

Some Recent Advances in Non-convex Optimization

Purushottam Kar



IIT KANPUR

Outline of the Talk

- Recap of Convex Optimization
- Why Non-convex Optimization?
- Non-convex Optimization: A Brief Introduction
- Robust Regression: A Non-convex Approach
- Robust Regression: Application to Face Recognition
- **Robust PCA**: A Sketch and Application to Foreground Extraction in Images

Recap of Convex Optimization

Convex Optimization

 $\min_{\mathbf{x}\in\mathcal{C}}f(\mathbf{x})$

 $f: \mathbb{R}^d \to \mathbb{R}$ **Convex function**



 $\mathcal{C} \subseteq \mathbb{R}^d$

Convex set



Examples

Linear Programming **Quadratic Programming** Semidefinite Programming $\min_{\mathbf{x}\in\mathbb{R}^d} \frac{1}{2} \mathbf{x}^\top \mathbf{A} \mathbf{x} + \mathbf{a}^\top \mathbf{x}$ min $\mathbf{a}^{\top}\mathbf{x}$ min $\mathbf{A}^{\top}\mathbf{X}$ $\mathbf{X}\succ\mathbf{0}$ $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^d$ s.t. $\mathbf{B}_i^\top \mathbf{X} \leq c_i$ s.t. $\mathbf{b}_i^\top \mathbf{x} \leq c_i$ s.t. $\mathbf{b}_i^\top \mathbf{x} \leq c_i$

Applications



Clustering/Partitioning

Signal Processing

Dimensionality Reduction

Techniques

- Projected (Sub)gradient Methods
 - Stochastic, mini-batch variants
 - Primal, dual, primal-dual approaches
 - Coordinate update techniques
- Interior Point Methods
 - Barrier methods
 - Annealing methods
- Other Methods
 - Cutting plane methods
 - Accelerated routines
 - Proximal methods
 - Distributed optimization
 - Derivative-free optimization



Why Non-convex Optimization?

Gene Expression Analysis



www.tes.com

Recommender Systems



 $\min_{L \in \mathcal{M}_k^{m,n}} \|X_\Omega - L_\Omega\|_F^2$

k



Image Reconstruction and Robust Face Recognition



Image Denoising and Robust Face Recognition



Large Scale Surveillance

• Foreground-background separation



$$\min_{\substack{L \in \mathcal{M}_k^{m,n} \\ S \in \mathcal{B}_0^{m,n}(s)}} \|X - (L+S)\|_F^2$$



Non Convex Optimization



Non-convex Optimization: A Brief Introduction

Relaxation-based Techniques

• "Convexify" the feasible set



Alternating Minimization

$$\min f(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y})$$

$$s.t. \ \mathbf{x} \in C_1$$

$$\mathbf{y} \in C_2$$

$$\triangleright \text{ Initialize } \mathbf{x}^0, \mathbf{y}^0$$

$$\triangleright \text{ For } t = 1, 2, \dots$$

$$\triangleright \mathbf{x}^t = \operatorname*{arg \min}_{\mathbf{x} \in C_1} f(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}^{t-1})$$

$$\triangleright \mathbf{y}^t = \operatorname*{arg \min}_{\mathbf{y} \in C_2} f(\mathbf{x}^t, \mathbf{y})$$

Matrix Completion

$$\min_{\substack{L \in \mathcal{M}_{k}^{m,n} \\ W \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times k}}} \|X_{\Omega} - L_{\Omega}\|_{F}^{2}$$

$$\equiv \min_{\substack{U \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times k} \\ V \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times k}}} \|X_{\Omega} - (UV^{\top})_{\Omega}\|_{F}^{2}$$

Robust PCA

$$\min_{\substack{L \in \mathcal{M}_k^{m,n} \\ S \in \mathcal{B}_0^{m,n}(s)}} \|X - (L+S)\|_F^2$$

... also Robust Regression, coming up



Pursuit and Greedy Methods



Robust Regression: A Non-convex Approach Linear Regression



 $y_i = \langle \mathbf{w}^*, \mathbf{x}_i \rangle$ Given: $(\mathbf{x}_1, y_1), ..., (\mathbf{x}_n, y_n)$ Linear Regression



Linear Regression









Given:
$$(\mathbf{x}_1, y_1), \dots, (\mathbf{x}_n, y_n)$$

 $y_i = \langle \mathbf{w}^*, \mathbf{x}_i \rangle + e_i$

$$\min_{\mathbf{w}} \sum_{i=1}^{n} \left(y_i - \langle \mathbf{w}, \mathbf{x}_i \rangle \right)^2 + \lambda \|\mathbf{w}\|_2^2$$

$$\hat{\mathbf{w}} = \left(\mathbf{X}^{\top}\mathbf{X} + \lambda I\right)^{-1}\mathbf{X}^{\top}\mathbf{y}$$

w* Recovered!!



Given:
$$(\mathbf{x}_1, y_1), \dots, (\mathbf{x}_n, y_n)$$

 $y_i = \langle \mathbf{w}^*, \mathbf{x}_i \rangle + e_i$
If $e_i \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma^2)$
 $\|\hat{\mathbf{w}} - \mathbf{w}^*\|_2^2 \lesssim \frac{\sigma^2 p}{n}$
 \mathbf{w}^* Recovered!!



Given: $(\mathbf{x}_1, y_1), \dots, (\mathbf{x}_n, y_n)$ $y_i = \langle \mathbf{w}^*, \mathbf{x}_i \rangle + e_i$ If $e_i \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma^2)$ $\|\hat{\mathbf{w}} - \mathbf{w}^*\|_2^2 \lesssim \frac{\sigma^2 p}{2}$ w^{*} Recovered!!

(almost)

Linear Regression with **Corruptions**



Given:
$$(\mathbf{x}_1, y_1), \dots, (\mathbf{x}_n, y_n)$$

 $y_i = \langle \mathbf{w}^*, \mathbf{x}_i \rangle + e_i + b_i$

No w can guarantee small $\|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{X}\mathbf{w}\|_2$

$$\hat{\mathbf{w}} = (\mathbf{X}^{\top}\mathbf{X} + \lambda I)^{-1}\mathbf{X}^{\top}\mathbf{y}$$

Still recover \mathbf{w}^* ?

$$\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{X}\mathbf{w}^* + \mathbf{b}$$



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$$\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{X}\mathbf{w}^* + \mathbf{b}$$

$$\|\mathbf{b}\|_0 \le k = \alpha \cdot n$$

Attempt 2

$$\mathbf{b} = \mathbf{y} - \mathbf{X}\mathbf{w}$$

$$\label{eq:stable} \begin{split} \min \| \mathbf{y} - \mathbf{X} \mathbf{w} - \mathbf{b} \|_2^2 \\ s.t. \| \mathbf{b} \|_1 \leq \lambda \quad \text{sive} \\ \\ \text{[Wright and Ma 2010*, Nguyen, 5, 2013*]} \end{split}$$

Lessons from History

If among these errors are some which appear too large to be admissible, then those equations which produced these errors will be rejected, as coming from too faulty experiments, and the unknowns will be determined by means of the other equations, which will then give much smaller errors

Adrien-Marie Legendre, On the Method of Least Squares, 1805

Linear Regression with Corruptions


Linear Regression with Corruptions



Linear Regression with Corruptions



Linear Regression with Corruptions



Thresholding Operator-based Robust RegrEssioN meThod [Bhatia et al, 2015]

















































Recovery Guarantees

Robust against adaptive adversaries

has access to data \mathbf{x}_i , gold model \mathbf{w}^* , and noise e_i

Requirement:

Data X needs to satisfy some "nice" properties Enough data needs to be present $n = \Omega(p \lg p)$ Guarantees:

TORRENT will recover the gold model if $\alpha \leq \frac{1}{60}$ i.e. $k \leq \frac{n}{60}$



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Convergence Rates

Linear rate of convergence

Suppose each alternation \equiv one step

After $T = \log \frac{1}{\epsilon}$ time steps $\left\| \mathbf{w}^T - \mathbf{w}^* \right\|_2 \le \epsilon$

Invariant: at time t, "active set" \mathcal{A}^t s.t

$$\|b_{\mathcal{A}^t}\|_2 \le \frac{1}{2} \cdot \|b_{\mathcal{A}^{t-1}}\|_2$$



Convergence Rates



Convergence Rates



Convergence Rates



Convergence Rates



Convergence Rates



Convergence Rates



Convergence Rates


Alt-Min in Practice

Quality of Recovery



[Bhatia *et al* 2015]

Alt-Min in Practice

Speed of Recovery



[Bhatia *et al* 2015]

Robust Regression: Application to Face Recognition

Extended Yale B dataset, 38 people, 800 images

Face Recognition



Image Reconstruction



Original



Input



OLS



TORRENT









[Bhatia et al 2015]

Robust PCA: A Sketch and Application to Foreground Extraction in Images

The Alternating Projection Procedure

$$\begin{array}{l} \min_{\substack{L \in \mathcal{M}_{k}^{m,n} \\ S \in \mathcal{B}_{0}^{m,n}(s)}} \|X - (L+S)\|_{F}^{2} \\ \stackrel{\text{bertional}}{\to} \operatorname{Set}_{S}^{m,n}(s) \\ \stackrel{\text{bertional}}{\to} \operatorname{For}_{s}^{1} = 1, 2, \dots, K \\ \stackrel{\text{bertional}}{\to} \operatorname{Set}_{s}^{s} \text{ appropriately} \\ \stackrel{\text{bertional}}{\to} L^{t} = \Pi_{\mathcal{M}_{r}^{m,n}}(X - S^{t-1}) \\ \stackrel{\text{bertional}}{\to} S^{t} = \Pi_{\mathcal{B}_{0}^{m,n}(s')}(X - L^{t}) \\ \stackrel{\text{bertional}}{\to} S^{0} = S^{T} \end{array}$$

[Netrapalli *et al* 2014]

Foreground-background Separation

Convex Relaxation. Runtime: 1700 sec







Alt-Proj. Runtime: 70 sec







+

[Netrapalli *et al* 2014]

Concluding Comments

Non-convex optimization is an exciting area

Widespread applications

- Much better modelling of problems
- Much more scalable algorithms
- Provable guarantees

So ...

- Full of opportunities
- Full of challenges

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http://research.microsoft.com/en-us/projects/altmin/default.aspx

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Questions?

TORRENT as an Alt-Min Procedure

- TORRENT indeed performs Alt-Min
- Two variables in TORRENT active set ${\cal A}\,$ and model w

$$\min_{\mathbf{w}\in\mathbb{R}^p} f(\mathcal{A}, \mathbf{w}) = \sum_{i\in\mathcal{A}} (y_i - \mathbf{x}_i^{\top} \mathbf{w})^2$$

s.t. $|\mathcal{A}| \le n - k = (1 - \alpha) \cdot n$

- ${\mathcal A}$ encodes the complement of the corruption vector ${f b}$
- TORRENT alternates between
 - Fixing model and choosing active set
 - Fixing active set and choosing model
- Both steps reduce the residual as much as possible

Linear Regression with Corruptions



Thresholding Operator-based Robust RegrEssioN meThod [Bhatia et al, 2015]

Linear Regression with **Corruptions**

TORRENT-HYB

Given:
$$(\mathbf{x}_1, y_1), \dots, (\mathbf{x}_n, y_n)$$

 $y_i = \langle \mathbf{w}^*, \mathbf{x}_i \rangle + e_i + b_i$

If active set \mathcal{A} "stable" execute TORRENT-FC Else

execute TORRENT-GD

Given $\hat{\mathbf{w}}$, easy to identify points that *look* like \bullet



Given remaining points, easy to "improve" $\hat{\mathbf{w}}$

Thresholding Operator-based Robust RegrEssioN meThod [Bhatia et al, 2015]