



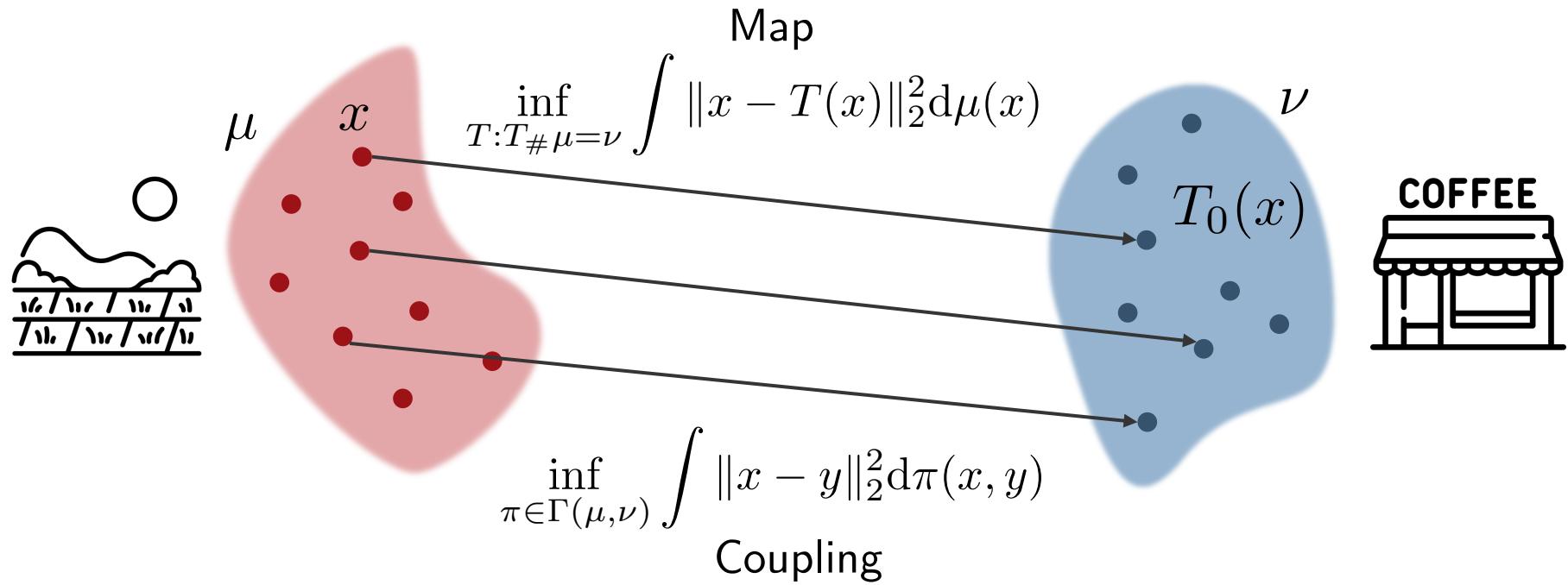
# Progressive Entropic Optimal Transport

Parnian Kassraie

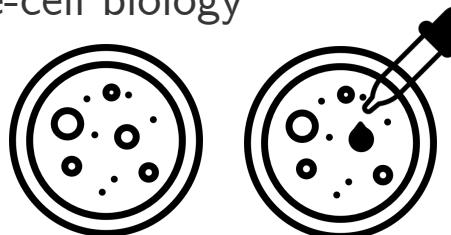
with Marco Cuturi, Michal Klein, James Thornton  
Aram Pooladian & Jon Niles-Weed (ARIA collab)



# Optimal Transport

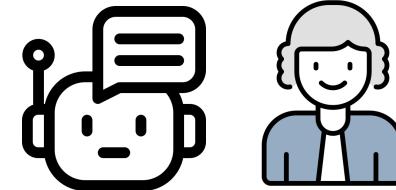


Single-cell biology



[1, 2]

RL/Alignment



[3, 4, 5, 6]



# How do you solve it?

In full generality, OT does not have a solution or is very tough to solve.

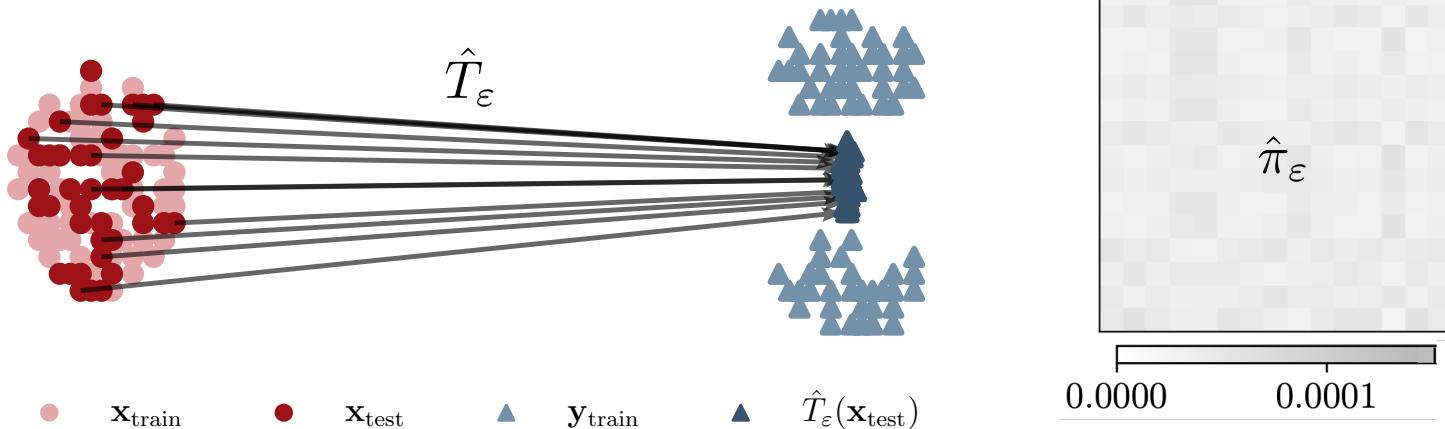
Entropic OT adds a regularization term to make things better:

$$\inf_{\pi \in \Gamma(\nu, \mu)} \int \|x - y\|_2^2 d\pi(x, y) + \varepsilon D_{\text{KL}}(\pi || \mu \otimes \nu)$$

Given  $\hat{\mu}$ ,  $\hat{\nu}$ : Sinkhorn's algorithm can solve this and return  $\hat{T}_\varepsilon$  and  $\hat{\pi}_\varepsilon$

Small  $\varepsilon$ : the algorithm may not converge

Large  $\varepsilon$ :



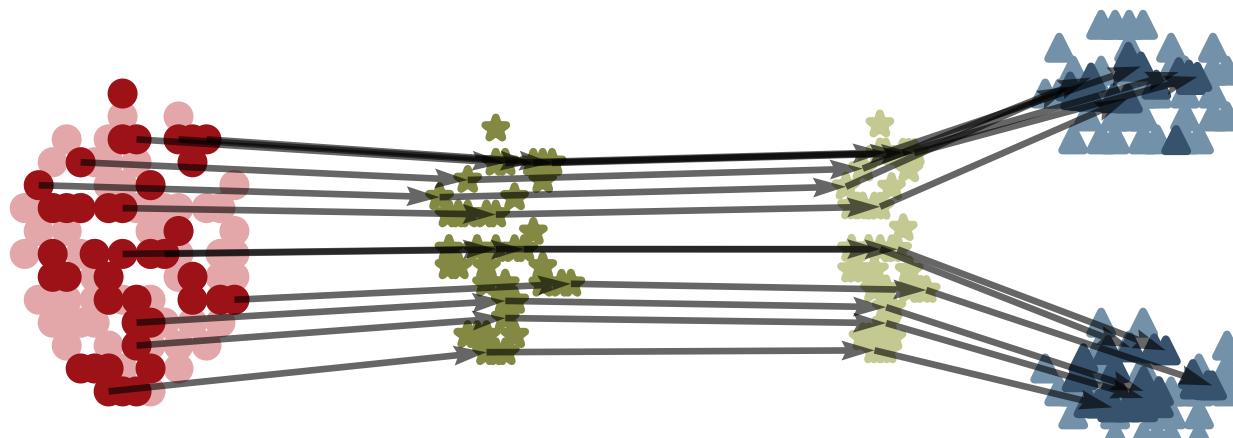


# Our solution: ProgOT

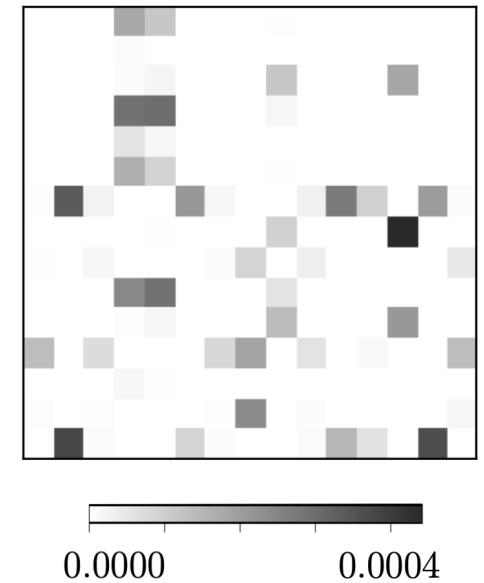


Blend the static OT problem with the dynamic perspective.

Solve a series of EOT problems, with reduced sensitivity to  $\varepsilon$



●  $x_{\text{train}}$  ●  $x_{\text{test}}$  ▲  $y_{\text{train}}$  ▲  $T_{\text{Prog}}(x_{\text{test}})$  ★  $x_{\text{interpolate}}$

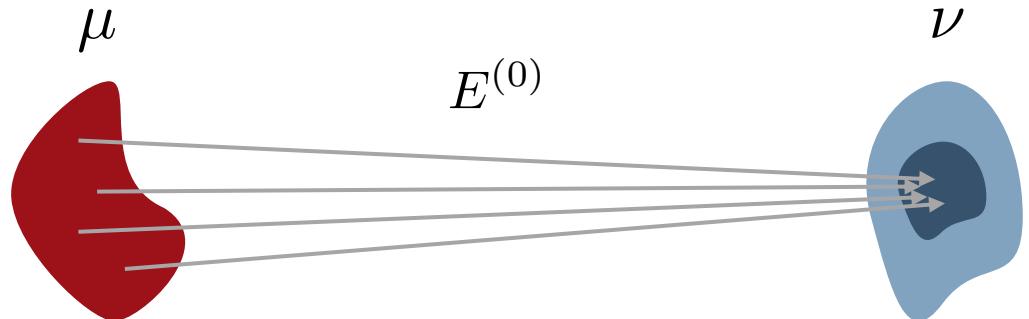


- Elevates issue of regularization parameter
- Converges to the ground truth (statistical guarantee)
- Competitive performance, scalable, and computationally light



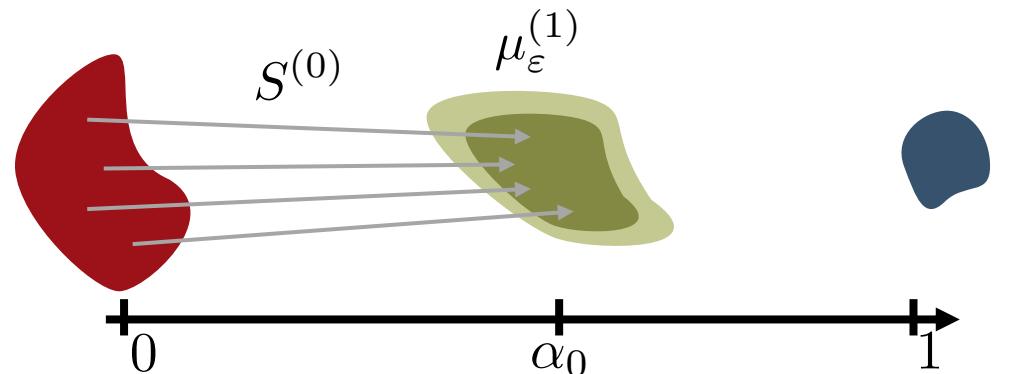
# ProgOT algorithm

Solve Entropic OT with large  $\varepsilon_0$



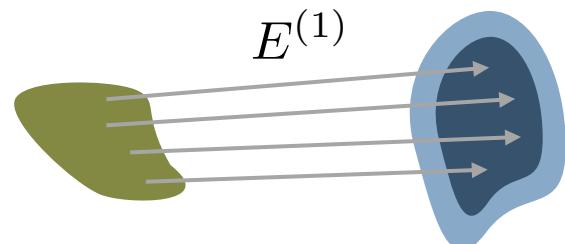
Linearly Interpolate

$$\mu_\varepsilon^{(1)} = \left[ (1 - \alpha_0) \text{Id} + \alpha_0 E^{(0)} \right] \# \mu$$



Reduce  $\varepsilon_1$  and repeat

$$T_{\text{Prog}}^{(1)} = E^{(1)} \circ S^{(0)}$$

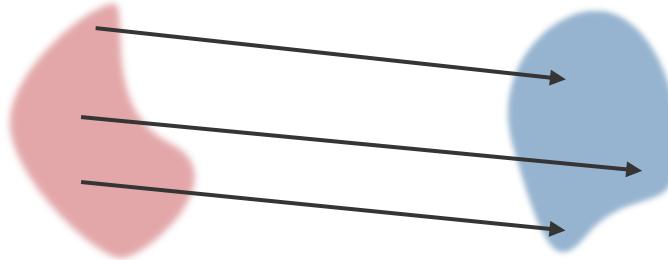


We can repeat this  $K$  times to get  $T_{\text{Prog}}^{(K)}$

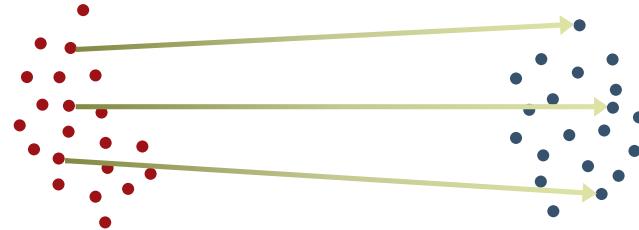


# Theoretical guarantee

$T_0$ : OT map between  $\mu$  &  $\nu$



$T_{\text{Prog}}^{(K)}$ : ProgOT map between  $\hat{\mu}_n$  &  $\hat{\nu}_n$



## Theorem (Non-Asymptotic Consistency)

*Given  $n$  i.i.d. samples from  $\mu$  and  $\nu$ , for an appropriate choice of  $(\varepsilon_k)_k$  and  $(\alpha_k)_k$ , the  $K$ -step progressive map  $T_{\text{Prog}}^{(K)}$  satisfies*

$$\mathbb{E} \left\| T_{\text{Prog}}^{(k)} - T_0 \right\|_{L^2(\mu)}^2 \lesssim n^{-\frac{1}{d}}, \quad \text{Independent of } K!$$

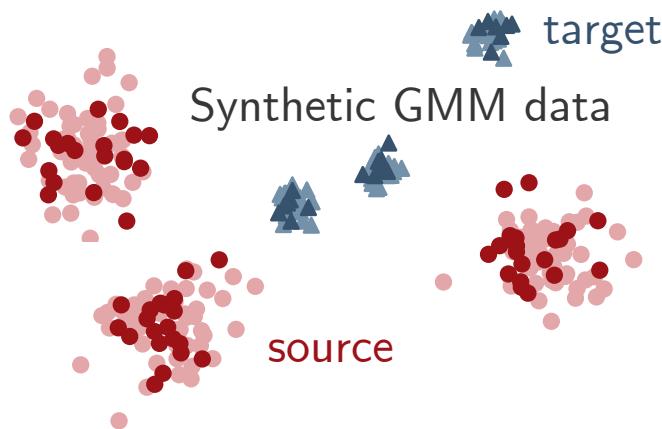
*under regularity assumptions on  $\mu$ ,  $\nu$ , and the true map  $T_0$ .*

Proof idea: The intermediate steps of ProgOT are on the Wasserstein geodesic.

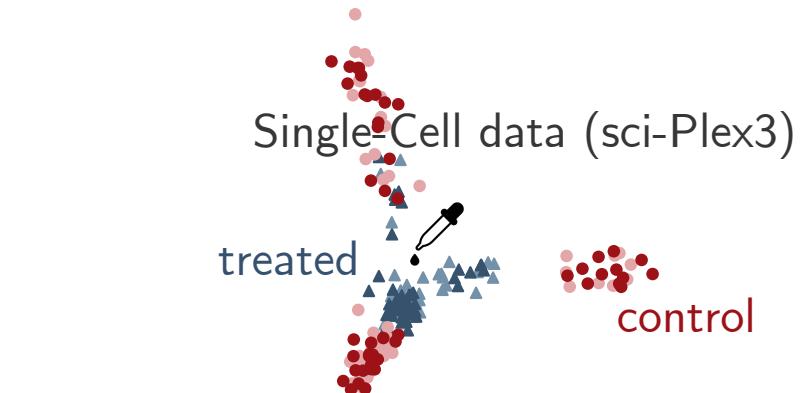


# Map estimation

ProgOT outperforms other map estimators, including neural ones.



	$d = 128$	$d = 256$
PROGOT	<b>0.099</b> $\pm$ 0.009	<b>0.12</b> $\pm$ 0.01
EOT	0.12 $\pm$ 0.01	0.16 $\pm$ 0.02
Debiased EOT	0.11 $\pm$ 0.01	0.128 $\pm$ 0.002
Untuned EOT	0.250 $\pm$ 0.023	0.276 $\pm$ 0.006
Monge Gap	0.36 $\pm$ 0.02	0.273 $\pm$ 0.005
ICNN	0.177 $\pm$ 0.023	0.117 $\pm$ 0.005



Drug	Hesperadin			5-drug rank
	$d_{PCA}$	16	64	
PROGOT	<b>3.7</b> $\pm$ 0.4	<b>10.1</b> $\pm$ 0.4	<b>23.1</b> $\pm$ 0.4	<b>1</b>
EOT	4.1 $\pm$ 0.4	10.4 $\pm$ 0.5	26 $\pm$ 1.3	2
Debiased EOT	4.0 $\pm$ 0.5	15.2 $\pm$ 0.6	41 $\pm$ 1.1	4
Monge Gap	3.7 $\pm$ 0.5	11.0 $\pm$ 0.5	36 $\pm$ 1.1	3
ICNN	3.9 $\pm$ 0.4	14.3 $\pm$ 0.5	46 $\pm$ 2	5



Ground truth is known: MSE  
between the maps over test points

SinkDiv between the predicted target  
and the test target point cloud

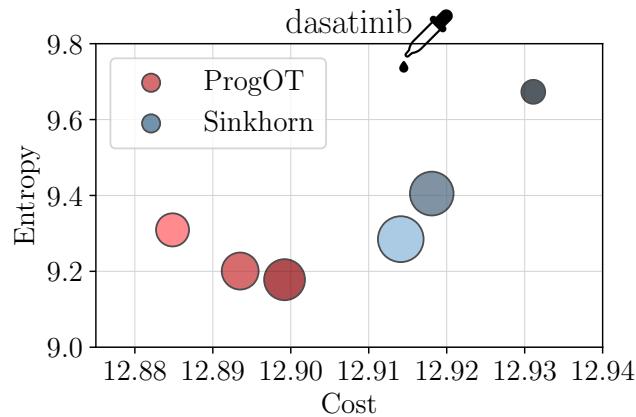


# Coupling recovery

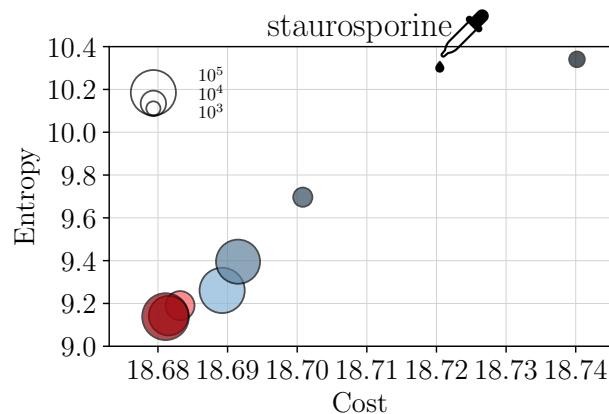
ProgOT attains lower OT cost and lower entropy, at a lower computational cost.

$$\text{Cost} = \sum_{i,j \in [n]} \hat{\pi}_{i,j} h(x_i - y_j)$$

$$\text{Entropy} = \sum_{i,j \in [n]} -\hat{\pi}_{i,j} \log \hat{\pi}_{i,j}$$

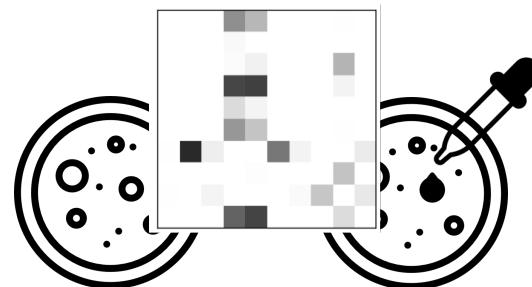


$$h(\cdot) = \frac{1}{2} \|\cdot\|_2^2$$



$$h(\cdot) = \frac{1}{1.5} \|\cdot\|_{1.5}^{1.5}$$

Single-Cell data (4i)



smaller  $\varepsilon$

larger  $K$

[more in the paper]



# The bigger picture

## ProgOT

- Light, off-the-shelf, competitive baseline
- Blending static and dynamic views of OT
- [[paper](#)], [[JAX tutorial](#)]

## Follow-ups

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- Scaling Limit
- Continuous time extension/implications

## OT Applications

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- Unbalanced OT
- The Schrödinger Bridge

## Other Applications

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- Drug perturbations
- Robust generation
- Preference Learning



Thank You



# References

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