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1 Description Of A Task

Let's consider a following task:

$$\min_{(x,y)} \left\{ f(x,y) | (x,y) \in Q \right\},$$

where f is a convex function, Q - is a square on the plane.

Let's consider a following method. One solves task of minimization for a function $g(x) = f\left(x, y_0 = \frac{a}{2}\right)$ on a segment $[0, a]$ with an accuracy δ on function. After that one calculates a sub-gradient in a received point and chooses the rectangle which the sub-gradient "does not look" in. Similar actions are repeated for a vertical segment. As a result we have the square decreased twice. Let's find a possible value of error δ_0 for task on segment and a sufficient iteration's number N to solve the initial task with accuracy ϵ on function.

Let's describe an algorithm formally. See pseudo-code 1.

Algorithm 1 Algorithm of the method

function METHOD(convex function f, square $Q = [a, b] \times [c, d]$)
    $x_0 := solve(g = f(\cdot, \frac{c+d}{2}), [a, b], \delta)$
    $g = subgradient(f, (x_0, \frac{c+d}{2}))$
    if g[1] $>$ 0 **then**
        $Q := [a, b] \times [c, \frac{c+d}{2}]$
    else
        $Q := [a, b] \times [\frac{c+d}{2}, d]$
    end if
    $y_0 := solve(g = f(\frac{a+b}{2}, \cdot), [c, d], \delta)$
    $g := subgradient(f, (\frac{a+b}{2}), y_0)$
    if g[0] $>$ 0 **then**
        $Q := [a, \frac{a+b}{2}] \times [c, d]$
    else
        $Q := [\frac{a+b}{2}, b] \times [c, d]$
    end if
    if StopRec() $==$ False **then**
        Method(f, Q)
    end ifreturn $(\frac{a+b}{2}, \frac{c+d}{2})$
end function

2 Algorithm correctness

Let's $\mathbf{x}_0$ is solution of the task on segment, Q_1 is choosed rectangle, Q_2 is not choosed rectangle.

2.1 Zero Error

Lemma 1. *If the optimization task on segment is solved with zero error and the f is convex and differentiable at a point-solution, rectangle with solution of initial task was choosed correct.*

Proof. From sub-gradient definition, $\mathbf{x}^* \in \{x | (\mathbf{g}(\mathbf{x}_0), \mathbf{x}_0 - \mathbf{x}^*) \geq 0)\}$. Lemma's statement follows from it and a fact that the first (or the second for vertical segment) gradient's component in point $\mathbf{x}_0$ is zero. □

2.2 Nonzero Error

Theorem 2.1. *Let's the f has continuous derivative on the square. Then there is a neighbourhood of a solution of optimization task on segment such as a choice of rectangle will not change if one use any point from the neighbourhood.*

Proof. Let's consider a case when we work with horizontal segment. Case with vertical segment is considered analogously. Then we are interesting in $f'_y(x_0, y_0)$. If $\mathbf{x}_0$ is not solution of initial task, then $f'_y(x_0, y_0) \neq 0$.

From a continuity of the derivative:

$$\lim_{\delta \to 0} f'_y(x_0 + \delta, y_0) = f'_y(x_0, y_0)$$

Therefore,

$$\exists \delta_0 : \forall \mathbf{x}_\delta \in B_{\delta_0}(x_0) \times y_0 \Rightarrow \operatorname{sign}(f'_y(\mathbf{x}_\delta)) = \operatorname{sign}(f'_y(\mathbf{x}_0))$$

From it and lemma 1 theorem's statement follows.

□

2.3 Undifferentiable convex function

The method does not work for all convex functions even for zero error on segment. Let's consider following example.

Example 1.

$$f(x,y) = \max\{x-2y, y-2x\}, Q = [-1,1]^2 \tag{1}$$

Function f is convex as maximum of affine functions on x and y. A solution of task on horizontal segment $[-1,1]\times\{0\}$ is point $(0,0)$. Its subdifferential is

$$\partial f(0,0) = \mathrm{conv}\left\{(1,-2)^\top, (-2,1)^\top\right\}.$$

So if one takes a subgradient $(-2,1)^\top$ then a bottom rectangle will be choosed. But optimal value is point $(1,1)$ and there is not it in choosed rectangle. Therefore, this method cannot give a solution of initial task with error less than $\frac{1}{2}$.

3 Error's Value

From derivative continuously we have following obvious result:

Lemma 2. *If f has continuous derivative. If $|f'_y(x,y_0)| > 0$ for all x on horizontal segment, then gradient has same direction on parallel to the segment axis in all points of segment. If $|f'_y(x_0,y)| > 0$ for all y on vertical segment, then gradient has same direction in all points of segment.*

Example 2. All functions f of the following type meet conditions of written above lemma:

$$f(x,y) = \psi(x) + \phi(y),$$

where ψ, ϕ are convex and differentiable functions.

Example 3. Let's illustrate that we can take any point from segment. Let's consider following task:

$$\min\left\{(x-y)^2 + x^2 \middle| Q = [0,1]^2\right\}$$

On segment $[0,1]\times\left\{\frac{1}{2}\right\}$ this task has solution $f^* = f\left(\frac{1}{4},\frac{1}{2}\right) = \frac{1}{8}$. Derivative on y at this point is $f'_y\left(\frac{1}{4},\frac{1}{2}\right) = \frac{1}{2}$ but at the point $\left(1,\frac{1}{2}\right)$ is equal to -1. We can see that in this case rectangle will selected non-correctly.

Let's find possible value of error's value δ_0. Rectangles are defined correctly for a horizontal optimization task, if:

$$\forall \delta : |\delta| < \delta_0 \Rightarrow f'_y(\mathbf{x}_0) f'_y(x_0 + \delta, y_0) > 0 \tag{2}$$

Analogically, for a vertical segment:

$$\forall \delta : |\delta| < \delta_0 \Rightarrow f'_x(\mathbf{x}_0) f'_x(x_0, y_0 + \delta) > 0 \tag{3}$$

Theorem 3.1. *Let's function f is convex and differentiable and current rectangle is $[a, b] \times [c, d]$.*

For horizontal segment: *There is f''_{xy} on the segment. Rectangle is defined in point $(x_0 + \delta, y_0)$ correctly if one meet following condition:*

$$\delta_0 < \frac{|f'_y(\boldsymbol{x}_0)|}{\max\limits_{t \in [a,b]} |f''_{xy}(t, y_0)|} \tag{4}$$

For vertical segment: *There is f''_{yx} on the segment. Rectangle is defined in point $(x_0, y_0 + \delta)$ correctly if one meet following condition:*

$$\delta_0 < \frac{|f'_x(\boldsymbol{x}_0)|}{\max\limits_{t \in [c,d]} |f''_{yx}(x_0, t)|} \tag{5}$$

Proof. Let's prove this statement for horizontal segment.

Rewrite the condition (1) using Taylor formula:

$$\forall \delta : |\delta| \leq \delta_0 \Rightarrow f'_y(\mathbf{x}_0) \left(f'_y(\mathbf{x}_0) + f''_{xy} \left(\mathbf{x}_0 + (\theta\delta, 0)^\top \right) \delta \right) > 0,$$

where $\theta \in (0, 1)$

Using the written above inequality we have a following inequality for δ_0:

$$\delta_0 < \frac{|f'_y(\mathbf{x}_0)|}{\max\limits_{\theta \in [-1,1]} |f''_{xy}(x_0 + \theta\delta_0, y_0)|}$$

It and an obvious inequality $\max\limits_{\theta \in [-1,1]} |f''_{xy}(x_0 + \theta\delta_0, y_0)| < \max\limits_{t \in [a,b]} |f''_{xy}(t, y_0)|$ proves (3). Inequality (4) are proved similar. □

Example 4. All positive semidefinite quadratic form meet conditions of written above theorem:

$$B(x, y) = Ax^2 + 2Bxy + Cy^2 + Dx + Ey + F,$$

$$B''_{xy} = B''_{yx} = 2B < \infty$$

where $A \geq 0, AC - B^2 \geq 0$. Also estimate for δ has some sense (estimate is non zero if $\mathbf{x}_0$ is not optimal solution). Also one can easy show that this estimate is accurate for task from example 3.

4 Number of iterations

Following estimates are correct if each iterations was correct (a rectangle is selected correctly on each iterations).

Theorem 4.1. *If function f is convex and L-Lipschitz continuous, then for to solve initial task with accuracy ϵ on function one has to take a center of a current square as proximal solution and make any following iteration's numbers:*

$$N = \left\lceil \log_2 \frac{La}{\sqrt{2}\epsilon} \right\rceil, \tag{4.1}$$

where a is a size of the initial square Q.

Proof.

$$|f(\mathbf{x}^*) - f(\mathbf{x})| < L|\mathbf{x}^* - \mathbf{x}|$$

After N iterations we have a square with size $\frac{a}{2^N}$. That's why if we choose a squares center as proximal solution we have following estimates:

$$|\mathbf{x}^* - \mathbf{x}| \leq \frac{a}{\sqrt{2}} 2^{-N}$$

$$|f(\mathbf{x}^*) - f(\mathbf{x})| < \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} La 2^{-N}$$

Therefore, for accuracy epsilon following number of iterations is sufficient:

$$N > \log_2 \frac{La}{\sqrt{2}\epsilon}$$

It proves the estimate (4.1). □

There are functions which estimates from written above theorem are very accurate for.

Example 5. Let's consider following task with positive constant A:

$$\min\left\{A(x+y)|Q=[0,1]^2\right\}$$

If one take a center of a current solution as proximal solution one have value $\frac{A}{2^N}$ after N iterations. Therefore, for accuracy ϵ one has to $\lceil \log_2 \frac{A}{\epsilon}\rceil$. For this function $L = 2A$. Therefore, estimate (4.1) is accurate for such tasks with little error that not more one iteration.

But any convex function is locally Lipschitz continuous at all $x \in \operatorname{int} Q$. Therefore, we have following theorem.

Theorem 4.2. *If function f is convex and a solution $x^* \in \operatorname{int} Q$, then for to solve initial task with accuracy ϵ on function one has to make following iteration's number:*

$$N = \left\lceil \log_2 \max\left\{\frac{a}{\epsilon_0(\boldsymbol{x}^*)}, \frac{La}{\sqrt{2}\epsilon}\right\}\right\rceil, \tag{4.2}$$

where a is a size of the initial square Q, $\epsilon_0(x^*)$ is size of neighbourhood of x^* which f is L-Lipschitz continuous in, $\Delta f = f(x_0) - f(x^*)$, x_0 is a center of square Q.

5 Tests

5.1 About function *solve*

If you look at pseudocode 1 you can find function *solve*. This function solves task of minimization on segment. A cost of one iteration depends on a choice of its implementation. In our tests we will use gradient descent with step $h_k = \frac{h}{k} = \frac{a}{4k}$, where a is size of current segment.

5.2 Tests for iterations number

Let's make tests for the estimate (4.1). The estimate (4.2) is a consequence of the estimate (4.1) that's why following tests confirm (4.2) too.

Functions $-\sin\frac{\pi x}{a}$ and $-\sin\frac{\pi x}{b}$ are convex on square $Q = [0,1]^2$ when $a, b \geq 1$. Therefore, a function $-A\sin\frac{\pi x}{a} - B\sin\frac{\pi y}{b}$ is convex for all $A, B \geq 0$ as cone combination of convex function.

Functions x^n are convex and monotonously non-decreasing on $[0,1]$ for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$ that's why functions $\left(-A\sin\frac{\pi x}{a} - B\sin\frac{\pi y}{b} + A + B + D\right)^n$ are convex for all $D \geq 0$.

Therefore, following function is convex:

$$f(x,y) = -A_1 \sin\frac{\pi x}{a_1} - B_1 \sin\frac{\pi x}{b_1} + \sum_{n=2}^{N}\left(-A_n \sin\frac{\pi x}{a_n} - B_n \sin\frac{\pi y}{b_n} + A_n + B_n + D_n\right)^n,$$

where $A_i, B_i.D_i \geq 0$ and $a_i, b_i \geq 1$ for all $i = \overline{1,n}$.

The function f is differentiable infinite times and we can use it to test the method.

Let's take $a_1 = \dots = a_n = a$ and $b_1 = \dots = b_n = b$:

$$f(x,y) = -A_1 \sin\frac{\pi x}{a} - B_1 \sin\frac{\pi x}{b} + \sum_{n=2}^{N}\left(-A_n \sin\frac{\pi x}{a} - B_n \sin\frac{\pi y}{b} + A_n + B_n + D_n\right)^n,$$

where $A_i, B_i.D_i \geq 0$ for all $i = \overline{1,n}$ and $a, b \geq 1$.

We have following estimates for derivatives on horizontal and vertical segments:

$$|f'_x|\Big|_{x=x_0} \geq \left(A_1 + \sum_{n=2}^{N} nA_nD_n^{n-1}\right)\frac{\pi}{a}\left|\cos\frac{\pi x_0}{a}\right|$$

$$|f'_y|\Big|_{y=y_0} \geq \left(B_1 + \sum_{n=2}^{N} nB_nD_n^{n-1}\right)\frac{\pi}{b}\left|\cos\frac{\pi y_0}{b}\right|$$

Therefore this functions met conditions of lemma 2. One can see examples of functions f on fig. 1

We will use a and b from $[1,2]$ and $N = 2$. Let's solve task of minimization function f with different parameters on square $[0,1]^2$ through new method and compares number of iteration with estimate (4.1).

Result of the test you can see on fig. 2.

On graphic N is number of done iterations for accuracy ϵ, $\log_2 \frac{La}{\sqrt{2}\epsilon}$ is the parameter of tests tasks. Line $N = \log_2 \frac{La}{\sqrt{2}\epsilon}$ is our estimates (4.1).

We can see that there are tests points under this line. It confirms our estimates (4.1) and (4.2).

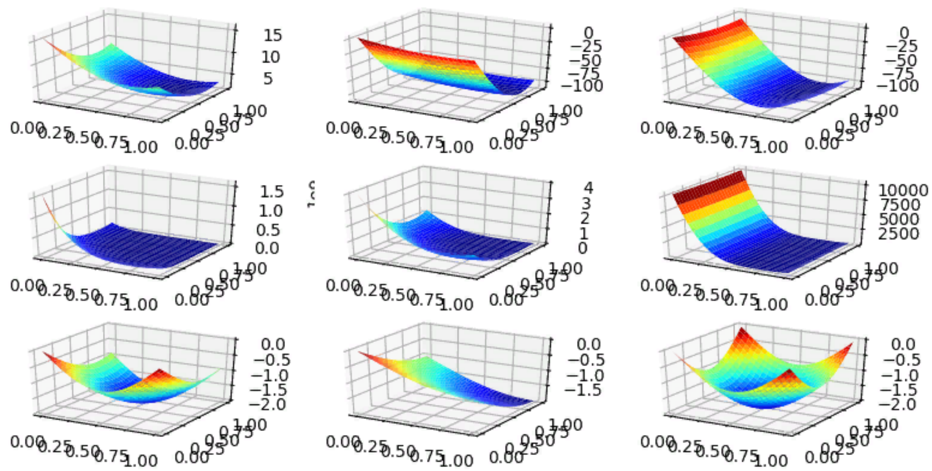

Figure 1: Examples of tests functions

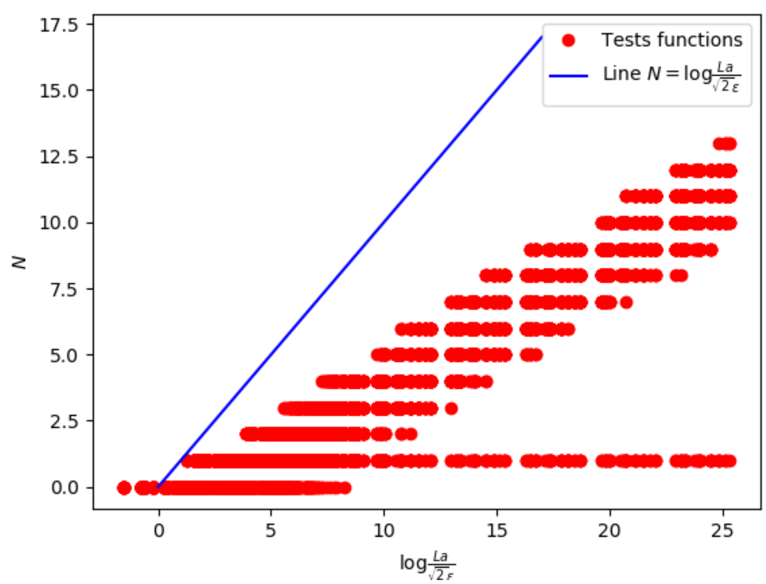

Figure 2: Tests results for iterations number