

# Rotation Group Synchronization via Quotient Manifold

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# Rotation Group Synchronization

The rotation group elements (**Ground-Truth**)

$$G^* = (G_1^*, \dots, G_n^*) \in \mathcal{SO}(d)^n$$

is the target to be estimated, where

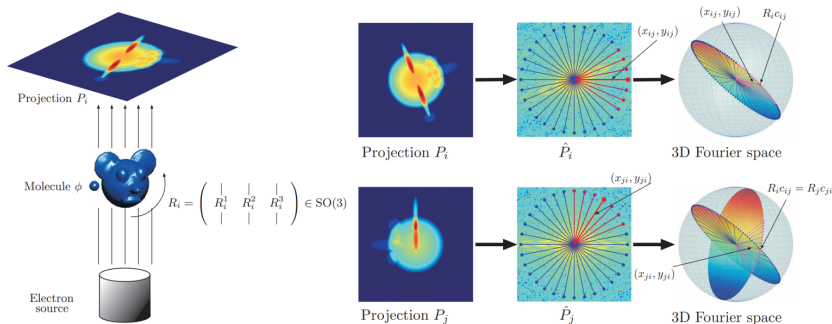
$$\mathcal{SO}(d) = \left\{ Q \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times d} : QQ^\top = Q^\top Q = I_d, \det(Q) = 1 \right\}.$$

**Task:** Recover  $G^*$  from  $\{C_{ij} \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times d} : 1 \leq i < j \leq n\}$

- $C_{ij}$ : noisy measurement of relative transform  $G_i^* G_j^{*\top}$ ;
- (**Generative Model**)  $C_{ij} = G_i^* G_j^{*\top} + \Delta_{ij}$ .

# Examples of Applications

- ▶ Computer Vision
  - Cryo-Electron Microscopy [Singer, 2018, Singer and Shkolnisky, 2011]
  - Point Set Registration [Khoo and Kapoor, 2016]
  - Multiview Structure from Motion [Arie-Nachimson et al., 2012]
- ▶ Robotics
  - Simultaneous Localization and Mapping [Rosen et al., 2019]



# Nonconvex Least Squares Formulation

Least squares estimator:

$$\min_{G_1, \dots, G_n \in \mathcal{SO}(d)} \sum_{i < j} \|G_i G_j^\top - C_{ij}\|_F^2 \quad (\text{LS})$$

$$\xleftrightarrow{G_i \in \mathcal{SO}(d)} \max_{G \in \mathcal{SO}(d)^n} \text{tr}(G^\top C G) \quad (\text{QP-S})$$

where  $G = (G_1, \dots, G_n) \in \mathcal{SO}(d)^n$  and  $C \in \mathbb{R}^{nd \times nd}$ .

(QP-S) is **nonconvex** QP over  $\mathcal{SO}(d)^n$

- ▶ Global optimum?  $C$  owns **generative model**;
- ▶ ( $d = 2$ ) Phase synchronization (commutative group  $\mathcal{SO}(2)$ )  
[Boumal, 2016, Liu et al., 2017, Zhong and Boumal, 2018]

## Existing Approaches for Solving (QP-S)

**Step 1:** Relax (QP-S) to

$$\max_{G \in \mathcal{O}(d)^n} \operatorname{tr}(G^\top CG) \quad (\text{QP-O})$$

**Step 2:** Solve (QP-O) by **Generalized Power Method (GPM)**

[Liu et al., 2020, Zhu et al., 2021, Ling, 2022a]:

$$G^{k+1} \in \operatorname{Proj}_{\mathcal{O}(d)^n}((C + \alpha I_{nd})G^k).$$

Further relaxed form:

- ▶ **SDR** [Singer, 2011, Bandeira et al., 2017, Won et al., 2022]

$$\max_{X \in \mathbb{R}^{nd \times nd}} \operatorname{tr}(CX) \quad \text{s.t.} \quad X_{ii} = I_d, X \geq 0$$

- ▶ **Burer-Monteiro** [Boumal et al., 2016, Ling, 2022c]

$$\max_{X \in \mathbb{R}^{nd \times p}} \operatorname{tr}(CXX^\top) \quad \text{s.t.} \quad X_i X_i^\top = I_d, X := [X_1; \dots; X_n]$$

- ▶ **Spectral Relaxation** [Singer, 2011, Ling, 2022b]

$$\max_{X \in \mathbb{R}^{nd \times d}} \operatorname{tr}(CXX^\top) \quad \text{s.t.} \quad X^\top X = n \cdot I_d$$

# Main Questions

**Q1:** Is the relaxation in **Step 1** reasonable?

$$\max_{G \in SO(d)^n} \text{tr}(G^T CG) \implies \max_{G \in O(d)^n} \text{tr}(G^T CG)$$

**Q2:** For **Step 2**, whether we can design **simple and fast** algorithms utilizing **intrinsic** manifold structure?

**Q3:** Does (QP-S)/(QP-O) have **good landscape** that allows us to find a **global optimum** with fast convergence though it is **nonconvex**?

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- ✓ Riemannian algorithms stay on a connected component of orthogonal group naturally, e.g., Riemannian gradient method (RGM).

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- ✓ Benefitted from the quotient geometric view.

## Quotient View

For  $\mathcal{G}^n = \mathcal{O}(d)^n$  or  $\mathcal{SO}(d)^n$

$$\max_{G \in \mathcal{G}^n} \bar{f}(G) := \text{tr}(G^\top CG) \quad (\text{QP})$$

✗ NP-hard as QPQC (reduced to Max-Cut when  $\mathcal{G}^n = \mathcal{O}(d)^n$ ,  $d = 1$ ).

▶ Generative model:

$$C_{ij} = G_i^* G_j^{*\top} + \Delta_{ij}, \quad \Delta_{ij} : \text{deterministic noise}$$

▶ Quotient equivalent form:

$$\max_{[G] \in \mathcal{Q}} f([G]) := \text{tr}(g^\top G^\top CGg) = \text{tr}(G^\top CG) \quad (\text{Q})$$

$$- [G] := \{G' \in \mathcal{G}^n \mid G' = Gg, g \in \mathcal{G}\}$$

$$- \mathcal{Q} := \mathcal{G}^n / \mathcal{G}$$

# Improved Deterministic Estimation Performance

**Lemma** ([Zhu et al., 2021, Lemma 4.1])

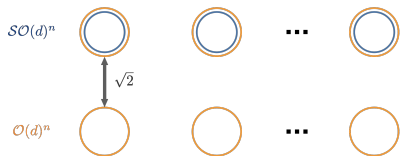
Let  $\hat{G}$  be an optimal solution of (QP-O). Then<sup>1</sup>  $d_F([\hat{G}], [G^*]) \lesssim \frac{\sqrt{d}\|\Delta\|}{\sqrt{n}}$ .

✗ Gaussian random matrix  $\|\Delta\| \lesssim \sqrt{nd} \Rightarrow$  constant noise level for exact recovery

**Theorem** ( $l_\infty$  Estimation: from Average to Worst Case)

If  $\|\Delta\| \lesssim \frac{n}{\sqrt{d}}$ , then<sup>1</sup>  $d_\infty([\hat{G}], [G^*]) \leq \|\hat{G}\hat{g}^* - G^*\|_\infty \lesssim \frac{\|\Delta G^*\|_\infty}{n}$ .

- ▶  $\|\Delta\| \lesssim \frac{n}{\sqrt{d}}$ ,  $\|\Delta G^*\|_\infty \lesssim n \Rightarrow d_\infty([\hat{G}], [G^*]) = \mathcal{O}(1)$ ;
- ▶  $\hat{G}$  in **same connected component** with  $G^*$  (o/w  $d_\infty([\hat{G}], [G^*]) \geq \sqrt{2}$ ).



- ✓ Tightness of (QP-O) for (QP-S);
- ✓ GPM, SDR, BM, SpecR for solving rotation synchronization.

1.  $d_F([X], [Y]) = \min_{g \in \mathcal{O}(d)} \|X - Yg\|_F$ ,  $d_\infty([X], [Y]) = \min_{g \in \mathcal{O}(d)} \max_i \|X_i - Y_i g\|_F$ .

## (Quotient) Riemannian Algorithms

$$\max_{G \in \mathcal{G}^n} \bar{f}(G) := \text{tr}(G^T CG) \quad \text{and} \quad \max_{[G] \in \mathcal{Q}} f([G]) := \text{tr}(G^T CG)$$

Advantages:

- ▶ **Keep on same connected component automatically**
  - ✓ Naturally feasible for rotation group synchronization
  - ✓ Regardless of noise level
- ▶ **Lower computational cost**
  - ✓ Dimension reduction

	SDR	GPM	Riemann	Quotient
Dimension	$n^2 d^2$	$nd^2$	$\frac{1}{2}nd(d-1)$	$\frac{1}{2}(n-1)d(d-1)$
Dim ( $d=3$ )	$9n^2$	$9n$	$3n$	$3n-3$

- ✓ SVD free: Projection  $\Rightarrow$  Exponential map with explicit form

**How can we design (quotient) Riemannian algorithms?**

## (Quotient) Riemannian Gradient Method

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### Algorithm (Quotient) Riemannian gradient method

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- 1: **Input:** The matrix  $C$ , the stepsize  $t_k \geq 0$  and initial point  $G^0 \in \mathcal{G}^n$ .
  - 2: **for**  $k = 0, 1, \dots$  **do**
  - 3:   Compute  $[G^{k+1}] := \text{Exp}_{[G^k]}(t_k \text{grad } f([G^k]))$ .
  - 4: **end for**
- 

Questions:

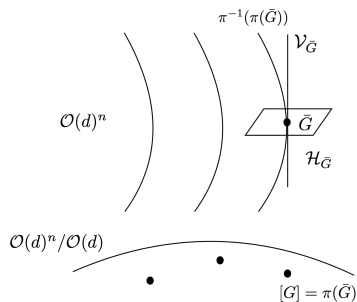
- ▶ How can we calculate “ $\text{grad } f([G^k])$ ”?
- ▶ Relationship to RGM:  $G^{k+1} := \text{Exp}_{G^k}(t_k \text{grad } \bar{f}(G^k))$ ?

# Quotient Manifold and Tangent Space

- ▶ Canonical projection  $\pi : \mathcal{O}(d)^n \rightarrow \mathcal{Q}$ ,  $\pi(\bar{G}) := [G]$
- ▶ Vertical space  $\mathcal{V}_{\bar{G}}: \mathcal{V}_{\bar{G}} = \mathbb{T}_{\bar{G}}(\pi^{-1}([G]))$
- ▶ **Horizontal space**  $\mathcal{H}_{\bar{G}}: \mathcal{H}_{\bar{G}} \oplus \mathcal{V}_{\bar{G}} = \mathbb{T}_{\bar{G}} \mathcal{O}(d)^n$

## Definition (Lifted Representation of $\mathbb{T}_{[G]} \mathcal{Q}$ on $\mathcal{O}(d)^n$ )

The **horizontal lift** of  $\xi_{[G]} \in \mathbb{T}_{[G]} \mathcal{Q}$  at  $\bar{G} \in \pi^{-1}([G])$  is the unique vector  $\bar{\xi}_{\bar{G}} \in \mathcal{H}_{\bar{G}}$  such that  $D\pi(\bar{G}) [\bar{\xi}_{\bar{G}}] = \xi_{[G]}$ .



## Benefits: Well-defined Gradient

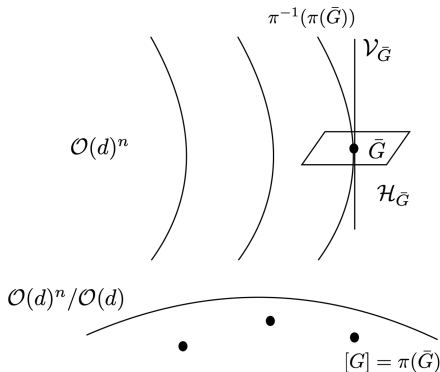
$$\begin{aligned} D\bar{f}(\bar{G}) [\bar{\xi}_{\bar{G}}] &= Df(\pi(\bar{G})) [D\pi(\bar{G}) [\bar{\xi}_{\bar{G}}]] \\ &= Df([G]) [\xi_{[G]}] \end{aligned}$$

$$\Rightarrow \overline{\text{grad } f([G])}_{\bar{G}} = \text{Proj}_{\mathcal{H}_{\bar{G}}}(\text{grad } \bar{f}(\bar{G}))$$

# Explicit Form of Horizontal Space

## Proposition

- ▶  $\mathcal{V}_{\bar{G}} = \{ \bar{G}E : E \in \text{Skew}(d) \}$
- ▶  $\mathcal{H}_{\bar{G}} = \{ (\bar{G}_1 E_1, \dots, \bar{G}_n E_n), E_i \in \text{Skew}(d) \text{ and } \sum_{i=1}^n E_i = 0 \}$
- ▶  $\text{Proj}_{\mathcal{H}_{\bar{G}}} = I_{nd} - \frac{1}{n} \bar{G} \bar{G}^\top$



# Quotient Riemannian Gradient and Hessian

## Proposition

Let  $[G] \in \mathcal{Q}$  and  $\bar{G} \in \pi^{-1}([G])$ . Then the unique horizontal lift of

- ▶ Riemannian gradient of  $f$  at  $\bar{G} \in \mathcal{O}(d)^n$  is

$$\overline{\text{grad } f([G])}_{\bar{G}} = \text{grad } \bar{f}(\bar{G}) = -2S(\bar{G})\bar{G}.$$

- ▶ Riemannian Hessian of  $f$  with direction  $H_{[G]}$  at  $\bar{G} \in \mathcal{O}(d)^n$  is

$$\overline{\text{Hess } f([G]) [H_{[G]}]}_{\bar{G}} = \left(I_{nd} - \frac{1}{n}\bar{G}\bar{G}^T\right) \left(\text{Proj}_{T_{\bar{G}}\mathcal{O}(d)^n}(-2S(\bar{G})\bar{H}_{\bar{G}})\right).$$

Here,  $S(X) := \text{symblockdiag}(CXX^T) - C \in \mathbb{R}^{nd \times nd}$ .

**Quotient Riemannian gradient = Riemannian gradient:**

$\bar{f}$  is **invariant** on equivalence class  $\bar{G} \in \pi^{-1}([G])$

$$\Rightarrow D\bar{f}(\bar{G})\bar{\xi}_{\bar{G}} = \langle \text{grad } \bar{f}(\bar{G}), \bar{\xi}_{\bar{G}} \rangle_{\bar{G}} = 0, \forall \bar{\xi}_{\bar{G}} \in \mathcal{V}_{\bar{G}}$$

$\Rightarrow \text{grad } \bar{f}(\bar{G}) \in (\mathcal{V}_{\bar{G}})^\perp = \mathcal{H}_{\bar{G}}$  is **horizontal lift** of  $\text{grad } f([G])$  at  $\bar{G}$



## Landscape on Quotient Manifold

**Assumption:**  $\|\Delta\| \lesssim \frac{n^{3/4}}{\sqrt{d}}$ ,  $\|\Delta G^*\|_\infty \lesssim n \Rightarrow \|\Delta\| \lesssim \frac{n}{\sqrt{d}}$  (Leave-one-out)

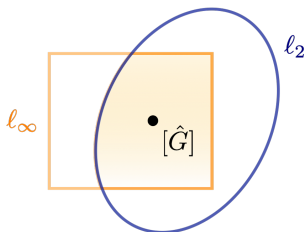
### Theorem (Strong Concavity around Maximizers)

Suppose that

$$\triangleright d_F([G], [\hat{G}]) \lesssim \min \left\{ \sqrt{n}, \frac{n}{\|\Delta\|} \right\}, \|G\hat{g} - \hat{G}\|_\infty \leq \frac{1}{4}.$$

Then for all  $H_{[G]} \in T_{[G]} \mathcal{Q} \setminus \{0_{[G]}\}$ ,

$$-\langle \text{Hess } f([G])[H_{[G]}], H_{[G]} \rangle \geq \frac{n}{5} \cdot \langle H_{[G]}, H_{[G]} \rangle > 0.$$



## (Quotient) Riemannian Local Error Bound

### Theorem ((Quotient) Riemannian Local Error Bound)

Suppose that

$$\triangleright d_F([G], [\hat{G}]) \lesssim \min \left\{ \sqrt{n}, \frac{n}{\|\Delta\|} \right\}, \|G\hat{g} - \hat{G}\|_\infty \leq \frac{1}{4}.$$

Then it follows that

$$d_F([G], [\hat{G}]) \leq d^Q([G], [\hat{G}]) \leq \frac{10}{n} \cdot \|\text{grad } f([G])\|_{[G]} \leq \frac{10}{n} \cdot \|\text{grad } \bar{f}(\bar{G})\|_F.$$

- FOCPs**  $\Rightarrow$  **global maximizer** of (QP-S) with **quantitative** result.
- Theoretical motivation for using (Q)RGM to solve (QP-S)/(QP-O).

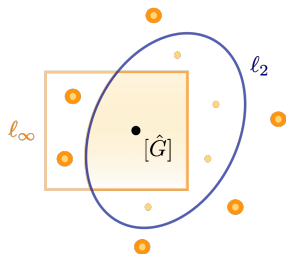
# Comparison with Error Bound of GPM

Lemma (Error Bound of GPM [Zhu et al., 2021, Theorem 4.3])

Suppose that

- ▶  $d_F([G], [G^*]) \lesssim \sqrt{n}$  and  $\alpha \lesssim n$ .

Then it follows that  $d_F([G], [\hat{G}]) \leq 10d\|\tilde{C}\| \cdot \|G - T_\alpha(G)\|_F$ .



• FOCP - EB of GPM/Riemannian gradient:

• FP

$$d_F([G], [\hat{G}]) = \mathcal{O}(\sqrt{n})$$

$$+ d_\infty([G], [\hat{G}]) = \mathcal{O}(1)$$

- ([Zhu et al., 2021])

Fixed points of GPM (FPs)  $\subseteq$  FOCPs

## Example: Necessity of $\ell_\infty$ Constraint

Example ( $d_\infty([G], [\hat{G}]) = \mathcal{O}(1)$  is Necessary)

Let  $d = 2$  and  $\Delta = 0$  (implying  $G^* = \hat{G}$ ). Let  $G \in \mathcal{O}(d)^n$  satisfy

$$G_i = \begin{cases} -\hat{G}_i, & \text{if } i = 1, \\ \hat{G}_i, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

- ▶  $\overline{\text{grad } f([G])}_G = \text{grad } \bar{f}(G) = S(G)G = 0$
- ▶  $d_F([G], [\hat{G}]) = \sqrt{2}$

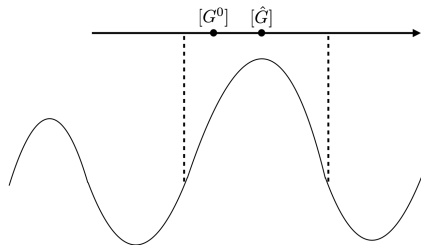
⇒ **G is only a FOCP**: global optimum  $\hat{G}$  is unique (up to rotation)

## Convergence of (Q)RGM: Initialization

### Proposition (Spectral Initialization Estimation Error)

The spectral estimator  $G^0 = \text{Proj}_{\mathcal{G}^n}(\Phi) \in \mathcal{G}^n$  ( $\Phi$  is top  $d$  eigenvectors of  $C$  with  $\Phi^\top \Phi = nI_d$ ) satisfies

$$d_F([G^0], [G^*]) \lesssim \frac{\sqrt{d}\|\Delta\|}{\sqrt{n}} \quad \text{and} \quad \|G^0 g_0^* - G^*\|_\infty \lesssim \frac{\|\Delta G^*\|_\infty}{n} + \frac{\sqrt{d}\|\Delta\|}{n}.$$



$$\checkmark \quad \|\Delta\| \lesssim \frac{n^{3/4}}{d^{1/2}}, \quad \|\Delta G^*\|_\infty \lesssim n \Rightarrow d_F([G^0], [G^*]) \lesssim n^{1/4}, \quad \|G^0 g_0^* - G^*\|_\infty \lesssim 1$$

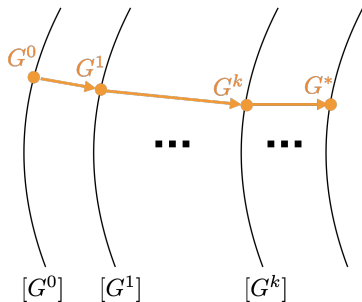
# Convergence of (Q)RGM

## Theorem (Sequential Linear Convergence)

The sequence  $\{G^k\}_{k \geq 0}$  generated by (Q)RGM with spectral initialization converges to some  $G^* \in [\hat{G}]$ . Moreover, with  $\lambda \in (0, 1)$ ,

$$f([\hat{G}]) - f([G^{k+1}]) \leq \lambda \cdot (f([\hat{G}]) - f([G^k])),$$

$$d_F([G^k], [\hat{G}]) \leq \|G^k - G^*\|_F \leq (f([\hat{G}]) - f([G^0]))^{\frac{1}{2}} \cdot \lambda^{\frac{k}{2}}.$$



# Conclusion & Discussion

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- ▶ **(Landscape)** Quotient geometric view of least squares formulation of rotation/orthogonal group synchronization.
- ▶ **(Algorithm)** (Q)RGM: simple and provably efficient algorithm for rotation group synchronization.
- ▶ **(Tightness)** Improved deterministic estimation result  $\Rightarrow$  guarantees for various existing approaches for rotation group synchronization.

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- ▶ **(Tightness)** Improved deterministic estimation result  $\Rightarrow$  guarantees for various existing approaches for rotation group synchronization.
- ? Other Riemannian algorithms: second-order/trust region method
  - Iterative direction is different on **original and quotient** manifold.
- ? Landscape analysis from the quotient view for other problems.



**Thank you!**

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