



# Perturbed utility stochastic traffic assignment

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# Outline

- Background
- Perturbed utility SUE
  - Primal formulation
  - Lagrangian dual formulation
  - Quasi-Newton  
accelerated gradient descent
- Numerical results
- Conclusions

- A representative agent  $w$  is assumed to solve the following maximization problem in a network  $(V, E)$  :

$$\begin{aligned} \max_{x^n \in \mathbb{R}_+^{|E|}} \quad & u^\top x^w - \boxed{F^w(x^w)} && \text{Perturbation} \\ \text{s. t.} \quad & Ax^w = b^w && \text{Flow conservation} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} x^w &\in \mathbb{R}_+^{|E|} \\ u &\in \mathbb{R}^{|E|} \\ F^w &\in \mathbb{R}^{|E|} \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \\ A &\in \mathbb{R}^{|V| \times |E|} \\ b^w &\in \mathbb{R}^{|V|} \end{aligned}$$

- link flows
- utility index
- convex perturbation function
- incident matrix
- unit demand

## Key properties

- Allow zero flows on irrelevant links
- Correlation between alternative routes induced directly from network

$$\begin{aligned}
 \min_{x^n \in \mathbb{R}_+^{|E|}} \quad & c^\top x^w + F^w(x^w) \\
 \text{s. t.} \quad & Ax^w = b^w
 \end{aligned} \tag{\eta}$$

- *Assumptions: network perturbation function*

$$F^w(x) = \sum_{ij} F_{ij}^w(x_{ij}^w)$$

- $F_{ij}^w$  is link-specific, continuous differentiable, strictly convex, and strictly increasing
- $F_{ij}^w(0) = F_{ij}^{w'}(0) = 0$
- $c$  is a vector of positive link cost

- Complementarity condition:

$$0 \leq x_{ij}^{w*} \perp [c_{ij} + F_{ij}^{w'}(x_{ij}^{w*}) + \eta_j^{w*} - \eta_i^{w*}] \geq 0$$

- Estimation – Given  $x_{ij}^{w*}$ , estimate parameters  $\beta$  in  $c_{ij}$
- How to predict?** – Given  $\beta$ , solve for link flows  $x_{ij}^{w*}$

For any given  $c_{ij} > 0$ ,

$$x_{ij}^{w*} = (F_{ij}^{w'})^{-1}(\eta_i^{w*} - \eta_j^{w*} - c_{ij})$$

**Exploiting the FOC**  
*(Key ingredient)*

- What if cost is flow-dependent  $c_{ij}(x_{ij})$ ?**

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## Primal formulation

- Primal formulation – Constrained optimization

For a set of traveler types  $\{w\}$ , and demands  $\{q^w\}$

$$\min_{x \geq 0} Z = \sum_{ij} \sum_w \left[ \underbrace{\int_0^{\sum_{w'} q^{w'} x_{ij}^{w'}} t_{ij}(m) dm}_{\text{Beckmann's UE equation}} + \underbrace{q^w F_{ij}^w(x_{ij}^w)}_{\text{Perturbation}} \right]$$

$$\text{s. t.} \quad Ax^w - b^w = 0, \forall w \quad \text{Flow conservation}$$

- Resulting SUE (optimal condition) is equivalent to FOC of PURC

Assumption:  $t_{ij}$  is positive, differentiable, increasing and strictly convex

# Perturbed utility stochastic traffic assignment

## Lagrangian dual formulation

**Recall**  $x_{ij}^{n*} = (F_{ij}^{n'})^{-1}(\eta_i^{n*} - \eta_j^{n*} - c_{ij}^*)$

With flow-dependent  $c_{ij}^* = t_{ij} \left( \sum_{w'} q^w x_{ij}^{w*} \right)$

- **Lagrangian dual formulation – Unconstrained optimization!**

$$\max_{\eta} G = \sum_{ij} \sum_w \left[ \int_0^{\sum_{w'} q^{w'} x_{ij}^{w'*}} t_{ij}(m) dm + q^w F_{ij}^w(x_{ij}^{w*}) \right] - \sum_w \eta^w (Ax^w - b^w)$$

### Lemma (Strong duality)

The duality gap between the primal TAP problem and the corresponding dual problem at their optimal solutions is zero.

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## Quasi-Newton accelerated gradient descent

$$x_{ij}^{w*} = (F_{ij}^{w'})^{-1}(\eta_i^{w*} - \eta_j^{w*} - c_{ij}^*) \quad \longleftrightarrow \quad c_{ij}^* = t_{ij} \left( \sum_{w'} q^w x_{ij}^{w*} \right)$$

*Interdependent*

- Iterative update  $x_{ij}^{n*}$  with estimates of  $c_{ij}^*$  (Partial linearization)
- Update estimates of  $c_{ij}^*$  by solving an auxiliary fixed point

$$U_{ij}(x_{ij}^{w*}, c_{ij}^*) = t_{ij} \left( \sum_{w'} q^w x_{ij}^{w*} \right) - c_{ij}^* = 0$$


- At each iteration, update one Newton-step of the auxiliary fixed point



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## Quasi-Newton accelerated gradient descent

$$\max_{\eta} G = \sum_{ij} \sum_w \left[ \int_0^{\sum_{w'} q^{w'} x_{ij}^{w'*}} t_{ij}(m) dm + q^w F_{ij}^w(x_{ij}^{w*}) \right] - \sum_w \eta^w (Ax^w - b^w)$$



$$\Delta = \frac{\frac{\partial G}{\partial \eta_i^w} = q^w (A_i x^w - b^w) \quad \text{Gradient}}{\frac{\partial^2 G}{\partial^2 \eta_i^w} = q^w A_i \nabla_{\eta_i^w} (F_{ij}^{w'})^{-1} \quad \text{Hessian Diagonal}}$$

**Quasi-Newton**

$$\tilde{\eta}_j^{w(m+1)} = \eta_j^{w(m)} + \gamma \Delta^{(m)}$$

$$\eta_j^{w(m+1)} = \tilde{\eta}_j^{w(m+1)} + \frac{m}{m + \alpha} (\tilde{\eta}_j^{w(m+1)} - \tilde{\eta}_j^{w(m)})$$

**Nesterov's momentum acceleration**

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## Quasi-Newton accelerated gradient descent

- For each iteration:

- PURC assignment

$$x_{ij}^{w*(m+1)} = (F_{ij}^{n'})^{-1} \left( \eta_i^{n*(m)} - \eta_j^{n*(m)} - c_{ij}^{*(m)} \right)$$

- Update dual variables with qN-AGD\*

$$\tilde{\eta}_j^{w(m+1)} = \eta_j^{w(m)} + \gamma_1 \Delta^{(m)}$$

$$\eta_j^{w(m+1)} = \tilde{\eta}_j^{w(m+1)} + \frac{m}{m + \alpha} \left( \tilde{\eta}_j^{w(m+1)} - \tilde{\eta}_j^{w(m)} \right)$$

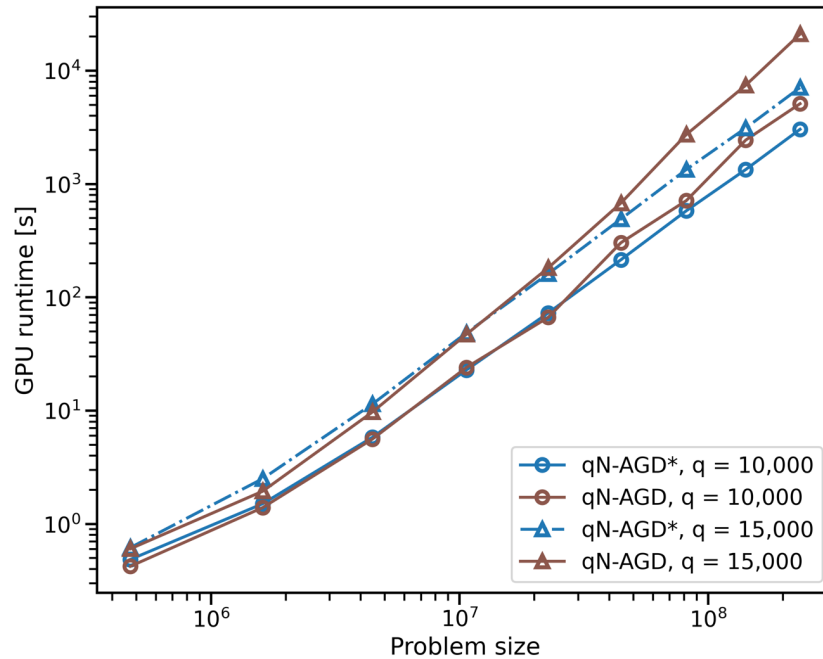
- Update link costs with one Newton-step

$$c_{ij}^{*(m+1)} = c_{ij}^{*(m)} - \gamma_1 \frac{U_{ij} \left( x_{ij}^{w*(m+1)}, c_{ij}^{*(m)} \right)}{\nabla_{c_{ij}^*} U_{ij} \left( x_{ij}^{w*(m+1)}, c_{ij}^{*(m)} \right)}$$

**Dual algorithm runtime performance**  
(comparison with existing algorithms in the literature)

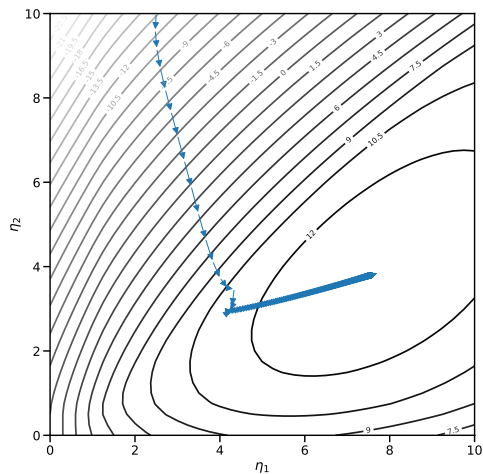
Network	Problem size	Runtime [s]			
	$ N  \times  W $	Proposed	qN-AGD	AGD*	AGD
Sioux Falls	1.27E+04	<b>0.25</b>	0.43	1.95	5.78
Berlin-Friedrichshain	1.13E+05	<b>2.17</b>	7.23	42.83	144.12
Berlin-Tiergarten	2.31E+05	<b>3.23</b>	7.70	142.85	410.33
Anaheim	5.85E+05	<b>0.58</b>	0.65	16.87	26.71
Berlin-Center	9.26E+06	<b>68.99</b>	72.01	1487.23	3742.31
Chicago-Sketch	8.69E+07	<b>94.90</b>	125.77	7196.18	9322.30

# Quasi-Newton dual algorithm performance

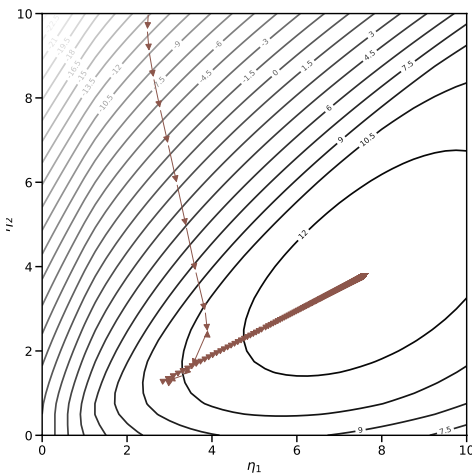


# Quasi-Newton dual algorithm performance

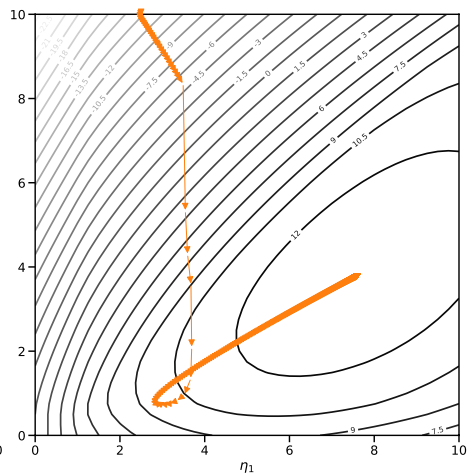
## Solution trajectory



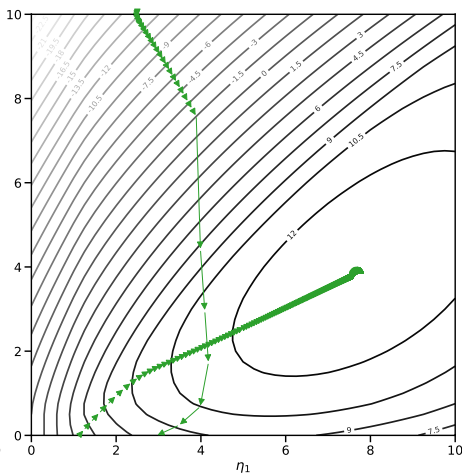
qN-AGD\*  
(Proposed)



qN-AGD



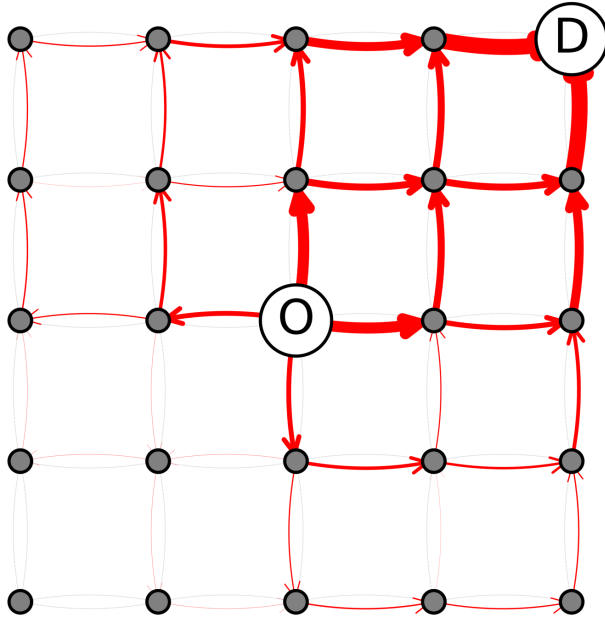
AGD\*



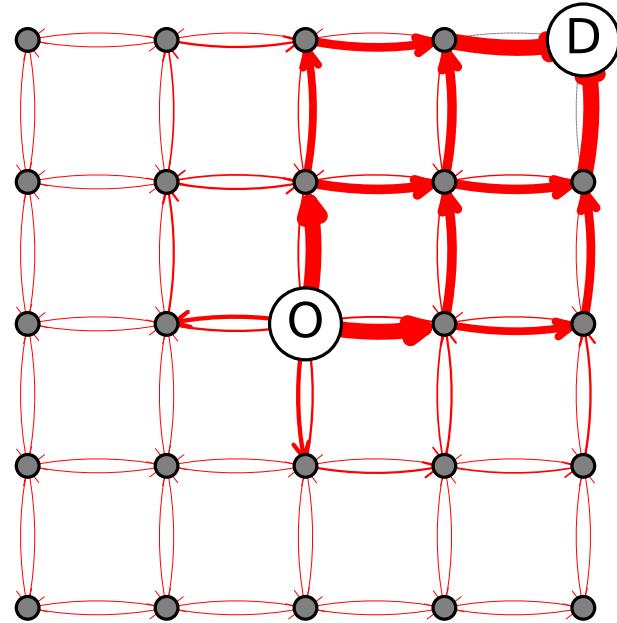
AGD

# PURC vs NGEV SUE

■ Perturbed utility stochastic traffic assignment



PURC  
(perturbation scale  $\mu = 10$ )



NGEV  
(proportionality parameter = 10)

- Main takeaways
  - Equivalent unconstrained Lagrangian dual formulation for PURC SUE with flow-dependent costs
  - Fast assignment algorithm with potential for very large application
  - Predicted equilibrium pattern is plausible
  - Applicable for flow-independent problems, typical setting for choice model prediction.
- Future directions
  - Application in design problems
  - Modeling and prediction in other (virtual) networks?

**EPFL**



**Thanks!**