



Technische  
Universität  
Braunschweig

SPONSORED BY THE



Federal Ministry  
of Education  
and Research



Institut für  
Systemleichtbau



# Asymptotic analysis and truncated backpropagation for the unrolled primal-dual algorithm

Christoph Brauer and Dirk Lorenz, September 8, 2023

# Introduction

Task

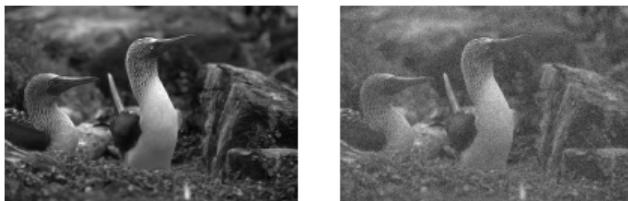
Recover ground truth  $\mathbf{y} \in \mathbb{R}^n$   
from noisy observation  $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n$

Bilevel Problem

$$\begin{aligned}\hat{\mathbf{K}} \in \operatorname{argmin}_{\mathbf{K}} \quad & \sum_{i=1}^m \ell(\mathbf{y}_i, \hat{\mathbf{y}}_i) \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & \forall i : \hat{\mathbf{y}}_i \in S(\mathbf{K}, \mathbf{x}_i)\end{aligned}$$

use  $\hat{\mathbf{K}}$

↓  
via



Convex Problem

↑  
via

Training Data

$$\hat{\mathbf{y}} \in S(\mathbf{K}, \mathbf{x}) := \operatorname{argmin}_{\mathbf{y}} F(\mathbf{K}\mathbf{y}) + G(\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{x})$$

learn  $\mathbf{K}$   
from

$$\{(\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{y}_1), \dots, (\mathbf{x}_m, \mathbf{y}_m)\}$$

# Introduction

## Bilevel Problem

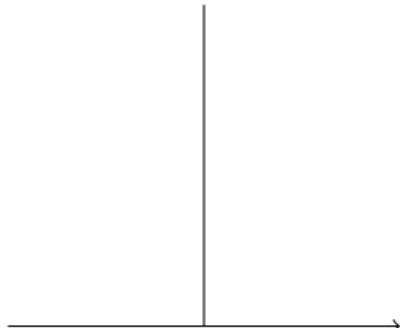
$$\begin{aligned}\hat{\mathbf{K}} \in \operatorname{argmin}_{\mathbf{K}} \quad & \sum_{i=1}^m \ell(\mathbf{y}_i, \hat{\mathbf{y}}_i) \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & \forall i : \hat{\mathbf{y}}_i \in S(\mathbf{K}, \mathbf{x}_i)\end{aligned}$$

Convex Optimization Algorithm

$$A^1(\mathbf{K}, \mathbf{x}), \dots, A^L(\mathbf{K}, \mathbf{x})$$

Approximate Bilevel Problem

$$\hat{\mathbf{K}} \in \operatorname{argmin}_{\mathbf{K}} \sum_{i=1}^m \ell(\mathbf{y}_i, A^L(\mathbf{K}, \mathbf{x}_i))$$



# Introduction

## Approximate Bilevel Problem

single  
example

$$\hat{\mathbf{K}} \in \operatorname{argmin}_{\mathbf{K}} \sum_{i=1}^m \ell(\mathbf{y}_i, A^L(\mathbf{K}, \mathbf{x}_i))$$

## Approximate Gradient

$$\nabla_{\mathbf{K}} \ell(\mathbf{y}, A^L(\mathbf{K}, \mathbf{x}))$$

behavior  
for  $L \rightarrow \infty$

?

# Outline

1. The algorithm A
2. Gradient backpropagation
3. Gradient of  $\ell(\mathbf{y}, \mathbf{A}^L(\mathbf{K}, \mathbf{x}))$  w.r.t. parameters  $\mathbf{K}$
4. Limit of parameter gradient for  $L \rightarrow \infty$
5. Speech dequantization
6. Truncated Backpropagation
7. Interpretability

# The algorithm A

## Algorithm 1 Chambolle-Pock

Choose  $\sigma, \tau > 0$  and  $\theta \in [0, 1]$   
Initialize  $\mathbf{y}^0 = \bar{\mathbf{y}}^0 = \mathbf{x}$  and  $\boldsymbol{\psi}^0 = \mathbf{0}$

**for**  $l = 0, \dots, L-1$  **do**

$$\mathbf{z}_D^{l+1} = \boldsymbol{\psi}^l + \sigma \mathbf{K} \mathbf{y}^l$$

$$\boldsymbol{\psi}^{l+1} = \text{prox}_{\sigma F^*}(\mathbf{z}_D^{l+1})$$

$$\mathbf{z}_P^{l+1} = \mathbf{y}^l - \tau \mathbf{K}^\top \boldsymbol{\psi}^{l+1}$$

$$\mathbf{y}^{l+1} = \text{prox}_{\tau G}(\mathbf{z}_P^{l+1} - \mathbf{x}) + \mathbf{x}$$

$$\bar{\mathbf{y}}^{l+1} = \mathbf{y}^{l+1} + \theta(\mathbf{y}^{l+1} - \mathbf{y}^l)$$

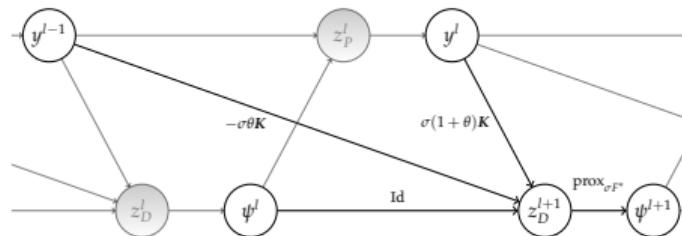
**end for**

(Dual update)

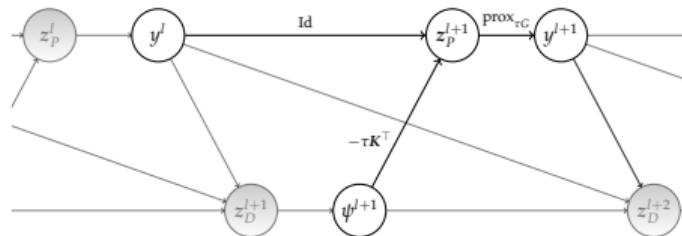
(Prim. update)

(Extrapolation)

## Dual update



## Primal update



→ Apply standard backprop as for FCNNs

# Gradient backpropagation

## Algorithm 2 Backpropagated gradients

Choose  $\sigma, \tau$  and  $\theta$  as in Algorithm 1

Adopt  $\mathbf{y}^L, \mathbf{z}_P^1, \dots, \mathbf{z}_P^L, \mathbf{z}_D^1, \dots, \mathbf{z}_D^L$  from Algorithm 1

Initialize  $\delta_P^{L+1} = \nabla_{\hat{\mathbf{y}}} \ell(\mathbf{y}, \mathbf{y}^L)$

Initialize  $\delta_D^{L+1} = \bar{\delta}_D^{L+1} = \mathbf{o}$

**for**  $l = L, \dots, 1$  **do**

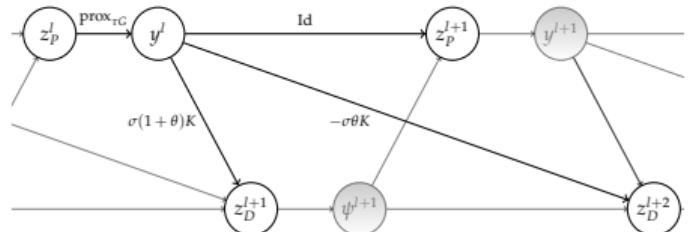
$$\delta_P^l = \mathcal{J}_{\text{prox}_{\tau G}}(\mathbf{z}_P^l - \mathbf{x})^\top (\delta_P^{l+1} + \sigma \mathbf{K}^\top \bar{\delta}_D^{l+1}) \quad (1)$$

$$\delta_D^l = \mathcal{J}_{\text{prox}_{\sigma F^*}}(\mathbf{z}_D^l)^\top (\delta_D^{l+1} - \tau \mathbf{K} \delta_P^l) \quad (2)$$

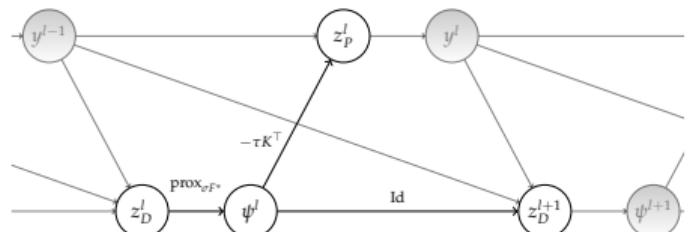
$$\bar{\delta}_D^l = \delta_D^l + \theta(\delta_D^l - \delta_D^{l+1}) \quad (3)$$

**end for**

Primal gradient  $\delta_P^l := \nabla_{\mathbf{z}_P^l} \ell(\mathbf{y}, \mathbf{y}^L)$



Dual gradient  $\delta_D^l := \nabla_{\mathbf{z}_D^l} \ell(\mathbf{y}, \mathbf{y}^L)$



→ Basically chain rule



# Parameter gradient

## Lemma

*The gradients*

$$\delta_p^l := \nabla_{z_p^l} \ell(\mathbf{y}, \mathbf{y}^L) \quad \text{and}$$

$$\delta_D^l := \nabla_{z_D^l} \ell(\mathbf{y}, \mathbf{y}^L)$$

*can be computed recursively as outlined in Algorithm 2. Moreover, it holds that*

$$\nabla_K \ell(\mathbf{y}, \mathbf{y}^L) = \sum_{l=1}^L \sigma \delta_D^l (\bar{\mathbf{y}}^{l-1})^\top - \tau \psi^l (\delta_p^l)^\top.$$

## Proof.

$K$  affects the objective exactly through  $\mathbf{z}_P^1, \dots, \mathbf{z}_P^L$  and  $\mathbf{z}_D^1, \dots, \mathbf{z}_D^L$ .  $\rightarrow$  Chain rule.

□

# Limit of parameter gradient

## Theorem

Suppose that there exist constants  $c \geq 0$  and  $0 \leq \kappa < 1$  such that

$$\|\delta_D^{l,L}\| \leq c\kappa^{L-l} \quad \text{and} \quad \|\delta_P^{l,L}\| \leq c\kappa^{L-l}$$

hold for arbitrary  $L$  and  $l \in \{1, \dots, L\}$ . Then, the limits

$$\Delta_P := \lim_{L \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{l=1}^L \delta_P^{l,L} \quad \text{and} \quad \Delta_D := \lim_{L \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{l=1}^L \delta_D^{l,L}$$

exist and are finite. Moreover, it holds that

$$\lim_{L \rightarrow \infty} \nabla_{\mathbf{K}} \ell(\mathbf{y}, \mathbf{y}^L) = \sigma \Delta_D (\mathbf{y}^*)^\top - \tau \psi^*(\Delta_P)^\top.$$

# Limit of parameter gradient

## Proof.

1. Show that  $\Delta_P$  and  $\Delta_D$  exist and are finite

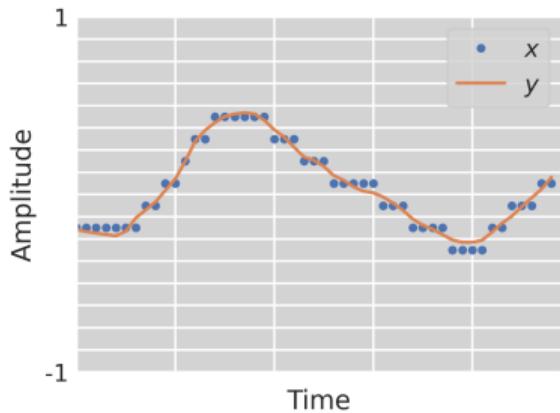
$$\lim_{L \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{l=1}^L \|\delta_P^{l,L}\| \leq \lim_{L \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{l=1}^L c\kappa^{L-l} = \lim_{L \rightarrow \infty} c \frac{1-\kappa^L}{1-\kappa} = \frac{c}{1-\kappa} < \infty$$

2. Rearrange gradient formula

$$\begin{aligned}\nabla_K \ell(y, y^L) &= \sum_{l=1}^L \sigma \delta_D^{l,L} (\bar{y}^{l-1})^\top - \tau \psi^l (\delta_P^{l,L})^\top \\ &= \sum_{l=1}^L \sigma \delta_D^{l,L} (y^*)^\top - \tau \psi^* (\delta_P^{l,L})^\top - \sigma \delta_D^{l,L} (y^* - \bar{y}^{l-1})^\top + \tau (\psi^* - \psi^l) (\delta_P^l)^\top \\ &= \underbrace{\sigma \left( \sum_{l=1}^L \delta_D^{l,L} \right) (y^*)^\top}_{\xrightarrow{L \rightarrow \infty} \sigma \Delta_D(y^*)^\top} - \underbrace{\tau \psi^* \left( \sum_{l=1}^L \delta_P^{l,L} \right)^\top}_{\xrightarrow{L \rightarrow \infty} \bullet} - \underbrace{\sigma \sum_{l=1}^L \delta_D^{l,L} (y^* - \bar{y}^{l-1})^\top}_{\xrightarrow{L \rightarrow \infty} \bullet} + \underbrace{\tau \sum_{l=1}^L (\psi^* - \psi^l) (\delta_P^l)^\top}_{\xrightarrow{L \rightarrow \infty} \bullet}\end{aligned}$$

□

# Speech dequantization



$$\hat{\mathbf{y}} \in \operatorname{argmin}_{\mathbf{y}} \underbrace{\|\mathbf{K}\mathbf{y}\|_1}_{F(\mathbf{K}\mathbf{y})} \quad \text{s.t. } \underbrace{\|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{x}\|_{\infty} \leq \frac{\eta}{2}}_{G(\mathbf{y}-\mathbf{x}) = I_{\|\cdot\|_{\infty} \leq \frac{\eta}{2}}(\mathbf{y}-\mathbf{x})}$$

$$\mathbf{K} \in \mathbb{R}^{k \times n}$$

$$F^* = I_{\|\cdot\|_{\infty} \leq 1}$$

$$\operatorname{prox}_{\sigma F^*}(\mathbf{z}_D^l) = \min \left\{ 1, \max \left\{ -1, \mathbf{z}_D^l \right\} \right\}$$

$$\operatorname{prox}_{\tau G}(\mathbf{z}_P^l - \mathbf{x}) = \min \left\{ \frac{\eta}{2}, \max \left\{ -\frac{\eta}{2}, \mathbf{z}_P^l - \mathbf{x} \right\} \right\}$$

$$\delta_P^l = \overbrace{\operatorname{prox}'_{\tau G}(\mathbf{z}_P^l - \mathbf{x})}^{\in \{0,1\}^n} \odot (\delta_P^{l+1} + \sigma \mathbf{K}^\top \bar{\delta}_D^{l+1})$$
$$\delta_D^l = \underbrace{\operatorname{prox}_{\sigma F^*}(\mathbf{z}_D^l)}_{\in \{0,1\}^k} \odot (\delta_D^{l+1} - \tau \mathbf{K} \delta_P^l)$$

# Speech dequantization

## Theorem

Suppose that there exists an  $l_0 \in \mathbb{N}$  such that  $\text{prox}'_{\tau G}(\mathbf{z}_P^l - \mathbf{x}) = \text{prox}'_{\tau G}(\mathbf{z}_P^{l_0} - \mathbf{x})$  and  $\text{prox}'_{\sigma F^*}(\mathbf{z}_D^l) = \text{prox}'_{\sigma F^*}(\mathbf{z}_D^{l_0})$  hold for all  $l \geq l_0$ .

Then, it holds for all  $l \geq l_0$  that  $\lim_{L \rightarrow \infty} \delta_P^l \in \ker(\mathbf{K})$  and  $\lim_{L \rightarrow \infty} \delta_D^l \in \ker(\mathbf{K}^\top)$ .

## Proof.

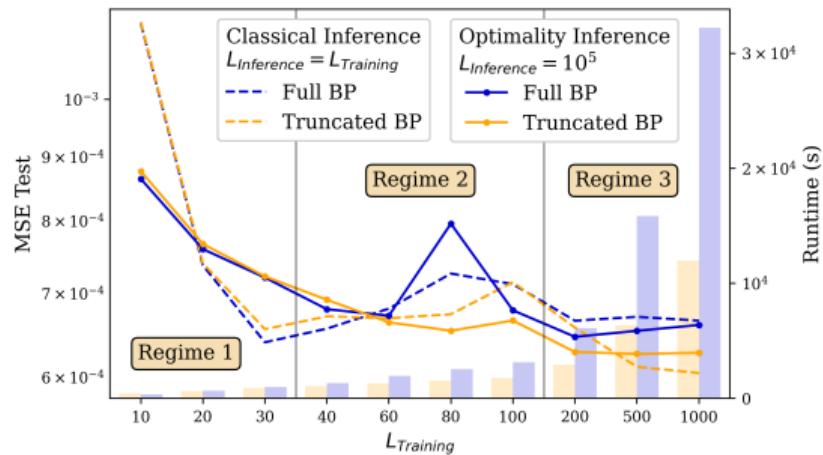
Set  $\tilde{\mathbf{K}} := \text{prox}'_{\sigma F^*}(\mathbf{z}_D^{l_0}) \odot \mathbf{K} \odot \text{prox}'_{\tau G}(\mathbf{z}_P^{l_0} - \mathbf{x})$  and reverse engineer the optimization problem behind the Chambolle-Pock iteration to see that  $\lim_{L \rightarrow \infty} \delta_D^l \in \operatorname{argmin}_{\delta_D} \text{const. s.t. } \tilde{\mathbf{K}}^\top \delta_D = \mathbf{o}$  and analogously for the other case.

$$\delta_P^l = \delta_P^{l+1} + \sigma \tilde{\mathbf{K}}^\top \bar{\delta}_D^{l+1}$$

$$\delta_D^l = \delta_D^{l+1} - \tau \tilde{\mathbf{K}} \delta_P^l$$



# Truncated Backprop



Regime 1. Full and truncated BP similar

Regime 2. No significant performance increase

Regime 3. Truncated BP outperforms full BP

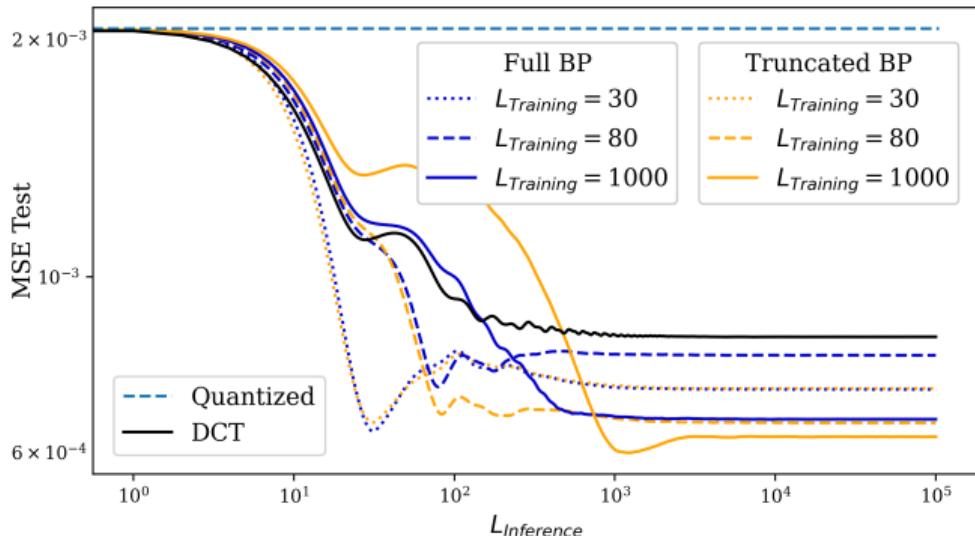
## Full BP

- **Full backward pass** according to Lemma
- Requires  $\sim 2L \times$  runtime of single iteration
- Requires storage of  $2L(k + n)$  variables

## Truncated BP

- Use only  $\mathbf{y}^L, \boldsymbol{\psi}^L, \mathbf{z}_P^L, \mathbf{z}_D^L$  and finite number of  $b$  backpropagated gradients to **approximate**  $\lim_{L \rightarrow \infty} \nabla_{\mathbf{K}} \ell(\mathbf{y}, \mathbf{y}^L) = \sigma \Delta_D(\mathbf{y}^*)^\top - \tau \boldsymbol{\psi}^*(\Delta_P)^\top$
- Requires  $\sim L + b \times$  runtime of single iteration
- Requires storage of  $2(k + n)$  variables

# Interpretability



- **Bump at 30 iterations** illustrates gap between classical and optimality inference in Regime 1
- Classical unrolling is **prone to overfitting** to the number of unrolled iterations
- The best performing model in terms of the error here also features the slowest convergence speed

# Summary

- **Asymptotic Analysis.** Limit of parameter gradient depends only on optimal solutions
- **Truncated backpropagation.** Outperforms usage of full gradients
- **Interpretability.** Limited when too few unrolled iterations during training
- **Future work.** Different algorithms, combine high interpretability and convergence speed

[https://github.com/chrabraue/primal\\_dual\\_networks](https://github.com/chrabraue/primal_dual_networks)

Thank you!