Convex Optimization

Lab 1: Gradient Descent/Ascent

Lecturer: Dr. Wan-Lei Zhao Autumn Semester 2025

Convex Optimization

September 17, 2025

1/12

Wan-Lei Zhao

Find out Extreme values by Gradient Descent

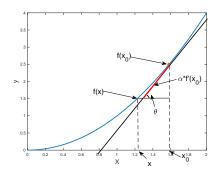
- 1 Initialize(x)
- 2 Repeat

$$x^+ := x - \alpha f'(x)$$

$$x = x^{+}$$

• Once we reaches the extreme, f'(x) = 0

The procedure converges



Find out Extreme values by Gradient Ascent

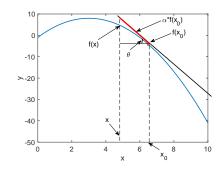
- $\mathbf{0}$ Initialize(x)
- 2 Repeat

$$x^+ := x + \alpha f'(x)$$

$$x = x^{+}$$

• Once we reaches the extreme, f'(x) = 0

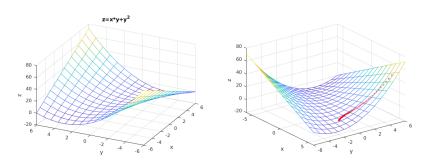
The procedure converges



- Requirements:
 - 1 Implement the gradient descent and ascent procedure in Matlab
 - 2 Find out the extreme values for following functions
 - 3 Visualize the descent/ascent steps of your procedure
 - 4 Build the animation for the procedure, if possible

Problem-1

- Given function $z = x * y + y^2$, $x, y \in [-6, 6]$
- The initial point is x = 5, y = 5
- Please find the local minimal of the function



Problem-2: train a two-class neural-network classifier

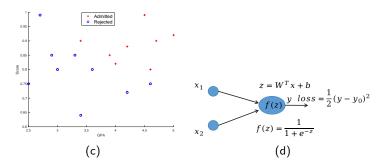


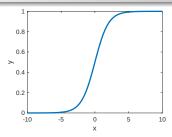
Figure: The problem and the framework of the neural network

$$f(z) = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-z}} \tag{1}$$

$$f'(z) = f(z)(1 - f(z))$$
 (2)

4 D > 4 D > 4 D > 4 D > 9

To work out the gradient for all the variables



- Loss function: $E = \frac{1}{2}(y y_0)^2$
- The variables in the hidden layer: x_1 , x_2 , and b
- According to chain of derivative, we have

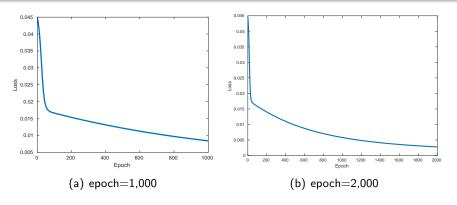
$$\frac{\partial E}{\partial w_1} = (y - y_0) \cdot f(z) \cdot (1 - f(z)) \cdot x_1 \tag{3}$$

$$\frac{\partial E}{\partial w_2} = (y - y_0) \cdot f(z) \cdot (1 - f(z)) \cdot x_2 \tag{4}$$

$$\frac{\partial E}{\partial b} = (y - y_0) \cdot f(z) \cdot (1 - f(z)) \tag{5}$$

Wan-Lei Zhao Convex Optimization September 17, 2025 7/3

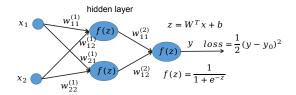
Your task and the Answer



- Please try to implement the training of the network based on gradent descent
- Train the simple network with the provided data
- Results for reference: $w_1 = 0.337$, $w_2 = -0.3204$, b = -1.0062
- Results for reference: $w_1 = 0.9138$, $w_2 = -0.8317$, b = -2.7849

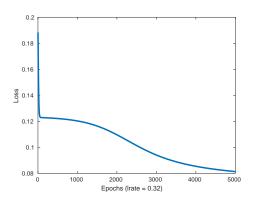
8 / 12

A Two-layer Network (1)



- Try to train the above network by gradient descent
- The weights to be learned are:
- $W_{11} = [w_1, w_2, b], W_{12} = [w_1, w_2, b], W_{21} = [w_1, w_2, b]$

A Two-layer Network (2)



- Results for reference: $W_{11} = [1.0155, -0.8313, -2.4823]^T$, $W_{12} = [0.8804, -0.5581, -2.2472]^T$
- $W_{21} = [3.8164, 2.6523, -4.2436]^T$

A Two-layer Network (3)

```
function [Y21] = Lay2Predict(X)

W11 = [1.0155, -0.8313, -2.4823]';

W12 = [0.8804, -0.5581, -2.2472]';

W21 = [3.8164, 2.6523, -4.2436]';

Y11 = sigmoid(X*W11);

Y12 = sigmoid(X*W12);

X21 = [Y11, Y12, 1];

Y21 = sigmoid(X21*W21);

end
```

Code for prediction

Problem-3

- Given function $z = x^3 + y^3$, $x, y \in [-6, 6]$
- The initial point is x = -5, y = -5
- Please find the local maximal of the function

