

A tutorial on optimal transport

Part 1: theory, models, properties

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Imaging in Paris - Feb. 8th 2017

What is optimal transport?

Setting: Probability measures $P(\mathcal{X})$ on a metric space (\mathcal{X}, d) .

Motive

Build a metric on $P(\mathcal{X})$ consistent with the geometry of (\mathcal{X}, d) .

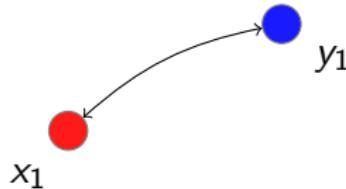
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$$W(\mu, \nu) = \dots$$

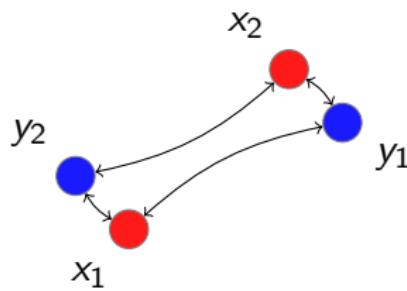
$$d(x_1, y_1)$$

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$$\mu = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \delta_{x_i}, \quad \nu = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{j=1}^N \delta_{y_j}$$

$$W(\mu, \nu) = \dots$$

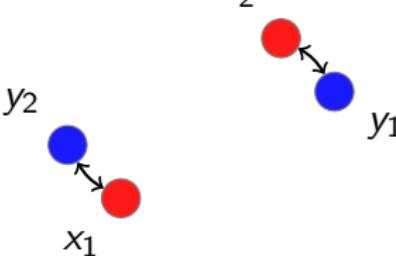
$$\frac{1}{N^2} \sum_{ij} d(x_i, y_j)?$$

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$$\mu = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \delta_{x_i}, \quad \nu = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{j=1}^N \delta_{y_j}$$

$$W(\mu, \nu) = \dots$$
$$\min_{\sigma \in \mathfrak{S}_N} \frac{1}{N} \sum_i d(x_i, y_{\sigma(i)})?$$

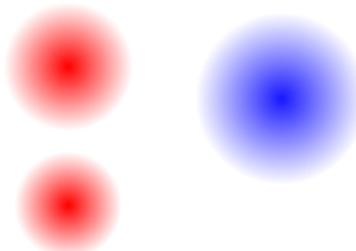
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$$\mu \in P(\mathcal{X}), \quad \nu \in P(\mathcal{Y})$$



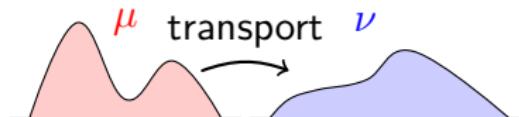
$$W(\mu, \nu) = \dots$$

?

Origin and ramifications

Monge Problem (1781)

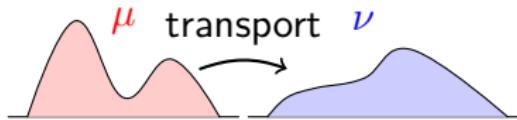
Move dirt from one configuration to another with least effort



Origin and ramifications

Monge Problem (1781)

Move dirt from one configuration to another with least effort

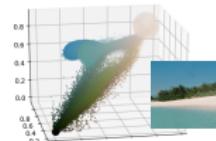
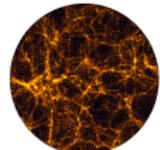


Strong modelization power:

Replace “dirt” by :

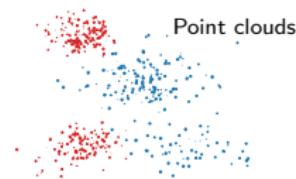
- probability distribution, empirical distribution
- weighted undistinguishable particles
- density of a gas, a species, a crowd, cells.

Early universe
(Brenier et al. '08)



Color histograms (Delon et al.)

Crowd motion
(Roudneff et al., 12')



Point clouds

Aim of the tutorial

Convey that optimal transport ...

is a *rich* theory, useful as a *theoretical* and *practical* tool;

In part 1: theory

- essentials
- selection of properties and variants;

In part 2: practice

- numerical solvers, entropic regularization
- applications to imaging and machine learning

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2 A glimpse of applications

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Statistical learning

3 Differential properties

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Wasserstein gradient

4 Unbalanced optimal transport

Partial OT

Wasserstein Fisher-Rao

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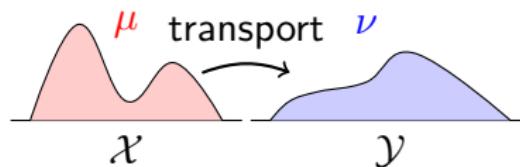
Conclusion

Ingredients

- Two (complete, separable) metric spaces \mathcal{X} and \mathcal{Y}
- Cost function $c : \mathcal{X} \times \mathcal{Y} \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \cup \{\infty\}$ (lower bounded, lsc)
- Two probability measures $\mu \in P(\mathcal{X})$ and $\nu \in P(\mathcal{Y})$

Definition (Optimal transport problem)

$$C(\mu, \nu) := \min_{\gamma \in M_+(\mathcal{X} \times \mathcal{Y})} \left\{ \int_{\mathcal{X} \times \mathcal{Y}} c(x, y) d\gamma(x, y) : \pi_\#^x \gamma = \mu, \pi_\#^y \gamma = \nu \right\}$$



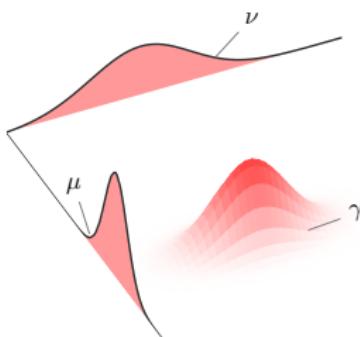
Probabilistic : $\min_{(X, Y)} \{ \mathbb{E}[c(X, Y)] : X \sim \mu \text{ and } Y \sim \nu \}$

Couplings

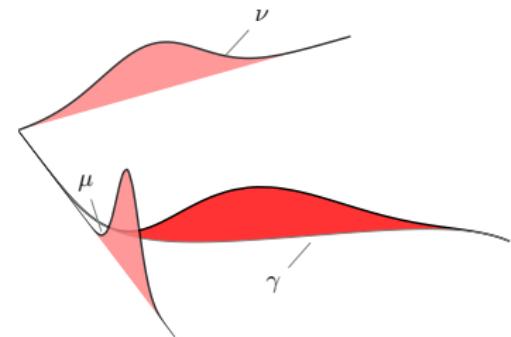
Definition (Set of couplings)

Positive measures on $\mathcal{X} \times \mathcal{Y}$ with specified marginals :

$$\Pi(\mu, \nu) := \left\{ \gamma \in M_+(\mathcal{X} \times \mathcal{Y}) : \pi_\#^\mathcal{X} \gamma = \mu, \pi_\#^\mathcal{Y} \gamma = \nu \right\}$$



Product coupling
 $\gamma = \mu \otimes \nu$



Deterministic coupling
 $\gamma = (\text{Id} \times T)_\# \mu$

Generalizes: permutations, discrete matchings

Properties: convex, weakly compact

Couplings

Definition (Set of couplings)

Positive measures on $\mathcal{X} \times \mathcal{Y}$ with specified marginals :

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Product coupling
 $\gamma = \mu \otimes \nu$



Cycle-free coupling

Generalizes: permutations, discrete matchings
Properties: convex, weakly compact

Duality

Theorem (Kantorovich duality)

$$\min_{\gamma \in M_+(\mathcal{X} \times \mathcal{Y})} \left\{ \int_{\mathcal{X} \times \mathcal{Y}} c(x, y) d\gamma(x, y) : \pi_\#^x \gamma = \mu, \pi_\#^y \gamma = \nu \right\} \quad (\text{P})$$

=

$$\max_{\substack{\phi \in L^1(\mu) \\ \psi \in L^1(\nu)}} \left\{ \int_{\mathcal{X}} \phi(x) d\mu(x) + \int_{\mathcal{Y}} \psi(y) d\nu(y) : \phi(x) + \psi(y) \leq c(x, y) \right\} \quad (\text{D})$$

Interpretation: (P) centralized planification, (D) externalized

Duality

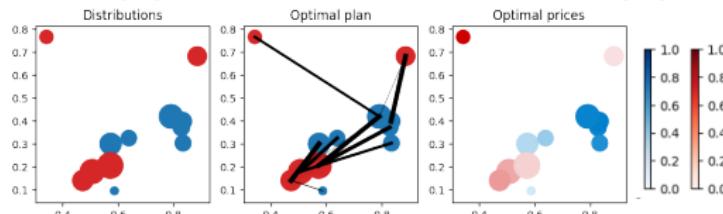
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Interpretation: (P) centralized planification, (D) externalized



At optimality

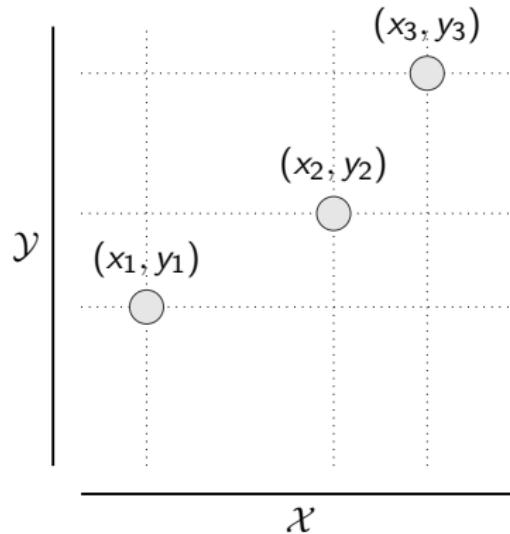
- $\phi(x) + \psi(y) = c(x, y)$ for γ almost every (x, y)
- γ is concentrated on a c -cyclically monotone set

Tools from convex analysis

Definition (Cyclical monotonicity)

$\Gamma \subset \mathcal{X} \times \mathcal{Y}$ is c -cyclical monotone iff for all $(x_i, y_i)_{i=1}^n \in \Gamma^n$

$$\sum_{i=1}^n c(x_i, y_i) \leq \sum_{i=1}^n c(x_i, y_{\sigma(i)}) \text{ for all permutation } \sigma \in \mathfrak{S}_n.$$

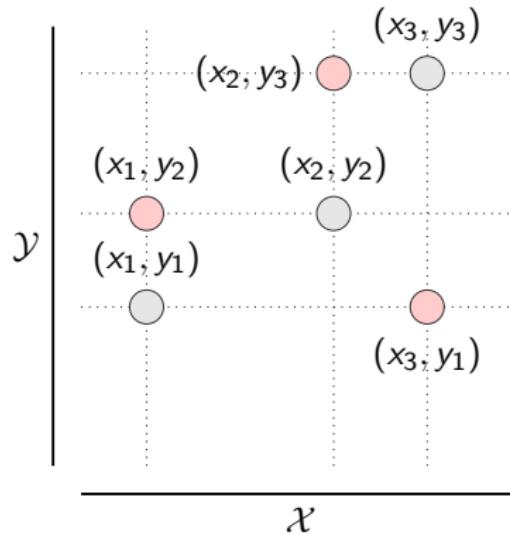


Tools from convex analysis

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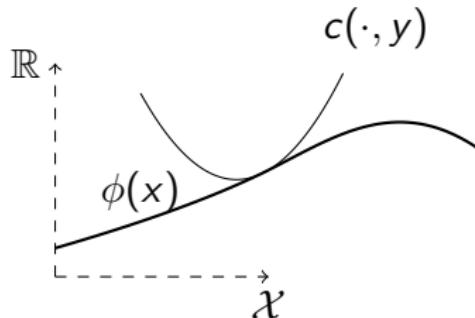
Tools from convex analysis

Definition (c -conjugacy)

For $\mathcal{X} = \mathcal{Y}$ and $c : \mathcal{X}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ symmetric :

$$\phi^c(y) := \inf_{x \in \mathcal{X}} c(x, y) - \phi(x)$$

A function ϕ is c -concave iff there exists ψ such that $\phi = \psi^c$.



Tools from convex analysis

Definition (c -conjugacy)

For $\mathcal{X} = \mathcal{Y}$ and $c : \mathcal{X}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ symmetric :

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A function ϕ is c -concave iff there exists ψ such that $\phi = \psi^c$.

- on \mathbb{R}^n , for $c(x, y) = x \cdot y$: ψ c -concave $\Leftrightarrow \psi$ concave;
- for all ϕ , $\phi^{ccc} = \phi^c$;
- consequence :

$$C(\mu, \nu) = \max_{\phi \text{ } c\text{-concave}} \left\{ \int_{\mathcal{X}} \phi(x) d\mu(x) + \int_{\mathcal{Y}} \phi^c(y) d\nu(y) \right\} \quad (\text{D})$$

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Conclusion

- **real line**
- **distance cost**
- **quadratic cost**

The real line

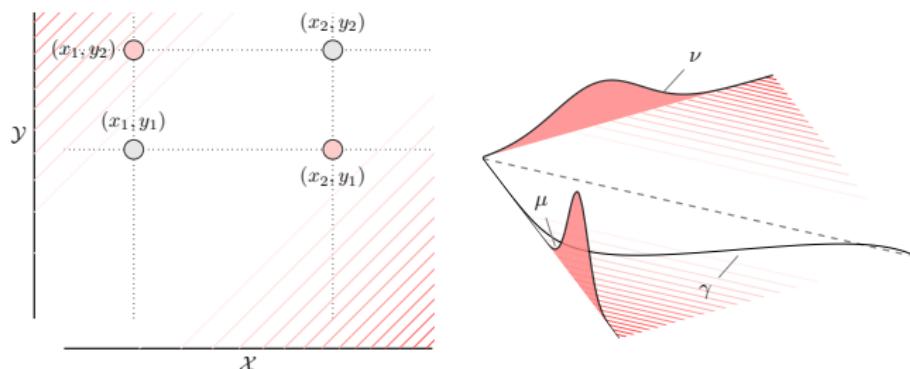
Theorem

If $(\mu, \nu) \in P(\mathbb{R})^2$ and $c(x, y) = h(y - x)$ with h strictly convex

- unique optimal coupling γ^* : the *monotone rearrangement*
- denoting $F^{[-1]}$ the quantile functions:

$$C(\mu, \nu) = \int_0^1 h(F_\mu^{[-1]}(s) - F_\nu^{[-1]}(s))ds$$

Proof. Here, c -cyclically monotone \Leftrightarrow increasing graph. \square

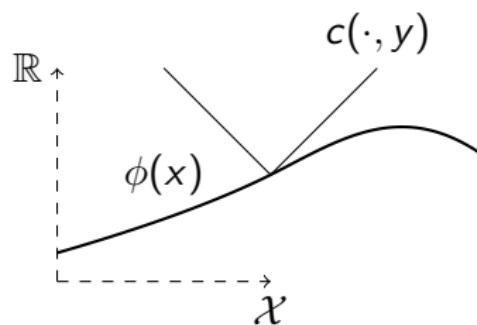


Distance cost

If $c(x, y) = d(x, y)$ with d distance

- ϕ c -concave $\Leftrightarrow \phi$ 1-Lipschitz
- $\phi^c(y) = \inf_x d(x, y) - \phi(x) = -\phi(y)$
- consequence :

$$C(\mu, \nu) = \max_{\phi \text{ 1-Lipschitz}} \left\{ \int_{\mathcal{X}} \phi(x) d(\mu - \nu)(x) \right\} := \|\mu - \nu\|_{\kappa} \quad (\text{D})$$



Quadratic cost

Context & reformulation

- $(\mu, \nu) \in P(\mathbb{R}^n)^2$ with finite moments of order 2
- cost $c(x, y) := \frac{1}{2}|y - x|^2$
- note that $c(x, y) = (|x|^2 + |y|^2)/2 - x \cdot y$, thus solve:

$$\max_{\gamma \in M_+(\mathcal{X} \times \mathcal{Y})} \left\{ \int_{\mathcal{X} \times \mathcal{Y}} (x \cdot y) d\gamma(x, y) : \gamma \in \Pi(\mu, \nu) \right\} \quad (\text{P})$$

Theorem (Brenier)

- (i) At optimality, $\text{supp } \gamma \subset \partial\phi$, where $\phi : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ convexe.
- (ii) If μ has a density, $T = \nabla\phi$ is the unique optimal map.

Proof. (i) $\phi(x) + \phi^*(y) = x \cdot y$, γ -a.e (ii) $\nabla\phi$ defined \mathcal{L} -a.e.

Transport of covariance

Case of a quadratic dual potential ϕ

Theorem (Affine transport map)

Let $c(x, y) = \frac{1}{2}|y - x|^2$ on \mathbb{R}^n and let $A, B \in S_+^n$. It holds

$$\min_{\substack{\text{cov}(\mu)=A \\ \text{cov}(\nu)=B}} C(\mu, \nu) = d_b(A, B)^2$$

where d_b is the Bures (geodesic) metric on S_+^n .

- $d_b(A, B)^2 = \text{tr } A + \text{tr } B - 2 \text{tr}(A^{\frac{1}{2}} B A^{\frac{1}{2}})^{\frac{1}{2}}$
- Transport map $T = A^{-1} \# B$ ($\cdot \#\cdot$ geometric mean).
- see, e.g. (Bhatia et al. '17)

Wasserstein distance

Theorem

Let $d : \mathcal{X} \times \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a metric. The function

$$W_2(\mu, \nu) := \left\{ \min_{\gamma \in M_+(\mathcal{X}^2)} \int_{\mathcal{X}^2} d(x, y)^{\frac{1}{2}} d\gamma(x, y) : \gamma \in \Pi(\mu, \nu) \right\}$$

defines a metric on $P(\mathcal{X})$.

- W_2 metrizes weak convergence + 2-nd order moments;
- if (\mathcal{X}, d) is a geodesic space, so is $(P(\mathcal{X}), W_2)$.

Figure: A constant speed geodesic for W_2 on $P(\mathbb{R}^2)$

Geodesics in \mathbb{R}^n

Consider μ, ν probability measures on \mathbb{R}^n .

Variational characterization of geodesics (Benamou-Brenier)

$$\begin{aligned} W_2^2(\mu, \nu) &= \min_{(\rho_t, v_t)_{t \in [0,1]}} \int_0^1 \left(\int_{\mathbb{R}^n} |v_t(x)|^2 d\rho_t(x) \right) dt \\ \text{s.t. } \partial_t \rho_t &= -\operatorname{div}(\rho_t v_t) \\ \text{and } (\rho_0, \rho_1) &= (\mu, \nu) \end{aligned}$$

Consequences

- minimizers are geodesics;
- convex in variables $(\rho, v\rho)$;
- W_2 is similar to a Riemannian metric.

Summing up

Properties of OT

- rich duality, with concepts from convex analysis
- real line, distance cost, quadratic cost

Properties of the distance W_2 on \mathbb{R}^n

- optimal plans supported on $\partial\phi$ with $\phi : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ convex;
- the space $(P(\mathbb{R}^n), W_2)$ is a complete geodesic space;
- some explicit cases (real line, linear maps).

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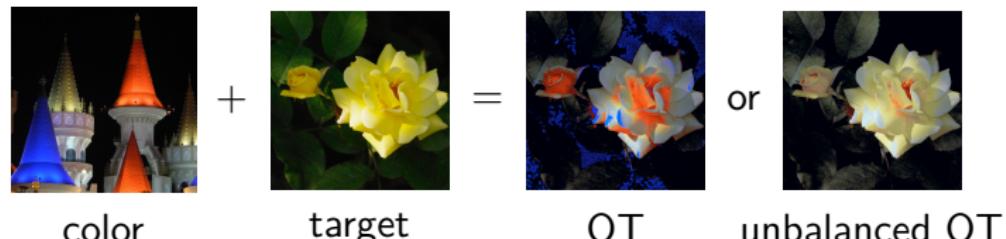
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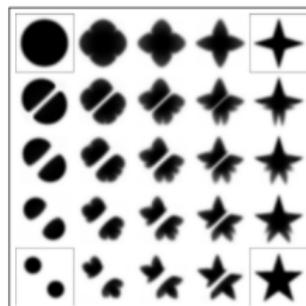
Wasserstein Fisher-Rao

Histogram & shapes processing

Color transfer



Barycenters



(Benamou et al'15)

and much more

- PCA (Seguy, Cuturi'15)
- regression (Bonneel et al'16)

Wasserstein gradient flows

Objective: characterize certain evolution EDP as *gradient flows* of some functional $F : P(\mathbb{R}^n) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ in the Wasserstein space:

$$\partial_t \mu_t + \operatorname{div}(\mu_t v_t) = 0 \quad \text{with} \quad v_t = \nabla F'(\mu_t).$$

Interest

- theoretical: existence, uniqueness, convergence...
- numerical: intrinsic mass conservation and positivity

Crowd motions
(Roudneff-Chupin et al.'14)

Statistical learning

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- *W_p loss for regression* (Frogner et al.'15):
Learn predictor $f_\theta : X \rightarrow Y := P(\{1, \dots, k\})$

$$\min_{\theta \in \mathbb{R}^d} \mathbb{E}_{(X,Y) \sim \mu} \left[W_2^2(f_\theta(X), Y) \right].$$

- *W_p loss for generative models:*
Given $\mu \in P(\mathcal{X})$, $\nu \in P(\mathcal{Y})$, learn map $f_\theta : X \rightarrow Y$

$$\min_{\theta \in \mathbb{R}^d} W_2^2((f_\theta)_\# \mu, \nu)$$

- Barycenters for multiscale learning (Srivastava et al.'17), transfer learning (Courty et al.'17), convergence of Langevin MC (Dalalyan'17)...

And much more...

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Conclusion

- *applied analysis* :
incompressible flows (Euler), sticky particules
- *metric geometry* :
Ricci curvature, perimetric inequalities
- *mathematical physics* :
density functional theory, Schröedinger bridge
- *mathematical economy* :
matching problems, principal agent, MFG, finance
(martingale transport)...

And much more...

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Recurring needs :

- differential properties
- unbalanced OT

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Vertical perturbations

Reminder

Optimal transport between $\mu, \nu \in P(\mathbb{R}^n)$ with cost c :

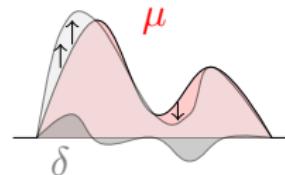
$$C(\mu, \nu) = \sup_{(\varphi, \psi) \text{ admissible}} \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \varphi d\mu + \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \psi d\nu$$

Vertical perturbations

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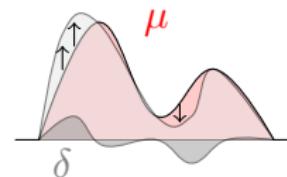
Perturbed marginal: $\mu + \epsilon \delta$

Vertical perturbations

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Perturbed marginal: $\mu + \epsilon\delta$

Vertical perturbation

Let δ a signed measure with $\int \delta = 0$. If optimal φ unique,

$$\frac{d}{d\epsilon} C(\mu + \epsilon\delta, \nu)|_{\epsilon=0} = \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \varphi d\delta$$

If φ nonunique (up to a constant) \Rightarrow subdifferential.

Horizontal perturbations

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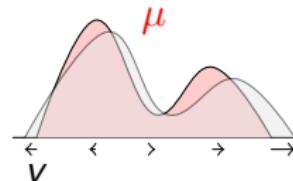
$$C(\mu, \nu) = \inf_{\gamma \text{ admissible}} \int_{(\mathbb{R}^n)^2} c(x, y) d\gamma(x, y)$$

Horizontal perturbations

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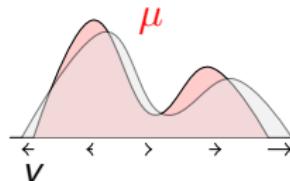
Perturbed cost: $c(x + \epsilon v(x), y) \approx c(x, y) + \epsilon \nabla_x c(x, y) \cdot v(x)$

Horizontal perturbations

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Perturbed cost: $c(x + \epsilon v(x), y) \approx c(x, y) + \epsilon \nabla_x c(x, y) \cdot v(x)$

Horizontal perturbation

Let $v : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ a velocity field. If optimal γ unique,

$$\frac{d}{d\epsilon} C((\text{id} + \epsilon v)_\# \mu, \nu)|_{\epsilon=0} = \int_{(\mathbb{R}^n)^2} \nabla_x c(x, y) \cdot v(x) d\gamma(x).$$

Corresponds to the vertical perturbation $\partial_\epsilon \mu = -\text{div}(v\mu)$

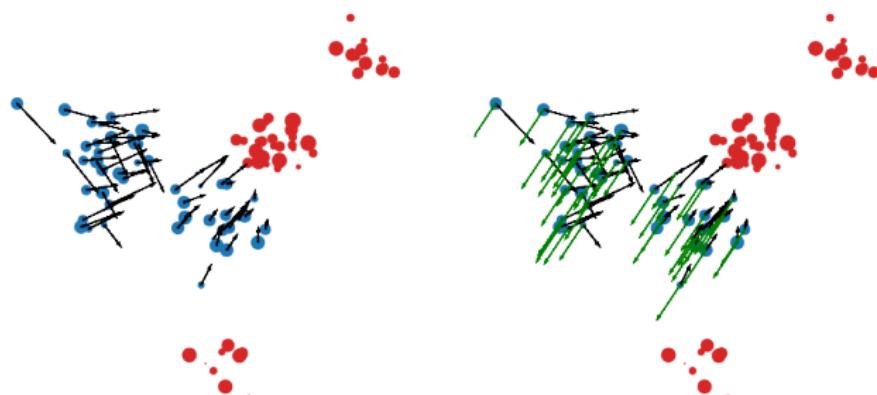
Special case of W_2

Setting: quadratic cost on \mathbb{R}^n , $v : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ velocity field.

Differentiability of W_2

If unique optimal transport plan γ , then

$$\frac{d}{d\epsilon} W_2^2((\text{id} + \epsilon v)_\# \mu, \nu)|_{\epsilon=0} = \int_{(\mathbb{R}^n)^2} 2(y - x) \cdot v(x) d\gamma(x, y)$$



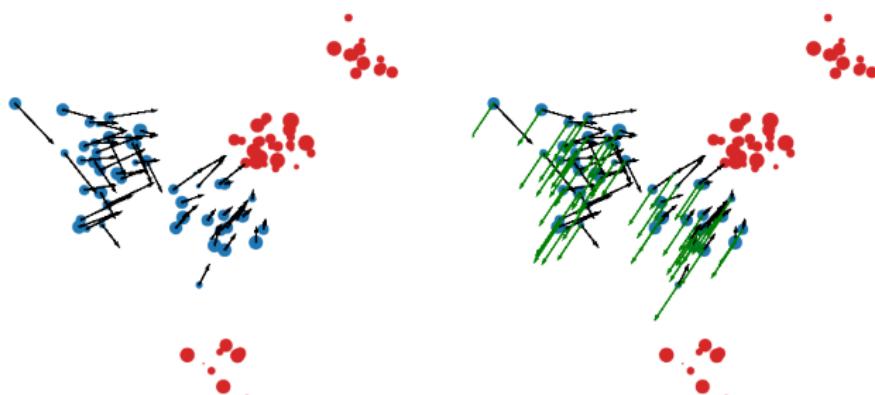
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Next talk: regularized W_2 , always differentiable.

Euclidean Gradient

Goal: defining the gradient through metric quantities only.

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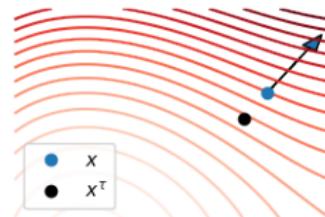
Proximal operator

Let $F : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ a (semiconvex) function. The proximal operator assigns to each $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$

$$x^\tau := \arg \min_{y \in \mathbb{R}^n} \frac{|x - y|^2}{2\tau} + F(y)$$

Definition (Euclidean gradient)

$$\text{grad}F(x) := \lim_{\tau \rightarrow 0} (x - x^\tau)/\tau \in \mathbb{R}^n$$



Wasserstein Gradient

Proximal map: let $F : P(\mathbb{R}^n) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ a functional, $\mu \in P^{ac}(\mathbb{R}^n)$.

$$\mu^\tau = \arg \min_{\nu \in P(\mathbb{R}^n)} \frac{W_2^2(\mu, \nu)}{2\tau} + F(\nu)$$

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Fondamental exemple: with $F(\mu) = \int \mu \log(d\mu/d\mathcal{L})$, one has

$$\text{grad } F(\mu) = \Delta\mu.$$

Outline

1 Theoretical facts

Variational problem

Special cases

The metric side

2 A glimpse of applications

Histogram & shapes processing

Gradient flows

Statistical learning

3 Differential properties

Perturbations

Wasserstein gradient

4 Unbalanced optimal transport

Partial OT

Wasserstein Fisher-Rao

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Strategy

- preserve key properties of optimal transport
- combine two geometries:
horizontal (transport) and *vertical* (linear)

Introduction

Theory

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Conclusion

Vertical/Horizontal

Verticale

Horizontale

Partial

Mixte

Optimal partial transport

Setting: $\mu \in M_+(\mathcal{X})$ and $\nu \in M_+(\mathcal{Y})$ nonnegative measures.

Variational problem

Choose $0 < m \leq \min\{\mu(\mathbb{R}^n), \nu(\mathbb{R}^n)\}$ and solve

$$\min_{\gamma} \int c(x, y) d\gamma(x, y)$$

$$\text{subject to } \pi_{\#}^x \gamma \leq \mu$$

$$\pi_{\#}^y \gamma \leq \nu$$

$$\gamma(\mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}^n) = m$$

- simple modification of the OT problem
- “equivalent” formulations: dynamic, entropy-transport
- alternatively, add a sink/source reachable at a certain cost

Wasserstein Fisher-Rao

Setting: $\mu \in M_+(\mathcal{X})$ and $\nu \in M_+(\mathcal{Y})$ nonnegative measures.

Definition

The natural generalization of W_2 to this setting is

$$\widehat{W}_2^2(\mu, \nu) = \min_{\gamma \in M_+(\mathcal{X} \times \mathcal{Y})} KL(\pi_\#^x \gamma | \mu) + KL(\pi_\#^y \gamma | \nu) + \int c_\ell(x, y) d\gamma(x, y)$$

where $c_\ell(x, y) = -\log \cos^2(\min\{|y - x|, \pi/2\})$.

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Main properties

- geodesic space, Riemannian-like structure
- growth and displacement intertwined
- various explicit formulations: lifted problem, dynamic problem with velocity and *rate of growth*...

References: (Liero et al'15), (Monsaingeon et al'15), (Chizat et al'15), my PhD thesis.

End of part 1

In part 1: theory

- essentials
- selection of properties and variants;

In part 2: practice

- numerical solvers, entropic regularization
- applications to imaging and machine learning

Reference textbooks

- Santambrogio, *OT for applied mathematicians*
- Villani, *OT, Old and New*
- Ambrosio, Gigli, Savaré, *Gradient flows in metric spaces and in the space of probability measures*
- Peyré and Cuturi, *Computational OT* (upcoming)