

Proximal-Gradient Homotopy Methods for Sparse Optimization

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Joint work with

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The sparse least-squares problem

- ℓ_1 -regularized least-squares (ℓ_1 -LS) problem

$$\underset{x}{\text{minimize}} \quad \frac{1}{2} \|Ax - b\|_2^2 + \lambda \|x\|_1$$

where $A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$, $b \in \mathbb{R}^m$, and $\lambda > 0$

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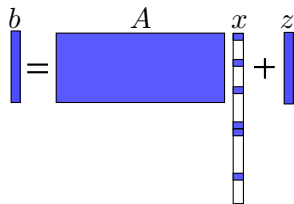
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- example: sparse recovery

$$b = Ax + z$$

x : sparse signal

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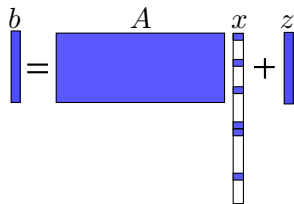
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- many applications
 - machine learning, signal/image processing and statistics
 - recent revival through *compressed sensing* theory

Efficiency of optimization methods

- assumptions:
 - $m < n$ ($Ax = b$ is underdetermined, “high-dimensional”)
 - solution is sparse (λ sufficiently large, $s = \|x^*(\lambda)\|_0$ small)

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numerical methods	cost per iteration	iteration complexity
interior-point methods	$O(m^2n)$	$O(\sqrt{n} \log(\frac{1}{\epsilon}))$
proximal-gradient (PG)	$O(mn)$	$O(\frac{1}{\epsilon})$
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- this talk:** with an additional RIP-like condition on A

(accelerated) PG + homotopy continuation $O(mn \cdot \log(\frac{1}{\epsilon}))$

Outline

- **background: first-order methods and their complexities**
- proximal-gradient (PG) method + homotopy
- accelerated proximal gradient (APG) method + homotopy
- numerical experiments and summary

Classes of convex functions

- **convex**

$$f(\alpha x + (1-\alpha)y) \leq \alpha f(x) + (1-\alpha)f(y), \quad \forall \alpha \in [0, 1]$$

- **smooth** with parameter L

$$\|\nabla f(x) - \nabla f(y)\|_2 \leq L\|x - y\|_2, \quad \forall x, y$$

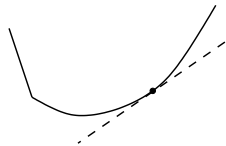
- **strongly convex** with parameter μ

$$f(\alpha x + (1-\alpha)y) \leq \alpha f(x) + (1-\alpha)f(y) - \alpha(1-\alpha)\frac{\mu}{2}\|x - y\|_2^2$$

Classes of convex functions

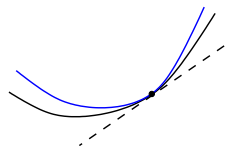
- **convex**

$$f(y) \geq f(x) + \nabla f(x)^T (y - x)$$



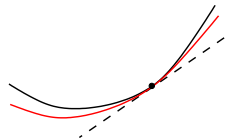
- **smooth** with parameter L

$$f(y) \leq f(x) + \nabla f(x)^T (y - x) + \frac{L}{2} \|y - x\|_2^2$$



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Proximal mapping

proximal mapping (prox-operator) of a convex function Ψ is

$$\mathbf{prox}_{\Psi}(x) = \underset{u}{\operatorname{argmin}} \left\{ \Psi(u) + \frac{1}{2} \|u - x\|_2^2 \right\}$$

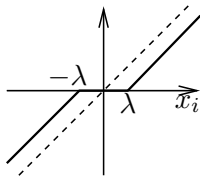
examples:

- projection: $\Psi(x) = I_C(x)$ (indicator function of a convex set C)

$$\mathbf{prox}_{\Psi}(x) = \underset{u \in C}{\operatorname{argmin}} \|u - x\|_2^2$$

- soft thresholding (shrinkage): $\Psi(x) = \lambda \|x\|_1$

$$\mathbf{prox}_{\lambda \|\cdot\|_1}(x)_i = \begin{cases} x_i - \lambda & x_i > \lambda \\ 0 & |x_i| \leq \lambda \\ x_i + \lambda & x_i < -\lambda \end{cases}$$



Proximal gradient (PG) method

minimizing composite objective

$$\underset{x}{\text{minimize}} \quad \left\{ \phi(x) \triangleq f(x) + \Psi(x) \right\}$$

- f convex and smooth with parameter L (and $\mu \geq 0$)
- Ψ convex and simple (can easily compute \mathbf{prox}_{Ψ})

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PG method:

$$x^{(k+1)} = \mathbf{prox}_{\frac{1}{L}\Psi} \left(x^{(k)} - \frac{1}{L} \nabla f(x^{(k)}) \right)$$

interpretation:

$$x^{(k+1)} = \underset{y}{\operatorname{argmin}} \left\{ f(x^{(k)}) + \nabla f(x^{(k)})^T (y - x^{(k)}) + \frac{L}{2} \|y - x^{(k)}\|_2^2 + \Psi(y) \right\}$$

Structure and complexity

- problem: composite convex optimization

$$\underset{x}{\text{minimize}} \quad \left\{ \phi(x) \triangleq f(x) + \Psi(x) \right\}$$

- iteration complexity to reach $\phi(x^{(k)}) - \phi^* \leq \epsilon$

class of f	smooth	smooth + strongly convex
PG	$O\left(\frac{L}{\epsilon}\right)$	$O\left(\frac{L}{\mu} \log\left(\frac{1}{\epsilon}\right)\right)$ (not require μ)

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accelerated PG	$O\left(\sqrt{\frac{L}{\epsilon}}\right)$	$O\left(\sqrt{\frac{L}{\mu}} \log\left(\frac{1}{\epsilon}\right)\right)$ (require μ)

Nesterov (04, 07), Beck & Teboulle (08), Tseng (08)

Two simple APG methods

- a simple variant of FISTA (Beck & Teboulle 2008): $O\left(\sqrt{\frac{L}{\epsilon}}\right)$

$$y^{(k)} = x^{(k)} + \frac{k-1}{k+2}(x^{(k)} - x^{(k-1)})$$

$$x^{(k+1)} = \mathbf{prox}_{\frac{1}{L}\Psi}\left(y^{(k)} - \frac{1}{L}\nabla f(y^{(k)})\right)$$

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- Nesterov's constant step scheme III (2004): $O\left(\sqrt{\frac{L}{\mu}} \log\left(\frac{1}{\epsilon}\right)\right)$

$$\begin{aligned}y^{(k)} &= x^{(k)} + \frac{\sqrt{L} - \sqrt{\mu}}{\sqrt{L} + \sqrt{\mu}}(x^{(k)} - x^{(k-1)}) \\x^{(k+1)} &= \mathbf{prox}_{\frac{1}{L}\Psi}\left(y^{(k)} - \frac{1}{L}\nabla f(y^{(k)})\right)\end{aligned}$$

(does not work for $\mu = 0$, but there are more general variants)

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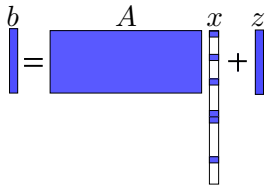
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Complexity of solving ℓ_1 -LS problem

given $A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$, $b \in \mathbb{R}^m$, and $\lambda > 0$

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check $f(x) = \frac{1}{2} \|Ax - b\|_2^2$

- smooth:

$$L_f = \lambda_{\max}(A^T A)$$

- **not** strongly convex:

$$\mu_f = \lambda_{\min}(A^T A) = 0$$

$$b = Ax + z$$

$$\nabla^2 f(x) = A^T A$$

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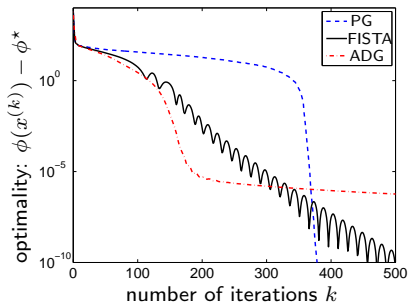
so we only expect sublinear convergence: $O\left(\frac{L_f}{\epsilon}\right)$ or $O\left(\sqrt{\frac{L_f}{\epsilon}}\right)$

$$b = Ax + z$$

$$\nabla^2 f(x) = \begin{bmatrix} A^T & A \end{bmatrix}$$

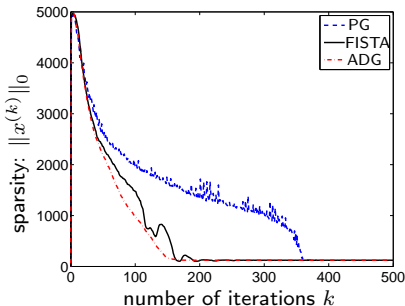
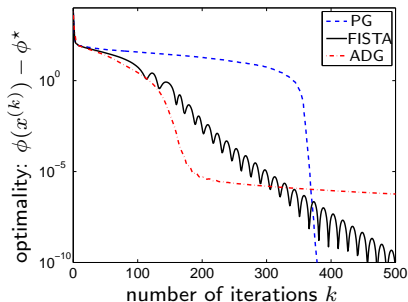
Experiments: two phases of PG method

- $A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$ and $b \in \mathbb{R}^m$ generated randomly ($m = 1000$, $n = 5000$)
- algorithms: PG, ADG (Nesterov 07), FISTA (Beck & Teboulle 08)



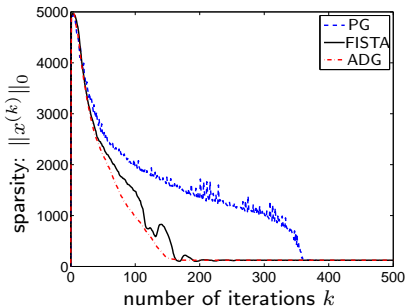
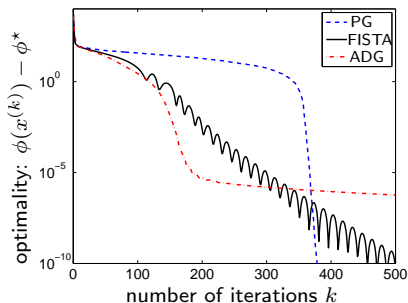
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key observations:

- slow global convergence (sublinear rate $O(1/\epsilon)$)
- fast linear rate when iterates become sparse *and* close to optimal

Structure: restricted strong convexity

suppose optimal solution is sparse

$$x^* = \begin{bmatrix} x_S^* \\ x_{S^c}^* \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} x_S^* \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$b = \begin{bmatrix} A_S & A_{S^c} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_S \\ x_{S^c} \end{bmatrix} + z$$

- restricted smoothness:

$$L_S = \lambda_{\max}(A_S^T A_S) < \lambda_{\max}(A^T A)$$

- restricted strong convexity:

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conclusion: if we can identify the sparse subspace S , then minimizing $\frac{1}{2} \|A_S x_S - b\|_2^2$ gives fast linear convergence rat

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idea: always engage in sparse mode (fast local convergence)

homotopy continuation: solve ℓ_1 -LS for decreasing values of λ

$$\|A^T b\|_\infty = \lambda_0 > \lambda_1 > \lambda_2 > \dots > \lambda_{\text{tgt}}$$

for each λ_K , solve with PG and use previous solution to warm start

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- not a new idea (e.g., Hale et al. 2008, Wright et al. 2009)
- superior performance reported, but no global complexity analysis
- **questions:** how to decrease λ ? how accurate for each λ_K ?

Proximal-gradient homotopy (PGH) method

parameters: $\eta \in (0, 1)$, $\delta \in (0, 1)$

Algorithm: $\hat{x}^{(\text{tgt})} \leftarrow \text{Homotopy}(A, b, \lambda_{\text{tgt}}, \epsilon)$

initialize: $\lambda_0 \leftarrow \|A^T b\|_\infty$, $\hat{x}^{(0)} \leftarrow 0$

$N \leftarrow \lfloor \ln(\lambda_0/\lambda_{\text{tgt}}) / \ln(1/\eta) \rfloor$

repeat: for $K = 0, 1, \dots, N - 1$

$\lambda_{K+1} \leftarrow \eta \lambda_K$ (geometric decrease $\lambda_K = \eta^K \lambda_0$)

$\hat{\epsilon}_{K+1} \leftarrow \delta \lambda_{K+1}$ (low accuracy proportional to λ_K)

$x^{(K+1)} \leftarrow \text{ProxGrad}(\lambda_{K+1}, \hat{\epsilon}_{K+1}, \hat{x}^{(K)})$

end

$\hat{x}^{(\text{tgt})} \leftarrow \text{ProxGrad}(\lambda_{\text{tgt}}, \epsilon, \hat{x}^{(N)})$ (final stage for high accuracy)

Stopping criterion and line search

$$\underset{x}{\text{minimize}} \quad \left\{ \phi_\lambda(x) \triangleq f(x) + \lambda \|x\|_1 \right\}$$

- stopping criterion

$$\omega_\lambda(x) \triangleq \min_{\xi \in \partial \|x\|_1} \|\nabla f(x) + \lambda \xi\|_\infty \leq \epsilon$$

(x optimal iff there exists $\xi \in \partial \|x\|_1$ such that $\nabla f(x) + \lambda \xi = 0$)

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- line search to use $L \approx \lambda_{\max}(A_S^T A_S)$ in PG method

$$x^+ = \mathbf{prox}_{\lambda \|\cdot\|_1} \left(x - \frac{1}{L} \nabla f(x) \right) = \underset{y}{\operatorname{argmin}} \psi_{\lambda, L}(x; y)$$

where $\psi_{\lambda, L}(x; y) = f(x) + \nabla f(x)^T (y - x) + \frac{L}{2} \|y - x\|_2^2 + \lambda \|y\|_1$

PG with adaptive line search (Nesterov 07)

parameters: $\gamma_{\text{inc}} \geq 1$

Algorithm: $\{x^+, L\} \leftarrow \text{LineSearch}(\lambda, x, L)$

repeat:

$$L \leftarrow L\gamma_{\text{inc}}$$

$$x^+ = \mathbf{prox}_{\lambda\|\cdot\|_1} \left(x - \frac{1}{L} \nabla f(x) \right)$$

until: $\phi_\lambda(x^+) \leq \psi_{\lambda,L}(x, x^+)$

PG with adaptive line search (Nesterov 07)

parameters: $\gamma_{\text{inc}} \geq 1$, $\gamma_{\text{dec}} \geq 1$, $L_{\text{min}} > 0$

Algorithm: $\{x^+, L\} \leftarrow \text{LineSearch}(\lambda, x, L)$

repeat:

$$L \leftarrow L\gamma_{\text{inc}}$$

$$x^+ = \mathbf{prox}_{\lambda\|\cdot\|_1} \left(x - \frac{1}{L} \nabla f(x) \right)$$

until: $\phi_\lambda(x^+) \leq \psi_{\lambda,L}(x, x^+)$

Algorithm: $\{\hat{x}, \hat{M}\} \leftarrow \text{ProxGrad}(\lambda, \hat{\epsilon}, x^{(0)}, L_0)$

repeat: for $k = 0, 1, 2, \dots$

$$\{x^{(k+1)}, M_k\} \leftarrow \text{LineSearch}(\lambda, x^{(k)}, L_k)$$

$$L_{k+1} \leftarrow \max\{L_{\text{min}}, M_k/\gamma_{\text{dec}}\}$$

until: $\omega_\lambda(x^{(k+1)}) \leq \hat{\epsilon}$

$\hat{x} \leftarrow x^{(k+1)}$, $\hat{M} \leftarrow M_k$

Numerical experiments: setup

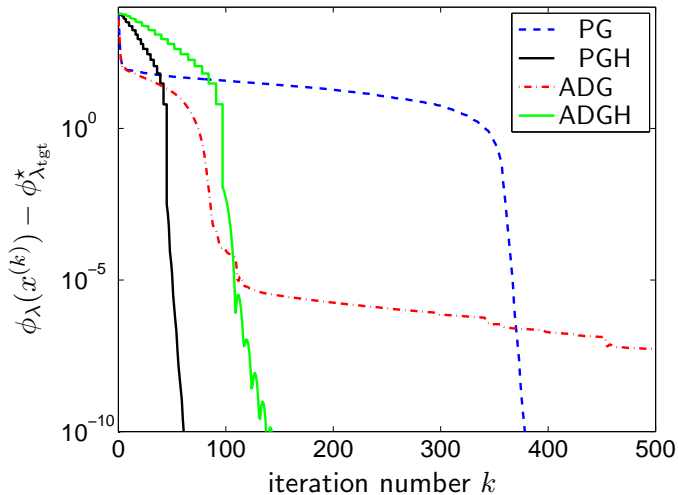
randomly generated data using the model

$$b = A\bar{x} + z$$

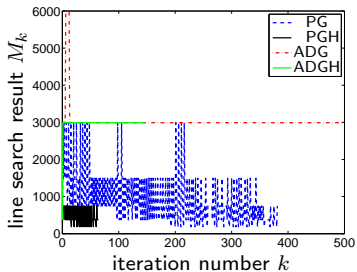
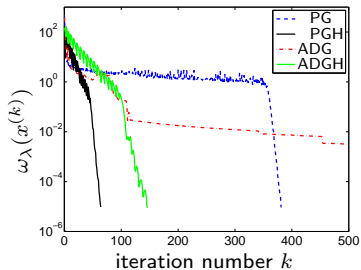
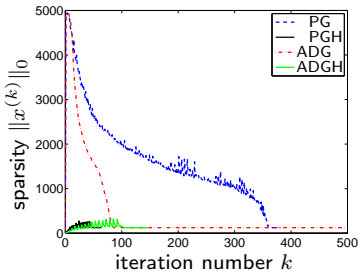
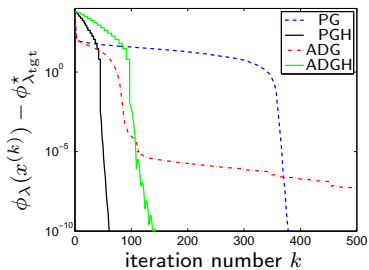
- $A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$, with $m = 1000$ and $n = 5000$, $A_{ij} \sim \text{U}[-1, 1]$
- $\|\bar{x}\|_0 = 100$, nonzeros entries i.i.d. uniform on $[-1, 1]$
- z entries i.i.d. uniform on $[-0.01, 0.01]$, and $\|A^T z\|_\infty \approx 0.4$
- regularization parameter $\lambda_{\text{tgt}} = 1$ (note $\lambda_0 = \|A^T b\|_\infty = 480$)

PGH method parameters: $\eta = 0.8$, $\delta = 0.2$

Numerical experiments



Numerical experiments



Restricted eigenvalue (RE) conditions

for some $s < m$, there exist $\rho_+(A, s) \geq \rho_-(A, s) > 0$ such that

$$\begin{aligned}\rho_+(A, s) &= \sup \left\{ \frac{x^T A^T A x}{x^T x} : x \neq 0, \|x\|_0 \leq s \right\} \\ \rho_-(A, s) &= \inf \left\{ \frac{x^T A^T A x}{x^T x} : x \neq 0, \|x\|_0 \leq s \right\}\end{aligned}$$

Restricted eigenvalue (RE) conditions

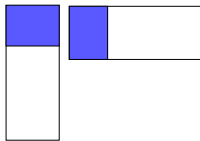
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by definition

$$0 = \lambda_{\min}(A^T A) \leq \rho_-(A, s) \leq \rho_+(A, s) \leq \lambda_{\max}(A^T A)$$

recall the picture: $\nabla^2 f(x) = A^T A =$



Restricted smoothness & strong convexity

Suppose for some integer $s < m$, two sparse vectors x and y satisfy

$$|\text{supp}(x) \cup \text{supp}(y)| \leq s$$

- restricted smoothness

$$f(y) \leq f(x) + \langle \nabla f(x), y - x \rangle + \frac{\rho_+(A, s)}{2} \|y - x\|_2^2$$

- restricted strong convexity

$$f(y) \geq f(x) + \langle \nabla f(x), y - x \rangle + \frac{\rho_-(A, s)}{2} \|y - x\|_2^2$$

- restricted condition number: $\kappa(A, s) \triangleq \frac{\rho_+(A, s)}{\rho_-(A, s)}$

Convergence analysis: assumptions

suppose $b = A\bar{x} + z$; let $\bar{S} = \text{supp}(\bar{x})$ and $\bar{s} = |\bar{S}|$

- there exist $\gamma > 0$ and $\delta' \in (0, 0.2)$ such that $\gamma > \frac{1+\delta'}{1-\delta'}$ and

$$\lambda_{\text{tgt}} \geq 4 \max \left\{ 2, \frac{\gamma + 1}{(1 - \delta')\gamma - (1 + \delta')} \right\} \|A^T z\|_{\infty}$$

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$$\lambda_{\text{tgt}} \geq 4 \max \left\{ 2, \frac{\gamma + 1}{(1 - \delta')\gamma - (1 + \delta')} \right\} \|A^T z\|_\infty$$

- there exists an integer \tilde{s} such that $\rho_-(A, \bar{s} + 2\tilde{s}) > 0$ and

$$\tilde{s} > \frac{8(\gamma_{\text{inc}}\rho_+(A, \bar{s} + 2\tilde{s}) + \rho_+(A, \tilde{s}))}{\rho_-(A, \bar{s} + \tilde{s})}(1 + \gamma)\bar{s}.$$

Convergence analysis: assumptions

suppose $b = A\bar{x} + z$; let $\bar{S} = \text{supp}(\bar{x})$ and $\bar{s} = |\bar{S}|$

- there exist $\gamma > 0$ and $\delta' \in (0, 0.2)$ such that $\gamma > \frac{1+\delta'}{1-\delta'}$ and

$$\lambda_{\text{tgt}} \geq 4 \max \left\{ 2, \frac{\gamma + 1}{(1 - \delta')\gamma - (1 + \delta')} \right\} \|A^T z\|_\infty$$

- there exists an integer \tilde{s} such that $\rho_-(A, \bar{s} + 2\tilde{s}) > 0$ and

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for example, if RIP is satisfied for $\nu = 0.1$ at $s = 45(1 + \gamma)\bar{s}$,

$$(1 - \nu)\|x\|_2^2 \leq \|Ax\|_2^2 \leq (1 + \nu)\|x\|_2^2, \quad \forall x : \|x\|_0 \leq s$$

then can take $\gamma_{\text{inc}} = 1.2$ and $\tilde{s} = 22(1 + \gamma)\bar{s}$

Convergence analysis: local results

theorem: suppose previous assumptions hold and $x^{(0)}$ satisfies

$$\|x_{\bar{s}^c}^{(0)}\|_0 \leq \tilde{s} \quad (\text{sparse}) \quad (*)$$

$$\omega_\lambda(x^{(0)}) \leq \delta' \lambda \quad (\text{close to optimal}) \quad (**)$$

then for all $k > 0$,

$$\|x_{\bar{s}^c}^{(k)}\|_0 \leq \tilde{s}$$

$$\phi_\lambda(x^{(k)}) - \phi_\lambda^* \leq \left(1 - \frac{1}{4\gamma_{\text{inc}} \kappa(A, \bar{s} + 2\tilde{s})}\right)^k \left(\phi_\lambda(x^{(0)}) - \phi_\lambda^*\right)$$

Convergence analysis: global rate

theorem: suppose previous assumptions hold, and η and δ satisfy

$$\frac{1 + \delta}{1 + \delta'} \leq \eta < 1,$$

then

- (*) holds for the starting points of each λ_K , and number of iterations for each intermediate λ_K is no more than

$$\ln \left(\frac{C}{\delta^2} \right) \Big/ \ln \left(1 - \frac{1}{4\gamma_{\text{inc}}\kappa} \right)^{-1} \quad (\text{independent of } \lambda_K)$$

- for $K = 1, \dots, N - 1$,

$$\phi_{\lambda_{\text{tgt}}}(\hat{x}^{(K)}) - \phi_{\lambda_{\text{tgt}}}^* \leq \eta^{2(K+1)} \frac{5(1 + \gamma)\lambda_0^2 \bar{s}}{\rho_-(A, \bar{s} + \tilde{s})}$$

- total number of iterations is $O \left(\kappa(A, \bar{s} + 2\tilde{s}) \ln \left(\frac{\lambda_0}{\epsilon} \right) \right)$

Theory versus practice

RIP-like condition

- more restrictive than (“static”) conditions on sparse recovery
- depends on algorithmic parameters γ_{inc} , δ and η
- hard to estimate for choosing parameters in practice

Theory versus practice

RIP-like condition

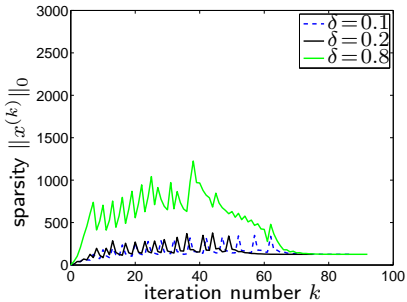
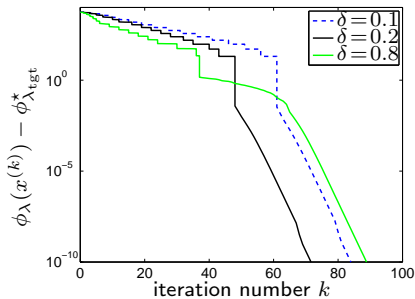
- more restrictive than (“static”) conditions on sparse recovery
- depends on algorithmic parameters γ_{inc} , δ and η
- hard to estimate for choosing parameters in practice

in practice

- two most effective rules supported by theory:
 - geometric decrease of $\lambda_{K+1} = \eta\lambda_K$
 - proportional precision $\hat{\epsilon}_K = \delta\lambda_K$
- best choices of δ and η may not satisfy our conditions
 - geometric convergence at each stages may not be necessary
 - important to start final stage within fast convergence zone

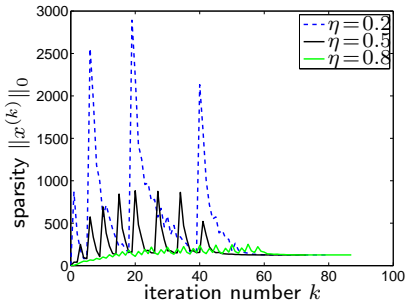
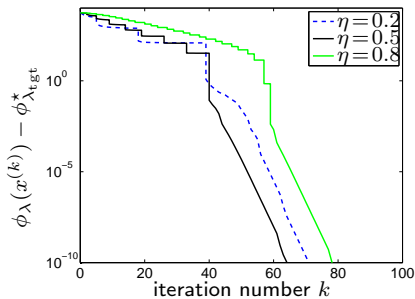
Effects of varying δ

fixed $\eta = 0.7$

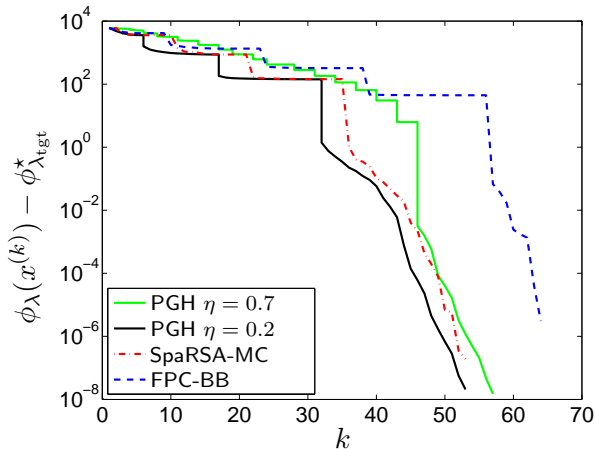


Effects of varying η

fixed $\delta = 0.2$



Comparison with SpaRSA and FPC



SpaRSA: Wright, Nowak and Figueiredo (09)

FPC: Hale, Yin and Zhang (08)

Outline

- background: first-order methods and their complexities
- proximal-gradient (PG) method + homotopy
- **accelerated proximal gradient (APG) method + homotopy**
- numerical experiments and summary

What can we expect?

iteration complexity for: minimize $\left\{ \phi(x) \triangleq f(x) + \Psi(x) \right\}$

class of f	smooth	smooth + strongly convex
PG	$O\left(\frac{L}{\epsilon}\right)$	$O\left(\frac{L}{\mu} \log\left(\frac{1}{\epsilon}\right)\right)$ (not require μ)
accelerated PG	$O\left(\sqrt{\frac{L}{\epsilon}}\right)$	$O\left(\sqrt{\frac{L}{\mu}} \log\left(\frac{1}{\epsilon}\right)\right)$ (require μ)

by exploiting **restricted strong convexity** of ℓ_1 -LS problem

- PG + homotopy can achieve: $O\left(\kappa(A, s) \log\left(\frac{1}{\epsilon}\right)\right)$

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by exploiting **restricted strong convexity** of ℓ_1 -LS problem

- PG + homotopy can achieve: $O\left(\kappa(A, s) \log\left(\frac{1}{\epsilon}\right)\right)$
- accelerated PG + homotopy: $O\left(\sqrt{\kappa(A, s')} \log\left(\frac{1}{\epsilon}\right)\right)$?

APG methods without knowledge of μ_f

basic strategy: **restart**

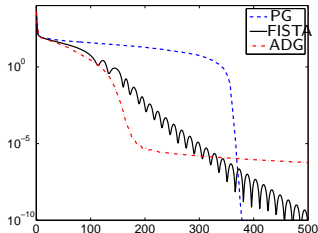
- simple schemes that do not estimate μ_f explicitly
 - restart FISTA periodically (not very sensitive to period)
 - restart FISTA whenever objective increases
- restart based on adaptive estimation of μ_f
 - admits rigorous complexity analysis
 - involves some extra overheads

Restart FISTA

a simple variant of FISTA (Beck & Teboulle 2008):

$$y^{(k)} = x^{(k)} + \frac{k-1}{k+2}(x^{(k)} - x^{(k-1)})$$

$$x^{(k+1)} = \mathbf{prox}_{\frac{1}{L}\Psi}\left(y^{(k)} - \frac{1}{L}\nabla f(y^{(k)})\right)$$



two simple schemes that work very well in practice:

- restart whenever $f(x^{(k)}) > f(x^{(k-1)})$
- restart whenever $\nabla f(y^{(k-1)})^T(x^{(k)} - x^{(k-1)}) > 0$

(recent analysis by O'Donoghue & Candès 2012)

Restart based on adaptive estimation of μ_f

estimate μ_f by measuring reduction of norm of *gradient mapping*

- first proposed by Nesterov (2007)
 - in the context of his accelerated dual gradient (ADG) method
 - complexity $\sqrt{\kappa_f} \log(\kappa_f) \log(1/\epsilon)$, where $\kappa_f = L_f/\mu_f$
- we will focus on Nesterov's constant step scheme III (2004):

$$y^{(k)} = x^{(k)} + \frac{\sqrt{L} - \sqrt{\mu}}{\sqrt{L} + \sqrt{\mu}}(x^{(k)} - x^{(k-1)})$$
$$x^{(k+1)} = \mathbf{prox}_{\frac{1}{L}\Psi} \left(y^{(k)} - \frac{1}{L} \nabla f(y^{(k)}) \right)$$

our scheme also includes a line search procedure for tuning L

Accelerated line search (on L)

Algorithm:

$$\{x^{(k+1)}, M_k, \alpha_k\} \leftarrow \text{AccelLineSearch}(x^{(k)}, x^{(k-1)}, L_k, \mu, \alpha_{k-1})$$

repeat

$$L \leftarrow L\gamma_{\text{inc}}$$

$$\alpha_k \leftarrow \sqrt{\frac{\mu}{L}}$$

$$y^{(k)} \leftarrow x^{(k)} + \frac{\alpha^{(k)}(1 - \alpha^{(k-1)})}{\alpha^{(k-1)}(1 + \alpha^{(k)})}(x^{(k)} - x^{(k-1)})$$

$$x^{(k+1)} \leftarrow \mathbf{prox}_{\frac{1}{L}\Psi}(y^{(k)} - \frac{1}{L}\nabla f(y^{(k)}))$$

until: $\phi(x^{(k+1)}) \leq \psi_L(y^{(k)}; x^{(k+1)})$

$$M_k \leftarrow L$$

(here μ is an estimate of μ_f , not necessarily less than μ_f)

APG method with line search (on L)

Algorithm: $\{\hat{x}, \hat{M}\} \leftarrow \text{scAPG}(x^{(0)}, L_0, \hat{\epsilon})$

parameters: $L_{\min} \geq \mu > 0$, $\gamma_{\text{dec}} \geq 1$, $\gamma_{\text{inc}} \geq 1$

$x^{(-1)} \leftarrow x^{(0)}$, $\alpha_{-1} = 1$

repeat for $k = 0, 1, 2, \dots$

$\{x^{(k+1)}, M_k, \alpha_k\} \leftarrow \text{AccelLineSearch}(x^{(k)}, x^{(k-1)}, L_k, \mu, \alpha_{k-1})$

$L_{k+1} \leftarrow \max\{L_{\min}, M_k/\gamma_{\text{dec}}\}$

until $\omega(x^{(k+1)}) \leq \hat{\epsilon}$

$\hat{x} \leftarrow x^{(k+1)}$, $\hat{M} \leftarrow M_k$

(important to keep $L_{\min} \geq \mu$, especially in the case of $\mu \geq \mu_f$)

Convergence results for $0 < \mu \leq \mu_f$

theorem: let x^* is the minimizer of $\phi(x) \triangleq f(x) + \Psi(x)$, and suppose $0 < \mu \leq \mu_f$, then Algorithm scAPG guarantees that

$$\begin{aligned}\phi(x^{(k)}) - \phi(x^*) &\leq \tau_k \left[\phi(x^{(0)}) - \phi(x^*) + \frac{\mu}{2} \|x^{(0)} - x^*\|^2 \right] \\ \frac{\mu}{2} \|y^{(k)} - x^*\|_2^2 &\leq \tau_k \left[\phi(x^{(0)}) - \phi(x^*) + \frac{\mu}{2} \|x^{(0)} - x^*\|^2 \right]\end{aligned}$$

where

$$\tau_k = \begin{cases} 1 & k = 0 \\ \prod_{i=0}^{k-1} (1 - \alpha_i) & k \geq 1 \end{cases}$$

moreover

$$\tau_k \leq \left(1 - \sqrt{\frac{\mu}{L_f \gamma_{\text{inc}}}} \right)^k$$

The non-blowout property

lemma: suppose $0 < \mu \leq L_{\min}$, then Algorithm scAPG guarantees

$$\phi(x^{(k+1)}) \leq \phi(x^{(k)}) + \frac{M_{k-1}}{2} \|x^{(k)} - x^{(k-1)}\|^2 - \frac{M_k}{2} \|x^{(k+1)} - x^{(k)}\|^2$$

corollary: suppose $0 < \mu \leq L_{\min}$, then we have

$$\phi(x^{(k+1)}) \leq \phi(x^{(0)}) - \frac{M_k}{2} \|x^{(k+1)} - x^{(k)}\|^2$$

- holds for both situations: $0 < \mu \leq \mu_f$ and $\mu > \mu_f$
- useful for adaptive estimation of μ_f
- critical in analysis of homotopy method: maintain sparsity

Composite gradient mapping

analogue of gradient for composite objective $\phi(x) = f(x) + \Psi(x)$

$$g_L(x) = L \left(x - \mathbf{prox}_{\frac{1}{L}\Psi} \left(x - \frac{1}{L} \nabla f(x) \right) \right)$$

proximal gradient method can be written as

$$x^+ = \mathbf{prox}_{\frac{1}{L}\Psi} \left(x - \frac{1}{L} \nabla f(x) \right) = x - \frac{1}{L} g_L(x)$$

- if $\Psi \equiv 0$, then $g_L(x) = \nabla\phi(x) = \nabla f(x)$ for any $L > 0$
- in general, $g_L(x) \in \nabla f(x) + \partial\Psi \left(x - \frac{1}{L} g_L(x) \right)$
- $g_L(x) = 0$ if and only if x minimizes $\phi(x) = f(x) + \Psi(x)$

Reduction of gradient mapping

lemma: suppose $0 < \mu \leq \mu_f$ and $x^{(0)}$ in scAPG is computed by

$$\{x^{(0)}, M_{-1}, g^{(-1)}, S_{-1}\} \leftarrow \text{LineSearch}(x^{(-1)}, L_{-1})$$

with arbitrary $x^{(-1)} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ and $L_{-1} \geq L_{\min}$, then for any $k \geq 0$

$$\|g_{M_k}(y^{(k)})\|_2 \leq 2\sqrt{2\tau_k} \frac{M_k}{\mu} \left(1 + \frac{S_{-1}}{M_{-1}}\right) \|g^{(-1)}\|_2$$

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where S_{-1} is a local estimate of Lipschitz constant

$$S_{-1} = \frac{\|\nabla f(x^{(0)}) - \nabla f(x^{(-1)})\|_2}{\|x^{(0)} - x^{(-1)}\|_2}$$

can easily compute $S(y^{(k)})$ based on line search result

AdapAPG: restart based on estimation of μ_f

two conditions to test:

$$\text{A: } \|g_{M_k}(y^{(k)})\| \leq \theta \|g^{(-1)}\| \quad (\text{reduction factor: } 0 < \theta < 1)$$

$$\text{B: } 2\sqrt{2\tau_k} \frac{M_k}{\mu} \left(1 + \frac{S_{-1}}{M_{-1}}\right) \leq \theta$$

- if **A** is satisfied first, then restart with

$$x^{(0)} \leftarrow x^{(k+1)}, \quad g^{(-1)} \leftarrow g_{M_k}(y^{(k)}), \quad M_{-1} \leftarrow M_k, \quad S_{-1} \leftarrow S(y^{(k)})$$

- if **B** is satisfied first (indicating $\mu > \mu_f$), then restart with

$$\mu \leftarrow \mu/10$$

AdapAPG: restart based on estimation of μ_f

two conditions to test:

$$\text{A: } \|g_{M_k}(y^{(k)})\| \leq \theta \|g^{(-1)}\| \quad (\text{reduction factor: } 0 < \theta < 1)$$

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- if **B** is satisfied first (indicating $\mu > \mu_f$), then restart with

$$\mu \leftarrow \mu/10$$

overall complexity: $O\left(\sqrt{\kappa_f} \log(\kappa_f) \log\left(\frac{1}{\epsilon}\right)\right) + O\left(\sqrt{\kappa_f} \log(\kappa_f)\right)$

Review: structure of ℓ_1 -LS problem

suppose optimal solution is sparse

$$x^* = \begin{bmatrix} x_S^* \\ x_{S^c}^* \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} x_S^* \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$b = \begin{bmatrix} A_S & A_{S^c} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ z \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} x \\ z \end{bmatrix}$$

- restricted smoothness:

$$L_S = \lambda_{\max}(A_S^T A_S) < \lambda_{\max}(A^T A)$$

- restricted strong convexity:

$$\mu_S = \lambda_{\min}(A_S^T A_S) > 0$$

$$\nabla^2 f(x) = \begin{bmatrix} A_S^T & \\ & A_S^T A_{S^c} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} A_S & A_{S^c} \end{bmatrix}$$

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solution: AdapAPG + homotopy continuation

AdapAPG + homotopy continuation

parameters: $\eta \in (0, 1)$, $\delta \in (0, 1)$

Algorithm: $\hat{x}^{(\text{tgt})} \leftarrow \text{Homotopy}(A, b, \lambda_{\text{tgt}}, \epsilon)$

initialize: $\lambda_0 \leftarrow \|A^T b\|_\infty$, $\hat{x}^{(0)} \leftarrow 0$

$N \leftarrow \lfloor \ln(\lambda_0 / \lambda_{\text{tgt}}) / \ln(1/\eta) \rfloor$

repeat: for $K = 0, 1, \dots, N - 1$

$\lambda_{K+1} \leftarrow \eta \lambda_K$ (geometric decrease $\lambda_K = \eta^K \lambda_0$)

$\hat{\epsilon}_{K+1} \leftarrow \delta \lambda_{K+1}$ (low accuracy proportional to λ_K)

$x^{(K+1)} \leftarrow \text{AdapAPG}(\lambda_{K+1}, \hat{\epsilon}_{K+1}, \hat{x}^{(K)})$

end

$\hat{x}^{(\text{tgt})} \leftarrow \text{AdapAGP}(\lambda_{\text{tgt}}, \epsilon, \hat{x}^{(N)})$ (final stage for high accuracy)

Convergence analysis: assumptions

suppose $b = A\bar{x} + z$; let $\bar{S} = \text{supp}(\bar{x})$ and $\bar{s} = |\bar{S}|$

- there exist $\gamma > 0$ and $\delta' \in (0, 0.2)$ such that $\gamma > \frac{1+\delta'}{1-\delta'}$ and

$$\lambda_{\text{tgt}} \geq 4 \max \left\{ 2, \frac{\gamma + 1}{(1 - \delta')\gamma - (1 + \delta')} \right\} \|A^T z\|_{\infty}$$

- there exists an integer \tilde{s} such that $\rho_-(A, \bar{s} + 3\tilde{s}) > 0$ and

$$\tilde{s} > \frac{24(\gamma_{\text{inc}}\rho_+(A, \bar{s} + 3\tilde{s}) + \rho_+(A, \tilde{s}))}{\rho_-(A, \bar{s} + \tilde{s})}(1 + \gamma)\bar{s}.$$

(similar to conditions for PGH, but with slightly **larger constants**)

Convergence results

local: suppose previous assumptions hold and $x^{(0)}$ satisfies

$$\|x_{\bar{s}^c}^{(0)}\|_0 \leq \tilde{s}, \quad \omega_\lambda(x^{(0)}) \leq \delta' \lambda$$

then for all $k > 0$,

$$\|x_{\bar{s}^c}^{(k)}\|_0 \leq \tilde{s}$$
$$\phi_\lambda(x^{(k)}) - \phi_\lambda^* \leq \left(1 - \frac{1}{4\gamma_{\text{inc}} \kappa(A, \bar{s} + 3\tilde{s})}\right)^k \left(\phi_\lambda(x^{(0)}) - \phi_\lambda^*\right)$$

Convergence results

local: suppose previous assumptions hold and $x^{(0)}$ satisfies

$$\|x_{\bar{s}^c}^{(0)}\|_0 \leq \tilde{s}, \quad \omega_\lambda(x^{(0)}) \leq \delta'\lambda$$

then for all $k > 0$,

$$\|x_{\bar{s}^c}^{(k)}\|_0 \leq \tilde{s}$$
$$\phi_\lambda(x^{(k)}) - \phi_\lambda^* \leq \left(1 - \frac{1}{4\gamma_{\text{inc}} \kappa(A, \bar{s} + 3\tilde{s})}\right)^k \left(\phi_\lambda(x^{(0)}) - \phi_\lambda^*\right)$$

global: if δ and η are chosen such that $\frac{1 + \delta}{1 + \delta'} \leq \eta < 1$, then the total number of iterations is $O\left(\sqrt{\kappa} \log(\kappa) \log\left(\frac{\lambda_0}{\epsilon}\right)\right)$

Numerical experiments: setup

$$\underset{x}{\text{minimize}} \quad \frac{1}{2} \|Ax - b\|_2^2 + \lambda \|x\|_1$$

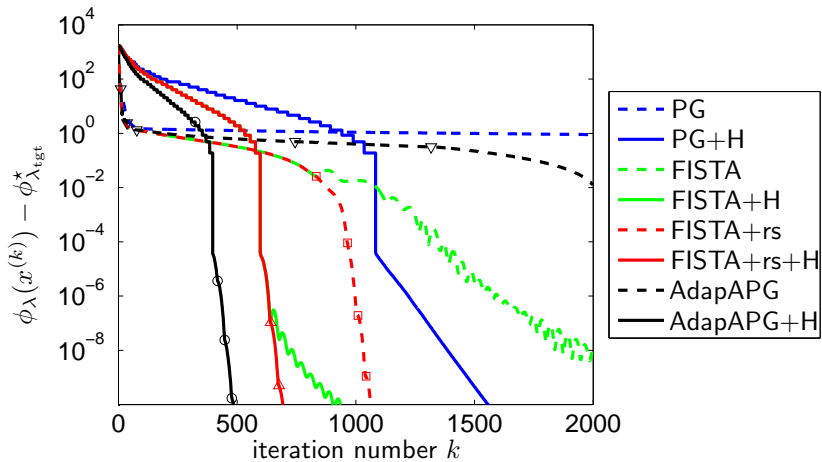
- generate A following experiments in Agarwal et al. (2011)
 - first generate $B \in \mathbb{R}^{m,n}$ with $B_{ij} \sim$ i.i.d. standard Gaussian
 - choose $\omega \in [0, 1)$ and for $i = 1, \dots, m$, generate row $A_{i,:}$ as

$$\begin{aligned} A_{i,1} &= B_{i,1} / \sqrt{1 - \omega^2} \\ A_{i,j+1} &= \omega A_{i,j} + B_{i,j}, \quad j = 2, \dots, n \end{aligned}$$

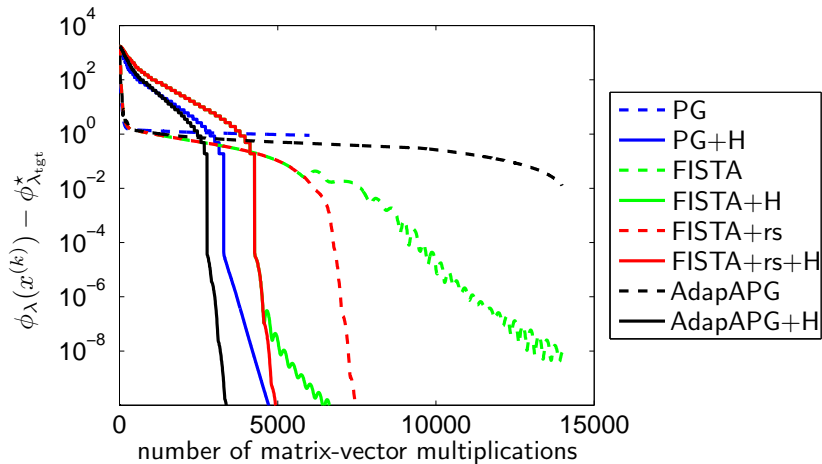
eigenvalues of $\mathbf{E}[A^T A]$ lie within $\left[\frac{1}{(1+\omega)^2}, \frac{2}{(1-\omega)^2(1+\omega)} \right]$

- parameters: $\eta = 0.8$, $\delta = 0.2$, and initialize $\mu = L_0/100$

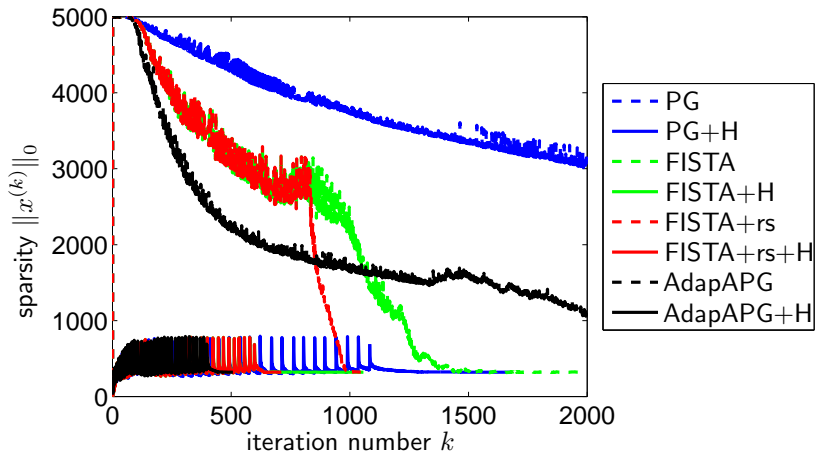
Numerical experiments ($\omega = 0.9$)



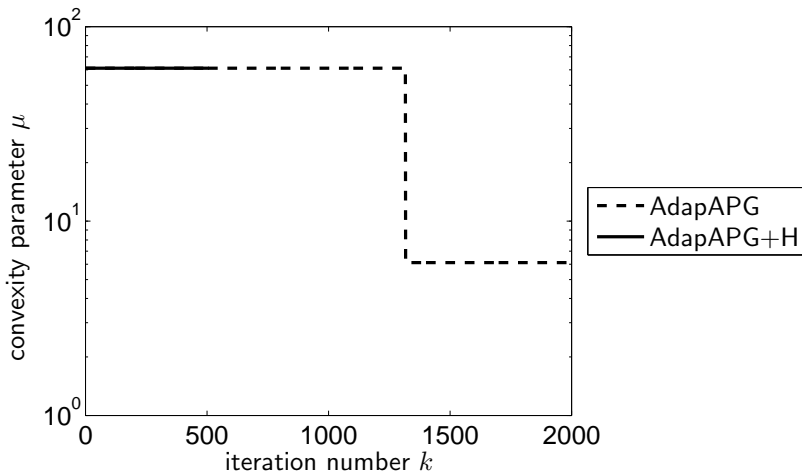
Numerical experiments



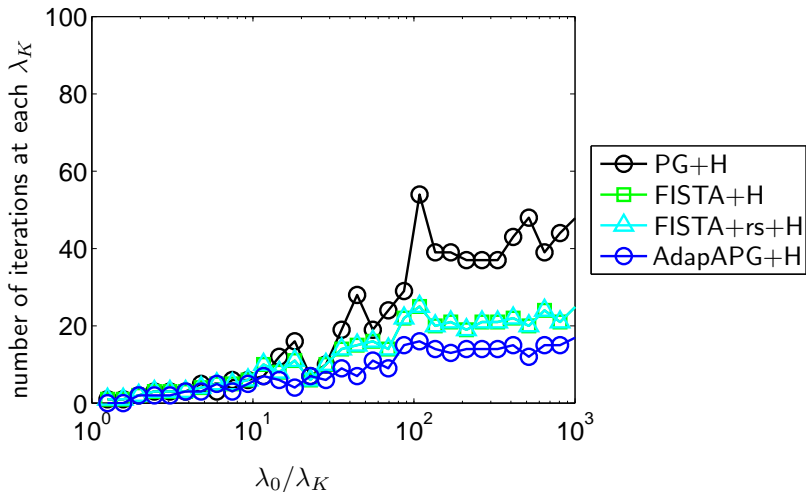
Numerical experiments



Numerical experiments

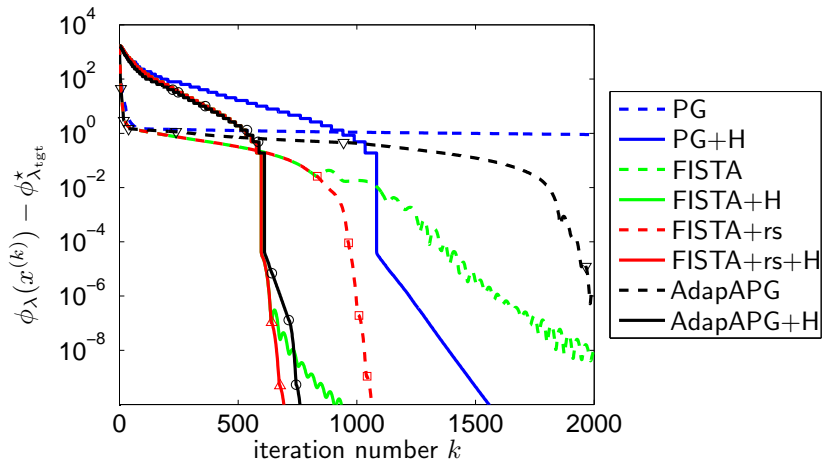


Numerical experiments



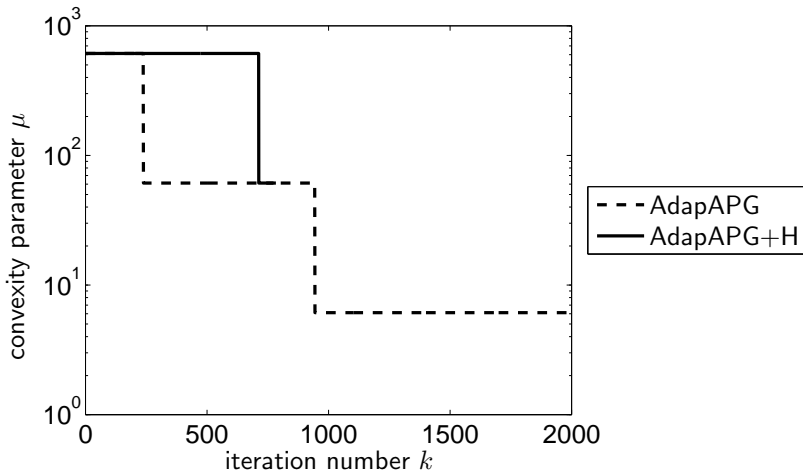
Numerical experiments

initialize $\mu = L_0/10$



Numerical experiments

initialize $\mu = L_0/10$



Outline

- background: first-order methods and their complexities
- proximal-gradient (PG) method + homotopy
- accelerated proximal gradient (APG) method + homotopy
- **summary**

Summary

computational complexities for the sparse least-squares problem

$$\underset{x}{\text{minimize}} \quad \frac{1}{2} \|Ax - b\|_2^2 + \lambda \|x\|_1$$

numerical methods	cost per iteration	iteration complexity
interior-point methods	$O(m^2n)$	$O(\sqrt{n} \log(\frac{1}{\epsilon}))$
proximal-gradient (PG)	$O(mn)$	$O(\frac{1}{\epsilon})$
accelerated PG	$O(mn)$	$O(\frac{1}{\sqrt{\epsilon}})$
PG + homotopy	$O(mn)$	$O(\kappa(A, s) \log(\frac{1}{\epsilon}))$
APG + homotopy	$O(mn)$	$O(\sqrt{\kappa} \log(\kappa) \log(\frac{1}{\epsilon}))$