A GENERALIZED ASYMMETRIC FORWARD-BACKWARD-ADJOINT ALGORITHM FOR CONVEX-CONCAVE SADDLE-POINT PROBLEM *

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Abstract. The convex-concave minimax problem, also known as the saddle-point problem, has been extensively studied from various aspects including the algorithm design, convergence condition and complexity. In this paper, we propose a generalized asymmetric forward-backward-adjoint algorithm (G-AFBA) to solve such a problem by utilizing both the proximal techniques and the extrapolation of primal-dual updates. Besides applying proximal primal-dual updates, G-AFBA enjoys a more relaxed convergence condition, namely, more flexible and possibly larger proximal stepsizes, which could result in significant improvements in numerical performance. We study the global convergence of G-AFBA as well as its sublinear convergence rate on both ergodic iterates and non-ergodic optimality error. The linear convergence rate of G-AFBA is also established under a calmness condition. By different ways of parameter and problem setting, we show that G-AFBA has close relationships with a few well-established or new algorithms. We further propose a stochastic (inexact) version of G-AFBA, called SG-AFBA, for solving the convex-concave saddle-point problem from machine learning. Numerical experiments on solving the robust principal component analysis and the 3D CT reconstruction problems show the efficiency of both G-AFBA and SG-AFBA.

Key words. Saddle-point problem, asymmetric forward-backward-adjoint algorithm, convergence and complexity, image processing

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1. Introduction.

Consider the following generic convex-concave saddle-point problem

$$\min_{x\in\mathcal{X}}\max_{y\in\mathcal{Y}} \mathcal{L}(x,y) := f(x) + \langle Kx, y\rangle - g(y), \tag{1.1}$$

where $f : \mathcal{X} \to (-\infty,\infty]$ and $g : \mathcal{Y} \to (-\infty,\infty]$ are proper lower semicontinuous convex (not necessarily smooth) functions , $\mathcal{X}$ and $\mathcal{Y}$ are finite-dimensional real Euclidean spaces, $K : \mathcal{X} \to \mathcal{Y}$ is a bounded linear operator. Let $K^\top$ denote the adjoint operator (or matrix transpose) of K, f^* and g^* denote the Fenchel conjugate [35] of f and g, respectively. Then, (1.1) amounts to the following primal and dual problems:

$$\min_{x\in\mathcal{X}} f(x) + g^*(Kx) \qquad \text{and} \qquad \min_{y\in\mathcal{Y}} f^*(-K^\top y) + g(y).$$

Due to these intrinsic relationships, the problem (1.1) has covered a wide range of applications, including machine learning, signal and image processing, economics, statistics, see e.g. [9, 12, 20, 22, 25, 37, 45, 48] and the references therein. In this paper, we will study a generalized asymmetric forward-backward-adjoint algorithm (G-AFBA) for solving (1.1) whose solution set is assumed to be nonempty.

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1.1. Notation. Let $\mathbb{R}^n$ be the set of n-dimensional Euclidean space equipped with an inner product $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$ and Euclidean norm $\| \cdot \| = \sqrt{\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle}$. Let $\mathbf{I}$ be the identity matrix and $\mathbf{0}$ be the zero matrix/vector. Given a positive definite self-adjoint linear operator or symmetric matrix H, we denote $\|x\|_H = \sqrt{\langle x, Hx \rangle} = \sqrt{x^\top Hx}$ with the superscript $^\top$ representing transpose. Denote the Euclidean distance from $x \in \mathcal{C}$ to the closed convex set $\mathcal{C}$ by $\text{dist}(x, \mathcal{C}) = \min_{y \in \mathcal{C}} \|x - y\|$, and the G-weighted distance by $\text{dist}_G(x, \mathcal{C}) = \min_{y \in \mathcal{C}} \|x - y\|_G$ where G is a self-adjoint and positive definite linear operator. The notation $\rho(G)$ denotes the spectral radius of G, while $\lambda_{\min}(G)$ and $\lambda_{\max}(G)$ denote the minimum and maximum eigenvalues of G, respectively.

1.2. Related work. Due to the separable structure of f and g in (1.1), many effective algorithms are designed to treat them individually so as to make full use of the properties of each component objective function. A very earlier yet simpler approach for solving (1.1) is the Arrow-Hurwicz method [1]:

$$\text{(PDHG)} \quad \begin{cases} x^{k+1} = \arg\min_{x \in \mathcal{X}} \mathcal{L}(x, y^k) + \frac{1}{2\tau}\left\|x - x^k\right\|^2, \\ y^{k+1} = \arg\max_{y \in \mathcal{Y}} \mathcal{L}(x^{k+1}, y) - \frac{1}{2\sigma}\left\|y - y^k\right\|^2, \end{cases} \tag{1.2}$$

where the positive parameters τ and σ are often regarded as the proximal primal and dual stepsizes. This Arrow-Hurwicz method was also called a primal-dual hybrid gradient method (PDHG) due to the earlier work [48], and it was described [47] as a proximal version of the traditional augmented Lagrangian method (ALM) for some canonical convex programming problems. O'Connor and Vandenberghe [33] showed that PDHG can be viewed as a special case of the Douglas-Rachford splitting algorithm [32] from the perspective of solving a monotone inclusion problem. Another related well-known algorithm based on (1.2) is proposed by Chambolle-Pock [9] (see e.g. [34]) by employing an extrapolation technique:

$$\begin{cases} x^{k+1} = \arg\min_{x \in \mathcal{X}} \mathcal{L}(x, y^k) + \frac{1}{2\tau}\left\|x - x^k\right\|^2, \\ y^{k+1} = \arg\max_{y \in \mathcal{Y}} \mathcal{L}(x^{k+1} + \alpha(x^{k+1} - x^k), y) - \frac{1}{2\sigma}\left\|y - y^k\right\|^2. \end{cases} \tag{1.3}$$

Here, $\alpha \in [0, 1]$ is an extrapolation stepsize. Clearly, (1.3) reduces to (1.2) when $\alpha = 0$. It was shown in [9] that (1.3) is closely related to the existing extrapolational gradient method [29] and a preconditioned version of the alternating direction method of multipliers (ADMM) [18]. The connection between (1.3) and the forward-backward splitting method [32] can be found in [39]. Although the scheme (1.3) applies a proximal technique, some counter-examples provided in [23] showed that when $\alpha = 0$, i.e. the PDHG method, it is not necessarily convergent. Moreover, the global convergence of (1.3) with $\alpha \in (0, 1)$ remains not fully known[1], although its global convergence with $\alpha = 0$ had been established [21] by assuming strong convexity on one of the objective functions. So far, the widely used scheme of (1.3) is the case with $\alpha = 1$:

$$\text{(CP-PPA)} \quad \begin{cases} x^{k+1} = \arg\min_{x \in \mathcal{X}} \mathcal{L}(x, y^k) + \frac{1}{2\tau}\left\|x - x^k\right\|^2, \\ y^{k+1} = \arg\max_{y \in \mathcal{Y}} \mathcal{L}(2x^{k+1} - x^k, y) - \frac{1}{2\sigma}\left\|y - y^k\right\|^2, \end{cases} \tag{1.4}$$

[1]Recently, its weak convergence was established in [2] when $\alpha > 1/2$ and $\tau\sigma L < 4/(1 + 2\alpha)$.

where the stepsize parameters τ and σ need to satisfy

$$\frac{1}{\tau\sigma} > L \quad \text{with} \quad L = \rho(K^\top K) \tag{1.5}$$

for ensuring global convergence of CP-PPA. More recently, He et al. [22] extended CP-PPA (1.4) to the following generalized version:

$$\text{(GCP-PPA)} \quad \begin{cases} x^{k+1} = \arg\min_{x\in\mathcal{X}} \mathcal{L}(x, y^k) + \frac{1}{2\tau}\left\|x - x^k\right\|^2, \\ \overline{y}^{k+1} = \arg\max_{y\in\mathcal{Y}} \mathcal{L}(x^{k+1} + \alpha(x^{k+1} - x^k), y) - \frac{1}{2\sigma}\left\|y - y^k\right\|^2, \\ y^{k+1} = \overline{y}^{k+1} - (1-\alpha)\sigma K(x^{k+1} - x^k), \end{cases} \tag{1.6}$$

where $\alpha \in [0, 1]$ is a parameter. GCP-PPA has global convergence when

$$\frac{1}{\tau\sigma} > (1 - \alpha + \alpha^2)L. \tag{1.7}$$

Obviously, when $\alpha = 1$ the above GCP-PPA reduces to CP-PPA, while for $\alpha \in [0, 1)$ an extrapolation step on the dual variable is used to ensure global convergence. Moreover, the stepsize requirement (1.7) is more relaxed than the condition (1.5). For example, when $\alpha = 0.5$, (1.7) only requires $\frac{1}{\tau\sigma} > 0.75L$. In addition, some stochastic and accelerated first-order methods have been also proposed for solving (1.1) when its objective function has certain structures or satisfies further smoothness conditions. For a much incomplete reference list, please see e.g. [11, 12, 25, 30, 41, 44, 49].

As a generation of (1.3), the Condat-Vũ scheme proposed independently in [14, 39] has attracted much attention in recent years and its convergence can be proved by casting the scheme into a forward-backward splitting method. However, the condition of involved parameters seems to be more restrictive than that of PDHG. Another interesting and closely related method is the asymmetric forward-backward-adjoint algorithm (AFBA) [30] for solving structured monotone inclusion problems, which was also studied and extended to solve the saddle-point problem (1.1) [43]. An inexact AFBA with absolute error criteria was further proposed in [27] to alleviate both theoretical and numerical difficulties of solving subproblems exactly. But, to our understanding, both the original AFBA and its inexact version have an even more conservative stepsize rule than that of the Condat-Vũ scheme. For a comprehensive survey on proximal splitting algorithms, we refer to [15] for more details.

1.3. The algorithm and contribution. Notice that the convergence condition of CP-PPA has been significantly improved by He et al. [22] through performing an extrapolation step on the y-variable along the iterative difference of the x-variable. That is, the correction step of y-iterates uses the interactive information from x-iterates, which is different from the traditional way of performing correction steps along its own iterates. A natural and yet interesting question to investigate is whether the convergence condition (1.7) can be further improved by applying extrapolation steps on both the primal and dual updates. By this motivation, in the paper we propose the following generalized asymmetric forward-backward-adjoint algorithm:

$$\text{(G-AFBA)} \quad \begin{cases} \overline{x}^{k+1} = \arg\min_{x\in\mathcal{X}} f(x) + \frac{1}{2\tau}\left\|x - x^k + \tau K^\top y^k\right\|^2, \\ \overline{y}^{k+1} = \arg\min_{y\in\mathcal{Y}} g(y) + \frac{1}{2\sigma}\left\|y - y^k - \sigma K[\overline{x}^{k+1} + \alpha(\overline{x}^{k+1} - x^k)]\right\|^2, \\ x^{k+1} = \overline{x}^{k+1} - (1-\alpha)\mu\, \tau K^\top(\overline{y}^{k+1} - y^k), \\ y^{k+1} = \overline{y}^{k+1} + (1-\alpha)(1-\mu)\, \sigma K(\overline{x}^{k+1} - x^k), \end{cases} \tag{1.8}$$

where $\alpha, \mu \in [0,1]$, $\tau > 0$ and $\sigma > 0$ are algorithm parameters. To ensure the global convergence of G-AFBA, we require the primal-dual stepsize parameters (σ, τ) to satisfy

$$\frac{1}{\tau\sigma} > \frac{\alpha + (1-\mu+\mu^2)(1-\alpha)^2 + \sqrt{[(1-\mu+\mu^2)(1-\alpha)^2+\alpha]^2 + 4\alpha(1-\alpha)^2}}{2} L. \tag{1.9}$$

We now have the following comments on G-AFBA:

(I) **Flexibility of the algorithm.** Table 1.1 shows that G-AFBA is quite general and includes many well-established algorithms we have previously discussed as special cases. We refer to Sections 4-5 for more detailed discussions on the connections between G-AFBA and other related methods including the application of G-AFBA to multi-block convex programming and a stochastic G-AFBA for solving structured saddle-point problem from machine learning. The major difference between G-AFBA (1.8) and other existing PDHG-type methods is the two crossing extrapolation steps performed on the primal-dual variables, which can be also viewed as a correction step from our later analysis in a prediction-correction framework (see (3.2)). In fact, these two extrapolation steps can be also treated as backward and forward steps on the primal-dual variables.

Cases	Algorithms	Region of (τ, σ)
$\alpha = 1$	CP-PPA [9] & Reduced ALM	(1.5)
$(\alpha, \mu) = (0, 1)$	Exact version of Algorithm 2 [27]	(1.5)
$\alpha \in [0,1], \mu = 0$	GCP-PPA [22]	(1.7)
$\alpha, \mu \in [0,1]$	G-AFBA(ours)	(1.9)
$\alpha = 0, \mu \in [0,1]$	G1-AFBA(ours)	(4.4)

Table 1.1: Relationship between G-AFBA (1.8) and several methods.

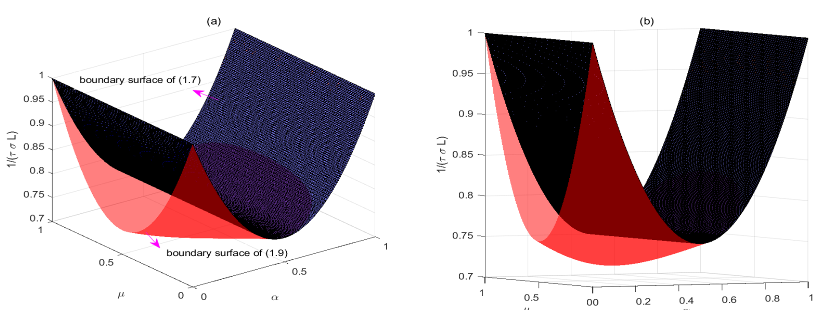

Figure 1.1: Visualization on the lower bound of $\frac{1}{\tau\sigma L}$ in (1.7) and (1.9).

(II) **Larger stepsize parameters.** Figure 1.1 visualizes the lower bound of $\frac{1}{\tau\sigma L}$ in (1.7) and (1.9) for ensuring global convergence, where Figure 1.1(a) is the same as Figure 1.1(b) but at different azimuth and elevation angles. As shown in Figure 1.1, the lower bound 0.75 of $\frac{1}{\tau\sigma L}$ with $\alpha = 0.5$ in (1.7) can be further improved by the lower bound given in (1.9). Hence, the current lower bound

0.75 on $\frac{1}{\tau\sigma L}$ for PDHG-type methods e.g. given in [22, 28, 31] is not tight, and possible larger stepsizes on σ and τ can be applied in G-AFBA without losing global convergence. For example, by setting $(\alpha, \mu) = (1/3, 1/2)$, the condition (1.9) reduces to $\frac{1}{\tau\sigma} > \frac{3+2\sqrt{3}}{9}L \approx 0.7182L$. Moreover, note that when $\mu = 0$, the condition (1.9) will reduce to (1.7) exactly matching the convergence condition of GCP-PPA.

(III) **Global convergence and various convergence rates.** As mentioned previously, for convenience of convergence analysis, we would reformulate the saddle-point problem (1.1) as a variational inequality and analyze the convergence of G-AFBA (1.8) in a prediction-correction framework. We establish the global convergence of G-AFBA (1.8) with a sublinear ergodic convergence rate. We will also study the sublinear convergence of the optimality error measured by the difference of two consecutive iterates. In addition, we show the linear convergence of G-AFBA under proper regulation (calmness) condition. We further propose a stochastic G-AFBA (SG-AFBA) for solving a structured (1.1) with large sample sizes from machine learning. In fact, by considering the sample size as one, SG-AFBA will reduce to an inexact deterministic G-AFBA which allows to solve one proximal mapping subproblem to an adaptive accuracy (see the discussion in Section 5). Our numerical experiments on solving two kinds of image processing problems indicate that by allowing flexible choices of stepsizes σ and τ, G-AFBA and its variants can have better performance compared with some well-established methods.

1.4. Organization of the paper. In Section 2, we prepare some preliminaries that are used to analyze the convergence of G-AFBA. Section 3 is dedicated to analyzing the global convergence and sublinear/linear convergence rate of G-AFBA based on a prediction-correction framework. Section 4 shows the relationship of G-AFBA with some existing and new related methods. Section 5 proposes a stochastic version of G-AFBA (SG-AFBA) and briefly discusses its convergence for a machine learning problem. We finally present numerical comparisons of G-AFBA and SG-AFBA with some other methods for solving two classes of image processing problems in Section 6.

2. Preliminaries.

In this section, we first provide a variational formulation for the saddle-point problem (1.1). Then, we show some nice properties of certain block structured matrices which will play key roles in the theoretical analysis of G-AFBA.

2.1. Reformulation of the saddle-point. Let $\Omega := \mathcal{X} \times \mathcal{Y}$. We call a point $(x^*, y^*) \in \Omega$ the saddle-point of (1.1) if it satisfies

$$\mathcal{L}_{y\in\mathcal{Y}}(x^*, y) \leq \mathcal{L}(x^*, y^*) \leq \mathcal{L}_{x\in\mathcal{X}}(x, y^*),$$

that is,

$$\begin{cases} f(x) - f(x^*) + \left\langle x - x^*, K^\top y^* \right\rangle \geq 0, & \forall x \in \mathcal{X}, \\ g(y) - g(y^*) + \left\langle y - y^*, -Kx^* \right\rangle \geq 0, & \forall y \in \mathcal{Y}. \end{cases} \tag{2.1}$$

These inequalities can be expressed as the following variational form

$$\mathrm{VI}(\theta, \mathcal{J}, \Omega): \ \theta(u) - \theta(u^*) + \left\langle u - u^*, \mathcal{J}(u^*) \right\rangle \geq 0, \quad \forall u \in \Omega, \tag{2.2}$$

where

$$u = \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix}, \quad \theta(u) = f(x) + g(y), \quad \mathcal{J}(u) = \begin{pmatrix} K^\top y \\ -Kx \end{pmatrix}. \tag{2.3}$$

Notice that the above operator $\mathcal{J}(u)$ satisfies

$$\big\langle u-v, \mathcal{J}(u)-\mathcal{J}(v)\big\rangle \equiv 0, \quad \forall u,v\in\Omega.$$

In the convex optimization, u^* satisfies (2.2) if and only if u^* is a primal-dual solution of the problem (1.1). Because of the nonempty assumption on the solution set of (1.1), the solution set of $\mathrm{VI}(\theta,\mathcal{J},\Omega)$, denoted by Ω^*, is also nonempty.

2.2. Some matrices and properties. In order to simplify and conveniently analyze the convergence of G-AFBA, we introduce the following matrices

$$Q=\begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{\tau}\mathbf{I} & -K^\top \\ -\alpha K & \frac{1}{\sigma}\mathbf{I}\end{bmatrix}, \quad M=\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{I} & -(1-\alpha)\mu\tau K^\top \\ (1-\alpha)(1-\mu)\sigma K & \mathbf{I}\end{bmatrix}. \tag{2.4}$$

Note that the matrix M is nonsingular for any $\mu\in[0,1]$ and $\tau,\sigma>0$. With these matrices, we define

$$H=QM^{-1} \quad \text{and} \quad G=Q^\top+Q-M^\top HM. \tag{2.5}$$

For the matrices H and G, the following properties hold.

Proposition 2.1. *For any parameters (τ,σ) satisfying (1.9), the matrices H and G defined in (2.5) are symmetric positive definite.*

Proof. First, notice that

$$\begin{aligned}&\tfrac{1}{(\tau\sigma)^2}+\Big[(-1+\mu-\mu^2)(1-\alpha)^2-\alpha\Big]\tfrac{L}{\tau\sigma}-(1-\alpha)^2(1-\mu)\mu\alpha L^2>0\\ \Longleftrightarrow\ &\Big[\tfrac{1}{\tau\sigma}+(1-\alpha)^2(1-\mu)\mu L\Big]\Big[\tfrac{1}{\tau\sigma}-\alpha L\Big]>(1-\alpha)^2\tfrac{L}{\tau\sigma}.\end{aligned}$$

Hence, for all (τ,σ) satisfying (1.9), we have $1/(\tau\sigma)>\alpha L$, which implies Q defined in (2.4) is nonsingular. Now, let us define $D=Q^\top M$. Then, D is nonsingular since M is nonsingular. In addition, the H and G defined in (2.5) can be written as

$$H=QD^{-1}Q^\top \quad \text{and} \quad G=Q^\top+Q-D. \tag{2.6}$$

By direct calculation, we can derive from (2.4) and (2.6) that

$$D=\begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{\tau}\mathbf{I}-\alpha(1-\alpha)(1-\mu)\sigma K^\top K & -\big[\alpha+(1-\alpha)\mu\big]K^\top \\ -\big[\alpha+(1-\alpha)\mu\big]K & \frac{1}{\sigma}\mathbf{I}+(1-\alpha)\mu\tau KK^\top\end{bmatrix} \tag{2.7}$$

and

$$G=\begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{\tau}\mathbf{I}+\alpha(1-\alpha)(1-\mu)\sigma K^\top K & \big[(1-\alpha)\mu-1\big]K^\top \\ \big[(1-\alpha)\mu-1\big]K & \frac{1}{\sigma}\mathbf{I}-(1-\alpha)\mu\tau KK^\top\end{bmatrix}. \tag{2.8}$$

Due to the symmetric property of D and the relationship $H=QD^{-1}Q^\top$, we have H is also symmetric. Hence, to show the positive definiteness of H, we only need to show D is positive definite. Without loss of generality, suppose K is an $m\times n(m\le n)$ dimensional operator matrix and let $K=V\Sigma U^\top$ be the singular value decomposition of K, where both $V\in\mathbb{R}^{m\times m}$ and $U\in\mathbb{R}^{n\times n}$ are orthogonal matrices and $\Sigma=(\Sigma_m,\mathbf{0})$ is a diagonal matrix with $\Sigma_m=\mathrm{diag}(s_1,s_2,\cdots,s_m)\in\mathbb{R}^{m\times m}$ and $s_i\ge 0(i=1,2,\dots,m)$ being the singular values of K. Then, we have

$$K^\top K=U\begin{bmatrix}\Sigma_m^2 & \mathbf{0}\\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0}\end{bmatrix}U^\top \quad \textit{and} \quad KK^\top=V\Sigma_m^2V^\top.$$

Then, it follows from (2.7) that

$$D = \begin{bmatrix} U & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{0} & V \end{bmatrix} \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{\tau}\mathbf{I} - \alpha(1-\alpha)(1-\mu)\sigma\Sigma_m^2 & \mathbf{0} & -\big[\alpha + (1-\alpha)\mu\big]\Sigma_m \\ \mathbf{0} & \frac{1}{\tau}\mathbf{I} & \mathbf{0} \\ -\big[\alpha + (1-\alpha)\mu\big]\Sigma_m & \mathbf{0} & \frac{1}{\sigma}\mathbf{I} + (1-\alpha)\mu\tau\Sigma_m^2 \end{bmatrix}}_{P} \begin{bmatrix} U & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{0} & V \end{bmatrix}^\top.$$

By linear algebra calculations (e.g. see similar techniques in [40, Page 16]), we can show that the matrix P is positive definite if and only if

$$\Big(\frac{1}{\tau} - \alpha(1-\alpha)(1-\mu)\sigma s_i^2\Big)\Big(\frac{1}{\sigma} + (1-\alpha)\mu\tau s_i^2\Big) - \Big[\alpha + (1-\alpha)\mu\Big]^2 s_i^2 > 0$$

for all $i = 1, \ldots, m$, which is equivalent to

$$\begin{aligned} &\frac{1}{(\tau\sigma)^2} + \big[(1-\mu)\mu(1-\alpha)^2 - \alpha\big]\frac{s_i^2}{\tau\sigma} - (1-\alpha)^2(1-\mu)\mu\alpha s_i^4 > 0 \\ \Longleftrightarrow\ &\Big[\frac{1}{\tau\sigma} + (1-\alpha)^2(1-\mu)\mu s_i^2\Big]\Big[\frac{1}{\tau\sigma} - \alpha s_i^2\Big] > 0. \end{aligned} \tag{2.9}$$

Since $L = \rho(K^\top K) = \rho(KK^\top) = \max_{i\in\{1,\ldots,m\}} s_i^2 > 0$, $\alpha, \mu \in [0, 1]$ and $\sigma, \tau > 0$, we have from (2.9) that the matrix P is positive definite if $1/(\tau\sigma) > \alpha L$, which is ensured by the previous condition (1.9). So, from the above analysis, we have H is positive definite if (τ, σ) satisfies (1.9).

By the similar analysis and the representation of G in (2.8), we can show G is also positive definite if the condition (1.9) holds. The proof is completed. □

3. Convergence analysis. In this section, we first analyze the global convergence of G-AFBA and its sublinear convergence rate in the ergodic sense. We then study the sublinear convergence of the optimality error measured by the difference of two consecutive iterations. We further discuss the linear convergence of G-AFBA under a certain calmness condition. Now, observe that G-AFBA (1.8) can be equivalently written as the following prediction-correction framework, where M is given by (2.4), u^k and $\widetilde{u}^k$ are defined as

$$u^k = \begin{pmatrix} x^k \\ y^k \end{pmatrix} \qquad \text{and} \qquad \widetilde{u}^k = \begin{pmatrix} \widetilde{x}^k \\ \widetilde{y}^k \end{pmatrix},$$

and the proximal operator of a function h with parameter $\tau > 0$ is defined as

$$\text{prox}_{\tau h}(y) := \arg\min_{x\in\mathcal{X}} \Big\{ h(x) + \frac{1}{2\tau}\|x - y\|^2 \Big\}.$$

A prediction-correction reformulation of G-AFBA.

Prediction Step:

$$\widetilde{x}^k = \text{prox}_{\tau f}\big(x^k - \tau K^\top y^k\big); \tag{3.1a}$$

$$\widetilde{y}^k = \text{prox}_{\sigma g}\big(y^k + \sigma K[\widetilde{x}^k + \alpha(\widetilde{x}^k - x^k)]\big); \tag{3.1b}$$

Correction Step:

$$u^{k+1} = u^k - M(u^k - \widetilde{u}^k). \tag{3.2}$$

3.1. Global convergence. The global convergence of G-AFBA will be analyzed based on the above prediction-correction reformulation.

LEMMA 3.1. *Let $\{\widetilde{u}^k = (\widetilde{x}^k; \widetilde{y}^k)\}$ be the predictor sequence generated by (3.1a)-(3.1b) and $\{u^{k+1} = (x^{k+1}; y^{k+1})\}$ be the corrector sequence generated by (3.2). Then, for any $u \in \Omega$, the following inequality*

$$\mathcal{L}(x, \widetilde{y}^k) - \mathcal{L}(\widetilde{x}^k, y) \geq (u - \widetilde{u}^k)^\top Q(u^k - \widetilde{u}^k) \tag{3.3}$$

holds[2]*, where Q is given by (2.4).*

Proof. We can derive from the first-order optimality condition of (3.1a) that

$$f(x) - f(\widetilde{x}^k) + \left\langle x - \widetilde{x}^k, K^\top y^k + \frac{1}{\tau}(\widetilde{x}^k - x^k)\right\rangle \geq 0, \quad \forall x \in \mathcal{X}.$$

Rearranging the above inequality to obtain

$$f(x) - f(\widetilde{x}^k) + \left\langle x - \widetilde{x}^k, K^\top \widetilde{y}^k\right\rangle \geq \left\langle x - \widetilde{x}^k, \frac{1}{\tau}(x^k - \widetilde{x}^k) - K^\top(y^k - \widetilde{y}^k)\right\rangle \tag{3.4}$$

for any $x \in \mathcal{X}$. Similarly, we have from (3.1b) that

$$g(y) - g(\widetilde{y}^k) + \left\langle y - \widetilde{y}^k, -K[\widetilde{x}^k + \alpha(\widetilde{x}^k - x^k)] + \frac{1}{\sigma}(\widetilde{y}^k - y^k)\right\rangle \geq 0, \quad \forall y \in \mathcal{Y},$$

which can be equivalently rewritten as

$$g(y) - g(\widetilde{y}^k) + \left\langle y - \widetilde{y}^k, -K\widetilde{x}^k\right\rangle \geq \left\langle y - \widetilde{y}^k, -\alpha K(x^k - \widetilde{x}^k) + \frac{1}{\sigma}(y^k - \widetilde{y}^k)\right\rangle \tag{3.5}$$

for any $y \in \mathcal{Y}$. Combining (3.4) and (3.5) completes the proof of (3.3). ◻

The following lemma shows that the sequence $\{\|u^* - u^k\|_H\}$ is strictly decreasing under the weighted norm $\|u\|_H = \sqrt{u^\top H u}$.

LEMMA 3.2. *Under the condition (1.9), the sequences $\{\widetilde{u}^k\}$ and $\{u^{k+1}\}$ generated by G-AFBA satisfy*

$$\mathcal{L}(x, \widetilde{y}^k) - \mathcal{L}(\widetilde{x}^k, y) \geq \frac{1}{2}\left(\left\|u - u^{k+1}\right\|_H^2 - \left\|u - u^k\right\|_H^2\right) + \frac{1}{2}\left\|u^k - \widetilde{u}^k\right\|_G^2 \tag{3.6}$$

for any $u \in \Omega$, where H and G are defined in (2.5). Moreover, we have

$$\left\|u^* - u^k\right\|_H^2 \geq \left\|u^* - u^{k+1}\right\|_H^2 + \left\|u^k - \widetilde{u}^k\right\|_G^2, \quad \forall u^* \in \Omega^*. \tag{3.7}$$

Proof. According to (3.2) and the definition of H in (2.5), we have

$$(u - \widetilde{u}^k)^\top Q(u^k - \widetilde{u}^k) = (u - \widetilde{u}^k)^\top H(u^k - u^{k+1}). \tag{3.8}$$

Then, applying the identity

$$(a - b)^\top H(c - d) = \frac{1}{2}\left\{\|a - d\|_H^2 - \|a - c\|_H^2\right\} + \frac{1}{2}\left\{\|c - b\|_H^2 - \|d - b\|_H^2\right\}$$

[2] Note that (3.3) is equivalent to $\theta(u) - \theta(\widetilde{u}^k) + \langle u - \widetilde{u}^k, \mathcal{J}(\widetilde{u}^k)\rangle \geq (u - \widetilde{u}^k)^\top Q(u^k - \widetilde{u}^k)$.

with $a = u$, $b = \widetilde{u}^k$, $c = u^k$ and $d = u^{k+1}$ to the right-hand side of (3.8) gives

$$\begin{aligned} &(u-\widetilde{u}^k)^\top H(u^k-u^{k+1}) - \tfrac{1}{2}\Big\{\big\|u-u^{k+1}\big\|_H^2 - \big\|u-u^k\big\|_H^2\Big\} \\ &= \tfrac{1}{2}\Big\{\big\|u^k-\widetilde{u}^k\big\|_H^2 - \big\|u^{k+1}-\widetilde{u}^k\big\|_H^2\Big\} \\ &= \tfrac{1}{2}\Big\{\big\|u^k-\widetilde{u}^k\big\|_H^2 - \big\|u^{k+1}-u^k+(u^k-\widetilde{u}^k)\big\|_H^2\Big\} \\ &\overset{(3.2)}{=} \tfrac{1}{2}\Big\{\big\|u^k-\widetilde{u}^k\big\|_H^2 - \big\|(u^k-\widetilde{u}^k)-M(u^k-\widetilde{u}^k)\big\|_H^2\Big\} \\ &= \tfrac{1}{2}\Big\{(u^k-\widetilde{u}^k)^\top(Q^\top+Q-M^\top HM)(u^k-\widetilde{u}^k)\Big\} \overset{(2.5)}{=} \tfrac{1}{2}\big\|u^k-\widetilde{u}^k\big\|_G^2, \end{aligned} \tag{3.9}$$

where the fourth equality exploits the relation $Q = HM$ and its symmetric property. Then, substituting (3.8) and (3.9) into (3.3) confirms the assertion (3.6).

Set $u = u^*$ in (3.6) and use (2.1) with $(x, y) = (\widetilde{x}^k, \widetilde{y}^k)$ to obtain

$$\big\|u^*-u^k\big\|_H^2 - \big\|u^*-u^{k+1}\big\|_H^2 - \big\|u^k-\widetilde{u}^k\big\|_G^2 \geq 2\big[\mathcal{L}(\widetilde{x}^k, y^*) - \mathcal{L}(x^*, \widetilde{y}^k)\big] \geq 0.$$

Then, (3.7) follows directly. The proof is complete. □

In what follows, based on Lemma 3.2, we are ready to prove the global convergence of G-AFBA.

THEOREM 3.3. *Under the condition (1.9), the sequence* $\{u^{k+1}\}$ *generated by G-AFBA converges to a solution point of (1.1).*

Proof. First, it follows from (3.7) in Lemma 3.2 and the positive definiteness of G and H that the sequence $\{u^k\}$ is bounded and

$$\lim_{k\to\infty} \big\|u^k - \widetilde{u}^k\big\| = 0. \tag{3.10}$$

As a result, the sequence $\{\widetilde{u}^k\}$ is also bounded and has at least one limit point u^∞. Let $\{\widetilde{u}^{k_j}\}$ be a subsequence converging to u^∞. Then, it follows from (3.3) that

$$\theta(u) - \theta(\widetilde{u}^{k_j}) + \big\langle u - \widetilde{u}^{k_j}, \mathcal{J}(\widetilde{u}^{k_j})\big\rangle \geq (u-\widetilde{u}^{k_j})^\top Q(u^{k_j}-\widetilde{u}^{k_j}), \quad \forall u \in \Omega,$$

which, together with (3.10), the lower semicontinuity of $\theta(u)$ and the continuity of $\mathcal{J}(u)$, implies

$$\theta(u) - \theta(u^\infty) + \big\langle u - u^\infty, \mathcal{J}(u^\infty)\big\rangle \geq 0, \quad \forall u \in \Omega.$$

That is to say, u^∞ is a solution point of (2.2) and hence is a solution point of (1.1).

Now, by (3.10) and $\lim_{j\to\infty} u^{k_j} = u^\infty$, the sequence u^{k_j} also converges to u^∞. For any $k > k_j$, we can deduce from (3.7) that $\big\|u^\infty - u^{k_j}\big\|_H \geq \big\|u^\infty - u^k\big\|_H$. So, the whole sequence $\{u^k\}$ converges to u^∞. The proof is complete. □

3.2. Sublinear rate of convergence. In this section, we aim at analyzing the worst-case $\mathcal{O}(1/T)$ convergence rate of G-AFBA in both the ergodic sense and the optimality error measured by the difference of two consecutive iterates, where T denotes the iteration number. First, it is obvious that (2.1) can be also expressed as

$$\mathcal{L}(x, y^*) - \mathcal{L}(x^*, y) \geq 0, \quad \forall (x, y) \in \Omega.$$

So, given any $\epsilon > 0$, we define $\overline{u} = (\overline{x}; \overline{y})$ as an ϵ-approximate solution to (1.1) if

$$\mathcal{L}(\overline{x}, y) - \mathcal{L}(x, \overline{y}) \leq \epsilon, \quad \forall u \in \mathcal{B}_{\overline{u}} = \{u \in \Omega \mid \|u - \overline{u}\| \leq 1\}.$$

In the following, we will demonstrate that, after T iterations, G-AFBA is able to find a point $\overline{u}$ such that

$$\sup_{u\in\mathcal{B}_{\overline{u}}} \{\mathcal{L}(\overline{x}, y) - \mathcal{L}(x, \overline{y})\} \leq \mathcal{O}(1/T). \tag{3.11}$$

THEOREM 3.4. *Let $\{\widetilde{u}^k\}$ be the predictor sequence generated by (3.1a)-(3.1b) and $\{u^k\}$ be the corrector sequence generated by (3.2). For any integers $T > 0$ and $\kappa \geq 0$, let*

$$x_T = \frac{1}{T}\sum_{k=\kappa}^{T+\kappa} \widetilde{x}^k \quad \text{and} \quad y_T = \frac{1}{T}\sum_{k=\kappa}^{T+\kappa} \widetilde{y}^k. \tag{3.12}$$

Then, under the condition (1.9) we have

$$\mathcal{L}(x_T, y) - \mathcal{L}(x, y_T) \leq \frac{1}{2(T+1)}\|u - u^\kappa\|_H^2, \quad \forall u \in \Omega, \tag{3.13}$$

where H is defined in (2.5).

Proof. The inequality (3.6) together with the positive definiteness of G implies

$$\mathcal{L}(\widetilde{x}^k, y) - \mathcal{L}(x, \widetilde{y}^k) \leq \frac{1}{2}\{\|u - u^k\|_H^2 - \|u - u^{k+1}\|_H^2\}$$

for any $u \in \Omega$. Sum the last inequality over $k = \kappa, \kappa + 1, \cdots, T + \kappa$ to obtain

$$\sum_{k=\kappa}^{T+\kappa} \left[\mathcal{L}(\widetilde{x}^k, y) - \mathcal{L}(x, \widetilde{y}^k)\right] \leq \frac{1}{2}\|u - u^\kappa\|_H^2,$$

which, by the convexity of f, g, the definitions of x_T and y_T in (3.12), gives

$$(T + 1)\left[\mathcal{L}(x_T, y) - \mathcal{L}(x, y_T)\right] \leq \frac{1}{2}\|u - u^\kappa\|_H^2.$$

Hence, (3.13) holds. The proof is complete. ◻

Theorem 3.4 implies that under a more flexible condition (1.9), we have (3.11) holds, i.e., the primal-dual function value gap in the ergodic sense converges to zero with the worst-case $\mathcal{O}(1/T)$ rate. A similar result to (3.13) in the sense of expectation can be found in [4]. We next show that $\{\|u^k - u^{k+1}\|_H^2\}$, which measures the optimality error in certain sense, monotonically goes to zero with the worst-case $\mathcal{O}(1/T)$ convergence rate. The following lemma confirms that the sequence $\{\|u^k - u^{k+1}\|_H^2\}$ decreases monotonically.

LEMMA 3.5. *Under the condition (1.9), the sequence $\{u^k\}$ generated by (3.2) satisfies*

$$\|u^k - u^{k+1}\|_H^2 \geq \|u^{k+1} - u^{k+2}\|_H^2. \tag{3.14}$$

Proof. It follows from (3.3) with $u = \widetilde{u}^{k+1}$ that

$$\mathcal{L}(\widetilde{x}^{k+1}, \widetilde{y}^k) - \mathcal{L}(\widetilde{x}^k, \widetilde{y}^{k+1}) \geq (\widetilde{u}^{k+1} - \widetilde{u}^k)^\top Q(u^k - \widetilde{u}^k). \tag{3.15}$$

Similarly, (3.3) holds at the $(k+1)$-th iteration, that is,

$$\mathcal{L}(x, \widetilde{y}^{k+1}) - \mathcal{L}(\widetilde{x}^{k+1}, y) \geq (u - \widetilde{u}^{k+1})^\top Q(u^{k+1} - \widetilde{u}^{k+1}), \quad \forall u \in \Omega,$$

which, by setting $u=\widetilde{u}^k$, results in

$$\mathcal{L}(\widetilde{x}^k,\widetilde{y}^{k+1})-\mathcal{L}(\widetilde{x}^{k+1},\widetilde{y}^k)\geq(\widetilde{u}^k-\widetilde{u}^{k+1})^\top Q(u^{k+1}-\widetilde{u}^{k+1}). \tag{3.16}$$

Combining (3.15) and (3.16), we have

$$(\widetilde{u}^k-\widetilde{u}^{k+1})^\top Q\big\{(u^k-\widetilde{u}^k)-(u^{k+1}-\widetilde{u}^{k+1})\big\}\geq 0. \tag{3.17}$$

Then, adding the equality

$$\begin{aligned}&\big\{(u^k-\widetilde{u}^k)-(u^{k+1}-\widetilde{u}^{k+1})\big\}^\top Q\big\{(u^k-\widetilde{u}^k)-(u^{k+1}-\widetilde{u}^{k+1})\big\}\\ =&\frac{1}{2}\big\|u^k-\widetilde{u}^k-(u^{k+1}-\widetilde{u}^{k+1})\big\|^2_{(Q^\top+Q)}\end{aligned} \tag{3.18}$$

to both sides of (3.17) leads to

$$\begin{aligned}&\tfrac{1}{2}\big\|u^k-\widetilde{u}^k-(u^{k+1}-\widetilde{u}^{k+1})\big\|^2_{(Q^\top+Q)}\\ &\leq(u^k-u^{k+1})^\top Q\big\{(u^k-\widetilde{u}^k)-(u^{k+1}-\widetilde{u}^{k+1})\big\}\\ &\overset{(3.2)}{=}(u^k-\widetilde{u}^k)^\top M^\top Q\big\{(u^k-\widetilde{u}^k)-(u^{k+1}-\widetilde{u}^{k+1})\big\}\\ &\overset{(2.4)}{=}(u^k-\widetilde{u}^k)^\top M^\top HM\big\{(u^k-\widetilde{u}^k)-(u^{k+1}-\widetilde{u}^{k+1})\big\}.\end{aligned}$$

Using this relationship, the identity $\|a\|_H^2-\|b\|_H^2=2a^\top H(a-b)-\|a-b\|_H^2$ with $a=M(u^k-\widetilde{u}^k)$ and $b=M(u^{k+1}-\widetilde{u}^{k+1})$ and $u^k-u^{k+1}=M(u^k-\widetilde{u}^k)$, we have

$$\begin{aligned}&\big\|u^k-u^{k+1}\big\|_H^2-\big\|u^{k+1}-u^{k+2}\big\|_H^2\\ &=\big\|M(u^k-\widetilde{u}^k)\big\|_H^2-\big\|M(u^{k+1}-\widetilde{u}^{k+1})\big\|_H^2\\ &=2(u^k-\widetilde{u}^k)^\top M^\top HM\big\{(u^k-\widetilde{u}^k)-(u^{k+1}-\widetilde{u}^{k+1})\big\}-\big\|M\{(u^k-\widetilde{u}^k)-(u^{k+1}-\widetilde{u}^{k+1})\}\big\|_H^2\\ &\geq\big\|u^k-\widetilde{u}^k-(u^{k+1}-\widetilde{u}^{k+1})\big\|^2_{(Q^\top+Q)}-\big\|M\{(u^k-\widetilde{u}^k)-(u^{k+1}-\widetilde{u}^{k+1})\}\big\|_H^2\\ &\overset{(2.5)}{=}\big\|u^k-\widetilde{u}^k-(u^{k+1}-\widetilde{u}^{k+1})\big\|_G^2\geq 0,\end{aligned}$$

where the last inequality follows from the positive definiteness of G. We complete the proof. □

THEOREM 3.6. *Suppose the condition (1.9) holds. Then, for any integers $T>0$ and $\kappa\geq 0$, there exists a constant $c_0>0$ such that the sequence $\{u^{k+1}\}$ generated by G-AFBA satisfies*

$$\big\|u^{T+\kappa}-u^{T+\kappa+1}\big\|_H^2\leq\frac{1}{(T+1)c_0}\big\|u^\kappa-u^*\big\|_H^2,\quad\forall u^*\in\Omega^*. \tag{3.19}$$

Proof. First, by the positive definiteness of G and $M^\top HM$, there exists a constant c_0 such that $G-c_0M^\top HM$ is positive definite. Hence, we have

$$\big\|u^k-\widetilde{u}^k\big\|_G^2\geq c_0\big\|M(u^k-\widetilde{u}^k)\big\|_H^2=c_0\big\|u^k-u^{k+1}\big\|_H^2.$$

Then, it follows from inequality (3.7) that

$$\big\|u^{k+1}-u^*\big\|_H^2\leq\big\|u^k-u^*\big\|_H^2-c_0\big\|u^k-u^{k+1}\big\|_H^2,\quad\forall u^*\in\Omega^*. \tag{3.20}$$

Summing (3.20) over $k=\kappa,\kappa+1,\cdots,T+\kappa$, it follows from the monotonicity of $\{\|u^k-u^{k+1}\|_H^2\}$ given in (3.14) that

$$\big\|u^\kappa-u^*\big\|_H^2\geq\sum_{k=\kappa}^{T+\kappa}c_0\big\|u^k-u^{k+1}\big\|_H^2\geq(1+T)c_0\big\|u^{T+\kappa}-u^{T+\kappa+1}\big\|_H^2$$

for any $u^* \in \Omega^*$, which leads to (3.19) immediately. □

For any given $\epsilon > 0$, Theorem 3.6 shows that the proposed G-AFBA (1.8) needs at most $[c/\epsilon]$ iterations to ensure $\|u^k - u^{k+1}\|_H^2 \le \epsilon$, where $c = \inf\limits_{u^* \in \Omega^*} \|u^0 - u^*\|_H^2 / c_0$. Recall that u^{k+1} is a solution point of VI$(\theta, \mathcal{J}, \Omega)$ if and only if $\|u^k - u^{k+1}\| = 0$. Hence, $\|u^k - u^{k+1}\|_H$ measures the first-order optimality error and goes to zero in a sublinear rate. Theorem 3.6 also indicates that $\|u^k - u^{k+1}\|_H$ can be used as a stopping condition of G-AFBA (1.8).

3.3. Linear rate of convergence. For any $u = (x; y) \in \Omega$, we define the KKT mapping as

$$R(u) := \begin{pmatrix} x - \operatorname{prox}_f \left(x - K^\top y\right) \\ y - \operatorname{prox}_g (y + Kx) \end{pmatrix} \tag{3.21}$$

which is Lipschitz continuous on Ω because the proximal operator of a proper convex function is Lipschitz continuous with unit Lipschitz constant. Furthermore, given any $u \in \Omega$, we have $u \in \Omega^*$ if and only if $R(u) = 0$. Hence, $\Omega^* = \{u \in \Omega \mid R(u) = 0\}$.

In this subsection, under a calmness condition (see (3.22)), we establish the Q-linear convergence of $\{\operatorname{dist}_H(u^k, \Omega^*)\}$ to zero, where $\operatorname{dist}_H(u^k, \Omega^*) = \min_{u \in \Omega^*} \|u - u^k\|_H$, and the R-linear convergence of $\{u^k\}$ to a $u^\infty \in \Omega^*$. Similar conditions had been used for the linear convergence of ADMM and the inexact primal-dual algorithm, cf. [3, 26] to list a few.

Theorem 3.7. *Let $\{\widetilde{u}^k\}$ be the predictor sequence generated by (3.1a)-(3.1b) and $\{u^k\}$ be the corrector sequence generated by (3.2). Suppose the condition (1.9) holds. Then, we have the following properties:*

(i) There exists a saddle-point $u^\infty = (x^\infty; y^\infty) \in \Omega^*$ such that

$$\lim_{k \to \infty} \widetilde{u}^k = \lim_{k \to \infty} u^{k+1} = u^\infty.$$

(ii) If R^{-1} is calm at the origin for u^∞ with modulus $\theta > 0$, that is,

$$dist(u, \Omega^*) \le \theta \|R(u)\|, \quad \forall u \in \left\{u \in \Omega \,\middle|\, \|u - u^\infty\| \le r\right\}, \tag{3.22}$$

for some $r > 0$, then there exist a $\xi \in (0,1)$ such that

$$\operatorname{dist}_H(u^{k+1}, \Omega^*) \le \xi \operatorname{dist}_H(u^k, \Omega^*) \tag{3.23}$$

for all $k \ge 0$. Moreover, the sequence $\{\|u^k - u^\infty\|\}$ converges to zero R-linearly.

Proof. First, property (i) directly follows from Theorem 3.3. So, there exists an integer $\overline{k} > 0$ such that

$$\|u^k - u^\infty\| \le r, \quad \forall k \ge \overline{k}. \tag{3.24}$$

From the optimality conditions of (3.1a)-(3.1b), we can derive

$$\begin{cases} \widetilde{x}^k = \operatorname{prox}_f \Big[\widetilde{x}^k - \Big(\frac{1}{\tau}\big(\widetilde{x}^k - x^k\big) + K^\top y^k\Big)\Big], \\ \widetilde{y}^k = \operatorname{prox}_g \Big[\widetilde{y}^k - \Big(\frac{1}{\sigma}(\widetilde{y}^k - y^k) - K(\widetilde{x}^k + \alpha(\widetilde{x}^k - x^k))\Big)\Big]. \end{cases} \tag{3.25}$$

Combine (3.25) and the definition of $R(\cdot)$ in (3.21) to obtain

$$\begin{aligned} &\|R(\widetilde{u}^k)\|^2 = \big\|\widetilde{x}^k - \operatorname{prox}_f(\widetilde{x}^k - K^\top \widetilde{y}^k)\big\|^2 + \big\|\widetilde{y}^k - \operatorname{prox}_g(\widetilde{y}^k + K\widetilde{x}^k)\big\|^2 \\ &\le \big\| - \tfrac{1}{\tau}(\widetilde{x}^k - x^k) + K^\top(\widetilde{y}^k - y^k)\big\|^2 + \big\|\alpha K(\widetilde{x}^k - x^k) - \tfrac{1}{\sigma}(\widetilde{y}^k - y^k)\big\|^2 \\ &\le 2\big(\alpha^2 L + \tfrac{1}{\tau^2}\big)\|x^k - \widetilde{x}^k\|^2 + 2\big(L + \tfrac{1}{\sigma^2}\big)\|y^k - \widetilde{y}^k\|^2 \\ &\le \kappa_1 \|u^k - \widetilde{u}^k\|^2, \end{aligned}$$

where first inequality uses the nonexpansive property of $\mathrm{prox}_f(\cdot)$ and $\mathrm{prox}_g(\cdot)$, and

$$\kappa_1 = 2\max\left\{\alpha^2 L + \frac{1}{\tau^2}, L + \frac{1}{\sigma^2}\right\}. \tag{3.26}$$

So, it follows from the last inequality and (3.22) that for all $k \geq \overline{k}$,

$$\mathrm{dist}(\widetilde{u}^k, \Omega^*) \leq \theta\sqrt{\kappa_1}\|u^k - \widetilde{u}^k\|. \tag{3.27}$$

Then, by triangle inequality and (3.27), for all $k \geq \overline{k}$, we have

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{1}{\sqrt{\lambda_{\max}(H)}}\mathrm{dist}_H(u^k, \Omega^*) &\leq \mathrm{dist}(u^k, \Omega^*) \leq \mathrm{dist}(\widetilde{u}^k, \Omega^*) + \|u^k - \widetilde{u}^k\| \\ &\leq (1 + \theta\sqrt{\kappa_1})\|u^k - \widetilde{u}^k\| \leq \frac{1 + \theta\sqrt{\kappa_1}}{\sqrt{\lambda_{\min}(G)}}\|u^k - \widetilde{u}^k\|_G \end{aligned} \tag{3.28}$$

Since (3.7) holds for any $u^* \in \Omega^*$, for all $k \geq 0$ we have

$$\mathrm{dist}_H^2(u^{k+1}, \Omega^*) \leq \mathrm{dist}_H^2(u^k, \Omega^*) - \|u^k - \widetilde{u}^k\|_G^2, \tag{3.29}$$

which together with (3.28) gives

$$\mathrm{dist}_H(u^{k+1}, \Omega^*) \leq \sqrt{1 - \frac{1}{(1 + \theta\sqrt{\kappa_1})^2}\frac{\lambda_{\min}(G)}{\lambda_{\max}(H)}}\mathrm{dist}_H(u^k, \Omega^*) \tag{3.30}$$

for all $k \geq \overline{k}$. Finally, (3.29) and (3.30) implies there exists a $\xi \in (0, 1)$ such that (3.23) holds, that is, the sequence $\{\mathrm{dist}_H(u^k, \Omega^*)\}$ converges to zero Q-linearly.

Now, let $d^k = u^{k+1} - u^k$. We have from (3.29) and triangle inequality that

$$\begin{aligned}\left\|d^k\right\|_H = \left\|u^{k+1} - u^k\right\|_H &\leq \mathrm{dist}_H(u^k, \Omega^*) + \mathrm{dist}_H((u^{k+1}, \Omega^*) \\ &\leq 2\mathrm{dist}_H(u^k, \Omega^*) \overset{(3.23)}{\leq} 2\xi^k \mathrm{dist}_H(u^0, \Omega^*)\end{aligned}$$

Hence, we have from $u^\infty = u^k + \sum_{j=k}^\infty d^j$ that

$$\begin{aligned}\left\|u^k - u^\infty\right\|_H &\leq \textstyle\sum_{j=k}^\infty \left\|d^j\right\|_H \leq 2\mathrm{dist}_H(u^0, \Omega^*)\sum_{j=k}^\infty \xi^j \\ &= 2\mathrm{dist}_H(u^0, \Omega^*)\xi^k \textstyle\sum_{j=0}^\infty \xi^j = \xi^k\left(2\mathrm{dist}_H(u^0, \Omega^*)\frac{1}{1-\xi}\right),\end{aligned}$$

which implies the sequence $\{\|u^k - u^\infty\}$ converges to zero R-linearly. □

Theorem 3.7 shows linear convergence of G-AFBA under the calmness condition. In practice, it is not easy to check whether the calmness condition (3.22) holds or not. However, when the mapping R defined by (3.21) is piecewise polyhedral, or equivalently, R^{-1} is piecewise polyhedral, we know (e.g. see [36]) there exist two constants $\beta, \eta > 0$ such that

$$\mathrm{dist}(u, \Omega^*) \leq \beta\|R(u)\|, \quad \forall u \in \left\{u \in \Omega \middle| \|R(u)\| \leq \eta\right\}. \tag{3.31}$$

When $R(u) > \eta$, for all $\|u - u^\infty\| \leq r$ with some $r > 0$, we have

$$\mathrm{dist}(u, \Omega^*) \leq \|u - u^\infty\| \leq r < \frac{r}{\eta}\|R(u)\|. \tag{3.32}$$

So, given any $r > 0$, we have from (3.31) and (3.32) that the calmness condition (3.22) holds with $\theta = \max\{\beta, r/\eta\}$. Moreover, by Theorem 3.3, there exists a $\overline{r} > 0$ such that $\|u^k - u^\infty\| \leq \overline{r}$ for all $k \geq 0$. Hence, when the mapping R defined by (3.21) is piecewise polyhedral, for $\{u^k\}$ generated by G-AFBA, we have $\mathrm{dist}(u^k, \Omega^*) \leq \overline{\theta}\|R(u^k)\|$ for some $\overline{\theta} > 0$. Furthermore, by Theorem 3.7, we have $\{\mathrm{dist}_H(u^k, \Omega^*)\}$ converges to zero Q-linearly and $\{\|u^k - u^\infty\}$ converges to zero R-linearly. Here, we want to mention that linear convergence has been also discussed when assuming certain strongly convexity on the objective function (see e.g. [10, 11]).

4. Connections between (1.8) and other related methods. In this section, we discuss in a bit more detail on the connections between G-AFBA (1.8) and some existing and new related algorithms.

- **Case 1 (CP-PPA in [9] and a reduced ALM).** When $\alpha = 1$, G-AFBA (1.8) will reduce to

$$\begin{cases} x^{k+1} = \arg\min_{x \in \mathcal{X}} f(x) + \frac{1}{2\tau}\left\|x - x^k + \tau K^\top y^k\right\|^2, \\ y^{k+1} = \arg\min_{y \in \mathcal{Y}} g(y) + \frac{1}{2\sigma}\left\|y - y^k - \sigma K(2\widetilde{x}^k - x^k)\right\|^2, \end{cases}$$

  which is CP-PPA proposed in [9]. When $\alpha = 1$ and $g = 0$, the problem (1.1) is equivalent to

$$\min f(x) \quad \text{s.t. } Kx = \mathbf{0}, x \in \mathcal{X} \tag{4.1}$$

  and G-AFBA (1.8) recovers a ALM-type method

$$\begin{cases} x^{k+1} = \arg\min_{x \in \mathcal{X}} f(x) + \frac{1}{2\tau}\left\|x - x^k + \tau K^\top \lambda^k\right\|^2, \\ \lambda^{k+1} = \lambda^k + \sigma K(2x^{k+1} - x^k). \end{cases}$$

  Note that two different parameters τ and σ are exploited here, which is different from the standard augmented Lagrangian method for solving (4.1).
- **Case 2 (Exact version of [27, Algorithm 2]).** When $(\alpha, \mu) = (0, 1)$, G-AFBA reduces to

$$\begin{cases} \overline{x}^{k+1} = \arg\min_{x \in \mathcal{X}} f(x) + \frac{1}{2\tau}\left\|x - x^k + \tau K^\top y^k\right\|^2, \\ y^{k+1} = \arg\min_{y \in \mathcal{Y}} g(y) + \frac{1}{2\sigma}\left\|y - y^k - \sigma K\overline{x}^{k+1}\right\|^2, \\ x^{k+1} = \overline{x}^{k+1} - \tau K^\top(y^{k+1} - y^k), \end{cases} \tag{4.2}$$

  which is the exact version of [27, Algorithm 2] by setting the iterative relative error to zero. For this case, the condition (1.9) reduces to $1/(\sigma\tau) > L$, which matches the condition given in [27].
- **Case 3 (A subclass of G-AFBA).** By setting $\alpha = 0$, G-AFBA reduces to

$$\text{(G1-AFBA)} \quad \begin{cases} \overline{x}^{k+1} = \arg\min_{x \in \mathcal{X}} f(x) + \frac{1}{2\tau}\left\|x - x^k + \tau K^\top y^k\right\|^2, \\ \overline{y}^{k+1} = \arg\min_{y \in \mathcal{Y}} g(y) + \frac{1}{2\sigma}\left\|y - y^k - \sigma K\overline{x}^{k+1}\right\|^2, \\ x^{k+1} = \overline{x}^{k+1} - \mu\tau K^\top(\overline{y}^{k+1} - y^k), \\ y^{k+1} = \overline{y}^{k+1} + (1-\mu)\sigma K(\overline{x}^{k+1} - x^k). \end{cases} \tag{4.3}$$

  One may consider (4.3) as an extension of (4.2), since (4.3) applies an additional extrapolation step on the y-iterate, while the x^{k+1}-iterate in (4.3) can be written as

$$x^{k+1} = \overline{x}^{k+1} - \tau K^\top(\overline{y}^{k+1} - y^k) + (1-\mu)\tau K^\top(\overline{y}^{k+1} - y^k).$$

Interestingly, with $\alpha = 0$, the condition (1.9) for convergence reduces to

$$\frac{1}{\tau\sigma} > (1-\mu+\mu^2)L. \tag{4.4}$$

Clearly, $(1-\mu+\mu^2) \leq 1$ for any $\mu \in [0,1]$ and when $\mu = 0.5$, it becomes $\frac{1}{\tau\sigma} > 0.75L$. The condition (4.4) seems similar to the condition (1.7) for ensuring convergence of GCP-PPA [22]. However, we can see from (4.3) that G1-AFBA is completely a different method from GCP-PPA (1.6).

- **Case 4 (GCP-PPA [22]).** When $\mu = 0$, G-AFBA reduces to

$$\begin{cases} x^{k+1} = \arg\min_{x\in\mathcal{X}} f(x) + \frac{1}{2\tau}\left\|x - x^k + \tau K^\top y^k\right\|^2, \\ \overline{y}^{k+1} = \arg\min_{y\in\mathcal{Y}} g(y) + \frac{1}{2\sigma}\left\|y - y^k - \sigma K[x^{k+1} + \alpha(x^{k+1}-x^k)]\right\|^2, \\ y^{k+1} = \overline{y}^{k+1} + (1-\alpha)\sigma K(x^{k+1}-x^k), \end{cases} \tag{4.5}$$

which is the method (1.6) proposed in [22]. As mentioned in the introduction, in this case the condition (1.9) will reduce to (1.7), which is exactly the condition derived in [22] for the convergence of GCP-PPA. Moreover, as pointed in [22], GCP-PPA is equivalent to CP-PPA for solving the the convex programming $\min\{f(x) \mid Kx = b, x \in \mathcal{X}\}$.

- **Case 5 (G-AFBA for multi-block problem).** Consider the following saddle-point problem with multi-block structure:

$$\min_{x\in\mathbb{R}^n}\max_{\lambda\in\mathbb{R}^m} \mathcal{L}(x,\lambda) := \sum_{i=1}^q f_i(x_i) + \langle Kx, \lambda\rangle - \langle b, \lambda\rangle, \tag{4.6}$$

where each f_i, $i = 1, \ldots, q$, is a proper lower semicontinuous convex function, $x = (x_1, \cdots, x_q)^\top$ with $x_i \in \mathbb{R}^{n_i}$, $K = (A_1, \cdots, A_q)$ is given with $A_i \in \mathbb{R}^{m\times n_i}$ and $n = \sum_{i=1}^q n_i$. Clearly, the problem (4.6) is a special case of (1.1) and is the dual problem of the following multi-block separable convex optimization problem

$$\min\left\{\sum_{i=1}^q f_i(x_i) \Big| \sum_{i=1}^q A_i x_i = b,\ x_i \in \mathbb{R}^{n_i}\right\}. \tag{4.7}$$

Applying G-AFBA (1.8) to (4.6) results in the following operator splitting method:

$$\begin{cases} \overline{x}_i^{k+1} = \arg\min_{x_i\in\mathbb{R}^{n_i}} f_i(x_i) + \frac{1}{2\tau}\left\|x_i - x_i^k + \tau A_i{}^\top\lambda^k\right\|^2,\ i = 1,\cdots,q, \\ \overline{\lambda}^{k+1} = \lambda^k + \sigma\sum_{i=1}^q A_i\left[\overline{x}_i^{k+1} + \alpha(\overline{x}_i^{k+1} - x_i^k)\right] - b, \\ x_i^{k+1} = \overline{x}_i^{k+1} - (1-\alpha)\mu\ \tau A_i{}^\top(\overline{\lambda}^{k+1} - \lambda^k),\ i = 1,\cdots,q, \\ \lambda^{k+1} = \overline{\lambda}^{k+1} + (1-\alpha)(1-\mu)\ \sigma\sum_{i=1}^q A_i(\overline{x}_i^{k+1} - x_i^k). \end{cases} \tag{4.8}$$

Note that the above scheme (4.8) updates the primal variable x_i in parallel and is different from the proximal ADMM proposed [16] for solving (4.7). However, by our previous analysis, the scheme (4.8) will enjoy all the convergent properties we discussed before.

5. Extension to stochastic G-AFBA. Consider the following case of special structured (1.1):

$$\min_{x\in\mathcal{X}}\max_{y\in\mathcal{Y}} f(x)+\langle Kx,y\rangle-g(y),\quad \text{where}\quad f(x)=\frac{1}{N}\sum_{j=1}^{N} f_j(x) \tag{5.1}$$

is an average of N Lipschitz continuously differentiable real-valued convex functions f_j, $j=1,\dots,N$, i.e., there exists a $\nu>0$ such that

$$\|\nabla f_j(x_1)-\nabla f_j(x_2)\|\le \nu\|x_1-x_2\|,\quad \forall x_1,x_2\in\mathcal{X}.$$

Problem (5.1) often arises from machine learning applications, e.g. [4, 6], where N denotes the sample size and $f_j(x)$ corresponds to the empirical loss on the j-th sample data. A major difficulty for solving (5.1) in machine learning applications is that the sample size N can be huge so that it is computationally prohibitive to evaluate either the function value f or its gradient at each iteration. Hence, in this subsection, by extending the previous analysis of deterministic G-AFBA, we aim to develop a stochastic version of G-AFBA (SG-AFBA), see Alg. 5.1, for solving the structured problem (5.1). In the following, we briefly discuss the convergence properties of SG-AFBA following a similar approach proposed in [4].

Initialization: choose (τ,σ) satisfying (1.9), $\alpha,\mu\in[0,1]$ and initialize $(x^0,y^0)\in\mathcal{X}\times\mathcal{Y}$, $\breve{x}^0=x^0$.

For $k=0,1,\cdots$

1. Choose $m_k>0,\vartheta_k>0$, and compute $h^k=x^k-\tau K^\top y^k$;
2. $(\widetilde{x}^k,\breve{x}^{k+1})=\mathbf{xsub}(x^k,\breve{x}^k,\vartheta_k,m_k,h^k)$;
3. $\widetilde{y}^k=\arg\min_{y\in\mathcal{Y}} g(y)+\frac{1}{2\sigma}\left\|y-y^k-\sigma K[\widetilde{x}^k+\alpha(\widetilde{x}^k-x^k)]\right\|^2$;
4. $x^{k+1}=\widetilde{x}^k-(1-\alpha)\mu\ \tau K^\top(\widetilde{y}^k-y^k)$;
5. $y^{k+1}=\widetilde{y}^k+(1-\alpha)(1-\mu)\ \sigma K(\widetilde{x}^k-x^k)$;

end

Return (x^{k+1},y^{k+1}).

$(\mathbf{x}^+,\breve{\mathbf{x}}^+)=\mathbf{xsub}(x_1,\breve{x}_1,\vartheta_k,m_k,h^k)$

For $t=1,2,\dots,m_k$

1. Randomly select $\xi_t\in\{1,2,\dots,N\}$ with uniform probability;
2. $\beta_t=2/(t+1)$, $\quad\gamma_t=2/(t\vartheta_k)$, $\quad\widehat{x}_t=\beta_t\breve{x}_t+(1-\beta_t)x_t$;
3. $d_t=\widehat{g}_t+e_t$, where $\widehat{g}_t=\nabla f_{\xi_t}(\widehat{x}_t)$ and e_t is a random vector satisfying $\mathbb{E}\big[e_t\big]=\mathbf{0}$;
4. $\breve{x}_{t+1}=\arg\min_{x\in\mathcal{X}}\big\langle d_t,x\big\rangle+\frac{\gamma_t}{2}\left\|x-\breve{x}_t\right\|^2+\frac{1}{2\tau}\left\|x-h^k\right\|^2$;
5. $x_{t+1}=\beta_t\breve{x}_{t+1}+(1-\beta_t)x_t$;

end

Return $(\mathbf{x}^+,\breve{\mathbf{x}}^+)=(\mathbf{x}_{m_k+1},\breve{\mathbf{x}}_{m_k+1})$.

Algorithm 5.1: A stochastic G-AFBA (SG-AFBA)

We first need to obtain a variational inequality analogous to (3.3) for establishing the convergence of SG-AFBA. Note that the $\breve{x}_{t+1}$-subproblem in step 4 of subroutine

xsub amounts to

$$\breve{x}_{t+1} = \arg\min_{x\in\mathcal{X}} \langle d_t + K^\top y^k, x\rangle + \frac{\gamma_t}{2}\left\|x-\breve{x}_t\right\|^2 + \frac{1}{2\tau}\left\|x - x^k\right\|^2.$$

Hence, almost same to the proof of [4, Lemma 3.1], we have the following lemma.

LEMMA 5.1. *Let us define* $\Gamma_t = 2/(t(t+1))$ *and*

$$\phi_k(x) = f(x) + \psi_k(x), \qquad \text{where} \ \ \psi_k(x) = \frac{1}{2\tau}\left\|x - x^k\right\|^2 + \langle K^\top y^k, x\rangle. \tag{5.2}$$

Then, for any $x \in \mathcal{X}$ *and* k *with* $\vartheta_k \in (0, 1/\nu)$*, we have*

$$\frac{1}{\Gamma_t}\left[\phi_k(x_{t+1}) - \phi_k(x)\right] \le \begin{cases} \theta_1, & t = 1, \\ \frac{1}{\Gamma_{t-1}}\left[\phi_k(x_t) - \phi_k(x)\right] + \theta_t, & t \ge 2, \end{cases} \tag{5.3}$$

where for all $t \ge 1$,

$$\theta_t = \frac{1}{\vartheta_k}\left[\|x - \breve{x}_t\|^2 - \|x - \breve{x}_{t+1}\|^2\right] - \frac{t}{2\tau}\|x - \breve{x}_{t+1}\|^2 + t\langle \boldsymbol{\delta}_t, \breve{x}_t - x\rangle + \frac{\vartheta_k t^2}{4}\frac{\|\boldsymbol{\delta}_t\|^2}{(1-\vartheta_k\nu)}, \tag{5.4}$$

and $\boldsymbol{\delta}_t = \nabla f(\widehat{x}_t) - d_t$.

Based on Lemma 5.1, we further establish the following result.

LEMMA 5.2. *Let* $\boldsymbol{\delta}_t$ *be defined in Lemma 5.1, and suppose* $\vartheta_k \in (0, 1/\nu)$*. Then the iterates generated by SG-AFBA satisfy*

$$f(x) - f(\widetilde{x}^k) - \left\langle x - \widetilde{x}^k, K^\top y^k + \frac{1}{\tau}(\widetilde{x}^k - x^k)\right\rangle \ge \zeta^k, \tag{5.5}$$

for all $x \in \mathcal{X}$*, where*

$$\begin{aligned} \zeta^k = \frac{2}{m_k(m_k+1)}\Bigg[&\frac{1}{\vartheta_k}\left(\left\|x - \breve{x}^{k+1}\right\|^2 - \left\|x - \breve{x}^k\right\|^2\right) \\ &- \sum_{t=1}^{m_k} t\langle \boldsymbol{\delta}_t, \breve{x}_t - x\rangle - \frac{\vartheta_k}{4(1-\vartheta_k\nu)}\sum_{t=1}^{m_k} t^2\|\boldsymbol{\delta}_t\|^2\Bigg]. \end{aligned} \tag{5.6}$$

Proof. Let $T = m_k$. Summing (5.3) over $1 \le t \le T$ and recalling that $\breve{x}^k = \breve{x}_1$, $\widetilde{x}^k = x_{T+1}$, and $\breve{x}^{k+1} = \breve{x}_{T+1}$, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{\Gamma_T}\left[\phi_k(\widetilde{x}^k) - \phi_k(x)\right] \le \sum_{t=1}^{T}\theta_t = \frac{1}{\vartheta_k}&\left[\left\|x - \breve{x}^k\right\|^2 - \left\|x - \breve{x}^{k+1}\right\|^2\right] \\ -\frac{1}{2\tau}\sum_{t=1}^{T} t\|x - \breve{x}_{t+1}\|^2 + \sum_{t=1}^{T} t&\langle\boldsymbol{\delta}_t, \breve{x}_t - x\rangle + \frac{\vartheta_k}{4(1-\vartheta_k\nu)}\sum_{t=1}^{T} t^2\|\boldsymbol{\delta}_t\|^2 \end{aligned} \tag{5.7}$$

for any $x \in \mathcal{X}$, where θ_t is defined in (5.4). Dividing $x_{t+1} = \beta_t\breve{x}_{t+1} + (1-\beta_t)x_t$ by Γ_t and exploiting the identity $\beta_t/\Gamma_t = t$ yields $(1/\Gamma_t)x_{t+1} = (1/\Gamma_{t-1})x_t + t\breve{x}_{t+1}$. Sum this equality over $2 \le t \le T$ and recall $\Gamma_1 = \beta_1 = 1$ to obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \widetilde{x}^k = x_{T+1} &= \Gamma_T\left\{\frac{1}{\Gamma_1}x_2 + \sum_{t=2}^{T} t\breve{x}_{t+1}\right\} = \Gamma_T\left\{x_2 - \breve{x}_2 + \sum_{t=1}^{T} t\breve{x}_{t+1}\right\} \\ &= \Gamma_T\left\{\left[\beta_1\breve{x}_2 + (1-\beta_1)x_1\right] - \breve{x}_2 + \sum_{t=1}^{T} t\breve{x}_{t+1}\right\} = \sum_{t=1}^{T}(t\Gamma_T)\breve{x}_{t+1}. \end{aligned} \tag{5.8}$$

Since $\Gamma_T \sum_{t=1}^T t = 1$ and $\|z-x\|^2$ is convex in z, it follows from (5.8) that

$$\left\|\widetilde{x}^k - x\right\|^2 \le \sum_{t=1}^{T} (t\Gamma_T) \left\|\breve{x}_{t+1} - x\right\|^2, \qquad \forall x \in \mathcal{X}.$$

Plug the last inequality into (5.7) to obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{\Gamma_T}\left[\phi_k(\widetilde{x}^k) - \phi_k(x) + \frac{1}{2\tau}\left\|\widetilde{x}^k - x\right\|^2\right] &\le \frac{1}{\vartheta_k}\left[\left\|x - \breve{x}^k\right\|^2 - \left\|x - \breve{x}^{k+1}\right\|^2\right] \\ &+ \sum_{t=1}^{T} t\langle \boldsymbol{\delta}_t, \breve{x}_t - x\rangle + \frac{\vartheta_k}{4(1-\vartheta_k\nu)}\sum_{t=1}^{T} t^2 \left\|\boldsymbol{\delta}_t\right\|^2. \end{aligned} \tag{5.9}$$

Now, by the definitions of ϕ_k and ψ_k in (5.2), we have

$$\begin{cases} \phi_k(\widetilde{x}^k) - \phi_k(x) = f(\widetilde{x}^k) - f(x) + \psi_k(\widetilde{x}^k) - \psi_k(x), \\ \psi_k(\widetilde{x}^k) - \psi_k(x) = \left\langle K^\top y^k, \widetilde{x}^k - x\right\rangle + \frac{1}{2\tau}\left[\|\widetilde{x}^k - x^k\|^2 - \|x - x^k\|^2\right]. \end{cases}$$

The identity $(\mathbf{a}-\mathbf{b})^\top(\mathbf{a}-\mathbf{c}) = \frac{1}{2}\left\{\|\mathbf{a}-\mathbf{c}\|^2 - \|\mathbf{c}-\mathbf{b}\|^2 + \|\mathbf{a}-\mathbf{b}\|^2\right\}$ with $\mathbf{a} = \widetilde{x}^k$, $\mathbf{b} = x^k$, and $\mathbf{c} = x$ implies that

$$\frac{1}{2}\left[\|\widetilde{x}^k - x^k\|^2 - \|x - x^k\|^2 + \|\widetilde{x}^k - x\|^2\right] = \left(\widetilde{x}^k - x^k\right)^\top\left(\widetilde{x}^k - x\right).$$

Insert all these relations in (5.9) and make the substitutions $T = m_k$ and $\Gamma_T = 2/(T(T+1))$ with simple transformation to obtain (5.5). □

Now, replacing the inequality (3.4) by (5.5), under the condition (1.9), we will have from the same proofs of Lemmas 3.1-3.2 that

$$\theta(u) - \theta(\widetilde{u}^k) + \left\langle u - \widetilde{u}^k, \mathcal{J}(u)\right\rangle \ge \frac{1}{2}\left(\left\|u - u^{k+1}\right\|_H^2 - \left\|u - u^k\right\|_H^2\right) + \frac{1}{2}\left\|u^k - \widetilde{u}^k\right\|_G^2 + \zeta^k, \tag{5.10}$$

where H and G are positive definite matrices defined in (2.5). With the help of (5.10), we have the following theorem.

THEOREM 5.3. *Let $u_T = (x_T, y_T)$ be defined in (3.12). If for some integers $T > 0$ and $\kappa \ge 0$, the following conditions hold for all $k \in [\kappa, \kappa+T]$: (I) $\vartheta_k \in (0, 1/(2\nu)]$ and the sequence $\{\vartheta_k m_k(m_k+1)\}$ is nondecreasing; (II) $\mathbb{E}(\|\boldsymbol{\delta}_t\|^2) \le \varsigma^2$ for some $\varsigma > 0$, where $\boldsymbol{\delta}_t$ is defined in Lemma 5.1. Then, under condition (1.9), for any $u \in \Omega$ it has*

$$\begin{aligned} &\mathbb{E}\left[\theta(u_T) - \theta(u) + \left\langle u_T - u, \mathcal{J}(u)\right\rangle\right] \\ &\le \frac{1}{2(1+T)}\left\{\varsigma^2\sum_{k=\kappa}^{\kappa+T}\vartheta_k m_k + \frac{4}{m_\kappa(m_\kappa+1)\vartheta_\kappa}\left\|x - \breve{x}^\kappa\right\|^2 + \left\|u - u^\kappa\right\|_H^2\right\}. \end{aligned} \tag{5.11}$$

Proof. Summing the inequality (5.10) over k between κ and $\kappa + T$, using the convexity of θ and the definition of u_T, we can obtain

$$\theta(u_T) - \theta(u) + \left\langle u_T - u, \mathcal{J}(u)\right\rangle \le \frac{1}{1+T}\left\{\frac{1}{2}\|u - u^\kappa\|_H^2 - \sum_{k=\kappa}^{\kappa+T}\zeta^k\right\}. \tag{5.12}$$

By assumption (I), the sequence $\{\vartheta_k m_k(m_k+1)\}$ is nondecreasing for $k \in [\kappa, \kappa+T]$, which implies

$$\sum_{k=\kappa}^{\kappa+T}\frac{1}{m_k(m_k+1)\vartheta_k}\left(\|x - \breve{x}^k\|^2 - \|x - \breve{x}^{k+1}\|^2\right) \le \frac{\|x - \breve{x}^\kappa\|^2}{m_\kappa(m_\kappa+1)\vartheta_\kappa}. \tag{5.13}$$

The definition of $\boldsymbol{\delta}_t$ in Lemma 5.1 gives

$$\boldsymbol{\delta}_t = \nabla f(\widehat{x}_t) - d_t = \nabla f(\widehat{x}_t) - \nabla f_{\xi_t}(\widehat{x}_t) - e_t.$$

Then, because the random variable $\xi_t \in \{1, 2, \ldots, N\}$ is chosen with uniform probability and $\mathbb{E}[e_t] = \mathbf{0}$, it holds that $\mathbb{E}[\boldsymbol{\delta}_t] = \mathbf{0}$. Thus, since $\boldsymbol{\delta}_t$ only depends on the index ξ_t while $\breve{x}_t$ depends on $\xi_{t-1}, \xi_{t-2}, \ldots$, we have $\mathbb{E}\left[\langle \boldsymbol{\delta}_t, \breve{x}_t - x\rangle\right] = 0$. Then, it follows from $\mathbb{E}(\|\boldsymbol{\delta}_t\|^2) \le \varsigma^2$ from assumption (II) and $m_k \ge 1$ that

$$\mathbb{E}\left[\sum_{t=1}^{m_k} t^2 \|\boldsymbol{\delta}_t\|^2\right] \le \frac{\varsigma^2 m_k(m_k+1)(2m_k+1)}{6} \le m_k^2(m_k+1)\left(\frac{\varsigma^2}{2}\right).$$

So, by ζ^k defined in (5.6) and the condition $\vartheta_k \le 1/(2\nu)$, we have

$$-\mathbb{E}\left[\sum_{k=\kappa}^{\kappa+T} \zeta^k\right] \le \frac{2\|x - \breve{x}^\kappa\|^2}{m_\kappa(m_\kappa+1)\vartheta_\kappa} + \frac{\varsigma^2}{2}\sum_{k=\kappa}^{\kappa+T} \vartheta_k m_k.$$

Applying the expectation operator to (5.12) together with this bound completes the proof. □

THEOREM 5.4. *Suppose the conditions in Theorem 5.3 hold. Let*

$$\vartheta_k = \min\left\{\frac{c_1}{m_k(m_k+1)}, c_2\right\} \quad \text{and} \quad m_k = \max\left\{\lceil c_3 k^\varrho \rceil, m\right\},$$

where $c_1, c_2, c_3 > 0$, $\varrho \ge 1$ are constants and $m > 0$ is a given integer. Then, for every $u^* = (x^*, y^*) \in \Omega^*$ and $u_T = (x_T, y_T)$ being defined in (3.12), we have

$$\left|\mathbb{E}\left[\mathcal{L}(x_T, y^*) - \mathcal{L}(x^*, y_T)\right]\right| = \left|\mathbb{E}\left[\theta(u_T) - \theta(u^*)\right]\right| = E_\varrho(T), \tag{5.14}$$

where $E_\varrho(T) = \mathcal{O}(1/T)$ for $\varrho > 1$ and $E_\varrho(T) = \mathcal{O}(T^{-1}\log T)$ for $\varrho = 1$.

Proof. The proof is same as that of [4, Theorem 4.2] and thus is omitted here. □

Notice that, when considering the sample size $N = 1$ and setting $e_t = 0$, SG-AFBA will reduce to a deterministic algorithm to solve (1.1), while applying the subroutine **xsub** to solve the prediction step (3.1a) inexactly. This inexact G-AFBA will be particularly useful when the function f is not simple so that it is expensive or there is no closed-form solution for calculating the prediction step (3.1a) exactly.

6. Numerical experiments.

6.1. Robust principal component analysis. The robust principal component analysis problem, which arises from video surveillance and face recognition [5, 8, 28, 38, 46] etc., aims at recovering the low-rank and sparse components of a given matrix. Such a problem can be often modeled [13] as

$$\min_{X,Y \in \mathbb{R}^{m\times n}} \left\{\|X\|_* + \lambda\|Y\|_1 \mid X + Y = C\right\}, \tag{6.1}$$

where C is the given data, $\|\cdot\|_*$ and $\|\cdot\|_1$ denote the nuclear norm (the sum of all singular values) and the l_1-norm (the sum of absolute values of all entries) of a matrix, respectively, and $\lambda > 0$ is a weight parameter. Clearly, (6.1) can be reformulated as the following saddle-point problem

$$\min_{X,Y \in \mathbb{R}^{m\times n}} \max_{Z \in \mathbb{R}^{m\times n}} \|X\|_* + \lambda\|Y\|_1 + \langle X + Y, Z\rangle - \langle C, Z\rangle. \tag{6.2}$$

We will test G-AFBA and G1-AFBA with other comparison algorithms by solving (6.2) with $\lambda = 1/\sqrt{\max(m,n)}$ as suggested in [8] and four real data sets: Hall airport video containing 300 144×176 frames, ShoppingMall video containing 350 256×320 frames, Bootstrap video containing 200 120×160 frames, and Lobby video containing 200 128×160 frames. We would use default values $(\alpha, \mu) = (1/3, 1/2)$ for G-AFBA, $(\alpha, \mu) = (0, 1/2)$ for G1-AFBA and choose $(\tau, \sigma) = (c_1/\sqrt{\iota}, c_2/\sqrt{\iota})$ to satisfy the condition (1.9), where $c_1, c_2 > 0$ are some constants satisfying $c_1 c_2 < 1$ and

$$\iota = \frac{\alpha + (1-\mu+\mu^2)(1-\alpha)^2 + \sqrt{[(1-\mu+\mu^2)(1-\alpha)^2+\alpha]^2 + 4\alpha(1-\alpha)^2}}{2} L$$

with $L = 2$. After tuning the parameters, we set $(c_1, c_2) = (12.9123, 0.0758)$ and $(c_1, c_2) = (11.4820, 0.0808)$ for G-AFBA and G1-AFBA, respectively, for this set of testing problems. The following are our comparison algorithms where the parameters are also tuned and chosen to obtain the best possible performance:

- Dual-Primal Balanced ALM (DP-BALM) with parameters $(\beta_1, \beta_2, \alpha, \delta) = (10, 10, 1, 10^{-3})$, which is suggested in [42, Section 5.2.2];
- Generalized PDHG (G-PDHG) with $(\tau, \sigma) = (c_1/\sqrt{0.75L}, c_2/\sqrt{0.75L})$ and $(c_1, c_2) = (9.1626, 0.0808)$ to satisfy the condition $\frac{1}{\tau\sigma} > 0.75L$, which gives much better performance than the original setting given in [28, Section 5.4];
- PDHG (1.2) with $(\tau, \sigma) = (c_1/\sqrt{L}, c_2/\sqrt{L})$ and $(c_1, c_2) = (7.0711, 0.1245)$;
- GCP-PPA (1.6) [22] with $(\alpha, \mu) = (1/2, 0)$ and $(c_1, c_2) = (11.4820, 0.0808)$, the same as those for G1-AFBA, to satisfy the convergence condition (1.7).
- Extended G-AFBA (eG-AFBA) [43] with parameters $(c_1, c_2) = (0.9899, 0.1768)$ to satisfy the involved condition $\frac{1}{\tau\sigma} > L/4$.

All experiments are implemented in MATLAB R2019b and performed on a PC with Windows 10 operating system, with an Intel i7-8565U CPU and 16GB RAM. All algorithms start with initial iteration $(X, Y, Z) = (\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{0}, \mathbf{0})$ and are terminated when the following criterion

$$\text{RelChg(k)} := \frac{\|X^{k+1} - X^k\|_F + \|Y^{k+1} - Y^k\|_F}{\|X^k\|_F + \|Y^k\|_F + 1} < 10^{-4}$$

is satisfied. Similar stopping criterion can be also found in e.g. [28, 38, 46].

Table 6.1 reports the number of iterations (Iter), the computing time in seconds (Time(s)), the relative constrained error Res $:= \|\widehat{X} + \widehat{Y} - C\|_F / \|C\|_F$ and the final RelChg at the last iterate $\widehat{X}$ and $\widehat{Y}$ of the algorithms. Figure 6.1 also visualizes the background and foreground separations of the 10th frames of Hall airport, the 259th frames of ShoppingMall, the 194th frames of Bootstrap, and the 80th frames of Lobby, respectively. The computing results of Table 6.1 demonstrate that G-AFBA performs the best among all the comparison algorithms in terms of iteration number and CPU time. G1-AFBA is also very competitive with other comparison algorithms. Although there are more relaxed stepsize requirements of eG-AFBA for ensuring convergence, eG-AFBA seems to take more iterations and CPU time. We think this may be due to the different strategies used by the correction step of eG-AFBA which also requires inversion of a matrix.

6.2. 3D CT reconstruction problem. The 3D CT reconstruction problem is a crucial problem in medical imaging and plays a vital role in diagnosis, treatment planning, and research [7, 19]. The problem with TV-L_1 regularization is formulated

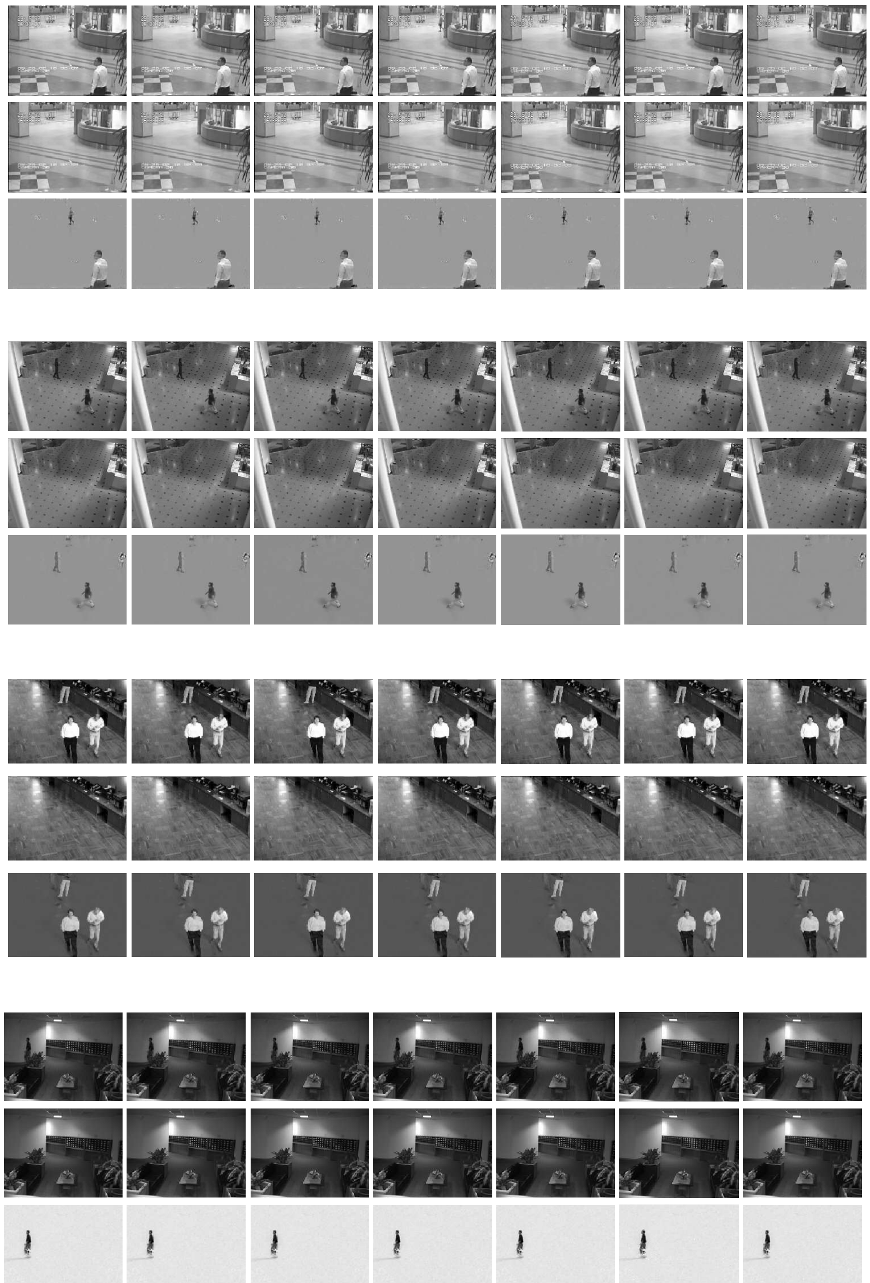

Figure 6.1: Background and foreground separations of the 10th frame(rows 1-3) of Hall airport, the 259th frame(rows 4-6) of ShoppingMall, the 194th frame(rows 7-9) of Bootstrap, and the 80th frame(rows 10-12) of Lobby. From left to right: G-AFBA, G1-AFBA, eG-AFBA, GCP-PPA, DP-BALM, PDHG, G-PDHG, respectively.

Data	Methods	Iter	Time(s)	Res	RelChg
Hall airport	G-AFBA	**66**	**43.41**	4.63e-4	9.66e-5
	G1-AFBA	70	45.32	4.30e-4	9.64e-5
	eG-AFBA	230	184.97	8.98e-5	9.99e-5
	GCP-PPA	76	52.60	5.44e-4	9.93e-5
	DP-BALM	83	58.82	6.84e-4	9.74e-5
	PDHG	104	72.33	2.56e-4	9.63e-5
	G-PDHG	80	51.71	5.41e-4	9.77e-5
ShoppingMall	G-AFBA	**84**	**258.01**	1.65e-4	9.57e-5
	G1-AFBA	92	267.32	1.50e-4	9.78e-5
	eG-AFBA	270	934.33	8.63e-5	9.97e-5
	GCP-PPA	93	271.70	2.07e-4	9.64e-5
	DP-BALM	89	273.38	3.20e-4	9.88e-5
	PDHG	147	430.25	9.53e-5	9.78e-5
	G-PDHG	109	317.09	1.78e-4	9.69e-5
Bootstrap	G-AFBA	**71**	**24.00**	5.18e-4	9.81e-5
	G1-AFBA	73	25.69	5.02e-4	9.80e-5
	eG-AFBA	220	88.29	8.74e-5	9.95e-5
	GCP-PPA	83	28.72	6.01e-4	9.99e-5
	DP-BALM	94	31.17	7.33e-4	9.78e-5
	PDHG	94	30.86	3.71e-4	9.67e-5
	G-PDHG	81	25.26	6.64e-4	9.84e-5
Lobby	G-AFBA	**93**	**33.10**	4.42e-4	9.91e-5
	G1-AFBA	95	35.84	4.32e-4	9.95e-5
	eG-AFBA	246	105.64	8.78e-5	9.97e-5
	GCP-PPA	106	39.22	5.37e-4	9.85e-5
	DP-BALM	120	43.75	6.70e-4	9.99e-5
	PDHG	101	36.55	4.26e-4	9.79e-5
	G-PDHG	101	35.18	6.07e-4	9.82e-5

Table 6.1: Numerical results of different algorithms for solving (6.2).

as the following

$$\begin{array}{ll} \min\limits_{x,y} & \frac{1}{N}\sum_{j=1}^{N}(\mathcal{R}_j x - b_j)^2 + \lambda\|y\|_1 \\ \text{s.t.} & \nabla x = y, \end{array} \tag{6.3}$$

where $\lambda > 0$ is a weight parameter, $\mathcal{R}$ is the Radon transform generated by the cone beam scanning geometry [19], b is the observed noisy input data, and ∇ is a discrete gradient operator. The primal-dual formulation of (6.3), as a special case of (5.1), can be written as

$$\min_{x,y}\max_{z}\sum_{j=1}^{N}(\mathcal{R}_j x - b_j)^2 + \lambda\|y\|_1 + \langle \nabla x, z\rangle - \langle y, z\rangle. \tag{6.4}$$

When N is sufficiently large, e.g. $N = 131,334,144$ in our numerical experiment, the computation of the prediction step (3.1a) of applying G-AFBA to solve (6.4) becomes prohibitively expensive. Hence, we would apply the stochastic gradient based SG-AFBA, that is Alg. 5.1, to solve (6.4) with $\lambda = 0.1$. We set $(\alpha, \mu) = (1/2, 0)$,

$(\tau, \sigma) = (10^2, 10^{-7})$ and $m_k = 10$ for SG-AFBA. Hence, in this case, SG-AFBA is in fact a stochastic version of GCP-PPA. The reconstructed image quality is usually evaluated by the Peak Signal-to-Noise Ratio (PSNR):

$$\text{PSNR} = 10 \log_{10} \left(\frac{d_x \times d_y \times d_z}{\text{MSE}} \right) \quad \text{with} \quad \text{MSE} = \|x - \widetilde{x}\|^2,$$

where x and $\widetilde{x}$ are the original and reconstructed 3D images, respectively. We also denote the relative error by $\text{Res} = \|x - \widetilde{x}\|/\|x\|$.

For comparison purpose, we solve the reformulation problem (6.4) by the deterministic Generalized ADMM (G-ADMM, [17]) and 5 stochastic gradient-based methods: stochastic ADMM (sto-ADMM, [24]), stochastic ADMM based on the popular SARAH gradient estimator (called SARAH-ADMM, [7]) and the SAGA gradient estimator (called SAGA-ADMM, [7]), PDHG (1.2) and CP-PPA (1.4). All experiments are run in MATLAB R2019a on a high-performance computational cluster with a Tesla V100 GPU and 192GB memory. For each algorithm, we run 3 times to solve (6.4) with 2000 seconds time budget for each run.

Methods	PSNR	Res
sto-ADMM	24.8068 ± 0.0013	0.4099 ± 6.29e-05
G-ADMM	24.8493 ± 0.0059	0.4079 ± 2.79e-04
SARAH-ADMM	24.9106 ± 0.0041	0.4051 ± 1.93e-04
SAGA-ADMM	24.8810 ± 0.0017	0.4064 ± 7.72e-05
PDHG	25.0356 ± 0.0396	0.3993 ± 1.82e-03
CP-PPA	24.9976 ± 0.0719	0.4010 ± 3.32e-03
SG-AFBA	**25.1245** ± 0.1256	**0.3952** ± 5.74e-03

Table 6.2: The mean and standard deviation of PSNR and Res from solving (6.3).

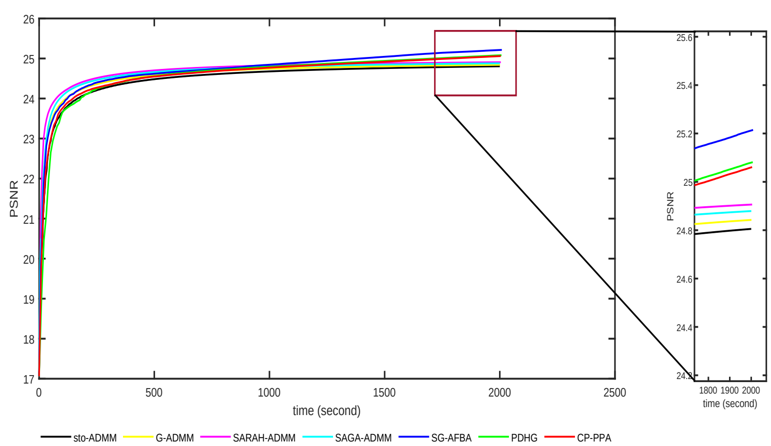

Figure 6.2: Comparison of different algorithms for solving (6.3).

Table 6.2 shows the mean and standard deviation of the final PSNR and Res obtained by each algorithm over 3 independent runs. We can see from Table 6.2 that SG-AFBA has overall better performance, achieving the highest PSNR and the lowest relative error Res, although it has relatively larger standard deviation on the PSNR value. In addition, both PDHG and CP-PPA perform better than other ADMM-type methods from the final obtained PSNR. Figure 6.2 shows the average convergence curve of PSNR of each algorithm within 2000 seconds. From Figure 6.2 we see that although SARAH-ADMM converges faster than other algorithms at the beginning iterations (see the left-hand-side of Figure 6.2), SG-AFBA seems to generate the best final result. Figures 6.3 and 6.4 visualize the 7th and 58th slices of the reconstructed 3D CT image, respectively. It shows that the images reconstructed by SG-AFBA are closer to the ground truth compared to other algorithms. Taking the 7th slice of the reconstructed 3D CT image as an example, many blurry circle contours can be observed in the images reconstructed by comparative algorithms sto-ADMM, SAGA-ADMM, SARAH-ADMM and G-ADMM. However, these circular contours are not clear in the images reconstructed by our SG-AFBA. Similar observations can be also seen from the 58th slice.

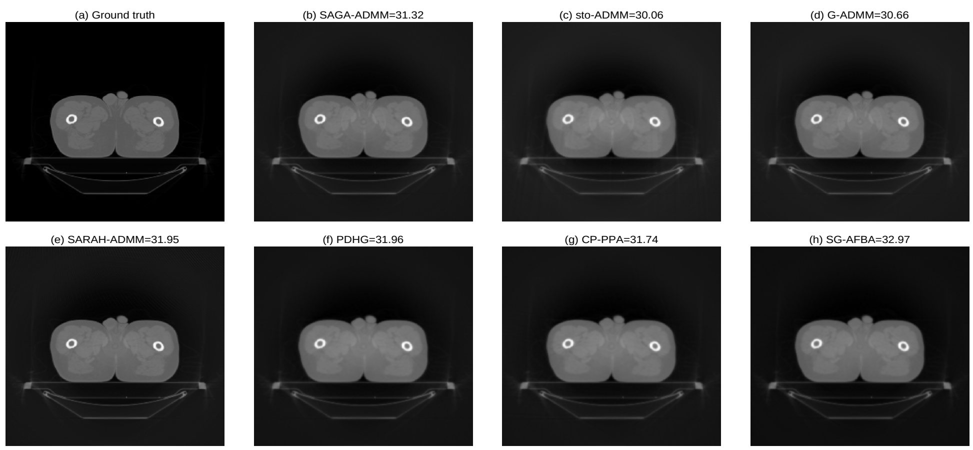

Figure 6.3: Final reconstruction images of different methods for the **7th** slice.

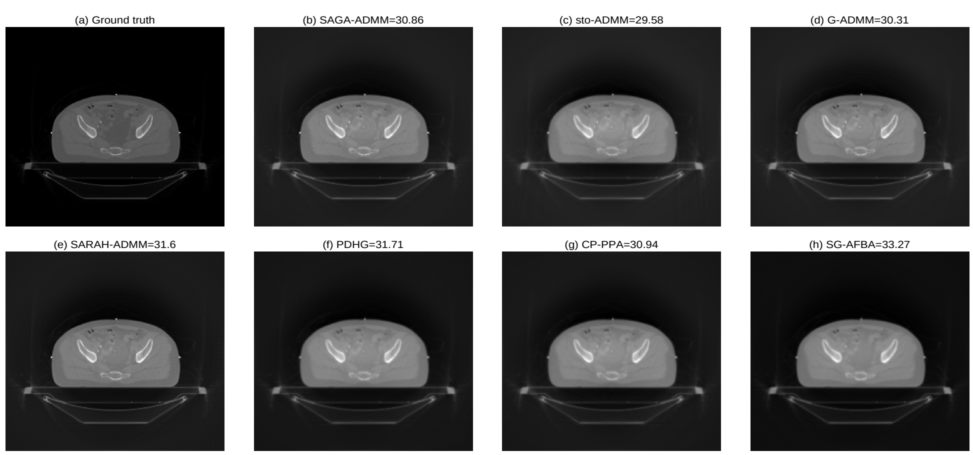

Figure 6.4: Final reconstruction images of different methods for the **58th** slice.

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