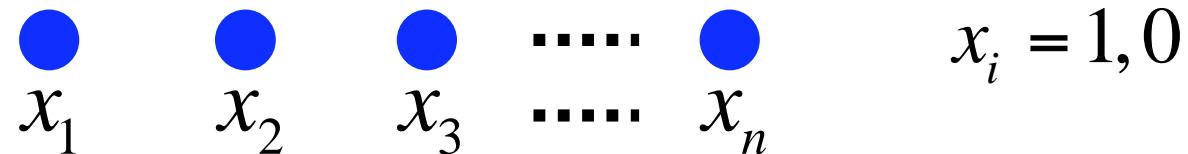


**Computational Neuroscience ESPRC Workshop  
--Warwick**

**Information-Geometric  
Studies on Neuronal Spike  
Trains**

*Shun-ichi Amari*  
**RIKEN Brain Science Institute**  
**Mathematical Neuroscience Unit**

## Neural Firing



$p(\mathbf{x}) = p(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n)$ : joint probability

$r_i = E[x_i]$  ----firing rate       $S = \{ p(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) \}$

$v_{ij} = Cov[x_i, x_j]$  ----covariance: correlation

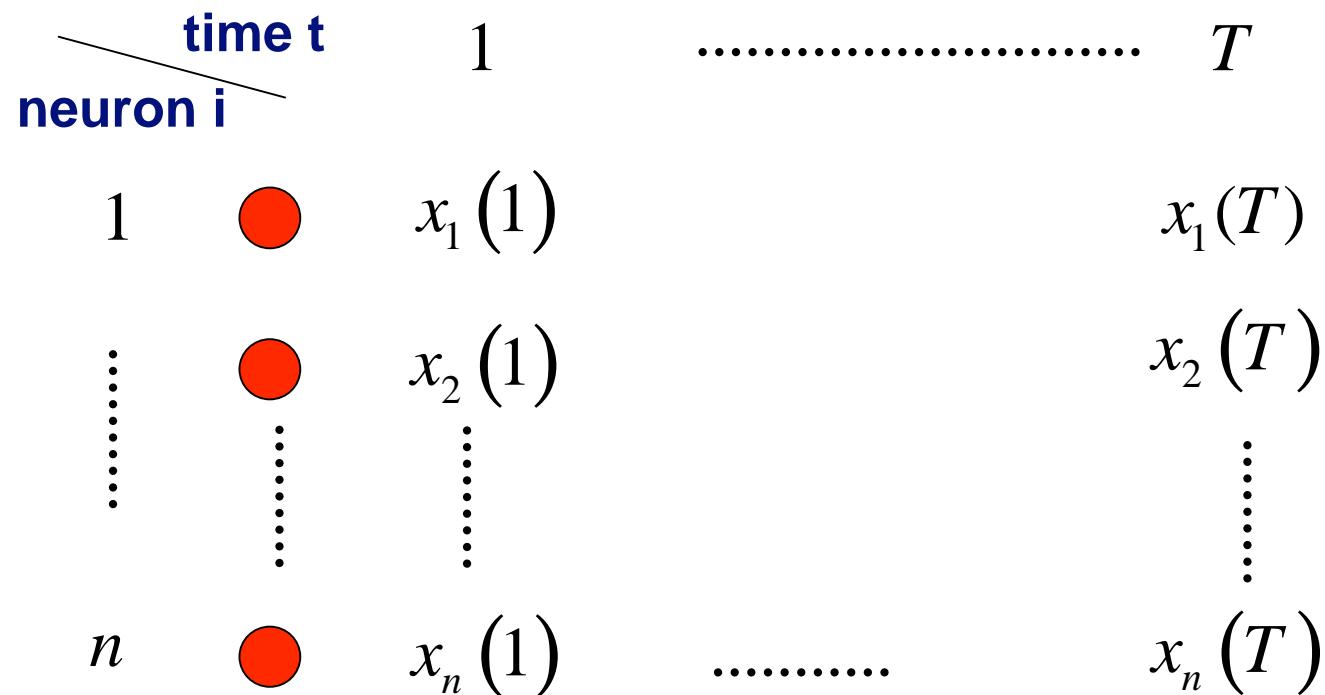
higher-order correlations

**orthogonal decomposition**

# Multiple spike sequence:

$$\{x_i(t), \quad i = 1, \dots, n; \quad t = 1, \dots, T\}$$

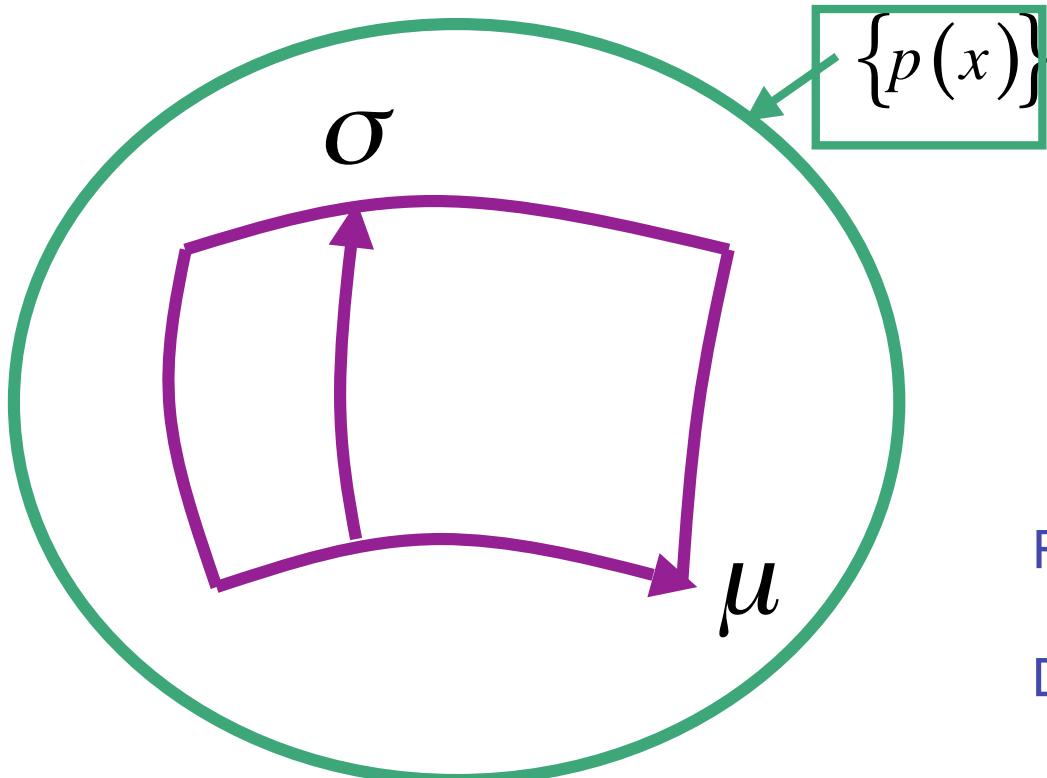
$$x_i(t) = 0, 1$$



# Information Geometry ?

$$S = \{p(x; \mu, \sigma)\}$$

$$p(x; \mu, \sigma) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma} \exp \left\{ -\frac{(x - \mu)^2}{2\sigma^2} \right\}$$



$$S = \{p(x; \mathbf{\hat{e}})\}$$

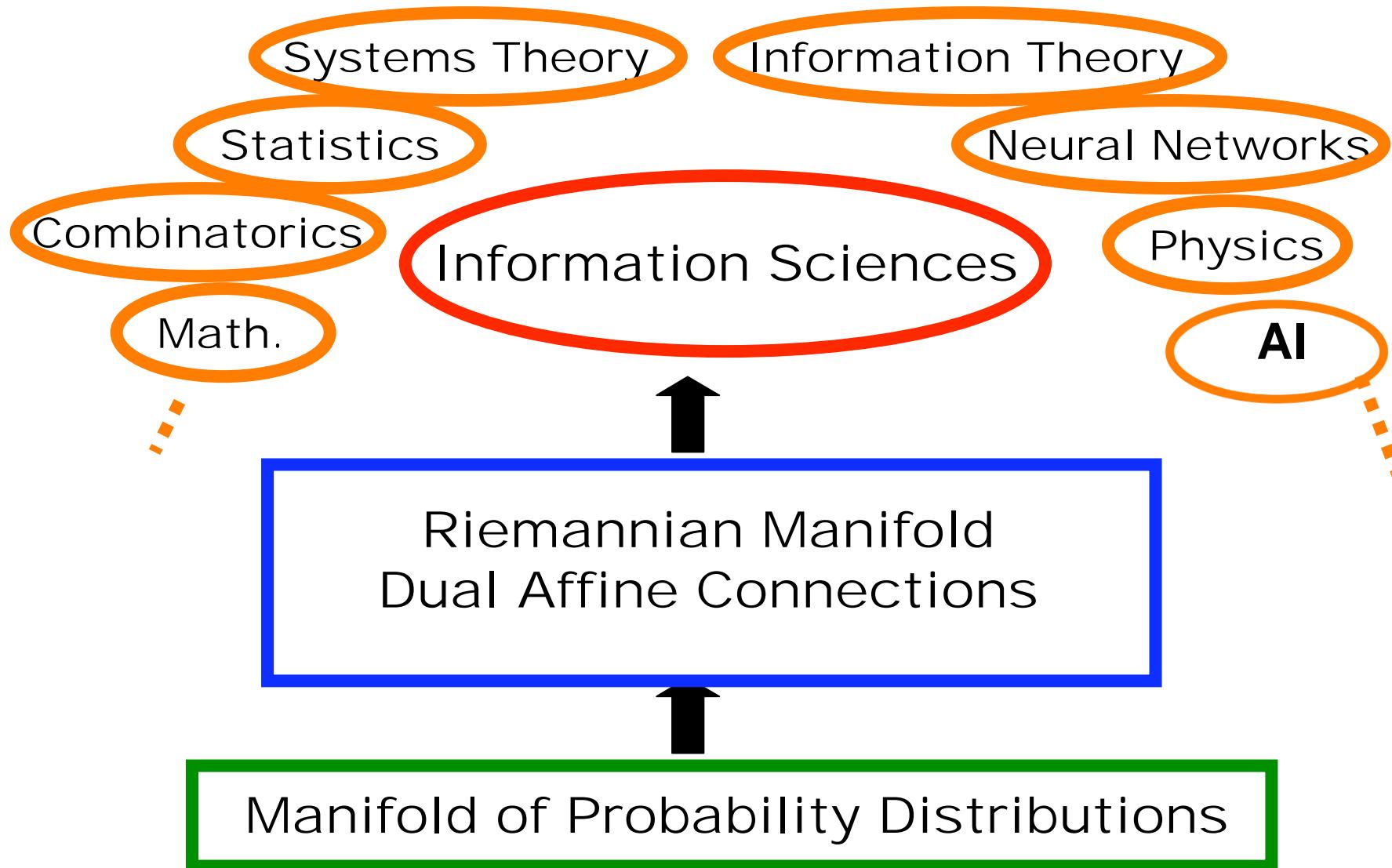
$$\mathbf{\hat{e}} = (\mu, \sigma)$$

Riemannian metric

Dual affine connections

# **Information Geometry**

---

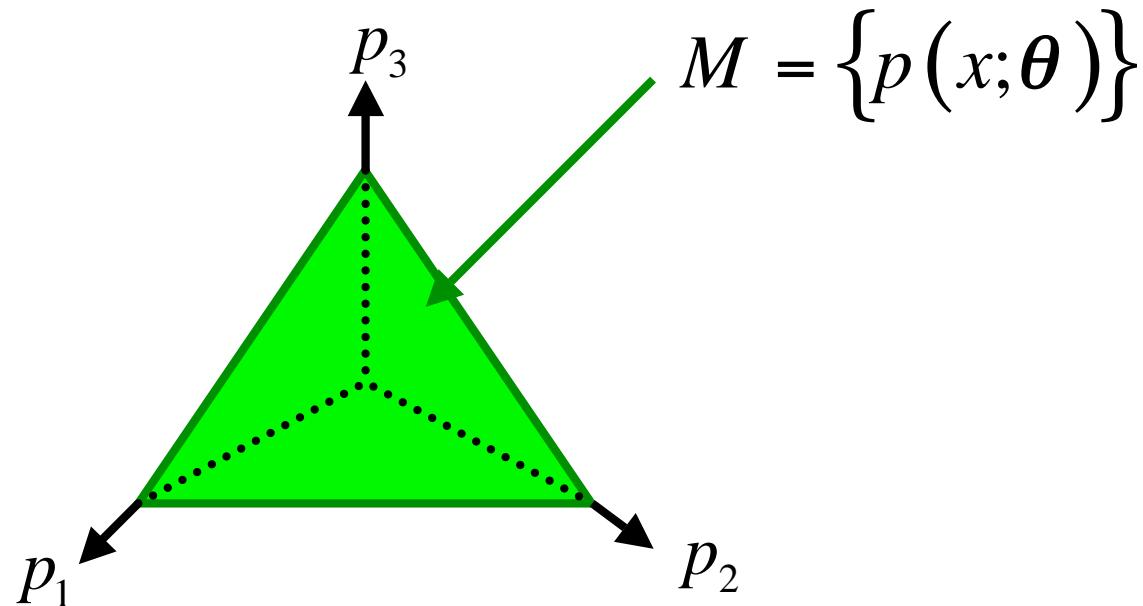


# Manifold of Probability Distributions

---

$$x = 1, 2, 3 \quad \{p(x)\}$$

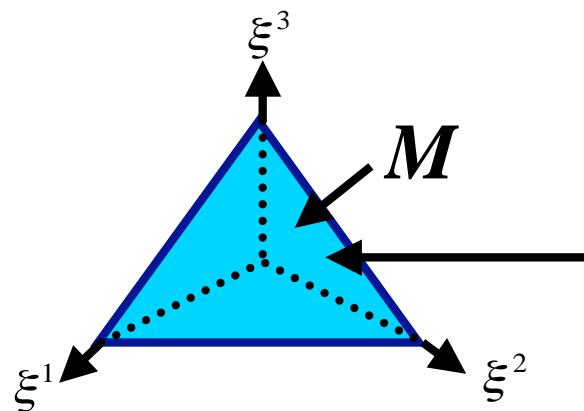
$$p = (p_1, p_2, p_3) \quad p_1 + p_2 + p_3 = 1$$



# Manifold of Probability Distributions

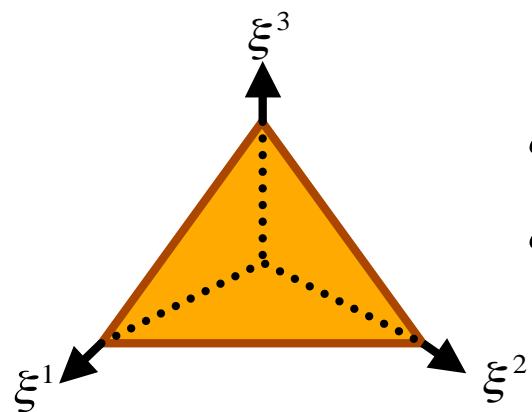
$$M = \{P(x, p)\}$$

$$x = 1, 2, 3$$



$$P(x, p) = \sum_{i=1}^3 p_i \delta_i(x) \quad (p_3 = 1 - p_1 - p_2)$$

$$\begin{aligned} p &= (p_1, p_2, p_3) \\ p_1 + p_2 + p_3 &= 1 \end{aligned}$$



$$\begin{aligned} \xi_i &= \sqrt{p_i} \\ \xi_1^2 + \xi_2^2 + \xi_3^2 &= 1 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{cases} \theta_1 = \log \frac{p_1}{p_3} \\ \theta_2 = \log \frac{p_2}{p_3} \end{cases} \quad \theta = (\theta^1, \theta^2)$$

# Invariance

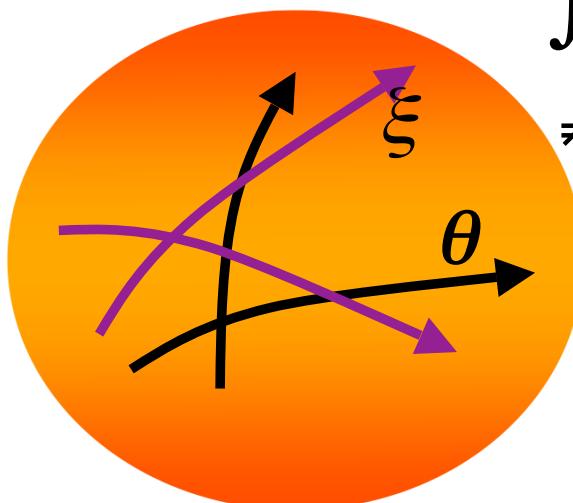
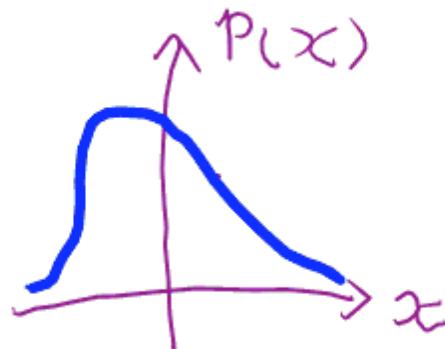
$$S = \{p(x, \theta)\}$$

## 1. Invariant under reparameterization

$$p(x, \theta) = \bar{p}(x, \xi) \quad D = \sum \theta_i^2 \neq \sum \xi_i^2$$

## 2. Invariant under different representation

$$y = y(x), \quad \{\bar{p}(y, \theta)\} = \{p(x, \theta)\}$$



$$\int |p(x, \theta_1) - p(x, \theta_2)|^2 dx \neq \int |\bar{p}(y, \theta_1) - \bar{p}(y, \theta_2)|^2 dy$$

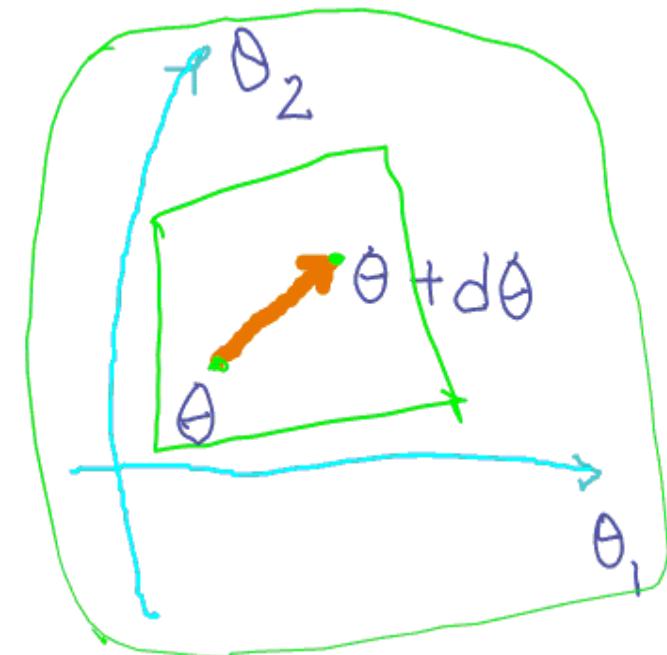
## Two Structures

Riemannian metric  
affine connection --- geodesic

$$g_{ij} = E \left[ \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta_i} \log p \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta_j} \log p \right]$$

Fisher information

$$ds^2 = \sum g_{ij}(\theta) d\theta_i d\theta_j = \langle d\theta, d\theta \rangle$$



# Affine Connection

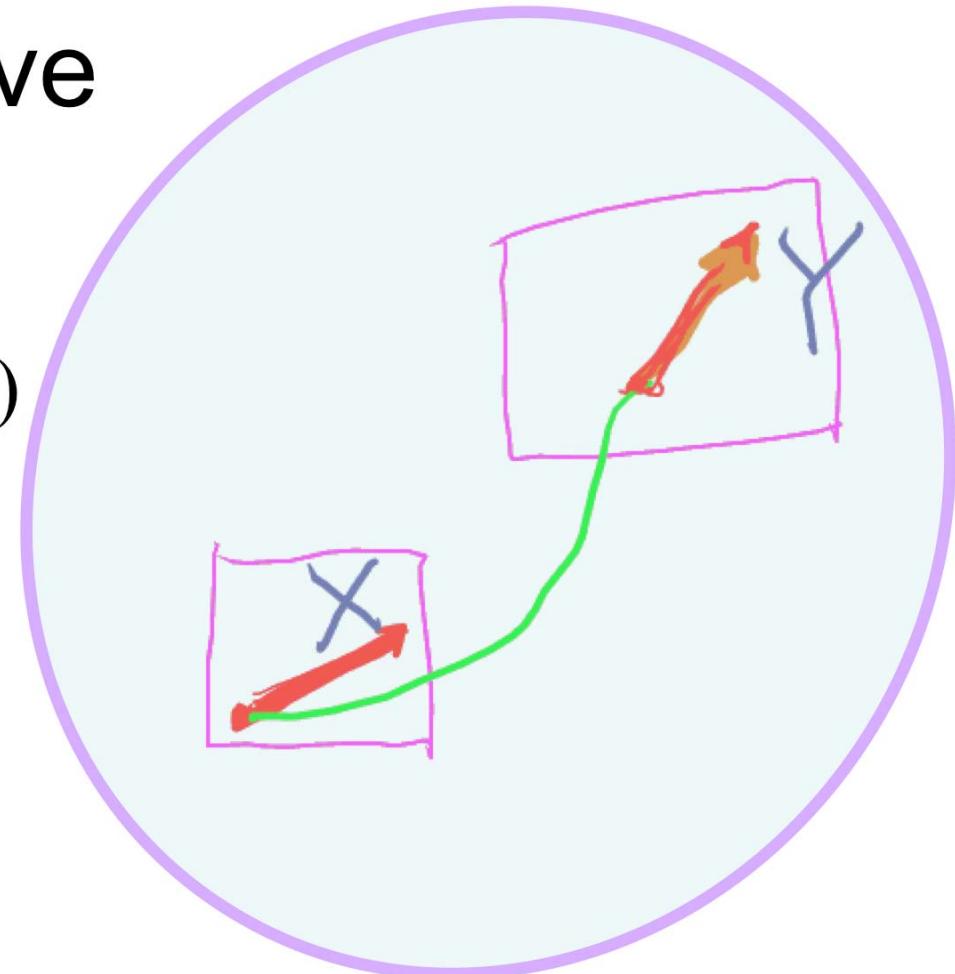
covariant derivative

$$\Pi_c X = Y$$

geodesic  $\Pi \dot{X} = \dot{X}$   $X = X(t)$

$$s = \int \sqrt{\sum g_{ij}(\theta) d\theta^i d\theta^j}$$

**minimal distance  
straight line**



# Affine Connection

## covariant derivative; parallel transport

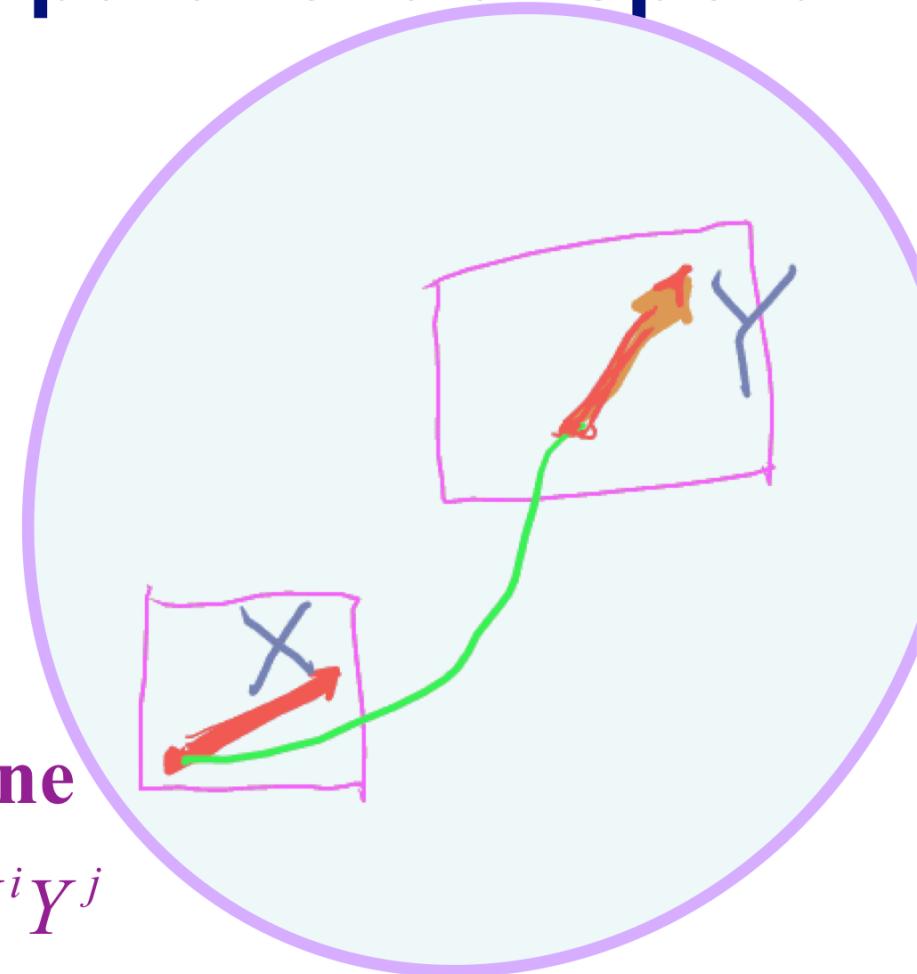
$$\nabla_X Y, \quad \Pi_c X = Y$$

geodesic  $\Pi \dot{x} = \dot{x}$   $x = x(t)$

$$s = \int \sqrt{\sum g_{ij}(\theta) d\theta^i d\theta^j}$$

**minimal distance : straight line**

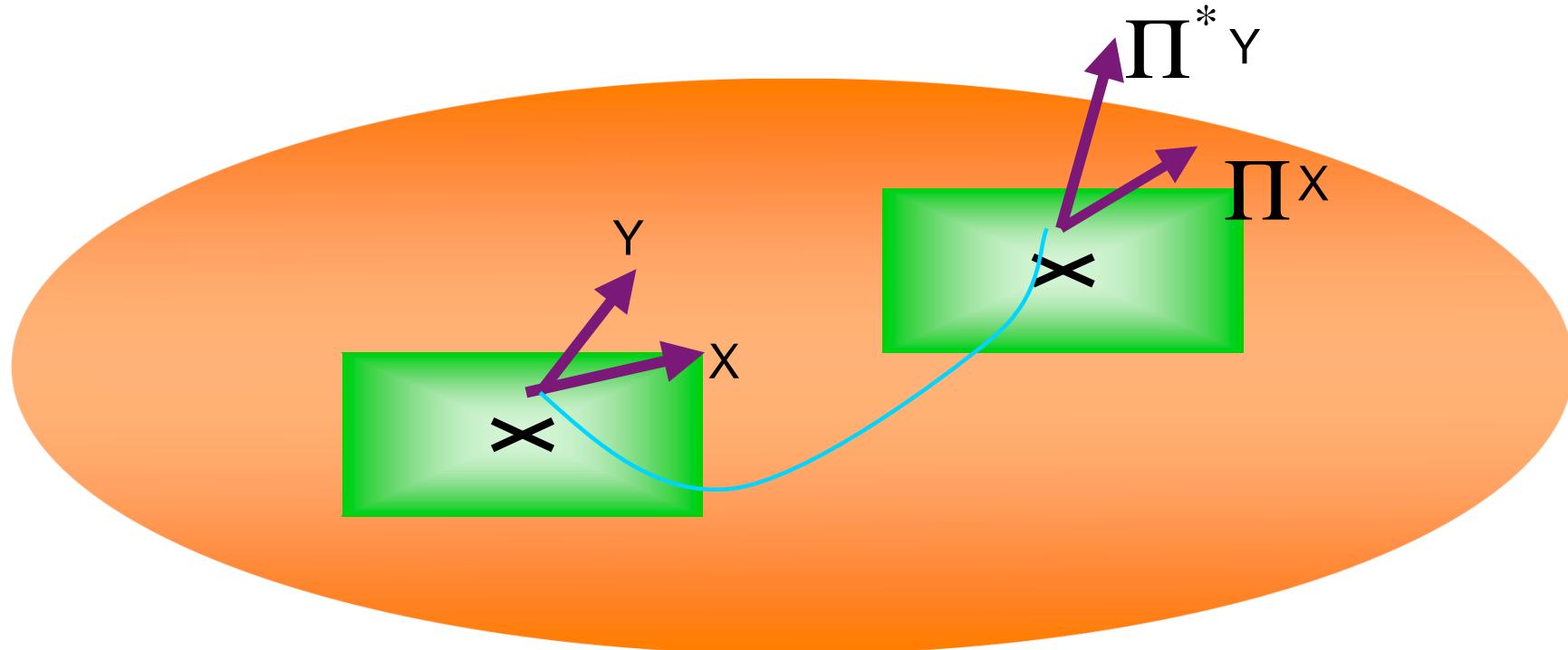
$$\langle \Pi X, \Pi Y \rangle = \langle X, Y \rangle \quad g_{ij} X^i Y^j$$



## Duality: two affine connections

$\{S, g, \nabla, \nabla^*\}$

$$\langle X, Y \rangle = \langle \Pi X, \Pi^* Y \rangle \quad \langle X, Y \rangle = \sum g_{ij} X^i Y^j$$



Riemannian geometry:

$$\Pi = \Pi^*$$

# Dual Affine Connections

$$(\nabla, \nabla^*)$$

$$(\Pi, \Pi^*)$$

e-geodesic

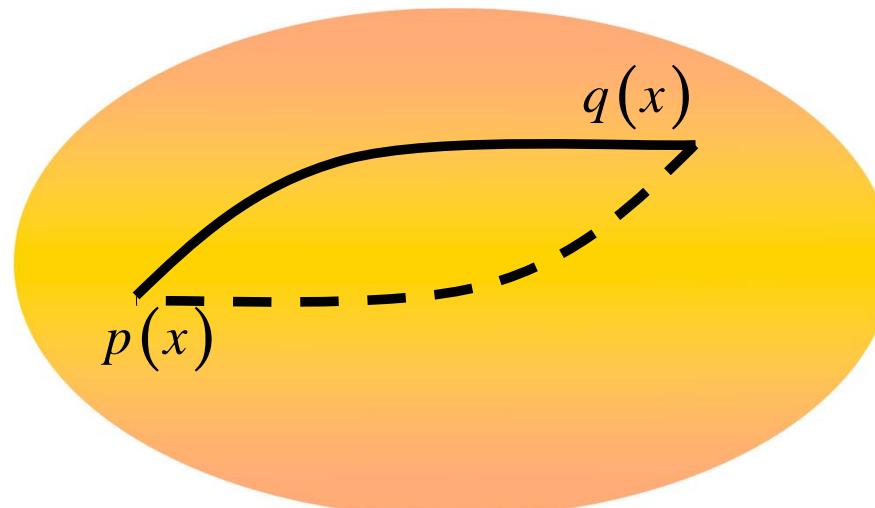
$$\log r(x, t) = t \log p(x) + (1 - t) \lg q(x) + c(t)$$

m-geodesic

$$r(x, t) = tp(x) + (1 - t)q(x)$$

$$\nabla_{\dot{x}} \dot{x}(t) = 0$$

$$\nabla^*_{\dot{x}} \dot{x}(t) = 0$$



# Information Geometry

## -- Dually Flat Manifold

Convex Analysis  
Legendre transformation  
Divergence  
Pythagorean theorem  
I-projection

# Dually Flat Manifold

1. Potential Functions

---convex (Bregman, Legendre transformation)

2. Divergence

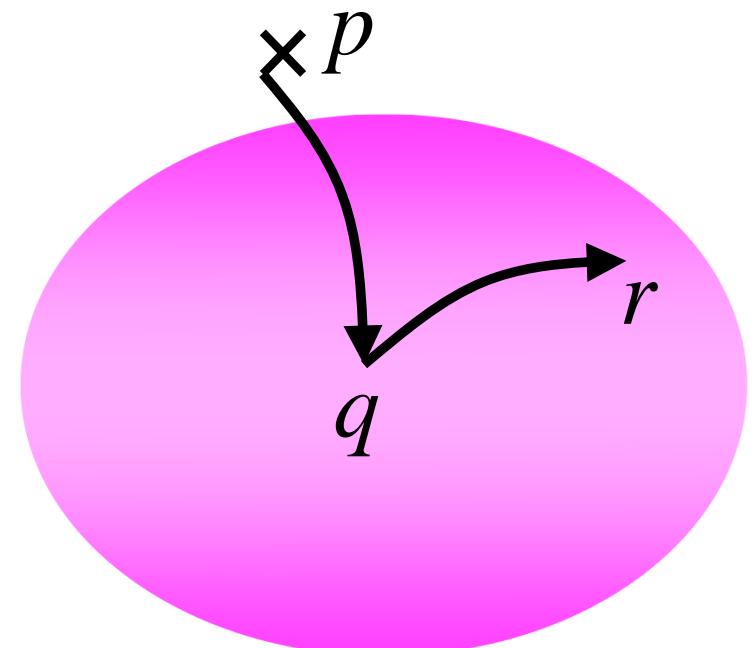
$$D[p : q]$$

3. Pythagoras Theorem

$$D[p : q] + D[q : r] = D[p : r]$$

4. Projection Theorem

5. Dual foliation

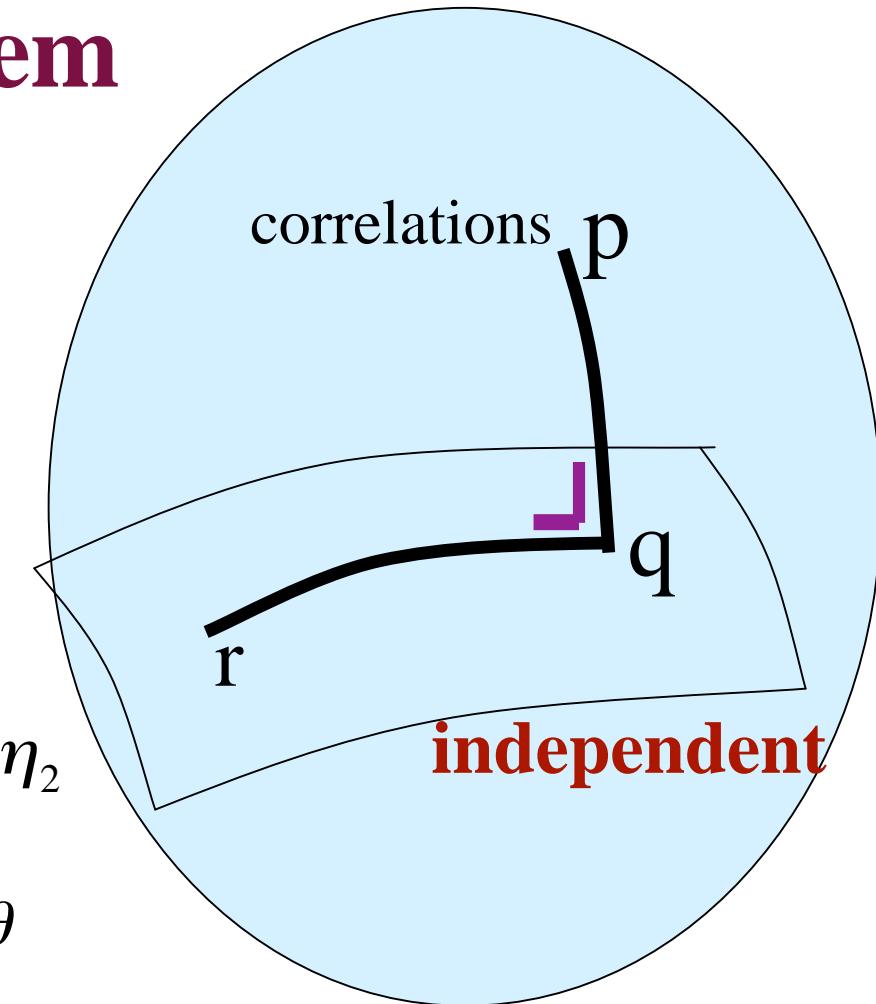


# Pythagoras Theorem

$$D[p:r] = D[p:q] + D[q:r]$$

p,q: same marginals       $\eta_1, \eta_2$

r,q: same correlations       $\theta$



$$D[p:r] = \sum_x p(x) \log \frac{p(x)}{q(x)}$$

estimation correlation  
testing  
  
invariant under firing rates

# Projection Theorem

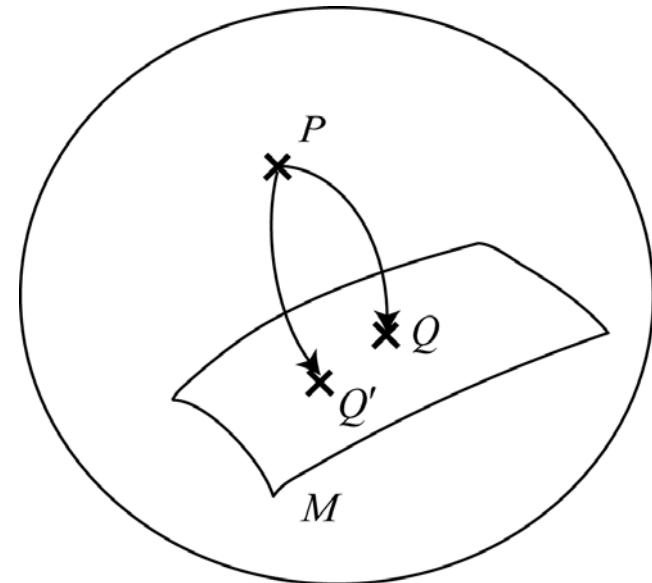
$$\min_{Q \in M} D[P : Q]$$

$Q$  = m-geodesic

projection of  $P$  to  $M$

$$\min_{Q \in M} D[Q : P]$$

$Q$  = e-geodesic projection of  $P$  to  $M$



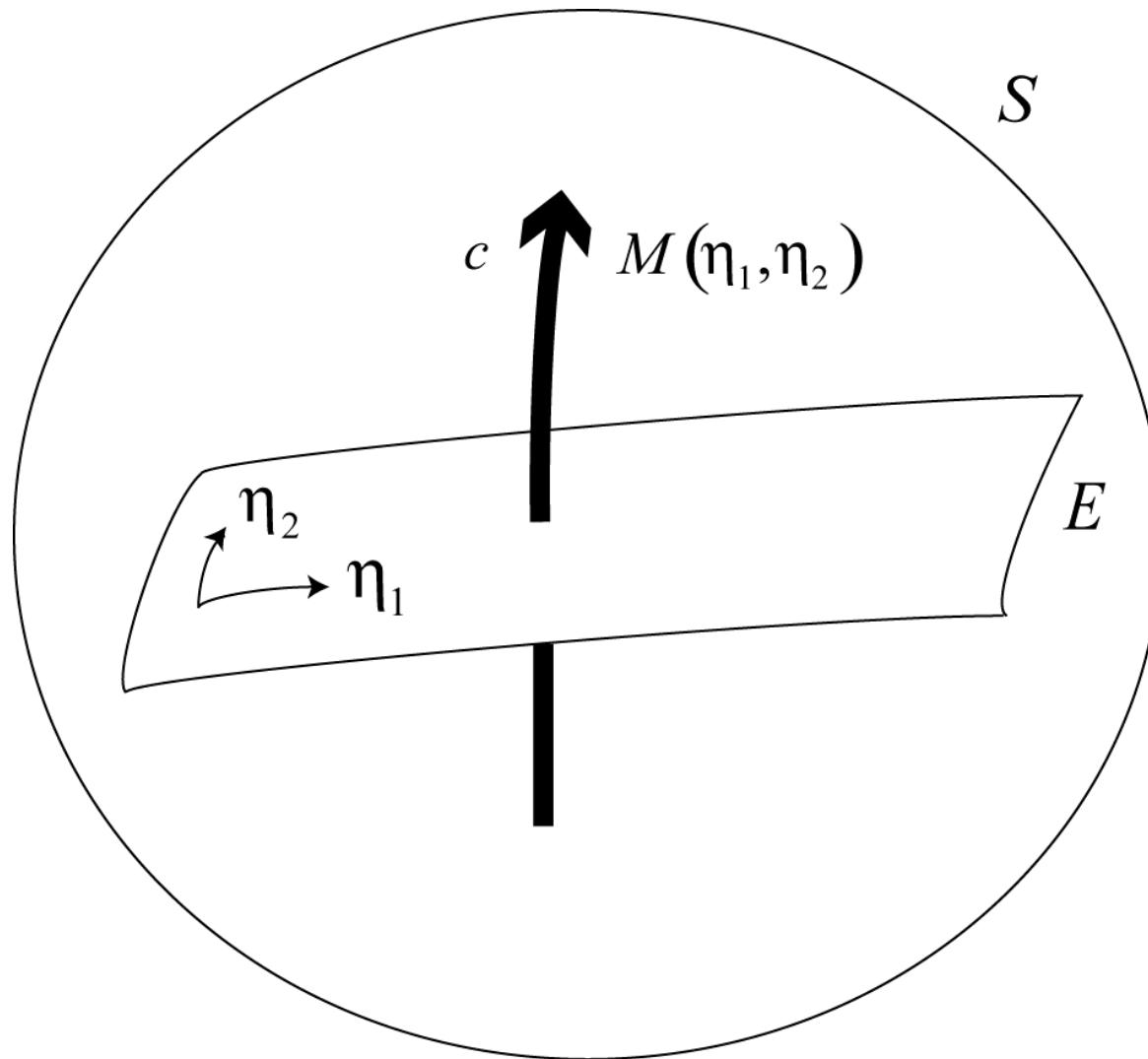


Fig. 1a

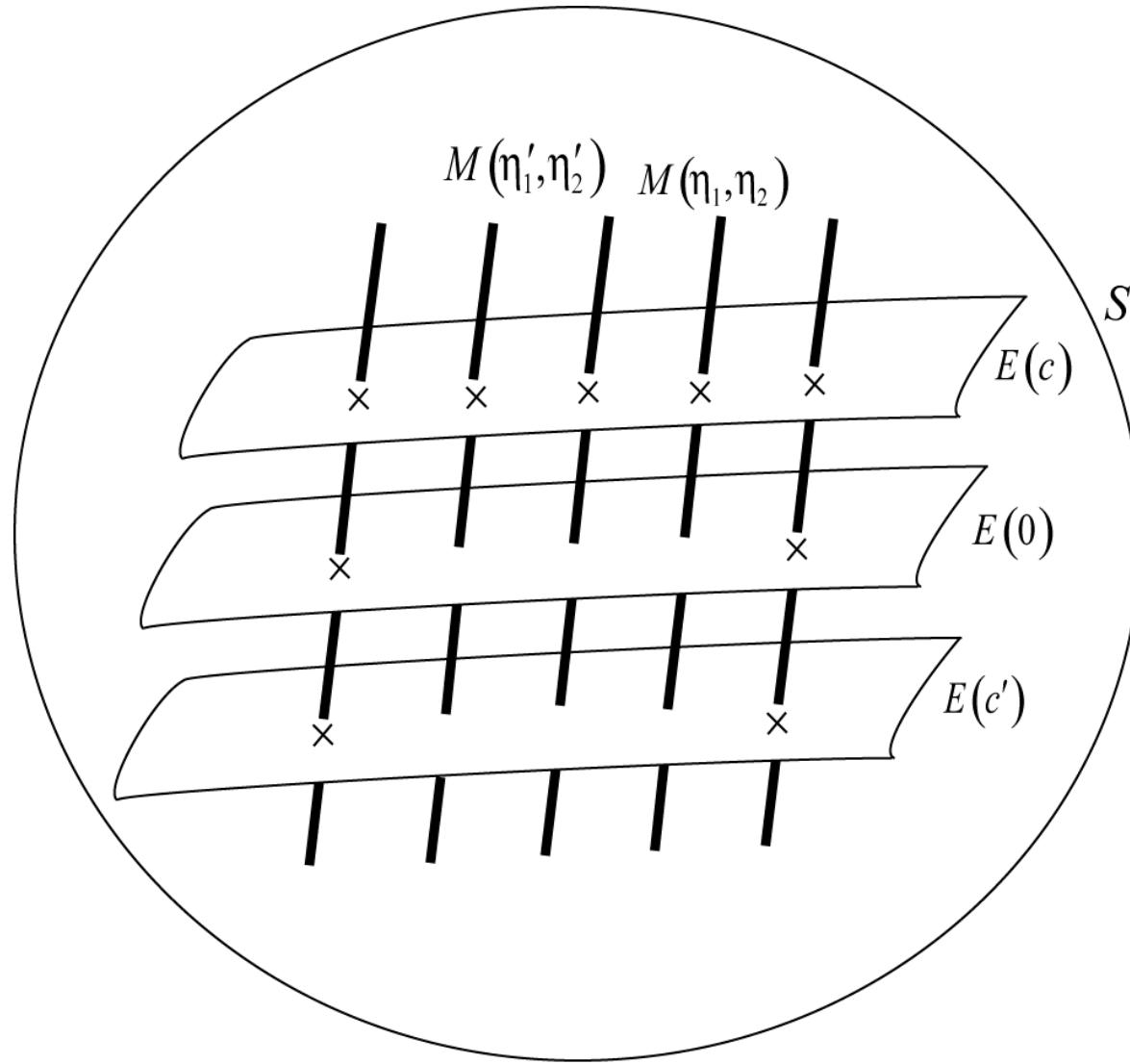
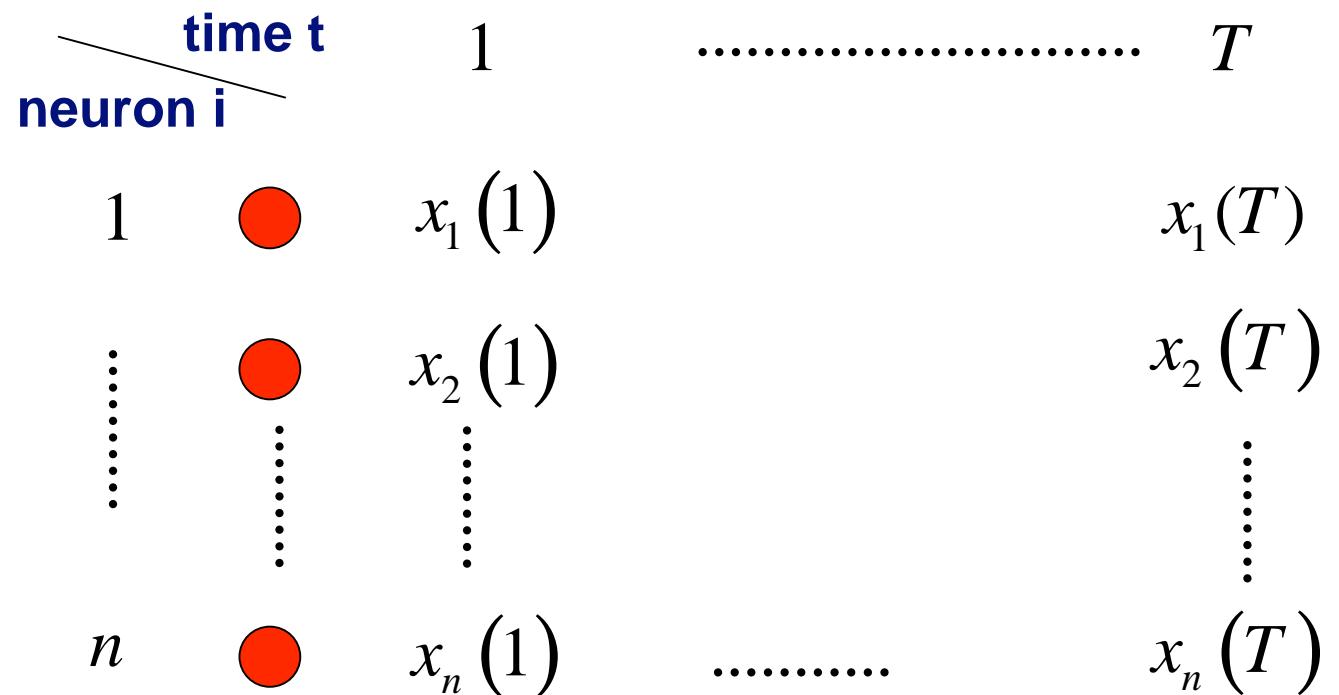


Fig. 1b

# Multiple spike sequence:

$$\{x_i(t), \quad i = 1, \dots, n; \quad t = 1, \dots, T\}$$

$$x_i(t) = 0, 1$$



# spatial correlations

$$\mathbf{x} = (x_1, \dots, x_n)$$

$$p(\mathbf{x}) = \exp \left\{ \sum \theta_i x_i + \sum_{i < j} \theta_{ij} x_i x_j + \text{LL} + \theta_{1L_n} x_1 \dots x_n - \psi(\theta) \right\}$$

$$r_i = E[x_i] = \text{Prob } \{x_i = 1\}$$

$$r_{ij} = E[x_i x_j] = \text{Prob } \{x_i = x_j = 1\}$$

L

$$\theta = (\theta_i, \theta_{ij}, \dots, \theta_{1L_n})$$

$$\mathbf{r} = (r_i, r_{ij}, \dots, r_{1L_n})$$

$S = \{p(x)\}$  : coordinates

orthogonal structure

# Spatio-temporal correlations

## correlated Poisson

$p(x)$  : temporally independent

## correlated renewal process

$p(x_t)$  : firing rate  $r_i(t)$  modified

spatial correlations fixed

**Two neurons:**  $\{P_{00}, P_{01}, P_{10}, P_{11}\}$

$x_1$  0011000101101

$x_2$  0100100110100

$x_3$  0101101001010

firing rates:  $r_1, r_2; r_{12}$

correlation—covariance?

# Correlations of Neural Firing

$$\{p(x_1, x_2)\}$$

$$\{p_{00}, p_{10}, p_{01}, p_{11}\}$$

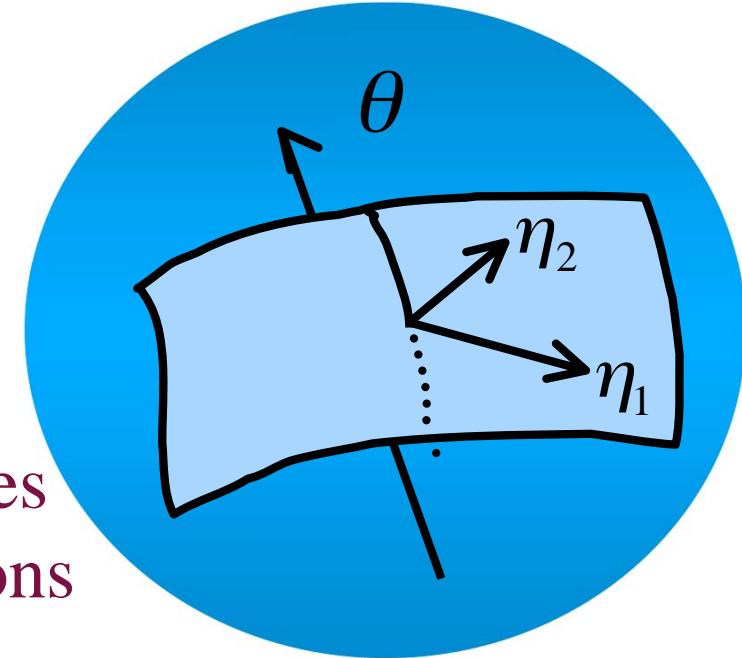
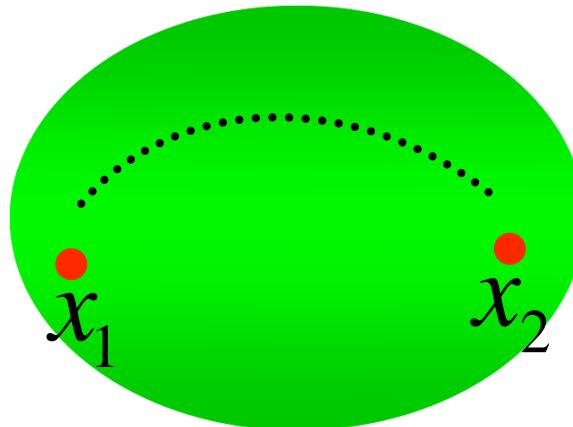
$$r_1 = p_{1\cdot} = p_{10} + p_{11}$$

$$r_2 = p_{\cdot 1} = p_{01} + p_{11}$$

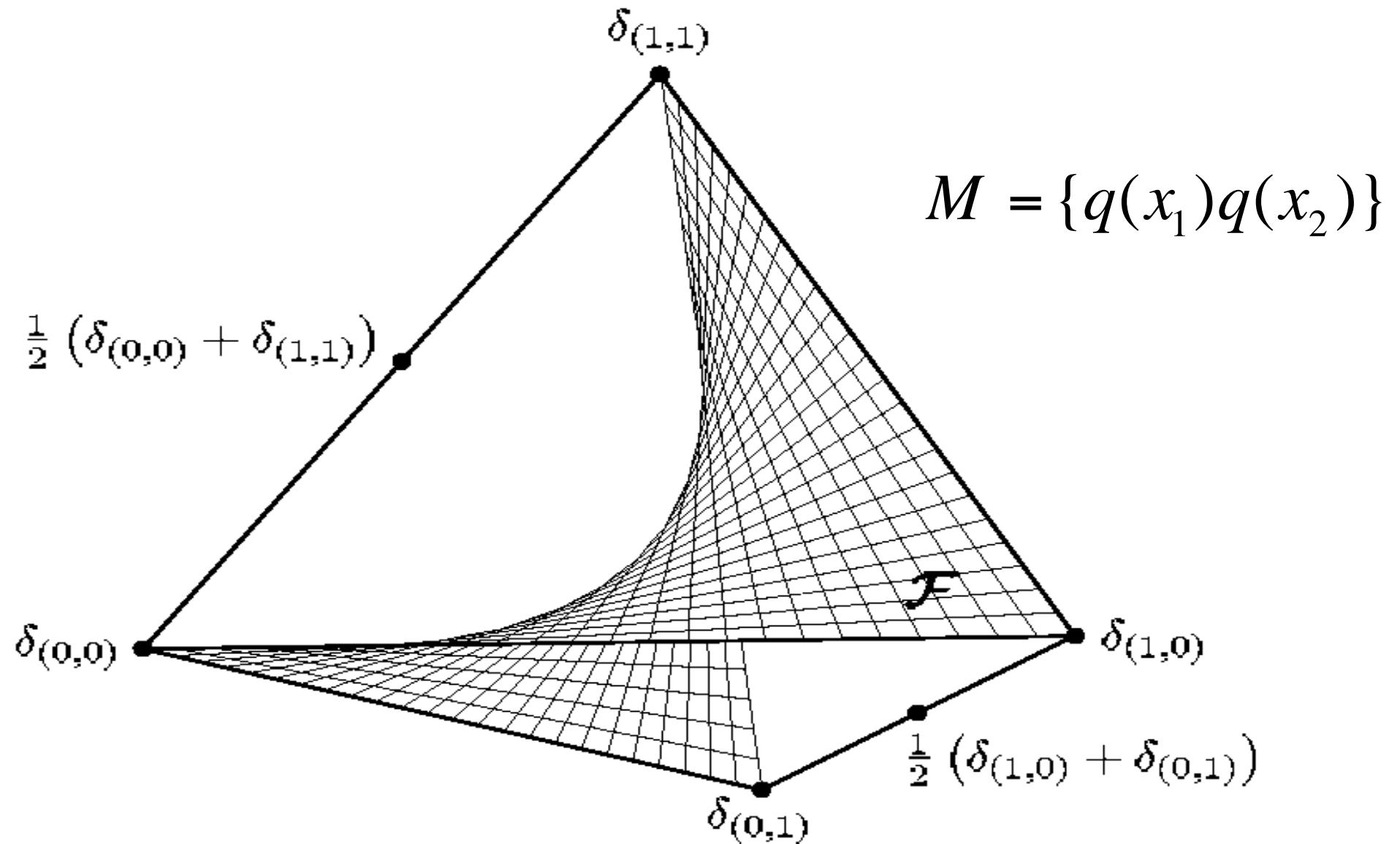
$$\theta = \log \frac{p_{11}p_{00}}{p_{10}p_{01}}$$

firing rates  
correlations

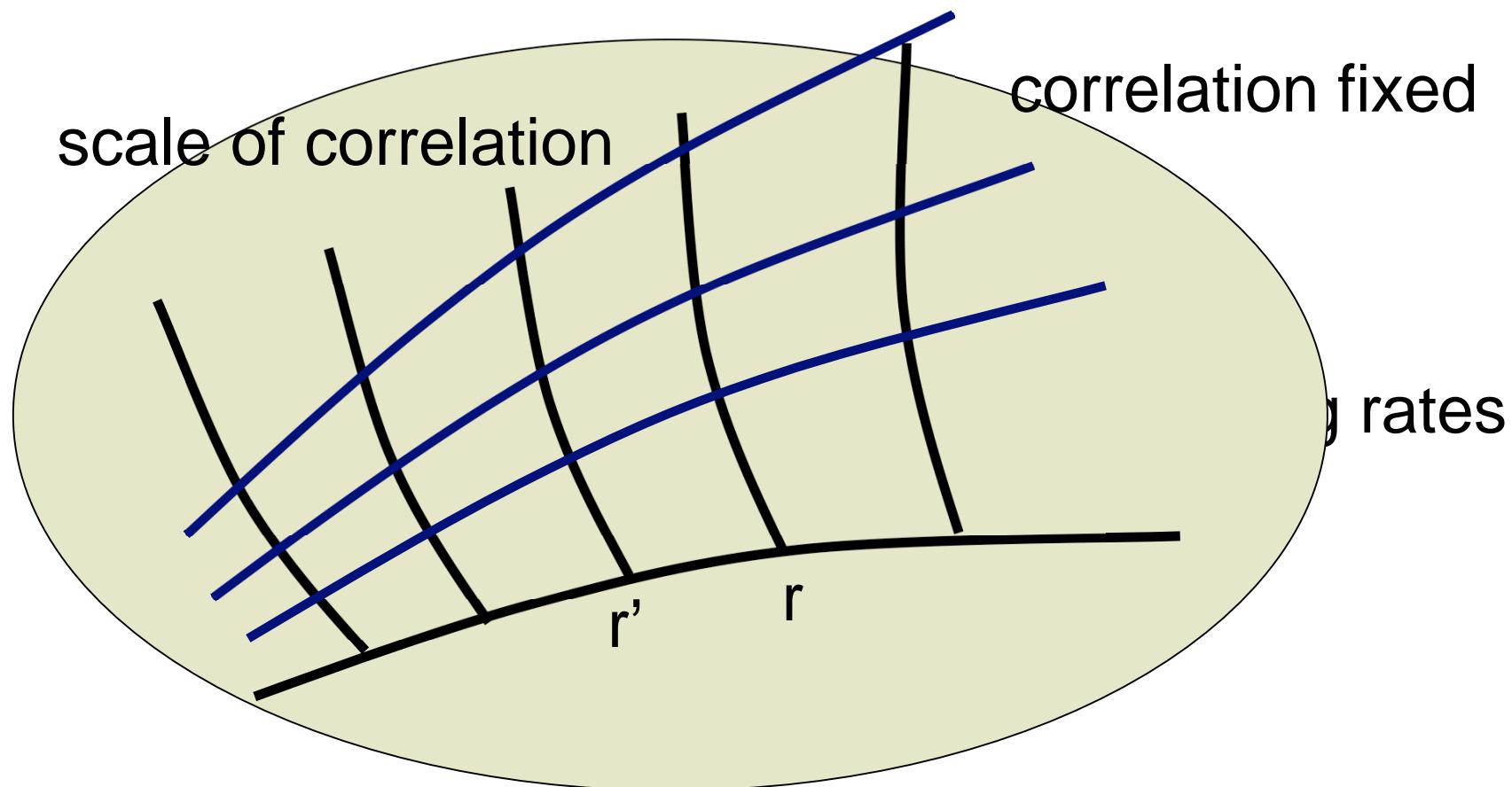
$\{(r_1, r_2), \theta\}$   
**orthogonal coordinates**



# Independent Distributions



# Orthogonal Coordinates:



## two neuron case

$$r_1, r_2, r_{12}; \theta_1, \theta_2, \theta_{12}$$

$$\theta_{12} = \log \frac{p_{00}p_{11}}{p_{01}p_{10}} = \log \frac{r_{12}(1 + r_{12} - r_1 - r_2)}{(r_1 - r_{12})(r_2 - r_{12})}$$

$$r_{12} = f(r_1, r_2, \theta)$$

$$r_{12}(t) = f(r_1(t), r_2(t), \theta)$$

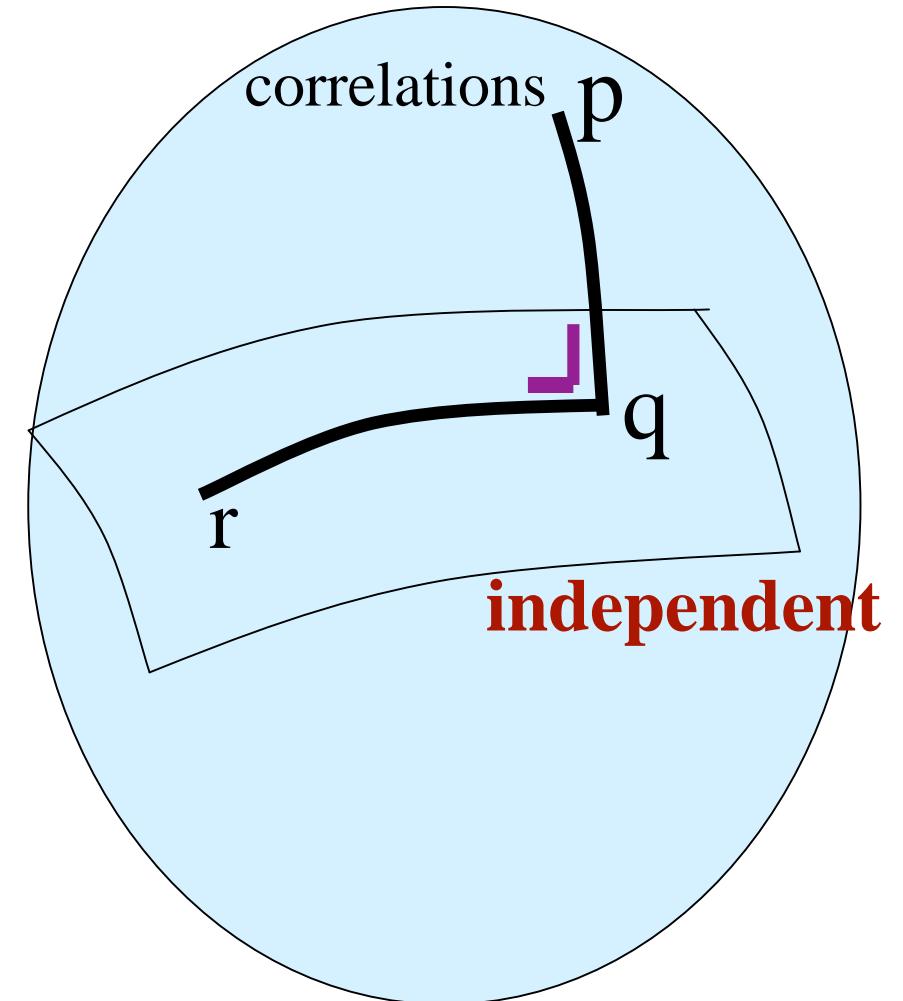
# Decomposition of KL-divergence

$$D[p:r] = D[p:q] + D[q:r]$$

p,q: same marginals       $\eta_1, \eta_2$

r,q: same correlations       $\theta$

$$D[p:r] = \sum_x p(x) \log \frac{p(x)}{q(x)}$$



# pairwise correlations

**covariance:**  $c_{ij} = r_{ij} - r_i r_j$       **not orthogonal**

## independent distributions

$$r_{ij} = r_i r_j, \quad r_{ijk} = r_i r_j r_k, L$$

How to generate correlated spikes?  
(Niebur, Neural Computation [2007])

higher-order correlations

# Orthogonal higher-order correlations

$$\theta = (\theta_i, \theta_{ij}; \quad \mathbf{L}, \theta_{1\mathbf{L}n})$$

$$r = (r_i, r_{ij}; \quad \mathbf{L}, r_{1\mathbf{L}n})$$

# tractable models of distributions      $M = \{ p(\mathbf{x}) \}$

Full model:  $2^n - 1$  parameters

Homogeneous model: n parameters

Boltzmann machine: only pairwise  
correlations

**Mixture model**

# Models of Correlated Spike Distributions (1)

Reference	$y(t)$	0110001011.....
	$\chi_1(t)$	1001011001.....
	$\chi_2(t)$	0101101101.....
	$\chi_3(t)$	.....

# Models of Correlated Spike Distributions (2)

$$x_i(t) = \chi_i^0(t) \circ y(t)$$

additive interaction

eliminating interaction

Niebur replacement

$y(t) \quad 0110001011 \dots$

$\chi_1^0(t) \quad 1001001101 \dots$

$\chi_2^0(t) \quad 1100010011$

# Mixture Model

$y(t)$ : 0110001011 mixing sequence

$$p_1(x; u) = \prod p(x_i, u_i) \quad \text{when } y = 1$$

$$p_2(x; u) = \prod p(x_i, v_i) \quad \text{when } y = 0$$

$p(x, u)$ :  $x = 1$  with probability  $u$

$$p(\mathbf{x}) = \sum p(y) p(\mathbf{x} | y)$$

# Mixture model

$$p(x; u) = \prod p(x_i, u_i) \quad : \text{independent distribution}$$

$$p(x; u, v, m) = mp(x; u) + \bar{m}p(x; v)$$

$$u = (u_1, \dots, u_n) \quad \bar{m} = 1 - m$$

$$v = (v_1, \dots, v_n)$$

$$M_n = \{p(x; u, v, m)\}, \quad S_n = \{p(x)\}$$

firing rates

$$r_i = mu_i + \bar{m}v_i$$

$$r_{ij} = mu_i u_j + \bar{m}v_i v_j$$

$$r_{ijk} = mu_i u_j u_k + \bar{m}v_i v_j v_k$$

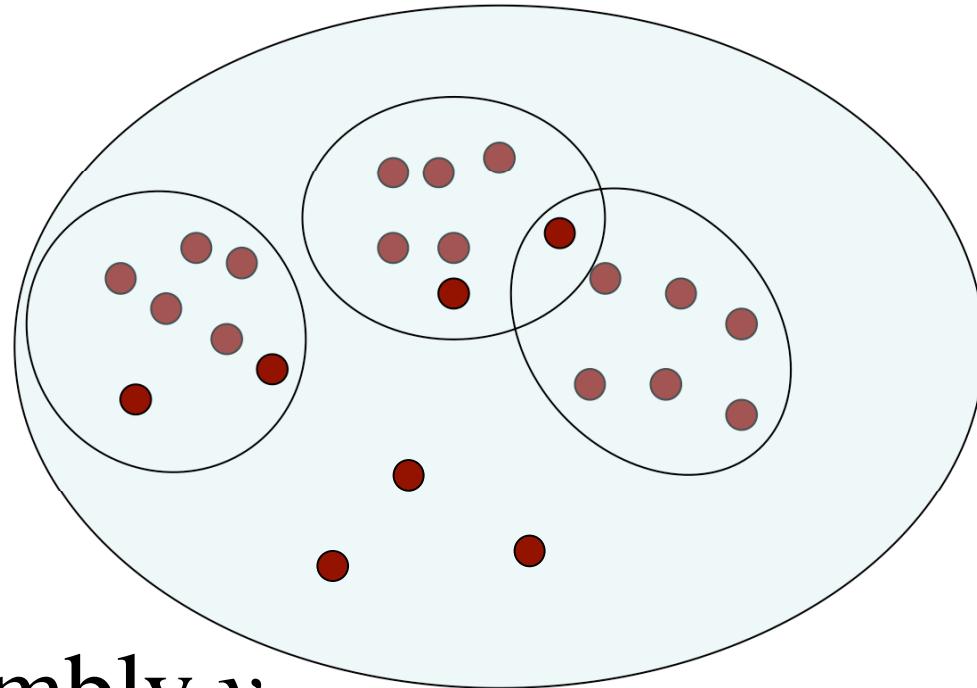
L

# Conditional distributions and mixture

$y = 1, 2, 3, \dots$

$p(\mathbf{x} | y)$ : Hebb assembly  $y$

$$p(\mathbf{x}) = \sum p(y) p(\mathbf{x} | y)$$



# **State transition of Hebb assemblies mixture and covariances**

$$p(x,t) = (1-t)p_u(x) + tp_v(x)$$

$$c_{ij}(t) = (1-t)c_{ij}(u) + tc_{ij}(v) + t(1-t)(u_i - v_i)(u_j - v_j)$$

**Extra increase (decrease) of covariances**

**within Hebb assemblies---- increase  
between Hebb assemblies ---decrease**

# Temporal correlations

$$\{x(t)\}, t = 1, 2, \dots T$$

$$\text{Prob}\{x(1), \dots, x(T)\}$$

Poisson sequence:

Markov chain

Renewal process

# Orthogonal parameter of correlation ---- Markov case

$$p(x_{t+1} \mid x_t)$$

$$a_{ij} = \Pr\{x_{t+1} = i \mid x_t = j\}$$

$$\Pr\{x_t\} = \Pr(x_1) \prod p(x_{t+1} \mid x_t)$$

$$r_1 = \Pr\{x_t = 1\}$$

$$c = r_{11} - r_1^2$$

$$\theta = \log \frac{a_{11}a_{00}}{a_{10}a_{01}}$$

# Spatio-temporal correlation

correlated Poisson

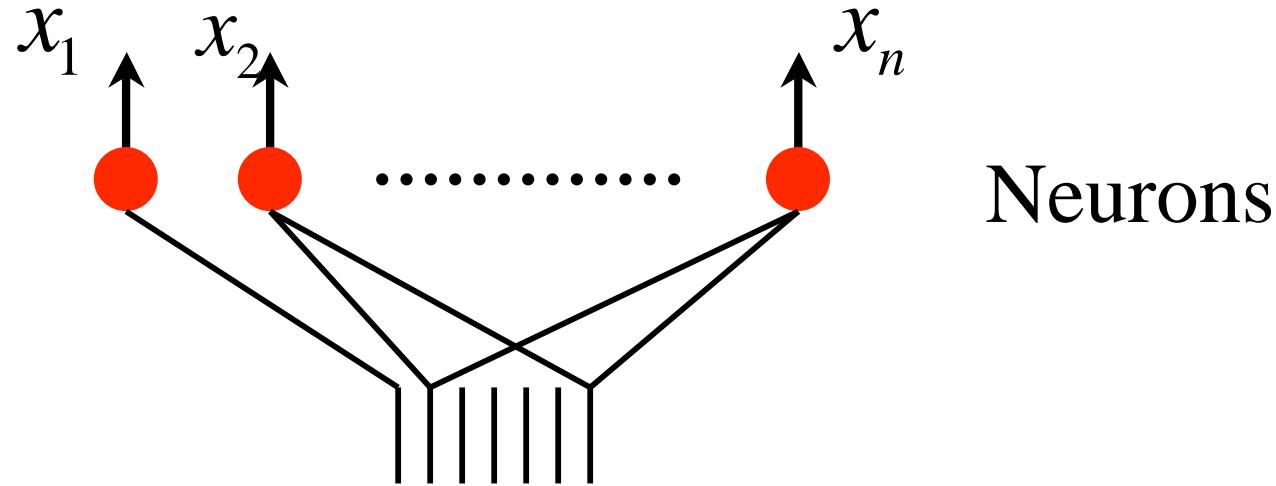
$$p(\{\mathbf{x}_t\}) = \prod_{t=1}^T p(\mathbf{x}_t)$$

# Correlated renewal process

$\Pr(x_t) = k(t - t')$ :  $t'$  last spike time

$\Pr(x_{i,t}) = k(t - t') p(x_i | \mathbf{x})$

# Population and Synfire



$$x_i = \text{ReLU}(u_i)$$

$$u_i = \text{Gaussian} \quad E[u_i u_j] = \alpha$$

# Population and Synfire

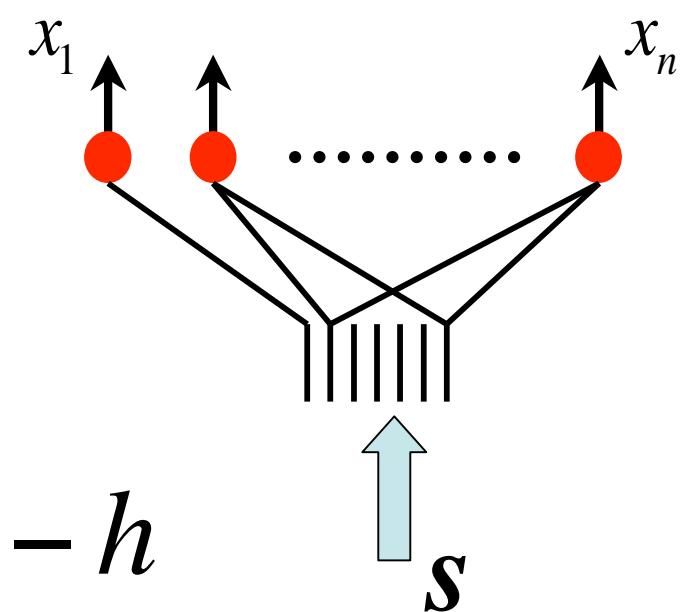
$$u_i = \sum w_{ij} s_j - h$$

$$x_i = 1[u_i]$$

$$u_i = \sqrt{(1-\alpha)}\delta_i + \sqrt{\alpha}\varepsilon - h$$

$$\delta_i, \varepsilon \approx N(0, 1)$$

$$\begin{aligned} E[u_i u_j] &= \alpha \\ E[u_i^2] &= 1 \end{aligned}$$



$$p_i = \text{Prob} \left\{ i \text{ neurons fire at the same time} \right\}$$

$$r = \frac{i}{n} \quad P_r = \Pr\{nr \text{ neurons fire}\}$$

$$q(r,\alpha) = e^{nH(r)} \int e^{-nz(\varepsilon)} d\varepsilon$$

$$z(\varepsilon) = \frac{\varepsilon^2}{2n} - r \log F - (1-r)\log(1-F)$$

$$F = F(a\varepsilon - h) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_0^{a\varepsilon-h} e^{-\frac{t^2}{2}} dt$$

$$q(r,\alpha)=c\exp[\frac{2\alpha-1}{2(1-\alpha)}\{F^{-1}(\alpha)-\frac{\sqrt{\alpha}}{2\alpha-1}h\}^2]$$

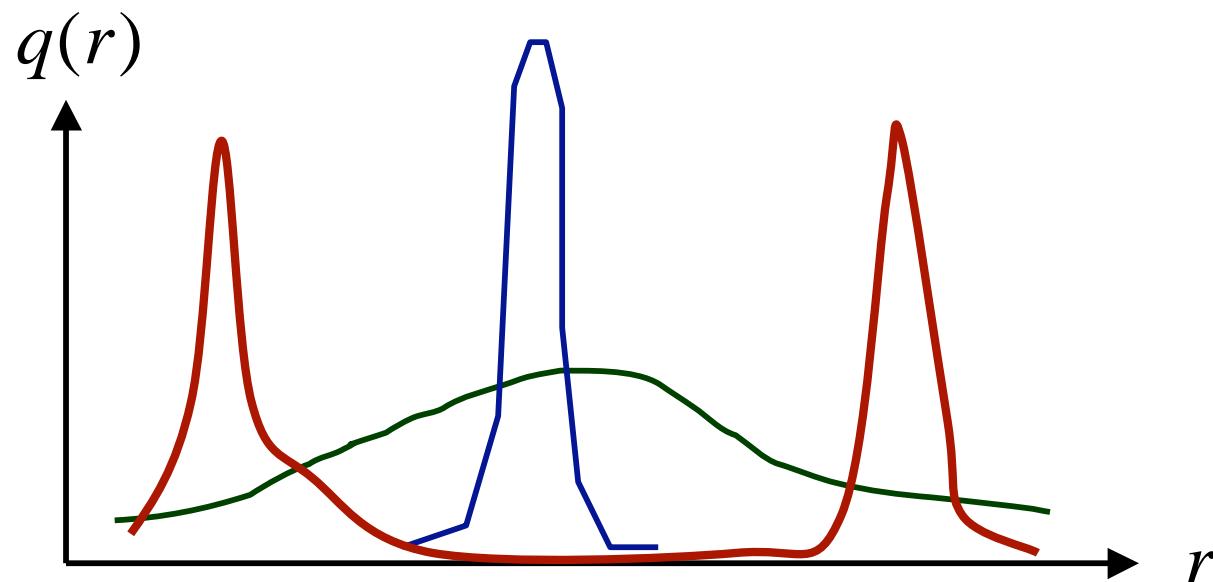
$$p(\mathbf{x}, \theta) = \exp\{\sum \theta_i x_i + \sum \theta_{ij} x_i x_j + \sum \theta_{ijk} x_i x_j x_k + \ldots\}$$

$$\theta_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_k} = O(1/n^{k-1})$$

# Synfiring

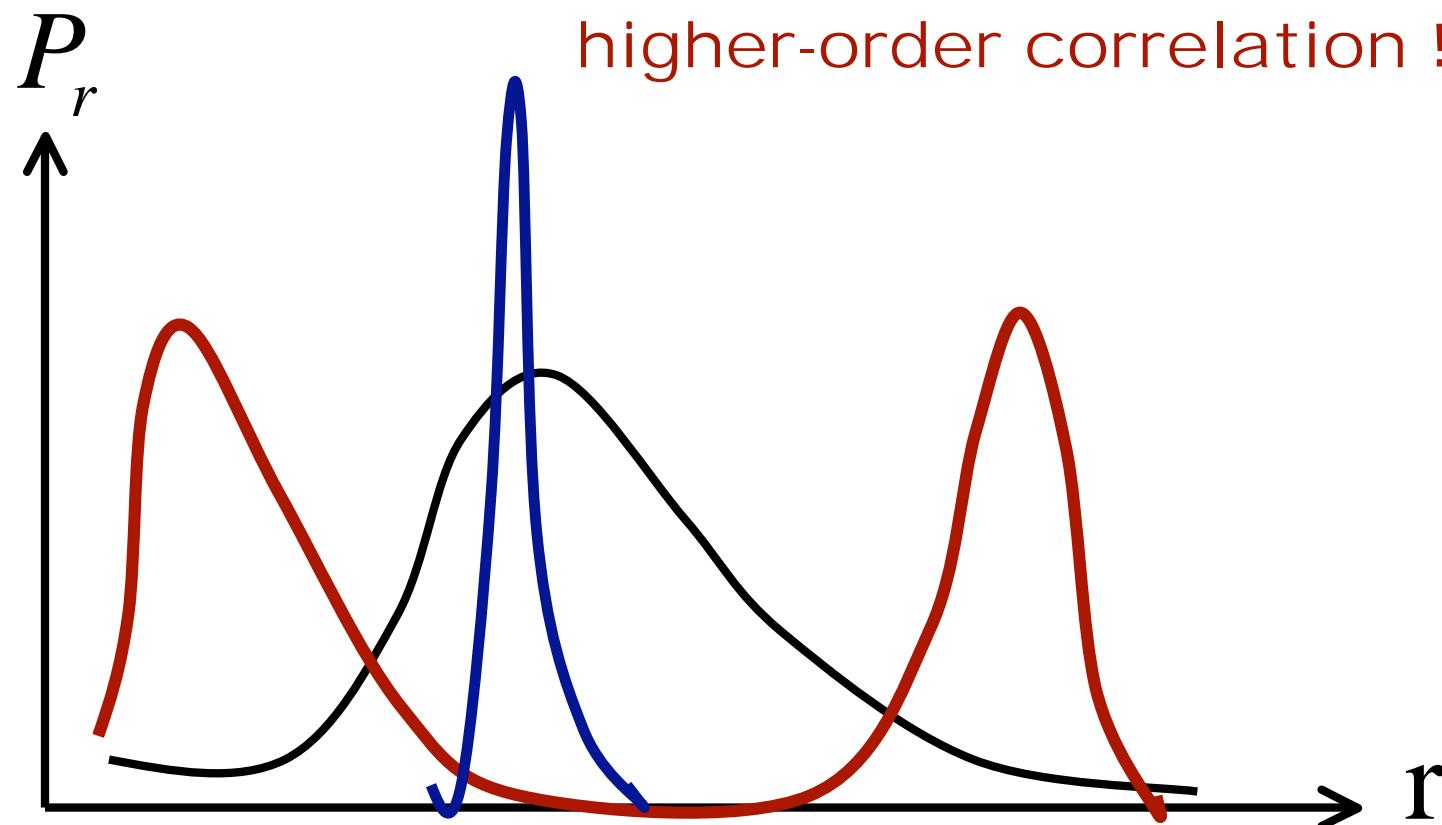
$$p(x) = p(x_1, \dots, x_n)$$

$$r = \frac{1}{n} \sum x_i \qquad q(r)$$



# Bifurcation

$x_i$ : independent--single delta peak  
pairwise correlated

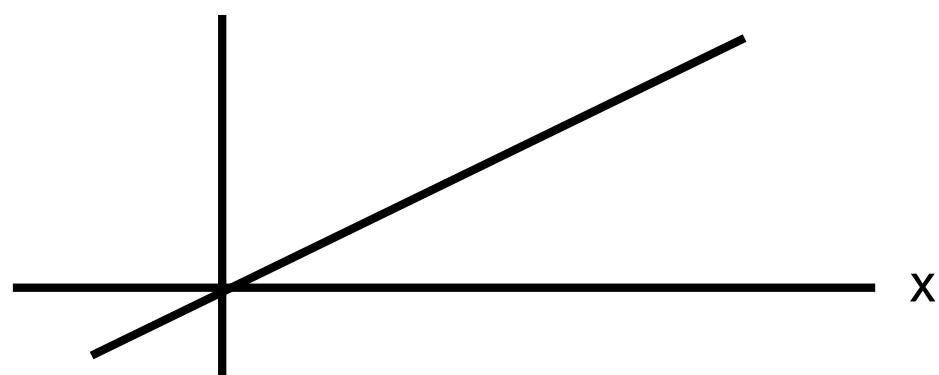


# Semiparametric Statistics

$$M = \{p(x, \theta, r)\}$$

$$p(x, \theta) = r(x - \theta)$$

$$y = \theta x$$



$$\begin{cases} y_i = \theta \xi_i + \varepsilon_i \\ x_i = \xi_i + \varepsilon'_i \end{cases} \quad p(x, y; \theta) = \int p(x, y; \xi, \theta) r(\xi) d\xi$$

mle, least square, total least square

# Linear Regression: Semiparametrics

$$\begin{array}{ll} (x_1, y_1) & x_i = \xi_i + \varepsilon_i \\ (x_2, y_2) & y_i = \theta \xi_i + \varepsilon_i' \\ \vdots & \varepsilon_i, \varepsilon_i' \sim N(0, \sigma^2) \\ (x_n, y_n) & \end{array}$$

$$y = \theta x$$

# Statistical Model

$$p(x, y | \theta, \xi) = c \exp \left\{ -\frac{1}{2} (x - \xi)^2 - \frac{1}{2} (y - \theta \xi)^2 \right\}$$

$$p(x_i, y_i | \theta, \xi_i) : \theta, \xi_1, \dots, \xi_n$$

$$p(x, y | \theta) = \int p(x, y | \theta, \xi) \varphi(\xi) d\xi$$

—— semiparametric

# Least squares?

$$L(\theta) = \sum (y_i - \theta x_i)^2 \rightarrow \min \quad : \hat{\theta} = \frac{\sum x_i y_i}{\sum x_i^2}$$

$$\frac{1}{n} \sum \frac{y_i}{x_i}, \quad \frac{\sum y_i}{\sum x_i}$$

mle,      TLS

$$\sum (y_i - \theta x_i)(\theta y_i + x_i) = 0$$

Neyman-Scott

# Semiparametric statistical model

$$x_1, x_2, \dots \quad p(x, \theta, Z)$$

## Estimating function

$$y(x, \theta) \quad E_{\theta, Z} [y(x, \theta)] = 0$$

$$E_{\theta^*, Z} [y(x, \theta)] \neq 0$$

## Estimating equation

$$\sum y(x_i, \theta) = 0 \quad \Rightarrow \hat{\theta}$$

$$u(x, y; \theta, Z) = \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \log p \\ = \partial_\theta s E[\xi | s] \cdots$$

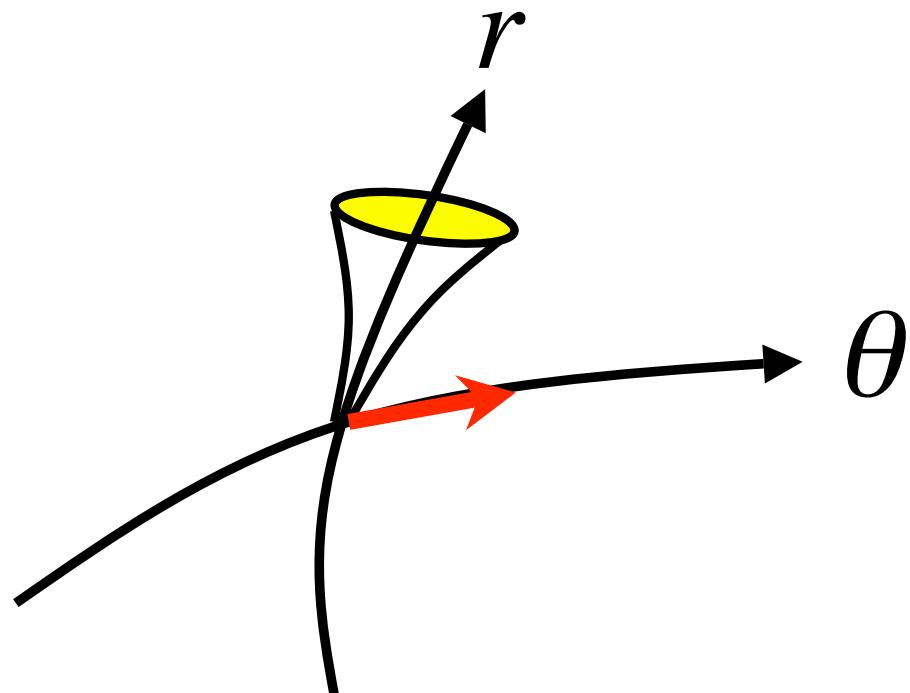
$$v(x, y; \theta, Z) = E[f(\xi) | s] \\ = k \{s(x, y; \theta)\}$$

$$u^I(x, y, \theta) = u - E[u | s] \\ = k(x + \theta y)(y - \theta x)$$

# Fibre bundle

---

function space



$$z\big(\xi\big) \sim N\Big(\mu_\xi,\sigma_\xi^2\Big)$$

$$u^I\left(x,\theta,Z\right)\!=\!\big(x+\theta\,y+c\big)\big(y-\theta\,x\big)$$

$$c = \mu_\xi/\sigma_\xi^2$$

$$f\left(x,\theta;c\right)\!=\!\big(x+\theta\,y+c\big)\big(y-\theta\,x\big)$$

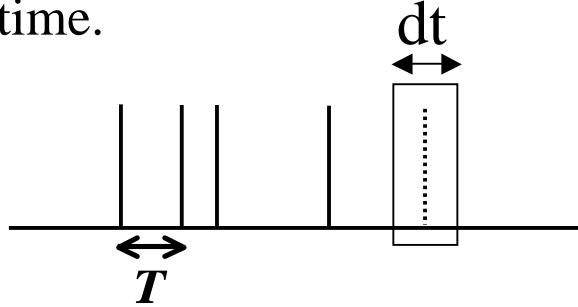
$$c = \mu_\xi/\sigma_\xi^2$$

$$\mu_\xi=\frac{1}{n}\sum x_i$$

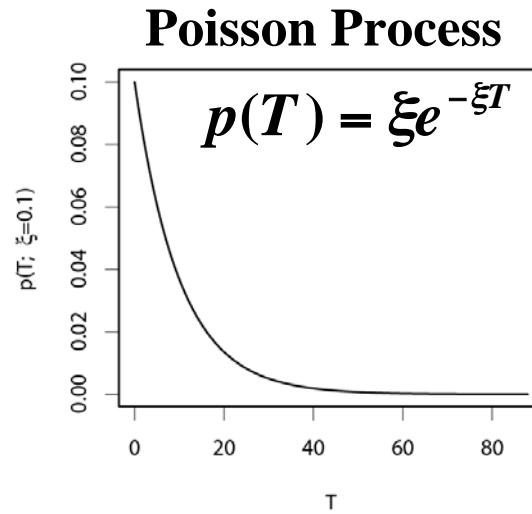
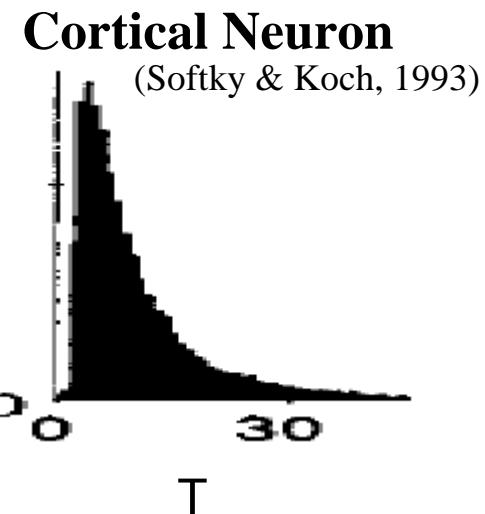
$$\sigma_\xi^2=\frac{1}{n}\sum x_i^2-\Bigl(\mu_\xi\Bigr)^2-\sigma^2$$

# Poisson process

**Poisson Process:** Instantaneous firing rate is constant over time.



For every small time window  $dt$ , generate a spike with probability  $\xi dt$ .

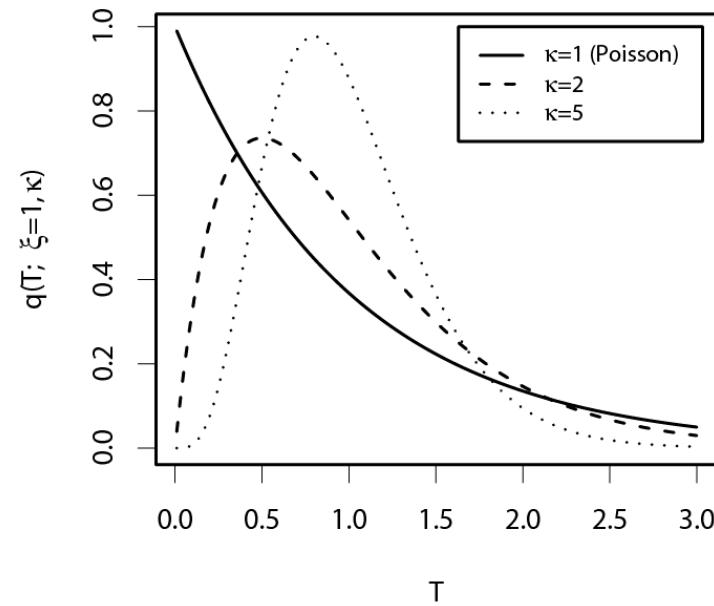
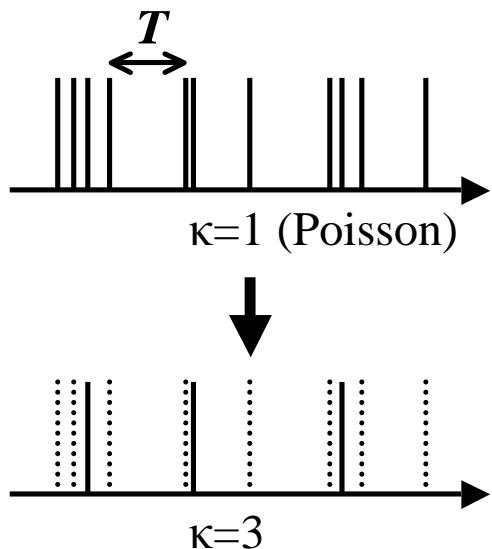


Poisson process  
cannot explain inter-  
spike interval  
distributions.

# Gamma distribution

**Gamma Distribution:** Every  $\kappa$ -th spike of the Poisson process is left.

$$q(T; \xi, \kappa) = \frac{(\xi\kappa)^{\kappa}}{\Gamma(\kappa)} T^{\kappa-1} e^{-\xi\kappa T}. \quad \text{Two parameters } \begin{cases} \xi: \text{Firing rate} \\ \kappa: \text{Irregularity} \end{cases}$$



## Gamma distribution

$$f(T) = \frac{(r\kappa)^{\kappa}}{\Gamma(\kappa)} T^{\kappa-1} \exp\{-r\kappa T\}$$

$\kappa = 1$  : Poisson

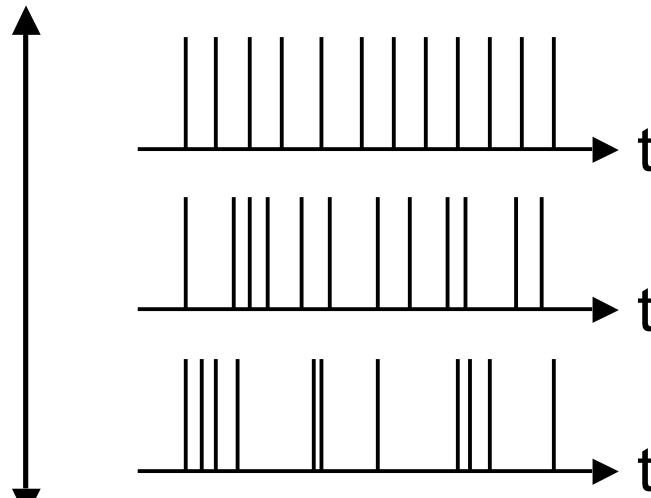
$\kappa \rightarrow \infty$  : regular

Integrate-and fire

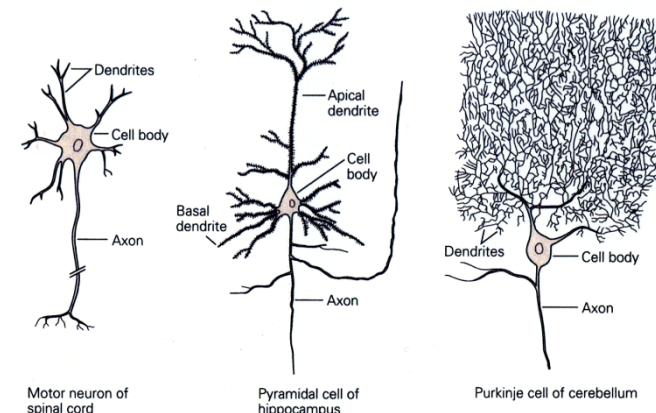
Markov model

# Irregularity $\kappa$ is unique to individual neurons.

Regular (large  $\kappa$ )



Irregular (small  $\kappa$ )



Irregularity varies among neurons.

→ We assume that  $\kappa$  is independent of time.

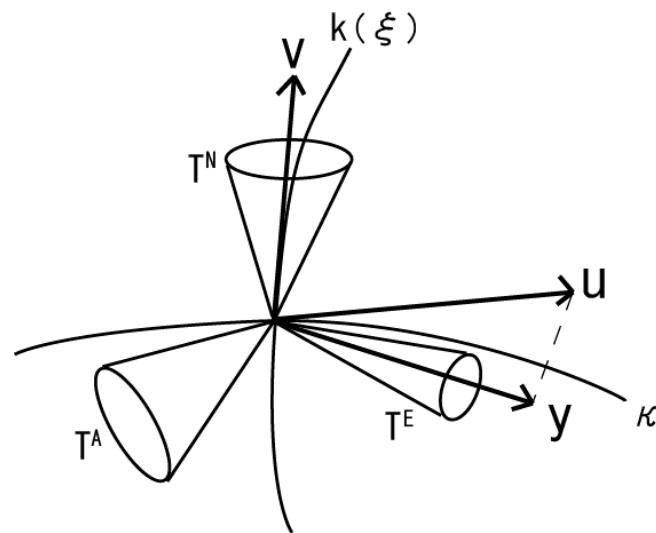
# Information geometry of estimating function

- Estimating function  $y(T, \kappa)$ :

$$\rightarrow \sum_{l=1}^N y(T_l; \kappa) = 0 \quad \iff \quad \frac{d}{d\kappa} \log p(T_1) \cdots p(T_N) = \sum_{l=1}^N u(T_l; \kappa) = 0$$

$E[y(T, \kappa)] = 0$

- Maximum likelihood Method:



How to obtain an estimating function  $y$ :

Score function  $s$

$$\begin{cases} u(T; \hat{e}, k) = \frac{d \log p(T; \hat{e}, k)}{d \hat{e}} \\ v(T; \hat{e}, k) = \frac{\delta \log p(T; \hat{e}, k)}{\delta k(\hat{i})} \end{cases}$$

$$\rightarrow y = u - \frac{\langle u \cdot v \rangle}{\langle v \cdot v \rangle} v$$

## temporal correlations

O:  $x(1)x(2)\dots x(N)$

independent with firing probability  $r(t)$

→ spike counts: Poisson  
ISI: exponential

renewal:

$$r(t) = k(t - t_i) \quad : \text{last spike}$$

ISI distribution  $f(t)$

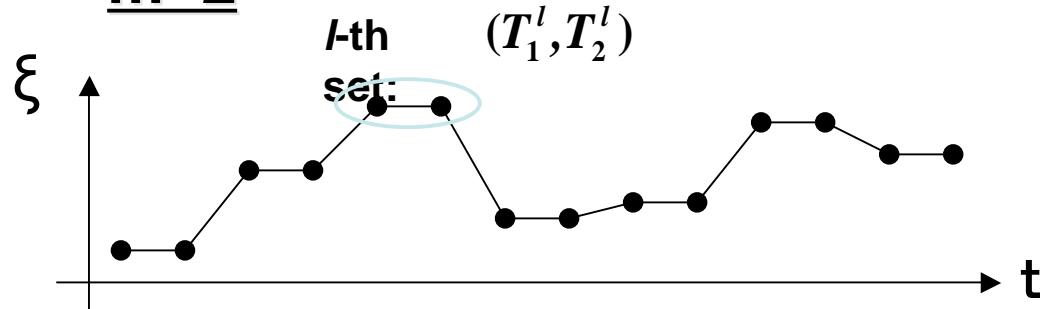
$$f(T) = ck(T) \exp \left\{ \int_0^T k(t) dt \right\}$$

# Estimation of $\kappa$ by estimating functions

- ☒ No estimating function exists if the neighboring firing rates are different.
- ☒  $m (\geq 2)$  consecutive observations must have the same firing rate.

**Example:**

$m=2$



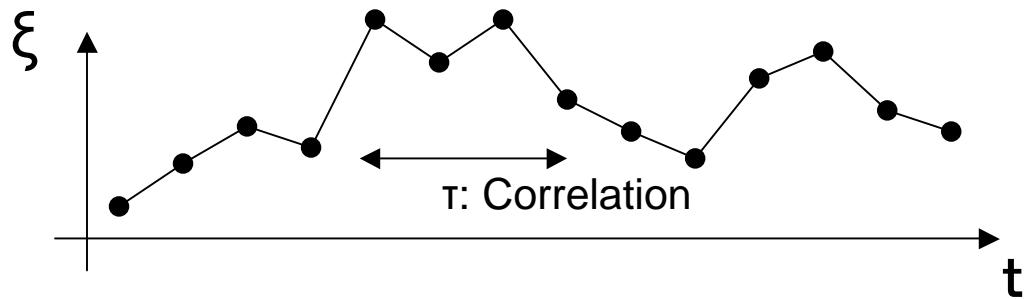
**Model:**  $p(T_1, T_2; \kappa, k) = \int_0^\infty q(T_1; \xi, \kappa) q(T_2; \xi, \kappa) k(\xi) d\xi$

**Estimating function:**  
 $(E[y]=0)$

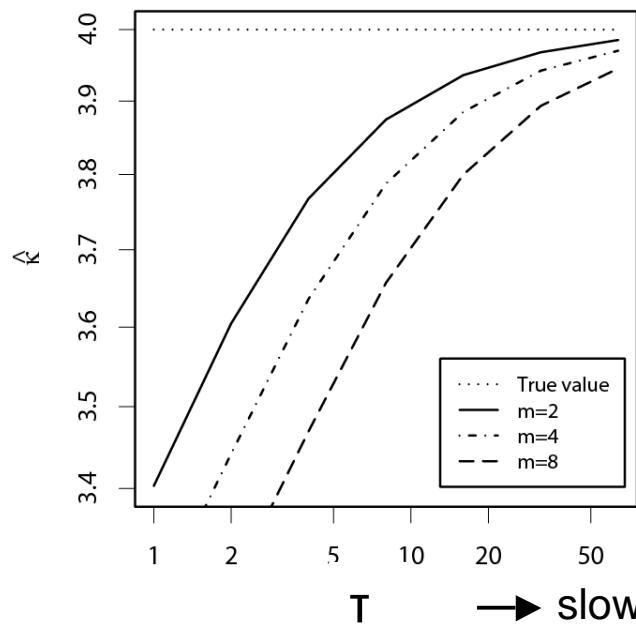
$$y = \log \frac{T_1 T_2}{(T_1 + T_2)^2} + 2\ddot{o}(2\hat{e}) - 2\ddot{o}(\hat{e})$$

$$\bar{y} = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{l=1}^m \log \frac{T_1^l T_2^l}{(T_1^l + T_2^l)^2} + 2\ddot{o}(2\hat{e}) - 2\ddot{o}(\hat{e}) = 0$$

# Case of $m=1$ (spontaneous discharge)



Firing rate continuously changes and is driven by Gaussian noise.



**$\kappa$  can be approximated if the firing rate changes slowly.**

Estimating function ( $m=2$ ):

$$\bar{y} = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{l=1}^m \log \left( \frac{T_1^l T_2^l}{T_1^l + T_2^l} \right) + 2\ddot{o}(2\hat{e}) - 2\ddot{o}(\hat{e}) = 0$$