## Linear-Time Gromov Wasserstein Distances using Low Rank Couplings and Costs

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## Gromov-Wasserstein

How to align points across two incomparable point clouds?

Discrete Gromov-Wasserstein:


- Discrete Distributions: $\mu=\sum_{i=1}^{n} a_{i} \delta_{x_{i}} \in \mathscr{M}_{1}^{+}(\mathscr{X}) \quad, \nu=\sum_{j=1}^{m} b_{j} \delta_{y_{j}} \in \mathscr{M}_{1}^{+}(\mathscr{Y})$
- Set of Couplings: $\Pi_{a, b}=\left\{P \in \mathbb{R}_{+}^{n \times m}\right.$ s.t. $\left.P \mathbf{1}_{m}=a, P^{T} \mathbf{1}_{n}=b\right\}$
- Cost Matrices: $A=\left(d_{X}\left(x_{i}, x_{i^{\prime}}\right)\right)_{i, i^{\prime}}, \quad B=\left(d_{y}\left(y_{j}, y_{j^{\prime}}\right)\right)_{j, j^{\prime}}$

$$
G W_{c}((a, A),(b, B))=\min _{P \in \Pi_{a, b}} \mathbb{Q}_{A, B}(P):=\sum_{i, i, j, j, j^{\prime}}\left|A_{i, i^{\prime}}-B_{j, j^{\prime}}\right|^{2} P_{i, j} P_{i^{\prime}, j^{\prime}}
$$

Hard to solve in practice:

- GW is a non convex quadratic problem
- GW is NP-hard in general
$\longrightarrow$ Need for a fast solver approximating the GW cost


## Prior Art: Entropic Regularization



Shannon Entropy: $\mathrm{H}(P)=-\sum_{i, j} P_{i, j}\left(\log \left(P_{i, j}\right)-1\right)$

$$
G W_{c, \epsilon}((a, A),(b, B))=\min _{P \in \Pi_{a, b}} \mathbb{Q}_{A, B}(P)-\epsilon H(P)
$$

Mirror Descent Scheme:

## At each iteration:

- Update the cost matrix: $C=-4 A P B \in \mathcal{O}(n m(n+m))$
- Update the kernel matrix: $K=e^{-C / \epsilon} \in \mathcal{O}(\mathrm{nm})$
- Solve Entropic OT using Sinkhorn: $P=\arg \min _{P \in \Pi_{a, b}} \mathrm{KL}(P \| K) \in \mathcal{O}(n m)$ \} Total Complexity per iteration: $O(n m(n+m))$

In this work, we propose instead to directly constraint the coupling to admit a low-NN rank

## Low-Rank Gromov-Wasserstein

NN rank: $\mathrm{rk}_{+}(M):=\min \left\{q \mid M=\sum_{i=1}^{q} R_{i}, \forall i, \operatorname{rk}\left(R_{i}\right)=1, R_{i} \geq 0\right\}$

Low-NN Rank Couplings: $\quad \Pi_{a, b}(r):=\left\{P \in \Pi_{a, b}\right.$ s.t. $\left.\mathrm{rk}_{+}(P) \leq r\right\}$


Definition of Low-rank Gromov-Wasserstein

$$
\operatorname{LGW}_{c, r}((a, A),(b, B)):=\min _{P \in \Pi_{a, b}(r)} \mathbb{Q}_{A, B}(P)
$$

Characterization of Low-NN Rank Couplings:

$$
\Pi_{a, b}(r)=\left\{P \in \mathbb{R}_{+}^{n \times m} \mid P=Q \operatorname{Diag}(1 / g) R^{T}, Q \in \Pi_{a, g}, R \in \Pi_{b, g}, g>0 \text { and } g \in \Delta_{r}\right\}
$$

$$
\operatorname{LGW}_{r}((a, A),(b, B))=\min _{(Q, R, g) \in \mathscr{C}_{1}(a, b, r) \cap \mathscr{C}_{2}(r)} \mathbb{Q}_{A, B}\left(Q \operatorname{Diag}(1 / \mathrm{g}) R^{T}\right)
$$

$$
\text { where }\left\{\begin{array}{l}
\mathscr{C}_{1}(a, b, r):=\left\{(Q, R, g) \in \mathbb{R}_{+}^{n \times r} \times \mathbb{R}_{+}^{m \times r} \times\left(\mathbb{R}_{+}^{*}\right)^{r} \text { s.t. } Q \mathbf{1}_{r}=a, R \mathbf{1}_{r}=b\right\} \\
\mathscr{C}_{2}(r):=\left\{(Q, R, g) \in \mathbb{R}_{+}^{n \times r} \times \mathbb{R}_{+}^{m \times r} \times\left(\mathbb{R}_{+}\right)^{r} \text { s.t. } Q^{T} \mathbf{1}_{n}=R^{T} \mathbf{1}_{m}=g\right\}
\end{array}\right.
$$

Mirror Descent Scheme:

## At each iteration:

- Update the cost matrices: $C_{1}=-A Q D_{1 / g}, C_{2}=R^{T} B, C_{3}=\mathscr{D}\left(Q^{T} C_{1} C_{2} R\right) \quad \in \mathcal{O}\left((n+m) r^{2}\right)$
where $\mathscr{D}$ is the operator extracting the diagonal of a squared matrix
- Update the kernel matrices: $K_{1}=Q \odot e^{4 \gamma C_{1} C_{2} R D_{1 / g}}, K_{2}=R \odot e^{4 \gamma C_{2}^{T} C_{1}^{T} Q D_{1 / g}}, K_{3}=g \odot e^{-4 \gamma C_{3} / g^{2}}$ where $D_{a}$ is the operator transforming a vector $a$ into a diagonal matrix $\in \mathcal{O}((n+m) r)$
- Solve the convex Barycenter problem using Dykstra: $(Q, R, g)=\arg \min _{(Q, R, g) \in \mathscr{C}_{1}(a, b, r) \cap \mathscr{C}_{2}(r)} \mathrm{KL}\left((Q, R, g) \|\left(K_{1}, K_{2}, K_{3}\right)\right)$

Total Complexity per iteration: $\mathcal{O}\left(\left(n^{2}+m^{2}\right) r\right) \ll \mathcal{O}((n+m) n m)$ as soon as $r \ll \min (n, m)$

## From a Quadratic Solver to a Linear Solver

Remark: The only operations which remains quadratic in the MD scheme described before is the updates of the cost matrices $C_{1}$ and $C_{2}$.
$\rightarrow$ By assuming that $A$ and $B$ admit low-rank structures, we obtain a linear time algorithm with respect to the number of samples.

## Low-rank cost matrices:

If $A=A_{1} A_{2}^{T}$ and $B=B_{1} B_{2}^{T}$ with $A_{1}, A_{2} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times d}$ and $B_{1}, B_{2} \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times d^{\prime}}$ with $d, d^{\prime} \ll \min (n, m)$ then updating the cost matrices can be done in linear time:

$$
C_{1}=-A_{1} A_{2}^{T} Q D_{1 / g} \in \mathcal{O}(\mathrm{nrd}) \quad \text { and } \quad C_{2}=R^{T} B_{1} B_{2}^{T} \in \mathcal{O}\left(\mathrm{mrd}^{\prime}\right)
$$

$\longrightarrow$ Total Complexity per iteration: $\mathcal{O}\left(r\left(n d+m d^{\prime}\right)\right) \ll \mathcal{O}\left(\left(n^{2}+m^{2}\right) r\right)$ as soon as $d, d^{\prime} \ll \min (n, m)$
Example: The squared Euclidean distance, or more generally any distance matrix.

## Other results

We provide a quantitive bound and show the non-asymptotic stationary convergence of our algorithm. Roughly speaking, our algorithm requires $\mathcal{O}(1 / \delta)$ iterations for a precision of $\delta$.

## Experiments



Problem: We consider the single-cell alignment problem where we have access to two representations of the same cells. These representations are not directly comparable, and therefore we apply GW to recover the true matching.

## Thank you

## Results:

- We observe that our method is able to obtain similar GW cost (and ever better) while being order of magnitude faster than the Entropic approach.
- In addition, the quality of the coupling (measured by the FOSCTTM) is comparable to the one obtained by the entropic method.

