

# Quantitative Stability in Quadratic Optimal Transport

Alex Delalande

EPFL

CIRM Workshop *PDE & Probability in interaction:  
functional inequalities, optimal transport and particle systems*

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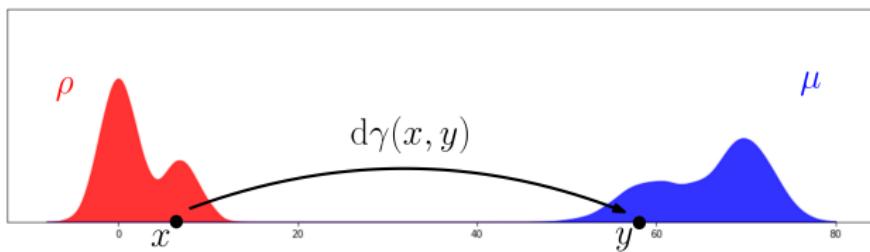
# Introduction

**Quadratic Optimal Transport problem** (Monge, 1781; Kantorovich, 1942):

- Given  $\rho, \mu \in \mathcal{P}_2(\mathbb{R}^d)$ , solve

$$\inf_{\gamma \in \Gamma(\rho, \mu)} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d \times \mathbb{R}^d} \|x - y\|^2 d\gamma(x, y), \quad (\text{KP})$$

where  $\Gamma(\rho, \mu) = \{\gamma \in \mathcal{P}_2(\mathbb{R}^d \times \mathbb{R}^d) | \forall A \subset \Omega, \gamma(A \times \mathbb{R}^d) = \rho(A), \gamma(\mathbb{R}^d \times A) = \mu(A)\}$ .



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- 2–**Wasserstein distance** between  $\rho$  and  $\mu$ :

$$W_2(\rho, \mu) := \left( \inf_{\gamma \in \Gamma(\rho, \mu)} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d \times \mathbb{R}^d} \|x - y\|^2 d\gamma(x, y) \right)^{1/2}.$$

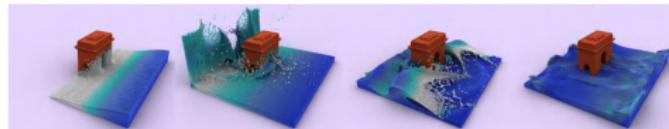
- 2–**Wasserstein space**:  $(\mathcal{P}_2(\mathbb{R}^d), W_2)$ .

→ Geodesic distance, interpolations, barycenters...

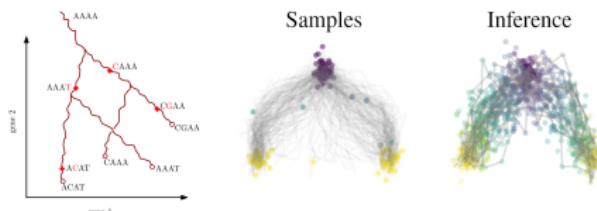
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- Strong physical modeling power:

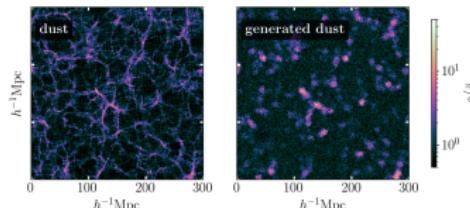
Euler equations: (de Goes et al., 2015)



**Trajectory inference** for single cell RNA-sequencing data: (Forrow et al., 2021; Chizat et al., 2022)



**Cosmology:** (Nikakhtar et al., 2023)



Quantum chemistry, meteorology, economics, image processing, machine learning...

# Introduction

Is the quadratic optimal transport problem  $\inf_{\gamma \in \Gamma(\rho, \mu)} \langle d^2 | \gamma \rangle$  well-posed?

## 1. Existence of optimal $\gamma$ ? Verified.

(Kantorovich, 1942; Kellerer, 1984)

## 2. Uniqueness of optimal $\gamma$ ? Not verified in general.

But well-studied and verified in many *particular* cases.

**Theorem** (Brenier, 1987): If  $\rho$  is absolutely continuous, then the optimal transport solution is unique. It is induced by a map  $T : \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^d$  satisfying  $T_\# \rho = \mu$  characterized by  $T = \nabla \phi$  with  $\phi$  convex.

For  $\mu$  a.c. and under additional assumptions, optimal  $\phi$  solution of the Monge-Ampère equation:

$$\forall x \in \Omega, \quad \det(D^2 \phi(x)) \mu(\nabla \phi(x)) = \rho(x).$$

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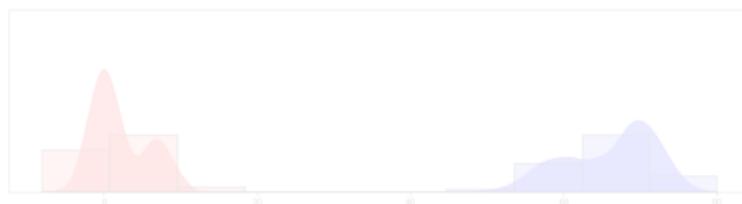
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Example:



What is the rate of the convergence  $\gamma_n \rightharpoonup \gamma$  in terms of the rates of convergence of  $\rho_n \rightharpoonup \rho$  and  $\mu_n \rightharpoonup \mu$ ?

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► **Quantitative stability of optimal transport solutions w.r.t. problem data?**

1. Beyond the case  $\Omega = \mathbb{R}$ , no general quantitative stability result.
2. Convex optimization viewpoint:  $\min_{\gamma \in \Gamma(\rho, \mu)} \langle d^2 | \gamma \rangle$ .  
→ Strong/Uniform convexity? *Linear program.*
3. Elliptic PDE viewpoint:  $\det(D^2\phi)\mu(\nabla\phi) = \rho$ .  
→ Uniform ellipticity? *Degenerate elliptic equation.*

Using the unconstrained dual problem, quantitative stability guarantees can be obtained.

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## Part I.

Strong convexity of the dual quadratic optimal transport problem.

## Part II.

Consequences: quantitative stability estimates for optimal transport maps, Wasserstein barycenters and entropic optimal transport.

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► Get rid of constraint:

$$\mathcal{T}(\rho, \mu) = \max_{\gamma \geq 0} \int \langle \cdot | \cdot \rangle d\gamma + \min_{\phi, \psi} \int \phi d(\rho - \gamma_1) + \int \psi d(\mu - \gamma_2)$$

► Swap max and min:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{T}(\rho, \mu) &= \min_{\phi, \psi} \int \phi d\rho + \int \psi d\mu + \max_{\gamma \geq 0} \int (\langle \cdot | \cdot \rangle - \phi \oplus \psi) d\gamma \\ &= \min_{\phi, \psi | \langle \cdot | \cdot \rangle \leq \phi \oplus \psi} \int \phi d\rho + \int \psi d\mu \\ &= \min_{\psi} \int \psi^* d\rho + \int \psi d\mu, \quad \text{where } \psi^*(x) = \sup_y \langle x | y \rangle - \psi(y). \end{aligned}$$

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$$\min_{\psi: \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \bar{\mathbb{R}}} \mathcal{K}_\rho(\psi) + \int \psi d\mu. \quad (\text{DP})$$

►  $\mathcal{K}_\rho$  is convex. First order condition in (DP):

$$\psi_\mu \text{ minimizer in (DP)} \iff 0 \in \partial \mathcal{K}_\rho(\psi_\mu) + \mu \iff \psi_\mu \in (\partial \mathcal{K}_\rho)^{-1}(-\mu).$$

Stability estimate for  $\mu \mapsto \psi_\mu$ .

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Strong/Uniform convexity estimate for  $\psi \mapsto \mathcal{K}_\rho(\psi)$ .

$F \in \mathcal{C}^2(\mathbb{R}^d)$  is strongly convex if there exists  $\alpha > 0$  such that:

$$\forall x, y \in \mathbb{R}^d, t \in [0, 1], \quad \alpha \frac{t(1-t)}{2} \|x - y\|^2 \leq (1-t)F(x) + tF(y) - F((1-t)x + ty),$$

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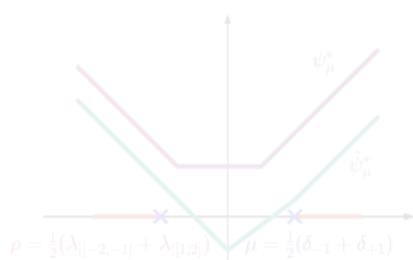
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- Strong convexity of  $\mathcal{K}_\rho : \psi \mapsto \int \psi^* d\rho$ ?

1. Strong convexity should work "up to additive constants":

$$\forall c \in \mathbb{R}, \quad \mathcal{K}_\rho(\psi + c) = \mathcal{K}_\rho(\psi) - c.$$

2. Support of  $\rho$  should be connected:



$$\nabla \psi_\mu^* \# \rho = \nabla \tilde{\psi}_\mu^* \# \rho = \mu.$$

$$\implies \psi_\mu, \tilde{\psi}_\mu \in \arg \min_\psi \mathcal{K}_\rho(\psi) + \langle \psi | \mu \rangle.$$

$$\implies \forall t \in [0, 1],$$

$$\mathcal{K}_\rho((1-t)\psi_\mu + t\tilde{\psi}_\mu) = (1-t)\mathcal{K}_\rho(\psi_\mu) + t\mathcal{K}_\rho(\tilde{\psi}_\mu).$$

**Assumption:** Source  $\rho$  is absolutely continuous and satisfies a Poincaré-Wirtinger inequality:  $\exists p \geq 1, C_{PW} \in (0, +\infty)$  s.t.

$$\forall f \in \mathcal{C}^1(\mathbb{R}^d), \quad \|f - \mathbb{E}_\rho f\|_{L^p(\rho)} \leq C_{PW} \|\nabla f\|_{L^p(\rho, \mathbb{R}^d)}.$$

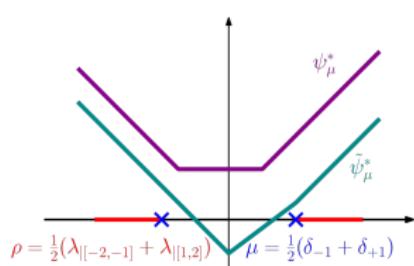
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$$\implies \forall t \in [0, 1],$$

$$\mathcal{K}_\rho((1-t)\psi_\mu + t\tilde{\psi}_\mu) = (1-t)\mathcal{K}_\rho(\psi_\mu) + t\mathcal{K}_\rho(\tilde{\psi}_\mu).$$

Assumption: Source  $\rho$  is absolutely continuous and satisfies a Poincaré-Wirtinger inequality:  $\exists p \geq 1, C_{PW} \in (0, +\infty)$  s.t.

$$\forall f \in \mathcal{C}^1(\mathbb{R}^d), \quad \|f - \mathbb{E}_\rho f\|_{L^p(\rho)} \leq C_{PW} \|\nabla f\|_{L^p(\rho, \mathbb{R}^d)}.$$

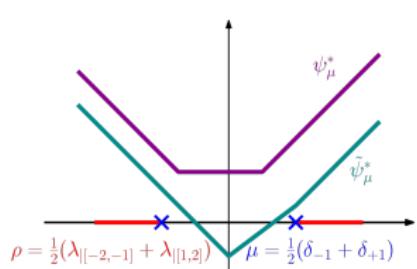
# Strong convexity of the dual problem

- Strong convexity of  $\mathcal{K}_\rho : \psi \mapsto \int \psi^* d\rho$ ?

1. Strong convexity should work "up to additive constants":

$$\forall c \in \mathbb{R}, \quad \mathcal{K}_\rho(\psi + c) = \mathcal{K}_\rho(\psi) - c.$$

2. Support of  $\rho$  should be connected:



$$\nabla \psi_\mu^* \# \rho = \nabla \tilde{\psi}_\mu^* \# \rho = \mu.$$

$$\implies \psi_\mu, \tilde{\psi}_\mu \in \arg \min_\psi \mathcal{K}_\rho(\psi) + \langle \psi | \mu \rangle.$$

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$$\forall f \in \mathcal{C}^1(\mathbb{R}^d), \quad \|f - \mathbb{E}_\rho f\|_{L^p(\rho)} \leq C_{PW} \|\nabla f\|_{L^p(\rho, \mathbb{R}^d)}.$$

# Strong convexity of the dual problem

- "Subdifferential" of  $\mathcal{K}_\rho$ ? (Fenchel-Young)  $\forall \psi, \tilde{\psi} : \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \bar{\mathbb{R}}$ ,

$$\langle \tilde{\psi} - \psi | -(\nabla \psi^*)_\# \rho \rangle \leq \mathcal{K}_\rho(\tilde{\psi}) - \mathcal{K}_\rho(\psi).$$

→ Gap in this inequality?

- A known result:

**Theorem** (Ambrosio, Gigli, 2011):

Assume  $\psi, \tilde{\psi} \in \mathcal{C}^1(\mathbb{R}^d)$ ,  $\psi$  is convex and  $\tilde{\psi}$  is  $\alpha$ -strongly convex for some  $\alpha > 0$ . Then,

$$\frac{\alpha}{2C_{PW}} \text{Var}_\rho(\tilde{\psi}^* - \psi^*) \leq \frac{\alpha}{2} \left\| \nabla \tilde{\psi}^* - \nabla \psi^* \right\|_{L^2(\rho, \mathbb{R}^d)}^2 \leq \mathcal{K}_\rho(\tilde{\psi}) - \mathcal{K}_\rho(\psi) + \langle \tilde{\psi} - \psi | (\nabla \psi^*)_\# \rho \rangle.$$

**Strong assumption:**  $\tilde{\psi}$  is  $\alpha$ -strongly convex  $\iff \nabla \tilde{\psi}^*$  is  $\frac{1}{\alpha}$ -Lipschitz continuous!

→ Not satisfied in general.

→ Implies that  $\nabla \tilde{\psi}^*_\# \rho$  has a connected support.

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# Strong convexity of the dual problem

**Strong convexity estimate for the Kantorovich functional:**

**Theorem** (D., Mérigot, 2021):

- ▶ Let  $\mathcal{X} \subset \mathbb{R}^d$  compact convex,  $\rho \in \mathcal{P}_{a.c.}(\mathcal{X})$  with  $0 < m_\rho \leq \rho \leq M_\rho$ .
- ▶ Let  $\mathcal{Y} = B(0, R_Y) \subset \mathbb{R}^d$  compact and let  $\mu, \nu \in \mathcal{P}(\mathcal{Y})$ .

Then for  $\psi_\mu, \psi_\nu$  Kantorovich potentials between  $\rho$  and  $\mu, \nu$ ,

$$C_{d,\mathcal{X},\rho,\mathcal{Y}} \mathbb{V}\text{ar}_{\frac{1}{2}(\mu+\nu)}(\psi_\nu - \psi_\mu) \leq \mathcal{K}_\rho(\psi_\nu) - \mathcal{K}_\rho(\psi_\mu) + \langle \psi_\nu - \psi_\mu | \mu \rangle,$$

where  $C_{d,\mathcal{X},\rho,\mathcal{Y}} = \left( e(d+1)2^{d-1}R_Y \text{diam}(\mathcal{X}) \frac{M_\rho^2}{m_\rho^2} \right)^{-1}$ .

# Strong convexity of the dual problem

$$\mathbb{V}\text{ar}_{\frac{1}{2}(\mu+\nu)}(\psi_\nu - \psi_\mu) \lesssim \mathcal{K}_\rho(\psi_\nu) - \mathcal{K}_\rho(\psi_\mu) + \langle \psi_\nu - \psi_\mu | \mu \rangle.$$

► Remarks:

1. Reference  $\frac{1}{2}(\mu + \nu)$ ? Fenchel-Young (in)equality:

**Proposition** (D., Mérigot, 2021):  $\frac{1}{2}\mathbb{V}\text{ar}_\rho(\psi_\mu^* - \psi_\nu^*) \leq \mathbb{V}\text{ar}_{\frac{1}{2}(\mu+\nu)}(\psi_\nu - \psi_\mu).$

2. Optimal exponents.
3. Similar result with **non-compact targets**: main assumption is boundedness of  $\psi_\mu^*, \psi_\nu^*$  on  $\mathcal{X}$ . Satisfied if  $\mu, \nu$  have bounded moment of order  $p > d$  (Morrey's inequality).
4.  $\text{spt}(\rho) = \mathcal{X}$  convex? Can be relaxed.

**Corollary** (Carlier, D., Mérigot, 2022): If  $\mathcal{X}$  is a connected finite union of convex sets s.t.  $\rho$  satisfies a  $L^1$  Poincaré-Wirtinger inequality, a similar estimate holds.

# Strong convexity of the dual problem

$$\text{Var}_{\frac{1}{2}(\mu^0 + \mu^1)}(\psi^1 - \psi^0) \lesssim \mathcal{K}_\rho(\psi^1) - \mathcal{K}_\rho(\psi^0) + \langle \psi^1 - \psi^0 | \mu^0 \rangle.$$

## ► Elements of proof:

- Let  $v := \psi^1 - \psi^0$ . For  $t \in [0, 1]$ ,  $\psi^t := \psi^0 + tv$ ,  $\phi^t := (\psi^t)^*$  and  $\tilde{v}^t = v(\nabla\phi^t)$ . Then *under regularity assumptions*:

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# Outline

## Part I.

Strong convexity of the dual quadratic optimal transport problem.

## Part II.

Consequences: quantitative stability estimates for optimal transport maps, Wasserstein barycenters and entropic optimal transport.

# Quantitative stability of optimal transport maps

## ► Motivation: (Approximated) Wasserstein geometry.

**Theorem** (Brenier, 1987): If  $\rho \in \mathcal{P}_{2,a.c.}(\mathbb{R}^d)$ ,  $\exists!$  $\rho$ -a.e.  $T_\mu : \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^d$  s.t.  $(T_\mu)_\# \rho = \mu$ , and  $T_\mu = \nabla \phi_\mu$  with  $\phi_\mu$  convex.

1.

$$\implies W_2(\rho, \mu) = \|T_\mu - \text{id}\|_{L^2(\rho, \mathbb{R}^d)}.$$

2. Riemannian interpretation of  $(\mathcal{P}_2(\mathbb{R}^d), W_2)$  (Otto, 2001; Ambrosio, Gigli, Savaré, 2004):

	Riemannian geometry	Optimal transport
Point	$x \in M$	$\mu \in \mathcal{P}_2(\mathbb{R}^d)$
Geodesic distance	$d_g(x, y)$	$W_2(\mu, \nu)$
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Inverse exponential map	$\exp^{-1}(x) \in T_p M$	$T_\mu - id \in \mathcal{T}_\rho \mathcal{P}_2(\mathbb{R}^d)$
Distance in tangent space	$\ \exp^{-1}(x) - \exp^{-1}(y)\ _{g(\rho)}$	$\ T_\mu - T_\nu\ _{L^2(\rho, \mathbb{R}^d)}$

3. *Linearized Optimal Transport:*  $W_{2,\rho}(\mu, \nu) := \|T_\mu - T_\nu\|_{L^2(\rho, \mathbb{R}^d)}$ .

Hilbertian distance used in image analysis (Wang et al., 2013) and other ML applications.

How much does  $W_{2,\rho}$  distort  $W_2$ ?

(How stable is the mapping  $\mu \mapsto T_\mu$ ?)

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How much does  $\|T_\mu - T_\nu\|_{L^2(\rho, \mathbb{R}^d)}$  distort  $W_2(\mu, \nu)$ ?

- ▶ Elementary results:  $\mu \mapsto T_\mu$  is **continuous** and **reverse-Lipschitz**.

$$W_2(\mu, \nu) \leq \|T_\mu - T_\nu\|_{L^2(\rho, \mathbb{R}^d)}.$$

- ▶ Negative results:  $\mu \mapsto T_\mu$  is **not better than  $\frac{1}{2}$ -Hölder**.

Theorem (Andoni, Naor, Neiman, 2018):

$(\mathcal{P}_2(\mathbb{R}^3), W_2)$  does not admit a bi-Hölder embedding into any  $L^p$  space.

$\implies \mu \mapsto T_\mu$  is **not bi-Hölder on the whole set  $\mathcal{P}_2(\mathbb{R}^d)$**

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- ▶ Elementary results:  $\mu \mapsto T_\mu$  is **continuous** and **reverse-Lipschitz**.

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- ▶ Negative results:  $\mu \mapsto T_\mu$  is **not better than  $\frac{1}{2}$ -Hölder**.

**Theorem** (Andoni, Naor, Neiman, 2018):

$(\mathcal{P}_2(\mathbb{R}^3), W_2)$  does not admit a bi-Hölder embedding into any  $L^p$  space.

⇒  $\mu \mapsto T_\mu$  is **not bi-Hölder on the whole set  $\mathcal{P}_2(\mathbb{R}^d)$**

# Quantitative stability of optimal transport maps

How much does  $\|T_\mu - T_\nu\|_{L^2(\rho, \mathbb{R}^d)}$  distort  $W_2(\mu, \nu)$ ?

- ▶ Known positive results:

**Theorem** (Ambrosio, Gigli, 2011): Let  $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^d$  compact,  $\rho \in \mathcal{P}_{a.c.}(\Omega)$  and  $\mu, \nu \in \mathcal{P}(\Omega)$ . Assume that  $T_\mu$  is  $L$ -Lipschitz. Then,

$$\|T_\mu - T_\nu\|_{L^2(\rho, \mathbb{R}^d)} \leq 2(\text{diam}(\Omega)L)^{1/2}W_1(\mu, \nu)^{1/2}.$$

**Theorem** (Berman, 2020): Let  $\mathcal{X} \subset \mathbb{R}^d$  compact convex,  $\rho \in \mathcal{P}_{a.c.}(\mathcal{X})$  with  $0 < m_\rho \leq \rho \leq M_\rho$ . Let  $\mathcal{Y} \subset \mathbb{R}^d$  bounded connected open with Lipschitz boundary and  $\mu, \nu \in \mathcal{P}(\mathcal{Y})$ . Then,

$$\|T_\mu - T_\nu\|_{L^2(\rho, \mathbb{R}^d)} \leq C_{d, \rho, \mathcal{X}, \mathcal{Y}} W_1(\mu, \nu)^{\frac{1}{2(d-1)(d+2)}}.$$

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# Quantitative stability of optimal transport maps

**Global & dimension-independent stability result** (compact case):

**Theorem** (D., Mérigot, 2021):

- ▶ Let  $\mathcal{X} \subset \mathbb{R}^d$  compact convex,  $\rho \in \mathcal{P}_{a.c.}(\mathcal{X})$  with  $0 < m_\rho \leq \rho \leq M_\rho$ .
- ▶ Let  $\mathcal{Y} = B(0, R_{\mathcal{Y}}) \subset \mathbb{R}^d$  bounded and  $\mu, \nu \in \mathcal{P}(\mathcal{Y})$ .

Then the OT maps  $T_\mu, T_\nu$  between  $\rho$  and  $\mu, \nu$  satisfy

$$\|T_\mu - T_\nu\|_{L^2(\rho, \mathbb{R}^d)} \leq C_{d, \rho, \mathcal{X}, \mathcal{Y}} W_1(\mu, \nu)^{1/6}.$$

▶ Remarks:

1. Optimal Hölder exponent?  $\frac{1}{6} < \frac{1}{2}$ .
2. The constant is explicit:  $C_{d, \rho, \mathcal{X}, \mathcal{Y}} \approx C_d \left( \frac{M_\rho}{m_\rho} \right)^3 \text{diam}(\mathcal{X})^{d+1} R_{\mathcal{Y}}^2$ .
3. **Proof idea:** strong convexity of  $\mathcal{K}_\rho$  and new Galgliardo-Nirenberg type inequality:

**Proposition** (D., Mérigot, 2021):

For  $K \subset \mathbb{R}^d$  compact and  $u, v : K \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  Lipschitz convex,

$$\|\nabla u - \nabla v\|_{L^2(K, \mathbb{R}^d)}^2 \leq C_d \mathcal{H}^{d-1}(\partial K)^{\frac{2}{3}} (\text{Lip}(u) + \text{Lip}(v))^{\frac{4}{3}} \|u - v\|_{L^2(K)}^{\frac{2}{3}}.$$

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# Quantitative stability of optimal transport maps

**Global stability result** (non-compact case):

**Theorem** (Chazal, D., Mérigot, 2020/2021):

- ▶ Let  $\mathcal{X} \subset \mathbb{R}^d$  compact convex,  $\rho \in \mathcal{P}_{a.c.}(\mathcal{X})$  with  $0 < m_\rho \leq \rho \leq M_\rho$ .
- ▶ Let  $p > d$  and  $p \geq 4$  and let  $\mu, \nu \in \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{R}^d)$  with  $p$ -th moment upper bounded by  $M_p < +\infty$ .

Then the OT maps  $T_\mu, T_\nu$  between  $\rho$  and  $\mu, \nu$  satisfy

$$\|T_\mu - T_\nu\|_{L^2(\rho, \mathbb{R}^d)} \leq C_{d, \rho, \mathcal{X}, p, M_p} W_1(\mu, \nu)^{\frac{p}{6p+16d}}.$$

- ▶ Remarks:

1. Concerns all sub-Gaussian and sub-exponential probability measures.
2.  $\mu \mapsto T_\mu$  is a bi-Hölder embedding of  $B_{W_p}(\delta_0, M_p) \subset (\mathcal{P}_2(\mathbb{R}^d), W_2)$  into  $L^2(\rho, \mathbb{R}^d)$ .

# Outline

## Part I.

Strong convexity of the dual quadratic optimal transport problem.

## Part II.

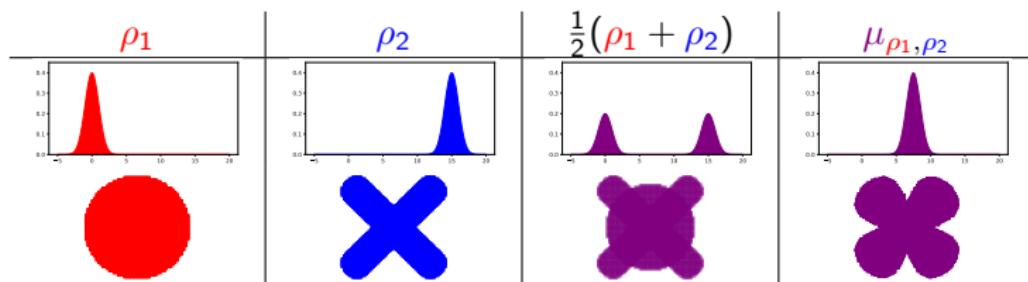
Consequences: quantitative stability estimates for optimal transport maps, Wasserstein barycenters and entropic optimal transport.

# Quantitative stability of Wasserstein barycenters

**Definition:** Let  $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^d$  compact. *Wasserstein barycenter* of  $\rho_1, \dots, \rho_N \in \mathcal{P}(\Omega)$ :

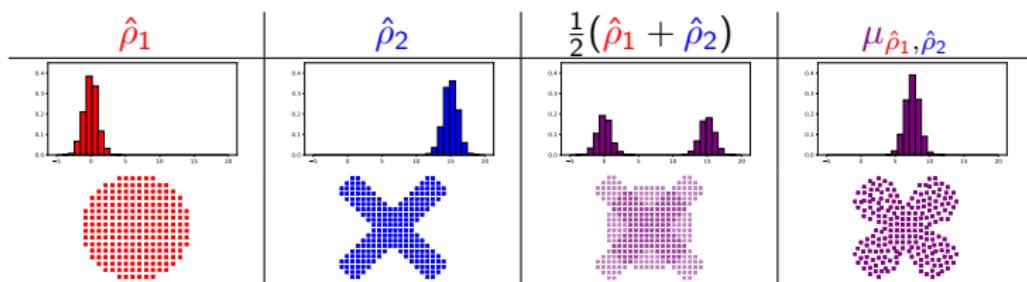
$$\mu_{\rho_1, \dots, \rho_N} \in \arg \min_{\mu \in \mathcal{P}(\Omega)} \frac{1}{2N} \sum_{i=1}^N W_2^2(\rho_i, \mu).$$

- Geometrically faithful "average" of probability measures:



# Quantitative stability of Wasserstein barycenters

- ▶ Many applications, e.g. in
  1. Image processing (Rabin et al., 2011).
  2. Geometry processing (Solomon et al., 2015).
  3. Language processing (Colombo et al., 2021).
- ▶  $\rho_1, \rho_2$  often **not directly accessible**, but  $\hat{\rho}_1, \hat{\rho}_2$  instead:



Can we bound  $W_2(\mu_{\hat{\rho}_1, \hat{\rho}_2}, \mu_{\rho_1, \rho_2})$  in terms of  $W_2(\hat{\rho}_1, \rho_1)$  and  $W_2(\hat{\rho}_2, \rho_2)$ ?

# Quantitative stability of Wasserstein barycenters

- ▶ Known positive results:

**Theorem** (Le Gouic, Loubes, 2017): If  $\forall i, W_2(\rho_i^n, \rho_i) \xrightarrow{n \rightarrow \infty} 0$ , then  $(\mu_{\rho_1^n, \dots, \rho_N^n})_n$  is pre-compact and any limit is a barycenter of  $\rho_1, \dots, \rho_N$ .

Proposition: In dimension  $d = 1$ ,  $W_2(\alpha, \beta) = \|F_\alpha^{-1} - F_\beta^{-1}\|_{L^2([0,1])}$  so that:

$$W_2(\mu_{\rho_1, \dots, \rho_N}, \mu_{\tilde{\rho}_1, \dots, \tilde{\rho}_N}) \leq \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N W_2(\rho_i, \tilde{\rho}_i).$$

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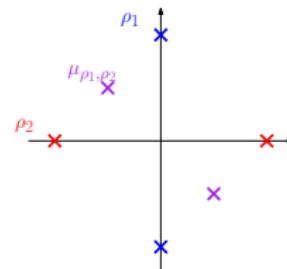
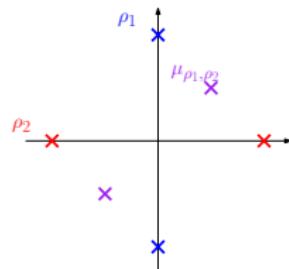
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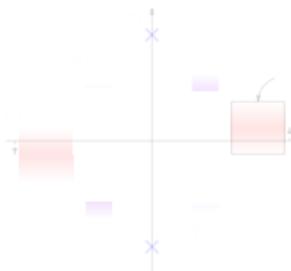
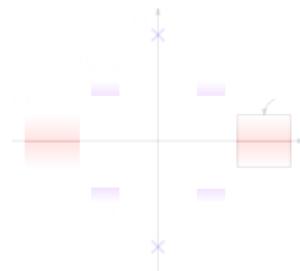
► Negative results:

When  $d \geq 2$ , barycenter may not be unique:



Proposition (Aguech, Carlier, 2011): If one of the  $\rho_i$ 's is absolutely continuous, the barycenter is unique.

Even with an a.c. marginal,  $\alpha$ -Hölder behaviour for any  $\alpha \in (0, 1)$  is possible:

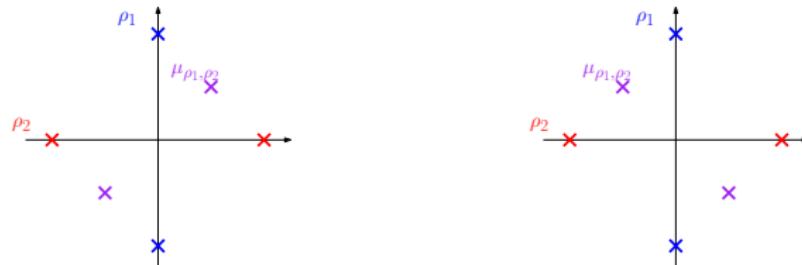


$$W_2(p_2^0, p_2^\varepsilon) = \varepsilon \text{ while } W_2(\mu_{\rho_1, \rho_2^0}, \mu_{\rho_1, \rho_2^\varepsilon}) \sim \varepsilon^\alpha.$$

# Quantitative stability of Wasserstein barycenters

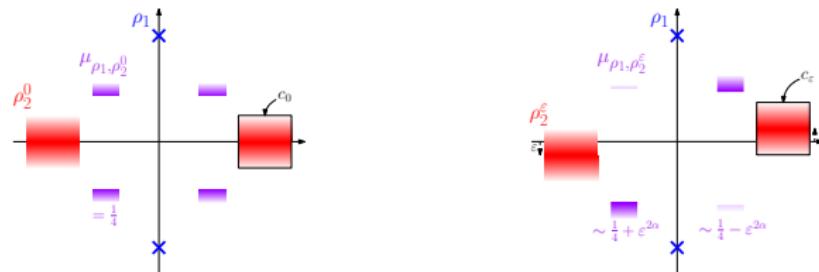
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# Quantitative stability of Wasserstein barycenters

## Hölder stability estimate for Wasserstein barycenters:

**Theorem** (Carlier, D., Mérigot, 2022):

- ▶ Let  $\Omega = B(0, R_\Omega) \subset \mathbb{R}^d$  and  $\rho_1, \dots, \rho_N, \tilde{\rho}_1, \dots, \tilde{\rho}_N \in \mathcal{P}(\Omega)$ .
- ▶ Assume  $\rho_1$  is a.c. with  $0 < m_{\rho_1} \leq \rho_1 \leq M_{\rho_1}$  on  $\mathcal{X}_1 = \text{spt}(\rho_1)$  convex.

Then, 
$$W_2(\mu_{\rho_1, \dots, \rho_N}, \mu_{\tilde{\rho}_1, \dots, \tilde{\rho}_N}) \leq C_{d, \Omega, \rho_1} \left( \sum_{i=1}^N W_2(\rho_i, \tilde{\rho}_i) \right)^{1/6}.$$

- ▶ Remarks:
  1. Optimal Hölder exponent?
  2. The constant is explicit:  $C_{d, \Omega, \rho_1} \approx C_d (R_\Omega \text{diam}(\mathcal{X}_1))^{d+1} \left( \frac{M_{\rho_1}}{m_{\rho_1}} \right)^{1/6}$ .
  3. Main assumption on  $\rho_1$ :  $\mathcal{K}_{\rho_1}$  should satisfy a strong convexity estimate.
  4. Proof idea: strong convexity of  $\mathcal{K}_{\rho_1} \Rightarrow$  "strong convexity" of  $\frac{1}{2} W_2^2(\rho_1, \cdot)$ .

**Proposition** (Carlier, D., Mérigot, 2022): Under the assumptions on  $\rho_1$ ,

$$\forall \mu, \nu \in \mathcal{P}(\Omega), \quad W_2^6(\mu, \nu) \lesssim \frac{1}{2} W_2^2(\rho_1, \nu) - \frac{1}{2} W_2^2(\rho_1, \mu) - \left\langle \frac{1}{2} \|\cdot\|^2 - \psi_{\rho_1 \rightarrow \mu}, \nu - \mu \right\rangle.$$

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# Quantitative stability of Wasserstein barycenters

## ► Statistical consequence:

**Theorem** (Fournier, Guillin, 2015):

- Let  $\rho \in \mathcal{P}(\Omega)$  and  $\hat{\rho}^n = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{j=1}^n \delta_{x_j}$  where  $(x_j)_{1 \leq j \leq n} \sim \rho^{\otimes n}$ . Then:

$$\mathbb{E} W_2^2(\hat{\rho}^n, \rho) \leq C_d R^2 \begin{cases} n^{-1/2} & \text{if } d < 4, \\ n^{-1/2} \log(n) & \text{if } d = 4, \\ n^{-2/d} & \text{else.} \end{cases}$$

**Corollary** (Carlier, D., Mérigot, 2022):

- Under the assumptions of the theorem, if  $\forall i$ ,  $\tilde{\rho}_i = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{j=1}^n \delta_{x_{i,j}}$  where  $(x_{i,j})_{1 \leq j \leq n} \sim \rho_i^{\otimes n}$ , then

$$\mathbb{E} W_2^2(\mu_{\rho_1, \dots, \rho_N}, \mu_{\hat{\rho}_1^n, \dots, \hat{\rho}_N^n}) \lesssim N^{1/3} \begin{cases} n^{-1/12} & \text{if } d < 4, \\ n^{-1/12} \log(n)^{1/6} & \text{if } d = 4, \\ n^{-1/(3d)} & \text{else.} \end{cases}$$

# Outline

## Part I.

Strong convexity of the dual quadratic optimal transport problem.

## Part II.

Consequences: quantitative stability estimates for optimal transport maps, Wasserstein barycenters and entropic optimal transport.

# Quantitative stability of entropic regularization

**Entropic optimal transport:** (Schrödinger, 1931; Léonard, 2014; Peyré and Cuturi, 2019)

- ▶ Primal and dual problems: for  $\varepsilon > 0$ ,

$$\max_{\gamma \in \Gamma(\rho, \mu)} \int \langle x | y \rangle d\gamma(x, y) - \varepsilon \text{KL}(\gamma | \rho \otimes \mu) = \min_{\psi: \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \bar{\mathbb{R}}} \int \psi^{c, \varepsilon, \mu} d\rho + \int \psi d\mu + \varepsilon,$$

where  $\psi^{c, \varepsilon, \mu}(\cdot) = \varepsilon \log \int e^{\frac{\langle \cdot | y \rangle - \psi(y)}{\varepsilon}} d\mu(y)$ .

$$\mathcal{K}_\rho^{\varepsilon, \mu} : \psi \mapsto \int \psi^{c, \varepsilon, \mu} d\rho.$$

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# Strong convexity of the dual entropic problem

**Strong convexity estimate for the entropic Kantorovich functional:**

**Theorem** (D., 2022):

- ▶ Let  $\mathcal{X}$  compact convex,  $\rho \in \mathcal{P}_{a.c.}(\mathcal{X})$  with  $0 < m_\rho \leq \rho \leq M_\rho$ .
- ▶ Let  $\mathcal{Y} = B(0, R_{\mathcal{Y}})$  compact and let  $\mu \in \mathcal{P}(\mathcal{Y})$ .

Then for  $\psi_\mu$  an entropic potential between  $\rho$  and  $\mu$  and any  $v : \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ ,

$$C_{\mathcal{X}, \rho, \mathcal{Y}, \varepsilon} \mathbb{V}\text{ar}_\mu(v) \leq \left. \frac{d^2}{dt^2} \mathcal{K}_\rho^{\varepsilon, \mu}(\psi_\mu + tv) \right|_{t=0},$$

where  $C_{\mathcal{X}, \rho, \mathcal{Y}, \varepsilon} = \left( e^{R_{\mathcal{Y}} \text{diam}(\mathcal{X}) \frac{M_\rho}{m_\rho}} + \varepsilon \right)^{-1}$ .

**Remarks:**

1. Allows to recover the *non-entropic* estimate when  $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$ .
2. Constant improves when  $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$ .

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## ► Elements of proof:

1. Define  $I : \psi \mapsto \log(\int_{\mathcal{X}} e^{-\psi^{c, \varepsilon, \mu}})$ , and using the Prékopa-Leindler inequality, show

$$\forall \varphi, \psi : \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}, t \in [0, 1], \quad I((1-t)\varphi + t\psi) \geq (1-t)I(\varphi) + tI(\psi).$$

2. Noticing that  $I$  is  $\mathcal{C}^2$ , conclude with

$$\frac{d^2}{dt^2} I(\psi_\mu + tv) = -\frac{d^2}{dt^2} \mathcal{K}_{\tilde{\rho}}^{\varepsilon, \mu}(\psi_\mu + tv) + Var_{\tilde{\mu}}(v) \leq 0.$$

- Remark: with  $I : \psi \mapsto \log \int e^{-\psi^*}$ , this argument recovers Brascamp-Lieb from Prékopa-Leindler.

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# Strong convexity of the dual entropic problem

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- ## ► Remark:
- with  $I : \psi \mapsto \log \int e^{-\psi^*}$ , this argument recovers Brascamp-Lieb from Prékopa-Leindler.

# Quantitative stability of entropic regularization

- ▶ Denote  $\psi^\varepsilon = \arg \min_{\psi} \mathcal{K}_\rho^{\varepsilon, \mu}(\psi) + \langle \psi | \mu \rangle + \varepsilon$ .  $\implies \boxed{\nabla \mathcal{K}_\rho^{\varepsilon, \mu}(\psi^\varepsilon) + \mu = 0.}$
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Then  $\varepsilon \mapsto \psi^\varepsilon$  is  $\mathcal{C}^1$ . For any  $\varepsilon > 0$  and  $\alpha' \in (0, \alpha)$ ,

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- ▶ Remark:  $\varepsilon \mapsto \psi^\varepsilon$  is Lipschitz continuous  $\rightarrow$  numerical optimal transport.

**Corollary** (D., 2022): Under the same assumptions,  $\forall \varepsilon > 0$ ,  $\forall \alpha' \in (0, \alpha)$ ,

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# Conclusion

- ▶ Main ideas:
  1. Dual quadratic OT problem may enjoy form of **strong/uniform convexity**.
  2. Strong convexity deduced from **Brascamp-Lieb/Prékopa-Leindler** inequalities → reinforces the link between OT and these functional inequalities.
  3. Allows to prove **stability results in OT**:
    - ▶ Guarantees for statistical/numerical approximation of OT maps and Wasserstein barycenters.
    - ▶ Partial embedding of  $(\mathcal{P}_2(\mathbb{R}^d), W_2)$  into  $L^2(\rho, \mathbb{R}^d)$ .
    - ▶ Quantitative control of entropic regularization.
- ▶ Open questions:
  1. **Generalizations of strong convexity results:** source measure, ground cost?
  2. **Numerical consequences of strong convexity result:** Newton methods, interior point methods, etc.

Thank you for your attention!

## Appendix

# Quantitative stability of optimal transport maps

$$\|T_\mu - T_\nu\|_{L^2(\rho, \mathbb{R}^d)} \leq C_{d,\rho,\mathcal{X},\mathcal{Y}} W_1(\mu, \nu)^{1/6}.$$

- **Proof idea:** strong convexity of  $\mathcal{K}_\rho$  and new Galgliardo-Nirenberg type inequality:

**Proposition** (D., Mérigot, 2021): For  $K \subset \mathbb{R}^d$  compact and  $u, v : K \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  Lipschitz convex,

$$\|\nabla u - \nabla v\|_{L^2(K, \mathbb{R}^d)}^2 \leq C_d \mathcal{H}^{d-1}(\partial K)^{\frac{2}{3}} (\text{Lip}(u) + \text{Lip}(v))^{\frac{4}{3}} \|u - v\|_{L^2(K)}^{\frac{2}{3}}.$$

Let  $\phi_\mu, \phi_\nu$  be convex Brenier potentials between  $\rho$  and  $\mu, \nu$ :

$$\begin{aligned} \|T_\mu - T_\nu\|_{L^2(\rho, \mathbb{R}^d)} &= \|\nabla \phi_\mu - \nabla \phi_\nu\|_{L^2(\rho, \mathbb{R}^d)} \\ &\lesssim \text{Var}_\rho(\phi_\mu - \phi_\nu)^{1/6} \\ &\leq \text{Var}_{\frac{1}{2}(\mu+\nu)}(\phi_\mu^* - \phi_\nu^*)^{1/6} \\ &\lesssim (\mathcal{K}_\rho(\psi_\nu) - \mathcal{K}_\rho(\psi_\mu) + \langle \psi_\nu - \psi_\mu | \mu \rangle)^{1/6} \\ &\lesssim W_1(\mu, \nu)^{1/6}. \end{aligned}$$

# Quantitative stability of Wasserstein barycenters

## ► General result: infinite number of marginals

**Definition:** Let  $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^d$  compact. *Wasserstein barycenter* of  $\mathbb{P} \in \mathcal{P}(\mathcal{P}(\Omega))$ :

$$\mu_{\mathbb{P}} \in \arg \min_{\mu \in \mathcal{P}(\Omega)} \frac{1}{2} \int_{\mathcal{P}(\Omega)} W_2^2(\rho, \mu) d\mathbb{P}(\rho).$$

**Theorem** (Carlier, D., Mérigot, 2022):

- Let  $\mathbb{P}, \mathbb{Q} \in \mathcal{P}(\mathcal{P}(\Omega))$  and  $\exists S_{\mathbb{P}} \subset \mathcal{P}(\Omega)$  s.t.  $\mathbb{P}(S_{\mathbb{P}}) = \alpha_{\mathbb{P}} > 0$  and  $\forall \rho \in S_{\mathbb{P}}$ ,
  - 1.  $\rho$  is a.c.
  - 2.  $0 < m \leq \rho \leq M < +\infty$  on its support.
  - 3.  $\mathcal{H}^{d-1}(\partial \text{spt}(\rho)) \leq \text{per} < +\infty$ .
  - 4.  $\forall \psi, \tilde{\psi} \in \mathcal{C}(\Omega)$ ,

$$c \mathbb{V}\text{ar}_{\rho}(\tilde{\psi}^* - \psi^*) \leq \mathcal{K}_{\rho}(\tilde{\psi}) - \mathcal{K}_{\rho}(\psi) - \langle \tilde{\psi} - \psi | \nabla \mathcal{K}_{\rho}(\psi) \rangle.$$

Then,

$$W_2(\mu_{\mathbb{P}}, \mu_{\mathbb{Q}}) \lesssim \frac{1}{\alpha_{\mathbb{P}}^{1/4}} \mathcal{W}_1(\mathbb{P}, \mathbb{Q})^{1/6}.$$

$$\forall \mathbb{P}, \mathbb{Q} \in \mathcal{P}(\mathcal{P}(\Omega)), \quad \mathcal{W}_1(\mathbb{P}, \mathbb{Q}) := \min_{\gamma \in \Pi(\mathbb{P}, \mathbb{Q})} \int_{\mathcal{P}(\Omega) \times \mathcal{P}(\Omega)} W_2(\rho, \tilde{\rho}) d\gamma(\rho, \tilde{\rho}).$$

# Quantitative stability of entropic regularization

- ▶ Let  $c(x, y) = \|x - y\|^2$ .

	<b>Classical OT</b>	<b>Entropic OT</b>
Problem	$(P_0)_{\rho, \mu} : \min_{\gamma \in \Gamma(\rho, \mu)} \langle c   \gamma \rangle$	$(P_\varepsilon)_{\rho, \mu} : \min_{\gamma \in \Gamma(\rho, \mu)} \langle c   \gamma \rangle + \varepsilon \text{KL}(\gamma   \rho \otimes \mu)$
Computational complexity ( $n$ support points)	$\tilde{O}(n^3)$	$\tilde{O}(n^2/\varepsilon^2)$
Sample complexity $\mathbb{E} \left  (P_{\cdot})_{\hat{\rho}^n, \hat{\mu}^n} - (P_{\cdot})_{\rho, \mu} \right $ $(\hat{\rho}^n = \frac{1}{n} \sum_i \delta_{x_i}, x_i \sim \rho,$ $\hat{\mu}^n = \frac{1}{n} \sum_j \delta_{y_j}, y_j \sim \mu)$	$O(n^{-1/d})$	$\lesssim \frac{e^{1/\varepsilon}}{\varepsilon^{d/2}} n^{-1/2}$
Minimizer	$\gamma^0$	$\gamma^\varepsilon$
Geometry?	$W_2(\rho, \mu) := \sqrt{\langle c   \gamma^0 \rangle}$ is a distance	$W_{2,\varepsilon}(\rho, \mu) := \sqrt{\langle c   \gamma^\varepsilon \rangle}$ is not a distance

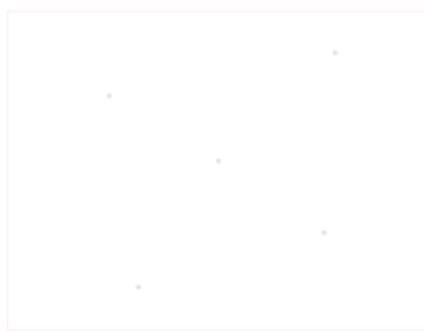
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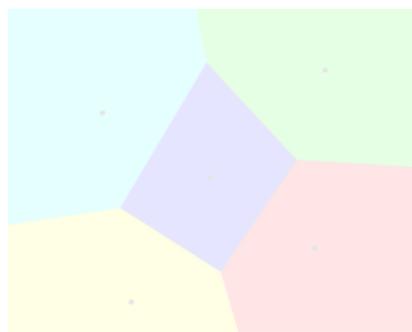
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→ Natural framework in **statistics** and **numerical analysis**.

- ▶ A 2-dimensional example:



$$\rho = \mathbb{1}_{[a,b] \times [c,d]}$$



$$(\varepsilon = 0)$$

$T_{\rho \rightarrow \mu}$  is piece-wise constant.

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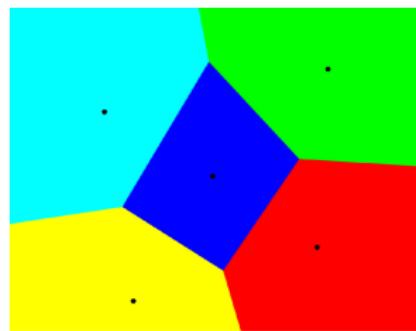
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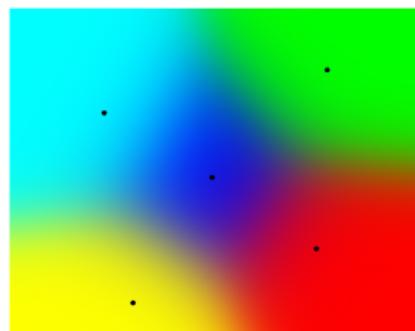
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$$(\varepsilon = 7.5 \times 10^{-2})$$

$\gamma^\varepsilon$  has same support as  $\rho \otimes \mu$ .

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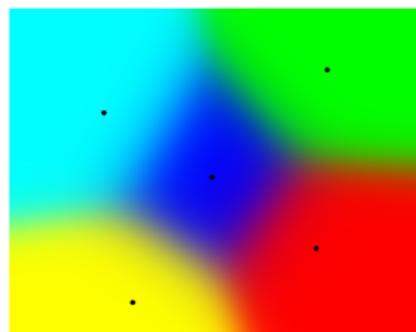
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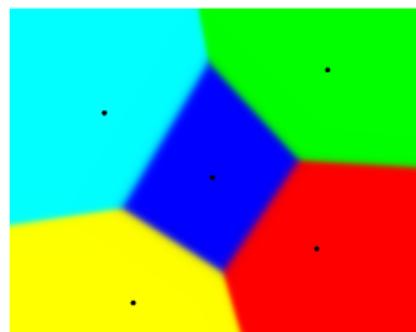
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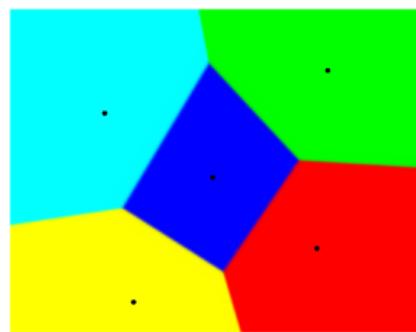
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