

Optimal transport for machine learning

Rémi Flamary, Nicolas Courty

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Introduction

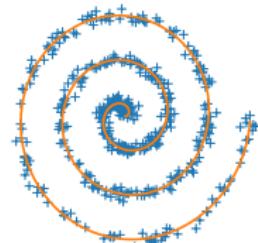
Machine learning / Statistical learning / AI



Three aspects of Machine Learning

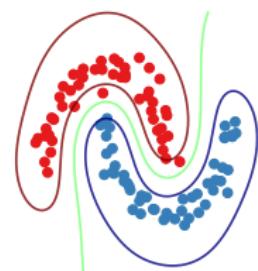
Unsupervised learning

- Extract information from unlabeled data
- Find labels (clustering) or subspaces/manifolds.
- Generate realistic data (GAN).



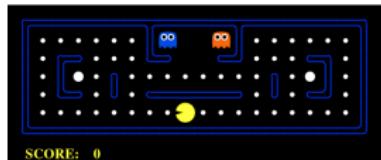
Supervised Learning

- Learning to predict from labeled dataset.
- Regression, Classification.
- Can use unsupervised information (DA, Semi-sup.)

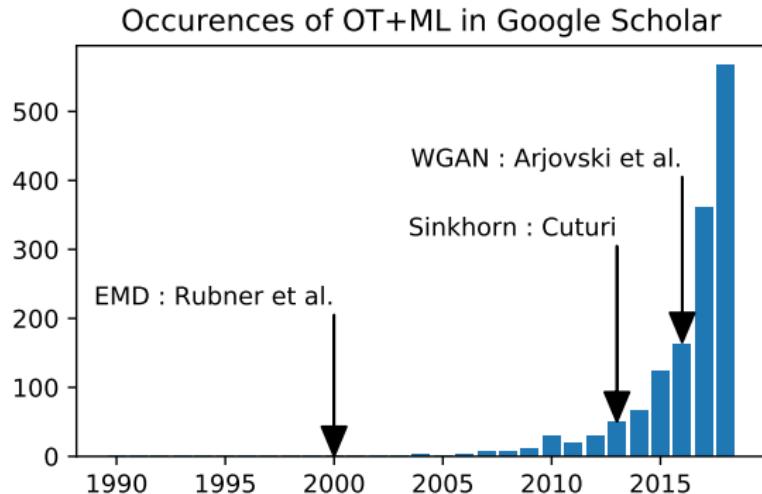


Reinforcement Learning

- Let the machine experiment.
- Learn from its mistakes.
- Framework for learning to play games.



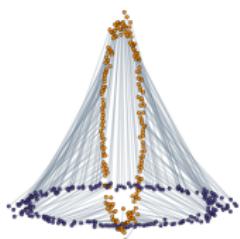
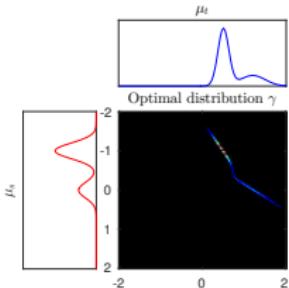
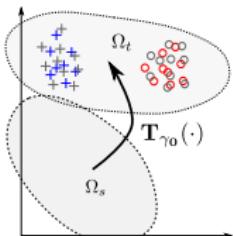
Optimal transport for machine learning



Short history of OT for ML

- Recently introduced to ML (well known in image processing since 2000s).
- Computationnal OT allow numerous applications (regularization).
- Deep learning boost (numerical optimization and GAN).

Three aspects of optimal transport



Transporting with optimal transport

- Color adaptation in image [Ferradans et al., 2014].
- Domain adaptation [Courty et al., 2016].
- OT mapping estimation [Perrot et al., 2016].

Divergence between histograms

- Use the ground metric to encode complex relations between the bins.
- Loss for multilabel classifier [Frogner et al., 2015]
- Loss for spectral unmixing [Flamary et al., 2016b].

Divergence between empirical distributions

- Non parametric divergence between non overlapping distributions.
- Objective function for GAN [Arjovsky et al., 2017].
- Estimate discriminant subspace [Flamary et al., 2016a].

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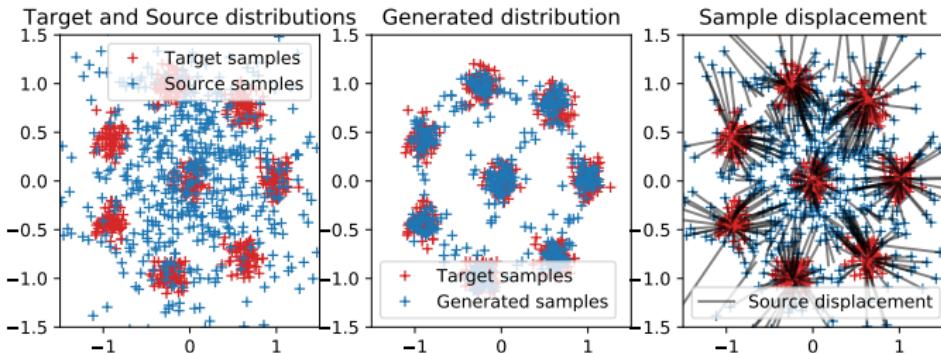
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Mapping with optimal transport

Mapping with optimal transport



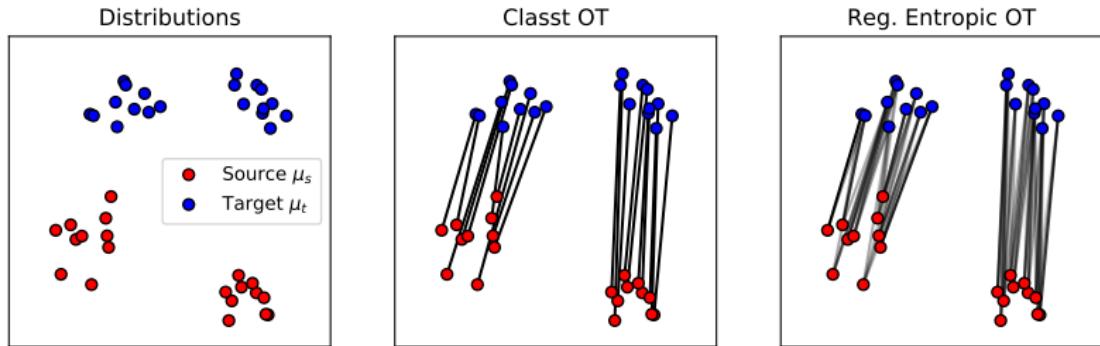
Mapping estimation

- Mapping do not exist in general between empirical distributions.
- Barycentric mapping [Ferradans et al., 2014].
- Smooth mapping estimation [Perrot et al., 2016, Seguy et al., 2017].

Why map ?

- Sensible displacement to align distributions.
- Color adaptation in image [Ferradans et al., 2014].
- Domain adaptation and transfer learning [Courty et al., 2016].

Transporting the discrete samples

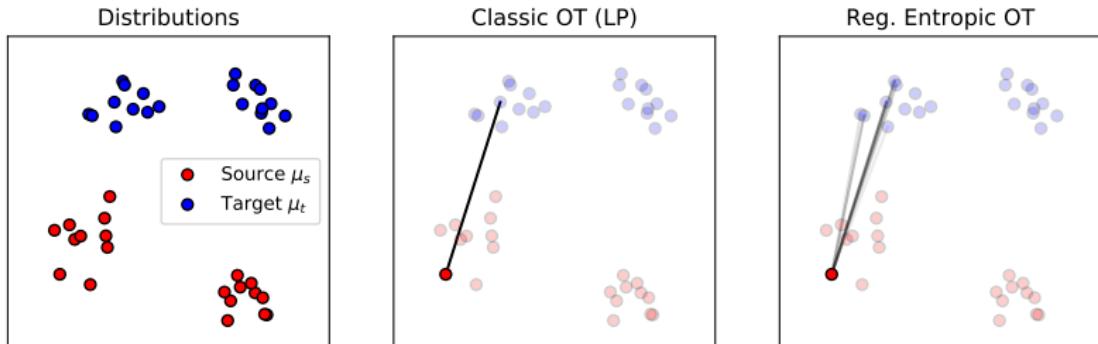


Barycentric mapping [Ferradans et al., 2014]

$$\widehat{T}_{\gamma_0}(\mathbf{x}_i^s) = \arg \min_{\mathbf{x}} \sum_j \gamma_0(i, j) c(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}_j^t). \quad (1)$$

- The mass of each source sample is spread onto the target samples (line of γ_0).
- The mapping is the barycenter of the target samples weighted by γ_0 .
- Closed form solution for the quadratic loss.
- Limited to the samples in the distribution (no out of sample).
- Trick: learn OT on few samples and apply displacement to the nearest point.

Transporting the discrete samples

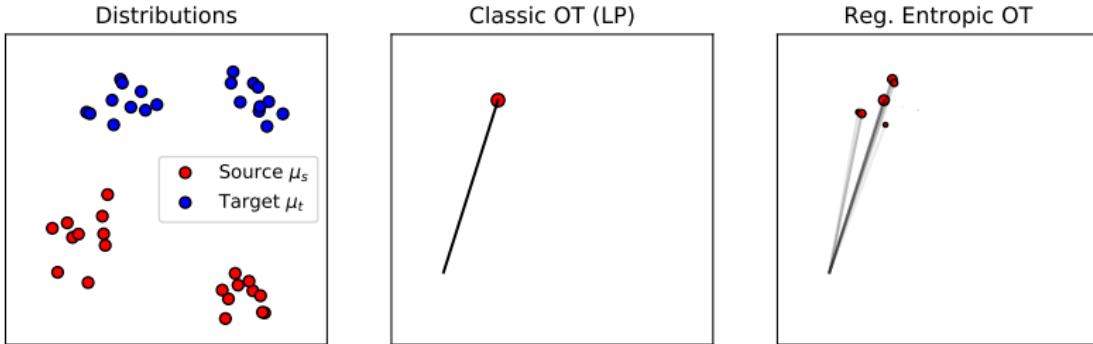


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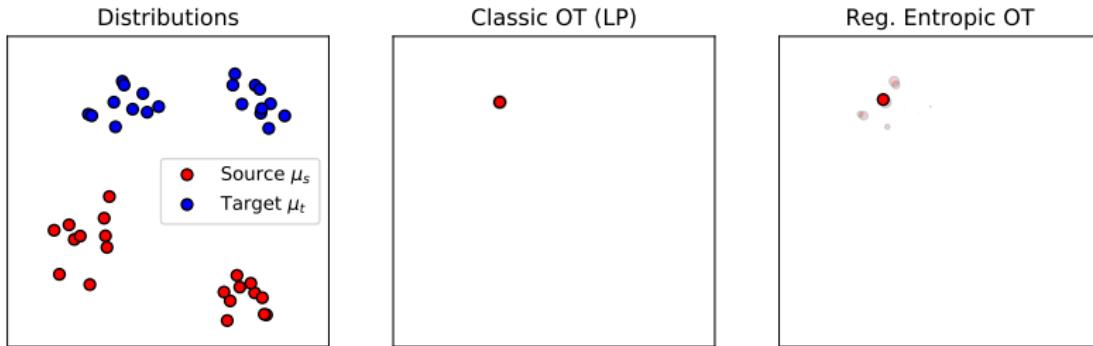


Barycentric mapping [Ferradans et al., 2014]

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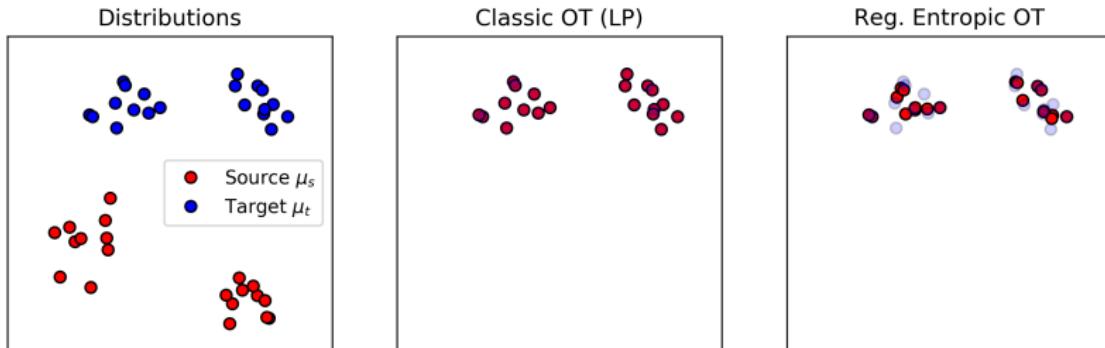


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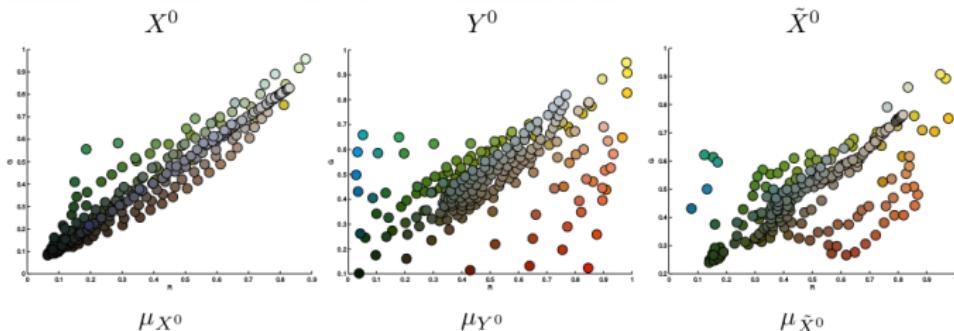
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Histogram matching in images

Pixels as empirical distribution [Ferradans et al., 2014]

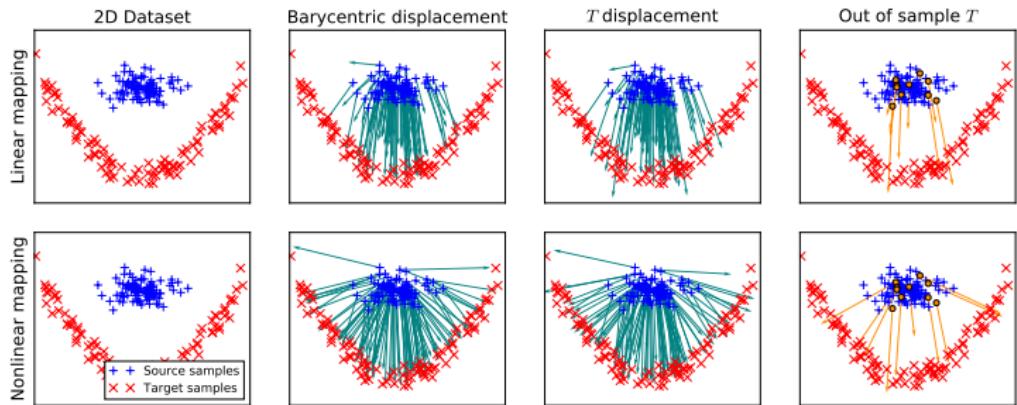


Histogram matching in images

Image colorization [Ferradans et al., 2014]



Joint OT and mapping estimation

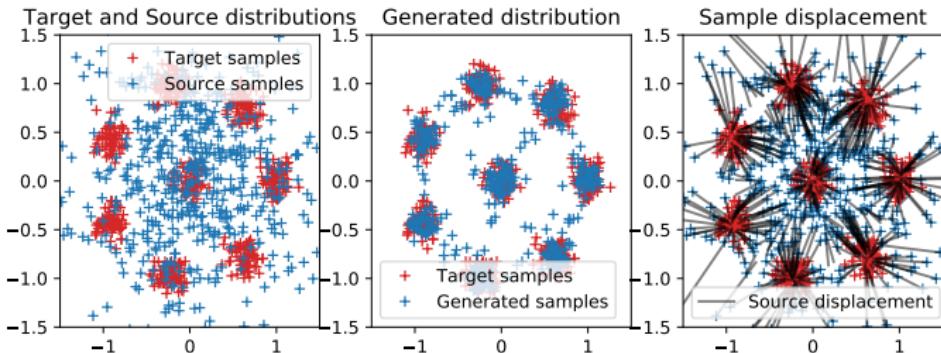


Simultaneous OT matrix and mapping [Perrot et al., 2016]

$$\min_{T, \gamma \in \mathcal{P}} \quad \langle \gamma, \mathbf{C} \rangle_F + \sum_i \|T(\mathbf{x}_i^s) - T_\gamma(\mathbf{x}_i^s)\|^2 + \lambda \|T\|^2$$

- Estimate jointly the OT matrix and a smooth mapping approximating the barycentric mapping.
- The mapping is a regularization for OT.
- Controlled generalization error (statistical bound).
- Linear and kernel mappings T , limited to small scale datasets.

Large scale optimal transport and mapping estimation

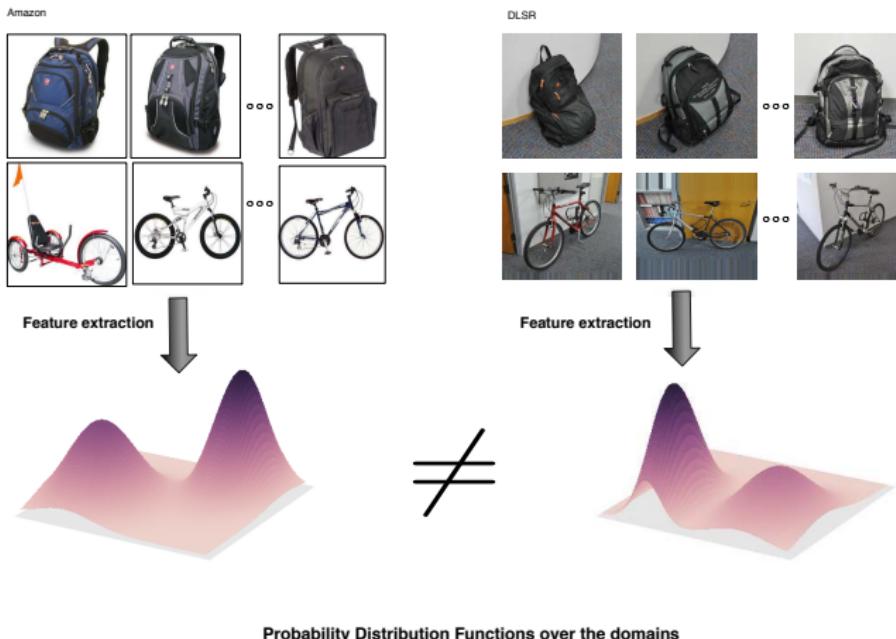


Large scale mapping estimation [Seguy et al., 2017]

- 2-step procedure:
 - 1 Stochastic estimation of regularized $\hat{\gamma}$.
 - 2 Stochastic estimation of f with a neural
- OT solved with Stochastic Gradient Ascent in the dual.
- Convergence to the true OT and mapping for small regularization.

0	0	3	9	2	9
1	7	7	6	8	6
0	3	8	1	4	4
9	6	1	5	6	1
7	2	4	5	1	7
5	3	6	6	9	1

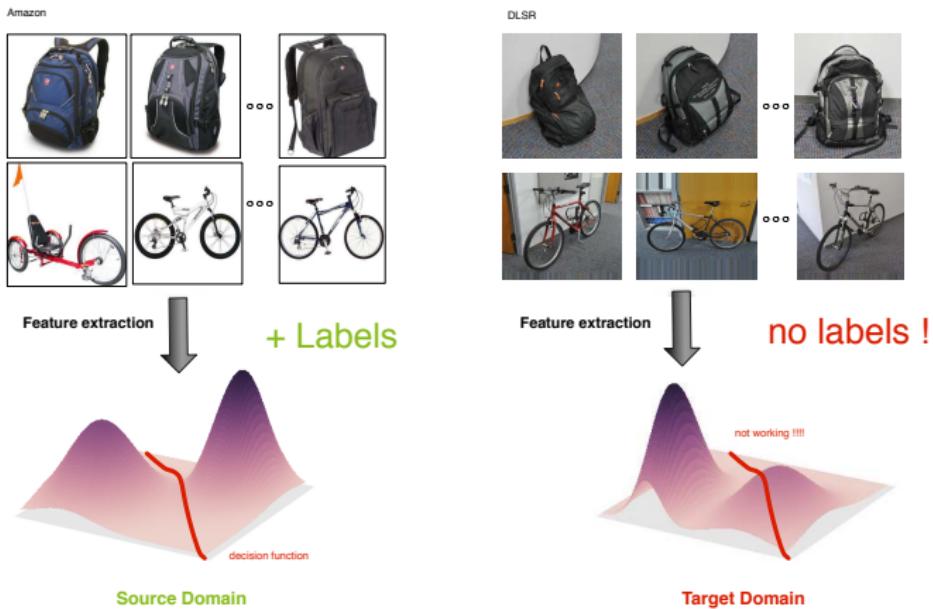
Domain Adaptation problem



Our context

- Classification problem with data coming from different sources (domains).
- Distributions are different but related.

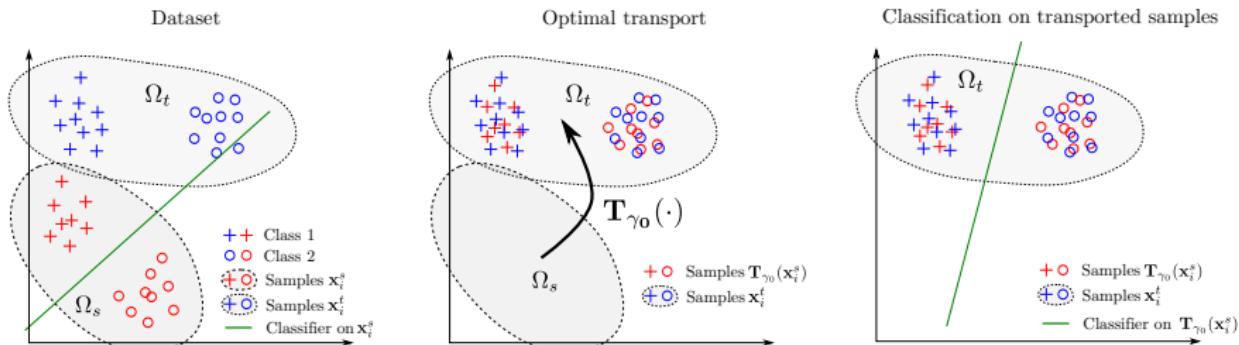
Unsupervised domain adaptation problem



Problems

- Labels only available in the **source domain**, and classification is conducted in the **target domain**.
- Classifier trained on the source domain data performs badly in the target domain

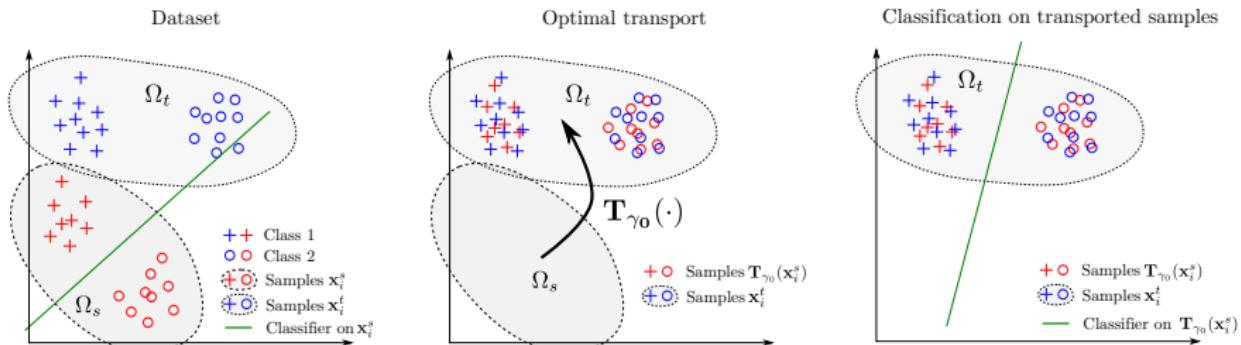
OT for domain adaptation : Step 1



Step 1 : Estimate optimal transport between distributions.

- Choose the ground metric (squared euclidean in our experiments).
- Using regularization allows
 - Large scale and regular OT with entropic regularization [Cuturi, 2013].
 - Class labels in the transport with group lasso [Courty et al., 2016].
- Efficient optimization based on Bregman projections [Benamou et al., 2015] and
 - Majoration minimization for non-convex group lasso.
 - Generalized Conditionnal gradient for general regularization (cvx. lasso, Laplacian).

OT for domain adaptation : Steps 2 & 3



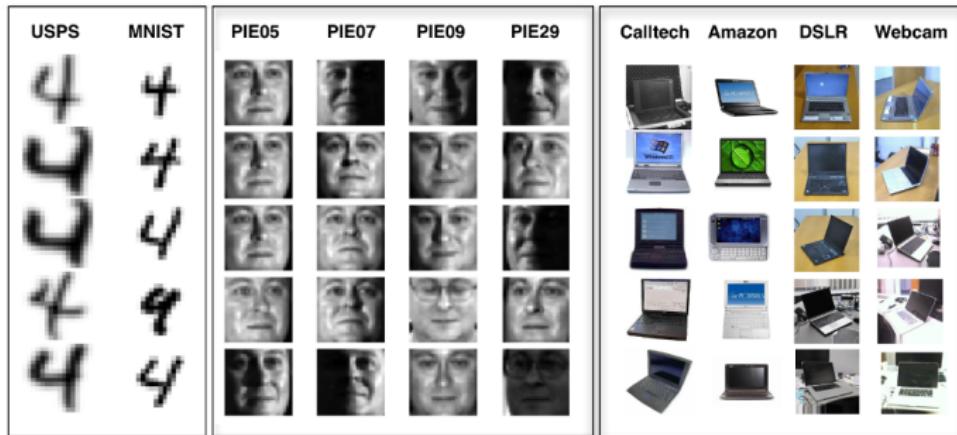
Step 2 : Transport the training samples onto the target distribution.

- The mass of each source sample is spread onto the target samples (line of γ_0).
- Transport using barycentric mapping [Ferradans et al., 2014].
- The mapping can be estimated for out of sample prediction [Perrot et al., 2016, Seguy et al., 2017].

Step 3 : Learn a classifier on the transported training samples

- Transported sample keep their labels.
- Classic ML problem when samples are well transported.

Visual adaptation datasets



Datasets

- **Digit recognition**, MNIST VS USPS (10 classes, $d=256$, 2 dom.).
- **Face recognition**, PIE Dataset (68 classes, $d=1024$, 4 dom.).
- **Object recognition**, Caltech-Office dataset (10 classes, $d=800/4096$, 4 dom.).

Numerical experiments

- State of the art performances on the 3 datasets.
- Works well on deep features adaptation and extension to semi-supervised DA.

Seamless copy in images



Poisson image editing [Pérez et al., 2003]

- Use the color gradient from the source image.
- Use color border conditions on the target image.
- Solve Poisson equation to reconstruct the new image.

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Seamless copy with gradient adaptation [Perrot et al., 2016]

- Transport the gradient from the source to target color gradient distribution.
- Solve the Poisson equation with the mapped source gradients.
- Better respect of the color dynamic and limits false colors.

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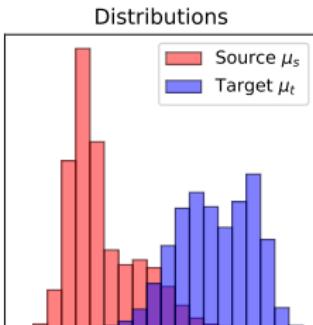
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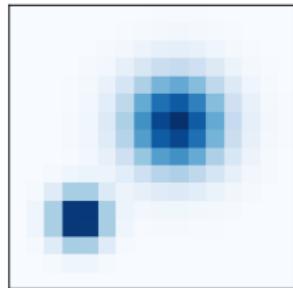


Learning from histograms with Optimal Transport

Learning from histograms



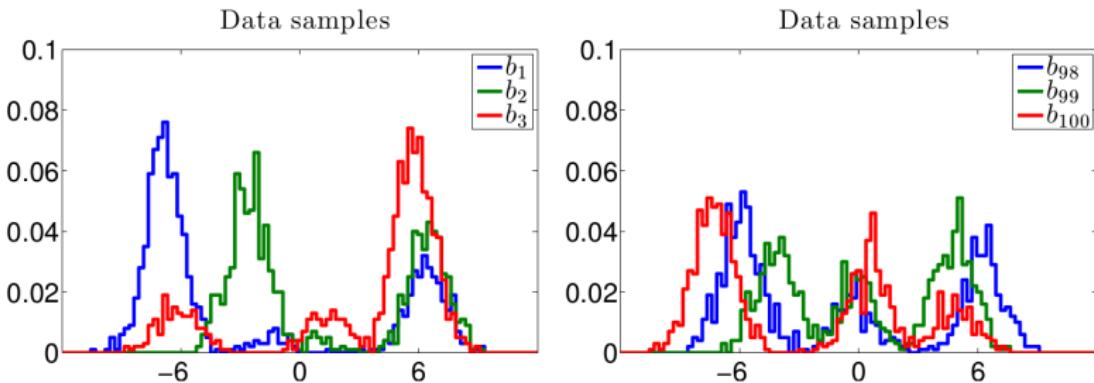
classification
image
learning
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optimal
numerical
method
allows
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linear
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sparse
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vector
features



Data as histograms

- Fixed bin positions x_i e.g. grid, simplex $\Delta = \{(\mu_i)_i \geq 0; \sum_i \mu_i = 1\}$
- A lot of datasets comes under the form of histograms.
- Images are photo counts (black and white), text as word counts.
- Natural divergence is Kullback–Leibler.
- Not all data can be seen as histograms (positivity+constant mass)!

Dictionary learning on histograms

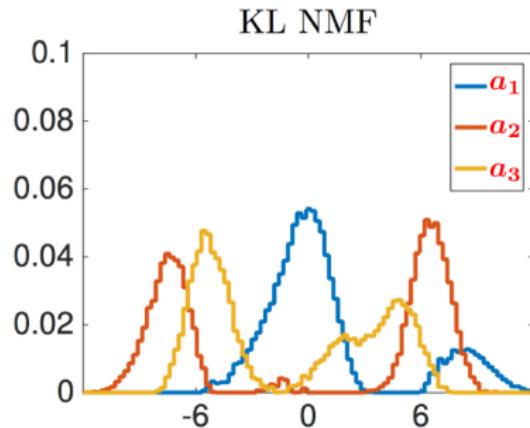
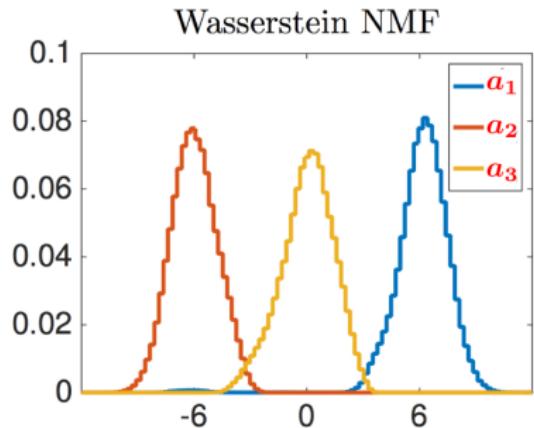


DL with Wasserstein distance [Sandler and Lindenbaum, 2011]

$$\min_{\mathbf{D}, \mathbf{H}} \sum_i W_C(\mathbf{v}_i, \mathbf{D}\mathbf{h}_i)$$

- NMF: columns of \mathbf{D} and \mathbf{H} are on the simplex.
- Metric \mathbf{C} can encode spatial relations between the bins of the histograms.
- Ground metric learning [Zen et al., 2014].
- Fast DL with regularized OT [Rolet et al., 2016].

Dictionary learning on histograms

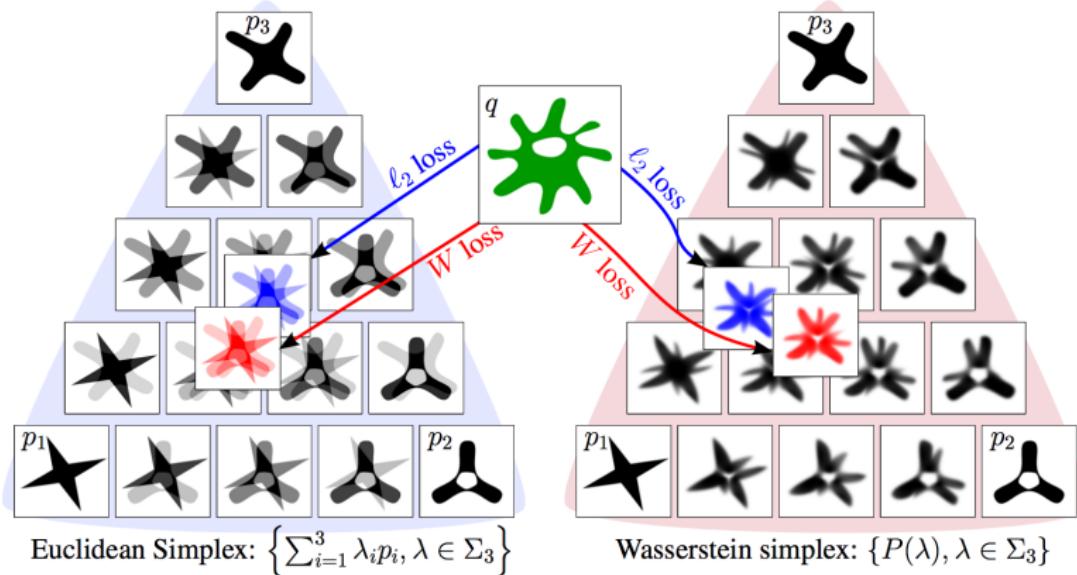


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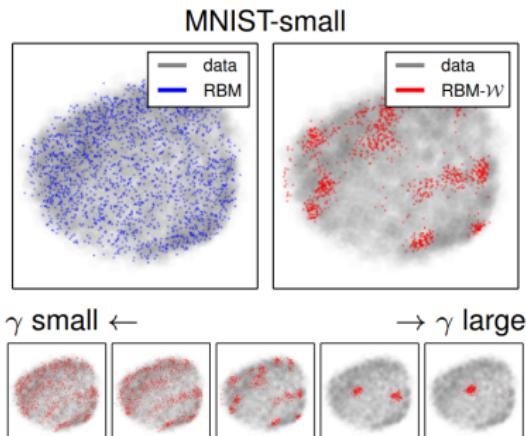
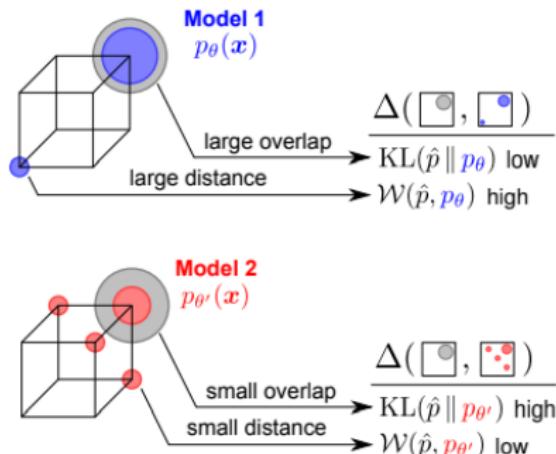
Wasserstein dictionary learning



Nonlinear unmixing with Wasserstein simplex [Schmitz et al., 2017]

- Linear model is a barycenter for the squared ℓ_2 distance.
- Use Wasserstein barycenter for modeling.

Training Restricted Boltzmann Machine with Wasserstein



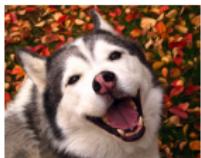
Wasserstein training of RBM [Montavon et al., 2016]

- Use Wasserstein instead of KL for training RBM.
- Estimation of RBM generative models $p_{\theta}(x)$.
- Used for completion or denoising.

Multi-label learning with Wasserstein Loss



Siberian husky



Eskimo dog



Flickr : street, parade, dragon
Prediction : people, protest, parade



Flickr : water, boat, reflection, sun-shine
Prediction : water, river, lake, summer;

Learning with a Wasserstein Loss [Frogner et al., 2015]

$$\min_f \quad \sum_{k=1}^N W_1^1(f(\mathbf{x}_i), \mathbf{l}_i)$$

- Empirical loss minimization with Wasserstein loss.
- Multi-label prediction (labels \mathbf{l} seen as histograms, f output softmax).
- Cost between labels can encode semantic similarity between classes.
- Good performances in image tagging.

Linear unmixing with optimal transport

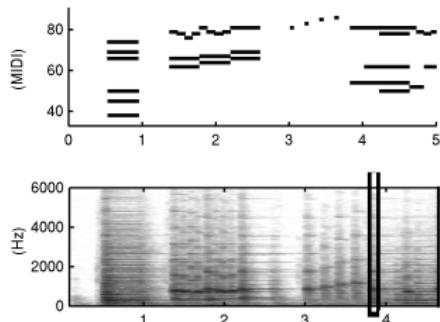
Linear unmixing

$$\min_{\mathbf{h} \in \Delta} W_C(\mathbf{v}, \mathbf{D}\mathbf{h}) \quad (2)$$

- Δ is the probability simplex (positivity, sum to one).
- \mathbf{v} is the observation, \mathbf{D} the dictionary, \mathbf{h} the mixing coefficients.
- Supervised when the dictionary is known designed.
- Classical problem in remote sensing, signal processing.

Musical spectral unmixing

- State of the art: KL + designed dictionary.
 - Spectra with harmonic structure.
 - Variability in the fundamental frequency.
 - Variability in the magnitude of the harmonics.
- ⇒ Optimal spectral transportation [Flamary et al., 2016b].



Linear unmixing with optimal transport

Linear unmixing

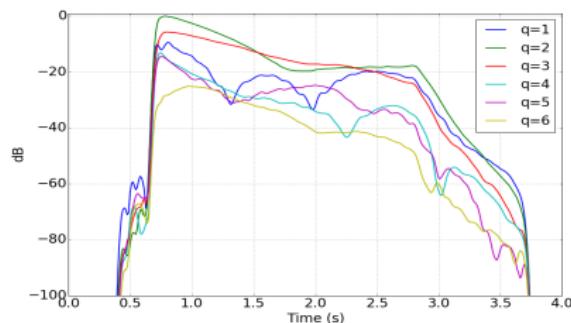
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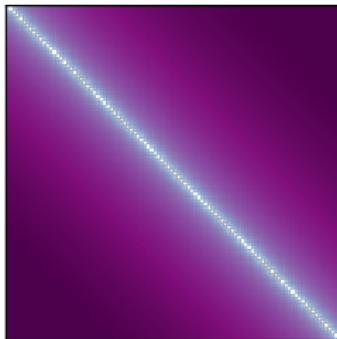
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Optimal spectral transportation (OST)

Quadratic cost **C** (log)



Quadratic cost between frequencies

- Allows small shift in frequencies.
- Very sensitive to harmonics magnitude.

Harmonic invariant cost

$$c_{ij} = \min_{q=1, \dots, \left\lceil \frac{f_i}{f_j} \right\rceil} (f_i - q f_j)^2 + \epsilon \delta_{q \neq 1},$$

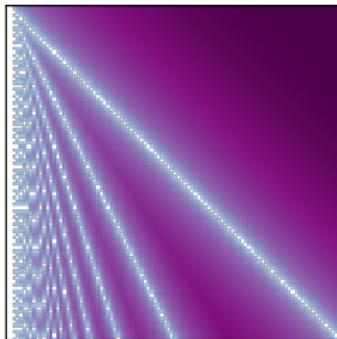
- Allow mass transfer between harmonics.
- $\epsilon > 0$ discriminates between octaves.

Solving the optimization problem

- A good invariant cost allows for extremely simple dictionary elements (diracs on the fundamental frequency).
- We take **D** as diracs on the fundamental frequencies of the notes.
- Closed form for solving the OT problem.
- Non-convex Group lasso for sparse estimates and/or entropic regularization.

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OST in action

Simulated data

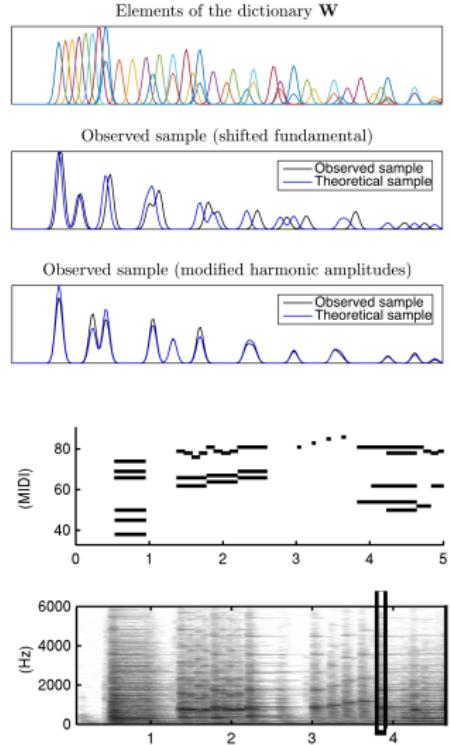
- Robust to shifted fundamental frequency.
- Robust to harmonics magnitude variability.
- Very fast (\sim ms per frame).

MAPS Dataset [Emiya et al., 2010]

- Several piano sequence from classical music ($m = 60$ notes)
- Comparison with ground truth given as MIDI.
- OST similar or better than KL+Dico while ≥ 70 times quicker.

Real time demonstration

- Python+Pygame implementation.
- <https://github.com/rflamary/OST>



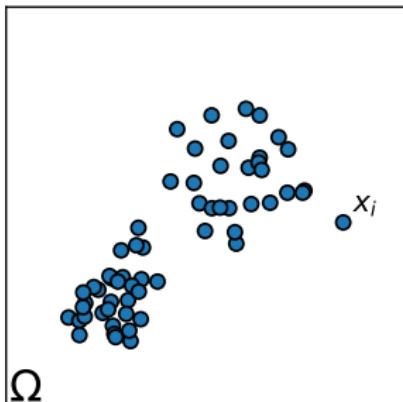
Learning from empirical distributions with Optimal Transport

Empirical distributions A.K.A datasets

$$\mu = \sum_{i=1}^n \mu_i \delta_{\mathbf{x}_i}, \quad \mathbf{x}_i \in \Omega, \quad \sum_{i=1}^n \mu_i = 1$$

Empirical distribution

- Two realizations never overlap.
- Training base of all machine learning approaches.
- How to measure discrepancy?
- Maximum Mean Discrepancy (ℓ_2 after convolution).
- Wasserstein distance.



Generative Adversarial Networks (GAN)

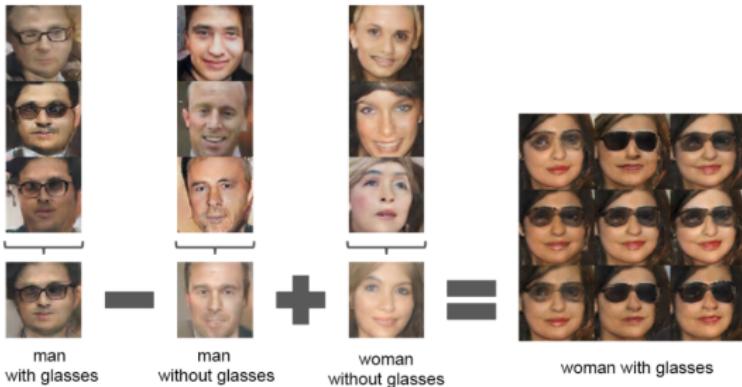


Generative Adversarial Networks (GAN) [Goodfellow et al., 2014]

$$\min_G \max_D E_{\mathbf{x} \sim \mu_d} [\log D(\mathbf{x})] + E_{\mathbf{z} \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \mathbf{I})} [\log(1 - D(G(\mathbf{z})))]$$

- Learn a generative model G that outputs realistic samples from data μ_d .
- Learn a classifier D to discriminate between the generated and true samples.
- Make those models compete (Nash equilibrium [Zhao et al., 2016]).
- Generator space has semantic meaning [Radford et al., 2015].
- But extremely hard to train (vanishing gradients).

Generative Adversarial Networks (GAN)

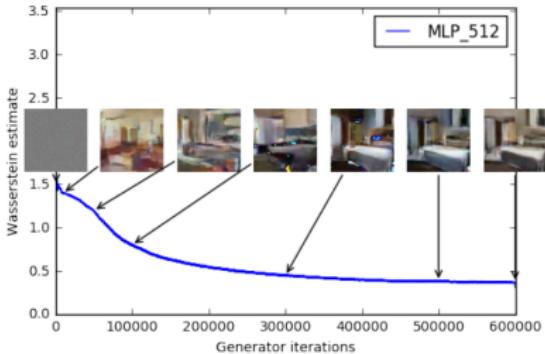
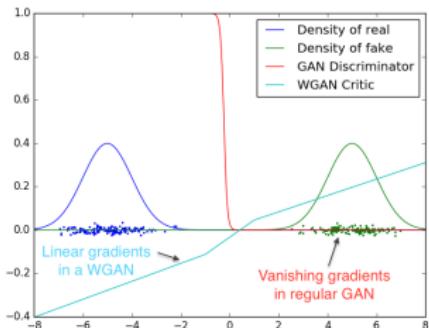


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Wasserstein Generative Adversarial Networks (WGAN)



Wasserstein GAN [Arjovsky et al., 2017]

$$\min_G \quad W_1^1(G(\mathbf{z}), \mu_d), \quad \text{s.t. } \mathbf{z} \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \mathbf{I}) \quad (3)$$

- Minimizes the Wasserstein distance between the data and the generated data.
- No vanishing gradients ! Far better convergence in practice.
- Wasserstein in the dual (separable w.r.t. the samples).

$$\min_G \sup_{\phi \in \text{Lip}^1} \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{x} \sim \mu_d} [\phi(\mathbf{x})] - \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{z} \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \mathbf{I})} [\phi(G(\mathbf{z}))]$$

- ϕ is a neural network that acts as an *actor critic*

WGAN: the devil in the approximation

Neural network belonging to Lip^1 ?

- Not really! [Arjovsky et al., 2017] proposes to do weight clipping that force an upper bound on the Lipschitz constant.
- It is actually the supremum over K-Lipschitz functions that is approximated by a neural network

$$\max_{f \in \text{NN class}} L_{\text{WGAN}}(f, G) \leq \sup_{\|\phi\|_L \leq K} L_{\text{WGAN}}(\phi, G) = K \cdot W_1^1(G(\mathbf{z}), \mu_d)$$

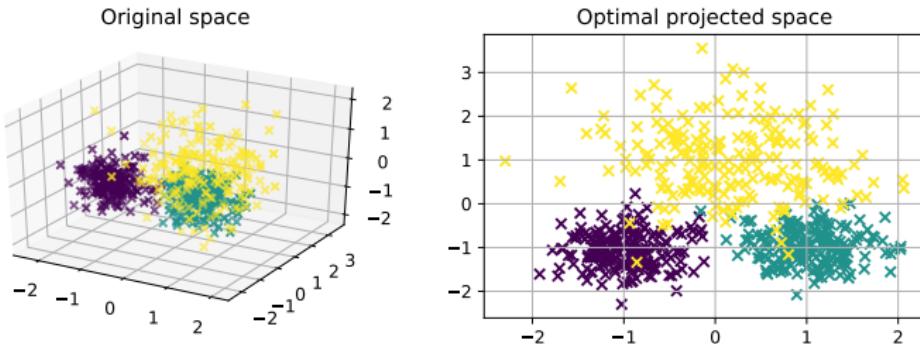
- Actually **not** equivalent to solve the optimal transport, but gradients are aligned.

Improved WGAN [Gulrajani et al., 2017]

$$\min_G \sup_{f \in \text{NN class}} \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{x} \sim \mu_d}[f(\mathbf{x})] - \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{z} \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \mathbf{I})}[f(G(\mathbf{z}))] + \lambda \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{x} \sim \mu_d}[(\|\nabla f(\mathbf{x})\|_2 - 1)^2]$$

Relaxation of the constraint (for W_1 the gradient of the potential is 1 almost everywhere).

Wasserstein Discriminant Analysis (WDA)

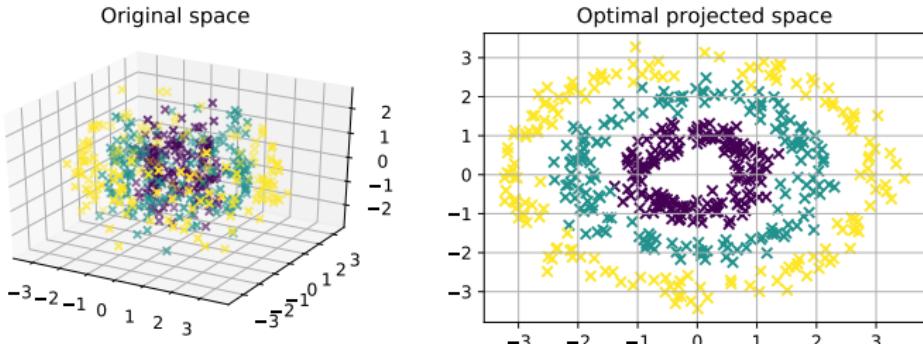


$$\max_{\mathbf{P} \in \mathcal{S}} \frac{\sum_{c,c' > c} W_\lambda(\mathbf{P}\mathbf{X}^c, \mathbf{P}\mathbf{X}^{c'})}{\sum_c W_\lambda(\mathbf{P}\mathbf{X}^c, \mathbf{P}\mathbf{X}^c)} \quad (4)$$

- \mathbf{X}^c are samples from class c .
- \mathbf{P} is an orthogonal projection;

- Converges to Fisher Discriminant when $\lambda \rightarrow \infty$.
- Non parametric method that allows nonlinear discrimination.
- Problem solved with gradient ascent in the Stiefel manifold \mathcal{S} .
- Gradient computed using automatic differentiation of Sinkhorn algorithm.

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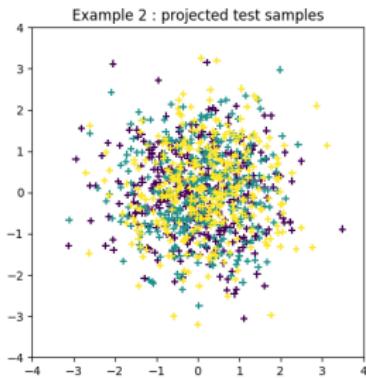
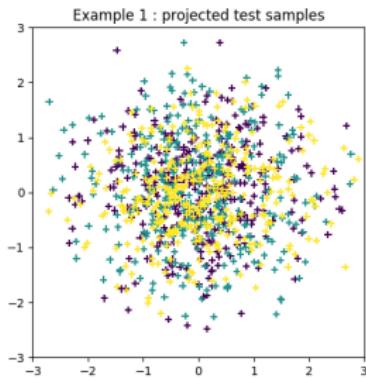
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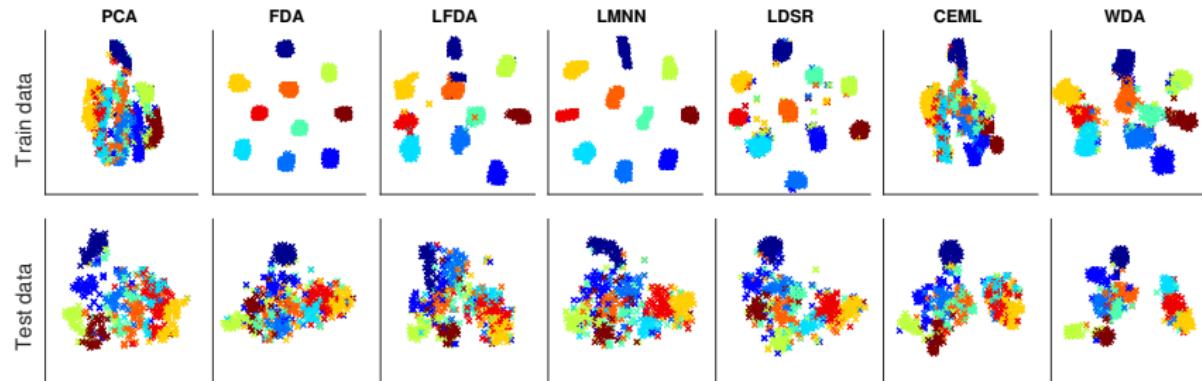
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WDA in action

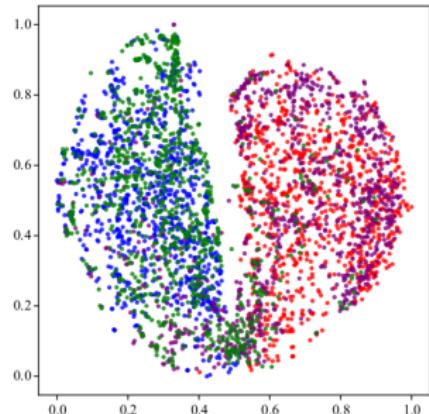
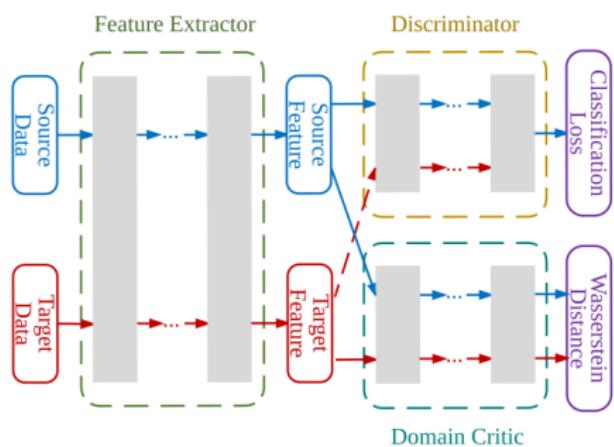
Simulated datasets : $10 \rightarrow 2$



MNIST Dataset: $784 \rightarrow 10 (\rightarrow 2)$ TSNE



Domain adaptation with Wasserstein distance



(d) t-SNE of WDGRL features

Domain adaptation for deep learning [Shen et al., 2018]

- Modern DA aim at aligning source and target in the deep representation : DANN [Ganin et al., 2016], MMD [Tzeng et al., 2014], CORAL [Sun and Saenko, 2016].
- Wasserstein distance used as objective for the adaptation [Shen et al., 2018].

Joint Distribution Optimal Transport for DA

Learning with JDOT [Courty et al., 2017]

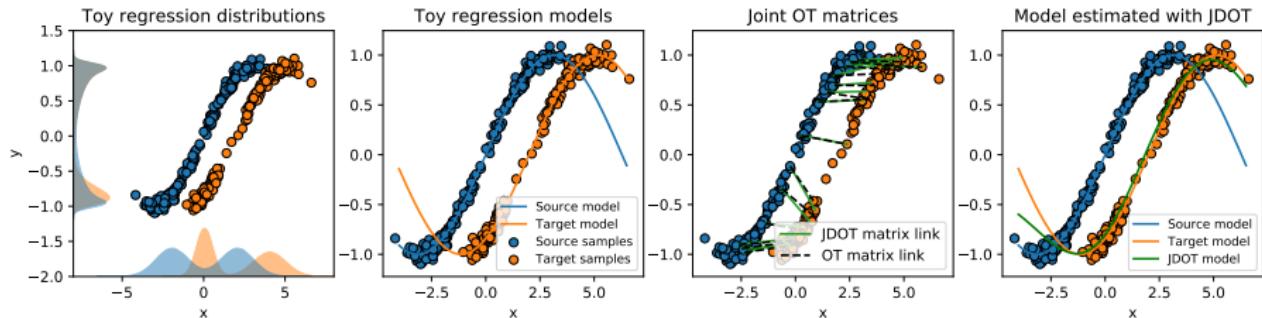
$$\min_f \quad \left\{ W_1(\hat{\mathcal{P}}_s, \hat{\mathcal{P}}_t^f) = \inf_{\gamma \in \Pi} \sum_{ij} \mathcal{D}(\mathbf{x}_i^s, y_i^s; \mathbf{x}_j^t, f(\mathbf{x}_j^t)) \gamma_{ij} \right\} \quad (5)$$

- $\hat{\mathcal{P}}_t^f = \frac{1}{N_t} \sum_{i=1}^{N_t} \delta_{\mathbf{x}_i^t, f(\mathbf{x}_i^t)}$ is the proxy joint feature/label distribution.
- Π is the transport polytope, $\hat{\mathcal{P}}_s$ the empirical source distribution.
- $\mathcal{D}(\mathbf{x}_i^s, y_i^s; \mathbf{x}_j^t, f(\mathbf{x}_j^t)) = \alpha \|\mathbf{x}_i^s - \mathbf{x}_j^t\|^2 + \mathcal{L}(y_i^s, f(\mathbf{x}_j^t))$ with $\alpha > 0$.
- We search for the predictor f that better align the joint distributions.
- JDOT can be seen as minimizing a generalization bound.

Optimizing JDOT

- Can be solved by block coordinate descent (f, γ) [Courty et al., 2017].
- Solving with fixed f is classical OT.
- Solving with fixed γ is weighted empirical loss minimization.

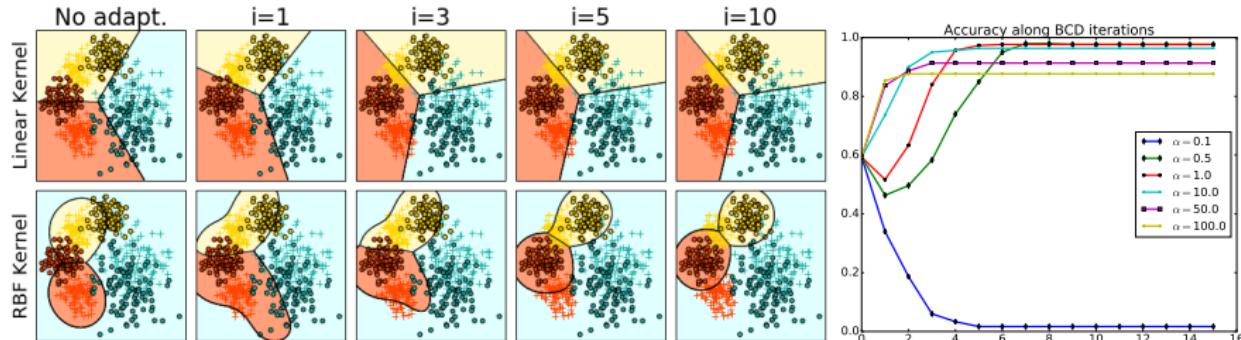
JDOT in action



Numerical experiments

- Examples on toy regression and classification problems.
- State of the art in Visual adaptation (Caltech/office), review score prediction (Amazon) and Wifi localization.
- Works very well but limited to small datasets.
- OT performed with euclidean distance in the feature space.

JDOT in action



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JDOT in action



★☆☆☆☆ Excellent product that I completely hate, Apr 1, 2013

By [Thirsty](#) • See all my reviews

This review is from: [Strollmaster 3000 \(Baby Product\)](#)

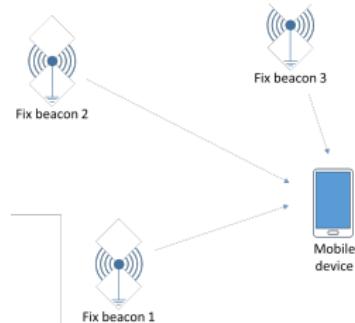
The Strollmaster 3000 is every parent's dream - roomy, durable, safe, and easy to fold, with a unique 17-point harness. Best yet, it weighs just 1.6 lbs, and sells for an unbelievable \$17.99. Unfortunately, it has one fatal flaw - the cupholder can only handle beverages up to 64 oz. I was dumbstruck as well. Is this America? I was left holding my 128 oz. Big Gulp like some kind of sucker. So, if you're into amazing, durable products that are a steal and virtually idyllic, then, sure, buy it. If you want to down a bathtub of Dr. Pepper, though. I'd pass.

★☆☆☆☆ Let it go... in the trash

By [VP11977](#) on December 24, 2017

Had high expectation, too much snow, too many animals, wish it had more ninjas. Also it would be better if these people ate more. I mean how are we suppose to make society better if people don't sit down to eat and socialize.

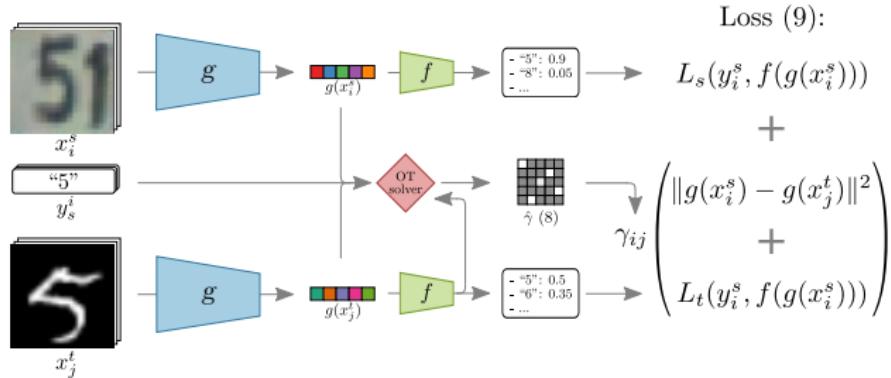
2 people found this helpful



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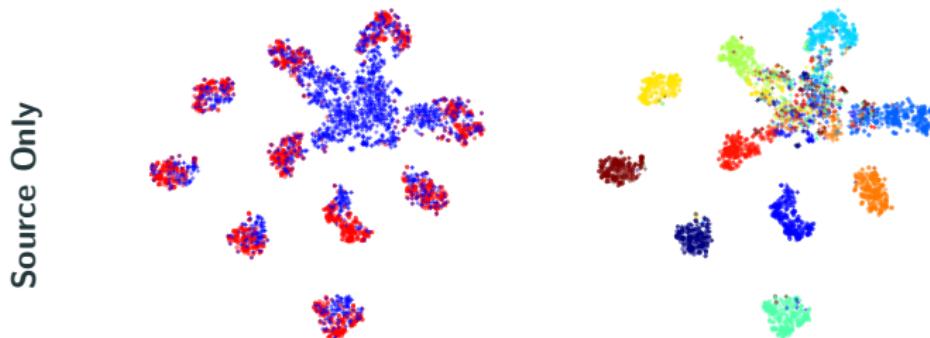
JDOT for large scale deep learning



DeepJDOT [Damodaran et al., 2018]

- Learn simultaneously the embedding g and the classifier f .
- JDOT performed in the joint embedding/label space.
- Use minibatch to estimate OT and update g, f at each iterations.
- Scales to large datasets and estimate a representation for both domains.
- TSNE projections of embeddings (MNIST→MNIST-M).

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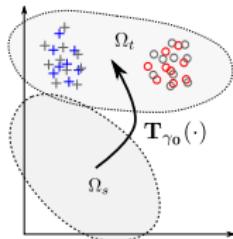
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Conclusion

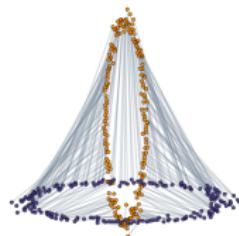
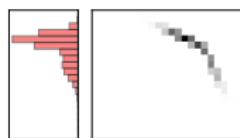
Optimal transport for machine learning

Mapping with optimal transport



- Optimal displacement from one distribution to another.
- Can estimate smooth mapping for out of sample displacement.
- Domain, color and gradient adaptation, transfer learning.

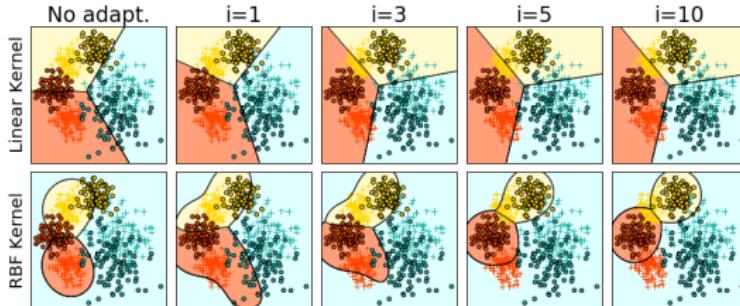
OT matrix y



Learning with optimal transport

- Natural divergence for machine learning and estimation.
- Cost encode complex relations in an histogram.
- Regularization is the key (performance, smoothness).
- Recent optimization procedures opened it to medium/large scale datasets.
- Sensible loss between non overlapping distributions.
- Works with both histograms and empirical distributions.

Optimal transport for machine learning



Open questions

- Generalization bounds for learning with OT.
- Concentration inequalities of regularized OT.
- Learning the ground metric (supervised, unsupervised, adversarial?).
- Large scale OT and mapping estimation, accelerated stochastic optimization.

Thank you

Python code available on GitHub:

<https://github.com/rflamary/POT>

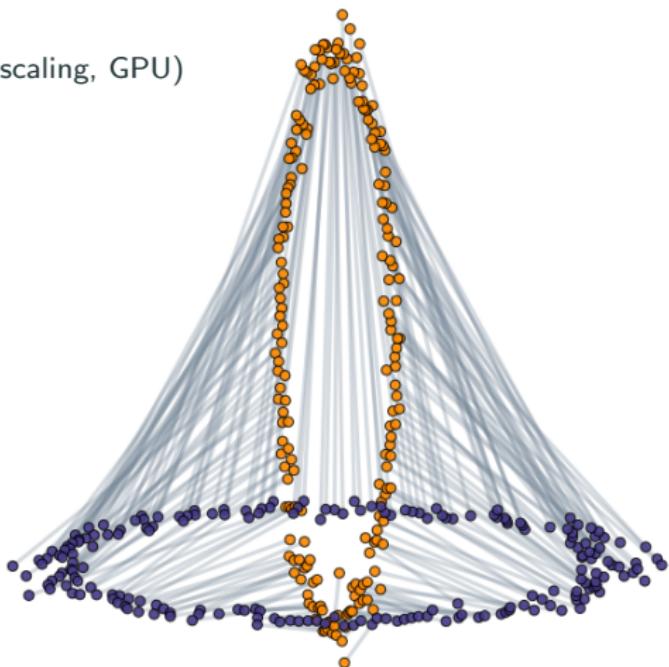
- OT LP solver, Sinkhorn (stabilized, ϵ -scaling, GPU)
- Domain adaptation with OT.
- Barycenters, Wasserstein unmixing.
- Wasserstein Discriminant Analysis.

Papers available on my website:

<https://remi.flamary.com/>

Post docs available in:

Nice, Rouen, Rennes (France)



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