

# Computing Optimal Transport Barycentres

Eloi Tanguy, Julie Delon, Nathaël Gozlan

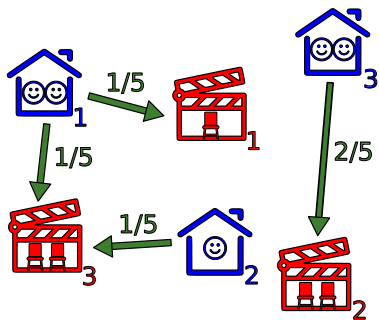
MAP5, Université Paris-Cité







January 22, 2025



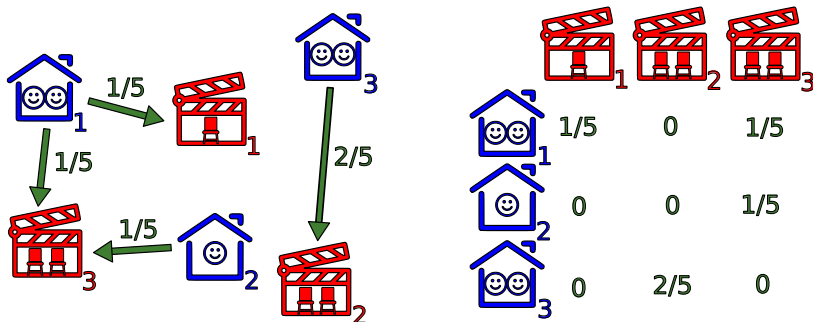
- 1 Optimal Transport
- 2 Wasserstein Barycentres
- 3 OT Barycentres
- 4 Discrete Case and Numerics
- 5 Application to GMMs

## Discrete Optimal Transport



|   |   |  |   |
|---|---|--|---|
|   |  |  |  |
|  | 1/5   | 0  | 1/5   |
|  | 0   | 0  | 1/5   |
|  | 0   | 2/5  | 0   |

## Discrete Optimal Transport



Assignment Cost:

$$\frac{1}{5} \times c(x_1, y_1) + \frac{1}{5} \times c(x_1, y_3) + \frac{1}{5} \times c(x_2, y_3) + \frac{2}{5} \times c(x_3, y_2).$$

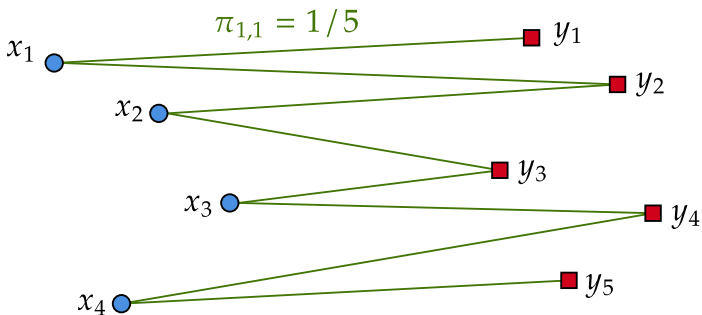
Constraints on  $\pi \in \mathbb{R}_+^{3 \times 3}$  :  $\pi \mathbf{1} = (2/5, 1/5, 2/5)$ ,  $\pi^\top \mathbf{1} = (1/5, 2/5, 2/5)$ .

$$\text{Optimal Transport Cost : } \min_{\pi} \sum_{i,j} c(x_i, y_j) \pi_{i,j}.$$

## OT between discrete measures

$$\mu = \sum_{i=1}^n a_i \delta_{x_i}, \quad \nu = \sum_{j=1}^m b_j \delta_{y_j}$$

$$\mathcal{T}_c(\mu, \nu) = \inf_{\pi \in \Pi(a,b)} \sum_{i,j} c(x_i, y_j) \pi_{i,j}.$$



## OT Cost and 2-Wasserstein Distance

$$\mathcal{T}_c(\mu, \nu) = \inf_{\pi \in \Pi(\mu, \nu)} \int_{\mathcal{X} \times \mathcal{Y}} c(x, y) d\pi(x, y) = \inf_{X \sim \mu, Y \sim \nu} \mathbb{E}[c(X, Y)].$$

$$W_2^2(\mu, \nu) = \inf_{\pi \in \Pi(\mu, \nu)} \int_{\mathcal{X} \times \mathcal{Y}} \|x - y\|_2^2 d\pi(x, y).$$

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## Bures-Wasserstein

$$\begin{aligned} W_2^2(\mathcal{N}(m_1, S_1), \mathcal{N}(m_2, S_2)) \\ &= \|m_1 - m_2\|_2^2 \\ &+ \text{Tr} \left( S_1 + S_2 - 2(S_1^{1/2} S_2 S_1^{1/2})^{1/2} \right) \end{aligned}$$

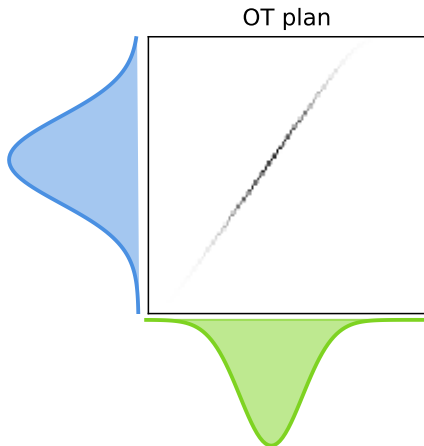
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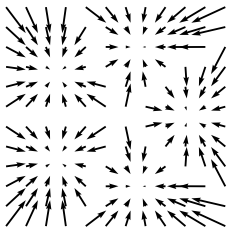
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# Push-forward measures and OT maps

**Image Measure:**  $f\#\mu := \text{Law}_{X\sim\mu}[f(X)]$



Gaussian  $\mu$

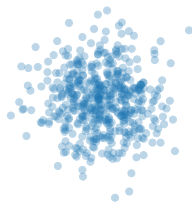
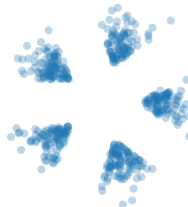
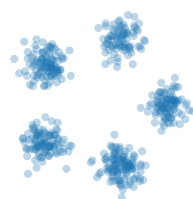


Image  $f\#\mu$

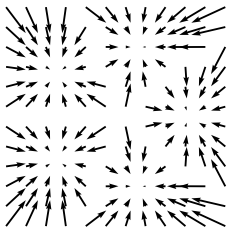
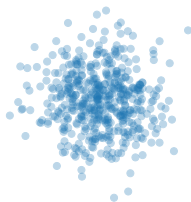
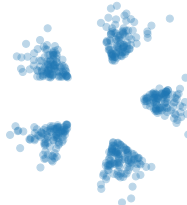
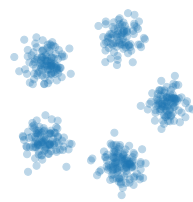


Gaussian Mixture  $\nu$



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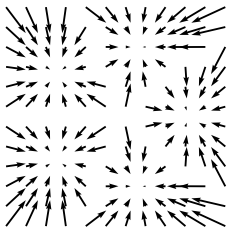
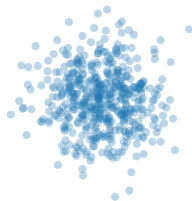
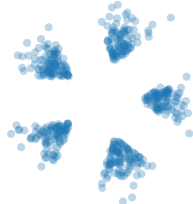
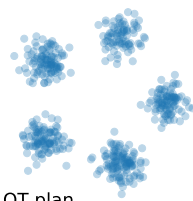
Gaussian  $\mu$ Image  $f\#\mu$ Gaussian Mixture  $\nu$ 

## Brenier's Theorem

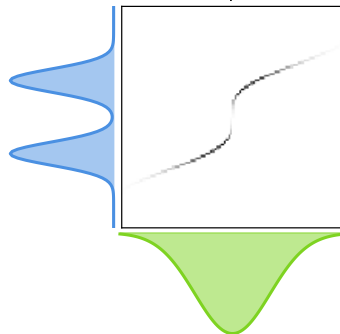
If  $c(x, y) = \|x - y\|_2^2$ , and  $\mu \ll \mathcal{L}^d$ , then there is a unique solution  $\pi^* = (I, \nabla\varphi)\#\mu$ , with  $\varphi$  convex.

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Gaussian  $\mu$ Image  $f\#\mu$ Gaussian Mixture  $\nu$ 

OT plan



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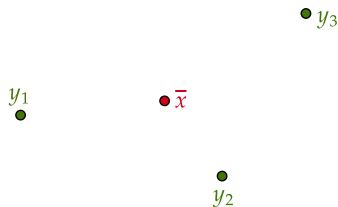
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## From Euclidean Combinations to Fréchet Means

$$\bar{x} = \sum_{k=1}^K \lambda_k y_k$$

$$\bar{x} = \operatorname{argmin}_{x \in \mathbb{R}^d} \sum_{k=1}^K \lambda_k \|x - y_k\|_2^2$$



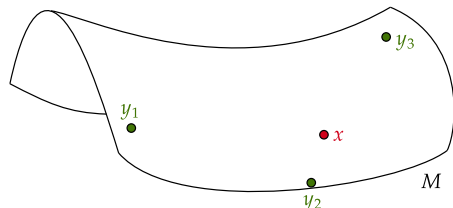
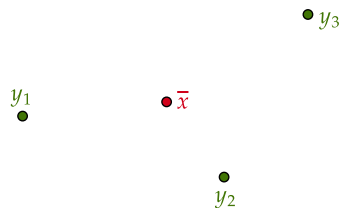
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Fréchet mean:

$$\bar{x} \in \operatorname{argmin}_{x \in \mathcal{X}} \sum_{k=1}^K d(x, y_k)^2.$$



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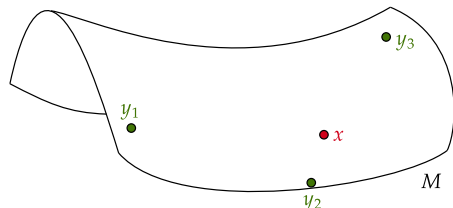
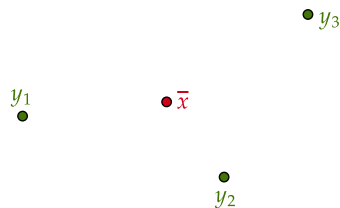
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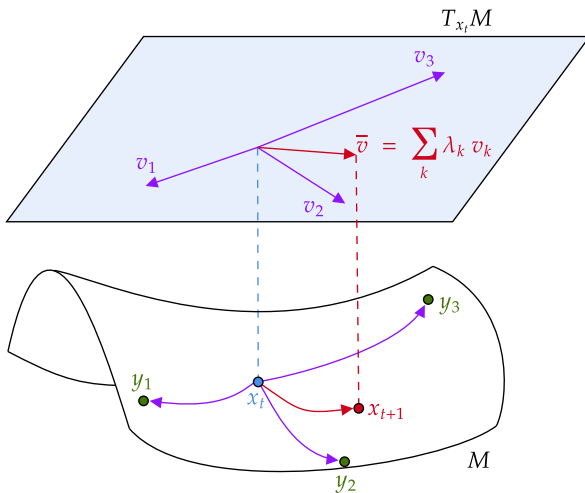
Fréchet mean:

$$\bar{x} \in \operatorname{argmin}_{x \in \mathcal{X}} \sum_{k=1}^K d(x, y_k)^2.$$

$$\text{Generalisation: } \bar{x} \in \operatorname{argmin}_{x \in \mathcal{X}} \sum_{k=1}^K c_k(x, y_k).$$

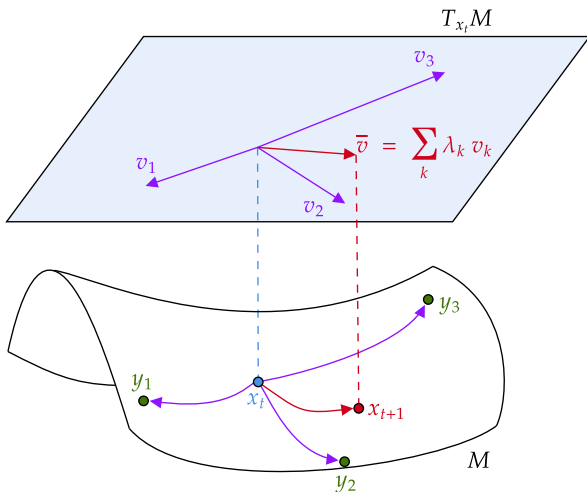


# Fixed-Point Algorithm for Fréchet Means on Manifolds





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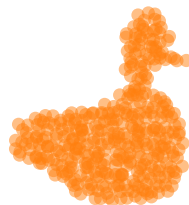
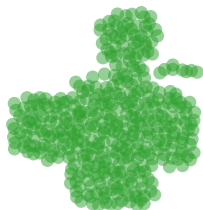
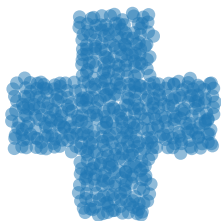
$$V(x) = \sum_{k=1}^K \lambda_k d(x, y_k)^2.$$

$$\nabla V(x) = -2 \sum_{k=1}^K \lambda_k \text{Log}_x(y_k).$$

$$x_{t+1} = \text{Exp}_{x_t} \left( -\frac{1}{2} \nabla V(x_t) \right).$$

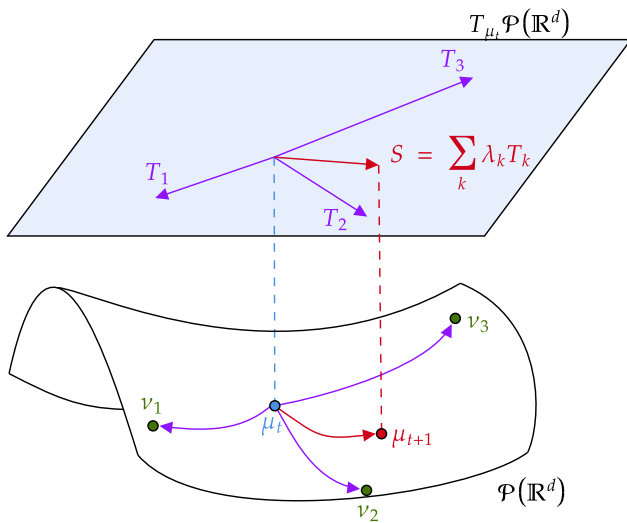
## 2-Wasserstein Barycentres (Agueh & Carlier 2011 [1])

$$\operatorname{argmin}_{\mu \in \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{R}^d)} \sum_{k=1}^K \lambda_k W_2^2(\mu, \nu_k).$$



## Fixed-Point Method (Alvarez-Esteban et al. 2016 [3])

**Assumptions:**  $c(x, y) = \|x - y\|_2^2$ , AC measures on  $\mathbb{R}^d$ .

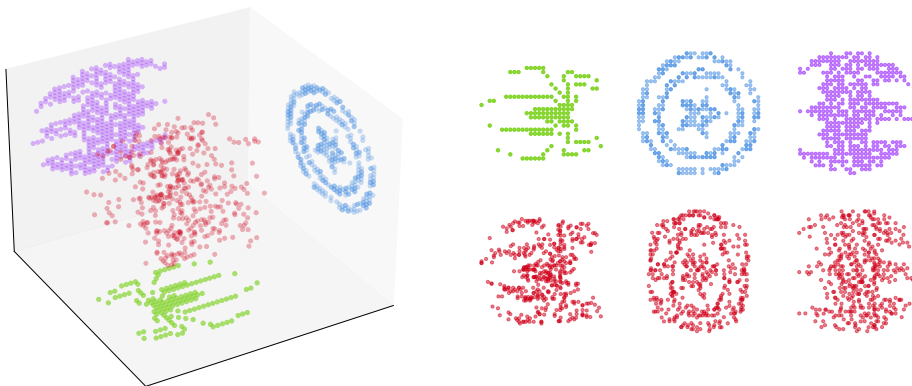


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# Motivation for OT barycenters with generic costs

$$W_1(\mu, \nu) := \inf_{\pi \in \Pi(\mu, \nu)} \int \|x - y\|_2 d\pi(x, y).$$

Find  $\mu \in \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{R}^3)$  minimising  $\sum_k \frac{1}{3} W_1(P_k \# \mu, \nu_k)$  where  $\nu_k \in \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{R}^2)$ .



Generalises Delon et al. 2021 [5] where  $c_k(x, y) = \|P_k(x) - y\|_2^2$ .

# Generalising Wasserstein Barycentres

## Setting:

- $(\mathcal{X}, d_{\mathcal{X}})$  compact metric space for barycentres.
- $(\mathcal{Y}_k, d_{\mathcal{Y}_k})$  compact metric spaces for measures  $\nu_k$ .
- $c_k : \mathcal{X} \times \mathcal{Y}_k \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_+$  continuous cost functions.

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$$\operatorname{argmin}_{\mu \in \mathcal{P}(\mathcal{X})} V(\mu), \quad V(\mu) := \sum_{k=1}^K \mathcal{T}_{c_k}(\mu, \nu_k).$$

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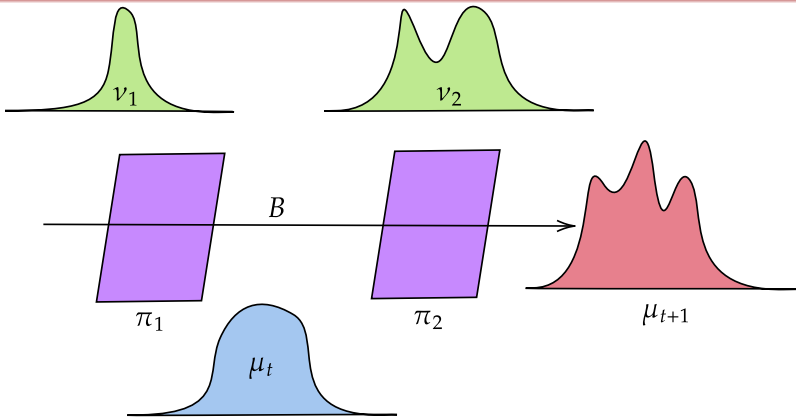
**Assumption:** The ground barycenter function

$$B(y_1, \dots, y_K) := \operatorname{argmin}_{x \in \mathcal{X}} \sum_{k=1}^K c_k(x, y_k)$$

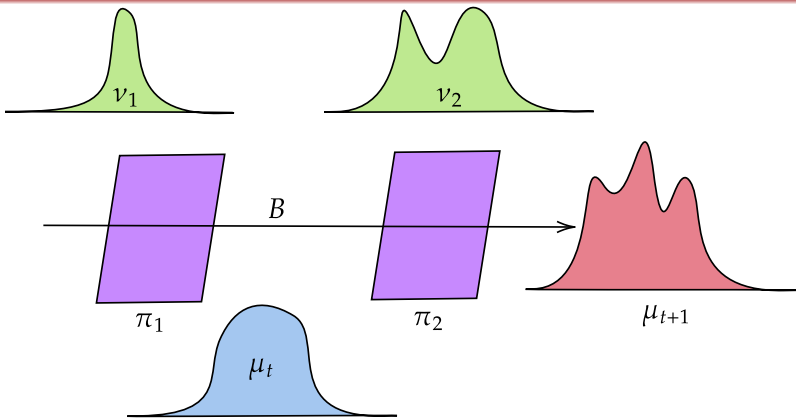
is well-defined.



# Fixed-Point Algorithm: Intuition



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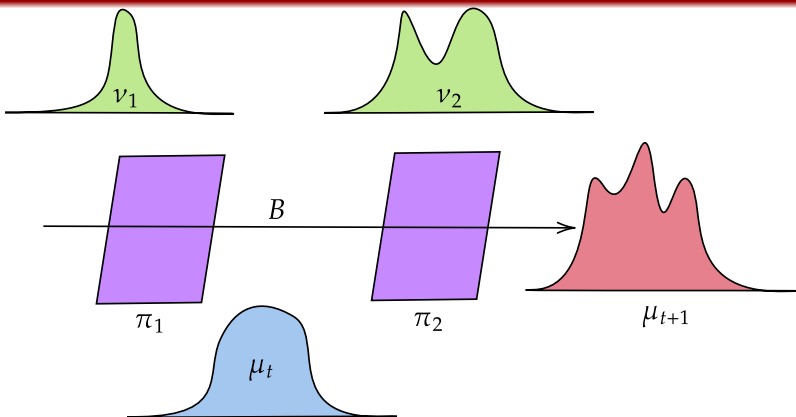


## General Idea

Let  $(X_t, Y_1, \dots, Y_K)$  RVs such that  $X_t \sim \mu_t$ ,  $Y_k \sim \nu_k$  and  $(X_t, Y_k) \sim \pi_k \in \Pi_{c_k}^*(\mu_t, \nu_k)$ . Take  $X_{t+1} = B(Y_1, \dots, Y_K)$ .

If  $\Pi_{c_k}^*(\mu_t, \nu_k) = \{(I, T_k) \# \mu_t\}$  then  $\mu_{t+1} = B(T_1, \dots, T_K) \# \mu_t$ .

## Fixed-point Algorithm: (more) formal definition



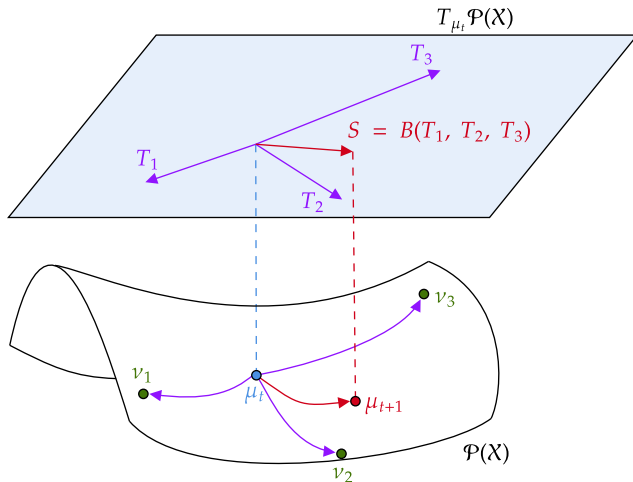
$$\Gamma(\mu) := \left\{ \gamma \in \mathcal{P}(\mathcal{X} \times \mathcal{Y}_1 \cdots \times \mathcal{Y}_K) : \forall k \in \llbracket 1, K \rrbracket, \gamma_{0,k} \in \Pi_{c_k}^*(\mu, \nu_k) \right\},$$

$$G := \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \mathcal{P}(\mathcal{X}) \ni \mu \\ \mu \mapsto B\#\Gamma(\mu) \end{array} \right. , \quad \mu_{t+1} \in G(\mu_t).$$

$$B\#\Gamma(\mu) := \{B\#\gamma, \gamma \in \Gamma(\mu)\}, \quad B\#\gamma = \text{Law}_{(X, Y_1, \dots, Y_K) \sim \gamma} B(Y_1, \dots, Y_K).$$

## Relation to Alvarez-Esteban et al. 2016 [3]

**Dream case:**  $\mathcal{X} = \mathcal{Y}_1 = \dots = \mathcal{Y}_K$  and maps exist.



**Reality:**

$$\gamma : \gamma_{0,k} \in \Pi_{c_k}^*(\mu_t, \nu_k),$$

$$\mu_{t+1} = B\#\gamma.$$

# Algorithm Convergence

## Ground Barycentre Lemma

$$\sum_k c_k(x, y_k) \geq \sum_k c_k(B(y_1, \dots, y_K), y_k) + \delta(x, B(y_1, \dots, y_K)).$$

Case  $\|x - y\|_2^2$ : simply  $\sum_k \lambda_k \|x - y_k\|_2^2 = \sum_k \|\bar{x} - y_k\|_2^2 + \|x - \bar{x}\|_2^2$ .

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## Decrease Property

$$\forall \bar{\mu} \in G(\mu), V(\mu) \geq V(\bar{\mu}) + \mathcal{T}_\delta(\mu, \bar{\mu}).$$

If  $\mu^*$  is a barycentre then  $G(\mu^*) = \{\mu^*\}$ .

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Using arcane magic about the regularity of the multimap  $G$ :

## Convergence

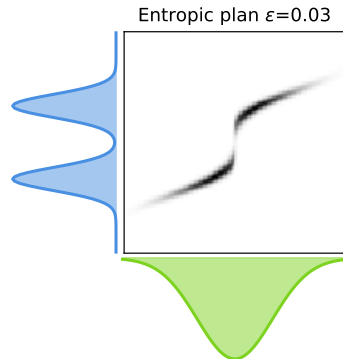
If  $\mu$  is a subsequential limit of  $(\mu_t)$  then  $\mu \in G(\mu)$ .

# Entropic Barycentres

$$\mathcal{T}_{c,\varepsilon}(\mu, \nu) := \inf_{\pi \in \Pi(\mu, \nu)} \int_{\mathcal{X} \times \mathcal{Y}} cd\pi + \varepsilon \text{KL}(\pi | \mu \otimes \nu).$$

$$V_\varepsilon(\mu) := \sum_{k=1}^K \mathcal{T}_{c,\varepsilon}(\mu, \nu_k).$$

$$G_\varepsilon(\mu) := B \# \gamma, \text{ with } \gamma_{0,k} = \Pi_{c_k, \varepsilon}^*(\mu, \nu_k).$$



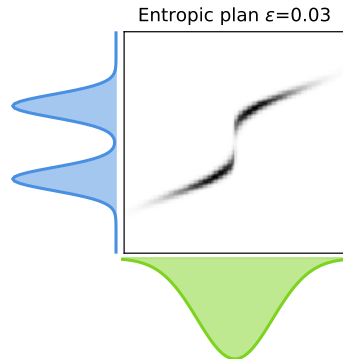


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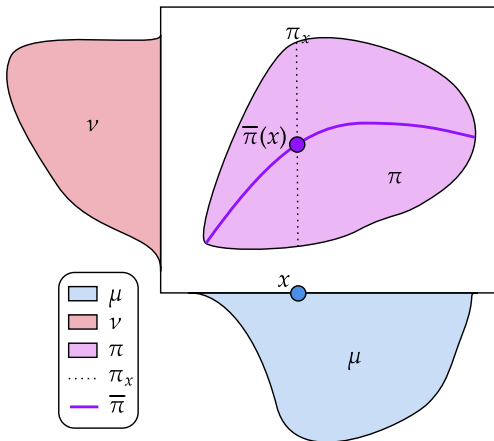
$$V_\varepsilon(\mu) \geq V_\varepsilon(G_\varepsilon(\mu)) + \mathcal{T}_\delta(\mu, G_\varepsilon(\mu)). \text{ If } \mu^* \text{ barycentre, } G_\varepsilon(\mu^*) = \mu^*.$$

## Convergence

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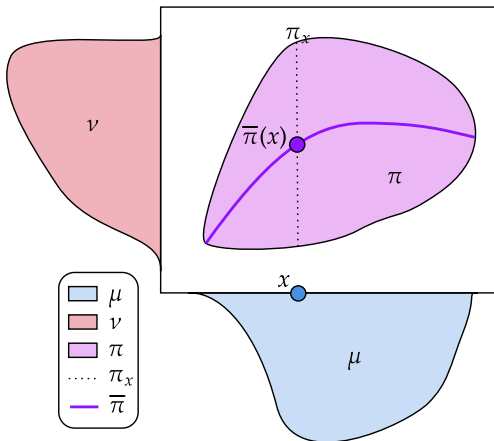
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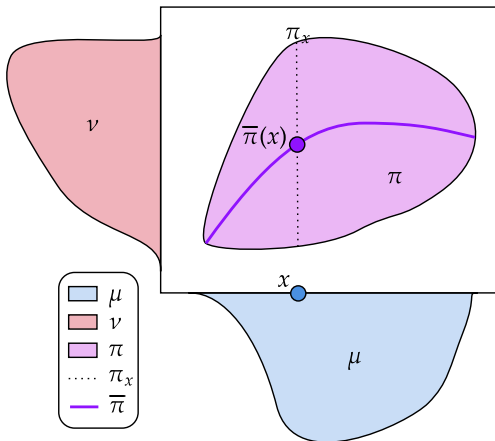
$$\bar{\pi}(x) = \int y d\pi_x(y).$$

$$\bar{\pi}(x) = \mathbb{E}_{(X,Y) \sim \pi}[Y|X = x].$$

$$\bar{\pi} = \operatorname{argmin}_{f \in L^2(\mu)} \int \|f(x) - y\|_2^2 d\pi(x, y).$$

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$$\bar{\pi} = \operatorname{argmin}_{f \in L^2(\mu)} \int \|f(x) - y\|_2^2 d\pi(x, y).$$

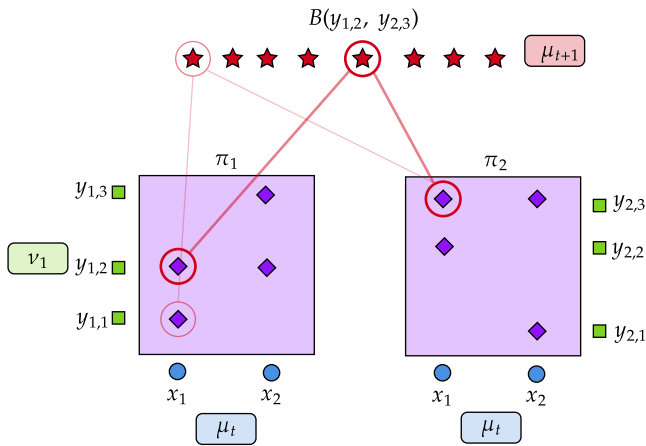
$$H(\mu) = \left\{ B(\bar{\pi}_1, \dots, \bar{\pi}_K) \# \mu, \pi_k \in \Pi_{c_k}^*(\mu, \nu_k) \right\}.$$



No guarantees.

- 1 Optimal Transport
- 2 Wasserstein Barycentres
- 3 OT Barycentres
- 4 Discrete Case and Numerics**
- 5 Application to GMMs

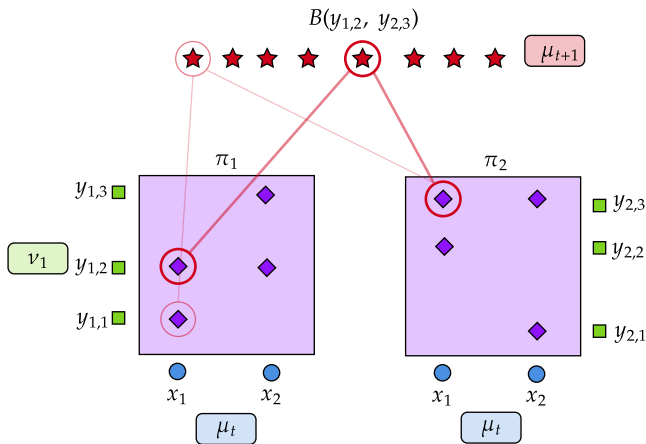
# Discrete G



$$\mu = \sum_{i=1}^n a_i \delta_{x_i}$$

$$\nu_k = \sum_{j=1}^{n_k} b_{k,j} \delta_{y_{k,j}}$$

## Discrete G

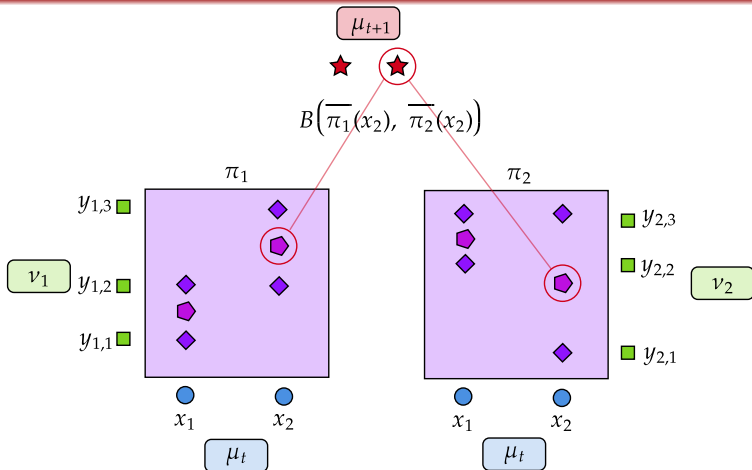


$$\mu = \sum_{i=1}^n a_i \delta_{x_i}$$

$$\nu_k = \sum_{j=1}^{n_k} b_{k,j} \delta_{y_{k,j}}$$

$$G(\mu) = \left\{ \sum_{j_1, \dots, j_K} \left( \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{1}{a_i^{K-1}} \pi_{i,j_1}^{(1)} \times \dots \times \pi_{i,j_K}^{(K)} \right) \delta(B(y_{1,j_1}, \dots, y_{K,j_K})), \right. \\ \left. \pi^{(k)} \in \Pi_{c_k}^*(\mu, \nu_k) \right\}.$$

## Discrete H (Generalises Cuturi &amp; Doucet 2014 [4])



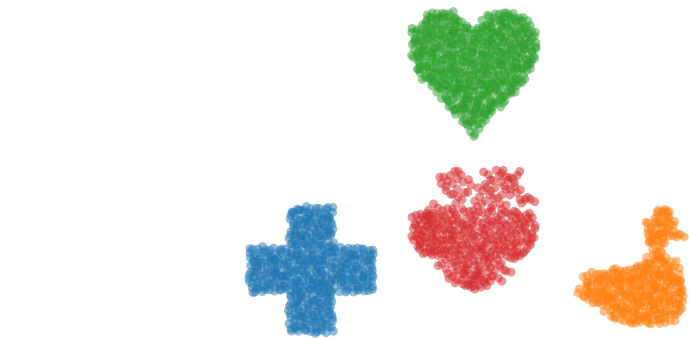
$$H(\mu) = \left\{ \sum_{i=1}^n a_i \delta(B(\bar{\pi}_1(x_i), \dots, \bar{\pi}_K(x_i))), \pi_k \in \Pi_{c_k}^*(\mu, \nu_k) \right\},$$

$$\bar{\pi}_k(x_i) = (1/a_i) \sum_{j=1}^{n_1} \pi_{i,j}^{(k)} y_{1,j}.$$



# Illustration for $c(x, y) = \|x - y\|_{1.5}^{1.5}$

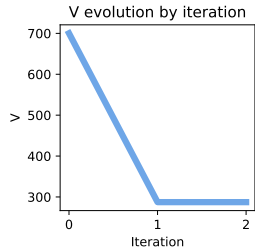
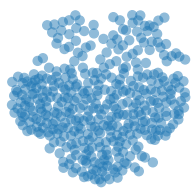
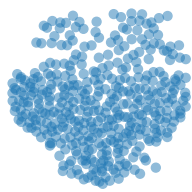
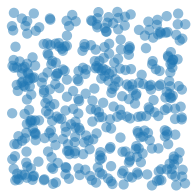
Barycentre for the cost  $|x - y|_{3/2}^{3/2}$



Iteration 0

Iteration 1

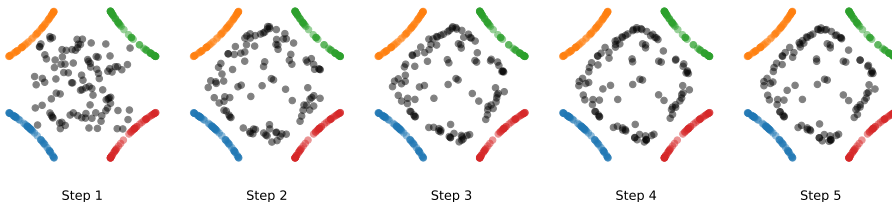
Iteration 2



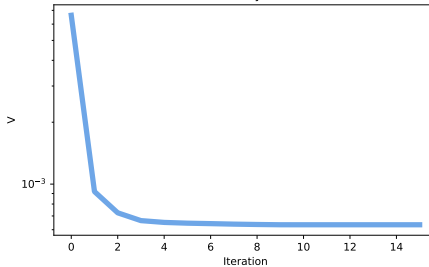
# Non-linear Generalised Wasserstein Barycentre

$\operatorname{argmin}_{\mu} \sum_{k=1}^4 \frac{1}{4} W_2^2(P_k \# \mu, \nu_k)$  where  $P_k$  is the projection onto circle  $k$ .

First 5 Steps Fixed-point GWB solver



V evolution by iteration



- ① Optimal Transport
- ② Wasserstein Barycentres
- ③ OT Barycentres
- ④ Discrete Case and Numerics
- ⑤ Application to GMMs**

## OT between GMMs

$$W_2^2(\mathcal{N}(m_1, S_1), \mathcal{N}(m_2, S_2)) = \|m_1 - m_2\|_2^2 + \underbrace{\text{Tr} \left( S_1 + S_2 - 2(S_1^{1/2} S_2 S_1^{1/2})^{1/2} \right)}_{d_{\text{BW}}^2(S_1, S_2) :=}$$

## OT between GMMs

$$W_2^2(\mathcal{N}(m_1, S_1), \mathcal{N}(m_2, S_2)) = \|m_1 - m_2\|_2^2 + \underbrace{\text{Tr}(S_1 + S_2 - 2(S_1^{1/2} S_2 S_1^{1/2})^{1/2})}_{d_{\text{BW}}^2(S_1, S_2) :=}$$

Ground space:  $(\mathcal{X}, d) = (\mathcal{Y}_k, d_{\mathcal{Y}_k}) = (\mathcal{N}, W_2)$  with ground cost  $c = W_2^2$ .

$$\mu = \sum_{i=1}^n a_i \delta_{\mathcal{N}(m_i, S_i)}, \quad \nu = \sum_{j=1}^m b_j \delta_{\mathcal{N}(m'_j, S'_j)} \in \mathcal{P}(\mathcal{N});$$

$$\mathcal{T}_{W_2^2}(\mu, \nu) = \min_{\pi \in \Pi(a, b)} \sum_{i, j} (\|m_i - m'_j\|_2^2 + d_{\text{BW}}^2(S_i, S'_j)) \pi_{i, j}.$$

# Ground Barycentre Between Gaussians

Gaussian barycentres (Agueh & Carlier 2011 [1]).

$$B(\mathcal{N}(m_1, S_1), \dots, \mathcal{N}(m_K, S_K)) = \mathcal{N}(\bar{m}, \bar{S}),$$

$$\bar{m} := \sum_{k=1}^K \lambda_k m_k, \quad \bar{S} := \operatorname{argmin}_{S \in S_d^{++}(\mathbb{R})} \sum_{k=1}^K \lambda_k d_{\text{BW}}^2(S, S_k).$$

Fixed-point computation for  $\bar{S}$ :

$$G_{\mathcal{N}}(S) = S^{-1/2} \left( \sum_{k=1}^K \lambda_k (S^{1/2} S_k S^{1/2})^{1/2} \right)^2 S^{-1/2}.$$

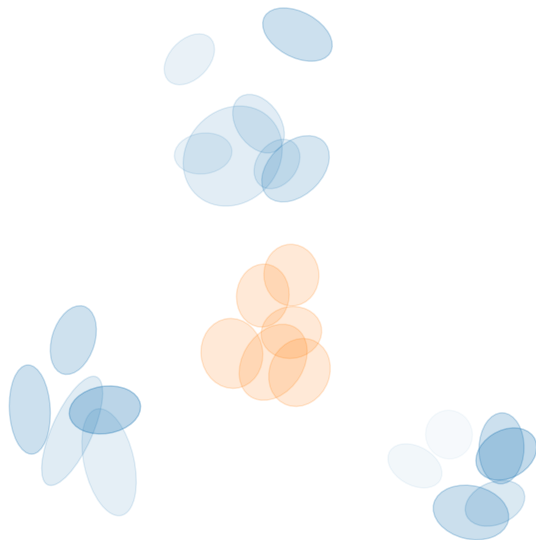
Riemannian gradient descent interpretation by Altschuler et al. 2021 [2].

## GMM Barycentre

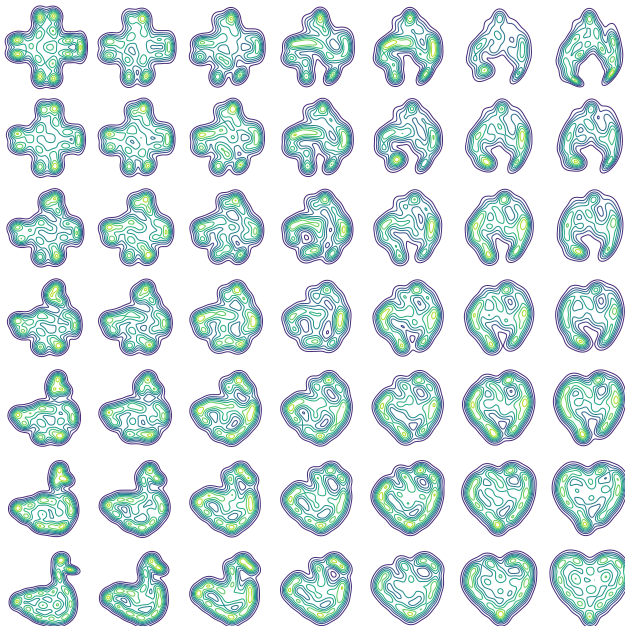
$$\mu = \sum_{i=1}^n a_i \delta_{\mathcal{N}(m_i, S_i)},$$

$$\nu_k = \sum_{j=1}^{n_k} b_k \delta_{\mathcal{N}(m_{k,j}, S_{k,j})},$$

$$V(\mu) = \sum_{k=1}^K \lambda_k \mathcal{T}_{W_2^2}(\mu, \nu_k).$$



# GMM Barycentre Example





- Talk based on *ET, Julie Delon and Nathaël Gozlan (2024): Computing Barycentres of Measures for Generic Transport Costs.* arXiv preprint 2501.04016.
- All code at [https://github.com/eloitanguy/ot\\_bar](https://github.com/eloitanguy/ot_bar)
- Functions (soon) released on <https://pythonot.github.io/>
- Slides at <https://eloitanguy.github.io/publications/>

*Thanks!*

- [1] Martial Agueh and Guillaume Carlier.  
Barycenters in the Wasserstein space.  
*SIAM Journal on Mathematical Analysis*, 43(2):904–924, 2011.
- [2] Jason Altschuler, Sinho Chewi, Patrik R Gerber, and Austin Stromme.  
Averaging on the bures-wasserstein manifold: dimension-free convergence of gradient descent.  
*Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems*, 34:22132–22145, 2021.
- [3] Pedro C Álvarez-Esteban, E Del Barrio, JA Cuesta-Albertos, and C Matrán.  
A fixed-point approach to barycenters in Wasserstein space.  
*Journal of Mathematical Analysis and Applications*, 441(2):744–762, 2016.

- [4] Marco Cuturi and Arnaud Doucet.  
Fast computation of Wasserstein barycenters.  
In Eric P. Xing and Tony Jebara, editors, *Proceedings of the 31st International Conference on Machine Learning*, volume 32 of *Proceedings of Machine Learning Research*, pages 685–693, Beijing, China, 22–24 Jun 2014. PMLR.
- [5] Julie Delon, Nathaël Gozlan, and Alexandre Saint-Dizier.  
Generalized Wasserstein barycenters between probability measures living on different subspaces, 2021.