

Monotonicity of time-dependent transportation costs and coupling by reflection

Kazumasa Kuwada

(Ochanomizu University)

[joint work with K.-Th. Sturm (Bonn)]

Optimal transportation and differential geometry

(May. 21–25, 2012, at Banff)

1. Introduction

M : complete Riem. mfd, $\dim M = n \geq 2$

$X^x(t)$: Brownian motion on M with $X(0) = x$

$$\text{Ric} \geq K$$



nice estimates for

couplings by

parallel transport
reflection

of BMs

$(X_1(t), X_2(t))$: a coupling of $X^{x_1}(t)$ & $X^{x_2}(t)$

$$\stackrel{\text{def}}{\Leftrightarrow} (X_i(t))_{t \geq 0} \stackrel{d}{=} (X^{x_i}(t))_{t \geq 0} \quad (i = 1, 2)$$

Example ($M = \mathbb{R}^n$)

parallel transport

$x_1 \bullet$

$x_2 \bullet$

reflection

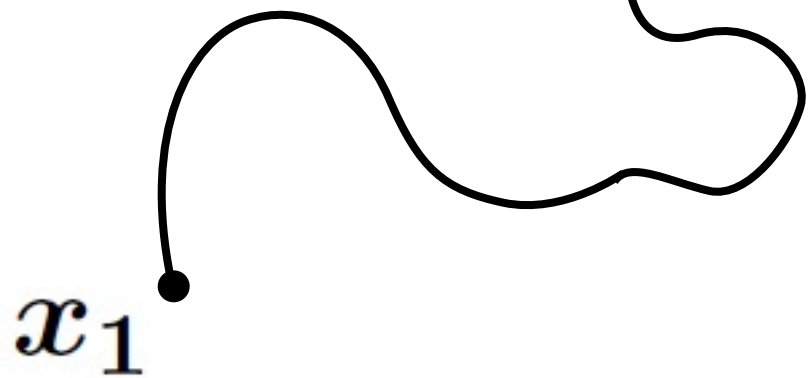
$x_1 \bullet$

$x_2 \bullet$

Example ($M = \mathbb{R}^n$)

parallel transport

$X_1(t)$



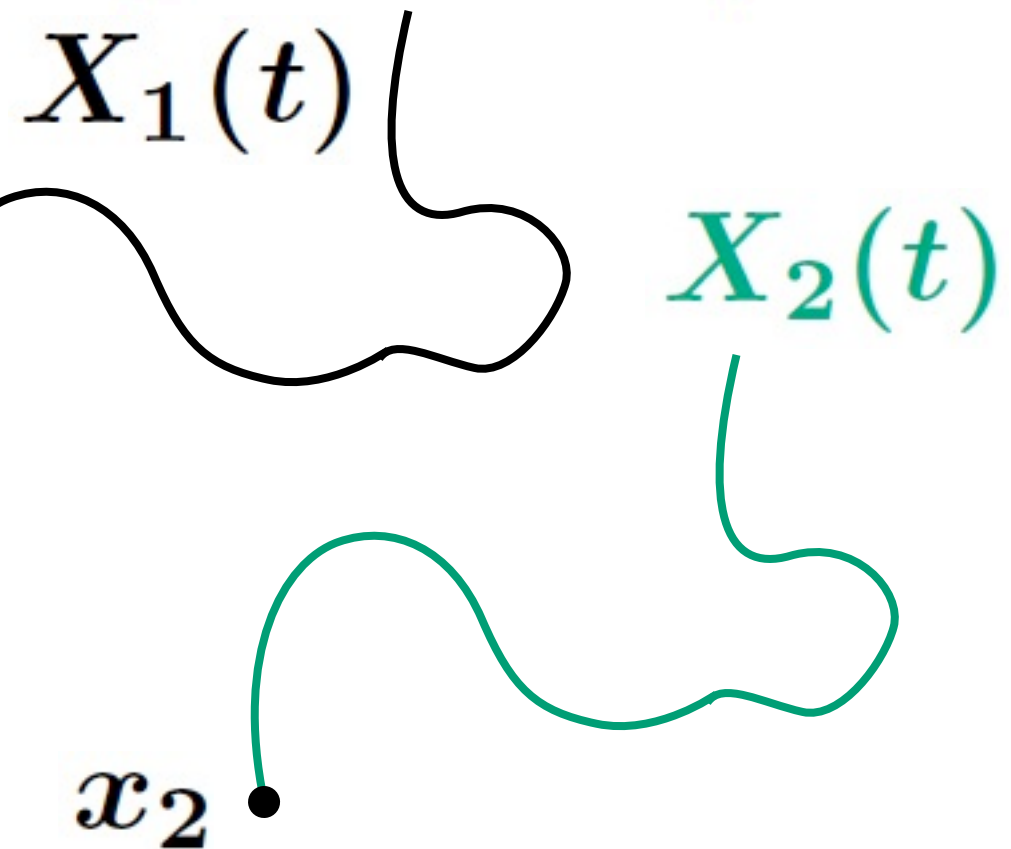
reflection

x_1

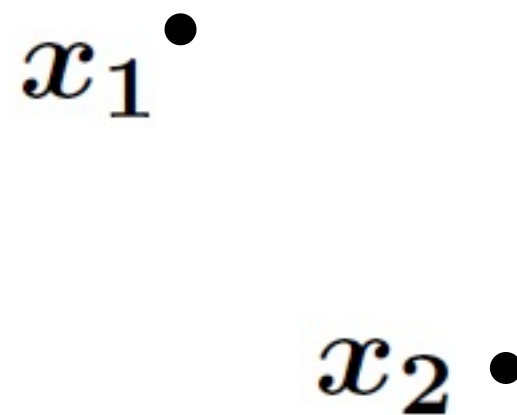
x_2

Example ($M = \mathbb{R}^n$)

parallel transport



reflection

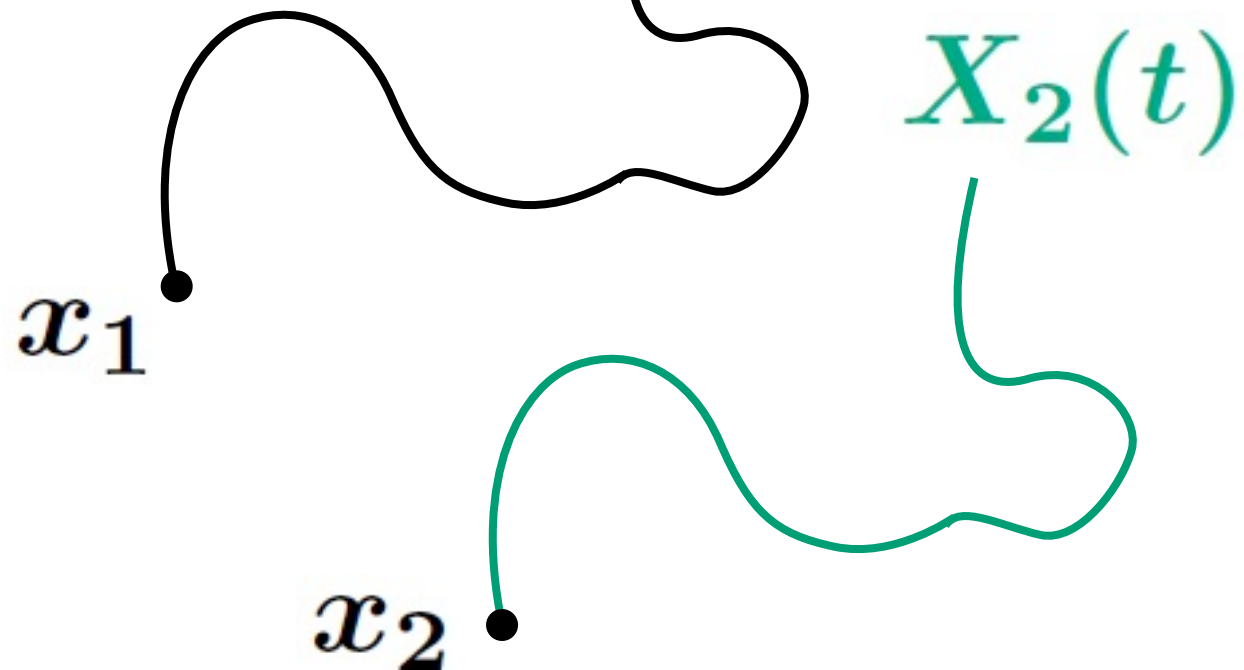


Example ($M = \mathbb{R}^n$)

parallel transport

$X_1(t)$

$X_2(t)$



x_1

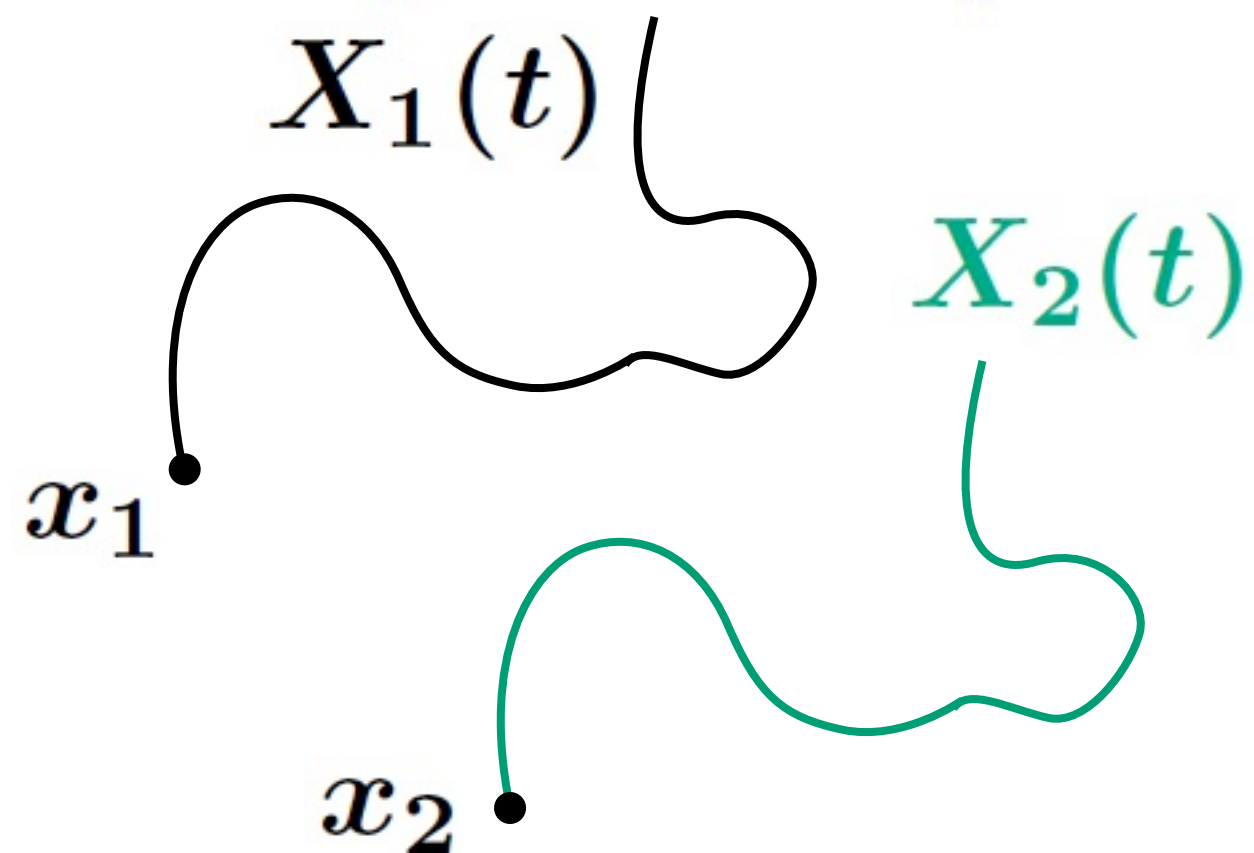
x_2

reflection

$$d(X_1(t), X_2(t)) = d(X_1(0), X_2(0))$$

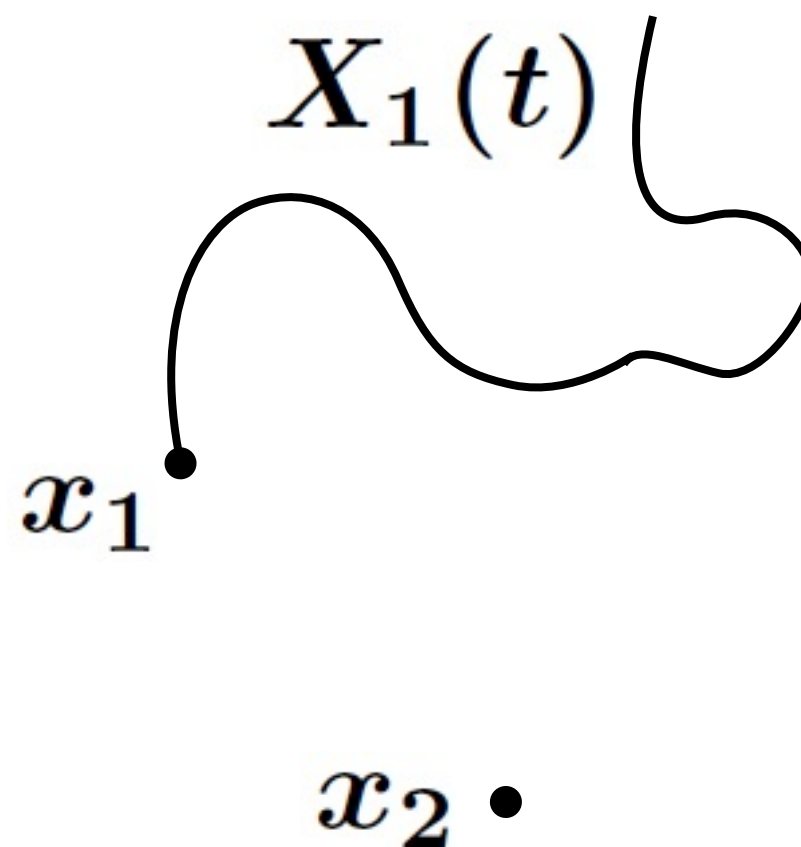
Example ($M = \mathbb{R}^n$)

parallel transport



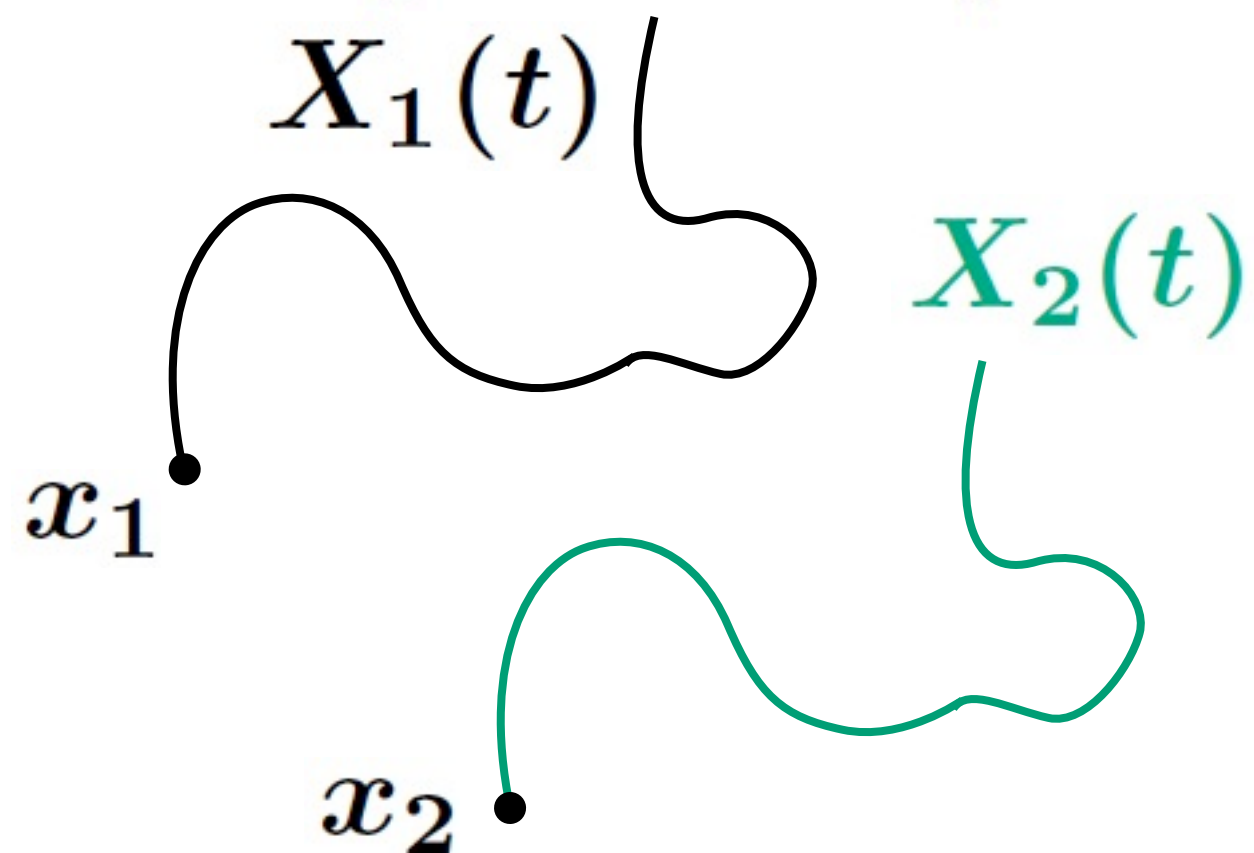
$$\begin{aligned} d(X_1(t), X_2(t)) \\ = d(X_1(0), X_2(0)) \end{aligned}$$

reflection



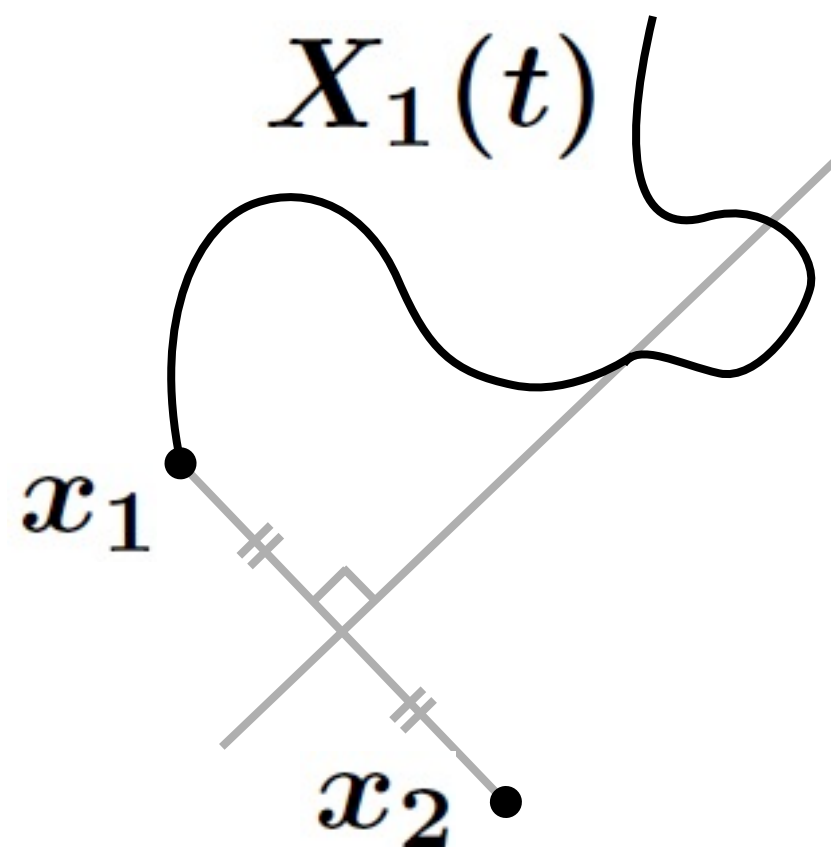
Example ($M = \mathbb{R}^n$)

parallel transport



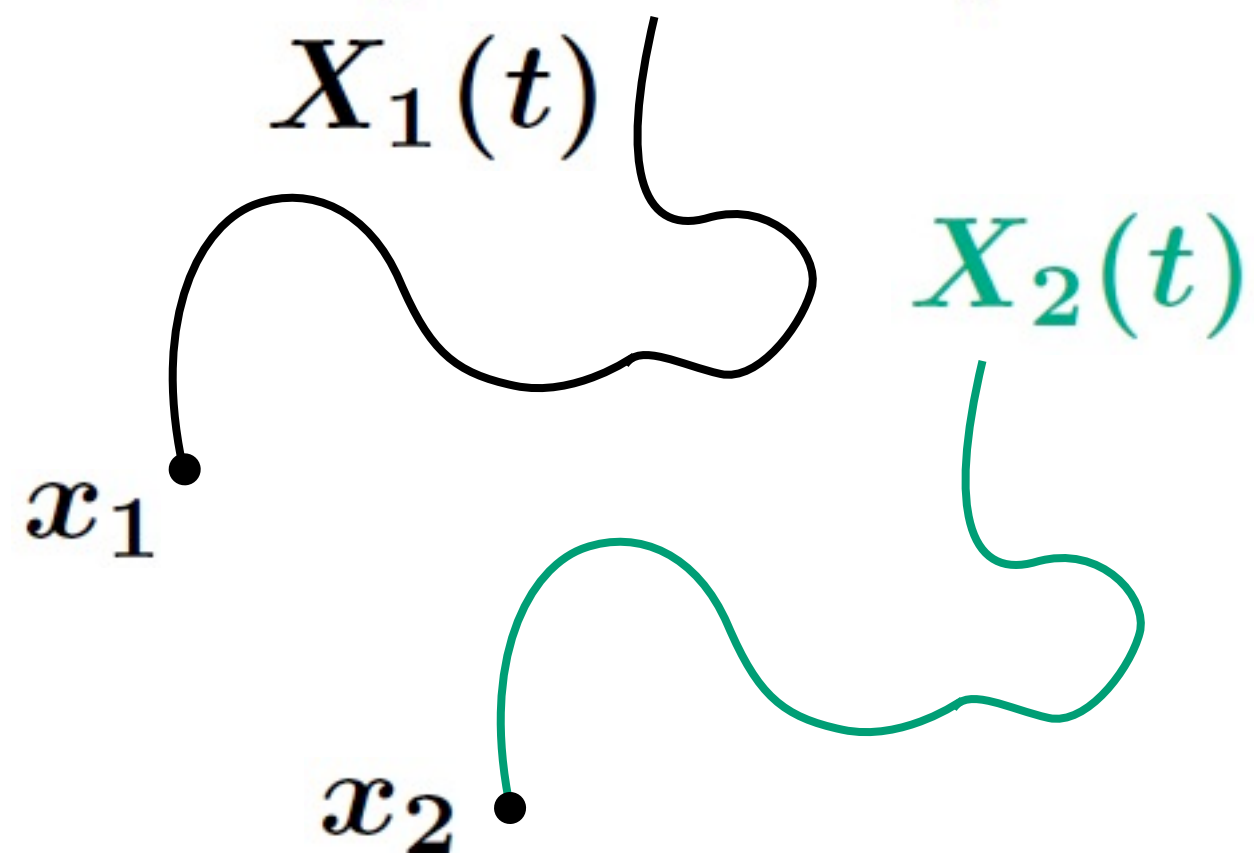
$$d(X_1(t), X_2(t)) \\ = d(X_1(0), X_2(0))$$

reflection



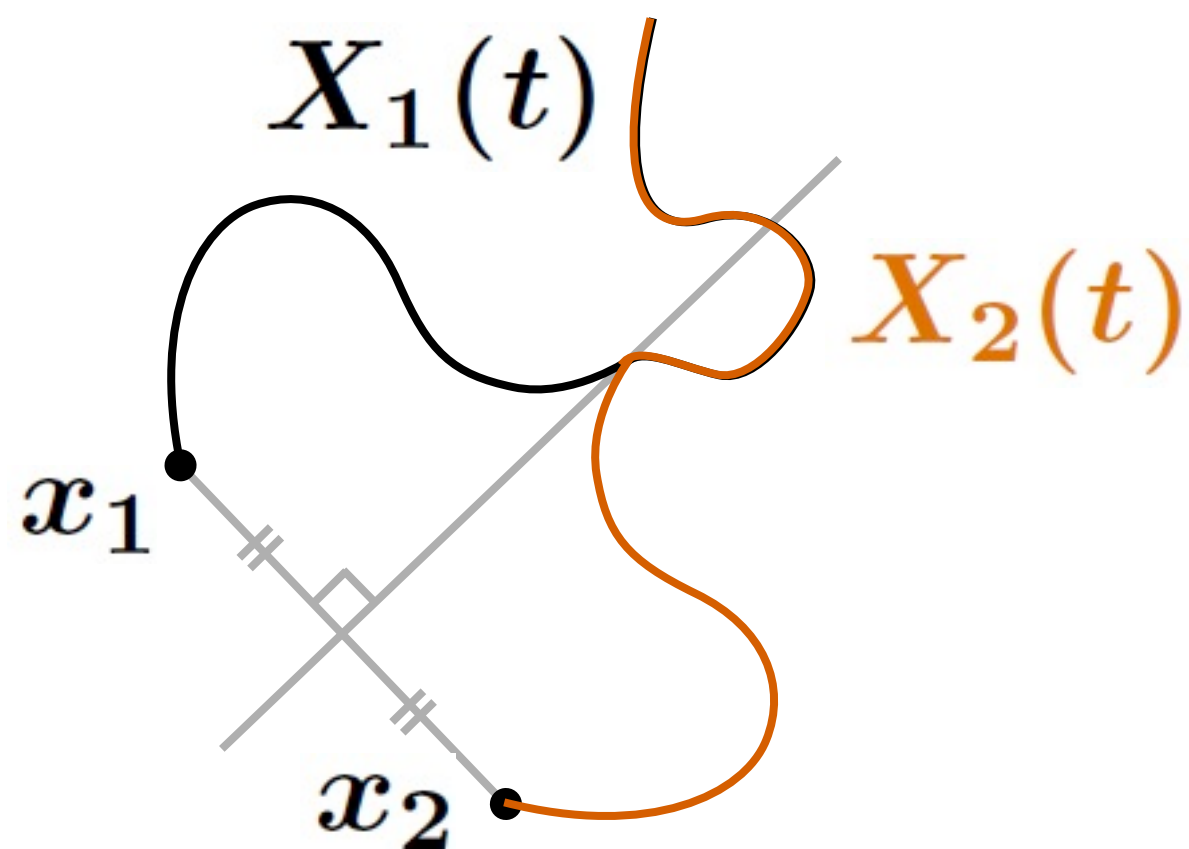
Example ($M = \mathbb{R}^n$)

parallel transport



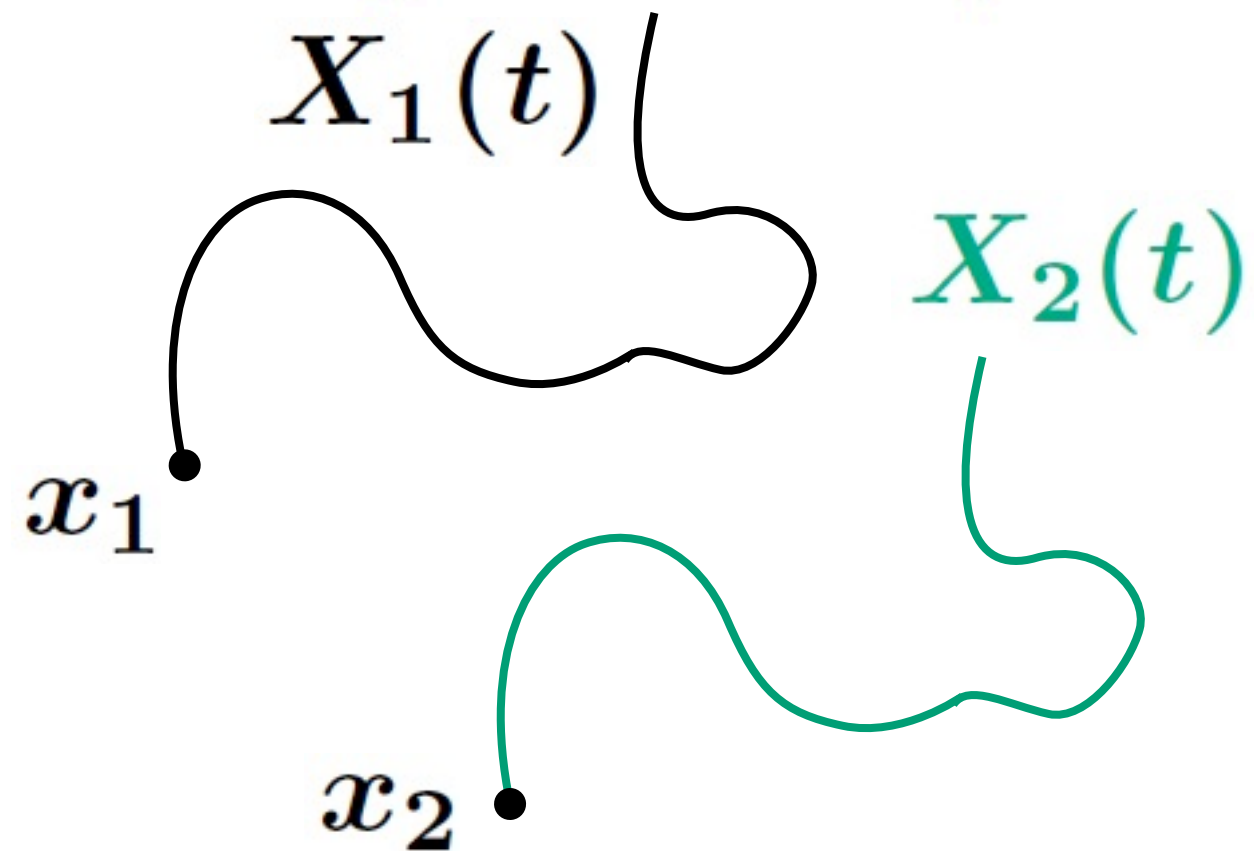
$$d(X_1(t), X_2(t)) \\ = d(X_1(0), X_2(0))$$

reflection



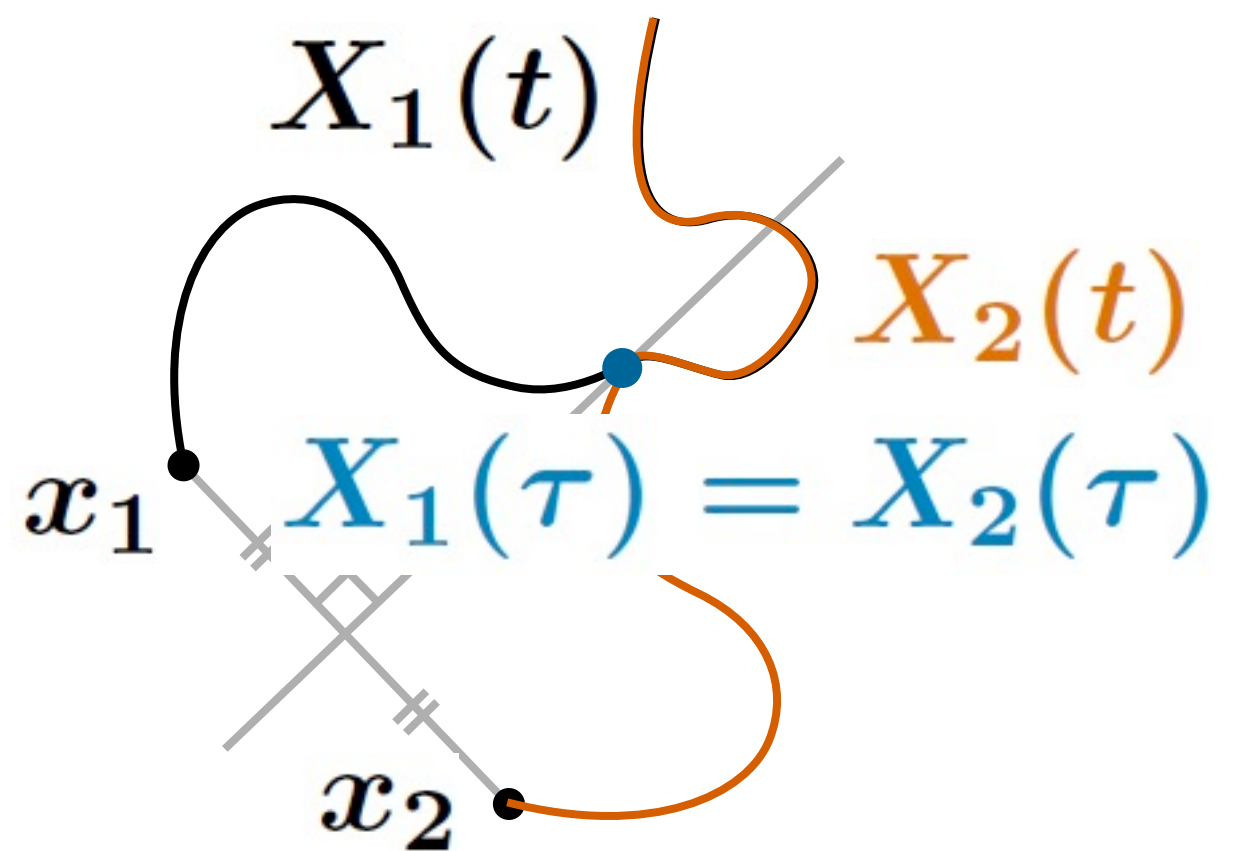
Example ($M = \mathbb{R}^n$)

parallel transport



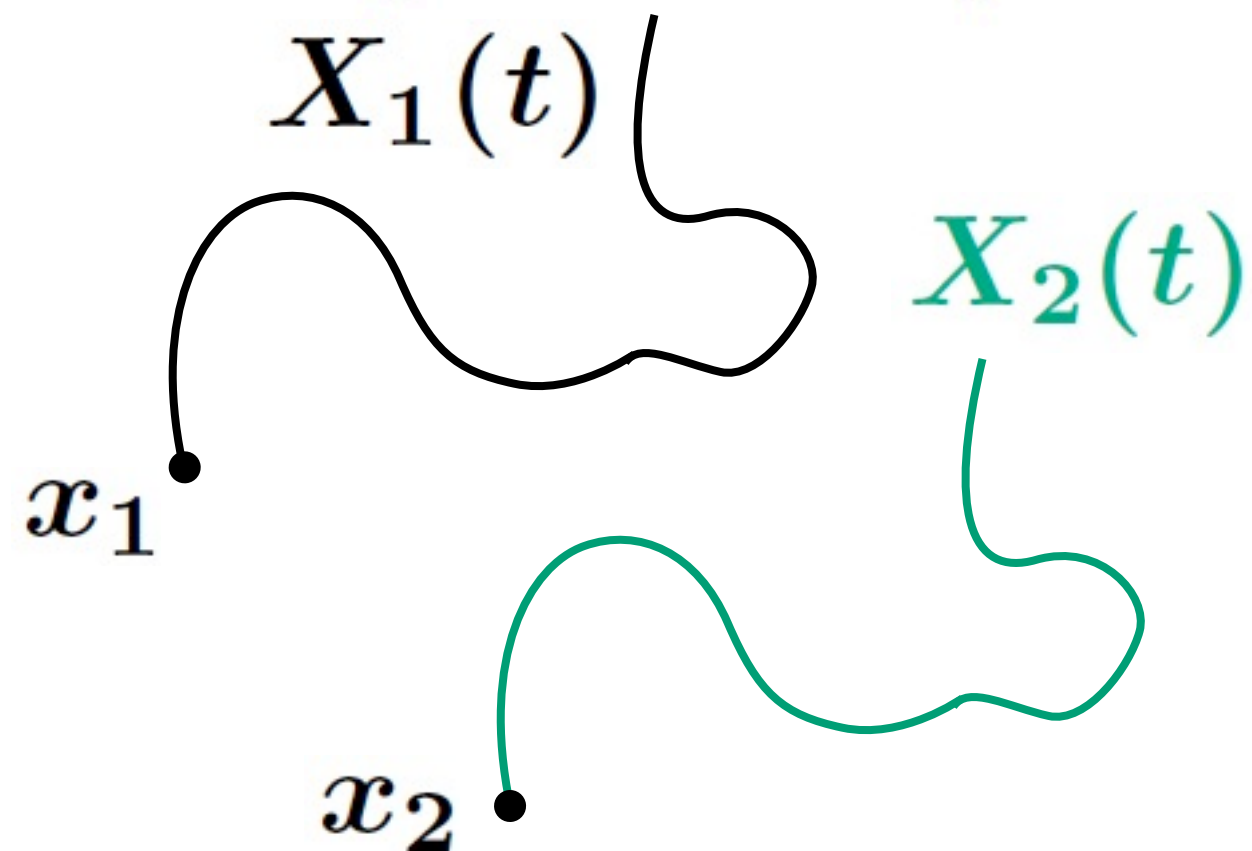
$$d(X_1(t), X_2(t)) \\ = d(X_1(0), X_2(0))$$

reflection



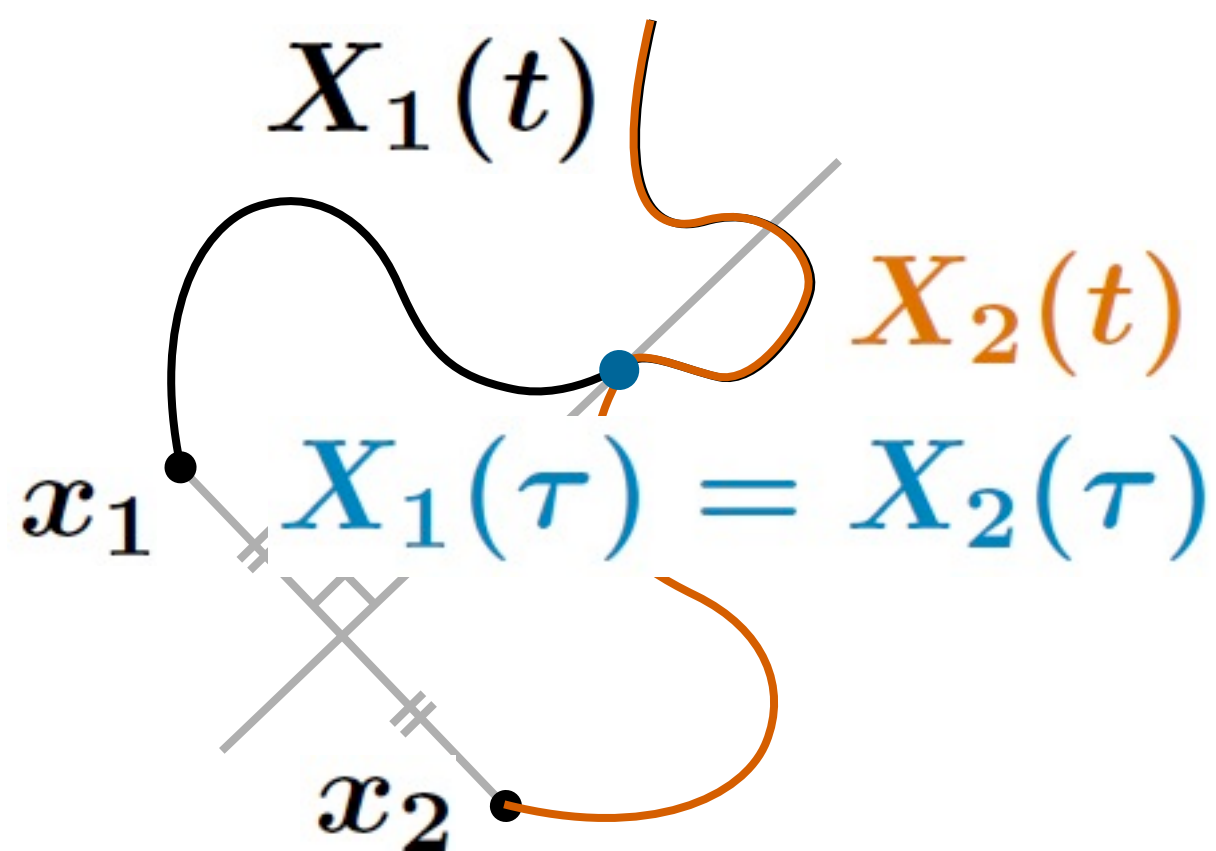
Example ($M = \mathbb{R}^n$)

parallel transport



$$\begin{aligned} d(X_1(t), X_2(t)) \\ = d(X_1(0), X_2(0)) \end{aligned}$$

reflection



Estimate of $\mathbf{P}[\tau \geq t]$
(τ : first time to meet)

On a Riem. mfd M :

parallel transport/reflection of **infinitesimal motions**
along a geodesic joining particles

- Coupling by parallel transport
[F.-Y.Wang '97, von Renesse '04, Arnaudon & Coulibaly & Thalmaier '09, K., . . .]
- Coupling by reflection
[Kendall '86, Cranston '91, F.-Y.Wang '97, '05, von Renesse '04, K., . . .]

What can be obtained from couplings
when $\text{Ric} \geq K$?

Optimal transportation cost

For $c : M \times M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, $\mu_1, \mu_2 \in \mathcal{P}(M)$,

$$\mathcal{T}_c(\mu_1, \mu_2) := \inf_{\pi \in \Pi(\mu_1, \mu_2)} \int_{M \times M} c d\pi$$

$\Pi(\mu_1, \mu_2)$: set of couplings of μ_1 and μ_2

★ $(X_1(t), X_2(t))$: coupling of $X^{x_1}(t)$ & $X^{x_2}(t)$

⇓

$$\mathbb{P} \circ (X_1(t), X_2(t))^{-1} \in \Pi(P_t^* \delta_{x_1}, P_t^* \delta_{x_2})$$

(P_t : heat semigroup)

- Coupling by parallel transport

- Coupling by reflection

- Coupling by parallel transport

⇒ Pathwise contraction:

$$e^{Kt} d(X_1(t), X_2(t)) \searrow \mathbf{P}\text{-a.s.}$$

- Coupling by reflection

- Coupling by parallel transport

⇒ Pathwise contraction:

$$e^{Kt} d(X_1(t), X_2(t)) \searrow \mathbb{P}\text{-a.s.}$$

- Coupling by reflection

⇒ Estimate of $\mathbb{P}[\tau > t]$ in terms of K and n
(⇒ Estimate of total variations)

- Coupling by parallel transport

⇒ Pathwise contraction:

$$e^{Kt} d(X_1(t), X_2(t)) \searrow \mathbb{P}\text{-a.s.}$$

⇒ Monotonicity of (scaled) transportation costs:

$$\mathcal{T}_{(e^{Kt}d)^p}(P_t^* \mu_1, P_t^* \mu_2) \searrow \text{in } t$$

- Coupling by reflection

⇒ Estimate of $\mathbb{P}[\tau > t]$ in terms of K and n

(⇒ Estimate of total variations)

- Coupling by parallel transport

⇒ Pathwise contraction:

$$e^{Kt} d(X_1(t), X_2(t)) \searrow \mathbb{P}\text{-a.s.}$$

⇒ Monotonicity of (scaled) transportation costs:

$$\mathcal{T}_{(e^{Kt}d)^p}(P_t^* \mu_1, P_t^* \mu_2) \searrow \text{in } t$$

- Coupling by reflection

⇒ Estimate of $\mathbb{P}[\tau > t]$ in terms of K and n

(⇒ Estimate of total variations)

⇒ (monotonicity of a transportation cost)

Motivation: Stochastic analysis on **singular spaces**

- **Construction** of coupling by reflection

⇐ differentiable structure on M

(How do we formulate it on singular sp.'s?)

- “Monotonicity of transportation cost” is robust

⇒ **Stable under Gromov-Hausdorff conv.**

- Potential connection with gradient flow theory

$\left(\begin{array}{l} \text{e.g. “Hess Ent} \geq K” \\ \Rightarrow \mathcal{I}_{(e^{Kt}d)^2}(P_t^* \mu_1, P_t^* \mu_2) \searrow \end{array} \right)$

2. Framework and main results

General framework

Z : C^1 -vector field

$X^x(t)$: diffusion process associated with $\Delta + Z$

($X(t)$: BM $\Leftrightarrow Z = 0$)

Bakry-Émery Ricci tensor

For $N \in [n, \infty]$,

$$\text{Ric}^{Z,N} := \text{Ric} - (\nabla Z)^{\text{sym}} - \frac{1}{N-n} Z \otimes Z$$

Assumption

For $K \in \mathbb{R}$, $\text{Ric}^{Z,N} \geq K$

Remarks

- Ass. \Leftrightarrow Bakry-Émery's curv.-dim. cond.

- When $Z = 0$,

$$\text{Ass.} \Leftrightarrow n \leq N \text{ and } \text{Ric} \geq K$$

- The Riem. metric g and Z can depend on t :

$$\text{Ric}_{g(t)}^{Z(t), \infty} \geq \frac{1}{2} \partial_t g(t) + K$$

$K = 0, Z = 0$ & “=” \Leftrightarrow backward Ricci flow

- $K > 0$ & $N < \infty \Rightarrow$ max. diam. thm. [K. '11]

Theorem 1 [K. & Sturm]

$(X_1(t), X_2(t))$: a coupling by refl. of two BMs.

\Rightarrow For $\varphi_t = \varphi_t^{N,K} : [0, \infty) \rightarrow [0, 1]$

given below,

$$\mathbb{E}[\varphi_{t-s}(d(X_1(s), X_2(s)))] \searrow$$

in $s \in [0, t]$

Theorem 2 [ibid.]

For $t > 0$, $\mu_1, \mu_2 \in \mathcal{P}(M)$,

$$\mathcal{T}_{\varphi_{t-s}(d)}(P_s^* \mu_1, P_s^* \mu_2) \searrow \text{ in } s \in [0, t]$$

Definition of $\varphi_t^{K,N}(a)$ (for $N \in \mathbb{N}$)

$$\varphi_t^{K,N}(a) := \frac{1}{2} \left\| \tilde{P}_t^* \delta_{\tilde{x}} - \tilde{P}_t^* \delta_{\tilde{y}} \right\|_{\text{TV}}$$

- \tilde{P}_t : heat semigr. on the **spaceform** $\mathbb{M}_{K,N}$
($\mathbb{M}_{N,K}$: sphere, Euclidean sp. or hyperbolic sp.)
- $d(\tilde{x}, \tilde{y}) = a$

Comparison functions / processes

$$s_K(u) := \frac{1}{\sqrt{K}} \sin(\sqrt{K}u),$$

$$c_K(u) := \cos(\sqrt{K}u)$$

$$\Psi_{K,N}(u) := -K \frac{s_{K/(N-1)}(u)}{c_{K/(N-1)}(u)}$$

- $\rho^a(t)$ solves the following SDE on \mathbb{R} :

$$d\rho^a(t) = \sqrt{2}d\beta(t) + \Psi(\rho^a(t))dt,$$

$$\rho^a(0) = a$$

($\beta(t)$: BM on \mathbb{R})

Definition of $\varphi_t^{K,N}(a)$ (general case)

P_t^ρ : transition semigroup of $\rho^a(t)$

$$\varphi_t^{K,N}(a) := \frac{1}{2} \left\| (P_t^\rho)^* \delta_{a/2} - (P_t^\rho)^* \delta_{-a/2} \right\|_{\text{TV}}$$

Remark (Why does these definitions coincide?)

- $\boldsymbol{\rho}(t) = \begin{cases} (\rho^{a/2}(t), -\rho^{a/2}(t)) & \text{(before meet)} \\ (\rho^{a/2}(t), \rho^{a/2}(t)) & \text{(after meet)} \end{cases}$

is a coupling by refl. of $\rho^{a/2}(t)$ & $\rho^{-a/2}(t)$

- When $M = \mathbb{M}_{K,N}$, $a = d(x_1, x_2)$ & $\mathbb{X}(t) = (X_1(t), X_2(t))$: coupling by refl.,

$$(d(\mathbb{X}(t)))_{t \geq 0} \stackrel{\mathcal{L}}{=} (d_{\mathbb{R}}(\boldsymbol{\rho}_{K,N}(t)))_{t \geq 0}$$

(Cont'd) Coupling inequality and maximality

For $\ell : [0, \infty) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$,

$$\tau(\ell) := \inf\{t > 0 \mid \ell(t) = 0\}$$

- For any (Markovian) coupling $\hat{X}(t)$ of (Markov) processes $\hat{X}^{x_1}(t)$ and $\hat{X}^{x_2}(t)$,

$$\mathbb{P}[\tau(d(\hat{X})) > t]$$

$$\geq \frac{1}{2} \|\mathbb{P} \circ \hat{X}^{x_1}(t)^{-1} - \mathbb{P} \circ \hat{X}^{x_2}(t)^{-1}\|_{\text{TV}}$$

(Cont'd) Coupling inequality and maximality

For $\ell : [0, \infty) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$,

$$\tau(\ell) := \inf\{t > 0 \mid \ell(t) = 0\}$$

- For any (Markovian) coupling $\hat{\mathbf{X}}(t)$ of (Markov) processes $\hat{X}^{x_1}(t)$ and $\hat{X}^{x_2}(t)$,

$$\mathbb{P}[\tau(d(\hat{\mathbf{X}})) > t]$$

$$\geq \frac{1}{2} \|\mathbb{P} \circ \hat{X}^{x_1}(t)^{-1} - \mathbb{P} \circ \hat{X}^{x_2}(t)^{-1}\|_{\text{TV}}$$

- $\boxed{“=”}$ for \mathbf{X} on $\mathbb{M}_{K,N}$ or ρ on \mathbb{R}
(e.g., [K. '07, J. Theoret. Probab.])

Example of $\rho^a(t)$

- $K = 0$

$$\Rightarrow d\rho^a(t) = \sqrt{2}d\beta(t)$$

(1-dim. BM, independent of N)

- $N = \infty$

$$\Rightarrow d\rho^a(t) = \sqrt{2}d\beta(t) - K\rho^a(t)dt$$

(Ornstein-Uhlenbeck processes)

Properties of φ_t

- $\varphi_t \nearrow$, **concave**, $\varphi_t(0) = 0$ ($\Rightarrow \varphi_t(d)$: dist.)
- $\varphi_t(a) \searrow$

Properties of φ_t

- $\varphi_t \nearrow$, **concave**, $\varphi_t(0) = 0$ ($\Rightarrow \varphi_t(d)$: dist.)

- $\varphi_t(a) \searrow$

- $\varphi_0 = \mathbf{1}_{(0, \infty)}$

$$(\Rightarrow \mathcal{I}_{\varphi_0(d)}(\mu_1, \mu_2) = \frac{1}{2} \|\mu_1 - \mu_2\|_{\text{TV}})$$

Properties of φ_t

- $\varphi_t \nearrow$, **concave**, $\varphi_t(0) = 0$ ($\Rightarrow \varphi_t(d)$: dist.)

- $\varphi_t(a) \searrow$

- $\varphi_0 = \mathbf{1}_{(0, \infty)}$

$$(\Rightarrow \mathcal{I}_{\varphi_0(d)}(\mu_1, \mu_2) = \frac{1}{2} \|\mu_1 - \mu_2\|_{\text{TV}})$$

- $\left. \begin{array}{l} N \leq N' \\ K \geq K' \end{array} \right\} \Rightarrow \varphi_t^{K, N}(a) \leq \varphi_t^{K', N'}(a)$

3. Idea of the proof of Thm 1

Proposition 1

For $a = d(x_1, x_2)$,

“ $d(X_1(s), X_2(s)) \leq d_{\mathbb{R}}(\boldsymbol{\rho}(s))$ ” \mathbb{P} -a.s.

for a BM $\beta(t)$ defining $\rho^{a/2}(t)$

\Downarrow

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{E}[\varphi_{t-s}(d(X_1(s), X_2(s)))] \\ \leq \mathbf{E}[\varphi_{t-s}(d_{\mathbb{R}}(\boldsymbol{\rho}(s)))] \end{aligned}$$

Strategy of the proof of Proposition 1

- Itô formula:

$$dd(X_1(s), X_2(s)) \leq 2\sqrt{2}d\beta(s) + \Lambda(s)ds$$

- Index lemma:

$$\Lambda(s) \leq \Psi(d(X_1(s), X_2(s)))$$

\Rightarrow SDE comparison thm implies conclusion \square

(\exists further technical difficulties to make it rigorous)

Lemma 1 (cf. [K.'07, J. Theoret. Probab.])

$$\mathbb{E}[\varphi_{t-s}(d_{\mathbb{R}}(\boldsymbol{\rho}(s)))] : \text{const. in } s$$

Proof

Since

$$\varphi_{t-s}(a) = \mathbb{P}[\tau(d_{\mathbb{R}}(\boldsymbol{\rho})) > t - s],$$

the Markov property of $\boldsymbol{\rho}$ implies

$$\mathbb{E}[\varphi_{t-s}(d_{\mathbb{R}}(\boldsymbol{\rho}(s)))] = \mathbb{P}[\tau(d_{\mathbb{R}}(\boldsymbol{\rho})) > t]$$



(i) Prop. 1 + Lem. 1

↓

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbb{E}[\varphi_{t-s}(d(X_1(s), X_2(s)))] \\ &\leq \mathbb{E}[\varphi_{t-s}(d_{\mathbb{R}}(\boldsymbol{\rho}(s)))] \\ &= \mathbb{E}[\varphi_t(d_{\mathbb{R}}(\boldsymbol{\rho}(0)))] \\ &= \varphi_t(d(x_1, x_2))\end{aligned}$$

(ii) The Markov property of $(X_1(t), X_2(t))$
yields the conclusion

□

4. Applications

Theorem 2: $\mathcal{I}_{\varphi_{t-s}(d_s)}(P_s^* \mu_1, P_s^* \mu_2) \searrow$

\Downarrow

$$\mathcal{I}_{\varphi_0(d)}(P_t^* \delta_x, P_t^* \delta_y) \leq \mathcal{I}_{\varphi_t(d)}(\delta_x, \delta_y)$$

Theorem 2: $\mathcal{I}_{\varphi_{t-s}(d_s)}(P_s^* \mu_1, P_s^* \mu_2) \searrow$

\Downarrow

$$\mathcal{I}_{\varphi_0(d)}(P_t^* \delta_x, P_t^* \delta_y) \leq \mathcal{I}_{\varphi_t(d)}(\delta_x, \delta_y)$$

\Downarrow

Corollary 1 (Comparison thm for total variations)

$$\|P_t^* \delta_x - P_t^* \delta_y\|_{\text{TV}} \leq 2\varphi_t(d(x, y))$$

When $N \in \mathbb{N}$, for $d_{\mathbf{M}_{K,N}}(\tilde{x}, \tilde{y}) = d(x, y)$,

$$\text{(RHS)} = \|\tilde{P}_t^* \delta_{\tilde{x}} - \tilde{P}_t^* \delta_{\tilde{y}}\|_{\text{TV}}$$

When $K < 0$,

$$\exists \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \varphi_t^{K,N}(a) =: \Phi^{K,N}(a) \quad (> 0 \text{ iff } a > 0)$$

When $K < 0$,

$$\exists \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \varphi_t^{K,N}(a) =: \Phi^{K,N}(a) \quad (> 0 \text{ iff } a > 0)$$



Corollary 2 (Monotonicity when $K < 0$)

$$\mathcal{I}_{\Phi^{K,N}(d)}(P_t^* \mu_1, P_t^* \mu_2) \searrow \text{ in } t \geq 0$$

★ Φ will be given explicitly below

Stability under GH-convergence

(M_m, g_m) : n -dim. cpt. Riem. mfds, $\text{Ric}_{g_m} \geq K$

Suppose

$$(M_m, d_m, \text{vol}_{g_m}) \xrightarrow{\text{mGH}} (M_\infty, d_\infty, v_\infty)$$



For $\mu^{(m)} \in \mathcal{P}(M_m)$

with $\mu^{(m)} \rightarrow \mu^{(\infty)} \in \mathcal{P}(M_\infty)$,

$P_t \mu^{(m)} \rightarrow$ a “heat distribution” μ_t^∞ on M_∞

[Gigli '10]

Theorem 3 [K. & S., op.sit.]

$(M_\infty, d_\infty, v_\infty)$: as above, $N \geq n$

$\mu_1(t), \mu_2(t)$: heat distributions on M_∞

\Rightarrow For $t > 0$,

$$\mathcal{I}_{\varphi_{t-s}^{K,N}(d)}(\mu_1(t), \mu_2(t)) \searrow$$

in $s \in [0, t]$

5. The function φ_t

Properties of φ_t

- $\varphi_t(\mathbf{0}) = \mathbf{0}$, $\varphi_0 = \mathbf{1}_{(0, \infty)}$

(A) $\varphi_t \nearrow$, $\varphi \cdot (a) \searrow$

(B) $\left. \begin{array}{l} N \leq N' \\ K \geq K' \end{array} \right\} \Rightarrow \varphi_t^{K, N}(a) \leq \varphi_t^{K', N'}(a)$

(C) φ_t : concave

(A) $\varphi_t(\cdot) \nearrow$ & $\varphi.(a) \searrow$

Recall: $\mathbb{P}[\tau(\boldsymbol{\rho}) > t] = \varphi_t(a)$

($\boldsymbol{\rho}(t)$: coupling by refl. of $\rho^{a/2}(t)$ and $\rho^{-a/2}(t)$)

$\Rightarrow \varphi.(a) \searrow$

• $\tau(\boldsymbol{\rho}) =$ the first time that $\rho^{a/2}$ hits 0

$\Rightarrow \tau(\boldsymbol{\rho}) \nearrow$ as $a \nearrow \Rightarrow \varphi_t(\cdot) \nearrow$

$$\underline{(B) \varphi_t^{K,N}(a) \leq \varphi_t^{K',N'}(a)}$$

SDE comparison:

$$d_{\mathbb{R}}(\rho_{K,N}(t)) \leq d_{\mathbb{R}}(\rho_{K',N'}(t))$$

(for a suitable $\beta(t)$)



$$\tau(\rho_{K,N}) \leq \tau(\rho_{K',N'})$$



$$\varphi_t^{K,N}(a) \leq \varphi_t^{K',N'}(a)$$

(C) φ_t : concave

Proposition 2

$\exists \xi_t^{K,N} \in \mathcal{P}([0, \infty))$ s.t.

$$\varphi_t(a) = \int_{[0, \infty)} \chi\left(\frac{a}{2\sqrt{2u}}\right) \xi_t^{K,N}(du),$$

$$\chi(r) := \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-r}^r e^{-x^2/2} dx$$

- χ : concave. $\therefore \varphi_t$: concave

Expression of $\xi_t^{K,N}$

$$(i) \quad \xi_t^{K,\infty} = \xi_t^{0,N} = \delta_{\gamma(t)}, \quad \gamma(t) := \frac{e^{2Kt} - 1}{2K}$$

(ii) When $N < \infty$ & $K \neq 0$

$$\xi_t^{K,N}(A) = \mathbb{P} \left[\int_0^t \frac{ds}{c_{K/(N-1)}(\theta_s)^2} \in A \right],$$

$$d\theta_t = \sqrt{2}d\beta_t + \hat{\Psi}(\theta_t)dt,$$

$$\hat{\Psi}(a) := (N-2) \frac{c_{K/(N-1)}(a)}{s_{K/(N-1)}(a)} + \frac{\Psi_{K,N}(a)}{(N-1)}$$

Another expression of $\varphi_t(a)$

$$\text{(Let } K^* := \frac{K}{N-1} \text{)}$$

(i) When $N < \infty$ & $K > 0$,

$$\begin{aligned} \varphi_t(\mathbf{a}) = & \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} e^{-(2n+1)(2n+N)K^*t} \\ & \times \frac{(-1)^n (4n + N + 1)}{\pi(2n + N)} \\ & \times B\left(\frac{N-1}{2}, n + \frac{1}{2}\right) P_{2n+1}(\tilde{\mathbf{a}}) \end{aligned}$$

• $B(\cdot, \cdot)$: Beta function,

• $\tilde{\mathbf{a}} := \sin(\sqrt{K^*} \mathbf{a} / 2)$

• $P_n(x)$: Gegenbauer polynomial of param. $\frac{N-1}{2}$

(ii) When $N < \infty$ and $K < 0$,

$\varphi_t(a)$

$$= \mathbb{E} \left[\chi \left(\frac{s_{K^*}(a/2)}{2\sqrt{2}} \left(\int_0^t \theta'(s)^2 ds \right)^{-1/2} \right) \right],$$

where $\theta'(t) := \exp \left(\sqrt{-2K^*} \beta(t) + Kt \right)$

More explicitly,

$$\varphi_t(\mathbf{a}) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{du}{u} \int_0^{\infty} dx$$

$$\chi \left(\frac{1}{2} \sqrt{\frac{-K^*}{u}} s_{K^*} \left(\frac{\mathbf{a}}{2} \right) \right) \vartheta \left(\frac{e^x}{u}, -2K^* t \right)$$

$$\times \exp \left(\frac{(N-1)}{2} (Kt - x) - \frac{1 + e^{2x}}{2u} \right),$$

where

$$\vartheta(r, t) := \frac{r}{2\pi^3 t} e^{\pi^2/(2t)} \int_0^{\infty} e^{-\xi^2/(2t)}$$

$$e^{-r \cosh(\xi)} \sinh(\xi) \sin \left(\frac{\pi \xi}{t} \right) d\xi$$

The limit of $\varphi_t(a)$ as $t \rightarrow \infty$ (when $K < 0$)

- $\Phi^{K, \infty}(a) = \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \varphi_t^{K, \infty}(a) = \chi\left(\frac{a\sqrt{-K}}{2}\right)$

- $\Phi^{K, N}(a) = \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \varphi_t^{K, N}(a)$
 $= \int_0^\infty \chi\left(\sqrt{\frac{-K^*u}{2}} s_{K^*}\left(\frac{a}{2}\right)\right) \nu(du),$

where ν : Gamma distribution of param. $\frac{N-1}{2}$,

i.e. $\nu(dx) = \Gamma\left(\frac{N-1}{2}\right)^{-1} x^{(N-3)/2} e^{-x} dx$