

From slow diffusion to a hard height constraint: characterizing congested aggregation

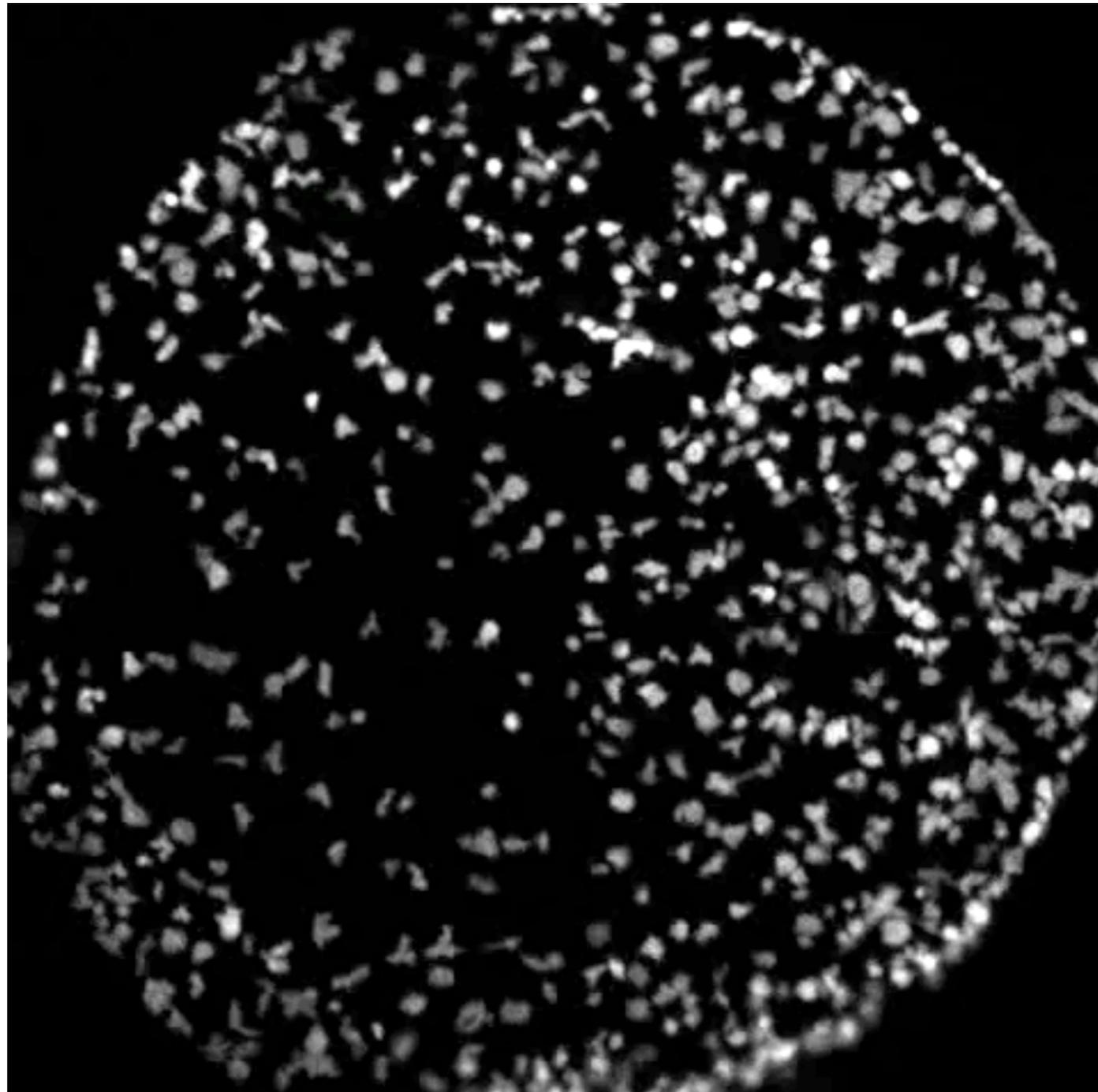
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joint work with Inwon Kim (UCLA) and Yao Yao (Georgia Tech)

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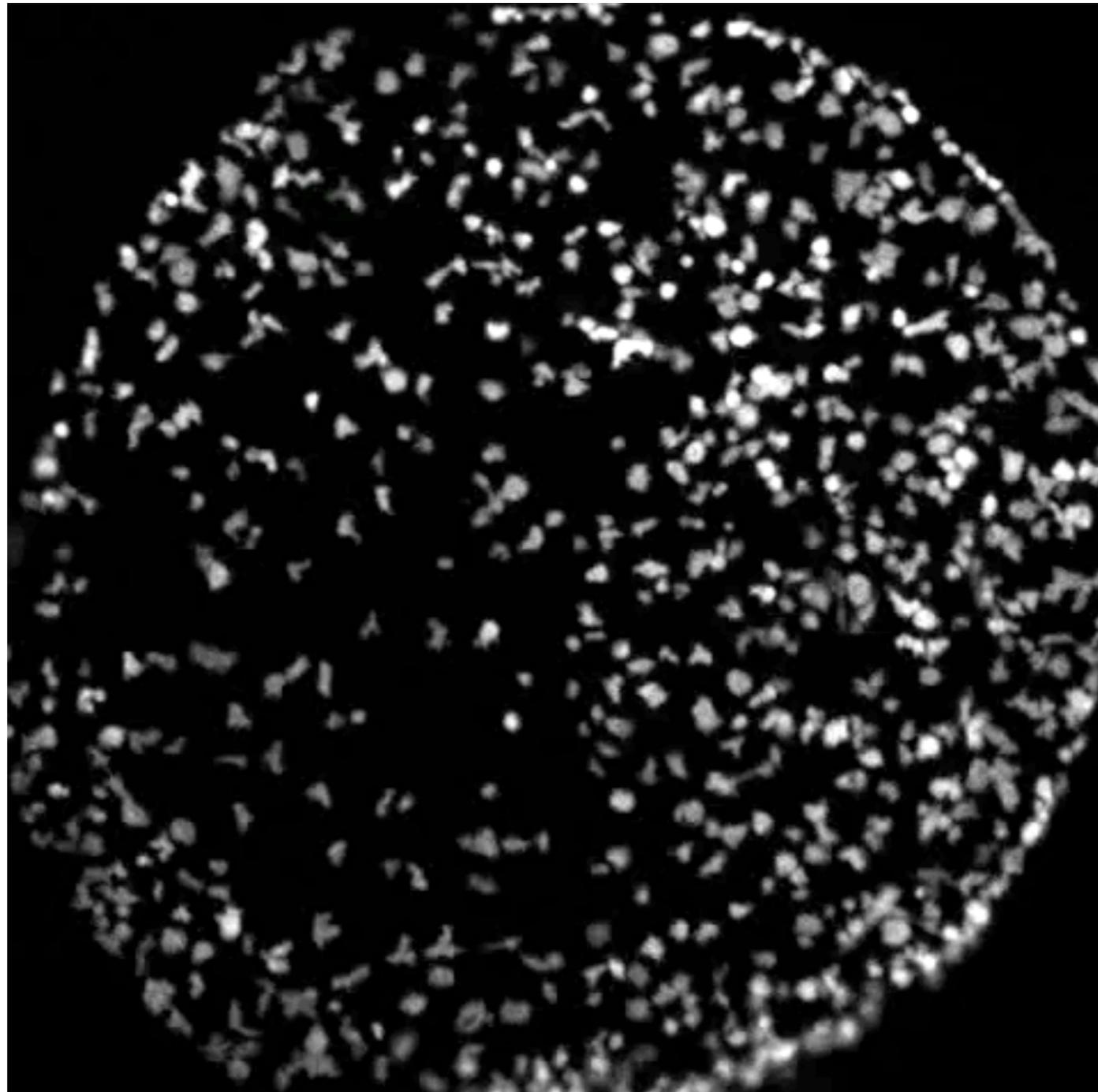
collective dynamics

biological chemotaxis (a colony of slime mold)



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plan

- congested aggregation equation
- previous work and challenges
- well-posedness
nonconvex Wasserstein gradient flow
- dynamics/long time behavior
free boundary problem
- future work

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motivation

- $\rho(x,t): \mathbb{R}^d \times \mathbb{R} \rightarrow [0, +\infty)$ nonnegative density
- mass is conserved $\Rightarrow \int \rho(x) dx = 1$

aggregation equation with degenerate diffusion:

$$\frac{d}{dt}\rho = \underbrace{\nabla \cdot ((\nabla K * \rho)\rho)}_{\text{self attraction}} + \underbrace{\Delta \rho^m}_{\text{degenerate diffusion}} \quad \text{for } K(x) : \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \text{ and } m \geq 1$$

self attraction degenerate diffusion

interaction kernels:

- granular media: $K(x) = |x|^3$
- swarming: $K(x) = -e^{-|x|}$
- chemotaxis: $K(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{2\pi} \log |x| & \text{if } d = 2, \\ C_d |x|^{2-d} & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$

degenerate diffusion:

$$\Delta \rho^m = \nabla \cdot \underbrace{(m \rho^{m-1} \nabla \rho)}_D$$

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$$K = \Delta^{-1}$$

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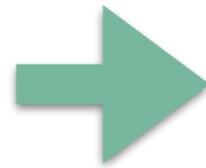
degenerate diffusion:

- $\Delta \rho^m = \nabla \cdot (\underbrace{m \rho^{m-1}}_D \nabla \rho)$

motivation

Inspired by the aggregation equation with degenerate diffusion, we consider the congested aggregation equation.

$$\frac{d}{dt}\rho = \nabla \cdot ((\nabla K * \rho)\rho) + \Delta \rho^m$$



$$\begin{cases} \frac{d}{dt}\rho = \nabla \cdot (\nabla(K * \rho)\rho) & \text{if } \rho < 1 \\ \rho \leq 1 & \text{always} \end{cases}$$

- Both models have self-attraction from $\nabla K * \rho$.
- The role of repulsion is played by hard height constraint instead of degenerate diffusion.
- Heuristically, hard height constraint is singular limit of degenerate diffusion:

$$\text{Idea: } \Delta \rho^m = \nabla \cdot (\underbrace{m\rho^{m-1}}_D \nabla \rho), \text{ so as } m \rightarrow +\infty, D \rightarrow \begin{cases} +\infty & \text{if } \rho > 1 \\ 0 & \text{if } \rho < 1 \end{cases}$$

questions

Congested aggregation eqn:

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \frac{d}{dt} \rho = \nabla \cdot (\nabla (K * \rho) \rho) \text{ if } \rho < 1 \\ \rho \leq 1 \text{ always} \end{array} \right.$$

- In what sense?
- Well-posed? Stable?
- Dynamics?
- Long time behavior?

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previous work

Congested drift equation:

$$\begin{cases} \frac{d}{dt}\rho = \nabla \cdot ((\nabla V)\rho) & \text{if } \rho < 1 \\ \rho \leq 1 & \text{always} \end{cases}$$

[Maury, Roudneff-Chupin, Santambrogio 2010]

- introduced as a model of crowd motion in an evacuation scenario, where $V(x)$ = distance to exit.
- showed well-posedness as a W_2 gradient flow for $V(x)$ convex.

[Alexander, Kim, Yao 2014] showed

$$\frac{d}{dt}\rho = \nabla \cdot ((\nabla V)\rho) + \Delta \rho^m$$

$m \rightarrow +\infty$

$$\begin{cases} \frac{d}{dt}\rho = \nabla \cdot ((\nabla V)\rho) & \text{if } \rho < 1 \\ \rho \leq 1 & \text{always} \end{cases}$$

and used this to characterize dynamics in terms of free boundary problem

previous work

V convex

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- In what sense? Wasserstein gradient flow
 - Well-posed? Stable? Yes
 - Dynamics? Hele-Shaw type free boundary problem
 - Long time behavior? exponential conv. to ! equilibrium
- [MRS 2010]
- [AKY 2014]

Challenges:

- $K * \rho$ not convex $\Rightarrow W_2$ gradient flow theory comparatively undeveloped
- $K * \rho$ nonlocal \Rightarrow no comparison principle

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$$K = \Delta^{-1}$$

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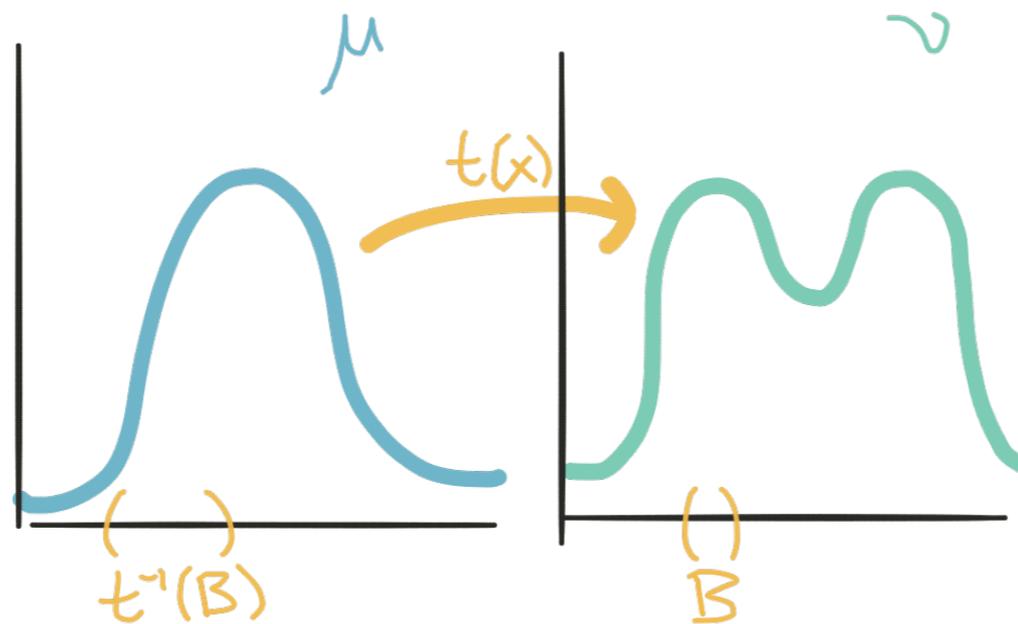
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Wasserstein metric

- Given two probability measures μ and ν on \mathbb{R}^d , $\mathbf{t} : \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^d$ transports μ onto ν if $\nu(B) = \mu(\mathbf{t}^{-1}(B))$. Write this as $\mathbf{t}\#\mu = \nu$.



- The *Wasserstein distance* between μ and $\nu \in P_2(\mathbb{R}^d)$ is

$$W_2(\mu, \nu) := \inf \left\{ \left(\int |t(x) - x|^2 d\mu(x) \right)^{1/2} : t\#\mu = \nu \right\}$$

effort to rearrange μ to look like ν , using $t(x)$

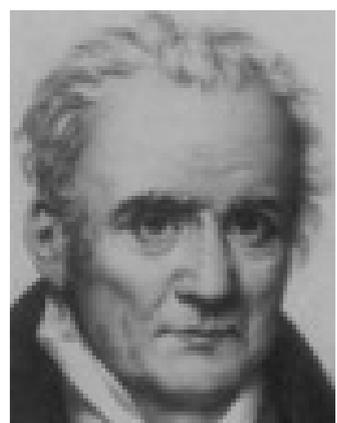
t sends μ to ν

geodesics

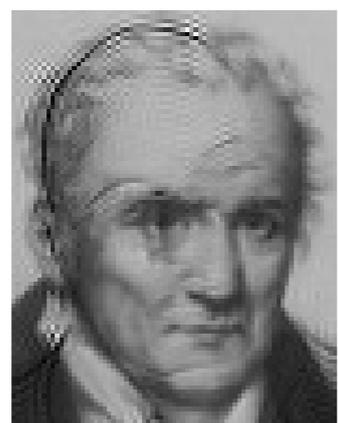
Not just a metric space... a **geodesic metric space**: there is a constant speed geodesic $\sigma : [0, 1] \rightarrow \mathcal{P}_2(\mathbb{R}^d)$ connecting any μ and ν .

$$\sigma(0) = \mu, \quad \sigma(1) = \nu, \quad W_2(\sigma(t), \sigma(s)) = |t - s|W_2(\mu, \nu)$$

Monge



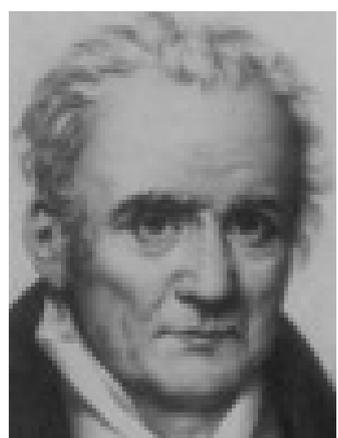
μ



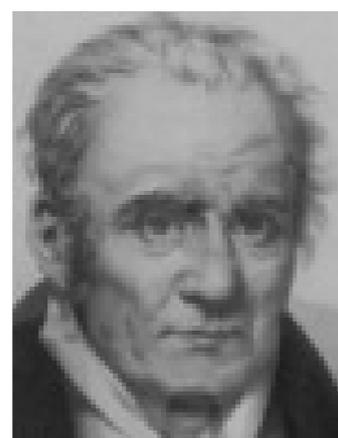
Wasserstein geodesic $\sigma(t)$

ν

Kantorovich



μ



linear interpolation $(1 - t)\mu + t\nu$

ν

convexity

Since the Wasserstein metric has **geodesics**, it has a notion of **convexity**.

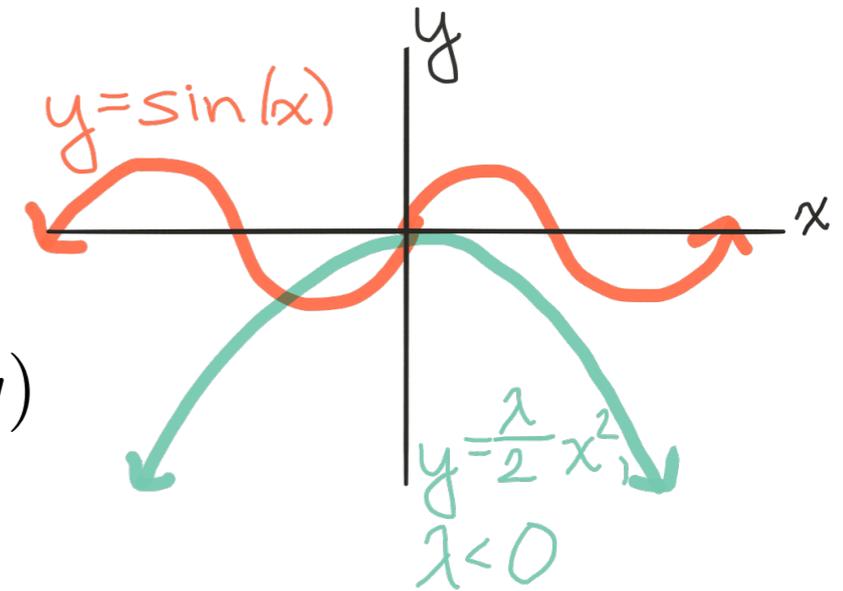
Recall: in **Euclidean space**, $E: \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is...

convex

$$D^2E \geq 0 \iff E((1-t)x + ty) \leq (1-t)E(x) + tE(y)$$

λ -convex

$$D^2E \geq \lambda \text{Id}_{d \times d} \iff E((1-t)x + ty) \leq (1-t)E(x) + tE(y) - t(1-t)\frac{\lambda}{2}|x-y|^2$$



Likewise, in the **Wasserstein metric**, $E: \mathcal{P}_2(\mathbb{R}^d) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is λ -convex if

$$E(\sigma(t)) \leq (1-t)E(\mu) + tE(\nu) - t(1-t)\frac{\lambda}{2}W_2^2(\mu, \nu)$$

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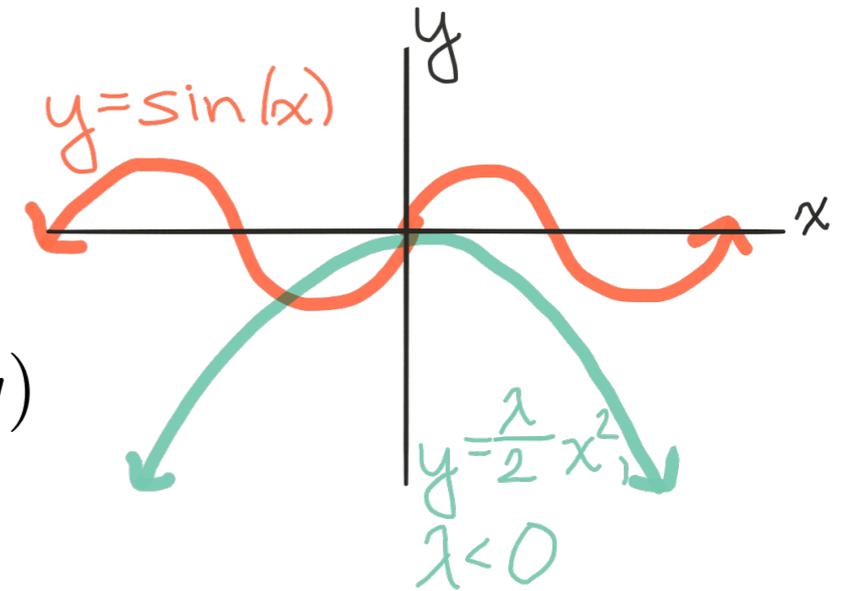
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Euclidean geodesic

endpoints

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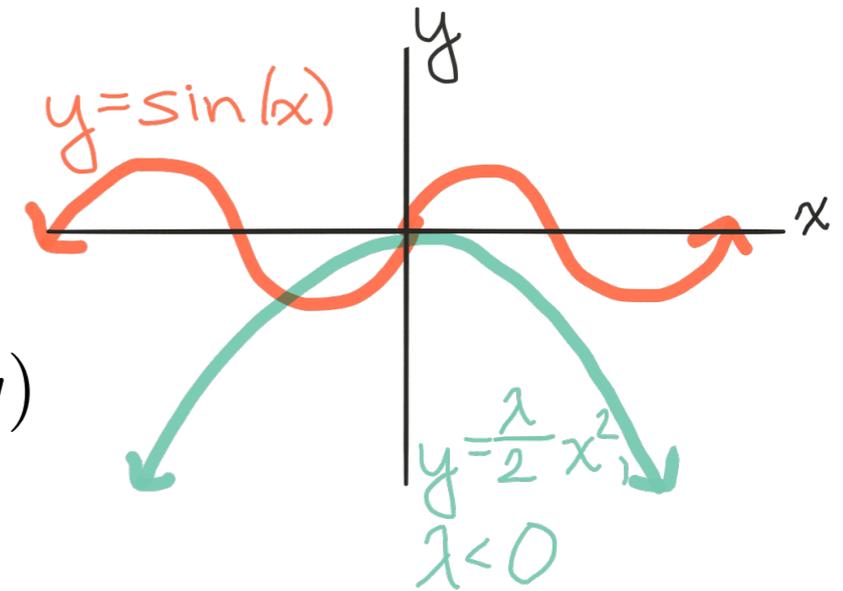
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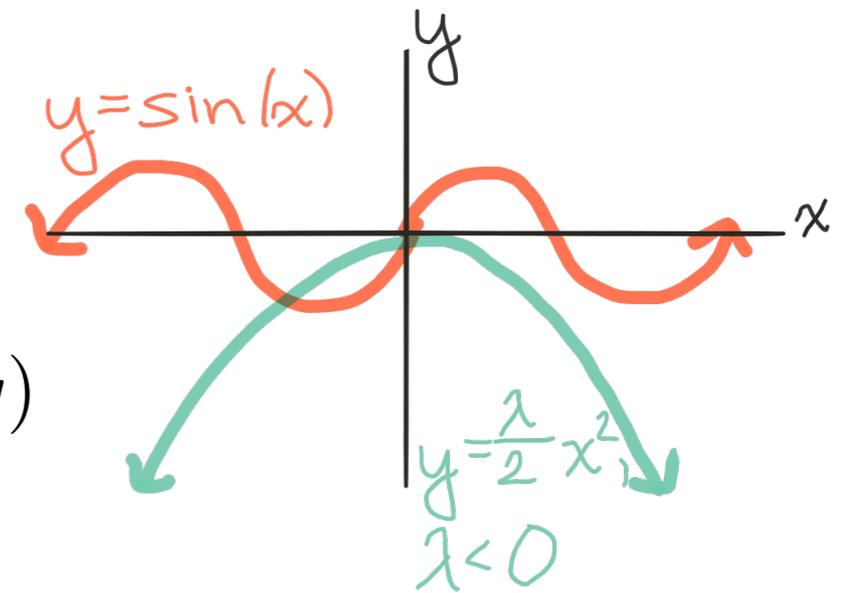
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↑
Wasserstein geodesic

↑ ↑
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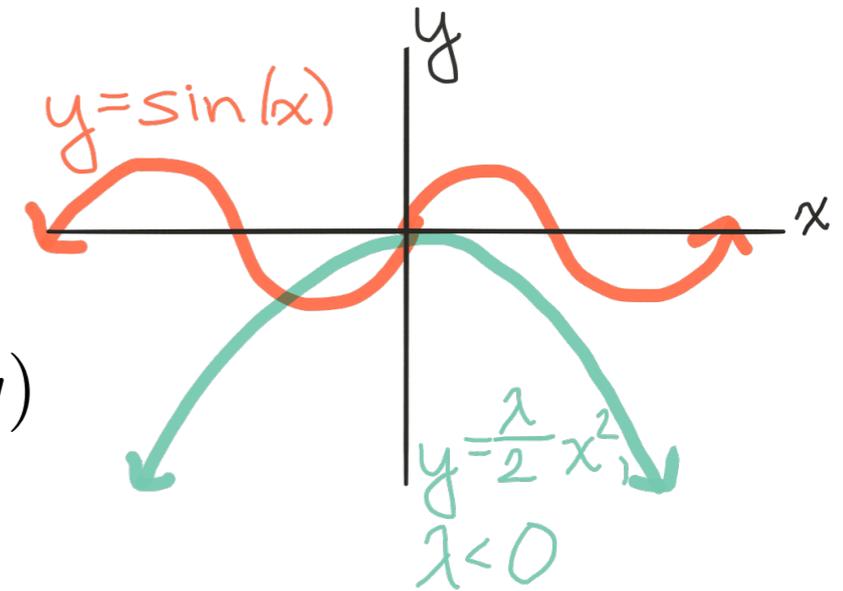
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gradient flow

How does this relate to PDE? Wasserstein gradient flow.

- In general, given a complete metric space (X, d) , a curve $x(t): \mathbb{R} \rightarrow X$ is the **gradient flow** of an energy $E: X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ if

$$\frac{d}{dt}x(t) = -\nabla_X E(x(t))$$

- “ $x(t)$ evolves in the direction of steepest descent of E ”

Examples:

metric	energy functional	gradient flow
$(L^2(\mathbb{R}^d), \ \cdot\ _{L^2})$	$E(f) = \frac{1}{2} \int \nabla f ^2$	$\frac{d}{dt}f = \Delta f$
$(\mathcal{P}_2(\mathbb{R}^d), W_2)$	$E(\rho) = \int \rho \log \rho$	$\frac{d}{dt}\rho = \Delta \rho$
	$E(\rho) = \frac{1}{m-1} \int \rho^m$	$\frac{d}{dt}\rho = \Delta \rho^m$

gradient flow

$\rho(t): \mathbb{R} \rightarrow P_2(\mathbb{R}^d)$ is the *Wasserstein gradient flow* of energy $E: P_2(\mathbb{R}^d) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ if

$$\frac{d}{dt}\rho(t) = -\nabla_{W_2} E(\rho(t))$$

Relationship between Wasserstein gradient flow and PDE:

- If E sufficiently regular, gradient flow \iff PDE
- More generally, gradient flow $\not\iff$ PDE

For λ -convex energies, gradient flow theory is well-developed.

Theorem (Ambrosio, Gigli, Savaré 2005): If E is λ -convex, lower semicontinuous, and bounded below, solutions of its W_2 gradient flow

- exist
- are unique
- contract ($\lambda > 0$)/expand ($\lambda \leq 0$) exponentially:

$$W_2(\rho_1(t), \rho_2(t)) \leq e^{-\lambda t} W_2(\rho_1(0), \rho_2(0))$$

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This ensured well-posedness of the congested drift equation for $V(x)$ convex.

gradient flow and aggregation

The congested aggregation equation is (formally) a Wasserstein gradient flow of the height constrained interaction energy:

$$\begin{cases} \frac{d}{dt} \rho = \nabla \cdot (\nabla (K * \rho) \rho) & \text{if } \rho < 1 \\ \rho \leq 1 & \text{always} \end{cases}$$

$$E_\infty(\rho) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{2} \iint K(x-y) \rho(x) \rho(y) dx dy & \text{if } \|\rho\|_\infty \leq 1 \\ +\infty & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Fact: If $K: \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is λ -convex, then E_∞ is λ -convex.

Problem: $K(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{2\pi} \log |x| & \text{if } d = 2 \\ C_d |x|^{2-d} & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$ is not λ -convex.

E_∞ falls outside the scope of the existing theory.

ω -convexity

Solution: Even though we don't have

$$E_\infty(\sigma(t)) \leq (1-t)E_\infty(\mu) + tE_\infty(\nu) - \frac{\lambda}{2}t(1-t)W_2^2(\mu, \nu)$$

← λ -convexity

E_∞ does satisfy a similar inequality for a different modulus of convexity

$$E_\infty(\sigma(t)) \leq (1-t)E_\infty(\mu) + tE_\infty(\nu) - \frac{\lambda}{2} [(1-t)\omega(t^2W_2^2(\mu, \nu)) + t\omega((1-t)^2W_2^2(\mu, \nu))]$$

where $\omega(x) = x |\log(x)|$.

← ω -convexity

Remark: The above two inequalities coincide for $\omega(x) = x$: ω -convexity is a generalization of λ -convexity.

aside: ω -convexity & Euler equations

In fact, when $\omega(x) = x |\log(x)|$, ω -convexity is related to **well-posedness** of **bounded** solutions of the the **Euler equations**.

- λ -convexity in W_2 is analogous to D^2E being **bounded** from below in Euclidean space, or that ∇E is one-sided Lipschitz.
- Likewise, ω -convexity in W_2 is analogous to D^2E being **BMO** in Euclidean space, or that ∇E is log-Lipschitz.
- Log-Lipschitz regularity of the velocity field was precisely what allowed **[Yudovich 1963]** to prove uniqueness of bounded solutions of the two dimensional Euler equations.

ω -convexity: well-posedness

For merely ω -convex energies, the gradient flow is well-posed.

Theorem (C. 2016): If E is ω -convex for $\omega(x) = x |\log(x)|$, lower semicontinuous, and bounded below, solutions of its W_2 gradient flow

- exist
- are unique
- contract ($\lambda > 0$)/expand ($\lambda \leq 0$) double exponentially:

$$W_2(\rho_1(t), \rho_2(t)) \leq W_2(\rho_1(0), \rho_2(0)) e^{2\lambda t}$$

In fact, well-posedness holds for all $\omega(x)$ that satisfy Osgood's condition.

Corollary (C. 2016): Since E_∞ is ω -convex for $\omega(x) = x |\log(x)|$ and $\lambda < 0$, the congested aggregation equation is well-posed as a Wasserstein gradient flow and expands at most double exponentially.

questions

$$K = \Delta^{-1}$$

Congested aggregation eqn:

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motivation for free boundary problem

How does congested aggregation equation relate to free boundary problem?

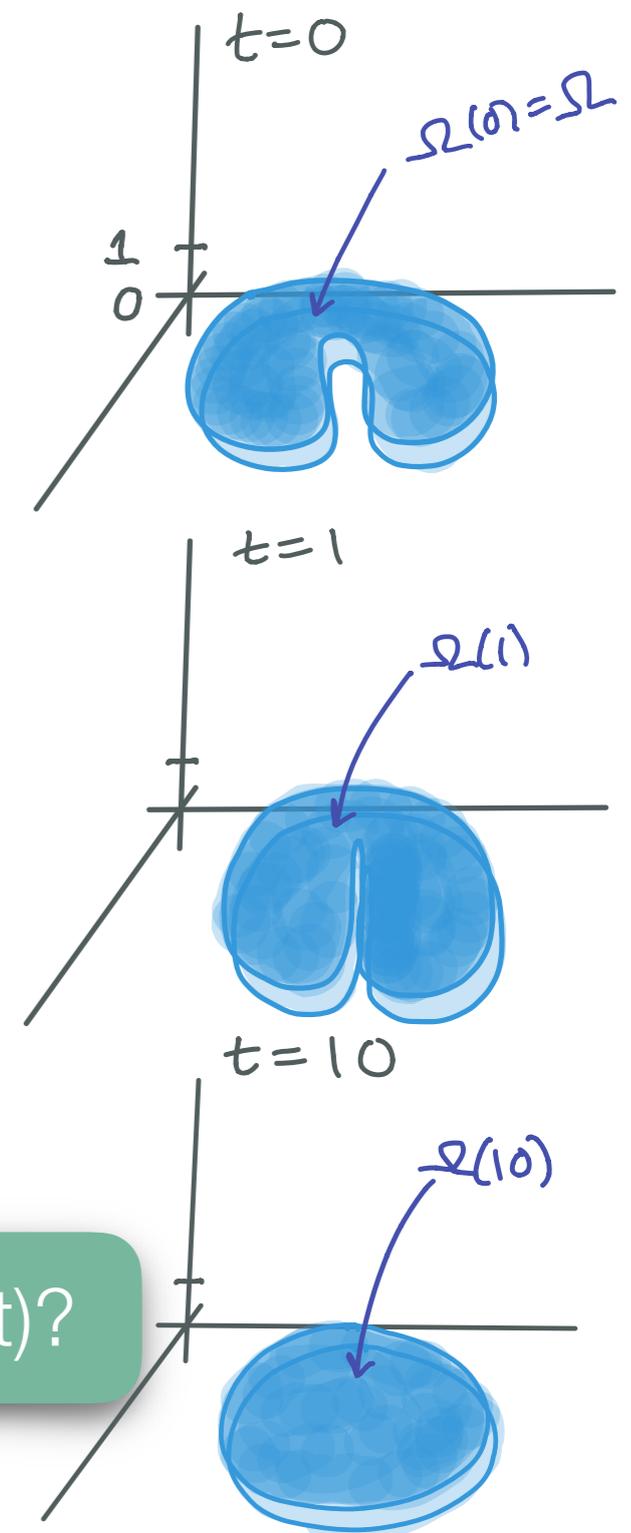
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”

- Consider **patch solutions**. For a domain Ω , suppose that $\rho(x,t)$ is a solution with initial data

$$\rho(x, 0) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } x \in \Omega, \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$
- Since $K = \Delta^{-1}$, $\nabla K * \rho$ causes **self-attraction**. Thus, we expect $\rho(x,t)$ to remain a characteristic function.
- Let $\Omega(t) = \{\rho = 1\}$ be **congested region**, so $\rho(x,t) = 1_{\Omega(t)}(x)$.



What free boundary problem describes evolution of $\Omega(t)$?

formal derivation

- Here is a **formal** derivation of the related free boundary problem.

- Suppose $\rho(x,t)$ solves “
$$\begin{cases} \frac{d}{dt}\rho = \nabla \cdot (\nabla(K * \rho)\rho) & \text{if } \rho < 1 \\ \rho \leq 1 & \text{always} \end{cases}$$
”

- Since mass is conserved, we expect $\rho(x,t)$ satisfies a continuity equation

$$\frac{d}{dt}\rho = \nabla \cdot \underbrace{((\nabla K * \rho + \nabla \mathbf{p}))\rho}_v$$

where $\nabla \mathbf{p}(\mathbf{x},t)$ is the pressure arising from the **height constraint**.

Height constraint is **active** on the congested region $\{\mathbf{p}>0\} = \Omega(t)$.

Height constraint is **inactive** outside the congested region $\{\mathbf{p}=0\} = \Omega(t)^c$.

formal derivation

Given $\frac{d}{dt}\rho = \nabla \cdot \underbrace{((\nabla K * \rho + \nabla \mathbf{p})) \rho}_v$ what happens on congested region?

- Because of hard height constraint, on the congested region $\Omega(t)=\{\rho=1\}$, the velocity field is incompressible, $\nabla \cdot v=0$.
- Since $K = \Delta^{-1}$, $\nabla \cdot v = \Delta K * \rho + \Delta \mathbf{p} = \rho + \Delta \mathbf{p}$, so incompressibility means

$$-\Delta \mathbf{p} = \rho \text{ on } \Omega(t) = \{\rho = 1\}$$

- Using that the height constraint is active on the congested region, $\Omega(t)=\{\mathbf{p}>0\}$, we obtain the following equation for the pressure:

$$-\Delta \mathbf{p} = 1 \text{ on } \{\mathbf{p} > 0\}$$

formal derivation

Given $\frac{d}{dt}\rho = \nabla \cdot \underbrace{((\nabla K * \rho + \nabla \mathbf{p}))\rho}_v$ what about bdy of congested region?

outward normal velocity of $\partial\Omega(t)$

- By conservation of mass,

$$0 = \frac{d}{dt} \int_{\Omega(t)} \rho = \int_{\Omega(t)} \frac{d}{dt} \rho + \int_{\partial\Omega(t)} V \rho$$

- Using that $\rho(x,t)$ solves the above continuity equation, this equals

$$= \int_{\Omega(t)} \nabla \cdot ((\nabla K * \rho + \nabla \mathbf{p})\rho) + \int_{\partial\Omega(t)} V \rho = \int_{\partial\Omega(t)} (\partial_\nu K * \rho + \partial_\nu \mathbf{p} + V)\rho$$

- Using that $\rho(x,t) = 1_{\Omega(t)}(x)$, for $\Omega(t) = \{\mathbf{p} > 0\}$, we again obtain an equation for \mathbf{p} ,

$$\partial_\nu K * 1_{\{\mathbf{p} > 0\}} + \partial_\nu \mathbf{p} + V = 0 \text{ on } \partial\{\mathbf{p} > 0\}$$

free boundary problem

Combining the observations that...

- on the congested region,

$$-\Delta \mathbf{p} = 1 \text{ on } \{\mathbf{p} > 0\}$$

- and on the boundary of the congested region,

$$\partial_\nu K * 1_{\{\mathbf{p} > 0\}} + \partial_\nu \mathbf{p} + V = 0 \text{ on } \partial\{\mathbf{p} > 0\}$$

outward normal
velocity of $\partial\Omega(t)$

Theorem (C., Kim, Yao 2016):

- Suppose $\rho(x,t)$ solves congested aggregation eqn with $\rho(x,0) = 1_{\Omega(0)}(x)$.
- Then $\rho(x,t) = 1_{\Omega(t)}(x)$, for $\Omega(t) = \{\mathbf{p}(x,t) > 0\}$, where \mathbf{p} a viscosity solution of

$$\begin{cases} -\Delta \mathbf{p} = 1 & \text{on } \{\mathbf{p} > 0\} \\ V = -\partial_\nu K * 1_{\{\mathbf{p} > 0\}} - \partial_\nu \mathbf{p} & \text{on } \partial\{\mathbf{p} > 0\}. \end{cases}$$

long time behavior

Using the characterization of the dynamics of patch solutions provided by the free boundary problem, we are able to study their long time behavior:

Theorem (C., Kim, Yao 2016):

- Suppose $\rho(x,t)$ solves **congested aggregation eqn** with $\rho(x,0) = 1_{\Omega(0)}(x)$.
- Then, in **two dimensions**,

$$\rho(x, t) \xrightarrow{L^p} 1_B(x) \text{ for all } 1 \leq p < +\infty$$

and

$$|E_\infty(\rho(\cdot, t)) - E_\infty(1_B)| \leq C_{\Omega(0)} t^{-1/6}$$

- In **any dimension**, the Riesz Rearrangement Inequality guarantees that the unique minimizer of E_∞ is $1_B(x)$.
- The difficult part is showing that mass of $\rho(x,t)$ doesn't escape to $+\infty$. To accomplish this, we use an inequality due to Talenti, which holds in **d=2**.

plan

- congested aggregation equation
- previous work and challenges
- well-posedness
nonconvex Wasserstein gradient flow
- dynamics/long time behavior
free boundary problem
- future work

future work:

Does Keller-Segel converge to congested aggregation?

$$\frac{d}{dt}\rho = \nabla \cdot ((\nabla K * \rho)\rho) + \Delta \rho^m$$

$m \rightarrow +\infty$

$$\begin{cases} \frac{d}{dt}\rho = \nabla \cdot (\nabla(K * \rho)\rho) & \text{if } \rho < 1 \\ \rho \leq 1 & \text{always} \end{cases}$$

- For $V(x)$ convex, [Alexander, Kim, Yao 2014] showed

$$\frac{d}{dt}\rho = \nabla \cdot ((\nabla V)\rho) + \Delta \rho^m$$

$m \rightarrow +\infty$

$$\begin{cases} \frac{d}{dt}\rho = \nabla \cdot ((\nabla V)\rho) & \text{if } \rho < 1 \\ \rho \leq 1 & \text{always} \end{cases}$$

- Connecting Keller-Segel and the congested aggregation eqn would...

- ◆ Lead to new numerical methods for congested aggregation.
- ◆ Lead to greater insight in long-time behavior of supercritical ($m > 2 - 2/d$) Keller-Segel.

future work:

What about non-patch solutions?

- Relates to recent work on $m \rightarrow +\infty$ limit in PME-type models for tumor growth by [Kim and Pozar 2015] and [Mellet, Perthame, Quiros 2015]

What about non-Newtonian kernels $K(x)$?

- While well-posedness theory extends to a range of interaction kernels, free boundary problem strongly uses Newtonian structure.

future work:

Other characterizations of dynamics?

- Can we show $\frac{d}{dt}\rho = \nabla \cdot \underbrace{((\nabla K * \rho + \nabla \mathbf{p}) \rho)}_v$ in a weak sense?
- For the **congested drift equation** [Maury, Roudneff-Chupin, Santambrogio 2010] showed that the analogous continuity equation holds, where v is obtained by projecting ∇V onto a space of admissible velocities.

Further examples of ω -convex energies?

More applications with a height constraint?

Thank you!