

# Variational Inequalities and Convergence Rates for Non-convex Regularization

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June 23, 2010

# Outline

- 1 Variational Inequalities and Convergence Rates
  - Convergence Rates
  - Variational Methods
- 2 Abstraction
  - Abstract Convexity
  - Variational Inequalities
- 3 Examples
  - Metric Regularization
  - Non-convex Regularization on Hilbert Spaces
  - Sparse Regularization

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# Inverse Problems

Let  $X, Y$  be topological spaces and  $F: X \rightarrow Y$  and solve, for given data  $y \in Y$ , the equation

$$F(x) = y . \quad (1)$$

If (1) is ill-posed, regularization is necessary:

Search for  $x_\alpha \in X$  minimizing

$$T(x; \alpha, y) := \mathcal{S}(F(x), y) + \alpha \mathcal{R}(x) .$$

Here,

$\mathcal{S}: Y \times Y \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$  ... non-negative *distance measure*,

$\mathcal{R}: X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$  ... non-negative *regularization functional*,

$\alpha > 0$  ... *regularization parameter*.

# Well-Posedness

## Existence:

$\mathcal{T}(\cdot; \alpha, y)$  attains a minimizer for every  $\alpha > 0$  and  $y \in Y$ .

## Stability:

If  $\mathcal{S}(y^{(k)}, y) \rightarrow 0$  and  $x_\alpha^{(k)} \in \arg \min_x \mathcal{T}(x; \alpha, y^{(k)})$ , then

$$x_\alpha^{(k)} \rightarrow x_\alpha \in \arg \min_x \mathcal{T}(x; \alpha, y) .$$

## Convergence:

If  $\mathcal{S}(y^\delta, y^\dagger) \leq \delta \rightarrow 0$  and  $\alpha \rightarrow 0$  sufficiently slowly ( $\delta/\alpha \rightarrow 0$ ), then

$$\arg \min_x \mathcal{T}(x; \alpha, y^\delta) \ni x_\alpha^\delta \rightarrow x^\dagger \in \arg \min \{ \mathcal{R}(x) : F(x) = y^\dagger \} .$$

Conditions for well-posedness in: Hofmann et al. 2007, Pöschl 2008, Scherzer et al. 2009.

# Convergence Rates

Measure speed of convergence: Let

$$\Sigma(x^\dagger; \alpha, \delta) := \left\{ x_\alpha^\delta \in \arg \min_x \mathcal{T}(x; \alpha, y^\delta) : \mathcal{S}(y^\delta, y^\dagger) \leq \delta \right\}$$

and define for some *distance measure*

$$D: X \times X \rightarrow [0, +\infty]$$

the function

$$H(x^\dagger; \alpha, \delta) := \sup \left\{ D(x^\dagger, x_\alpha^\delta) : x_\alpha^\delta \in \Sigma(x^\dagger; \alpha, \delta) \right\}.$$

Convergence rate: behaviour of  $H$  as  $\alpha$  and  $\delta$  tend to zero  $\sim$  accuracy of the regularization method (for small noise level).

# Classical Convergence Rates in Hilbert Spaces

Setting:  $X, Y$  Hilbert spaces,  $F: X \rightarrow Y$  bounded linear.

Let

$$\mathcal{S}(y_1, y_2) = \|y_1 - y_2\|_Y^2, \quad \mathcal{R}(x) = \|x\|_X^2,$$
$$D(x_1, x_2) := \|x_1 - x_2\|_X^2.$$

If  $x^\dagger$  satisfies the *range condition*

$$x^\dagger \in \text{Ran } F^*$$

then there exists a constant  $\gamma > 0$  such that

$$H(x^\dagger; \alpha, \delta) \leq \frac{\delta}{\alpha} + \gamma\sqrt{\delta} + \frac{\gamma^2}{2}\alpha.$$

Note that  $\delta \simeq \mathcal{S}(y^\dagger, y^\delta) = \|y^\dagger - y^\delta\|^2$ .

# Banach Spaces: Bregman Distances

Let  $X, Y$  be Banach spaces,  $F: X \rightarrow Y$  bounded linear,  
 $\mathcal{S}(y_1, y_2) = \|y_1 - y_2\|_Y^2$ . Let

$$\mathcal{R}: X \rightarrow [0, +\infty] \text{ convex and lower semi-continuous,}$$

$$D(x_1, x_2) := \mathcal{R}(x_1) - \mathcal{R}(x_2) - \langle \partial\mathcal{R}(x_2), x_1 - x_2 \rangle .$$

*D... Bregman distance.*

If  $x^\dagger$  satisfies the range condition

$$\text{Ran } F^* \cap \partial\mathcal{R}(x^\dagger) \neq \emptyset$$

then there exists a constant  $\gamma > 0$  such that

$$H(x^\dagger; \alpha, \delta) \leq \frac{\delta}{\alpha} + \gamma\sqrt{\delta} + \frac{\gamma^2}{2}\alpha .$$



# Range Condition and Variational Inequalities

The range condition

$$\text{Ran } F^* \cap \partial\mathcal{R}(x^\dagger) \neq \emptyset$$

is equivalent to the inequality

$$\langle \partial\mathcal{R}(x^\dagger), x^\dagger - x \rangle \leq \gamma \|F(x^\dagger - x)\|. \quad (2)$$

Proofs of rates rely on (2) rather than on the range condition. Slight modification of proofs yields similar rates under the weaker condition

$$\langle \partial\mathcal{R}(x^\dagger), x^\dagger - x \rangle \leq \eta D(x^\dagger, x) + \gamma \|F(x^\dagger) - F(x)\|.$$

for some  $0 < \eta < 1$ . No linearity of  $F$  is required.

# Variational Inequalities

Let  $X, Y$  be Banach spaces and  $F: X \rightarrow Y$  sufficiently regular. Assume that, for some  $\beta > 0, \gamma > 0$ ,

$$\beta D(x, x^\dagger) \leq \mathcal{R}(x) - \mathcal{R}(x^\dagger) + \gamma \|F(x) - F(x^\dagger)\|$$

whenever  $x$  sufficiently close to  $x^\dagger$  and  $|\mathcal{R}(x) - \mathcal{R}(x^\dagger)|$  small enough. Then

$$\beta H(x^\dagger; \alpha, \delta) \leq \frac{\delta}{\alpha} + \gamma \sqrt{\delta} + \frac{\gamma^2}{2} \alpha$$

whenever  $\delta, \alpha$ , and  $\delta/\alpha$  are small enough.

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# Abstract Convexity

## Definition

Let  $X$  be a set and let  $W$  be a family of functions

$$w: X \rightarrow \bar{\mathbb{R}} = \mathbb{R} \cup \{+\infty\}.$$

A function  $\mathcal{R}: X \rightarrow \bar{\mathbb{R}}$  is

*W-convex at  $x \in X$ ,*

if for every  $\varepsilon > 0$  there exists  $w \in W$  such that

$$\mathcal{R}(\tilde{x}) \geq \mathcal{R}(x) + (w(\tilde{x}) - w(x)) - \varepsilon$$

for all  $\tilde{x} \in X$ .

# Abstract Bregman Distance

## Definition

Let  $\mathcal{R}$  be a  $W$ -convex function.

The  $W$ -sub-differential of  $\mathcal{R}$  at  $x \in X$  is defined as

$$\partial_W \mathcal{R}(x) := \{w \in W : \mathcal{R}(\tilde{x}) \geq \mathcal{R}(x) + w(\tilde{x}) - w(x)\} .$$

We define, for  $w \in \partial_W \mathcal{R}(x)$ , the  $W$ -Bregman distance with respect to  $w$  as

$$D^w(x, \tilde{x}) = \mathcal{R}(\tilde{x}) - \mathcal{R}(x) - (w(\tilde{x}) - w(x)) \geq 0 .$$

# Example — Classical Convexity

Let  $X$  be a Banach space with dual  $X^*$ .

A function  $\mathcal{R}: X \rightarrow \bar{\mathbb{R}}$  is  $X^*$ -convex, if and only if it is lower semi-continuous and convex in the classical sense.

We have

$$\partial_{X^*} \mathcal{R}(x) = \{ \xi \in X^* : \mathcal{R}(\tilde{x}) \geq \mathcal{R}(x) + \langle \xi, \tilde{x} \rangle - \langle \xi, x \rangle \} = \partial \mathcal{R}(x).$$

Moreover,

$$D^\xi(x, \tilde{x}) = \mathcal{R}(\tilde{x}) - \mathcal{R}(x) - \langle \xi, \tilde{x} - x \rangle$$

is the usual Bregman distance.

# Example — Clarke Sub-differential

Let  $X$  be a Hilbert space. The

$$\textit{proximal sub-differential } \partial_P \mathcal{R}(x)$$

is defined as the set of all  $\xi \in X$  such that

$$\mathcal{R}(\tilde{x}) \geq \mathcal{R}(x) + \langle \xi, \tilde{x} - x \rangle - \sigma \|\tilde{x} - x\|^2$$

for some  $\sigma \geq 0$  and all  $\tilde{x}$  near  $x$ .

Define  $W$  by

$$w \in W \iff w(\tilde{x}) = \langle \xi, \tilde{x} - x \rangle - \sigma \|\tilde{x} - x\|^2$$

for some  $\xi \in X$ ,  $\sigma \geq 0$ , and  $\tilde{x}$  close to  $x$ . Then

$$\partial_P \mathcal{R}(x) \neq \emptyset \iff \partial_W \mathcal{R}(x) \neq \emptyset.$$

# Example — Generalized Sub-differential

Define  $W$  as the set of all functions of the form

$$w(\tilde{x}) = \langle \xi, \tilde{x} - x \rangle - A(\tilde{x} - x, \tilde{x} - x)$$

for  $\tilde{x}$  close to  $x$ , with  $\xi \in X$  and  $A$  a positive semi-definite, symmetric, bounded quadratic form.

Define the *generalized sub-differential* of  $\mathcal{R}$  at  $x$  as  $\partial_W \mathcal{R}(x)$ .  
Again,

$$\partial_P \mathcal{R}(x) \neq \emptyset \iff \partial_W \mathcal{R}(x) \neq \emptyset.$$

We have the Bregman distance

$$D^w(x, \tilde{x}) = \mathcal{R}(\tilde{x}) - \mathcal{R}(x) - \langle \xi, \tilde{x} - x \rangle + A(\tilde{x} - x, \tilde{x} - x)$$

for  $\tilde{x}$  close to  $x$ .



# Generalized Variational Inequalities

Let

$$x^\dagger \in \arg \min \{ \mathcal{R}(x) : Ax = y^\dagger \} .$$

and let  $\Phi: \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$  concave and strictly increasing with  $\Phi(0) = 0$ .

## Definition

We say that a *variational inequality* at  $x^\dagger$  holds with  $\beta > 0$  and  $\Phi$ , if

$$\beta D^w(x^\dagger, x) \leq \mathcal{R}(x) - \mathcal{R}(x^\dagger) + \Phi(S(F(x), F(x^\dagger)))$$

for all  $x$  in a neighbourhood of  $x^\dagger$  with  $\mathcal{R}(x)$  close to  $\mathcal{R}(x^\dagger)$ .

# Convergence Rates

## Theorem

Assume that a variational inequality at  $x^\dagger$  holds with  $\beta > 0$  and  $\Phi$ . Then for  $\alpha$  and  $\delta$  small enough we have the following estimates:

- If  $\lim_{t \rightarrow 0^+} \Phi(t)/t < +\infty$ , then

$$\beta H(x^\dagger; \alpha, \delta) \leq \frac{\delta}{\alpha} + \gamma \Phi(\delta).$$

- If  $\lim_{t \rightarrow 0^+} \Phi(t)/t = +\infty$ , then

$$\beta H(x^\dagger; \alpha, \delta) \leq \frac{\delta}{\alpha} + \gamma_1 \Phi(\delta) + \gamma_2 \frac{\Psi(\alpha)}{\alpha}$$

with  $\Psi$  denoting the convex conjugate of  $\Phi^{-1}$ .

# Convergence Rates — Asymptotics

Let now

$$x_\alpha^\delta \in \arg \min_x \mathcal{T}(x; \alpha, y^\delta) \quad \text{with} \quad \mathcal{S}(y^\delta, y^\dagger) \leq \delta .$$

## Corollary

Assume that a variational inequality at  $x^\dagger$  holds with  $\beta > 0$  and  $\Phi$ .

- If  $\lim_{t \rightarrow 0^+} \Phi(t)/t < +\infty$ , then we have for  $\alpha = \text{const}$  small enough

$$D^w(x^\dagger, x_\alpha^\delta) = O(\delta) .$$

- If  $\lim_{t \rightarrow 0^+} \Phi(t)/t = +\infty$  and  $\alpha \sim \delta/\Phi(\delta)$  then

$$D^w(x^\dagger, x_\alpha^\delta) = O(\Phi(\delta)) .$$

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# Metric Regularization

Let  $Y$  be a metric space and

$$\mathcal{S}(y_1, y_2) = d(y_1, y_2)^p \quad \text{with} \quad p > 1 .$$

If the variational inequality

$$\beta D^w(x^\dagger, x) \leq \mathcal{R}(x) - \mathcal{R}(x^\dagger) + \gamma d(F(x), F(x^\dagger))$$

holds, then we have for a parameter choice

$$\alpha \sim d(y^\dagger, y^\delta)^{p-1}$$

the rate

$$D^w(x^\dagger, x_\alpha^\delta) \leq O(d(y^\dagger, y^\delta)) .$$

# Setting

Let  $X$  and  $Y$  be Hilbert spaces and  $F: X \rightarrow Y$  bounded linear.  
Let moreover

$$\mathcal{S}(y_1, y_2) = \|y_1 - y_2\|^p \quad \text{with} \quad p > 1.$$

Assume that  $\mathcal{R}$  has a proximal sub-differential  $w$  at  $x^\dagger$ , that is,

$$\mathcal{R}(x) \geq \mathcal{R}(x^\dagger) + \langle \xi, x - x^\dagger \rangle - A(x - x^\dagger, x - x^\dagger)$$

with  $\xi \in X$  and  $A: X \rightarrow X$  positive semi-definite, symmetric, bounded, bilinear.

Then there exists  $L: X \rightarrow X$  bounded linear and self-adjoint such that

$$A(x_1, x_2) = \langle Lx_1, x_2 \rangle.$$

# Convergence Rates

## Lemma

Assume that for some  $\mu > 0$  the mapping  $\mu^2 F^* F - L$  is positive semi-definite and that

$$\xi \in \text{Ran}(\sqrt{\mu^2 F^* F - L}) .$$

Then the variational inequality

$$D^w(x^\dagger, x) \leq \mathcal{R}(x) - \mathcal{R}(x^\dagger) + \gamma \|F(x - x^\dagger)\|$$

holds for some  $\gamma > 0$ . In particular, with a parameter choice  $\alpha \sim \|y^\dagger - y^\delta\|^{p-1}$ ,

$$D^w(x^\dagger, x_\alpha^\delta) = O(\|y^\dagger - y^\delta\|) .$$

# Setting

Let  $Y$  be a Hilbert space,  $X = \ell^2$ , and  $F: \ell^2 \rightarrow Y$  bounded linear. Let  $\mathcal{S}(y_1, y_2) = \|y_1 - y_2\|^2$  and define

$$\mathcal{R}(x) = \sum_{\lambda} \phi(x_{\lambda}) \quad \text{for some} \quad \phi: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow [0, +\infty] .$$

Let  $1 < p < 2$  and consider the set  $W$  of functions of the form

$$w(x) = \langle \xi, x - x^{\dagger} \rangle - \sum_{\lambda} c_{\lambda} |x_{\lambda} - x_{\lambda}^{\dagger}|^p$$

with  $\xi \in \ell^2$  and  $c_{\lambda} > 0$ . Assume that, for some  $p > q > 0$  and  $C > 0$ ,

$$\phi(t) \geq \frac{C|t|^q}{1 + |t|^q}$$



# Convergence Rates

## Lemma

Assume that the following hold:

- $x^\dagger$  is the unique  $\mathcal{R}$ -minimizing solution of  $Fx^\dagger = y^\dagger$ .
- $\text{supp}(x^\dagger)$  is finite ( $x^\dagger$  is sparse).
- $F|_{\ell^2(\text{supp}(x^\dagger))}$  is injective.

Assume that

$$\tilde{w} = x \mapsto \langle \xi, x - x^\dagger \rangle - \sum_{\lambda} c_{\lambda} |x_{\lambda} - x_{\lambda}^{\dagger}|^p \in \partial_W \mathcal{R}(x^\dagger).$$

If  $\xi \in \text{Ran}(F^*)$  and  $\text{supp}(\xi) = \text{supp}(x^\dagger)$ , then, for some  $w \in \partial_W \mathcal{R}(x^\dagger)$  and  $\gamma > 0$ ,

$$\gamma \|x_{\alpha}^{\delta} - x^\dagger\|^p \leq D^w(x^\dagger, x_{\alpha}^{\delta}) = O(\|y^{\delta} - y^\dagger\|).$$

# Summary

- Derivation of convergence rates for non-convex Tikhonov regularization.
- Variational inequalities allow generalization by means of abstract concepts of convexity.
- Connection to standard range condition for linear operators on Hilbert spaces.
- Convergence rates for sparse regularization with non-convex regularization term.