Mathematics of Data: From Theory to Computation

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Lecture 13: Primal-dual optimization III: Lagrangian gradient methods

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Recall: Swiss army knife of convex formulations

A **primal problem** prototype

$$f^\star := \min_{\mathbf{x}\in\mathbb{R}^p} \left\{ f(\mathbf{x}) : \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{b} \in \mathcal{K},\ \mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{X} \right\},$$

- f is proper, closed and convex
- $\mathcal{X}$ and $\mathcal{K}$ are nonempty, closed convex sets
- $\mathbf{A} \in \mathbb{R}^{n\times p}$ and $\mathbf{b} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ are known
- An optimal solution $\mathbf{x}^\star$ satisfies $f(\mathbf{x}^\star) = f^\star$, $\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}^\star - \mathbf{b} \in \mathcal{K}$ and $\mathbf{x}^\star \in \mathcal{X}$

Broad context for the problem template:

- Many real-world applications (e.g., linear inverse problems) can be directly formulated as (3).
- Often times, computational limitations require the translation of existing unconstrained problems (e.g., composite convex minimization, consensus optimization, and convex splitting) into constrained ones (3).
- Many standard convex optimization formulations naturally fall under (3), such as *linear programming, convex quadratic programming, second order cone programming, semidefinite programming and geometric programming*.

Recall - Swiss army knife of convex formulations

A **primal problem** prototype

$$f^\star := \min_{\mathbf{x}\in\mathbb{R}^p} \left\{ f(\mathbf{x}) : \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{b} \in \mathcal{K},\ \mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{X} \right\},$$

- f is proper, closed and convex
- $\mathcal{X}$ and $\mathcal{K}$ are nonempty, closed convex sets
- $\mathbf{A} \in \mathbb{R}^{n\times p}$ and $\mathbf{b} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ are known
- An optimal solution $\mathbf{x}^\star$ to (3) satisfies $f(\mathbf{x}^\star) = f^\star$, $\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}^\star - \mathbf{b} \in \mathcal{K}$ and $\mathbf{x}^\star \in \mathcal{X}$

A **simplified** template

$$f^\star := \min_{\mathbf{x}\in\mathbb{R}^p} \left\{ f(\mathbf{x}) : \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}, \right\}, \tag{1}$$

- f is proper, closed and convex
- $\mathbf{A} \in \mathbb{R}^{n\times p}$ and $\mathbf{b} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ are known
- An optimal solution $\mathbf{x}^\star$ to (1) satisfies $f(\mathbf{x}^\star) = f^\star$, $\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}^\star = \mathbf{b}$.

Recall: Finding the solutions in affine constrained convex minimization

A performance metric: Time-to-reach ϵ

`time-to-reach` ϵ `= number of iterations to reach` ϵ $\times$ `per iteration time`

A key issue: Number of iterations to reach ϵ

The notion of ϵ-accuracy is elusive in constrained optimization!

Our definition of ϵ-accurate solutions [36]

Given a numerical tolerance $\epsilon \geq 0$, a point $\mathbf{x}^\star_\epsilon \in \mathbb{R}^p$ is called an ϵ-solution of (1) if

$$\begin{cases} f(\mathbf{x}^\star_\epsilon) - f^\star & \leq \epsilon \text{ (objective residual)}, \\ \|\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}^\star_\epsilon - \mathbf{b}\| & \leq \epsilon \text{ (feasibility gap)}, \end{cases}$$

- When $\mathbf{x}^\star$ is unique, we can also obtain $\|\mathbf{x}^\star_\epsilon - \mathbf{x}^\star\| \leq \epsilon$ (iterate residual).

Remark: ○ ϵ can be different for the objective, feasibility gap, or the iterate residual.

Plenty of primal-dual methods for solving (1):

- Penalty and augmented Lagrangian methods:
  - Exact penalty method [3].
  - **Quadratic penalty method [4].** **See Lecture 12**
  - **Augmented Lagrangian method [23, 30].** **This lecture**
- Variants of the **Arrow-Hurwitz's method**:
  - Proximal-based decomposition (Chen-Teboulle's algorithm) [9].
  - Primal-dual Hybrid Gradient (PDHG) method and its variants [15, 18].
  - **Chambolle-Pock's algorithm [7], and its variants, e.g., He-Yuan's variant [20].** **See Lecture 12**
- Splitting techniques from monotone inclusions:
  - Primal-dual splitting algorithms [2, 10, 37, 11, 12].
  - **Three-operator splitting [13].** **See Lecture 12**
- Dual splitting techniques:
  - Alternating minimization algorithms (AMA) [16, 37].
  - Alternating direction methods of multipliers (ADMM) [14, 22].
  - Accelerated variants of AMA and ADMM [12, 19].
  - Preconditioned ADMM, Linearized ADMM and inexact Uzawa algorithms [7, 27].
- Second-order decomposition methods:
  - Dual (quasi) Newton methods [38].
  - Smoothing decomposition methods via barriers functions [26, 34].

Recall: Quadratic penalty & Lagrangian formulations

- **The problem:** $f^\star := \min_{\mathbf{x}\in\mathbb{R}^p} \left\{ f(\mathbf{x}) : \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b} \right\}$
- **Reformulations:**

Quadratic Penalty	**The Lagrangian**
$f^\star \quad = f(\mathbf{x}^\star) + \frac{\beta}{2}\Vert\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}^\star - \mathbf{b}\Vert^2, \quad \forall\beta > 0.$	$f^\star \quad = f(\mathbf{x}^\star) + \max_{\boldsymbol{\lambda}\in\mathbb{R}^n}\langle\boldsymbol{\lambda}, \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}^\star - \mathbf{b}\rangle.$
$F_\beta(\mathbf{x}) = f(\mathbf{x}) + \frac{\beta}{2}\Vert\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{b}\Vert^2.$	$F_{\boldsymbol{\lambda}}(\mathbf{x}) = f(\mathbf{x}) + \max_{\boldsymbol{\lambda}\in\mathbb{R}^n}\langle\boldsymbol{\lambda}, \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{b}\rangle$ $= f(\mathbf{x}) + \begin{cases} 0, & \text{if } \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}, \\ +\infty, & \text{if } \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} \neq \mathbf{b}. \end{cases}$
$\min_{\mathbf{x}\in\mathbb{R}^p}\left\{f(\mathbf{x}) \colon \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}\right\} \equiv \lim_{\beta\to\infty}\min_{\mathbf{x}\in\mathbb{R}^p}\left\{f(\mathbf{x}) + \frac{\beta}{2}\Vert\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{b}\Vert^2\right\}$	$\min_{\mathbf{x}\in\mathbb{R}^p}\left\{f(\mathbf{x}) \colon \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}\right\} \equiv \min_{\mathbf{x}\in\mathbb{R}^p}\max_{\boldsymbol{\lambda}\in\mathbb{R}^n}\left\{f(\mathbf{x}) + \langle\boldsymbol{\lambda}, \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{b}\rangle\right\}$

Recall: Quadratic penalty & Lagrangian methods

- **The problem:** $f^\star := \min_{\mathbf{x}\in\mathbb{R}^p} \left\{ f(\mathbf{x}) : \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b} \right\}$
- **The methods:**

Quadratic penalty method (QP)	**Dual subgradient method (DSGM)**
1. Choose $\mathbf{x}^0 \in \mathbb{R}^p$ and $\beta_0 > 0$.	**1.** Choose $\boldsymbol{\lambda}^0 \in \mathbb{R}^n$.
2. For $k = 0, 1, \cdots$, perform:	**2.** For $k = 0, 1, \cdots$, perform:
2.a. $\mathbf{x}^k := \arg\min_{\mathbf{x}\in\mathbb{R}^p} \left\{ f(\mathbf{x}) + \frac{\beta_k}{2}\Vert\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{b}\Vert^2 \right\}$.	**2.a.** $\mathbf{x}^*(\boldsymbol{\lambda}^k) := \arg\min_{\mathbf{x}\in\mathbb{R}^p} \left\{ \mathcal{L}(\mathbf{x}, \boldsymbol{\lambda}^k) := f(\mathbf{x}) + \langle \boldsymbol{\lambda}^k, \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{b}\rangle \right\}$.
2.b. Update $\beta_{k+1} > \beta_k$.	**2.b.** Compute the subgradient $\nabla d(\boldsymbol{\lambda}^k) := \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}^*(\boldsymbol{\lambda}^k) - \mathbf{b}$.
	2.c. Update $\boxed{\boldsymbol{\lambda}^{k+1} := \boldsymbol{\lambda}^k + \frac{R}{\sqrt{k+1}}\nabla d(\boldsymbol{\lambda}^k)}$, where R is a given constant.
◦ Drawbacks:	◦ Drawbacks:
▸ $\mathbf{x}^k := \arg\min_{\mathbf{x}\in\mathbb{R}^p} \left\{ f(\mathbf{x}) + \frac{\beta_k}{2}\Vert\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{b}\Vert^2 \right\}$ becomes ill-conditioned as $\beta_k \to \infty$.	▸ $d(\boldsymbol{\lambda})$ is not necessarily smooth $\Longrightarrow$ slower rates. ▸ $x^*(\boldsymbol{\lambda}^k)$ is not necessarily well-defined for all $\boldsymbol{\lambda}$. ▸ Finding R is not always straightforward.

Unifying the Lagrangian and the penalty approaches

- Quadratic penalty: $F_\beta(\mathbf{x}) = f(\mathbf{x}) + \frac{\beta}{2}\|\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{b}\|^2$

$$+$$

- The Lagrangian: $\mathcal{L}(\mathbf{x}, \boldsymbol{\lambda}) = f(\mathbf{x}) + \langle \boldsymbol{\lambda}, \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{b}\rangle$

$$\Downarrow$$

- **Augmented Lagrangian (AL)**: $\mathcal{L}_\beta(\mathbf{x}, \boldsymbol{\lambda}) = f(\mathbf{x}) + \langle \boldsymbol{\lambda}, \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{b}\rangle + \frac{\beta}{2}\|\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{b}\|^2$

Properties of AL

- The dual function is concave and $\frac{1}{\beta}$-*smooth*:

$$d_\beta(\boldsymbol{\lambda}) = \min_{\mathbf{x}\in\mathbb{R}^p} \left\{ f(\mathbf{x}) + \langle \boldsymbol{\lambda}, \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{b}\rangle + \frac{\beta}{2}\|\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{b}\|^2 \right\}.$$

Can apply gradient or accelerated gradient methods in the dual!

- β does not need to increase until infinity.

No more ill-conditioned subproblems!

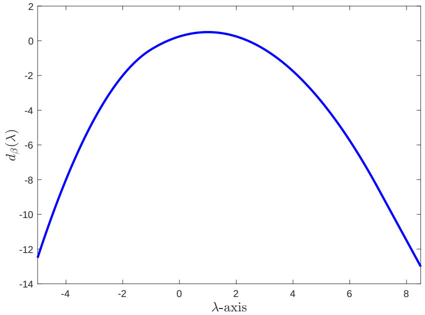
Example: Behavior of the AL dual function

Consider a constrained convex problem:

$$\begin{aligned} \min_{\mathbf{x}\in\mathbb{R}^3} \quad & \left\{ f(\mathbf{x}) := x_1^2 + x_2^2 \right\}, \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & 2x_3 - x_1 - x_2 = 1, \\ & \mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{X} := [-2,2] \times [-2,2] \times [0,2]. \end{aligned}$$

The **AL dual function** is concave, smooth and defined as

$$d_\beta(\boldsymbol{\lambda}) := \min_{\mathbf{x}\in\mathcal{X}} \left\{ x_1^2 + x_2^2 + \boldsymbol{\lambda}(2x_3 - x_1 - x_2 - 1) + (\beta/2)\|2x_3 - x_1 - x_2 - 1\|_2^2 \right\}$$



Example: Behavior of the AL dual function

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$$\begin{array}{ll} \min\limits_{\mathbf{x}\in\mathbb{R}^3} & \left\{ f(\mathbf{x}) := x_1^2 + x_2^2 \right\}, \\ \text{s.t.} & 2x_3 - x_1 - x_2 = 1, \\ & \mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{X} := [-2,2] \times [-2,2] \times [0,2]. \end{array}$$

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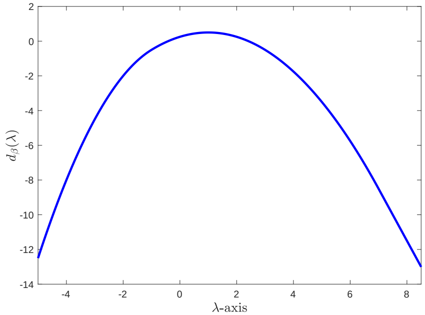
$$d_\beta(\boldsymbol{\lambda}) := \min_{\mathbf{x}\in\mathcal{X}} \left\{ x_1^2 + x_2^2 + \boldsymbol{\lambda}(2x_3 - x_1 - x_2 - 1) + (\beta/2)\|2x_3 - x_1 - x_2 - 1\|_2^2 \right\}$$



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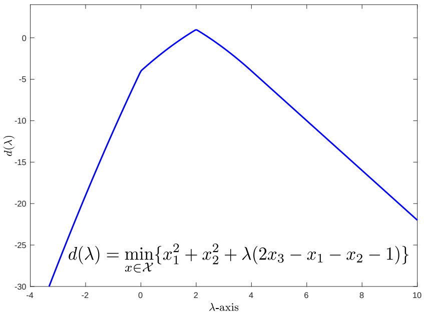


Augmented dual problem

◦ **Dual problem:**

$$d^\star := \max_{\boldsymbol{\lambda}\in\mathbb{R}^n} \left\{ d(\boldsymbol{\lambda}) = \min_{\mathbf{x}\in\mathbb{R}^p} f(\mathbf{x}) + \langle \boldsymbol{\lambda}, \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{b} \rangle \right\}. \tag{2}$$

◦ **Augmented dual problem:**

$$d_\beta^* := \max_{\boldsymbol{\lambda}\in\mathbb{R}^n} \left\{ d_\beta(\boldsymbol{\lambda}) = \min_{\mathbf{x}\in\mathbb{R}^p} f(\mathbf{x}) + \langle \boldsymbol{\lambda}, \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{b} \rangle + \frac{\beta}{2}\|\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{b}\|^2 \right\}, \quad \beta > 0. \tag{3}$$

Augmented dual problem

∘ **Dual problem:**

$$d^\star := \max_{\boldsymbol{\lambda} \in \mathbb{R}^n} \left\{ d(\boldsymbol{\lambda}) = \min_{\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^p} f(\mathbf{x}) + \langle \boldsymbol{\lambda}, \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{b} \rangle \right\}. \tag{2}$$

∘ **Augmented dual problem:**

$$d^\ast_\beta := \max_{\boldsymbol{\lambda} \in \mathbb{R}^n} \left\{ d_\beta(\boldsymbol{\lambda}) = \min_{\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^p} f(\mathbf{x}) + \langle \boldsymbol{\lambda}, \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{b} \rangle + \frac{\beta}{2}\|\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{b}\|^2 \right\}, \quad \beta > 0. \tag{3}$$

Relation between augmented dual problem and dual problem

If a primal solution exists and Slater's condition holds, we have

- The dual solution set of (3) coincides with the one of the dual problem (2).
- $f^\star = d^\star = d^\ast_\beta$ for any $\beta > 0$.

∘ Recall: The augmented dual problem (3) is smooth and concave

$\Rightarrow$ **Gradient and accelerated gradient methods** can be applied to solve it.

Augmented Lagrangian method: The ideal algorithm

$$d_\beta(\boldsymbol{\lambda}) = \min_{\mathbf{x}\in\mathbb{R}^p} \left\{ f(\mathbf{x}) + \langle \boldsymbol{\lambda}, \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{b}\rangle + \frac{\beta}{2}\|\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}-\mathbf{b}\|^2 \right\} \tag{4}$$

$$\mathbf{x}^*_\beta(\boldsymbol{\lambda}) \in \arg\min_{\mathbf{x}\in\mathbb{R}^p} \left\{ f(\mathbf{x}) + \langle \boldsymbol{\lambda}, \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{b}\rangle + \frac{\beta}{2}\|\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}-\mathbf{b}\|^2 \right\}$$

Augmented Lagrangian method (ALM)

1. Choose $\boldsymbol{\lambda}^0 \in \mathbb{R}^n$ and $\beta > 0$.
2. For $k = 0, 1, \cdots$:
   - 2.a. Solve (4).
   - 2.b. Compute $\nabla d_\beta(\boldsymbol{\lambda}^k) := \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}^*_\beta(\boldsymbol{\lambda}^k) - \mathbf{b}$.
   - 2.c. Update $\boldsymbol{\lambda}^{k+1} := \boldsymbol{\lambda}^k + \beta\nabla d_\beta(\boldsymbol{\lambda}^k)$.

Augmented Lagrangian method: The ideal algorithm

$$d_\beta(\boldsymbol{\lambda}) = \min_{\mathbf{x}\in\mathbb{R}^p} \left\{ f(\mathbf{x}) + \langle \boldsymbol{\lambda}, \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{b} \rangle + \frac{\beta}{2}\|\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{b}\|^2 \right\} \tag{4}$$

$$\mathbf{x}^*_\beta(\boldsymbol{\lambda}) \in \arg\min_{\mathbf{x}\in\mathbb{R}^p} \left\{ f(\mathbf{x}) + \langle \boldsymbol{\lambda}, \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{b} \rangle + \frac{\beta}{2}\|\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{b}\|^2 \right\}$$

Augmented Lagrangian method (ALM)	**Accelerated ALM (AALM)**
1. Choose $\boldsymbol{\lambda}^0 \in \mathbb{R}^n$ and $\beta > 0$. 2. For $k = 0, 1, \cdots$: 2.a. Solve (4). 2.b. Compute $\nabla d_\beta(\boldsymbol{\lambda}^k) := \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}^*_\beta(\boldsymbol{\lambda}^k) - \mathbf{b}$. 2.c. Update $\boldsymbol{\lambda}^{k+1} := \boldsymbol{\lambda}^k + \beta\nabla d_\beta(\boldsymbol{\lambda}^k)$.	1. Choose $\boldsymbol{\lambda}^0 \in \mathbb{R}^n$ and $\beta > 0$. Set $\tilde{\boldsymbol{\lambda}}^0 := \boldsymbol{\lambda}^0$ and $t_0 := 1$ 2. For $k = 0, 1, \cdots$, perform: 2.a. Solve (4). 2.b. Compute $\nabla d_\beta(\tilde{\boldsymbol{\lambda}}^k) := \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}^*_\beta(\tilde{\boldsymbol{\lambda}}^k) - \mathbf{b}$. 2.c. Update $\boldsymbol{\lambda}^{k+1} := \tilde{\boldsymbol{\lambda}}_k + \beta\nabla d_\beta(\tilde{\boldsymbol{\lambda}}^k)$, $\tilde{\boldsymbol{\lambda}}^{k+1} := \boldsymbol{\lambda}^{k+1} + ((t_k - 1)/t_{k+1})(\boldsymbol{\lambda}^{k+1} - \boldsymbol{\lambda}^k)$, $t_{k+1} := (1 + \sqrt{1 + 4t_k^2})/2$.

Convergence of ALM and AALM

Theorem (Convergence [21])

- *Let $\{\boldsymbol{\lambda}^k\}$ be the sequence generated by ALM. Then*

$$\boxed{d^\star - d_\beta(\boldsymbol{\lambda}^k) \leq \frac{\|\boldsymbol{\lambda}^0 - \boldsymbol{\lambda}^\star\|_2^2}{2\beta(k+1)}.}$$

- *Let $\{\boldsymbol{\lambda}^k\}$ be the sequence generated by AALM. Then*

$$\boxed{d^\star - d_\beta(\boldsymbol{\lambda}^k) \leq \frac{2\|\boldsymbol{\lambda}^0 - \boldsymbol{\lambda}^\star\|_2^2}{\beta(k+1)^2}.}$$

Remarks:

- Guarantees are given for the dual problem and not for the primal!
- Approximate solution for primal via averaging: $\mathbf{x}^\epsilon = \frac{1}{k}\sum_{i=0}^{k-1} \mathbf{x}^*_\beta(\boldsymbol{\lambda}^i)$ [44]

Drawbacks and enhancements

- At each step, ALM solves

$$\mathbf{x}^*_\beta(\boldsymbol{\lambda}) := \arg\min_{\mathbf{x}\in\mathbb{R}^p}\left\{\mathcal{L}_\beta(\mathbf{x},\boldsymbol{\lambda}) := f(\mathbf{x}) + \langle\boldsymbol{\lambda}, \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}-\mathbf{b}\rangle + \frac{\beta}{2}\|\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}-\mathbf{b}\|^2\right\}. \quad (5)$$

Drawbacks

1. Drawback 1: The quadratic term $\|\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}-\mathbf{b}\|^2$ in (5) destroys the separability as well as the tractable proximity of f.
2. Drawback 2: Solving (5) exactly is impractical.

Drawbacks and enhancements

∘ At each step, ALM solves

$$\mathbf{x}^*_\beta(\boldsymbol{\lambda}) := \arg\min_{\mathbf{x}\in\mathbb{R}^p} \left\{ \mathcal{L}_\beta(\mathbf{x},\boldsymbol{\lambda}) := f(\mathbf{x}) + \langle \boldsymbol{\lambda}, \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{b}\rangle + \frac{\beta}{2}\|\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}-\mathbf{b}\|^2 \right\}. \tag{5}$$

Drawbacks

1. Drawback 1: The quadratic term $\|\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}-\mathbf{b}\|^2$ in (5) destroys the separability as well as the tractable proximity of f.
2. Drawback 2: Solving (5) exactly is impractical.

Enhancements

1. Allow inexactness of solving (5), while guaranteeing the same convergence rate.
2. Linearize the term $\|\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}-\mathbf{b}\|^2$ in the same way we did for Quadratic Penalty formulations.

An inexact approach for subproblems of ALM

◦ Primal subproblem as a composite optimization problem:

$$\mathbf{x}^*_\beta(\boldsymbol{\lambda}) := \arg\min_{\mathbf{x}\in\mathbb{R}^p} \left\{ \mathcal{L}_\beta(\mathbf{x},\boldsymbol{\lambda}) := \underbrace{f(\mathbf{x}) + \langle \boldsymbol{\lambda}, \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}-\mathbf{b}\rangle}_{=:h(x)} + \frac{\beta}{2} \underbrace{\|\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}-\mathbf{b}\|^2}_{\substack{=:g(x)\\ \text{proximally}\\ \text{tractable}}} \right\}. \tag{6}$$

$\Longrightarrow$ can use accelerated proximal methods (e.g. FISTA) to solve this up to some accuracy.

Conceptual inexact augmented Lagrangian method:
1. Choose $\boldsymbol{\lambda}^0 \in \mathbb{R}^n$, $\beta > 0$ and a decreasing sequence $\epsilon_k \geq 0$, $\forall k$.
2. For $k = 0, 1, \cdots$, perform:
2.a. Solve (6) with FISTA until $\mathcal{L}_\beta(\mathbf{x}^{\epsilon_k}_\beta(\boldsymbol{\lambda}^k),\boldsymbol{\lambda}^k) \leq \mathcal{L}_\beta(\mathbf{x}^*_\beta(\boldsymbol{\lambda}^k),\boldsymbol{\lambda}^k) + \epsilon_k$.
2.b. Update $\boldsymbol{\lambda}^{k+1} := \boldsymbol{\lambda}^k + \beta(\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}^{\epsilon_k}_\beta(\boldsymbol{\lambda}^k) - \mathbf{b})$.

Remarks:

◦ Conceptual since $\mathbf{x}^*_\beta(\boldsymbol{\lambda}^k)$ is unknown.

◦ Solve (6) for increasing (explicit) number of iterations $m_k > 0$.

◦ See advanced material at the end of the lecture for DL-ASGARD method.

Linearized Augmented Lagrangian method (LALM)

1. Majorize the augmented Lagrangian:

$$\mathbf{x}^{k+1} := \arg\min_{\mathbf{x}\in\mathcal{X}} \left\{ f(\mathbf{x}) + \langle \boldsymbol{\lambda}, \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{b}\rangle + \frac{\beta}{2}\|\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{b}\|^2 + \frac{1}{2}\|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}^k\|^2_{\mathbf{Q}_k} \right\}.$$

2. Using the same calculation as in Lecture 12, when $\mathbf{Q}_k = \alpha_k \mathbf{I} - \beta\mathbf{A}^\top\mathbf{A} \succeq 0$ and $\alpha_k \geq \beta\|\mathbf{A}\|^2$, we get:

$$\mathbf{x}^{k+1} = \mathrm{prox}_{\frac{1}{\alpha_k} f}\left(\mathbf{x}^k - \frac{1}{\alpha_k}\mathbf{A}^\top\left(\boldsymbol{\lambda}^k + \beta\left(\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}^k - \mathbf{b}\right)\right)\right)$$

3. Picking $\alpha_k = \beta\|\mathbf{A}\|^2$, we obtain the following method:

Accelerated LALM (Alg.1 + parameters of eq. (30) in [39])
1. Choose $\mathbf{x}^0 \in \mathbb{R}^p$, $\boldsymbol{\lambda}^0 \in \mathbb{R}^n$ and $\beta > 0$.
2. For $k = 0, 1, \ldots$:
$\mathbf{x}^{k+1} := \mathrm{prox}_{\frac{1}{\beta\|A\|^2} f}\left(\mathbf{x}^k - \frac{1}{\beta\|A\|^2}\mathbf{A}^\top\left(\boldsymbol{\lambda}^k + \beta\left(\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}^k - \mathbf{b}\right)\right)\right),$
$\boldsymbol{\lambda}^{k+1} := \boldsymbol{\lambda}^k + \beta(\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}^{k+1} - \mathbf{b}).$

Convergence of Accelerated LALM

Theorem (Convergence result of Theorem 2.5 in [39])

Let $\beta > 0$ *and define* $\bar{\mathbf{x}}^k = \frac{1}{k}\sum_{i=1}^{k}\mathbf{x}^i$. *Then, the iterates of LALM satisfy:*

$$\|\mathbf{A}\bar{\mathbf{x}}^k - \mathbf{b}\| \leq \frac{1}{k}\left(\frac{\beta}{2}\|\mathbf{x}^0 - \mathbf{x}^\star\|^2 + \frac{\max\left\{(1+\|\boldsymbol{\lambda}^\star\|)^2, 4\|\boldsymbol{\lambda}^\star\|^2\right\}}{\beta}\right)$$

$$|f(\bar{\mathbf{x}}^k) - f(\mathbf{x}^\star)| \leq \frac{1}{k}\left(\frac{\beta}{2}\|\mathbf{x}^0 - \mathbf{x}^\star\|^2 + \frac{\max\left\{(1+\|\boldsymbol{\lambda}^\star\|)^2, 4\|\boldsymbol{\lambda}^\star\|^2\right\}}{\beta}\right)$$

Remarks:

- Guarantees are for the primal and in fact optimal [28].
- No need to solve difficult subproblems at each iteration.
- Guarantees are for $\bar{\mathbf{x}}^k$, and not $\mathbf{x}^k$.

Example: Basis pursuit

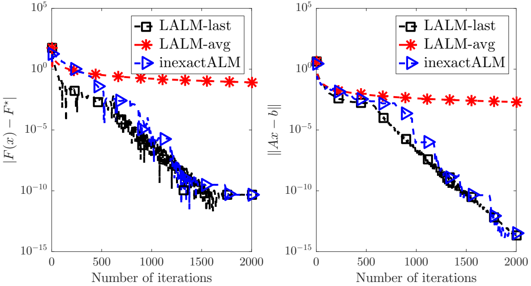
Problem: Basis pursuit

Given $\mathbf{A} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times p}$ and $\mathbf{b} \in \mathbb{R}^n$, solve

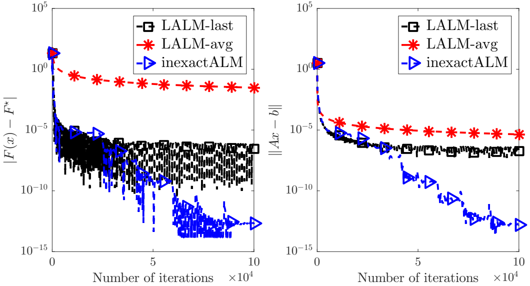
$$F^\star := \min_{\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^p} \left\{ \|\mathbf{x}\|_1 : \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b} \right\}.$$

- Applications in de-noising, data compression.
- Experiment: $\mathbf{A}$ is a row-normalized standard Gaussian matrix, $\mathbf{x}^\star$ is a k-sparse randomly generated vector.

Noiseless case: $\mathbf{b} := \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}^\star$



Noisy case: $\mathbf{b} := \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}^\star + \mathcal{N}(0, 10^{-3})$



Nonconvex optimization problems with nonlinear constraints

Problem template

$$f^\star := \min_{\mathbf{x}\in\mathbb{R}^p} \Big\{ f(\mathbf{x}) + g(\mathbf{A}(\mathbf{x})) \Big\}, \tag{7}$$

- $f : \mathbb{R}^p \to \mathbb{R}$ is a proper continuously-differentiable & nonconvex
- $g : \mathbb{R}^n \to \mathbb{R}$ is proper, lower-semicontinuous
- $\mathbf{A} : \mathbb{R}^p \to \mathbb{R}^n$ is a nonlinear operator and $\mathbf{b} \in \mathbb{R}^n$
- An optimal solution $\mathbf{x}^\star$ to (7) satisfies $f(\mathbf{x}^\star) = f^\star$, $\mathbf{A}(\mathbf{x}^\star) = \mathbf{b}$.

Example: Blind Image Deconvolution

∘ One of the most challenging problems in imaging sciences

- Goal: Recover an image $\mathbf{X}$ and an unknown blurring transformation $\mathbf{T}$ from a blurred image $\mathbf{B} \in \mathbb{R}^{p\times q}$.
- Formally:

$$\min_{\substack{\mathbf{T}\in\mathbb{R}^{r\times s}\\ \mathbf{X}\in\mathbb{R}^{p\times q}}} \left\{ h(\mathbf{X},\mathbf{T}) + \frac{1}{2}\|\mathbf{T} * \mathbf{X} - \mathbf{B}\|^2 \right\},$$

where $h : \mathbb{R}^{p\times q} \times \mathbb{R}^{r\times s}\mathbb{R} \to (-\infty, +\infty]$ is a non-convex & possibly non-smooth regularizer, and $*$ is an appropriate convolution operator.

Remark: ∘ Advanced material at the end of the lecture covers inexact Augmented Lagrangian for (7).

Recall the prototype problem

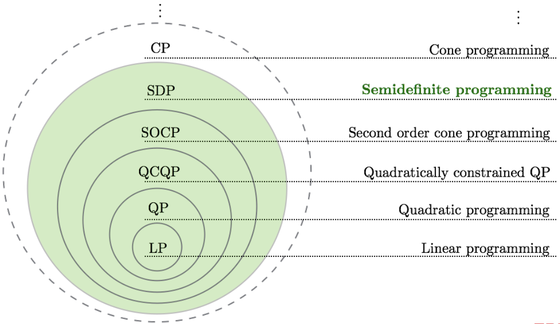
A **primal problem** prototype

$$f^\star := \min_{\mathbf{x}\in\mathbb{R}^p} \left\{ f(\mathbf{x}) : \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b},\ \mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{X} \right\}, \tag{8}$$

- f is a proper, closed and convex function.
- $\mathbf{A} \in \mathbb{R}^{n\times p}$ and $\mathbf{b} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ are known.
- $\mathcal{X}$ is nonempty, closed and convex.
- *We further assume $\mathcal{X}$ is a bounded set! This assumption is motivated by practical applications.*

◦ Standard convex optimization formulations in (8):

- *linear programming*
- *quadratic programming*
- *convex quadratic programming*
- *second order cone programming*
- *semidefinite programming*



The SDP formulation

The **standard** form of an SDP

$$\begin{aligned} \min_{\mathbf{X}\in\mathcal{X}} \quad & \langle \mathbf{C}, \mathbf{X}\rangle \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & \langle \mathbf{A}_i, \mathbf{X}\rangle = b_i, \text{ for } i = 1, \dots m \end{aligned}$$

- $\mathcal{X} = \{\mathbf{X} \in \mathbb{R}^{p\times p} : \mathbf{X} \succeq 0\}$ - the positive semidefinite cone.
- $\mathbf{C} \in \mathbb{R}^{p\times p}$, $\mathbf{A}_i \in \mathbb{R}^{p\times p}$ are symmetric and $b_i \in \mathbb{R}$, and are given. By definition, $\langle \mathbf{A}_i, \mathbf{X}\rangle = \mathrm{Tr}(\mathbf{A}_i^T\mathbf{X})$.
- Any SDP can be written in standard form.

Trace-constrained SDPs

Consider the following SDP formulation:

$$\begin{aligned} \min_{\mathbf{X}\in\mathcal{X}} \quad & \langle \mathbf{C}, \mathbf{X}\rangle \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & \langle \mathbf{A}_i, \mathbf{X}\rangle = b_i, \text{ for } i = 1, \dots m \\ & \langle \mathbf{I}, \mathbf{X}\rangle := \mathrm{Tr}(\mathbf{X}) = \alpha \in \mathbb{R}_+ \longleftarrow \text{ the trace constraint} \end{aligned} \tag{9}$$

- Observe that (9) belongs to the template (8).
- This formulation is of broad interest [45]. In the sequel, SDP relaxations for non-convex problems.
- Problem (9) can be large in practice, making Interior Point Methods inefficient.

Example: Finding maximum-weight cut of a graph

◦ **Goal:** Given an undirected graph $G = (V, E)$ with a set of weights $c : E \to \mathbb{R}_+$

$$\min_{\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{Z}^p} \left\{ \frac{1}{2} \sum_{\{i,j\} \in E} c_{ij}(1 - x_i x_j) : x_i \in \{-1, +1\} \right\} \qquad \text{(Weighted max-cut)}$$

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∘ **The SDP approach:** Lift & relax

- lift as a matrix optimization problem $\mathbf{X} = \mathbf{x}\mathbf{x}^*$:

$$\min_{\mathbf{X} \in \mathbb{R}^{p \times p}} \left\{ \frac{1}{2} \sum_{\{i,j\} \in E} c_{ij}(1 - \mathbf{X}_{ij}) : \mathrm{diag}(\mathbf{X}) = 1,\ \mathbf{X} \succeq 0,\ \mathbf{X}^* = \mathbf{X},\ \mathrm{rank}(\mathbf{X}) = 1 \right\}$$

- relax the non-convex rank constraint

$$\min_{\mathbf{X} \in \mathbb{R}^{p \times p}} \left\{ \underbrace{\frac{1}{2} \sum_{\{i,j\} \in E} c_{ij}(1 - \mathbf{X}_{ij})}_{\mathrm{tr}(\mathbf{C}\mathbf{X})} : \underbrace{\mathrm{diag}(\mathbf{X}) = 1}_{\mathbf{A}(\mathbf{X}) = \mathbf{b}},\ \mathbf{X} \succeq 0,\ \mathbf{X}^* = \mathbf{X} \right\} \qquad \text{(Max-cut SDP)}$$

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◦ Always delivers solutions 0.87856 times the optimal value after randomized rounding

Example: Clustering with minimal sum-of-squares

- **Goal:** Given data points $s_1, s_2, \ldots, s_p \in \mathbb{R}^q$, assign them into k disjoint clusters.

  - Minimize the sum of squared distances of all points to their cluster centers

$$\min_{\mathbf{Z}} \left\{ \sum_{j=1}^{k} \sum_{i=1}^{p} \mathbf{Z}_{ij} \| s_i - w_j(\mathbf{Z}) \|^2 : \sum_{j=1}^{k} \mathbf{Z}_{ij} = 1, \sum_{i=1}^{p} \mathbf{Z}_{ij} \geq 1, \mathbf{Z}_{ij} \in \{0,1\} \right\} \qquad \text{(MinSumClu.)}$$

where $\mathbf{Z} \in \{0,1\}^{p \times k}$ is the assignment matrix with $\mathbf{Z}_{ij} = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } s_i \in j\text{th cluster} \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$

where $w_1, \ldots, w_k$ are cluster centers with $w_j(z) = \left(\sum_{i=1}^{p} \mathbf{Z}_{ij} s_i\right) \left(\sum_{i=1}^{p} \mathbf{Z}_{ij}\right)^{-1}$

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- **The SDP approach:** Lift & relax (details omitted)

$$\min_{\mathbf{X} \in \mathbb{R}^{p \times p}} \left\{ \text{tr}(\mathbf{C}\mathbf{X}) : \mathbf{X} \geq 0,\ \mathbf{X}\mathbf{1} = \mathbf{1},\ \mathbf{X} \succeq 0,\ \mathbf{X}^* = \mathbf{X},\ \text{tr}(\mathbf{X}) = k \right\} \qquad \text{(Clustering SDP)}$$

  - where $\mathbf{X} = \mathbf{Z}(\mathbf{Z}^*\mathbf{Z})^{-1}\mathbf{Z}^*$ and $c_{ij} = \| s_i - s_j \|^2$

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- where $\mathbf{X} = \mathbf{Z}(\mathbf{Z}^*\mathbf{Z})^{-1}\mathbf{Z}^*$ and $c_{ij} = \| s_i - s_j \|^2$

◦ Improved guarantees over LP relaxations

J.Peng and Y.Wei, Approximating K-means-type clustering via semidefinite programming, 2005

Example: Neural networks

◦ **Goal:** Approximate the ℓ_∞-Lipschitz constant L_h of 1-layer ReLU network

$$h_{\mathbf{x}}(\mathbf{a}) := \mathbf{x}_2^T \sigma(\mathbf{X}_1 \mathbf{a} + \mathbf{x}_1)$$

- applications to verification, robustness against adversarial examples, generalization...

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  - applications to verification, robustness against adversarial examples, generalization...

- **The SDP approach:** Lift & relax (details omitted)

$$L_h \leq \bar{L}_h := -\frac{1}{4} \min_{\mathbf{X} \in \mathbb{R}^{p \times p}} \{\mathrm{tr}(\mathbf{C}\mathbf{X}) : \mathbf{X} \succeq 0, \mathrm{diag}(\mathbf{X}) = \mathbf{1}, \mathbf{X} = \mathbf{X}^*\}$$

$$\mathbf{C} := -\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & \mathbf{1}^T \mathbf{X}_2^T \mathrm{Diag}(\mathbf{x}_2) \\ 0 & 0 & \mathbf{X}_1^T \mathrm{Diag}(\mathbf{x}_2) \\ \mathrm{Diag}(\mathbf{x}_2)^T \mathbf{X}_1 \mathbf{1} & \mathrm{Diag}(\mathbf{x}_2)^T \mathbf{X}_1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

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◦ An open research area

Ragunathan et al. SDP relaxations for certifying robustness agains adversarial examples. ICLR2017

F. Latorre, P. Rolland, and V. Cevher. Lipschitz constant estimation of neural networks via sparse polynomial optimization. ICLR 2020.

CGM with quadratic penalty

Classical CGM does not apply to (3)

- lmo of the intersection of $\{\mathbf{x} : \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}\}$ and $\mathcal{X}$ is difficult to compute.
- Idea: Combine the CGM framework with the quadratic penalty approach.

Quadratic penalty strategy

◦ A quadratic penalty formulation:

$$\min_{\mathbf{x}\in\mathbb{R}^p} \left\{ \overbrace{f(\mathbf{x}) + \frac{\beta}{2}\|\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{b}\|_2^2}^{f_\beta(\mathbf{x})} : \mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{X} \right\}$$

- $\beta > 0$ is the penalty parameter and $f_\beta(\mathbf{x})$ is the penalized objective function.
- Note that $f_\beta(\mathbf{x})$ is convex and smooth with parameter $L + \beta\|\mathbf{A}\|^2$.

◦ **A simple strategy** [42] $\Rightarrow$ Take a CGM step on f_β and increase β progressively

Homotopy conditional gradient method (HCGM)
1. Choose $\mathbf{x}^0 \in \mathcal{X}$, and $\beta_0 > 0$. **2.** For $k = 0, 1, \ldots$: $\hat{\mathbf{x}}^k := \mathrm{lmo}_{\mathcal{X}}(\nabla f(\mathbf{x}^k) + \beta_k \mathbf{A}^T(\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}^k - \mathbf{b}))$. $\mathbf{x}^{k+1} := (1-\gamma_k)\mathbf{x}^k + \gamma_k\hat{\mathbf{x}}^k$, where $\gamma_k := \frac{2}{k+2}$ and $\beta_k := \beta_0\sqrt{k+2}$.

Convergence guarantees of HCGM

Recall Lagrange duality

$$\mathcal{L}(\mathbf{x}, \boldsymbol{\lambda}) := f(\mathbf{x}) + \langle \boldsymbol{\lambda}, \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{b} \rangle$$

$$\underbrace{\max_{\boldsymbol{\lambda}} \min_{\mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{X}} \mathcal{L}(\mathbf{x}, \boldsymbol{\lambda})}_{\text{dual problem}} \quad \leq \quad \underbrace{\min_{\mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{X}} \max_{\boldsymbol{\lambda}} \mathcal{L}(\mathbf{x}, \boldsymbol{\lambda})}_{\text{primal problem}} \qquad \text{(Duality)}$$

- $\boldsymbol{\lambda}$ is called the Lagrange multiplier.
- The function $d(\boldsymbol{\lambda})$ is called the dual function, and it is concave!
- The optimal dual objective value is $d^\star = d(\boldsymbol{\lambda}^\star)$.

(Duality) holds with equality under weak assumptions $\Rightarrow$ (Strong duality).

Theorem (Simplified[42])

Assume that strong duality holds. Then, the iterates of HCGM satisfy

$$\begin{cases} |f(\mathbf{x}^k) - f^\star| & \in \mathcal{O}(k^{-1/2}) \\ \|\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}^k - \mathbf{b}\| & \in \mathcal{O}(k^{-1/2}). \end{cases}$$

* For an extension of HCGM to the case $\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{b} \in \mathcal{K}$, please see Appendix A_1.

** Advanced material at the end of the lecture covers stochastic variants of HCGM.

Augmented Lagrangian CGM: CGAL

Augmented Lagrangian approach

- Augmented problem formulation:

$$\min_{\mathbf{x}\in\mathbb{R}^p} \left\{ f(\mathbf{x}) + \frac{\beta}{2}\|\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}-\mathbf{b}\|_2^2 : \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}=\mathbf{b},\ \mathbf{x}\in\mathcal{X} \right\}$$

  - Write down the Lagrangian:

$$\mathcal{L}_\beta(\mathbf{x},\boldsymbol{\lambda}) = f(\mathbf{x}) + \langle \boldsymbol{\lambda}, \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}-\mathbf{b}\rangle + \frac{\beta}{2}\|\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}-\mathbf{b}\|^2$$

  - Note that $\mathcal{L}_\beta(\cdot\boldsymbol{\lambda})$ is smooth with parameter $L+\beta\|\mathbf{A}\|^2$.

- **Our strategy** [40] $\Rightarrow$
  1. Take a CGM step wrt $\mathcal{L}_\beta(\cdot,\boldsymbol{\lambda})$ (primal)
  2. Take a gradient step wrt $\mathcal{L}_\beta(\mathbf{x},\cdot)$(dual)
  3. Increase β progressively

- **Challenge**: Step size in the dual domain (step 2.)

Convergence guarantees of CGAL

Conditional gradient augmented Lagrangian method (CGAL)
1. Choose $\mathbf{x}^0 \in \mathcal{X}$, $\boldsymbol{\lambda}^0 \in \mathbb{R}^n$, and $\beta_0 > 0$.   2. For $k = 0, 1, \ldots$: $\hat{\mathbf{x}}^k := \mathrm{lmo}_{\mathcal{X}}(\nabla f(\mathbf{x}^k) + \mathbf{A}^T\boldsymbol{\lambda}^k + \beta_k \mathbf{A}^T(\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}^k - \mathbf{b}))$ $\mathbf{x}^{k+1} := (1-\gamma_k)\mathbf{x}^k + \gamma_k \hat{\mathbf{x}}^k$ $\boldsymbol{\lambda}^{k+1} := \boldsymbol{\lambda}^k + \omega_k(\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}^{k+1} - \mathbf{b})$ where $\gamma_k := \frac{2}{k+2}$, and $\beta_k := \beta_0\sqrt{k+2}$.

Theorem (Simplified)

Assume that strong duality holds. Let us choose dual step size ω_k by the following rule

$$\omega_k = \alpha_k := \min\left\{\frac{1}{\beta_0}, \frac{\eta_k^2(L_f + \boldsymbol{\lambda}_{k+1})D_{\mathcal{X}}^2}{2\|\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}^{k+1} - \mathbf{b}\|^2}\right\} \quad \textit{if} \quad \|\boldsymbol{\lambda}^k + \alpha_k(\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}^{k+1} - \mathbf{b})\| \leq D_{\mathcal{Y}}$$

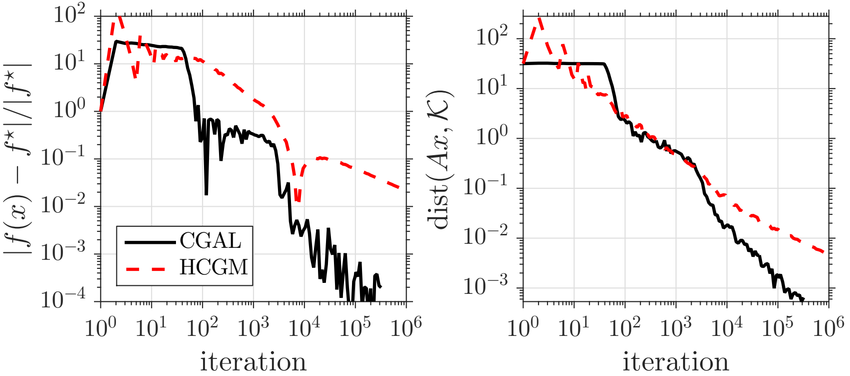
and $\omega_k = 0$ otherwise, for some $D_{\mathcal{Y}} \geq 0$. Then, the iterates of CGAL satisfy

$$\begin{cases} |f(\mathbf{x}^k) - f^\star| & \in \mathcal{O}(\frac{1}{\sqrt{k}}) \\ \|\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}^k - \mathbf{b}\| & \in \mathcal{O}(\frac{1}{\sqrt{k}}) \end{cases}$$

* For an extension of CGAL to the case $\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{b} \in \mathcal{K}$, please see Appendix A_2.

Example: k-means clustering

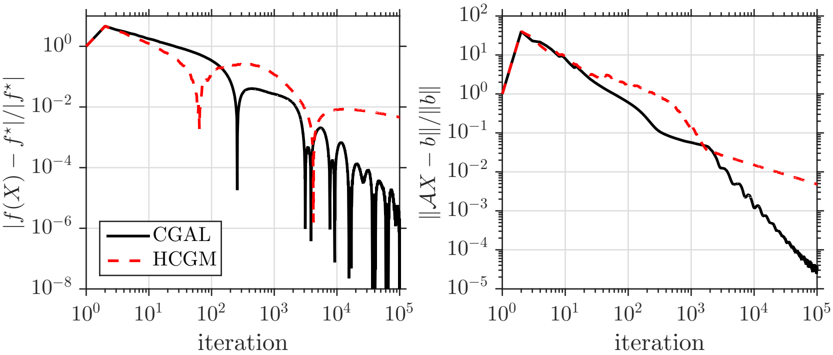
$$\min_{\mathbf{X}\in\mathbb{R}^{p\times p}} \left\{ \mathrm{Tr}\left(\mathbf{C}\mathbf{X}\right) : \mathbf{X}\mathbf{1} = \mathbf{1},\ \mathbf{X} \geq 0,\ \mathbf{X} \in \mathcal{S}_{+}^{p},\ \mathrm{Tr}\left(\mathbf{X}\right) = \alpha \right\}$$



- Test setup with preprocessed MNIST dataset [42]
- $p = 1000$ & $\alpha = 10$ is the number of clusters
- Note: the worst-case guarantee is the same for HCGM and CGAL, but CGAL performs better in practice.

Example: Max-cut SDP

$$\max_{\mathbf{X}\in\mathbb{R}^{p\times p}} \left\{ \frac{1}{4}\mathrm{Tr}\left(\mathbf{L}\mathbf{X}\right) : \mathrm{diag}(\mathbf{X}) = \mathbf{1},\ \mathbf{X}\in\mathcal{S}_+^p,\ \mathrm{Tr}\left(\mathbf{X}\right) = p \right\}$$



- UF Sparse graphs: GSet collection, G40 dataset $p = 2000$
- $\mathbf{L}$ is graph Laplacian matrix.
- Note: the worst-case guarantee is the same for HCGM and CGAL, but CGAL performs better in practice.

Towards scalable semidefinite programming

Structures in SDP relaxations

$$\boxed{\min_{\mathbf{X}\in\mathbb{R}^{p\times p}} \{\mathrm{Tr}(\mathbf{C}\mathbf{X}) : \mathcal{A}\mathbf{X} = b, \mathbf{X} \succeq 0, \mathrm{Tr}(\mathbf{X}) = \alpha\}} \tag{10}$$

- $\mathbf{X}$ has $\mathcal{O}(p^2)$-degrees of freedom $\implies$ needs $\Theta(p^2)$ storage
- Optimal solutions $\mathbf{X}^\star$ typically or approximately have $\mathcal{O}(rp)$-degrees of freedom
  - $r =$ rank & $r \ll p$ (*low-rank*)
  - $\implies$ need $\Theta(rp)$ storage for a rank-r approximate solution
- Example SDP's typically have $n = \tilde{\mathcal{O}}(p)$ affine constraints
  - During optimization we need to keep track of quantities such as

$$A(uv^*) \quad u^*(A^*z) \quad (A^*z)v, \qquad u \in \mathbb{R}^p,\ v \in \mathbb{R}^p,\ z \in \mathbb{R}^n$$

$\implies$ need $\Omega(n+p)$ storage for computations

Towards scalable semidefinite programming

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- $\mathbf{X}$ has $\mathcal{O}(p^2)$-degrees of freedom $\implies$ needs $\Theta(p^2)$ storage $\longleftarrow$ this becomes a major problem
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$\Theta(n + rp)$ storage

Towards scalable semidefinite programming

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$\implies$ need $\Omega(n+p)$ storage for computations

$\Theta(n + rp)$ storage

- Relevant SDPs are often large $\implies$ HCGM, CGAL have a storage bottleneck (e.g., MaxCut for graph of $2e^6$ nodes $\to\sim 2e^{12}$ variables!!)
- Can we leverage the problem structure for better storage performance? See advanced material.

Wrap up!

◦ Last lecture! HW and mock exam...

⋆An explicit inexact ALM: ASGARD-DL

Inexact ALM (Double Loop ASGARD [35])

1. $\mathbf{x}^0 = \hat{x}^{0,0} = \bar{x}^{0,0} = \tilde{x}^{0,0} \in \mathbb{R}^p$, $\boldsymbol{\lambda}_0 \in \mathbb{R}^n$, $\beta_k > 0$, $\tau_0 = 1$, $m_0 > 2$, $\omega > 1$.
2. For $k = 0, 1, \cdots,$ perform:

   2.a For $i = 0, 1, \cdots, m_k - 1$: // accelerated proximal method

$$
\begin{aligned}
\hat{\mathbf{x}}^{k,i} &= (1-\tau_k)\bar{\mathbf{x}}^{k,i} + \tau_k \tilde{\mathbf{x}}^{k,i} \\
\tilde{\mathbf{x}}^{k,i+1} &= \mathrm{prox}_{\frac{f}{\beta_k \|A\|^2}}\left(\tilde{\mathbf{x}}^{k,i} - \frac{1}{\beta_k \|\mathbf{A}\|^2} A^\top(\boldsymbol{\lambda}^k + \beta_k(A\hat{\mathbf{x}}^{k,i} - \mathbf{b}))\right) \\
\bar{\mathbf{x}}^{k,i+1} &= \hat{\mathbf{x}}^{k,i} + \tau_k(\tilde{\mathbf{x}}^{k,i+1} - \tilde{\mathbf{x}}^{k,i}) \\
\tau_{k+1} &= \frac{2}{k+2}
\end{aligned}
$$

   2.b Update primal and dual variables:

$$
\begin{aligned}
\bar{\mathbf{x}}^{k+1,0} &= \tilde{\mathbf{x}}^{k,m_k} \\
\boldsymbol{\lambda}^{k+1} &= \boldsymbol{\lambda}^k + \beta_k(A\bar{\mathbf{x}}^{k+1,0} - \mathbf{b}), && \text{// update dual variable} \\
\tau_0 &= 1 \\
\beta_{k+1} &= \beta_k \omega, && \text{// increase } \beta_k \\
m_{k+1} &= m_k \omega, && \text{//increase \# of inner iterations}
\end{aligned}
$$

Remarks:
- ◦ Corresponds to inexact ALM with explicit inner termination rule.
- ◦ Attains optimal $\mathcal{O}(1/k)$ on the last iterate, with good empirical performance (see slide 17).

*ADMM[1]

Primal problem with a specific decomposition structure

$$f^\star := \min_{\mathbf{x}:=(\mathbf{u},\mathbf{v})} \{f(\mathbf{x}) := g(\mathbf{u}) + h(\mathbf{v}) : \mathbf{B}\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{C}\mathbf{v} = \mathbf{b},\ \mathbf{u} \in \mathcal{U},\ \mathbf{v} \in \mathcal{V}\}$$

- $\mathcal{X} := \mathcal{U} \times \mathcal{V}$ - nonempty, closed, convex and bounded.
- $\mathbf{A} := [\mathbf{B}, \mathbf{C}]$.

The Fenchel dual problem

$$d^\star := \max_{\lambda \in \mathbb{R}^n} \left\{ d(\lambda) := -g^*_{\mathcal{U}}(-\mathbf{B}^T\lambda) - h^*_{\mathcal{V}}(-\mathbf{C}^T\lambda) + \langle \mathbf{b}, \lambda \rangle \right\}$$

- $g^*_{\mathcal{U}}$ and $h^*_{\mathcal{U}}$ are the Fenchel conjugate of $g_{\mathcal{U}} := g + \delta_{\mathcal{U}}$ and $h_{\mathcal{V}} := h + \delta_{\mathcal{V}}$, resp.

The dual function

$$d(\lambda) := \underbrace{\min_{\mathbf{u} \in \mathcal{U}} \left\{ g(\mathbf{u}) + \langle \mathbf{B}^T\lambda, \mathbf{u} \rangle \right\}}_{d^1(\lambda)} + \underbrace{\min_{\mathbf{v} \in \mathcal{V}} \left\{ h(\mathbf{v}) + \langle \mathbf{C}^T\lambda, \mathbf{v} \rangle \right\}}_{d^2(\lambda)} - \langle \mathbf{b}, \lambda \rangle.$$

⋆Splitting the problem

Standard ADMM

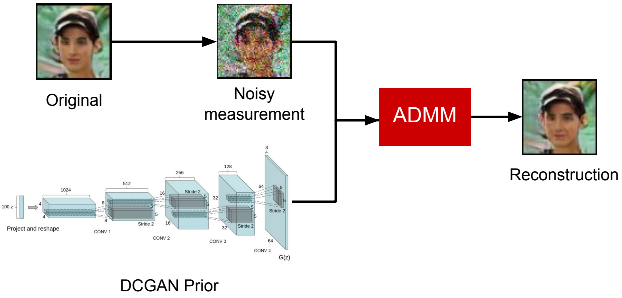
$$\begin{cases} \mathbf{u}^{k+1} & := \arg\min_{\mathbf{u}\in\mathcal{U}} \left\{ g(\mathbf{u}) + \langle \lambda^k, \mathbf{B}\mathbf{u}\rangle + \frac{\beta_k}{2}\|\mathbf{B}\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{C}\mathbf{v}^k - \mathbf{b}\|^2 \right\} \\ \mathbf{v}^{k+1} & := \arg\min_{\mathbf{v}\in\mathcal{V}} \left\{ h(\mathbf{v}) + \langle \lambda^k, \mathbf{C}\mathbf{v}\rangle + \frac{\beta_k}{2}\|\mathbf{B}\mathbf{u}^{k+1} + \mathbf{C}\mathbf{v} - \mathbf{b}\|^2 \right\} \\ \lambda^{k+1} & := \lambda^k + \beta_k \left(\mathbf{B}\mathbf{u}^{k+1} + \mathbf{C}\mathbf{v}^{k+1} - \mathbf{b}\right). \end{cases}$$

Here, $\beta_k > 0$ is a given penalty parameter of the associated augmented problem:

$$\mathcal{L}_\beta := g(\mathbf{u}) + h(\mathbf{v}) + \langle \lambda, \mathbf{B}\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{C}\mathbf{v} - \mathbf{b}\rangle + \frac{\beta}{2}\|\mathbf{B}\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{C}\mathbf{v} - \mathbf{b}\|^2$$

∘ Note how minimizing over $(\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v})$ together would reduce to the ALM formulation.

Leveraging GANs for Signal Recovery



Problem formulation

$$\min_{\mathbf{w},\mathbf{z}} L(\mathbf{w}) + R(\mathbf{w}) + H(\mathbf{z}) \quad \text{subject to } \mathbf{w} = G(\mathbf{z})$$

- L is convex and smooth
- R, H are convex and proximal friendly
- G differentiable generative model (non-linear and usually non-convex)

*AL schemes for non-convex problems - challenges

Challenges

- More complicated requirements to prove global convergence of generic schemes for (7) (e.g., [31]):
  - $\exists$ superset of the feasible-set, where feasibility is 'good-enough' (information zone - **IZ**)
  - Objective & constraints need to be 'sufficiently-regular' within the **IZ**
  - The iterates of the AL algorithm need to
    - Enter the **IZ** in a finite number of steps.
    - Stay inside the **IZ** thereafter.

  Sam

- Literature studying this setting is scarce, and global convergence is not well-understood.
- A practically-relevant variation of (7) has recently been analyzed via the inexact AL scheme [32]. $\longleftarrow$ up next

Set-up

Assume the following template:

$$\min_{\mathbf{x}\in\mathbb{R}^p} f(\mathbf{x}) + g(\mathbf{x}) \text{ s.t. } \mathbf{A}(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{b} \tag{11}$$

- $f : \mathbb{R}^p \to \mathbb{R}$ is a continuously-differentiable non-convex function that is L_f-smooth.
- $g : \mathbb{R}^p \to \mathbb{R}$ is a proximal-friendly convex function.
- $\mathbf{A} : \mathbb{R}^p \to \mathbb{R}^n$ is a smooth nonlinear operator i.e., $\exists L_{\mathbf{A}} > 0$ s.t.: $\|\mathbf{J}_{\mathbf{A}}(\mathbf{x}) - \mathbf{J}_{\mathbf{A}}(\mathbf{x})\| \leq L_{\mathbf{A}}\|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y}\|$, where $\mathbf{J}$ is the Jacobian of $\mathbf{A}$.

*AL schemes for non-convex problems - challenges

Challenges

- More complicated requirements to prove global convergence of generic schemes for (7) (e.g., [31]):
  - $\exists$ superset of the feasible-set, where feasibility is 'good-enough' (information zone - **IZ**)
  - Objective & constraints need to be 'sufficiently-regular' within the **IZ**
  - The iterates of the AL algorithm need to
    - Enter the **IZ** in a finite number of steps.
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Sam

- Literature studying this setting is scarce, and global convergence is not well-understood.
- A practically-relevant variation of (7) has recently been analyzed via the inexact AL scheme [32]. $\longleftarrow$ up next

Set-up

Assume the following template:

$$\min_{\mathbf{x}\in\mathbb{R}^p} f(\mathbf{x}) + g(\mathbf{x}) \text{ s.t. } \mathbf{A}(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{b} \tag{12}$$

- $f : \mathbb{R}^p \to \mathbb{R}$ is a continuously-differentiable non-convex function that is L_f-smooth.
- $g : \mathbb{R}^p \to \mathbb{R}$ is a proximal-friendly convex function.
- $\mathbf{A} : \mathbb{R}^p \to \mathbb{R}^n$ is a smooth nonlinear operator i.e., $\exists L_{\mathbf{A}} > 0$ s.t.: $\|\mathbf{J}_{\mathbf{A}}(\mathbf{x}) - \mathbf{J}_{\mathbf{A}}(\mathbf{x})\| \leq L_{\mathbf{A}}\|\mathbf{x}-\mathbf{y}\|$, where $\mathbf{J}$ is the Jacobian of $\mathbf{A}$.

*AL schemes for non-convex problems - optimality conditions

Reformulating (12) in terms of AL

∘ Solving (12) is equivalent to solving the following reformulation:

$$\min_{\mathbf{x}} \max_{\lambda} \mathcal{L}_\beta(\mathbf{x}, \boldsymbol{\lambda}) + g(\mathbf{x})$$

where for a given $\beta > 0$, $\mathcal{L}_\beta(\mathbf{x}, \boldsymbol{\lambda}) = f(\mathbf{x}) + \langle \mathbf{A}(\mathbf{x}) - \mathbf{b}, \boldsymbol{\lambda} \rangle + \frac{\beta}{2}\|\mathbf{A}(\mathbf{x}) - \mathbf{b}\|^2$ - the Augmented Lagrangian.

Optimality conditions of (12)

∘ $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^p$ is a first order stationary point (FOS) of (12) if $\exists \boldsymbol{\lambda} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ s.t.

$$-\nabla \mathcal{L}_\beta(\mathbf{x}, \boldsymbol{\lambda}) \in \partial g(\mathbf{x}) \quad \text{and} \quad \mathbf{A}(\mathbf{x}) = b.$$

∘ When $g = 0$ and $\mathbf{x}$ is a FOS, $\mathbf{x}$ is also a second-order stationary point (SOS) if:

$$\lambda_{\text{min}} \left(\nabla_{\mathbf{x}\mathbf{x}} \mathcal{L}_\beta(\mathbf{x}, \boldsymbol{\lambda}) \right) \geq 0$$

∘ Approximate stationarity is then defined for a given $\epsilon > 0$ as:

- FOS: $$\operatorname{dist}\left(-\nabla \mathcal{L}_\beta(\mathbf{x}, \boldsymbol{\lambda}), \partial g(\mathbf{x})\right) \leq \epsilon \quad \text{and} \quad \|\mathbf{A}(\mathbf{x}) - b\| \leq \epsilon$$
- SOS: $$\lambda_{\text{min}} \left(\nabla_{\mathbf{x}\mathbf{x}} \mathcal{L}_\beta(\mathbf{x}, \boldsymbol{\lambda}) \right) \geq -\epsilon$$

⋆An Inexact AL scheme for non-convex problems

○ Main idea of [32]: solve primal problems with increasing accuracy ϵ_k and carefully choose the dual stepsize σ_k.

ALM - conceptual (reference)	Inexact ALM - nonconvex (IALM)
1. Choose $\boldsymbol{\lambda}_0 \in \mathbb{R}^n$ and $\beta > 0$. **2.** For $k = 0, 1, \ldots$: **2.a**. Solve (4) to get $\mathbf{x}^{k+1}$. **2.b**. Update $\boldsymbol{\lambda}^{k+1} := \boldsymbol{\lambda}^k + \beta\left(\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}^*_\beta(\boldsymbol{\lambda}^k) - \mathbf{b}\right)$.	**1.** Choose $b > 1$, $\boldsymbol{\lambda}^0 \in \mathbb{R}^n$, $\sigma_0 > 0$, τ_f, $\tau_s > 0$. **2.** For $k = 0, 1, \cdots$, perform: **2.aa**. Set $\epsilon_{k+1} = 1/\beta_k$ **2.a**. Get $\mathbf{x}^{k+1}$ with a solver of choice, s.t.: $\text{dist}(-\nabla_x \mathcal{L}_{\beta_k}(\mathbf{x}^{k+1}, \boldsymbol{\lambda}_k), \partial g(\mathbf{x}^{k+1})) \leq \epsilon_{k+1}$, [FOS] or $\lambda_{\text{min}}(\nabla_{\mathbf{xx}} \mathcal{L}_{\beta_k}(\mathbf{x}^{k+1}, \boldsymbol{\lambda}^k)) \geq -\epsilon_{k+1}$ [SOS] **2.b**. Update $\beta_{k+1} = b^{k+1}$ $\sigma_{k+1} = \sigma_0 \min\left(1, \frac{\Vert\mathbf{A}(\mathbf{x}^1) - \mathbf{b}\Vert \log^2(2)}{\Vert\mathbf{A}(\mathbf{x}^{k+1}) - \mathbf{b}\Vert (k+1)\log^2(k+2)}\right)$ $\boldsymbol{\lambda}^{k+1} = \boldsymbol{\lambda}^k + \sigma_{k+1}\left(\mathbf{A}(\mathbf{x}^{k+1}) - b\right)$ **2.c**. Stop if $\text{dist}(-\nabla_x \mathcal{L}_{\beta_k}(\mathbf{x}^{k+1}, \boldsymbol{\lambda}_k), \partial g(\mathbf{x}^{k+1})) + \Vert\mathbf{A}(\mathbf{x}^{k+1}) - b\Vert \leq \tau_f$ [FOS] and if also $\lambda_{\text{min}}(\nabla_{\mathbf{xx}} \mathcal{L}_{\beta_k}(\mathbf{x}^{k+1}, \boldsymbol{\lambda}^k)) \geq -\epsilon_{k+1}$ [SOS]

*Convergence of the Inexact AL for non-convex problems

A key assumption

- For convex AL schemes we rely on Slater's condition to prove convergence.
- We need a similar kind of assumption for our non-convex problem, called regularity condition[2]: for some $\nu > 0$, assume

$$\nu\|\mathbf{A}(\mathbf{x}^k) - \mathbf{b}\| \leq \text{dist}\left(-\mathbf{J}_{\mathbf{A}}(\mathbf{x}^k)^\top(\mathbf{A}(\mathbf{x}^k) - \mathbf{b}), \frac{\partial g(\mathbf{x}^k)}{\beta_{k-1}}\right), \quad \forall k \tag{13}$$

- Informally, condition (13) ensures that step 2.a of IALM improves feasibility as β_k grows.

Theorem [32] (Simplified)

Under the framework (12) and assumption (13), IALM reaches

- FOS with $\tilde{\mathcal{O}}(\epsilon^3)$ complexity and
- SOS with $\tilde{\mathcal{O}}(\epsilon^5)$ complexity,

where $\tilde{\mathcal{O}}$ hides logarithmic factors[3].

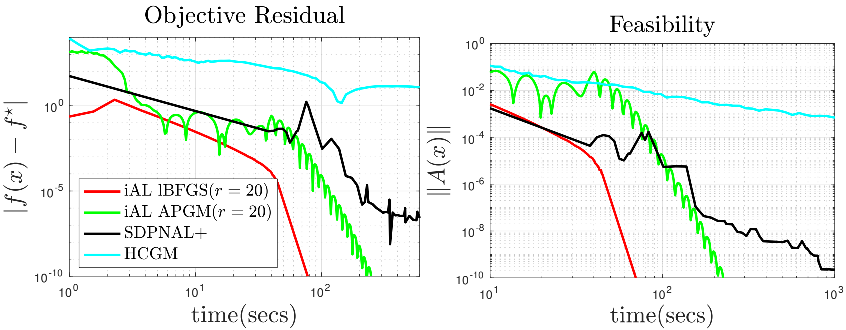
⋆Example: k-means clustering

∘ Model free k-means clustering SDP:

$$\min_{\mathbf{X}\in\mathbb{R}^{p\times p}} \left\{ \mathrm{Tr}(\mathbf{C}\mathbf{X}) : \; \mathbf{X}\mathbf{1} = \mathbf{1}, \; \mathbf{X} \geq 0, \; \mathbf{X} \in \mathcal{S}_+^p, \; \mathrm{Tr}(\mathbf{X}) = \alpha \right\}$$

∘ Nonconvex formulation:

$$\min_{\mathbf{u}\in\mathbb{R}^{p}} \left\{ \mathrm{Tr}(\mathbf{C}\mathbf{u}\mathbf{u}^*) : \; \mathbf{u}\mathbf{u}^*\mathbf{1} = \mathbf{1}, \; \mathbf{u} \geq 0, \; \|\mathbf{u}\|_F \leq \sqrt{\alpha} \right\},$$



*Example: DARN with GANs (MNIST)

∘ De-adversarial-noise with generative adversarial networks:

$$\min_{\boldsymbol{w},\mathbf{z}} \{ \| \boldsymbol{w} - (\boldsymbol{w}_0 + \eta) \|_\star : \ \boldsymbol{w} = \mathbf{G}(\mathbf{z}) \}$$

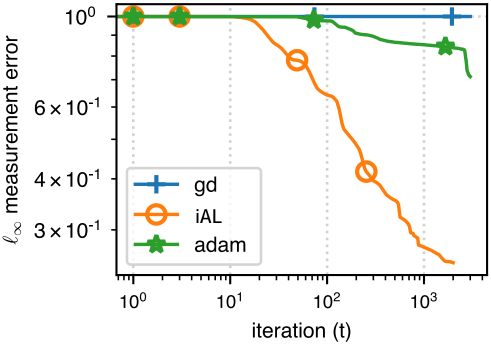


Figure: ℓ_∞ error per iteration

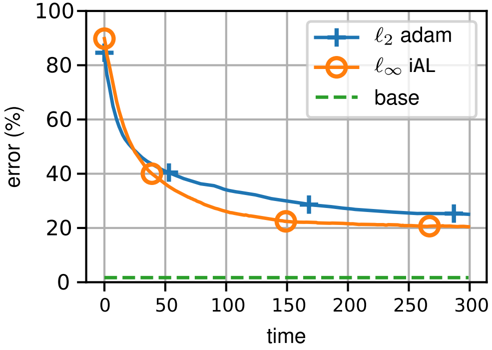


Figure: misclassification error per iteration

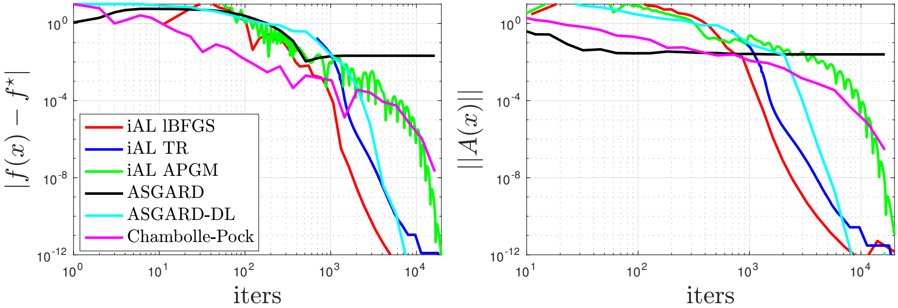
*Example: Basis Pursuit

- Convex formulation:

$$\min_{\mathbf{x}\in\mathbb{R}^p}\left\{\|\mathbf{x}\|_1 : \ \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}=\mathbf{b}\right\}$$

- Non-convex formulation:

$$\text{change of variables}\begin{cases}\mathbf{x} & := \mathbf{x}^+ - \mathbf{x}^- \\ \mathbf{x}^+ & := \mathbf{u}_1^{\circ 2}, \quad \mathbf{x}^- := \mathbf{u}_2^{\circ 2} \text{ and } \mathbf{u} := [\mathbf{u}_1^\top, \mathbf{u}_2^\top]^\top \\ \bar{\mathbf{A}} & := [\mathbf{A}, -\mathbf{A}]\end{cases} \longrightarrow \quad \min_{\mathbf{u}\in\mathbb{R}^p}\left\{\|\mathbf{u}\|_2^2 : \ \bar{\mathbf{A}}\mathbf{u}^{\circ 2}=\mathbf{b}\right\}$$



*Stochastic HCGM for almost sure constraints

Problem formulation

$$f^\star := \min_{x \in \mathcal{X}} \; f(x) := \mathbb{E}\left[f(x,\xi)\right], \;\; A(\xi)x \in b(\xi) \text{ a. s.,}$$

- $f(x,\xi) : \mathbb{R}^d \to \mathbb{R}$ - convex, L_f-Lipschitz gradient
- $\mathcal{X} \subset \mathbb{R}^d$ - convex, compact
- $A(\xi) \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times d}$ - matrix-valued random variable, $b(\xi) \subset \mathbb{R}^m$ - random convex set

Applications

- Target application: solving large scale SDPs
- Stochastic template $\Longrightarrow$ formulation of stochastic first order methods $\Longrightarrow$ can handle large problems, in both dimension and constraints
- Two examples relevant to ML:
  - K-Means clustering SDP [29, 24]
  - Sparsest Cut SDP [1, 8]

*Main idea

$$\boxed{\min_{x \in \mathcal{X}} \; f(x) := \mathbb{E}\left[f(x,\xi)\right], \;\; A(\xi)x \in b(\xi) \text{ a. s.}}$$

$$\Updownarrow$$

$$\boxed{\min_{x \in \mathcal{X}} \; F(x) := \mathbb{E}\left[f(x,\xi) + \delta_{b(\xi)}(A(\xi)x)\right]}$$

$$\beta \to 0 \quad \uparrow \quad \downarrow \quad \delta_{b(\xi)}(z) \xrightarrow[\beta>0]{\text{smoothing}} \tfrac{1}{2\beta}\mathrm{dist}(z, b(\xi))^2$$

$$\boxed{\min_{x \in \mathcal{X}} \; F_\beta(x) := \mathbb{E}\left[f(x,\xi) + \tfrac{1}{2\beta}\mathrm{dist}(A(\xi)x, b(\xi))^2\right]}$$

- Optimize increasingly accurate approxiamtions $F_\beta(x)$, as $\beta \to 0$
- Control the exploding variance using variance reduction

*First method: H-1SFW

Algorithm - H-1SFW($x_1 \in \mathcal{X}, \beta_0 > 0, P(\xi)$)

for $k = 1, 2, \ldots$ **do**

Set ρ_k, γ_k, β_k, sample $\xi_k \sim P(\xi)$ $\longleftarrow$ $\gamma_k \in \mathcal{O}(1/k)$, $\beta_k \in \mathcal{O}(1/\sqrt{k})$

$v_k = (1 - \rho_k)v_{k-1} + \rho_k \nabla_x F_{\beta_k}(x_k, \xi_k)$ $\longleftarrow$ variance reduction on gradient estimator v_k with single sample ξ_k[25]

$x_{k+1} = \mathrm{fw\_step}(x_k, v_k, \gamma_k)$ $\longleftarrow$ the usual $\mathrm{lmo}_{\mathcal{X}}(v_k)$ and convex combination update

end for

Convergence H-1SFW

If $\mathbb{E}\left[\nabla f(x,\xi)\right] = \nabla f(x)$, $\mathbb{E}\left[\| \nabla f(x,\xi) - \nabla f(x) \|^2\right] \leq \sigma_f^2 < +\infty$, $\sup_\xi \| A(\xi) \|^2 < +\infty$ and Slater's condition holds, then for all k:

$$\mathbb{E}\left[|f(x_k,\xi) - f(x_*)|\right] \in \mathcal{O}\left(k^{-1/6}\right), \qquad \sqrt{\mathbb{E}\left[\mathrm{dist}(A(\xi)x_k, b(\xi))^2\right]} \in \mathcal{O}\left(k^{-1/6}\right)$$

The oracle complexity for ϵ-accuracy is: $\mathcal{O}\left(\epsilon^{-6}\right)$ stochastic first order oracles (#sfo) and $\mathcal{O}\left(\epsilon^{-6}\right)$ linear minimization oracles (#lmo).

*Second method: H-SPIDER-FW

Algorithm - H-SPIDER-FW($\bar{x}_1 \in \mathcal{X}, \beta_0 > 0, P(\xi)$)

for $t = 1, 2, \ldots$ **do**

Set $x_{t,1} = \bar{x}_t$; $K_t = 2^t$; $\gamma_{t,1}$; $\beta_{t,1}$;, sample $\xi_{\mathcal{Q}_t} \overset{i.i.d}{\sim} P(\xi)$ $\longleftarrow$ Set minibatch size K_t

$v_{t,1} = \tilde{\nabla} F_{\beta_{t,1}}(x_{t,1}, \xi_{\mathcal{Q}_t})$ $\longleftarrow$ Compute 'high-accuracy' averaged stochastic gradient

$x_{t,2} =$ fw_step$(x_{t,1}, v_{t,1}, \gamma_{t,1})$

for $k = 2, \ldots, K_t$ **do**

Set $\gamma_{t,k}$; $\beta_{t,k}$, sample $\xi_{\mathcal{S}_{t,k}} \overset{i.i.d}{\sim} P(\xi)$ $\longleftarrow$ Decrease $\beta \in \mathcal{O}\left(1/\sqrt{K_t + k}\right)$, set $\gamma \in \mathcal{O}\left(1/(K_t + k)\right)$

$v_{t,k} = v_{t,k-1} - \tilde{\nabla} F_{\beta_{t,k-1}}(x_{t,k-1}, \xi_{\mathcal{S}_{t,k}}) + \tilde{\nabla} F_{\beta_{t,k}}(x_{t,k}, \xi_{\mathcal{S}_{t,k}})$ $\longleftarrow$ var. red. on v_k using minibatch [43]

$x_{t,k+1} = \text{fw\_step}(x_{t,k}, v_{t,k}, \gamma_{t,k})$ $\longleftarrow$ the usual $\mathrm{lmo}_{\mathcal{X}}(v_k)$ and convex combination update

end for

$\bar{x}_{t+1} = x_{t,K_t+1}$

end for

Convergence H-SPIDER-FW

Denote by $n := K_t + k$ the global iteration #. Under identical assumptions as H-1SFW, for all k it holds that:

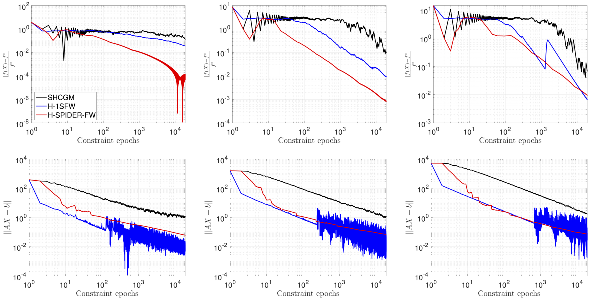
$$\mathbb{E}\left[|f(x_{t,k}, \xi) - f(x_*)|\right] \quad \in \mathcal{O}\left(n^{-1/2}\right), \qquad \sqrt{\mathbb{E}\left[\mathrm{dist}(A(\xi)x_{t,k}, b(\xi))^2\right]} \quad \in \mathcal{O}\left(n^{-1/2}\right)$$

The oracle complexity for ϵ-accuracy is: $\mathcal{O}\left(\epsilon^{-2}\right)$ #sfo and $\mathcal{O}\left(\epsilon^{-4}\right)$ #lmo.

*Experiments: Uniform Sparsest Cut SDP

- Approximation algorithm [1] is based on SDP relaxation: dimension $\mathcal{O}\left(d^2\right)$, constraints $\mathcal{O}\left(d^3\right)$

$$
\begin{aligned}
\min_{\boldsymbol{X} \in \mathbf{X}} \quad & \langle L, X \rangle \\
\textbf{subject to} \quad & d\mathrm{Tr}(X) - \mathrm{Tr}(\mathbf{1}_{d\times d} X) = \frac{d^2}{2} \\
& X_{i,j} + X_{j,k} - X_{i,k} - X_{j,j} \leq 0 \quad \forall\ i,j,k \in V
\end{aligned}
$$



- From left to right (columns): 25 nodes, $\sim 7e^3$ constraints; 55 nodes, $\sim 8e^4$ constraints; 102 nodes, $\sim 5e^5$ constraints. Graphs from [?]

*Towards scalable semidefinite programming

The road to storage optimality

- SDPs often have a low rank solutions $\implies$ instead of storing $\mathbf{X}_{k\in\{1\ldots T\}}$ at every iteration, use a compressed representation S_k given by a matrix sketching technique.
- Formally - Consider a PSD matrix $\mathbf{X} \in \mathbb{R}^{p\times p}$ and let $R > 0$ be a parameter that controls the storage cost of a sketch (and its accuracy). Construct a so-called Nyström sketch by drawing a fixed standard normal matrix $\mathbf{\Omega} \in \mathbb{R}^{p\times R}$, and produce a sketch $\mathbf{S}$ of $\mathbf{X}$ as follows:

$$\mathbf{S} = \mathbf{X}\mathbf{\Omega} \in \mathbb{R}^{p\times R}$$

- Reconstruction - Given $\mathbf{\Omega}$ and $\mathbf{S}$, we recover a rank-R approximation $\hat{\mathbf{X}}$ of $\mathbf{X}$ by

$$\hat{\mathbf{X}} := \mathbf{S}(\mathbf{\Omega}^T\mathbf{S})^\dagger\mathbf{S}^T \quad \text{with} \quad \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{\Omega}}\left[\|\mathbf{X} - \hat{\mathbf{X}}\|_*\right] \le \left(1 + \frac{r}{R+r+1}\right)\|\mathbf{X} - [\mathbf{X}]_r\|_* \quad \forall r < R \tag{14}$$

  where $\|\cdot\|_*$ denotes the nuclear norm and $[\cdot]_r$ is an r-truncated singular-value decomposition of the matrix, which is a best rank-r approximation with respect to every unitarily-invariant norm.
- $\implies$ We can reduce the storage from $\Theta(p^2)$ to $\Theta(rp)$!

*The algorithm - SketchyCGAL

- The Augmented Lagrangian of (10) is

$$\mathcal{L}_\beta(\mathbf{X},\boldsymbol{\lambda}) = \mathrm{Tr}(\mathbf{C}\mathbf{X})+\langle\boldsymbol{\lambda},\mathbf{A}\mathbf{X}-\mathbf{b}\rangle+\frac{\beta}{2}\|\mathbf{A}\mathbf{X}-\mathbf{b}\|^2, \qquad \nabla_{\mathbf{X}}\mathcal{L}_\beta(\mathbf{X},\boldsymbol{\lambda}) = C+\mathbf{A}^T(\boldsymbol{\lambda}^k+\beta_k(\mathbf{A}\mathbf{X}^k-\mathbf{b}))$$

- The constraint set of (10) is $\mathcal{X} = \{\mathbf{X} \in \mathbb{R}^{p\times p} : \mathbf{X} \succeq 0,\ \mathrm{Tr}(\mathbf{X}) = \alpha\}$ and $\mathrm{lmo}_{\mathcal{X}}(\mathbf{Y}) = \alpha v v^T$ where v is the eigenvector corresponding to the minimum eigenvalue of $\mathbf{Y}$.
- The algorithm performs linear updates directly on $\mathbf{z}_k := \mathbf{A}\mathbf{X}_k \in \mathbb{R}^n \implies$ the iterates $\mathbf{X}_k$ become implicit!

CGAL	SketchyCGAL (simplified)[4]
1. Choose $\mathbf{X}^0 = \mathbf{0}_{p\times p} \in \mathcal{X}$, $\boldsymbol{\lambda}^0 = \mathbf{0}_n$, $\beta_0 > 0$, $T > 0$.	**1.** Choose $\boldsymbol{\lambda}^0 = \mathbf{0}_n$, $\mathbf{z}_0 = \mathbf{0}_n$, $\mathbf{S} = \mathbf{0}_{p\times R}$, $\beta_0 > 0$, $T > 0$, $R > 0$, $\boldsymbol{\Omega} = \mathrm{randn}(p, R)$.
2. For $k = 0, 1, \ldots T$:	**2.** For $k = 0, 1, \ldots T$:
$(\xi, v_k) :=$ ApproxMinEvec$(\mathbf{C} + \mathbf{A}^T(\boldsymbol{\lambda}^k + \beta_k(\mathbf{A}\mathbf{X}^k - \mathbf{b})))$	$(\xi, v_k) :=$ ApproxMinEvec$(\mathbf{C} + \mathbf{A}^T(\boldsymbol{\lambda}^k + \beta_k(\mathbf{z}^k - \mathbf{b})))$
$\mathbf{X}^{k+1} := (1-\gamma_k)\mathbf{X}^k + \gamma_k(\alpha v_k v_k^T)$	$\mathbf{z}^{k+1} := (1-\gamma_k)\mathbf{z}^k + \gamma_k \mathbf{A}(\alpha v_k v_k^T)$
$\boldsymbol{\lambda}^{k+1} := \boldsymbol{\lambda}^k + \omega_k(\mathbf{A}\mathbf{X}^{k+1} - \mathbf{b})$	$\boldsymbol{\lambda}^{k+1} := \boldsymbol{\lambda}^k + w_k(\mathbf{z}^{k+1} - \mathbf{b})$
	$\mathbf{S}^{k+1} := (1-\gamma_k)\mathbf{S}^k + \gamma_k v_k(v_k^T\Omega) \longleftarrow$ update the sketch
where $\gamma_k := \frac{2}{k+2}$, and $\beta_k := \frac{\sqrt{k+2}}{\beta_0}$.	where $\gamma_k := \frac{2}{k+1}$, and $\beta_k := \frac{\sqrt{k+1}}{\beta_0}$.
	3. Recover $\hat{\mathbf{X}}_T$ from $\mathbf{S}_T$ using (14)

*SketchyCGAL: Convergence

- Observations:
  - The iterate update procedure of SketchyCGAL is the same as that of CGAL, though $\mathbf{X}^k$ are implicit:

$$
\begin{aligned}
\mathbf{z}^{k+1} &= (1-\gamma_k)\mathbf{z}^k + \gamma_k \mathbf{A}(\alpha v v^T) \\
\text{by def. of } \mathbf{z}^k \longrightarrow &= \mathbf{A}\left((1-\gamma_k)\mathbf{X}^k + \gamma_k \alpha v v^T\right) \\
&= \mathbf{A}\mathbf{X}^{k+1}
\end{aligned}
$$

  - The same computation holds for the sketch updates, where $\mathbf{S}^{k+1} = (1-\gamma_k)\mathbf{S}^k + \gamma_k \mathbf{v}\mathbf{v}^T\Omega = \mathbf{X}^{k+1}\mathbf{\Omega}$.
  - $\Longrightarrow$ the variables in SketchyCGAL track the variables of some invocation of CGAL and inherit their behavior.

Theorem [45]

Assume problem (10) satisfies strong duality, and let Ψ^* be its solution set. Then

1. The **implicit** iterates converge to the solution set Ψ^* at the same rate as CGAL.
2. For each $r < R$, the iterates $\hat{\mathbf{X}}_k$ computed by SketchyCGAL satisfy

$$
\lim_{k\to\infty} \sup \mathbb{E}_\Omega \mathrm{dist}_*(\hat{\mathbf{X}}_k, \Psi^*) \leq (1 + \frac{r}{R-r-1}) \max_{\mathbf{Y}\in\Psi^*} \|\mathbf{Y} - [\mathbf{Y}]_r\|_*
$$

Here, dist_* is the nuclear-norm distance between a matrix and a set of matrices.

*Example: Convex phase retrieval

Problem formulation

$$f^\star := \min_{\mathbf{X} \in \mathbb{C}^{p \times p}} \left\{ \mathrm{Tr}(\mathbf{X}) : \quad \mathcal{A}(\mathbf{X}) = \mathbf{b}, \quad \|\mathbf{X}\|_* \leq \kappa, \quad \mathbf{X} \succeq 0 \right\}. \tag{15}$$

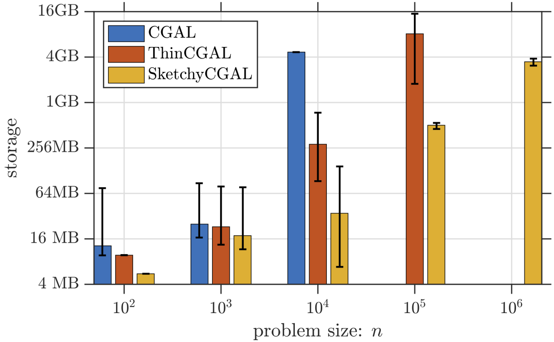
- *This formulation is a convex and semidefinite relaxation of the original, much more difficult Phase Retrieval problem of recovering $\mathbf{x}^\natural \in \mathbb{C}^p$ from the measurements

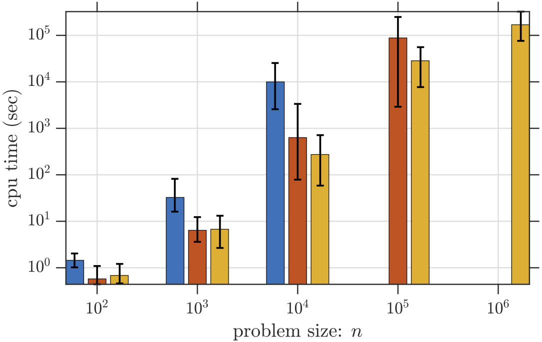
$$\mathbf{b} \in \mathbb{R}^n, \; b_i = \left| \langle \mathbf{a}_i, \mathbf{x}^\natural \rangle \right|^2 + \omega_i,$$

  where $\mathbf{a}_i \in \mathbb{C}^p$ are known measurement vectors, ω_i models noise. Details can be found in [5, 41].
- This type of problem arises, for example, in X-ray crystallography and astronomical imaging.
- Note that the problem is constrained to $\mathcal{X} := \{\mathbf{X} \in \mathbb{R}^{p \times p} : \; \mathbf{X} \succeq 0, \; \|\mathbf{X}\|_* \leq \kappa\}$, which is convex and compact.
- $\mathcal{X}$ has an expensive prox operator, but an efficient lmo.

*Example: Convex Phase Retrieval memory usage

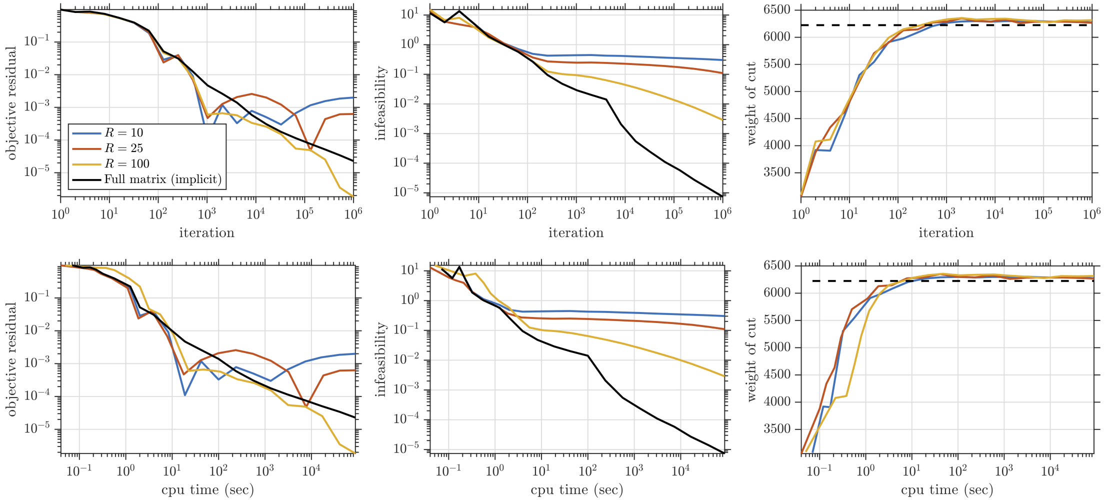
$$f^\star := \min_{\mathbf{X}\in\mathbb{C}^{p\times p}} \left\{ \mathrm{Tr}(\mathbf{X}) : \quad \mathcal{A}(\mathbf{X}) = \mathbf{b}, \quad \|\mathbf{X}\|_* \leq \kappa, \quad \mathbf{X} \succeq 0 \right\}.$$





*Example: Max-Cut SDP

$$\max_{\mathbf{X}\in\mathbb{R}^{p\times p}} \left\{ \frac{1}{4}\mathrm{Tr}\left(\mathbf{L}\mathbf{X}\right) : \mathrm{diag}(\mathbf{X}) = \mathbf{1},\ \mathbf{X}\in\mathcal{S}_+^p,\ \mathrm{Tr}\left(\mathbf{X}\right) = p \right\}$$



Appendix A_1: Generalization of HCGM for $\mathrm{Ax} - \mathrm{b} \in \mathcal{K}$ (self-study)

Quadratic penalty strategy for $\min\{f(\mathbf{x}) : \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{b} \in \mathcal{K}, \mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{X}\}$

Define the distance function

$$\mathrm{dist}(\mathbf{y}, \mathcal{K}) := \min_{\mathbf{z} \in \mathcal{K}} \|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{z}\|.$$

Quadratic penalty takes the form

$$\min_{\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^p} \left\{ f(\mathbf{x}) + \frac{\beta}{2} \mathrm{dist}^2(\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{b}, \mathcal{K}) : \mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{X} \right\}$$

Gradient of $\mathrm{dist}^2(\mathbf{z}, \mathcal{K})$ is

$$\nabla \mathrm{dist}^2(\mathbf{y}, \mathcal{K}) = 2(\mathbf{y} - \mathrm{proj}_{\mathcal{K}}(\mathbf{y})).$$

Hence, HCGM can be generalized by changing lmo step as

$$\hat{\mathbf{x}}^k := \mathrm{lmo}_{\mathcal{X}}(\nabla f(\mathbf{x}^k) + \beta_k \mathbf{A}^T(\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}^k - \mathbf{b} - \mathrm{proj}_{\mathcal{K}}(\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}^k - \mathbf{b}))).$$

Same guarantees hold, by replacing $\|\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{b}\|$ by $\mathrm{dist}(\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{b}, \mathcal{K})$.

Appendix A$_2$: Generalization of CGAL for $\mathrm{Ax} - \mathrm{b} \in \mathcal{K}$ (self-study)

Augmented Lagrangian for $\min\{f(\mathbf{x}) : \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{b} \in \mathcal{K}, \mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{X}\}$

Similarly, CGAL can be extended for $\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{b} \in \mathcal{K}$ constraint, by replacing

- lmo step as

$$\hat{\mathbf{x}}^k := \mathrm{lmo}_{\mathcal{X}}\left(\nabla f(\mathbf{x}^k) + \mathbf{A}^T\lambda^k + \beta_k\mathbf{A}^T\left(\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}^k - \mathbf{b} - \mathrm{proj}_{\mathcal{K}}(\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}^k - \mathbf{b} + \beta_k^{-1}\lambda^k)\right)\right)$$

- and dual update step as

$$\lambda^{k+1} := \lambda^k + \omega_k\left(\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}^{k+1} - \mathbf{b} + \mathrm{proj}_{\mathcal{K}}(\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}^{k+1} - \mathbf{b} + \beta_{k+1}^{-1}\lambda^k)\right)$$

Same guarantees hold, by replacing $\|\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{b}\|$ by $\mathrm{dist}(\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{b}, \mathcal{K})$.

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