



# Hyperparameter Optimization in Machine Learning

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# Outline

## Background

Global optimal HO based on solution and error paths/surfaces

- One hyperparameter

- Two hyperparameters

Practical HO based on Zeroth-Order Hyper-Gradients

Conclusions



# Hyperparameter Optimization (HO)

Hyperparameters: all the parameters which are not updated during the learning

- Problem-based hyperparameters:
  - Regularization parameter
  - Architectural hyperparameters in deep neural networks: depth and width of a deep neural network
- Algorithm-based hyperparameters:
  - Learning rate
  - Momentum
  - Dropout rate

## Hyperparameter optimization

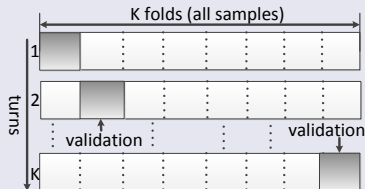
Hyperparameter optimization or tuning is the problem of choosing a set of optimal hyperparameters for a learning algorithm.



# Hyperparameter Optimization

## Cross validation (CV)

- $K$ -fold



- Leave-one-out
- Repeated random sub-sampling procedures



# Hyperparameter Optimization

## Search strategy

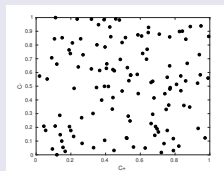
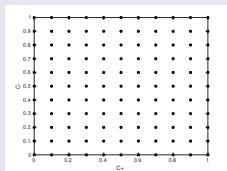


Figure: Grid (left) and random (right) search.

## Weakness of grid and random search strategies

- Only considering finite candidates due to the limited computing resources



# Hyperparameter Optimization (HO)

HO can be formulated as a bi-level optimization problem.

$$\begin{aligned} \min_{\lambda \in \mathbb{R}^p} \quad & f(\lambda) = E(w(\lambda), \lambda), \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & w(\lambda) \in \operatorname{argmin}_{w \in \mathbb{R}^d} L(w, \lambda) \end{aligned} \tag{1}$$

- $w \in \mathbb{R}^d$  are the model parameters.
- $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}^p$  are the hyperparameters.
- $E$  represents a proxy of the generalization error w.r.t. the hyperparameters.
- $L$  represents traditional learning objective.
- $w(\lambda)$  are the optimal model parameters of  $L$  for the fixed hyperparameters  $\lambda$ .



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The ultimate goal of HO is to find the values of hyperparameters with the minimum CV error in the whole parameter space.



# Our goals

## HO with global searching →

- Nonconvex
- Find the hyperparameters with the minimum CV error in the whole parameter space

## Practical HO

- Handle many hyperparameters
- Easy to use
- Flexible to various learning algorithms
- Efficient





# Global Optimal Hyperparameter Optimization

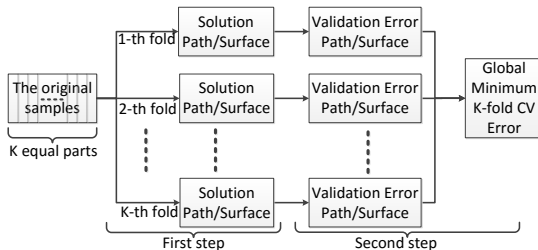


Figure: Cross validation with global searching.

## One hyperparameter

- Solution path →
- Error path

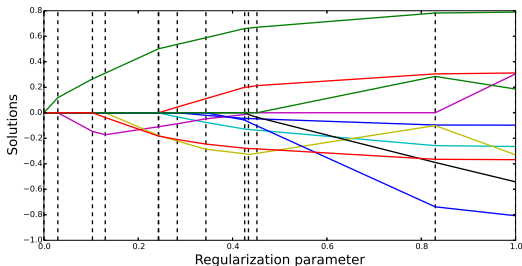
## Two hyperparameters

- Solution surface
- Error surface



# Illustration of Solution path of Lasso

$$\min_{\beta_0, \beta} \sum_{i=1}^N (y_i - \beta_0 - x_i^T \beta)^2 \quad \text{s.t.} \quad \sum_{j=1}^p |\beta_j| \leq t. \quad (2)$$



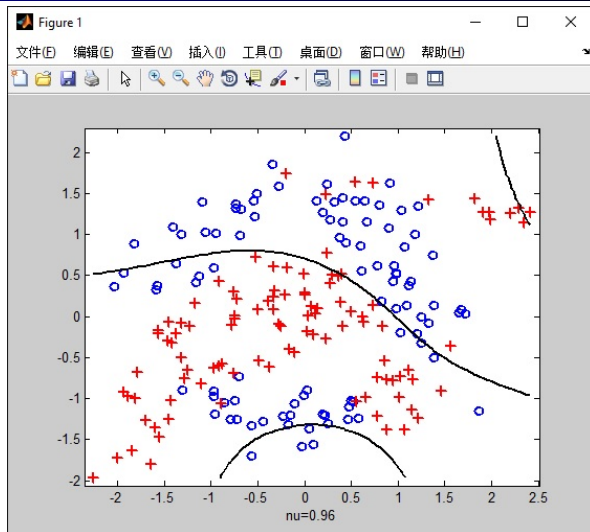
**Figure:** The solutions of Lasso with respect to the regularization parameter  $t$ .

- A finite number of representative solutions fit the entire solutions.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>S. Rosset and J. Zhu, "Piecewise linear regularized solution paths," Ann. Statist., vol. 35, no. 3, pp. 1012-1030, 2007.



# Demo of solution path for $\nu$ -SVC





# Solution path algorithms

Table: Representative solution path algorithms.

Problem	Task	Reference	Parameter	Exact
$C$ -SVC	BC	[Hastie et al.(2004)]	Regularization parameter $C$	Yes
$2C$ -SVC	BC	[Bach et al.(2006)]	Regularization parameters $C_+$ , $C_-$	Yes
$\varepsilon$ -SVR	R	[Gunter & Zhu(2007)]	Regularization parameter	Yes
$\varepsilon$ -SVR	R	[Wang et al.(2008)]	Regularization parameter and $\varepsilon$	Yes
Lasso	R	[Rosset & Zhu(2007)]	Regularization parameter	Yes
KQR	R	[Takeuchi et al.(2009)]	Quantile order $\tau \in (0, 1)$	Yes
$C$ -SVC	BC	[Ong et al.(2010)]	Regularization parameter $C$	Yes
$C$ -SVC	BC	[Karasuyama et al.(2011)]	Regularization parameter $C$	No
$\nu$ -SVC	BC	[Gu et al.(2012,2016)]	Regularization parameter $\nu$	Yes
OSCAR	R	[Gu et al.(2017)]	Regularization parameters	No
General	BC+R	[Giesen et al.(2012)]	Regularization parameter	No
General	BC+R	[Gu & Sheng.(2018)]	Regularization parameter	Yes

- Bin Gu, et al. Regularization Path for  $\nu$ -Support Vector Classification. IEEE Transactions on Neural Networks and Learning Systems, 23(5): 800-811,2012.
- Bin Gu, Victor S. Sheng. A Robust Regularization Path Algorithm for  $\nu$ -Support Vector Classification. IEEE Transactions on Neural Networks and Learning Systems, 2016.
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## Octagonal shrinkage and clustering algorithm for regression (OSCAR)

- Given a training set  $S = \{(x_i, y_i)\}_{i=1}^l$  with  $x_i \in \mathbb{R}^d$  and  $y_i \in \mathbb{R}$
- $y_i$  is centered, i.e.,  $\sum_{i=1}^l y_i = 0$
- Each feature of the training set  $S$  is standardized, i.e.,  $\sum_{i=1}^l x_{ij} = 0$  and  $\sum_{i=1}^l x_{ij}^2 = 1$

$$\min_{\beta} \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^l (y_i - x_i^T \beta)^2 \quad (3)$$

$$+ \lambda_1 \|\beta\|_1 + \lambda_2 \sum_{i < j} \max\{|\beta_i|, |\beta_j|\},$$

- $\lambda_2 = 0$ : Lasso.
- $\lambda_2 = \infty$ : Clustering all features as a group.

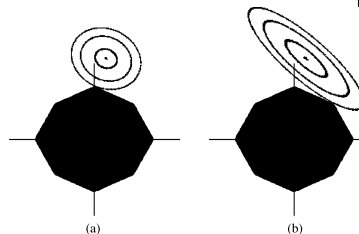


Figure: Illustration of OSCAR



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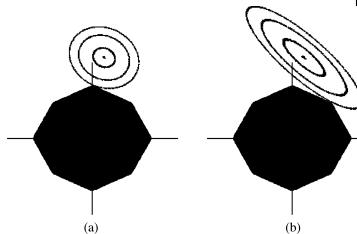


Figure: Illustration of OSCAR

Tuning the values of  $\lambda_1$  and  $\lambda_2$  plays an essential role for OSCAR!



# Optimality Conditions of OSCAR Model

## Definition (Feature group $\mathcal{G}_g$ )

Given the orders  $o(j)$  of  $|\beta_j|$ . The set  $\mathcal{G}_g \subseteq \{1, 2, \dots, d\}$  is called a group of features if the following conditions are satisfied.

- ①  $\forall j_1, j_2 \in \mathcal{G}_g$ , and  $j_1 \neq j_2$ , we have  $|\beta_{j_1}| = |\beta_{j_2}| \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \theta_g$ .
- ② If  $j \in \{1, 2, \dots, d\}$  and  $j \notin \mathcal{G}_g$ , we have that  $|\beta_j| \neq \theta_g$ .

## New formulation of OSCAR free of the $\ell_1$ -norm and the pair $\ell_\infty$ -norm

$$\min_{\theta} \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^l (y_i - \tilde{x}_i^T \theta)^2 + \sum_{g=1}^G w_g \theta_g \quad \text{s.t.} \quad 0 \leq \theta_1 < \theta_2 < \dots < \theta_G,$$

- $\tilde{x}_i = [\tilde{x}_{i1} \ \tilde{x}_{i2} \ \dots \ \tilde{x}_{iG}]$  and  $\tilde{x}_{ig} = \sum_{j \in \mathcal{G}_g} \text{sign}(\beta_j) x_{ij}$ .
- $w_g = \sum_{j \in \mathcal{G}_g} (\lambda_1 + (o(j) - 1)\lambda_2)$





# Groups-keeping Solution Path Algorithm

$\Delta\eta$  is a parameter to control the adjustment qualities of  $\lambda_1$  and  $\lambda_2$

- Define  $\Delta\lambda = \begin{bmatrix} \Delta\lambda_1 \\ \Delta\lambda_2 \end{bmatrix}$
- $\Delta\lambda = d\Delta\eta$ , where  $d = \begin{bmatrix} d_1 \\ d_2 \end{bmatrix}$ .

## Three main steps of OscarGKPath

- ① Computing the directions of  $\Delta\theta$ ;
- ② Computing the maximum adjustment of  $\Delta\eta$ ;
- ③ And computing the duality gap  $G(\theta, \lambda_1, \lambda_2)$ .

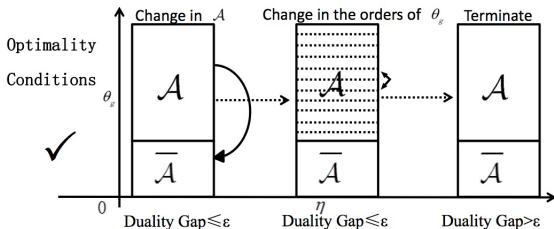


Figure: The fundamental principle of OscarGKPath.



# Global Optimal Hyperparameter Optimization

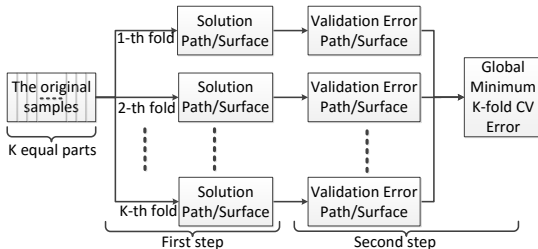


Figure: Cross validation with global searching.

## One hyperparameter

- Solution path
- Error path →

## Two hyperparameters

- Solution surface
- Error surface

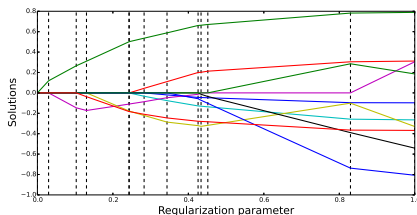


# The piecewise linearity of the solution path

## Definition

Suppose  $\tilde{\alpha}(\lambda)$  is returned by a solution path. The solution  $\tilde{\alpha}(\lambda)$  is called piecewise linear as a function of  $\lambda$ , if existing

$a = a_0 < a_1 < a_2 < \dots < a_m = b$ , and the corresponding vectors  $\beta^{[1]}, \beta^{[2]}, \dots, \beta^{[m]}$ , such that the solution  $\hat{\alpha}(\lambda)$  is given exactly or approximately, by  $\tilde{\alpha}(a_{k-1}) + \beta^{[k]}(\lambda - a_{k-1})$ ,  $\forall \lambda \in [a_{k-1}, a_k]$ .



**Figure:** The solutions with respect to the regularization parameter.



# Generalized Error Path

- Bin Gu, Charles X. Ling. A New Generalized Error Path Algorithm for Model Selection. In Proceedings of the 32nd International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML-15) (pp. 2549-2558)

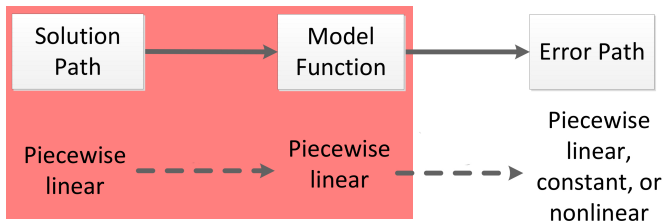


Figure: Model function builds a bridge from solution path to error path.



## Solution Path Model Function

A model with a linear representation  $f(x) = \langle G(x), \alpha \rangle$

- 1 For  $C$ -SVC,  $2C$ -SVC,  $\nu$ -SVC, the models are  $f(x) = \sum_i^l \alpha_i y_i K(x, x_i) + \alpha_0$ .
- 2 For  $\varepsilon$ -SVR, the model is  $f(x) = \sum_i^{2l} \alpha_i z_i K(x, x_i) + \alpha_0$ .
- 3 For Lasso, the model is  $f(x) = x^T \alpha$ .
- 4 For KQR, the model is  $f(x) = \sum_i^l \alpha_i K(x, x_i) + \alpha_0$ .



## Solution Path Model Function

### Lemma

*Given an interval  $[a_{k-1}, a_k]$  in a solution path, and the corresponding vector  $\beta^{[k]}$ . If the model is with linear representation, there exists a scale  $\gamma^{[k]}$  such that the model function  $f_\lambda(x)$  can be represented as*

$$f_\lambda(x) = f_{a_{k-1}}(x) + \gamma^{[k]}(\lambda - a_{k-1}), \forall \lambda \in [a_{k-1}, a_k].$$



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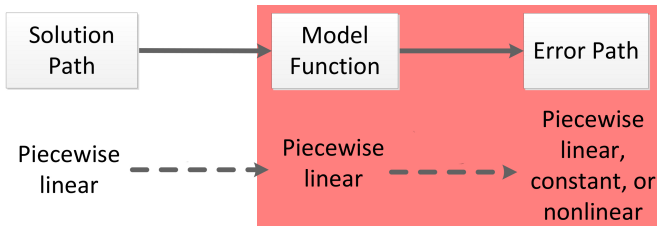


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## Model Function $\rightarrow$ Error Path

The error path on the entire interval  $[a, b]$  could be

- 1 piecewise quadratic,
- 2 piecewise linear,
- 3 or piecewise constant

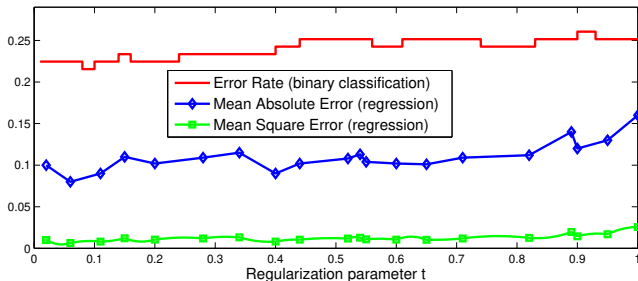


Figure: The error path w.r.t. the regularization parameter.



# Computing Generalized Error Path

To fit various error paths, we define a 2-tuple  $(I, P)$

- 1 For piecewise quadratic error path:

$$I = [a_{k-1}, a_k], \quad P.c_2 = \frac{1}{\ell} \sum_{i=1}^{\ell} (\gamma_i^{[k]})^2,$$

$$P.c_1 = -\frac{1}{\ell} \sum_{i=1}^{\ell} 2 \times \gamma_i^{[k]} (\tilde{y}_i - f_{a_{k-1}}(\tilde{x}_i) + \gamma_i^{[k]} a_{k-1}),$$

$$P.c_0 = \frac{1}{\ell} \sum_{i=1}^{\ell} \left( \tilde{y}_i - f_{a_{k-1}}(\tilde{x}_i) + \gamma_i^{[k]} a_{k-1} \right)^2.$$

- 2 For piecewise linear error path:

$$I = \mathcal{IR}(\lambda_0),$$

$$P.c_1 = \frac{1}{\ell} \left( \sum_{i \in \mathcal{I}_-(\lambda_0)} \gamma_i^{[k]} - \sum_{i \in \mathcal{I}_+(\lambda_0)} \gamma_i^{[k]} \right),$$

$$P.c_0 = \frac{1}{\ell} \left( \sum_{i \in \mathcal{I}_-(\lambda_0)} (\tilde{y}_i - f_{\lambda_0}(\tilde{x}_i) + \gamma_k \lambda_0) - \sum_{i \in \mathcal{I}_+(\lambda_0)} (\tilde{y}_i - f_{\lambda_0}(\tilde{x}_i) + \gamma_k \lambda_0) \right).$$

- 3 For piecewise constant error path:

$$I = \widetilde{\mathcal{IR}}(\lambda_0), \quad P.c_0 = E(\hat{\alpha}(\lambda_0), \mathcal{V}, L).$$



## GEP (Generalized error path algorithm)

**Input:** A solution path w.r.t.  $\lambda$  in an interval

$[a, b] = \bigcup_{k=1}^m [a_{k-1}, a_k]$ , a validation set  $\mathcal{V}$ .

**Output:** An error path  $\{(I_1, P_1), (I_2, P_2), (I_3, P_3), \dots\}$ .

- 1: Initialize  $\lambda = a$ ,  $k = 0$ ,  $j = 1$ .
- 2: **while**  $\lambda < b$  **do**
- 3:   Update  $k = k + 1$ , read the  $k$ -th sub-interval  $[a_{k-1}, a_k]$  from the solution path.
- 4:   **while**  $\lambda < a_k$  **do**
- 5:     Compute  $(I_j, P_j)$  for the leftmost in  $[\lambda, a_k]$ .
- 6:     Update  $\lambda = R(I_j)$ ,  $j = j + 1$ .
- 7:   **end while**
- 8: **end while**



**Table:** The results of CV error obtained from GS, MS, RS, and our GEP.

Dataset	ER				Dataset	MAE				MSE			
	GS	MS	RS	GEP		GS	MS	RS	GEP	GS	MS	RS	GEP
Ionosphere	0.062	0.068	0.068	<b>0.060</b>	Friedman	2.08	2.1	2.07	<b>1.98</b>	6.81	6.82	6.82	<b>6.60</b>
Diabetes	0.655	0.655	0.565	<b>0.345</b>	Housing	2.12	2.13	2.13	<b>2.09</b>	8.11	8.14	8.14	<b>8.05</b>
Hill-Valley	0.465	0.470	0.468	<b>0.460</b>	Forest Fires	17.9	18.3	18.2	<b>17.2</b>	3251	3258	3263	<b>3238</b>
Breast Cancer	0.528	0.528	0.474	<b>0.342</b>	Auto MPG	2.39	2.41	2.39	<b>2.36</b>	9.62	9.63	9.62	<b>9.58</b>
Spine	0.060	0.058	0.059	<b>0.055</b>	Triazines	2.39	2.40	2.40	<b>2.37</b>	9.66	9.67	9.66	<b>9.63</b>



**Table:** The results of CV error obtained from GS, MS, RS, and our GEP.

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**Table:** The average errors on the test data, over 10 trails, obtained from GS, MS, RS, and our GEP.

Dataset	ER				Dataset	MAE				MSE			
	GS	MS	RS	GEP		GS	MS	RS	GEP	GS	MS	RS	GEP
Ionosphere	0.066	0.066	0.065	<b>0.063</b>	Friedman	2.12	2.16	2.14	<b>2.08</b>	6.84	6.83	6.84	<b>6.75</b>
Diabetes	0.356	0.356	0.358	<b>0.347</b>	Housing	2.05	2.06	2.06	<b>2.05</b>	8.56	8.63	8.66	<b>8.44</b>
Hill-Valley	0.514	0.519	0.514	<b>0.512</b>	Forest Fires	18.4	19.1	18.9	<b>17.9</b>	5468	5475	5471	<b>5446</b>
Breast Cancer	0.528	0.528	0.474	<b>0.342</b>	Auto MPG	2.74	2.75	2.76	<b>2.62</b>	14.6	14.6	14.7	<b>14.0</b>
Spine	0.060	0.061	0.061	<b>0.058</b>	Triazines	2.76	2.77	2.77	<b>2.54</b>	14.7	14.8	14.6	<b>14.2</b>



# Global Optimal Hyperparameter Optimization

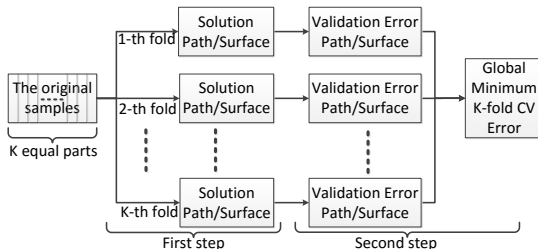


Figure: Cross validation with global searching.

## One hyperparameter

- Solution path
- Error path

## Two hyperparameters →

- Solution surface
- Error surface



## Two Hyperparameters: Cost-Sensitive SVM (CS-SVM/2C-SVM)

### Cost Sensitive Learning

- $\mathcal{S}^+ = \{(x_i, y_i) : y_i = +1\}$ ,  $\mathcal{S}^- = \{(x_i, y_i) : y_i = -1\}$
- $C(-, +) \neq C(+, -)$

### CS-SVM/2C-SVM

$$\min_{w, b, \xi} \quad \frac{1}{2} \langle w, w \rangle + C_+ \sum_{i \in \mathcal{S}^+} \xi_i + C_- \sum_{i \in \mathcal{S}^-} \xi_i \quad (4)$$

$$s.t. \quad y_i (\langle w, \phi(x_i) \rangle + b) \geq 1 - \xi_i, \quad \xi_i \geq 0, \quad i = 1, \dots, l$$

- $C_+$  denotes the cost of false negative
- $C_-$  denotes the cost of false positive



## Two Hyperparameters: Cost-Sensitive SVM (CS-SVM/2C-SVM)

### Cost Sensitive Learning

- $\mathcal{S}^+ = \{(x_i, y_i) : y_i = +1\}$ ,  $\mathcal{S}^- = \{(x_i, y_i) : y_i = -1\}$
- $C(-, +) \neq C(+, -)$

### CS-SVM/2C-SVM

$$\min_{w, b, \xi} \quad \frac{1}{2} \langle w, w \rangle + C_+ \sum_{i \in \mathcal{S}^+} \xi_i + C_- \sum_{i \in \mathcal{S}^-} \xi_i \quad (4)$$

$$s.t. \quad y_i (\langle w, \phi(x_i) \rangle + b) \geq 1 - \xi_i, \quad \xi_i \geq 0, \quad i = 1, \dots, l$$

- $C_+$  denotes the cost of false negative
- $C_-$  denotes the cost of false positive

Tuning  $(C_+, C_-)$  is a central problem of CS-SVM





# Motivation

## Weakness of Existing Methods

- Only considering one parameter
  - Solution path
  - Error path
- However, CS-SVM has two regularization parameters  $C_+$  and  $C_-$



# Motivation

## Weakness of Existing Methods

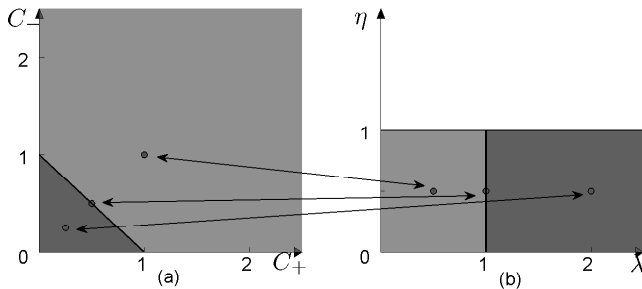
- Only considering one parameter
  - Solution path
  - Error path
- However, CS-SVM has two regularization parameters  $C_+$  and  $C_-$

## Our work

- Bin Gu, Victor S. Sheng, Keng Yeow Tay, Walter Romano, and Shuo Li. Cross Validation Through Two-dimensional Solution Surface for Cost-Sensitive SVM. IEEE Transactions on Pattern Analysis and Machine Intelligence, 2016.(online, long version)
- Bin Gu, Victor S. Sheng, Shuo Li. Bi-parameter Space Partition for Cost-Sensitive SVM. IJCAI 2015 (short version).



# $2C\text{-SVM} \leftrightarrow (\lambda, \eta)\text{-SVM}$



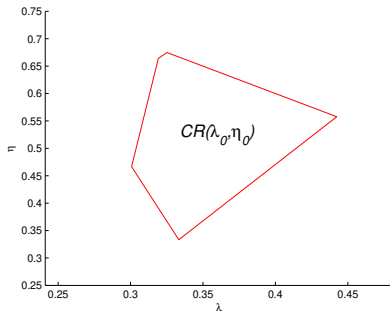
- $\lambda = \frac{1}{C_+ + C_-}$

- $\eta = \frac{C_+}{C_+ + C_-}$

Exploring in 1.5 square units



## Critical Region

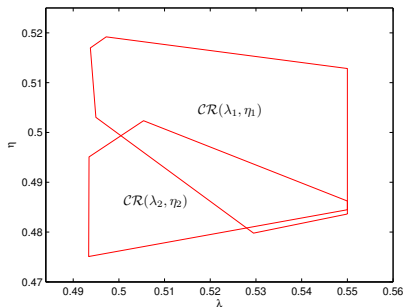


### Theorem

*The set  $CR(\lambda_0, \eta_0)$  is a convex set and its closure is a convex polygon region.*



# Overlapped Critical Regions





# Partitioning the Parameter Space

## Theorem

Let  $\mathcal{X} \subseteq \mathbb{R}^2$  be a convex polygon region, and  $\mathcal{R}_0 = \{(\rho, \varrho) \in \mathcal{X} : A [\rho \ \varrho]^T \leq b\}$  be a convex polygon subregion of  $\mathcal{X}$ , where  $A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times 2}$ ,  $b \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times 1}$ ,  $\mathcal{R}_0 \neq \emptyset$ . Also let

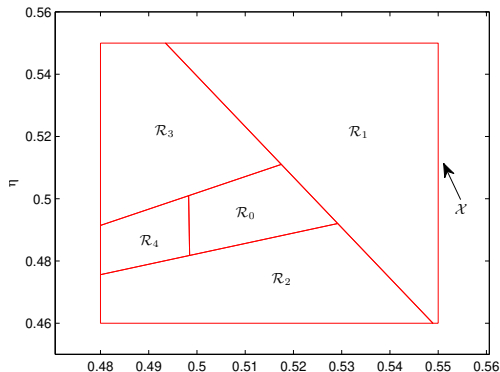
$$\mathcal{R}_i = \left\{ (\rho, \varrho) \in \mathcal{X} \left| \begin{array}{l} A_i [\rho \ \varrho]^T > b_i \\ A_j [\rho \ \varrho]^T \leq b_j, \quad \forall j < i \end{array} \right. \right\},$$

$$\forall i = 1, \dots, m$$

then  $\{\mathcal{R}_0, \mathcal{R}_1, \dots, \mathcal{R}_m\}$  is a partition of  $\mathcal{X}$ , i.e.,  $\bigcup_{i=0}^m \mathcal{R}_i = \mathcal{X}$ , and  $\mathcal{R}_i \cap \mathcal{R}_j = \emptyset$ ,  $\forall i \neq j$ ,  $i, j \in \{0, 1, \dots, m\}$ .

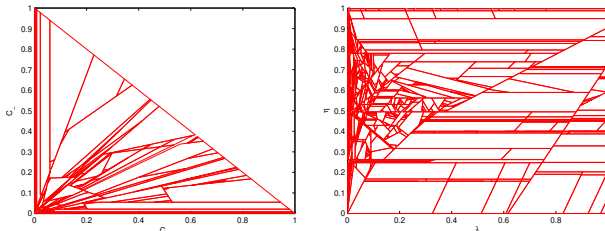


# Partitioning the Parameter Space based on $\mathcal{CR}$ s





## Partitioning the Parameter Space



**Figure:** **Left:** Partitioning the lower triangle region of  $[0, 1] \times [0, 1]$  for  $(C_+, C_-)$  through  $\mathcal{CR}$ s. **Right:** Partitioning  $(0, 1] \times [0, 1]$  for  $(\lambda, \eta)$  through  $\mathcal{CR}$ s.





## Invariant Region

Given a validation set  $\mathcal{V} = \{(\tilde{x}_1, \tilde{y}_1), \dots, (\tilde{x}_n, \tilde{y}_n)\}$

$$\begin{aligned}\tilde{\pi}(\rho, \varrho) &= \{\{i \in \mathcal{V} : f(\rho, \varrho)(\tilde{x}_i) \geq 0\}, \{i \in \mathcal{V} : f(\rho, \varrho)(\tilde{x}_i) < 0\}\} \\ &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \{\mathcal{I}_+(\rho, \varrho), \mathcal{I}_-(\rho, \varrho)\}\end{aligned}\quad (5)$$

$$\mathcal{IR}(\rho_0, \varrho_0) = \{(\rho, \varrho) \in \mathcal{CR}(\rho_0, \varrho_0) : \tilde{\pi}(\rho, \varrho) = \tilde{\pi}(\rho_0, \varrho_0)\}$$



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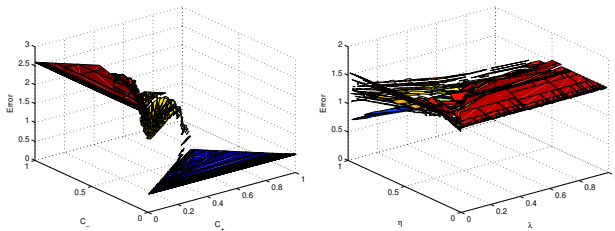
$$\mathcal{IR}(\rho_0, \varrho_0) = \{(\rho, \varrho) \in \mathcal{CR}(\rho_0, \varrho_0) : \tilde{\pi}(\rho, \varrho) = \tilde{\pi}(\rho_0, \varrho_0)\}$$

### Theorem

*The sets  $\mathcal{IR}(\rho_0, \varrho_0)$  is a convex set and its closure is a convex polygon region.*



## Partitioning the Parameter Space using $\mathcal{IR}$ s

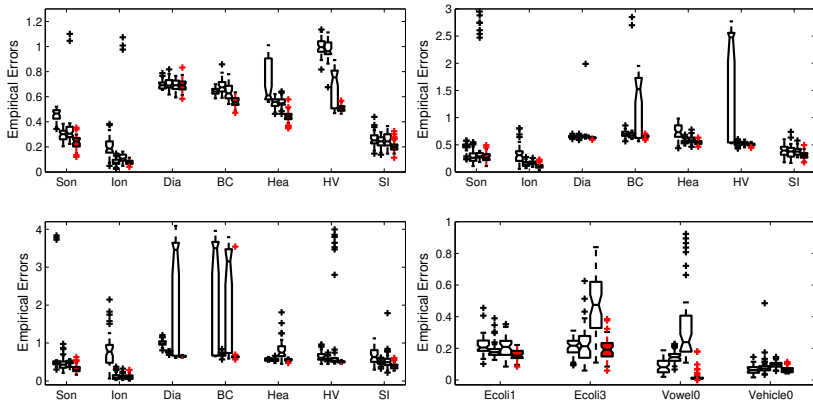


**Figure:** Validation error. **Left:** All parameter pairs of  $(C_+, C_-)$  in the lower triangle region of  $[0, 1] \times [0, 1]$ . **Right:** All parameter pairs of  $(\lambda, \eta)$  in  $(0, 1] \times [0, 1]$ .



# The results of 5-fold CV.

$C(+, -)$	Dataset	GS		$SP_{\eta} + GS_{\lambda}$		$SP_{\lambda} + GS_{\eta}$		BPSP	
		CV error	time	CV error	time	CV error	time	CV error	time
2	Son	0.4667	43	0.282	7.7	0.271	7.3	<b>0.2564</b>	<b>4.4</b>
	Ion	0.3623	73	0.0725	12.7	0.0857	13.3	<b>0.0435</b>	<b>9.7</b>
	Dia	0.6275	294	0.5948	9.5	0.606	10.2	<b>0.5752</b>	<b>5.5</b>
	BC	0.6593	229	0.6	9	0.611	9.82	<b>0.5642</b>	<b>7.1</b>
	Hea	0.52	59	0.464	9.2	0.478	9.1	<b>0.444</b>	<b>5.9</b>
	HV	0.463	176	0.45	5.3	0.462	5.8	<b>0.4417</b>	<b>4.9</b>
	SI	0.5017	86	0.2754	7.4	0.278	8.2	<b>0.2650</b>	<b>4.9</b>
5	Son	0.4872	51	0.3167	7	0.322	7.3	<b>0.3167</b>	<b>4.6</b>
	Ion	0.3768	65	0.1159	14	0.1324	16.3	<b>0.1159</b>	<b>10.3</b>
	Dia	0.6536	302	0.632	9.6	0.638	10.1	<b>0.632</b>	<b>5.9</b>
	BC	0.6741	227	0.6074	8	0.6222	8.3	<b>0.6074</b>	<b>6.7</b>
	Hea	0.537	57	0.463	6.8	0.485	8.5	<b>0.463</b>	<b>5.5</b>
	HV	0.6	164	0.55	5.6	0.493	7.2	<b>0.4417</b>	<b>5.2</b>
	SI	0.524	77	0.383	8.1	0.3795	8.5	<b>0.3562</b>	<b>5.6</b>
10	Son	0.564	46	0.4615	6.4	0.473	6.8	<b>0.4359</b>	<b>4.9</b>
	Ion	0.3823	77	0.2319	15.3	0.2425	16.1	<b>0.2319</b>	<b>9.9</b>
	Dia	0.6863	312	0.6601	9.2	0.672	9.8	<b>0.6601</b>	<b>5.6</b>
	BC	0.6815	219	0.6741	7.3	0.6741	7.2	<b>0.6626</b>	<b>6.9</b>
	Hea	0.556	69	0.556	5.6	0.562	5.9	<b>0.556</b>	<b>5.4</b>
	HV	0.5	169	0.5	4.9	0.5	6.3	<b>0.458</b>	<b>4.7</b>
	SI	0.536	81	0.4783	7.8	0.464	8.3	<b>0.4493</b>	<b>5.1</b>
ratio	Ecoli1	0.1722	65	0.117	12.2	0.124	13.1	<b>0.0833</b>	<b>8.8</b>
	Ecoli3	0.1905	76	0.0909	11.6	0.1102	12.3	<b>0.0595</b>	<b>9.3</b>
	Vowel0	0.1586	195	0.101	103	0.095	89	<b>0.0449</b>	<b>21</b>
	Vehicle0	0.472	262	0.1834	16d5	0.2092	134	<b>0.1024</b>	<b>26</b>





## 5 Criteria to estimate HO methods

- “effective”: good generalization performance.
- “efficient”: running fast.
- “scalable”: scalable in terms of the sizes of hyperparameters and model parameters.
- “simple”: it can be implemented easily.
- “flexible”: flexible to various learning algorithms.



# Bayesian optimization algorithms

BO is an strategy to transform the problem

$$x_M = \arg \min_{x \in \mathcal{X}} f(x) \quad (6)$$

into a series of problems:

$$x_{n+1} = \arg \min_{x \in \mathcal{X}} \alpha(x; \mathcal{D}_n, \mathcal{M}_n) \quad (7)$$

where  $\alpha(x; \mathcal{D}_n, \mathcal{M}_n)$  is inexpensive to evaluate.

- Snoek, J., Larochelle, H., & Adams, R. P. (2012). Practical Bayesian Optimization of Machine Learning Algorithms. NIPS
- Falkner, Stefan, Aaron Klein, and Frank Hutter. "BOHB: Robust and efficient hyperparameter optimization at scale." ICML, 2018.
- K. Kandasamy, K. Vysyaraju, W. Neiswanger, B. Paria, C. Collins, J. Schneider, B. Poczos, and E. P. Xing. Tuning Hyperparameters without Grad Students: Scalable and Robust Bayesian Optimisation with Dragonfly., JMLR, 21 (81), 1-27, 2020

Commercial or open source systems: Microsoft Azure, Google Cloud AutoML solution, Dragonfly, auto-sklearn, ...



## Gradient-based algorithms: Back-propagation

Replace the inner problem with a dynamical system:

$$\begin{aligned} \min_{\lambda} \quad & E(s_T) \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & s_t = \Phi_t(s_{t-1}, \lambda), \quad t \in \{1, \dots, T\}. \end{aligned} \quad (8)$$

According to chain rule, and similarly to Back-propagation, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial E(s_T)}{\partial \lambda} &= \nabla E(s_T) \sum_{t=1}^T (A_{t+1} \dots A_T) B_t \\ A_t &= \frac{\partial \Phi_t(s_{t-1}, \lambda)}{\partial s_{t-1}}, \quad B_t = \frac{\partial \Phi_t(s_{t-1}, \lambda)}{\partial \lambda} \end{aligned} \quad (9)$$

- Maclaurin, Dougal, David Duvenaud, and Ryan Adams. "Gradient-based hyperparameter optimization through reversible learning." ICML, 2015.
- Franceschi, Luca, et al. "Bilevel programming for hyperparameter optimization and meta-learning." ICML, 2018.





## Gradient-based algorithms: Penalty method

- Replace the inner problem with its first order necessary condition.

$$\min_{u,v} f(u, v), \text{ s.t. } c(u, v) = \nabla_v g(u, v) = 0 \quad (10)$$

- The augmented Lagrangian function
$$\mathcal{L}(u, v, z; \mu_k) = f(u, v) + \frac{1}{d} \sum_{j=1}^d \left( z_j c_j(u, v) + \frac{\mu_k}{2} c_j^2(u, v) \right).$$
- Randomly sample a constraint and the validation data to calculate stochastic gradient of the augmented Lagrangian function.

$$\nabla_v \mathcal{L} = [\mu_k c_j(u, v^t) + z_j^t] \nabla_v c_j(u, v^t) + \tilde{\nabla}_v f(u, v^t) \quad (11)$$

$$\nabla_u \mathcal{L} = [\mu_k c_j(u^k, v) + z_j^k] \nabla_u c_j(u^k, v) + \tilde{\nabla}_u f(u^k, v)$$

- Wanli Shi, Bin Gu, Heng Huang. Improved Penalty Method via Doubly Stochastic Gradients for Bilevel Hyperparameter Optimization. AAAI 2021.



# Representative HO algorithms

**Table:** Representative black-box optimization and gradient based hyperparameter optimization algorithms.

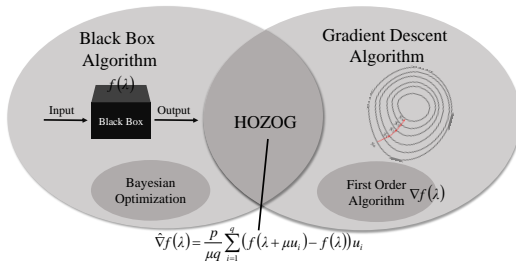
Algorithm	Type	Reference	Properties					
			Effective	Efficient	Scalable-H	Simple	Flexible	Scalable-P
GPBO	BB	Snoek et al. (2012)	♣	♣	X	✓	✓	✓
BOHB	BB	Falkner et al. (2018)	♣	♣	X	✓	✓	✓
HOAG	G	Pedregosa (2016)	✓	✓	✓	X	X	X
RMD	G	Maclaurin et al. (2015)	✓	✓	✓	X	X	X
RFHO	G	Franceschi et al. (2018)	✓	✓	✓	X	X	X
HOZOG	BB+G	Our	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓



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BOHB	BB	Falkner et al. (2018)	♣	♣	✗	✓	✓	✓
HOAG	G	Pedregosa (2016)	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗
RMD	G	Maclaurin et al. (2015)	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗
RFHO	G	Franceschi et al. (2018)	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗
HOZOG	BB+G	Our	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓





## Our method: HOZOG

**Enlightenment:** We hope that the hyperparameter optimization method based on zeroth-order hyper-gradients can inherit all benefits.

$$\hat{\nabla} f(\lambda) = \frac{p}{\mu q} \sum_{i=1}^q (f(\lambda + \mu u_i) - f(\lambda)) u_i \quad (12)$$

- $\mu > 0$  is the smoothing parameter.
- $\{u_i\}$  are the random query directions drawn from the standard Gaussian distribution.
- $q$  is the number of sampled query directions.



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- If  $f(\lambda)$  is smooth,  $\nabla f(\lambda) = E_u(f'(\lambda, u)u)$



# Hyperparameter optimization method with zeroth-order hyper-gradients (HOZOG)

**Input:** Learning rate  $\gamma$ , approximate parameter  $\mu$ , size of directions  $q$  and black-box inner solver  $\mathcal{A}$ .

- 1: Initialize  $\lambda_0 \in \mathbb{R}^p$ .
- 2: **for**  $t = 0, 1, 2, \dots, T - 1$  **do**
- 3:   Generate  $u = [u_1, \dots, u_q]$ , where  $u_i \sim N(0; I_p)$ .
- 4:   Compute the average zeroth-order hyper-gradient  $\hat{\nabla} f(\lambda_t) = \frac{p}{\mu q} \sum_{i=1}^q (f(\lambda_t + \mu u_i) - f(\lambda_t)) u_i$ , where  $f(\lambda_t)$  is estimated based on the solution returned by the black-box inner solver  $\mathcal{A}$ .
- 5:   Update  $\lambda_{t+1} \leftarrow \lambda_t - \gamma \hat{\nabla} f(\lambda_t)$ .
- 6: **end for**

**Output:**  $\lambda_T$ .



## $l_2$ -Regularized Logistic Regression: 1 Hyperparamter

$$\arg \min_{\lambda \in [-10, 10]} \sum_{i \in \mathcal{D}_{val}} l(y_i x_i w(\lambda)) \quad (13)$$

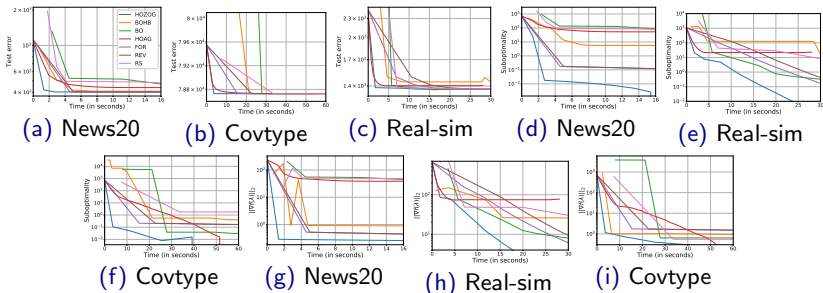
$$s.t. \quad w(\lambda) \in \arg \min_{w \in \mathbb{R}^d} \sum_{i \in \mathcal{D}_{tr}} l(y_i x_i w(\lambda)) + e^\lambda \|w\|^2$$

- $\mathcal{D}_{tr}$ : training samples
- $\mathcal{D}_{val}$ : validation samples
- $l(t) = \log(1 + e^{-t})$ : logistic loss





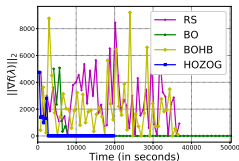
# $l_2$ -Regularized Logistic Regression: 1 Hyperparamter



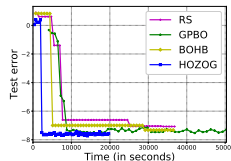
**Figure:** Comparison of different hyperparameter optimization algorithms for  $l_2$ -regularized logistic regression sharing the same legend. (a)-(c): Test error. (d)-(f): Suboptimality. (g)-(i):  $\|\nabla f(\lambda)\|_2$ .



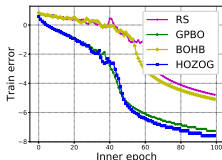
# Convolutional Neural Networks: 100 learning rates



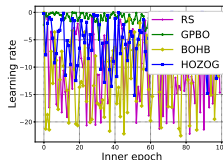
(a)  $\|\nabla f(\lambda)\|_2$



(b) Test error



(c) Retrain



(d) Learning rate

**Figure:** Comparison of different hyperparameter optimization algorithms for 2-layer CNN sharing the same legend. (a)  $\|\nabla f(\lambda)\|_2$ . (b) Test error. (c) The training curve using corresponding hyperparameters. (d) Optimized learning rate by different methods.



# Data Hyper-cleaning: Super Multiple Hyperparameters

$$\arg \min_{\lambda \in \mathbb{R}^{N_h}} E_{val}(W(\lambda), b(\lambda)), \quad (14)$$

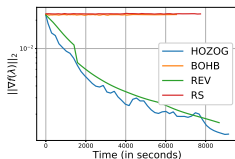
$$s.t. \quad [W(\lambda), b(\lambda)] \approx \arg \min_{W, b} L(W, b)$$

$$L(W, b) = \frac{1}{N_{tr}} \sum_{g \in \mathcal{G}} \sum_{i \in g} \text{sigmoid}(\lambda_g) l(W, b, (x_i, y_i)) \quad (15)$$

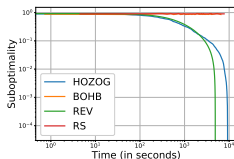
- $\mathcal{D}_{tr}$ :  $N_{tr}$  training samples
- $\mathcal{D}_{val}$ :  $N_{val}$  validation samples
- $\mathcal{G}$  contain  $N_h$  groups random select from  $\mathcal{D}_{tr}$



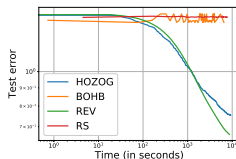
# Data Hyper-cleaning: Super Multiple Hyperparameters



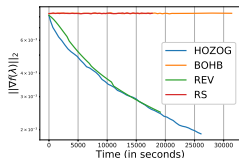
(a) 500 hyperparamters



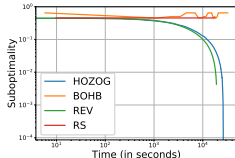
(b) 500 hyperparamters



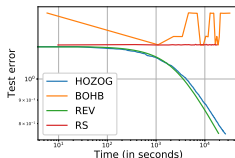
(c) 500 hyperparamters



(d) 1250 hyperparamters



(e) 1250 hyperparamters



(f) 1250 hyperparamters

**Figure:** Comparison of different hyperparameter optimization algorithms for data hyper-cleaning. (a&d):  $\|\nabla f(\lambda)\|_2$ . (b&e): Suboptimality. (c&f): Test error.



# Challenges of HOZOG

- Gu, Bin, et al. "Optimizing Large-Scale Hyperparameters via Automated Learning Algorithm." arXiv preprint arXiv:2102.09026 (2021).
- Our code is available at <https://github.com/jsgubin/HOZOG>.





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- How to reduce the sampling complexity to obtain a ZO estimator →
  - In HOZOG, we use  $q$  queries to obtain a good approximation of gradient
- Theoretical guarantee of HOZOG for the randomness of the inner algorithm  $\mathcal{A}(\lambda)$ .
  - We assume that the iterative procedure of  $\mathcal{A}(\lambda)$  is deterministic.
- How to handle discontinuous hyperparameters, like the width/depth of NN
  - In HOZOG, we assume hyperparameters are continuous.



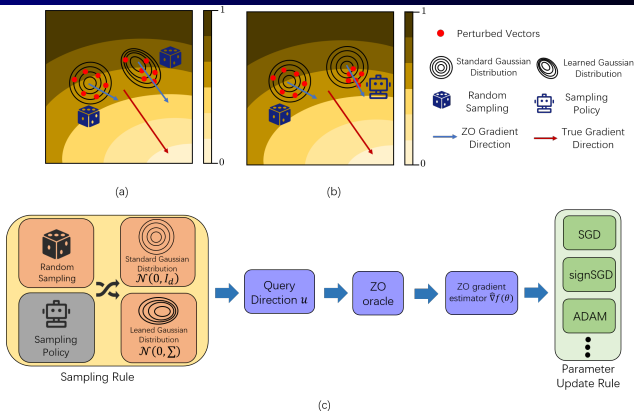
# Existing works to reduce the sampling complexity

## Learn Sampling Distribution

- 1 Evolutionary Strategies: Maheswaranathan et al. let the covariance matrix  $\Sigma_k = \frac{\alpha}{n}I + \frac{1-\alpha}{k}UU^T$  be related with the recent history of ZO gradients during optimization.
  - 2 Neural Networks: Ruan et al. dynamically predicted the covariance matrix  $\Sigma_k = \text{QueryRNN}([\hat{\nabla}f(x_k), \Delta x_{k-1}])$  with recurrent neural networks.
- Y. Ruan, Y. Xiong, S. Reddi, S. Kumar, and C.-J. Hsieh, "Learning to learn by zeroth-order oracle," arXiv preprint arXiv:1910.09464, 2019.
  - N. Maheswaranathan, L. Metz, G. Tucker, D. Choi, and J. Sohl-Dickstein, "Guided evolutionary strategies: Augmenting random search with surrogate gradients," ICML, 2019, pp. 4264C4273.

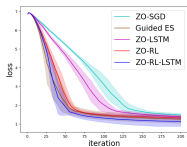


## Ongoing project

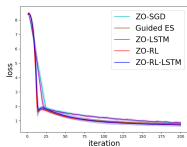


**Figure:** (a) Comparison of the ZO gradient directions obtained by sampling perturbed vectors from the standard Gaussian distribution and a learned Gaussian distribution. (b) Comparison of the ZO gradient directions obtained by a random sampling policy and a learned sampling policy. (c) The architecture of our ZO optimizer.

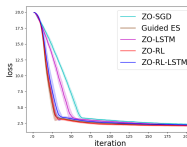




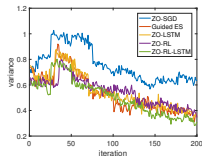
(a) mnist test 1



(b) mnist test 2

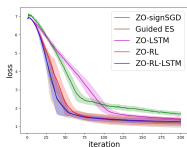


(c) mnist test 3

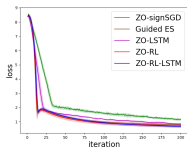


(d) mnist test 3

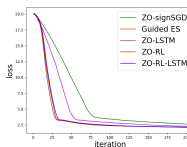
Figure: Adversarial attack to black-box models in the SGD setting.



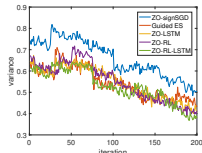
(a) mnist test 1



(b) mnist test 2



(c) mnist test 3



(d) mnist test 3

Figure: Adversarial attack to black-box models in the signSGD setting.



# Conclusions

## Conclusions

- Global optimal hyperparameter optimization based on solution and error paths/surfaces
  - Finding global optimum of CV error is valid for one/two hyperparamters.
- New hyperparameter optimization paradigm with zeroth-order hyper-gradients
  - HOZOG is a good HO method in terms of *effectiveness, efficiency, scalability, simplicity and flexibility*.



## References

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Thank You!  
Q&A