MEAN-SQUARE PERFORMANCE OF THE HYPERSLAB-BASED
ADAPTIVE PROJECTED SUBGRADIENT METHOD

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ABSTRACT
This paper is concerned with the mean-square performance of the hyperslab-based adaptive projected subgradient method, a set theoretic estimation tool that has been successfully applied in a wide variety of signal processing tasks such as adaptive filtering and distributed learning [9–15]. The H-APSM has several appealing features that include low complexity, robustness against noise, generality, and design flexibility, which make it well-suited for many applications. In the context of adaptive filtering, its general form serves as a unifying principle for a wide range of schemes that include the normalized least-mean-squares (NLMS) algorithm [16], the affine projection algorithm (APA) [17, 18], and other projection-based adaptive schemes [5].

Due to its applicability in a wide range of scenarios, there are already several analytical results for the H-APSM [2, 8, 20, 21], although most of them are based on deterministic arguments or are only concerned with the convergence of the estimates. This paper presents yet another result on H-APSM, with a focus on the evaluation of the mean-square performance of the H-APSM as an adaptive filter. More specifically, the main objective of this paper is to characterize the steady-state mean-square error of the aforementioned set theoretic scheme. For this purpose, we rely on well-known energy-conservation arguments [22], which are among the most useful techniques for the analyses of the performance of adaptive algorithms [23–28]. Though the inherent complexity of projection-based algorithms makes the analysis challenging, we attempt to provide a fairly general treatment of the mean-square performance of H-APSM based on the earlier works [22, 25, 26]. We also illustrate that, compared to other data-reusing algorithms such as the APA (see, e.g., [26, 27]), the H-APSM manages to obtain a lower steady-state MSE value even if one reuses more data in its implementation. Moreover, since the H-APSM covers the SM-NLMS algorithm as a special case, the present analysis, in particular the stability result, can also be used to complement the results derived earlier for the said algorithm [28, 29]. Numerical simulations are shown to support our theoretical findings.

2. PRELIMINARIES

2.1. Notation

Throughout this paper, we denote the sets of all nonnegative integers and real numbers by \( \mathbb{N} \) and \( \mathbb{R} \), respectively. Vectors and matrices are represented by boldface characters. We denote the Euclidean norm by \( \| \cdot \| \), the transpose of a vector or matrix by \( (\cdot)^T \), the identity matrix of appropriate dimensions by \( I \), the trace of a matrix by \( \text{Tr}(\cdot) \), and the expectation of a random variable by \( \mathbb{E}[\cdot] \).

Let \( C \) be a subset of the Euclidean space \( \mathbb{R}^M \). If \( C \) is nonempty, the distance from \( h \in \mathbb{R}^M \) to \( C \) is defined as \( d(h, C) := \inf \| h - c \| \). If \( C \) is also closed and convex, then, for every \( h \in \mathbb{R}^M \), there exists a unique point \( P_C(h) \in C \), called the projection of \( h \) onto \( C \), such that \( \| h - P_C(h) \| = d(h, C) \).

2.2. Data Model

Consider noisy measurements \( \{d(i)\}_{i \in \mathbb{N}} \) that arise from the linear model

\[
d(i) = u_i^T h^* + v(i),
\]

where \( h^* \) is an unknown vector that we wish to estimate, \( v(i) \) accounts for modeling errors with variance denoted by \( \sigma_v^2 \), and \( u_i \in \mathbb{R}^M \) denotes the regressor vector with a positive-definite covariance matrix \( R := \mathbb{E}[u_i u_i^T] \). For simplicity, the noise \( v(i) \) is assumed to be independent of \( u_j \) for all \( j \) and of \( v(j) \) for all \( j \neq i \).

2.3. The Algorithm

The general form of the adaptive projected subgradient method (APSM) [2, 5, 6, 8–10, 15, 30–38] can be described as follows [2].

Let \( \Theta_i : \mathbb{R}^M \to [0, +\infty) \) \( (i \in \mathbb{N}) \) be a sequence of convex functions and \( K \subset \mathbb{R}^M \) be a nonempty closed convex set. For any arbitrarily chosen \( h_{i-1} \in K \), the APSM generates a sequence of estimates \( \{h_i\}_{i \in \mathbb{N}} \subset K \) using the recursion

\[
h_i = \begin{cases} 
\frac{P_K(h_{i-1} - \mu \Theta_i(h_{i-1})\Theta_i'(h_{i-1})\|\Theta_i(h_{i-1})\|^2)}, & \text{if } \Theta_i'(h_{i-1}) \neq 0, \\
h_{i-1}, & \text{if } \Theta_i'(h_{i-1}) = 0,
\end{cases}
\]

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where \( \Theta'(h_{i-1}) \in \partial \Theta_i(h_{i-1}) := \{ r \in \mathbb{R}^M \mid \Theta_i(h_{i-1}) + r^T (x - h_{i-1}) \leq \Theta(x), \forall x \in \mathbb{R}^M \} \neq \emptyset \) and \( \mu \) is the step-size or relaxation parameter. The APSM satisfies several remarkable properties such as monotone approximation, asymptotic optimality and convergence in norm [2]. In general, different design parameters can lead to several efficient schemes that can be tailored for different types of applications. The commonly used hyperslab-based version H-APSM [2, 5, 8] is obtained by choosing the following parameters. Define \( \Theta_i : \mathbb{R}^M \rightarrow [0, +\infty) \) by

\[
\Theta_i(h) := \sum_{j \in J_i} \omega_j d_j^2(h, S_j),
\]

where \( \{ \omega_j \}_{j \in J_i} \in (0, 1], \sum_{j \in J_i} \omega_j = 1 \) and \( J_i = \{ \max(0, i - q + 1), \max(0, i - q + 1) + 1, \ldots, i \} \). Then choosing \( K = \mathbb{R}^M \) in (2) yields the scheme

\[
(h_i)_{1} = h_{i-1} + \mu \sum_{j \in J_i} \omega_j (P_{S_j}(h_{i-1}) - h_{i-1}),
\]

where \( \mu \in [0, M] \) and

\[
M_i := \left\{ \left\| \sum_{j \in J_i} \omega_j P_{S_j}(h_{i-1}) - h_{i-1} \right\| \right\}^2
\]

if \( h_{i-1} \notin \bigcap_{j \in J_i} S_j \)

otherwise.

Note that by using a different sequence of convex functions for (3), the step-size range presented above can be doubled [2]. The property set at each iteration in (4) is chosen to take the form of a hyperslab, which is defined as follows:

\[
S_j := \{ h \in \mathbb{R}^M : |d(j) - u_j^T h| \leq \rho \}, \quad j \in \mathbb{N}
\]

where \( \rho \geq 0 \) and \( S_j = \mathbb{R}^M \) if \( u_j = 0 \). The projection onto the hyperslab \( S_j \) is given by

\[
P_{S_j}(h) = \begin{cases} h + \frac{d(j) - u_j^T h - \rho}{\| u_j \|^2} u_j, & \text{if } d(j) - u_j^T h > \rho \\ h + \frac{d(j) - u_j^T h + \rho}{\| u_j \|^2} u_j, & \text{if } d(j) - u_j^T h < -\rho \\ h, & \text{if } h \in S_j \text{ or } u_j = 0. \end{cases}
\]

### 3. PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

In order to apply energy-conservation arguments, we illustrate how the H-APSM satisfies a form that is similar to some existing adaptive filtering algorithms. Let \( e_j(i) := d(j) - u_j^T h_{i-1} \). Then (5) can be written as

\[
P_{S_j}(h_{i-1}) = h_{i-1} + e_j(i) - f_{\rho}(e_j(i)) \| u_j \|^2 u_j,
\]

where \( f_{\rho} : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow [-\rho, \rho] \) is the continuous piecewise linear function defined by

\[
f_{\rho}(x) := \frac{|x + \rho| - |x - \rho|}{2}.
\]

Thus, we can express (4) in the form

\[
h_i = h_{i-1} + \mu \sum_{j \in J_i} \omega_j \frac{e_j(i) - f_{\rho}(e_j(i))}{\| u_j \|^2 + \varepsilon} u_j,
\]

where we added a regularization parameter \( \varepsilon > 0 \) in the data normalization of the algorithm. Now, introduce the quantities

\[
U_i = [u_i, u_{i-1}, \ldots, u_{i-q+1}]
\]

\[
d_i = [d(i), d(i - 1), \ldots, d(i - q + 1)]^T
\]

\[
W_i = \text{diag}(\omega_i, \omega_{i-1}, \ldots, \omega_{i-q+1})
\]

\[
N_i = \text{diag}(\| u_i \|^2 + \varepsilon, \ldots, \| u_{i-q+1} \|^2 + \varepsilon)^{-1}
\]

and define the vector-valued estimation error

\[
e_i = d_i - U_i^T h_{i-1}.
\]

Observe that using the quantities above, the H-APSM is now seen to satisfy the form

\[
h_i = h_{i-1} + \mu U_i \Pi_i (e_i - f_{\rho}(e_i)).
\]

Introduce the a priori and a posteriori weighted estimation errors

\[
e_{a,i} = U_i^T \tilde{h}_{i-1} \quad \text{and} \quad e_{p,i} = U_i^T h_i.
\]

Multiplying both sides of (7) by \( U_i^T \) from the left, we find that

\[
e_{p,i} = e_{a,i} - \mu U_i^T U_i \Pi_i (e_i - f_{\rho}(e_i)).
\]

Combining (7) and (8), we get

\[
\tilde{h}_{i+1} + U_i (U_i^T U_i)^{-1} e_{a,i} = \tilde{h}_{i+1} + U_i (U_i^T U_i)^{-1} e_{p,i}.
\]

Equating the weighted norms of both sides of the equation above results in the energy-conservation relation

\[
\| \tilde{h}_{i+1} \|^2 + e_{a,i}^T (U_i^T U_i)^{-1} e_{a,i} = \| \tilde{h}_{i+1} \|^2 + e_{p,i}^T (U_i^T U_i)^{-1} e_{p,i}.
\]

An important feature of the relation above is that it has been established without using any approximations. This exact relation describes how the weighted energies of the error quantities evolve in time. One also sees that equation (9) is the energy-conservation relation that is also satisfied by standard data-reusing adaptive algorithms [26, 27].

In the next sections we exploit relation (9) to study the performance of the H-APSM. In order to make the succeeding analysis tractable, we shall sometimes rely on several simplifying assumptions that are usually invoked in the literature, as can be seen in, e.g., [22, 25–27].
3.1. Mean Stability

Before we characterize the mean-square performance of the H-APSM, we first determine mean stability conditions by using the weight-error vector recursion (7).

Note that from (1), we have the relation

\[ e_i = e_{a,i} + v_i = U_i^T\hat{h}_{i-1} + v_i, \]

where \( v_i := [v(i) v(i-1) \ldots v(i-q+1)]^T. \) We can then express recursion (7) in the form

\[ \hat{h}_i = \hat{h}_{i-1} - \mu U_i\Pi_i U_i^T\hat{h}_{i-1} - \mu U_i\Pi_i v_i + \mu U_i\Pi_i f_\rho(e_i). \]

Taking expectations and assuming that

- the noise \( v(i) \) is independent and identically distributed (iid) and statistically independent of the regression matrix \( \{U_i\}, \)

we conclude that the mean of the weight-error vector converging to the following dynamics:

\[ \mathbb{E}\hat{h}_i = (I - \mu P)E \hat{h}_{i-1} + \mu \mathbb{E}[U_i\Pi_i f_\rho(e_i)], \tag{10} \]

where

\[ P := \mathbb{E}[U_i\Pi_i U_i^T]. \]

Since \( f_\rho(e_i) \) has bounded entries, the algorithm converges in the mean if the matrix \( I - \mu P \) is a stable matrix. This holds if

\[ \mu < \frac{2}{\lambda_{\text{max}}(P)}, \]

where \( \lambda_{\text{max}} \) denotes the maximum eigenvalue of the symmetric matrix \( P. \) Now, note that we can simplify \( P \) to

\[ P = \mathbb{E}\left[\frac{u_i u_i^T}{\epsilon + \|u_i\|^2}\right]. \]

Thus, by invoking the analysis on the same matrix \( P \) in [22] that is used for the study of the stability of the NLMS algorithm, we conclude that the H-APSM converges in the mean for any step-size \( \mu < 2. \) Furthermore, taking the limit of (10) as \( i \rightarrow +\infty, \) we get

\[ \lim_{i \rightarrow +\infty} \mathbb{E} \hat{h}_i = \mathbb{E}\hat{h}_0 - P^{-1}\lim_{i \rightarrow +\infty} \mathbb{E}[U_i\Pi_i f_\rho(e_i)]. \tag{11} \]

Hence, we say that the H-APSM as an estimator is asymptotically biased. Note that if we set \( \rho = 0, \) the second term on the right-hand side of (11) vanishes. That is, if we instead use hyperplanes, i.e., hyperslabs with \( \rho = 0, \) as property sets, the H-APSM becomes asymptotically unbiased. The following theorem provides a characterization of the stability of the H-APSM in the mean sense.

**Theorem 1 (Mean stability)** Consider data model (1). Then the hyperslab-based APSM (6) asymptotically converges in the mean for any initial condition given any step-size \( \mu < 2. \) Moreover, given any \( \rho > 0, \) the algorithm is asymptotically biased. Furthermore, the choice of weights \( \{\omega_i\} \) does not affect the mean stability and convergence speed of the H-APSM in the mean sense.

The observations described above regarding the effect of the weights and the asymptotic unbiasedness for \( \rho = 0 \) coincide with the result in [9] for the hyperplane-based APSM, a special case of the H-APSM used in that work in the context of adaptive networks. Note further that our result is not in conflict with the result established in [21], where a stochastic analysis of the H-APSM has been given, since convergence in the mean is a stronger condition that is not implied by convergence in probability.

3.2. Mean-Square Performance

We now derive an approximation to the steady-state performance of the H-APSM. In particular, our goal is to evaluate the steady-state mean-square error (MSE), denoted by \( \xi, \) which is given by

\[ \xi := \lim_{i \rightarrow +\infty} \mathbb{E}\epsilon_i^2(i), \]

where

\[ \epsilon(i) := d(i) - u_i^T\hat{h}_{i-1} \]

is called the output estimation error at time \( i. \)

Taking the limit of both sides of the energy-conservation relation (9) and assuming the steady-state condition

\[ \mathbb{E}\|\hat{h}_i\|^2 = \mathbb{E}\|\hat{h}_{i-1}\|^2 \text{ as } i \rightarrow +\infty, \]

we obtain the variance relation

\[ \mathbb{E}[e_{a,i}^T(U_i^T U_i)^{-1}e_{a,i}] = \mathbb{E}[e_{a,i}^T(U_i^T U_i)^{-1}e_{a,i}]. \]

Substituting (8) into the right-hand side of the equation above yields

\[ \mathbb{E}(e_i - f_\rho(e_i))^T A_i(e_i - f_\rho(e_i)) = 2\mathbb{E}[e_{a,i}^T \Pi_i e_i - f_\rho(e_i)] \tag{12} \]

where \( A_i := \Pi_i U_i^T U_i \Pi_i. \) If we neglect the dependency of \( \hat{h}_{i-1} \) on past noises, we find, after some straightforward manipulations, that

\[ \mu[\mathbb{E}[e_{a,i}^T A_i e_{a,i}] + \mathbb{E}[v_i^T A_i v_i] - 2\mathbb{E}[f_\rho(e_i)^T A_i f_\rho(e_i)] - 2\mathbb{E}[f_\rho(e_i)^T A_i v_i] + \mathbb{E}[f_\rho(e_i)^T A_i f_\rho(e_i)]] \]

\[ = 2\mathbb{E}[e_{a,i}^T \Pi_i e_i] - 2\mathbb{E}[e_{a,i}^T \Pi_i f_\rho(e_i)]. \tag{13} \]

In order for us to evaluate the steady-state MSE of the H-APSM, we need to deal with the expectations above. To handle this task we rely on and build upon a simplifying assumption used in the analysis of data-reusing algorithms, in particular, of the APA [26]. That is, we assume at steady-state and for sufficiently small step-sizes that:

- \( \mu U_i \) is statistically independent of \( e_{a,i}, \)
- \( \mathbb{E}[e_{a,i} e_{a,i}^T] \approx \epsilon \mathbb{E}[e_i^2] \cdot I, \) where \( e_{a,i}(i) := u_i^T \hat{h}_{i-1}, \)
- \( \mathbb{E}[v_i v_i^T] \approx \sigma_v^2 \cdot I, \)
- \( \mathbb{E}[e_i f_\rho(e_i)^T] \approx \mathbb{E}[v_i f_\rho(e_i)^T] \cdot I, \)
- \( \mathbb{E}[f_\rho(e_i)^T f_\rho(e_i)^T] \approx \mathbb{E}[f_\rho^2(e_i)^T] \cdot I. \)

Observe that we considered a simple form of the assumption in [26] to make the resulting expressions simpler. In particular, we note that other approximations for the matrices above can also be motivated as in [26]. The expressions for the expectations involving \( f_\rho \) on the other hand can be computed directly as in [29]. Assuming \( \epsilon(i) \) is white Gaussian, the following expressions can be obtained:

\[ \mathbb{E}[v_i f_\rho(e_i)] = \sigma_v^2 \text{erf}\left(\frac{\rho}{\sqrt{2}\sigma_v^2(i)}\right) \]

\[ \mathbb{E}[e_{a,i} f_\rho(e_i)] = \epsilon_i \text{erf}\left(\frac{\rho}{\sqrt{2}\epsilon_i(i)}\right) \]
Theoretical and simulated MSE versus step-size curves for the hyperslab-based APSM using correlated Gaussian input with $M = 256$, $\phi = 0.8$, and $\rho = \sigma_w^2$.

\[ E[J_m^2(e(i))] = E[e^2(i)\text{erf}(\frac{\rho}{\sqrt{2Ee^2(i)}}) + \rho^2 - \rho^2 \text{erf}(\frac{\rho}{\sqrt{2Ee^2(i)}}) - \rho^2 \sqrt{\frac{2Ee^2(i)}{\pi}} \exp(-\rho^2/2Ee^2(i))]. \]

Using the property that $\text{Tr}(X^2) = \text{Tr}(Y^2)$ for any matrices $X$ and $Y$ of compatible dimensions, employing the assumptions regarding the expectations in (13), and noting that $E[e^2(i)] = E[\sigma_w^2(i) + \sigma_e^2(i)]$, we obtain the following result.

**Theorem 2** (Steady-state performance) Consider data model (1). Then an approximation to the steady-state MSE $\xi$ of the hyperslab-based APSM (6) is the unique solution of the nonlinear equation

\[ \xi = \sigma_e^2 + \Gamma_\mu \left[ \sigma_e^2 + \rho^2 - \rho \sqrt{\frac{2E}{\pi}} \exp(-\rho^2/(2E \xi)) \right], \tag{14} \]

where

\[ \Gamma_\mu := \frac{\mu \text{Tr}(E A_i)}{2 \text{Tr}(E H_i) - \mu \text{Tr}(E A_i)}. \]

**Remark 1** Observe that if $q = 1$, i.e., we only consider a single hyperslab, (14) reduces to the steady-state MSE equation for the SM-NLMS algorithm [29]. Also, using the analyses presented in [29], one can conclude that the steady-state MSE $\xi$ is a monotonically increasing function of the step-size $\mu$ and is a monotonically decreasing function of $\rho$.

**4. SIMULATION RESULTS**

We now present simulation results to illustrate the theoretical results presented in this paper. Consider the input vector $u_i$ to have a shift structure with entries generated by passing an iid Gaussian process $\{x(i)\}_{i \in \mathbb{N}}$ with unit variance through the model

\[ u(i) = \phi u(i - 1) + x(i), \quad i \in \mathbb{N}, \]

which is a first-order autoregressive process with a pole at $\phi$. The output $d(i)$ is contaminated using a white Gaussian process $v(i)$ with its variance set so that its signal-to-noise ratio is 30 dB. The original unknown system is generated randomly and all adaptive filter coefficients are initialized to zero. The regularization parameter $\varepsilon$ is fixed to $10^{-6}$. All simulation results are obtained by ensemble averaging over 100 independent trials.

We simulate the steady-state behavior of the H-APSM for $q = 1, 2, 3, 4$ hyperslabs and compare the results with the theory as described in Theorem 2. We consider an unknown system $h^\rho$ with tap lengths $M = 256$ and $M = 16$ using poles $\phi = 0.8$ and $\phi = 0.2$, respectively. The experimental values of the steady-state MSE are calculated by averaging the last 200 samples after $10^5$ iterations. The theoretical steady-state MSE values are obtained numerically from (14). The weighting used for the implementation of the H-APSM is based on simple averaging, i.e., $\omega_v = 1/q$ for every $j$.

We see that, as discussed in Remark 1, the steady-state MSE is a monotonically increasing function of the step-size $\mu$. Also, one notices that given a fixed step-size, a lower steady-state MSE $\xi$ is obtained when one uses a larger number of hyperslabs. In addition to this feature, the low complexity of H-APSM compared to other data-reusing algorithms makes it attractive for many applications. Moreover, observe that although increasing $q$ results in an increase in computational cost, the improvement in the steady-state MSE is significant, especially for the first few increases in the number of hyperslabs. Although the mean-square performance analysis is a challenging task (see, e.g., [22, 26–28, 39]), and despite the use of restrictive simplifying assumptions, colored input or large values of the step-size, we see that we still have a fairly close agreement between theory and practice.

**5. CONCLUDING REMARKS**

We have presented the first mean-square performance evaluation of the hyperslab-based adaptive projected subgradient method. Using energy-conservation arguments, an expression involving the steady-state mean-square error has been derived without restricting the input data to a particular distribution. Simulations supported the theoretical results. Due to space limitations, we have only presented the steady-state performance of the H-APSM. The characterization of its transient behavior will be considered elsewhere.
6. REFERENCES


