change of variables and conservation of probability
- Composition of bijections
- Normalizing flow model & training strategy
- Overview of concrete implementations

# Change of variables

- $p_Y(y)$  can be obtained from  $p_Z(z)$  via **conservation of probability**:



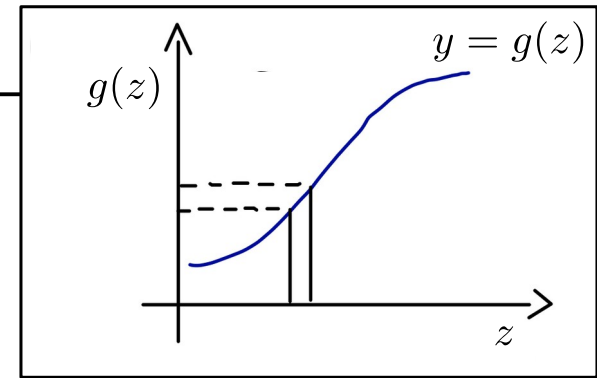
$$P(A) = \int_A p_Y(y) dy = \int_A p_Z(z) dz$$

$$p_Y(y) dy = p_Z(z) dz$$

$$p_Y(y) = p_Z(z) \left| \frac{dz}{dy} \right| = p_Z(z) \left| \frac{df(y)}{dy} \right| = p_Z(z) \left| \frac{dy}{dz} \right|^{-1} = p_Z(z) \left| \frac{dg(z)}{dz} \right|^{-1}$$

# Change of variables

- $p_{\mathcal{Y}}(y)$  can be obtained from  $p_{\mathcal{Z}}(z)$  via **conservation of probability**:



$$P(A) = \int_A p_{\mathcal{Y}}(y) dy = \int_A p_{\mathcal{Z}}(z) dz$$

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For  $\mathcal{Z}, \mathcal{Y} \in \mathbb{R}^D$

$$|\det(J_g)| = \begin{vmatrix} \frac{\partial g_1}{\partial z_1} & \frac{\partial g_1}{\partial z_2} & \dots & \frac{\partial g_1}{\partial z_n} \\ \frac{\partial g_2}{\partial z_1} & \frac{\partial g_2}{\partial z_2} & \dots & \frac{\partial g_2}{\partial z_n} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \dots & \dots & \dots & \frac{\partial g_n}{\partial z_n} \end{vmatrix}$$

(Jacobian determinant)

# Example-1

Bijection (forward flow):

$$g : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2; \quad \mathbf{z} \rightarrow g(\mathbf{z}) = 2\mathbf{z}; \quad \text{with: } \mathbf{z} \equiv \begin{pmatrix} z_1 \\ z_2 \end{pmatrix}.$$

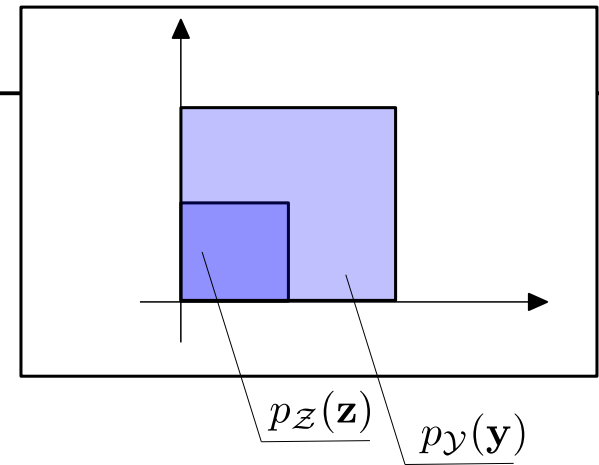
Inverse (backward flow):

$$f : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2; \quad \mathbf{y} \rightarrow f(\mathbf{y}) = \frac{\mathbf{y}}{2}; \quad \text{with: } \mathbf{y} \equiv \begin{pmatrix} y_1 \\ y_2 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Transformation of  $p(\cdot)$ :

$$p_{\mathbf{z}}(\mathbf{z}) = \begin{cases} 1 & 0 \leq x_{1,2} \leq a \\ 0 & \text{else} \end{cases}; \quad \det(J_g) = \begin{vmatrix} 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 \end{vmatrix} = 4; \quad p_{\mathbf{y}}(\mathbf{y}) = p_{\mathbf{z}}(f(\mathbf{y})) \underbrace{|J_g|^{-1}}_{\equiv \frac{1}{4}}$$

$$p_{\mathbf{y}}(\mathbf{y}) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{4} & 0 \leq y_{1,2} \leq 2a \\ 0 & \text{else} \end{cases}.$$

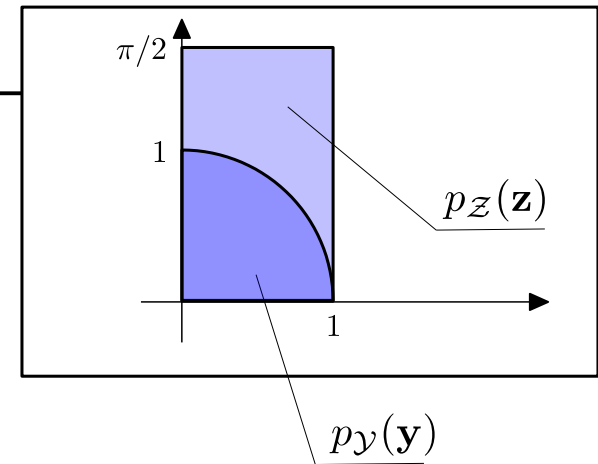


Here  $p_{\mathbf{z}}(\mathbf{z})$  is „stretched“ over a 4 times larger volume in variable space.

## Example-2

Bijection (forward flow):

$$g : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2; \quad \mathbf{z} \rightarrow g(\mathbf{z}) = \begin{pmatrix} z_1 \sin z_2 \\ z_1 \cos z_2 \end{pmatrix}; \quad \text{with: } \mathbf{z} \equiv \begin{pmatrix} r \\ \varphi \end{pmatrix}.$$



Inverse (backward flow):

$$f : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2; \quad \mathbf{y} \rightarrow f(\mathbf{y}) = \begin{pmatrix} \sqrt{y_1^2 + y_2^2} \\ \arctan(y_2/y_1) \end{pmatrix}; \quad \text{with: } \mathbf{y} \equiv \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix}.$$

Transformation of  $p(\cdot)$ :

$$p_{\mathbf{z}}(\mathbf{z}) = \begin{cases} 1 & 0 \leq x_{1,2} \leq a \\ 0 & \text{else} \end{cases}; \quad \det(J_g) = \begin{vmatrix} \sin z_2 & z_1 \cos z_2 \\ \cos z_2 & -z_1 \sin z_2 \end{vmatrix} = z_1;$$

$$p_{\mathbf{y}}(\mathbf{y}) = p_{\mathbf{z}}(f(\mathbf{y})) \underbrace{|J_g|^{-1}}_1 \\ \equiv \frac{1}{\sqrt{y_1^2 + y_2^2}}$$

**Q:** Is this variable transform volume preserving/compressing/expanding?

# Composition of bijections

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- A composition of bijections

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{Z} &\rightarrow \mathcal{Y} \\ z &\rightarrow y = \underbrace{g_N \circ g_{N-1} \circ \dots \circ g_1}_{\equiv g}(z) \end{aligned}$$

is a bijection in itself, with the inverse  $f = f_1 \circ \dots \circ f_{N-1} \circ f_N(y)$  and the transformation formulas

$$p_{\mathcal{Y}}(g(z)) = p_{\mathcal{Z}}(z) \prod_{i=1}^N \left| \frac{dg_i(z_i)}{dz_i} \right|^{-1}$$

$$p_{\mathcal{Y}}(y) = p_{\mathcal{Z}}(f(y)) \prod_{i=1}^N \left| \frac{df_i(y_i)}{dy_i} \right|$$

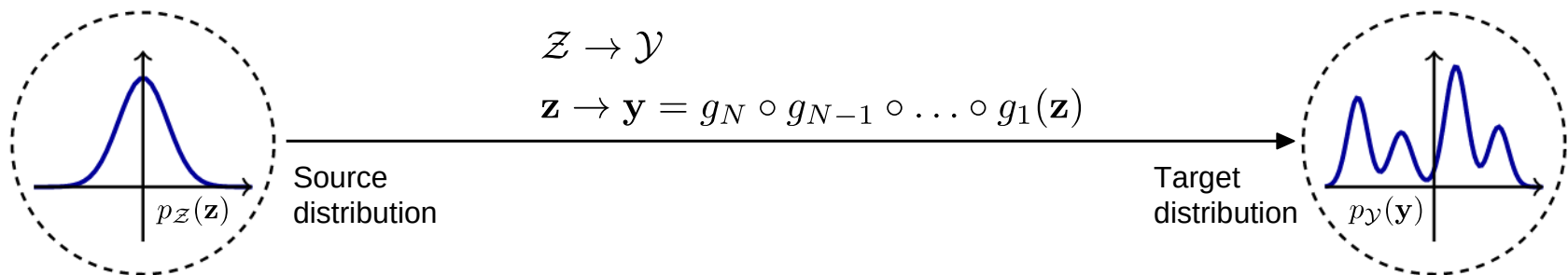
**NB:** Simple application of the *chain rule*.

**NNB:** One can omit the  $i$  in the derivatives.



# Normalizing flow model

- A simple source distribution (e.g.  $p_{\mathcal{Z}}(\mathbf{z}) = \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{z}, 0, 1)$ ) can be transformed into any arbitrary (potentially unknown) target distribution  $p_{\mathcal{Y}}(\mathbf{y})$ .
- The  $\{g_i\}$  to do so, are a priori *unknown*, but they can be *approximated by any sufficiently expressive basic NN* ( $p_{\mathcal{Y}}(\mathbf{y}) \rightarrow \hat{p}_{\mathcal{Y}}(\mathbf{y}, \omega)$ , see Section 1 of slides).
- The objects to be learned are the bijections  $\{g_i\}$  (resp.  $\{f_i\}$ ). Knowing one implies knowledge of the other one.



# Training objective

$\hat{p}_{\mathcal{Y}}(\mathbf{y}, \boldsymbol{\omega})$  should match  $p_{\mathcal{Y}}(\mathbf{y})$  as close as possible.

- Quantified by the **Kullback-Leibler** divergence  $\text{KL}[\cdot, \cdot]$ :

$$\text{KL}[p_{\mathcal{Y}}(\mathbf{y}), \hat{p}_{\mathcal{Y}}(\mathbf{y}, \boldsymbol{\omega})] = \int p_{\mathcal{Y}}(\mathbf{y}) \ln \left( \frac{p_{\mathcal{Y}}(\mathbf{y})}{\hat{p}_{\mathcal{Y}}(\mathbf{y}, \boldsymbol{\omega})} \right) d\mathbf{y} = \text{const.} - \underbrace{\int p_{\mathcal{Y}}(\mathbf{y}) \ln (\hat{p}_{\mathcal{Y}}(\mathbf{y}, \boldsymbol{\omega})) d\mathbf{y}}_{\equiv E[\ln(\hat{p}_{\mathcal{Y}}(\boldsymbol{\omega}))]} \quad [1]$$

$$= \text{const.} - E \left[ \ln \left( p_{\mathcal{Z}}(\mathbf{z}) \prod_{i=1}^N \left| \frac{\partial g_i(\mathbf{z}_i, \boldsymbol{\omega})}{\partial \mathbf{z}_i} \right|^{-1} \right) \right]$$

$$= \text{const.} - E \left[ \ln(p_{\mathcal{Z}}(f(\mathbf{y}))) \right] - E \left[ \sum_{i=1}^N \ln \left( \left| \frac{\partial f_i(\mathbf{y}_i, \boldsymbol{\omega})}{\partial \mathbf{y}_i} \right| \right) \right]$$

(Expected loss or risk)

Defining the log-likelihood ratio of the two distributions as loss.

# Training objective

$\hat{p}_{\mathcal{Y}}(\mathbf{y}, \boldsymbol{\omega})$  should match  $p_{\mathcal{Y}}(\mathbf{y})$  as close as possible.

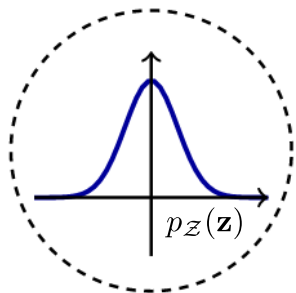
- Quantified by the **Kullback-Leibler** divergence  $\text{KL}[\cdot, \cdot]$ :

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$$= \text{const.} - E \left[ \ln \left( p_{\mathcal{Z}}(\mathbf{z}) \prod_{i=1}^N \left| \frac{\partial g_i(\mathbf{z}_i, \boldsymbol{\omega})}{\partial \mathbf{z}_i} \right|^{-1} \right) \right]$$

$$= \text{const.} - E \left[ \underbrace{\ln(p_{\mathcal{Z}}(f(\mathbf{y})))}_{\propto E[\|\mathbf{f}(\mathbf{y})\|_2^2] = 0} \right] - E \left[ \sum_{i=1}^N \ln \left( \left| \frac{\partial f_i(\mathbf{y}_i, \boldsymbol{\omega})}{\partial \mathbf{y}_i} \right| \right) \right]$$

(Expected loss or risk)



with:  $p_{\mathcal{Z}}(\mathbf{z}) = \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{z}, 0, 1)$

Defining the log-likelihood ratio of the two distributions as loss.

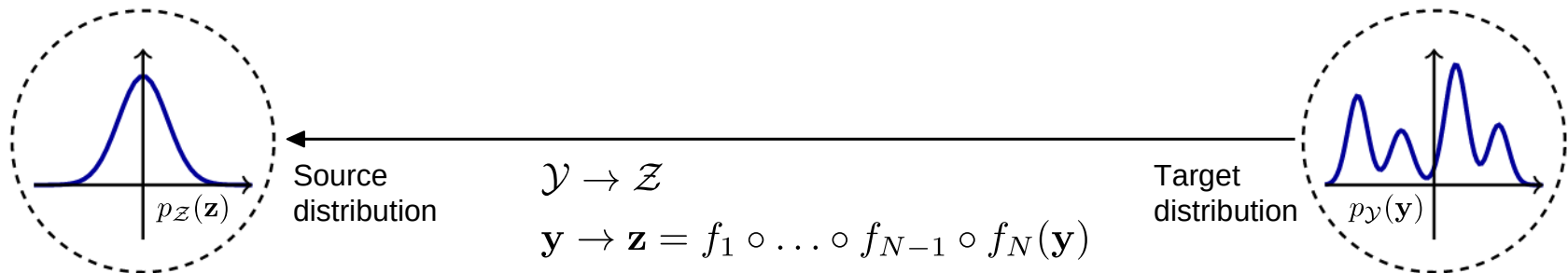
# Training strategy

- Assume that we don't know  $p_{\mathcal{Y}}(\mathbf{y})$ , but we can sample from it, e.g., via the Monte Carlo method (ignoring the const.).

$$L = E [\|f(\mathbf{y})\|_2^2] - E \left[ \sum_{i=1}^N \ln \left( \left| \frac{\partial f_i(\mathbf{y}_i, \boldsymbol{\omega})}{\partial \mathbf{y}_i} \right| \right) \right] \quad (\text{Risk functional})$$

$$R = \frac{1}{2} \text{MSE}[\mathbf{y}] - \frac{1}{m} \sum_{k=1}^m \sum_{i=1}^N \ln \left( \left| \frac{\partial f_i(\mathbf{y}_i, \boldsymbol{\omega})}{\partial \mathbf{y}_i} \right| \right) \quad (\text{Empirical risk functional})$$

- Train  $f_i$  in **reverse order**, in (mini-)batches of  $m$  simulated events, mapping  $\mathbf{y}$  to the trivially known source distribution  $\mathcal{N}(\mathbf{z}, 0, 1)$ .



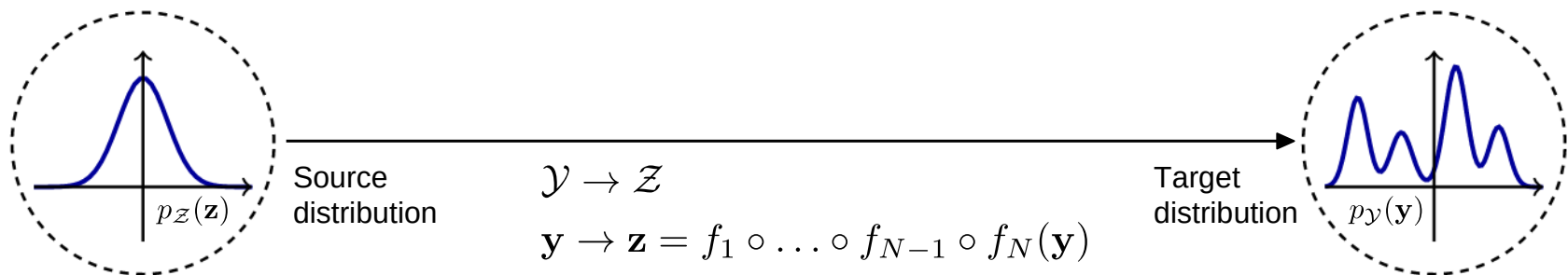
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- Assume that we don't know  $p_{\mathcal{Y}}(\mathbf{y})$ , but we can sample from it, e.g., via the Monte Carlo method (ignoring the const.).

$$L = E [\|f(\mathbf{y})\|_2^2] - E \left[ \sum_{i=1}^N \ln \left( \left| \frac{\partial f_i(\mathbf{y}_i, \boldsymbol{\omega})}{\partial \mathbf{y}_i} \right| \right) \right] \quad (\text{Risk functional})$$

$$R = \frac{1}{2} \text{MSE}[\mathbf{y}] - \frac{1}{m} \sum_{k=1}^m \sum_{i=1}^N \ln \left( \left| \frac{\partial f_i(\mathbf{y}_i, \boldsymbol{\omega})}{\partial \mathbf{y}_i} \right| \right) \quad (\text{Empirical risk functional})$$

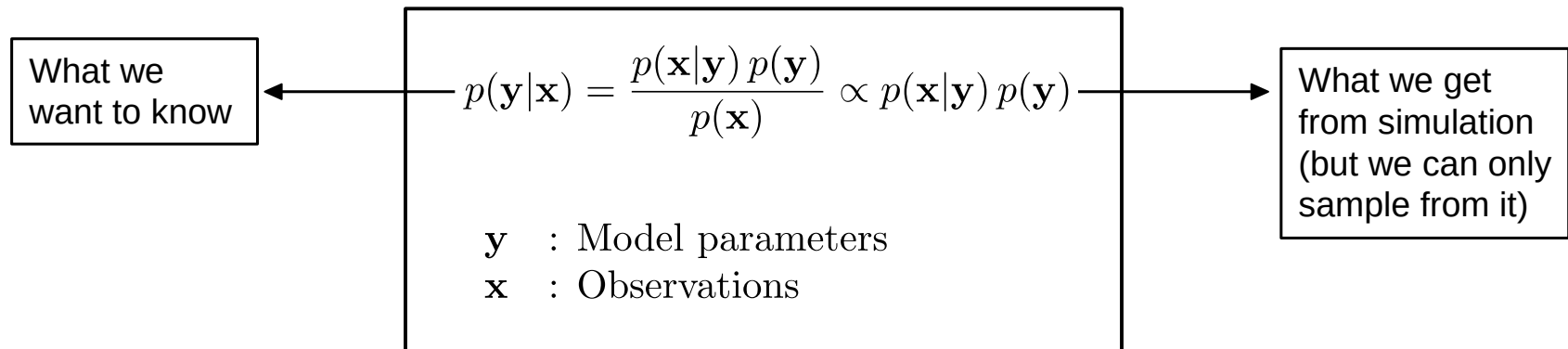
- Train  $f_i$  in **reverse order**, in (mini-)batches of  $m$  simulated events, mapping  $\mathbf{y}$  to the trivially known source distribution  $\mathcal{N}(\mathbf{z}, 0, 1)$ .
- The evaluation happens in **forward direction** sampling from  $\mathcal{N}(\mathbf{z}, 0, 1)$ .



# Inverse problem

---

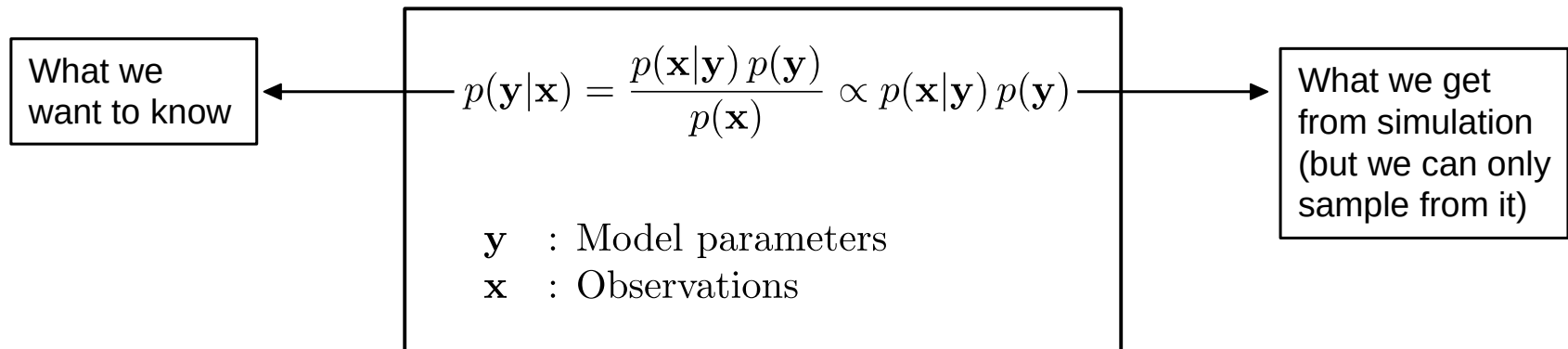
- We use complex Monte Carlo simulations to obtain the **likelihood**  $p(\mathbf{x}|\mathbf{y})$  to observe  $\mathbf{x}$  given the model parameters  $\mathbf{y}$ .
- $p(\mathbf{x}|\mathbf{y})$  is *untractable*; we can only sample from it.
- For measurements we are interested in the **posterior**  $p(\mathbf{y}|\mathbf{x})$  that can be obtained from **Bayes theorem**:



# Inverse problem ↔ normalizing flow

---

- The space of  $\mathcal{Y}$  can be high-dimensional and sampling from  $\mathcal{Y}$  tedious.
- The normalizing flow can be used to map  $p_{\mathcal{Y}}(\mathbf{y}|\mathbf{x})$  to  $p_{\mathcal{Z}}(\mathbf{z})$  (during training). **NB:** This can still be tedious.
- In the forward pass (after training)  $p_{\mathcal{Z}}(\mathbf{z})$  can be sampled with **significantly reduced effort**.
- Since the likelihood is never explicitly used, this procedure is referred to as „*likelihood-free inference*“.



# Concrete implementations

- Subject of research of normalizing flows: construct  $g$  such that the flow is expressive and  $f$  and  $\det(J_{g_i})$  can be obtained at low computational cost.

Implementation	Characteristic	Comments
Elementwise	Non-linear elementwise transform	No mixing of variables
Linear	Affine combination of variables	Limited representational power
<b>Planar</b> and radial flows	Non-linear transformations	Hard to compute inverse
<b>Coupling flows</b>	Architectures that allow invertible	Several couplings
Autoregressive flows	non-linear transformations	
Residual flows	Invertible residual flows	
Infinitesimal flows	Continuous flows based ODEs or SDEs	

Taken from [arxiv:1908.09257](https://arxiv.org/abs/1908.09257)

- We will focus on **planar** and **coupling flows** (viz. the RealNVP and cINN).



# 4. The planar flow

---



- Planar flow definition
- Jacobian determinant
- Backward flow

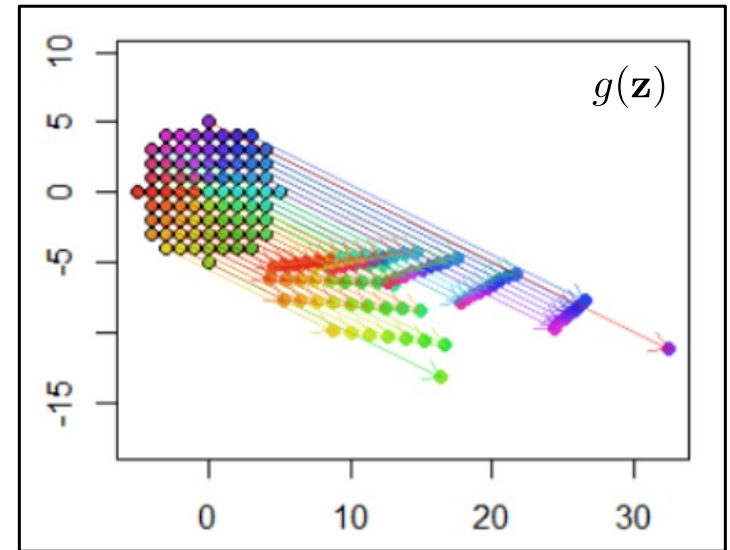
# Forward flow $g(\mathbf{z})$

- One of the simplest transformations one could think of is of the form:

$$g(\mathbf{z}) = \mathbf{z} + \mathbf{u} h(\mathbf{w}^\top \mathbf{z} + b)$$

with:  $\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{w} \in \mathbb{R}^D, b \in \mathbb{R}$

$h(\cdot)$  : non-linearity, e.g.  $\tanh(\cdot)$ .



Taken from [stackexchange](#) (visited 04.06.22)

- $g(\mathbf{z})$  shifts every point  $\mathbf{z} \in \mathbb{R}^D$  parallel to  $\mathbf{u}$ .
- The argument  $\mathbf{w}^\top \mathbf{z} - b = 0$  of  $h(\cdot)$  defines a hyperplane in  $\mathbb{R}^D$  perpendicular to  $\mathbf{w}$ . The function  $h(\cdot)$  scales the shift along  $\mathbf{u}$  depending on the distance of  $\mathbf{z}$  from this hyperplane ( $\rightarrow$  **planar flow**).
- **NB:** If  $\mathbf{z}$  is stretched depending on the distance from a fixed point this defines a **radial flow**.

# Jacobian determinant $\det(J_g)$

---

- The Jacobian determinant can be easily obtained (with complexity  $\mathcal{O}(D)$ ) from the **matrix determinant lemma** (MDL):

$$g(\mathbf{z}) = \mathbf{z} + \mathbf{u} h(\mathbf{w}^\top \mathbf{z} + b)$$

$$\text{with: } \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{w} \in \mathbb{R}^D, b \in \mathbb{R}$$

MDL

$$\det(\mathbf{A} + \mathbf{u}\mathbf{w}^\top) = (1 + \mathbf{w}^\top \mathbf{A}^{-1} \mathbf{u}) \det(\mathbf{A})$$

$$\text{with: } \mathbf{A} \equiv \mathbb{I}_D; \quad \mathbf{z}' = \mathbf{w}^\top \mathbf{z} + b; \quad \frac{\partial}{\partial \mathbf{z}} h(\mathbf{z}') = \frac{\partial}{\partial \mathbf{z}'} h(\mathbf{z}') \mathbf{w}^\top \equiv h'(\mathbf{z}') \mathbf{w}^\top$$

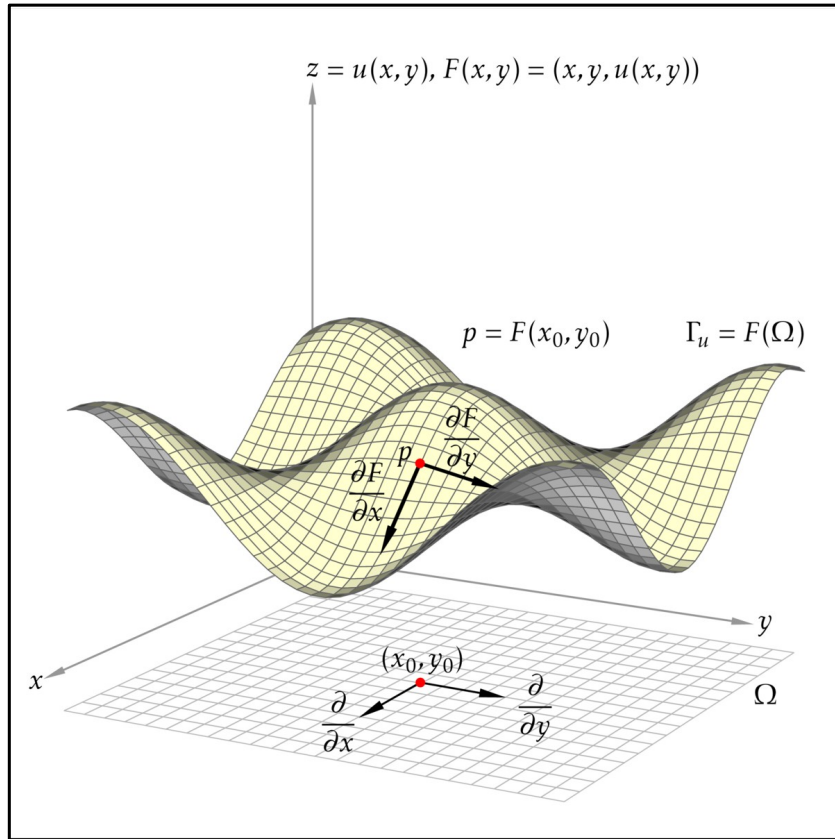
$$\begin{aligned} \det(J_g) &= \det\left(\underbrace{\mathbb{I}_D + \mathbf{u} h'(\mathbf{z}') \mathbf{w}^\top}_{\frac{\partial}{\partial \mathbf{z}} g(\mathbf{z})}\right) = (1 + h'(\mathbf{z}') \mathbf{w}^\top \mathbf{u}) \\ &= \frac{\partial}{\partial \mathbf{z}} g(\mathbf{z}) \end{aligned}$$

# Backward flow $f(\mathbf{y})$

---

- A peculiarity of the planar flow is that the existence of  $f(\mathbf{y})$  depends on the choice of  $h(\cdot)$  and the parameters  $\mathbf{u}$ ,  $\mathbf{w}$ .
- For  $h(\cdot) = \tanh(\cdot)$  the condition  $\mathbf{w}^T \mathbf{u} \geq -1$  is sufficient for  $f(\mathbf{y})$  to exist, as shown in [1505.05770](#) (Appendix A.1).

# 5. The RealNVP



RealNVP = real-valued non-volume preserving

- Coupling layer definition
- Backward flow
- Jacobian determinant
- Permutation layer
- Conditional invertible NN (cINN)

# Forward flow $g(\mathbf{z})$

---

- The main component of the RealNVP is the **coupling layer**:
- We assume the input to the coupling layer to be split in  $\mathbf{z} = [\mathbf{z}_a, \mathbf{z}_b]$  and apply the following transformation:

$$g : \mathbb{R}^D \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^D \quad \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{z}_a \\ \mathbf{z}_b \end{pmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{y}_a \\ \mathbf{y}_b \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{z}_a \\ \exp(s(\mathbf{z}_a)) \odot \mathbf{z}_b + t(\mathbf{z}_a) \end{pmatrix},$$

where  $\odot$  refers to an elementwise product, and  $s(\cdot)$  and  $t(\cdot)$  are arbitrary neural NNs, called *scaling* and *transition* NNs.

- We assume the splitting of  $[\mathbf{z}_a, \mathbf{z}_b]$  to be arranged in the following way:  $\mathbf{z}_a : z_{1:d}$ ,  $\mathbf{z}_b : z_{d+1:D}$  (in *python* slicing notation).

# Backward flow $f(\mathbf{y})$

---

- The **inverse** of  $g(\cdot)$  in this case can be easily obtained:

$$g : \mathbb{R}^D \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^D \quad \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{z}_a \\ \mathbf{z}_b \end{pmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{y}_a \\ \mathbf{y}_b \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{z}_a \\ \exp(s(\mathbf{z}_a)) \odot \mathbf{z}_b + t(\mathbf{z}_a) \end{pmatrix},$$

$$f : \mathbb{R}^D \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^D \quad \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{y}_a \\ \mathbf{y}_b \end{pmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{z}_a \\ \mathbf{z}_b \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{y}_a \\ (\mathbf{y}_b - t(\mathbf{z}_a)) \odot \exp(-s(\mathbf{z}_a)) \end{pmatrix},$$

- $g(\mathbf{z}_a) = \mathbf{z}_a$  is just the identity.
- $g(\mathbf{z}_b)$  is just an affine function that can be easily inverted.
- The use of  $\exp(\cdot)$  prevents division by 0.

# Jacobian determinant $\det(J_g)$

- $J_g$  is a *triangular matrix* of which the determinant again is easy to calculate (with complexity  $\mathcal{O}(D)$ ) as the product of the diagonal elements:

$$|\det(J_g)| = \begin{vmatrix} 1 & \cdots & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & & 1 & 0 & & 0 \\ \hline \frac{\partial y_{d+1}}{\partial z_1} & \cdots & \frac{\partial y_{d+1}}{\partial z_d} & \exp(s(\mathbf{z}_a)) & 0 & 0 \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & 0 & \ddots & 0 \\ \frac{\partial y_D}{\partial z_1} & \cdots & \frac{\partial y_D}{\partial z_d} & 0 & 0 & \exp(s(\mathbf{z}_a)) \end{vmatrix}$$

$$= \prod_{j=d+1}^D \exp(s(\mathbf{z}_a))_j = \exp\left(\sum_{j=d+1}^D s(\mathbf{z}_a)_j\right)$$



# Training objective – revisited –

$\hat{p}_{\mathcal{Y}}(\mathbf{y}, \boldsymbol{\omega})$  should match  $p_{\mathcal{Y}}(\mathbf{y})$  as close as possible.

- Quantified by the **Kullback-Leibler** divergence  $\text{KL}[\cdot, \cdot]$ :

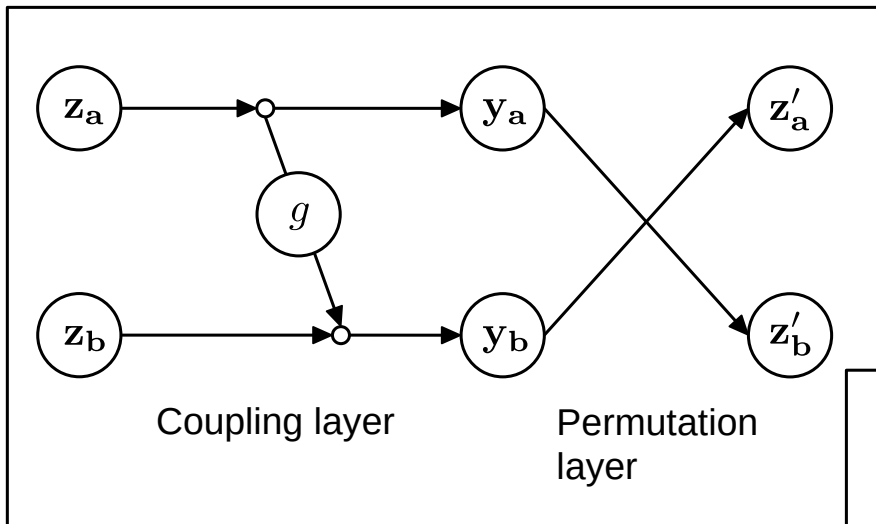
$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{KL}[p_{\mathcal{Y}}(\mathbf{y}), \hat{p}_{\mathcal{Y}}(\mathbf{y}, \boldsymbol{\omega})] &= \int p_{\mathcal{Y}}(\mathbf{y}) \ln \left( \frac{p_{\mathcal{Y}}(\mathbf{y})}{\hat{p}_{\mathcal{Y}}(\mathbf{y}, \boldsymbol{\omega})} \right) d\mathbf{y} = \text{const.} - \underbrace{\int p_{\mathcal{Y}}(\mathbf{y}) \ln (\hat{p}_{\mathcal{Y}}(\mathbf{y}, \boldsymbol{\omega})) d\mathbf{y}}_{\equiv E[\ln(\hat{p}_{\mathcal{Y}}(\boldsymbol{\omega}))]} \\
 &= \text{const.} - E \left[ \ln \left( p_{\mathcal{Z}}(\mathbf{z}) \prod_{i=1}^N \left| \frac{\partial g_i(\mathbf{z}_i, \boldsymbol{\omega})}{\partial \mathbf{z}_i} \right|^{-1} \right) \right] \\
 &= \text{const.} - E \left[ \ln (p_{\mathcal{Z}}(f(\mathbf{y}))) \right] - E \left[ \sum_{i=1}^N \ln \left( \left| \frac{\partial f_i(\mathbf{y}_i, \boldsymbol{\omega})}{\partial \mathbf{y}_i} \right| \right) \right] \\
 &\quad \propto E[\|\mathbf{f}(\mathbf{y})\|_2^2] \quad E \left[ \sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{j=d+1}^D s(\mathbf{z}_{\mathbf{a}})_j \right]
 \end{aligned}$$

Second reason to choose  $\exp(\cdot)$  for the scale in the affine transformation.

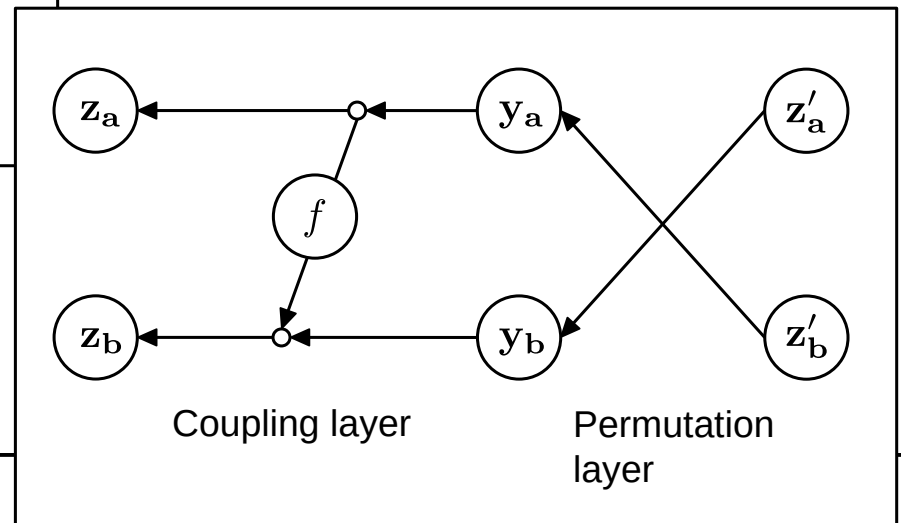
# Permutation layer

- The coupling layer transforms only  $z_b$  and leaves  $z_a$  untouched.
- This issue can be easily addressed by a subsequent **permutation** layer.
- Since permutations are volume preserving their Jacobian determinant is  $\equiv 1$ .

Forward direction:



Normalizing direction:



# Conditional invertible NN (cINN)

- Assume  $(\mathbf{y}, \mathbf{x})$  to be a pair of true ( $\rightarrow \mathbf{y}$ ) and observable ( $\rightarrow \mathbf{x}$ ) parameters from **simulation**.

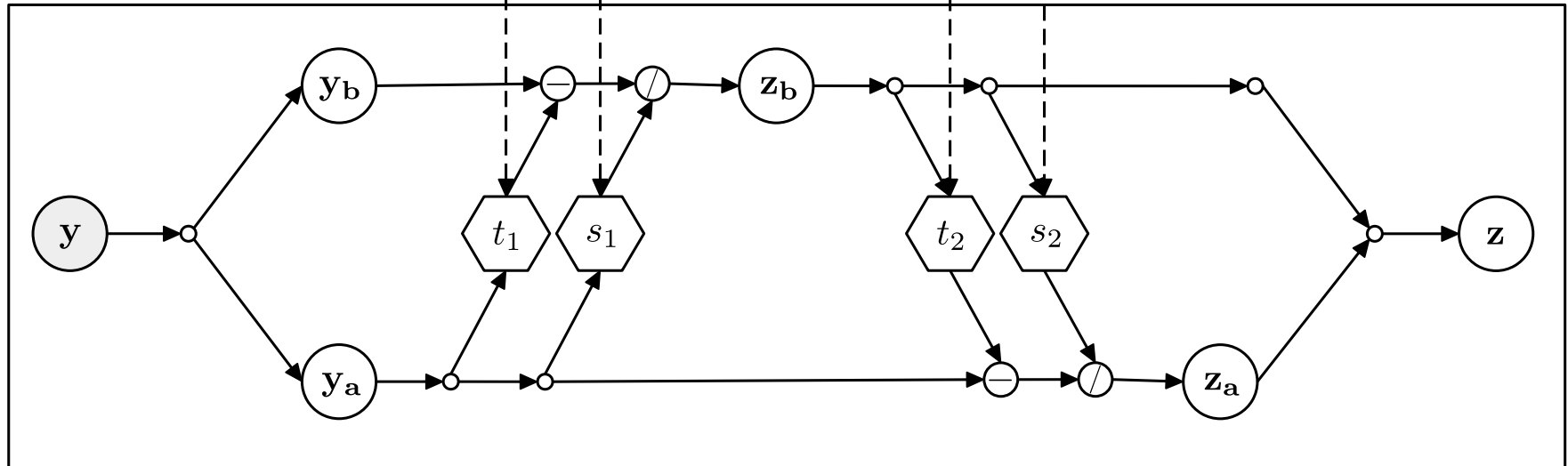
Sample  $(\mathbf{y}, \mathbf{x})$  from simulation and augment  $\mathbf{y}$  with  $\mathbf{x}$ .

$$s_i(\mathbf{y}, \boldsymbol{\omega}) \rightarrow s_i(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}, \boldsymbol{\omega})$$

$$t_i(\mathbf{y}, \boldsymbol{\omega}') \rightarrow t_i(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}, \boldsymbol{\omega}')$$

Condition

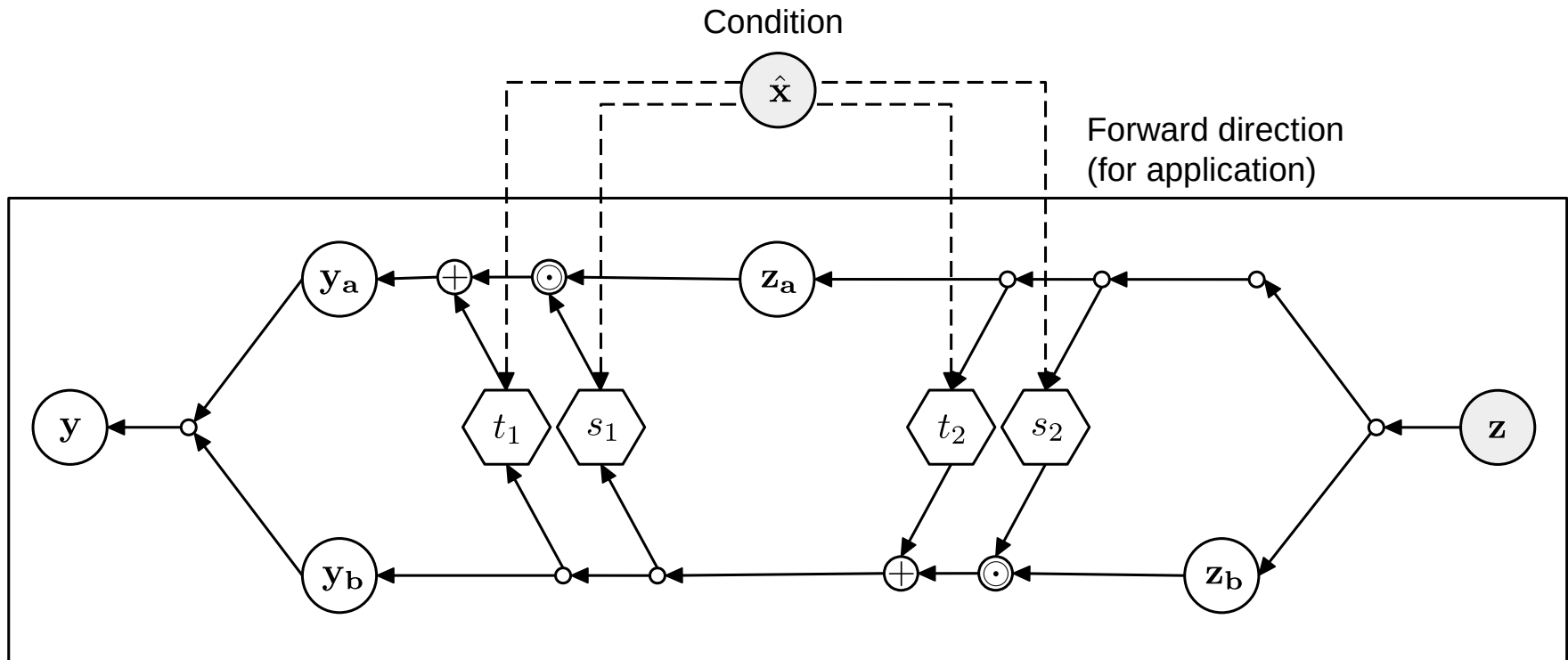
Normalizing direction  
(for training)



# Conditional invertible NN (cINN)

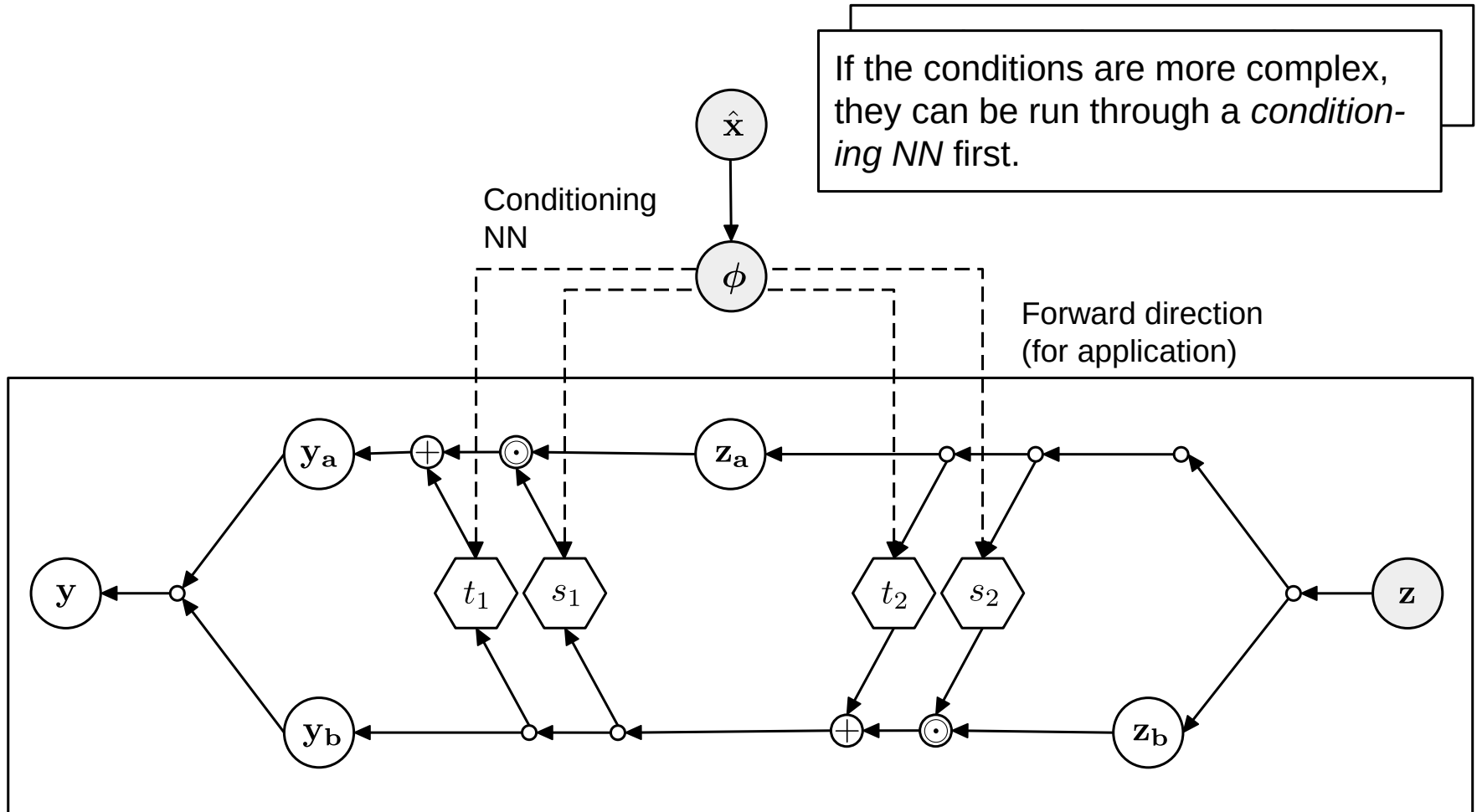
- Assume  $(\mathbf{y}, \mathbf{x})$  to be a pair of true ( $\rightarrow \mathbf{y}$ ) and observable ( $\rightarrow \mathbf{x}$ ) parameters from **simulation**.

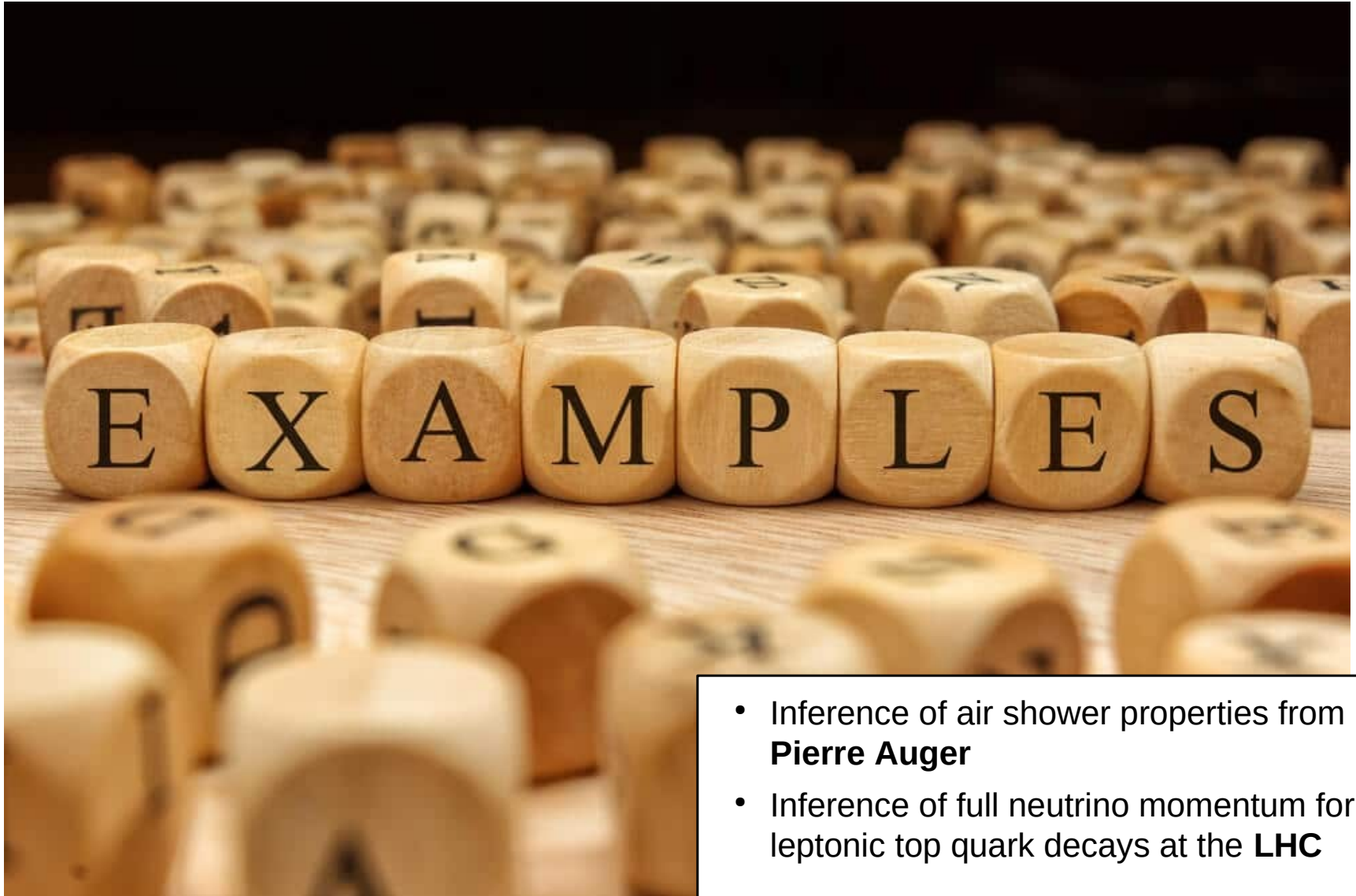
Sample  $\mathbf{z}$  and augment with *measured* observables  $\hat{\mathbf{x}}$ .



# Conditional invertible NN (cINN)

- Assume  $(y, x)$  to be a pair of true ( $\rightarrow y$ ) and observable ( $\rightarrow x$ ) parameters from **simulation**.



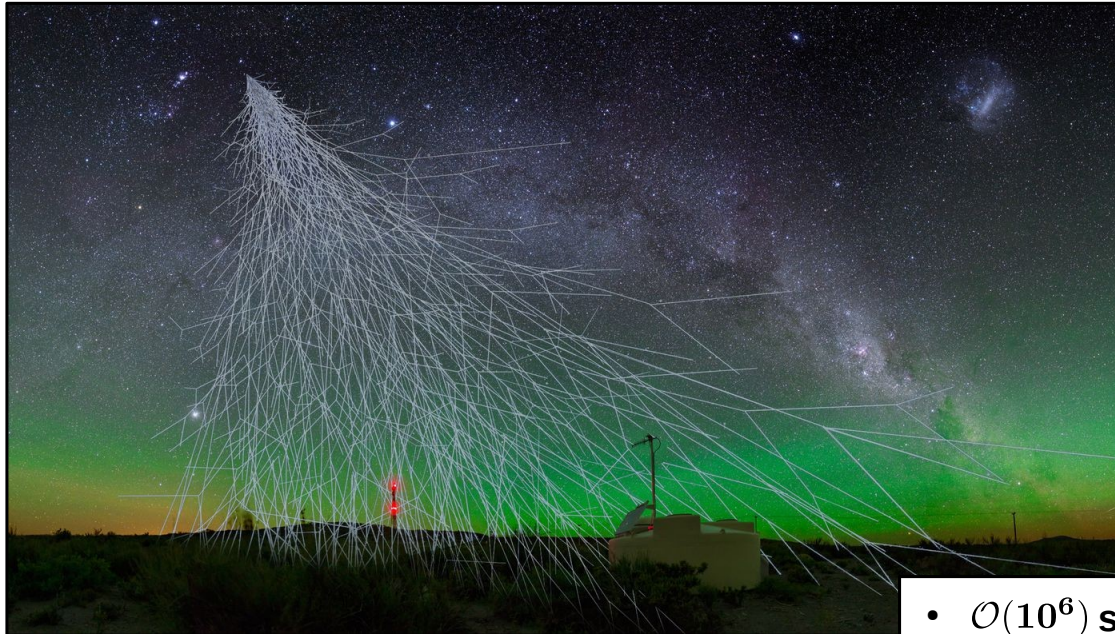


- Inference of air shower properties from **Pierre Auger**
- Inference of full neutrino momentum for leptonic top quark decays at the **LHC**

# Inference with air showers

- When detected on Earth *charged* cosmic rays carry a rich convolution of information:
  - **original source;**
  - path through the universe;
  - detection environment on Earth.

Inference task



Pierre Auger

- $\mathcal{O}(10^6)$  secondary particles;

# Data model

- Assumed flux and spectrum of **primary cosmic ray particles** at their cosmic source:

$$J_0(E_i, A_i) = J_0 a(A_i) \left( \frac{E_i}{10^{18} \text{ eV}} \right)^{-\gamma} \begin{cases} 1 & Z_i R_{\text{cut}} < E_i \\ \exp\left(1 - \frac{E_i}{Z_i R_{\text{cut}}}\right) & Z_i R_{\text{cut}} \geq E_i \end{cases}$$

$\gamma$  : Spectral index

$R_{\text{cut}}$  : Cutoff

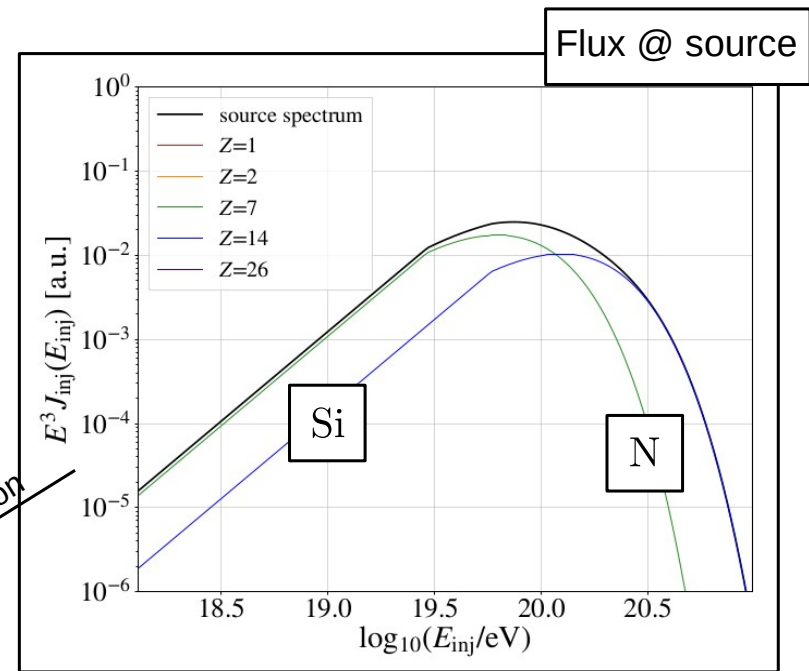
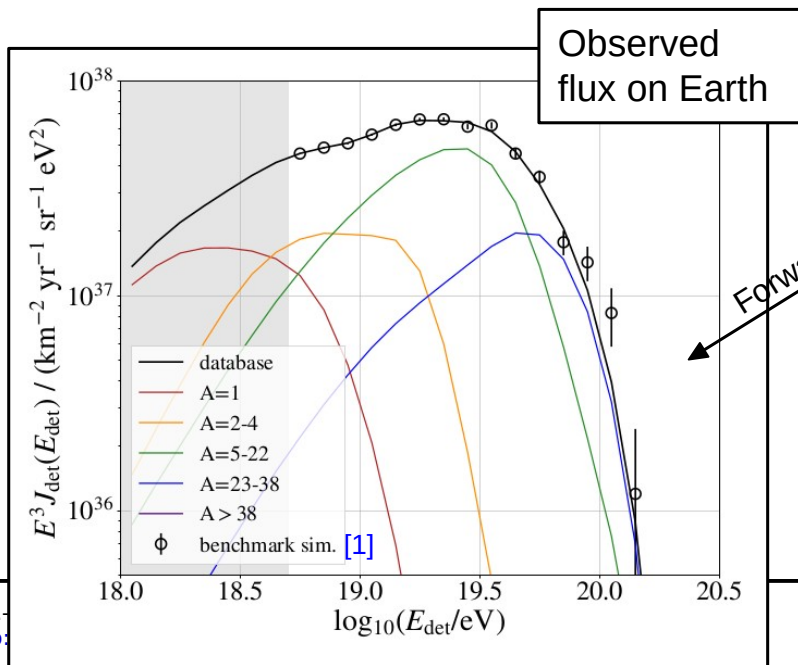
$E_i$  : Energy

$A_i$  : Mass number

$Z_i$  : Charge number

$a(\cdot)$  : Rel. abundancy

} @ cosmic source



Forward simulation

[1] Pseudo data with statistical power as expected by Pierre Auger.



# Inference task

---

**Task:** infer  $\mathbf{y} = \{\gamma, R_{\text{cut}}, a(\text{H}), a(\text{He}), a(\text{N}), a(\text{Si}), a(\text{Fe})\}$  from the observable air shower properties  $\mathbf{x}$  on Earth ( $\rightarrow$  7D value space).

- Propagation DB from forward simulation with varied assumptions for  $\mathbf{y}$ .
- Vary  $\mathbf{y}$  until  $p(\mathbf{x}|\mathbf{y}) p(\mathbf{y})$  matches the observation  $\hat{\mathbf{x}}$  (of the pseudo data).
- **Traditional approach:**
  - Estimate  $p(\mathbf{y}|\hat{\mathbf{x}})$  with the help of [Markov Chain Monte Carlo](#) (MCMC).
  - 4–6 h per Markov chain.

# Inference task

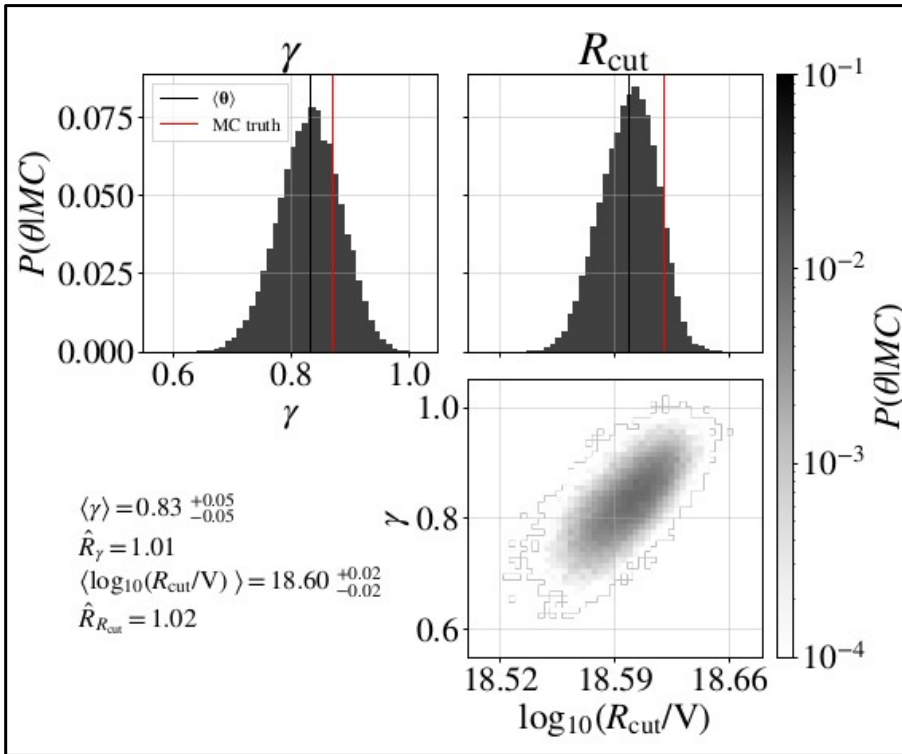
---

**Task:** infer  $\mathbf{y} = \{\gamma, R_{\text{cut}}, a(\text{H}), a(\text{He}), a(\text{N}), a(\text{Si}), a(\text{Fe})\}$  from the observable air shower properties  $\mathbf{x}$  on Earth ( $\rightarrow$  7D value space).

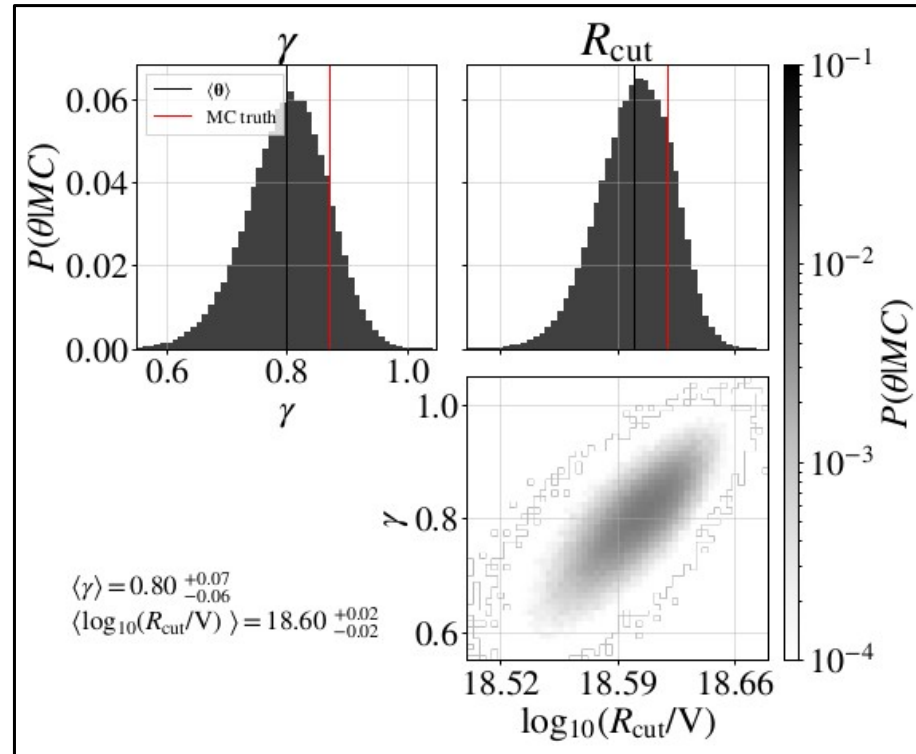
- Propagation DB from forward simulation with varied assumptions for  $\mathbf{y}$ .
- Vary  $\mathbf{y}$  until  $p(\mathbf{x}|\mathbf{y})p(\mathbf{y})$  matches the observation  $\hat{\mathbf{x}}$  (of the pseudo data).
- **ciNN approach:**
  - Using 6 ciNN layers connected via the GLOW approach<sup>[1]</sup>;
  - $s_i(\cdot)$  and  $t_i(\cdot)$  chosen as ANNs with 3 layers of width 256 and ReLU activation each;
  - Augmented with 420 observables  $\mathbf{x}$  (counts in bins of shower energy and shower maxima);
  - Training (on 1M samples) 30h (on single GPU), evaluation O(sec).

# MCMC vs. cINN

## MCMC

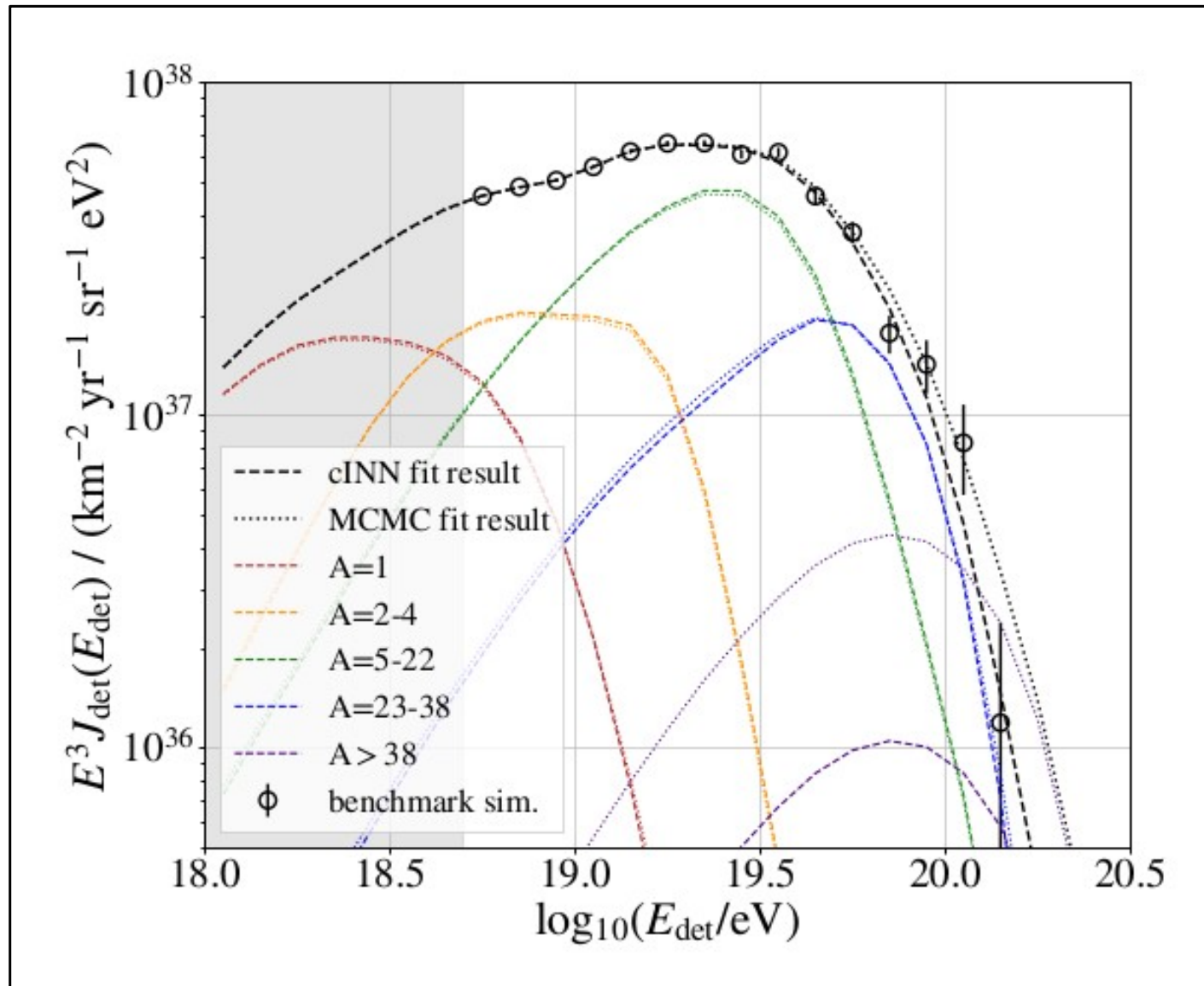


## cINN



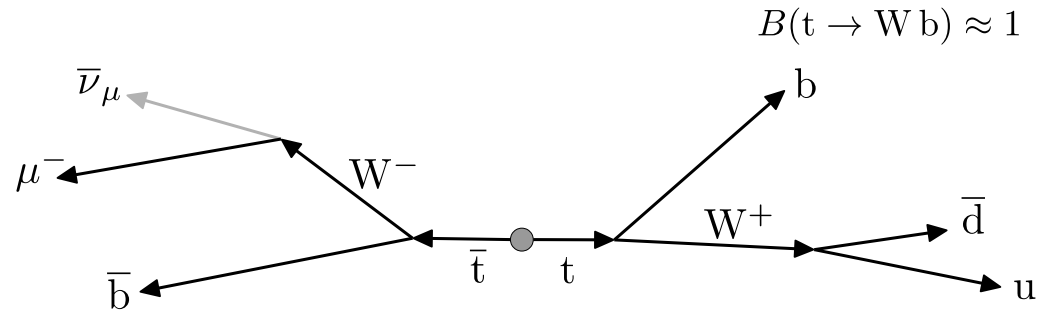
Red line is the truth of the pseudo data.

# MCMC vs. cINN



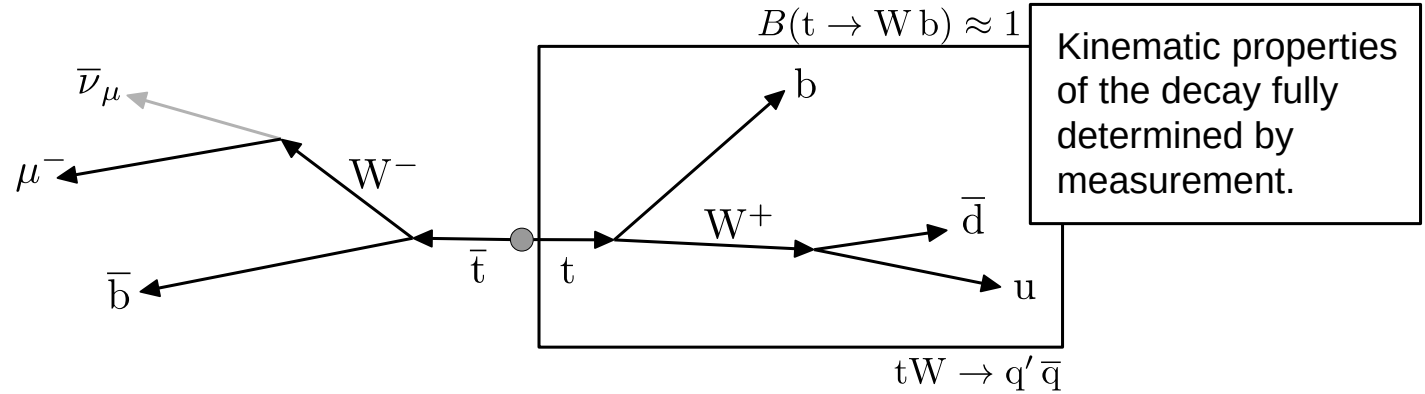
# Top quark pair production at the LHC

- The CERN LHC is a top quark pair factory.



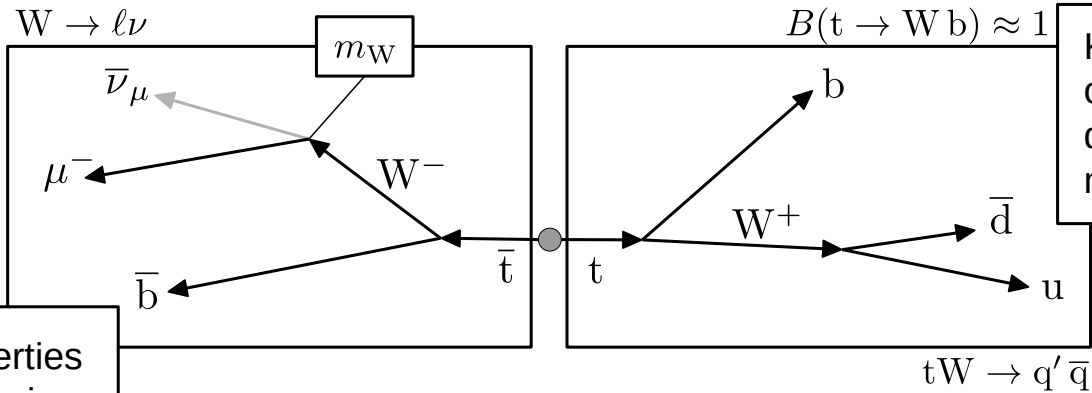
# Top quark pair production at the LHC

- The CERN LHC is a top quark pair factory.



# Top quark pair production at the LHC

- The CERN LHC is a top quark pair factory.



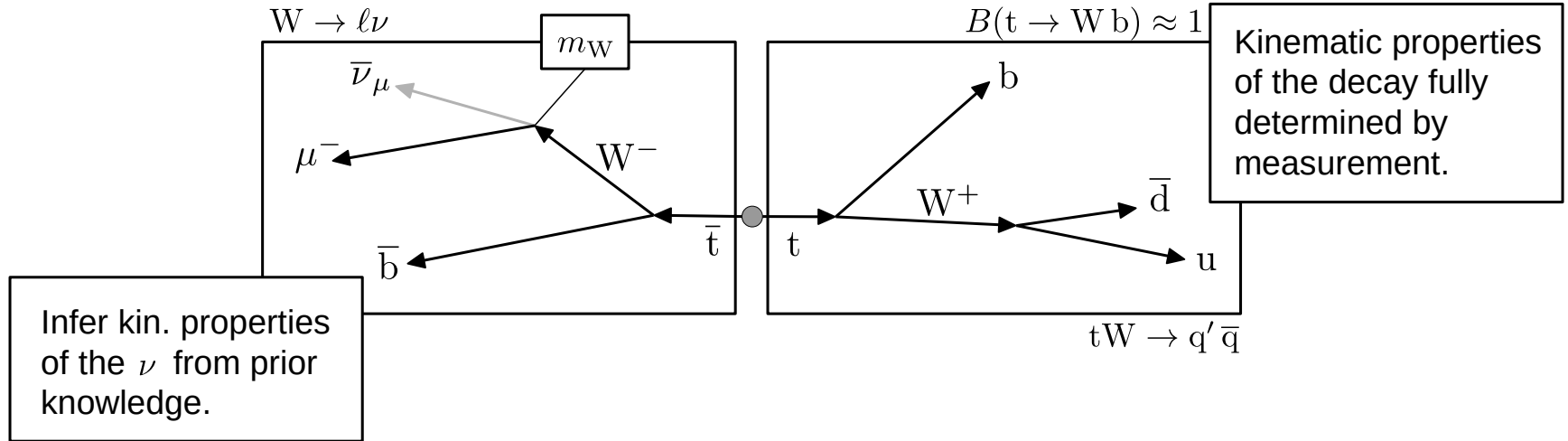
Kinematic properties of the decay fully determined by measurement.

Infer kin. properties of the  $\nu$  from prior knowledge.



# Top quark pair production at the LHC

- The CERN LHC is a top quark pair factory.



$$p_z^\nu = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}$$

with:

$$a = p_z^{\ell 2} - E^{\ell 2}$$

$$\vec{p}_T^\nu = -\vec{p}_T^{\text{miss}}$$

$$b = \kappa p_z^\ell$$

$$m_W = 80.38 \text{ GeV}$$

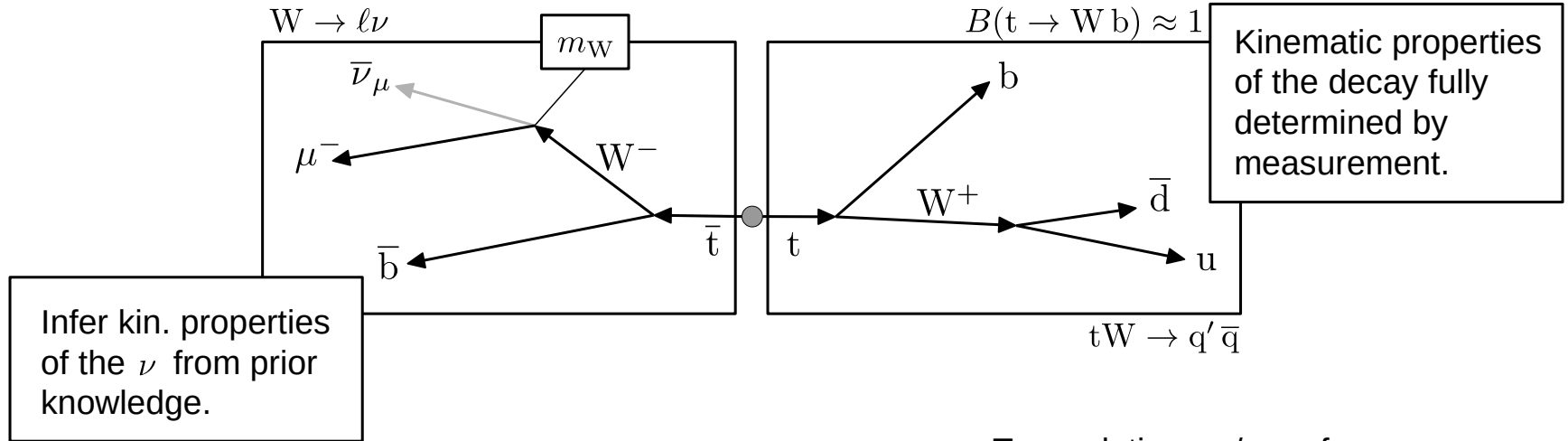
$$c = \left(\frac{\kappa}{2}\right)^2 - E^{\ell 2} p_T^{\nu 2}$$

$$\kappa = m_W^2 - m_\ell^2 - 2\vec{p}_T^\ell \vec{p}_T^\nu$$



# Top quark pair production at the LHC

- The CERN LHC is a top quark pair factory.



$$p_z^\nu = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}$$

$$a = p_z^{\ell 2} - E^{\ell 2}$$

$$b = \kappa p_z^\ell$$

$$c = \left(\frac{\kappa}{2}\right)^2 - E^{\ell 2} p_T^{\nu 2}$$

with:

$$\vec{p}_T^\nu = -\vec{p}_T^{\text{miss}}$$

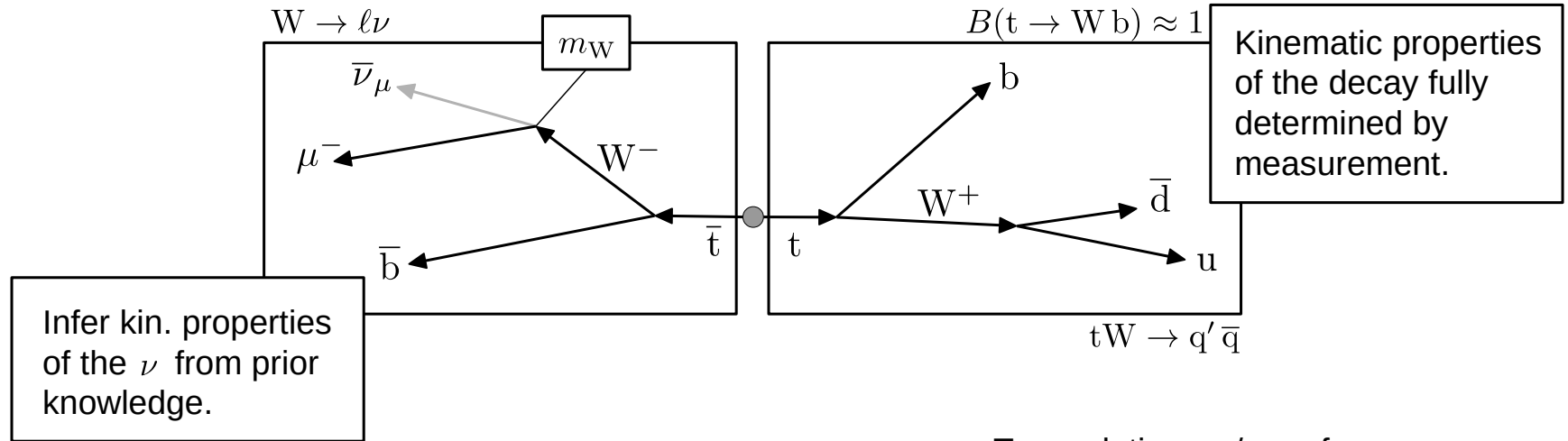
$$m_W = 80.38 \text{ GeV}$$

$$\kappa = m_W^2 - m_\ell^2 - 2\vec{p}_T^\ell \vec{p}_T^\nu$$

Two solutions w/o preference.  
Depending on exp. resolution  
cases with no real solution.

# Top quark pair production at the LHC

- The CERN LHC is a top quark pair factory.



Infer kin. properties of the  $\nu$  from prior knowledge.

Kinematic properties of the decay fully determined by measurement.

Two solutions w/o preference. Depending on exp. resolution cases with no real solution.

Bias in view of experimental resolution.

$$p_z^\nu = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}$$

with:

$$a = p_z^{\ell 2} - E^{\ell 2}$$

$$\vec{p}_T^\nu = -\vec{p}_T^{\text{miss}}$$

$$b = \kappa p_z^\ell$$

$$m_W = 80.38 \text{ GeV}$$

$$c = \left(\frac{\kappa}{2}\right)^2 - E^{\ell 2} p_T^{\nu 2}$$

$$\kappa = m_W^2 - m_\ell^2 - 2\vec{p}_T^\ell \vec{p}_T^\nu$$

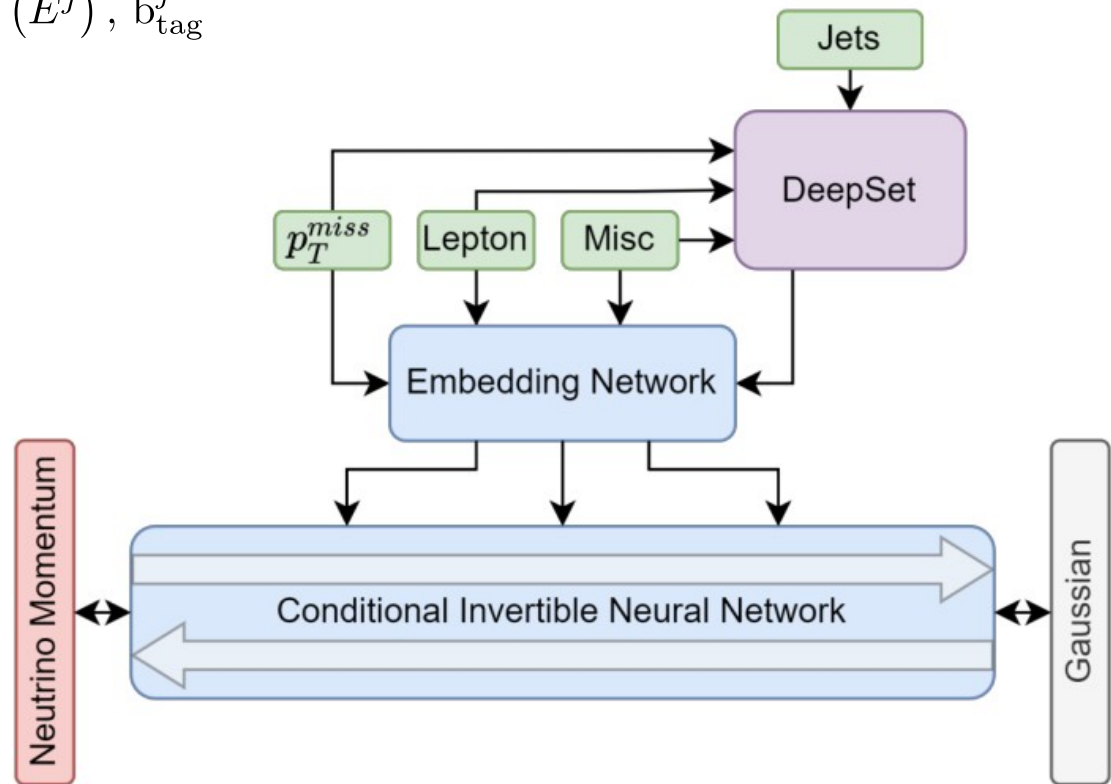
# ciINN approach

- Conditioning observables ( $\mathbf{x}$ ).

$p_T^{\text{miss}}$	: $p_x^{\text{miss}}, p_y^{\text{miss}}$
Lepton ( $\ell$ )	: $p_x^\ell, p_y^\ell, \eta^\ell, \log(E^\ell), \text{ID}$ [2]
Misc	: $N_{\text{Jet}}, N_{\text{b Jet}}, C_1, C_2$ [1]
Up to 10 jets	: $p_x^j, p_y^j, \eta^j, \log(E^j), b_{\text{tag}}^j$

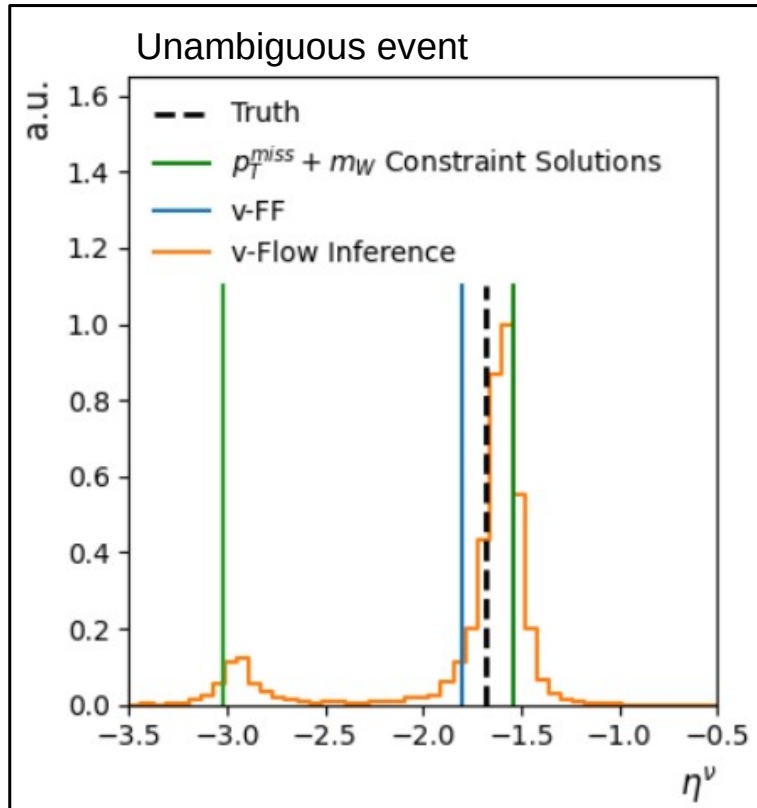
- Targets ( $\mathbf{y}$ ).

$p_x^\nu, p_y^\nu, \eta^\nu$
------------------------------

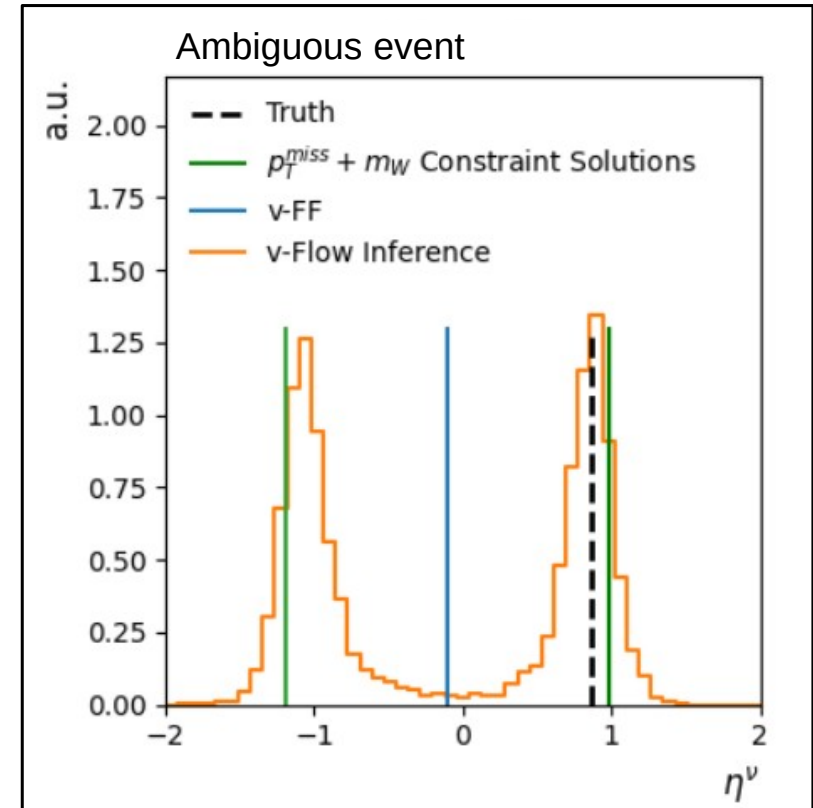


# Comparison of inference methods

- Individual case studies (—  $\nu$ -FF: feed-forward NN, —  $\nu$ -Flow: norm.-flow model):



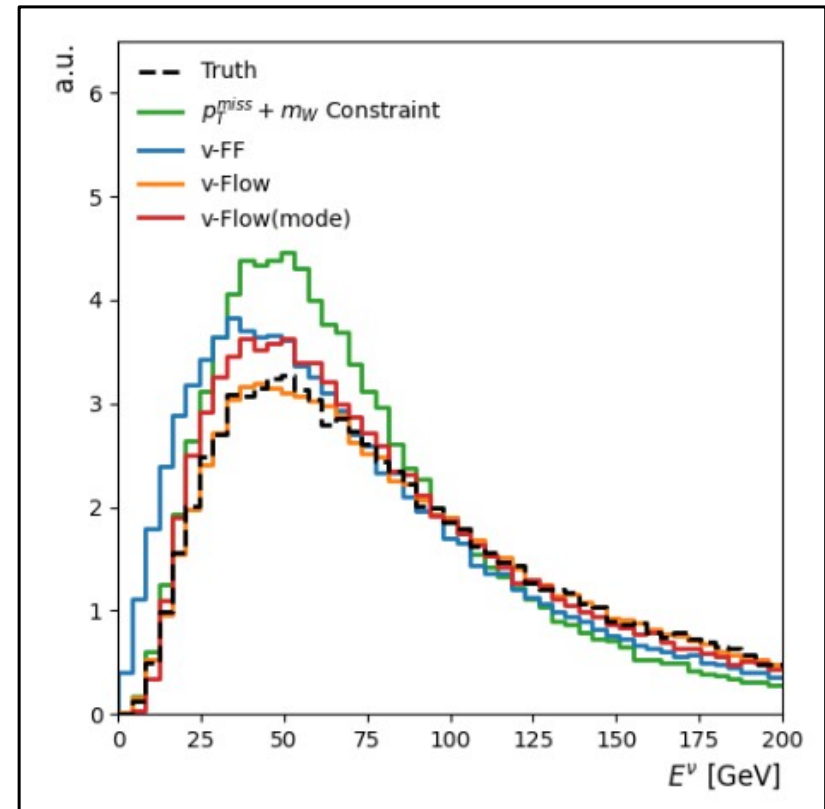
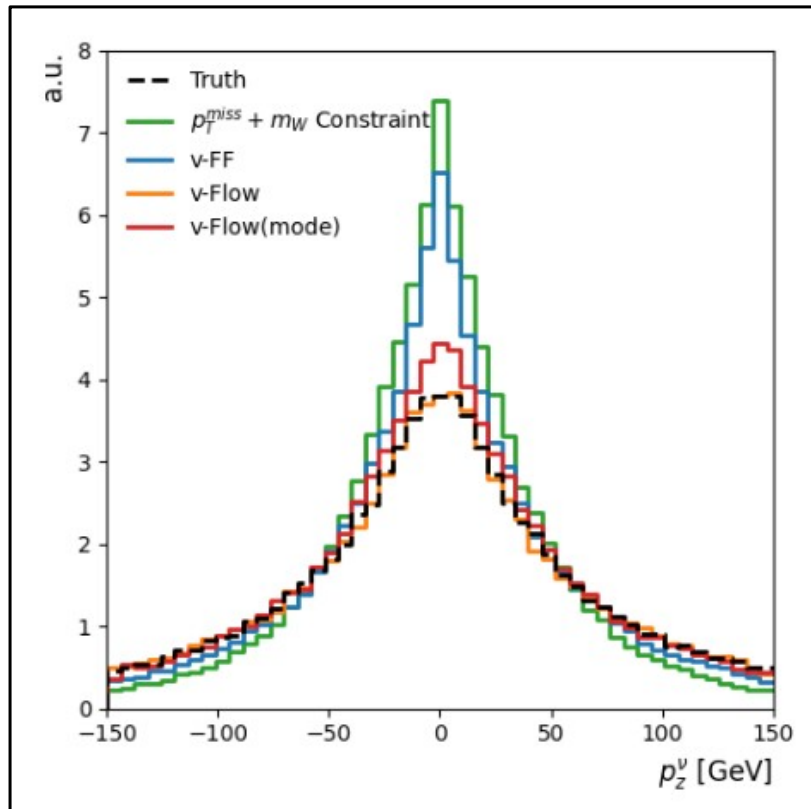
NN-based inference models are able to identify the correct solution (w/ high probability).



Flow-based inference model provides equal spread of probability where feed-forward NN „fails“.

# Comparison of inference methods

- Ensemble study ( —  $\nu$ -FF: feed-forward NN, —  $\nu$ -Flow: norm.-flow model, ignore the red):



- Best reproduction of kinematic  $\nu$ -properties by flow-based model.

# Summary

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- Normalizing-flow models are very interesting and promising for our field.
- They are mathematically clear, with many good properties in turn, and easy to understand.
- Most prominent features:
  - Conservation of probability;
  - Lossless compression;
  - Applicability for unfolding.
- Most obvious and useful applications (presented here with two very good examples from Pierre Auger and LHC), both based on classical Monte Carlo techniques for training and exploiting cINNs:
  - Sampling from untractable likelihoods/posteriors;
  - Regularized unfolding („likelihood-free inference“).

# Literature

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- Literature you can use to get an overview of the matter:
  - J. M. Tomczak *Deep generative modeling* (Springer 2022).
  - I. Kobyev et al, *Normalizing flows: An introduction and review of current methods* ([arxiv:1908.09257](https://arxiv.org/abs/1908.09257)).
  - U. Koethe, *Solving inverse problems with invertible neural networks*, (4th IML Workshop, CERN 2020).
  - Literature referred to on the slides.

# Backup

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# Discrete inputs

- What has been discussed so far, has been with **real-valued inputs** in mind.
- *Discrete* can be transformed into *real-valued inputs* by adding uniform random noise.
- The following example is given for integer-valued inputs:

For  $x_i \in [1, 2, 3, \dots, I]$  and  $u \in [-0.5; 0.5]$  apply:

$$[1, 2, 3, \dots, I] \rightarrow [0.5; I + 0.5] : \quad x_i \rightarrow x'_i = x_i + u$$

