

# **Applications of Hopf-Lax formulae to analysis of heat distributions**

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# 1. Introduction

# Hopf-Lax semigroup

$(X, d)$ : metric space

For  $f \in C_b(X)$ ,  $t > 0$ ,

$$Q_t f(x) := \inf_{y \in X} \left[ f(y) + tL\left(\frac{d(x, y)}{t}\right) \right]$$

$L : [0, \infty) \rightarrow [0, \infty)$  : convex, increasing,  
 $L(0) = 0$

(Typically  $L(s) = \frac{1}{p}s^p$  with  $p \in (1, \infty)$ )

# Hopf-Lax semigroup

Hamilton-Jacobi equation

When  $X = \mathbb{R}^m$ , for  $f \in C_b(X)$ ,

$$\partial_t Q_t f = -L^*(|\nabla Q_t f|),$$

$$\lim_{t \downarrow 0} Q_t f = f,$$

where  $L^*$ : Legendre conjugate of  $L$ :

$$L^*(u) := \sup_{v \geq 0} [uv - L(v)]$$

$$\star L(s) = p^{-1}s^p \Rightarrow L^*(u) = q^{-1}u^q$$

(we only consider this case & the case  $p = 2$ )

# Recent developments

- Connection with optimal transportation
- Application to functional inequalities
- Extension on metric measure spaces

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- Connection with optimal transportation

†  $W_p$ :  $L^p$ -Wasserstein distance on  $\mathcal{P}(X)$

$$W_p(\mu_0, \mu_1) := \inf_{\pi \in \Pi(\mu_0, \mu_1)} \|d\|_{L^p(\pi)}$$

( $\Pi(\mu_0, \mu_1) \subset \mathcal{P}(X^2)$ : coupling of  $\mu_0$  &  $\mu_1$ )

† Kantorovich duality

$$\frac{W_p(\mu_0, \mu_1)^p}{p} = \sup_{f \in C_b(X)} \left[ \int_X Q_1 f \, d\mu_1 - \int_X f \, d\mu_0 \right]$$

- Application to functional inequalities
- Extension on metric measure spaces

# Recent developments

- Connection with optimal transportation
- Application to functional inequalities
  - e.g. log-Sobolev ineq./transport-entropy ineq.  
[Otto & Villani '00]  
[Bobkov, Gentil & Ledoux '01]  
[Golzan, Roberto & Samson] etc.
- Extension on metric measure spaces

# Recent developments

- Connection with optimal transportation
- Application to functional inequalities
- Extension on metric measure spaces
  - † [Lott & Villani '07]  
Under volume doubling & Poincaré ineq.
  - † [Balogh, Engoulatov, Hunziker & Maasalo '12]  
general Lagrangian  $L$
  - † [Ambrosio, Gigli & Savaré]  
No (VD) or (PI).  $\dim X = \infty$  is allowed
  - † [Gozlan, Roberto & Samson]  
General  $L$ . Typically  $\dim X < \infty$

## Purpose of the talk

Studying functional inequalities  
involving { the heat semigroup  
                  a lower Ricci curvature bound  
                  by means of Hopf-Lax semigroup

## Outline of the talk

### **1. Introduction**

### **2. Bakry-Émery type gradient estimate**

### **3. Gradient flow of the relative entropy**

#### **3.1 Identification of heat flows**

#### **3.2 Applications of the identification**

### **4. Curvature-dimension conditions**

# General scheme (heuristic)

$(\mu_t)_{t \in [0,1]} \subset \mathcal{P}(X)$ : 1-parameter family

$$\frac{W_p(\mu_0, \mu_1)^p}{p} = \sup_{f \in C_b^{\text{Lip}}(X)} \left[ \int_X Q_1 f \, d\mu_1 - \int_X Q_0 f \, d\mu_0 \right]$$

$$\begin{aligned} [\dots] &\leq \int_0^1 \partial_t \left( \int_X Q_t f \, d\mu_t \right) dt \\ &= \int_0^1 \left\{ \int_X (\partial_t Q_t f) \, d\mu_t \right\} dt \\ &\quad + \int_0^1 \left\{ \int_X Q_t f \, d(\partial_t \mu_t) \right\} dt \\ &\leq (\text{indep. of } f) \end{aligned}$$

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# Framework

$(X, d)$ : Polish sp.,  $d$ : length distance

- $(P(x, \cdot))_{x \in X} \subset \mathcal{P}(X)$ : Markov kernel  
(e.g.  $\textcolor{blue}{P}(x, dy) = p_t(x, dy)$ : heat semigroup)
- $|\nabla_d f|(x) := \limsup_{y \rightarrow x} \left| \frac{f(x) - f(y)}{d(x, y)} \right|$   
(local Lipschitz const.)

## Theorem 1 (cf. [K.'10])

For  $p, q \in [1, \infty]$  with  $p^{-1} + q^{-1} = 1$  and  $C > 0$ , TFAE:

(i) For  $\mu_0, \mu_1 \in \mathcal{P}(X)$ ,

$$W_p(P^*\mu_0, P^*\mu_1) \leq CW_p(\mu_0, \mu_1) \quad (W_p)$$

(ii) For  $f \in C_b^{\text{Lip}}(X)$ ,

$$|\nabla_d Pf|(x) \leq CP(|\nabla_d f|^q)(x)^{1/q} \quad (G_q)$$

(When  $q = \infty$ , (RHS of  $(G_q)$ ) will be  $\|\nabla_d f\|_\infty$ )

# Motivation

$X$ : cpl. Riem. mfd,  $P_t$ : heat semigr.

$\Rightarrow$  TFAE for  $K \in \mathbb{R}$  ([von Renesse & Sturm '05] etc.)

(a)  $\text{Ric} \geq K$

(b) 
$$W_p(P_t^*\mu_0, P_t^*\mu_1) \leq e^{-Kt} W_p(\mu_0, \mu_1)$$

for some  $p \in [1, \infty]$

(c) 
$$|\nabla P_t f|(x) \leq e^{-Kt} P_t(|\nabla f|^q)(x)^{1/q}$$

for some  $q \in [1, \infty]$  (Bakry-Émery's gradient est.)

(d) 
$$\frac{1}{2}\Delta|\nabla f|^2 - \langle \nabla f, \nabla \Delta f \rangle \geq K|\nabla f|^2$$

(e) Relative entropy  $\text{Ent}$  is  $K$ -convex on  $(\mathcal{P}(X), W_2)$

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- For “canonical” diffusions on sub-Riem. mfds,

$$|\nabla P_t f|(x) \leq C(t) P_t(|\nabla f|^q)(x)^{1/q}$$

where  $C(t)$ : discontinuous at 0

[Driver & Melcher '05 / H.-Q. Li '06 / Melcher '08  
/ Bakry et al '08 / Eldredge '09 etc.]

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[Driver & Melcher '05 / H.-Q. Li '06 / Melcher '08 / Bakry et al '08 / Eldredge '09 etc.]

- “(e)  $\Rightarrow$  ( $W_2$ )” even on singular spaces

[Savaré '07 / Ohta '09 / Gigli & Ohta '10 / Gigli, K. & Ohta / Koskela & Zhou / Ambrosio, Gigli & Savaré] etc.

# Sketch of the proof of $(G_q) \Rightarrow (W_p)$

- ★ For simplicity,  $p \in (1, \infty)$  &  $\mu_i = \delta_{x_i}$  ( $i = 0, 1$ )  
 $\gamma : [0, 1] \rightarrow X$ :  $d$ -geod. with  $\gamma(i) = x_i$  ( $i = 0, 1$ )

$$\mu_t := P(\gamma(t), \cdot) = P^* \delta_{\gamma(t)}$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{W_p(P^* \mu_0, P^* \mu_1)^p}{p} \leq \sup_f [\dots]$$

$$\begin{aligned} [\dots] &= \int_0^1 dt \left( \int_X (\partial_t Q_t f) d\mu_t + \int_X Q_t f d(\partial_t \mu_t) \right) \\ &\leq \int_0^1 dt \left( - \frac{P(|\nabla_d Q_t f|^q)}{q}(\gamma(t)) \right. \\ &\quad \left. + d(x_0, x_1) |\nabla_{\tilde{d}} P Q_t f|(\gamma(t)) \right) \end{aligned}$$

## Sketch of the proof of $(G_q) \Rightarrow (W_p)$

Let  $\sigma(t) := P(|\nabla_d Q_t f|^q)(\gamma(t))^{1/q}$

$\Rightarrow (G_q)$  implies

$$-\frac{P(|\nabla_d Q_t f|^q)}{q}(\gamma(t)) + d(x_0, x_1)|\nabla_d P Q_t f|(\gamma(t))$$

$$\leq C d(x_0, x_1) \sigma(t) - \frac{1}{q} \sigma(t)^q \leq \frac{(Cd(x_0, x_1))^p}{p}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \Rightarrow \frac{W_p(P^*\delta_0, P^*\delta_1)^p}{p} &\leq \int_0^1 dt \left( \frac{(Cd(x_0, x_1))^p}{p} \right) \\ &= \frac{(CW_p(\delta_{x_0}, \delta_{x_1}))^p}{p} \end{aligned}$$

□

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## Two formulations of heat flow

$(X, d, \mathfrak{m})$ : metric measure space

(1) Gradient flow in  $L^2(\mathfrak{m})$  of the Dirichlet energy

$$\mathcal{E}(f) := \frac{1}{2} \int_X |\nabla f|^2 d\mathfrak{m}$$

$\rightsquigarrow$  Dirichlet form, heat semigroup

(2) Gradient flow in  $(\mathcal{P}(X), W_2)$  of the rel. entropy

$$\text{Ent}(\mu) := \int_X \rho \log \rho d\mathfrak{m} \quad (\text{if } \mu = \rho \mathfrak{m})$$

([Jordan, Kinderlehrer & Otto '98], ...)

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Q. When (1) = (2) ?

Ans. Ent:  $\exists K$ -convex w.r.t.  $W_2 \Rightarrow (1) = (2)$

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## Known results

- $\mathbb{R}^m$  [Jordan, Kinderlehrer & Otto '98]
  - cpl. Riem. mfd [Erbar '10]
  - Finsler mfd [Ohta & Sturm '09] (**nonlinear**)
  - Wiener sp. [Fang, Shao & Sturm '09] ( **$\infty$ -dim**)
  - Heisenberg gr. [Juillet] (**sub-elliptic**)
- 

- cpt. Alexandrov sp. [Gigli, K. & Ohta] (**singular**)
  - metric measure sp. [Koskela & Zhou]  
[Ambrosio, Gigli & Savaré]
- 

- finite set [Maas '11] (**discrete Markov chain**)
- jump process [Erbar] (**nonlocal generator**)

Ans. Ent:  $\exists K$ -convex w.r.t.  $W_2 \Rightarrow (1) = (2)$

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# Def. of GF (of Ent) on $(\mathcal{P}(X), W_2)$

$(\mu_t)_{t \geq 0}$ : abs. conti.,  $\text{Ent}(\mu_t) < \infty$ ,

$$\partial_t \text{Ent}(\mu_t) = -\frac{1}{2} |\dot{\mu}_t|_{W_2}^2 - \frac{1}{2} |\nabla_- \text{Ent}(\mu_t)|^2,$$

where

$$|\nabla_- \text{Ent}(\mu)| := \limsup_{\nu \rightarrow \mu} \frac{[\text{Ent}(\mu) - \text{Ent}(\nu)]_+}{W_2(\mu, \nu)}$$

$$|\dot{\mu}_t|_{W_2}^2 := \limsup_{s \downarrow 0} \frac{W_2(\mu_{t+s}, \mu_t)^2}{s^2}$$

[Ambrosio, Gigli & Savaré '05]

# Def. of GF (of Ent) on $(\mathcal{P}(X), W_2)$

$$\partial_t \text{Ent}(\mu_t) = -\frac{1}{2} |\dot{\mu}_t|_{W_2}^2 - \frac{1}{2} |\nabla_- \text{Ent}(\mu_t)|^2$$

Heuristics: Why does this definition work?

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{Ent}(\mu_t) - \text{Ent}(\mu_s) \\ & \stackrel{\text{"="}}{=} \int_s^t \langle \dot{\mu}_r, \nabla \text{Ent}(\mu_r) \rangle dr \\ & \geq -\frac{1}{2} \int_s^t |\dot{\mu}_r|^2 dr - \frac{1}{2} \int_s^t |\nabla \text{Ent}(\mu_r)|^2 dr \\ & \left( \because \langle u, v \rangle \geq -\frac{1}{2} (|u|^2 + |v|^2) \right) \end{aligned}$$

and “=” holds iff  $\dot{\mu}_r = -\nabla \text{Ent}(\mu_r)$

# Strategy of the identification

Let  $\mu_t := (P_t \varphi) \mathfrak{m} = (e^{t\Delta} \varphi) \mathfrak{m} \in \mathcal{P}(X)$

Q.  $\partial_t \text{Ent}(\mu_t) \leq -\frac{1}{2} |\dot{\mu}_t|_{W_2}^2 - \frac{1}{2} |\nabla_- \text{Ent}(\mu_t)|^2 ?$

(A)  $\partial_t \text{Ent}(\mu_t) = - \int_X \frac{|\nabla P_t \varphi|^2}{P_t \varphi} d\mathfrak{m}$

(B)  $|\nabla_- \text{Ent}(\rho \mathfrak{m})|^2 \leq \int_X \frac{|\nabla \rho|^2}{\rho} d\mathfrak{m}$

(C)  $|\dot{\mu}_t|_{W_2}^2 \leq \int_X \frac{|\nabla P_t \varphi|^2}{P_t \varphi} d\mathfrak{m}$

# Strategy of the identification

- Integration by parts + chain rule  $\Rightarrow$  (A)
- Ent is  $K$ -convex ( $\Leftrightarrow \text{Ric} \geq K$ )
  - $\Rightarrow$  uniqueness of GF of Ent [Gigli '10]
  - $\Rightarrow$  (B) (naive)
    - [Villani '09, Ambrosio, Gigli & Savaré, ...]
    - ↑ notion of “upper gradients” as a gradient
    - ↑ requires “identification of gradients”
- Lemma 2 below  $\Rightarrow$  (C)

# An estimate of $W_2$ -speed

**Lemma 2** (e.g. [Gigli, K. & Ohta])

$X$ : cpl., stoch. cpl. Riem. mfd.

$P_t$ : the heat semigroup on  $X$

$\varphi : X \rightarrow [0, \infty)$  with  $\|\varphi\|_{L^1} = 1$ ,  $\mu_t := P_t \varphi \text{ vol.}$

Then

$$\begin{aligned} |\dot{\mu}_t|_{W_2}^2 &:= \limsup_{s \downarrow 0} \frac{W_2(\mu_{t+s}, \mu_t)^2}{s^2} \\ &= \int_X \frac{|\nabla P_t \varphi|^2}{P_t \varphi} d \text{vol} \end{aligned}$$

# An estimate of $W_2$ -speed

Sketch of the proof

Let  $\rho_r := P_{t+sr}\varphi$  ( $r \in [0, 1]$ ),  $\mu_r := \rho_r \text{vol}$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{W_2(\mu_0, \mu_1)^2}{2} \leq \sup_f [ \dots ]$$

$$[ \dots ] = \int_0^1 dt \left( \int_X (\partial_t Q_t f) d\mu_t + \int_X Q_t f d(\partial_t \mu_t) \right)$$

$$\leq \int_0^1 dr \left( - \int_X \frac{|\nabla Q_r f|^2}{2} d\mu_r \right.$$

$$\left. + s \int_X Q_r f \Delta \rho_r d \text{vol} \right)$$

# An estimate of $W_2$ -speed

$$\begin{aligned} & - \int_X \frac{|\nabla Q_r f|^2}{2} d\mu_r + s \int_X Q_r f \Delta \rho_r d\text{vol} \\ &= \int_X d\mu_r \left( -\frac{|\nabla Q_r f|^2}{2} - s \langle \nabla Q_r f, \frac{\nabla \rho_r}{\rho_r} \rangle \right) \\ &\leq \frac{s^2}{2} \int_X \frac{|\nabla \rho_r|^2}{\rho_r} d\text{vol} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \Rightarrow \frac{W_2(\mu_0, \mu_1)^2}{2} &= \frac{W_2(P_t \varphi \text{vol}, P_{t+s} \varphi \text{vol})^2}{2} \\ &\leq \frac{s^2}{2} \int_0^1 \left( \int_X \frac{|\nabla P_{t+sr} \varphi|^2}{P_{t+sr} \varphi} d\text{vol} \right) dr \quad \square \end{aligned}$$

## Remark

- There appear “two gradients”
  - † The one as a local Lipschitz const.  
(in Hamilton-Jacobi)
  - † The other from integration by parts
$$\int_X f \Delta g \, d\text{vol} = - \int_X \langle \nabla f, \nabla g \rangle \, d\text{vol}$$
- This argument works even on more singular spaces
  - ~~> We need to take care on the def. of “ $|\nabla f|$ ”  
([Koskela & Zhou / Ambrosio, Gigli & Savaré])

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## 3. Gradient flow of the relative entropy

### 3.1 Identification of heat flows

### 3.2 Applications of the identification

## 4. Curvature-dimension conditions

## $W_2$ -contraction

### Claim

For heat distributions  $\mu_0(t), \mu_1(t)$ ,

$$W_2(\mu_0(t), \mu_1(t)) \leq e^{-Kt} W_2(\mu_0(0), \mu_1(0)) \quad (\star)$$

- Heuristically,

$$\boxed{\text{Ent: } K\text{-convex} \& \dot{\mu}_t = -\nabla \text{Ent}} \Rightarrow (\star)$$

# $W_2$ -contraction

## Claim

For heat distributions  $\mu_0(t), \mu_1(t)$ ,

$$W_2(\mu_0(t), \mu_1(t)) \leq e^{-Kt} W_2(\mu_0(0), \mu_1(0)) \quad (\star)$$

- On general metric measure space,

Linearity of heat flow,

Ent:  $K$ -convex &  $\dot{\mu}_t = -\nabla \text{Ent}$

$\Rightarrow (\star)$

[Koskela & Zhou / Ambrosio, Gigli & Savaré]

- $\exists$  Counterexample when heat flow is nonlinear  
[Ohta & Sturm '12]

# Bakry-Émery's gradient estimate

Under the linearity of the heat flow,  
by Theorem 1,

$$\begin{aligned} W_2(\mu_0(t), \mu_1(t)) &\leq e^{-Kt} W_2(\mu_0(0), \mu_1(0)) \\ &\Downarrow \\ |\nabla P_t f|(x)^2 &\leq e^{-2Kt} P_t(|\nabla f|^2)(x) \quad (\star\star) \end{aligned}$$

# Bakry-Émery's gradient estimate

$$|\nabla P_t f|(x)^2 \leq e^{-2Kt} P_t(|\nabla f|^2)(x) \quad (\star\star)$$

- $(\star\star) \Rightarrow$  Lipschitz continuity  
of  $P_t f$ /heat kernel/eigenfunction
- $(\star\star) \Leftrightarrow$  (weak) Bakry-Émery's  $\Gamma_2$ -condition:

$$\frac{1}{2}\Delta\langle\nabla f, \nabla f\rangle - \langle\nabla f, \nabla\Delta f\rangle \geq K\langle\nabla f, \nabla f\rangle$$

## Results on Alexandrov spaces

$X$ :  $n$ -dim. cpt. Alex. sp. of curv.  $\geq k$

- [Kuwae, Machigashira & Shioya '01]: Study of Dirichlet energy and associated heat semigroup  
     $\Rightarrow$  Linearity
- (Modulus of) Sobolev gradient = loc. Lip. const
- [Petrunin '11]: Ent is  $(n - 1)k$ -convex



- [Petrunin '03]: Another proof of Lip. conti. of e.fn.
- [Zhang & Zhu '10] etc.: Similar results under stronger assumption on “lower Ricci curv. bound”

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# Curvature-dimension inequality

$M$ : compl. Riem. mfd,  $P_t$ : heat semigroup

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

$$\begin{aligned}\Leftrightarrow \frac{1}{2} \Delta(|\nabla f|^2) - \langle \nabla f, \nabla \Delta f \rangle \\ \geq \textcolor{blue}{K} |\nabla f|^2\end{aligned}$$

[Bakry & Émery '84]

$$\Leftrightarrow |\nabla P_t f|^2 \leq e^{-2\textcolor{blue}{K}t} P_t(|\nabla f|^2)$$

# Curvature-dimension inequality

$M$ : cpl. Riem. mfd,  $P_t$ : heat semigroup

$$\text{Ric} \geq \textcolor{blue}{K} \quad \& \quad \dim M \leq \textcolor{brown}{N}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\Leftrightarrow \frac{1}{2} \Delta(|\nabla f|^2) - \langle \nabla f, \nabla \Delta f \rangle \\ \geq \textcolor{blue}{K} |\nabla f|^2 + \frac{1}{\textcolor{brown}{N}} (\Delta f)^2\end{aligned}$$

[Bakry & Émery '84]

# Curvature-dimension inequality

$M$ : cpl. Riem. mfd,  $P_t$ : heat semigroup

$$\text{Ric} \geq \textcolor{blue}{K} \quad \& \quad \dim M \leq \textcolor{brown}{N}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \Leftrightarrow \frac{1}{2} \Delta (|\nabla f|^2) - \langle \nabla f, \nabla \Delta f \rangle \\ \geq \textcolor{blue}{K} |\nabla f|^2 + \frac{1}{\textcolor{brown}{N}} (\Delta f)^2 \end{aligned}$$

[Bakry & Émery '84]

$$\begin{aligned} \Leftrightarrow |\nabla P_t f|^2 \leq e^{-2\textcolor{blue}{K}t} P_t (|\nabla f|^2) \\ + \frac{1 - e^{-2\textcolor{blue}{K}t}}{\textcolor{brown}{N}\textcolor{blue}{K}} (\Delta P_t f)^2 \end{aligned}$$

[F.-Y. Wang '11]

# Extended duality

## Theorem 3 ([K.])

$M$ : Polish length sp.,  $P_t = e^{t\mathcal{L}}$ : Feller semigr.

Then, for  $a, b : [0, \infty) \rightarrow (0, \infty)$ , TFAE:

$$(1) \quad W_2(P_{\textcolor{brown}{s}}^*\mu_0, P_{\textcolor{blue}{t}}^*\mu_1)^2$$

$$\leq \left( \int_{\textcolor{brown}{s}}^{\textcolor{blue}{t}} \frac{\xi(dr)}{a(r)} \right)^{-1} W_2(\mu_0, \mu_1)^2 + \xi([\textcolor{brown}{s}, \textcolor{blue}{t}])^2$$

$$(2) \quad |\nabla_d P_t f|^2 \leq a(t) [P_t(|\nabla_d f|^2) + b(t)(\mathcal{L}P_t f)^2],$$

$$\text{where } \xi(dr) := \frac{dr}{\sqrt{b(r)}}$$

# Extended duality

Idea of the proof

(1)  $\Rightarrow$  (2): Coupling argument (differentiation)

(2)  $\Rightarrow$  (1): Suppose  $\mu_i = \delta_{x_i}$ ,  $\gamma : [0, 1] \rightarrow M$  geod.



$$W_2(P_s^* \delta_{x_0}, P_t^* \delta_{x_1})^2$$

$$= \sup_f \int_0^1 \partial_r [P_{\xi(r)} Q_r f(\gamma(\eta(r)))] dr$$

with  $\forall \xi : [0, 1] \rightarrow [s, t]$ ,  $\forall \eta : [0, 1] \rightarrow [0, 1]$  ↗, surj.

★ Choose  $\xi, \eta$  nicely  $\Rightarrow$  Conclusion

□

## Corollary 4 ([K.])

$M$ : cpl., stoch. cpl. Riem. mfd of  $\dim \geq 2$

Then, for  $K \in \mathbb{R}$  and  $N \in [2, \infty]$ , TFAE:

(1)  $\text{Ric} \geq K$  &  $\dim M \leq N$

(2)  $W_2(P_s^*\mu_0, P_t^*\mu_1)^2$

$$\leq \left( \int_s^t \frac{\xi(dr)}{e^{-2Kr}} \right)^{-1} W_2(\mu_0, \mu_1)^2 + \frac{N}{2} \xi([s, t])^2$$

(3)  $|\nabla P_t f|^2 \leq e^{-2Kt} \left[ P_t(|\nabla f|^2) + \frac{2\Psi(t)}{N} (\Delta P_t f)^2 \right],$

where  $\Psi(t) := \frac{e^{2Kt} - 1}{2K}$  &  $\xi(dr) := \frac{dr}{\sqrt{\Psi(r)}}$

## Questions and remarks

- Connection with Sturm-Lott-Villani's  $\mathbf{CD}(K, N)$ ?
- How sharp?
  - $K = 0 \Rightarrow$  sharp Laplacian comparison
  - † When  $K \neq 0$ ?
  - † Similarity with a monotonicity of  $\mathcal{L}$ -transportation cost between heat distributions under Ricci flow
    - ↔ time-inhomogeneous analog of  $\text{Ric} = 0$   
[Topping '09, K.-Philipowski '11]