

Decomposition Methods

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Overview

- 1 Introduction
- 2 Primal Decomposition
- 3 Dual Decomposition
- 4 Decomposition with Constraints
- 5 General Decomposition Structures

Separable Problems

An example of separable problems

$$\begin{aligned} \min \quad & f_1(\mathbf{x}_1) + f_2(\mathbf{x}_2), \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & \mathbf{x}_1 \in \mathbb{S}_1, \mathbf{x}_2 \in \mathbb{S}_2. \end{aligned}$$

- We can solve for \mathbf{x}_1 and \mathbf{x}_2 separately (in parallel or in a distributed way).
- Even if they are solved sequentially, this gives advantage if computational effort is superlinear in problem size.
- Generalizes to any objective of form $\Psi(f_1, f_2)$ with Ψ nondecreasing (e.g., max).

Complicating Variables

Consider the problem

$$\min f_1(\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{y}) + f_2(\mathbf{x}_2, \mathbf{y}).$$

- \mathbf{y} is the complicating variable or coupling variable.
- When \mathbf{y} is fixed, the problem is separable in \mathbf{x}_1 and \mathbf{x}_2 .
- \mathbf{x}_1 and \mathbf{x}_2 are private or local variables. \mathbf{y} is a public or interface or boundary variable between the two subproblems

Primal Decomposition

Methodology: Fix \mathbf{y} and define:

$$\text{Subproblem 1: } \min_{\mathbf{x}_1} f_1(\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{y}),$$

$$\text{Subproblem 2: } \min_{\mathbf{x}_2} f_2(\mathbf{x}_2, \mathbf{y}),$$

with optimal values $\phi_1(\mathbf{y})$ and $\phi_2(\mathbf{y})$.

Original problem is equivalent to **master problem**:

$$\min_{\mathbf{y}} \phi_1(\mathbf{y}) + \phi_2(\mathbf{y}).$$

This is called **primal decomposition**, since master problem manipulates primal (complicating) variables.

Primal Decomposition

Properties

- If original problem is convex, so is master problem.
- Can solve master problem using
 - bisection (if y is scalar),
 - gradient or Newton method (if $\{\phi_i\}$ are differentiable),
 - subgradient, cutting-plane, or ellipsoid method.
- Each iteration of master problem requires solving the two subproblems (in parallel).
- If master algorithm converges fast enough and subproblems are sufficiently easier to solve than original problem, we get savings.

Primal Decomposition Algorithm

Using subgradient algorithm for master:

- **Repeat**

- Solve the subproblems (in parallel).
 Find \mathbf{x}_1 that minimizes $f_1(\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{y}_k)$,
 Find a subgradient $\mathbf{g}_1 \in \partial\phi_1(\mathbf{y}_k)$.
 Find \mathbf{x}_2 that minimizes $f_2(\mathbf{x}_2, \mathbf{y}_k)$,
 Find a subgradient $\mathbf{g}_2 \in \partial\phi_2(\mathbf{y}_k)$.
- Update complicating variable:

$$\mathbf{y}_{k+1} = \mathbf{y}_k - \eta_k(\mathbf{g}_1 + \mathbf{g}_2).$$

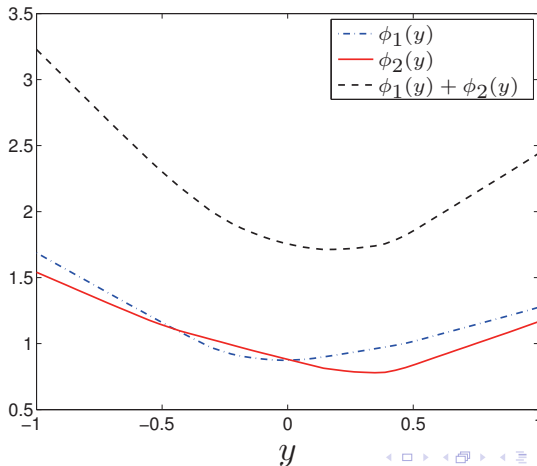
- **Until** convergence.

The step size η_k can be chosen in any of the standard ways.

An Example of Primal Decomposition

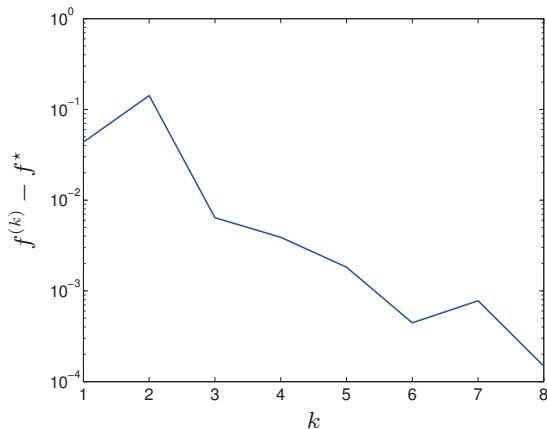
Settings

- $\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2 \in \mathbb{R}^{20}$, $y \in \mathbb{R}$,
- f_i are PWL (max of 100 affine functions).



An Example of Primal Decomposition

Primal decomposition (using bisection on y)



Dual Decomposition

Optimization Problem: $\min f_1(\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{y}) + f_2(\mathbf{x}_2, \mathbf{y})$.

Step 1: Introduce new variables $\mathbf{y}_1, \mathbf{y}_2$

$$\begin{aligned} \min \quad & f(\mathbf{x}) = f_1(\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{y}_1) + f_2(\mathbf{x}_2, \mathbf{y}_2), \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & \mathbf{y}_1 = \mathbf{y}_2. \end{aligned}$$

- $\mathbf{y}_1, \mathbf{y}_2$ are local versions of complicating variable \mathbf{y} .
- $\mathbf{y}_1 = \mathbf{y}_2$ is the consensus constraint.

Dual Decomposition

Step 2: Form dual problem:

$$L(\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2, \mathbf{y}_1, \mathbf{y}_2) = f_1(\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{y}_1) + f_2(\mathbf{x}_2, \mathbf{y}_2) + \boldsymbol{\nu}^T(\mathbf{y}_1 - \mathbf{y}_2),$$

which is separable and can minimize over $(\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{y}_1)$ and $(\mathbf{x}_2, \mathbf{y}_2)$ in parallel:

$$g_1(\boldsymbol{\nu}) = \inf_{\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{y}_1} f_1(\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{y}_1) + \boldsymbol{\nu}^T \mathbf{y}_1,$$

$$g_2(\boldsymbol{\nu}) = \inf_{\mathbf{x}_2, \mathbf{y}_2} f_2(\mathbf{x}_2, \mathbf{y}_2) - \boldsymbol{\nu}^T \mathbf{y}_2.$$

The dual problem is $\max_{\boldsymbol{\nu}} g(\boldsymbol{\nu}) = g_1(\boldsymbol{\nu}) + g_2(\boldsymbol{\nu})$.

- A subgradient of $-g$ is $\mathbf{y}_2 - \mathbf{y}_1$ (from solutions of subproblems).

Dual Decomposition Algorithm

Using subgradient algorithm for master:

- **Repeat**

- Solve the subproblems (in parallel).
 Find $\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{y}_1$ that minimizes $f_1(\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{y}_1) + \boldsymbol{\nu}^T \mathbf{y}_1$,
 Find $\mathbf{x}_2, \mathbf{y}_2$ that minimizes $f_2(\mathbf{x}_2, \mathbf{y}_2) - \boldsymbol{\nu}^T \mathbf{y}_2$,
- Update complicating variable:

$$\boldsymbol{\nu}_{k+1} = \boldsymbol{\nu}_k - \eta_k(\mathbf{y}_2 - \mathbf{y}_1).$$

- **Until** convergence.

The results are generally infeasible, i.e., $\mathbf{y}_2 \neq \mathbf{y}_1$.

Question: How to get feasible solution?

Dual Decomposition Algorithm

Finding Feasible Solutions

- Reasonable guess of feasible point from $(\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{y}_1)$ and $(\mathbf{x}_2, \mathbf{y}_2)$:

$$(\mathbf{x}_1, \bar{\mathbf{y}}), \quad (\mathbf{x}_2, \bar{\mathbf{y}}), \quad \bar{\mathbf{y}} = \frac{\mathbf{y}_1 + \mathbf{y}_2}{2}.$$

- Projection onto feasible set $\mathbf{y}_1 = \mathbf{y}_2$.
- Gives upper bound of solution: $p^* \leq f_1(\mathbf{x}_1, \bar{\mathbf{y}}) + f_2(\mathbf{x}_2, \bar{\mathbf{y}})$.
- A better feasible point: Replace $\mathbf{y}_1, \mathbf{y}_2$ with $\bar{\mathbf{y}}$ and solve primal subproblems:

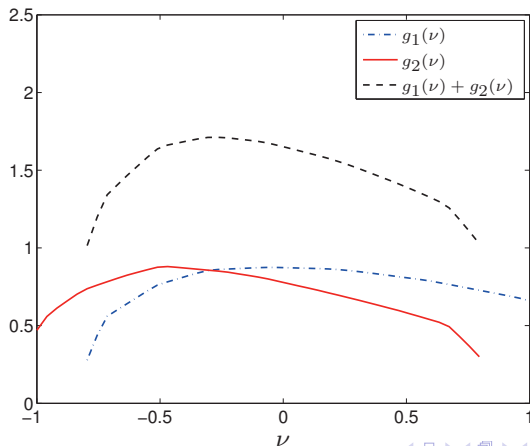
$$\min_{\mathbf{x}_1} f_1(\mathbf{x}_1, \bar{\mathbf{y}}) \text{ and } \min_{\mathbf{x}_2} f_2(\mathbf{x}_2, \bar{\mathbf{y}}).$$

- Gives better (tighter) upper bound of solution.

An Example for Dual Decomposition

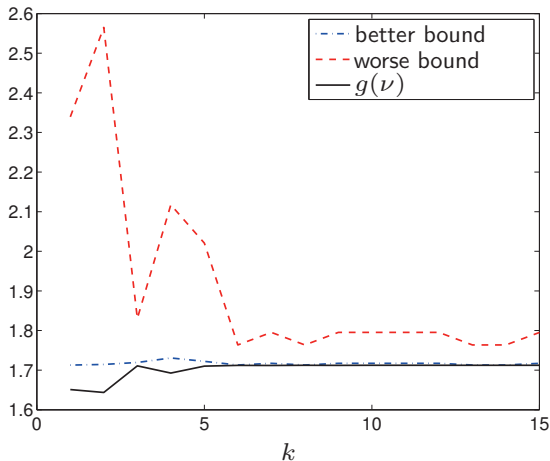
Settings

- $\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2 \in \mathbb{R}^{20}$, $y \in \mathbb{R}$,
- f_i are PWL (max of 100 affine functions each).



An Example for Dual Decomposition

Dual decomposition convergence (using bisection on ν)



Dual Decomposition

Interpretation

- \mathbf{y}_1 is resources consumed by first unit,
- \mathbf{y}_2 is resources generated by second unit,
- $\mathbf{y}_1 = \mathbf{y}_2$ is consistency condition: Supply equals demand,
- ν is a set of resource prices,
- Master algorithm adjusts prices at each step, rather than allocating resources directly (primal decomposition).

Recovering Primal Solutions from the Dual

- Iterates the dual decomposition algorithm till convergence.
- $\boldsymbol{\nu}_k \rightarrow \boldsymbol{\nu}^*$: Have price convergence,
- Subtlety: $\mathbf{y}_{1,k} = \mathbf{y}_{2,k}$ is not needed,
- The hammer: if $\{f_i\}$ are strictly convex, we have $\mathbf{y}_{1,k} = \mathbf{y}_{2,k}$,
- Master algorithm adjusts prices at each step, rather than allocating resources directly (primal decomposition).
- Can fix allocation, or add regularization terms.

Decomposition with Constraints

Optimization Problem:

$$\begin{aligned} \min \quad & f_1(\mathbf{x}_1) + f_2(\mathbf{x}_2), \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & \mathbf{x}_1 \in \mathbb{S}_1, \mathbf{x}_2 \in \mathbb{S}_2, \\ & \mathbf{h}_1(\mathbf{x}_1) + \mathbf{h}_2(\mathbf{x}_2) \leq \mathbf{0}, \end{aligned}$$

where \leq is element-wise operation.

Note: The problem has complicating constraints.

- $\{f_i\}$, $\{h_i\}$, and $\{\mathcal{S}_i\}$ are convex.
- $\mathbf{h}_1(\mathbf{x}_1) + \mathbf{h}_2(\mathbf{x}_2) \leq \mathbf{0}$ is a set of complicating or coupling constraints, involving both \mathbf{x}_1 and \mathbf{x}_2 .
- Can interpret coupling constraints as limits on resources shared between two subproblems.

Primal Decomposition with Constraints

For a given constant vector \mathbf{c} and define

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{Subproblem 1 :} & \min f_1(\mathbf{x}_1), \\ & \text{s.t. } \mathbf{x}_1 \in \mathbb{S}_1, \quad \mathbf{h}_1(\mathbf{x}_1) \leq \mathbf{c}. \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{Subproblem 2 :} & \min f_2(\mathbf{x}_2), \\ & \text{s.t. } \mathbf{x}_2 \in \mathbb{S}_2, \quad \mathbf{h}_2(\mathbf{x}_2) \leq -\mathbf{c}. \end{array}$$

- \mathbf{c} decides the resource allocation between two subproblems.
- Denote $\phi_1(\mathbf{c})$ and $\phi_2(\mathbf{c})$ as the optimal value of the problems.
- **Matser problem:** $\min_{\mathbf{c}} \phi_1(\mathbf{c}) + \phi_2(\mathbf{c})$.
- Subproblems can be solved in parallel.

Primal Decomposition Algorithm (With Constraints)

• Repeat

- Solve the subproblems (in parallel).
 Solve subproblem 1, finding \mathbf{x}_1 and λ_1 .
 Solve subproblem 2, finding \mathbf{x}_2 and λ_2 .
- Update resource allocation.

$$\mathbf{c}_{k+1} = \mathbf{c}_k - \eta_k(\lambda_2 - \lambda_1).$$

• Until convergence.

- λ_i is an optimal Lagrange multiplier associated with resource constraint in subproblems.
- $(\lambda_2 - \lambda_1) \in \partial[\phi_1(\mathbf{c}) + \phi_2(\mathbf{c})]$.
- All iterations are feasible when the subproblems are feasible.

Primal Decomposition Algorithm (With Constraints)

Theorem

Denote $p(\mathbf{z})$ as the optimal value of the following convex problem:

$$\begin{aligned} \min \quad & f(\mathbf{x}), \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & \mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{S}, \quad \mathbf{h}(\mathbf{x}) \leq \mathbf{z}, \end{aligned}$$

where $\mathbf{z} \in \text{dom} p$. Let $\boldsymbol{\lambda}(\mathbf{z})$ be an optimal dual variable vector associated with the constraint above. Then,

$$-\boldsymbol{\lambda}(\mathbf{z}) \in \partial p(\mathbf{z}).$$

Proof: Consider another point $\tilde{\mathbf{z}} \in \text{dom} p$:

$$p(\tilde{\mathbf{z}}) = \sup_{\boldsymbol{\lambda} \geq 0} \inf_{\mathbf{x}} \left[f(\mathbf{x}) + \boldsymbol{\lambda}^T (\mathbf{h}(\mathbf{x}) - \tilde{\mathbf{z}}) \right],$$

Primal Decomposition Algorithm (With Constraints)

Proof(Continue): It follows that

$$\begin{aligned}
 p(\tilde{\mathbf{z}}) &= \sup_{\boldsymbol{\lambda} \geq 0} \inf_{\mathbf{x}} \left[f(\mathbf{x}) + \boldsymbol{\lambda}^T (\mathbf{h}(\mathbf{x}) - \tilde{\mathbf{z}}) \right], \\
 &\geq \inf_{\mathbf{x}} \left[f(\mathbf{x}) + \boldsymbol{\lambda}(\mathbf{z})^T (\mathbf{h}(\mathbf{x}) - \tilde{\mathbf{z}}) \right], \\
 &= \inf_{\mathbf{x}} \left[f(\mathbf{x}) + \boldsymbol{\lambda}(\mathbf{z})^T (\mathbf{h}(\mathbf{x}) - \mathbf{z} + \mathbf{z} - \tilde{\mathbf{z}}) \right], \\
 &= \inf_{\mathbf{x}} \left[f(\mathbf{x}) + \boldsymbol{\lambda}(\mathbf{z})^T (\mathbf{h}(\mathbf{x}) - \mathbf{z}) \right] + \boldsymbol{\lambda}(\mathbf{z})^T (\mathbf{z} - \tilde{\mathbf{z}}), \\
 &= p(\mathbf{z}) - \boldsymbol{\lambda}(\mathbf{z})^T (\tilde{\mathbf{z}} - \mathbf{z}).
 \end{aligned}$$

This holds of all points $\tilde{\mathbf{z}} \in \text{dom} p$. Hence, $-\boldsymbol{\lambda}(\mathbf{z})$ is a subgradient of $p(\mathbf{z})$.

Dual Decomposition with Constraints

Optimization Problem:

$$\begin{aligned} \min \quad & f_1(\mathbf{x}_1) + f_2(\mathbf{x}_2), \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & \mathbf{x}_1 \in \mathbb{S}_1, \mathbf{x}_2 \in \mathbb{S}_2, \\ & \mathbf{h}_1(\mathbf{x}_1) + \mathbf{h}_2(\mathbf{x}_2) \leq \mathbf{0}, \end{aligned}$$

The Lagrangian function is

$$\begin{aligned} L &= f_1(\mathbf{x}_1) + f_2(\mathbf{x}_2) + \boldsymbol{\lambda}^T [\mathbf{h}_1(\mathbf{x}_1) + \mathbf{h}_2(\mathbf{x}_2)], \\ &= \left[f_1(\mathbf{x}_1) + \boldsymbol{\lambda}^T \mathbf{h}_1(\mathbf{x}_1) \right] + \left[f_2(\mathbf{x}_2) + \boldsymbol{\lambda}^T \mathbf{h}_2(\mathbf{x}_2) \right]. \end{aligned}$$

Dual Decomposition with Constraints

For fixed dual variables λ and define

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{Subproblem 1:} & \min_{\mathbf{x}_1} f_1(\mathbf{x}_1) + \lambda^T \mathbf{h}_1(\mathbf{x}_1), \\ & \text{s.t. } \mathbf{x}_1 \in \mathbb{S}_1, \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{Subproblem 2:} & \min_{\mathbf{x}_2} f_2(\mathbf{x}_2) + \lambda^T \mathbf{h}_2(\mathbf{x}_2), \\ & \text{s.t. } \mathbf{x}_2 \in \mathbb{S}_2, \end{array}$$

with optimal values $g_1(\lambda)$ and $g_2(\lambda)$.

Dual Decomposition with Constraints

Master Problem:

$$\max_{\lambda} g(\lambda) = g_1(\lambda) + g_2(\lambda).$$

Properties

- $-h_i(x_i^*) \in \partial(-g_i)(\lambda)$ with x_i^* being the optimal solutions of the subproblems.
- $-h_1(x_1^*) - h_2(x_2^*) \in \partial(-g_1 - g_2)(\lambda)$.
- The master algorithm updates λ using this subgradient.

Dual Decomposition Algorithm (with Constraints)

• Repeat

- Solve the subproblems (in parallel).
 Solve subproblem 1, finding an optimal \mathbf{x}_1^* .
 Solve subproblem 2, finding an optimal \mathbf{x}_2^* .
- Update dual variables.

$$\boldsymbol{\lambda}_{k+1} = \max \{ \boldsymbol{\lambda}_k - \eta_k (h_1(\mathbf{x}_1^*) + h_2(\mathbf{x}_2^*)), 0 \}.$$

• Until convergence.

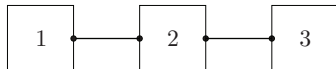
- η_k is an appropriate step size.
- Iterations are not needed to be feasible.
- Can construct feasible primal variables using projection.

General Decomposition Structures

- Multiple subsystems,
- Variable and/or constraint coupling between subsets of subsystems,
- Represent as hypergraph with subsystems as vertices, coupling as hyperedges or nets,
- Without loss of generality, can assume all coupling is via consistency constraints.

A Simple Example

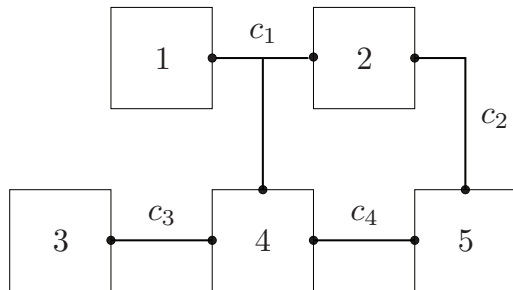
Simple example



- 3 subsystems, with private variables x_1, x_2, x_3 , and public variables $y_1, (y_2, y_3)$, and y_4
- 2 (simple) edges

$$\begin{aligned}
 &\text{minimize} && f_1(x_1, y_1) + f_2(x_2, y_2, y_3) + f_3(x_3, y_4) \\
 &\text{subject to} && (x_1, y_1) \in \mathcal{C}_1, \quad (x_2, y_2, y_3) \in \mathcal{C}_2, \quad (x_3, y_4) \in \mathcal{C}_3 \\
 &&& y_1 = y_2, \quad y_3 = y_4
 \end{aligned}$$

A Complex Example



General Form

Optimization Problem:

$$\begin{aligned} \min \quad & \sum_{i=1}^K f_i(\mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{y}_i), \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & (\mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{y}_i) \in \mathbb{S}_i, \quad 1 \leq i \leq K, \\ & \mathbf{y}_i = \mathbf{E}_i \mathbf{z}, \quad 1 \leq i \leq K. \end{aligned}$$

- Private variables \mathbf{x}_i , public variables \mathbf{y}_i .
- Net (hyperedge) variables \mathbf{z} : \mathbf{z}_i is common value of public variables in net i .
- Matrices \mathbf{E}_i give netlist or hypergraph.

Primal Decomposition

Subproblems: $\phi_i(\mathbf{y}_i)$ is the optimal value of the subproblem

$$\begin{aligned} \min \quad & f_i(\mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{y}_i), \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & (\mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{y}_i) \in \mathbb{S}_i. \end{aligned}$$

Master Problem:

$$\min \quad \phi(\mathbf{z}) = \sum_{i=1}^K \phi_i(\mathbf{E}_i \mathbf{z}).$$

Subgradient of $\phi(\mathbf{z})$:

$$\mathbf{g} = \sum_{i=1}^K \mathbf{E}_i^T \mathbf{g}_i,$$

where $\mathbf{g}_i \in \partial \phi_i(\mathbf{E}_i \mathbf{z})$.

Primal Decomposition

Algorithm

- **Repeat**

- Distribute net variables to subsystems: $\mathbf{y}_i = \mathbf{E}_i \mathbf{z}$, $1 \leq i \leq K$.
- Optimal subsystems (in parallel).
Solve the subproblem to find optimal \mathbf{x}_i and $\mathbf{g}_i \in \partial \phi_i(\mathbf{y}_i)$.
- Collect and sum subgradients for each net: $\mathbf{g} = \sum_{i=1}^K \mathbf{E}_i^T \mathbf{g}_i$.
- Update net variables: $\mathbf{z}_{k+1} = \mathbf{z}_k - \eta_k \mathbf{g}$.

- **Until** convergence.

Dual Decomposition

Optimization Problem :

$$\begin{aligned} \min \quad & \sum_{i=1}^K f_i(\mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{y}_i), \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & (\mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{y}_i) \in \mathbb{S}_i, \quad 1 \leq i \leq K, \\ & \mathbf{y}_i = \mathbf{E}_i \mathbf{z}, \quad 1 \leq i \leq K. \end{aligned}$$

Lagrange Function :

$$\begin{aligned} L &= \sum_{i=1}^K f_i(\mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{y}_i) + \sum_{i=1}^K \boldsymbol{\nu}_i^T (\mathbf{y}_i - \mathbf{E}_i \mathbf{z}), \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^K \left[f_i(\mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{y}_i) + \boldsymbol{\nu}_i^T \mathbf{y}_i \right] - \sum_{i=1}^K \boldsymbol{\nu}_i^T \mathbf{E}_i \mathbf{z}. \end{aligned}$$

To find the optimal solution, a necessary condition is to minimize over \mathbf{z} :

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial \mathbf{z}} = 0, \Rightarrow \sum_{i=1}^K \mathbf{E}_i \boldsymbol{\nu}_i = \mathbf{0}.$$

Dual Decomposition

First, select $\{\boldsymbol{\nu}_i\}$ that satisfies $\sum_{i=1}^K \mathbf{E}_i \boldsymbol{\nu}_i = \mathbf{0}$.

Then, a **subproblem** can be written as

$$\begin{aligned} \min \quad & f_i(\mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{y}_i) + \boldsymbol{\nu}_i^T \mathbf{y}_i, \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & (\mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{y}_i) \in \mathbb{S}_i, \end{aligned}$$

whose optimal solution is denoted as $g_i(\boldsymbol{\nu}_i)$ and the solved \mathbf{y}_i is a subgradient of $g_i(\boldsymbol{\nu}_i)$.

Next, the **master problem** is

$$\begin{aligned} \min \quad & g(\{\boldsymbol{\nu}_i\}) = \sum_{i=1}^K g_i(\boldsymbol{\nu}_i), \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & \sum_{i=1}^K \mathbf{E}_i \boldsymbol{\nu}_i = \mathbf{0}. \end{aligned}$$

Dual Decomposition

Algorithm

• Repeat

- Optimize subsystems (in parallel).
Solve subproblem to obtain $(\mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{y}_i)$.
- Compute average value of public variables over each net.

$$\hat{\mathbf{z}} = (\mathbf{E}^T \mathbf{E})^{-1} \mathbf{E}^T \sum_{i=1}^K \mathbf{y}_i.$$

Solve the subproblem to find optimal \mathbf{x}_i and $\mathbf{g}_i \in \partial \phi_i(\mathbf{y}_i)$.

- Update dual variables.

$$\boldsymbol{\nu}_{i,k+1} = \boldsymbol{\nu}_{i,k} - \eta_k (\mathbf{y}_i - \mathbf{E}_i \hat{\mathbf{z}}).$$

- Until convergence.

Thank you!

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