

# Stochastic Decoupling Method

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Work done together with Peter Richtárik



# **Plan**

- 1. Problem structure**
- 2. Examples**
- 3. Proposed method**
- 4. Convergence rates**
- 5. Experiments**

# Plan

## 1. Problem structure

# Structure

$$\min_x f(x) + \sum_{j=1}^m g_j(x)$$

**Convex**

# Structure

$$\min_x f(x) + \sum_{j=1}^m g_j(x)$$

**Differentiable  
and smooth**

# Structure

$$\min_x f(x) + \sum_{j=1}^m g_j(x)$$

Proximable

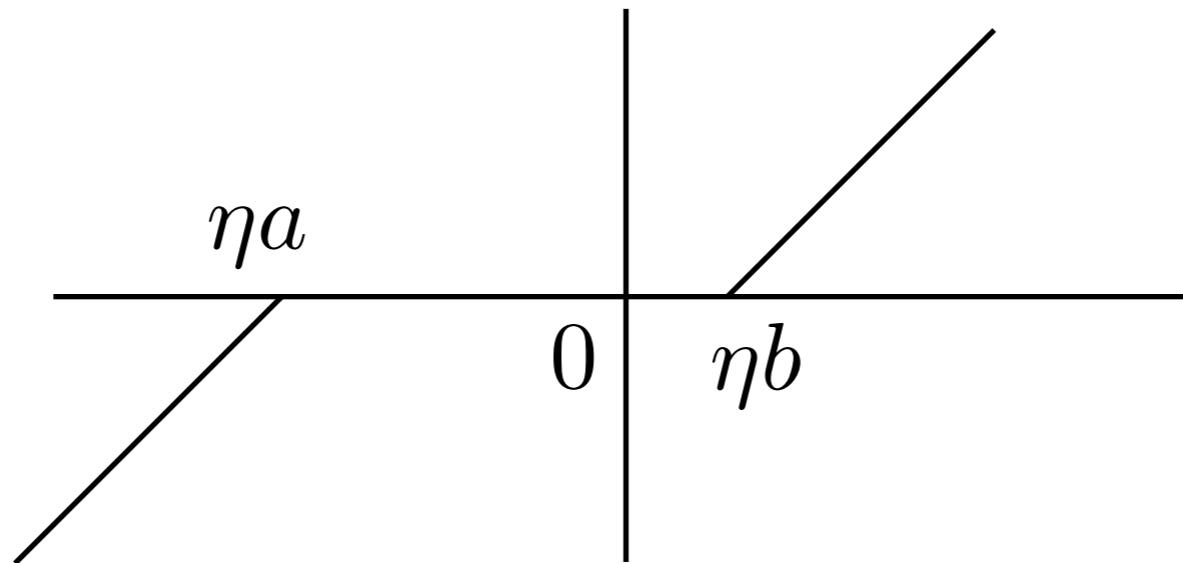
$$\text{prox}_{\eta g}(x) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \arg \min_u \left\{ g(u) + \frac{1}{2\eta} \|u - x\|^2 \right\}$$

# Structure

**Proximable**

$$g_j = \begin{cases} ax, & x < 0, \\ bx, & x \geq 0 \end{cases}$$

$$\text{prox}_{\eta g_j}(x) = \begin{cases} x - \eta a, & x < \eta a \\ 0, & \eta a \leq x \leq \eta b \\ x - \eta b, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$



# Plan

## 2. Examples

# Examples

$$\min_x f(x) + \sum_{j=1}^m g_j(x)$$

$$\min_x f(x) + \|\mathbf{B}x\|_1$$

# Examples

$$\min_x f(x) + \sum_{j=1}^m g_j(x)$$

$$\min_x f(x) \text{ s.t. } x \in \bigcap_{j=1}^m C_j$$

# Examples

$$\min_x f(x) + \sum_{j=1}^m g_j(x)$$

$$\min_x \{f(x) \mid \mathbf{C}x = d\}$$

$$\min_x \left\{ \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n f_i(x_i) \mid x_1 = x_2 = \cdots = x_n \right\}$$

# Examples

$$\min_x f(x) + \sum_{j=1}^m g_j(x)$$

$$\min_x \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n f_i(x) + \sum_{j=1}^m \|x\|_{G_j}$$

 $\in \mathbb{R}^d$ 

# Examples

$$f(x) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n f_i(x)$$

$$\min_x \frac{1}{2} x^\top \mathbf{A} x + b^\top x$$

$$\min_x \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \log \left( 1 + \exp(-b_i a_i^\top x) \right)$$

$$\min_x \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n l(b_i, \Phi(x, a_i)) \quad a_i \in \mathbb{R}^{d_1}, b_i \in \mathbb{R}$$

# Examples

$$\min_x f(x) + \sum_{j=1}^m g_j(x)$$

$$\frac{1}{2} \|y - \mathbf{A}x\|_2^2 + \lambda \|x\|_1 + \lambda_1 \sum_{j=1}^m \|\mathbf{R}_j x\|_2$$

**“We have not experimented with this yet,  
as the computation seems challenging due  
to the presence of  $\ell_2$  norms.”**

**(Tay, Friedman, Tibshirani, PCA-Lasso 2018)**

# Plan

**3. Proposed method**

# Gradient descent

$$x^{t+1} = x^t - \eta \nabla f(x^t), \quad t = 0, 1, \dots, T$$

# Proximal gradient descent

$$x^{t+1} = \text{prox}_{\eta g}(x^t - \eta \nabla f(x^t))$$

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# Gradient descent

$$x^{t+1} = \text{prox}_{\eta g}(x^t - \eta \nabla f(x^t))$$

$$f(x^t) - \min_x f(x) = \mathcal{O}\left(\left(1 - \frac{\mu}{L}\right)^t\right)$$



Linear rate

# Stochastic decoupling

$$y^t = \frac{1}{m} \sum_{j=1}^m y_j^t$$

$$z^t = x^t - \eta \nabla f(x^t) - \eta y^t$$

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$$y_j^t \approx \partial g_j(x^t), \quad y^t \approx \partial g(x^t)$$

$$z^t \approx \text{prox}_{\eta g}(x^t - \eta \nabla f(x^t))$$

# Stochastic decoupling

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$$z^t \approx \text{prox}_{\eta g}(x^t - \eta \nabla f(x^t))$$

$$x^{t+1} = \text{prox}_{\eta g_j}(z^t + \eta y_j^t)$$

$$y_j^{t+1} = y_j^t + \frac{1}{\eta}(z^t - x^{t+1}) \in \partial g_j(x^{t+1})$$

# Plan

**4. Convergence rates**

# Convergence

$\mathcal{O}(1/\varepsilon)$  Convex

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$f$  is  $\mu$ -strongly convex

$\mathcal{O}(\log \frac{1}{\varepsilon})$

$g_j(x) = \phi_j(a_j^\top x)$

$\mathbf{A}^\top \mathbf{A} \succ 0$

# Convergence

$\mathcal{O}(1/\varepsilon)$

Convex

$\mathcal{O}(1/\sqrt{\varepsilon})$

$f$  is  $\mu$ -strongly convex

$\mathcal{O}(\log \frac{1}{\varepsilon})$

$$g_j(x) = \phi_j(a_j^\top x)$$

$$\mathbf{A}^\top \mathbf{A} \succ 0$$

**Was only possible for**  $f = \frac{1}{2} \|x - x^0\|^2$

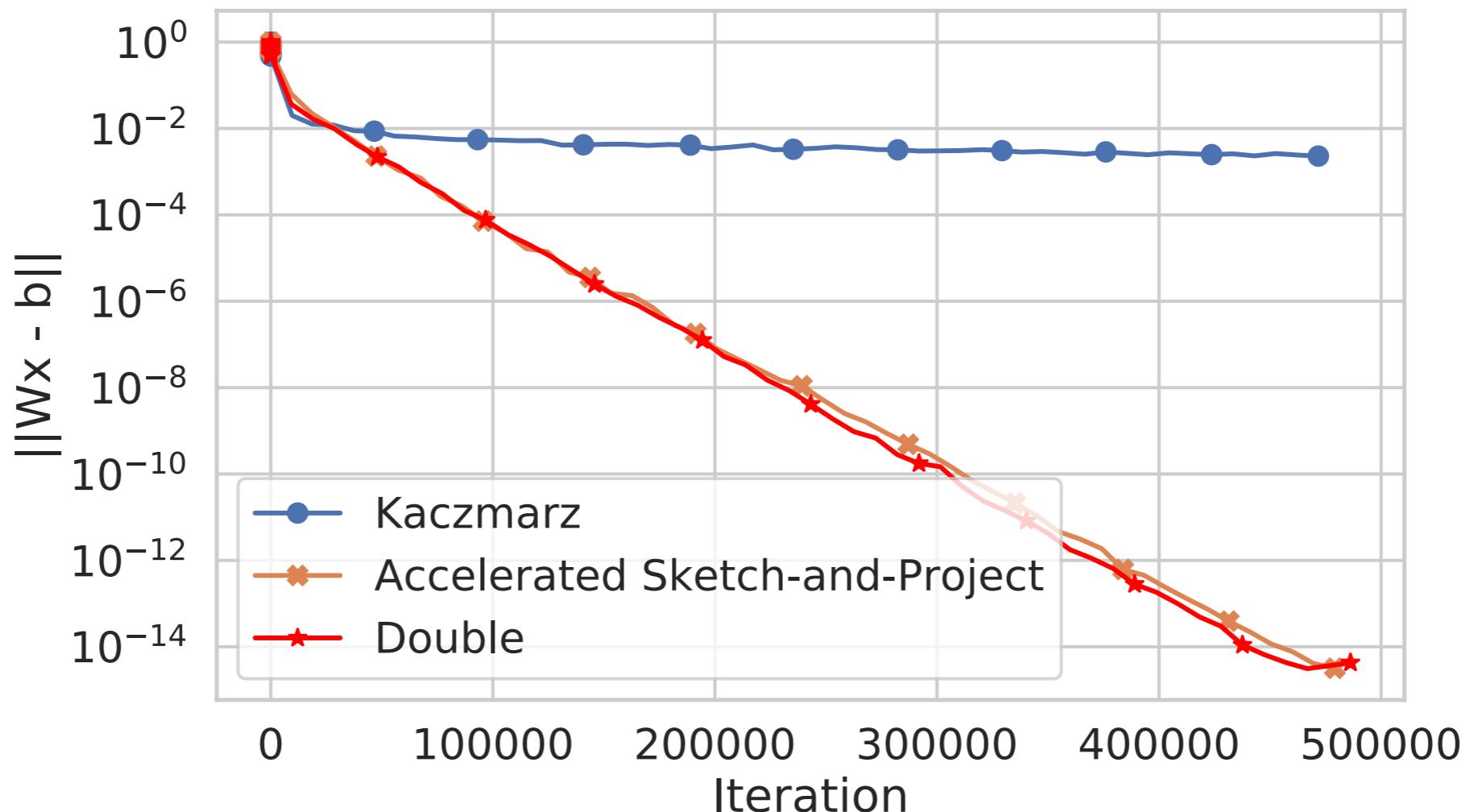
**before our work**

# Plan

## 5. Experiments

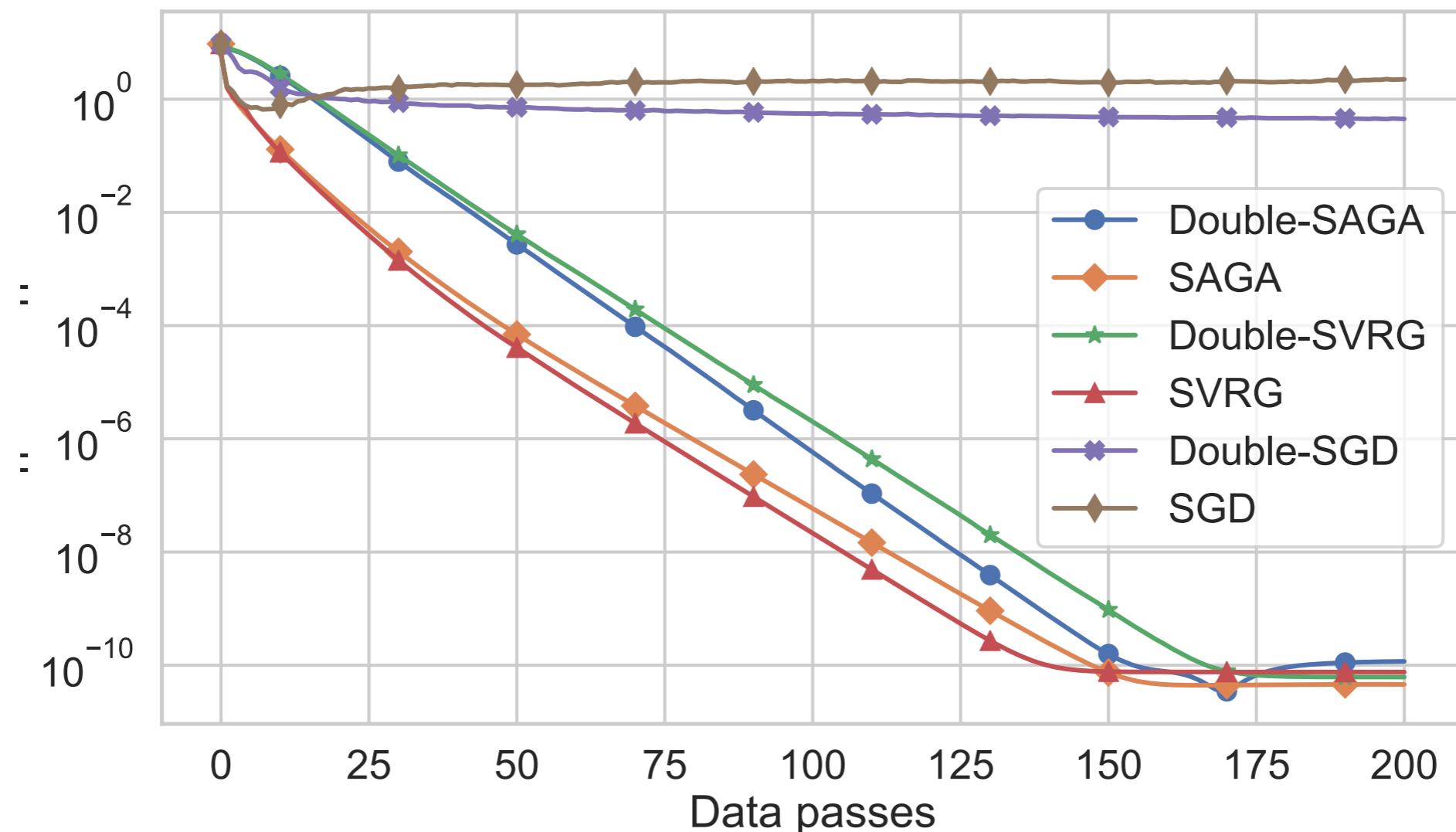
# Experiments

$$\min_x \{ \|x - x^0\| \mid \mathbf{W}x = b \}$$



# Experiments

$$\min_x \left\{ \frac{1}{2} x^\top \mathbf{A} x + b^\top x \mid \mathbf{C} x = d \right\}$$



# Reference

**A Stochastic Decoupling Method  
for Minimizing the Sum of Smooth  
and Non-Smooth Function**

**arXiv:1905.11535**