

## References

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## A Contraction Proof for Strongly Convex Functions

**Lemma 13** (Lemma 7, [6]) Assume that  $f$  is convex and moreover that  $\nabla f(x)$  is Lipschitz continuous with constant  $H$ . Finally, denote by  $x^*$  the minimizer of  $f$ . In this case

$$\|\nabla f(x)\|^2 \leq 2H[f(x) - f(x^*)]. \quad (10)$$

$c$  is  $\lambda$ -strongly convex if for all  $x, y \in M$ :

$$\frac{\lambda}{2}(y-x)^2 + \nabla c(x) \cdot (y-x) + c(x) \leq c(y) \quad (11)$$

**Lemma 14** If  $c$  is  $\lambda$ -strongly convex,  $x^*$  is the minimizer of  $c$ , then  $f(x) = c(x) - \frac{\lambda}{2}(x-x^*)^2$  is convex and  $x^*$  minimizes  $f$ .

**Proof** Note that for  $x, y \in M$ :

$$\frac{\lambda}{2}(y-x)^2 + \nabla c(x) \cdot (y-x) + c(x) \leq c(y) \quad (12)$$

$$\nabla f(x) = \nabla c(x) - \lambda(x-x^*) \quad (13)$$

We can write  $\nabla c$  and  $c$  as functions of  $f$ :

$$\nabla c(x) = \nabla f(x) + \lambda(x-x^*) \quad (14)$$

$$c(x) = f(x) + \frac{\lambda}{2}(x-x^*)^2 \quad (15)$$

Plugging  $f$  and  $\nabla f$  into Equation 12 yields:

$$\frac{\lambda}{2}(y-x)^2 + \nabla f(x) \cdot (y-x) + \lambda(x-x^*) \cdot (y-x) + f(x) + \frac{\lambda}{2}(x-x^*)^2 \leq f(y) + \frac{\lambda}{2}(y-x^*)^2 \quad (16)$$

$$-\lambda y \cdot x + \nabla f(x) \cdot (y-x) + \lambda x \cdot y - \lambda x^* \cdot y + \lambda x \cdot x^* + f(x) - \lambda x \cdot x^* \leq f(y) - \lambda y \cdot x^* \quad (17)$$

$$\nabla f(x) \cdot (y-x) + f(x) \leq f(y) \quad (18)$$

Thus,  $f$  is convex. Moreover, since  $\nabla f(x^*) = \nabla c(x^*) - \lambda(x^* - x^*) = \nabla c(x^*) = 0$ , then  $x^*$  is optimal for  $f$  as well as  $c$ . ■

**Lemma 15** If  $c$  is  $\lambda$ -strongly convex,  $x^*$  is the minimizer of  $c$ ,  $\nabla c$  is Lipschitz continuous  $f(x) = c(x) - \frac{\lambda}{2}(x-x^*)^2$ ,  $\eta < \left(\lambda + \|\nabla f\|_{\text{Lip}}\right)^{-1}$ , and  $\eta < 1$ , then for all  $x \in M$ :

$$d(x - \eta \nabla c(x), x^*) \leq (1 - \eta \lambda) d(x, x^*) \quad (19)$$

**Proof**

To keep things terse, define  $H := \|\nabla c\|_{\text{Lip}}$ .

First observe that  $\lambda + \|\nabla f\|_{\text{Lip}} \geq \|\nabla c\|_{\text{Lip}}$ , so  $\eta < H^{-1}$ .

Without loss of generality, assume  $x^* = 0$ . By the definition of Lipschitz continuous,  $\|\nabla c(x) - \nabla c(x^*)\| \leq H \|x - x^*\|$  and therefore  $\|\nabla c(x)\| \leq H \|x\|$ . Therefore,  $\nabla c(x) \cdot x \leq H \|x\|^2$ . In other words:

$$(x - \eta \nabla c(x)) \cdot x = x \cdot x - \eta \nabla c(x) \cdot x \quad (20)$$

$$(x - \eta \nabla c(x)) \cdot x \geq \|x\|^2 (1 - \eta H) \quad (21)$$

Therefore, at least in the direction of  $x$ , if  $\eta < H^{-1}$ , then  $(x - \eta \nabla c(x)) \cdot x \geq 0$ . Define  $H' = \|\nabla f\|_{\text{Lip}}$ . Since  $f$  is convex and  $x^*$  is optimal:

$$\nabla f(x) \cdot (0 - x) + f(x) \leq f(x^*) \quad (22)$$

$$f(x) - f(x^*) \leq \nabla f(x) \cdot x \quad (23)$$

$$(24)$$

By Lemma 13:

$$\frac{\|\nabla f(x)\|^2}{2H'} \leq \nabla f(x) \cdot x \quad (25)$$

We break down  $\nabla f(x)$  into  $g_{\parallel}$  and  $g_{\perp}$ , such that  $g_{\parallel} = \frac{\nabla f(x) \cdot x}{\|x\|^2} x$ , and  $g_{\perp} = x - g_{\parallel}$ . Therefore,  $g_{\perp} \cdot g_{\parallel} = 0$ , and  $\|\nabla f(x)\|^2 = \|g_{\parallel}\|^2 + \|g_{\perp}\|^2$ , and  $\nabla c(x) \cdot x = (\lambda x + g_{\parallel}) \cdot x$ . Thus, since we know  $(x - \eta \nabla c(x)) \cdot x$  is positive, we can write:

$$\|x - \eta \nabla c(x)\|^2 = \|x - \eta \lambda x - \eta g_{\parallel}\|^2 + \|\eta g_{\perp}\|^2 \quad (26)$$

Thus, looking at  $\|(1 - \eta \lambda)x - \eta g_{\parallel}\|^2$ :

$$\|(1 - \eta \lambda)x - \eta g_{\parallel}\|^2 = ((1 - \eta \lambda)x - \eta g_{\parallel}) \cdot ((1 - \eta \lambda)x - \eta g_{\parallel}) \quad (27)$$

$$\|(1 - \eta \lambda)x - \eta g_{\parallel}\|^2 = (1 - \eta \lambda)^2 \|x\|^2 - 2(1 - \eta \lambda)\eta g_{\parallel} \cdot x + \eta^2 \|g_{\parallel}\|^2 \quad (28)$$

$$\|(1 - \eta \lambda)x - \eta g_{\parallel}\|^2 \leq (1 - \eta \lambda)^2 \|x\|^2 - 2(1 - \eta \lambda) \frac{\|\nabla f(x)\|^2}{2H'} + \eta^2 \|g_{\parallel}\|^2 \quad (29)$$

$$\|(1 - \eta \lambda)x - \eta g_{\parallel}\|^2 \leq (1 - \eta \lambda)^2 \|x\|^2 - 2(1 - \eta \lambda) \frac{\|g_{\parallel}\|^2 + \|g_{\perp}\|^2}{2H'} + \eta^2 \|g_{\parallel}\|^2 \quad (30)$$

$$\|x - \eta \nabla c\|^2 \leq (1 - \eta \lambda)^2 \|x\|^2 - 2(1 - \eta \lambda) \frac{\|g_{\parallel}\|^2 + \|g_{\perp}\|^2}{2H'} + \eta^2 \|g_{\parallel}\|^2 + \|\eta g_{\perp}\|^2 \quad (31)$$

$$\|x - \eta \nabla c\|^2 \leq (1 - \eta \lambda)^2 \|x\|^2 + \frac{H' \eta^2 + \eta \lambda - 1}{H'} \left( \|g_{\parallel}\|^2 + \|g_{\perp}\|^2 \right) \quad (32)$$

Since  $\eta < 1$ ,  $H' \eta^2 + \eta \lambda - 1 < H' \eta + \eta \lambda - 1 < 0$ . The result follows directly. ■

**Lemma 16** Given a convex function  $L$  where  $\nabla L$  is Lipschitz continuous, define  $c(x) = \frac{\lambda}{2} x^2 + L(x)$ . If  $\eta < \left( \lambda + \|\nabla L\|_{\text{Lip}} \right)^{-1}$ , then for all  $x \in M$ :

$$d(x - \eta \nabla c(x), x^*) \leq (1 - \eta \lambda) d(x, x^*) \quad (33)$$

**Proof** Define  $x^*$  to be the optimal point, and  $f(x) = c(x) - \frac{\lambda}{2} (x - x^*)^2$ . Then:

$$f(x) = c(x) - \frac{\lambda}{2} x^2 + \lambda x \cdot x^* - \frac{\lambda}{2} (x^*)^2 \quad (34)$$

$$f(x) = L(x) + \lambda x \cdot x^* - \frac{\lambda}{2} (x^*)^2 \quad (35)$$

For any  $x, y \in M$ :

$$\nabla f(x) - \nabla f(y) = (\nabla L(x) + \lambda x^*) - (\nabla L(y) + \lambda x^*) \quad (36)$$

$$\nabla f(x) - \nabla f(y) = (\nabla L(x) - \nabla L(y)) \quad (37)$$

$$\|\nabla f(x) - \nabla f(y)\| = \|\nabla L(x) - \nabla L(y)\| \quad (38)$$

Thus,  $\|\nabla f\|_{\text{Lip}} = \|\nabla L\|_{\text{Lip}}$ . Thus we can apply Lemma 15. ■

**Theorem 17** Given a convex function  $L$  where  $\nabla L$  is Lipschitz continuous, define  $c(x) = \frac{\lambda}{2}x^2 + L(x)$ . If  $\eta < \left(\lambda + \|\nabla L\|_{\text{Lip}}\right)^{-1}$ , then for all  $x, y \in M$ :

$$d(x - \eta\nabla c(x), y - \eta\nabla c(y)) \leq (1 - \eta\lambda)d(x, y) \quad (39)$$

**Proof** We prove this by using Lemma 16. In particular, we use a trick inspired by Classical mechanics: instead of studying the dynamics of the update function directly, we change the frame of reference such that one point is constant. This constant point not only does not move, it is also an optimal point in the new frame of reference, so we can use Lemma 16.

Define  $g(w) = c(w) - \nabla c(x) \cdot (w - x)$ . Note that, for any  $y, z \in M$ :

$$d(y - \eta\nabla g(y), z - \eta\nabla g(z)) = d(y - \eta\nabla c(y) + \eta\nabla c(x), z - \eta\nabla c(z) + \eta\nabla c(x)) \quad (40)$$

$$d(y - \eta\nabla g(y), z - \eta\nabla g(z)) = \|y - \eta\nabla c(y) + \eta\nabla c(x) - (z - \eta\nabla c(z) + \eta\nabla c(x))\| \quad (41)$$

$$d(y - \eta\nabla g(y), z - \eta\nabla g(z)) = \|y - \eta\nabla c(y) - (z - \eta\nabla c(z))\| \quad (42)$$

$$d(y - \eta\nabla g(y), z - \eta\nabla g(z)) = d(y - \eta\nabla c(y), z - \eta\nabla c(z)) \quad (43)$$

Therefore,  $g$  provides a frame of reference where the relative distances between where everything is will be the same as it would be with  $c$ . Moreover, note that  $g$  is convex, and  $\nabla g(x) = 0$ . Thus  $x$  is the minimizer of  $g$ . Moreover, since  $g(w) = c(w) - \nabla c(x) \cdot (w - x) = \frac{\lambda}{2}w^2 + L(w) - \nabla c(x) \cdot (w - x)$ . If we define  $C(w) = L(w) - \nabla c(x) \cdot (w - x)$ , then  $C$  is convex and  $\|\nabla C\|_{\text{Lip}} = \|\nabla L\|_{\text{Lip}}$ . Therefore we can apply Lemma 16 with  $C$  instead of  $L$ , and then we find that  $d(y - \eta\nabla g(y), x) \leq (1 - \eta\lambda)d(y, x)$ . From Equation (43),  $d(y - \eta\nabla c(y), x - \eta\nabla c(x)) \leq (1 - \eta\lambda)d(y, x)$ , establishing the theorem.  $\blacksquare$

## B Proof of Lemma 3

**Lemma 3** If  $c^* = \left\| \frac{\partial L(y, \hat{y})}{\partial \hat{y}} \right\|_{\text{Lip}}$  then, for a fixed  $i$ , if  $\eta \leq (\|x^i\|^2 c^* + \lambda)^{-1}$ , the update rule in Equation 271 is a contraction mapping for the Euclidean distance with Lipschitz constant  $1 - \eta\lambda$ .

**Proof** First, let us break down Equation 271. By gathering terms:

$$\phi^i(w) = (1 - \eta\lambda)w - \eta x^i \frac{\partial}{\partial \hat{y}} L(y^i, \hat{y})|_{w \cdot x^i} \quad (44)$$

Define  $u : \mathbf{R} \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$  to be equal to  $u(z) = \frac{\partial}{\partial z} L(y^i, z)$ . Because  $L(y, \hat{y})$  is convex in  $\hat{y}$ ,  $u(z)$  is increasing, and  $u(z)$  is Lipschitz continuous with constant  $c^*$ .

$$\phi^i(w) = (1 - \eta\lambda)w - \eta u(w \cdot x^i) x^i \quad (45)$$

We break down  $w$  into  $w_{\parallel}$  and  $w_{\perp}$ , where  $w_{\perp} \cdot x^i = 0$  and  $w_{\parallel} + w_{\perp} = w$ . Thus:

$$\phi^i(w)_{\perp} = (1 - \eta\lambda)w_{\perp} \quad (46)$$

$$\phi^i(w)_{\parallel} = (1 - \eta\lambda)w_{\parallel} - \eta u(w_{\parallel} \cdot x^i) x^i \quad (47)$$

Finally, note that  $d(w, v) = \sqrt{d^2(w_{\parallel}, v_{\parallel}) + d^2(w_{\perp}, v_{\perp})}$ .

Note that given any  $w_{\perp}, v_{\perp}$ ,  $d(\phi^i(w)_{\perp}, \phi^i(v)_{\perp}) = (1 - \eta\lambda)d(w_{\perp}, v_{\perp})$ . For convergence in the final, ‘‘interesting’’ dimension parallel to  $x^i$ , first we observe that if we define  $\alpha(w) = x^i \cdot w$ , we can represent the update as:

$$\alpha(\phi^i(w)) = (1 - \eta\lambda)\alpha(w) + \eta y^i u(\alpha(w))(x^i \cdot x^i) \quad (48)$$

Define  $\beta = \sqrt{x^i \cdot x^i}$ . Note that:

$$\alpha(\phi^i(w)) = (1 - \eta\lambda)\alpha(w) + \eta u(\alpha(w))\beta^2 \quad (49)$$

$$d(w_{\parallel}, v_{\parallel}) = \frac{1}{\beta} |\alpha(w) - \alpha(v)| \quad (50)$$

$$d(\phi^i(w)_{\parallel}, \phi^i(v)_{\parallel}) = \frac{1}{\beta} \left| ((1 - \eta\lambda)\alpha(w) - \eta u(\alpha(w))\beta^2) - ((1 - \eta\lambda)\alpha(v) - \eta u(\alpha(v))\beta^2) \right| \quad (51)$$

Without loss of generality, assume that  $\alpha(w) \geq \alpha(v)$ . Since  $\alpha(w) \geq \alpha(v)$ ,  $u(\alpha(w)) \geq u(\alpha(v))$ . By Lipschitz continuity:

$$|u(\alpha(w)) - u(\alpha(v))| \leq c^* |\alpha(w) - \alpha(v)| \quad (52)$$

$$u(\alpha(w)) - u(\alpha(v)) \leq c^* (\alpha(w) - \alpha(v)) \quad (53)$$

Rearranging the terms yields:

$$\begin{aligned} & ((1 - \eta\lambda)\alpha(w) - \eta u(\alpha(w))\beta^2) - ((1 - \eta\lambda)\alpha(v) - \eta u(\alpha(v))\beta^2) = \\ & ((1 - \eta\lambda)(\alpha(w) - \alpha(v)) - \eta\beta^2(u(\alpha(w)) - u(\alpha(v))) \quad (54) \end{aligned}$$

Note that  $u(\alpha(w)) \geq u(\alpha(v))$ , so  $\eta\beta^2(u(\alpha(w)) - u(\alpha(v))) \geq 0$ , so:

$$((1 - \eta\lambda)\alpha(w) - \eta u(\alpha(w))\beta^2) - ((1 - \eta\lambda)\alpha(v) - \eta u(\alpha(v))\beta^2) \leq (1 - \eta\lambda)(\alpha(w) - \alpha(v)) \quad (55)$$

Finally, since  $u(\alpha(w)) - u(\alpha(v)) \leq c^*(\alpha(w) - \alpha(v))$ :

$$\begin{aligned} & ((1 - \eta\lambda)\alpha(w) - \eta u(\alpha(w))\beta^2) - ((1 - \eta\lambda)\alpha(v) - \eta u(\alpha(v))\beta^2) \geq \\ & ((1 - \eta\lambda)(\alpha(w) - \alpha(v)) - \eta\beta^2 c^*(\alpha(w) - \alpha(v))) = \\ & ((1 - \eta\lambda - \eta\beta^2 c^*)(\alpha(w) - \alpha(v))) \quad (56) \end{aligned}$$

Since we assume in the state of the theorem,  $\eta \leq (\beta^2 c^* + \lambda)^{-1}$ , it is the case that  $(1 - \eta\lambda - \eta\beta^2 c^*) \geq 0$ , and:

$$((1 - \eta\lambda)\alpha(w) - \eta u(\alpha(w))\beta^2) - ((1 - \eta\lambda)\alpha(v) - \eta u(\alpha(v))\beta^2) \geq 0 \quad (57)$$

By Equation (55) and Equation (57), it is the case that:

$$|((1 - \eta\lambda)\alpha(w) - \eta u(\alpha(w))\beta^2) - ((1 - \eta\lambda)\alpha(v) - \eta u(\alpha(v))\beta^2)| \leq (1 - \eta\lambda)(\alpha(w) - \alpha(v)) \quad (58)$$

This implies:

$$d(\phi^i(w)_\parallel, \phi^i(v)_\parallel) \leq \frac{1}{\beta}(1 - \eta\lambda)(\alpha(w) - \alpha(v)) \quad (59)$$

$$\leq (1 - \eta\lambda) \frac{1}{\beta} |\alpha(w) - \alpha(v)| \quad (60)$$

$$\leq (1 - \eta\lambda) \frac{1}{\beta} d(w_\parallel, v_\parallel) \quad (61)$$

This establishes that  $d(\phi^i(w), \phi^i(v)) \leq (1 - \eta\lambda)d(w, v)$ . ■

## C Wasserstein Metrics and Contraction Mappings

In this section, we prove Lemma 5, Lemma 6, and Corollary 7 from Section 2.2.

**Fact 18**  $x^* = \inf_{x \in X} x$  if and only if:

1. for all  $x \in X$ ,  $x^* \leq x$ , and
2. for any  $\epsilon > 0$ , there exists an  $x \in X$  such that  $x^* + \epsilon > x$ .

**Fact 19** If for all  $\epsilon > 0$ ,  $a + \epsilon \geq b$ , then  $a \geq b$ .

**Lemma 5** For all  $i$ , Given a metric space  $(M, d)$  and a contraction mapping  $\phi$  on  $(M, d)$  with constant  $c$ ,  $\mathbf{p}$  is a contraction mapping on  $(P(M, d), W_i)$  with constant  $c$ .

**Proof** A contraction mapping is continuous and therefore it is a measurable function on the Radon space (which is a Borel space).

Given two distributions  $X$  and  $Y$ , define  $z = W_i(X, Y)$ . By Fact 18, for any  $\epsilon > 0$ , there exists a  $\gamma \in \Gamma(X, Y)$  such that  $(W_i(X, Y))^i + \epsilon > \int_{x,y} d^i(x, y) \mathbf{d}\gamma(x, y)$ . Define  $\gamma'$  such that for all  $E, E' \in M$ ,  $\gamma'(E, E') = \gamma(\phi^{-1}(E), \phi^{-1}(E'))$ .

Note that  $\gamma'(E, M) = \gamma(\phi^{-1}(E), M) = X(\phi^{-1}(E)) = \mathbf{p}(X)(E)$ , Thus, the marginal distribution of  $\gamma$  is  $\mathbf{p}(X)$ , and analogously the other marginal distribution of  $\gamma$  is  $\mathbf{p}(Y)$ . Since  $\phi$  is a contraction with constant  $c$ , it is the case that  $cd(\phi(x), \phi(y)) \leq d(x, y)$ , and

$$(W_i(X, Y))^i + \epsilon > \int_{x,y} \frac{1}{c^i} d^i(\phi(x), \phi(y)) \mathbf{d}\gamma(x, y) \quad (62)$$

$$(W_i(X, Y))^i + \epsilon > \frac{1}{c^i} \int_{x,y} d^i(\phi(x), \phi(y)) \mathbf{d}\gamma(x, y) \quad (63)$$

By change of variables:

$$(W_i(X, Y))^i + \epsilon > \frac{1}{c^i} \int_{x,y} d^i(x, y) \mathbf{d}\gamma'(x, y) \quad (64)$$

$$(W_i(X, Y))^i + \epsilon > \frac{1}{c^i} (W_i(\mathbf{p}(X), \mathbf{p}(Y)))^i \quad (65)$$

By Fact 19:

$$(W_i(X, Y))^i \geq \frac{1}{c^i} (W_i(\mathbf{p}(X), \mathbf{p}(Y)))^i \quad (66)$$

$$W_i(X, Y) \geq \frac{1}{c} (W_i(\mathbf{p}(X), \mathbf{p}(Y))) \quad (67)$$

Since  $X$  and  $Y$  are arbitrary,  $\mathbf{p}$  is a contraction mapping with metric  $W_i$ . ■

**Lemma 20** Given  $X^1 \dots X^m, Y^1 \dots Y^m$  that are probability measures over  $(M, d)$ ,  $a_1 \dots a_m \in \mathbf{R}$ , where  $\sum_i a_i = 1$  and if for all  $i$ ,  $a_i \geq 0$ , and for all  $i$ ,  $W_k(X^i, Y^i)$  is well-defined, then:

$$W_k \left( \sum_i a_i X^i, \sum_i a_i Y^i \right) \leq \left( \sum_i a_i (W_k(X^i, Y^i))^k \right)^{1/k} \quad (68)$$

**Corollary 21** If for all  $i$ ,  $W_k(X^i, Y^i) \leq d$ , then:

$$W_k \left( \sum_i a_i X^i, \sum_i a_i Y^i \right) \leq d \quad (69)$$

**Proof**

By Fact 18, for any  $\epsilon > 0$ , there exists a  $\gamma^i \in \Gamma(X^i, Y^i)$  such that:

$$(W_k(X^i, Y^i))^k + \epsilon > \int d^k(x, y) \mathbf{d}\gamma^k(x, y) \quad (70)$$

Note that  $\sum_i a_i \gamma^i \in \Gamma(\sum_i a_i X^i, \sum_i a_i Y^i)$ , where we consider addition on functions over measurable sets in  $(M, d) \times (M, d)$ . If we define  $\gamma^* = \sum_i a_i \gamma^i$ , then:

$$\sum_i a_i \int d^k(x, y) \mathbf{d}\gamma^i(x, y) = \int d^k(x, y) \mathbf{d}\gamma^*(x, y) \quad (71)$$

Therefore:

$$\sum a_i((W_k(X^i, Y^i))^k + \epsilon) > \int d^k(x, y) \mathbf{d}\gamma^*(x, y) \quad (72)$$

$$\epsilon + \sum a_i(W_k(X^i, Y^i))^k > \int d^k(x, y) \mathbf{d}\gamma^*(x, y) \quad (73)$$

$$(74)$$

Because  $\gamma^* \in \Gamma(\sum_i a_i X^i, \sum_i a_i Y^i)$ :

$$\epsilon + \sum a_i(W_k(X^i, Y^i))^k > \inf_{\gamma \in \Gamma(\sum_i a_i X^i, \sum_i a_i Y^i)} \int d^k(x, y) \mathbf{d}\gamma(x, y) \quad (75)$$

$$\epsilon + \sum a_i(W_k(X^i, Y^i))^k > (W_k(\sum_i a_i X^i, \sum_i a_i Y^i))^k \quad (76)$$

By Fact 19:

$$\sum a_i(W_k(X^i, Y^i))^k \geq (W_k(\sum_i a_i X^i, \sum_i a_i Y^i))^k \quad (77)$$

$$\left(\sum a_i(W_k(X^i, Y^i))^k\right)^{1/k} \geq W_k(\sum_i a_i X^i, \sum_i a_i Y^i) \quad (78)$$

■

**Lemma 6** Given a Radon space  $(M, d)$ , if  $\mathbf{p}_1 \dots \mathbf{p}_k$  are contraction mappings with constants  $c_1 \dots c_k$  with respect to  $W_z$ , and  $\sum_i a_i = 1$  where  $a_i \geq 0$ , then  $\mathbf{p} = \sum_{i=1}^k a_i \mathbf{p}_i$  is a contraction mapping with a constant of no more than  $(\sum_i a_i (c_i)^z)^{1/z}$ .

**Corollary 7** If for all  $i$ ,  $c_i \leq c$ , then  $\mathbf{p}$  is a contraction mapping with a constant of no more than  $c$ .

**Proof** Given an initial measures  $X, Y$ , for any  $i$ ,

$$W_z(\mathbf{p}_i(X), \mathbf{p}_i(Y)) < c_i W_z(X, Y) \quad (79)$$

. Thus,  $\mathbf{p}(X) = \sum_{i=1}^k a_i \mathbf{p}_i(X)$  and  $\mathbf{p}(Y) = \sum_{i=1}^k a_i \mathbf{p}_i(Y)$ , by Lemma 20 it is the case that:

$$W_z(\mathbf{p}(X), \mathbf{p}(Y)) \leq \left( \sum_{i=1}^k a_i (W_z(\mathbf{p}_i(X), \mathbf{p}_i(Y)))^z \right)^{1/z} \quad (80)$$

By Equation 79:

$$W_z(\mathbf{p}(X), \mathbf{p}(Y)) \leq \left( \sum_{i=1}^k a_i (c_i W_z(X, Y))^z \right)^{1/z} \quad (81)$$

$$\leq \left( \sum_{i=1}^k a_i (c_i W_z(X, Y))^z \right)^{1/z} \quad (82)$$

$$\leq W_z(X, Y) \left( \sum_{i=1}^k a_i (c_i)^z \right)^{1/z} \quad (83)$$

■

## D More Properties of Wasserstein Metrics

### D.1 Kantorovich-Rubinstein Theorem

Define  $\beta(P, Q)$  to be:

$$\beta(P, Q) = \sup_{f, \|f\|_{\text{Lip}} \leq 1} \left| \int f dP - \int f dQ \right| \quad (84)$$

Where  $\| \cdot \|_{\text{Lip}}$  is the Lipschitz constant of the function.

**Theorem 22** (Kantorovich-Rubinstein) *If  $(M, d)$  is a separable metric space then for any two distributions  $P, Q$ , we have  $W_1(P, Q) = \beta(P, Q)$ .*

**Corollary 23** *If  $d$  is Euclidean distance,  $d(\mu_P, \mu_Q) \leq W_1(P, Q)$ .*

The following extends one half of Kantorovich-Rubinstein beyond  $W_1$ .

**Theorem 24** *For any  $i \geq 1$ , for any  $f$  where  $\|f\|_{\text{Lip}_i}$  is bounded, for distributions  $X, Y$ :*

$$\mathbf{E}_{x \in X}[f(x)] - \mathbf{E}_{y \in Y}[f(y)] \leq \|f\|_{\text{Lip}_i} (W_i(X, Y))^i. \quad (85)$$

**Corollary 25** *Given two distributions  $X, Y$ , given any Lipschitz continuous function  $c : M \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$ :*

$$|\mathbf{E}_{x \in X}[c(x)] - \mathbf{E}_{x \in Y}[c(x)]| \leq \|c\|_{\text{Lip}} W_1(X, Y) \quad (86)$$

**Proof** Choose an arbitrary  $i \geq 1$ . Choose an  $f$  where  $\|f\|_{\text{Lip}_i}$  is bounded, and arbitrary distributions  $X, Y$ . Choose a joint distribution  $\gamma \in (M, d) \times (M, d)$  such that the first marginal of  $\gamma$  is  $X$ , and the second marginal of  $\gamma$  is  $Y$ . Therefore:

$$\mathbf{E}_{x \in X}[f(x)] = \int f(x) \mathbf{d}\gamma(x, y) \quad (87)$$

$$\mathbf{E}_{y \in Y}[f(y)] = \int f(y) \mathbf{d}\gamma(x, y) \quad (88)$$

$$\mathbf{E}_{x \in X}[f(x)] - \mathbf{E}_{y \in Y}[f(y)] = \int f(x) \mathbf{d}\gamma(x, y) - \int f(y) \mathbf{d}\gamma(x, y) \quad (89)$$

$$\mathbf{E}_{x \in X}[f(x)] - \mathbf{E}_{y \in Y}[f(y)] = \int (f(x) - f(y)) \mathbf{d}\gamma(x, y) \quad (90)$$

By the definition of  $\|f\|_{\text{Lip}_i}$ ,  $f(x) - f(y) \leq \|f\|_{\text{Lip}_i} d^i(x, y)$ :

$$\mathbf{E}_{x \in X}[f(x)] - \mathbf{E}_{y \in Y}[f(y)] \leq \int \|f\|_{\text{Lip}_i} d^i(x, y) \mathbf{d}\gamma(x, y) \quad (91)$$

$$\mathbf{E}_{x \in X}[f(x)] - \mathbf{E}_{y \in Y}[f(y)] \leq \|f\|_{\text{Lip}_i} \int d^i(x, y) \mathbf{d}\gamma(x, y) \quad (92)$$

For any  $\epsilon > 0$ , there exists a  $\gamma$  such that  $(W_i(x, y))^i + \epsilon > \int d^i(x, y) \mathbf{d}\gamma(x, y)$ . Therefore, for any  $\epsilon > 0$ :

$$\mathbf{E}_{x \in X}[f(x)] - \mathbf{E}_{y \in Y}[f(y)] \leq \|f\|_{\text{Lip}_i} (W_i(x, y))^i + \epsilon \quad (93)$$

Therefore, if we allow  $\epsilon$  to approach zero, we prove the theorem. ■

## D.2 Wasserstein Distance and Relative Standard Deviation

Before we introduce relative standard deviation, we want to make a few observations about Wasserstein distances and point masses. Given  $x \in M$ , define  $I_x \in P(M, d)$  such that  $I_x(E) = 1$  if  $x \in E$ , and  $I_x(E) = 0$  if  $x \notin E$ . Given  $x \in M$  and  $Y \in P(M, d)$ , define  $W_z(x, Y) = W_z(I_x, Y)$ . It is the case that:

$$W_z(x, Y) = (\mathbf{E}_{y \in Y}[d^z(x, y)])^{1/z} \quad (94)$$

**Lemma 26** *Given  $Y \in (M, d)$ ,  $x \in M$ , if  $\Pr[d(x, y) \leq L] = 1$ , then  $W_z(x, Y) \leq L$ .*

**Corollary 27** *For  $x, y \in M$ ,  $W_z(x, y) = d(x, y)$ .*

**Proof** Since  $\Gamma(I_x, Y)$  is a singleton:

$$W_z(x, Y) = \left( \int d^z(x, y) \mathbf{d}Y(y) \right)^{1/z}. \quad (95)$$

Therefore, we can bound  $d^z(x, y)$  by  $L^z$ , so:

$$W_z(x, Y) \leq \left( \int L^z \mathbf{d}Y(y) \right)^{1/z} \quad (96)$$

$$W_z(x, Y) \leq (L^z)^{1/z} \quad (97)$$

$$W_z(x, Y) \leq L \quad (98)$$

■

Let us define the **relative standard deviation of  $X$  with respect to  $c$**  to be:

$$\sigma_X^c = \sqrt{\mathbf{E}[(X - c)^2]}. \quad (99)$$

Define  $\mu_X$  to be the mean of  $X$ . Observe that  $\sigma_X = \sigma_X^{\mu_X}$ .

**Fact 28** *If  $\sigma_X^c$  is finite, then  $\sigma_X^c = W_2(I_c, X)$ .*

**Lemma 29**

$$|\sigma_X^c - \sigma_X^{c'}| \leq d(c, c') \quad (100)$$

**Proof** By the triangle inequality,  $W_2(I_c, X) \leq W_2(I_{c'}, X) + W_2(I_c, I_{c'})$ . By Fact 28,  $\sigma_X^c \leq \sigma_X^{c'} + W_2(I_c, I_{c'})$ . By Corollary 27,  $\sigma_X^c \leq \sigma_X^{c'} + d(c, c')$ . Similarly, one can show  $\sigma_X^{c'} \leq \sigma_X^c + d(c, c')$ . ■

**Lemma 30**

$$\sigma_Y^c \leq \sigma_X^c + W_2(X, Y) \quad (101)$$

**Proof** By the triangle inequality,  $W_2(I_c, Y) \leq W_2(I_c, X) + W_2(X, Y)$ . The result follows from Fact 28. ■

**Theorem 31**

$$\sigma_X \leq \sigma_X^c \quad (102)$$

**Proof** We prove this by considering  $\sigma_X^c$  a function of  $c$ , and finding the minimum by checking where the gradient is zero. ■

**Theorem 32**

$$\sigma_Y \leq \sigma_X + W_2(X, Y) \quad (103)$$

**Proof** Note that  $\sigma_X = \sigma_X^{\mu_X}$ . By Lemma 30:

$$\sigma_Y^{\mu_X} \leq \sigma_X^{\mu_X} + W_2(X, Y) \quad (104)$$

By Theorem 31,  $\sigma_Y^{\mu_Y} \leq \sigma_Y^{\mu_X}$ , proving the result. ■

**Theorem 33** For any  $d$ , for any  $P, Q$ , if  $W_i$  exists, then:

$$W_i(P, Q) \geq W_1(P, Q) \quad (105)$$

**Proof** For any  $\epsilon > 0$ , there exists a  $\gamma \in \Gamma(P, Q)$  such that:

$$(W_i(P, Q))^i + \epsilon \geq \int d^i(x, y) \mathbf{d}\gamma(x, y) \quad (106)$$

By Jensen's inequality:

$$\int d^i(x, y) \mathbf{d}\gamma(x, y) \geq \left( \int d(x, y) \mathbf{d}\gamma(x, y) \right)^i \quad (107)$$

Therefore:

$$(W_i(P, Q))^i + \epsilon \geq \left( \int d(x, y) \mathbf{d}\gamma(x, y) \right)^i \quad (108)$$

By definition,  $W_1(P, Q) \leq \int d(x, y) \mathbf{d}\gamma(x, y)$ , so:

$$(W_i(P, Q))^i + \epsilon \geq (W_1(P, Q))^i \quad (109)$$

Since for any  $\epsilon > 0$ , this holds, by Fact 19:

$$(W_i(P, Q))^i \geq (W_1(P, Q))^i \quad (110)$$

Since  $i \geq 1$ , the result follows. ■

**Theorem 34** Suppose that  $X^1 \dots X^k$  are independent and identically distributed random variables over  $\mathbf{R}^n$ . Then, if  $A = \frac{1}{k} \sum_{i=1}^k X^i$ , it is the case that:<sup>1</sup>

$$\mu_A = \mu_{X^1} \quad (111)$$

$$\sigma_A \leq \frac{\sigma_{X^1}}{\sqrt{k}}. \quad (112)$$

**Proof**

The first is a well known theorem;  $\mu_A = \mu_{X^1}$  by linearity of expectation. The second part is one of many direct results of the fact that the variance of two independent variables  $X$  and  $Y$  is the sum of the variance of the independent variables. ■

<sup>1</sup>Here we mean to indicate the average of the random variables, not the average of their distributions.

### D.3 Wasserstein Distance and Cesaro Summability

**Theorem 35** For any Lipschitz continuous function  $c$ , for any sequence of distributions  $\{D_1, D_2, \dots\}$  in the Wasserstein metric, if  $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} D_t = D^*$ , then:

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \mathbf{E}_{x \in D_t}[c(x)] = \mathbf{E}_{x \in D^*}[c(x)] \quad (113)$$

**Proof** Assume that the Lipschitz constant for  $c$  is  $c^*$ . By Corollary 25, it is the case that:

$$|\mathbf{E}_{x \in D_t}[c(x)] - \mathbf{E}_{x \in D^*}[c(x)]| \leq c^* W_1(D_t, D^*) \quad (114)$$

We can prove that:

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} |\mathbf{E}_{x \in D_t}[c(x)] - \mathbf{E}_{x \in D^*}[c(x)]| \leq \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} c^* W_1(D_t, D^*) \quad (115)$$

$$\leq c^* \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} W_1(D_t, D^*) \quad (116)$$

$$\leq c^* \times 0 = 0 \quad (117)$$

So, if the distance between the sequence  $\{\mathbf{E}_{x \in D_t}[c(x)]\}_t$  and the point  $\mathbf{E}_{x \in D^*}[c(x)]$  approaches zero, the limit of the sequence is  $\mathbf{E}_{x \in D^*}[c(x)]$ . ■

**Theorem 36 (Cesàro Sum)** Given a sequence  $\{a_1, a_2, \dots\}$  where  $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} a_t = a^*$ , it is the case that:

$$\lim_{T \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{T} \sum_{t=1}^T a_t = a^* \quad (118)$$

**Proof**

For a given  $\epsilon > 0$ , there exists an  $t$  such that for all  $t' > t$ ,  $|a_{t'} - a^*| < \frac{\epsilon}{2}$ . Define  $a_{\text{begin}} = \sum_{t'=1}^t a_{t'}$ . Then, we know that, for  $T > t$ :

$$\frac{1}{T} \sum_{t'=1}^T a_{t'} = \frac{1}{T} \left( \sum_{t'=1}^t a_{t'} + \sum_{t'=t+1}^T a_{t'} \right) \quad (119)$$

$$\frac{1}{T} \sum_{t'=1}^T a_{t'} = \frac{1}{T} \left( a_{\text{begin}} + \sum_{t'=t+1}^T a_{t'} \right) \quad (120)$$

$$\frac{1}{T} \sum_{t'=1}^T a_{t'} \leq \frac{1}{T} \left( a_{\text{begin}} + \sum_{t'=t+1}^T \left( a^* + \frac{\epsilon}{2} \right) \right) \quad (121)$$

$$\frac{1}{T} \sum_{t'=1}^T a_{t'} \leq \frac{1}{T} \left( a_{\text{begin}} + (T-t) \left( a^* + \frac{\epsilon}{2} \right) \right) \quad (122)$$

Note that as  $T \rightarrow \infty$ :

$$\lim_{T \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{T} \left( a_{\text{begin}} + (T-t) \left( a^* + \frac{\epsilon}{2} \right) \right) = \lim_{T \rightarrow \infty} \frac{t}{T} a_{\text{begin}} + \frac{T-t}{T} \left( a^* + \frac{\epsilon}{2} \right) \quad (123)$$

$$= 0 \times a_{\text{begin}} + 1 \times \left( a^* + \frac{\epsilon}{2} \right) \quad (124)$$

$$= a^* + \frac{\epsilon}{2} \quad (125)$$

Therefore, since the upper bound on the limit approaches  $a^* + \frac{\epsilon}{2}$ , there must exist a  $T$  such that for all  $T' > T$ :

$$\frac{1}{T'+1} \sum_{t=1}^{T'} a_t < a^* + \epsilon \quad (126)$$

Similarly, one can prove that there exists a  $T''$  such that for all  $T' > T''$ ,  $\frac{1}{T'+1} \sum_{t=1}^{T'} a_t > a^* - \epsilon$ . Therefore, the series converges. ■

**Theorem 37** For any Lipschitz continuous function  $c$ , for any sequence of distributions  $\{D_1, D_2, \dots\}$  in the Wasserstein metric, if  $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} D_t = D^*$ , then:

$$\lim_{T \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{T} \sum_{t=1}^T \mathbf{E}_{x \in D_t} [c(x)] = \mathbf{E}_{x \in D^*} [c(x)] \quad (127)$$

**Proof** This is a direct result of Theorem 35 and Theorem 36. ■

## E Basic Properties of Stochastic Gradient Descent on SVMs

$$\nabla c^i(w) = \lambda w + \frac{\partial}{\partial \hat{y}} L(y^i, \hat{y})|_{w^i \cdot x^i} x^i \quad (128)$$

Define  $f$  such that:

$$f^i(w) = L(y^i, w^i \cdot x^i) \quad (129)$$

We assume that for all  $i$ , for all  $w$ ,  $\|\nabla f^i(w)\| \leq G$ . Also, define:

$$f(w) = \frac{1}{m} \sum_{i=1}^m f^i(w) \quad (130)$$

In order to understand the stochastic process, we need to understand the batch update. The expected stochastic update is the batch update. Define  $g_w$  to be the expected gradient at  $w$ , and  $c(w)$  to be the expected cost at  $w$ .

$$c(w) = \frac{\lambda}{2} w^2 + f(w) \quad (131)$$

**Theorem 38** The expected gradient is the gradient of the expected cost.

**Proof** This follows directly from the linearity of the gradient operator and the linearity of expectation. ■

The following well-known theorem establishes that  $c$  is a strongly convex function.

**Theorem 39** For any  $w, w'$ :

$$c(w') \geq \frac{\lambda}{2} (w' - w)^2 + g_w \cdot (w' - w) + c(w) \quad (132)$$

**Proof**

$\frac{\lambda}{2} w^2$  is a  $\lambda$ -strongly convex function, and  $f^i(w)$  is a convex function, so therefore  $c(w)$  is a  $\lambda$ -strongly convex function. Or, to be more thorough, because  $f$  is convex:

$$f(w') - f(w) \geq \nabla f(w) \cdot (w' - w). \quad (133)$$

Define  $h(w) = \frac{\lambda}{2}w^2$ . Observe that:

$$h(w') - h(w) = \frac{\lambda}{2}(w')^2 - \frac{\lambda}{2}w^2 \quad (134)$$

$$h(w') - h(w) = \frac{\lambda}{2}(w')^2 - \frac{\lambda}{2}w^2 - \lambda w \cdot (w' - w) + \lambda w \cdot (w' - w) \quad (135)$$

$$h(w') - h(w) = \frac{\lambda}{2}(w')^2 - \frac{\lambda}{2}w^2 - \lambda w \cdot w' + \lambda w^2 + \lambda w \cdot (w' - w) \quad (136)$$

$$h(w') - h(w) = \frac{\lambda}{2}(w')^2 + \frac{\lambda}{2}w^2 - \lambda w \cdot w' + \lambda w \cdot (w' - w) \quad (137)$$

$$h(w') - h(w) = \frac{\lambda}{2}(w')^2 + \frac{\lambda}{2}w^2 - \lambda w \cdot w' + \nabla h(w) \cdot (w' - w) \quad (138)$$

$$h(w') - h(w) = \frac{\lambda}{2}(w' - w)^2 + \nabla h(w) \cdot (w' - w) \quad (139)$$

Since  $c(w) = h(w) + f(w)$ :

$$c(w') - c(w) \geq \frac{\lambda}{2}(w' - w)^2 + \nabla h(w) \cdot (w' - w) + \nabla f(w) \cdot (w' - w) \quad (140)$$

$$c(w') - c(w) \geq \frac{\lambda}{2}(w' - w)^2 + \nabla c(w) \cdot (w' - w) \quad (141)$$

■

#### Theorem 40

$$\|w^*\| \leq \frac{G}{\lambda}.$$

**Proof** Note that  $\nabla c(w^*) = 0$ . So:

$$0 = \nabla c(w^*) \quad (142)$$

$$0 = \nabla \left( \frac{\lambda}{2}(w^*)^2 + f(w^*) \right) \quad (143)$$

$$0 = \lambda w^* + \nabla f(w^*) - \lambda w^* \quad (144)$$

$$= \nabla f(w^*) \quad (145)$$

Since  $\|\nabla f(w^*)\| \leq G$ , it is the case that:

$$\|-\lambda w^*\| \leq G \quad (146)$$

$$\lambda \|w^*\| \leq G \quad (147)$$

$$\|w^*\| \leq \frac{G}{\lambda} \quad (148)$$

■

**Theorem 41** For any  $w$ , if  $w^*$  is the optimal point:

$$\lambda(w^* - w)^2 \leq g_w \cdot (w - w^*) \quad (149)$$

**Proof** By Theorem 39:

$$c(w^*) \geq \frac{\lambda}{2}(w^* - w)^2 + g_w \cdot (w^* - w) + c(w) \quad (150)$$

$$c(w^*) - c(w) \geq \frac{\lambda}{2}(w^* - w)^2 + g_w \cdot (w^* - w) \quad (151)$$

$$c(w) - c(w^*) \leq -\frac{\lambda}{2}(w^* - w)^2 + g_w \cdot (w - w^*) \quad (152)$$

Since  $w^*$  is optimal,  $\nabla c(w^*) = 0$ , implying:

$$c(w) \geq \frac{\lambda}{2}(w^* - w)^2 + 0 \cdot (w - w^*) + c(w^*) \quad (153)$$

$$c(w) - c(w^*) \geq \frac{\lambda}{2}(w^* - w)^2 \quad (154)$$

Combining Equation 152 and Equation 154:

$$\frac{\lambda}{2}(w^* - w)^2 \leq -\frac{\lambda}{2}(w^* - w)^2 + g_w \cdot (w - w^*) \quad (155)$$

$$\lambda(w^* - w)^2 \leq g_w \cdot (w - w^*) \quad (156)$$

■

**Theorem 42** For any  $w$ :

$$\|\nabla c^i - \lambda(w - w^*)\| \leq 2G \quad (157)$$

**Proof** First, observe that:

$$\nabla c^i(w) = \lambda w + \nabla f^i(w) \quad (158)$$

$$\nabla c^i(w) - \lambda w \leq \nabla f^i(w) \quad (159)$$

$$\|\nabla c^i(w) - \lambda w\| \leq G \quad (160)$$

Also,  $\|w^*\| \leq \frac{G}{\lambda}$ , implying  $\|\lambda w^*\| \leq G$ . Thus, the triangle inequality yields:

$$\|(\nabla c^i(w) - \lambda w) + (\lambda w^*)\| \leq 2G \quad (161)$$

$$\|\nabla c^i(w) - \lambda(w - w^*)\| \leq 2G \quad (162)$$

■

Thus, minus a contraction ratio, the magnitude of the gradient is bounded. Moreover, in expectation it is not moving away from the optimal point. These two facts will help us to bound the expected mean and expected squared distance from optimal.

**Theorem 43** For any  $w$ , if  $w^*$  is the optimal point, and  $\eta \in (0, 1)$ :

$$((w - \eta g_w) - w^*) \cdot (w - w^*) \leq (1 - \eta\lambda)(w - w^*)^2 \quad (163)$$

**Proof**

From Theorem 41,

$$\lambda(w^* - w)^2 \leq g_w \cdot (w - w^*). \quad (164)$$

Multiplying both sides by  $\eta$ :

$$\eta\lambda(w^* - w)^2 \leq \eta g_w \cdot (w - w^*) \quad (165)$$

$$-\eta g_w \cdot (w - w^*) \leq -\eta\lambda(w^* - w)^2 \quad (166)$$

Adding  $(w - w^*) \cdot (w - w^*)$  to both sides yields the result. ■

**Theorem 44** If  $w_t$  is a state of the stochastic gradient descent algorithm,  $w_0 = 0$ ,  $\lambda \leq 1$ , and  $0 \leq \eta \leq \frac{1}{\lambda}$ , then:

$$\|w_t\| \leq \frac{G}{\lambda} \quad (167)$$

**Corollary 45**

$$\|\nabla c^i(w_t)\| \leq 2G \quad (168)$$

**Proof** First, observe that  $\|w_0\| \leq \frac{G}{\lambda}$ . We prove the theorem via induction on  $t$ . Assume that the condition holds for  $t - 1$ , i.e. that  $\|w_{t-1}\| \leq \frac{G}{\lambda}$ . Then,  $w_t$  is, for some  $i$ :

$$w_t \leq w_{t-1}(1 - \eta\lambda) - \eta\nabla f^i(w_t) \quad (169)$$

$$\|w_t\| \leq |1 - \eta\lambda| \|w_{t-1}\| + |\eta| \|\nabla f^i(w_t)\| \quad (170)$$

Since  $\|w_{t-1}\| \leq \frac{G}{\lambda}$  and  $\|\nabla f^i(w_t)\| \leq G$ , then:

$$\|w_t\| \leq |1 - \eta\lambda| \frac{G}{\lambda} + |\eta|G \quad (171)$$

Since  $\eta \geq 0$  and  $1 - \eta\lambda \geq 0$ :

$$\|w_t\| \leq (1 - \eta\lambda) \frac{G}{\lambda} + \eta G \quad (172)$$

$$\|w_t\| \leq \frac{G}{\lambda} \quad (173)$$

■

## F Proof of Theorem 8: SGD is a Contraction Mapping

**Theorem 8** For any positive integer  $z$ , if  $\eta \leq \eta^*$ , then  $\mathbf{p}^*$  is a contraction mapping on  $(M, W_z)$  with contraction rate  $(1 - \eta\lambda)$ . Therefore, there exists a unique  $D_\eta^*$  such that  $\mathbf{p}^*(D_\eta^*) = D_\eta^*$ . Moreover, if  $w_0 = 0$  with probability 1, then  $W_z(D_\eta^0, D_\eta^*) = \frac{G}{\lambda}$ , and  $W_z(D_\eta^T, D_\eta^*) \leq \frac{G}{\lambda}(1 - \eta\lambda)^T$ .

**Proof** The contraction rate  $(1 - \eta\lambda)$  can be proven by applying Lemma 3, Lemma 5, and Corollary 6. By Theorem 44,  $\|w_t\| \leq \frac{G}{\lambda}$ . Therefore, for any  $w \in D_\eta^*$ ,  $\|w\| \leq \frac{G}{\lambda}$ . Since  $D_\eta^0 = I_{w_0}$ , it is the case that  $W_z(D_\eta^0, D_\eta^*) = W_z(0, D_\eta^*)$ . By Lemma 26,  $W_z(D_\eta^0, D_\eta^*) \leq \frac{G}{\lambda}$ . By applying the first half of the theorem and Corollary 2,  $W_z(D_\eta^T, D_\eta^*) \leq \frac{G}{\lambda}(1 - \eta\lambda)^T$ . ■

## G Proof of Theorem 9: Bounding the Error of the Mean

Define  $\frac{D}{2}$  to be a bound on the distance the gradient descent algorithm can be from the origin. Therefore, we can use the algorithm and analysis from [11], where we say  $D$  is the diameter of the space, and  $M$  is the maximum gradient in that space. However, we will use a constant learning rate.

**Theorem 46** Given a sequence  $\{c_t\}$  of convex cost functions, a domain  $F$  that contains all vectors of the stochastic gradient descent algorithm, a bound  $M$  on the norm of the gradients of  $c_t$  in  $F$ . The regret of stochastic gradient descent algorithm after  $T$  time steps is:

$$R_T = \operatorname{argmax}_{w^* \in F} \sum_{t=1}^T (c_t(w_t) - c_t(w^*)) \leq \frac{T\eta M^2}{2} + \frac{D^2}{2\eta} \quad (174)$$

**Proof**

We prove this via a potential  $\Phi_t = \frac{1}{2\eta}(w_{t+1} - w^*)^2$ . First observe that, because  $c_t$  is convex:

$$c_t(w^*) \geq (w^* - w_t)\nabla c_t(w_t) + c_t(w_t) \quad (175)$$

$$c_t(w_t) - c_t(w^*) \leq (w_t - w^*)\nabla c_t(w_t) \quad (176)$$

$$R_t - R_{t-1} \leq (w_t - w^*)\nabla c_t(w_t) \quad (177)$$

Also, note that:

$$\Phi_t - \Phi_{t-1} = \frac{1}{2\eta}(w_t - \eta \nabla c_t(w_t) - w^*)^2 - \frac{1}{2\eta}(w_t - w^*)^2 \quad (178)$$

$$\Phi_t - \Phi_{t-1} = -(w_t - w^*) \nabla c_t(w_t) + \frac{\eta}{2} (\nabla c_t(w_t))^2 \quad (179)$$

Adding Equation (177) and Equation (179) then cancelling the  $(w_t - w^*) \nabla c_t(w_t)$  terms yields:

$$(R_t - R_{t-1}) + (\Phi_t - \Phi_{t-1}) \leq \frac{\eta}{2} (\nabla c_t(w_t))^2 \quad (180)$$

Summing over all  $t$ :

$$\sum_{t=1}^T ((R_t - R_{t-1}) + (\Phi_t - \Phi_{t-1})) \leq \sum_{t=1}^T \frac{\eta}{2} (\nabla c_t(w_t))^2 \quad (181)$$

$$R_T - R_0 \leq \sum_{t=1}^T \frac{\eta}{2} (\nabla c_t(w_t))^2 + \Phi_0 - \Phi_T \quad (182)$$

By definition,  $R_0 = 0$ , and  $\Phi_T > 0$ , so:

$$R_T \leq \sum_{t=1}^T \frac{\eta}{2} (\nabla c_t(w_t))^2 + \Phi_0 \quad (183)$$

$$R_T \leq \sum_{t=1}^T \frac{\eta}{2} (\nabla c_t(w_t))^2 + \frac{1}{2\eta} (w_1 - w^*)^2 \quad (184)$$

The distance is bounded by  $D$ , and the gradient is bounded by  $M$ , so:

$$R_T \leq \frac{T\eta M^2}{2} + \frac{D^2}{2\eta} \quad (185)$$

■

**Theorem 47** Given  $c_1 \dots c_m$ , if for every  $t \in \{1 \dots T\}$ ,  $i_t$  is chosen uniformly at random from 1 to  $m$ , then:

$$\min_{w \in F} \mathbf{E} \left[ \sum_{t=1}^T c_{i_t}(w) \right] \geq \mathbf{E} \left[ \min_{w \in F} \sum_{t=1}^T c_{i_t}(w) \right] \quad (186)$$

**Proof** Observe that, by definition:

$$\mathbf{E} \left[ \min_{w \in F} \sum_{t=1}^T c_{i_t}(w) \right] = \frac{1}{m^T} \sum_{i_1 \dots i_T \in \{1 \dots m\}} \min_{w \in F} \sum_{t=1}^T c_{i_t}(w) \quad (187)$$

$$\leq \min_{w \in F} \frac{1}{m^T} \sum_{i_1 \dots i_T \in \{1 \dots m\}} \sum_{t=1}^T c_{i_t}(w) \quad (188)$$

$$\leq \min_{w \in F} \mathbf{E} \left[ \sum_{t=1}^T c_{i_t}(w) \right] \quad (189)$$

■

**Theorem 48**

$$\lim_{T \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{T} \mathbf{E}[R_T] \geq \mathbf{E}_{w \in D_\eta^*} [c(w)] - \min_{w \in F} c(w). \quad (190)$$

**Proof**

This proof follows the technique of many reductions establishing that batch learning can be reduced to online learning [5, 4], but taken to the asymptotic limit. First, observe that

$$\min_{w \in F} \mathbf{E} \left[ \sum_{t=1}^T c_{i_t}(w) \right] \geq \mathbf{E} \left[ \min_{w \in F} \sum_{t=1}^T c_{i_t}(w) \right], \quad (191)$$

because it is easier to minimize the utility after the costs are selected. Applying this, the linearity of expectation, and the definitions of  $c$  and  $D_\eta^t$  one obtains:

$$\mathbf{E}[R_T] \geq \sum_{t=1}^T \mathbf{E}_{w \in D_\eta^t} [c(w)] - T \min_{w \in F} c(w). \quad (192)$$

Taking the Cesàro limit of both sides yields:

$$\lim_{T \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{T} \mathbf{E}[R_T] \geq \lim_{T \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{T} \left( \sum_{t=1}^T \mathbf{E}_{w \in D_\eta^t} [c(w)] - T \min_{w \in F} c(w) \right). \quad (193)$$

The result follows from Theorem 8 and Theorem 37: ■

**Theorem 49** *If  $D_\eta^*$  is the stationary distribution of the stochastic update with learning rate  $\eta$ , then:*

$$\frac{\eta M^2}{2} \geq \mathbf{E}_{w \in D_\eta^*} [c(w)] - \min_{w \in F} c(w) \quad (194)$$

**Proof** From Theorem 48, we know:

$$\lim_{T \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{T} \mathbf{E}[R_T] \geq \mathbf{E}_{w \in D_\eta^*} [c(w)] - \min_{w \in F} c(w). \quad (195)$$

Applying Theorem 46:

$$\lim_{T \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{T} \left( \frac{T\eta M^2}{2} + \frac{D^2}{2\eta} \right) \geq \mathbf{E}_{w \in D_\eta^*} [c(w)] - \min_{w \in F} c(w). \quad (196)$$

Taking the limit on the left-hand side yields the result. ■

**Theorem 50**  $c(\mathbf{E}_{w \in D_\eta^*} [w]) - \min_{w \in F} c(w) \leq \frac{\eta M^2}{2}$ .

**Proof** By Theorem 49,  $\frac{\eta M^2}{2} \geq \mathbf{E}_{w \in D_\eta^*} [c(w)] - \min_{w \in F} c(w)$ . Since  $c$  is convex, by Jensen's inequality, the cost of the mean is less than or equal to the mean of the cost, formally  $\mathbf{E}_{w \in D_\eta^*} [c(w)] \geq c(\mathbf{E}_{w \in D_\eta^*} [w])$ , and the result follows by substitution. ■

**Theorem 9**  $c(\mathbf{E}_{w \in D_\eta^*} [w]) - \min_{w \in \mathbf{R}^n} c(w) \leq 2\eta G^2$ .

This is obtained by applying Theorem 45, and substituting  $2G$  for  $M$ .

## H Generalizing Reinforcement Learning

In order to make this theorem work, we have to push the limits of reinforcement learning. In particular, we have to show that some (but not all) of reinforcement learning works if actions can be any subset of the discrete distributions over the next state. In general, the distribution over the next action is rarely restricted in reinforcement learning. In particular, the theory of discounted reinforcement learning works well on almost any space of policies, but we only show infinite horizon average reward reinforcement learning works when the function is a contraction.

If  $(M, d)$  is a Radon space, a probability measure  $\rho \in P(M, d)$  is **discrete** if there exists a countable set  $C \subseteq S$  such that  $\rho(C) = 1$ . Importantly, if a function  $R : M \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$  is a bounded (not necessarily continuous) function, then  $\mathbf{E}_{x \in \rho}[R(x)]$  is well-defined. We will denote the set of discrete distributions as  $D(M, d) \subseteq P(M, d)$ .

Given a Radon space  $(S, d)$ , define  $S$  to be the set of states. Define the actions  $A = D(S, d)$  to be the set of discrete distributions over  $S$ . For every  $w \in S$ , define  $A(w) \subseteq A$  to be the actions available in state  $w$ .

We define a policy as a function  $\sigma : S \rightarrow A$  where  $\sigma(w) \in A(w)$ . Then, we can write a transformation  $T_\sigma : D(S, d) \rightarrow D(S, d)$  such that for any measurable set  $E$ ,  $T_\sigma(\rho)(E)$  is the probability that  $w' \in E$ , given  $w'$  is drawn from  $\sigma(w)$  where  $w$  is drawn from  $\rho$ . Therefore:

$$T_\sigma(\rho)(E) = \mathbf{E}_{w \in \rho}[\sigma(w)(E)] \quad (197)$$

Define  $r_0(w, \sigma) = R(w)$ , and for  $t \geq 1$ :

$$r_t(w, \sigma) = \mathbf{E}_{w' \in T_\sigma^t(w)}[R(w')] \quad (198)$$

Importantly,  $r_t(w, \sigma) \in [a, b]$ . Now, we can define the discounted utility:

$$V_{\sigma, \gamma}^T(w) = \sum_{t=0}^T \gamma^t r_t(w, \sigma) \quad (199)$$

**Theorem 51** *The sequence  $V_{\sigma, \gamma}^1(w), V_{\sigma, \gamma}^2(w), V_{\sigma, \gamma}^3(w)$  converges.*

**Proof** Since  $r_t \in [a, b]$ , then for any  $t$ ,  $\gamma^t r_t(w, \sigma) \leq \gamma^t b$ . For any  $T, T'$  where  $T' > T$ :

$$V_{\sigma, \gamma}^{T'}(w) - V_{\sigma, \gamma}^T(w) = \sum_{t=T+1}^{T'} \gamma^t r_t(w, \sigma) \quad (200)$$

$$\leq b \frac{\gamma^{T+1} - \gamma^{T'+1}}{1 - \gamma} \quad (201)$$

$$\leq b \frac{\gamma^{T+1}}{1 - \gamma} \quad (202)$$

Similarly,  $V_{\sigma, \gamma}^T(w) - V_{\sigma, \gamma}^{T'}(w) \leq -a \frac{\gamma^{T+1}}{1 - \gamma}$

Thus, for a given  $T$ , for all  $T', T'' > T$ ,  $|V_{\sigma, \gamma}^{T''}(w) - V_{\sigma, \gamma}^{T'}(w)| < \max(-a, b) \frac{\gamma^{T+1}}{1 - \gamma}$ .

Therefore, for any  $\epsilon > 0$ , there exists a  $T$  such that for all  $T', T'' > T$  where  $|V_{\sigma, \gamma}^{T''}(w) - V_{\sigma, \gamma}^{T'}(w)| < \epsilon$ . Therefore, the sequence is a Cauchy sequence, and has a limit since the real numbers are complete. ■

Therefore, we can define:

$$V_{\sigma, \gamma}(w) = \sum_{t=0}^{\infty} \gamma^t r_t(w, \sigma) \quad (203)$$

Note that the limit is well-defined, because  $R$  is bounded over  $S$ . Also, we can define:

$$\bar{V}_{\sigma,T}(w) = \frac{1}{T+1} \sum_{t=0}^T r_t(\sigma, w) \quad (204)$$

Consider  $W_1$  to be the Wasserstein metric on  $P(S, d)$ .

**Theorem 52** *If  $T_\sigma$  is a contraction operator on  $(P(S, d), W_1)$ , and  $R$  is Lipschitz continuous on  $S$ , then  $r_0(\sigma, w), r_1(\sigma, w), r_2(\sigma, w) \dots$  converges.*

**Proof** By Theorem 1, there exists a  $D^*$  such that for all  $w$ ,  $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} T_\sigma^t(w) = D^*$ . Since  $r_t(\sigma, w) = \mathbf{E}_{w' \in T_\sigma^t(w)}[R(w)]$ , by Theorem 35, this sequence must have a limit. ■

**Theorem 53** *If  $T_\sigma$  is a contraction operator; and  $R$  is Lipschitz continuous, then  $\bar{V}_{\sigma,1}(w), \bar{V}_{\sigma,2}(w), \dots$  converges to  $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} r_t(\sigma, w)$ .*

**Proof** From Theorem 52, we know there exists an  $r^*$  such that  $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} r_t(\sigma, w) = r^*$ . The result follows from Theorem 36. ■

If  $T_\sigma$  is a contraction mapping, and  $R$  is Lipschitz continuous, we can define:

$$\bar{V}_\sigma(w) = \lim_{T \rightarrow \infty} \bar{V}_{\sigma,T}(w) \quad (205)$$

**Theorem 54** *If  $T_\sigma$  is a contraction mapping, and  $R$  is Lipschitz continuous, then:*

$$\bar{V}_\sigma(w) = \lim_{\gamma \rightarrow 1^-} (1 - \gamma)V_{\sigma,\gamma}(w) \quad (206)$$

**Proof** From Theorem 52, we know there exists an  $r^*$  such that  $\bar{V}_\sigma(w) = \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} r_t(\sigma, w) = r^*$ . We can also show that  $\lim_{\gamma \rightarrow 1^-} (1 - \gamma)V_{\sigma,\gamma}(w) = r^*$ .

We will prove that for a given  $\epsilon > 0$ , there exists a  $\gamma$  such that  $|(1 - \gamma)V_{\sigma,\gamma}(w) - r^*| < \epsilon$ . For  $\frac{\epsilon}{2}$ , there exists a  $t$  such that for all  $t' > t$ ,  $|r_{t'}(\sigma, w) - r^*| < \frac{\epsilon}{2}$ . Thus,

$$(1 - \gamma)V_{\sigma,\gamma}(w) = (1 - \gamma) \sum_{t'=0}^{\infty} \gamma^{t'} r_{t'}(\sigma, w) \quad (207)$$

$$(1 - \gamma)V_{\sigma,\gamma}(w) = (1 - \gamma) \sum_{t'=0}^t \gamma^{t'} r_{t'}(\sigma, w) + (1 - \gamma) \sum_{t'=t+1}^{\infty} \gamma^{t'} r_{t'}(\sigma, w) \quad (208)$$

$$(1 - \gamma)V_{\sigma,\gamma}(w) \geq (1 - \gamma) \sum_{t'=0}^t \gamma^{t'} a + (1 - \gamma) \sum_{t'=t+1}^{\infty} (r^* - \frac{\epsilon}{2}) \quad (209)$$

$$(210)$$

Since  $r^* = (1 - \gamma) \sum_{t'=0}^{\infty} \gamma^{t'} r^*$ :

$$r^* - (1 - \gamma)V_{\sigma,\gamma}(w) \leq (1 - \gamma) \sum_{t'=0}^t \gamma^{t'} (r^* - a) + (1 - \gamma) \sum_{t'=t+1}^{\infty} \frac{\epsilon}{2} \quad (211)$$

$$r^* - (1 - \gamma)V_{\sigma,\gamma}(w) \leq (1 - \gamma) \frac{1 - \gamma^{t+1}}{1 - \gamma} (r^* - a) + (1 - \gamma) \frac{\gamma^{t+1}}{1 - \gamma} \frac{\epsilon}{2} \quad (212)$$

$$r^* - (1 - \gamma)V_{\sigma,\gamma}(w) \leq (1 - \gamma^{t+1})(r^* - a) + \gamma^{t+1} \frac{\epsilon}{2} \quad (213)$$

$$(214)$$

Note that  $\lim_{\gamma \rightarrow 1^-} (1 - \gamma^{t+1}) = 0$ , and  $\lim_{\gamma \rightarrow 1^-} \gamma^{t+1} = 1$ , so:

$$\lim_{\gamma \rightarrow 1^-} (1 - \gamma^{t+1})(r^* - a) + \gamma^{t+1} \frac{\epsilon}{2} = \frac{\epsilon}{2} \quad (215)$$

Therefore, there exists a  $\gamma < 1$  such that for all  $\gamma' \in (\gamma, 1)$ ,  $r^* - (1 - \gamma')V_{\sigma, \gamma'}(w) < \epsilon$ . Similarly, one can prove there exists a  $\gamma'' < 1$  such that for all  $\gamma' \in (\gamma'', 1)$ ,  $(1 - \gamma')V_{\sigma, \gamma'}(w) - r^* < \epsilon$ . Thus,  $\lim_{\gamma \rightarrow 1^-} (1 - \gamma)V_{\sigma, \gamma}(w) = r^*$ . ■

So, the general view is that for  $\sigma$  which result in  $T$  being a contraction mapping and  $R$  being a reward function, all the natural aspects of value functions hold. However, for *any*  $\sigma$  and for any bounded reward  $R$ , the discounted reward is well-defined. What we will do is now bound the discounted reward using an equation very similar to the Bellman equation.

**Theorem 55** For all  $w \in S$ :

$$V_{\sigma, \gamma}(w) = R(w) + \gamma \mathbf{E}_{w' \in T_{\sigma}(w)} [V_{\sigma, \gamma}(w')] \quad (216)$$

**Proof** By definition,

$$V_{\sigma, \gamma}(w) = \sum_{t=0}^{\infty} \gamma^t \mathbf{E}_{w' \in T_{\sigma}^t(w)} [R(w')] \quad (217)$$

$$V_{\sigma, \gamma}(w) = R(w) + \sum_{t=1}^{\infty} \gamma^t \mathbf{E}_{w' \in T_{\sigma}^t(w)} [R(w')] \quad (218)$$

Note that for any  $t \geq 1$ ,  $T_{\sigma}^t(w) = T_{\sigma}^{t-1}(T_{\sigma}(w))$ , so:

$$\mathbf{E}_{w' \in T_{\sigma}^t(w)} [R(w')] = \mathbf{E}_{w' \in T_{\sigma}(w)} [\mathbf{E}_{w'' \in T_{\sigma}^{t-1}(w')} [R(w'')]] \quad (219)$$

$$\mathbf{E}_{w' \in T_{\sigma}^t(w)} [R(w')] = \mathbf{E}_{w' \in T_{\sigma}(w)} [r_{t-1}(\sigma, w')] \quad (220)$$

Applying this to the equation above:

$$V_{\sigma, \gamma}(w) = R(w) + \sum_{t=1}^{\infty} \gamma^t \mathbf{E}_{w' \in T_{\sigma}(w)} [r_{t-1}(\sigma, w')] \quad (221)$$

$$V_{\sigma, \gamma}(w) = R(w) + \gamma \sum_{t=1}^{\infty} \gamma^{t-1} \mathbf{E}_{w' \in T_{\sigma}(w)} [r_{t-1}(\sigma, w')] \quad (222)$$

$$V_{\sigma, \gamma}(w) = R(w) + \gamma \sum_{t=0}^{\infty} \gamma^t \mathbf{E}_{w' \in T_{\sigma}(w)} [r_t(\sigma, w')] \quad (223)$$

By linearity of expectation:

$$V_{\sigma, \gamma}(w) = R(w) + \gamma \mathbf{E}_{w' \in T_{\sigma}(w)} \left[ \sum_{t=0}^{\infty} \gamma^t r_t(\sigma, w') \right] \quad (224)$$

$$V_{\sigma, \gamma}(w) = R(w) + \gamma \mathbf{E}_{w' \in T_{\sigma}(w)} [V_{\sigma, \gamma}(w)] \quad (225)$$
■

The space of value functions for the discount factor  $\gamma$  is  $\mathcal{V} = [\frac{a}{1-\gamma}, \frac{b}{1-\gamma}]^S$ . For  $V \in \mathcal{V}$ , for  $a \in A$ , we define  $V(a) = \mathbf{E}_{x \in a} [V(x)]$ . We define the **supremum Bellman operator**  $\mathbf{V}_{\text{sup}} : \mathcal{V} \rightarrow \mathcal{V}$  such that for all  $V \in \mathcal{V}$ , for all  $w \in S$ :

$$\mathbf{V}_{\text{sup}}(V)(w) = R(w) + \gamma \sup_{a \in A(w)} V(a) \quad (226)$$

Define  $\mathbf{V}_{\text{sup}}^t$  to be  $t$  operations of  $\mathbf{V}_{\text{sup}}$ .

Define the metric  $d_{\mathcal{V}} : \mathcal{V} \times \mathcal{V} \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$  such that  $d_{\mathcal{V}}(V, V') = \sup_{w \in S} |V(w) - V'(w)|$ .

**Fact 56** For any discrete distribution  $X \in D(S, d)$ , for any  $V, V' \in \mathcal{V}$ ,  $\mathbf{E}_{x \in X}[V'(x)] \geq \mathbf{E}_{x \in X}[V(x)] - d_{\mathcal{V}}(V, V')$ .

**Theorem 57**  $\mathbf{V}_{\text{sup}}$  is a contraction mapping under the metric  $d_{\mathcal{V}}$ .

**Proof** Given any  $V, V' \in \mathcal{V}$ , for a particular  $w \in S$ , since  $\mathbf{V}_{\text{sup}}(V)(w) = R(w) + \sup_{a \in A(w)} V(a)$ :

$$|\mathbf{V}_{\text{sup}}(V)(w) - \mathbf{V}_{\text{sup}}(V')(w)| = \left| \sup_{a \in A(w)} V(a) - \sup_{a' \in A(w)} V'(a') \right| \quad (227)$$

Without loss of generality,  $\sup_{a \in A(w)} V(a) \geq \sup_{a \in A(w)} V'(a)$ . Therefore, for any  $\epsilon > 0$ , there exists a  $a' \in A(w)$  such that  $V(a') > \sup_{a \in A(w)} V(a) - \epsilon$ . By Fact 56,  $V'(a') \geq V(a') - d_{\mathcal{V}}(V, V')$ , and  $V(a') - d_{\mathcal{V}}(V, V') > \sup_{a \in A(w)} V(a) - \epsilon - d_{\mathcal{V}}(V, V')$ . This implies  $\sup_{a \in A(w)} V'(a) \geq V(a) - d_{\mathcal{V}}(V, V')$ . Therefore,  $\mathbf{V}_{\text{sup}}(V)(w) - \mathbf{V}'_{\text{sup}}(V)(w) \leq \gamma d_{\mathcal{V}}(V, V')$ , and  $\mathbf{V}_{\text{sup}}(V)(w) - \mathbf{V}_{\text{sup}}(V')(w) \geq 0$ . Therefore, for all  $w$ :

$$|\mathbf{V}_{\text{sup}}(V)(w) - \mathbf{V}_{\text{sup}}(V')(w)| \leq \gamma d_{\mathcal{V}}(V, V'), \quad (228)$$

which establishes that  $\mathbf{V}_{\text{sup}}$  is a contraction mapping. ■

Under the supremum norm,  $\mathcal{V}$  is a complete space, implying that  $\mathbf{V}_{\text{sup}}$  as a contraction mapping has a unique fixed point by Banach's fixed point theorem. We call the fixed point  $V^*$ .

For  $V, V' \in \mathcal{V}$ , we say  $V \succeq V'$  if for all  $w \in S$ ,  $V(w) \geq V'(w)$ .

**Theorem 58** If  $V \succeq V'$ , then  $\mathbf{V}_{\text{sup}}(V) \succeq \mathbf{V}_{\text{sup}}(V')$ .

**Proof** We prove this by contradiction. In particular we assume that there exists a  $w \in S$  where  $\mathbf{V}_{\text{sup}}(V)(w) < \mathbf{V}_{\text{sup}}(V')(w)$ . This would imply:

$$\sup_{a \in A(w)} \mathbf{E}_{x \in a}[V(x)] < \sup_{a \in A(w)} \mathbf{E}_{x \in a}[V'(x)] \quad (229)$$

This would imply that there exists an  $a$  such that  $\mathbf{E}_{x \in a}[V'(x)] > \sup_{a' \in A(w)} \mathbf{E}_{x \in a'}[V(x)] \geq \mathbf{E}_{x \in a}[V(x)]$ . However, since  $a \in A(w)$  is a discrete distribution, if  $V(a) < V'(a)$ , there must be a point where  $V(w') < V'(w')$ , a contradiction. ■

**Lemma 59** If  $\mathbf{V}_{\text{sup}}(V) \succeq V$ , then for all  $t$ ,  $\mathbf{V}_{\text{sup}}^t(V) \succeq \mathbf{V}_{\text{sup}}^{t-1}(V)$ .

**Proof** We prove this by induction on  $t$ . It holds for  $t = 1$ , based on the assumptions in the lemma. If we assume it holds for  $t$ , then we need to prove it holds for  $t + 1$ . By Theorem 58, since  $\mathbf{V}_{\text{sup}}^{t-1}(V) \succeq \mathbf{V}_{\text{sup}}^{t-2}(V)$ , then  $\mathbf{V}_{\text{sup}}(\mathbf{V}_{\text{sup}}^{t-1}(V)) \succeq \mathbf{V}_{\text{sup}}(\mathbf{V}_{\text{sup}}^{t-2}(V))$ . Of course, this proves our inductive hypothesis. ■

**Lemma 60** If  $\mathbf{V}_{\text{sup}}(V) \succeq V$ , then for all  $t$ ,  $\mathbf{V}_{\text{sup}}^t(V) \succeq V$ , and therefore  $V^* \succeq V$ .

**Proof** Again we prove this by induction on  $t$ , and the base case where  $t = 1$  is given in the lemma. Assume that this holds for  $t - 1$ , in other words,  $\mathbf{V}_{\text{sup}}^{t-1}(V) \succeq V$ . By Lemma 59,  $\mathbf{V}_{\text{sup}}^t(V) \succeq \mathbf{V}_{\text{sup}}^{t-1}(V)$ , so by transitivity,  $\mathbf{V}_{\text{sup}}^t(V) \succeq V$ . ■

**Theorem 61** For any  $\sigma$ : For any  $V$  such that, for all  $w \in S$ :

$$V^* \succeq V_{\sigma, \gamma}. \quad (230)$$

**Proof**

We know that for all  $w \in S$ :

$$V_{\sigma, \gamma}(w) = R(w) + \gamma \mathbf{E}_{w' \in T_\sigma(w)}[V_{\sigma, \gamma}(w')] \quad (231)$$

Applying  $\mathbf{V}_{\text{sup}}$  yields:

$$\mathbf{V}_{\text{sup}}(V_{\sigma, \gamma})(w) = R(w) + \gamma \sup_{a \in A(w)} \mathbf{E}_{w' \in a}[R(w')] \quad (232)$$

Because  $T_\sigma(w)$  is a particular  $a \in A(w)$ :

$$\mathbf{V}_{\text{sup}}(V_{\sigma, \gamma})(w) \geq R(w) + \gamma \mathbf{E}_{w' \in T_\sigma(w)}[V_{\sigma, \gamma}(w')] \quad (233)$$

$$\mathbf{V}_{\text{sup}}(V_{\sigma, \gamma})(w) \geq V_{\sigma, \gamma}(w) \quad (234)$$

Thus,  $\mathbf{V}_{\text{sup}}(V_{\sigma, \gamma}) \succeq V_{\sigma, \gamma}$ . By Lemma 60,  $V^* \succeq V_{\sigma, \gamma}$ . ■

**Theorem 62** If  $V_\gamma^*$  is the fixed point of  $\mathbf{V}_{\text{sup}}$  for  $\gamma$ ,  $R$  is Lipschitz continuous, then for any  $\sigma$  where  $T_\sigma$  is a contraction mapping, if  $\lim_{\gamma \rightarrow 1^-} (1 - \gamma)V_\gamma^*$  exists, then

$$\lim_{\gamma \rightarrow 1^-} (1 - \gamma)V_\gamma^* \succeq \bar{V}_\sigma. \quad (235)$$

**Proof** By Theorem 54, for all  $w$ ,  $\lim_{\gamma \rightarrow 1^-} (1 - \gamma)V_{\sigma, \gamma}(w) = \bar{V}_\sigma(w)$ . By Theorem 61,  $V_\gamma^* \succeq V_{\sigma, \gamma}$ . Finally, we use the fact that if, for all  $x$ ,  $f(x) \geq g(x)$ , then  $\lim_{x \rightarrow c^-} f(x) \geq \lim_{x \rightarrow c^-} g(x)$ . ■

**Theorem 63** If  $V_\gamma^*$  is the fixed point of  $\mathbf{V}_{\text{sup}}$  for  $\gamma$ ,  $R$  is Lipschitz continuous, if  $\lim_{\gamma \rightarrow 1^-} (1 - \gamma)V_\gamma^*$  exists, then for any  $\sigma$  where  $T_\sigma$  is a contraction mapping, if  $f : P(S, d) \rightarrow P(M, d)$  is an extension of  $T_\sigma$  which is a contraction mapping, then there exists a  $D^* \in P(S, d)$  where  $f(D^*) = D^*$ , and:

$$\lim_{\gamma \rightarrow 1^-} (1 - \gamma)V_\gamma^*(w) \geq \mathbf{E}_{w \in D^*}[R(w)] \quad (236)$$

**Proof** By Theorem 62:

$$\lim_{\gamma \rightarrow 1^-} (1 - \gamma)V_\gamma^* \succeq \bar{V}_\sigma. \quad (237)$$

Also by Theorem 53,  $\bar{V}_\sigma = \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} r_t(\sigma, w)$ . By definition,  $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \mathbf{E}_{w \in T_\sigma^t}[R(w)]$ . By Theorem 35,  $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \mathbf{E}_{w \in T_\sigma^t}[R(w)] = \mathbf{E}_{w \in D^*}[R(w)]$ . The result follows by combining these bounds. ■

## I Limiting the Squared Difference From Optimal

We want to bound the expected squared distance of the stationary distribution  $D_\eta^*$  from the optimal point. Without loss of generality, assume  $w^* = 0$ . If we define  $R(w) = w^2$ , then  $\mathbf{E}_{w \in D_\eta^*}[R(w)]$  is the value we want to bound. Next, we define  $A(w)$  such that  $\mathbf{p}(w) \in A(w)$ .

Instead of tying the proof too tightly to gradient descent, we consider arbitrary real-valued parameters  $M, K, r \in [0, 1)$ . We define  $S = \{w \in \mathbf{R}^n : \|w\| \leq K\}$ . For all  $w$ , define  $A(w)$  to be the set of all discrete distributions  $X \in D(S, d)$  such that:

1.  $E[X \cdot w] \leq (1-r)w \cdot w$ , and
2.  $\|X - (1-r)w\| \leq M$ .

We wish to calculate the maximum expected squared value of this process. In particular, this can be represented as an infinite horizon average reward MDP, where the reward at a state is  $w^2$ . We know that zero is a state reached in the optimal solution. Thus, we are concerned with bounding  $V^*(0)$ .

Define  $A(w)$  to be the set of random variables such that for all random variables  $a \in A(w)$ :

$$|a| \leq M \quad (238)$$

$$\mathbf{E}_{x \in a}[x \cdot w] \leq 0 \quad (239)$$

The Bellman equation, given a discount factor  $\gamma$ , is:

$$V_\gamma^*(w) = w^2 + \gamma \sup_{a \in A(w)} \mathbf{E}[V_\gamma^*(a)] \quad (240)$$

We can relate this bound on the value to any stationary distribution.

**Theorem 64** *If  $\mathbf{p} : P(S, d) \rightarrow P(S, d)$  is a contraction mapping such that for all  $w \in S$ ,  $\mathbf{p}(I_w) \in A(w)$ ,*

*then there exists a unique  $D^* \in P(S, d)$  where  $\mathbf{p}(D^*) = D^*$ , and:*

$$\lim_{\gamma \rightarrow 1^-} (1-\gamma)V_\gamma^*(w) \geq \mathbf{E}_{w \in D^*}[w^2] \quad (241)$$

This follows directly from Theorem 63.

**Theorem 65** *The solution to the Bellman equation (Equation 240) is:*

$$V_\gamma^*(w) = \frac{1}{1-\gamma(1-r)^2} \left( w^2 + \frac{\gamma}{1-\gamma} M^2 \right) \quad (242)$$

**Proof** In order to distinguish between the question and the answer, we write the candidate from Equation 242:

$$V_\gamma = \frac{1}{1-\gamma(1-r)^2} \left( w^2 + \frac{\gamma}{1-\gamma} M^2 \right) \quad (243)$$

Therefore, we are interested in discovering what the Bellman operator does to  $V_\gamma$ . First of all, define  $B(w)$  to be the set of random variables such that for all random variables  $b \in B(w)$ :

$$|b| \leq M \quad (244)$$

$$\mathbf{E}_{x \in b}[x \cdot w] \leq 0 \quad (245)$$

Thus, for every  $a \in A(w)$ , there exists a  $b \in B(w)$  such that  $a = (1-r)w + b$ , and for every  $b \in B(w)$ , there exists an  $a \in A(w)$  such that  $a = (1-r)w + b$ . Therefore,

$$\sup_{a \in A(w)} \mathbf{E}[V_\gamma(a)] = \sup_{a \in B(w)} \mathbf{E}[V_\gamma((1-r)w + a)] \quad (246)$$

$$= \frac{1}{1-\gamma(1-r)^2} \frac{\gamma}{1-\gamma} M^2 + \frac{1}{1-\gamma(1-r)^2} \sup_{a \in B(w)} \mathbf{E}[((1-r)w + a)^2] \quad (247)$$

Expanding the last part:

$$\sup_{a \in B(w)} \mathbf{E}[((1-r)w + a)^2] = \sup_{a \in B(w)} (1-r)^2 w^2 + 2(1-r)\mathbf{E}[w \cdot a] + \mathbf{E}[a^2] \quad (248)$$

By Equation (238):

$$\sup_{a \in B(w)} \mathbf{E}[((1-r)w + a)^2] \leq \sup_{a \in B(w)} (1-r)^2 w^2 + 2(1-r)\mathbf{E}[w \cdot a] + M^2 \quad (249)$$

By Equation (239):

$$\sup_{a \in B(w)} \mathbf{E}[\left((1-r)w + a\right)^2] \leq \sup_{a \in B(w)} (1-r)^2 w^2 + M^2 \quad (250)$$

$$\sup_{a \in B(w)} \mathbf{E}[\left((1-r)w + a\right)^2] \leq (1-r)^2 w^2 + M^2 \quad (251)$$

Also, note that if  $\Pr[a = \frac{M}{\|w\|}w] = \Pr[a = -\frac{M}{\|w\|}w] = 0.5$ , then

$$\mathbf{E}[\left((1-r)w + a\right)^2] = \left((1-r)w + M\right)^2 + \left((1-r)w - M\right)^2 \quad (252)$$

$$= (1-r)^2 w^2 + M^2. \quad (253)$$

Thus,  $\sup_{a \in A(w)} \mathbf{E}[\left((1-r)w + a\right)^2] = (1-r)^2 w^2 + M^2$ . Plugging this into Equation (247):

$$\sup_{a \in A(w)} \mathbf{E}[V_\gamma(a)] = \frac{1}{1-\gamma(1-r)^2} \frac{\gamma}{1-\gamma} M^2 + \frac{1}{1-\gamma(1-r)^2} \left((1-r)^2 w^2 + M^2\right) \quad (254)$$

$$= \frac{1}{1-\gamma(1-r)^2} \frac{1}{1-\gamma} M^2 + \frac{1}{1-\gamma(1-r)^2} (1-r)^2 w^2 \quad (255)$$

Plugging this into the recursion yields:

$$w^2 + \gamma \sup_{a \in A(w)} \mathbf{E}[V_\gamma(a)] = w^2 + \gamma \left( \frac{1}{1-\gamma(1-r)^2} \frac{1}{1-\gamma} M^2 + \frac{1}{1-\gamma(1-r)^2} (1-r)^2 w^2 \right) \quad (256)$$

$$w^2 + \gamma \sup_{a \in A(w)} \mathbf{E}[V_\gamma(a)] = \frac{1}{1-\gamma(1-r)^2} w^2 + \frac{1}{1-\gamma(1-r)^2} \frac{\gamma}{1-\gamma} M^2 \quad (257)$$

$$w^2 + \gamma \sup_{a \in A(w)} \mathbf{E}[V_\gamma(a)] = V_\gamma(w) \quad (258)$$

Therefore,  $V_\gamma$  satisfies the supremum Bellman equation. ■

**Theorem 66** If  $\mathbf{p} : P(S, d) \rightarrow P(S, d)$  is a contraction mapping such that for all  $w \in S$ ,  $\mathbf{p}(I_w) \in A(w)$ ,

then there exists a unique  $D^* \in P(S, d)$  where  $\mathbf{p}(D^*) = D^*$ , and:

$$E_{w \in D^*}[w^2] \leq \frac{M^2}{(2-r)r} \quad (259)$$

**Proof** By Theorem 64:

$$E_{w \in D^*}[w^2] \leq \lim_{\gamma \rightarrow 1^-} (1-\gamma) V_\gamma^*(w) \quad (260)$$

By Theorem 65, for any  $w$ :

$$E_{w \in D^*}[w^2] \leq \lim_{\gamma \rightarrow 1^-} (1-\gamma) \frac{1}{1-\gamma(1-r)^2} \left( w^2 + \frac{\gamma}{1-\gamma} M^2 \right) \quad (261)$$

$$E_{w \in D^*}[w^2] \leq \lim_{\gamma \rightarrow 1^-} \frac{1}{1-\gamma(1-r)^2} \left( (1-\gamma)w^2 + \gamma M^2 \right) \quad (262)$$

$$E_{w \in D^*}[w^2] \leq \frac{1}{1-(1)(1-r)^2} (0(w^2) + 1(M^2)) \quad (263)$$

$$E_{w \in D^*}[w^2] \leq \frac{M^2}{1-(1-r)^2} \quad (264)$$

$$E_{w \in D^*}[w^2] \leq \frac{M^2}{(2-r)r} \quad (265)$$

■

**Theorem 10** *The average squared distance of the stationary distance from the optimal point is bounded by:*

$$\frac{4\eta G^2}{(2 - \eta\lambda)\lambda}.$$

*In other words, the squared distance is bounded by  $O(\eta G^2 / \lambda)$ .*

**Proof**

By Theorem 42 and Theorem 43, the stationary distribution of the stochastic process satisfies the constraints of Theorem 66 with  $r = \eta\lambda$  and  $M = 2\eta G$ . Thus, substituting into Theorem 66 yields the result. ■

## J Application to Stochastic Gradient Descent

An SVM has a cost function consisting of regularization and loss:

$$c(w) = \frac{\lambda}{2}w^2 + \frac{1}{m} \sum_{i=1}^m L(y^i, w \cdot x^i) \tag{266}$$

In this section, we assume that we are trying to find the optimal weight vector given an SVM:

$$\operatorname{argmin}_w c(w) \tag{267}$$

In the following, we assume  $y^i \in \{-1, +1\}$ ,  $x^i \cdot x^i = 1$ , and  $L(y, \hat{y}) = \frac{1}{2}(\max(1 - y\hat{y}, 0))^2$  is convex in  $\hat{y}$ , and  $\frac{\partial L(y, \hat{y})}{\partial \hat{y}}$  is Lipschitz continuous. At each time step, we select an  $i$  uniformly at random between 1 and  $m$  and take a gradient step with respect to:

$$c^i(w) = \frac{\lambda}{2}w^2 + L(y^i, w \cdot x^i) \tag{268}$$

Define  $f^i(w) = L(y^i, w \cdot x^i)$ . In other words:

$$\nabla c^i(w) = \lambda w + \nabla f^i(w) \tag{269}$$

This results in the update:

$$w^{t+1} = w^t - \eta(\lambda w^t + \nabla f^i(w)) \tag{270}$$

In our case,  $\nabla f^i(w) = x^i \frac{\partial}{\partial \hat{y}} L(y^i, \hat{y})$ . Define  $\phi^i$  such that:

$$\phi^i(w) = w - \eta(\lambda w + \nabla f^i(w)) \tag{271}$$

In what will follow, we assume that  $\|\nabla f^i(w)\|$  and  $\|\nabla f^i(w)\|_{\text{Lip}}$  are both bounded. This will require bounds on  $\|x^i\|$ .

In the first section, we analyze how stochastic gradient descent is a contraction mapping. In the second section, we analyze the implications of this result.

## K Putting it all Together

**Theorem 67**

$$\sigma_{D^*} \leq \frac{2\sqrt{\eta}G}{\sqrt{(2 - \eta\lambda)\lambda}} \tag{272}$$

**Corollary 68** If  $\eta \leq \eta^*$ , then  $(1 - \eta\lambda) \geq 0$ , and:

$$\sigma_{D_\eta^*} \leq \frac{2\sqrt{\eta}G}{\sqrt{\lambda}} \quad (273)$$

**Proof** By Theorem 31,  $\sigma_{D_\eta^*}^w \geq \sigma_{D_\eta^*}$ . The result follows from Theorem 10. ■

Define  $D_\eta^t$  to be the distribution of the stochastic gradient descent update after  $t$  iterations, and  $D_\eta^0$  to be the initial distribution.

**Theorem 69** If  $w_0 = 0$ , then  $W_2(D_\eta^0, D_\eta^*) \leq \frac{G}{\lambda}$ , and  $W_1(D_\eta^0, D_\eta^*) \leq \frac{G}{\lambda}$ .

**Proof** By Theorem 44,  $\|w_t\| \leq \frac{G}{\lambda}$ . Therefore, for any  $w \in D_\eta^*$ ,  $\|w\| \leq \frac{G}{\lambda}$ . The result follows directly. ■

**Theorem 70** If  $D_\eta^t$  is the distribution of the stochastic gradient descent update after  $t$  iterations, and  $\eta \leq \eta^*$ , then:

$$d(\mu_{D_\eta^t}, \mu_{D_\eta^*}) \leq \frac{G}{\lambda}(1 - \eta\lambda)^t \quad (274)$$

$$\sigma_{D_\eta^t} \leq \sigma_{D_\eta^*} + \frac{G}{\lambda}(1 - \eta\lambda)^t \quad (275)$$

**Corollary 71** If  $w_0 = 0$ , then by Theorem 69 and Corollary 68:

$$d(\mu_{D_\eta^t}, \mu_{D_\eta^*}) \leq \frac{G}{\lambda}(1 - \eta\lambda)^t \quad (276)$$

$$\sigma_{D_\eta^t} \leq \frac{2\sqrt{\eta}G}{\sqrt{\lambda}} + \frac{G}{\lambda}(1 - \eta\lambda)^t \quad (277)$$

**Proof**

Note that by Theorem 8:

$$W_1(D_\eta^t, D_\eta^*) \leq \frac{G}{\lambda}(1 - \eta\lambda)^t. \quad (278)$$

Equation 274 follows from Corollary 23.

Similarly by Theorem 8:

$$W_2(D_\eta^t, D_\eta^*) \leq W_2(D_\eta^0, D_\eta^*)(1 - \eta\lambda)^t. \quad (279)$$

Equation 275 follows from Theorem 32. ■

**Theorem 11** Given a cost function  $c$  such that  $\|c\|_{\text{Lip}}$  and  $\|\nabla c\|_{\text{Lip}}$  are bounded, a distribution  $D$  such that  $\sigma_D$  and is bounded, then, for any  $v$ :

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{E}_{w \in D}[c(w)] - \min_w c(w) &\leq (\sigma_D^v) \sqrt{2\|\nabla c\|_{\text{Lip}}(c(v) - \min_w c(w))} \\ &\quad + \frac{\|\nabla c\|_{\text{Lip}}}{2} (\sigma_D^v)^2 + (c(v) - \min_w c(w)) \end{aligned} \quad (280)$$

**Proof** First, we observe that, for any  $w'$ , since  $\nabla c$  is Lipschitz continuous:

$$c(w') - c(v) = \int_{a \in [0,1]} \nabla c(a(w' - v) + v) \cdot (w' - v) da \quad (281)$$

For any  $w''$ , by definition of Lipschitz continuity  $\|\nabla c(w'') - \nabla c(v)\| \leq \|\nabla c\|_{\text{Lip}} \|w'' - v\|$ , so by the triangle inequality:

$$\|\nabla c(w'')\| - \|\nabla c(v)\| \leq \|\nabla c\|_{\text{Lip}} \|w'' - v\| \quad (282)$$

Applying this to  $a(w' - v) + v$  for  $a \in [0, 1]$  yields:

$$\|\nabla c(a(w' - v) + v)\| - \|\nabla c(v)\| \leq \|\nabla c\|_{\text{Lip}} \|a(w' - v)\| \quad (283)$$

$$\|\nabla c(a(w' - v) + v)\| - \|\nabla c(v)\| \leq \|\nabla c\|_{\text{Lip}} a \|w' - v\| \quad (284)$$

Thus, by the Cauchy-Schwartz inequality:

$$\nabla c(a(w' - v) + v) \cdot (w' - v) \leq (\|\nabla c\|_{\text{Lip}} a \|w' - v\| + \|\nabla c(v)\|) \|w' - v\|. \quad (285)$$

If  $f, g$  are integrable, real valued functions, and if  $f(x) \leq g(x)$  for all  $x \in [a, b]$ , then  $\int_a^b f(x) dx \leq \int_a^b g(x) dx$ . Therefore:

$$c(w') - c(v) \leq \int_{a \in [0,1]} (\|\nabla c\|_{\text{Lip}} a \|w' - v\| + \|\nabla c(v)\|) \|w' - v\| da \quad (286)$$

$$c(w') - c(v) \leq \left(\frac{1}{2} \|\nabla c\|_{\text{Lip}} \|w' - v\| + \|\nabla c(v)\|\right) \|w' - v\| \quad (287)$$

$$c(w') - c(v) \leq \frac{1}{2} \|\nabla c\|_{\text{Lip}} (\|w' - v\|)^2 + \|\nabla c(v)\| \|w' - v\| \quad (288)$$

We break this down into three pieces:  $c_2(w') = \frac{1}{2} \|\nabla c\|_{\text{Lip}} (\|w' - v\|)^2$ ,  $c_1(w') = \|\nabla c(v)\| \|w' - v\|$ , and  $c_0(w') = c(v)$  (i.e.  $c_0$  is constant). Therefore:

$$c(w') \leq c_0(w') + c_1(w') + c_2(w') \quad (289)$$

By Corollary 25 and  $\|c_1\|_{\text{Lip}} = \|\nabla c(v)\|$ :

$$\mathbf{E}_{w' \in D}[c_1(w')] - c_1(v) \leq \|c_1\|_{\text{Lip}} W_1(D, v) \quad (290)$$

Note that  $\|c_2\|_{L_2} = \frac{1}{2} \|\nabla c\|_{\text{Lip}}$  Using the extension of Kantorovich-Rubinstein:

$$\mathbf{E}_{w' \in D}[c_2(w')] - c_2(v) \leq \|c_2\|_{L_2} (W_2(D, v))^2 \quad (291)$$

Because  $c_0$  is a constant function:

$$\mathbf{E}_{w' \in D}[c_0(w')] - c_0(v) = 0 \quad (292)$$

Thus, putting it together:

$$\mathbf{E}_{w' \in D}[c(w')] - c(v) \leq \|c_2\|_{L_2} (W_2(D, v))^2 + \|c_1\|_{\text{Lip}} W_1(D, v) \quad (293)$$

$$\mathbf{E}_{w' \in D}[c(w')] - c(v) \leq \frac{1}{2} \|\nabla c\|_{\text{Lip}} (W_2(D, v))^2 + \|\nabla c(v)\| W_1(D, v) \quad (294)$$

Since by Fact 28,  $W_2(D, v) = \sigma_D^v$ , and by Theorem 33,  $W_2(D, v) \geq W_1(D, v)$ , so:

$$\mathbf{E}_{w' \in D}[c(w')] - c(v) \leq \frac{1}{2} \|\nabla c\|_{\text{Lip}} (\sigma_D^v)^2 + \|\nabla c(v)\| \sigma_D^v \quad (295)$$

By Theorem 13:

$$\|\nabla c(v)\| \leq \sqrt{2 \|\nabla c\|_{\text{Lip}} [c(v) - \min_w c(w)]}. \quad (296)$$

$$\mathbf{E}_{w' \in D}[c(w')] - c(v) \leq \frac{1}{2} \|\nabla c\|_{\text{Lip}} (\sigma_D^v)^2 + \sigma_D^v \sqrt{2 \|\nabla c\|_{\text{Lip}} [c(v) - \min_w c(w)]} \quad (297)$$

Adding  $c(v) - \min_w c(w)$  to both sides yields the result. ■

**Theorem 72** If  $\eta \leq \eta^*$  and  $T = \frac{\ln k - (\ln \eta + \ln \lambda)}{2\eta\lambda}$ :

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{E}_{w \in D_\eta^{T,k}} [c(w)] - \min_w c(w) &\leq \frac{8\eta G^2}{\sqrt{k\lambda}} \sqrt{\|\nabla c\|_{\text{Lip}}} \\ &\quad + \frac{8\eta G^2 \|\nabla c\|_{\text{Lip}}}{k\lambda} + (2\eta G^2). \end{aligned} \quad (298)$$

**Proof** Define  $D_\eta^{T,k}$  to be the average of  $k$  draws from  $D_\eta^T$ . By Theorem 34:

$$\mu_{D_\eta^{T,k}} = \mu_{D_\eta^T} \quad (299)$$

$$\sigma_{D_\eta^{T,k}} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{k}} \sigma_{D_\eta^T} \quad (300)$$

Applying Corollary 71:

$$d(\mu_{D_\eta^{T,k}}, \mu_{D_\eta^*}) \leq \frac{G}{\lambda} (1 - \eta\lambda)^T \quad (301)$$

$$\sigma_{D_\eta^{T,k}} \leq \frac{1}{\sqrt{k}} \left( \frac{2\sqrt{\eta}G}{\sqrt{\lambda}} + \frac{G}{\lambda} (1 - \eta\lambda)^T \right) \quad (302)$$

Since  $1 - \eta\lambda \in [0, 1]$ ,  $\exp(-\eta\lambda) \leq 1 - \eta\lambda$ , so:

$$d(\mu_{D_\eta^{T,k}}, \mu_{D_\eta^*}) \leq \frac{G}{\lambda} \exp(-\eta\lambda T) \quad (303)$$

$$\sigma_{D_\eta^{T,k}} \leq \frac{1}{\sqrt{k}} \left( \frac{2\sqrt{\eta}G}{\sqrt{\lambda}} + \frac{G}{\lambda} \exp(-\eta\lambda T) \right) \quad (304)$$

Note that  $\sigma_{D_\eta^{T,k}}^{\mu_{D_\eta^*}} \leq \sigma_{D_\eta^{T,k}} + d(\mu_{D_\eta^{T,k}}, \mu_{D_\eta^*})$ . So:

$$\sigma_{D_\eta^{T,k}}^{\mu_{D_\eta^*}} \leq \frac{1}{\sqrt{k}} \left( \frac{2\sqrt{\eta}G}{\sqrt{\lambda}} + \frac{G}{\lambda} \exp(-\eta\lambda T) \right) + \frac{G}{\lambda} \exp(-\eta\lambda T) \quad (305)$$

$$\sigma_{D_\eta^{T,k}}^{\mu_{D_\eta^*}} \leq \frac{2\sqrt{\eta}G}{\sqrt{k\lambda}} + \frac{2G}{\lambda} \exp(-\eta\lambda T) \quad (306)$$

Setting  $T = \frac{\ln k - (\ln \eta + \ln \lambda)}{2\eta\lambda}$  yields:

$$\sigma_{D_\eta^{T,k}}^{\mu_{D_\eta^*}} \leq \frac{4\sqrt{\eta}G}{\sqrt{k\lambda}} \quad (307)$$

By Theorem 11:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{E}_{w \in D_\eta^{T,k}} [c(w)] - \min_w c(w) &\leq (\sigma_{D_\eta^{T,k}}^{\mu_{D_\eta^*}}) \sqrt{2 \|\nabla c\|_{\text{Lip}} (c(\mu_{D_\eta^*}) - \min_w c(w))} \\ &\quad + \frac{\|\nabla c\|_{\text{Lip}}}{2} (\sigma_{D_\eta^{T,k}}^{\mu_{D_\eta^*}})^2 + (c(\mu_{D_\eta^*}) - \min_w c(w)) \end{aligned} \quad (308)$$

$$\begin{aligned} &\leq \frac{4\sqrt{\eta}G}{\sqrt{k\lambda}} \sqrt{2 \|\nabla c\|_{\text{Lip}} (c(\mu_{D_\eta^*}) - \min_w c(w))} \\ &\quad + \frac{\|\nabla c\|_{\text{Lip}}}{2} \frac{16\eta G^2}{k\lambda} + (c(\mu_{D_\eta^*}) - \min_w c(w)). \end{aligned} \quad (309)$$

By Theorem 9,  $c(\mu_{D_\eta^*}) - \min_w c(w) \leq 2\eta G^2$ :

$$\mathbf{E}_{w \in D_\eta^{T,k}} [c(w)] - \min_w c(w) \leq \frac{4\sqrt{\eta}G}{\sqrt{k\lambda}} \sqrt{2 \|\nabla c\|_{\text{Lip}} (2\eta G^2)} + \frac{\|\nabla c\|_{\text{Lip}}}{2} \frac{16\eta G^2}{k\lambda} + (2\eta G^2) \quad (310)$$

$$\leq \frac{8\eta G^2}{\sqrt{k\lambda}} \sqrt{\|\nabla c\|_{\text{Lip}}} + \frac{8\eta G^2 \|\nabla c\|_{\text{Lip}}}{k\lambda} + (2\eta G^2). \quad (311)$$

■