The Fastest $\ell_{\infty,1}$ Prox in the West

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Sparse regression with $L_{\infty,1}$ constraints

求解以下的回归模型[?]:

$$\min_{\mathbf{W}} \|\mathbf{Y} - \mathbf{X}\mathbf{W}\|_{2}^{2}, \quad \text{s.t. } \|\mathbf{W}\|_{\infty,1} \le \tau.$$
 (1)



Recall $L_{p,q}$ -norm

 $L_{p,q}$ 范数的定义

$$\|\boldsymbol{W}\|_{p,q} = \left(\sum_{i=1}^{m} \|\boldsymbol{w}^{(i)}\|_{p}^{q}\right)^{1/q}$$
 (2)

我们常用的 $L_{2,1}$ 范数:

$$\|\boldsymbol{W}\|_{2,1} = \sum_{i=1}^{m} \|\boldsymbol{w}^{(i)}\|_{2}$$
 (3)

本文将用到的 $L_{\infty,1}$ 、 $L_{1,\infty}$ 范数:

$$\|\boldsymbol{W}\|_{\infty,1} = \sum_{i=1}^{m} \|\boldsymbol{w}^{(i)}\|_{\infty} = \sum_{i=1}^{m} \max_{j=1,2,\cdots,c} |w_{ij}|,$$
 (4)

$$\|\boldsymbol{W}\|_{1,\infty} = \max_{i=1,2,\cdots,m} \|\boldsymbol{w}^{(i)}\|_{1}.$$
 (5)



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KKT conditions for convex problems

对于以下优化问题, 其中 $f_i(x)$, $i = 0, 1, \dots, m$ 均为凸函数.

$$\min_{\boldsymbol{x}} f_0(\boldsymbol{x}), \quad \text{s.t. } f_i(\boldsymbol{x}) \le 0 \ (i = 1, 2, \cdots, m), \quad \boldsymbol{A}\boldsymbol{x} = \boldsymbol{b}. \tag{6}$$

拉格朗日函数

$$L(\boldsymbol{x}, \boldsymbol{\alpha}, \boldsymbol{\beta}) = f_0(\boldsymbol{x}) + \sum_{i=1}^m \alpha_i f_i(\boldsymbol{x}) + \boldsymbol{\beta}^{\top} (\boldsymbol{b} - \boldsymbol{A}\boldsymbol{x}).$$

其 KKT 条件为

$$x^* = \arg\min_{\mathbf{x}} L(\mathbf{x}, \boldsymbol{\alpha}^*, \boldsymbol{\beta}^*), \tag{7}$$

$$f_i(x^*) \le 0$$
, $Ax^* = b$, $\alpha_i^* \ge 0$, $\alpha_i^* f_i(x^*) = 0$. (8)

当然,如果 $f_i(x)$, $i=0,1,\cdots,m$ 全部可微,第一个条件就写成

$$\nabla_{\boldsymbol{x}} L = \nabla_{\boldsymbol{x}} f_0(\boldsymbol{x}) + \sum_{i=1}^{m} \alpha_i \nabla_{\boldsymbol{x}} f_i(\boldsymbol{x}) - \boldsymbol{A}^{\top} \boldsymbol{\beta} = \boldsymbol{0}.$$
 (9)

Proximal operator

对于可微凸函数 $f(\cdot)$,其近端算子 (proximal operator) 定义为

$$\operatorname{prox}_f(\boldsymbol{x}) = \arg\min_{\boldsymbol{z}} f(\boldsymbol{z}) + \frac{1}{2} \|\boldsymbol{z} - \boldsymbol{x}\|_2^2$$

实际含义: 使得 f(z) 最小化,但尽量靠近 x 的最优解.



Projection: a special case of proximal operator

对于非空凸集 C, 向量 x 到该集合的投影 (projection) 为

$$\pi_{\mathcal{C}}(\boldsymbol{x}) = \arg\min_{\boldsymbol{z} \in \mathcal{C}} \frac{1}{2} \|\boldsymbol{z} - \boldsymbol{x}\|_{2}^{2}. \tag{10}$$

事实上,投影就是特定的近端算子:

$$\pi_{\mathcal{C}}(\boldsymbol{x}) = \operatorname{prox}_{\mathbb{I}(\cdot \in \mathcal{C})}(\boldsymbol{x}) = \arg\min_{\boldsymbol{z}} \mathbb{I}(\boldsymbol{z} \in \mathcal{C}) + \frac{1}{2} \|\boldsymbol{z} - \boldsymbol{x}\|_2^2.$$
 (11)

其中 $\mathbb{I}(\cdot \in \mathcal{C})$ 为示性函数 (indicator function):

$$\mathbb{I}(\boldsymbol{z} \in \mathcal{C}) = \begin{cases} 0, & \boldsymbol{z} \in \mathcal{C}, \\ +\infty, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$
(12)



Example: projection onto of L_1 -ball

考虑 L_1 球的投影问题:

$$\pi_{\|\cdot\|_1 \le \lambda}(x) = \arg\min_{z} \frac{1}{2} \|z - x\|_2^2, \quad \text{s.t. } \|z\|_1 \le \lambda.$$
 (13)

拉格朗日函数

$$L(z, \alpha) = \frac{1}{2} ||z - x||_2^2 + \alpha(||z||_1 - \lambda)$$
 (14)

$$= \left[\frac{1}{2}\|\boldsymbol{z} - \boldsymbol{x}\|_{2}^{2} + \alpha\|\boldsymbol{z}\|_{1}\right] - \alpha\lambda. \tag{15}$$

根据 KKT 条件可以得到

$$z = \arg\min_{\boldsymbol{z}} L(\boldsymbol{z}, \alpha) = \operatorname{prox}_{\alpha \| \cdot \|_1}(\boldsymbol{x}),$$
 (16)

$$\alpha \ge 0, \quad \alpha(\|\boldsymbol{z}\|_1 - \lambda) = 0. \tag{17}$$



Example: projection onto of L_1 -ball

分类讨论:

- 如果 $\|z\|_1 < \lambda$, 则必有 $\alpha = 0$, 将推出 $z = \text{prox}_{0\|\cdot\|_1}(x) = x$.
- 如果 $\|z\|_1 = \lambda$, 因 $z = \text{prox}_{\alpha\|\cdot\|_1}(x)$, 即 $z_i = \text{sign}(x_i)[|x_i| \alpha]_+$, 则

$$\|z\|_1 = \sum_{i=1}^n [|x_i| - \alpha]_+ = \lambda.$$
 (18)

根据以上方程求出 α , 即可求出 z.



Example: projection onto of L_1 -ball

Algorithm 1 $O(n \log n)$ Algorithm for $\pi_{\|\cdot\|_1 \leq \lambda}$

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Require: x \in \mathbb{R}^{n}, \lambda > 0.

Ensure: z = \pi_{\|\cdot\|_{1} \leq \lambda}(x).

1: if \|x\|_{1} \leq \lambda then

2: z \leftarrow x.

3: else

4: u \leftarrow \operatorname{sort}(x, \text{`descend'}),

5: \rho \leftarrow \max\{j = 1, 2, \cdots, n \mid u_{j} - (\sum_{r=1}^{j} u_{r} - \lambda)/j > 0\},

6: \alpha \leftarrow (\sum_{r=1}^{\rho} u_{i} - \lambda)/\rho,

7: z_{i} \leftarrow \operatorname{sign}(x_{i})[u_{i} - \alpha]_{+}, \quad \forall i = 1, 2, \cdots, n.
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8: end if

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Projected gradient descent

$$\min_{\mathbf{W}} \|\mathbf{Y} - \mathbf{X}\mathbf{W}\|_{2}^{2}, \quad \text{s.t. } \|\mathbf{W}\|_{\infty,1} \le \tau.$$
 (19)

迭代更新公式:

$$V \leftarrow W - \eta \nabla_W J(W),$$
 (20)

$$\boldsymbol{W} \leftarrow \pi_{\|\cdot\|_{\infty,1} \le \tau}(\boldsymbol{V}). \tag{21}$$

问题在于 $\pi_{\parallel \cdot \parallel_{\infty}} <_{\tau}(V)$ 的计算.



Projection and proximal operator

引理

对任意 $\tau > 0$,

$$\operatorname{prox}_{\tau\|\cdot\|_{1,\infty}}(\boldsymbol{V}) + \pi_{\|\cdot\|_{\infty,1} \le \tau}(\boldsymbol{V}) = \boldsymbol{V}$$
 (22)

因此问题可以转化为求解 $\operatorname{prox}_{\tau \|\cdot\|_{1,\infty}}(V)$, 即

$$\operatorname{prox}_{\tau\|\cdot\|_{1,\infty}}(V) = \arg\min_{W} \tau \|W\|_{1,\infty} + \frac{1}{2} \|W - V\|_{2}^{2}.$$
 (23)

回忆一下:

$$\|\boldsymbol{W}\|_{1,\infty} = \max_{i=1,2,\cdots,m} \|\boldsymbol{w}^{(i)}\|_{1}.$$
 (24)



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$L_{\infty,1}$ v.s. $L_{2,1}$?!

Datasets	RFS $(L_{2,1})$	$L_{\infty,1}$ -regression	SVM
DNA	91.69±0.97	93.60 ± 0.59	90.51±1.31
Binaryalpha	55.27±2.56	57.53±1.37	62.81±1.81
USPS	88.10±0.51	88.26±0.38	92.10±0.59



谢谢!

