

$$\begin{aligned}
&= \phi(\mathbf{x}_Q) - \frac{1}{2\gamma} \|\mathbf{g}_Q\|_2^2 + \langle \mathbf{g}_Q, \mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_Q \rangle \\
&= \phi(\mathbf{x}_Q) - \frac{1}{2\gamma} \|\mathbf{g}_Q\|_2^2 + \langle \mathbf{g}_Q, \bar{\mathbf{x}} - \mathbf{x}_Q \rangle + \langle \mathbf{g}_Q, \mathbf{x} - \bar{\mathbf{x}} \rangle \\
&= \phi(\mathbf{x}_Q) + \frac{1}{2\gamma} \|\mathbf{g}_Q\|_2^2 + \langle \mathbf{g}_Q, \mathbf{x} - \bar{\mathbf{x}} \rangle.
\end{aligned}$$

Since $\gamma \geq L$, we have $\phi(\mathbf{x}_Q) \geq f(\mathbf{x}_Q)$, and the result follows. \blacksquare

We are ready to define our estimated sequence. Assume that $f \in \mathcal{S}_{\mu, L}^{1,1}(\mathbb{R}^n)$ possible with $\mu = 0$ (which means that $f \in \mathcal{F}_L^{1,1}(\mathbb{R}^n)$), $\mathbf{x}_0 \in Q$, and $\gamma_0 > 0$. Define

$$\begin{aligned}
\phi_0(\mathbf{x}) &:= f(\mathbf{x}_0) + \frac{\gamma_0}{2} \|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_0\|_2^2, \\
\phi_{k+1}(\mathbf{x}) &:= (1 - \alpha_k)\phi_k(\mathbf{x}) + \alpha_k \left[f(\mathbf{x}_Q(\mathbf{y}_k; L)) + \frac{1}{2L} \|\mathbf{g}_Q(\mathbf{y}_k; L)\|_2^2 + \langle \mathbf{g}_Q(\mathbf{y}_k; L), \mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y}_k \rangle \right. \\
&\quad \left. + \frac{\mu}{2} \|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y}_k\|_2^2 \right],
\end{aligned}$$

for the sequences $\{\alpha_k\}_{k=0}^\infty$ and $\{\mathbf{y}_k\}_{k=0}^\infty$ which will be defined later.

Similarly to the previous subsection, we can prove that $\{\phi_k(\mathbf{x})\}_{k=0}^\infty$ can be written in the form

$$\phi_k(\mathbf{x}) = \phi_k^* + \frac{\gamma_k}{2} \|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{v}_k\|_2^2$$

for $\phi_0^* = f(\mathbf{x}_0)$, $\mathbf{v}_0 = \mathbf{x}_0$:

$$\begin{aligned}
\gamma_{k+1} &= (1 - \alpha_k)\gamma_k + \alpha_k\mu \\
\mathbf{v}_{k+1} &= \frac{1}{\gamma_{k+1}} [(1 - \alpha_k)\gamma_k \mathbf{v}_k + \alpha_k\mu \mathbf{y}_k - \alpha_k \mathbf{g}_Q(\mathbf{y}_k; L)], \\
\phi_{k+1}^* &= (1 - \alpha_k)\phi_k^* + \alpha_k f(\mathbf{x}_Q(\mathbf{y}_k; L)) + \left(\frac{\alpha_k}{2L} - \frac{\alpha_k^2}{2\gamma_{k+1}} \right) \|\mathbf{g}_Q(\mathbf{y}_k; L)\|_2^2 \\
&\quad + \frac{\alpha_k(1 - \alpha_k)\gamma_k}{\gamma_{k+1}} \left(\frac{\mu}{2} \|\mathbf{y}_k - \mathbf{v}_k\|_2^2 + \langle \mathbf{g}_Q(\mathbf{y}_k; L), \mathbf{v}_k - \mathbf{y}_k \rangle \right).
\end{aligned}$$

Now, $\phi_0^* \geq f(\mathbf{x}_0)$. Assuming that $\phi_k^* \geq f(\mathbf{x}_k)$,

$$\begin{aligned}
\phi_{k+1}^* &\geq (1 - \alpha_k)f(\mathbf{x}_k) + \alpha_k f(\mathbf{x}_Q(\mathbf{y}_k; L)) + \left(\frac{\alpha_k}{2L} - \frac{\alpha_k^2}{2\gamma_{k+1}} \right) \|\mathbf{g}_Q(\mathbf{y}_k; L)\|_2^2 \\
&\quad + \frac{\alpha_k(1 - \alpha_k)\gamma_k}{\gamma_{k+1}} \langle \mathbf{g}_Q(\mathbf{y}_k; L), \mathbf{v}_k - \mathbf{y}_k \rangle \\
&\geq f(\mathbf{x}_Q(\mathbf{y}_k; L)) + \left(\frac{1}{2L} - \frac{\alpha_k^2}{2\gamma_{k+1}} \right) \|\mathbf{g}_Q(\mathbf{y}_k; L)\|_2^2 \\
&\quad + (1 - \alpha_k) \left\langle \mathbf{g}_Q(\mathbf{y}_k; L), \frac{\alpha_k\gamma_k}{\gamma_{k+1}} (\mathbf{v}_k - \mathbf{y}_k) + \mathbf{x}_k - \mathbf{y}_k \right\rangle + \frac{(1 - \alpha_k)\mu}{2} \|\mathbf{x}_k - \mathbf{y}_k\|_2^2,
\end{aligned}$$

where the last inequality follows from Theorem 10.4.

Therefore, if we choose

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathbf{x}_{k+1} &= \mathbf{x}_Q(\mathbf{y}_k; L), \\
L\alpha_k^2 &= (1 - \alpha_k)\gamma_k + \alpha_k\mu, \\
\gamma_{k+1} &:= L\alpha_k^2, \\
\mathbf{y}_k &= \frac{1}{\gamma_k + \alpha_k\mu} (\alpha_k\gamma_k \mathbf{v}_k + \gamma_{k+1} \mathbf{x}_k),
\end{aligned}$$

we obtain $\phi_{k+1}^* \geq f(\mathbf{x}_{k+1})$ as desired.

Hereafter, we assume that $L > \mu$ to exclude the trivial case $L = \mu$ with finished in one iteration.

Constant Step Scheme I for the “Optimal” Gradient Method over the “Simple” Set Q	
Step 0:	Choose $\mathbf{x}_0 \in \mathbb{R}^n$, $\alpha_0 \in (0, 1)$ such that $\frac{\alpha_0(\alpha_0 L - \mu)}{1 - \alpha_0} > 0$, $\mu \leq \frac{\alpha_0(\alpha_0 L - \mu)}{1 - \alpha_0} \leq L$, set $\mathbf{y}_0 := \mathbf{x}_0$, $k := 0$.
Step 1:	Compute $f(\mathbf{y}_k)$ and $f'(\mathbf{y}_k)$.
Step 2:	Set $\mathbf{x}_{k+1} := \mathbf{x}_Q(\mathbf{y}_k; L) := \arg \min_{\mathbf{x} \in Q} \left[f(\mathbf{y}_k) + \langle f'(\mathbf{y}_k), \mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y}_k \rangle + \frac{\alpha_k(\alpha_k L - \mu)}{2(1 - \alpha_k)} \ \mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y}_k\ _2^2 \right]$.
Step 3:	Compute $\alpha_{k+1} \in (0, 1)$ from the equation $\alpha_{k+1}^2 = (1 - \alpha_{k+1})\alpha_k^2 + \frac{\mu}{L}\alpha_{k+1}$.
Step 4:	Set $\beta_k := \frac{\alpha_k(1 - \alpha_k)}{\alpha_k^2 + \alpha_{k+1}}$.
Step 5:	Set $\mathbf{y}_{k+1} := \mathbf{x}_{k+1} + \beta_k(\mathbf{x}_{k+1} - \mathbf{x}_k)$, $k := k + 1$ and go to Step 1.

The rate of converge of this algorithm is exactly the same as the previous ones, but it is necessary to solve a convex program in Step 2 for each iteration.

10.1 Exercises

1. Prove Lemma 10.2

11 Extension for the Min-Max Problem

Given $f_i \in \mathcal{S}_{\mu, L}^{1,1}(\mathbb{R}^n)$ ($i = 1, 2, \dots, m$), we define the following function $f : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$,

$$f(\mathbf{x}) := \max_{1 \leq i \leq m} f_i(\mathbf{x}) \quad \text{for} \quad \mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n$$

This function is non-differentiable in general, but we will see that the method discussed so far can be easily adapted for the following min-max-type convex optimization problem.

$$\begin{cases} \text{minimize} & f(\mathbf{x}) \\ \text{subject to} & \mathbf{x} \in Q, \end{cases} \quad (16)$$

where Q is a closed convex set with a “simple” structure, and $f(\mathbf{x})$ is defined as above.

For a given $\bar{\mathbf{x}} \in \mathbb{R}^n$, let us define the following linearization of $f(\mathbf{x})$ at $\bar{\mathbf{x}}$.

$$f(\bar{\mathbf{x}}; \mathbf{x}) := \max_{1 \leq i \leq m} [f_i(\bar{\mathbf{x}}) + \langle f'_i(\bar{\mathbf{x}}), \mathbf{x} - \bar{\mathbf{x}} \rangle], \quad \text{for } \mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n$$

Lemma 11.1 Let $f_i \in \mathcal{S}_{\mu, L}^{1,1}(\mathbb{R}^n)$ ($i = 1, 2, \dots, m$). For $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} f(\mathbf{x}) &\geq f(\bar{\mathbf{x}}; \mathbf{x}) + \frac{\mu}{2} \|\mathbf{x} - \bar{\mathbf{x}}\|_2^2, \\ f(\mathbf{x}) &\leq f(\bar{\mathbf{x}}; \mathbf{x}) + \frac{L}{2} \|\mathbf{x} - \bar{\mathbf{x}}\|_2^2. \end{aligned}$$

Proof:

It follows from the properties of $f_i \in \mathcal{S}_{\mu, L}^{1,1}(\mathbb{R}^n)$. ■

Theorem 11.2 A point $\mathbf{x}^* \in Q$ is an optimal solution of (16), if and only if

$$f(\mathbf{x}^*; \mathbf{x}) \geq f(\mathbf{x}^*; \mathbf{x}^*) = f(\mathbf{x}^*), \quad \forall \mathbf{x} \in Q.$$

Proof:

It can be proved similarly to Lemma 10.1. ■

Corollary 11.3 Let \mathbf{x}^* be a minimum of a max-type function $f(\mathbf{x})$ over the set Q . If $f \in \mathcal{S}_\mu^1(\mathbb{R}^n)$, then,

$$f(\mathbf{x}) \geq f(\mathbf{x}^*) + \frac{\mu}{2} \|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}^*\|_2^2, \quad \forall \mathbf{x} \in Q.$$

Proof:

From Lemma 11.1 and Theorem 11.2, we have $\forall \mathbf{x} \in Q$,

$$\begin{aligned} f(\mathbf{x}) &\geq f(\mathbf{x}^*; \mathbf{x}) + \frac{\mu}{2} \|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}^*\|_2^2 \\ &\geq f(\mathbf{x}^*; \mathbf{x}^*) + \frac{\mu}{2} \|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}^*\|_2^2 = f(\mathbf{x}^*) + \frac{\mu}{2} \|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}^*\|_2^2. \end{aligned}$$
■

Lemma 11.4 Let $f_i \in \mathcal{S}_\mu^1(\mathbb{R}^n)$ for $(i = 1, 2, \dots, m)$ with $\mu > 0$ and Q be a closed convex set. Then there is a unique solution \mathbf{x}^* for the problem (16).

Proof:

Again, the proof is similar to the one of Lemma 10.2. ■

Definition 11.5 Let $f_i \in \mathcal{C}^1(\mathbb{R}^n)$ ($i = 1, 2, \dots, m$), Q a closed convex set, $\bar{\mathbf{x}} \in \mathbb{R}^n$, and $\gamma > 0$. Denote by

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{x}_f(\bar{\mathbf{x}}; \gamma) &:= \arg \min_{\mathbf{y} \in Q} \left[f(\bar{\mathbf{x}}; \mathbf{y}) + \frac{\gamma}{2} \|\mathbf{y} - \bar{\mathbf{x}}\|_2^2 \right], \\ \mathbf{g}_f(\bar{\mathbf{x}}; \gamma) &:= \gamma(\bar{\mathbf{x}} - \mathbf{x}_f(\bar{\mathbf{x}}; \gamma)). \end{aligned}$$

We call $\mathbf{g}_f(\bar{\mathbf{x}}; \gamma)$ the *gradient mapping of max-type function f on Q* . Observe that due to Lemma 11.4, $\mathbf{x}_f(\bar{\mathbf{x}}; \gamma)$ exists and it is uniquely defined.

Notice also that when $m = 1$, the above definition coincides with Definition 10.3.

Theorem 11.6 Let $f_i \in \mathcal{S}_{\mu, L}^{1,1}(\mathbb{R}^n)$ ($i = 1, 2, \dots, m$), $\gamma \geq L$, $\gamma > 0$, Q a closed convex set, and $\bar{\mathbf{x}} \in \mathbb{R}^n$. Then

$$f(\mathbf{x}) \geq f(\mathbf{x}_f(\bar{\mathbf{x}}; \gamma)) + \langle \mathbf{g}_f(\bar{\mathbf{x}}; \gamma), \mathbf{x} - \bar{\mathbf{x}} \rangle + \frac{1}{2\gamma} \|\mathbf{g}_f(\bar{\mathbf{x}}; \gamma)\|_2^2 + \frac{\mu}{2} \|\mathbf{x} - \bar{\mathbf{x}}\|_2^2, \quad \forall \mathbf{x} \in Q.$$

Proof: Let us use the following notation: $\mathbf{x}_f := \mathbf{x}_f(\bar{\mathbf{x}}; \gamma)$ and $\mathbf{g}_f := \mathbf{g}_f(\bar{\mathbf{x}}; \gamma)$.

From Lemma 11.1 and Corollary 11.3, we have $\forall \mathbf{x} \in Q$,

$$\begin{aligned} f(\mathbf{x}) - \frac{\mu}{2} \|\mathbf{x} - \bar{\mathbf{x}}\|_2^2 &\geq f(\bar{\mathbf{x}}; \mathbf{x}) \\ &= f(\bar{\mathbf{x}}; \mathbf{x}) + \frac{\gamma}{2} \|\mathbf{x} - \bar{\mathbf{x}}\|_2^2 - \frac{\gamma}{2} \|\mathbf{x} - \bar{\mathbf{x}}\|_2^2 \\ &\geq f(\bar{\mathbf{x}}; \mathbf{x}_f) + \frac{\gamma}{2} \|\mathbf{x}_f - \bar{\mathbf{x}}\|_2^2 + \frac{\gamma}{2} \|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_f\|_2^2 - \frac{\gamma}{2} \|\mathbf{x} - \bar{\mathbf{x}}\|_2^2 \\ &= f(\bar{\mathbf{x}}; \mathbf{x}_f) + \frac{\gamma}{2} \|\mathbf{x}_f - \bar{\mathbf{x}}\|_2^2 + \frac{\gamma}{2} \langle \bar{\mathbf{x}} - \mathbf{x}_f, 2\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_f - \bar{\mathbf{x}} \rangle \\ &= f(\bar{\mathbf{x}}; \mathbf{x}_f) + \frac{\gamma}{2} \|\mathbf{x}_f - \bar{\mathbf{x}}\|_2^2 + \frac{\gamma}{2} \langle \bar{\mathbf{x}} - \mathbf{x}_f, 2(\mathbf{x} - \bar{\mathbf{x}}) + \bar{\mathbf{x}} - \mathbf{x}_f \rangle \\ &= f(\bar{\mathbf{x}}; \mathbf{x}_f) + \frac{\gamma}{2} \|\mathbf{x}_f - \bar{\mathbf{x}}\|_2^2 + \langle \mathbf{g}_f, \mathbf{x} - \bar{\mathbf{x}} \rangle + \frac{1}{2\gamma} \|\mathbf{g}_f\|_2^2 \\ &\geq f(\mathbf{x}_f) + \langle \mathbf{g}_f, \mathbf{x} - \bar{\mathbf{x}} \rangle + \frac{1}{2\gamma} \|\mathbf{g}_f\|_2^2, \end{aligned}$$

where the last inequality is due to the fact that $\gamma \geq L$. ■

We are ready to define our estimated sequence. Assume that $f_i \in \mathcal{S}_{\mu, L}^{1,1}(\mathbb{R}^n)$ ($i = 1, 2, \dots, m$) possible with $\mu = 0$ (which means that $f_i \in \mathcal{F}_L^{1,1}(\mathbb{R}^n)$), $\mathbf{x}_0 \in Q$, and $\gamma_0 > 0$. Define

$$\begin{aligned}\phi_0(\mathbf{x}) &:= f(\mathbf{x}_0) + \frac{\gamma_0}{2} \|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_0\|_2^2, \\ \phi_{k+1}(\mathbf{x}) &:= (1 - \alpha_k)\phi_k(\mathbf{x}) + \alpha_k \left[f(\mathbf{x}_f(\mathbf{y}_k; L)) + \frac{1}{2L} \|\mathbf{g}_f(\mathbf{y}_k; L)\|_2^2 + \langle \mathbf{g}_f(\mathbf{y}_k; L), \mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y}_k \rangle \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \frac{\mu}{2} \|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y}_k\|_2^2 \right],\end{aligned}$$

for the sequences $\{\alpha_k\}_{k=0}^\infty$ and $\{\mathbf{y}_k\}_{k=0}^\infty$ which will be defined later.

Similarly to the previous subsection, we can prove that $\{\phi_k(\mathbf{x})\}_{k=0}^\infty$ can be written in the form

$$\phi_k(\mathbf{x}) = \phi_k^* + \frac{\gamma_k}{2} \|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{v}_k\|_2^2$$

for $\phi_0^* = f(\mathbf{x}_0)$, $\mathbf{v}_0 = \mathbf{x}_0$:

$$\begin{aligned}\gamma_{k+1} &= (1 - \alpha_k)\gamma_k + \alpha_k\mu \\ \mathbf{v}_{k+1} &= \frac{1}{\gamma_{k+1}} [(1 - \alpha_k)\gamma_k \mathbf{v}_k + \alpha_k\mu \mathbf{y}_k - \alpha_k \mathbf{g}_f(\mathbf{y}_k; L)], \\ \phi_{k+1}^* &= (1 - \alpha_k)\phi_k^* + \alpha_k f(\mathbf{x}_f(\mathbf{y}_k; L)) + \left(\frac{\alpha_k}{2L} - \frac{\alpha_k^2}{2\gamma_{k+1}} \right) \|\mathbf{g}_f(\mathbf{y}_k; L)\|_2^2 \\ &\quad + \frac{\alpha_k(1 - \alpha_k)\gamma_k}{\gamma_{k+1}} \left(\frac{\mu}{2} \|\mathbf{y}_k - \mathbf{v}_k\|_2^2 + \langle \mathbf{g}_f(\mathbf{y}_k; L), \mathbf{v}_k - \mathbf{y}_k \rangle \right).\end{aligned}$$

Now, $\phi_0^* \geq f(\mathbf{x}_0)$. Assuming that $\phi_k^* \geq f(\mathbf{x}_k)$,

$$\begin{aligned}\phi_{k+1}^* &\geq (1 - \alpha_k)f(\mathbf{x}_k) + \alpha_k f(\mathbf{x}_f(\mathbf{y}_k; L)) + \left(\frac{\alpha_k}{2L} - \frac{\alpha_k^2}{2\gamma_{k+1}} \right) \|\mathbf{g}_f(\mathbf{y}_k; L)\|_2^2 \\ &\quad + \frac{\alpha_k(1 - \alpha_k)\gamma_k}{\gamma_{k+1}} \langle \mathbf{g}_f(\mathbf{y}_k; L), \mathbf{v}_k - \mathbf{y}_k \rangle \\ &\geq f(\mathbf{x}_f(\mathbf{y}_k; L)) + \left(\frac{1}{2L} - \frac{\alpha_k^2}{2\gamma_{k+1}} \right) \|\mathbf{g}_f(\mathbf{y}_k; L)\|_2^2 \\ &\quad + (1 - \alpha_k) \left\langle \mathbf{g}_f(\mathbf{y}_k; L), \frac{\alpha_k\gamma_k}{\gamma_{k+1}} (\mathbf{v}_k - \mathbf{y}_k) + \mathbf{x}_k - \mathbf{y}_k \right\rangle + \frac{(1 - \alpha_k)\mu}{2} \|\mathbf{x}_k - \mathbf{y}_k\|_2^2,\end{aligned}$$

where the last inequality follows from Theorem 11.6.

Therefore, if we choose

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{x}_{k+1} &= \mathbf{x}_f(\mathbf{y}_k; L), \\ L\alpha_k^2 &= (1 - \alpha_k)\gamma_k + \alpha_k\mu, \\ \gamma_{k+1} &:= L\alpha_k^2, \\ \mathbf{y}_k &= \frac{1}{\gamma_k + \alpha_k\mu} (\alpha_k\gamma_k \mathbf{v}_k + \gamma_{k+1} \mathbf{x}_k),\end{aligned}$$

we obtain $\phi_{k+1}^* \geq f(\mathbf{x}_{k+1})$ as desired.

Hereafter, we assume that $L > \mu$ to exclude the trivial case $L = \mu$ with finished in one iteration.

Constant Step Scheme I for the “Optimal” Gradient Method for the Min-Max Problem

Step 0:	Choose $\mathbf{x}_0 \in \mathbb{R}^n$, $\alpha_0 \in (0, 1)$ such that $\frac{\alpha_0(\alpha_0 L - \mu)}{1 - \alpha_0} > 0$, $\mu \leq \frac{\alpha_0(\alpha_0 L - \mu)}{1 - \alpha_0} \leq L$, set $\mathbf{y}_0 := \mathbf{x}_0$, $k := 0$.
Step 1:	Compute $f(\mathbf{y}_k)$ and $f'(\mathbf{y}_k)$.
Step 2:	Set $\mathbf{x}_{k+1} := \mathbf{x}_f(\mathbf{y}_k; L) := \arg \min_{\mathbf{x} \in Q} \left[\max_{i=1,2,\dots,m} f_i(\mathbf{y}_k) + \langle f'_i(\mathbf{y}_k), \mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y}_k \rangle + \frac{\alpha_k(\alpha_k L - \mu)}{2(1 - \alpha_k)} \ \mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y}_k\ _2^2 \right]$.
Step 3:	Compute $\alpha_{k+1} \in (0, 1)$ from the equation $\alpha_{k+1}^2 = (1 - \alpha_{k+1})\alpha_k^2 + \frac{\mu}{L}\alpha_{k+1}$.
Step 4:	Set $\beta_k := \frac{\alpha_k(1 - \alpha_k)}{\alpha_k^2 + \alpha_{k+1}}$.
Step 5:	Set $\mathbf{y}_{k+1} := \mathbf{x}_{k+1} + \beta_k(\mathbf{x}_{k+1} - \mathbf{x}_k)$, $k := k + 1$ and go to Step 1.

The rate of converge of this algorithm is exactly the same as the previous ones, but it is necessary to solve a convex program in Step 2 for each iteration.

You can find a more efficient version of the algorithm in: Yu. Nesterov, “Smooth minimization of non-smooth functions,” *Mathematical Programming* **103** (2005), pp. 127–152, where the algorithm is extended for objective functions which are not differentiable.