

# Barycenters for transport costs

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# Barycenters in data science

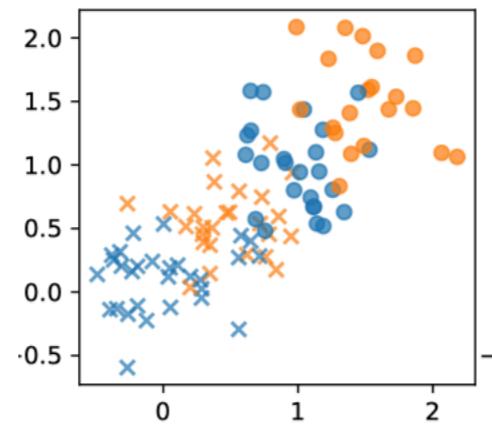


[Simon et al., 2019]

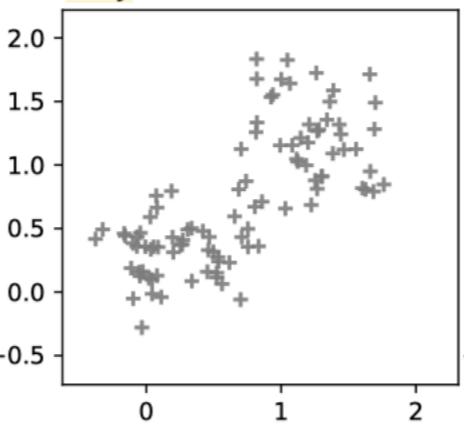
[Levy, 2015]



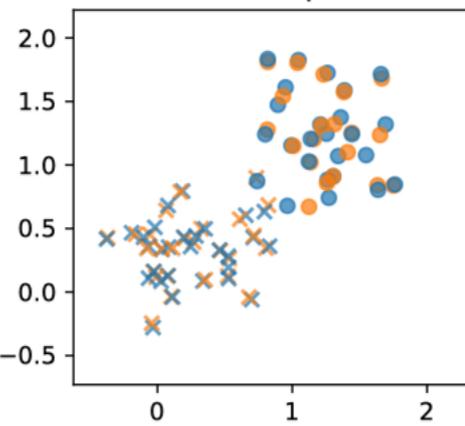
Données biaisées



Barycentre de Wasserstein



Données réparées

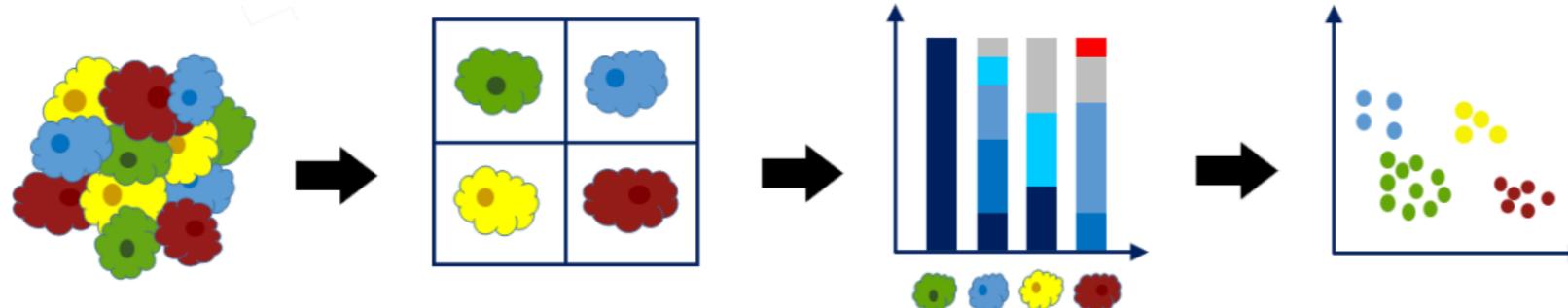


OT barycenters  
for Fairness  
[Gordaliza et al.,  
2019]

Color  
harmonization  
[Bonneel et al.  
2016]



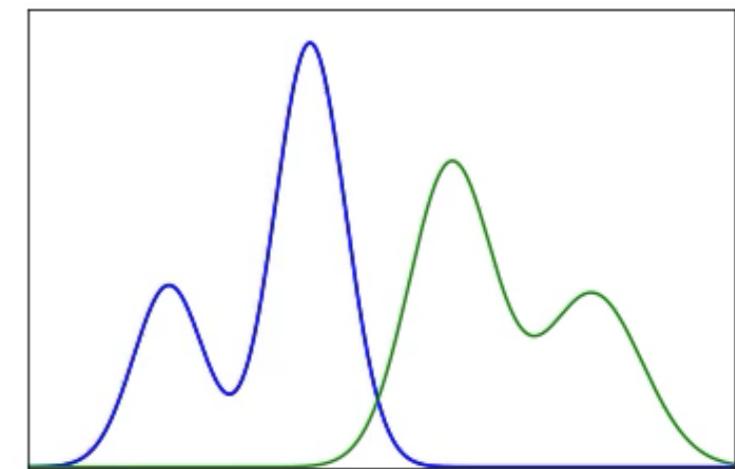
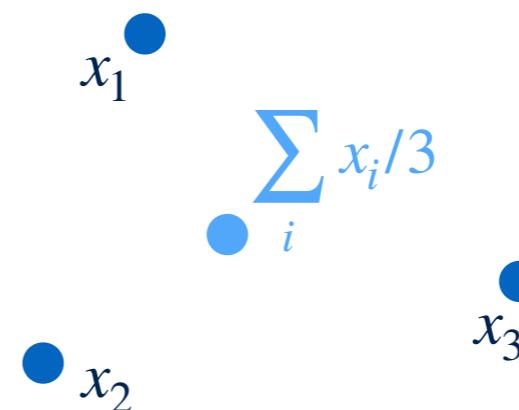
Genomics  
[Schiebinger et al.  
2019]



[Vacher et al.,  
2020]

# Barycenters

- $(x_1, \dots, x_p)$  **points** of  $\mathcal{X}$
- $(\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_p)$  **weights**,  $\geq 0$   
and s.t.  $\sum_i \lambda_i = 1$
- **costs**  $c_i : \mathcal{X} \times \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^+$



$$B(x_1, \dots, x_p) \in \operatorname{argmin}_x \lambda_1 c_1(x, x_1) + \dots + \lambda_p c_p(x, x_p)$$

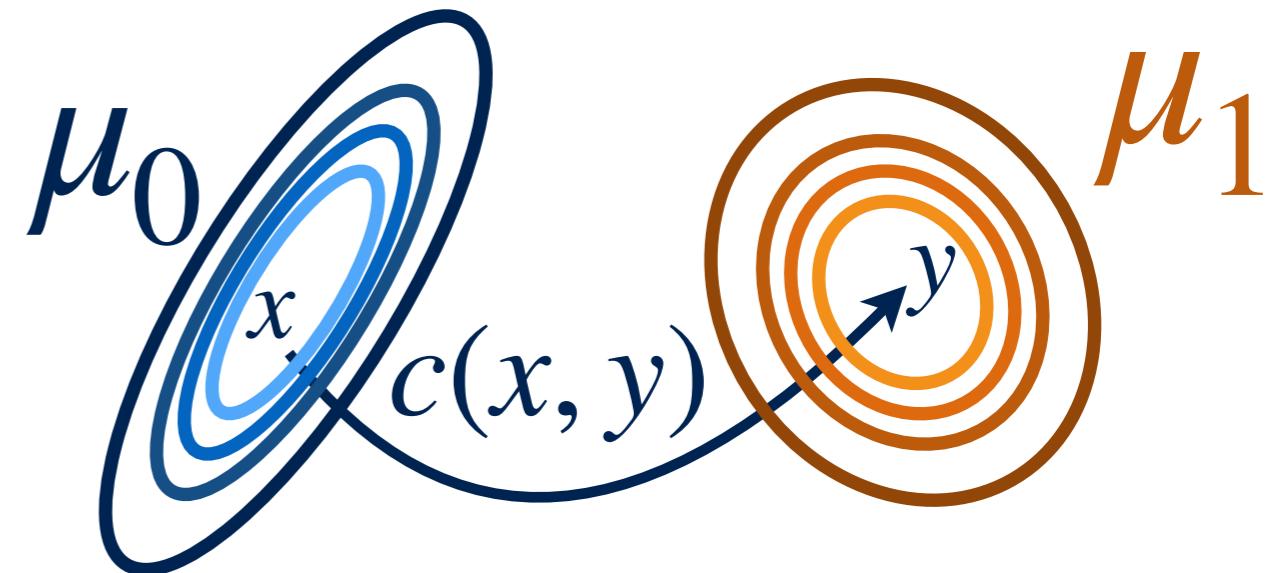
Ex :  $\mathcal{X} = \mathbb{R}^d$ ,  $c_i = \|\cdot\|^2 \longrightarrow$  weighted mean

$\mathcal{X} = \mathbb{R}^d$ ,  $c_i = \|\cdot\| \longrightarrow$  weighted geometric median

$\mathcal{X} = \mathbb{R}^d$ ,  $c_i = \|\cdot\|^p \dots$

# Transport costs and Wasserstein distances

- **cost**  $c : \mathcal{X} \times \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^+$
- $\Pi(\mu_0, \mu_1) =$  couplings between  $\mu_0$  and  $\mu_1$



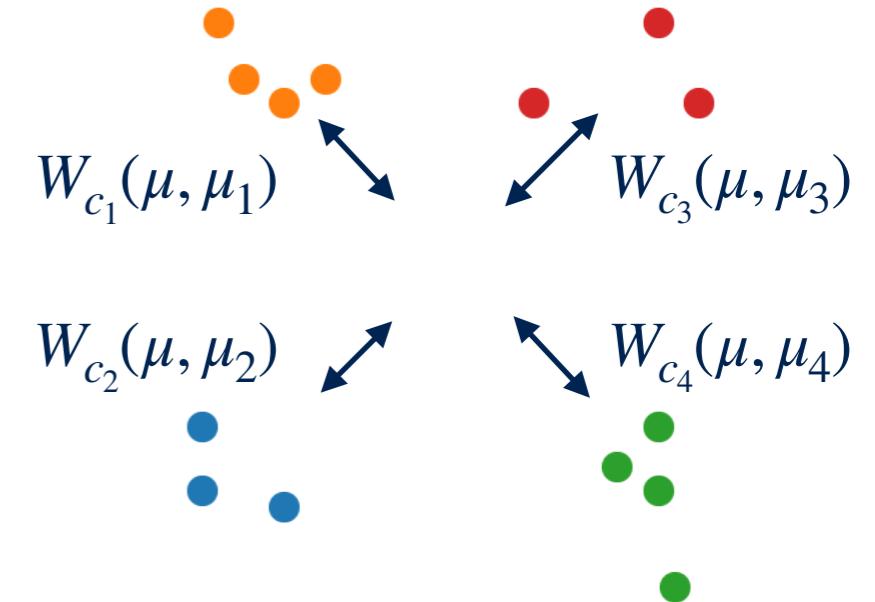
$$W_c(\mu_0, \mu_1) = \inf_{\gamma \in \Pi(\mu_0, \mu_1)} \iint c(x, y) d\gamma(x, y)$$

**Theorem:** If  $c(x, y) = d(x, y)^p$  with  $p \geq 1$  and  $d$  a distance on  $\mathcal{X}$ ,  $W_p(\mu_0, \mu_1) := W_c(\mu_0, \mu_1)^{\frac{1}{p}}$  defines a distance between probability measures.

$p=2$  or  $1$  used in most applications

# Fréchet means / Wasserstein barycenters

- $(\mu_1, \dots, \mu_p)$  proba. measures
- $(\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_p)$  weights,  $\geq 0$   
and s.t.  $\sum_i \lambda_i = 1$



$$B(\mu_1, \dots, \mu_p) \in \operatorname{argmin}_{\rho} \lambda_1 W_{c_1}(\rho, \mu_1) + \dots + \lambda_p W_{c_p}(\rho, \mu_p)$$

- [Carlier Ekeland, 2010] → continuous ground costs
- [Agueh, Carlier 2011] →  $W_2^2$ , existence + uniqueness if the  $\mu_i$  are AC.
- [Carlier et al. 2023] →  $W_1$ , Wasserstein medians
- [Legouic et al. 2016], [Brizzi et al., 2024] →  $W_p$  for  $p > 1$ ,  $W_h$  for specific  $h$ .

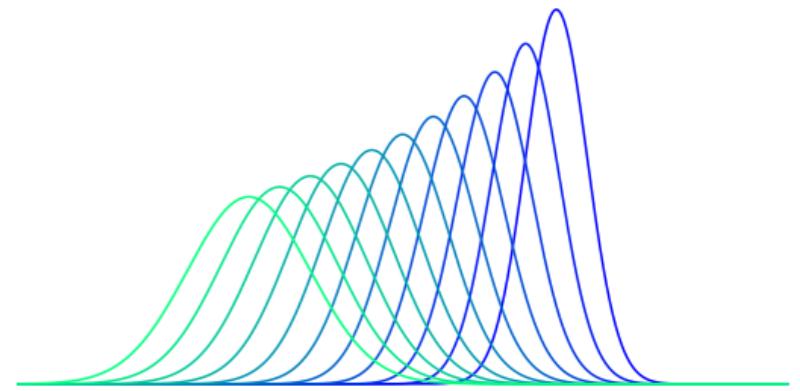
# Barycenter between Gaussians for $W_2$

$\mu_i = \mathcal{N}(m_i, \Sigma_i), i \in \{1, \dots, p\}$  Gaussian distributions on  $\mathbb{R}^d$

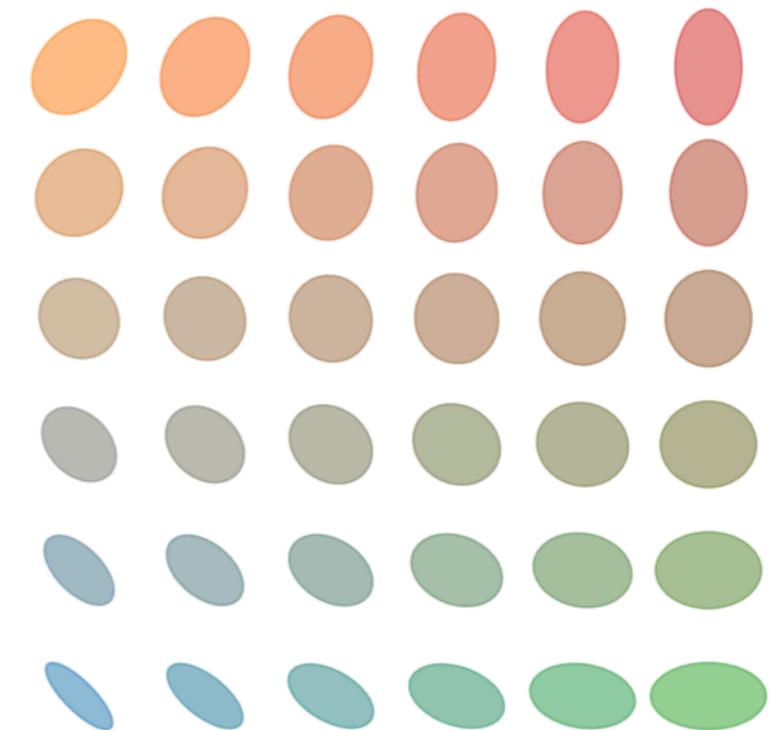
**Barycenter** [Agueh, Carlier 2011]:

$$\mathcal{N}(m^*, \Sigma^*) = \operatorname{argmin}_{\rho} \sum_{i=1}^p \lambda_i W_2^2(\mu_i, \rho)$$

$$m^* = \sum_{i=1}^p \lambda_i m_i, \quad \Sigma^* = \min_{\Sigma} \sum_{i=1}^p \lambda_i B^2(\Sigma, \Sigma_i)$$



$$B^2(\Sigma_0, \Sigma_1) = \operatorname{tr} \left( \Sigma_0 + \Sigma_1 - 2 \left( \Sigma_0^{\frac{1}{2}} \Sigma_1 \Sigma_0^{\frac{1}{2}} \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \right)$$



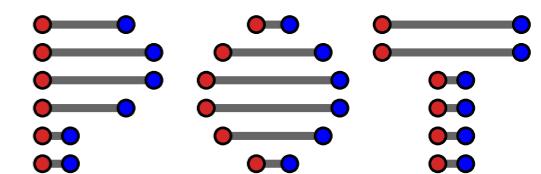
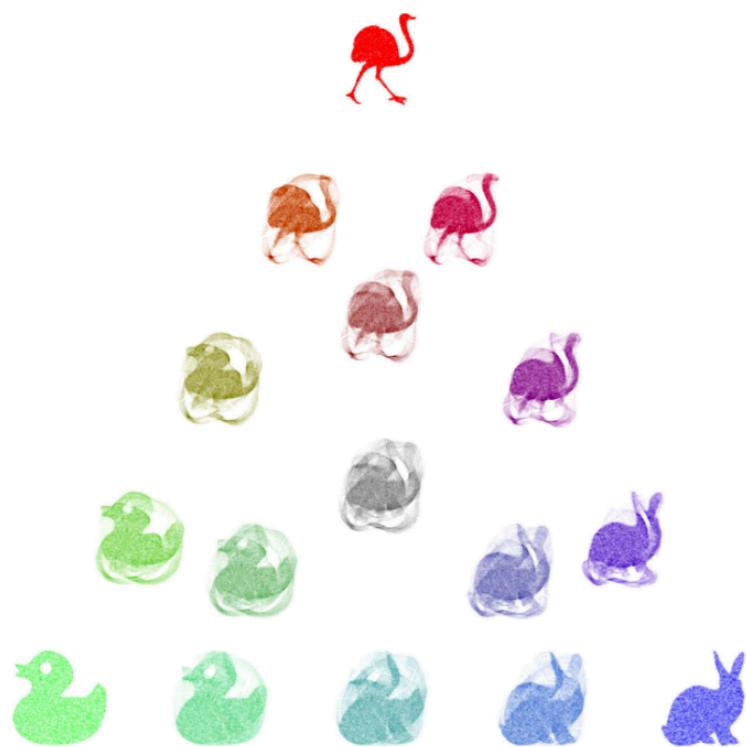
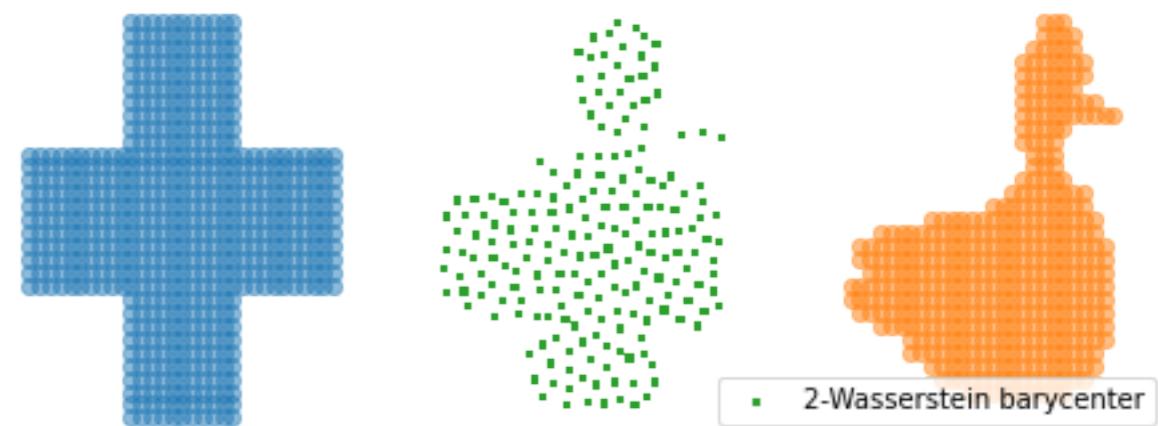
# Computing barycenters for transport costs

**NP-hard problem** [Altschuler et al. 21]

Exponential dependence on  $d$  or  $p$

## Some Algorithms

- Linear Programming-MMOT
- Sliced/Radon OT [Rabin et al. 12, .15].
- Entropic barycenters [Benamou et al 15  
Solomon et al 15,...]
- Free support [Cuturi, Doucet 14]



# Free support barycenter: a fixed point problem

- $(\mu_1, \dots, \mu_p)$  proba. measures

- $(\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_p)$  weights,  $\geq 0$

and s.t.  $\sum_i \lambda_i = 1$

ALGO:

$$\rho_{n+1} = G(\rho_n)$$

Def:

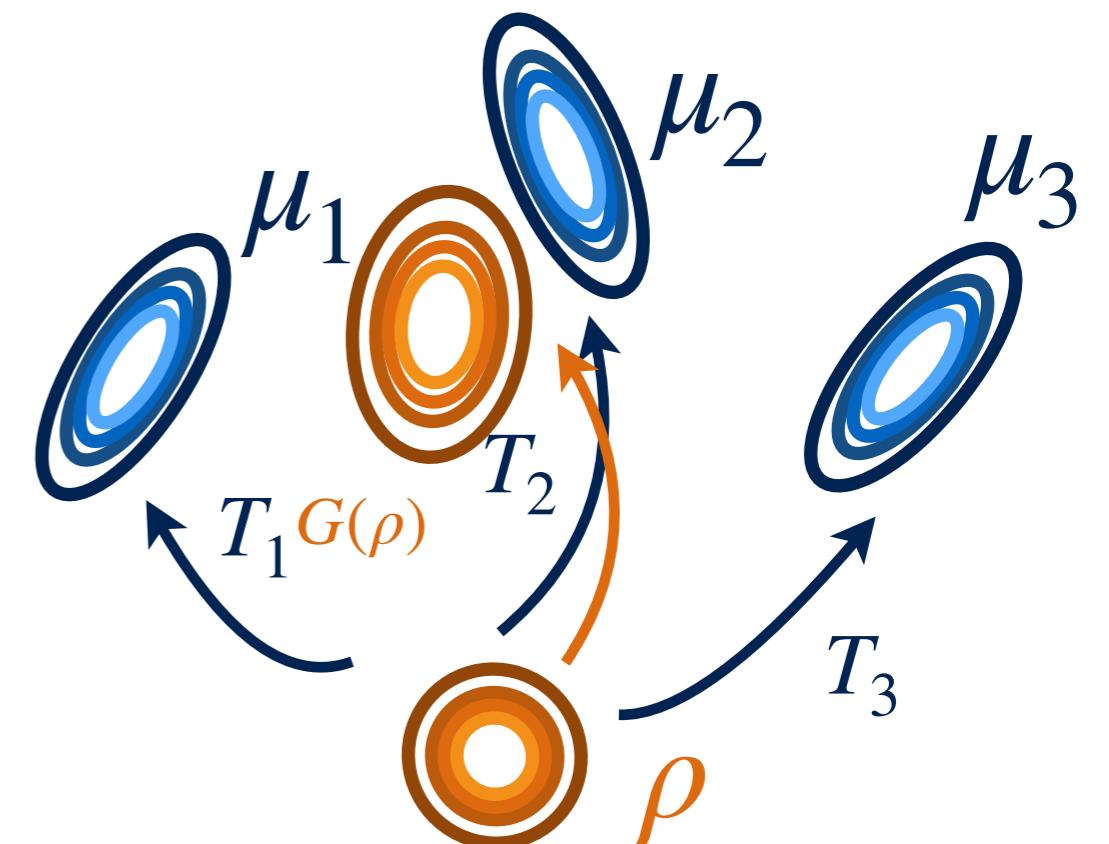
$$X \sim \rho$$

$T_k$  OT maps between  $\rho$  and  $\mu_k$

$$G(\rho) = \mathcal{L} \left( \sum \lambda_j T_j(X) \right)$$

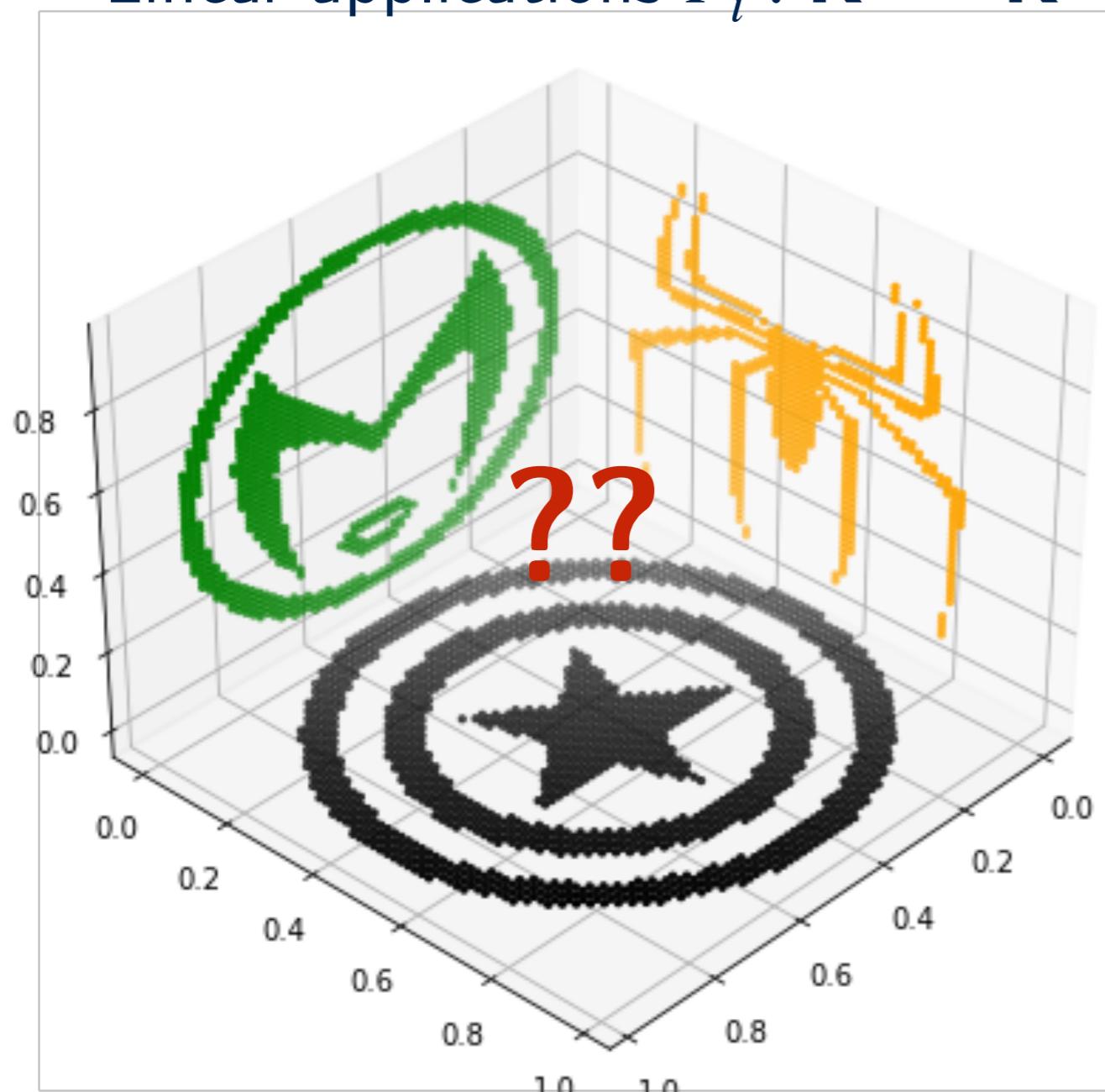
**Prop [Alvarez-Esteban et al., 15]**

- $W_2 +$  AC measures  $\Rightarrow$  barycenters  $\in$  fixed points of  $G$ .
- CV of subsequence to fixed point.
- If unique fp, it is a barycenter



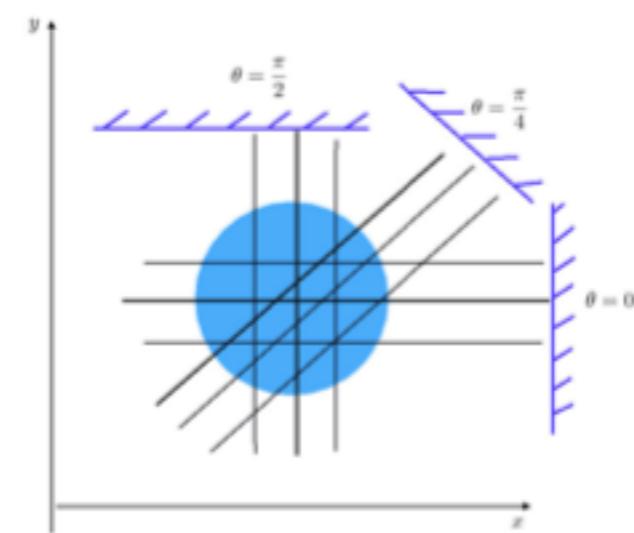
# Beyond $W_p$ : generalized barycenters

- $(\mu_1, \dots, \mu_p)$  proba. measures on  $\mathbb{R}^{d_i}$
- $(\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_p)$  weights,  $\geq 0$   
and s.t.  $\sum \lambda_i = 1$
- Linear applications  $P_i : \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{d_i}$

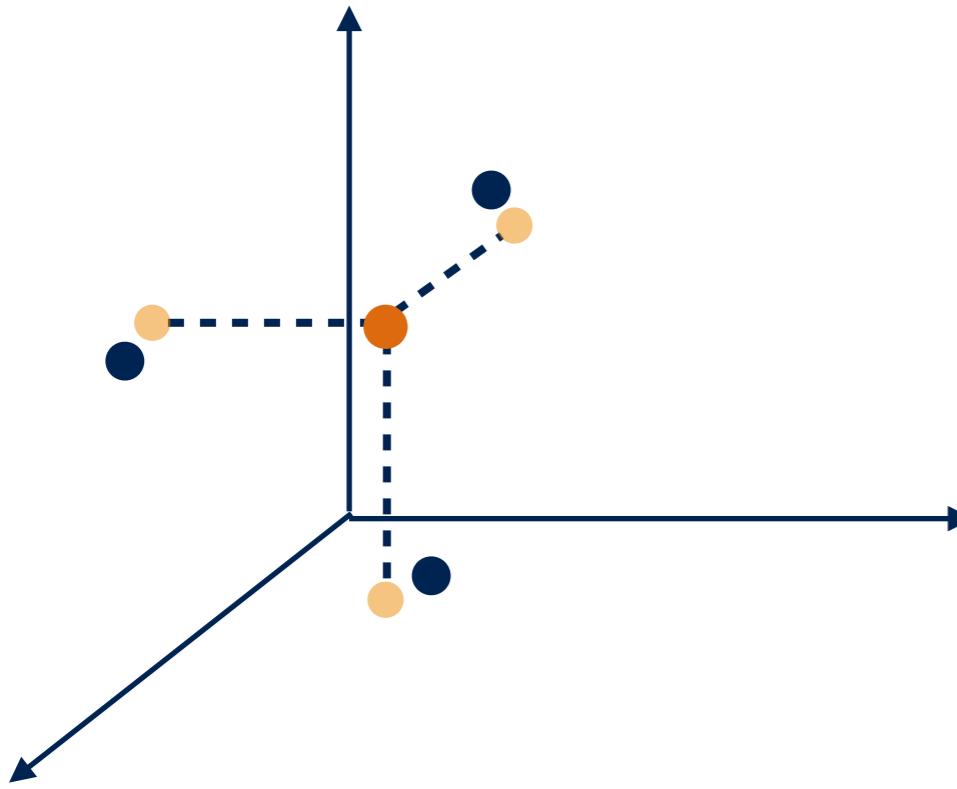


**Generalized barycenters**  
[D. et al, 2022]

$$\inf_{\gamma \in \mathcal{P}_2(\mathbb{R}^d)} \underbrace{\sum_{i=1}^p \lambda_i W_2^2(\mu_i, P_i \# \gamma)}_{\mathcal{F}(\gamma)}$$



# Solutions for generalized barycenters?



$$B(x_1, \dots, x_p) \in \operatorname{argmin}_{x \in \mathbb{R}^d} \sum_{i=1}^p \lambda_i \|P_i x - x_i\|^2$$

**Hyp:**  $A := \sum_{i=1}^p \lambda_i P_i^T P_i$  full rank

**Solution:**  $\hat{x} = A^{-1} \left( \sum_{i=1}^p \lambda_i P_i^T x_i \right)$

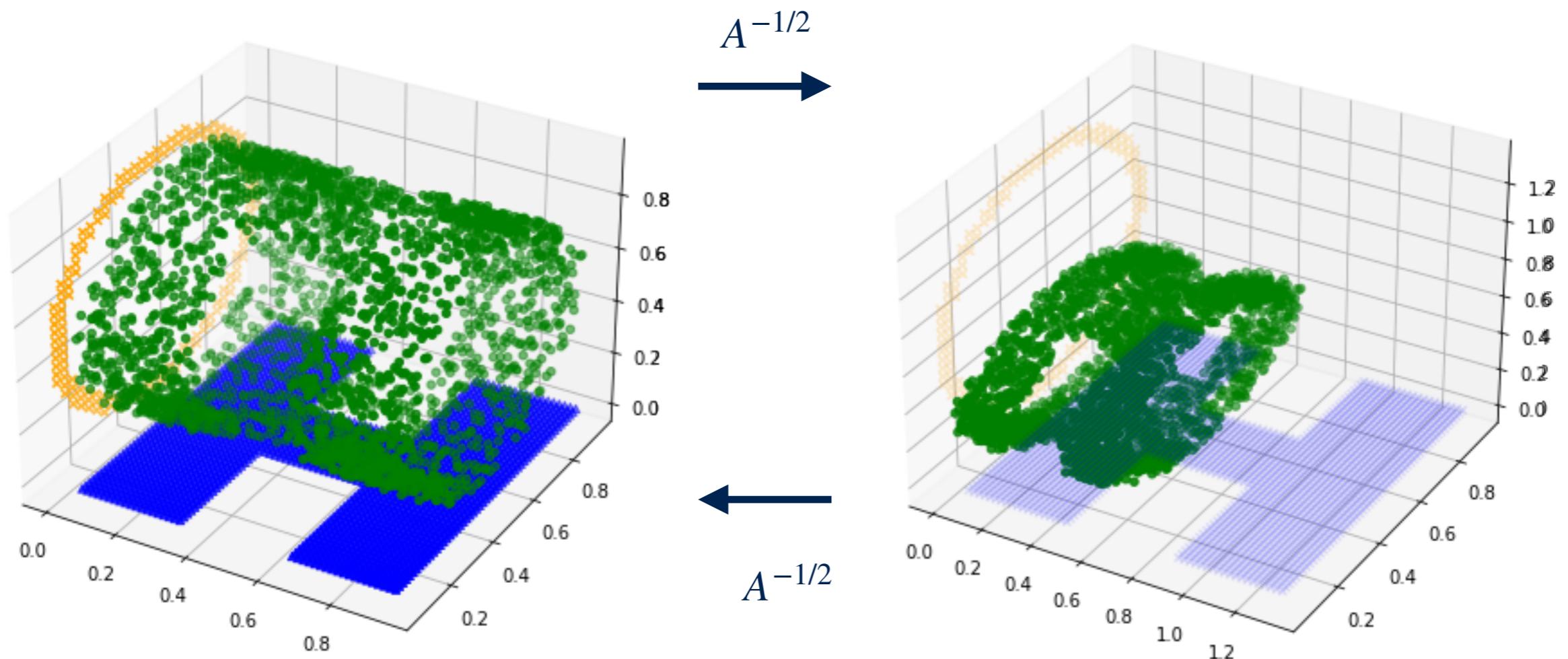
## Generalized barycenters

$\gamma^*$  solution iff  $A^{1/2} \# \gamma^*$  is a  $W_2^2$ -barycenter of the measures

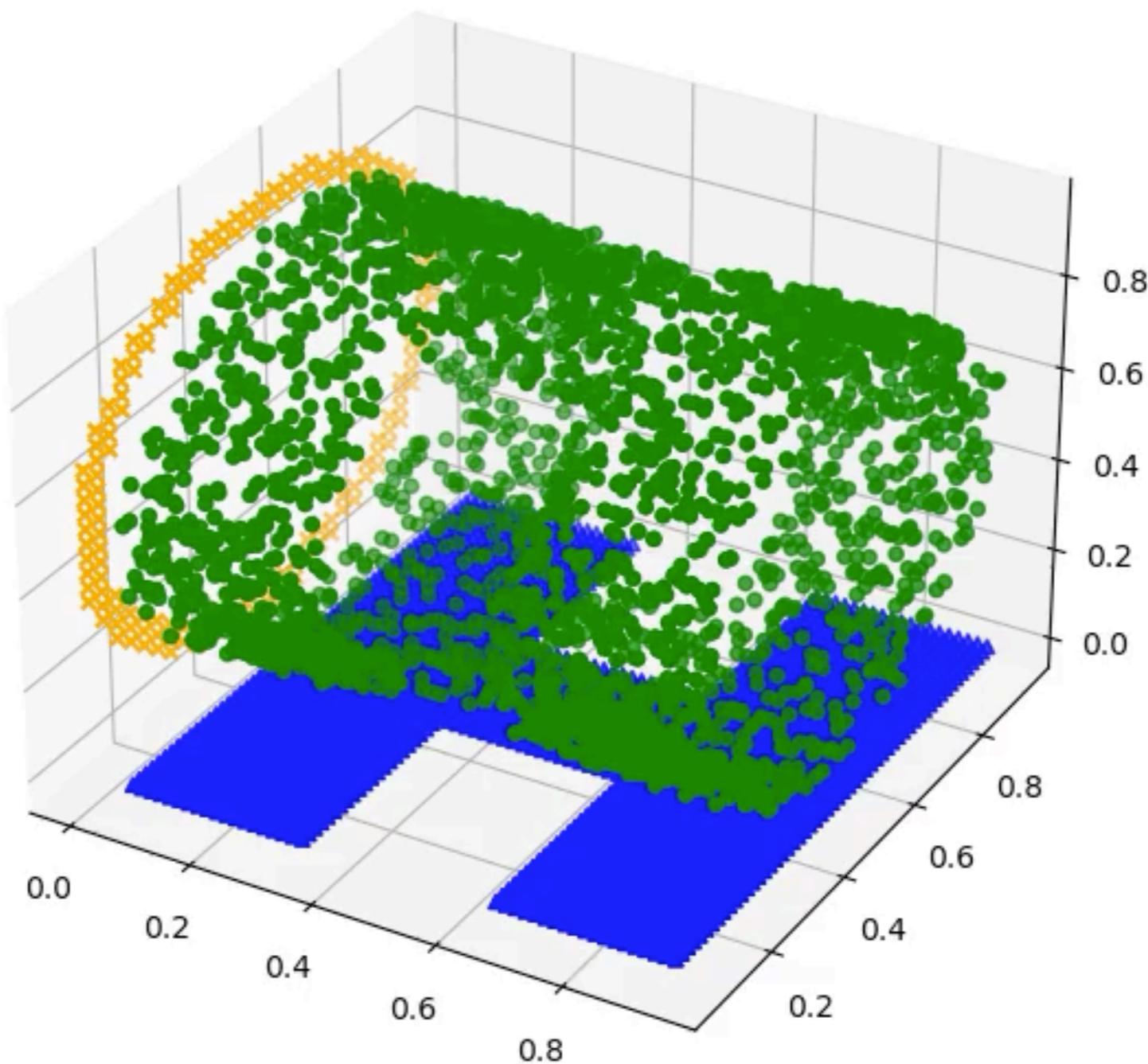
$$(A^{-1/2} P_i^T) \# \mu_i$$

# Computing generalized barycenters

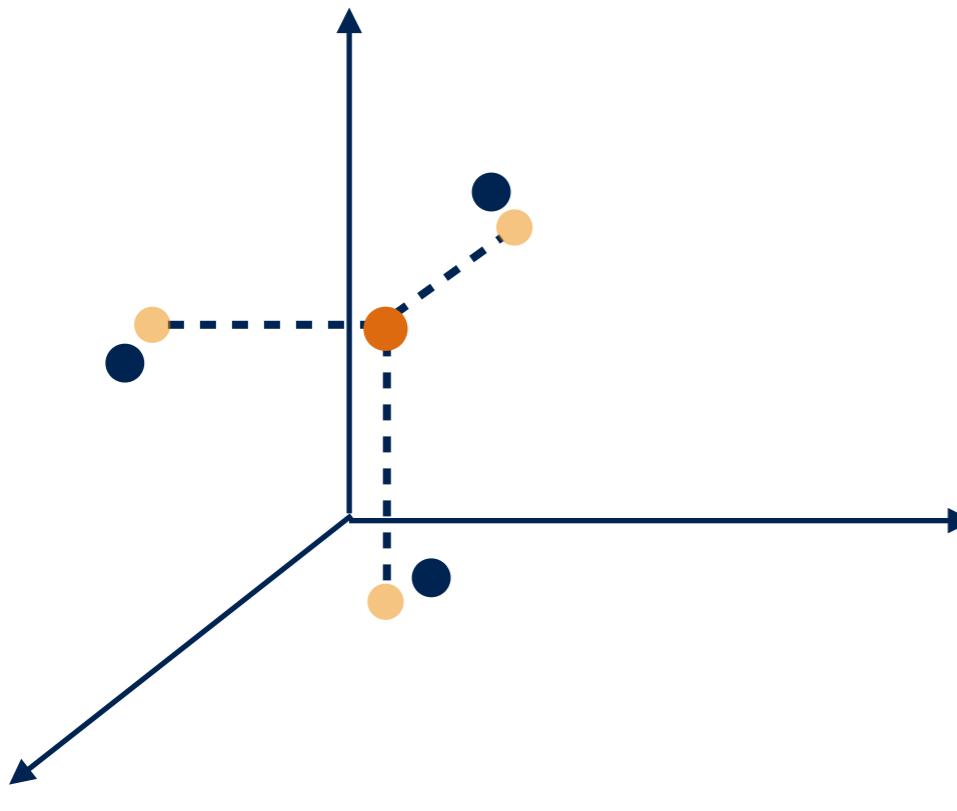
2 distributions



# Computing generalized barycenters



# Solutions for generalized barycenters?



$$B(x_1, \dots, x_p) \in \operatorname{argmin}_{x \in \mathbb{R}^d} \sum_{i=1}^p \lambda_i \|P_i x - x_i\|^2$$

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## Generalized barycenters

$\gamma^*$  solution iff  $A^{1/2} \# \gamma^*$  is a  $W_2^2$ -

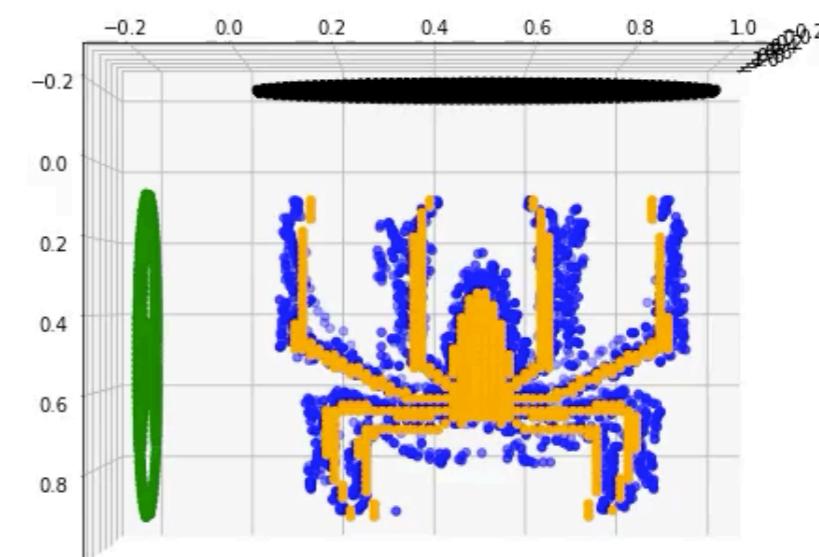
barycenter of the measures

$$(A^{-1/2} P_i^T) \# \mu_i$$

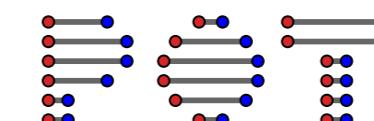
**Existence, no uniqueness**

**Gaussian** case

Link with multi marginal  
transport



Included in



by Eloi Tanguy

# What about generic ground costs?

$$\operatorname{argmin}_{\rho} \lambda_1 W_{c_1}(\rho, \mu_1) + \dots + \lambda_p W_{c_p}(\rho, \mu_p)$$

$$\rho_{n+1} = G(\rho_n) ??$$

Hyp:

- continuous costs  $c_k$
- $B(x_1, \dots, x_p) = \operatorname{argmin}_x \lambda_1 c_1(x, x_1) + \dots + \lambda_p c_p(x, x_p)$  (unique)

Def  $X \sim \rho$

$T_k$  OT maps between  $\rho$  and  $\mu_k$

$$G(\rho) = \mathcal{L}(B(T_1(X), \dots, T_p(X)))$$



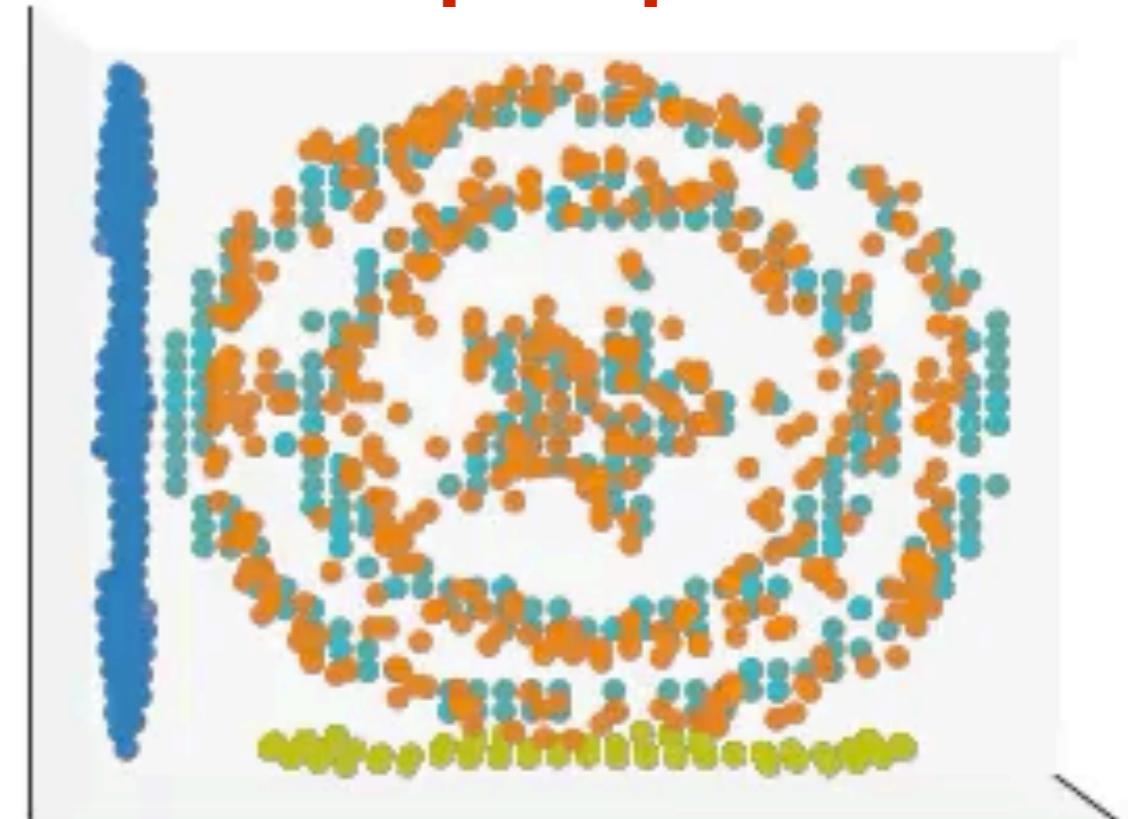
Prop [Tanguy et al. 2024]:

Barycenters are fixed points of  $G$



Convergence  $\rho_{n+1} = G(\rho_n)$

**Works also with  
transport plans !**



THANKS !