

# The sub-Riemannian geometry of Optimal Mass Transport

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joint work with

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**Grant: FA9550-23-1-0096**

**Controls and Dynamics  
Program Review 2024**

In loving memory  
of our dearest friend and colleague  
**Allen Tannenbaum**  
(January 25, 1953 - December 28, 2023)



# Optimal Mass Transport (OMT) & Schrödinger Bridges

## laws governing distributions

### 200y ago till now (Mathematics):

- Optimization - Monge, Kantorovich, Otto, ...
- Large deviations theory - Schrödinger, Cramer, Sanov, ...

### Dynamics of ensembles/particle systems

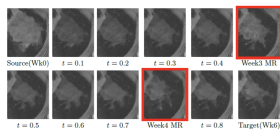
### Modern day relevance:

- Computer & biomedical imaging
- Cancer growth models
- Geometry of networks
- Thermodynamics, energy transduction
- Biology, ATPase machine, Flagellar motors
- Uncertainty control & estimation
- Machine learning, ...

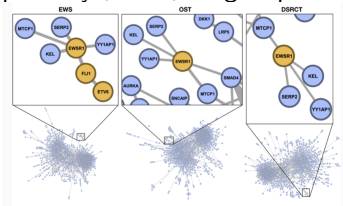
# Goals of our program

Stochastic Control and Optimal Mass Transport - Theory & Applications

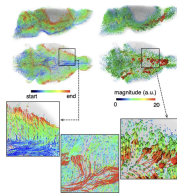
## Data augmentation:



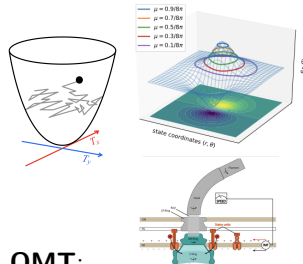
## Robustness: gene networks pathways, hubs, drug response



## OMT flows: fluid flows in the brain



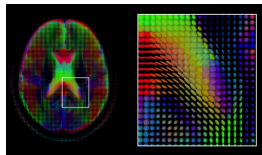
## Stochastic engines: Brownian gyrators



## Matrix OMT:

DTI

Quantum, non-commutative transport





# Non-commutative transport

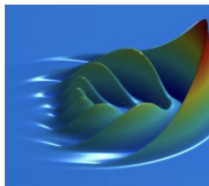
in Spring 2025



## Workshop I: Optimal Transport for Density Operators: Theory and Numerics

*Part of the Long Program: Non-commutative Optimal Transport*

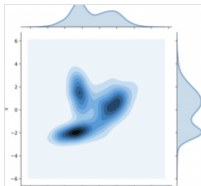
March 31 - April 4, 2025



## Workshop II: Dynamics of Density Operators

*Part of the Long Program: Non-commutative Optimal Transport*

April 28 - May 2, 2025



## Workshop III: Statistical and Numerical Methods for Non-commutative Optimal Transport

*Part of the Long Program: Non-commutative Optimal Transport*

May 19 - 23, 2025

# Goals of our program

## Stochastic Control and Optimal Mass Transport - Theory & Applications

Previous reporting:

OMT & thermal/chemical engines

Applications to Cancer & Biomed

Sign-indefinite OMT: promotion/inhibition  
gene regulatory networks

2024

Computational Mathematics

Transport between spatio-temporal marginals

Dynamical Systems  
and Control Theory

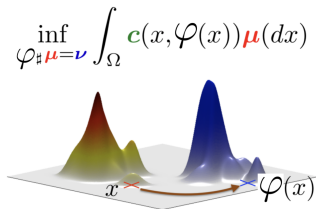
**Sub-Riemannian geometry of OMT**  
**The isoholonomic problem**

# Optimal transport

$$\text{cost } c(x, T(x)) = \|T(x) - x\|^2 \Rightarrow W_2^2(\mu, \nu)$$

$$W_2(\mu_0, \mu_1)^2 = \begin{cases} \min_{\mu, u} \int_0^1 \int_X \mu_t \|u\|^2 dx dt \\ \partial_t \mu_t + \nabla \cdot (\mu_t u) = 0 \\ \text{given } \mu_0, \mu_1 \end{cases}$$

$$\Rightarrow \begin{cases} \varphi^*(x) = \nabla \phi(x) \\ \mu_t = (\varphi_t)_\# \mu_0 \\ \varphi_t = (1-t) \text{Id} + t \varphi^* \end{cases}$$



# Riemannian geometry of optimal transport

space of densities  $\mathcal{D} := \{\mu \geq 0 : \int \mu = 1\}$

tangent space  $\text{Tangent}_\mu \cong \{\delta : \int \delta = 0\}$

$\text{Tangent}_\mu \ni \delta \longleftrightarrow u = \nabla \phi$  via

$$\delta + \nabla \cdot (\mu \nabla \phi) = 0$$

## Riemannian structure

$$\langle \delta_1, \delta_2 \rangle_\mu := \int \mu \langle \nabla \phi_1, \nabla \phi_2 \rangle dx$$

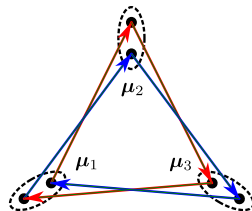
## Geodesic distance

$$W_2(\mu_0, \mu_1) = \inf_{\mu} \int_0^1 \sqrt{\left\langle \frac{\partial \mu}{\partial t}, \frac{\partial \mu}{\partial t} \right\rangle_{\mu(t)}} dt$$

# Our starting point

transport of discrete masses

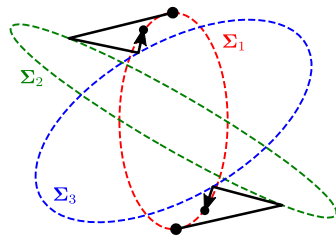
$$\varphi := \varphi_{3 \mapsto 1}^* \circ \varphi_{2 \mapsto 3}^* \circ \varphi_{1 \mapsto 2}^*$$



# Our starting point

transport of Gaussians

$$\varphi := \varphi_{3 \mapsto 1}^* \circ \varphi_{2 \mapsto 3}^* \circ \varphi_{1 \mapsto 2}^*$$



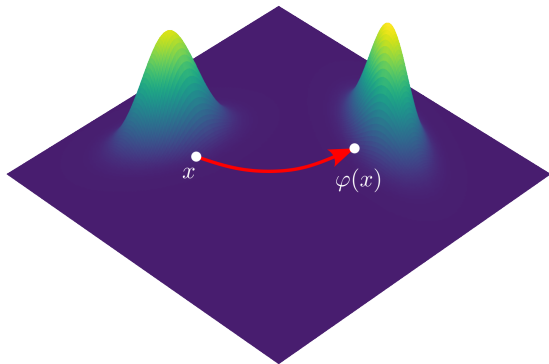
# transport of Gaussian distributions

ensembles – linear dynamics

$$\begin{aligned}\dot{X}_t &= -\nabla \phi_t(X_t) =: u_t \\ &= A_t X_t + r_t\end{aligned}$$

$$\phi_t(x) = -\frac{1}{2}x^\top A_t x - r_t^\top x$$

$$\dot{\bar{X}}_t = A_t \bar{X}_t + r_t$$



# transport of Gaussian distributions

ensembles – linear dynamics

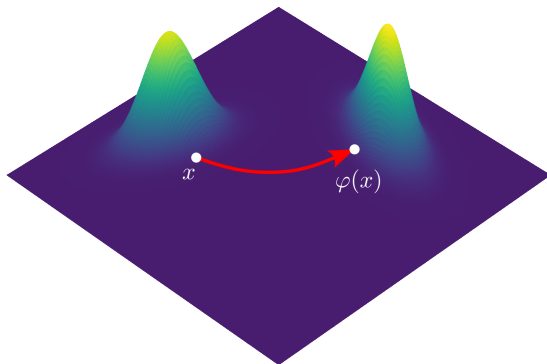
$$\bar{X}_t = 0 \text{ and } \Sigma_t = \mathbb{E}\{X_t X_t^\top\}$$

$$\dot{\Sigma}_t = A_t \Sigma_t + \Sigma_t A_t^\top$$

$$\dot{\Phi}_t = A_t \Phi_t, \quad \Phi_0 = I$$

$$\mu(x) = \frac{\exp\left(-\frac{1}{2}x^\top \Sigma^{-1}x\right)}{\sqrt{(2\pi)^n \det(\Sigma)}}$$

$$\Sigma \in \text{Sym}^+(n)$$





# transport of Gaussian distributions

$$\mu_0, \mu_1 \in \mathcal{N}(\mathbb{R}^n), \Sigma_0, \Sigma_1$$

$$\varphi^*(x) = \Phi^* x$$

$$\Phi^* = \Sigma_0^{-\frac{1}{2}} (\Sigma_0^{\frac{1}{2}} \Sigma_1 \Sigma_0^{\frac{1}{2}})^{\frac{1}{2}} \Sigma_0^{-\frac{1}{2}}$$

$$\mathcal{W}_2(\mu_0, \mu_1) = \text{Tr}(\Sigma_0 + \Sigma_1 - 2(\Sigma_0^{\frac{1}{2}} \Sigma_1 \Sigma_0^{\frac{1}{2}})^{\frac{1}{2}}).$$

## McCann geodesics

$$\mu_t(x) = (\varphi_t)_\# \mu_0 = \frac{\exp\left(-\frac{1}{2}x^\top \Sigma_t^{-1}x\right)}{\sqrt{(2\pi)^n \det(\Sigma_t)}},$$

remains in  $\mathcal{N}(\mathbb{R}^n)$  for  $t \in [0, 1]$  but not  $\mathbb{R}$

$$\varphi_t(x) = ((1-t)I + \Phi^*)x$$

$$\Sigma_t = ((1-t)I + t\Phi^*)_\# \Sigma_0 \text{ with } \Phi_\# \Sigma = \Phi \Sigma \Phi^\top$$

$\Sigma_t$  obeys a Lyapunov equation with

$$A_t = (\Phi^* - I)(I + t(\Phi^* - I))^{-1}$$

# Wasserstein triangle

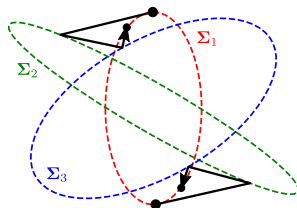
non-commutativity of Monge maps, mixing

$$\Sigma_t := \begin{cases} (I + 3t(\Phi_{1 \rightarrow 2}^* - I))\# \Sigma_1 \\ (I + 3(t - \frac{1}{3})(\Phi_{2 \rightarrow 3}^* - I))\# \Sigma_2 \\ (I + 3(t - \frac{2}{3})(\Phi_{3 \rightarrow 1}^* - I))\# \Sigma_3 \end{cases}$$

$$\Phi_{1 \rightarrow 2}^*, \Phi_{2 \rightarrow 3}^*, \Phi_{3 \rightarrow 1}^* \\ \Sigma_1 = \Sigma_0 = \Sigma_1$$

$$\Theta = \Phi_{3 \rightarrow 1}^* \Phi_{2 \rightarrow 3}^* \Phi_{1 \rightarrow 2}^*$$

$$\Theta\# \Sigma_1 = \Sigma_1$$



# Principal Bundle Structure

$$\varphi(x) = \Phi x$$

$$L_\Phi : \Sigma \mapsto \Phi \sharp \Sigma = \Phi \Sigma \Phi^T$$

$$\Sigma_{\text{ref}} \in \text{Sym}^+(n)$$

## The OMT principal bundle

$$\pi : \text{GL}^+(n) \rightarrow \text{Sym}^+(n)$$

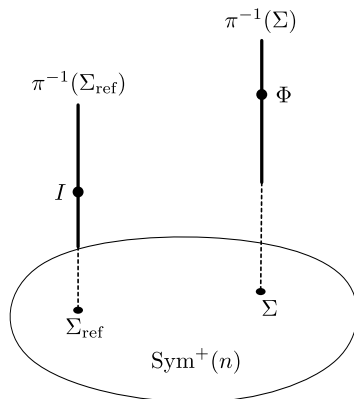
$$\Phi \mapsto L_\Phi(\Sigma_{\text{ref}})$$

$$\text{Fibers: } \pi^{-1}(\Sigma)$$

$$\pi^{-1}(\Sigma_{\text{ref}}) = \text{isotropy group of } \Sigma_{\text{ref}}$$

$$\text{SO}(n, \Sigma_{\text{ref}}) = \{\Theta \in \text{GL}^+(n) \mid L_\Theta(\Sigma_{\text{ref}}) = \Sigma_{\text{ref}}\}.$$

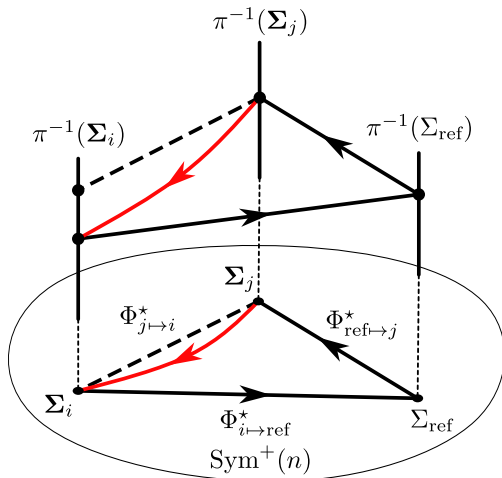
$$\text{Sym}^+(n) \simeq \text{GL}^+(n) / \text{SO}(n, \Sigma_{\text{ref}})$$



# The principal bundle in a nutshell

$$\Phi \in \pi^{-1}(\Sigma)$$

$$\Sigma = \Phi \Sigma_{\text{ref}} \Phi^T$$



# Principal Ehresmann connection

Vertical sub-bundle

$$\text{Ver}_\Phi := \text{Ker}(d\pi_\Phi) = \{\dot{\Phi} \in T_\Phi \text{GL}^+(n) \mid d\pi_\Phi(\dot{\Phi}) = 0\}.$$

Principal Ehresmann connection: choice of horizontal sub-bundle

- ①  $T_\Phi \text{GL}^+(n) = \text{Ver}_\Phi \oplus \text{Hor}_\Phi,$
- ②  $\text{Hor}_{\Phi\Theta} = (R_\Theta)_* \text{Hor}_\Phi.$

## Horizontal sub-bundle

$$\text{Hor}_\Phi = \{\dot{\Phi} \in T_\Phi \text{GL}^+(n) \mid \dot{\Phi}\Phi^{-1} \in \text{Sym}(n)\}.$$

Transition from  $\Phi_t$  to  $\Phi_{t+dt}$  is a Monge map  $\iff A_t$  symmetric

## Horizontal lift

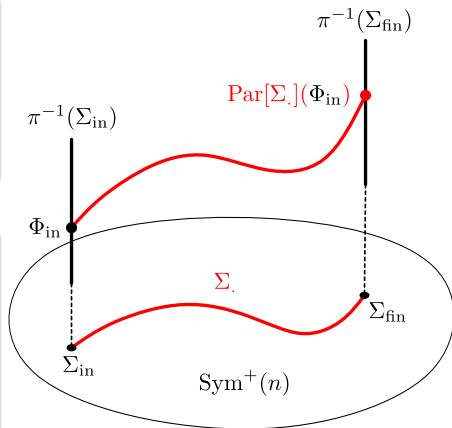
$\Sigma : [0, 1] \rightarrow \text{Sym}^+(n)$  be a  $\mathcal{C}^1$  curve,  
 $A_t = \int_0^\infty e^{-\tau \Sigma_t} \dot{\Sigma}_t e^{-\tau \Sigma_t} d\tau =: \mathcal{L}_\Sigma(\dot{\Sigma})$

$$\dot{\Phi}_t = A_t \Phi_t, \text{ with } \Phi_0 = \Phi_{\text{in}}$$

## Parallel transport along Wasserstein curves

Morphism of fibers  $\sim$  parallel transport

$$\pi^{-1}(\Sigma_0) \rightarrow \pi^{-1}(\Sigma_1) : \Phi \mapsto \text{Par}(\Phi)$$



## Complete controllability

There exists a horizontal curve  $\Phi : [0, 1] \rightarrow GL^+(n)$  such that  $\Phi_0 = \Phi_{\text{in}}$  and  $\Phi_1 = \Phi_{\text{fin}}$ , for every  $\Phi_{\text{in}}, \Phi_{\text{fin}} \in GL^+(n)$ .

Holonomy group =  $SO(n, \Sigma_{\text{ref}})$  : rotations by composing Monge maps.

## Sub-Riemannian Metric

$$\mathcal{G}_\Phi(\dot{\Phi}_1, \dot{\Phi}_2) = \text{Tr}(\dot{\Phi} \Sigma_{\text{ref}} \dot{\Phi}^\top)$$

$$d_{SR}(\Phi_0, \Phi_1)^2 = \inf \int_0^1 \mathcal{G}_{\Phi_t}(\dot{\Phi}_t, \dot{\Phi}_t) dt = \inf \int_0^1 \text{Tr}(A_t \Sigma_t A_t) dt.$$

$$\langle \dot{\mu}_t, \dot{\mu}_t \rangle = \text{Tr}(A_t \Sigma_t A_t) = \text{Tr}(\mathcal{L}_{\Sigma_t}(\dot{\Sigma}_t) \Sigma_t \mathcal{L}_{\Sigma_t}(\dot{\Sigma}_t))$$

Wasserstein-Otto metric on the base space



## Isoparallel Mass Transport

$\Sigma_{\text{in}}, \Sigma_{\text{fin}}$  in  $\text{Sym}^+(n)$

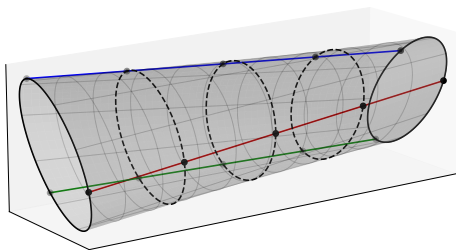
$\Phi_{\text{des}}$  in  $\text{GL}^+(n)$  with  $\Phi_{\text{des}}\# \Sigma_{\text{in}} = \Sigma_{\text{fin}}$

find a curve  $\Sigma_\cdot$  of minimal length s.t.,

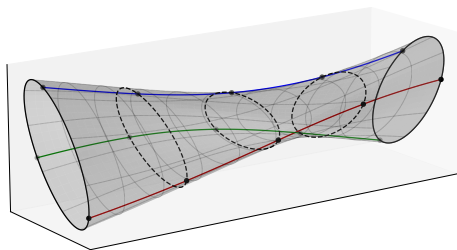
$\Sigma_0 = \Sigma_{\text{in}}, \Sigma_1 = \Sigma_{\text{fin}}$ , and

$$\text{Par}[\Sigma_\cdot] = \Phi_{\text{des}}$$

# In the base space of $\Sigma$ 's

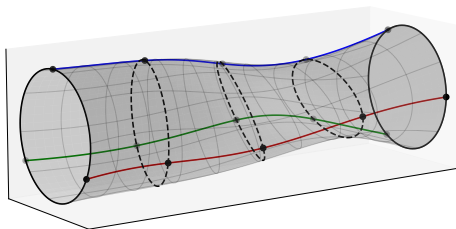


Tracer particles traversing  
McCann geodesic



Tracer particles traversing  
isoparallel curve

# Rotation in the base space of $\Sigma$ 's



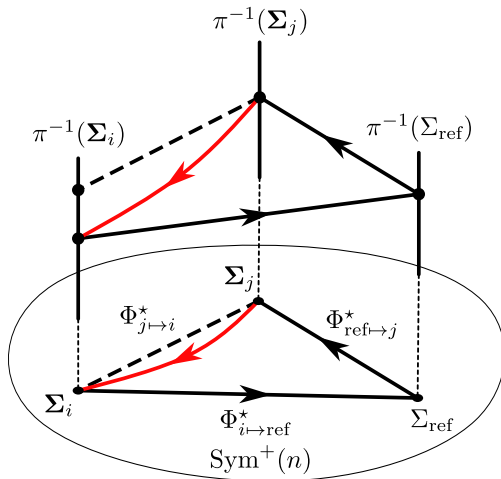
Tracer particles traversing the isoholonomic curve  
connecting  $\Sigma_{\text{in}} = I$ ,  $\Sigma_{\text{fin}} = I$

# multiagent and particle systems

## path planning, uncertainty control, mixing, registration

the holonomy of the loop,  
may not be trivial

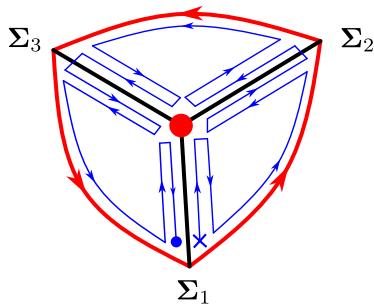
$$\mu_i \xrightarrow{\varphi_{i \rightarrow \text{ref}}^*} \mu_{\text{ref}} \xrightarrow{\varphi_{\text{ref} \rightarrow j}^*} \mu_j$$



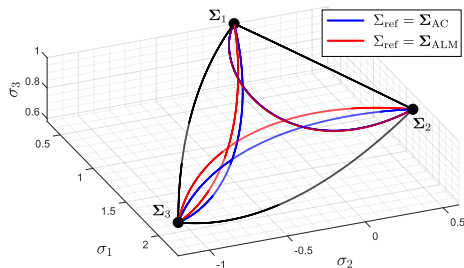
# multiagent and particle systems

## path planning, uncertainty control, mixing

### registration $\Leftarrow$



McCann geodesics (black)  
 Identical holonomy as a function of  
 reference (blue, red).



## the principal bundle structure encodes particle location

Lagrangian viewpoint to OMT  
trajectories and mixing are of interest  
holonomy of trajectories

### Key insights:

Eulerian constraint on velocity=potential via Ehresmann connection  
sub-Riemannian structure by this connection - Wasserstein-Otto metric

### Applications and future directions:

modeling flow based on aggregate information  
and/or location of tracer particles  
estimate the holonomy of transport  
Ehresmann connection/nature of forces  
what about stochastic excitation?...



Mahmoud  
Abdelgalil

Thank you for your attention

## **Sub-Riemannian Geometry, Mixing, and the Holonomy of OMT**

M. Abdelgalil and T.T. Georgiou, <https://arxiv.org/abs/2408.14707>



**Thanks to AFOSR**

**University of California, Irvine**

