



# EECS 559

## Optimization Methods for SIPML

### Lecture 1 – Introduction

Instructor: Prof. Qing Qu ([qingqu@umich.edu](mailto:qingqu@umich.edu))

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## Course Logistics

- Lecture:** Mon., 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm EST
- Location:** GGBL 2505 and Online
- Instructor:** Prof. Qing Qu, email: [qingqu@umich.edu](mailto:qingqu@umich.edu),  
**Instructor Office hours:** Monday 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM
- GSI:** Siyi Chen, email: [siyich@umich.edu](mailto:siyich@umich.edu), Yixuan Jia, email: [jiayx@umich.edu](mailto:jiayx@umich.edu)
- GSI Office hours:** TBD

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## Prerequisites

- EECS 551:** Matrix Methods for Signal Processing, Data Analysis and Machine Learning, Prof. Jeff Fessler: <https://web.eecs.umich.edu/~fessler/course/551/index.html>
- IOE 511:** Continuous Optimization Methods, **IOE 611:** Nonlinear Programming
- EECS 505:** Computational Data Science and Machine Learning, (helpful but is not essential)
- EECS 453/445/553/545:** Machine Learning

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## Homework, Exams & Projects

- Homework (6 assignments, 40%);**
- Course project (15%):
- No midterm, one final take-home exam (40%);
- Course Participation (5%)

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## Lecture Agenda

- Course Logistics & Prerequisites**
- Homework, Exams & Grading
- Course Goals & Motivating Examples
- Course Content & Syllabus
- Books & References

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## Course Logistics

- Course materials:** Primarily posted on Canvas
- Major reference:** [High-Dimensional Data Analysis with Low-Dimensional Models: Principles, Computation, and Applications](#). John Wright, Yi Ma (Chapter 8&9, Appendices A-D).
- Piazza** will be the major place for Q&A.
- No emails** of technical questions will be answered (Instructor & GSI), they will be addressed via **Piazza**.
- Personal emails will be addressed.

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## Lecture Agenda

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## More on Homework

- Homework every **two weeks** (40%, 6 assignments):
  - Release on **Friday**, due **two weeks after**;
  - Requests for due date extensions must be made in advance. Failure to do so will result in 50% assignment points off.
  - Each person can make up to **2 extensions**, and up to **5 days** in total.
  - Encouraged to type in LaTeX ([Overleaf](#)) and submit .pdf files online; hand-written versions are allowed;
  - There is **one drop-off of the lowest grade** of all homework assignments. In other words, the **5 highest** scored assignments will be counted for the final grade.

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# More on Homework

- Homework every **two** weeks (40%, 6 assignments):
  - **Regrading** request needs to be submitted **within 2 weeks** after grade released;
  - Homework assignments are to be completed **on your own**;
  - **Using existence of solutions** prepared in prior years is **not allowed**, violation of the policy is an Honor Code Violation;
  - Posting solutions and codes on **public sites** is also **prohibited**.

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# More on Projects

## Two Milestones:

- **Proposal (due Feb. 28<sup>th</sup>)**. Submit a short report (1 page) stating the papers you plan to survey or the research problems that you plan to work on;
- **A written report (due May 1<sup>nd</sup>)**. You are expected to submit a final project report – up to 10 pages with unlimited appendix.
- Please type using LaTeX.

For a team project, each student should submit individually.

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# Homework, Exams & Projects

- Homework (6 assignments, 40%);
- Course project (15%):
- No midterm, one final take-home exam (40%);
- **Participation & Quiz (4%)**
- Course evaluation (1%):
  - 0.5% for midterm and 0.5% for final.
  - Submit a screenshot proving that you have submitted;

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# Ethics & Notice

- Sharing materials from the class with other individuals not in the class without written instructor permission will be treated as an **Honor Code violation**;
- Posting solutions and codes on **public sites** is also **prohibited**.

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# Homework, Exams & Projects

- Homework (6 assignments, 40%);
- **Course project (15%)**:
  - Literature Review on research papers (1 student);
  - Original Research (a group of 2 students maximum):
    - Developing optimization methods for your specific problem;
    - Algorithmic development & convergence analysis;
- No midterm, one final take-home exam (40%);
- Course Participation (4%)

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# Homework, Exams & Projects

- Homework (6 assignments, 40%);
- Course project (15%);
- **No midterm, one final take-home exam (40%)**;
- Participation & Quiz (4%)
- Course evaluation (1%)

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# Participation & Course Evaluation

- **Participation & Quiz (4%)**
  - It is based on the assessment of your engagement in the course;
  - We will have small quizzes during the class;
  - Each problem will be multiple choice question, worth 3 points.
  - Wrong answer: 2 points, no response: 0 points.
  - 5 lowest grades in-class quiz will be dropped off.
- **Course Evaluation (1%)**
  - Midterm (0.5%)
  - Final (0.5%)

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# Programming Language

- There will be at least **one coding exercise** per each homework assignment;
- We will mainly use **Python**, GSI will provide a video tutorial on programming
- Provide **final results** (e.g., plots, figures, ...) in your submission, and **attach the code**.

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# Lecture Agenda

- Course Logistics & Prerequisites
- Homework, Exams & Grading
- **Course Goals & Motivating Examples**
- Course Content & Syllabus
- Books & References

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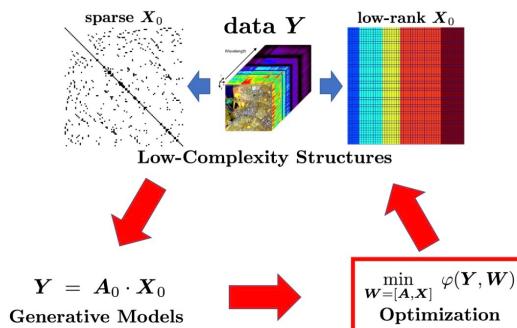
# Course Goals

- Develop optimization methods for **large-scale problems** in signal processing and **machine learning** applications:
  - **Inverse problems** (e.g., sparse recovery, phase retrieval, blind deconvolution, low-rank matrix recovery, etc.);
  - **Unsupervised learning** (e.g., dictionary learning, independent component analysis, sparse PCA, etc.);
  - **Supervised learning** (linear/logistic regression, training linear classifiers, training deep networks, etc.);

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## Not a *Pure Optimization Course*



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## Inverse Problems

- Sparse Recovery/Compressed Sensing
- Low-rank Matrix Recovery/Completion
- (Sparse) Phase Retrieval
- (Sparse) Blind Deconvolution

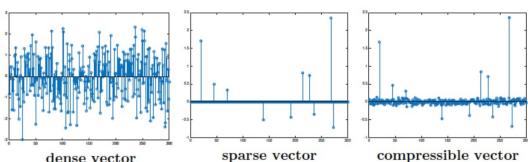
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## Example I: Sparse Recovery

$$\begin{aligned} y &= A \cdot x \quad \text{observation} \quad \text{measurement matrix} \quad \text{unknown signal} \\ y \in \mathbb{R}^m, \quad x \in \mathbb{R}^n, \quad A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}, \quad m \ll n. \end{aligned}$$

- Different “structures” in  $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$  :

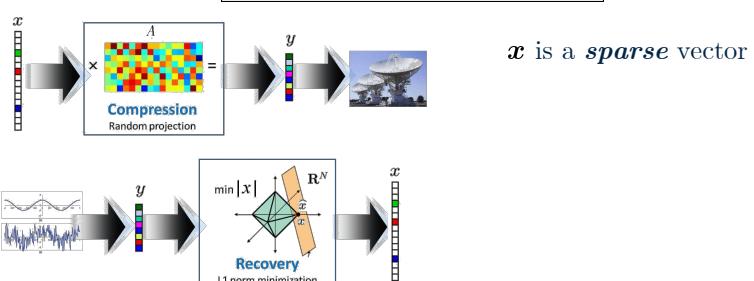


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## Example I: Sparse Recovery

$$(P1) \quad \min_z \|z\|_1, \quad \text{s.t. } y = Az,$$

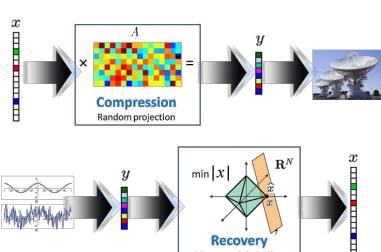


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## Example I: Sparse Recovery

$$(P1) \quad \min_z \|z\|_1, \quad \text{s.t. } y = Az,$$



- Many applications in:
- Medical imaging
  - Radar imaging
  - Speech recognition
  - Data acquisition

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## Example II: Low-Rank Recovery



- Netflix challenge: Netflix provides highly incomplete ratings from 0.5 million users for 17,770 movies
- How to predict unseen user ratings for all movies?

1/6/25

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## Example II: Low-Rank Recovery

$$\begin{bmatrix} \checkmark & ? & ? & ? & \checkmark & ? \\ ? & ? & \checkmark & \checkmark & ? & ? \\ \checkmark & ? & ? & \checkmark & ? & ? \\ ? & ? & \checkmark & ? & ? & \checkmark \\ \checkmark & ? & ? & ? & ? & ? \\ ? & \checkmark & ? & ? & \checkmark & ? \\ ? & ? & \checkmark & ? & ? & ? \end{bmatrix}$$

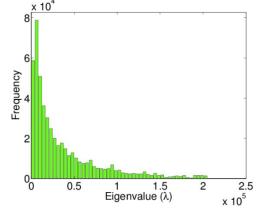
- More unknowns than observations (under-determined system)

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## Example II: Low-Rank Recovery



- A few factors explain most of the data: **low-rank** approximation

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## Example II: Low-Rank Recovery

- How to exploit **low-rank structures** in predictions?

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## Example II: Low-Rank Recovery

- Given observed entries  $M_{i,j}$  with  $(i, j) \in \Omega$ , complete the matrix via rank minimization

$$\min_{\mathbf{X}} \text{rank}(\mathbf{X}), \quad \text{s.t. } X_{i,j} = M_{i,j}, \quad (i, j) \in \Omega,$$

- Or, equivalently, we can rewrite it as

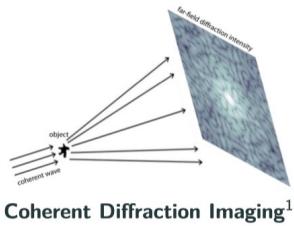
$$\min_{\mathbf{X}} \text{rank}(\mathbf{X}), \quad \text{s.t. } \mathcal{P}_{\Omega}(\mathbf{X}) = \mathcal{P}_{\Omega}(\mathbf{M}).$$

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## Example III: Phase Retrieval



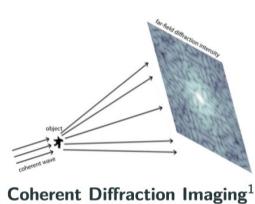
**Applications:** X-ray crystallography, **diffraction imaging** (left), optics, astronomical imaging, and microscopy

Given the measurement  $y = |Ax|$ , recover the signal  $x$ .

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## Example III: Phase Retrieval



**Applications:** X-ray crystallography, **diffraction imaging** (left), optics, astronomical imaging, and microscopy

$$\min_{z \in \mathbb{C}^m} \frac{1}{2} \|y - |Az|\|^2$$

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## Motivating Problem II

- Unsupervised Learning**
  - (Convolutional) Dictionary Learning
  - (Sparse) Principal Component Analysis
  - Independent Component Analysis
  - Nonnegative Matrix Factorization
  - Deep Autoencoder

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## Dictionary Learning

$$\mathbf{Y} \approx \mathbf{A}_0 \times \mathbf{X}_0$$

$$\mathbf{Y} \approx [\mathbf{y}_1 \mathbf{y}_2 \dots \mathbf{y}_p] \approx \mathbf{A}_0 \times \mathbf{X}_0 \times [\mathbf{x}_1 \mathbf{x}_2 \dots \mathbf{x}_p]$$

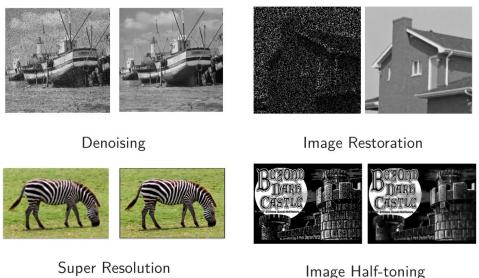
$$\min_{\mathbf{A} \in \mathcal{M}, \mathbf{X}} f(\mathbf{Y}, \mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{X}) + \lambda \cdot g(\mathbf{X})$$

data fidelity regularizer

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# Dictionary Learning



- Image courtesy of Julien Mairal et al.

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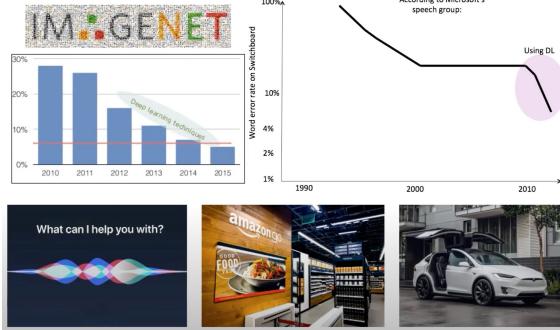
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# Motivating Problem III

- **Supervised Learning**

- Linear/Logistic Regression
- Training Linear Classifiers
- Training Deep Neural Networks

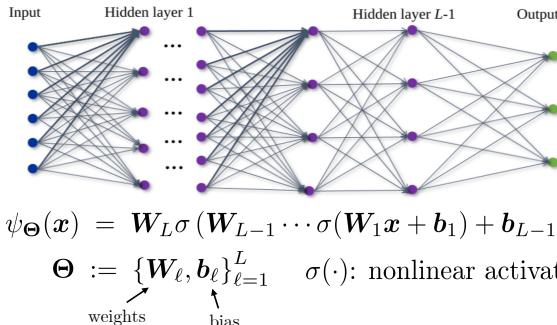
## Impact of Deep Learning in ML



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## Training Deep Neural Networks



$$\psi_\Theta(x) = W_L \sigma(W_{L-1} \dots \sigma(W_1 x + b_1) + b_{L-1}) + b_L$$

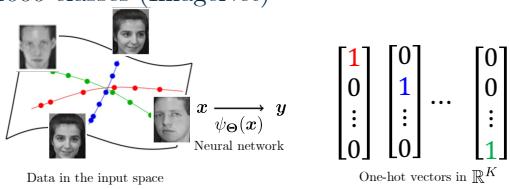
$$\Theta := \{W_\ell, b_\ell\}_{\ell=1}^L \quad \sigma(\cdot): \text{nonlinear activations}$$

weights                  bias

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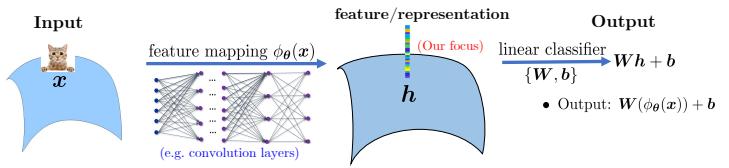
## Multi-Class Classification Problem

- Learning predictor from **training set**  $\{(x^{(i)}, y^{(i)}); i = 1, \dots, n\}$
- Example: multi-class classification problem
  - $K = 10$  classes (MNIST, CIFAR10, etc.)
  - $K = 1000$  classes (ImageNet)



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## Training Deep Neural Network Classifiers



$$\min_{\theta, W, b} \frac{1}{Kn} \sum_{k=1}^K \sum_{i=1}^n \mathcal{L}_{\text{CE}}(W(\phi_\theta(x_{k,i})) + b, y_k) + \lambda \|\theta, W, b\|_F^2$$

cross-entropy loss      weight decay

i-th input in the k-th class      One-hot vector for the k-th class

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## Course Goals

- Develop optimization methods for **large-scale problems** in **signal processing** and **machine learning** applications:
  - **Inverse problems** (nonsmooth/nonconvex optimization);
  - **Unsupervised learning** (nonconvex optimization);
  - **Supervised learning** (convex/nonconvex optimization).

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## Lecture Agenda

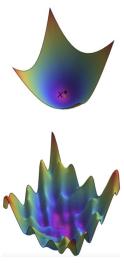
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# Contents & Syllabus

- Basic concepts in optimization (1-2 week)
- (Unconstraint) convex optimization (7 weeks)
  - Smooth convex problems (2 weeks);
  - Nonsmooth convex problems (5 weeks);
- Nonconvex optimization (5 weeks)
  - Second-order methods (2 weeks);
  - First-order methods (2 weeks);
  - Power methods, Riemannian optimization (1 week)
- Guest Lectures (1 week)



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# Recommendation Letters

- Some students are requesting letter for graduate studies after the course (e.g., PhD application)
- Please do not request recommendation letters from me if
  - You never show up in class, nor my office hours
  - You never asked questions during the lecture
  - You never interacted with me in person after class

# Questions?

- **Lecture:** Mon., 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm EST
- **Location:** GGBL 2505 and Online
- **Instructor:** Prof. Qing Qu, email: [qingqu@umich.edu](mailto:qingqu@umich.edu),  
**Instructor Office hours:** Monday 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM
- **GSI:** Siyi Chen, email: [siyich@umich.edu](mailto:siyich@umich.edu), Yixuan Jia,  
email: [jiayx@umich.edu](mailto:jiayx@umich.edu)
- **GSI Office hours:** TBD

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