

## Stochastic Algorithms for Solving Nonlinearly Constrained Continuous Optimization Problems

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involving joint work with

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# Outline

Overview and Motivation

Stochastic Algorithms for Constrained Optimization

Extensions and Experimental Results

Appendix

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## Mathematical optimization

Main area of research: **mathematical optimization**; design and analysis of algorithms to solve

$$\min_{x \in \mathcal{X}} f(x) \text{ s.t. } c_{\mathcal{E}}(x) = 0 \text{ and } c_{\mathcal{I}}(x) \leq 0.$$

**Nonconvex continuous optimization**, where  $f$ ,  $c_{\mathcal{E}}$ , and  $c_{\mathcal{I}}$  are continuous and not necessarily convex.

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**Disclaimer:** Research not on *solving* (to “global optimality”) these problems.

- ▶ Prior to 10 years ago: Exact derivatives, research to overcome expense of subproblems
- ▶ Last 10 years: Stochastic or noisy derivative estimates, data-driven optimization

## Motivation and challenges: Stochastic algorithms for constrained optimization

Primarily motivated by informed learning problems where regularization is ineffective or inefficient; e.g.,

- ▶ physics-informed machine learning
- ▶ fair (supervised) machine learning
- ▶ ... but algorithms are general-purpose, applicable for other network/simulation optimization problems

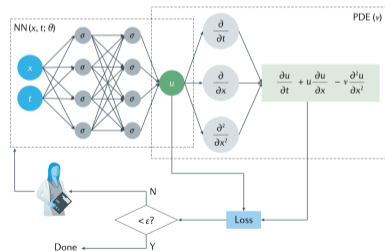


Photo: Karniadakis et al.

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Same challenges and questions as for unconstrained:

- ▶ convergence/complexity guarantees (adaptive algorithms)
- ▶ computational complexity
- ▶ stability guarantees
- ▶ generalization properties

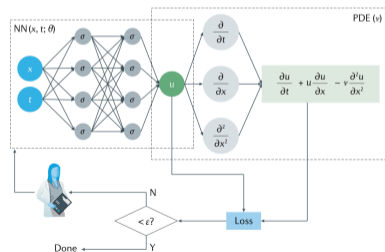


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New challenges for *handling constraints as constraints*:

- ▶ (i.e., avoid penalty methods, augmented Lagrangian, etc.)
- ▶ balancing the objective and constraints
- ▶ degeneracy and infeasibility

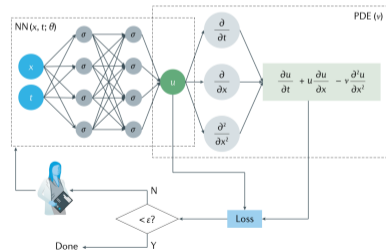


Photo: Karniadakis et al.



## Learning: Prediction function

Our aim is to determine a prediction function  $p \in \mathcal{P}$ , where  $\mathcal{P}$  is some family of functions, such that

$$p(a_j)$$

yields an accurate prediction corresponding to any given input feature vector  $a_j$ .

## Learning: Prediction function, parameterized

Let us say that the family is parameterized by some vector  $x$  such that

$$p(a_j, x)$$

yields an accurate prediction corresponding to any given input feature vector  $a_j$ .

## Learning: Supervised

In the context of supervised learning, we have known input-output pairs  $\{(a_j, b_j)\}_{j=1}^{n_o}$ , then

$$\min_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n} \frac{1}{n_o} \sum_{j=1}^{n_o} \ell(p(a_j, x), b_j)$$

becomes our empirical-loss training problem to determine the optimal parameter vector  $x$ .

## Learning: Supervised and regularized

If, in addition, we aim to impose some structure on the solution  $x$ , then we may consider

$$\min_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n} \frac{1}{n_o} \sum_{j=1}^{n_o} \ell(p(a_j, x), b_j) + r(x)$$

where  $r$  is a *regularization* function.

## Learning: Supervised and regularized

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where  $r$  is a *regularization* function. But is this the right approach for *informed* learning?

## Learning: Supervised and informed with *soft* constraints

Added to the loss (e.g., mean-squared error or other data-fitting term), we might consider

$$\min_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n} \frac{1}{n_o} \sum_{j=1}^{n_o} \ell(p(a_j, x), b_j) + \frac{1}{n_c} \sum_{j=1}^{n_c} \phi(p(\tilde{a}_j, x), \dots, \tilde{b}_j)$$

where  $\{(\tilde{a}_j, \tilde{b}_j)\}_{j=1}^{n_c}$  are some known input-output pairs and  $\phi$  encodes known information.

## Learning: Supervised and informed through layer design

Another viable approach is to embed information through the prediction function itself such that

$$\min_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n} \frac{1}{n_o} \sum_{j=1}^{n_o} \ell(\hat{p}(a_j, x), b_j)$$

ensures that information is enforced with every forward pass. (Expense?)

## Learning: Supervised and informed with *hard* constraints

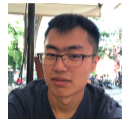
Back to the “original” family for  $p$ , how about imposing hard constraints during training, as in

$$\begin{aligned} \min_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n} \quad & \frac{1}{n_o} \sum_{j=1}^{n_o} \ell(p(a_j, x), b_j) \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & \varphi(p(\tilde{a}_j, x), \dots, \tilde{b}_j) = 0 \text{ (or } \leq 0) \text{ for all } i \in \{1, \dots, n_c\} \end{aligned}$$

such that we restrict attention to functions that are informed implicitly?



## Collaborators and references



- ▶ A. S. Berahas, F. E. Curtis, D. P. Robinson, and B. Zhou, “Sequential Quadratic Optimization for Nonlinear Equality Constrained Stochastic Optimization,” *SIAM Journal on Optimization*, 31(2):1352–1379, 2021.
- ▶ A. S. Berahas, F. E. Curtis, M. J. O’Neill, and D. P. Robinson, “A Stochastic Sequential Quadratic Optimization Algorithm for Nonlinear Equality Constrained Optimization with Rank-Deficient Jacobians,” *Mathematics of Operations Research*, <https://doi.org/10.1287/moor.2021.0154>, 2023.
- ▶ F. E. Curtis, D. P. Robinson, and B. Zhou, “Inexact Sequential Quadratic Optimization for Minimizing a Stochastic Objective Subject to Deterministic Nonlinear Equality Constraints,” <https://arxiv.org/abs/2107.03512>.
- ▶ F. E. Curtis, M. J. O’Neill, and D. P. Robinson, “Worst-Case Complexity of an SQP Method for Nonlinear Equality Constrained Stochastic Optimization,” *Mathematical Programming*, <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10107-023-01981-1>, 2023.
- ▶ F. E. Curtis, S. Liu, and D. P. Robinson, “Fair Machine Learning through Constrained Stochastic Optimization and an  $\epsilon$ -Constraint Method,” *Optimization Letters*, <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11590-023-02024-6>, 2023.
- ▶ F. E. Curtis, D. P. Robinson, and B. Zhou, “Sequential Quadratic Optimization for Stochastic Optimization with Deterministic Nonlinear Inequality and Equality Constraints,” <https://arxiv.org/abs/2302.14790>.
- ▶ F. E. Curtis, V. Kungurtsev, D. P. Robinson, and Q. Wang, “A Stochastic-Gradient-based Interior-Point Algorithm for Solving Smooth Bound-Constrained Optimization Problems,” <https://arxiv.org/abs/2304.14907>.

## Expected-loss training problems

For the sake of generality/generalizability, the expected-loss objective function is

$$\int_{\mathcal{A} \times \mathcal{B}} \ell(p(a, x), b) d\mathbb{P}(a, b) \equiv \mathbb{E}_\omega[F(x, \omega)] =: f(x).$$

One might consider various paradigms for imposing the constraints:

- ▶ expectation constraints
- ▶ (distributionally) robust constraints
- ▶ probabilistic (i.e., chance) constraints

For our recent work, we consider constraints whose values and derivatives can be computed:

$$c_{\mathcal{E}}(x) = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad c_{\mathcal{I}}(x) \leq 0$$

e.g., as in imposing a fixed set of constraints corresponding to a fixed set of sample data.

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## Stochastic gradient method

Consider  $\min_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n} f(x)$ , where  $\nabla f : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$  is Lipschitz continuous with constant  $L$ .

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**Algorithm SG** : Stochastic gradient method

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- 1: choose an initial point  $x_1 \in \mathbb{R}^n$  and step sizes  $\{\alpha_k\} > 0$
  - 2: **for**  $k \in \{1, 2, \dots\} =: \mathbb{N}$  **do**
  - 3:     set  $x_{k+1} \leftarrow x_k - \alpha_k g_k$ , where  $g_k \approx \nabla f(x_k)$
  - 4: **end for**
- 

Algorithm<sup>†</sup> behavior is defined by  $(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, \mathbb{P})$ , where

- ▶  $\Omega = \Gamma \times \Gamma \times \Gamma \times \dots$  (sequence of draws determining stochastic gradients);
- ▶  $\mathcal{F}$  is a  $\sigma$ -algebra on  $\Omega$ , specifically, the set of events (i.e., measurable subsets of  $\Omega$ ); and
- ▶  $\mathbb{P} : \mathcal{F} \rightarrow [0, 1]$  is a probability measure.

One can view any  $\{(x_k, g_k)\}$  as a realization of  $\{(X_k, G_k)\}$ , where for all  $k \in \mathbb{N}$

$$x_k = X_k(\omega) \text{ and } g_k = G_k(\omega) \text{ given } \omega \in \Omega.$$

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<sup>†</sup>Robbins and Monro (1951); Sutton Monro = former Lehigh ISE faculty member

## Convergence of SG

Let  $\mathbb{E}[\cdot]$  denote expectation with respect to  $\mathbb{P}[\cdot]$ . Analyze through associated sub- $\sigma$ -algebras  $\{\mathcal{F}_k\}$ .

### Assumption

For all  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ , one has that

- ▶  $\mathbb{E}[G_k | \mathcal{F}_k] = \nabla f(X_k)$  and
- ▶  $\mathbb{E}[\|G_k\|_2^2 | \mathcal{F}_k] \leq M + M_{\nabla f} \|\nabla f(X_k)\|_2^2$

By **Lipschitz continuity of  $\nabla f$**  and construction of the algorithm, one finds

$$\begin{aligned} f(X_{k+1}) - f(X_k) &\leq \nabla f(X_k)^T (X_{k+1} - X_k) + \frac{1}{2}L\|X_{k+1} - X_k\|_2^2 \\ &= -\alpha_k \nabla f(X_k)^T G_k + \frac{1}{2}\alpha_k^2 L \|G_k\|_2^2 \\ \implies \mathbb{E}[f(X_{k+1}) | \mathcal{F}_k] - f(X_k) &\leq -\alpha_k \|\nabla f(X_k)\|_2^2 + \frac{1}{2}\alpha_k^2 L \mathbb{E}[\|G_k\|_2^2 | \mathcal{F}_k] \\ &\leq -\alpha_k \|\nabla f(X_k)\|_2^2 + \frac{1}{2}\alpha_k^2 L (M + M_{\nabla f} \|\nabla f(X_k)\|_2^2), \end{aligned}$$

where the last inequalities follow by the assumption and since  $f(X_k)$  and  $\nabla f(X_k)$  are  $\mathcal{F}_k$ -measurable.

## SG theory

Taking total expectation, one arrives at

$$\mathbb{E}[f(X_{k+1}) - f(X_k)] \leq -\alpha_k(1 - \frac{1}{2}\alpha_k LM_{\nabla f})\mathbb{E}[\|\nabla f(X_k)\|_2^2] + \frac{1}{2}\alpha_k^2 LM$$

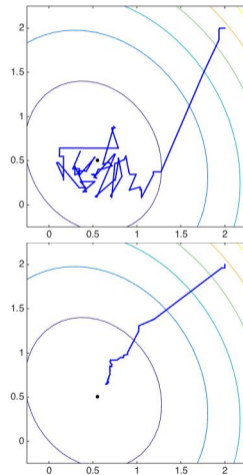
### Theorem

$$\alpha_k = \frac{1}{LM_{\nabla f}} \implies \mathbb{E} \left[ \frac{1}{k} \sum_{j=1}^k \|\nabla f(X_j)\|_2^2 \right] \leq M_k \xrightarrow{k \rightarrow \infty} \mathcal{O} \left( \frac{M}{M_{\nabla f}} \right)$$

$$\alpha_k = \Theta \left( \frac{1}{k} \right) \implies \mathbb{E} \left[ \frac{1}{\left( \sum_{j=1}^k \alpha_j \right)} \sum_{j=1}^k \alpha_j \|\nabla f(X_j)\|_2^2 \right] \rightarrow 0$$

$$\implies \liminf_{k \rightarrow \infty} \mathbb{E}[\|\nabla f(X_k)\|_2^2] = 0$$

(further steps)  $\implies \nabla f(X_k) \rightarrow \infty$  almost surely.



## Constrained optimization

Consider

$$\begin{array}{l} \min_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n} f(x) \\ \text{s.t. } c(x) = 0 \end{array}$$

Option: Regularization / soft constraints (penalization), as in

$$\min_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n} \tau f(x) + \|c(x)\|_q^p \quad (+y^T c(x)),$$

then employ a (stochastic) algorithm for unconstrained optimization.

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On the positive side, “exact” penalty function theory has been well established for decades:

- ▶ *can* solve the constrained problem, in theory.

Unfortunately, however, such an approach is not ideal:

- ▶ appropriate balance ( $\tau$  and/or  $y$ ) not known in advance
- ▶  $p = 1$  (nonsmooth),  $p = 2$  (need  $\tau \searrow 0$ , ill-conditioning)



## Sequential quadratic optimization (SQP)

Consider

$$\begin{array}{ll} \min_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n} & f(x) \\ \text{s.t.} & c(x) = 0 \end{array}$$

Option: With  $J \equiv \nabla c^T$  and  $H$  positive definite over  $\text{Null}(J)$ , two viewpoints:

$$\begin{bmatrix} \nabla f(x) + J(x)^T y \\ c(x) \end{bmatrix} = 0$$

or

$$\begin{array}{ll} \min_{d \in \mathbb{R}^n} & f(x) + \nabla f(x)^T d + \frac{1}{2} d^T H d \\ \text{s.t.} & c(x) + J(x)d = 0 \end{array}$$

both leading to the same “Newton-SQP system”:

$$\begin{bmatrix} H_k & J_k^T \\ J_k & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} d_k \\ y_k \end{bmatrix} = - \begin{bmatrix} \nabla f(x_k) \\ c_k \end{bmatrix}$$

## SQP illustration



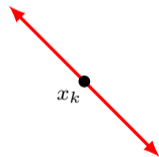
$x_k$

$$c(x_k) + J(x_k)d = 0$$

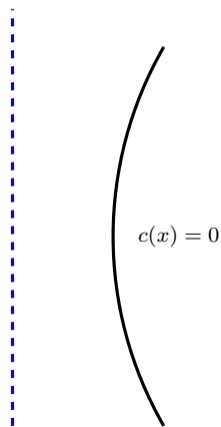
$$c(x) = 0$$

## SQP illustration

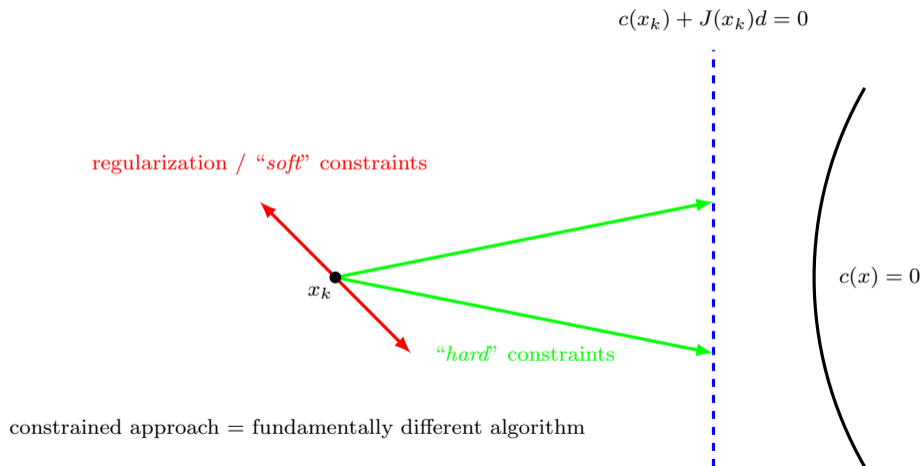
regularization / “soft” constraints



$$c(x_k) + J(x_k)d = 0$$



## SQP illustration

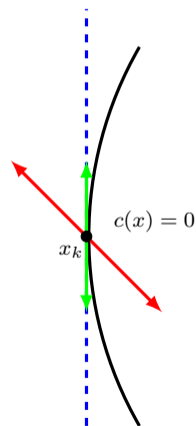


## SQP illustration

regularization / “soft” constraints

“hard” constraints  $\implies$  step in null space

$$c(x_k) + J(x_k)d = 0$$



## Stochastic SQP

Algorithm guided by merit function with **adaptive** parameter  $\tau$  defined by

$$\phi(x, \tau) = \tau f(x) + \|c(x)\|_1$$

---

### Algorithm : Stochastic SQP

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- 1: choose  $x_1 \in \mathbb{R}^n$ ,  $\tau_0 \in (0, \infty)$ ,  $\{\beta_k\} \in (0, 1]^{\mathbb{N}}$
- 2: **for**  $k \in \{1, 2, \dots\}$  **do**
- 3:     **compute step**: solve

$$\begin{bmatrix} H_k & J_k^T \\ J_k & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} d_k \\ y_k \end{bmatrix} = - \begin{bmatrix} g_k \\ c_k \end{bmatrix}$$

- 4:     **update merit parameter**: set  $\tau_k$  to ensure

$$\phi'(x_k, \tau_k, d_k) \leq -\Delta q(x_k, \tau_k, g_k, d_k) \ll 0$$

- 5:     **compute step size**: set

$$\alpha_k = \Theta \left( \frac{\beta_k \tau_k}{\tau_k L_{\nabla f} + L_{\nabla c}} \right)$$

- 6:     then  $x_{k+1} \leftarrow x_k + \alpha_k d_k$
  - 7: **end for**
-

## Convergence theory in *deterministic setting*

### Assumption

- ▶  $f, c, \nabla f$ , and  $J$  bounded and Lipschitz
- ▶ singular values of  $J$  bounded below (i.e., the LICQ)
- ▶  $u^T H_k u \geq \zeta \|u\|_2^2$  for all  $u \in \text{Null}(J_k)$  for all  $k \in \mathbb{N}$

### Theorem

- ▶  $\{\alpha_k\} \geq \alpha_{\min}$  for some  $\alpha_{\min} > 0$
- ▶  $\{\tau_k\} \geq \tau_{\min}$  for some  $\tau_{\min} > 0$
- ▶  $\Delta q(x_k, \tau_k, \nabla f(x_k), d_k) \rightarrow 0$  implies optimality error vanishes, specifically,

$$\|d_k\|_2 \rightarrow 0, \quad \|c_k\|_2 \rightarrow 0, \quad \|\nabla f(x_k) + J_k^T y_k\|_2 \rightarrow 0$$

## Stochastic setting: What do we want?

What we want/expect from the algorithm?

*Note:* We are interested in the [stochastic approximation](#) (SA) regime.

Ultimately, there are *many* questions to answer:

- ▶ convergence guarantees
- ▶ complexity guarantees
- ▶ tradeoff analysis (Bottou and Bousquet)
- ▶ generalization
- ▶ large-scale implementations
- ▶ beyond first-order (SG) methods



## Fundamental lemma

Recall in the unconstrained setting that

$$\mathbb{E}[f(X_{k+1})|\mathcal{F}_k] - f(X_k) \leq -\alpha_k \|\nabla f(X_k)\|_2^2 + \frac{1}{2}\alpha_k^2 L \mathbb{E}[\|G_k\|_2^2|\mathcal{F}_k]$$

### Lemma

For all  $k \in \mathbb{N}$  one finds (before taking expectations)

$$\begin{aligned} & \phi(X_{k+1}, \mathcal{T}_{k+1}) - \phi(X_k, \mathcal{T}_k) \\ \leq & \underbrace{-\mathcal{A}_k \Delta q(X_k, \mathcal{T}_k, \nabla f(X_k), D_k^{\text{true}})}_{\mathcal{O}(\beta_k), \text{ "deterministic" }} + \underbrace{\frac{1}{2}\mathcal{A}_k \beta_k \Delta q(X_k, \mathcal{T}_k, G_k, D_k)}_{\mathcal{O}(\beta_k^2), \text{ stochastic/noise }} + \underbrace{\mathcal{A}_k \mathcal{T}_k \nabla f(X_k)^T (D_k - D_k^{\text{true}})}_{\text{ due to adaptive } \mathcal{A}_k} \end{aligned}$$

## Good merit parameter behavior

## Theorem 4

Let  $\mathcal{E} :=$  event that  $\{\mathcal{T}_k\}$  eventually remains constant at  $\mathcal{T}' \geq \tau_{\min} > 0$ . Then, conditioned on  $\mathcal{E}$ ,

$$\beta_k = \Theta(1) \implies \mathbb{E} \left[ \frac{1}{k} \sum_{j=1}^k \Delta q(X_j, \mathcal{T}', \nabla f(X_j), D_j^{\text{true}}) \right] = \mathcal{O}(M)$$

$$\beta_k = \Theta\left(\frac{1}{k}\right) \implies \mathbb{E} \left[ \frac{1}{\left(\sum_{j=1}^k \beta_j\right)} \sum_{j=1}^k \beta_j \Delta q(X_j, \mathcal{T}', \nabla f(X_j), D_j^{\text{true}}) \right] \rightarrow 0$$

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$$\beta_k = \Theta(1) \implies \mathbb{E} \left[ \frac{1}{k} \sum_{j=1}^k (\|\nabla f(X_j) + \nabla c(X_j)^T Y_j^{\text{true}}\|_2 + \|c(X_j)\|_2) \right] = \mathcal{O}(M)$$

$$\beta_k = \Theta\left(\frac{1}{k}\right) \implies \mathbb{E} \left[ \frac{1}{\left(\sum_{j=1}^k \beta_j\right)} \sum_{j=1}^k \beta_j (\|\nabla f(X_j) + \nabla c(X_j)^T Y_j^{\text{true}}\|_2 + \|c(X_j)\|_2) \right] \rightarrow 0$$

## Numerical results: <https://github.com/frankecurtis/StochasticSQP>

Stochastic SQP (hard constraints) compared to stochastic subgradient method (soft constraints)

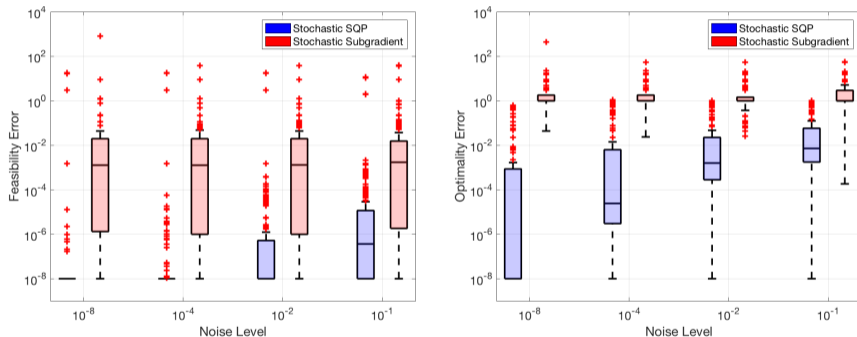


Figure: Box plots for feasibility errors (left) and optimality errors (right).

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## Summary

Since our original work, we have considered various extensions.

- ▶ stronger convergence guarantees (almost-sure convergence)
- ▶ convergence of Lagrange multiplier estimates
- ▶ relaxed constraint qualifications
- ▶ worst-case complexity guarantees
- ▶ generally constrained problems (with inequality constraints as well)
- ▶ interior-point methods
- ▶ iterative linear system solvers and inexactness

## Almost-sure convergence of merit function value

Convergence of the algorithm is driven by the exact merit function

$$\phi_\tau(X) = \tau f(X) + \|c(X)\|$$

Reductions in a local model of  $\phi_\tau$  can be tied to a stationarity measure

$$\Delta q_\tau(X, \nabla f(X), H, D^{\text{true}}) \quad \sim \quad \|\nabla f(X) + \nabla c(X)Y\|^2 + \|c(X)\|$$

### Lemma

Suppose  $\mathbb{E}[G_k | \mathcal{F}_k] = \nabla f(X_k)$  and  $\mathbb{E}[\|G_k - \nabla f(X_k)\|^2 | \mathcal{F}_k] \leq M$ . Then, by a classical theorem of Robbins and Siegmund (1971), one finds that, almost surely,

$$\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \{\phi_\tau(X_k)\} \text{ exists and is finite and}$$
$$\liminf_{k \rightarrow \infty} \Delta q_\tau(X_k, \nabla f(X_k), H_k, D_k^{\text{true}}) = 0$$

## Almost-sure convergence of the primal iterates

## Theorem

Suppose that there exists  $x_* \in \mathcal{X}$  with  $c(x_*) = 0$ ,  $\mu \in \mathbb{R}_{>1}$ , and  $\epsilon \in \mathbb{R}_{>0}$  such that for all

$$x \in \mathcal{X}_{\epsilon, x_*} := \{x \in \mathcal{X} : \|x - x_*\|_2 \leq \epsilon\}$$

one finds that

$$\phi_\tau(x) - \phi_\tau(x_*) \begin{cases} = 0 & \text{if } x = x_* \\ \in (0, \mu(\tau\|Z(x)^T \nabla f(x)\|_2^2 + \|c(x)\|_2)] & \text{otherwise,} \end{cases}$$

where for all  $x \in \mathcal{X}_{\epsilon, x_*}$  one defines  $Z(x) \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times (n-m)}$  as some orthonormal matrix whose columns form a basis for the null space of  $\nabla c(x)^T$ . Then, if  $\limsup_{k \rightarrow \infty} \{\|X_k - x_*\|_2\} \leq \epsilon$  almost surely, it follows that

$$\{\phi_\tau(X_k)\} \xrightarrow{a.s.} \phi_\tau(x_*), \quad \{X_k\} \xrightarrow{a.s.} x_*, \quad \text{and} \quad \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} \nabla f(X_k) + \nabla c(X_k) Y_k^{\text{true}} \\ c(X_k) \end{bmatrix} \right\} \xrightarrow{a.s.} 0.$$



## Lagrange multiplier convergence

### Theorem

Suppose  $(x_*, y_*)$  is a stationary point. Then, for any  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ , one finds  $\|X_k - x_*\|_2 \leq \epsilon$  implies

$$\|Y_k - y_*\|_2 \leq \kappa_y \|X_k - x_*\|_2 + r^{-1} \|\nabla f(X_k) - G_k\|_2$$

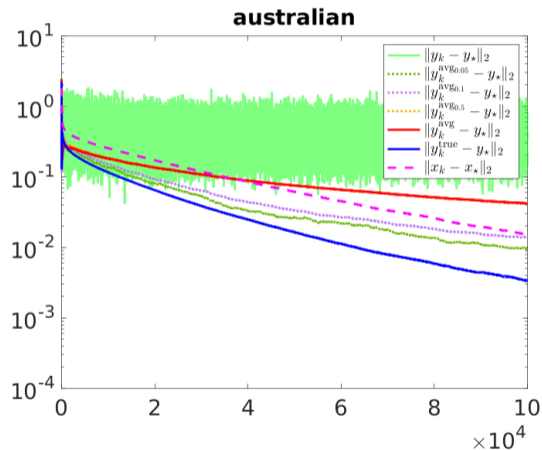
and  $\|Y_k^{\text{true}} - y_*\|_2 \leq \kappa_y \|X_k - x_*\|_2$  for some  $(\kappa, r) \in \mathbb{R}_{>0} \times \mathbb{R}_{>0}$ .

Computed multipliers *always* have error. Consider *averaged* multipliers  $\{Y_k^{\text{avg}}\}$  instead.

### Theorem

If the iterate sequence converges almost surely to  $x_*$ , i.e.,  $\{X_k\} \xrightarrow{\text{a.s.}} x_*$ , then

$$\{Y_k^{\text{true}}\} \xrightarrow{\text{a.s.}} y_* \quad \text{and} \quad \{Y_k^{\text{avg}}\} \xrightarrow{\text{a.s.}} y_*.$$

Constrained logistic regression: **australian** dataset (LIBSVM)

## Complexity of $\mathcal{O}(\epsilon^{-2})$ for deterministic algorithm

*All reductions in the merit function can be cast in terms of smallest  $\tau$ .*

Since  $\tau_{\min}$  is determined by the initial point, *it will be reached.*

### Theorem

*For any  $\epsilon \in (0, 1)$ , there exists  $(\kappa_1, \kappa_2) \in (0, \infty) \times (0, \infty)$  such that*

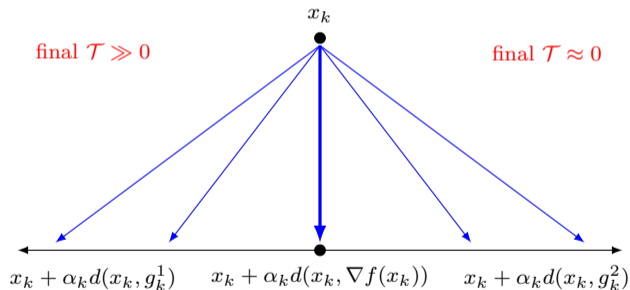
$$\|\nabla f(x_k) + J_k^T y_k\| \leq \epsilon \text{ and } \sqrt{\|c_k\|_1} \leq \epsilon$$

*in a number of iterations no more than*

$$\left( \frac{\tau_0(f_1 - f_{\inf}) + \|c_1\|_1}{\min\{\kappa_1, \kappa_2 \tau_{\min}\}} \right) \epsilon^{-2}.$$

## Challenge in the stochastic setting

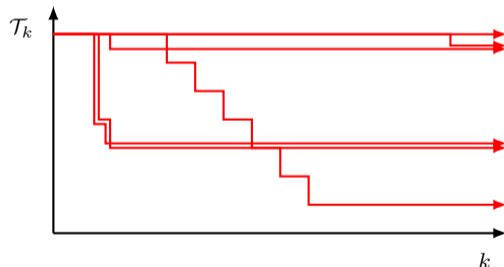
*We are minimizing a function that is changing during the optimization.*



## Challenge in the stochastic setting

In the stochastic setting, minimum  $\mathcal{T}$  is not determined by the initial point.

- ▶ Even if we assume  $\mathcal{T}_k \geq \tau_{\min} > 0$  for all  $k$  in all realizations, the final  $\mathcal{T}$  is not determined.
- ▶ This means we cannot cast all reductions in terms of some fixed constant  $\tau$ .



## Our approach

In fact,  $\mathcal{T}$  reaching some minimum value is not necessary.

- ▶ Important: Diminishing probability of continued imbalance between “true” merit parameter update and “stochastic” merit parameter update.
- ▶ In iteration  $k$ , the algorithm has obtained the merit parameter value  $\mathcal{T}_{k-1}$ .
- ▶ If the true gradient is computed, then one obtains  $\mathcal{T}_k^{\text{trial,true}}$ .

### Lemma

Suppose that the merit parameter is reduced at most  $s_{\max}$  times. For any  $\delta \in (0, 1)$ , one finds that

$$\mathbb{P} \left[ |\{k : \mathcal{T}_k^{\text{trial,true}} < \mathcal{T}_{k-1}\}| \leq \left\lceil \frac{\ell(s_{\max}, \delta)}{p} \right\rceil \right] \geq 1 - \delta,$$

where  $p \in (0, 1)$  (related to a bounded imbalance assumption we make) and

$$\ell(s_{\max}, \delta) := s_{\max} + \log(1/\delta) + \sqrt{\log(1/\delta)^2 + 2s_{\max} \log(1/\delta)} > 0.$$

▶ Details

Worst-case iteration complexity of  $\tilde{\mathcal{O}}(\epsilon^{-4})$ 

## Theorem

Suppose the algorithm is run  $k_{\max}$  iterations with  $\beta_k = \gamma/\sqrt{k_{\max} + 1}$  and

- ▶ the merit parameter is reduced at most  $s_{\max} \in \{0, 1, \dots, k_{\max}\}$  times.

Let  $k_*$  be sampled uniformly over  $\{1, \dots, k_{\max}\}$ . Then, with probability  $1 - \delta$ ,

$$\mathbb{E}[\|\nabla f(X_{k_*}) + J(X_{k_*})^T Y_{k_*}\|_2^2 + \|c(X_{k_*})\|_1] \leq \frac{\tau_{-1}(f_0 - f_{\inf}) + \|c_0\|_1 + M}{\sqrt{k_{\max} + 1}} + \frac{(\tau_{-1} - \tau_{\min})(s_{\max} \log(k_{\max}) + \log(1/\delta))}{\sqrt{k_{\max} + 1}}$$

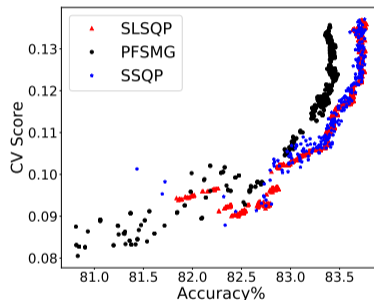
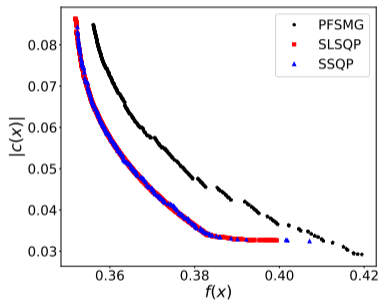
## Theorem

If the stochastic gradient estimates are sub-Gaussian, then with probability  $1 - \bar{\delta}$

$$s_{\max} = \mathcal{O}\left(\log\left(\log\left(\frac{k_{\max}}{\bar{\delta}}\right)\right)\right).$$

## Inequality-constrained: Fair learning

Employed in an  $\epsilon$ -constraint method for fair machine learning:



$$\min_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n} \frac{1}{N_o} \sum_{(v_i, y_i) \in D_o} \ell(x, v_i, y_i) \quad \text{s.t.} \quad -\epsilon \leq \frac{1}{N^c} \sum_{(v_i, a_i) \in D_c} (a_i - \bar{a}) x^T v_i \leq \epsilon$$



## Physics-informed learning

Problem from <https://benmoseley.blog/blog/>

## Mass-balance

Thank you!

Questions?



# Outline

Overview and Motivation

Stochastic Algorithms for Constrained Optimization

Extensions and Experimental Results

Appendix

## Details

◀ Back

Some details on the tree construction for our complexity analysis...

## Chernoff bound

How do we get there?

### Lemma (Chernoff bound, multiplicative form)

Let  $\{Y_0, \dots, Y_k\}$  be independent Bernoulli random variables. Then, for any  $s_{\max} \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $\delta \in (0, 1)$ ,

$$\sum_{j=0}^k \mathbb{P}[Y_j = 1] \geq \ell(s_{\max}, \delta) \implies \mathbb{P}\left[\sum_{j=0}^k Y_j \leq s_{\max}\right] \leq \delta.$$

We construct a tree whose nodes are signatures of possible runs of the algorithm.

- ▶ A realization  $\{g_0, \dots, g_k\}$  belongs to a node if and only if a certain number of decreases of  $\mathcal{T}$  have occurred and the probability of decrease in the current iteration is in a given closed/open interval.
- ▶ Bad leaves are those when the probability of decrease has accumulated beyond a threshold, yet the merit parameter has not been decreased sufficiently often.
- ▶ Along the way, we apply a Chernoff bound on a carefully constructed set of (independent Bernoulli) random variables to bound probabilities associated with bad leaves.

## Node definition

Let  $[k] := \{0, 1, \dots, k\}$  and define

- ▶  $p_{[k]}$  = probabilities of merit parameter decreases
- ▶  $w_{[k]}$  = counter of merit parameter decreases

Then, define nodes of the tree according to

$$G_{[k-1]} \in N(p_{[k]}, w_{[k]})$$

if and only if

$$\begin{aligned} G_{[k-2]} &\in N(p_{[k-1]}, w_{[k-1]}) \\ \mathbb{P}[\mathcal{T}_k < \mathcal{T}_{k-1} | \mathcal{F}_k] &\in \iota(p_k) \\ \sum_{i=1}^{k-1} \mathbb{1}[\mathcal{T}_i < \mathcal{T}_{i-1}] &= w_k \end{aligned}$$

## Visualization

