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## Overview

- Propose a new **entropy regularized optimal transport independence criterion (ETIC)** and associated independence test.
- Develop an **efficient algorithm** to compute the test statistic which **scales quadratically** in both time and space.
- The ETIC can fit into a **differentiable programming** framework and is amenable to **reverse mode automatic differentiation**.
- We establish **non-asymptotic bounds** for the test statistic, characterizing the type I error and power of ETIC.

## Statistical Test of Independence

**Problem.** Let  $(X, Y) \sim P_{XY}$  on  $\mathcal{X} \times \mathcal{Y}$  with marginals  $P_X$  and  $P_Y$ . Given an i.i.d. sample  $\{(X_i, Y_i)\}_{i=1}^n$ , the goal is to test for

$\mathbf{H}_0$ :  $X$  and  $Y$  are independent  $\leftrightarrow$   $\mathbf{H}_1$ :  $X$  and  $Y$  are dependent.

### Steps to design an independence test.

- Define a valid **independence criterion**  $T(X, Y)$  such that  $T(X, Y) \geq 0$  and  $T(X, Y) = 0$  iff  $X \perp\!\!\!\perp Y$ .
- Estimate the criterion from data  $T_n(X, Y)$  (**test statistic**).
- Choose a **critical value**  $t_n(\alpha)$  and reject  $\mathbf{H}_0$  if  $T_n(X, Y) > t_n(\alpha)$ .

## ETIC

**ETIC.** Define  $T(X, Y) := \bar{S}_\lambda(P_{XY}, P_X \otimes P_Y)$  as

$$S_\lambda(P_{XY}, P_X \otimes P_Y) - \frac{1}{2}S_\lambda(P_{XY}, P_{XY}) - \frac{1}{2}S_\lambda(P_X \otimes P_Y, P_X \otimes P_Y).$$

- Sinkhorn distance** (Cuturi '13, Ferradans et al. '14)

$$S_\lambda(\varphi, \psi) := \min_{\gamma \in \text{CP}(\varphi, \psi)} \left[ \int c \, d\gamma + \lambda \text{KL}(\gamma \| \varphi \otimes \psi) \right].$$

- Sinkhorn divergence** (Ramdas et al. '17, Genevay et al. '18, Feydy et al. '19)  $\bar{S}_\lambda(\varphi, \psi)$ .

**Additive cost.** Consider

$$c((x, y), (x', y')) := c_1(x, x') + c_2(y, y').$$

- ETIC is a **valid independence criterion** with proper  $c_1$  and  $c_2$ .
- Assumptions on  $c_i$  via kernels  $k_i := \exp\{-c_i/\lambda\}$ .

## ETIC with Weighted Quadratic Cost

**Weighted quadratic cost.** Consider

$$c((x, y), (x', y')) := w_1 \|x - x'\|^2 + w_2 \|y - y'\|^2.$$

- The objective in  $S_\lambda(P_{XY}, P_X \otimes P_Y)$  becomes

$$w_1 \int \|x - x'\|^2 \, d\gamma_1 + w_2 \int \|y - y'\|^2 \, d\gamma_2 + \lambda \text{KL}(\gamma \| P_{XY} \otimes P_X \otimes P_Y).$$

- Induces a valid independence criterion.

## Computational Aspects of ETIC

**ETIC test statistic.** Let  $\hat{P}_{XY}, \hat{P}_X, \hat{P}_Y$  be empirical distributions.

$$T_n(X, Y) := \bar{S}_\lambda(\hat{P}_{XY}, \hat{P}_X \otimes \hat{P}_Y).$$

**Sinkhorn algorithm.**  $\tilde{O}(n^4)$  time and  $O(n^4)$  space.

- $\hat{P}_X \otimes \hat{P}_Y$  is supported on  $n^2$  atoms.
- Gibbs matrix**  $K = \exp(-C/\lambda) \in \mathbb{R}^{n^2 \times n^2}$ .

**Tensor Sinkhorn algorithm.**  $\tilde{O}(n^3)$  time and  $O(n^2)$  space.

- $A$  and  $B$  random matrices on  $\{x_i\}_{i=1}^n \times \{y_i\}_{i=1}^n$ .
- $K \rightarrow K_1$  and  $K_2$  where  $K_i = \exp(-C_i/\lambda) \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$  for  $i \in \{1, 2\}$ .
- Amenable to **gradient backpropagation**.

### Algorithm 1 Tensor Sinkhorn Algorithm

- Input:**  $A, B, K_1$ , and  $K_2$ .
- Initialize  $U \leftarrow \mathbf{1}_{n \times n}$  and  $V \leftarrow \mathbf{1}_{n \times n}$ .
- while** not converge **do**
- $U \leftarrow A \odot (K_1 V K_2^\top)$  and  $V = B \odot (K_1^\top U K_2)$ .
- end while**
- Output:**  $\langle \lambda \log U, A \rangle_{\mathbf{F}} + \langle \lambda \log V, B \rangle_{\mathbf{F}}$ .

**Random feature approximation.**  $\tilde{O}(pn^2)$  time and  $O(n^2)$  space.

- Approximate  $K_i \approx \xi_i \xi_i^\top$  for  $i \in \{1, 2\}$ .
- $\xi_i \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times p}$  **random feature matrix**.

	Gibbs matrix	Computation per iteration
Sinkhorn	$n^2 \times n^2$	$n^2 \times n^2$ and $n^2 \times 1$
Tensor Sinkhorn	Two $n \times n$	$n \times n$ and $n \times n$
Tensor Sinkhorn with RF	Two $n \times p$	$n \times n$ and $n \times p$

## Main Results

**High probability bound.** Let  $c$  be the **weighted quadratic cost**. Assume  $P_X$  and  $P_Y$  have **bounded supports** of radius  $R$ . With probability at least  $1 - \delta$ ,

$$|T_n(X, Y) - T(X, Y)| \leq C_d \left( \lambda + \frac{R^{5d+16}}{\lambda^{5d/2+7}} \sqrt{\log \frac{6}{\delta}} \right) \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}}.$$

- The **rate of convergence** is  $O(n^{-1/2})$ .
- The choice of  $\lambda = R^2$  gives  $C_d \sqrt{\log(6/\delta)} R^2 n^{-1/2}$ .
- $T(X, Y) = T_\lambda(X, Y) \rightarrow 0$  as  $\lambda \rightarrow \infty$ .

**Power analysis.** The power of ETIC is **asymptotically one**.

- Under  $\mathbf{H}_0$ ,  $T(X, Y) = 0$  and thus  $t_n(\alpha) = O(n^{-1/2})$ .
- Under  $\mathbf{H}_1$ ,  $T(X, Y) > 0$  and thus  $T_n(X, Y) > t_n(\alpha)$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ .

## Real Data Experiment

**Bilingual text.** Parallel European Parliament corpus (Koehn '05).

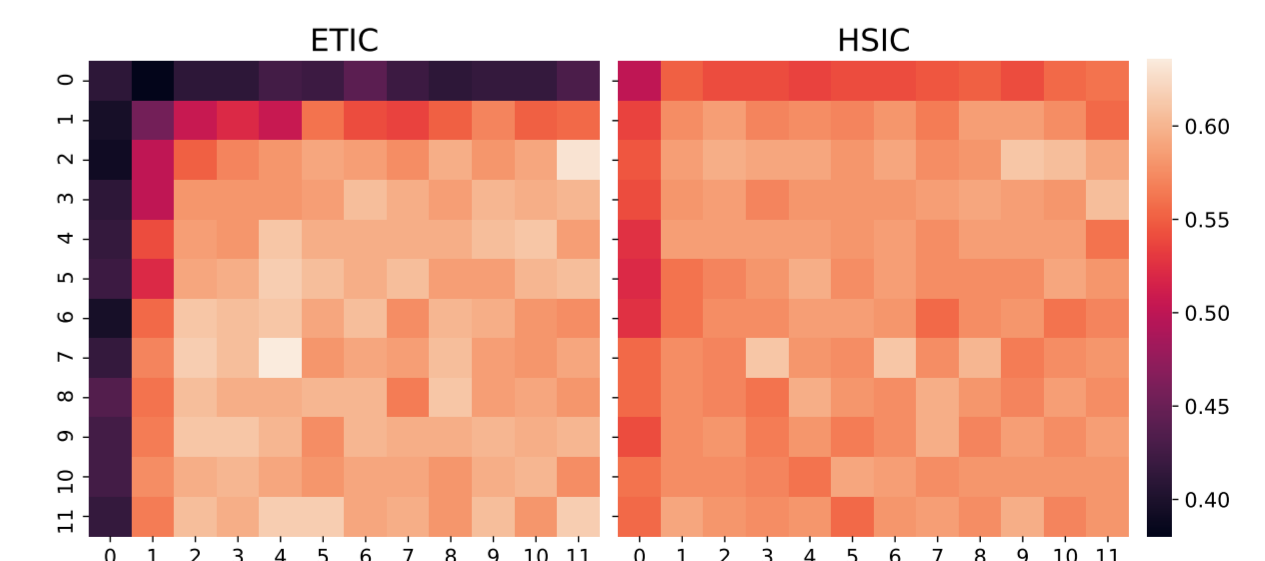
- Random paragraph** in each of 64 random documents in English.
- (English paragraph, **random paragraph** in the **same document** in French).
- Feature embedding of dimension 768 with LaBSE (Feng et al. '20).

**Independence tests.**

- ETIC** with weighted quadratic cost inducing Gaussian kernels

$$k_1(x, x') = e^{-\|x-x'\|^2/\sigma_1} \quad \text{and} \quad k_2(y, y') = e^{-\|y-y'\|^2/\sigma_2}.$$

- Hilbert-Schmidt independence criterion (HSIC)** with the same kernels.
- Median heuristic:**  $\sigma_i = r_i M_i$  with  $r_i \in [0.25, 4]$  for  $i \in \{1, 2\}$ .



Code available at <https://github.com/langliu95/etic-experiments>.

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