Chapter 6

Stopping criteria, adaptivity, accelerations

Convex Optimization for Computer Vision SS 2016

Michael Moeller
Thomas Möllenhoff
Emanuel Laude
Computer Vision Group
Department of Computer Science
TU München

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Customized proximal point algorithms

Structured optimization methods for

$$\min_{u} G(u) + F(Ku)$$

under the assumption of F and G being simple or - in the ADMM case - $(\partial G + \frac{1}{\tau}K^TK)^{-1}$ being easy to compute.

Goal: Find pair (\hat{u}, \hat{p}) with

$$-K^{T}\hat{p}\in\partial G(\hat{u}),\quad K\hat{u}\in\partial F^{*}(\hat{p})$$

Primal Dual-Hybrid Gradient (PDHG) method:

$$\mathbf{0} \in \begin{bmatrix} \partial G & K^T \\ -K & \partial F^* \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} u^{k+1} \\ p^{k+1} \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{\tau}I & -K^T \\ -K & \frac{1}{\sigma}I \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} u^{k+1} - u^k \\ p^{k+1} - p^k \end{bmatrix}$$

What is a good stopping criterion?

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Generic form:

$$0 \in \begin{bmatrix} \partial G & K^T \\ -K & \partial F^* \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} u^{k+1} \\ p^{k+1} \end{bmatrix} + \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} M_1 & -K^T \\ -K & M_2 \end{bmatrix}}_{=:M} \begin{bmatrix} u^{k+1} - u^k \\ p^{k+1} - p^k \end{bmatrix}$$

such that the matrix M is positive (semi-)definite.

Natural considerations:

- How close is $-K^T p^{k+1}$ to being an element of $\partial G(u^{k+1})$?
- How close is Ku^{k+1} to being an element of $\partial F^*(p^{k+1})$?

We define the *primal* and *dual* residuals:

$$r_p^{k+1} = M_2(p^{k+1} - p^k) - K(u^{k+1} - u^k)$$

$$r_d^{k+1} = M_1(u^{k+1} - u^k) - K^T(p^{k+1} - p^k)$$

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Primal and dual residuals

Based on the *primal* and *dual* residuals:

$$r_p^{k+1} = M_2(p^{k+1} - p^k) - K(u^{k+1} - u^k)$$

$$r_d^{k+1} = M_1(u^{k+1} - u^k) - K^T(p^{k+1} - p^k)$$

we could consider our algorithm to be convergent if $\|r_d^{k+1}\|^2 + \|r_p^{k+1}\|^2 \to 0$, because this implies

$$\operatorname{dist}(-K^{T}p^{k+1},\partial G(u^{k+1})) \to 0,$$

$$\operatorname{dist}(Ku^{k+1},\partial F^{*}(p^{k+1})) \to 0.$$

Note that this notion of convergences does not imply convergence of u^k and p^k yet!

Nevertheless, we know PDHG and ADMM do converge, and $\|r_d^{k+1}\|$ and $\|r_p^{k+1}\|$ are good measures for convergence!

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Upper bounds on the residuals

How should we use $||r_d^{k+1}||$ and $||r_p^{k+1}||$ to formalize a stopping criterion?

- Simple option: Iterator until $||r_d^{k+1}|| \le \epsilon$ and $||r_p^{k+1}|| \le \epsilon$.
- Could be unfair, if $u^k \in \mathbb{R}^n$ and $p^k \in \mathbb{R}^m$ and e.g. n >> m. Use $\|r_d^{k+1}\| \leq \sqrt{n} \epsilon$ and $\|r_p^{k+1}\| \leq \sqrt{m} \epsilon$.
- Could be unfair for different scales! Introduce absolute and relative error criteria:

$$\|r_d^{k+1}\| \leq \sqrt{n} \, \epsilon^{abs} + ext{dual scale factor} \cdot \epsilon^{rel}$$

 $\|r_p^{k+1}\| \leq \sqrt{m} \, \epsilon^{abs} + ext{primal scale factor} \cdot \epsilon^{rel}$

But what are reasonable scale factors?

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Scaling the primal residuum

The primal residual

$$r_p^{k+1} = M_2(p^{k+1} - p^k) - K(u^{k+1} - u^k)$$

measures how far Ku^{k+1} is away from a particular element in $\partial F^*(p^{k+1})$, and therefore scales with the magnitude of elements in $\partial F^*(p^{k+1})$.

More precisely:

$$0 \in \partial F^{*}(p^{k+1}) - Ku^{k+1} + r_{p}^{k+1}$$

$$\Rightarrow 0 \in \partial F^{*}(p^{k+1}) - K^{T}(2u^{k+1} - u^{k}) + M_{2}(p^{k+1} - p^{k}).$$

$$\Rightarrow \underbrace{M_{2}(p^{k} - p^{k+1}) + K^{T}(2u^{k+1} - u^{k})}_{=:z^{k+1}} \in \partial F^{*}(p^{k+1})$$

Thus, we can use

$$||r_p^{k+1}|| \leq \sqrt{m} \, \epsilon^{abs} + ||z^{k+1}|| \cdot \epsilon^{rel}$$

to be scale-independent.

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Scaling the dual residuum

The dual residual

$$r_d^{k+1} = M_1(u^{k+1} - u^k) - K^T(p^{k+1} - p^k)$$

measures how far $-K^Tp^{k+1}$ is away from a particular element in $\partial G(u^{k+1})$, and therefore scales with the magnitude of elements in $\partial G(u^{k+1})$.

More precisely:

$$0 \in \partial G(u^{k+1}) + K^{T} p^{k+1} + r_{d}^{k+1}.$$

$$\Rightarrow 0 \in \partial G(u^{k+1}) + K^{T} p^{k} + M_{1}(u^{k+1} - u^{k})$$

$$\Rightarrow \underbrace{M_{1}(u^{k} - u^{k+1}) - K^{T} p^{k}}_{=:v^{k+1}} \in \partial G(u^{k+1})$$

Thus, we can use

$$||r_d^{k+1}|| \leq \sqrt{n} \, \epsilon^{abs} + ||v^{k+1}|| \cdot \epsilon^{rel}$$

to be scale-independent.

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A scaled absolute and relative stopping criterion

In summary, a good stopping criterion is

$$||r_p^{k+1}|| \le \sqrt{m} \,\epsilon^{abs} + ||z^{k+1}|| \cdot \epsilon^{rel},$$
$$||r_d^{k+1}|| \le \sqrt{n} \,\epsilon^{abs} + ||v^{k+1}|| \cdot \epsilon^{rel}.$$

Interesting observation in our previous considerations: ADMM, Douglas Rachford, PDHG, and any other "customized proximal point" algorithm actually generates iterates $(u^{k+1}, p^{k+1}, v^{k+1}, z^{k+1})$ with

$$v^{k+1} \in \partial G(u^{k+1}), \qquad z^{k+1} \in \partial F^*(p^{k+1}).$$

The goal of all algorithms is to achieve convergence

$$\|\underbrace{z^{k+1} - Ku^{k+1}}_{=r_p^{k+1}}\| \to 0 \text{ and } \|\underbrace{v^{k+1} + K^T p^{k+1}}_{=r_d^{k+1}}\| \to 0!$$

Note that z is exactly the "split" variable in the augmented Lagrangian based derivation of ADMM!

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adaptivity,

 r_{ρ}^{k+1} and r_{d}^{k+1} determine the convergence of the algorithm.

Can we also use r_d and r_p to accelerate the algorithm?

Adaptive stepsizes:

$$0 \in \begin{bmatrix} \partial G & K^T \\ -K & \partial F^* \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} u^{k+1} \\ p^{k+1} \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{\tau^k} M_1 & -K^T \\ -K & \frac{1}{\sigma^k} M_2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} u^{k+1} - u^k \\ p^{k+1} - p^k \end{bmatrix}$$

Base the choices of τ^k and σ^k on the residuals r_p^k and r_d^k ?

Residual balancing

First option: Residual balancing! Let $(M_1, -K^T; -K, M_2)$ be positive definite. Pick τ^0 and σ^0 with $\tau^0\sigma^0<1$ as well as $\mu>1$, $\alpha>1$:

• If $||r_p^k|| > \mu ||r_d^k||$, do

$$\tau^{k+1} = \frac{1}{\alpha} \tau^k, \quad \sigma^{k+1} = \alpha \sigma^k$$

• If $||r_d^k|| > \mu ||r_p^k||$, do

$$\tau^{k+1} = \alpha \tau^k, \quad \sigma^{k+1} = \frac{1}{\alpha} \sigma^k$$

• Keep $\tau^{k+1} = \tau^k$ and $\sigma^{k+1} = \sigma^k$ otherwise.

Why could this make sense?

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Unbalanced adaption

Second option: Fougner, Boyd '15: Let $(M_1, -K^T; -K, M_2)$ be positive definite. Pick τ^0 and σ^0 with $\tau^0\sigma^0<1$ as well as $\mu>1$, $\alpha>1$:

• If $\|r_d^k\| < \epsilon^{\textit{thresh}}$ and $k > \mu k_1^{\textit{prev}}$, do

$$\tau^{k+1} = \frac{1}{\alpha} \tau^k, \quad \sigma^{k+1} = \alpha \sigma^k, \quad k_1^{\text{prev}} \leftarrow k.$$

• If $\| \emph{r}^\emph{k}_\emph{p} \| < \epsilon^\textit{thresh}$ and $\emph{k} > \mu \emph{k}^\textit{prev}_\emph{2}$, do

$$\tau^{k+1} = \alpha \tau^k, \quad \sigma^{k+1} = \frac{1}{\alpha} \sigma^k, \quad k_2^{\text{prev}} \leftarrow k.$$

• Keep $\tau^{k+1} = \tau^k$ and $\sigma^{k+1} = \sigma^k$ otherwise.

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Convergence guarantees?

The previous two adaptive step size methods are heuristics that work well in practice.

In general, they have no convergence guarantees!

Common trick: Changing the parameters finitely many times only, reestablishes the convergence guarantees!

More appealing from a theoretical point of view: Decreasing the adaptivity of the stepsizes fast enough. Stopping criteria, adaptivity, accelerations

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Convergence guarantees with adaptive step sizes

Goldstein et al. 2015

Consider $M_1 = \frac{1}{\tilde{\tau}}I$, $M_2 = \frac{1}{\tilde{\sigma}}I$ with $\tilde{\sigma}\tilde{\tau} < \|K\|^{-2}$, and define

$$\delta^k = \min\left\{\frac{\tau^{k+1}}{\tau^k}, \frac{\sigma^{k+1}}{\sigma^k}, 1\right\}, \quad \phi^k = 1 - \delta^k$$

Let the following three conditions hold:

- **1** The sequences $\{\tau^k\}$, $\{\sigma^k\}$ remain bounded.
- **2** The sequence ϕ^k is summable.
- **3** It holds that $\tau^k \sigma^k < c < 1$.

Then the resulting adaptive PDHG algorithm converges.

Conjecture (for you to prove)

The same result holds for arbitrary M_1 , M_2 provided that the matrix $(M_1, -K^T; -K, M_2)$ is positive definite.

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Customized proximal point algorithms

Decreasing residual balancing: Let $(M_1, -K^T; -K, M_2)$ be positive definite. Pick τ^0 and σ^0 with $\tau^0\sigma^0<1$. Further choose $\mu>1$, $\alpha^0<1$, $\beta<1$ and adapt as follows

• If $\|r_p^k\| > \mu \|r_d^k\|$, do

$$\tau^{k+1} = (1 - \alpha^k)\tau^k, \quad \sigma^{k+1} = \frac{1}{1 - \alpha^k}\sigma^k, \quad \alpha^{k+1} = \alpha^k \cdot \beta.$$

• If $\|r_d^k\| > \mu \|r_p^k\|$, do

$$\tau^{k+1} = \frac{1}{1 - \alpha^k} \tau^k, \quad \sigma^{k+1} = (1 - \alpha^k) \sigma^k, \quad \alpha^{k+1} = \alpha^k \cdot \beta.$$

• Keep $\tau^{k+1} = \tau^k$, $\sigma^{k+1} = \sigma^k$, and $\alpha^{k+1} = \alpha^k$ otherwise.

Convergence proof based on previous theorem.

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Sketch of proof

Sketch of the proof:

- The product $\tau^k \sigma^k$ does not change, thus 3. holds.
- It holds that

$$\phi^k = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if stepsizes were not updated,} \\ \alpha^k & \text{if stepsizes were updated.} \end{cases}$$

which means the *j*-th nonzero entry of $\{\phi^k\}$ is $(\alpha^0)^j$.

- $\sum_{k} \phi^{k} = \sum_{j \in I} (\alpha^{0})^{j} < C$, thus condition 2 holds.
- Without restriction of generality we may drop those steps where the stepsize remained unchanged. We find

$$\tau^{j+1} \le \frac{1}{1-\alpha^j} \tau^j \le \left(\frac{1}{1-\alpha^j}\right)^j \tau^0 = \frac{1}{(1-\alpha^0 \beta^j)^j} \tau^0$$

The factor $(1 - \alpha^0 \beta^j)^j$ remains bounded from below and thus condition 1 follows. (For $x \ge -1$: $(1 + x)^n \ge 1 + nx$)

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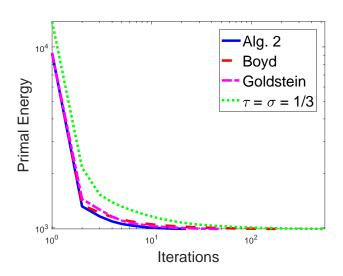
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Example plot of convergence for ROF model



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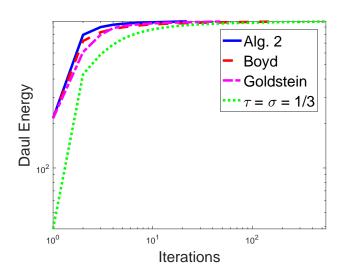
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Example plot of convergence for ROF model



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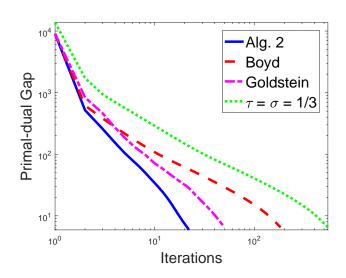
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Backtracking

Condition 3 in the previous convergence result for adaptive stepsizes can also be weakened to

3. The saddle point problem

$$\min_{u} \max_{p} G(u) + \langle Ku, p \rangle - F^{*}(p)$$

restricts either u or p to a bounded set. Furthermore there exists a constant c such that for all k > 0

$$\begin{split} & \left\langle \begin{bmatrix} u^{k+1} - u^k \\ \rho^{k+1} - \rho^k \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{\tau^k} M_1 & -K^T \\ -K & \frac{1}{\sigma^k} M_2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} u^{k+1} - u^k \\ \rho^{k+1} - \rho^k \end{bmatrix} \right\rangle \\ & \geq c \; \left\langle \begin{bmatrix} u^{k+1} - u^k \\ \rho^{k+1} - \rho^k \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{\tau^k} M_1 & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{1}{\sigma^k} M_2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} u^{k+1} - u^k \\ \rho^{k+1} - \rho^k \end{bmatrix} \right\rangle. \end{split}$$

Under this condition the convergence result still holds.

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Backtracking

The stability condition 3 from the previous slide can used to define a *backtracking* algorithm that works without knowing the constant $\|K\|^2$.

Define

$$b^{k} = \frac{2\tilde{\tau}\tilde{\sigma}\tau^{k}\sigma^{k}\langle p^{k+1} - p^{k}, K(u^{k+1} - u^{k})\rangle}{\gamma\tilde{\sigma}\sigma^{k}\|u^{k+1} - u^{k}\|^{2} + \gamma\tilde{\tau}\tau^{k}\|p^{k+1} - p^{k}\|^{2}}$$

for some $\gamma \in]0,1[$.

If $b^k \le 1$ keep iterating, if $b^k > 1$ update

$$\tau^{k+1} = \beta \tau^k / b^k, \quad \sigma^{k+1} = \beta \sigma^k / b^k$$

for $\beta \in]0,1[$.

Key insight to prove convergence: $b^k > 1$ can only happen finitely many times.

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Generic customized proximal point algorithms:

$$0 \in \begin{bmatrix} \partial G & K^T \\ -K & \partial F^* \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} u^{k+1} \\ p^{k+1} \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} M_1 & -K^T \\ -K & M_2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} u^{k+1} - u^k \\ p^{k+1} - p^k \end{bmatrix}$$

overrelaxation on primal variable u

or

$$0 \in \begin{bmatrix} \partial G & K^T \\ -K & \partial F^* \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} u^{k+1} \\ p^{k+1} \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} M_1 & K^T \\ K & M_2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} u^{k+1} - u^k \\ p^{k+1} - p^k \end{bmatrix}$$

overrelaxation on dual variable p.

What choices can we make beyond $M_1 = \frac{1}{\tau}I$ and $M_2 = \frac{1}{\sigma}I$?

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Recalling some customized proximal point algorithms

A computation on the board shows

Primal ADMM, u update first

$$0 \in \begin{bmatrix} \partial G & K^T \\ -K & \partial F^* \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} u^{k+1} \\ p^{k+1} \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} \lambda K^T K & K^T \\ K & \frac{1}{\lambda} I \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} u^{k+1} - u^k \\ p^{k+1} - p^k \end{bmatrix}.$$

Corresponding dual ADMM

$$0 \in \begin{bmatrix} \partial G & K^T \\ -K & \partial F^* \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} u^{k+1} \\ p^{k+1} \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{\lambda}I & -K^T \\ -K & \lambda KK^T \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} u^{k+1} - u^k \\ p^{k+1} - p^k \end{bmatrix}.$$

PDHG, overrelaxation on primal

$$0 \in \begin{bmatrix} \partial G & K^T \\ -K & \partial F^* \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} u^{k+1} \\ p^{k+1} \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{\tau}I & -K^T \\ -K & \frac{1}{\sigma}I \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} u^{k+1} - u^k \\ p^{k+1} - p^k \end{bmatrix}.$$

PDHG, overrelaxation on dual

$$\mathbf{0} \in \begin{bmatrix} \partial G & K^T \\ -K & \partial F^* \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} u^{k+1} \\ p^{k+1} \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{\tau}I & K^T \\ K & \frac{1}{\sigma}I \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} u^{k+1} - u^k \\ p^{k+1} - p^k \end{bmatrix}.$$

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Recalling some customized proximal point algorithms

Practical experience:

ADMM makes more progress per iteration than PDHG!

Interpretation: PDHG approximates $\lambda K^T K$ by $\frac{1}{\sigma}I$.

→ Crude approximation!

Idea: Use

$$0 \in \begin{bmatrix} \partial G & K^T \\ -K & \partial F^* \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} u^{k+1} \\ p^{k+1} \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} M_1 & -K^T \\ -K & M_2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} u^{k+1} - u^k \\ p^{k+1} - p^k \end{bmatrix}$$

for matrices M_1 , M_2 that introduce more knowledge about K!

To avoid the difficult resolvents: Use diagonal M_1 and M_2 !

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Preconditioning matrices

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Case study

Pock, Chambolle 2011

Let M_1 and M_2 be symmetric positive definite maps that satisfy

$$\left\| M_2^{-1/2} K M_1^{-1/2} \right\|^2 < 1,$$

then the matrix

$$M := \begin{bmatrix} M_1 & -K^T \\ -K & M_2 \end{bmatrix}$$

is positive definite.

Preconditioning matrices

Pock, Chambolle 2011

Let $M_1 = \operatorname{diag}(m_j^1)$ and $M_2 = \operatorname{diag}(m_i^2)$ with

$$\textit{m}_{j}^{1} = \sum_{i} |\textit{K}_{i,j}|^{2-\alpha}, \qquad \textit{m}_{i}^{2} = \sum_{j} |\textit{K}_{i,j}|^{\alpha}.$$

Then

$$\|M_2^{-1/2}KM_1^{-1/2}\|^2 \le 1$$

holds for all $\alpha \in [0, 2]$.

The above theorem provides an easy way of determining diagonal preconditioners!

To get a strict inequality we can multiply M_1 and/or M_2 by any factor > 1.

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When does preconditioning make sense?

For $K \approx \nabla$ this preconditioning has (almost) no effect!

If the row sums or the column sums of K differ a lot, then the previous preconditioning has a strong effect:

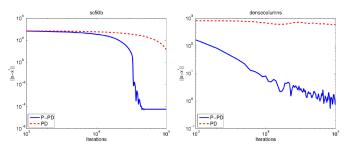


Figure 1. On problems with irregular structure, the proposed preconditioned algorithm (P-PD) converges significantly faster than the algorithm of [5] (PD).

From Pock, Chambolle 2011: Diagonal preconditioning for first order primal-dual algorithms in convex optimization.

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Open research questions

- Convergence for triangular matrices M_1 , M_2 ?
- Symmetric non-diagonal preconditioner which still allow efficient solutions?
- · Iterative adaptation of diagonal preconditioners?
- Why does "preconditioning" help beyond diagonal matrices?
- Convergence estimates that reveal influence of preconditioners?

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Gaining some momentum

Assume we look for a \hat{x} such that

$$0 \in (A+B)\hat{x}$$

for maximally monotone operators A and B. Then the scheme

$$y^{k} = x^{k} + \alpha_{k}(x^{k} - x^{k-1}),$$

 $x^{k+1} = (M + \lambda_{k}A)^{-1}(M - \lambda_{k}B)(y^{k}),$

converges for certain choices of extrapolation parameter α_k ,

positive (semi-)definite matrix M, and stepsize λ_k .

Example 1:
$$A = 0$$
, $M = I$, $\lambda_k = \tau$, $B = \nabla E$:

$$x^{k+1} = y^k - \nabla E(y^k)$$

Example 2: $A = \partial E_1$, M = I, $\lambda_k = \tau$, $B = \nabla E_2$:

$$x^{k+1} = \mathsf{prox}_{\tau E_1}(y^k - \nabla E_2(y^k))$$

These methods are optimal in the sense of Nesterov. Similar techniques may also accelerate primal-dual algorithms.

1 Details: "An inertial forward-backward algorithm for monotone inclusions".

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Very brief desired topic: ADMM and its convergence

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Michael Moeller Thomas Möllenhoff Emanuel Laude



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Accelerations

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Heavy-ball schemes

Possible convergence analysis of ADMM on 1 slide

- The subdifferential ∂E is a maximally monotone operator.
- The resolvent $(I + A)^{-1}$ of a maximally monotone operator A is non-expansive.
- An operator F is called averaged, if $F = \theta T + (1 \theta)I$ for $\theta \in]0,1[$ and T being non-expansive.
- If F is an averaged operator, the fixed point iteration $x^{k+1} = Fx^k$ converges to some x^* with $x^* = Fx^*$.
- Specially structured problem: $0 \in \partial G(u) + K^T \partial F(Ku)$, i.e. $0 \in A(u) + B(u)$, for A and B being maximally monotone.
- For $C_A = 2(I + A)^{-1} I$ denoting the Cayley operator, $C_A C_B$ is a non-expansive operator!
- · DRS/ADMM: Do a fixed point iteration with

$$F=\frac{1}{2}I+\frac{1}{2}C_AC_B,$$

and $u^* = (I + B)^{-1}x^*$ will meet $0 \in A(u^*) + B(u^*)$.

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Case study: Single view 3d reconstruction

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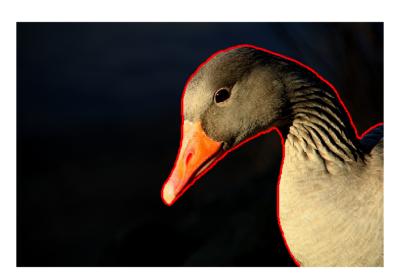
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Remember 2.5d reconstruction?



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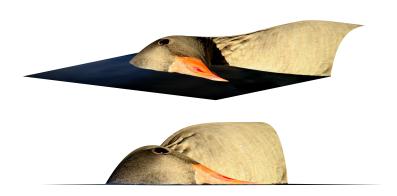
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Remember 2.5d reconstruction?

Assumptions:

- Minimal surface
- User-defined volume
- · No volume outside of the contour

$$\min_{u} \quad \sum_{i} \sqrt{1 + |(Du)_{i}|^{2}} + \delta_{\Sigma_{V}}(u)$$

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What about full 3d reconstruction?

First question: How do we represent the surface/volume?

Common technique: $u : \Omega \times \mathbb{R} \to \{0,1\}.$

- u(x) = 1 means this voxel is occupied with the object
- u(x) = 0 means there is no object at this pixel

Via the celebrated co-area formula, one may show that if

$$u(x) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } x \in M, \\ 0 & \text{otherwise,} \end{cases}$$

one has

$$TV(u) := \int \|Du\| = Area(M).$$

For details see e.g. Chambolle et at. 2009, *An introduction to Total Variation for Image Analysis*.

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What is a reasonable first model for single image 3D reconstruction given a silhouette *S*?

- $\int_{\Omega \times \mathbb{R}} u(x) dx = V$, where V is a user given volume.
- Constraint: $u(x_1, x_2, z) = 0 \ \forall z \ \text{if} \ (x_1, x_2) \notin S$.
- Constraint: $u(x_1, x_2, 0) = 1 \ \forall z \ \text{if} \ (x_1, x_2) \in S$.
- · Find the minimal surface, i.e. minimize

$$\int_{\Omega\times\mathbb{R}} |\nabla u(x)| \ dx$$

Or with prior information possibly use a weighting

$$\int_{\Omega\times\mathbb{R}}g(x)|\nabla u(x)|\ dx$$

• Since the constraint $u(x) \in \{0,1\}$ is difficult, use $u \in [0,1]$.

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Discretized model:

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 $\min_{u \in \mathbb{R}^{n_{y} \times n_{x} \times n_{d}}} \sum_{i.i.k} g_{i,j,k} \cdot |(Du)_{i,j,k}| + \delta_{\Sigma_{V}}(u) + \delta_{u_{i,j,n_{d}/2}=1}(u) + \delta_{[0,1]}(u)$ Accelerations

Let us apply the PDHG method to minimize the above energy. First step: Bring the energy into a suitable saddle point form Note that one can absorb the $g_{i,j,k}$ into D by multiplying D with a diagonal matrix with the $g_{i,i,k}$ on the diagonal.

Discretized model:

$$\min_{u \in \mathbb{R}^{n_f} \times n_x \times n_d} \|Du\|_{2,1} + \delta_{\Sigma_V}(u) + \delta_{u_{i,j,n_d/2}=1}(u) + \delta_{[0,1]}(u)$$

As usual we reformulate

$$\min_{u}\max_{\rho}\ \langle \rho, Du \rangle - \delta_{\|\cdot\|_{2,\infty}}(\rho) + \delta_{\Sigma_{V}}(u) + \delta_{u_{i,j,n_d/2}=1}(u) + \delta_{[0,1]}(u)$$

We know the $\delta_{\|\cdot\|_{2,\infty}}(p)$ prox is easy. What about the remaining problem in u?

At least as difficult as a non-negative ℓ^1 projection², but with an additional bound on each component of u! We should simplify further!

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Thomas Möllenhoff
Emanuel Laude



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²See Duchi et al. 2008

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 $\min_{u} \max_{\rho} \ \langle \rho, Du \rangle - \delta_{\|\cdot\|_{2,\infty}}(\rho) + \delta_{\Sigma_{V}}(u) + \delta_{u_{i,j,n_d/2}=1}(u) + \delta_{[0,1]}(u)$

One could "dualize" either $\delta_{[0,1]}(u)$ or $\delta_{\Sigma_{\nu}}(u)$ and the remaining prox in u would be easy!

Lets use

$$\delta_{\Sigma_V}(u) = \sup_{q \in \mathbb{R}} q(\mathbf{1}^T u - V)$$

We arrive at

$$\min_{u} \max_{p,q} \langle p, Du \rangle - \delta_{\|\cdot\|_{2,\infty} \leq 1}(p) + q(\mathbf{1}^{T}u - V) + \delta_{u_{i,j,n_d/2}=1}(u) + \delta_{[0,1]}(u)$$

or equivalently

$$\min_{u} \max_{p,q} \delta_{u_{i,j,n_d/2}=1}(u) + \delta_{[0,1]}(u) + \left\langle \begin{pmatrix} p \\ q \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} D \\ \mathbf{1}^T \end{pmatrix} u \right\rangle \\
- qV - \delta_{\|\cdot\|_{2,\infty} \leq 1}(p)$$

Let's apply (PDHG)!

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$$p^{k+1} = \mathsf{prox}_{\delta_{\|\cdot\|_{2,\infty} \le 1}}(p^k + \sigma D\bar{u}^k)$$

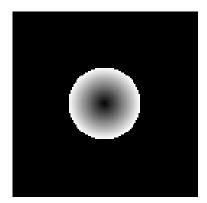
$$q^{k+1} = \underset{q}{\operatorname{argmin}} 0.5(q - q^k - \sigma \mathbf{1}^T \bar{u}^k)^2 + \sigma Vq$$
$$= q^k + \sigma (\mathbf{1}^T u^k - V)$$

$$u_{i,j,l}^{k+1} = \begin{cases} 1 \\ \max(0, \min(1, u_{i,j,l}^{k+1} - \tau(D^*p^{k+1} + q^{k+1} \mathbf{1}))) \end{cases}$$

if
$$I = n_d/2$$
 else

$$\bar{u}^{k+1} = 2u^{k+1} - u^k$$

Sanity check:



with Volume = $\frac{4}{3}\pi$ radius³.

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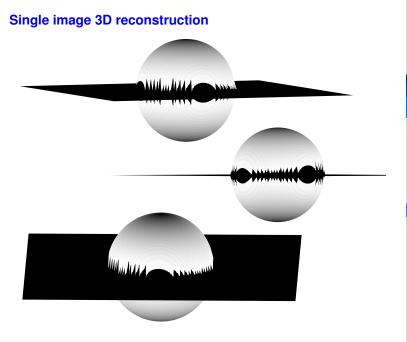


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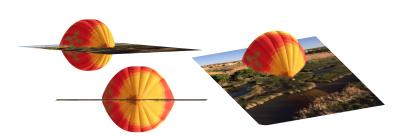


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Nice results (except some remaining discretization artifacts).

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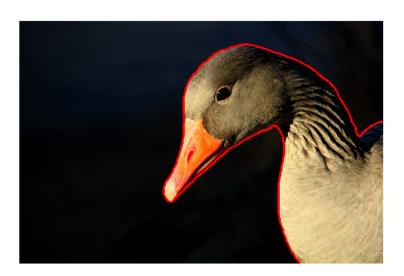


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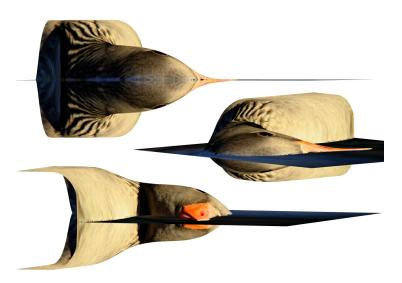


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Results (with a restriction on the maximal thickness).

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