

Scale-invariant online learning

Michał Kempka Wojciech Kotłowski



IDSS Seminar, 27.11.2018

Online learning example: travel time estimation



- At every timestamp t , navigation software needs to predict travel time y_t at a given road segment
- Given feature vector $\mathbf{x}_t \in \mathbb{R}^d$ representing current traffic conditions, predict $\hat{y}_t = \mathbf{x}_t^\top \mathbf{w}_t$ with a linear model
- Observe real y_t and measure prediction loss, e.g. $(y_t - \hat{y}_t)^2$
- Improve model parameters $\mathbf{w}_t \rightarrow \mathbf{w}_{t+1}$

Online learning example: spam filtering



- At every timestamp t , spam filter needs to classify an incoming email as spam/no-spam ($y_t \in \{+1, -1\}$)
- Given feature vector $\mathbf{x}_t \in \mathbb{R}^d$ representing email's body, predict $\hat{y}_t = \mathbf{x}_t^\top \mathbf{w}_t$ with a linear model
- Receive feedback y_t from a user and measure prediction loss, e.g. *logistic loss* $\log(1 + e^{-y_t \hat{y}_t})$
- Improve model parameters $\mathbf{w}_t \rightarrow \mathbf{w}_{t+1}$

Online learning with linear models

At each trial $t = 1, \dots, T$:

Nature reveals input instance $\mathbf{x}_t \in \mathbb{R}^d$

Learner predicts with a linear model $\hat{y}_t = \mathbf{x}_t^\top \mathbf{w}_t$, where $\mathbf{w}_t \in \mathbb{R}^d$

Nature reveals label y_t

Learner suffers loss $\ell(y_t, \hat{y}_t)$

Online learning with linear models

revealed before prediction!

At each trial $t = 1, \dots, T$:

Nature reveals input instance $\mathbf{x}_t \in \mathbb{R}^d$

Learner predicts with a linear model $\hat{y}_t = \mathbf{x}_t^\top \mathbf{w}_t$, where $\mathbf{w}_t \in \mathbb{R}^d$

Nature reveals label y_t

Learner suffers loss $\ell(y_t, \hat{y}_t)$

Online learning with linear models

At each trial $t = 1, \dots, T$:

Nature reveals input instance $\mathbf{x}_t \in \mathbb{R}^d$

Learner predicts with a linear model $\hat{y}_t = \mathbf{x}_t^\top \mathbf{w}_t$, where $\mathbf{w}_t \in \mathbb{R}^d$

Nature reveals label y_t

Learner suffers loss $\ell(y_t, \hat{y}_t)$, **convex and L -Lipschitz** in \hat{y}_t

L -Lipschitz = (sub)derivative bounded by L

Loss function	$\ell(y, \hat{y})$	$\partial_{\hat{y}} \ell(y, \hat{y})$	L
logistic	$\log(1 + e^{-y\hat{y}})$	$\frac{-y}{1 + e^{y\hat{y}}}$	1
hinge	$\max\{0, 1 - y\hat{y}\}$	$-y\mathbf{1}[y\hat{y} \leq 1]$	1
absolute	$ \hat{y} - y $	$\text{sgn}(\hat{y} - y)$	1

Without loss of generality assume $L = 1$

Online learning with linear models

At each trial $t = 1, \dots, T$:

Nature reveals input instance $\mathbf{x}_t \in \mathbb{R}^d$

Learner predicts with a linear model $\hat{y}_t = \mathbf{x}_t^\top \mathbf{w}_t$, where $\mathbf{w}_t \in \mathbb{R}^d$

Nature reveals label y_t

Learner suffers loss $\ell(y_t, \hat{y}_t)$, **convex and L -Lipschitz** in \hat{y}_t

No stochastic assumptions on the data sequence (\mathbf{x}_t, y_t) are made

Minimize **regret** relative to oracle weight vector $\mathbf{w}^* \in \mathbb{R}^d$:

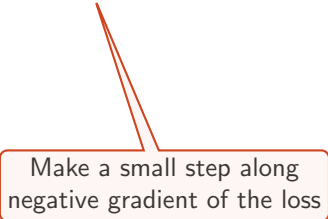
$$\text{regret}_T(\mathbf{w}^*) = \sum_{t=1}^T \ell(y_t, \mathbf{x}_t^\top \mathbf{w}_t) - \sum_{t=1}^T \ell(y_t, \mathbf{x}_t^\top \mathbf{w}^*),$$

Goal: **sublinear** regret for any \mathbf{w}^* and any data sequence (\mathbf{x}_t, y_t)

Stochastic Gradient Descent (SGD)

- Fixed learning rate

$$\mathbf{w}_{t+1} = \mathbf{w}_t - \eta \nabla_t, \quad \text{where } \nabla_t = \nabla_{\mathbf{w}_t} \ell(y_t, \mathbf{x}_t^\top \mathbf{w}_t)$$



Make a small step along
negative gradient of the loss

Stochastic Gradient Descent (SGD)

- Fixed learning rate

$$\mathbf{w}_{t+1} = \mathbf{w}_t - \eta \nabla_t, \quad \text{where } \nabla_t = \nabla_{\mathbf{w}_t} \ell(y_t, \mathbf{x}_t^\top \mathbf{w}_t)$$

$$\text{regret}_T(\mathbf{w}^*) \leq \frac{\|\mathbf{w}^*\|^2}{2\eta} + \frac{\eta}{2} \sum_{t=1}^T \|\nabla_t\|^2 \quad (\text{starting at } \mathbf{w}_1 = \mathbf{0})$$

Stochastic Gradient Descent (SGD)

- Fixed learning rate

$$\mathbf{w}_{t+1} = \mathbf{w}_t - \eta \nabla_t, \quad \text{where } \nabla_t = \nabla_{\mathbf{w}_t} \ell(y_t, \mathbf{x}_t^\top \mathbf{w}_t)$$

$$\text{regret}_T(\mathbf{w}^*) \leq \frac{\|\mathbf{w}^*\|^2}{2\eta} + \frac{\eta}{2} \sum_{t=1}^T \|\nabla_t\|^2 \quad (\text{starting at } \mathbf{w}_1 = \mathbf{0})$$

Optimal in-hindsight tuning $\eta^* = \frac{\|\mathbf{w}^*\|}{\sqrt{\sum_t \|\nabla_t\|^2}}$
to minimize the regret (impossible in practice)

Stochastic Gradient Descent (SGD)

- Fixed learning rate

$$\mathbf{w}_{t+1} = \mathbf{w}_t - \eta \nabla_t, \quad \text{where } \nabla_t = \nabla_{\mathbf{w}_t} \ell(y_t, \mathbf{x}_t^\top \mathbf{w}_t)$$

$$\text{regret}_T(\mathbf{w}^*) \leq \|\mathbf{w}^*\| \sqrt{\sum_t \|\nabla_t\|^2} \quad \text{for } \eta^* = \frac{\|\mathbf{w}^*\|}{\sqrt{\sum_t \|\nabla_t\|^2}}$$

Stochastic Gradient Descent (SGD)


- Fixed learning rate

$$\mathbf{w}_{t+1} = \mathbf{w}_t - \eta \nabla_t, \quad \text{where } \nabla_t = \nabla_{\mathbf{w}_t} \ell(y_t, \mathbf{x}_t^\top \mathbf{w}_t)$$

$$\text{regret}_T(\mathbf{w}^*) \leq \|\mathbf{w}^*\| \sqrt{\sum_t \|\nabla_t\|^2} \quad \text{for } \eta^* = \frac{\|\mathbf{w}^*\|}{\sqrt{\sum_t \|\nabla_t\|^2}}$$

- Separate fixed learning rate per feature

$$w_{t+1,i} = w_{t,i} - \eta_i \nabla_{t,i},$$



Each feature has its own learning rate

Stochastic Gradient Descent (SGD)

- Fixed learning rate

$$\mathbf{w}_{t+1} = \mathbf{w}_t - \eta \nabla_t, \quad \text{where } \nabla_t = \nabla_{\mathbf{w}_t} \ell(y_t, \mathbf{x}_t^\top \mathbf{w}_t)$$

$$\text{regret}_T(\mathbf{w}^*) \leq \|\mathbf{w}^*\| \sqrt{\sum_t \|\nabla_t\|^2} \quad \text{for } \eta^* = \frac{\|\mathbf{w}^*\|}{\sqrt{\sum_t \|\nabla_t\|^2}}$$

- Separate fixed learning rate per feature

$$w_{t+1,i} = w_{t,i} - \eta_i \nabla_{t,i},$$
$$\text{regret}_T(\mathbf{w}^*) \leq \sum_{i=1}^d \left(\frac{w_i^{*2}}{2\eta_i} + \frac{\eta_i}{2} \sum_{t=1}^T \nabla_{t,i}^2 \right) \quad (\mathbf{w}_1 = 0)$$

Stochastic Gradient Descent (SGD)

- Fixed learning rate

$$\mathbf{w}_{t+1} = \mathbf{w}_t - \eta \nabla_t, \quad \text{where } \nabla_t = \nabla_{\mathbf{w}_t} \ell(y_t, \mathbf{x}_t^\top \mathbf{w}_t)$$

$$\text{regret}_T(\mathbf{w}^*) \leq \|\mathbf{w}^*\| \sqrt{\sum_t \|\nabla_t\|^2} \quad \text{for } \eta^* = \frac{\|\mathbf{w}^*\|}{\sqrt{\sum_t \|\nabla_t\|^2}}$$

- Separate fixed learning rate per feature

$$w_{t+1,i} = w_{t,i} - \eta_i \nabla_{t,i},$$
$$\text{regret}_T(\mathbf{w}^*) \leq \sum_{i=1}^d \left(\frac{w_i^{*2}}{2\eta_i} + \frac{\eta_i}{2} \sum_{t=1}^T \nabla_{t,i}^2 \right) \quad (\mathbf{w}_1 = 0)$$

Optimal in-hindsight tuning $\eta_i^* = \frac{|w_i^*|}{\sqrt{\sum_t \nabla_{t,i}^2}}$

Stochastic Gradient Descent (SGD)

- Fixed learning rate

$$\mathbf{w}_{t+1} = \mathbf{w}_t - \eta \nabla_t, \quad \text{where } \nabla_t = \nabla_{\mathbf{w}_t} \ell(y_t, \mathbf{x}_t^\top \mathbf{w}_t)$$

$$\text{regret}_T(\mathbf{w}^*) \leq \|\mathbf{w}^*\| \sqrt{\sum_t \|\nabla_t\|^2} \quad \text{for } \eta^* = \frac{\|\mathbf{w}^*\|}{\sqrt{\sum_t \|\nabla_t\|^2}}$$

- Separate fixed learning rate per feature

$$w_{t+1,i} = w_{t,i} - \eta_i \nabla_{t,i},$$

$$\text{regret}_T(\mathbf{w}^*) \leq \sum_{i=1}^d \left(|w_i^*| \sqrt{\sum_t \nabla_{t,i}^2} \right) \quad \text{for } \eta_i^* = \frac{|w_i^*|}{\sqrt{\sum_t \nabla_{t,i}^2}}$$

Better than the previous bound
(single tuning per feature)

Stochastic Gradient Descent (SGD)

- Fixed learning rate

w_{t+1}
 $\text{regret}_T(\mathbf{w}^*)$

Can we get the optimal SGD regret bound:

$$\sum_{i=1}^d \left(|w_i^*| \sqrt{\sum_t \nabla_{t,i}^2} \right)$$

with some **adaptive** tuning strategy?

\mathbf{w}_t
 $\frac{\|\mathbf{w}^*\|}{\sqrt{\sum_t \|\nabla_t\|^2}}$

- Separate fixed

$$w_{t+1,i} = w_{t,i} - \eta_i \nabla_{t,i},$$

$$\text{regret}_T(\mathbf{w}^*) \leq \sum_{i=1}^d \left(|w_i^*| \sqrt{\sum_t \nabla_{t,i}^2} \right) \quad \text{for } \eta_i^* = \frac{|w_i^*|}{\sqrt{\sum_t \nabla_{t,i}^2}}$$

Stochastic Gradient Descent (SGD)

- Fixed learning rate

$$\mathbf{w}_{t+1} = \mathbf{w}_t - \eta \nabla_t, \quad \text{where } \nabla_t = \nabla_{\mathbf{w}_t} \ell(y_t, \mathbf{x}_t^\top \mathbf{w}_t)$$

$$\text{regret}_T(\mathbf{w}^*) \leq \|\mathbf{w}^*\| \sqrt{\sum_t \|\nabla_t\|^2} \quad \text{for } \eta^* = \frac{\|\mathbf{w}^*\|}{\sqrt{\sum_t \|\nabla_t\|^2}}$$

- Separate fixed learning rate per feature

$$w_{t+1,i} = w_{t,i} - \eta_i \nabla_{t,i},$$

$$\text{regret}_T(\mathbf{w}^*) \leq \sum_{i=1}^d \left(|w_i^*| \sqrt{\sum_t \nabla_{t,i}^2} \right) \quad \text{for } \eta_i^* = \frac{|w_i^*|}{\sqrt{\sum_t \nabla_{t,i}^2}}$$

- Adaptive learning rate per feature (AdaGrad [Duchi et al., 2011])

$$w_{t+1,i} = w_{t,i} - \eta_{i,t} \nabla_{t,i}, \quad \text{where } \eta_{i,t} = \frac{\eta_i}{\sqrt{\epsilon + \sum_{j \leq t} \nabla_{j,i}^2}}$$

Tuning the learning rate mimics the optimal tuning

Stochastic Gradient Descent (SGD)

- Fixed learning rate

$$\mathbf{w}_{t+1} = \mathbf{w}_t - \eta \nabla_t, \quad \text{where } \nabla_t = \nabla_{\mathbf{w}_t} \ell(y_t, \mathbf{x}_t^\top \mathbf{w}_t)$$
$$\text{regret}_T(\mathbf{w}^*) \leq \|\mathbf{w}^*\| \sqrt{\sum_t \|\nabla_t\|^2} \quad \text{for } \eta^* = \frac{\|\mathbf{w}^*\|}{\sqrt{\sum_t \|\nabla_t\|^2}}$$

- Separate fixed learning rate per feature

$$w_{t+1,i} = w_{t,i} - \eta_i \nabla_{t,i},$$
$$\text{regret}_T(\mathbf{w}^*) \leq \sum_{i=1}^d \left(|w_i^*| \sqrt{\sum_t \nabla_{t,i}^2} \right) \quad \text{for } \eta_i^* = \frac{|w_i^*|}{\sqrt{\sum_t \nabla_{t,i}^2}}$$

- Adaptive learning rate per feature (AdaGrad [Duchi et al., 2011])

$$w_{t+1,i} = w_{t,i} - \eta_{i,t} \nabla_{t,i}, \quad \text{where } \eta_{i,t} = \frac{\eta_i}{\sqrt{\epsilon + \sum_{j \leq t} \nabla_{j,i}^2}}$$
$$\text{regret}_T(\mathbf{w}^*) \leq \sum_{i=1}^d \left(\frac{\max_t |w_i^* - w_{i,t}|^2}{2\eta_i} + \eta_i \right) \sqrt{\epsilon + \sum_t \nabla_{t,i}^2}$$

Stochastic Gradient Descent (SGD)

- Fixed learning rate

$$\mathbf{w}_{t+1} = \mathbf{w}_t - \eta \nabla_t, \quad \text{where } \nabla_t = \nabla_{\mathbf{w}_t} \ell(y_t, \mathbf{x}_t^\top \mathbf{w}_t)$$

$$\text{regret}_T(\mathbf{w}^*) \leq \|\mathbf{w}^*\| \sqrt{\sum_t \|\nabla_t\|^2} \quad \text{for } \eta^* = \frac{\|\mathbf{w}^*\|}{\sqrt{\sum_t \|\nabla_t\|^2}}$$

- Separate fixed learning rate per feature

$$w_{t+1,i} = w_{t,i} - \eta_i \nabla_{t,i},$$

$$\text{regret}_T(\mathbf{w}^*) \leq \sum_{i=1}^d \left(|w_i^*| \sqrt{\sum_t \|\nabla_{t,i}\|^2} \right)$$

Not there yet: still requires to tune η_i depending on unknown \mathbf{w}^* !

- Adaptive learning rate per feature (AdaGrad [Duchi et al., 2011])

$$w_{t+1,i} = w_{t,i} - \eta_{i,t} \nabla_{t,i}, \quad \text{where } \eta_{i,t} = \frac{\eta_i}{\sqrt{\epsilon + \sum_{j \leq t} \nabla_{j,i}^2}}$$

$$\text{regret}_T(\mathbf{w}^*) \leq \sum_{i=1}^d \left(\frac{\max_t |w_i^* - w_{i,t}|^2}{2\eta_i} + \eta_i \right) \sqrt{\epsilon + \sum_t \nabla_{t,i}^2}$$

Feature scales

$$w_{t+1,i} = w_{t,i} - \eta_i \nabla_{t,i}$$

Feature scales

$$w_{t+1,i} = w_{t,i} - \eta_i \nabla_{t,i}$$

By the chain rule $\nabla_t = \nabla_{\mathbf{w}_t} \ell(y_t, \mathbf{x}_t^\top \mathbf{w}_t) = \underbrace{\frac{\partial \ell(y_t, \hat{y})}{\partial \hat{y}}}_{g_t} \bigg|_{\hat{y}_t = \mathbf{x}_t^\top \mathbf{w}_t} \mathbf{x}_t$:

$$w_{t+1,i} = w_{t,i} - \eta_i g_t x_{t,i}$$

For example, for squared-error loss:
$$\nabla_{\mathbf{w}_t} (y_t - \mathbf{w}_t^\top \mathbf{x}_t)^2 = 2 \underbrace{(y_t - \mathbf{w}_t^\top \mathbf{x}_t)}_{g_t} \mathbf{x}_t$$

Feature scales

$$w_{t+1,i} = w_{t,i} - \eta_i \nabla_{t,i}$$

By the chain rule $\nabla_t = \nabla_{\mathbf{w}_t} \ell(y_t, \mathbf{x}_t^\top \mathbf{w}_t) = \underbrace{\frac{\partial \ell(y_t, \hat{y})}{\partial \hat{y}}}_{g_t} \bigg|_{\hat{y}_t = \mathbf{x}_t^\top \mathbf{w}_t} \mathbf{x}_t$:

$$w_{t+1,i} = w_{t,i} - \eta_i g_t x_{t,i}$$

Suppose feature i has a **physical unit** $[X_i]$, while the label and prediction are **dimensionless** (like in, e.g., classification)

$\implies i$ -th weight coordinate w_i must have unit $1/[X_i]$

Feature scales

$$w_{t+1,i} = w_{t,i} - \eta_i \nabla_{t,i}$$

By the chain rule $\nabla_t = \nabla_{\mathbf{w}_t} \ell(y_t, \mathbf{x}_t^\top \mathbf{w}_t) = \underbrace{\frac{\partial \ell(y_t, \hat{y})}{\partial \hat{y}}}_{g_t} \bigg|_{\hat{y}_t = \mathbf{x}_t^\top \mathbf{w}_t} \mathbf{x}_t$

$1/[X_i]$

$1/[X_i]$

$$w_{t+1,i} = w_{t,i} - \eta_i g_t x_{t,i}$$

$[X_i]$

units do not match!

dimensionless

Suppose feature i has a **physical unit** $[X_i]$, while the label and prediction are **dimensionless** (like in, e.g., classification)

\implies i -th weight coordinate w_i must have unit $1/[X_i]$

Feature scales

$$w_{t+1,i} = w_{t,i} - \eta_i \nabla_{t,i}$$

By the chain rule $\nabla_t = \nabla_{\mathbf{w}_t} \ell(y_t, \mathbf{x}_t^\top \mathbf{w}_t) = \underbrace{\frac{\partial \ell(y_t, \hat{y})}{\partial \hat{y}}}_{g_t} \bigg|_{\hat{y}_t = \mathbf{x}_t^\top \mathbf{w}_t} \mathbf{x}_t$

$1/[X_i]$

$1/[X_i]$

$$w_{t+1,i} = w_{t,i} - \eta_i g_t x_{t,i}$$

$[X_i]$

... unless $[\eta_i] = 1/[X_i]^2$

dimensionless

Suppose feature i has a **physical unit** $[X_i]$, while the label and prediction are **dimensionless** (like in, e.g., classification)

\implies i -th weight coordinate w_i must have unit $1/[X_i]$

Feature scales

$$w_{t+1,i} = w_{t,i} - \eta_i \nabla_{t,i}$$

By the chain rule $\nabla_t = \nabla_{\mathbf{w}_t} \ell(y_t, \mathbf{x}_t^\top \mathbf{w}_t) = \underbrace{\frac{\partial \ell(y_t, \hat{y})}{\partial \hat{y}}}_{g_t} \bigg|_{\hat{y}_t = \mathbf{x}_t^\top \mathbf{w}_t} \mathbf{x}_t$

$1/[X_i]$

$1/[X_i]$

$$w_{t+1,i} = w_{t,i} - \eta_i g_t x_{t,i}$$

$[X_i]$

... unless $[\eta_i] = 1/[X_i]^2$

dimensionless

Suppose feature i has a **physical unit** $[X_i]$, while the label and prediction are **dimensionless** (like in, e.g., classification)

\implies i -th weight coordinate w_i must have unit $1/[X_i]$

Learning rate should **compensate units** on each coordinate! (in fact, the optimal in-hindsight tuning $\eta_i = \frac{|w_i^*|}{\sqrt{\sum_t \nabla_{t,i}^2}}$ achieves exactly that)

Single learning rate is unable to compensate units.

Feature scales

AdaGrad [Duchi et al., 2011]:

$$w_{t+1,i} = w_{t,i} - \frac{\eta}{\sqrt{\epsilon + \sum_{j \leq t} \nabla_{j,i}^2}} \nabla_{t,i}$$

Feature scales

AdaGrad [Duchi et al., 2010]

$$w_{t+1,i} = w_{t,i} - \frac{\eta}{\sqrt{\epsilon + \sum_{j \leq t} \nabla_{j,i}^2}} \nabla_{t,i}$$

The diagram includes several callouts in red boxes with lines pointing to parts of the equation:

- A callout labeled $1/[X_i]$ points to the first $1/[X_i]$ term in the denominator.
- A callout labeled $1/[X_i]$ points to the second $1/[X_i]$ term in the denominator.
- A callout labeled $1/[X_i] ?$ points to the η numerator.
- A callout labeled $[X_i]$ points to the $\nabla_{t,i}$ term.
- A callout labeled $[X_i]$ points to the $\nabla_{j,i}^2$ term in the denominator.

Learning rate still needs to compensate units, but cannot do so for all coordinates at the same time

Feature scales

AdaGrad [Duchi, 2011]

$$w_{t+1,i} = w_{t,i} - \frac{\eta}{\sqrt{\epsilon + \sum_{j \leq t} \nabla_{j,i}^2}} \nabla_{t,i}$$

Callouts in the diagram:

- $1/[X_i]$ (pointing to $w_{t,i}$)
- $1/[X_i]$ (pointing to the denominator)
- $1/[X_i]?$ (pointing to η)
- $[X_i]$ (pointing to $\nabla_{t,i}$)
- $[X_i]$ (pointing to $\nabla_{j,i}^2$)

Learning rate still needs to compensate units, but cannot do so for all coordinates at the same time

- Also applies to RMSprop [Tieleman and Hinton, 2012] and Adam [Kingma and Ba, 2014]
- Heuristically solved by Adadelata [Zeiler, 2012]

Feature scales

AdaGrad [Duchi, 2011]

$$w_{t+1,i} = w_{t,i} - \frac{\eta}{\sqrt{\epsilon + \sum_{j \leq t} \nabla_{j,i}^2}} \nabla_{t,i}$$

Callouts in the diagram:

- $1/[X_i]?$ (points to η)
- $1/[X_i]$ (points to $\sqrt{\epsilon + \sum_{j \leq t} \nabla_{j,i}^2}$)
- $[X_i]$ (points to $\nabla_{t,i}$)
- $[X_i]$ (points to $\nabla_{j,i}^2$)

Learning rate still needs to compensate units, but cannot do so for all coordinates at the same time

- Also applies to RMSprop [Tieleman and Hinton, 2012] and Adam [Kingma and Ba, 2014]
- Heuristically solved by Adadelta [Zeiler, 2012]

Motivation: fully adaptive algorithms need to resolve this scaling issue

Scale invariance

A natural symmetry in the linear problems

Rescaling the features followed by the inverse scaling of the weights keep the predictions (and hence losses) **invariant**:

$$\forall i, t \quad x_{t,i} \mapsto a_i x_{t,i} \quad w_i \mapsto a_i^{-1} w_i \quad \implies \quad \mathbf{x}_t^\top \mathbf{w} \mapsto \mathbf{x}_t^\top \mathbf{w}$$

Scale invariance

A natural symmetry in the linear problems

Rescaling the features followed by the inverse scaling of the weights keep the predictions (and hence losses) **invariant**:

$$\forall t \quad \mathbf{x}_t \mapsto \mathbf{A}^{-1}\mathbf{x}_t, \quad \mathbf{w} \mapsto \mathbf{A}\mathbf{w} \quad \implies \quad \mathbf{x}_t^\top \mathbf{w} \mapsto \mathbf{x}_t^\top \mathbf{w}$$

for any diagonal matrix \mathbf{A}

Scale invariance

A natural symmetry in the linear problems

Rescaling the features followed by the inverse scaling of the weights keep the predictions (and hence losses) **invariant**:

$$\forall t \quad \mathbf{x}_t \mapsto \mathbf{A}^{-1}\mathbf{x}_t, \quad \mathbf{w} \mapsto \mathbf{A}\mathbf{w} \quad \implies \quad \mathbf{x}_t^\top \mathbf{w} \mapsto \mathbf{x}_t^\top \mathbf{w}$$

for any diagonal matrix \mathbf{A}

In particular: if \mathbf{w}^* is optimal (loss-minimizer) for sequence $\{(\mathbf{x}_t, y_t)\}_{t=1}^T$, then $\mathbf{A}^{-1}\mathbf{w}^*$ is optimal for sequence $\{(\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}_t, y_t)\}_{t=1}^T$

Scale invariance

A natural symmetry in the linear problems

Rescaling the features followed by the inverse scaling of the weights keep the predictions (and hence losses) **invariant**:

$$\forall t \quad \mathbf{x}_t \mapsto \mathbf{A}^{-1}\mathbf{x}_t, \quad \mathbf{w} \mapsto \mathbf{A}\mathbf{w} \quad \implies \quad \mathbf{x}_t^\top \mathbf{w} \mapsto \mathbf{x}_t^\top \mathbf{w}$$

for any diagonal matrix \mathbf{A}

In particular: if \mathbf{w}^* is optimal (loss-minimizer) for sequence $\{(\mathbf{x}_t, y_t)\}_{t=1}^T$, then $\mathbf{A}^{-1}\mathbf{w}^*$ is optimal for sequence $\{(\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}_t, y_t)\}_{t=1}^T$

Example: minimizing squared error loss:

$$\mathbf{w}^* = \left(\sum_t \mathbf{x}_t \mathbf{x}_t^\top \right)^{-1} \sum_t \mathbf{x}_t y_t$$

Scale invariance

A natural symmetry in the linear problems

Rescaling the features followed by the inverse scaling of the weights keep the predictions (and hence losses) **invariant**:

$$\forall t \quad \mathbf{x}_t \mapsto \mathbf{A}^{-1}\mathbf{x}_t, \quad \mathbf{w} \mapsto \mathbf{A}\mathbf{w} \quad \implies \quad \mathbf{x}_t^\top \mathbf{w} \mapsto \mathbf{x}_t^\top \mathbf{w}$$

for any diagonal matrix \mathbf{A}

In particular: if \mathbf{w}^* is optimal (loss-minimizer) for sequence $\{(\mathbf{x}_t, y_t)\}_{t=1}^T$, then $\mathbf{A}^{-1}\mathbf{w}^*$ is optimal for sequence $\{(\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}_t, y_t)\}_{t=1}^T$

Example: minimizing squared error loss:

$$\mathbf{w}^* \mapsto \left(\sum_t \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}_t(\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}_t)^\top \right)^{-1} \sum_t \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}_t y_t$$

Scale invariance

A natural symmetry in the linear problems

Rescaling the features followed by the inverse scaling of the weights keep the predictions (and hence losses) **invariant**:

$$\forall t \quad \mathbf{x}_t \mapsto \mathbf{A}^{-1}\mathbf{x}_t, \quad \mathbf{w} \mapsto \mathbf{A}\mathbf{w} \quad \implies \quad \mathbf{x}_t^\top \mathbf{w} \mapsto \mathbf{x}_t^\top \mathbf{w}$$

for any diagonal matrix \mathbf{A}

In particular: if \mathbf{w}^* is optimal (loss-minimizer) for sequence $\{(\mathbf{x}_t, y_t)\}_{t=1}^T$, then $\mathbf{A}^{-1}\mathbf{w}^*$ is optimal for sequence $\{(\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}_t, y_t)\}_{t=1}^T$

Example: minimizing squared error loss:

$$\mathbf{w}^* \mapsto \mathbf{A}^{-1} \left(\sum_t \mathbf{x}_t \mathbf{x}_t^\top \right)^{-1} \mathbf{A}^{-1} \mathbf{A} \sum_t \mathbf{x}_t y_t$$

Scale invariance

A natural symmetry in the linear problems

Rescaling the features followed by the inverse scaling of the weights keep the predictions (and hence losses) **invariant**:

$$\forall t \quad \mathbf{x}_t \mapsto \mathbf{A}^{-1}\mathbf{x}_t, \quad \mathbf{w} \mapsto \mathbf{A}\mathbf{w} \quad \implies \quad \mathbf{x}_t^\top \mathbf{w} \mapsto \mathbf{x}_t^\top \mathbf{w}$$

for any diagonal matrix \mathbf{A}

In particular: if \mathbf{w}^* is optimal (loss-minimizer) for sequence $\{(\mathbf{x}_t, y_t)\}_{t=1}^T$, then $\mathbf{A}^{-1}\mathbf{w}^*$ is optimal for sequence $\{(\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}_t, y_t)\}_{t=1}^T$

Example: minimizing squared error loss:

$$\mathbf{w}^* \mapsto \mathbf{A}^{-1} \left(\sum_t \mathbf{x}_t \mathbf{x}_t^\top \right)^{-1} \sum_t \mathbf{x}_t y_t = \mathbf{A}^{-1} \mathbf{w}^*$$

Scale invariance

A natural symmetry in the linear problems

Rescaling the features followed by the inverse scaling of the weights keep the predictions (and hence losses) **invariant**:

$$\forall t \quad \mathbf{x}_t \mapsto \mathbf{A}^{-1}\mathbf{x}_t, \quad \mathbf{w} \mapsto \mathbf{A}\mathbf{w} \quad \implies \quad \mathbf{x}_t^\top \mathbf{w} \mapsto \mathbf{x}_t^\top \mathbf{w}$$

for any diagonal matrix \mathbf{A}

In particular: if \mathbf{w}^* is optimal (loss-minimizer) for sequence $\{(\mathbf{x}_t, y_t)\}_{t=1}^T$, then $\mathbf{A}^{-1}\mathbf{w}^*$ is optimal for sequence $\{(\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}_t, y_t)\}_{t=1}^T$

A learning algorithm is **scale-invariant** if it returns **the same predictions** under arbitrary rescaling of the data:

$$\forall t \quad \mathbf{x}_t \mapsto \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}_t \quad \implies \quad \mathbf{w}_t \mapsto \mathbf{A}^{-1}\mathbf{w}_t \quad \implies \quad \mathbf{w}_t^\top \mathbf{x}_t \mapsto \mathbf{w}_t^\top \mathbf{x}_t$$

Scale invariance

A natural symmetry in the linear problems

Rescaling the features followed by the inverse scaling of the weights keep the predictions (and hence losses) **invariant**:

$$\forall t \quad \mathbf{x}_t \mapsto \mathbf{A}^{-1}\mathbf{x}_t, \quad \mathbf{w} \mapsto \mathbf{A}\mathbf{w} \quad \implies \quad \mathbf{x}_t^\top \mathbf{w} \mapsto \mathbf{x}_t^\top \mathbf{w}$$

for any diagonal matrix \mathbf{A}

In particular: if \mathbf{w}^* is optimal (loss-minimizer) for sequence $\{(\mathbf{x}_t, y_t)\}_{t=1}^T$, then $\mathbf{A}^{-1}\mathbf{w}^*$ is optimal for sequence $\{(\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}_t, y_t)\}_{t=1}^T$

A learning algorithm is **scale-invariant** if it returns under arbitrary rescaling of the data:

no initial data normalization required!

$$\forall t \quad \mathbf{x}_t \mapsto \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}_t \quad \implies \quad \mathbf{w}_t \mapsto \mathbf{A}^{-1}\mathbf{w}_t \quad \implies \quad \mathbf{w}_t^\top \mathbf{x}_t \mapsto \mathbf{w}_t^\top \mathbf{x}_t$$

Scale invariance

A natural symmetry in the linear problems

Rescaling the features followed by the inverse scaling of the weights keep the predictions (and hence losses) **invariant**:

$$\forall t \quad \mathbf{x}_t \mapsto \mathbf{A}^{-1}\mathbf{x}_t, \quad \mathbf{w} \mapsto \mathbf{A}\mathbf{w} \quad \implies \quad \mathbf{x}_t^\top \mathbf{w} \mapsto \mathbf{x}_t^\top \mathbf{w}$$

for any diagonal matrix \mathbf{A}

In particular: if \mathbf{w}^* is optimal (loss-minimizer) for sequence $\{(\mathbf{x}_t, y_t)\}_{t=1}^T$, then $\mathbf{A}^{-1}\mathbf{w}^*$ is optimal for sequence $\{(\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}_t, y_t)\}_{t=1}^T$

A learning algorithm is **scale-invariant** if it returns under arbitrary rescaling of the data:

no initial data
normalization required!

$$\forall t \quad \mathbf{x}_t \mapsto \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}_t \quad \implies \quad \mathbf{w}_t \mapsto \mathbf{A}^{-1}\mathbf{w}_t \quad \implies \quad \mathbf{w}_t^\top \mathbf{x}_t \mapsto \mathbf{w}_t^\top \mathbf{x}_t$$

Motivation: A fully adaptive algorithm needs to be scale-invariant

Past work

Scale-invariant algorithms with **bounded predictions**

[Ross et al., 2013, Orabona et al., 2015]

Assumption: $|x_{t,i}w_i^*| \leq C$ for all i, t for some constant C

$$\text{regret}_T(\mathbf{w}^*) = O\left(d\sqrt{C^2T}\right)$$

Past work

Scale-invariant algorithms with **bounded predictions**

[Ross et al., 2013, Orabona et al., 2015]

Assumption: $|x_{t,i}w_i^*| \leq C$ for all i, t for some constant C

$$\text{regret}_T(\mathbf{w}^*) = O\left(d\sqrt{C^2T}\right)$$

Compare with optimal SGD regret:

$$\sum_{i=1}^d \left(|w_i^*| \sqrt{\sum_t \nabla_{t,i}^2} \right)$$

Past work

$$C^2 T \Rightarrow \sum_t (\nabla_{t,i} w_{t,i}^*)^2$$
$$d \Rightarrow \sum_i$$

Scale-invariant algorithms with **bounded pr**
[Ross et al., 2013, Orabona et al., 2015]

Assumption: $|x_{t,i} w_i^*| \leq C$ for all i, t for some constant C

$$\text{regret}_T(\mathbf{w}^*) = O\left(d\sqrt{C^2 T}\right)$$

Compare with optimal SGD regret:

$$\sum_{i=1}^d \left(|w_i^*| \sqrt{\sum_t \nabla_{t,i}^2} \right)$$

Past work

Scale-invariant algorithms with **bounded predictions**

[Ross et al., 2013, Orabona et al., 2015]

Assumption: $|x_{t,i}w_i^*| \leq C$ for all i, t for some constant C

$$\text{regret}_T(\mathbf{w}^*) = O\left(d\sqrt{C^2T}\right)$$

[Luo et al., 2016] considers a more general version of scale invariance, but also with bounded predictions

Past work

Scale-invariant algorithms with **bounded predictions**

[Ross et al., 2013, Orabona et al., 2015]

Assumption: $|x_{t,i}w_i^*| \leq C$ for all i, t for some constant C

$$\text{regret}_T(\mathbf{w}^*) = O\left(d\sqrt{C^2T}\right)$$

[Luo et al., 2016] considers a more general version of scale invariance, but also with bounded predictions

Some more recent work on unconstrained online learning:

[McMahan and Streeter, 2010, McMahan and Abernethy, 2013, Orabona, 2013, Cutkosky and Boahen, 2017, Cutkosky and Orabona, 2018]

Past work

Scale-invariant algorithms with **bounded predictions**

[Ross et al., 2013, Orabona et al., 2015]

Assumption: $|x_{t,i}w_i^*| \leq C$ for all i, t for some constant C

$$\text{regret}_T(\mathbf{w}^*) = O\left(d\sqrt{C^2T}\right)$$

[Luo et al., 2016] considers a more general version of scale invariance, but also with bounded predictions

Some more recent work on unconstrained online learning:

[McMahan and Streeter, 2010, McMahan and Abernethy, 2013, Orabona, 2013, Cutkosky and Boahen, 2017, Cutkosky and Orabona, 2018]

Prior to this work: [Kotłowski, 2017]

Scale-invariant algorithms

Scale Invariant Online Learning, Algorithm 1: ScInOL_1

Scale-invariant algorithms

Scale Invariant Online Learning, Algorithm 1: ScInOL_1

Parameter: $\epsilon = 1$

Scale-invariant algorithms

Scale Invariant Online Learning, Algorithm 1: ScInOL₁

Parameter: $\epsilon = 1$

Keep track of data statistics:

$$M_{t,i} = \max_{j \leq t} |x_{j,i}|, \quad S_{t,i}^2 = \sum_{j \leq t} \nabla_{j,i}^2, \quad G_{t,i} = \sum_{j \leq t} \nabla_{j,i}$$

Maximum value
at a given feature

Sum of squared
gradients

Sum of gradients

Scale-invariant algorithms

Scale Invariant Online Learning, Algorithm 1: ScInOL₁

Parameter: $\epsilon = 1$

Keep track of data statistics:

$$M_{t,i} = \max_{j \leq t} |x_{j,i}|, \quad S_{t,i}^2 = \sum_{j \leq t} \nabla_{j,i}^2, \quad G_{t,i} = \sum_{j \leq t} \nabla_{j,i}$$

and an auxiliary variable $\beta_{t,i} = \min\{\beta_{t-1,i}, \frac{\epsilon(S_{t-1,i}^2 + M_{t,i}^2)}{x_{t,i}^2}\}$ with $\beta_{0,i} = \epsilon$

Scale-invariant algorithms

Scale Invariant Online Learning, Algorithm 1: ScInOL₁

Parameter: $\epsilon = 1$

Keep track of data statistics:

$$M_{t,i} = \max_{j \leq t} |x_{j,i}|, \quad S_{t,i}^2 = \sum_{j \leq t} \nabla_{j,i}^2, \quad G_{t,i} = \sum_{j \leq t} \nabla_{j,i}$$

and an auxiliary variable $\beta_{t,i} = \min\{\beta_{t-1,i}, \frac{\epsilon(S_{t-1,i}^2 + M_{t,i}^2)}{x_{t,i}^2}\}$ with $\beta_{0,i} = \epsilon$

$$w_{t,i} = \beta_{t,i} \frac{\text{sgn}(\theta_i)}{2\sqrt{S_{t-1,i}^2 + M_{t,i}^2}} \left(e^{|\theta_i|/2} - 1 \right), \quad \text{where } \theta_i = \frac{G_{t,i}}{\sqrt{S_{t-1,i}^2 + M_{t,i}^2}}$$

Scale-invariant algorithms

Scale Invariant Online Learning, Algorithm 1: ScInOL₁

Parameter: $\epsilon = 1$

Keep track of data statistics:

$$M_{t,i} = \max_{j \leq t} |x_{j,i}|, \quad S_{t,i}^2 = \sum_{j \leq t} \nabla_{j,i}^2, \quad G_{t,i} = \sum_{j \leq t} \nabla_{j,i}$$

and an auxiliary $\beta_{t,i} = \min\{\beta_{t-1,i}, \frac{\epsilon(S_{t-1,i}^2 + M_{t,i}^2)}{x_{t,i}^2}\}$ with $\beta_{0,i} = \epsilon$

$$w_{t,i} = \beta_{t,i} \frac{\text{sgn}(\theta_i)}{2\sqrt{S_{t-1,i}^2 + M_{t,i}^2}} (e^{|\theta_i|/2} - 1), \quad \text{where } \theta_i = \frac{G_{t,i}}{\sqrt{S_{t-1,i}^2 + M_{t,i}^2}}$$

$$\sqrt{[X_i]^2}$$

unitless

$$\sqrt{[X_i]^2}$$

Scale-invariant algorithms

Scale Invariant Online Learning, Algorithm 1: ScInOL₁

Parameter: $\epsilon = 1$

Keep track of data statistics:

$$M_{t,i} = \max_{j \leq t} |x_{j,i}|, \quad S_{t,i}^2 = \sum_{j \leq t} \nabla_{j,i}^2, \quad G_{t,i} = \sum_{j \leq t} \nabla_{j,i}$$

and an auxiliary variable $\beta_{t,i} = \min\{\beta_{t-1,i}, \frac{\epsilon(S_{t-1,i}^2 + M_{t,i}^2)}{x_{t,i}^2}\}$ with $\beta_{0,i} = \epsilon$

$$w_{t,i} = \beta_{t,i} \frac{\text{sgn}(\theta_i)}{2\sqrt{S_{t-1,i}^2 + M_{t,i}^2}} \left(e^{|\theta_i|/2} - 1 \right), \quad \text{where } \theta_i = \frac{G_{t,i}}{\sqrt{S_{t-1,i}^2 + M_{t,i}^2}}$$

$$\text{regret}_T(\mathbf{w}^*) = \sum_{i=1}^d \tilde{O}\left(|w_i^*| \sqrt{\max_t x_{t,i}^2 + \sum_t \nabla_{t,i}^2}\right),$$

where $\tilde{O}(\cdot)$ hides logarithmic factors

Scale-invariant algorithms

Scale Invariant Online Learning, Algorithm 1: ScInOL₁

Parameter: $\epsilon = 1$

Keep track of data statistics:

$$M_{t,i} = \max_{j \leq t} |x_{j,i}|, \quad S_{t,i}^2 = \sum_{j \leq t} \nabla_{j,i}^2, \quad G_{t,i} = \sum_{j \leq t} \nabla_{j,i}$$

and an auxiliary variable $\beta_{t,i} = \min\{\beta_{t-1,i}, \frac{\epsilon(S_{t-1,i}^2 + M_{t,i}^2)}{x_{t,i}^2}\}$ with $\beta_{0,i} = \epsilon$

$$w_{t,i} = \beta_{t,i} \frac{\text{sgn}(\text{Optimal up to logarithmic terms})}{2\sqrt{S_{t-1,i}^2 + M_{t,i}^2}}, \quad \text{where } \beta_{t,i} = \frac{G_{t,i}}{\sqrt{S_{t-1,i}^2 + M_{t,i}^2}}$$

$$\text{regret}_T(\mathbf{w}^*) = \sum_{i=1}^d \tilde{O}\left(|w_i^*| \sqrt{\max_t x_{t,i}^2 + \sum_t \nabla_{t,i}^2}\right),$$

where $\tilde{O}(\cdot)$ hides logarithmic factors

Scale-invariant algorithms

Scale Invariant Online Learning, Algorithm 1: ScInOL₁

Algorithm 1: ScInOL₁(ϵ)

Initialization: $S_i^2, G_i, M_i \leftarrow 0, \beta_i \leftarrow \epsilon$ ($i = 1, \dots, d$)

for $t = 1, \dots, T$ **do**

Receive $\mathbf{x}_t \in \mathbb{R}^d$

for $i = 1, \dots, d$ **do**

$M_i \leftarrow \max\{M_i, |x_{t,i}|\}$

if $x_{t,i} \neq 0$ **then** $\beta_i \leftarrow \min\{\beta_i, \epsilon(S_i^2 + M_i^2)/(x_{t,i}^2 t)\}$

$w_{t,i} = \frac{\beta_i \text{sgn}(\theta_i)}{2\sqrt{S_i^2 + M_i^2}} \left(e^{|\theta_i|/2} - 1 \right), \quad \text{where } \theta_i = \frac{G_i}{\sqrt{S_i^2 + M_i^2}}$

Predict with $\hat{\mathbf{y}}_t = \mathbf{x}_t^\top \mathbf{w}_{t,i}$, receive loss $\ell_t(\hat{\mathbf{y}}_t)$ and compute

$g_t = \partial_{\hat{\mathbf{y}}_t} \ell_t(\hat{\mathbf{y}}_t)$

for $i = 1, \dots, d$ **do**

$G_i \leftarrow G_i - g_t x_{t,i}$

$S_i^2 \leftarrow S_i^2 + (g_t x_{t,i})^2$

Scale-invariant algorithms

Scale Invariant Online Learning, Algorithm 2: ScInOL_2

A more aggressive update, but with weaker guarantees

Scale-invariant algorithms

Scale Invariant Online Learning, Algorithm 2: ScInOL₂

A more aggressive update, but with weaker guarantees

Parameter: $\epsilon = 1$

$$M_{t,i} = \max_{j \leq t} |x_{j,i}|, \quad S_{t,i}^2 = \sum_{j \leq t} \nabla_{j,i}^2, \quad G_{t,i} = \sum_{j \leq t} \nabla_{j,i}$$

and a **reward variable** $\eta_{t,i} = \epsilon - \sum_{j \leq t} \nabla_{j,i} w_{j,i}$

Scale-invariant algorithms

Scale Invariant Online Learning, Algorithm 2: ScInOL₂

A more aggressive update, but with weaker guarantees

Parameter: $\epsilon = 1$

$$M_{t,i} = \max_{j \leq t} |x_{j,i}|, \quad S_{t,i}^2 = \sum_{j \leq t} \nabla_{j,i}^2, \quad G_{t,i} = \sum_{j \leq t} \nabla_{j,i}$$

and a **reward variable** $\eta_{t,i} = \epsilon - \sum_{j \leq t} \nabla_{j,i} w_{j,i}$

$$w_{t,i} = \eta_{t-1,i} \frac{\text{sgn}(\theta_i) \min\{|\theta_i|, 1\}}{2\sqrt{S_{t-1,i}^2 + M_{t,i}^2}}, \quad \text{where } \theta_i = \frac{G_{t,i}}{\sqrt{S_{t-1,i}^2 + M_{t,i}^2}}$$

Scale-invariant algorithms

Scale Invariant Online Learning, Algorithm 2: ScInOL₂

A more aggressive update, but with weaker guarantees

Parameter: $\epsilon = 1$

$$\frac{1}{[X_i]} M_{t,i} = \max_{j \leq t} |x_{j,i}|, \quad S_{t,i}^2 = \sum_{j \leq t} \nabla_{j,i}^2, \quad G_{t,i} = \sum_{j \leq t} \nabla_{j,i}$$

and a reward $v_{t,i} = \epsilon - \sum_{j \leq t} \nabla_{j,i} w_{j,i}$

$$w_{t,i} = \eta_{t-1,i} \frac{\text{sgn}(\theta_i) \min\{|\theta_i|, 1\}}{2\sqrt{S_{t-1,i}^2 + M_{t,i}^2}}$$

$$\text{where } \theta_i = \frac{G_{t,i}}{\sqrt{S_{t-1,i}^2 + M_{t,i}^2}}$$

$$\sqrt{[X_i]^2}$$

unitless

$$\sqrt{[X_i]^2}$$

Scale-invariant algorithms

Scale Invariant Online Learning, Algorithm 2: ScInOL₂

A more aggressive update, but with weaker guarantees

Parameter: $\epsilon = 1$

$$M_{t,i} = \max_{j \leq t} |x_{j,i}|, \quad S_{t,i}^2 = \sum_{j \leq t} \nabla_{j,i}^2, \quad G_{t,i} = \sum_{j \leq t} \nabla_{j,i}$$

and a **reward variable** $\eta_{t,i} = \epsilon - \sum_{j \leq t} \nabla_{j,i} w_{j,i}$

$$w_{t,i} = \eta_{t-1,i} \frac{\text{sgn}(\theta_i) \min\{|\theta_i|, 1\}}{2\sqrt{S_{t-1,i}^2 + M_{t,i}^2}}, \quad \text{where } \theta_i = \frac{G_{t,i}}{\sqrt{S_{t-1,i}^2 + M_{t,i}^2}}$$

$$\text{regret}_T(\mathbf{w}^*) = \sum_{i=1}^d \tilde{O}\left(|w_i^*| \sqrt{\max_t x_{t,i}^2 + \sum_t \nabla_{t,i}^2}\right),$$

but the coefficients in the logarithmic factors depend on the ratio between the largest and (non-zero) smallest feature values.

Scale-invariant algorithms

Scale Invariant Online Learning, Algorithm 1: ScInOL₂

Algorithm 2: ScInOL₂(ϵ)

Initialization: $S_i^2, G_i, M_i \leftarrow 0, \eta_i \leftarrow \epsilon$ ($i = 1, \dots, d$)

for $t = 1, \dots, T$ **do**

Receive $\mathbf{x}_t \in \mathbb{R}^d$

for $i = 1, \dots, d$ **do**

$$M_i \leftarrow \max\{M_i, |x_{t,i}|\}$$

$$w_{t,i} = \frac{\text{sgn}(\theta_i) \min\{|\theta_i|, 1\}}{2\sqrt{S_i^2 + M_i^2}} \eta_i, \quad \text{where } \theta_i = \frac{G_i}{\sqrt{S_i^2 + M_i^2}}$$

Predict with $\hat{\mathbf{y}}_t = \mathbf{x}_t^\top \mathbf{w}_{t,i}$, receive loss $\ell_t(\hat{\mathbf{y}}_t)$ and compute

$$g_t = \partial_{\hat{\mathbf{y}}_t} \ell_t(\hat{\mathbf{y}}_t)$$

for $i = 1, \dots, d$ **do**

$$G_i \leftarrow G_i - g_t x_{t,i}$$

$$S_i^2 \leftarrow S_i^2 + (g_t x_{t,i})^2$$

$$\eta_i \leftarrow \eta_i - g_t x_{t,i} w_{t,i}$$

Artificial data experiment

Experimental setup:

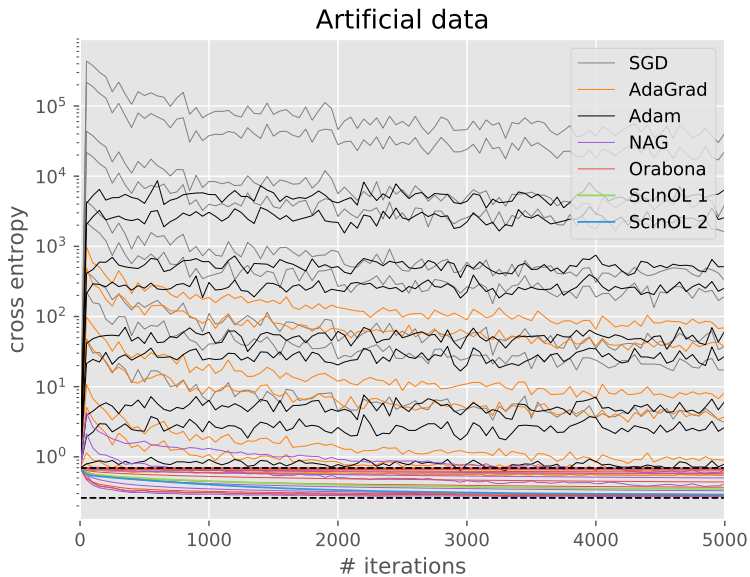
- $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^{21}$ with $x_i \sim N(0, \sigma_i)$, $\sigma_i \in \{2^{-10}, \dots, 2^{10}\}$
- $y \sim \text{Bernoulli}(p(\mathbf{x}))$, where $p = \text{sigmoid}(\mathbf{x}^\top \mathbf{w}^*)$ with $w_i^* = \pm \frac{1}{\sigma_i}$
- Linear models with cross entropy (logistic) loss
- Algorithms run on a sequence of 5 000 examples and tested on 100K examples (repeated 10 times for stability)

Algorithms:

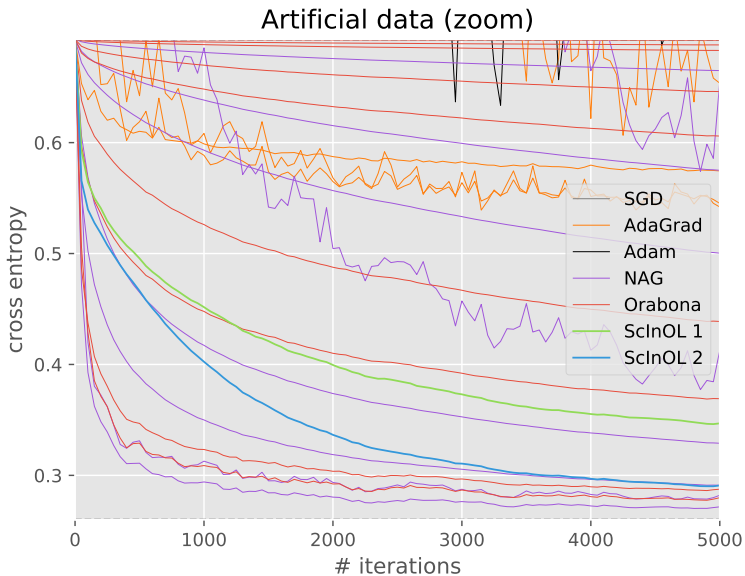
- SGD (with learning rate $\sim 1/\sqrt{t}$), AdaGrad, Adam
- NAG (Normalized Adaptive Gradient) [Ross et al., 2013]
- Scale-free Mirror Descent [Orabona et al., 2015]
- Algorithms from this work

All algorithms (except the last one) have their learning rates set to values from $\{0.001, 0.005, 0.01, 0.05, 0.1, 0.5, 1, 5, 10\}$

Artificial data experiment



Artificial data experiment



Experiment - datasets

Name ¹	features	records	classes	scale ²
Bank	53	41188	2	6.05E+05
Census	381	299285	2	1.81E+06
Coverttype	54	581012	7	1.31E+06
Madelon	500	2600	2	1.09E+00
MNIST	728	70000	10	5.83E+03
Shuttle	9	58000	7	7.46E+00

¹datasets (excluding MNIST) available in the [UCI repository](#)

²computed as a ratio of highest to lowest positive L_2 norms of features

Experiment - algorithms

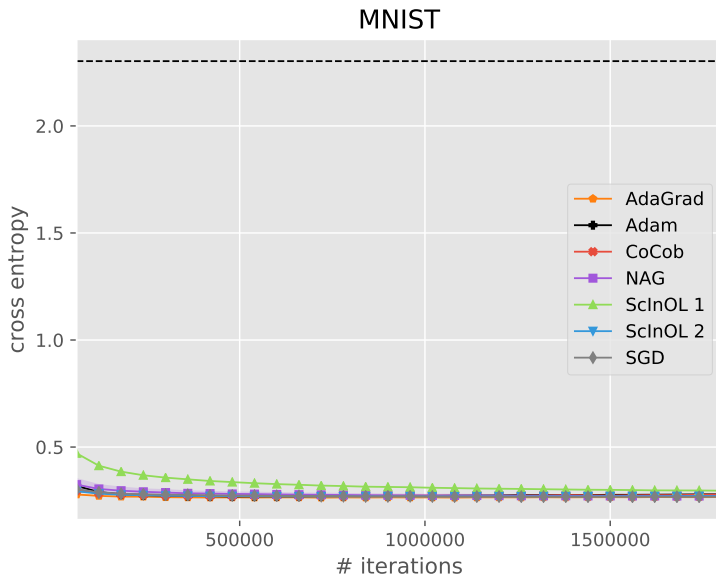
- SGD with decreasing η (as $\sim 1/\sqrt{t}$)
- AdaGrad
- Adam
- NAG
- COCOB [Orabona and Tommasi, 2017]
- ScInOL₁
- ScInOL₂

All but 3 last algorithms tested with different learning rates: 1.0, 0.1, 0.01, 0.001, 0.0001

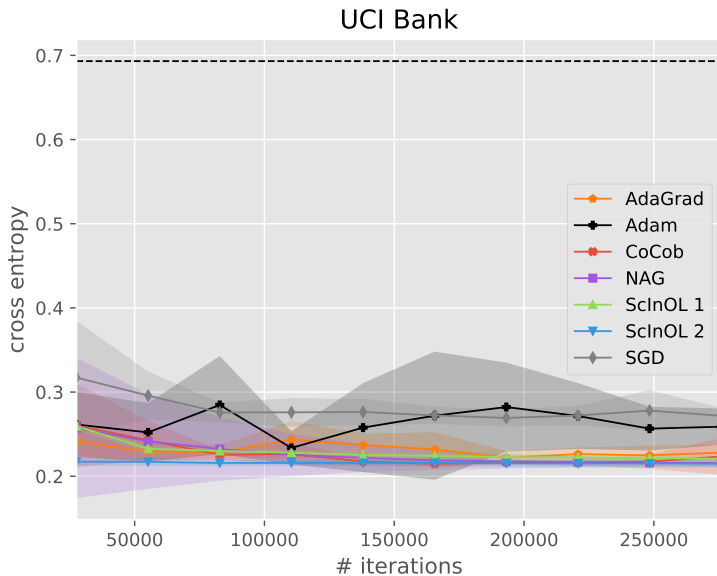
Experiment - setup

- logistic regression initialized with zeros, trained on **cross entropy**
- minibatch size = 1 (online GD)
- test error measured after each training epoch
- each configuration run **10 times** (pale strokes of graph lines signify \pm standard deviations)
- for algorithms with varying learning rate configurations, only the best ones are shown

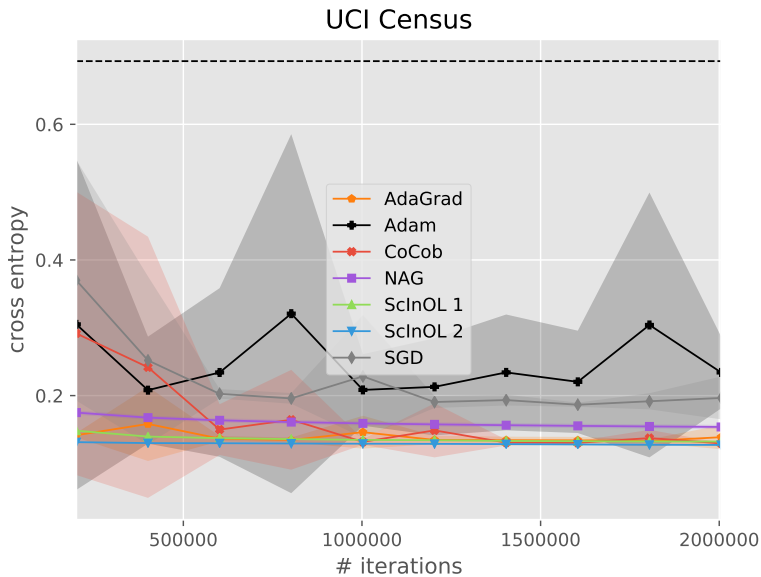
Experiment - results



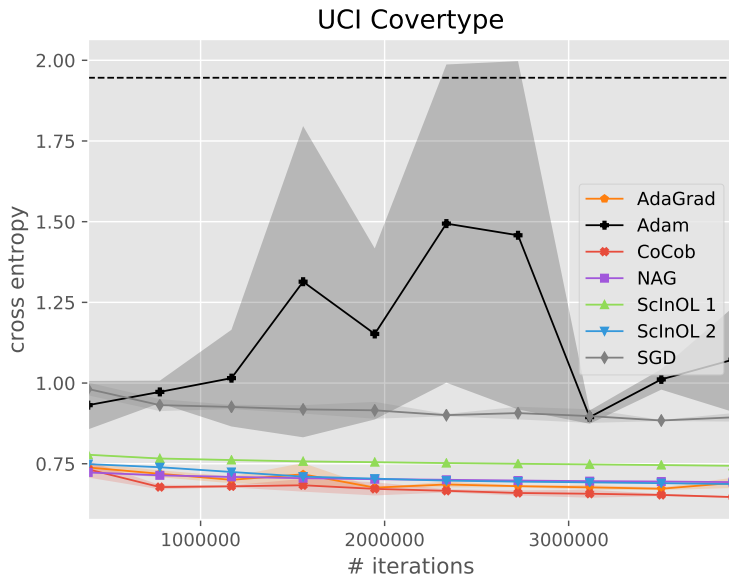
Experiment - results



Experiment - results

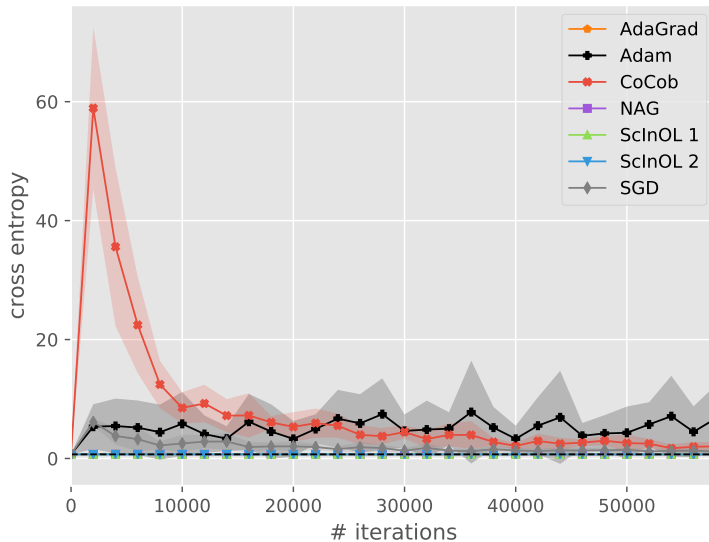


Experiment - results

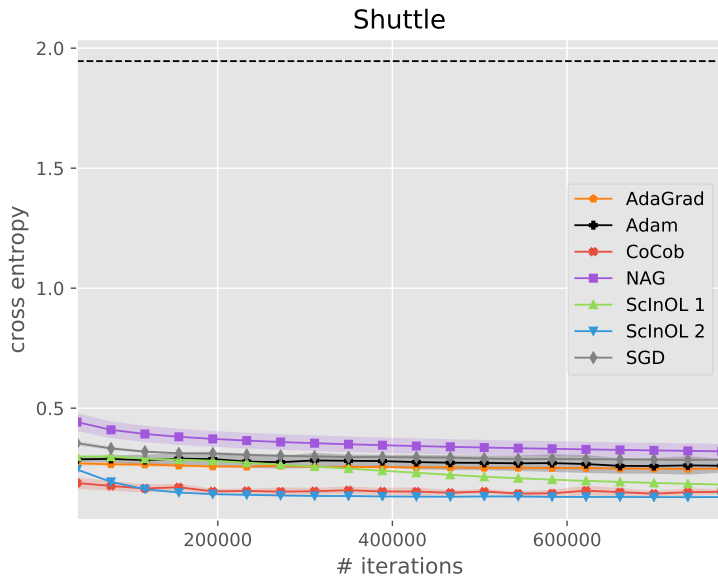


Experiment - results

UCI Madelon



Experiment - results



Future work

- adjustments for batchsize > 1
- adjustments for deep models and comparison with batch-normalization
- analysis of 'dirty tricks' used in COCOB algorithm which seem to be responsible for its good performance

References I

- ▶ Cutkosky, A. and Boahen, K. A. (2017). **Online learning without prior information**. In *Conference on Learning Theory (COLT)*, pages 643–677. PMLR.
- ▶ Cutkosky, A. and Orabona, F. (2018). **Black-box reductions for parameter-free online learning in banach spaces**. In *Conference on Learning Theory (COLT)*, volume 75, pages 1493–1529. PMLR.
- ▶ Duchi, J. C., Hazan, E., and Singer, Y. (2011). **Adaptive subgradient methods for online learning and stochastic optimization**. *Journal of Machine Learning Research*, 12:2121–2159.
- ▶ Kingma, D. P. and Ba, J. (2014). **Adam: A method for stochastic optimization**. *CoRR*, abs/1412.6980.
- ▶ Kotłowski, W. (2017). **Scale-invariant unconstrained online learning**. In *Algorithmic Learning Theory (ALT)*, volume 76, pages 412–433. PMLR.
- ▶ Luo, H., Agarwal, A., Cesa-Bianchi, N., and Langford, J. (2016). **Efficient second order online learning by sketching**. In *Neural Information Processing Systems (NIPS)*, pages 902–910. Curran Associates, Inc.
- ▶ McMahan, H. B. and Abernethy, J. (2013). **Minimax optimal algorithms for unconstrained linear optimization**. In *Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems (NIPS) 26*, pages 2724–2732.

References II

- ▶ McMahan, H. B. and Streeter, M. J. (2010). **Adaptive bound optimization for online convex optimization**. In *Conference on Learning Theory (COLT)*, pages 244–256.
- ▶ Orabona, F. (2013). **Dimension-free exponentiated gradient**. In *Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems (NIPS) 26*, pages 1806–1814.
- ▶ Orabona, F., Crammer, K., and Cesa-Bianchi, N. (2015). **A generalized online mirror descent with applications to classification and regression**. *Machine Learning*, 99(3):411–435.
- ▶ Orabona, F. and Tommasi, T. (2017). **Training deep networks without learning rates through coin betting**. In *Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems (NIPS) 30*, pages 2157–2167.
- ▶ Ross, S., Mineiro, P., and Langford, J. (2013). **Normalized online learning**. In *Proc. of the 29th Conference on Uncertainty in Artificial Intelligence (UAI)*, pages 537–545.
- ▶ Tieleman, T. and Hinton, G. (2012). **Lecture 6.5—RmsProp: Divide the gradient by a running average of its recent magnitude**. COURSERA: Neural Networks for Machine Learning.
- ▶ Zeiler, M. D. (2012). **ADADELTA: an adaptive learning rate method**. *CoRR*, abs/1212.5701.