

4 Clustering via Alternation with Weiszfeld Step

In this section we tackle the clustering problem with distance-like function being the Euclidean norm in \mathbb{R}^n , namely

$$\min_{x^1, x^2, \dots, x^k \in \mathbb{R}^n} \left\{ \sum_{i=1}^m \min_{1 \leq l \leq k} d(x^l, a^i) \right\} \quad (4.1)$$

where $d(u, v) = \|u - v\|$.

In the previous sections we showed that (4.1) has the following equivalent form

$$\min \left\{ \Psi(z) := H(w, x) + G(w) \mid z := (w, x) \in \mathbb{R}^{km} \times \mathbb{R}^{nk} \right\},$$

where $H(w, x) = \sum_{i=1}^m \langle w^i, d^i(x) \rangle = \sum_{i=1}^m \sum_{l=1}^k w_l^i d(x^l, a^i) = \sum_{l=1}^k \sum_{i=1}^m w_l^i d(x^l, a^i) = \sum_{l=1}^k \sum_{i=1}^m w_l^i \|x^l - a^i\|$, and $G(w) = \sum_{i=1}^m \delta_{\Delta}(w^i)$.

4.1 Weiszfeld Algorithm Scheme

Short overview of the problem and the algorithm ...

4.2 Clustering with Weiszfeld Step

We introduce some useful notations that will be useful for this section. For $1 \leq l \leq k$ denote

$$L_l(w, x) = \sum_{i=1}^m \frac{w_l^i}{\|x^l - a^i\|} \text{ and } H_l(w, x) = \sum_{i=1}^m w_l^i \|x^l - a^i\|.$$

Weiszfeld single iteration is defined for each $1 \leq l \leq k$ via

$$T_l(w, x) = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^m \frac{w_l^i a^i}{\|x^l - a^i\|}}{\sum_{i=1}^m \frac{w_l^i}{\|x^l - a^i\|}}. \quad (4.2)$$

Next we present our algorithm for solving problem (4.1). The algorithm alternates between clusters assignment step, which is exactly as in KPALM, and centers update step that is based on a single Weiszfeld iteration.

(1) Initialization: Set $t = 0$, and pick random vectors $(w(0), x(0)) \in \Delta^m \times \mathbb{R}^{nk}$.

(2) For each $t = 0, 1, \dots$ generate a sequence $\{(w(t), x(t))\}_{t \in \mathbb{N}}$ as follows:

(2.1) Cluster Assignment: Take any $\alpha_i(t) > 0$ and for each $i = 1, 2, \dots, m$ compute

$$w^i(t+1) = \arg \min_{w^i \in \Delta} \left\{ \langle w^i, d^i(x(t)) \rangle + \frac{\alpha_i(t)}{2} \|w^i - w^i(t)\|^2 \right\}. \quad (4.3)$$

(2.2) Centers Update: For each $l = 1, 2, \dots, k$ compute $x^l \in \mathbb{R}^n$ via

$$x^l(t+1) = T_l(w(t+1), x(t)). \quad (4.4)$$

Assumption 3. For any step $t \in \mathbb{N}$ and for all $1 \leq l \leq k$, we assume that $x^l(t) \notin \mathcal{A}$.

Remark 2. (i) Due to Assumption 3 it follows that the centers update step in (4.4) is well defined.

(ii) It is easy to verify that for all $1 \leq l \leq k$ the following equations hold true:

$$\nabla_{x^l} H_l(w, x) = \sum_{i=1}^m w_l^i \frac{x^l - a^i}{\|x^l - a^i\|}, \quad \forall x^l \notin \mathcal{A}, \quad (4.5)$$

and that

$$T_l(w, x) = x^l - \frac{1}{L_l(w, x)} \nabla_{x^l} H_l(w, x), \quad \forall x^l \notin \mathcal{A}. \quad (4.6)$$

As in KPALM case, we aim to prove the sufficient decrease property and subgradient lower bounds for iterates gap property. Note that

$$x^l(t+1) = T_l(w(t+1), x(t)) = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^m \frac{w_l^i(t+1)a^i}{\|x^l(t) - a^i\|}}{\sum_{i=1}^m \frac{w_l^i(t+1)}{\|x^l(t) - a^i\|}} = \sum_{i=1}^m \frac{\frac{w_l^i(t+1)}{\|x^l(t) - a^i\|}}{\sum_{j=1}^m \frac{w_l^j(t+1)}{\|x^l(t) - a^j\|}} a^i \in \text{Conv}(\mathcal{A}),$$

hence the sequence generated by (Alg-Name) is bounded as well.

Proposition 4.1 (Sufficient decrease property). Let $\{z(t)\}_{t \in \mathbb{N}} = \{(w(t), x(t))\}_{t \in \mathbb{N}}$ be the sequence generated by (Alg-Name), then there exists $\rho_1 > 0$ such that

$$\rho_1 \|z(t+1) - z(t)\|^2 \leq \Psi(z(t)) - \Psi(z(t+1)) \quad \forall t \in \mathbb{N}.$$

Proof. In the proof of sufficient decrease property of KPALM we showed that

$$\frac{\alpha(t)}{2} \|w(t+1) - w(t)\|^2 \leq H(w(t), x(t)) - H(w(t+1), x(t)), \quad (4.7)$$

where $\alpha(t) = \min_{1 \leq i \leq m} \{\alpha_i(t)\}$. This part was proven independently of the distance function $d(\cdot, \cdot)$, and since in (Alg-Name) the clusters assignment step is identical to KPALM, the claim is correct in the case of (Alg-Name) as well.

Applying Lemma 4.2 from [reference to Weizsfeld paper] yields

$$\begin{aligned} H_l(w(t+1), x(t+1)) - H_l(w(t+1), x) &\leq \\ &\leq \frac{L_l(w(t+1), x(t))}{2} \left(\|x^l(t) - x^l\|^2 - \|x^l(t+1) - x^l\|^2 \right), \quad \forall x \in \mathbb{R}^{n_k}, 1 \leq l \leq k. \end{aligned}$$

Setting $x = x(t)$ and rearranging yields

$$\frac{L_l(w(t+1), x(t))}{2} \|x^l(t+1) - x(t)\|^2 \leq H_l(w(t+1), x(t)) - H_l(w(t+1), x(t+1)), \quad \forall 1 \leq l \leq k. \quad (4.8)$$

Denote $L(t) = \min_{1 \leq l \leq k} \{L_l(w(t+1), x(t))\}$. Summing (4.8) over $l = 1, 2, \dots, k$ leads to

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{L(t)}{2} \|x(t+1) - x(t)\|^2 &= \frac{L(t)}{2} \sum_{l=1}^k \|x^l(t+1) - x^l(t)\|^2 \\ &\leq \sum_{l=1}^k \frac{L_l(t)}{2} \|x^l(t+1) - x^l(t)\|^2 \\ &\leq \sum_{l=1}^k (H_l(w(t+1), x(t)) - H_l(w(t+1), x(t+1))) \\ &= H(w(t+1), x(t)) - H(w(t+1), x(t+1)). \end{aligned} \quad (4.9)$$

Set $\rho_1 = \frac{1}{2} \min \{\alpha(t), L(t)\}$, and again Assumption 1 assures that $\rho_1 > 0$. ~~Combined with (4.7) and (4.9) we have that yields~~

$$\begin{aligned} \rho_1 \|z(t+1) - z(t)\|^2 &= \rho_1 (\|w(t+1) - w(t)\|^2 + \|x(t+1) - x(t)\|^2) \leq \\ &\leq [H(w(t), x(t)) - H(w(t+1), x(t))] + [H(w(t+1), x(t)) - H(w(t+1), x(t+1))] \\ &= H(z(t)) - H(z(t+1)) = \Psi(z(t)) - \Psi(z(t+1)), \end{aligned}$$

which proves the desired result. \square

Next we prove the subgradient lower bounds for iterates gap property of the sequence generated by (Alg-Name), we start with a useful lemma.

Lemma 4.1.1. Let $\{z(t)\}_{t \in \mathbb{N}} = \{(w(t), x(t))\}_{t \in \mathbb{N}}$ be the sequence generated by (Alg-Name), then

$$\|d^i(x(t+1)) - d^i(x(t))\| \leq \|x(t+1) - x(t)\|, \quad \forall i = 1, 2, \dots, m, t \in \mathbb{N}.$$

Proof. Since $d(u, v) = \|u - v\|$, we get that

$$\begin{aligned} \|d^i(x(t+1)) - d^i(x(t))\| &\leq \left[\sum_{l=1}^k \left| \|x^l(t+1) - a^i\| - \|x^l(t) - a^i\| \right|^2 \right]^{\frac{1}{2}} \\ &\leq \left[\sum_{l=1}^k \left| (x^l(t+1) - a^i) - (x^l(t) - a^i) \right|^2 \right]^{\frac{1}{2}} \\ &= \left[\sum_{l=1}^k \|x^l(t+1) - x^l(t)\|^2 \right]^{\frac{1}{2}} = \|x(t+1) - x(t)\|. \end{aligned}$$

\square

Proposition 4.2 (Subgradient lower bound for iterates gap property). Let $\{z(t)\}_{t \in \mathbb{N}} = \{(w(t), x(t))\}_{t \in \mathbb{N}}$ be the sequence generated by (Alg-Name), then there exists $\rho_2 > 0$ and $\gamma(t+1) \in \partial \Psi(z(t+1))$ such that

$$\|\gamma(t+1)\| \leq \rho_2 \|z(t+1) - z(t)\|, \quad \forall t \in \mathbb{N}.$$

Proof. Repeating the steps of the proof in case of KPALM yields that

$$\gamma(t+1) := \left((d^i(x(t+1)) + u^i(t+1))_{i=1,\dots,m}, \nabla_x H(w(t+1), x(t+1)) \right) \in \partial \Psi(z(t+1)), \quad (4.10)$$

where for all $1 \leq i \leq m$, $u^i(t+1) \in \partial \delta_\Delta(w^i(t+1))$ such that

$$d^i(x(t)) + \alpha_i(t) (w^i(t+1) - w^i(t)) + u^i(t+1) = 0. \quad (4.11)$$

Plugging (4.11) into (4.10), and taking norm yields

$$\begin{aligned} \|\gamma(t+1)\| &\leq \sum_{i=1}^m \|d^i(x(t+1)) - d^i(x(t)) - \alpha_i(t) (w^i(t+1) - w^i(t))\| + \|\nabla_x H(w(t+1), x(t+1))\| \\ &\leq \sum_{i=1}^m \|d^i(x(t+1)) - d^i(x(t))\| + \sum_{i=1}^m \alpha_i(t) \|w^i(t+1) - w^i(t)\| + \|\nabla_x H(w(t+1), x(t+1))\| \\ &\leq m\|x(t+1) - x(t)\| + m\bar{\alpha}(t)\|w(t+1) - w(t)\| + \|\nabla_x H(w(t+1), x(t+1))\|, \end{aligned}$$

where the last inequality follows from Lemma 4.1.1 and $\bar{\alpha}(t) = \max_{1 \leq i \leq m} \alpha_i(t)$.

Applying Lemma 4.1 [reference to Weiszfeld paper] with respect to $H_l(w, \cdot)$ yields

$$H_l(w, T_l(w, x)) \leq H_l(w, x) + \langle \nabla_{x^l} H_l(w, x), H_l(w, T_l(w, x)) - H_l(w, x) \rangle + \frac{L_l(w, x)}{2} \|T_l(w, x) - x^l\|^2, \quad \forall x \in (\mathbb{R} \setminus \mathcal{A})^k.$$

Close review of the proof of Lemma 4.1 reveals that we can switch x with $T_l(w, x)$ and get

$$H_l(w, x) \leq H_l(w, T_l(w, x)) + \langle \nabla_{x^l} H_l(w, T_l(w, x)), H_l(w, x) - H_l(w, T_l(w, x)) \rangle + \frac{L_l(w, T_l(w, x))}{2} \|x^l - T_l(w, x)\|^2, \quad \forall x \in (\mathbb{R} \setminus \mathcal{A})^k.$$

Summing the last two inequalities and rearranging lead to

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \nabla_{x^l} H_l(w, T_l(w, x)) - \nabla_{x^l} H_l(w, T_l(w, x)), H_l(w, T_l(w, x)) - H_l(w, x) \rangle &\leq \\ &\leq \frac{L_l(w, x) + L_l(w, T_l(w, x))}{2} \|T_l(w, x) - x^l\|^2, \quad \forall x \in (\mathbb{R} \setminus \mathcal{A})^k. \end{aligned}$$

Thus, it follows that

$$\begin{aligned} \|\nabla_{x^l} H_l(w, T_l(w, x)) - \nabla_{x^l} H_l(w, T_l(w, x))\| &\leq \\ &\leq \frac{L_l(w, x) + L_l(w, T_l(w, x))}{2} \|T_l(w, x) - x^l\|, \quad \forall x \in (\mathbb{R} \setminus \mathcal{A})^k. \end{aligned} \quad (4.12)$$

With the last result we shall bound $\|\nabla_x H(w(t+1), x(t+1))\| \leq c\|x(t+1) - x(t)\|$, for some constant $c > 0$, as follows we have

$$\begin{aligned} \|\nabla_x H(w(t+1), x(t+1))\| &\leq \sum_{l=1}^k \|\nabla_{x^l} H_l(w(t+1), x(t+1))\| \\ &\leq \sum_{l=1}^k \|\nabla_{x^l} H_l(w(t+1), x(t))\| + \sum_{l=1}^k \|\nabla_{x^l} H_l(w(t+1), x(t+1)) - \nabla_{x^l} H_l(w(t+1), x(t))\| \\ &\leq \sum_{l=1}^k L_l(w(t+1), x(t)) \|x^l(t+1) - x^l(t)\| + \sum_{l=1}^k \frac{L_l(w(t+1), x(t)) + L_l(w(t+1), x(t+1))}{2} \|x^l(t+1) - x^l(t)\|, \end{aligned}$$