

## Day 2: Data-Driven Modeling and Optimization of Dynamical Systems under Uncertainty

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## Mirror descent

\*



We also define the Bregman divergence associated with  $\phi$  as

$$B_\phi(x, y) = \phi(x) - \phi(y) - \nabla\phi(y)^\top(x - y).$$

Mirror descent update:

$$x_{t+1} = \operatorname{argmin}_x \left\{ f(x_t) + g_t^\top(x - x_t) + \frac{1}{\eta_k} B_\phi(x, x_t) \right\}$$

$\frac{1}{2} \underbrace{(x - x_t)^\top}_{g_t} \underbrace{\nabla^2 f(x)}_{\nabla^2 f(x_t)} \underbrace{(x - x_t)}$

$$\min_x f(x)$$

$$g_t = \nabla f(x_t) \quad \eta_k \quad \mathbb{I}$$

$$\in \partial f(x_t)$$

$$\|x_t - x\|_2^2 \leq R^2$$

## Example of MD: Euclidean norm

Mirror map  $\Phi(x) = \frac{1}{2}\|x\|_2^2$ .

~~redacted~~

## Example of MD: Euclidean norm

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MD:

$$x_{k+1} = \underset{x}{\operatorname{argmin}} \left\{ f(x_k) + g_k^\top (x - x_k) + \frac{1}{2\eta_k} \|x - x_k\|_2^2 \right\}$$

This is equivalent to (sub-)GD with step  $\eta_k$ .

## Example of MD: negative entropy

Mirror map  $\Phi(x) = \sum_{i=1}^d x(i) \log x(i)$ .

$$x_1 \quad x_2 \quad \dots \quad x_d$$

## Example of MD: negative entropy

$$(x_i^0, \theta_i)$$

Mirror map  $\Phi(x) = \sum_{i=1}^d x(i) \log x(i)$ . The resulting Bregman divergence is the KL-divergence  $D_\Phi(x, y) = \sum_{i=1}^d x(i) \log \frac{x(i)}{y(i)}$ .

## Example of MD: negative entropy

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If we restrict  $x$  to a (discrete probability) simplex  $1^\top x = 1$ , then the MD update

$$x_{t+1} = \underset{1^\top x = 1}{\operatorname{argmin}} f(x_t) + g_t^\top (x - x_t) + \frac{1}{\eta} B_\Phi(x, x_t)$$

has the closed-form

$$x_{i,k+1} = \frac{x_{i,k} e^{-\eta_k g_k}}{\sum_{j=1}^n x_{j,k} e^{-\eta_j g_k}}, \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, n$$

## MD convergence

Let  $\Phi$  be  $\rho$ -strongly convex in  $\|\cdot\|$ . Let  $R^2 = \sup_x \Phi(x) - \Phi(x_1)$ , and  $f$  be convex and  $L$ -Lipschitz w.r.t.  $\|\cdot\|$ . Then mirror descent with  $\eta = \frac{R}{L} \sqrt{\frac{2\rho}{t}}$  satisfies

$$f\left(\frac{1}{t} \sum_{s=1}^t x_s\right) - f(x^*) \leq RL \sqrt{\frac{2}{\rho t}}.$$

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For example, for negative entropy  $R \leq \sqrt{\log(d)}$ .

~~$\sqrt{\log(d)}$~~

## Stochastic (sub-)gradient descent

Stochastic oracle:

$$\mathbb{E}[\tilde{g}(x)] \in \partial f(x).$$

Then, SGD update rule:

$$x_{t+1} = x_t - \eta_t \tilde{g}(x_t).$$

$(= \nabla f(x))$

$\tilde{g} \in \partial f(x)$  (ERM)

$\nabla_x \left\{ \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n f_i(x, \tilde{\zeta}_i) \right\}$

$\tilde{\zeta}_i \sim P_0$

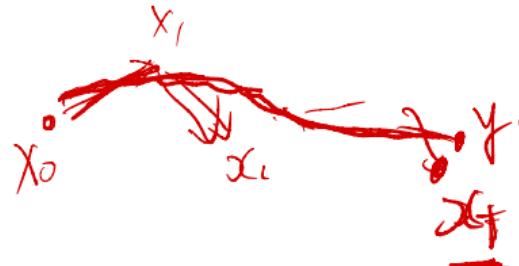
$\nabla_x f(x, \tilde{\zeta}_1)$

$\nabla_x \mathbb{E}_{P_0} f(x, \tilde{\zeta})$

## Stochastic (sub-)gradient descent

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Then, SGD update rule:

$$x_{t+1} = x_t - \eta_t \tilde{g}(x_t).$$

Convergence. Let  $f$  be  $\alpha$ -strongly convex, and assume that the stochastic oracle is such that  $\mathbb{E}\|\tilde{g}(x)\|^2 \leq B^2$ . Then SGD with  $\eta_k = \frac{2}{\alpha(k+1)}$  satisfies

$$\mathbb{E} f \left( \sum_{k=1}^t \frac{2k}{t(t+1)} x_k \right) - f(x^*) \leq \frac{2B^2}{\alpha(t+1)}.$$

$$f(\underline{x_t})$$

## (Skip) stochastic mirror descent (S-MD)

Let  $x_1 \in \operatorname{argmin}_{\mathcal{X}} \Phi(x)$ , and

$$x_{t+1} = \operatorname{argmin}_x f(x_t) + \tilde{g}(x_t)^\top (x - x_t) + \frac{1}{\eta} B_\Phi(x, x_t).$$

Convergence. Let  $\Phi$  be a mirror map 1-strongly convex. Let  $R^2 = \sup_x \Phi(x) - \Phi(x_1)$ . Let  $f$  be convex and  $\beta$ -smooth w.r.t.  $\|\cdot\|$ . Assume that the stochastic oracle is such that  $\mathbb{E}\|\nabla f(x) - \tilde{g}(x)\|_*^2 \leq \sigma^2$ . Then S-MD with stepsize  $\frac{1}{\beta+1/\eta}$  and  $\eta = \frac{R}{\sigma} \sqrt{\frac{2}{t}}$  satisfies

$$\mathbb{E}f\left(\frac{1}{t} \sum_{s=1}^t x_{s+1}\right) - f(x^*) \leq R\sigma \sqrt{\frac{2}{t}} + \frac{\beta R^2}{t}.$$

Compare the basic gradient descent with SGD for average loss functions

GD:

(b)

(Vanilla SGD)

where  $i_t$  is drawn uniformly random.

$\beta_i \sim P_2$

$N(\beta_i)$

FR

$$f(x) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n f_i(x).$$

$$\cancel{x_{t+1} = x_t - \frac{\eta}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \nabla f_i(x)}$$

$$x_{t+1} = x_t - \eta \nabla f_{i_t}(x)$$

$$\cancel{x_t = (X_f^T X_f)^{-1} X_f^T Y}$$

$$f(x, \beta_i) \quad \begin{cases} \beta_i \\ \{x_i, y_i\} \end{cases}$$

$O(e^{-t})$

EPo

$O(-\theta_t^{-a})$

# Optimization under distributional uncertainty

## Empirical risk minimization

$$\min_{\theta} \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N l(f_{\theta}; \xi_i), \quad \xi_i \sim P_0$$

~~$\inf_{f \in H} E_{P_0} l(f, \xi)$~~

- Robust under statistical fluctuation, e.g., we can bound  $E_{P_0} l(f_{\hat{\theta}}, \xi)$

# Optimization under distributional uncertainty

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- ▶ Not robust under data distribution shifts, when  $Q$  ( $\neq P_0$ )

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## Distributionally robust optimization and learning

$$\min_{f \in \mathcal{H}} \sup_{Q \in \mathcal{M}} \mathbb{E}_Q l(f, \xi)$$

- ▶ Minimize risk under a local worst-case distribution  $Q$

# Optimization under distributional uncertainty

## Empirical risk minimization

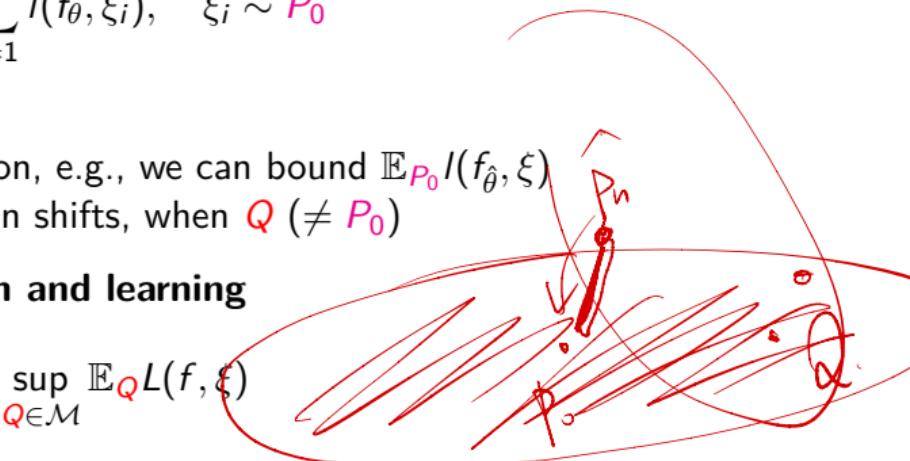
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$$\min_{f \in \mathcal{H}} \sup_{Q \in \mathcal{M}} \mathbb{E}_Q L(f, \xi)$$

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- ▶ Distribution shift described by an Ambiguity set  $\mathcal{M}$



# Optimization under distributional uncertainty

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- ▶ Minimize risk under a local worst-case distribution  $Q$
- ▶ Distribution shift described by an ambiguity set  $\mathcal{M}$
- ▶ We can bound performance beyond statistical fluctuation (classical learning theory)

## DRO with divergence or metric ball constraints

Let  $\mathcal{D}$  denote a divergence measure or metric on the  $\mathcal{P}$ , we consider the data-driven DRO problem

$$\hat{P} = \left( \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \delta_{z_i} \right)$$

$$\min_{\theta} \max_{\mathcal{D}(P, \hat{P}) \leq \epsilon} \mathbb{E}_P l(\theta, \xi)$$



$\Phi$ -divergence (skip in class)

Tsyplakov - .

## Wasserstein distance

$\mathbb{E}_P$ .

$\mathbb{E}_P |x|^p < \infty$

$p$ -Wasserstein distance between probability measures  $\mu_0, \mu_1$  on  $\mathbb{R}^d$  (with  $p$  finite moments) is defined through the following Kantorovich problem

$$W_p(P, Q)^p := \min \left\{ \int_{\mathbb{R}^d \times \mathbb{R}^d} |x_0 - x_1|^p d\Pi \mid \pi_\#^{(1)} \Pi = P, \pi_\#^{(2)} \Pi = Q \right\}.$$

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The dual Kantorovich problem

$$\max \left\{ \int_X \phi dP + \int_X \psi dQ : \phi, \psi \in C(X), \underline{\phi(x) + \psi(y)} \leq \underline{c(x, y)}, \forall x, y \right\}.$$

$\uparrow$   $|x-y|^p$   $\infty$ -dim  
duality

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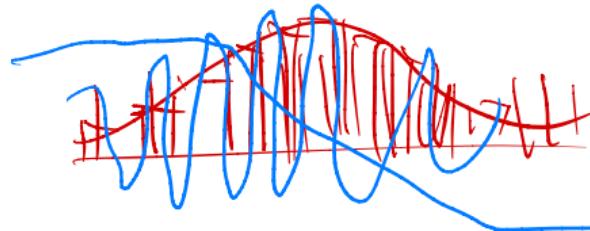
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Convergence depends on dimensions, e.g., (See also [Weed and Bach 2017])

$$W_1(\hat{P}, P_0) \geq \mathcal{O}(n^{-\frac{1}{d}}).$$

$$\bigcup_i \tilde{\gamma}_i \sim P_0$$



## (Skip) The dynamic formulation of the Wasserstein distance



$$W_2(P, Q)^2 = \min \left\{ \int_0^1 \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} |v_t|^2 d\mu_t dt \mid \mu_0 = P, \mu_1 = Q, \frac{d}{dt}\mu_t + \operatorname{div}(v_t \mu_t) = 0 \right\}$$

## $c$ -transform

Given a function  $f : X \rightarrow \overline{\mathbb{R}}$  we define its  $\{c\text{-transform}\}$  (or  $c$ -conjugate function) by

$$f^c(y) = \inf_{x \in X} c(x, y) - f(x).$$

- Moreover, we say that a function  $\psi$  is  $c$ -concave if there exists  $\phi$  such that  $\underline{\psi} = \underline{\phi}^c$  and we denote by  $\Psi_c(X)$  the set of  $c$ -concave functions.

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- ▶ Using this transform, we can write down the so-called semi-dual formulation

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- ▶ Exercise. Can you see the relation with the  $\alpha$ -strong convexity and  $\beta$ -smoothness we talked about?

# Dual reformulation for 2-Wasserstein DRO

The primal DRO problem is intractable

$$\min_{\theta} \sup_{\substack{P \\ W_2(P, \hat{P}) \leq \epsilon}} \mathbb{E}_P l(\theta, \xi).$$

$$D(P, Q) = 0 \quad \text{when } P \neq Q$$

$$D(\cdot, \cdot) = 0$$



inf. C  
C ∈ R.



$$\text{s.t. } \mathbb{E}_P l(\theta, \xi) \leq C, \forall P \in \mathcal{B}_{W_2}(\hat{P})$$

$$\max_{\xi} l(\theta, \xi)$$

Moment Constr.  $\mathbb{E}_P x = \mathbb{E}_Q x$



## Dual reformulation for 2-Wasserstein DRO

The primal DRO problem is intractable

$$\hat{P}_N := \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \delta_{\xi_i}$$

$$\min_{\theta} \sup_{W_2(P, \hat{P}) \leq \epsilon} \mathbb{E}_P l(\theta, \xi).$$

Fortunately, it has a strong dual as follows, i.e., the two problems have the same optimal value

$$\begin{aligned} & \min_{\theta, \lambda \geq 0} \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N (l_\theta)^{\lambda \|\cdot\|^2} (\xi_i) + \lambda \|\theta\|^2 \\ & \text{C-transform of } l(f_\theta, \cdot) \\ & = \sup_{\xi} \{ l(f_\theta, \xi) - C(\xi, \theta) \} \\ & \quad \| \cdot \|^2 \end{aligned}$$

## Dual reformulation for 2-Wasserstein DRO

The primal DRO problem is intractable

$$\min_{\theta} \sup_{\substack{W_2(P, \hat{P}) \leq \epsilon}} \mathbb{E}_P I(\theta, \xi).$$

Fortunately, it has a strong dual as follows, i.e., the two problems have the same optimal value

$$\min_{\theta, \lambda > 0} \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N (l_\theta)^{\lambda \|\cdot\|^2}(\xi_i) + \lambda \epsilon^2$$

This can be shown to motivate a stochastic gradient algorithm for DRO.

PA

① Sup.  
② ms

## Kernel maximum mean discrepancy (MMD)

$$\text{MMD}(P, Q) := \left\| \int k(x, \cdot) dP - \int k(x, \cdot) dQ \right\|_{\mathcal{H}}$$

$$\cancel{\int k(x, \cdot) dP - Q(x)}$$

## Kernel maximum mean discrepancy (MMD)

$$\text{MMD}(P, Q) := \left\| \int k(x, \cdot) dP - \int k(x, \cdot) dQ \right\|_{\mathcal{H}}$$

Given two samples from the distribution of interest

$$x_i \sim P, i = 1 \dots M; y_j \sim Q, j = 1 \dots N,$$

$$\text{MMD}(P, Q)^2 = \mathbb{E}_{x, x' \sim P} k(x, x') + \mathbb{E}_{y, y' \sim Q} k(y, y') - 2 \mathbb{E}_{x \sim P, y \sim Q} k(x, y)$$

$$\approx \frac{1}{MN} \sum_{i=1}^M \sum_{j=1}^N k(x_i, x_j) + \frac{1}{MN} \sum_{i=1}^M \sum_{j=1}^N k(y_i, y_j) - 2 \frac{1}{MN} \sum_{i=1}^M \sum_{j=1}^N k(x_i, y_j)$$

This is particularly handy in, e.g., training deep generative models.

$$\min_Q \text{MMD}(P, Q) \quad P = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \delta_{x_i}$$

bedroom

MMD-GAN      w-GAN X

$$\frac{1}{m} \sum_{i=1}^m \mathbb{E}_{\theta} (z_i)$$

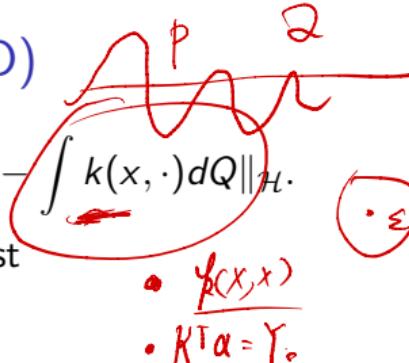


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Just like  $W_p$ , the MMD has a dual formulation

$$\text{MMD}(P, Q) = \sup_{\|f\|_{\mathcal{H}} \leq 1} \int f d(P - Q).$$

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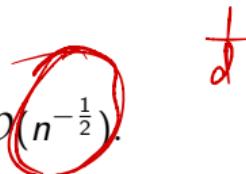
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Just like  $W_p$ , the MMD has a dual formulation

$$\text{MMD}(P, Q) = \sup_{\|f\|_{\mathcal{H}} \leq 1} \int f d(P - Q).$$

Convergence

$$\text{MMD}(\hat{P}, P_0) \leq \mathcal{O}(n^{-\frac{1}{2}}).$$



# Dual reformulation for Kernel DRO

$\ell \notin \mathcal{H}$

The DRO problem with MMD constraint

$$\min_{\theta} \sup_{\substack{\text{MMD}(P, \hat{P}) \leq \epsilon \\ \mathbb{E}_P l(\theta, \xi)}} \mathbb{E}_P l(\theta, \xi)$$

can be reformulated using a Kantorovich-type duality as

$$\min_{\theta, f \in \mathcal{H}} \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N f(\xi_i) + \epsilon \|f\|_{\mathcal{H}}$$

s.t.  $l(\theta, \xi) \leq f(\xi), \forall \xi \text{ a.e.}$

$$\sum \alpha_i b(x_i, \cdot)$$

"Measure"

$f$

$z_l$

~~$f \in \mathcal{H}$~~

## Dual reformulation for Kernel DRO

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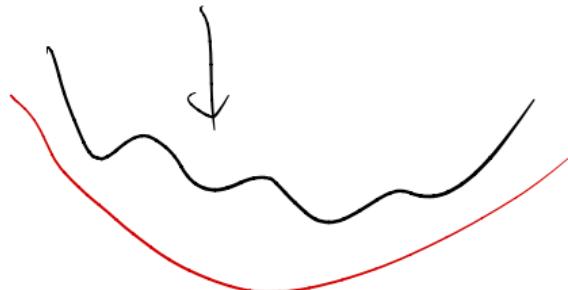
Optionally, we may consider to solve the problem with a relaxed (albeit with statistical guarantee) constraint

$$I(\theta, \xi_i) \leq f(\xi_i), \quad i = 1, \dots, N.$$

## Dual reformulation for Kernel DRO

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The solution has the nice property of being

- ▶ a kernel interpolant of the loss  $l(\theta, \xi)$  at the data points  $\xi_i$ 's.

## Dual reformulation for Kernel DRO

The DRO problem with MMD constraint

$$\hat{P}_N$$

$$(\exists) \forall P$$

$$\min_{\theta} \sup_{\substack{\text{MMD}(P|\hat{P}) \leq \epsilon}} \mathbb{E}_P I(\theta, \xi)$$

$$\int f dP - \hat{P}$$

can be reformulated using a Kantorovich-type duality as

$$\min_{\theta, f \in \mathcal{H}} \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N f(\xi_i) + \epsilon \|f\|_{\mathcal{H}} \quad \text{s.t. } I(\theta, \xi) \leq f(\xi), \forall \xi \text{ a.e.}$$

Optionally, we may consider to solve the problem with a relaxed (albeit with statistical guarantee) constraint

$$I(\theta, \xi_i) \leq f(\xi_i), \quad i = 1, \dots, N.$$

The solution has the nice property of being

- ▶ a kernel interpolant of the loss  $I(\theta, \xi)$  at the data points  $\xi_i$ 's.
- ▶ a witness (optimal test) function between  $\hat{P}$  and the underlying worst-case distribution  $P$ .

## Going beyond DRO

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- ▶ Big gap between theory and practice in large-scale learning models

## Going beyond DRO

- ▶ Big gap between theory and practice in large-scale learning models
- ▶ Continuous optimization and gradient flows of nonlinear functionals of measures and distributions

$$\min_{\mu \in M} F(\mu).$$
A hand-drawn red stick figure with a circular head and a rectangular body. The figure is holding a rectangular sign with the word "Euclidean" written on it in red. There is a small cross at the bottom of the sign.

End! I