

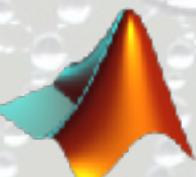
# Numerical Optimal Transport

<http://optimaltransport.github.io>

## *Theoretical Foundations*

Gabriel Peyré

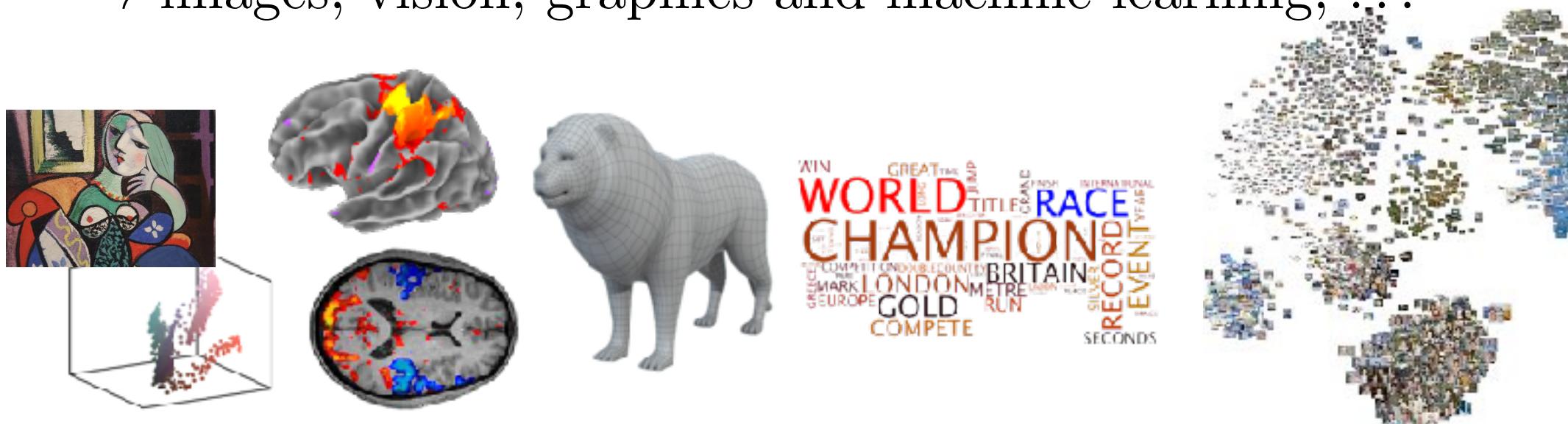
[www.numerical-tours.com](http://www.numerical-tours.com)



**ENS**  
ÉCOLE NORMALE  
SUPÉRIEURE

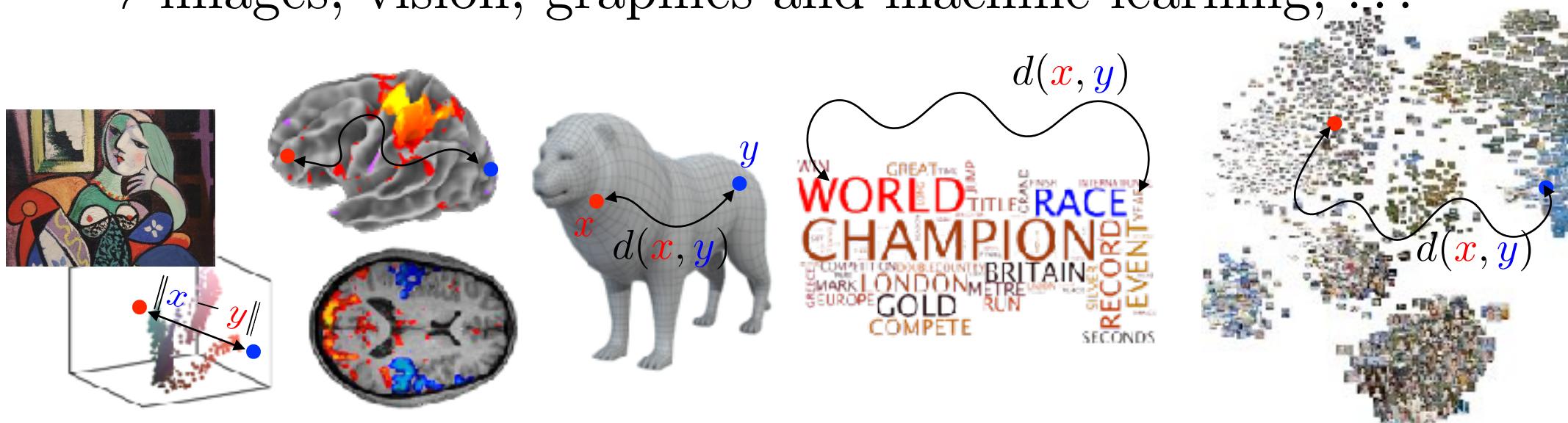
# Comparing Measures

→ images, vision, graphics and machine learning, ...

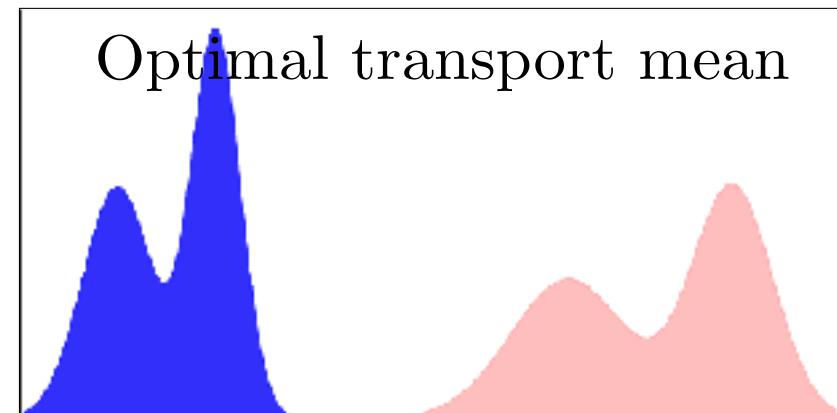
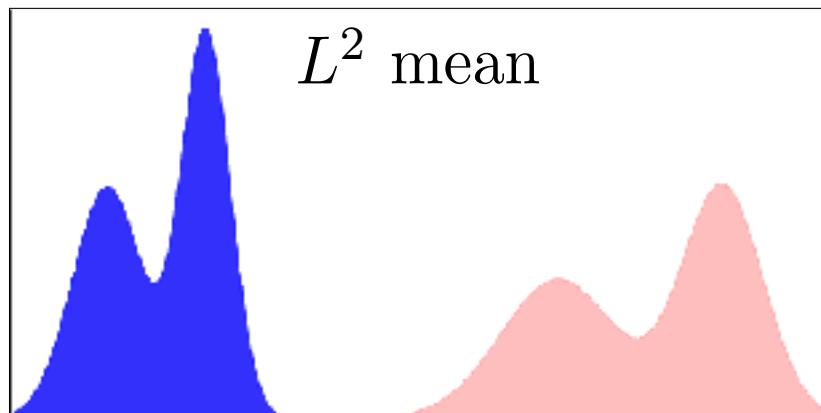


# Comparing Measures

→ images, vision, graphics and machine learning, ...



- *Optimal transport*  
→ takes into account a metric  $d$ .



# Toward High-dimensional OT

Monge



# Kantorovich



# Dantzig



# Brenier



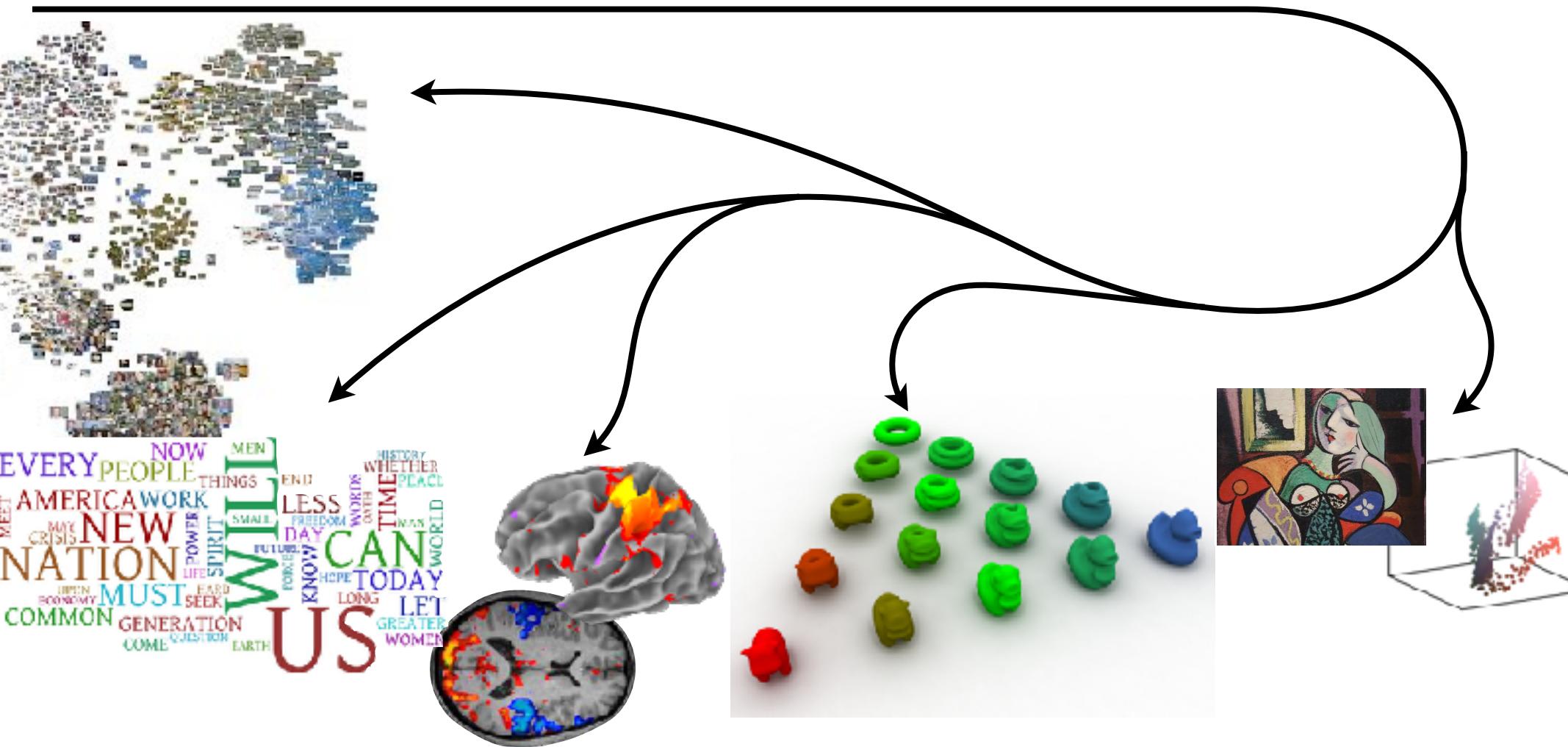
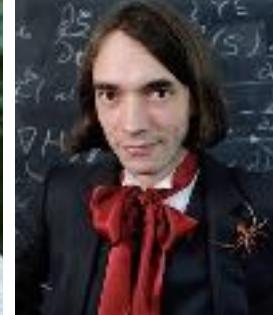
Otto



McCann



Villani



# Overview

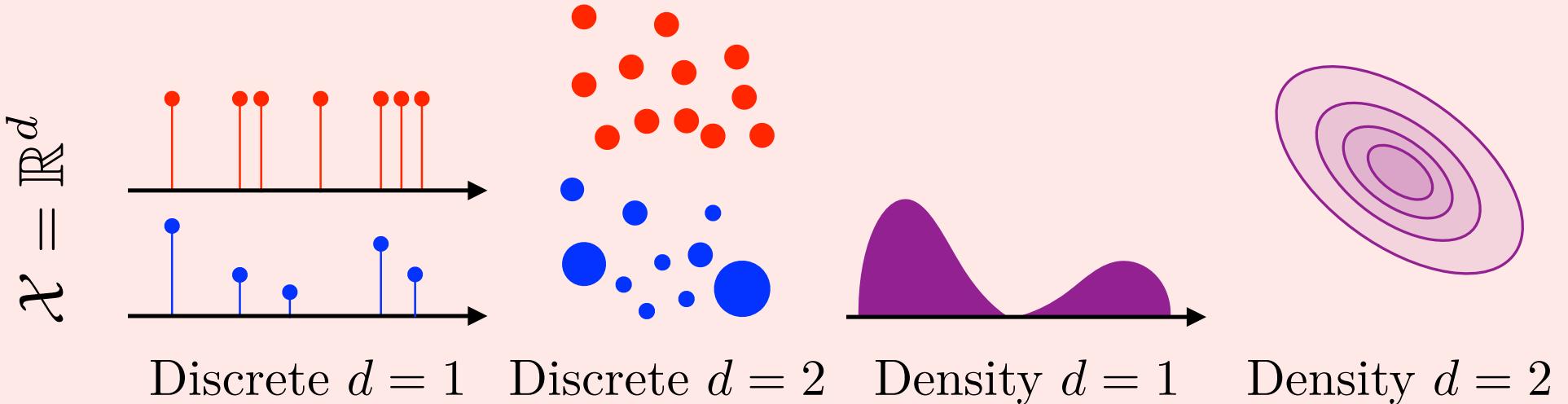
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- **Measures and Histograms**
- From Monge to Kantorovitch Formulations
- Special Cases

# Probability Measures

Positive Radon measure  $\alpha$  on a metric space  $\mathcal{X}$ .

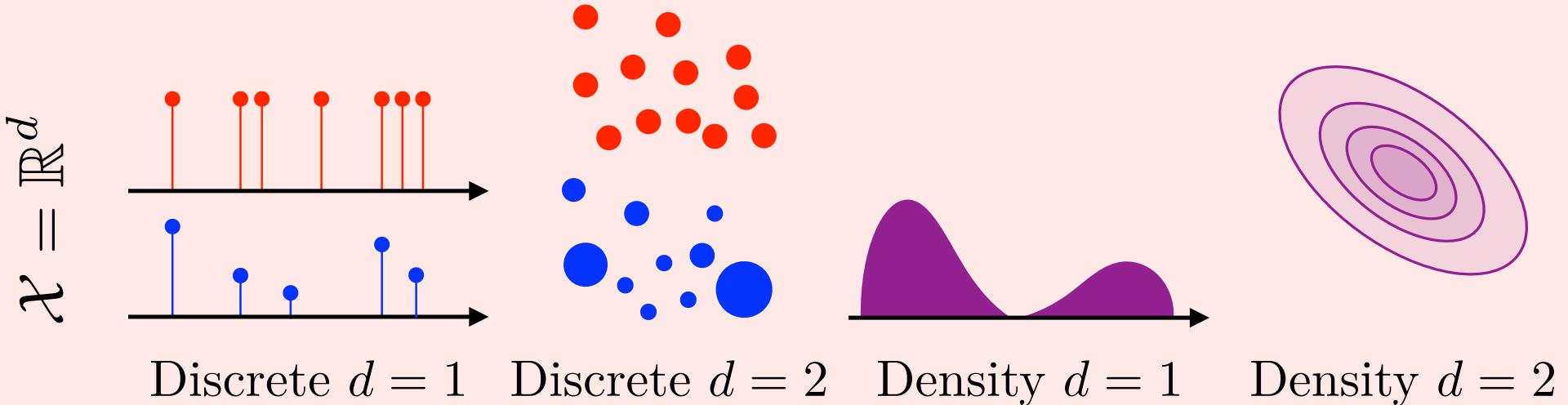
$$d\alpha(x) = \rho_\alpha(x)dx \quad \alpha = \sum_i \mathbf{a}_i \delta_{x_i}$$



# Probability Measures

Positive Radon measure  $\alpha$  on a metric space  $\mathcal{X}$ .

$$d\alpha(x) = \rho_\alpha(x)dx \quad \alpha = \sum_i \mathbf{a}_i \delta_{x_i}$$



Measure of sets  $A \subset \mathcal{X}$ :  $\alpha(A) = \int_A d\alpha(x) \geq 0$

Integration against continuous functions:  $\int_{\mathcal{X}} g(x)d\alpha(x) \geq 0$

$$d\alpha(x) = \rho_\alpha(x)dx \longrightarrow \int_{\mathcal{X}} g d\alpha = \int_{\mathcal{X}} \rho_\alpha(x) dx$$

$$\alpha = \sum_i \mathbf{a}_i \delta_{x_i} \longrightarrow \int_{\mathcal{X}} g d\alpha = \sum_i \mathbf{a}_i g(x_i)$$

Probability (normalized) measure:  $\alpha(\mathcal{X}) = \int_{\mathcal{X}} d\alpha(x) = 1$

# Measures and Random Variables

Random vectors

$$\mathbb{P}(\textcolor{red}{X} \in A)$$

Convergence in law:

$\forall$  set  $A$

$$\mathbb{P}(\textcolor{red}{X}_n \in A) \xrightarrow{n \rightarrow +\infty} \mathbb{P}(\textcolor{red}{X} \in A)$$

Radon measures

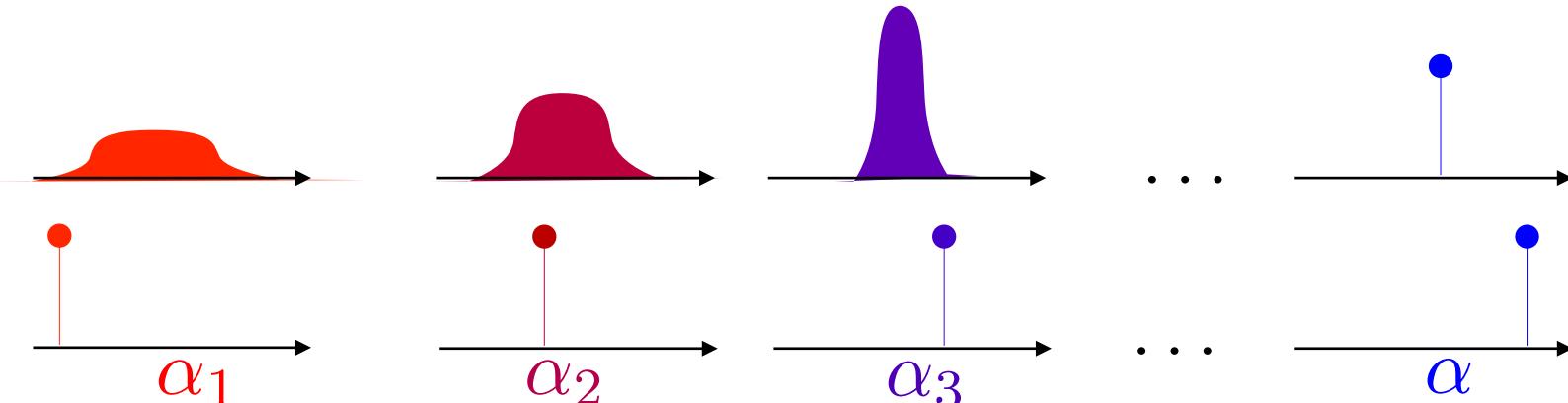
$$\int_A d\alpha(x)$$

Weak\* convergence:

$\forall$  continuous function  $f$

$$\int f d\alpha_n \xrightarrow{n \rightarrow +\infty} \int f d\alpha$$

Weak convergence:

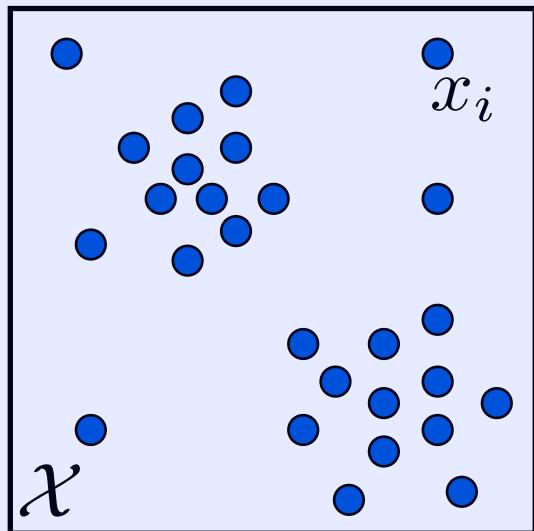


# Lagrangian vs. Eulerian Discretization

Discrete measure:  $\alpha = \sum_{i=1}^n \mathbf{a}_i \delta_{x_i} \quad x_i \in \mathcal{X}, \quad \sum_i \mathbf{a}_i = 1$

*Lagrangian (point clouds)*

Constant weights  $\mathbf{a}_i = \frac{1}{n}$

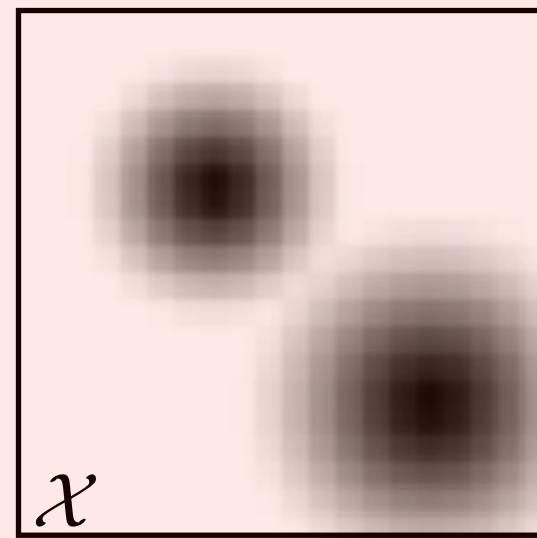


Quotient space:

$$\mathcal{X}^n / \text{Perm}(n)$$

*Eulerian (histograms)*

Fixed positions  $x_i$  (e.g. grid)



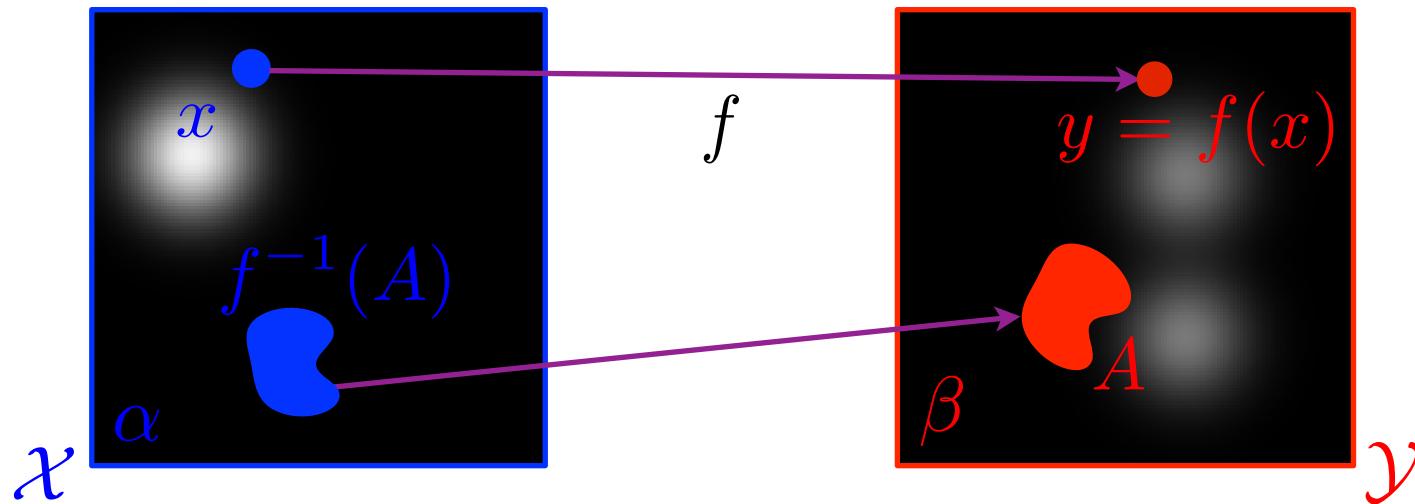
Convex polytope (simplex):  
 $\{(\mathbf{a}_i)_i \geq 0 ; \sum_i \mathbf{a}_i = 1\}$

# Push Forward

Radon measures  $(\alpha, \beta)$  on  $(\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{Y})$ .

Transfer of measure by  $f : \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathcal{Y}$ : *push forward*.

$$\begin{aligned}\beta = f_{\sharp}\alpha \text{ defined by:} \quad & \beta(A) \stackrel{\text{def.}}{=} \alpha(f^{-1}(A)) \\ & \iff \int_{\mathcal{Y}} g(y) d\beta(y) \stackrel{\text{def.}}{=} \int_{\mathcal{X}} g(f(x)) d\alpha(x)\end{aligned}$$

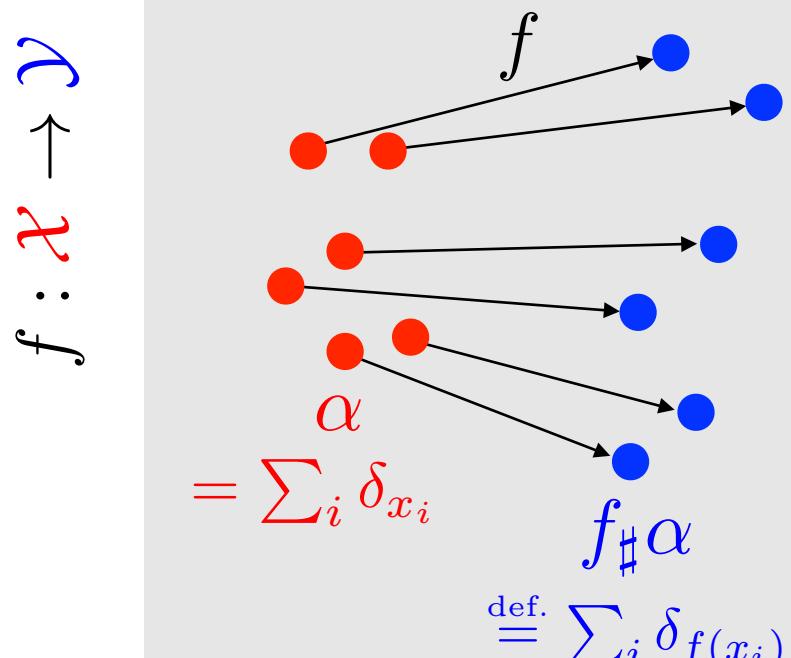


Smooth densities:  $d\alpha = \rho(x)dx$ ,  $d\beta = \xi(x)dx$

$$f_{\sharp}\alpha = \beta \iff \rho(f(x)) |\det(\partial f(x))| = \xi(x)$$

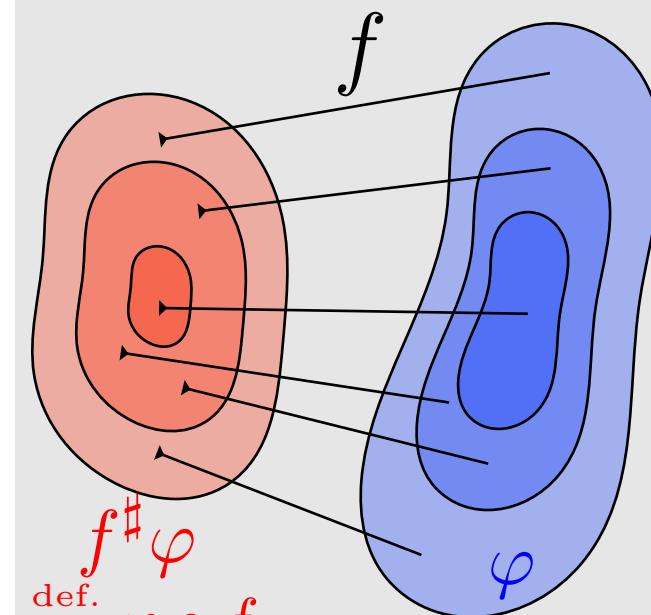
# Push-forward vs. Pull-back

Measures:  
push-forward



$$f_\# : \mathcal{M}(\mathcal{X}) \rightarrow \mathcal{M}(\mathcal{Y})$$

Functions:  
pull-back



$$f^\# : \mathcal{C}(\mathcal{Y}) \rightarrow \mathcal{C}(\mathcal{X})$$

Remark:  $f^\#$  and  $f_\#$  are adjoints

$$\int_{\mathcal{Y}} \varphi d(f_\# \alpha) = \int_{\mathcal{X}} (f^\# \varphi) d\alpha$$

# Overview

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- Measures and Histograms
- From Monge to Kantorovitch Formulations
- Special Cases

# Gaspard Monge (1746-1818)

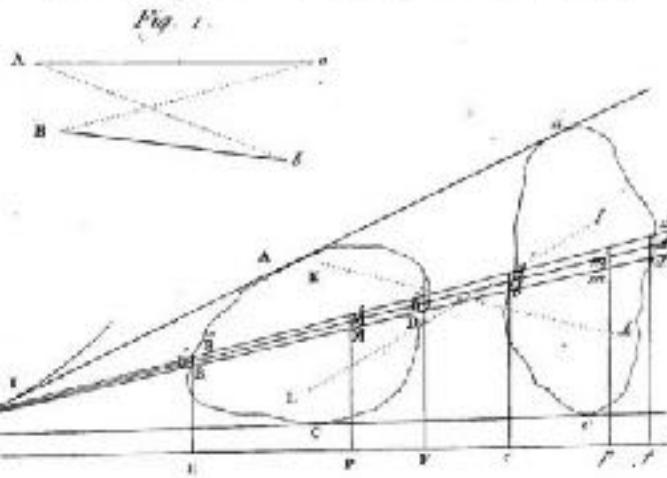
(1784)

MÉMOIRE  
SUR LA  
THÉORIE DES DÉBLAIS  
ET DES REMBLAIS.  
Par M. MONGE.

Lorsqu'on doit transporter des terres d'un lieu dans un autre, on a coutume de donner le nom de *Déblai* au volume des terres que l'on doit transporter, & le nom de *Remblai* à l'espace qu'elles doivent occuper après le transport.

Le prix du transport d'une molécule étant, toutes échelles d'ailleurs égales, proportionnel à son poids & à l'espace que tel fait parcourir, & par conséquent le prix du transport total devient proportionnel à la somme des produits des molécules multipliées chacune par l'espace parcouru, il résulte que le déblai & le remblai étant donnés de figure & de position, il n'est pas indifférent que telle molécule du déblai soit transportée dans tel ou tel autre endroit du remblai, mais qu'il y a une certaine distribution à faire des molécules du premier dans le second, d'après laquelle la somme de ces produits sera la moindre possible, & le prix du transport total sera un *minimum*.

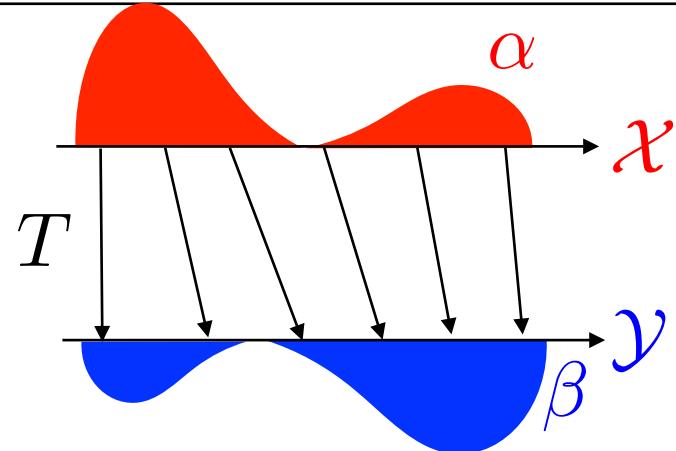
Hém. de l'Ac. R. des Sc. An. 1784. Page. 294. Pl. XVII.



# Monge's Transport



$$\min_{\beta = T_\# \alpha} \int_{\mathcal{X}} \|x - T(x)\|^2 d\alpha(x)$$



Densities:  $\frac{d\alpha}{dx} = \rho_\alpha, \frac{d\beta}{dx} = \rho_\beta$

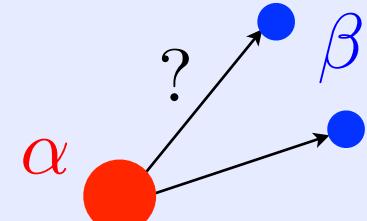
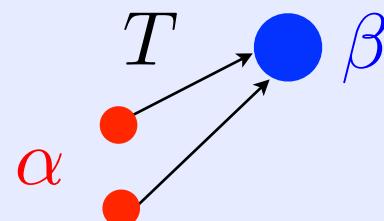
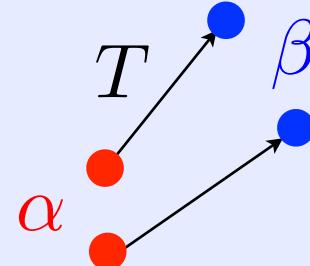
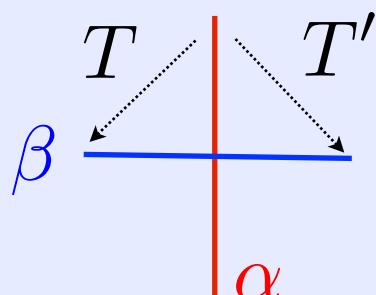
*Theorem:* [Brenier] Unique  $T = \nabla \varphi$  solving

$$\det(\partial^2 \varphi(x)) \rho_\beta(\nabla \varphi(x)) = \rho_\alpha(x) \quad \varphi \text{ convex}$$



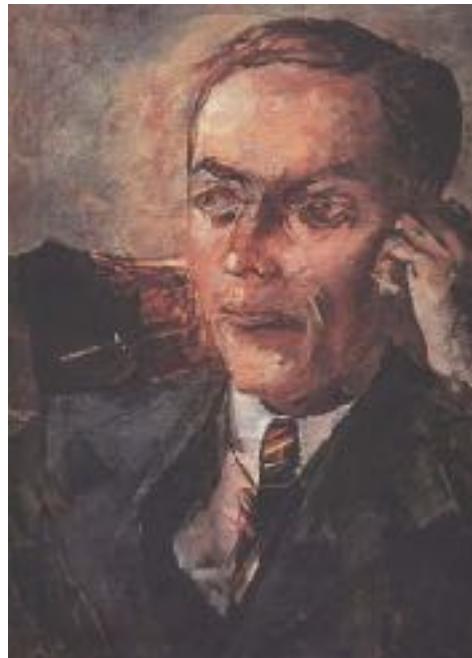
→ Monge-Ampère equation (non-linear, degenerate elliptic).

*Non-uniqueness / non-existence:*



# Leonid Kantorovich (1912-1986)

Леонид Витальевич Канторович



Journal of Mathematical Statistics, Vol. 1(1), No. 4, 2006

[Kantorovich 1942]

## ON THE TRANSLOCATION OF MASSES

L. V. Kantorovich\*

The original paper was published in Dokl. Akad. Nauk SSSR, 37, No. 7-8, 297-300 (1949).

We assume that  $R$  is a compact metric space, though some of the definitions and results given below can be formulated for more general spaces.

Let  $\Phi(\alpha)$  be a mass distribution, i.e., a set function such that: (1)  $\alpha$  is defined for Borel sets, (2) it is nonnegative:  $\Phi(\alpha) \geq 0$ , (3) it is absolutely additive: If  $\alpha = \alpha_1 + \alpha_2 + \dots + \alpha_n$  ( $\alpha_i = 0$  if  $i > n$ ), then  $\Phi(\alpha) = \Phi(\alpha_1) + \Phi(\alpha_2) + \dots$ . Let  $\Psi(\alpha')$  be another mass distribution such that  $\Phi(\beta) = \Psi(\beta')$ . By definition, a translocation of mass  $\alpha$  is a function  $\Psi(\alpha')$  defined for pairs of (2) sets  $\alpha, \alpha' \in R$  such that: (1) it is nonnegative and absolutely additive with respect to each of its arguments, (2)  $\Psi(\alpha, \beta) = \Phi(\alpha)$ ,  $\Psi(\beta, \alpha') = \Phi(\alpha')$ .

Let  $r(x, y)$  be a known continuous nonnegative function representing the work required to move a unit mass from  $x$  to  $y$ .

We define the work required for the translocation of two given mass distributions as

$$W(\Phi, \Psi, \Psi') = \int_R r(x, x') \Psi(dx, dx') - \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{i=1}^n r(x_i, x'_i) \Psi(x_i, x'_i),$$

where  $x_i$  are disjoint and  $\sum_i x_i = R$ ,  $x'_i$  are disjoint and  $\sum_i x'_i = R$ ,  $x_i \subset x$ ,  $x'_i \subset x'$ , and  $\lambda$  is the length of the number disease:  $(0 = 1, 2, \dots, n)$  and disease:  $(0 = 1, 2, \dots, m)$ .

Clearly, this integral does exist.

Print the quantity

$$W(\Phi, \Psi) = \inf_{\Psi'} W(\Phi, \Psi, \Psi')$$

the minimal translocation work. Since the set of all function  $\{\Psi\}$  is compact, there exists a function  $\Psi_0$  realizing this minimum, so that

$$W(\Phi, \Psi_0) = W(\Psi_0, \Phi, \Psi_0).$$

# Before Kantorovitch

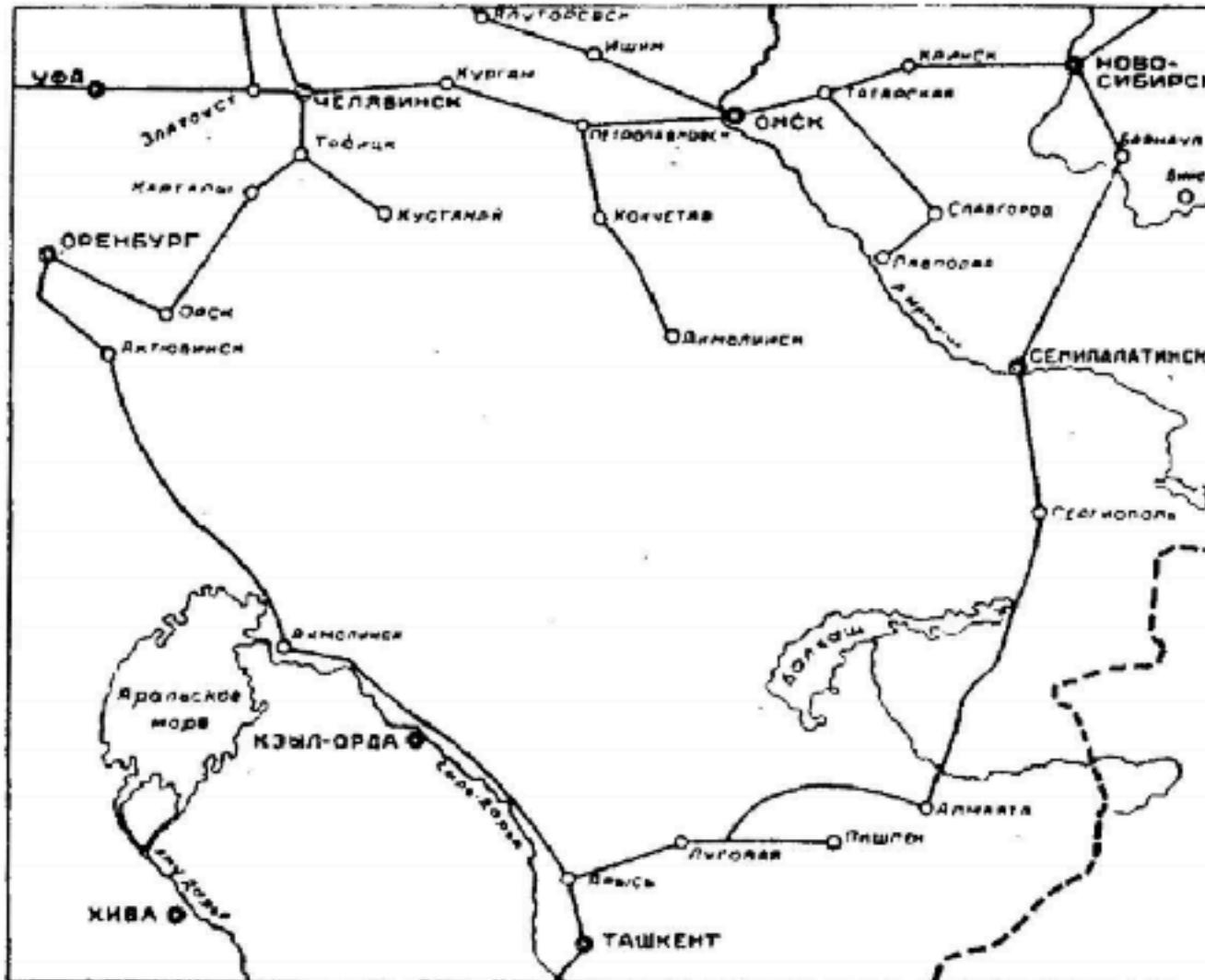


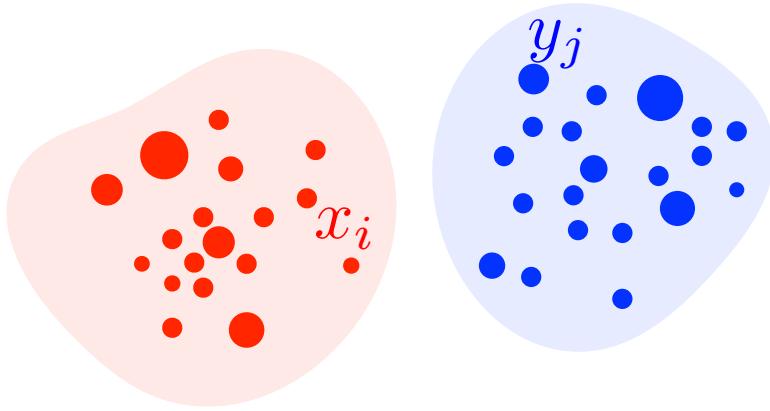
Figure 1: Figure from Tolstoi [1930] to illustrate a negative cycle

Optimal Transport was formulated in 1930 by A.N. Tolstoi, 12 years before Kantorovich. He even solved a "large scale"  $10 \times 68$  instance!

# Kantorovitch's Formulation

*Input distributions*

$$\alpha = \sum_{i=1}^n \mathbf{a}_i \delta_{x_i} \quad \beta = \sum_{j=1}^m \mathbf{b}_j \delta_{y_j}$$



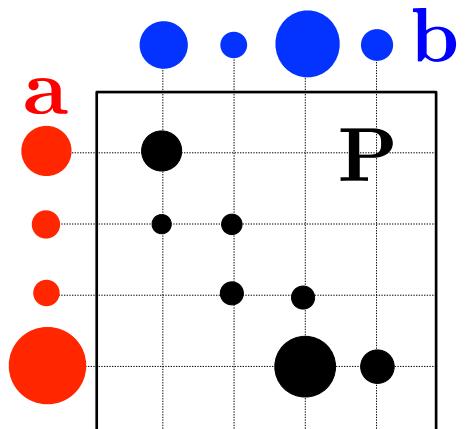
Points  $(x_i)_i, (y_j)_j$

Weights  $\mathbf{a}_i \geq 0, \mathbf{b}_j \geq 0.$

$$\sum_{i=1}^n \mathbf{a}_i = \sum_{j=1}^m \mathbf{b}_j = 1$$

Couplings:

$$\mathbf{U}(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}) \stackrel{\text{def.}}{=} \left\{ \mathbf{P} \in \mathbb{R}_+^{n \times m} ; \mathbf{P} \mathbf{1}_n = \mathbf{a}, \mathbf{P}^\top \mathbf{1}_m = \mathbf{b} \right\}$$



# Kantorovitch's Formulation

*Input distributions*

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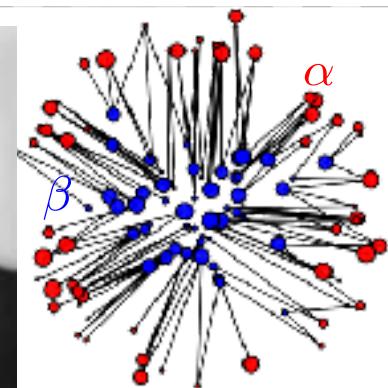
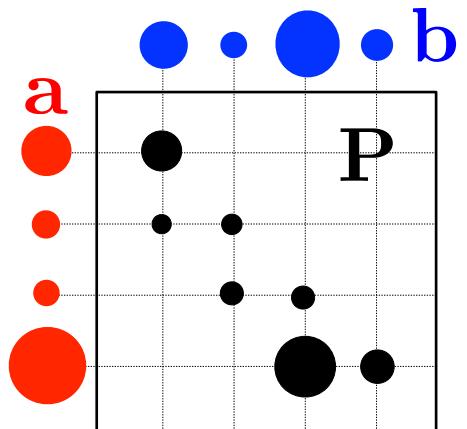
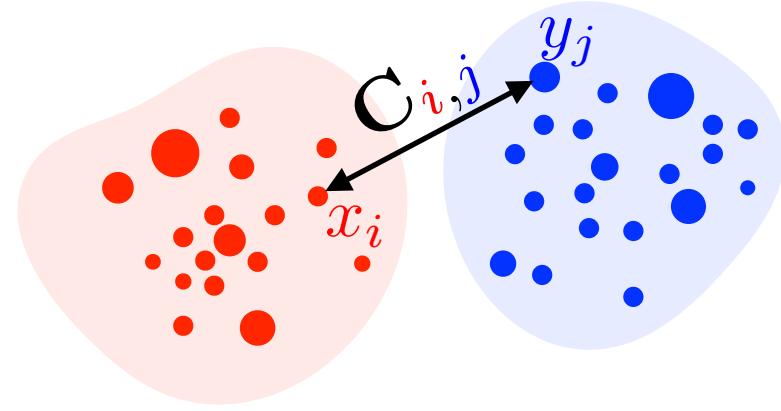
Couplings:

$$\mathbf{U}(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}) \stackrel{\text{def.}}{=} \left\{ \mathbf{P} \in \mathbb{R}_+^{n \times m} ; \mathbf{P}\mathbf{1}_n = \mathbf{a}, \mathbf{P}^\top \mathbf{1}_m = \mathbf{b} \right\}$$

Cost:  $\mathbf{C}_{i,j} = c(x_i, y_j)$

[Kantorovich 1942]

$$L_{\mathbf{C}}(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}) \stackrel{\text{def.}}{=} \min \left\{ \sum_{i,j} \mathbf{P}_{i,j} \mathbf{C}_{i,j} ; \mathbf{P} \in \mathbf{U}(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}) \right\}$$



# Couplings Between General Measures

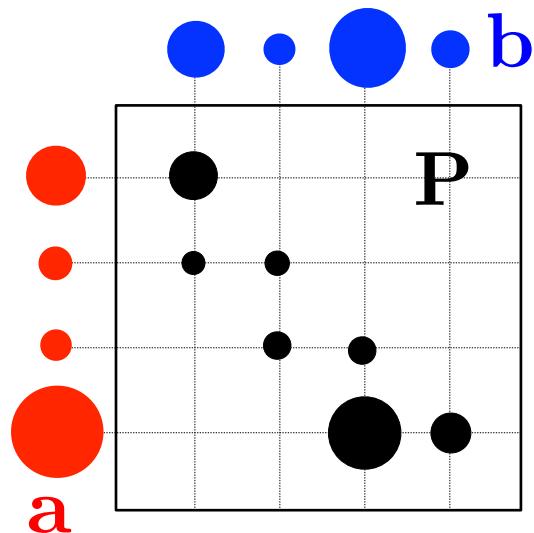
Projectors:

$$P_{\mathcal{X}} : (x, y) \in \mathcal{X} \times \mathcal{Y} \mapsto x \in \mathcal{X}$$

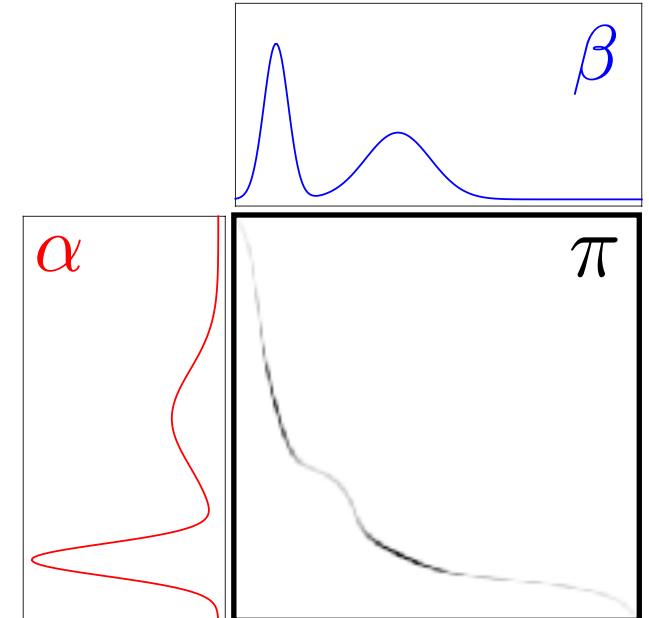
$$P_{\mathcal{Y}} : (x, y) \in \mathcal{X} \times \mathcal{Y} \mapsto y \in \mathcal{Y}$$

Couplings:

$$\mathcal{U}(\alpha, \beta) \stackrel{\text{def.}}{=} \left\{ \pi \in \mathcal{M}_+^1(\mathcal{X} \times \mathcal{Y}) : P_{\mathcal{X}\sharp}\pi = \alpha \quad \text{and} \quad P_{\mathcal{Y}\sharp}\pi = \beta \right\}$$



$$\pi = \sum_{i,j} \mathbf{P}_{i,j} \delta_{x_i, y_j}$$

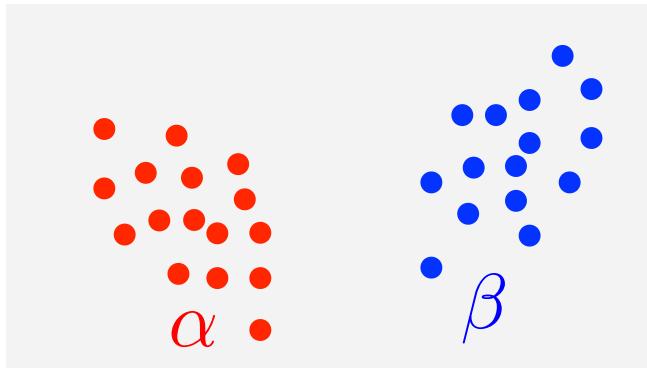


$$P_{\mathcal{X},\sharp} \left( \sum_{i,j} \mathbf{P}_{i,j} \delta_{(x_i, y_j)} \right) = \sum_i \left( \sum_j \mathbf{P}_{i,j} \right) \delta_{x_i}$$

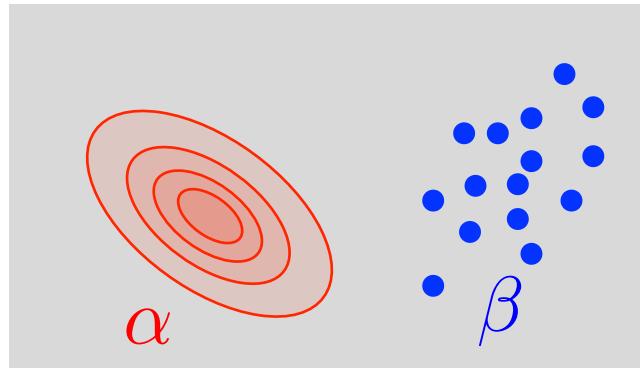
$$P_{\mathcal{Y},\sharp} \left( \sum_{i,j} \mathbf{P}_{i,j} \delta_{(x_i, y_j)} \right) = \sum_j \left( \sum_i \mathbf{P}_{i,j} \right) \delta_{y_j}$$

# Couplings: the 3 Settings

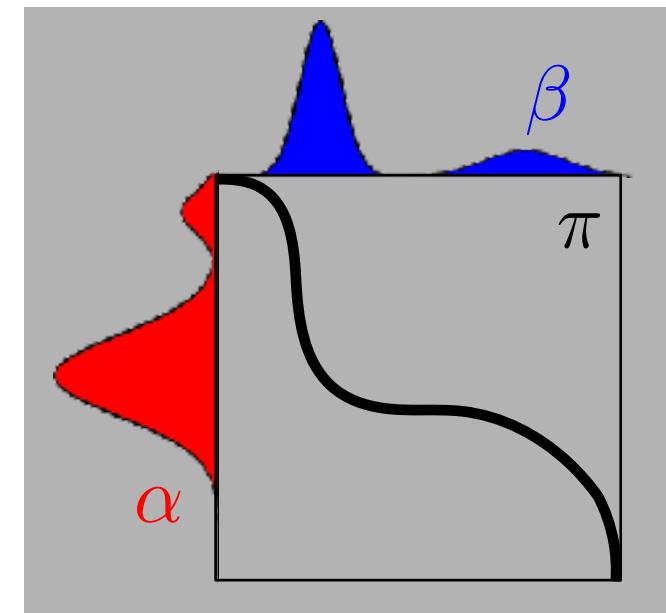
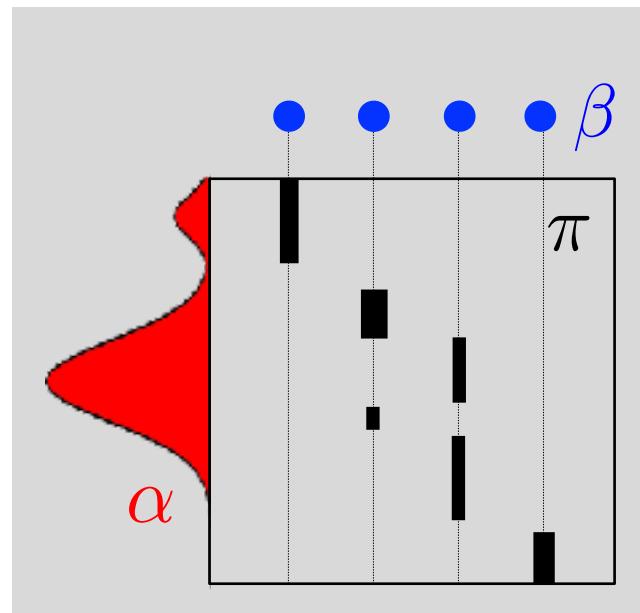
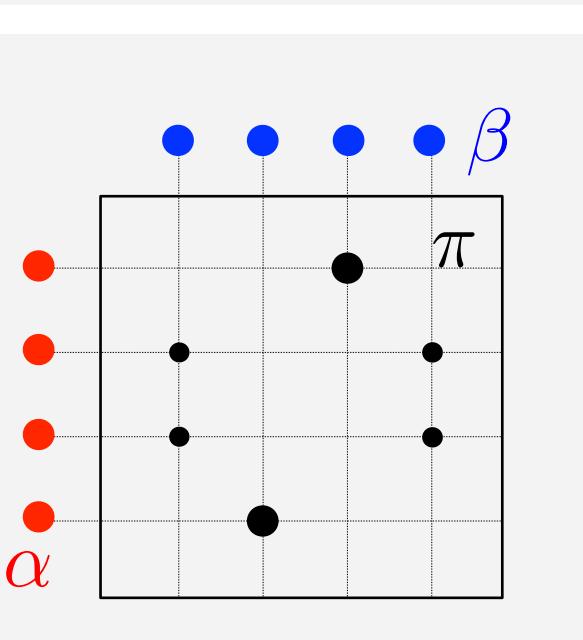
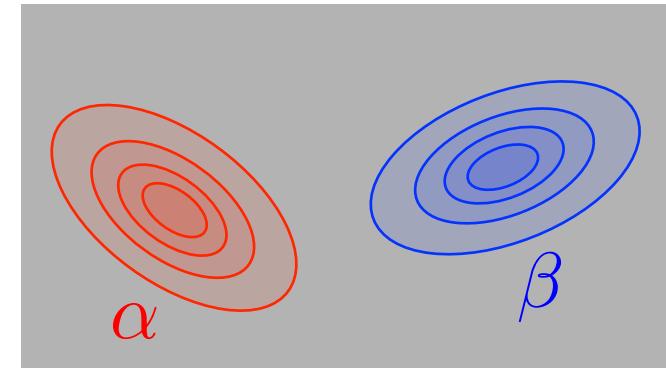
Discrete



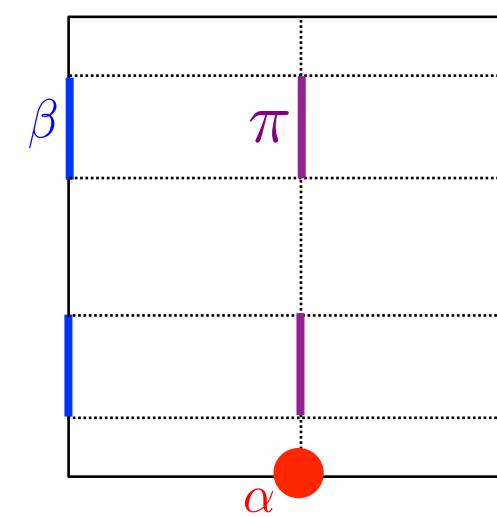
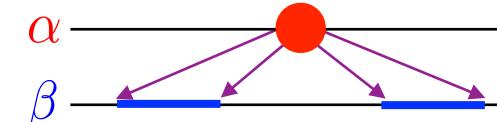
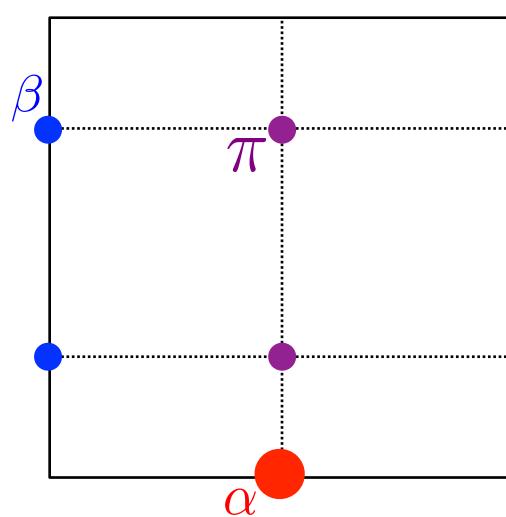
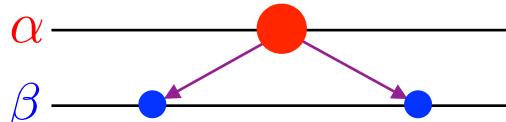
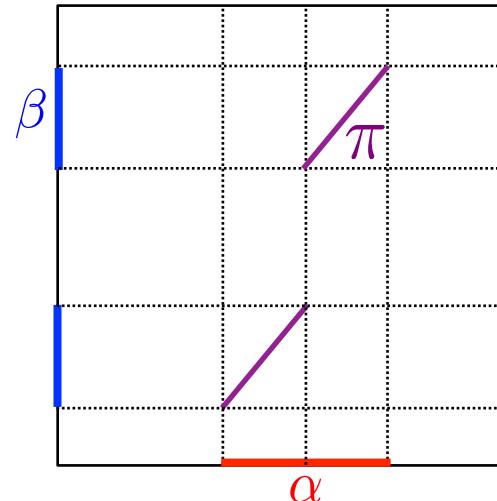
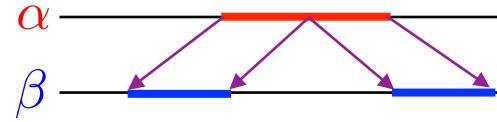
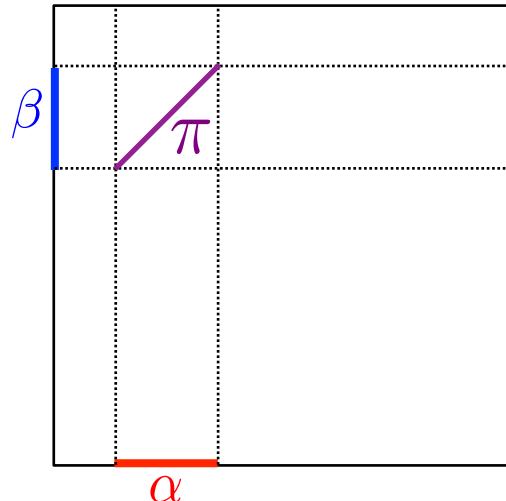
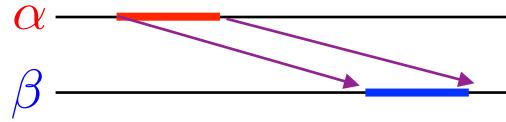
Semi-discrete



Continuous



# Examples of Couplings



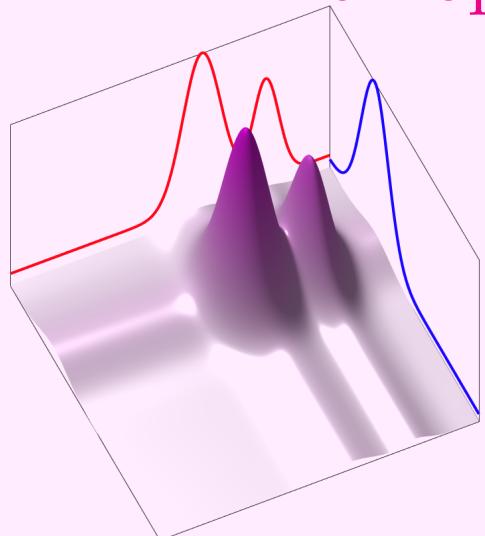
# Kantorovitch Problem for General Measures

$$\mathcal{L}_c(\alpha, \beta) \stackrel{\text{def.}}{=} \min_{\pi \in \mathcal{U}(\alpha, \beta)} \int_{\mathcal{X} \times \mathcal{Y}} c(x, y) d\pi(x, y)$$

Probabilistic interpretation:

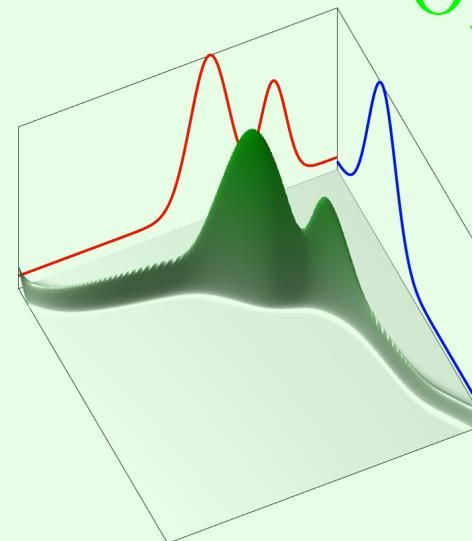
$$\min_{(X, Y)} \left\{ \mathbb{E}_{(X, Y)}(c(X, Y)) : X \sim \alpha, Y \sim \beta \right\}$$

Non-optimal

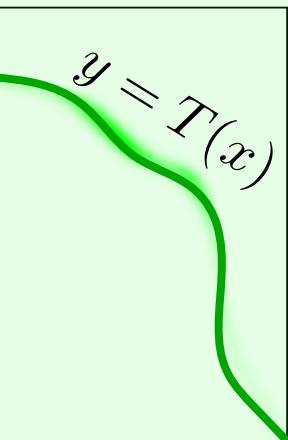


$$\begin{aligned} \pi &= \alpha \otimes \beta \\ (X, Y) &\text{ independents} \end{aligned}$$

Optimal



$$\begin{aligned} \pi &= (\text{Id}, T)_\sharp \alpha \\ Y &= T(X) \end{aligned}$$

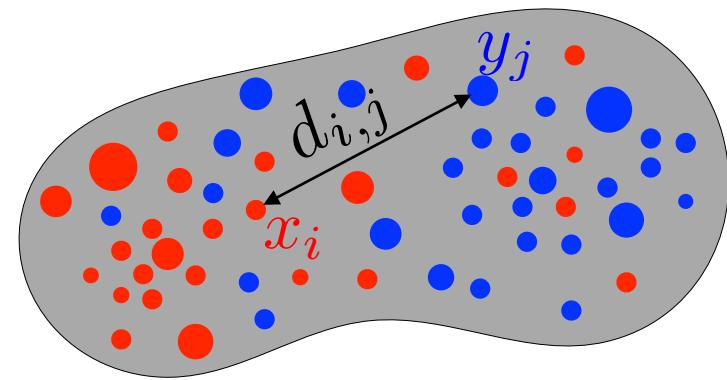


# Wasserstein Distance

Metric spaces  $\mathcal{X} = \mathcal{Y}$

Distance  $d(x, y)$ .

Cost  $c(x, y) = d(x, y)^p$ ,  $p \geq 1$ .



Wasserstein distance:

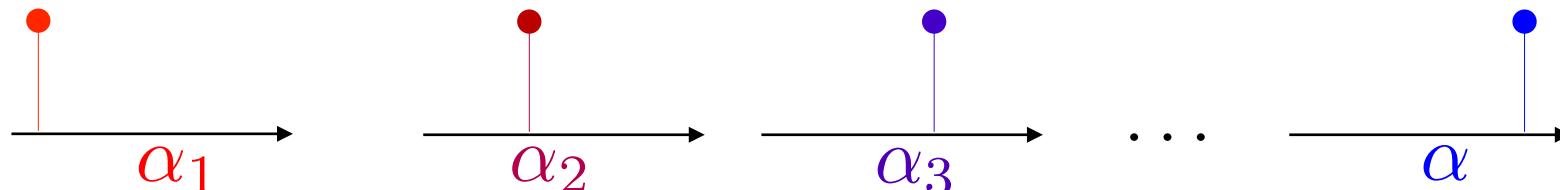
$$W_p(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}) \stackrel{\text{def.}}{=} L_{\mathbf{D}^p}(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b})^{1/p}$$

$$\mathcal{W}_p(\alpha, \beta) \stackrel{\text{def.}}{=} \mathcal{L}_{d^p}(\alpha, \beta)^{1/p}$$

*Theorem:*  $W_p$  and  $\mathcal{W}_p$  are distances.

$$\mathcal{W}_p(\alpha_n, \alpha) \rightarrow 0 \iff \alpha_n \xrightarrow{\text{weak*}} \alpha$$

*Examples:*  $\mathcal{W}_p(\delta_x, \delta_y) = d(x, y)$ .



# Overview

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- Measures and Histograms
- From Monge to Kantorovitch Formulations
- **Special Cases**

# 1-D Optimal Transport

Cumulative function:

$$\forall x \in \mathbb{R}, \quad \mathcal{C}_\alpha(x) \stackrel{\text{def.}}{=} \int_{-\infty}^x d\alpha,$$

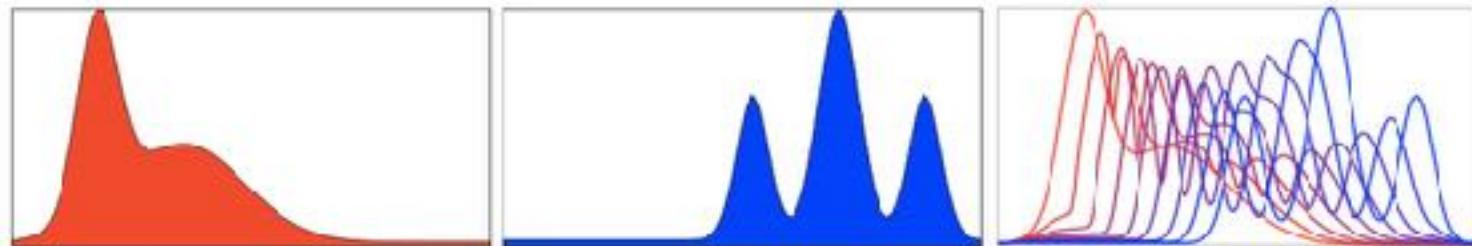
Inverse cumulative:

$$\forall r \in [0, 1], \quad \mathcal{C}_\alpha^{-1}(r) = \min_x \{x \in \mathbb{R} \cup \{-\infty\} : \mathcal{C}_\alpha(x) \geq r\}$$

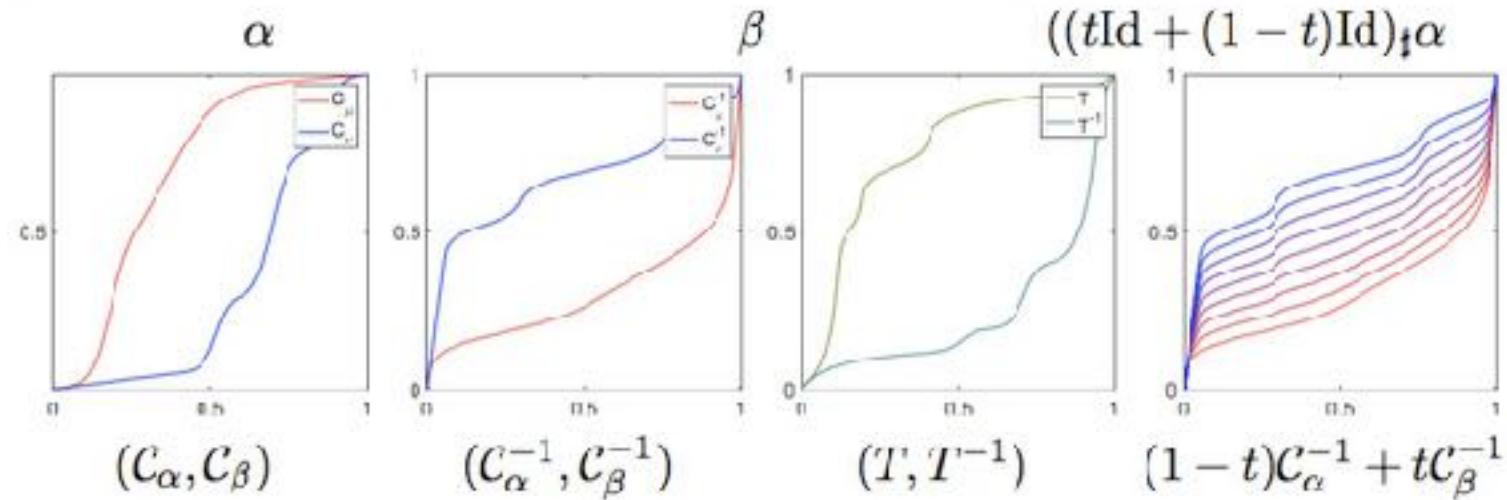
Theorem:

$$\mathcal{W}_p(\alpha, \beta)^p = \left\| \mathcal{C}_\alpha^{-1} - \mathcal{C}_\beta^{-1} \right\|_{L^p([0,1])}^p = \int_0^1 |\mathcal{C}_\alpha^{-1}(r) - \mathcal{C}_\beta^{-1}(r)|^p dr$$

$$\mathcal{W}_1(\alpha, \beta) = \|\mathcal{C}_\alpha - \mathcal{C}_\beta\|_{L^1(\mathbb{R})} = \int_{\mathbb{R}} |\mathcal{C}_\alpha(x) - \mathcal{C}_\beta(x)| dx = \int_{\mathbb{R}} \left| \int_{-\infty}^x d(\alpha - \beta) \right| dx.$$

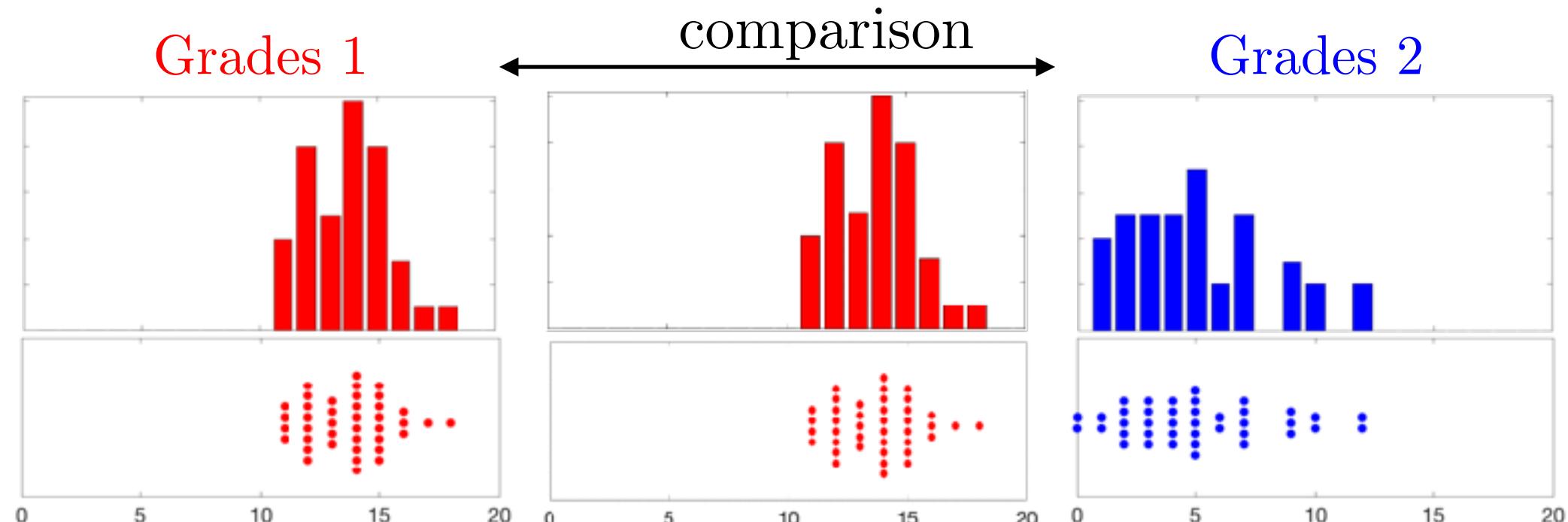
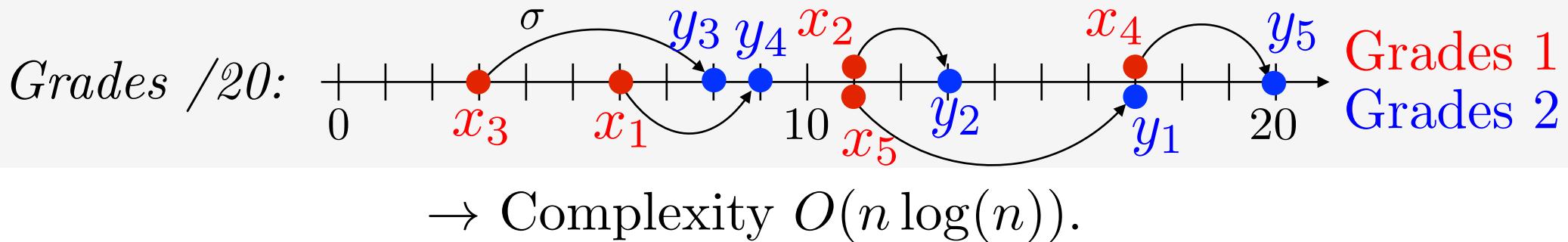


$$T = \mathcal{C}_\beta^{-1} \circ \mathcal{C}_\alpha$$



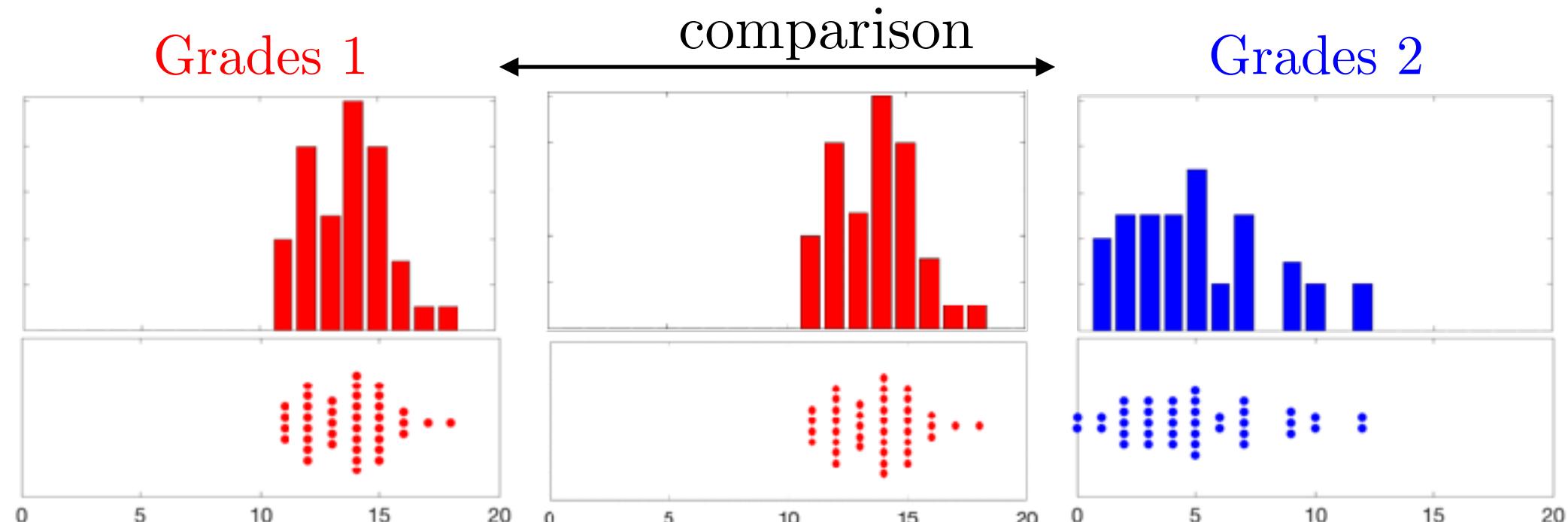
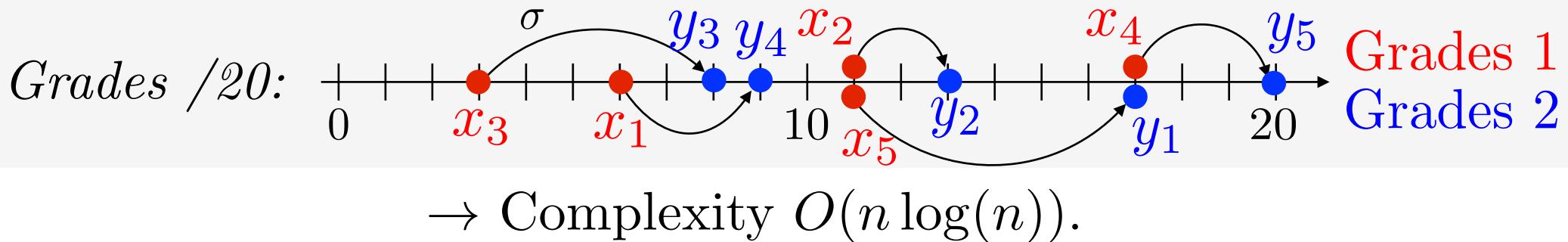
# Discrete 1-D Optimal Transport

$$\min_{\sigma \in \Sigma_n} \sum_{i=1}^n |x_i - y_{\sigma(i)}|$$



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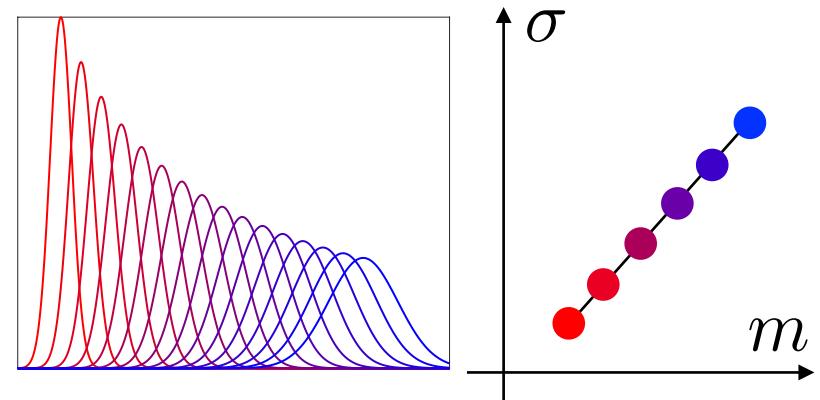
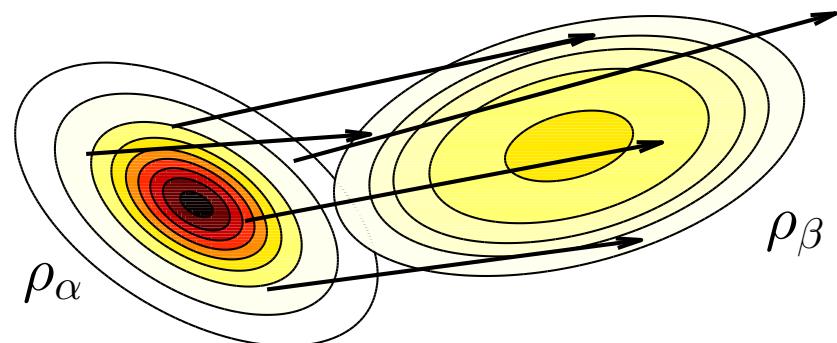


# OT Between Gaussians

OT between  $\beta = \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{m}_\beta, \Sigma_\beta)$   $\alpha = \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{m}_\alpha, \Sigma_\alpha)$  is affine:

$$T : x \mapsto \mathbf{m}_\beta + A(x - \mathbf{m}_\alpha)$$
$$A = \Sigma_\alpha^{-\frac{1}{2}} \left( \Sigma_\alpha^{\frac{1}{2}} \Sigma_\beta \Sigma_\alpha^{\frac{1}{2}} \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \Sigma_\alpha^{-\frac{1}{2}} = A^T$$

→ Gaussians are OT geodesically convex.



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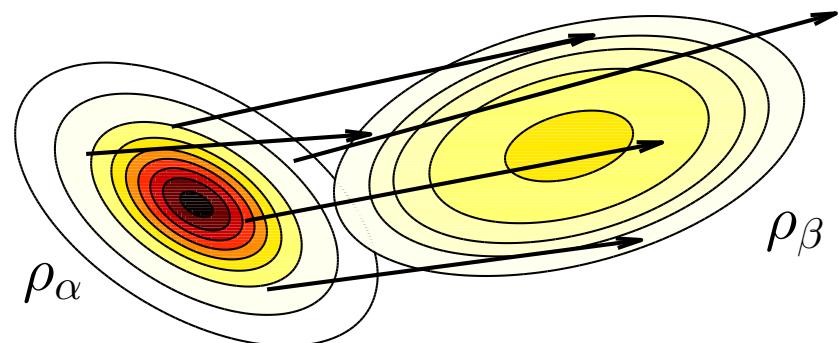
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→ Gaussians are OT geodesically convex.

$$\mathcal{W}_2^2(\alpha, \beta) = \|\mathbf{m}_\alpha - \mathbf{m}_\beta\|^2 + \mathcal{B}(\Sigma_\alpha, \Sigma_\beta)^2$$

Bures distance:

$$\mathcal{B}(\Sigma_\alpha, \Sigma_\beta)^2 \stackrel{\text{def.}}{=} \text{tr} \left( \Sigma_\alpha + \Sigma_\beta - 2(\Sigma_\alpha^{1/2} \Sigma_\beta \Sigma_\alpha^{1/2})^{1/2} \right)$$



Diagonal covariances:

$$\Sigma_\alpha = \text{diag}(r_i)_i \quad \Sigma_\beta = \text{diag}(s_i)_i$$

$$\mathcal{B}(\Sigma_\alpha, \Sigma_\beta) = \|\sqrt{r} - \sqrt{s}\|_2$$

