

# 1 Introduction

## 1. History

### (a)stochastic optimization(SP):

$$\max_{\mathbf{x} \in X} \mathbf{E}_{F_\epsilon}[h(\mathbf{x}, \epsilon)]$$

- $F_\epsilon$  (distribution function) need to be exact, otherwise result in sub-optimal solutions
- no robustness in the error of distribution; need to much computation

### (b)(static) robust optimization:

$$\max_{\mathbf{x} \in X} \min_{\epsilon \in \text{support}} h(\mathbf{x}, \epsilon)$$

- intractable: include too much unrealistic distribution(single point) on support set( the solution may not be realistic to worst case)

### (c)distributional robust optimization(DRO):

- also named as DRSP(distributional robust stochastic programming)
- an intermediate approach between SP and robust optimization

## 2. Model

### (a)prerequisite:

- known certain observed samples  
eg: sum-of-squares polynomial density functions of known degrees/ a fixed distance, which measured by KL divergence, from a nominal distribution
- known certain training data  
eg: data-driven sets with statistical hypothesis tests
- other statistical information  
eg: higher-order moments; conditional probabilities; conditional moments; marginal distributions

### (b)properties:

- uncertain( exact distribution is unknown), fictitious, decision-making problems, data-driven optimization, apply to worst case

$$\begin{cases} \text{pros :} & \text{uncertain, fictitious} \\ \text{cons :} & \text{pathological discrete distribution} \end{cases}$$

### (c)classes:

- #1 : continuous action space; learn optimal strategy( make decision)

#2 : under Wasserstein metric, change to finite convex programs(eg tractable linear programs/ conic program)

#3 :data-driven optimization

**(d)composition:**

$$\max_{\mathbf{x} \in X} \min_{F_\epsilon \in D} \mathbf{E}_{F_\epsilon}[h(\mathbf{x}, \epsilon)]$$

Here,  $D$  is a set of distributions and the purpose is to give best  $\mathbf{x} \in X$ . In order to choose a proper  $D$ , following things need to be taken into account:

-tractability

-practical( statistical) meanings

-performance( eg: the potential loss comparing to the benchmark cases)

### 3. Software

ROME

### 4. Comparison with other methods

By the use of several carefully designed data structures, DRO provides at little extra cost compared to empirical risk minimization & stochastic gradient methods

## 2 Application

### 1. Finance

**(a)data source:**

portfolio optimization problem( insurance company);

risk aggregation problem( insurance company);

price-post learning

**(b)origin:**

DRO method comes from risk-managing decision-make optimization with portfolio problem

### 2. Engineering

**(a)purpose:**

give out power generation solution by minimizing cost

## Main point

### 1. 2018\_Klerk\_SIAM

- (a) introduce a sets (sum-of-squares polynomial density functions of known degrees) instead of pathological distribution
- (b) apply to portfolio optimization problem and risk aggregation problem

### 2. 2018\_Gao\_book

- (a) give method to choose distributional function
- (b) give simple algorithms for local optima
- (c) extend to optimization problems: orthogonal constraints and coupled constraints over simplex set and polytopes
- (d) explain by convergence rate and examples

### 3. 2018\_Esfahani\_MP

- (a) under Wasserstein metric and ball, change DOR to finite convex programs (eg: tractable linear programs)
- (b) global optimization techniques
- (c) apply to mean-risk portfolio optimization

### 4. 2018\_Bertsimas\_MP

- (a) data-driven distributionally function
- (b) apply to portfolio management

### 5. 2017\_Ye\_ppt

- (a) stochastic optimization

$$\max_{\mathbf{x} \in X} \mathbf{E}_{F_\epsilon} [h(\mathbf{x}, \epsilon)]$$

$F_\epsilon$  (distribution function) need to be exact, otherwise result in sub-optimal solutions

- (b) (static) robust optimization

$$\max_{\mathbf{x} \in X} \min_{\epsilon \in \text{support}} h(\mathbf{x}, \epsilon)$$

Robust to any distribution, but may make bad decision in worst-case

- (c) DRO

intermediate approach: robustness in the error of distribution; provide realistic non-single-point distribution on the support

6. **2017\_Chen\_IEEE**

- (a) distance-based distributionally robust unit commitment(DB-DRUC)
- (b) apply to wind power generation
- (c) minimize the expected cost under the worst case wind distributions( fixed distance from a nominal distribution)

7. **2017\_Wang\_arXiv**

- (a) optimal power flow
- (b) risk term(objective function): penalties for load shedding, wind generation curtailment and line overload
- (b) ambiguity set: second-order moment and Wasserstein distance( change to conic program )
- (c) test systems: 5-bus/IEEE 118-bus/ Polish 2736-bus

8. **2016\_Namkoong\_AINIP**

- (a) give calibrated confidence intervals on performance
- (b) weight more on observations (loss)
- (c) stochastic gradient method is a little better than DRO