

Improving “Fast Iterative Shrinkage-Thresholding Algorithm”: Faster, Smarter and Greedier

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Abstract. The “fast iterative shrinkage-thresholding algorithm”, a.k.a. FISTA, is one of the most well-known first-order optimisation scheme in the literature, as it achieves the worst-case $O(1/k^2)$ optimal convergence rate in terms of objective function value. However, despite such optimal theoretical convergence rate, in practice the (local) oscillatory behaviour of FISTA often damps its efficiency. Over the past years, various efforts are made in the literature to improve the practical performance of FISTA, such as monotone FISTA, restarting FISTA and backtracking strategies. In this paper, we propose a simple yet effective modification to the original FISTA scheme which has two advantages: it allows us to 1) prove the convergence of generated sequence; 2) design a so-called “lazy-start” strategy which can up to an order faster than the original scheme. Moreover, by exploring the properties of FISTA scheme, we propose novel adaptive and greedy strategies which probes the limit of the algorithm. The advantages of the proposed schemes are tested through problems arising from inverse problem, machine learning and signal/image processing.

Key words. FISTA, inertial Forward–Backward, lazy-start strategy, adaptive and greedy acceleration

AMS subject classifications. 65K05, 65K10, 90C25, 90C31.

1 Introduction

The acceleration of first-order optimisation methods is an active research topic of non-smooth optimisation. Over the past decades, various acceleration techniques are proposed in the literature. Among them, one most widely used is called “inertial technique” which dates back to [27] where Polyak proposed the so called heavy-ball method which dramatically speed-up the performance of gradient descent. Under a similar spirit, in [22] Nesterov proposed another accelerated scheme which improves the $O(1/k)$ objective function convergence rate of gradient descent to $O(1/k^2)$. The extension of [22] to the non-smooth case was due to [6] where Beck and Teboulle proposed the FISTA scheme which is the main focus of this paper.

In this paper, we are interested in the following structured non-smooth optimisation problem, which is the sum of two convex functionals,

$$\min_{x \in \mathcal{H}} \Phi(x) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} F(x) + R(x), \quad (\mathcal{P})$$

where \mathcal{H} is a real Hilbert space. The following assumptions are assumed throughout the paper

- (H.1) $R : \mathcal{H} \rightarrow]-\infty, +\infty]$ is proper convex and lower semi-continuous (lsc);
- (H.2) $F : \mathcal{H} \rightarrow]-\infty, +\infty[$ is convex differentiable, with gradient ∇F being L -Lipschitz continuous for some $L > 0$;
- (H.3) The set of minimizers is non-empty, i.e. $\text{Argmin}(\Phi) \neq \emptyset$.

Problem (P) covers many problems arising from inverse problems, signal/image processing, statistics and machine learning, to name few. We refer to Section 7 the numerical experiment section for concrete examples.

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1.1 Forward–Backward-type splitting schemes

In the literature, one widely used algorithm for solving (\mathcal{P}) is Forward–Backward splitting (FBS) method [17], which is also known as *proximal gradient descent*. Over the past decades, numerous variants of FBS are proposed under different purposes, below we particularly focus on its inertial accelerated variants.

Forward–Backward splitting With initial point $x_0 \in \mathcal{H}$ chosen arbitrarily, the standard FBS iteration without relaxation reads as

$$x_{k+1} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{prox}_{\gamma_k R}(x_k - \gamma_k \nabla F(x_k)), \quad \gamma_k \in]0, 2/L], \quad (1.1)$$

where γ_k is the step-size, and $\text{prox}_{\gamma R}$ is called the *proximity operator* of R defined by

$$\text{prox}_{\gamma R}(\cdot) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \min_{x \in \mathcal{H}} \gamma R(x) + \frac{1}{2} \|x - \cdot\|^2. \quad (1.2)$$

Similar to gradient descent, FBS is a descent method, that is the objective function value $\Phi(x_k)$ is non-increasing under properly chosen step-size γ_k . The convergence properties of FBS are well established in the literature, in terms of both sequence and objective function value:

- The convergence of the generated sequence $\{x_k\}_{k \in \mathbb{N}}$ and the objective function value $\Phi(x_k)$ are guaranteed as long as γ_k is chosen such that $0 < \underline{\gamma} \leq \gamma_k \leq \bar{\gamma} < \frac{2}{L}$ [12];
- Convergence rate: we have $\Phi(x_k) - \min_{x \in \mathcal{H}} \Phi(x) = o(1/k)$ for the objective function value [19] and $\|x_k - x_{k-1}\| = o(1/\sqrt{k})$ for the sequence $\{x_k\}_{k \in \mathbb{N}}$ [15]. Moreover, linear convergence rate can be obtained for instance under strong convexity.

Inertial Forward–Backward The first inertial Forward–Backward was proposed by Moudafi and Oliny in [20], under the setting of finding zeros of monotone inclusion problem. Specify the algorithm to solve (\mathcal{P}) , we obtain the following iteration:

$$\begin{aligned} y_k &= x_k + a_k(x_k - x_{k-1}), \\ x_{k+1} &= \text{prox}_{\gamma_k R}(y_k - \gamma_k \nabla F(x_k)), \quad \gamma_k \in]0, 2/L[, \end{aligned} \quad (1.3)$$

where a_k is the *inertial parameter* which controls the momentum $x_k - x_{k-1}$. The above scheme recovers the heavy-ball method when $R = 0$ [28], and becomes the scheme of [18] if we replace $\nabla F(x_k)$ with $\nabla F(y_k)$. We refer to [16] for a more general discussion of inertial Forward–Backward splitting schemes.

The convergence of (1.3) can be guaranteed under proper choices of γ_k and a_k . Under the same step-size choice, (1.3) could be significantly faster than FBS in practice. However, except for special cases (*e.g.* quadratic problem as in [28]), in general there is no convergence rate established for (1.3).

The original FISTA By form, FISTA belongs to the class of inertial FBS algorithms. What differentiates FISTA from others is the restriction on step-size γ_k and special rule for updating a_k . Moreover, FISTA schemes have convergence rate guarantee on the objective function value, which is the consequence of a_k updating rule. The original FISTA scheme of [6] is described below in Algorithm 1.

Algorithm 1: The original FISTA scheme

Initial: $t_0 = 1, \gamma = 1/L$ and $x_0 \in \mathcal{H}, x_{-1} = x_0$.

repeat

$$\begin{aligned} t_k &= \frac{1 + \sqrt{1 + 4t_{k-1}^2}}{2}, \quad a_k = \frac{t_{k-1} - 1}{t_k}, \\ y_k &= x_k + a_k(x_k - x_{k-1}), \\ x_{k+1} &= \text{prox}_{\gamma R}(y_k - \gamma \nabla F(y_k)). \end{aligned} \quad (1.4)$$

$k = k + 1;$

until *convergence*;

As we observe, FISTA first computes t_k and then updates a_k with t_k and t_{k-1} . Due to such way of parameter choice, FISTA achieves $O(1/k^2)$ convergence rate for $\Phi(x_k) - \min_{x \in \mathcal{H}} \Phi(x)$ which is optimal [21]. For the rest of the paper, to distinguish the original FISTA from the one in [10] and the proposed modified FISTA scheme, we use “FISTA-BT” to refer Algorithm 1.

A sequence convergent FISTA Though achieving optimal convergence rate for objective function value, the convergence of the sequence $\{x_k\}_{k \in \mathbb{N}}$ generated by Algorithm 1 has been an open problem. This question was answered in [10], where Chambolle and Dossal proved the convergence of $\{x_k\}_{k \in \mathbb{N}}$ by considering the following rule to update t_k :

$$t_k = \frac{k+d}{d}, \quad a_k = \frac{t_{k-1}-1}{t_k} = \frac{k-1}{k+d}. \quad (1.5)$$

Such a rule maintains the $O(1/k^2)$ objective convergence rate, and moreover allows the authors to prove the convergence of $\{x_k\}_{k \in \mathbb{N}}$. Later on in [3], (1.5) was studied under the continuous time dynamical system setting, and the convergence rate of objective function is proved to be $o(1/k^2)$ [2]. For the rest of the paper, we shall use “FISTA-CD” to refer (1.5).

1.2 Problems

Though theoretically FISTA-BT achieves the optimal $O(1/k^2)$ convergence rate, in practice it could be even slower than the non-accelerated Forward–Backward splitting scheme, which is mainly caused by the oscillatory behaviour of the scheme [16]. In the literature, several modifications of FISTA-BT are proposed to deal with such oscillation, such as the monotone FISTA [5] and restarting FISTA [25]. Other work includes the FISTA-CD [10] for the convergence of iterates, and the backtracking strategy for adaptive Lipschitz constant [8]. Despite these work, there are still important questions to answer:

- Though [10] proves the convergence of the iterates $\{x_k\}_{k \in \mathbb{N}}$ under t_k updating rule (1.5), the convergence of $\{x_k\}_{k \in \mathbb{N}}$ for the original FISTA-BT remains unclear;
- The practical performance of FISTA-CD is almost identical to FISTA-BT if d of (1.5) is chosen close to 2. However, when relatively larger value of d is chosen, significant practical acceleration can be obtained. For instance, it is reported in [16] that for $d = 50$, the resulted performance can be several times faster than $d = 2$. However, there is no proper justifications on how to choose the value of d in practice.
- When the problem (P) is strongly convex, there exists an optimal choice for a_k [23]. However, in practice, very often the problem is only locally strongly convex with unknown strong convexity, and estimating the strong convexity could be time consuming. This leads to a question that is there a low-complexity estimation approach for approximating strong convexity, or do we really need it?
- The restarting FISTA successfully suppresses the oscillatory behaviour of FISTA schemes, hence achieving much faster practical performance. Then, can we further improve this scheme?

1.3 Contributions

The above problems are the main motivations of this paper, and our contributions are summarised below.

A sequence convergent FISTA scheme By studying the t_k updating rule (1.4) of FISTA-BT and its difference with (1.5), we propose a modified FISTA scheme which applies the following rule,

$$t_k = \frac{p + \sqrt{q + r t_{k-1}^2}}{2}, \quad a_k = \frac{t_{k-1}-1}{t_k}, \quad (1.6)$$

where $p, q \in]0, 1]$ and $r \in]0, 4]$, see also Algorithm 2. Such modification has two advantages when $r = 4$,

- It maintains the $O(1/k^2)$ (actually $o(1/k^2)$) convergence rate of the original FISTA-BT (Theorem 3.3);
- It allows to prove the convergence of $\{x_k\}_{k \in \mathbb{N}}$ (Theorem 3.5);

It also allows us to show that the original FISTA-BT is also optimal in terms of the constant appears in the $O(1/k^2)$ rate, see Eq. (3.7) of Theorem 3.3.

Lazy-start strategy For the proposed scheme and FISTA-CD, owing to the free parameters of computing t_k , we propose in Section 4 a so-called “lazy-start” strategy for practical acceleration. The idea of such strategy is to slow down the speed of a_k approaching 1, which can lead to a faster practical performance. For certain problems, such strategy could be an order faster than the original normal schemes, see Section 7 for illustration. Moreover, we provide simple practical guidelines on how to choose these parameters.

Adaptive and greedy acceleration Though lazy-start strategy can significantly speed up the performance of FISTA, it still suffers the oscillatory behaviour since the inertial parameter a_k eventually converges to 1. By combining with the restarting technique of [25], in Section 5 we propose two different acceleration strategies: restarting adaptation to (local) strong convexity and greedy scheme.

The oscillatory behaviour of FISTA schemes is often related to strong convexity. When the problem is strongly convex, there exists an optimal choice a^* for a_k [23] (see Lemma 4.2). Moreover, under such a^* the iteration will no longer oscillate. As many problems in practice are only locally strongly convex, plus the fact that estimating strong convexity in general is time consuming. In Section 5, we propose an adaptive scheme (Algorithm 4) which combines the restarting technique [25] and parameter update rule (1.6). Such adaptive scheme avoids the direct estimation of strong convexity and achieve state-of-the-art performance.

Though closely related, strongly convexity is only a sufficient condition for the oscillatory behaviour of FISTA schemes. We investigate the mechanism of oscillation and the restarting technique, and propose a greedy scheme (Algorithm 5) which probes the limit of restarting technique. Doing so, the greedy scheme can achieve a faster practical performance than the restarting FISTA of [25].

Nesterov’s accelerated schemes Given the close relation between FISTA and the Nesterov’s accelerated schemes [23], we also extend the above result, particularly the modified FISTA scheme to Nesterov’s schemes. Such extension can also significantly improve the performance when compared to the original schemes.

1.4 Paper organisation

The rest of the paper is organised as following. Some notations and preliminary result are collected in Section 2. The proposed sequence convergent FISTA scheme is presented in Section 3. The lazy-start strategy and the adaptive/greedy acceleration schemes are presented in Section 4 and Section 5 respectively. In Section 6, we extend the result to Nesterov’s accelerated schemes. Numerical experiments are presented in Section 7.

2 Preliminaries

Throughout the paper, \mathcal{H} is a real Hilbert space equipped with scalar product $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$ and norm $\| \cdot \|$. Id denotes the identity operator on \mathcal{H} . \mathbb{N} is the set of non-negative integers and $k \in \mathbb{N}$ is the index, $x^* \in \text{Argmin}(\Phi)$ denotes a global minimiser of (\mathcal{P}) .

The sub-differential of a proper convex and lower semi-continuous function $R : \mathcal{H} \rightarrow]-\infty, +\infty]$ is a set-valued mapping defined by

$$\partial R : \mathcal{H} \rightrightarrows \mathcal{H}, x \mapsto \{g \in \mathcal{H} \mid R(x') \geq R(x) + \langle g, x' - x \rangle, \forall x' \in \mathcal{H}\}. \quad (2.1)$$

Definition 2.1 (Monotone operator). A set-valued mapping $A : \mathcal{H} \rightrightarrows \mathcal{H}$ is said to be monotone if,

$$\langle x_1 - x_2, v_1 - v_2 \rangle \geq 0, \quad v_1 \in A(x_1) \quad \text{and} \quad v_2 \in A(x_2). \quad (2.2)$$

It is maximal monotone if the graph of A can not be contained in the graph of any other monotone operators.

It is well-known that for proper convex and lower semi-continuous function $R : \mathcal{H} \rightarrow]-\infty, +\infty]$, its sub-differential is maximal monotone [30], and that $\text{prox}_R = (\text{Id} + \partial R)^{-1}$.

Definition 2.2 (Cocoercive operator). Let $\beta \in]0, +\infty[$ and $B : \mathcal{H} \rightarrow \mathcal{H}$, then B is β -cocoercive if

$$\langle B(x_1) - B(x_2), x_1 - x_2 \rangle \geq \beta \|B(x_1) - B(x_2)\|^2, \quad \forall x_1, x_2 \in \mathcal{H}. \quad (2.3)$$

The L -Lipschitz continuous gradient ∇F of a convex continuously differentiable function F is $\frac{1}{L}$ -cocoercive [4].

Lemma 2.3 (Descent lemma [7]). Suppose that $F : \mathcal{H} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is convex continuously differentiable and ∇F is L -Lipschitz continuous. Then, given any $x, y \in \mathcal{H}$,

$$F(x) \leq F(y) + \langle \nabla F(y), x - y \rangle + \frac{L}{2} \|x - y\|^2.$$

Given any $x, y \in \mathcal{H}$, define the energy function $E_\gamma(x, y)$ by

$$E_\gamma(x, y) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} R(x) + F(y) + \langle x - y, \nabla F(y) \rangle + \frac{1}{2\gamma} \|x - y\|^2.$$

It is obvious that $E_\gamma(x, y)$ is strongly convex with respect to x , hence denote the unique minimiser as

$$\begin{aligned} e_\gamma(y) &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \operatorname{argmin} \{ E_\gamma(x, y) : x \in \mathbb{R}^n \} \\ &= \operatorname{argmin}_x \{ \gamma R(x) + \frac{1}{2} \|x - (y - \gamma \nabla F(y))\|^2 \} \\ &= \operatorname{prox}_{\gamma R}(y - \gamma \nabla F(y)). \end{aligned} \quad (2.4)$$

The optimality condition of $e_\gamma(y)$ is described below.

Lemma 2.4 (Optimality condition of $e_\gamma(y)$). Given $y \in \mathcal{H}$, let $y^+ = e_\gamma(y)$, then

$$0 \in \gamma \partial R(y^+) + (y^+ - (y - \gamma \nabla F(y))) = \gamma \partial R(y^+) + (y^+ - y) + \gamma \nabla F(y).$$

We have the following basic lemmas from [6].

Lemma 2.5 ([6, Lemma 2.3]). Let $y \in \mathcal{H}$ and $\gamma \in]0, 2/L[$ such that

$$\Phi(e_\gamma(y)) \leq E_\gamma(e_\gamma(y), y),$$

then for any $x \in \mathcal{H}$, we have $\Phi(x) - \Phi(e_\gamma(y)) \geq \frac{1}{2\gamma} \|e_\gamma(y) - y\|^2 + \frac{1}{\gamma} \langle y - x, e_\gamma(y) - y \rangle$.

Lemma 2.6 ([10, Lemma 3.1]). Given $y \in \mathcal{H}$ and $\gamma \in]0, 1/L[$, let $y^+ = e_\gamma(y)$, then for any $x \in \mathcal{H}$, we have

$$\Phi(y^+) + \frac{1}{2\gamma} \|y^+ - x\|^2 \leq \Phi(y) + \frac{1}{2\gamma} \|y - x\|^2.$$

3 A sequence convergent FISTA scheme

In this section, we first discuss two observations obtained from t_k update rule of FISTA-BT which lead to a modified FISTA scheme, then present convergence analysis.

3.1 Two observations & FISTA-Mod

Recall the t_k update rule of the original FISTA-BT [6],

$$t_k = \frac{1 + \sqrt{1 + 4t_{k-1}^2}}{2}, \quad a_k = \frac{t_{k-1} - 1}{t_k}.$$

In the following, we replace the constants 1, 1 and 4 in the update of t_k with three parameters p, q and r and study how they affect the behaviour of t_k and consequently a_k .

3.1.1 Observation I

Consider first replacing 4 with a non-negative r , we get

$$t_k = \frac{1 + \sqrt{1 + rt_{k-1}^2}}{2}, \quad a_k = \frac{t_{k-1} - 1}{t_k}. \quad (3.1)$$

With simple calculation, we obtain that depending on the value of r , the limiting value of t_k consists of three different cases:

$$\begin{aligned} r \in]0, 4[: t_k &\rightarrow \frac{4}{4-r} < +\infty, \quad a_k \rightarrow \frac{r}{4} < 1, \\ r = 4 : t_k &\approx \frac{k+1}{2} \rightarrow +\infty, \quad a_k \rightarrow 1, \\ r \in]4, +\infty[: t_k &\propto \left(\frac{\sqrt{r}}{2}\right)^k \rightarrow +\infty, \quad a_k \rightarrow \frac{2}{\sqrt{r}} < 1. \end{aligned} \quad (3.2)$$

Eq. (3.2) implies that r controls the limiting value of t_k , hence that of a_k . In Figure 1 (a), we show graphically two choices of r : $r = 4$ and $r = 3.6$. It can be observed that, a_k indeed converges to two different values.

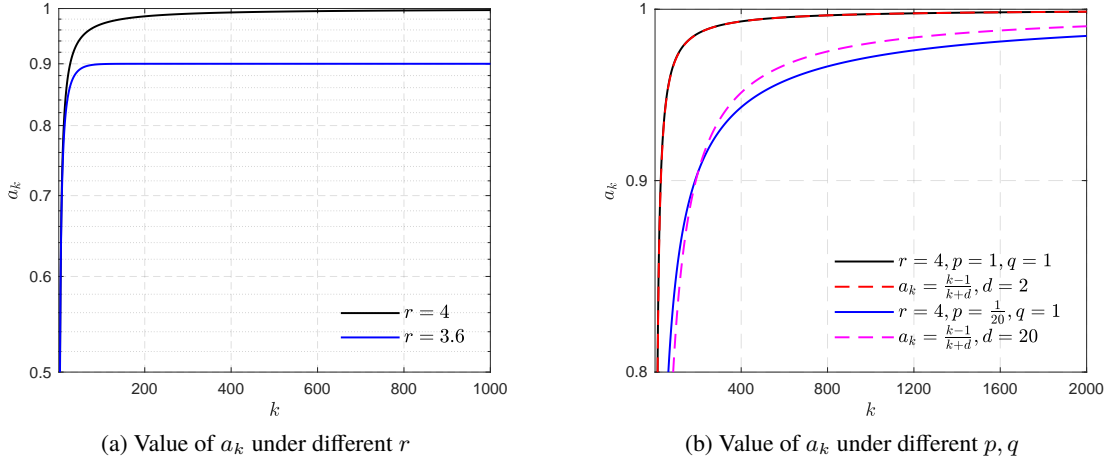


Figure 1: Different effects of p, q and r . (a) r controls the limiting value of a_k ; (b) p, q control the speed of a_k approaching its limit.

3.1.2 Observation II

Now further replace the two 1's in (3.1) with $p, q > 0$, and restrict $r \in]0, 4[$:

$$t_k = \frac{p + \sqrt{q + rt_{k-1}^2}}{2}, \quad a_k = \frac{t_{k-1} - 1}{t_k}. \quad (3.3)$$

Depending on the choices of p, q and r , this time we have

$$\begin{aligned} r \in]0, 4[: t_k &\rightarrow \frac{2p + \Delta}{4-r} < +\infty, \quad a_k \rightarrow \frac{2p + \Delta - (4-r)}{2p + \Delta} < 1, \\ r = 4 : t_k &\approx \frac{k+1}{2}p \rightarrow +\infty, \quad a_k \rightarrow 1, \end{aligned} \quad (3.4)$$

where $\Delta \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \sqrt{rp^2 + (4-r)q}$.

Eq. (3.4) is quite similar to (3.2), in the sense that a_k converges to 1 for $r = 4$ and to some value smaller than 1 when $r < 4$. Moreover, for $r = 4$, the growth of t_k is controlled by p , indicating that we can control the speed of a_k approaching 1 via p , which is illustrated graphically in Figure 1 (b). Under $r = 4$, two different choices of p, q are considered, $(p, q) = (1, 1)$ and $(p, q) = (\frac{1}{20}, 1)$. Clearly, a_k approaches 1 much slower for the second choice of p, q . In comparison, we also add a case for (1.5) of FISTA-CD, for which larger value of d leads to slower speed of a_k approaching 1.

Remark 3.1. Let $r < 4$, and denote $t_\infty \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \frac{2p+\Delta}{4-r}$, $a_\infty = \frac{2p+\Delta-(4-r)}{2p+\Delta}$ the limiting value of t_k, a_k , respectively. Depending on the initial value of t_0 , we have

$$\begin{cases} t_0 < t_\infty : t_k \nearrow t_\infty, a_k \nearrow a_\infty; \\ t_0 = t_\infty : t_k \equiv t_\infty, a_k \equiv a_\infty; \\ t_0 > t_\infty : t_k \searrow t_\infty, a_k \searrow a_\infty. \end{cases}$$

3.1.3 The modified FISTA scheme

Based on the above two observations of t_k , we propose a modified FISTA scheme, which we call “FISTA-Mod” for short and describe below in Algorithm 2.

Algorithm 2: A modified FISTA scheme

Initial: $p, q > 0$ and $r \in]0, 4]$, $t_0 = 1$, $\gamma \leq 1/L$ and $x_0 \in \mathbb{R}^n, x_{-1} = x_0$.

repeat

$$\begin{aligned} t_k &= \frac{p + \sqrt{q + rt_{k-1}^2}}{2}, \quad a_k = \frac{t_{k-1} - 1}{t_k}, \\ y_k &= x_k + a_k(x_k - x_{k-1}), \\ x_{k+1} &= \text{prox}_{\gamma R}(y_k - \gamma \nabla F(y_k)). \end{aligned} \tag{3.5}$$

until convergence;

Remark 3.2. When r is strictly smaller than 4, i.e. $r < 4$, then Algorithm 2 is simply a variant of the inertial Forward–Backward, and we refer to [16] for more details on its convergence properties.

3.2 Convergence properties of FISTA-Mod

The parameters p, q and r in FISTA-Mod allow us to control the behaviour of t_k and a_k , hence providing possibilities to prove the convergence of the iterates $\{x_k\}_{k \in \mathbb{N}}$. In this part, we provide two convergence results for Algorithm 2: $o(1/k^2)$ convergence rate for $\Phi(x_k) - \Phi(x^*)$ and convergence of $\{x_k\}_{k \in \mathbb{N}}$ together with $o(1/k)$ rate for $\|x_k - x_{k-1}\|$. The proofs of these results are inspired by the work of [10, 2], and for the sake of self-consistency we present the details of the proofs.

3.2.1 Main result

We present below first the main convergence result, and then provide the corresponding proofs.

Theorem 3.3 (Convergence of objective). *For the FISTA-Mod scheme (3.5), let $r = 4$ and choose $p \in]0, 1]$, $q > 0$ such that*

$$q \leq (2 - p)^2, \tag{3.6}$$

then there holds

$$\Phi(x_k) - \Phi(x^*) \leq \frac{2L}{p^2(k+1)^2} \|x_0 - x^*\|^2. \tag{3.7}$$

If moreover $p \in]0, 1[$ and $q \in [p^2, (2 - p)^2]$, then $\Phi(x_k) - \Phi(x^) = o(1/k^2)$.*

Remark 3.4. The $O(1/k^2)$ convergence rate (3.7) recovers the result of FISTA-BT [6] for $p = 1$. Since p appears in the denominator, this indicates that FISTA-BT has the *smallest* constant in the $O(1/k^2)$ rate.

Theorem 3.5 (Convergence of sequence). *For the FISTA-Mod scheme (3.5), let $r = 4, p \in]0, 1[$ and $q \in [p^2, (2 - p)^2]$, then the sequence $\{x_k\}_{k \in \mathbb{N}}$ generated by FISTA-Mod converges weakly to a global minimizer x^* of Φ . Moreover, there holds $\|x_k - x_{k-1}\| = o(1/k)$.*

3.2.2 Proofs of Theorem 3.3

Before presenting the proof of Theorem 3.3, we recall first the keys of establishing $O(1/k^2)$ convergence for FISTA-BT [6] and $o(1/k^2)$ convergence rate [10, 2].

The pillars for establishing $O(1/k^2)$ convergence rate for FISTA-BT in [6] can be summarised as

- t_k grows to $+\infty$ at a proper speed, e.g. $t_k \approx \frac{k+1}{2}$ as pointed out in [6];
- the sequence $\{t_k\}_{k \in \mathbb{N}}$ satisfies

$$t_k^2 - t_k \leq t_{k-1}^2. \quad (3.8)$$

In particular, for $t_k = \frac{1+\sqrt{1+4t_{k-1}^2}}{2}$, one has $t_k^2 - t_k = t_{k-1}^2$.

To further improve the $O(1/k^2)$ convergence rate to $o(1/k^2)$, the key is that the difference $t_{k-1}^2 - (t_k^2 - t_k)$ should also grow to $+\infty$ [10, 2]. For instance, for the FISTA-CD update rule (1.5), one has

$$t_{k-1}^2 - (t_k^2 - t_k) = \frac{1}{d^2}((d-2)k + d^2 - 3d + 3), \quad (3.9)$$

which goes to $+\infty$ as long as $d > 2$ [10, Eq. (13)]. It is worth noting that $t_{k-1}^2 - (t_k^2 - t_k) \rightarrow +\infty$ is also the key for proving the convergence of the iterates $\{x_k\}_{k \in \mathbb{N}}$.

We start with the following supporting lemmas. Recall in (3.4) that $t_k \approx \frac{k+1}{2}p$, we show in the lemma below that $\frac{k+1}{2}p$ actually is a lower bound of t_k .

Lemma 3.6 (Lower bound of t_k). *For the t_k update rule (3.3), set $r = 4$ and $p \in]0, 1]$, $q > 0$. Let $t_0 = 1$, then for all $k \in \mathbb{N}$, there holds*

$$t_k \geq \frac{(k+1)p}{2}. \quad (3.10)$$

Remark 3.7. When $p = 1$, then we have $t_k \geq \frac{k+1}{2}$ which recovers [6, Lemma 4.3].

Proof. Since $p \in]0, 1]$, we have $t_0 = 1 \geq \frac{p}{2}$, and $t_1 = \frac{p+\sqrt{q+4}}{2} \geq \frac{p+2}{2} \geq p$. Now suppose (3.10) holds for a given $k \in \mathbb{N}$, i.e. $t_k \geq \frac{(k+1)p}{2}$. Then for $k+1$, we have

$$t_{k+1} - \frac{p}{2} = \frac{p + \sqrt{q + 4t_k^2}}{2} - \frac{p}{2} > \frac{p + 2t_k}{2} - \frac{p}{2} = t_k,$$

which concludes the proof. \square

Lemma 3.8 (Lower bound of $t_{k-1}^2 - (t_k^2 - t_k)$). *For the t_k update rule (3.3), let $r = 4$ and $p \in [0, 1]$, $p^2 - q \leq 0$. Then there holds*

$$\frac{p(1-p)(k+1)}{2} \leq t_{k-1}^2 - (t_k^2 - t_k) \quad (3.11)$$

Remark 3.9. The inequality (3.11) implies that, if we choose $p < 1$, then $t_{k-1}^2 - (t_k^2 - t_k) \rightarrow +\infty$.

Proof. For (3.3), when $r = 4$, we have $t_k = \frac{p+\sqrt{q+4t_{k-1}^2}}{2} \Leftrightarrow t_k^2 - pt_k + \frac{1}{4}(p^2 - q) = t_{k-1}^2$. Since $p^2 \leq q$, then

$$\begin{aligned} t_k^2 - pt_k + \frac{1}{4}(p^2 - q) = t_{k-1}^2 &\implies t_k^2 - pt_k \leq t_{k-1}^2 \\ &\iff t_k^2 - t_k + (1-p)t_k \leq t_{k-1}^2 \\ &\implies (1-p)t_k \leq t_{k-1}^2 - (t_k^2 - t_k) \\ (\text{Lemma 3.6}) &\implies \frac{p(1-p)(k+1)}{2} \leq (1-p)t_k \leq t_{k-1}^2 - (t_k^2 - t_k), \end{aligned} \quad (3.12)$$

which concludes the proof. \square

Remark 3.10. The first line of (3.12) implies that $t_k^2 - t_{k-1}^2 \leq pt_k$. Recently it is shown in [1] that $p < 1$ is the key for proving the convergence of the iterates $\{x_1\}_{k \in \mathbb{N}}$; see [1, Theorem 2.1].

Proofs of Theorem 3.3. For (3.3), when $r = 4$, we have t_k is monotonically increasing as $t_k - t_{k-1} \geq \frac{p}{2} > 0$. Moreover, there holds

$$\begin{aligned} t_k^2 - pt_k + \frac{1}{4}(p^2 - q) = t_{k-1}^2 &\iff t_k^2 - t_k + (1-p)t_k + \frac{1}{4}(p^2 - q) = t_{k-1}^2 \\ &\implies t_k^2 - t_k + (1-p)t_0 + \frac{1}{4}(p^2 - q) \leq t_{k-1}^2 \\ (t_0 = 1) &\iff t_k^2 - t_k + \frac{1}{4}((2-p)^2 - q) \leq t_{k-1}^2 \\ (\text{owing to (3.6)}) &\implies t_k^2 - t_k \leq t_{k-1}^2. \end{aligned}$$

Define $v_k = \Phi(x_k) - \Phi(x^*)$. Applying Lemma 2.5 at the points $(x = x_k, y = y_k)$ and at $(x = x^*, y = y_k)$ leads to

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{2}{L}(v_k - v_{k+1}) &\geq \|x_{k+1} - y_k\|^2 + 2\langle x_{k+1} - y_k, y_k - x_k \rangle \\ -\frac{2}{L}v_{k+1} &\geq \|x_{k+1} - y_k\|^2 + 2\langle x_{k+1} - y_k, y_k - x^* \rangle, \end{aligned}$$

where $x_{k+1} = e_\gamma(y_k)$ (2.4) is used. Multiplying $t_k - 1$ to the first inequality and then adding to the second one yield,

$$\frac{2}{L}((t_k - 1)v_k - t_k v_{k+1}) \geq t_k \|x_{k+1} - y_k\|^2 + 2\langle x_{k+1} - y_k, t_k y_k - (t_k - 1)x_k - x^* \rangle.$$

Multiply t_k to both sides of the above inequality and use the result $t_k^2 - t_k \leq t_{k-1}^2$, we get

$$\frac{2}{L}(t_{k-1}^2 v_k - t_k^2 v_{k+1}) \geq t_k^2 \|x_{k+1} - y_k\|^2 + 2t_k \langle x_{k+1} - y_k, t_k y_k - (t_k - 1)x_k - x^* \rangle.$$

Apply the Pythagoras relation $2\langle b - a, a - c \rangle = \|b - c\|^2 - \|a - b\|^2 - \|a - c\|^2$ to the last inner product of the above inequality we get

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{2}{L}(t_{k-1}^2 v_k - t_k^2 v_{k+1}) &\geq \|t_k x_{k+1} - (t_k - 1)x_k - x^*\|^2 - \|t_k y_k - (t_k - 1)x_k - x^*\|^2 \\ &= \|t_k x_{k+1} - (t_k - 1)x_k - x^*\|^2 - \|t_{k-1} x_k - (t_{k-1} - 1)x_{k-1} - x^*\|^2. \end{aligned} \quad (3.13)$$

If $a_k - a_{k+1} \geq b_{k+1} - b_k$ and $a_1 + b_1 < c$, then $a_k < c$ for all $k \geq 1$ [6, Lemma 4.2]. Hence, (3.13) yields,

$$\frac{2}{L}t_k^2 v_k \leq \|x_0 - x^*\|.$$

Apply Lemma 3.6, we get

$$\Phi(x_k) - \Phi(x^*) \leq \frac{2L}{p^2(k+1)^2} \|x_0 - x^*\|^2,$$

which concludes the proof for the first claim (3.7).

Let $u_k = x_k + t_k(x_{k+1} - x_k)$. Applying Lemma 2.6 with $y = y_k, y^+ = x_{k+1}$ and $x = (1 - \frac{1}{t_k})x_k + \frac{1}{t_k}x^*$ yields

$$\Phi(x_{k+1}) + \frac{1}{2\gamma} \left\| \frac{1}{t_k} u_k - \frac{1}{t_k} x^* \right\|^2 \leq \Phi\left((1 - \frac{1}{t_k})x_k + \frac{1}{t_k} x^*\right) + \frac{1}{2\gamma} \left\| \frac{1}{t_k} u_{k-1} - \frac{1}{t_k} x^* \right\|^2.$$

Applying the convexity of Φ , we further get

$$(\Phi(x_{k+1}) - \Phi(x^*)) - (1 - \frac{1}{t_k})(\Phi(x_k) - \Phi(x^*)) \leq \frac{1}{2\gamma t_k^2} (\|u_{k-1} - x^*\|^2 - \|u_k - x^*\|^2).$$

Multiply t_k^2 to both sides of the above inequality,

$$t_k^2 (\Phi(x_{k+1}) - \Phi(x^*)) - (t_k^2 - t_k)(\Phi(x_k) - \Phi(x^*)) \leq \frac{1}{2\gamma} (\|u_{k-1} - x^*\|^2 - \|u_k - x^*\|^2).$$

From Lemma 3.8, we have $\frac{p(1-p)(k+1)}{2} - t_{k-1}^2 \leq -(t_k^2 - t_k)$, hence

$$\begin{aligned} &t_k^2 (\Phi(x_{k+1}) - \Phi(x^*)) - t_{k-1}^2 (\Phi(x_k) - \Phi(x^*)) + \frac{p(1-p)(k+1)}{2} (\Phi(x_k) - \Phi(x^*)) \\ &\leq \frac{1}{2\gamma} (\|u_{k-1} - x^*\|^2 - \|u_k - x^*\|^2). \end{aligned}$$

Summing the inequality from $k = 1$ to K , we get

$$t_K^2(\Phi(x_{K+1}) - \Phi(x^*)) + \frac{p(1-p)}{2} \sum_{j=1}^K j(\Phi(x_j) - \Phi(x^*)) \leq \frac{1}{2\gamma} (\|v_0 - x^*\|^2 - \|v_K - x^*\|^2),$$

which means that $\sum_{j=1}^{+\infty} j(\Phi(x_j) - \Phi(x^*)) < +\infty$, that is $\Phi(x_k) - \Phi(x^*) = o(1/k^2)$. \square

3.2.3 Proofs of Theorem 3.5

We now turn to the convergence proof of Theorem 3.5, which is inspired by [10]. The key to prove the convergence of $\{x_k\}_{k \in \mathbb{N}}$ is to obtain the summability

$$\sum_{k \in \mathbb{N}} k \|x_k - x_{k-1}\|^2 < +\infty.$$

As previously pointed out, the major difference between the t_k update of FISTA-BT (1.4) and FISTA-CD (1.5) is that $t_{k-1}^2 - (t_k^2 - t_k) \rightarrow +\infty$ for FISTA-CD. For the proposed FISTA-Mod schemes, as $\frac{p(1-p)k}{2} \leq t_{k-1}^2 - (t_k^2 - t_k)$ also goes to $+\infty$ as long as p is strictly smaller than 1, this allows us to adapt the proof of [10] to FISTA-Mod, hence proving the convergence of $\{x_k\}_{k \in \mathbb{N}}$.

We need two supporting lemmas before presenting the proof of Theorem 3.5. Given $\ell \in \mathbb{N}_+$, define the truncated sum $S_\ell \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \frac{q}{4p} \sum_{i=0}^{\ell} \frac{1}{1+i}$ and a new sequence \bar{t}_k by

$$\bar{t}_k \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} 1 + S_\ell + \left(\frac{p}{2} + \frac{q}{4p(\ell+1)}\right)k.$$

We have the following lemma showing that \bar{t}_k serves an upper bound of t_k .

Lemma 3.11 (Upper bound of t_k). *For the t_k update rule (3.3), let $r = 4$ and $p, q \in [0, 1]$. For all $k \in \mathbb{N}$, there holds*

$$t_k \leq \bar{t}_k. \quad (3.14)$$

The purpose of bounding t_k from above by a linear function of k is such that we can eventually bound a_k from above, which is needed by the following lemma.

Proof. Given t_k, t_{k+1} , we have

$$t_{k+1} - t_k = \frac{p + \sqrt{q + 4t_k^2}}{2} - t_k = \frac{p}{2} + \frac{\sqrt{q + 4t_k^2} - 2t_k}{2} \leq \frac{p}{2} + \frac{\sqrt{(2t_k + q/(4t_k))^2} - 2t_k}{2} = \frac{p}{2} + \frac{q}{8t_k}.$$

Clearly, $t_0 \leq \bar{t}_0$. Suppose $t_k \leq \bar{t}_k$ for $\ell \leq k$ and recall that $t_k \geq \frac{k+1}{2}p$, then we have

$$\begin{aligned} t_{k+1} &\leq t_k + \frac{p}{2} + \frac{q}{8t_k} \leq \bar{t}_k + \frac{p}{2} + \frac{q}{8t_k} = 1 + S_\ell + \left(\frac{p}{2} + \frac{q}{4p(\ell+1)}\right)k + \frac{p}{2} + \frac{q}{8t_k} \\ &\leq 1 + S_\ell + \left(\frac{p}{2} + \frac{q}{4p(\ell+1)}\right)k + \frac{p}{2} + \frac{q}{4(k+1)p} \\ &\leq 1 + S_\ell + \left(\frac{p}{2} + \frac{q}{4p(\ell+1)}\right)k + \frac{p}{2} + \frac{q}{4(\ell+1)p} = \bar{t}_{k+1}, \end{aligned}$$

and we conclude the proof. \square

Denote $\lceil x \rceil$ the largest integer that is smaller than x , and define the following two constants

$$b \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \left\lceil \frac{p+2}{p+q/(2p(\ell+1))} \right\rceil \quad \text{and} \quad c \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \frac{p+2+2S_\ell}{p+q/(2p(\ell+1))}.$$

Lemma 3.12. *For all $j \geq 1$, define*

$$\beta_{j,k} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \prod_{\ell=j}^k a_\ell,$$

for all j, k , and $\beta_{j,k} = 1$ for all $k < j$. Let $\ell \geq \lceil \frac{q}{p(2-p)} \rceil$, then for all j ,

$$\sum_{k=j}^{\infty} \beta_{j,k} \leq j + c + 2b. \quad (3.15)$$

Proof. We first show that a_k is bounded from above. From the definition of a_k we have

$$a_k = \frac{t_{k-1} - 1}{t_k} = \frac{2t_{k-1} - 2}{p + \sqrt{q + 4t_{k-1}^2}} \leq \frac{p + 2t_{k-1} - 2 - p}{p + 2t_{k-1}} = 1 - \frac{2 + p}{p + 2t_{k-1}} \quad (3.16)$$

$$\stackrel{(\text{Lemma 3.11})}{\leq} 1 - \frac{2 + p}{p + 2 + 2S_\ell + (p + \frac{q}{2p(\ell+1)})k} = 1 - \frac{b}{k + c}.$$

From (3.16) we have that

$$\beta_{j,k} = \prod_{\ell=j}^k a_\ell \leq \prod_{\ell=j}^k \frac{\ell + c - b}{\ell + c}.$$

For $k = j, \dots, j + 2b - 1$, we have $\beta_{j,k} < 1$. Then for $k - j \geq 2b$,

$$\begin{aligned} \beta_{j,k} &\leq \prod_{\ell=j}^k \frac{\ell + c - b}{\ell + c} = \frac{j + c - b}{j + c} \frac{j + 1 + c - b}{j + 1 + c} \dots \frac{j + c}{j + b + c} \frac{j + 1 + c}{j + b + 1 + c} \dots \frac{k + c - b}{k + c} \\ &= \frac{(j + c - b) \dots (j + c - 1)}{(k + c - b + 1) \dots (k + c)} \leq \frac{(j + c - 1)^b}{(k + c - b + 1)^b}. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{k=j}^\infty \beta_{j,k} &\leq 2b + \sum_{k=j+2b}^\infty \beta_{j,k} \leq 2b + (j + c - 1)^b \sum_{k=j+2b}^\infty \frac{1}{(k + c - b + 1)^b} \\ &\leq 2b + (j + c - 1)^b \int_{x=j+2b}^\infty \frac{1}{(x + c - b + 1)^b} dx \\ &\leq 2b + (j + c - 1)^b \frac{1}{b-1} \frac{1}{(j + b + c + 1)^{b-1}} \\ &\leq 2b + \frac{1}{b-1} (j + c - 1) \leq j + c + 2b. \end{aligned}$$

The last inequality uses the fact that $b \geq 2$ for $\ell \geq \lceil \frac{q}{p(2-p)} \rceil$. □

Proofs of Theorem 3.5. Applying Lemma 2.6 with $y = y_k$ and $x = x_k$, we get

$$\Phi(x_{k+1}) + \frac{\|x_k - x_{k+1}\|^2}{2\gamma} \leq \Phi(x_k) + a_k^2 \frac{\|x_{k-1} - x_k\|^2}{2\gamma},$$

which means, defining $\Delta_k \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \frac{1}{2} \|x_k - x_{k-1}\|^2$,

$$\Delta_{k+1} - a_k^2 \Delta_k \leq \gamma(w_k - w_{k+1}).$$

Denote the upper bound of a_k in (3.16) as $\bar{a}_k \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} 1 - \frac{b}{k+c}$, $\forall k \geq 2$, and let $\bar{a}_1 = 0$ since $a_1 = 0$. It is then straightforward that

$$\Delta_{k+1} - \bar{a}_k^2 \Delta_k \leq \Delta_{k+1} - a_k^2 \Delta_k \leq \gamma(w_k - w_{k+1}).$$

Multiplying the above inequality with $(k + c)^2$ and summing from $k = 1$ to K lead to

$$\sum_{k=1}^K (k + c)^2 (\Delta_{k+1} - \bar{a}_k^2 \Delta_k) \leq \gamma \sum_{k=1}^K (k + c)^2 (w_k - w_{k+1}).$$

Since $\bar{a}_1 = 0$, we derive from above that

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{k=1}^K (k + c)^2 (\Delta_{k+1} - \bar{a}_k^2 \Delta_k) &= (K + c)^2 \Delta_{K+1} + \sum_{k=2}^K ((k + c - 1)^2 - (k + c)^2 \bar{a}_k^2) \Delta_k \\ &= (K + c)^2 \Delta_{K+1} + \sum_{k=2}^K ((k + c - 1)^2 - (k + c - b)^2) \Delta_k \\ &\leq (K + c)^2 \Delta_{K+1} + \sum_{k=2}^K 2(b - 1)(k + c) \Delta_k \\ &\leq \gamma((c + 1)^2 w_1 - (c + K)^2 w_{K+1}) + \gamma \sum_{k=2}^K ((k + c)^2 - (k + c - 1)^2) w_k \\ &\leq \gamma((c + 1)^2 w_1 - (c + K)^2 w_{K+1}) + 2\gamma \sum_{k=2}^K (k + c) w_k. \end{aligned}$$

From the proof of Theorem 3.3, we have that $\sum_{k \in \mathbb{N}} kw_k < +\infty$, which in turn implies that $\{k\Delta_k\}_{k \in \mathbb{N}}$ is *summable* and that sequence $\{k^2\Delta_k\}_{k \in \mathbb{N}}$ is bounded, which also indicates $\|x_k - x_{k-1}\| = o(1/k)$.

Now define

$$\psi_k \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \frac{1}{2}\|x_k - x^*\|^2 \quad \text{and} \quad \phi_k \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \frac{1}{2}\|y_k - x_{k+1}\|^2.$$

By applying the definition of y_k , we have

$$\begin{aligned} \psi_k - \psi_{k+1} &= \frac{1}{2}\langle x_k - x^* + x_{k+1} - x^*, x_k - x_{k+1} \rangle \\ &= \Delta_{k+1} + \langle y_{a,k} - x_{k+1}, x_{k+1} - x^* \rangle - a_k \langle x_k - x_{k-1}, x_{k+1} - x^* \rangle \\ &\geq \Delta_{k+1} + \gamma \langle \nabla F(y_k) - \nabla F(x^*), x_{k+1} - x^* \rangle - a_k \langle x_k - x_{k-1}, x_{k+1} - x^* \rangle. \end{aligned} \quad (3.17)$$

As ∇F is $\frac{1}{L}$ -cocoercive (Definition 2.2), applying Young's inequality yields

$$\begin{aligned} &\langle \nabla F(y_k) - \nabla F(x^*), x_{k+1} - x^* \rangle \\ &\geq \frac{1}{L}\|\nabla F(y_k) - \nabla F(x^*)\|^2 + \langle \nabla F(y_k) - \nabla F(x^*), x_{k+1} - y_k \rangle \\ &\geq \frac{1}{L}\|\nabla F(y_k) - \nabla F(x^*)\|^2 - \frac{1}{L}\|\nabla F(y_k) - \nabla F(x^*)\|^2 - \frac{L}{2}\phi_k = -\frac{L}{2}\phi_k. \end{aligned} \quad (3.18)$$

Back to (3.17), we get

$$\psi_k - \psi_{k+1} \geq \Delta_{k+1} - \frac{\gamma L}{2}\phi_k - a_k \langle x_k - x_{k-1}, x_{k+1} - x^* \rangle. \quad (3.19)$$

For $\langle x_k - x_{k-1}, x_{k+1} - x^* \rangle$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \langle x_k - x_{k-1}, x_{k+1} - x^* \rangle &= \langle x_k - x_{k-1}, x_{k+1} - x_k \rangle + \langle x_k - x_{k-1}, x_k - x^* \rangle \\ &= \langle x_k - x_{k-1}, x_{k+1} - x_k \rangle + (\Delta_k + \psi_k - \psi_{k-1}), \end{aligned} \quad (3.20)$$

where we applied the usual Pythagoras relation to $\langle x_k - x_{k-1}, x_k - x^* \rangle$. Putting (3.20) back into (3.19) and rearranging terms yield

$$\begin{aligned} \psi_{k+1} - \psi_k - a_k(\psi_k - \psi_{k-1}) &\leq -\Delta_{k+1} + \frac{\gamma L}{2}\phi_k + a_k \langle x_k - x_{k-1}, x_{k+1} - x_k \rangle + a_k \Delta_k \\ &= -\Delta_{k+1} + \frac{\gamma L}{2}\phi_k + \langle y_k - x_k, x_{k+1} - x_k \rangle + a_k \Delta_k \\ &= -\Delta_{k+1} + \frac{\gamma L}{2}\phi_k + (a_k^2 \Delta_k + \Delta_{k+1} - \frac{1}{2}\|y_k - x_{k+1}\|^2) + a_k \Delta_k \\ &= \frac{\gamma L - 1}{2}\phi_k + (a_k + a_k^2)\Delta_k, \end{aligned} \quad (3.21)$$

where the Pythagoras relation is applied again to $\langle y_k - x_k, x_{k+1} - x_k \rangle$. Since $\gamma \in]0, 1/L]$ and $a_k \leq 1$, we get from above that

$$\psi_{k+1} - \psi_k - a_k(\psi_k - \psi_{k-1}) \leq 2a_k \Delta_k.$$

Define $\xi_k = \max\{0, \psi_k - \psi_{k-1}\}$, then

$$\xi_{k+1} \leq a_k(\xi_k + 2\Delta_k) \leq 2 \sum_{j=2}^k \left(\prod_{l=j}^k a_l \right) \Delta_j = 2 \sum_{j=2}^k \beta_{j,k} \Delta_j,$$

Applying Lemma 3.12 and the summability of $\{k\Delta_k\}_{k \in \mathbb{N}}$ lead to

$$\sum_{k=2}^{+\infty} \xi_k \leq 2 \sum_{k=1}^{+\infty} \sum_{j=2}^k \beta_{j,k} \Delta_j = 2 \sum_{j=2}^k \Delta_j \sum_{k=1}^{+\infty} \beta_{j,k} \leq 2 \sum_{j=2}^k (j + c + 2b) \Delta_j < +\infty.$$

Then we have

$$\Phi_{k+1} - \sum_{j=1}^{k+1} [\theta_j]_+ \leq \Phi_{k+1} - \theta_{k+1} - \sum_{j=1}^k [\theta_j]_+ = \Phi_k - \sum_{j=1}^k [\theta_j]_+,$$

which means that $\{\Phi_k - \sum_{j=1}^k [\theta_j]_+\}_{k \in \mathbb{N}}$ is monotone non-increasing, hence convergent. It is immediate that sequence $\{\Phi_k\}_{k \in \mathbb{N}}$ is also convergent, meaning that $\lim_{k \rightarrow +\infty} \|x_k - x^*\|$ exists for any $x^* \in \text{zer}(A + B)$.

Let \bar{x} be a weak cluster point of $\{x_k\}_{k \in \mathbb{N}}$, and let us fix a subsequence, say $x_{k_j} \rightharpoonup \bar{x}$. Applying Lemma 2.4 with $y = y_{k_j}$, we get

$$u_{k_j} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \frac{y_{k_j} - x_{k_j+1}}{\gamma} - \nabla F(y_{k_j}) \in \partial R(x_{k_j+1}).$$

Since ∇F is cocoercive and $y_{k_j} = x_{k_j} + a_{k_j}(x_{k_j} - x_{k_j-1}) \rightharpoonup \bar{x}$, we have $\nabla F(y_{k_j}) \rightarrow \nabla F(\bar{x})$. In turn, $u_{k_j} \rightarrow -\nabla F(\bar{x})$ since $\gamma > 0$. Since $(x_{k_j+1}, u_{k_j}) \in \text{gph}(\partial R)$, and the graph of the maximal monotone operator ∂R is sequentially weakly-strongly closed in $\mathcal{H} \times \mathcal{H}$, we get that $-\nabla F(\bar{x}) \in \partial R(\bar{x})$, i.e. \bar{x} is a solution of (P). Opial's Theorem [26] then concludes the proof. \square

4 Lazy-start strategy

From the previous section, it can be concluded that a crucial difference between FISTA-Mod (also FISTA-CD) and FISTA-BT is that the former can control the behaviour of t_k via p, q, r (d for FISTA-CD). In this section, we show that such degree of freedom provided by these parameters allows us to design strategies which can make FISTA-Mod/FISTA-CD much faster in practice.

The strategy developed in this section is called “lazy-start”, whose main idea is choosing properly the values of p, q for FISTA-Mod and d for FISTA-CD, such that they can slow down the speed of a_k approaching 1.

Proposition 4.1 (Lazy-start FISTA). *For FISTA-Mod and FISTA-CD, consider the following choices of p, q and d respectively:*

FISTA-Mod $p \in [\frac{1}{80}, \frac{1}{10}]$, $q \in [0, 1]$ and $r = 4$;

FISTA-CD $d \in [10, 80]$.

We consider a least square problem below to explain how “lazy-start” can improve the practical performance:

$$\min_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n} \{F(x) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \frac{1}{2} \|Ax - b\|^2\}, \quad (4.1)$$

where $b \in \mathbb{R}^n$ and $A \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ is of the form

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & -1 & & & \\ -1 & 2 & -1 & & \\ & & \ddots & & \\ & & & -1 & 2 & -1 \\ & & & & -1 & 2 \end{bmatrix}_n.$$

The FISTA-CD scheme is considered, and specialise to the case of solving (4.1), we get

$$\begin{aligned} y_k &= x_k + \frac{k-1}{k+d}(x_k - x_{k-1}) \\ x_{k+1} &= y_k - \gamma \nabla F(y_k). \end{aligned} \quad (4.2)$$

Two different values of d are compared:

- Normal FISTA-CD with $d = d_1 = 2$;
- Lazy-start FISTA-CD with $d = d_2 = 20$.

In the numerical test, we set $n = 201$. The convergence profiles of $\|x_k - x^*\|$ for the above two choices of d are plotted in Figure 2, where the *red line* represents $d_1 = 2$ while the *black line* stands for $d_2 = 20$. The starting points x_0 of two cases are the same and chosen such that $\|x_0 - x^*\| = 1$. It can be observed that the lazy-start one is significantly faster than the normal choice after $k = 2 \times 10^5$.

The above difference appears not only for (4.1), but rather an observation from many problems; see Section 7 for more examples. To explain such a difference, we need several intermediate steps:

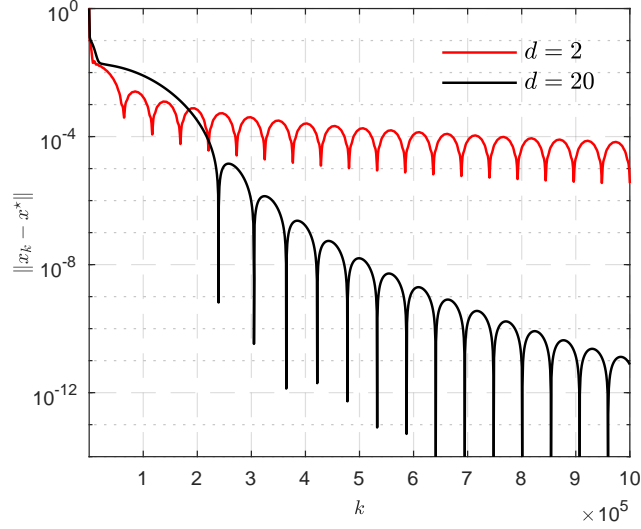


Figure 2: Convergence profiles of $\|x_k - x^*\|$. The *red solid line* stands for $d_1 = 2$ and the *black solid line* stands for $d_2 = 20$.

- (1) Let x^* be the unique solution of (4.1). As the problem is quadratic, (4.2) can be written in to a fixed-point iteration $z_{k+1} = M_k z_k$ where $z_k = (x_k - x^*; x_{k-1} - x^*)$ and see (4.3) for the definition of M_k . Define $\widetilde{M}_k \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \prod_{i=1}^{k-1} M_{k-i}$, then we have $z_k = \widetilde{M}_k z_1$.
- (2) Let ρ_k be the leading eigenvalue of M_k , then for any $a_k \in [0, 1]$, we have $|\rho_k| < 1$.
- (3) Let $\tilde{\rho}_k$ be the leading eigenvalue of \widetilde{M}_k , though can not be proved, we can show numerically that $|\tilde{\rho}_k| \leq C_1 \prod_{i=1}^{k-1} |\rho_i|$ where C_1 is some constant. The spectral radius theorem also gives $\|\widetilde{M}_k\| \leq C_2 |\tilde{\rho}_k|$ where C_2 is also a constant. All together imply that we can bound $\|\widetilde{M}_k\|$ by $\prod_{i=1}^{k-1} |\rho_i|$.
- (4) The discussion then boils down to compare the value of $\prod_{i=1}^{k-1} |\rho_i|$ under different choices of d , and it can be shown that for $d = 20$ the value of $\prod_{i=1}^{k-1} |\rho_i|$ can be several order smaller than that of $d = 2$ for large enough k , hence showing the advantage of lazy-start strategy.

For the rest of the section, we discuss the above steps in details.

4.1 Fixed-point formulation and spectral properties

Since the problem is strongly convex, it admits a unique solution which is denoted by x^* . Moreover, owing to the quadratic form of F , its gradient reads $\nabla F(x) = A^T(Ax - b)$, and it is easy to obtain from (4.2) that,

$$x_{k+1} - x^* = G(y_k - x^*) = (1 + a_k)G(x_k - x^*) - G(x_{k-1} - x^*),$$

where $G \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{Id} - \frac{1}{L}A^T A$. Now define

$$z_k \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \begin{pmatrix} x_k - x^* \\ x_{k-1} - x^* \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad M_k \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \begin{bmatrix} (1 + a_k)G & -a_k G \\ \text{Id} & 0 \end{bmatrix}. \quad (4.3)$$

Then it is immediate that

$$z_{k+1} = M_k z_k. \quad (4.4)$$

Recursively apply the above relation, we get

$$z_k = \left(\prod_{i=1}^{k-1} M_{k-i} \right) z_1,$$

and for the sake of simplicity we denote $\widetilde{M}_k \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \prod_{i=1}^{k-1} M_{k-i}$.

4.1.1 Spectral property of M_k

We first discuss the spectral property of M_k by invoking existing result from [16]. Denote $\alpha > 0, \eta < 1$ the smallest and largest eigenvalues $A^T A$ and G , respectively. We then have $\eta = 1 - \gamma\alpha$. Given M_k , denote ρ_k its leading eigenvalue, then ρ_k can be expressed by η and a_k , and their relation can be described by the following lemma taken from Proposition 4.6 and Section 4.4 in [16].

Lemma 4.2 ([16]). *Suppose $(v_1; v_2)$ is an eigenvector of M_k corresponding to eigenvalue ρ_k , then it must satisfy $v_1 = \rho_k v_2$. Moreover, v_2 is an eigenvector of G associated to the eigenvalue η , and*

- The expression of ρ_k reads

$$\rho_k = \frac{(1 + a_k)\eta + \sqrt{(1 + a_k)^2\eta^2 - 4a_k\eta}}{2} \quad (4.5)$$

- The magnitude of ρ_k is

$$|\rho_k| = \begin{cases} \frac{(1 + a_k)\eta + \sqrt{(1 + a_k)^2\eta^2 - 4a_k\eta}}{2} < 1 : (1 + a_k)^2\eta \geq 4a_k, \\ \sqrt{a_k\eta} < 1 : (1 + a_k)^2\eta \leq 4a_k. \end{cases} \quad (4.6)$$

Moreover, $|\rho_k|$ attains the minimal value $\rho^* = 1 - \sqrt{\gamma\alpha}$ when a_k equals to $a^* = \frac{1 - \sqrt{\gamma\alpha}}{1 + \sqrt{\gamma\alpha}}$.

Remark 4.3. We refer to [16, 14] for more details about the dependence of ρ_k on η and a_k . Below, we specify several situations of Lemma 4.2 and moreover its connection with Nesterov's optimal scheme [23].

- From (4.5) and (4.6), simple calculation yields $(1 + a^*)^2\eta = 4a^*$ and

$$\rho_k \in \begin{cases} \mathbb{R} : (1 + a_k)^2\eta \geq 4a_k, \\ \mathbb{C} : (1 + a_k)^2\eta \leq 4a_k. \end{cases}$$

According to [23, Constant Step Scheme III], a^* is the optimal inertial parameter when the problem is strongly convex, and ρ^* is the optimal convergence rate can be achieve by (4.2).

The complex eigenvalue ρ_k is also the reason why FISTA oscillates. More precisely, as long as one has $a_k \in [a^*, 1]$, ρ_k will be complex and the iteration (4.2) will oscillate.

- Eq. (4.6) indicates that $|\rho_k| = \sqrt{\eta} > \eta$ for $a_k = 1$. For FISTA schemes, as $\lim_{k \rightarrow +\infty} a_k = 1$, this means for strongly convex problems, FISTA schemes eventually is slower than the vanilla gradient descent/Forward–Backward. We refer to [16] for more discussions.

4.1.2 Spectral property of \widetilde{M}_k

Now we turn to the spectral property of \widetilde{M}_k , unfortunately, unlike the case of M_k , this time we can only discuss through numerical illustration.

Let $\tilde{\rho}_k$ be the leading eigenvalue of \widetilde{M}_k , in general there is no clear correspondence between $\tilde{\rho}_k$ and $\rho_i, i = 1, \dots, k-1$. For instance, there is no $\tilde{\rho}_k = \prod_{i=1}^{k-1} \rho_{k-i}$, nor $|\tilde{\rho}_k| = \prod_{i=1}^{k-1} |\rho_{k-i}|$. However, $|\tilde{\rho}_k|$ can be bounded from above by $\prod_{i=1}^{k-1} |\rho_{k-i}|$. Owing to the spectral theorem, we can further bound $\|\widetilde{M}_k\|$ from above by $|\tilde{\rho}_k|$. All together this means that we can bound $\|\widetilde{M}_k\|$ from above by $\prod_{i=1}^{k-1} |\rho_{k-i}|$.

Proposition 4.4 (Envelope of $\|\widetilde{M}_k\|$). *For the matrix $\widetilde{M}_k = \prod_{i=1}^{k-1} M_{k-i}$, let ρ_i be the eigenvalue of M_i for $i = 1, \dots, k-1$, then there exists $\mathcal{T} > 0$ such that*

$$\|\widetilde{M}_k\| \leq \mathcal{T} \prod_{i=1}^{k-1} |\rho_{k-i}| \quad (4.7)$$

holds for all $k \geq 1$. In particular, let $\widetilde{\mathcal{T}}$ be the minimal value such that (4.7) holds, then

$$\mathcal{E}_{d,k} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \widetilde{\mathcal{T}} \prod_{i=1}^{k-1} |\rho_{k-i}|$$

is called the envelope of $\|\widetilde{M}_k\|$.

For problem (4.1) with $n = 201$, we show graphically in Figure 3 the value of $\|\widetilde{M}_k\|$ and its corresponding envelope $\mathcal{E}_{d,k}$. The plots of Figure 3(a) correspond to $d = 2$, with the red line standing for $\mathcal{E}_{d,k}$ and the black line being the $\|\widetilde{M}_k\|$. The plots of Figure 3(b) are for $d = 20$. For both cases, the values of $\widetilde{\mathcal{T}}$ are the same.

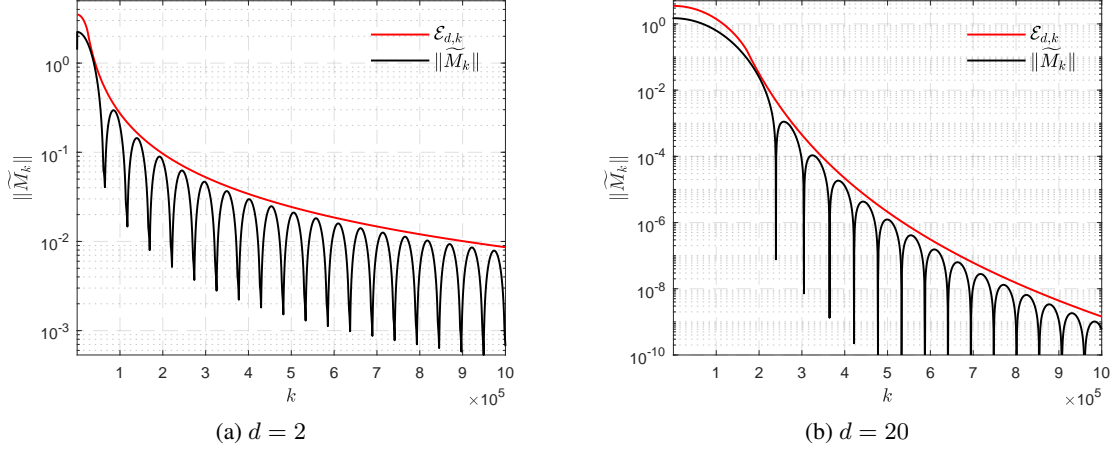


Figure 3: The value of $\|\widetilde{M}_k\|$ and the corresponding envelope $\mathcal{E}_{d,k}$: (a) $d = 2$, (b) $d = 20$.

4.2 The advantage of lazy-start

For d_1, d_2 , we note $a_{d_1,k}, a_{d_2,k}$ the corresponding inertial parameters, $M_{d_1,k}, M_{d_2,k}$ the matrices of (4.3), then the matrices $\widetilde{M}_{d_1,k}, \widetilde{M}_{d_2,k}$ and corresponding envelopes $\mathcal{E}_{d_1,k}$ and $\mathcal{E}_{d_2,k}$.

4.2.1 Properties of $|\rho_k|$

Since $\mathcal{E}_{d,k}$ is determined by the product of $|\rho_i|_{i=1,\dots,k}$, let us first check the profile of $|\rho_k|$ under $d_1 = 2$ and $d_2 = 20$. Denote $\rho_{d_1,k}, \rho_{d_2,k}$ the leading eigenvalues of $M_{d_1,k}, M_{d_2,k}$, respectively. The modulus of them are shown in Figure 4 (a), where the red line is $|\rho_{d_1,k}|$ and the black line stands for $|\rho_{d_2,k}|$. We can observe that

- For both cases, the values of $|\rho_{d_1,k}|, |\rho_{d_2,k}|$ decrease first, until reaching $\rho^* = 1 - \sqrt{\gamma\alpha}$ (see Lemma 4.2), and then start to increase until reaching $\sqrt{\eta}$;
- As d_2 slows down the speed of a_k growing (see Figure 1), so does the speed $|\rho_{d_2,k}|$ reaching ρ^* . Such a mismatch of approaching ρ^* is the key of lazy-start strategy being faster.

Denote K_{eq} the point $|\rho_{d_2,k}|$ equals to ρ^* , then we have

$$K_{\text{eq}} = \left\lceil \frac{1 + a^* d_2}{1 - a^*} \right\rceil + 1, \quad (4.8)$$

where $a^* = \frac{1 - \sqrt{\gamma\alpha}}{1 + \sqrt{\gamma\alpha}}$ is the optimal value mentioned in Lemma 4.2.

4.2.2 Comparison of $\mathcal{E}_{d,k}$

Next we compare $\mathcal{E}_{d_1,k}, \mathcal{E}_{d_2,k}$, whose values are plotted in Figure 4 (b), where the red and black lines are corresponding to $\mathcal{E}_{d_1,k}$ and $\mathcal{E}_{d_2,k}$ respectively. Observe that, $\mathcal{E}_{d_1,k}$ and $\mathcal{E}_{d_2,k}$ intersect for certain k which turns out very close to K_{eq} ¹. For $k \geq K_{\text{eq}}$, the difference between $\mathcal{E}_{d_1,k}$ and $\mathcal{E}_{d_2,k}$ becomes increasingly larger.

Denote $a_{d_1,k}, a_{d_2,k}$ the corresponding a_k of d_1 and d_2 respectively, then from (4.6) we have that for $k \geq K_{\text{eq}}$,

$$|\rho_{d_1,k}| = \sqrt{a_{d_1,k}\eta} \quad \text{and} \quad |\rho_{d_2,k}| = \sqrt{a_{d_2,k}\eta}$$

and $|\rho_{d_1,k}| \geq |\rho_{d_2,k}|$ since $a_{d_1,k} \geq a_{d_2,k}$. Define \mathcal{R}_k by

$$\mathcal{R}_k \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \prod_{i=K_{\text{eq}}}^k \frac{|\rho_{d_1,i}|}{|\rho_{d_2,i}|},$$

¹The real value of such k is approximately $1.018K_{\text{eq}}$.

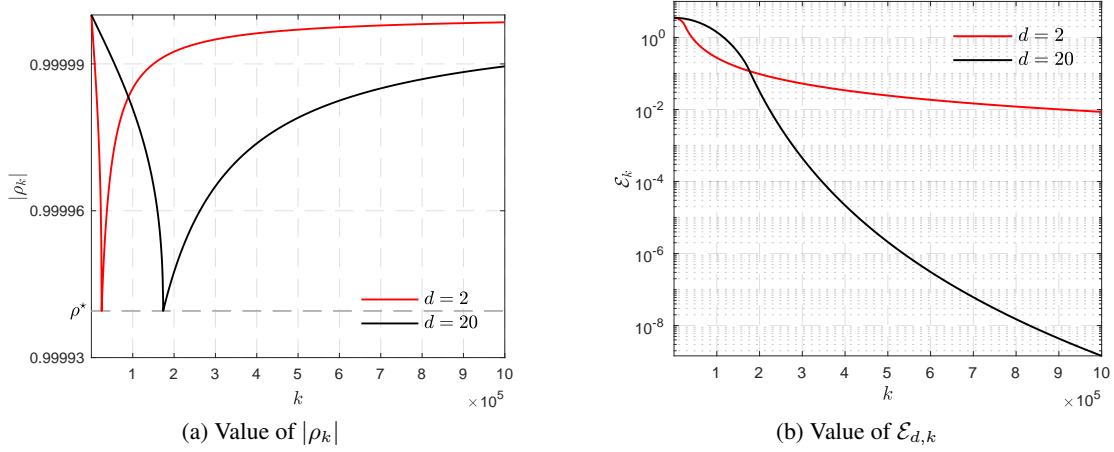


Figure 4: The value of ρ_k and $\mathcal{E}_{d,k}$ under d_1, d_2 .

which is the accumulation of $\frac{|\rho_{d_1,i}|}{|\rho_{d_2,i}|}$. Let $k \geq K_{\text{eq}} + 2(d_2 - d_1)$, then we get

$$\begin{aligned}
 \mathcal{R}_k &= \prod_{i=K_{\text{eq}}}^k \frac{|\rho_{d_1,i}|}{|\rho_{d_2,i}|} = \prod_{i=K_{\text{eq}}}^k \frac{\sqrt{a_{d_1,i}}}{\sqrt{a_{d_2,i}}} = \prod_{i=K_{\text{eq}}}^k \sqrt{\frac{i+d_2}{i+d_1}} \\
 &= \prod_{i=K_{\text{eq}}}^k \left(\frac{K_{\text{eq}}+d_2}{K_{\text{eq}}+d_1} \frac{K_{\text{eq}}+1+d_2}{K_{\text{eq}}+1+d_1} \dots \frac{K_{\text{eq}}+d_2-d_1+d_2}{K_{\text{eq}}+d_2-d_1+d_1} \dots \frac{k-2+d_2}{k-2+d_1} \frac{k-1+d_2}{k-1+d_1} \frac{k+d_2}{k+d_1} \right)^{1/2} \\
 &= \prod_{j=0}^{d_2-d_1-1} \left(\frac{k+d_1+1+j}{K_{\text{eq}}+d_1+j} \right)^{1/2} \approx \left(\frac{k+d_2}{K_{\text{eq}}+d_2-1} \right)^{(d_2-d_1)/2}.
 \end{aligned} \tag{4.9}$$

Since $\gamma = 1/L$, define $\mathcal{C} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} L/\alpha$ the condition number. Recall the definition of $K_{\text{eq}} = \lceil \frac{1+a^*d_2}{1-a^*} \rceil + 1$ and that $a^* = \frac{1-\sqrt{\gamma\alpha}}{1+\sqrt{\gamma\alpha}}$, we have from (4.9) that

$$\begin{aligned}
 \mathcal{R}_k &\approx \left(\frac{k+d_2}{\frac{1+a^*d_2}{1-a^*} + 1 + d_2 - 1} \right)^{(d_2-d_1)/2} = \left(\frac{(1-a^*)(k+d_2)}{1+d_2} \right)^{(d_2-d_1)/2} \\
 &= \left(1 - \frac{1-\sqrt{\gamma\alpha}}{1+\sqrt{\gamma\alpha}} \right)^{(d_2-d_1)/2} \left(\frac{k+d_2}{1+d_2} \right)^{(d_2-d_1)/2} \\
 &= \left(\frac{2}{\sqrt{\mathcal{C}}+1} \right)^{(d_2-d_1)/2} \left(\frac{k+d_2}{1+d_2} \right)^{(d_2-d_1)/2}.
 \end{aligned} \tag{4.10}$$

To verify the accuracy of the above approximation, we consider the problem (4.1). When $n = 201$, we have

$$L = 16 \quad \text{and} \quad \alpha = 5.85 \times 10^{-8}.$$

Consequently, $\mathcal{C} = \frac{L}{\alpha} = 2.735 \times 10^8$. Let $k = 10^6$ and substitute them into (4.10), we have $\mathcal{R}_k \approx 5.98 \times 10^6$, while for $\mathcal{E}_{d,k}$ we have

$$\frac{\mathcal{E}_{d_1,k=10^6}}{\mathcal{E}_{d_2,k=10^6}} = 5.96 \times 10^6,$$

which means (4.10) is a good approximation of (4.9).

The above discussion is mainly about the envelope $\mathcal{E}_{d_1,k}$. In terms of what really happens on $\|x_k - x^*\|$ for d_1 and d_2 : from Figure 2, we have that for $k = 10^6$, $\|x_k - x^*\|$ of d_1 is about 2×10^6 larger than that of d_2 . Compared with 5.98×10^6 , we can conclude that the above approximation is able to estimate the order of acceleration obtained by lazy-start strategy.

4.2.3 Quantify the advantage of lazy-start

The approximation (4.10) indicates that \mathcal{R}_k is a function of \mathcal{C} and k , in the following we discuss the dependence of \mathcal{R}_k on \mathcal{C} and k from two aspects.

Fix k First consider $\mathcal{C} \in [10^4, 10^{12}]$ and letting $k = K_{\text{eq}} + 10^6$, note that K_{eq} is changing over \mathcal{C} . This setting is to check how much better d_2 is than d_1 in terms of $\|x_k - x^*\|$ if we run the iteration (4.2) 10^6 more steps after K_{eq} . The obtained value of \mathcal{R}_k is shown below in Figure 5 (a). As we can see, when \mathcal{C} is small, *e.g.* $\mathcal{C} = 10^4$, the advantage can be as large as 10^{27} times and decrease to almost 1 for $\mathcal{C} = 10^{12}$. However it should be noted that for this large \mathcal{C} , $K_{\text{eq}} + 10^6$ steps of iteration could be not enough for producing satisfactory outputs.

Fix \mathcal{R}_k The second part is to check for fixed $\mathcal{R}_k = \mathcal{R}$, *e.g.* $\mathcal{R} = 10^5$, how many more steps are needed after K_{eq} . From (4.10), simple calculation yields

$$k - K_{\text{eq}} = \mathcal{R}^{\frac{2}{d_2 - d_1}} \frac{(\sqrt{\mathcal{C}} + 1)(1 + d_2)}{2} - d_2.$$

Let again $\mathcal{C} \in [10^4, 10^{12}]$, the value of $k - K_{\text{eq}}$ is shown in Figure 5 (b). We can observe that when $\mathcal{C} = 10^4$, only around 2×10^3 steps are needed, while about 2×10^7 steps are needed for $\mathcal{C} = 10^{12}$.

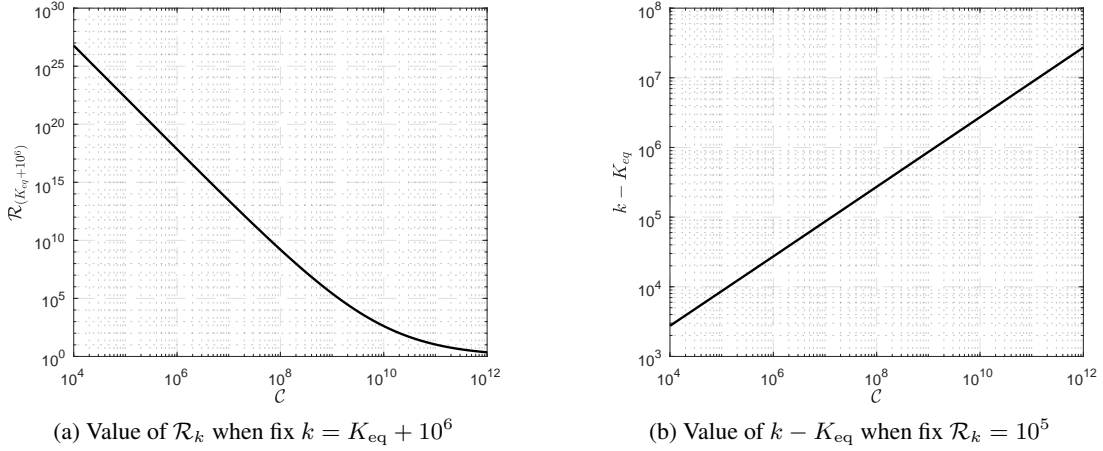


Figure 5: The dependence of \mathcal{R}_k on the iteration number k and the condition number \mathcal{C} : (a) Value of \mathcal{R}_k over \mathcal{C} when fix $k = K_{\text{eq}} + 10^6$; (b) The value of the difference $k - K_{\text{eq}}$ over \mathcal{C} when fix $\mathcal{R}_k = 10^5$.

Remark 4.5. It can be observed from (4.10) that, when fixing \mathcal{C} and k , \mathcal{R}_k increases when d_2 does. This means that if we consider only \mathcal{R}_k , then the larger value of d_2 the better. However, one should not do so in practice, as larger d_2 will make the value of K_{eq} much larger. As a result, proper choice of d_2 is a trade-off between K_{eq} and \mathcal{R}_k , which is the content of next part.

4.3 Optimal lazy-start parameters

Now we discuss how to practically choose d and the existence of optimal d . The discussion again is delivered through the envelope $\mathcal{E}_{d,k}$ of Proposition 4.4.

4.3.1 Optimal d for $\|x_k - x^*\|$

We continue using problem (4.1) with $n = 201$, with condition number $\mathcal{C} = 2.735 \times 10^7$. Consider several different values of d which are $d \in [5, 15, 25, 35, 45]$. The values of corresponding $\mathcal{E}_{d,k}$ are plotted in Figure 6 (a). For each $k \in [1, 10^6]$, the minimum of $\mathcal{E}_{d \in [5, 15, 25, 35, 45], k}$ is computed and plotted in *red dot line*.

From the plots in Figure 6 (a), it can be observed that for each $d \in [5, 15, 25, 35, 45]$, their corresponding $\mathcal{E}_{d,k}$ is the smallest for certain range of k . For instance, for $d = 5$, $\mathcal{E}_{5,k}$ is the smallest for k between 1 and about 1.75×10^5 . This implies that

- there exists optimal choice of d ;
- The optimal d depends on the accuracy of x_k .

To verify these claims, we consider the following numerical illustration: under a given tolerance $\text{tol} \in \{-2, \dots, -10\}$, for each $d \in [2, 100]$ compute the minimal number of iterations, *i.e.* k , needed such that

$$\log(\mathcal{E}_{d,k}) \leq \text{tol}.$$

The obtained results are shown in Figure 6 (b), from where we can observe that for each $\text{tol} \in \{-2, \dots, -10\}$, the corresponding k is a smooth curve that admits a minimal value k_{tol}^* for optimal d_{tol}^* . The red line segment connects all the points of $(d_{\text{tol}}^*, k_{\text{tol}}^*)$ which almost is a straight line. It indicates that one should

choose small d when tol is large, and increase the value of d when tol is becoming smaller.

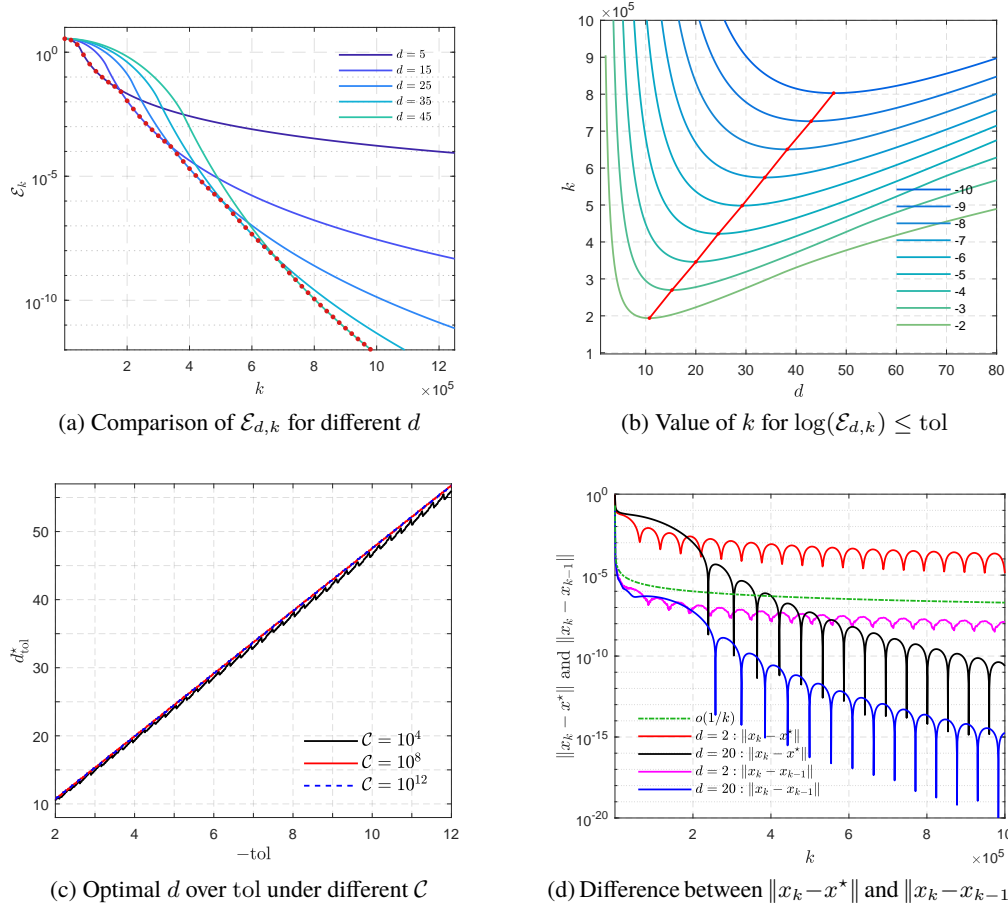


Figure 6: Optimal choices of d under different stopping tolerance: (a) Comparison of $\mathcal{E}_{d,k}$ for $d \in [5, 15, 25, 35, 45]$; (b) Number of iteration needed for $\log(\mathcal{E}_{d,k}) \leq \text{tol}$; (c) Optimal d over tol for different condition number $C \in \{10^4, 10^8, 10^{12}\}$. (d) Difference between $\|x_k - x^*\|$ and $\|x_k - x_{k-1}\|$.

The red line in Figure 6(b) accounts only for condition number $C = 2.735 \times 10^7$. In Figure 6(c), we consider three different condition numbers $C \in \{10^4, 10^8, 10^{12}\}$ and plot their corresponding optimal choices of d under different tol . Surprisingly, the obtained optimal choices for each C are almost same, especially for $C = 10^8, 10^{12}$. From these three lines, we fit the following linear function

$$d_{\text{tol}}^* = 10.75 + 4.6(-\text{tol} - 2),$$

which can be used to compute the optimal d for a given stopping criterion on $\|x_k - x^*\|$.

4.3.2 Optimal d for $\|x_k - x_{k-1}\|$

To this point, we have presented detailed analysis on the advantage of lazy-start strategy. However, the analysis is conducted via the envelope $\mathcal{E}_{d,k}$ of $\|x_k - x^*\|$ which requires the solution x^* . While in practice, most of time only $\|x_k - x_{k-1}\|$ is available, which makes the above discussion on optimal d not practically useful. Therefore, we discuss briefly below on how to adapt the above result to $\|x_k - x_{k-1}\|$.

In Figure 6 (d) we plot both $\|x_k - x^*\|$ and $\|x_k - x_{k-1}\|$ for the considered problem (4.1) with $d = 2$ and $d = 20$. The red and magenta lines are for $d = 2$ while the black and blue lines are for $d = 20$. It can be observed that $\|x_k - x_{k-1}\|$ is several order smaller than $\|x_k - x^*\|$, which is caused by the significant decay at the beginning of $\|x_k - x_{k-1}\|$. This is due to the fact that at the beginning stage of the iterates, the convergence of $\|x_k - x_{k-1}\|$ is governed by the $o(1/k)$ rate established in Theorem 3.5; see the green dot-dash line.

If we discard the $o(1/k)$ part of $\|x_k - x_{k-1}\|$, then the remainder can be seen as scaled $\|x_k - x^*\|$, i.e. $\|x_k - x_{k-1}\| \approx \|x_k - x^*\|/10^s$ for some $s > 0$. Therefore, if some prior about this shift could be available, then the optimal choice of d would be

$$d_{\text{tol}}^* = 10.75 + 4.6(-\text{tol} - 2 - s).$$

For a given problem, in practice the value of s can be estimated though the following strategy:

- Run the FISTA iteration for sufficient number of iterations and obtain a rough solution \tilde{x} and also record the residual sequence $\|x_k - x_{k-1}\|$;
- Rerun the iteration again and output the value of $\|x_k - \tilde{x}\|$. Comparing $\|x_k - x_{k-1}\|$ and $\|x_k - \tilde{x}\|$ one can then obtain an estimation of s .

In practice, one can also simply choose $d \in [20, 40]$ which can provide consistent faster performance.

Remark 4.6.

- The discussion of this section has been conducted through FISTA-CD, to extend the result to the case of FISTA-Mod, we may simply take $p = \frac{1}{d}$ and let $q \in]0, 1]$. As we have seen from Figure 1, the correspondence between FISTA-CD and FISTA-Mod is roughly $p = \frac{1}{d}$.
- The discussion of this section considers only the least square problem (4.1) which is very simple. However, this does not mean that lazy-start strategy will fail for more complicated problems such as (P), see Section 7 for evidence. Moreover, owing to the result of [16], many examples of (P) locally around the solution is equivalent to some C^2 -smooth problems. As a consequence, though the least square problem is simple, it is representative enough for the discussion.

5 Adaptive acceleration

We have discussed the advantages of the proposed FISTA-Mod scheme, particularly the lazy-start strategy. However, despite the advantage brought by lazy-start, FISTA-Mod/FISTA-CD still suffer the same drawback of FISTA-BT: the oscillation of $\Phi(x_k) - \Phi(x^*)$ and $\|x_k - x^*\|$ as shown in Figure 2. Therefore, in this section we discuss adaptive approaches to avoid oscillation. Note that here we only discuss adaptation to strong convexity, and refer to [8] for backtracking strategies for Lipschitz constant L .

The presented acceleration schemes cover two different cases: strong convexity is explicitly available, strong convexity is unknown or non-strongly convex. For the first case, the optimal parameter choices are available. While for the latter, we need to adaptively estimate the strong convexity.

5.1 Strong convexity is available

For this case, we assume that F of (P) is α -strongly convex and R is only convex, and derive the optimal setting of p, q and r for FISTA-Mod. Recall that under step-size γ , the optimal inertial parameter is $a^* = \frac{1-\sqrt{\gamma\alpha}}{1+\sqrt{\gamma\alpha}}$. From (3.4) the limiting value of a_k , we have that for given $p, q \in]0, 1]$, r should be chosen such that

$$\frac{2p + \Delta - (4 - r)}{2p + \Delta} = \frac{1 - \sqrt{\gamma\alpha}}{1 + \sqrt{\gamma\alpha}},$$

where $\Delta \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \sqrt{rp^2 + (4-r)q}$. Solve the above equation we get the optimal choice of r which reads

$$\begin{aligned} r &= f(\alpha, \gamma; p, q) = 4(1-p) + 4pa^* + (p^2 - q)(1-a^*)^2 \\ &= 4(1-p) + \frac{4p(1-\sqrt{\gamma\alpha})}{1+\sqrt{\gamma\alpha}} + \frac{4\gamma\alpha(p^2-q)}{(1+\sqrt{\gamma\alpha})^2} \leq 4. \end{aligned} \quad (5.1)$$

Note that we have $f(\alpha, \gamma; p, q) = 4$ for $\alpha = 0$, and $f(\alpha, \gamma; p, q) < 4$ for $\alpha > 0$.

Based on the above result, we propose below an generalisation of FISTA-Mod which is able to adapt to the strong convexity of the problem to solve.

Algorithm 3: Strongly convex FISTA-Mod (α -FISTA)

Initial: let $p, q > 0$ and $\gamma \leq 1/L$. For $\alpha \geq 0$, determine r as $r = f(\alpha, \gamma; p, q)$. Let $t_0 \geq 1$, and $x_0 \in \mathbb{R}^n, x_{-1} = x_0$.

repeat

$$\begin{aligned} t_k &= \frac{p + \sqrt{q + rt_{k-1}^2}}{2}, \quad a_k = \frac{t_{k-1} - 1}{t_k}, \\ y_k &= x_k + a_k(x_k - x_{k-1}), \\ x_{k+1} &= \text{prox}_{\gamma R}(y_k - \gamma \nabla F(y_k)). \end{aligned} \quad (5.2)$$

until convergence;

Remark 5.1.

- Since $f(\alpha, \gamma; p, q) = 4$ when $\alpha = 0$, the above algorithm mains the $o(1/k^2)$ convergence rate for non-strongly convex case, and in general we have the following convergence property for α -FISTA,

$$\Phi(x_k) - \Phi(x^*) \leq \mathcal{C}\omega_k,$$

where $\mathcal{C} > 0$ is a constant and $\omega_k = \min \left\{ \frac{2L}{p^2(k+1)^2}, (1 - \sqrt{\gamma\alpha})^k \right\}$.

- Recall Remark 3.1, the property of t_k converging to its limit t_∞ . In practice, it is better to choose $t_0 > \tilde{t}$ as it gives faster practical performance than choosing $t_0 < t_\infty$.

Recently, combing FISTA scheme with strong convexity was studied in [8] where the authors also propose an generalisation of FISTA scheme for strongly convex problems. They consider the case that R is α_R -strongly convex and F is α_F -strongly convex, and the whole problem is then $(\alpha = \alpha_R + \alpha_F)$ -strongly convex. In [8, Algorithm 1], the following update rule of t_k is considered

$$t_k = \frac{1 - qt_{k-1}^2 + \sqrt{(1 - qt_{k-1}^2)^2 + 4t_{k-1}^2}}{2} \quad \text{and} \quad a_k = \frac{t_{k-1} - 1}{t_k} \frac{1 + \gamma\alpha_R - t_k\gamma\alpha}{1 - \gamma\alpha_F}, \quad (5.3)$$

where $q = \frac{\gamma\alpha}{1 + \gamma\alpha_R}$. As we shall see later in Section 6, the above update rule is equivalent to Nesterov's optimal scheme [23]; see also [11] for discussions.

When $\alpha > 0$, then [8, Algorithm 1] achieves $O((1 - \sqrt{q})^k)$ linear convergence rate. When $\alpha_R = 0, \alpha_F > 0$, we have $1 - \sqrt{q} = 1 - \sqrt{\gamma\alpha}$ which means [8, Algorithm 1] and α -FISTA achieves the same optimal rate. However, if both $\alpha_R > 0$ and $\alpha_F \geq 0$, then

$$1 - \sqrt{\frac{\gamma\alpha}{1 + \gamma\alpha_R}} > 1 - \sqrt{\gamma\alpha},$$

which means (5.3) achieves a sub-optimal convergence rate. As a matter of fact, if we transfer the strong convexity of R to F , that is

$$R \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} R - \frac{\alpha_R}{2} \|x\|^2 \quad \text{and} \quad F \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} F + \frac{\alpha_R}{2} \|x\|^2.$$

Then R is convex and F is α -strongly convex, and the optimal rate would be $1 - \sqrt{\gamma\alpha}$. Moreover, redefining R does not affect computing $\text{prox}_{\gamma R}$, as it is simply quadratic perturbation of proximity operator [12, Lemma 2.6].

5.2 Strong convexity is not available

The goal of α -FISTA is to avoid the oscillatory behaviour of the FISTA schemes. In the literature, an efficient way to deal with oscillation is the restarting technique developed in [25]. The basic idea of restarting is that, once the objective function value of $\Phi(x_k)$ is about to increase, the algorithm resets t_k and y_k . Doing so, the algorithm achieves an almost monotonic convergence in terms of $\Phi(x_k) - \Phi(x^*)$, and can be significantly faster than the original scheme; see [25] or Section 7 for detailed comparisons.

The strong convexity adaptive α -FISTA (Algorithm 3) considers only the situation where the strong convexity is explicitly available, which is very often not the case in practice. Moreover, the oscillatory behaviour is independent of the strong convexity. As a consequence, an adaptive scheme is needed such that the following scenarios can be covered

- Φ is neither *globally* nor *locally* strongly convex;
- Φ is *globally* strongly convex with unknown modulus α ;
- Φ is *locally* strongly convex with unknown modulus α .

On the other hand, when Φ is strongly convex, estimating the strong convexity in general is time consuming. Therefore, an efficient estimation approach is also needed. To address these problems, we propose a restarting adaptive scheme (Algorithm 4), which combines the restarting technique of [25] and α -FISTA.

Algorithm 4: Restarting and Adaptive α -FISTA (Rada-FISTA)

Initial: $p, q \in]0, 1]$, $r = 4$ and $\xi < 1$, $t_0 = 1$, $\gamma = 1/L$ and $x_0 \in \mathcal{H}$, $x_{-1} = x_0$.

repeat

- Run FISTA-Mod:

$$t_k = \frac{p + \sqrt{q + r t_{k-1}^2}}{2}, \quad a_k = \frac{t_{k-1} - 1}{t_k},$$

$$y_k = x_k + a_k(x_k - x_{k-1}),$$

$$x_{k+1} = \text{prox}_{\gamma R}(y_k - \gamma \nabla F(y_k)).$$

- Restarting: if $(y_k - x_{k+1})^T(x_{k+1} - x_k) \geq 0$,
 - Option I: $r = \xi r$ and $y_k = x_k$;
 - Option II: $r = \xi r$, $t_k = 1$ and $y_k = x_k$.

until convergence;

For the rest of the paper, we shall call Algorithm 4 as “Rada-FISTA”. Below we provide some discussions:

- Compared to α -FISTA, the main difference of Rada-FISTA is the restarting step which is originally proposed in [25]. Such a strategy can successfully avoid the oscillatory behaviour of $\Phi(x_k) - \Phi(x^*)$;
- We provide two different option for the restarting step. For both options, once restarts, we reset y_k as in [25]. Meanwhile, we also rescale the value of r by a factor ξ which is strictly smaller than 1. The purpose of rescaling is to approximate the optimal choice of r in (5.1);
- The difference between the two options is that t_k is not reset to 1 in “Option I”. Doing so, “Option I” will restart for more times than “Option II”, however it will achieve faster practical performance; see Section 7 the numerical experiments. It is worth noting that, for the restarting FISTA of [25], removing resetting t_k could also lead to an acceleration.

We provide a very simple way on how to choose parameter ξ : let k be the iteration number when the criterion $(y_k - x_{k+1})^T(x_{k+1} - x_k) \geq 0$ is triggered for the first time, we then have the corresponding a_k , let $m > 1$ be some large enough constant, then one can simply set $\xi = \sqrt[m]{a_k}$.

5.3 Greedy FISTA

We conclude this section by discussing how to further improve the performance of restarting technique, achieving an even faster performance than Rada-FISTA and restarting FISTA [25].

The oscillation of FISTA schemes is caused by the fact that $a_k \rightarrow 1$. For the restarting scheme [25], resetting t_k to 1 forces a_k to increase from 0 again, become close enough to 1 and cause next oscillation, then the scheme restarts. For such loop, if we can shorten the gap between two restarts, then extra acceleration could be obtained. It turns out that using constant a_k (close or equal to 1) can achieve this goal. Therefore, we propose the following greedy restarting scheme.

Algorithm 5: Greedy FISTA

Initial: let $\gamma \in [\frac{1}{L}, \frac{2}{L}[$ and $\xi < 1, S > 1$, choose $x_0 \in \mathbb{R}^n, x_{-1} = x_0$.

repeat

- Run the iteration:

$$\begin{aligned} y_k &= x_k + (x_k - x_{k-1}), \\ x_{k+1} &= \text{prox}_{\gamma R}(y_k - \gamma \nabla F(y_k)). \end{aligned} \tag{5.4}$$

- Restarting: if $(y_k - x_{k+1})^T(x_{k+1} - x_k) \geq 0$, then $y_k = x_k$;
- Safeguard: if $\|x_{k+1} - x_k\| \geq S\|x_1 - x_0\|$, then $\gamma = \max\{\xi\gamma, \frac{1}{L}\}$;

until convergence;

We abuse the notation by calling the above algorithm “Greedy FISTA”, which uses constant inertial parameter $a_k \equiv 1$ for the momentum term:

- A larger step-size (than $1/L$) is chosen for γ , which can further shorten the oscillation period;
- As such large step-size may lead to divergence, we add a “safeguard” step to ensure the convergence. This step shrinkages the value of γ when certain condition (e.g. $\|x_{k+1} - x_k\| \geq S\|x_1 - x_0\|$) is satisfied. Eventually we will have $\gamma = 1/L$ if safeguard is activated sufficient number of steps, and the convergence of the objective function value $\Phi(x_k)$ can be guaranteed.

In practice, we find that $\gamma \in [1/L, 1.3/L]$ provides faster performance than Rada-FISTA and restarting FISTA of [25]; See Section 7 for more detailed comparisons.

6 Nesterov’s accelerated scheme

In this section, we turn to Nesterov’s accelerated gradient method [23] and extend the above results to this scheme. In the book [23], Nesterov introduces several different acceleration schemes, in the following we mainly focus on the “Constant Step Scheme, III”. Applying this scheme to solve (P), we obtain the following accelerated proximal gradient method (APG).

Algorithm 6: Accelerated proximal gradient (APG)

Initial: $\tau \in [0, 1], \theta_0 = 1, \gamma = 1/L$ and $x_0 \in \mathcal{H}, x_{-1} = x_0$.

repeat

Estimate the local strong convexity α_k ;

$$\begin{aligned} \theta_k &\text{ solves } \theta_k^2 = (1 - \theta_k)\theta_{k-1}^2 + \tau\theta_k, \\ a_k &= \frac{\theta_{k-1}(1 - \theta_{k-1})}{\theta_{k-1}^2 + \theta_k}, \\ y_k &= x_k + a_k(x_k - x_{k-1}), \\ x_{k+1} &= \text{prox}_{\gamma R}(y_k - \gamma \nabla F(y_k)). \end{aligned}$$

until convergence;

When the problem (P) is α -strongly convex, then by setting $\tau = \sqrt{\alpha/L}$ and $\theta_0 = \tau$, we have

$$\theta_k \equiv \tau \quad \text{and} \quad a_k \equiv \frac{1 - \sqrt{\gamma\alpha}}{1 + \sqrt{\gamma\alpha}},$$

and the iterate achieves the optimal convergence speed, *i.e.* $1 - \sqrt{\gamma\alpha}$, as we have already discussed in the previous sections. For the rest of this section, we first build connections between the parameters update of APG with α -FISTA, and then extend the lazy-start strategy to APG.

6.1 Connection with α -FISTA

Consider the following equation of θ parametrised by $0 \leq \tau \leq \sigma \leq 1$, which recovers the θ_k update of APG for $\sigma = 1$,

$$\theta^2 + (\sigma\theta_{k-1}^2 - \tau)\theta - \theta_{k-1}^2 = 0. \quad (6.1)$$

The definition of a_k implies $\theta_k \in [0, 1]$ for all $k \geq 1$. Therefore, the θ_k we seek from above (6.1) reads

$$\theta_k = \frac{-(\sigma\theta_{k-1}^2 - \tau) + \sqrt{(\sigma\theta_{k-1}^2 - \tau)^2 + 4\theta_{k-1}^2}}{2}. \quad (6.2)$$

It is then easy to verify that θ_k is convergent and $\lim_{k \rightarrow +\infty} \theta_k = \sqrt{\frac{\tau}{\sigma}}$. Back to (6.2), we have

$$\theta_k = \frac{2\theta_{k-1}^2}{(\sigma\theta_{k-1}^2 - \tau) + \sqrt{(\sigma\theta_{k-1}^2 - \tau)^2 + 4\theta_{k-1}^2}} = \frac{2}{(\sigma - \tau/\theta_{k-1}^2) + \sqrt{(\sigma - \tau/\theta_{k-1}^2)^2 + 4}}.$$

Letting $t_k = 1/\theta_k$ and substituting back to the above equation lead to

$$t_k = \frac{(\sigma - \tau t_{k-1}^2) + \sqrt{(\sigma - \tau t_{k-1}^2)^2 + 4t_{k-1}^2}}{2}. \quad (6.3)$$

Note that the update rule (5.3) of [8] is a special case of above equation with $\sigma = 1$ and $\tau = \frac{\gamma\alpha}{1+\gamma\alpha_R}$. Moreover,

$$t_k \rightarrow \begin{cases} +\infty : \tau = 0, \\ \sqrt{\frac{\sigma}{\tau}} : \tau \in]0, 1]. \end{cases}$$

Depending on the choices of σ, τ , we have

- When $(\sigma, \tau) = (1, 0)$, APG is equivalent to the original FISTA-BT scheme;
- When $(\sigma, \tau) = (1, \gamma\alpha)$, APG is equivalent to [8, Algorithm 1] for adapting to strong convexity.

Building upon the above connection, we can extend the previous result of FISTA-Mod to the case of APG.

Remark 6.1. Let $\tau = 0$ in (6.3), comparing with the t_k update in (3.5), we have that (6.3) is a special case of (3.5) with $p = \sigma$ and $q = \sigma^2$.

6.2 A modified APG

Extending the FISTA-Mod (Algorithm 2) and α -FISTA (Algorithm 3) to the case of APG, we propose the following modified APG scheme which we name as “mAPG”.

Algorithm 7: A modified APG scheme(mAPG)

Initial: Let $\sigma \in [0, 1]$, $\gamma = 1/L$ and $\tau = \gamma\alpha\sigma$, $\theta_0 \in [0, 1]$. Set $x_0 \in \mathcal{H}$, $x_{-1} = x_0$.

repeat

$$\begin{aligned} \theta_k \text{ solves } \theta_k^2 &= (1 - \sigma\theta_k)\theta_{k-1}^2 + \tau\theta_k, \\ a_k &= \frac{\theta_{k-1}(1 - \theta_{k-1})}{\theta_{k-1}^2 + \theta_k}, \\ y_k &= x_k + a_k(x_k - x_{k-1}), \\ x_{k+1} &= \text{prox}_{\gamma R}(y_k - \gamma \nabla F(y_k)). \end{aligned} \quad (6.4)$$

until convergence;

Non-strongly convex case For the case Φ is only convex, we have $\tau = 0$, then θ_k is the root of the equation

$$\theta^2 + \sigma\theta_{k-1}^2\theta - \theta_{k-1}^2 = 0.$$

Owing to Section 6.1, we have that mAPG is equivalent to FISTA-Mod with $p = \sigma$ and $q = \sigma^2$. Therefore, we have the following convergence result for mAPG which is an extension of Theorems 3.3 and 3.5.

Corollary 6.2. *For mAPG scheme Algorithm 7, let $\tau = 0$ and $\sigma \in]0, 1]$, then*

- *For the objective function value,*

$$\Phi(x_k) - \Phi(x^*) \leq \frac{2L}{\sigma^2(k+1)^2} \|x_0 - x^*\|^2.$$

If moreover $\sigma < 1$, we have $\Phi(x_k) - \Phi(x^) = o(1/k^2)$.*

- *Let $\sigma < 1$, then there exists an $x^* \in \text{Argmin}(\Phi)$ to which the sequence $\{x_k\}_{k \in \mathbb{N}}$ converges weakly. Moreover, $\|x_k - x_{k-1}\| = o(1/k)$.*

Remark 6.3. We can also design a lazy-start strategy for mAPG. Given the correspondence between σ of mAPG and p of FISTA-Mod, owing to Proposition 4.1, we obtain the lazy-start mAPG by choosing $\sigma \in [\frac{1}{80}, \frac{1}{10}]$.

Strongly convex case When the problem (\mathcal{P}) is strongly convex with modulus $\alpha > 0$, as $\tau = \gamma\alpha\sigma$, then according to Section 6.1, we have

$$\theta_k \rightarrow \sqrt{\frac{\tau}{\sigma}} = \sqrt{\gamma\alpha} \quad \text{and} \quad a_k \rightarrow \frac{1 - \sqrt{\gamma\alpha}}{1 + \sqrt{\gamma\alpha}},$$

which means that mAPG achieves the optimal convergence rate $1 - \sqrt{\gamma\alpha}$.

Remark 6.4. We can also extend the Rada-FISTA to APG, as it is quite trivial, we shall forgo the details here.

7 Numerical experiments

Now we present numerical experiments on problems arising from inverse problems, signal/image processing, machine learning and computer vision to demonstrate the performance of the proposed schemes. Throughout the section, the following schemes and corresponding settings are considered:

- The original FISTA-BT scheme [6];
- The proposed FISTA-Mod (Algorithm 2) with $p = 1/20$ and $q = 1/2$, *i.e.* the lazy-start strategy;
- The restarting FISTA of [25];
- The Rada-FISTA scheme (Algorithm 4);
- The greedy FISTA (Algorithm 5) with $\gamma = 1.3/L$ and $S = 1, \xi = 0.96$.

The α -FISTA (Algorithm 3) is not considered here, except in Section 7.1, since most of the problems considered are only locally strongly convex along certain direction [16]. The corresponding MATLAB source code for reproducing the experiments is available at: <https://github.com/jliang993/Faster-FISTA>.

All the schemes are running with same initial point, which is $x_0 = \mathbf{1} \times 10^4$ for the least square problem and $x_0 = \mathbf{0}$ for all other problems. In terms of comparison criterion, we mainly focus on $\|x_k - x^*\|$ where $x^* \in \text{Argmin}(\Phi)$ is a global minimiser of the optimisation problem.

7.1 Least square (4.1) continue

First we continue with the least square estimation (4.1) discussed in Section 4, and present a comparison of different schemes in terms of both $\|x_k - x^*\|$ and $\Phi(x_k) - \Phi(x^*)$. Since this problem is strongly convex, the optimal scheme (*i.e.* α -FISTA) is also considered for comparison.

The obtained results are shown in Figure 7, with $\|x_k - x^*\|$ on the left and $\Phi(x_k) - \Phi(x^*)$ on the right. From these comparisons, we obtain the following observations:

- FISTA-BT is faster than FISTA-Mod for $k \leq 3 \times 10^5$, and becoming increasing slower afterwards. This agrees with our discussion in Figure 6 that each parameter choice (of p and q , and d for FISTA-CD) is the fastest for certain accuracy;
- α -FISTA is the only scheme whose performance is monotonic in terms of both $\|x_k - x^*\|$ and $\Phi(x_k) - \Phi(x^*)$. It is also faster than both FISTA-BT and FISTA-Mod;
- The three restarting adaptive schemes are the fastest among tested schemes, with greedy FISTA being faster than the other two.

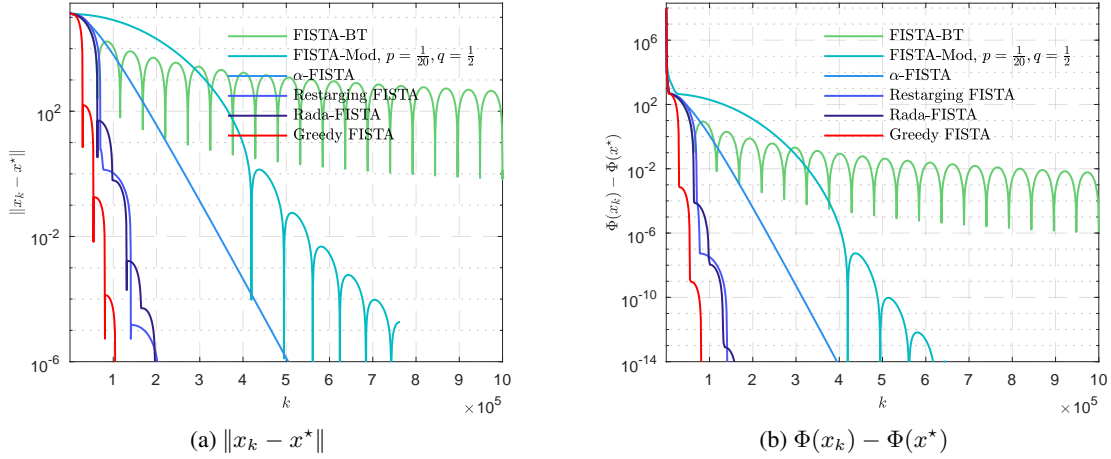


Figure 7: Comparison of different FISTA schemes for least square problem (4.1). (a) convergence of $\|x_k - x^*\|$; (b) convergence of $\Phi(x_k) - \Phi(x^*)$.

7.2 Linear inverse problem and regression problems

From now on, we turn to dealing with problems that are only locally strongly convex around the solution of the problem. We refer to [16] for a detailed characterisation of such local neighbourhood.

Linear inverse problem Consider the following regularised least square problem

$$\min_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n} \mu R(x) + \frac{1}{2} \|\mathcal{K}x - f\|^2, \quad (7.1)$$

where $\mu > 0$ is trade-off parameter, R is the regularisation function. The forward model of (7.1) reads

$$f = \mathcal{K}x_{\text{ob}} + w, \quad (7.2)$$

where $x_{\text{ob}} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ is the original object that obeys certain prior (e.g. sparsity and piece-wise constant), $f \in \mathbb{R}^m$ is the observation, $\mathcal{K} : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$ is some linear operator, and $w \in \mathbb{R}^m$ stands for noise. In the experiments, we consider R being ℓ_∞ -norm and total variation [31]. Here \mathcal{K} is generated from the standard Gaussian ensemble and the following setting is considered:

ℓ_∞ -norm $(m, n) = (1020, 1024)$, x_{ob} has 32 saturated entries;

Total variation $(m, n) = (256, 1024)$, ∇x_{ob} is 32-sparse.

Sparse logistic regression A sparse logistic regression problem for binary classification is also considered. Let $(h_i, l_i) \in \mathbb{R}^n \times \{\pm 1\}$, $i = 1, \dots, m$ be the training set, where $h_i \in \mathbb{R}^n$ is the feature vector of each data sample, and l_i is the binary label. The formulation of sparse logistic regression reads

$$\min_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n} \mu \|x\|_1 + \frac{1}{m} \sum_{i=1}^m \log(1 + e^{-l_i h_i^T x}), \quad (7.3)$$

where $\mu = 10^{-2}$ is chosen for the numerical test. The australian data set from LIBSVM² is considered.

²<https://www.csie.ntu.edu.tw/~cjlin/libsvmtools/datasets/>

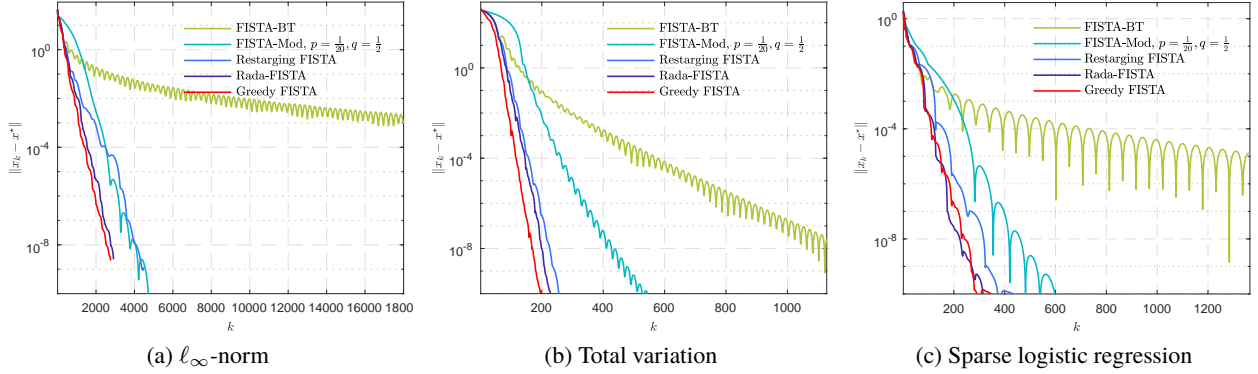


Figure 8: Comparison of different FISTA schemes for linear inverse problems and sparse logistic regression. (a) ℓ_∞ -norm; (b) Total variation; (c) Sparse logistic regression.

The observation are shown in Figure 8. Though these problems are only locally strongly convex around the solution, the observations are quite close to those of least square problem discussed above:

- The lazy-start FISTA-Mod is slower than FISTA-BT at the beginning, and eventually becomes much faster. For ℓ_∞ -norm, it is more than 10 times faster if we need the precision to be $\|x_k - x^*\| \leq 10^{-10}$;
- The restarting adaptive schemes are the fastest ones, and the greedy FISTA is the fastest of all.

7.3 Principal component pursuit

Lastly, we consider the principal component pursuit (PCP) problem [9], and apply it to decompose a video sequence into background and foreground.

Assume that a real matrix $f \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$ can be written as

$$f = x_{l,ob} + x_{s,ob} + w,$$

where $x_{l,ob}$ is low-rank, $x_{s,ob}$ is sparse and w is the noise. The PCP proposed in [9] attempts to recover/approximate $(x_{l,ob}, x_{s,ob})$ by solving the following convex optimisation problem

$$\min_{x_1, x_s \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}} \frac{1}{2} \|f - x_1 - x_s\|_F^2 + \mu \|x_s\|_1 + \nu \|x_1\|_*, \quad (7.4)$$

where $\|\cdot\|_F$ is the Frobenius norm. Observe that for fixed x_1 , the minimiser of (7.4) is $x_s^* = \text{prox}_{\mu\|\cdot\|_1}(f - x_1)$. Thus, (7.4) is equivalent to

$$\min_{x_1 \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}} \frac{1}{2} (\mu\|\cdot\|_1)(f - x_1) + \nu \|x_1\|_*, \quad (7.5)$$

where $\frac{1}{2} (\mu\|\cdot\|_1)(f - x_1) = \min_z \frac{1}{2} \|f - x_1 - z\|_F^2 + \mu \|z\|_1$ is the Moreau Envelope of $\mu\|\cdot\|_1$ of index 1, and hence has 1-Lipschitz continuous gradient.

We use the video sequence from [13] and the obtained result is demonstrated in Figure 9. Again, we obtain consistent observations with the above examples. Moreover, the performance of lazy-start FISTA-Mod is very close to the restarting adaptive schemes.

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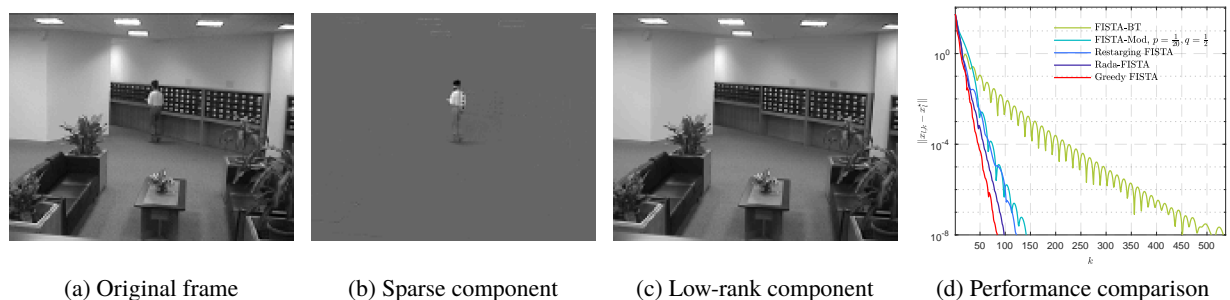


Figure 9: Comparison of different FISTA schemes for principal component pursuit problem. (a) original frame; (b) foreground; (c) background; (d) performance comparison.

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