

# Efficient Saddle Point Optimization for Modern Machine Learning

**Prédoc III - Gauthier Gidel**

**Jury:**

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# Outline

1. Introduction on Saddle point optimization, Games and Variational Inequalities.
2. Frank-Wolfe Algorithm for Saddle Point problems.
3. Negative Momentum for improved game dynamics.
4. A Variational inequality perspective on GANs.
5. Future Work.

*NB: All the citations in this talk are at the end of the slides.*

Slides available on my website: <http://gauthiergidel.github.io>

# Saddle point optimization, Games and Variational Inequalities.

Based on [Gidel et al. 2017], [Gidel et al. 2018a] and [Gidel et al. 2018b]

Game dynamics are ~~weird~~  
fascinating

Start with optimization  
dynamics

# Optimization

$$\theta \in \underset{\theta \in \Theta}{\operatorname{argmin}} \mathcal{L}(\theta)$$

Smooth, **differentiable** cost function,  $L$

→ Looking for stationary (fixed) points  
(gradient is 0)

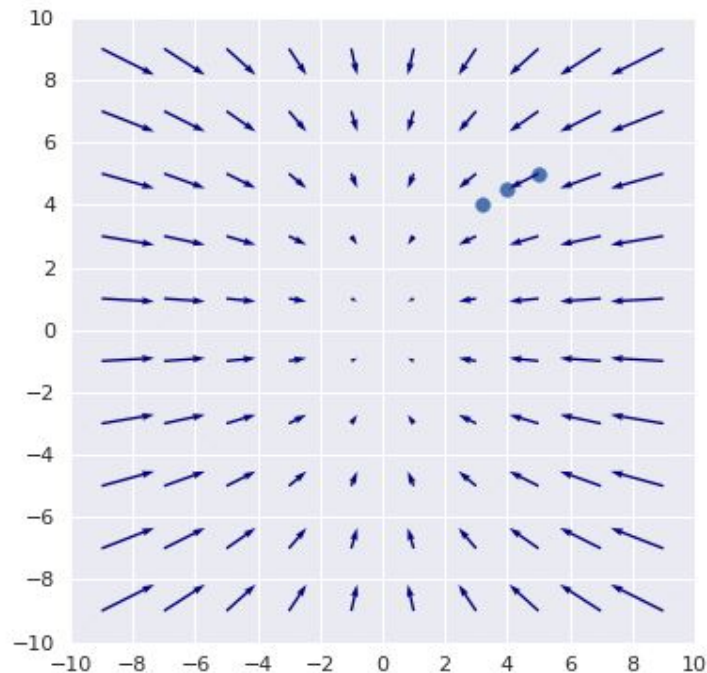
→ Gradient descent

# Optimization

Conservative vector field  $\rightarrow$

Gradient based dynamics

$$\boldsymbol{\theta}_{t+1} = \boldsymbol{\theta}_t - \eta \nabla \mathcal{L}(\boldsymbol{\theta}_t)$$



# Saddle point problems

$$\min_{\theta \in \Theta} \max_{\phi \in \Phi} \mathcal{L}(\theta, \phi)$$

Smooth, **differentiable** cost function,

- Looking for stationary (fixed) points  
(gradients are 0)
- Gradient ~~descent~~ **method**.



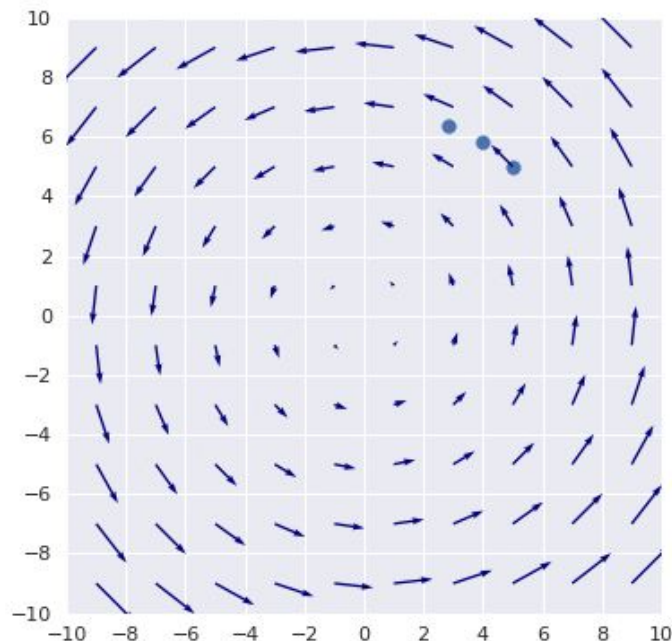
# Saddle point problems

Non-Conservative vector field  $\rightarrow$

Gradient based dynamics:

$$\boldsymbol{\theta}_{t+1} = \boldsymbol{\theta}_t - \eta \nabla_{\boldsymbol{\theta}} \mathcal{L}(\boldsymbol{\theta}_t, \phi_t)$$

$$\phi_{t+1} = \phi_t + \eta \nabla_{\phi} \mathcal{L}(\boldsymbol{\theta}_t, \phi_t)$$



Minmax training is ~~hard~~ different !

Minmax training is ~~hard~~ different !

(You can replace “minmax” with two-player games)

# “Minmax Training is Hard ..”

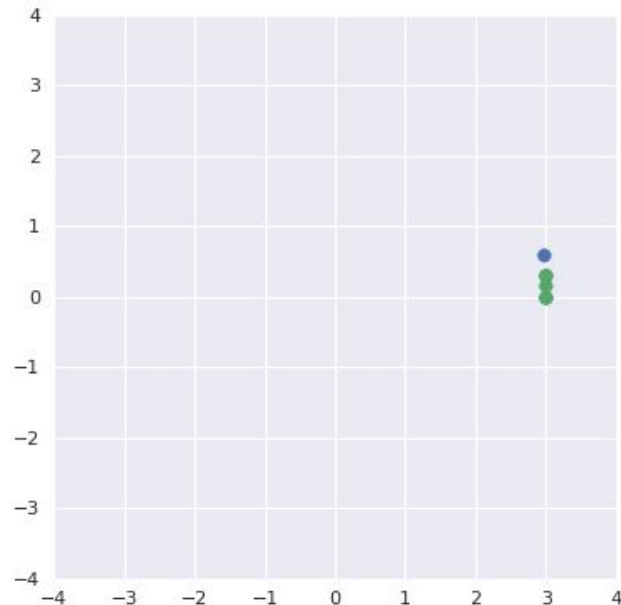
Dynamics:

$$\theta_{t+1} = \theta_t - \eta \nabla_{\theta} \mathcal{L}(\theta_t, \phi_t)$$
$$\phi_{t+1} = \phi_t + \eta \nabla_{\phi} \mathcal{L}(\theta_t, \phi_t)$$

**Bilinear** saddle point = Linear in  $\theta$  and  $\phi$   
⇒ “Cycling behavior” (see right).

Example: WGAN [Arjovsky et al. 2017] with **linear**  
**discriminator** and **generator**

$$\min_{\theta} \max_{\phi, \|f_{\phi}\|_L \leq 1} \phi^T \mathbb{E}_{x \sim p_{\mathcal{D}}} [x] - \phi^T \theta \mathbb{E}_{z \sim p_{\mathcal{Z}}} [z]$$



# Multi-player Games

# Two-player Games

Player 1

Player 2

$$\theta^* \in \arg \min_{\theta \in \Theta} \mathcal{L}^{(\theta)}(\theta, \varphi^*) \quad \text{and} \quad \varphi^* \in \arg \min_{\varphi \in \Phi} \mathcal{L}^{(\varphi)}(\theta^*, \varphi)$$

**Zero-sum** game if:  $\mathcal{L}^{(\theta)} = -\mathcal{L}^{(\varphi)}$  also called *Saddle Point* (SP).

Example: WGAN formulation [Arjovsky et al. 2017]

$$\min_{\theta} \max_{\phi, \|f_{\phi}\|_L \leq 1} \underbrace{\mathbb{E}_{x \sim p_{\mathcal{D}}} [f_{\phi}(x)] - \mathbb{E}_{z \sim p_{\mathcal{Z}}} [f_{\phi}(g_{\theta}(z))]}_{\mathcal{L}^{(\theta)} = -\mathcal{L}^{(\varphi)}}$$

# Two-player Games

Player 1

Player 2

$$\theta^* \in \arg \min_{\theta \in \Theta} \mathcal{L}^{(\theta)}(\theta, \varphi^*) \quad \text{and} \quad \varphi^* \in \arg \min_{\varphi \in \Phi} \mathcal{L}^{(\varphi)}(\theta^*, \varphi)$$

**Non zero-sum** game if we **do not** have:  $\mathcal{L}^{(\theta)} = -\mathcal{L}^{(\varphi)}$

Example: Non-saturating GAN: [Goodfellow et al. 2014]

Loss of Generator

Loss of Discriminator

$$\min_{\theta} -\mathbb{E}_{z \sim p_Z} [\log(D_{\phi}(G_{\theta}(z)))]$$

$$\max_{\phi} \mathbb{E}_{x \sim p_{\mathcal{D}}} [\log(D_{\phi}(x))] + \mathbb{E}_{z \sim p_Z} [\log(1 - D_{\phi}(G_{\theta}(z)))]$$

# Two-player Games

Player 1

Player 2

$$\theta^* \in \arg \min_{\theta \in \Theta} \mathcal{L}^{(\theta)}(\theta, \varphi^*) \quad \text{and} \quad \varphi^* \in \arg \min_{\varphi \in \Phi} \mathcal{L}^{(\varphi)}(\theta^*, \varphi)$$



- In games we want to **converge** to the Saddle Point.
- Different from **single** objective **minimization** where we want to avoid saddle points.
- ~~Saddle point~~ -> **Zero-sum game (or Minmax)**



# Variational Inequality Problem (VIP)

# Variational Inequality Problem

- Based on **stationary conditions**.
- Relates to vast literature with standard algorithms.

Nash-Equilibrium:  $\begin{cases} \theta^* = \arg \min_{\theta} L_{\theta}(\theta, \phi^*) \\ \phi^* = \arg \min_{\phi} L_{\phi}(\theta^*, \phi) \end{cases}$   $\longleftarrow$  No player can improve its cost

Stationary Conditions:  $\begin{cases} \nabla_{\theta} L_{\theta}(\theta^*, \phi^*)^T (\theta - \theta^*) \geq 0 \\ \nabla_{\phi} L_{\phi}(\theta^*, \phi^*)^T (\phi - \phi^*) \geq 0 \end{cases} \quad \forall (\theta, \phi) \in \Theta \times \Phi$

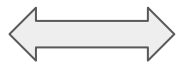
can be **constraint sets**.

# Variational Inequality Problems

Nash-Equilibrium:

$$\begin{cases} \theta^* = \arg \min_{\theta} L_{\theta}(\theta, \phi^*) \\ \phi^* = \arg \min_{\phi} L_{\phi}(\theta^*, \phi) \end{cases}$$

(under convexity  
assumption)



Stationary Conditions:

$$\begin{cases} \nabla_{\theta} L_{\theta}(\theta^*, \phi^*)^T (\theta - \theta^*) \geq 0 \\ \nabla_{\phi} L_{\phi}(\theta^*, \phi^*)^T (\phi - \phi^*) \geq 0 \end{cases} \quad \forall (\theta, \phi) \in \Theta \times \Phi$$

**Same** problem but **different** perspective.

**Joint Minimization vs. Stationary point**

# Variational Inequality Problem

Stationary Conditions: 
$$\begin{cases} \nabla_{\theta} L_{\theta}(\theta^*, \phi^*)^T (\theta - \theta^*) \geq 0 \\ \nabla_{\phi} L_{\phi}(\theta^*, \phi^*)^T (\phi - \phi^*) \geq 0 \end{cases} \quad \forall (\theta, \phi) \in \Theta \times \Phi$$

Can be written as: 
$$F(\omega) = \begin{pmatrix} \nabla_{\theta} L_{\theta}(\omega) \\ \nabla_{\phi} L_{\phi}(\omega) \end{pmatrix}$$
  
$$\omega \stackrel{\uparrow}{=} (\theta, \phi)$$

$$F(\omega^*)^T (\omega - \omega^*) \geq 0 \quad \forall \omega \in \Omega$$

$\omega^*$  solves the **Variational Inequality**

# Variational Inequality Problem

**Stationary Conditions:**  $F(\omega^*)^T (\omega - \omega^*) \geq 0 \quad \forall \omega \in \Omega$

Unconstrained (or optimum in the interior):

$$\|\nabla_{\theta} \mathcal{L}^{(\theta)}(\theta^*, \varphi^*)\| = \|\nabla_{\varphi} \mathcal{L}^{(\varphi)}(\theta^*, \varphi^*)\| = 0.$$

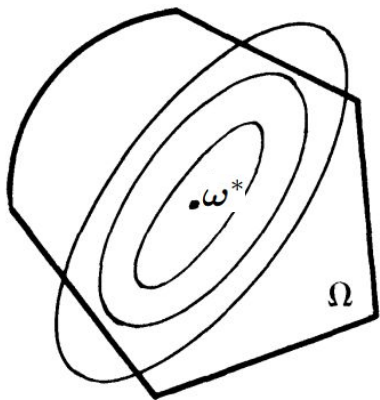


Figure from [Dunn 1979]

# Variational Inequality Problem

**Stationary Conditions:**  $F(\omega^*)^T (\omega - \omega^*) \geq 0 \quad \forall \omega \in \Omega$

Unconstrained (or  $\omega^*$  in the interior):

$$\|\nabla_{\theta} \mathcal{L}^{(\theta)}(\theta^*, \varphi^*)\| = \|\nabla_{\varphi} \mathcal{L}^{(\varphi)}(\theta^*, \varphi^*)\| = 0.$$

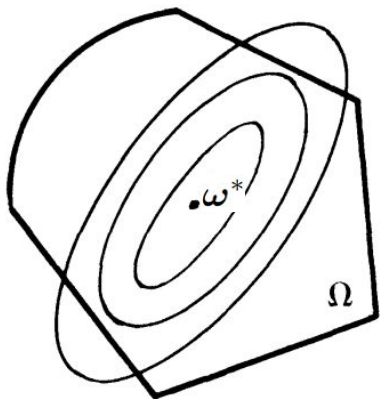


Figure from [Dunn 1979]

Constrained and  $\omega^*$  on the boundary:

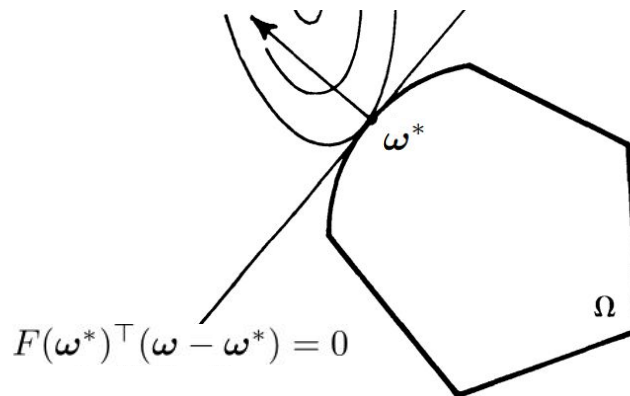


Figure from [Dunn 1979]

# Techniques to optimize VIP (Batch setting)

# Standard Algorithms from Variational Inequality

Method 1: **Averaging**

- Converge even for “cycling behavior”.
- Easy to implement. (out of the training loop)
- Can be combined with any method.

$$\bar{\omega}_T \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \frac{\sum_{t=0}^{T-1} \rho_t \omega_t}{S_T}, \quad S_T \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \sum_{t=0}^{T-1} \rho_t.$$

Averaging schemes can be efficiently implemented in an **online** fashion:

$$\bar{\omega}_t = (1 - \tilde{\rho}_t) \bar{\omega}_{t-1} + \tilde{\rho}_t \omega_t \quad \text{where} \quad 0 \leq \tilde{\rho}_t \leq 1.$$



# Standard Algorithms from Variational Inequality

Method 1: **Averaging**

- **Converge** even for “cycling behavior”.
- Easy to implement. (out of the training loop)
- Can be combined with any method.

General Online averaging:

$$\bar{\omega}_t = (1 - \tilde{\rho}_t)\bar{\omega}_{t-1} + \tilde{\rho}_t\omega_t \quad \text{where} \quad 0 \leq \tilde{\rho}_t \leq 1.$$

Example 1: **Uniform** averaging

$$\tilde{\rho}_t = \frac{1}{t}, t \geq 0 : \quad \bar{\omega}_T = \frac{1}{T} \sum_{k=0}^{T-1} \omega_k$$

Example 2:

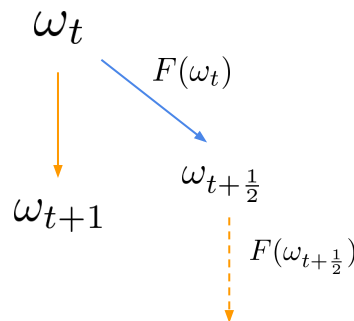
**Exponential moving**  
averaging (EMA)

$$\tilde{\rho}_t = 1 - \beta < 1, t \geq 0 : \quad \bar{\omega}_T = (1 - \beta) \sum_{t=1}^T \beta^{T-t} \omega_t + \beta^T \omega_0$$

# Standard Algorithms from Variational Inequality

## Method 2: **Extragradient**

- Step 1:  $\omega_{t+\frac{1}{2}} = \omega_t - \gamma_t F(\omega_t)$
- Step 2:  $\omega_{t+1} = \omega_t - \gamma_t F(\omega_{t+\frac{1}{2}})$



- **Standard** in the literature.
- Does not require *averaging*.
- *Theoretically and empirically faster.*

## **Intuition:**

1. Game perspective: Look one step in the future and anticipate next move of adversary.

# Frank-Wolfe Algorithm for Saddle Point Problems

Based on an AISTATS paper [Gidel et al. 2017].  
Joint work with Tony Jebara and Simon Lacoste-Julien

# Saddle point problems

$$\min_{\theta \in \Theta} \max_{\phi \in \Phi} \mathcal{L}(\theta, \phi)$$

Smooth, **differentiable** cost function,

→ Compact **constraints** sets.

→ Looking for stationary (fixed) points

→ Gradient ~~descent~~ **method**.

# Saddle point problems

$$\min_{\theta \in \Theta} \max_{\phi \in \Phi} \mathcal{L}(\theta, \phi)$$

Smooth, **differentiable** cost function,

- Compact **constraints** sets. → **Need to project ?**
- Looking for stationary (fixed) points
- Gradient ~~descent~~ **method.**

# Projection-free Method

(Extra-)Gradient method:

- Require **Projection**
- Each projection is a **quadratic** problem

$$P_{\Omega}[\omega] := \min_{\omega' \in \Omega} \|\omega - \omega'\|_2^2$$

- Might be too expensive if the constraints set is **structured**.
- May use instead **projection-free** methods.
- Frank-Wolfe is projection-free.
- It only requires to solve **linear** problem.

$$\text{LMO}[\mathbf{v}] := \min_{\omega \in \Omega} \omega^{\top} \mathbf{v}$$

Projection may be challenging.

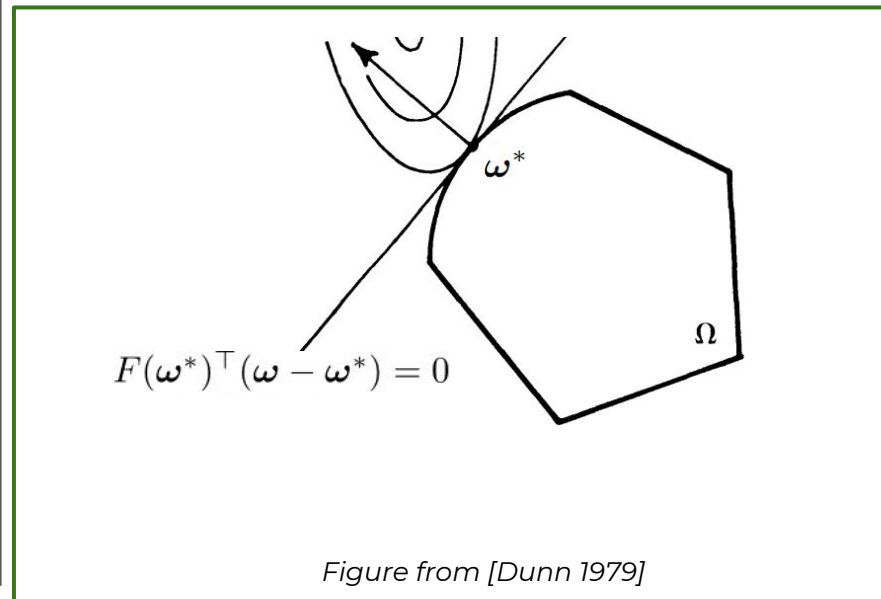


Figure from [Dunn 1979]

# Projection-free Method

(Extra-)Gradient method:

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- Frank-Wolfe is projection-free.
- It only requires to solve **linear** problem.

$$\text{LMO}[v] := \min_{\omega \in \Omega} \omega^T v$$



Example of problem with expensive projection:

The *structured SVM*:

$$\min_{\omega \in \mathbb{R}^d} \lambda \Omega(\omega) + \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \underbrace{\max_{y \in \mathcal{Y}_i} (L_i(y) - \langle \omega, \phi_i(y) \rangle)}_{\text{structured hinge loss}}$$

Regularization: **penalized**  $\rightarrow$  **constrained**.

$$\min_{\Omega(\omega) \leq \beta} \max_{\alpha \in \Delta(|\mathcal{Y}|)} b^T \alpha - \omega^T M \alpha$$

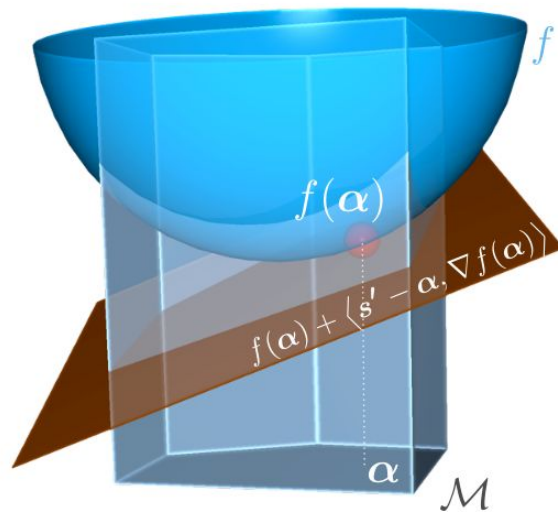
# Projection-free Method

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## Algorithm Frank-Wolfe algorithm

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- 1: Let  $\mathbf{x}^{(0)} \in \mathcal{X}$
  - 2: **for**  $t = 0 \dots T$  **do**
  - 3:   **Compute**  $\mathbf{r}^{(t)} = \nabla f(\mathbf{x}^{(t)})$
  - 4:   Compute  $\mathbf{s}^{(t)} \in \operatorname{argmin}_{\mathbf{s} \in \mathcal{X}} \langle \mathbf{s}, \mathbf{r}^{(t)} \rangle$
  - 5:   Compute  $g_t := \langle \mathbf{x}^{(t)} - \mathbf{s}^{(t)}, \mathbf{r}^{(t)} \rangle$
  - 6:   **if**  $g_t \leq \epsilon$  **then return**  $\mathbf{x}^{(t)}$
  - 7:   Let  $\gamma = \frac{2}{2+t}$  (or do line-search)
  - 8:   Update  $\mathbf{x}^{(t+1)} := (1-\gamma)\mathbf{x}^{(t)} + \gamma\mathbf{s}^{(t)}$
  - 9: **end for**
- 





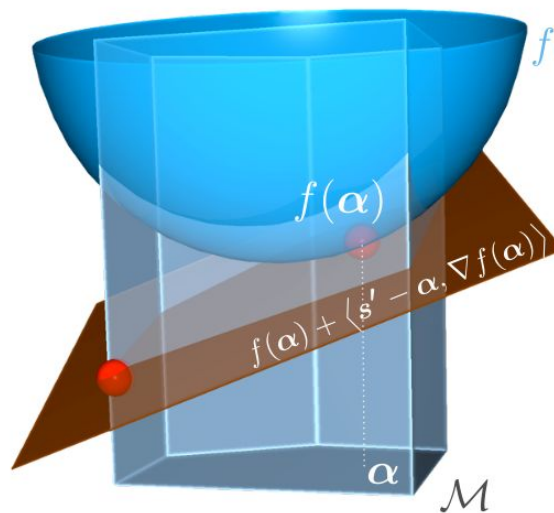
# Projection-free Method

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**Algorithm** Frank-Wolfe algorithm

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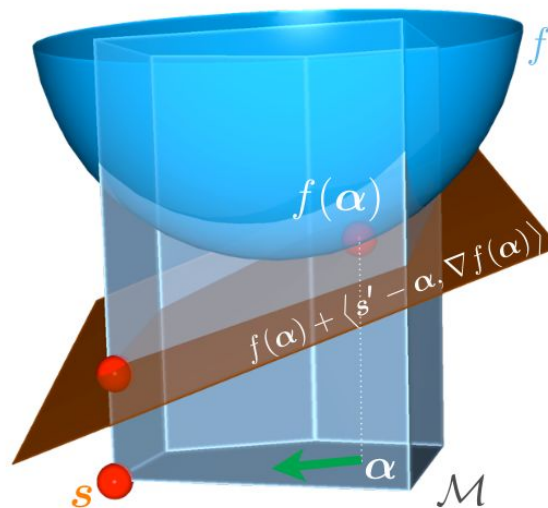
# Projection-free Method

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**Algorithm** Frank-Wolfe algorithm

---

- 1: Let  $\mathbf{x}^{(0)} \in \mathcal{X}$
  - 2: **for**  $t = 0 \dots T$  **do**
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  - 8:   Update  $\mathbf{x}^{(t+1)} := (1-\gamma)\mathbf{x}^{(t)} + \gamma\mathbf{s}^{(t)}$
  - 9: **end for**
- 



# Projection-free Method for Saddle Point

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**Algorithm** Saddle point FW algorithm

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- 1: Let  $\mathbf{z}^{(0)} = (\mathbf{x}^{(0)}, \mathbf{y}^{(0)}) \in \mathcal{X} \times \mathcal{Y}$
  - 2: **for**  $t = 0 \dots T$  **do**
  - 3:   **Compute**  $\mathbf{r}^{(t)} := \begin{pmatrix} \nabla_x \mathcal{L}(\mathbf{x}^{(t)}, \mathbf{y}^{(t)}) \\ -\nabla_y \mathcal{L}(\mathbf{x}^{(t)}, \mathbf{y}^{(t)}) \end{pmatrix}$
  - 4:   **Compute**  $\mathbf{s}^{(t)} \in \underset{\mathbf{z} \in \mathcal{X} \times \mathcal{Y}}{\operatorname{argmin}} \langle \mathbf{z}, \mathbf{r}^{(t)} \rangle$
  - 5:   **Compute**  $g_t := \langle \mathbf{z}^{(t)} - \mathbf{s}^{(t)}, \mathbf{r}^{(t)} \rangle$
  - 6:   **if**  $g_t \leq \epsilon$  **then return**  $\mathbf{z}^{(t)}$
  - 7:   Let  $\gamma = \min(1, \frac{\nu}{C} g_t)$  **or**  $\gamma = \frac{2}{2+t}$
  - 8:   Update  $\mathbf{z}^{(t+1)} := (1 - \gamma)\mathbf{z}^{(t)} + \gamma\mathbf{s}^{(t)}$
  - 9: **end for**
-

# Theoretical Contributions

SP extension of FW with *away step*:

*Convergence:*

*Linear* rate with *adaptive* step size.  
*Sublinear* rate with *universal* step size.

- ▶ Similar hypothesis as AFW for linear convergence:
  1. Strong convexity and smoothness of the function.
  2.  $\mathcal{X}$  and  $\mathcal{Y}$  polytopes.
- ▶ Additional assumption on the bilinearity.

$$\mathcal{L}(\boldsymbol{\theta}, \boldsymbol{\phi}) = f(\boldsymbol{\theta}) + \boldsymbol{\theta}^\top M \boldsymbol{\phi} - g(\boldsymbol{\phi})$$

$\|M\|$  smaller than the strong convexity constant.

- ▶ Proof use recent advances on AFW.

Partially answering a **30 years old conjecture** [Hammond 1984]

# Negative Momentum for Improved Game Dynamics

Based on an AISTATS submission [Gidel et al. 2018b].

Joint work with Reyhane Askari Hemmat, Mohammad Pezeshki, Rémi Le Priol, Gabriel Huang, Simon Lacoste-Julien and Ioannis Mitliagkas

# Two-player Games

## Nash Equilibrium

$$\theta^* \in \arg \min_{\theta \in \Theta} \mathcal{L}^{(\theta)}(\theta, \varphi^*)$$

$$\varphi^* \in \arg \min_{\varphi \in \Phi} \mathcal{L}^{(\varphi)}(\theta^*, \varphi)$$

Smooth, differentiable L  
→ Looking for local Nash equil.

→ Gradient method:  
→ **Simultaneous**  
→ **Alternating**

# Two-player Games

**Simultaneous  
Updates:**

$$\begin{aligned}\theta_{t+1} &= \theta_t - \eta \nabla_{\theta} \mathcal{L}^{(\theta)}(\theta_t, \phi_t) \\ \phi_{t+1} &= \phi_t - \eta \nabla_{\phi} \mathcal{L}^{(\phi)}(\theta_t, \phi_t)\end{aligned}$$

**Alternating  
Updates:**

$$\begin{aligned}\theta_{t+1} &= \theta_t - \eta \nabla_{\theta} \mathcal{L}^{(\theta)}(\theta_t, \phi_t) \\ \phi_{t+1} &= \phi_t - \eta \nabla_{\phi} \mathcal{L}^{(\phi)}(\theta_{t+1}, \phi_t)\end{aligned}$$

# First contribution: Bilinear game

$$\min_{\theta} \max_{\varphi} \theta^{\top} A \varphi$$

Method	$\beta$	Bounded	Converges
Simultaneous	$\beta \in \mathbb{R}$	$\times$	$\times$
Alternated	$>0$	$\times$	$\times$
	$0$	$\checkmark$	$\times$
	$<0$	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$



# “Proof by picture”

Gradient descent

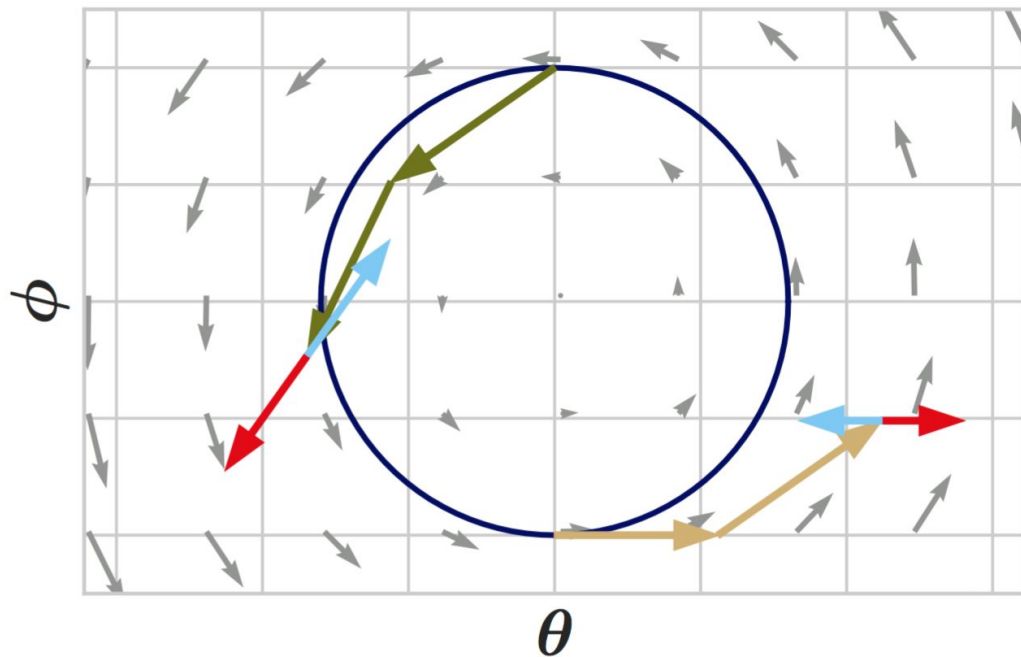
→ **Simultaneous**

→ **Alternating**

Momentum

→ **Positive**

→ **Negative**



# Second contribution: Game dynamics

$$\boldsymbol{\theta}_{t+1} = \boldsymbol{\theta}_t - \eta \nabla_{\boldsymbol{\theta}} \mathcal{L}^{(\boldsymbol{\theta})}(\boldsymbol{\theta}_t, \boldsymbol{\phi}_t)$$

$$\boldsymbol{\phi}_{t+1} = \boldsymbol{\phi}_t - \eta \nabla_{\boldsymbol{\phi}} \mathcal{L}^{(\boldsymbol{\phi})}(\boldsymbol{\theta}_t, \boldsymbol{\phi}_t)$$

$$\boldsymbol{v}(\boldsymbol{\varphi}, \boldsymbol{\theta}) := \begin{bmatrix} \nabla_{\boldsymbol{\varphi}} \mathcal{L}^{(\boldsymbol{\varphi})}(\boldsymbol{\varphi}, \boldsymbol{\theta}) \\ \nabla_{\boldsymbol{\theta}} \mathcal{L}^{(\boldsymbol{\theta})}(\boldsymbol{\varphi}, \boldsymbol{\theta}) \end{bmatrix}$$

$$F_{\eta}(\boldsymbol{\varphi}, \boldsymbol{\theta}) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} [\boldsymbol{\varphi} \quad \boldsymbol{\theta}]^{\top} - \eta \boldsymbol{v}(\boldsymbol{\varphi}, \boldsymbol{\theta})$$

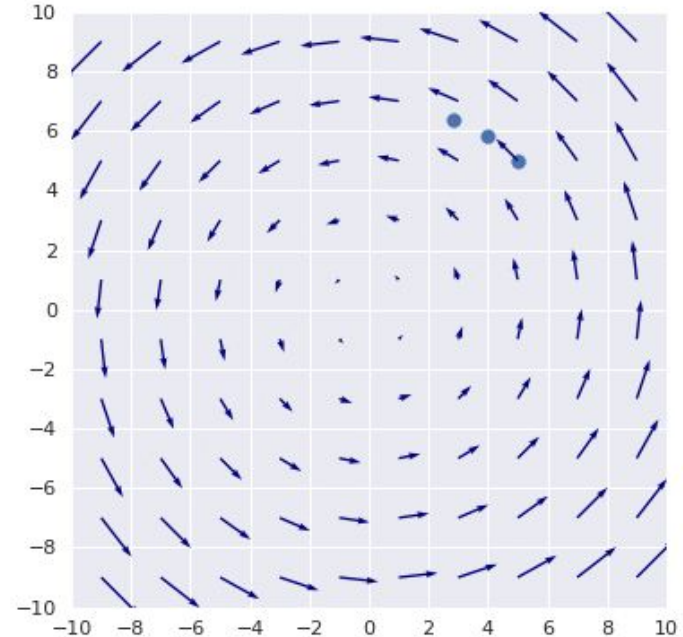
# Game dynamics under gradient descent

$$F_{\eta}(\varphi, \theta) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} [\varphi \quad \theta]^{\top} - \eta \mathbf{v}(\varphi, \theta)$$

**Jacobian is non-symmetric, with complex eigenvalues  $\rightarrow$  Rotations in decision space**

Momentum can manipulate the eigenvalues of the Jacobian.

Can momentum help/hurt??



# Spoiler

Positive momentum can be bad for adversarial games

Practice that was very common when GANs were first invented.

- Recent work reduced the momentum parameter.
- Not an accident

# Momentum on games

Recall Polyak's momentum (on top of simultaneous grad. desc.):

$$\mathbf{x}_{t+1} = \mathbf{x}_t - \eta \mathbf{v}(\mathbf{x}_t) + \beta(\mathbf{x}_t - \mathbf{x}_{t-1}), \quad \mathbf{x}_t = (\boldsymbol{\theta}_t, \phi_t)$$

Fixed point operator requires a **state augmentation**:  
(because we need previous iterate)

$$F_{\eta, \beta}(\mathbf{x}_t, \mathbf{x}_{t-1}) := \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{I}_n & \mathbf{0}_n \\ \mathbf{I}_n & \mathbf{0}_n \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{x}_t \\ \mathbf{x}_{t-1} \end{bmatrix} - \eta \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{v}(\mathbf{x}_t) \\ \mathbf{0}_n \end{bmatrix} + \beta \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{I}_n & -\mathbf{I}_n \\ \mathbf{0}_n & \mathbf{0}_n \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{x}_t \\ \mathbf{x}_{t-1} \end{bmatrix}$$

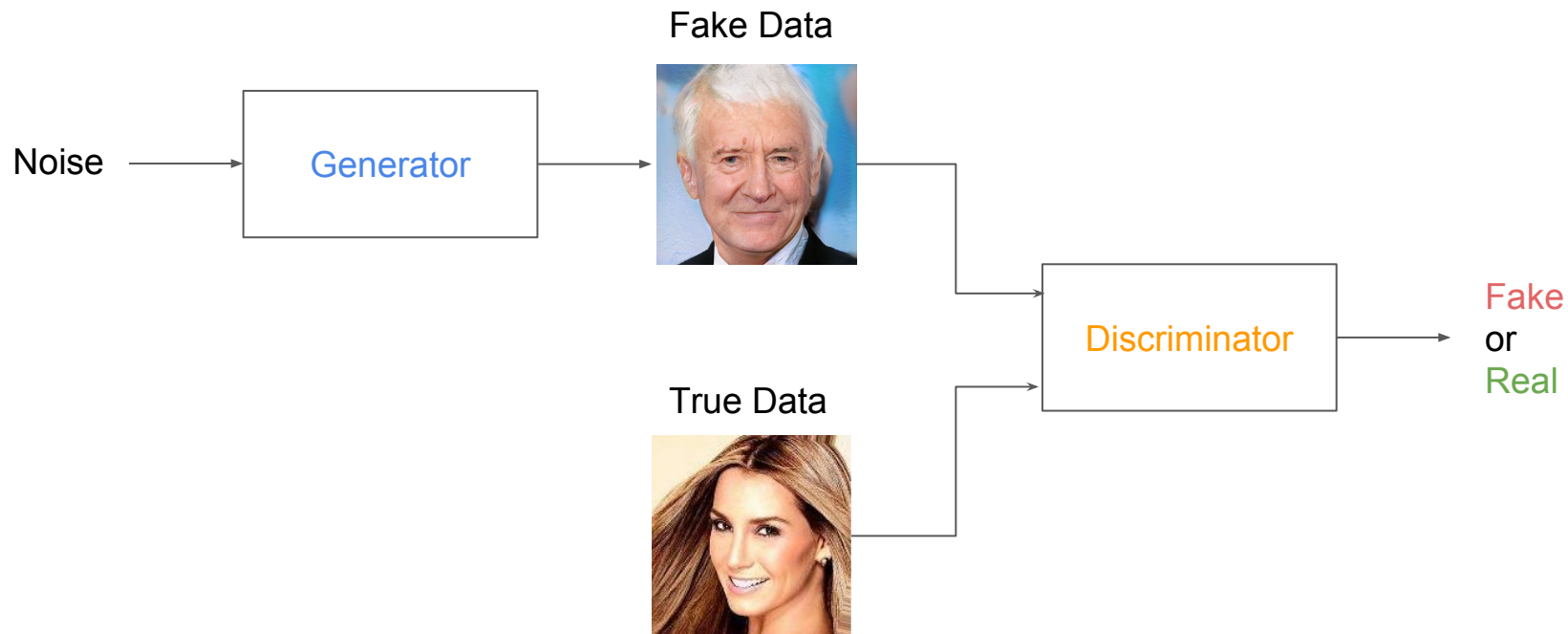
# A Variational Inequality Perspective on GANs

Based on an ICLR submission [Gidel et al. 2018a].  
Joint work with Hugo Berard, Gaëtan Vignoud, Pascal Vincent, Simon Lacoste-Julien

Quick recap on Generative Adversarial  
Networks (GANs)  
(and two-player games)

# Generative Adversarial Networks (GANs)

[Goodfellow et al. NIPS 2014]





# Generative Adversarial Networks (GANs)

[Goodfellow et al. NIPS 2014]

$$\min_{\theta} \max_{\phi} \underbrace{\mathbb{E}_{x \sim p_{\mathcal{D}}} [\log(D_{\phi}(x))] + \mathbb{E}_{z \sim p_{\mathcal{Z}}} [\log(1 - D_{\phi}(G_{\theta}(z)))]}_{\text{Discriminator}} \quad \text{Generator}$$

If  $\mathcal{D}$  is non-parametric:  $L(\theta) = \text{JSD}(p_{\mathcal{D}} || p_{\theta})$

Non-saturating GAN: “much stronger gradient in early learning”

$$\underbrace{\min_{\theta} -\mathbb{E}_{z \sim p_{\mathcal{Z}}} [\log(D_{\phi}(G_{\theta}(z)))]}_{\text{Loss of Generator}} \quad \underbrace{\max_{\phi} \mathbb{E}_{x \sim p_{\mathcal{D}}} [\log(D_{\phi}(x))] + \mathbb{E}_{z \sim p_{\mathcal{Z}}} [\log(1 - D_{\phi}(G_{\theta}(z)))]}_{\text{Loss of Discriminator}}$$

# Two-player Games

Player 1

Player 2

$$\theta^* \in \arg \min_{\theta \in \Theta} \mathcal{L}^{(\theta)}(\theta, \varphi^*) \quad \text{and} \quad \varphi^* \in \arg \min_{\varphi \in \Phi} \mathcal{L}^{(\varphi)}(\theta^*, \varphi)$$

**Non zero-sum** game if we **do not** have:  $\mathcal{L}^{(\theta)} = -\mathcal{L}^{(\varphi)}$

Example: Non-saturating GAN: [Goodfellow et al. 2014]

Loss of Generator

Loss of Discriminator

$$\min_{\theta} -\mathbb{E}_{z \sim p_Z} [\log(D_{\phi}(G_{\theta}(z)))]$$

$$\max_{\phi} \mathbb{E}_{x \sim p_D} [\log(D_{\phi}(x))] + \mathbb{E}_{z \sim p_Z} [\log(1 - D_{\phi}(G_{\theta}(z)))]$$

# GANs as a Variational Inequality

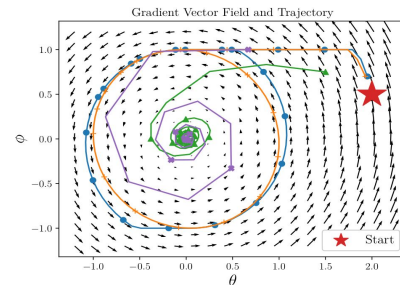
## Takeaways:

- GAN can be formulated as a **Variational Inequality**.
- Encompass most of GANs formulations.
- **Standard algorithms** from Variational Inequality can be used for GANs.
- **Theoretical Guarantees** (for convex and stochastic cost functions).

$$\begin{cases} \theta^* = \arg \min_{\theta} L_{\theta}(\theta, \phi^*) \\ \phi^* = \arg \min_{\phi} L_{\phi}(\theta^*, \phi) \end{cases}$$



$$F(\omega^*)^T (\omega - \omega^*) \geq 0 \quad \forall \omega \in \Omega$$



# Standard Algorithms from Variational Inequality

Method 1: **Averaging**

- **Converge** even for “cycling behavior”.
- Easy to implement. (out of the training loop)
- Can be combined with any method.

General Online averaging:  $\bar{\omega}_t = (1 - \tilde{\rho}_t)\bar{\omega}_{t-1} + \tilde{\rho}_t\omega_t$  where  $0 \leq \tilde{\rho}_t \leq 1$ .

**Example 1: Uniform averaging**  $\tilde{\rho}_t = \frac{1}{t}, t \geq 0 : \bar{\omega}_T = \frac{1}{T} \sum_{k=0}^{T-1} \omega_k$

Example 2:

**Exponential moving averaging (EMA)**

$$\tilde{\rho}_t = 1 - \beta < 1, t \geq 0 : \bar{\omega}_T = (1 - \beta) \sum_{t=1}^T \beta^{T-t} \omega_t + \beta^T \omega_0$$

# Standard Algorithms from Variational Inequality

Method 1: **Averaging**

Simple Minmax problem:  $\min_{\theta \in \mathbb{R}} \max_{\phi \in \mathbb{R}} \theta \cdot \phi \implies (\theta^*, \phi^*) = (0, 0)$ .

Simultaneous update:  $\begin{cases} \theta_{t+1} = \theta_t - \eta\phi_t \\ \phi_{t+1} = \phi_t + \eta\theta_t \end{cases}$ ,      Alternated update:  $\begin{cases} \theta_{t+1} = \theta_t - \eta\phi_t \\ \phi_{t+1} = \phi_t + \eta\theta_{t+1} \end{cases}$

# Standard Algorithms from Variational Inequality

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$$(\bar{\theta}_T, \bar{\phi}_T) := \frac{1}{T} \sum_{k=0}^{T-1} (\theta_k, \phi_k) \rightarrow \infty$$

$$(\theta_T, \phi_T) \rightarrow \infty$$

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$$0 < m \leq \|\theta_T, \phi_T\| \leq M \quad | \quad (\bar{\theta}_T, \bar{\phi}_T) \rightarrow (0, 0)$$

# Standard Algorithms from Variational Inequality

Method 1: **Averaging**

$$\min_{\theta \in \mathbb{R}} \max_{\phi \in \mathbb{R}} \theta \cdot \phi \quad \Longrightarrow \quad (\theta^*, \phi^*) = (0, 0).$$

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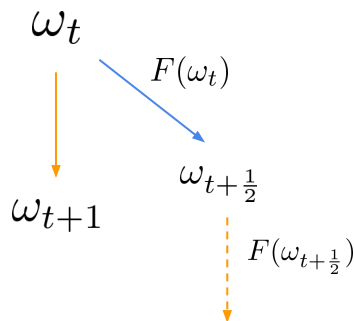
$$0 < m \leq \|\theta_T, \phi_T\| \leq M \quad (\bar{\theta}_T, \bar{\phi}_T) \rightarrow (0, 0)$$

# Standard Algorithms from Variational Inequality

## Method 2: **Extragradient**

- Step 1:  $\omega_{t+\frac{1}{2}} = \omega_t - \gamma_t F(\omega_t)$

- Step 2:  $\omega_{t+1} = \omega_t - \gamma_t F(\omega_{t+\frac{1}{2}})$



- **Standard** in the literature.
- Does not require *averaging*.
- *Theoretically and empirically faster.*

## **Intuition:**

1. Game perspective: Look one step in the future and anticipate next move of adversary.
2. Euler's method: Extrapolation is close to an **implicit** method because  $\omega_{t+1/2} \approx \omega_{t+1}$

$$\omega_{t+1} - \omega_{t+1/2} = O(\gamma_t^2)$$



# Standard Algorithms from Variational Inequality

## Method 2: **Extragradient**

**Intuition:** *Extrapolation is close to an **implicit** method because  $\omega_{t+1/2} \approx \omega_{t+1}$*

Implicit step:  $\omega_{t+1} = \omega_t - \eta F(\omega_{t+1})$

*Unknown:*  
Require to solve a  
non-linear system

# Standard Algorithms from Variational Inequality

Method 2: **Extragradient**

**Intuition:** *Extrapolation is close to an **implicit** method*

$$\min_{\theta \in \mathbb{R}} \max_{\phi \in \mathbb{R}} \theta \cdot \phi \quad \text{and} \quad (\theta^*, \phi^*) = (0, 0).$$

$$\text{Implicit: } \begin{cases} \theta_{t+1} = \theta_t - \eta \phi_{t+1} \\ \phi_{t+1} = \phi_t + \eta \theta_{t+1} \end{cases}, \quad \text{Extrapolation: } \begin{cases} \theta_{t+1} = \theta_t - \eta(\phi_t + \eta \theta_t) \\ \phi_{t+1} = \phi_t + \eta(\theta_t - \eta \phi_t) \end{cases}. \quad (*)$$

**Proposition 2.** *The squared norm of the iterates  $N_t \stackrel{\text{uej}}{=} \theta_t^2 + \phi_t^2$ , where the update rule of  $\theta_t$  and  $\phi_t$  are defined in  $(*)$ , decreases geometrically for any  $\eta < 1$  as,*

$$\text{Implicit: } N_{t+1} = (1 - \eta^2 + \eta^4 + \mathcal{O}(\eta^6))N_t, \quad \text{Extrapolation: } N_{t+1} = (1 - \eta^2 + \eta^4)N_t.$$

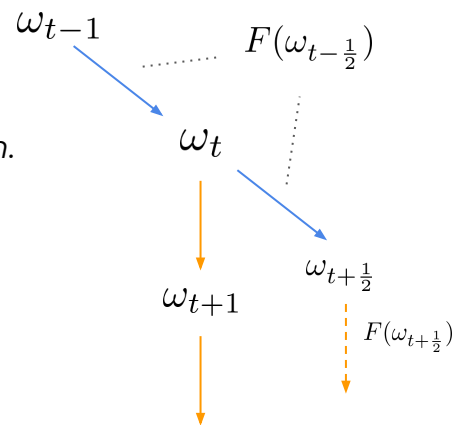
almost the same

# Extrapolation from the past: Re-using the gradients

**Problem:** Extragradient requires to compute **two** gradients at each step.

**Solution:** **Extrapolation from the past** ← **Re-use** gradient.

- Step 1:  $\omega_{t+\frac{1}{2}} = \omega_t - \gamma_t F(\omega_{t-\frac{1}{2}})$  ← **Re-use** from previous iteration.
- Step 2:  $\omega_{t+1} = \omega_t - \gamma_t F(\omega_{t+\frac{1}{2}})$  ← (same as **extragradient**).

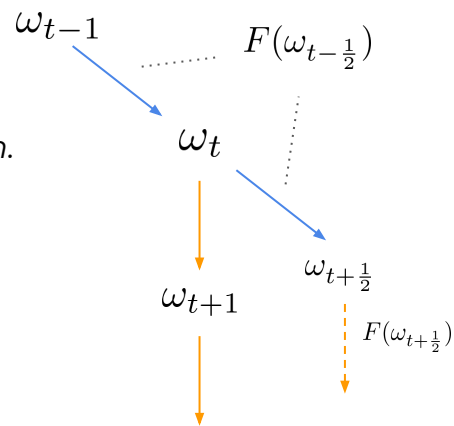


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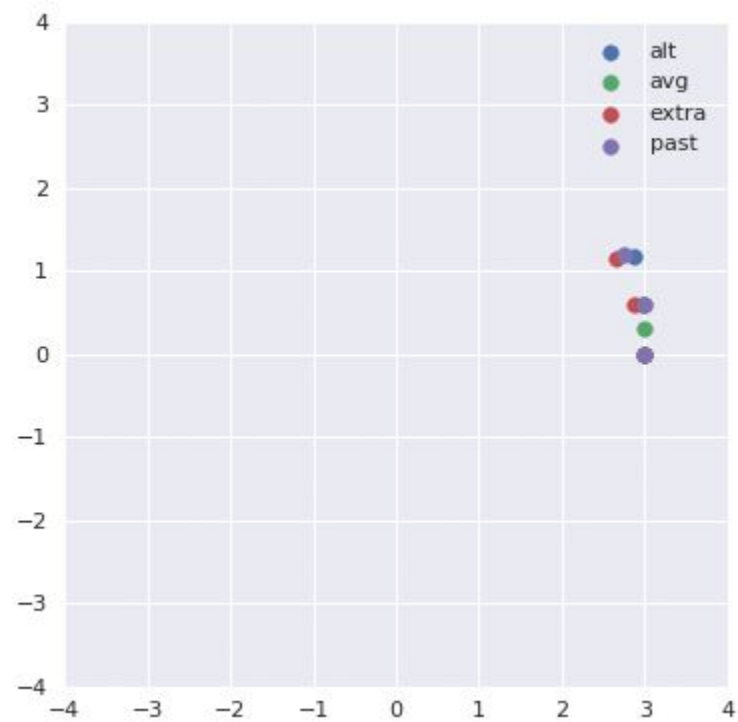
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- Step 1:  $\omega_{t+\frac{1}{2}} = \omega_t - \gamma_t F(\omega_{t-\frac{1}{2}})$  ← **Re-use** from previous iteration.
- Step 2:  $\omega_{t+1} = \omega_t - \gamma_t F(\omega_{t+\frac{1}{2}})$  ← (same as **extragradient**).

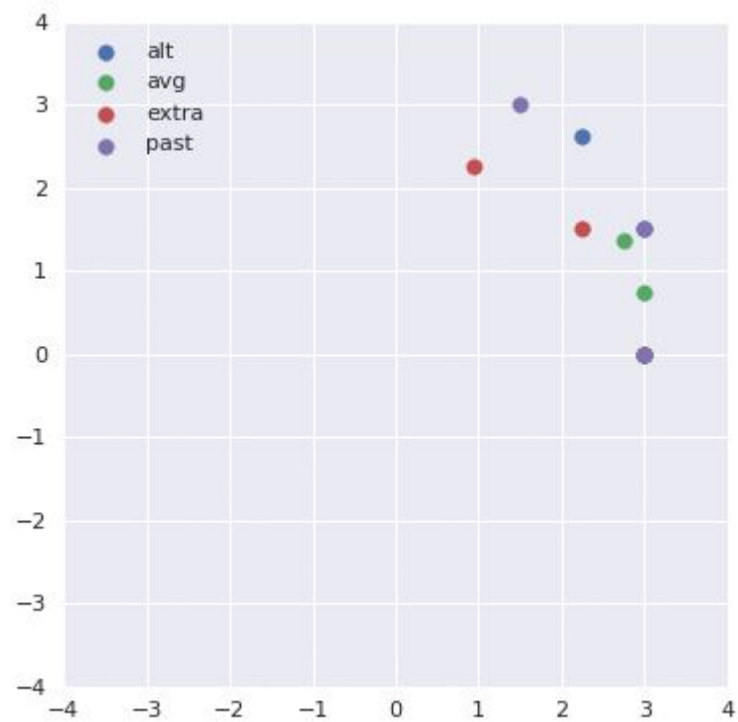


Related to [Daskalakis et al., 2018]

step-size = 0.2



step-size = 0.5

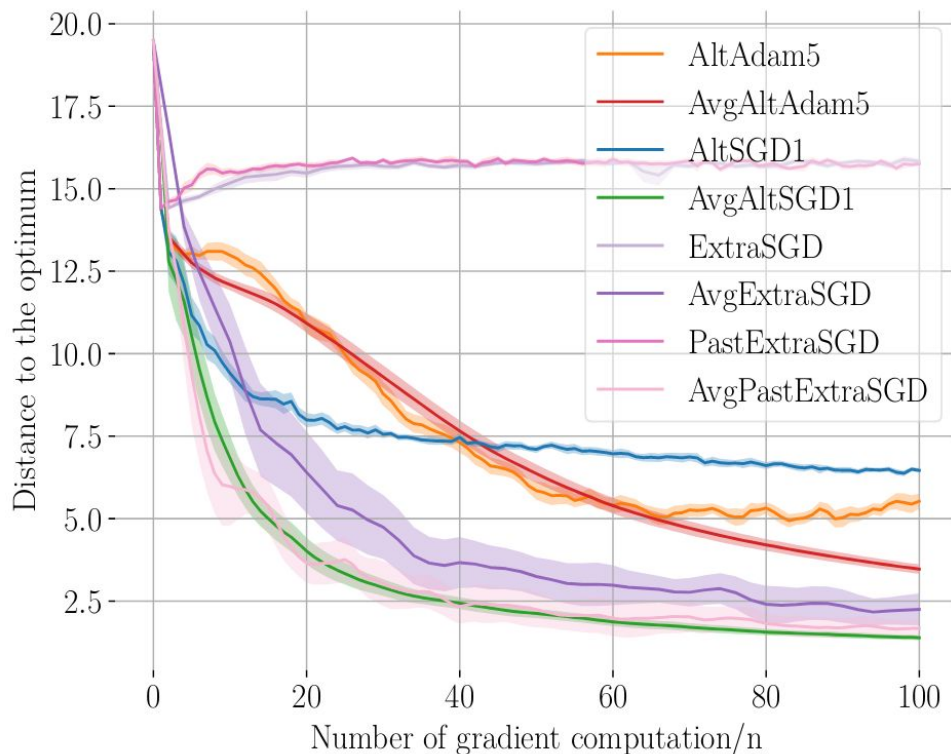


# Experimental Results

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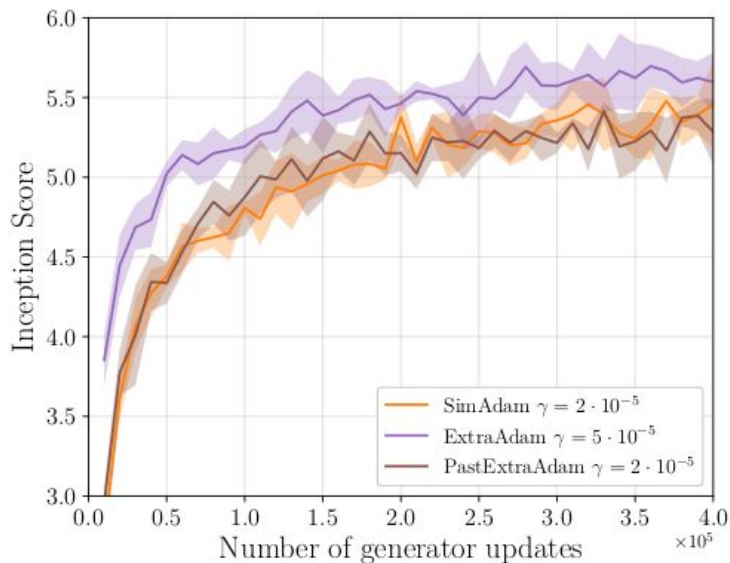
**Bilinear Stochastic Objective:**

$$\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \left( \mathbf{x}^\top \mathbf{M}^{(i)} \mathbf{y} + \mathbf{x}^\top \mathbf{a}^{(i)} + \mathbf{y}^\top \mathbf{b}^{(i)} \right).$$



# Experimental Results: WGAN (DCGAN) on CIFAR10

Inception Score vs  
**nb of generator updates**



Inception Score on CIFAR10

Model	WGAN		
	no averaging	uniform avg	EMA
SimAdam	$6.05 \pm .12$	$5.83 \pm .16$	$6.08 \pm .10$
AltAdam5	$5.45 \pm .08$	$5.72 \pm .06$	$5.49 \pm .05$
ExtraAdam	<b><math>6.38 \pm .09</math></b>	<b><math>6.38 \pm .20</math></b>	<b><math>6.37 \pm .08</math></b>
PastExtraAdam	$5.98 \pm 0.15$	$6.07 \pm 0.19$	$6.01 \pm 0.11$
OptimAdam	$5.74 \pm 0.10$	$5.80 \pm 0.08$	$5.78 \pm 0.05$

↑  
**Extragradient Methods**

↑  
**Averaging**



---

**Algorithm 4** Extra-Adam: proposed Adam with extrapolation step.

---

**input:** step-size  $\eta$ , decay rates for moment estimates  $\beta_1, \beta_2$ , access to the stochastic gradients  $\nabla \ell_t(\cdot)$  and to the projection  $P_\Omega[\cdot]$  onto the constraint set  $\Omega$ , initial parameter  $\omega_0$ , averaging scheme  $(\rho_t)_{t \geq 1}$   
**for**  $t = 0 \dots T - 1$  **do**

**Option 1: Standard extrapolation.**

Sample new minibatch and compute stochastic gradient:  $g_t \leftarrow \nabla \ell_t(\omega_t)$

**Option 2: Extrapolation from the past**

Load previously saved stochastic gradient:  $g_t = \nabla \ell_{t-1/2}(\omega_{t-1/2})$

Update estimate of first moment for extrapolation:  $m_{t-1/2} \leftarrow \beta_1 m_{t-1} + (1 - \beta_1) g_t$

Update estimate of second moment for extrapolation:  $v_{t-1/2} \leftarrow \beta_2 v_{t-1} + (1 - \beta_2) g_t^2$

Correct the bias for the moments:  $\hat{m}_{t-1/2} \leftarrow m_{t-1/2} / (1 - \beta_1^{2t-1}), \hat{v}_{t-1/2} \leftarrow v_{t-1/2} / (1 - \beta_2^{2t-1})$

Perform *extrapolation* step from iterate at time  $t$ :  $\omega_{t-1/2} \leftarrow P_\Omega[\omega_t - \eta \frac{m_{t-1/2}}{\sqrt{v_{t-1/2} + \epsilon}}]$

Sample new minibatch and compute stochastic gradient:  $g_{t+1/2} \leftarrow \nabla \ell_{t+1/2}(\omega_{t+1/2})$

Update estimate of first moment:  $m_t \leftarrow \beta_1 m_{t-1/2} + (1 - \beta_1) g_{t+1/2}$

Update estimate of second moment:  $v_t \leftarrow \beta_2 v_{t-1/2} + (1 - \beta_2) g_{t+1/2}^2$

Compute bias corrected for first and second moment:  $\hat{m}_t \leftarrow m_t / (1 - \beta_1^{2t}), \hat{v}_t \leftarrow v_t / (1 - \beta_2^{2t})$

Perform *update* step from the iterate at time  $t$ :  $\omega_{t+1} \leftarrow P_\Omega[\omega_t - \eta \frac{\hat{m}_t}{\sqrt{\hat{v}_t + \epsilon}}]$

**end for**

**Output:**  $\omega_{T-1/2}, \omega_T$  or  $\bar{\omega}_T = \sum_{t=0}^{T-1} \rho_{t+1} \omega_{t+1/2} / \sum_{t=0}^{T-1} \rho_{t+1}$  (see (8) for online averaging)

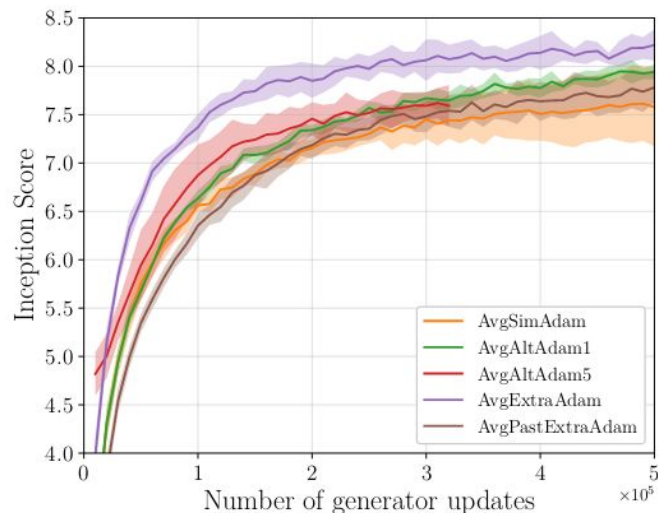
---

Extrapolation  
(Adam style)

Update  
(Adam style)

# Experimental Results: WGAN-GP (ResNet) on CIFAR10

Inception Score vs  
**Number of**



Model	WGAN-GP (ResNet)	
Method	no averaging	uniform avg
SimAdam	$7.54 \pm .21$	$7.74 \pm .27$
AltAdam5	$7.20 \pm .06$	$7.67 \pm .15$
ExtraAdam	$7.79 \pm .09$	<b><math>8.26 \pm .12</math></b>
PastExtraAdam	$7.71 \pm .12$	$7.84 \pm .18$
OptimAdam	$7.80 \pm .07$	<b><math>7.99 \pm .12</math></b>

↑  
**Extragradient Methods**

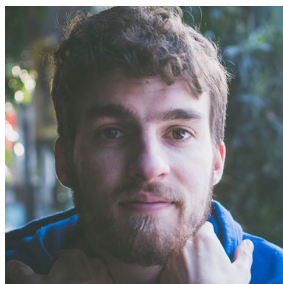
↑  
**Averaging**

# Conclusion

- Training of adversarial formulations has been a recurrent issue in modern ML.
- Impact of **non-convexity** and **stochasticity** are less understood than in the single objective minimization.
- A better understanding of this framework is **key** to design new optimization algorithms.
- We provided **tools** to better understand saddle point problem, multi-player games and more generally variational inequalities.
- However, we **just scratched the surface** .

# Thank you !

Hugo Berard



Reyhane  
Askari Hemmat



Gaëtan Vignoud



Gabriel Huang



Rémi Le priol



Mohammad  
Pezeshki



Ioannis  
Mitliagkas



Simon  
Lacoste-Julien



Pascal Vincent



Tony Jebara



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Gauthier Gidel,  
Mila Tea Talk, October 26, 2018

