

A New Two-Step Proximal Algorithm of Solving the Problem of Equilibrium Programming

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Dedicated to Boris Polyak on the occasion of his 80th Birthday

Abstract We propose a new iterative two-step proximal algorithm for solving the problem of equilibrium programming in a Hilbert space. This method is a result of extension of L.D. Popov's modification of Arrow-Hurwicz scheme for approximation of saddle points of convex-concave functions. The convergence of the algorithm is proved under the assumption that the solution exists and the bifunction is pseudo-monotone and Lipschitz-type.

Keywords Equilibrium problem • Variational inequality • Two-step proximal algorithm • Bifunction • Pseudomonotonicity • Lipschitz condition • Convergence

1 Introduction

Throughout this chapter, we assume that H is a real Hilbert space with inner product (\cdot, \cdot) and norm $\|\cdot\|$. The symbol \rightharpoonup denote weak convergence.

Let C be a nonempty closed convex subset of H and $F : C \times C \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a bifunction with $F(x, x) = 0$ for all $x \in C$. Consider the following equilibrium problem in the sense of Blum and Oettli [12]:

$$\text{find } x \in C \text{ such that } F(x, y) \geq 0 \quad \forall y \in C. \quad (1)$$

The equilibrium problem (1) (problem of equilibrium programming, Ky Fan inequality) is very general in the sense that it includes, as special cases, many applied mathematical models such as: variational inequalities, fixed point problems, optimization problems, saddle point problems, Nash equilibrium point problems in

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non-cooperative games, complementarity problems, see [3, 5, 6, 10, 12, 14, 17, 25] and the references therein. This problem is interesting because it allows to unify all these particular problems in a convenient way. In recent years, many methods have been proposed for solving equilibrium and related problems [2–10, 14, 16, 26, 28, 32, 35–37]. The solution approximation methods for the equilibrium problem are often based on the resolvent of equilibrium bifunction (see, for instance [14]) where at each iterative step a strongly monotone regularization equilibrium problem is solved. It is also called the proximal point method [16, 18, 20, 26, 37].

The variational inequality problem is a special case of the equilibrium problem. For solving the variational inequality in Euclidean space, Korpelevich [21] introduced the extragradient method where two metric projections onto feasible sets must be found at each iterative step. This method was setted in Hilbert spaces by Nadezhkina and Takahashi [27]. Some extragradient-like algorithms proposed for solving variational inequality problems can be found in [19, 33, 34, 38]. In 2011, the authors in [13, 22] have replaced the second projection onto any closed convex set in the extragradient method by one onto a half-space and proposed the subgradient extragradient method for variational inequalities in Hilbert spaces, see also [15, 39].

In recent years, the extragradient method has been extended to equilibrium problems for monotone (more general, pseudomonotone) and Lipschitz-type continuous bifunctions and studied both theoretically and algorithmically [1, 31, 40]. In this methods we must solve two strongly convex minimization problems on a closed convex constrained set at each iterative step. We note that similar methods have been previously proposed and studied by Antipin [2–4].

In 1980, Russian mathematician Popov [30] introduced very interesting modification of Arrow-Hurwicz scheme for approximation of saddle points of convex-concave functions in Euclidean space. Let X and Y are closed convex subset of Euclidean spaces \mathbb{R}^d and \mathbb{R}^p , respectively, and $L : X \times Y \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a differentiable convex-concave function. Then, the method [30] approximation of saddle points of L on $X \times Y$ can be written as

$$\begin{cases} x_1, \bar{x}_1 \in X, y_1, \bar{y}_1 \in Y, \lambda > 0, \\ x_{n+1} = P_X(x_n - \lambda L'_1(\bar{x}_n, \bar{y}_n)), y_{n+1} = P_Y(y_n + \lambda L'_2(\bar{x}_n, \bar{y}_n)), \\ \bar{x}_{n+1} = P_X(x_{n+1} - \lambda L'_1(\bar{x}_n, \bar{y}_n)), \bar{y}_{n+1} = P_Y(y_{n+1} + \lambda L'_2(\bar{x}_n, \bar{y}_n)), \end{cases}$$

where P_X and P_Y are metric projection onto X and Y , respectively, L'_1 and L'_2 are partial derivatives. Under some suitable assumptions, Popov proved the convergence of this method.

In this chapter, we have been motivated and inspired by the results of the authors in [30, 31], proposed a new two-step proximal algorithm for solving equilibrium problems. This algorithm is the extension of Popov method [30].

The set of solutions of the equilibrium problem (1) is denoted $EP(F, C)$. Further, we assume that the solution set $EP(F, C)$ is nonempty.

Here, for solving equilibrium problem (1), we assume that the bifunction F satisfies the following conditions:

- (A1) $F(x, x) = 0$ for all $x \in C$;
- (A2) for all $x, y \in C$ from $F(x, y) \geq 0$ it follows that $F(y, x) \leq 0$ (pseudomonotonicity);
- (A3) for all $x \in C$ the function $F(x, \cdot)$ is convex and lower semicontinuous on C ;
- (A4) for all $y \in C$ the function $F(\cdot, y)$ is weakly upper semicontinuous on C ;
- (A5) for all $x, y, z \in C$ the next inequality holds

$$F(x, y) \leq F(x, z) + F(z, y) + a \|x - z\|^2 + b \|z - y\|^2,$$

where a, b are positive constants (Lipschitz-type continuity);

- (A6) for all bounded sequences $(x_n), (y_n)$ from C we have

$$\|x_n - y_n\| \rightarrow 0 \Rightarrow F(x_n, y_n) \rightarrow 0.$$

It is easy to show that under the assumptions (A1)–(A4), we have

$$x \in EP(F, C) \Leftrightarrow x \in C : F(y, x) \leq 0 \quad \forall y \in C.$$

In particular, the set $EP(F, C)$ is convex and closed (see, for instance [31]).

The hypothesis (A5) was introduced by Mastroeni [25]. It is necessary to imply the convergence of the auxiliary principle method for equilibrium problems. For example, the bifunction $F(x, y) = (Ax, y - x)$ with k -Lipschitz operator $A : C \rightarrow H$ satisfies (A5). Actually,

$$\begin{aligned} F(x, y) - F(x, z) - F(z, y) &= (Ax, y - x) - (Ax, z - x) - (Az, y - z) = \\ &= (Ax - Az, y - z) \leq \|Ax - Az\| \|y - z\| \leq k \|x - z\| \|y - z\| \leq \\ &\leq \frac{k}{2} \|x - z\|^2 + \frac{k}{2} \|y - z\|^2. \end{aligned}$$

This implies that F satisfies the condition (A5) with $a = b = k/2$.

The condition (A6) is satisfied by bifunction $F(x, y) = (Ax, y - x)$ with Lipschitz operator $A : C \rightarrow H$.

2 The Algorithm

Let $g : H \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \cup \{+\infty\}$ be a convex, lower semicontinuous, and proper. The proximity operator of a function g is the operator $\text{prox}_g : H \rightarrow \text{dom } g \subseteq H$ ($\text{dom } g$ denotes the effective domain of g) which maps every $x \in H$ to the unique minimizer of the function $g + \|\cdot - x\|^2/2$, i.e.,

$$\forall x \in H \quad \text{prox}_g x = \operatorname{argmin}_{y \in \text{dom } g} \left\{ g(y) + \frac{1}{2} \|y - x\|^2 \right\}.$$

We have

$$z = \text{prox}_g x \Leftrightarrow g(y) - g(z) + (z - x, y - z) \geq 0 \quad \forall y \in \text{dom } g.$$

Proximity operators have attractive properties that make them particularly well suited for iterative minimization algorithms. For instance, prox_g is firmly nonexpansive and its fixed point set is precisely the set of minimizers of g . For detailed accounts of the proximity operators theory, see [11].

Now we extend the Popov method [30] to an equilibrium problem (1). In Algorithm 1 we are going to describe, in order to be able to obtain its convergence, the parameter λ must satisfy some condition (see convergence Theorem 1).

Algorithm 1. For $x_1, y_1 \in C$ generate the sequences $x_n, y_n \in C$ with the iterative scheme

$$\begin{cases} x_{n+1} = \text{prox}_{\lambda F(y_n, \cdot)} x_n = \text{argmin}_{y \in C} \{ \lambda F(y_n, y) + \frac{1}{2} \|y - x_n\|^2 \}, \\ y_{n+1} = \text{prox}_{\lambda F(y_n, \cdot)} x_{n+1} = \text{argmin}_{y \in C} \{ \lambda F(y_n, y) + \frac{1}{2} \|y - x_{n+1}\|^2 \}, \end{cases}$$

where $\lambda > 0$.

Extragradient method for the equilibrium problem (1) has the form

$$\begin{cases} y_n = \text{prox}_{\lambda F(x_n, \cdot)} x_n, \\ x_{n+1} = \text{prox}_{\lambda F(y_n, \cdot)} x_n, \end{cases}$$

where $\lambda > 0$ [31]. A distinctive and attractive feature of the Algorithm 1 consists in the fact that in the iterative step is used only one function $F(y_n, \cdot)$.

Remark 1. If $F(x, y) = (Ax, y - x)$, then Algorithm 1 takes the form:

$$\begin{cases} x_1 \in C, y_1 \in C, \\ x_{n+1} = P_C(x_n - \lambda A y_n), \\ y_{n+1} = P_C(x_{n+1} - \lambda A y_n), \end{cases}$$

where P_C is the operator of metric projection onto the set C .

A particular case of the scheme from the Remark 1 was proposed by Popov [30] for search of saddle points of convex-concave functions, which are defined on finite-dimensional Euclidean space. In recent works Malitsky and Semenov [23, 24] proved the convergence of this algorithm for variational inequalities with monotone and Lipschitz operators in infinite-dimensional Hilbert space, and proposed some modifications of this algorithm.

For substantiation of the iterative Algorithm 1 we note first, that if for some number $n \in \mathbb{N}$ next equalities are satisfied

$$x_{n+1} = x_n = y_n \tag{2}$$

than $y_n \in EP(F, C)$ and the following stationarity condition holds

$$y_k = x_k = y_n \quad \forall k \geq n.$$

Actually, the equality

$$x_{n+1} = \text{prox}_{\lambda F(y_n, \cdot)} x_n$$

means that

$$F(y_n, y) - F(y_n, x_{n+1}) + \frac{(x_{n+1} - x_n, y - x_{n+1})}{\lambda} \geq 0 \quad \forall y \in C.$$

From (2) it follows that

$$F(y_n, y) \geq 0 \quad \forall y \in C,$$

i.e. $y_n \in EP(F, C)$.

Taking this into account the practical variant of the Algorithm 1 can be written as

Algorithm 2. Choose $x_1 \in C, y_1 \in C, \lambda > 0$, and $\varepsilon > 0$.

Step 1. For x_n and y_n compute

$$x_{n+1} = \text{prox}_{\lambda F(y_n, \cdot)} x_n.$$

Step 2. If $\max \{ \|x_{n+1} - x_n\|, \|y_n - x_n\| \} \leq \varepsilon$, then STOP, else compute

$$y_{n+1} = \text{prox}_{\lambda F(y_n, \cdot)} x_{n+1}.$$

Step 3. Set $n := n + 1$ and go to Step 1.

Further, we assume that for all numbers $n \in \mathbb{N}$ the condition (2) doesn't hold. In the following section the weak convergence of the sequences $(x_n), (y_n)$ generated by the Algorithm 1 is proved.

3 Convergence Results

To prove the convergence we need next facts.

Lemma 1. *Let non-negative sequences (a_n) , (b_n) such that*

$$a_{n+1} \leq a_n - b_n.$$

Then exists the limit $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n \in \mathbb{R}$ and $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} b_n < +\infty$.

Lemma 2 (Opial [29]). *Let the sequence (x_n) of elements from Hilbert space H converges weakly to $x \in H$. Then for all $y \in H \setminus \{x\}$ we have*

$$\liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} \|x_n - x\| < \liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} \|x_n - y\|.$$

We start the analysis of the convergence with the proof of important inequality for sequences (x_n) and (y_n) , generated by the Algorithm 1.

Lemma 3. *Let sequences (x_n) , (y_n) be generated by the Algorithm 1, and let $z \in EP(F, C)$. Then, we have*

$$\begin{aligned} \|x_{n+1} - z\|^2 &\leq \|x_n - z\|^2 - (1 - 2\lambda b) \|x_{n+1} - y_n\|^2 - \\ &\quad - (1 - 4\lambda a) \|y_n - x_n\|^2 + 4\lambda a \|x_n - y_{n-1}\|^2. \end{aligned} \quad (3)$$

Proof. We have

$$\begin{aligned} \|x_{n+1} - z\|^2 &= \|x_n - z\|^2 - \|x_n - x_{n+1}\|^2 + 2(x_{n+1} - x_n, x_{n+1} - z) = \\ &= \|x_n - z\|^2 - \|x_n - y_n\|^2 - \|y_n - x_{n+1}\|^2 - \\ &\quad - 2(x_n - y_n, y_n - x_{n+1}) + 2(x_{n+1} - x_n, x_{n+1} - z). \end{aligned} \quad (4)$$

From the definition of points x_{n+1} and y_n it follows that

$$\lambda F(y_n, z) - \lambda F(y_n, x_{n+1}) \geq (x_{n+1} - x_n, x_{n+1} - z), \quad (5)$$

$$\lambda F(y_{n-1}, x_{n+1}) - \lambda F(y_{n-1}, y_n) \geq -(x_n - y_n, y_n - x_{n+1}). \quad (6)$$

Using inequalities (5), (6) to estimate inner products in (4), we get

$$\begin{aligned} \|x_{n+1} - z\|^2 &\leq \|x_n - z\|^2 - \|x_n - y_n\|^2 - \|y_n - x_{n+1}\|^2 + \\ &\quad + 2\lambda \{F(y_n, z) - F(y_n, x_{n+1}) + F(y_{n-1}, x_{n+1}) - F(y_{n-1}, y_n)\}. \end{aligned} \quad (7)$$

From pseudomonotonicity of the bifunction F and $z \in EP(F, C)$ it follows that

$$F(y_n, z) \leq 0,$$

and Lipschitz-type continuity F guaranties the satisfying of inequality

$$\begin{aligned} -F(y_n, x_{n+1}) + F(y_{n-1}, x_{n+1}) - F(y_{n-1}, y_n) &\leq \\ &\leq a \|y_{n-1} - y_n\|^2 + b \|y_n - x_{n+1}\|^2. \end{aligned}$$

Using the above estimations (7), we get

$$\begin{aligned} \|x_{n+1} - z\|^2 &\leq \|x_n - z\|^2 - \|x_n - y_n\|^2 - \|y_n - x_{n+1}\|^2 + \\ &\quad + 2\lambda a \|y_{n-1} - y_n\|^2 + 2\lambda b \|y_n - x_{n+1}\|^2. \end{aligned} \quad (8)$$

The term $\|y_{n-1} - y_n\|^2$ we estimate in the next way

$$\|y_{n-1} - y_n\|^2 \leq 2 \|y_{n-1} - x_n\|^2 + 2 \|y_n - x_n\|^2.$$

Taking this into account (8), we get the inequality

$$\begin{aligned} \|x_{n+1} - z\|^2 &\leq \|x_n - z\|^2 - \|x_n - y_n\|^2 - \|y_n - x_{n+1}\|^2 + \\ &\quad + 4\lambda a \|y_{n-1} - x_n\|^2 + 4\lambda a \|y_n - x_n\|^2 + 2\lambda b \|y_n - x_{n+1}\|^2, \end{aligned}$$

i.e. the inequality (3). □

Proceed directly to proof of the convergence of the algorithm. Let $z \in EP(F, C)$. Assume

$$\begin{aligned} a_n &= \|x_n - z\|^2 + 4\lambda a \|y_{n-1} - x_n\|^2, \\ b_n &= (1 - 4\lambda a) \|y_n - x_n\|^2 + (1 - 4\lambda a - 2\lambda b) \|y_n - x_{n+1}\|^2. \end{aligned}$$

Then inequality (3) takes form

$$a_{n+1} \leq a_n - b_n.$$

The following condition are required

$$0 < \lambda < \frac{1}{2(2a + b)}.$$

Then from Lemma 1 we can conclude that exists the limit

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(\|x_n - z\|^2 + 4\lambda a \|y_{n-1} - x_n\|^2 \right)$$

and

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left((1 - 4\lambda a) \|y_n - x_n\|^2 + (1 - 4\lambda a - 2\lambda b) \|y_n - x_{n+1}\|^2 \right) < +\infty.$$

Whence we obtain

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \|y_n - x_n\| = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \|y_n - x_{n+1}\| = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \|x_n - x_{n+1}\| = 0 \tag{9}$$

and convergence of the sequence $(\|x_n - z\|)$ for all $z \in EP(F, C)$. In particular, sequences $(x_n), (y_n)$ are bounded.

Now we consider the subsequence (x_{n_k}) , which converges weakly to the point $\bar{z} \in C$. Then from (9) it follows that $y_{n_k} \rightharpoonup \bar{z}$. Show that $\bar{z} \in EP(F, C)$. We have

$$F(y_n, y) \geq F(y_n, x_{n+1}) + \frac{(x_{n+1} - x_n, x_{n+1} - y)}{\lambda} \quad \forall y \in C. \tag{10}$$

Passing to the limit (10) taking into account (9) and conditions (A4), (A6), we get

$$F(\bar{z}, y) \geq \limsup_{k \rightarrow \infty} F(y_{n_k}, y) \geq \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \left\{ F(y_{n_k}, x_{n_k+1}) + \frac{(x_{n_k+1} - x_{n_k}, x_{n_k+1} - y)}{\lambda} \right\} = 0 \quad \forall y \in C,$$

i.e. $\bar{z} \in EP(F, C)$.

Now we show that $x_n \rightharpoonup \bar{z}$. Then from (9) it follows that $y_n \rightharpoonup \bar{z}$. Assume the converse. Let exists the subsequence (x_{m_k}) such that $x_{m_k} \rightharpoonup \tilde{z}$ and $\tilde{z} \neq \bar{z}$. It is clear that $\tilde{z} \in EP(F, C)$. Use the Lemma 2 twice. We have

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \|x_n - \bar{z}\| &= \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \|x_{n_k} - \bar{z}\| < \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \|x_{m_k} - \bar{z}\| = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \|x_n - \tilde{z}\| = \\ &= \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \|x_{m_k} - \tilde{z}\| < \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \|x_{m_k} - \bar{z}\| = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \|x_n - \bar{z}\|, \end{aligned}$$

it is impossible. So, sequence (x_n) converges weakly to $\bar{z} \in EP(F, C)$.

Thus, we obtain the following result.

Theorem 1. *Let H be a Hilbert space, $C \subseteq H$ is nonempty convex closed set, for bifunction $F : C \times C \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ conditions (A1)–(A6) are satisfied and $EP(F, C) \neq \emptyset$. Assume that $\lambda \in \left(0, \frac{1}{2(2a+b)}\right)$. Then sequences $(x_n), (y_n)$ generated by the Algorithm 1 converge weakly to the solution $\bar{z} \in EP(F, C)$ of the equilibrium problem (1), and $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \|x_n - y_n\| = 0$.*

Remark 2. The asymptotics $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \|x_n - y_n\| = 0$ can be specified up to the following:

$$\liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sqrt{n} \|x_n - y_n\| = 0. \tag{11}$$

Indeed, if (11) does not hold, then $\|x_n - y_n\| \geq \mu n^{-1/2}$ for some $\mu > 0$ and all sufficiently large n . Hence, the series $\sum \|x_n - y_n\|^2$ diverges. We have obtained an contradiction.

4 Conclusion and Future Work

In this work we have proposed a new iterative two-step proximal algorithm for solving the equilibrium programming problem in the Hilbert space. The method is the extension of Popov's modification [30] for Arrow-Hurwitz scheme for search of saddle points of convex-concave functions. The convergence of the algorithm is proved under the assumption that the solution exists and the bifunction is pseudo-monotone and Lipschitz-type.

In one of a forthcoming work we'll consider the next regularized variant of the algorithm that converges strongly

$$\begin{cases} x_{n+1} = \text{prox}_{\lambda F(y_n, \cdot)}(1 - \alpha_n) x_n, \\ y_{n+1} = \text{prox}_{\lambda F(y_n, \cdot)}(1 - \alpha_{n+1}) x_{n+1}, \end{cases}$$

where $\lambda > 0$, (α_n) is infinitesimal sequence of positive numbers. Also we plan to study the variant of the method using Bregman's distance instead of Euclidean.

The interesting question is the substantiation of using Algorithm 1 as the element of an iterative method for equilibrium problem with a priori information, described in the form of inclusion to the fixed points set of quasi-nonexpansive operator.

Another promising area is the development of Algorithm 1 variants for solving stochastic equilibrium problems.

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