

Multivariate Distribution-free Testing using Optimal Transport

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Optimization and Statistical Learning: Mathematical Foundations

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Multivariate two-sample testing

- **Data:** $\{X_i\}_{i=1}^m$ iid P_1 on \mathbb{R}^d ; $\{Y_j\}_{j=1}^n$ iid P_2 on \mathbb{R}^d , $d \geq 1$
- Test if the **two samples** came from the **same distribution**, i.e.,

$$H_0 : P_1 = P_2 \quad \text{versus} \quad H_1 : P_1 \neq P_2$$

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- When $d = 1$: Student (1908), Wilcoxon (1945), Cramér von-Mises (1928), Smirnov (1939), Wald and Wolfowitz (1940), Mann and Whitney (1947), Anderson (1962), ...
- When $d > 1$: Hotelling (1931), Weiss (1960), Bickel (1969), Friedman and Rafsky (1979), Schilling (1986), Henze (1988), Liu and Singh (1993), Székely (2003), Rosenbaum (2005), Gretton et al. (2012), Biswas et al. (2014), Chen and Friedman (2017), ...

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- **Two-sample t -test:** Compares $\bar{X}_m = \frac{1}{m} \sum_{i=1}^m X_i$ & $\bar{Y}_n = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{j=1}^n Y_j$

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Answer: **Wilcoxon rank-sum test** [Wilcoxon (1945)]

- Distribution-free: **Null distribution** is **universal** — does not depend on the underlying distribution of the data
- **Exact** test valid for **all sample sizes**; **robust** to outliers
- Based on **univariate ranks** — advent of **classical nonparametrics**

Comparison of Wilcoxon rank-sum (WRS) test with two-sample t -test

Pool $(X_1, \dots, X_m, Y_1, \dots, Y_n)$: (scaled) ranks $\hat{R}_{m,n}(X_i)$'s and $\hat{R}_{m,n}(Y_j)$'s

$$\frac{1}{n} \sum_{j=1}^n \hat{R}_{m,n}(Y_j) - \frac{1}{m} \sum_{i=1}^m \hat{R}_{m,n}(X_i)$$

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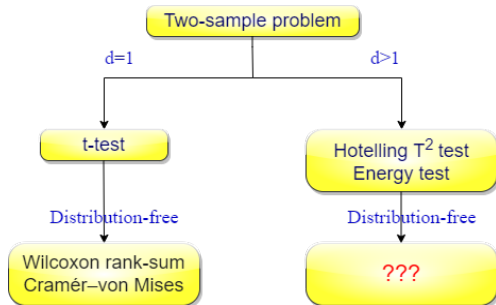
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- Non-trivial efficiency **lower bound** of **0.864** w.r.t t -test [Hodges and Lehmann (1956)]; efficiency can be $+\infty$ (for heavy-tailed dist.)
- Non-trivial efficiency **lower bound** of **1** w.r.t t -test [Chernoff and Savage (1958)] when the following revised statistic is used:

$$\frac{1}{n} \sum_{j=1}^n \Phi^{-1}(\widehat{R}_{m,n}(Y_j)) - \frac{1}{m} \sum_{i=1}^m \Phi^{-1}(\widehat{R}_{m,n}(X_i))$$

Generalize all these properties to **multivariate** data

Question: Can we construct **multivariate robust** distribution-free tests?

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- When $d = 1$ tests based on “ranks” are distribution-free
- How do we define **multivariate ranks** that lead to **distribution-free tests**?
- What about their **statistical efficiency**?

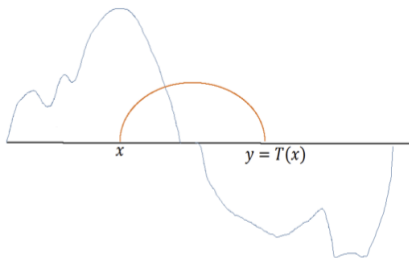
Optimal transport!

- 1 Optimal Transport: Monge's Problem
 - Introduction
 - Multivariate Ranks via Optimal Transport
- 2 Multivariate Two-sample Goodness-of-fit Testing
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 - Lower bounds on Asymptotic (Pitman) Relative Efficiency
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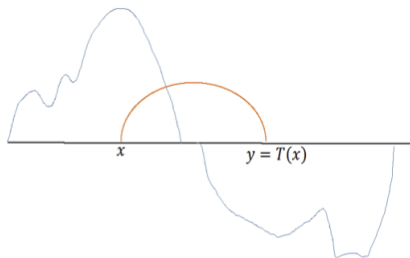
Optimal transport: Monge's problem

Gaspard Monge (1781): What is the cheapest way to **transport** a pile of sand to cover a sinkhole?



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Goal: $\inf_{T: T(X) \sim \mu} \mathbb{E}_{\nu}[c(X, T(X))] \quad X \sim \nu$

- ν (“data” dist.) and μ (“reference” dist.)
- $c(x, y) \geq 0$: **cost of transporting** x to y (e.g., $c(x, y) = \|x - y\|^2$)
- T **transports** ν to μ : $T\#\nu = \mu$ (i.e., $T(X) \sim \mu$ where $X \sim \nu$)

Rank function as the optimal transport (OT) map: when $d = 1$

- $X \sim \nu$ (continuous dist.) on \mathbb{R} , $F \equiv F_\nu$ c.d.f. of ν
- **Rank:** The **population rank** of $x \in \mathbb{R}$ is $F(x)$ (a.k.a. the **c.d.f.** at x)
- **Property:** $F(X) \sim \text{Uniform}([0, 1]) \equiv \mu$; i.e., F **transports** ν to μ

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- If $\mathbb{E}_\nu[X^2] < \infty$, the c.d.f. F is the **optimal transport (OT)** map as

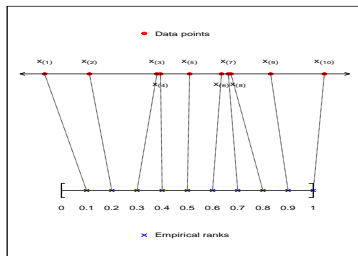
$$F = \arg \min_{T: T\# \nu = \mu} \mathbb{E}_\nu[(X - T(X))^2]$$

where

$$c(x, y) = (x - y)^2$$

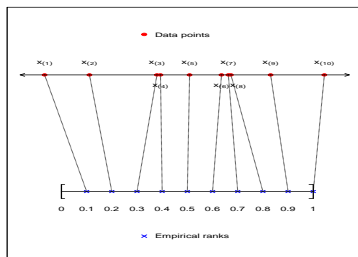
Sample rank map: when $d = 1$

- **Data:** X_1, \dots, X_n iid ν (cont. distribution) on \mathbb{R}
- **Sample rank map:** $\hat{R}_n : \{X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n\} \rightarrow \{\frac{1}{n}, \frac{2}{n}, \dots, \frac{n}{n}\}$



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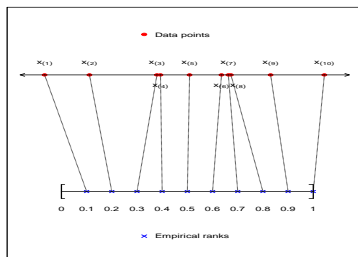
Sample rank map \hat{R}_n is the OT map that transports

$$\nu_n := \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \delta_{X_i} \quad \text{to} \quad \mu_n := \frac{1}{n} \sum_{j=1}^n \delta_{\frac{j}{n}}$$

$$\text{i.e., } \hat{R}_n := \arg \min_{T: T\#\nu_n = \mu_n} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n |X_i - T(X_i)|^2$$

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- **Reference dist.:** $U \sim \mu$ on $\mathcal{S} \subset \mathbb{R}^d$ ($\mu = \text{Unif}([0, 1]^d), N(0, I_d)$)
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Population rank function (a.k.a OT map) [Chernozhukov et al. (2017)]

If $\mathbb{E}_\nu \|X\|^2 < \infty$, **rank function** $R : \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathcal{S}$ is the **transport map** s.t.

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Properties of population rank function [Brenier (1991), McCann (1995)]

- $R(\cdot)$ **characterizes** distribution: $R_1(x) = R_2(x) \forall x \in \mathbb{R}^d$ iff $P_1 = P_2$

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$$R \circ Q(u) = u \quad (\mu\text{-a.e.}) \quad \text{and} \quad Q \circ R(x) = x \quad (\nu\text{-a.e.})$$

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- Both $R(\cdot)$ and $Q(\cdot)$ and **gradients** of **convex functions**

- If $\mathbb{E}_\nu \|X\|^2 < \infty$, the population rank function $R(\cdot)$ is defined as

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Characterization of the population rank function [McCann (1995)]

Suppose $X \sim \nu$ **abs. cont.** on \mathbb{R}^d . Then \exists ν -**a.e. unique** meas. mapping $R: \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathcal{S}$, transporting ν to μ (i.e., $R\#\nu = \mu$), of the form

$$R(x) = \nabla\varphi(x), \quad \text{for } \nu\text{-a.e. } x, \quad (2)$$

where $\varphi: \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \cup \{+\infty\}$ is a **convex** function (cf. when $d = 1$).

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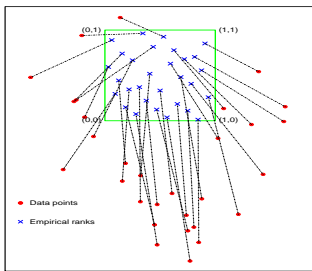
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Moreover, when $\mathbb{E}_\nu \|X\|^2 < \infty$, $R(\cdot)$ as defined in (2) also satisfies (1).

- **Data:** X_1, \dots, X_n iid ν on \mathbb{R}^d (abs. cont.); $\mu \sim \text{Unif}([0, 1]^d)$
- **Empirical rank map** $\hat{R}_n: \{X_1, \dots, X_n\} \rightarrow \{c_1, \dots, c_n\} \subset [0, 1]^d$ — sequence of “uniform-like” points (or quasi-Monte Carlo sequence)

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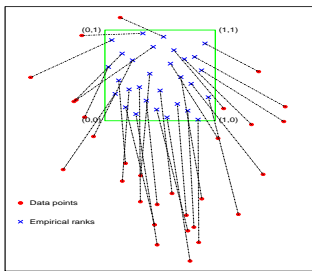


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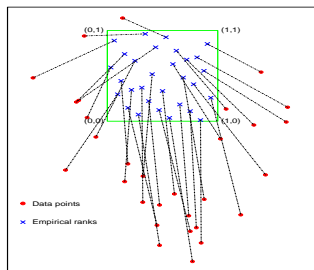


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Computation: Assignment problem



$$\hat{R}_n := \arg \min_{T: T\#\nu_n = \mu_n} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \|X_i - T(X_i)\|^2$$

- **Assignment** problem (can be reduced to a **linear program**; the **Hungarian algorithm** has worst case time complexity $O(n^3)$)
- Various **near linear time approximation** algorithms exist for this problem — **Drake & Hougardya (2005)**, **Agarwal & Varadarajan (2004)**, **Sharathkumar & Agarwal (2012)**, **Agarwal et al. (2022)**

Distribution-free property [Hallin (2017), Deb and S. (2019)]

Suppose that X_1, \dots, X_n iid on \mathbb{R}^d with **abs. cont.** distribution. Then,

$$(\hat{R}_n(X_1), \dots, \hat{R}_n(X_n))$$

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Consistency [Deb and S. (2019), Deb, Bhattacharya and S. (2021)]

X_1, \dots, X_n iid ν (abs. cont.). If $\mu_n := \frac{1}{n} \sum_{j=1}^n \delta_{c_j} \xrightarrow{d} \mu$ (abs. cont.), then

$$\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \|\hat{R}_n(X_i) - R(X_i)\|^2 \xrightarrow{p} 0 \quad \text{as } n \rightarrow \infty.$$

Regularity to the empirical multivariate **rank/OT** map

Question: What is the **rate of convergence** of \hat{R}_n ?

Assume $\int \|x\|^2 d\nu(x) < \infty$, $\int \|y\|^2 d\mu(y) < \infty$; $R \# \nu = \mu$, $\hat{R}_n \# \nu_n = \mu_n$

Rate of convergence [Deb, Ghosal and S. (2021)]

Proof of this result

Suppose the population rank map $R(\cdot)$ is **Lipschitz**. Then, under appropriate conditions on μ_n ,

$$\mathbb{E} \left[\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \|\hat{R}_n(X_i) - R(X_i)\|^2 \right] \lesssim \begin{cases} n^{-1/2} & d = 2, 3, \\ n^{-1/2} \log n & d = 4, \\ n^{-2/d} & d > 4. \end{cases}$$

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Estimation of the OT map R ($R\#\nu = \mu$) Barycentric Projection

- When $\{X_i\}_{i=1}^n$ and $\{c_j\}_{j=1}^m$ may have **unequal** sample sizes, R can be estimated using the **barycentric projection** \tilde{R} (of the **optimal coupling** in the **2-Wasserstein** distance between $\{X_i\}$ and $\{c_j\}$)
- Under additional **smoothness** assumptions, \tilde{R} can have **faster** rates (by smoothing ν_n and μ_n)

- 1 Optimal Transport: Monge's Problem
 - Introduction
 - Multivariate Ranks via Optimal Transport
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 - Hotelling T^2 and Kernel MMD
 - Distribution-free Testing
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Multivariate two-sample goodness-of-fit test

Testing for equality of two multivariate distributions

- **Data:** $\{X_i\}_{i=1}^m$ iid P_1 on \mathbb{R}^d ; $\{Y_j\}_{j=1}^n$ iid P_2 on \mathbb{R}^d , $d \geq 1$
- Test if the **two samples** came from the **same distribution**, i.e.,

$$H_0 : P_1 = P_2 \quad \text{versus} \quad H_1 : P_1 \neq P_2$$

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- **Hotelling T^2 statistic** [Hotelling (1931)]: The **multivariate analogue** of Student's **t -statistic**, given by

$$T_{m,n}^2 := \frac{mn}{m+n} (\bar{X} - \bar{Y})^\top S_{m,n}^{-1} (\bar{X} - \bar{Y});$$

where $S_{m,n}$ is **pooled covariance matrix**

- Reject H_0 iff $T_{m,n}^2 > c_\alpha$ [**asympt. cut-off** c_α : $(1 - \alpha)$ quantile of χ_d^2]

Kernel two-sample test [Gretton et al. (2012)]

- The maximum mean discrepancy (MMD) btw. P_1 and P_2 :

$$\text{MMD}^2(P_1, P_2) := \mathbb{E}[K(X, X')] + \mathbb{E}[K(Y, Y')] - 2\mathbb{E}[K(X, Y)] \geq 0,$$

$K : \mathbb{R}^d \times \mathbb{R}^d$ is a kernel function²; $X, X' \stackrel{iid}{\sim} P_1$; $Y, Y' \stackrel{iid}{\sim} P_2$

- $\text{MMD}^2(P_1, P_2) = 0$ iff $P_1 = P_2$ (if K is characteristic)

²Gaussian kernel: $K(x, y) = \exp(-\|x - y\|^2)$;

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- **Estimator:** $\text{MMD}_{m,n}^2(\{X_i\}_{i=1}^m, \{Y_j\}_{j=1}^n) := A + B - 2C$ where

$$A := \frac{1}{m^2} \sum_{i,j=1}^m K(X_i, X_j), \quad B := \frac{1}{n^2} \sum_{i,j=1}^n K(Y_i, Y_j), \quad C := \frac{1}{mn} \sum_{i,j=1}^{m,n} K(X_i, Y_j)$$

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- **Reject** $H_0 : P_1 = P_2$ iff $\text{MMD}_{m,n}^2 > \kappa_\alpha$
- Critical value κ_α **depends** on $P_1 = P_2$! (but can be by-passed by using a permutation test)

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- 1 Optimal Transport: Monge's Problem
 - Introduction
 - Multivariate Ranks via Optimal Transport

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Reference dist.: μ on $\mathcal{S} \subset \mathbb{R}^d$ (abs. cont.; e.g., $\mu = \text{Unif}([0, 1]^d)$)

Proposed tests [Deb and S. (2019), Deb, Bhattacharya and S. (2021)]

- **Joint rank map:** The sample ranks of the **pooled** observations:

$$\hat{R}_{m,n} : \{X_1, \dots, X_m, Y_1, \dots, Y_n\} \rightarrow \{c_1, \dots, c_{m+n}\} \subset \mathcal{S}$$

- **Rank Hotelling:** $\text{RT}_{m,n}^2 := T_{m,n}^2 \left(\{\hat{R}_{m,n}(X_i)\}, \{\hat{R}_{m,n}(Y_j)\} \right)$
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- In general, our principle is to start with a “good” test and **replace** the X_i 's and Y_j 's with their **pooled multivariate ranks**
- This yields the **Wilcoxon rank-sum** test when applied to the **t-test**

Distribution-freeness [Deb and S. (2019)]

Under H_0 , distributions of $\text{RT}_{m,n}^2$, $\text{RMMD}_{m,n}^2$ are **free** of $P_1 \equiv P_2$

Rank Hotelling test [Deb, Bhattacharya, and S. (2021)]

Rank Hotelling test: $\phi_{m,n} \equiv \mathbf{1}\{\text{RT}_{m,n}^2 > \kappa_\alpha^{(m,n)}\}$ — **distribution-free**

$\kappa_\alpha^{(m,n)}$ depends on c_j 's, m, n and d

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Asymptotic null distribution (Deb, Bhattacharya, and S., 2021)

Under H_0 , if $\mu_n := \frac{1}{n} \sum_{j=1}^n \delta_{c_j} \xrightarrow{d} \mu$, then,

$$\text{RT}_{m,n}^2 \xrightarrow{d} \chi_d^2 \quad \text{as } \min\{m, n\} \rightarrow \infty.$$

The choice of the c_j 's have **no effect** for **large** m, n

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Power (Deb, Bhattacharya, and S., 2021)

Under **location shift** alternatives ($P_1 \neq P_2$), if (i) $\mu_n \xrightarrow{d} \mu$, and
(ii) $\frac{m}{m+n} \rightarrow \lambda \in (0, 1)$, then,

$$\lim_{m,n \rightarrow \infty} \mathbb{E}_{H_1}[\phi_{m,n}] = 1.$$

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Question: How does **rank Hotelling** $\text{RT}_{m,n}^2$ compare with Hotelling $T_{m,n}^2$?

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- **Rank MMD test:** Reject H_0 iff $\text{RMMD}_{m,n}^2 > \kappa_\alpha^{(m,n)}$;
 $\kappa_\alpha^{(m,n)}$ is a **universal threshold** (free of $P_1 \equiv P_2$)
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Limiting distribution under $H_0 : P_1 = P_2$ [Deb and S. (2019)]

If (i) $P_1 \equiv P_2$ is abs. cont., and (ii) $\mu_n := \frac{1}{n} \sum_{j=1}^n \delta_{c_j} \xrightarrow{d} \mu$,
then, under H_0 , for **universal** $\{\lambda_j \geq 0 : j \geq 1\}$ and $\{Z_j\}_{j \geq 1}$ iid $N(0, 1)$,

$$\frac{mn}{m+n} \text{RMMD}_{m,n}^2 \xrightarrow{d} \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} \lambda_j Z_j^2 \quad \text{as } \min\{m, n\} \rightarrow \infty.$$

The choice of the c_j 's has **no effect** for **large** m, n

Asymptotic stabilization of critical values

Critical values: $\kappa_{\alpha}^{(m,n)}$

	$n = 100$	300	500	700	900
$\alpha = 0.05$	0.39	0.40	0.39	0.40	0.40
$\alpha = 0.10$	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36

Table: Thresholds for $\alpha = 0.05, 0.1$ & $m = n = 100, 300, 500, 700, 900$, $d = 2$.

	$n = 100$	300	500	700	900
$\alpha = 0.05$	1.37	1.38	1.38	1.38	1.38
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Table: Thresholds for $\alpha = 0.05, 0.1$ & $m = n = 100, 300, 500, 700, 900$, $d = 8$.

Connection to the two-sample Cramér-von Mises statistic when $d = 1$

When $d = 1$, $\text{RMMD}_{m,n}^2$ is equivalent to two-sample Cramér-von Mises statistic [Anderson (1962)] when distance kernel^a is used [Székely (2003)]:

$$\text{RMMD}_{m,n}^2 = 2 \int \{F_m^X(t) - F_n^Y(t)\}^2 dF_{m+n}(t)$$

where F_n^X , F_n^Y , F_{m+n} are empirical cdf's of the X 's, Y 's, and pooled sample.

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$$^a K(x, y) = 2^{-1}(|x| + |y| - |x - y|)$$

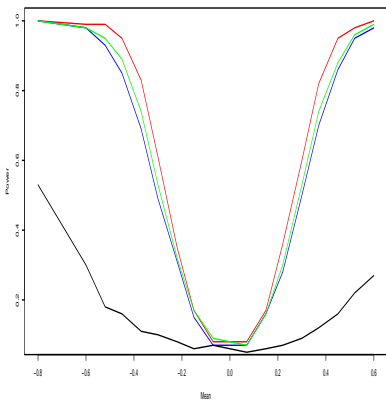
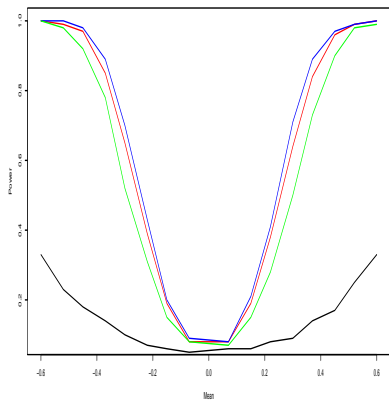
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Under $P_1 \neq P_2$, if (i) $\mu_n \xrightarrow{d} \mu$, and (ii) $\frac{m}{m+n} \rightarrow \lambda \in (0, 1)$, then,

$$\mathbb{P}(\text{RMMD}_{m,n} > \kappa_\alpha^{(m,n)}) \rightarrow \mathbf{1} \quad \text{as } m, n \rightarrow \infty.$$

Proposed test has **asymptotic power 1**, against all fixed alternatives

Question: Can we **quantify** the **power** of these **OT-based** tests?



Left panel: $\begin{pmatrix} X_1 \\ X_2 \\ X_3 \end{pmatrix} \sim N_3(0, I_3)$; $\begin{pmatrix} Y_1 \\ Y_2 \\ Y_3 \end{pmatrix} \sim N_3(\mu \mathbf{1}_3, I_3)$ as $\mu \in \mathbb{R}$ varies

Right panel: $U = (U_1, U_2, U_3)$, $V = (V_1, V_2, V_3)$, $U_i = e^{X_i}$, $V_i = e^{Y_i}$

Performance of 4 tests: **Energy**, **Rank energy**, **Crossmatch**, **HHG**

More simulations

	(C)	(HHG)	(EN)	(REN)
V1	0.13	0.15	0.13	0.34
V2	0.34	0.94	0.94	0.89
V3	0.41	0.34	0.34	0.46
V4	0.34	0.31	0.33	0.32
V5	0.73	0.70	0.56	0.93
V6	0.90	0.88	0.82	0.99
V7	0.13	0.51	0.65	0.63
V8	0.11	0.39	0.35	0.43
V9	0.06	1.00	0.97	1.00
V10	0.28	0.99	1.00	0.59

Table: Proportion of times the null hypothesis was rejected across 10 settings. Here $n = 200$, $d = 3$. Here (C) – Rosenbaum's crossmatch test [Rosenbaum (2005)], (HHG) – Heller, Heller and Gorfine [Heller et al. (2013)], (EN) – energy statistic [Székely and Rizzo (2013)], (REN) – rank energy test.

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- Fix $\alpha \in (0, 1)$ (**level**) and $\beta \in (\alpha, 1)$ (**power**)
- Let $N_\Delta(T) \equiv N_\Delta$ denote the **minimum** number of **samples** s.t.:

$$\mathbb{E}_{H_0}[T_{N_\Delta}] = \alpha \quad \text{and} \quad \mathbb{E}_{H_1}[T_{N_\Delta}] \geq \beta$$

- **Question:** How to compare two **consistent** tests S_N and T_N ?
- **Asymptotic relative (Pitman) efficiency (ARE)** [Pitman (1948), Serfling (1980), Lehmann & Romano (2005), van der Vaart (1998)]
- $X_1, \dots, X_m \stackrel{iid}{\sim} P_{\theta_1}$ & $Y_1, \dots, Y_n \stackrel{iid}{\sim} P_{\theta_2}$; $N = m + n$; $\frac{m}{N} \approx \lambda \in (0, 1)$
- $\{P_\theta\}_{\theta \in \Theta \subset \mathbb{R}^p}$: “smooth” (satisfies DQM) parametric family

- **Test** $H_0 : \theta_2 = \theta_1$ vs. $H_1 : \theta_2 = \theta_1 + \Delta$; $\Delta \rightarrow 0$
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$$\text{ARE}(S_N, T_N) := \lim_{\Delta \rightarrow 0} \frac{N_\Delta(T.)}{N_\Delta(S.)}$$

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$\text{ARE}(S_N, T_N)$ can depend on α and β , but in some cases **it doesn't!**

Hotelling T^2 : $T_{m,n}^2(\{X_i\}, \{Y_j\}) = \frac{mn}{m+n} (\bar{X} - \bar{Y})^\top S_{m,n}^{-1} (\bar{X} - \bar{Y})$

Rank Hotelling: $RT_{m,n}^2 = T_{m,n}^2(\{\hat{R}_{m,n}(X_i)\}, \{\hat{R}_{m,n}(Y_j)\})$

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Some observations

- **Expression** of $ARE(RT_{m,n}^2, T_{m,n}^2)$ **does not** depend on α and β
- Asymp. dist. of $RT_{m,n}^2$ can depend on choice of μ (reference dist.)

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Can we lower bound ARE for sub-classes of multivariate dists., i.e.,

$$\min_{\mathcal{F}} \text{ARE}(RT_{m,n}^2, T_{m,n}^2) = ??$$

$X_1, \dots, X_m \stackrel{iid}{\sim} P_{\theta_1}$ & $Y_1, \dots, Y_n \stackrel{iid}{\sim} P_{\theta_2}$; $N = m + n$

Independent coordinates case

$\mathcal{F}_{\text{ind}} = \{P_{\theta}\}_{\theta \in \Theta}$ has density $p_{\theta}(z_1, \dots, z_d) = \prod_{i=1}^d f_i(z_i - \theta_i)$, $\theta \in \mathbb{R}^d$

Theorem [Deb, Bhattacharya, and S. (2021)]

Suppose $\frac{m}{N} \rightarrow \lambda \in (0, 1)$. If $\mu_N := \frac{1}{N} \sum_{j=1}^N \delta_{c_j} \xrightarrow{d} \text{Unif}([0, 1]^d) \equiv \mu$, then

$$\min_{\mathcal{F}_{\text{ind}}} \text{ARE}(\text{RT}_{m,n}^2, \text{T}_{m,n}^2) = 0.864.$$

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If $\mu_N \xrightarrow{d} N(0, I_d) \equiv \mu$, then

$$\min_{\mathcal{F}_{\text{ind}}} \text{ARE}(\text{RT}_{m,n}^2, \text{T}_{m,n}^2) = 1.$$

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- Generalizes Hodges & Lehmann (1956), Chernoff & Savage (1958)
- ARE can be arbitrarily large (can tend to $+\infty$) for heavy tailed dists.

Elliptically symmetric distributions

$\mathcal{F}_{\text{ell}} = \{P_\theta\}_{\theta \in \Theta}$ is class of **elliptically symmetric** distributions on \mathbb{R}^d , i.e.,

$$p_\theta(x) \propto (\det(\Sigma))^{-\frac{1}{2}} \underline{f}((x - \theta)^\top \Sigma^{-1}(x - \theta)), \quad \text{for all } x \in \mathbb{R}^d$$

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Suppose: (i) $\mu_N \xrightarrow{d} N(0, I_d) \equiv \mu$, (ii) $\frac{m}{N} \rightarrow \lambda \in (0, 1)$. Then,

$$\min_{\mathcal{F}_{\text{ell}}} \text{ARE}(RT_{m,n}^2, T_{m,n}^2) = 1.$$

- This generalizes the famous result of **Chernoff and Savage (1958)**

Model for Independent Component Analysis (ICA)

$\mathcal{F}_{\text{ICA}} = \{f_1(\cdot - \theta) : f_1 \in \mathcal{F}\}_{\theta \in \mathbb{R}^d}$ where $f_1 \in \mathcal{F}$ has the form

$$f_1(x_1, \dots, x_d) = \prod_{i=1}^d \tilde{f}_i \left(\sum_{j=1}^d a_{ji} x_j \right)$$

where $\tilde{f}_1, \tilde{f}_2, \dots, \tilde{f}_d$ are univariate densities, and $A = (a_{ij})_{d \times d}$ is an orthogonal matrix (unknown)

Thus, f_1 is the density of $X_{d \times 1}$ where

$$X = AW$$

with $W_{d \times 1}$ having independent components.

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Asymptotic efficiency of the Rank MMD test

Rank MMD: $\text{RMMD}_{m,n}^2 = \text{MMD}_{m,n}^2 \left(\{ \hat{R}_{m,n}(X_i) \}, \{ \hat{R}_{m,n}(Y_j) \} \right)$

Test: $H_0 : \theta_2 = \theta_1$ vs. $H_1 : \theta_2 = \theta_1 + hN^{-1/2}; h \neq 0 \in \mathbb{R}^p$

Theorem [Deb, Bhattacharya and S. (2021+)]

Under $H_1 : \theta_2 = \theta_1 + hN^{-1/2}$,

$$\frac{mn}{N} \text{RMMD}_{m,n}^2 \xrightarrow{d} \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} \lambda_j \tilde{Z}_j^2$$

where \tilde{Z}_j^2 has **non-central** chi-squared distribution (depending on h).

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where \tilde{Z}_j^2 has **non-central** chi-squared distribution (depending on h).

- Let T_N denote the level α test based on the $\text{RMMD}_{m,n}^2$
- Then, $\mathbb{E}_{H_0}[T_N] = \alpha$ and $\lim_{\|h\| \rightarrow \infty} \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \mathbb{E}_{H_1}[T_N] = 1$
- Rank MMD test has **non-trivial power** at the **contiguous** $N^{-1/2}$ -scale
- Rank MMD has **non-zero ARE** compared to kernel MMD

Other (asymptotically) distribution-free GoF tests

- **Crossmatch** test of **Rosenbaum (2005)** is a distribution-free, consistent, and computationally feasible GoF test
- The **crossmatch** test S_N **does not** distinguish between the null and the alternative at the **contiguous** $N^{-1/2}$ -scale, i.e., for any h :

$$\mathbb{E}_{H_0}[S_N] = \alpha \quad \text{and} \quad \mathbb{E}_{H_1}[S_N] \rightarrow \alpha$$

- **Pitman efficiency** of **rank MMD** w.r.t. **crossmatch** is $+\infty$

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- Many other **graph-based**^a (asymptotically distribution-free) tests are also **asymptotically powerless** at $N^{-1/2}$ -scale [**Bhattacharya (2019)**]
- The **data depth-based** (asymptotically distribution-free) tests **have power** at $N^{-1/2}$ -scale, but **computationally infeasible** as d increases

^aincluding Friedman & Rafsky (1979)'s MST based test; Schilling (1988) and Henze (1988) used k -nearest neighbor (k-NN) graph

- 1 Optimal Transport: Monge's Problem
 - Introduction
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Testing for mutual independence

- $(X, Y) \sim P$ on $\mathbb{R}^{d_1} \times \mathbb{R}^{d_2}$; $d_1, d_2 \geq 1$
- **Data:** n iid observations $\{(X_i, Y_i)\}_{i=1}^n$ from P
- Test if X is independent of Y , i.e.,

$$H_0 : X \perp\!\!\!\perp Y \quad \text{versus} \quad H_1 : X \not\perp\!\!\!\perp Y$$

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- When $d_1 = d_2 = 1$: Pearson (1904), Spearman (1904), Kendall (1938), Hoeffding (1948), Blomqvist (1950), Blum et al. (1961), Rosenblatt (1975), Feuerverger (1993), ...
- When $d_1 > 1$ or $d_2 > 1$: Friedman and Rafsky (1979), Székely et al. (2007), Gretton et al. (2008), Oja (2010), Heller et al. (2013), Biswas et al. (2016), Berrett and Samworth (2019), ...

Can also test for K -vector/sample analogues of these problems

1 Optimal Transport: Monge's Problem

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Distance Covariance [Szekely et al. (2007, 2009), Feuerverger (1993)]

- Let $(X, Y), (X', Y'), (X'', Y'') \stackrel{iid}{\sim} P$ (with **finite mean**), and set

$$h(s, t) := \|s - t\|$$

- **Distance covariance:** $\text{dCov}(X, Y)$ is defined as

$$\begin{aligned} \text{dCov}(X, Y) := & \mathbb{E}[h(X, X')h(Y, Y')] + \mathbb{E}[h(X, X'')]\mathbb{E}[h(Y, Y')] \\ & - 2\mathbb{E}[h(X, X')h(Y, Y'')] \geq 0 \end{aligned}$$

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- **Characterizes** independence: $\text{dCov}(X, Y) = 0$ iff $X \perp\!\!\!\perp Y$

- $$\text{dCov}(X, Y) := \mathbb{E}[h(X, X')h(Y, Y')] + \mathbb{E}[h(X, X')]\mathbb{E}[h(Y, Y')] - 2\mathbb{E}[h(X, X')h(Y, Y'')] \geq 0$$

- Sample distance covariance:** $\text{dCov}_n = S_1 + S_2 - 2S_3$ where

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- Test:** $H_0 : X \perp\!\!\!\perp Y$ vs. $H_1 : X \not\perp\!\!\!\perp Y$

- Distance covariance test:** Reject H_0 if

$$\text{dCov}_n(\{(X_i, Y_i)\}_{i=1}^n) > c_\alpha$$

- Critical value c_α depends on $n, P_X, P_Y!$ (can use permutation test)

- 1 Optimal Transport: Monge's Problem
 - Introduction
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- Take $\mu_1 = \text{Uniform}([0, 1]^{d_1})$ and $\mu_2 = \text{Uniform}([0, 1]^{d_2})$

Rank distance covariance [Deb and S. (2019)]

- **Sample rank** of X_i : $\hat{R}_n^X : \{X_1, \dots, X_n\} \rightarrow \{c_1^{(1)}, \dots, c_n^{(1)}\} \subset [0, 1]^{d_1}$
- **Sample rank** of Y_i : $\hat{R}_n^Y : \{Y_1, \dots, Y_n\} \rightarrow \{c_1^{(2)}, \dots, c_n^{(2)}\} \subset [0, 1]^{d_2}$

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• **Rank distance cov.:** $\text{RdCov}_n = \text{dCov}_n \left(\left\{ (\hat{R}_n^X(X_i), \hat{R}_n^Y(Y_i)) \right\}_{i=1}^n \right)$

Distribution-freeness

X and Y abs. cont. Under H_0 , the dist. of RdCov_n is **free** of P_X and P_Y .

- Under H_0 , distribution of RdCov_n just depends on $c_j^{(k)}$'s, n, d_1, d_2
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Limiting distribution under H_0 [Deb and S. (2019)]

Suppose: (i) X and Y are **abs. cont.**, and

$$(ii) \frac{1}{n} \sum_{j=1}^n \delta_{c_j^{(k)}} \xrightarrow{d} \text{Uniform}([0, 1]^{d_k}), \text{ for } k = 1, 2.$$

Then, under H_0 , \exists **universal** distribution \mathbb{L}_{d_1, d_2} (not depending on $c_j^{(k)}$'s)
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Power

Suppose $X \not\perp Y$, and (i) & (ii) hold. Then,

$$\mathbb{P}(\text{RdCov}_n > \kappa_\alpha^{(n)}) \rightarrow 1 \quad \text{as } n \rightarrow \infty.$$

Proposed test has **asymptotic power 1**, against all fixed alternatives

When $d_1 = d_2 = 1$

When $d_1 = d_2 = 1$, RdCov_n has close connections to Hoeffding's D -statistic [Hoeffding (1948)] (see Blum et al. (1961)):

$$\frac{1}{4} \text{RdCov}_n = \int \{ \mathbb{F}_n(x, y) - \mathbb{F}_n^X(x) \mathbb{F}_n^Y(y) \}^2 d\mathbb{F}_n^X(x) d\mathbb{F}_n^Y(y)$$

where \mathbb{F}_n , \mathbb{F}_n^X , and \mathbb{F}_n^Y are the empirical c.d.f.'s of (X, Y) , X and Y .

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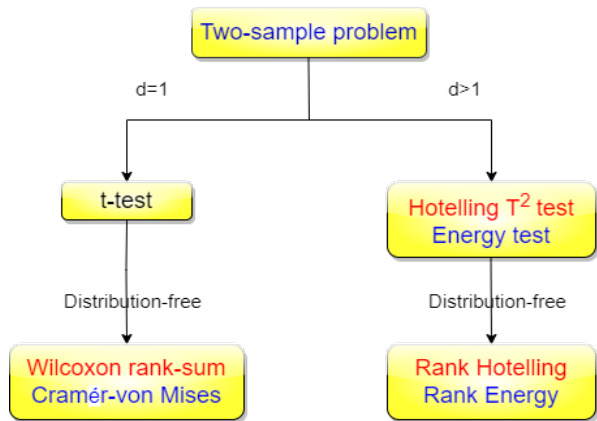
- Our general principle could have been used with any other procedure for mutual independence testing, e.g., the HSIC statistic [Gretton et al. (2005)] which uses ideas from RKHS, ...
- The other computationally feasible distribution-free test in the context was proposed in Heller et al. (2012); however they do not guarantee consistency against all fixed alternatives

Summary

- Multivariate distribution-free testing procedures
- Based on multivariate ranks defined via optimal transport

Summary

- Multivariate distribution-free testing procedures
- Based on multivariate ranks defined via optimal transport
- Proposed a general framework, other examples may include testing for symmetry, testing the equality of K -distributions, independence testing of K -vectors, ...
- The proposed tests are: (i) distribution-free and have good efficiency, (ii) computationally feasible, (iii) more powerful for distributions with heavy tails, and (iv) robust to outliers & contamination



- Ghosal and S. (2019). <https://arxiv.org/abs/1905.05340> (AoS, to appear)
- Deb and S. (2019). <https://arxiv.org/pdf/1909.08733> (JASA, to appear)
- Deb, Ghosal and S. (2021). <https://arxiv.org/pdf/2107.01718>. NeurIPS
- Deb, Bhattacharya and S. (2021). <https://arxiv.org/abs/2104.01986>
- Deb, Bhattacharya and S. (2021+). (working paper)

Thank you very much!

Questions?

- $\nu_n := \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \delta_{x_i}, \quad \mu_n := \frac{1}{n} \sum_{j=1}^n \delta_{c_j}$

- **OT maps:** $R\#\nu = \mu, \quad \hat{R}_n\#\nu_n = \mu_n$

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• Suppose $R = \nabla \varphi$, where $\varphi : \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \cup \{+\infty\}$ is convex

• **Legendre-Fenchel dual of φ :** $\varphi^*(y) := \sup_{x \in \mathbb{R}^d} [x^\top y - \varphi(x)]$

• **Fact 1:** R is $\frac{1}{\lambda}$ -Lipschitz iff φ^* is λ -strongly convex

• φ^* is λ -strongly convex if, for all $x, y \in \text{Dom}(\varphi^*)$,

$$\varphi^*(y) \geq \varphi^*(x) + \nabla \varphi^*(x)^\top (y - x) + \frac{\lambda}{2} \|y - x\|^2$$

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- **Fact 2:** $\nabla\varphi^*(R(x)) = x$ a.e.

- The **2-Wasserstein** distance (squared) between ν and μ is defined as:

$$W_2^2(\nu, \mu) := \min_{\pi \in \Pi(\nu, \mu)} \int \|x - y\|^2 d\pi(x, y),$$

where $\Pi(\nu, \mu) := \{\text{distributions on } \mathbb{R}^d \times \mathbb{R}^d \text{ with marginals } \nu \text{ \& } \mu\}$.

If the population rank map $R(\cdot)$ is $\frac{1}{\lambda}$ -Lipschitz, then

$$\lambda \int \|\hat{R}_n(x) - R(x)\|^2 d\nu_n(x) \leq W_2^2(\nu_n, \tilde{\mu}_n) - W_2^2(\nu_n, \mu_n) + 2 \int g d(\mu_n - \tilde{\mu}_n)$$

where $\tilde{\mu}_n := \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \delta_{R(x_i)}$ and $g(y) := \varphi^*(y) - \frac{1}{2}\|y\|^2$.

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- Then, recalling $\nu_n := \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \delta_{x_i}$ and $\mu_n := \frac{1}{n} \sum_{j=1}^n \delta_{c_j}$,

$$\begin{aligned} D_1 &:= \int \varphi^* d\mu_n - \int \varphi^* d\tilde{\mu}_n \\ &= \int [\varphi^*(\hat{R}_n(x)) - \varphi^*(R(x))] d\nu_n(x) \quad (\text{as } \hat{R}_n \# \nu_n = \mu_n) \\ &\stackrel{(a)}{\geq} \int \left\{ \nabla \varphi^*(R(x))^\top (\hat{R}_n(x) - R(x)) + \frac{\lambda}{2} \|\hat{R}_n(x) - R(x)\|^2 \right\} d\nu_n(x) \\ &\stackrel{(b)}{=} \underbrace{\int x^\top (\hat{R}_n(x) - R(x)) d\nu_n(x)}_{D_2} + \frac{\lambda}{2} \int \|\hat{R}_n(x) - R(x)\|^2 d\nu_n(x) \end{aligned}$$

- **Fact 3:** $2D_2 = W_2^2(\nu_n, \tilde{\mu}_n) - W_2^2(\nu_n, \mu_n) + \int \|y\|^2 d(\mu_n - \tilde{\mu}_n)(y)$

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$$W_2^2(\nu, \mu) := \min_{\pi \in \Pi(\nu, \mu)} \int \|x - y\|^2 d\pi(x, y), \quad (3)$$

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- Let γ be a minimizer of (3). The barycentric projection of γ is

$$T(x) := \frac{\int_y y d\gamma(x, y)}{\int_y d\gamma(x, y)} = \mathbb{E}_\gamma[Y|X = x].$$

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Thus, $T(x)$ is the conditional mean of Y given $X = x$ under γ .

- When \exists an OT map R such that $R\#\nu = \mu$, then $R = T$

Estimation of T using Barycentric projection

- Let $\nu_n := \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \delta_{x_i}$ and $\mu_m := \frac{1}{m} \sum_{j=1}^m \delta_{c_j}$
- Let $\tilde{\gamma} := \arg \min_{\pi \in \Pi(\nu_n, \mu_m)} \int \|x - y\|^2 d\pi(x, y)$ — optimal coupling
- Define \tilde{R} as the barycentric projection of $\tilde{\gamma}$