

look for all the paths μ_t in $M_+(X)$ connecting μ_0, μ_1 . Ω open $\subset \mathbb{R}$

Suppose $\mu_t = \delta_{x(t)}$, it turns out that the velocity field $E_t = \dot{x}(t) \delta_{x(t)}$ is related to μ_t by the equation $\dot{\mu}_t + \nabla \cdot E_t = 0$ in $(0,1) \times \Omega$ in the distribution sense.

Given $\varphi \in C_c^\infty(0,1)$, $\psi \in C_c^\infty(\Omega)$, we can take $\varphi(t)\psi(x)$ as test function

$$\begin{aligned} (\dot{\mu}_t + \nabla \cdot E_t)(\varphi\psi) &= - \int_0^1 \dot{\varphi}(t) \psi(x(t)) + \varphi(t) \langle \nabla \psi(x(t)), \dot{x}(t) \rangle dt \\ &= - \int_0^1 \frac{d}{dt} [\varphi(t) \psi(x(t))] dt = 0 \end{aligned}$$

The eqt holds iff $\mu_t(\psi) = \int \psi \delta_{x(t)}$ in $(0,1) \quad \forall \psi \in C_c^\infty(\Omega)$

We can test the first equation $\langle \dot{\mu}_t, \varphi \rangle + \langle \nabla \cdot E_t, \varphi \rangle = 0$

$$\text{IBP: } \langle \dot{\mu}_t, \varphi \rangle = \langle E_t, \nabla \varphi \rangle$$

Recall that $f: (0,1) \rightarrow (E,d)$ is abs. cts if $\forall \epsilon > 0, \exists \delta > 0$ s.t.

$$\sum_i (y_i - x_i) < \delta \Rightarrow \sum_i d(f(y_i), f(x_i)) < \epsilon \quad \forall \text{ partition of } (0,1)$$

Prop. If some family $\{\mu_t\} \subset M_+(X)$ satisfy the continuity equation for suitable measures $E_t \in [M(\Omega)]^n$ s.t. $\int_0^1 |E_t|(\Omega) dt < \infty$ then f is an abs. cts map between $(0,1)$ and $M_+(X)$, endowed with the 1-Wasserstein distance

$$\lim_{L \rightarrow \infty} \frac{W_1(\mu_{t+L}, \mu_t)}{|L|} \leq |E_t|(\Omega) \quad \text{for } L \text{ a.e. } t \in (0,1)$$

Let $\mu_0, \mu_1 \in M_+(X)$ be given prob measures. Minimize $J(E) := \int_0^1 |E_t|(\Omega) dt$ among all Borel maps $\mu_t: (0,1) \rightarrow M_+(X)$ and $E_t: (0,1) \rightarrow [M(\Omega)]^n$ s.t. the continuity equation holds. This is the OT problem by Brenier.

Lebesgue measure

E.g. $\mu_t = \mathbb{1}_{[t, t+1]} \lambda$ $E_t = \mathbb{1}_{[t, t+1]} \lambda$ The OT map is $x \mapsto x+1$.

Consider flow $\mu_t = \begin{cases} \frac{1-t}{1-2t} \mathbb{1}_{[2t, 1]} \lambda & 0 \leq t < \frac{1}{2} \\ \frac{1}{2t-1} \mathbb{1}_{[1, 2t]} \lambda & \frac{1}{2} < t \leq 1 \end{cases}$

$E_t = \begin{cases} \frac{2(1-x)}{(1-2t)^2} \mathbb{1}_{[2t, 1]} \lambda & 0 \leq t < \frac{1}{2} \\ \frac{2(x-1)}{(2t-1)^2} \mathbb{1}_{[1, 2t]} \lambda & \frac{1}{2} < t \leq 1 \end{cases}$ It's ez to check that $\dot{\mu}_t + \nabla \cdot E_t = 0$

$|E_t|$ are prob. measures $\forall t \neq \frac{1}{2}$, hence $J(E) = 1$.

For the ODE $f_t + \nabla \cdot (g_t f_t) = 0$. If f_t, g_t are smooth w.r.t. the space and time variables, uniqueness is a consequence of the classical method of characteristics,

$$f_t(x_t) = f_0(x) \exp\left(-\int_0^t a(s) ds\right)$$

$c_t = \nabla \cdot g_t$ and x_t solves the ODE $\dot{x}_t = g_t(x_t)$, $x_0 = x \quad t \in (0, 1)$

Thm. The ODE problem has at least 1 solution and $\min(\text{ODE}) = \min(MK)$.

\forall optimal coupling γ for (M, K) the measures

$$\mu = \pi_t \# \gamma \quad E_t := \pi_t \# ((y-x)\gamma) \quad t \in [0, 1]$$

with $\pi_t(x, t) = x + t(y-x)$ solve (ODE).