

Machine Learning For Robotics

Assignment 2

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→ **GitHub Link:**

https://github.com/mahaqj/Machine-Learning-Assignment-2/blob/main/ML_Assignment_2.ipynb

→ **Gradient Descent**

1. Stochastic:

- Updates weights after every individual data point.
- Fast updates, but very noisy because each data point affects the direction.
- Can escape local minima due to randomness but may take longer to converge.

2. Batch

- Updates weights after processing the entire dataset.
- More stable updates and less noise, but computationally expensive.
- Not practical for large datasets.

3. Mini-Batch

- Updates weights after a small batch of data points have been processed (mix of SGD and BGD).
- Reduces noise while still being computationally efficient.
- Balance of speed and stability.

4. Stochastic with Momentum:

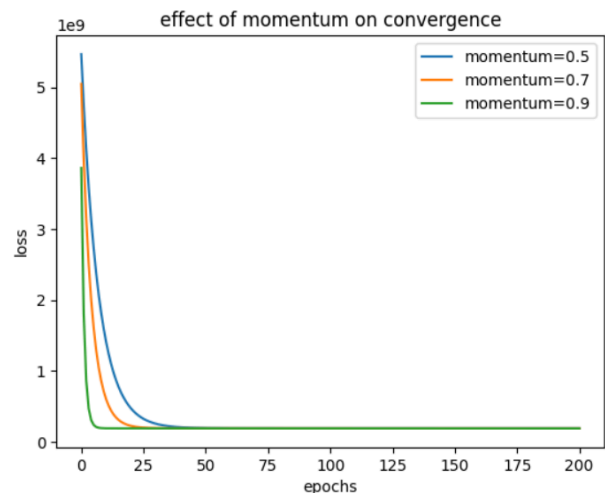
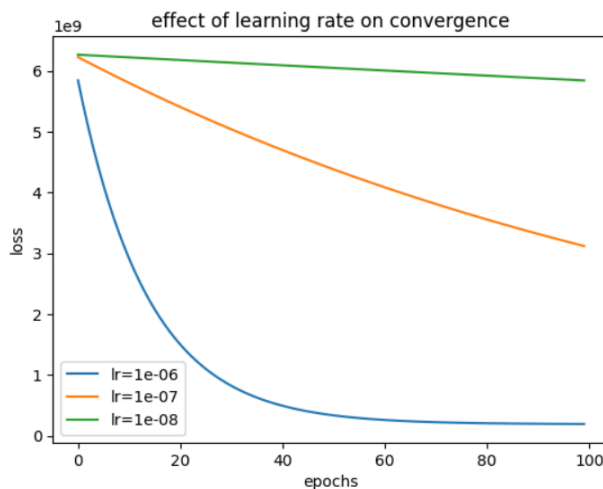
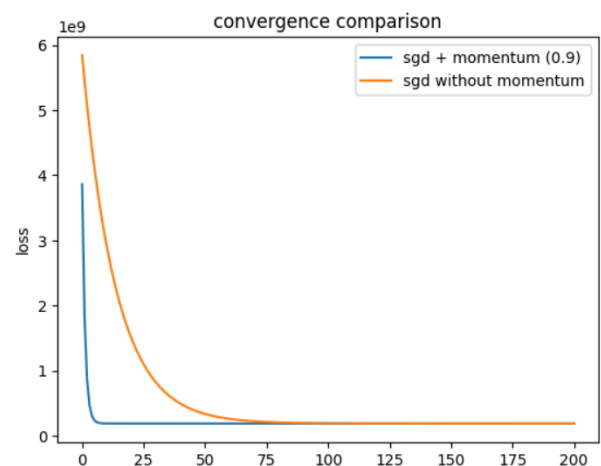
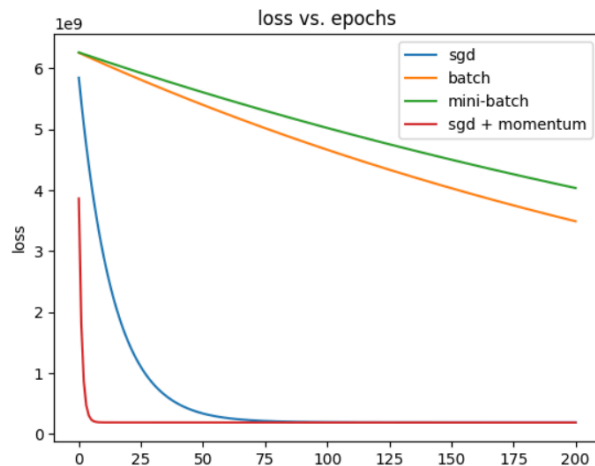
- Like SGD, but incorporates past updates to smooth out the learning process.
- Helps accelerate convergence and reduces oscillations.
- Instead of stopping at every step, it builds momentum, allowing it to avoid getting stuck in local minima.

→ **Observations**

● Loss vs. Epochs

- SGD: Fast initial drop, but fluctuates before settling.
- Batch: Slower, smooth decline but takes longer.

- Mini-Batch: Balanced between speed and stability.
 - SGD + Momentum: Reaches optimal loss much faster and smoother.
- Effect of Learning Rate
 - High learning rate ($1e-6$): Fast convergence.
 - Medium learning rate ($1e-7$): Converges slower but still reasonable.
 - Low learning rate ($1e-8$): Takes too long, barely making progress.
- Effect of Momentum
 - Higher momentum (0.9): Faster convergence, minimal oscillation.
 - Medium momentum (0.7): Still fast, but slightly more oscillation.
 - Lower momentum (0.5): Converges slower with more fluctuation.



→ **Challenges Faced**

- Choosing the right values for learning rate, momentum, and batch size took some trial and error.

→ **Conclusions**

- SGD is fast but unstable, and works well when you need quick updates.
- Batch is slow but steady, great when stability is a priority.
- Mini-Batch is the best compromise, making it the most commonly used.
- Momentum speeds up convergence and reduces unnecessary movement.
- Learning rate matters, too high can overshoot, too low can stall.
- Higher momentum means faster, smoother learning.