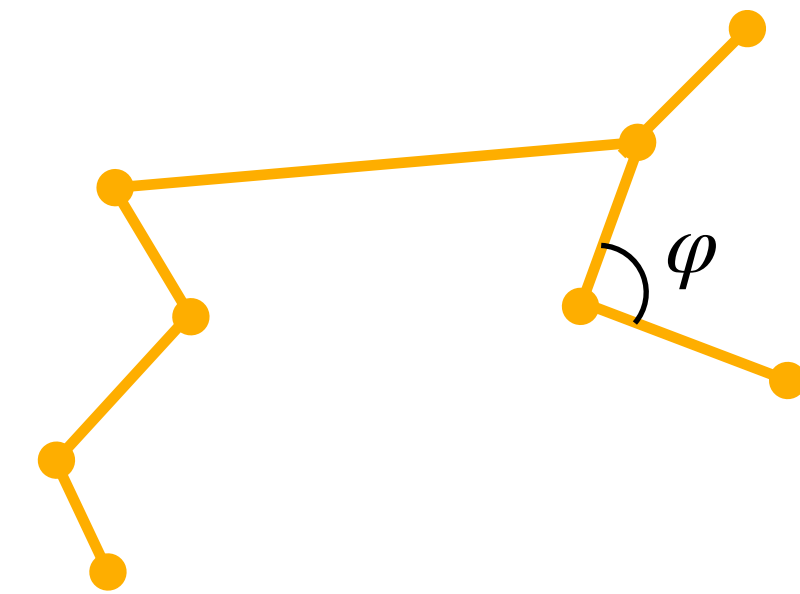


# Matching Normalizing Flows and Probability Paths on Manifolds

Heli Ben-Hamu\*, Samuel Cohen\*, Joey Bose, Brandon Amos, Aditya Grover,  
Maximilian Nickel, Ricky T. Q. Chen, Yaron Lipman

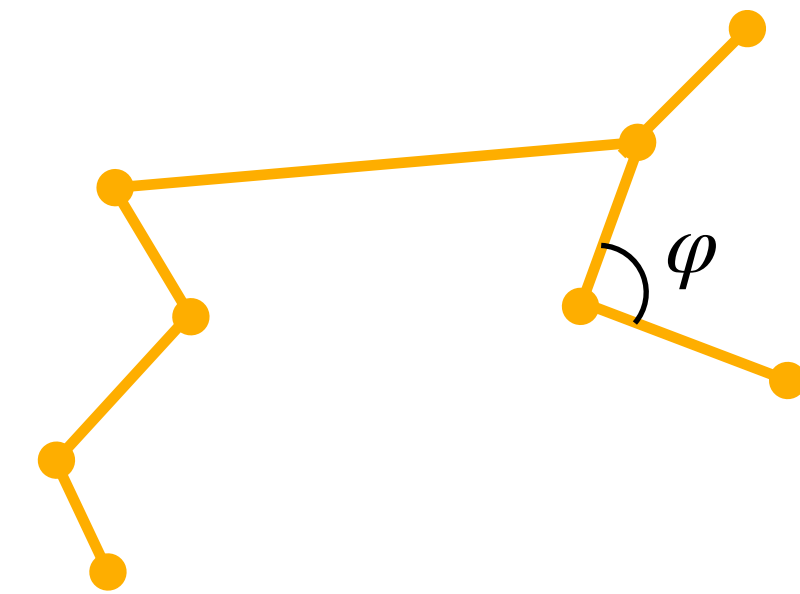
# Generative Modeling on Manifolds



# Generative Modeling on Manifolds

## Motivation

Scientific data from various fields lie on manifolds

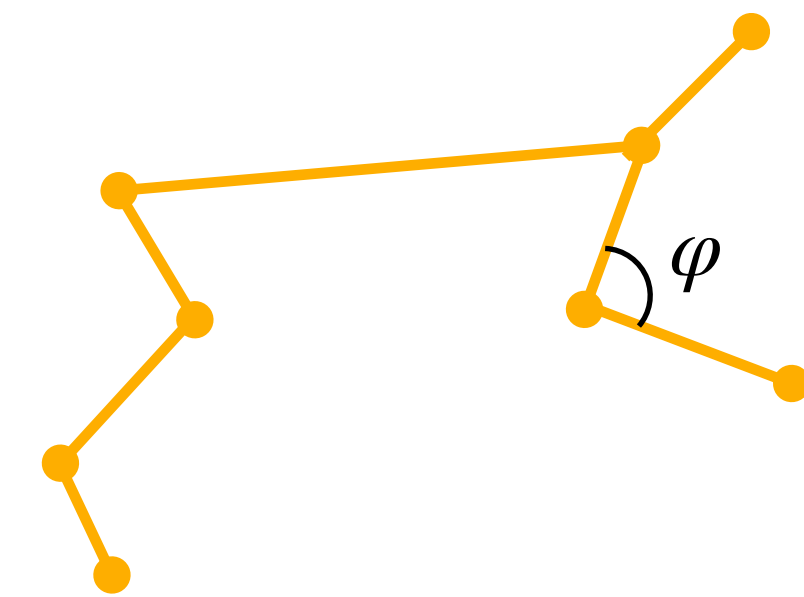


Fire locations on earth [Mathieu et al. '20]

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Scientific data from various fields lie on manifolds



## Continuous Normalizing Flows (CNFs) on manifolds

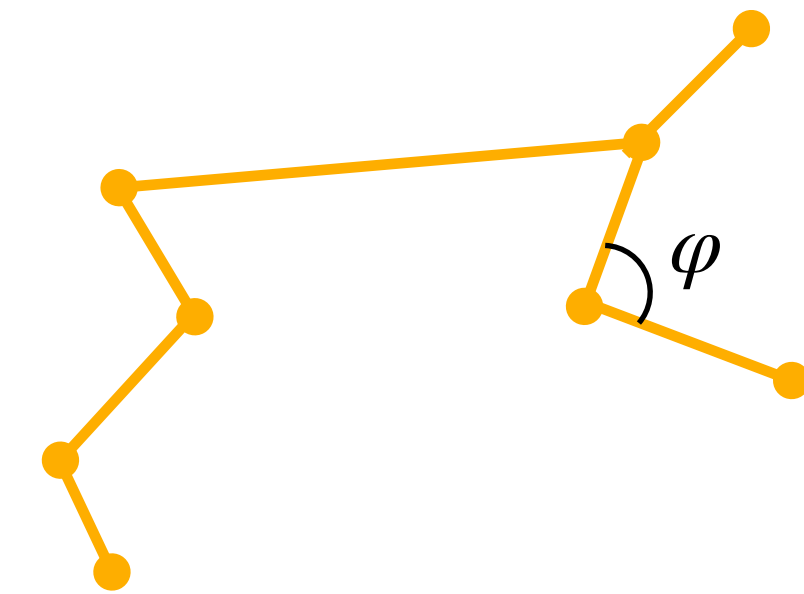


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# Generative Modeling on Manifolds

## Motivation

Scientific data from various fields lie on manifolds



## Continuous Normalizing Flows (CNFs) on manifolds

- High computational cost [Mathieu et al. '20]

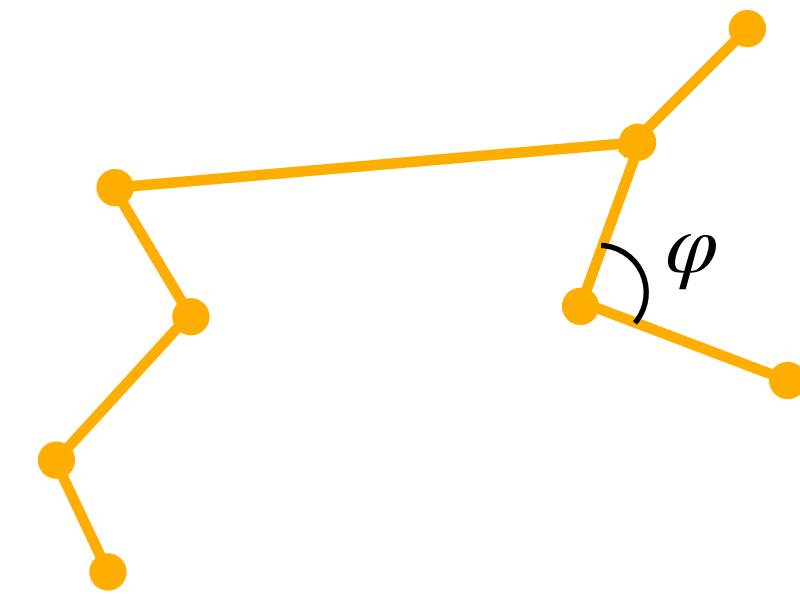


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# Generative Modeling on Manifolds

## Motivation

Scientific data from various fields lie on manifolds



## Continuous Normalizing Flows (CNFs) on manifolds

- High computational cost [Mathieu et al. '20]
- Do not scale to high dimensions [Rozen et al. '21]



Fire locations on earth [Mathieu et al. '20]

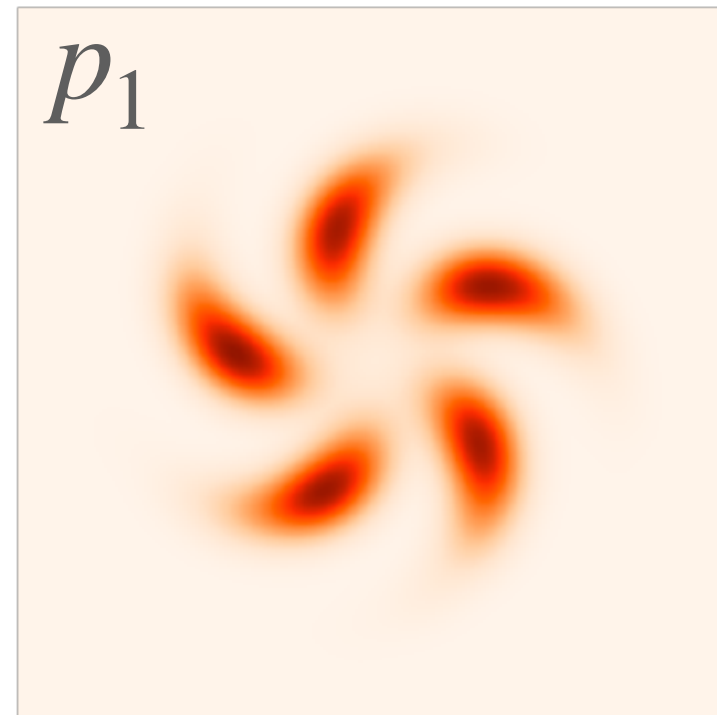
## **Our Work:**

A novel CNF training framework based on  
**Probability Path Matching**

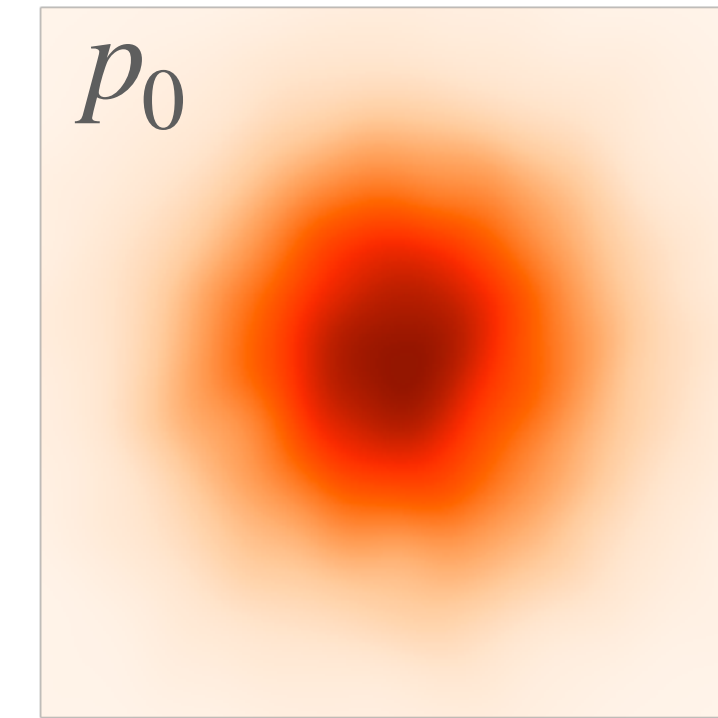
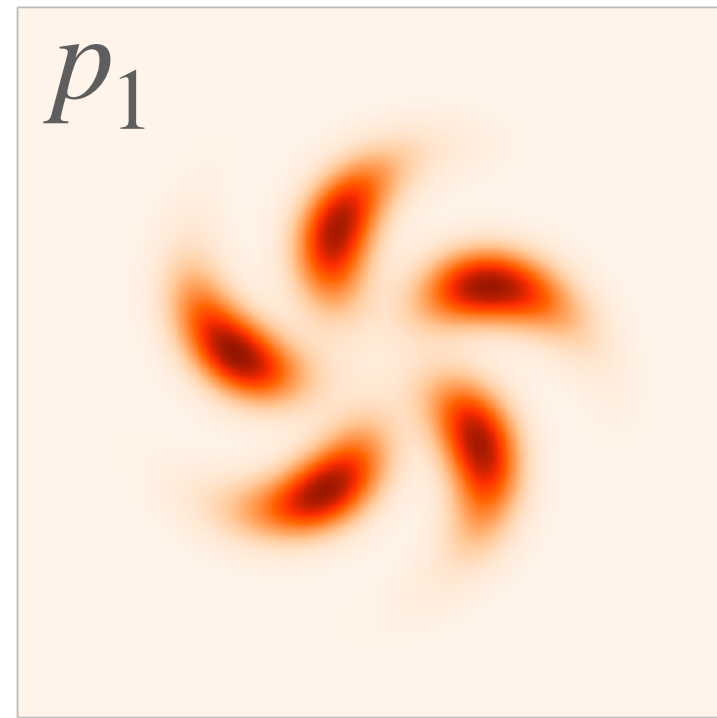
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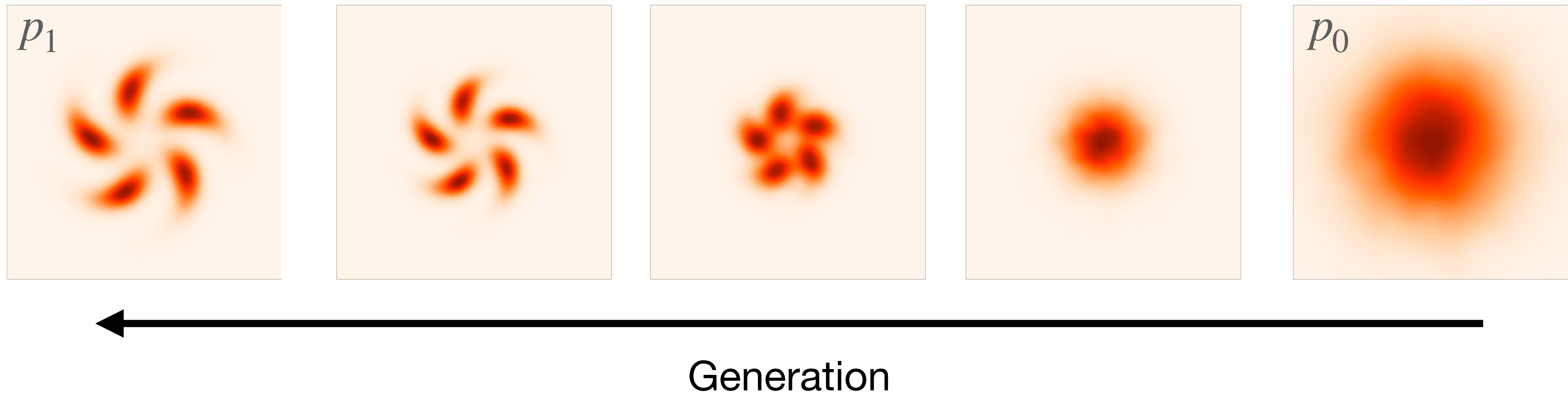
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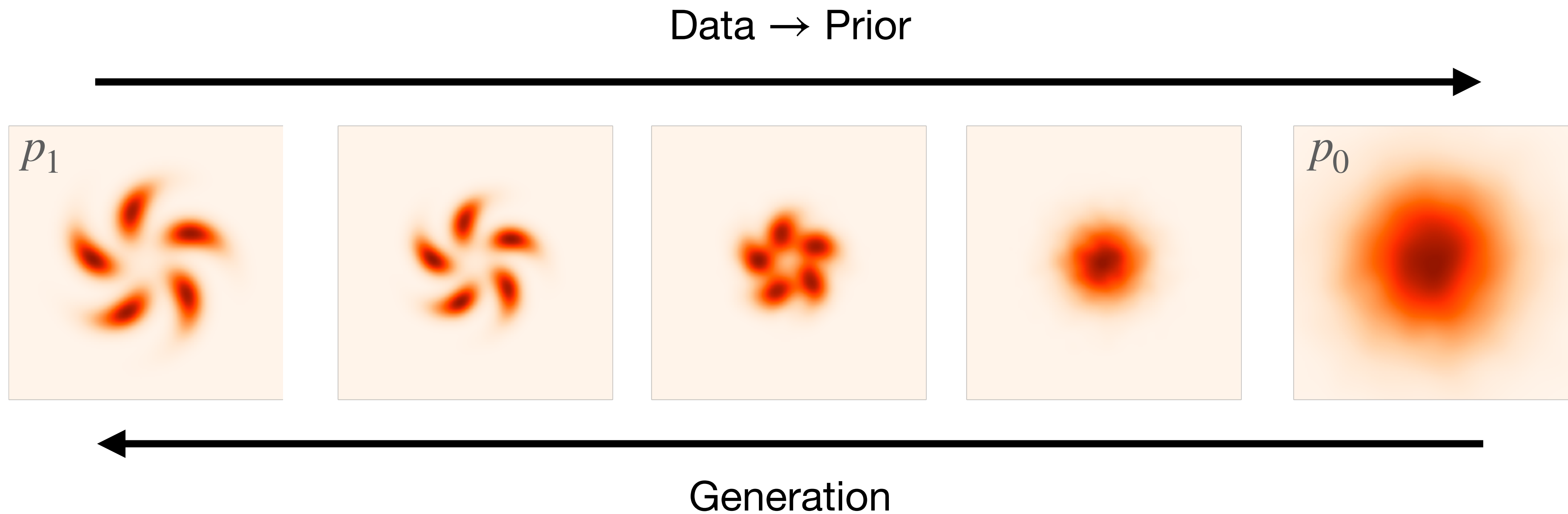
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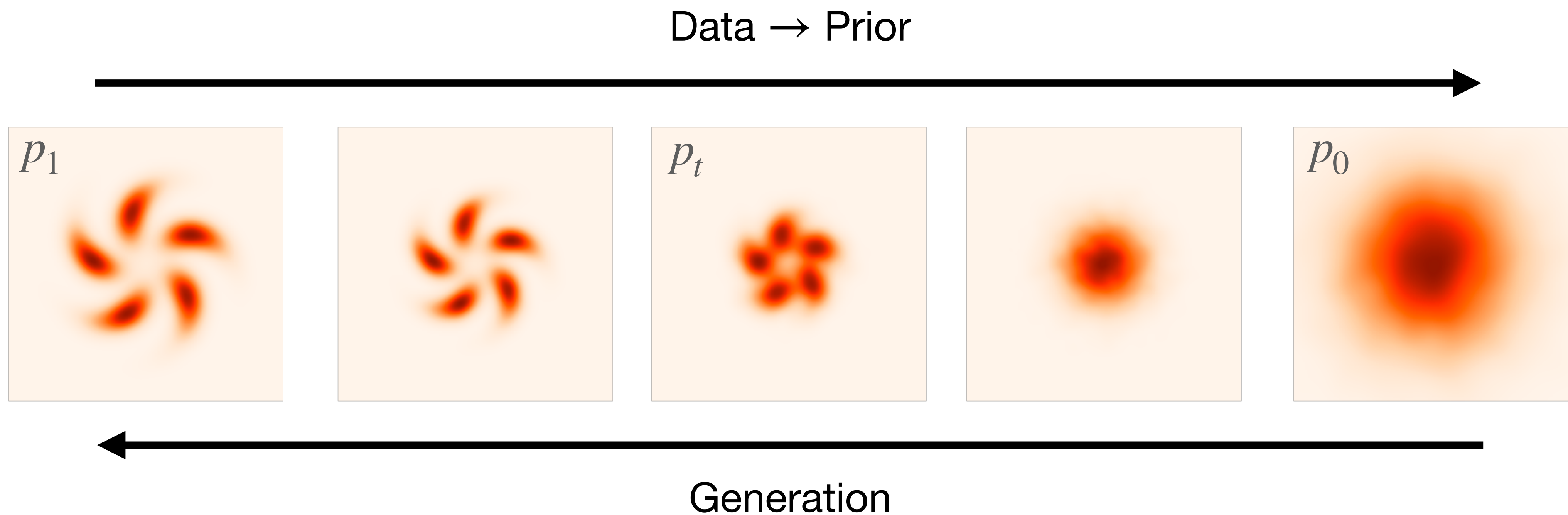
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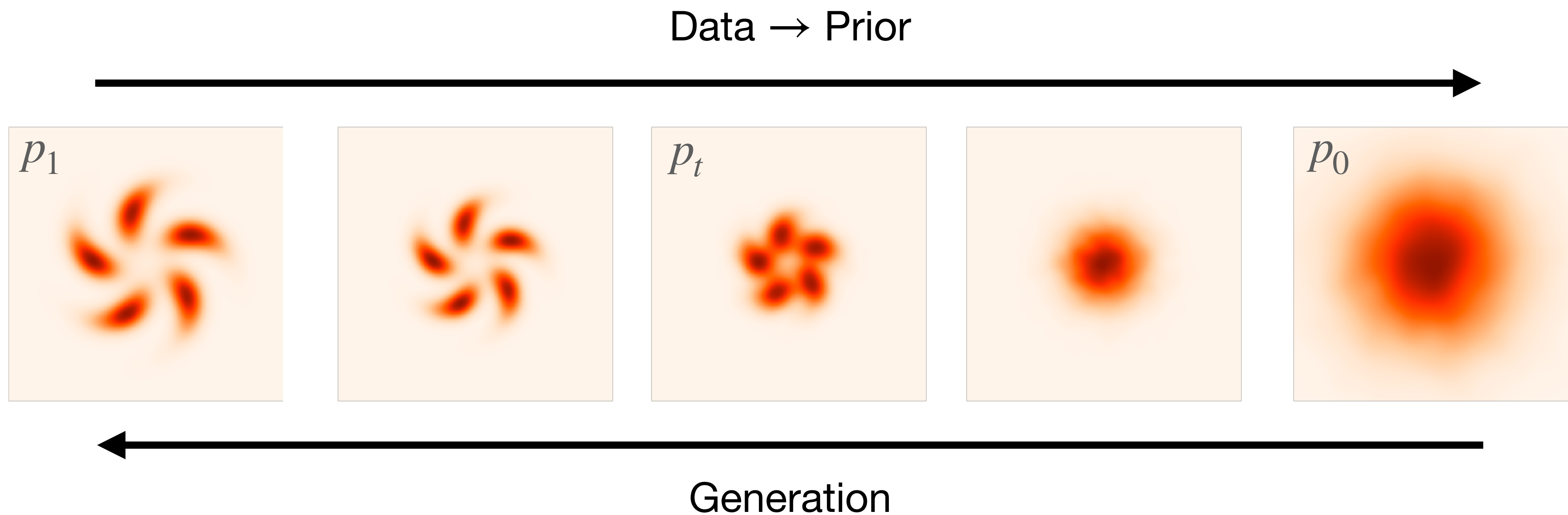


# Probability Path Matching



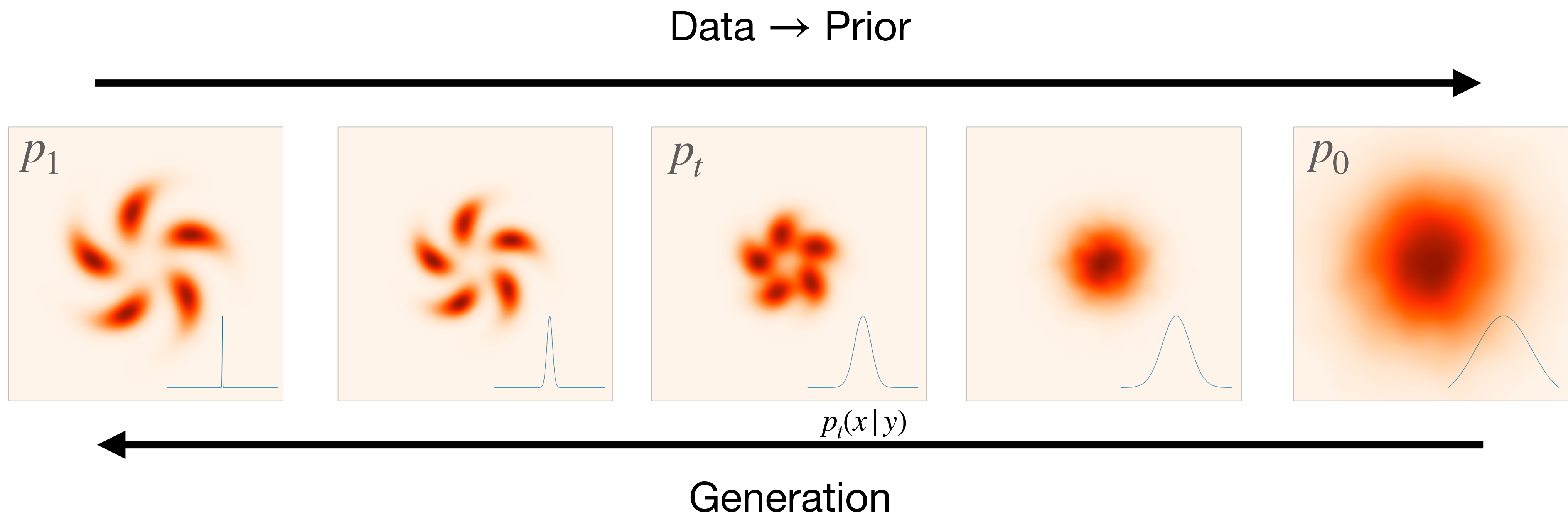
Probability Path -  $p_t$

# Probability Path Matching



**Path Construction**  $p_t(x) = \int p_t(x|y)p_1(y)dy$

# Probability Path Matching



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**Target** - probability path  $p_t$

**Model** - probability path  $q_t$  with parameters  $\theta$



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**Goal:** find parameters  $\theta$  s.t.  $q_t \approx p_t$

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**Target** - probability path  $p_t$

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**Goal:** find parameters  $\theta$  s.t.  $q_t \approx p_t$

$$\min_{\theta} d(p_t \parallel q_t)$$

# Matching CNFs to Target Paths

**Target** - probability path  $p_t$

**Model** - probability path  $q_t$  with parameters  $\theta$

CNF

$$q_t = \phi_t * p_0$$

$$\frac{d}{dt}\phi_t = v_\theta(t, \phi_t)$$

$$\min_{\theta} d(p_t \parallel q_t)$$

# Matching CNFs to Target Paths

**Target** - probability path  $p_t$

**Model** - a CNF  $\phi_t$  parametrized by  $v_\theta(t, x)$

CNF

$$q_t = \phi_t * p_0 \quad \frac{d}{dt} \phi_t = v_\theta(t, \phi_t)$$

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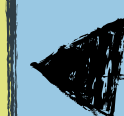
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Probability Path Divergence (PPD)



# Probability Path Divergence

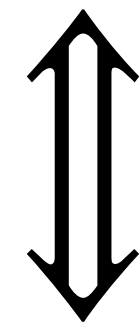
$$\partial_t p_t + \operatorname{div}(p_t v) = 0$$

**Mass Conservation Formula**

# Probability Path Divergence

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**Mass Conservation Formula**



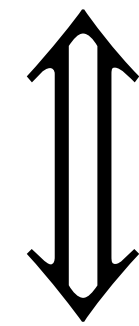
$$p_t = \phi_t^* p_0$$

**A CNF parametrized by  $v$**

# Probability Path Divergence

$$\partial_t \log p_t + \langle \nabla_x \log p_t, v \rangle + \operatorname{div}(v) = 0$$

**Logarithmic Mass Conservation Formula**



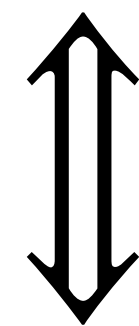
$$p_t = \phi_{t*} p_0$$



# Probability Path Divergence

$$\partial_t \log p_t + \langle \nabla_x \log p_t, v \rangle + \operatorname{div}(v) = 0$$

**Logarithmic Mass Conservation Formula**



$$p_t = \phi_t^* p_0$$

**A CNF parametrized by  $v$**

# Probability Path Divergence

We define a family of probability path divergences (PPD) with integer parameter  $\ell \geq 1$ :

$$d_{\ell}(p_t \parallel q_t) = \mathbb{E}_{t, x \sim p_t} |\partial_t \log p_t + \langle \nabla_x \log p_t, v \rangle + \text{div}(v)|^{\ell}$$

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We define a family of probability path divergences (PPD) with integer parameter  $\ell \geq 1$ :

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- $d_{\ell}(p_t \parallel q_t) \geq 0$  by construction
- $d_{\ell}(p_t \parallel q_t) = 0$  iff  $p_t = q_t, \forall t \in [0,1]$

# Matching CNFs to Target Paths

**Target** - probability path  $p$

**Model** - a CNF  $\phi_t$  parametrized by  $v_\theta(t, x)$

$$\begin{array}{ll} \min_{\theta} & d(p_t \parallel q_t) \\ \text{s.t.} & q_t = \phi_t * p_0 \end{array}$$

# Matching CNFs to Target Paths

**Target** - probability path  $p$

**Model** - a CNF  $\phi_t$  parametrized by  $v_\theta(t, x)$

$$\min_{\theta} \mathbb{E}_{t, x \sim p_t} |\partial_t \log p_t + \langle \nabla_x \log p_t, v_\theta \rangle + \operatorname{div}(v_\theta)|^\ell$$

$$\text{s.t. } q_t = \phi_t^* p_0$$

# Matching CNFs to Target Paths

**Target** - probability path  $p$

**Model** - a CNF  $\phi_t$  parametrized by  $v_\theta(t, x)$

Optimization and evaluation of PPD only require access to  $v_\theta$

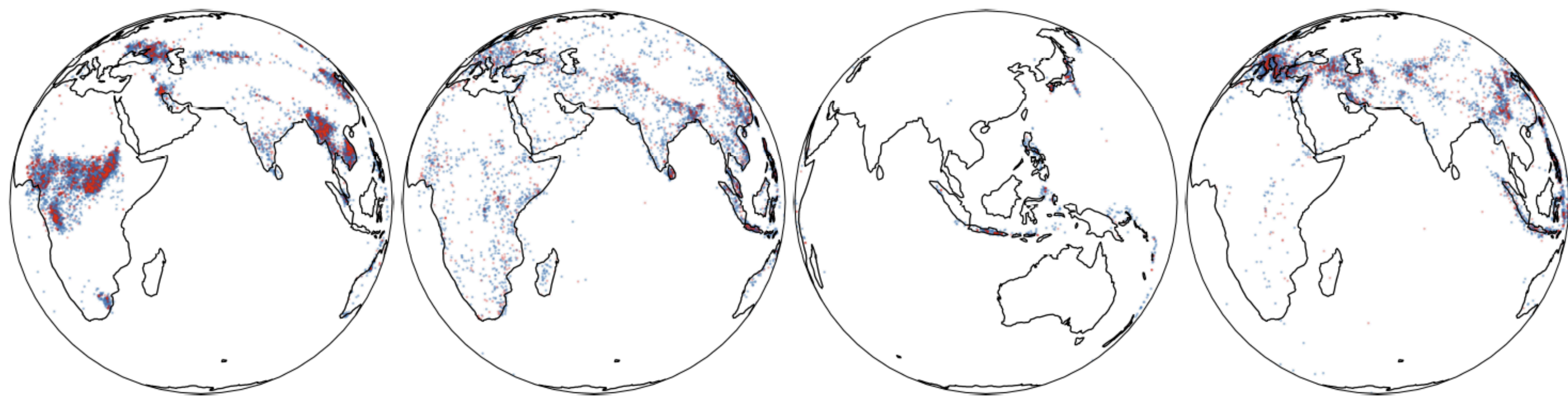
$$\min_{\theta} \mathbb{E}_{t, x \sim p_t} |\partial_t \log p_t + \langle \nabla_x \log p_t, v_\theta \rangle + \text{div}(v_\theta)|^\ell$$



# Earth and Climate Dataset

Dataset	Earthquake	Flood	Fire	Volcano
Mixture vMF	$0.59 \pm 0.01$	$1.09 \pm 0.01$	$-0.23 \pm 0.02$	$-0.31 \pm 0.07$
Stereographic	$0.43 \pm 0.04$	$0.99 \pm 0.04$	$-0.40 \pm 0.06$	$-0.64 \pm 0.20$
Riemannian	$0.19 \pm 0.04$	$0.90 \pm 0.03$	$-0.66 \pm 0.05$	$-0.97 \pm 0.15$
Moser Flow	$-0.09 \pm 0.02$	$0.62 \pm 0.04$	$-1.03 \pm 0.03$	$-2.02 \pm 0.42$
CNFM	$-0.38 \pm 0.01$	$0.25 \pm 0.02$	$-1.40 \pm 0.02$	$-2.38 \pm 0.16$

NLL scores



Fire

Flood

Volcano

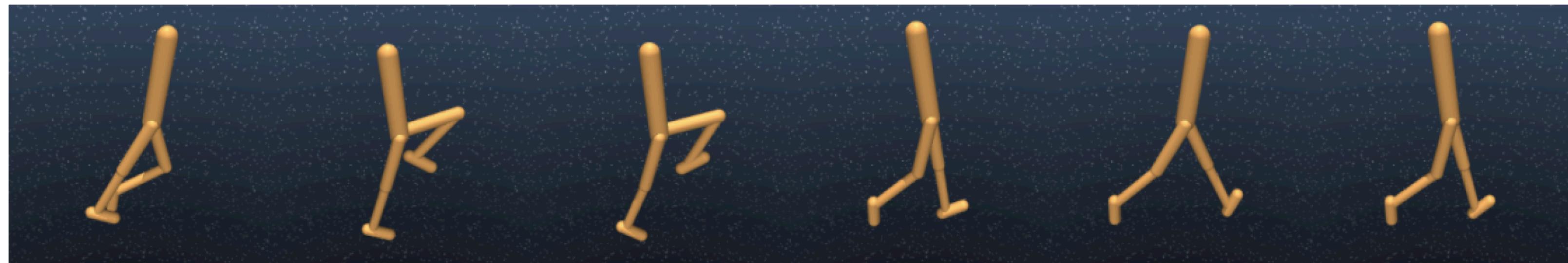
Quakes

Blue - generated samples, Red - test samples



# Product of Manifolds - Robotics

$$\mathcal{M} = \mathbb{R}^3 \times (\mathcal{S}^1)^6$$



$$\mathcal{M} = \mathbb{R}^3 \times (\mathcal{S}^1)^8 \times (\mathcal{S}^3)^6$$





# Limitations and Conclusions

## Conclusions

- Introduced a **novel** divergence allowing **scalable** training of CNFs
- First application to **higher dimensions** on manifolds (~30)

## Limitations

- Scaling to even higher dimensions ( $>100$ ):
  - Biased loss gradients

# Thank You!

Coming Soon! 



[github.com/helibenhamu/CNFM](https://github.com/helibenhamu/CNFM)