

Homework 2: Stochastic Gradient Descent

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 As formative assessment, submit the solutions to Exercise 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, and 1.4.

Exercise 1. ¹Consider the binary classification problem with inputs $x \in \mathcal{X}$ where $\mathcal{X} := \{x \in \mathbb{R}^d : \|x\|_2 \leq L\}$ for some given value $L > 0$, target $y \in \mathcal{Y}$ where $\mathcal{Y} := \{-1, +1\}$, and prediction rule $h_w : \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \{-1, +1\}$ with

$$(0.1) \quad h_w(x) = \text{sign}(w^\top x)$$

$$(0.2) \quad = \text{sign}\left(\sum_{j=1}^d w_j x_j\right)$$

Let the hypothesis class is

$$(0.3) \quad \mathcal{H} = \{x \rightarrow w^\top x : \forall w \in \mathbb{R}^d\}$$

In other words, the hypothesis $h_w \in \mathcal{H}$ is parametrized by $w \in \mathbb{R}^d$, it receives an input vector $x \in \mathcal{X} := \mathbb{R}^d$ and it returns the label $y = \text{sign}(w^\top x) \in \mathcal{Y} := \{\pm 1\}$ where

$$\text{sign}(\xi) = \begin{cases} -1, & \text{if } \xi < 0 \\ +1, & \text{if } \xi > 0 \end{cases}$$

Consider a loss function $\ell : \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_+$ with

$$(0.4) \quad \ell(w, z = (x, y)) = \max(0, 1 - yw^\top x) + \lambda \|w\|_2^2$$

for some given value $\lambda > 0$.

Assume there is available a dataset of examples $S_n = \{z_i = (x_i, y_i) ; i = 1, \dots, n\}$ of size n . Do the following:

- (1) Show that the function $f : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_+$ with $f(x) = \max(0, 1 - x)$ is convex in \mathbb{R} ; and show that the loss (0.4) is convex.

Hint:: You may use Note 11 from Lecture notes 2: Elements of convex learning problems.

- (2) Show that the loss $\ell(w, z)$ for $\lambda = 0$ (0.4) is L -Lipschitz (with respect to w) when $x \in \mathcal{X}$ where $\mathcal{X} := \{x \in \mathbb{R}^d : \|x\|_2 \leq L\}$.

¹We use standard notation

$$\text{sign}(\xi) = \begin{cases} -1, & \text{if } \xi < 0 \\ +1, & \text{if } \xi > 0 \end{cases}$$

± 1 means either -1 or $+1$, $\mathbb{R}_+ := (0, +\infty)$, and $\|x\|_2 := \sqrt{\sum_{j=1}^d (x_j)^2}$ for the Euclidean distance.

Hint:: You may use the definition of Lipschitz function. Without loss of generality, you can consider any $w_1 \in \mathbb{R}^d$ and $w_2 \in \mathbb{R}^d$ such that $1 - yw_2^\top x \leq 1 - yw_1^\top x$, and then take cases $1 - yw_2^\top x > \text{or} < 0$ and $1 - yw_1^\top x > \text{or} < 0$ to deal with the max.

- (3) Construct the set of sub-gradients $\partial f(x)$ for $x \in \mathbb{R}$ of the function $f : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_+$ with $f(x) = \max(0, 1 - x)$. Show that the vector v with

$$v = \begin{cases} 2\lambda w, & yw^\top x > 1 \\ 2\lambda w, & yw^\top x = 1 \\ -yx + 2\lambda w, & yw^\top x < 1 \end{cases}$$

is $v \in \partial_w \ell(w, z = (x, y))$, aka a sub-gradient of $\ell(w, z = (x, y))$ at w , for any $w \in \mathbb{R}^d$.

- (4) Write down the algorithm of online AdaGrad (Adaptive Stochastic Gradient Descent) with learning rate $\eta_t > 0$, batch size m , and termination criterion $t > T_{\max}$ for some $T_{\max} > 0$ in order to discover w^* such as

$$(0.5) \quad w^* = \arg \min_{w: h_w \in \mathcal{H}} (\mathbb{E}_{z \sim g} (\ell(w, z = (x, y))))$$

The formulas in your algorithm should be implemented for the above learning problem and tailored to 0.1, 0.3, and 0.4.

- (5) Use the R code given below in order to generate the dataset of observed examples $S_n = \{z_i = (x_i, y_i)\}_{i=1}^n$ that contains $n = 10^6$ examples with inputs x of dimension $d = 2$. Consider $\lambda = 0$. Use a seed $w^{(0)} = (0, 0)^\top$.
- By using appropriate values for m , η_t and T_{\max} , code in R the algorithm you designed in part 4, and run it.
 - Plot the trace plots for each of the dimensions of the generated chain $\{w^{(t)}\}$ against the iteration t .
 - Report the value of the output w_{adaGrad}^* (any type) of the algorithm as the solution to (0.5).
 - To which cluster y (i.e., -1 or 1) $x_{\text{new}} = (1, 0)^\top$ belongs?

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# R code. Run it before you run anything else
#
data_generating_model <- function(n,w) {
z <- rep( NaN, times=n*3 )
z <- matrix(z, nrow = n, ncol = 3)
z[,1] <- rep(1,times=n)
z[,2] <- runif(n, min = -10, max = 10)
p <- w[1]*z[,1] + w[2]*z[,2] p <- exp(p) / (1+exp(p))
z[,3] <- rbinom(n, size = 1, prob = p)
ind <- (z[,3]==0)
z[ind,3] <- -1
x <- z[,1:2]
y <- z[,3]
return(list(z=z, x=x, y=y))
}
n_obs <- 1000000
w_true <- c(-3,4)
set.seed(2023)
out <- data_generating_model(n = n_obs, w = w_true)
set.seed(0)
z_obs <- out$z #z=(x,y)
x <- out$x
y <- out$y
#z_obs2=z_obs
#z_obs2[z_obs[,3]==-1,3]=0
#w_true <- as.numeric(glm(z_obs2[,3]~ 1+ z_obs2[,2],family = "binomial"
)$coefficients)

```

Solution.

- (1) $f_1(x) = 0$ is convex, $f_2(x) = 1 - x$ is convex, hence from the example in the lecture notes, $f(x) = \max(f_1(x), f_2(x))$ is convex as well. Regarding the loss function, we just have $f_2(w) = 1 - yx^\top w$ which is convex as a composition due to linearity.
- (2) Given a fixed example $(x, y) \in \{x \in \mathbb{R}^d : \|x'\|_2 \leq R\} \times \{-1, 1\}$.

Assume $w_1, w_2 \in \mathbb{R}^d$. Let $\ell_i = \max\{0, 1 - yx^\top w_i\}$, for $i = 1, 2$. It suffices to show that $|\ell_1 - \ell_2|_2 \leq R|w_1 - w_2|_2$. I take cases

Case-1: Assume $yx^\top w_1 \geq 1$ and $yx^\top w_2 \geq 1$ then $|\ell_1 - \ell_2|_2 = 0 \leq R|w_1 - w_2|_2$

Case-2: Assume that at least one of $yx^\top w_1 < 1$ or $yx^\top w_2 < 1$ but not both is true.

Assume without loss of generality that $1 - yx^\top w_1 < 1 - yx^\top w_2$. Then

$$\begin{aligned}
|\ell_1 - \ell_2|_2 &= \ell_1 - \ell_2 \\
&= 1 - yx^\top w_1 - \max(0, 1 - yx^\top w_2) \\
&\leq 1 - yx^\top w_1 - (1 - yx^\top w_2) \\
&= yx^\top (w_2 - w_1) \\
&\leq y \left\| x^\top \right\|_2 \|w_1 - w_2\|_2 \quad \text{because } a^\top b \leq \|a\| \|b\|
\end{aligned}$$

(3) It is

$$f(x) = \max(0, 1 - x) = \begin{cases} 0 & x > 1 \\ 0 & x = 1 \\ 1 - x & x < 1 \end{cases}$$

- For $x > 1$, f is differentiable so $\partial f(x) = \{f'(x)\} = \{0\}$.
- For $x < 1$, f is differentiable so $\partial f(x) = \{f'(x)\} = \{-1\}$.
- For $x = 1$, f is not differentiable. By definition I have that v is subgradient of $f(x)$ at $x = 0 \in S$ if

$$\forall u \in \mathbb{R}, \quad f(u) \geq f(x) + \langle u - x, v \rangle$$

So, for $u \geq 1$, it is $0 \geq (u - 1)v \implies v \leq 0$, and for $u < 1$ it is $(1 - u) \geq (u - 1)v \implies v \geq -1$. Hence the common space is $v \in [0, 1]$ So $\partial f(x) = [0, 1]$. Hence,

$$\partial f(x) = \begin{cases} 0, & x > 1 \\ [-1, 0], & x = 1 \\ -1, & x < 1 \end{cases}$$

Now regarding the loss $\partial_w \ell(w, z = (x, y))$

- for $yw^\top x > 1$ it is differentiable so $\nabla_w \ell(w, z = (x, y)) = \nabla_w (0 + \lambda \sum_{j=1}^d w_j^2) = 2\lambda w$; as

$$\frac{d}{dw_j} \sum_{j'=1}^d w_{j'}^2 = 2\lambda w_j$$

- for $yw^\top x < 1$ it is differentiable so $\nabla_w \ell(w, z = (x, y)) = \nabla_w (1 - yw^\top x + \lambda \sum_{j=1}^d w_j^2) = yx + 2\lambda w$ as

$$\frac{d}{dw_j} (1 - yw^\top x) = \frac{d}{dw_j} \left(1 - y \sum_{j'=1}^d w_{j'} x_{j'} \right) = -yx_j$$

- for $yw^\top x = 1$, $v = 0$ satisfies the definition of the sub-gradient

$$\begin{aligned} \forall u, \quad f(u) &\geq \overset{0}{f(w)} + \langle u - w, v \rangle \\ \max(0, 1 - yu^\top x) &\geq 0 + (u - w)^\top 0 \end{aligned}$$

So

$$\begin{aligned} \partial \ell(w, z = (x, y)) &= \partial \left(\max(0, 1 - yw^\top x) + \lambda \|w\|_2^2 \right) \\ &= \partial \left(\max(0, 1 - yw^\top x) \right) + \partial \left(\lambda \|w\|_2^2 \right) \\ &= \partial \left(\max(0, 1 - yw^\top x) \right) + \nabla \left(\lambda \|w\|_2^2 \right) \\ &= 0 + 2\lambda w \end{aligned}$$

but $\partial \left(\lambda \|w\|_2^2 \right) = \left\{ \nabla \left(\lambda \|w\|_2^2 \right) \right\}$ because $\lambda \|w\|_2^2$ is differentiable. Hence

$$\partial \ell(w, z = (x, y)) = 0 + 2\lambda w$$

Hence

$$v = \begin{cases} 2\lambda w, & yw^\top x > 1 \\ 2\lambda w, & yw^\top x = 1 \\ -yx + 2\lambda w, & yw^\top x < 1 \end{cases}$$

(4)

Algorithm. For $t = 1, 2, 3, \dots$ iterate:

- Get a random sub-sample $\left\{ \tilde{z}_i^{(t)} = (\tilde{x}_i^{(t)}, \tilde{y}_i^{(t)}) ; i = 1, \dots, m \right\}$ of size m with or without replacement from the complete data-set \mathcal{S}_n .
- For $j = 1, \dots, d$ (index j indicates the dimension of w) compute

$$w_j^{(t+1)} = w_j^{(t)} - \eta_t \frac{1}{\sqrt{[G_t]_{j,j} + \epsilon}} \bar{v}_{t,j}$$

$[G_t]_{j,j} = [G_{t-1}]_{j,j} + (\bar{v}_{t,j})^2$ where $\bar{v}_t = \frac{1}{m} \sum_{i=1}^m \tilde{v}_{t,i}$ and

$$\tilde{v}_{t,i} = \begin{cases} 2\lambda w^{(t)}, & \tilde{y}_i^{(t)} (w^{(t)})^\top \tilde{x}_i^{(t)} > 1 \\ 2\lambda w^{(t)}, & \tilde{y}_i^{(t)} (w^{(t)})^\top \tilde{x}_i^{(t)} = 1 \\ -\frac{1}{m} \tilde{y}_i^{(t)} \tilde{x}_i^{(t)} + 2\lambda w^{(t)}, & \tilde{y}_i^{(t)} (w^{(t)})^\top \tilde{x}_i^{(t)} < 1 \end{cases}$$

where index i indicates the sub-sample, and $\epsilon > 0$ small.

- Terminate if a termination criterion is satisfied

(5)

- The R code can be found in the link https://raw.githubusercontent.com/georgios-stats/Machine_Learning_and_Neural_Networks_III_Epiphany_2025/main/Exercise_sheets/supplementary/q6_adagrad.R
- The figures are presented below

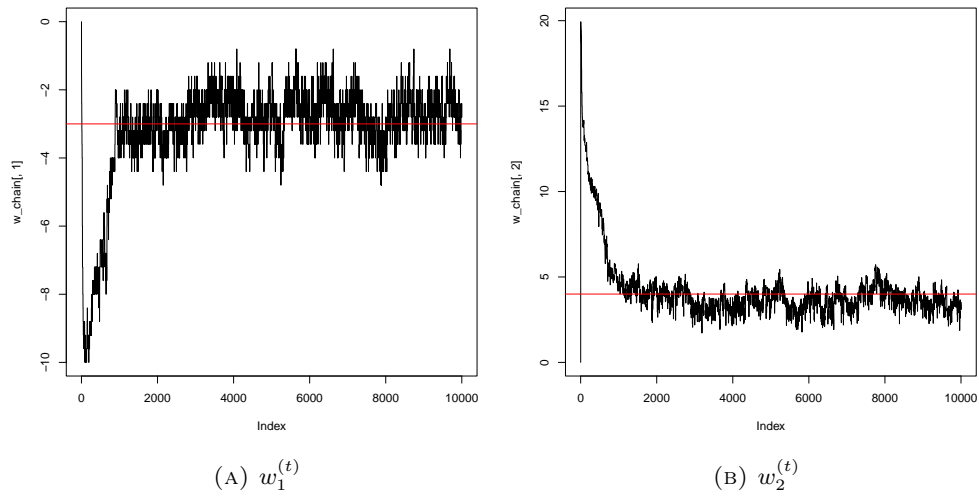


FIGURE 0.1. trace plots

- (c) I found $w = (-2.674615, 3.205785)$
 (d) It belongs to -1