

# Stochastic Gradient Descent in Python

Subhayan De, Ph.D.

## 1 Stochastic Gradient Descent Module

Download the SGD module from <https://github.com/CU-UQ/SGD>. See the demo ([sgd\\_demo.py](#)) for an example of the implementation.

For a description of the algorithms see [Ruder \(2010\)](#).

**Required packages:** numpy, time

NOTE: Currently, the stopping conditions are maximum number of iteration and 2nd norm of gradient vector. Only time-based and exponential learning schedules are implemented.

Report any bugs to [Subhayan.De@colorado.edu](mailto:Subhayan.De@colorado.edu)

## 2 Algorithms implemented

A module named `StochasticGradientDescent` has been created where as of February, 2019, twelve different stochastic gradient descent algorithms have been implemented, namely,

- stochastic gradient descent (class name `SGD`)
  - with momentum
  - with Nesterov momentum (NAG)
- mini-batch gradient descent (class name `minibatchSGD`)
- RMSprop (class name `RMSprop`)
- AdaGrad (class name `AdaGrad`)
- Adam (class name `Adam`)
- Adamax (class name `Adamax`)
- Nesterov accelerated Adam (class name `Nadam`)
- Adadelata (class name `Adadelata`)
- Stochastic average gradient (class name `SAG`)
- Stochastic variance reduced gradient descent (class name `SVRG`)

## 2.1 SGD class:

```
=====
|                               Stochastic Gradient Descent class                               |
=====

Initialization:
sgd = SGD(obj, grad, eta, param, iter, maxIter, objFun, gradFun,
lowerBound, upperBound, stopGrad, momentum, nesterov,
learnSched, lrParam)

NOTE: To perform just one iteration provide either grad or graduFn.
obj or objFun are optional.
=====

Attributes:
obj:          objective (optional input)
grad:         Gradient information
(array of dimension nParam-by-1, optional input)
eta:          learning rate ( = 1.0, default)
param:        the parameter vector (array of dimension nParam-by-1)
nParam:       number of parameters
iter:         iteration number
maxIter:      maximum iteration number (optional, default = 1)
objFun:       function handle to evaluate the objective
(not required for maxit = 1 )
gradFun:      function handle to evaluate the gradient
(not required for maxit = 1 )
lowerBound:   lower bound for the parameters (optional input)
upperBound:   upper bound for the parameters (optional input)
paramHist:    parameter evolution history
stopGrad:     stopping criterion based on 2-norm of gradient vector
momentum:     momentum parameter (default = 0)
nesterov:     set to True if Nesterov momentum equation to be used
(default = False)
learnSched:   learning schedule (constant, exponential or time-based,
default = constant)
lrParam:      learning schedule parameter (default =0.1)
alg:          algorithm used
__version__:  version of the code
=====

Methods:
Public:
getParam:     returns the parameter values
getObj:       returns the current objective value
getGrad:      returns the current gradient information
update:       perform a single iteration
```

```

performIter:    perform maxIter number of iterations
getParamHist:  returns parameter update history
Private:
__init__:      initialization
evaluateObjFn:  evaluates the objective function
evaluateGradFn: evaluates the gradients
satisfyBounds:  satisfies the parameter bounds
learningSchedule: learning schedule
stopCrit:      check stopping criteria

```

```

=====
Reference: Bottou, Léon, Frank E. Curtis, and Jorge Nocedal.
"Optimization methods for large-scale machine learning."
SIAM Review 60.2 (2018): 223-311.
=====

```

```

=====
written by Subhayan De (email: Subhayan.De@colorado.edu), July, 2018.
=====

```

### 2.1.1 Example

NOTE: Implementation of this example is in:

`sgd_demo.py`

Consider the following linear regression problem:

$$y = 3 + 4.5x + \text{noise} \quad (1)$$

where the regression parameters are  $\theta = [3, 4.5]^T$ .

Using 1000 measurements and an initial guess of  $\theta_0 = [2, 0.5]^T$  the above algorithms are implemented and run for 2500 iterations and a stopping criterion for 2nd norm gradient to be less than  $10^{-6}$ .

Objective function is provided in `objFun` and gradient function is provided in `gradFun`. The problem is initialized using

```

# initial parameter
w10 = 2.0
w20 = 0.5
theta = np.array([w10, w20])
R = objFun(theta) # initial objective
it = 0 # set iteration counter to 0
maxIt = 2500 # maximum iteration
dR = gradFun(theta) # initial gradient

```

### 2.1.2 SGD class:

For the vanilla stochastic gradient descent:









```
(not required for maxit = 1 )
gradFun:      function handle to evaluate the gradient
(not required for maxit = 1 )
lowerBound:    lower bound for the parameters (optional input)
upperBound:    upper bound for the parameters (optional input)
stopGrad:      stopping criterion based on 2-norm of gradient vector
(default 10-6)
learnSched:    learning schedule (constant, exponential or time-based,
default = constant)
lrParam:       learning schedule parameter (default =0.1)
alg:           algorithm used
__version__:   version of the code
```

```
=====
```

Methods:

Public:

```
performIter:    performs all the iterations inside a for loop
getGradHist:    returns gradient history (default is zero)
```

Inherited:

```
getParam:       returns the parameter values
getObj:         returns the current objective value
getGrad:        returns the current gradient information
getParamHist:   returns parameter update history
Private: (should not be called outside this class file)
```

```
__init__:       initialization
update:         performs one iteration of minibatch SGD
```

Inherited:

```
evaluateObjFn:   evaluates the objective function
evaluateGradFn:  evaluates the gradients
satisfyBounds:   satisfies the parameter bounds
learningSchedule: learning schedule
stopCrit:        check stopping criteria
```

```
=====
```

Reference:

```
=====
```

written by Subhayan De (email: Subhayan.De@colorado.edu), July, 2018.

```
=====
```

### 2.2.1 minibatchSGD

```
import SGD as sgd
```

```
eta = 0.025 # learning rate
```

```
opt = sgd.minibatchSGD(nSamples = 10,nTotSamples = n,newGrad = 0.0,obj = R,
grad = dR, eta = eta, param = theta, iter = it,
```





(array of dimension nparam-by-1)  
this should equal to zero for 1st iteration

=====

Attributes:

grad: Gradient information (array of dimension nParam-by-1)  
eta: learning rate = 1 by default  
param: the parameter vector (array of dimension nParam-by-1)  
nParam: number of parameters  
gradHist: gradient history accumulator (see the algorithm)  
epsilon: square-root of machine-precision  
(required to avoid division by zero)  
rho: exponential decay rate (0.95 may be a good choice)  
iter: iteration number (optional)  
maxIter: maximum iteration number (optional input, default = 1)  
objFun: function handle to evaluate the objective  
(not required for maxit = 1 )  
gradFun: function handle to evaluate the gradient  
(not required for maxit = 1 )  
lowerBound: lower bound for the parameters (optional input)  
upperBound: upper bound for the parameters (optional input)  
stopGrad: stopping criterion based on 2-norm of gradient vector  
(default  $10^{-6}$ )  
alg: algorithm used  
\_\_version\_\_: version of the code

=====

Methods:

Public:

performIter: performs all the iterations inside a for loop  
getGradHist: returns gradient history (default is zero)

Inherited:

getParam: returns the parameter values  
getObj: returns the current objective value  
getGrad: returns the current gradient information  
getParamHist: returns parameter update history  
Private: (should not be called outside this class file)  
\_\_init\_\_: initialization  
update: performs one iteration of Adadelata

Inherited:

evaluateObjFn: evaluates the objective function  
evaluateGradFn: evaluates the gradients  
satisfyBounds: satisfies the parameter bounds  
learningSchedule: learning schedule  
stopCrit: check stopping criteria

=====

Reference: Geoffrey Hinton



## 2.4 AdaGrad

```
=====
|               Adaptive Subgradient Method (AdaGrad) class               |
|               derived class from Stochastic Gradient Descent             |
=====

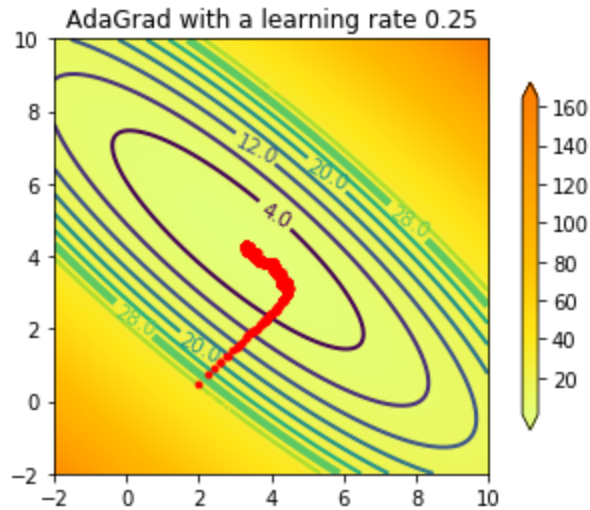
Initialization:
adg = AdaGrad(gradHist, obj, grad, eta, param,
iter, maxIter, objFun, gradFun, lowerBound, upperBound)

NOTE: gradHist:    historical information of gradients
(array of dimension nparam-by-1).
This should equal to zero for 1st iteration
=====

Attributes:
obj:                Initial objective value (optional input)
grad:               Gradient information (array of dimension nParam-by-1)
eta:                learning rate ( = 1.0, default)
param:              the parameter vector (array of dimension nParam-by-1)
nParam:             number of parameters
gradHist:           sum of gradient history (see the algorithm)
epsilon:            square-root of machine-precision
(required to avoid division by zero)
iter:               iteration number (optional input)
maxIter:            maximum iteration number (optional input, default = 1)
objFun:             function handle to evaluate the objective
(not required for maxit = 1 )
gradFun:            function handle to evaluate the gradient
(not required for maxit = 1 )
lowerBound:         lower bound for the parameters (optional input)
upperBound:         upper bound for the parameters (optional input)
stopGrad:           stopping criterion based on 2-norm of gradient vector
(default 10-6)
alg:                algorithm used
__version__:        version of the code
=====

Methods:
Public:
performIter: performs all the iterations inside a for loop
getGradHist: returns gradient history (default is zero)
Inherited:
getParam:           returns the parameter values
getObj:             returns the current objective value
getGrad:            returns the current gradient information
getParamHist:       returns parameter update history
```





## 2.5 Adam

```
=====
|                               Adaptive moment estimation (Adam) class                               |
|                               derived class from Stochastic Gradient Descent                         |
|=====
Initialization:
adm = Adam(m, v, beta1, beta2, obj, grad, eta, param,
iter, maxIter, objFun, gradFun, lowerBound, upperBound)

=====
Attributes:
grad:          Gradient information (array of dimension nParam-by-1)
eta:           learning rate
param:         the parameter vector (array of dimension nParam-by-1)
nParam:        number of parameters
beta1, beta2:  exponential decay rates in [0,1)
(default beta1 = 0.9, beta2 = 0.999)
m:            First moment (array of dimension nParam-by-1)
v:            Second raw moment (array of dimension nParam-by-1)
epsilon:       square-root of machine-precision
(required to avoid division by zero)
iter:          iteration number
maxIter:       maximum iteration number (optional input, default = 1)
objFun:        function handle to evaluate the objective
(not required for maxit = 1 )
gradFun:       function handle to evaluate the gradient
(not required for maxit = 1 )
lowerBound:    lower bound for the parameters (optional input)
upperBound:    upper bound for the parameters (optional input)
```

```

stopGrad:      stopping criterion based on 2-norm of gradient vector
(default 10-6)
alg:           algorithm used
__version__:   version of the code
=====

```

Methods:

Public:

```

performIter:   performs all the iterations inside a for loop
getGradHist:   returns gradient history (default is zero)
getMoments:    returns history of moments

```

Inherited:

```

getParam:      returns the parameter values
getObj:        returns the current objective value
getGrad:       returns the current gradient information
getParamHist:  returns parameter update history

```

Private: (should not be called outside this class file)

```

__init__:      initialization
update:        performs one iteration of Adam

```

Inherited:

```

evaluateObjFn:  evaluates the objective function
evaluateGradFn: evaluates the gradients
satisfyBounds: satisfies the parameter bounds
learningSchedule: learning schedule
stopCrit:      check stopping criteria
=====

```

Reference: Kingma, Diederik P., and Jimmy Ba.

"Adam: A method for stochastic optimization."

arXiv preprint arXiv:1412.6980 (2014).

=====

written by Subhayan De (email: Subhayan.De@colorado.edu), July, 2018.

=====

### 2.5.1 Adam

```
import SGD as sgd
```

```
eta = 0.025 # learning rate
```

```

opt = Adam(m = 0.0,v = 0.0,beta1 = 0.9,beta2 = 0.999,obj = R, grad = dR,
eta = eta, param = theta, iter = it, maxiter=maxIt,
objFun=objFun, gradFun=gradFun) # initialize

```

```
opt.performIter() # perform iterations
```

```
thetaHist = opt.getParamHist()
```





m: First moment (array of dimension nParam-by-1)  
 u: infinity norm constrained second moment  
 (array of dimension nParam-by-1)  
 epsilon: square-root of machine-precision  
 (required to avoid division by zero)  
 iter: iteration number  
 maxIter: maximum iteration number (optional input, default = 1)  
 objFun: function handle to evaluate the objective  
 (not required for maxit = 1 )  
 gradFun: function handle to evaluate the gradient  
 (not required for maxit = 1 )  
 lowerBound: lower bound for the parameters (optional input)  
 upperBound: upper bound for the parameters (optional input)  
 stopGrad: stopping criterion based on 2-norm of gradient vector  
 (default  $10^{-6}$ )  
 alg: algorithm used  
 \_\_version\_\_: version of the code

=====  
 Methods:

Public:

performIter: performs all the iterations inside a for loop  
 getGradHist: returns gradient history (default is zero)  
 getMoments: returns history of moments

Inherited:

getParam: returns the parameter values  
 getObj: returns the current objective value  
 getGrad: returns the current gradient information  
 getParamHist: returns parameter update history

Private: (should not be called outside this class file)

\_\_init\_\_: initialization  
 update: performs one iteration of Adam

Inherited:

evaluateObjFn: evaluates the objective function  
 evaluateGradFn: evaluates the gradients  
 satisfyBounds: satisfies the parameter bounds  
 learningSchedule: learning schedule  
 stopCrit: check stopping criteria

=====  
 Reference: Kingma, Diederik P., and Jimmy Ba.

"Adam: A method for stochastic optimization."

arXiv preprint arXiv:1412.6980 (2014).

=====  
 written by Subhayan De (email: Subhayan.De@colorado.edu), July, 2018.  
 =====

```
import SGD as sgd

eta = 0.25 # learning rate

opt = sgd.Adamax(m = 0.0,u = 0.0,beta1 = 0.9,beta2 = 0.999,obj = R, grad = dR,
eta = eta, param = theta, iter = it, maxiter=maxIt,
objFun=objFun, gradFun=gradFun) # initialize

opt.performIter() # perform iterations

thetaHist = opt.getParamHist()
```

Algorithm: Adamax

Learning schedule: constant

Time Elapsed = 79.23s, Objective = 0.952966

Adamax with a learning rate 0.025

```
=====
|      Nesterov-accelerated Adaptive moment estimation (Nadam) class      |
|      derived class from Stochastic Gradient Descent                     |
=====
```

=====

Initialization:

```
nadm = Nadam(m, v, beta1, beta2, obj, grad, eta, param, iter,
maxIter, objFun, gradFun, lowerBound, upperBound)
```

=====

Attributes: (all private)

grad: Gradient information (array of dimension nParam-by-1)  
eta: learning rate  
param: the parameter vector (array of dimension nParam-by-1)  
nParam: number of parameters  
beta1, beta2: exponential decay rates in [0,1)  
(default beta1 = 0.9, beta2 = 0.999)  
m: First moment (array of dimension nParam-by-1)  
v: Second raw moment (array of dimension nParam-by-1)  
epsilon: square-root of machine-precision  
(required to avoid division by zero)  
iter: iteration number  
maxIter: maximum iteration number (optional input, default = 1)  
objFun: function handle to evaluate the objective  
(not required for maxit = 1 )  
gradFun: function handle to evaluate the gradient  
(not required for maxit = 1 )  
lowerBound: lower bound for the parameters (optional input)  
upperBound: upper bound for the parameters (optional input)  
stopGrad: stopping criterion based on 2-norm of gradient vector  
(default  $10^{-6}$ )  
alg: algorithm used  
\_\_version\_\_: version of the code

=====

Methods:

Public:

performIter: performs all the iterations inside a for loop  
getGradHist: returns gradient history (default is zero)  
getMoments: returns history of moments

Inherited:

getParam: returns the parameter values  
getObj: returns the current objective value  
getGrad: returns the current gradient information  
getParamHist: returns parameter update history

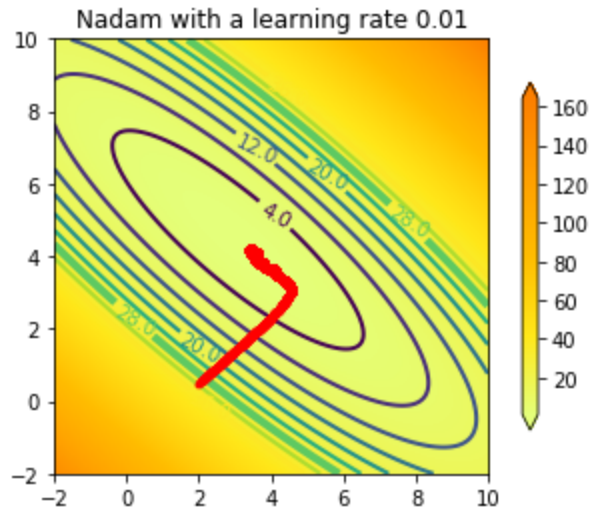
Private: (should not be called outside this class file)

\_\_init\_\_: initialization  
update: performs one iteration of Adam

Inherited:

evaluateObjFn: evaluates the objective function





## 2.8 Adadelata

```
=====
|                                     ADADELTA class                                     |
|                                     derived class from Stochastic Gradient Descent      |
|=====
Initialization:
add = Adadelata(gradHist, updatehist, rho, obj, grad, eta, param,
iter, maxIter, objFun, gradFun, lowerBound, upperBound)
NOTE: gradHist: historical information of gradients
(array of dimension nparam-by-1)
this should equal to zero for 1st iteration
=====
Attributes: (all private)
grad:          Gradient information (array of dimension nParam-by-1)
eta:           learning rate = 1 by default
param:         the parameter vector (array of dimension nParam-by-1)
nParam:        number of parameters
gradHist:      gradient history accumulator (see the algorithm)
updateHist:    parameter update history accumulator
epsilon:       square-root of machine-precision
(required to avoid division by zero)
rho:           exponential decay rate (0.95 may be a good choice)
iter:          iteration number (optional)
maxIter:       maximum iteration number (optional input, default = 1)
objFun:        function handle to evaluate the objective
(not required for maxit = 1 )
gradFun:       function handle to evaluate the gradient
(not required for maxit = 1 )
lowerBound:    lower bound for the parameters (optional input)
```

```

upperBound:      upper bound for the parameters (optional input)
stopGrad:        stopping criterion based on 2-norm of gradient vector
                  (default 10-6)
alg:             algorithm used
__version__:     version of the code

```

```

=====
Methods:

```

```

Public:

```

```

performIter: performs all the iterations inside a for loop

```

```

getGradHist: returns gradient history (default is zero)

```

```

Inherited:

```

```

getParam:       returns the parameter values

```

```

getObj:         returns the current objective value

```

```

getGrad:       returns the current gradient information

```

```

getParamHist:  returns parameter update history

```

```

Private: (should not be called outside this class file)

```

```

__init__:      initialization

```

```

update:        performs one iteration of Adadelata

```

```

Inherited:

```

```

evaluateObjFn:  evaluates the objective function

```

```

evaluateGradFn: evaluates the gradients

```

```

satisfyBounds: satisfies the parameter bounds

```

```

learningSchedule: learning schedule

```

```

stopCrit:      check stopping criteria

```

```

=====
Reference: Zeiler, Matthew D.

```

```

"Adadelata: an adaptive learning rate method."

```

```

arXiv preprint arXiv:1212.5701 (2012).

```

```

=====
written by Subhayan De (email: Subhayan.De@colorado.edu), July, 2018.
=====

```

## 2.8.1 Adadelata

```

import SGD as sgd

```

```

eta = 1.0 # learning rate

```

```

opt = sgd.Adadelata(gradHist=0.0,updateHist=0.0,rho=0.99,obj = R,
grad = dR, eta = eta, param = theta, iter = it, maxiter=maxIt,
objFun=objFun, gradFun=gradFun) # initialize

```

```

opt.performIter() # perform iterations

```

```

thetaHist = opt.getParamHist()

```



```

nSamples:      number of gradients updated at each iteration
iter:          iteration number (optional)
maxIter:       maximum iteration number (optional input, default = 1)
objFun:        function handle to evaluate the objective
(not required for maxit = 1 )
gradFun:       function handle to evaluate the gradient
(not required for maxit = 1 )
lowerBound:    lower bound for the parameters (optional input)
upperBound:    upper bound for the parameters (optional input)
stopGrad:      stopping criterion based on 2-norm of gradient vector
(default 10-6)
learnSched:    learning schedule (constant, exponential or time-based,
default = constant)
lrParam:       learning schedule parameter (default =0.1)
alg:           algorithm used
__version__:   version of the code

```

=====  
Methods:

Public:

performIter: performs all the iterations inside a for loop

getGradHist: returns gradient history (default is zero)

Inherited:

getParam: returns the parameter values

getObj: returns the current objective value

getGrad: returns the current gradient information

getParamHist: returns parameter update history

Private: (should not be called outside this class file)

\_\_init\_\_: initialization

update: performs one iteration of SAG

Inherited:

evaluateObjFn: evaluates the objective function

evaluateGradFn: evaluates the gradients

satisfyBounds: satisfies the parameter bounds

learningSchedule: learning schedule

stopCrit: check stopping criteria

=====  
Reference: Roux, Nicolas L., Mark Schmidt, and Francis R. Bach.

"A stochastic gradient method with an exponential convergence rate  
for finite training sets."

Advances in neural information processing systems. 2012.

=====  
written by Subhayan De (email: Subhayan.De@colorado.edu), July, 2018.  
=====



### 2.9.1 SAG

```
from StochasticGradientDescent import SAG

eta = 0.0025 # learning rate

opt = SAG(nSamples = 20,nTotSamples= n, obj = R, grad = dR, eta = eta,
param = theta, iter = it, maxiter=maxIt, objFun=objFun,
gradFun=batchGradFun) # initialize

opt.performIter() # perform iterations

thetaHist = opt.getParamHist()
```

The output is the following:

Algorithm: SAG

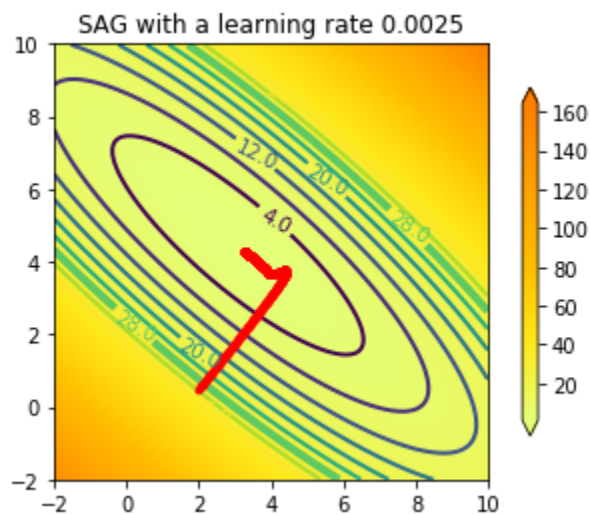
Learning rate = 0.0025

Learning schedule: constant

SAG | ██ | 100.0% Complete:

Time Elapsed = 77.98s, Objective = 0.940773

If we plot the parameter history:



## 2.10 SVRG

Stochastic variance reduced gradient (SVRG) class
derived class from Stochastic Gradient Descent

=====

Initialization:

```
opt = SVRG(nTotSamples, innerIter = 10, outerIter = 200, option = 1,obj,
grad, eta, param, iter, maxiter, objFun, gradFun)
```

NOTE: option = 1 or 2 as suggested in the reference paper.

=====

Attributes:

```
alg:          SVRG
eta:          learning rate
param:        the parameter vector (array of dimension nParam-by-1)
nParam:       number of parameters
fullGrad:     Full gradient information
(array of dimension nParam-by-nTotSamples)
nTotSamples:  total number of samples
innerIter:    inner iteration
outerIter:    outer iteration
iter:         iteration number (optional input)
maxIter:      maximum iteration number
(optional, default = innerIter*outerIter)
objFun:       function handle to evaluate the objective
(not required for maxit = 1 )
gradFun:      function handle to evaluate the gradient
(not required for maxit = 1 )
mu:          average gradient in the outer iteration
paramBest:    best estimate of the param in the oter iteration
lowerBound:   lower bound for the parameters (optional input)
upperBound:   upper bound for the parameters (optional input)
stopGrad:     stopping criterion based on 2-norm of gradient vector
(default 10-6)
alg:          algorithm used
__version__:  version of the code
```

=====

Methods:

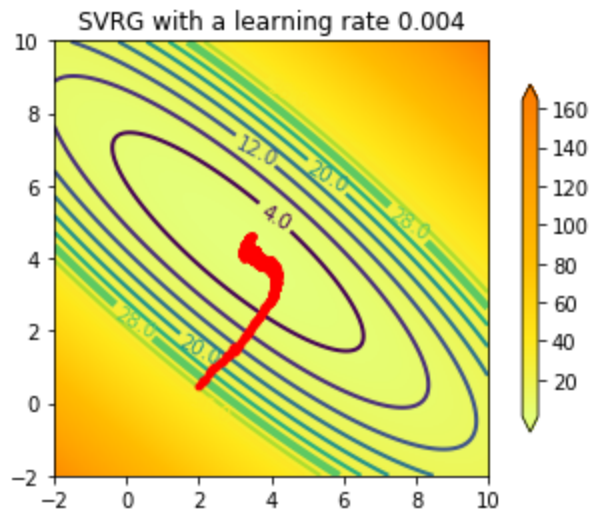
Public:

```
performOuterIter:  performs all the iterations inside a for loop
getGradHist:       returns gradient history (default is zero)
```

Inherited:

```
getParam:         returns the parameter values
getObj:           returns the current objective value
getGrad:          returns the current gradient information
getParamHist:     returns parameter update history
Private: (should not be called outside this class file)
__init__:         initialization
innerUpdate:      performs inner iterations of SVRG
```





Report any bugs to [Subhayan.De@colorado.edu](mailto:Subhayan.De@colorado.edu)