

## i) Stochastic Gradient Descent (SGD) :-

SGD is a type of GD where the model's parameters are updated using only 1 training example (row) at a time

How it works :-

i) Shuffle the dataset  $\rightarrow$  Pick one sample  $\rightarrow$  Compute gradient using that 1 sample  
 $\downarrow$   
Repeat for the next sample  $\leftarrow$  update parameters

$\rightarrow$  Because every update used a diff data point, parameters get updated very frequently.

Why it is used :-

$\rightarrow$  much faster than Batch GD

$\rightarrow$  useful for large datasets

$\rightarrow$  helps to escape local minima because of randomness

$\rightarrow$  works well in online/streaming learning



## Problems with SGD:-

\* Learning Schedules

### i) Very Noisy Updates

- Each sample gives a different gradient
- updates jump around instead of moving smoothly.

### ii) Hard to reach the Exact Minimum

Because of randomness, SGD

- may overshoot the minimum
- keeps oscillating around the minimum
- Converges to a region around minimum, not exactly to it.

### iii) Highly Sensitive to Learning Rate

If learning rate is

- too high → model diverges
- too low → training becomes extremely slow.
- constant → SGD may never settle

Solved with  
adam / RMSprop

### iv) High Variance in Updates:-

Each sample can give a completely different gradient

- Path to minimum becomes zig-zag
- Need more epochs to converge.

### v) Not Good for Very Noisy Data

If dataset already has noise, SGD becomes even more unstable.

Time Comparison:- [If Epochs are Constant for Both GD & SGD]

assume: → Dataset has  $N$  samples

→ We run  $E$  epochs for both batch GD & SGD

Batch GD :- 1 epoch = using all  $N$  samples → 1 update

SGD :- 1 epoch = using all  $N$  samples one by 1 →

per epoch  $N$  updates Total updates

Batch SGD } → 1 update

$E$  updates

SGD } →  $N$  update

$N \times E$  updates

"If the no. of epochs is constant, SGD performs  $N$  update per while Batch GD performs only 1. So SGD takes more time the same number of epochs. However, SGD starts converging faster because it updates frequently.