

Distributed constrained optimization under time-varying multi-agent interactions

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Joint work with **Minghui Zhu** (UCSD)

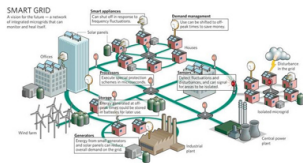
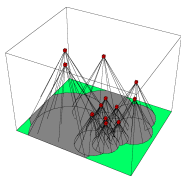
Multi-agent systems and distributed coordination

Common features:

- A common global objective
- Lack of a centralized authority
- Time-varying communication network topologies

Desired algorithms:

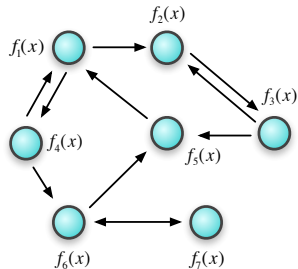
- Distributed decision-making utilizing local information
- Robust to dynamical changes of network topologies



Distributed cooperative optimization

Problem ingredients:

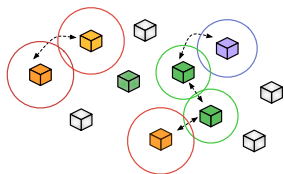
- A group of agents $V := \{1, \dots, N\}$
- **Local** objective functions $f_i(x, p_i) \equiv f_i(x)$
- **Global** decision vector $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$, $n < dN$
- **Global** constraint functions $g(x), h(x)$
- **Local** constraint sets $X_i, i \in V$



General optimization problem:

$$\min_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n} \sum_{i \in V} f_i(x), \quad \text{s.t. } g(x) \leq 0, h(x) = 0, x \in X_i, i \in V$$

Network model



A **directed weighted** graph
 $\mathcal{G}(k) := \{V, A(k), E(k)\}$

- **Adjacency matrix:**
 $A(k) := [a_j^i(k)] \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}^{N \times N}$
- The set of edges with $a_j^i(k) > 0$: $E(k)$

Assumptions:

- **Non-degeneracy:** $a_i^i(k) \geq \alpha > 0$ and $a_j^i(k) \in \{0\} \cup [\alpha, 1]$
- **Balanced communication:** $\sum_{j=1}^N a_j^i(k) = 1$ and $\sum_{j=1}^N a_i^j(k) = 1$
- **Periodic strong connectivity:** $(V, \bigcup_{\tau=0}^B E(k + \tau))$ is strongly connected

Some relevant literature and our contributions

- **Parallel computation and distributed optimization**

D.P. Bertsekas and J.N. Tsitsiklis, 1997 (book)

M. Chiang , S.H. Low , A.R. Calderbank , J.C. Doyle, 2007 (survey)

- **Recent references on consensus algorithms**

A. Jadbabaie, J. Lin and A.S. Morse, 2003

R. Olfati-Saber and R.M. Murray, 2004

L. Moreau, 2005

- **Recent “cooperative” convex optimization refs**

M.G. Rabbat, R.D. Nowak and J.A. Buckley 2005

A. Nedic and A. Ozdaglar, TAC 2009

A. Nedic, A. Ozdaglar and P.A. Parrilo, TAC 2010

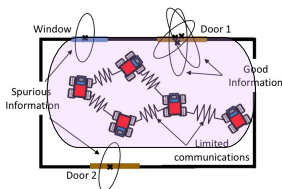
- **Our contribution:** distributed cooperative **convex** and **non-convex** optimization algorithms under time-varying interactions

Example problems

Multi-robot/WSN objectives

- (1) **Constrained consensus**
- (2) **Optimal shape assignment**

- (1) **Constrained consensus.** Given robot positions p_i , $i \in V$, and local data z_i , $i \in V$, solve the consensus problem:



$$\min_q \sum_{i \in V} \varphi(q - z_i),$$

$$g(q) \leq 0, q \in X$$

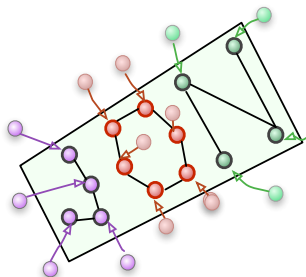
with e.g. $\varphi(e) = \sum_{l=1}^d \rho(e^l)$, $\rho(e^l) = \sigma^2 \left(\frac{|e^l|}{\sigma} - \log \left(1 + \frac{|e^l|}{\sigma} \right) \right)$

Example problems

- (2) **Optimal shape assignment.** Given a **robotic shape** $S = (s_1, \dots, s_n)$, defining a class

$$[S] = \{\alpha SR + 1_m d^T \mid \alpha \in [0, \alpha_{\max}], R \in SO(k), d \in \mathbb{R}^k\}$$

and **robot positions** p_1, \dots, p_n , find $(q_1, \dots, q_n) \in [S]$:



$$\min \sum_{i=1}^n \|q_i - p_i\|^2$$

$$A_{i1}(q_1 - q_2) + A_{i2}(q_i - q_1) = 0, \quad i \in \{3, \dots, n\}$$

$$\|q_i - p_i\| \leq r_i$$

Agents agree on (q_3, \dots, q_n) , $i \in V$

Outline

- 1 Problem formulation and examples
- 2 Brief algorithm overview
 - Convex Problem (I)
 - Convex Problem (II)
- 3 Simulations
- 4 Conclusions

Convex Problem (I) – Lagrangian approach

Primal problem

$\min_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n} [f(x) := \sum_{i \in V} f_i(x)], \text{ s.t. } Ng(x) \leq 0, x \in X := \bigcap_{i \in V} X_i$
assume X_i compact, convexity, Slater condition ($g(z) < 0$)

Global Lagrangian function $\mathcal{L}(x, \mu) = f(x) + N\mu^T g(x)$

Primal problem reduced to $\min_{x \in X} (\sup_{\mu \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}^m} \mathcal{L}(x, \mu))$

Primal solution x^* , Optimal value $p^* = \sup_{\mu \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}^m} \mathcal{L}(x^*, \mu)$

Dual problem $\max_{\mu \in \mathbb{R}^m} q(\mu) \text{ s.t. } \mu \geq 0$

Dual function $q(\mu) := \inf_{x \in X} \mathcal{L}(x, \mu)$,

Dual solution and optimal value $\mu^*, q(\mu^*) = d^*$

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(x^*, μ^*) **saddle point** of $\mathcal{L} \iff (x^*, \mu^*)$ is a **primal-dual solution** and

$$\sup_{\mu \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}^m} \inf_{x \in X} \mathcal{L}(x, \mu) = \mathcal{L}(x^*, \mu^*) = \inf_{x \in X} \sup_{\mu \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}^m} \mathcal{L}(x, \mu)$$

Primal-dual algorithm

Centralized optimization

$$\text{Player 1 : } U(x) = \sup_{\mu} \mathcal{L}(x, \mu)$$

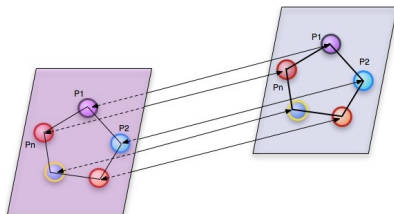
$$\text{Player 2 : } V(\mu) = \inf_x \mathcal{L}(x, \mu)$$



gradient descent/ascent \implies convergence to saddle point

Decentralized optimization

The network has to align the corresponding primal-dual actions



Network Lagrangian decomposition

Local primal problems

$$\mathcal{L}(x, \mu) = \sum_{i \in V} \mathcal{L}_i(x, \mu), \quad \mathcal{L}_i(x, \mu) = f_i(x) + \mu^T g(x)$$

Local dual problem functions satisfy

$$q(\mu) \geq \sum_{i \in V} \inf_{x \in X_i} (f_i(x) + \mu^T g(x)) = \sum_{i \in V} q_i(\mu)$$

There exist M_i , compact and convex, such that $D^* \subseteq M_i$ for all i . The M_i depend on a Slater vector

Let $D^* \subset M = \cap_i M_i$ be a compact superset of the set of dual solutions

- If (x^*, μ^*) **saddle point** of \mathcal{L} over $X \times \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}^m$, then (x^*, μ^*) **saddle point** of \mathcal{L} over $X \times M$
- If $(\tilde{x}, \tilde{\mu})$ **saddle point** of \mathcal{L} over $X \times M$, then $\mathcal{L}(\tilde{x}, \tilde{\mu}) = p^*$ and $\tilde{\mu}$ is Lagrangian dual optimal

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Algorithm sketch

Init phase. Find $D^* \subseteq M_i$, compact superset of dual solutions
 Common Slater vector computation through max consensus

Let $x^i(k) \approx x^*$, $\mu^i(k) \approx \mu^*$

Main algorithm. At each $k \geq 0$, agents apply:

Average computation:

$$[v_x^i(k), v_\mu^i(k)]^T = \sum_{j=1}^N a_j^i(k) [x_j^i(k), \mu_j^i(k)]^T$$

Primal-dual step:

$$x^i(k+1) = P_{X_i} [v_x^i(k) - \alpha(k) D_x^i(k)]$$

$$\mu^i(k+1) = P_{M_i} [v_\mu^i(k) + \alpha(k) D_\mu^i(k)]$$

$D_x^i(k)$ **subgradient** of $\mathcal{L}_i(v_x^i(k), v_\mu^i(k))$ at $x = v_x^i(k)$

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Convergence properties

Assume that:

- The time-varying network topologies are **non degenerate**, **balanced**, and **periodically strongly connected**
- The **step-sizes** $\{\alpha(k)\}$ satisfy (C1):

$$\lim_{k \rightarrow +\infty} \alpha(k) = 0, \quad \sum_{k=0}^{+\infty} \alpha(k) = +\infty, \quad \text{and} \quad \sum_{k=0}^{+\infty} \alpha(k)^2 < +\infty$$

Then, each agent estimates $x^i(k)$, $\mu^i(k)$ converge:

$$\lim_{k \rightarrow +\infty} x^i(k) = x^*, \quad \lim_{k \rightarrow +\infty} \mu^i(k) = \mu^*,$$

to a pair (x^*, μ^*) of **primal-dual optimal solutions**

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Main idea of the analysis

Decomposition:

$$x^i(k+1) = v_x^i(k) + e_x^i(k)$$

$$\mu^i(k+1) = v_\mu^i(k) + e_\mu^i(k)$$

Projection errors:

$$e_x^i(k) := P_{X_i}[v_x^i(k) - \alpha(k)\mathcal{D}_x^i(k)] - v_x^i(k)$$

$$e_\mu^i(k) := P_{M_i}[v_\mu^i(k) + \alpha(k)\mathcal{D}_\mu^i(k)] - v_\mu^i(k)$$

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Main idea:

- Errors are diminishing
- Reach consensus values
- Verify that consensus values coincide with a pair of primal-dual optimal solutions (saddle point)

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Convex Problem (II) – Penalty approach

Primal problem

$$\min_x \sum_{i=1}^N f_i(x), g(x) \leq 0, h(x) = 0, x \in X_i = X, i \in V$$

Penalty function $\mathcal{H}(x, \mu, \lambda) = f(x) + N\mu^T[g(x)]^+ + N\lambda^T|h(x)|$

Primal problem reduced to $\min_{x \in X} (\sup_{\mu \geq 0, \lambda \geq 0} \mathcal{H}(x, \mu, \lambda))$

Dual problem: $\max_{\mu, \lambda} q(\mu, \lambda)$ s.t. $\mu \geq 0, \lambda \geq 0,$

Dual function $q(\mu, \lambda) := \inf_{x \in X} \mathcal{H}(x, \mu, \lambda)$

(x^*, μ^*, λ^*) saddle point of $\mathcal{H} \iff$

(x^*, μ^*, λ^*) primal-dual solution and

$$\sup_{\mu \geq 0, \lambda \geq 0} \inf_{x \in X} \mathcal{H}(x, \mu, \lambda) = \inf_{x \in X} \sup_{\mu \geq 0, \lambda \geq 0} \mathcal{H}(x, \mu, \lambda)$$

Network penalty decomposition:

$$\mathcal{H}(x, \mu, \lambda) = \sum_{i \in V} \mathcal{H}_i(x, \mu, \lambda)$$

$$\mathcal{H}_i(x, \mu, \lambda) = f_i(x) + \mu^T [g(x)]^+ + \lambda^T |h(x)| \text{ convex-concave}$$

Convex Problem (II) – Penalty approach

Primal problem

$$\min_x \sum_{i=1}^N f_i(x), \quad g(x) \leq 0, \quad h(x) = 0, \quad x \in X_i = X, \quad i \in V$$

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Primal problem reduced to $\min_{x \in X} (\sup_{\mu \geq 0, \lambda \geq 0} \mathcal{H}(x, \mu, \lambda))$

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(x^*, μ^*, λ^*) **saddle point** of $\mathcal{H} \iff$

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Convex Problem (II) – Penalty approach

Primal problem

$$\min_x \sum_{i=1}^N f_i(x), \quad g(x) \leq 0, \quad h(x) = 0, \quad x \in X_i = X, \quad i \in V$$

Penalty function $\mathcal{H}(x, \mu, \lambda) = f(x) + N\mu^T[g(x)]^+ + N\lambda^T|h(x)|$

Primal problem reduced to $\min_{x \in X} (\sup_{\mu \geq 0, \lambda \geq 0} \mathcal{H}(x, \mu, \lambda))$

Dual problem: $\max_{\mu, \lambda} q(\mu, \lambda)$ s.t. $\mu \geq 0, \lambda \geq 0,$

Dual function $q(\mu, \lambda) := \inf_{x \in X} \mathcal{H}(x, \mu, \lambda)$

(x^*, μ^*, λ^*) **saddle point** of $\mathcal{H} \iff$

(x^*, μ^*, λ^*) **primal-dual solution** and

$$\sup_{\mu \geq 0, \lambda \geq 0} \inf_{x \in X} \mathcal{H}(x, \mu, \lambda) = \inf_{x \in X} \sup_{\mu \geq 0, \lambda \geq 0} \mathcal{H}(x, \mu, \lambda)$$

Network penalty decomposition:

$$\mathcal{H}(x, \mu, \lambda) = \sum_{i \in V} \mathcal{H}_i(x, \mu, \lambda)$$

$$\mathcal{H}_i(x, \mu, \lambda) = f_i(x) + \mu^T [g(x)]^+ + \lambda^T |h(x)| \quad \text{convex-concave}$$

Algorithm sketch

Main algorithm. At each $k \geq 0$, agents apply:

Average computation:

$$v_x^i(k) = \sum_{j=1}^N a_j^i(k) x^j(k)$$

$$[v_\mu^i(k), v_\lambda^i(k)]^T = \sum_{j=1}^N a_j^i(k) [\mu^j(k), \lambda^j(k)]^T$$

Primal-dual update:

$$x^i(k+1) = P_X[v_x^i(k) - \alpha(k) S_x^i(k)]$$

$$\mu^i(k+1) = v_\mu^i(k) + \alpha(k) [g(v_x^i(k))]^+$$

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$S_x^i(k)$ subgradient of $\mathcal{H}_i(\cdot, v_\mu^i(k), v_\lambda^i(k))$ at $x = v_x^i(k)$
 $([g(v_x^i(k))]^+, |h(v_x^i(k))|)$ supgradient of $\mathcal{H}_i(v_x^i(k), \cdot, \cdot)$
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Convergence properties

Assume that:

- the time-varying network topologies are **non degenerate**, **balanced**, and **periodically strongly connected**, and
- the **step sizes** $\{\alpha(k)\}$ satisfy (C1) and

$$\lim_{k \rightarrow +\infty} \alpha(k+1) \sum_{\ell=0}^k \alpha(\ell) = 0, \quad \sum_{k=0}^{+\infty} \alpha(k+1)^2 \left(\sum_{\ell=0}^k \alpha(\ell) \right) < +\infty,$$

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Then, each agent primal estimates $x^i(k)$ converge, $\lim_{k \rightarrow +\infty} x^i(k) = x^*$,
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Outline

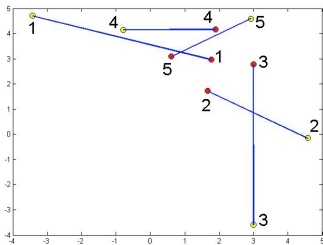
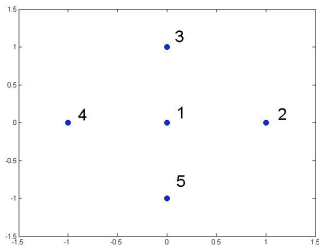
- 1 Problem formulation and examples
- 2 Brief algorithm overview
 - Convex Problem (I)
 - Convex Problem (II)
- 3 Simulations
- 4 Conclusions

Example simulation

Optimal shape assignment problem:

$$\min_{q \in \mathbb{R}^{10}} \sum_{i=1}^5 |q_{2i-1} - z_{2i-1}| + |q_{2i} - z_{2i}|,$$

$$Aq = 0, \quad q \in X = [-5, 5]^{10}$$



Desired Shape: $S = \{[0, 0], [1, 0], [0, 1], [-1, 0], [0, -1]\}$

Initial positions: $z_i = [z_{2i}, z_{2i+1}]$, **Final positions:** $q_i = [q_{2i}, q_{2i+1}]$

Agents agree on: q_3, q_4, q_5

Example simulation

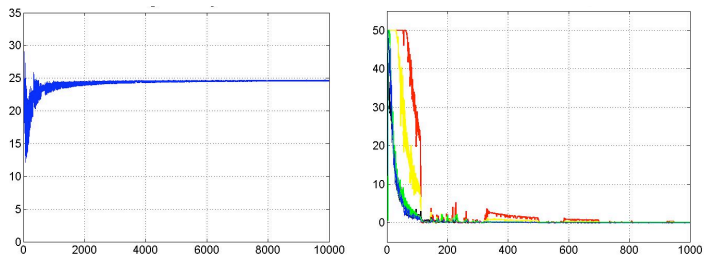


Figure: Objective function evolution and disagreement evolution

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- Future and current work: convergence-time study, uncertainty effect

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Thank you!