

# Introduction To Hamiltonian Monte Carlo

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# Program

1. Introduction
2. Preliminary
3. Hamiltonian Monte Carlo
4. Demonstration
5. Discussion

# 1. Introduction

Introduction to today's presentation and Hamiltonian Monte Carlo

# Introduction

*Almost all parts of this presentation is from*

*“A Conceptual Introduction to Hamiltonian Monte Carlo”, Michael Betancourt .*

This is **intuitive introduction** of Hamiltonian Monte Carlo.

# Motivation

*Computing expectations with respect to the posterior distribution in Bayesian inference*

$$\mathbb{E}_{\pi}[f] = \int_Q f(q)\pi(q) dq$$

## 2. Preliminary

Preparing to constructing Hamiltonian Monte Carlo

# Notation

- ✓ Sample space  $Q = \mathbb{R}^d$ .
- ✓ Denote  $M > 0$ , if  $M$  is symmetric positive definite matrix.
- ✓  $N(0, \Sigma)$ ; for mean zero covariance  $\Sigma$  Gaussian distribution.
- ✓  $q \sim \pi$ ;  $q$  is distributed by  $\pi$ .
- ✓ Use " $\equiv$ " for definition

# Monte Carlo Method

*Approximate distribution  $\pi(q)$  with **large samples***

$$\mathbb{E}_{\pi}[f] \approx \frac{1}{N} \sum_{n=1}^N f(q_n)$$



# Sampling Problem

*Define sample problem we are interested in*

*How do we make **efficient sampling** from given target distribution  $\pi(q)$  ?*

# Markov Chain Monte Carlo: MCMC

*Construct Markov chain that converges to target distribution by **Random proposal and Acceptance***

Desired transition kernel  $\mathbb{T}(q'|q)$  to satisfy **reversibility**

$$\pi(q)\mathbb{T}(q'|q) = \pi(q')\mathbb{T}(q|q')$$

# Random Walk Metropolis: RWM

*One simple implementation of  
Metropolis-Hasting algorithm*

- ✓ Require: target  $\pi(q)$
- ✓ proposal covariance  $\Sigma > 0$

1. Random proposal  
given  $q_n$ , draw  $q_{\text{prop}} \sim N(q_n, \Sigma)$
2. Accept  
accept  $q_{n+1} = q_{\text{prop}}$  with probability  
 $\min\left\{1, \frac{\pi(q_{\text{prop}})}{\pi(q_n)}\right\}$

# Issue of MCMC

*Poor performance with **high dimension** and **complex target distributions***

# Hamilton Dynamics

*Hamilton equation on phase space*

- ✓ **preserve volume** in phase space (Liouville's Theorem)
- ✓ **preserve total energy** in phase space, which is Hamiltonian
- ✓ **time reversal symmetry**

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \frac{dq}{dt} = \frac{dH}{dp} \\ \frac{dp}{dt} = -\frac{dH}{dq} \end{array} \right.$$

# 3. Hamiltonian Monte Carlo

Constructing Hamiltonian Monte Carlo

# Hamiltonian Monte Carlo: HMC

*Q. How do we make efficient sampling from given target distribution  $\pi_U(\mathbf{q})$  ?*

A. One approach is using **geometric information** of target and constructing **conservative transition kernel** by Hamilton flow.

# Information of Gradient

*Using geometric information of target density*

1. Consider  $\pi_U(q) = e^{-U(q)}$ , where  $U(q) \equiv -\log(\pi_U(q))$
2. But gradient  $\frac{dU}{dq}$  pulls us the mode of density!
3.  $\rightarrow$  Need to introduce momentum  $p$



# Expand Sample Space

*Expand sample space to phase space,*

*We can always gain sample  $q$  by projection (marginalization).*

1. Expand to phase space  $q \rightarrow (q, p)$  with  $p$
2. Choose conditional distribution  $\pi_K(p|q)$
3. Lift  $\pi_U(q)$  to  $\pi_H(q, p) \equiv \pi_K(p|q)\pi_U(q)$

# Choice of Kinetic Energy

*To define conditional distribution of momentum  $\pi_K(p|q)$ , a user choose kinetic energy.*

*In simple case, let  $K(q, p) = \frac{1}{2}p^T M^{-1}p$ .*

1. Choose Kinetic Energy  $K(q, p)$
2. Conditional distribution of momentum determined by

$$\pi_K(p|q) \equiv e^{-K(q,p)}$$

# Hamiltonian

*Hamiltonian  $H$  and canonical distribution  $\pi_H$  are defined as below.*

1.  $H(q, p) \equiv K(q, p) + U(q)$

2.  $\pi_H(q, p) \equiv \pi_K(p|q)\pi_U(q) = e^{-H(q,p)}$

# Symplectic integrator

*Scheme exactly preserving volume*

- ✓ Assume:  $K(q, p) \equiv \frac{1}{2} p^T M^{-1} p$   
with Mass matrix  $M > 0$ ,
- ✓  $U(q)$  is differentiable.
- ✓ Require: step size  $\varepsilon > 0$

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} p_{n+\frac{1}{2}} = p_n - \frac{\varepsilon}{2} \frac{dU}{dq}(q_n) \\ q_{n+1} = q_n + \varepsilon M^{-1} p_{n+\frac{1}{2}} \\ p_{n+1} = p_{n+\frac{1}{2}} - \frac{\varepsilon}{2} \frac{dU}{dq}(q_{n+1}) \end{array} \right.$$

$$\varphi_\varepsilon(q_n, p_n) \equiv q_{n+1}, p_{n+1}$$

# Numerical Hamilton Flow

*Define numerical Hamilton flow by symplectic integrator on previous page and define  $L$  times composition*

1.  $\varphi_\varepsilon(q_n, p_n) \equiv q_{n+1}, p_{n+1}$
2.  $\varphi_\varepsilon^L \equiv \varphi_\varepsilon \circ \cdots \circ \varphi_\varepsilon$  for integer  $L$ .

# HMC Algorithm

Hybrid of *deterministic* and *stochastic* transitions

✓  $H(q, p) \equiv \frac{1}{2} p^T M^{-1} p + U(q)$

✓ Require:  $M > 0, L \in \mathbb{N}, \varepsilon > 0$

1. Energy Lift

given  $q_n$ , draw  $p_n \sim N(0, M)$

2. Hamilton flow

$q_{prop}, p_{prop} = \varphi_{\varepsilon}^L(q_n, p_n)$

3. Accept

accept  $q_{n+1} = q_{prop}$  with probability

$\min\{1, \exp(H(q_n, p_n) - H(q_{prop}, -p_{prop}))\}$

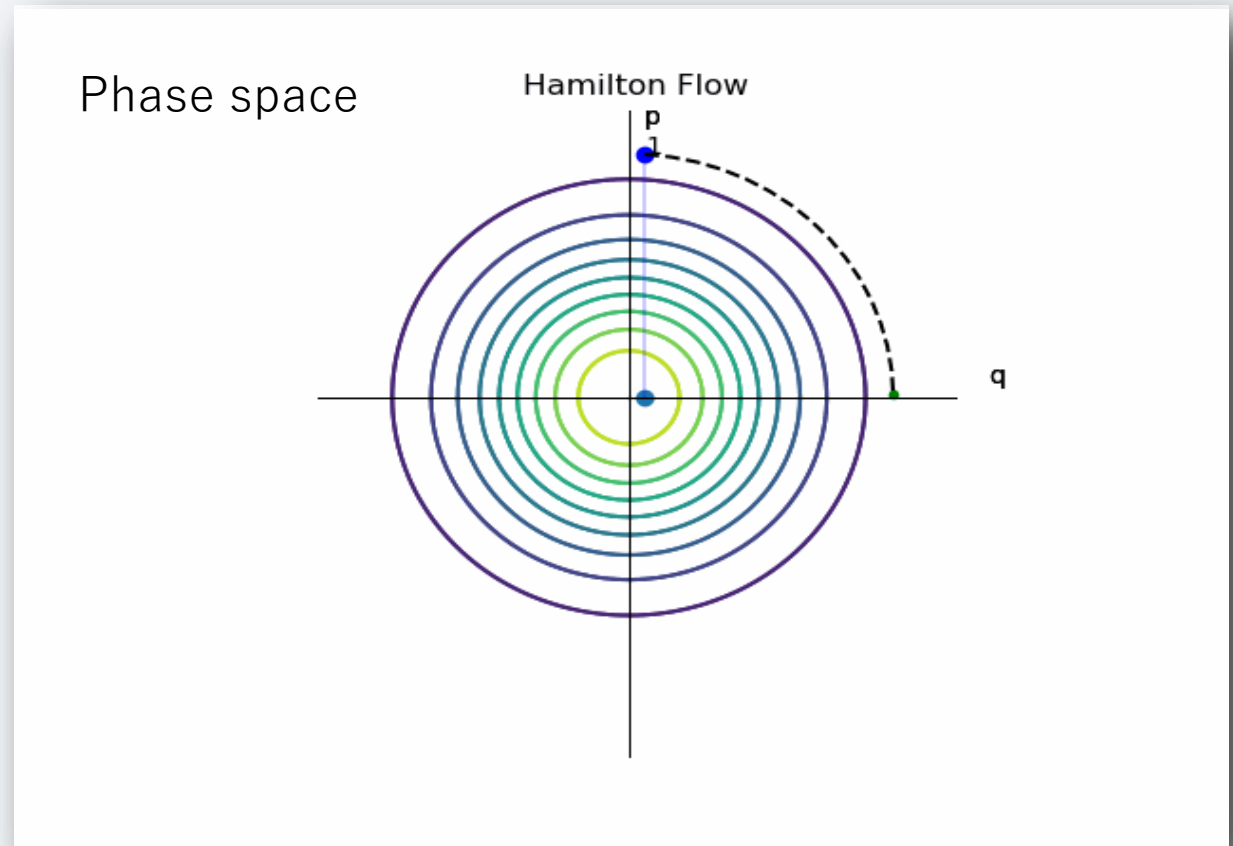
# Conceptual Animation of HMC Algorithm

1. *Energy Lift*
2. *Hamilton flow*
3. *(Accept)*

✓ Sample space  $Q = \mathbb{R}^1$

✓ target  $\pi_U(q) = e^{-\frac{1}{2}q^2}$ ,  $\pi_K(p|q) = e^{-\frac{1}{2}p^2}$

$$\Rightarrow H(q, p) = \frac{1}{2}q^2 + \frac{1}{2}p^2$$



# Advantage of Hamiltonian Monte Carlo

- ✓ **Rich Theoretical Support**

effective for wider class of target than non-gradient method

- ✓ **Computational Efficiency**

Fast exploration and large acceptance probability



# 4. Demonstration

Demonstration of efficient Hamiltonian Monte Carlo compared with Random Walk Metropolis

# Strongly Nonlinear Banana Gaussian

*Test Target distribution is  
Strongly banana gaussian*

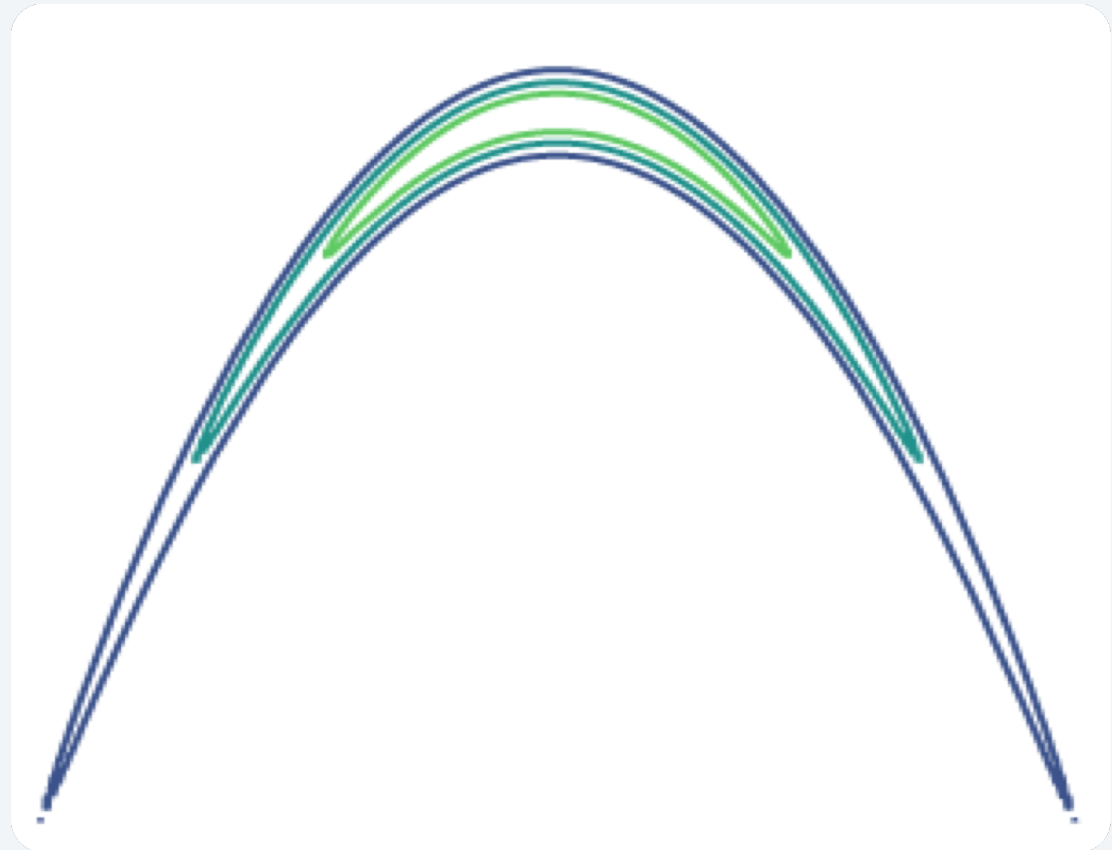
✓ Sample space  $Q = \mathbb{R}^2$

✓ target  $\pi_U(q_1, q_2) = g \circ \psi_{b=0.1}(q_1, q_2)$

where

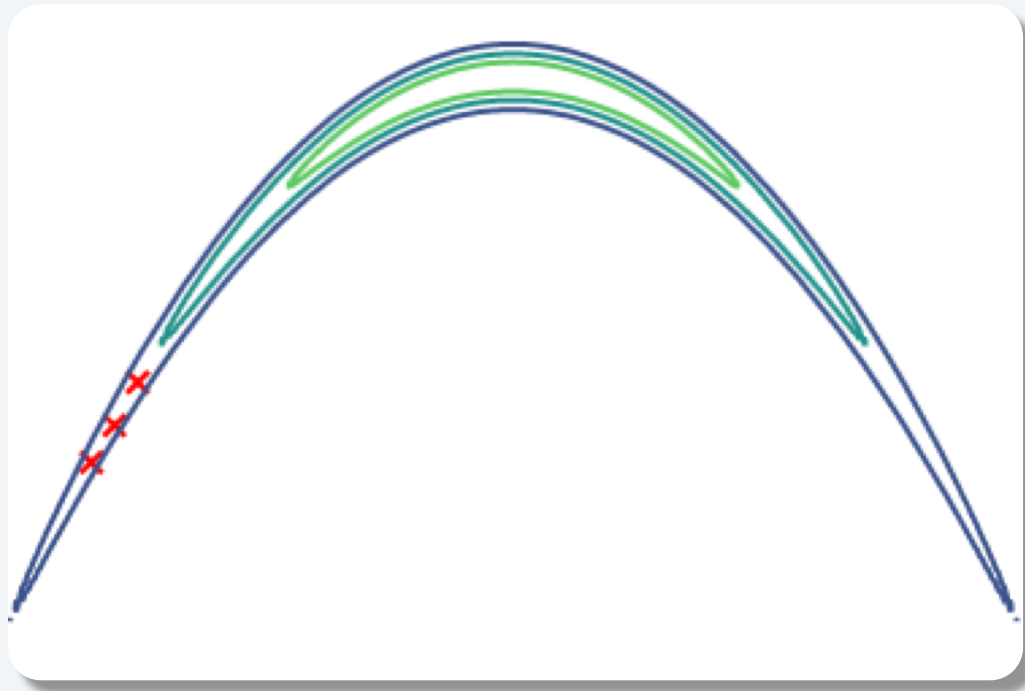
✓  $g(q_1, q_2) = e^{-\frac{1}{200}q_1^2 - \frac{1}{2}q_2^2}$

✓  $\psi_b: (q_1, q_2) \mapsto (q_1, q_2 + \mathbf{b}q_1^2 - 100b)$

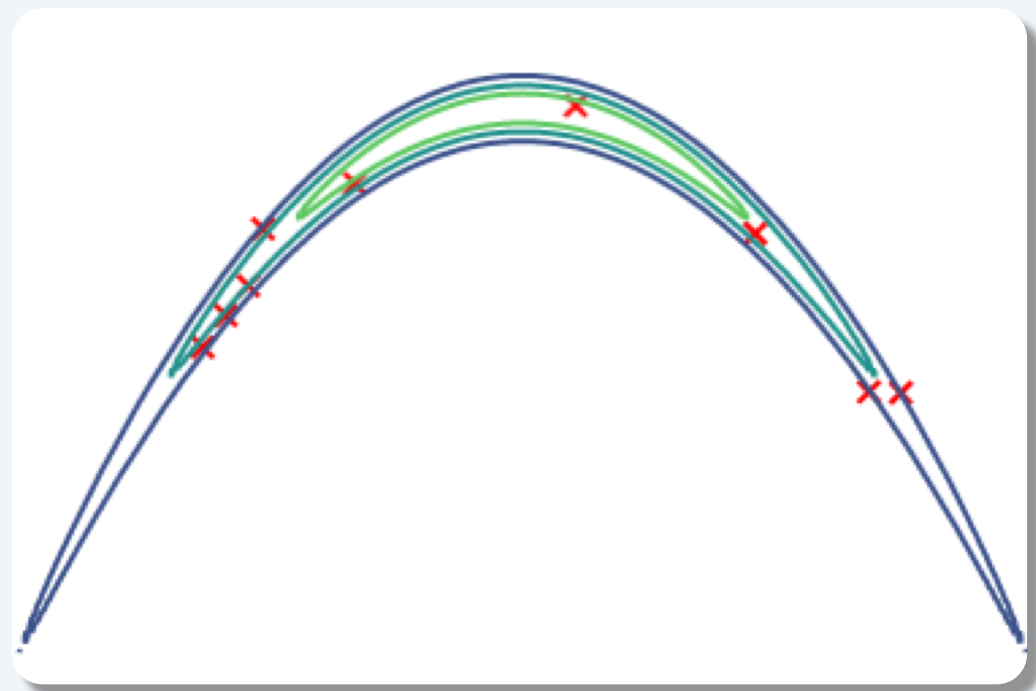


# RWM vs HMC after 10 iterations

RWM:  $\Sigma = 2I$

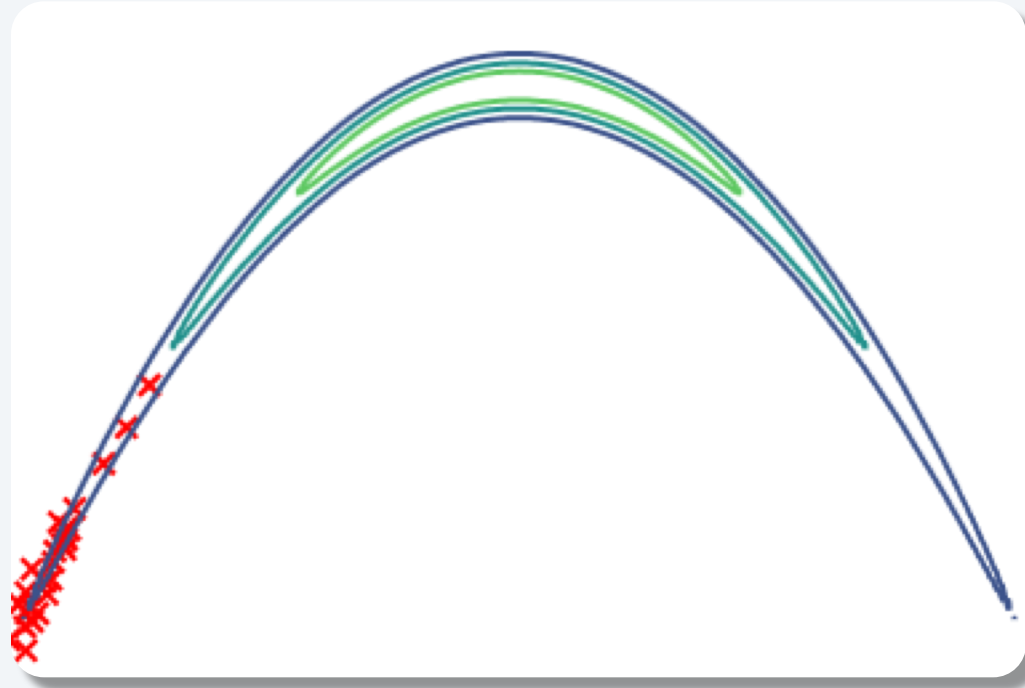


HMC:  $\varepsilon = 0.5, L = 10, M = I$

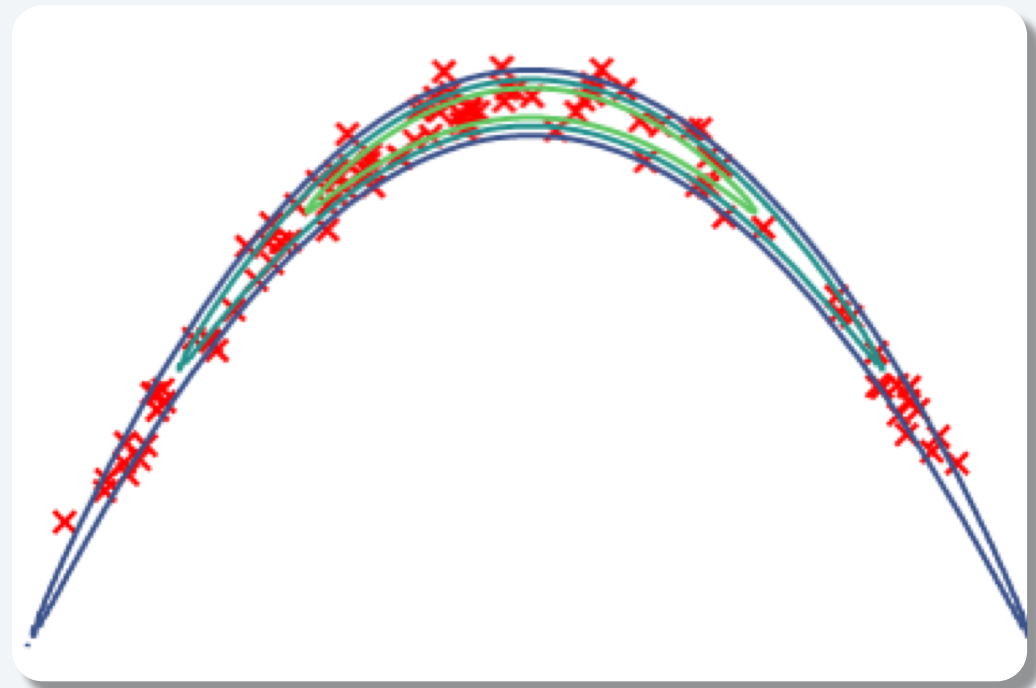


# RWM vs HMC after 100 iterations

RWM:  $\Sigma = 2I$

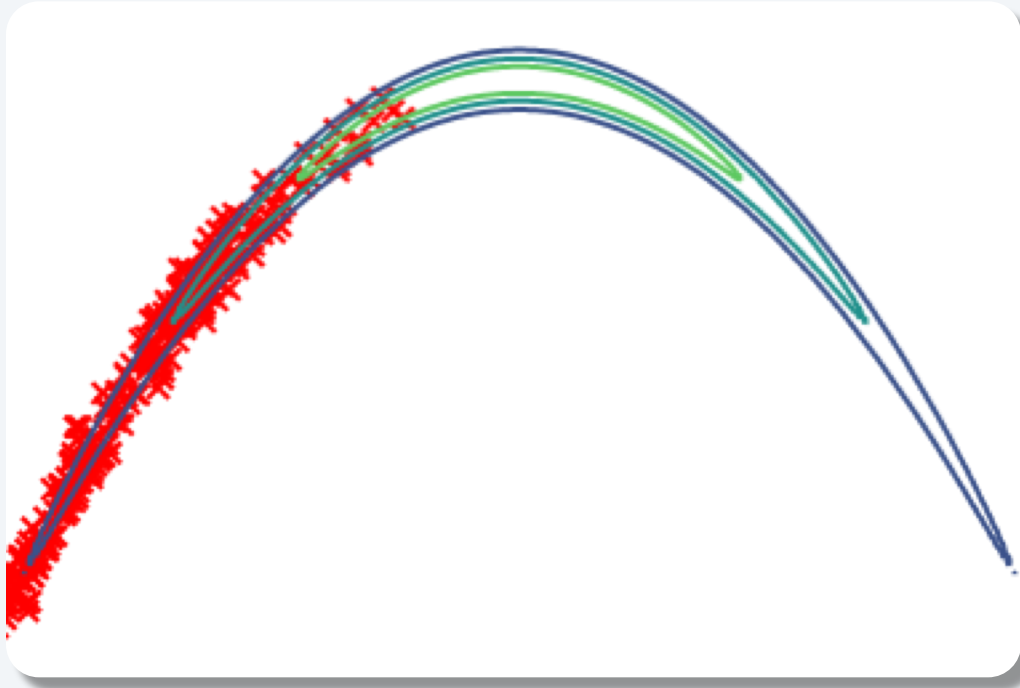


HMC:  $\varepsilon = 0.5, L = 10, M = I$

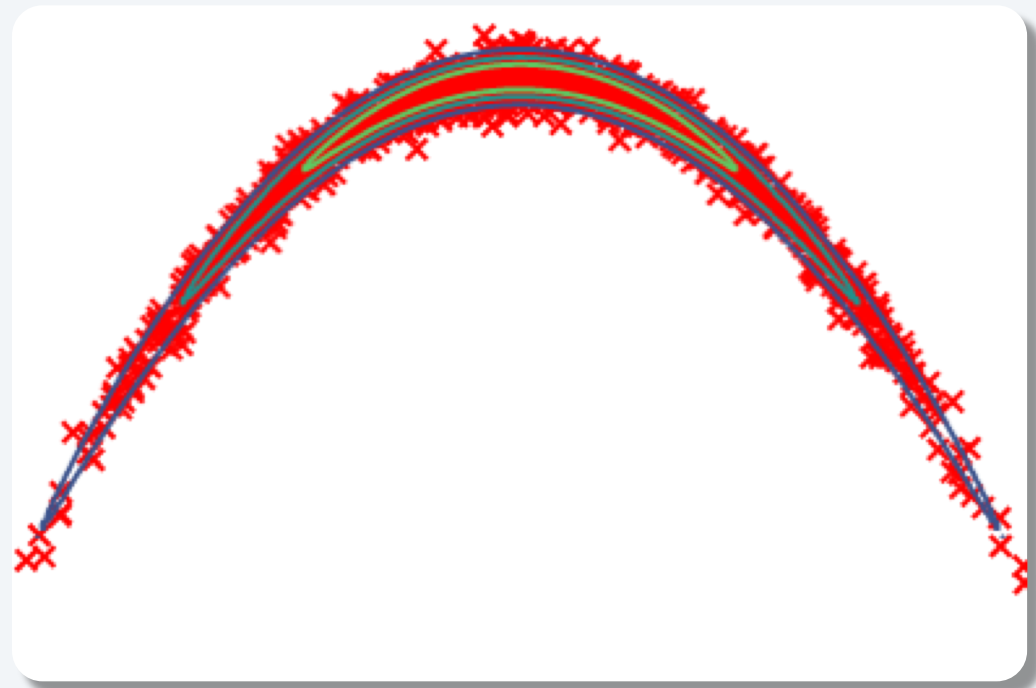


# RWM vs HMC after 1000 iterations

RWM:  $\Sigma = 2I$



HMC:  $\varepsilon = 0.5, L = 10, M = I$



# Stats\*

RWM:  $\Sigma = 2I$

Try Sample	Time*(ms)	Acceptance Probability
10	3.02	0.300
100	25.8	0.260
1000	179	0.288

HMC:  $\varepsilon = 0.5, L = 10, M = I$

Try Sample	Time*(ms)	Acceptance Probability
10	7.43	0.900
100	34.3	0.970
1000	474	0.940

\*Not guaranteed value, **just a reference**.

\*Time is measured by jupyter magic command `%%time`.

# 5. Discussion

Discussion about future work or application of Hamiltonian Monte Carlo

## Future work

- ✓ Studying mathematical guarantee and guideline
- ✓ Adaptive tuning of parameters
- ✓ Selecting Integrators
- ✓ Generalizing to infinite-dimensional sample space
- ✓ Introducing inverse temperature



# Discussion

- ✓ Particle Filter
- ✓ Variational method
- ✓ Inverse problem
- ✓ “Estimation of Hydraulic Conductivity from Steady State Seepage Flow Using Hamiltonian Monte Carlo” -  
01/02/2021

# For Your Information...

*This is pinned tweet of Michael Betancourt.*

*“Remember that using Bayes’ Theorem doesn’t make you a Bayesian. Quantifying uncertainty with probability makes you a Bayesian.” - Michael Betancourt*

<https://twitter.com/betanalphabet/status/817012860643635204>

# References

- ✓ “A Conceptual Introduction to Hamiltonian Monte Carlo”
- ✓ “The Geometric Foundations of Hamiltonian Monte Carlo”
- ✓ “The Adaptive proposal distribution for Random Walk Metropolis Algorithm” – *only for banana Gaussian*
- ✓ “Estimation of Hydraulic Conductivity from Steady State Seepage Flow Using Hamiltonian Monte Carlo” - <http://soil.en.a.u-tokyo.ac.jp/jsidre/search/PDFs/20/%5B1-52%5D.pdf>

# Documents

- ✓ Detail documents on my site

<https://kotatakeda.github.io/math/2021/01/03/hamiltonian-monte-carlo.html>