

Improving Neural Optimal Transport via Displacement Interpolation

2024 KIAS CAINS Fall Workshop

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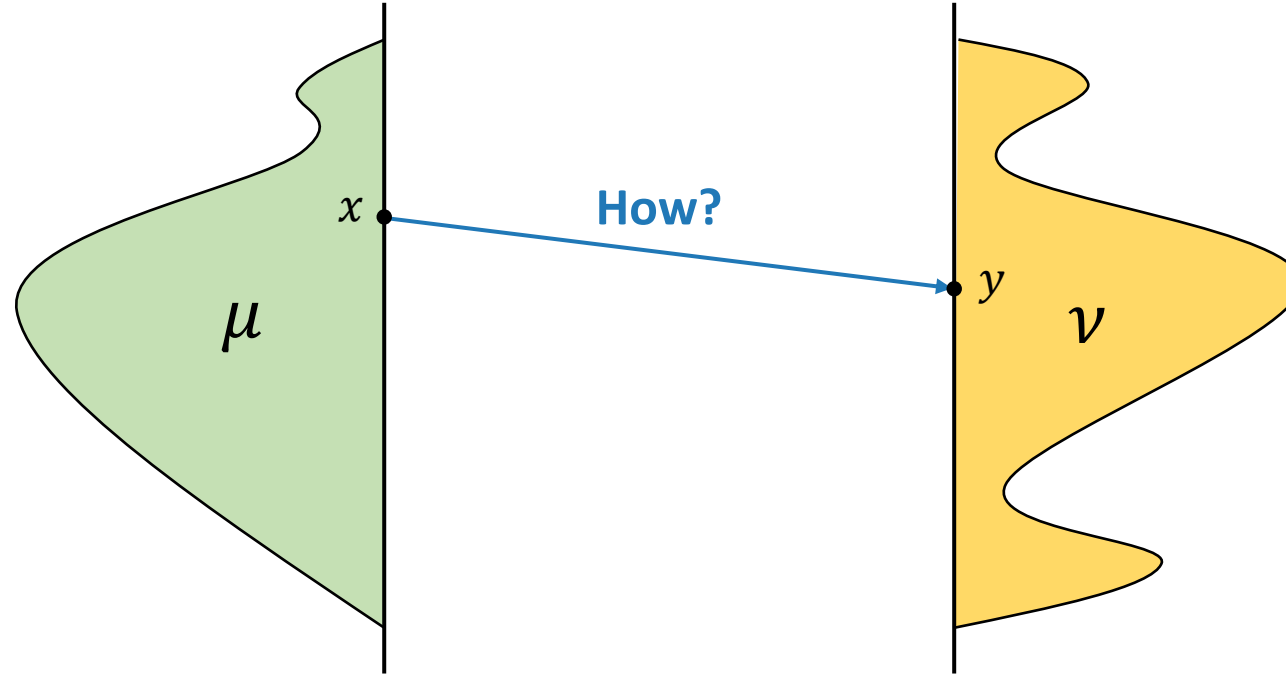
CONTENTS

1. Introduction
2. Instability Challenges in Neural Static Optimal Transport
3. Displacement Interpolation Optimal Transport Model (DIOTM)
4. Experiments

Introduction

Optimal Transport (OT) Problem

- Optimal Transport refers to the most **cost-minimizing way to transport source distribution μ to target ν .**



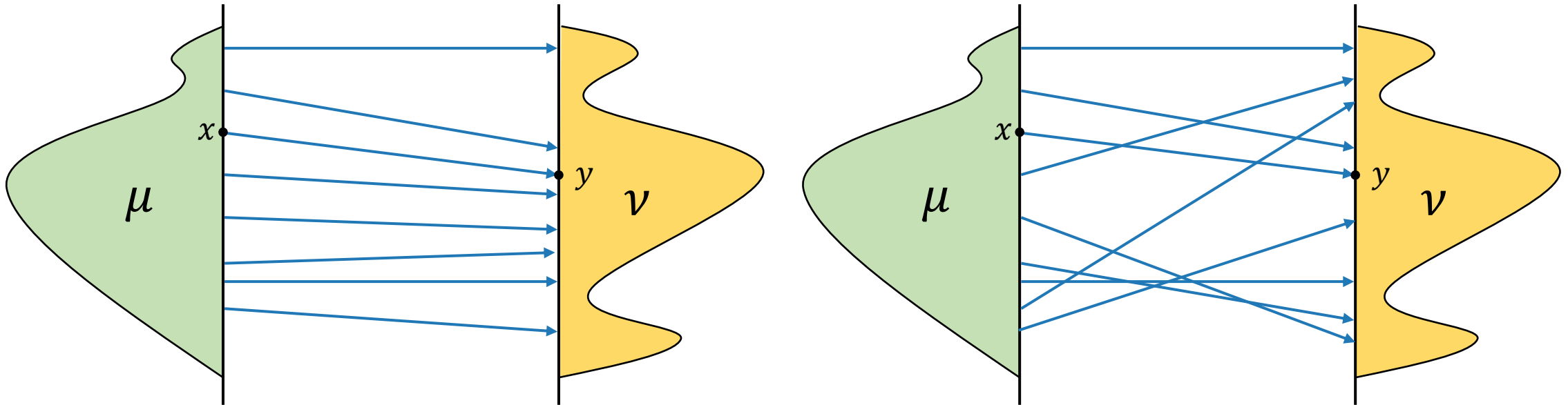
[1] Villani, Cédric. *Optimal transport: old and new*. Vol. 338. Berlin: springer, 2009.

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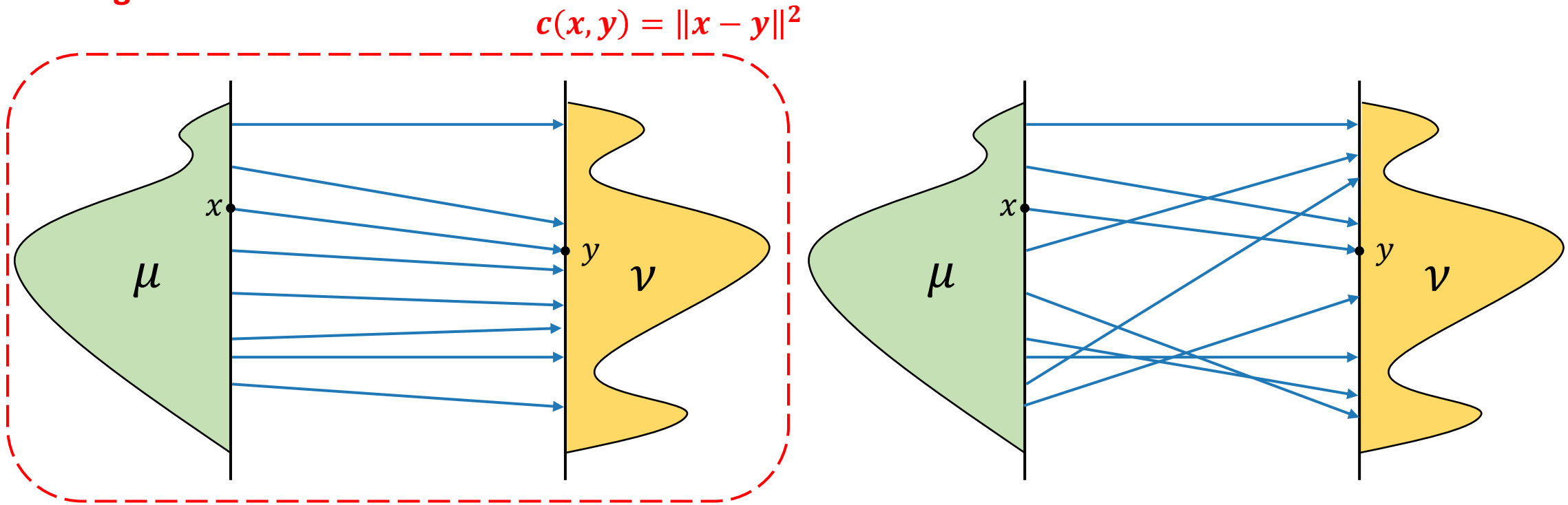
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Introduction

Optimal Transport (OT) Problem

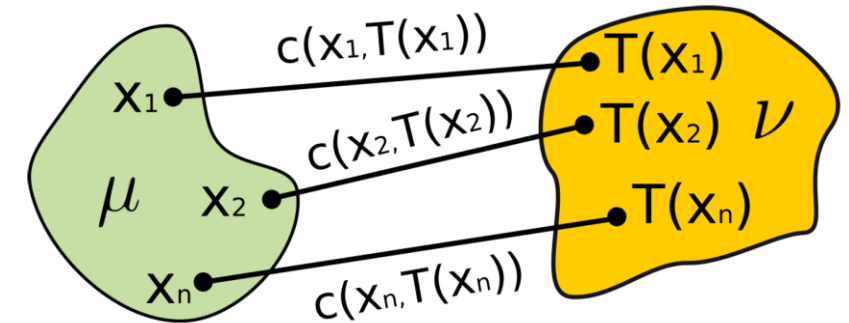
- Optimal Transport refers to the most **cost-minimizing way to transport source distribution μ to target ν** .

- Monge's Formulation.**

$$C(\mu, \nu) := \inf_{T_{\#}\mu=\nu} \left[\int_{\mathcal{X}} c(x, T(x)) d\mu(x) \right].$$

Transport Map T

$$x \sim \mu \Rightarrow T(x) \sim \nu$$



Monge's Optimal Transport [2]

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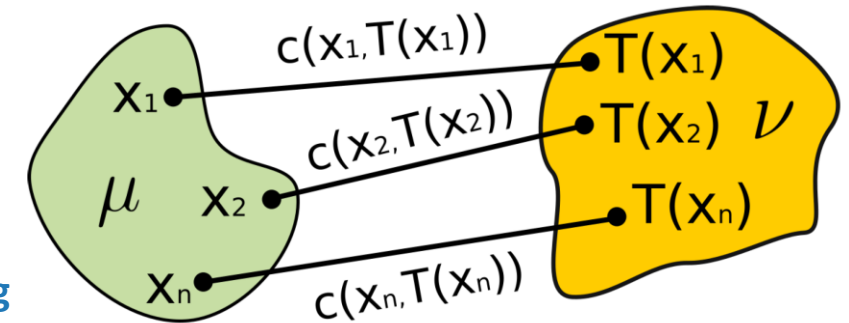
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Optimality by cost-minimizing



Monge's Optimal Transport [2]

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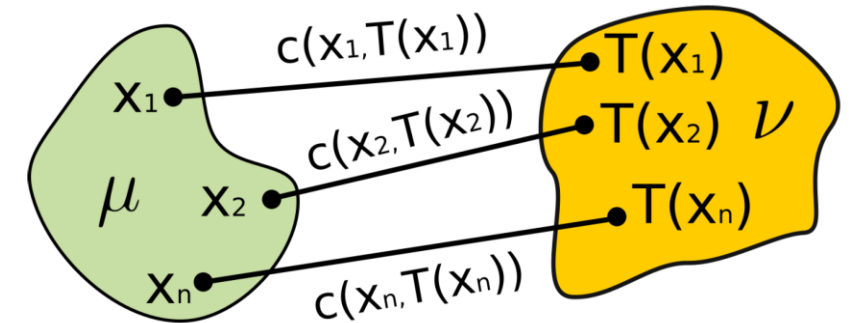
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Monge's Optimal Transport [2]

- Kantorovich's Relaxation.**

$$C(\mu, \nu) := \inf_{\pi \in \Pi(\mu, \nu)} \left[\int_{\mathcal{X} \times \mathcal{Y}} c(x, y) d\pi(x, y) \right].$$

where $\Pi(\mu, \nu) :=$ the set of joint probability distributions on $\mathcal{X} \times \mathcal{Y}$ whose marginals are μ and ν .

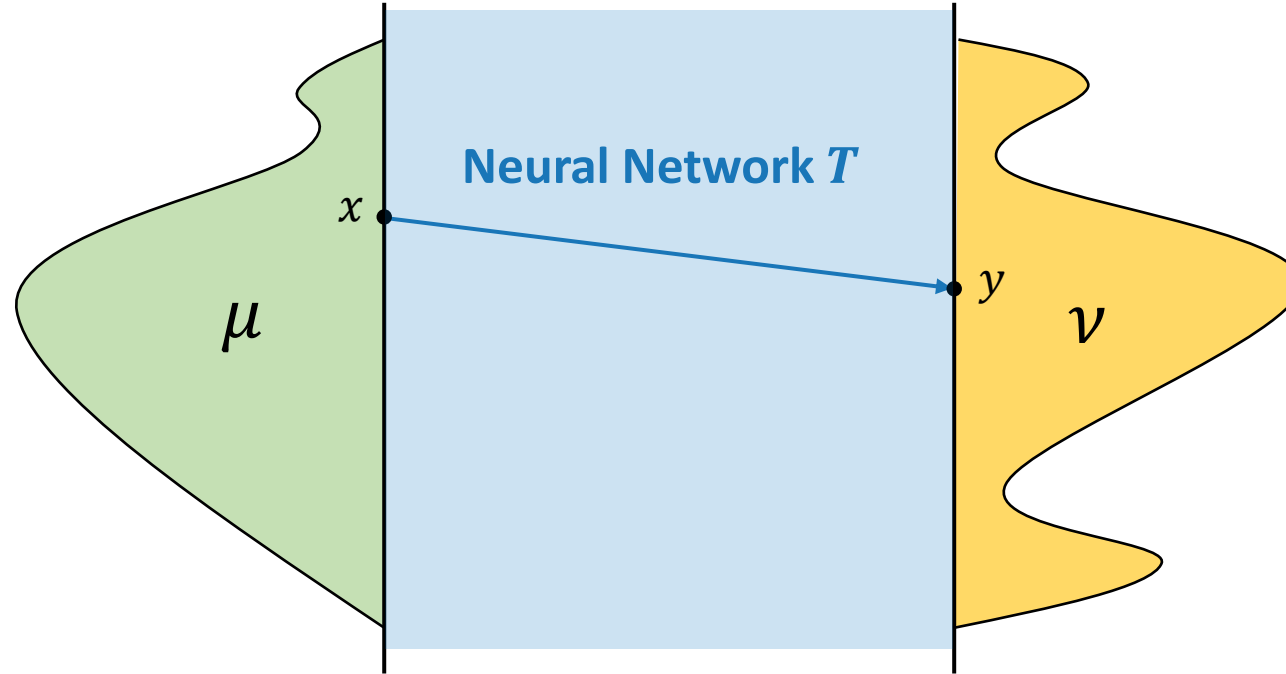
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Introduction

Neural Optimal Transport

- Today, we focus on approaches for **learning (static) optimal transport maps with neural networks**.



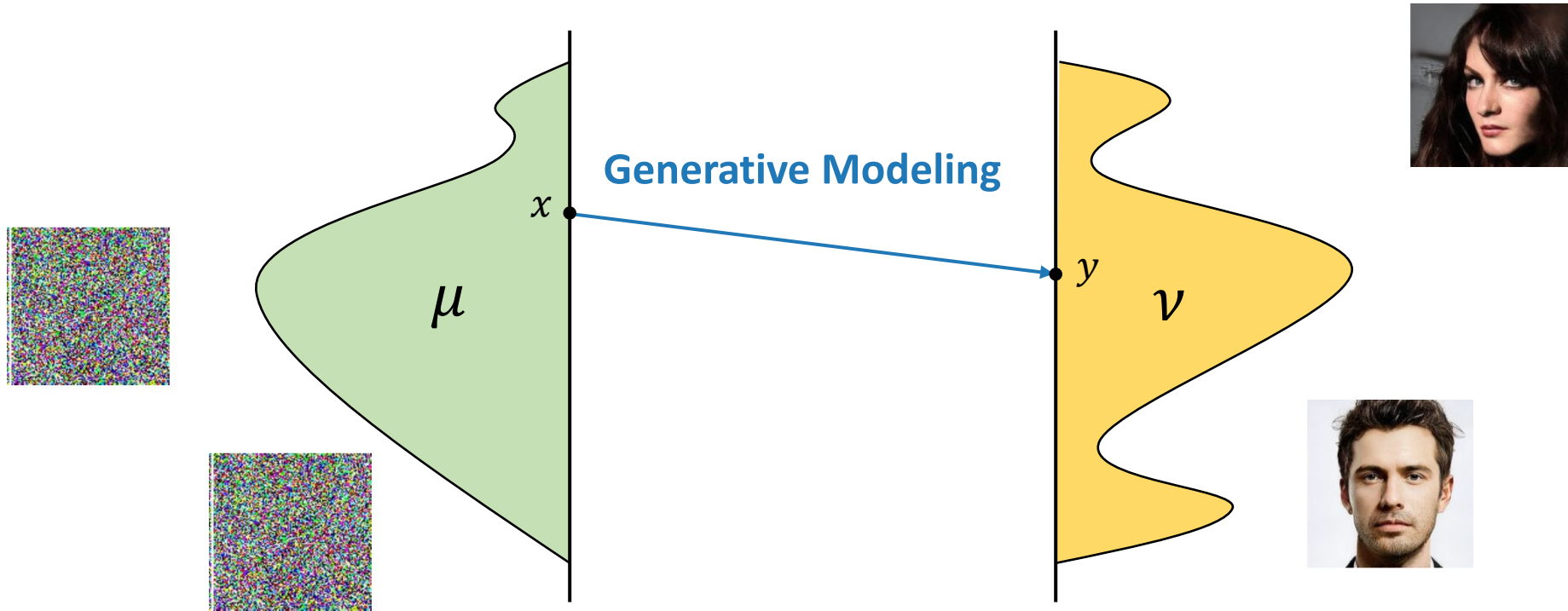
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Introduction

Neural Optimal Transport Applications

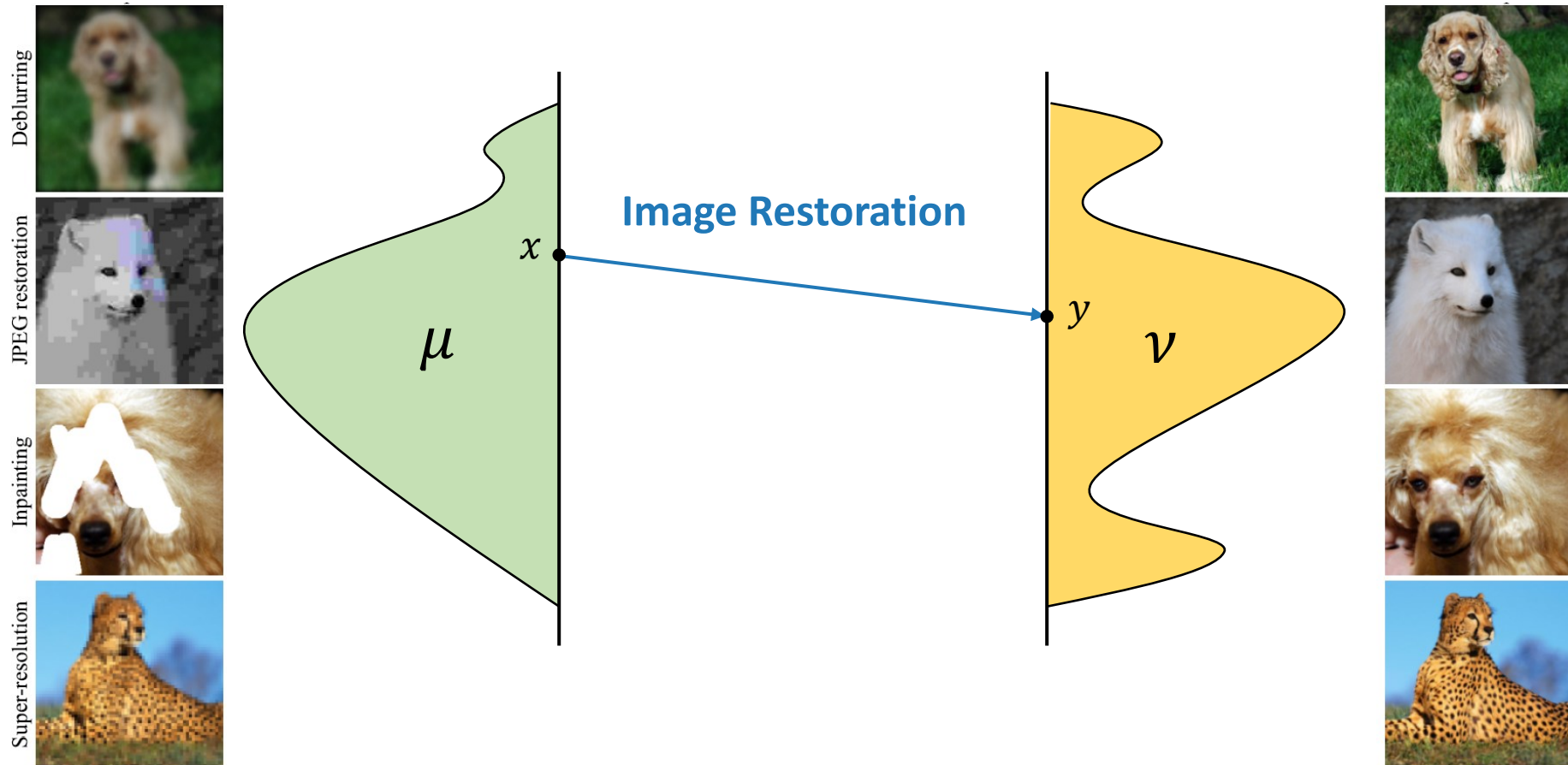
- The Neural Optimal Transport can be applied to **any distribution transport applications**.



Introduction

Neural Optimal Transport Applications

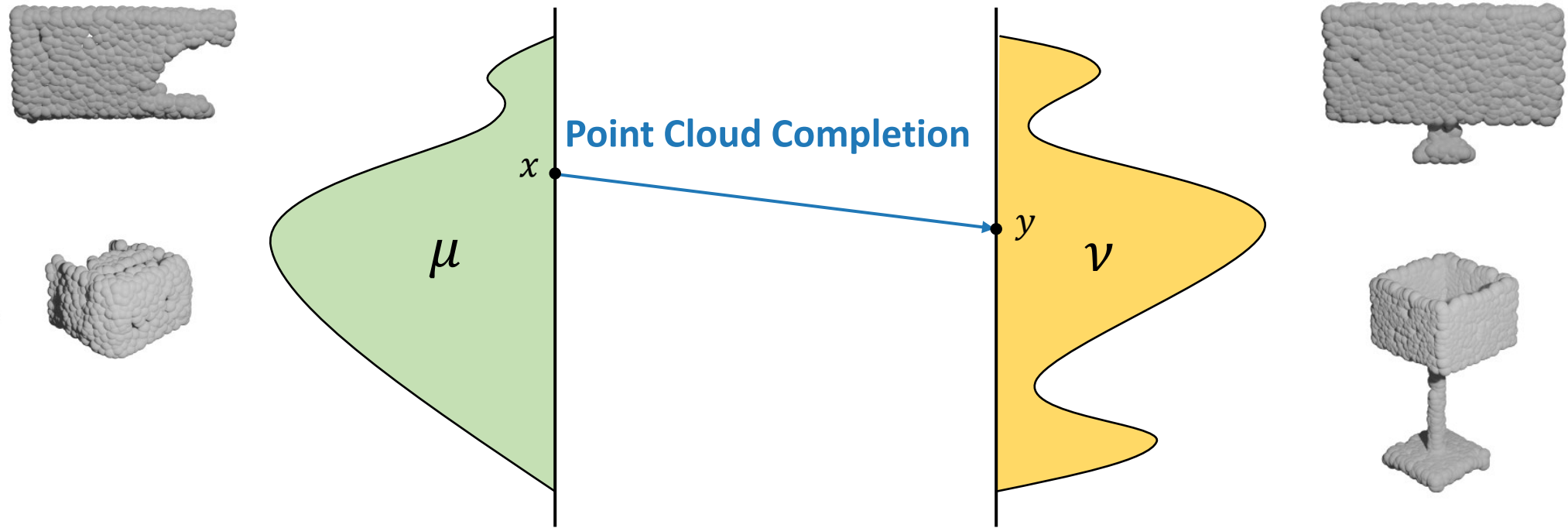
- For example, **Computer Vision Applications**, such as **Image Restoration**.



Introduction

Neural Optimal Transport Applications

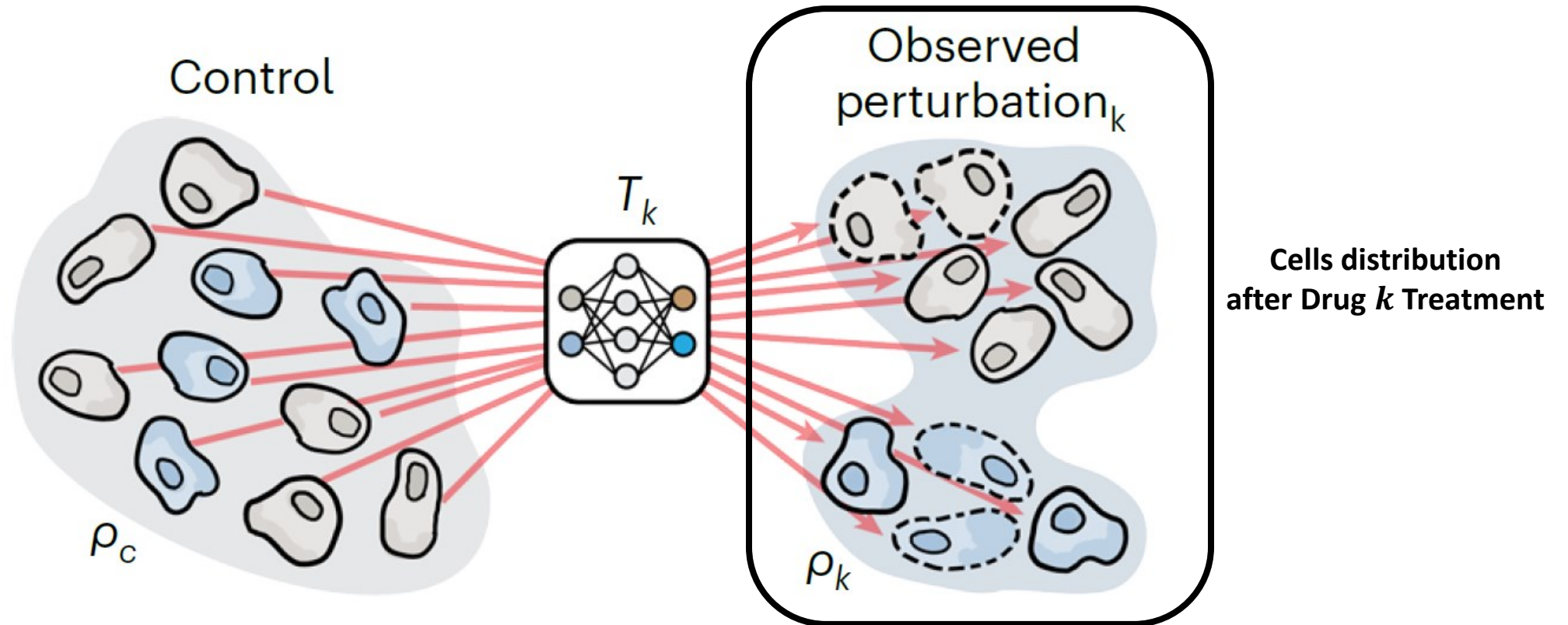
- For example, **Computer Vision Applications**, such as **Point Cloud Completion**.



Introduction

Neural Optimal Transport Applications

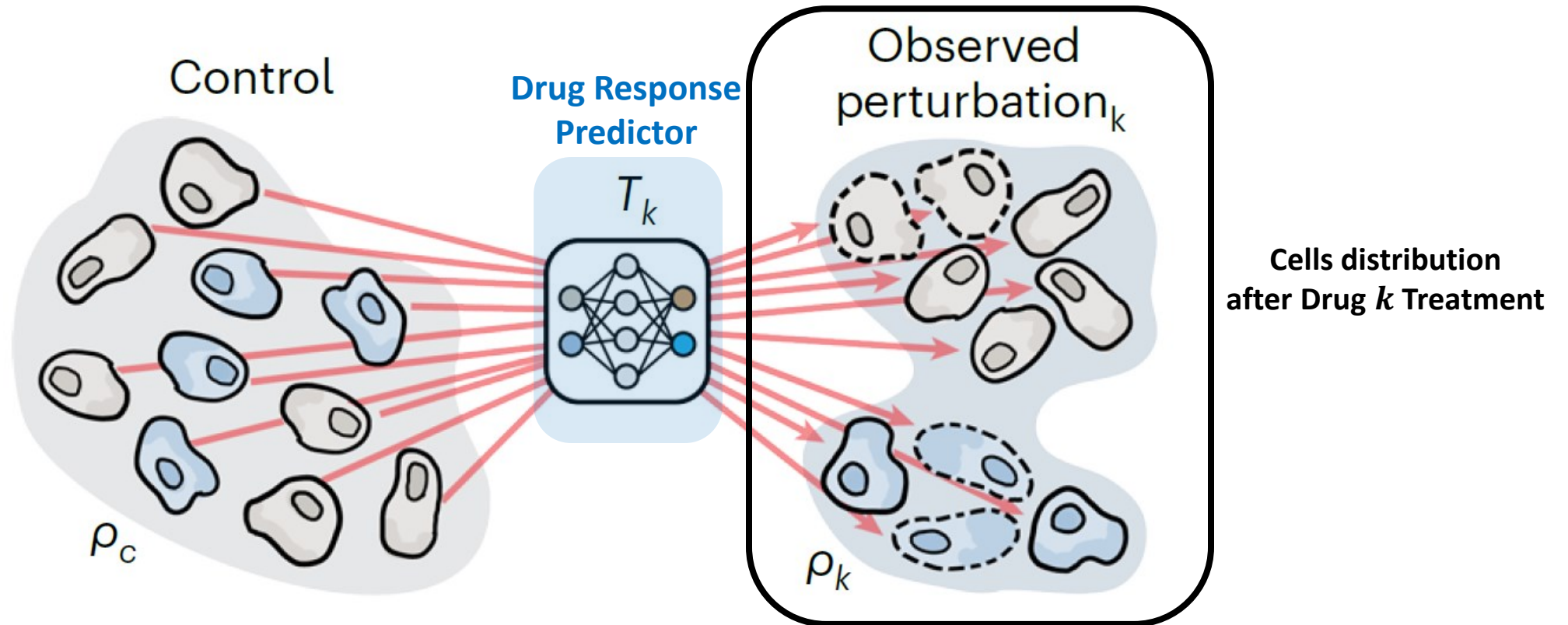
- For example, **AI for Science**, such as **Prediction of Single-cell perturbation responses**.
 - What **effect would Drug k have** on these cell populations?



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Neural Optimal Transport Applications

- For example, **AI for Science**, such as **Prediction of Single-cell perturbation responses**.
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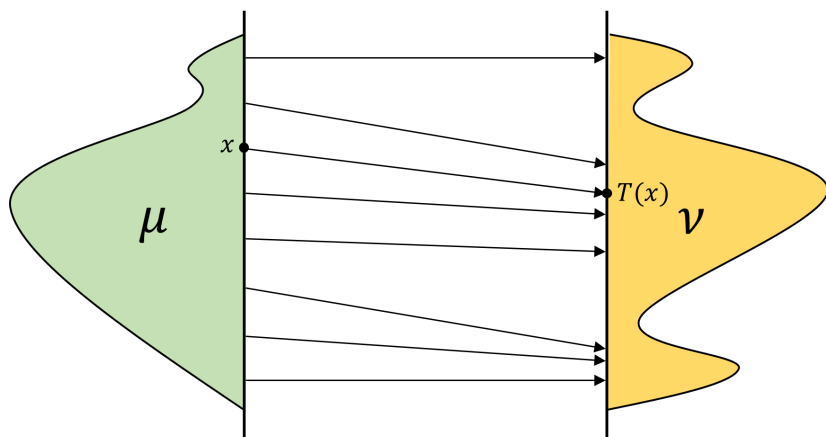


Instability Challenges in Neural Static OT

Previous Neural Optimal Transport

Optimal Transport Map (OTM)

- OTM [1, 2] learns the **transport map** T through a max-min formulation.
 - v^c denotes the **c-transform** of v , i.e., $v^c(x) = \inf_{y \in \mathcal{Y}} (c(x, y) - v(y))$.



Static Optimal Transport

$$C(\mu, \nu) := \inf_{\pi \in \Pi(\mu, \nu)} \left[\int_{\mathcal{X} \times \mathcal{Y}} c(x, y) d\pi(x, y) \right],$$

↓ Semi-dual formulation for OT

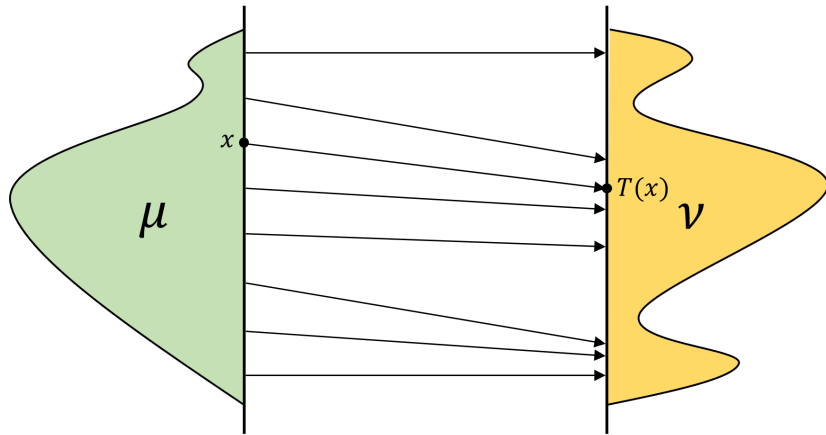
$$= \sup_{v \in L^1(\nu)} \left[\int_{\mathcal{X}} \underbrace{v^c(x)}_{\text{c-transform of } v} d\mu(x) + \int_{\mathcal{Y}} v(y) d\nu(y) \right]$$

Previous Neural Optimal Transport

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Static Optimal Transport

$$C(\mu, \nu) := \inf_{\pi \in \Pi(\mu, \nu)} \left[\int_{\mathcal{X} \times \mathcal{Y}} c(x, y) d\pi(x, y) \right],$$

Semi-dual formulation for OT

$$= \sup_{v \in L^1(\nu)} \left[\int_{\mathcal{X}} \underbrace{v^c(x)}_{\text{c-transform of } v} d\mu(x) + \int_{\mathcal{Y}} v(y) d\nu(y) \right]$$

$$\rightarrow \mathcal{L}_{v_\phi, T_\theta} = \sup_{v_\phi} \left[\int_{\mathcal{X}} \inf_{T_\theta} [c(x, T_\theta(x)) - v_\phi(T_\theta(x))] d\mu(x) + \int_{\mathcal{Y}} v_\phi(y) d\nu(y) \right].$$

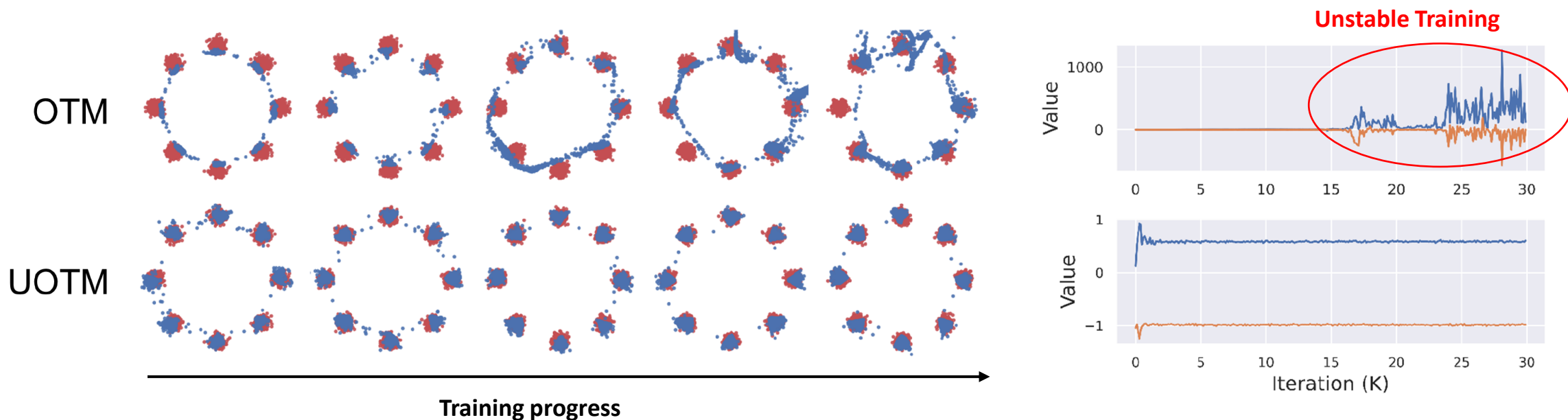
$$T_\theta : \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathcal{Y}, x \mapsto \arg \inf_{y \in \mathcal{Y}} [c(x, y) - v(y)]$$

Min-max objective between Transport map T and Potential v

Instability Challenges in Neural Static OT

Instability Challenges in OTM

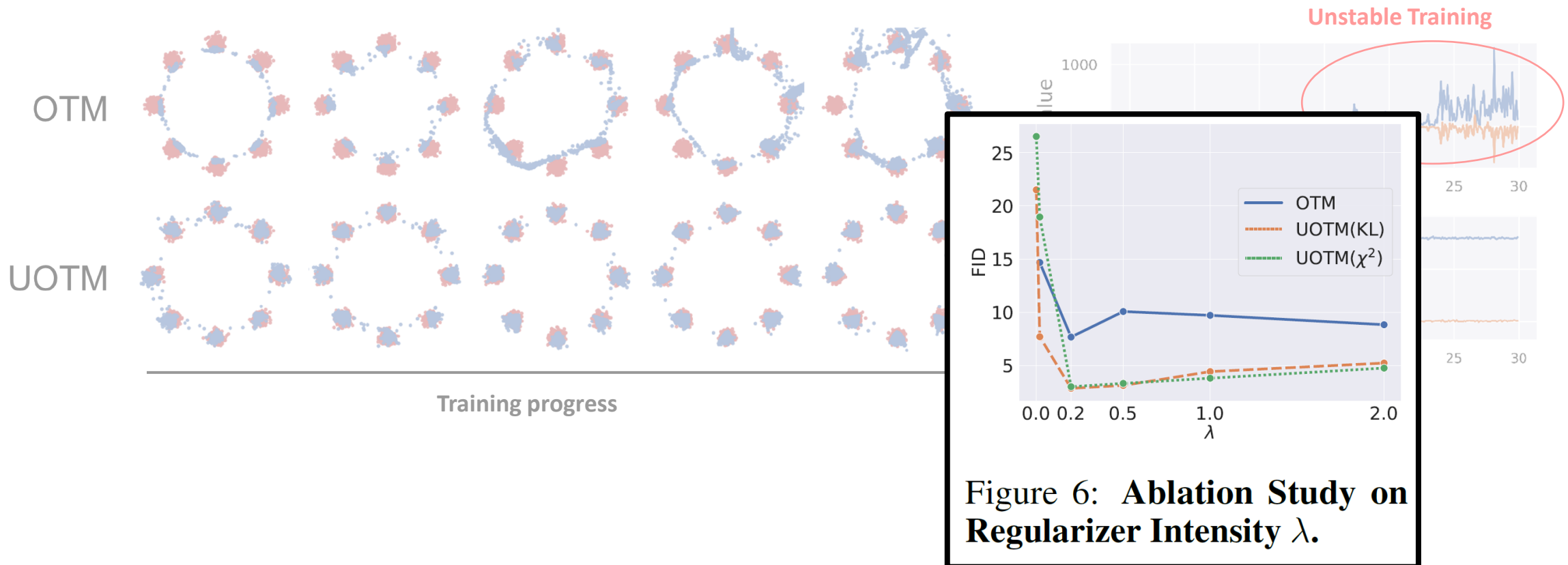
- **Unstable training dynamics** and high sensitivity to hyperparameters in previous approaches



Instability Challenges in Neural Static OT

Instability Challenges in OTM

- Unstable training dynamics and **high sensitivity to hyperparameters** in previous approaches

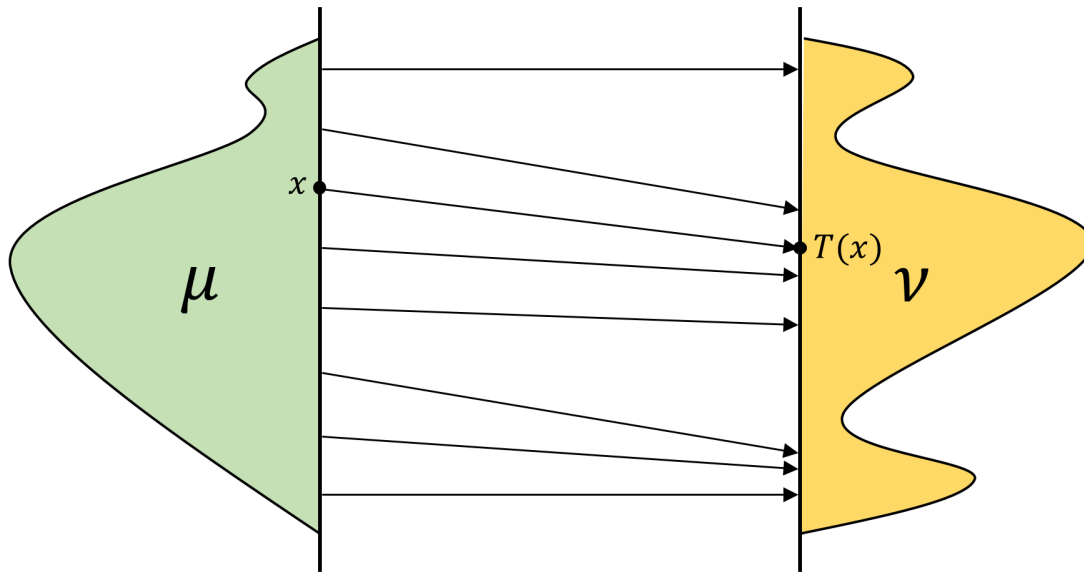


Displacement Interpolation Optimal Transport Model

Dynamic Optimal Transport

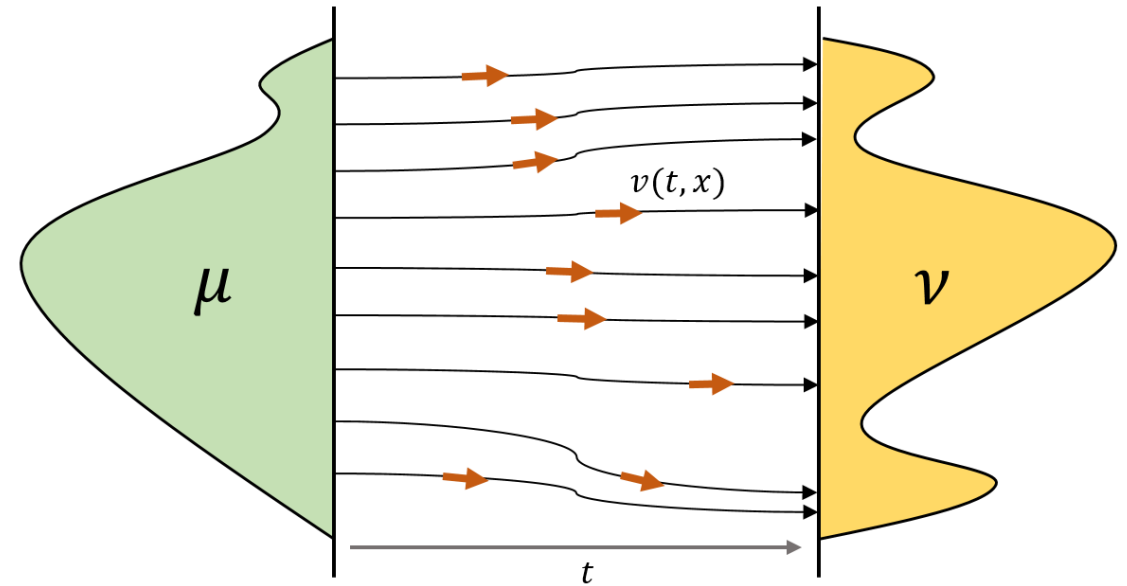
- The dynamic optimal transport problem tracks the **continuous evolution** of μ to ν .

$$T_{\#}\mu = \nu$$



Static Transport Map T from μ to ν

$$\frac{dx}{dt} = v_t(x)$$



Optimal **Dynamics** from μ to ν

Dynamic Optimal Transport and Displacement Interpolation

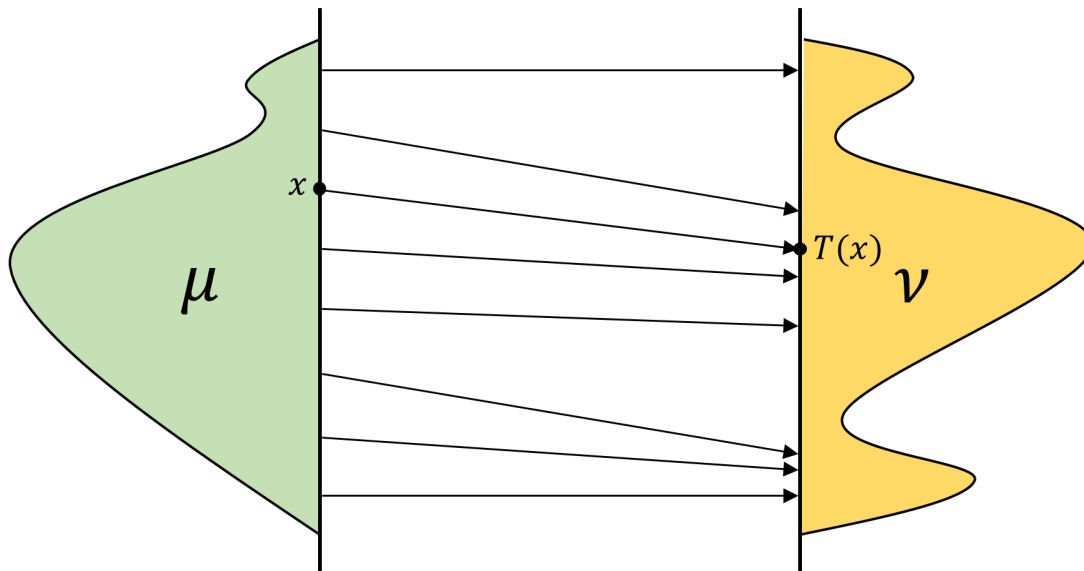
Dynamic Optimal Transport

- The dynamic optimal transport problem tracks the **continuous evolution** of μ to ν .

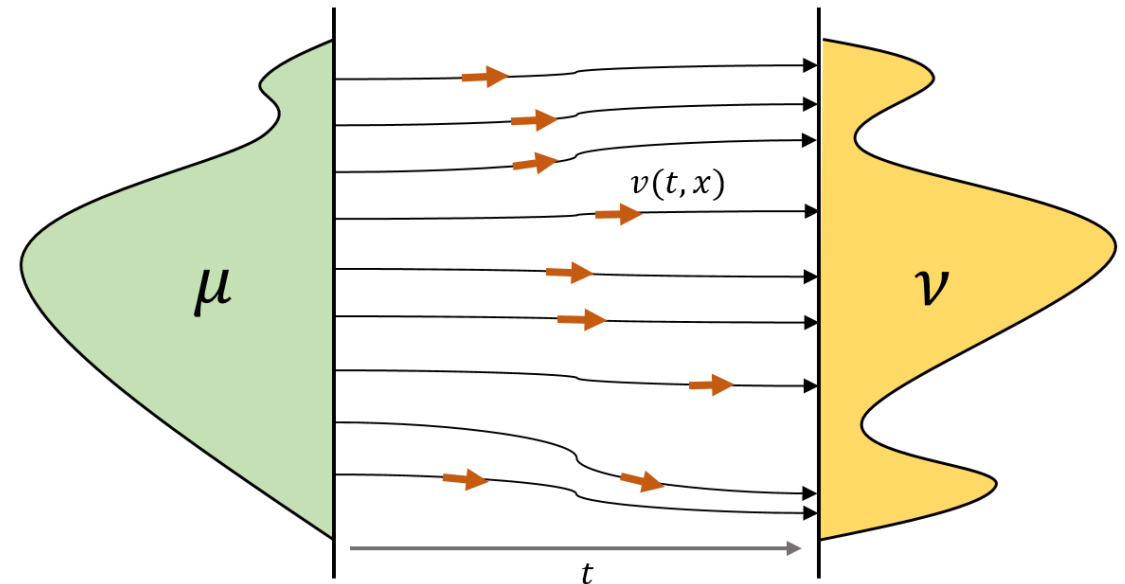
$$\inf_{v: [0,1] \times \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathcal{X}} \left[\int_0^1 \int_{\mathcal{X}} \alpha \|v_t(x)\|^2 d\rho_t dt; \frac{\partial \rho_t}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (v_t \rho_t) = 0, \rho_0 = \mu, \rho_1 = \nu \right].$$

Benamou-Brenier formulation when $c(x, y) = \alpha \|x - y\|^2$.

Continuity Eqn.



Static Transport Map T from μ to ν



Optimal Dynamics from μ to ν

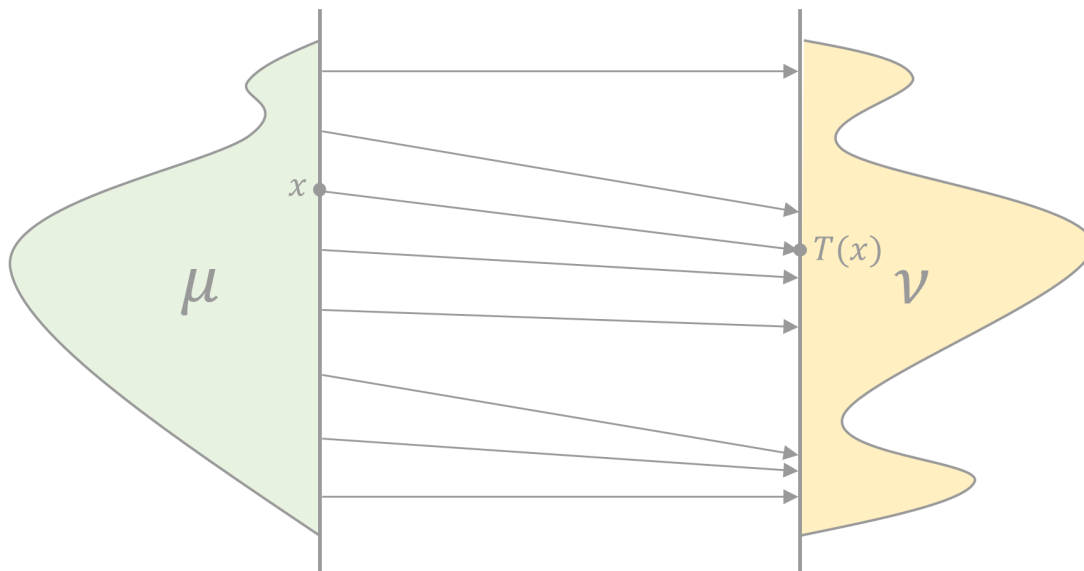
Dynamic Optimal Transport and Displacement Interpolation

Dynamic Optimal Transport

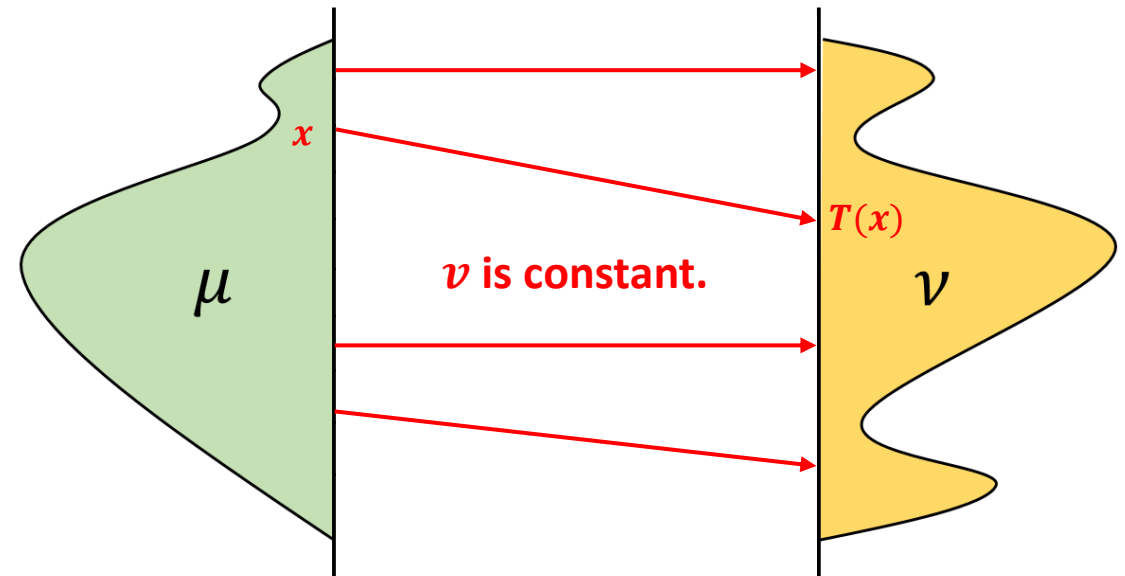
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$$\inf_{v:[0,1] \times \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathcal{X}} \left[\int_0^1 \int_{\mathcal{X}} \alpha \|v_t(x)\|^2 d\rho_t dt; \frac{\partial \rho_t}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (v_t \rho_t) = 0, \rho_0 = \mu, \rho_1 = \nu \right].$$

Benamou-Brenier formulation when $c(x, y) = \alpha \|x - y\|^2$.



Static Transport Map T from μ to ν



Optimal **Dynamics** from μ to ν

Dynamic Optimal Transport and Displacement Interpolation

Displacement Interpolation

- **Displacement interpolation (DI)** describes the optimal solution to the dynamic OT problem using the optimal transport map T^* in a simple form.

Dynamic OT: $\inf_{v:[0,1] \times \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathcal{X}} \left[\int_0^1 \int_{\mathcal{X}} \alpha \|v_t(x)\|^2 d\rho_t dt; \frac{\partial \rho_t}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (v_t \rho_t) = 0, \rho_0 = \mu, \rho_1 = \nu \right].$



Displacement Interp.: $\rho_t^{dis} := [(1-t) \cdot Id + t \cdot T^*]_{\#} \mu$ and $\rho_t^{dis} = \rho_t^*$ for $0 \leq t \leq 1$.

DI = Dynamic OT

Displacement Interpolation and Barycenter

- **Displacement interpolation (DI)** describes the optimal solution to the dynamic OT problem using the optimal transport map T^* in a simple form.

Dynamic OT:
$$\inf_{v:[0,1] \times \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathcal{X}} \left[\int_0^1 \int_{\mathcal{X}} \alpha \|v_t(x)\|^2 d\rho_t dt; \frac{\partial \rho_t}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (v_t \rho_t) = 0, \rho_0 = \mu, \rho_1 = \nu \right].$$



Displacement Interp.:
$$\rho_t^{dis} := [(1-t) \cdot Id + t \cdot T^*]_{\#} \mu \quad \text{and} \quad \rho_t^{dis} = \rho_t^* \quad \text{for } 0 \leq t \leq 1.$$

DI = Dynamic OT



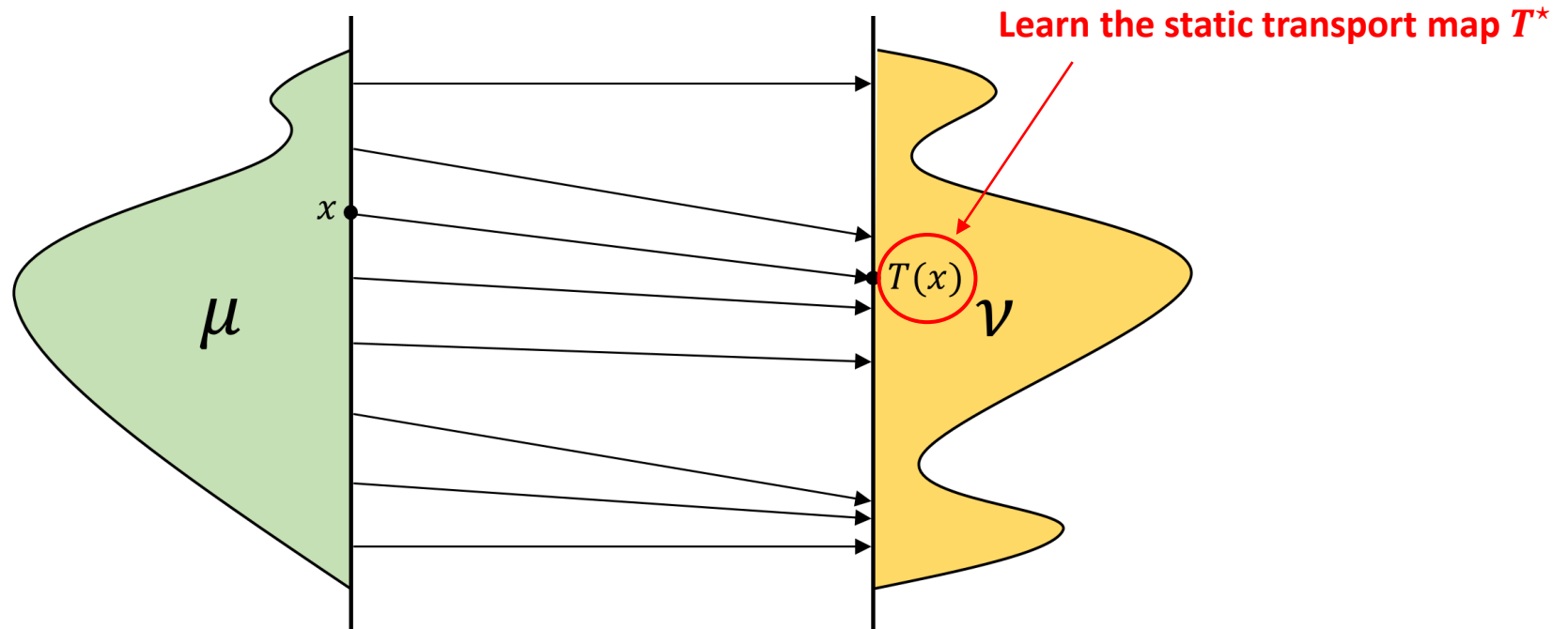
Barycenter:
$$\rho_t^* = \arg \inf_{\rho} \mathcal{L}_{DI}(t, \rho) \quad \text{where} \quad \mathcal{L}_{DI}(t, \rho) = (1-t)W_2^2(\mu, \rho) + tW_2^2(\rho, \nu).$$

DI = Wasserstein Barycenter

DIOTM

Displacement Interpolation OTM (DIOTM)

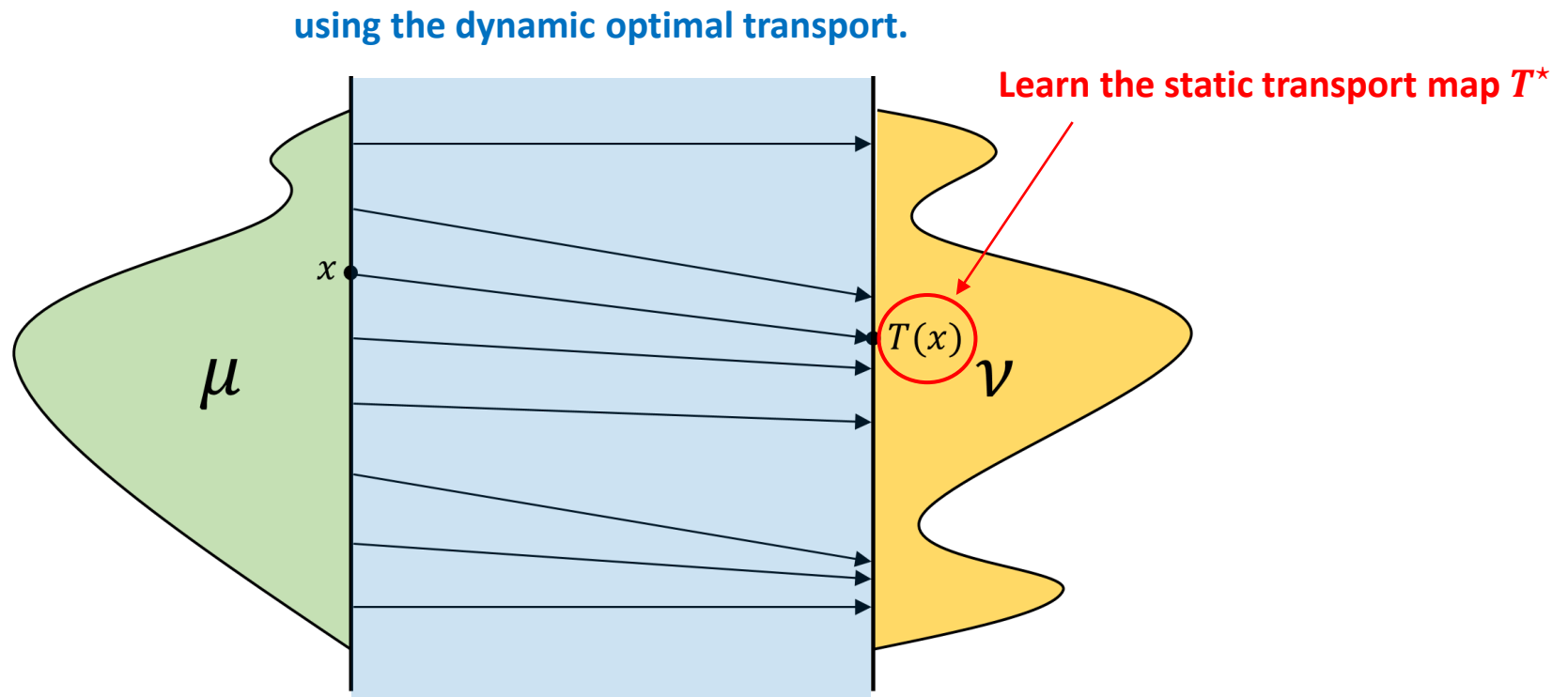
- We proposed a neural optimal transport model T_θ , called **DIOTM**, that leverages the **entire trajectory of dynamic optimal transport**.



DIOTM

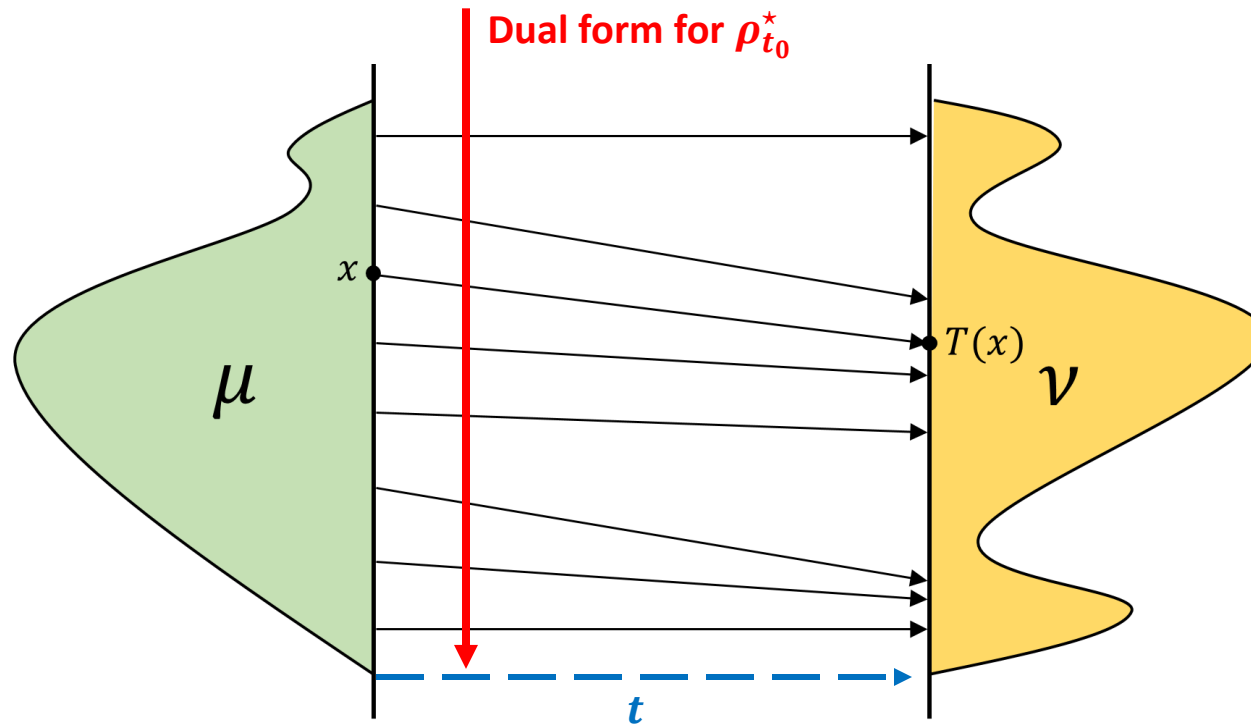
Displacement Interpolation OTM (DIOTM)

- We proposed a neural optimal transport model T_θ , called **DIOTM**, that leverages the **entire trajectory of dynamic optimal transport**.



Dual form of Displacement Interpolation

- Begin with the displacement interpolation ρ_t^* at specific time t .



Dual form of Displacement Interpolation

- From the Wasserstein barycenter characterization, we derive the following dual form:

Primal : $\rho_t^\star = \arg \inf_{\rho} \mathcal{L}_{DI}(t, \rho)$ where $\mathcal{L}_{DI}(t, \rho) = (1 - t)W_2^2(\mu, \rho) + tW_2^2(\rho, \nu)$.

Dual form of Displacement Interpolation

- From the Wasserstein barycenter characterization, we derive the following dual form:

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Theorem 3.1. *Given the assumptions in Appendix A, for a given $t \in (0, 1)$, the minimization problem $\inf_{\rho} \mathcal{L}_{DI}(t, \rho)$ (Eq. 8) is equivalent to the following dual problem:*

Dual :
$$\sup_{f_{1,t}, f_{2,t} \text{ with } (1-t)f_{1,t} + tf_{2,t} = 0} \left[(1 - t) \int_{\mathcal{X}} f_{1,t}^c(x) d\mu(x) + t \int_{\mathcal{Y}} f_{2,t}^c(y) d\nu(y) \right]. \quad (9)$$

where the supremum is taken over two potential functions $f_{1,t} : \mathcal{Y} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ and $f_{2,t} : \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, which satisfy $(1 - t)f_{1,t} + tf_{2,t} = 0$.

- Note that v^c denotes the **c-transform** of v , i.e., $v^c(x) = \inf_{y \in \mathcal{Y}} (c(x, y) - v(y))$.

Dual form of Displacement Interpolation

- We can combine these two potentials into a single potential V_t .

Dual :

$$\sup_{f_{1,t}, f_{2,t} \text{ with } (1-t)f_{1,t} + tf_{2,t} = 0} \left[(1-t) \int_{\mathcal{X}} f_{1,t}^c(x) d\mu(x) + t \int_{\mathcal{Y}} f_{2,t}^c(y) d\nu(y) \right]. \quad (9)$$

Corollary 3.2. For a given $t \in (0, 1)$, let $f_{1,t}(y) = tV_t(y)$ and $f_{2,t}(x) = -(1-t)V_t(x)$ for some value function $V_t : \mathcal{X} = \mathcal{Y} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$. Then, the dual formulation of displacement interpolation (Eq. 9) can be rewritten as follows:

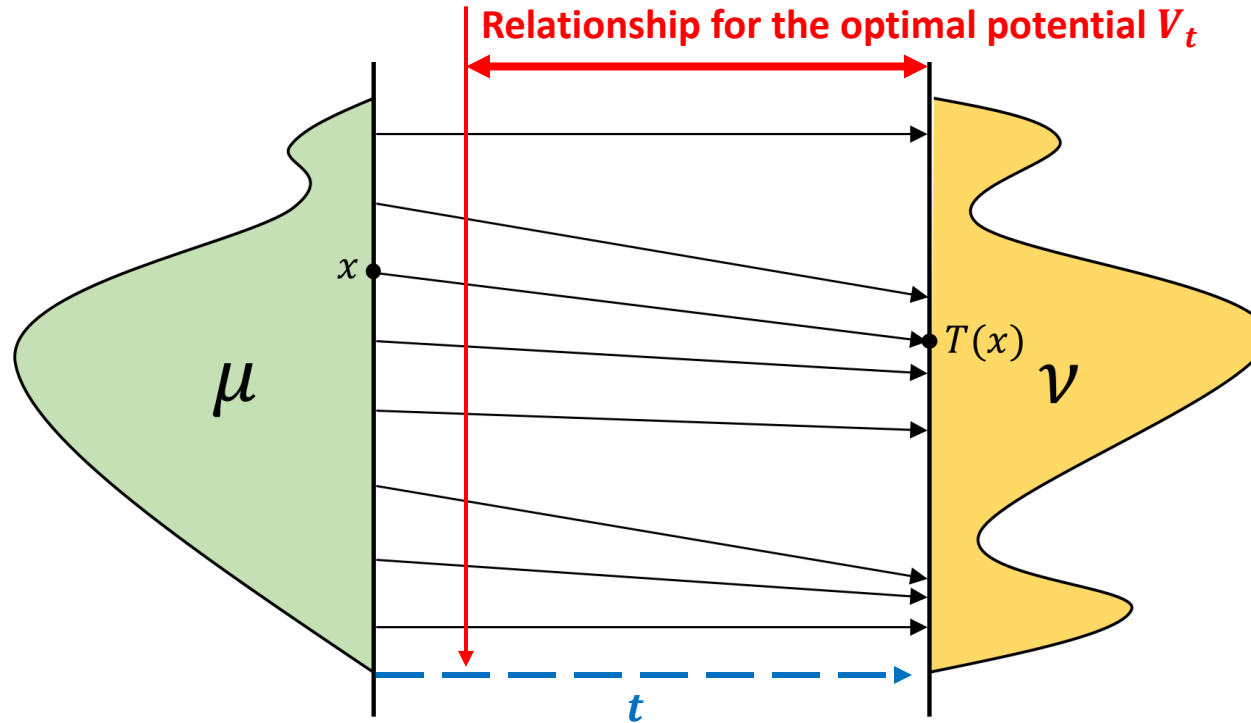
$$\sup_{V_t} \left[\int_{\mathcal{X}} V_t^{c_{0,t}}(x) d\mu(x) + \int_{\mathcal{Y}} (-V_t)^{c_{t,1}}(y) d\nu(y) \right], \quad (14)$$

where $c_{s,t}(x, y) = \frac{\alpha \|x-y\|^2}{t-s}$ for every $0 \leq s < t \leq 1$.

Investigate the relationships between V_t across time t .

Optimality Condition for Time-dependent Potential

- We establish the **relationship between the potential functions for each DI** and utilize it to learn the optimal transport map.



Optimality Condition for Time-dependent Potential

- The optimal potential V_t^* for each ρ_t^* satisfies the following [1]:

$$-V_s(x) = \inf_y (c_{s,t}(x, y) - V_t(y))$$

where $c_{s,t}(x, y) = \frac{\alpha \|x-y\|^2}{t-s}$ for $0 \leq s < t \leq 1$.

- From this, we can derive the following **optimality condition**:

Theorem 3.3. *Given the assumptions in Appendix A, the optimal V_t^* in Eq. 14 satisfies the following:*

$$V_t^* = \arg \sup_{V_t} \left[\int_{\mathcal{X}} V_t^{c_0,t}(x) d\mu(x) + \int_{\mathcal{Y}} V_t(x) d\rho_t^*(x) \right], \quad (15)$$

up to constant ρ^ -a.s.. Moreover, there exists $\{V_t^*\}_{0 \leq t \leq 1}$ that satisfies Hamilton-Jacobi-Bellman (HJB) equation, i.e.*

$$\partial_t V_t^* + \frac{1}{4\alpha} \|\nabla V_t^*\|^2 = 0, \quad \rho^* \text{-a.s.} \quad (16)$$

Use this term as regularizer

DIOTM Model

- Introduce the **c -transform parametrization [1]**.

Dual :

$$\sup_{V_t} \left[\int_{\mathcal{X}} V_t^{c_0,t}(x) d\mu(x) + \int_{\mathcal{Y}} (-V_t)^{c_{t,1}}(y) d\nu(y) \right]$$

- Parametrize $V_t^{c_0,t}$ and $V_t^{c_{t,1}}$ as follows:

$$\vec{T}_t^*(x) \in \operatorname{argmin}_{y \in \mathcal{Y}} [c(x, y) - f_{1,t}^*(y)] \Leftrightarrow$$

$$\overleftarrow{T}_t^*(y) \in \operatorname{argmin}_{x \in \mathcal{X}} [c(x, y) - f_{2,t}^*(x)] \Leftrightarrow$$

$$V_t^{c_0,t}(x) = \frac{1}{t} c(x, \vec{T}_t(x)) - V_\phi(t, \vec{T}_t(x))$$

$$(-V_t)^{c_{t,1}}(y) = \frac{1}{1-t} c(\overleftarrow{T}_t(y), y) + V_\phi(t, \overleftarrow{T}_t(y))$$

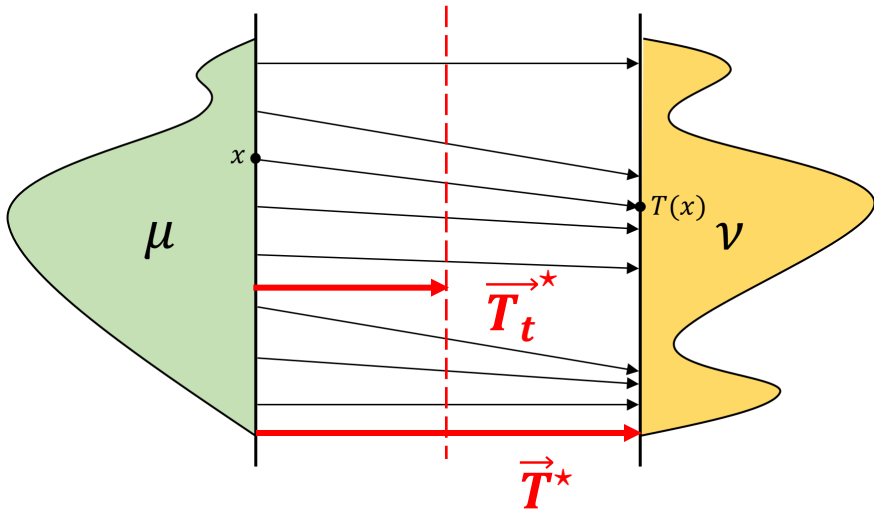
$\vec{T}_t^*$ and $\overleftarrow{T}_t^*$ satisfy these conditions.

DIOTM Model

- Using DI, Parametrize interpolant generators through the **boundary generators**:

$$\vec{T}_t(x) = (1 - t)x + t\vec{T}_\theta(x), \quad \overleftarrow{T}_t(y) = (1 - t)y + t\overleftarrow{T}_\theta(y) \quad \text{for } t \in (0, 1).$$

- Then, we have the following learning objective:



$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}_{\phi, \theta}^{DI} = & \sup_{V_\phi} \int_{\mathcal{X}} \inf_{\vec{T}_\theta} \mathbb{E}_t \left[\alpha t \|x - \vec{T}_\theta(x)\|^2 - V_\phi(t, \vec{T}_t(x)) \right] d\mu(x) \\ & + \int_{\mathcal{Y}} \inf_{\overleftarrow{T}_\theta} \mathbb{E}_t \left[\alpha(1 - t) \|\overleftarrow{T}_\theta(y) - y\|^2 + V_\phi(t, \overleftarrow{T}_t(y)) \right] d\nu(y). \end{aligned}$$

DIOTM Model

- Parametrize interpolant generators through the **boundary generators** using DI.

$$\vec{T}_t(x) = (1-t)x + t\vec{T}_\theta(x), \quad \overleftarrow{T}_t(y) = (1-t)y + t\overleftarrow{T}_\theta(y) \quad \text{for } t \in (0, 1).$$

$$\mathcal{L}_{\phi,\theta}^{DI} = \sup_{V_\phi} \int_{\mathcal{X}} \inf_{\vec{T}_\theta} \mathbb{E}_t \left[\alpha t \|x - \vec{T}_\theta(x)\|^2 - V_\phi(t, \vec{T}_t(x)) \right] d\mu(x) + \int_{\mathcal{Y}} \inf_{\overleftarrow{T}_\theta} \mathbb{E}_t \left[\alpha(1-t) \|\overleftarrow{T}_\theta(y) - y\|^2 + V_\phi(t, \overleftarrow{T}_t(y)) \right] d\nu(y).$$

- HJB regularizer

$$\mathcal{R}(V_\phi) = \mathbb{E}_{t,x \sim \rho_t} \left| 2\alpha \partial_t V_\phi(t, x) + \frac{1}{2} \|\nabla V_\phi(t, x)\|^2 \right|.$$

- The total learning objective is as follows:

$$\mathcal{L}_{\phi,\theta} = \mathcal{L}_{\phi,\theta}^{DI} + \lambda \mathcal{R}(V_\phi(t, x)).$$

Experiments

Optimal Transport Map Evaluation

- Our model learns a more accurate optimal transport map compared to previous methods.

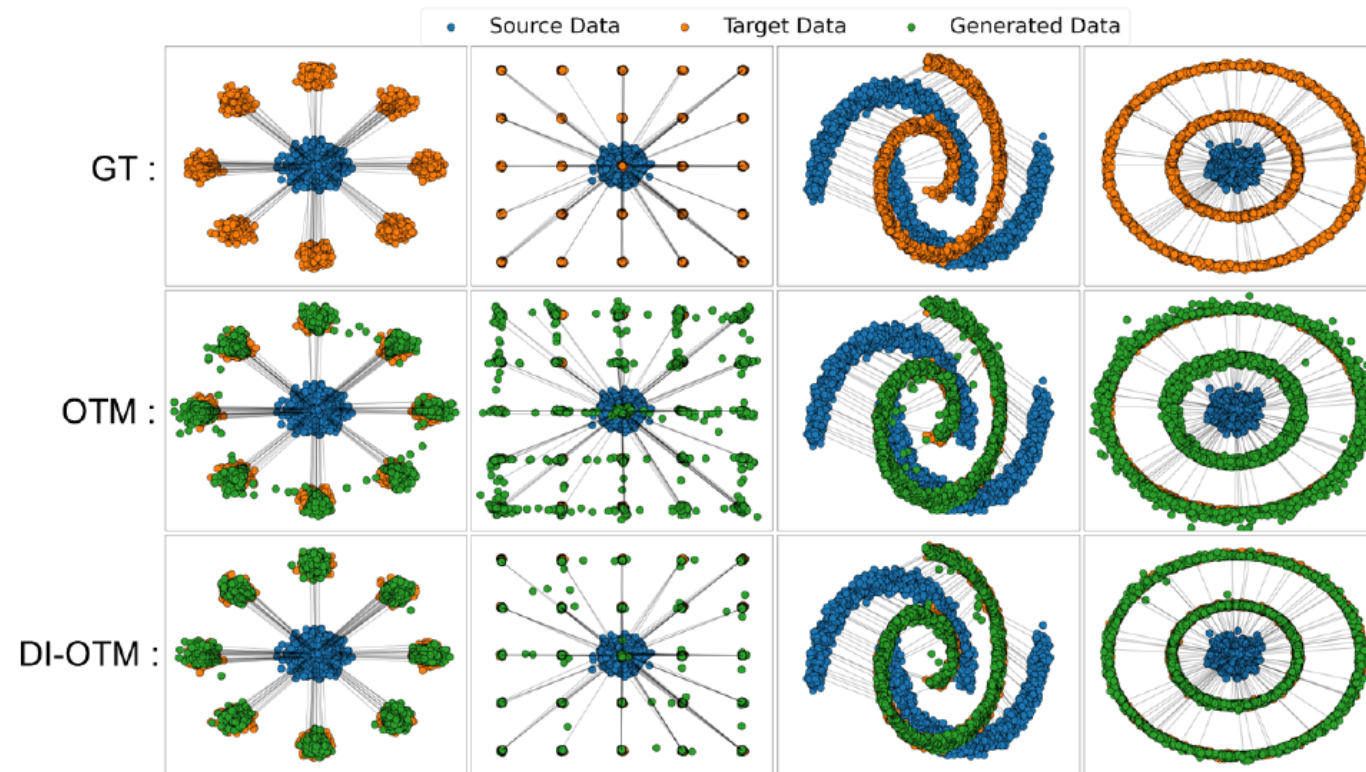


Figure 1: **Visualization of transport maps T on synthetic datasets.** The transport map is visualized as a black line connecting each source sample x to its corresponding generated data $T(x)$.

Optimal Transport Map Evaluation

- Our model learns a more accurate optimal transport map compared to previous methods.

- $W_2 = W_2(\overrightarrow{T_{\theta_{\#}}} \mu, \nu)$: Error between the generated and target distributions.
- $L_2 = \int_{\mathcal{X}} \|\overrightarrow{T_{\theta}}(x) - T^*(x)\|_2^2 d\mu_{test}$: Error between the transport maps.

Table 1: **Evaluation of optimal transport map** on the synthetic datasets between OTM (Rout et al., 2022) and ours, based on the 2-Wasserstein distance W_2 and the L2 distance between transport maps.

Metric	G→8G		G→25G		Moon→Spiral		G→Circles	
	OTM	DIOTM	OTM	DIOTM	OTM	DIOTM	OTM	DIOTM
W_2 (↓)	4.93	3.72	10.09	6.49	0.40	0.55	3.96	2.34
L2 (↓)	6.48	4.38	13.09	10.00	1.77	1.67	6.23	5.44

Experiments

Scalability Comparison on I2I Translation Tasks

- We assessed our model on several Image-to-Image (I2I) translation benchmarks.
 - Optimal transport map serves as a generator for the target distribution, which maps each input x to its cost-minimizing counterpart y .



Source Images (Male)

Translated Images (Female)

Generates the target distribution while minimizing $c(x, T(x))$.

Scalability Comparison on I2I Translation Tasks

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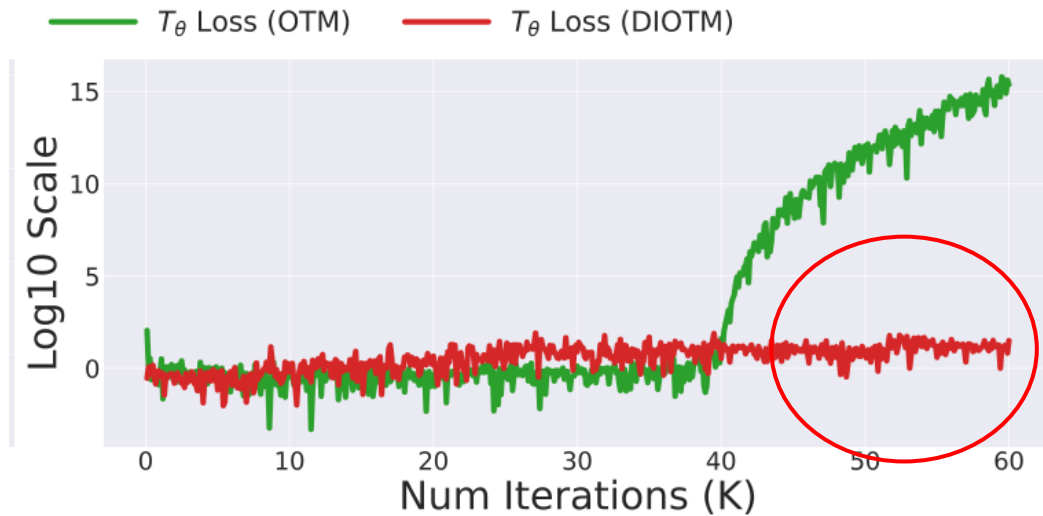
Data	Model	FID ($\downarrow$)
Male→Female (64x64)	CycleGAN Zhu et al. (2017)	12.94
	NOT Korotin et al. (2023)	11.96
	OTM [†] Fan et al. (2022)	6.42
	DIOTM [†] (Ours)	5.27
Wild→Cat (64x64)	DSBM Shi et al. (2024a)	20+
	OTM [†] Fan et al. (2022)	12.42
	DIOTM [†] (Ours)	10.72
Male→Female (128x128)	DSBM Shi et al. (2024a)	37.8
	ASBM Gushchin et al. (2024)	16.08
	OTM [†] Fan et al. (2022)	7.55
	DIOTM [†] (Ours)	7.40

Image-to-Image translation benchmarks
compared to existing Neural (Entropic) OT Models

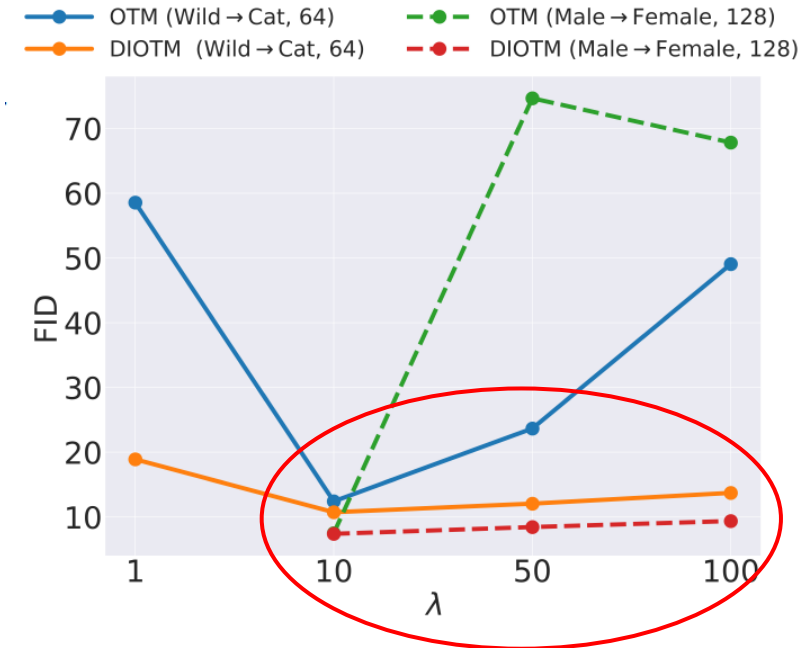
Experiments

Stability Comparison to Previous Approaches

- Our model is more robust to hyperparameters and exhibits stable training dynamics.



Stable training dynamics of DIOTM



Robustness to hyperparameters of DIOTM

Conclusion

- We introduced **DIOTM**, a static neural optimal transport model based on displacement interpolation.
- We derived the **dual formulation of displacement interpolation** and investigated the optimal relationships between potential functions.
- We proposed the **HJB regularizer**, which is derived from the optimality condition of the potential function.
- Our model improves the training stability and accuracy of existing OT Map models that leverage min-max objectives.

Thank you!

Training Algorithm

Algorithm 1 Training algorithm of DIOTM

Require: The source distribution μ and the target distribution ν . Transport networks $\overrightarrow{T}_\theta$, $\overleftarrow{T}_\theta$ and the discriminator network V_ϕ . Total iteration number K , and regularization hyperparameter λ .

- 1: **for** $k = 0, 1, 2, \dots, K$ **do**
- 2: Sample a batch $x \sim \mu, y \sim \nu, t \sim U[0, 1]$.
- 3: $x_t \leftarrow (1 - t)x + t\overrightarrow{T}_\theta(x), y_t \leftarrow (1 - t)\overleftarrow{T}_\theta(y) + ty$.
- 4: Update V_ϕ to increase the $\mathcal{L}_\phi$

$$\mathcal{L}_\phi = -V_\phi(t, x_t) + V_\phi(t, y_t) - \lambda\mathcal{R}(V_\phi(t, x_t)) - \lambda\mathcal{R}(V_\phi(t, y_t)).$$

- 5: Update $\overrightarrow{T}_\theta$ to decrease the loss: $c_{0,t}(x, x_t) - V_\phi(t, x_t)$.
 - 6: Update $\overleftarrow{T}_\theta$ to decrease the loss: $c_{t,1}(y_t, y) + V_\phi(t, y_t)$.
 - 7: **end for**
-

Stability Comparison to Previous Approaches

■ Our HJB regularizer outperforms other regularizers.

- Our HJB regularizer is the only regularizer that incorporates the time derivative.

- $\mathcal{R}_{\text{OTM}}(t, x_t, y_t) = \|\nabla_y (c_{0,t}(x, x_t) - V_\phi(t, x_t))\| + \|\nabla_y (c_{t,1}(y, y_t) + V_\phi(t, y_t))\|.$
- $\mathcal{R}_{\text{R1}}(t, x_t, y_t) = \|\nabla_y V_\phi(t, x_t)\|^2 + \|\nabla_y V_\phi(t, y_t)\|^2.$
- $\mathcal{R}(t, x_t, y_t)_{\text{HJB}} = \left| 2\alpha \partial_t V_\phi(t, x_t) + \frac{1}{2} \|\nabla V_\phi(t, x_t)\|^2 \right| + \left| 2\alpha \partial_t V_\phi(t, y_t) + \frac{1}{2} \|\nabla V_\phi(t, y_t)\|^2 \right|.$

Table 3: **Comparison of our HJB regularizer with the OTM and R1 regularizers on the DIOTM model.** Our HJB regularizer exhibits superior performance and stability to λ .

Model		G→8G				G→25G				Moon→Spiral			
λ		0.1	0.2	1.0	10	0.1	0.2	1.0	10	0.1	0.2	1.0	10
W_2 (↓)	OTM	22.08	22.90	DIV	31.35	68.01	89.62	DIV	81.02	19.99	14.19	15.66	33.80
	R1	3.59	5.01	3.29	4.42	9.20	9.94	11.78	DIV	1.91	2.08	1.05	2.74
	HJB	1.93	2.69	2.92	3.21	7.19	14.64	7.99	12.38	0.54	0.59	0.30	1.31
L2 (↓)	OTM	27.41	28.21	DIV	34.47	96.89	97.98	DIV	87.05	20.96	15.01	34.31	33.80
	R1	4.49	5.39	3.87	5.14	86.05	17.64	19.52	DIV	2.88	3.56	2.36	3.74
	HJB	3.05	3.44	3.36	3.98	16.51	15.82	11.11	15.64	1.42	2.25	1.13	2.27