



# Wasserstein Barycenter Applied to K-Means Clustering

Carol Long

Email Address: [carol.long@nyu.edu](mailto:carol.long@nyu.edu)

Advisor: Yunan Yang

# Agenda



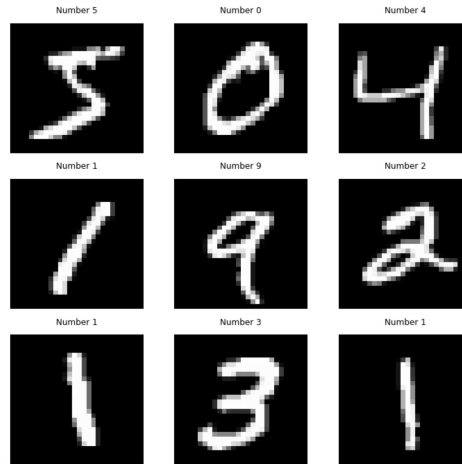
- 1.K-Means Clustering
- 2.Optimal Transport and Wasserstein Distance/Barycenter
- 3.Modified K-Means Algorithm with Wasserstein Distance
- 4.Implementation - Shape Experiment
- 5.Conclusion and Future Work

# K-Means Clustering - Applications

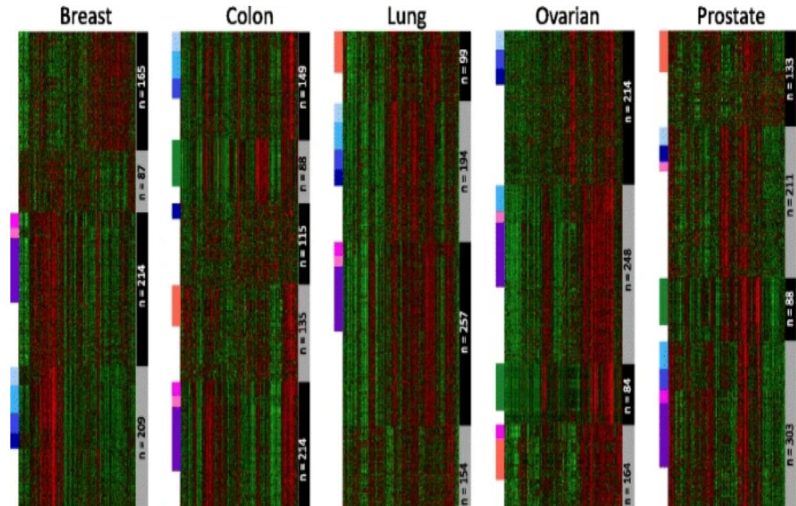
Business  
Customer segmentation



Computer Vision  
Image Classification



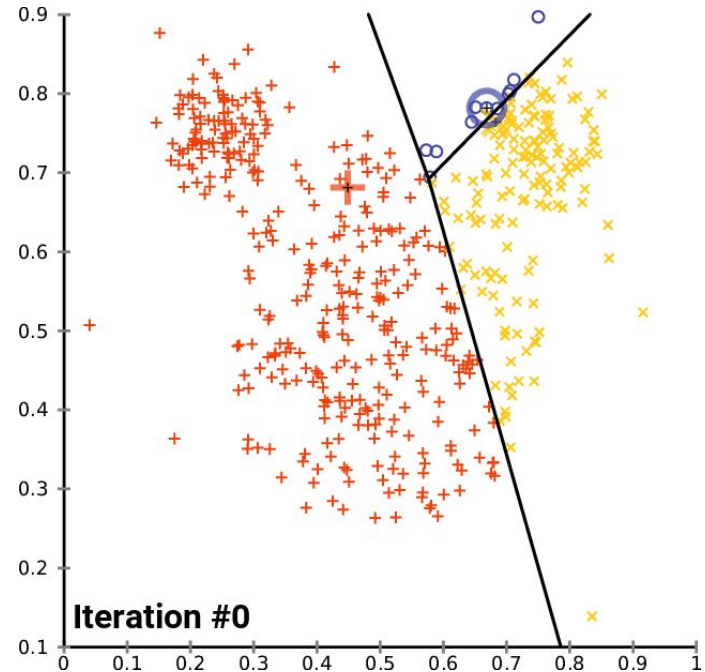
Medical Research  
Cancer Signature



# K-Means Clustering - Algorithm

## Algorithm

1. Initialization: randomly pick  $k$  centroids from the samples as initial cluster centers;
2. Expectation Step: Assign each sample to its nearest centroid  $\mu^j, j \in \{1, \dots, k\}$ ;
3. Maximiazation Step: Move the centroid to the center of samples that were assigned to it;
4. Repeat steps 2 and 3 until the cluster assignments do not change/ convergence/ max itr reached.



# K-Means Clustering - Algorithm

## K-Means Algorithm

1. Initialization: randomly pick  $k$  centroids from the **samples** as initial cluster centers;
2. Expectation Step: Assign each sample to its **nearest** centroid  $\mu^j, j \in \{1, \dots, k\}$ ;
3. Maximization Step: Move the centroid to the **center of samples** that were assigned to it;
4. Repeat steps 2 and 3 until the cluster assignments do not change/ convergence/ max itr reached.

Motivating  
Questions/Observation

Samples - In the form of  
distributions

Does Euclidean norm /  
Frobenius norm capture  
distance well?

Does centroids produce good  
prototypes?

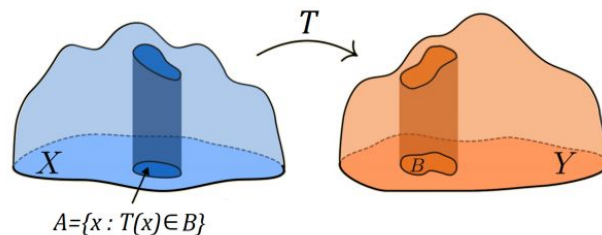
# Optimal Transport and Wasserstein Distance

Kantorovich Formulation of OT:

$$OT(a, b) = \min_{\gamma} \sum_{i,j} \gamma_{i,j} M_{i,j}$$
$$s. t. \gamma \mathbf{1} = a; \gamma^T \mathbf{1} = b; \gamma \geq 0$$

Wasserstein Distance

$$W_p(a, b) = \left( \min_{\gamma} \sum_{i,j} \gamma_{i,j} \|x_i - y_j\|_p \right)^{\frac{1}{p}}$$
$$s. t. \gamma \mathbf{1} = a; \gamma^T \mathbf{1} = b; \gamma \geq 0$$



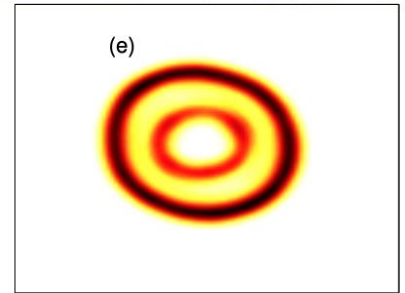
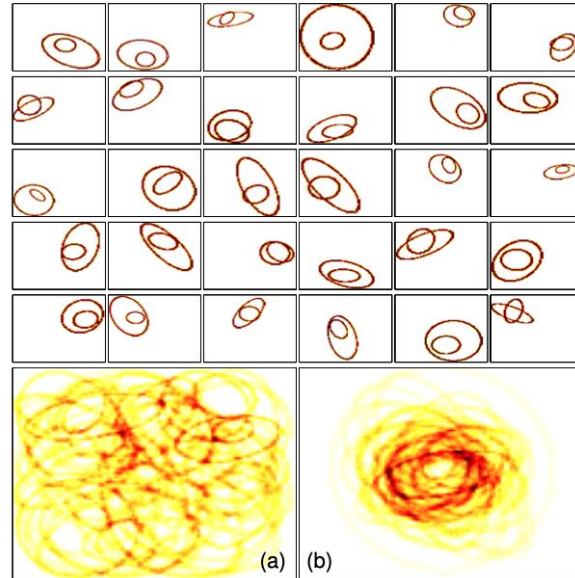
# Barycenter vs Centroid

Wasserstein Barycenter

$$\min_{\mu} \sum_k w_k W(\mu, \mu_k)$$

Centroid

$$\sum_k w_k \mu_k$$



Captures the  
geometric shape  
of distributions

# Barycenter Example - Covid Testing Sites

## Input Measure

- From JHU Covid-19 Repository, April 1st, 2020 cumulative data, before the shelter-at-home order

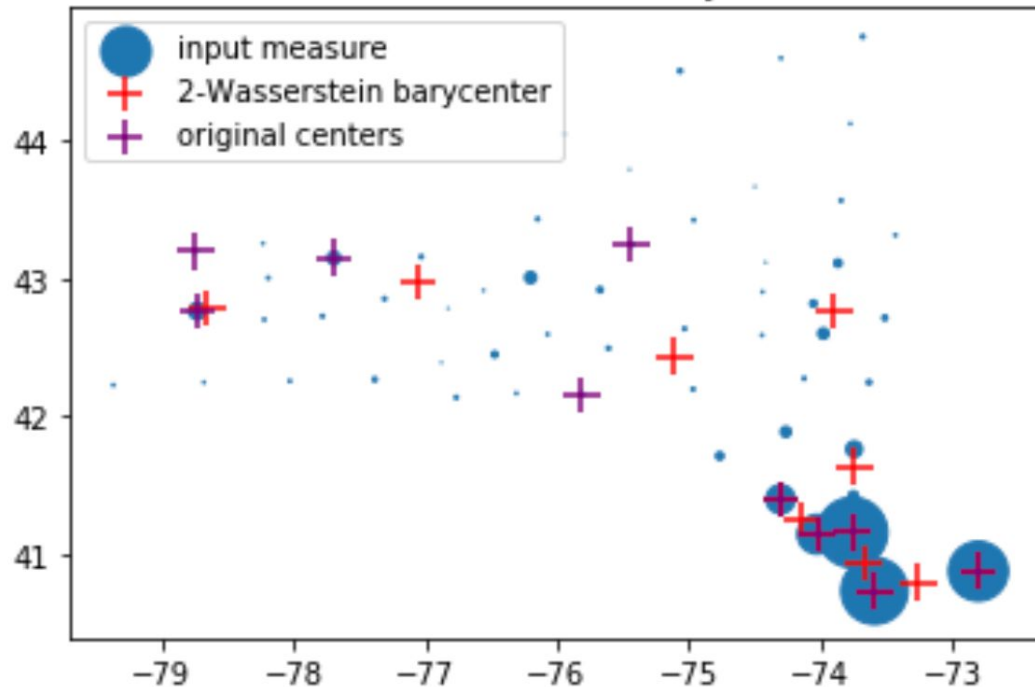
## Original Centers

- Considered as a mean of the distribution with  $n$  supports
- Only include temporary testing sites, only use the resources that the state can deploy

## Wasserstein Barycenter

- Note: more support than original centers, counter the effect of disproportionately large density around NYC area
- Still, resemblance between the two means

NY State Covid Cases Barycenters





# K-Means with Wasserstein Distance/Barycenter

## K-Means Algorithm

1. Initialization: randomly pick k centroids from the samples as initial cluster centers;
2. Expectation Step: Assign each sample to its **nearest** centroid ;
3. Maximization Step: Move the centroid to the **center of samples** that were assigned to it;
4. Repeat steps 2 and 3 until the cluster assignments do not change/ convergence/ max itr reached.

### Traditional K-Means

Sets:  $S_1 \dots S_k$   
Mean distributions:  $m_1 \dots m_k$   
Samples:  $X_1 \dots X_n$

#### Expectation Step

for p in 1...n:

$$\operatorname{argmin}_j \|x_p - m_j\|^2$$

#### Maximization Step

for j in 1...k:

$$m_j = \frac{1}{|S_j|} \sum_{x_p \in S_j} x_p$$

### K-Means with Wasserstein

Sets:  $S_1 \dots S_k$   
Mean distributions:  $m_1 \dots m_k$   
Samples:  $X_1 \dots X_n$

#### Expectation Step

for p in 1...n:

$$\operatorname{argmin}_j W(x_p, m_j)^2$$

#### Maximization Step

for j in 1...k:

$$m_j = \min_{m_j} \frac{1}{|S_j|} \sum_{x_p \in S_j} W(x_p, m_j)^2$$

# Implementation - Shape Experiment

## Problem Setup

99 Shape Dataset : 9 classes x 11 images

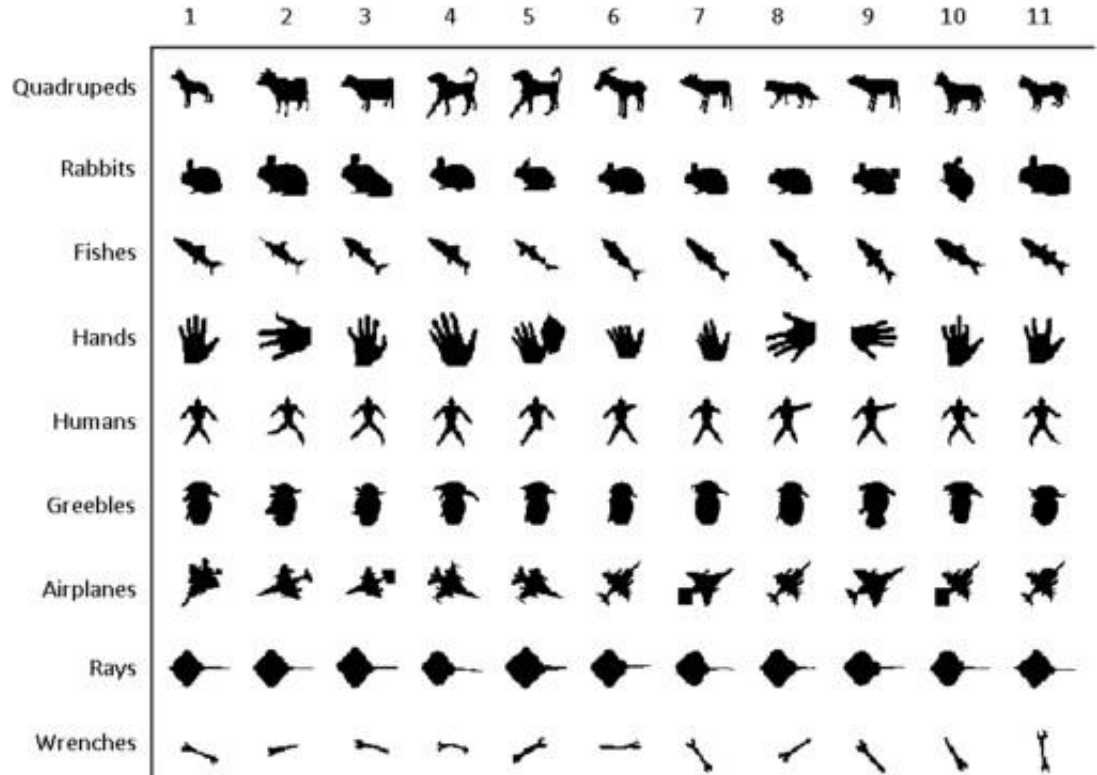
Turned into probability distributions and shuffled

## Objective:

Classify into 9 sets and find their means

**K-means:** Good for clustering

**Barycenter:** No way to find multiple at once but good for capturing geometric shape



# Computing Wasserstein Distance

## Kantorovich Formulation

$$OT(a, b) = \min_{\gamma} \sum_{i,j} \gamma_{i,j} M_{i,j}$$
$$s. t. \gamma \mathbf{1} = a; \gamma^T \mathbf{1} = b; \gamma \geq 0$$

## Regularized Wasserstein Distance

$$\gamma^* = \arg \min_{\gamma} \sum_{i,j} \gamma_{i,j} M_{i,j} + \lambda \Omega(\gamma)$$
$$s. t. \gamma \mathbf{1} = a; \gamma^T \mathbf{1} = b; \gamma \geq 0$$
$$\Omega(\gamma) = \sum_{i,j} \gamma_{i,j} \log(\gamma_{i,j})$$

## Challenges

Need to find transport map, matrix of real numbers, very expensive (NP-hard!)

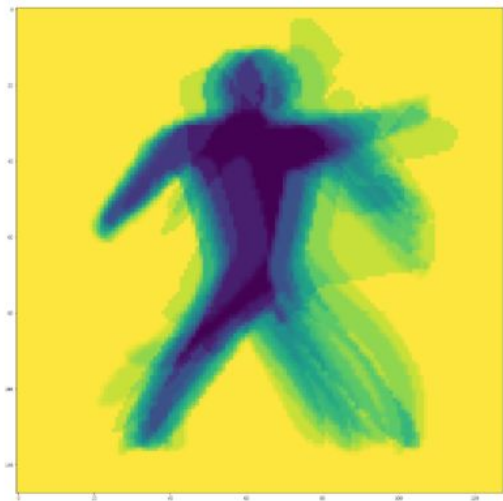
Prev experiment takes half a day to run

## Sliced Wasserstein Distance

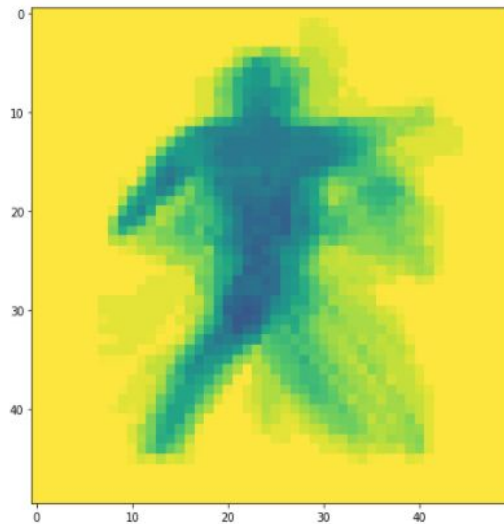
$$\widehat{SW}_p^p(\eta, \mu) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{n=1}^N W_p^p((\Pi_{\mathbf{v}_n})_{\#} \eta, (\Pi_{\mathbf{v}_n})_{\#} \mu)$$

where  $\mathbf{v}_1, \dots, \mathbf{v}_N \stackrel{\text{i.i.d.}}{\sim} \text{Unif}(S^{d-1})$ .

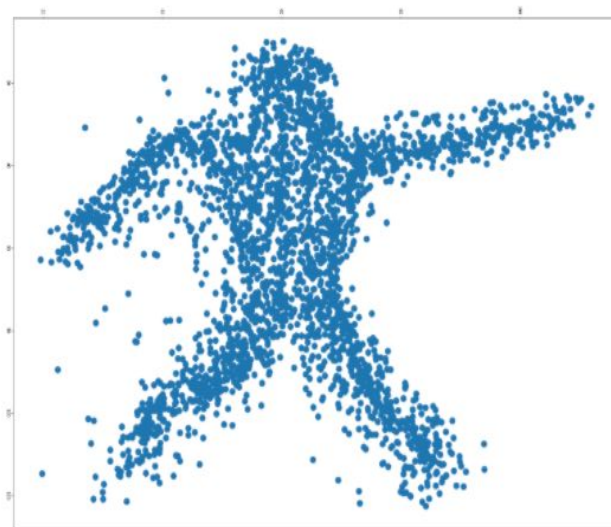
# Results - Shape Experiment



Traditional K-Means



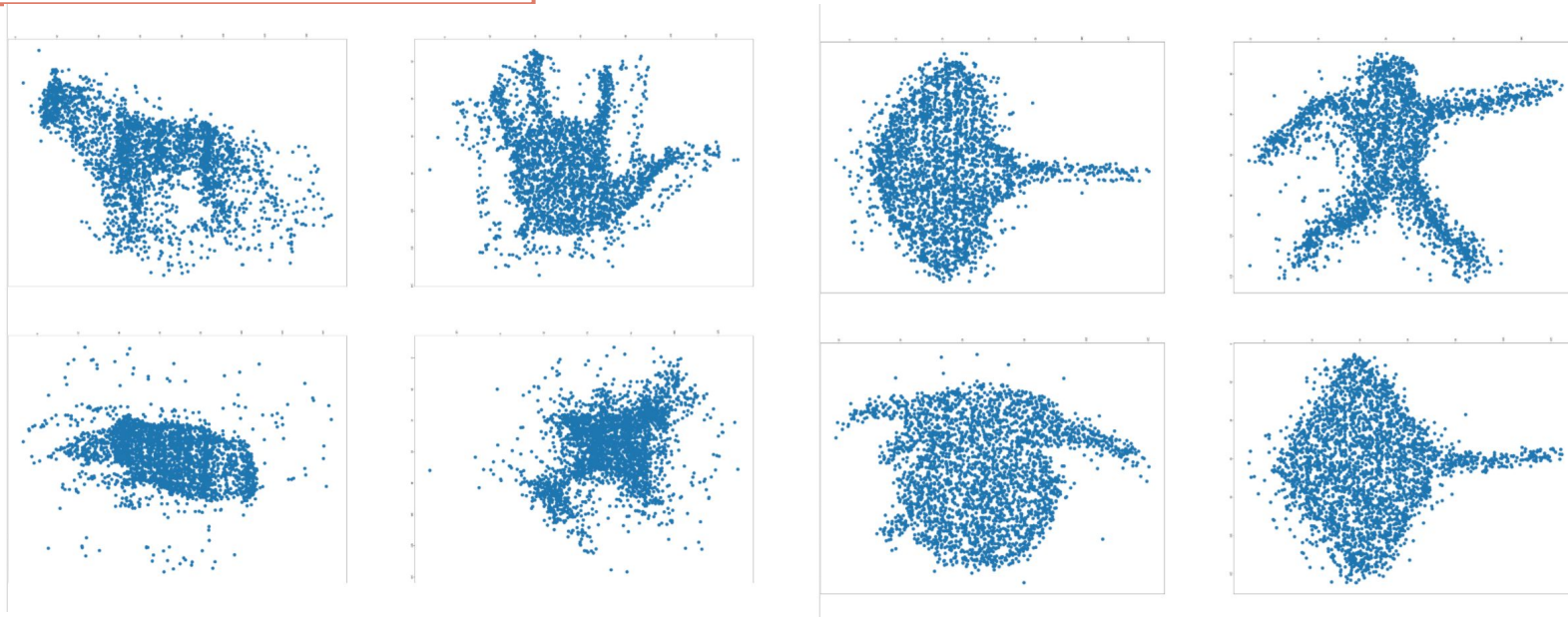
K-Means w/ Regularized  
Wasserstein Dist



K-Means w/ Sliced  
Wasserstein Dist

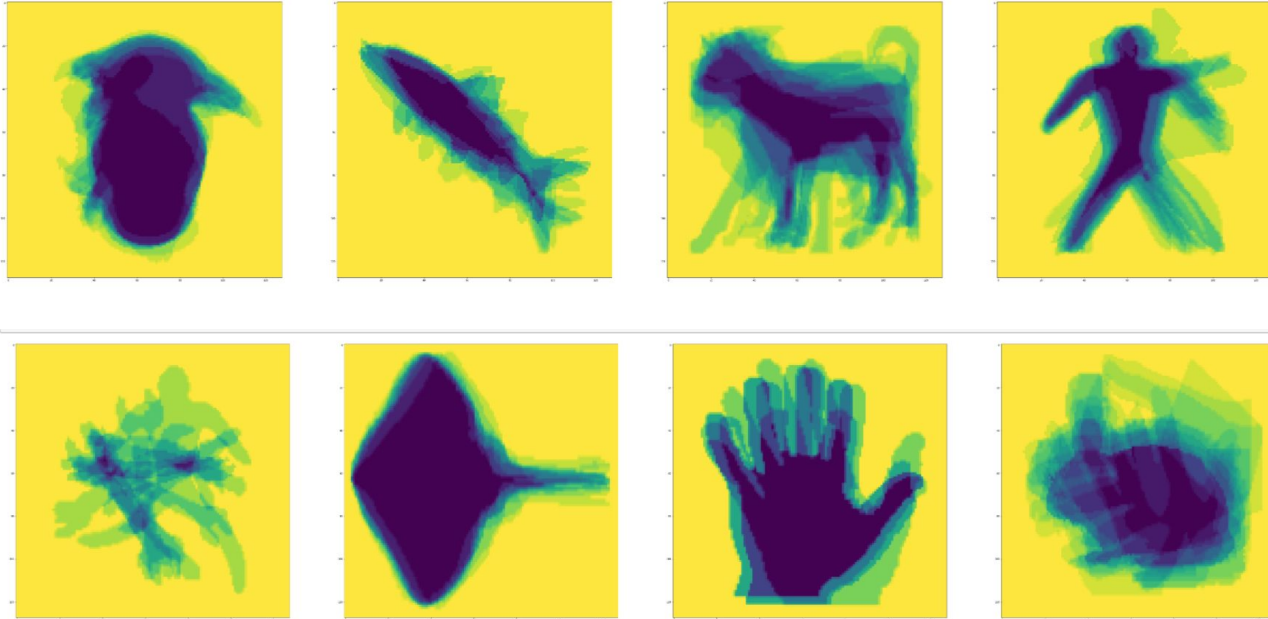
# Results - Shape Experiment

K-Means w/ Sliced W-2



# Results - Shape Experiment

Traditional K-Means



# Conclusion and Future Work

## Benefits of Wasserstein Barycenter

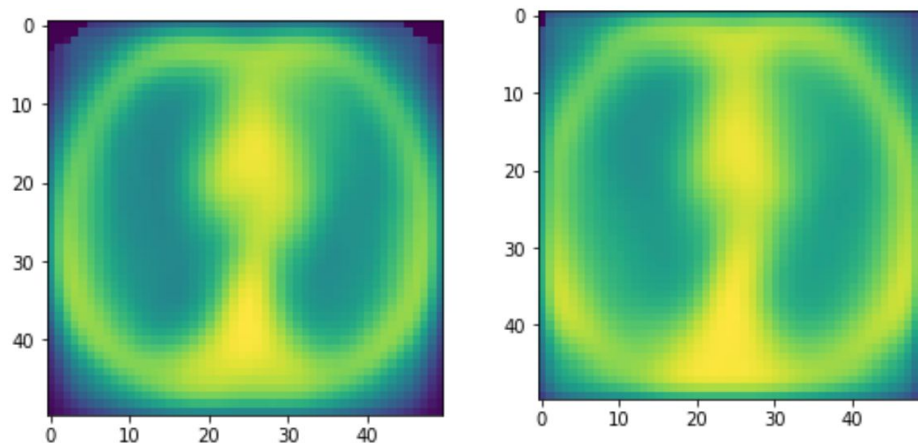
- Captures some geometric features in distributions rather than giving a naive mean

## Limitations

- Sliced Wasserstein Distance still slightly more costly than K-means
- Only captures characteristic shape, neglect details, selective on problems that fits

## Future Work

- Further optimize K-means with sliced W-2 distance algorithm
- Find other suitable problems for this method



Barycenters of Lung CT Images with and without Pneumonia



# Thank you!

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- Prof. Antoine Cerfon & SURE Program**
- Prof. Matthew Leingang**