

## Example Sheet 4

Introduction to Optimal Transport  
University of Cambridge

Lent 2018-2019  
Lecturer: Matthew Thorpe

**Exercise 4.1.** Let  $\mu \in \mathcal{P}_2(X)$ ,  $\nu \in \mathcal{P}_2(X)$ , where  $X \subset \mathbb{R}^d$  is bounded, and assume that  $\mu$  has a density with respect to the Lebesgue measure. Show that there exists a solution to

$$\max_{T: T_{\#}\mu=\nu} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} |x - T(x)|^2 d\mu(x)$$

and the optimal  $T$  is the gradient of a concave function.

**Exercise 4.2.** Let  $\mu_i \in \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{R}^d)$  for  $i = 1, \dots, n$  where each  $\mu_i$  has compact support. Consider the multi-marginal problem

$$\min \left\{ \int_{\mathbb{R}^d \times \dots \times \mathbb{R}^d} c(x_1, \dots, x_n) d\pi(x_1, \dots, x_n) : \pi \in \mathcal{P}((\mathbb{R}^d)^n), (P_i)_{\#}\pi = \mu_i \forall i = 1, \dots, n \right\}$$

where  $P_i(x_1, \dots, x_n) = x_i$ . Suppose  $\pi_0 \in \mathcal{P}((\mathbb{R}^d)^n)$  is admissible (i.e.  $(P_i)_{\#}\pi = \mu_i$  for all  $i$ ) and supported on the set

$$\left\{ (x_1, \dots, x_n) \in (\mathbb{R}^d)^n : x_1 + \dots + x_n = \text{constant} \right\}.$$

- (a) Prove that  $\pi_0$  is optimal if the cost  $c$  is given by  $c(x_1, \dots, x_n) = h(x_1 + \dots + x_n)$  for some convex function  $h : \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ .
- (b) Prove  $\pi_0$  is optimal for the cost  $c(x_1, \dots, x_n) = -\sum_{i \neq j} |x_i - x_j|^2$ .

**Exercise 4.3.** Prove that when  $\nabla_x s(x, t)$  is invertible that

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} |\det(\nabla_x s(x, t))| = |\det(\nabla_x s(x, t))| \left[ \operatorname{div} \left( \frac{\partial s}{\partial t}(s^{-1}(\cdot, t), t) \right) \right] \circ s(x, t).$$

**Exercise 4.4.** If  $\phi : \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is  $C^2$  then show that the following are equivalent:

1. **(Hessian inequality)** for all  $x \in \mathbb{R}^d$ ,

$$D^2\phi(x) \geq \lambda \operatorname{Id}, \quad \text{i.e. } \langle D^2\phi(x)\xi, \xi \rangle \geq \lambda|\xi|^2, \forall \xi \in \mathbb{R}^d;$$

2. **( $\lambda$ -monotonicity of  $\nabla\phi$ )** for all  $t \in [0, 1]$ ,  $x_0, x_1 \in \mathbb{R}^d$ ,

$$\langle \nabla\phi(x_0) - \nabla\phi(x_1), x_0 - x_1 \rangle \geq \lambda|x_0 - x_1|^2;$$

3. **( $\lambda$ -convexity inequality)** for all  $t \in [0, 1]$ ,  $x_0, x_1 \in \mathbb{R}^d$ ,

$$\phi(x_t) \leq (1-t)\phi(x_0) + t\phi(x_1) - \frac{\lambda}{2}t(1-t)|x_0 - x_1|^2$$

where  $x_t = (1-t)x_0 + tx_1$ ;

4. **(subgradient inequality)** for all  $x_0, x_1 \in \mathbb{R}^d$

$$\langle \nabla\phi(x_1), x_1 - x_0 \rangle - \frac{\lambda}{2}|x_1 - x_0|^2 \geq \phi(x_1) - \phi(x_0) \geq \langle \nabla\phi(x_0), x_1 - x_0 \rangle + \frac{\lambda}{2}|x_1 - x_0|^2.$$

**Exercise 4.5.** Show that  $\phi$  is  $\lambda$ -convex if and only if  $\tilde{\phi} = \phi - \frac{\lambda}{2} |\cdot|^2$  is convex.

**Exercise 4.6.** Let  $\phi \in C^2(\mathbb{R}^d)$  be  $\lambda$ -convex and  $u_0, v_0 \in \mathbb{R}^d$ . Assume  $u$  and  $v$  satisfy

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dt}u(t) &= -\nabla\phi(u(t)) \text{ for } t \in (0, +\infty), & u(0) &= u_0 \\ \frac{d}{dt}v(t) &= -\nabla\phi(v(t)) \text{ for } t \in (0, +\infty) & v(0) &= v_0. \end{aligned}$$

Show that  $\frac{d}{dt}(e^{2\lambda t}|u(t) - v(t)|^2) \leq 0$ . Hence, show that the gradient flow starting from  $u_0$  is unique.

**Exercise 4.7.** Show that if  $\phi : \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is  $\lambda$ -convex then, for any  $v \in \mathbb{R}^d$ ,  $\Phi(u) = \alpha|u - v|^2 + \phi(u)$  is  $(\alpha + \lambda)$ -convex and admits a unique minimiser whenever  $\alpha + \lambda > 0$ .

**Exercise 4.8.** Let  $\phi \in C^2(\mathbb{R}^d)$  be  $\lambda$ -convex, and assume that  $t_\tau^{(n)} = n\tau$  and  $U_\tau^{(n)}$  satisfies

$$\frac{U_\tau^{(n)} - U_\tau^{(n-1)}}{\tau} = -\nabla\phi(U_\tau^{(n)}) \quad n = 1, 2, \dots$$

with  $\lim_{\tau \rightarrow 0^+} U_\tau^{(0)} = u_0$ . Show that  $U_\tau$  converges uniformly on every compact set  $[0, T]$  to  $u$  where  $u$  is the solution of

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{du}{dt}(t) &= -\nabla\phi(u(t)), \quad t \in (0, +\infty) & u(0) &= u_0. \\ \sup_{t \in [0, T]} |u(t) - u_\tau(t)| &\leq |u_0 - U_\tau^{(0)}| + C|\nabla\phi(u_0)|\tau. \end{aligned}$$

**Exercise 4.9.** Let  $(\mathcal{Z}, d)$  be a complete and separable metric space and  $\phi : \mathcal{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  a proper and lower semi-continuous function. Show (formally) that  $u : (0, +\infty) \rightarrow \text{Dom}(\phi) \subseteq \mathcal{Z}$  is an  $\text{EVI}_\lambda$  gradient flow if and only if for all  $0 < s < t < +\infty$  and  $v \in \text{Dom}(\phi)$  we have

$$\frac{1}{2}e^{\lambda(t-s)}d^2(u(t), v) - \frac{1}{2}d^2(u(s), v) \leq E_\lambda(t-s)(\phi(v) - \phi(u(t)))$$

where  $E_\lambda(t) = \frac{e^{\lambda t} - 1}{\lambda}$ .

**Exercise 4.10.** Let  $(\mathcal{Z}, d)$  be a complete and separable metric space and  $\phi : \mathcal{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  a proper and lower semi-continuous function. Assume the  $\text{EVI}_\lambda$  gradient flow  $u : (0, +\infty) \rightarrow \mathcal{Z}$  of  $\phi$  exists for every initial condition. Show that  $\phi$  is  $\lambda$ -convex along geodesics, i.e. if  $\gamma : [0, 1] \rightarrow \mathcal{Z}$  is a geodesic between  $x_0 \in \mathcal{Z}$  and  $x_1 \in \mathcal{Z}$  then

$$\phi(\gamma(t)) \leq (1-t)\phi(x_0) + t\phi(x_1) - \frac{\lambda}{2}t(1-t)d^2(x_0, x_1) \quad \forall t \in [0, 1].$$

**Exercise 4.11.** Suppose for any  $u_0 \in \mathbb{R}^d$  there exists a  $C^1$  curve  $u : (0, +\infty) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^d$  that satisfies:  $u(0) = u_0$ ,  $\frac{du}{dt}(t) = -\nabla\phi(u(t))$ , and

$$\frac{1}{2} \frac{d}{dt}|u(t) - v|^2 + \frac{\lambda}{2}|u(t) - v|^2 \leq \phi(v) - \phi(u(t)) \quad \forall v \in \mathbb{R}^d, \forall t > 0.$$

Show that  $\phi$  is  $\lambda$ -convex.

**Exercise 4.12.** Show that if  $\mu_t \in \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{R}^d)$  has density  $\rho_t$  then

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \mu_t + \nabla \cdot (v_t \mu_t) = 0$$

in the sense of distributions implies that

$$\frac{\partial \rho_t}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (v_t \rho) = 0$$

$\mu_t$ -almost everywhere.

**Exercise 4.13.** Let  $\phi = \mathcal{U} + \mathcal{V} : \mathcal{P}_2(\mathbb{R}^d) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  where

$$\mathcal{U}(\mu) = \begin{cases} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} U(\rho(x)) dx & \text{if } \mu \ll \mathcal{L}^d \text{ and } \rho = \frac{d\mu}{d\mathcal{L}^d} \\ +\infty & \text{else} \end{cases}$$

$$\mathcal{V}(\mu) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} V(x) d\mu(x)$$

and  $U \in C^1(\mathbb{R})$ . Show that  $\frac{\partial \phi}{\partial \mu}(\mu) = U'(\rho) + V$  whenever  $\frac{d\mu}{d\mathcal{L}^d} = \rho$ .

**Exercise 4.14.** Let  $\zeta \in C_c^\infty(\mathbb{R}^d)$ ,  $\mu \in \mathcal{P}_2(\mathbb{R}^d)$  and assume  $\varepsilon > 0$  satisfies  $\varepsilon \max_{\mathbb{R}^d} \|D^2 \zeta\| < 1$ . Define  $T_\varepsilon = \text{Id} + \varepsilon \nabla \zeta$ . Show that  $\pi_\varepsilon = (\text{Id} \times T_\varepsilon) \# \mu$  is an optimal transport plan for the Kantorovich optimal transport problem with quadratic cost between  $\mu$  and  $[T_\varepsilon] \# \mu$ .

**Exercise 4.15.** Given  $D \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times d}$  let  $F : [0, \infty) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be defined by  $F_D(\varepsilon) = \log |\det(\text{Id} + \varepsilon D)|$ . Show that, for  $\varepsilon > 0$  sufficiently small,  $\frac{dF_D}{d\varepsilon}(\varepsilon) = \text{tr}((\text{Id} + \varepsilon D)^{-1} D)$ . [Hint: use Jacobi's theorem.]

**Exercise 4.16.** Let  $\phi = \mathcal{V} : \mathcal{P}_2(\mathbb{R}^d) \rightarrow \overline{\mathbb{R}}$  where  $\mathcal{V}(\mu) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} V(x) d\mu(x)$ . Using Theorem 8.29 show that the gradient flow  $\mu_t$  in the Wasserstein space of  $\phi$  satisfies the evolutionary PDE

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \mu_t - \nabla \cdot (\mu_t \nabla V) = 0.$$

**Exercise 4.17.** Let  $\phi = \mathcal{V} + \mathcal{U} : \mathcal{P}_2(\mathbb{R}^d) \rightarrow \overline{\mathbb{R}}$  where  $\mathcal{V}(\mu) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} V(x) d\mu(x)$  and

$$\mathcal{U}(\mu) = \begin{cases} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} U(\rho(x)) dx & \text{if } \mu \ll \mathcal{L}^d \text{ and where } \rho = \frac{d\mu}{d\mathcal{L}^d} \\ +\infty & \text{else} \end{cases}$$

where  $U(r) = \frac{r^m}{m-1}$  for  $m > 1$ . Using Theorem 8.29 show that the gradient flow  $\mu_t$  in the Wasserstein space of  $\phi$  satisfies the evolutionary PDE

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \mu_t - \nabla \cdot (\nabla \rho_t^m + \rho_t \nabla V) = 0$$

where  $\rho_t$  is the density of  $\mu_t$ .