

Transport- and Measure-Theoretic Approaches for Modeling, Identifying, and Forecasting Dynamical Systems

Yunan Yang, Cornell University

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Kantorovich Initiative Seminar Series. Online.

List of works:

- Optimal transport for parameter identification of chaotic dynamics via invariant measures. 2023. *SIADS*.
- Learning dynamics on invariant measures using PDE-constrained optimization. 2023. *Chaos*.
- Measure-Theoretic Time-Delay Embedding. [arXiv:2409.08768](https://arxiv.org/abs/2409.08768).
- Invariant Measures in Time-Delay Coordinates for Unique Dynamical System Identification. [arXiv:2412.00589](https://arxiv.org/abs/2412.00589).

Collaborators



(a) Levon Nurbekyan
(Emory)



(b) Robert Martin
(ARL)



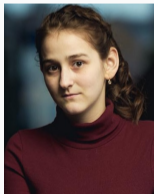
(c) Elisa Negrini
(UCLA)



(d) Mirjeta Pasha
(Virginia Tech)



(e) Jonah Botvinick-
Greenhouse (Cornell)



(f) Maria Oprea
(Cornell)



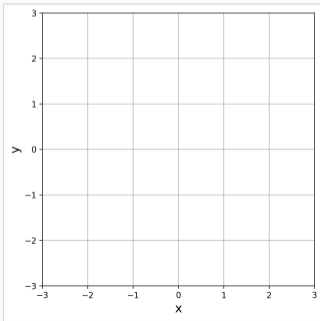
(g) Romit Malik (PSU)

Data-Driven Modeling of Dynamical Systems

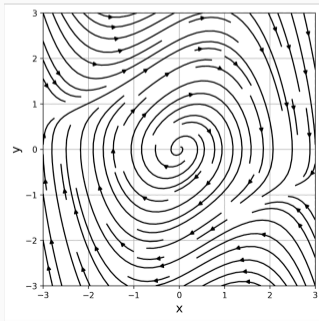
Data-Driven Modeling for Dynamical System

 X 

State space

 $\dot{x} = v(x)$ 

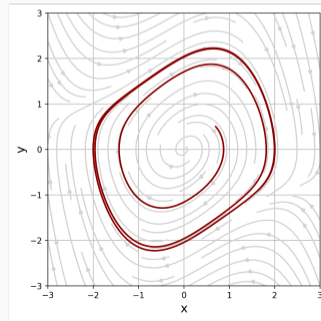
Evolution rule



data-driven
modeling

 $\{x(t_k)\}_{k=0}^{N-1}$ 

Trajectory samples



Parameter Identification

A general parameterized dynamical system may take the form

$$\dot{\mathbf{x}} = \begin{pmatrix} \dot{x} \\ \dot{y} \\ \dot{z} \end{pmatrix} = v(x, y, z; \underbrace{\sigma, \rho, \beta}_{\theta}) \approx v(\mathbf{x}, \theta)$$

where the mathematical approximation $v \approx v(\cdot, \theta)$ is given by

- polynomials, e.g., SINDy [Brunton et al., 2016], [Schaeffer-Tran-Ward, 2018]
- other basis functions, e.g., piecewise polynomials, RBFs, Fourier, etc.
- neural networks [many references], and so on,

where θ corresponds to **expansion coefficients, neural network weights**, etc.

Unique Challenges for Chaotic Systems: Chaos

Challenge One: The initial condition of the system is unknown.

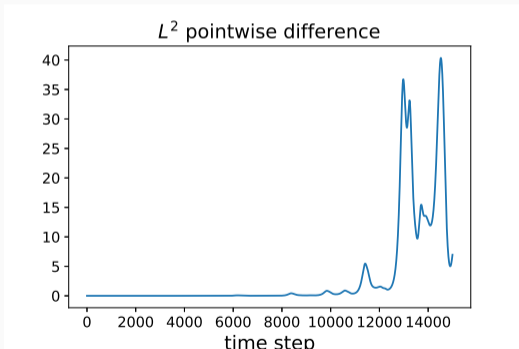
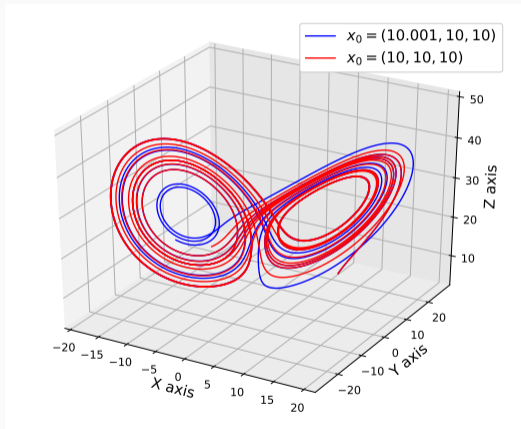


Figure: The comparison between $\mathbf{x}_0 = [10.001, 10, 10]$ and $\mathbf{x}_0 = [10, 10, 10]$.

Unique Challenges for Chaotic Systems: Noises

Challenge Two: The time trajectories contain noise.

No noise

$$\dot{\mathbf{x}} = f(\mathbf{x}).$$

Extrinsic noise

$$\mathbf{x}_\gamma = \mathbf{x} + \gamma, \dot{\mathbf{x}} = f(\mathbf{x}).$$

Intrinsic noise

$$\dot{\mathbf{x}} = f(\mathbf{x}) + \omega.$$

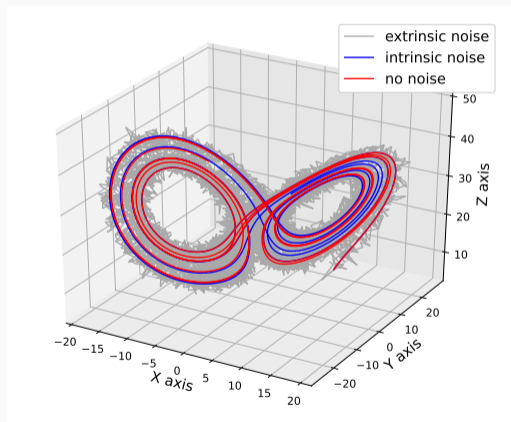


Figure: The comparison among the three cases.

Unique Challenges for Chaotic Systems: Poor Data Quality

Challenge Three: Cannot measure the Lagrangian particle velocity flow

Measurements $\{\mathbf{x}_i\}$ are not good enough to estimate the particle velocity $\dot{\mathbf{x}}$ evaluated at $\{\mathbf{x}_i\}$

$$\hat{\mathbf{v}} \approx \frac{\mathbf{x}_{i+1} - \mathbf{x}_i}{t_{i+1} - t_i}$$

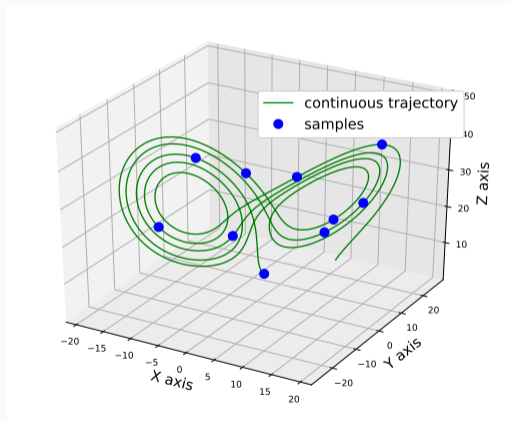


Figure: The continuous trajectory vs the samples

The Eulerian Approach

Often, chaotic systems admit well-defined **statistical properties**:

$$\mu_{x,T}(B) = \frac{1}{T} \int_0^T \mathbb{1}_B(\mathbf{x}(s)) ds = \frac{\int_0^T \mathbb{1}_B(\mathbf{x}(s)) ds}{\int_0^T \mathbb{1}_{\mathbb{R}^d}(\mathbf{x}(s)) ds},$$

where $\mathbf{x}(t)$ is a trajectory starting with $\mathbf{x}(0) = x$, and $\mu_{x,T}$ is called the *occupation measure*. We call μ^* a **physical measure** if $\lim_{T \rightarrow \infty} \mu_{x,T} = \mu^*$ for $x \in U$, $\text{Leb}(U) > 0$.

Data Change: take μ^* as **observation data** instead of the **trajectory** $\mathbf{x}(t)$.

Model Change: μ^* is the **steady**-state solution to the continuity equation:

$$\frac{\partial \rho(\mathbf{x}, t)}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (v(\mathbf{x}, \theta) \rho(\mathbf{x}, t)) = 0.$$

Road map: from Lagrangian to Eulerian

ODE model $\dot{\mathbf{x}} = v(\mathbf{x})$, observe $\{\mathbf{x}(t_i)\}_i$

↓

Occupation measure

$$\begin{aligned}\mu_{\mathbf{x},T}(B) &= \frac{1}{T} \int_0^T \mathbb{1}_B(\mathbf{x}(s)) ds \\ &= \frac{\int_0^T \mathbb{1}_B(\mathbf{x}(s)) ds}{\int_0^T \mathbb{1}_{\mathbb{R}^d}(\mathbf{x}(s)) ds}\end{aligned}$$

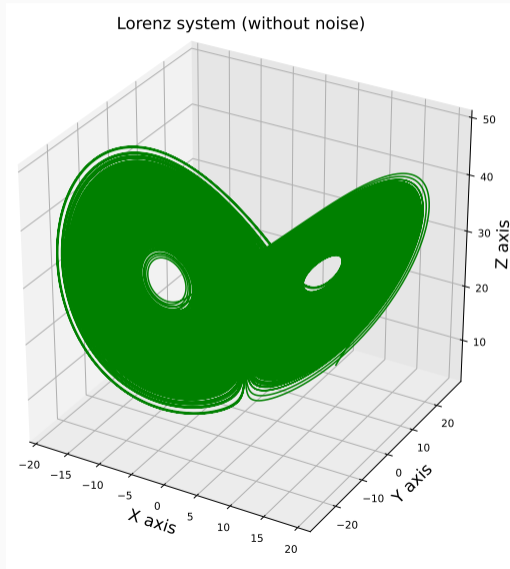
↓

physical measure μ^*

↓

Stationary distributional solutions of

$$\frac{\partial \rho(\mathbf{x}, t)}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (v(\mathbf{x}, t)\rho(\mathbf{x}, t)) = 0.$$



The New Method — A PDE-Constrained Optimization Problem

We treat the parameter identification problem for the dynamical system as a PDE-constrained optimization problem:

$$\theta = \underset{\theta}{\operatorname{argmin}} d(\rho^*, \rho(\theta)),$$

$$\text{s.t.} \quad \frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} = -\nabla \cdot (\mathbf{v}(\mathbf{x}, \theta)\rho(\mathbf{x}, t)) + \frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial^2 D_{ij} \rho}{\partial x_i \partial x_j} = \mathbf{0}.$$

ρ^* : the observed occupation measure converted from time trajectories

$\rho(\theta)$: the distributional steady-state solution of the PDE

d : an appropriate metric that captures the essential differences, e.g., W_2 metric

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The gain is to work with a much **More Stable** inverse problem!

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Next: an objective function comparing distributions

Optimal Transport

- Monge (1781)
- Kantorovich (1975)
- Brenier, Caffarelli, Gangbo, McCann, Benamou, Otto, Villani, Figalli, etc. (1990s - present)

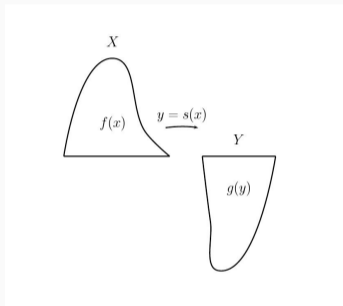


Figure: Proposed by Monge in 1781

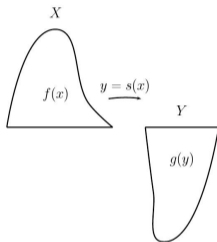


Figure: Proposed by Monge in 1781

- Monge (1781)
- Kantorovich (1975)
- Brenier, Caffarelli, Gangbo, McCann, Benamou, Otto, Villani, Figalli, etc. (1990s - present)
- **Data Assimilation** (Reich, Vidard, Bocquet...)
- **Hyperbolic Model Reduction** (Mula, Peherstorfer, Ravela)
- **Image Processing** (T. Chan, Peyré, C. B. Schönlieb...)
- **Inverse Problems** (Bao, Marzouk, Engquist, Singer, Y,...)
- **Machine Learning** (Cuturi, Peyré, Solomon, ...)
- **Sampling** (Marzouk, Rigollet, Chewi, ...)
- **And more**

The Wasserstein Distance

Definition of the Wasserstein Distance

For $f, g \in \mathcal{P}(\Omega)$ ($f, g \geq 0$ and $\int f = \int g = 1$), the Wasserstein distance is formulated as

$$W_p(f, g) = \left(\inf_{T \in \mathcal{M}} \int |x - T(x)|^p f(x) dx \right)^{\frac{1}{p}} \quad (1)$$

\mathcal{M} : the set of all maps that rearrange the distribution f into g .

The commonly used cases include $p = 1$ and $p = 2$.

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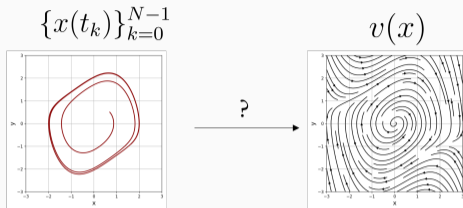
Properties of W_2 as the loss function

(1) Provide better optimization landscape for Nonlinear Inverse Problems:

$$\theta^* = \underset{\theta}{\operatorname{argmin}} W_2^2(\rho(\theta), \rho^*)$$

(2) Robust in Inversion with Noisy Data (equivalent to \dot{H}^{-1} norm)

Recap: our approach from Lagrangian view to Eulerian perspective



SINDy¹ Shooting methods² Neural ODEs³

- Noise blows up divided difference
- Slow sampling makes divided difference inaccurate
- Unable to distinguish small modeling errors from chaos

$$\rho^* := \frac{1}{N} \sum_{k=0}^{N-1} \delta_{x(t_k)}$$

$$\text{Forward Model} \\ \theta \mapsto \rho(\theta)$$

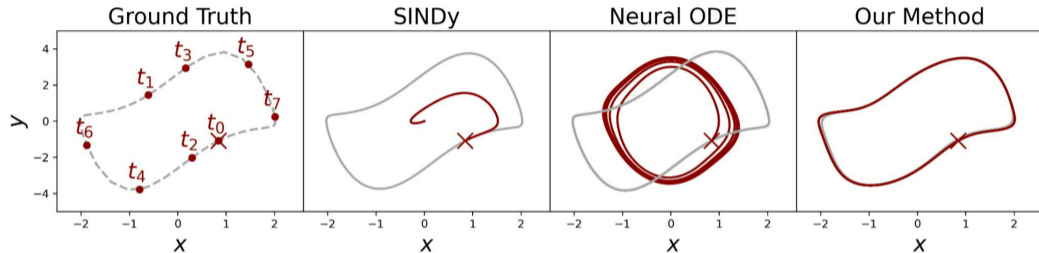
$$\text{Objective Function} \\ \min_{\theta \in \Theta} \mathcal{J}(\rho(\theta), \rho^*)$$

¹Brunton, S. L., Proctor, J. L., & Kutz, J. N. (2016). Discovering governing equations from data by sparse identification of nonlinear dynamical systems. *Proceedings of the national academy of sciences*, 113(15), 3932-3937.

²Michalik, C., Hannemann, R., & Marquardt, W. (2009). Incremental single shooting—a robust method for the estimation of parameters in dynamical systems. *Computers & Chemical Engineering*, 33(7), 1298-1305.

³Chen, R. T., Rubanova, Y., Bettencourt, J., & Duvenaud, D. K. (2018). Neural ordinary differential equations. *Advances in neural information processing systems*, 31.

Comparison with Other Methods

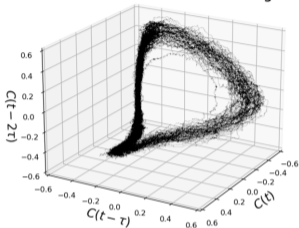


| Method | Sampling Freq. | Wall-Clock Time (s) | Error |
|------------|----------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| SINDy | 10.00 | $2 \cdot 10^{-2}$ | $5.6 \cdot 10^{-3}$ |
| Neural ODE | 10.00 | $5 \cdot 10^2$ | $5.32 \cdot 10^{-3}$ |
| Ours | 10.00 | $5 \cdot 10^2$ | $1.14 \cdot 10^{-1}$ |

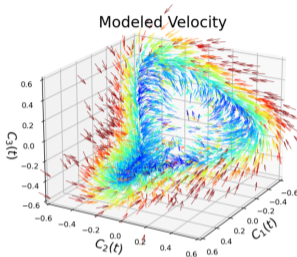
| Method | Sampling Freq. | Wall-Clock Time (s) | Error |
|------------|----------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| SINDy | 0.25 | 10^{-2} | 3.52 |
| Neural ODE | 0.25 | $5 \cdot 10^2$ | 1.81 |
| Ours | 0.25 | $5 \cdot 10^2$ | $6.79 \cdot 10^{-2}$ |

Application to Real-World Data: Hall-Effect Thruster

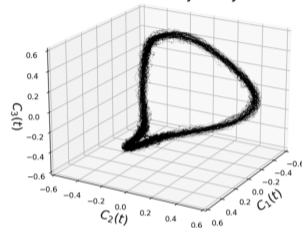
Embedded Cathode-Pearson Signal



Modeled Velocity



Modeled Trajectory

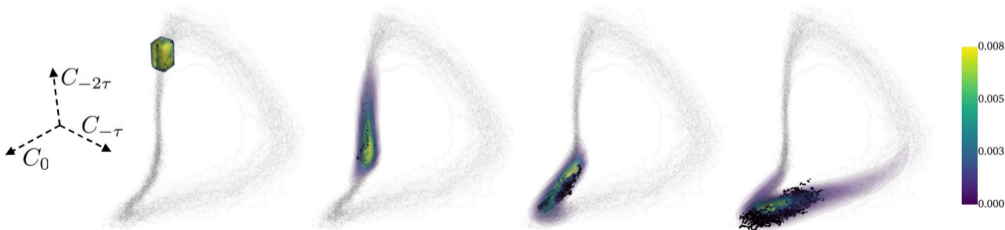


time = 0.00

time = 0.17

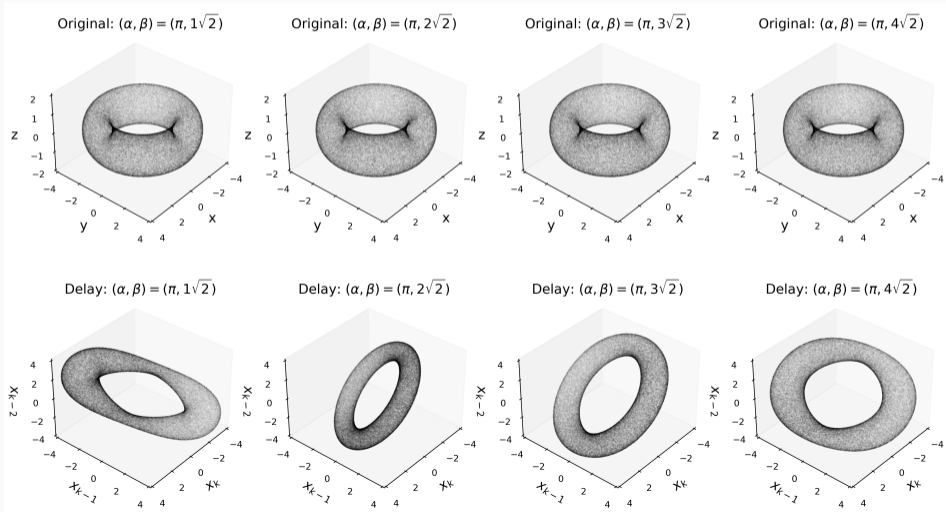
time = 0.33

time = 0.50



Limitation: Nonuniqueness

$$T_{\#}\mu = \mu \text{ \& } S_{\#}\mu = \mu \not\Rightarrow T = S$$



Invariant Measures in Time-Delay Coordinates for *Unique* Dynamical System Identification

Takens' Embedding Theorem

Theorem (Takens, 1981)

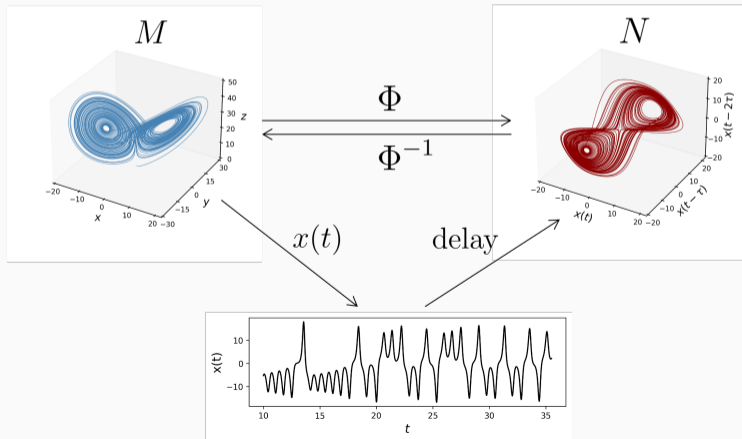
Let M be a compact manifold of dimension m . For pairs (y, T) , where $T \in C^2(M, M)$ and $y \in C^2(M, \mathbb{R})$, it is a generic property that the mapping $\Phi_{(y, T)} : M \rightarrow N \subseteq \mathbb{R}^{2d+1}$ given by $\Phi_{(y, T)}(\mathbf{x}) := (y(\mathbf{x}), y(T(\mathbf{x})), \dots, y(T^{2m}(\mathbf{x})))$ is an embedding of M in \mathbb{R}^{2d+1} .

Takens' Embedding Theorem

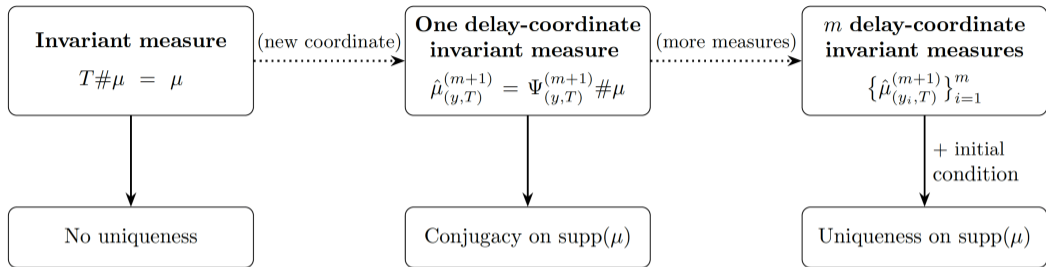
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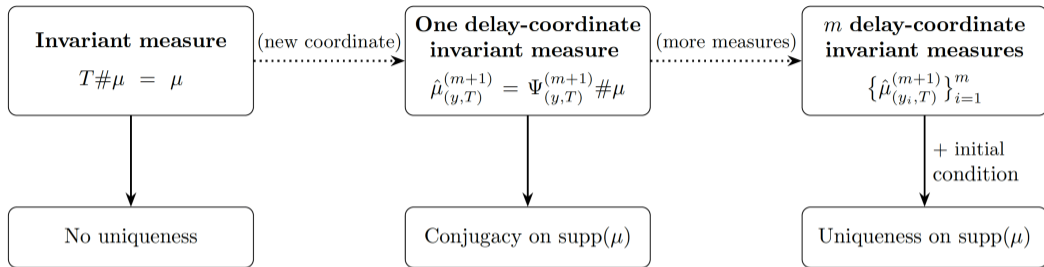
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Invariant Measures in Time-Delay Coordinates for Uniqueness

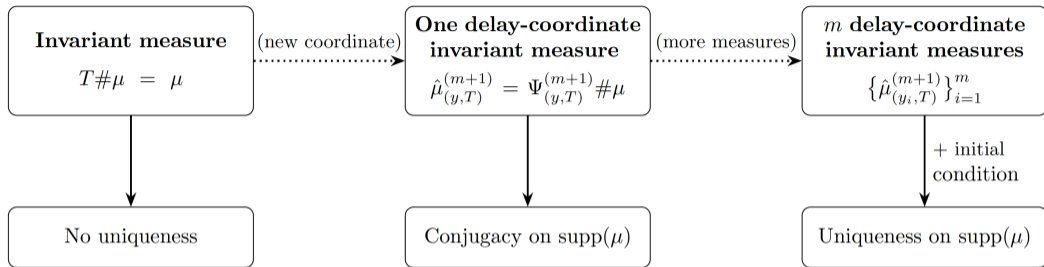


Invariant Measures in Time-Delay Coordinates for Uniqueness



Theorem 1. The equality $\hat{\mu}_{(y,T)}^{(m+1)} = \hat{\nu}_{(y,S)}^{(m+1)}$ implies $T|_{\text{supp}(\mu)}$ and $S|_{\text{supp}(\nu)}$ are topologically conjugate, for almost every $y \in C^1(U, \mathbb{R})$.

Invariant Measures in Time-Delay Coordinates for Uniqueness



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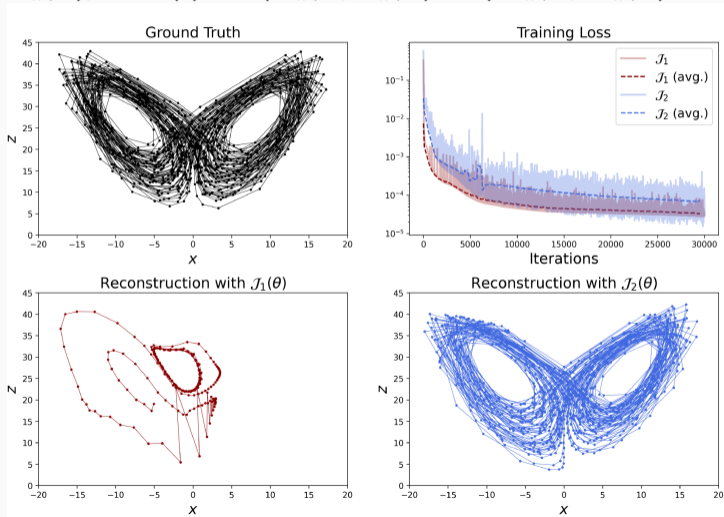
Theorem 2. The conditions below imply that $T = S$ on $\text{supp}(\mu)$, for a.e. $Y \in C^1(U, \mathbb{R}^m)$:

1. there exists $x^* \in B_{\mu,T} \cap \text{supp}(\mu)$, such that $T^k(x^*) = S^k(x^*)$ for $1 \leq k \leq m-1$, and
2. $\hat{\mu}_{(y_j,T)}^{(m+1)} = \hat{\mu}_{(y_j,S)}^{(m+1)}$ for $1 \leq j \leq m$, where $Y := (y_1, \dots, y_m)$ is a vector-valued observable.

Numerical Example

$$\mathcal{J}_1(\theta) := \mathcal{D}(T_\theta \# \mu^*, T^* \# \mu^*), \quad \mathcal{J}_2(\theta) := \mathcal{D}(T_\theta \# \mu^*, T^* \# \mu^*) + \mathcal{D}(\Psi_\theta \# \mu^*, \Psi^* \# \mu^*).$$

Ψ_θ is the delay map based on T_θ , and Ψ^* is the true delay map.



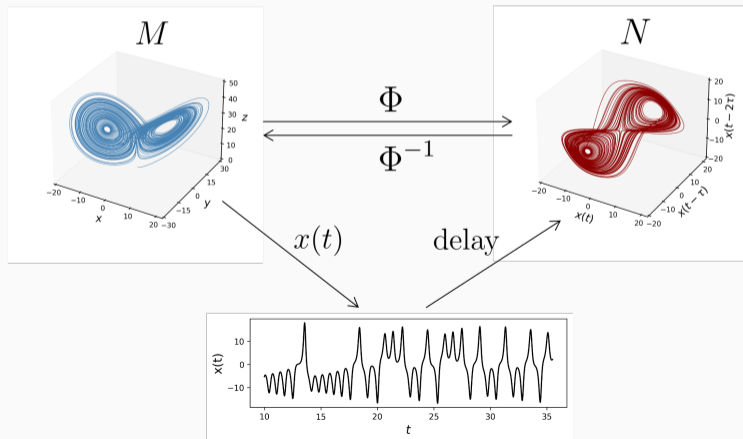
Embedding Over the Probability Space $\mathcal{P}_2(M)$

Takens' Embedding Theorem (Again)

Theorem (Takens, 1981)

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Measure-Theoretic Embedding

- Challenges: Takens' Theorem no longer applies when dynamics have noise.
- Can we **lift** the statement to the **space of probability measures**?

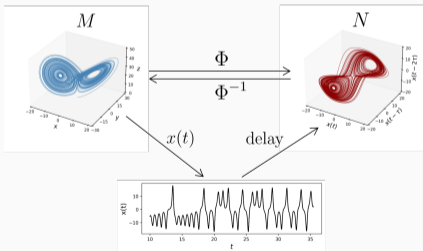
Measure-Theoretic Embedding

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- If $\phi : M \rightarrow N$ is an embedding, is $\phi_{\#} : \mathcal{P}(M) \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(N)$ also an embedding?

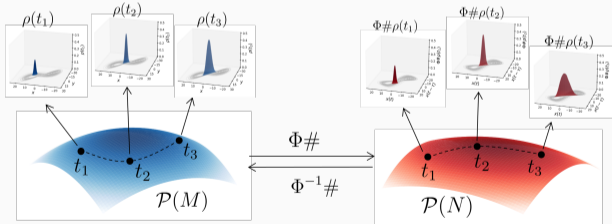
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Pointwise Embedding



Probabilistic Embedding



Pointwise embedding (Φ)

1. Φ is injective
2. Φ is smooth
3. $D\Phi$ is injective

Measure-Theoretic Embedding

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Measure-theoretic embedding ($\Phi\#$)

1. $\Phi\#$ is injective
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3. $D(\Phi\#)$ is injective

Pointwise embedding (Φ)

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2. Φ is smooth
3. $D\Phi$ is injective

Definition (Differentiability of operator $\mathcal{P}_2(M) \rightarrow \mathcal{P}_2(N)$)

A map $\Psi : \mathcal{P}_2(M) \rightarrow \mathcal{P}_2(N)$ is differentiable if for all $\mu \in \mathcal{P}_2(M)$ there is a bounded linear operator $d\Psi_\mu : T_\mu \mathcal{P}_2(M) \rightarrow T_{\Psi(\mu)} \mathcal{P}_2(N)$ s.t. for any differentiable curve $t \mapsto \mu_t$ through μ , the curve $t \mapsto \Psi(\mu_t)$ is differentiable with velocity v_t and $d\Psi_{\mu_t}(v_t) = \frac{d}{dt} \Psi(\mu_t)$.

Measure-theoretic embedding ($\Phi\#$)

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Theorem (Our Main Result)

If $\Phi : M \rightarrow N$ is an embedding between differentiable manifolds, then the map $\Phi\# : \mathcal{P}_2(M) \rightarrow \mathcal{P}_2(N)$ is also an embedding.

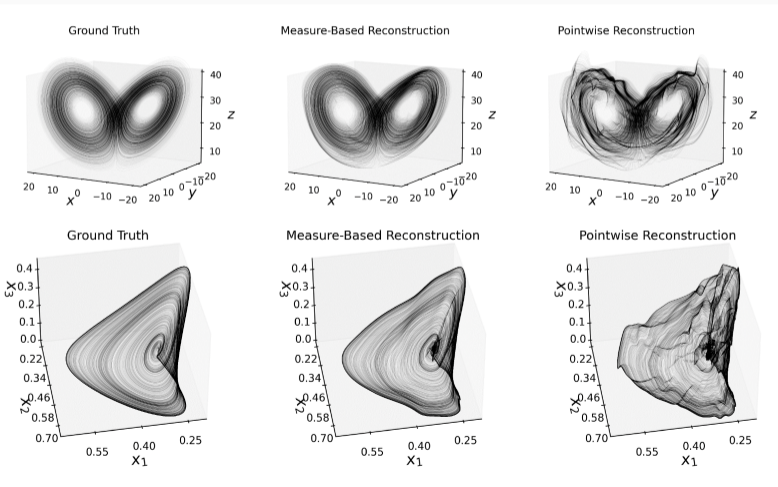
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Numerical Example

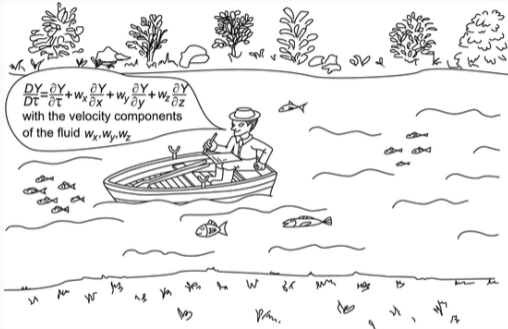
$$\underbrace{\mathcal{L}_p(\theta)}_{\text{pointwise loss}} = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \|x_i - \mathcal{R}_\theta(\Phi(x_i))\|_2^2,$$

$$\underbrace{\mathcal{L}_m(\theta)}_{\text{measure-theoretic loss}} = \frac{1}{K} \sum_{i=1}^K \mathcal{D}(\mu_i, \mathcal{R}_\theta \# (\Phi \# \mu_i)).$$

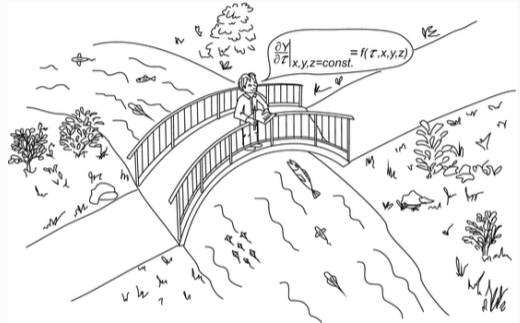


Conclusion

Conclusions



(a) Lagrangian view



(b) Eulerian view

[Bird-Stewart-Lightfoot, Transport Phenomena, 2002]

Summaries

- From **Lagrangian** to **Eulerian** to tackle chaos (ODE \implies PDE problem)
- Using **optimal transport** to study dynamical system
 1. Invariant measure matching
 2. Invariant measure in **time-delay coordinate matching**
 3. Generalize **pointwise** embedding to **measure-theoretic** embedding

Summaries

- From **Lagrangian** to **Eulerian** to tackle chaos (ODE \implies PDE problem)
- Using **optimal transport** to study dynamical system
 1. Invariant measure matching
 2. Invariant measure in **time-delay coordinate matching**
 3. Generalize **pointwise** embedding to **measure-theoretic** embedding

Outlook

There is great potential for using optimal transport in data-driven modeling of dynamical systems.

Acknowledgments

Research support from



Thank you for the attention!