

Optimization theories of neural networks with its statistical perspective

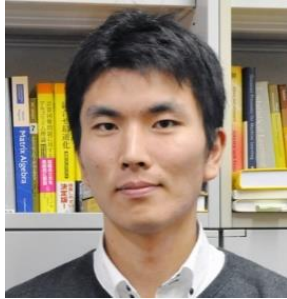
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Deep Learning Theory Team/AIP-RIKEN
The University of Tokyo

20th/Oct/2021
EPFL-AIP joint seminar

Members

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Many collaborators and intern students, and graduate students in The University of Tokyo.

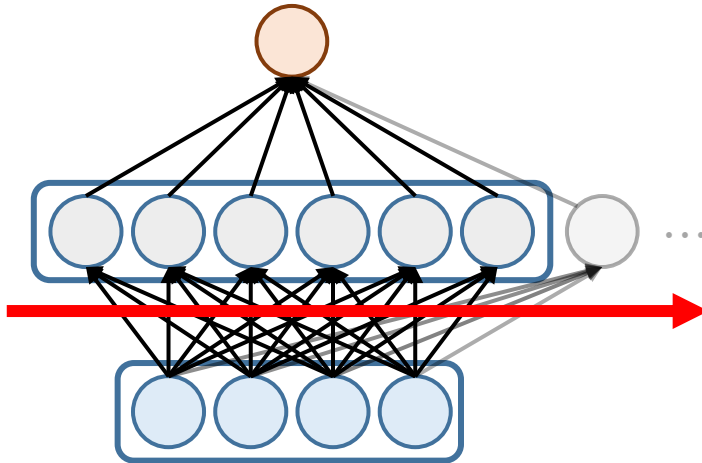
Overview of this presentation

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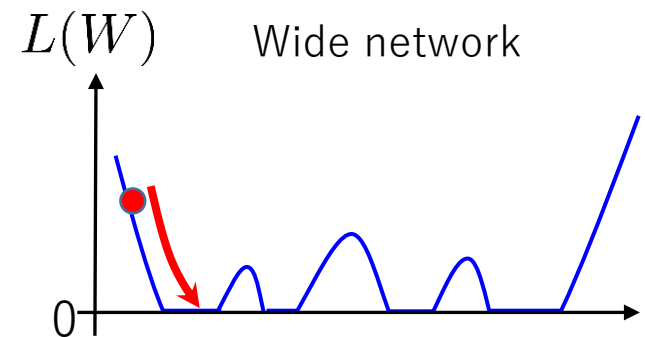
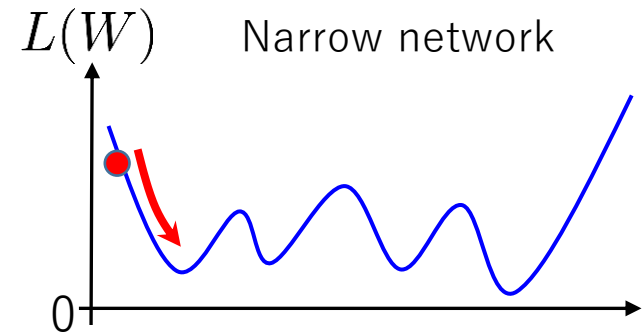
- Optimization theory of deep learning
 - SGD in neural tangent kernel regime
 - Infinite dimensional gradient Langevin dynamics
 - Particle gradient descent in mean field regime
 - Optimization theory in double descent
- Its connection to generalization performance of deep learning.

Overparameterization

Wide neural network does not have spurious local minima.
e.g., Venturi, Bandeira and Bruna (2019).



Since the model complexity is increased, the initial solution is already close to the global optimal.



- Two types of analysis
 - Neural Tangent Kernel (NTK)
 - Mean-field analysis

$$f_W(x) = \sum_{j=1}^M a_j \eta(w_j^\top x)$$

- Neural Tangent Kernel regime (lazy learning)

➤ $a_j = \mathbf{O}(1/\sqrt{M})$

[Jacot+ 2018][Du+ 2019][Arora+ 2019]
(Xavier initialization/He initialization)

- Mean field regime

➤ $a_j = \mathbf{O}(1/M)$

[Nitanda & Suzuki (2017), Chizat & Bach (2018), Mei, Montanari, & Nguyen (2018)]

Different scaling of initial solution yields different behavior.

Neural Tangent Kernel

$$f_W(x) = \sum_{j=1}^M a_j \eta(w_j^\top x)$$

[Jacot, Gabriel, & Hongler (2019)]

Taylor expansion

Feature map

$$f_W(x) \simeq (W - W^{(0)})^\top \nabla_W f_{W^{(0)}}(x) \quad (\text{linear approximation})$$

Since the initial scale is large, a linear approximation around the initial solution can fit the data.

Inner product between feature maps: kernel

$$\begin{aligned} \Rightarrow k_W(x, x') &= \langle \nabla_W f_{W^{(0)}}(x), \nabla_W f_{W^{(0)}}(x') \rangle \\ &= \sum_{j=1}^M \underbrace{a_j^2}_{\frac{1}{M}} (x^\top x') \eta'(w_j^\top x) \eta'(w_j^\top x') \end{aligned}$$

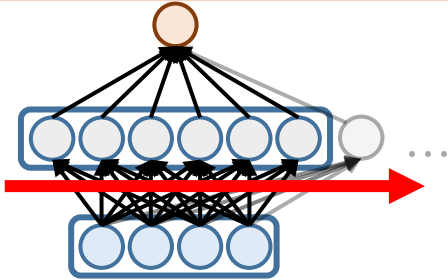
Neural Tangent Kernel

Optimization dynamics and generalization errors can be analyzed through the linear approximation.

Convergence in NTK regime

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Nitanda&Suzuki: Fast Convergence Rates of Averaged Stochastic Gradient Descent under Neural Tangent Kernel Regime, ICLR2021 (oral). Outstanding paper award.



- SGD can achieve the best learning error rate.
- The frequency spectrum specific to the initial network determines the learning efficiency.

Theorem

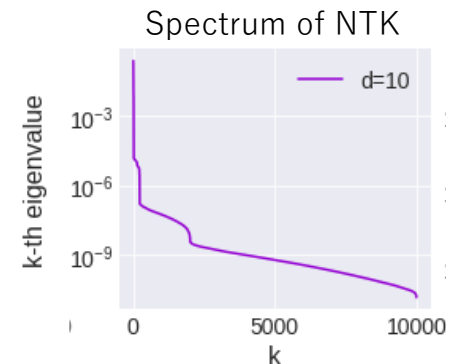
f_T : solution after T -updates

Decay rate of spectrum of
NTK (Neural Tangent Kernel)

$$\mathbb{E}[\|f_T - f^*\|_{L_2}^2] \leq \epsilon_M + O(T^{-\frac{2r\beta}{2r\beta+1}})$$

Decreases to 0 as width $M \rightarrow \infty$

Fast learning rate
(faster than $O(1/\sqrt{T})$)



Low frequency

High frequency

First, low frequency components are captured. Afterward, high frequency components are captured.

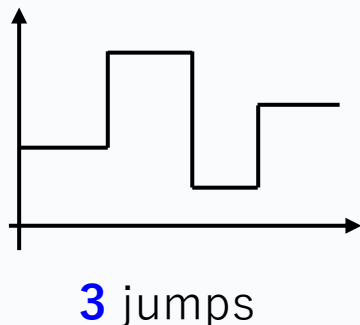
Lower bound of linear estimator

Non-parametric regression

$$y_i = f^\circ(x_i) + \xi_i \quad (i = 1, \dots, n)$$

where $\xi_i \sim N(0, \sigma^2)$ and $x_i \in [0, 1]^d \sim P_X(X)$ (i.i.d.).

Ex. Piecewise constant function with 3 jumps.

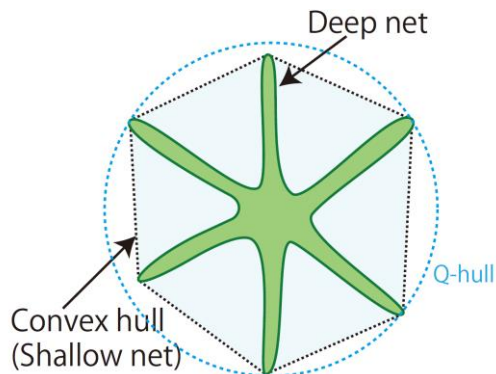


$$\mathbb{E}[\|\hat{f} - f^\circ\|_{L_2(P)}^2] < ?$$

- Deep learning: $1/n$
- Kernel ridge regression:

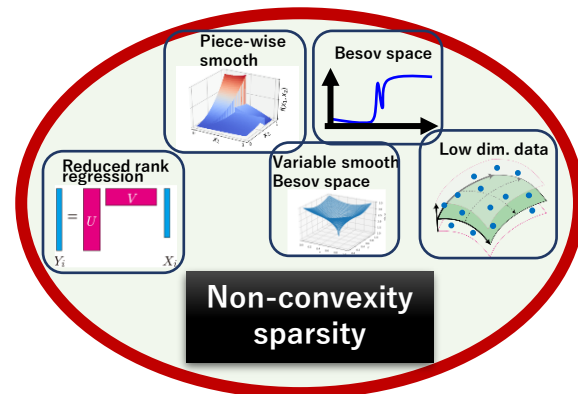
$$\sup_{f^\circ \in \mathcal{F}} \mathbb{E}[\|\hat{f} - f^\circ\|_{L_2(P)}^2] \gtrsim 1/\sqrt{n}$$

[Donoho & Johnstone, 1994] [Hayakawa & Suzuki: 2020]



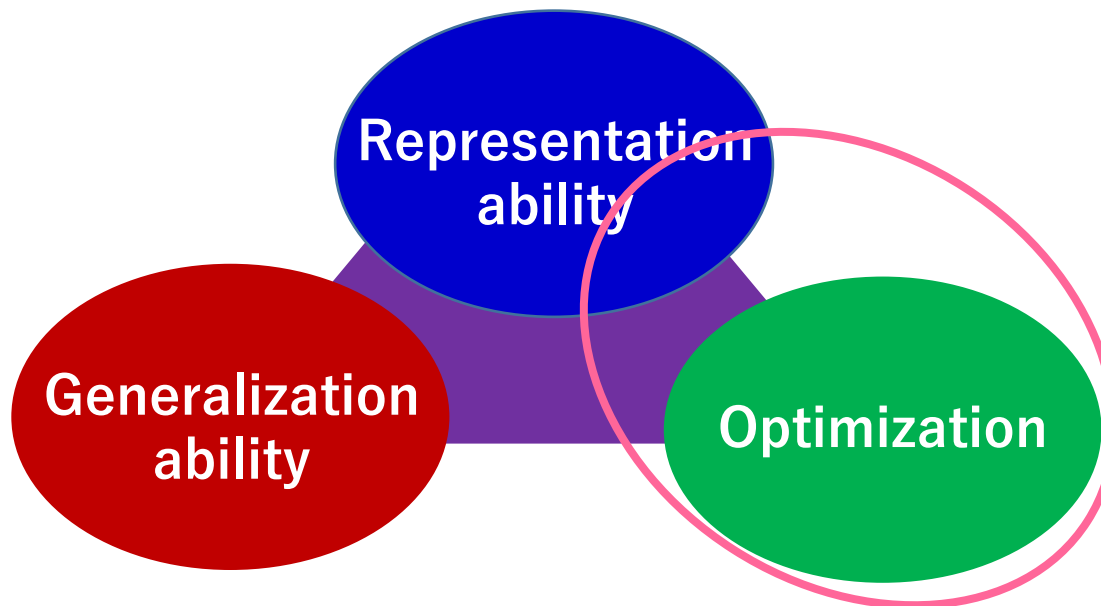
$$\inf_{\hat{f}: \text{Linear}} \sup_{f^\circ \in \mathcal{F}} \mathbb{E}[\|\hat{f} - f^\circ\|_{L_2(P)}^2]$$

$$= \inf_{\hat{f}: \text{Linear}} \sup_{f^\circ \in \text{conv}(\mathcal{F})} \mathbb{E}[\|\hat{f} - f^\circ\|_{L_2(P)}^2]$$



- Suzuki: Generalization bound of globally optimal non-convex neural network training: Transportation map estimation by infinite dimensional Langevin dynamics. NeurIPS2020, spotlight.
- Suzuki&Akiyama: Benefit of deep learning with non-convex noisy gradient descent: Provable excess risk bound and superiority to kernel methods. network training: Transportation map estimation by infinite dimensional Langevin dynamics. ICLR2021, spotlight.
- Boris Muzellec, Kanji Sato, Mathurin Massias, Taiji Suzuki: Dimension-free convergence rates for gradient Langevin dynamics in RKHS. arXiv:2003.00306.

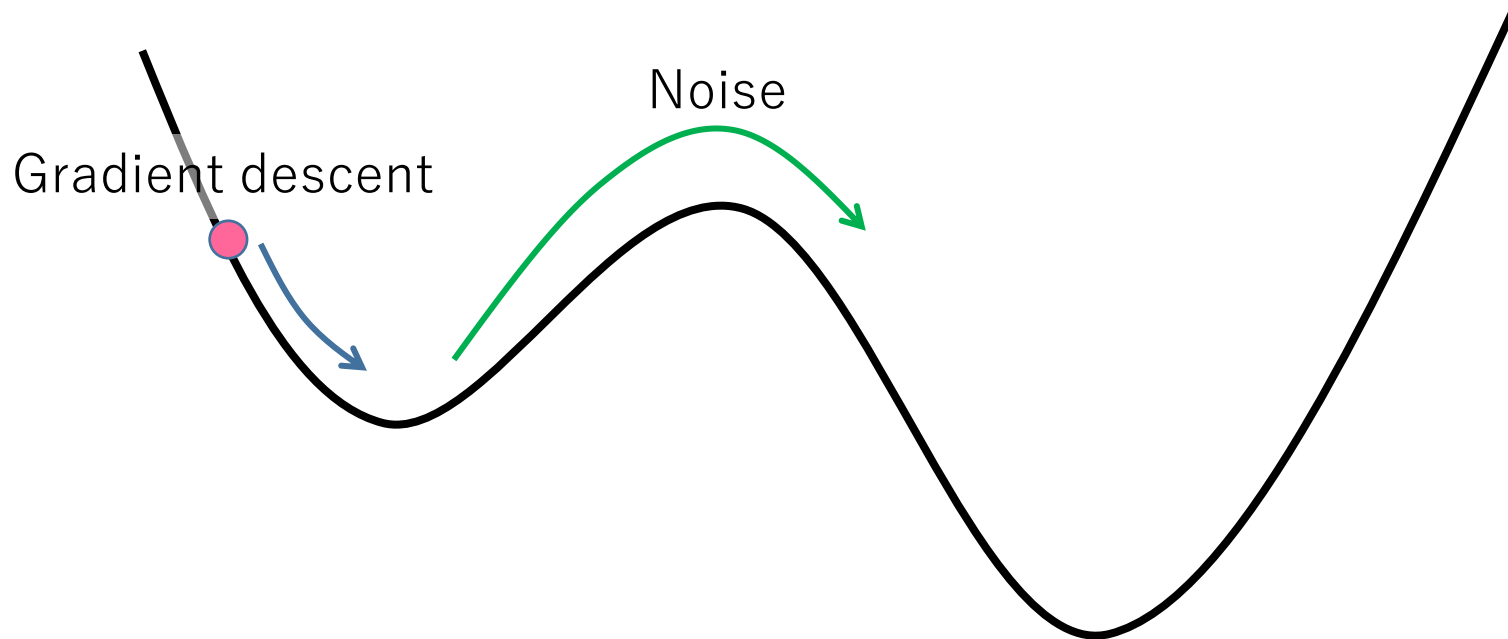
Optimization in non-NTK regime



Optimization beyond NTK regime

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The model is not linearly approximated.
We need to solve “non-convex” optimization.



SGD is a noisy gradient descent.
Noisy perturbation is helpful to escape local minimum.

Optimality of noisy gradient descent ¹¹

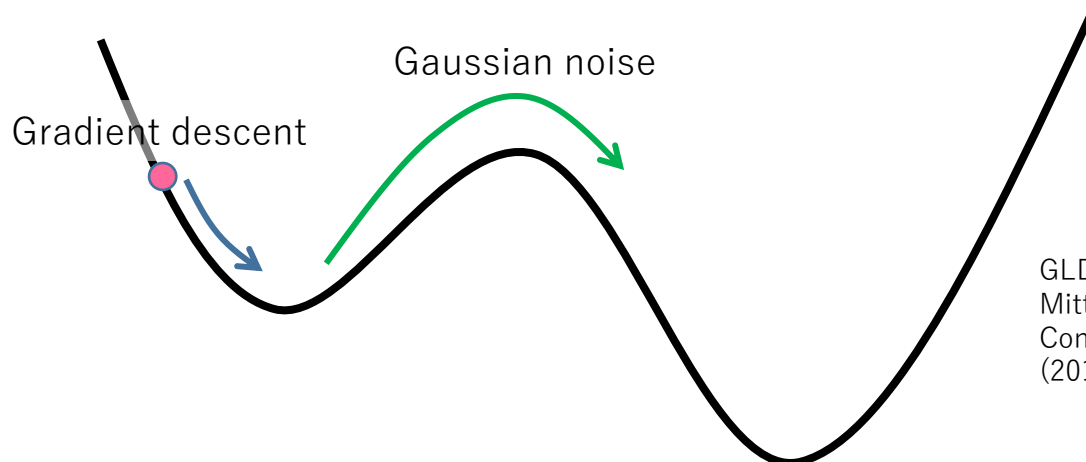
We can show optimality of noisy gradient descent.

- It can achieve the global optimal solution.
- DL can avoid the curse of dimensionality.

Suzuki: Generalization bound of globally optimal non-convex neural network training:
Transportation map estimation by infinite dimensional Langevin dynamics. NeurIPS2020 (spotlight).

$$X_{n+1} = X_n - \eta \left(\nabla L(X_n) + \frac{\lambda}{2} \nabla \|X_{n+1}\|_{\mathcal{H}_K}^2 \right) + \sqrt{2\frac{\eta}{\beta}} \xi_n$$

$$\int \hat{L}(W_k) d\pi_{(k)}(W_k) - \int \hat{L}(W) d\pi_{\infty}(W) \lesssim \exp(-\Lambda_{\eta}^* k \eta) + \frac{\sqrt{\beta}}{\Lambda_0^*} \eta^{1/2-\kappa}$$



GLD: Gelfand and Mitter (1991); Borkar and Mitter 1999; Welling and Teh (2011).
Convergence analysis: Vempala and Wibisono (2019); Raginsky, Rakhlin and Telgarsky (2017).

We showed noisy gradient descent can achieve the global optimal solution even if there are infinitely many variables.

Loss function (squared loss):

$$\hat{L}(f_W) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - f_W(x_i))^2$$

Regularized empirical risk minimization:

$$\min_W \hat{L}(f_W) + \frac{\lambda}{2} \|W\|_{\mathcal{H}_1}^2$$

$$\|W\|_{\mathcal{H}_1}^2 = \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} m^2 W_m^2$$

Infinite dimensional non-convex optimization problem

Model examples:

- 2-layer NN $W = (W_m)_{m=1}^{\infty}$

$$f_W = \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} a_m \sigma(W_m^{\top} x)$$

(infinite width is allowed)

- ResNet $W = ((a_{m,t}, w_{m,t})_{m=1}^{\infty})_{t=1}^T$

$$f_W(x) = u^{\top} \left(\mathbb{I} + \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} a_{m,T} \sigma(w_{m,T}^{\top} \cdot) \right) \circ \cdots \circ \left(\mathbb{I} + \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} a_{m,1} \sigma(w_{m,1}^{\top} x) \right)$$

$$\min_W \left\{ \widehat{L}(W) + \frac{\lambda}{2} \|W\|_{\mathcal{H}_1}^2 \right\}$$

$$\widehat{L}(W) := \widehat{L}(f_W)$$

[Muzellec, Sato, Massias, Suzuki (2020); Suzuki (NeurIPS2020)]

$$dW_t = -\nabla \left(\widehat{L}(W_t) + \frac{\lambda}{2} \|W_t\|_{\mathcal{H}_1}^2 \right) dt + \sqrt{\frac{2}{\beta}} d\xi_t$$

Cylindrical Brownian motion

Gaussian noise

Time discretization

(Euler-Maruyama scheme)

$$W_{k+1} = W_k - \eta \nabla \left(\widehat{L}(W_k) + \frac{\lambda}{2} \|W_k\|_{\mathcal{H}_1}^2 \right) + \sqrt{\frac{2\eta}{\beta}} \xi_k$$

In our theory, we used a bid modified scheme (semi-implicit Euler scheme):

$$W_{k+1} = W_k - \eta \nabla \left(\widehat{L}(W_k) + \frac{\lambda}{2} \|W_{k+1}\|_{\mathcal{H}_1}^2 \right) + \sqrt{\frac{2\eta}{\beta}} \xi_k$$

$$\longleftrightarrow W_{k+1} = S_\eta \left(W_k - \eta \nabla \widehat{L}(W_k) + \sqrt{2\frac{\eta}{\beta}} \xi_k \right) \quad \left(S_\eta := (I + \eta \lambda A)^{-1} \right)$$

where $x^* A x = \|x\|_{\mathcal{H}_1}^2$

Optimization error bound

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The distribution of W_t weakly converges to an invariant measure π_∞ :

$$\pi_\infty(W) \propto \exp \left(\underbrace{-\beta \hat{L}(W)}_{\text{Likelihood}} - \underbrace{\frac{\beta \lambda}{2} \|W\|_{\mathcal{H}_1}^2}_{\text{Prior}} \right)$$

invariant measure
of continuous dynamics

Analogous to Bayes posterior

Thm (informal) [Muzellec, Sato, Massias, Suzuki (2020); Suzuki (NeurIPS2020)]

Suppose that $\|W\|_{\mathcal{H}_1}^2 = \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} m^2 W_m$,

$\kappa > 0$: arbitrary small positive real

$$\int \hat{L}(W_k) d\pi_{(k)}(W_k) - \int \hat{L}(W) d\pi_\infty(W)$$

$$\lesssim \exp(-\Lambda_\eta^* k \eta) + \frac{\sqrt{\beta}}{\Lambda_0^*} \eta^{1/2-\kappa}$$

↑
Geometric
ergodicity

↑
Time discretization

- Convergence to near global optimal is guaranteed even though the objective is non-convex.
- The rate of convergence is independent of dimensionality.

Hilbert space

$$\mathcal{H} = \left\{ \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \alpha_k f_k \mid \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \alpha_k^2 < \infty \right\}$$

$$\langle x, y \rangle = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \alpha_k \beta_k \quad \text{for } x = \sum_k \alpha_k f_k, \quad y = \sum_k \beta_k f_k.$$

RKHS structure

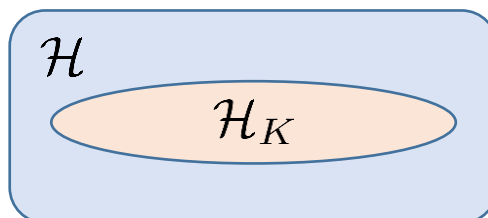
$$\mathcal{H}_K = \left\{ \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \alpha_k f_k \mid \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \alpha_k^2 / \mu_k < \infty \right\}$$

$$\langle x, y \rangle_{\mathcal{H}_K} = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \alpha_k \beta_k / \mu_k \quad \text{for } x = \sum_k \alpha_k f_k, \quad y = \sum_k \beta_k f_k.$$

Assumption (eigenvalue decay)

$$\mu_k \simeq k^{-2}$$

(not essential, can be relaxed to $\mu_k \sim k^{-p}$ for $p > 1$)



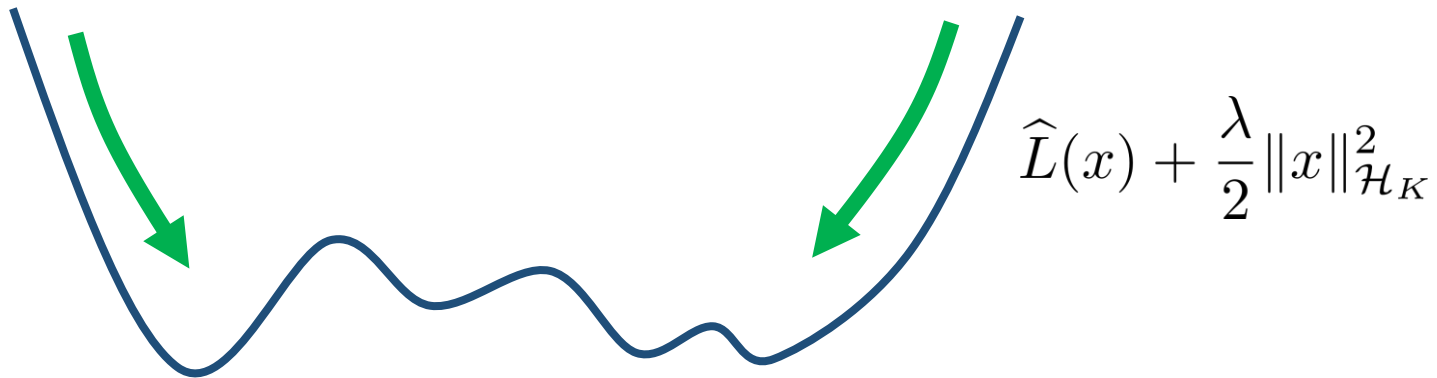
- It either holds:

- (Strict Dissipativity) $\lambda > M\mu_0$, or (stronger)
- (Bounded gradients) $\|\nabla \hat{L}(\cdot)\| \leq B$, for $B > 0$. (weaker)

Dissipativity:

For $C = -\frac{\lambda}{2} \nabla \|\cdot\|_{\mathcal{H}_K}^2$

$$\langle Cx - \nabla \hat{L}(x), x \rangle \leq -m\|x\|^2 + c.$$



- Smoothness:

$$\|\nabla \hat{L}(x) - \nabla \hat{L}(y)\| \leq M\|x - y\|$$

- 
- Strong smoothness condition:

For $\alpha \in (1/4, 1)$,

(without this, the rate becomes slow)

$$\|\nabla \hat{L}(x) - \nabla \hat{L}(y)\|_{-\alpha} \leq M\|x - y\|$$

$$\text{where } \|x\|_{\varepsilon} = \left(\sum_{k \geq 0} (\mu_k)^{2\varepsilon} |\langle x, f_k \rangle|^2 \right)^{1/2}.$$

(This is not standard, but, is satisfied in the previous examples)

- Third order smoothness:

Let $L_N = \hat{L}(P_N x)$. There exists $\alpha' \in [0, 1)$ such that

$$\|D^3 L_N(x) \cdot (h, k)\|_{\alpha'} \leq C_{\alpha'} \|h\|_0 \|k\|_0,$$

$$\|D^3 L_N(x) \cdot (h, k)\|_0 \leq C_{\alpha'} \|h\|_{-\alpha'} \|k\|_0.$$

$$f_W(x) := \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} W_2(w) \sigma(W_1(w)^\top x) d\rho_0(w)$$

$$L(W) := \mathbb{E}[\ell(Y, f_W(X))] \quad \hat{L}(W) := \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \ell(y_i, f_W(x_i))$$

Gen. error: (Gen. gap)

$$L(\hat{W}) - \hat{L}(\hat{W})$$

Excess risk:

$$L(\hat{W}) - \inf_{f:\text{measurable}} L(f)$$

Optimization method (Infinite dimensional GLD):

$$dW_t = -\nabla \left(\hat{L}(W_t) + \frac{\lambda}{2} \|W_t\|_{\mathcal{H}_K}^2 \right) dt + \sqrt{\frac{2}{\beta}} d\xi_t$$

Time discretization



$$W_{k+1} = S_\eta \left(W_k - \eta \nabla \hat{L}(W_k) + \sqrt{2 \frac{\eta}{\beta}} \xi_k \right)$$

$$\left(S_\eta := (I + \eta \frac{\lambda}{2} \nabla \|\cdot\|_{\mathcal{H}_K})^{-1} \right)$$

Generalization error bound

$$L(W) := \mathbb{E}[\ell(Y, f_W(X))] \quad \hat{L}(W) := \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \ell(y_i, f_W(x_i))$$

Opt. error:

$$\hat{L}(W_k) - \int \hat{L}(w) d\pi_\infty(w) \lesssim \underbrace{\exp(-\Lambda_\eta^* k \eta) + \frac{c_\beta}{\Lambda_0^*} \eta^{1/2-\kappa}}_{\Xi_k}$$

Thm (Generalization error bound)

$$\mathbb{E}_{W_k}[L(W_k)] \leq \mathbb{E}_{W_k}[\hat{L}(W_k)] + \frac{R^2}{\sqrt{n}} \left[2 \left(1 + \frac{2\beta}{\sqrt{n}} \right) + \log \left(\frac{1 + e^{R^2/2}}{\delta} \right) \right] + \Xi_k$$

with probability $1 - \delta$.

$O(1/\sqrt{n})$

PAC-Bayesian stability bound [Rivasplata, Kuzborskij, Szepesvári, and Shawe-Taylor, 2019]

Assumption

- Loss function ℓ is “sufficiently smooth.”
- Loss and its gradients are bounded:
 $0 \leq \ell(f_W, z) \leq R, \quad \|\nabla_W \ell(f_W, z)\|_{\mathcal{H}} \leq R \quad (\forall W \in \mathcal{H}, z \in \text{supp}(P))$

$$L(f) := \mathbb{E}[\ell(Y, f(X))]$$

$$f_W(x) := \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} W_2(w) \sigma(W_1(w)^\top x) d\rho_0(w)$$

Additional assumption:

$$\text{Excess risk: } L(\widehat{W}) - \inf_{f:\text{measurable}} L(f)$$

- $\exists W^* \in \mathcal{H}$ s.t. $\inf_f L(f) = L(f_{W^*}) (= L(f^*))$

- $\exists \gamma > 1/4$: **model complexity**

$$\widehat{L}(W) := \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \ell(y_i, f_{T_K^{\gamma/2} W}(x_i))$$

$$(T_K^a x := \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \mu_k^a x_k e_k \text{ where } x = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} x_k e_k \text{ and } \|x\|_{\mathcal{H}_K}^2 = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \mu_k x_k^2)$$

- **Bernstein condition** [Erven et al., 2015]:

$$\mathbb{E}[(\ell(Y, f(X)) - \ell(Y, f^*(X)))^2] \leq B(L(f) - L(f^*))^s$$

- Squared loss: $s = 1$
- Logistic loss with bounded f, f^* : $s = 1$

- $\mathbb{E} \left[\exp \left(-\frac{\beta}{n} (\ell(Y, f(X)) + \ell(Y, f^*(X))) \right) \right] \leq 1$

- Loss function needs not be a log likelihood.
- The true distribution should have a light tail.

Fast rate: general result

Let $T_K^a x = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \mu_k^a x_k f_k$ where $x = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} x_k f_k$ and $\|x\|_{\mathcal{H}_K}^2 = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \mu_k x_k^2$.

Accordingly, define $\mathcal{H}_{\tilde{K}} = T_K^{(\gamma+1)/2} \mathcal{H}$ and $\mathcal{H}_{\tilde{K}^\theta} = T_K^{\theta(\gamma+1)/2} \mathcal{H}$.

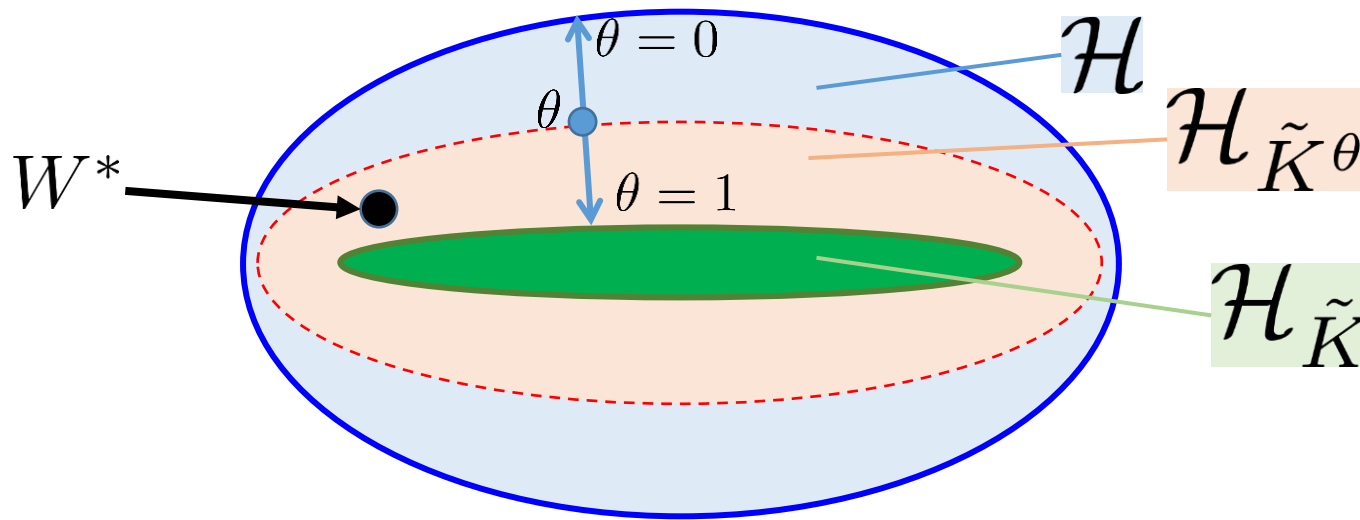
Thm (**Excess risk bound**: fast rate)

Suppose that $W^* \in \mathcal{H}_{\tilde{K}^\theta}$ for $0 < \theta < 1 - \frac{1}{2(\gamma+1)}$.

Then, for $\tilde{\alpha} = \frac{1}{2(\gamma+1)}$, it holds that

$$\mathbb{E}_{D_n} [\mathbb{E}_{W_k} [L(W_k)] - L(f_{W^*})] \lesssim \max \left\{ (\lambda\beta)^{\frac{2\tilde{\alpha}/\theta}{2-s(1-\tilde{\alpha}/\theta)}} n^{-\frac{1}{2-s(1-\tilde{\alpha}/\theta)}}, \lambda^{-\tilde{\alpha}} \beta^{-1}, \lambda^\theta \right\} + \Xi_k$$

Can be faster than $O(1/\sqrt{n})$



Example: classification & regression ²²

Reference

$$\text{Model: } f_W(x) := \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} W_2(a) \sigma(W_1(w)^\top x) d\rho_0(a, w)$$

Classification

Strong low noise condition: $|P(Y = 1|X) - 1/2| \geq \delta$ (a.s.)

For sufficiently large n and any $\beta \leq n$,

$$\begin{aligned} & \mathbb{E}[P_{\pi_k}(\{W_k \in \mathcal{H} \mid P_X[\text{sign}(f_{W_k}(X)) = \text{sign}(f^*(X))] \neq 0\})] \\ & \lesssim \exp(-c\beta\delta^{2m/(2m-d)}) + \frac{\Xi_k}{\delta^{2m/(2m-d)}} \end{aligned}$$

Excess classification error

Regression

- \mathcal{H} : $L_2(\rho_0)$
- $\mathcal{H}_{\tilde{K}}$: $W^{a+d/2}(\mathbb{R}^d)$ (Sobolev space)
- $\theta = \frac{2b}{2a+d}$ for $b < a$

If we set $\lambda^{-1} = \beta = n$,

$$\mathbb{E}_{D_n} [\mathbb{E}_{W_k} [L(W_k)] - L(W^*)] \lesssim n^{-\frac{2 \min\{a, b\}}{2a+d}} + \Xi_k$$

Problem setting (teacher-student model)²³

Teacher-student model:

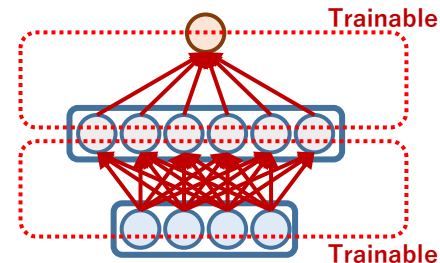
$$f_W(x) = \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} a_m w_{2,m} \sigma(b_m^{-1} w_{1,m}^\top x)$$

$W = (w_{1,m}, w_{2,m})_{m=1}^{\infty}$: trainable parameter

$(a_m, b_m)_{m=1}^{\infty}$: fixed parameter

W^* : the true parameter satisfies

$$\|W^*\|_{\mathcal{H}_\gamma}^2 = \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} (w_{1,m}^{*2} + \|w_{2,m}^*\|^2) / m^{-2\gamma} \leq 1$$



Observation model :

$$y_i = f_{W^*}(x_i) + \varepsilon_i \quad (i = 1, \dots, n)$$

From $D_n = (x_i, y_i)_{i=1}^n$ (observed data), we estimate f_{W^*} .

Excess risk (mean squared error): $\mathbb{E}_{D^n} [\|\hat{f} - f^\circ\|_{L_2(P_X)}^2]$

➤ Convergence rate?

➤ Deep vs shallow?

Comparison between deep and shallow

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Teacher-student model:

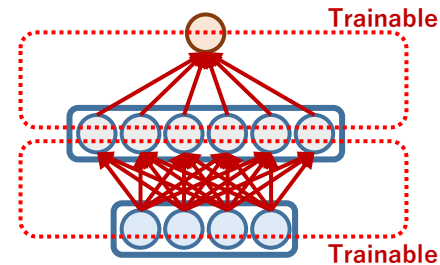
$$f_W(x) = \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} a_m w_{2,m} \sigma(b_m^{-1} w_{1,m}^\top x)$$

$W = (w_{1,m}, w_{2,m})_{m=1}^{\infty}$: trainable parameter

$(a_m, b_m)_{m=1}^{\infty}$: fixed parameter

W^* : the true parameter satisfies

$$\|W^*\|_{\mathcal{H}_\gamma}^2 = \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} (w_{1,m}^{*2} + \|w_{2,m}^*\|^2) / m^{-2\gamma} \leq 1$$



Theorem

[Suzuki&Akiyama, ICLR2021]

Estimation error $\mathbb{E}[\|\hat{f} - f^*\|_{L_2(P)}^2]$ can be bounded by

Deep

$$n^{-\frac{\gamma}{\alpha_1 - 3\alpha_2 + 1}}$$

$$W_{k+1} = W_k - \eta \nabla \left(\hat{L}(W_k) + \frac{\lambda}{2} \|W_k\|_{\mathcal{H}_1}^2 \right) + \sqrt{\frac{2\eta}{\beta}} \xi_k$$

DL trained by GLD

Linear (kernel)

$$R_{\text{lin}}(\mathcal{F}_\gamma) \gtrsim n^{-\frac{2\tilde{\beta} + d}{2\tilde{\beta} + 2d}}$$

$$\left(\tilde{\beta} = \frac{\alpha_1 + \alpha_2}{\alpha_2 - \gamma/2} \right)$$

Worst case error of kernel method

Comparison between deep and shallow

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Teacher-student model:

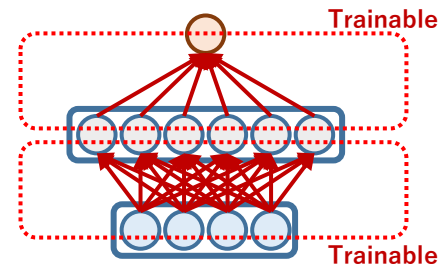
$$f_W(x) = \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} a_m w_{2,m} \sigma(b_m^{-1} w_{1,m}^\top x)$$

$W = (w_{1,m}, w_{2,m})_{m=1}^{\infty}$: trainable parameter

$(a_m, b_m)_{m=1}^{\infty}$: fixed parameter

W^* : the true parameter satisfies

$$\|W^*\|_{\mathcal{H}_\gamma}^2 = \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} (w_{1,m}^{*2} + \|w_{2,m}^*\|^2) / m^{-2\gamma} \leq 1$$



Theorem

[Suzuki&Akiyama, ICLR2021]

Estimation error $\mathbb{E}[\|\hat{f} - f^*\|_{L_2(P)}^2]$ can be bounded by

Deep

$$n^{-\left(1 + \frac{1}{\gamma}\right)^{-1}}$$

$$1/n$$

DL trained by GLD

Linear (kernel)

$$n^{-\left(1 + \frac{d}{d+11.3}\right)^{-1}}$$

$$1/\sqrt{n}$$

Worst case error of kernel method

\sqrt{n} -times large!!

Particle optimization method in mean field regime

[Nitanda, Wu, Suzuki: Particle Dual Averaging: Optimization of Mean Field Neural Networks with Global Convergence Rate Analysis. NeurIPS2021.]

[Oko, Suzuki, Nitanda, Wu: Particle Stochastic Dual Coordinate Ascent: Exponential convergent algorithm for mean field neural network optimization. 2021]



Atsushi Nitanda

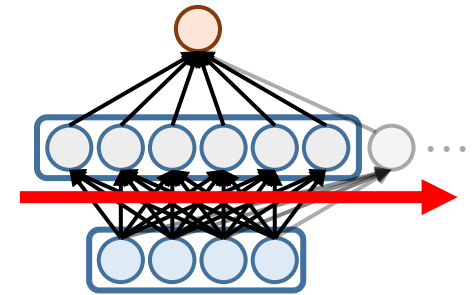
Mean field limit of 2-layer NN

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2-layer neural network:

$$f(x) = \frac{1}{M} \sum_{j=1}^M r_j \sigma(w_j^\top x)$$

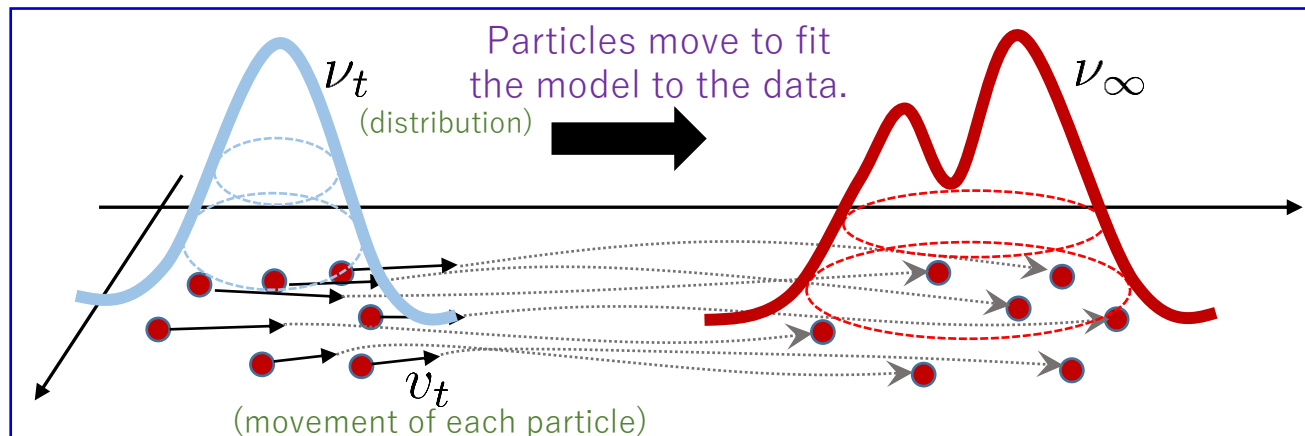
Non-linear with respect to parameters $(r_j, w_j)_{j=1}^M$.



Overparameterization (Mean field limit):

$$f(x) = \frac{1}{M} \sum_{j=1}^M r_j \eta(w_j^\top x) \xrightarrow{M \rightarrow \infty} \int r \sigma(w^\top x) d\nu(r, w)$$

Linear with respect to the prob. measure ν .



[Nitanda, Wu, Suzuki: Particle Dual Averaging: Optimization of Mean Field Neural Networks with Global Convergence Rate Analysis. NeurIPS2021.]

$$\min_{\nu: \mathcal{P}(\Theta)} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \ell(\mathbb{E}_{\theta \sim \nu}[h_{\theta}(x_i)], y_i) + \lambda \mathbb{E}_{\nu}[\|\theta\|^2]$$

Prob meas.

ℓ : Smooth loss function

h_{θ} : neuron with param. θ

L2-regularization

i.e., $h_{\theta}(x) = r\sigma(w^{\top}x)$ for $\theta = (r, w)$

Negative entropy regularization

$$\min_{q: \text{prob. density}} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \ell(\mathbb{E}_q[h_{\theta}(x_i)], y_i) + \underbrace{\lambda_1 \mathbb{E}_q[\|\theta\|^2] + \lambda_2 \mathbb{E}_q[\log(q)]}_{\lambda_2 \text{KL}(\nu, N(0, \lambda_2/\lambda_1 I))}$$

$\lambda_2 \text{KL}(\nu, N(0, \lambda_2/\lambda_1 I))$
KL-div from a Gaussian distribution.

A convex function with respect to the density function q .

→ We can apply a standard convex optimization technique.

Difficulty: We don't have any closed form representations of the expectations.

→ **Solution:**

- Particle approximation.
- Sampling from gradient Langevin dynamics.

Outline of the proposed algorithm

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$$\min_{q:\text{prob.density}} \underbrace{\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \ell(\mathbb{E}_q[h_\theta(x_i)], y_i)} + \lambda_1 \mathbb{E}_q[\|\theta\|^2] + \lambda_2 \mathbb{E}_q[\log(q)]$$

Approximation

Approximate this by a linear functional of q .

e.g., $\mathbb{E}_{\theta \sim q}[\bar{g}^{(t)}(\theta)]$ (which is something like a gradient w.r.t. q)

Dual averaging (Nesterov, 2005; 2009; Xiao, 2009)

$$\min_{q:\text{prob.density}} \mathbb{E}_{\theta \sim q}[\bar{g}^{(t)}(\theta)] + \lambda_2 \mathbb{E}_q[\log(q)]$$



Solution: $q^{(t+1)}(\theta) \propto \exp(-\bar{g}^{(t)}(\theta)/\lambda_2)$ Explicit form

→ This is the stationary distribution of the gradient Langevin dynamics:

$$d\theta_t = -\nabla(\bar{g}^{(t)}(\theta)/\lambda_2)dt + \sqrt{2}d\xi_t.$$

discretize



$$\theta_k = \theta_{k-1} - \eta \nabla \bar{g}^{(t)}(\theta)/\lambda_2 + \sqrt{2\eta} \xi_{k-1}$$

Gradient Langevin dynamics

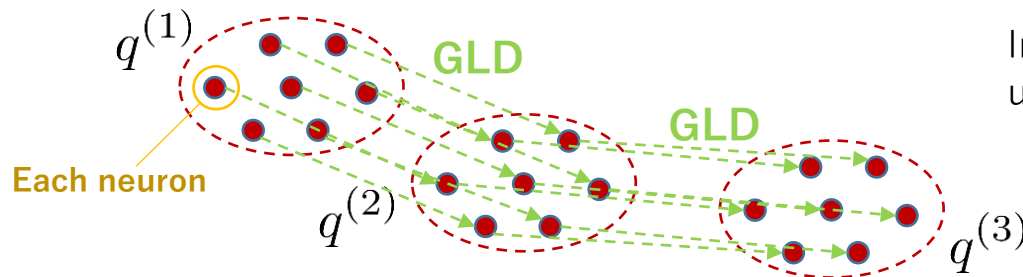
The dual averaging method employs

$$g^{(t)}(\theta) \leftarrow \ell'(\mathbb{E}_{\theta' \sim q^{(t)}}[h_{\theta'}(x_{i_t})], y_{i_t}) h_\theta(x_{i_t}) + \lambda_1 \|\theta\|_2^2$$

$$\mathbb{E}_{q^{(t)}}[h_\theta(x)] \simeq \frac{1}{M} \sum_{r=1}^M h_{\theta^{(r)}}(x)$$

$$\bar{g}^{(t)} \leftarrow \frac{2}{(t+2)(t+1)} \sum_{s=1}^t s g^{(s)}$$

Can be approximated by GLD.



In each iteration, the potential for updating each particle is given by $\bar{g}^{(t)}$.

Algorithm 1 Particle Dual Averaging (PDA)

Randomly draw i.i.d. initial parameters $\tilde{\theta}_r^{(1)} \sim q^{(1)}(\theta)d\theta$ ($r \in \{1, 2, \dots, M\}$)
 $\tilde{\Theta}^{(1)} \leftarrow \{\tilde{\theta}_r^{(1)}\}_{r=1}^M$

for $t = 1$ **to** T **do**

Randomly draw a data index i_t from $\{1, 2, \dots, n\}$

$$g^{(t)} \leftarrow \partial_z \ell(h_{\tilde{\Theta}^{(t)}}(x_{i_t}), y_{i_t}) h(\cdot, x_{i_t}) + \lambda_1 \|\cdot\|_2^2$$

$$\bar{g}^{(t)} \leftarrow \frac{2}{(t+2)(t+1)} \sum_{s=1}^t s g^{(s)}$$

$$h_{\tilde{\Theta}}(x) := \frac{1}{M} \sum_{r=1}^M h_{\theta_r}(x)$$

Obtain $q^{(t+1)}$ by running the Langevin algorithm to approximate the following density function:

$$q_*^{(t+1)} \propto \exp(-\bar{g}^{(t)} / \lambda_2).$$

$$\tilde{\Theta}^{(t+1)} \leftarrow \{\tilde{\theta}_r^{(t+1)}\}_{r=1}^M \text{ where } \tilde{\theta}_r^{(t+1)} \sim q_*^{(t+1)}.$$

end for

Randomly pick up t from $\{2, 3, \dots, T+1\}$ following the probability $P[t] = \frac{2t}{T(T+3)}$ and return $h_{\tilde{\Theta}^{(t)}}$

Convergence analysis

Theorem (informal)

1. Outer loop:

$$\mathcal{L}(\hat{q}) - \mathcal{L}(q^*) \leq O(1/T)$$

2. Inner loop:

By setting the step size at the t -th iteration as $\eta_t = O\left(\frac{\lambda_1 \lambda_2}{t^2 \exp(8/\lambda_2)}\right)$,

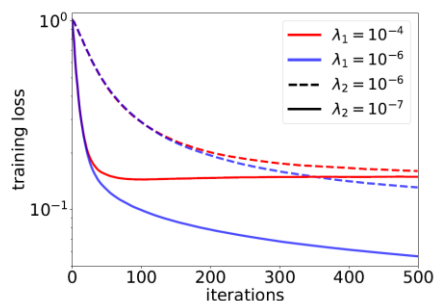
$$T_t = \tilde{O}(\eta_t^{-1}) = \tilde{O}(t^2 \exp(8/\lambda_2)/(\lambda_1 \lambda_2))$$

is sufficient for the number of inner iterations (GLD updates).

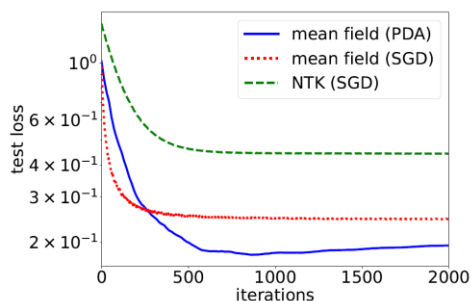
Total complexity:

$O(\epsilon^{-3})$ GLD updates to obtain ϵ -optimal solution.

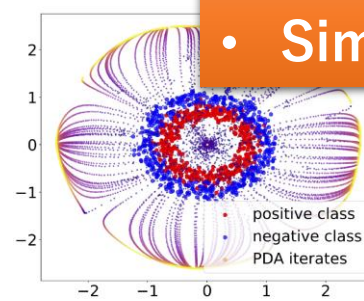
The network width (# of particles) $M = \epsilon^{-2} \text{poly}(n, d)$ is sufficient to obtain the iteration complexity described above.



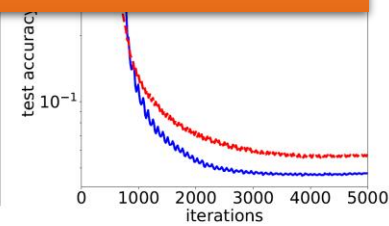
(a) training error (PDA).



(b) test error comparison.



(a) trajectory of PDA.



(b) test accuracy.

- Polynomial order
- Simple analysis

[Oko, Suzuki, Nitanda, Wu (2021)]

- Motivation:

- We want to improve the outer-iteration complexity for **finite sample ERM setting**.
- SDCA (Stochastic Dual Coordinate Ascent) achieves linear convergence:

$$\left(n + \frac{L}{\mu}\right) \log(1/\epsilon).$$

※ DA: $1/\epsilon$

- Difficulty:

- How to combine gradient Langevin sampling and SDCA?
- We want to skip the number of exact sampling as many as possible.
(One iteration of GLD requires $O(n)$ computation!)

Primal

$$\min_p P(p) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \ell_i \left(\int p(\theta) h_i(\theta) \right) + \lambda_1 \int \|\theta\|^2 p(\theta) d\theta + \lambda_2 \int p(\theta) \log(p(\theta)) d\theta$$

$$\| \min_{x \in \mathcal{X}} f(Ax) + g(x) = - \min_{g \in \mathcal{Y}^*} f^*(g) + g^*(-A^*g) \quad (\text{Fenchel's duality theorem})$$

$A : \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathcal{Y}$ (bounded linear)

Dual

$$- \min_{g \in \mathbb{R}^n} D(g) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \ell_i^*(g_i) + \lambda_2 \log \left(\int q[g](\theta) d\theta \right) \quad \ell_i^*(g) := \sup_{u \in \mathbb{R}} \{ug - \ell_i(u)\}$$

$$\text{where } \begin{cases} q[g](\theta) := \exp \left\{ -\frac{1}{\lambda_2} \left(\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n h_i(\theta) g_i + \lambda_1 \|\theta\|^2 \right) \right\} \\ p[g](\theta) := \frac{q[g](\theta)}{\int q[g](\theta') d\theta'} \end{cases}$$

Strategy:

- We randomly pick-up one coordinate $i \in [n]$. (sampling one data point)
- Update g_i by minimizing the dual problem: coordinate descent.

One coordinate update

$$\min_{g_i \in \mathbb{R}} D(g) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \ell_i^*(g_i) + \lambda_2 \log \left(\int q[g](\theta) d\theta \right)$$

We update just one coordinate g_i per iteration.

(ideal update)

proximal gradient descent (2nd term is linearized)

$$\Rightarrow \begin{cases} \bar{g}_i^{(t+1)} := \arg \min_{g_i \in \mathbb{R}} \left\{ \ell_i^*(g_i) - \underbrace{\int p^{(t)}(\theta) h_i(\theta) d\theta (g_i - \bar{g}_i^{(t)})}_{\text{(requires integration)}} + \frac{1}{2n\lambda_2} (g_i - \bar{g}_i^{(t)})^2 \right\} \\ \bar{g}_j^{(t+1)} = \bar{g}_j^{(t)} \quad (j \neq i) \\ p^{(t+1)}(\theta) := p[\bar{g}^{(t+1)}](\theta) \end{cases}$$

$$p^{(t)}(\theta) \propto \exp \left\{ -\frac{1}{\lambda_2} \left(\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n h_i(\theta) g_i^{(t)} + \lambda_1 \|\theta\|^2 \right) \right\}$$

→ We can sample particles via GLD.

$$\theta_m \sim p^{(t)} \quad (m = 1, \dots, M)$$

(particle approximation)

$$\int p^{(t)}(\theta) h_i(\theta) d\theta \approx \sum_{m=1}^M r_m^{(t)} h_i(\theta_m)$$

$$r_m^{(0)} = 1/M, \quad \delta \bar{g}_i^{(t+1)} := \bar{g}_i^{(t+1)} - \bar{g}_i^{(t)}$$

$$\begin{cases} \tilde{r}_m^{(t+1)} = r_m^{(t)} \exp \left(-\frac{1}{n} h_i(\theta_m) \delta \bar{g}_i^{(t+1)} \right) \\ r_m^{(t+1)} = \frac{\tilde{r}_m^{(t+1)}}{\sum_{m=1}^M \tilde{r}_m^{(t+1)}} \quad (m \in [M]) \end{cases}$$

We “refresh” particles each \tilde{n} iteration.

Algorithm description

Algorithm 2 Dual Coordinate Descent with the particle method

Require: training data $\{(x_i, y_i)\}_{i=1}^n$ and numbers of inner-loop iterations \tilde{n} and outer-loop iterations T_{end} ,

- 1: Choose $g_i^{(0)}$ s.t. $|\ell_i^{*'}(g_i^{(0)})| \leq 1$ ($i = 1, \dots, n$) and $\ell_i^*(g_i^{(0)}) \leq \ell_i^*(0)$
 - 2: $g^{(0)} \leftarrow \mathbf{0}$,
 - 3: **for** $T = 0, 1, \dots, T_{\text{end}} - 1$ **do**
 - 4: Randomly (approximately) draw i.i.d. parameters θ_m ($m = 1, \dots, M^{(\tilde{n}T)}$) from $p^{(\tilde{n}T)}(\theta)d\theta$ that satisfies $\text{TV}(p^{(\tilde{n}T)} || p[g^{(\tilde{n}T)}]) \leq \epsilon_C^{(\tilde{n}T)}$.
 - 5: $r_m^{(\tilde{n}T)} \leftarrow \frac{1}{M^{(\tilde{n}T)}}$ ($m = 1, \dots, M^{(\tilde{n}T)}$)
 - 6: **for** $t = \tilde{n}T, \tilde{n}T + 1, \dots, \tilde{n}T + \tilde{n} - 1$ **do**
 - 7: Randomly choose i_t from $\{1, 2, \dots, n\}$
 - 8:
$$g_{i_t}^{(t+1)} \leftarrow \underset{g_{i_t} \in \mathbb{R}}{\text{argmax}} \left\{ -\ell_{i_t}^*(g_{i_t}) + \frac{\sum_{m=1}^{M^{(\tilde{n}T)}} r_m^{(t)} h_{i_t}(\theta_m)}{\sum_{m=1}^{M^{(\tilde{n}T)}} r_m^{(t)}} (g_{i_t} - g_{i_t}^{(t)}) - \frac{1}{2n\lambda_2} (g_{i_t} - g_{i_t}^{(t)})^2 \right\}.$$
 - 9:
$$r_m^{(t+1)} \leftarrow r_m^{(t)} \exp \left(-\frac{1}{n\lambda_2} h_{i_t}(\theta_m) (g_{i_t}^{(t+1)} - g_{i_t}^{(t)}) \right) \quad (m = 1, \dots, M^{(\tilde{n}T)}).$$
 - 10: **end for**
 - 11: **end for**
 - 12: **return** Option (A): $g_{\text{out}}^{(\text{A})} = g^{(\tilde{n}T_{\text{end}})}$; Option (B): $g_{\text{out}}^{(\text{B})} = g^{(t'_{\text{end}})}$ for t'_{end} that is randomly chosen from $\{\tilde{n}T_{\text{end}} - n + 1, \dots, \tilde{n}T_{\text{end}}\}$.
-

At every \tilde{n} iteration,
we refresh particles.

Particle weight update

Dual coordinate ascent

Discretization error

(A1) ℓ_i is γ -smooth.

(A2) $|h_i(\theta)| \leq 1$ for all θ .

(A3) Other technical conditions.

$$g_i^{(t+1)} := \arg \min_{g_i \in \mathbb{R}} \left\{ \ell_i^*(g_i) - \sum_{m=1}^m r_m^{(t)} h_i(\theta_m) (g_i - g_i^{(t)}) + \frac{1}{2n\lambda_2} (g_i - g_i^{(t)})^2 \right\}$$

Lemma (informal)

It holds that

(Ideal update)

$$|g_i^{(t)} - \bar{g}_i^{(t)}| \lesssim \sqrt{\frac{1}{M} \log(n/\delta)}$$

uniformly over $i \in [n], t \in [n]$ with probability $1 - \delta$.

If $t > n$, the error can exponentially diverge.

\Rightarrow We re-sample $(\theta_m)_{m=1}^M$ by GLD at each $t = \tilde{n}$ updates.

Convergence rate

(A1) ℓ_i is $1/\gamma$ -smooth.

(A2) $|h_i(\theta)| \leq 1$ for all θ .

(A3) Other technical conditions.

$$P(p) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \ell_i \left(\int p(\theta) h_i(\theta) \right) + \lambda_1 \int \|\theta\|^2 p(\theta) d\theta + \lambda_2 \int p(\theta) \log(p(\theta)) d\theta$$

$$D(g) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \ell_i^*(g_i) + \lambda_2 \log \left(\int q[g](\theta) d\theta \right)$$

Theorem (convergence rate, informal)

Suppose that $\frac{\tilde{n}}{n\lambda_2} = o(1)$ and the number of particles satisfies

$$M^* \gtrsim \frac{1}{\epsilon_P \lambda_2}.$$

More precisely

$$M^* \gtrsim \frac{1}{\epsilon_P \lambda_2} \exp \left\{ C \left[\frac{\tilde{n}}{\lambda_2 n} + \frac{(\exp(\tilde{n}/\lambda_2 n) + 1)}{n\gamma\lambda_2/\tilde{n} + 1/\tilde{n}} \right] \right\}$$

Then,

$$t_{\text{end}} = 2 \left(n + \frac{1}{\lambda_2 \gamma} \right) \log \left(\frac{nC}{\epsilon_P} \right)$$

condition number

iterations are sufficient to achieve ϵ_P duality gap:

$$\text{(Duality gap)} \quad \mathbb{E}[P(p^{(t_{\text{end}})}) - D(g^{(t_{\text{end}})})] \leq \epsilon_P$$

Total complexity:

$$M^* \left(1 + \frac{K^*}{\tilde{n}} \right) \left(n + \frac{1}{\lambda_2 \gamma} \right) \log(n/\epsilon_P)$$

If deterministic optimization is used, the number of gradient evaluations become

$$t_{\text{end}} = O\left(\frac{n}{\lambda_2 \gamma} \log(1/\epsilon_P)\right)$$

$$p[g](\theta) \propto \exp \left\{ -\frac{1}{\lambda_2} \left(\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n h_i(\theta) g_i + \lambda_1 \|\theta\|^2 \right) \right\}$$

$$U(\theta) := \frac{1}{\lambda_2} \left(\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n h_i(\theta) g_i + \lambda_1 \|\theta\|^2 \right)$$

- ULA (Unadjusted Langevin algorithm)

$$\begin{aligned} \theta^{k+1} &= \theta^k - \eta \nabla U(\theta^k) + \sqrt{2\eta} \xi_k \\ \xi_k &\sim N(0, I) \end{aligned}$$

- MALA (Metropolis adjusted Langevin algorithm)

$$\tilde{\theta}^{k+1} = \theta^k - \eta \nabla U(\theta^k) + \sqrt{2\eta} \xi_k$$

The proposal is accepted with prob. α and rejected otherwise:

$$\alpha = \min \left\{ 1, \frac{U(\tilde{\theta}_{k+1}) q(\theta^k | \tilde{\theta}^{k+1})}{U(\theta_k) q(\tilde{\theta}^{k+1} | \theta^k)} \right\}$$

$$q(\theta' | \theta) \propto \exp(-\|\theta' - \theta - \eta \nabla U(\theta)\|^2 / 4\eta)$$

$$p(\theta) \propto \exp \left\{ -\frac{1}{\lambda_2} \left(\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n h_i(\theta) g_i + \lambda_1 \|\theta\|^2 \right) \right\} \quad : \quad \pi$$

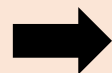
Log-Sobolev inequality with a constant c_{LS}

$$d\nu(\theta) = f(\theta) d\pi(\theta) \quad (\text{probability measure})$$

$$\int f \log(f) d\pi \leq 2c_{\text{LS}} \int \frac{\|\nabla f\|^2}{f} d\pi \quad (D(\nu||\pi_\infty) \leq 2c_{\text{LS}} I(\nu||\pi_\infty))$$

Lemma

$$\|h_i\| \leq 1, \quad |g_i| \leq B$$



$$c_{\text{LS}} = \frac{2\lambda_1}{\lambda_2} \exp(-4B/\lambda_2)$$

Convergence analysis

$\text{TV}(p||p_k)$: TV-distance between the target p and the marginal distribution of the k -th step sample.

$$\text{TV}(p||p_{K^*}) \leq \epsilon_C$$

- ULA (Unadjusted Langevin algorithm)

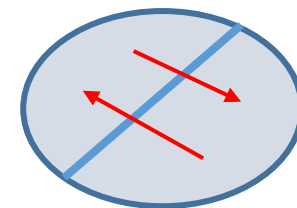
$$K^* = O \left(\frac{L^2}{c_{\text{LS}}^2} \frac{d}{\epsilon_C} \log(1/(\lambda_2 \epsilon_C)) \right)$$

[Vempala and Wibisono, 2019]

- MALA (Metropolis adjusted Langevin algorithm)

$$K^* = O \left(\frac{1}{c_{\text{LS}}^{5/2}} \left(\frac{L}{\lambda_2} + \log(1/\epsilon_C) \right)^{3/2} d \right)$$

Large conductance \leftarrow log-Sobolev



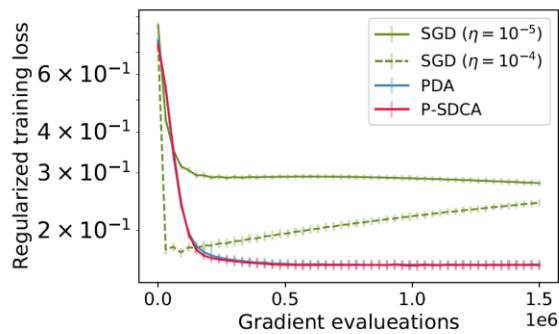
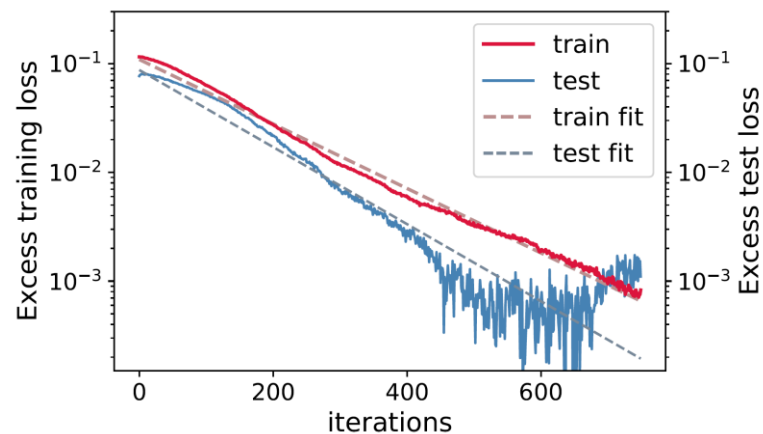
[Ma, Chen, Jin, Flammarion, and Jordan. Sampling can be faster than optimization. Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, 116(42):20881–20885, 2019]

[Lov'asz and Simonovits: Random walks in a convex body and an improved volume algorithm. Random Struct Alg, 4(4):359–412, 1993.]

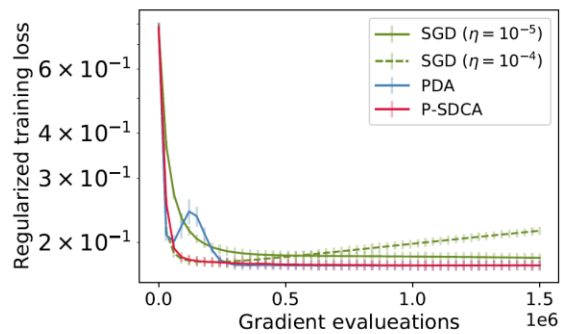
Experiments

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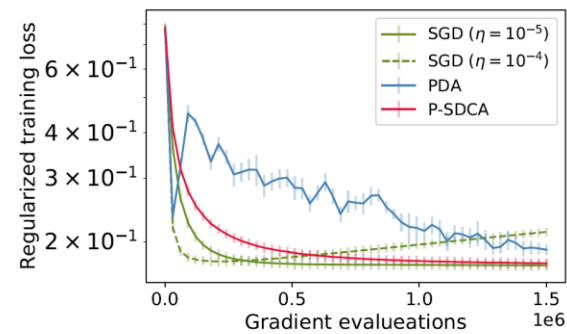
$$y = \sigma(w_*^\top x + b^*) + \epsilon$$



(a) $\lambda_2 = 0.01$



(b) $\lambda_2 = 0.001$



(c) $\lambda_2 = 0.0001$

$\lambda_1 = 10^{-2}$: fixed

Convergence in teacher-student setting

[Shunta Akiyama, Taiji Suzuki: On Learnability via Gradient Method for Two-Layer ReLU Neural Networks in Teacher-Student Setting. ICML2021]



Shunta Akiyama

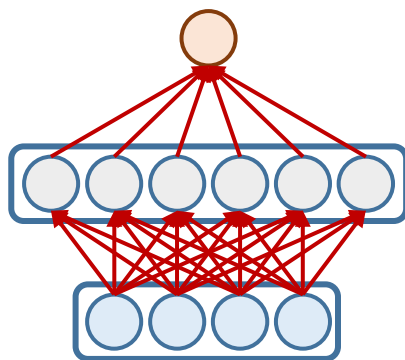
Noiseless observation:

$$y_i = f^\circ(x_i) \quad (i = 1, \dots, n)$$

where $x_i \sim \text{Unif}(\mathbb{S}^{d-1})$.

Teacher-student model with ReLU activation:

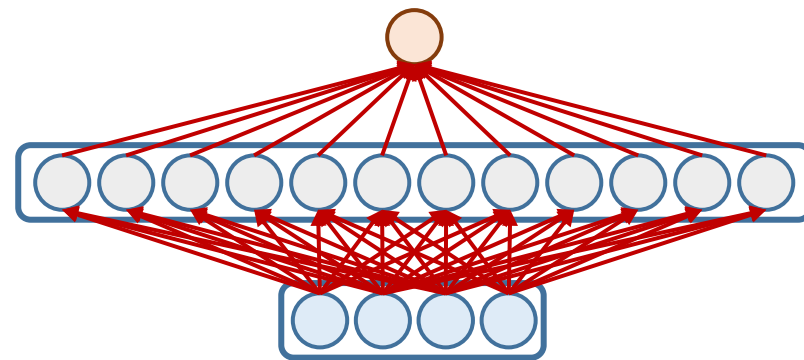
Teacher



$$f^\circ(x) = \sum_{j=1}^m a_j^\circ \sigma(\langle w_j^\circ, x \rangle)$$

$\sigma : \text{ReLU}$

Student (overparameterization)



$$f_\Theta(x) = \sum_{j=1}^M a_j \sigma(\langle w_j, x \rangle)$$

- **Overparameterized setting:** $M \gg m$.
- Can the student model estimate the teacher model by GD?

Sparse regularized learning:

$\sigma : \text{ReLU}$

$$\min_{\Theta=(a_j, w_j)_{j=1}^M} F(\Theta) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \left(y_i - \sum_{j=1}^M a_j \sigma(\langle w_j, x \rangle) \right)^2 + \lambda \underbrace{\sum_{j=1}^M |a_j| \|w_j\|}_{\text{Sparse regularization}}$$

$$\sum_{j=1}^M |a_j| \|w_j\| \leq \frac{1}{2} \sum_{j=1}^M (a_j^2 + \|w_j\|^2)$$

Sparse regularization
Weight decay yields sparse regularization.

Norm-dependent step size for gradient descent:

Initialization

Mean field setting

$$a_j^{(0)} = 2/M \quad (1 \leq j \leq M/2)$$

$$a_j^{(0)} = -2/M \quad (M/2 + 1 \leq j \leq M)$$

$$w_j^{(0)} \sim \text{Unif}(\mathbb{S}^{d-1}) \quad (1 \leq j \leq M)$$

Gradient descent

$$a_j^{(k+1)} = a_j^{(k)} - \eta_{j,k} \partial_{a_j} F(\Theta^{(k)})$$

$$w_j^{(k+1)} = w_j^{(k)} - \eta_{j,k} \partial_{w_j} F(\Theta^{(k)})$$

$$\eta_{j,k} = \alpha \frac{|a_j^{(k)}| \|w_j^{(k)}\|}{a_j^{(k)2} + \|w_j^{(k)}\|^2}$$

Norm dependent step-size

• Result 2: Convergence of GD

$$J^* = \inf_{\nu} J_{\lambda}(\nu)$$

Theorem (informal)

There exists J_0 such that $J^* < J_0 < J_{\lambda}(\nu_0)$ and sufficiently large M such that

Stage 1 (Global exploration): $\exists k_0 \geq \Omega(\sqrt{J_0 - J^*})$ such that

$$J_{\lambda}(\nu_{k_0}) - J^* \leq J_0 - J^*.$$

Stage 2 (Local convergence): $\exists \zeta > 0$ such that

$$J_{\lambda}(\nu_k) - J^* \leq (1 - \zeta)^{k-k_0} (J_{\lambda}(\nu_{k_0}) - J^*) \quad (\forall k \geq k_0).$$

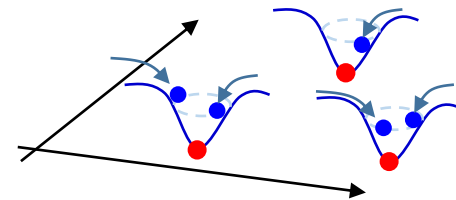
Dual certificate + convergence guarantee by Chizat (2019)

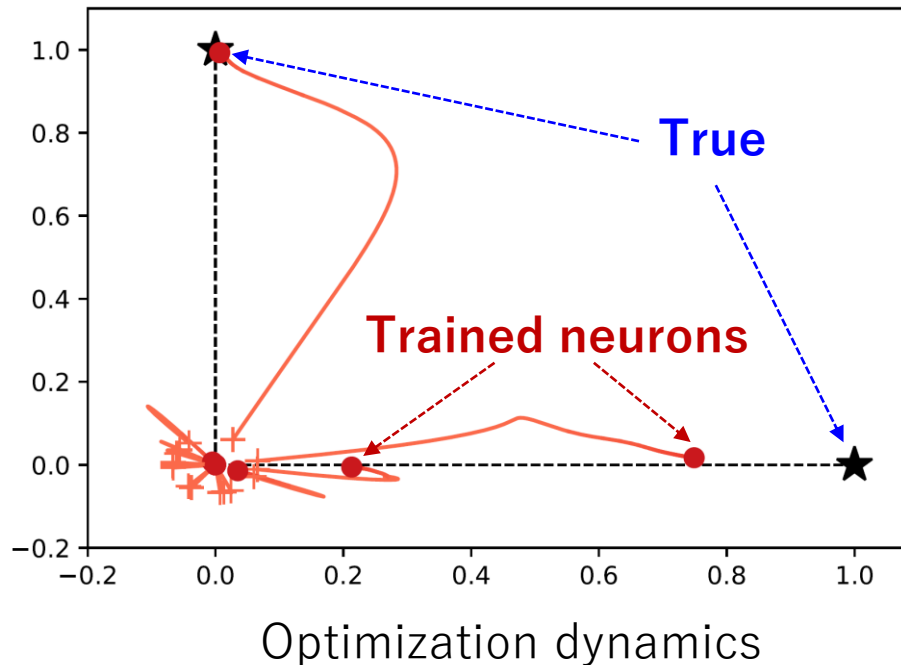
+ some technical modifications for ReLU.

- M could be $\exp(\Omega(d))$.
- It also holds that $\widetilde{W}_2^2(\nu_k, \nu^*) \leq O((1 - \zeta)^{k-k_0})$, but we **don't** have $\|\Theta_k - \Theta^*\| \rightarrow 0$.

Convergence in measure space

Convergence in parameter space





- The parameter does not converge to the true one.
- The measure representation converges to the true one.
- Linear model requires ϵ^{-d} neurons [Yehudai and Shamir, 2019].
- The solution with sparse regularization possesses only m atoms.
(resolving the curse of dimensionality)

Double descent and optimization

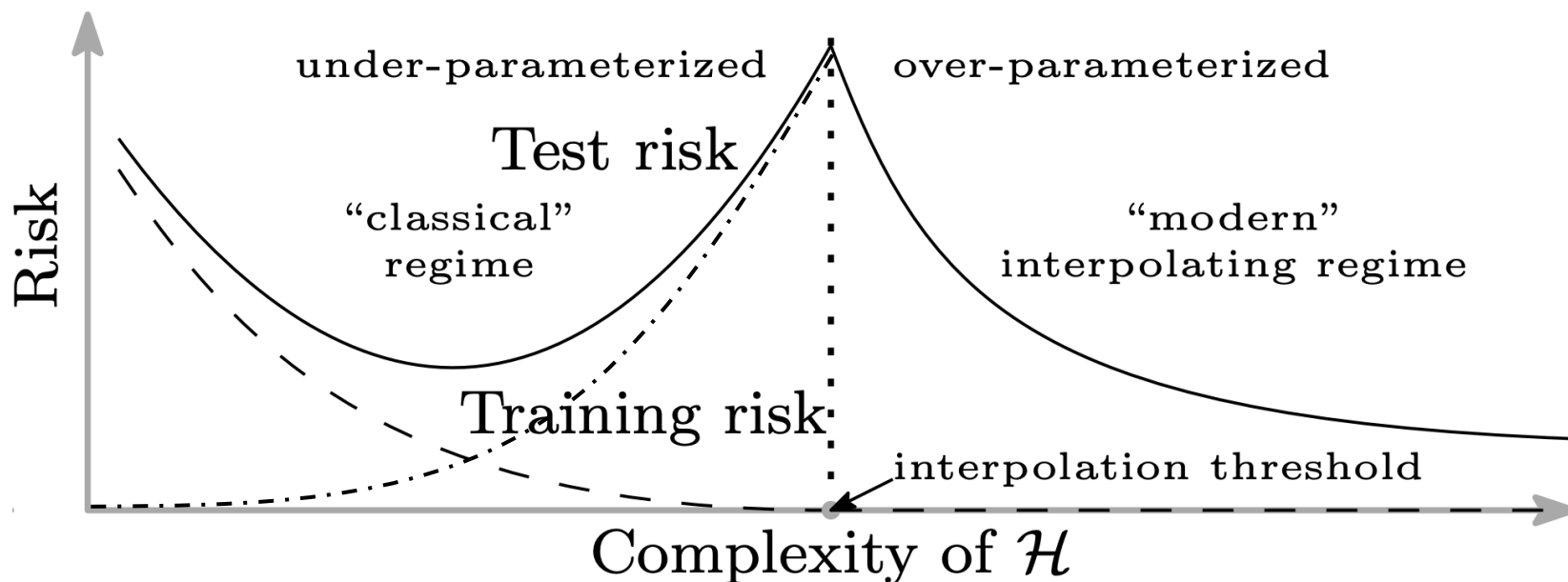
[Amari, Ba, Grosse, Li, Nitanda, Suzuki, Wu, Xu: When Does Preconditioning Help or Hurt Generalization? ICLR2021]



Denny Wu

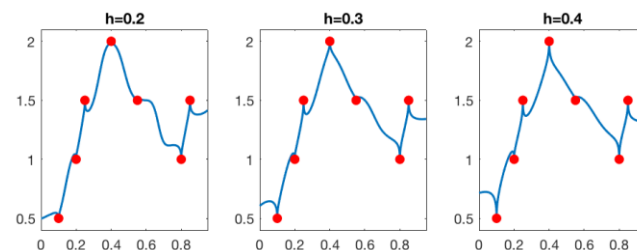
Double descent

Amari, Ba, Grosse, Li, Nitanda, Suzuki, Wu, Xu: When Does Preconditioning Help or Hurt Generalization? ICLR2021.



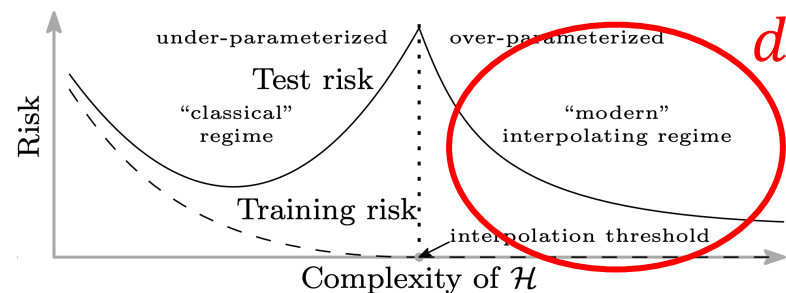
[Belkin et al.: Reconciling modern machine learning practice and the bias-variance trade-off. 2018]

- Even if the model size is larger than the sample size, it can generalize.
- The variance decreases as the model complexity increases.



[Belkin, Rakhlin, Tsybakov, 2018]

Preconditioned Gradient Descent



$d \gg n$: overparameterized regime

$$y_i = x_i^\top \beta^* + \epsilon_i$$

$$\min_{\beta \in \mathbb{R}^d} \underbrace{\|\beta\|_{P^{-1}}^2}_{=\beta^\top P^{-1} \beta} \quad \text{s.t.} \quad y_i = x_i^\top \beta \quad (\text{interpolation})$$

$$(\forall i \in [n])$$



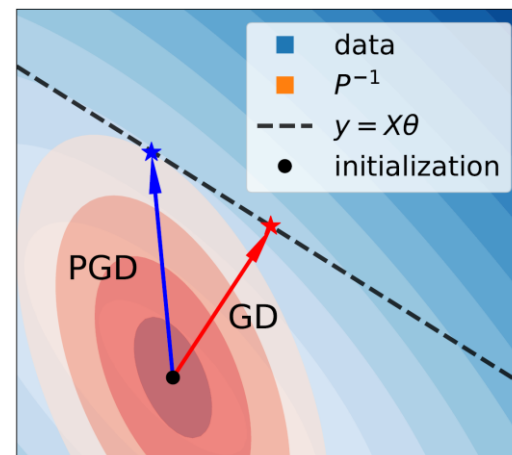
Q: How does the preconditioner P affect the predictive accuracy?

$$\frac{d\beta(t)}{dt} = -P X^\top (Y - X\beta(t)) / n$$

Preconditioned Gradient Descent

$P = I$: Gradient descent (GD)

$P = \Sigma_x^{-1}$: Natural Gradient descent (NGD)
(population Fisher)



Optimal choice of preconditioner

Bias-variance decomposition

$$\mathbb{E}_{x, D_n} [(x^\top \beta^* - x^\top \hat{\beta})^2] = \underbrace{\mathbb{E}_x [(x^\top \beta^* - x^\top \mathbb{E}[\hat{\beta}])^2]}_{B: \text{Bias}} + \underbrace{\text{tr}[\text{Cov}(\hat{\beta}) \Sigma_x]}_{V: \text{Variance}}$$

Theorem (informal)

[Amari, Ba, Grosse, Li, Nitanda, Suzuki, Wu, Xu: When Does Preconditioning Help or Hurt Generalization? ICLR2021]

We derived an exact form of the asymptotic risk when $d/n \rightarrow \gamma > 1$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$.

1. Variance:

$P = \Sigma_x^{-1}$ (population cov) minimizes the variance.

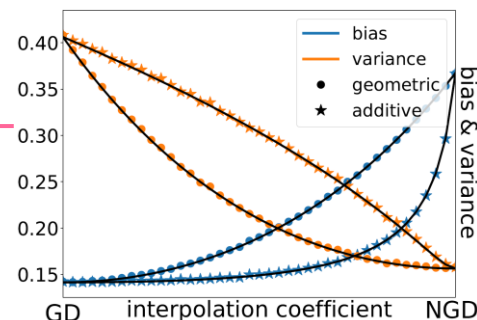
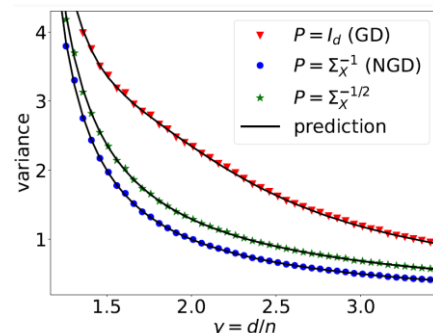
NGD is optimal in terms of variance.

2. Bias:

No free-lunch: the optimal P is not known *a priori*:

- GD** generalizes better when the target is *isotropic* $\Sigma_{\beta^*} = I$.
- NGD** is better when the target is *misaligned* $\Sigma_{\beta^*} = \Sigma_x^{-1}$.

(Bayesian setting: Average predictive risk over a random β^* with $\mathbb{E}[\beta^* \beta^{*\top}] = \Sigma_{\beta^*}$)



Interpolation of GD

and NGD is beneficial.

$$\begin{cases} \text{Additive: } P = (\alpha \Sigma_x + (1 - \alpha) I_d)^{-1} \\ \text{Geometric: } P = \Sigma_x^{-\alpha} \end{cases} \quad \alpha \in [0, 1]$$

More detailed expression

(A2) The spectral distribution of $\Sigma_{XP} := P^{1/2}\Sigma P^{1/2}$ converges weakly to H_{XP} .

• **self-consistent equation:**
$$\frac{1}{m(z)} = -z + \gamma \int \frac{\tau}{1 + \tau m(z)} dH_{XP}(\tau)$$

→ Limiting distribution of eigenvalues of $\frac{1}{n}XPX^\top$.

1. Variance:

$$V \xrightarrow{P} \sigma^2 \left(\lim_{\lambda \rightarrow +0} m'(-\lambda)m^{-2}(-\lambda) - 1 \right)$$

$V \geq \sigma^2(\gamma - 1)^{-1}$ and equality holds by $P = \Sigma^{-1}$

(A3) P and Σ shares the same eigenvectors U .

2. Bias:

$$\mathbb{E}_{\beta^*}[B] \xrightarrow{P} \lim_{\lambda \rightarrow +0} m'(-\lambda)m^{-2}(-\lambda)\mathbb{E}[v_x v_\theta (1 + v_{xp}m(-\lambda))^{-2}]$$

where (e_x, e_θ, e_{xp}) are eigenvalues of $\Sigma, \Sigma_{XP}, \text{diag}(U^\top \Sigma_{\beta^*} U)$ and jointly converge weakly to (v_x, v_θ, v_{xp}) .

- **Optimization theory**

- SGD in Neural Tangent Kernel regime
- Noisy gradient descent: a near global optimum
 - ✓ Estimation error separation between kernel and deep learning
- Particle gradient method in mean field regime
 - ✓ Combination of known 1st order optimization technique and particle sampling
- Optimization method selection for minimum norm interpolator

In deep learning, optimization and generalization cannot be separated.

More detailed analysis will be required by bridging these two research fields:

feature extraction, loss landscape, benign overfitting...