

# Stochastic Approximation Methods for Nonconvex Stochastic Composite Optimization

Hongchao Zhang  
hozhang@math.lsu.edu

Department of Mathematics  
Center for Computation and Technology  
Louisiana State University

Joint work with S. Ghadimi & G. Lan

December 22nd, 2013

# Stochastic Composite Optimization

Optimize

$$\min_{\mathbf{x} \in \mathbf{X}} F(\mathbf{x}) := f(\mathbf{x}) + \phi(\mathbf{x}),$$

where

- $f \in \mathcal{C}_L^{1,1}(\mathbf{X})$ , but  $\nabla f$  is not available.  $\mathbf{X} \in \mathbb{R}^n$  is a convex set.
- For any  $\mathbf{x}_k \in \mathbf{X}$ , a *stochastic first-order oracle (SFO)* provides a *stochastic gradient*  $G(\mathbf{x}_k, \xi_k)$ , or a *stochastic zero-order oracle (SZO)* provides a *stochastic function value*  $F(\mathbf{x}_k, \xi_k)$ , where  $\xi_k$  is a random variable supported on  $\Xi_k$ .
- $\phi$  is a simple convex function, but possibly nonsmooth. (Ex.  $\phi = \|\cdot\|_1$ ,  $\phi = \|\cdot\|_{TV}$  or  $\phi \equiv 0$ .)

- The Generalized Projection and its Properties
- The Stochastic First-order methods  
(Stochastic Projected Gradient Method)
- The Stochastic Zero-order methods  
(Stochastic Projected Gradient-free Method)
- Preliminary Numerical Results

# The generalized projection

- The (generalized) projection:

$$\mathbf{x}^+(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{g}, \gamma) = \text{Arg min}_{\mathbf{u} \in \mathbf{X}} \left\{ \langle \mathbf{g}, \mathbf{u} \rangle + \frac{1}{\gamma} V(\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{x}) + \phi(\mathbf{u}) \right\},$$

where  $\gamma > 0$ ,  $V$  is the *prox-function* associated with  $\omega \in \mathcal{S}_{\nu, L}^{1,1}$

$$V(\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{x}) := \omega(\mathbf{u}) - [\omega(\mathbf{x}) + \langle \nabla \omega(\mathbf{x}), \mathbf{u} - \mathbf{x} \rangle].$$

Ext.  $\omega(\mathbf{x}) = \|\mathbf{x}\|^2/2$  with  $\nu = 1$ , then  $V(\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{x}) = \|\mathbf{u} - \mathbf{x}\|^2/2$ .

- **Assumption:** The (generalized) projection is relatively easily solvable.

# Properties of the projection

- **Definition:** Let  $P_{\mathbf{X}}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{g}, \gamma) = \frac{1}{\gamma}(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}^+)$ .

- For any  $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbf{X}$ ,  $\mathbf{g} \in \mathbb{R}^n$  and  $\gamma > 0$ , we have

$$\langle \mathbf{g}, P_{\mathbf{X}}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{g}, \gamma) \rangle \geq \nu \|P_{\mathbf{X}}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{g}, \gamma)\|^2 + \frac{1}{\gamma} [h(\mathbf{x}^+) - h(\mathbf{x})].$$

- If  $\mathbf{x}_1^+ = \mathbf{x}^+(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{g}_1, \gamma)$  and  $\mathbf{x}_2^+ = \mathbf{x}^+(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{g}_2, \gamma)$ , then

$$\|\mathbf{x}_2^+ - \mathbf{x}_1^+\| \leq \frac{\gamma}{\nu} \|\mathbf{g}_2 - \mathbf{g}_1\|$$

and

$$\|P_{\mathbf{X}}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{g}_1, \gamma) - P_{\mathbf{X}}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{g}_2, \gamma)\| \leq \frac{1}{\nu} \|\mathbf{g}_1 - \mathbf{g}_2\|.$$

# Properties of the projection

- For any  $\mathbf{u} \in \mathbf{X}$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} & \langle \mathbf{g}, \mathbf{x}^+ \rangle + h(\mathbf{x}^+) + \frac{1}{\gamma} V(\mathbf{x}^+, \mathbf{x}) \\ \leq & \langle \mathbf{g}, \mathbf{u} \rangle + h(\mathbf{u}) + \frac{1}{\gamma} [V(\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{x}) - V(\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{x}^+)]. \end{aligned}$$

# The Stochastic First-order methods

## Assumption:

- For any  $k \geq 1$ , we have

$$\text{a) } \mathbb{E}[G(\mathbf{x}_k, \xi_k)] = \nabla f(\mathbf{x}_k)$$

$$\text{b) } \mathbb{E} [\|G(\mathbf{x}_k, \xi_k) - \nabla f(\mathbf{x}_k)\|^2] \leq \sigma^2,$$

for some  $\sigma > 0$ .

# A randomized stochastic projected gradient algorithm

## A general RSPG Algorithm

**Input:** Initial point  $\mathbf{x}_1 \in \mathbf{X}$ , iteration limit  $N$ , the stepsizes  $\{\gamma_k > 0\}$ , the batch sizes  $\{m_k\}$ , and the probability mass function  $P_R$  supported on  $\{1, \dots, N\}$ .

**Step 0.** Let  $R$  be a random variable with density function  $P_R$ .

**Step**  $k = 1, \dots, R - 1$ . Call the *SFO*  $m_k$  times to obtain  $G(\mathbf{x}_k, \xi_{k,i})$ ,  $i = 1, \dots, m_k$ , and set  $G_k = (\sum_{i=1}^{m_k} G(\mathbf{x}_k, \xi_{k,i}))/m_k$ , and compute

$$\mathbf{x}_{k+1} = \text{Arg min}_{\mathbf{u} \in \mathbf{X}} \left\{ \langle G_k, \mathbf{u} \rangle + \frac{1}{\gamma_k} V(\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{x}_k) + \phi(\mathbf{u}) \right\}.$$

**Output:**  $\mathbf{x}_R$ .



# Convergence Complexity

**Theorem.** Suppose

- $\{\gamma_k\}$  satisfy  $0 < \gamma_k \leq \nu/L$ ,  $\gamma_k < \nu/L$  for at least one  $k$ ,
- $P_R(k) = t_k / \sum_{k=1}^N t_k$ , where  $t_k = \nu\gamma_k - L\gamma_k^2$ .

Then, we have

$$\mathbb{E}[\|\tilde{\mathbf{g}}_{\mathbf{x},R}\|^2] \leq \left[ LD_F^2 + \frac{\sigma^2}{\nu} \sum_{k=1}^N (\gamma_k/m_k) \right] / \sum_{k=1}^N t_k,$$

where the expectation is w.r.t.  $R$  and  $\xi_{[N]} := (\xi_1, \dots, \xi_N)$ ,  
 $D_F = \sqrt{(F(\mathbf{x}_1) - F^*)/L}$  and  $\tilde{\mathbf{g}}_{\mathbf{x},R} = P_{\mathbf{X}}(\mathbf{x}_R, G_R, \gamma_R)$ .

In addition, if  $f$  is convex and  $0 < \gamma_k \leq \dots \leq \gamma_N \leq \nu/L$ , then

$$\mathbb{E}[F(\mathbf{x}_R) - F^*] \leq \left( (\nu - L\gamma_1)V(\mathbf{x}^*, \mathbf{x}_1) + \frac{\sigma^2}{2} \sum_{k=1}^N \frac{\gamma_k^2}{m_k} \right) / \sum_{k=1}^N t_k.$$

# Convergence Complexity

## Comment:

- If  $f$  is convex, the batch size  $m_k = 1$ , by choosing  $\gamma_k = \mathcal{O}(1/\sqrt{k})$  we still get sub-optimal convergence rate  $\mathbb{E}[F(\mathbf{x}_R) - F^*] \leq \mathcal{O}(\ln N/\sqrt{N})$ .
- If  $f$  is nonconvex and  $m_k = 1$ , regardless of choice  $\gamma_k$ , we can not guarantee convergence.
- If we choose  $\gamma_k = \nu/L$  and  $m_k = m$ , we have

$$\mathbb{E}[\|\tilde{\mathbf{g}}_{\mathbf{x},R}\|^2] \leq \frac{4L^2 D_F^2}{\nu^2 N} + \frac{2\sigma^2}{\nu^2 m}$$

and if  $f$  is convex, we have

$$\mathbb{E}[f(\mathbf{x}_R) - f^*] \leq \frac{2LV(\mathbf{x}^*, \mathbf{x}_1)}{N\nu} + \frac{\sigma^2}{2Lm}$$

# Convergence Complexity

**Corollary.** Given total budget  $\bar{N}$  calls of  $\mathcal{SFO}$ . Suppose  $\gamma_k = \nu/(2L)$  and  $m_k = m := \min\{\lceil \max\{1, \sigma\sqrt{6\bar{N}}/(4L\tilde{D})\} \rceil, \bar{N}\}$  with  $\bar{N} \geq 3\sigma^2/(8L^2\tilde{D}^2)$ . Then, if  $\tilde{D} = D_F$ , we have

$$(\nu^2/L)\mathbb{E}[\|\mathbf{g}_{\mathbf{x},R}\|^2] \leq \mathcal{B}_{\bar{N}} := \frac{16L^2D_F^2}{\bar{N}} + \frac{8\sqrt{6}D_F\sigma}{\sqrt{\bar{N}}}.$$

If  $f$  is convex and  $\tilde{D} = \sqrt{3V(\mathbf{x}^*, \mathbf{x}_1)}/\nu$ , then

$$\mathbb{E}[F(\mathbf{x}_R) - F^*] \leq \frac{4LV(\mathbf{x}^*, \mathbf{x}_1)}{\nu\bar{N}} + \frac{2\sqrt{2V(\mathbf{x}^*, \mathbf{x}_1)}\sigma}{\sqrt{\nu\bar{N}}}.$$

**Comment:**

- **Optimal !** The second term is unimprovable. (Nemirovski, 1983)

# A two-phase stochastic projected gradient algorithm

- **Definition:** An  $(\epsilon, \Lambda)$ -solution:  $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbf{X}$  such that

$$\text{Prob}\{\|\mathbf{g}_{\mathbf{x}}(\mathbf{x})\|^2 \leq \epsilon\} \geq 1 - \Lambda,$$

where  $\epsilon > 0$ ,  $\Lambda \in (0, 1)$  and  $\mathbf{g}_{\mathbf{x}}(\mathbf{x}) = P_{\mathbf{X}}(\mathbf{x}, \nabla f(\mathbf{x}), \gamma)$ .

- Let  $\gamma_k = \gamma := \nu/(2L)$  and  $m_k = m$ , by Markov's inequality

$$\text{Prob}\left\{\|\mathbf{g}_{\mathbf{x},R}\|^2 \geq \frac{\lambda L B \bar{N}}{\nu^2}\right\} \leq \frac{1}{\lambda}, \quad \text{for any } \lambda > 0.$$

- An  $(\epsilon, \Lambda)$ -solution can be bounded by

$$\mathcal{O}\left\{\frac{1}{\Lambda\epsilon} + \frac{\sigma^2}{\Lambda^2\epsilon^2}\right\}.$$

# A two-phase stochastic projected gradient algorithm

## A two-phase RSPG Algorithm

**Input:** Initial point  $\mathbf{x}_1 \in \mathbf{X}$ , number of runs  $S$ , total  $\bar{N}$  of calls to the  $\mathcal{SFO}$  in each run of the RSPG algorithm, and sample size  $T$  in the post-optimization phase.

**Optimization phase:** For  $s = 1, \dots, S$ , call the RSPG algorithm with initial point  $\mathbf{x}_1$ , iteration limit  $N = \lfloor \bar{N}/m \rfloor$  and  $\gamma_k = \nu/(2L)$ .

**Post-optimization phase:** Choose a solution  $\bar{\mathbf{x}}^*$  from the candidate list  $\{\bar{\mathbf{x}}_1, \dots, \bar{\mathbf{x}}_S\}$  such that

$$\|\bar{\mathbf{g}}_{\mathbf{x}}(\bar{\mathbf{x}}^*)\| = \min_{s=1, \dots, S} \|\bar{\mathbf{g}}_{\mathbf{x}}(\bar{\mathbf{x}}_s)\|, \quad \bar{\mathbf{g}}_{\mathbf{x}}(\bar{\mathbf{x}}_s) := P_{\mathbf{X}}(\bar{\mathbf{x}}_s, \bar{G}_T(\bar{\mathbf{x}}_s), \gamma_{R_s}),$$

where  $\bar{G}_T(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{1}{T} \sum_{k=1}^T G(\mathbf{x}, \xi_k)$ .

**Output:**  $\mathbf{x}_R$ .

**Theorem.** The following statements holds for 2-RSPG algorithm:

(a) For all  $\lambda > 0$ , we have

$$\text{Prob} \left\{ \|\mathbf{g}_x(\bar{\mathbf{x}}^*)\|^2 \geq \frac{2}{\nu^2} \left( 4L\mathcal{B}_{\bar{N}} + \frac{3\lambda\sigma^2}{T} \right) \right\} \leq \frac{S}{\lambda} + 2^{-S};$$

(b) With a particular choice of  $(S(\Lambda), T(\epsilon, \Lambda), \bar{N}(\epsilon))$ , 2-RSPG finds an  $(\epsilon, \Lambda)$ -solution with the number of calls of  $\mathcal{SFO}$ :

$$\mathcal{O} \left\{ \frac{1}{\epsilon} \log_2 \frac{1}{\Lambda} + \frac{\sigma^2}{\epsilon^2} \log_2 \frac{1}{\Lambda} + \frac{\sigma^2}{\Lambda\epsilon} \log_2^2 \frac{1}{\Lambda} \right\}.$$

**Comment:**

- The second term smaller to a factor of  $1/[\Lambda^2 \log_2(1/\Lambda)]$ .

# Convergence Complexity

Under a “Light-tail” assumption: for any  $\mathbf{x}_k \in \mathbf{X}$ , we have

$$\mathbb{E}[\exp\{\|G(\mathbf{x}_k, \xi_k) - \nabla f(\mathbf{x}_k)\|^2/\sigma^2\}] \leq \exp\{1\},$$

(a) for all  $\lambda > 0$ , we have

$$\text{Prob} \left\{ \|\mathbf{g}_x(\bar{\mathbf{x}}^*)\|^2 \geq \left[ \frac{8L\mathcal{B}\bar{N}}{\nu^2} + \frac{12(1+\lambda)^2\sigma^2}{T\nu^2} \right] \right\} \leq S \exp\left(-\frac{\lambda^2}{3}\right) + 2^{-S}$$

(b) With a particular choice of  $(S(\Lambda), T(\epsilon, \Lambda), \bar{N}(\epsilon))$ , 2-RSPG finds an  $(\epsilon, \Lambda)$ -solution with the number of calls of  $\mathcal{SFO}$ :

$$\mathcal{O} \left\{ \frac{1}{\epsilon} \log_2 \frac{1}{\Lambda} + \frac{\sigma^2}{\epsilon^2} \log_2 \frac{1}{\Lambda} + \frac{\sigma^2}{\epsilon} \log_2^2 \frac{1}{\Lambda} \right\}.$$

Comment:

- The third term smaller to a factor of  $1/\Lambda$ .

# The Stochastic Zero-order methods

- **Assumption:** For any  $k \geq 1$ , we have

$$\mathbb{E}[F(\mathbf{x}_k, \xi_k)] = f(\mathbf{x}_k) \text{ and } F(\cdot, \xi_k) \in \mathcal{C}_L^{1,1}(\mathbb{R}^n) \text{ almost surely.}$$

- **Definition:** A smooth Gaussian approximation of  $f$

$$f_\mu(\mathbf{x}) := \frac{1}{(2\pi)^{\frac{n}{2}}} \int f(\mathbf{x} + \mu\mathbf{v}) e^{-\frac{1}{2}\|\mathbf{v}\|^2} d\mathbf{v} = \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{v}}[f(\mathbf{x} + \mu\mathbf{v})],$$

where  $\mathbf{v}$  is a  $n$ -dimensional standard Gaussian random vector.

- **Definition:** the approximated stochastic gradient of  $f$  at  $\mathbf{x}_k$

$$G_\mu(\mathbf{x}_k, \xi_k, \mathbf{v}) := \frac{F(\mathbf{x}_k + \mu\mathbf{v}, \xi_k) - F(\mathbf{x}_k, \xi_k)}{\mu} \mathbf{v}.$$

**Comment:** Nesterov, 2010.

$f_\mu \in \mathcal{C}_{L_\mu}^{1,1}(\mathbb{R}^n)$  with  $L_\mu \leq L$  and  $\mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{v}, \xi_k}[G_\mu(\mathbf{x}_k, \xi_k, \mathbf{v})] = \nabla f_\mu(\mathbf{x}_k)$ .



# A randomized stochastic gradient free algorithm

## A general RSGF Algorithm

**Input:** Initial point  $\mathbf{x}_1 \in \mathbf{X}$ , iteration limit  $N$ , the stepsizes  $\{\gamma_k > 0\}$ , the batch sizes  $\{m_k\}$ , and the probability mass function  $P_R$  supported on  $\{1, \dots, N\}$ .

**Step 0.** Let  $R$  be a random variable with density function  $P_R$ .

**Step**  $k = 1, \dots, R - 1$ . Call the *SZO*  $m_k$  times to obtain  $G_{\mu,k} = (\sum_{i=1}^{m_k} G_{\mu}(\mathbf{x}_k, \xi_{k,i}, \mathbf{v}_{k,i})) / m_k$ , and compute

$$\mathbf{x}_{k+1} = \text{Arg min}_{\mathbf{u} \in \mathbf{X}} \left\{ \langle G_{\mu,k}, \mathbf{u} \rangle + \frac{1}{\gamma_k} V(\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{x}_k) + \phi(\mathbf{u}) \right\}.$$

**Output:**  $\mathbf{x}_R$ .

# Convergence Complexity

**Thm.** Given total budget  $\bar{N}$  calls of  $\mathcal{SZO}$ . Suppose  $\gamma_k = \nu/(2L)$  and  $m_k = \min\{\lceil \max\{\sqrt{(n+4)(M^2 + \sigma^2)\bar{N}}/(L\tilde{D}), n+4\} \rceil, \bar{N}\}$  with  $\bar{N} \geq \max\{(n+4)^2(M^2 + \sigma^2)/(L\tilde{D})^2, n+4\}$ .

If  $\mu \leq D_F/\sqrt{(n+4)\bar{N}}$  and  $\tilde{D} = D_F$ , then

$$(\nu^2/L)\mathbb{E}[\|\mathbf{g}_{\mathbf{x}_R}\|^2] \leq \frac{65L^2 D_F^2(n+4)}{\bar{N}} + \frac{64\sqrt{(n+4)(M^2 + \sigma^2)}}{\sqrt{\bar{N}}}.$$

If  $f$  convex,  $\mu \leq \sqrt{V(\mathbf{x}^*, \mathbf{x}_1)/(\nu(n+4)\bar{N})}$ ,  $\tilde{D} = 2\sqrt{V(\mathbf{x}^*, \mathbf{x}_1)}/\nu$ ,

$$\mathbb{E}[F(\mathbf{x}_R) - F^*] \leq \frac{6LV(\mathbf{x}^*, \mathbf{x}_1)(n+4)}{\nu\bar{N}} + \frac{4\sqrt{V(\mathbf{x}^*, \mathbf{x}_1)(n+4)(M^2 + \sigma^2)}}{\sqrt{\nu\bar{N}}}.$$

**Comment:**

- Number of calls of  $\mathcal{SZO}$  to find  $\mathbb{E}[F(\mathbf{x}_R) - F^*] \leq \epsilon$  is bounded by  $\mathcal{O}(n/\epsilon^2)$ , when  $\epsilon$  sufficiently small, better than  $\mathcal{O}(n^2/\epsilon^2)$  by Nesterov, 2010.

# Preliminary Numerical Results

- **Algorithm schemes:** Let  $V(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z}) = \|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{z}\|^2/2$ ,  $\gamma_k = 1/(2L)$ . In 2-RSPG, we take  $S = 5$  independent runs of RSPG and take  $T = N/2$  in the post-optimization phase to choose the best  $\bar{\mathbf{x}}^*$ . The quality of  $\bar{\mathbf{x}}^*$  is evaluated by i.i.d. sample of size  $K \gg \bar{N}$ , where  $\bar{N}$  is the iteration number in each RSPG.
- **Estimation of parameters:** Use i.i.d. sample of size  $N_0 = 200$  to estimate  $L$  and  $\sigma$ . Since  $F^* \geq 0$  in our example, we set  $D_F = \sqrt{2F(\mathbf{x}_1)/L}$ .
- **Notations:**  $NS$  is the maximum number of calls of stochastic oracle. Hence,  $\bar{N} = NS$  in RSPG, and  $\bar{N} = NS/S$  in 2-RSPG.  $\bar{\mathbf{x}}^*$  is the output. *Mean* and *Var.* are the average and variants of the results over 20 runs of each algorithm.

# Preliminary Numerical Results

- A least square problem with a smoothly clipped absolute deviation penalty term (Fan & Li, 2001):

$$\min_{\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n} f(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v}} [(\langle \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u} \rangle - \mathbf{v})^2] + \sum_{j=1}^d q_\lambda(|\mathbf{x}_j|),$$

where  $\mathbf{u}$  is drawn from standard normal,  $\mathbf{v} = \langle \bar{\mathbf{x}}, \mathbf{u} \rangle + \xi$  with  $\xi \sim N(0, \bar{\sigma}^2)$  and  $q_\lambda : \mathbb{R}_+ \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ , satisfying  $q_\lambda(0) = 0$  with derivative defined as

$$q'_\lambda(\beta) = \left\{ \beta I(\beta \leq \lambda) + \frac{\max(0, a\lambda - \beta)}{(a-1)} I(\beta > \lambda) \right\}.$$

Here  $a > 2$  and  $\lambda > 0$  are constant parameters.

- In numerical experiment, we set  $a = 3.7$  and  $\lambda = 0.1$ , three different problem sizes with  $n = 100, 500, 1000$  and two different noise levels with  $\bar{\sigma} = 0.1, 1$ .

# Preliminary Numerical Results

Table: Estimated  $\|\nabla f(\bar{\mathbf{x}}^*)\|^2$  for the least square problem ( $K = 75,000$ )

<i>NS</i>		RSG	2-RSG	RSPG	2-RSPG
		$n = 100, \tilde{\sigma} = 0.1$			
1000	mean	0.2509	0.3184	0.1564	0.3176
	var.	4.31e-2	1.68e-2	4.58e-2	2.54e-2
5000	mean	0.0828	0.0841	0.0113	0.0164
	var.	6.75e-3	1.03e-3	4.22e-4	3.37e-4
25000	mean	0.0056	0.0070	0.0006	0.0010
	var.	1.69e-4	1.08e-4	2.05e-7	1.43e-7
		$n = 100, \tilde{\sigma} = 1$			
1000	mean	0.3731	0.3761	0.2379	0.3567
	var.	3.38e-2	1.40e-2	4.01e-2	1.41e-2
5000	mean	0.1095	0.1314	0.0436	0.0323
	var.	2.22e-2	3.96e-3	1.44e-2	8.69e-4
25000	mean	0.0374	0.0172	0.0138	0.0048
	var.	8.46e-3	1.83e-4	1.95e-3	8.48e-7

# Preliminary Numerical Results

Table: Estimated  $\|\nabla f(\bar{\mathbf{x}}^*)\|^2$  for the least square problem ( $K = 75,000$ )

<i>NS</i>		RSG	2-RSG	RSPG	2-RSPG
		$n = 500, \bar{\sigma} = 0.1$			
1000	mean	0.5479	0.6865	0.4212	0.8977
	var.	3.47e-2	6.17e-3	5.13e-2	2.64e-3
5000	mean	0.2481	0.3560	0.1030	0.1997
	var.	4.38e-2	3.45e-3	2.57e-2	2.21e-3
25000	mean	0.2153	0.0876	0.1093	0.0136
	var.	6.77e-2	1.13e-3	4.07e-2	3.24e-5
		$n = 500, \bar{\sigma} = 1$			
1000	mean	0.5869	0.7444	0.4371	0.7771
	var.	2.14e-2	4.18e-3	3.40e-2	5.15e-3
5000	mean	0.3603	0.4732	0.1745	0.2987
	var.	3.77e-2	8.13e-3	3.51e-2	1.87e-2
25000	mean	0.2467	0.1584	0.1271	0.0351
	var.	6.49e-2	1.87e-3	4.30e-2	2.83e-4

# Preliminary Numerical Results

Table: Estimated  $\|\nabla f(\bar{\mathbf{x}}^*)\|^2$  for the least square problem ( $K = 75,000$ )

<i>NS</i>		RSG	2-RSG	RSPG	2-RSPG
		$n = 1000, \bar{\sigma} = 0.1$			
1000	mean	1.853	2.417	1.855	3.092
	var.	1.73e-1	1.31e-2	1.88e-1	1.29e-1
5000	mean	0.9555	1.501	0.4944	1.832
	var.	3.62e-1	6.39e-2	4.82e-1	2.36e-1
25000	mean	0.6305	0.4725	0.3402	0.1100
	var.	6.38e-1	2.08e-2	4.40e-1	4.54e-3
		$n = 1000, \bar{\sigma} = 1$			
1000	mean	1.868	2.407	1.701	3.208
	var.	1.44e-1	1.22e-2	1.84e-1	1.54e-1
5000	mean	1.297	1.596	0.8032	1.403
	var.	5.25e-1	5.26e-2	6.38e-1	1.10e-1
25000	mean	0.575	0.6309	0.2079	0.1806
	var.	3.43e-1	4.65e-2	1.17e-1	1.43e-2

- A linear semi-supervised SVM problem (Chapelle et., 2008):

$$\min_{(\mathbf{x}, b) \in \mathbb{R}^{n+1}} f(\mathbf{x}, b) = \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{u}_1, \mathbf{u}_2, v} [\lambda_1 \max \{0, 1 - v(\langle \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u}_1 \rangle + b)\}^2 + \lambda_2 e^{-5\{\langle \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u}_2 \rangle + b\}^2}] + \lambda_3 \|\mathbf{x}\|_2^2.$$

where  $|b - 2r + 1| \leq \delta$ ,  $\mathbf{u}_1$  and  $\mathbf{u}_2$  are standard normal,  $v \in \{0, 1\}$  with  $v = \text{sgn}(\langle \bar{\mathbf{x}}, \mathbf{u}_1 \rangle + b)$  for some  $\bar{\mathbf{x}} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ . Here,  $\lambda_1$ ,  $\lambda_2$  and  $\lambda_3$  are constant parameters,  $r \in (0, 1)$  is the ration of positive labels and  $\delta \in (0, 1)$  is the tolerance.

- In numerical experiment, we set  $\lambda_1 = 1$ ,  $\lambda_2 = \lambda_3 = 0.5$ ,  $\delta = 0.1$  and three different problem sizes  $n = 100, 500, 1000$ .



# Preliminary Numerical Results

Table: Estimated  $\|\mathbf{g}_x(\bar{\mathbf{x}}^*)\|^2$  ( $K = 75,000$ )

$\bar{N}S$		RSPG	2-RSPG	RSPG	2-RSPG
		$n = 100$		$n = 500$	
1000	mean	1.355	0.2107	5.976	0.7955
	var.	1.21e+1	9.50e-3	1.93e+2	6.07e-1
5000	mean	0.1032	0.1174	0.2237	0.1703
	var.	4.96e-2	4.42e-3	1.93e+2	6.07e-1
25000	mean	0.0352	0.0699	0.2174	0.0832
	var.	1.13e-3	3.42e-3	2.35e-1	2.41e-4
		$n = 1000$			
1000	mean	27.06	2.417		
	var.	6.00e+3	1.73e+1		
5000	mean	16.24	0.4726		
	var.	2.20e+3	2.85e+1		
25000	mean	0.1007	0.1378		
	var.	2.46e-2	5.63e-5		