

Taming the Curse of Dimension/Horizon in Multistage Stochastic Programming

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Algorithms for solving Multistage Stochastic Programming (MSP) are long known to suffer from the curse of dimension and horizon. Stochastic Dual Dynamic Programming (SDDP) for stage-wise independence MSP problem admits a complexity of scales exponentially with respect to the decision dimension d in terms of accuracy ϵ , i.e., $O(\epsilon^{-d})$. On the other hand, Stochastic Approximation (SA) and Sample Average Approximation (SAA) type of methods admit a complexity that scales exponentially with respect to the horizon T , i.e., $O(\epsilon^{-T})$ for general MSP. In this talk, we discuss a novel approximation-based algorithm that achieves $O(\text{poly}(1/\epsilon))$ dependence in a class of MSP problems.

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