

Pf: By our duality theorem, it suffices to show

$$\sup_{\substack{\varphi, \psi \in C(X) \\ \varphi(x^1) + \psi(x^2) \leq |x^1 - x^2|}} \int \varphi d\mu + \int \psi d\nu = \sup_{\varphi \in C(X), \|\varphi\|_{\text{Lip}} \leq 1} \int \varphi d(\mu - \nu)$$

LHS RHS

" \geq " ✓

Next " \leq "

Take (φ_*, ψ_*) that attain maximum on LHS.

Double convexification trick:

Define $\tilde{\Psi}(x^2) = \inf_{x^1 \in X} |x^1 - x^2| - \varphi_*(x^1)$

• $\tilde{\Psi} \geq \psi_*$

• $\forall \varepsilon > 0, x^2, y^2, \exists y^1$ s.t

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{\Psi}(x^2) - \tilde{\Psi}(y^2) &\leq |y^1 - x^2| - \varphi_*(y^1) - (|y^1 - y^2| - \varphi_*(y^1)) + \varepsilon \\ &\leq |x^2 - y^2| + \varepsilon \end{aligned}$$

$\|\tilde{\Psi}\|_{\text{Lip}} \leq 1$

• $\varphi_*(x^2) + \tilde{\Psi}(x^2) \leq |x^1 - x^2|$

Thus $(\varphi^*, \tilde{\Psi})$ must also be optimal for original dual problem.

Define $\tilde{\varphi}(x^1) = \inf_{x^2 \in X} |x^1 - x^2| - \tilde{\Psi}(x^2)$

- $\tilde{\varphi} \geq \varphi^*$
- $\|\tilde{\varphi}\|_{\text{Lip}} \leq 1$
- $(\tilde{\varphi}, \tilde{\Psi})$ is optimal for original D.P.

Furthermore,

$$-\tilde{\Psi}(x^1) \geq \overbrace{\inf_{x^2 \in X} |x^1 - x^2| - \tilde{\Psi}(x^2)}^{\tilde{\varphi}(x^1)} \geq -\tilde{\Psi}(x^1)$$

↑

$$\|\tilde{\Psi}\|_{\text{Lip}} \leq 1 \Rightarrow \begin{aligned} \tilde{\Psi}(x^2) - \tilde{\Psi}(x^1) &\leq |x^1 - x^2| \\ -\tilde{\Psi}(x^1) &\leq |x^1 - x^2| - \tilde{\Psi}(x^2) \end{aligned}$$

Thus, $\tilde{\varphi} = -\tilde{\Psi}$.

$$\text{LHS} = \int \tilde{\varphi} d\mu + \int \tilde{\Psi} d\nu = \int \tilde{\varphi} d(\mu - \nu) \leq \text{RHS} \quad \square$$

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We now have obtained characterizations of the dual problem for both w_1, w_2 .

Exercise: Consider

$$w_p(\mu, \nu) := \min_{\gamma \in \Gamma(\mu, \nu)} \left(\int d(x^1, x^2)^p d\gamma(x^1, x^2) \right)^{1/p}.$$

Use Hölder's inequality to prove that

$$p \leq q \Rightarrow \underline{w_p(\mu, \nu)} \leq \underline{w_q(\mu, \nu)}.$$

Furthermore, if supp(μ), supp(ν) bounded, prove that $\exists C$ s.t.

$$p \leq q \Rightarrow \underline{w_q(\mu, \nu)} \leq C \underline{w_p(\mu, \nu)}.$$

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We will now prove our earlier claim that W_2 is a metric on $\mathcal{P}_2(\mathbb{R}^d)$.

Our proof will use Brenier's theorem... which requires $\mu \ll \mathcal{L}^d$.

We need a way to approximate $\mu \in \mathcal{P}_2(\mathbb{R}^d)$ by μ_ε that are abs cts.

Prop: (W_2 jointly lsc wrt ^{Polish space} narrow convergence):
Suppose $\mu_n, \nu_n \in \mathcal{P}(X)$ satisfying $\mu_n \rightarrow \mu$ and $\nu_n \rightarrow \nu$ narrowly.

Then $\liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} W_2(\mu_n, \nu_n) \geq W_2(\mu, \nu)$.

Recall:

Thm (Portmanteau): For any $g: X \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \cup \{\pm\infty\}$ lsc and bounded below, $\mu_n \xrightarrow{\text{narrowly}} \mu$ implies $\liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} \int g d\mu_n \geq \int g d\mu$.

Exercise: Suppose $\mu_n \rightarrow \mu$, $\nu_n \rightarrow \nu$ narrowly.

Then, for any $\delta_n \in \Gamma(\mu_n, \nu_n)$, there exists a subsequence δ_{n_k} s.t. $\delta_{n_k} \rightarrow \delta$ narrowly, where $\delta \in \Gamma(\mu, \nu)$.

Pf of Prop:

Choose a subsequence so that

$$\lim_{k \rightarrow +\infty} W_2(\mu_{n_k}, \nu_{n_k}) = \liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} W_2(\mu_n, \nu_n).$$

Let δ_{n_k} be OT plans from μ_{n_k} to ν_{n_k} .

By exercise, there exists a further subsequence (denoted still by δ_{n_k}) s.t. $\delta_{n_k} \rightarrow \delta \in \Gamma(\mu, \nu)$.

$$\begin{aligned} \liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} W_2(\mu_n, \nu_n) &= \lim_{k \rightarrow +\infty} W_2(\mu_{n_k}, \nu_{n_k}) \\ &= \lim_{k \rightarrow +\infty} \left(\int |x^2 - x'^2|^2 d\delta_{n_k} \right)^{1/2} \end{aligned}$$

Portmanteau

$$\geq \left(\int |x^2 - x'^2|^2 d\delta \right)^{1/2}$$

$$\geq \underline{W_2(\mu, \nu)}$$

Approximation by Convolution

Def: (mollifier) $\varphi: \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow [0, +\infty)$, bdd, meas
 $\varphi(x) = \varphi(-x)$, $\int \varphi(x) dx = 1$
 $\varphi_\varepsilon(x) = \frac{1}{\varepsilon^d} \varphi\left(\frac{x}{\varepsilon}\right)$
 $\leftarrow \int \varphi_\varepsilon(x) dx = 1$

Def: Given $\mu \in \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{R}^d)$, define

$$\varphi_\varepsilon * \mu(x) = \int \varphi_\varepsilon(x-y) d\mu(y)$$

We will often abuse notation and write

$$\underbrace{d(\varphi_\varepsilon * \mu)(x)}_{\in \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{R}^d)} = \underbrace{\varphi_\varepsilon * \mu(x)}_{\text{density}} dx \stackrel{\text{Note: } \int \varphi_\varepsilon * \mu(x) dx}{=} \int \int \varphi_\varepsilon(x-y) d\mu(y) dx = \int \int \varphi_\varepsilon(x-y) dx d\mu(y) = \int 1 d\mu(y) = 1$$

Lemma: Suppose $\mu \in \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{R}^d)$.

(i) For any $f: \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ meas, bdd below,

$$\int f d(\varphi_\varepsilon * \mu) = \int (\varphi_\varepsilon * f) d\mu$$

"associativity of convolution"

(ii) $\varphi_\varepsilon * \mu \rightarrow \mu$ narrowly, as $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$.

Pl:

(i) $\exists m \in \mathbb{R}$ s.t. $f \geq m$

$$\int f d(\mathcal{P}_\varepsilon * \mu) = \int (f-m) d(\mathcal{P}_\varepsilon * \mu) + \underbrace{\int m d(\mathcal{P}_\varepsilon * \mu)}_m$$

$$\int (\mathcal{P}_\varepsilon * f) d\mu = \int \mathcal{P}_\varepsilon * (f-m) d\mu + \underbrace{\int \mathcal{P}_\varepsilon * m d\mu}_{\int \mathcal{P}_\varepsilon(x-y) m dy = m} = m$$

By Tonelli,

$$\begin{aligned} \int (f-m) d(\mathcal{P}_\varepsilon * \mu) &= \iint (f(x)-m) \mathcal{P}_\varepsilon(x-y) d\mu(y) dx \\ &= \iint (f(x)-m) \mathcal{P}_\varepsilon(x-y) dx d\mu(y) \\ &= \int \mathcal{P}_\varepsilon * (f-m) d\mu \end{aligned}$$

(ii) Recall that for any $f \in C_b(\mathbb{R}^d)$, $\mathcal{P}_\varepsilon * f \rightarrow f$ uniformly on compact subsets of \mathbb{R}^d .
Fix $f \in C_b(\mathbb{R}^d)$.

By Prokhorov, since $\{\mu\}$ is tight,
 $\forall \delta > 0, \exists K_\delta \subset \mathbb{R}^d$ s.t.

$$\underline{2 \|f\|_\infty \mu(\mathbb{R}^d \setminus K_\delta) < \frac{\delta}{2}.}$$

Furthermore, $\exists \varepsilon_\delta > 0$ s.t. $0 < \varepsilon < \varepsilon_\delta$,

$$\|\varphi_\varepsilon * f - f\|_{L^\infty(K_\delta)} < \frac{\delta}{2}$$

Thus,

$$|\int f d(\varphi_\varepsilon * \mu) - \int f d\mu|$$

$$= |\int (\varphi_\varepsilon * f - f) d\mu|$$

$$\leq \left| \int_{K_\delta} (\varphi_\varepsilon * f - f) d\mu \right| + \left| \int_{\mathbb{R}^d \setminus K_\delta} (\varphi_\varepsilon * f - f) d\mu \right|$$

$$\leq \|\varphi_\varepsilon * f - f\|_{L^\infty(K_\delta)} \int_{K_\delta} d\mu$$

$$+ (\|\varphi_\varepsilon * f\|_\infty + \|f\|_\infty) \mu(\mathbb{R}^d \setminus K_\delta)$$

$$\leq \frac{\delta}{2} \cdot 1 + \frac{\delta}{2}$$

$$\leq \delta$$

Since f was arbitrary, $\varphi_\varepsilon * \mu \rightarrow \mu$ narrowly. \square

Now, we consider behavior of W_2 and convolution.

Lemma: Given $\mu \in \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{R}^d)$ and ϱ_ε as above,

- (i) $W_2(\mu, \varrho_\varepsilon * \mu) \leq \varepsilon (M_2(\mu))^{1/2} \leftarrow \int |x|^2 \varrho(x) dx$
(ii) $W_2(\varrho_\varepsilon * \mu, \varrho_\varepsilon * \nu) \leq W_2(\mu, \nu)$
(iii) $\lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} W_2(\varrho_\varepsilon * \mu, \varrho_\varepsilon * \nu) = W_2(\mu, \nu)$

Pf: Omitted for lack of time \therefore
 $M_2(\mu) := \int |x|^2 d\mu(x)$

Here is the proof from the last time I taught the course:

Pf: We begin with (i). Consider $\delta_\varepsilon \in \mathcal{M}(\mathbb{R}^d \times \mathbb{R}^d)$ defined by $d\delta_\varepsilon(x_1, x_2) = \varrho_\varepsilon(x_2 - x_1) dx_2 d\mu(x_1)$.

Then $\forall f$ bdd, meas,

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d \times \mathbb{R}^d} f(x_1) d\delta_\varepsilon(x_1, x_2) &= \int_{\mathbb{R}^d \times \mathbb{R}^d} f(x_1) \varrho_\varepsilon(x_2 - x_1) dx_2 d\mu(x_1) \\ &= \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} f(x_1) d\mu(x_1) \end{aligned}$$

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^d \times \mathbb{R}^d} f(x_2) d\gamma_\varepsilon(x_1, x_2) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^d \times \mathbb{R}^d} f(x_2) \varphi_\varepsilon(x_2 - x_1) dx_2 d\mu(x_1)$$

$$= \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} f * \varphi_\varepsilon(x_1) d\mu(x_1)$$

$$= \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} f(x) d(\varphi_\varepsilon * \mu)(x)$$

Thus, $\gamma_\varepsilon \in \Gamma(\mu, \varphi_\varepsilon * \mu)$. So by defn of W_2 ,

$$W_2^2(\mu, \varphi_\varepsilon * \mu) \leq \int |x_2 - x_1|^2 d\gamma_\varepsilon(x_1, x_2)$$

$$= \int |x_2 - x_1|^2 \varphi_\varepsilon(x_2 - x_1) dx_2 d\mu(x_1)$$

$$z = \frac{x_2 - x_1}{\varepsilon} \downarrow$$

$$dz = \frac{1}{\varepsilon^d} dx_2$$

$$= \int |\varepsilon z|^2 \varphi(z) dz d\mu(x_1)$$

$$= \varepsilon^2 \int |z|^2 \varphi(z) dz$$

$$= \varepsilon^2 m_2(\varphi).$$

Now prove (ii). Define $\bar{\varphi}_\varepsilon(z_1, z_2) = \begin{cases} \varphi_\varepsilon(z_1) & \text{if } z_1 = z_2 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$

Consider $\gamma_\varepsilon \in \mathcal{M}(\mathbb{R}^d \times \mathbb{R}^d)$ defined by

$$\gamma_\varepsilon := \bar{\varphi}_\varepsilon * \chi.$$

where γ is an optimal plan from μ to ν .

For any $f: \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ bdd, meas, define
 $\tilde{f}(x_1, x_2) = f(x_1)$.

Then,

$$\begin{aligned}
 \int_{\mathbb{R}^d \times \mathbb{R}^d} f(x_1) d\gamma_\varepsilon(x_1, x_2) &= \int_{\mathbb{R}^d \times \mathbb{R}^d} \tilde{f}(x_1, x_2) d(\overline{\mathcal{P}_\varepsilon * \gamma})(x_1, x_2) \\
 &= \int_{\mathbb{R}^d \times \mathbb{R}^d} \tilde{f} * \overline{\mathcal{P}_\varepsilon}(x_1, x_2) d\gamma(x_1, x_2) \\
 &= \int_{\mathbb{R}^d \times \mathbb{R}^d} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d \times \mathbb{R}^d} \tilde{f}(x_1 - z_1, x_2 - z_2) \overline{\mathcal{P}_\varepsilon}(z_1, z_2) d\vec{z} \\
 &\quad d\gamma(x_1, x_2) \\
 &= \int_{\mathbb{R}^d \times \mathbb{R}^d} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} f(x_1 - z) \mathcal{P}_\varepsilon(z) dz d\gamma(x_1, x_2) \\
 &= \int_{\mathbb{R}^d \times \mathbb{R}^d} f * \mathcal{P}_\varepsilon(x_1) d\gamma(x_1, x_2) \\
 &= \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} f * \mathcal{P}_\varepsilon(x_1) d\mu(x_1) \\
 &= \int f d(\mathcal{P}_\varepsilon * \mu)
 \end{aligned}$$

Similarly, $\int f(x_2) d\gamma_\varepsilon(x_1, x_2) = \int f(x_2) d(\mathcal{P}_\varepsilon * \nu)(x_2)$

Thus, we conclude $\gamma_\varepsilon \in \Gamma(\mathcal{Q}_\varepsilon \# \mu, \mathcal{Q}_\varepsilon \# \nu)$.

Therefore,

$$W_2^2(\mathcal{Q}_\varepsilon \# \mu, \mathcal{Q}_\varepsilon \# \nu)$$

$$\leq \int |x_1 - x_2|^2 d\bar{\mathcal{Q}}_\varepsilon \# \gamma(x_1, x_2)$$

$$= \int \int |(x_1 - z_1) - (x_2 - z_2)|^2 \bar{\mathcal{Q}}_\varepsilon(z_1, z_2) d\vec{z} d\gamma(x_1, x_2)$$

$$= \int \int |(x_1 - z) - (x_2 - z)|^2 \mathcal{Q}_\varepsilon(z) dz d\gamma(x_1, x_2)$$

$$= \int \int |x_1 - x_2|^2 \mathcal{Q}_\varepsilon(z) dz d\gamma(x_1, x_2)$$

$$= W_2^2(\mu, \nu)$$

Thus, $W_2(\mathcal{Q}_\varepsilon \# \mu, \mathcal{Q}_\varepsilon \# \nu) \leq W_2(\mu, \nu)$.

Now part (iii).

By part (ii), $\limsup_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} W_2(\mathcal{Q}_\varepsilon \# \mu, \mathcal{Q}_\varepsilon \# \nu) \leq W_2(\mu, \nu)$.

Since $\mathcal{Q}_\varepsilon \# \mu \rightarrow \mu$, $\mathcal{Q}_\varepsilon \# \nu \rightarrow \nu$ narrowly and W_2 is jointly l.s.c. wrt narrow convergence,

$$\liminf_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} W_2(\mathcal{P}_\varepsilon^\# \mu, \mathcal{P}_\varepsilon^\# \nu) \geq W_2(\mu, \nu).$$

Combining these two limits gives the result.