

Covariance-modulated optimal transport and gradient flows

Matthias Erbar

joint with M. Burger, F. Hoffmann, D. Matthes, A. Schlichting

New Monge Problems and Applications

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UNIVERSITÄT
BIELEFELD



Fakultät für Mathematik

Outline

- Motivation: Bayesian inverse problems
- Covariance-modulated optimal transport
- Gradient flows induced by covariance-modulated transport
- Trend to equilibrium for modulated gradient flows

Inverse problems for parameter estimation

Parameter estimation: given data $y \in \mathbb{R}^K$ and noise $\xi \in \mathbb{R}^d$

find parameter x : $y = G(x) + \xi$ for given model $G : \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^K$.

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Posterior density: For Gaussian noise $\xi \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \Gamma)$ and $x \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \Sigma)$

$$\pi(dx) \propto \exp(-f(x)) \quad \text{with} \quad f(x) = \frac{1}{2}|y - G(x)|_{\Gamma}^2 + \frac{1}{2}|x|_{\Sigma}^2$$

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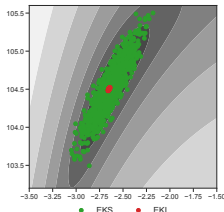
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Bayesian Inverse problem tasks

(1) **Inversion:** Find $x^* := \arg \max \pi(x)$ or (2) **Sampling** from π



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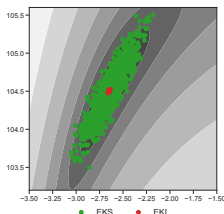
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$$\dot{X}^{(j)} = - \nabla f(X^{(j)}) + \sqrt{2} \dot{W}^{(j)},$$



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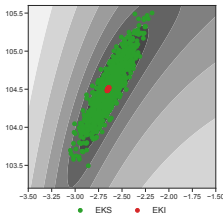
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$$\dot{X}^{(j)} = -\mathbf{C}(\rho^J) \nabla f(X^{(j)}) + \sqrt{2\mathbf{C}(\rho^J)} \dot{W}^{(j)},$$

with the **covariance** of the empirical measure $\rho^J = J^{-1} \sum_j \delta_{X^{(j)}}$.

$$\mathbf{C}(\rho^J) = \frac{1}{J} \sum_{k=1}^J \left(X^{(k)} - \bar{X} \right) \otimes \left(X^{(k)} - \bar{X} \right), \quad \bar{X} = \frac{1}{J} \sum_{k=1}^J X^{(k)}$$



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- $\rho_t = \text{law } X_t$ solves the non-linear Fokker-Planck equation

$$\partial_t \rho = \nabla \cdot (\mathbf{C}(\rho) (\nabla \rho + \rho \nabla f)) = \nabla \cdot (\rho \mathbf{C}(\rho) \nabla \mathcal{F}'(\rho)),$$

with energy $\mathcal{F}(\rho) = \int \log \rho \, d\rho + \int f \, d\rho$

covariance: $\mathbf{C}(\rho) = \int (x - \mathbf{M}(\rho)) \otimes (x - \mathbf{M}(\rho)) \, d\rho$, **mean:** $\mathbf{M}(\rho) = \int x \, d\rho$.

Gradient flows

- Fokker-Planck equation

$$\partial_t \rho = \Delta \rho + \nabla \cdot (\rho \nabla f) = \nabla \cdot (\rho \nabla \mathcal{F}'(\rho))$$

is the **gradient flow** of \mathcal{F} in the L^2 Kantorovich-Wasserstein distance on $\mathcal{P}(\mathbb{R}^d)$
[JORDAN-KINDERLEHRER-OTTO '98]

$$W_2(\mu_0, \mu_1) = \inf \left\{ \int_0^1 \int |V_t|^2 d\mu_t dt : \partial_t \mu + \nabla \cdot (\mu_t V_t) = 0 \right. \\ \left. \mu(0) = \mu_0, \mu(1) = \mu_1 \right\}$$

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■ mean field EKS

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is gradient flow of \mathcal{F} in a **modified geometry** on $\mathcal{P}(\mathbb{R}^d)$
[GARBUNO-INIGO, HOFFMANN, LI STUART '20]

$$\mathcal{W}_{\text{cov}}(\mu_0, \mu_1)^2 = \inf \left\{ \int_0^1 \int \langle V_t, \mathbf{C}(\mu_t)^{-1} V_t \rangle d\mu_t dt : \partial_t \mu + \nabla \cdot (\mu_t V_t) = 0 \right. \\ \left. \mu(0) = \mu_0, \mu(1) = \mu_1 \right\}$$

Covariance modulated optimal transport

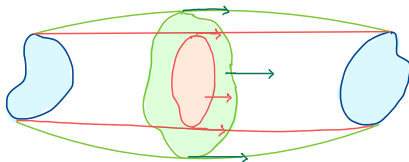
- For $\mu_0, \mu_1 \in \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{R}^d)$ consider dynamic transport problem

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minimizing over $(\mu_t, V_t)_{t \in [0,1]}$ solving $\partial_t \mu + \nabla \cdot (\mu V) = 0$ with

mean $M(\mu) := \int x d\mu(x)$, covariance $\mathbb{C}(\mu) := \int (x - M(\mu))(x - M(\mu))^T d\mu(x)$

$$\|V\|_{\mathbb{C}(\mu)}^2 := V \cdot \mathbb{C}(\mu)^{-1} V$$



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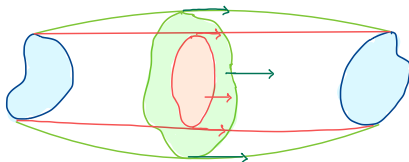
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Goals:

- structure of optimisers (**competition**: spreading vs. path length)
- dynamics and convergence of **gradient flows** for \mathcal{W}_{cov}

Modulated transport metric

- Recall: with $\|V\|_{\mathbb{C}}^2 = V \cdot C^{-1}V$

$$\mathcal{W}_{\text{cov}}(\mu_0, \mu_1)^2 := \inf \left\{ \int_0^1 \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \|V_t\|_{\mathbb{C}(\mu_t)}^2 d\mu_t dt, \quad \partial_t \mu + \nabla \cdot (\mu_t V_t) = 0 \right\}$$

- **Proposition:**

\mathcal{W}_{cov} defines a (pseudo-) distance on $\mathcal{P}_2(\mathbb{R}^d)$ metrising weak convergence plus convergence of 2nd moments.

$$\mathcal{W}_{\text{cov}}(\mu_0, \mu_1) < \infty \Leftrightarrow \left(\ker C(\mu_0) = \ker C(\mu_1) \text{ and } M(\mu_1) - M(\mu_0) \perp \ker C(\mu_0) \right)$$

- mass cannot travel at finite cost in directions from $\ker C(\mu_t)$;

$$\text{supp} \mu_t \subset \text{span}(\text{supp} \mu_0) \text{ for all } t$$

- quantitatively:

$$e^{-2\sqrt{k_0 A}} C(\mu_0) \leq C(\mu_t) \leq e^{2\sqrt{k_0 A}} C(\mu_0)$$

for any curve with $A = \int_0^1 \int \|V_t\|_{\mathbb{C}(\mu_t)}^2 d\mu_t dt < \infty$, $k_0 = \text{rank } C(\mu_0)$

Splitting in shape and moments

Theorem: For $\mu_0, \mu_1 \in \mathcal{P}_{2,+}(\mathbb{R}^d)$

$$\mathcal{W}_{\text{cov}}(\mu_0, \mu_1)^2 = \inf_{R \in SO(d)} \left\{ D_R(\mu_0, \mu_1) + \mathcal{W}_{0,1}(\bar{\mu}_0, R\#\bar{\mu}_1)^2 \right\}$$

with $\bar{\mu}_i = C_i^{-1/2}(\cdot - m_i)_* \mu_i$ normalisations of μ_i s.t. $M(\bar{\mu}_i) = 0$, $C(\bar{\mu}_i) = \mathbb{1}$ and

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■ covariance constraint transport problem

$$\mathcal{W}_{0,1}(\nu_0, \nu_1)^2 := \inf \left\{ \int_0^1 \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \|V_t\|^2 d\mu_t dt, \quad \partial_t \nu + \nabla \cdot (\mu V) = 0, \right. \\ \left. M(\nu_t) = 0, C(\nu_t) = \mathbb{1} \forall t \right\}$$

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$$D_{\mathbb{R}}(\mu_0, \mu_1) := \inf_{m, C} \left\{ \int_0^1 \dot{m}_t \cdot (A_t A_t^T)^{-1} \dot{m}_t + \text{tr}[\dot{A}_t A_t^{-1} \dot{A}_t A_t^{-1}] dt, \right. \\ \left. m_i = M(\mu_i), A_0 = C(\mu_0)^{\frac{1}{2}}, A_1 R = C(\mu_1)^{\frac{1}{2}}, A_t^{-1} \dot{A}_t \text{ symmetric} \right\}$$

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Note: any (non-symmetric) root A of C sat. $AR = C^{1/2}$ for suitable $R \in O(d)$

Proof sketch

- separate minimisation of transport and evolution of moments

$$\mathcal{W}_{\text{cov}}(\mu_0, \mu_1) = \inf \left\{ \mathcal{W}_{\mathbf{m}, \mathbf{C}}(\mu_0, \mu_1) : \mathbf{m} : [0, 1] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^d, \mathbf{C} : [0, 1] \rightarrow S_+^{d \times d} \right\}$$

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- for (non-symmetric) root A_t of \mathbf{C}_t and $\tilde{\mu}_t := (A_t^{-1}(\cdot - \mathbf{m}_t))_{\#} \mu_t$ with $\mathbf{M}(\tilde{\mu}_t) = 0$, $\mathbf{C}(\tilde{\mu}_t) = \mathbb{1}$ and suitable \tilde{V}_t :

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- if V is optimal, then exists $\bar{\phi}$ s.t. $\bar{V} = \nabla \bar{\phi}$ provided $A_t^{-1} \dot{A}_t$ is **symmetric**
- $\tilde{\mu}_1 = R_{\#} \bar{\mu}_1$ for $R = A_1^{-1} C_1^{1/2}$ and $\bar{\mu}_1 = C_{\#}^{-1/2} \mu_1$

Competition of shape and moments

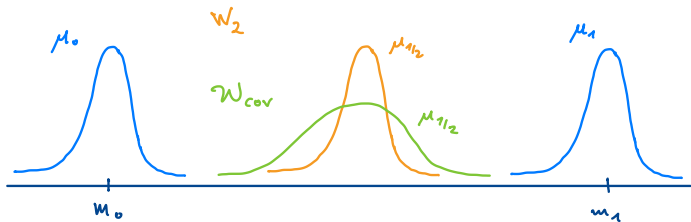
Example: consider Gaussians $\gamma_{m_0, C}, \gamma_{m_1, C}$ with $\delta = m_1 - m_0$

- **classical transport:** translation by δ

$$W_2(\gamma_{m_0, C}, \gamma_{m_1, C}) = \|\delta\|$$

- **modulated transport:** inflation+translation to increase covariance / decrease cost

$$W_{\text{cov}}(\gamma_{m_0, C}, \gamma_{m_1, C}) \sim \log \|\delta\| \quad \text{for } \|\delta\| \gg 1$$



- variance modulated transport:

$$\mathcal{W}_{\text{var}}(\mu_0, \mu_1)^2 := \inf \left\{ \int_0^1 \frac{1}{\text{var}(\mu_t)} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \|V_t\|^2 d\mu_t dt, \quad \partial_t \mu + \nabla \cdot (\mu V) = 0, \right\}$$

Variance modulated/constraint optimal transport

- variance modulated transport:

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- Splitting in shape and moment:

$$\mathcal{W}_{\text{var}}(\mu_0, \mu_1)^2 = \mathcal{W}_{0,1}(\bar{\mu}_0, \bar{\mu}_1)^2 + D_{\text{var}}(\mu_0, \mu_1)^2$$

with

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$$D_{\text{var}}(\mu_0, \mu_1)^2 := \inf \left\{ \int_0^1 \frac{\|\dot{\mathbf{m}}_t\|^2 + |\dot{\sigma}_t|^2}{\sigma_t^2} dt, \right. \\ \left. \mathbf{m}(i) = \mathbf{M}(\mu_i), \sigma(i)^2 = \text{var}(\mu_i), i = 0, 1 \right\}$$

- moment interpolation problem explicitly solvable

■ **Theorem** [CARLEN-GANGBO '03]:

$$\mathcal{W}_{m,\sigma}(\mu_0, \mu_1) = 2\sigma \arcsin\left(\frac{W_2(\mu_0, \mu_1)}{2\sigma}\right)$$

Variance constraint optimal transport

■ Theorem [CARLEN-GANGBO '03]:

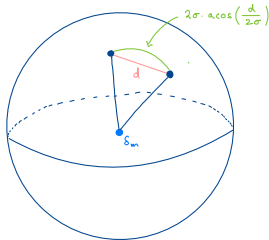
$$\mathcal{W}_{m,\sigma}(\mu_0, \mu_1) = 2\sigma \arcsin\left(\frac{W_2(\mu_0, \mu_1)}{2\sigma}\right)$$

■ $\mathcal{W}_{m,\sigma}$ distance induced by W_2 on

$$\mathcal{E}_{m,\sigma} := \{\mu \in \mathcal{P}_2(\mathbb{R}^d) : M(\mu) = m, \text{var}(\mu) = \sigma^2\}$$

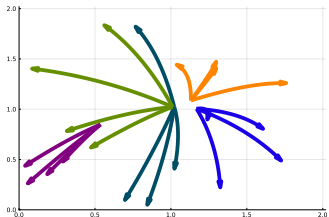
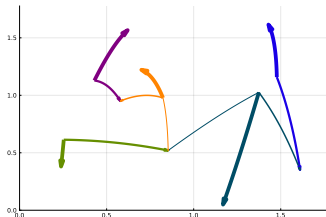
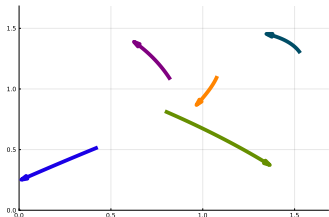
'sphere' of radius σ in $(\mathcal{P}_2(\mathbb{R}^d), W_2)$ centered at δ_m

Geodesics are obtained by translation/scaling of Wasserstein geodesics



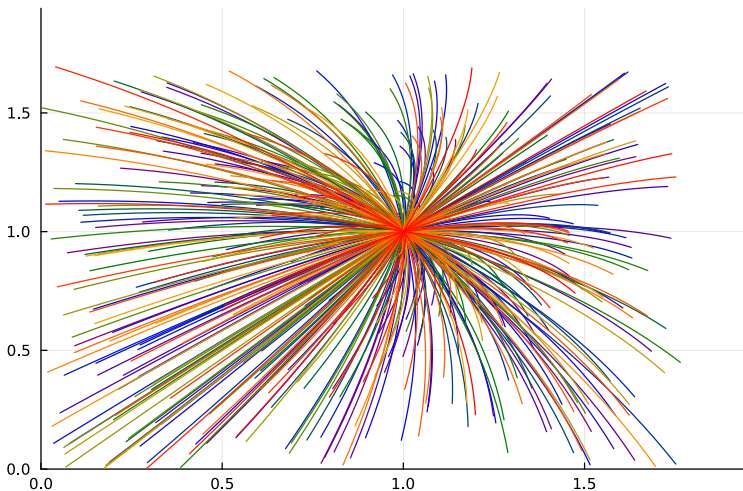
Structure of shape optimisers for \mathcal{W}_{cov}

- normalisation of Wasserstein geodesic **not optimal** for covariance modulation!
- some numerical results



■ normalisation of Wasserstein geodesic **not optimal** for covariance modulation!

■ some numerical results



■ dual transport problem:

$$\frac{1}{2}\mathcal{W}_{0,1}(\mu_0, \mu_1)^2 = \sup_{\phi, \Theta} \left\{ \int \phi_1 d\mu_1 - \int \phi_0 d\mu_0 - \int_0^T \text{tr}[\Theta_t] dt : \right. \\ \left. \partial_t \phi(x) + \frac{1}{2} |\nabla \phi_t|^2(x) + x \cdot \Theta_t x \leq 0 \right\}$$

■ dual transport problem:

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■ Lagrangian formulation:

$$\mathcal{W}_{0,1}(\mu_0, \mu_1)^2 = \inf_{\Pi} \left\{ \mathbb{E}_{\Pi} \left[\int_0^1 |\dot{\gamma}_t|^2 dt \right] : \gamma_{0,1} \sim \mu_{0,1}, \mathbb{E}_{\Pi}[\gamma_t] = 0, \mathbb{E}_{\Pi}[\gamma_t \gamma_t^T] = \mathbb{1} \right\}$$

optimal Π concentrated on solutions to

$$\ddot{\gamma}_t + \Lambda_t \gamma_t = 0$$

with Λ_t Lagrange multiplier for global covariance constraint

⇒ interaction of particle trajectories

Existence of covariance modulated/constraint geodesics

Theorem:

- Every $\mu_0, \mu_1 \in \mathcal{P}_{0,1}(\mathbb{R}^d)$ with $\mathcal{W}_{0,1}(\mu_0, \mu_1)^2 < \frac{1}{8}$ are connected by a $\mathcal{W}_{0,1}$ geodesic.
- Every $\mu_0, \mu_1 \in \mathcal{P}_{2,+}(\mathbb{R}^d)$ with $\mathcal{W}_{\text{cov}}(\mu_0, \mu_1)^2 < \frac{1}{8} + D(\mu_0, \mu_1)^2$ are connected by a \mathcal{W}_{cov} geodesic.

Problem: minimising sequences might lose constraint in the limit

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Problem: minimising sequences might lose constraint in the limit

Theorem:

Let $\mu_0, \mu_1 \in \mathcal{P}_{0,1}(\mathbb{R}^d)$ be **symmetric** in all d directions. Then there exists a $\mathcal{W}_{0,1}$ geodesic connecting them.

There are a coupling π of μ_0, μ_1 and parameters $\omega_1, \dots, \omega_d$ s.t. the optimal path measure is given by superposition of the curves

$$\gamma_k(s) = \frac{\sin \omega_k (1-s)}{\sin \omega_k} x_k + \frac{\sin \omega_k s}{\sin \omega_k} y_k$$

weighted by $\pi(dx, dy)$.

Convexity of energy (formal)

■ **Theorem:** ([MCGANN '97])

Let $U : [0, \infty) \rightarrow [0, \infty)$ convex s.t. $\lambda \mapsto \lambda^d U(\lambda^{-d})$ convex non-inc.

Then the **internal energy**

$$\mathcal{U}(\rho) = \int U(\rho) \, dx$$

is convex along W_2 geodesics, i.e. $\left. \frac{d^2}{dt^2} \mathcal{U}(\rho_t) \right|_{t=0} \geq 0$.

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■ Theorem: (constraint improves convexity)

Along any $W_{0,1}$ -geodesic we have

$$\left. \frac{d^2}{dt^2} \mathcal{U}(\rho_t) \right|_{t=0} \geq |\dot{\rho}_0|_{\mathcal{W}_{0,1}} \int P(\rho) \geq 0,$$

with the *pressure* $P(r) = rU'(r) - U(r)$.

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- **Note:** Quadratic energies $\mathcal{V}(\rho) = \frac{1}{2} \int |x|_B^2 \, d\rho$ are **constant** along **constrained** geodesics.

Splitting of the gradient flow

- EKS gradient flow for posterior $\pi(dx) \propto \exp(-f(x))$ with $f(x) = \frac{1}{2}|x - x_0|_B^2$

$$\partial_t \rho_t = \nabla \cdot (C(\rho) \nabla (\rho + \rho B^{-1}(x - x_0)))$$

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- evolution of moments $m_t = M(\rho_t)$, $C_t = C(\rho_t)$:

$$\dot{m}_t = -C_t B^{-1}(m_t - x_0), \quad \dot{C}_t = 2C_t(\mathbf{1} - B^{-1}C_t)$$

$$\Rightarrow C_t = ((1 - e^{-2t})B^{-1} + e^{-2t}C_0^{-1})^{-1}$$

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- evolution of normalized shape: solve

$$\dot{A}_t = \frac{1}{2} \dot{C}_t A_t^{-T} \quad A_0 A_0^T = C_0 \quad (\text{then } A_t^{-1} \dot{A}_t \text{ symmetric, } A_t A_t^T = C_t)$$

then $\eta_t = A_t^{-1}(\cdot - m_t)_* \rho_t$ solves

$$\partial_t \eta = \Delta \eta - \nabla \cdot (\eta x)$$

■ relative entropy:

$$\mathcal{E}(\eta|\mathbf{N}_{0,1}) = \int \log \eta d\eta + \frac{1}{2} \int |x|^2 d\eta ,$$

■ **Theorem: (shape EVI)** For any $\nu \in \mathcal{P}_{0,1}$

$$\frac{d}{dt} \mathcal{W}_{0,1}(\eta_t, \nu)^2 + \mathcal{W}_{0,1}(\eta_t, \nu)^2 \leq \mathcal{E}(\nu|\mathbf{N}_{0,1}) - \mathcal{E}(\eta_t|\mathbf{N}_{0,1})$$

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■ Corollary: (exponential stability of shape)

$$\mathcal{W}_{0,1}(\eta_t^1, \eta_t^2) \leq e^{-t} \mathcal{W}_{0,1}(\eta_0^1, \eta_0^2) \quad \text{Independent of quadratic potential } B!$$

■ Wasserstein stability

$$\begin{aligned} W_2(\rho_t, N_{x_0, B}) \leq e^{-t} \kappa(B, C_0) & \left(\inf_{R \in SO(d)} W_2(R\# \bar{\rho}_0, N_{0,1})^2 + |m_0 - x_0|_{C_0}^2 \right. \\ & \left. + \left\| \left(B^{\frac{1}{2}} C_0^{-1} B^{\frac{1}{2}} \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} - \mathbb{1} \right\|_{\text{HS}}^2 \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \end{aligned}$$

where $\kappa(B, C_0) := \|B\|_2 \max\left\{1, \left\| B^{-\frac{1}{2}} C_0 B^{-\frac{1}{2}} \right\|_2\right\}$

Note: compare with [CARRILLO-VAES '21]

- **splitting of entropy**

$$\mathcal{E}(\rho | \mathbf{N}_{x_0, B}) = \mathcal{E}(\eta | \mathbf{N}_{0, \mathbf{1}}) + \mathcal{E}(\mathbf{N}_{M(\rho), C(\rho)} | \mathbf{N}_{x_0, B})$$

- **Theorem: (convergence of shape+moments)**

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{E}(\eta_t | \mathbf{N}_{0, \mathbf{1}}) &\leq e^{-2t} \mathcal{E}(\eta_0 | \mathbf{N}_{0, \mathbf{1}}) \\ \mathcal{E}(\mathbf{N}_{m_t, C_t} | \mathbf{N}_{x_0, B}) &\leq \kappa e^{-2t} \mathcal{E}(\mathbf{N}_{m_0, C_0} | \mathbf{N}_{x_0, B})\end{aligned}$$

with

$$\kappa = \kappa(B, C_0) = \left(1 \vee \|B^{\frac{1}{2}} C_0^{-1} B^{\frac{1}{2}}\|_2\right) \left(1 \vee \|B^{-\frac{1}{2}} C_0 B^{-\frac{1}{2}}\|_2\right)$$

- κ improves if $m_0 = x_0$
- Similar estimates for Fisher information \Rightarrow exponential smoothing of gradients

Comparison variance vs covariance modulation

Let $B \in \mathbb{R}_{\text{sym},+}^{d \times d}$ be fixed and consider energy

$$\mathcal{E}(\rho) = \int \log \rho \, d\rho + \frac{1}{2} \int \langle x, Bx \rangle \, d\rho.$$

variance-modulated GF

$$\partial_t \rho_t = \text{var}(\rho_t) \nabla \cdot (\rho_t \nabla \mathcal{E}'(\rho_t)).$$

$$\mathcal{E}(\rho_t | \rho_\infty) \leq e^{-2t\lambda} \mathcal{E}(\rho_t | \rho_\infty),$$

with

$$\lambda = \min \left\{ \frac{d}{\|B\|_2 \|B^{-1}\|_2}, \frac{d}{\|B\|_2 \|C_0^{-1}\|} \right\}.$$

Note: Exponential rate depends on EVs of B !

covariance-modulated GF

$$\partial_t \rho_t = \nabla \cdot (\rho_t C(\rho_t) \nabla \mathcal{E}'(\rho_t)).$$

$$\mathcal{E}(\rho_t | \rho_\infty) \leq \kappa e^{-2t} \mathcal{E}(\rho_t | \rho_\infty),$$

with

$$\kappa = \left(1 \vee \|B^{\frac{1}{2}} C_0^{-1} B^{\frac{1}{2}}\|_2\right) \left(1 \vee \|B^{-\frac{1}{2}} C_0 B^{-\frac{1}{2}}\|_2\right).$$

Note: Only prefactors depend on EVs of B !

Summary and open questions

Summary:

- covariance-modulated transport distance:
 - splitting in shape and moments
 - improved convexity properties
- EKS is gradient flow in covariance-modulated geometry
- uniform exponential convergence rates for quadratic potentials

Open questions:

- unconditional existence of geodesics for covariance-modulated OT?
- explicit structure of optimal curves?
- non-quadratic potentials?
- different modulations (Hessian of ρ)?

Thank you for your attention!