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# Continuous Fused Optimal Transport

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## Abstract

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## 1 Introduction

## 2 Fused Optimal Transport

**Notations.** Let  $(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, \mathbb{P})$  be a probability space and  $(S, d_S)$  a compact metric space. A measurable map  $X : \Omega \rightarrow S$  is called a random element with distribution  $\mathbb{P}_X := \mathbb{P} \circ X^{-1}$ . We also introduce a feature space  $M \subset \mathbb{R}^d$  which is compact, and call any one-to-one and continuous  $f : S \rightarrow M$  a feature function. For two probability measures  $\mu, \nu$  on  $S$ , denote by

$$\Pi(\mu, \nu) = \{\pi \text{ on } S \times S : \text{the marginals are } \mu \text{ and } \nu\}$$

the set of all couplings between  $\mu$  and  $\nu$ . Lastly, we say a measurable map  $T : S \rightarrow S$  pushes forward  $\mu$  to  $\nu$  if  $\mu(T^{-1}(A)) = \nu(A)$  for all  $A \in \mathcal{B}(S)$ , where  $\mathcal{B}(S)$  is the Borel  $\sigma$ -algebra of  $S$ . We denote  $T_{\#}\mu = \nu$  if  $T$  pushes forward  $\mu$  to  $\nu$ .

**Fused optimal transport plan.** For  $0 \leq \alpha \leq 1$  and a feature function  $f$ , we consider

$$\inf_{\pi \in \Pi(\mathbb{P}_X, \mathbb{P}_Y)} (1 - \alpha) \mathbb{E}_{(X,Y) \sim \pi} [\|f(X) - f(Y)\|_2^2] + \alpha \mathbb{E}_{\substack{(X,Y) \sim \pi \\ (X',Y') \sim \pi}} [K_h(X, X') |d_S(X, X') - d_S(Y, Y')|^2], \quad (1)$$

where  $K_h : S \times S \rightarrow [0, \infty)$  is a bounded, continuous, and symmetric kernel with a bandwidth  $h > 0$ . We write  $\mathcal{S}_\alpha$  for the set of minimizers of (1).

**Proposition 1** (Existence of a minimizer). *For each  $0 \leq \alpha \leq 1$ , the problem (1) admits at least one minimizer; that is,  $\mathcal{S}_\alpha \neq \emptyset$ .*

**An equivalent formulation in feature space.** Let  $Z := f(X)$  and  $W := f(Y)$ , and consider couplings  $\gamma \in \Pi(\mathbb{P}_Z, \mathbb{P}_W)$  on  $M \times M$ . Define  $K_h^f(z, z') := K_h(g(z), g(z'))$  with  $g := f^{-1}$  on  $f(S)$ . Then, (1) is equivalent to

$$\min_{\gamma \in \Pi(\mathbb{P}_Z, \mathbb{P}_W)} (1 - \alpha) \mathbb{E}_{(Z,W) \sim \gamma} [\|Z - W\|_2^2] + \alpha \mathbb{E}_{\substack{(Z,W) \sim \gamma \\ (Z',W') \sim \gamma}} [K_h^f(Z, Z') |d_S(g(Z), g(Z')) - d_S(g(W), g(W'))|^2]. \quad (2)$$

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\*<https://junhyoung-chung.github.io/>

Thus,  $\pi$  is feasible for (1) if and only if  $\gamma = (f \times f)_\# \pi$  is feasible for (2) with the same objective value. In the sequel, we focus on analyzing (2) for mathematical simplicity.

## References

Y. Brenier. Polar factorization and monotone rearrangement of vector-valued functions. *Communications on pure and applied mathematics*, 44(4):375–417, 1991.

## A Appendix