

1 **All reviewers:** We thank all reviewers for their positive feedback. We are encouraged that they find our work offers a
2 *significant algorithmic breakthrough* (R1), *addresses an important open problem* (R1), *works very well in practice* (R2),
3 and is *interesting* (R2, R3) and *promising* (R2, R4). ▶ **Generality.** Let us clarify that our algorithm and Theorem 3 are
4 valid for many existing UOT problems. If one wants to compute the Kantorovich-Rubinstein (KR) distance, our algorithm
5 computes it in $O(n \log^2 n)$ time by setting $\lambda_c = \lambda_d = \lambda$, and Theorem 3 provides an approximation guarantee. Note
6 that any existing algorithms for the KR distance require at least $O(n^2)$ time. Likewise, if one wants to compute the
7 Figalli’s distance, our algorithm computes it efficiently by setting $\lambda_c(x) = \lambda_d(x) = d(x, \partial\mathcal{X})$. See also related work.
8 **Reviewer #1:** ▶ **Two hyper-parameters.** When two hyper-parameters are troublesome, we recommend to use the KR
9 distance or optimal partial transport, which has only one hyper-parameter and can be computed efficiently by our
10 algorithm. ▶ **Chicago Crime.** We compare the distributions of crime locations. For example, in some festival days,
11 many crimes may happen in specific locations, and the number of crimes may suddenly increase/decrease. We can
12 detect anomalies and clusters. ▶ **NY Taxi.** Existing methods for UOT are missing because *no existing methods can*
13 *handle this dataset due to scalability*. Our method is the first UOT method that can handle million-scale datasets.
14 **Reviewer #2:** ▶ **Weight function.** The cost is the ground distance between the centers of regions of the quadtree. We
15 will further clarify this in the camera-ready. ▶ **Metric Axiom.** Intuitively, when no mass is created or destructed,
16 GKR is reduced to the standard OT, thus metric. When some mass is created or destructed, GKR is positive. Hence,
17 $\text{GKR}(\mu, \nu) = 0$ iff $\mu = \nu$ almost everywhere (under positivity conditions for λ_c and λ_d). We will formally state this.
18 **Reviewer #3:** ▶ (1) **How generality is reflected.** Many existing OT problems are obtained by setting λ_c and λ_d
19 appropriately. ▶ (4) **Recent methods.** The tree-sliced Wasserstein we used in the NY taxi dataset and Appendix
20 E was published in NeurIPS 2019. That is a state-of-the-art (standard, not unbalanced) OT method applicable to
21 million-scale datasets. We also used the generalized Sinkhorn published in 2018 in the additional experiments below.

22 **Reviewer #4:** ▶ (1) **Hard to follow.** Our algorithm computes
23 the GKR distance from leaf to root recursively. Figure 1 shows
24 examples. Note that when we compute the transport in a parent
25 node, the optimal assignments in the children subtrees are
26 already computed recursively. When we merge two children,
27 the dynamic programming determines the optimal transition
28 (i.e., the optimal amount of mass that are transported to the left
29 and right children). The proposed fast convolution algorithm
30 speeds up this merge operation. We will provide more detailed
31 descriptions and intuitions in the camera-ready. Furthermore,
32 we will provide an open-sourced toolkit of our algorithm at
33 GitHub. We believe that it will benefit many practitioners
34 thanks to its fast computation. ▶ (2) **Beyond 2 dimensions.**
35 The quadtree we used in the paper is *NOT* restricted to two
36 dimensions. See [38, 31] for details. When the dimensions
37 are high, clustering-based trees can be used [38]. To show
38 this, we conduct additional experiments. First, we compute
39 GKR for the Chicago Crime dataset with the additional time
40 axis, using the *quadtree*. Each mass represents a crime in the
41 3-dimensional (longitude, latitude, time) space. We normalize
42 each dimension so that each dimension has the same scale.
43 Next, we compute GKR for the (unbalanced) Word Mover’s
44 Distance of the Twitter dataset [38] using *clustering-based trees*. Each measure represents a sentence, and each mass
45 represents a word embedded in a 300-dimensional space computed by a pre-trained language model. We compare our
46 algorithm with the groundtruth GKR distance in the Euclidean space, as we did in the main paper. Figure 2 shows that
47 our algorithm can compute high dimensional GKR. ▶ (3) **No intersection case.** Our algorithm is feasible even if there is
48 no intersections. In that case, each leaf node contains only the source or target mass. ▶ (4) **LP formulation.** We reported
49 the accuracy in Figure 4 in the original paper. There, we used *exact* computation for the Euclidean GKR using an
50 LP-like solver. Specifically, we used a network flow algorithm, which solves OT problems exactly (i.e., match exactly
51 with the LP solution) and is faster than general-purpose LP solvers. We will clarify it. ▶ **Proof of Thm.2.** There, we
52 consider the case where $\lambda \leq \delta/2 (\leq c/2)$ (See L.505). See also the definitions of δ and c in L.503-504. The opposite
53 case (i.e., $\lambda < \delta/2$) is discussed in L.506-508. ▶ **Is OT_{tree} the same as $|v(P) - v(Q)|_1$ in [31]?** Exactly.

54 **Additional Experiments:** We conducted experiments for the generalized Sinkhorn [16] with the same setting as Appendix
55 E. We observed a similar tendency ($k=0$: 0.83, $k=16$: 0.37) to Tree GKR. The complete results are deferred to the
56 camera-ready due to space limitation. Since the generalized Sinkhorn requires at least $O(n^2)$ time, its applicability is
57 limited to thousand-scale datasets. Our algorithm is applicable to million-scale datasets keeping its performance. We
58 also conducted document classification using Twitter dataset [38] and found that GKR improved the performance over
59 the Word Mover’s Distance (Accuracy: 0.719 \rightarrow 0.729). The detailed results will be included in the camera-ready.

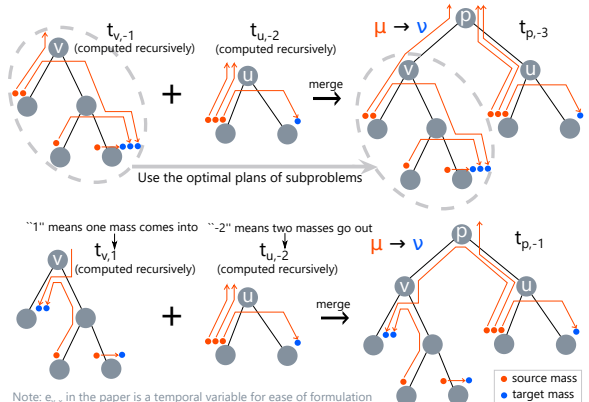


Figure 1: Two examples of DP computation.

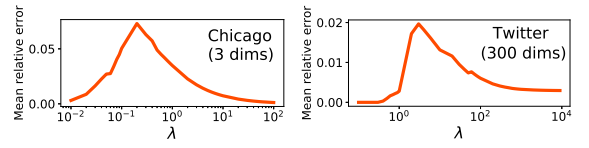


Figure 2: Accuracy in high dimensional cases.