

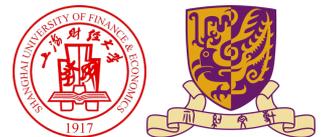


Regularized Composite ReLU-ReHU Loss Minimization with Linear Computation and Linear Convergence

Ben Dai¹, Yixuan Qiu²

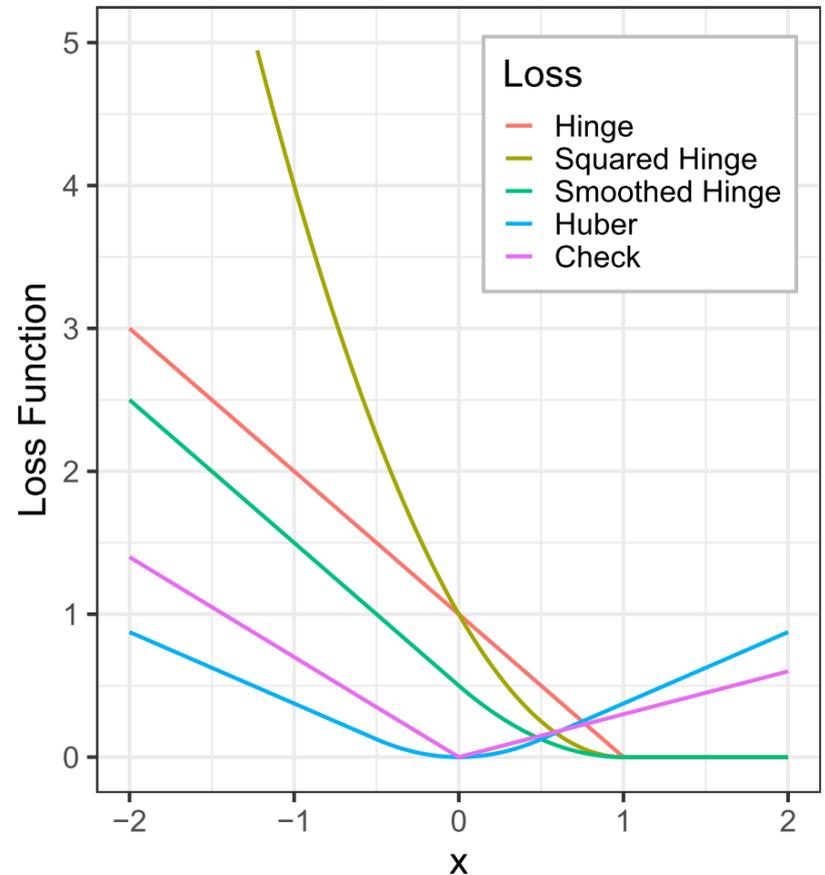
Equal Contribution

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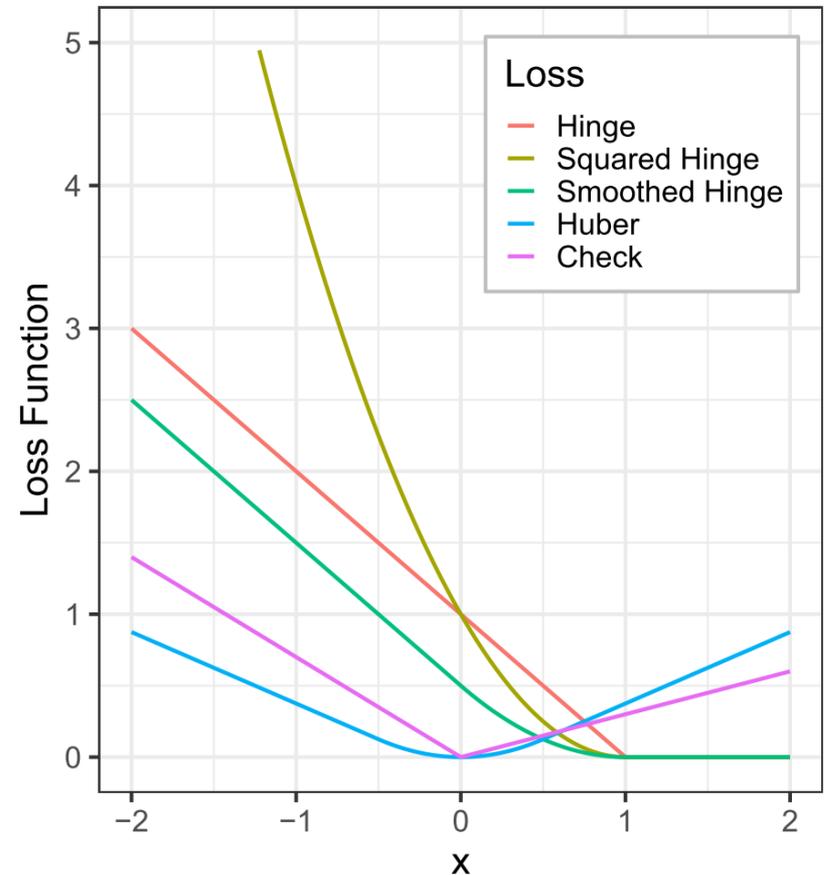
Motivation

- Empirical risk minimization (ERM) is a fundamental framework in machine learning
- Many different loss functions
- Efficient solvers exist for specific problems
- E.g., Liblinear for hinge loss SVM



Motivation

- Can we develop optimization algorithms for general ERM loss functions?
- Can we achieve provable fast convergence rates?
- Can we transfer the empirical success of Liblinear to general ERM problems?



Model

In this paper, we consider a general regularized ERM based on a **convex PLQ loss** with linear constraints:

$$\min_{\beta \in \mathbb{R}^d} \sum_{i=1}^n L_i(\mathbf{x}_i^\top \beta) + \frac{1}{2} \|\beta\|_2^2, \quad \text{s.t. } \mathbf{A}\beta + \mathbf{b} \geq \mathbf{0},$$

- $L_i(\cdot) \geq 0$ is the proposed **composite ReLU-ReHU loss**.
- $\mathbf{x}_i \in \mathbb{R}^d$ is the feature vector for the i -th observation.
- $\mathbf{A} \in \mathbb{R}^{K \times d}$ and $\mathbf{b} \in \mathbb{R}^K$ are **linear inequality constraints** for β .
- We focus on working with a **large-scale** dataset, where the dimension of the coefficient vector and the total number of constraints are comparatively much smaller than the sample sizes, that is, $d \ll n$ and $K \ll n$.

Composite ReLU-ReHU Loss

Definition 1 (Dai and Qiu. 2023). A function $L(z)$ is composite ReLU-ReHU, if there exist $\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v} \in \mathbb{R}^L$ and $\tau, \mathbf{s}, \mathbf{t} \in \mathbb{R}^H$ such that

$$L(z) = \sum_{l=1}^L \text{ReLU}(u_l z + v_l) + \sum_{h=1}^H \text{ReHU}_{\tau_h}(s_h z + t_h)$$

where $\text{ReLU}(z) = \max\{z, 0\}$, and $\text{ReHU}_{\tau_h}(z)$ is defined below.

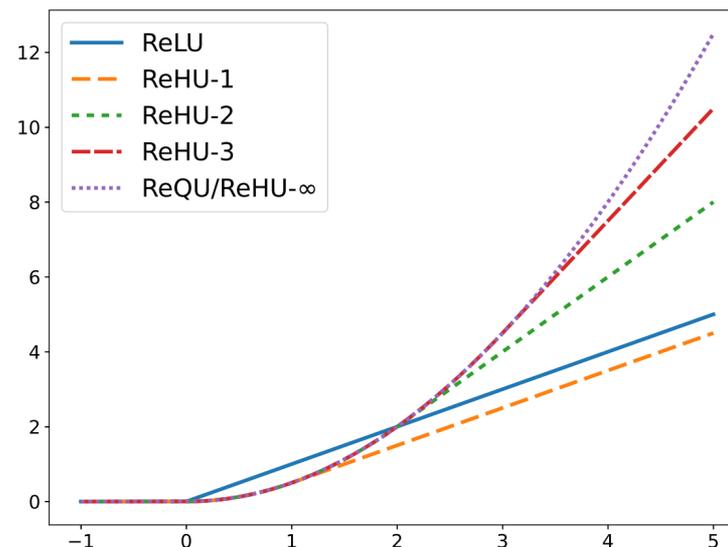
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where $\text{ReLU}(z) = \max\{z, 0\}$, and $\text{ReHU}_{\tau_h}(z)$ is defined below.

$$\text{ReHU}_{\tau}(z) = \begin{cases} 0, & z \leq 0 \\ z^2/2, & 0 < z \leq \tau \\ \tau(z - \tau/2), & z > \tau \end{cases}$$



Composite ReLU-ReHU Loss

Theorem 1 (Dai and Qiu. 2023). A loss function $L : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$ is **convex PLQ** if and only if it is **composite ReLU-ReHU**.

Table 2: Some widely used composite ReLU-ReHU losses as in (3). Here SVM is weighted SVMs based on the hinge loss [7], sSVM is smoothed SVMs based on the smoothed hinge loss [33], SVM² is weighted squared SVMs based on the squared hinge loss [7], LAD is the least absolute deviation regression, SVR is support vector regression with the ε -insensitive loss [44], and QR is quantile regression with the check loss [26].

PROBLEM	LOSS ($L_i(z_i)$)	COMPOSITE RELU-REHU PARAMETERS
SVM	$c_i(1 - y_i z_i)_+$	$u_{1i} = -c_i y_i, v_{1i} = c_i$
sSVM	$c_i \text{ReHU}_1(-(y_i z_i - 1))$	$s_{1i} = -\sqrt{c_i} y_i, t_{1i} = \sqrt{c_i}, \tau = \sqrt{c_i}$
SVM ²	$c_i((1 - y_i z_i)_+)^2$	$s_{1i} = -\sqrt{2c_i} y_i, t_{1i} = \sqrt{2c_i}, \tau = \infty$
LAD	$c_i y_i - z_i $	$u_{1i} = c_i, v_{1i} = -c_i y_i, u_{2i} = -c_i, v_{2i} = c_i y_i$
SVR	$c_i(y_i - z_i - \varepsilon)_+$	$u_{1i} = c_i, v_{1i} = -(y_i + \varepsilon), u_{2i} = -c_i, v_{2i} = y_i - \varepsilon$
QR	$c_i \rho_\kappa(y_i - z_i)$	$u_{1i} = -c_i \kappa, v_{1i} = \kappa c_i y_i, u_{2i} = c_i(1 - \kappa), v_{2i} = -c_i(1 - \kappa) y_i$

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ReHLine applies to any convex piecewise linear-quadratic loss function (potential for non-smoothness included), including the hinge loss, the check loss, the Huber loss, etc.

Main Results

Table 1: Overview of existing algorithms for solving (1). Column COMPLEXITY (PER ITERATION) shows the computational complexity of the algorithm per iteration. Here, we focus only on the order of n since $d \ll n$ is assumed in our setting. Column #ITERATIONS shows the number of iterations needed to achieve an accuracy of ε to the minimizer.

ALGORITHM	COMPLEXITY (PER ITERATION)	#ITERATIONS	COMPLEXITY (TOTAL)
P-GD	$\mathcal{O}(n)$	$\mathcal{O}(\varepsilon^{-1})$ [6]	$\mathcal{O}(n\varepsilon^{-1})$
CD	$\mathcal{O}(n^2)$	$\mathcal{O}(\log(\varepsilon^{-1}))$ [31]	$\mathcal{O}(n^2 \log(\varepsilon^{-1}))$
IPM	$\mathcal{O}(n^2)$	$\mathcal{O}(\log(\varepsilon^{-1}))$ [18]	$\mathcal{O}(n^2 \log(\varepsilon^{-1}))$
ADMM	$\mathcal{O}(n^2)$	$o(\varepsilon^{-1})$ [9, 20]	$o(n^2\varepsilon^{-1})$
SDCA	$\mathcal{O}(n)$	$\mathcal{O}(\varepsilon^{-1})$ [39]	$\mathcal{O}(n\varepsilon^{-1})$
ReHLine (ours)	$\mathcal{O}(n)$	$\mathcal{O}(\log(\varepsilon^{-1}))$	$\mathcal{O}(n \log(\varepsilon^{-1}))$

ReHLine has a provable **linear** convergence rate. The per-iteration computational complexity is **linear** in the sample size.

ReHLine

- Inspired by **Coordinate Descent (CD)** and **Liblinear**

Theorem 2. The Lagrangian dual problem of (6) is:

$$\begin{aligned}
 (\hat{\xi}, \hat{\Lambda}, \hat{\Gamma}) &= \underset{\xi, \Lambda, \Gamma}{\operatorname{argmin}} \mathcal{L}(\xi, \Lambda, \Gamma) \\
 \text{s.t. } &\xi \geq \mathbf{0}, \quad \mathbf{E} \geq \Lambda \geq \mathbf{0}, \quad \tau \geq \Gamma \geq \mathbf{0}, \\
 \mathcal{L}(\xi, \Lambda, \Gamma) &= \frac{1}{2} \xi^\top \mathbf{A} \mathbf{A}^\top \xi + \frac{1}{2} \operatorname{vec}(\Lambda)^\top \bar{\mathbf{U}}_{(3)}^\top \bar{\mathbf{U}}_{(3)} \operatorname{vec}(\Lambda) + \frac{1}{2} \operatorname{vec}(\Gamma)^\top (\bar{\mathbf{S}}_{(3)}^\top \bar{\mathbf{S}}_{(3)} + \mathbf{I}) \operatorname{vec}(\Gamma) \\
 &\quad - \xi^\top \mathbf{A} \bar{\mathbf{U}}_{(3)} \operatorname{vec}(\Lambda) - \xi^\top \mathbf{A} \bar{\mathbf{S}}_{(3)} \operatorname{vec}(\Gamma) + \operatorname{vec}(\Lambda)^\top \bar{\mathbf{U}}_{(3)}^\top \bar{\mathbf{S}}_{(3)} \operatorname{vec}(\Gamma) \\
 &\quad + \xi^\top \mathbf{b} - \operatorname{Tr}(\Lambda \mathbf{V}^\top) - \operatorname{Tr}(\Gamma \mathbf{T}^\top),
 \end{aligned} \tag{7}$$

where $\xi \in \mathbb{R}^K$, $\Lambda = (\lambda_{li}) \in \mathbb{R}^{L \times n}$, and $\Gamma = (\gamma_{hi}) \in \mathbb{R}^{H \times n}$ are dual variables, $\bar{\mathbf{U}}_{(3)} \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times nL}$ and $\bar{\mathbf{S}}_{(3)} \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times nH}$ are the mode-3 unfolding of the tensors $\bar{\mathbf{U}} = (u_{lij}) \in \mathbb{R}^{L \times n \times d}$ and $\bar{\mathbf{S}} = (s_{hij}) \in \mathbb{R}^{H \times n \times d}$, respectively, $u_{lij} = u_{li} x_{ij}$, $s_{hij} = s_{hi} x_{ij}$, \mathbf{I} is the identity matrix, and all inequalities are elementwise.

Moreover, the optimal point $\hat{\beta}$ of (6) can be recovered as:

$$\hat{\beta} = \sum_{k=1}^K \hat{\xi}_k \mathbf{a}_k - \sum_{i=1}^n \mathbf{x}_i \left(\sum_{l=1}^L \hat{\lambda}_{li} u_{li} + \sum_{h=1}^H \hat{\gamma}_{hi} s_{hi} \right) = \mathbf{A}^\top \hat{\xi} - \bar{\mathbf{U}}_{(3)} \operatorname{vec}(\hat{\Lambda}) - \bar{\mathbf{S}}_{(3)} \operatorname{vec}(\hat{\Gamma}). \tag{9}$$

The **linear** relationship between primal and dual variables greatly simplifies the computation of CD.

ReHLine

Canonical CD updates. As a first step, we consider the canonical CD update rule that directly optimizes the dual problem (7) with respect to a single variable. For brevity, in this section we only illustrate the result for λ_{li} variables, and the full details are given in Appendix B

By excluding the terms unrelated to λ_{li} , we have $\lambda_{li}^{\text{new}} = \operatorname{argmin}_{0 \leq \lambda \leq 1} \mathcal{L}_{li}(\lambda)$, where

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}_{li}(\lambda) = & \frac{1}{2} u_{li}^2 (\mathbf{x}_i^\top \mathbf{x}_i) \lambda^2 + \sum_{(l',i') \neq (l,i)} \lambda_{l'i'} u_{l'i'} u_{li} (\mathbf{x}_{i'}^\top \mathbf{x}_i) \lambda - \sum_{k=1}^K \xi_k u_{li} (\mathbf{a}_k^\top \mathbf{x}_i) \lambda \\ & + \sum_{h',i'} u_{li} \gamma_{h'i'} s_{h'i'} \mathbf{x}_i^\top \mathbf{x}_{i'} \lambda - v_{li} \lambda. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, by simple calculations we obtain

$$\lambda_{li}^{\text{new}} = \mathcal{P}_{[0,1]} \left(\frac{u_{li} \mathbf{x}_i^\top \left(\sum_{k=1}^K \xi_k \mathbf{a}_k - \sum_{(l',i') \neq (l,i)} \lambda_{l'i'} u_{l'i'} \mathbf{x}_{i'} - \sum_{h',i'} \gamma_{h'i'} s_{h'i'} \mathbf{x}_{i'} \right) + v_{li}}{u_{li}^2 \|\mathbf{x}_i\|_2^2} \right), \quad (10)$$

where $\mathcal{P}_{[a,b]}(x) = \max(a, \min(b, x))$ means projecting a real number x to the interval $[a, b]$.

Clearly, assuming the values $\mathbf{x}_i^\top \mathbf{a}_k$ and $\|\mathbf{x}_i\|_2^2$ are cached, updating one λ_{li} value requires $\mathcal{O}(K + nd + nL + nH)$ of computation, and updating the whole $\mathbf{\Lambda}$ matrix requires $\mathcal{O}(nL(K + nd + nL + nH))$. Adding all variables together, the canonical CD update rule for one full cycle has a computational complexity of $\mathcal{O}((K + nd + nL + nH)(K + nL + nH))$.

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$$\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}} = \sum_{k=1}^K \hat{\xi}_k \mathbf{a}_k - \sum_{i=1}^n \mathbf{x}_i \left(\sum_{l=1}^L \hat{\lambda}_{li} u_{li} + \sum_{h=1}^H \hat{\gamma}_{hi} s_{hi} \right) = \mathbf{A}^\top \hat{\boldsymbol{\xi}} - \mathbf{U}_{(3)} \operatorname{vec}(\hat{\boldsymbol{\Lambda}}) - \mathbf{S}_{(3)} \operatorname{vec}(\hat{\boldsymbol{\Gamma}}). \quad (9)$$

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Therefore, by simple calculations we obtain

$$\lambda_{li}^{\text{new}} = \mathcal{P}_{[0,1]} \left(\frac{u_{li} \mathbf{x}_i^\top \left(\sum_{k=1}^K \xi_k \mathbf{a}_k - \sum_{(l', i') \neq (l, i)} \lambda_{l' i'} u_{l' i'} \mathbf{x}_{i'} \right) - \sum_{h=1}^H \gamma_{hi} s_{hi}}{u_{li}^2 \|\mathbf{x}_i\|_2^2} \right)$$

where $\mathcal{P}_{[a,b]}(x) = \max(a, \min(b, x))$ means projecting a real number

Clearly, assuming the values $\mathbf{x}_i^\top \mathbf{a}_k$ and $\|\mathbf{x}_i\|_2^2$ are cached, updating one $(nL + nH)$ of computation, and updating the whole $\mathbf{\Lambda}$ matrix requires $(nL + nH)$ of computation. Adding all variables together, the canonical CD update rule for one λ_{li} variable has a complexity of $\mathcal{O}((K + nd + nL + nH)(K + nL + nH))$.

ReHLine updates. The proposed ReHLine algorithm, on the other hand, significantly reduces the computational complexity of canonical CD by updating β according to the KKT condition (9) after each update of a dual variable. To see this, let $\mu := (\xi, \mathbf{\Lambda}, \mathbf{\Gamma})$ denote all the dual variables, and define

$$\beta(\mu) = \sum_{k=1}^K \xi_k \mathbf{a}_k - \sum_{i=1}^n \mathbf{x}_i \left(\sum_{l=1}^L \lambda_{li} u_{li} + \sum_{h=1}^H \gamma_{hi} s_{hi} \right).$$

Then it can be proved that $(\nabla_{\lambda} \mathcal{L}_{li})(\lambda_{li}) = -(u_{li} \mathbf{x}_i^\top \beta(\mu) + v_{li})$. Therefore, when μ is fixed at $\mu^{\text{old}} = (\xi^{\text{old}}, \mathbf{\Lambda}^{\text{old}}, \mathbf{\Gamma}^{\text{old}})$ and let $\beta^{\text{old}} = \beta(\mu^{\text{old}})$, (10) can be rewritten as

$$\lambda_{li}^{\text{new}} = \mathcal{P}_{[0,1]} \left(\lambda_{li}^{\text{old}} - \frac{(\nabla_{\lambda} \mathcal{L})(\lambda_{li}^{\text{old}})}{u_{li}^2 \|\mathbf{x}_i\|_2^2} \right) = \mathcal{P}_{[0,1]} \left(\lambda_{li}^{\text{old}} + \frac{u_{li} \mathbf{x}_i^\top \beta^{\text{old}} + v_{li}}{u_{li}^2 \|\mathbf{x}_i\|_2^2} \right).$$

Accordingly, the primal variable β is updated as

$$\beta^{\text{new}} = \beta^{\text{old}} - (\lambda_{li}^{\text{new}} - \lambda_{li}^{\text{old}}) u_{li} \mathbf{x}_i,$$

which can then be used for the next dual variable update. Simple calculations show that this scheme only costs $\mathcal{O}(d)$ of computation for one λ_{li} variable.



$$\hat{\beta} = \sum_{k=1}^K \hat{\xi}_k \mathbf{a}_k - \sum_{i=1}^n \mathbf{x}_i \left(\sum_{l=1}^L \hat{\lambda}_{li} u_{li} + \sum_{h=1}^H \hat{\gamma}_{hi} s_{hi} \right) = \mathbf{A}^\top \hat{\xi} - \mathbf{U}_{(3)} \operatorname{vec}(\hat{\mathbf{\Lambda}}) - \mathbf{S}_{(3)} \operatorname{vec}(\hat{\mathbf{\Gamma}}). \quad (9)$$

Experiments

Software. generic/
specialized software

- **cvx/cvxpy**
- **mosek** (IPM)
- **ecos** (IPM)
- **scs** (ADMM)
- **dccp** (DCP)
- **liblinear** -> SVM
- **hqreg** -> Huber
- **lightning** -> sSVM

Table 5: The averaged running times (\pm standard deviation) of SOTA solvers on machine learning tasks. “**X**” indicates cases where the solver produced an invalid solution or exceeded the allotted time limit. **Speed-up** refers to the speed-up in the averaged running time (on the largest dataset) achieved by ReHLine, where “ ∞ ” indicates that the solver fails to solve the problem.

TASK	DATASET	ECOS	MOSEK	SCS	DCCP	REHLINE
FairSVM	SPF ($\times 1e-4$)	X	X	X	X	4.25(± 0.5)
	Philippine ($\times 1e-2$)	1550(± 0.6)	87.4(± 0.2)	130(± 42)	1137(± 9.2)	1.03(± 0.2)
	Sylva-prior ($\times 1e-2$)	X	X	X	X	0.47(± 0.1)
	Creditcard ($\times 1e-1$)	175(± 0.2)	64.2(± 0.1)	161(± 405)	X	0.64(± 0.2)
	Fail/Succeed	2/2	2/2	2/2	3/1	0/4
	Speed-up (on Creditcard)	273x	100x	252x	∞	-

TASK	DATASET	ECOS	MOSEK	SCS	REHLINE
ElasticQR	LD ($\times 1e-4$)	X	106(± 7)	34.9(± 25.0)	2.60(± 0.30)
	Kin8nm ($\times 1e-3$)	X	92.0(± 1.0)	63.1(± 58.5)	4.12(± 0.95)
	House-8L ($\times 1e-3$)	887(± 161)	277(± 34)	X	7.21(± 1.99)
	Topo-2-1 ($\times 1e-2$)	4752(± 2015)	X	X	3.04(± 0.49)
	BT ($\times 1e-0$)	7079(± 2517)	X	X	2.49(± 0.56)
	Fail/Succeed	3/2	2/3	3/2	0/5
	Speed-up (on BT)	2843x	∞	∞	-

TASK	DATASET	ECOS	MOSEK	SCS	HQREG	REHLINE
RidgeHuber	Liver-disorders ($\times 1e-4$)	X	X	X	4.90(± 0.00)	1.40(± 0.20)
	Kin8nm ($\times 1e-3$)	X	X	X	1.58(± 0.21)	2.04(± 0.30)
	House-8L ($\times 1e-3$)	X	925(± 2)	X	2.42(± 0.34)	0.80(± 0.21)
	Topo-2-1 ($\times 1e-2$)	2620(± 1040)	267(± 1)	213(± 2)	3.53(± 0.67)	1.78(± 0.32)
	BT ($\times 1e-1$)	X	2384(± 433)	X	12.5(± 1.8)	5.28(± 1.31)
	Fail/Succeed	4/1	2/3	4/1	0/5	0/5
	Speed-up (on BT)	∞	452x	∞	2.37x	-

TASK	DATASET	ECOS	MOSEK	SCS	LIBLINEAR	REHLINE
SVM	SPF ($\times 1e-4$)	X	372(± 1)	237(± 27)	12.7(± 0.1)	3.90(± 0.10)
	Philippine ($\times 1e-2$)	1653(± 41)	86.5(± 0.2)	153(± 146)	1.80(± 0.02)	0.82(± 0.02)
	Sylva-prior ($\times 1e-3$)	X	731(± 2)	843(± 1006)	16.0(± 0.6)	4.08(± 0.84)
	Creditcard ($\times 1e-2$)	2111(± 804)	X	1731(± 4510)	23.1(± 2.5)	5.08(± 1.45)
	Fail/Succeed	2/2	1/3	0/4	0/4	0/4
	Speed-up (on Creditcard)	415x	∞	340x	4.5x	-

TASK	DATASET	SAGA	SAG	SDCA	SVRG	REHLINE
sSVM	SPF ($\times 1e-4$)	39.9(± 4.6)	28.3(± 5.0)	15.0(± 2.4)	41.4(± 3.9)	4.80(± 1.20)
	Philippine ($\times 1e-2$)	24.3(± 27.8)	5.53(± 9.8)	1.47(± 0.19)	15.8(± 6.8)	0.89(± 0.10)
	Sylva-prior ($\times 1e-2$)	3.37(± 9.81)	3.00(± 0.56)	1.57(± 0.23)	3.40(± 0.84)	0.86(± 0.14)
	Creditcard ($\times 1e-2$)	10.4(± 1.4)	15.0(± 2.0)	14.0(± 1.9)	11.2(± 1.4)	6.36(± 1.92)
	Fail/Succeed	0/4	0/4	0/4	0/4	0/4
	Speed-up (on Creditcard)	1.6x	2.3x	2.2x	1.7x	-

Thank you!

