

# Quantum Theory and Application of Contextual Optimal Transport

IBM Research

aka **QontOT**

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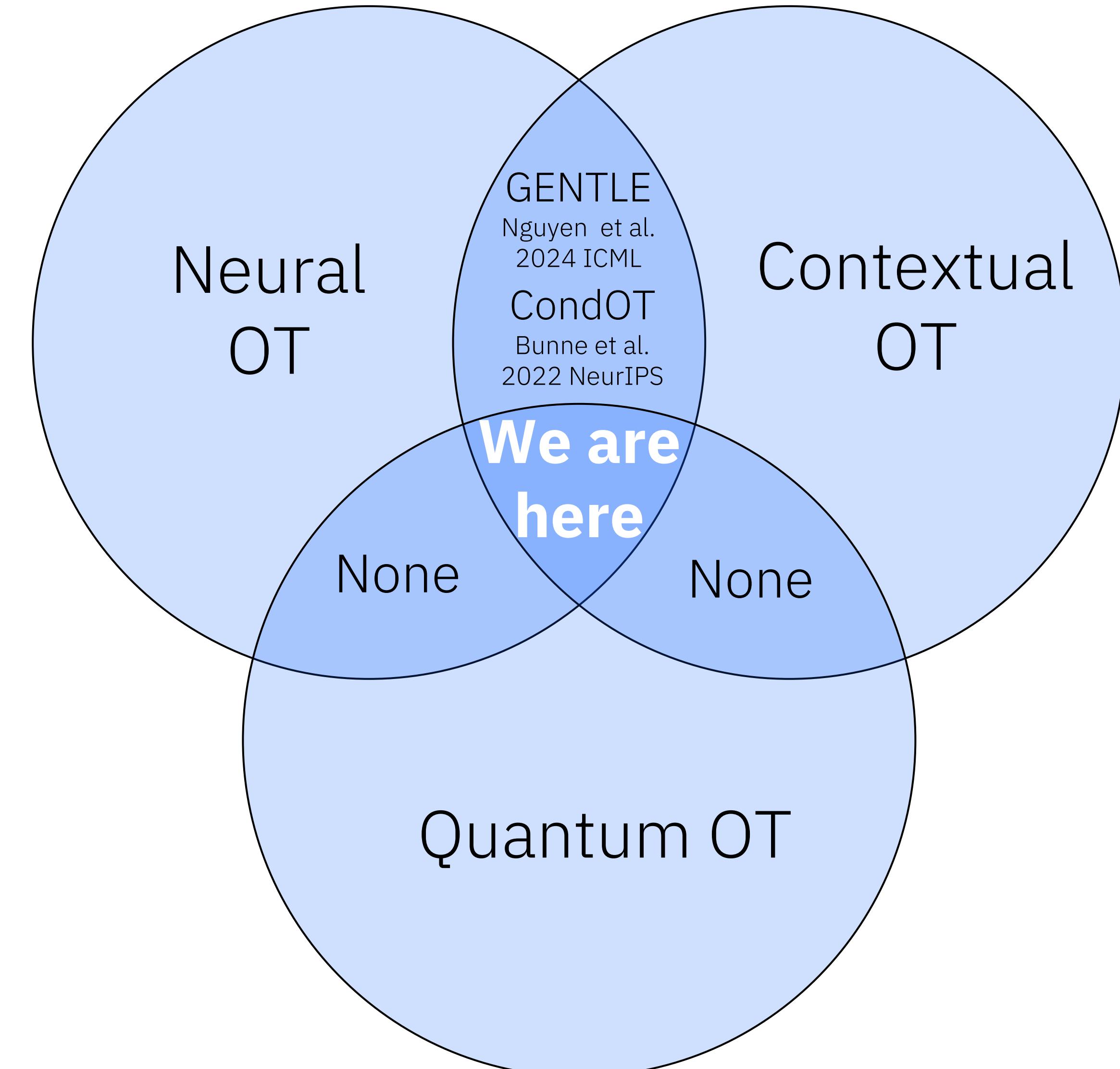
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**ICML**  
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# Quantum **Contextual** Optimal Transport = QontOT



Given contextual data

$$((\mu_i, \nu_i), c_i) \in \mathcal{X} \times \mathcal{K}_d^2$$

learn a global map  $T_\theta$

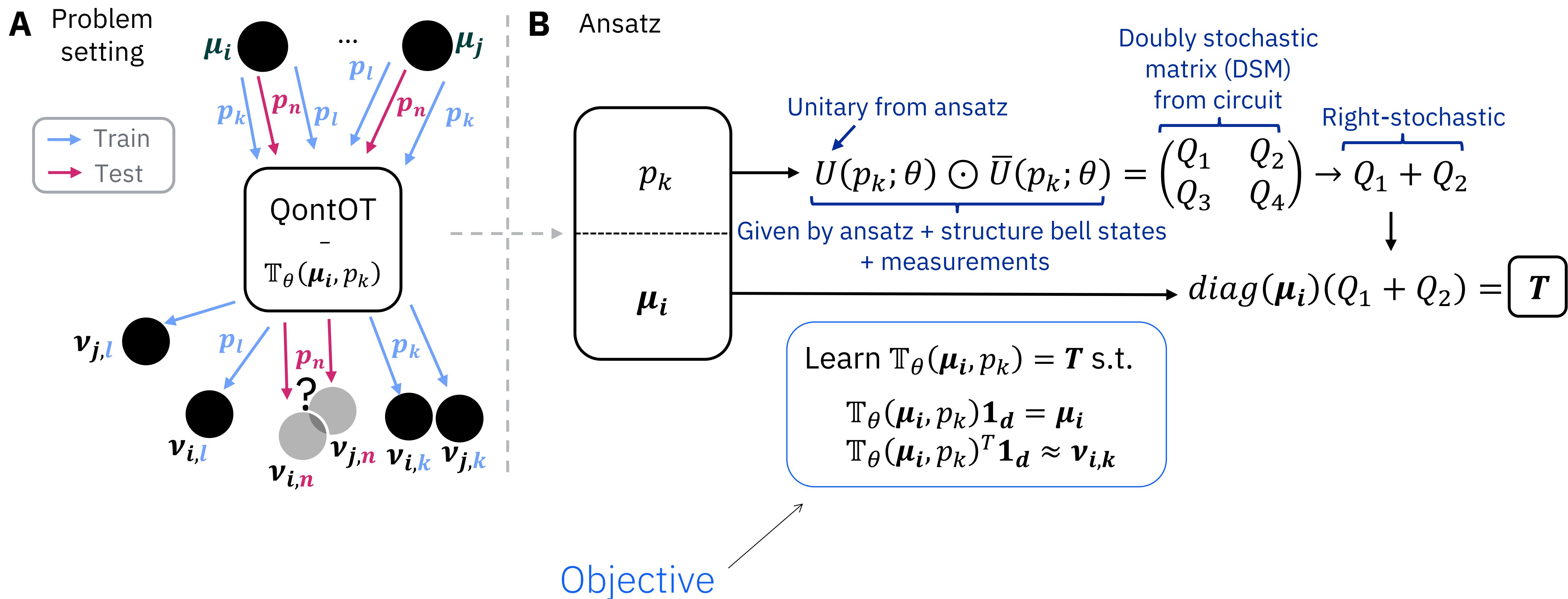
$$\text{s.t. } T_\theta(c_i) \# \mu_i = \nu_i$$

# Linking Optimal Transport and Quantum

If  $U$  is a unitary matrix  
then  $\mathbf{U} \odot \mathbf{U}$   
is doubly stochastic

*It is unknown whether a similarly natural classical approach exists that can produce DSMs parametrically*

# Problem setting and QontOT ansatz

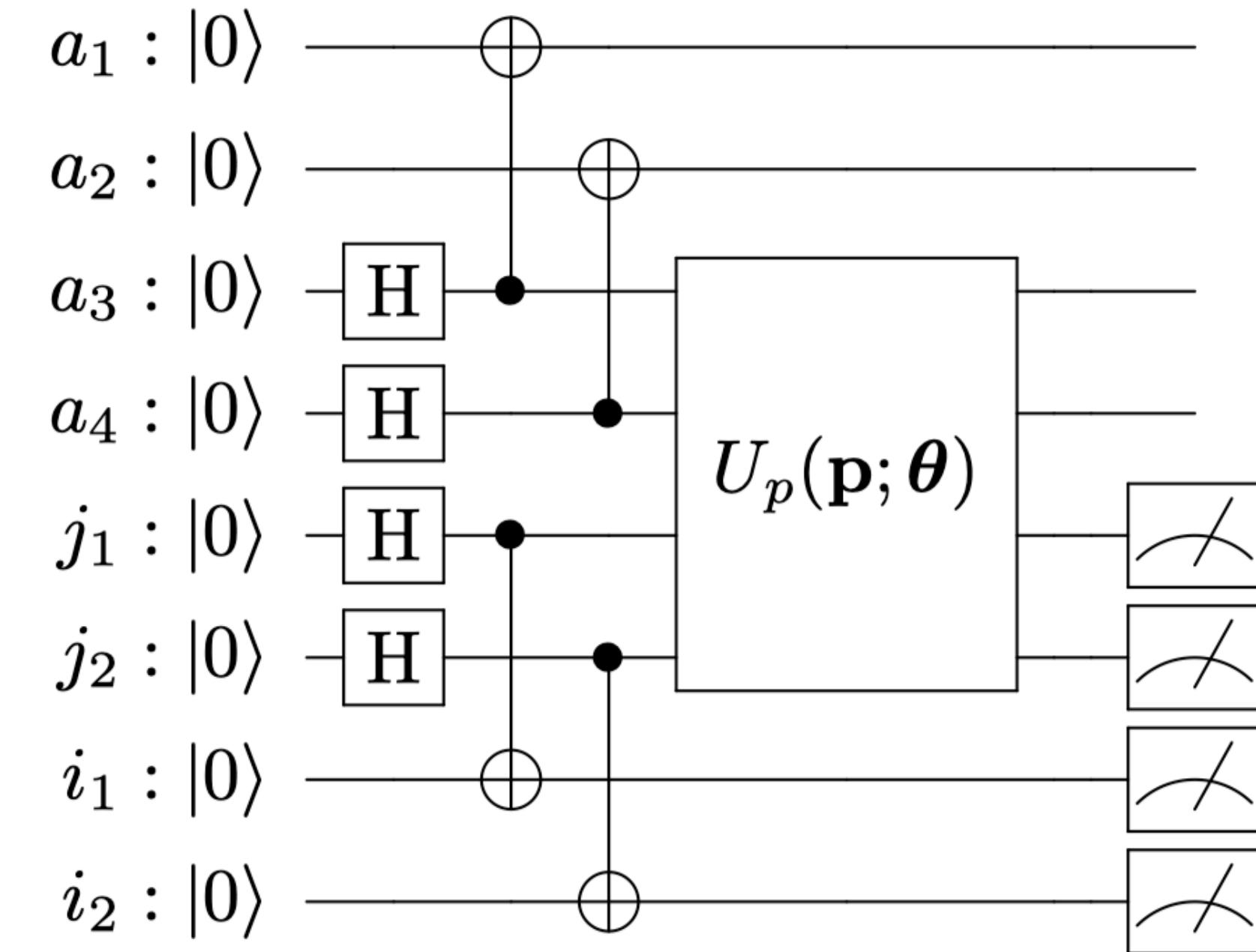


# Comparison of conditional neural OT methods

Conditional neural OT	CondOT	GENTLE	QontOT
Cost-agnostic	✗	✓	✓
Explicit OT plan	✗	✗	✓
Gradient descent	✓	✓	✗
Quantum	✗	✗	✓

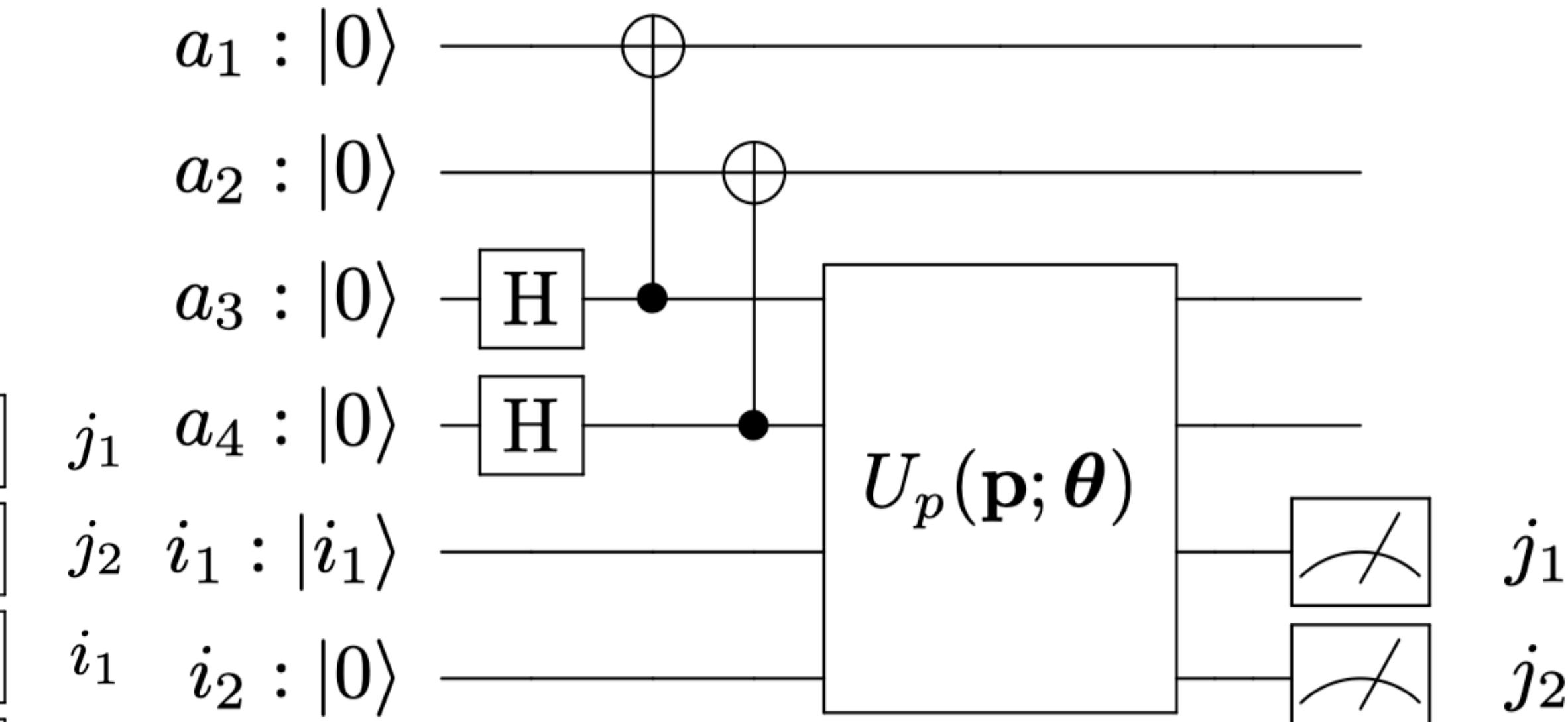
## Circuit to produce DSMs

🚀 The circuit only emits DSMs



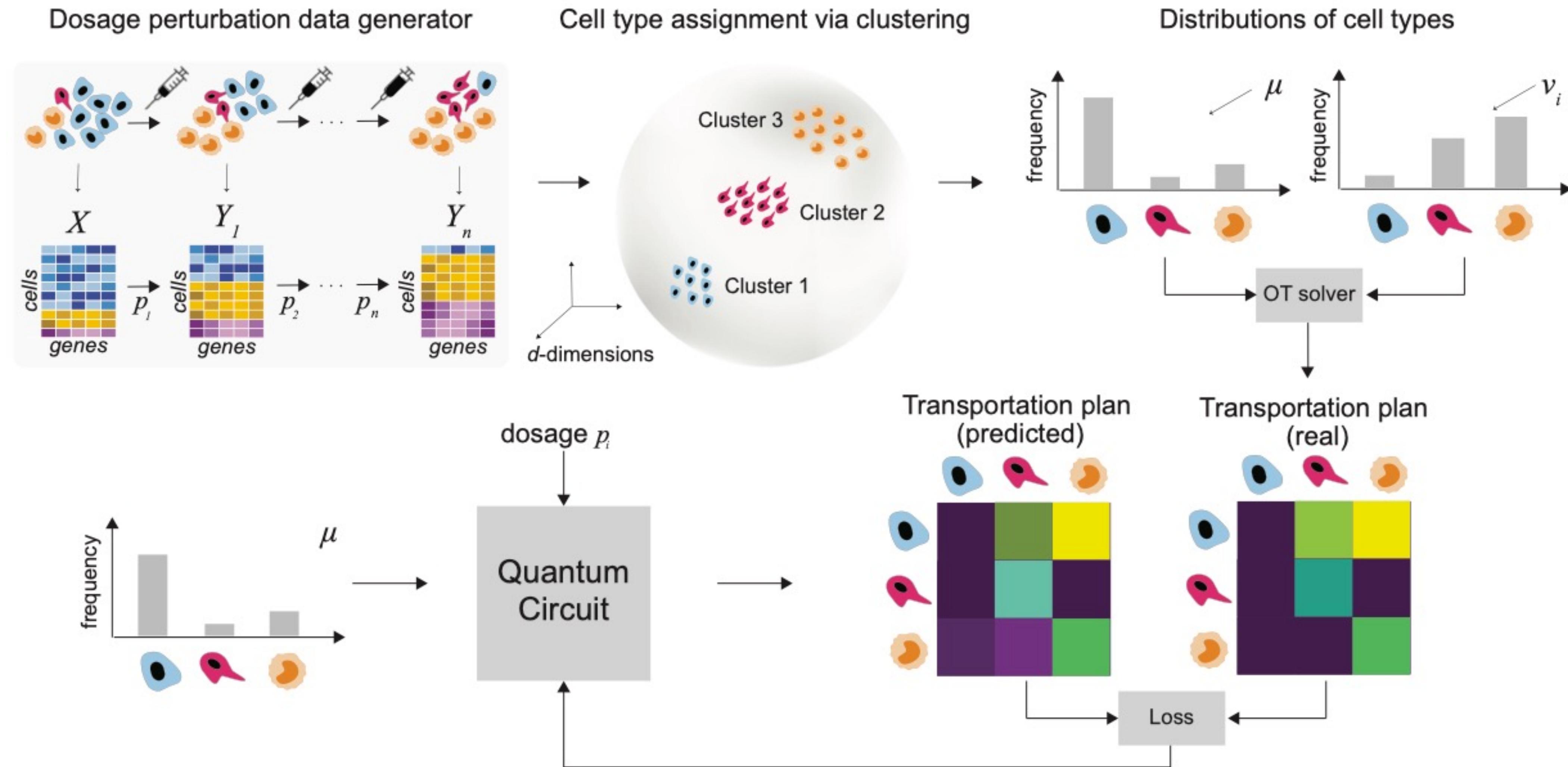
🚀 Every DSM can be produced

## Circuit to embed transport maps

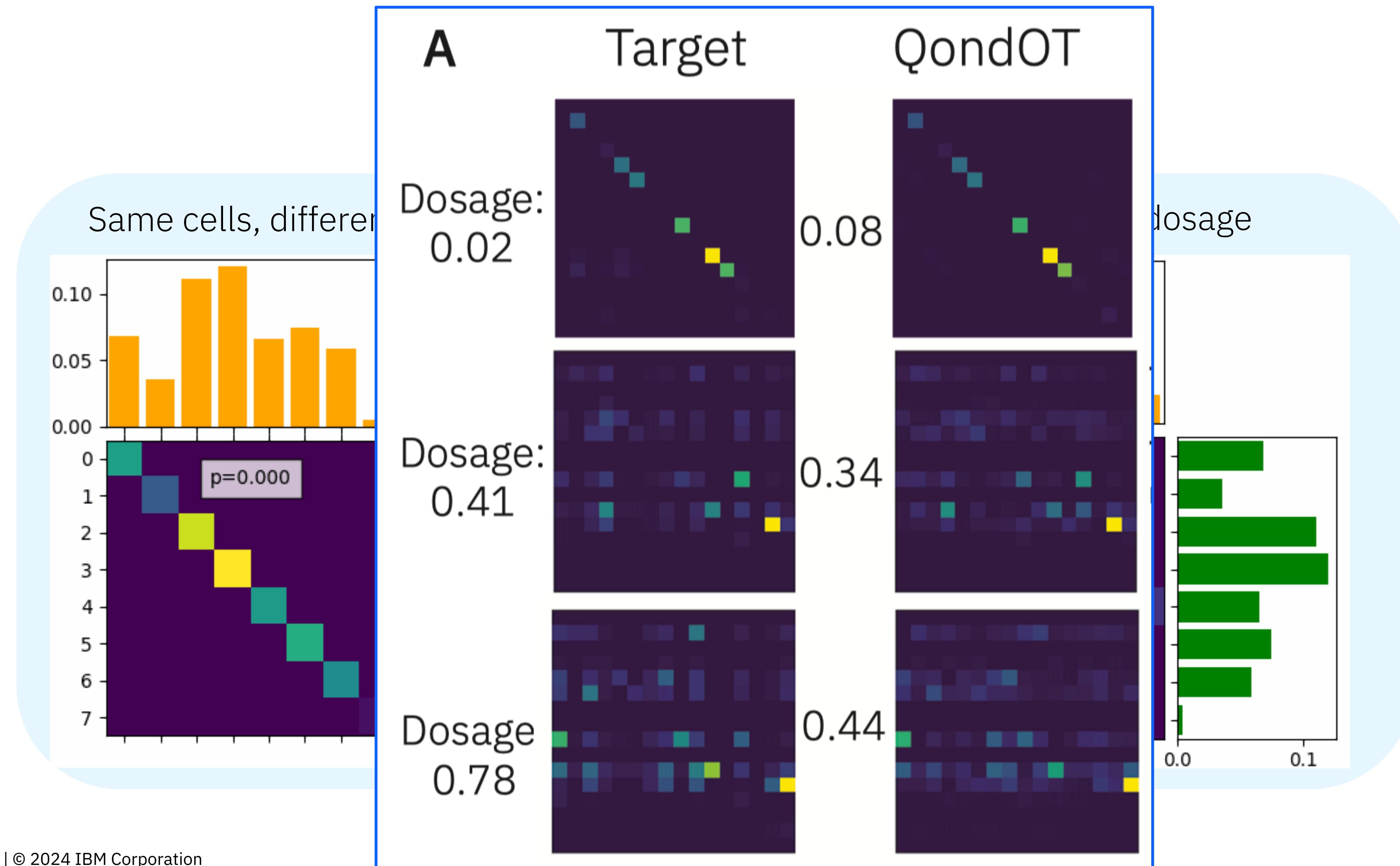


- Circuit scales **logarithmically**. Precisely we need at least  $4(\log_2 n + 1)$  qubits to predict  $n \times n$  matrices
- We need to collect at least  $\mathcal{O}(n \log n)$  circuit shots
- For satisfactory sampling error  $\varepsilon = 0.01$  we even need  $\geq \mathcal{O}(n^2 / \varepsilon^2)$  shots
- Real data\* would require  $n \approx 10,000$ , i.e.,  $\geq 56$  qubits and with  $\varepsilon = 0.01 > 1T$  shots
- We use data with  $n = 16 \rightarrow \geq 20$  qubits and 2.5M shots

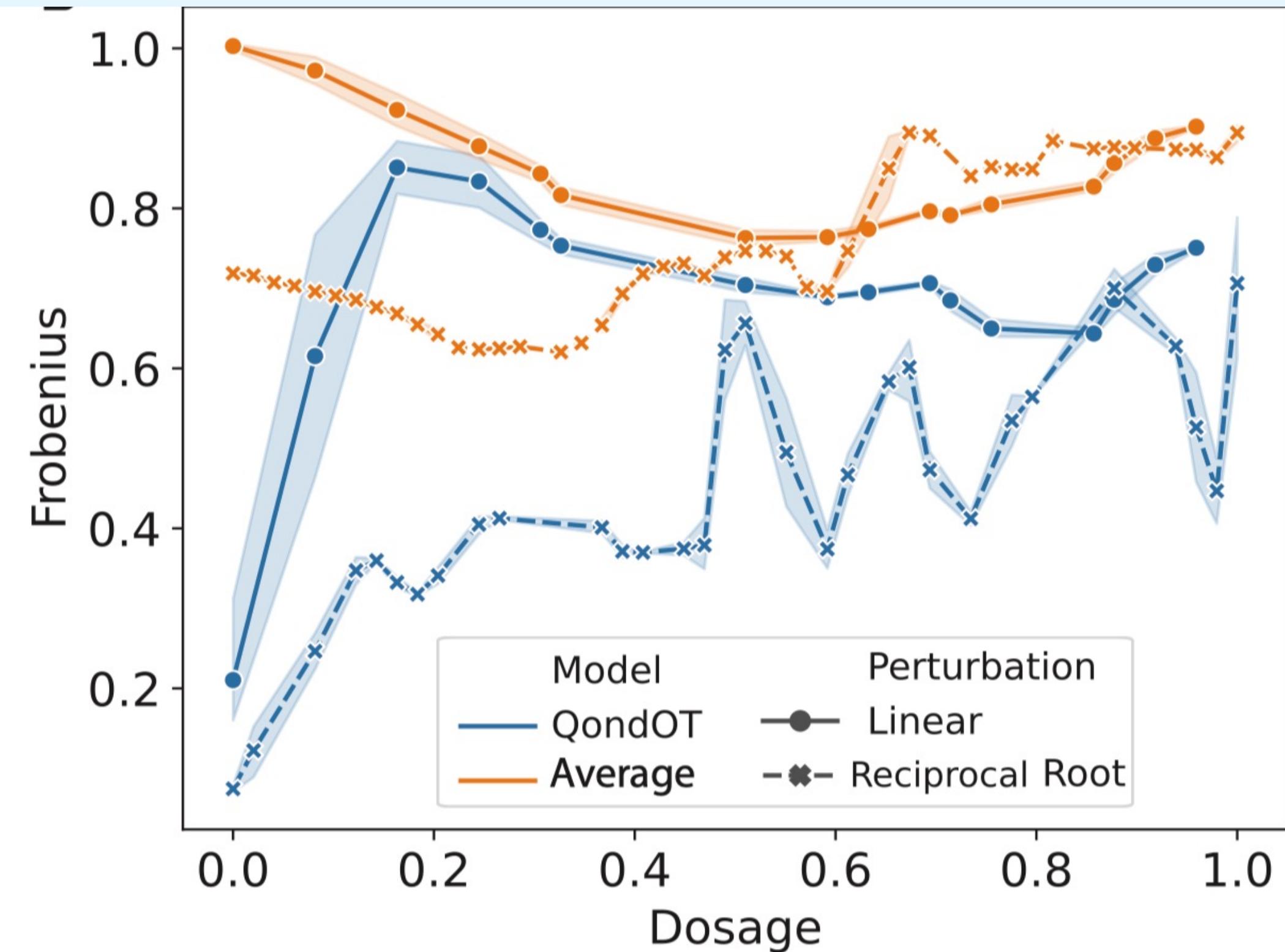
# Application: Drug dosage response prediction



*POC: Quantum can predict OT plans conditionally*



# Qualitative results on cell type distribution prediction



<b>Method</b>	OT plan metrics		Marginal metrics	
	<b>SAE</b> (↓)	<b>Frob.</b> (↓)	$L_2$ (↓)	$R^2$ (↑)
Identity	1.10	1.04	0.18	0.47
QontOT- $\mathcal{L}_T$	0.78	0.61	0.17	0.49
QontOT- $\mathcal{L}_M$	0.92	0.68	0.16	0.57
CellOT	0.46	0.41	0.17	0.52
CellOT-homo	0.68	0.60	0.29	0.37
CondOT	0.45	0.40	0.18	0.56

- Learning distributions conditionally to dosage for different cost functions
- In out-of-distribution setting (not shown) still better than the two baselines (average & identity)
- Slightly inferior to SOTA classical neural OT when plans have arbitrary marginal distributions
- Next: Fix marginals to be uniform to better exploit inductive bias of QontOT  
→ Contextual relaxed assignment problem

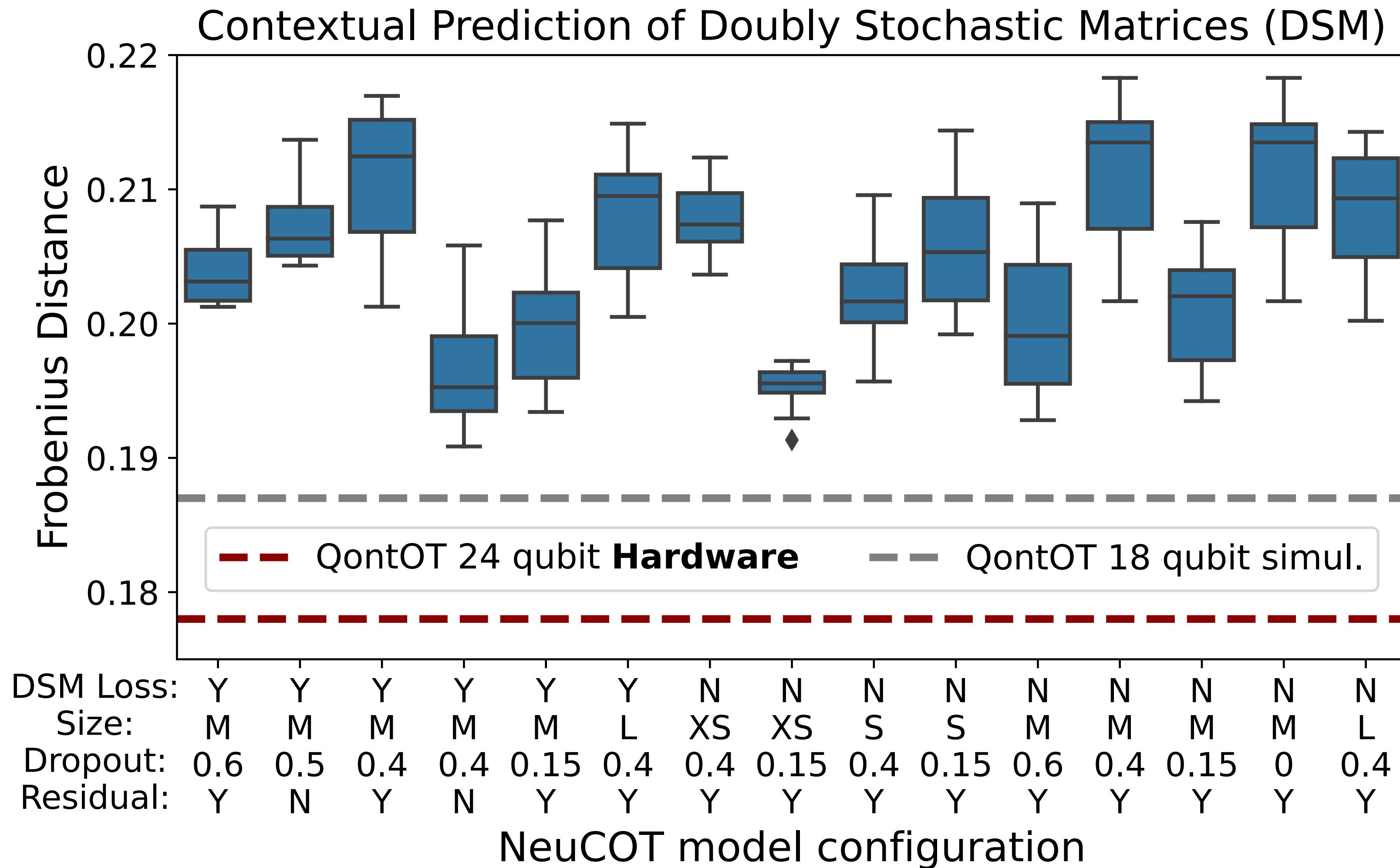
# Hardware experiment on contextual relaxed assignment problem

## Setup:

- 24 qubit experiment (IBM Sheerbroke)
- Depth 50, 70 ECR gates
- Dataset of 40 8x8 DSMs
- No error mitigation
- 235 optimization steps (gradient-free)

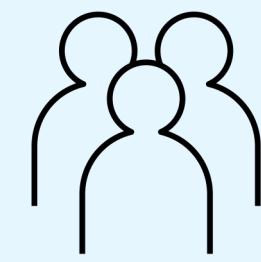
## Result:

- Good convergence
- 24 qubit >> 18 qubit simulation
- Better performance than classical NNs (trained with Backprop)



# Thank you for your attention

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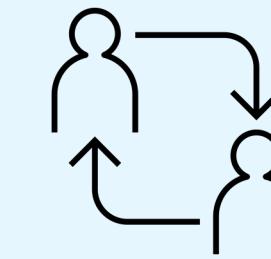
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Quantum Theory and Application of Contextual Optimal Transport  
Mariella, N. et al. [\*International Conference on Machine Learning\* \(2024\)](#)



Further details in the paper:

- Proofs on expressivity of circuit
- Generalization to multidimensional OT
- Comparison of optimizing marginals vs. transport plans
- Various circuit ablation studies (e.g., cost functions)
- ...

