

# Optimal transport in statistics and Pitman efficient multivariate distribution-free testing

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# Multivariate distribution-free nonparametric testing

Consider the following **nonparametric hypothesis testing** problem:

Testing for equality of distributions (two-sample goodness-of-fit (GoF))

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- When  $d > 1$ : **Hotelling's  $T^2$ -statistic (1931)**, **Weiss (1960)**, **Anderson (1962)**, **Friedman and Raksy (1979)**, **Schilling (1986)**, **Rosenbaum (2005)**, **Gretton et al. (2012)**, **Székely and Rizzo (2013)**, **Biswas et al. (2014)**, **Li and Yuan (2019)**

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  - 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  $\widehat{R}_{m,n}(X_i)$ 's and  $\widehat{R}_{m,n}(Y_j)$ 's

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- Non-trivial efficiency **lower bound** of **1** w.r.t.  $t$ -test [Chernoff and Savage (1958)] when the following revised statistic is used:

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

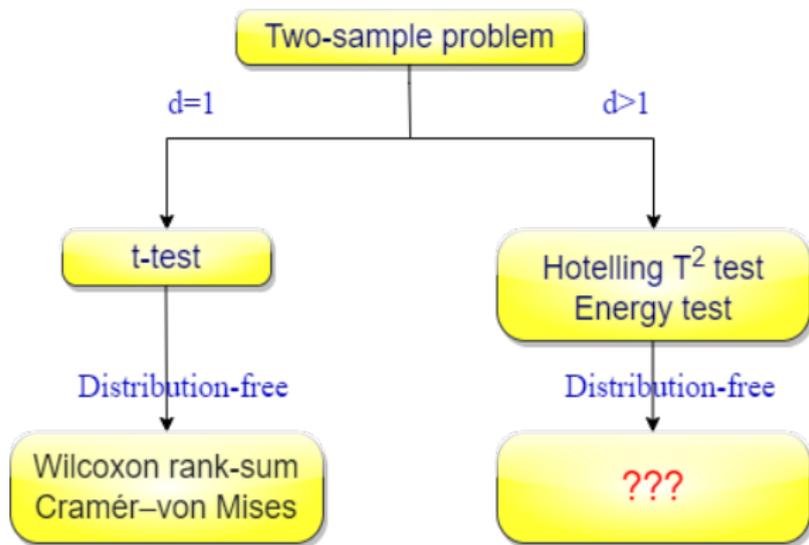
**Generalize** distribution-freeness, efficiency to **multivariate** data

## Question

Can we construct multivariate nonparametric distribution-free tests?

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Two-sample problem

$d=1$

$d>1$

Good news

Tests based on “ranks” are distribution-free

t-test

Hotelling  $T^2$  test  
Energy test

Distribution-free

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Wilcoxon rank-sum  
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Optimal transport!

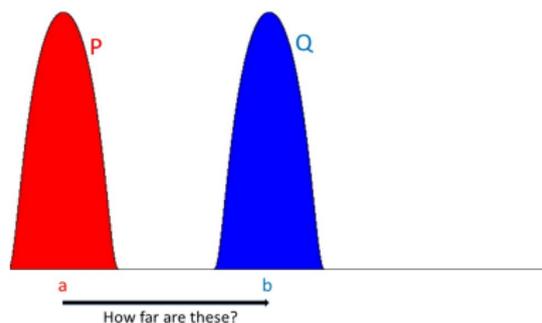
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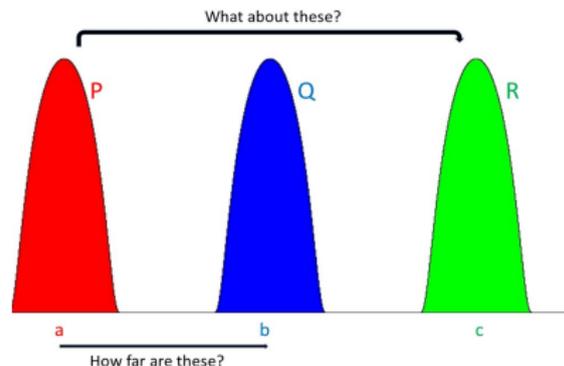
# Optimal (measure) transportation



$$KL(P||Q) = \int \log\left(\frac{p}{q}\right) p = \infty$$

$$TV(P, Q) = \frac{1}{2} \int |p - q| = 1$$

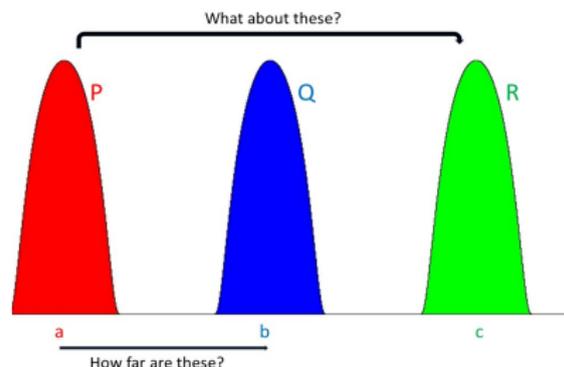
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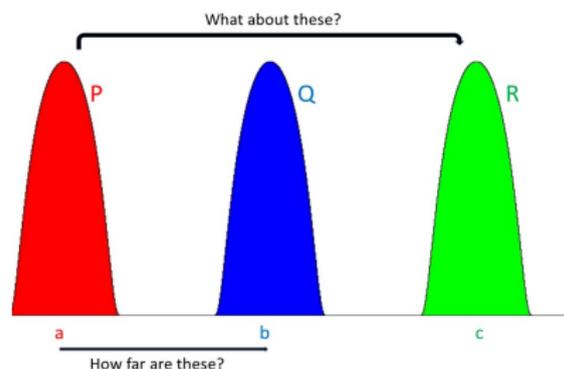
$$TV(P, Q) = \frac{1}{2} \int |p - q| = 1 = TV(P, R)$$

Need a notion of distance that is sensitive to **geometry**

**Monge's approach** (1781): Given probability measures  $P, Q$  on  $\mathbb{R}^d$ , find an "optimal" map  $T_0 : \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^d$  satisfying

$$\min_{T \# P = Q} \int \|x - T(x)\|^2 dP(x), \quad T \# P = Q \Leftrightarrow X \sim P, T(X) \sim Q$$

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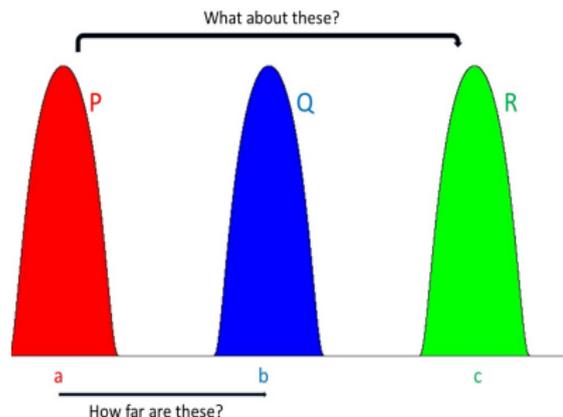
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Call **optimizer**  $T_0^{P,Q} \equiv T_0$  (if it exists) — **optimal transport (OT) map**

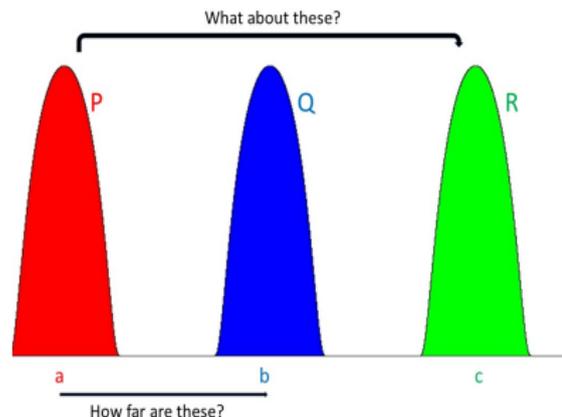
$W_2^2(P, Q)$  — squared **Wasserstein** distance

# Optimal (Measure) Transportation



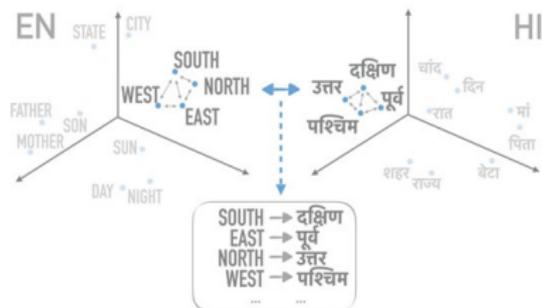
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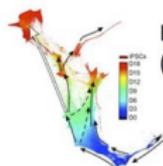


- $W_2^2(P, Q) = \|b - a\|^2$ ,  $W_2^2(P, R) = \|c - a\|^2$
- $T_0^{P, Q}(x) = x + b - a$ ,  $T_0^{P, R}(x) = x + c - a$

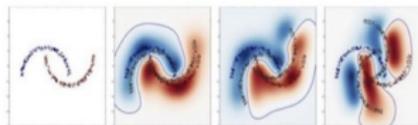
# Applications of optimal transport — $X \sim P, T(X) \sim Q$



Translation (Mellis and Jaakkola, 2019)



RNA sequencing (Schiebinger et al., 2019)



Domain adaptation (Courty et al., 2017)



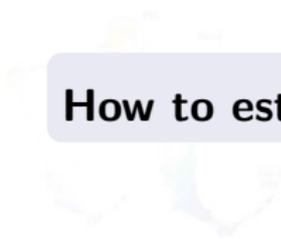


Translation (Mellis and Jaakkola, 2019)



Generative Modelling (Rout et al, 2021)

## How to estimate the optimal transport map?



Domain adaptation (Garnelo et al, 2019)



Color transfer (Radim et al, 2010)



Domain adaptation (Courty et al, 2017)



Image retrieval (Papadakis, 2015)

## Estimation — a plug-in approach

$$T_0 = \arg \min_{T \# P = Q} \int \|x - T(x)\|^2 dP(x), \quad T \# P = Q \Leftrightarrow X \sim P, T(X) \sim Q$$

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$T \# P_n = Q_n$ :  $(T(X_1), \dots, T(X_n))$  is some **permutation** of  $(Y_1, \dots, Y_n)$

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**Assignment** problem (linear program – exact algorithm with complexity  $O(n^3)$ ; parallel computing – Date and Nagi (2016))

## Estimation — a plug-in approach (Continued)

What happens when  $m < n$ ?

Can we still define

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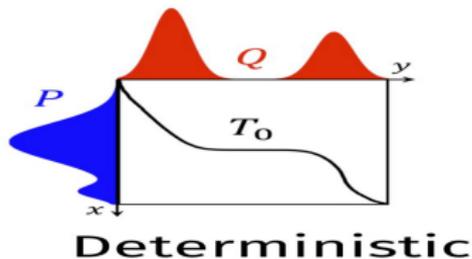
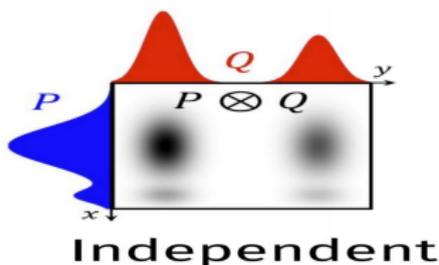
**NOT FEASIBLE!**

There is **no function**  $T$  such that  $T \# P_m = Q_n$

- (Kantorovic **relaxation**)  
Let  $\Pi(P, Q)$  be the set of probability measures (**coupling**) on  $\mathbb{R}^d \times \mathbb{R}^d$ , with marginals  $P, Q$ .  
Then

$$W_2^2(P, Q) = \inf_{\gamma \in \Pi(P, Q)} \int \|x - y\|^2 d\gamma(x, y)$$

**Examples:**  $\pi \equiv P \otimes Q$ ,  
 $\pi(x, y) \propto \mathbf{1}(y = T_0(x))$

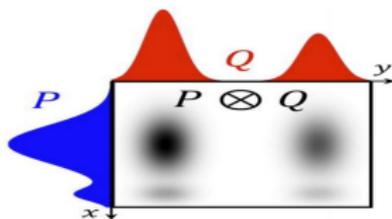


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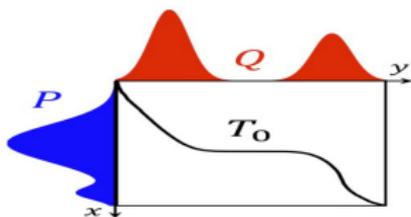
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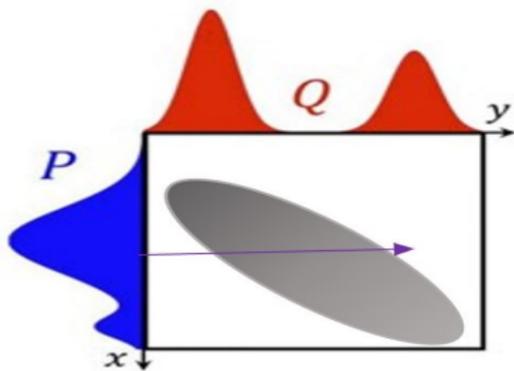
- Always **has a minimizer** which matches  $T_0$  if  $P$  is absolutely continuous



**Independent**



**Deterministic**

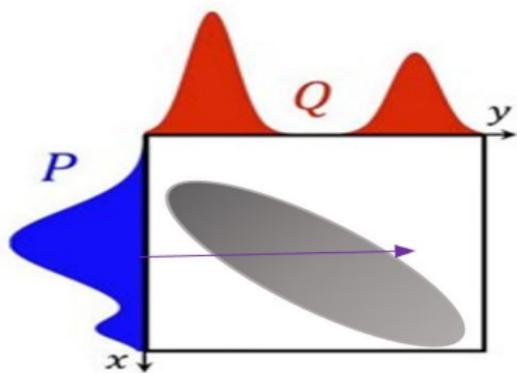


Diffused

- Solve

$$\hat{\gamma} \in \arg \min_{\gamma \in \Pi(P_m, Q_n)} \int \|x - y\|^2 d\gamma(x, y)$$

via a **linear program**



Diffused

- Solve

$$\hat{\gamma} \in \arg \min_{\gamma \in \Pi(P_m, Q_n)} \int \|x - y\|^2 d\gamma(x, y)$$

via a **linear program**

- D., Ghosal, and Sen (NeurIPS, 2021): Define our estimator (**barycentric projection**) as

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

Both definitions coincide when  $m = n$

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When  $m = n \dots$

Empirical OT map:

$$\hat{T} := \arg \min_{T \# P_n = Q_n} \int \|x - T(x)\|^2 dP_n(x)$$

Population OT map:

$$T_0 := \arg \min_{T \# P = Q} \int \|x - T(x)\|^2 dP(x)$$

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Different parameter spaces

What is the rate of convergence of  $\hat{T}$  to  $T_0$ ?

Rate of convergence (D., Ghosal, and Sen (NeurIPS, 2021))

Assume that  $T_0$  is Lipschitz, and both  $P$  and  $Q$  are compactly supported (can be relaxed). Then, for  $d \geq 4$ ,

$$\frac{1}{m} \sum_{i=1}^m \mathbb{E} \|\hat{T}(X_i) - T_0(X_i)\|^2 \lesssim m^{-\frac{2}{d}} + n^{-\frac{2}{d}}.$$

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- The proof requires **convex analysis**, **chaining** and **Talagrand's concentration** arguments
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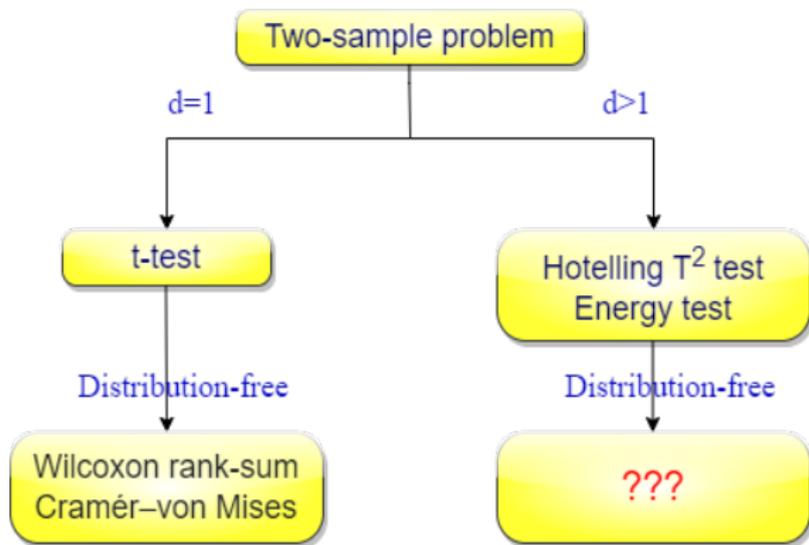
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- For  $d = 1, 2, 3$ ,  $m = n$ , rates are  $n^{-4/5}$ ,  $n^{-2/3}$ ,  $n^{-4/7}$  (ongoing work)
- The proof requires **convex analysis**, **chaining** and **Talagrand's concentration** arguments
- **Minimax optimal** for  $d \geq 4$  (**Hütter and Rigollet (2019)**)
- These are the **first** rates for a **practically computable** estimator of the OT map  $T_0$  (note  $\hat{T}$  requires **no tuning**) ▶ skip

## Question

Can we construct multivariate distribution-free tests?



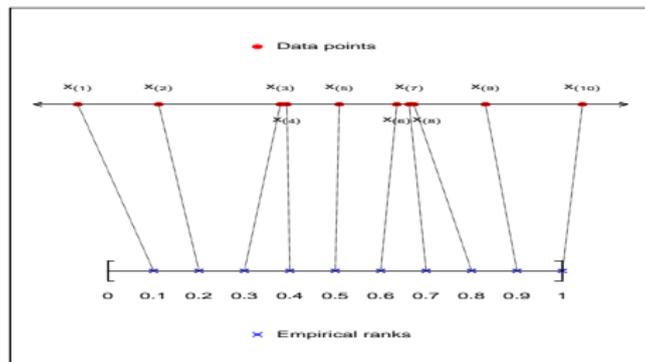
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## Ranks: When $d = 1$

- Rank map  $\widehat{R}_n$  assigns  $\{X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n\}$  to elements of  $\{\frac{1}{n}, \frac{2}{n}, \dots, \frac{n}{n}\}$
- Define  $\nu_n := \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \delta_{X_i}$  and  $\mu_n := \frac{1}{n} \sum_{j=1}^n \delta_{\frac{j}{n}}$

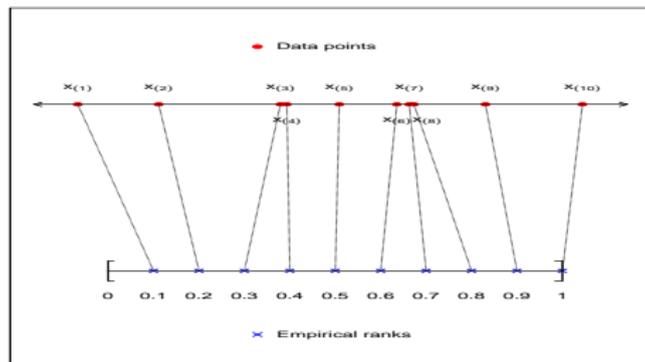
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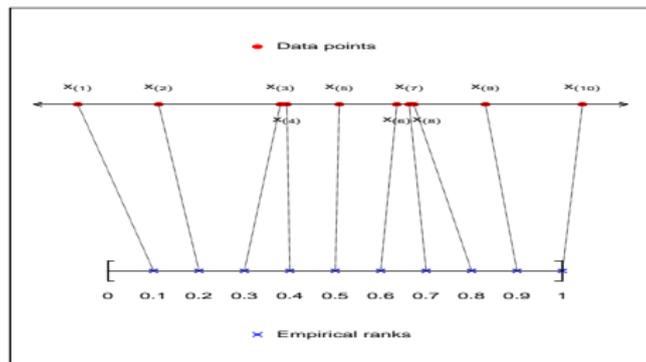
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$\widehat{R}_n$  is the **empirical OT map** from  $\nu_n$  to  $\mu_n$

## Multivariate ranks ( $d \geq 1$ )

- **Empirical rank map** assigns  $\{X_1, \dots, X_n\} \rightarrow \{c_1, \dots, c_n\} \subset \mathbb{R}^d$  — grid of “reference” points (e.g., a random sample from  $\text{Unif}[0, 1]^d$ ,  $\mathcal{N}(0, I_d)$  distribution, deterministic quasi-Monte Carlo sequences)

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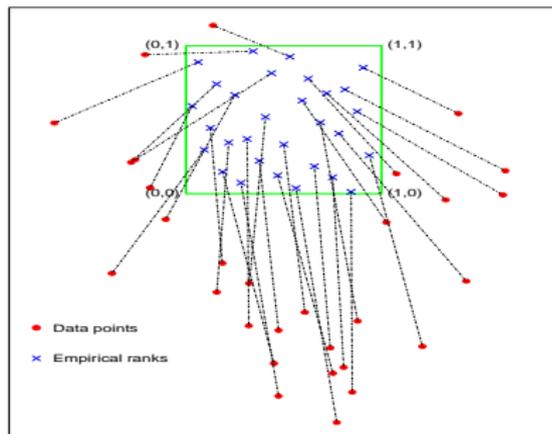
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- $X \sim \nu$ ;  $\nu$  is a probability measure in  $\mathbb{R}^d$  (abs. cont.)
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If  $\mathbb{E}_\nu \|X\|^2 < \infty$ , **rank fn.**  $R : \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathcal{S}$  is the **population transport map**

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

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Properties [D. and Sen (JASA 2020); D., Bhattacharya, and Sen (2021)]

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**No moment assumptions** needed on the model

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## Testing for equality of two multivariate distributions

- **Data:**  $\{X_i\}_{i=1}^m$  iid  $P$  on  $\mathbb{R}^d$ ;  $\{Y_j\}_{j=1}^n$  iid  $Q$  on  $\mathbb{R}^d$ ,  $d \geq 1$
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Proposed tests [D. & Sen (JASA, 2020); D., Bhattacharya & Sen (2021)]

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Distribution-freeness [D. & Sen (JASA, 2020)]

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

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

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**Power (D., Bhattacharya, and Sen, 2021)**

Under **location shift** alternatives, we have

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

**Asymptotic null distribution (D., Bhattacharya, and Sen, 2021)**

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

$$\text{RT}_{m,n}^2 \xrightarrow{d} \chi_d^2.$$

**Goal**

How does rank Hotelling test compare with Hotelling  $T^2$  test?

- 1 A (very) brief introduction to optimal transport
- 2 Multivariate ranks using optimal transport
- 3 **Multivariate distribution-free tests using optimal transport**
  - Rank Hotelling  $T^2$  test and Pitman efficiency
  - Pitman efficiency, comparison with Hotelling  $T^2$

- **Question:** How to compare two **consistent** tests  $S_N$  and  $T_N$ ?
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In principle,  $\text{ARE}(S_N, T_N)$  can depend on  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$ , but in many interesting cases **they don't**

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

- Expression of  $\text{ARE}(\text{RT}_{m,n}^2, \text{T}_{m,n}^2)$  does not depend on  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$
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Can we lower bound ARE for sub-classes of multivariate dists., i.e.,

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

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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 (D., Bhattacharya, and Sen (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

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

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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,

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- 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)

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- Exact **distribution-free, nonparametric** test, gives uniformly level  $\alpha$  test and **high efficiency** compared to Hotelling  $T^2$  test
- Provides the first comprehensive extension of classical nonparametric testing to the multivariate setting [▶ skip](#)
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**Thank you. Questions?**

# Multivariate two-sample goodness-of-fit test

- Recall **general strategy**: Start with a “**good**” test and **replace** the  $X_i$ 's and  $Y_j$ 's with their **pooled multivariate ranks**

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$$\mathbb{E}^2(P, Q) := 2\mathbb{E}K(X, Y) - \mathbb{E}K(X, X') - \mathbb{E}K(Y, Y') \geq 0$$

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- **Characterizes** equality of distributions:  $E(P, Q) = 0$  iff  $P = Q$
- **E-statistic:**  $E_{m,n}^2(\{X_i\}_{i=1}^m, \{Y_j\}_{j=1}^n) := 2A - B - C$  where

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

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- **Energy test:** Reject  $H_0$  if  $E_{m,n}^2(\{X_i\}_{i=1}^m, \{Y_j\}_{j=1}^n) > \kappa_\alpha$  (depends on  $P$ ; we can use permutation test)

## Rank energy statistic [D. and Sen (JASA, 2020)]

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

$$\hat{\mathbf{R}}_{m,n} : \{X_1, \dots, X_m, Y_1, \dots, Y_n\} \rightarrow \{c_1, \dots, c_{m+n}\} \subset [0, 1]^d$$

- **Rank energy:**  $\text{RE}_{m,n}^2 := E_{m,n}^2 \left( \{\hat{\mathbf{R}}_{m,n}(X_i)\}_{i=1}^m, \{\hat{\mathbf{R}}_{m,n}(Y_j)\}_{j=1}^n \right)$

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Under  $H_0$ , distribution of  $\text{RE}_{m,n}$  is **free** of  $P \equiv Q$ , if  $P$  is **abs. cont.**

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## Simplification when $d = 1$

$\text{RE}_{m,n}^2$  is exactly **equivalent** to the two-sample **Cramér-von Mises statistic**

## Power [D. and Sen (JASA, 2020)]

Under (ii) and  $P \neq Q$ , if  $\frac{m}{m+n} \approx \lambda \in (0, 1)$  then,

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

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

## Power [D. and Sen (JASA, 2020)]

Under (ii) and  $P \neq Q$ , if  $\frac{m}{m+n} \approx \lambda \in (0, 1)$  then,

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

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

## Limiting distribution under $H_0$ [D. and Sen (JASA, 2020)]

If (i)  $P \equiv Q$  is **abs. cont.**, and

$$(ii) \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \delta_{C_i} \xrightarrow{d} \mu \text{ a.s. } (N = m + n)$$

Then, under  $H_0$ ,  $\exists$  a **universal** distribution s.t.

$$\frac{mn}{m+n} \text{RE}_{m,n}^2 \xrightarrow{d} \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} \lambda_j Z_j^2 \quad \text{as } \min\{m, n\} \rightarrow \infty \quad \text{where } \lambda_j \geq 0.$$

# Pitman efficiency

## Some observations

- **Efficiency** of  $RE_{m,n}$  w.r.t.  $E_{m,n}$  **depends** on the type I error  $\alpha$  and power  $\beta$ , which makes it hard obtain efficiency lower bounds
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## Rank Energy $RE_{m,n}$ [D., Bhattacharya, and Sen (working paper)]

- $\lim_{m,n \rightarrow \infty} \mathbb{P}_{H_1}(RE_{m,n} \text{ rejects } H_0) > \alpha$
- Only **consistent, exactly dist.-free test** that **can distinguish**  $H_0$  &  $H_1$

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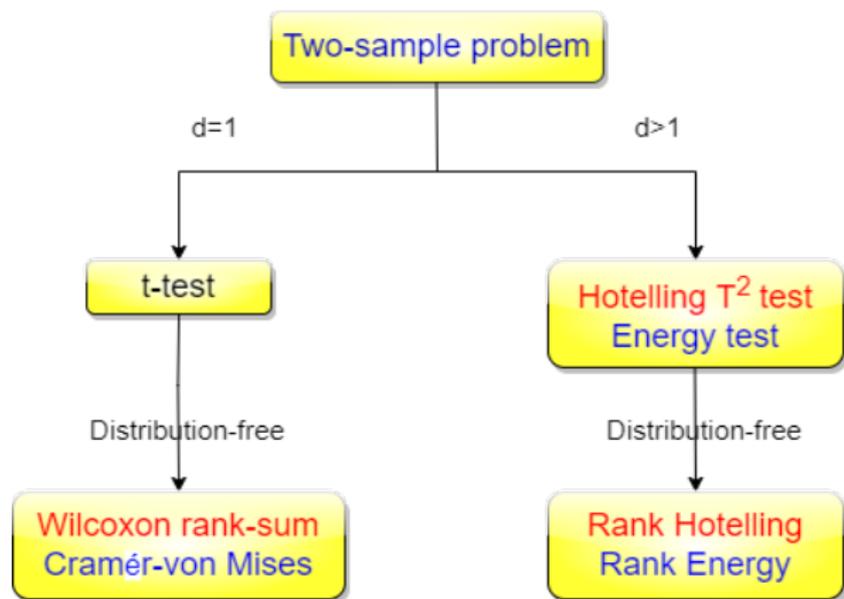
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# Summary



D. and Sen, (2020). <https://arxiv.org/pdf/1909.08733> (JASA, to appear)

D., Ghosal, and Sen (2021). <https://arxiv.org/abs/2107.01718> (NeurIPS, 2021)

D., Bhattacharya, and Sen (2021). <https://arxiv.org/abs/2104.01986>

D., Bhattacharya and Sen (2021+). (working paper)

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- $T_n \xrightarrow{a.s.} T(X, Y)$

# Measure of Association

We answer this question in the **affirmative** by combining ideas from **reproducing kernel Hilbert spaces (RKHS)** and **geometric graphs** (e.g., nearest neighbors, minimum spanning trees), to come up with a large **class** of such measures

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## Gaussian mixture models and multiple testing:

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<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/01621459.2021.1888739>

(JASA, published online)

## Causal inference:

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## Rate of convergence result

$$T_0 = \arg \min_{T \# P=Q} \int \|x - T(x)\|^2 dP(x),$$

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Rate of convergence (D., Ghosal, Sen, NeurIPS, 2021)

Assume that  $T_0$  is Lipschitz, and both  $P$  and  $Q$  are compactly supported (can be relaxed). Then,

$$\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \|\hat{T}(X_i) - T_0(X_i)\|^2 \lesssim n^{-\frac{2}{d}}$$

for  $d \geq 4$ . For  $d = 1, 2, 3$ , the rates are  $n^{-1}$ ,  $n^{-2/3}$  and  $n^{-4/7}$ .

**Nonparametric regression:** Say  $Y_i = f_0(X_i) + \epsilon_i$ ,  $i = 1, \dots, n$ , where  $\epsilon_i$ 's are iid  $\mathcal{N}(0, 1)$ , and  $f_0 \in \mathcal{F}$

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**OT problem:**

$$\hat{T} := \arg \min_{T \# P_n = Q_n} \int \|x - T(x)\|^2 dP_n(x)$$

- Constraint set:  $\mathcal{T}_n := \{T : T \# P_n = Q_n\}$ .
- $\hat{T}_n \in \mathcal{T}_n$  but  $T_0 \notin \mathcal{T}_n$

## Dual form

Alternatively,

$$W_2^2(P_n, Q_n) = \min_{T \# P_n = Q_n} \int \|x - T(x)\|^2 dP_n(x) = \min_{f, g} \int f dP_n + \int g dQ_n$$

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(Legendre-Fenchel dual of  $\varphi_0(\cdot)$ )

Proof requires arguments from **convex analysis**

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Using the **dual** form of  $W_2^2(\cdot, \cdot)$ , coupled with **chaining** and **Talagrand's concentration** inequality proves the rate of convergence result



*The End*

**Thank you. Questions?**

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- Is the solution unique?

# Properties

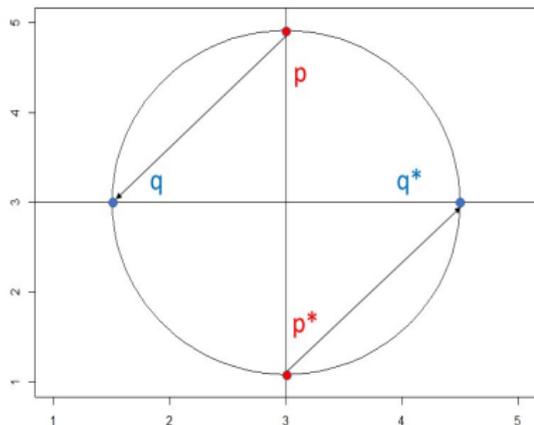
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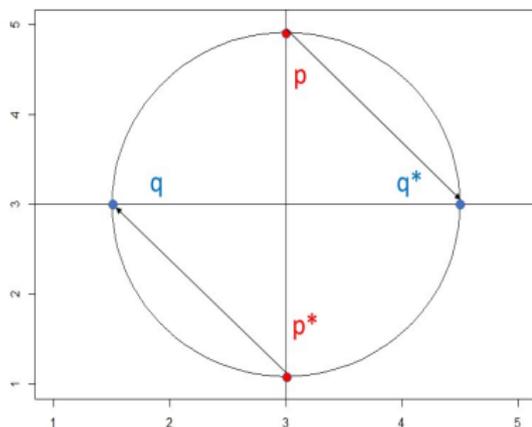
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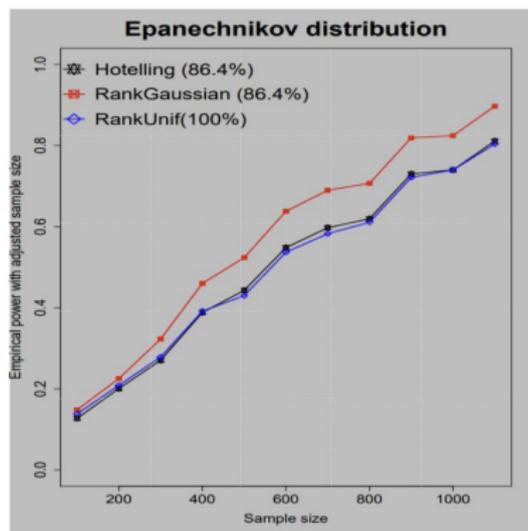
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- Therefore, crossmatch test **does not** distinguish between the null and the alternative at the contiguous scale
- The same phenomena happens for many **other graph-based asymptotically distribution-free tests**, see [Bhattacharya \(2019, Theorem 3.1\)](#)

# Power plot with varying sample size



**Figure:**  $X_1, Y_1$  are i.i.d. Epanechnikov with location parameters 0 and 0.1 respectively.  $X_2, X_3 \sim X_1, Y_2, Y_3 \sim Y_1$  and  $X := (X_1, X_2, X_3), Y := (Y_1, Y_2, Y_3)$ . Here

$$\text{eff}(\text{RankUnif}, \text{Hotelling}) = 0.864$$

and  $\text{eff}(\text{RankGaussian}, \text{Hotelling}) > 1$  [▶ skip](#)

# Power plot with varying location parameter

Log-normal location problem (slightly heavy-tailed)

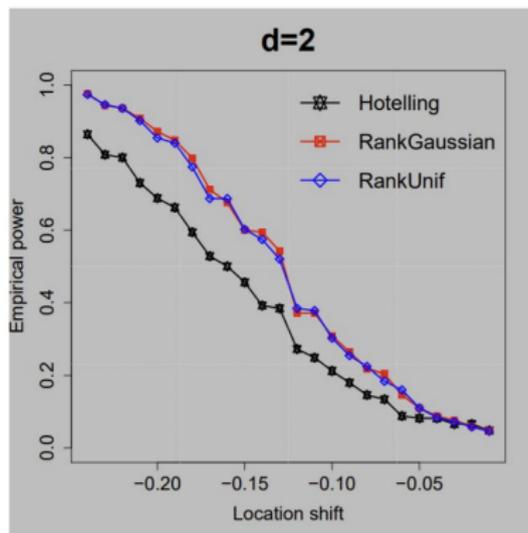
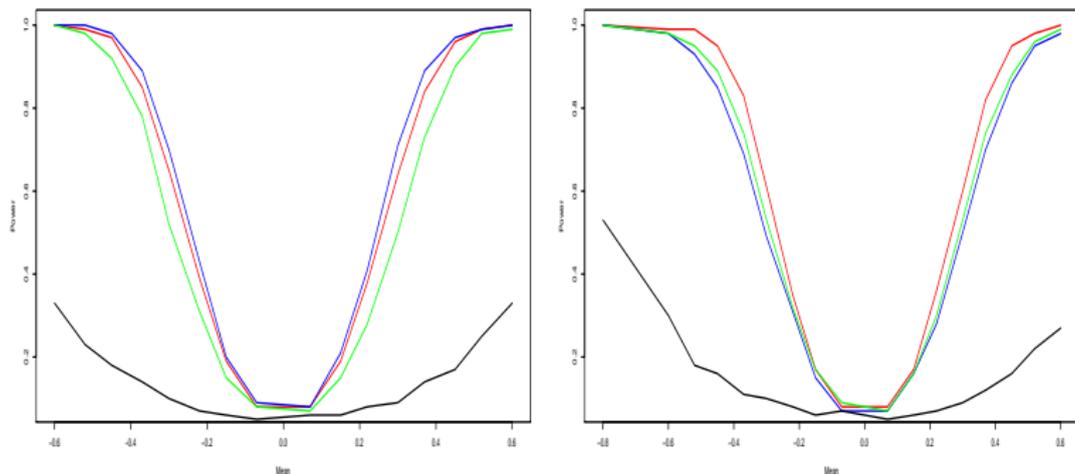


Figure:  $U_1, U_2$  are iid standard normal, and  $V_1, V_2$  are normal with variance 1 and varying mean. Define  $X_i := \exp(U_i)$  and  $Y_i := \exp(V_i)$ . Set  $X := (X_1, X_2)$  and  $Y := (Y_1, Y_2)$  — sample size  $n = 200$  [▶ skip](#)

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**Figure:** (Left panel)  $X_1, Y_1$  are i.i.d. normal with mean 0 and  $\mu$  respectively (and unit variance).  $X_2, X_3 \sim X_1, Y_2, Y_3 \sim Y_1$  and  $X := (X_1, X_2, X_3)$ . Similarly define  $Y$ . [▶ skip](#)

(Right panel)  $U := (U_1, U_2, U_3)$  and  $V := (V_1, V_2, V_3)$  where  $U_i = \exp(X_i)$ ,  $V_i = \exp(Y_i)$  and  $X_1, X_2, X_3, Y_1, Y_2, Y_3$  has the same distribution as above.

**Red - Rank energy, Black - Crossmatch, Blue - Energy, Green - HHG.**

## More simulations

	(RB)	(HHG)	(EN)	(REN)
V1	0.13	0.15	0.13	0.34
V2	0.34	0.94	<b>0.94</b>	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 RB - Rosenbaum's crossmatch test (Rosenbaum, 2005), HHG - Heller, Heller and Gorfine (Heller et al., 2013), En - energy statistic (Székely and Rizzo, 2013).

# Asymptotic stabilization

	(100)	(300)	(500)	(700)	(900)
0.05	0.39	0.40	0.39	0.40	0.40
0.1	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36

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

	(100)	(300)	(500)	(700)	(900)
0.05	1.37	1.38	1.38	1.38	1.38
0.1	1.34	1.35	1.35	1.35	1.35

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

# What happens for $d = 1$ ?

$$T_0 \stackrel{???}{:=} \arg \min_{T \# P=Q} \int |x - T(x)|^2 dP(x).$$

- Assume  $Q = \text{Unif}[0, 1]$  and  $X \sim P$  with cdf  $F$

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- Assume  $Q = \text{Unif}[0, 1]$  and  $X \sim P$  with cdf  $F$
- Given  $x_1 \leq x_2 \in \mathbb{R}$ , note that

$$\begin{aligned} (x_1 - T_0(x_1))^2 + (x_2 - T_0(x_2))^2 &\leq (x_1 - T_0(x_2))^2 + (x_2 - T_0(x_1))^2 \\ &\Leftrightarrow T_0(x_1) \leq T_0(x_2) \end{aligned}$$

Expect  $T_0(\cdot)$  to be monotone and  $T_0(X) \stackrel{d}{=} \text{Unif}[0, 1]$ .

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$$\mathbf{F} = \arg \min_{T \# P = Q} \int |x - T(x)|^2 dP(x).$$

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- $T_0(\cdot)$  is the **distribution function** of  $X$ , say  $F(\cdot)$
- Note that increasing functions can be viewed as **“derivatives”** of **convex functions**.

- Suppose  $T_0 \in C^\alpha$  (Hölder or Sobolev class),  $\alpha > 1$
- The minimax rate of convergence is

$$n^{-\frac{2\alpha}{2\alpha-2+d}} + n^{-1}$$

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- In ongoing work, we can show that using a kernel density based estimator yields the optimal rate (up to log-factors)

$$\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \mathbb{E} \|\hat{T}(X_i) - T_0(X_i)\|^2 \lesssim n^{-\frac{2\alpha}{2\alpha-2+d}} + n^{-1}$$

- In Manole et al. (2021), Hütter and Rigollet (2019), wavelet based estimators have been used to get optimal rates [▶ skip](#)

- $T_0(X) \sim Y$ ,  $X \sim \mu$  with density  $f$ ,  $Y \sim \nu$  with density  $g$ . Then change of variable formula implies

$$g(T(x))\det(J_{T_0}(x)) = f(x)$$

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- Use  $\beta = \alpha - 1$  and  $k = -1$  (anti-derivative), the lower bound reduces to  $\frac{2\alpha}{2\alpha-2+d}$  ▶ skip

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- Modified Rank Hotelling**  $T^2$ :

$$RT_{m,n}^2 := T_{m,n}^2 \left( \frac{X_1}{\|X_1\|} G_{m,n}(\|X_1\|), \dots, \frac{Y_1}{\|Y_1\|} G_{m,n}(\|Y_1\|), \dots \right)$$

- Test is **distribution-free** — if  $Y \stackrel{d}{=} X - \theta$  then **detection boundary** at  $\|\theta\| \sim \sqrt{d/n}$  [▶ skip](#)

## $d > 1$ — A step in the right direction

### Brenier, '91, McCann '95, Polar Factorization Theorem

Assume that  $P$  is absolutely continuous on  $\mathbb{R}^d$ , Then there exists a **unique** ( $P$  a.s.)  $T_0 : \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^d$  such that  $T_0(\cdot)$  is the **gradient of a convex function** and

$$T_0\#P = Q.$$

If both  $P$  and  $Q$  have finite second moments, then  $T_0(\cdot)$  solves

$$\min_{T\#P=Q} \int \|x - T(x)\|^2 dP(x).$$

- Existence of  $T_0(\cdot)$  **does not require** any moment assumptions
- Uniqueness:  $T_0\#P = Q$  and  $T_0\#R = Q$  will imply  **$P = R$**

# Rank functions as transport maps: When $d = 1$

- $X \sim F$  on  $\mathbb{R}$ ,  $F$  abs. cont. c.d.f.
- **Rank:** The **rank** of  $x \in \mathbb{R}$  is  $F(x)$  (aka the **c.d.f.** at  $x$ )
- **Property:**  $F(X) \sim \text{Uniform}([0, 1])$
- Thus,  $F$  **transports** the distribution of  $X$  to  $U \sim \text{Uniform}([0, 1])$

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- **Sample rank map** (aka empirical c.d.f.) is also a **transport map**:

$$\hat{R}_n := \arg \min_{\sigma \in S_n} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \left| X_i - \frac{\sigma(i)}{n} \right|^2 = \arg \min_T \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n |X_i - T(X_i)|^2$$

where  $T$  **transports**  $\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \delta_{X_i}$  to  $\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \delta_{\frac{i}{n}}$

# Multivariate rank functions as transport maps

- $X \sim \nu$ ;  $\nu$  is a probability measure in  $\mathbb{R}^d$  (abs. cont.)
- $U \sim \text{Uniform}([0, 1]^d)$
- **Goal:** Find the “optimal” transport map  $\mathbf{T}$  s.t.  $\mathbf{T}(\mathbf{X}) \stackrel{d}{=} U$

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- If  $\mathbb{E}\|X\|^2 < \infty$ , the **population rank function**  $\mathbf{R}(\cdot)$  is the **transport map** s.t.

$$\mathbf{R} := \arg \min_{\mathbf{T}: \mathbf{T}(\mathbf{X}) \stackrel{d}{=} U, X \sim \nu} \mathbb{E}\|X - \mathbf{T}(\mathbf{X})\|^2$$

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- **Data:**  $X_1, \dots, X_n$  iid  $\nu$  (abs. cont.) on  $\mathbb{R}^d$
- $\{c_1, \dots, c_n\} \subset \mathbb{R}^d$  — grid of “reference” points
- **Sample multivariate rank map** is defined as the **transport map** s.t.

$$\hat{\mathbf{R}}_n = \arg \min_{\sigma \in S_n} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \|X_i - c_{\sigma(i)}\|^2 \equiv \arg \min_{\mathbf{T}} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \|X_i - \mathbf{T}(X_i)\|^2$$

where  $\mathbf{T}$  transports  $\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \delta_{X_i}$  to  $\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \delta_{c_i}$

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- **Sample multivariate rank map**  $\hat{\mathbf{R}}_n(\cdot)$  is defined as

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

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Regularity:  $L_2$ -convergence [D. and Sen, JASA 2020]

$X_1, \dots, X_n$  iid  $\nu$  (**abs. cont.**). If  $\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \delta_{c_i} \xrightarrow{w} \text{Unif}([0, 1]^d)$ , then

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

Result gives the required **regularity** of the **empirical multivariate rank map**

# Population version

Assume  $m/(m+n) = \lambda \in (0, 1)$ .

Rank energy distance [D. and Sen, JASA 2020]

- **Joint rank map:** The “pooled” population rank map:

$$R_\lambda : R_\lambda(\mathbf{Z}) \sim \text{Uniform}([0, 1]^d)$$

where  $\mathbf{Z} \sim \lambda P + (1 - \lambda)Q$ .

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- Our **general principle** could have been used with any other procedure for testing equality of distributions, e.g., the **MMD** statistic [Gretton et al. (2008)] which uses ideas from RKHS, ...
- For  $d = 1$ , we prove that  $\text{RE}_{m,n}^2$  and  $\text{RE}_\lambda^2$  are exactly equivalent to the sample and population two-sample Cramér-von Mises statistic.

# Pitman efficiency

- Consider  $X_1, \dots, X_n \sim P_{\theta_1}$  and  $Y_1, \dots, Y_m \sim P_{\theta_2}$ , with  $m/(m+n) = \lambda \in (0, 1)$ . We want to test:

$$H_0 : \theta_2 - \theta_1 = 0 \quad \text{versus} \quad H_1 : \theta_2 - \theta_1 = h(m+n)^{-1/2}.$$

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- Fix  $\alpha$  (size) and  $\gamma > \alpha$  (power).
- Two test functions  $T_{m,n}$  and  $S_{m,n}$ .

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- Two test functions  $T_{m,n}$  and  $S_{m,n}$ .
- $K(T_{m,n})$  denotes minimum number of samples such that:

$$\mathbb{E}_{H_0}(T_{m,n}) \leq \alpha \quad \text{and} \quad \mathbb{E}_{H_1}(T_{m,n}) \geq \gamma.$$

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$$\mathbb{E}_{H_0}(T_{m,n}) \leq \alpha \quad \text{and} \quad \mathbb{E}_{H_1}(T_{m,n}) \geq \gamma.$$

- The Pitman efficiency of  $S_{m,n}$  with respect to  $T_{m,n}$  is given by

$$\lim_{m+n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{K(T_{m,n})}{K(S_{m,n})}.$$