

Overview

Problem: How to obtain an efficient procedure to compute with high accuracy the Optimal Transport?

Contributions:

- We introduce **LOT** (Low-rank Optimal Transport), a new regularization scheme which aims at solving the optimal transport problem under the constraint that the couplings have a **low-nonnegative rank**.
- We propose a new **parametrization** of the problem where the couplings can be decomposed as the product of **two couplings** with common right marginal.
- We derive a simple algorithm using a **mirror-descent** approach and prove the non-asymptotic **stationary convergence**.
- We show that our approach can become **linear in time** with respect to the number of samples by exploiting **low-rank** assumptions on the **cost** (not the kernel).
- We show **experimentally** the efficiency of our approach.

Sinkhorn Algorithm

Discrete Distributions: $\mu = \sum_{i=1}^n a_i \delta_{x_i}$ and $\nu = \sum_{j=1}^m b_j \delta_{y_j}$

Cost matrix: $\forall i, j \ C_{i,j} = c(x_i, y_j)$

Definition of Entropic Optimal Transport

Shannon entropy

$$W_{C,\varepsilon}(\mu, \nu) := \min_{\substack{P \in \mathbb{R}_+^{n \times m} \\ P\mathbf{1}_m = a, P^T\mathbf{1}_n = b}} \langle P, C \rangle - \varepsilon H(P)$$

Sinkhorn algorithm

Compute the kernel matrix: $K = \exp(-C/\varepsilon)$

Each iteration compute : $v \leftarrow \frac{b}{K^T u}$, $u \leftarrow \frac{a}{K v}$

Output: $P_\varepsilon^* = \text{Diag}(u) K \text{Diag}(v)$

Remark:

Computing $K^T u$ and $K v$ requires $\mathcal{O}(n^2)$ algebraic operations

Low-rank Kernel

Idea: Replace K by $\tilde{K} = AB^T$ where $(A, B) \in (\mathbb{R}_+^{n \times r}) \times (\mathbb{R}_+^{m \times r})$

→ Computing $BA^T u$ and $AB^T v$ requires $\mathcal{O}(nr)$ operations

→ The entries of $\tilde{K} = AB^T$ are positive and Sinkhorn converges

⚠ The smaller ε , the more difficult the approximation of K

Remark:

Sinkhorn outputs $\tilde{P}_\varepsilon^* = \text{Diag}(u) \tilde{K} \text{Diag}(v)$ with $\tilde{K} = AB^T$

\tilde{P}_ε^* admits a Low-NN rank factorization

Low-Rank Optimal Transport

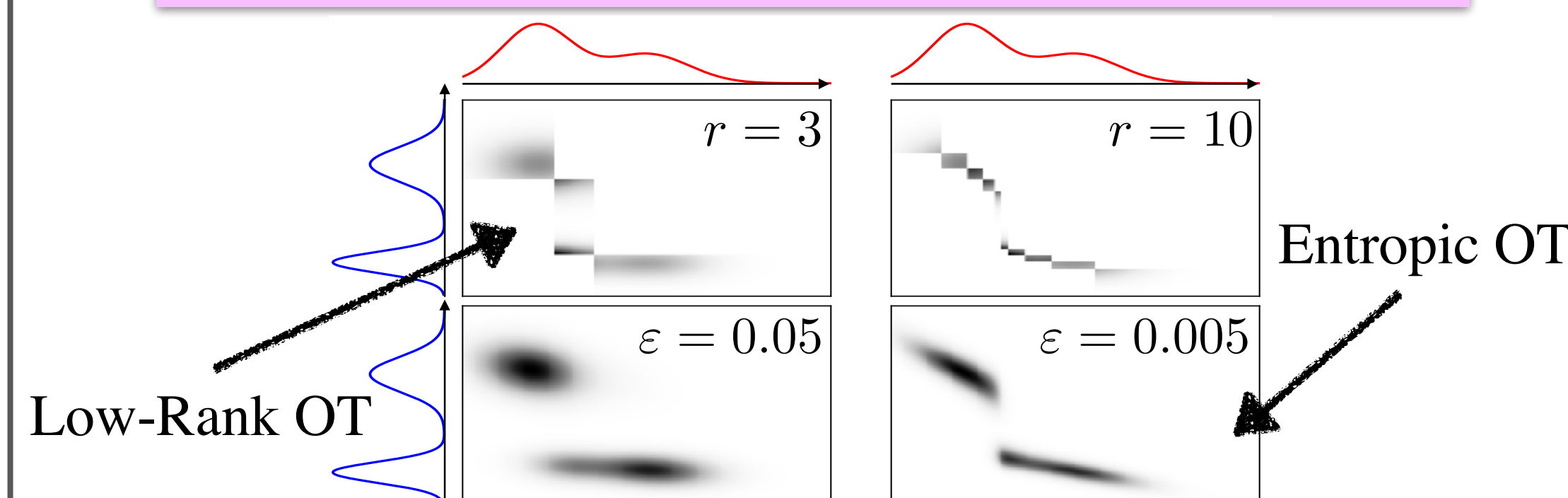
NN-rank: $\text{rk}_+(M) := \min \left\{ q \mid M = \sum_{i=1}^q R_i, \forall i, \text{rk}(R_i) = 1, R_i \geq 0 \right\}$

Low-NN rank couplings:

$$\Pi_{a,b}(r) := \{P \in \mathbb{R}_+^{n \times m} \text{ s.t. } P\mathbf{1}_m = a, P^T\mathbf{1}_n = b \text{ and } \text{rk}_+(P) \leq r\}$$

Definition of Low-rank Optimal Transport

$$\text{LOT}_r(\mu, \nu) := \min_{P \in \Pi_{a,b}(r)} \langle P, C \rangle$$



Reparametrization of LOT

$$\text{LOT}_r(\mu, \nu) = \min_{(Q,R,g) \in \mathcal{C}_1(a,b,r) \cap \mathcal{C}_2(r)} \langle C, Q \text{Diag}(1/g) R^T \rangle$$

$$\mathcal{C}_1(a,b,r) := \{(Q,R,g) \in \mathbb{R}_+^{n \times r} \times \mathbb{R}_+^{m \times r} \times (\mathbb{R}_+^*)^r \text{ s.t. } Q\mathbf{1}_r = a, R\mathbf{1}_r = b\}$$

$$\mathcal{C}_2(r) := \{(Q,R,g) \in \mathbb{R}_+^{n \times r} \times \mathbb{R}_+^{m \times r} \times (\mathbb{R}_+)^r \text{ s.t. } Q^T\mathbf{1}_n = R^T\mathbf{1}_m = g\}$$

Mirror-Descent Scheme

Each update compute:

$$K_k^{(1)} := \exp(-\gamma_k C R_k \text{Diag}(1/g_k) + \log(Q_k))$$

$$K_k^{(2)} := \exp(-\gamma_k C^T Q_k \text{Diag}(1/g_k) + \log(R_k))$$

$$K_k^{(3)} := \exp(\gamma_k \omega_k / g_k^2 + \log(g_k)) \text{ where } [\omega_k]_i := [Q_k^T C R_k]_{i,i}$$

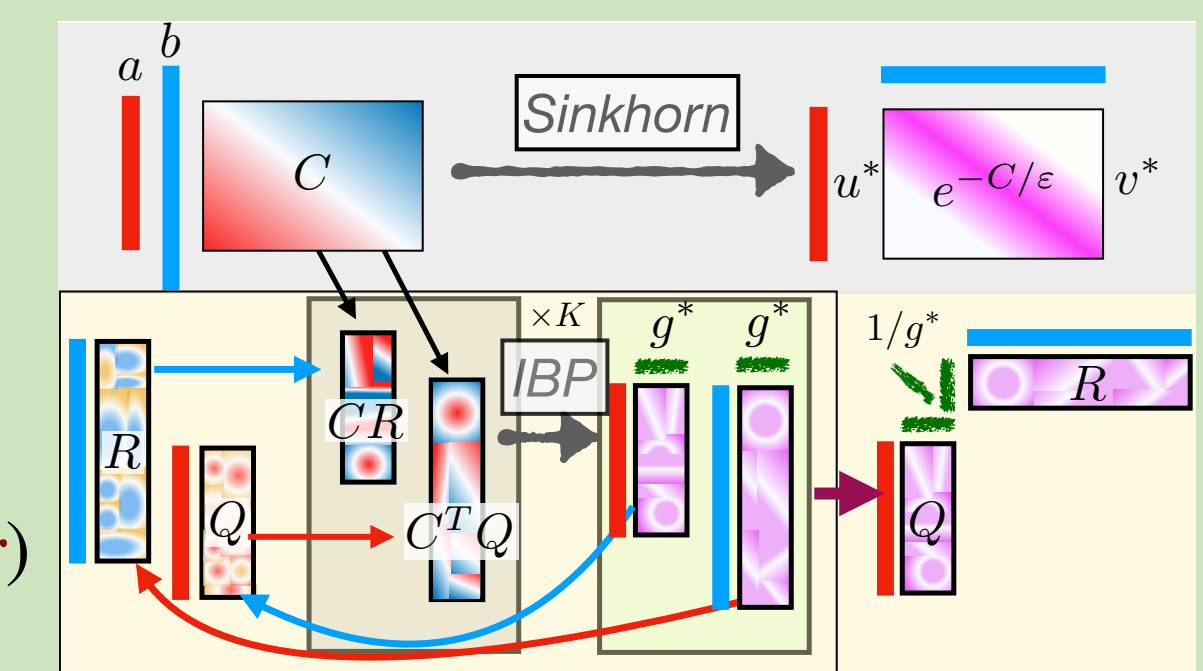
And solve:

$$(Q_{k+1}, R_{k+1}, g_{k+1}) := \min_{(\zeta_1, \zeta_2, \zeta_3) \in \mathcal{C}_1(a,b,r) \cap \mathcal{C}_2(r)} \text{KL}((\zeta_1, \zeta_2, \zeta_3), (K_k^{(1)}, K_k^{(2)}, K_k^{(3)}))$$

Can be solved efficiently using the IBP algorithm

Remarks:

- Computing $(K_k^{(i)})_{i=1}^2$ requires $\mathcal{O}(nmr)$ operations
- Solving the barycenter problem requires $\mathcal{O}((n+m)r)$ operations.



Linear Time Approximation

If $C \simeq AB^T$ where $(A, B) \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times d} \times \mathbb{R}^{m \times d}$ and $d \ll \min(n, m)$ then computing $(K_k^{(i)})_{i=1}^2$ can be performed in $\mathcal{O}((n+m)dr)$ operations.

Examples: the squared Euclidean distance or any distance matrix

Experiments

ℓ_1 distance between the couplings

Advantage of the method:

- Faster to compute than Sinkhorn with better accuracy
- Its parametrization, which is the rank r , encodes directly a property on the coupling

