

# Geometric data analysis, beyond convolutions

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OPIS Inria team, online — January 2021.

Joint work with B. Charlier, J. Glaunès (numerical foundations),  
T. Séjourné, F.-X. Vialard, G. Peyré (optimal transport theory),  
P. Roussillon, P. Gori, A. Trouné (applications to computational anatomy),  
F. Sverrisson, B. E. Correia, M. Bronstein (applications to protein sciences).

# Who am I?

2012–2016 ENS Paris, **mathematics** and applications.

2015 MVA thesis with **Siemens Healthcare** in Princeton.

2016–2019 PhD thesis with Alain Trounev, **computational anatomy**;  
TA/tutor in applied maths at the ENS Paris.

2019–2022 PostDoc with Michael Bronstein, **geometric deep learning**.

Family of medical doctors (radiologist, haematologist, GPs...):  
strong motivation to work towards **clinical solutions**.

**Make life easier** for engineers and researchers in the field:  
two libraries (KeOps, GeomLoss) to **speed up geometric methods**,  
with new guarantees of **robustness**.

Today, we will talk about:

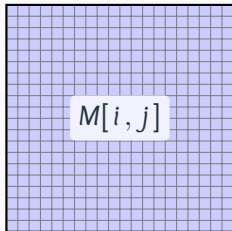
1. KeOps: fast geometry with **symbolic matrices**.
2. **Applications** to machine learning, proteins, maths...
3. GeomLoss: fast, robust and scalable **optimal transport**.
4. Scientific context, **future works**.

# Symbolic matrices?

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# Machine learning libraries represent most objects as tensors



## Dense matrix

Coefficients only

**Dense** matrices – large, contiguous **arrays** of numbers:

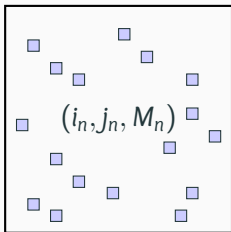
- + **Convenient** and well supported.
- Heavy load on the **memories** of our GPUs, with **time-consuming transfers** that take place between compute units.

# Machine learning libraries represent most objects as tensors



Dense matrix

Coefficients only



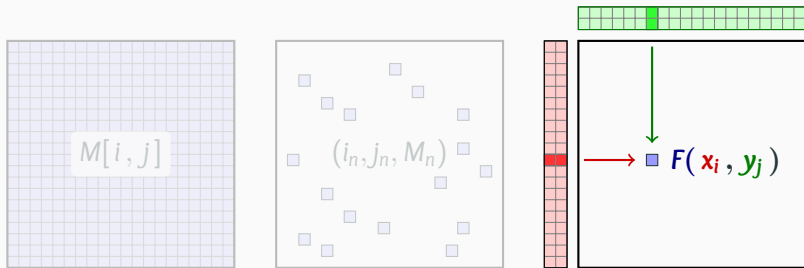
Sparse matrix

Coordinates + coeffs

**Sparse** matrices – tensors that have **few non-zero entries**:

- + Represent **large tensors** with a small memory footprint.
- Outside of **graph** processing, few objects are **sparse enough** to really benefit from this representation.

# Machine learning libraries represent most objects as tensors



Dense matrix  
Coefficients only

Sparse matrix  
Coordinates + coeffs

Symbolic matrix  
Formula + data

**Distance** and **kernel** matrices, **point** convolutions, **attention** layers:

- + **Linear** memory usage: no more **memory** overflows.
- + We can optimize the use of registers for a  $\times 10 - \times 100$  speed-up vs. a standard PyTorch GPU baseline.

# We provide support for this “new abstraction” on the GPU

**Our library** comes with all the perks of a deep learning toolbox:

- + Transparent **array-like** interface.
- + Full support for automatic **differentiation**.
- + Comprehensive collection of **tutorials**, available online.

Under the hood: combines an optimized **C++** engine with high-level binders for **PyTorch**, **NumPy**, Matlab and R (thanks to Ghislain Durif).  
(We welcome **contributors** for JAX, Julia and other frameworks!)

To get started:

⇒ `pip install pykeops` ⇐  
`www.kernel-operations.io`

## A first example: efficient nearest neighbor search in dimension 50

Create large point clouds using **standard PyTorch syntax**:

```
import torch
N, M, D = 10**6, 10**6, 50
x = torch.rand(N, 1, D).cuda() # (1M, 1, 50) array
y = torch.rand(1, M, D).cuda() # ( 1, 1M, 50) array
```

Turn **dense** arrays into **symbolic** matrices:

```
from pykeops.torch import LazyTensor
x_i, y_j = LazyTensor(x), LazyTensor(y)
```

Create a large **symbolic matrix** of squared distances:

```
D_ij = ((x_i - y_j)**2).sum(dim=2) # (1M, 1M) symbolic
```

Use an `.argmin()` **reduction** to perform a nearest neighbor query:

```
indices_i = D_ij.argmin(dim=1) # -> standard torch tensor
```

# The KeOps library combines performance with flexibility

Script of the previous slide = efficient nearest neighbor query,  
on par with the bruteforce CUDA scheme of the **FAISS** library...

And can be used with **any metric**!

```
D_ij = ((x_i - x_j) ** 2).sum(dim=2)      # Euclidean
M_ij = (x_i - x_j).abs().sum(dim=2)      # Manhattan
C_ij = 1 - (x_i | x_j)                   # Cosine
H_ij = D_ij / (x_i[...,0] * x_j[...,0]) # Hyperbolic
```

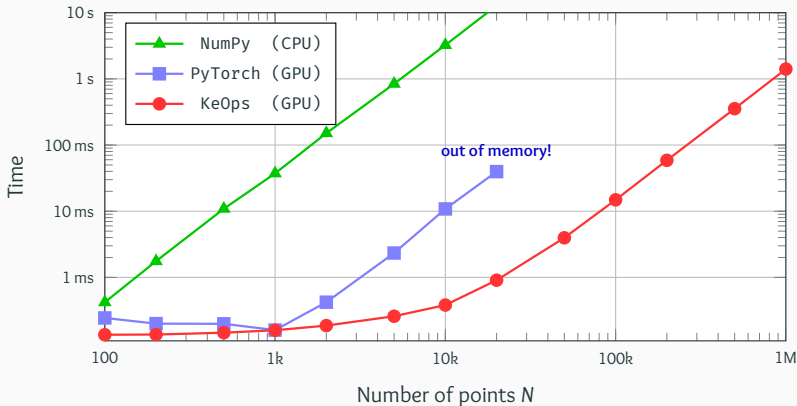
KeOps supports arbitrary **formulas** and **variables** with:

- **Reductions:** sum, log-sum-exp, K-min, matrix-vector product, etc.
- **Operations:** +, ×, sqrt, exp, neural networks, etc.
- **Advanced schemes:** batch processing, block sparsity, etc.
- **Automatic differentiation:** seamless integration with PyTorch.

# KeOps lets users work with millions of points at a time

Benchmark of a matrix-vector product with a N-by-N Gaussian kernel matrix between 3D point clouds.

We run NumPy, PyTorch and KeOps on a RTX 2080 Ti GPU.

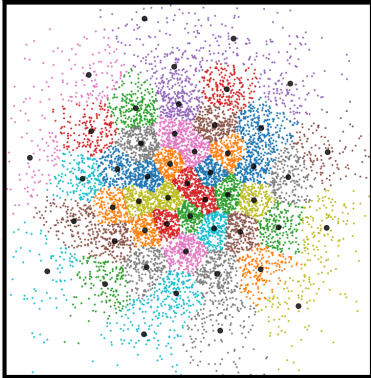


# Applications

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# KeOps is a good fit for machine learning research



K-Means.

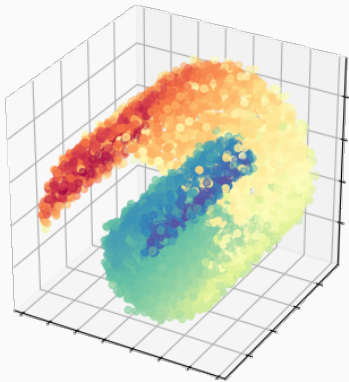


Gaussian Mixture Model.

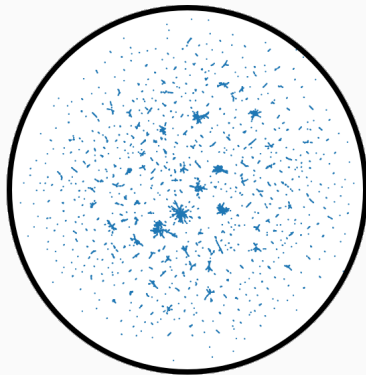
**Use any kernel, metric or formula you like!**

⇒ More tutorials coming up soon.

# KeOps is a good fit for machine learning research



Spectral analysis.

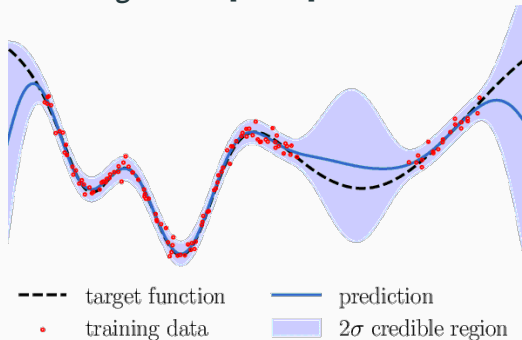


UMAP in hyperbolic space.

**Use any kernel, metric or formula you like!**

⇒ More tutorials coming up soon.

A standard tool for regression [Lec18]:



Under the hood, solve a **kernel linear system**:

$$(\lambda \text{Id} + K_{xx}) a = b \quad \text{i.e.} \quad a \leftarrow (\lambda \text{Id} + K_{xx})^{-1} b$$

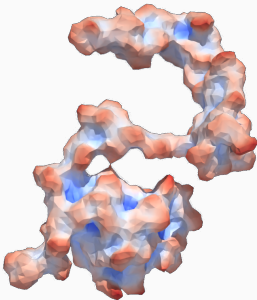
where  $\lambda \geq 0$  and  $(K_{xx})_{i,j} = k(x_i, x_j)$  is a positive definite matrix.

## KeOps symbolic tensors:

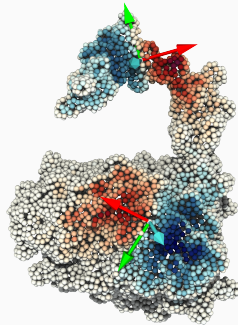
- Can be fed to **standard solvers**: SciPy, GPytorch, etc.
- GPytorch on the 3DRoad dataset ( $N = 278k$ ,  $D = 3$ ):  
7h with 8 GPUs  $\rightarrow$  15mn with 1 GPU.
- Provide a **fast backend for research codes**: see e.g.  
*Kernel methods through the roof: handling **billions of points** efficiently*, by G. Meanti, L. Carratino, L. Rosasco, A. Rudi (2020).

Data-driven methods on **point clouds** and **proteins**:

- + **Fast K-NN search**: local interactions.
- + **Fast N-by-N computations**: global interactions.
- + Heterogeneous **batches**, Octree-like acceleration.

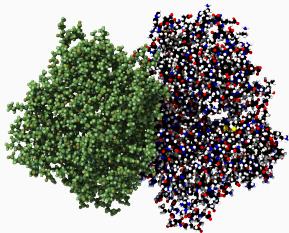


**Curvatures** at all scales.

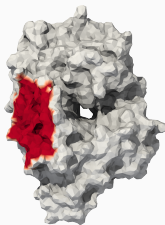


Quasi-geodesic **convolutions**.

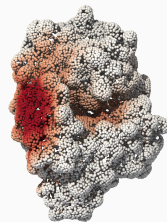
# Applications to protein sciences [SFCB20]



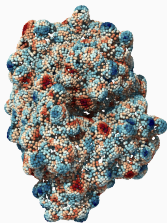
(a) Raw protein data.



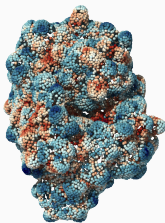
(b) Interface.



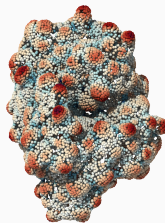
(c) Prediction.



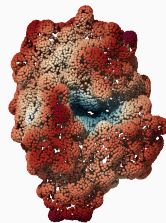
(d) Chem. 1.



(e) Chem. 2.

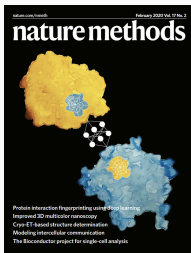
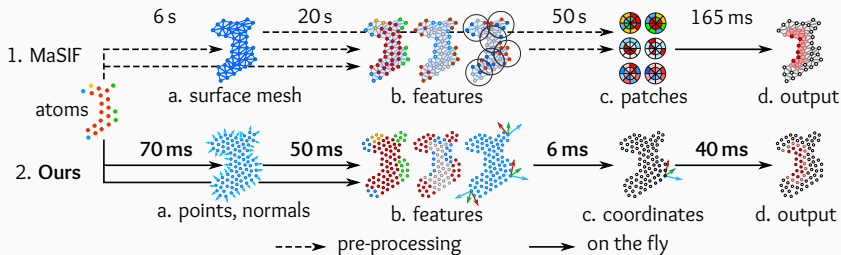


(f) K at 1 Å.



(g) H at 10 Å.

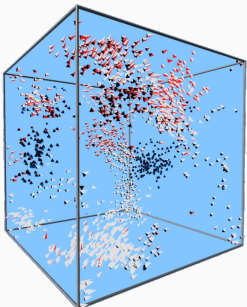
# Fast end-to-end learning on protein surfaces



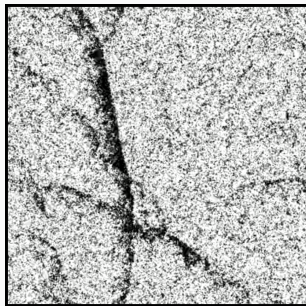
→  $\times 100$ - $\times 1,000$  faster, lighter  
and fully differentiable.

# KeOps lets you focus on your models, results and theorems

Some applications to **dynamical systems** [DM08, DFMAT17] and **statistics** [CDF19] with A. Diez, G. Clarté and P. Degond:



3D Vicsek model with orientation, interactive demo with 2k **flyers**.

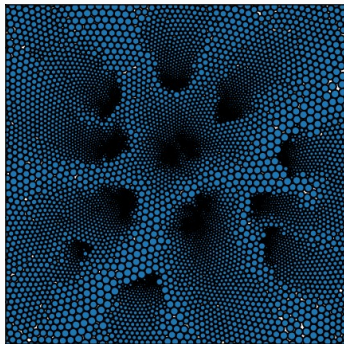


2D Vicsek model on the torus, in real-time with 100k **swimmers**.

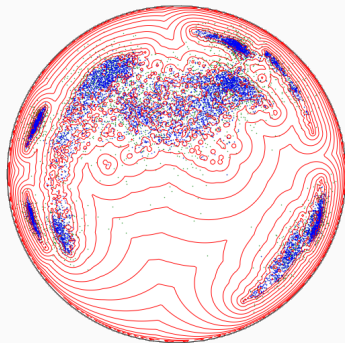


# KeOps lets you focus on your models, results and theorems

⇒ Scale up to millions/billions of agents with Python scripts.



**Packing** problem in 2D  
with 10k repulsive balls.



Collective Monte Carlo **sampling**  
on the hyperbolic Poincaré disk.

**Fast, scalable and robust  
optimal transport solvers**

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# The Wasserstein, Earth Mover's distance

Sorting points in 1D:

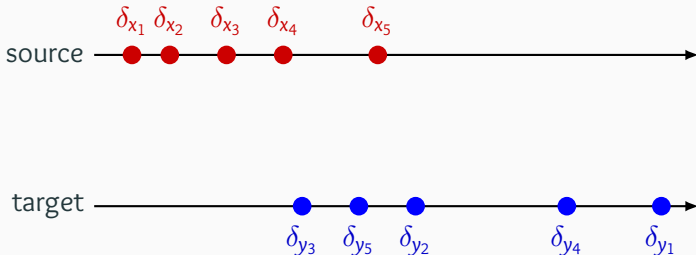
# The Wasserstein, Earth Mover's distance

Sorting points in 1D:



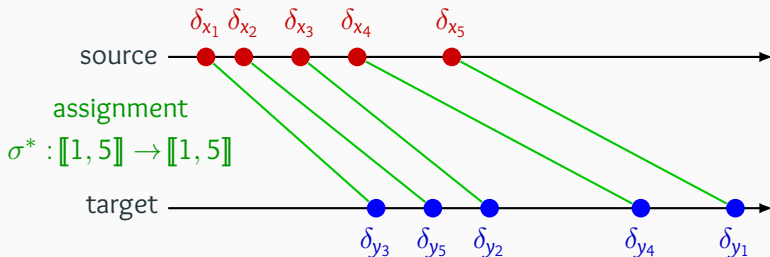
# The Wasserstein, Earth Mover's distance

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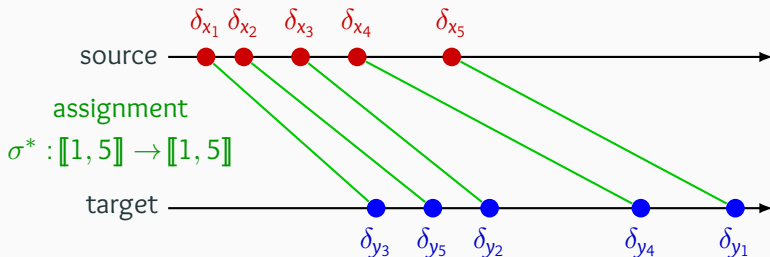
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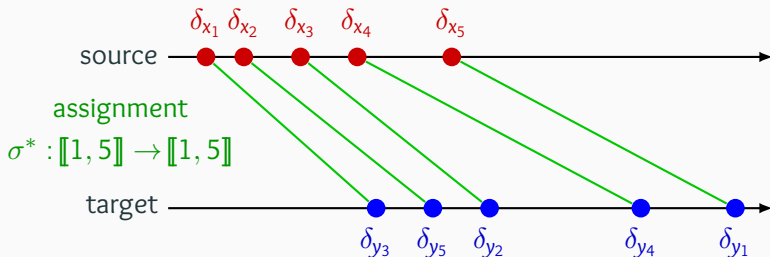
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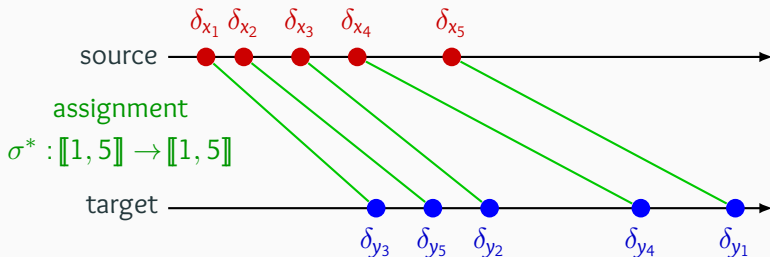


$$\text{OT}(\alpha, \beta) = \frac{1}{2N} \sum_{i=1}^N |x_i - y_{\sigma^*(i)}|^2$$



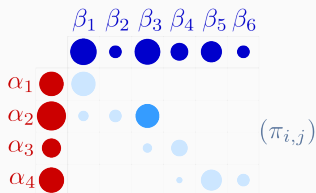
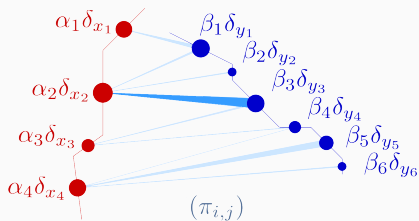
# The Wasserstein, Earth Mover's distance

Sorting points in 1D:



$$\text{OT}(\alpha, \beta) = \frac{1}{2N} \sum_{i=1}^N |x_i - y_{\sigma^*(i)}|^2 = \min_{\sigma \in \mathcal{S}_N} \frac{1}{2N} \sum_{i=1}^N |x_i - y_{\sigma(i)}|^2$$

# Optimal transport generalizes sorting to $D > 1$



Minimize over  $N$ -by- $M$  matrices  
(transport plans)  $\pi$  :

$$\text{OT}(\alpha, \beta) = \min_{\pi} \underbrace{\sum_{i,j} \pi_{i,j} \cdot \frac{1}{2} |\mathbf{x}_i - \mathbf{y}_j|^2}_{\text{transport cost}}$$

subject to  $\pi_{i,j} \geq 0$ ,

$$\sum_j \pi_{i,j} = \alpha_i, \quad \sum_i \pi_{i,j} = \beta_j.$$

## Key properties [Bre91]

The Wasserstein loss  $\text{OT}(\alpha, \beta)$  is:

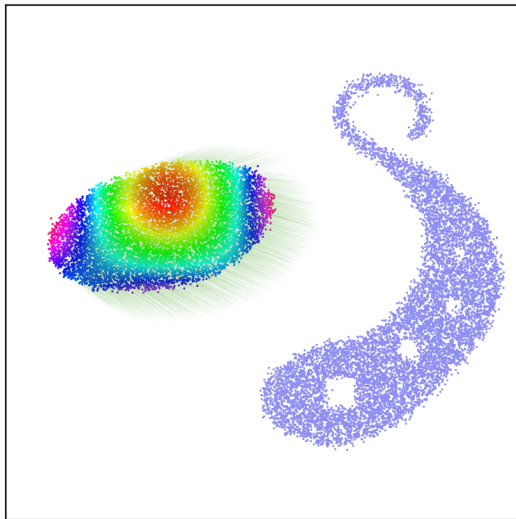
- **Symmetric:**  $\text{OT}(\alpha, \beta) = \text{OT}(\beta, \alpha).$
- **Positive:**  $\text{OT}(\alpha, \beta) \geq 0.$
- **Definite:**  $\text{OT}(\alpha, \beta) = 0 \iff \alpha = \beta.$
- **Translation-aware:**  $\text{OT}(\alpha, \text{Translate}_{\vec{v}}(\alpha)) = \frac{1}{2} \|\vec{v}\|^2.$
- More generally, OT retrieves the unique **gradient of a convex function**  $T = \nabla\varphi$  that maps  $\alpha$  onto  $\beta$ :

$$\text{In dimension 1,} \quad (x_i - x_j) \cdot (y_{\sigma(i)} - y_{\sigma(j)}) \geq 0$$

$$\text{In dimension D,} \quad \langle x_i - x_j, T(x_i) - T(x_j) \rangle_{\mathbb{R}^D} \geq 0.$$

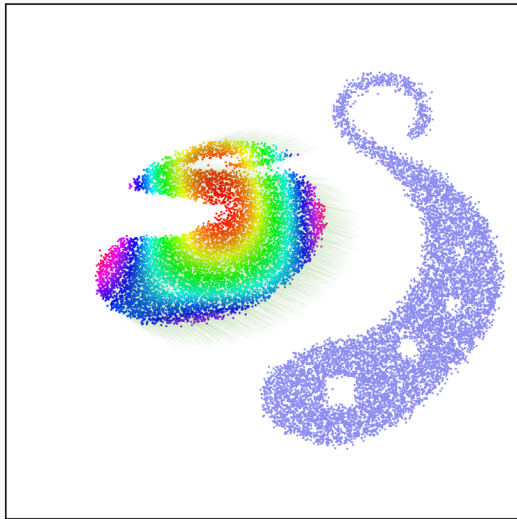
$\implies$  Appealing generalization of an **increasing mapping**.

# Clean gradients for registration and measure-fitting problems



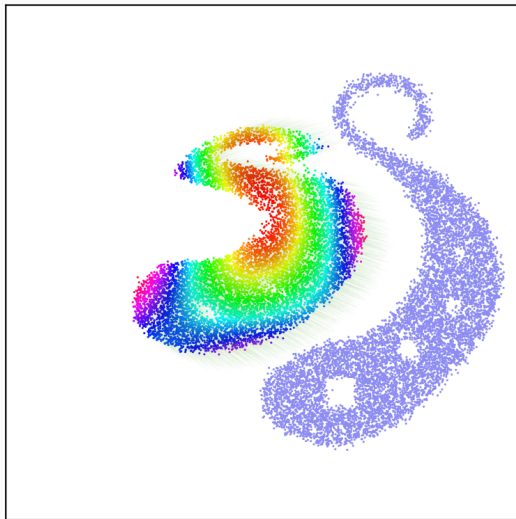
$t = .00$

# Clean gradients for registration and measure-fitting problems



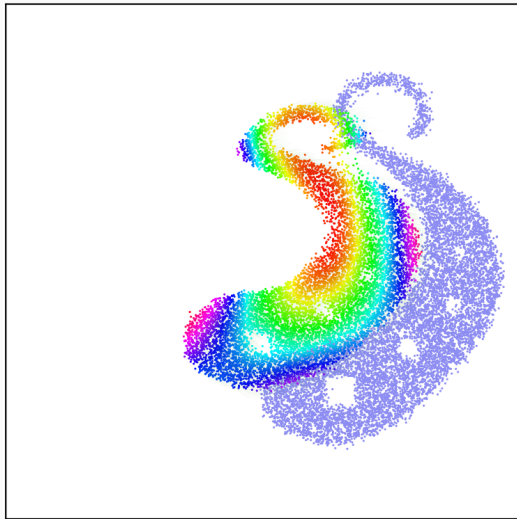
$t = .25$

# Clean gradients for registration and measure-fitting problems



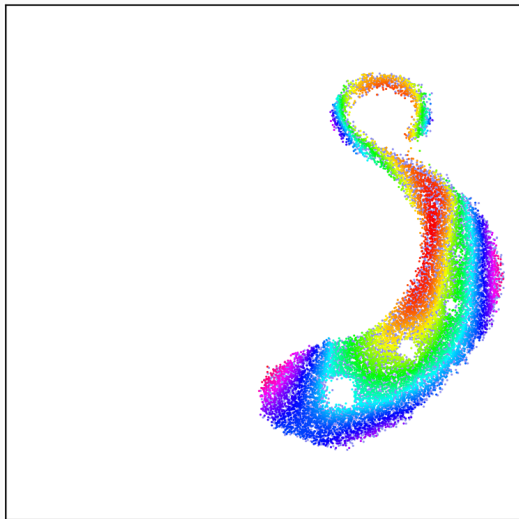
$t = .50$

# Clean gradients for registration and measure-fitting problems



$t = 1.00$

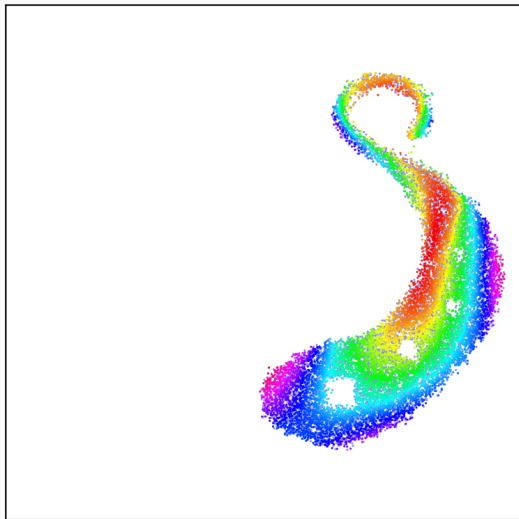
# Clean gradients for registration and measure-fitting problems



$t = 5.00$



# Clean gradients for registration and measure-fitting problems



$t = 10.00$

# Robust optimal transport: softening the bijectivity constraints

**Standard OT:** minimize over  $N$ -by- $M$  transport plans  $\pi$ ,

$$\begin{aligned}\text{OT}(\alpha, \beta) &= \min_{\pi} \langle \tfrac{1}{2} |x_i - y_j|^2, \pi \rangle \\ \text{s.t. } \pi &\geq 0, \quad \pi \mathbf{1} = \alpha, \quad \pi^T \mathbf{1} = \beta.\end{aligned}$$

When dealing with **real-life data**, we'd rather work with:

$$\begin{aligned}\text{OT}_{\sigma, \rho}(\alpha, \beta) &= \min_{\pi} \langle \tfrac{1}{2} |x_i - y_j|^2, \pi \rangle \\ &+ \underbrace{\sigma^2 \text{KL}(\pi \mid \alpha \otimes \beta)}_{\pi \text{ is fuzzy at scale } \sigma} + \underbrace{\rho^2 \text{D}(\pi \mathbf{1} \mid \alpha) + \rho^2 \text{D}(\pi^T \mathbf{1} \mid \beta)}_{\pi \text{ tries to match } \alpha \text{ with } \beta \dots \text{ up to a distance } \rho}.\end{aligned}$$

In the formula above:

- **KL** is the relative entropy.
- **D** may be the relative entropy, the total variation, etc.

# Robust optimal transport: fast algorithms, with guarantees

We define the **Sinkhorn divergence**:

$$\begin{aligned} S_{\sigma,\rho}(\alpha, \beta) &= \text{OT}_{\sigma,\rho}(\alpha, \beta) - \frac{1}{2}\text{OT}_{\sigma,\rho}(\alpha, \alpha) - \frac{1}{2}\text{OT}_{\sigma,\rho}(\beta, \beta) \\ &\simeq \text{OT}_{\text{“lazy-}\rho\text{”}}(k_\sigma \star \alpha, k_\sigma \star \beta), \end{aligned}$$

where  $k_\sigma$  is a Gaussian kernel of deviation  $\sigma$  and our “lazy” particles do not move beyond a distance  $\rho$ .

**Theorem 1 (geometry):**  $S_{\sigma,\rho}$  is suitable for gradient descent. It is **positive**, definite, **convex** and metrizes the convergence in law.

**Theorem 2 (algorithm):** We can **implement**  $S_{\sigma,\rho}$  efficiently, **on GPUs**. Two main ingredients: **log-convolution** with the Gaussian kernel  $k_\sigma$  and a **proximal operator** that is related to  $\rho^2 \text{D}(\cdot \mid \cdot)$ .

# How should we solve the OT problem?

Key dates for discrete optimal transport with  $N$  points:

- [Kan42]: **Dual** problem.
- [Kuh55]: **Hungarian** method in  $O(N^3)$ .
- [Ber79]: **Auction** algorithm in  $O(N^2)$ .
- [KY94]: **SoftAssign** = Sinkhorn + annealing, in  $O(N^2)$ .
- [GRL<sup>+</sup>98, CR00]: **Robust Point Matching** = Sinkhorn as a loss.
- [Cut13]: Start of the **GPU era**.
- [Mér11, Lév15, Sch19]: **Multiscale** solvers in  $O(N \log N)$ .
- Today: **Multiscale Sinkhorn algorithm, on the GPU**.

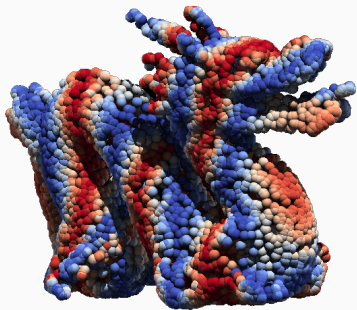
⇒ Generalized **QuickSort** algorithm.

# Scaling up optimal transport to anatomical data

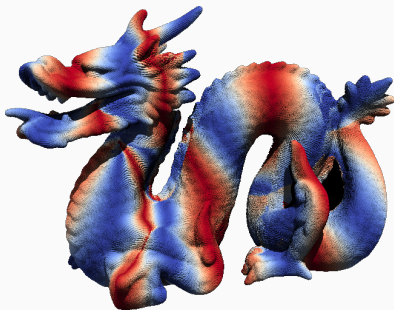
Progresses of the last decade add up to a  $\times 100 - \times 1000$  acceleration:

Sinkhorn GPU  $\xrightarrow{\times 10}$  + KeOps  $\xrightarrow{\times 10}$  + Annealing  $\xrightarrow{\times 10}$  + Multiscale

With a precision of 1%, on a modern gaming GPU:



10k points in 30-50ms



100k points in 100-200ms

# Geometric Loss functions for PyTorch

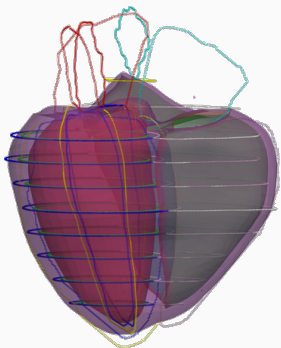
Our website: [www.kernel-operations.io/geomloss](http://www.kernel-operations.io/geomloss)

⇒ `pip install geomloss` ⇐

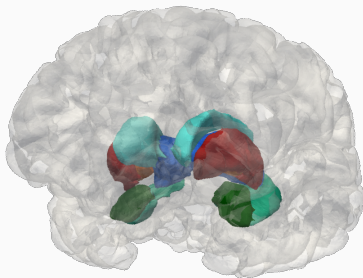
```
# Large point clouds in  $[0,1]^3$ 
import torch
x = torch.rand(100000, 3, requires_grad=True).cuda()
y = torch.rand(200000, 3).cuda()

# Define a Wasserstein loss between sampled measures
from geomloss import SamplesLoss
loss = SamplesLoss(loss="sinkhorn", p=2)
L = loss(x, y) # By default, use constant weights
```

Soon: efficient support for **images**, **meshes** and generic metrics.



**Fast OT-based registration** with  
S. Joutard, X. Hao, A. Young from KCL,  
Z. Shen, M. Niethammer from UNC.



**Diffeomorphic and spline registration**  
e.g. Deformetrica LDDMM software  
with the Aramis Inria team.

## Scientific context, future works

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## Genuine team work



Alain Trouvé



Thibault Séjourné



F.-X. Vialard



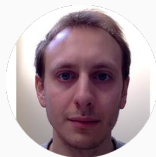
Gabriel Peyré



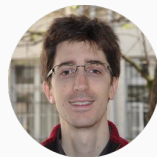
Benjamin Charlier



Joan Glaunès



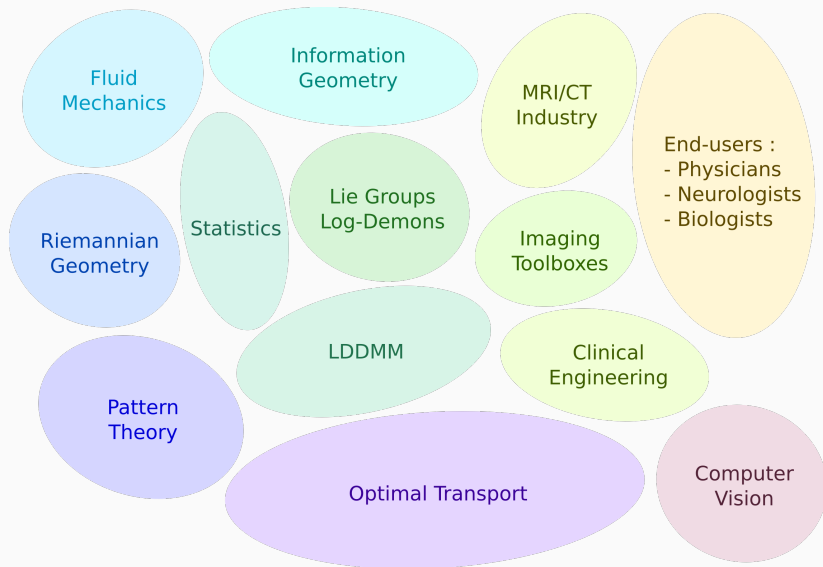
Pierre Roussillon



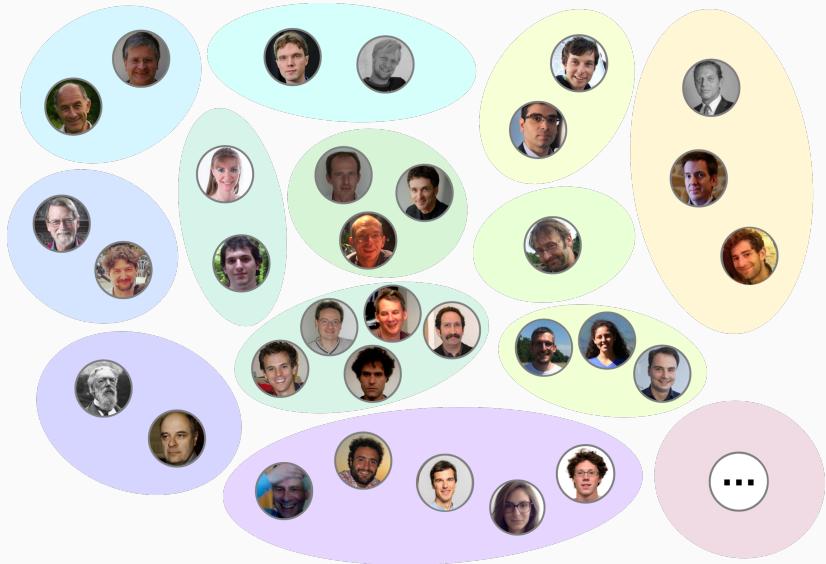
Pietro Gori

+ Freyr Sverrisson, Bruno Correia, Michael Bronstein, ...

# Promoting cross-field interactions



# Promoting cross-field interactions



The emergence of an open and **modular** ecosystem of scientific tools has been a **boon** to the community.

Deep learning frameworks have put **GPU computing** and **automatic differentiation** in the hands of every student.  
(Incredible!)

These libraries have attracted significant backing from **industry** players (Google, Facebook, ...) and allowed the field to **boom** over the last decade.

**Interacting** with other researchers, doctors  
and engineers has never been so **easy**.

But on the other hand, PyTorch and TensorFlow have also **biased**  
the field towards a **small set** of **well-supported** operations:  
convolutions and matrix-matrix products, mostly.

This design choice is **not** due to an intrinsic limitation of GPUs:  
our hardware is more than capable of **simulating** large,  
open **3D worlds** in real-time!

As academic researchers, we must strive to keep **other paths open**.  
Foster the development of a full range of methods,  
from **robust** convex baselines  
to **expensive** deep learning pipelines.

KeOps and GeomLoss are:

- + **Fast:**  $\times 10$ - $\times 1,000$  speedup vs. naive GPU implementations.
- + **Memory-efficient:**  $O(N)$ , not  $O(N^2)$ .
- + **Versatile, with a transparent interface:** freedom!
- + **Powerful and well-documented:** research-friendly.
- Slow with **large vectors** of dimension  $D > 100$ .

# Our contribution to the community

KeOps and GeomLoss are:

- + **Fast:**  $\times 10$  -  $\times 1,000$  speedup vs. naive GPU implementations.
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- Slow with **large vectors** of dimension  $D > 100$ .

First half of 2021:

- **Approximation strategies** (Nyström, etc.) in KeOps.
- Wasserstein **barycenters** and **grid images** in GeomLoss.

## Roadmap for KeOps + GeomLoss:

2017–18 **Proof of concept** with conference papers, online codes.  
Get first feedback from the community.

2019–20 **Stable library** with solid theorems, a well-documented API.  
KeOps backends for high-level packages.

2021–22 **Mature library** with focused application papers, full tutorials.  
Works out-of-the-box for students and engineers.

2022+ **A standard toolbox**, with genuine clinical applications?  
That's the target!



# Conclusion

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## Key points

- **Symbolic** matrices are to **geometric** ML what **sparse** matrices are to **graph** processing:
  - KeOps, **x30 speed-up** vs. PyTorch, TF and JAX.
  - Useful in a wide range of settings.
- Optimal Transport = **generalized sorting**:
  - Geometric gradients.
  - Super-fast  $O(N \log N)$  solvers.
- These tools open **new paths** for geometers and statisticians:
  - GPUs are more **versatile** than you think.
  - Ongoing work to provide **fast GPU backends** to researchers
  - going beyond what Google and Facebook are ready to pay for.

# Conclusion

We believe that **KeOps** and **GeomLoss** will stimulate research on:

- **Clustering** methods: fast K-Means and EM iterations.
- Data **representation**: UMAP, fast KNN graphs with any metric.
- **Kernel** methods: kernel matrices.
- **Gaussian** processes: covariance matrices.
- **Geometric** deep learning: point convolutions.
- **Medical imaging**: computational anatomy.
- Geometric **statistics**: going beyond Euclidean models.
- Natural **language** processing: transformer networks?

What do you think?





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