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*Unitary orbits via transportation theory*

Results from the Elliott classification programme can be used to translate theorems of optimal transport into calculations of the distance between unitary orbits of normal elements in well-behaved  $C^*$ -algebras. In particular, in certain simple Jiang—Su stable  $C^*$ -algebras with real rank zero and trivial  $K_1$ , the distance between full-spectrum unitaries can be computed in terms of spectral data. This talk is based on joint work with Bhishan Jacelon and Alessandro Vignati.