

Stochastic Optimization with Heavy-Tailed Noise via Accelerated Gradient Clipping

Eduard Gorbunov

MIPT and HSE



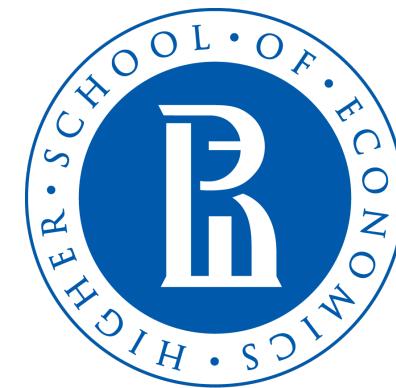
Marina Danilova

MIPT and ICS RAS



Alexander Gasnikov

MIPT and HSE



1. The Problem

Smooth convex

$$\begin{aligned}\|\nabla f(x) - \nabla f(y)\|_2 &\leq L\|x - y\|_2 \\ f(y) &\geq f(x) + \langle \nabla f(x), y - x \rangle\end{aligned}$$

Expectation

$$f(x) = \mathbf{E}_{\xi \sim \mathcal{D}} [f_\xi(x)]$$

$$\min_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n} f(x)$$

The most popular method? \longrightarrow SGD

2. Motivational Example

Stochastic gradient descent (SGD)

$$x^{k+1} = x^k - \gamma \nabla f(x^k, \xi^k)$$

Stochastic gradient descent (SGD)

$$x^{k+1} = x^k - \gamma \nabla f(x^k, \xi^k)$$

Diagram illustrating the SGD update rule:

- The term x^k is influenced by:
 - An arrow from the **Iteration counter** (top left) points to the superscript k .
 - An arrow from the **Stochastic gradient** (bottom center) points to the term $\nabla f(x^k, \xi^k)$.
- The term $\nabla f(x^k, \xi^k)$ is influenced by:
 - An arrow from the **Stepsize** (top right) points to the coefficient γ .

Stochastic gradient descent (SGD)

$$x^{k+1} = x^k - \gamma \nabla f(x^k, \xi^k)$$

Iteration counter

Stepsize

Stochastic gradient

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graph TD; A[Iteration counter] --> B[xk+1]; C[Stepsize] --> D[nabla f]; E[Stochastic gradient] --> F[nabla f]
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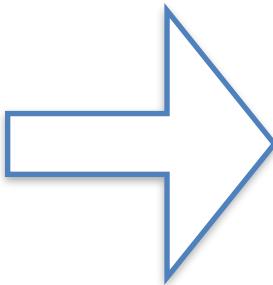
- $\mathbb{E}_\xi [\nabla f(x, \xi)] = \nabla f(x)$
- $\mathbb{E}_\xi \left[\|\nabla f(x, \xi) - \nabla f(x)\|_2^2 \right] \leq \sigma^2$

Stochastic optimization problem

$$\min_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n} f(x)$$

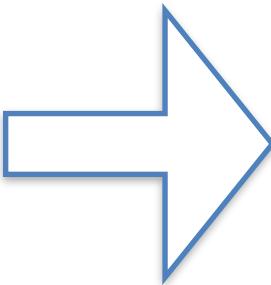
Stochastic optimization problem

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Stochastic optimization problem

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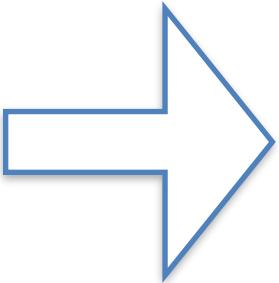


$$f(x) = \frac{1}{2} \|x\|_2^2 = \mathbb{E}_\xi [f(x, \xi)]$$

$$f(x, \xi) = \frac{1}{2} \|x\|_2^2 + \langle \xi, x \rangle$$

Stochastic optimization problem

$$\min_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n} f(x)$$



$$f(x) = \frac{1}{2} \|x\|_2^2 = \mathbb{E}_\xi [f(x, \xi)]$$

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ξ — random vector with zero mean and bounded variance



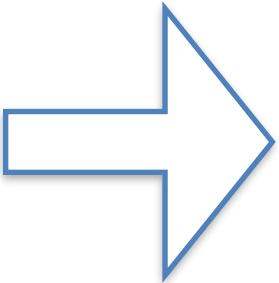
$f(x)$ — 1-strongly convex, L-smooth function



$\nabla f(x, \xi) = x + \xi$ — stochastic gradient

Stochastic optimization problem

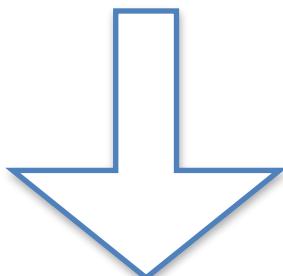
$$\min_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n} f(x)$$



$$f(x) = \frac{1}{2} \|x\|_2^2 = \mathbb{E}_\xi [f(x, \xi)]$$

$$f(x, \xi) = \frac{1}{2} \|x\|_2^2 + \langle \xi, x \rangle$$

- ξ — random vector with zero mean and bounded variance
- $f(x)$ — 1-strongly convex, L-smooth function
- $\nabla f(x, \xi) = x + \xi$ — stochastic gradient



Stochastic optimization problem

$$\min_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n} f(x) \quad \rightarrow \quad \begin{aligned} f(x) &= \frac{1}{2} \|x\|_2^2 = \mathbb{E}_\xi [f(x, \xi)] \\ f(x, \xi) &= \frac{1}{2} \|x\|_2^2 + \langle \xi, x \rangle \end{aligned}$$

Convergence in Expectation

$$\mathbb{E} [\|x^k - x^*\|_2^2] \leq (1 - \gamma\mu)^k \|x^0 - x^*\|_2^2 + \frac{\gamma\sigma^2}{\mu}$$

Stochastic optimization problem

$$\min_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n} f(x) \quad \rightarrow \quad f(x) = \frac{1}{2} \|x\|_2^2 = \mathbb{E}_\xi [f(x, \xi)]$$
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Convergence in Expectation

$$\mathbb{E} [\|x^k - x^*\|_2^2] \leq (1 - \gamma\mu)^k \|x^0 - x^*\|_2^2 + \frac{\gamma\sigma^2}{\mu}$$



After k iterations of SGD (State-of the art theory)

Stochastic optimization problem

$$\min_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n} f(x) \quad \xrightarrow{\hspace{1cm}} \quad f(x) = \frac{1}{2} \|x\|_2^2 = \mathbb{E}_\xi [f(x, \xi)]$$
$$f(x, \xi) = \frac{1}{2} \|x\|_2^2 + \langle \xi, x \rangle$$

Convergence in Expectation

$$\mathbb{E} [\|x^k - x^*\|_2^2] \leq (1 - \gamma\mu)^k \|x^0 - x^*\|_2^2 + \frac{\gamma\sigma^2}{\mu}$$

\downarrow \downarrow \downarrow

$$f(x) = \frac{1}{2} \|x\|_2^2, \quad f(x^*) = 0 \quad \mu = 1 \quad x^* = 0$$

$$\mathbb{E} [f(x^k) - f(x^*)] \leq (1 - \gamma)^k (f(x^0) - f(x^*)) + \frac{\gamma\sigma^2}{2}$$

Stochastic optimization problem

$$\min_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n} f(x) \quad \longrightarrow \quad f(x) = \frac{1}{2} \|x\|_2^2 = \mathbb{E}_\xi [f(x, \xi)]$$
$$f(x, \xi) = \frac{1}{2} \|x\|_2^2 + \langle \xi, x \rangle$$

Convergence in Expectation

$$\mathbb{E} [\|x^k - x^*\|_2^2] \leq (1 - \gamma\mu)^k \|x^0 - x^*\|_2^2 + \frac{\gamma\sigma^2}{\mu}$$

\downarrow \downarrow \downarrow

$f(x) = \frac{1}{2} \|x\|_2^2, \ f(x^*) = 0$ $\mu = 1$ $x^* = 0$

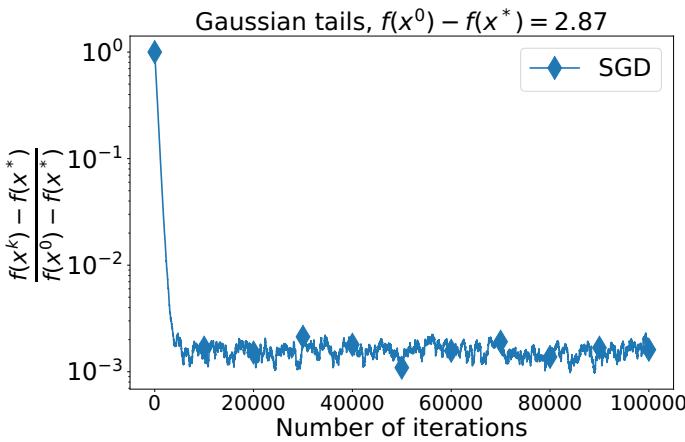
Our case

$$\mathbb{E} [f(x^k) - f(x^*)] \leq (1 - \gamma)^k (f(x^0) - f(x^*)) + \frac{\gamma\sigma^2}{2}$$

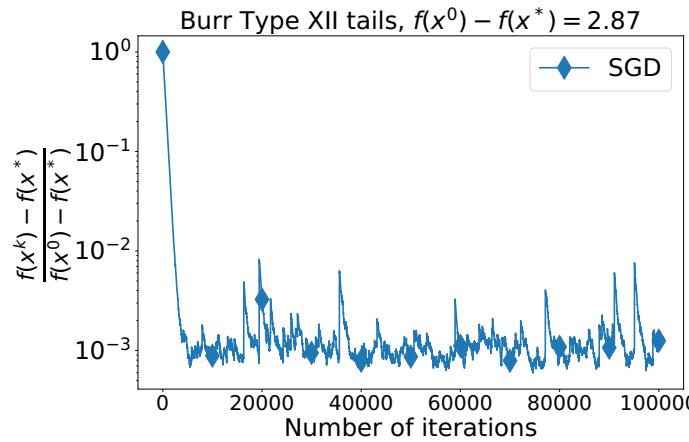
Convergence in Expectation

$$f(x, \xi) = \frac{1}{2} \|x\|_2^2 + \langle \xi, x \rangle$$

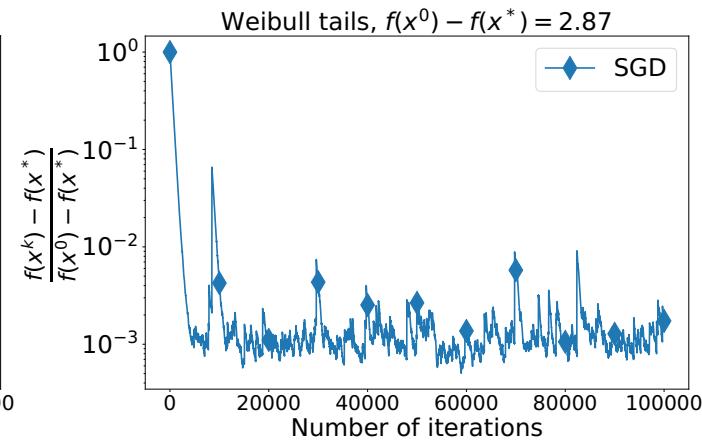
Gaussian



Burr Type XII



Weibull



3 different distributions of ξ with the same σ

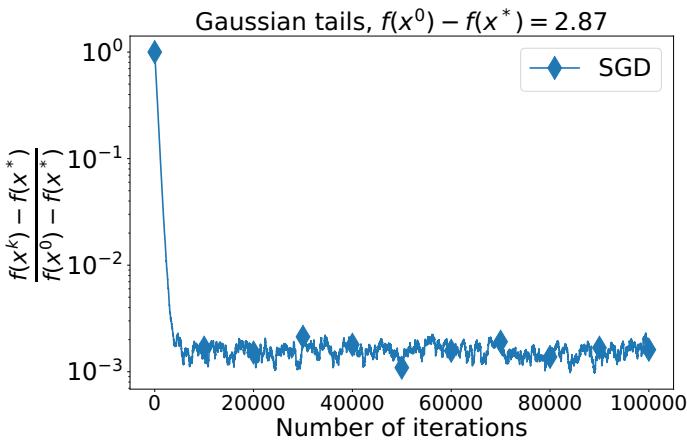
$$\mathbb{E} [f(x^k) - f(x^*)] \leq (1 - \gamma)^k (f(x^0) - f(x^*)) + \frac{\gamma \sigma^2}{2}$$

Problems

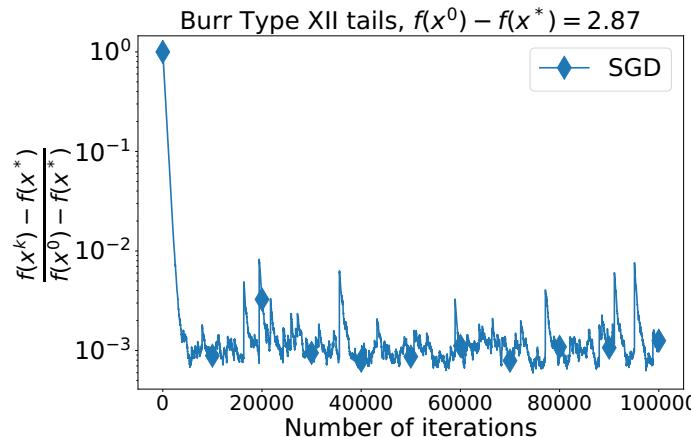


Heavy-Tailed Noise

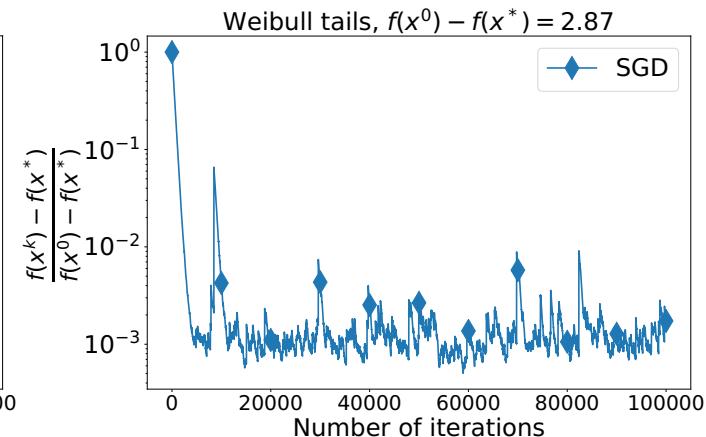
Gaussian



Burr Type XII



Weibull



How to obtain good accuracy of the solution with **high probability**?

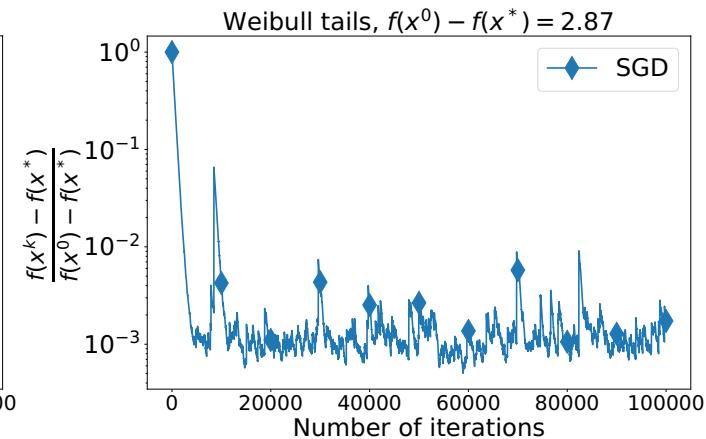
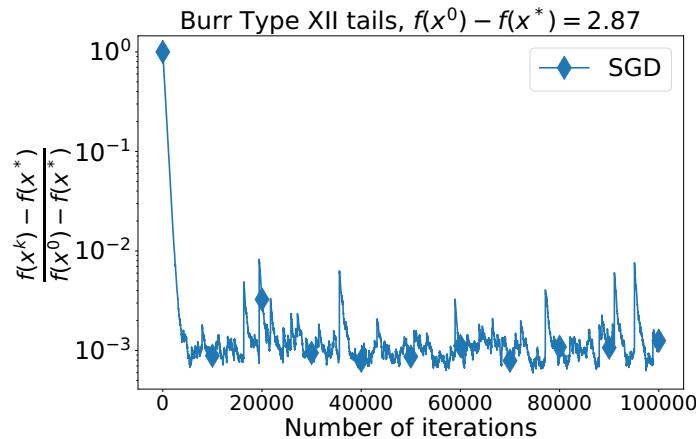
Problems



Heavy-Tailed Noise

Burr Type XII

Weibull



Problems

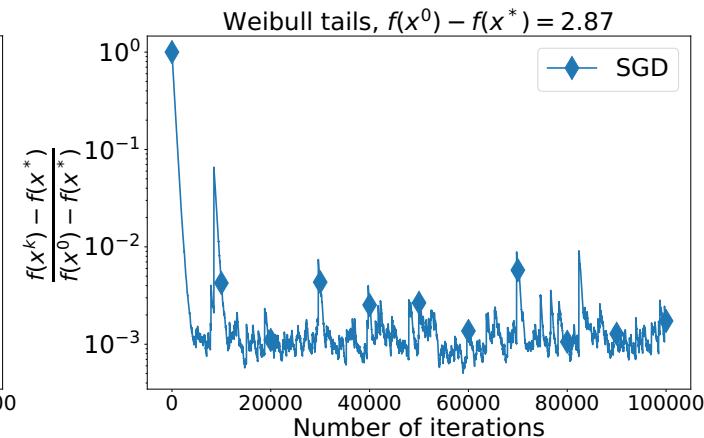
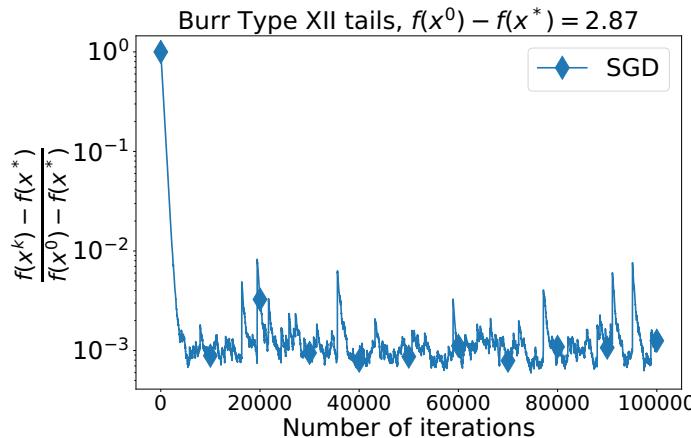


Heavy-Tailed Noise

Burr Type XII

Weibull

SGD

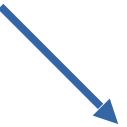


$$x^{k+1} = x^k - \gamma \nabla f(x^k, \xi^k)$$

big even if we are close to the solution

Key idea

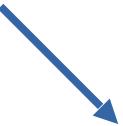
SGD



$$x^{k+1} = x^k - \gamma \nabla f(x^k, \xi^k)$$

Key idea

SGD



$$x^{k+1} = x^k - \gamma \nabla f(x^k, \xi^k)$$

Stochastic gradient



$$x^{k+1} = x^k - \gamma \text{clip}(\nabla f(x^k, \xi^k), \lambda)$$

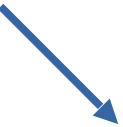
Clipped stochastic gradient

$$\tilde{\nabla} f(x^k, \xi^k)$$



Key idea

SGD



$$x^{k+1} = x^k - \gamma \nabla f(x^k, \xi^k)$$



$$x^{k+1} = x^k - \gamma \text{clip}(\nabla f(x^k, \xi^k), \lambda)$$

$$\text{clip}(\nabla f(x, \xi), \lambda) = \begin{cases} \nabla f(x, \xi), & \text{if } \|\nabla f(x, \xi)\|_2 \leq \lambda, \\ \frac{\lambda}{\|\nabla f(x, \xi)\|_2} \nabla f(x, \xi), & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Key idea

SGD

$$x^{k+1} = x^k - \gamma \nabla f(x^k, \xi^k)$$

clipped-SGD

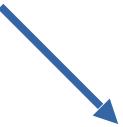
$$x^{k+1} = x^k - \gamma \text{clip}(\nabla f(x^k, \xi^k), \lambda)$$

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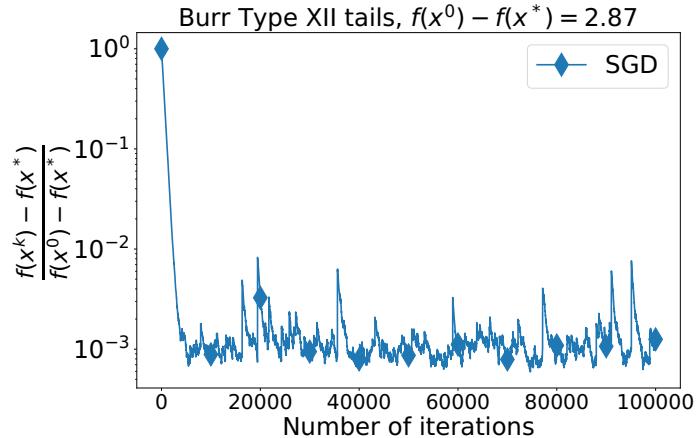
Clipping level

Key idea

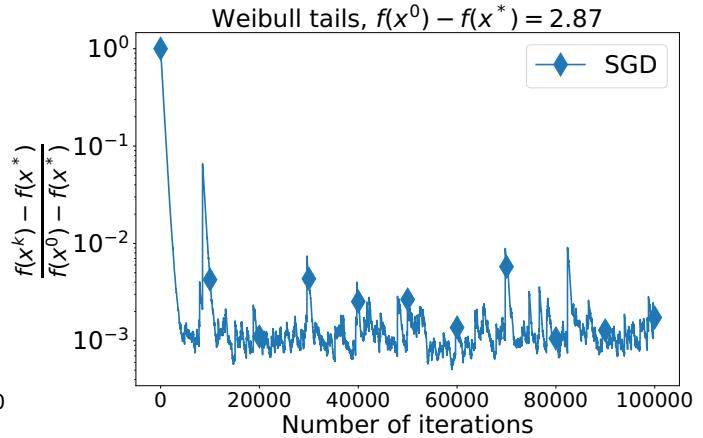
SGD



Burr Type XII

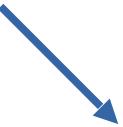


Weibull

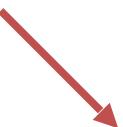


Key idea

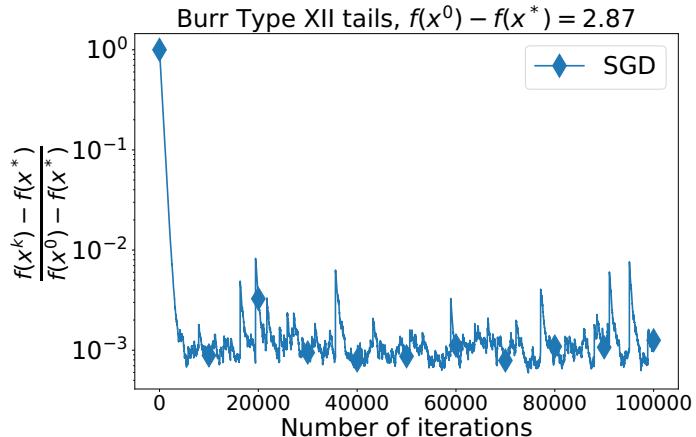
SGD



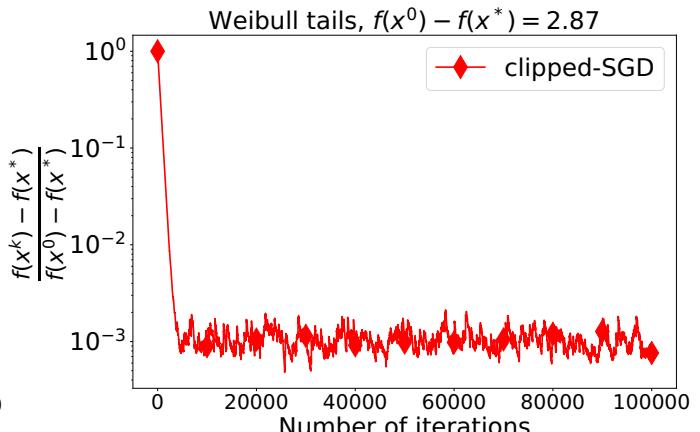
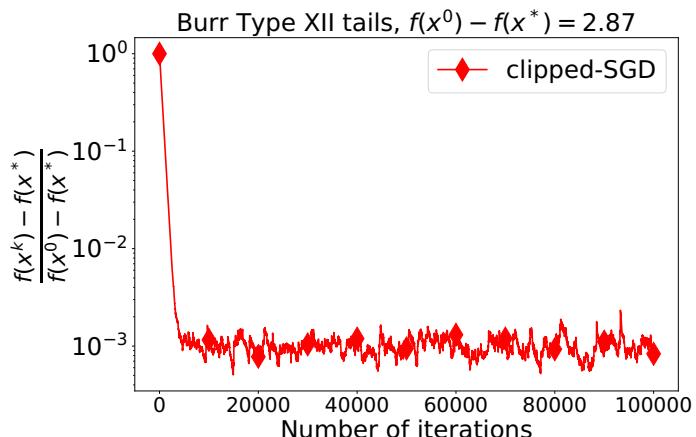
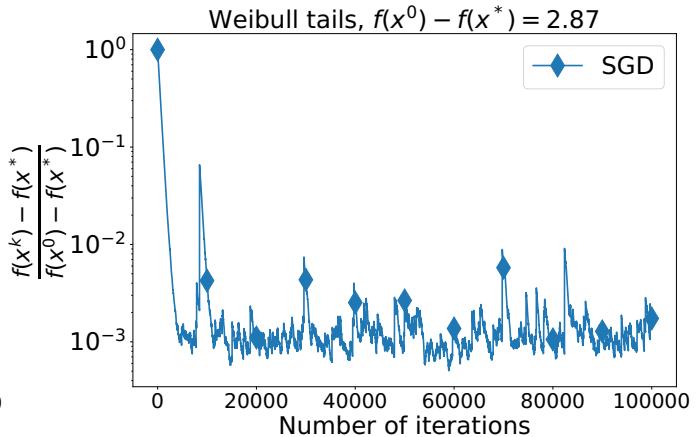
clipped-SGD



Burr Type XII

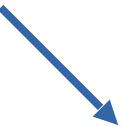


Weibull



Key idea

SGD

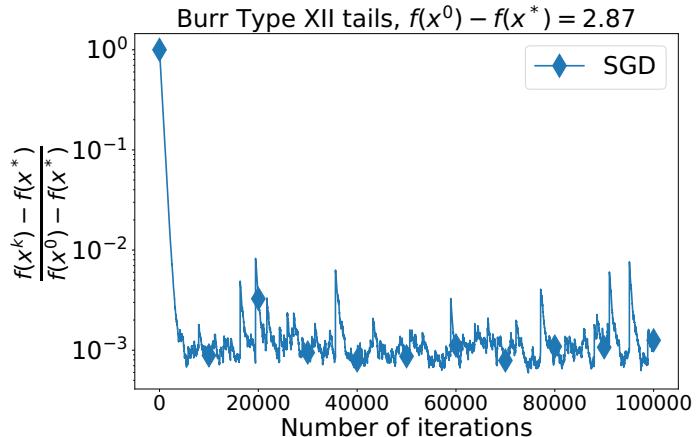


clipped-SGD

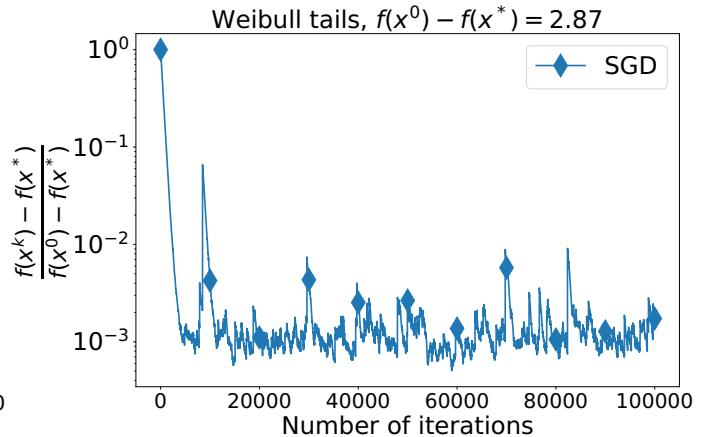


Small oscillations
even for heavy-tailed
distributions!

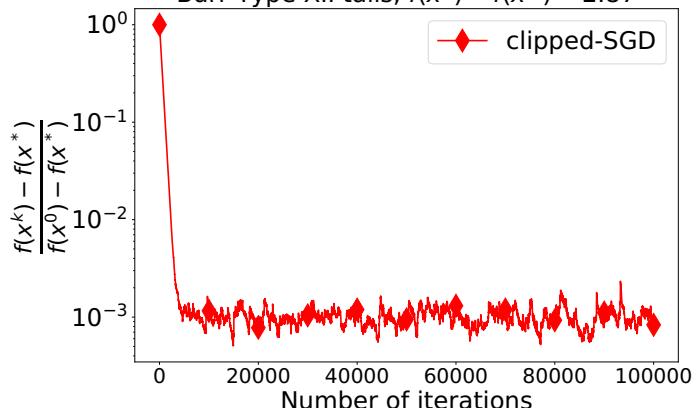
Burr Type XII



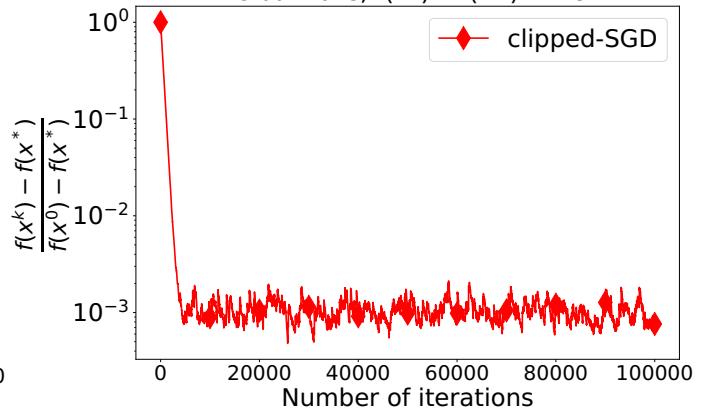
Weibull



Burr Type XII tails, $f(x^0) - f(x^*) = 2.87$



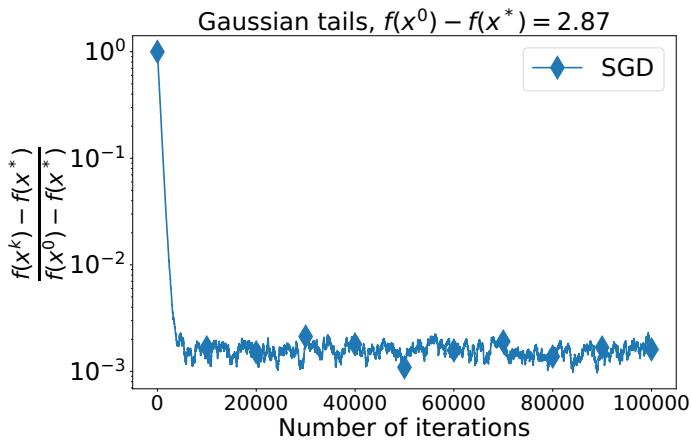
Weibull tails, $f(x^0) - f(x^*) = 2.87$



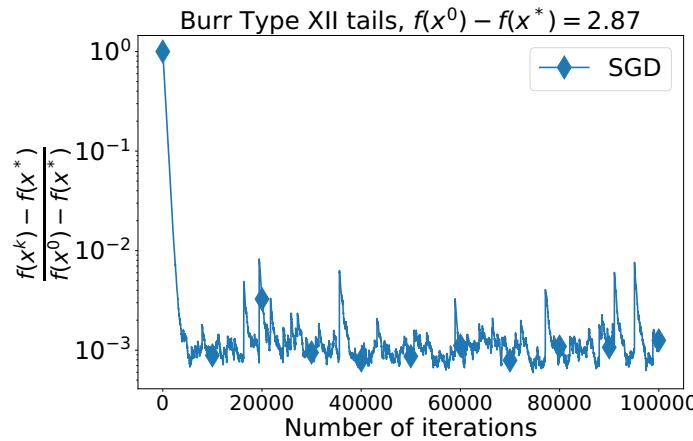
Problems



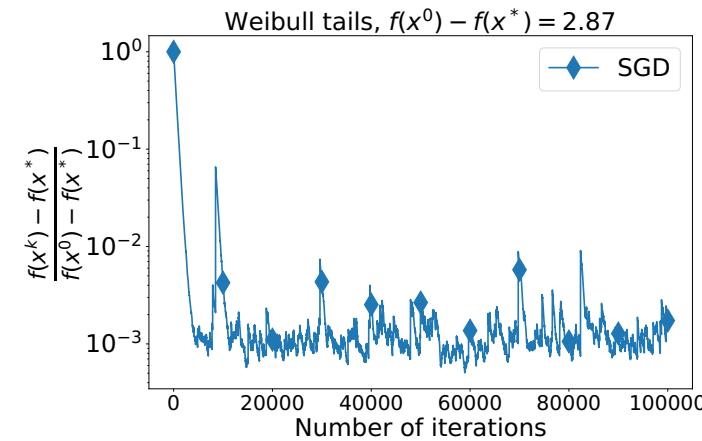
Gaussian



Burr Type XII



Weibull



How to obtain good accuracy of the solution with **high probability**?

Problems



How to obtain good accuracy of the solution with **high probability**?

Convergence in

Expectation

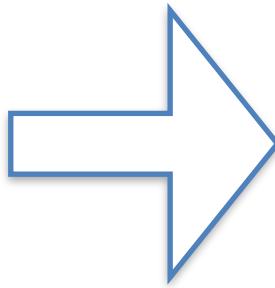
$$\mathbb{E} [f(x^N) - f(x^*)] \leq \varepsilon$$



How to obtain good accuracy of the solution with **high probability**?

Convergence in

Expectation



$$\mathbb{E} [f(x^N) - f(x^*)] \leq \varepsilon$$

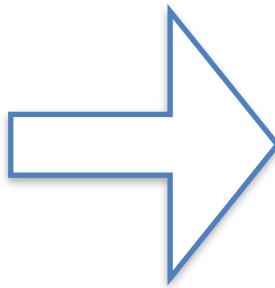


How to obtain good accuracy of the solution with **high probability**?

Convergence in

Expectation

$$\mathbb{E} [f(x^N) - f(x^*)] \leq \varepsilon$$



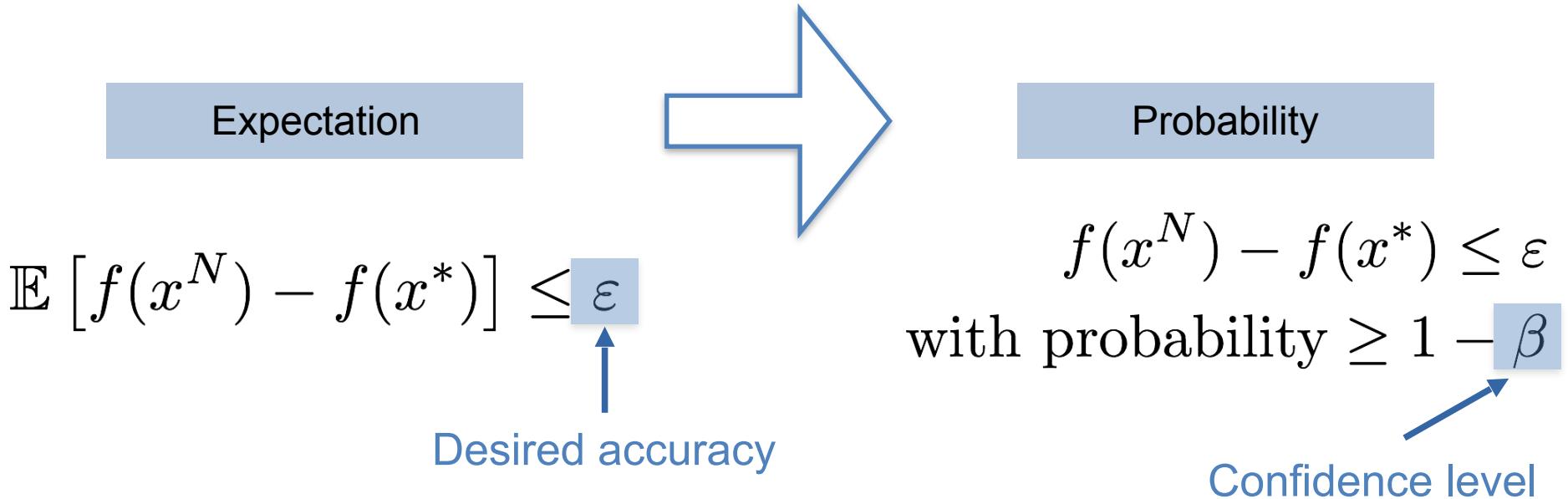
Probability

$$f(x^N) - f(x^*) \leq \varepsilon \text{ with probability } \geq 1 - \beta$$



How to obtain good accuracy of the solution with **high probability**?

Convergence in



How to obtain good accuracy of the solution with **high probability**?

Convergence in

We focus on this situation!

Expectation

$$\mathbb{E} [f(x^N) - f(x^*)] \leq \varepsilon$$

Desired accuracy

Probability

$$f(x^N) - f(x^*) \leq \varepsilon \text{ with probability } \geq 1 - \beta$$

Confidence level

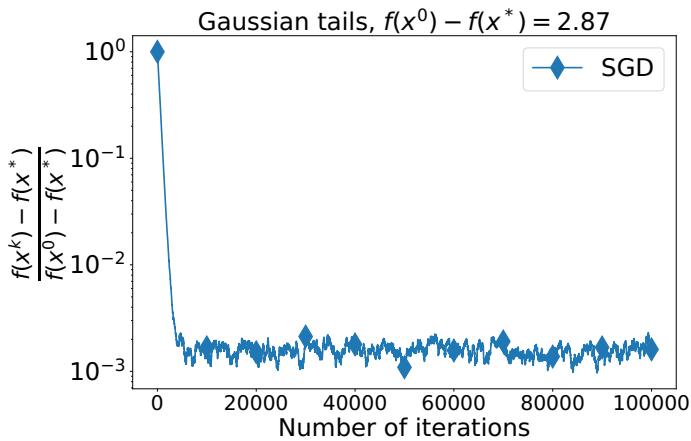


How to obtain good accuracy of the solution with **high probability**?

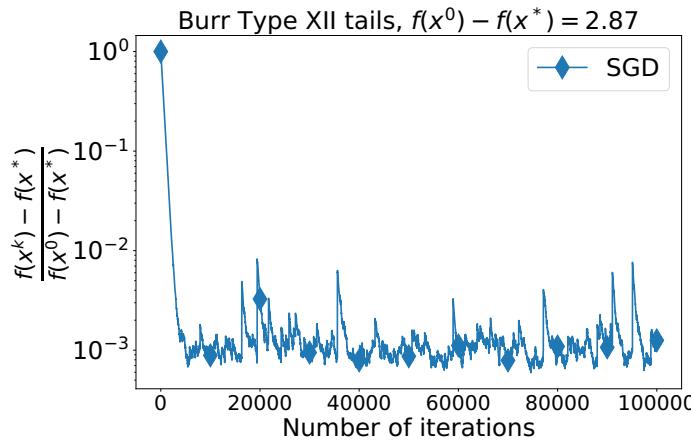
Problems

Heavy-Tailed Noise

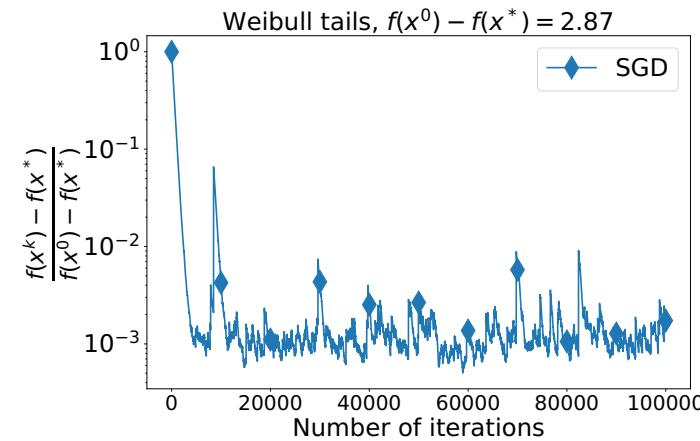
Gaussian



Burr Type XII



Weibull



How to obtain good accuracy of the solution with **high probability**?

3. Key Assumptions

Assumptions

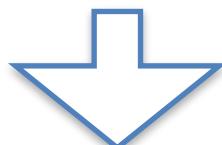
$$\min_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n} f(x)$$

- $f(x) = \mathbf{E}_{\xi \sim \mathcal{D}} [f_\xi(x)]$ — expectation minimization
- $f(y) \geq f(x) + \langle \nabla f(x), y - x \rangle$ — convexity
- $\|\nabla f(x) - \nabla f(y)\|_2 \leq L\|x - y\|_2$ — L-smoothness
- $\mathbf{E}_\xi [\nabla f(x, \xi)] = \nabla f(x)$ — unbiasedness
- $\mathbf{E}_\xi \left[\|\nabla f(x, \xi) - \nabla f(x)\|_2^2 \right] \leq \sigma^2$ — boundedness of the variance

Assumptions

$$\min_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n} f(x)$$

- $f(x) = \mathbf{E}_{\xi \sim \mathcal{D}} [f_\xi(x)]$ — expectation minimization
- $f(y) \geq f(x) + \langle \nabla f(x), y - x \rangle$ — convexity
- $\|\nabla f(x) - \nabla f(y)\|_2 \leq L\|x - y\|_2$ — L-smoothness
- $\mathbf{E}_\xi [\nabla f(x, \xi)] = \nabla f(x)$ — unbiasedness
- $\mathbf{E}_\xi \left[\|\nabla f(x, \xi) - \nabla f(x)\|_2^2 \right] \leq \sigma^2$ — boundedness of the variance



Assumptions

Light-tails assumption

$$\mathbb{E} \left[\exp \left(\frac{\|\nabla f(x, \xi) - \nabla f(x)\|_2^2}{\sigma^2} \right) \right] \leq \exp(1)$$

Heavy-tails assumption

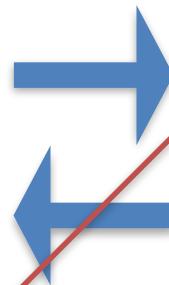
$$\mathbb{E}_\xi \left[\|\nabla f(x, \xi) - \nabla f(x)\|_2^2 \right] \leq \sigma^2$$

Assumptions

Light-tails assumption

$$\mathbb{E} \left[\exp \left(\frac{\|\nabla f(x, \xi) - \nabla f(x)\|_2^2}{\sigma^2} \right) \right] \leq \exp(1)$$

Sub-Gaussian distribution



Heavy-tails assumption

$$\mathbb{E}_\xi \left[\|\nabla f(x, \xi) - \nabla f(x)\|_2^2 \right] \leq \sigma^2$$

Assumptions

Light-tails assumption

$$\mathbb{E} \left[\exp \left(\frac{\|\nabla f(x, \xi) - \nabla f(x)\|_2^2}{\sigma^2} \right) \right] \leq \exp(1)$$

Heavy-tails assumption

$$\mathbb{E}_\xi \left[\|\nabla f(x, \xi) - \nabla f(x)\|_2^2 \right] \leq \sigma^2$$

Well understood

We focus on this situation!



3. Prior Works

High-probability convergence results

Method	Complexity	Tails	Domain	Batchsizes
SGD	$O\left(\max\left\{\frac{LR_0^2}{\varepsilon}, \frac{\sigma^2 R_0^2}{\varepsilon^2} \ln^2(\beta^{-1})\right\}\right)$	light	bounded	$O(1)$
SSTM	$O\left(\max\left\{\sqrt{\frac{LR_0^2}{\varepsilon}}, \frac{\sigma^2 R_0^2}{\varepsilon^2}\right\} \ln \frac{LR_0^2}{\varepsilon\beta}\right)$	light	\mathbb{R}^n	from $O(\varepsilon^{-1/2})$ to $O(\varepsilon^{-3/2})$
AC-SA	$O\left(\max\left\{\sqrt{\frac{LR_0^2}{\varepsilon}}, \frac{\sigma^2 R_0^2}{\varepsilon^2} \ln(\beta^{-1})\right\}\right)$	light	arbitrary	$O(1)$
RSMD	$O\left(\max\left\{\frac{L\Theta^2}{\varepsilon}, \frac{\sigma^2\Theta^2}{\varepsilon^2}\right\} \ln(\beta^{-1})\right)$	heavy	bounded	$O(1)$

High-probability convergence results

Heavy or light-tailed noise

How batchsizes grow during the optimization process

Method	Complexity	Tails	Domain	Batchsizes
SGD	$O \left(\max \left\{ \frac{LR_0^2}{\varepsilon}, \frac{\sigma^2 R_0^2}{\varepsilon^2} \ln^2(\beta^{-1}) \right\} \right)$	light	bounded	$O(1)$
SSTM	$O \left(\max \left\{ \sqrt{\frac{LR_0^2}{\varepsilon}}, \frac{\sigma^2 R_0^2}{\varepsilon^2} \right\} \ln \frac{LR_0^2}{\varepsilon \beta} \right)$	light	\mathbb{R}^n	from $O(\varepsilon^{-1/2})$ to $O(\varepsilon^{-3/2})$
AC-SA	$O \left(\max \left\{ \sqrt{\frac{LR_0^2}{\varepsilon}}, \frac{\sigma^2 R_0^2}{\varepsilon^2} \ln(\beta^{-1}) \right\} \right)$	light	arbitrary	$O(1)$
RSMD	$O \left(\max \left\{ \frac{L\Theta^2}{\varepsilon}, \frac{\sigma^2 \Theta^2}{\varepsilon^2} \right\} \ln(\beta^{-1}) \right)$	heavy	bounded	$O(1)$

stochastic first-order oracle calls

Set where optimization problem is defined

High-probability convergence results

Method	Complexity	Tails	Domain	Batchsizes
SGD	$O\left(\max\left\{\frac{LR_0^2}{\varepsilon}, \frac{\sigma^2 R_0^2}{\varepsilon^2} \ln^2(\beta^{-1})\right\}\right)$	light	bounded	$O(1)$
SSTM	$O\left(\max\left\{\sqrt{\frac{LR_0^2}{\varepsilon}}, \frac{\sigma^2 R_0^2}{\varepsilon^2}\right\} \ln \frac{LR_0^2}{\varepsilon\beta}\right)$	light	\mathbb{R}^n	from $O(\varepsilon^{-1/2})$ to $O(\varepsilon^{-3/2})$
AC-SA	$O\left(\max\left\{\sqrt{\frac{LR_0^2}{\varepsilon}}, \frac{\sigma^2 R_0^2}{\varepsilon^2} \ln(\beta^{-1})\right\}\right)$	light	arbitrary	$O(1)$
RSMD	$O\left(\max\left\{\frac{L\Theta^2}{\varepsilon}, \frac{\sigma^2\Theta^2}{\varepsilon^2}\right\} \ln(\beta^{-1})\right)$	heavy	bounded	$O(1)$

R_0 — initial distance to the optimum

High-probability convergence results

Method	Complexity	Tails	Domain	Batchsizes
SGD	$O\left(\max\left\{\frac{LR_0^2}{\varepsilon}, \frac{\sigma^2 R_0^2}{\varepsilon^2} \ln^2(\beta^{-1})\right\}\right)$	light	bounded	$O(1)$
SSTM	$O\left(\max\left\{\sqrt{\frac{LR_0^2}{\varepsilon}}, \frac{\sigma^2 R_0^2}{\varepsilon^2}\right\} \ln \frac{LR_0^2}{\varepsilon\beta}\right)$	light	\mathbb{R}^n	from $O(\varepsilon^{-1/2})$ to $O(\varepsilon^{-3/2})$
AC-SA	$O\left(\max\left\{\sqrt{\frac{LR_0^2}{\varepsilon}}, \frac{\sigma^2 R_0^2}{\varepsilon^2} \ln(\beta^{-1})\right\}\right)$	light	arbitrary	$O(1)$
RSMD	$O\left(\max\left\{\frac{L\Theta^2}{\varepsilon}, \frac{\sigma^2\Theta^2}{\varepsilon^2}\right\} \ln(\beta^{-1})\right)$	heavy	bounded	$O(1)$

Θ — a diameter of the set where the optimization problem is defined

High-probability convergence results

Method	Complexity	Tails	Domain	Batchsizes
SGD	$O\left(\max\left\{\frac{LR_0^2}{\varepsilon}, \frac{\sigma^2 R_0^2}{\varepsilon^2} \ln^2(\beta^{-1})\right\}\right)$	light	bounded	$O(1)$
SSTM	$O\left(\max\left\{\sqrt{\frac{LR_0^2}{\varepsilon}}, \frac{\sigma^2 R_0^2}{\varepsilon^2}\right\} \ln \frac{LR_0^2}{\varepsilon\beta}\right)$	light	\mathbb{R}^n	from $O(\varepsilon^{-1/2})$ to $O(\varepsilon^{-3/2})$
AC-SA	$O\left(\max\left\{\sqrt{\frac{LR_0^2}{\varepsilon}}, \frac{\sigma^2 R_0^2}{\varepsilon^2} \ln(\beta^{-1})\right\}\right)$	light	arbitrary	$O(1)$
RSMD	$O\left(\max\left\{\frac{L\Theta^2}{\varepsilon}, \frac{\sigma^2\Theta^2}{\varepsilon^2}\right\} \ln(\beta^{-1})\right)$	heavy	bounded	$O(1)$

$$\text{Prob} \left\{ f(x^N) - f(x^*) \leq \varepsilon \right\} \geq 1 - \beta$$

Desired accuracy

Confidence level

High-probability convergence results

Method	Complexity	Tails	Domain	Batchsizes
SGD	$O \left(\max \left\{ \frac{LR_0^2}{\varepsilon}, \frac{\sigma^2 R_0^2}{\varepsilon^2} \ln^2(\beta^{-1}) \right\} \right)$	light	bounded	$O(1)$
SSTM	$O \left(\max \left\{ \sqrt{\frac{LR_0^2}{\varepsilon}}, \frac{\sigma^2 R_0^2}{\varepsilon^2} \right\} \ln \frac{LR_0^2}{\varepsilon \beta} \right)$	light	\mathbb{R}^n	from $O(\varepsilon^{-1/2})$ to $O(\varepsilon^{-3/2})$
AC-SA	$O \left(\max \left\{ \sqrt{\frac{LR_0^2}{\varepsilon}}, \frac{\sigma^2 R_0^2}{\varepsilon^2} \ln(\beta^{-1}) \right\} \right)$	light	arbitrary	$O(1)$
RSMD	$O \left(\max \left\{ \frac{L\Theta^2}{\varepsilon}, \frac{\sigma^2 \Theta^2}{\varepsilon^2} \right\} \ln(\beta^{-1}) \right)$	heavy	bounded	$O(1)$

Acceleration

4. Main Result

Stochastic Gradient Descent

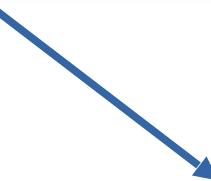
SGD

$$x^{k+1} = x^k - \gamma \nabla f(x^k, \xi^k)$$

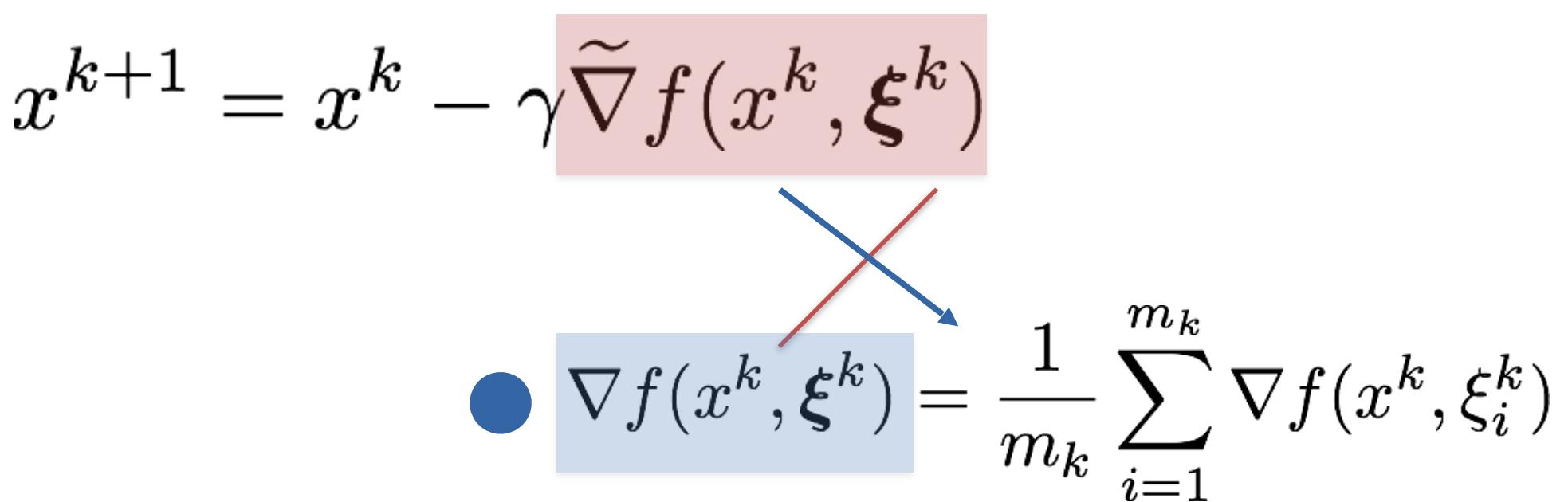
Stochastic Gradient Descent

SGD

$$x^{k+1} = x^k - \gamma \nabla f(x^k, \xi^k)$$


$$\bullet \quad \nabla f(x^k, \xi^k) = \frac{1}{m_k} \sum_{i=1}^{m_k} \nabla f(x^k, \xi_i^k)$$

Clipped Stochastic Gradient Descent clipped-SGD

$$x^{k+1} = x^k - \gamma \tilde{\nabla} f(x^k, \xi^k)$$

$$\bullet \quad \nabla f(x^k, \xi^k) = \frac{1}{m_k} \sum_{i=1}^{m_k} \nabla f(x^k, \xi_i^k)$$

Clipped Stochastic Gradient Descent clipped-SGD

- $\tilde{\nabla} f(x^k, \xi^k) = \text{clip}(\nabla f(x^k, \xi^k), \lambda)$

$$x^{k+1} = x^k - \gamma \tilde{\nabla} f(x^k, \xi^k)$$

- $\nabla f(x^k, \xi^k) = \frac{1}{m_k} \sum_{i=1}^{m_k} \nabla f(x^k, \xi_i^k)$

Stochastic Similar Triangles Method

SSTM

$$x^{k+1} = (A_k y^k + \alpha_{k+1} z^k) / A_{k+1}$$

$$z^{k+1} = z^k - \alpha_{k+1} \nabla f(x^{k+1}, \xi^k)$$

$$y^{k+1} = (A_k y^k + \alpha_{k+1} z^{k+1}) / A_{k+1}$$

Stochastic Similar Triangles Method

SSTM

$$x^{k+1} = (A_k y^k + \alpha_{k+1} z^k) / A_{k+1}$$

$$z^{k+1} = z^k - \alpha_{k+1} \nabla f(x^{k+1}, \xi^k)$$

$$y^{k+1} = (A_k y^k + \alpha_{k+1} z^{k+1}) / A_{k+1}$$



Accelerated SGD

Stochastic Similar Triangles Method

SSTM



Parameters

$$A_0 = \alpha_0 = 0$$
$$A_{k+1} = A_k + \alpha_{k+1}$$
$$\alpha_{k+1} = \frac{k+2}{2L}$$

$$x^{k+1} = (A_k y^k + \alpha_{k+1} z^k) / A_{k+1}$$

$$z^{k+1} = z^k - \alpha_{k+1} \nabla f(x^{k+1}, \xi^k)$$

$$y^{k+1} = (A_k y^k + \alpha_{k+1} z^{k+1}) / A_{k+1}$$

Clipped Stochastic Similar Triangles Method

clipped-SSTM



Parameters



Clipping

$$\begin{aligned} A_0 &= \alpha_0 = 0 \\ A_{k+1} &= A_k + \alpha_{k+1} \quad \alpha_{k+1} = \frac{k+2}{2aL} \end{aligned}$$

$$x^{k+1} = (A_k y^k + \alpha_{k+1} z^k) / A_{k+1}$$

$$z^{k+1} = z^k - \alpha_{k+1} \tilde{\nabla} f(x^{k+1}, \xi^k)$$

$$y^{k+1} = (A_k y^k + \alpha_{k+1} z^{k+1}) / A_{k+1}$$

New method!

Clipped Stochastic Similar Triangles Method clipped-SSTM

Parameters

$$A_0 = \alpha_0 = 0$$
$$A_{k+1} = A_k + \alpha_{k+1}$$
$$\alpha_{k+1} = \frac{k+2}{2aL}$$

Clipping

$$x^{k+1} = (A_k y^k + \alpha_{k+1} z^k) / A_{k+1}$$

$$z^{k+1} = z^k - \alpha_{k+1} \tilde{\nabla} f(x^{k+1}, \xi^k)$$

$$y^{k+1} = (A_k y^k + \alpha_{k+1} z^{k+1}) / A_{k+1}$$

$$\tilde{\nabla} f(x^{k+1}, \xi^k) = \text{clip} \left(\nabla f(x^{k+1}, \xi^k), \lambda_{k+1} \right)$$

$$\lambda_{k+1} = \frac{B}{\alpha_{k+1}}$$

High-probability convergence

Heavy-tailed noise				
clipped-SGD [This work]	$O\left(\max\left\{\frac{LR_0^2}{\varepsilon}, \frac{\sigma^2 R_0^2}{\varepsilon^2}\right\} \ln(\beta^{-1})\right)$	heavy	\mathbb{R}^n	$\tilde{O}(\varepsilon^{-1})$
clipped-SSTM [This work]	$O\left(\frac{\sigma^2 R_0^2}{\varepsilon^2} \ln \frac{\sigma R_0}{\varepsilon \beta}\right)$, σ^2 is big	heavy	\mathbb{R}^n	$O(1)$
clipped-SSTM [This work]	$O\left(\max\left\{\frac{LR_0^2}{\varepsilon}, \frac{\sigma^2 R_0^2}{\varepsilon^2}\right\} \ln \frac{LR_0^2}{\varepsilon \beta}\right)$	heavy	\mathbb{R}^n	from $O(1)$ to $O(\varepsilon^{-1})$
clipped-SSTM [This work]	$O\left(\max\left\{\sqrt{\frac{LR_0^2}{\varepsilon}}, \frac{\sigma^2 R_0^2}{\varepsilon^2}\right\} \ln \frac{LR_0^2}{\varepsilon \beta}\right)$	heavy	\mathbb{R}^n	from $O(\varepsilon^{-1/2})$ to $O(\varepsilon^{-3/2})$

Nearly optimal  **Unbounded** 

6. Experiments

Clipped-SSTM and Clipped-SGD

Logistic Regression

$$\min_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n} f(x) = \frac{1}{r} \sum_{i=1}^r \underbrace{\log (1 + \exp (-y_i \cdot (Ax)_i))}_{f_i(x)}$$

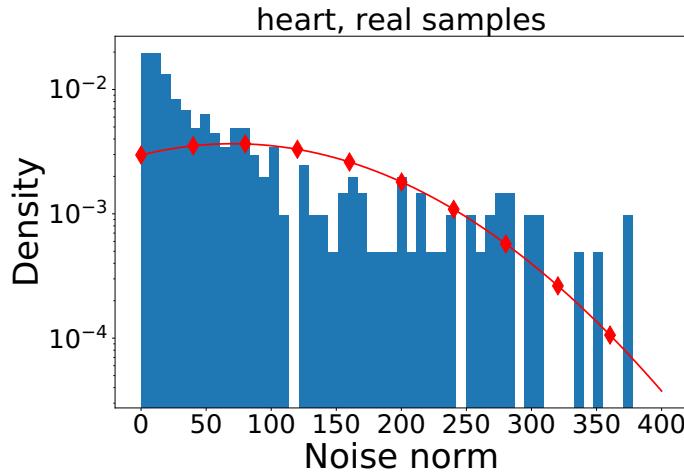
- $A \in \mathbb{R}^{r \times n}$ — matrix of instances
- $y \in \{0, 1\}^m$ — vector of labels

Datasets from LIBSVM:

	heart	australian
Size	270	690
Dimension	13	13

Data analysis

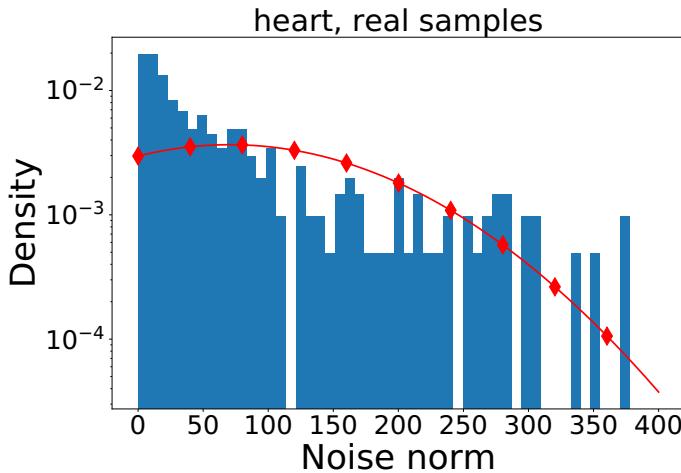
Dataset - Heart



Histogram of $\|\nabla f_i(x^*)\|_2$

Data analysis

Dataset - Heart



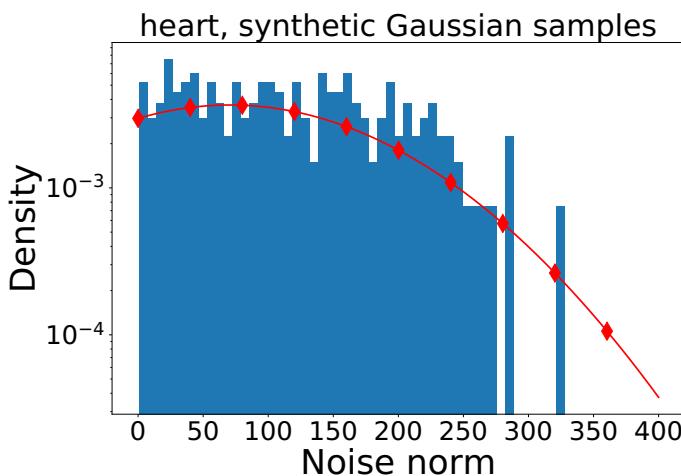
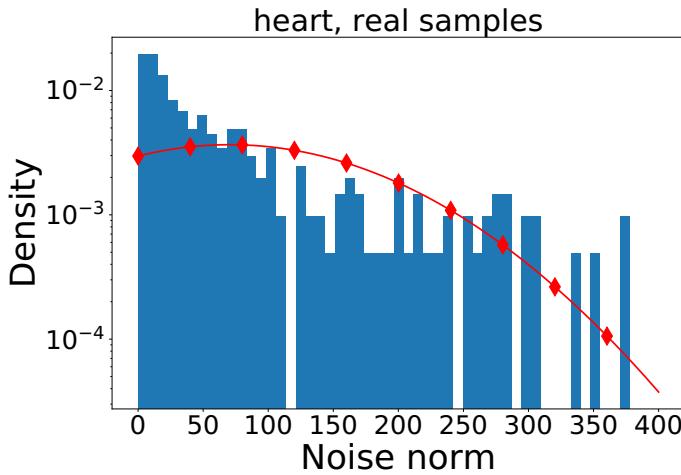
Histogram of $\|\nabla f_i(x^*)\|_2$



Red lines correspond to probability density function of normal distribution with empirically estimated mean and variance

Data analysis

Dataset - Heart



Histogram of $\|\nabla f_i(x^*)\|_2$



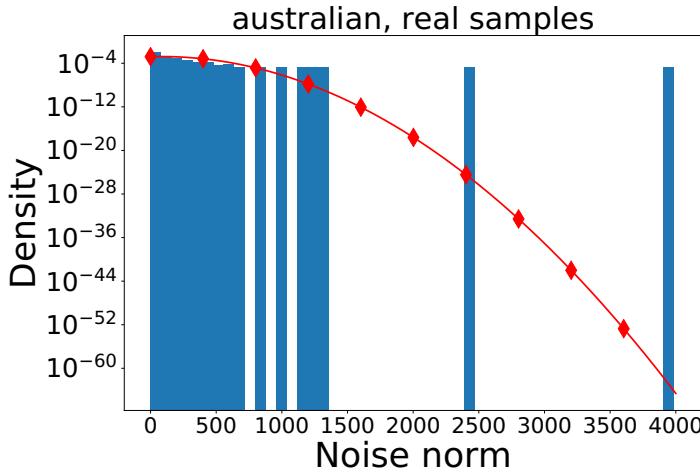
Red lines correspond to probability density function of normal distribution with empirically estimated mean and variance



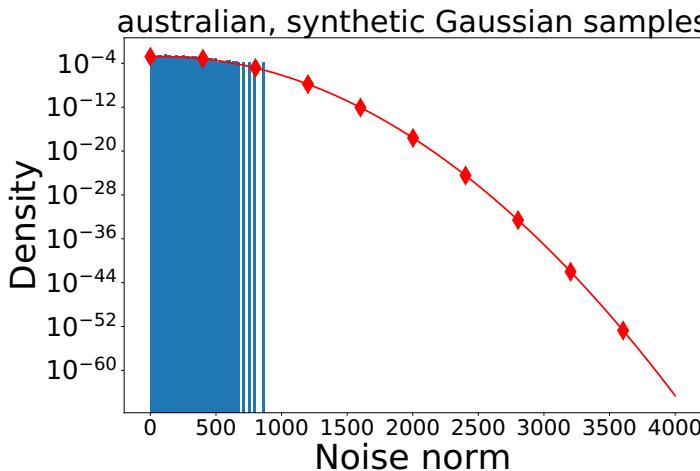
Histogram of synthetic Gaussian samples with mean and variance estimated via empirical mean and variance of real samples

Data analysis

Dataset - Australian



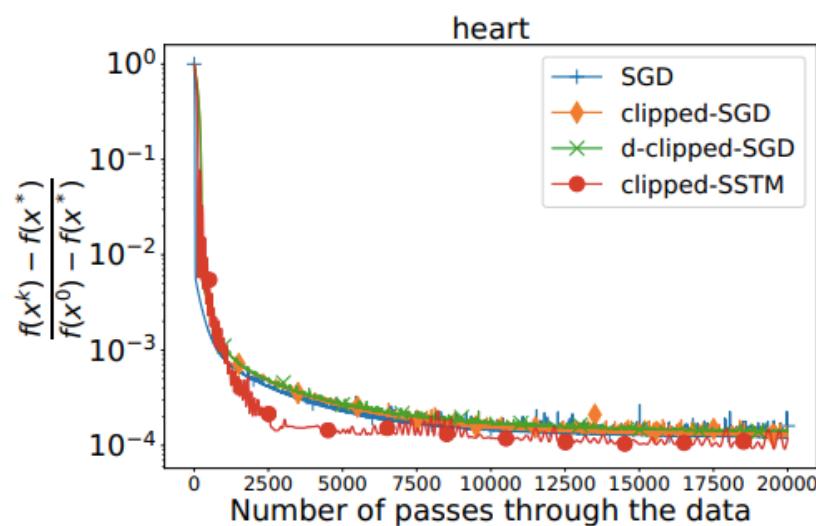
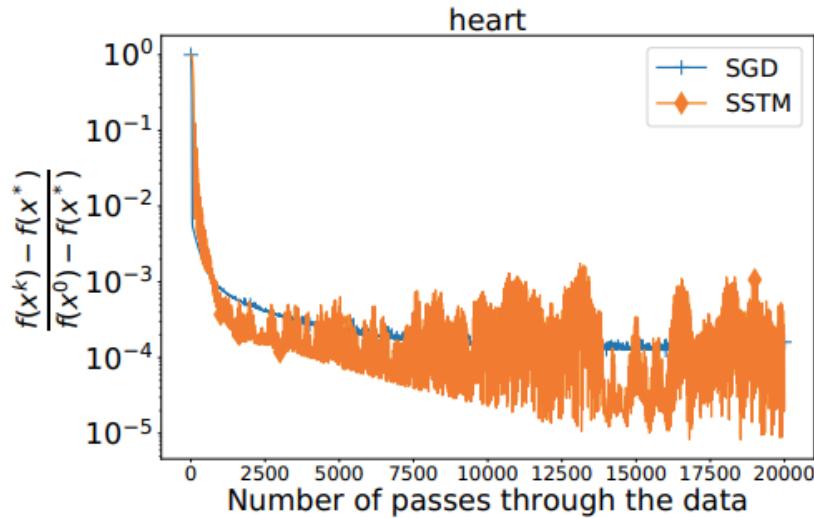
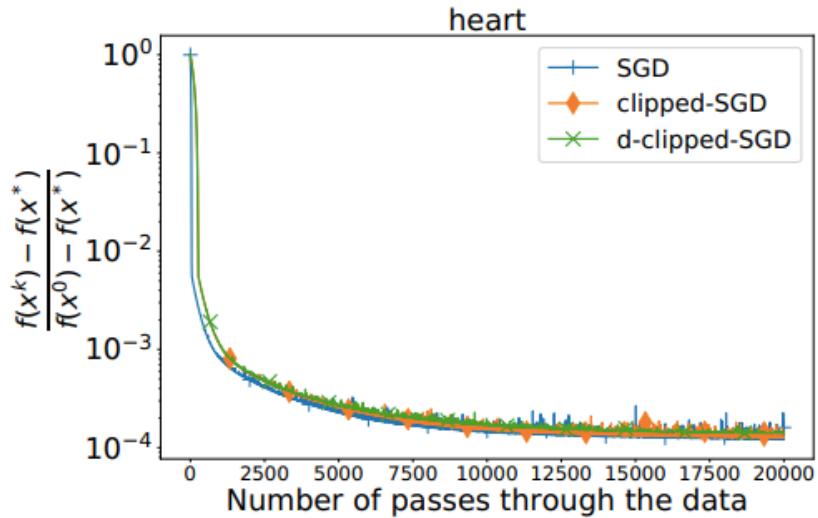
Histogram of $\|\nabla f_i(x^*)\|_2$



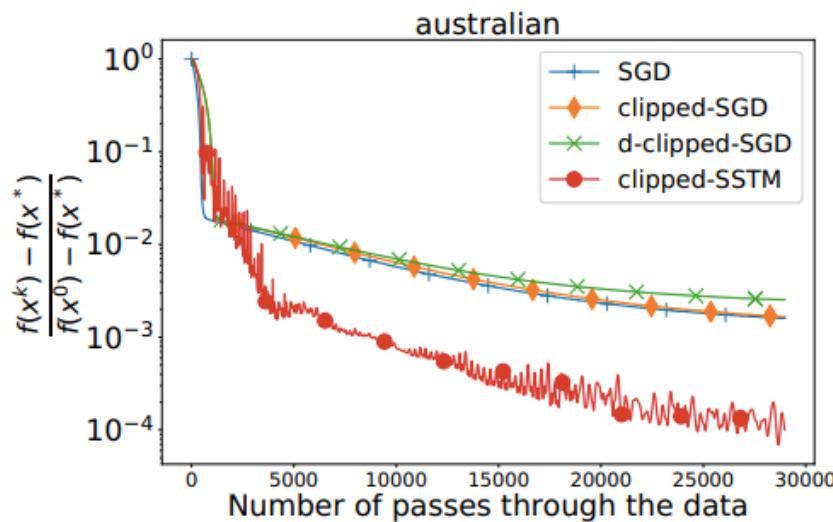
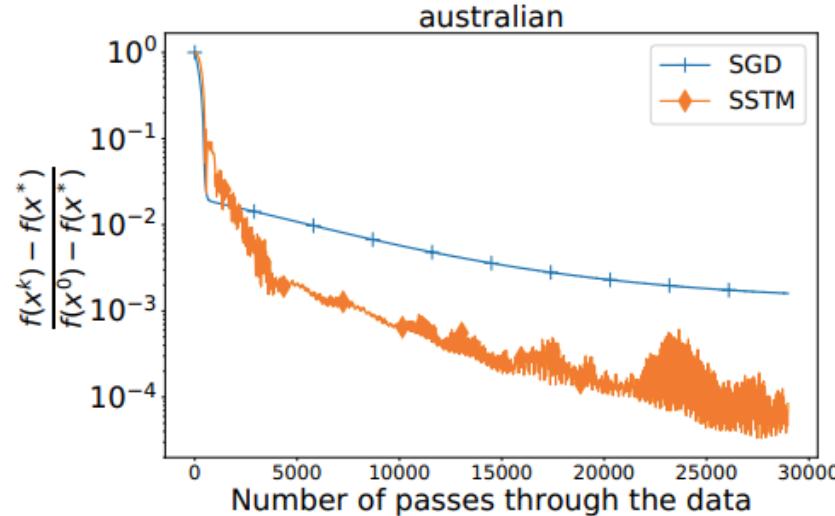
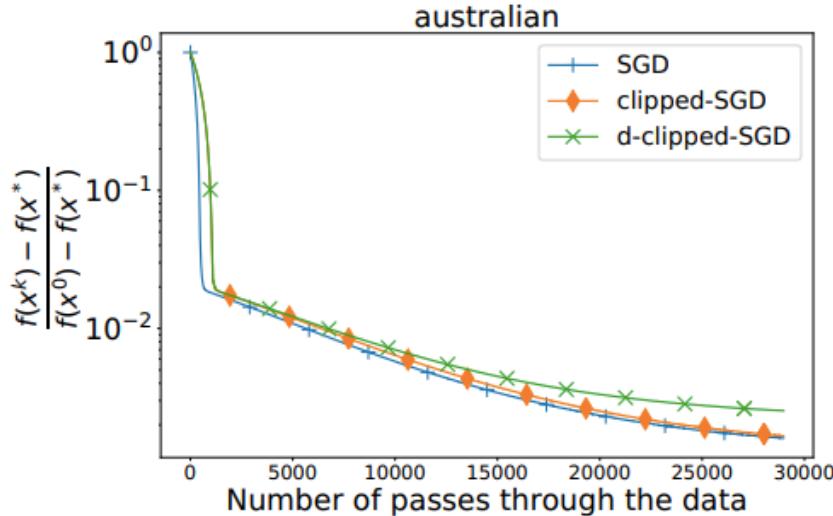
Red lines correspond to probability density function of normal distribution with empirically estimated mean and variance

Histogram of synthetic Gaussian samples with mean and variance estimated via empirical mean and variance of real samples

Trajectories - Heart



Trajectories - Australian



More details you could find in our work:



Gorbunov, Eduard, **Marina Danilova**, and Alexander Gasnikov. "**Stochastic Optimization with Heavy-Tailed Noise via Accelerated Gradient Clipping.**" *arXiv preprint arXiv:2005.10785* (2020).

- strongly convex case
- more experiments

**Thank you for your
attention!**

The End