# Lec 20: Triangular Flows

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## density estimation





data = {
$$x_1, x_2, ..., x_n$$
}

estimate  $p(\mathbf{x})$ 

### If we can generate, then we can classify

## Realistic





## **Overview**



always possible via triangular maps

### unifying framework

density estimation via increasing triangular maps



# In a nutshell

Given simulator for sampling from a normal distribution

How to simulate samples from a chi^2 distribution?



# increasing triangular maps

 $\mathbf{T}: \mathbb{R}^d \to \mathbb{R}^d$ 

$$x_{1} = T_{1}(z_{1})$$

$$x_{2} = T_{2}(z_{1}, z_{2})$$

$$x_{3} = T_{3}(z_{1}, z_{2}, z_{3})$$

$$\vdots$$

$$x_{d} = T_{d}(z_{1}, z_{2}, z_{3}, \dots, z_{d})$$

$$\nabla_{\mathbf{z}} \mathbf{T} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial T_{1}}{\partial z_{1}} & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ \frac{\partial T_{2}}{\partial z_{1}} & \frac{\partial T_{2}}{\partial z_{2}} & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \frac{\partial T_{d}}{\partial z_{1}} & \frac{\partial T_{d}}{\partial z_{2}} & \dots & \frac{\partial T_{d}}{\partial z_{d}} \end{bmatrix}$$

triangular :  $T_i$  is a function of  $z_1, z_2, ..., z_j$ 

#### triangular maps

inverse and Jacobian are easy to compute

Theorem (paraphrase) : there always exists a unique\* increasing triangular map that transforms a source density to a target density

Bogachev, V. et. al. Triangular Transformation of Measures, Sbornik: Mathematics, 2005

### examples







Knothe-Rosenblatt transformation

### iterative application of increasing rearrangement



$$T_1(z_1) := G_1^{-1} \circ F_1(z_1)$$
$$T_2(z_2, z_1) := G_{2|1}^{-1} \circ F_{2|1}(z_2)$$

### **More Examples**



# **Maximum Likelihood revisited**



learn T by maximizing likelihood

$$\min_{\mathbf{T}} \sum_{i=1}^{n} \left[ -\log q \left( \mathbf{T}^{-1}(\mathbf{x}_{i}) \right) + \sum_{j} \log \partial_{j} T_{j} \left( \mathbf{T}^{-1}(\mathbf{x}_{i}) \right) \right]$$

Marzouk, Y. et.al. Sampling via Measure Transport: An Introduction, Springer, 2016 [JSY]. Sum-of-squares Polynomial Flow. ICML, 2019 explicitly evaluating  $q_{\theta}(\mathbf{x})$ 

### flow models as triangular maps

study commonalities & differences of flow based methods



### autoregressive models

 $p(x) = p_1(x_1) \cdot p_2(x_2 \,|\, x_1) \cdot \ldots \cdot p_d(x_d \,|\, x_{< d})$ 



choosing a conditional implicitly fixes a family of triangular maps

$$x_j = T_j\left(z_j; \ \theta_j(z_{< j})\right)$$

Larochelle, H and Murray, I. The Neural Autoregressive Distribution Estimator, AISTATS, 2011 Uria, et.al. Neural Autoregressive Distribution Estimation, JMLR, 2016

### **AR** with Gaussian conditionals



Kingma, et.al. Improved Variational Inference with Inverse Autoregressive Flow, NeurIPS, 2016

# masked autoregressive flows (MAFs)

deep autoregressive flows with Gaussian conditionals\*

$$(T_{\#}q)(x) = q(z) \cdot \left| \nabla \mathbf{T}^{(1)} \right|^{-1} \left| \nabla \mathbf{T}^{(2)} \right|^{-1} \left| \nabla \mathbf{T}^{(3)} \right|^{-1} \left| \nabla \mathbf{T}^{(4)} \right|^{-1}$$
$$x_j = z_j \cdot \exp\left(\alpha_j(z_{< j})\right) + \mu_j(z_{< j}) =: T_j(z_j ; z_{< j})$$

### triangular maps are fundamental blocks for complex models

### real-NVP



$$T_{j}(z_{j} ; z_{$$

## neural autoregressive flows (NAFs)



# Strictly positive weights & strictly monotonic activation function ensure that the map is increasing Universal

# sum-of-squares polynomial flows



[JSY]. Sum-of-squares Polynomial Flow. ICML, 2019

## Summarize

Model	conditioner $C_j$ output	$T_j(z_j; C_j(z_1, \ldots, z_{j-1}))$	4	A	盦	Δ
Mixture (e.g. McLachlan & Peel, 2004)	$\theta_{j}$	$S_j(z_j; \boldsymbol{\theta}_j)$	X	X	1	I
(Bengio & Bengio, 1999)	$\boldsymbol{\theta}_{j}(z_{< j})$	$S_j(z_j; \boldsymbol{\theta}_j)$	×	X	?	Ι
MADE (Germain et al., 2015)	$\boldsymbol{\theta}_{j}(z_{< j})$	$S_j(z_j; \boldsymbol{\theta}_j)$	~	1	?	I
NICE (Dinh et al., 2015)	$\mu_j(z_{< l})$	$z_j + \mu_j \cdot 1_{j \notin [l]}$	×	X	?	Е
NADE (Uria et al., 2016)	$\boldsymbol{\theta}_{j}(z_{< j})$	$S_j(z_j; \boldsymbol{\theta}_j)$	~	X	?	Ι
IAF (Kingma et al., 2016)	$\sigma_j(z_{< j}), \ \mu_j(z_{< j})$	$\sigma_j z_j + (1 - \sigma_j) \mu_j$	1	1	?	E
MAF (Papamakarios et al., 2017)	$\alpha_j(z_{< j}), \ \mu_j(z_{< j})$	$z_j \exp(\alpha_j) + \mu_j$	1	1	?	E
Real-NVP (Dinh et al., 2017)	$\alpha_j(z_{< l}), \mu_j(z_{< l})$	$\exp(\alpha_j \cdot 1_{j \notin [l]}) \cdot z_j + \mu_j \cdot 1_{j \notin [l]}$	x	X	?	E
NAF (Huang et al., 2018)	$\mathbf{w}_j(z_{\leq j})$	$\text{DNN}(z_j ; \mathbf{w}_j)$	~	1	~	E
SOS	$\mathbf{a}_j(z_{< j})$	$\mathfrak{P}_{2r+1}(z_j;\mathbf{a}_j)$	1	1	1	E

## Toy examples



Germain, et.al. MADE: Masked Autoencoder for Density Estimation, ICML, 2015 Papamakarios, et.al. Masked Autoregressive Flow for Density Estimation, NeurIPS, 2017 Oliva, et.al. Transformation Autoregressive Networks, ICML, 2018 Huang, et.al. Neural Autoregressive Flows, ICML, 2018

## Effect of ordering



Figure 4. Top: Left plot shows the target density given by  $p(x_1, x_2) = \mathcal{N}(x_2; 0, 4)\mathcal{N}(x_1; 0.25x_2^2, 1)$ . The second plot shows the density learnt by SOS flows with 3 blocks and a sum of 2 polynomials with degree 3 with ordering  $(x_1, x_2)$ . Third plot shows the density learnt by SOS flows with 1 block and a sum of 2 polynomials with degree 4 and ordering  $(x_1, x_2)$ . The last three plots estimate this density using a Mixture of Gaussian conditionals with varying components given in parenthesis and ordering  $(x_1, x_2)$ . Bottom: Same as Top but with target density given by  $p(x_1, x_2) = \mathcal{N}(x_2; 2, 2)\mathcal{N}(x_1; 0.33x_1^3, 1.5)$ .

# Application to novelty detection

### Multivariate triangular quantile maps





# during training only nominal data is available.



# Two Approaches, One Idea

Novelty  $\approx$  Low density region





Ben-David and Lindenbaum. Learning Distributions by Their Density Levels: A Paradigm for Learning without a Teacher. JCSS 1997. Steinwart, Hush and Scovel. A classification framework for anomaly detection. JMLR, 2005.

Schölkopf, Platt, Shawe-Taylor, Smola and Williamson. Estimating the Support of a High-Dimensional Distribution. Neural Computation, 2001. Takeda and Sugiyama. v-Support Vector Machine as Conditional Value-at-Risk Minimization. ICML, 2008.

# **Triangular Quantile Map**

Let  $U \sim \text{Uniform}[0,1]^d$  and  $X \in \mathbb{R}^d$  any random vector. We call the increasing triangular map  $Q = Q_X : [0,1]^d \to \mathbb{R}^d$  the triangular quantile map of X if  $Q(U) \sim X$ .

#### **Composable!**

Let Y = T(X) for some increasing triangular map T. Then,  $Q_Y = T \circ Q_X$ .

d=1: usual definition of quantile (inverse of cdf), advocated in (Parzen 1979)

- Precursors in Rosenblatt, Knothe, Ruschendorf, Decurninge …
- Other multivariate quantiles exist (e.g. Chernozhukov et al)

# **One Stone, Two Birds**

Novelty  $\approx$  Low density region



[WSY]. Multivariate Triangular Quantiles for Novelty Detection. NeurIPS, 2019

## Implementation

$$\min_{\mathbf{f},\mathbf{Q}} \gamma \mathsf{KL}(\mathbf{f}_{\#}p \| \mathbf{Q}_{\#}q) + \lambda \ell(\mathbf{f}) + \zeta g(\mathbf{Q})$$

Parameterize Q using SOS flow

Solve by multiple gradient descent (no parameter tuning)

Dimensionality reduction  $\mathbf{Z} = \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{X})$ 

- **Density:**  $\log |\mathbf{Q}'(\mathbf{Q}^{-1}(\mathbf{Z}))| + ||\mathbf{Q}^{-1}(\mathbf{Z})||^2/2 > \alpha$
- Quantile:  $\|\mathbf{Q}^{-1}(\mathbf{Z})\| \frac{1}{2} \|_{\infty} > \alpha$  $\square$  can be tuned

### Donut



























![](_page_31_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_32_Figure_0.jpeg)

nominal

![](_page_32_Figure_2.jpeg)

# Summary

![](_page_33_Figure_1.jpeg)

[JKYB]. Tails of Lipschitz Triangular Flows. ICML, 2020

Spantini, Bigoni and Marzouk. Inference via low-dimensional couplings. JMLR, 2018

## Variational Auto-Encoder

Given data  $\mathbf{x}_1, \ldots, \mathbf{x}_n$ , estimate p(x)

$$\min_{\theta} \min_{\phi} \operatorname{KL}\left[p(x)p_{\theta}(z \mid x) \| q(z)q_{\phi}(x \mid z)\right]$$

![](_page_34_Figure_3.jpeg)

Kingma, D and Welling, M. Auto-Encoding Variational Bayes, ICLR, 2014

Rezende, D. et.al. Stochastic backpropagation and approximate inference in deep generative models, ICML, 2014

### **VAE** examples

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(a) Learned Frey Face manifold

(b) Learned MNIST manifold

![](_page_35_Picture_5.jpeg)

Kingma, D and Welling, M. Auto-Encoding Variational Bayes, ICLR, 2014

Rezende, D. et.al. Stochastic backpropagation and approximate inference in deep generative models, ICML, 2014