

# Sinkhorn Divergences : Interpolating between Optimal Transport and MMD

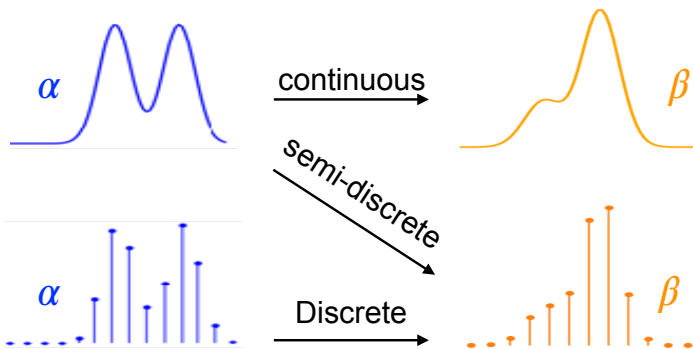
Aude Genevay

DMA - Ecole Normale Supérieure - CEREMADE - Université Paris Dauphine

AIP Grenoble - July 2019

*Joint work with Gabriel Peyré, Marco Cuturi, Francis Bach, Lénaïc Chizat*

# Comparing Probability Measures



## Discrete Setting

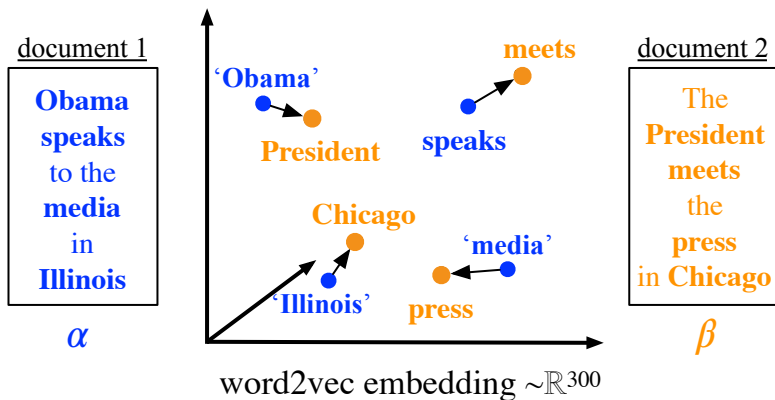
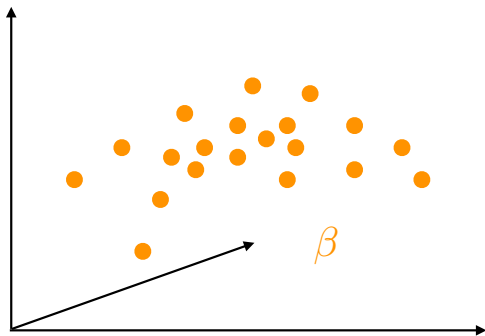
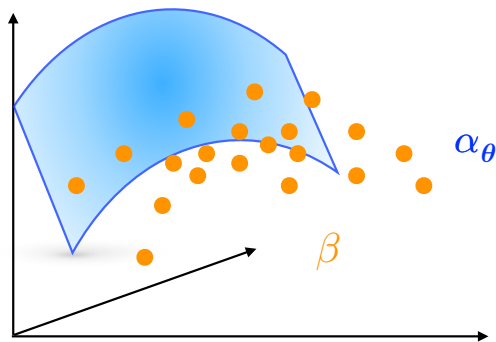


Figure 1 – Exemple of data representation as a point cloud (from Kusner '15)

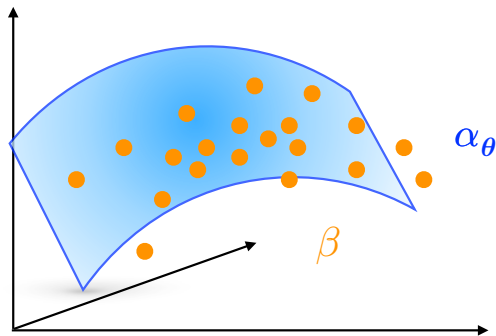
# Semi-discrete Setting



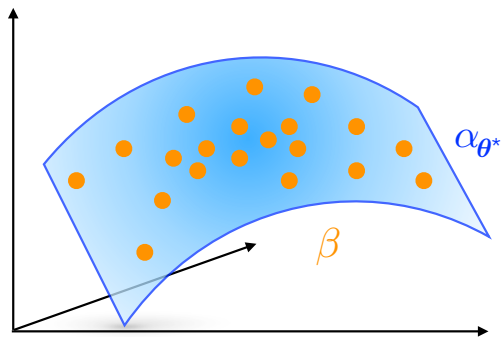
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- 1 Notions of Distance between Measures
- 2 Entropic Regularization of Optimal Transport
- 3 Sinkhorn Divergences : Interpolation between OT and MMD
- 4 Unsupervised Learning with Sinkhorn Divergences
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## $\varphi$ -divergences (Czisar '63)

### Definition ( $\varphi$ -divergence)

Let  $\varphi$  convex l.s.c. function such that  $\varphi(1) = 0$ , the  $\varphi$ -divergence  $D_\varphi$  between two measures  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  is defined by :

$$D_\varphi(\alpha|\beta) \stackrel{\text{def.}}{=} \int_{\mathcal{X}} \varphi\left(\frac{d\alpha(x)}{d\beta(x)}\right) d\beta(x).$$

### Example (Kullback Leibler Divergence)

$$D_{KL}(\alpha|\beta) = \int_{\mathcal{X}} \log\left(\frac{d\alpha}{d\beta}(x)\right) d\alpha(x) \quad \leftrightarrow \quad \varphi(x) = x \log(x)$$

## Weak Convergence of measures

### Definition (Weak Convergence)

Let  $(\alpha_n)_n \in \mathcal{M}_+^1(\mathcal{X})^{\mathbb{N}}$ ,  $\alpha \in \mathcal{M}_+^1(\mathcal{X})$ .

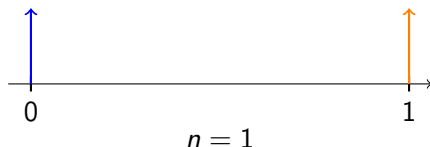
The sequence  $\alpha_n$  **weakly converges** to  $\alpha$ , i.e.

$$\alpha_n \rightarrow \alpha \Leftrightarrow \int f(x) d\alpha_n(x) \rightarrow \int f(x) d\alpha(x) \quad \forall f \in \mathcal{C}_b(\mathcal{X}).$$

Let  $\mathcal{L}$  a distance between measures,  $\mathcal{L}$  **metrises weak convergence** IFF  $(\mathcal{L}(\alpha_n, \alpha) \rightarrow 0 \Leftrightarrow \alpha_n \rightarrow \alpha)$ .

### Example

On  $\mathbb{R}$ ,  $\alpha = \delta_0$  and  $\alpha_n = \delta_{1/n}$  :  $D_{KL}(\alpha_n | \alpha) = +\infty$ .



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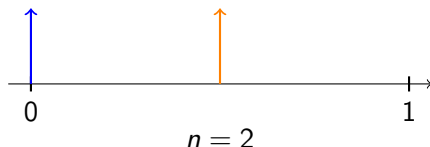
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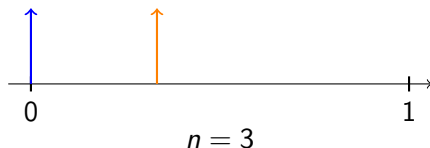
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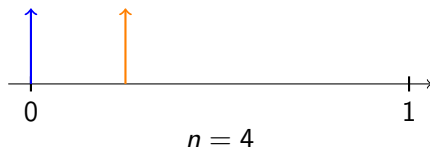
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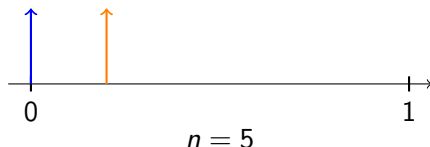
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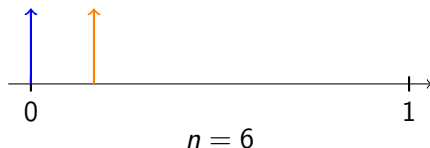
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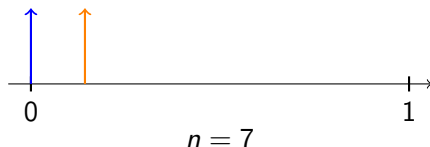
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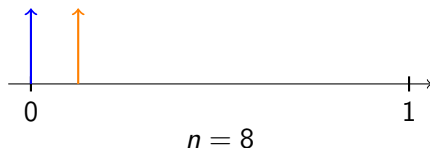
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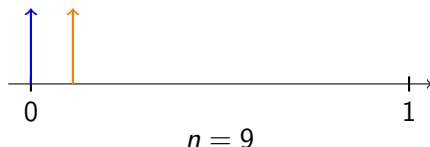
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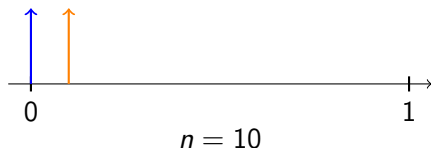
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## Maximum Mean Discrepancies (Gretton '06)

### Definition (RKHS)

Let  $\mathcal{H}$  a Hilbert space with kernel  $k$ , then  $\mathcal{H}$  is a Reproducing Kernel Hilbert Space (RKHS) IFF :

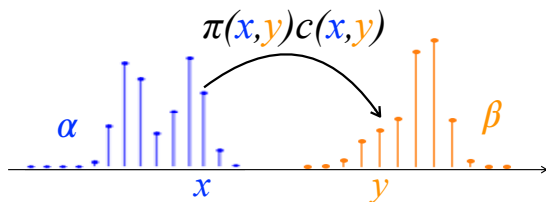
- ①  $\forall x \in \mathcal{X}, \quad k(x, \cdot) \in \mathcal{H},$
- ②  $\forall f \in \mathcal{H}, \quad f(x) = \langle f, k(x, \cdot) \rangle_{\mathcal{H}}.$

Let  $\mathcal{H}$  a RKHS avec kernel  $k$ , the distance **MMD** between two probability measures  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  is defined by :

$$\begin{aligned} \text{MMD}_k^2(\alpha, \beta) &\stackrel{\text{def.}}{=} \left( \sup_{\{f \mid \|f\|_{\mathcal{H}} \leq 1\}} |\mathbb{E}_{\alpha}(f(X)) - \mathbb{E}_{\beta}(f(Y))| \right)^2 \\ &= \mathbb{E}_{\alpha \otimes \alpha}[k(X, X')] + \mathbb{E}_{\beta \otimes \beta}[k(Y, Y')] \\ &\quad - 2\mathbb{E}_{\alpha \otimes \beta}[k(X, Y)]. \end{aligned}$$

# Optimal Transport (Monge 1781, Kantorovitch '42)

- Cost of moving a unit of mass from  $x$  to  $y$  :  $c(x, y)$



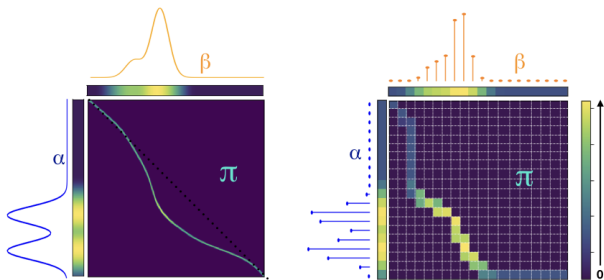
- What is the coupling  $\pi$  that minimized the total cost of moving ALL the mass from  $\alpha$  to  $\beta$ ?

## The Wasserstein Distance

Let  $\alpha \in \mathcal{M}_+^1(\mathcal{X})$  and  $\beta \in \mathcal{M}_+^1(\mathcal{Y})$ ,

$$W_c(\alpha, \beta) = \min_{\pi \in \Pi(\alpha, \beta)} \int_{\mathcal{X} \times \mathcal{Y}} c(x, y) d\pi(x, y) \quad (\mathcal{P})$$

For  $c(x, y) = \|x - y\|_2^p$ ,  $W_c(\alpha, \beta)^{1/p}$  is the Wasserstein distance.



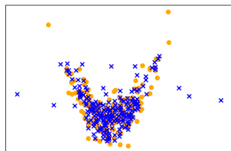
# Transport Optimal vs. MMD

## MMD

estimation robust to sampling

computed in  $O(n^2)$

has trouble recovering the support of measures away from dense areas



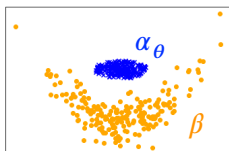
$$MMD_k - k = - \|\cdot\|_2^{1.5}$$

## Optimal Transport

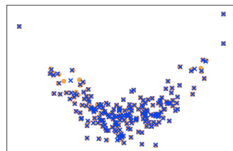
curse of dimension

computed in  $O(n^3 \log(n))$

recovers full support of measures



Initial Setting



$$W_c - c = \|\cdot\|_2^{1.5}$$

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## Entropic Regularization (Cuturi '13)

Let  $\alpha \in \mathcal{M}_+^1(\mathcal{X})$  and  $\beta \in \mathcal{M}_+^1(\mathcal{Y})$ ,

$$W_c(\alpha, \beta) \stackrel{\text{def.}}{=} \min_{\pi \in \Pi(\alpha, \beta)} \int_{\mathcal{X} \times \mathcal{Y}} c(x, y) d\pi(x, y) \quad (\mathcal{P})$$

## Entropic Regularization (Cuturi '13)

Let  $\alpha \in \mathcal{M}_+^1(\mathcal{X})$  and  $\beta \in \mathcal{M}_+^1(\mathcal{Y})$ ,

$$W_{c,\varepsilon}(\alpha, \beta) \stackrel{\text{def.}}{=} \min_{\pi \in \Pi(\alpha, \beta)} \int_{\mathcal{X} \times \mathcal{Y}} c(x, y) d\pi(x, y) + \varepsilon D_\varphi(\pi | \alpha \otimes \beta) \quad (\mathcal{P}_\varepsilon)$$

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where

$$H(\pi | \alpha \otimes \beta) \stackrel{\text{def.}}{=} \int_{\mathcal{X} \times \mathcal{Y}} \log \left( \frac{d\pi(x, y)}{d\alpha(x) d\beta(y)} \right) d\pi(x, y).$$

relative entropy of the transport plan  $\pi$  with respect to the product measure  $\alpha \otimes \beta$ .

# Entropic Regularization

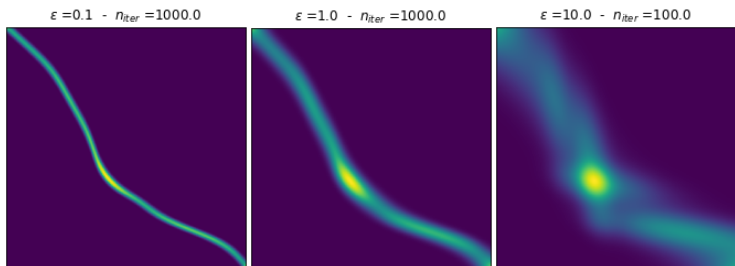


Figure 2 – Influence of the regularization parameter  $\epsilon$  on the transport plan  $\pi$ .

**Intuition** : the entropic penalty ‘smooths’ the problem and avoids over fitting (think of ridge regression for least squares)

## Dual Formulation

Contrary to standard OT, no constraint on the dual problem :

$$W_c(\alpha, \beta) = \max_{\substack{u \in \mathcal{C}(\mathcal{X}) \\ v \in \mathcal{C}(\mathcal{Y})}} \int_{\mathcal{X}} u(x) d\alpha(x) + \int_{\mathcal{Y}} v(y) d\beta(y) \quad (\mathcal{D})$$

tel que  $\{u(x) + v(y) \leq c(x, y) \forall (x, y) \in \mathcal{X} \times \mathcal{Y}\}$

## Dual Formulation

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$$\begin{aligned}
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 &\quad - \varepsilon \int_{\mathcal{X} \times \mathcal{Y}} e^{\frac{u(x)+v(y)-c(x,y)}{\varepsilon}} d\alpha(x) d\beta(y) + \varepsilon. \\
 &= \max_{\substack{u \in \mathcal{C}(\mathcal{X}) \\ v \in \mathcal{C}(\mathcal{Y})}} \mathbb{E}_{\alpha \otimes \beta} \left[ f_{\varepsilon}^{\mathcal{X}\mathcal{Y}}(u, v) \right] + \varepsilon, \quad (\mathcal{D}_{\varepsilon})
 \end{aligned}$$

with  $f_{\varepsilon}^{\mathcal{X}\mathcal{Y}}(u, v) \stackrel{\text{def.}}{=} u(x) + v(y) - \varepsilon e^{\frac{u(x)+v(y)-c(x,y)}{\varepsilon}}$

## Sinkhorn's Algorithm

First order conditions for  $(\mathcal{D}_\varepsilon)$ , concave in  $(u, v)$  :

$$e^{u(x)/\varepsilon} = \frac{1}{\int_{\mathcal{Y}} e^{\frac{v(y)-c(x,y)}{\varepsilon}} d\beta(y)} \quad ; \quad e^{v(y)/\varepsilon} = \frac{1}{\int_{\mathcal{X}} e^{\frac{u(x)-c(x,y)}{\varepsilon}} d\alpha(x)}$$

→  $(u, v)$  solve a fixed point equation.

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$$e^{u_i/\varepsilon} = \frac{1}{\sum_{j=1}^m e^{\frac{v_j - c_{ij}}{\varepsilon}} \beta_j} \quad ; \quad e^{v_j/\varepsilon} = \frac{1}{\sum_{i=1}^n e^{\frac{u_i - c_{ij}}{\varepsilon}} \alpha_i}$$

$\rightarrow (\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v})$  solve a fixed point equation.

### Sinkhorn's Algorithm

Let  $\mathbf{K}_{ij} = e^{-\frac{c(x_i, y_j)}{\varepsilon}}$ ,  $\mathbf{a} = e^{\frac{\mathbf{u}}{\varepsilon}}$ ,  $\mathbf{b} = e^{\frac{\mathbf{v}}{\varepsilon}}$ .

$$\mathbf{a}^{(\ell+1)} = \frac{1}{\mathbf{K}(\mathbf{b}^{(\ell)} \odot \boldsymbol{\beta})} \quad ; \quad \mathbf{b}^{(\ell+1)} = \frac{1}{\mathbf{K}^T(\mathbf{a}^{(\ell+1)} \odot \boldsymbol{\alpha})}$$

Complexity of each iteration :  $O(n^2)$ ,

Linear convergence, constant degrades when  $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$ .



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## Sinkhorn Divergences

**Issue of entropic transport** :  $W_{c,\varepsilon}(\alpha, \alpha) \neq 0$

**Solution proposée** : introduce corrective terms to 'debias' entropic transport

### Definition (Sinkhorn Divergences)

Let  $\alpha \in \mathcal{M}_+^1(\mathcal{X})$  and  $\beta \in \mathcal{M}_+^1(\mathcal{Y})$ ,

$$SD_{c,\varepsilon}(\alpha, \beta) \stackrel{\text{def.}}{=} W_{c,\varepsilon}(\alpha, \beta) - \frac{1}{2}W_{c,\varepsilon}(\alpha, \alpha) - \frac{1}{2}W_{c,\varepsilon}(\beta, \beta),$$

## Interpolation Property

Theorem (G., Peyré, Cuturi '18), (Ramdas and al. '17)

Sinkhorn Divergences have the following asymptotic behavior :

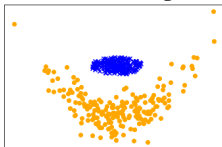
$$\text{quand } \varepsilon \rightarrow 0, \quad SD_{c,\varepsilon}(\alpha, \beta) \rightarrow W_c(\alpha, \beta), \quad (1)$$

$$\text{quand } \varepsilon \rightarrow +\infty, \quad SD_{c,\varepsilon}(\alpha, \beta) \rightarrow \frac{1}{2} MMD_{-c}^2(\alpha, \beta). \quad (2)$$

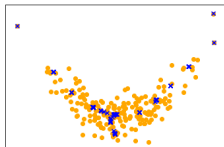
*Remark : To get an MMD,  $-c$  must be positive definite. For  $c = \|\cdot\|_2^p$  with  $0 < p < 2$ , the MMD is called Energy Distance.*

# Empirical Illustration

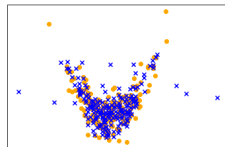
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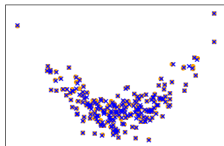
$W_{c,\varepsilon} - \varepsilon = 1, c = \|\cdot\|_2^{1.5}$



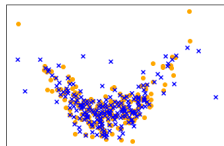
$ED_p - p = 1.5$



$SD_{c,\varepsilon} - \varepsilon = 1, c = \|\cdot\|_2^{1.5}$



$SD_{c,\varepsilon} - \varepsilon = 10^2, c = \|\cdot\|_2^{1.5}$



## The 'sample complexity'

### Informal Definition

Given a distance between measures, its **sample complexity** corresponds to the error made when approximating this distance with samples of the measures.

→ Bad sample complexity implies bad generalization (over-fitting).

Known cases :

- OT :  $\mathbb{E}|W(\alpha, \beta) - W(\hat{\alpha}_n, \hat{\beta}_n)| = O(n^{-1/d})$   
⇒ curse of dimension (Dudley '84, Weed and Bach '18)
- MMD :  $\mathbb{E}|MMD(\alpha, \beta) - MMD(\hat{\alpha}_n, \hat{\beta}_n)| = O(\frac{1}{\sqrt{n}})$   
⇒ independent of dimension (Gretton '06)

What about  $\mathbb{E}|SD_\varepsilon(\alpha, \beta) - SD_\varepsilon(\hat{\alpha}_n, \hat{\beta}_n)|$  ?

## Properties of Dual Potentials

### Theorem (G., Chizat, Bach, Cuturi, Peyré '19)

Let  $\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{Y} \subset \mathbb{R}^d$  bounded, and  $c \in \mathcal{C}^\infty$ . Then the optimal pairs of dual potentials  $(u, v)$  are uniformly bounded in the Sobolev  $\mathbf{H}^{\lfloor d/2 \rfloor + 1}(\mathbb{R}^d)$  and their norm verifies :

$$\|u\|_{\mathbf{H}^{\lfloor d/2 \rfloor + 1}} = O\left(1 + \frac{1}{\varepsilon^{\lfloor d/2 \rfloor}}\right) \text{ et } \|v\|_{\mathbf{H}^{\lfloor d/2 \rfloor + 1}} = O\left(1 + \frac{1}{\varepsilon^{\lfloor d/2 \rfloor}}\right),$$

with constants depending on  $|\mathcal{X}|$  (ou  $|\mathcal{Y}|$  pour  $v$ ),  $d$ , and  $\|c^{(k)}\|_\infty$  pour  $k = 0, \dots, \lfloor d/2 \rfloor + 1$ .

$\mathbf{H}^{\lfloor d/2 \rfloor + 1}(\mathbb{R}^d)$  is a RKHS  $\rightarrow$  the dual  $(\mathcal{D}_\varepsilon)$  est the maximization of an expectation in a RKHS ball.

## 'Sample Complexity' of Sinkhorn Div.

### Theorem (Bartlett-Mendelson '02)

Let  $\mathbb{P} \in \mathcal{M}_+^1(\mathcal{X})$ ,  $\ell$  a  $B$ -Lipschitz function and  $\mathcal{H}$  a RKHS with kernel  $k$  bounded on  $\mathcal{X}$  by  $K$ . Then

$$\mathbb{E}_{\mathbb{P}} \left[ \sup_{\{g \mid \|g\|_{\mathcal{H}} \leq \lambda\}} \mathbb{E}_{\mathbb{P}} \ell(g, \mathcal{X}) - \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \ell(g, X_i) \right] \leq 2B \frac{\lambda K}{\sqrt{n}}.$$

### Theorem (G., Chizat, Bach, Cuturi, Peyré '19)

Let  $\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{Y} \subset \mathbb{R}^d$  bounded, and  $c \in \mathcal{C}^\infty$   $L$ -Lipschitz. Then

$$\mathbb{E} |W_\varepsilon(\alpha, \beta) - W_\varepsilon(\hat{\alpha}_n, \hat{\beta}_n)| = O \left( \frac{e^{\frac{\kappa}{\varepsilon}}}{\sqrt{n}} \left( 1 + \frac{1}{\varepsilon^{\lfloor d/2 \rfloor}} \right) \right),$$

where  $\kappa = 2L|\mathcal{X}| + \|c\|_\infty$  and constants depend on  $|\mathcal{X}|$ ,  $|\mathcal{Y}|$ ,  $d$ , and  $\|c^{(k)}\|_\infty$  pour  $k = 0 \dots \lfloor d/2 \rfloor + 1$ .

## 'Sample Complexity' of Sinkhorn Div.

We get the following asymptotic behavior

$$\mathbb{E}|W_\varepsilon(\alpha, \beta) - W_\varepsilon(\hat{\alpha}_n, \hat{\beta}_n)| = O\left(\frac{e^{\frac{\kappa}{\varepsilon}}}{\varepsilon^{\lfloor d/2 \rfloor} \sqrt{n}}\right) \quad \text{quand } \varepsilon \rightarrow 0$$

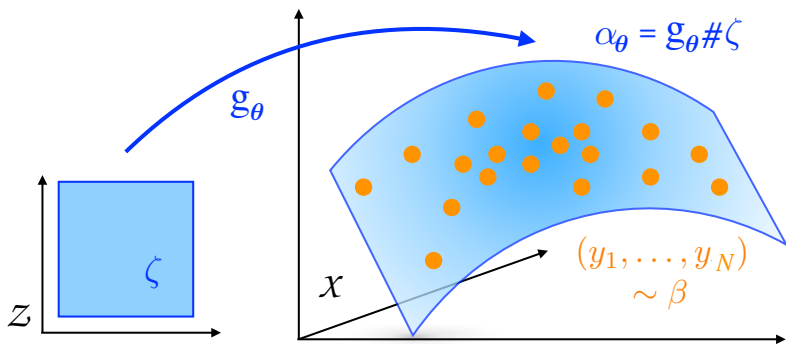
$$\mathbb{E}|W_\varepsilon(\alpha, \beta) - W_\varepsilon(\hat{\alpha}_n, \hat{\beta}_n)| = O\left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{n}}\right) \quad \text{quand } \varepsilon \rightarrow +\infty.$$

- We recover the interpolation property,
- A large enough regularization breaks the curse of dimension.



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## Generative Models



## Problem Formulation

- $\beta$  the **unknown** measure of the data :  
finite number of samples  $(y_1, \dots, y_N) \sim \beta$
- $\alpha_\theta$  the parametric model of the form  $\alpha_\theta \stackrel{\text{def.}}{=} g_\theta \# \zeta$  :  
to sample  $x \sim \alpha_\theta$ , draw  $z \sim \zeta$  and take  $x = g_\theta(z)$ .

We are looking for the optimal parameter  $\theta^*$  defined by

$$\theta^* \in \underset{\theta}{\operatorname{argmin}} SD_{c,\varepsilon}(\alpha_\theta, \beta)$$

*NB :  $\alpha_\theta$  and  $\beta$  are only known via their samples.*

## The Optimization Procedure

We want to solve by gradient descent

$$\min_{\theta} SD_{c,\varepsilon}(\alpha_{\theta}, \beta)$$

At each descent step  $k$  instead of approximating  $\nabla_{\theta} SD_{c,\varepsilon}(\alpha_{\theta}, \beta)$  :

- we approximate  $SD_{c,\varepsilon}(\alpha_{\theta^{(k)}}, \beta)$  by  $SD_{c,\varepsilon}^{(L)}(\hat{\alpha}_{\theta^{(k)}}, \hat{\beta})$  via
  - minibatches : draw  $n$  samples from  $\alpha_{\theta^{(k)}}$  and  $m$  in the dataset (distributed according to  $\beta$ ),
  - $L$  Sinkhorn iterations : we compute an approximation of the SD between both samples with a fixed number of iterations
- we compute the gradient  $\nabla_{\theta} SD_{c,\varepsilon}^{(L)}(\hat{\alpha}_{\theta^{(k)}}, \hat{\beta})$  by backpropagation (with automatic differentiation library)
- we do an update  $\theta^{(k+1)} = \theta^{(k)} - C_k \nabla_{\theta} SD_{c,\varepsilon}^{(L)}(\hat{\alpha}_{\theta^{(k)}}, \hat{\beta})$

# Computing the Gradient in Practice

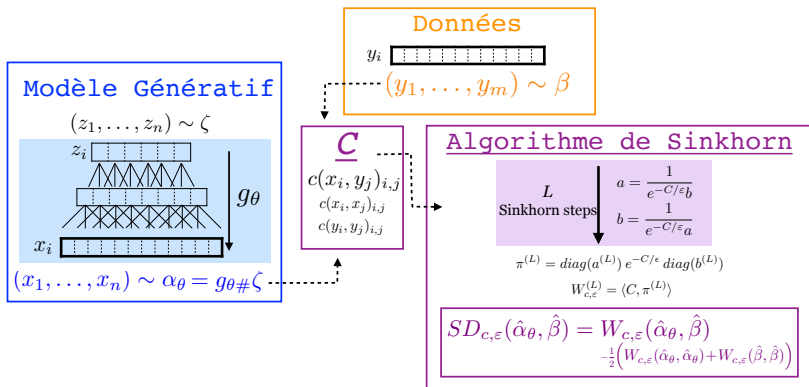
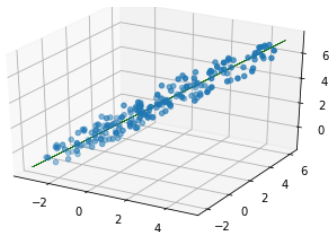


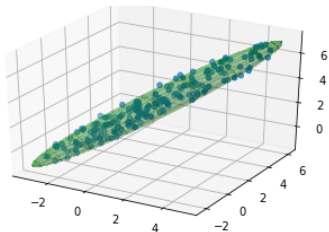
Figure 4 – Scheme of the approximation of the Sinkhorn Divergence from samples (here,  $g_\theta : z \mapsto x$  is represented as a 2-layer NN).

## Empirical Results

$$W_{c,\varepsilon} - \varepsilon = 1, c = \|\cdot\|_2^2$$



$$SD_{c,\varepsilon} - \varepsilon = 1, c = \|\cdot\|_2^2$$



**Figure 5** – Influence of the ‘debiasing’ of the Sinkhorn Divergence ( $SD_\varepsilon$ ) compared to regularized OT ( $W_\varepsilon$ ). Data are generated uniformly inside an ellipse, we want to infer the parameters  $A, \omega$  (covariance and center). Les données sont générées

## Learning the cost function

In high dimension (e.g. images), the euclidean distance is not relevant  $\rightarrow$  choosing the cost  $c$  is a complex problem.

**Idea** : the cost should yield high values for the Sinkhorn Divergence when  $\alpha_\theta \neq \beta$  to differentiate between synthetic samples (from  $\alpha_\theta$ ) and 'real' data (from  $\beta$ ). (Li and al '18)

We learn a parametric cost of the form :

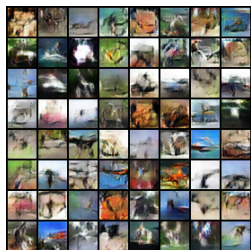
$$c_\varphi(x, y) \stackrel{\text{def.}}{=} \|f_\varphi(x) - f_\varphi(y)\|^p \quad \text{where} \quad f_\varphi : \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{d'},$$

The optimization problem becomes a min-max on  $(\theta, \varphi)$

$$\min_{\theta} \max_{\varphi} SD_{c_\varphi, \varepsilon}(\alpha_\theta, \beta)$$

$\rightarrow$  GAN-type problem, cost  $c$  acts as a discriminator.

## Empirical Results - CIFAR10



(a) MMD

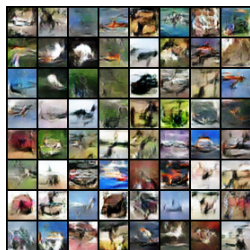
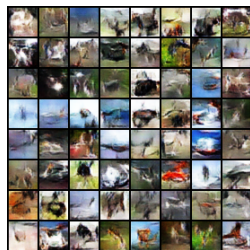
(b)  $\varepsilon = 100$ (c)  $\varepsilon = 1$ 

Figure 6 – Images generated by  $\alpha_{\theta^*}$  trained on CIFAR 10

MMD (Gaussian)

$\varepsilon = 100$

$\varepsilon = 10$

$\varepsilon = 1$

$4.56 \pm 0.07$

$4.81 \pm 0.05$

$4.79 \pm 0.13$

$4.43 \pm 0.07$

Table 1 – Inception Scores on CIFAR10 (same setting as MMD-GAN paper (Li et al. '18)).



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## Take Home Message

- Sinkhorn Divergences interpolate between OT (small  $\varepsilon$ ) and MMD (large  $\varepsilon$ ) and get the best of both worlds :
  - inherit geometric properties from OT
  - break curse of dimension for  $\varepsilon$  large enough
  - fast algorithms for implementation in ML tasks