

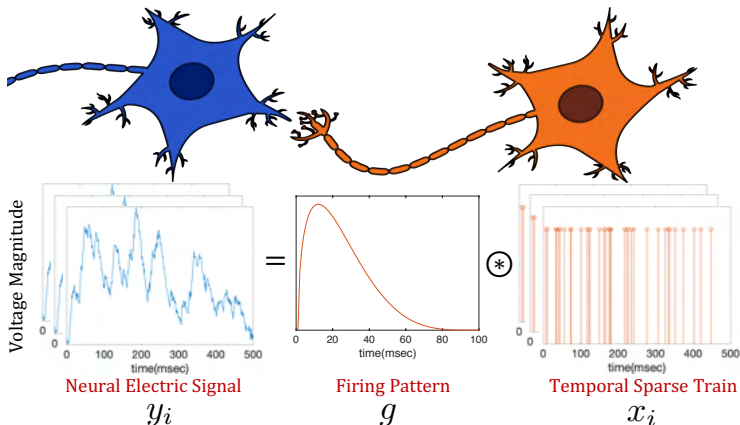
Provable and Efficient Nonconvex Procedures for Multi-Channel Sparse Blind Deconvolution

Laixi Shi

April 16, 2020

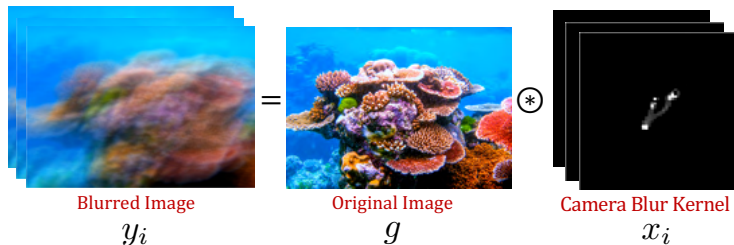
Motivation

Understanding neural recordings



How to recover these temporal sparse/spike trains which indicate when the neuron is activated?

Image superresolution/deblurring



How to find the high-resolution original image and the blurring kernels simultaneously?

Formulation

Multi-channel sparse blind deconvolution (MSBD)

Problem Formulation: the i -th observed signal $\mathbf{y}_i \in \mathbb{R}^n$ can be expressed as:

$$\mathbf{y}_i = \mathbf{g} \circledast \mathbf{x}_i = \mathcal{C}(\mathbf{g})\mathbf{x}_i, \quad i = 1, \dots, p,$$

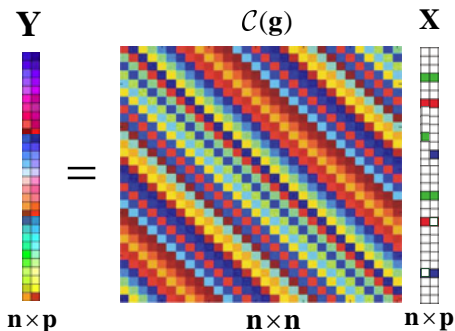
- \mathbf{g} is a filter, and $\mathbf{x}_i \in \mathbb{R}^n$ is a **sparse** input signal.
- p is the total number of observations, and \circledast denote the circulant convolution.
- $\mathbf{g} = [g_1, g_2, \dots, g_n]^\top$ and circulant matrix $\mathcal{C}(\mathbf{g}) \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$:

$$\mathcal{C}(\mathbf{g}) = \begin{bmatrix} g_1 & g_n & \cdots & g_2 \\ g_2 & g_1 & \cdots & g_3 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ g_n & g_{n-1} & \cdots & g_1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Multi-channel sparse blind deconvolution (MSBD)

- $\mathbf{Y} = [\mathbf{y}_1, \dots, \mathbf{y}_p] \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times p}$, $\mathbf{X} = [\mathbf{x}_1, \dots, \mathbf{x}_p] \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times p}$:

$$\mathbf{Y} = \mathcal{C}(\mathbf{g})\mathbf{X}.$$



- **Goal:** recover both the unknown signals $\{\mathbf{x}_i\}_{i=1}^p$ and the kernel \mathbf{g} from multiple observations $\{\mathbf{y}_i\}_{i=1}^p$

Ambiguities

- The bilinear form of the observations:

$$\mathbf{y}_i = (\beta \cdot \mathcal{S}_j(\mathbf{g})) \circledast \frac{\mathcal{S}_{-j}(\mathbf{x}_i)}{\beta},$$

where $\mathcal{S}_j(\mathbf{z})$ is the j -th circulant shift of the vector \mathbf{z} , $\beta \neq 0$ is an arbitrary scalar.

- **Challenge:** Scaling and shift ambiguities $\rightarrow \mathbf{g}$ and $\{\mathbf{x}_i\}_{i=1}^p$ are **not uniquely** identifiable.
- **Goal:** recover filter \mathbf{g} and sparse inputs $\{\mathbf{x}_i\}_{i=1}^p$, up to scaling and shift ambiguity.

Bilinear to linear

- $\mathcal{C}(\mathbf{g})$ is invertible \rightarrow a unique inverse filter \mathbf{g}_{inv} :

$$\mathcal{C}(\mathbf{g}_{\text{inv}})\mathcal{C}(\mathbf{g}) = \mathcal{C}(\mathbf{g})\mathcal{C}(\mathbf{g}_{\text{inv}}) = \mathbf{I}.$$

- **Bilinear to linear**: multiply $\mathcal{C}(\mathbf{g}_{\text{inv}})$ on both side,

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{y}_i &= \mathcal{C}(\mathbf{g})\mathbf{x}_i \rightarrow \\ \mathcal{C}(\mathbf{g}_{\text{inv}})\mathbf{y}_i &= \mathcal{C}(\mathbf{g}_{\text{inv}})\mathcal{C}(\mathbf{g})\mathbf{x}_i = \underbrace{\mathbf{x}_i}_{\text{sparse}} \quad i = 1, \dots, p. \end{aligned}$$

A natural formulation

- **Exploiting the sparsity of $\{x_i\}_{i=1}^p$** : seek \mathbf{h} that minimize the cardinality of $\mathcal{C}(\mathbf{h})\mathbf{y}_i = \mathcal{C}(\mathbf{y}_i)\mathbf{h}$:

$$\min_{\mathbf{h} \in \mathbb{R}^n} \frac{1}{p} \sum_{i=1}^p \|\mathcal{C}(\mathbf{y}_i)\mathbf{h}\|_0.$$

- $\|\cdot\|_0$ is the pseudo- ℓ_0 norm: counts the cardinality of the nonzero entries of the input vector.
- **Problematic** for two reasons:
 1. has a trivial solution $\mathbf{h} = \mathbf{0}$.
 2. the cardinality minimization is computationally intractable.

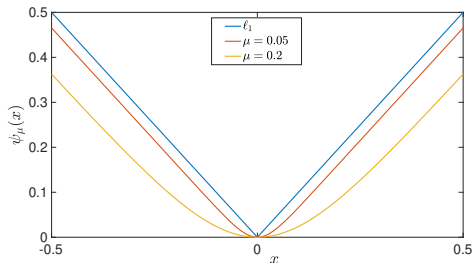
How to recover \mathbf{g}_{inv} provably and efficiently ?

Our nonconvex formulation

- We propose a nonconvex optimization formulation (following [Sun, et al, 2017]¹, [Li and Bresler, 2019]²) :

$$\min_{\mathbf{h} \in \mathbb{R}^n} f_o(\mathbf{h}) = \frac{1}{p} \sum_{i=1}^p \underbrace{\psi_\mu(\mathcal{C}(\mathbf{y}_i)\mathbf{h})}_{\text{convex surrogate}} \quad \text{s.t.} \quad \underbrace{\|\mathbf{h}\|_2 = 1}_{\text{nonconvex}}$$

- Add a **spherical constraint**.
- Relax to a convex smooth surrogate: $\psi_\mu(z) = \mu \log \cosh(z/\mu)$, where μ controls the smoothness of the surrogate.



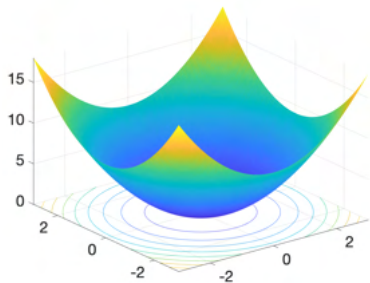
¹Ju Sun, Qing Qu, and John Wright. "Complete Dictionary Recovery Over the Sphere I: Overview and the Geometric Picture". In: *IEEE Transactions on Information Theory* 63.2 (2017), pp. 853–884.

²Yanjun Li and Yoram Bresler. "Multichannel sparse blind deconvolution on the sphere". In: *IEEE Transactions on Information Theory* 65.11 (2019), pp. 7415–7436.

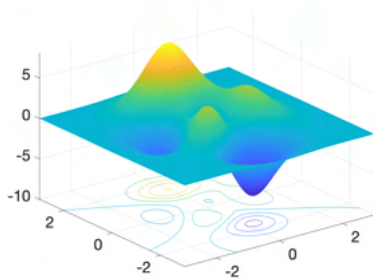
Optimization Geometry

Convex vs nonconvex: optimization geometry

Convex

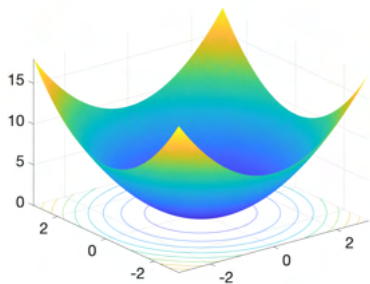


Nonconvex



Convex vs nonconvex: optimization geometry

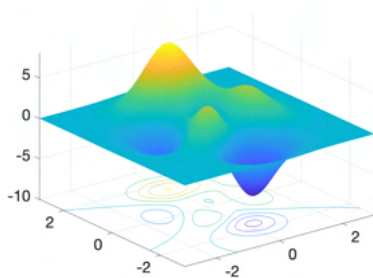
Convex



Unique global minimizer

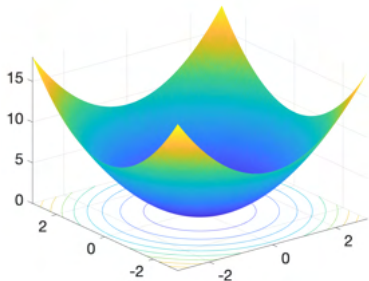


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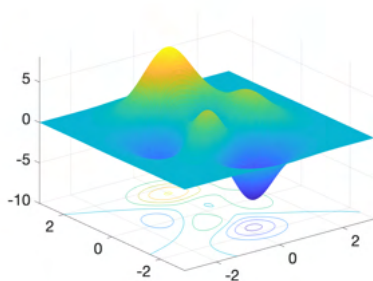
Convex



Unique global minimizer



Nonconvex



saddle points and spurious local minimizers



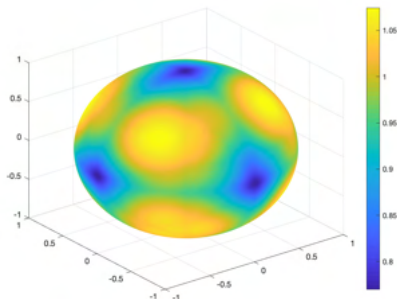
Is our objective landscape geometry of MSBD bad ?

Our Optimization Geometry

Benign geometry in the orthogonal case

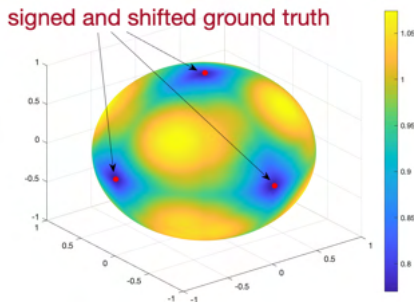
$$\min_{\mathbf{h} \in \mathbb{R}^n} f_o(\mathbf{h}) = \frac{1}{p} \sum_{i=1}^p \psi_{\mu}(\mathcal{C}(\mathbf{y}_i)\mathbf{h}) \quad \text{s.t.} \quad \|\mathbf{h}\|_2 = 1$$

- The landscape of the loss value $f_o(\mathbf{h})$ with respect to \mathbf{h} :
 - $\mathcal{C}(\mathbf{g}) = \mathbf{I}$.
 - $n = 3, p = 30$.



Benign geometry in the orthogonal case

- The landscape of the loss value $f_o(\mathbf{h})$ with respect to \mathbf{h} :
 - $\mathcal{C}(\mathbf{g}) = \mathbf{I}$.
 - $2n = 6$ ground truth $\{\pm \mathbf{e}_i\}_{i=1}^3$



- **Benign geometry**: $2n$ local minimizers are approximately all shift and signed variants of the ground truth ($\{\pm \mathbf{e}_i\}_{i=1}^3$), and symmetrically distributed over the sphere.

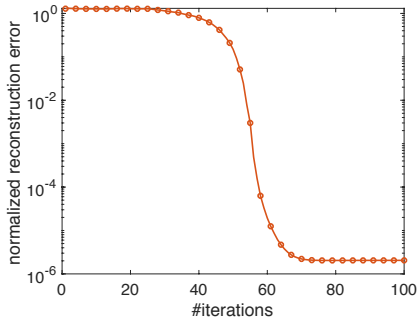
Manifold gradient descent (MGD)

- Manifold gradient descent:

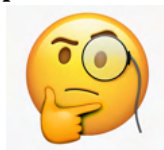
$$\mathbf{h}_{t+1} := \frac{\mathbf{h}_t - \eta_t \partial f_o(\mathbf{h}_t)}{\|\mathbf{h}_t - \eta_t \partial f_o(\mathbf{h}_t)\|_2},$$

where η_t is the stepsize, $\partial f_o(\mathbf{h}) = (\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{h}\mathbf{h}^\top) \nabla f_o(\mathbf{h})$, and $\nabla f_o(\mathbf{h})$ is the Euclidean gradient of $f_o(\mathbf{h})$.

- With random initialization, $n = 128, p = 16$.



Surprising success
of nonconvex
optimization



Theoretical guarantee

*Can we establish **theoretical guarantee** for the simple and efficient MGD based on nonconvex optimization formulation?*

Yes. The statistical model will help !

Main Theoretical Results

Assumptions

- **Inputs are sparse**: the inputs $\mathbf{X} = [\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2, \dots, \mathbf{x}_p]$ is under Bernoulli-Gaussian³ model $\text{BG}(\theta)$.
 - Each entry x in \mathbf{X} is an i.i.d variable satisfying $x = \Omega \cdot z$, where Ω is a Bernoulli variable with parameter θ and $z \sim \mathcal{N}(0, 1)$.
- **$\mathcal{C}(\mathbf{g})$ is invertible**⁴: ensure the identifiability of the filter \mathbf{g} .
 - The condition number of $\mathcal{C}(\mathbf{g})$ is κ , i.e.

$$\kappa = \sigma_1(\mathcal{C}(\mathbf{g})) / \sigma_n(\mathcal{C}(\mathbf{g}))$$

³Qing Qu et al. "Analysis of the Optimization Landscapes for Overcomplete Representation Learning". In: *arXiv preprint arXiv:1912.02427* (2019).

⁴Yanjun Li, Kiryung Lee, and Yoram Bresler. "A unified framework for identifiability analysis in bilinear inverse problems with applications to subspace and sparsity models". In: *arXiv preprint arXiv:1501.06120* (2015).

Main results

- Distance metric to measure the success recovery:

$$\text{dist}(\mathbf{h}, \mathbf{g}_{\text{inv}}) = \min_{j \in [n]} \|\mathbf{g}_{\text{inv}} \pm \mathcal{S}_j(\mathbf{h})\|_2.$$

Theorem (Shi and Chi, 2019)

Instate the assumptions above, for $\theta \in (0, \frac{1}{3})$, when μ is small enough, with $O(\log n)$ random initializations, the output $\hat{\mathbf{h}}$ of MGD with a proper step size will satisfy:

$$\text{dist}(\hat{\mathbf{h}}, \mathbf{g}_{\text{inv}}) \lesssim \frac{\kappa^4}{\theta^2} \sqrt{\frac{n}{p}}$$

in polynomial iterations, provided $p \gtrsim \frac{\kappa^8 n^{4.5} \log^4 p \log^2 n}{\theta^4}$

Table: Comparison with existing methods for solving MSBD

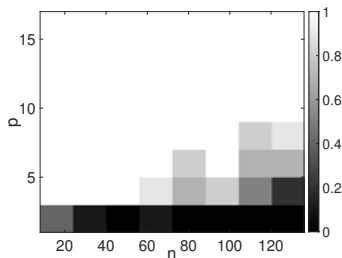
| Methods | [Wang and Chi, 2016] | [Li and Bresler, 2019] | Ours |
|--------------------|---|--|--|
| Assumptions | filter g spiky & $\mathcal{C}(g)$ invertible, $\mathbf{X} \sim \text{BG}(\theta)$ | $\mathcal{C}(g)$ invertible, $\mathbf{X} \sim \text{BR}(\theta)$ | $\mathcal{C}(g)$ invertible, $\mathbf{X} \sim \text{BG}(\theta)$ |
| Formulation | Convex $\min_{e_1^\top \mathbf{h}=1} \ \mathcal{C}(\mathbf{h})\mathbf{Y}\ _1$ | Nonconvex $\max_{\ \mathbf{h}\ _2=1} \ \mathcal{C}(\mathbf{h})\mathbf{R}\mathbf{Y}\ _4^4$ | Nonconvex $\min_{\ \mathbf{h}\ _2=1} \psi_\mu(\mathcal{C}(\mathbf{h})\mathbf{R}\mathbf{Y})$ |
| Algorithm | linear programming | <i>noisy</i> MGD | <i>vanilla</i> MGD |
| Recovery Condition | $\theta \in O(1/\sqrt{n}),$ $p \geq O(n)$ | $\theta \in O(1),$ $p \geq O(n^9)$ | $\theta \in O(1),$ $p \geq O(n^{4.5})$ |

- For order of p , assuming θ, κ are constants, the order of sample complexity p is shown up to logarithmic factors.

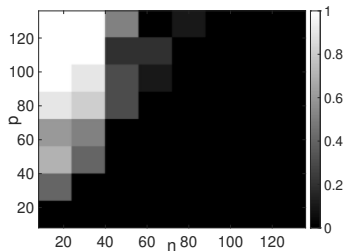
Practical Experiment Results

Numerical experiments: synthetic data

- Success rate of recovering the filter g :
 - 10 Monte Carlo for success rate $\in [0, 1]$.
 - Fix sparsity $\theta = 0.3$.



(a) Ours

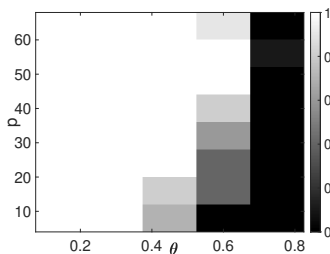


(b) [Li and Bresler, 2019]

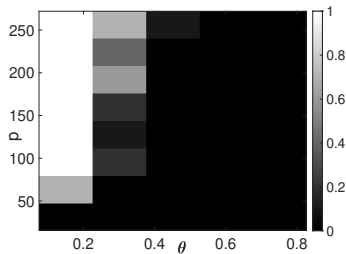
Figure: Requirement of sample complexity p with respect to n .

Numerical experiments: synthetic data

- Success rate of recovering the filter g :
 - 10 Monte Carlo for success rate $\in [0, 1]$.
 - Fix $n = 64$.



(a) Ours

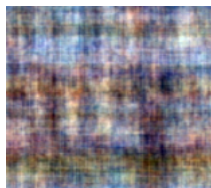


(b) [Li and Bresler, 2019]

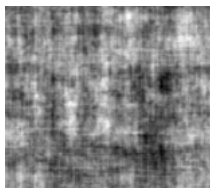
Figure: Requirement of sample complexity p with respect to θ .

Numerical experiments: blind image deconvolution

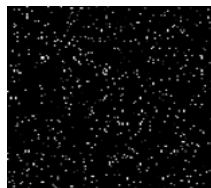
- Experimental setting:
 - The filter size is $n = 128 \times 128$.
 - The number of observations is $p = 1000$.
 - Sparsity level $\theta = 0.1$: $\mathbf{X} \in \text{BG}(\theta)$



(a) Observation (RGB)



(b) Observation (R)



(c) Sparse input

Numerical experiments: blind image deconvolution

Comparisons of the recovered filter g :



(d) True image



(e) Recovery via
ours



(f) Recovery via
[Li, et al., 2019]

Summary so far

- Introduction of our nonconvex approach for MSBD.
- Main results with comparisons to prior work.
 - **Theoretical** improvement on sample complexity p .
 - **Practical** much better performance.
- **Proof of our theoretical results.**

Proof Pipeline

Proof pipeline

- $\mathcal{C}(g)$ is orthogonal:
 1. **one good subset of interest**: benign geometry in the subset around one signed and shifted ground truth.
 2. **$2n$ good subsets**: Symmetry \rightarrow benign geometry in $2n$ subsets of interest.
 3. **Success recovery guarantee**: convergence guarantee of MGD to the ground truth when initialized in these subsets.
 4. **Random initialization**: Subsets of interest are large enough.
- **Extend to $\mathcal{C}(g)$ is invertible**: by pre-conditioning R .

Proof pipeline

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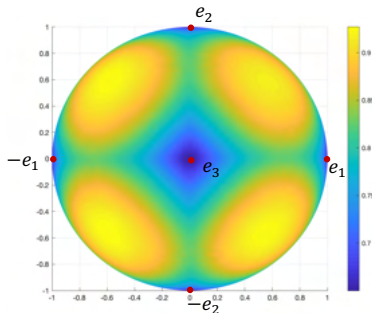
Subsets of Interest

Subsets of interest

$\mathcal{C}(\mathbf{g}) = \mathbf{I} \rightarrow$ shifted and sign-permuted copies of the **ground truth** $\{\pm \mathbf{e}_i\}_{i=1}^n$.

- **$2n$ subsets of interest:** around copies of the **ground truth** $\{\pm \mathbf{e}_i\}_{i=1}^n$:

$$\mathcal{S}_\xi^{(i\pm)} = \left\{ \mathbf{h} : h_i \geq 0, \frac{h_i^2}{\|\mathbf{h}_{\setminus\{i\}}\|_\infty^2} \geq 1 + \xi \right\}, \quad i \in [n], \xi > 0.$$



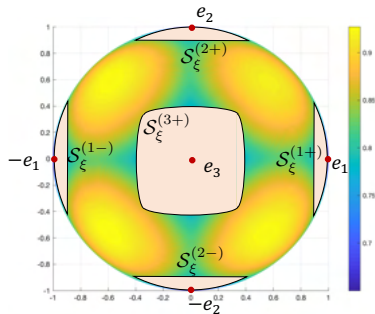
$n = 3$

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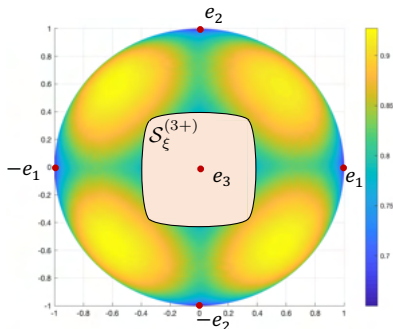
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- **Focus on $\mathcal{S}_\xi^{(n+)}$** :



Geometry in $\mathcal{S}_\xi^{(n+)}$

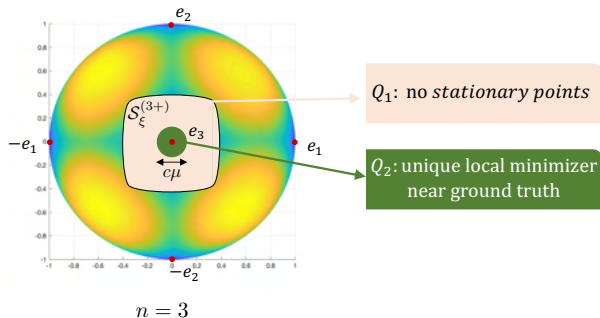
Geometry of the population loss

Population loss: $\mathbb{E}(f_o(\mathbf{h})) = \mathbb{E}\left[\frac{1}{p} \sum_{i=1}^p \psi_{\mu}(\mathcal{C}(\mathbf{y}_i)\mathbf{h})\right]$

Theorem (Shi and Chi, 2019)

WLOG, suppose $\mathcal{C}(\mathbf{g}) = \mathbf{I}$. When μ is small enough, for $\mathbf{h} \in \mathcal{S}_{\xi}^{(n+)}$, the population loss satisfies:

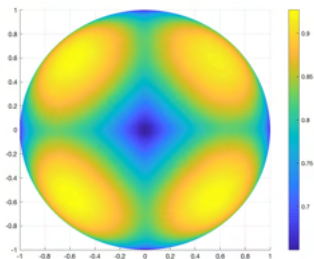
(large directional gradient) $\mathbf{h} \in \mathcal{Q}_1$,
(strong convexity) $\mathbf{h} \in \mathcal{Q}_2$.



Statistical model helps: *population loss is smooth and good!*

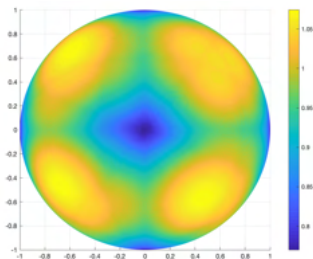
Geometry: population loss to empirical loss

- Similar geometry of population and empirical loss:



(a) population $\mathbb{E}(f_o(\mathbf{h}))$

Good!



(b) empirical $f_o(\mathbf{h})$

?

How can we relate the properties of empirical loss to those of the population loss?

Uniform convergence of gradients and Hessians

- **Good geometry of empirical loss:**
 - Reparametrization: $\phi_o(\mathbf{w}) = f_o(\mathbf{h})$, where $\mathbf{w} = \mathbf{h}_{1:n-1}$.

Theorem (Shi and Chi, 2019)

Under the setting, for $\mathbf{h}(\mathbf{w}) \in \mathcal{S}_\xi^{(n+)}$ for some small $t_1, t_2 > 0$:

$$\mathbb{P} \left[\sup_{\mathbf{h}(\mathbf{w}) \in \mathcal{Q}_1} \left| \underbrace{\frac{\mathbf{w}^\top \nabla \phi_o(\mathbf{w})}{\|\mathbf{w}\|_2}}_{\text{empirical}} - \underbrace{\frac{\mathbf{w}^\top \nabla \mathbb{E} \phi_o(\mathbf{w})}{\|\mathbf{w}\|_2}}_{\text{population}} \right| \geq t_1 \right] \leq 2 \exp(-Cn),$$

$$\mathbb{P} \left[\sup_{\mathbf{h}(\mathbf{w}) \in \mathcal{Q}_2} \left\| \underbrace{\nabla^2 \phi_o(\mathbf{w})}_{\text{empirical}} - \underbrace{\nabla^2 \mathbb{E} \phi_o(\mathbf{w})}_{\text{population}} \right\| \geq t_2 \right] \leq \exp(-Cn),$$

provided $p \gtrsim O(n^{4.5})$.

- Proof is based on concentration inequalities and covering numbers.

Orthogonal case to general case

- $\mathcal{C}(\mathbf{g})$ is orthogonal
- **Extend to $\mathcal{C}(\mathbf{g})$ that is invertible:** by pre-conditioning \mathbf{R} .

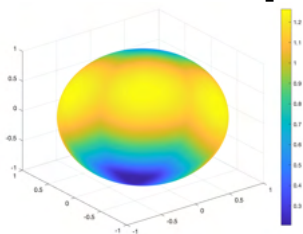
Benign geometry in general case

- The pre-conditioned problem:

$$\min_{\mathbf{h} \in \mathbb{R}^n} f(\mathbf{h}) = \frac{1}{p} \sum_{i=1}^p \psi_{\mu}(\mathcal{C}(\mathbf{y}_i) \mathbf{R} \mathbf{h}) \quad \text{s.t.} \quad \|\mathbf{h}\|_2 = 1$$

- The pre-conditioning matrix is given as:

$$\mathbf{R} = \left[\frac{1}{\theta n p} \sum_{i=1}^p \mathcal{C}(\mathbf{y}_i)^{\top} \mathcal{C}(\mathbf{y}_i) \right]^{-1/2}.$$



$$f_o(\mathbf{h}) = \frac{1}{p} \sum_{i=1}^p \psi_{\mu}(\mathcal{C}(\mathbf{y}_i) \mathbf{h})$$



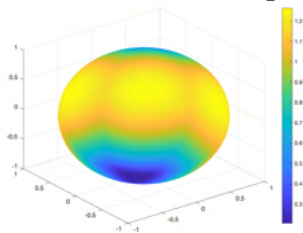
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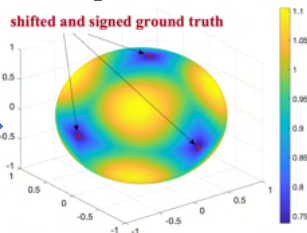
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$$f_o(\mathbf{h}) = \frac{1}{p} \sum_{i=1}^p \psi_{\mu}(\mathcal{C}(\mathbf{y}_i) \mathbf{h})$$







pre-conditioned $f(\mathbf{h})$



Conclusion

- We propose a novel nonconvex approach for MSBD problem based on MGD with random initializations.
- Under mild statistical model for sparse inputs, we provide theoretical characterizations for benign geometric landscape of the loss function \rightarrow ensures the global convergence of MGD.
- Comparisons with prior work:
 1. significant improvement of sample complexity p : from $p \gtrsim O(n^9) \rightarrow p \gtrsim O(n^{4.5})$.
 2. better practical performance in a much larger range of the sparsity level.
- Future work: design a provable nonconvex procedure for self-calibrated compressive sensing.

References

-  Yanjun Li and Yoram Bresler. “Multichannel sparse blind deconvolution on the sphere”. In: *IEEE Transactions on Information Theory* 65.11 (2019), pp. 7415–7436.
-  Yanjun Li, Kiryung Lee, and Yoram Bresler. “A unified framework for identifiability analysis in bilinear inverse problems with applications to subspace and sparsity models”. In: *arXiv preprint arXiv:1501.06120* (2015).
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Thank you!

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