

# Measuring dependence with Wasserstein distances (in Bayesian Nonparametrics)

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Bocconi University



Workshop “Emerging topics in applications of Optimal Transport”,  
Zurich (Switzerland), June 8, 2023

# Joint work with:



Marta Catalano



Antonio Lijoi



Igor Prünster

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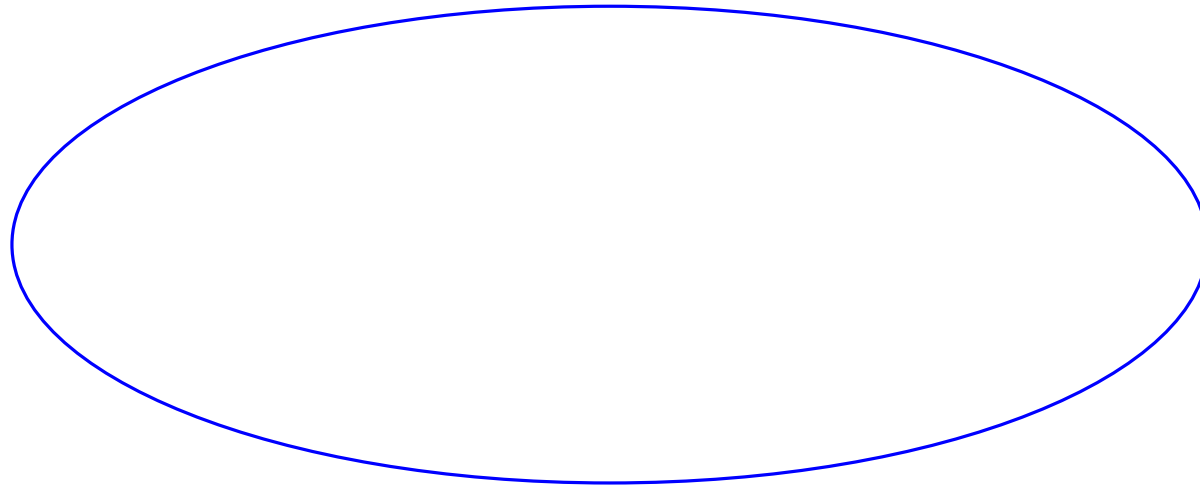
## Disclaimers

I am not a (Bayesian) statistician.

My background: mathematical analysis, optimal transport.

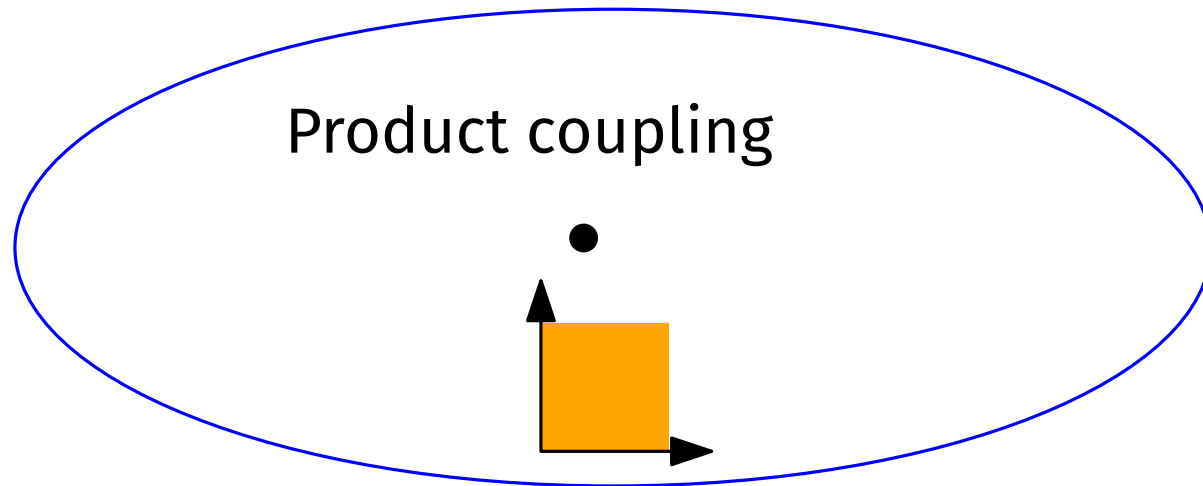
## A problem I don't know how to solve

$\Pi(dx, dx) = \{\text{probability on } [0, 1]^2 \text{ with uniform marginals}\}$



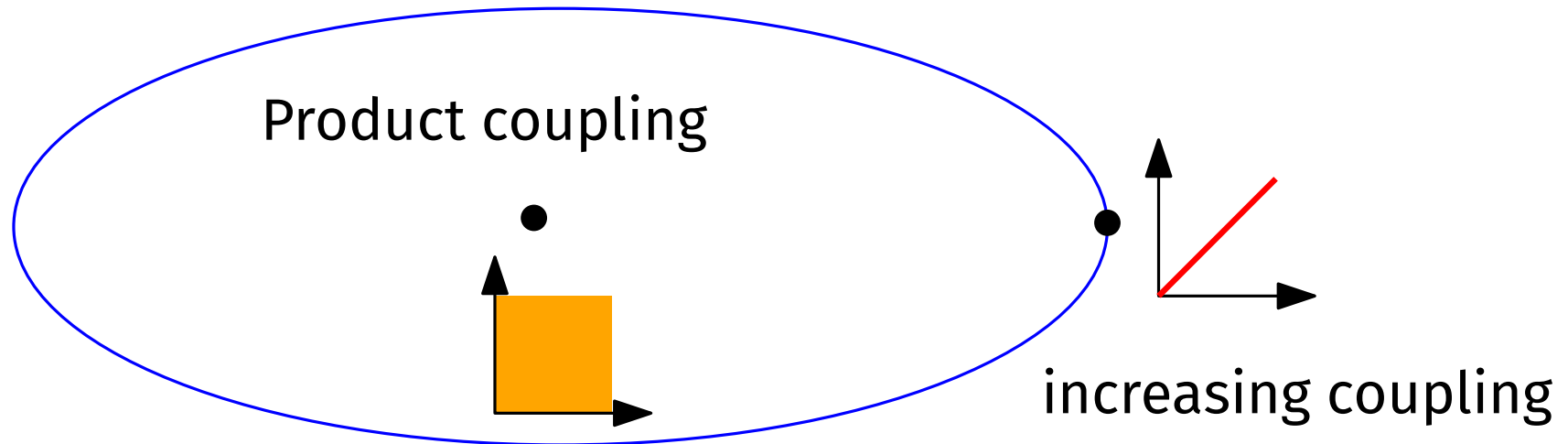
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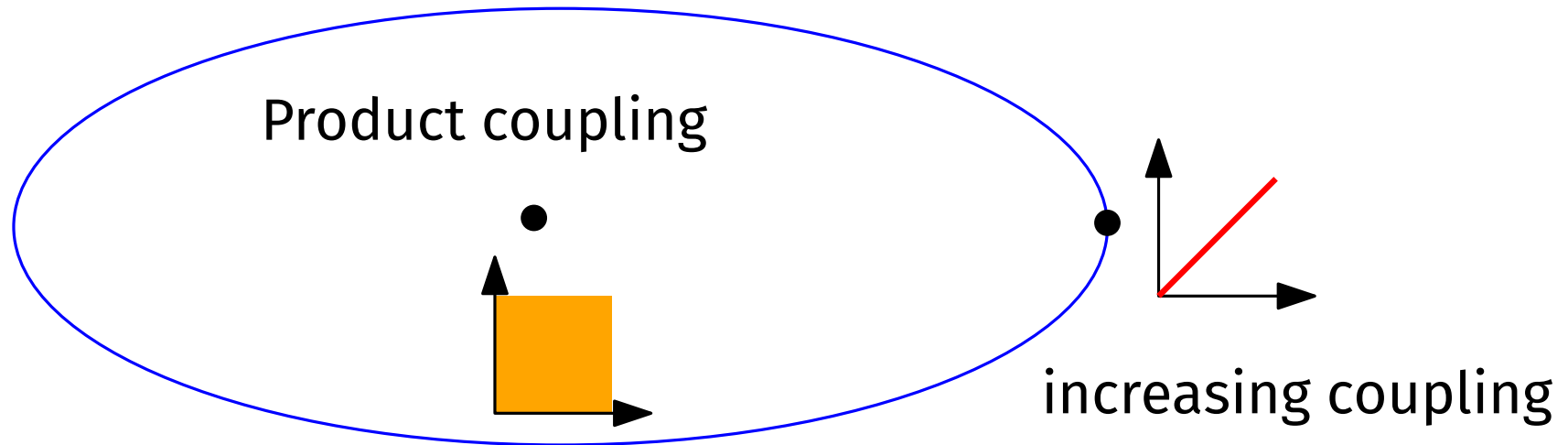
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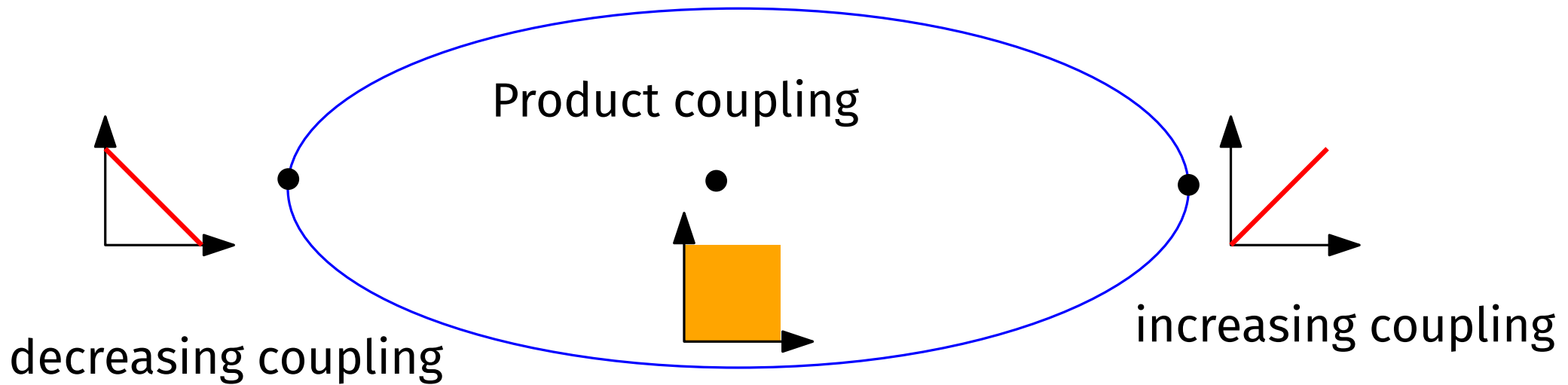
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$$\operatorname{argmax}_{p \in \Pi(dx, dx)} W_2 \left( p, \begin{array}{c} \uparrow \\ \square \\ \rightarrow \end{array} \right) =$$

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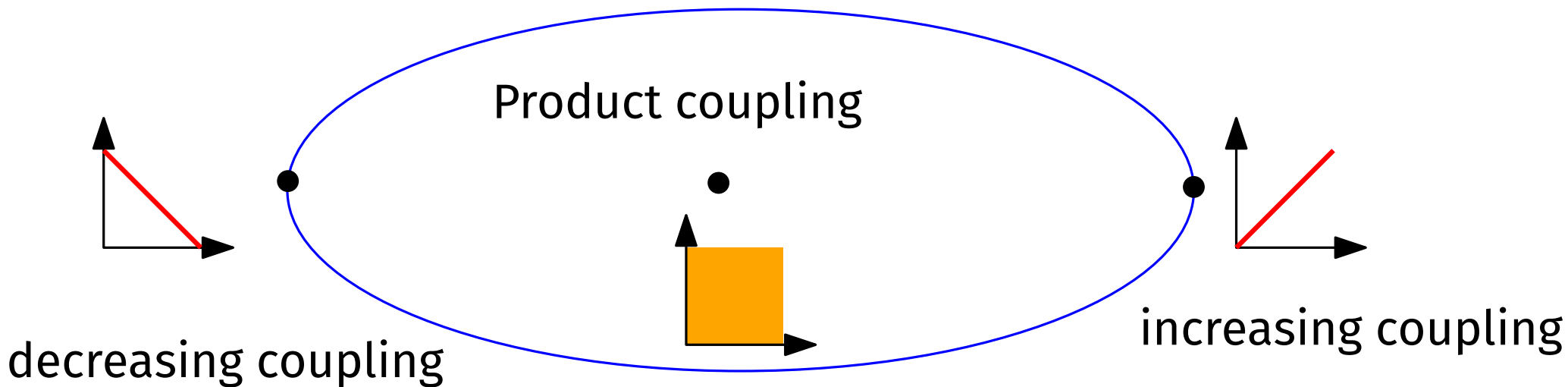


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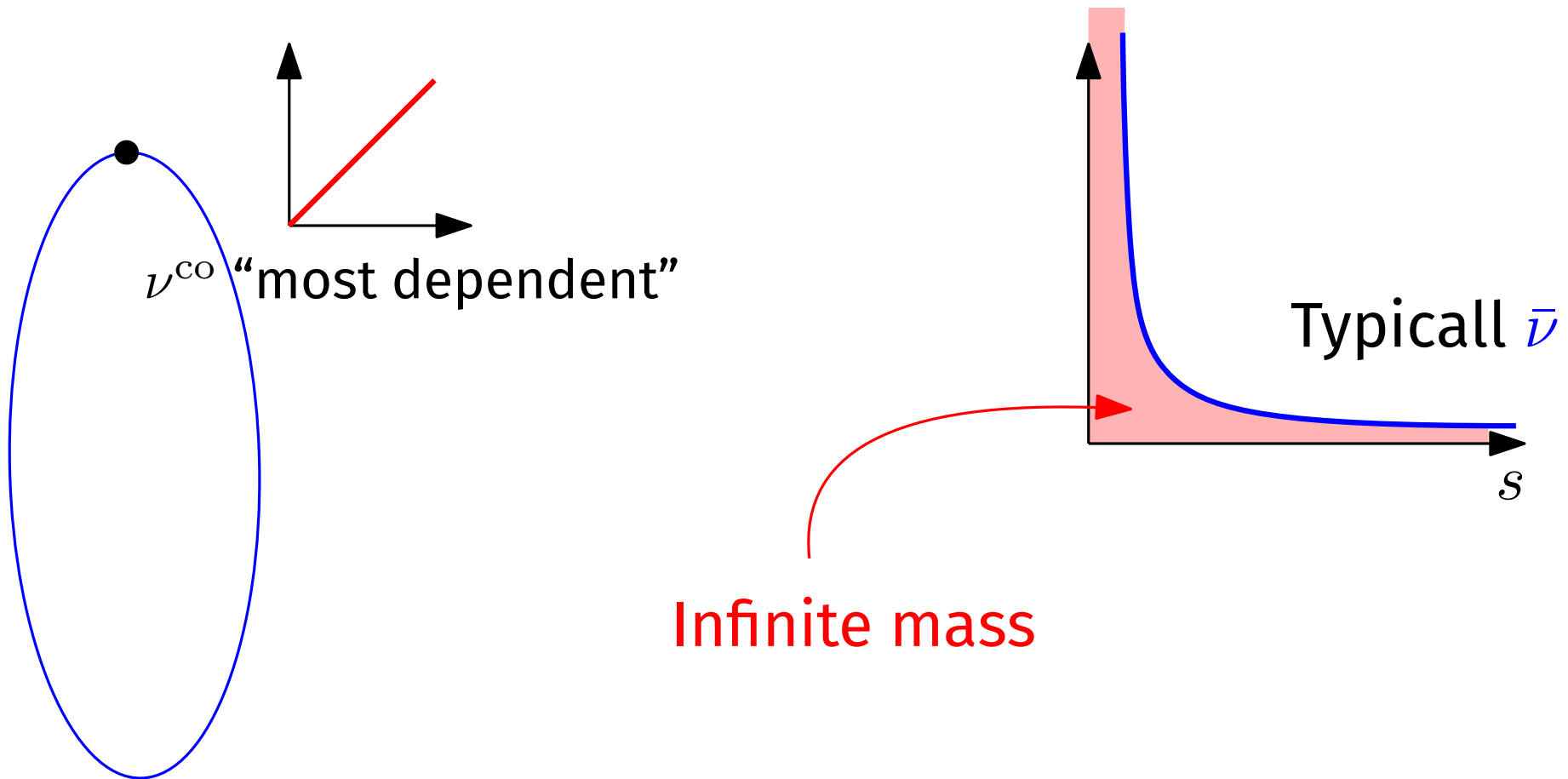
**Why?** Index of dependence

$$\mathcal{I}(p) = \frac{W_2^2 \left( p, \begin{array}{c} \uparrow \\ \square \\ \rightarrow \end{array} \right)}{W_2^2 \left( \begin{array}{c} \uparrow \\ \nearrow \\ \rightarrow \end{array}, \begin{array}{c} \uparrow \\ \square \\ \rightarrow \end{array} \right)}$$

# The problem I will solve

$\bar{\nu}$  measure on  $(0, +\infty)$  with  $\int s^2 d\bar{\nu}(s) < +\infty$

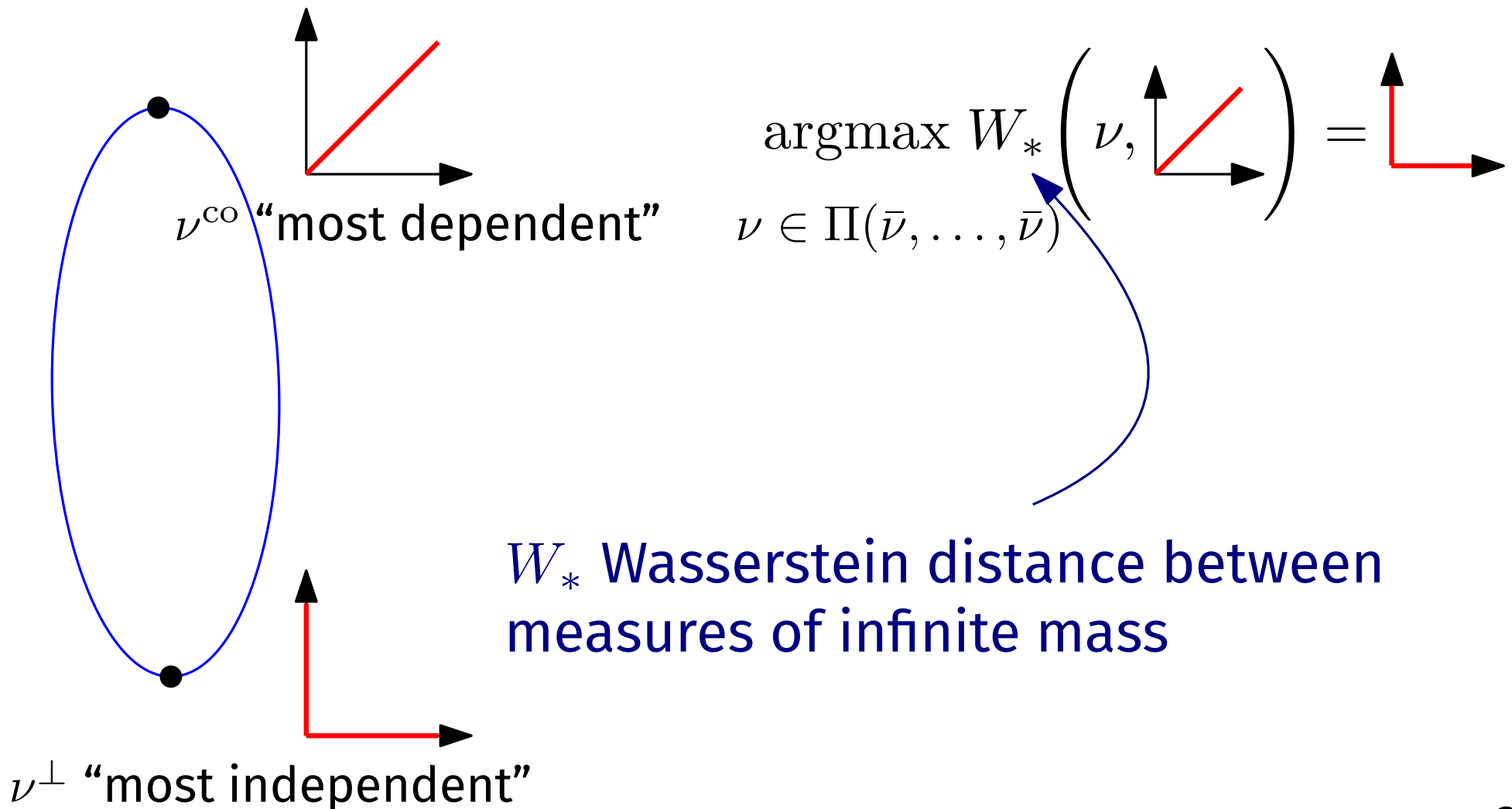
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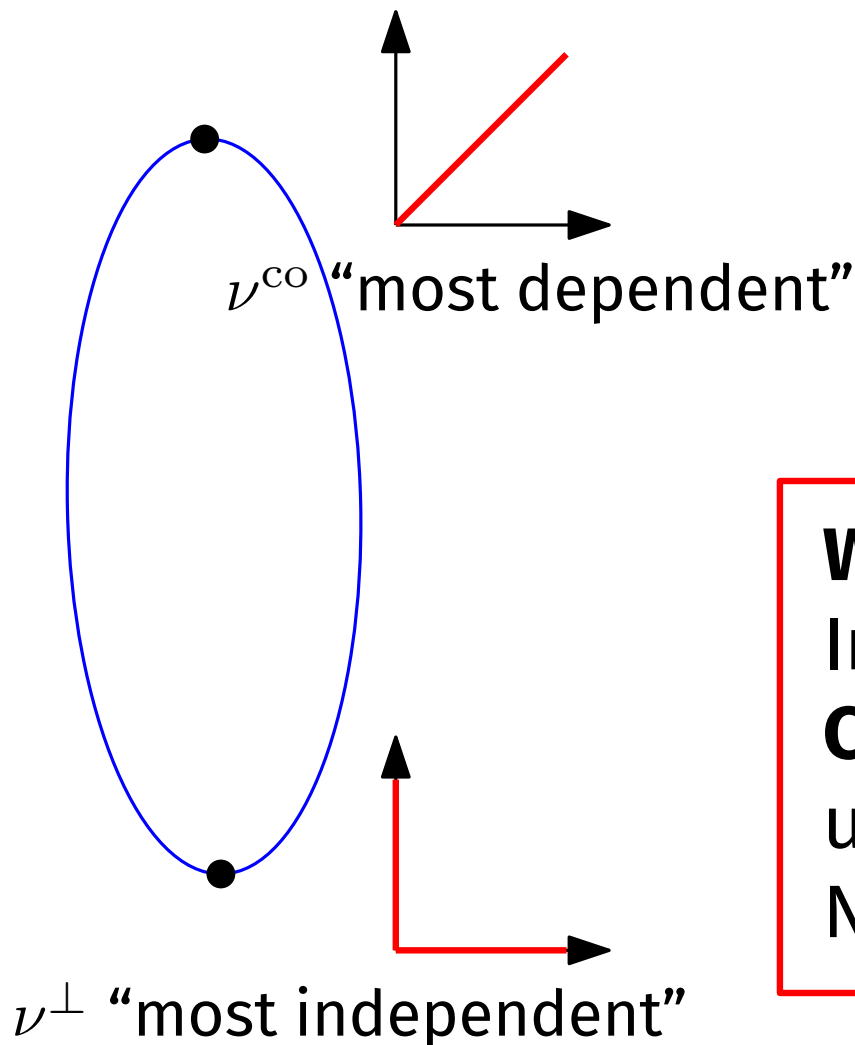
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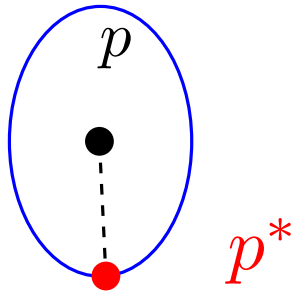
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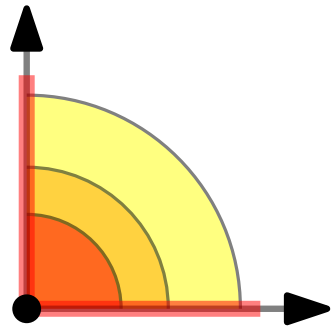
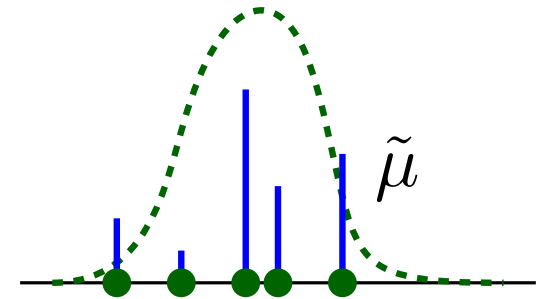
$$\operatorname{argmax}_{\nu \in \Pi(\bar{\nu}, \dots, \bar{\nu})} W_* \left( \nu, \begin{array}{c} \uparrow \\ \text{red diagonal} \\ \rightarrow \end{array} \right) = \begin{array}{c} \uparrow \\ \text{red L-shape} \\ \rightarrow \end{array}$$

**Why?**  
 Index of dependence between  
**Completely Random Measures**,  
 used as prior in Bayesian  
 NonParametrics

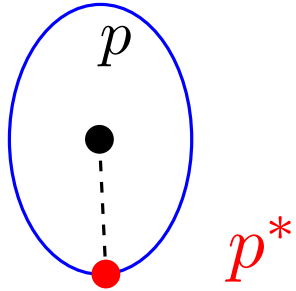


## 1 - Measuring dependence with Wasserstein distance

## 2 - Why look at Lévy intensities: link with completely random measures

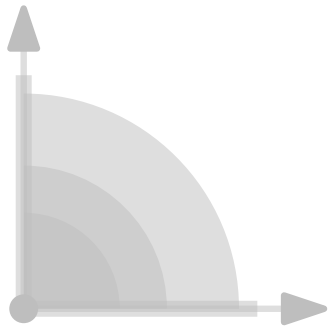
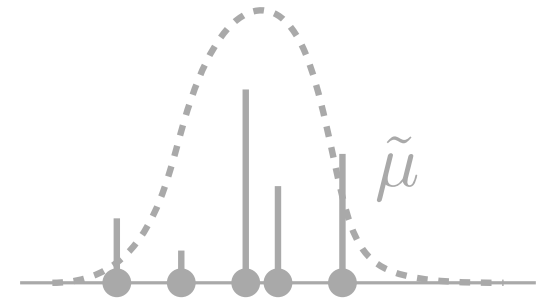


## 3 - Extended Wasserstein distance and index of dependence



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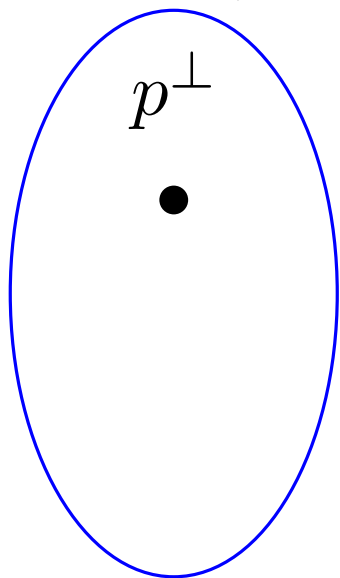


## 3 - Extended Wasserstein distance and index of dependence

# Measuring dependence with a distance

Dependence structure  $\Pi$

“most independent”



If  $\mathcal{D}$  measure of discrepancy on  $\Pi$  then  $\mathcal{D}(p, p^\perp)$  measure of dependence of  $p$ .

Móri, and Székely (2020). The Earth Mover’s correlation.

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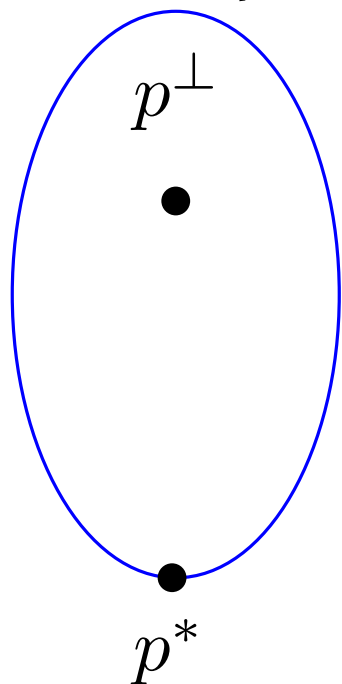
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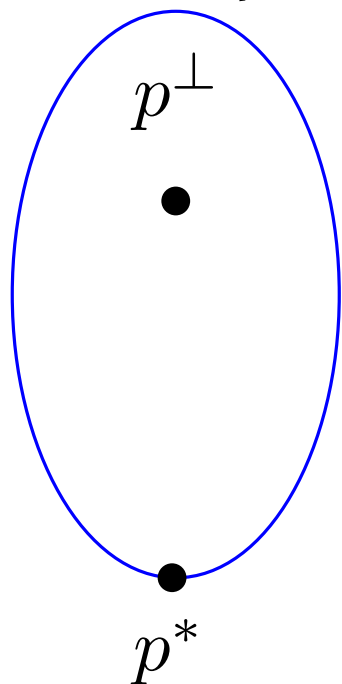
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## Index of dependence

$$\mathcal{I}(p) = \frac{\mathcal{D}(p, p^\perp)}{\mathcal{D}(p^*, p^\perp)}$$

$\mathcal{I}(p) \in [0, 1]$  and equal to 0 (resp. 1) for  $p^\perp$  (resp.  $p^*$ )

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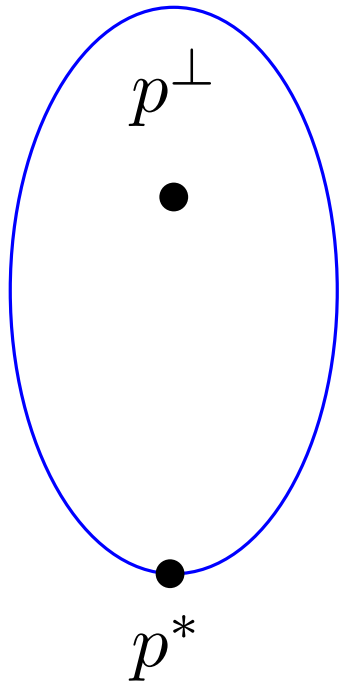
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**Alternative:** if  $\mathcal{D}(p^*, p)$  maximized at  $p^\perp$  then

$$\mathcal{I}(p) = 1 - \frac{\mathcal{D}(p^*, p)}{\mathcal{D}(p^*, p^\perp)}$$

Móri, and Székely (2020). The Earth Mover’s correlation.

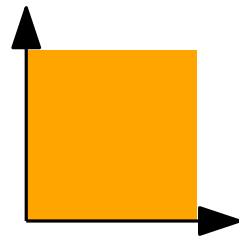
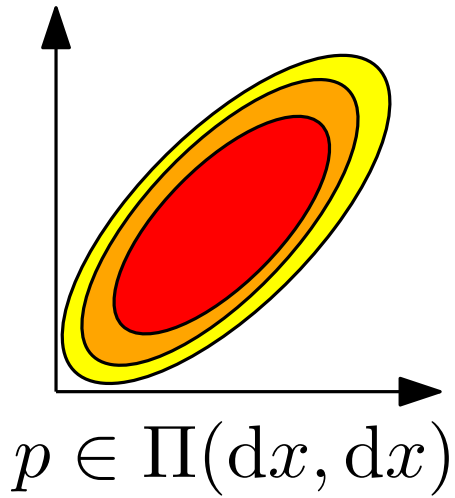
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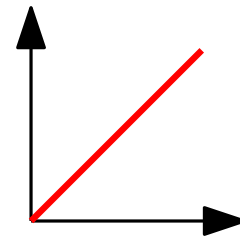
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# $\mathcal{D}$ is Wasserstein over the Manhattan distance

Over  $[0, 1]^2$



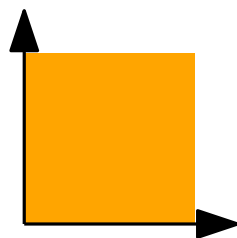
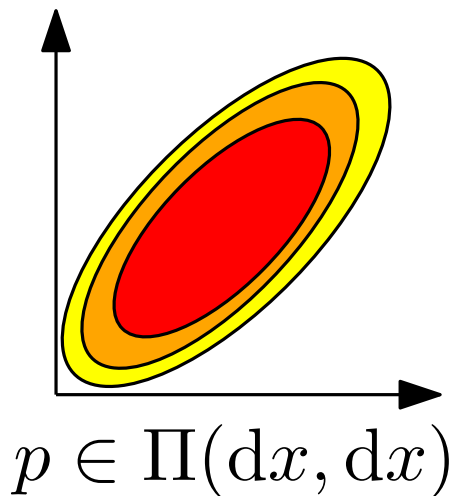
$p^\perp$



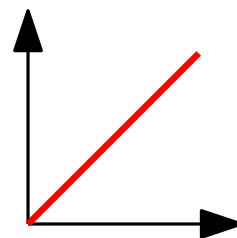
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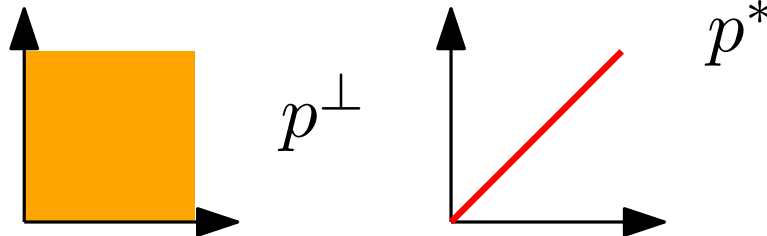
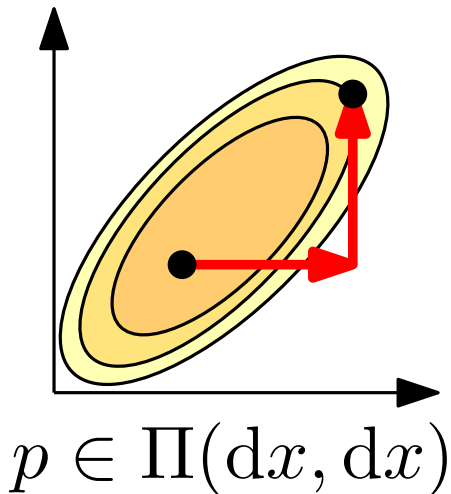
$p^*$

**Theorem.**

$$W_2(p, p^\perp) \leq W_2(p^*, p^\perp) \text{ for any } p \in \Pi(dx, dx).$$

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**Theorem.** Choose

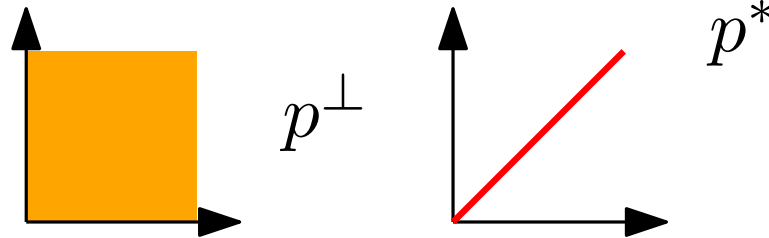
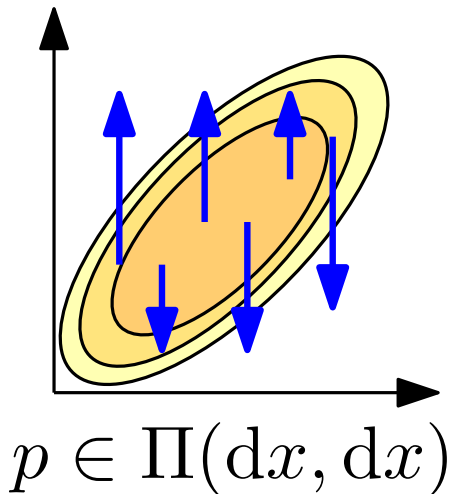
$$d((x_1, y_1), (x_2, y_2)) = |x_1 - x_2| + |y_1 - y_2|.$$

Then

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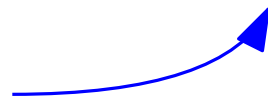
Then

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**Proof.** Send  $(x, y)$  onto  $(x, y')$  with  $y'$  independent of  $(x, y)$ .

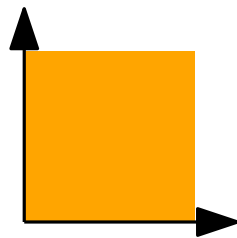
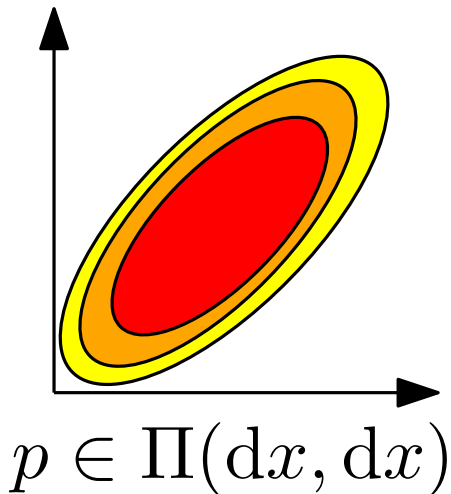
$$W_2(p, p^\perp)^2 \leq \iint (y - y')^2 dy dy' = W_2(p^*, p^\perp)^2.$$

Explicit computation

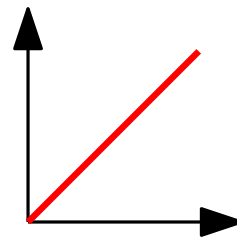


# $\mathcal{D}$ is Wasserstein over the Manhattan distance

Over  $[0, 1]^2$



$p^\perp$



$p^*$  supported on graph 1-Lipschitz function

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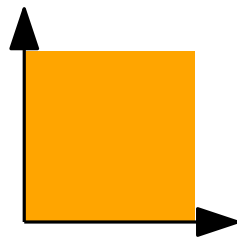
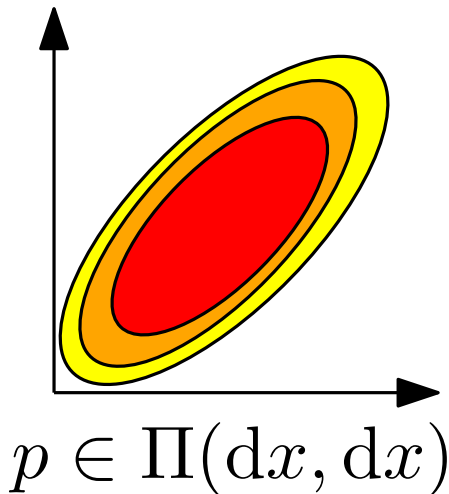
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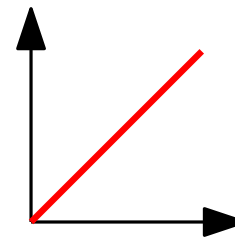
- Extension to metric spaces.
- Inherits properties of optimal transport.

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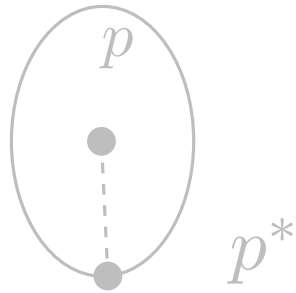


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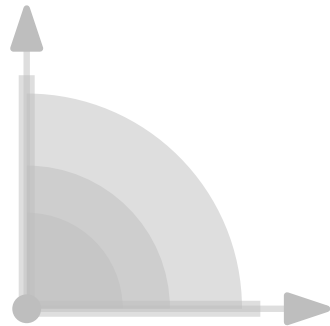
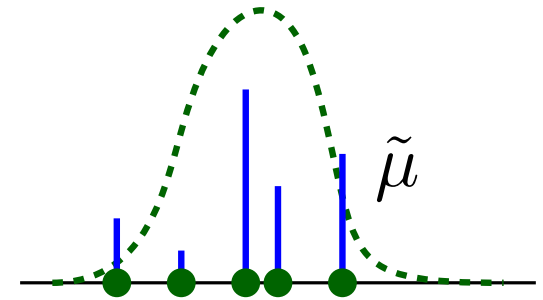
- Not tractable analytically.
- Sampling: curse of dimensionality.





## 1 - Measuring dependence with Wasserstein distance

## 2 - Why look at Lévy intensities: link with completely random measures



## 3 - Extended Wasserstein distance and index of dependence

# Lévy intensities and Completely random measures

$\bar{\nu}$  measure on  $(0, +\infty)$  with  $\int s^2 d\bar{\nu}(s) < +\infty$

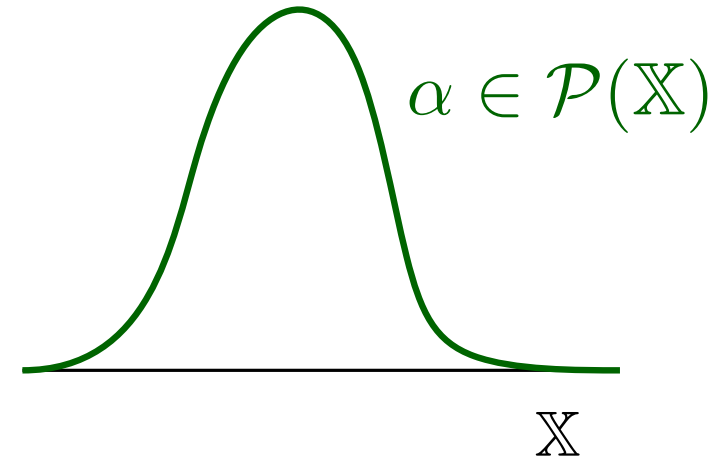
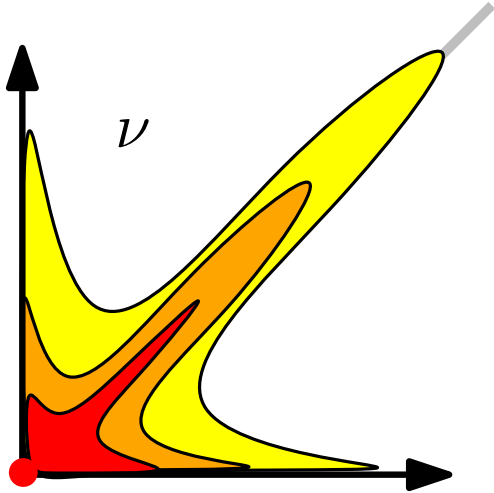
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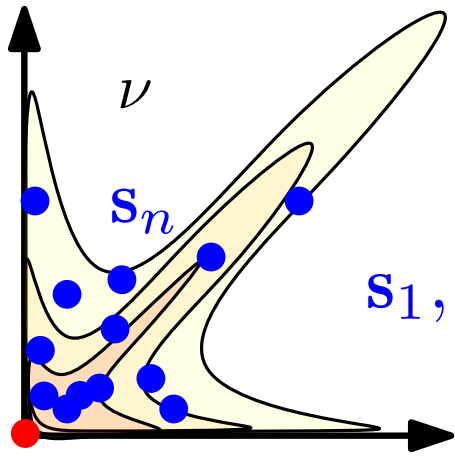
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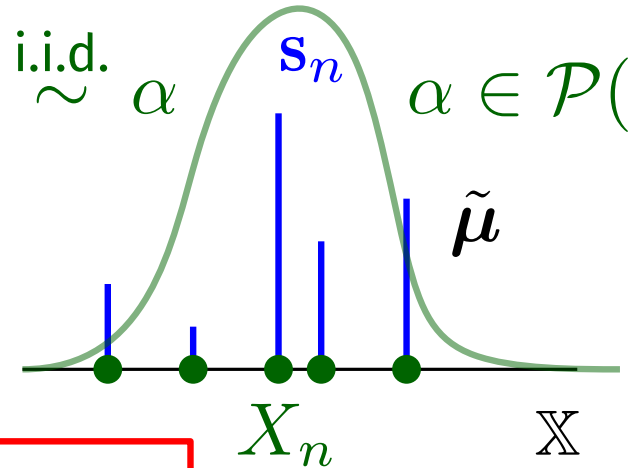
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$s_1, \dots, s_n, \dots \sim \text{Poisson}(\nu)$

$X_1, \dots, X_n, \dots \stackrel{\text{i.i.d.}}{\sim} \alpha \quad \alpha \in \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{X})$



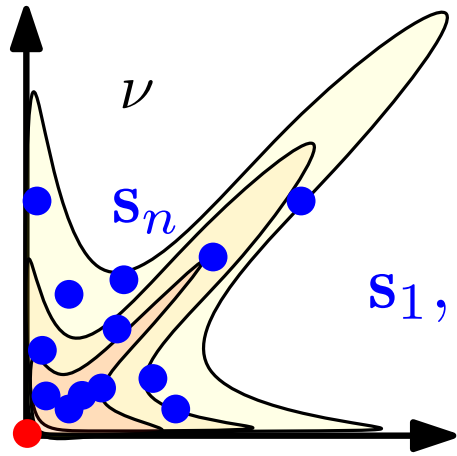
$$\tilde{\mu} = \sum_{n \geq 1} s_n \delta_{X_n} = (\tilde{\mu}_1, \dots, \tilde{\mu}_d)$$

Collection of  $d$  random measures on  $\mathcal{X}$

# Lévy intensities and Completely random measures

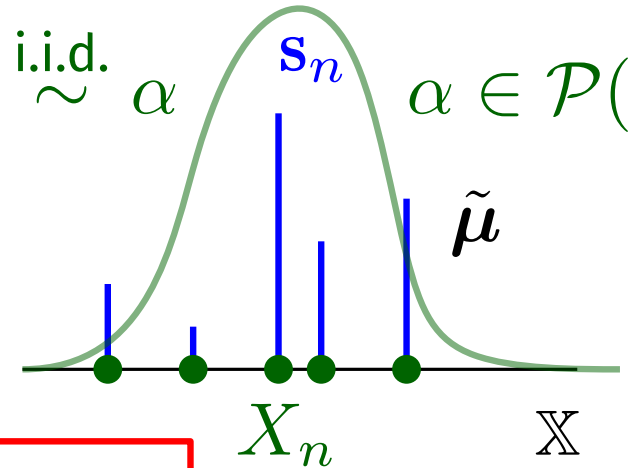
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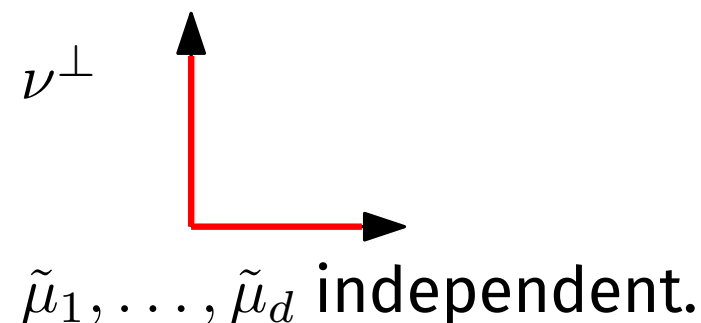
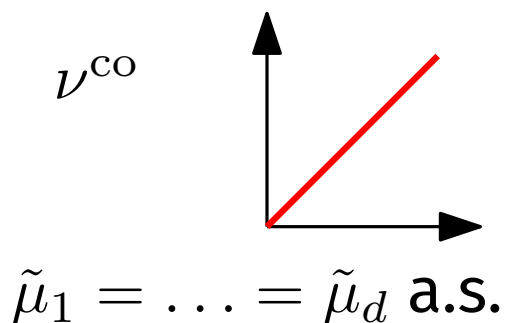
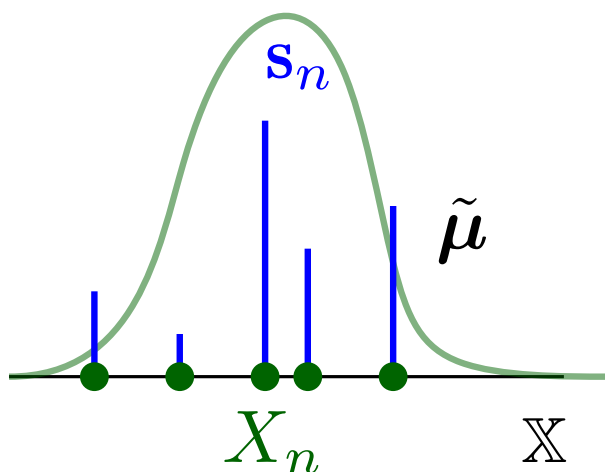
$$\tilde{\mu} = \sum_{n \geq 1} s_n \delta_{X_n} = (\tilde{\mu}_1, \dots, \tilde{\mu}_d)$$

**Completely Random Vector.** For all  $A_1, \dots, A_n \subseteq \mathbb{X}$  disjoint, the vectors  $\tilde{\mu}(A_1), \dots, \tilde{\mu}(A_n)$  are independent random vectors in  $\mathbb{R}_+^d$ .

For  $A \subseteq \mathbb{X}$ , the random variables  $\tilde{\mu}_1(A), \dots, \tilde{\mu}_d(A)$  may be dependent.

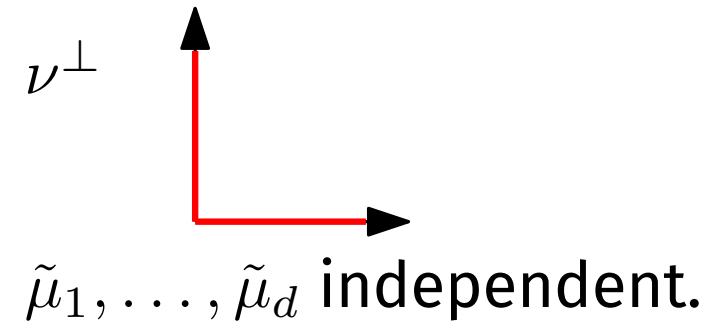
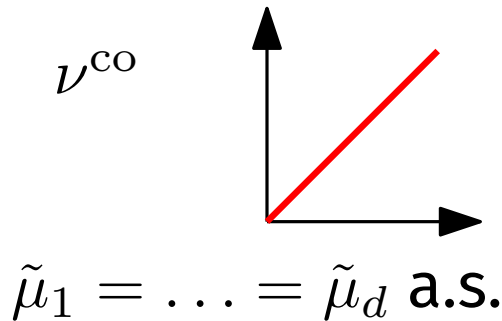
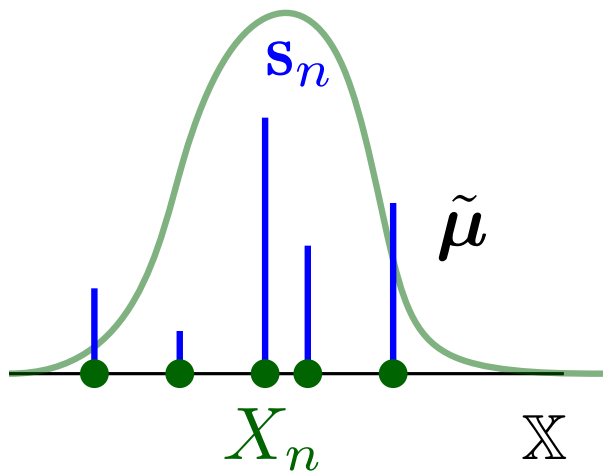
## And then normalization

$\nu \in \Pi(\bar{\nu}, \dots, \bar{\nu})$  and  $\alpha \in \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{X})$  gives law of  $\tilde{\mu}$  in  $\mathcal{P}(\mathcal{M}_+(\mathbb{X})^d)$ .



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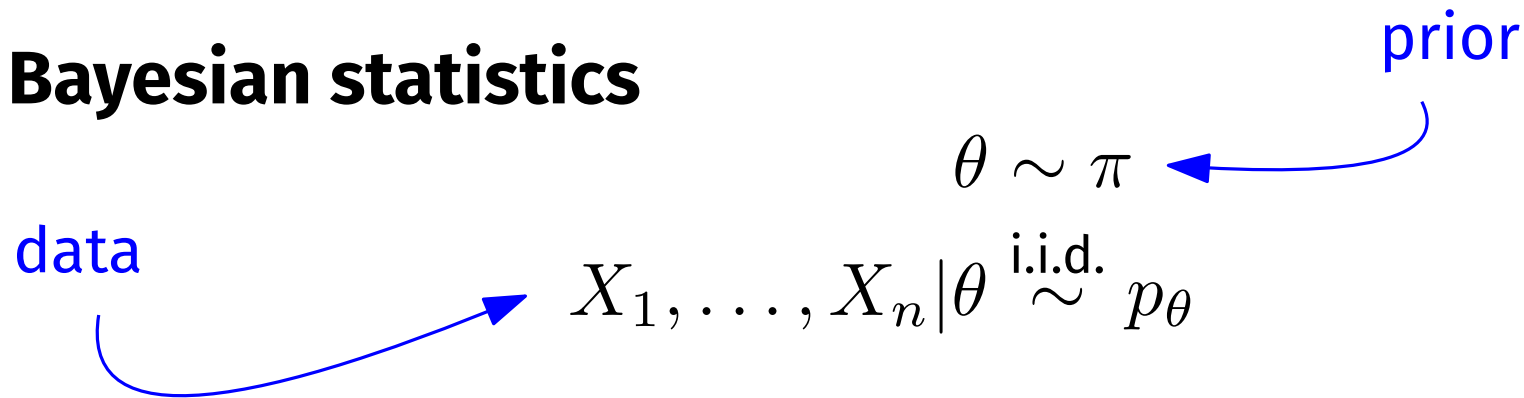


Normalized version:  $\left( \frac{\tilde{\mu}_1}{\tilde{\mu}_1(\mathbb{X})}, \dots, \frac{\tilde{\mu}_d}{\tilde{\mu}_d(\mathbb{X})} \right)$

gives  $d$  random (dependent) probabilities, law in  $\mathcal{P}(\mathcal{P}(\mathbb{X})^d)$ .

# Why random probabilities? Prior in Bayesian Nonparametrics

## Bayesian statistics





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## Bayesian statistics

$$\begin{array}{c} \text{data} \rightarrow X_1, \dots, X_n | \theta \stackrel{\text{i.i.d.}}{\sim} p_\theta \\ \theta \sim \pi \leftarrow \text{prior} \end{array}$$

**Remark:**  $p_\theta$  with  $\theta \sim \pi$  is a random probability.

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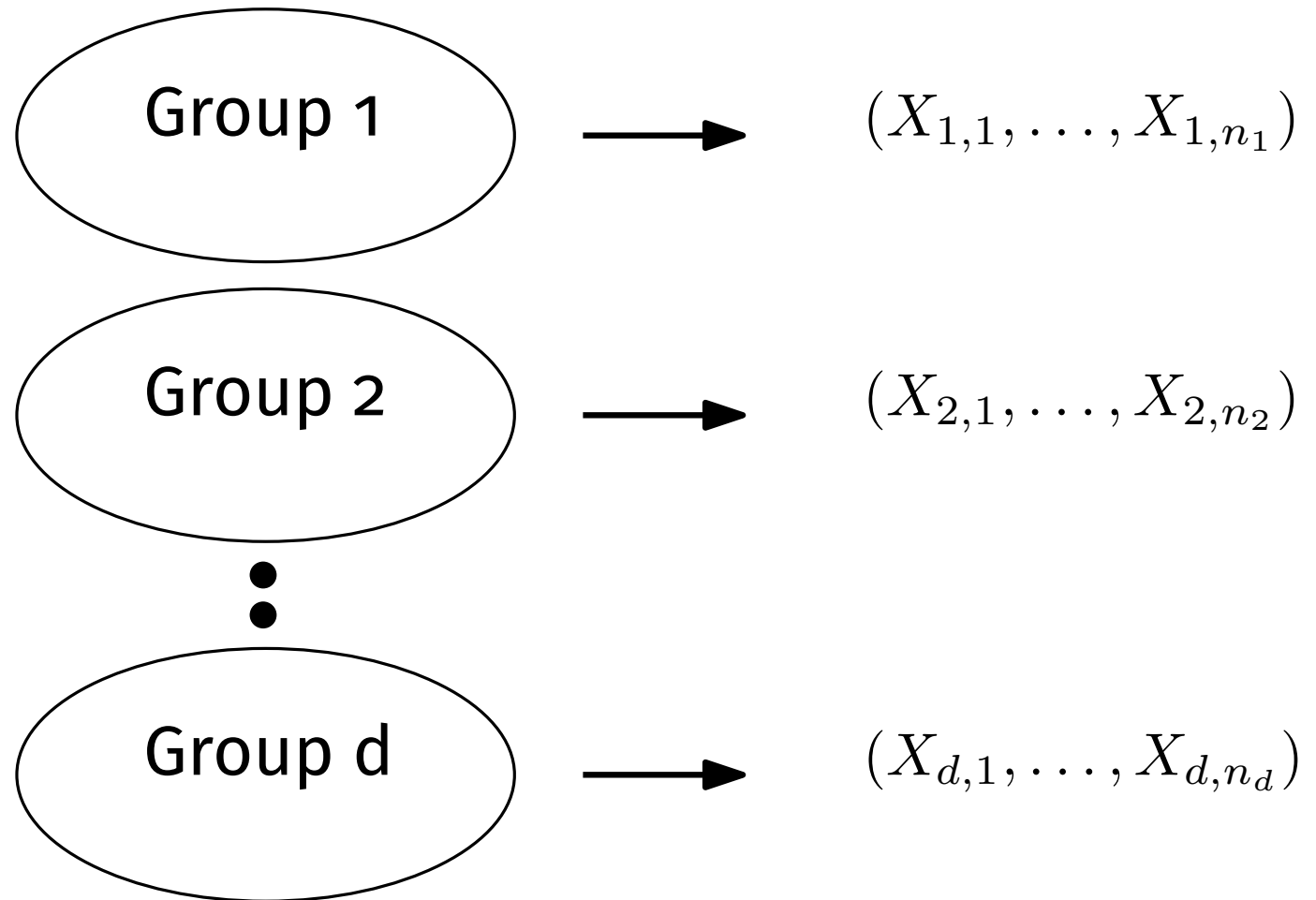
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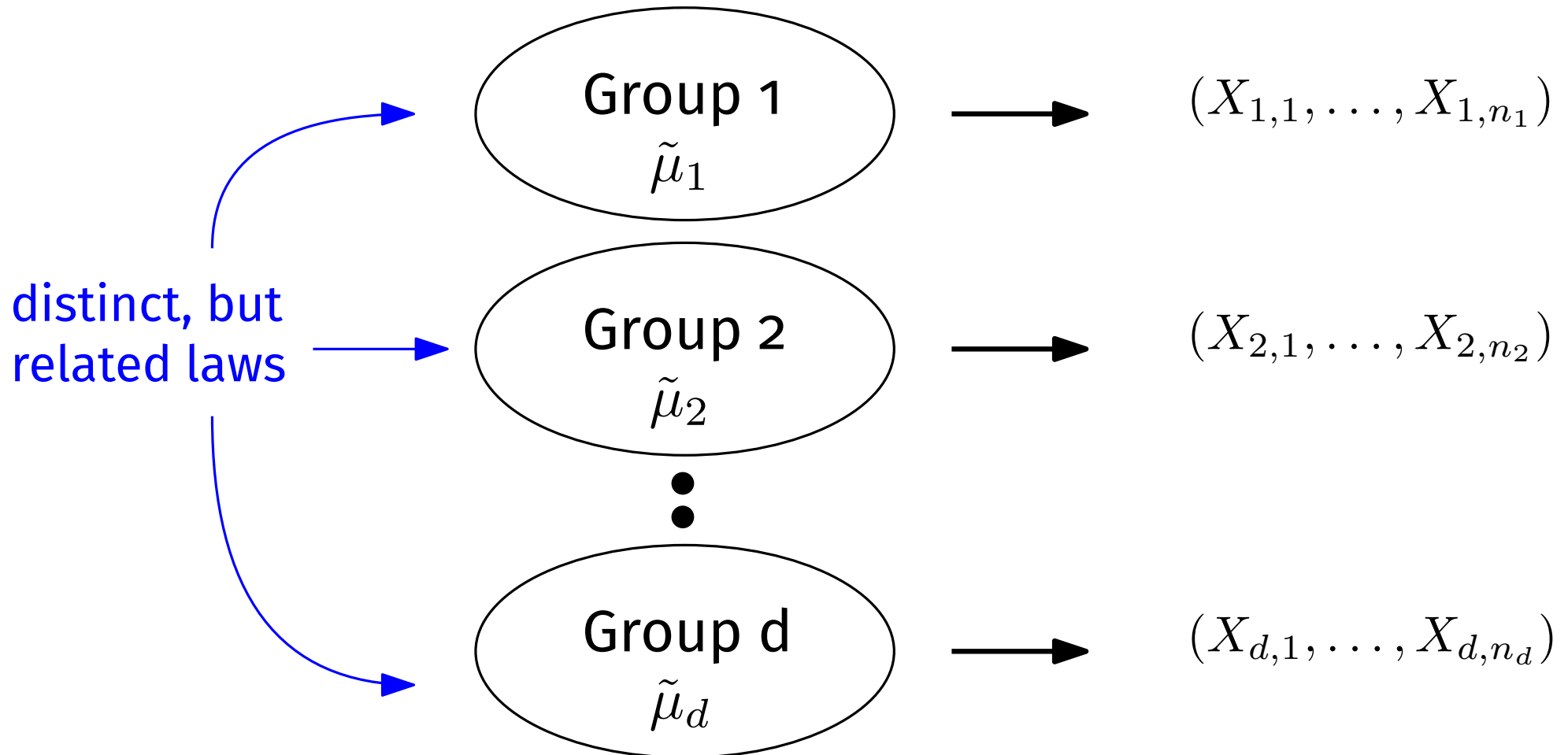
**Bayesian NonParametrics:** define directly  $\tilde{p}$  a random probability instead of  $p_\theta$  and  $\pi$ .

(Normalized) completely random measures: analytical tractability of the posterior distribution.

# Why quantifying dependence?

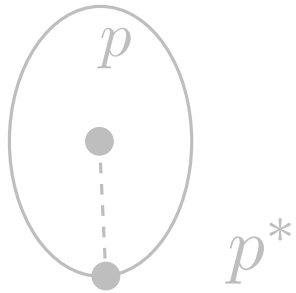


# Why quantifying dependence?



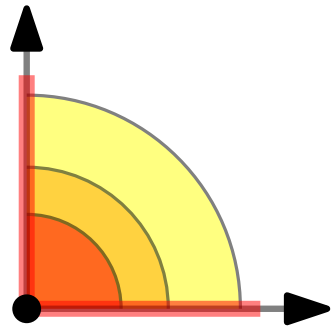
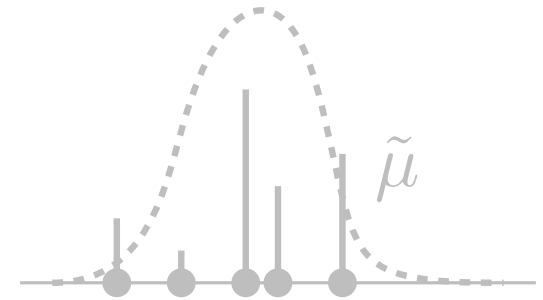
Bayesian inference allows for borrowing of information

**Goal:** quantifying the amount of **dependence** between groups already present in the **prior**



## 1 - Measuring dependence with Wasserstein distance

## 2 - Why look at Lévy intensities: link with completely random measures



## 3 - Extended Wasserstein distance and index of dependence

## (Classical) optimal transport

**Definition.** If  $\nu^1, \nu^2$  probability distributions, the Wasserstein distance is

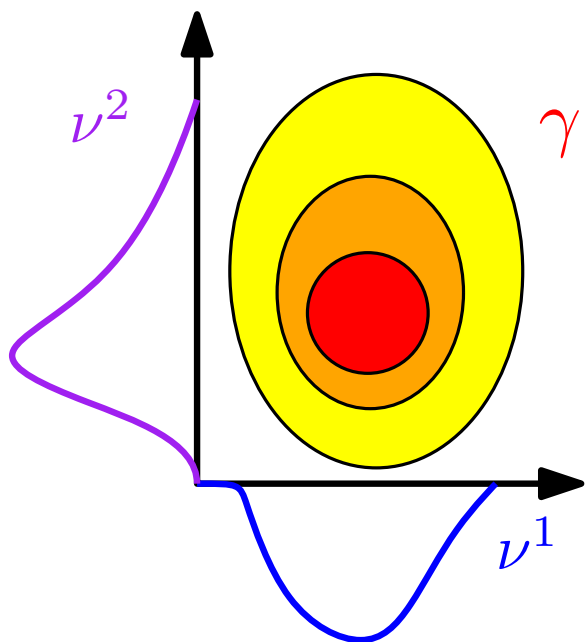
$$W_2(\nu^1, \nu^2)^2 = \min_{(X,Y)} \{ \mathbb{E} [\|X - Y\|^2] : X \sim \nu^1 \text{ and } Y \sim \nu^2 \}$$

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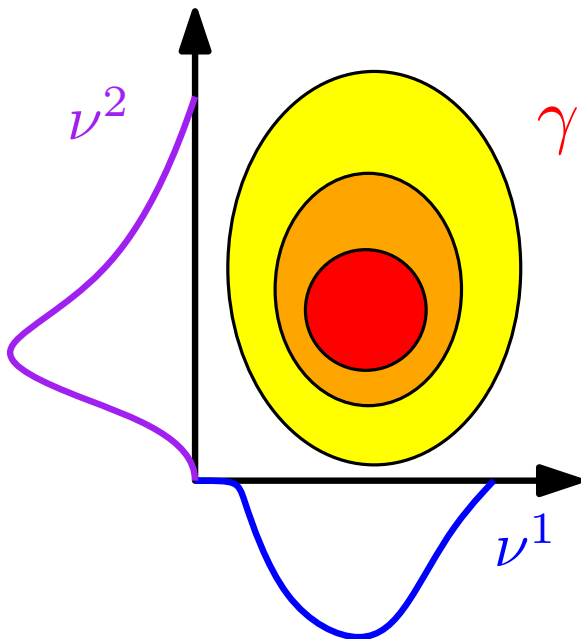
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$$\leq \int \|x\|^2 d\nu^1(x) + \int \|y\|^2 d\nu^2(y)$$



**Observation.** Naively, makes sense if  $\nu^1, \nu^2$  have infinite mass but **finite** second moment.

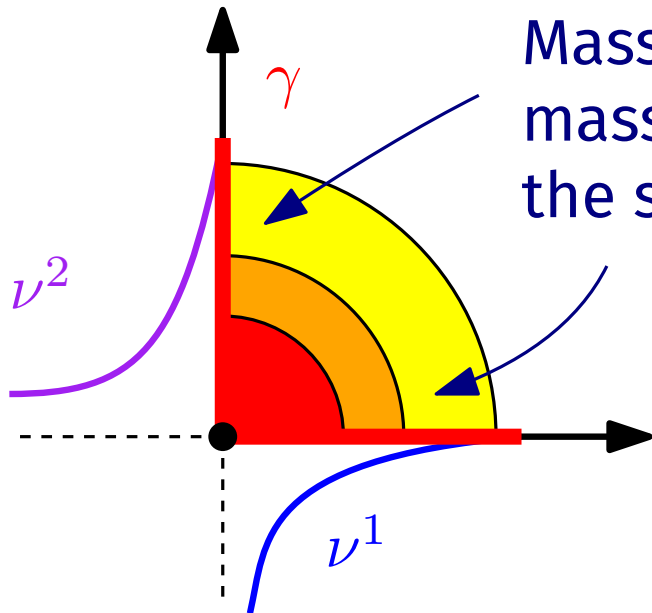


# Extended Wasserstein distance

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with  $\gamma$  measure on  $\mathbb{R}_+^{2d} \setminus \{(0, 0)\}$ .



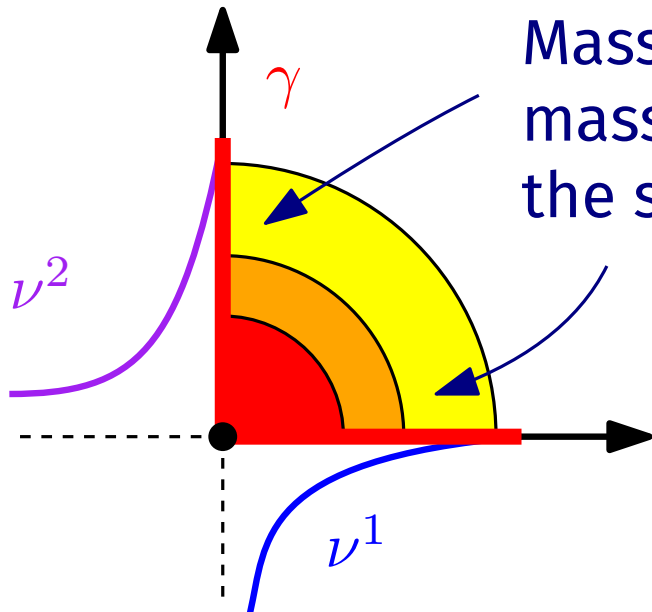
Mass on  $\mathbb{R}_+^{d,*} \times \{0\}$  and  $\{0\} \times \mathbb{R}_+^{d,*}$ :  
mass “destroyed” or “created” from  
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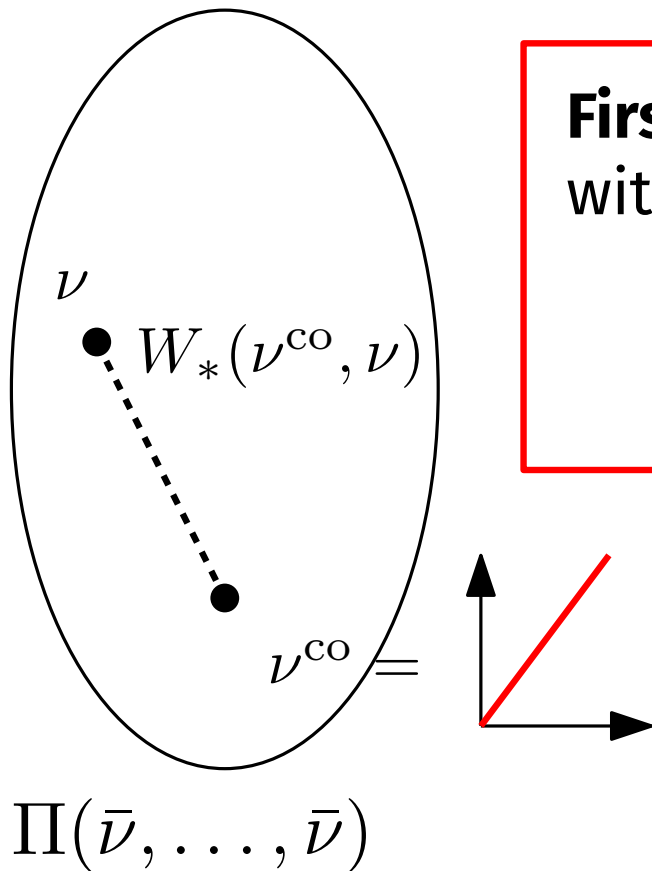


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Metrizes weak convergence and  
convergence of second moment with  
respect to 0 (work with I. Pinheiro).

# Building the index

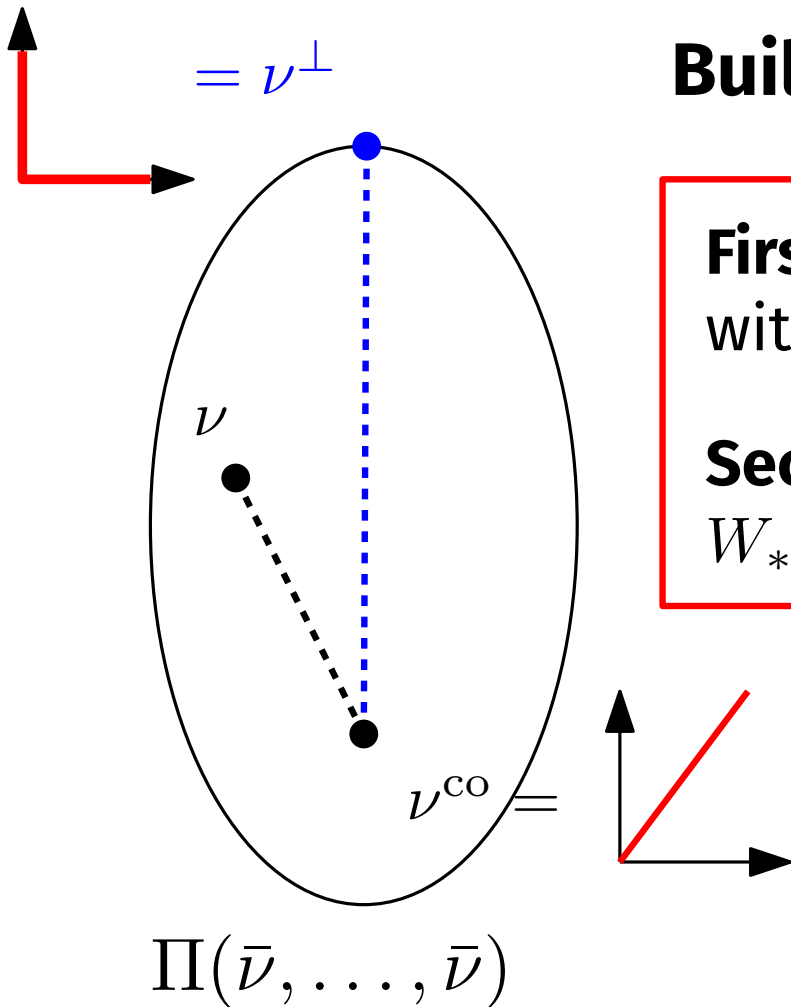
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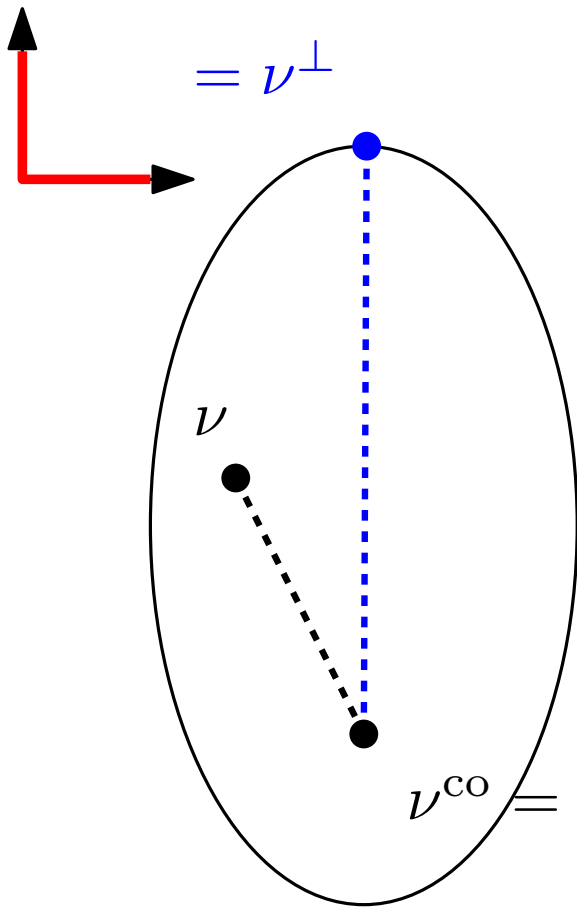
**Second result.** If  $\nu^{\text{co}}$  has infinite mass,  $W_*(\nu^{\text{co}}, \nu)$  is maximized exactly for  $\nu = \nu^\perp$ .



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$\Pi(\bar{\nu}, \dots, \bar{\nu})$

**Define:**

$$\mathcal{I}(\nu) = 1 - \frac{W_*(\nu^{\text{co}}, \nu)^2}{W_*(\nu^{\text{co}}, \nu^\perp)^2}.$$

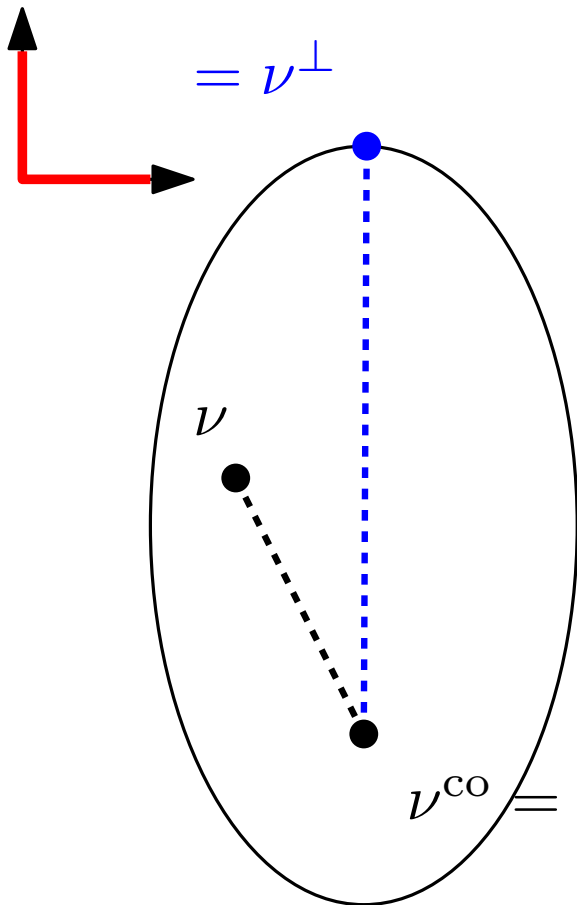
It belongs to  $[0, 1]$  and satisfies:

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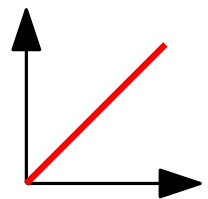
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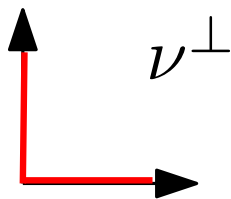
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**Consequence.** We have an index of dependence for homogeneous infinitely active completely random vectors without fixed atoms, with equal marginals and finite second moments.

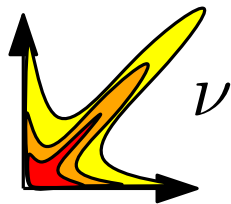
## The proof of the main result (d=2)



$\nu^{\text{co}}$



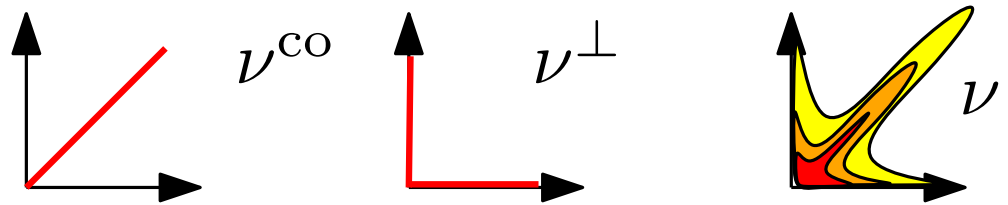
$\nu^\perp$



$\nu$

$$W_*^2(\nu, \nu^{\text{co}}) \leq W_*^2(\nu^\perp, \nu^{\text{co}})$$

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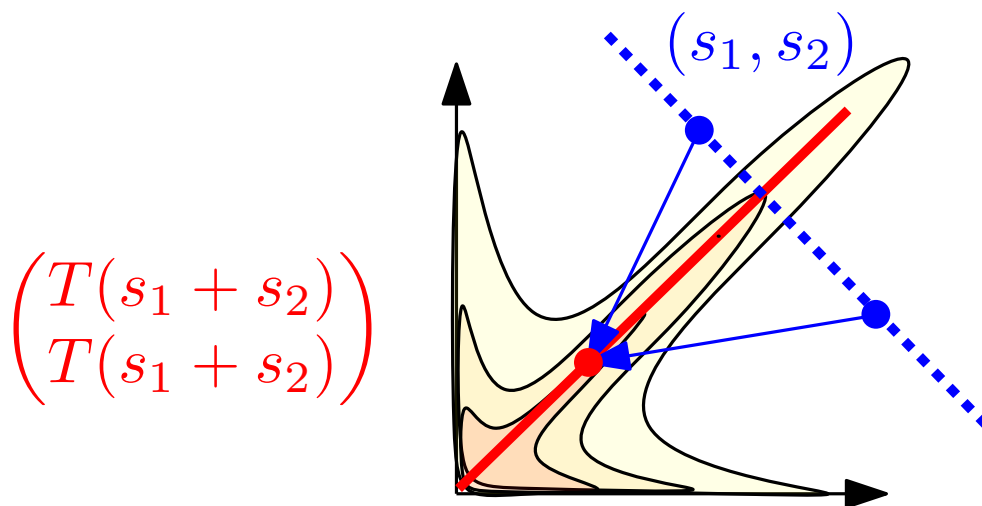


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## Lemma.

The transport map from  $\nu$  to  $\nu^{\text{co}}$  is  $(s_1, s_2) \mapsto \begin{pmatrix} T(s_1 + s_2) \\ T(s_1 + s_2) \end{pmatrix}$  with  $T = u'$ , for  $u : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  convex and  $u(0) = 0$ . An optimal Kantorovich potential is

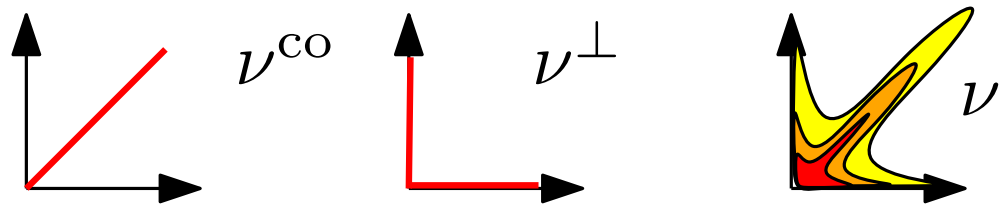
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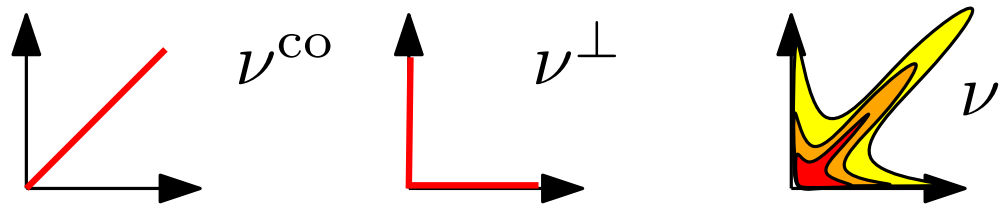
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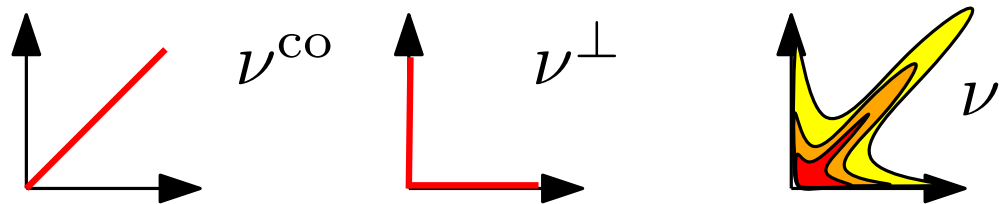
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Has the right sign  
(superadditivity of  
convex functions)

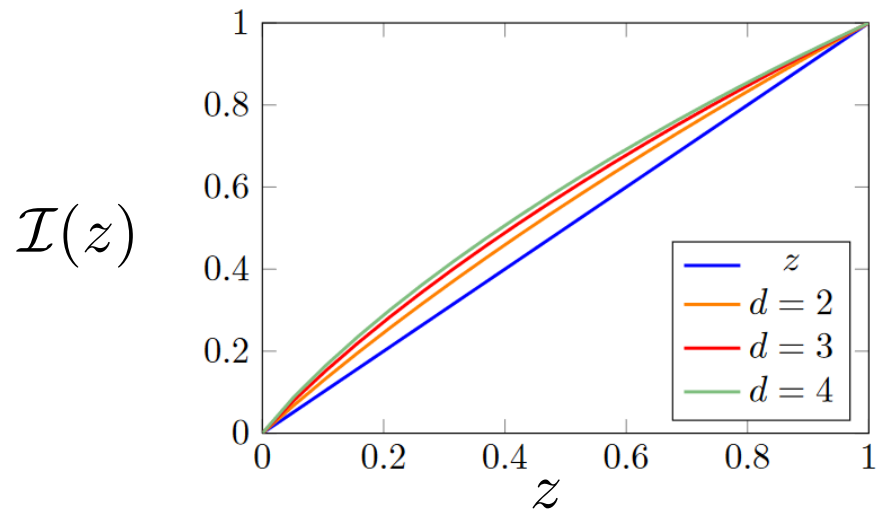
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# Examples

## Additive model

Parameter  $z \in [0, 1]$ ,

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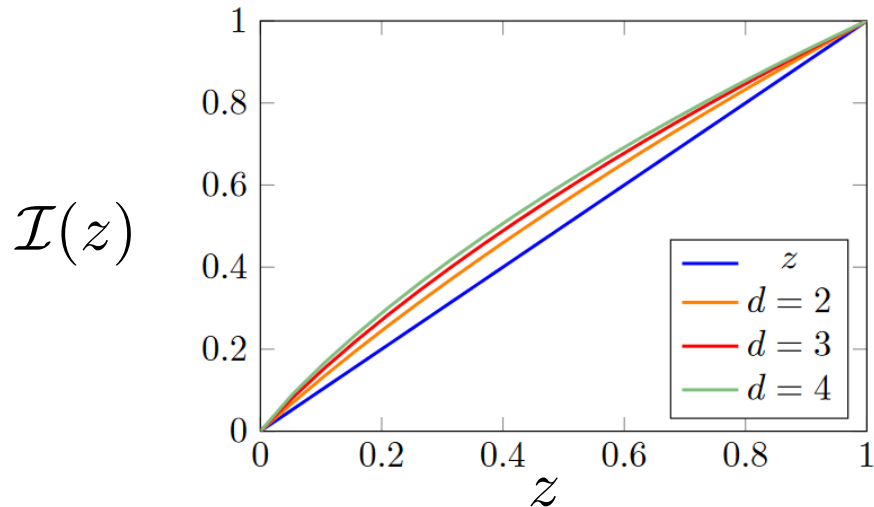
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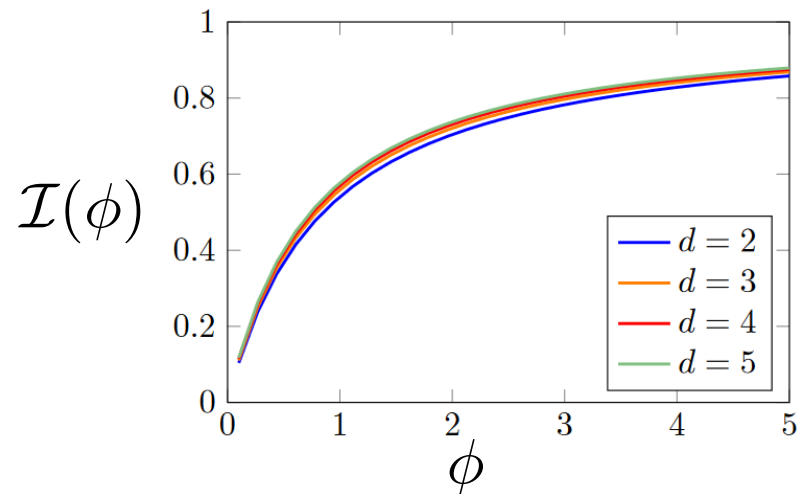
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Parameter  $\phi$  measures dependence

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for well chosen  $h^\phi, \nu_*^\phi$ .

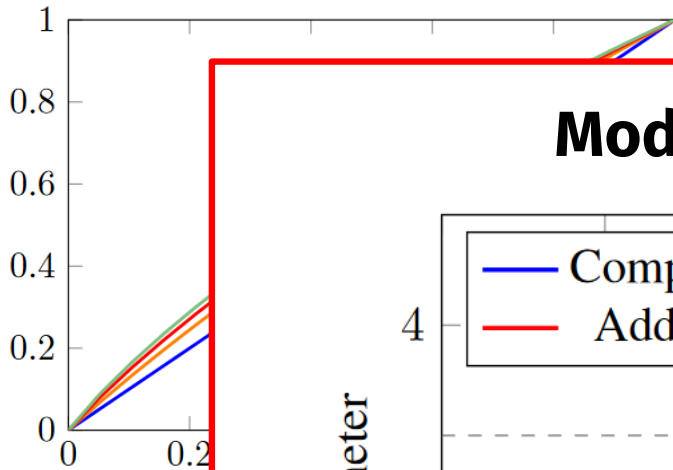


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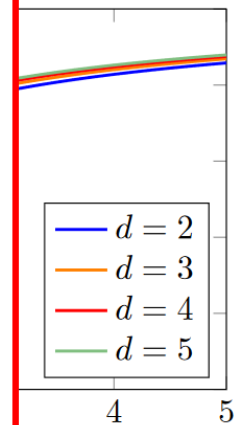
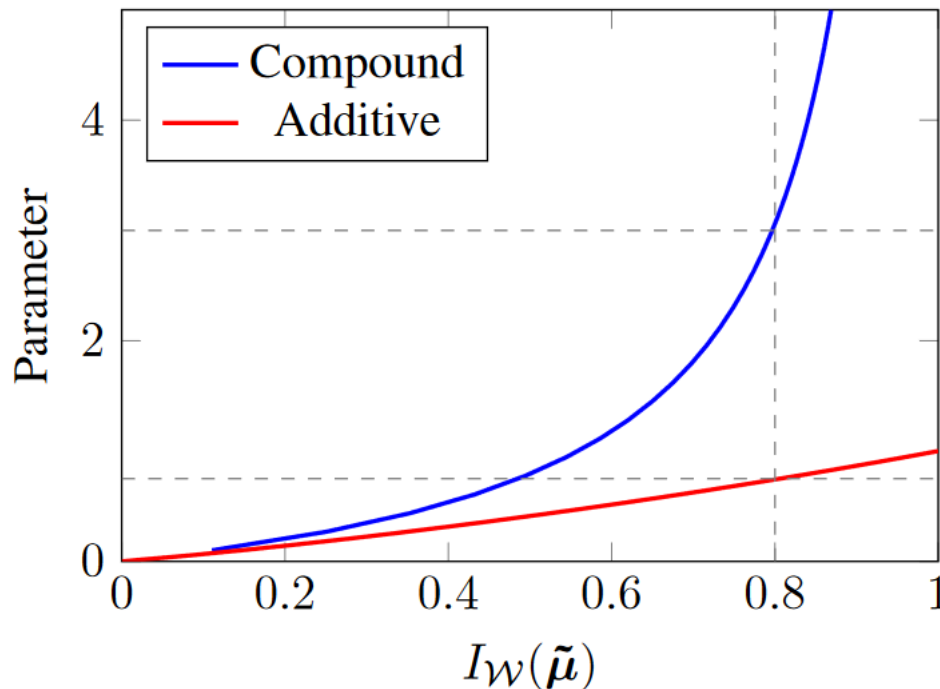
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## Model comparison



# Conclusion

## What is done:

- Wasserstein distance between Lévy measures.
- Index of dependence between Completely Random Vectors.

## What's next?:

- Study dependence in the posterior.
- Use this distance for other purposes: merging of opinions, hypothesis testing, etc.

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Merging Rate of Opinions via  
Optimal Transport on Random Measures

Marta Catalano



WARWICK  
THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

Joint work with Hugo Lavenant (Bocconi University)

Emerging Topics in Applications of Optimal Transport - ETH - 8 June 2023

To be presented in a few minutes!



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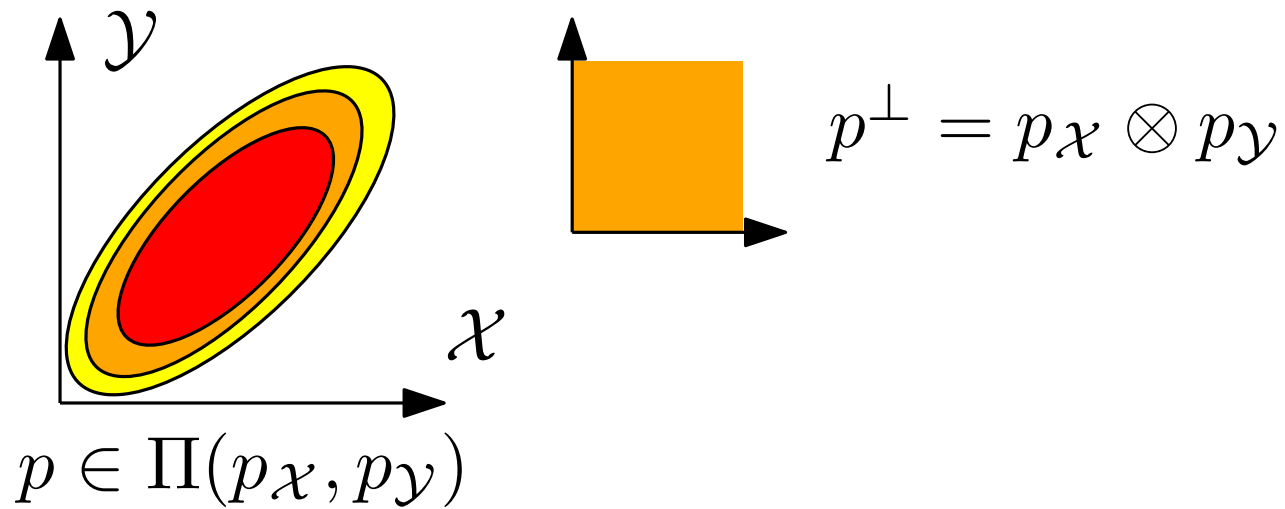
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**Thank you for your attention**

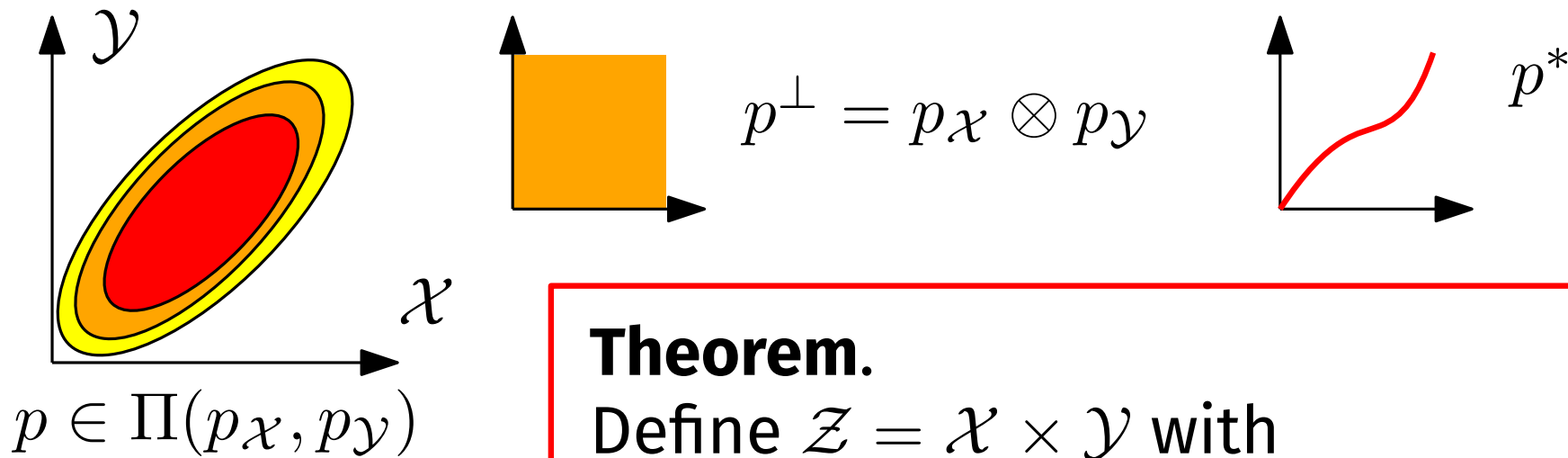
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$(\mathcal{X}, d_{\mathcal{X}})$  and  $(\mathcal{Y}, d_{\mathcal{Y}})$  metric spaces with probabilities  $p_{\mathcal{X}}, p_{\mathcal{Y}}$



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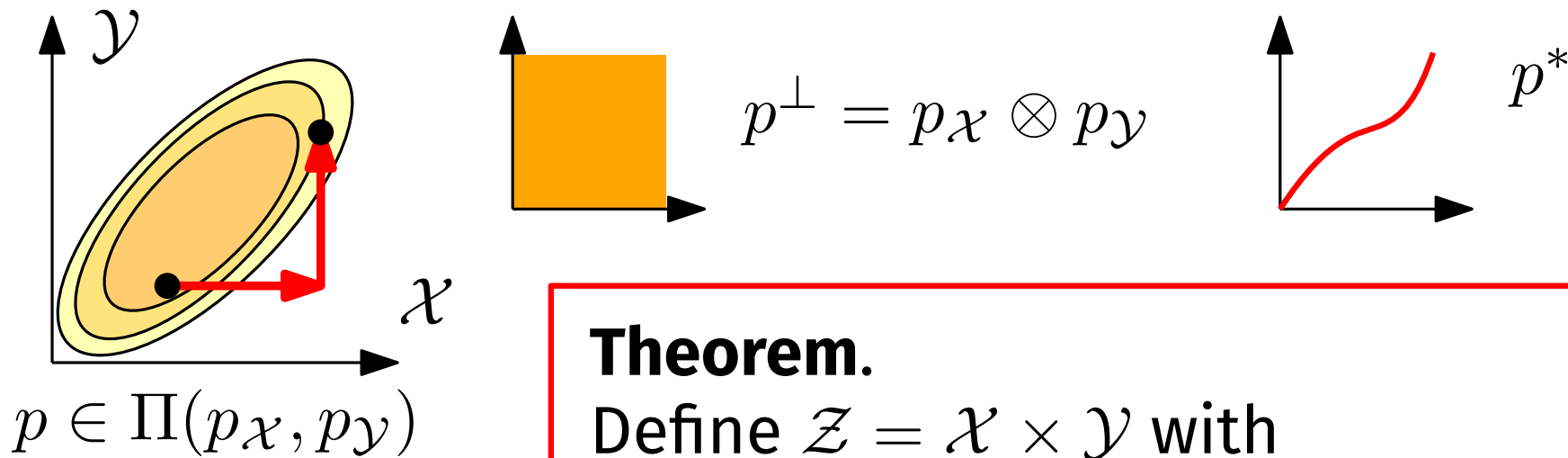
### Theorem.

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Then 
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 with equality iff  $p$  on the graph of 1-Lipschitz function.

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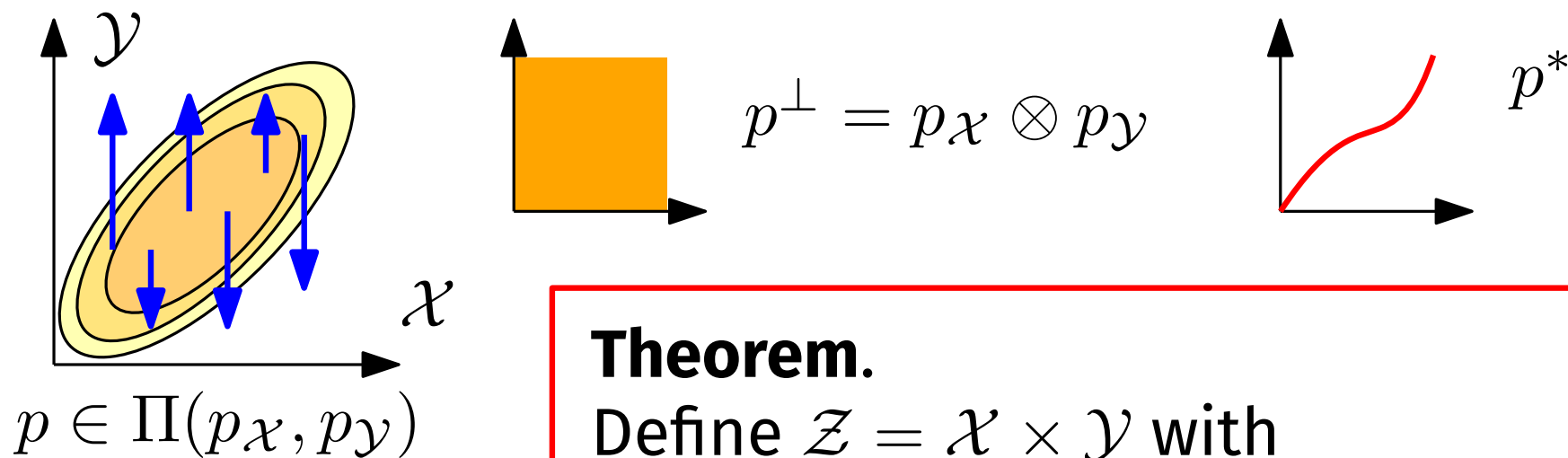
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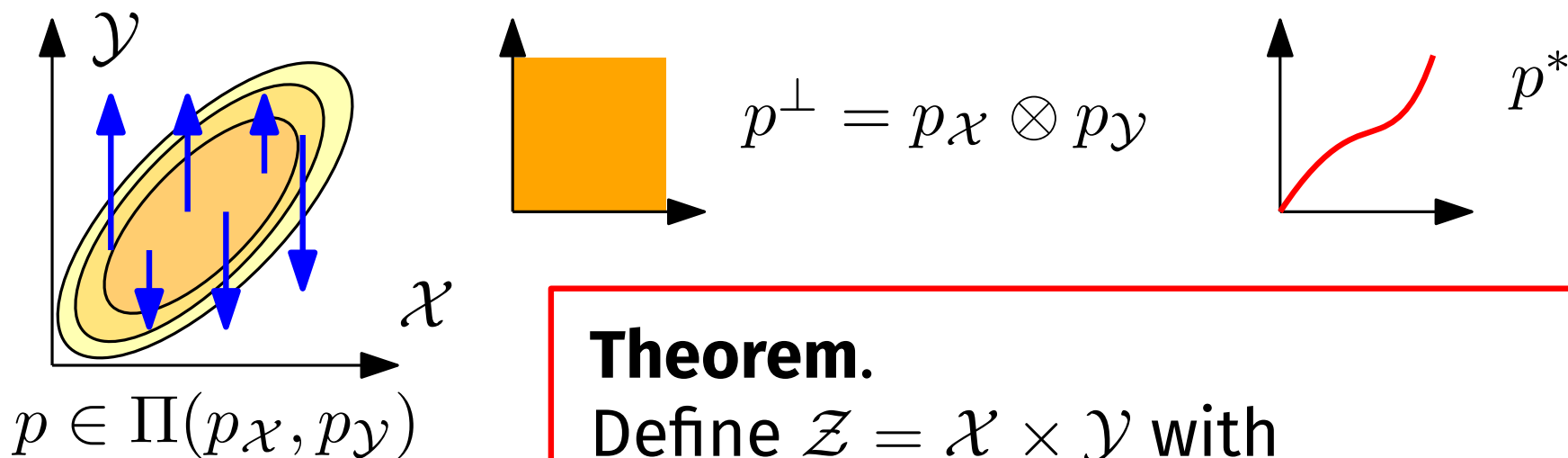
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**Proof idea.** Send  $(x, y)$  onto  $(x, y')$  with  $y'$  independent of  $(x, y)$ .

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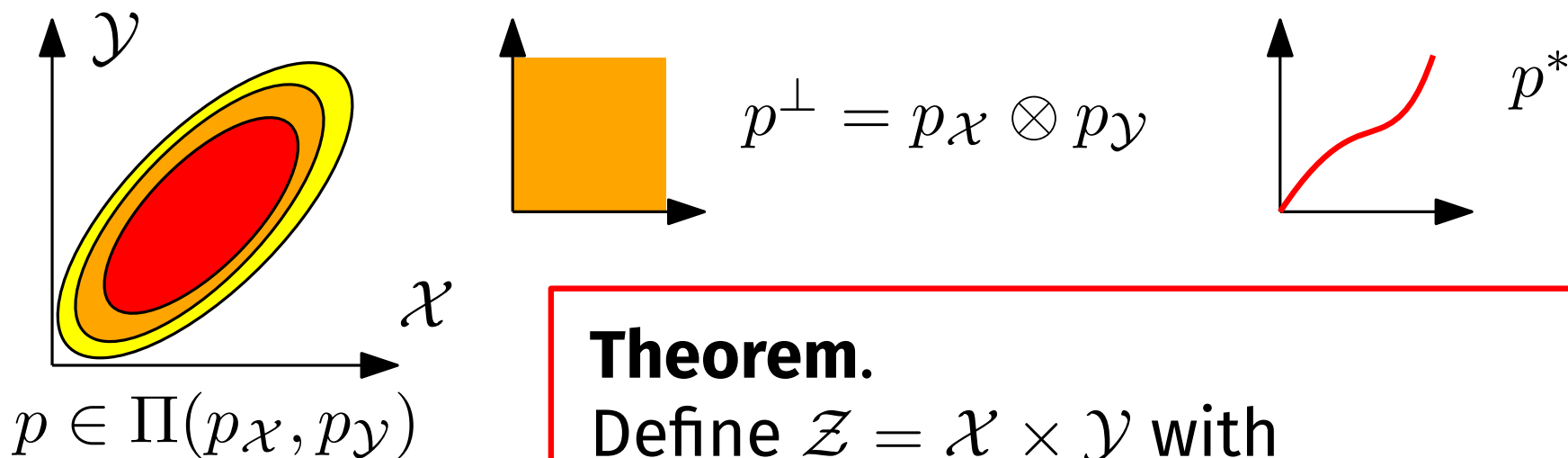
Then  $W_2(p, p^{\perp})^2 \leq \iint d_{\mathcal{Y}}(y_1, y_2)^2 dp_{\mathcal{Y}}(y) dp_{\mathcal{Y}}(y')$

with equality iff  $p$  on the graph of  $\alpha$ -Lipschitz function.

**Proof idea.** Send  $(x, y)$  onto  $(x, y')$  with  $y'$  independent of  $(x, y)$ .

## With the Manhattan distance

$(\mathcal{X}, d_{\mathcal{X}})$  and  $(\mathcal{Y}, d_{\mathcal{Y}})$  metric spaces with probabilities  $p_{\mathcal{X}}, p_{\mathcal{Y}}$



### Theorem.

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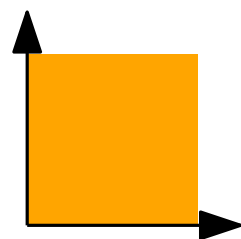
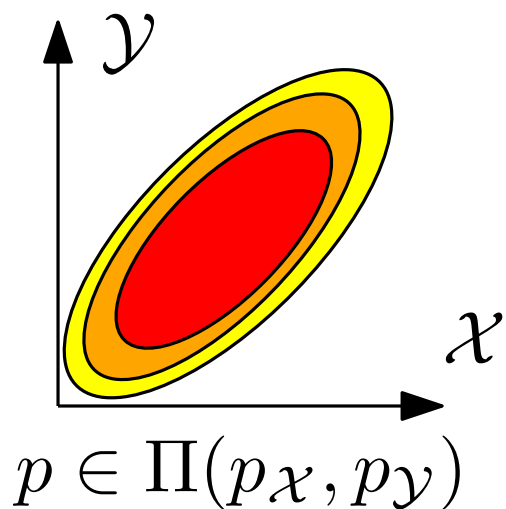
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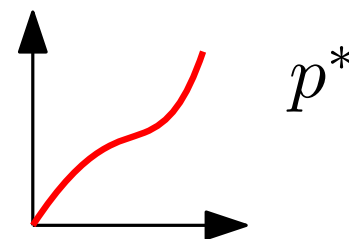
- Defined in arbitrary metric spaces.
- Inherits properties of optimal transport.

## With the Manhattan distance

$(\mathcal{X}, d_{\mathcal{X}})$  and  $(\mathcal{Y}, d_{\mathcal{Y}})$  metric spaces with probabilities  $p_{\mathcal{X}}, p_{\mathcal{Y}}$



$$p^{\perp} = p_{\mathcal{X}} \otimes p_{\mathcal{Y}}$$



### Theorem.

Define  $\mathcal{Z} = \mathcal{X} \times \mathcal{Y}$  with

$$d_{\mathcal{Z}}((x_1, y_1), (x_2, y_2)) = \alpha d_{\mathcal{X}}(x_1, x_2) + d_{\mathcal{Y}}(y_1, y_2).$$

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with equality iff  $p$  on the graph of  $\alpha$ -Lipschitz function.

- Defined in arbitrary metric spaces.

- Inherits properties of optimal transport.

- Not tractable analytically.

- Sampling: curse of dimensionality.

Annex