

# Provably convergent algorithm for free-support Wasserstein barycenter of continuous non-parametric measures

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# Outline

- 1 Optimal transport and Wasserstein barycenter
- 2 Stochastic fixed-point algorithm for Wasserstein barycenter
- 3 Concrete plug-in OT map estimators
- 4 Preliminary numerical results

# Optimal transport

- **Motivation:** given two probability measures  $\mu, \nu \in \mathcal{P}_2(\mathbb{R}^d)$ , determine the most economical way of transporting the mass from  $\mu$  to  $\nu$  under the cost  $\mathbb{R}^d \times \mathbb{R}^d \ni (\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) \mapsto \|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y}\|^2 \in \mathbb{R}$ .
- **Monge's problem:**

$$\inf_{T: \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^d, T\# \mu = \nu} \left\{ \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \|\mathbf{x} - T(\mathbf{x})\|^2 \mu(d\mathbf{x}) \right\}. \quad (\text{MP})$$

- **Kantorovich's (relaxed) problem:**

$$\inf_{\pi \in \Pi(\mu, \nu)} \left\{ \int_{\mathbb{R}^d \times \mathbb{R}^d} \|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y}\|^2 \pi(d\mathbf{x}, d\mathbf{y}) \right\}, \quad (\text{KP})$$

where  $\Pi(\mu, \nu) := \{\pi \in \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{R}^d \times \mathbb{R}^d) : \pi \text{ has marginals } \mu \text{ and } \nu\}$  denotes the set of **couplings**.

- While (MP) can be **infeasible** as it does not allow mass to be split, (KP) is **always feasible** and an **optimal coupling** is **always attained**.

# Properties of optimal transport

- For continuous  $\mu \in \mathcal{P}_{2,\text{ac}}(\mathbb{R}^d)$ , (KP) and (MP) are related via **Brenier's theorem**.

## Theorem (Brenier [1991])

Let  $\mu \in \mathcal{P}_{2,\text{ac}}(\mathbb{R}^d)$ . Then, there exists a unique optimal coupling  $\pi^*$  for (KP). Moreover, there exists a convex lower semi-continuous  $\varphi_\nu^\mu : \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \cup \{\infty\}$  such that  $T_\nu^\mu := \nabla \varphi_\nu^\mu$  solves (MP) and  $\pi^* = [I_d, T_\nu^\mu] \# \mu$ .

- We call  $\varphi_\nu^\mu$  the **optimal Brenier potential** and call  $T_\nu^\mu$  the **optimal transport (OT) map**.
- **Caffarelli's regularity theory** provides sufficient conditions for the regularity of  $\varphi_\nu^\mu$ .

## Theorem (Caffarelli [1990, 1991, 1992, 1996])

Let  $\mu, \nu \in \mathcal{P}_{2,\text{ac}}(\mathbb{R}^d)$  be **concentrated on bounded open sets**  $\mathcal{X}_\mu, \mathcal{X}_\nu$  that are **uniformly convex** and have  **$\mathcal{C}^2$  boundaries**. If the density of  $\mu$  (resp.  $\nu$ ) are **positive** on  $\mathcal{X}_\mu$  (resp.  $\mathcal{X}_\nu$ ) and belong to  $\mathcal{C}^{k,\alpha}(\mathcal{X}_\mu)$  (resp.  $\mathcal{C}^{k,\alpha}(\mathcal{X}_\nu)$ ), i.e.,  **$k$  times differentiable with  $\alpha$ -Hölder partial derivatives**, then it holds that  $\varphi_\nu^\mu \in \mathcal{C}^{k+2,\alpha}(\mathcal{X}_\mu)$ .

# Wasserstein distance and Wasserstein barycenter

- The **2-Wasserstein distance** between  $\mu, \nu \in \mathcal{P}_2(\mathbb{R}^d)$  is defined as

$$\mathcal{W}_2(\mu, \nu) := \left\{ \inf_{\pi \in \Pi(\mu, \nu)} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d \times \mathbb{R}^d} \|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y}\|^2 \pi(d\mathbf{x}, d\mathbf{y}) \right\}^{\frac{1}{2}}.$$

- $\mathcal{W}_2(\cdot, \cdot)$  **metrizes weak convergence** in  $\mathcal{P}_2(\mathbb{R}^d)$ .
- Given  $\nu_1, \dots, \nu_K \in \mathcal{P}_2(\mathbb{R}^d)$ , let  $V(\mu) := \frac{1}{K} \sum_{k=1}^K \mathcal{W}_2(\mu, \nu_k)^2$ . Then,  $\bar{\mu} \in \mathcal{P}_2(\mathbb{R}^d)$  is called a **Wasserstein barycenter** of  $\nu_1, \dots, \nu_K$  [Agueh and Carlier 2011] if

$$\bar{\mu} \in \arg \min_{\mu \in \mathcal{P}_2(\mathbb{R}^d)} V(\mu).$$

# Literature review

- **Applications of Wasserstein barycenter:** Bayesian statistics (e.g., Srivastava, Li, Dunson [2018]), unsupervised clustering (e.g., Ye et al. [2017]), pattern recognition (e.g., Tabak, Trigila, Zhao [2022]), etc.
- **Existing numerical methods for Wasserstein barycenter:**
  - **Parametric Wasserstein barycenter:** applicable when  $\nu_1, \dots, \nu_K$  are certain **parametric measures** (e.g., Gaussian); see, e.g., Álvarez-Esteban et al. [2016], Chewi et al. [2020].
  - **Discrete Wasserstein barycenter:** applicable when  $\nu_1, \dots, \nu_K$  are **discrete measures**; see, e.g., Cuturi and Doucet [2014], Benamou et al. [2015], and Anderes, Borgwardt, Miller [2016].
  - **Fixed-support methods:** **restrict the support** of the Wasserstein barycenter to a prespecified finite set and optimize over a finite number of probabilities; see, e.g., Staib et al. [2017], Clatici, Chien, Solomon [2018], Dvurechenskii et al. [2018].
  - **Neural network-based methods:** parametrize  $\varphi_\nu^\mu$  and/or  $\bar{\mu}$  with neural networks and **optimize over neural network parameters**; see, e.g., Fan, Taghvaei, Chen [2020], Li et al. [2020], Korotin et al. [2021].
- **Our contribution:** we propose a **provably convergent** algorithm for approximating the **free-support** Wasserstein barycenter of **non-parametric continuous** measures.

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# Preliminaries

- Álvarez-Esteban, del Barrio, Cuesta-Albertos, and Matrán [2016] have shown that the Wasserstein barycenter  $\bar{\mu}$  is a **fixed-point** of  $G(\mu) := \left[\frac{1}{K} \sum_{k=1}^K T_{\nu_k}^{\mu}\right] \# \mu$ , i.e.,  $G(\bar{\mu}) = \bar{\mu}$ .

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## Algorithm: Deterministic fixed-point scheme

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**Input:**  $K$  input measures  $\nu_1, \dots, \nu_K \in \mathcal{P}_{2,\text{ac}}(\mathbb{R}^d)$ , initial measure  $\mu_0 \in \mathcal{P}_{2,\text{ac}}(\mathbb{R}^d)$ .

**Output:**  $(\mu_t)_{t \in \mathbb{N}_0}$ .

- 1 **for**  $t = 0, 1, 2, \dots$  **do**
  - 2     **for**  $k = 1, \dots, K$  **do**
  - 3         Get the OT map  $T_{\nu_k}^{\mu_t}$ .
  - 4      $\mu_{t+1} \leftarrow \left[\frac{1}{K} \sum_{k=1}^K T_{\nu_k}^{\mu_t}\right] \# \mu_t$ .
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Theorem (Corollary 3.5 & Theorem 3.6 of Álvarez-Esteban et al. [2016])

$(\mu_t)_{t \geq 0}$  is **tight** and every  $\mathcal{W}_2$ -accumulation point of  $(\mu_t)_{t \geq 0}$  is a **fixed-point** of  $G$ .

In particular, if  $G$  has a unique fixed-point, then  $\mu_t \xrightarrow{\mathcal{W}_2} \bar{\mu}$  as  $t \rightarrow \infty$ .

- However, for general non-parametric  $\nu_k$ , the computation of  $T_{\nu_k}^{\mu_t}$  is **intractable**, and thus the deterministic fixed-point scheme **does not lead to a computationally tractable algorithm**.



# Conceptual approach

- **Conceptual approach:** we estimate  $T_{\nu_k}^{\mu_t}$  using samples from  $\mu_t$  and  $\nu_k$  and extend this scheme to a **stochastic fixed-point algorithm**.

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## Algorithm: Stochastic fixed-point algorithm (conceptual)

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**Input:**  $K$  input measures  $\nu_1, \dots, \nu_K \in \mathcal{P}_{2,\text{ac}}(\mathbb{R}^d)$ , initial measure  $\mu_0 \in \mathcal{P}_{2,\text{ac}}(\mathbb{R}^d)$ .

**Output:**  $(\hat{\mu}_t)_{t \in \mathbb{N}_0}$ .

- 1 Initialize  $\hat{\mu}_0 \leftarrow \mu_0$ .
  - 2 **for**  $t = 0, 1, 2, \dots$  **do**
  - 3     **for**  $k = 1, \dots, K$  **do**
  - 4         Randomly generate  $N_{t,k}$  i.i.d. samples  $\{\mathbf{X}_{t+1,k,i}\}_{i=1:N_{t,k}}$  from  $\hat{\mu}_t$ .
  - 5         Randomly generate  $N_{t,k}$  i.i.d. samples  $\{\mathbf{Y}_{t+1,k,i}\}_{i=1:N_{t,k}}$  from  $\nu_k$ .
  - 6         Approximate  $T_{\nu_k}^{\hat{\mu}_t}$  with an estimator  $\hat{T}_{t+1,k} \approx T_{\nu_k}^{\hat{\mu}_t}$  using the samples  $\{\mathbf{X}_{t+1,k,i}\}_{i=1:N_{t,k}}$  and  $\{\mathbf{Y}_{t+1,k,i}\}_{i=1:N_{t,k}}$ .
  - 7     Choose  $\hat{\mu}_{t+1} \in \mathcal{P}_{2,\text{ac}}(\mathbb{R}^d)$  such that  $\hat{\mu}_{t+1} \approx \left[ \frac{1}{K} \sum_{k=1}^K \hat{T}_{t+1,k} \right] \# \hat{\mu}_t$ .
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# Settings

- Admissible support sets:

$$\mathcal{S} := \{\text{cl}(\mathcal{Y}) : \mathcal{Y} \subset \mathbb{R}^d \text{ is open, bounded, uniformly convex, and has a } \mathcal{C}^2\text{-boundary}\}.$$

- Admissible fully supported probability measures:

$$\mathcal{M}_{\text{full}} := \left\{ \rho \in \mathcal{P}_{2,\text{ac}}(\mathbb{R}^d) : \text{supp}(\rho) = \mathbb{R}^d, \text{ the density of } \rho \text{ is locally } \alpha\text{-H\"older and positive} \right\}.$$

- Admissible compactly supported probability measures:

$$\mathcal{M} := \left\{ \mu \in \mathcal{P}_{2,\text{ac}}(\mathbb{R}^d) : \text{supp}(\mu) \in \mathcal{S}, \text{ the density of } \mu \text{ is } \alpha\text{-H\"older and positive on } \text{supp}(\mu) \right\}.$$

- In particular,  $\rho|_{\mathcal{X}}(\cdot) := \frac{\rho(\cdot \cap \mathcal{X})}{\rho(\mathcal{X})} \in \mathcal{M}$  for any  $\rho \in \mathcal{M}_{\text{full}}$  and any  $\mathcal{X} \in \mathcal{S}$ .
- For any  $\mu, \nu \in \mathcal{M}$ , the **regularity properties of  $\varphi_{\nu}^{\mu}$**  is implied by Caffarelli's regularity theory.

# Settings

- Family  $(\mathcal{X}_r)_{r \in \mathbb{N}}$  of increasing admissible support sets used for adjusting the support of  $(\hat{\mu}_t)_{t \geq 0}$ :  $\mathcal{X}_r \in \mathcal{S}$ ,  $\mathcal{X}_{r+1} \supseteq \mathcal{X}_r \forall r \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $\bigcup_{r \in \mathbb{N}} \mathcal{X}_r = \mathbb{R}^d$ ; e.g., the family of scaled unit balls.
- Plug-in OT map estimator  $\hat{T}_{\nu,n}^{\mu,m}(\cdot; \theta)$  estimates  $T_{\nu}^{\mu}$  based on  $m$  samples from  $\mu$  and  $n$  samples from  $\nu$  with smoothing parameter  $\theta$ , subject to:
  - **Shape condition:**  $\hat{T}_{\nu,n}^{\mu,m}(\cdot; \theta) = \nabla \hat{\varphi}_{\nu,n}^{\mu,m}(\cdot; \theta)$ ,  $\hat{\varphi}_{\nu,n}^{\mu,m}(\cdot; \theta) \in \mathcal{C}^{2,\alpha}(\mathbb{R}^d)$  is  $\bar{\lambda}$ -smooth,  $\underline{\lambda}$ -strongly convex (preserves the regularity of  $\hat{\mu}_t$ );
  - **Growth condition:**  $\mathbb{E} \left[ \|\hat{T}_{\nu,n}^{\mu,m}(x; \theta)\|^2 \right] \leq u_1(\nu) + u_2(\nu) \|x\|^2 \forall x \in \mathbb{R}^d$  where  $u_1(\nu)$ ,  $u_2(\nu)$  depend on  $\nu$  (controls the approximation error of  $\hat{\mu}_{t+1} \approx [\frac{1}{K} \sum_{k=1}^K \hat{T}_{t+1,k}] \# \hat{\mu}_t$ );
  - **Consistency condition:** for all  $\epsilon > 0$ , there exist  $\bar{\theta}(\mu, \nu, \epsilon)$  and  $\bar{n}(\mu, \nu, \epsilon)$  depending on  $\mu, \nu, \epsilon$ , such that  $\mathbb{E} \left[ \|\hat{T}_{\nu,n}^{\mu,m}(\cdot; \theta) - T_{\nu}^{\mu}\|_{\mathcal{L}^2(\mu)}^2 \right] \leq \epsilon \forall \theta \geq \bar{\theta}(\mu, \nu, \epsilon), \forall m \geq \bar{n}(\mu, \nu, \epsilon), \forall n \geq \bar{n}(\mu, \nu, \epsilon)$  (controls the estimation error of  $\hat{T}_{t+1,k} \approx T_{\nu_k}^{\hat{\mu}_t}$ ).

# Concrete fixed-point algorithm

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## Algorithm: Stochastic fixed-point algorithm (**concrete**)

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**Input:**  $K$  input measures  $\nu_1, \dots, \nu_K \in \mathcal{M}$ ,  $\rho_0 \in \mathcal{M}_{\text{full}}$ , family  $(\mathcal{X}_r)_{r \in \mathbb{N}}$  of increasing sets, plug-in OT map estimator  $\hat{T}_{\nu, n}^{\mu, m}(\cdot; \theta)$ .

**Output:**  $(\hat{\mu}_t)_{t \in \mathbb{N}_0}$ .

- 1 Initialize  $\hat{\rho}_0 \leftarrow \rho_0$ .
  - 2 **for**  $t = 0, 1, 2, \dots$  **do**
  - 3     Choose  $R_t \in \mathbb{N}$ .
  - 4      $\hat{\mu}_t \leftarrow \hat{\rho}_t |_{\mathcal{X}_{R_t}}$ .
  - 5     **for**  $k = 1, \dots, K$  **do**
  - 6         Choose  $\Theta_{t,k} \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $N_{t,k} \in \mathbb{N}$ .
  - 7         Randomly generate  $N_{t,k}$  i.i.d. samples  $\{\mathbf{X}_{t+1,k,i}\}_{i=1:N_{t,k}}$  from  $\hat{\mu}_t$ .
  - 8         Randomly generate  $N_{t,k}$  i.i.d. samples  $\{\mathbf{Y}_{t+1,k,i}\}_{i=1:N_{t,k}}$  from  $\nu_k$ .
  - 9          $\hat{T}_{t+1,k} \leftarrow \hat{T}_{\nu, n}^{\mu, m}(\cdot; \theta) \Big|_{\mu=\hat{\mu}_t, \nu=\nu_k, \theta=\Theta_{t,k}, m=n=N_{t,k}}$ .
  - 10      $\hat{\rho}_{t+1} \leftarrow \left[ \frac{1}{K} \sum_{k=1}^K \hat{T}_{t+1,k} \right] \# \hat{\rho}_t$ .
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# Convergence analysis

## Theorem (Convergence of the stochastic fixed-point algorithm)

Let  $(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, \mathbb{P}, (\mathcal{F}_t)_{t \geq 0})$  be the filtered probability space induced by the stochastic fixed-point algorithm where  $\mathcal{F}_t$  is the  $\sigma$ -algebra generated by all samples up to iteration  $t$ . Let  $\beta > 0$ . Then, one can **explicitly construct**  $(\mathcal{F}_t)_{t \geq 0}$ -adapted stochastic processes  $(R_t)_{t \geq 0}$ ,  $(\Theta_{t,k})_{t \geq 0, k=1:K}$ , and  $(N_{t,k})_{t \geq 0, k=1:K}$ :

$$\begin{aligned} R_0 &:= \bar{r}_2(\hat{\rho}_0, \nu_1, \dots, \nu_K, \mathbf{1}), \\ R_t &:= \max \left\{ \bar{r}_1(\hat{\rho}_t, t^{-(1+\beta)}), \bar{r}_2(\hat{\rho}_t, \nu_1, \dots, \nu_K, (t+1)^{-2(1+\beta)}) \right\} & \forall t \geq 1, \\ \Theta_{t,k} &:= \bar{\theta}(\hat{\mu}_t, \nu_k, (t+1)^{-2(1+\beta)}) & \forall t \geq 0, \forall 1 \leq k \leq K, \\ N_{t,k} &:= \bar{n}(\hat{\mu}_t, \nu_k, (t+1)^{-2(1+\beta)}) & \forall t \geq 0, \forall 1 \leq k \leq K, \end{aligned}$$

such that:

- it holds  $\mathbb{P}$ -almost surely that  $(\hat{\mu}_t)_{t \geq 0}$  is **tight** and every  $\mathcal{W}_2$ -accumulation point of  $(\hat{\mu}_t)_{t \geq 0}$  is a **fixed point of  $G$** ;
- in particular, if  $G$  has a unique fixed-point, then  $\hat{\mu}_t \xrightarrow{\mathcal{W}_2} \bar{\mu}$   $\mathbb{P}$ -almost surely as  $t \rightarrow \infty$ , where  $\bar{\mu}$  is the **Wasserstein barycenter** of  $\nu_1, \dots, \nu_K$ .

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# Concrete plug-in OT map estimators

- **Recall:** a plug-in OT map estimator approximates  $T_\nu^\mu$  based on  $m$  samples  $\mathbf{X}_1, \dots, \mathbf{X}_m$  from  $\mu$  and  $n$  samples  $\mathbf{Y}_1, \dots, \mathbf{Y}_n$  from  $\nu$ .
- We combine the results of Manole, Balakrishnan, Niles-Weed, and Wasserman [2021] and Taylor [2017] to get a **shape-constrained convex least squares based OT map estimator**.
- **Step 1:** solve the **discrete OT problem**:  $\hat{\pi}^* \in \arg \min_{\hat{\pi} \in \Pi(\check{\mu}_m, \check{\nu}_n)} \left\{ \int_{\mathbb{R}^d \times \mathbb{R}^d} \|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y}\|^2 \hat{\pi}(d\mathbf{x}, d\mathbf{y}) \right\}$ , where  $\check{\mu}_m := \frac{1}{m} \sum_{i=1}^m \delta_{\mathbf{X}_i}$ ,  $\check{\nu}_n := \frac{1}{n} \sum_{j=1}^n \delta_{\mathbf{Y}_j}$  are empirical measures.
- **Step 2:** solve the **quadratically constrained quadratic programming (QCQP) problem**:

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \underset{(\tilde{\varphi}_i), (\tilde{\mathbf{g}}_i)}{\text{minimize}} && \sum_{i=1}^m \sum_{j=1}^n \hat{\pi}^* (\{(\mathbf{X}_i, \mathbf{Y}_j)\}) \|\tilde{\mathbf{g}}_i + \lambda \mathbf{X}_i - \mathbf{Y}_j\|^2 \\
 & \text{subject to} && \tilde{\varphi}_j \geq \tilde{\varphi}_i + \langle \tilde{\mathbf{g}}_i, \mathbf{X}_j - \mathbf{X}_i \rangle + \frac{1}{2(\bar{\lambda} - \lambda)} \|\tilde{\mathbf{g}}_i - \tilde{\mathbf{g}}_j\|^2 && \forall 1 \leq i \leq m, \forall 1 \leq j \leq m, \\
 & && \|\tilde{\mathbf{g}}_i + \lambda \mathbf{X}_i\|^2 \leq \bar{u}_0(\nu)^2 && \forall 1 \leq i \leq m,
 \end{aligned}$$

where  $\bar{u}_0(\nu)$  is the radius of  $\text{supp}(\nu)$ . Let  $(\tilde{\varphi}_i^*)_{i=1:m}$ ,  $(\tilde{\mathbf{g}}_i^*)_{i=1:m}$  be the optimizer.

# Concrete plug-in OT map estimators

- **Step 3:** for each  $x \in \mathbb{R}^d$ , solve the **quadratic programming problem**:

$$\Delta := \left\{ \mathbf{w} = (w_1, \dots, w_m)^\top : \sum_{i=1}^m w_i = 1, w_i \geq 0 \forall 1 \leq i \leq m \right\} \subset \mathbb{R}^m,$$

$$\tilde{\mathbf{G}}^* := \begin{pmatrix} \tilde{\mathbf{g}}_1^* & \tilde{\mathbf{g}}_2^* & \dots & \tilde{\mathbf{g}}_m^* \\ | & | & & | \\ | & | & & | \\ | & | & & | \end{pmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times m},$$

$$v_i := \varphi_i^* + \frac{1}{2(\bar{\lambda} - \lambda)} \|\mathbf{g}_i^*\|^2 + \frac{\lambda \bar{\lambda}}{2(\bar{\lambda} - \lambda)} \|\mathbf{X}_i\|^2 - \frac{\bar{\lambda}}{\bar{\lambda} - \lambda} \langle \mathbf{g}_i^*, \mathbf{X}_i \rangle \in \mathbb{R} \quad \forall 1 \leq i \leq m,$$

$$\mathbf{v} := (v_1, \dots, v_m)^\top \in \mathbb{R}^m,$$

$$\hat{T}_{\text{SCCLS}}(\mathbf{x}) := \lambda \mathbf{x} + \tilde{\mathbf{G}}^* \hat{\mathbf{w}}(\mathbf{x}),$$

$$\text{where } \hat{\mathbf{w}}(\mathbf{x}) \in \arg \max_{\mathbf{w} \in \Delta} \left\{ \langle \tilde{\mathbf{G}}^{*\top} \mathbf{x} + \mathbf{v}, \mathbf{w} \rangle - \frac{1}{2(\bar{\lambda} - \lambda)} \|\tilde{\mathbf{G}}^* \mathbf{w}\|^2 \right\} \quad \forall \mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^d.$$

- $\hat{T}_{\text{SCCLS}}$  is uniquely defined and satisfies the **growth and consistency conditions**.
- However,  $\hat{T}_{\text{SCCLS}}$  **does not satisfy the shape condition** as it **lacks differentiability**.



# Smoothing

- We apply smoothing techniques to  $\widehat{T}_{\text{SCCLS}}$  to obtain two plug-in OT map estimators.
- **Kernel smoothing:**

$$\widehat{T}_{\text{kernel}}(\mathbf{x}; \theta) := \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \Psi_{\theta}(\boldsymbol{\eta}) \widehat{T}_{\text{SCCLS}}(\mathbf{x} - \boldsymbol{\eta}) \, d\boldsymbol{\eta} \quad \forall \mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^d,$$

where  $\Psi_{\theta}(\boldsymbol{\eta}) := (2\pi)^{-\frac{d}{2}} \theta^d \exp(-\theta^2 \|\boldsymbol{\eta}\|^2 / 2)$  is the **Gaussian kernel** with covariance  $\theta^{-2} \mathbf{I}$ .

- **Softmax smoothing:**

$$\widehat{T}_{\text{softmax}}(\mathbf{x}; \theta) := \underline{\lambda} \mathbf{x} + \widetilde{\mathbf{G}}^* \widehat{\mathbf{w}}(\mathbf{x}; \theta),$$

$$\text{where } \widehat{\mathbf{w}}(\mathbf{x}; \theta) := \arg \max_{\mathbf{w} \in \Delta} \left\{ \langle \widetilde{\mathbf{G}}^{\star \top} \mathbf{x} + \mathbf{v}, \mathbf{w} \rangle - \frac{1}{2(\bar{\lambda} - \underline{\lambda})} \|\widetilde{\mathbf{G}}^* \mathbf{w}\|^2 - \frac{\eta(\mathbf{w})}{\theta} \right\} \quad \forall \mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^d,$$

where  $\eta(\mathbf{w}_1, \dots, \mathbf{w}_m) := \log(m) + \sum_{i=1}^m w_i \log(w_i)$ .

# Properties of the smoothed plug-in OT map estimators

## Theorem (Properties of smoothed plug-in OT map estimators)

Both  $\widehat{T}_{\text{kern}}(\cdot; \theta)$  and  $\widehat{T}_{\text{smax}}(\cdot; \theta)$  satisfy the **shape, growth, and consistency conditions**. Specifically:

- $u_1(\nu) := 18\bar{u}_0(\nu)^2$ ,  $u_2(\nu) := 2$ ,  $\bar{n}(\mu, \nu, \epsilon) := \min \{n \in \mathbb{N} : C(\mu, \nu) \log(n)^2 \kappa(n) \leq \frac{\epsilon}{4}\}$  for both  $\widehat{T}_{\text{kern}}(\cdot; \theta)$  and  $\widehat{T}_{\text{smax}}(\cdot; \theta)$ ;
- $\bar{\theta}(\mu, \nu, \epsilon) := \left[ \left( \frac{4d}{\epsilon} \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} (\bar{\lambda} - \underline{\lambda}) \right]$  for  $\widehat{T}_{\text{kern}}(\cdot; \theta)$ ;
- $\bar{\theta}(\mu, \nu, \epsilon) := \left[ \frac{8}{\epsilon} \log(\bar{n}(\mu, \nu, \epsilon)) (\bar{\lambda} - \underline{\lambda}) \right]$  for  $\widehat{T}_{\text{smax}}(\cdot; \theta)$ ,

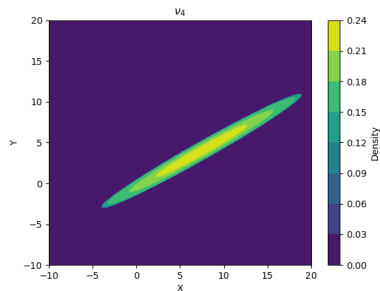
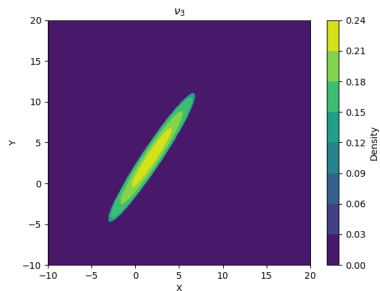
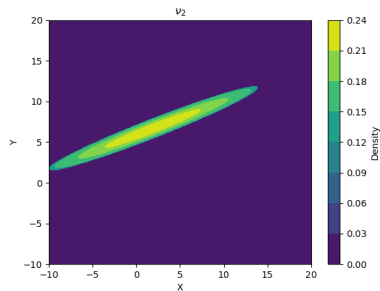
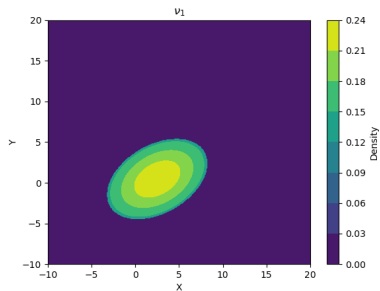
where  $C(\mu, \nu)$  is a constant in the  $\mathcal{L}^2(\mu)$  estimation error bound of Manole et al. [2021], and

$$\kappa(n) := \begin{cases} n^{-\frac{1}{2}} & d \leq 3, \\ n^{-\frac{1}{2}} \log(n) & d = 4, \\ n^{-\frac{2}{d}} & d \geq 5 \end{cases} \quad \forall n \in \mathbb{N}.$$

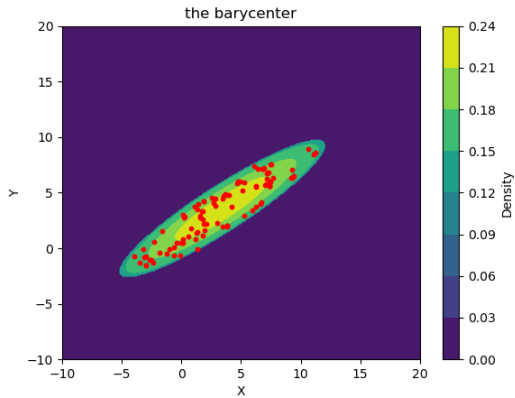
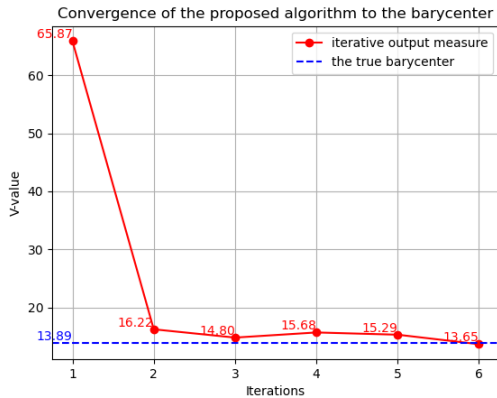
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## Preliminary numerical results: 2D Gaussian case



# Preliminary numerical results: 2D Gaussian case



# References

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