

# Optimal Transport

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## Week 1

### References:

- A. Figalli, F. Glaudo, "An invitation to optimal transport, Wasserstein distances, and gradient flows".
- F. Santambrogio, "Optimal Transport for Applied Mathematicians: ..."
- L. Ambrosio, E. Brué, D. Semola, "Lectures on Optimal Transport".

### • Exercise classes:

- Present a solution from the serie (by a student!)
- Discuss one exercise.
- Answer questions.

### • Hand-in series

- 2 hand-in series.
- one random exercise to be corrected.

- Exam: → Two parts; 4-6 topics to choose from a list.

1st: 30' for topic preparation

2nd: 30' presentation of the assigned topic

↳ statement, examples, ideas, proofs, etc.

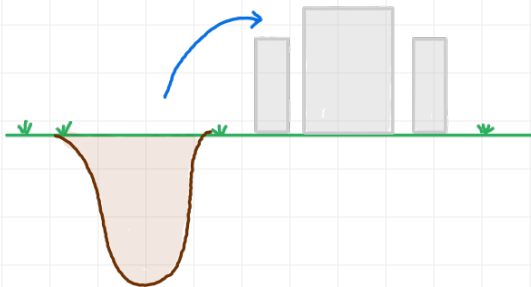
- Grade: Grade of the exam + up to 0.5 from hand-ins.

+ up to 0.25 from exercise presentations.

(exercises to be presented assigned beforehand).

# □ The Optimal Transport problem and its origin

1781 Gaspard Monge: "assume we want to extract soil from the ground to build fortifications. How do we transport the soil in the cheapest way?"



Data: • initial and target mass

Unknown: • transport map.

1940 Leonid Kantorovich: allocation of resources.

▷ Bakeries in  $x_i \in \mathbb{R}^2$  produce  $\alpha_i \geq 0$  of bread.

▷ Coffee shops in  $y_j \in \mathbb{R}^2$  consume  $\beta_j \geq 0$  of bread.

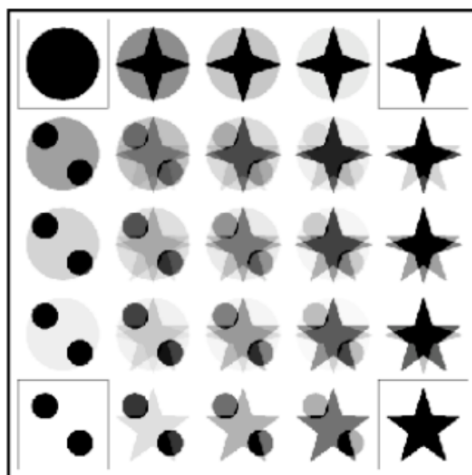
▷ Assume  $\sum \alpha_i = \sum \beta_j$ , and let  $\gamma_{ij}$  the bread sold from  $x_i$  to  $y_j$ , to satisfy the demand:

$$(*) \quad \alpha_i = \sum_j \gamma_{ij}$$

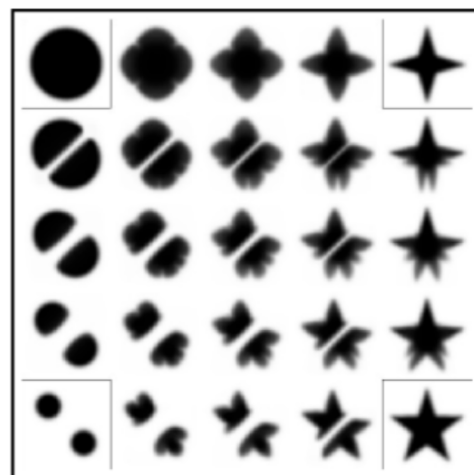
$$(**) \quad \beta_j = \sum_i \gamma_{ij}$$



We want:  $\min \left\{ \sum_{i,j} \gamma_{ij} c(x_i, y_j) \text{ among all } (\gamma_{ij})_{i,j} \text{ admissible: } (*) \text{ \& } (**) \right\}$ .



Euclidean barycenter



Wasserstein barycenter

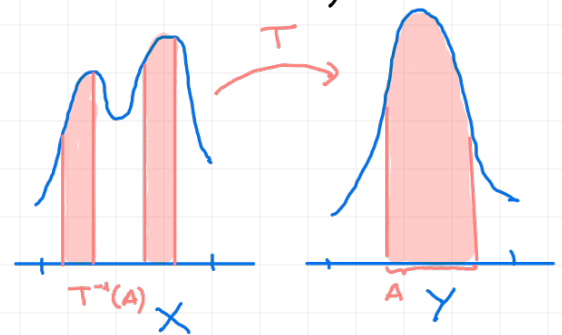
## □ Pushforward of measures and transport maps

- $X$  complete and separable metric space (usually  $\mathbb{R}^d$ )
- $\mathcal{P}(X)$ : probability measures on  $X$ .

Def: Given  $\mu \in \mathcal{P}(X)$ ,  $T: X \rightarrow Y$ , the image measure of  $\mu$  through  $T$  (pushforward) is  $\nu = T_{\#}\mu$  s.t.:

$$(*) \quad \boxed{\nu(A) = \mu(T^{-1}(A))}$$

for all  $A \in \mathcal{Y}$  measurable.



Lemma:  $T_{\#}\mu$  is a probability measure. (Use  $T^{-1}(\cup_i A_i) = \cup_i T^{-1}(A_i)$ ).

Remark: (\*) can be written as:  
characteristic/indicator function.

$$\int_Y \mathbb{1}_A d\nu = \int_X \mathbb{1}_{T^{-1}(A)} d\mu = \int_X \mathbb{1}_A \circ T d\mu$$

Hence, if  $\varphi$  is a simple function:  $\int_Y \varphi d\nu = \int_X \varphi \circ T d\mu$  (\*\*).

By monotone convergence, same holds for  $\varphi$  measurable and nonnegative (bounded).  
(\*) and (\*\*) are equivalent!

Corollary:  $\nu = T_{\#}\mu \Leftrightarrow \int \varphi d\nu = \int \varphi \circ T d\mu$  for all  $\varphi$  measurable and bounded.

Def: Given  $\mu \in \mathcal{P}(X)$ ,  $\nu \in \mathcal{P}(Y)$ ,  $T: X \rightarrow Y$  is a transport map between  $\mu$  and  $\nu$  if  $T_{\#}\mu = \nu$ .

Exercises: are the following true?

- ①  $T(x) = 2x+1: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ ,  $T_{\#}\delta_0 = \delta_1$ ?
- ②  $T(x) \equiv 1: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ ,  $T_{\#}\mathcal{L}_{[-1,1]} = \delta_1$ ?
- ③ Given  $\mu, \nu \in \mathcal{P}(X)$ , is there always a map  $T$  s.t.  $T_{\#}\mu = \nu$ ?

Remark: Given  $T: X \rightarrow Y$  &  $S: Y \rightarrow Z$  measurable,

$$(S \circ T)_\# \mu = S_\# T_\# \mu.$$

Remark: Assume  $X = Y = \mathbb{R}^n$ ,  $T: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$  diffeomorphism,

$\mu = f(x) dx$ ,  $\nu = g(y) dy$ . If  $T_\# \mu = \nu$ , then:

$$\int \varphi \circ T(x) f(x) dx = \int \varphi(y) g(y) dy \stackrel{y=T(x)}{=} \int \varphi(T(x)) g(T(x)) |\det DT(x)| dx$$

i.e.

$$\frac{f(x)}{g(T(x))} = |\det DT(x)| \quad (*)$$

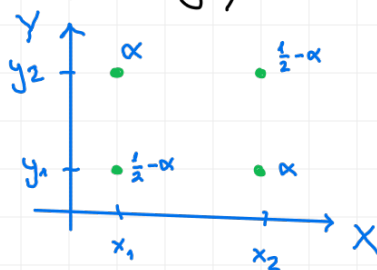
• Given  $\mu \in \mathcal{P}(X)$ ,  $\nu \in \mathcal{P}(Y)$ ,  $c: X \times Y \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ , Monge's minimization problem is:

$$(MP) := \inf \left\{ \int c(x, T(x)) d\mu(x) : T_\# \mu = \nu \right\}$$

Def:  $\gamma \in \mathcal{P}(X \times Y)$  is a coupling (transport plan) of  $\mu$  and  $\nu$  if

$$\begin{aligned} \pi_x \# \gamma &= \mu \\ \pi_x: X \times Y &\rightarrow X \\ (x, y) &\mapsto x \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \pi_y \# \gamma &= \nu \\ \pi_y: X \times Y &\rightarrow Y \\ (x, y) &\mapsto y \end{aligned}$$



• The Kantorovich minimization problem is:

$$(KP) := \inf \left\{ \int c(x, y) d\gamma(x, y) : \gamma \text{ coupling between } \mu \text{ & } \nu \right\}$$

Remark: Given  $\mu, \nu$ ,  $\gamma := \mu \otimes \nu$  is a coupling!

$$\int \varphi d(\pi_x \# \gamma) = \int \varphi(\pi_x(x, y)) d\gamma(x, y) = \int \varphi(x) d\mu(x) d\nu(y) = \int \varphi d\mu.$$

Remark :  $(KP) \leq (MP)$ .

Indeed, given a map  $T$  s.t.  $T\#\mu = \nu$ , we can consider a canonically associated coupling  $\gamma = (Id, T)\#\mu$  :

$$\int c(x, T(x)) d\mu(x) = \int c(x, y) \underbrace{\gamma}_{(Id, T)\#\mu} = \begin{cases} \pi_x\#\gamma = [\pi_x \circ (Id, T)]\#\mu \\ = Id\#\mu = \mu \\ \pi_y\#\gamma = [\pi_y \circ (Id, T)]\#\mu = T\#\mu = \nu \end{cases}$$

Main Theorem (Brenier 1987).  $X = Y = \mathbb{R}^n$ ,  $c(x, y) = \frac{|x-y|^2}{2}$ .

Let  $\mu = f(x)dx \in \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{R}^n)$ ,  $\nu = g(y)dy \in \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{R}^n)$ . Then, there exists a unique optimal map  $T$  is (MP). Moreover,  $T = \nabla\varphi$ ,  $\varphi$  convex,  $(Id, T)\#\mu$  is the optimizer in (KP).

Proof : will be completed around week 7.

Application isoperimetric inequality :

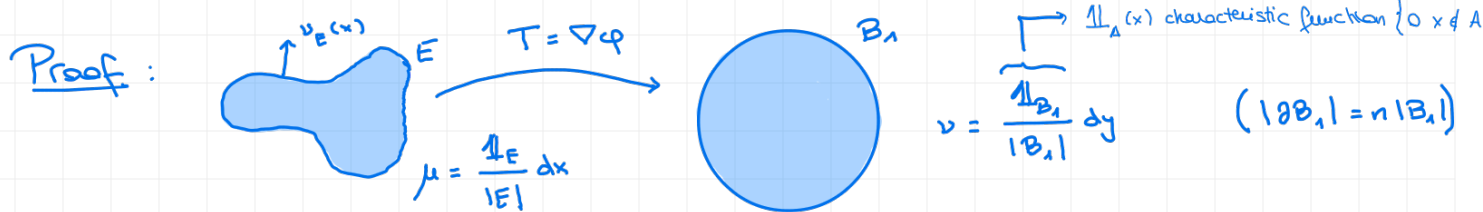
$E \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$  smooth, open, bounded set.

Then,  $P(E) \geq n |B_1|^{\frac{1}{n}} |E|^{\frac{n-1}{n}}$

$P(E) =$  perimeter of  $E = \int_{\partial E} 1$

$|E| =$  volume of  $E = \int_E 1$

$\begin{cases} 1 & x \in A \\ 0 & x \notin A \end{cases}$



By Brenier's theorem,  $\exists T = \nabla\varphi$ ,  $\varphi$  convex, s.t.  $T\#\mu = \nu$ . Properties of  $T$  :

①  $|T(x)| \leq 1$  a.e.  $x \in E$

②  $0 \leq \det DT(x) = \frac{|B_1|}{|E|}$  a.e.  $x \in E$  by ①

③  $\operatorname{div} T = \sum_i \partial_i T^i = \sum_i \partial_i \partial_i \varphi = \Delta\varphi = \operatorname{tr} D^2\varphi = \sum_{i=1}^n \lambda_i = n \left( \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \lambda_i \right) \geq n \left[ \prod_{i=1}^n \lambda_i \right]^{\frac{1}{n}} = n (\det DT)^{\frac{1}{n}}$

$\lambda_i$  eigenvalues of  $D^2\varphi$ ,  $\lambda_i \geq 0$   
AM-GM  
divergence thm / Stokes

Hence :  $P(E) = \int_{\partial E} 1 \stackrel{①}{\geq} \int_{\partial E} |T(x)| \geq \int_{\partial E} T(x) \cdot \nu_E(x) = \int_E \operatorname{div} T(x) dx \stackrel{③}{\geq} \int_E n (\det DT)^{\frac{1}{n}} \stackrel{②}{=} \int_E n \left( \frac{|B_1|}{|E|} \right)^{\frac{1}{n}} = n |B_1|^{\frac{1}{n}} |E|^{\frac{n-1}{n}}$ .  $\square$

We are using  $T \in \mathcal{E}^1$ .

Equality: all  $\lambda_i$  are  $= \rightarrow$   $\overbrace{\lambda_1(x) = \dots = \lambda_n(x)}^{\text{AM-GM}} \stackrel{\textcircled{2}}{=} \left(\frac{|B_n|}{|E|}\right)^{1/n}$ .

Hence,  $D^2\varphi = \left(\frac{|B_n|}{|E|}\right)^{1/n} \text{Id} \rightarrow \nabla\varphi(x) = T(x) = c_0 x + c_1$ ,

$c_0 = \left(\frac{|B_n|}{|E|}\right)^{1/n} = 1$  if they have the same volume.

- $E$  is a translation (and dilation) of the ball.

Other interesting consequences brought by optimal transport that one can prove,

for example: Deficit ( $|E| = |B_n|$ ):  $\delta(E) = \mathcal{P}(E) - \mathcal{P}(B_n)$ :

Theorem:  $C\sqrt{\delta(E)} \geq \inf_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n} |E \Delta B_n(x)|$   
symmetric difference.

# One-dimensional Optimal Transport $X=Y=\mathbb{R}$

Theorem:  $\mu, \nu \in \mathcal{P}(X)$ ,  $\mu$  without atoms (i.e.,  $\mu(\{x\})=0 \forall x \in \mathbb{R}$ ). Then:

- ①  $\exists!$  non-decreasing map  $T$  s.t.  $T_{\#}\mu = \nu$ : the MONOTONE REARRANGEMENT.
- ② if  $c(x,y) = \varphi(|x-y|)$ ,  $\varphi$  non-decreasing  $\rightarrow T$  optimal in (MP).
- ③  $\varphi$  strictly convex  $\Rightarrow T$  is the unique optimal map.

Proof: ② & ③ will be consequences of the theorems in the course ( $\varphi(t) = t^2$  as Brenier's).

$\hookrightarrow$  proof of ①:

Let us consider the repartition functions (cumulative distr.):  
$$\begin{cases} F_{\mu}(x) := \mu((-\infty, x]) \\ G_{\nu}(y) := \nu((-\infty, y]) \end{cases}$$

Observe that they are non-decreasing, and  $F_{\mu}$  is continuous (not  $G_{\nu}$ !)  $\left[ |F_{\mu}(t_k) - F_{\mu}(t)| = \left| \int_t^{t_k} d\mu \right| \xrightarrow{t_k \rightarrow t} 0 \right]$ .

We have defined  $G$  (and  $F$ ) so that it is continuous from the right.  $\left( G_{\nu}(y) = \lim_{\varepsilon \downarrow 0} \nu((-\infty, y+\varepsilon]) \right)$

Define the pseudo-inverse  $G^{-1}(y) := \inf \{ t \in \mathbb{R} : G(t) > y \}$

( $G$  may have constant regions).  $G^{-1}$  is continuous from the right.

Claim:  $T_{\#}\mu = \nu$ , where we define  $T := G^{-1} \circ F$ .

- $\hookrightarrow$  proof:
- $F$  is continuous
  - $F(t) \rightarrow 0$  as  $t \rightarrow -\infty$ ,  $F(t) \rightarrow 1$  as  $t \rightarrow \infty$ .
  - $F$  surjective in  $(0,1)$ .

Given  $t \in (0,1)$ , let  $x$  be the largest value s.t.  $F(x) = t$ :

$$\mu(F^{-1}[0,t]) = \int_{F^{-1}([0,t])} d\mu = \int_{-\infty}^x d\mu = F(x) = t.$$

Notice, also, that:  $\mu(F^{-1}[0,t)) \underset{t}{\geq} \mu(F^{-1}[0,t-\varepsilon]) = t-\varepsilon$

Let now  $A = (-\infty, a]$ ,  $a \in \mathbb{R}$ . Then:

$$\begin{aligned} T_{\#}\mu(A) &= \mu(T^{-1}(A)) = \mu(F^{-1} \circ \underbrace{(G^{-1})^{-1}}_{(-\infty, G(a)] \text{ or } (-\infty, G(a)) \text{ depending on the point}}((-\infty, 0])) = \\ &= \mu(F^{-1}(-\infty, G(a)]) = G(a) \\ &= \nu(-\infty, a] = \nu(A). \end{aligned}$$

Use properties of measures for all Borel sets.