

Decomposition of a measure according to Wasserstein tangent cones

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Table of Contents

Introduction

Previous literature on this problem

Result

Wasserstein distance

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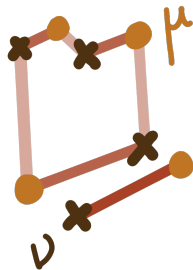
$$W^2(\mu, \nu) := \inf_{\eta \in \Gamma(\mu, \nu)} \int_{(x, y)} |y - x|^2 d\eta.$$

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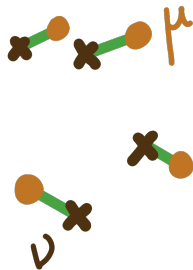


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Perturbations of μ

One “moves around” $\mu \in \mathcal{P}_2(\Omega)$ along the curves

$$h \mapsto (\pi_x + h\pi_v)_\# \xi,$$

where $\xi = \xi(dx, dv) \in \mathcal{P}_2(T\Omega)_\mu$ satisfies $\pi_{x\#}\xi = \mu$.

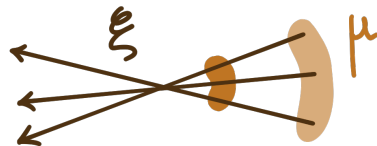


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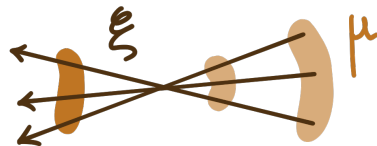


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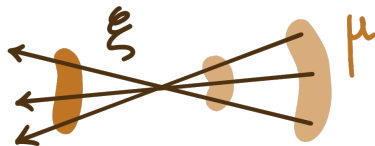


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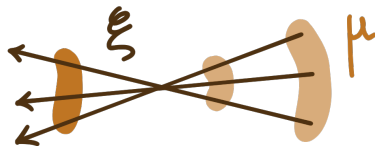
- a distance: $W_\mu : (\xi, \zeta) \mapsto \sqrt{\int_{x \in \Omega} W^2(\xi_x, \zeta_x) d\mu(x)}$, with $\xi = \xi_x \otimes \mu$ and $\zeta = \zeta_x \otimes \mu$;

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- a scalar product: $\langle \xi, \zeta \rangle_\mu := \int_{x \in \Omega} \langle \xi_x, \zeta_x \rangle_x d\mu(x)$, with

$$\langle \xi_x, \zeta_x \rangle_x = \sup_{\eta_x \in \Gamma(\xi_x, \zeta_x)} \int_{(v,w)} \langle v, w \rangle d\eta_x.$$

Orthogonality and centred fields

Case of map-induced measure fields

If $\xi_i = (id, f_i)_\# \mu$ for $f_0, f_1 \in L^2_\mu(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^d)$, then

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What can we say on centred + “optimal” fields?

Examples

Definition – Centred tangent measure fields $\xi \in \mathcal{P}_2(T\Omega)_\mu^0$ is tangent if there exists optimal plans $(\eta_n)_n$ with first marginal μ , and $(h_n)_n \subset [1, \infty)$, such that $(\pi_x + h_n \pi_v)_\# \eta_n \rightarrow_n \xi$ with respect to W_μ . Denote \mathbf{Tan}_μ^0 the set of such ξ .

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Ex. 3. If $\mu = (id, 0)_\# \mathcal{L}_{[0,1]}$ in dimension 2, then $\xi \in \mathbf{Tan}_\mu^0$ iff ξ is centred and $v \perp e_1$ for ξ -a.e. (x, v) .

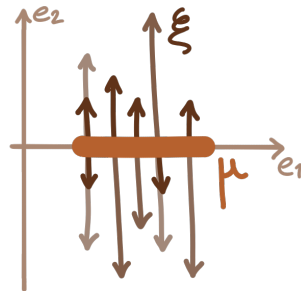


Table of Contents

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(Extract of) Lott's result

Theorem 1.1 of [Lot16]¹ If

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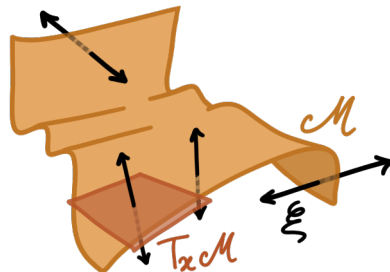
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$$v \perp T_x \mathcal{M} \quad \xi - \text{almost everywhere.}$$



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Nonsmooth surfaces: Zajíček's theorem

Definition A set $A \subset \mathbb{R}^d$ is DC_k (Difference of Convex of dim k) if up to permuting the axes,

$$A = \{ (x_1, \dots, x_k, \Phi(x_1, \dots, x_k)) \mid \Phi : \mathbb{R}^k \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{d-k}, \text{ with each } \Phi_i = \text{convex} - \text{convex} \}.$$

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Theorem 1 of [Zaj79]¹ If $\varphi : \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is convex, then each $J_k(\varphi)$ is $\sigma\text{-DC}_k$.
Conversely, if $A \subset \mathbb{R}^d$ is $\sigma\text{-DC}_k$, there exists a convex $\varphi : \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ such that $A \subset J_k(\varphi)$.

¹L. Zajíček, "On the differentiation of convex functions in finite and infinite dimensional spaces" (1979).

See also G. Alberti, "On the structure of singular sets of convex functions" (1994).

Corollary: sharp answer to Monge's problem

Theorem – Brenier¹-McCann²[-Gigli³] Let $\mu \in \mathcal{P}_2(\Omega)$.

¹[Y. Brenier](#), "Polar factorization and monotone rearrangement of vector-valued functions" (1991).

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With the previous notations,

$$\mathbf{Tan}_{\mu}^0 = \{0_{\mu}\} \quad \Longleftrightarrow \quad \mu(A) = 0 \text{ for any } \text{DC}_{d-1} \text{ set } A.$$

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Theorem [Aus25]¹ Let $A \subset \mathcal{P}_2(\mathbb{T}\Omega)_\mu^0$ be a W_μ -closed nonnegative cone, which is convex along interpolation through any plans $\eta_x \in \Gamma(\xi_x, \zeta_x)$.

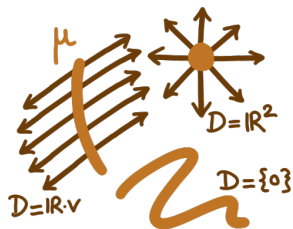


¹A. Aussadat, *Local structure of centred tangent cones in the Wasserstein space* (2025). [ArXiv preprint]

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$$\xi \in A \quad \Longleftrightarrow \quad [\xi \text{ is centred and } v \in D(x) \text{ for } \xi - \text{almost any } (x, v).]$$

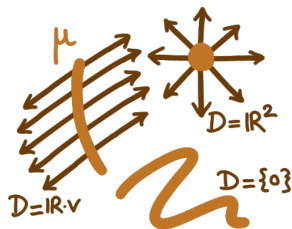


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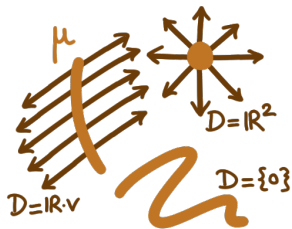
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- By [Gig08], Tan_μ^0 is a closed convex cone of centred fields.

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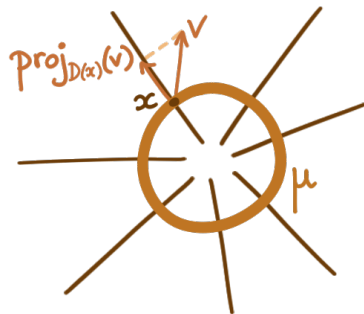
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Explicitly, $\xi \in \mathbf{Tan}_\mu^0$ if and only if ξ is (centred and) concentrated on the normal spaces to each A_k .

Small application: projection on Tan_μ^0

For each x , denote $\text{proj}_{D(x)} : \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^d$ the projection over $D(x)$.



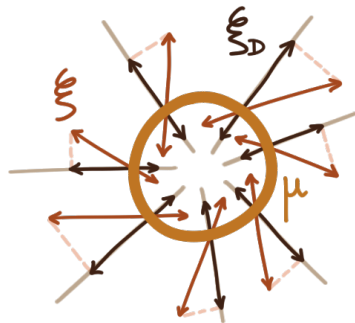
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For each x , denote $\text{proj}_{D(x)} : \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^d$ the projection over $D(x)$.

Corollary For any $\xi \in \mathcal{P}_2(\mathbf{T}\Omega)_\mu^0$, the measure field

$$\xi_D := (\pi_x, \text{proj}_{D(x)}(\pi_v))_\# \xi$$

is the unique minimizer of $W_\mu(\zeta, \xi)$ over $\zeta \in \mathbf{Tan}_\mu^0$.



Directions and open questions

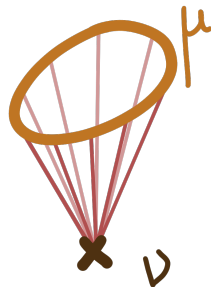
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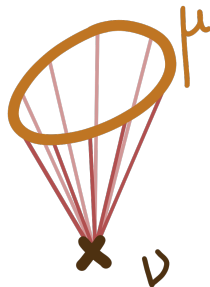


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Thank you for your attention!

