
PALM: Probabilistic Area Loss Minimization for Protein Sequence Alignment (Supplementary Materials)

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1 PROOF OF THEOREM 1

Theorem 1 states the function value of the output of PALM, in expectation converges to the true optimum within a small constant distance at a linear speed w.r.t. the number of iterations T . To prove Theorem 1, we need the following lemma.

Lemma 1. *If the total variation $\max_{\theta} \text{Var}_{P_{\theta}}(\phi(a)) \leq L$, then $l(\theta)$ is L -smooth w.r.t. θ .*

1.1 PROOF OF LEMMA 1

Proof. L -smoothness requires that

$$\|\nabla \mathcal{L}_{LB}(\theta_1) - \nabla \mathcal{L}_{LB}(\theta_2)\|_2 \leq L \|\theta_1 - \theta_2\|_2,$$

where $\forall \theta_1, \theta_2 \in \text{dom } f$ and L is a constant. Based on the mean value theorem, there exists a point $\tilde{\theta} \in (\theta_1, \theta_2)$ such that

$$\nabla \mathcal{L}_{LB}(\theta_1) - \nabla \mathcal{L}_{LB}(\theta_2) = \nabla(\nabla \mathcal{L}_{LB}(\tilde{\theta}))(\theta_1 - \theta_2).$$

Taking the L_2 norm for both sides, we have

$$\|\nabla \mathcal{L}_{LB}(\theta_1) - \nabla \mathcal{L}_{LB}(\theta_2)\|_2 = \|\nabla(\nabla \mathcal{L}_{LB}(\tilde{\theta}))(\theta_1 - \theta_2)\|_2 \leq \|\nabla(\nabla \mathcal{L}_{LB}(\tilde{\theta}))\|_2 \|\theta_1 - \theta_2\|_2$$

Then, the problem is to bound the matrix 2-norm $\|\nabla(\nabla \mathcal{L}_{LB}(\tilde{\theta}))\|_2$. Since we know the explicit form of $\mathcal{L}_{LB}(\theta)$, we know

$$\begin{aligned} \nabla \mathcal{L}_{LB}(\theta) &= \nabla \log Z_{\phi} - \phi(a), \\ \nabla(\nabla \mathcal{L}_{LB}(\theta)) &= \sum_a [\phi(a) - \nabla \log Z_{\phi}][\phi(a) - \nabla \log Z_{\phi}]^T P_{\theta}(a), \end{aligned}$$

where $\nabla(\nabla \mathcal{L}_{LB}(\theta))$ is the co-variance matrix. Denote $\text{Cov}_{\theta}[\phi(a)] = \nabla(\nabla \mathcal{L}_{LB}(\theta))$, which is both symmetric and positive semi-definite. We have

$$\|\nabla(\nabla \mathcal{L}_{LB}(\tilde{\theta}))\|_2 = \|\text{Cov}_{\tilde{\theta}}[\phi(a)]\|_2 = \lambda_{\max},$$

where λ_{\max} is the maximum eigenvalue of the matrix $\text{Cov}_{\theta}[\phi(a)]$. Then, because of the positive semi-definiteness of the co-variance matrix, all the eigenvalues are non-negative, and we can bound λ_{\max} as

$$\lambda_{\max} \leq \sum_i \lambda_i = \text{Tr}(\text{Cov}_{\theta}[\phi(a)]),$$

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where $Tr(\text{Cov}_\theta[\phi(a)])$ is the trace of matrix $\text{Cov}_\theta[\phi(a)]$. $Tr(\text{Cov}_\theta[\phi(a)])$ can be further derived as:

$$Tr(\text{Cov}_\theta[\phi(a)]) = \mathbb{E}_{P_\theta}[\|\phi(a)\|_2^2] - \|\mathbb{E}_{P_\theta}[\phi(a)]\|_2^2,$$

which is equal to the total variation $Var_{P_\theta}(\phi(a))$, we have

$$\|\nabla(\nabla\mathcal{L}_{LB}(\tilde{\theta}))\|_2 \leq Var_{P_\theta}(\phi(X)) \leq L.$$

Therefore, we have

$$\|\nabla l(\theta_1) - \nabla l(\theta_2)\|_2 \leq L \|\theta_1 - \theta_2\|_2.$$

This completes the proof. \square

1.2 PROOF OF THEOREM 1

Proof. By L-smooth of \mathcal{L}_{LB} , we have for the t -th iteration,

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}_{LB}(\theta_{t+1}) &\leq \mathcal{L}_{LB}(\theta_t) + \langle \nabla\mathcal{L}_{LB}(\theta_t), \theta_{t+1} - \theta_t \rangle + \frac{L}{2} \|\theta_{t+1} - \theta_t\|_2^2, \\ &= \mathcal{L}_{LB}(\theta_t) - \eta \langle \nabla\mathcal{L}_{LB}(\theta_t), g_t \rangle + \frac{L\eta^2}{2} \|g_t\|_2^2. \end{aligned}$$

Because of $\mathbb{E}[g_t]^2 = \mathbb{E}[\|g_t\|_2^2] - Var(g_t)$, by taking expectation on both sides w.r.t g_t we get

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E}[\mathcal{L}_{LB}(\theta_{t+1})] &= \mathcal{L}_{LB}(\theta_t) - \eta \mathbb{E}[g_t]^2 + \frac{L\eta^2}{2} \mathbb{E}[\|g_t\|_2^2] = \mathcal{L}_{LB}(\theta_t) - \eta(\mathbb{E}[\|g_t\|_2^2] - Var(g_t)) + \frac{L\eta^2}{2} \mathbb{E}[\|g_t\|_2^2], \\ &\leq \mathcal{L}_{LB}(\theta_t) - \eta(1 - \frac{L\eta}{2}) \mathbb{E}[\|g_t\|_2^2] + \frac{\eta\sigma^2}{M}, \\ &\leq \mathcal{L}_{LB}(\theta_t) - \frac{\eta}{2} \mathbb{E}[\|g_t\|_2^2] + \frac{\eta\sigma^2}{M}. \end{aligned}$$

where the last inequality follows as $L\eta \leq 2$. Because \mathcal{L}_{LB} is convex, we get

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E}[\mathcal{L}_{LB}(\theta_{t+1})] &\leq \mathcal{L}_{LB}(\theta^*) + \langle \nabla\mathcal{L}_{LB}(\theta_t), \theta_t - \theta^* \rangle - \frac{\eta}{2} \mathbb{E}[\|g_t\|_2^2] + \eta\sigma^2, \\ &= \mathcal{L}_{LB}(\theta^*) + \langle \mathbb{E}[g_t], \theta_t - \theta^* \rangle - \frac{\eta}{2} \mathbb{E}[\|g_t\|_2^2] + \frac{\eta\sigma^2}{M}, \\ &= \mathcal{L}_{LB}(\theta^*) + \mathbb{E}[\langle g_t, \theta_t - \theta^* \rangle - \frac{\eta}{2} \|g_t\|_2^2] + \frac{\eta\sigma^2}{M}. \end{aligned}$$

we now repeat the calculations by completing the square for the middle two terms to get

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E}[\mathcal{L}_{LB}(\theta_{t+1})] &\leq \mathcal{L}_{LB}(\theta^*) + \mathbb{E}[\frac{1}{2\eta}(\|\theta_t - \theta^*\|_2^2 - \|\theta_t - \theta^* - \eta g_t\|_2^2)] + \frac{\eta\sigma^2}{M}, \\ &= \mathcal{L}_{LB}(\theta^*) + \mathbb{E}[\frac{1}{2\eta}(\|\theta_t - \theta^*\|_2^2 - \|\theta_{t+1} - \theta^*\|_2^2)] + \frac{\eta\sigma^2}{M}. \end{aligned}$$

Summing the above equations for $t = 0, \dots, T-1$, we get

$$\sum_{t=0}^{T-1} \mathbb{E}[\mathcal{L}_{LB}(\theta_{t+1}) - \mathcal{L}_{LB}(\theta^*)] \leq \frac{1}{2\eta}(\|\theta_0 - \theta^*\|_2^2 - \mathbb{E}[\|\theta_T - \theta^*\|_2^2]) + T \frac{\eta\sigma^2}{M} \leq \frac{\|\theta_0 - \theta^*\|_2^2}{2\eta} + T \frac{\eta\sigma^2}{M}.$$

Finally, by Jensen's inequality, $T\mathcal{L}_{LB}(\overline{\theta}_T) \leq \sum_{t=1}^T \mathcal{L}_{LB}(\theta_t)$, thus,

$$\sum_{t=0}^{T-1} \mathbb{E}[\mathcal{L}_{LB}(\theta_{t+1}) - \mathcal{L}_{LB}(\theta^*)] = \mathbb{E}[\sum_{t=1}^T \mathcal{L}_{LB}(\theta_t)] - T\mathcal{L}_{LB}(\theta^*) \geq T\mathbb{E}[\mathcal{L}_{LB}(\overline{\theta}_T)] - T\mathcal{L}_{LB}(\theta^*).$$

Combining the above equations we get

$$\mathbb{E}[\mathcal{L}_{LB}(\overline{\theta}_T)] \leq \mathcal{L}_{LB}(\theta^*) + \frac{\|\theta_0 - \theta^*\|_2^2}{2\eta T} + \frac{\eta\sigma^2}{M}.$$

This completes the proof. \square