Homogenization of SGD in High-dimensions

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We develop a stochastic differential equation, called homogenized SGD, for analyzing the dynamics of stochastic gradient descent (SGD) on a high-dimensional random generalized linear models. We show that homogenized SGD is the high-dimensional equivalence of SGD– for any C^3 - statistic (e.g., population risk), the statistic under the iterates of SGD converges to the statistic under homogenized SGD when the number of samples n and number of features d are polynomially related ($d^c \leq n \leq d^{1/c}$ for some $c \geq 0$). Several motivating applications are provided including phase retrieval, least-squares, and logistic regression.

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