

Convergence Rate and Convergence Time

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In this note, we generalize the polynomial bound on convergence time of averaging algorithms established by Nedic et al. [2] in the case of doubly stochastic matrices. Our contribution consists in observing that the arguments developed in [2] provide an upper bound on the singular values of general (non doubly) stochastic matrices.

Interestingly, our polynomial bound also applies to the *fixed-weight* algorithm with a time-varying bidirectional topology. It thus unifies the time complexity results in [2], [1] and in [3].

1 Singular values of a stochastic matrix

1.1 Preliminaries

Let n be a positive integer and let $[n] = \{1, \dots, n\}$.

Let $\pi \in \mathbb{R}^n$ be a positive probability vector in \mathbb{R}^n . We define

$$\langle x, y \rangle_\pi = \sum_{i=1}^n \pi_i x_i y_i$$

that is an inner product on \mathbb{R}^n . For any $n \times n$ square matrix A , $A^{\dagger\pi}$ denotes A 's adjoint for the inner product $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle_\pi$. We easily check that

$$A_{ij}^{\dagger\pi} = \frac{\pi_j}{\pi_i} A_{ji}.$$

In the case A is an ergodic matrix, its Perron vector denoted $\pi(A)$ is a positive vector. For simplicity, we write A^\dagger instead of $A^{\dagger\pi(A)}$. We easily check that if A is a stochastic matrix, then A^\dagger is also a stochastic matrix with the same Perron vector, i.e., $\pi(A^\dagger) = \pi(A)$. Therefore $A^\dagger A$ is self-adjoint for the inner product $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle_{\pi(A)}$.

1.2 A formula à la Green

We start with an equality that is a generalization of the Green's formula.

Proposition 1. *If π is a positive probability vector in \mathbb{R}^n and L is a square matrix of size n such that $\mathbf{1} \in \ker(L)$ and $L^{\dagger\pi} = L$, then for all vector $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$, we have*

$$\langle x, Lx \rangle_\pi = -\frac{1}{2} \sum_{(i,j) \in [n]^2} \pi_i L_{i,j} (x_i - x_j)^2.$$

Proof. First we observe that

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{(i,j) \in [n]^2} \pi_i L_{ij} (x_i - x_j)^2 &= \sum_{i \neq j} \pi_i L_{ij} (x_i - x_j)^2 \\ &= \sum_{i \neq j} \pi_i L_{ij} x_i^2 + \sum_{i \neq j} \pi_i L_{ij} x_j^2 - 2 \sum_{i \neq j} \pi_i L_{ij} x_i x_j. \end{aligned}$$

Because of the properties of L , the first two terms are both equal to $-\sum_{i=1}^n \pi_i L_{ii} x_i^2$ and so

$$\sum_{(i,j) \in [n]^2} \pi_i L_{ij} (x_i - x_j)^2 = -2 \left(\sum_{i=1}^n \pi_i L_{ii} x_i^2 + \sum_{i \neq j} \pi_i L_{ij} x_i x_j \right).$$

Besides, we have

$$\langle x, Lx \rangle_\pi = \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n \pi_i L_{ij} x_i x_j = \sum_{i=1}^n \pi_i L_{ii} x_i^2 + \sum_{i \neq j} \pi_i L_{ij} x_i x_j$$

and the lemma then follows. \square

We immediately derive the following corollary for ergodic stochastic matrices.

Corollary 2. *Let A be an ergodic stochastic matrix of size n and let π denote its Perron vector. For all vector $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$,*

$$\langle x, x \rangle_\pi - \langle x, A^\dagger A x \rangle_\pi = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{(i,j) \in [n]^2} \pi_i (A^\dagger A)_{i,j} (x_i - x_j)^2.$$

As an immediate consequence of the above corollary, we obtain that the restriction of the quadratic form

$$Q_A(x) = \langle x, x - A^\dagger A x \rangle_\pi$$

to the orthogonal complement of $\mathbf{R1}$ in \mathbb{R}^n is positive definite.

1.3 An upper bound on the singular values of a stochastic matrix

Let A be an ergodic stochastic matrix of size n with positive diagonal entries. Since $A^\dagger A$ is a stochastic matrix, the n singular values of A (which are the square roots of $A^\dagger A$) in the increasing order satisfy $0 \leq \sigma_n \leq \dots \leq \sigma_2 \leq \sigma_1 = 1$. By the Perron-Frobenius theorem, we have

$$\sigma_2 < 1.$$

The aim of the section is to refine the latter inequality.

First we fix some notation: the Perron vector of A is denoted by π and we let

$$\mu_A = \min \{ \pi_i A_{ij} \mid A_{ij} > 0 \}.$$

Let Δ be the real vector space generated by $\mathbf{1} = (1, \dots, 1)^T$, and Δ^\perp be the orthogonal complement of Δ in \mathbb{R}^n . We denote by δ the semi-norm on \mathbb{R}^n defined by

$$\delta(x) = \max_{i=1, \dots, n} (x_i) - \min_{i=1, \dots, n} (x_i)$$

which is a norm on Δ^\perp .

Moreover, let $\{\varepsilon_1, \dots, \varepsilon_n\}$ be an orthonormal basis in which $A^\dagger A$ is diagonalizable and such that $A^\dagger A \varepsilon_i = \sigma_i^2 \varepsilon_i$ and $\varepsilon_1 = \mathbf{1}$. We start by two lemmas which are both slight variations of two results established in [2].

Lemma 3 (Lemma 5 in [2]). *Let $N_1 \cup N_2$ a partition of $[n]$ into two disjoint sets. If there exist two indices $i \in N_1$ and $j \in N_2$ such that $A_{ij} > 0$, then*

$$\sum_{i \in N_1, j \in N_2} \pi_i(A^\dagger A)_{ij} \geq \mu_A/2.$$

Proof. First we observe that

$$\pi_i(A^\dagger A)_{ij} = \sum_{k \in N} \pi_k A_{ki} A_{kj}.$$

Moreover, since A is a stochastic matrix, for every index i , we have either $\sum_{j \in N_2} A_{ij} \geq 1/2$ or $\sum_{j \in N_1} A_{ij} \geq 1/2$. That leads us to consider the two following cases.

1. There exists an index $i^* \in N_1$ such that $\sum_{j \in N_2} A_{i^*j} \geq 1/2$. Then we have

$$\sum_{i \in N_1, j \in N_2} \pi_i(A^\dagger A)_{ij} \geq \sum_{j \in N_2} \pi_{i^*} A_{i^*i^*} A_{i^*j} \geq \frac{\pi_{i^*} A_{i^*i^*}}{2}.$$

2. Otherwise for each index $i \in N_1$, we have $\sum_{j \in N_1} A_{ij} \geq 1/2$. It follows that

$$\sum_{i \in N_1, j \in N_2} \pi_i(A^\dagger A)_{ij} \geq \sum_{i \in N_1, j \in N_2} \sum_{k \in N_1} \pi_k A_{ki} A_{kj} = \sum_{k \in N_1, j \in N_2} \pi_k A_{kj} \sum_{i \in N_1} A_{ki}.$$

Hence we have

$$\sum_{i \in N_1, j \in N_2} \pi_i(A^\dagger A)_{ij} \geq \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i \in N_1, j \in N_2} \pi_i A_{ij}.$$

By assumption, there exist $k_1 \in N_1$ and $k_2 \in N_2$ such that $A_{k_1 k_2} > 0$ and

$$\sum_{i \in N_1, j \in N_2} \pi_i(A^\dagger A)_{ij} \geq \frac{\pi_{k_1} A_{k_1 k_2}}{2}.$$

In both cases, we then derive that $\sum_{i \in N_1, j \in N_2} \pi_i(A^\dagger A)_{ij} \geq \frac{\mu_A}{2}$. □

Lemma 4 (Lemma 8 in [2]). *For every vector $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$, we have*

$$Q_A(x) \geq \frac{\mu_A}{2n} (\delta(x))^2.$$

Proof. Using index permutation, we assume that $x_1 \leq \dots \leq x_n$. Since for any nonnegative numbers v_1, \dots, v_k , we have

$$(v_1 + \dots + v_k)^2 \geq v_1^2 + \dots + v_k^2,$$

it follows that

$$\sum_{i < j} \pi_i(A^\dagger A)_{ij} (x_i - x_j)^2 \geq \sum_{i < j} \pi_i(A^\dagger A)_{ij} \sum_{d=i}^{j-1} (x_{d+1} - x_d)^2.$$

By reordering the terms in the last sum, we obtain

$$\sum_{i < j} \pi_i (A^\dagger A)_{ij} (x_i - x_j)^2 \geq \sum_{d=1}^{n-1} \sum_{i=1}^d \sum_{j=d+1}^n \pi_i (A^\dagger A)_{ij} (x_{d+1} - x_d)^2.$$

Then we use Lemma 3 to show that for each $d \in \{1, \dots, n-1\}$, we have

$$\sum_{i=1}^d \sum_{j=d+1}^n \pi_i (A^\dagger A)_{ij} \geq \mu_A / 2.$$

Therefore

$$Q_A(x) \geq \frac{\mu_A}{2} \sum_{d=1}^{n-1} (x_{d+1} - x_d)^2.$$

By Cauchy-Schwarz, we obtain

$$\sum_{d=1}^{n-1} (x_{d+1} - x_d)^2 \geq \frac{1}{n} (x_n - x_1)^2,$$

which completes the proof. □

Lemma 5. *Each vector in the orthonormal basis $\{\varepsilon_2, \dots, \varepsilon_n\}$ of Δ^\perp has a norm δ greater than 1, i.e.,*

$$\forall i \in \{2, \dots, n\}, \delta(\varepsilon_i) > 1.$$

Proof. We denote by $\{e_1, \dots, e_n\}$ the standard basis and we let

$$\varepsilon_i = u_{i,1} e_1 + \dots + u_{i,n} e_n.$$

By definition of the inner product $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle_\pi$, we have $\|e_k\|_\pi^2 = \pi_k$ and $\langle e_k, e_\ell \rangle_\pi = 0$ when $k \neq \ell$. It follows that for every $i \in \{2, \dots, n\}$,

$$\|\varepsilon_i\|_\pi^2 = u_{i,1}^2 \pi_1 + \dots + u_{i,n}^2 \pi_n = 1$$

and

$$\langle \varepsilon_i, \varepsilon_1 \rangle_\pi = \langle \varepsilon_i, \mathbf{1} \rangle_\pi = u_{i,1} \pi_1 + \dots + u_{i,n} \pi_n = 0.$$

From these equalities, we derive that there exist two different indices k_i and ℓ_i such that

$$|u_{k_i}| > 1 \quad \text{and} \quad u_{k_i} u_{\ell_i} < 0,$$

which implies

$$\delta(\varepsilon_i) > 1. \quad \square$$

Proposition 6. *If A is an ergodic stochastic matrix of size n with positive diagonal entries, then each singular value of A different from 1 is at most equal to $\sqrt{1 - \frac{\mu_A}{2n}}$.*

Proof. We easily check that

$$Q_A(\varepsilon_2) = 1 - (\sigma_2)^2 .$$

Besides combining Lemmas 4 and 5, we obtain

$$Q_A(\varepsilon_2) > \frac{\mu_A}{2n} ,$$

which shows the upper bound on σ_2 . □

1.4 Simpler proof and improvement in the case of a self-adjoint matrix

In the case A is a self-adjoint ergodic matrix, a simplified version of the above proof, in which Lemmas 4 and 5 are omitted, proves that any A 's eigenvalue λ different from 1 satisfies

$$\lambda < 1 - \frac{\mu_A}{2D_A} , \tag{1}$$

where D_A denotes the diameter of the graph associated to A ; see Chazelle [1].

Moreover λ lies within at least one Gershgorin disc $D(A_{ii}, 1 - A_{ii})$, i.e.,

$$-1 + 2A_{ii} \leq \lambda \leq 1 .$$

It then follows that

$$|\lambda| < \max\{1 - \frac{\mu_A}{2D_A}, 1 - 2\alpha_A\} ,$$

where $\alpha_A = \min_{i=1, \dots, n} (A_{ii})$. We easily check that $\mu_A \leq \alpha_A$, and thus

$$|\lambda| < 1 - \frac{\mu_A}{2D_A} .$$

If $\lambda_1(A) \dots \lambda_n(A)$ denote A 's eigenvalue ranged in the order of magnitude, then $\lambda_1(A) = 1$, and the second Weyl inequality gives

$$\sigma_2(A) \leq \lambda_2(A) .$$

The upper bound in Proposition 6 then can be easily improved into

$$\sigma_2(A) \leq 1 - \frac{\mu_A}{2n} .$$

2 A convergence theorem and its applications

We consider a sequence $(A_t)_{t \in \mathbb{N}}$ of $n \times n$ matrices that satisfies the following assumptions:

A1 : Every matrix A_t is an ergodic stochastic matrix with a positive diagonal.

A2 : All the matrices A_t have the same Perron vector denoted by π :

$$\forall t \in \mathbb{N}, \quad \pi(A_t) = \pi .$$

A3 : There exists some positive lower bound α on the positive entries of the matrices A_t :

$$\forall t \in \mathbb{N}, \forall (i, j) \in \{1, \dots, n\}^2, (A_t)_{ij} \in \{0\} \cup [\alpha, 1] .$$

Let $x(0) \in \mathbb{R}^n$, and let $(x(t))_{t \in \mathbb{N}}$ denote the sequence of vectors in \mathbb{R}^n defined by:

$$x(t+1) = A_t x(t). \quad (2)$$

Theorem 7. *Under assumptions A1-3, the sequence $(x(t))_{t \in \mathbb{N}}$ converges to a vector x^* that is colinear to $\mathbf{1}$ and*

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow +\infty} \|x(t) - x^*\|^{1/t} \leq 1 - \frac{\mu}{4n},$$

where $\mu = \inf \{ \pi_i(A_t)_{ij} : (A_t)_{ij} > 0 \}$.

Proof. By (2), we have:

$$\langle x(t), \mathbf{1} \rangle_\pi = \langle A_{t-1} x(t-1), \mathbf{1} \rangle_\pi = \langle x(t-1), A_{t-1}^\dagger \mathbf{1} \rangle_\pi.$$

Since A_{t-1}^\dagger is a stochastic matrix, $A_{t-1}^\dagger \mathbf{1} = \mathbf{1}$ and so

$$\langle x(t), \mathbf{1} \rangle_\pi = \langle x(t-1), \mathbf{1} \rangle_\pi.$$

Therefore, the orthogonal projection of $x(t)$ on Δ is constant.

We let $a = \langle x(0), \mathbf{1} \rangle_\pi$ and

$$V(t) = \|x(t) - a\mathbf{1}\|_\pi^2.$$

Then

$$V(t) = \|x(t)\|_\pi^2 - 2a\langle x(t), \mathbf{1} \rangle_\pi + a^2\|\mathbf{1}\|_\pi^2 = \|x(t)\|_\pi^2 - a^2,$$

and

$$V(t) - V(t+1) = \langle x(t), x(t) \rangle_\pi - \langle A_t x(t), A_t x(t) \rangle_\pi = \langle x(t), x(t) - A_t^\dagger A_t x(t) \rangle_\pi.$$

By Corollary 2, it follows that V is non-increasing; we shall prove that $V(t)$ tends to 0.

By Proposition 6, A_t has n real singular values $\sigma_1, \dots, \sigma_n$ that satisfy

$$0 \leq \sigma_n \leq \dots \leq \sigma_2 \leq \sqrt{1 - \frac{\mu}{2n}} < \sigma_1 = 1$$

with $\mu = \min \{ \pi_i(A_t)_{ij} : (i, j) \in E(G_t) \wedge t \in \mathbb{N} \}$. Let $\{\varepsilon_1, \dots, \varepsilon_n\}$ be an orthonormal basis for the inner product $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle_\pi$ such that for each index $i \in [n]$,

$$A_t^\dagger A_t \varepsilon_i = \sigma_i^2 \varepsilon_i.$$

In particular, $\varepsilon_1 = \mathbf{1}$.

Let z_1, \dots, z_n the components of $x(t)$ in this basis¹, namely,

$$x(t) = z_1 \varepsilon_1 + \dots + z_n \varepsilon_n.$$

Hence $z_1 = \langle x(0), \mathbf{1} \rangle_\pi$ and so

$$V(t) = z_2^2 + \dots + z_n^2.$$

Moreover, we have

$$A_t^\dagger A_t x(t) = z_1 \varepsilon_1 + z_2 \sigma_2^2 \varepsilon_2 + \dots + z_n \sigma_n^2 \varepsilon_n$$

¹The real numbers z_i , λ_i , and the vectors ε_i all depend on t , but t is not explicit in our notation as no confusion can arise.

and thus

$$V(t) - V(t+1) = z_2^2(1 - \sigma_2^2) + \cdots + z_n^2(1 - \sigma_n^2).$$

Hence

$$V(t) - V(t+1) \geq (1 - \sigma_2^2)V(t).$$

From the upper bound on the second singular value in Proposition 6, it follows that

$$V(t) \leq \left(1 - \frac{\mu}{2n}\right)^t V(0).$$

Hence $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} V(t) = 0$, and so

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} x(t) = a \mathbf{1}.$$

To complete the proof, we use the inequality $(1 - u)^{1/2} \leq 1 - u/2$ which holds for any $u \in [0, 1]$. \square

We now consider a system with n agents $\{1, \dots, n\}$, a local variable x_i for each agent i , and an averaging algorithm \mathcal{A} with non-vanishing and bounded weights, i.e., if G_t is the communication graph at round t and $x_i(t)$ is the value of x_i at the end of round t :

$$x_i(t) = \sum_{k \in I n_i(G_t)} w_{ik}(t) x_k(t-1), \quad (3)$$

with a positive lower bound on all the weights $w_{ik}(t)$.

We consider an execution of \mathcal{A} with an initial state $x(0) \in \mathbb{R}^n$ and a communication pattern (sequence of communication graphs) $(G_t)_{t \in \mathbb{N}}$. We say that \mathcal{A} achieves asymptotic consensus in this execution if the sequence $x(t)$ converges to a vector x^* that is colinear to $\mathbf{1}$. The convergence rate is then defined as

$$\rho = \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \|x(t) - x^*\|^{1/t}$$

where $\|\cdot\|$ is any norm on \mathbb{R}^n , and the convergence time is

$$T(\varepsilon) = \inf\{\tau \in \mathbb{N} : \forall t \geq \tau, V(t) \leq \varepsilon V(0)\}.$$

Let A_t denote the stochastic matrix associated to the update rule (3) at round t in this execution. The central assumption is that all the stochastic matrices A_t share the same Perron vector π :

$$\forall t \in \mathbb{N}, \pi(A_t) = \pi.$$

We denote

$$\mu = \inf\{\pi_i(A_t)_{ij} : (A_t)_{ij} > 0\}.$$

From Theorem 7, we immediately deduce the following corollary.

Corollary 8. *The algorithm \mathcal{A} achieves asymptotic consensus with convergence rate $\rho \leq 1 - \frac{\mu}{4n}$ and convergence time $T(\varepsilon) \leq \frac{2n}{\mu} \log(1/\varepsilon)$.*

In the reversible case where every matrix A_t is self-adjoint, the remark in Section 1.4 provides a better upper bound on the second singular value of A_t , and leads to the following improvements on the convergence rate and convergence time.

Corollary 9. *In the reversible case, the algorithm \mathcal{A} achieves asymptotic consensus with convergence rate $\rho \leq 1 - \frac{\mu}{2n}$ and convergence time $T(\varepsilon) \leq \frac{n}{\mu} \log(1/\varepsilon)$.*

2.1 Applications and previous results

Corollary 8 has several applications to (1) the EqualNeighbor algorithm with a fixed bidirectional topology, (2) the FixedWeight algorithm with a dynamic bidirectional topology, and finally the Metropolis algorithm with a dynamic bidirectional topology.

2.1.1 EqualNeighbor algorithm with a fixed bidirectional topology

With the EqualNeighbor algorithm, we have

$$w_{ik}(t) = \frac{1}{d_i(t)},$$

where $d_i(t)$ is the number of i 's in-neighbors in G_t . If G_t is bidirectional, then the i -th entry of the Perron vector of A_t is equal to:

$$\pi_i = \frac{d_i(t)}{d(t)},$$

where $d(t) = \sum_{i=1}^n d_i(t)$. Therefore $\mu \geq 1/n^2$. Moreover, the stochastic matrix A associated in each round is self-adjoint.

Corollary 9 then applies to any execution of the EqualNeighbor algorithm with a fixed bidirectional topology.

Theorem 10 ([3]). *In any execution with a fixed bidirectional connected topology, the EqualNeighbor algorithm achieves asymptotic consensus with convergence rate $\rho \leq 1 - \frac{1}{2n^3}$ and convergence time $T(\varepsilon) \leq n^3 \log(1/\varepsilon)$.*

2.1.2 FixedWeight algorithm with a dynamic bidirectional topology

For each agent i , let q_i denote an upper bound on the number of i 's in-neighbors in a given communication pattern (G_t). Weights in the FixedWeight algorithm are given by:

$$w_{ik}(t) = \begin{cases} 1/q_i & \text{if } j \in N_i^+(t) \setminus \{i\} \\ 1 - (d_i(t) - 1)/q_i & \text{if } j = i \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}.$$

We easily check that if G_t is bidirectional, then the i -th entry of the Perron vector of A_t is equal to:

$$\pi_i(A_t) = \frac{q_i}{q},$$

where $q = \sum_{i=1}^n q_i$.

It then follows that in any bidirectional communication pattern, the Perron vector is constant and $\mu = 1/q \geq 1/n^2$. Moreover, for every round t , the stochastic matrix A_t is self-adjoint.

Corollary 9 then applies to any execution of the FixedWeight algorithm with a bidirectional communication pattern.

Theorem 11 ([1]). *In any execution with a communication pattern composed of bidirectional connected communication graphs, the FixedWeight algorithm achieves asymptotic consensus with convergence rate $\rho \leq 1 - \frac{1}{2n^3}$ and convergence time $T(\varepsilon) \leq n^3 \log(1/\varepsilon)$.*

2.1.3 Metropolis algorithm with a dynamic bidirectional topology

With the Metropolis algorithm, we have

$$w_{ik}(t) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{\max(d_i(t), d_j(t))} & \text{if } j \in N_i^+(t) \setminus \{i\} \\ 1 - \sum_{j \in N_i^+(t) \setminus \{i\}} \frac{1}{\max(d_i(t), d_j(t))} & \text{if } j = i \\ 0 & \text{otherwise .} \end{cases}$$

We easily check that if G_t is bidirectional, then each matrix A_t is symmetric, and so doubly stochastic. It follows that the Perron vector of A_t is collinear to $\mathbf{1}$, its i -th entry is equal to:

$$\pi_i(A_t) = 1/n,$$

and $\mu \geq 1/n^2$. Moreover A_t is self-adjoint for the inner product $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle_\pi$.

Corollary 9 then applies to any execution of the Metropolis algorithm with a bidirectional communication pattern.

Theorem 12 ([2]). *In any execution with a communication pattern composed of bidirectional connected communication graphs, the Metropolis algorithm achieves asymptotic consensus with convergence rate $\rho \leq 1 - \frac{1}{2n^3}$ and convergence time $T(\varepsilon) \leq n^3 \log(1/\varepsilon)$.*

References

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