

What distance to use between probabilities over probabilities?



Hugo Lavenant

Bocconi University

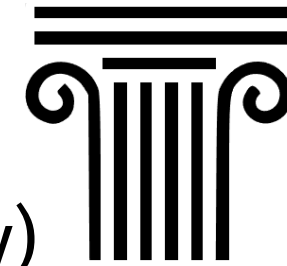
Optimal Transport Cargese Workshop

Cargèse (France), April 9, 2024

Joint work with



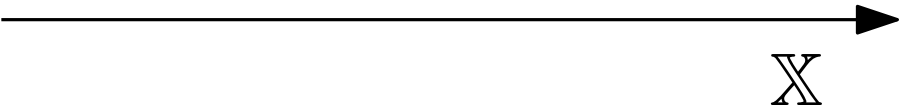
Marta Catalano (Luiss University)



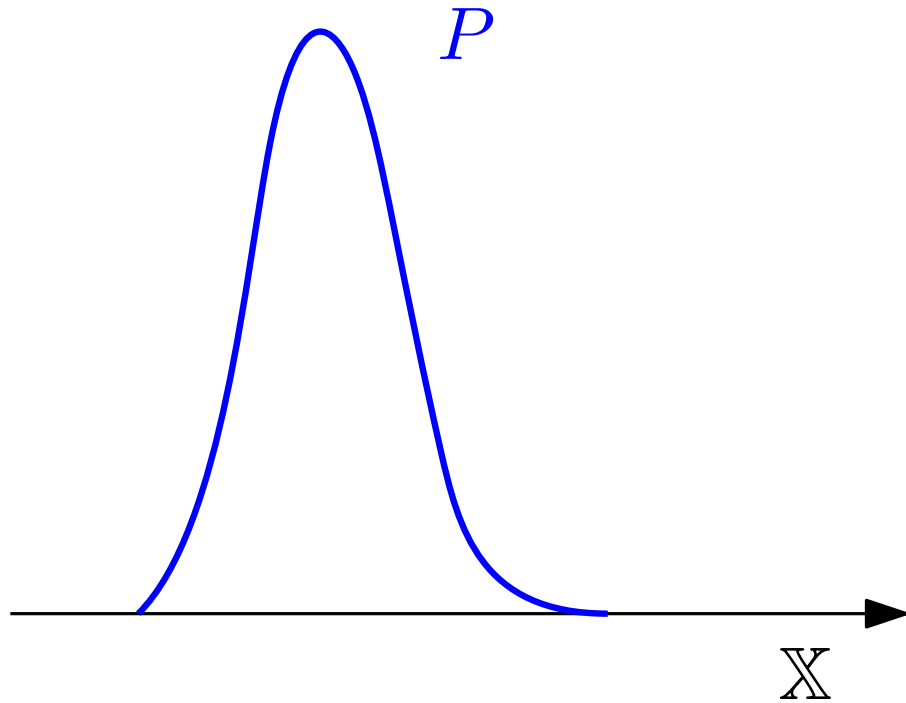
Our article *Hierarchical Integral Probability Metrics: A distance on random probability measures with low sample complexity* is on arxiv!

Probabilities over Probabilities

\mathbb{X} set (think subset of \mathbb{R}^d)



Probabilities over Probabilities

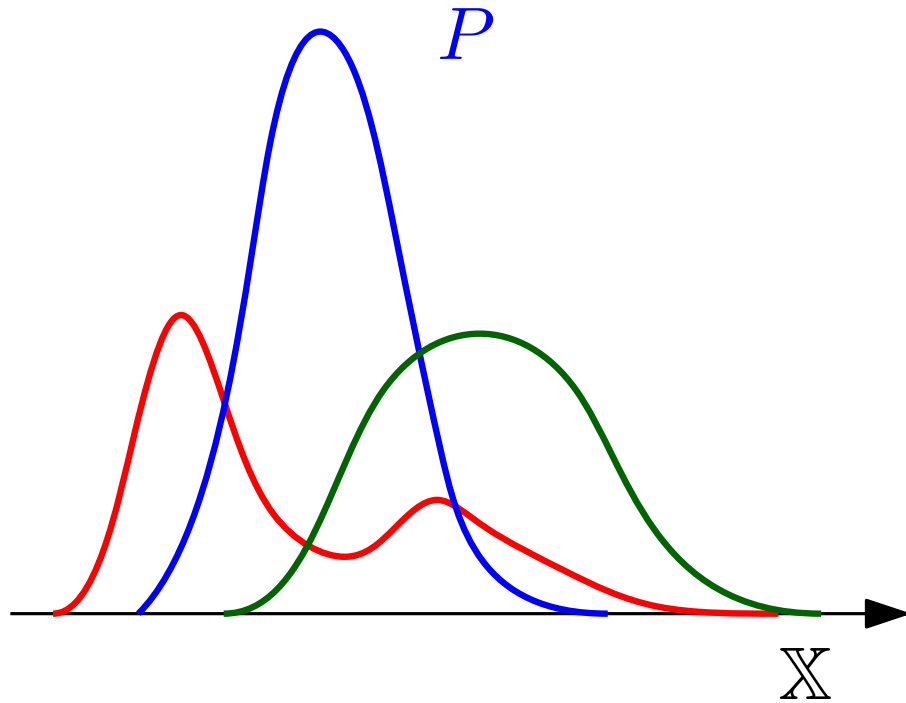


X set (think subset of \mathbb{R}^d)

$\mathcal{P}(X)$ probability distributions over X

Typical element P

Probabilities over Probabilities



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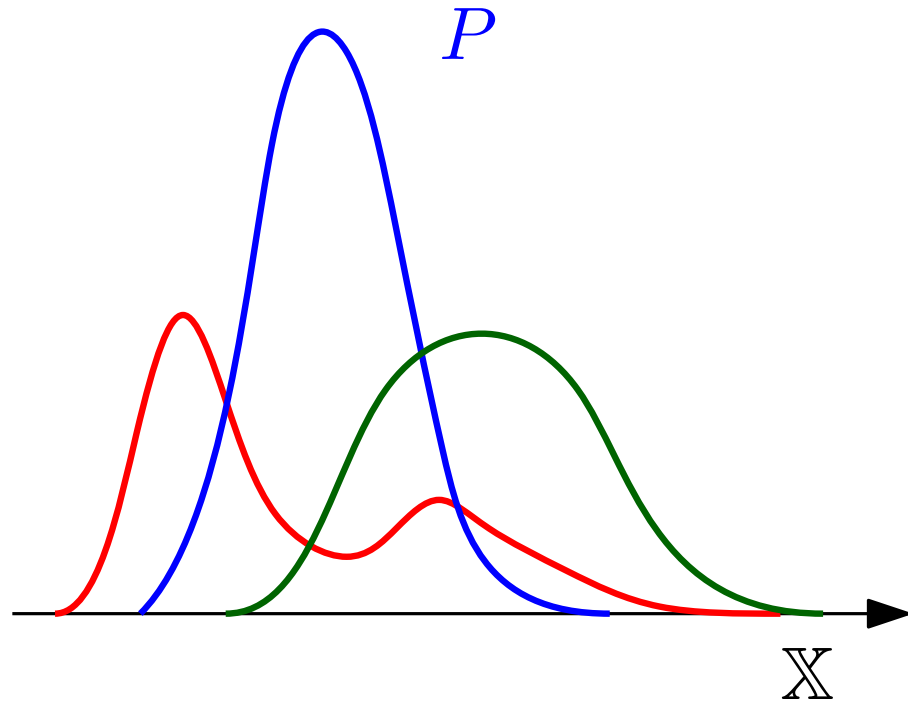
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Typical element \mathbb{Q} , or $\tilde{P} \sim \mathbb{Q}$ random probability

Probabilities over Probabilities



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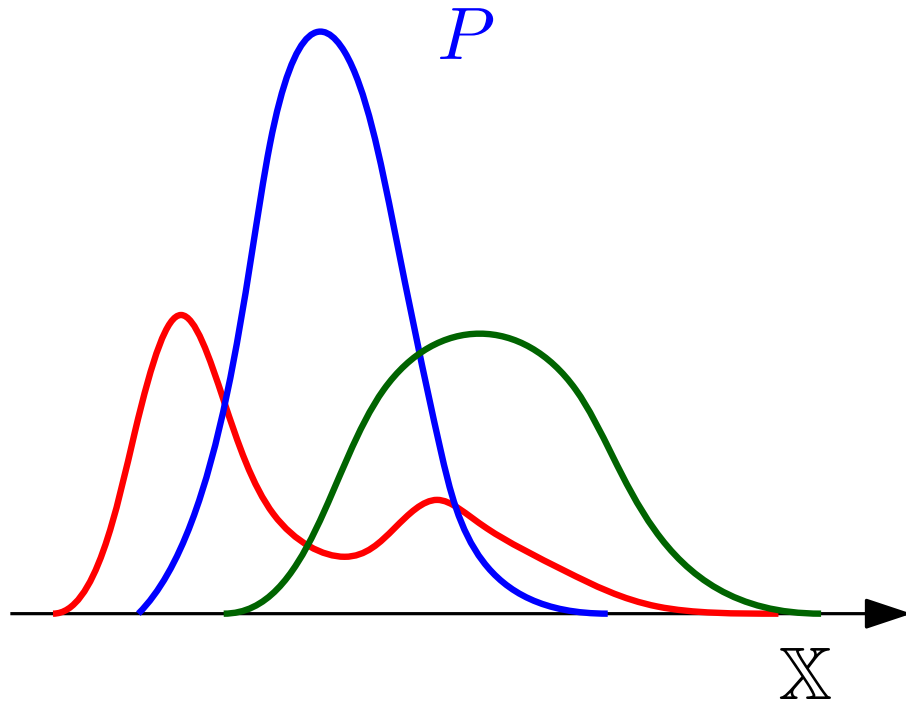
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What distance to put on the space $\mathcal{P}(\mathcal{P}(\mathbb{X}))$?

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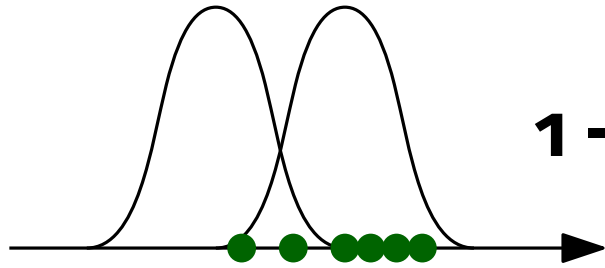
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Desiderata:

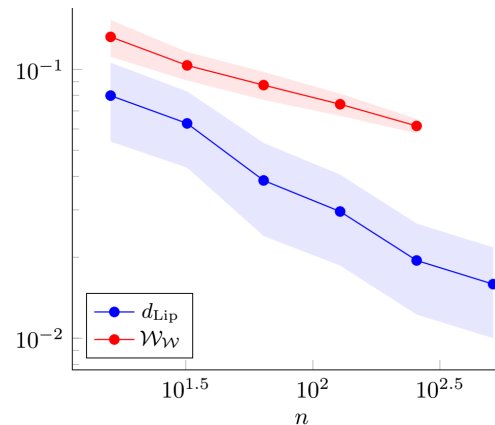
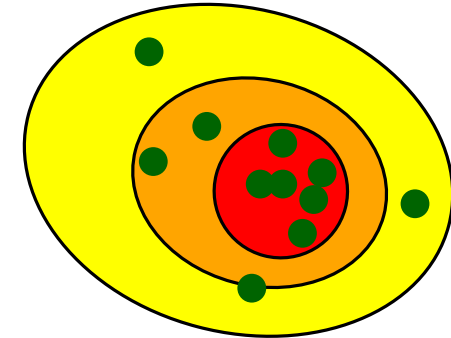
- Metrizing weak topology.
- Computation from samples: statistical and numerical complexity.
- Explicit formula, upper and lower bounds.

This talk

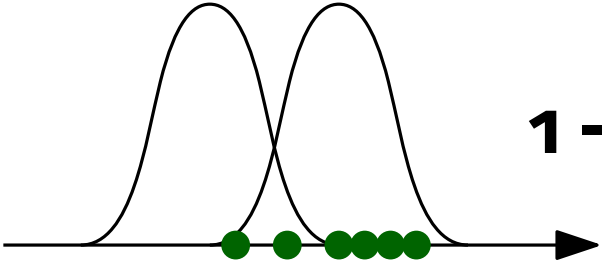


1 - Why? Bayesian Nonparametric Statistics

2 - Wasserstein over Wasserstein and its sample complexity

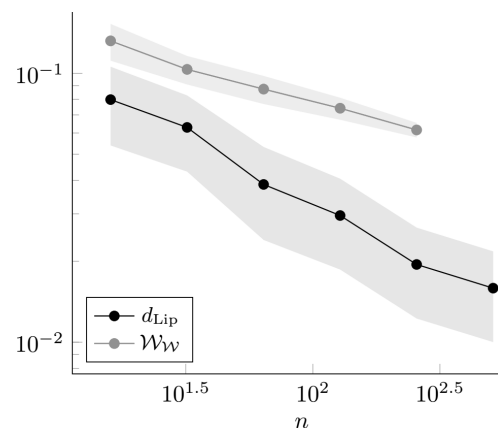
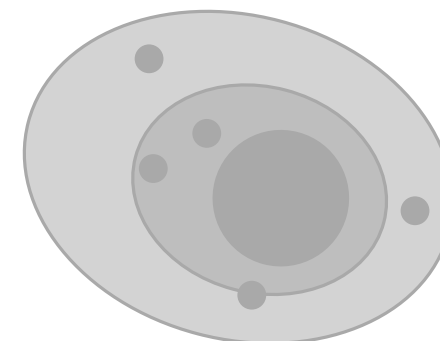


3 - A new distance with a better sample complexity



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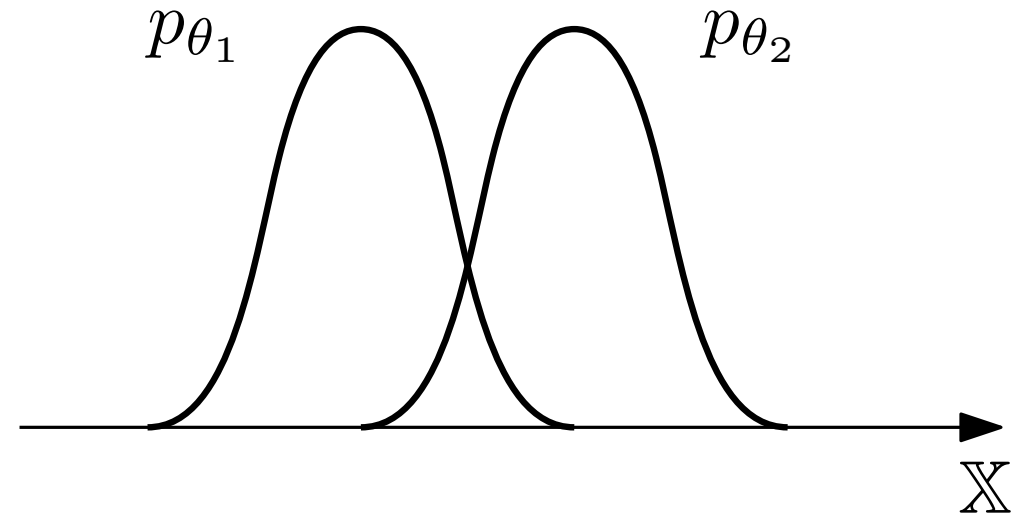


3 - A new distance with a better sample complexity

Bayesian (Nonparametric) Statistics

p_θ distributions over \mathbb{X} indexed by $\theta \in \Theta$.

Goal: infer θ from data.



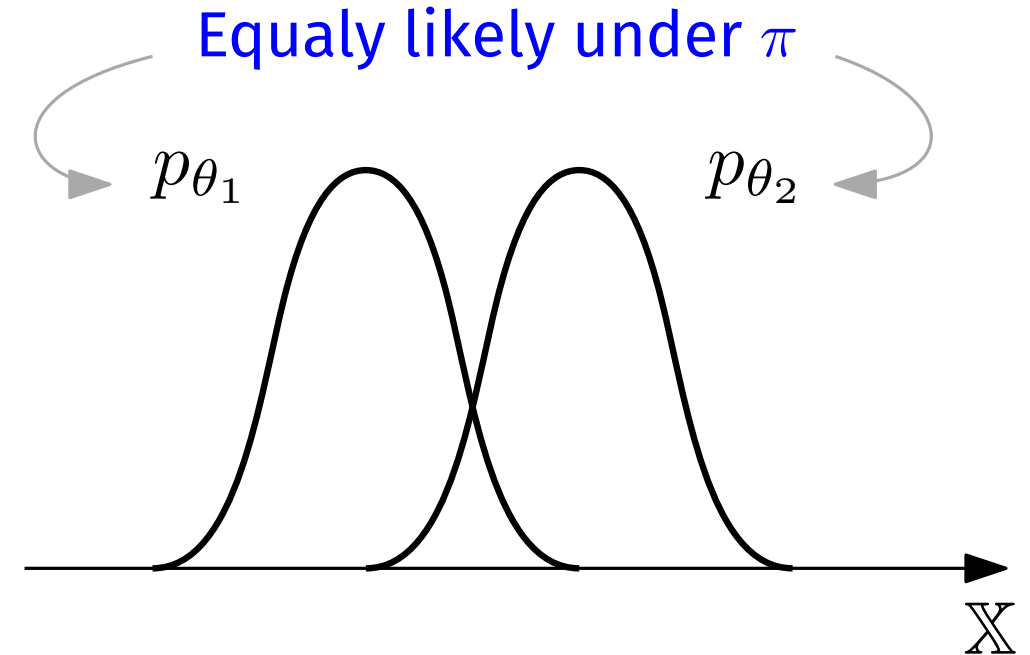
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prior in $\mathcal{P}(\Theta)$ $\leftarrow \theta \sim \pi$



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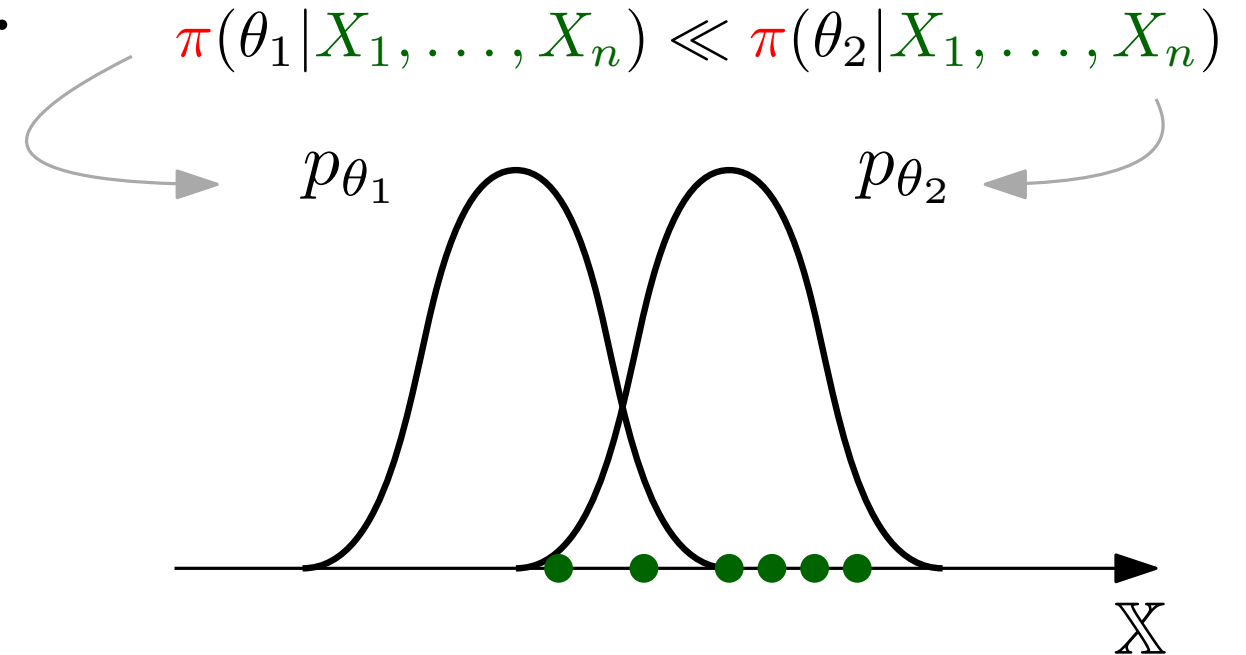
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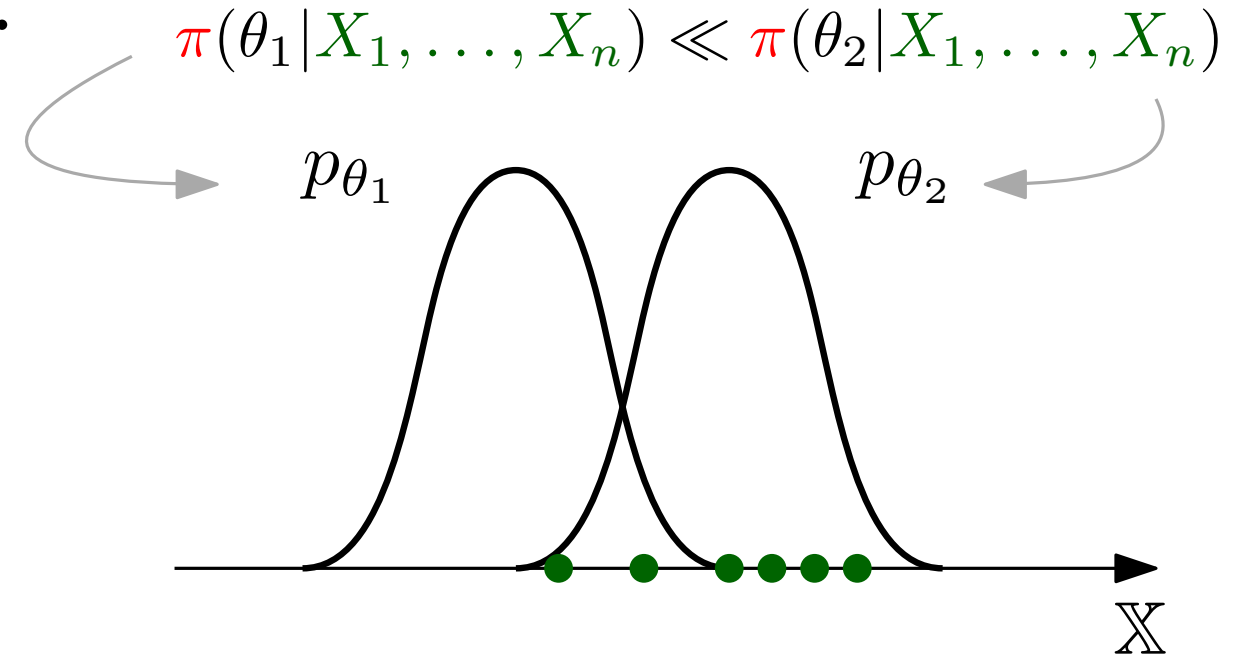
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Remark: p_θ with $\theta \sim \pi$ is a random probability: $\mathbb{Q} = (\theta \mapsto p_\theta) \# \pi$.

Bayesian NonParametrics: define directly \mathbb{Q} (that is a random probability \tilde{P}) instead of p_θ and π .

Merging of opinions

Question. Different priors π^1, π^2 but same data X_1, \dots, X_n .

Does the **distance** between the posteriors $\pi^1(\cdot | X_1, \dots, X_n)$ and $\pi^2(\cdot | X_1, \dots, X_n)$ converge to zero as $n \rightarrow +\infty$? At which rate in n ?

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In Bayesian Nonparametrics, need for a distance between laws of random probabilities.

Merging of opinions

Question

Does the

$\pi^2(\cdot | X)$

and
in n ?

In Bayesian
probabilities

of random

Merging Rate of Opinions via
Optimal Transport on Random Measures

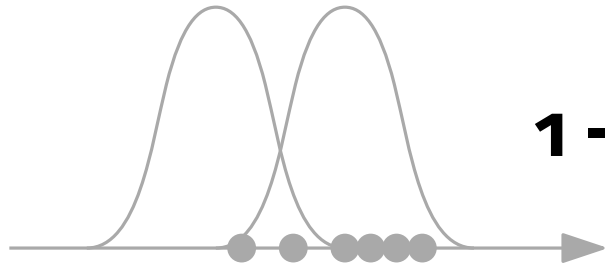
Marta Catalano

 LUISS

Joint work with Hugo Lavenant (Bocconi University)

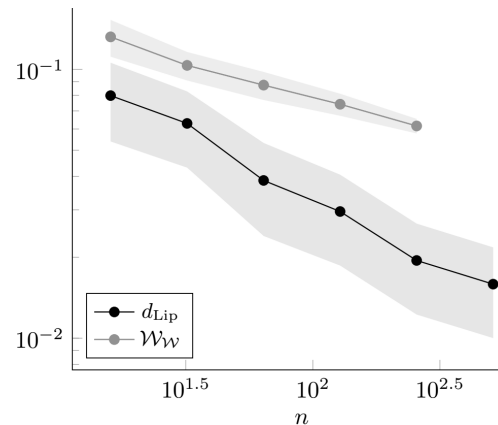
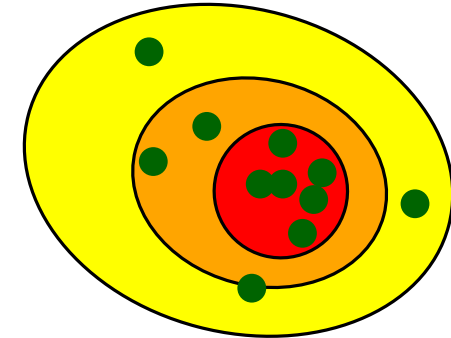
Optimal Transport Cargese Workshop - 9 April 2024

More about this with Marta in a few minutes!



1 - Why? Bayesian Nonparametric Statistics

2 - Wasserstein over Wasserstein and its sample complexity



3 - A new distance with a better sample complexity

Wasserstein over Wasserstein distance

\mathbb{X} metric space, \mathcal{W} Wasserstein distance of order 1 on $\mathcal{P}(\mathbb{X})$.

Definition. If $\mathbb{Q}_1, \mathbb{Q}_2 \in \mathcal{P}(\mathcal{P}(\mathbb{X}))$, the “Wasserstein over Wasserstein” distance is:

$$\mathcal{W}_{\mathcal{W}}(\mathbb{Q}_1, \mathbb{Q}_2) = \inf_{\gamma \in \Gamma(\mathbb{Q}_1, \mathbb{Q}_2)} \mathbb{E}_{(\tilde{P}_1, \tilde{P}_2) \sim \gamma} \left[\mathcal{W}(\tilde{P}_1, \tilde{P}_2) \right].$$

Couplings between \mathbb{Q}_1 and \mathbb{Q}_2 

Nguyen (2016). Borrowing strength in hierarchical Bayes: Posterior concentration of the Dirichlet base measure.

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Couplings between \mathbb{Q}_1 and \mathbb{Q}_2  Weak convergence over weak convergence 

Theorem. If \mathbb{X} is bounded, then $\mathcal{W}_{\mathcal{W}}$ metrizes the weak convergence over $\mathcal{P}(\mathcal{P}(\mathbb{X}))$.

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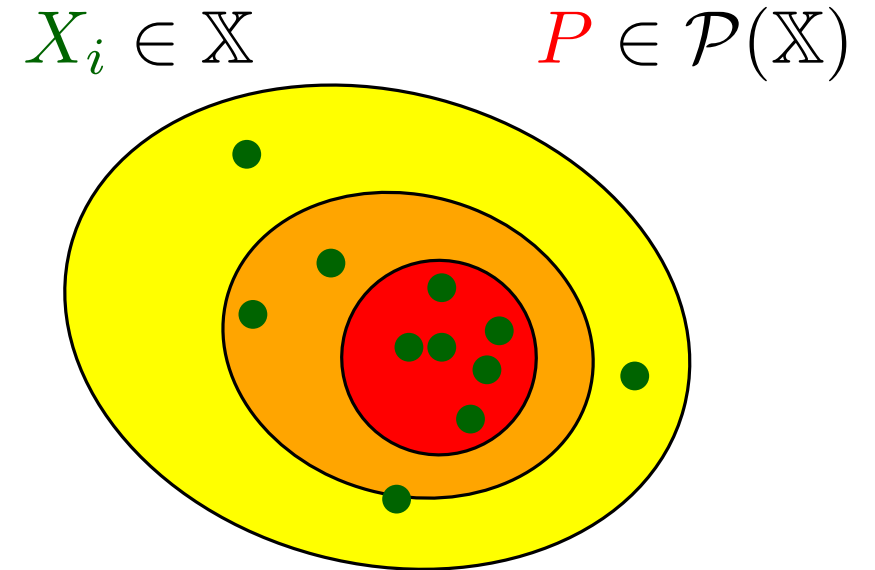
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Sample complexity: reminder

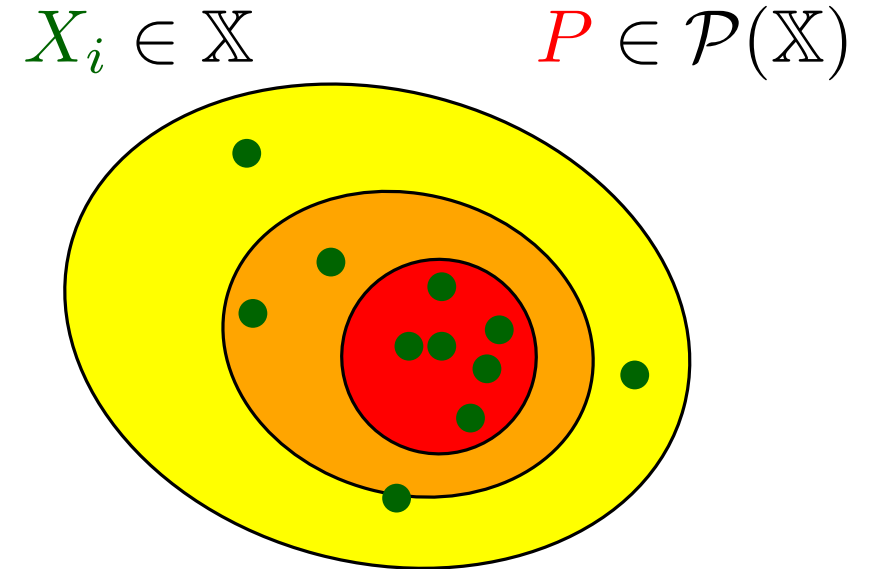
- $P \in \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{X})$.
- $X_1, \dots, X_n \stackrel{\text{i.i.d.}}{\sim} P$, build $\tilde{P}_{(n)} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \delta_{X_i}$.

How close is $\tilde{P}_{(n)}$ from P ?



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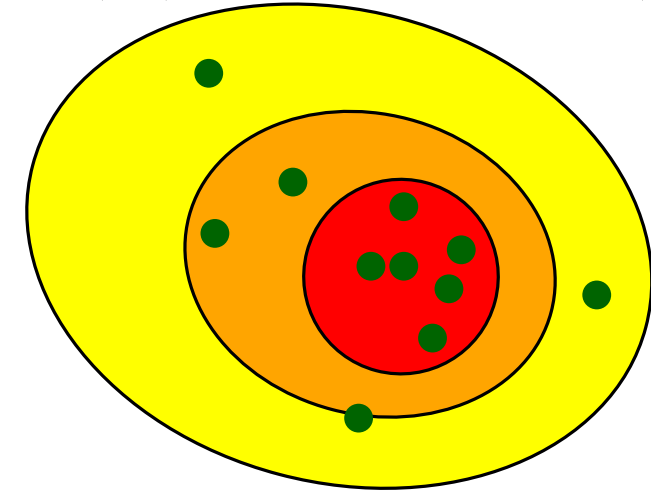
Theorem. If P is “ d -dimensional”, then:

$$\mathbb{E} \left[\mathcal{W}(\tilde{P}_{(n)}, P) \right] \asymp \begin{cases} n^{-1/2} & \text{if } d = 1, \\ n^{-1/2} \log(n) & \text{if } d = 2, \\ n^{-1/d} & \text{if } d \geq 3. \end{cases}$$

Sample complexity for Wasserstein over Wasserstein

- $\mathbb{Q} \in \mathcal{P}(\mathcal{P}(\mathbb{X}))$.
- $P_1, \dots, P_n \stackrel{\text{i.i.d.}}{\sim} \mathbb{Q}$, build $\tilde{\mathbb{Q}}_{(n)} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \delta_{P_i}$.

$P_i \in \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{X})$ $\mathbb{Q} \in \mathcal{P}(\mathcal{P}(\mathbb{X}))$

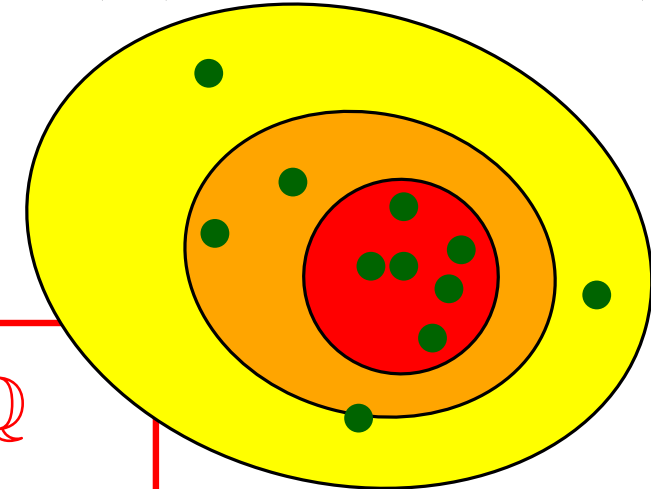


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Theorem. Take $\mathbb{X} \subset \mathbb{R}^d$ bounded. Then for any \mathbb{Q}

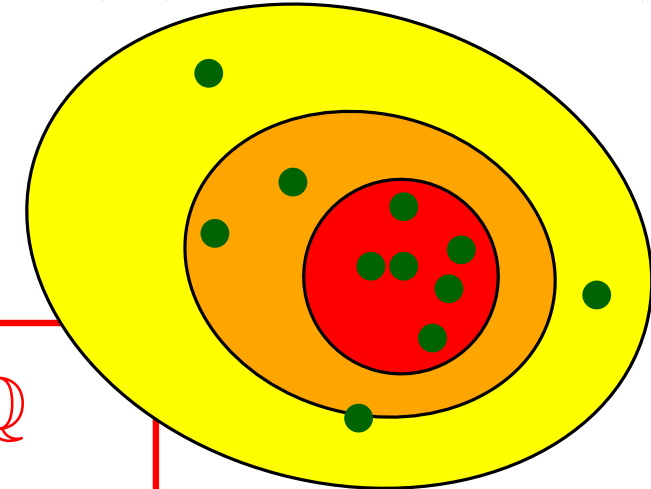
$$\mathbb{E} \left[\mathcal{W}_{\mathcal{W}} \left(\tilde{\mathbb{Q}}_{(n)}, \mathbb{Q} \right) \right] \leq C_{\mathbb{X}} \frac{\log(\log(n))}{\log(n)},$$

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and taking for \mathbb{Q} a **Dirichlet process**, for any $\gamma > 0$,

$$\mathbb{E} \left[\mathcal{W}_{\mathcal{W}} \left(\tilde{\mathbb{Q}}_{(n)}, \mathbb{Q} \right) \right] \geq \frac{c_{\gamma}}{n^{\gamma}}.$$

What is this Dirichlet process giving a lower bound?

Parameters: base measure $P_0 \in \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{X})$ and concentration parameter $\alpha > 0$.

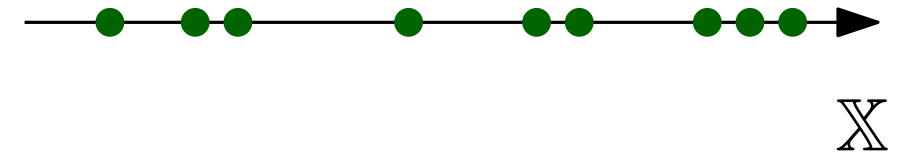
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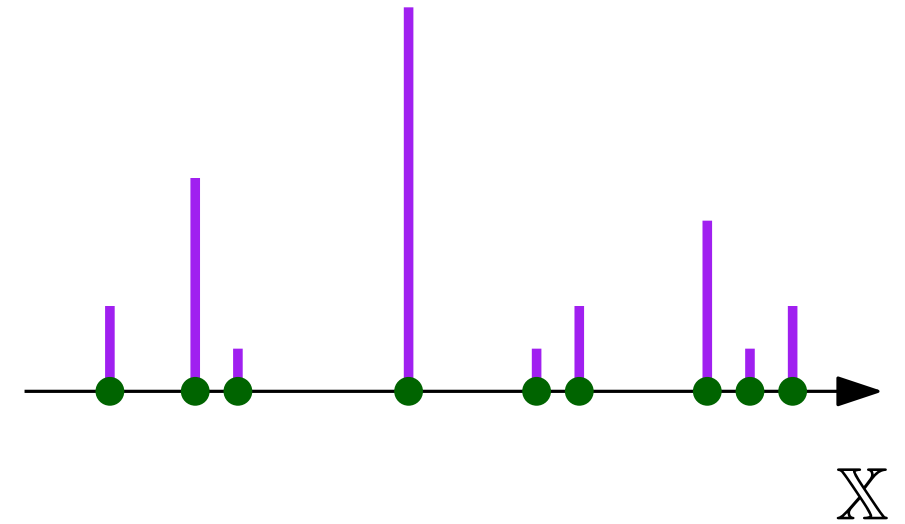


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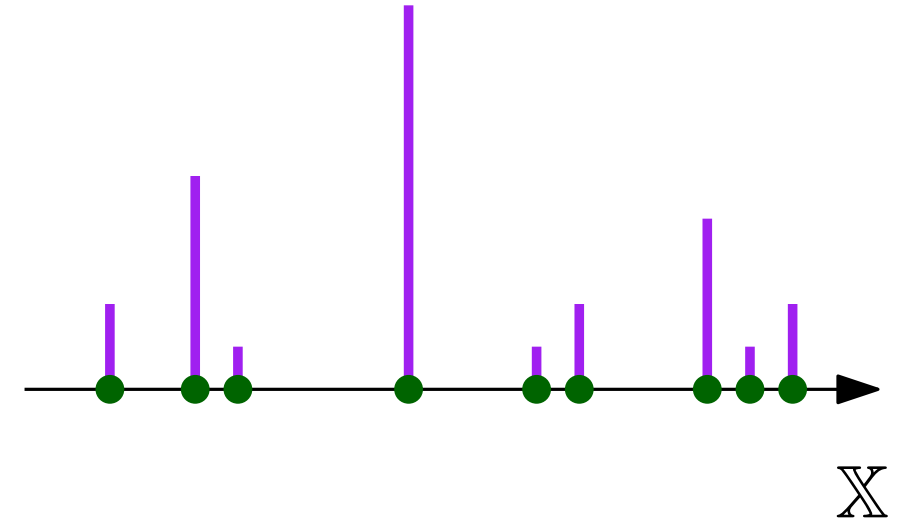


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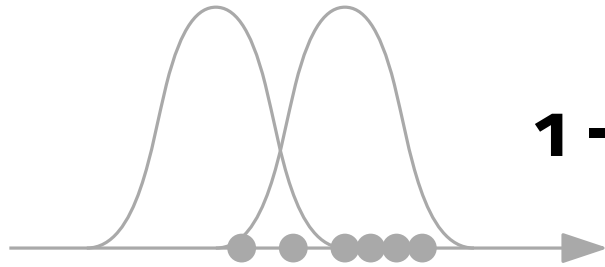
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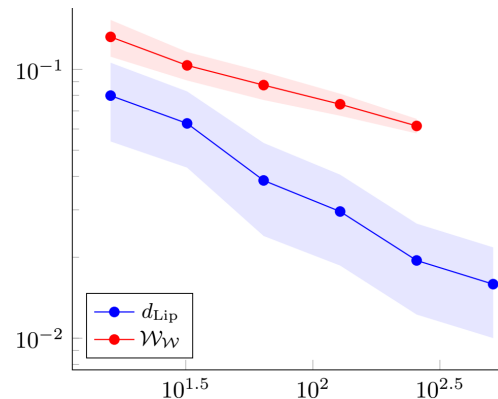
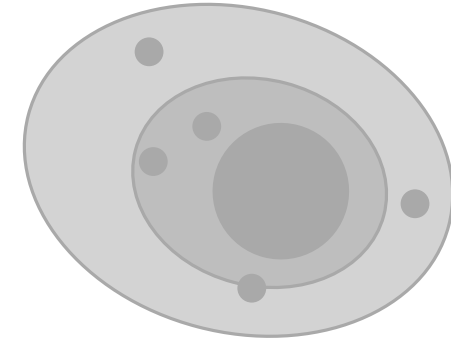


Remark. If the support of P_0 is \mathbb{X} , the topological support of the Dirichlet process is $\mathcal{P}(\mathbb{X})$.



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3 - A new distance with a better sample complexity

A new distance

$\mathbb{Q}_1, \mathbb{Q}_2 \in \mathcal{P}(\mathcal{P}(\mathbb{X}))$, recall:

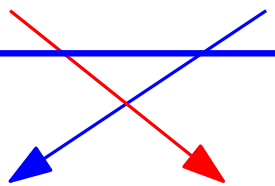
$$\mathcal{W}_{\mathcal{W}}(\mathbb{Q}_1, \mathbb{Q}_2) = \inf_{\gamma \in \Gamma(\mathbb{Q}_1, \mathbb{Q}_2)} \sup_{f \in \text{Lip}_1(\mathbb{X})} \mathbb{E}_{(\tilde{P}_1, \tilde{P}_2) \sim \gamma} \left[\left| \int_{\mathbb{X}} f \, d\tilde{P}_1 - \int_{\mathbb{X}} f \, d\tilde{P}_2 \right| \right].$$

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Definition.

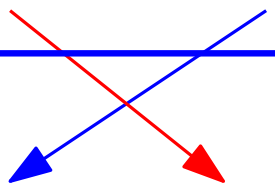

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Idea. Project $\mathcal{P}(\mathbb{X})$ on \mathbb{R} via $P \mapsto \int f \, dP$ for $f \in \text{Lip}_1(\mathbb{X})$, then measure Wasserstein distance of projections.

A new distance

Remark. Replace $\text{Lip}_1(\mathbb{X})$ by \mathcal{F} class of function $f : \mathbb{X} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ generating an *Integral Probability Metric*. We call the distance **Hierarchical IPM**.

Definition.

$$d_{\text{Lip}}(\mathbb{Q}_1, \mathbb{Q}_2) = \sup_{f \in \text{Lip}_1(\mathbb{X})} \inf_{\gamma \in \Gamma(\mathbb{Q}_1, \mathbb{Q}_2)} \mathbb{E}_{(\tilde{P}_1, \tilde{P}_2) \sim \gamma} \left[\left| \int_{\mathbb{X}} f \, d\tilde{P}_1 - \int_{\mathbb{X}} f \, d\tilde{P}_2 \right| \right]$$

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Properties of this new distance

Theorem. There holds $d_{\text{Lip}} \leq \mathcal{W}_{\mathcal{W}}$.

If \mathbb{X} compact, d_{Lip} is a distance metrizing weak convergence over $\mathcal{P}(\mathcal{P}(\mathbb{X}))$.

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Theorem (sample complexity).

- $\mathbb{Q} \in \mathcal{P}(\mathcal{P}(\mathbb{X}))$ with \mathbb{X} bounded subset of \mathbb{R}^d .
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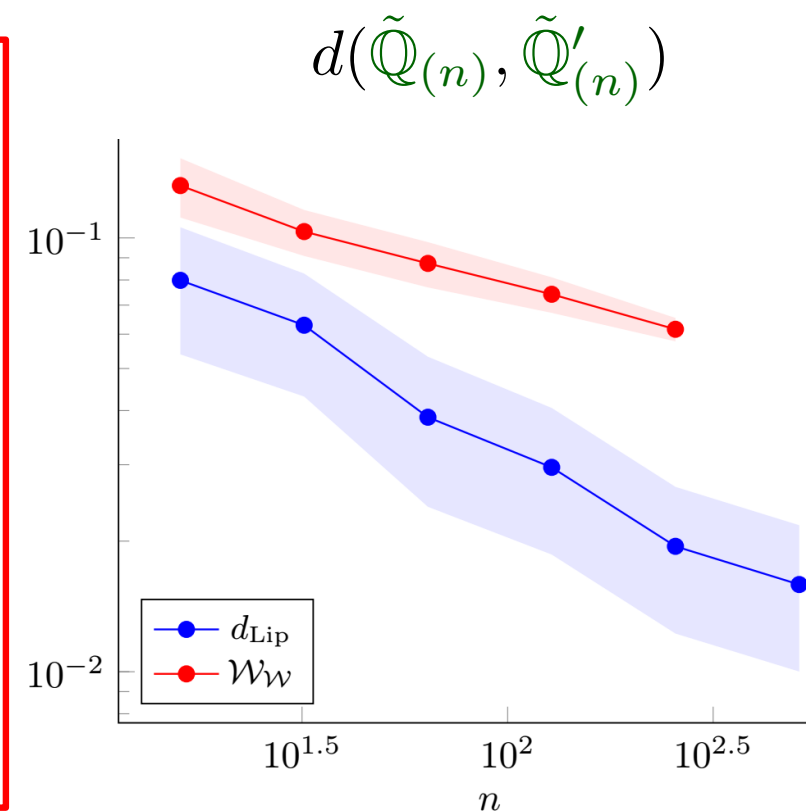
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Then

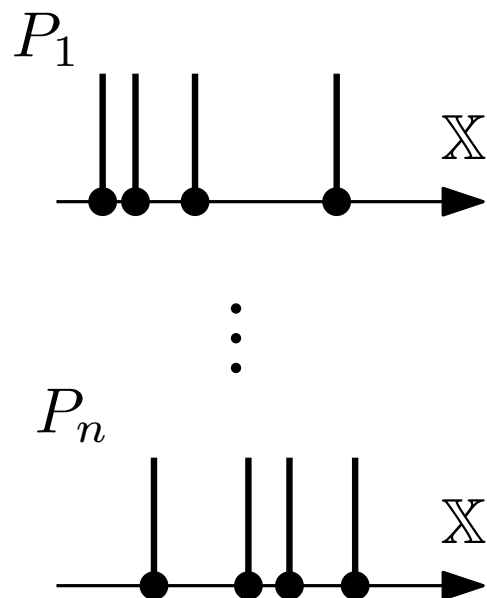
$$\mathbb{E} \left[d_{\text{Lip}} \left(\tilde{\mathbb{Q}}_{(n)}, \mathbb{Q} \right) \right] \lesssim \begin{cases} n^{-1/2} & \text{if } d = 1, \\ n^{-1/2} \log(n) & \text{if } d = 2, \\ n^{-1/d} & \text{if } d \geq 3. \end{cases}$$



Rate for classical Wasserstein distance in \mathbb{R}^d , $\ll \log(\log(n))/\log(n)$.

A word on Numerics

$$\mathbb{Q} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \delta_{P_i} \text{ discrete}$$



A word on Numerics

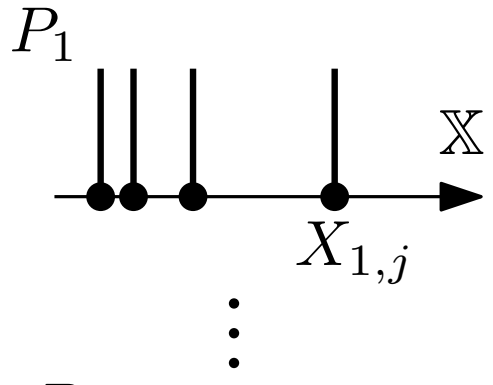
$$\mathbb{Q} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \delta_{P_i} \text{ discrete}$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \begin{array}{c} P_1 \\ \begin{array}{c} \text{---} \bullet \bullet \bullet \text{---} \end{array} \end{array} & \rightsquigarrow & P_1 = \frac{1}{m} \sum_{j=1}^m \delta_{X_{1,j}} \text{ discrete} \\ & & \vdots \\ \begin{array}{c} P_n \\ \begin{array}{c} \text{---} \bullet \bullet \bullet \text{---} \end{array} \end{array} & \rightsquigarrow & P_n = \frac{1}{m} \sum_{j=1}^m \delta_{X_{n,j}} \text{ discrete} \end{array}$$

Each element of $\mathcal{P}(\mathcal{P}(\mathbb{X}))$ is stored as a $n \times m$ array of atoms (and weights).

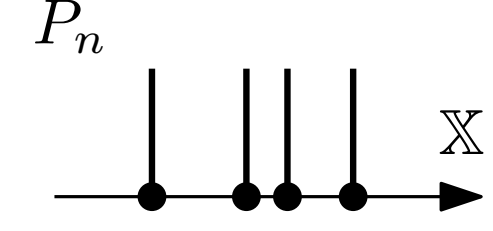
A word on Numerics

$$\mathbb{Q} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \delta_{P_i} \text{ discrete}$$



\rightsquigarrow

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\rightsquigarrow

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Each element of $\mathcal{P}(\mathcal{P}(\mathbb{X}))$ is stored as a $n \times m$ array of atoms (and weights).

Computing d_{Lip} is finding the supremum of $f \mapsto \mathcal{W}(\int f \, d\tilde{P}_1, \int f \, d\tilde{P}_2)$ among $\text{Lip}_1(\mathbb{X})$.

Non convex, non concave. We propose a gradient ascent when $\mathbb{X} \subset \mathbb{R}$.

Thank you for your attention

