# Randomized projection algorithms for overdetermined linear systems

Deanna Needell

Claremont McKenna College

ISMP, Berlin 2012

### Setup

Let Ax = b be an *overdetermined*, standardized, full rank system of equations.



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(4) (E) (4) (E) (4)

#### Setup

Let Ax = b be an *overdetermined*, standardized, full rank system of equations.



#### Goal

From A and b we wish to recover unknown x. Assume  $m \gg n$ .

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# Method

#### Kaczmarz

- The Kaczmarz method is an iterative method used to solve Ax = b.
- Due to its speed and simplicity, it's used in a variety of applications.



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Start with initial guess x<sub>0</sub>

$$x_{k+1} = x_k + (b[i] - \langle a_i, x_k \rangle) a_i \text{ where } i = (k \mod m) + 1$$

Repeat (2)

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**()** Start with initial guess  $x_0$ 

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$$x_{k+1} = x_k + (b[i] - \langle a_i, x_k \rangle)a_i$$
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• Repeat (2)

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### Randomized Kaczmarz



#### Kaczmarz

• Start with initial guess  $x_0$ 

• 
$$x_{k+1} = x_k + (b[i] - \langle a_i, x_k \rangle)a_i$$
 where *i* is chosen *randomly*  
• Repeat (2)

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### Theorem [Strohmer-Vershynin]: Consistent case Ax = b

• Start with initial guess  $x_0$ 

2 
$$x_{k+1} = x_k + (b_p - \langle a_p, x_k \rangle)a_p$$
 where  $\mathbb{P}(p = i) = \frac{\|a_i\|_2^2}{\|A\|_F^2} = 1/m$ 

3 Repeat (2)

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### Theorem [Strohmer-Vershynin]: Consistent case Ax = b

• Start with initial guess  $x_0$ 

Repeat (2)

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• Let  $R = m \|A^{-1}\|^2$  ( $\|A^{-1}\| \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \inf\{M : M \|Ax\|_2 \ge \|x\|_2 \text{ for all } x\}$ )

• Then 
$$\mathbb{E} \|x_k - x\|_2^2 \le \left(1 - \frac{1}{R}\right)^{\kappa} \|x_0 - x\|_2^2$$

- Well conditioned  $A \rightarrow$  Convergence in O(n) iterations  $\rightarrow O(n^2)$  total runtime.
- Better than O(*mn*<sup>2</sup>) runtime for Gaussian elimination and empirically often faster than Conjugate Gradient.

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### System with noise

We now consider the system Ax = b + e.



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### Theorem [N]

• Let 
$$Ax = b + e$$
. Then

$$\mathbb{E}\|x_k - x\|_2 \le \left(1 - \frac{1}{R}\right)^{k/2} \|x_0 - x\|_2 + \sqrt{R} \|e\|_{\infty}$$

• This bound is sharp and attained in simple examples.

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Figure: Comparison between actual error (blue) and predicted threshold (pink). Scatter plot shows exponential convergence over several trials.

### • Recall $x_{k+1} = x_k + (b[i] - \langle a_i, x_k \rangle)a_i$

- Since these projections are orthogonal, the optimal projection is one that maximizes ||x<sub>k+1</sub> − x<sub>k</sub>||<sub>2</sub>.
- What if we relax:  $x_{k+1} = x_k + \gamma(b[i] \langle a_i, x_k \rangle)a_i$
- Can we choose  $\gamma$  optimally?
- Idea: In each "iteration," project once with relaxation optimally and then project normally.

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- Can we choose  $\gamma$  optimally?
- Idea: In each "iteration," project once with relaxation optimally and then project normally.

- Randomly select two rows, a<sub>s</sub> and a<sub>r</sub>
- Perform initial projection:  $y = x_k + \gamma(b[i] \langle a_i, x_k \rangle)a_i$  with  $\gamma$  optimal
- Peform second projection:  $x_{k+1} = y + (b[i] \langle a_i, y \rangle)a_i$
- Repeat

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- Repeat

(4) (E) (4) (E) (4)

Geometrically, we choose  $\gamma$  in such a way:



### The optimal choice of $\gamma$ in a single iteration is

$$\gamma = \frac{-\langle a_r - \langle a_s, a_r \rangle a_s, x_k - x + (b_s - \langle x_k, a_s \rangle) a_s \rangle}{(b_r - \langle x_k, a_r \rangle) \|a_r - \langle a_s, a_r \rangle a_s \|_2^2}$$

#### Two-Subspace Kaczmarz method

• Select two distinct rows of A uniformly at random

• 
$$\mu_k \leftarrow \langle a_r, a_s \rangle$$
  
•  $y_k \leftarrow x_{k-1} + (b_s - \langle x_{k-1}, a_s \rangle)a$   
•  $v_k \leftarrow \frac{a_r - \mu_k a_s}{\sqrt{1 - |\mu_k|^2}}$   
•  $\beta_k \leftarrow \frac{b_r - b_s \mu_k}{\sqrt{1 - |\mu_k|^2}}$   
•  $x_k \leftarrow y_k + (\beta_k - \langle y_k, v_k \rangle)v_k$ 

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#### The optimal choice of $\gamma$ in a single iteration is

$$\gamma = \frac{-\langle a_r - \langle a_s, a_r \rangle a_s, x_k - x + (b_s - \langle x_k, a_s \rangle) a_s \rangle}{(b_r - \langle x_k, a_r \rangle) \|a_r - \langle a_s, a_r \rangle a_s \|_2^2}$$

#### Two-Subspace Kaczmarz method

• Select two distinct rows of A uniformly at random

• 
$$\mu_k \leftarrow \langle a_r, a_s \rangle$$
  
•  $y_k \leftarrow x_{k-1} + (b_s - \langle x_{k-1}, a_s \rangle) a_s$   
•  $v_k \leftarrow \frac{a_r - \mu_k a_s}{\sqrt{1 - |\mu_k|^2}}$   
•  $\beta_k \leftarrow \frac{b_r - b_s \mu_k}{\sqrt{1 - |\mu_k|^2}}$   
•  $x_k \leftarrow y_k + (\beta_k - \langle y_k, v_k \rangle) v_k$ 

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Figure: For coherent systems, the one-subspace randomized Kaczmarz algorithm (a) converges more slowly than the two-subspace Kaczmarz algorithm (b).

Define the coherence parameters:

$$\Delta = \Delta(A) = \max_{j \neq k} |\langle a_j, a_k \rangle| \quad and \quad \delta = \delta(A) = \min_{j \neq k} |\langle a_j, a_k \rangle|.$$
(1)



Figure: Randomized Kaczmarz (RK) versus two-subspace RK (2SRK). A has highly coherent rows with  $\delta = 0.992$  and  $\Delta = 0.998$ .



Figure: Randomized Kaczmarz (RK) versus two-subspace RK (2SRK). A has highly coherent rows with coherence parameters (a)  $\delta = 0.837$  and  $\Delta = 0.967$ , (b)  $\delta = 0.534$  and  $\Delta = 0.904$ , (c)  $\delta = 0.018$  and  $\Delta = 0.819$ , and (d)  $\delta = 0$  and  $\Delta = 0.610$ .

Recall the coherence parameters:

$$\Delta = \Delta(A) = \max_{j \neq k} |\langle a_j, a_k \rangle| \quad and \quad \delta = \delta(A) = \min_{j \neq k} |\langle a_j, a_k \rangle|.$$
(2)

#### Theorem [N-Ward]

Let b = Ax + e, then the two-subspace Kaczmarz method yields

$$\mathbb{E}\|x-x_k\|_2 \le \eta^{k/2}\|x-x_0\|_2 + \frac{3}{1-\sqrt{\eta}} \cdot \frac{\|e\|_{\infty}}{\sqrt{1-\Delta^2}},$$

where  $D = \min\left\{\frac{\delta^2(1-\delta)}{1+\delta}, \frac{\Delta^2(1-\Delta)}{1+\Delta}\right\}$ ,  $R = m||A^{-1}||^2$  denotes the scaled condition number, and  $\eta = \left(1 - \frac{1}{R}\right)^2 - \frac{D}{R}$ .

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#### Remarks

When Δ = 1 or δ = 0 we recover the same convergence rate as provided for the standard Kaczmarz method since the two-subspace method utilizes two projections per iteration.
 The bound presented in the theorem is a pessimistic bound. Even when Δ = 1 or δ = 0, the two-subspace method improves on the standard method if any rows of A are highly correlated (but not equal).

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### The parameter D



Figure: A plot of the improved convergence factor D as a function of the coherence parameters  $\delta$  and  $\Delta \geq \delta$ .

# Generalization to more than two rows?

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Given a partition of the rows, T:

• Select a block au of the partition at random

• 
$$x_k \leftarrow x_{k-1} + A_{\tau}^{\dagger}(b_{\tau} - A_{\tau}x_{k-1})$$

The convergence rate heavily depends on the conditioning of the blocks  $A_{\tau} \rightarrow$  need to control geometric properties of the partition.

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• 
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The convergence rate heavily depends on the conditioning of the blocks  $A_{\tau} \rightarrow$  need to control geometric properties of the partition.

### Row paving

An  $(d, \alpha, \beta)$  row paving of a matrix A is a partition  $T = \{\tau_1, \dots, \tau_d\}$  of the row indices that verifies

 $\alpha \leq \lambda_{\min}(A_{\tau}A_{\tau}^*) \quad \text{and} \quad \lambda_{\max}(A_{\tau}A_{\tau}^*) \leq \beta \quad \text{for each } \tau \in \mathcal{T}.$ 

### Theorem [N-Tropp]

Suppose A admits an  $(d, \alpha, \beta)$  row paving T and that b = Ax + e. The convergence of the block Kaczmarz method satisfies

$$\mathbb{E}\|x_k - x\|_2^2 \leq \left[1 - \frac{\sigma_{\min}^2(A)}{\beta d}\right]^k \|x_0 - x\|_2^2 + \frac{\beta}{\alpha} \cdot \frac{\|e\|_2^2}{\sigma_{\min}^2(A)}.$$
 (3)

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 (3)

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### Good row pavings [Bougain-Tzafriri, Tropp]

For any  $\delta \in (0, 1)$ , A admits a row paving with

$$d \leq C \cdot \delta^{-2} \|A\|^2 \log(1+n) \quad \text{and} \quad 1-\delta \leq lpha \leq eta \leq 1+\delta.$$

### Theorem [N-Tropp]

Let A have row paving above with  $\delta=1/2.$  The block Kaczmarz method yields

$$\mathbb{E}\|x_k - x\|_2^2 \leq \left[1 - \frac{1}{C\kappa^2(A)\log(1+n)}\right]^k \|x_0 - x\|_2^2 + \frac{3\|e\|_2^2}{\sigma_{\min}^2(A)}.$$

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### Theorem [Bougain-Tzafriri, Tropp]

A random partition of the row indices with  $m \ge ||A||^2$  blocks is a row paving with upper bound  $\beta \le 6 \log(1 + n)$ , with probability at least  $1 - n^{-1}$ .

#### Theorem [Bourgain-Tzafriri, Tropp]

Suppose that A is incoherent. A random partition of the row indices into m blocks where  $m \ge C \cdot \delta^{-2} ||A||^2 \log(1+n)$  is a row paving of A whose paving bounds satisfy  $1 - \delta \le \alpha \le \beta \le 1 + \delta$ , with probability at least  $1 - n^{-1}$ .

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# Block Kaczmarz



Figure: The matrix A is a fixed  $300 \times 100$  matrix consisting of 15 partial circulant blocks. Error  $||x_k - x||_2$  per flop count.

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# Block Kaczmarz



Figure: The matrix A is a fixed  $300 \times 100$  matrix with rows drawn randomly from the unit sphere, with d = 10 blocks. Error  $||x_k - x||_2$  over various computational resources.

### For more information

### E-mail:

• dneedell@cmc.edu

Web: www.cmc.edu/pages/faculty/DNeedell

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