

Explore Aggressively, Update Conservatively: Stochastic Extragradient Methods with Variable Stepsize Scaling

Yu-Guan Hsieh, Franck Iutzeler, Jérôme Malick, Panayotis Mertikopoulos

NeurIPS 2020



Outline

- ① Background: Saddle-point optimization
- ② Literature review: Convergence of extragradient
- ③ Contributions: Explore aggressively, update conservatively

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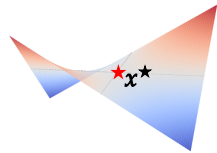
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Saddle-point problem

Find $x^* = (\theta^*, \phi^*)$ such that

$$\mathcal{L}(\theta^*, \phi) \leq \mathcal{L}(\theta^*, \phi^*) \leq \mathcal{L}(\theta, \phi^*) \quad \text{for all } \theta \in \mathbb{R}^{d_1} \text{ and all } \phi \in \mathbb{R}^{d_2}.$$

$\mathcal{L} : \mathbb{R}^{d_1} \times \mathbb{R}^{d_2} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is a differentiable function.

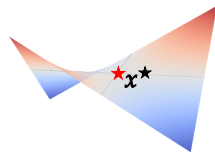


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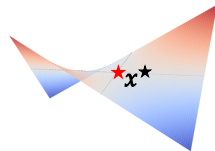
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- Associated vector field: $V(\theta, \phi) = (\nabla_{\theta} \mathcal{L}(\theta, \phi), -\nabla_{\phi} \mathcal{L}(\theta, \phi))$

First order optimality condition: $V(x^*) = 0$

The failure of gradient descent/ascent in bilinear games

Algorithm

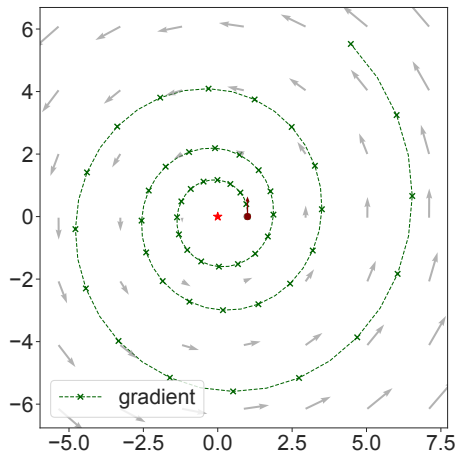
Gradient descent/ascent

$$\theta_{t+1} = \theta_t - \gamma_t \nabla_{\theta} \mathcal{L}(\theta_t, \phi_t)$$

$$\phi_{t+1} = \phi_t + \gamma_t \nabla_{\phi} \mathcal{L}(\theta_t, \phi_t)$$

Equivalently, $X_{t+1} = X_t - \gamma_t V(X_t)$.

$$\min_{\theta \in \mathbb{R}} \max_{\phi \in \mathbb{R}} \theta \phi; \quad V(\theta, \phi) = (\phi, -\theta)$$



Remedy: Extragradient [Korpelevich 1976]

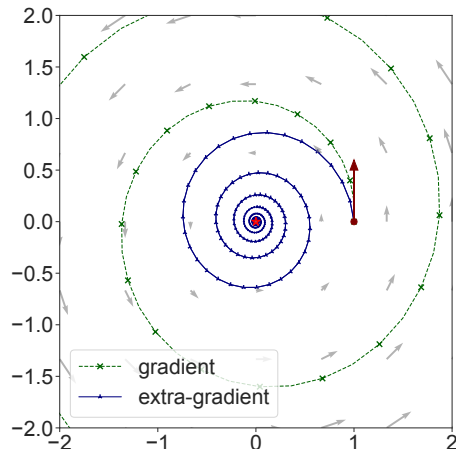
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Extra-gradient

$$X_{t+\frac{1}{2}} = X_t - \gamma_t V(X_t) \quad (\text{leading state})$$

$$X_{t+1} = X_t - \gamma_t V(X_{t+\frac{1}{2}}) \quad (\text{base state})$$

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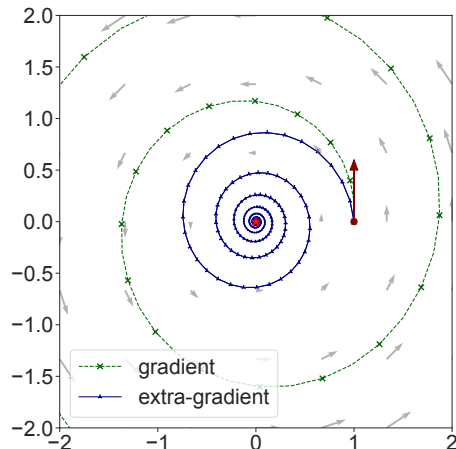
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Extragradient in the deterministic setting

Blanket assumption: V is β -Lipschitz continuous

Deterministic	Additional Hypothesis	Convergence type	Rate
Korpelevich 1976	Monotone	Last iterate	-
Tseng 1995	Monotone + Error bound	Last iterate	Geometric
Nemirovski 2004	Monotone	Ergodic	$\mathcal{O}(1/t)$

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Extensive literature: • Different convergence metrics and assumptions • Adaptive and universal methods • Dealing with non-smoothness • More efficient variants ...

Extragradient in the stochastic setting

Stochastic oracle ($s \in \mathbb{N}/2$)

$$\hat{V}_s = V(X_s) + Z_s \quad (i) \quad \mathbb{E}[Z_s | \mathcal{F}_s] = 0 \quad (ii) \quad \mathbb{E}[\|Z_s\|^2 | \mathcal{F}_s] \leq \sigma^2$$

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Juditsky et al. 2011	Monotone	Ergodic	$\mathcal{O}(1/\sqrt{t})$
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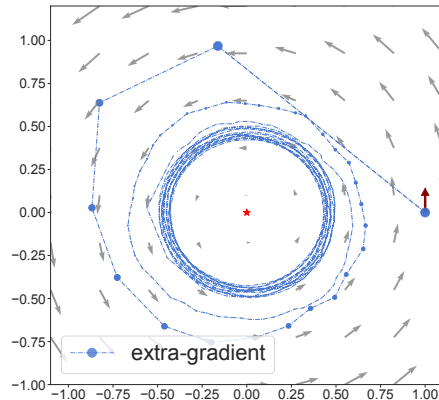
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Last-iterate convergence for stochastic monotone operators?

$$\min_{\theta \in \mathbb{R}} \max_{\phi \in \mathbb{R}} \theta \phi; \quad \hat{V}_t = (\phi_t + \xi_t, -\theta_t)$$

$$\mathbb{E}[\xi_t] = 0, \quad \mathbb{E}[\xi_t^2] = \sigma^2 > 0.$$

Non-convergence: Solutions?



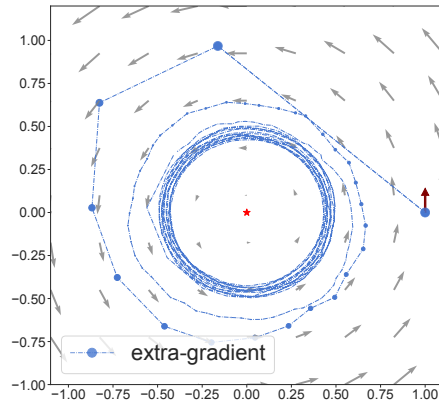
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Candidate solutions:

- Regularization with vanishing weight



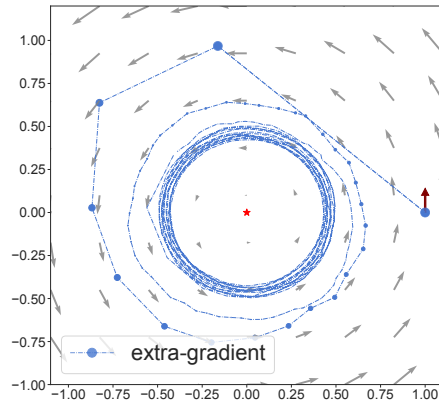
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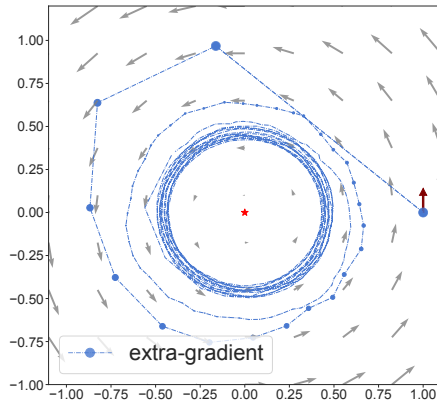
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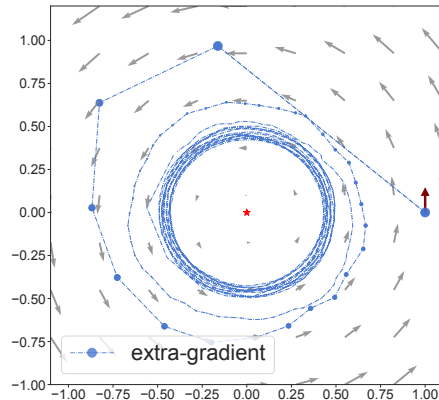
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- Second-order: stochastic Hamiltonian descent



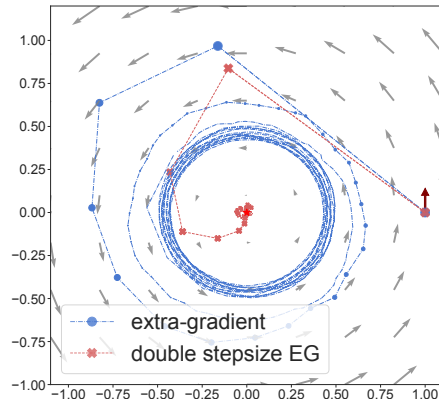
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- **Different stepsizes for the two steps of EG!**



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Our proposal: Double stepsize extragradient

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 - (i) $\mathbb{E}[Z_s \mid \mathcal{F}_s] = 0$
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 - (ii') $\hat{V}_s = \hat{V}(\xi, X_s)$; $\hat{V}(\xi, \cdot)$ is $(\kappa/2)$ -Lipschitz; \hat{V} has bounded variance on \mathcal{X}^*

Descent inequality and assumptions

Descent Lemma ($\kappa = 0$)

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E}[\|X_{t+1} - x^*\|^2 \mid \mathcal{F}_t] &\leq \|X_t - x^*\|^2 - 2\eta_t \mathbb{E}_t[\langle V(X_{t+\frac{1}{2}}), X_{t+\frac{1}{2}} - x^* \rangle] \\ &\quad - (\gamma_t \eta_t - \gamma_t^3 \eta_t \beta^2) \|V(X_t)\|^2 + (2\gamma_t^2 \eta_t \beta + \gamma_t^3 \eta_t \beta^2 + \eta_t^2) \sigma^2. \end{aligned}$$

- ① Variational stability: $\langle V(x), x - x^* \rangle \geq 0$ for all $x \in \mathbb{R}^d$, $x^* \in \mathcal{X}^*$.

Bilinear \subset Convex-concave \subset Monotone \subset Pseudo-monotone \subset Variationally stable

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- ② Error bound: For some $\tau > 0$ and all $x \in \mathbb{R}^d$, we have $\|V(x)\| \geq \tau \text{dist}(x, \mathcal{X}^*)$.

e.g., Affine, strongly monotone operators...

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$$\eta_t < \gamma_t$$

Convergence results

Theorem [Main result]

- ① Let V be variationally stable. Assume that $\sum_t \gamma_t \eta_t = \infty$, $\sum_t \eta_t^2 < \infty$, $\sum_t \gamma_t^2 \eta_t < \infty$, $\gamma_t \leq c/\beta$ with $c < 1$. Then $(X_t)_{t \in \mathbb{N}}$ converges to a point $x^* \in \mathcal{X}^*$ almost surely.

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② Let V be monotone and **affine**. With stepsizes $\gamma_t \equiv \gamma$ and $\eta_t = \Theta(1/t)$,

$$\mathbb{E}[\text{dist}(X_t, \mathcal{X}^*)^2] = \mathcal{O}(1/t)$$

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③ Let V be variationally stable and satisfy the **error bound** condition. With stepsizes of the form $\gamma_t = \gamma/(t+b)^{1/3}$ and $\eta_t = \eta/(t+b)^{2/3}$,

$$\mathbb{E}[\text{dist}(X_t, \mathcal{X}^*)^2] = \mathcal{O}(1/\sqrt[3]{t})$$

Convergence results

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① Let V be variationally stable. Assume that $\sum_t \gamma_t \eta_t = \infty$, $\sum_t \eta_t^2 < \infty$, $\sum_t \gamma_t^2 \eta_t < \infty$, $\gamma_t \leq c/\beta$ with $c < 1$. Then $(X_t)_{t \in \mathbb{N}}$ converges to a point $x^* \in \mathcal{X}^*$ almost surely.

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$$\mathbb{E}[\text{dist}(X_t, \mathcal{X}^*)^2] = \mathcal{O}(1/t)$$

③ Let V be variationally stable and satisfy the error bound condition. Further suppose that the noise vanishes on the solution set (i.e., $\sigma = 0$). With suitable constant stepsizes,

$$\mathbb{E}[\text{dist}(X_t, \mathcal{X}^*)^2] = \mathcal{O}(e^{-\rho t})$$

Convergence results

$$\gamma_t = \eta_t$$

Does not converge in bilinear game

$$\sum_t \gamma_t \eta_t = \infty, \sum_t \eta_t^2 < \infty, \sum_t \gamma_t^2 \eta_t < \infty$$

a.s. convergence for monotone/VS operators

$$\gamma_t = \eta_t = \gamma/(t+b)$$

$\mathcal{O}(1/t)$ for strongly monotone operators

$$\gamma_t = \gamma/(t+b)^{1/3}, \eta_t = \eta/(t+b)^{2/3}$$

$\mathcal{O}(1/\sqrt[3]{t})$ under error bound condition + VS

$$\gamma_t \equiv \gamma, \eta_t = \eta/(t+b)$$

$\mathcal{O}(1/t)$ for affine and monotone operators

Beyond monotonicity: Local convergence

Theorem

Assumptions:

- (i) **Locally variational stable** and locally Lipschitz around a solution x^* .
- (ii) V is differentiable at x^* and **$\text{Jac}_V(x^*)$ is invertible**.

Beyond monotonicity: Local convergence

Theorem

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Guarantee:

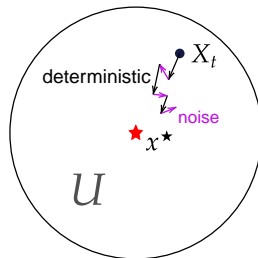
For any tolerance level $\delta > 0$, there exists a stepsize policy for double stepsize extra-gradient such that if the algorithm is initialized close enough to x^* , there exists an event **with probability at least $1 - \delta$** and, conditioned on this event:

- Under (i), the iterates **converge** to x^* .
- Under (i) and (ii), X_t converges to x^* at a rate $\mathcal{O}(1/\sqrt[3]{t})$ in mean square error.

Proof sketch

- **Stability of the algorithm**

Control the probability of escaping from the neighborhood at each step: thanks to the use of the specific stepsize policy, we prove the summability of these probabilities and that this sum can be made arbitrarily small.



Proof sketch

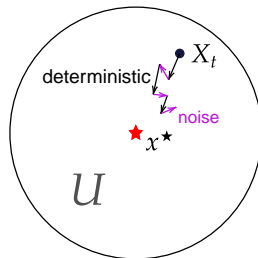
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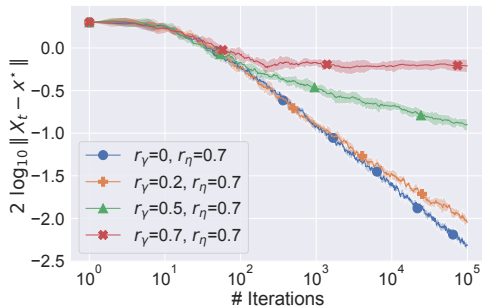
- Conditional convergence rate**

Caveat. The unbiasedness is not maintained after conditioning.

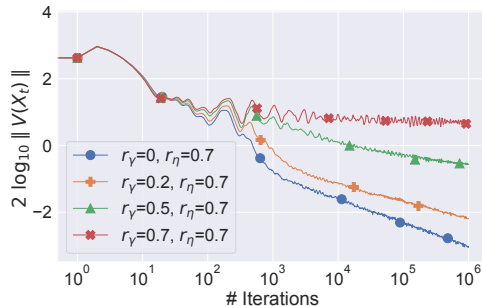
Solution. Work directly with the indicator function of the probability event. Precisely, we prove recurrent bounds for $\mathbb{E}[\|X_t - x^\star\|^2 \mathbf{1}_{E_{t-1}} \mid \mathcal{F}_{t-1}]$.



Numerical illustrations



(a) Bilinear zero-sum game



(b) Linear quadratic gaussian GAN

$$X_{t+\frac{1}{2}} = X_t - \gamma_t \hat{V}_t \quad [\gamma_t = \gamma/(t+b)^{r_\gamma}] \quad X_{t+1} = X_t - \eta_t \hat{V}_{t+\frac{1}{2}} \quad [\eta_t = \eta/(t+b)^{r_\eta}]$$

Conclusion

- We propose a simple modification of the **stochastic extragradient** scheme to make its **last iterate converge** in a large spectrum of problems including all **monotone** games.

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Thanks for your attention!

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