

# The unbalanced Gromov-Wasserstein distance: Conic Formulation and Relaxation

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Joint work with Francois-Xavier Vialard and Gabriel Peyré

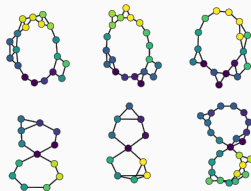
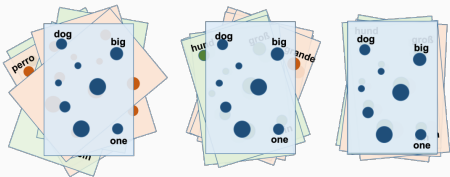
# Introduction

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# Motivations

Some of machine learning challenges are

- matching point clouds of  $\mathbb{R}^d$  up to isometries<sup>1</sup>
- graph matching<sup>2</sup>



<sup>1</sup>Alaux, J., Grave, E., Cuturi, M., & Joulin, A. (2018). Unsupervised hyperalignment for multilingual word embeddings.

<sup>2</sup>Vayer, T., Chapel, L., Flamary, R., Tavenard, R., & Courty, N. (2018). Fused Gromov-Wasserstein distance for structured objects.

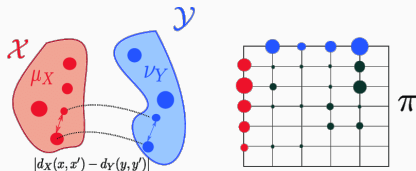
# Metric measure spaces and Gromov-Wasserstein distance

**mm-space:**  $\mathcal{X} = (X, d_X, \mu)$  with  $(X, d_X)$  complete separable,  $\mu$  positive measure

## Definition - GW distance<sup>3</sup>

Take  $\mathcal{X} = (X, d_X, \mu)$  and  $\mathcal{Y} = (Y, d_Y, \nu)$  equipped with **probabilities**. Define a penalty  $\lambda : \mathbb{R}_+ \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_+$  (e.g.  $\lambda(t) = t^q$ ). One defines  $GW(\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{Y}) = \inf_{\{\pi_1=\mu, \pi_2=\nu\}} \mathcal{G}(\pi)$  where

$$\mathcal{G}(\pi) \stackrel{\text{def.}}{=} \int \lambda(|d_X(x, x') - d_Y(y, y')|) d\pi(x, y) d\pi(x', y')$$

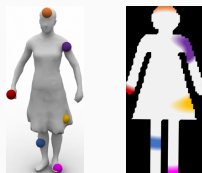


<sup>3</sup>Mémoli, F. (2011). Gromov-Wasserstein distances and the metric approach to object matching.

# Specificities of GW

## Two key differences with OT

- GW is non-convex (quadratic assignment program)
- $(\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{Y})$  can differ radically in nature.<sup>4</sup>



## Isometric mm-spaces

**Def:**  $\mathcal{X} \sim \mathcal{Y} \Leftrightarrow \exists \psi : \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathcal{Y}$  bijective isometry s.t.

$$d_{\mathcal{X}}(x, x') = d_{\mathcal{Y}}(\psi(x), \psi(x')) \quad \text{and} \quad \nu = \psi_{\#} \mu$$

**Prop:** With  $\lambda(t) = t^q$ ,  $GW^{\frac{1}{q}}$  distance and definite iff  $\mathcal{X} \sim \mathcal{Y}$

<sup>4</sup>Solomon, J., Peyré, G., Kim, V. G., & Sra, S. (2016). Entropic metric alignment for correspondence problems.

# Motivations of GW

- GW makes sense in a variety of problems (NLP, generative learning<sup>5</sup>, domain adaptation<sup>6</sup>, etc...)
- Though GW suffers limitations similar to OT
  - restricted to probabilities
  - sensitive to outliers
- Some attempts to extend to positive measures
  - Generalize Sturm's<sup>7</sup>  $L_q$  transportation distance<sup>8</sup> (no fast algo)
  - Partial-GW<sup>9</sup> (no properties)

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<sup>5</sup>Bunne, C., Alvarez-Melis, D., Krause, A., & Jegelka, S. (2019). Learning generative models across incomparable spaces.

<sup>6</sup>Redko, I., Vayer, T., Flamary, R., & Courty, N. (2020). CO-Optimal Transport.

<sup>7</sup>Sturm, K. T. (2006). On the geometry of metric measure spaces.

<sup>8</sup>De Ponti, N., & Mondino, A. (2020). Entropy-Transport distances between unbalanced metric measure spaces.

<sup>9</sup>Chapel, L., Alaya, M. Z., & Gasso, G. (2020). Partial Gromov-Wasserstein with Applications on Positive-Unlabeled Learning.

# Unbalanced OT - Static and conic formulations

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Define  $\varphi : \mathbb{R}_+ \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_+$  l.s.c., convex,  $\varphi(1) = 0$ ,  $\varphi'_{\infty} = \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\varphi(x)}{x}$ .  
 Decompose  $\forall(\alpha, \beta)$ ,  $\alpha = \frac{d\alpha}{d\beta}\beta + \alpha^{\top}$  (discrete:  $\alpha = \sum_i \alpha_i \delta_{x_i}$ )

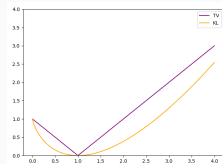
## Definition - $\varphi$ -divergence

$$D_{\varphi}(\alpha, \beta) \stackrel{\text{def.}}{=} \int_{\mathcal{X}} \varphi\left(\frac{d\alpha}{d\beta}(x)\right) d\beta(x) + \varphi'_{\infty} \int_{\mathcal{X}} d\alpha^{\top}(x),$$

$$D_{\varphi}(\alpha, \beta) = \sum_{\beta_i \neq 0} \varphi\left(\frac{\alpha_i}{\beta_i}\right) \beta_i + \varphi'_{\infty} \sum_{\beta_i = 0} \alpha_i.$$

## Examples:

- $\text{KL}(\alpha, \beta) = \sum_i (\log(\frac{\alpha_i}{\beta_i}) \alpha_i - \alpha_i + \beta_i)$ :  
 $\varphi(x) = x \log x - x + 1$ ,
- $\text{TV}(\alpha, \beta) = \sum_i |\alpha_i - \beta_i|$ :  $\varphi(x) = |x - 1|$ .



<sup>10</sup>Csiszàr, I. (1967). Information-type measures of difference of probability distributions and indirect observation.



# Unbalanced optimal transport - relaxed formulation

**Idea:** Soften the hard constraint  $\pi_1 = \mu \rightarrow D_\varphi(\pi_1|\mu)$ .

## Definition - Unbalanced OT<sup>11</sup>

For any  $\varphi$ -divergence  $D_\varphi$  and any measures  $(\mu, \nu)$  one defines  $\text{UOT}(\mu, \nu) = \inf_{\pi \geq 0} \mathcal{L}_1(\pi)$  where

$$\mathcal{L}_1(\pi) \stackrel{\text{def.}}{=} \int_{\mathcal{X}} \lambda(d) d\pi + D_\varphi(\pi_1, \mu) + D_\varphi(\pi_2, \nu).$$

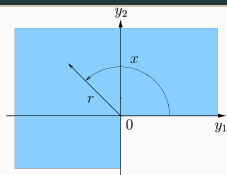
- **Two dynamics:** transportation vs creation/destruction.
- **Balanced OT** is retrieved with  $D_\varphi = \iota_{(=)}$ .
- **Choice of  $D_\varphi$ :** prior on the mass variation dynamics.

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<sup>11</sup>Liero, M., Mielke, A., & Savaré, G. (2018). Optimal entropy-transport problems and a new Hellinger–Kantorovich distance between positive measures.

# Unbalanced optimal transport - conic formulation

**Idea:** Add a mass variable and lift on a cone  $\mathfrak{C} = (X \times \mathbb{R}_+)/ (X \times \{0\})$  endowed with a distance  $\mathcal{D}_{\mathfrak{C}}([x, r], [y, s])$  (e.g.  $X \subset \mathbb{S}^1$ )



## Definition

Define  $\text{COT}(\mu, \nu) \stackrel{\text{def.}}{=} \inf_{\gamma \in \mathcal{U}_p(\mu, \nu)} \mathcal{H}_1(\gamma)$  where

$$\mathcal{H}_1(\gamma) \stackrel{\text{def.}}{=} \int \mathcal{D}_{\mathfrak{C}}([x, r], [y, s])^q d\gamma([x, r], [y, s]),$$

$$\mathcal{U}_p(\mu, \nu) \stackrel{\text{def.}}{=} \left\{ \gamma \geq 0, \int r^p d\gamma_1(\cdot, r) = \mu, \int s^p d\gamma_2(\cdot, s) = \nu \right\}$$

**Key point:**  $\text{COT} = \inf_{\gamma \in \mathcal{U}_p(\mu, \nu)} \int \mathcal{D}_{\mathfrak{C}} d\gamma$  (Wasserstein over  $\mathfrak{C}$ )

$\Rightarrow$  If  $\mathcal{D}_{\mathfrak{C}}$  is a distance, then COT is a distance

# Equivalence between both formulations

## Proposition

If one defines  $\mathcal{D}_{\mathcal{C}}$  as

$$\mathcal{D}_{\mathcal{C}}([x, r], [y, s])^q = H_{\lambda(d(x,y))}(r^p, s^p),$$

$$H_c(r, s) \stackrel{\text{def.}}{=} \inf_{\theta \geq 0} \theta L_c(r/\theta, s/\theta),$$

$$L_c(r, s) \stackrel{\text{def.}}{=} c + r\varphi(1/r) + s\varphi(1/s),$$

Then **UOT** = **COT**.

- In general  $\mathcal{D}_{\mathcal{C}}$  is definite but not necessarily a distance.
- Note that  $H_c$  depends on  $\varphi$ ,  $\mathcal{D}_{\mathcal{C}}$  on  $(\varphi, \lambda, p, q)$

**When is  $\mathcal{D}_{\mathcal{C}}$  a distance over  $\mathcal{C}$  ?**

## Explicit conic settings inducing distances

In those settings  $\mathcal{D}_{\mathfrak{C}}$  is a distance, thus so is the conic formulation.

### Gaussian Hellinger

$$D_{\varphi} = \text{KL}, \quad \lambda(t) = t^2 \quad \text{and} \quad q = p = 2,$$
$$\mathcal{D}_{\mathfrak{C}}([x, r], [y, s])^2 = r^2 + s^2 - 2rse^{-d(x,y)/2}.$$

### Hellinger-Kantorovich / Wasserstein-Fisher-Rao

$$D_{\varphi} = \text{KL}, \quad \lambda(t) = -\log \cos^2(t \wedge \frac{\pi}{2}) \quad \text{and} \quad q = p = 2,$$
$$\mathcal{D}_{\mathfrak{C}}([x, r], [y, s])^2 = r^2 + s^2 - 2rs \cos(\frac{\pi}{2} \wedge d(x, y)).$$

### Partial optimal transport

$$D_{\varphi} = \text{TV}, \quad \lambda(t) = t^q \quad \text{and} \quad q \geq 1 \quad \text{and} \quad p = 1,$$
$$\mathcal{D}_{\mathfrak{C}}([x, r], [y, s])^q = r + s - (r \wedge s)(2 - d(x, y)^q)_+.$$

# Unbalanced Gromov-Wasserstein

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## Definition

One defines  $UGW(\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{Y}) = \inf_{\pi \geq 0} \mathcal{L}_2(\pi)$  where

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}_2(\pi) = \int \lambda(|d_X - d_Y|) d\pi d\pi + D_\varphi(\pi_1 \otimes \pi_1, \mu \otimes \mu) \\ + D_\varphi(\pi_2 \otimes \pi_2, \nu \otimes \nu). \end{aligned}$$

To be compared with

$$\mathcal{G}(\pi) = \int \lambda(|d_X(x, x') - d_Y(y, y')|) d\pi(x, y) d\pi(x', y'),$$

$$\mathcal{L}_1(\pi) = \int_{\mathcal{X}} \lambda(d) d\pi + D_\varphi(\pi_1, \mu) + D_\varphi(\pi_2, \nu).$$

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One defines  $CGW(\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{Y}) = \inf_{\gamma \in \mathcal{U}_p(\mu, \nu)} \mathcal{H}_2(\gamma)$  where

$$\mathcal{H}_2(\gamma) \stackrel{\text{def.}}{=} \int \mathcal{D}_{\mathcal{C}}([d_X(x, x'), rr'], [d_Y(y, y'), ss'])^q d\gamma([x, r], [y, s]) \\ d\gamma([x', r'], [y', s']),$$

$$\mathcal{U}_p(\mu, \nu) \stackrel{\text{def.}}{=} \{\gamma \geq 0, \int r^p d\gamma_1(\cdot, r) = \mu, \int s^p d\gamma_2(\cdot, s) = \nu\}.$$

**To be compared with**

$$\mathcal{G}(\pi) = \int \lambda(|d_X(x, x') - d_Y(y, y')|) d\pi(x, y) d\pi(x', y'),$$

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## Theorem

1. If  $\lambda^{-1}(\{0\}) = \{0\}$  and  $\varphi^{-1}(\{0\}) = \{1\}$ , then UGW and CGW are definite up to isometries.
2. If  $\mathcal{D}_{\mathfrak{C}}$  is a cone distance then  $\text{CGW}^{1/q}$  is a distance.
3. For any  $(\varphi, \lambda, p, q)$  and associated  $\mathcal{D}_{\mathfrak{C}}$ ,  $\text{UGW} \geq \text{CGW}$ .

**Same results as UOT, except  $\text{UGW} \geq \text{CGW}$  while  
UOT = COT (non-convexity).**

# Implementation and numerics

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**Idea:** Entropic regularization + alternate minimization

$$\begin{aligned} \text{UGW}_\varepsilon(\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{Y}) &\stackrel{\text{def.}}{=} \inf_{\pi \geq 0} \mathcal{L}_2(\pi) + \varepsilon \text{KL}(\pi \otimes \pi, (\mu \otimes \nu)^{\otimes 2}) \\ &\geq \inf_{\pi, \gamma \geq 0} \mathcal{F}(\pi, \gamma) + \varepsilon \text{KL}(\pi \otimes \gamma, (\mu \otimes \nu)^{\otimes 2}), \end{aligned}$$

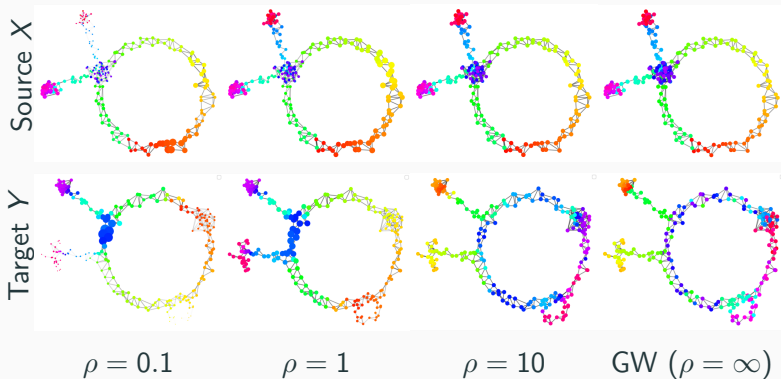
where  $\mathcal{F}(\pi, \gamma) \stackrel{\text{def.}}{=} \int \lambda(|d_X - d_Y|) d\pi d\gamma + D_\varphi(\pi_1 \otimes \gamma_1, \mu \otimes \mu)$   
 $+ D_\varphi(\pi_2 \otimes \gamma_2, \nu \otimes \nu)$

- Alternate descent = sequence of  $\text{UOT}_\varepsilon$  problems (Sinkhorn).
  - Numerically we observe at optimality  $\pi^* = \gamma^*$ .
- $\Rightarrow$  Computes a local minimizer of  $\text{UGW}_\varepsilon$ .



# Numerical experiment

**Setup:**  $\lambda(t) = t^2$ ,  $D_\varphi = \rho \text{KL}$ ,  $(\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{Y}) =$  graphs with geodesic distance,  $(\mu, \nu)$  uniform probabilities



**Take home message:** UGW encodes partial and/or geometrically consistent matchings.

- Blending of Unbalanced OT with Gromov-Wasserstein distances
- The relaxed formulation UGW is appealing for computations
- The conic formulation CGW is a metric between mm-spaces up to isometry

**Thank you !**

# Implementation

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**Idea:** Entropic regularization + alternate minimization

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where  $\mathcal{F}(\pi, \gamma) \stackrel{\text{def.}}{=} \int \lambda(|d_X - d_Y|) d\pi d\gamma + D_\varphi(\pi_1 \otimes \gamma_1, \mu \otimes \mu)$   
 $+ D_\varphi(\pi_2 \otimes \gamma_2, \nu \otimes \nu)$

- $\forall s > 0, (\pi, \gamma)$  optimal  $\Rightarrow (s\pi, \frac{1}{s}\gamma)$  optimal
- $\Rightarrow$  impose  $m(\pi) = m(\gamma)$
- Numerically we observe at optimality  $\pi^* = \gamma^*$ .

## Alternate UGW = sequence of Sinkhorn updates

- Focus on  $\lambda(t) = t^2$  for improved time and memory complexity
- Focus on  $D_\varphi = \text{KL}$  which verifies

$$\begin{aligned}\text{KL}(\mu \otimes \nu, \alpha \otimes \beta) &= m(\nu)\text{KL}(\mu, \alpha) + m(\mu)\text{KL}(\nu, \beta) \\ &\quad + (m(\mu) - m(\alpha))(m(\nu) - m(\beta)).\end{aligned}$$

⇒ Given  $\gamma$ , minimizing w.r.t.  $\pi$  amounts to solve a regularized UOT problem.

# Reformulation of the alternate minimization

We focus on  $D_\varphi = \rho\text{KL}$ .

## Proposition - alternate descent $\leftrightarrow$ solve UOT

For a fixed  $\gamma$ ,  $\pi \in \arg \min_{\pi} \mathcal{F}(\pi, \gamma) + \varepsilon \text{KL}(\pi \otimes \gamma | (\mu \otimes \nu)^{\otimes 2})$  is the solution of

$$\min_{\pi} \int c_{\gamma}^{\varepsilon}(x, y) d\pi(x, y) + \rho m(\gamma) \text{KL}(\pi_1 | \mu) + \rho m(\gamma) \text{KL}(\pi_2 | \nu) \\ + \varepsilon m(\gamma) \text{KL}(\pi | \mu \otimes \nu), \quad \text{where}$$

$$c_{\gamma}^{\varepsilon}(x, y) \stackrel{\text{def.}}{=} \int \lambda(|d_X(x, \cdot) - d_Y(y, \cdot)|) d\gamma \\ + \rho \int \log\left(\frac{d\gamma_1}{d\mu}\right) d\gamma_1 + \rho \int \log\left(\frac{d\gamma_2}{d\nu}\right) d\gamma_2 + \varepsilon \int \log\left(\frac{d\gamma}{d\mu d\nu}\right) d\gamma.$$

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## Algorithm 1 – UGW( $\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{Y}, \rho, \varepsilon$ )

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**Input:** mm-spaces  $(\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{Y})$ , relaxation  $\rho$ , regularization  $\varepsilon$

**Output:** approximation  $(\pi, \gamma)$  minimizing  $\mathcal{F} + \varepsilon \text{KL}^\otimes$

- 1: Initialize  $(\pi, \gamma)$  and  $(f, g)$
  - 2: **while**  $(\pi, \gamma)$  has not converged **do**
  - 3:     Update  $\pi \leftarrow \gamma$  and compute the cost  $c \leftarrow c_\pi^\varepsilon$
  - 4:     Update parameters  $(\tilde{\rho}, \tilde{\varepsilon}) \leftarrow (m(\pi)\rho, m(\pi)\varepsilon)$
  - 5:     Compute  $(f, g)$  that solves  $\text{UOT}(\mu, \nu, c_\pi^\varepsilon, \tilde{\rho}, \tilde{\varepsilon})$
  - 6:     Update  $\gamma(x, y) \leftarrow \exp \left[ (f(x) + g(y) - c(x, y)) / \tilde{\varepsilon} \right] \mu(x) \nu(y)$
  - 7:     Rescale  $\gamma \leftarrow \sqrt{m(\pi) / m(\gamma)} \gamma$
  - 8: **Return**  $(\pi, \gamma)$ .
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### Algorithm 2 – UGW( $\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{Y}, \rho, \varepsilon$ )

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**Input:** mm-spaces  $(\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{Y})$ , relaxation  $\rho$ , regularization  $\varepsilon$

**Output:** approximation  $(\pi, \gamma)$  minimizing  $\mathcal{F} + \varepsilon \text{KL}^\otimes$

- 1: Initialize  $\pi = \gamma = \mu \otimes \nu / \sqrt{m(\mu)m(\nu)}$ ,  $g = 0$ .
  - 2: **while**  $(\pi, \gamma)$  has not converged **do**
  - 3:     Update  $\pi \leftarrow \gamma$ , then  $c \leftarrow c_\pi^\varepsilon$ ,  $\tilde{\rho} \leftarrow m(\pi)\rho$ ,  $\tilde{\varepsilon} \leftarrow m(\pi)\varepsilon$
  - 4:     **while**  $(f, g)$  has not converged **do**
  - 5:          $\forall x, f(x) \leftarrow -\frac{\tilde{\varepsilon}\tilde{\rho}}{\tilde{\varepsilon}+\tilde{\rho}} \log \left( \int e^{(g(y)-c(x,y))/\tilde{\varepsilon}} d\nu(y) \right)$
  - 6:          $\forall y, g(y) \leftarrow -\frac{\tilde{\varepsilon}\tilde{\rho}}{\tilde{\varepsilon}+\tilde{\rho}} \log \left( \int e^{(f(x)-c(x,y))/\tilde{\varepsilon}} d\mu(x) \right)$
  - 7:         Update  $\gamma(x, y) \leftarrow \exp \left[ (f(x) + g(y) - c(x, y))/\tilde{\varepsilon} \right] \mu(x)\nu(y)$
  - 8:         Rescale  $\gamma \leftarrow \sqrt{m(\pi)/m(\gamma)}\gamma$
  - 9:     Return  $(\pi, \gamma)$ .
-