



**ICLR**

# On amortizing convex conjugates for optimal transport

Brandon Amos • Meta AI (FAIR) NYC



<http://github.com/bamos/presentations>  
<http://github.com/facebookresearch/w2ot>

# Optimal transport connects spaces

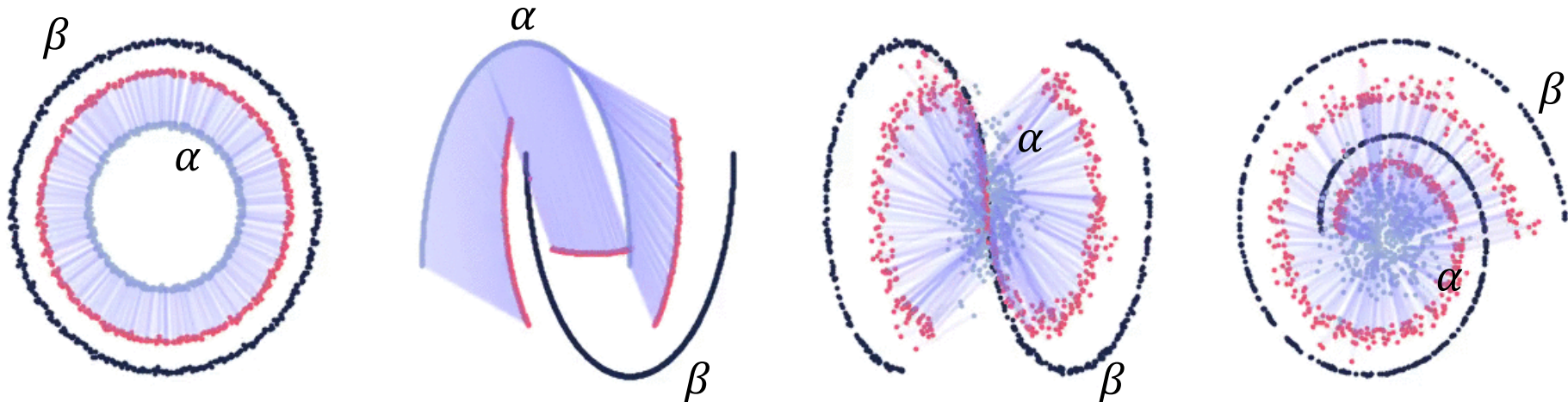
## Monge (primal)

$$T^*(\alpha, \beta) \in \operatorname{argmin}_{T \in \mathcal{C}(\alpha, \beta)} \mathbb{E}_{x \sim \alpha} \|x - T(x)\|_2^2$$

$\alpha, \beta$  are measures

$\mathcal{C}(\alpha, \beta)$  is the set of valid **coupling**

$T$  is a **transport map** from  $\alpha$  to  $\beta$



# Duality and continuous OT

**Monge** (primal)

$$T^*(\alpha, \beta) \in \operatorname{argmin}_{T \in \mathcal{C}(\alpha, \beta)} \mathbb{E}_{x \sim \alpha} \|x - T(x)\|_2^2$$



$$T^* = \nabla \hat{f} \text{ (Brenier's Theorem)}$$

**Kantorovich** (dual)

$$\hat{f} \in \operatorname{argmax}_{f \in \mathcal{L}^1(\alpha)} - \mathbb{E}_{x \sim \alpha} [f(x)] - \mathbb{E}_{y \sim \beta} [f^*(y)]$$

$$f^*(y) := - \inf_{x \in \mathcal{X}} J_f(x; y) \quad \text{with objective} \quad J_f(x; y) := f(x) - \langle x, y \rangle$$

# Solving Kantorovich's dual with a neural net

$$\max_{\theta} \mathcal{V}(\theta) \quad \text{where} \quad \mathcal{V}(\theta) := - \mathbb{E}_{x \sim \alpha} [f_{\theta}(x)] - \mathbb{E}_{y \sim \beta} [f_{\theta}^*(y)]$$

*2-wasserstein approximation via restricted convex potentials.* Taghvaei and Jalali, 2019.

*Three-Player Wasserstein GAN via Amortised Duality.* Nhan Dam et al., IJCAI 2019.

*Optimal transport mapping via input convex neural networks.* Makkuva et al., ICML 2020.

*Wasserstein-2 generative networks.* Korotin et al., ICLR 2020.

# Focus: computing the conjugate

$$\max_{\theta} \mathcal{V}(\theta) \quad \text{where} \quad \mathcal{V}(\theta) := - \mathbb{E}_{x \sim \alpha} [f_{\theta}(x)] - \mathbb{E}_{y \sim \beta} [f_{\theta}^*(y)]$$

$$f^*(y) := - \inf_{x \in \mathcal{X}} J_f(x; y) \quad \text{with objective} \quad J_f(x; y) := f(x) - \langle x, y \rangle$$

**Amortization:** Approximate the arginf with (another) neural network

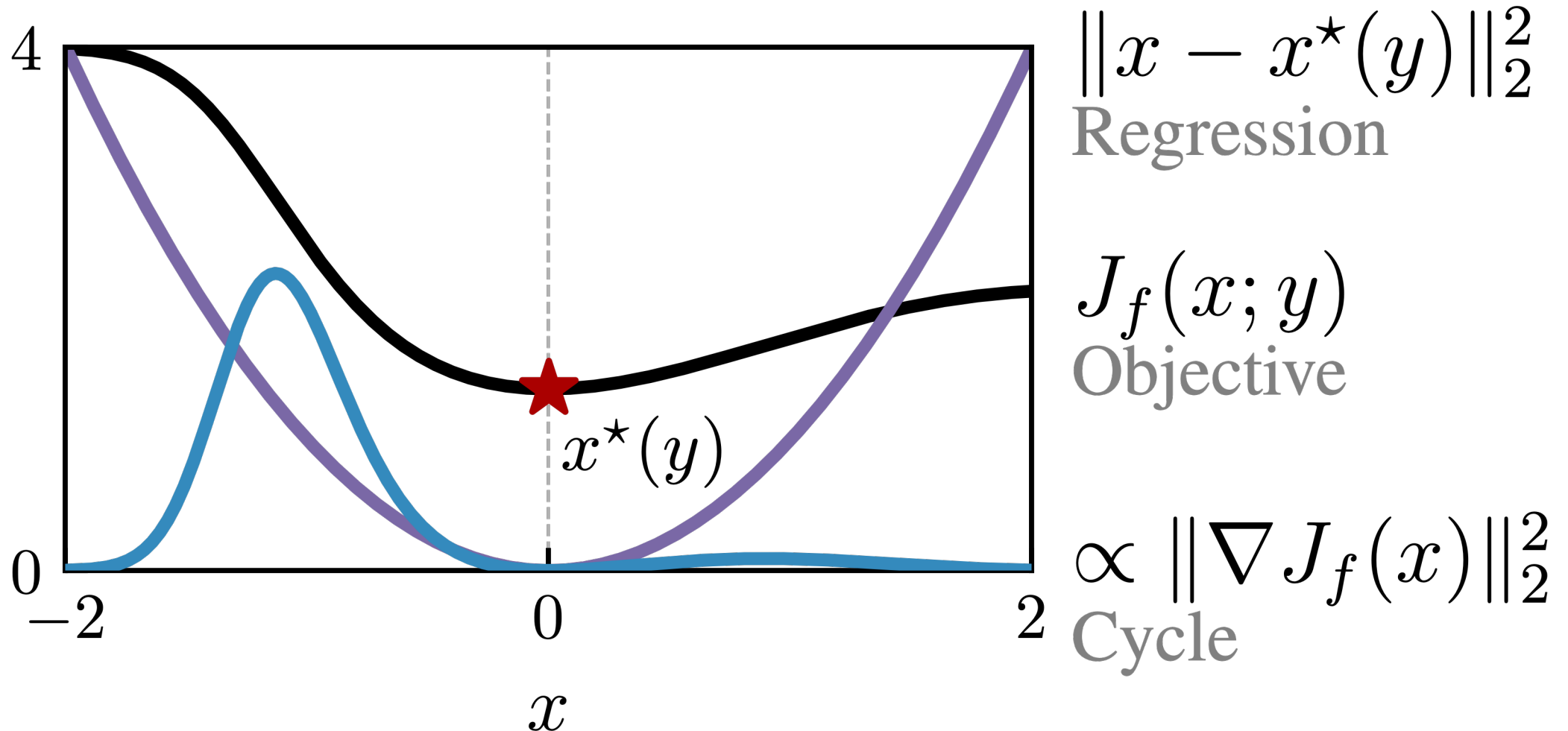
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# Conjugate amortization loss choices



# Wasserstein-2 benchmark results

*Do Neural Optimal Transport Solvers Work?* Korotin et al., NeurIPS 2021.

**Takeaway:** amortization choice important, fine-tuning significantly helps

## HD benchmarks: Unexplained Variance Percentage (UVP, lower is better)

Baselines from Korotin et al. (2021a)

Amortization loss		Conjugate solver	$n = 2$	$n = 4$	$n = 8$	$n = 16$	$n = 32$	$n = 64$	$n = 128$	$n = 256$
*[W2]	Cycle	None	0.1	0.7	2.6	3.3	6.0	7.2	2.0	2.7
*[MMv1]	None	Adam	0.2	1.0	1.8	1.4	6.9	8.1	2.2	2.6
*[MMv2]	Objective	None	0.1	0.68	2.2	3.1	5.3	10.1	3.2	2.7
*[MM]	Objective	None	0.1	0.3	0.9	2.2	4.2	3.2	3.1	4.1

**Potential model:** the input convex neural network described in [app. B.3](#)

**Amortization model:** the MLP described in [app. B.2](#)

Amortization loss		Conjugate solver	$n = 2$	$n = 4$	$n = 8$	$n = 16$	$n = 32$	$n = 64$	$n = 128$	$n = 256$
Cycle	None		0.28 ±0.09	0.90 ±0.11	2.23 ±0.20	3.03 ±0.06	5.32 ±0.14	8.79 ±0.16	5.66 ±0.45	4.34 ±0.14
Objective	None		0.27 ±0.09	0.78 ±0.12	1.78 ±0.26	2.00 ±0.11	>100	>100	>100	>100
Cycle	L-BFGS		0.26 ±0.09	0.77 ±0.11	1.63 ±0.28	1.15 ±0.14	2.02 ±0.10	4.48 ±0.89	1.65 ±0.10	5.93 ±9.43
Objective	L-BFGS		0.26 ±0.09	0.79 ±0.12	1.63 ±0.30	1.12 ±0.11	1.92 ±0.19	4.40 ±0.79	1.64 ±0.11	2.24 ±0.13
Regression	L-BFGS		0.26 ±0.09	0.78 ±0.12	1.64 ±0.29	1.14 ±0.12	1.93 ±0.20	4.41 ±0.74	1.69 ±0.11	2.21 ±0.15
Cycle	Adam		0.26 ±0.09	0.79 ±0.11	1.62 ±0.29	1.14 ±0.12	1.95 ±0.21	4.55 ±0.62	1.88 ±0.26	>100
Objective	Adam		0.26 ±0.09	0.79 ±0.14	1.62 ±0.31	1.08 ±0.14	1.89 ±0.19	4.23 ±0.76	1.59 ±0.12	1.99 ±0.15
Regression	Adam		0.35 ±0.07	0.81 ±0.12	1.61 ±0.32	1.09 ±0.11	1.85 ±0.20	4.42 ±0.68	1.63 ±0.08	1.99 ±0.16

**Potential model:** the non-convex neural network (MLP) described in [app. B.4](#)

**Amortization model:** the MLP described in [app. B.2](#)

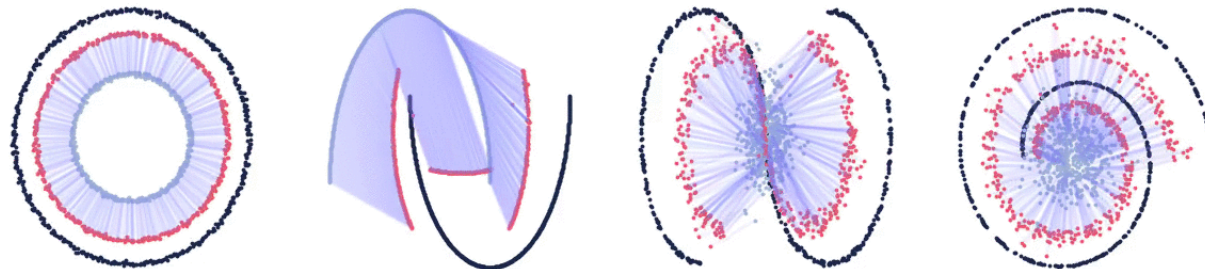
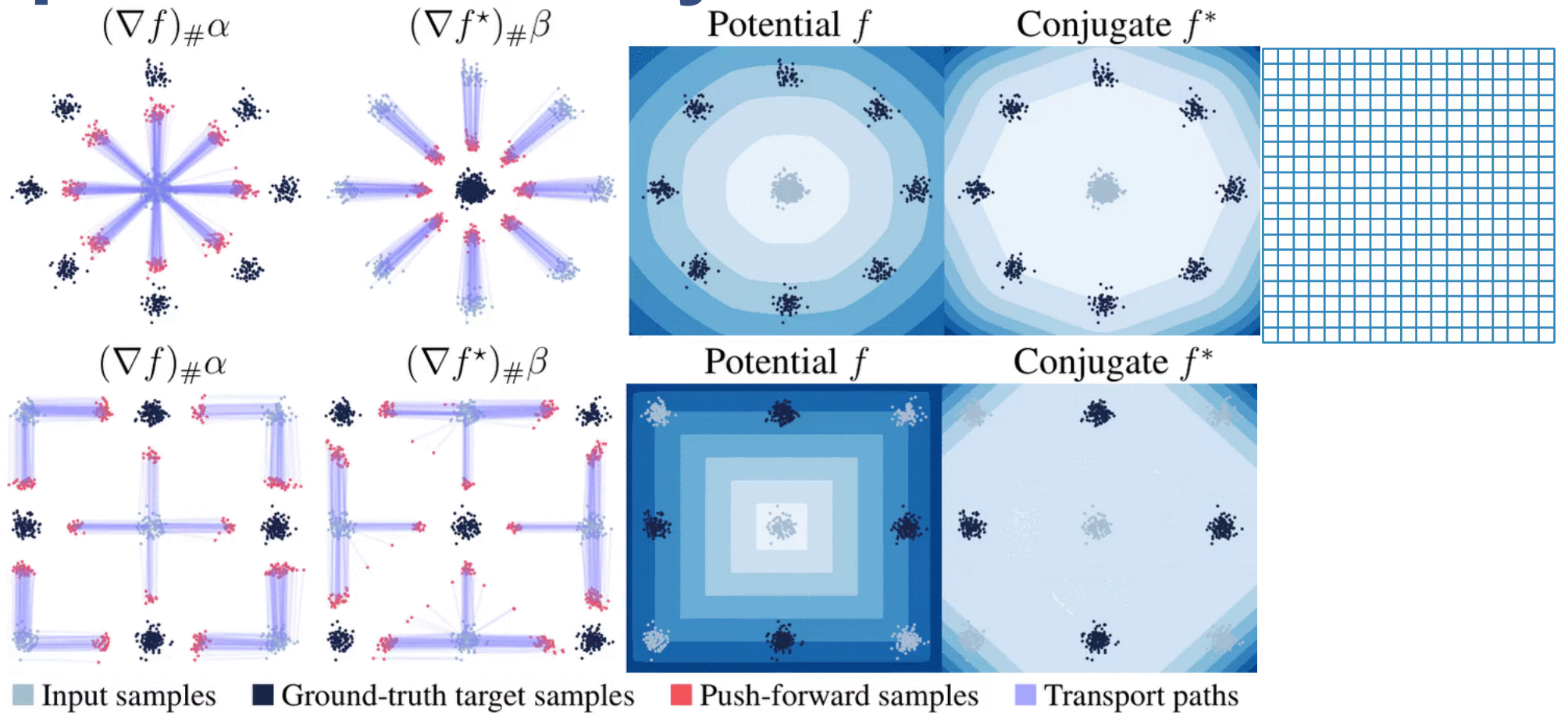
Amortization loss		Conjugate solver	$n = 2$	$n = 4$	$n = 8$	$n = 16$	$n = 32$	$n = 64$	$n = 128$	$n = 256$
Cycle	None		0.05 ±0.00	0.35 ±0.01	1.51 ±0.08	>100	>100	>100	>100	>100
Objective	None		>100	>100	>100	>100	>100	>100	>100	>100
Cycle	L-BFGS		>100	>100	>100	>100	>100	>100	>100	>100
Objective	L-BFGS		0.03 ±0.00	0.22 ±0.01	0.60 ±0.03	0.80 ±0.11	2.09 ±0.31	2.08 ±0.40	0.67 ±0.05	0.59 ±0.04
Regression	L-BFGS		0.03 ±0.00	0.22 ±0.01	0.61 ±0.04	0.77 ±0.10	1.97 ±0.38	2.08 ±0.39	0.67 ±0.05	0.65 ±0.07
Cycle	Adam		0.18 ±0.03	0.69 ±0.56	1.62 ±2.82	>100	>100	>100	>100	>100
Objective	Adam		0.06 ±0.01	0.26 ±0.02	0.63 ±0.07	0.81 ±0.10	1.99 ±0.32	2.21 ±0.32	0.77 ±0.05	0.66 ±0.07
Regression	Adam		0.22 ±0.01	0.28 ±0.02	0.61 ±0.07	0.80 ±0.10	2.07 ±0.38	2.37 ±0.46	0.77 ±0.06	0.75 ±0.09
Improvement factor over prior work			<b>3.3</b>	<b>3.1</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>4.4</b>

## CelebA benchmarks: UVP

Amortization loss		Conjugate solver	Potential Model	Early Generator	Mid Generator	Late Generator
*[W2]	Cycle	None	ConvICNN64	1.7	0.5	0.25
*[MM]	Objective	None	ResNet	2.2	0.9	0.53
*[MM-R <sup>†</sup> ]	Objective	None	ResNet	1.4	0.4	0.22
Cycle	None	ConvNet		>100	26.50 ±60.14	0.29 ±0.59
Objective	None	ConvNet		>100	0.29 ±0.15	0.69 ±0.90
Cycle	Adam	ConvNet		0.65 ±0.02	0.21 ±0.00	0.11 ±0.04
Cycle	L-BFGS	ConvNet		0.62 ±0.01	0.20 ±0.00	0.09 ±0.00
Objective	Adam	ConvNet		0.65 ±0.02	0.21 ±0.00	0.11 ±0.05
Objective	L-BFGS	ConvNet		0.61 ±0.01	0.20 ±0.00	0.09 ±0.00
Regression	Adam	ConvNet		0.66 ±0.01	0.21 ±0.00	0.12 ±0.00
Regression	L-BFGS	ConvNet		0.62 ±0.01	0.20 ±0.00	0.09 ±0.01
Improvement factor over prior work				<b>2.3</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>2.4</b>

<sup>†</sup>the reversed direction from Korotin et al. (2021a), i.e. the potential model is associated with the  $\beta$  measure

# Transport between synthetic measures





# Learning flows via continuous OT

## Continuous OT for flows:

1. Works **only from samples** (no likelihoods needed)
2. No need to explicitly enforce invertibility
3. No need to compute the log-det of the Jacobian

$$p_Y(y) = p_X(f^{-1}(y)) \left| \frac{\partial f^{-1}(y)}{\partial y} \right|$$



# [github.com/ott-jax/ott](https://github.com/ott-jax/ott)



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## Optimal Transport Tools (OTT)

### Introduction

**OTT** is a **JAX** package that bundles a few utilities to compute, and differentiate as needed, the solution to optimal transport (OT) problems, taken in a fairly wide sense. For instance, **OTT** can of course compute Wasserstein (or Gromov-Wasserstein) distances between weighted clouds of points (or histograms) in a wide variety of scenarios, but also estimate Monge maps, Wasserstein barycenters, and help with simpler tasks such as differentiable approximations to ranking or even clustering.



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