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# Supplementary Material for “Adaptive Negative Curvature Descent with Applications in Non-convex Optimization”

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## 1 Negative Curvature Search (NCS) for Two Cases

In this section, we introduce specific implementations of Negative Curvature Search (NCS) for two different settings, i.e. deterministic objective and stochastic objective.

**Deterministic Objective** In particular, we have the following lemma.

**Lemma 4.** *Suppose that the Lanczos method is applied to find the largest eigenvalue of  $L_1 I - \nabla^2 f(\mathbf{x})$  starting at a random vector uniformly distributed over the unit sphere. Then, for any  $\varepsilon > 0$  and  $\delta \in (0, 1)$ , there is a probability at least  $1 - \delta$  that the method outputs a unit vector  $\mathbf{v}$  such that  $\lambda_{\min}(\nabla^2 f(\mathbf{x})) \geq \mathbf{v}^\top \nabla^2 f(\mathbf{x}) \mathbf{v} - \varepsilon$  with at most  $\min\left(d, \frac{\log(d/\delta^2)\sqrt{L_1}}{2\sqrt{2\varepsilon}}\right)$  Hessian-vector products. Therefore  $T_n(f, \varepsilon, \delta, d) = \tilde{O}\left(\frac{d}{\sqrt{\varepsilon}}\right)$  provided that  $d$  is large enough, where  $\tilde{O}$  suppresses a logarithmic term in  $\delta, d, 1/\varepsilon$ .*

**Remark:** The above result follows previous convergence analysis of the Lanczos method [1]. Please refer to [2][Lemma 11] for a proof.

**Stochastic Objective** For a stochastic objective  $f(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbb{E}[f(\mathbf{x}; \xi)]$  depending a random variable  $\xi$ . We can apply Oja’s algorithm [3] that iteratively computes  $\mathbf{v}_\tau$  by

$$\mathbf{v}_\tau = \frac{(I + \eta \nabla^2 f(\mathbf{x}; \xi_\tau)) \mathbf{v}_{\tau-1}}{\|(I + \eta \nabla^2 f(\mathbf{x}; \xi_\tau)) \mathbf{v}_{\tau-1}\|} \quad (7)$$

where  $\eta$  is a proper step size. The following result provides a guarantee of (3) for an algorithm based on Oja’s algorithm.

**Lemma 5.** *Given  $\delta \in (0, 1)$ , there exists an algorithm that generates a solution satisfying (3) with  $T_n(\varepsilon, \delta, d) = O\left(\frac{d \log^2(d/\delta)}{\varepsilon^2}\right)$ . In addition, the algorithm can conclude either  $\lambda_{\min}(\nabla^2 f(\mathbf{x})) \geq -\varepsilon$  or find a unit vector  $\mathbf{v}$  such that  $\mathbf{v}^\top \nabla^2 f(\mathbf{x}) \mathbf{v} \leq -\varepsilon/2$ . It can be implemented by running  $\log(1/\delta)$ -copies Oja’s algorithm (7) with a total  $T = O\left(\frac{\log(d/\delta)^2}{\varepsilon^2}\right)$  iterations and  $\eta = \Theta(\sqrt{T})$ , and selecting one output from Oja’s algorithm based on a boosting technique using an independent  $T$  random  $\nabla^2 f(\mathbf{x}; \xi)$  Hessian matrices.*

**Remark:** The above result was established in [4]. Please also refer to its proof of Lemma 3.3 in [4] for the boosting technique.

If the objective has a finite-sum structure  $f(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{1}{m} \sum_{i=1}^m f_i(\mathbf{x})$ , there also exist some stochastic algorithms that could have lower complexity than the Lanczos method or the method based on the Oja’s algorithm.

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**Algorithm 7** AdaNCD<sup>online</sup>( $\mathbf{x}, \alpha, \delta, \mathbf{g}(\mathbf{x})$ ):

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- 1: Set  $\varepsilon = \max(\varepsilon_2, \|\mathbf{g}(\mathbf{x})\|^\alpha)/2$
  - 2: Apply NCS( $f, \mathbf{x}, \varepsilon, \delta$ ) to find a unit vector  $\mathbf{v}$  that satisfies Lemma 7
  - 3: **if**  $\mathbf{v}^\top \nabla^2 f(\mathbf{x})\mathbf{v} \leq -\varepsilon/2$  and  $\frac{\varepsilon^3}{24L_2^2} > \frac{\|\mathbf{g}(\mathbf{x})\|^2}{4L_1} - \frac{\varepsilon'^2}{L_1}$  **then**
  - 4:   Compute  $\mathbf{x}^+ = \mathbf{x} - \frac{\varepsilon}{2L_2}z\mathbf{v}$
  - 5: **else**
  - 6:   Compute  $\mathbf{x}^+ = \mathbf{x} - \frac{1}{L_1}\mathbf{g}(\mathbf{x})$
  - 7: **end if**
  - 8: **Return**  $\mathbf{x}^+, \mathbf{v}$
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**Lemma 6.** *There exists a randomized algorithm  $\mathcal{A}$  such that with probability at least  $1 - \delta$ ,  $\mathcal{A}$  produces a unit vector  $\mathbf{v}$  satisfying (3) with a time complexity of  $T_n(f, \varepsilon, \delta, d) = \tilde{O}(d(m + m^{3/4}\sqrt{1/\varepsilon}))$ .*

**Remark:** The randomized algorithms proposed in [5, 6] can serve this purpose.

*Proof.* We first introduce a proposition, which is the Theorem 2.5 in [7].

**Proposition 1.** *Let  $M \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times d}$  be a symmetric matrix with eigenvalues  $1 \geq \lambda_1 \dots \geq \lambda_d \geq 0$ . Then with probability at least  $1 - p$ , the Algorithm AppxPCA produces a unit vector  $\mathbf{v}$  such that  $\mathbf{v}^\top M\mathbf{v} \geq (1 - \delta_+)(1 - \varepsilon)\lambda_{\max}(M)$ . The total running time is  $\tilde{O}\left(T_h^1 \max\{m, \frac{m^{3/4}}{\sqrt{\varepsilon}}\} \log^2\left(\frac{1}{\varepsilon^2\delta_+}\right)\right)$ .*

Define  $M = I - \frac{H}{L_1}$ , then  $M$  satisfies the condition in the Proposition 1. Then we know that with probability at least  $1 - p$ , the Algorithm AppxPCA produces a vector  $\mathbf{v}$  satisfying

$$\mathbf{v}^\top \left( I - \frac{H}{L_1} \right) \mathbf{v} \geq (1 - \delta_+)(1 - \varepsilon) \left( 1 - \frac{\lambda_{\min}(H)}{L_1} \right),$$

which implies that

$$L_1 - \mathbf{v}^\top H\mathbf{v} \geq (1 - \delta_+ - \varepsilon + \delta_+\varepsilon)(L_1 - \lambda_{\min}(H)) \geq (1 - \delta_+ - \varepsilon)(L_1 - \lambda_{\min}(H)).$$

By simple algebra, we have

$$\lambda_{\min}(H) \geq \mathbf{v}^\top H\mathbf{v} - (\delta_+ + \varepsilon)(L_1 - \lambda_{\min}(H)) \geq \mathbf{v}^\top H\mathbf{v} - 2L_1(\delta_+ + \varepsilon).$$

By setting  $\varepsilon = \delta_+ = \frac{\varepsilon}{4L_1}$ , we can finish the proof.  $\square$

A standard NCD step is to update the solution by  $\mathbf{x}^+ = \mathbf{x} - \eta\mathbf{v}$  with  $\mathbf{v}$  being a negative curvature direction, where  $\eta$  is a proper step size (e.g., see [8]). Almost all previous algorithms using NCD ask for a unit vector  $\mathbf{v}$  to satisfy (3) with a noise level  $\varepsilon = \Theta(\varepsilon_2)$  whenever it is invoked.

## 2 Useful Lemmas for Adaptive Negative Curvature Step for Stochastic Objective

**Lemma 7.** *When  $\lambda_{\min}(\nabla^2 f(\mathbf{x})) \leq -\varepsilon$ , the Algorithm 7 provides a guarantee that*

$$f(\mathbf{x}) - \mathbb{E}[f(\mathbf{x}^+)] \geq \max \left\{ \frac{\varepsilon^3}{24L_2^2}, \frac{\|\mathbf{g}(\mathbf{x})\|^2}{4L_1} - \frac{\varepsilon'^2}{L_1} \right\}.$$

*Proof.* Since  $f(\mathbf{x})$  has a  $L_2$ -Lipschitz continuous Hessian, we have

$$|f(\mathbf{x}_1) - f(\mathbf{x}) + \eta\mathbf{v}^\top \nabla f(\mathbf{x}) - \frac{1}{2}\eta^2\mathbf{v}^\top \nabla^2 f(\mathbf{x})\mathbf{v}| \leq \frac{L_2}{6}\|\eta\mathbf{v}\|^3.$$

When  $\eta = \frac{\varepsilon}{2L_2}z$ , define  $\mathbf{x}_1 = \mathbf{x} - \eta\mathbf{v}$ , where  $\Pr(z = 1) = \Pr(z = -1) = \frac{1}{2}$ ,  $\mathbf{v}$  is a unit vector and  $\mathbf{v}^\top \nabla f(\mathbf{x})\mathbf{v} \leq -\frac{\varepsilon}{2}$ . Note that  $\mathbb{E}(\eta) = 0$  and  $\mathbb{E}(\eta^2) = \frac{\varepsilon^2}{4L_2^2}$ , then we have

$$f(\mathbf{x}) - \mathbb{E}(f(\mathbf{x}_1)) \geq \mathbb{E} \left( \eta\mathbf{v}^\top \nabla f(\mathbf{x}) - \frac{1}{2}\eta^2\mathbf{v}^\top \nabla^2 f(\mathbf{x})\mathbf{v} - \frac{L_2}{6}\|\eta\mathbf{v}\|^3 \right) \geq \frac{\varepsilon^2}{8L_2^2} \cdot \frac{\varepsilon}{2} - \frac{L_2}{6} \cdot \frac{\varepsilon^3}{8L_2^3} = \frac{\varepsilon^3}{24L_2^2}.$$

Define  $\mathbf{x}_2 = \mathbf{x} - \frac{1}{L_1} \mathbf{g}(\mathbf{x})$ , where  $\|\mathbf{g}(\mathbf{x}) - \nabla f(\mathbf{x})\| \leq \epsilon'$ , and then we have

$$\begin{aligned}
f(\mathbf{x}_2) - f(\mathbf{x}) &\leq (\mathbf{x}_2 - \mathbf{x})^\top \nabla f(\mathbf{x}) + \frac{L_1}{2} \|\mathbf{x}_2 - \mathbf{x}\|^2 \\
&= -\frac{1}{L_1} \mathbf{g}(\mathbf{x})^\top \nabla f(\mathbf{x}) + \frac{\|\mathbf{g}(\mathbf{x})\|^2}{2L_1} \\
&= -\frac{1}{L_1} \mathbf{g}(\mathbf{x})^\top \mathbf{g}(\mathbf{x}) + \frac{1}{L_1} \mathbf{g}(\mathbf{x})^\top (\mathbf{g}(\mathbf{x}) - \nabla f(\mathbf{x})) + \frac{\|\mathbf{g}(\mathbf{x})\|^2}{2L_1} \\
&\leq -\frac{1}{2L_1} \|\mathbf{g}(\mathbf{x})\|^2 + \frac{1}{4L_1} \|\mathbf{g}(\mathbf{x})\|^2 + \frac{1}{L_1} \|\mathbf{g}(\mathbf{x}) - \nabla f(\mathbf{x})\|^2 \\
&= -\frac{1}{4L_1} \|\mathbf{g}(\mathbf{x})\|^2 + \frac{\epsilon'^2}{L_1}.
\end{aligned}$$

Combining two cases ( $\mathbf{x}_1$  and  $\mathbf{x}_2$ , which correspond to line 4 and line 6 of Algorithm 2 respectively), here completes the proof.  $\square$

**Lemma 8.** For any  $\epsilon > 0, \delta' \in (0, 1), \mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^d$ , when elements of  $\mathcal{S}$  are uniformly selected from  $\{1, \dots, n\}$  with  $|\mathcal{S}| \geq \frac{16L_1^2}{\epsilon^2} \log(\frac{2d}{\delta'})$ , we have

$$\Pr(\|H_{\mathcal{S}}(\mathbf{x}) - \nabla^2 f(\mathbf{x})\|_2 \leq \epsilon) \geq 1 - \delta'.$$

The above lemma can be proved by using matrix concentration inequalities. Please see [9][Lemma 4] for a proof.

**Lemma 9.** Assume that  $\mathbb{E}[\exp(\|\nabla f(\mathbf{x}; \xi) - \nabla f(\mathbf{x})\|^2 / G^2)] \leq \exp(1)$  holds for any  $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^d$ . For any  $\epsilon > 0, \delta' \in (0, 1), \mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^d$ , when  $|\mathcal{S}_1| \geq \frac{4G^2(1+3\log(1/\delta'))}{\epsilon^2}$ , we have

$$\Pr(\|\mathbf{g}(\mathbf{x}) - \nabla f(\mathbf{x})\| \leq \epsilon) \geq 1 - \delta'.$$

where  $\mathcal{S}_1$  a set of random samples  $\xi$ , due to the exponential tail behavior of stochastic gradients.

**Remark:** Lemma 9 can be proved by using large deviation theorem of vector-valued martingales (e.g., see [10][Lemma 4]).

### 3 Proof of Lemma 1

The Proof of Lemma 1 can be derived by combining the result of Lemma 4, 5 and 6.

### 4 Proof of Lemma 2

*Proof.* Denote  $\eta = \frac{2|\mathbf{v}^\top \nabla^2 f(\mathbf{x}) \mathbf{v}|}{L_2} \text{sign}(\mathbf{v}^\top \nabla f(\mathbf{x}))$  with  $\|\mathbf{v}\| = 1$ . Let  $\mathbf{x}_1^+ = \mathbf{x} - \eta \mathbf{v}$  denote the updated solution if following  $\mathbf{v}$  and  $\mathbf{x}_2^+ = \mathbf{x} - \nabla f(\mathbf{x}) / L_1$  denote the updated solution if following  $\nabla f(\mathbf{x})$ . Since  $f(\mathbf{x})$  has a  $L_2$ -Lipschitz continuous Hessian, we have

$$|f(\mathbf{x}_1^+) - f(\mathbf{x}) + \eta \mathbf{v}^\top \nabla f(\mathbf{x}) - \frac{1}{2} \eta^2 \mathbf{v}^\top \nabla^2 f(\mathbf{x}) \mathbf{v}| \leq \frac{L_2}{6} \|\eta \mathbf{v}\|^3.$$

By noting that  $\eta \mathbf{v}^\top \nabla f(\mathbf{x}) \geq 0$  and when  $\mathbf{v}^\top \nabla^2 f(\mathbf{x}) \mathbf{v} \leq 0$ , we have

$$f(\mathbf{x}) - f(\mathbf{x}_1^+) \geq -\frac{1}{2} \eta^2 \mathbf{v}^\top \nabla^2 f(\mathbf{x}) \mathbf{v} - \frac{L_2}{6} \|\eta \mathbf{v}\|^3 = \frac{2(-\mathbf{v}^\top \nabla^2 f(\mathbf{x}) \mathbf{v})^3}{3L_2^2} \triangleq \Delta_1.$$

By the smoothness of  $f(\mathbf{x})$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned}
f(\mathbf{x}_2^+) &\leq f(\mathbf{x}) + \nabla f(\mathbf{x})^\top (\mathbf{x}_2^+ - \mathbf{x}) + \frac{L_1}{2} \|\mathbf{x}_2^+ - \mathbf{x}\|^2 \\
&= f(\mathbf{x}) - \frac{1}{L_1} \|\nabla f(\mathbf{x})\|_2^2 + \frac{L_1 \eta^2}{2} \|\nabla f(\mathbf{x})\|^2 \\
&\leq f(\mathbf{x}) - \frac{1}{2L_1} \|\nabla f(\mathbf{x})\|^2
\end{aligned}$$

As a result,  $f(\mathbf{x}) - f(\mathbf{x}_2^+) \geq \frac{\|\nabla f(\mathbf{x})\|^2}{2L_1} \triangleq \Delta_2$ .

According to the update rule in AdaNCD<sup>det</sup> (Algorithm 1), if  $\Delta_1 > \Delta_2$ , we have  $\mathbf{x}^+ = \mathbf{x}_1^+$  and  $f(\mathbf{x}) - f(\mathbf{x}^+) \geq \Delta_1 = \max(\Delta_1, \Delta_2)$ . If  $\Delta_2 \geq \Delta_1$ , then  $\mathbf{x}^+ = \mathbf{x}_2^+$  and  $f(\mathbf{x}) - f(\mathbf{x}^+) \geq \Delta_2 = \max(\Delta_1, \Delta_2)$ . In both cases, we have  $f(\mathbf{x}) - f(\mathbf{x}^+) \geq \max(\Delta_1, \Delta_2)$ .  $\square$

## 5 Proof of Lemma 3

*Proof.* Define  $\eta = \frac{2|\mathbf{v}^\top H_S(\mathbf{x})\mathbf{v}|}{L_2} z$ ,  $\mathbf{x}_1 = \mathbf{x} - \eta\mathbf{v}$ , where  $\Pr(z = 1) = \Pr(z = -1) = \frac{1}{2}$ ,  $\mathbf{v}$  is a unit vector and  $\mathbf{v}^\top H_S(\mathbf{x})\mathbf{v} \leq 0$ . Note that  $\mathbb{E}(\eta) = 0$  and  $\mathbb{E}(\eta^2) = \frac{4|\mathbf{v}^\top H_S(\mathbf{x})\mathbf{v}|^2}{L_2^2}$ , then by the  $L_2$ -Lipschitz continuous Hessian, we have

$$\begin{aligned} & f(\mathbf{x}) - \mathbb{E}(f(\mathbf{x}_1)) \\ & \geq \mathbb{E} \left( \eta \mathbf{v}^\top \nabla f(\mathbf{x}) - \frac{1}{2} \eta^2 \mathbf{v}^\top \nabla^2 f(\mathbf{x}) \mathbf{v} - \frac{L_2}{6} \|\eta \mathbf{v}\|^3 \right) \\ & = -\frac{2|\mathbf{v}^\top H_S(\mathbf{x})\mathbf{v}|^2}{L_2^2} (\mathbf{v}^\top (\nabla^2 f(\mathbf{x}) - H_S(\mathbf{x})) \mathbf{v}) - \frac{2|\mathbf{v}^\top H_S(\mathbf{x})\mathbf{v}|^2}{L_2^2} \mathbf{v}^\top H_S(\mathbf{x}) \mathbf{v} - \frac{L_2}{6} \cdot \frac{8|\mathbf{v}^\top H_S(\mathbf{x})\mathbf{v}|^3}{L_2^3} \\ & \geq \frac{2|\mathbf{v}^\top H_S(\mathbf{x})\mathbf{v}|^3}{3L_2^2} - \frac{\epsilon_2 |\mathbf{v}^\top H_S(\mathbf{x})\mathbf{v}|^2}{6L_2^2} \end{aligned}$$

where the last inequality holds because of the inequality (7).

Define  $\mathbf{x}_2 = \mathbf{x} - \frac{1}{L_1} \mathbf{g}(\mathbf{x})$ , where  $\|\mathbf{g}(\mathbf{x}) - \nabla f(\mathbf{x})\| \leq \epsilon'$ . By the same argument as in the proof of Lemma 6, we have

$$f(\mathbf{x}) - f(\mathbf{x}_2) \geq \frac{\|\mathbf{g}(\mathbf{x})\|^2}{4L_1} - \frac{\epsilon'^2}{L_1}.$$

Combining two cases ( $\mathbf{x}_1$  and  $\mathbf{x}_2$ , which correspond to line 3 and line 5 of Algorithm 3 respectively), we have

$$f(\mathbf{x}) - \mathbb{E}[f(\mathbf{x}^+)] \geq \max \left\{ \frac{-2(\mathbf{v}^\top H_S(\mathbf{x})\mathbf{v})^3}{3L_2^2} - \frac{\epsilon_2 |\mathbf{v}^\top H_S(\mathbf{x})\mathbf{v}|^2}{6L_2^2}, \frac{\|\mathbf{g}(\mathbf{x})\|^2}{4L_1} - \frac{\epsilon'^2}{L_1} \right\}$$

The result when  $\mathbf{v}^\top H_S(\mathbf{x})\mathbf{v} \leq -\epsilon_2/2$  directly follows from the above inequality.  $\square$

## 6 Proof of Theorem 1

*Proof.* Define  $\epsilon_2 = \epsilon_1^\alpha$ . Let  $j_*$  denote the  $j$  such that the algorithm terminates. Then for all  $j < j_*$ , we have  $\|\nabla f(\mathbf{x}_j)\| > \epsilon_1$ , or  $\mathbf{v}_j^\top \nabla^2 f(\mathbf{x}_j) \mathbf{v}_j \leq -\epsilon_2/2$ . According to Lemma 4, we have

$$f(\mathbf{x}_j) - f(\mathbf{x}_{j+1}) \geq \max \left( \frac{2|\mathbf{v}_j^\top \nabla^2 f(\mathbf{x}_j) \mathbf{v}_j|^3}{3L_2^2}, \frac{\|\nabla f(\mathbf{x}_j)\|^2}{2L_1} \right)$$

Let us consider three cases. Case 1:  $\|\nabla f(\mathbf{x}_j)\| > \epsilon_1$  and  $\mathbf{v}_j^\top \nabla^2 f(\mathbf{x}_j) \mathbf{v}_j \leq -\epsilon_2/2$ , then we have

$$\max \left( \frac{\epsilon_2^3}{12L_2^2}, \frac{\epsilon_1^2}{2L_1} \right) \leq f(\mathbf{x}_j) - f(\mathbf{x}_{j+1})$$

Case 2:  $\|\nabla f(\mathbf{x}_j)\| \leq \epsilon_1$  and  $\mathbf{v}_j^\top \nabla^2 f(\mathbf{x}_j) \mathbf{v}_j \leq -\epsilon_2/2$ , we have

$$\frac{\epsilon_2^3}{12L_2^2} \leq f(\mathbf{x}_j) - f(\mathbf{x}_{j+1})$$

Case 3:  $\|\nabla f(\mathbf{x}_j)\| > \epsilon_1$  and  $\mathbf{v}_j^\top \nabla^2 f(\mathbf{x}_j) \mathbf{v}_j > -\epsilon_2/2$ , we have

$$\frac{\epsilon_1^2}{2L_1} \leq f(\mathbf{x}_j) - f(\mathbf{x}_{j+1})$$

In any case, we have

$$\min\left(\frac{\epsilon_1^2}{2L_1}, \frac{\epsilon_2^3}{12L_2^2}\right) \leq f(\mathbf{x}_j) - f(\mathbf{x}_{j+1})$$

Then with at most  $j_* = 1 + \max\left(\frac{12L_2^2}{\epsilon_2^3}, \frac{2L_1}{\epsilon_1^2}\right) \Delta$ , the algorithm terminates. Note that  $\epsilon_2 = \epsilon_1^\alpha$ , we know that  $j_* = 1 + \max\left(\frac{12L_2^2}{\epsilon_1^{3\alpha}}, \frac{2L_1}{\epsilon_1^2}\right) \Delta$ .

Upon termination, we have with probability at least  $1 - j_*\delta'$ , i.e. with probability at least  $1 - \delta$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} \lambda_{\min}(\nabla^2 f(\mathbf{x}_{j_*})) &\geq -\epsilon_2/2 - \max(\epsilon_2, \|\nabla f(\mathbf{x}_{j_*})\|^\alpha)/2 \\ &= -\epsilon_1^\alpha/2 - \max(\epsilon_1^\alpha, \|\nabla f(\mathbf{x}_{j_*})\|^\alpha)/2. \end{aligned}$$

Since  $\|\nabla f(\mathbf{x}_{j_*})\| \leq \epsilon_1$ , we have

$$\max(\epsilon_1^\alpha, \|\nabla f(\mathbf{x}_{j_*})\|^\alpha) = \epsilon_1^\alpha,$$

and hence  $\lambda_{\min}(\nabla^2 f(\mathbf{x}_{j_*})) \geq -\epsilon_1^\alpha$ .

The running time spent on the  $j$ -th iteration follows from Lemma 1.  $\square$

## 7 Proof of Theorem 2

For the  $j$ -th AdaNCD<sup>mb</sup> step, define the event  $\mathcal{A} = \{\|H(\mathbf{x}_j) - \nabla^2 f(\mathbf{x}_j)\|_2 \leq \epsilon_2/6\} \cap \{\|\mathbf{g}(\mathbf{x}_j) - \nabla f(\mathbf{x}_j)\| \leq \epsilon_1/2\sqrt{2}\}$  and let  $\Pr(\mathcal{A}) = 1 - \delta'$ . Since the Algorithm S-AdaNCG calls AdaNCD<sup>mb</sup> as a subroutine, then by Lemma 8, when  $\mathbf{v}_j^\top H_{S_2}(\mathbf{x}_j) \mathbf{v}_j \leq -\epsilon_2/2$  with probability at least  $1 - \delta'$ ,

$$f(\mathbf{x}_j) - \mathbb{E}[f(\mathbf{x}_{j+1})] \geq \max\left(\frac{1}{4L_1} \|\mathbf{g}(\mathbf{x}_j)\|^2 - \frac{\epsilon_1^2}{8L_1}, \frac{-2(\mathbf{v}^\top H_S(\mathbf{x}) \mathbf{v})^3}{3L_2^2} - \frac{\epsilon_2 |\mathbf{v}^\top H_S(\mathbf{x}) \mathbf{v}|^2}{6L_2^2}\right).$$

If  $\mathbf{v}_j^\top H_{S_2}(\mathbf{x}_j) \mathbf{v}_j \leq -\epsilon_2/2$ , we have

$$f(\mathbf{x}_j) - \mathbb{E}[f(\mathbf{x}_{j+1})] \geq \frac{|\mathbf{v}_j^\top H_S(\mathbf{x}_j) \mathbf{v}_j|^2 (-4\mathbf{v}_j^\top H_S(\mathbf{x}_j) \mathbf{v}_j - \epsilon_2)}{6L_2^2} \geq \frac{|\mathbf{v}_j^\top H_S(\mathbf{x}_j) \mathbf{v}_j|^2 \epsilon_2}{6L_2^2} \geq \frac{\epsilon_2^3}{24L_2^2}$$

If  $\|\mathbf{g}(\mathbf{x}_j)\| > \epsilon_1$ , we have

$$f(\mathbf{x}_j) - \mathbb{E}[f(\mathbf{x}_{j+1})] \geq \frac{\epsilon_1^2}{8L_1}$$

Following the boosting argument in [11][Theorem 14], with high probability  $1 - \zeta$  the algorithm terminates after  $O(\log(1/\zeta) \max(1/\epsilon_1^2, 1/\epsilon_2^3))$  steps with high probability. Upon termination at iteration  $j_*$  we have  $\mathbf{v}_{j_*}^\top H(\mathbf{x}_{j_*}) \mathbf{v}_{j_*} \geq -\epsilon_2/2$  and  $\|\mathbf{g}(\mathbf{x}_{j_*})\| \leq \epsilon_1$ . Next, we show that upon termination, we achieve an  $(2\epsilon_1, 2\epsilon_2)$ -second order stationary point with high probability. In particular, with probability  $1 - \delta'$  we have

$$\|\nabla f(\mathbf{x}_{j_*})\| \leq \|\nabla f(\mathbf{x}_{j_*}) - \mathbf{g}(\mathbf{x}_{j_*})\| + \|\mathbf{g}(\mathbf{x}_{j_*})\| \leq \epsilon_1/2\sqrt{2} + \epsilon_1 \leq 2\epsilon_1.$$

and with probability  $1 - \delta'$

$$\lambda_{\min}(H(\mathbf{x}_{j_*})) \geq \mathbf{v}_{j_*}^\top H(\mathbf{x}_{j_*}) \mathbf{v}_{j_*} - \max(\epsilon_2, \|\mathbf{g}(\mathbf{x}_{j_*})\|^\alpha)/2 \geq -\epsilon_2$$

In addition, with probability  $1 - \delta'$ , we have

$$\lambda_{\min}(\nabla^2 f(\mathbf{x}_{j_*})) \geq \lambda_{\min}(H(\mathbf{x}_{j_*})) - \epsilon_2/12 \geq -2\epsilon_2$$

As a result, by using union bound, we have with probability  $1 - 3j_*\delta' = 1 - 3\delta$ , we have

$$\|\nabla f(\mathbf{x}_{j_*})\| \leq 2\epsilon_1, \quad \lambda_{\min}(\nabla^2 f(\mathbf{x}_{j_*})) \geq -2\epsilon_2$$

## 8 Proof of Theorem 3

Before diving into the proofs, we first present the procedure Almost-Convex-AGD (Algorithm 8) and introduce some propositions which are useful for our further analysis.

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**Algorithm 8** Almost-Cvx-AGD( $f, \mathbf{z}_1, \epsilon, \gamma, L_1$ )

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1: for  $j = 1, 2, \dots$  do
2:   if  $\|\nabla f(\mathbf{z}_j)\| \leq \epsilon$  then
3:     Return  $\mathbf{z}_j$ 
4:   end if
5:   Define  $g_j(\mathbf{z}) = f(\mathbf{z}) + \gamma\|\mathbf{z} - \mathbf{z}_j\|^2$ 
6:   set  $\epsilon' = \epsilon\sqrt{\gamma/50(L_1 + 2\gamma)}$ 
7:    $\mathbf{z}_{j+1} = \text{AGD}(g_j, \mathbf{z}_j, \epsilon', L_1, \gamma)$ 
8: end for

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**Algorithm 9** AGD( $f, \mathbf{y}_1, \epsilon, L_1, \sigma_1$ )

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1: Set  $\kappa = L_1/\sigma_1, \mathbf{z}_1 = \mathbf{y}_1$ 
2: for  $j = 1, 2, \dots$  do
3:   if  $\|\nabla f(\mathbf{y}_j)\| \leq \epsilon$  then
4:     Return  $\mathbf{y}_j$ 
5:   end if
6:    $\mathbf{y}_{j+1} = \mathbf{z}_j - \frac{1}{L_1}\nabla f(\mathbf{z}_j)$ 
7:    $\mathbf{z}_{j+1} = (1 + \frac{\sqrt{\kappa}-1}{\sqrt{\kappa+1}})\mathbf{y}_{j+1} - \frac{\sqrt{\kappa}-1}{\sqrt{\kappa+1}}\mathbf{y}_j$ 
8: end for

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**Proposition 2** (Lemma 3.1 of [8]). *Let  $f : \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be  $\gamma$ -almost convex and  $L_1$ -smooth, where  $0 < \gamma \leq L_1$ . Then Almost-Convex-AGD( $f, \mathbf{z}_1, \epsilon, \gamma, L_1$ ) returns a vector  $\mathbf{z}$  such that  $\|\nabla f(\mathbf{z})\| \leq \epsilon$  and*

$$f(\mathbf{z}_1) - f(\mathbf{z}) \geq \min \left\{ \gamma\|\mathbf{z} - \mathbf{z}_1\|^2, \frac{\epsilon}{\sqrt{10}\|\mathbf{z} - \mathbf{z}_1\|} \right\} \quad (8)$$

in time

$$O \left( T_g \left( \sqrt{\frac{L_1}{\gamma}} + \frac{\sqrt{\gamma L_1}}{\epsilon^2} (f(\mathbf{z}_1) - f(\mathbf{z})) \right) \log \left( 2 + \frac{L_1^3 \Delta}{\gamma^2 \epsilon^2} \right) \right) \quad (9)$$

**Proposition 3** (Lemma 4.1 of [8]). *Let  $f$  be  $L_1$ -smooth and have  $L_2$ -Lipschitz continuous Hessian. Let  $\mathbf{x}_0 \in \mathbb{R}^d$  be such that  $\nabla^2 f(\mathbf{x}_0) \succeq -\alpha I$  for some  $\alpha \geq 0$ , then  $f(\mathbf{x}) + L_1 \left[ \|\mathbf{x}\| - \frac{\alpha}{L_2} \right]_+$  is  $3\alpha$ -almost convex and  $5L_1$ -smooth.*

The next result is a corollary of Theorem 1, showing that by running  $\widehat{\mathbf{x}}_k = \text{AdaNCG}(\mathbf{x}_k, \epsilon_2^{3/2}, \epsilon_2, \delta')$  we obtain a solution  $\widehat{\mathbf{x}}_k$  around which  $f(\mathbf{x})$  is locally almost convex, i.e.,  $\nabla^2 f(\widehat{\mathbf{x}}_k) \succeq -\epsilon_2 I$ .

**Corollary 1.** *The sub-routine  $\widehat{\mathbf{x}}_k = \text{AdaNCG}(\mathbf{x}_k, \epsilon_2^{3/2}, \epsilon_2, \delta')$  guarantees that*

$$\lambda_{\min}(\nabla^2 f(\widehat{\mathbf{x}}_k)) \geq -\epsilon_2$$

with at most  $j_k$  iterations within AdaNCG, where

$$j_k \leq 1 + \frac{\max(12L_2^2, 2L_1)}{\epsilon_2^3} (f(\mathbf{x}_k) - f(\widehat{\mathbf{x}}_k)) \leq 1 + \frac{\max(12L_2^2, 2L_1)}{\epsilon_2^3} \Delta, \quad (10)$$

Furthermore, each iteration  $j$  within AdaNCG requires time at most

$$O \left( T_h \frac{\sqrt{L_1}}{\max(\epsilon_2, \|\nabla f(\mathbf{x}_j)\|)^{1/2}} \log \left( \frac{d}{\delta'} \right) \right)$$

*Proof of Theorem 3.* We try to bound the number of iterations in the Algorithm AdaNCG<sup>+</sup>, which is actually the upper bound of the number of calls of both AdaNCG and Almost-Convex-AGD.

Define  $\rho_\alpha(\mathbf{x}) := L_1 \left[ \|\mathbf{x}\| - \frac{\alpha}{L_2} \right]_+$ . At iteration  $k$  when  $\|\nabla f(\widehat{\mathbf{x}}_k)\| \leq \epsilon_1$  is not met, which means  $\|\nabla f(\widehat{\mathbf{x}}_k)\| > \epsilon_1$ , we have

$$\epsilon_1 < \|\nabla f(\widehat{\mathbf{x}}_k)\| \leq [\|\nabla f_{k-1}(\widehat{\mathbf{x}}_k)\| + \|\nabla \rho_{\epsilon_2}(\widehat{\mathbf{x}}_k - \widehat{\mathbf{x}}_{k-1})\|] \leq \frac{\epsilon_1}{2} + 2L_1 \left[ \|\widehat{\mathbf{x}}_k - \widehat{\mathbf{x}}_{k-1}\| - \frac{\epsilon_2}{L_2} \right]_+,$$

where the second inequality holds due to the triangle inequality, and the third inequality holds because of the guarantee provided by Almost-Convex-AGD at the previous stage. Therefore, we have

$$\frac{\epsilon_1}{4L_1} \leq \left[ \|\widehat{\mathbf{x}}_k - \widehat{\mathbf{x}}_{k-1}\| - \frac{\epsilon_2}{L_2} \right]_+ = \|\widehat{\mathbf{x}}_k - \widehat{\mathbf{x}}_{k-1}\| - \frac{\epsilon_2}{L_2} \quad (11)$$

According to the inequality (11), we know that at iteration  $1 < k \leq K$ , exactly one of the following three cases is true:

- (I)  $\|\nabla f(\widehat{\mathbf{x}}_k)\| \leq \epsilon_1$  and the Algorithm AdaNCG<sup>+</sup> terminates
- (II)  $\|\nabla f(\widehat{\mathbf{x}}_k)\| > \epsilon_1$  (which implies that  $\|\widehat{\mathbf{x}}_k - \widehat{\mathbf{x}}_{k-1}\| \geq \frac{\epsilon_2}{L_2}$  according to (11)), and  $\widehat{\mathbf{x}}_k \neq \mathbf{x}_k$
- (III)  $\|\nabla f(\widehat{\mathbf{x}}_k)\| > \epsilon_1$  and  $\widehat{\mathbf{x}}_k = \mathbf{x}_k$

If (II) holds, note that the subroutine AdaNCG needs at least 2 iterations, so according to Theorem 1, we have

$$\max\left(\frac{12L_2^2}{\epsilon_2^3}, \frac{2L_1}{\epsilon_2^3}\right) (f(\mathbf{x}_k) - f(\widehat{\mathbf{x}}_k)) \geq 1.$$

Combining it with the progressive bound (8) in Proposition 2, we have

$$f(\widehat{\mathbf{x}}_{k-1}) - f(\widehat{\mathbf{x}}_k) \geq f(\mathbf{x}_k) - f(\widehat{\mathbf{x}}_k) \geq \min\left(\frac{\epsilon_2^3}{12L_2^2}, \frac{\epsilon_2^3}{2L_1}\right).$$

If (III) holds, then by Proposition 3 and the second-order guarantee provided by Theorem 1, we can know that, with probability at least  $1 - \delta'$ ,  $f_k$  is  $3\epsilon_2$ -almost convex and  $5L_1$ -smooth. Then applying Proposition 2 suffices to show that

$$f(\widehat{\mathbf{x}}_{k-1}) - f(\widehat{\mathbf{x}}_k) \geq \min\left\{3\epsilon_2 \|\widehat{\mathbf{x}}_{k-1} - \mathbf{x}_k\|^2, \frac{\epsilon_1}{2\sqrt{10}} \|\widehat{\mathbf{x}}_{k-1} - \mathbf{x}_k\|\right\} \geq \min\left\{\frac{3\epsilon_2^3}{L_2^2}, \frac{\epsilon_1\epsilon_2}{2\sqrt{10}L_2}\right\}.$$

Combing two cases (II) and (III) together, we get the conclusion that whether in case (II) or case (III), with probability at least  $1 - \delta'$ ,

$$f(\widehat{\mathbf{x}}_{k-1}) - f(\widehat{\mathbf{x}}_k) \geq \min\left(\frac{\epsilon_2^3}{12L_2^2}, \frac{\epsilon_2^3}{2L_1}, \frac{\epsilon_1\epsilon_2}{2\sqrt{10}L_2}\right).$$

In order to get a contradiction that after  $K$  iterations the algorithm has not terminated yet, and by the definition of  $\delta'$  and union bound, it follows that, with probability at least  $1 - \delta$ ,

$$\Delta \geq f(\widehat{\mathbf{x}}_1) - f(\widehat{\mathbf{x}}_K) = \sum_{k=1}^{K-1} (f(\widehat{\mathbf{x}}_k) - f(\widehat{\mathbf{x}}_{k+1})) \geq (K-1) \min\left(\frac{\epsilon_2^3}{12L_2^2}, \frac{\epsilon_2^3}{2L_1}, \frac{\epsilon_1\epsilon_2}{2\sqrt{10}L_2}\right).$$

Plugging in  $K = \lceil 1 + \Delta \left( \frac{\max(12L_2^2, 2L_1)}{\epsilon_2^3} + \frac{2\sqrt{10}L_2}{\epsilon_1\epsilon_2} \right) \rceil$  suffices to get a contradiction. Therefore the algorithm terminates after at most  $K$  outer iterations.

Denote  $T_g$  and  $T_h$  by the time for gradient evaluation and Hessian-vector product evaluation. Define  $\tau = 1 + 1/\epsilon + 1/\delta + d + L_1 + L_2 + \Delta$ . We try to bound the number of AdaNCD<sup>det</sup> steps. Denote  $j_k$  by the total number of times the Algorithm AdaNCG is executed during the

iteration  $k$  of the method AdaNCG<sup>+</sup>, and define  $k^*$  as the total number of outer iterations of the Algorithm AdaNCG<sup>+</sup>. By telescoping bound (10) and the progressive bound (8) of Proposition 2 in Almost-Convex-AGD, which guarantees the Almost-Convex-AGD decreases the function values, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{k=1}^{k^*} (j_k - 1) &\leq \sum_{k=1}^{k^*} \max\left(\frac{12L_2^2}{\epsilon_2^3}, \frac{2L_1}{\epsilon_2^3}\right) (f(\mathbf{x}_k) - f(\widehat{\mathbf{x}}_k)) \\ &\leq \sum_{k=1}^{k^*} \max\left(\frac{12L_2^2}{\epsilon_2^3}, \frac{2L_1}{\epsilon_2^3}\right) (f(\widehat{\mathbf{x}}_{k-1}) - f(\widehat{\mathbf{x}}_k)) \\ &\leq \max\left(\frac{12L_2^2}{\epsilon_2^3}, \frac{2L_1}{\epsilon_2^3}\right) \Delta. \end{aligned}$$

According to the previous result, with probability at least  $1 - \delta$ , we can have an upper bound of  $k^*$ , which is

$$k^* \leq 2 + \Delta \left( \frac{12L_2^2}{\epsilon_2^3} + \frac{2L_1}{\epsilon_2^3} + \frac{2\sqrt{10}L_2}{\epsilon_1\epsilon_2} \right). \quad (12)$$

Hence, we have with probability at least  $1 - \delta$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{k=1}^{k^*} j_k &= k^* + \sum_{k=1}^{k^*} (j_k - 1) \\ &\leq 2 + \Delta \left( \frac{24L_2^2}{\epsilon_2^3} + \frac{4L_1}{\epsilon_2^3} + \frac{2\sqrt{10}L_2}{\epsilon_1\epsilon_2} \right). \end{aligned} \quad (13)$$

According to Corollary 1, we have the cost of each iteration  $t$  within AdaNCG is

$$O\left(T_h \frac{\sqrt{L_1}}{\max(\epsilon_2, \|\nabla f(\mathbf{x}_t)\|)^{1/2}} \log\left(\frac{d}{\delta'}\right)\right).$$

Note that the failure probability satisfies

$$\frac{1}{\delta'} \leq \frac{2 + \Delta \left( \frac{12L_2^2}{\epsilon_2^3} + \frac{2L_1}{\epsilon_2^3} + \frac{2\sqrt{10}L_2}{\epsilon_1\epsilon_2} \right)}{\delta},$$

so  $\log \frac{d}{\delta'} = O(\log \tau)$ . Then we employ (13) to bound the worst-case total costs of AdaNCG, which is

$$O\left(T_h \frac{\sqrt{L_1}}{\sqrt{\epsilon_2}} \left[ 2 + \Delta \left( \frac{24L_2^2}{\epsilon_2^3} + \frac{4L_1}{\epsilon_2^3} + \frac{2\sqrt{10}L_2}{\epsilon_1\epsilon_2} \right) \right] \log \tau\right) \quad (14)$$

Now we analyze the total cost of calling Almost-Convex-AGD. Employing the bound (9) in Proposition 9, the cost of calling Almost-Convex-AGD in iteration  $k$  with almost convexity parameter  $3\epsilon_2$  is bounded by

$$O\left(T_g \left( \sqrt{\frac{L_1}{3\epsilon_2}} + \frac{4\sqrt{3\epsilon_2}L_1}{\epsilon_1^2} [f_k(\mathbf{x}_k) - f_k(\mathbf{x}_{k+1})] \right) \log \tau\right).$$

Note that  $f_k(\mathbf{x}_k) - f_k(\mathbf{x}_{k+1}) \leq f(\mathbf{x}_k) - f(\mathbf{x}_{k+1})$ , so we have

$$\sum_{k=1}^{k^*} [f_k(\mathbf{x}_k) - f_k(\mathbf{x}_{k+1})] \leq \sum_{k=1}^{k^*} [f(\mathbf{x}_k) - f(\mathbf{x}_{k+1})] \leq \Delta.$$

According to (12), we can get that the total time complexity of Almost-Convex-AGD is

$$O(T_g (\xi_1 + \xi_2) \log \tau), \quad (15)$$

where  $\xi_1 = \sqrt{\frac{L_1}{3\epsilon_2}} \left( 2 + \Delta \left( \frac{24L_2^2}{\epsilon_2^3} + \frac{4L_1}{\epsilon_2^3} + \frac{2\sqrt{10}L_2}{\epsilon_1\epsilon_2} \right) \right)$ ,  $\xi_2 = \frac{4\sqrt{3\epsilon_2}L_1}{\epsilon_1^2} \Delta$ . According to (14) and (15), and note that  $T_g = T_h = O(d)$ , we get that the worst case complexity bound is

$$\tilde{O}\left(\left(\frac{1}{\epsilon_1\epsilon_2^{3/2}} + \frac{1}{\epsilon_2^{7/2}}\right) T_h + \frac{\epsilon_2^{1/2}}{\epsilon_1} T_g\right),$$

where  $\tilde{O}(\cdot)$  hides a  $\log \tau$  factor. Since  $T_g = T_h = O(d)$ , the proof is complete.  $\square$



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**Algorithm 10** SCSG-Epoch:  $(\mathbf{x}, \mathcal{S}, b)$ 

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- 1: **Input:**  $\mathbf{x}, \epsilon, m_1, b$
  - 2: Set  $\eta = c'(m_1/b)^{-2/3}$  with  $c' \leq 1/6$
  - 3: Compute  $\nabla F_{\mathcal{S}}(\mathbf{x}_{j-1})$
  - 4: Let  $\mathbf{x}_0 = \mathbf{x}$  and generate  $N \sim \text{Geom}(m_1/(m_1 + b))$
  - 5: **for**  $k = 1, 2, \dots, N$  **do**
  - 6:   Sample samples  $\mathcal{S}_k$  of size  $b$
  - 7:   Compute  $\mathbf{v}_k = \nabla f_{\mathcal{S}_k}(\mathbf{x}_{k-1}) - \nabla f_{\mathcal{S}_k}(\mathbf{x}_0) + \nabla f_{\mathcal{S}}(\mathbf{x}_0)$
  - 8:    $\mathbf{x}_k = \mathbf{x}_{k-1} - \eta \mathbf{v}_k$
  - 9: **end for**
  - 10: **Return**  $\mathbf{x}_N$
- 

## 9 Proof of Theorem 4

The proof of this Theorem follows that of Theorem 3 in [12]. Similarly, we prove the following two lemmas.

**Lemma 10.** *Suppose  $|\mathcal{S}| \geq O(1/\epsilon^2)$  and  $|\mathcal{S}_2| \geq \tilde{O}(1/\gamma^2)$ . For any point  $\mathbf{y}_j$  with  $\|\nabla f(\mathbf{y}_j)\| \geq \epsilon$ , then we can have*

$$\mathbb{E}[f(\mathbf{x}_{j+1}) - f(\mathbf{x}_j)] \leq -\Omega(\epsilon^{4/3}).$$

*Proof.* Due to the update in AdaNCD<sup>mb</sup>, it is clear that  $\mathbb{E}[f(\mathbf{x}_{j+1}) - f(\mathbf{y}_j)] \leq 0$ . Following the analysis of Lemma 7 in [12], we have  $\mathbb{E}[f(\mathbf{y}_j) - f(\mathbf{x}_j)] \leq -\Omega(\epsilon^{4/3})$ .  $\square$

**Lemma 11.** *Suppose  $|\mathcal{S}| \geq O\left(\frac{1}{\epsilon_2^{3/2} b^{1/2}}\right)$ ,  $|\mathcal{S}_2| \geq \tilde{O}(1/\epsilon_2^2)$ . For any point  $\mathbf{y}_j$  with  $\|\nabla f(\mathbf{y}_j)\| \leq \epsilon$  and  $\mathbf{v}_j^\top H_{\mathcal{S}_2}(\mathbf{y}_j) \mathbf{v}_j \leq -\epsilon_2/2$ , we can have*

$$\mathbb{E}[f(\mathbf{x}_{j+1}) - f(\mathbf{x}_j)] \leq -\tilde{\Omega}(\epsilon_2^3).$$

*Proof.* In this case, by Lemma 8 we have

$$\mathbb{E}[f(\mathbf{x}_{j+1}) - f(\mathbf{y}_j)] \leq -\frac{\epsilon_2^3}{24L_2^2}$$

For SCSG-Epoch [13], we have

$$0 \leq \mathbb{E}[\|\nabla f(\mathbf{y}_j)\|^2] \leq \frac{5L_1 b^{1/3}}{c' m_1^{1/3}} \mathbb{E}[f(\mathbf{x}_j) - F(\mathbf{y}_j)] + \frac{6G^2}{m_1}.$$

Hence,

$$\mathbb{E}[f(\mathbf{y}_j) - f(\mathbf{x}_j)] \leq \frac{6c'G}{5L_1 m_1^{2/3} b^{1/3}}$$

Thus,

$$\mathbb{E}[f(\mathbf{x}_{j+1}) - f(\mathbf{x}_j)] \leq -\frac{c^3 \epsilon_2^3}{12L_2^2} + \frac{6c'G}{5L_1 m_1^{2/3} b^{1/3}}$$

By setting  $m_1 \geq (144GL_2^2 c' / (5c^3 L_1 b^{1/3} \epsilon_2^3))^{3/2}$ , we have

$$\mathbb{E}[f(\mathbf{x}_{j+1}) - f(\mathbf{x}_j)] \leq -\frac{c^3 \epsilon_2^3}{24L_2^2} = -\tilde{\Omega}(\epsilon_2^3)$$

$\square$

Combining Lemma 10 and Lemma 11 and following the analysis of Theorem 14 in [11], within  $\tilde{O}\left(\max\left(\frac{b^{1/3}}{\epsilon^{3/4}}, \frac{1}{\epsilon_2^3}\right)\right)$  outer iterations, there exists at least one  $\mathbf{y}_j$  such that  $\mathbf{v}_j^\top H_{\mathcal{S}_2}(\mathbf{y}_j) \mathbf{v}_j \geq -\epsilon_2/2$  and  $\|\nabla f(\mathbf{y}_j)\| \leq \epsilon_1$  with high probability. As a result, at such a  $\mathbf{y}_j$  AdaNCD-SCSG terminates with a high probability as long as  $|\mathcal{S}| \geq \tilde{O}(1/\epsilon^2)$  for the stopping criterion to pass. Similar to the proof of Theorem 2, upon termination, we have  $\|\nabla f(\mathbf{y}_j)\| \leq 2\epsilon_1$  and  $\lambda_{\min}(\nabla^2 f(\mathbf{y}_j)) \geq -2\epsilon_2$ , which completes the proof.

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