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Geometric inference in presence of noise and outliers: distance functions to measures

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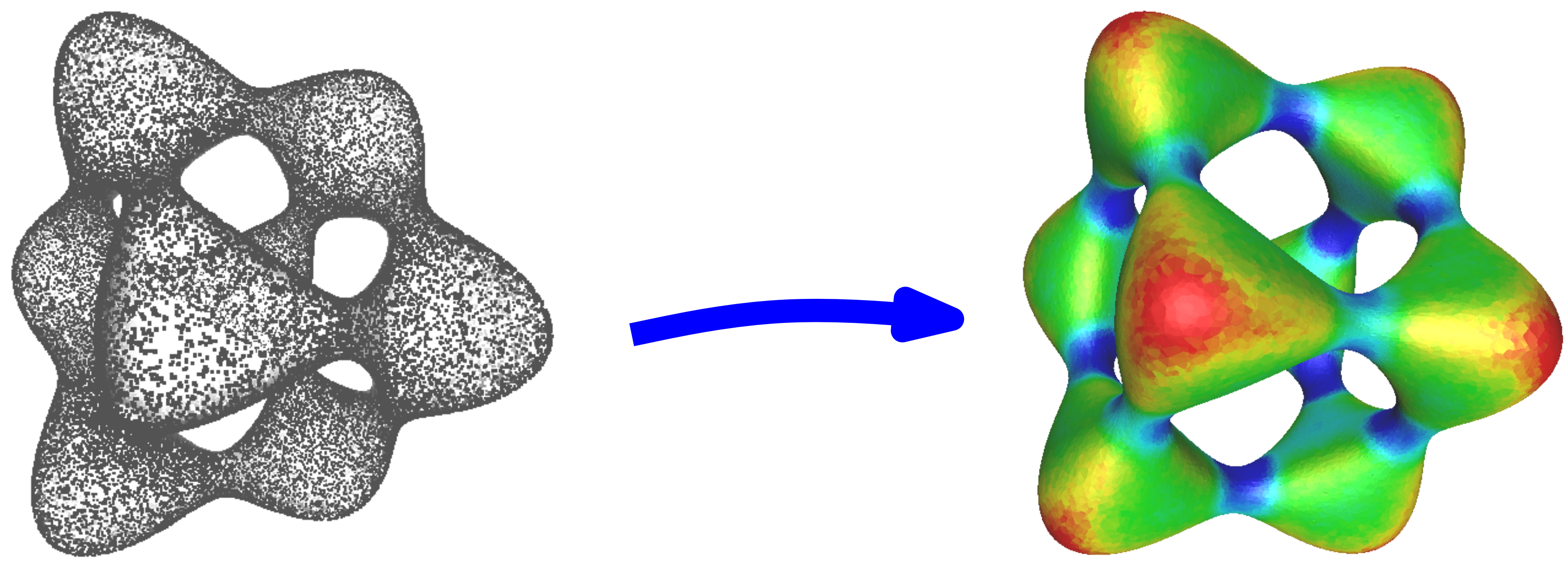
Geometric Inference



Question: Given an approximation C of a geometric object K, is it possible to reliably estimate the topological and geometric properties of K, knowing only the approximation C?

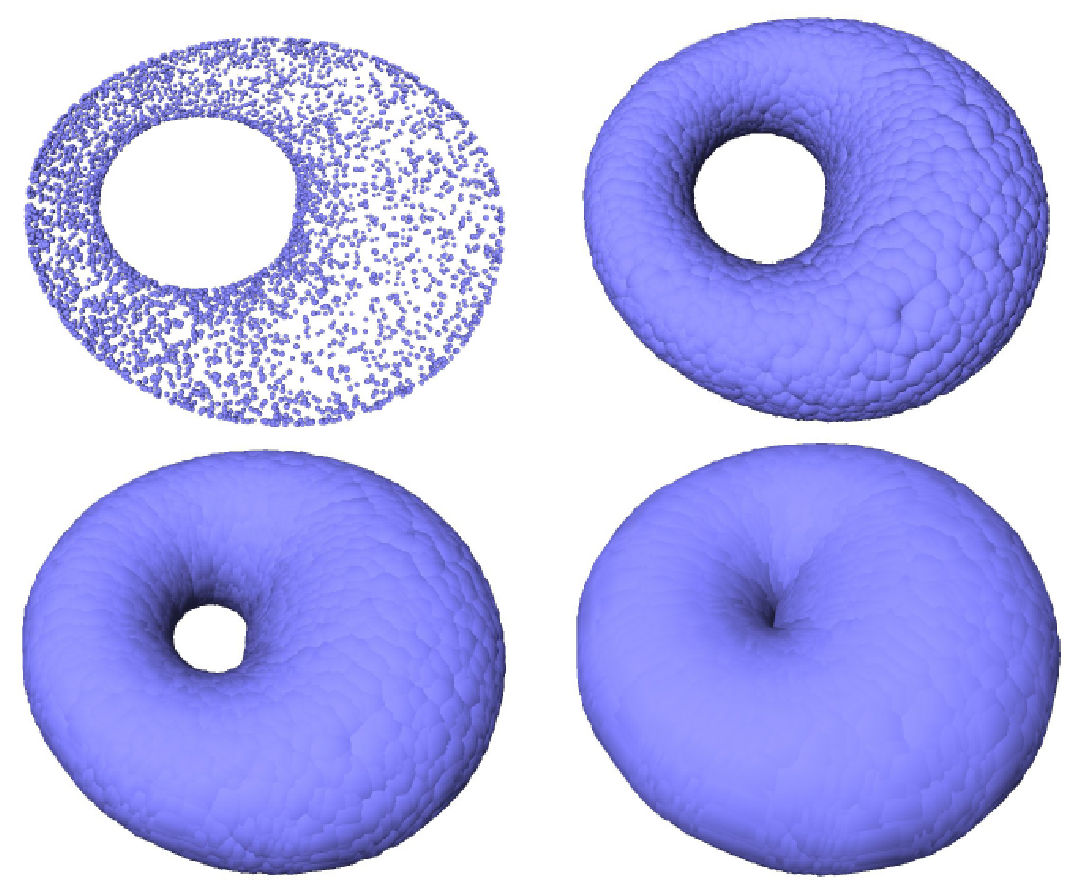
Challenges:
- define a relevant class of objects to be considered (no hope to get a positive answer in full generality);
- define a relevant notion of distance between the objects (approximation);
- topological and geometric properties cannot be directly infered from approximations.

Distance functions for geometric inference

Considered objects: compact subsets K of $\mathbb{R}^d$

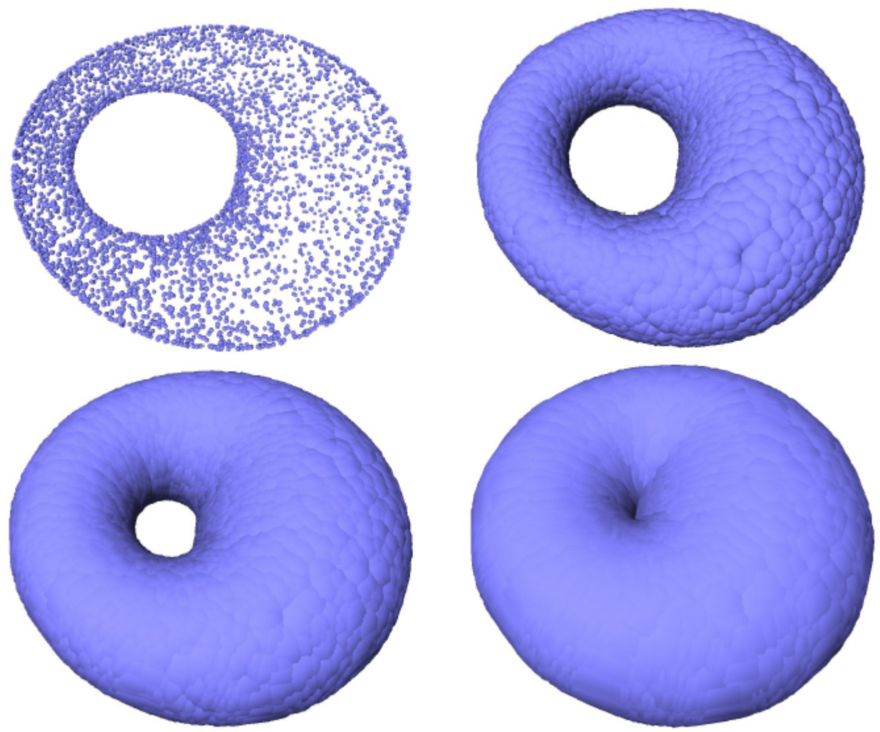
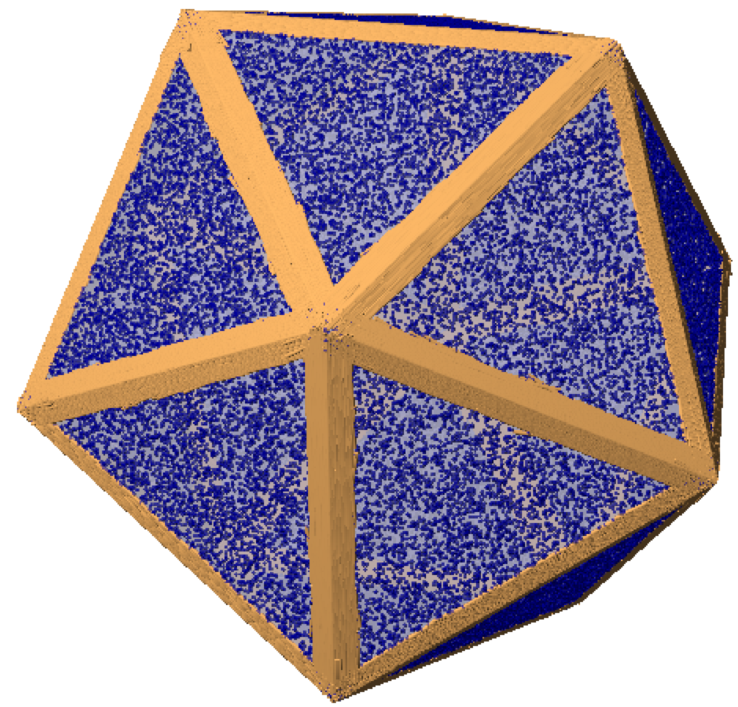
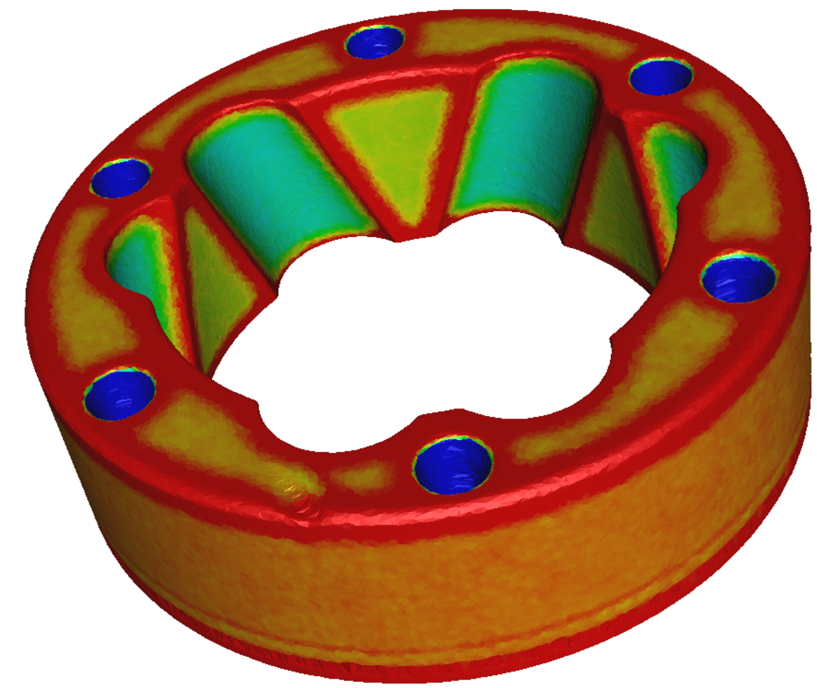
Distance:
distance function to a compact $K \subset \mathbb{R}^d$: $d_K : x \to \inf_{p \in K} \|x - p\|$
Hausdorf distance between two compact sets:

$$d_H(K, K') = \sup_{x \in \mathbb{R}^d} |d_K(x) - d_{K'}(x)|$$



- Replace K and C by d_K and d_C
- Compare the topology of the offsets $K^r = d_K^{-1}([0, r])$ and $C^r = d_C^{-1}([0, r])$

Stability properties of the offsets

Topological/geometric properties of the offsets of K are stable with respect to Hausdorff approximation:

1. Topological stability of the offsets of K (CCSL'06, NSW'06).

2. Approximate normal cones (CCSL'08).

3. Boundary measures (CCSM'07), curvature measures (CCSLT'09), Voronoi covariance measures (GMO'09).

Distance functions: the three (indeed two) main ingredients of stability

- the stability of the map $K \mapsto d_K$:
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Distance functions: the three (indeed two) main ingredients of stability

- the stability of the map $K \mapsto d_K$:
  $\|d_K - d_{K'}\|_\infty = d_H(K, K')$
- the 1-Lipschitz property for d_K;
- the 1-concavity of the function d_K^2:
  $x \to \|x\|^2 - d_K^2(x)$ is convex.

- the gradient vector field ∇d_K is well defined and integrable (although not continuous).
- Isotopy lemma: the topology of the sublevel sets can only change at critical values.
- Stability results for critical points.

Definition: A non negative proper function $\phi : \mathbb{R}^d \to \mathbb{R}_+$ satisfying the above second and third property is called a *distance-like function*.

Reconstruction for distance-like functions

- Distance-like functions ϕ have well defined gradient $\nabla\phi$ and satisfy the isotopy lemma.

Reconstruction theorem (example): Let ϕ, ψ be two distance-like functions such that $\|\phi - \psi\|_\infty < \varepsilon$, with

$$\forall x \in \phi^{-1}((0,R]), \quad \|\nabla_x(\phi)\| > \alpha$$

for some positive ε, α and R. Then, for any $r \in [4\varepsilon/\alpha^2, R - 3\varepsilon]$, and for $0 < \eta < R$, the sublevel sets $\psi^r = \psi^{-1}([0,r])$ and $\phi^\eta = \phi^{-1}([0,\eta])$ are homotopy equivalent, as soon as

$$\varepsilon \leq \frac{R}{5 + 4/\alpha^2}$$

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isotopic

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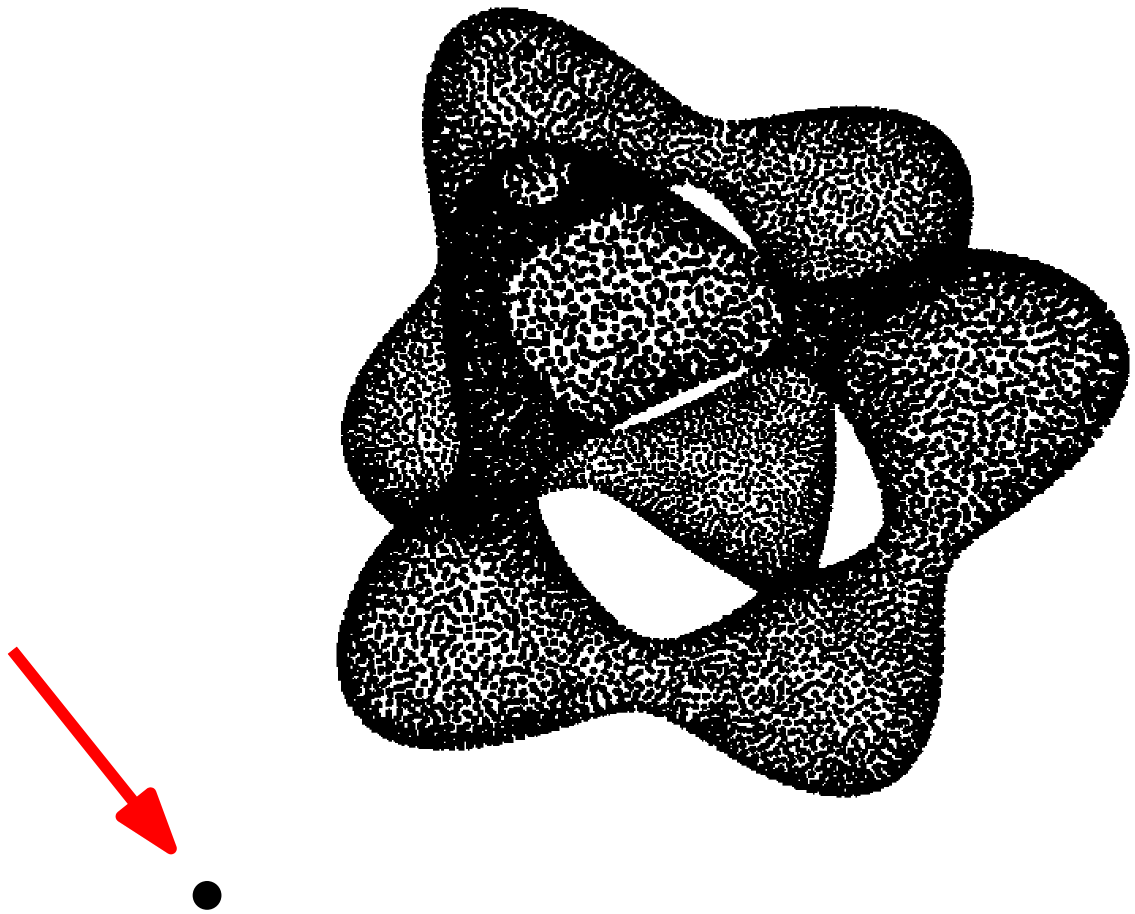
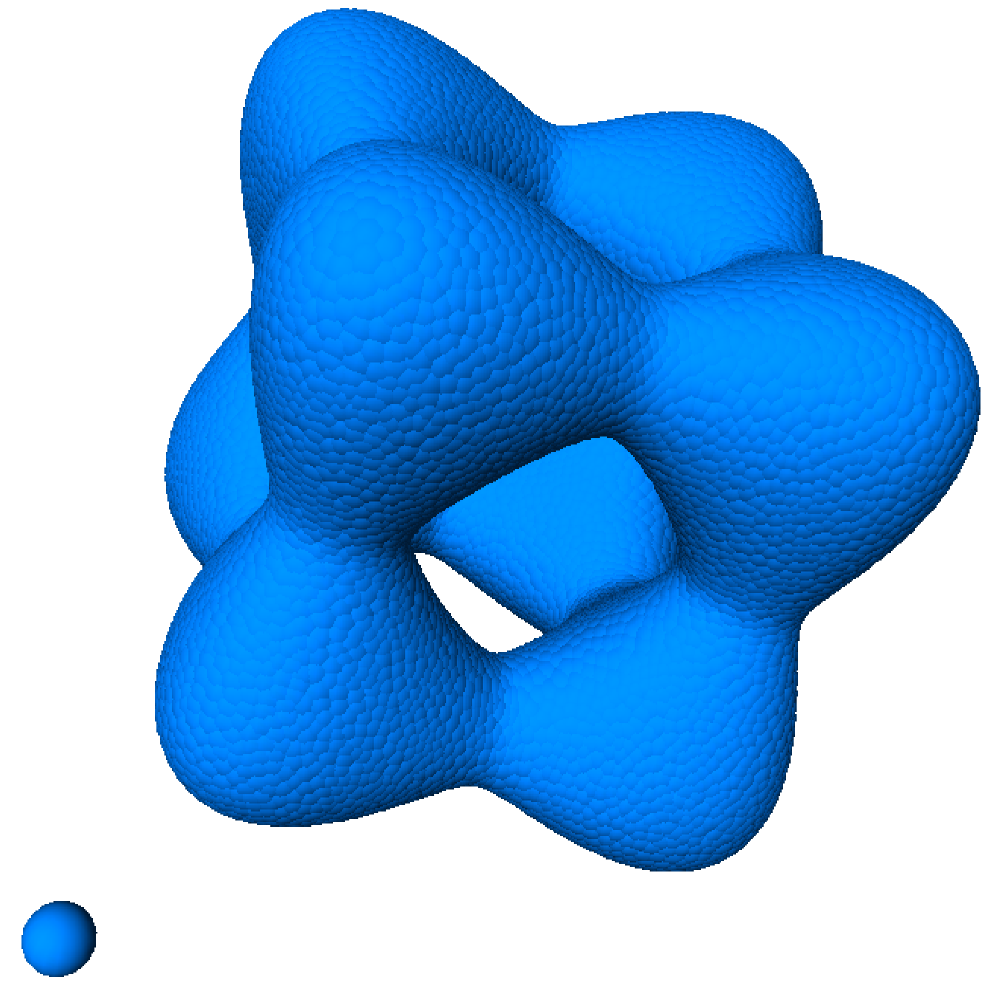
if more restrictive relationship between ε, R, α.

The problem of “outliers”

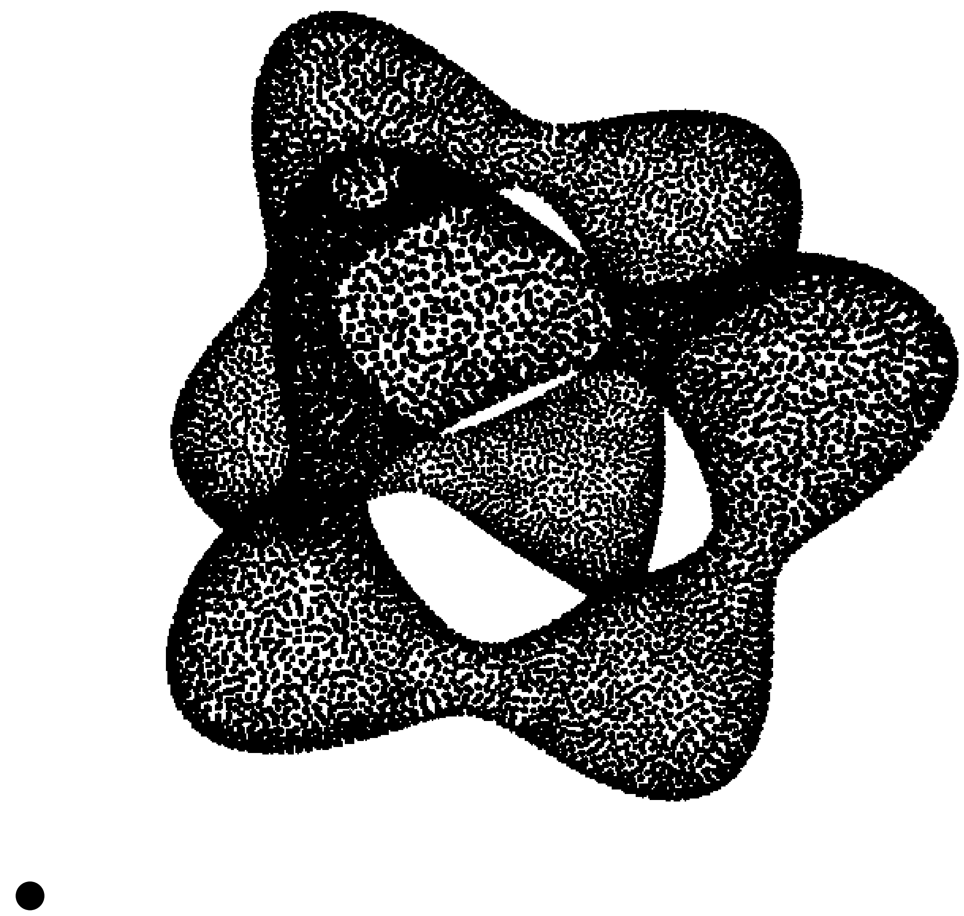


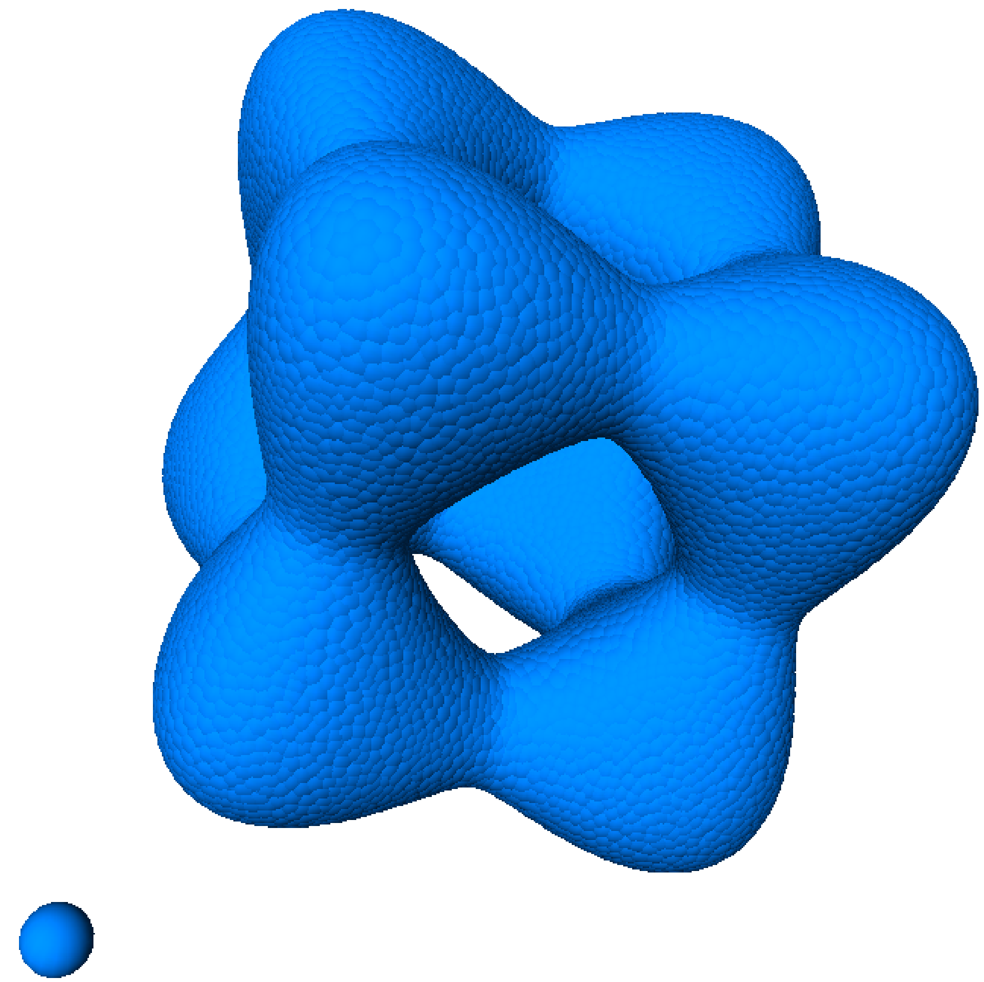


If $K' = K \cup \{x\}$ where $d_K(x) > R$, then $\|d_K - d_{K'}\|_\infty > R$: offset-based inference methods fail!

Question: Can we generalize the previous approach by replacing the distance function by a “distance-like” function having a better behavior with respect to “’noise” and “outliers”?

Replacing compact sets by measures

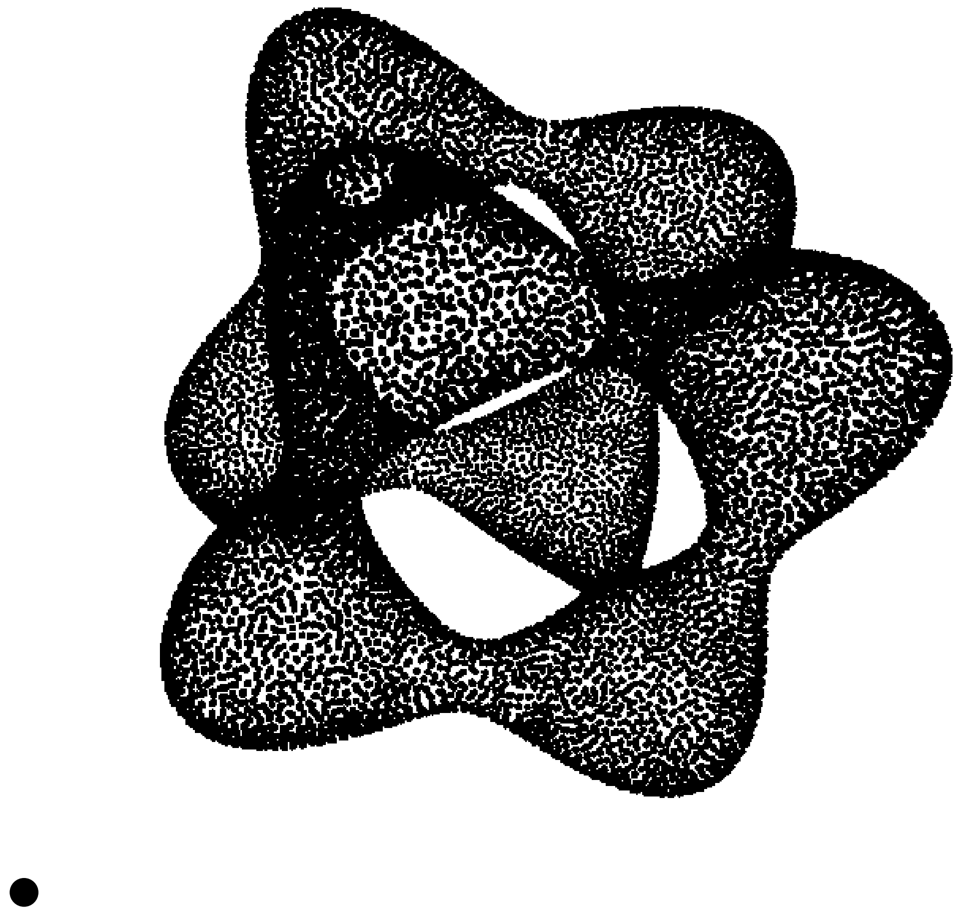


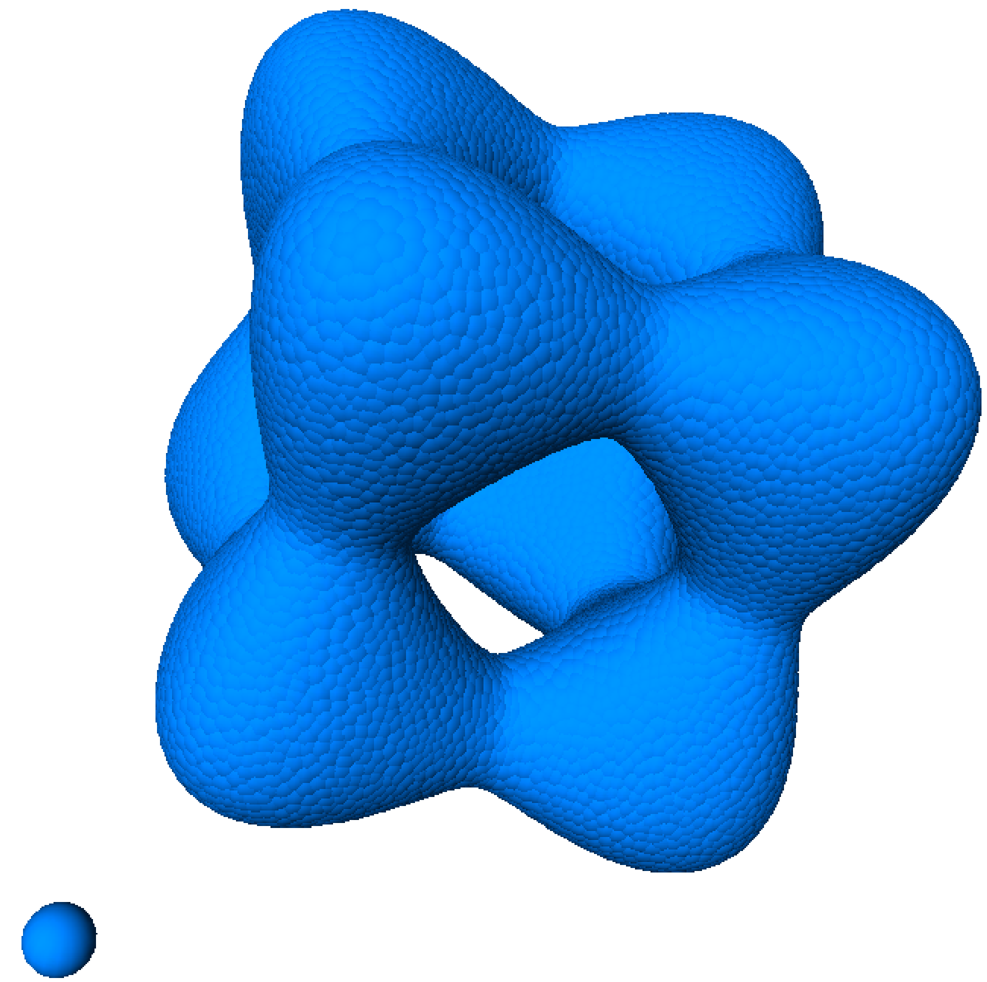


A **measure** μ is a mass distribution on $\mathbb{R}^d$:
mathematically, it is defined as a map μ that takes a (Borel) subset $B \subset \mathbb{R}^d$ and outputs a nonnegative number $\mu(B)$. Moreover we ask that if (B_i) are disjoint subsets, $\mu\left(\bigcup_{i\in\mathbb{N}} B_i\right) = \sum_{i\in\mathbb{N}} \mu(B_i)$.

$\mu(B)$ corresponds to to the mass of μ contained in B

Replacing compact sets by measures

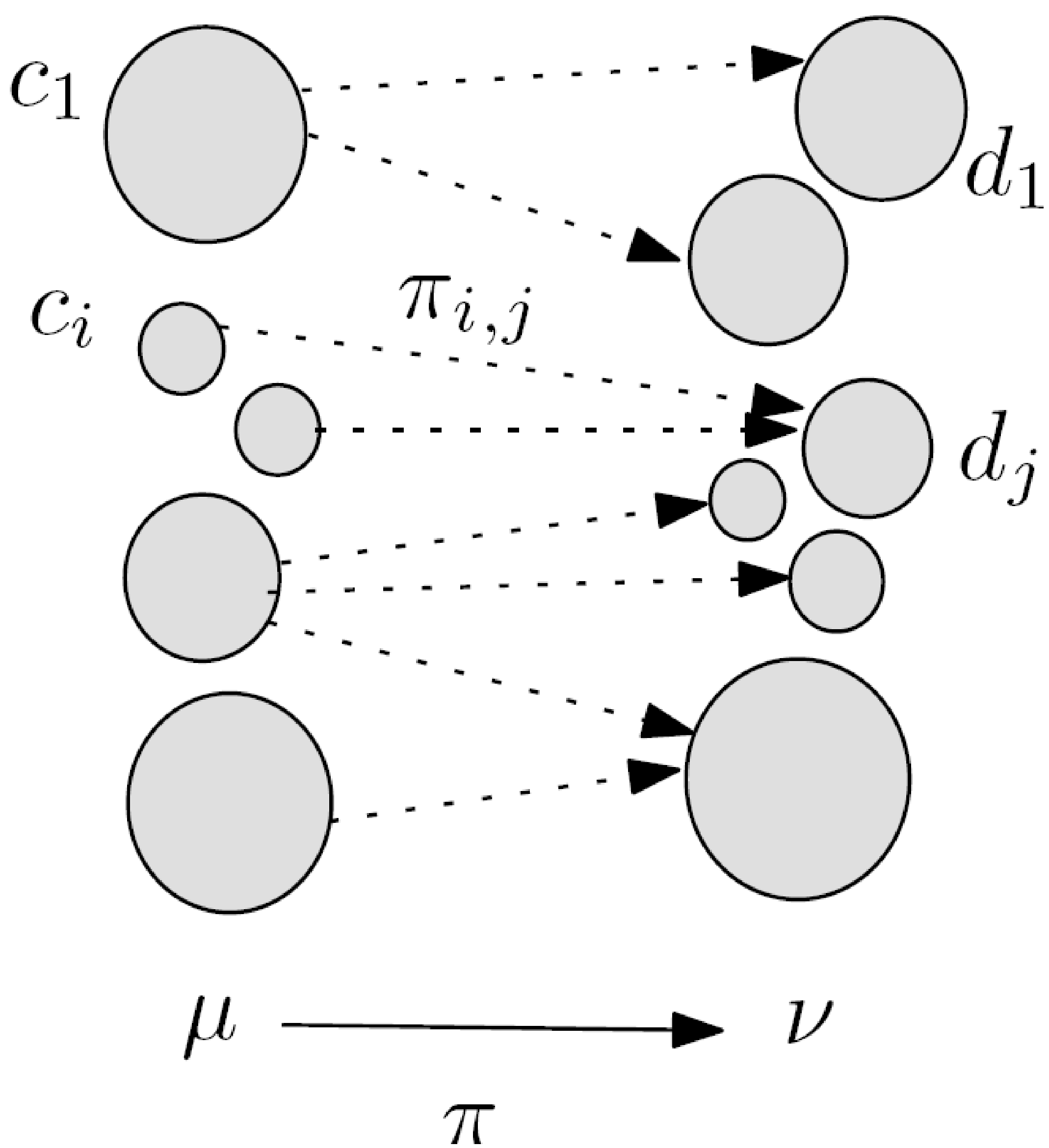




- a point cloud $C = \{p_1, \ldots, p_n\}$ defines a measure $\mu_C = \frac{1}{n}\sum_i \delta_{p_i}$
- the volume form on a k-dimensional submanifold M of $\mathbb{R}^d$ defines a measure $\mathrm{vol}_{k|M}$.
- etc...

Distance between measures

"The" **Wasserstein distance** $W_2(\mu,\nu)$ between two probability measures μ,ν (with finite 2-moments) quantifies the optimal cost of pushing μ onto ν, the cost of moving a small mass dx from x to y being $\|x-y\|^2 dx$.



1. μ and ν are discrete measures: $\mu = \sum_i c_i \delta_{x_i}$, $\nu = \sum_j d_j \delta_{y_j}$ with $\sum_j d_j = \sum_i c_i$.
2. *Transport plan*: set of coefficients $\pi_{ij} \geq 0$ with $\sum_i \pi_{ij} = d_j$ and $\sum_j \pi_{ij} = c_i$.
3. Cost of a transport plan
$$C(\pi) = \left(\sum_{ij} \|x_i - y_j\|^2 \pi_{ij}\right)^{1/2}$$
4. $d_W(\mu,\nu) := \inf_\pi C(\pi)$

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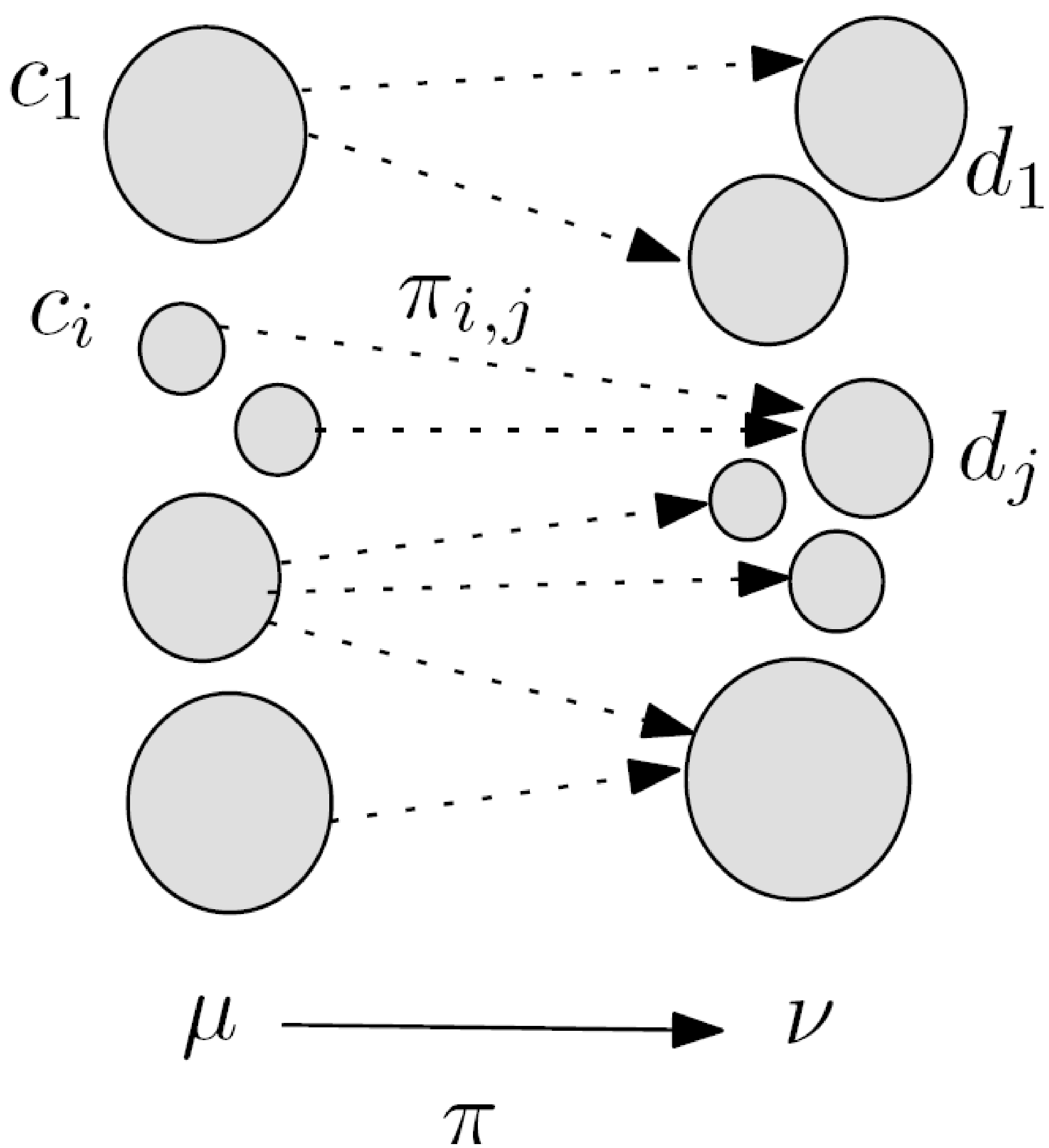
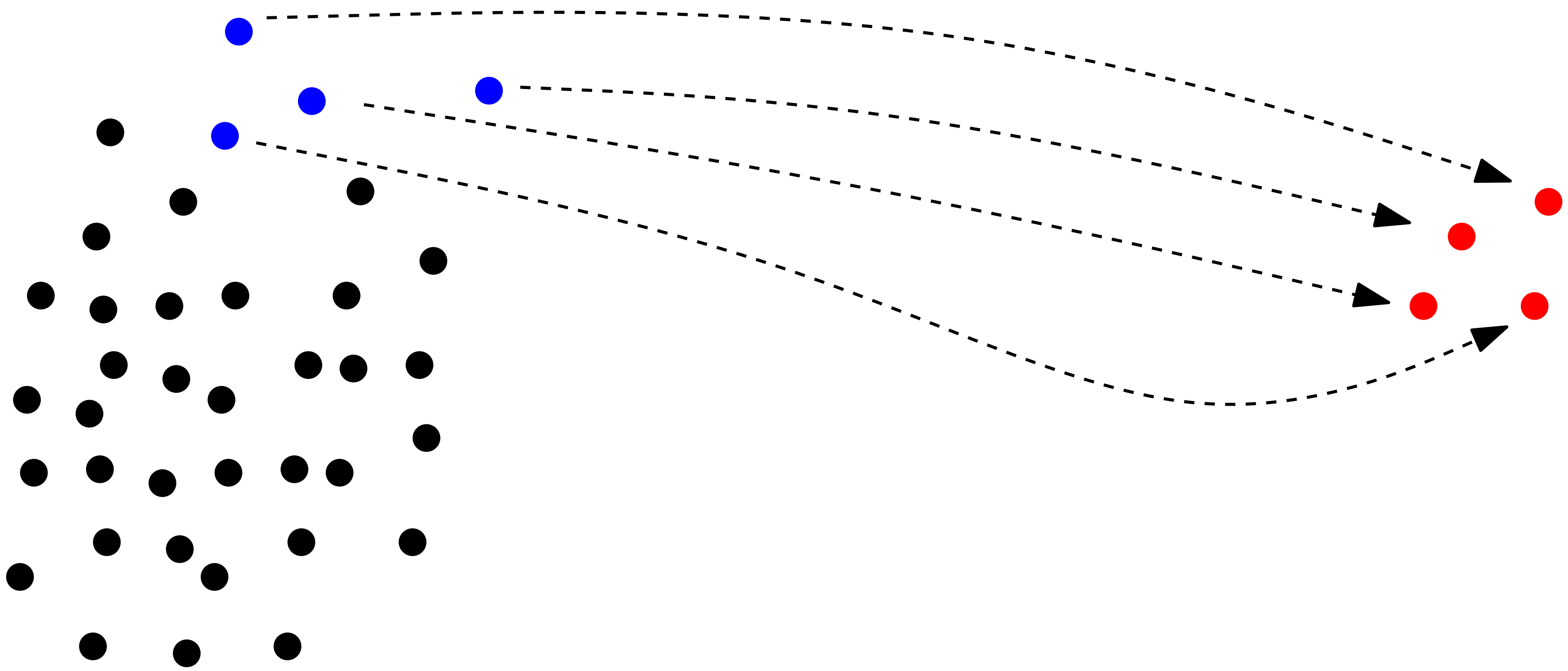


1. μ and ν are proba measures in $\mathbb{R}^d$
2. *Transport plan*: π a proba measure on $\mathbb{R}^d \times \mathbb{R}^d$ s.t. $\pi(A \times \mathbb{R}^d) = \mu(A)$ and $\pi(\mathbb{R}^d \times B) = \nu(B)$.
3. Cost of a transport plan $C(\pi) = \left(\int_{\mathbb{R}^d \times \mathbb{R}^d} \|x - y\|^2 d\pi(x, y) \right)^{\frac{1}{2}}$
4. $W_2(\mu, \nu) := \inf_\pi C(\pi)$

Wasserstein distance



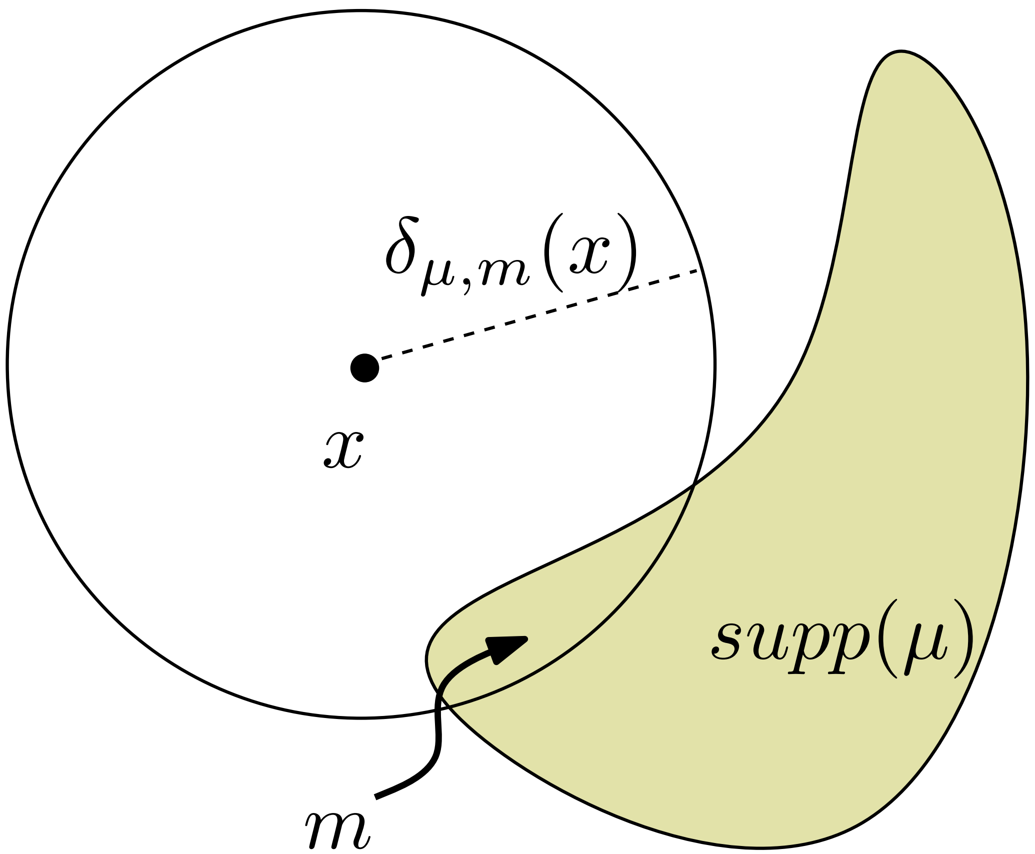
Example:

- If $C = \{p_1, \ldots, p_n\}$ is a point cloud, and $C' = \{p_1, \ldots, p_{n-k-1}, o_1, \ldots, o_k\}$ with $d(o_i, C) = R$, then

$$d_H(C, C') \geq R \qquad \text{but} \qquad W_2(\mu_C, \mu_{C'}) \leq \sqrt{\frac{k}{n}}(R + \mathrm{diam}(C))$$

The distance to a measure

Distance function to a measure, first attempt:
Let $m \in]0,1[$ be a positive mass, and μ a probability measure on $\mathbb{R}^d$:
$\delta_{\mu,m}(x) = \inf \{r > 0 : \mu(\mathbb{B}(x,r)) > m\}$.



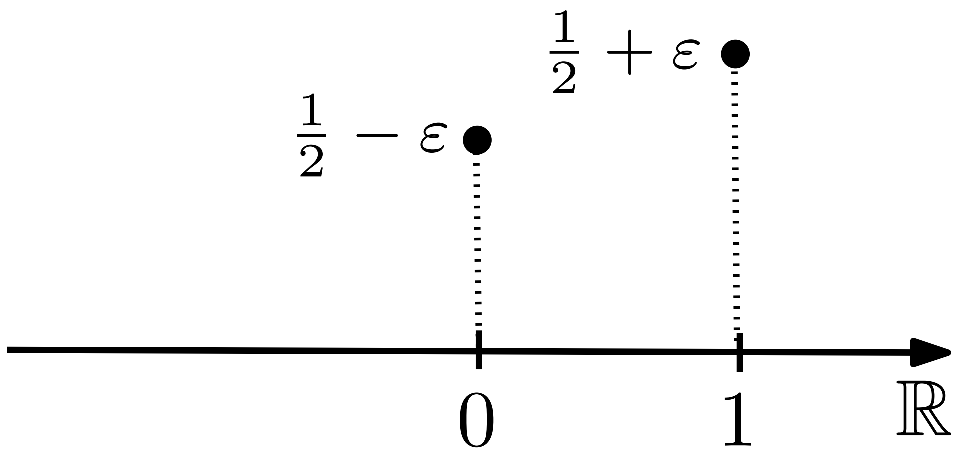
- $\delta_{\mu,m}$ is the smallest distance needed to capture a mass of at least m;
- Coincides with the distance to the k-th neighbor when $m = k/n$ and $\mu = \frac{1}{n}\sum_{i=1}^{n} \delta_{p_i}$:

$$\delta_{\mu,k/n}(\mu) = \|x - p_C^k(x)\|$$

Unstability of $\mu \mapsto \delta_{\mu,m}$

Distance function to a measure, first attempt:
Let $m \in]0,1[$ be a positive mass, and μ a probability measure on $\mathbb{R}^d$: $\delta_{\mu,m}(x) = \inf\{r > 0 : \mu(\mathbb{B}(x,r)) > m\}$.

Unstability under Wasserstein perturbations:



$$\mu_\varepsilon = (1/2-\varepsilon)\delta_0 + (1/2+\varepsilon)\delta_1$$

for $\varepsilon > 0 :\ \forall x < 0,\ \delta_{\mu_\varepsilon,1/2}(x) = |x-1|$

for $\varepsilon = 0 :\ \forall x < 0,\ \delta_{\mu_0,1/2}(x) = |x-0|$

Consequence: the map $\mu \mapsto \delta_{\mu,m} \in \mathcal{C}^0(\mathbb{R}^d)$ is discontinuous whatever the (reasonable) topology on $\mathcal{C}^0(\mathbb{R}^d)$.

The distance function to a measure

Definition: Given a probability measure μ on $\mathbb{R}^d$ and $m_0 > 0$, one defines:

$$\boxed{d_{\mu,m_0} : x \in \mathbb{R}^d \mapsto \left(\frac{1}{m_0} \int_0^{m_0} \delta_{\mu,m}^2(x) dm \right)^{1/2}}$$

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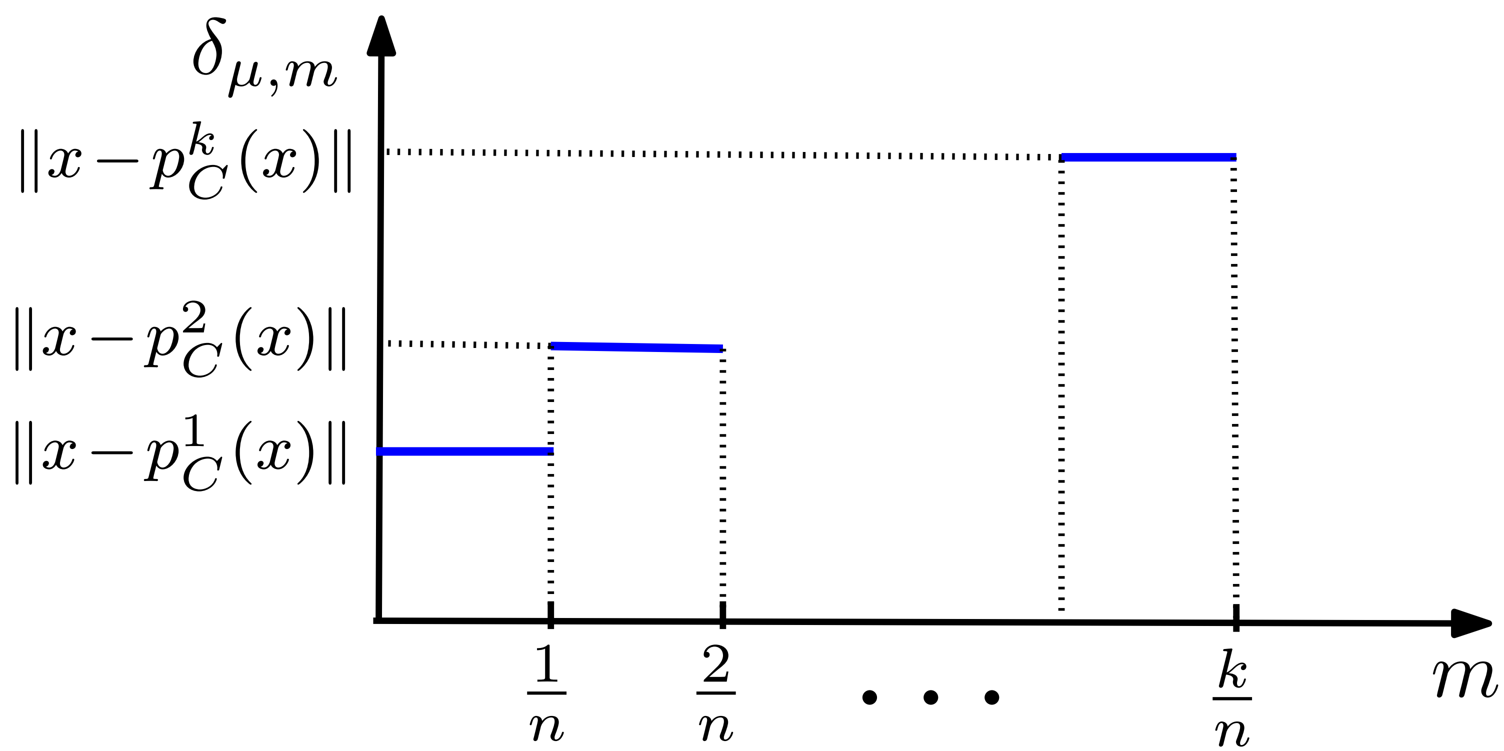
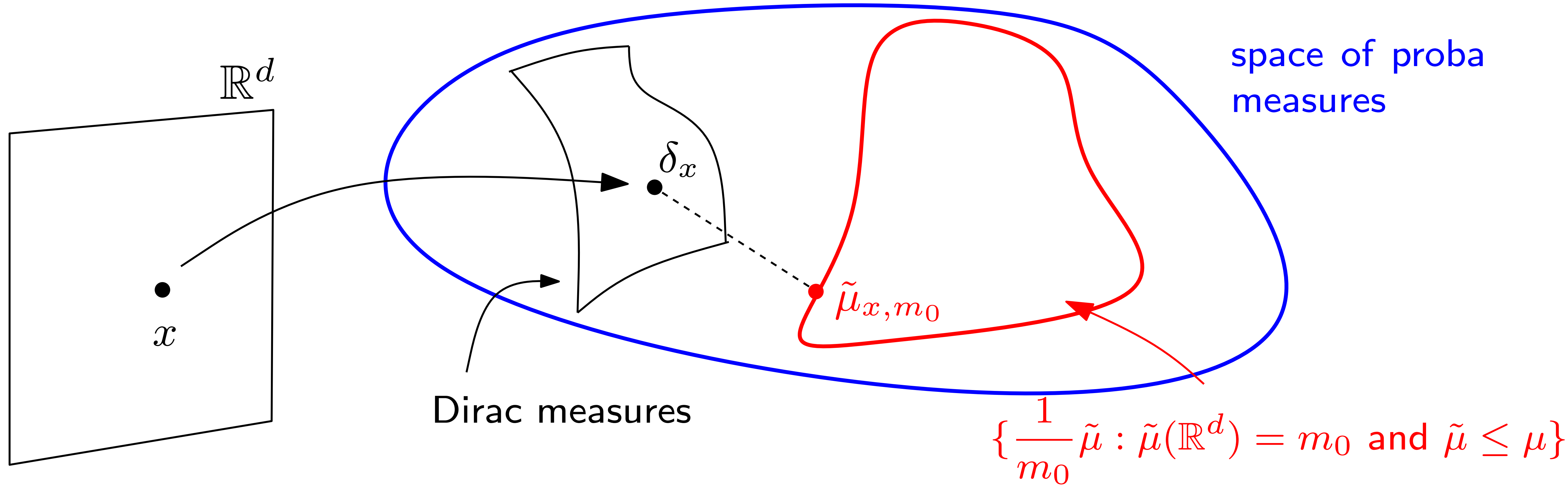


Example. Let $C = \{p_1, \dots, p_n\}$ and $\mu = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \delta_{p_i}$. Let $p_C^k(x)$ denote the kth nearest neighbor to x in C, and set $m_0 = k_0/n$:

$$d_{\mu,m_0}(x) = \left(\frac{1}{k_0} \sum_{k=1}^{k_0} \|x - p_C^k(x)\|^2 \right)^{1/2}$$

Another expression for d_{μ,m_0}

$$\boxed{d_{\mu,m_0}(x) = \min_{\tilde{\mu}} \left\{ W_2\left(\delta_x, \frac{1}{m_0}\tilde{\mu}\right) : \tilde{\mu}(\mathbb{R}^d) = m_0 \text{ and } \tilde{\mu} \leq \mu \right\}}$$



"The projection submeasure": $\tilde{\mu}_{x,m_0}$ = the restriction of μ on the ball $B = \mathbb{B}(x, \delta_{\mu,m_0}(x))$, whose trace on the sphere ∂B has been rescaled so that the total mass of $\tilde{\mu}_{x,m_0}$ is m_0.

$$d^2_{\mu,m_0}(x) = \frac{1}{m_0} \int_{h \in \mathbb{R}^d} \|h - x\|^2 \, d\tilde{\mu}_{x,m_0} = W_2^2\left(\delta_x, \frac{1}{m_0}\tilde{\mu}_{x,m_0}\right)$$

Another expression for d_{μ,m_0}

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Proof:

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Proof:

Only one transport plan : $y \in \mathbb{R}^d \to x$

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \|h - x\|^2 d\tilde{\mu}(h)$$

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Proof:

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \|h - x\|^2 d\tilde{\mu}(h) = \int_{\mathbb{R}_+} t^2 d\tilde{\mu}_x(t) = \int_0^{m_0} F_{\tilde{\mu}_x}^{-1}(m)^2 dm$$

pushforward of $\tilde{\mu}$ by the distance function to x.

$F_{\tilde{\mu}_x}(t) = \tilde{\mu}_x([0,t))$ is the cumulative function of $\tilde{\mu}_x$ and $F_{\tilde{\mu}_x}^{-1}(m) = \inf\{t \in \mathbb{R} : F_{\tilde{\mu}_x}(t) > m\}$ is its generalized inverse

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- $\tilde{\mu} \leq \mu \Rightarrow F_{\tilde{\mu}_x}(t) \leq F_{\mu_x}(t) \Rightarrow F_{\tilde{\mu}_x}^{-1}(m) \geq F_{\mu_x}^{-1}(m)$
- $F_{\tilde{\mu}_x}(t) = \mu(\mathbb{B}(x,t))$ and $F_{\tilde{\mu}_x}^{-1}(m) = \delta_{\tilde{\mu},m}(x)$

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \|h - x\|^2 d\tilde{\mu}(h) \geq \int_0^{m_0} F_{\mu_x}^{-1}(m)^2 dm = \int_0^{m_0} \delta_{\mu,m}(x)^2 dm$$

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Equality iff $F_{\tilde{\mu}_x}^{-1}(m) = F_{\mu_x}^{-1}(m)$ for almost every m

$\Rightarrow$ equality if $\tilde{\mu} = \tilde{\mu}_{x,m_0}$

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \|h-x\|^2 d\tilde{\mu}(h) \geq \int_0^{m_0} F_{\mu_x}^{-1}(m)^2 dm = \int_0^{m_0} \delta_{\mu,m}(x)^2 dm$$

Semiconcavity of d^2_{μ,m_0}

Theorem: Let μ be a probability measure in $\mathbb{R}^d$ and let $m_0 \in (0,1)$.

1. d^2_{μ,m_0} is 1-semiconcave, i.e. $\mathrm{x} \in \mathbb{R}^d \mapsto \|x\|^2 - d^2_{\mu,m_0}$ is convex.
2. d^2_{μ,m_0} is differentiable almost everywhere in $\mathbb{R}^d$, with gradient defined by
$$\nabla_x d^2_{\mu,m_0} = \frac{2}{m_0} \int_{h \in \mathbb{R}^d} (x-h)\, d\tilde{\mu}_{x,m_0}(h)$$
3. the function $x \in \mathbb{R}^d \mapsto d_{\mu,m_0}(x)$ is 1-Lipschitz.

Example. Let $C = \{p_1, \ldots, p_n\}$ and $\mu = \frac{1}{n}\sum_{i=1}^n \delta_{p_i}$. Let $p_C^k(x)$ denote the kth nearest neighbor to x in C, and set $m_0 = k_0/n$:

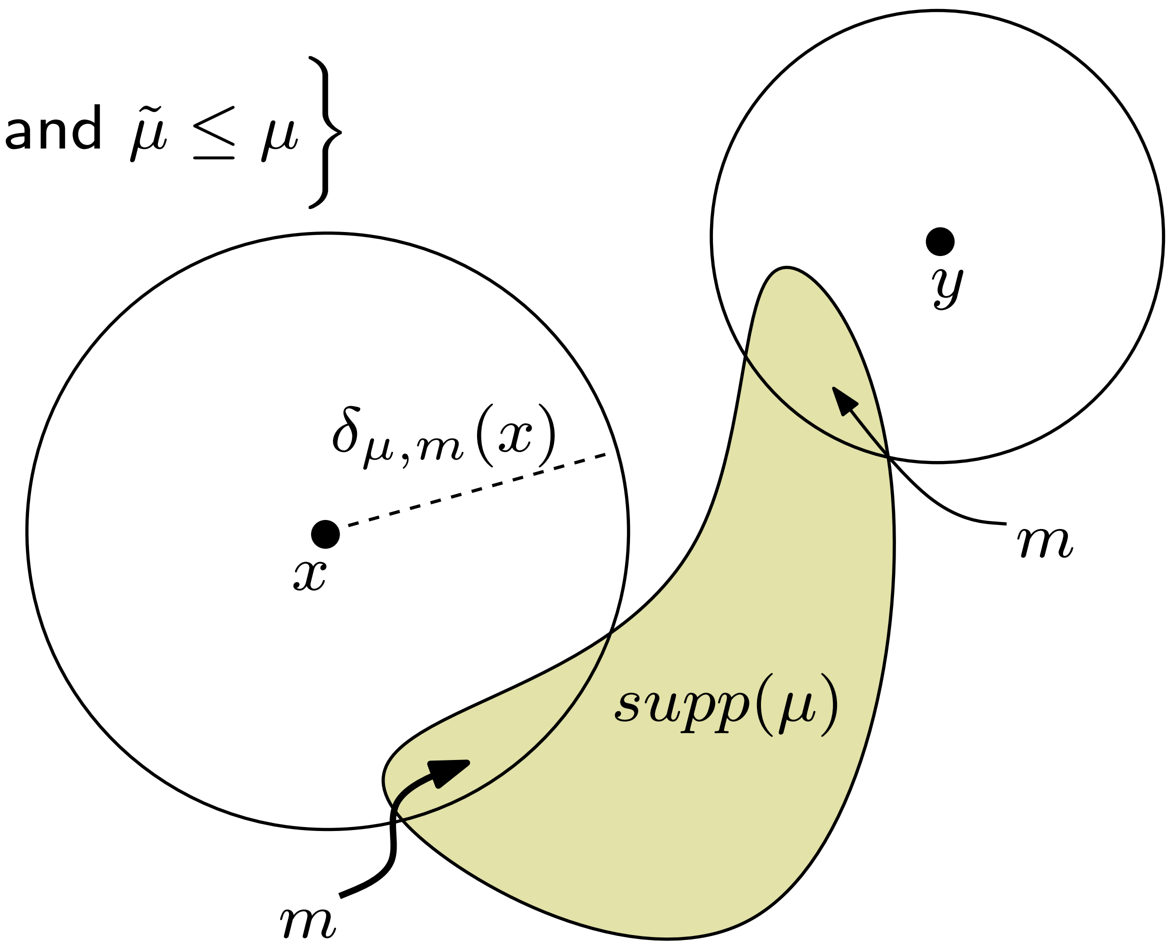
$$\nabla d^2_{\mu,m_0}(x) = 2 d_{\mu,m_0} \nabla d_{\mu,m_0} = \frac{2}{k_0} \sum_{k=1}^{k_0} (x - p_C^k(x))$$

Semiconcavity of d^2_{μ,m_0}

Proof:

$$d^2_{\mu,m_0}(y) = \frac{1}{m_0}\int_{h\in\mathbb{R}^d} \|y-h\|^2 \, d\tilde{\mu}_{y,m_0}(h)$$
$$\leq \frac{1}{m_0}\int_{h\in\mathbb{R}^d} \|y-h\|^2 \, d\tilde{\mu}_{x,m_0}(h)$$

$$d_{\mu,m_0}(x) = \min_{\tilde{\mu}} \left\{ W_2\left(\delta_x, \frac{1}{m_0}\tilde{\mu}\right) : \tilde{\mu}(\mathbb{R}^d) = m_0 \text{ and } \tilde{\mu} \leq \mu \right\}$$



Semiconcavity of d^2_{μ,m_0}

Proof:

$$
\begin{aligned}
d^2_{\mu,m_0}(y) &= \frac{1}{m_0}\int_{h\in\mathbb{R}^d} \|y-h\|^2 \, d\tilde{\mu}_{y,m_0}(h) \\
&\leq \frac{1}{m_0}\int_{h\in\mathbb{R}^d} \|y-h\|^2 \, d\tilde{\mu}_{x,m_0}(h) \\
&= \frac{1}{m_0}\int_{h\in\mathbb{R}^d} \left(\|x-h\|^2 + 2\,\langle x-h, y-x\rangle + \|y-x\|^2\ \right)\, d\tilde{\mu}_{x,m_0}(h) \\
&= d^2_{\mu,m_0}(x) + \|y-x\|^2 + \langle V, y-x\rangle
\end{aligned}
$$

with $V = \frac{2}{m_0}\int_{h\in\mathbb{R}^d}[x-h]\,d\tilde{\mu}_{x,m_0}(h)$.

Semiconcavity of d^2_{μ,m_0}

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&= d^2_{\mu,m_0}(x) + \|y-x\|^2 + \langle V, y-x\rangle
\end{aligned}
$$

with $V = \frac{2}{m_0}\int_{h\in\mathbb{R}^d}[x-h]\, d\tilde{\mu}_{x,m_0}(h)$.

$$
\Rightarrow (\|y\|^2 - d^2_{\mu,m_0}(y)) - (\|x\|^2 - d^2_{\mu,m_0}(x)) \geq \langle 2x - V, x-y\rangle
$$

This is the gradient!

Stability of of $\mu \to d_{\mu,m_0}$

Theorem: If μ and ν are two probability measures on $\mathbb{R}^d$ and $m_0 > 0$, then $\|d_{\mu,m_0} - d_{\nu,m_0}\|_\infty \leq \frac{1}{\sqrt{m_0}} W_2(\mu,\nu)$.

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Proof:

Set of submeasures of μ of mass m_0.

Proposition: $d_H(\mathrm{Sub}_{m_0}(\mu), \mathrm{Sub}_{m_0}(\nu)) \leq W_2(\mu,\nu)$

$$
\begin{aligned}
d_{\mu,m_0}(x) &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{m_0}} W_2(m_0\delta_x, \mathrm{Sub}_{m_0}(\mu)) \\
&\leq \frac{1}{\sqrt{m_0}} (d_H(\mathrm{Sub}_{m_0}(\mu), \mathrm{Sub}_{m_0}(\nu)) + W_2(m_0\delta_x, \mathrm{Sub}_{m_0}(\nu))) \\
&\leq \frac{1}{\sqrt{m_0}} W_2(\mu,\nu) + d_{\nu,m_0}(x)
\end{aligned}
$$

Stability of of $\mu \to d_{\mu,m_0}$

Theorem: If μ and ν are two probability measures on $\mathbb{R}^d$ and $m_0 > 0$, then $\|d_{\mu,m_0} - d_{\nu,m_0}\|_\infty \leq \frac{1}{\sqrt{m_0}} W_2(\mu, \nu)$.

Proof:

Set of submeasures of μ of mass m_0.

Proposition: $d_H(\mathrm{Sub}_{m_0}(\mu), \mathrm{Sub}_{m_0}(\nu)) \leq W_2(\mu, \nu)$

$$
\begin{aligned}
d_{\mu,m_0}(x) &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{m_0}} W_2(m_0 \delta_x, \mathrm{Sub}_{m_0}(\mu)) \\
&\leq \frac{1}{\sqrt{m_0}} (d_H(\mathrm{Sub}_{m_0}(\mu), \mathrm{Sub}_{m_0}(\nu)) + W_2(m_0 \delta_x, \mathrm{Sub}_{m_0}(\nu))) \\
&\leq \frac{1}{\sqrt{m_0}} W_2(\mu, \nu) + d_{\nu,m_0}(x)
\end{aligned}
$$

Rmk: Stability also holds with W_p and in any metric space (applications to topological data analysis).

To summarize

Theorem

1. the function $x \mapsto d_{\mu,m_0}(x)$ is 1-Lipschitz;
2. the function $x \mapsto \|x\|^2 - d^2_{\mu,m_0}(x)$ is convex;
3. the map $\mu \mapsto d_{\mu,m_0}$ from probability measures to continuous functions is $\frac{1}{\sqrt{m_0}}$–Lipschitz, ie

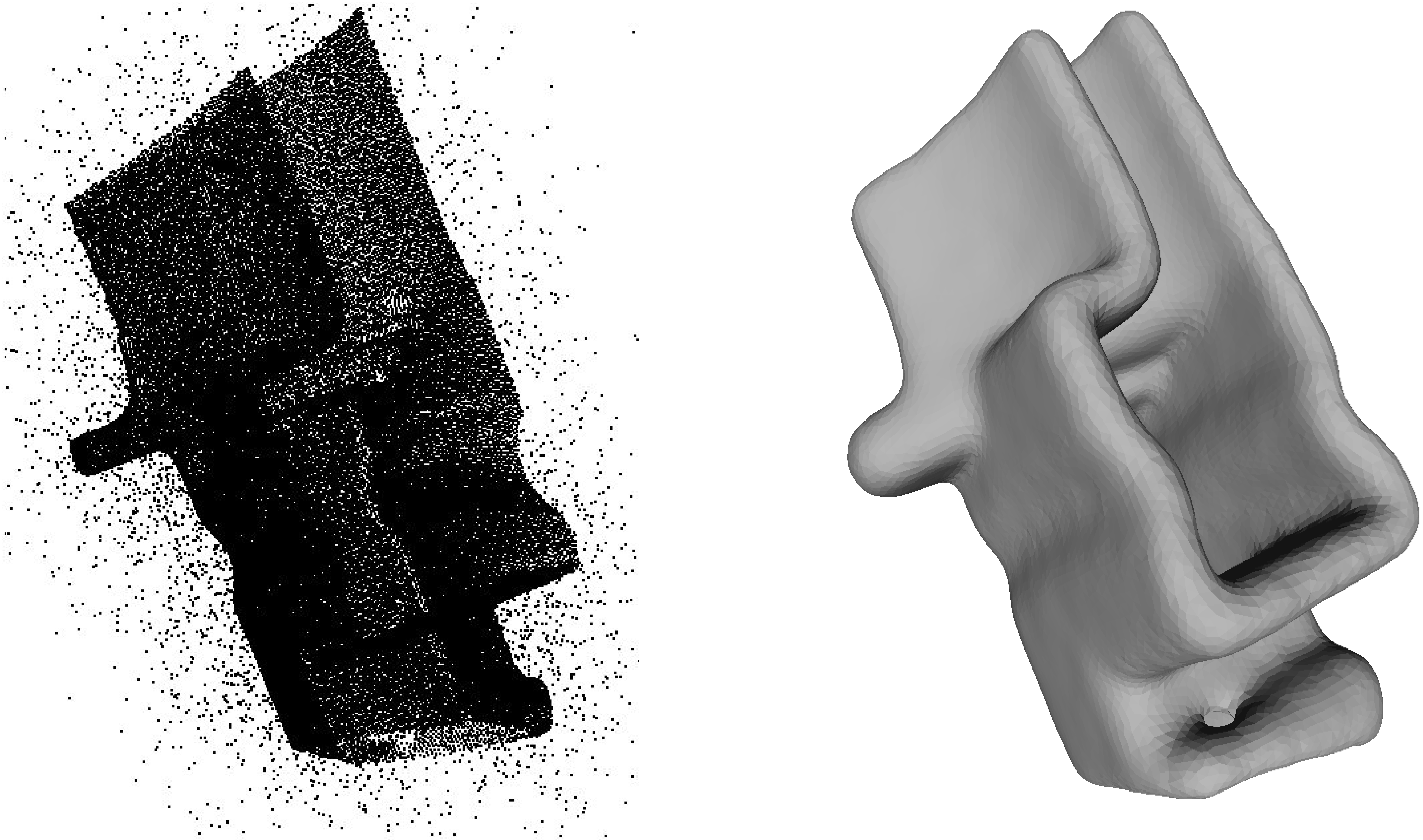
$$\|d_{\mu,m_0} - d_{\mu',m_0}\|_\infty \leq \frac{1}{\sqrt{m_0}} W_2(\mu, \mu')$$

Consequences: Most of the topological and geometric inference results for distance functions transpose to distance to a measure functions!

In practice: d_{μ,m_0} and $\nabla d_{\mu,m_0}$ are very easy to compute for $\mu = \frac{1}{n}\sum_{i=1}^n \delta_{p_i}$, $C = \{p_1, \cdots p_n\} \subset \mathbb{R}^d$, even for pretty large d !

Ref: F. Chazal, D. Cohen-Steiner, Q. Mérigot, Geometric Inference for Probability Measures, in Journal on Foundations of computational Mathematics, vol.11, 6, 733-751 2011.

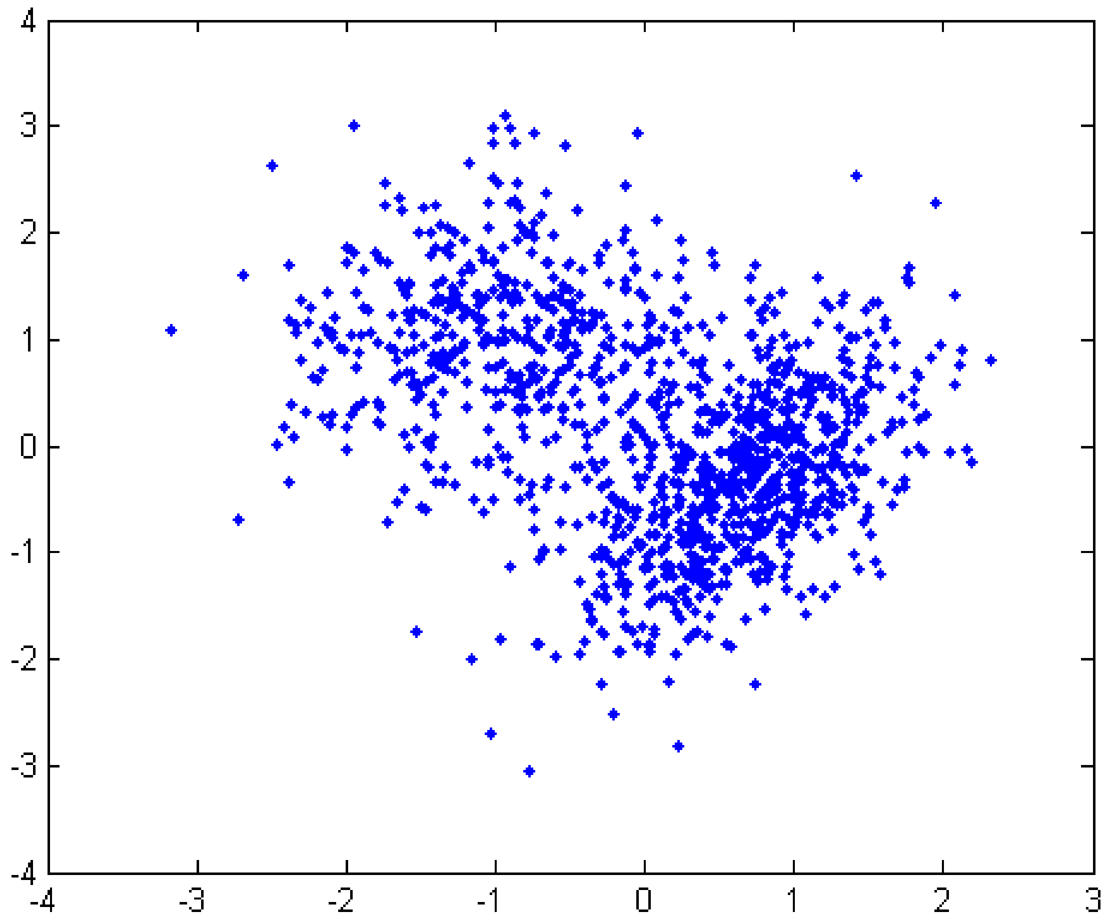
A 3D example



Reconstruction of an offset of a mechanical part from a noisy approximation with 10% outliers

Applications in stats: density estimation

(joint work with G. Biau, D. Cohen-Steiner, L. Devroye, C. rodrìguez) [EJS 2011]



$$\hat{\mu} = \frac{1}{1200} \sum_{i=1}^{1200} \delta_{p_i}$$

Data: 1200 points $p_1, \cdots, p_{1200}$

Density is estimated using

1. $x \mapsto \frac{m_0}{\omega_{d-1}(\delta_{\hat{\mu},m_0}(x))}$, $m_0 = 150/1200$ $(k = 150)$ (Devroye-Wagner'77).

2. $\frac{m_0}{2\pi d_{\hat{\mu},m_0}(x)^2}$, $m_0 = 150/1200$ $(k = 150)$.

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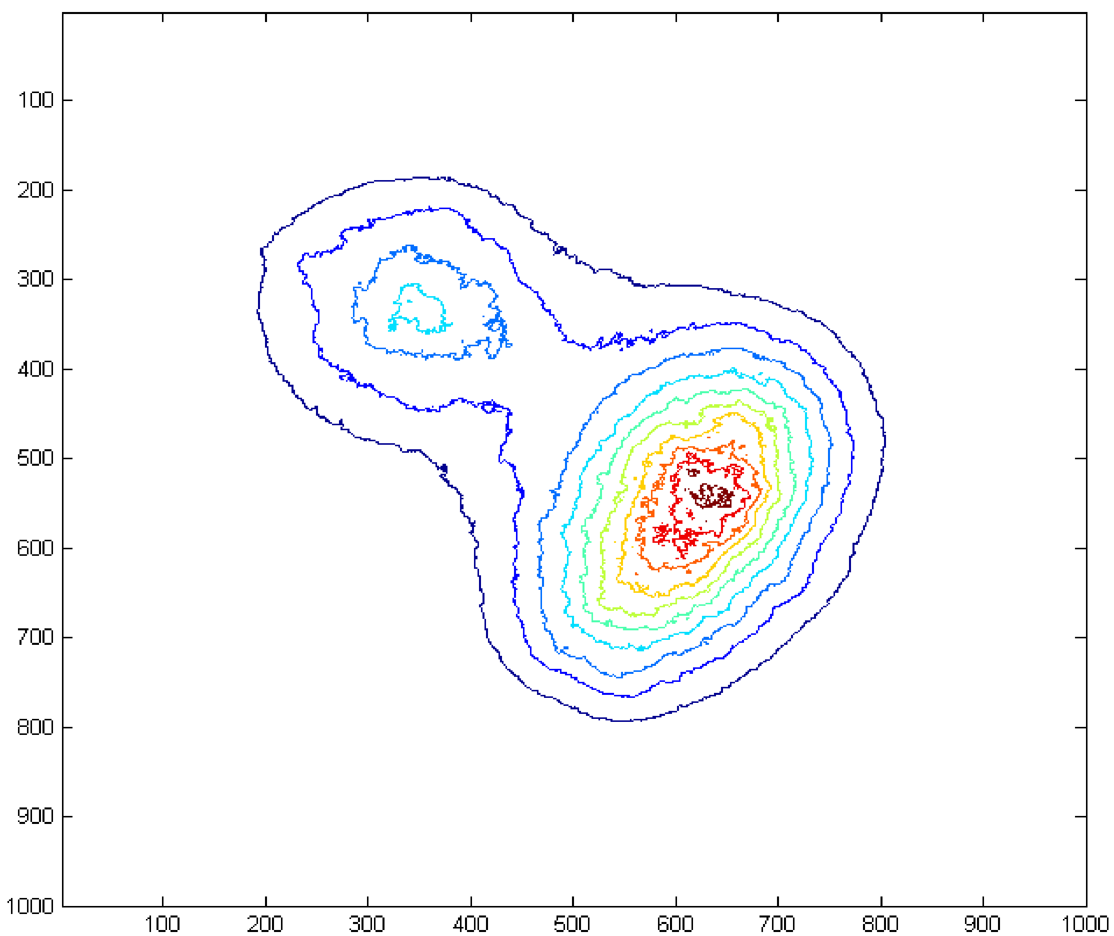
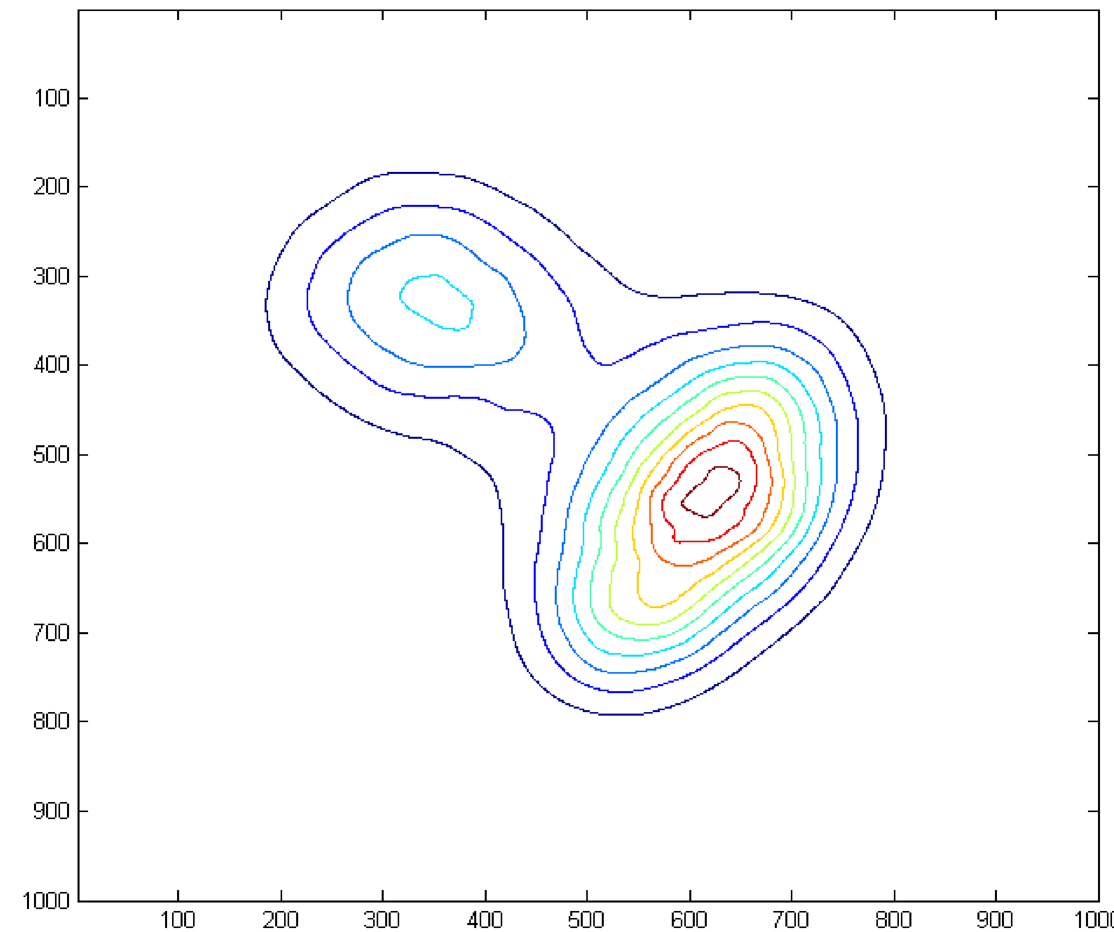


1.



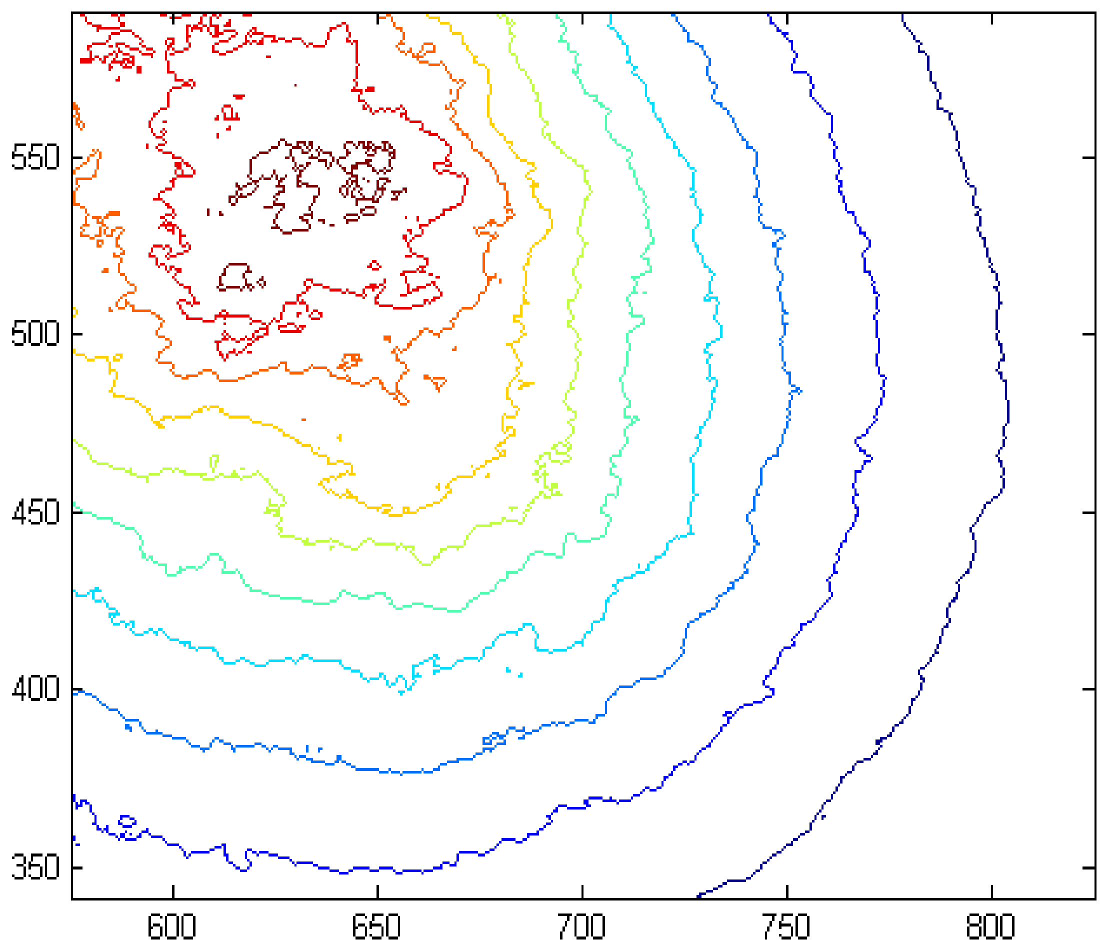
2.

Density is estimated using

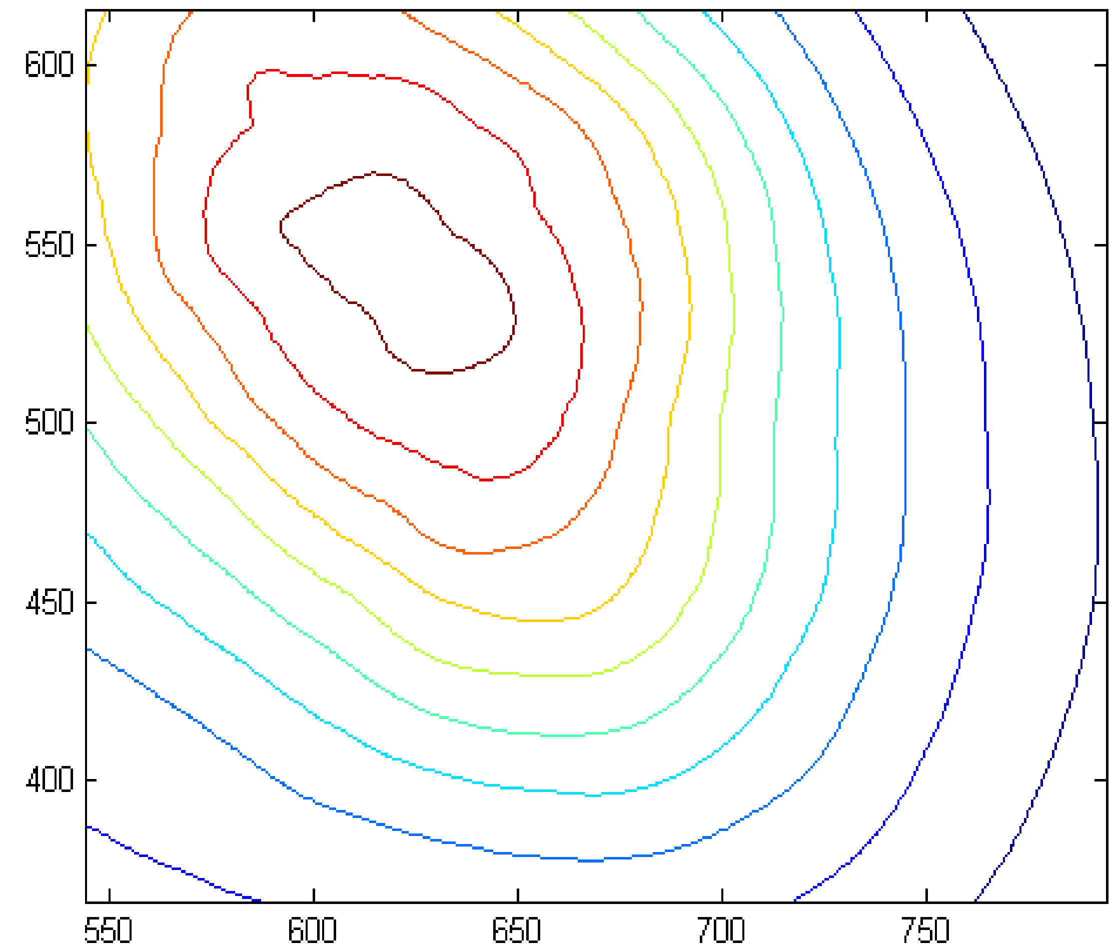
1. $x \mapsto \frac{m_0}{\omega_{d-1}(\delta_{\hat{\mu},m_0}(x))}$, $m_0 = 150/1200$ $(k = 150)$ (Devroye-Wagner'77).
2. $\frac{m_0}{2\pi d_{\hat{\mu},m_0}(x)^2}$, $m_0 = 150/1200$ $(k = 150)$.

Applications in stats: density estimation

(joint work with G. Biau, D. Cohen-Steiner, L. Devroye, C. rodrìguez) [EJS 2011]



1.

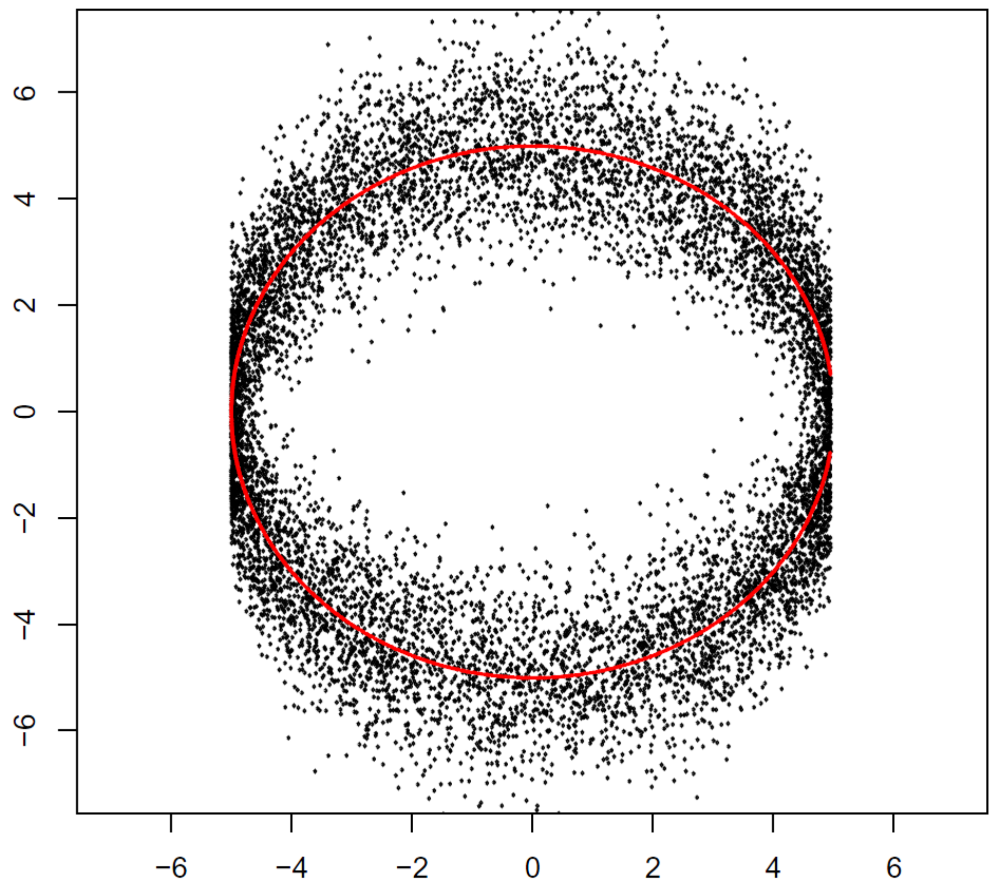


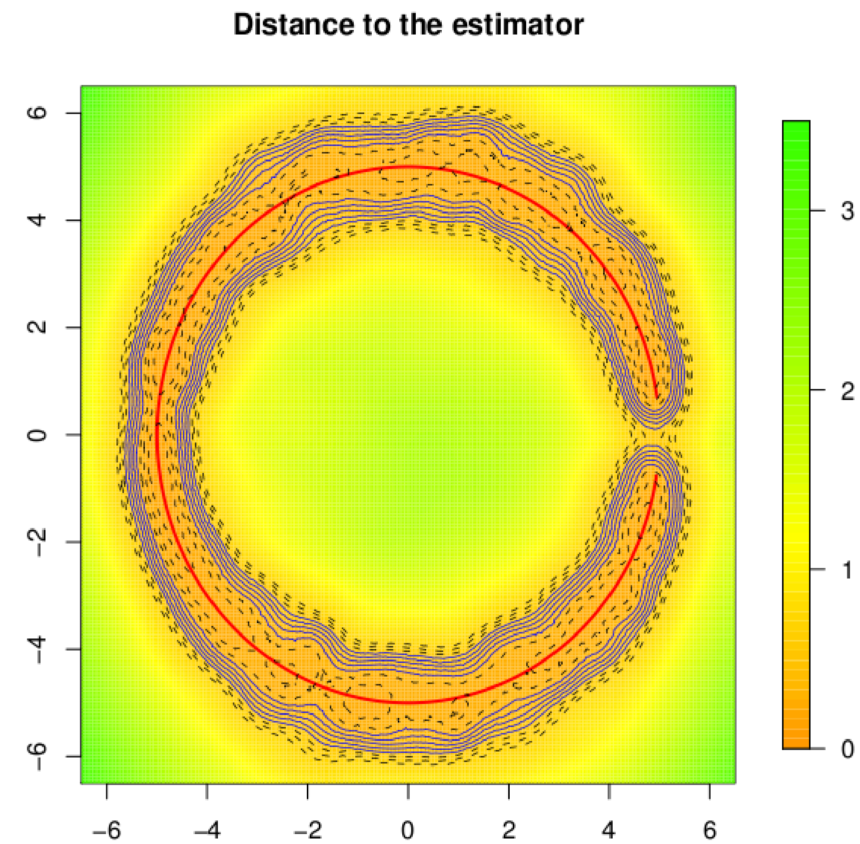
2.

d_{μ,m_0} can be turned into a density estimator whose level sets foliation is the same as the one of d_{μ,m_0}.

Applications in stats: deconvolution

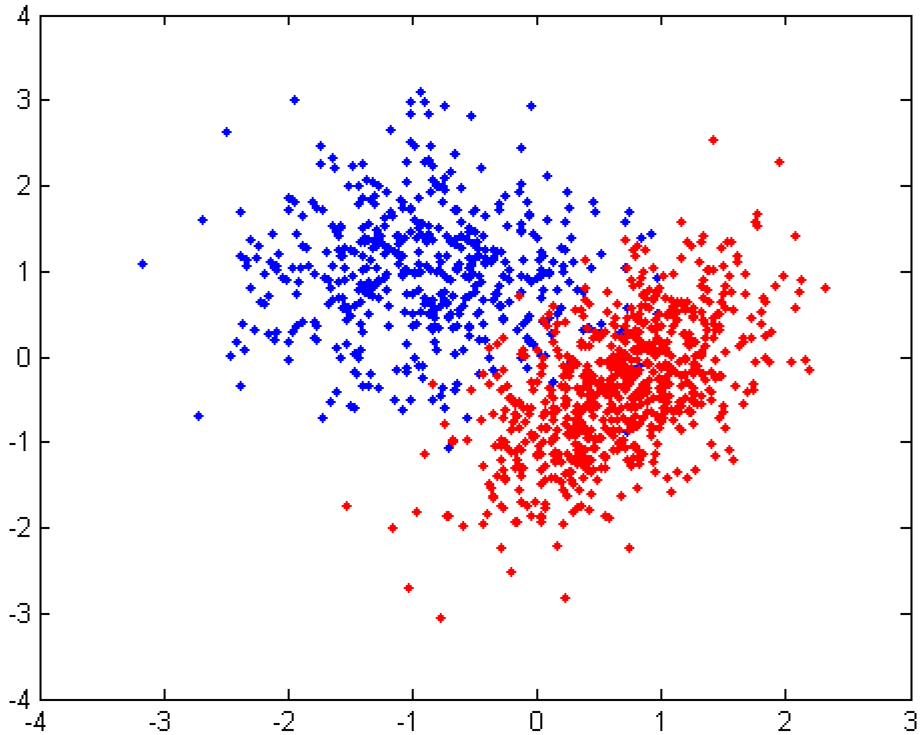
(joint work with C. Caillerie, J. Dedecker, B. Michel) [EJS 2011]

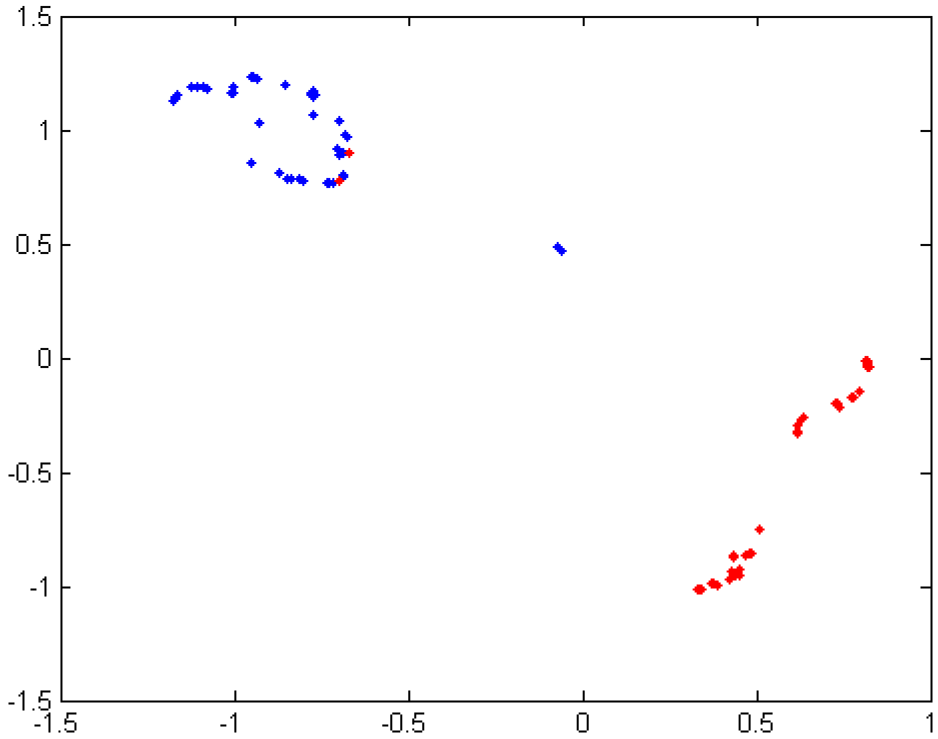




When the data are corrupted by an important amount of noise, geometric structures still can be infered when the nature of noise is known.

Using the gradient of d_{μ,m_0}





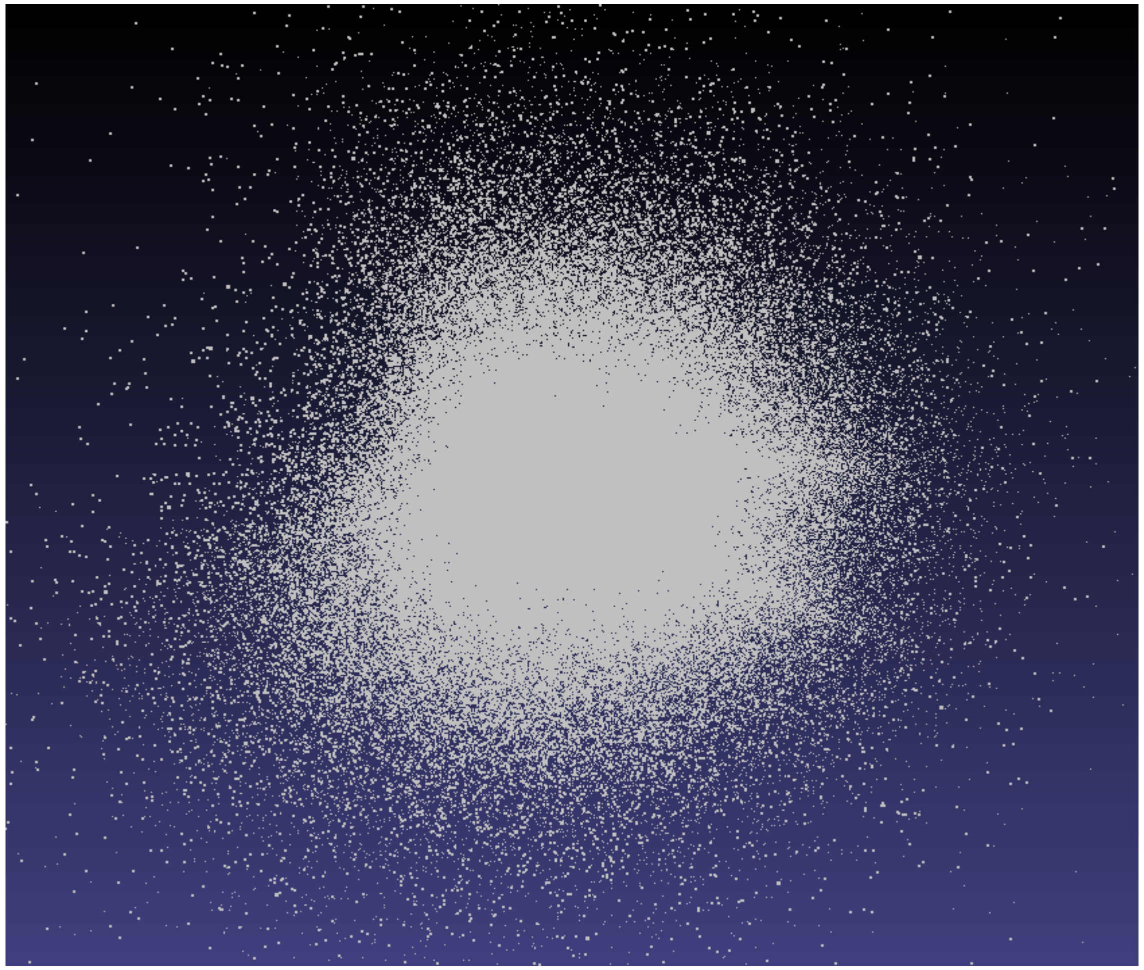
- Mean-Shift like algorithm (Fukunaga-Hostetler'75, Comaniciu-Meer '02)
- Theoretical guarantees on the convergence of the algorithm and "smoothness" of trajectories.
- "Fast concentration of mass" around underlying geometric structures?

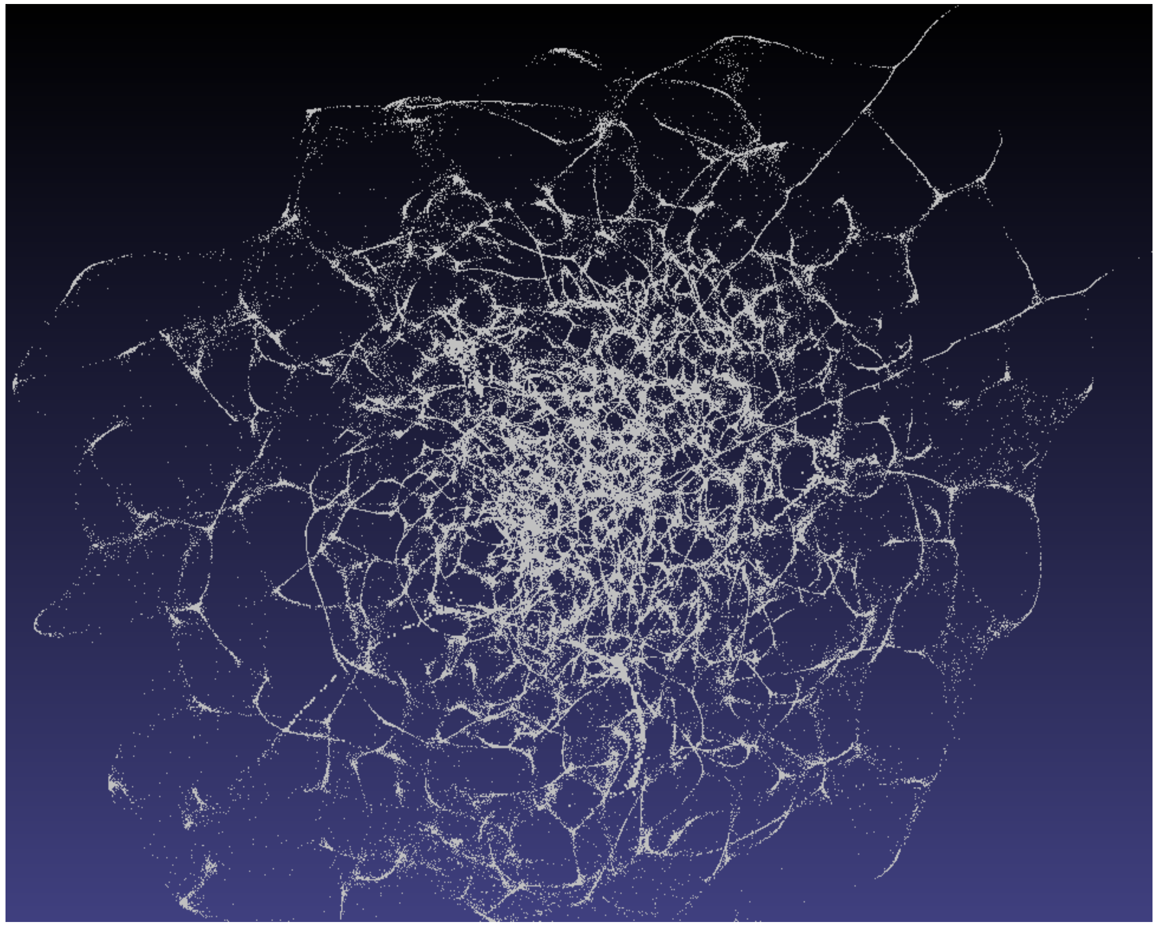
Pushing data along the gradient of d_{μ,m_0}

Distance-based mean-shift followed by k-Means clustering on the point cloud made of LUV colors of the pixels of the picture on the right (10 clusters).

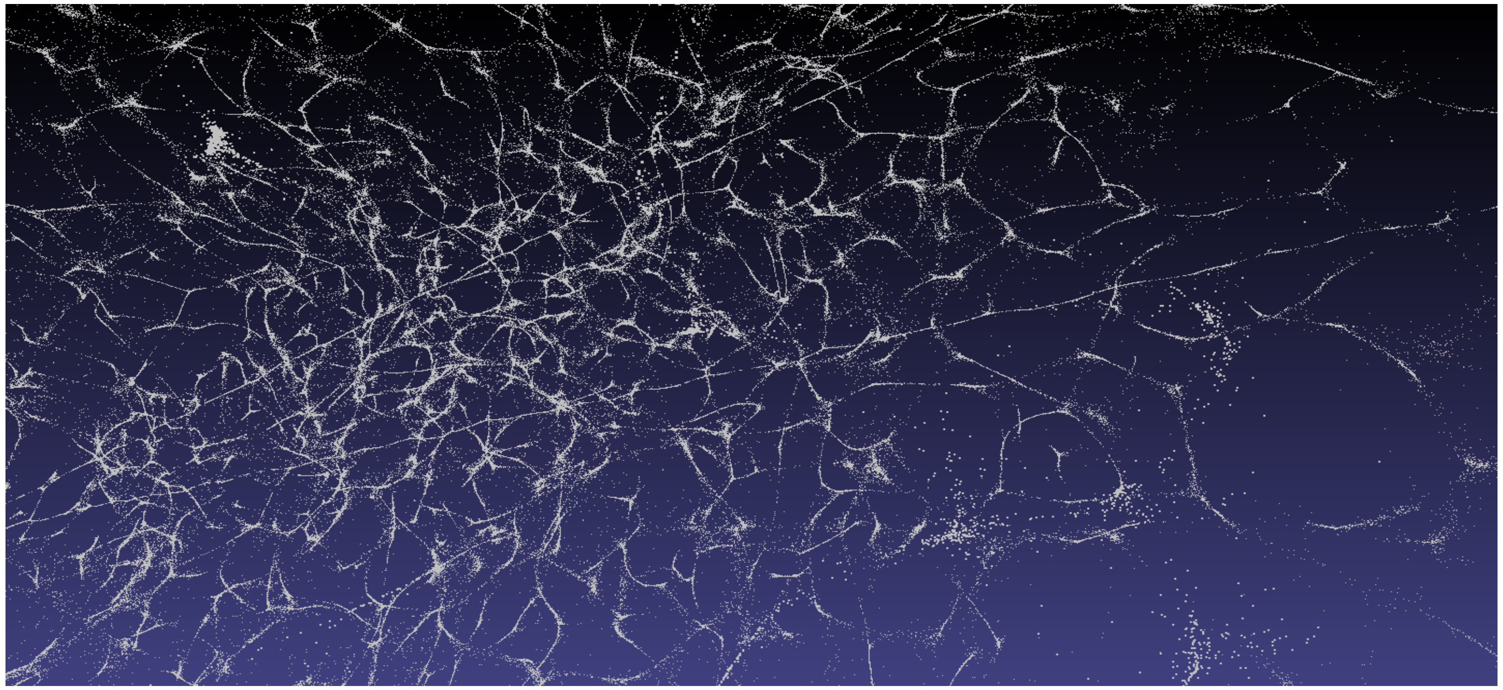
Using the gradient of d_{μ,m_0}: filaments detection

(on-going work)



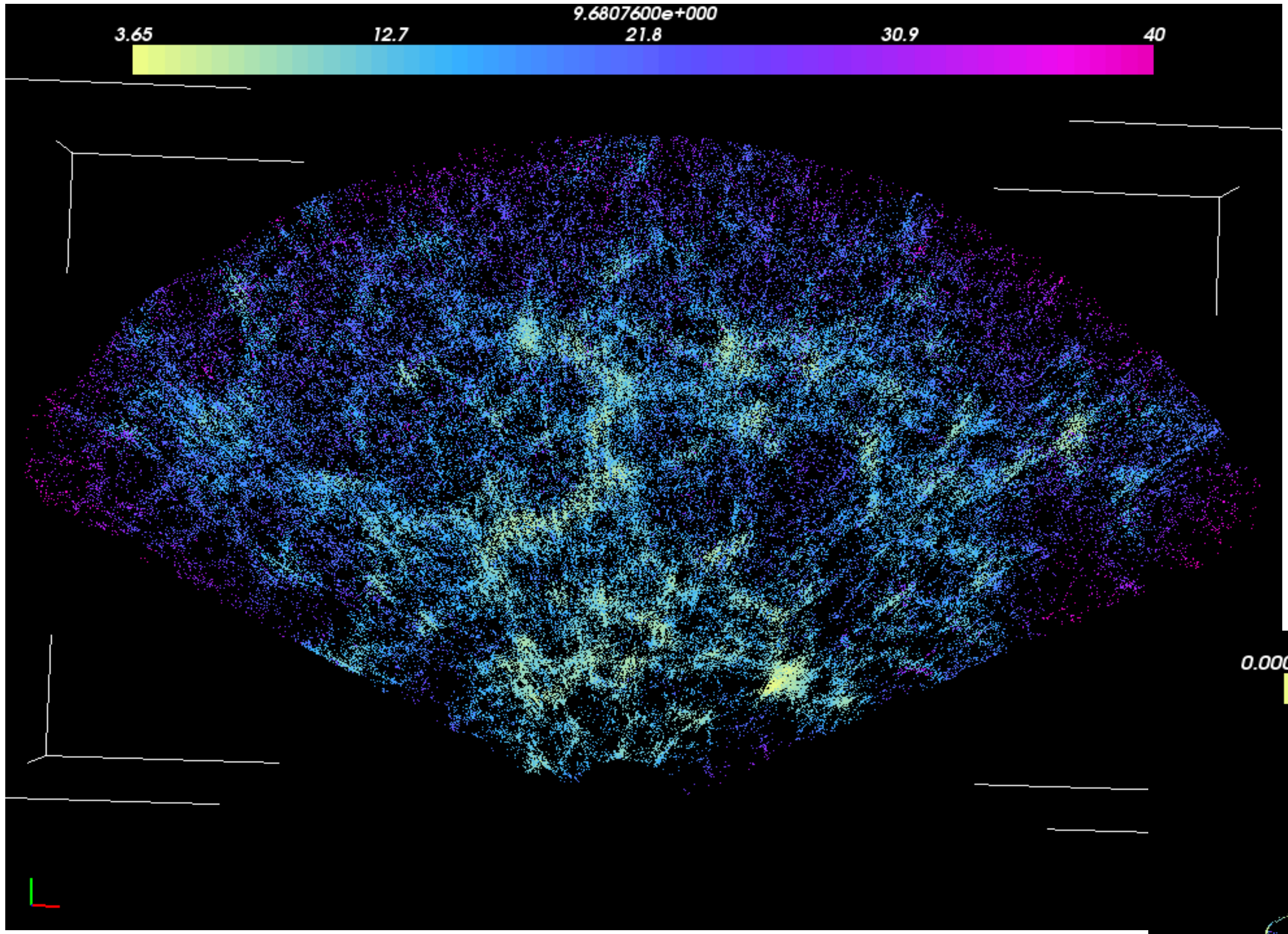


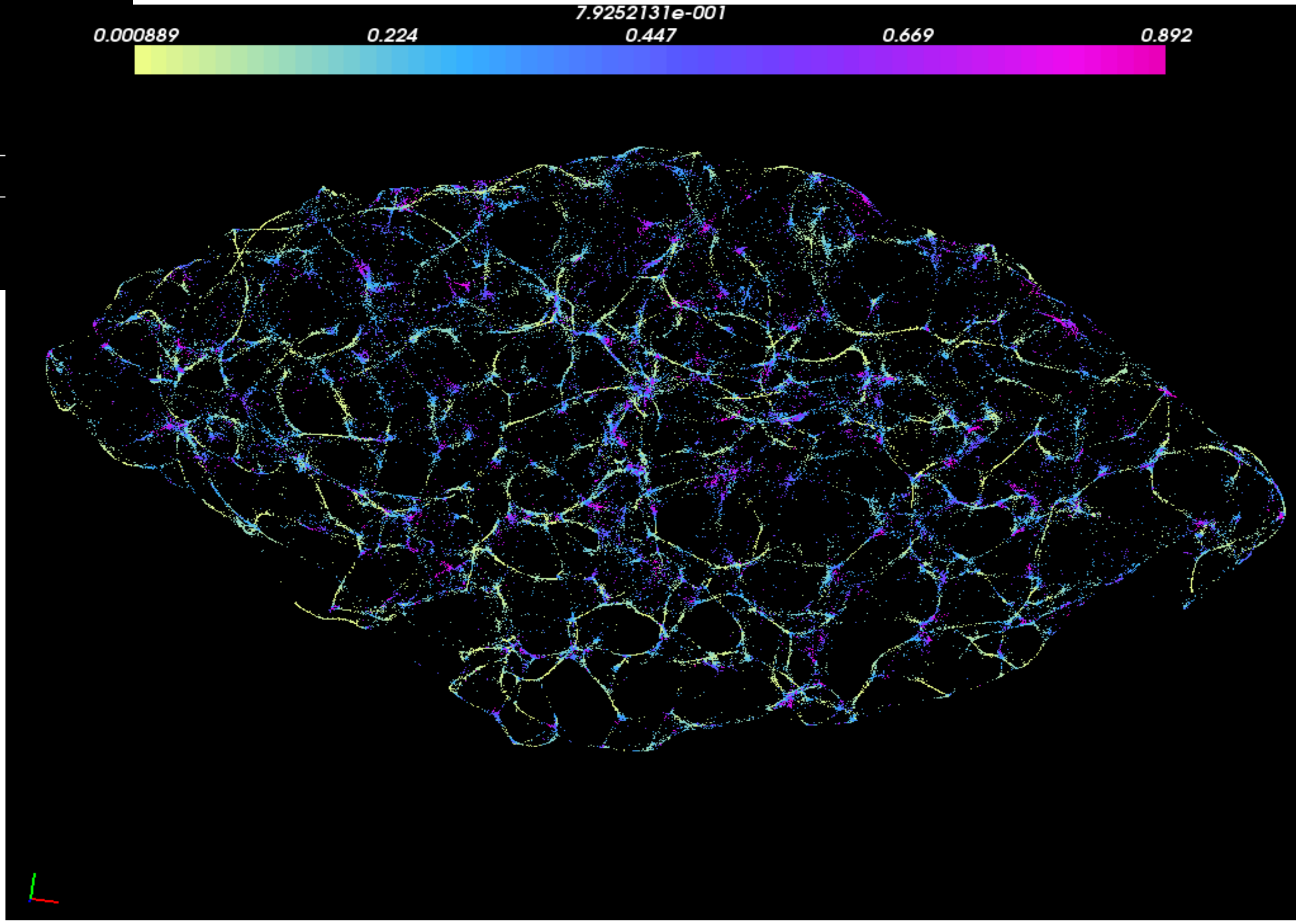
Galaxies data set



Using the gradient of d_{μ,m_0}: filaments detection

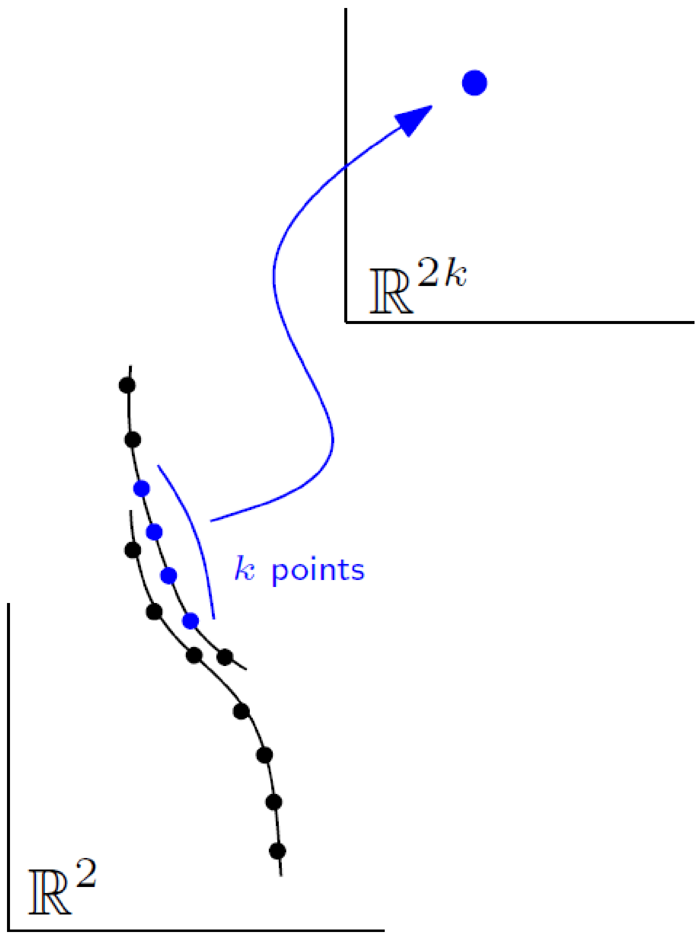
(on-going work)

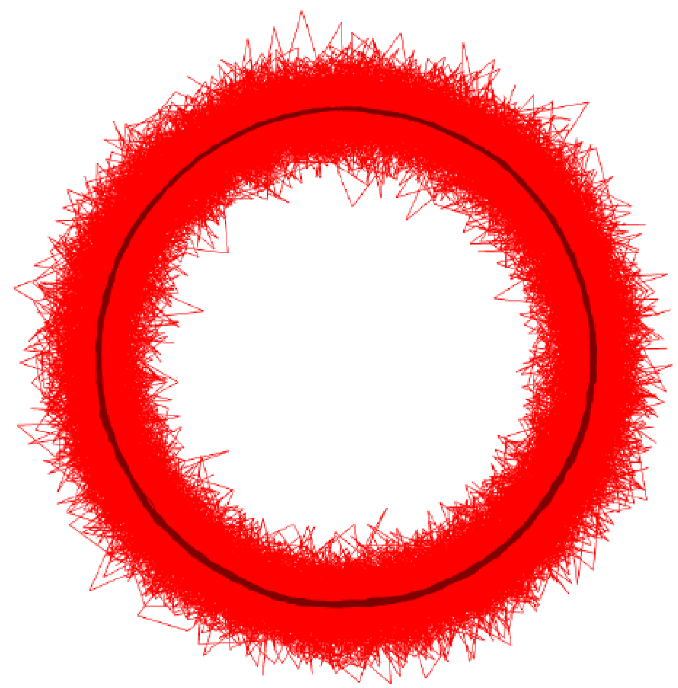


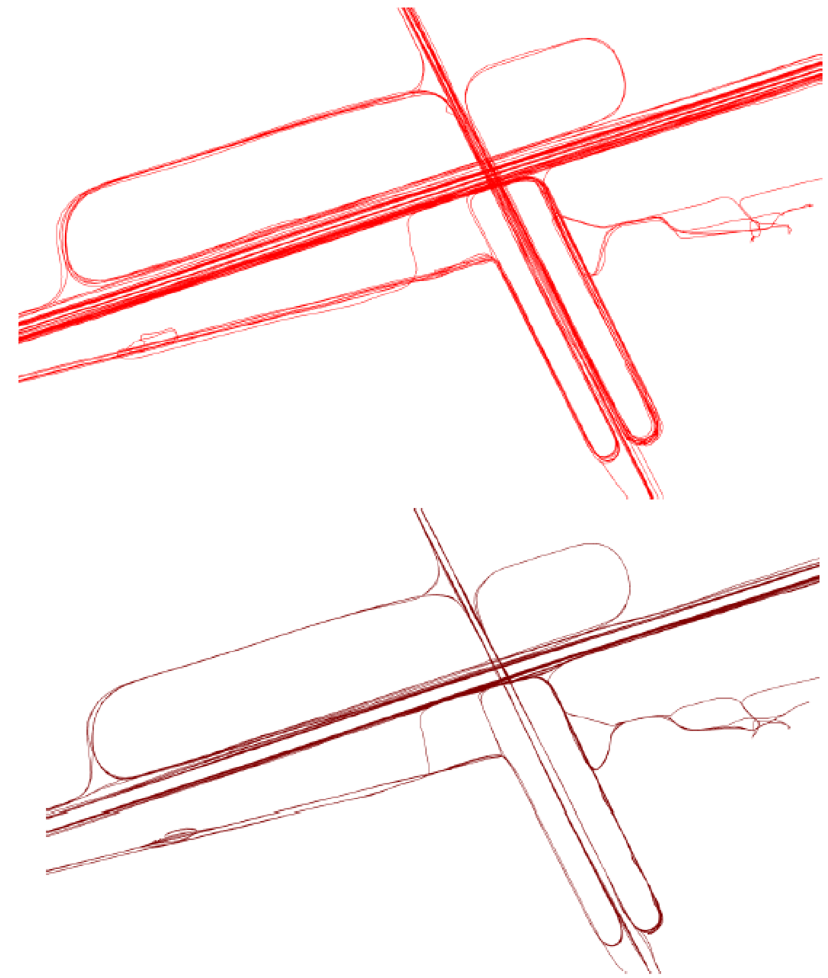


Using the gradient of d_{μ,m_0}: trajectory smoothing

(joint work with D. Chen, L. Guibas, X. Jiang, C. Sommer) [ACM SIGSPATIAL 2011]







- large collections of GPS traces sampled along road networks can be embedded as a point cloud C in a higher dimensional space $\mathbb{R}^d$ ($d = 10 \to 150$)
- Distance to the empirical measure μ_C used to smooth the trajectories in the original space (can be seen as a generalization of moving average in time series analysis)