

11-1-2017

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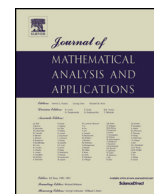
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Recommended Citation

Lawson, J. (2017). Ordered probability spaces. *Journal of Mathematical Analysis and Applications*, 455 (1), 167-179. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jmaa.2017.05.046>

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Ordered probability spaces



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ARTICLE INFO

Article history:

Received 3 January 2017
Available online 26 May 2017
Submitted by G. Corach

Keywords:

Borel probability measure
Metric space
Wasserstein metric
Barycentric map
Partially ordered space

ABSTRACT

Let C be an open cone in a Banach space equipped with the Thompson metric with closure a normal cone. The main result gives sufficient conditions for Borel probability measures μ, ν on C with finite first moment for which $\mu \leq \nu$ in the stochastic order induced by the cone to be order approximated by sequences $\{\mu_n\}, \{\nu_n\}$ of uniform finitely supported measures in the sense that $\mu_n \leq \nu_n$ for each n and $\mu_n \rightarrow \mu, \nu_n \rightarrow \nu$ in the Wasserstein metric. This result is the crucial tool in developing a pathway for extending various inequalities on operator and matrix means, which include the harmonic, geometric, and arithmetic operator means on the cone of positive elements of a C^* -algebra, to the space $\mathcal{P}^1(C)$ of Borel measures of finite first moment on C . As an illustrative and important particular application, we obtain the monotonicity of the Karcher geometric mean on $\mathcal{P}^1(\mathbb{A}^+)$ for the positive cone \mathbb{A}^+ of a C^* -algebra \mathbb{A} .

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1. Introduction

The set $\mathcal{P}^1(M)$ of Borel probability measures with finite first moment on a metric space M admits a standard metric called the Wasserstein metric. In [12] K.-T. Sturm considered contractive barycentric maps $\beta : \mathcal{P}^1(M) \rightarrow M$, maps that were metrically contractive and carried a point measure to the corresponding point. If M is complete, then a contractive barycentric map on the set $\mathcal{P}_0(M)$ of uniform, finitely supported probability measures extends uniquely to a barycentric map on $\mathcal{P}^1(M)$, since $\mathcal{P}_0(M)$ is dense in $\mathcal{P}^1(M)$ in the topology of the Wasserstein metric. In [7] Y. Lim and the author have modified this result by giving appropriate conditions for uniformity of an indexed family of symmetric means $\{G_n\}_{n \geq 1}$ to induce to a unique contractive barycentric map on $\mathcal{P}^1(M)$.

In this paper we revisit these results in the setting of metric spaces equipped with a closed partial order. The partial order induces in a natural way a partial order on $\mathcal{P}^1(M)$, the stochastic order. In our main result we give sufficient conditions to show if $\mu \leq \nu$ in $\mathcal{P}^1(M)$, then there exist sequences $\{\mu_n\}, \{\nu_n\} \subseteq \mathcal{P}_0(M)$ such that $\mu_n \rightarrow \mu, \nu_n \rightarrow \nu$, and $\mu_n \leq \nu_n$ for each n . (This result may be viewed as strengthening the result that $\mathcal{P}_0(M)$ is dense in $\mathcal{P}^1(M)$.)

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Our main motivation for deriving these results is the setting of the open cone of positive matrices with the Loewner order, or more generally the cone of positive elements in a C^* -algebra. We show in this case that the Thompson metric satisfies the hypotheses of our main theorem. This allows us to conclude that if a contractive barycentric map $\beta : \mathcal{P}^1(M) \rightarrow M$ is order preserving when restricted to $\mathcal{P}_0(M)$, then is order preserving on $\mathcal{P}^1(M)$. It is frequently the case that order preservation is considerably easier to derive for $\mathcal{P}_0(M)$, so the paper provides an important and helpful pathway for showing order preservation of barycentric maps.

In related work S. Kim and H. Lee [4] extended via the Bochner integral the theory of the widely studied least squares aka Cartan aka Karcher mean on the open cone \mathbb{P}_n of positive definite $n \times n$ -matrices to a barycentric map on the compactly supported Borel measures, with an extension to the square-integrable functions. Using this approach they were able to extend basic properties of the Karcher mean to this more general setting. A more ambitious program was undertaken by M. Pálfi [11], who generalized the techniques of [6] to define and approximate a barycentric map given by the solution of an integral generalized Karcher equation for a given Borel probability measure with bounded support on the cone \mathbb{P} of positive operators on a Hilbert space.

2. Preliminaries

For a metric space X , let $\mathcal{B}(X)$ be the algebra of Borel sets, the smallest σ -algebra containing the open sets. A *Borel measure* μ is a countably additive (positive) measure defined on $\mathcal{B}(X)$. The support of μ consists of all points x for which $\mu(U) > 0$ for each open set U containing x . The support of μ is always a closed set. The *finitely supported measures* are those of the form $\sum_{i=1}^n r_i \delta_{x_i}$, where for each i , $r_i \geq 0$, $\sum_{i=1}^n r_i = 1$, and δ_{x_i} is the point measure of mass 1 at the point x_i . As far as the author has determined, the earliest reference for the following result is [8].

Lemma 2.1. *Let X be a metric space and μ a finite Borel measure, i.e., one for which $\mu(X) < \infty$. Then $\text{supp}(\mu)$, the support of μ , is separable.*

Proof. The case that $\text{supp}(\mu)$ has cardinality less than two is trivial, so we assume there exist $a, b \in \text{supp}(\mu)$ such that $a \neq b$. Let $d(a, b) \geq 1/N$, N a positive integer. Let us call a nonempty subset A of X ε -scattered if $d(x, y) \geq \varepsilon$ whenever $x, y \in A$ and $x \neq y$. For $m \geq N$, let $\mathcal{A}_m = \{A \subseteq \text{supp}(\mu) : A \text{ is } (1/m)\text{-scattered}\}$. Note that $\{a, b\}$ is $1/m$ -scattered and the union of any collection of members of \mathcal{A}_m totally ordered by inclusion is again a member of \mathcal{A}_m . Hence by Zorn's Lemma, there exists a maximal member A_m of \mathcal{A}_m . By the maximality of A_m , if $x \in \text{supp}(\mu)$, then $d(x, a) < 1/m$ for some $a \in A_m$ (otherwise we can make A_m larger by adding x).

We claim that A_m is countable. First note that since A_m is $1/m$ -scattered, the collection $\{B_{1/2m}(a) : a \in A_m\}$ of open balls of radius $1/2m$ is pairwise disjoint. For each $k \in \mathbb{N}$, define $A_{m,k} = \{a \in A_m : \mu(B_{1/2m}(a)) \geq 1/k\}$. Note that for n members of $A_{m,k}$, the union $\bigcup_{i=1}^n B_{1/2m}(a_i)$ has measure at least $n/k \leq \mu(X)$. Thus n is bounded above by $k\mu(X)$, from which it follows that $A_{m,k}$ is finite. Note for every $a \in A_m$, $\mu(B_{1/2m}(a)) > 0$ since $a \in \text{supp}(\mu)$. It follows that $A_m = \bigcup_k A_{m,k}$, a countable union of finite sets, and hence A_m is countable. Thus $D = \bigcup_m A_m$ is a countable union of countable sets, hence countable. The fact that for any $x \in \text{supp}(\mu)$ and any m , $d(x, A_m) < 1/m$ implies that D is dense. \square

Remark 2.2. Let μ be a finite Borel measure on X , a metric space.

(i) For X separable, the complement of the support is a countable union of open sets of measure 0, hence has measure 0, and thus $\mu(\text{supp} \mu) = 1$.

(ii) Similarly for τ -additive measures one may realize the complement of the support as a directed union of open sets of measure 0 hence the complement has measure 0, and the support has measure 1. (Recall

that a Borel measure μ is τ -additive if $\mu(\bigcup_{\alpha} U_{\alpha}) = \sup_{\alpha} \mu(U_{\alpha})$ for all directed families $\{U_{\alpha} : \alpha \in D\}$ of open sets.)

In what follows we wish to avoid dealing with the problematic and pathological case of probability measures that are not support-concentrated in the sense that the measure of their support is less than one. We can give a convenient characterization of the measures we will consider. First we recall the *Prohorov metric* $\pi(\mu, \nu)$ defined for two Borel probability measures μ, ν on X as the infimum of all $\varepsilon > 0$ such that for all closed sets A ,

$$\mu(A) \leq \nu(A^{\varepsilon}) + \varepsilon, \quad \nu(A) \leq \mu(A^{\varepsilon}) + \varepsilon,$$

where $A^{\varepsilon} = \{x \in X : d(x, y) < \varepsilon \text{ for some } y \in A\}$.

Proposition 2.3. *For μ a Borel probability on a metric space (X, d) , the following are equivalent.*

- (1) *There exists a sequence $\{\mu_n\}$ of finitely supported probability measures (with rational coefficients) that converges to μ with respect to the Prohorov metric.*
- (2) *The support of μ has measure 1.*
- (3) *The measure μ is τ -additive.*

Proof. (1 \Rightarrow 2) By (iii) of the section on the Prohorov metric of [1], $\{\mu_n\}$ converges weakly to μ . Let A be the closure of $\bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} \text{supp } \mu_n$. Then A is a separable subspace of X . We note that $\mu_n(A) = 1$ for each n . Then $\mu(A) = 1$ by the Portmanteau Theorem [1, Theorem 2.1(iii)]. It follows that the complement of A has μ -measure 0 (hence misses the support) and that the restriction of μ to A is a Borel probability measure on the separable space A . Hence by Remark 2.2(i) the support of μ , which will be the same for μ and μ restricted to A , has measure 1.

(2 \Rightarrow 1) The measure μ restricted to $A = \text{supp}(\mu)$ is a Borel probability measure on A , which is separable by Lemma 2.1. It is standard fact that the space of Borel probability measures on a separable metric space endowed with the Prohorov metric is again separable, and the proof of this fact typically involves constructing a sequence of finitely supported measures $\{\mu_n\}$ with rational coefficients that are dense (see item (vi) leading up to Theorem 6.8 of [1]). Applying this fact to A yields the desired sequence.

(3 \Leftrightarrow 2) One direction follows from Remark 2.2. Assume (2) and note for any Borel set B ,

$$\mu(B) = \mu(B \cap \text{supp}(\mu)) + \mu(B \setminus \text{supp}(\mu)) = \mu(B \cap \text{supp}(\mu)) + 0 = \mu(B \cap \text{supp}(\mu)).$$

Let $\{U_{\alpha} : \alpha \in D\}$ be a directed family of open sets with union W . Then in the subspace $\text{supp}(\mu)$, $\{U \cap \text{supp}(\mu) : U \in D\}$ is a directed family of open sets with union $W \cap \text{supp}(\mu)$. It is standard that every Borel probability measure in a separable metric space is τ -additive (one can pick a countable subset of D with the same union), so

$$\mu(W) = \mu(W \cap \text{supp}(\mu)) = \sup\{\mu(U \cap \text{supp}(\mu)) : U \in D\} = \sup\{\mu(U) : U \in D\}. \quad \square$$

Let $\mathcal{P}(X)$ be the set of all support-concentrated Borel probability measures on $(X, \mathcal{B}(X))$ (in the sense that $\mu(\text{supp}(\mu)) = 1$) and $\mathcal{P}_0(X)$ the set of all $\mu \in \mathcal{P}(X)$ of the form $\mu = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{j=1}^n \delta_{x_j}$ with $n \in \mathbb{N}$, where δ_x is the point measure of mass 1 at x . Members of $\mathcal{P}_0(X)$ are also referred to as uniform probability measures with finite support. For $p \in [1, \infty)$ let $\mathcal{P}^p(X) \subseteq \mathcal{P}(X)$ be the set of probability measures with *finite p-moment*: for some (and hence all) $y \in X$,

$$\int_X d^p(x, y) d\mu(x) < \infty.$$

For $p = \infty$, $\mathcal{P}^\infty(X)$ denotes the set of probability measures with bounded support. We sometimes refer to members of $\mathcal{P}^1(X)$ as *integrable* probability measures.

For metric spaces X and Y , a map $f : X \rightarrow Y$ is *measurable* if $f^{-1}(A) \in \mathcal{B}(X)$ whenever $A \in \mathcal{B}(Y)$. For f to be measurable, it suffices that $f^{-1}(U) \in \mathcal{B}(X)$ for each open subset U of Y , and hence continuous functions are measurable. A measurable map $f : X \rightarrow Y$ induces a *push-forward* map $f_* : \mathcal{P}(X) \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(Y)$ defined by $f_*(\mu)(B) = \mu(f^{-1}(B))$ for $\mu \in \mathcal{P}(X)$ and $B \in \mathcal{B}(Y)$. Note that $\text{supp}(f_*(\mu)) = f(\text{supp}(\mu))^-$, the closure of the image of the support of μ .

We say that $\omega \in \mathcal{P}(X \times X)$ is a *coupling* for $\mu, \nu \in \mathcal{P}(X)$ and that μ, ν are *marginals* for ω if for all $B \in \mathcal{B}(X)$

$$\omega(B \times X) = \mu(B) \quad \text{and} \quad \omega(X \times B) = \nu(B).$$

Equivalently μ and ν are the push-forwards of ω under the projection maps π_1 and π_2 resp. We note that one such coupling is the product measure $\mu \times \nu$, and that for any coupling ω it must be the case that $\text{supp}(\omega) \subseteq \text{supp}(\mu) \times \text{supp}(\nu)$. We denote the set of all couplings for $\mu, \nu \in \mathcal{P}(X)$ by $\Pi(\mu, \nu)$.

For $1 \leq p < \infty$, the p -Wasserstein distance d_p^W (alternatively Kantorovich–Rubinstein distance) on $\mathcal{P}^p(X)$ is defined by

$$d_p^W(\mu_1, \mu_2) := \left(\inf_{\pi \in \Pi(\mu_1, \mu_2)} \int_{X \times X} d^p(x, y) d\pi(x, y) \right)^{1/p}.$$

It is known that d_p^W is a complete metric on $\mathcal{P}^p(X)$ whenever X is a complete metric space and $\mathcal{P}_0(X)$ is d_p^W -dense in $\mathcal{P}^p(X)$ [2,12]. Furthermore, it follows from the Hölder inequality that $d_p^W \leq d_{p'}^W$ whenever $p \leq p'$. We will be working almost exclusively with d_1^W , which we henceforth write more simply as d^W .

The space $\mathcal{P}(X)$ is convex in the sense that $(1-t)\mu + t\nu \in \mathcal{P}(X)$ whenever $\mu, \nu \in \mathcal{P}(X)$. It is easy to see that $\mathcal{P}^1(X)$ is a convex subset of $\mathcal{P}(X)$.

Lemma 2.4. For $\mu_1, \mu_2, \nu \in \mathcal{P}^1(X)$, $d^W((1-t)\mu_1 + t\mu_2, \nu) \leq (1-t)d^W(\mu_1, \nu) + td^W(\mu_2, \nu)$.

Proof. If $\omega_1 \in \Pi(\mu_1, \nu)$ and $\omega_2 \in \Pi(\mu_2, \nu)$, then it is straightforward to see that $(1-t)\omega_1 + t\omega_2 \in \Pi((1-t)\mu_1 + t\mu_2, \nu)$. Thus

$$\begin{aligned} d^W((1-t)\mu_1 + t\mu_2, \nu) &\leq \int_{X \times X} d(x, y) d((1-t)\omega_1 + t\omega_2) \\ &= (1-t) \int_{X \times X} d(x, y) d\omega_1 + t \int_{X \times X} d(x, y) d\omega_2. \end{aligned}$$

Taking infs over $\omega_1 \in \Pi(\mu_1, \nu)$ and $\omega_2 \in \Pi(\mu_2, \nu)$ yields the desired inequality. \square

3. Approximating probability measures with bounded ones

In this section we present for an integrable probability measure μ in a metric space M a scheme for approximating μ arbitrarily close in the Wasserstein metric by probability measures with bounded support.

Lemma 3.1. Let M be a metric space and let $f : M \rightarrow M$ be a Borel measurable map. If $q \in \mathcal{P}^1(M)$ and $\int_M d(x, f(x)) dq < \infty$, then $f_*(q) \in \mathcal{P}^1(M)$ and $d^W(q, f_*(q)) \leq \int_M d(x, f(x)) dq$.

Proof. We first note by the change of variables formula that

$$\int_M d(x, z)df_*(q)(x) = \int_M d(f(x), z)dq(x) \leq \int_M (d(x, f(x)) + d(x, z)) dq(x) < \infty,$$

so $f_*(q) \in \mathcal{P}^1(M)$.

Next consider the measurable map $F : M \rightarrow M \times M$ defined by $F(x) = (x, f(x))$, and let $\mu = F_*(q) \in \mathcal{P}(M \times M)$. For $\pi_1 : M \times M \rightarrow M$, projection into the first coordinate, $(\pi_1)_*(\mu) = (\pi_1 F)_*(q) = (1_M)_*(q) = q$. For the second projection π_2 , $(\pi_2)_*(\mu) = (\pi_2 F)_*(q) = f_*(q)$. So μ has marginals q and $f_*(q)$. By definition

$$d^W(q, f_*(q)) \leq \int_{M \times M} d(x, y)d\mu = \int_{M \times M} d(x, y)d(F_*(q)) = \int_M d(x, f(x))dq,$$

where the last equality is just the change of variables formula. \square

Lemma 3.2. *Let M be a metric space, $a \in M$, and let $q \in \mathcal{P}^1(M)$. Let A_n be an increasing sequence of Borel sets such that $M = \bigcup_n A_n$. Define $f_n : M \rightarrow M$ by $f_n(x) = x$ if $x \in A_n$ and $f_n(x) = a$ otherwise. Then $\lim_n (f_n)_*(q) = q$ in the Wasserstein metric.*

Proof. Let $\varepsilon > 0$. Since $q \in \mathcal{P}^1(M)$, $\int_M d(x, a) dq(x) < \infty$. Let χ_n be the characteristic function for A_n . By Lebesgue’s Dominated Convergence Theorem

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_n \int_{A_n} d(x, a) dq(x) &= \lim_n \int_M \chi_n(x)d(x, a) dq(x) = \int_M d(x, a) dq(x) < \infty, \text{ so} \\ \lim_n \int_{M \setminus A_n} d(x, a) dq(x) &= \lim_n \left(\int_M d(x, a) dq(x) - \int_{A_n} d(x, a) dq(x) \right) = 0. \end{aligned}$$

Thus $\int_{M \setminus A_n} d(x, a) dq(x) < \varepsilon$ for all n large enough. Then

$$\int_M d(x, f_n(x))dq = \int_{A_n} d(x, x) dq + \int_{M \setminus A_n} d(x, a) dq(x) < 0 + \varepsilon = \varepsilon$$

for large n . Then $(f_n)_*(q) \in \mathcal{P}^1(M)$ and $\lim_n (f_n)_*(q) = q$ now follow from [Lemma 3.1](#). \square

We need to have the freedom to send the complement of A_n into a varying point, but this requires an extra hypothesis.

Lemma 3.3. *Let M be a metric space, $a \in M$, and let $q \in \mathcal{P}^1(M)$. Let A_n be an increasing sequence of Borel sets such that $M = \bigcup_n A_n$ and let $\{a_n\}$ be a sequence in M . Define $f_n, g_n : M \rightarrow M$ by $f_n(x) = x = g_n(x)$ if $x \in A_n$ and $f_n(x) = a$, $g_n(x) = a_n$ otherwise. If there exists $K > 0$ such that for each n , there exists an open ball $B_{r_n}(a) \subseteq A_n$ such that $Kr_n \geq d(a, a_n)$, then $\lim_n (g_n)_*(q) = q$ in the Wasserstein metric and $\lim_n d^W((g_n)_*(q), (f_n)_*(q)) = 0$.*

Proof. By [Lemma 3.2](#) $(f_n)_*(q) \in \mathcal{P}^1(M)$. Note that by hypothesis $M \setminus A_n \subseteq M \setminus B_{r_n}(a)$, so $\int_{M \setminus A_n} d(x, a)dq(x) \geq \int_{M \setminus A_n} r_n dq = r_n q(M \setminus A_n)$. Since $q \in \mathcal{P}^1(M)$, we may choose A_n large enough so that $\int_{M \setminus A_n} d(x, a)dq(x) < \varepsilon/K$ (see the proof of the previous lemma). We conclude that $q(M \setminus A_n) < \varepsilon/Kr_n$, so that $d(a_n, a)q(M \setminus A_n) < Kr_n(\varepsilon/Kr_n) = \varepsilon$. We thus have

$$\begin{aligned}
\int_M d(x, g_n(x))dq &\leq \int_{A_n} d(x, x)dq + \int_{M \setminus A_n} d(x, a_n)dq(x) \\
&\leq 0 + \int_{M \setminus A_n} d(x, a)dq(x) + \int_{M \setminus A_n} d(a, a_n)dq \\
&\leq \int_{M \setminus A_n} d(x, a)dq(x) + d(a, a_n)q(M \setminus A_n).
\end{aligned}$$

As $n \rightarrow \infty$, the first term goes to 0 by the proof of the preceding lemma and the second term goes to 0 by the earlier part of this proof. That $\lim_n (g_n)_*(q) = q$, i.e., $\lim_n d^W(q, (g_n)_*(q)) = 0$, now follows from [Lemma 3.1](#). Since also $\lim_n (f_n)_*(q) = q$ by the preceding lemma, we conclude $\lim_n d^W((g_n)_*(q), (f_n)_*(q)) = 0$. \square

4. Approximation in ordered spaces

Definition 4.1. An *ordered metric space* is a metric space $M = (M, d, \leq)$ equipped with a partial order that is *closed* in the sense that $\{(x, y) : x \leq y\}$ is a closed subset of $M \times M$.

Throughout this section $M = (M, d, \leq)$ will denote an ordered metric space. For $A \subseteq M$, we define $\uparrow A = \{y \in M : x \leq y \text{ for some } x \in A\}$. A set A is an *upper set* if $\uparrow A = A$. Lower sets and $\downarrow A$ are defined in a dual fashion (with respect to the order). We write $\uparrow x$ resp. $\downarrow x$ for $\uparrow\{x\}$ resp. $\downarrow\{x\}$. An *order interval* is a set of the form $[x, y] := \{w \in M : x \leq w \leq y\} = \uparrow x \cap \downarrow y$. Having a closed partial order implies $\uparrow x$, $\downarrow x$, and $[x, y]$ are all closed sets.

Definition 4.2. For $p, q \in \mathcal{P}(M)$, we define $p \leq q$ if $p(U) \leq q(U)$ for all open upper sets U .

This order is sometimes referred to as the *stochastic order*. The stochastic order simplifies for finitely supported measures.

Lemma 4.3. Suppose that X is a partially ordered topological space for which $\downarrow x$ is closed for each $x \in X$. For finitely supported measures μ, ν , we have $\mu \leq \nu$ if and only if $\mu(A) \leq \nu(\uparrow A)$ for each $A \subseteq \text{supp}(\mu)$.

Proof. Suppose $\mu \leq \nu$ and let $A \subseteq \text{supp}(\mu)$. Let U be the complement of $\bigcup\{\downarrow x : x \in \text{supp}(\nu) \setminus \uparrow A\}$. By hypothesis the finite union is closed and hence U is open. It is the complement of a lower set, hence an upper set. Since $\downarrow x \cap A = \emptyset$ for $x \notin \uparrow A$, we conclude U contains A . Hence

$$\mu(A) \leq \mu(U) \leq \nu(U) = \nu(U \cap \text{supp}(\nu)) = \nu(\uparrow A \cap \text{supp}(\nu)) = \nu(\uparrow A).$$

Conversely suppose $\mu(A) \leq \nu(\uparrow A)$ for each $A \subseteq \text{supp}(\mu)$. Let $U = \uparrow U$ be an open upper set. Set $A = U \cap \text{supp}(\mu)$. Then $\mu(U) = \mu(A) \leq \nu(\uparrow A) \leq \nu(U)$. \square

Proposition 4.4. Let $p, q \in \mathcal{P}^1(M)$ such that $q \leq p$, where M is an ordered metric space. Let $A_n = [z_n, w_n]$ be an increasing sequence of order intervals such that $M = \bigcup_n A_n$. Suppose for some $a \in M$ there exists $K > 0$ and a sequence $\{r_n\}$ of positive numbers such that $B_{r_n}(a) \subseteq A_n$ and $d(a, z_n), d(a, w_n) \leq Kr_n$ for each n . Define f_n and g_n by $f_n(x) = x = g_n(x)$ for $x \in A_n$ and $f_n(x) = z_n$, $g_n(x) = w_n$ otherwise. Then $(f_n)_*(q) \leq (g_n)_*(p)$ for each n and $\lim_n (f_n)_*(q) = q$ and $\lim_n (g_n)_*(p) = p$.

Proof. Define $F_n : M \rightarrow M$ by $F_n(x) = x$ for $x \in A_n$ and $F_n(x) = a$ otherwise. By [Lemma 3.3](#) $\lim_n d^W((g_n)_*(p), (F_n)_*(p)) = 0$ and by [Lemma 3.2](#) $\lim_n (F_n)_*(p) = p$. From these two assertions we conclude that $\lim_n (g_n)_*(p) = p$. Similarly $\lim_n (F_n)_*(q) = q$ and hence $\lim_n (f_n)_*(q) = q$.

Let U be an open upper set. By hypothesis $q(U) \leq p(U)$. For fixed n , if U contains z_n , then $(f_n)_*(q)(U) = 1 = (g_n)_*(p)(U)$ and if U misses $[z_n, w_n]$ then $(f_n)_*(q)(U) = 0 = (g_n)_*(p)(U)$. Assume U hits $[z_n, w_n]$, but $z_n \notin U$. Since all the q -mass outside $[z_n, w_n]$ is stored at z_n by $(f_n)_*(q)$, we conclude $(f_n)_*(q)(U) = q(U \cap [z_n, w_n]) \leq q(U)$. Since all the p -mass outside $[z_n, w_n]$ is stored at w_n and $w_n \in U$, we conclude that

$$\begin{aligned} (g_n)_*(p)(U) &= p(U \cap [z_n, w_n]) + p(M \setminus [z_n, w_n]) \\ &\geq p(U \cap [z_n, w_n]) + p(U \cap (M \setminus [z_n, w_n])) = p(U). \end{aligned}$$

We conclude $(f_n)_*(q) \leq (g_n)_*(p)$. \square

Lemma 4.5. *Let M be an ordered metric space and let $q = \sum_{i=1}^n w_i \delta_{x_i}$ be a finitely supported measure. If $\varepsilon > 0$ and $z \leq x_i$ for $1 \leq i \leq n$, then there exists $p = (1/N) \sum_{i=1}^N \delta_{y_i}$ such that $d^W(q, p) < \varepsilon$ and $p \leq q$. Furthermore, $y_i \in \{z, x_1, \dots, x_n\}$ for $1 \leq i \leq N$.*

Proof. Pick $B > 0$ such that $d(x_i, z) \leq B$ for $1 \leq i \leq n$. For each i , $1 \leq i \leq n$, choose a dyadic rational $r_i = m_i/2^{n_i} \in \mathbb{Q}$ such that $0 \leq w_i - r_i < \varepsilon/nB$. Define ω on $M \times M$ by $\omega(\{(x_i, x_i)\}) = r_i$ and $\omega(\{(x_i, z)\}) = w_i - r_i$ for $1 \leq i \leq n$ and $\omega(\{(x, y)\}) = 0$ otherwise. Then for $1 \leq i \leq n$, $w_i = \omega(\{x_i\} \times M)$ and $0 = \omega(\{z\} \times M)$, so the first marginal of ω is q . Further $r_i = \omega(M \times \{x_i\})$ and $1 - \sum_{i=1}^n r_i = \omega(M \times \{z\})$. This gives the marginal p , where $p(\{x_i\}) = r_i$ and $p(\{z\}) = 1 - \sum_{i=1}^n r_i$, and $p(\{x\}) = 0$ for $x \in M \setminus \{z, x_1, \dots, x_n\}$. We have

$$d^W(q, p) \leq \int_{M \times M} d(x, y) d\omega = \sum_{i=1}^n d(x_i, x_i) r_i + d(x_i, z)(w_i - r_i) < 0 + Bn \frac{\varepsilon}{nB} = \varepsilon.$$

Since in passing from q to p we have lowered the weight at each x_i and placed the extra weight at the bottom point z , it follows easily that $p(U) \leq q(U)$ for any open upper set, and hence $p \leq q$.

Let $N = \max\{2^{n_i} : i = 1, \dots, n\}$. Then each $r_i = m_i/2^{n_i} = k_i/N$ for some $0 \leq k_i \leq N$. We obtain $p = (1/N) \sum_{k=1}^N \delta_{y_k}$ where $y_k = x_i$ appears k_i times for each i and z appears $N - \sum_{i=1}^n k_i$ times. \square

Definition 4.6. A partial ordered space M is said to have a basis of neighborhoods consisting of order intervals if given any open set U and $x \in U$, there exist an open set V and an order interval $[z, w]$ such that $x \in V \subseteq [z, w] \subseteq U$.

Theorem 4.7. *Let M be a metric space equipped with a closed order and having a basis of neighborhoods consisting of order intervals. Let $q \in \mathcal{P}^1(M)$ with support $\text{supp}(q)$ metrically bounded and contained in the interior of $[z, w]$, an order interval. Then there exists a sequence $\{q_n\} \subseteq \mathcal{P}_0(M)$ of finitely supported uniform measures with support contained in $[z, w]$ such that in the Wasserstein space $\mathcal{P}^1(M)$, $\lim_n q_n = q$ and for each n , $q_n \leq q$ (alternatively $q_n \geq q$).*

Proof. The case q is a point mass is trivial (let $q_n = q$), so we assume that is not the case. Let (z, w) denote the interior of $[z, w]$, the largest open set contained in $[z, w]$. We construct the desired sequence in two steps.

Step 1. Let $\varepsilon > 0$. For each $x \in \text{supp}(q)$, pick an order interval $[z_x, w_x]$ and an open set V_x such that $x \in V_x \subseteq [z_x, w_x] \subseteq B_r(x) \cap (z, w)$, where $r = \varepsilon/4$. Since $\text{supp}(q)$ is separable by Lemma 2.1, hence second countable, countably many of the $\{V_x\}$, say $\{V_i\}_{i \in \mathbb{N}}$, cover $\text{supp}(q)$. Let $[z_i, w_i]$ denote the corresponding order interval containing V_i .

Define a sequence of sets A_i inductively by $A_1 = V_1$, $A_{k+1} = V_{k+1} \setminus \bigcup_{i=1}^k V_i$. We delete those A_k that are empty, and renumber accordingly. The collection $\{A_k\}$ forms a partition of $\bigcup_i V_i$. In particular, $\bigcup_k A_k$ contains $\text{supp}(q)$, and hence has measure 1 (by our definition of $\mathcal{P}(M)$). Since the collection $\{A_k\}$ is a

partition, it follows that $1 = q(\bigcup_k A_k) = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} q(A_k)$. Since the diameter of $\text{supp}(q)$ is assumed finite, we can pick $b > \varepsilon$ that is greater than the diameter of $\{z\} \cup \text{supp}(q)$. We can also pick m large enough so that $\sum_{k=1}^m q(A_k) > 1 - \varepsilon/2b$, which means $q(\text{supp}(q) \setminus \bigcup_{k=1}^m A_k) < \varepsilon/2b$. Denote $\text{supp}(q) \setminus \bigcup_{k=1}^m A_k$ by D .

We define $f : M \rightarrow M$ by $f(x) = z_i$ if $x \in A_i$ for $1 \leq i \leq m$ and $f(x) = z$ otherwise. Then $f(x) \leq x$ for each $x \in [z, w]$ and f is Borel measurable since $f(M)$ is finite and the inverse image of each point is a Borel set. We note also for x in A_k for $1 \leq k \leq m$ that $d(x, f(x)) = d(x, z_k) < \varepsilon/2$ since each $[z_k, w_k]$ is contained in an open ball of radius $\varepsilon/4$. We compute

$$\begin{aligned} \int_M d(x, f(x))dq &= \sum_{k=1}^m \int_{A_k} d(x, f(x))dq + \int_D d(x, f(x))dq \\ &\leq \sum_{k=1}^m \frac{\varepsilon}{2} q(A_k) + bq(D) \\ &\leq \frac{\varepsilon}{2} + b \frac{\varepsilon}{2b} = \varepsilon. \end{aligned}$$

We conclude from [Lemma 3.1](#) that $d^W(q, f_*(q)) < \varepsilon$.

For each $U = \uparrow U$ open in M , $f^{-1}(U) \cap [z, w] \subseteq U$ since $f(x) \leq x$ for $x \in [z, w]$. We thus have

$$f_*(q)(U) = q[f^{-1}(U)] = q(f^{-1}(U) \cap [z, w]) \leq q(U),$$

where the second equality holds since $\text{supp}(q) \subseteq [z, w]$. Thus $f_*(q) \leq q$.

Step 2. We construct as in step 1 for $n \in \mathbb{N}$ and $\varepsilon = 1/n$ a function $f_n : M \rightarrow M$ with finite image contained in $[z, w]$ such that $d^W(q, (f_n)_*(q)) < 1/n$, $(f_n)_*(q) \leq q$. Thus the sequence $(f_n)_*(q)$ converges to q in $\mathcal{P}^1(M)$ equipped with the Wasserstein metric. Since $(f_n)_*(q)$ is finitely supported measure, by [Lemma 4.5](#) we may pick $q_n \in \mathcal{P}_0(M)$ such that $q_n \leq (f_n)_*(q)$ and $d^W(q_n, (f_n)_*(q)) < 1/n$. Then it must be the case that $\lim_n q_n = q$ since $\lim_n (f_n)_*(q) = q$. We have further for each n that $q_n \leq (f_n)_*(q) \leq q$. [Lemma 4.5](#) allows us to assume that $\text{supp}(q_n) \subset \text{supp}(f_n)_*(q) \subseteq [z, w]$. \square

We come now to our main approximation theorem for ordered spaces.

Theorem 4.8. *Let M be a metric space equipped with a closed order and having a basis of neighborhoods consisting of order intervals. Let $A_n = [z_n, w_n]$ be an increasing sequence of metrically bounded order intervals such that A_n is contained in the interior of A_{n+1} for each n and such that $M = \bigcup_n A_n$. Suppose for some $a \in M$ there exists $K > 0$ and a sequence $\{r_n\}$ of positive numbers such that $B_{r_n}(a) \subseteq A_n$ and $d(a, z_n), d(a, w_n) \leq Kr_n$ for each n . Then for $p, q \in \mathcal{P}^1(M)$ with $q \leq p$, there exist sequences $\{q_n\}, \{p_n\} \subseteq \mathcal{P}_0(M)$ such that $q_n \rightarrow q$ and $p_n \rightarrow p$ in the Wasserstein distance and $q_n \leq p_n$ for each n .*

Proof. By [Proposition 4.4](#) there exists sequences $(f_n)_*(q) \rightarrow q$ and $(g_n)_*(p) \rightarrow p$ in the Wasserstein space $\mathcal{P}^1(M)$ such that $(f_n)_*(q) \leq (g_n)_*(p)$ for each n . By definition $(f_n)_*(q)$ and $(g_n)_*(p)$ have support contained in the order interval $[z_n, w_n]$ and hence the support is metrically bounded and contained in the interior of $[z_{n+1}, w_{n+1}]$. By [Theorem 4.7](#) and its order dual we may for each n pick $q_n, p_n \in \mathcal{P}_0(M)$ with support contained in $[z_{n+1}, w_{n+1}]$ so that

$$d^W(q_n, (f_n)_*(q)) < d^W((f_n)_*(q), q) + 1/n, \quad d^W(p_n, (g_n)_*(p)) < d^W((g_n)_*(p), p) + 1/n$$

and $q_n \leq (f_n)_*(q) \leq (g_n)_*(p) \leq p_n$ for each n . Since $(f_n)_*(q) \rightarrow q$ and $(g_n)_*(p) \rightarrow p$, it follows that $p_n \rightarrow p$ and $q_n \rightarrow q$, yielding the desired sequences. \square

5. The Thompson metric

In this section we consider an important metric setting where the conditions of [Theorem 4.8](#) are satisfied, an example that served as an important motivation for the previous work. Let V be a real Banach space and let Ω denote a non-empty open convex cone of V : $t\Omega \subset \Omega$ for all $t > 0$, $\Omega + \Omega \subset \Omega$, and $\overline{\Omega} \cap -\overline{\Omega} = \{0\}$, where $\overline{\Omega}$ denotes the closure of Ω . We consider the partial order on V defined by

$$x \leq y \text{ if and only if } y - x \in \overline{\Omega}.$$

We write $x < y$ if $y - x \in \Omega$. We further assume that Ω is a *normal* cone: there exists a constant K with $\|x\| \leq K\|y\|$ for all $x, y \in \Omega$ with $x \leq y$. For $x \leq y$, we denote by $[x, y]$ the closed order interval

$$[x, y] := \{z \in V : x \leq z \leq y\}$$

and the open order interval by $(x, y) = \{z \in V : x < z < y\}$ whenever $x < y$.

Any member a of Ω is an order unit for the ordered space (V, \leq) , and hence $|x|_a := \inf\{\lambda > 0 : -\lambda a \leq x \leq \lambda a\}$ defines a norm. By Proposition 1.1 in [\[10\]](#), for a normal cone $\overline{\Omega}$, the order unit norm $|\cdot|_a$ is equivalent to $\|\cdot\|$.

A.C. Thompson [\[13\]](#) (cf. [\[9,10\]](#)) has proved that Ω is a complete metric space with respect to the *Thompson part metric* defined by

$$d(x, y) = \max\{\log M(x/y), \log M(y/x)\}$$

where $M(x/y) := \inf\{\lambda > 0 : x \leq \lambda y\} = |x|_y$. (Note that $x \leq M(x/y)y$ by the closedness of the relation \leq .) Furthermore, the topology induced by the Thompson metric agrees with the relative Banach space topology.

Remark 5.1. First we note for $a \in \Omega$ and $r > 0$ that

$$d(a, x) \leq r \Leftrightarrow a \leq e^r x, x \leq e^r a \Leftrightarrow e^{-r} a \leq x \leq e^r a,$$

so the closed ball around a of radius r (in the Thompson metric) is the closed order interval $[e^{-r}a, e^r a]$. Since the open ball $B_r(a)$ around a of radius r is the union of all closed balls of strictly smaller radii, we have $B_r(a) = \bigcup_{0 < t < r} [e^{-t}a, e^t a]$.

Proposition 5.2. *Let V be a real Banach space and let Ω be a non-empty open normal cone equipped with the Thompson metric. For $p, q \in \mathcal{P}^1(\Omega)$ with $q \leq p$, there exist sequences $\{q_n\}, \{p_n\} \subseteq \mathcal{P}_0(\Omega)$ such that $q_n \rightarrow q$ and $p_n \rightarrow p$ in the Wasserstein distance and $q_n \leq p_n$ for each n .*

Proof. Let $a \in \Omega$. We verify the hypotheses of [Theorem 4.8](#) are met. We let $A_n = [e^{-n}a, e^n a]$, the closed ball of radius n around a . By the preceding remark $A_n \subseteq B_{n+1}(a) \subseteq A_{n+1}$. Since a is an order unit for Ω , $\Omega = \bigcup_n A_n$. Choosing $r_n = n$ and $K = 1$, we see by the preceding remark that the conditions of [Theorem 4.8](#) are satisfied, and hence the proposition follows. \square

Example 5.3. Let \mathbb{A} be a unital C^* -algebra with identity e , and let \mathbb{A}^+ be the set of positive invertible elements of \mathbb{A} . It is standard that \mathbb{A}^+ is a normal open cone of the Banach subspace $\mathcal{H}(\mathbb{A})$ of self-adjoint elements. Thus the conclusion of [Proposition 5.2](#) applies. In particular the conclusion holds for the open cone \mathbb{P}_n of positive definite $n \times n$ -matrices equipped with the Thompson metric.

6. Means and barycenters

We begin this section by recalling several needed notions and results from Section 3 of [7].

Definition 6.1. (1) An n -mean G_n on a set X for $n \geq 1$ is a function $G_n : X^n \rightarrow X$ that is idempotent in the sense that $G_n(x, \dots, x) = x$ for all $x \in X$.

(2) An n -mean G_n is *symmetric* or *permutation invariant* if for each permutation σ of $\{1, \dots, n\}$, $G_n(\mathbf{x}_\sigma) = G_n(\mathbf{x})$, where $\mathbf{x} = (x_1, \dots, x_n)$ and $\mathbf{x}_\sigma = (x_{\sigma(1)}, \dots, x_{\sigma(n)})$. A (symmetric) *mean* G on X is a sequence of means $\{G_n\}$, one (symmetric) mean for each $n \geq 1$.

(3) A *barycentric map* or *barycenter* on the finitely supported uniform measures $\mathcal{P}_0(X)$ is a map $\beta : \mathcal{P}_0(X) \rightarrow X$ satisfying $\beta(\delta_x) = x$ for each $x \in X$.

For $\mathbf{x} = (x_1, \dots, x_n) \in X^n$, we let

$$\mathbf{x}^k = (x_1, \dots, x_n, x_1, \dots, x_n, \dots, x_1, \dots, x_n) \in X^{nk}, \quad (6.1)$$

where the number of blocks is k . We define the *carrier* $S(\mathbf{x})$ of \mathbf{x} to be the set of entries in \mathbf{x} , i.e., the smallest finite subset F such that $\mathbf{x} \in F^n$. We set $[\mathbf{x}]$ equal to the equivalence class of all n -tuples obtained by permuting the coordinates of $\mathbf{x} = (x_1, \dots, x_n)$. Note that the operation $[\mathbf{x}]^k = [\mathbf{x}^k]$ is well-defined and that all members of $[\mathbf{x}]$ all have the same carrier set $S(\mathbf{x})$.

A tuple $\mathbf{x} = (x_1, \dots, x_n) \in X^n$ induces a finitely supported probability measure μ on $S(\mathbf{x})$ by $\mu = \sum_{i=1}^n (1/n)\delta_{x_i}$, where δ_{x_i} is the point measure of mass 1 at x_i . Since the tuple may contain repetitions of some of its entries, each singleton set $\{x\}$ for $x \in \{x_1, \dots, x_n\}$ will have measure k/n , where k is the number of times that it appears in the listing x_1, \dots, x_n . Note that every member of $[\mathbf{x}]$ induces the same finitely supported probability measure.

Lemma 6.2. For each probability measure μ on X with finite support F for which $\mu(x) (= \mu(\{x\}))$ is rational for each $x \in F$, there exists a unique $[\mathbf{x}]$ inducing μ such that any $[\mathbf{y}]$ inducing μ is equal to $[\mathbf{x}]^k$ for some $k \geq 1$.

Definition 6.3. A mean $G = \{G_n\}$ on X is said to be *multiplicative* if for all $n, k \geq 2$ and all $\mathbf{x} = (x_1, \dots, x_n) \in X^n$,

$$G_n(\mathbf{x}) = G_{nk}(\mathbf{x}^k).$$

If G is also symmetric, then G is called *intrinsic*.

We have the following corollary to Lemma 6.2.

Corollary 6.4. Let G be an intrinsic mean. Then for any finitely supported probability measure μ with support F and taking on rational values, we may define $\beta_G(\mu) = G_n(\mathbf{x})$, for any $\mathbf{x} \in F^n$ that induces μ .

Corollary 6.4 provides the basis for the following equivalence.

Proposition 6.5. There is a one-to-one correspondence between the intrinsic means and the barycentric maps on X given in one direction by assigning to an intrinsic mean G the barycentric map β_G and in the reverse direction assigning to a barycentric map β the mean $G_n(x_1, \dots, x_n) = \beta((1/n) \sum_{i=1}^n \delta_{x_i})$.

We specialize to means and barycenters in metric spaces. The following notion of what we call a contractive mean has appeared in other work; see e.g. [5].

Definition 6.6. An n -mean $G_n : X^n \rightarrow X$ is said to be *contractive* if for all $\mathbf{x} = (x_1, \dots, x_n), \mathbf{y} = (y_1, \dots, y_n) \in X^n$

$$d(G_n(\mathbf{x}), G_n(\mathbf{y})) \leq \frac{1}{n} \sum_{j=1}^n d(x_j, y_j).$$

A mean $G = \{G_n\}$ is *contractive* if each G_n is contractive.

We recall the notion of Sturm [12] of a contractive barycentric map on the set of probability measures of finite first moment on a complete metric space.

Definition 6.7. A barycentric map $\beta : \mathcal{P}^1(X) \rightarrow X$ is said to be *contractive* if $d(\beta(\mu_1), \beta(\mu_2)) \leq d^W(\mu_1, \mu_2)$ for all $\mu_1, \mu_2 \in \mathcal{P}^*(X)$.

A fundamental relationship between contractive intrinsic means and barycentric maps is the following (see [7, Proposition 4.7]).

Proposition 6.8. *In a metric space (X, d) the bijective correspondence of Proposition 6.5 restricts to a bijective correspondence between the set of contractive intrinsic means G on X and the set of contractive barycentric maps β on $\mathcal{P}_0(X)$. If X is a complete metric space, then the contractive barycentric maps on $\mathcal{P}_0(X)$ uniquely extend to contractive barycentric maps on $\mathcal{P}^1(X)$, thus yielding a bijection between the set of contractive intrinsic means G on X and the set of contractive barycentric maps β on $\mathcal{P}^1(X)$.*

We turn now to connecting these results to our previous results concerning measures on ordered spaces.

Definition 6.9. An n -mean $G_n : S^n \rightarrow X$ on a partially ordered set X is said to be *monotonic* if $G(x_1, \dots, x_n) \leq G(y_1, \dots, y_n)$ whenever $x_i \leq y_i$ for $i = 1, \dots, n$. A barycentric map β defined on $\mathcal{P}_0(X)$ or on $\mathcal{P}^1(X)$ for the case X is a metric space is *monotonic* if $\mu \leq \nu$ implies $\beta(\mu) \leq \beta(\nu)$.

The following lemmas are crucial for connecting the monotonicity of barycentric maps with the monotonicity of their corresponding means.

Recall that a bipartite graph is one in which the set of vertices V is the disjoint union of two sets A and B and each edge connects some member of A with some member of B . We recall the following special case of the well-known Hall’s Marriage Theorem [3] from graph theory.

Lemma 6.10. *Let $V = A \cup B$ be the vertices of a bipartite for which $A = \{a_1, \dots, a_n\}$ and $B = \{b_1, \dots, b_n\}$ have the same cardinality. Suppose for each $C \subseteq A$, we have $|C| \leq |N(C)|$, where $N(C) = \{b \in B : ab \text{ is an edge for some } a \in C\}$. Then there exists a permutation σ of $\{1, \dots, n\}$ such that $a_i b_{\sigma(i)}$ is an edge for all $i = 1, \dots, n$.*

Lemma 6.11. *Let X be a partially ordered, let μ and ν be uniform probabilities, each with support of cardinality n . If $\mu \leq \nu$ in the sense that $\mu(A) \leq \nu(\uparrow A)$ for each $A \subseteq \text{supp}(\mu)$, then there exists a permutation σ of $\{1, \dots, n\}$ such that $x_k \leq y_{\sigma(k)}$ for $1 \leq k \leq n$, where $\{x_1, \dots, x_n\}$ and $\{y_1, \dots, y_n\}$ are the supports of μ and ν resp.*

Proof. We define a bipartite graph G with vertices $A \cup B$, where $A = \{x_1, \dots, x_n\}$ and $B = \{y_1, \dots, y_n\}$, except that we make all the vertices distinct if necessary. We define $x_i y_j$ to be an edge of the graph if $x_i \leq y_j$ in X . Let C be a subset of A of cardinality k . Then $\mu(C) = k/n$, so by hypothesis $\nu(\uparrow C \cap \text{supp}(\nu)) \geq k/n$,

which implies $|\uparrow C \cap \text{supp}(\nu)| \geq k$. Thus the graph G satisfies the hypotheses of [Lemma 6.10](#), and the lemma follows from that result and the construction of G . \square

The next result connects monotonicity for means and barycentric maps.

Proposition 6.12. *Let (M, d, \leq) be a metric space equipped with a closed partial order. Let G be an intrinsic mean on M and let β_G be the corresponding barycentric map on $\mathcal{P}_0(M)$. Then G is monotonic if and only if β_G is.*

Proof. Suppose first that β_G is monotonic. Suppose that $x_i \leq y_i$ for $1 \leq i \leq n$. It follows easily that $(1/n) \sum_{i=1}^n \delta_{x_i} \leq (1/n) \sum_{i=1}^n \delta_{y_i}$, so

$$G_n(x_1, \dots, x_n) = \beta_G \left(\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \delta_{x_i} \right) \leq \beta_G \left(\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \delta_{y_i} \right) = G_n(y_1, \dots, y_n).$$

Hence G is monotonic.

Conversely suppose that G is monotonic and suppose that $\mu = (1/k) \sum_{i=1}^k \delta_{x_i}$, $\nu = (1/m) \sum_{i=1}^m \delta_{y_i}$, and $\mu \leq \nu$. We set $\mathbf{x} = (x_1, \dots, x_k)$ and $\mathbf{y} = (y_1, \dots, y_m)$. Using the notation of equation (6.1), we have $\mathbf{x}^m, \mathbf{y}^k \in M^n$ for $n = km$. We can now rewrite $\mu = (1/n) \sum_{i=1}^n \delta_{x_i}$ where the x_i range through the entries of \mathbf{x}^m . and similarly we rewrite $\nu = (1/n) \sum_{i=1}^n \delta_{y_i}$. We apply [Lemmas 4.3 and 6.11](#) to these alternative representations of μ and ν to conclude that there exists a permutation σ of $\{1, \dots, n\}$ such that $x_i \leq y_{\sigma(i)}$ for $1 \leq i \leq n$. Since G_n is monotone and symmetric

$$\beta_G(\mu) = G_n(x_1, \dots, x_n) \leq G_n(y_{\sigma(1)}, \dots, y_{\sigma(n)}) = G_n(y_1, \dots, y_n) = \beta_G(\nu). \quad \square$$

Definition 6.13. Let M be a metric space M equipped with a closed partial order. A pair $(\mu, \nu) \in \mathcal{P}^1(M) \times \mathcal{P}^1(M)$ is called *order approximable* if $\mu \leq \nu$ and there exist sequences $\{\mu_n\}, \{\nu_n\} \subseteq \mathcal{P}_0(M)$ such that for each n , $\mu_n \leq \nu_n$ and with respect to the Wasserstein metric $\mu_n \rightarrow \mu$ and $\nu_n \rightarrow \nu$.

[Theorem 4.8](#) gives important sufficient conditions for each pair $\mu \leq \nu$ in $\mathcal{P}^1(M)$ to be approximable.

Theorem 6.14. *Let M be an ordered and complete metric space in which each pair $\mu \leq \nu$ in $\mathcal{P}^1(M)$ is approximable. If G is a monotonic contractive intrinsic mean, then the corresponding barycentric map $\beta_G : \mathcal{P}^1(M) \rightarrow M$ is monotonic.*

Proof. The existence of the contractive barycentric map $\beta_G : \mathcal{P}^1(M) \rightarrow M$ follows from [Proposition 6.8](#). That β_G is monotonic on $\mathcal{P}_0(M)$ follows from [Proposition 6.12](#). For $\mu \leq \nu$ in $\mathcal{P}^1(M)$, by hypothesis there exist sequences $\{\mu_n\}, \{\nu_n\} \subseteq \mathcal{P}_0(M)$ such that for each n , $\mu_n \leq \nu_n$ and $\mu_n \rightarrow \mu$ and $\nu_n \rightarrow \nu$. By continuity of β_G and the closedness of the partial order, it follows that $\beta_G(\mu) \leq \beta_G(\nu)$. \square

For the remainder of the section we work in the following setting. Let \mathbb{A} be a unital C^* -algebra with identity e . Let \mathbb{A}^+ be the set of positive invertible elements of \mathbb{A} , a normal open cone of the Banach subspace $\mathcal{H}(\mathbb{A})$ of self-adjoint elements. We suppose further that $\mathcal{H}(\mathbb{A})$ is conditionally directed complete, i.e., that down-directed subsets of $\mathcal{H}(\mathbb{A})$ that are bounded below have an infimum. The *Karcher mean* $\Lambda = \{\Lambda_n\}$ on \mathbb{A}^+ is defined as the unique solution in \mathbb{A}^+ of the Karcher equation

$$X = \Lambda_n(A_1, \dots, A_n) \Leftrightarrow \sum_{i=1}^n \log(X^{-1/2} A_i X^{-1/2}) = 0.$$

It has been shown in [6] that this equation does indeed have a unique solution in \mathbb{A}^+ and in [6,7] that the resulting mean Λ_n has the following properties:

- (i) Λ_n is idempotent and intrinsic, in particular, symmetric;
- (ii) (Monotonicity) $B_i \leq A_i$ for all $1 \leq i \leq n \Rightarrow \Lambda_n(B_1, \dots, B_n) \leq \Lambda_n(A_1, \dots, A_n)$;
- (iii) (Contractivity) $d(\Lambda_n(A_1, \dots, A_n), \Lambda_n(B_1, \dots, B_n)) \leq (1/n) \sum_{i=1}^n d(A_i, B_i)$, where d is the Thompson metric.

The correspondence of Proposition 6.8 yields a uniquely determined contractive barycentric map $\beta_\Lambda : \mathcal{P}^1(\mathbb{P}) \rightarrow \mathbb{P}$ satisfying $\beta_\Lambda((1/n) \sum_{i=1}^n \delta_{A_i}) = \Lambda_n(A_1, \dots, A_n)$. Furthermore, in light of the remarks in Example 5.3 and Theorem 6.14, $\beta_\Lambda : \mathcal{P}^1(\mathbb{A}^+) \rightarrow \mathbb{A}^+$ is monotonic. We summarize:

Theorem 6.15. *Let \mathbb{A} be a C^* -algebra with identity for which the Banach space $\mathcal{H}(\mathbb{A})$ is conditionally directed complete. Then the Karcher mean on \mathbb{A}^+ extends uniquely to a monotonic contractive barycentric map $\beta_\Lambda : \mathcal{P}^1(\mathbb{A}^+) \rightarrow \mathbb{A}^+$.*

7. Future work

Many questions and conjectures remain open. One would like to show that in the context of this paper integrable measures on \mathbb{P} satisfy an appropriate Karcher equation and that the solution is unique. The Karcher mean has been shown to satisfy a number of inequalities (e.g., concavity, Ando-Hiai inequality, etc.) and it is of interest to extend, where possible, these results to the case of Borel probability measures and the Karcher barycentric map. Indeed the approach and techniques of this paper should make possible the extension of quite a number of results involving inequalities of matrix and operator means to inequalities of integrable measures.

Acknowledgments

The author gratefully acknowledges the support of the Boyd Support Fund provided by Louisiana State University during the period of this research.

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