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# 1 A Basic Bundle Method

When bundle methods were first introduced in 1975 by Claude Lemaréchal and Philip Wolfe they were developed to minimize a convex (possibly nonsmooth) function  $f$  for which at least one subgradient at any point  $x$  can be computed [11]. To provide an easier understanding of the proximal bundle method in [23] and stress the most important ideas of how to deal with nonconvexity and inexactness first a basic bundle method is shown here.

Bundle methods can be interpreted in two different ways: From the dual point of view one tries to approximate the  $\varepsilon$ -subdifferential to finally ensure first order optimality conditions. The primal point of view interprets the bundle method as a stabilized form of the cutting plane method where the objective function is modeled by tangent hyperplanes [5]. We focus here on the primal approach.

[notation, definitions](#)

already done in previous preliminaries chapter?

This section gives a short summary of the derivations and results of chapter XV in [6] where a primal bundle method is derived as a stabilized version of the cutting plane method. If not otherwise indicated the results in this section are therefore taken from [6].

The optimization problem considered in this section is

$$\min_x f(x) \quad \text{s.t.} \quad x \in X \tag{1.1}$$

where  $f$  is a convex but possibly nondifferentiable function and  $X \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$  is a closed and convex set.

## 1.1 Derivation of the Bundle Method

The geometric idea of the *cutting plane method* is to build a piecewise linear model of the objective function  $f$  that can be minimized more easily than the original objective function. This model is built from a *bundle* of information that is gathered in the previous iterations. In the  $k$ 'th iteration, the bundle consists of the previous iterates  $x^j$ , the respective function values  $f(x^j)$  and a subgradient at each point  $g^j \in \partial f(x^j)$  for all indices  $j$  in the index set  $J_k$ . From each of these triples, one can construct a linear

function

$$l_j(x) = f(x^j) + (g^j)^\top (x - x^j) \quad (1.2)$$

with  $f(x^j) = l_j(x^j)$  and due to convexity  $f(x) \geq l_j(x)$ ,  $x \in X$ .

The objective function  $f$  can now be approximated by the piecewise linear function

$$m_k(x) = \max_{j \in J_k} l_j(x). \quad (1.3)$$

A new iterate  $x^{k+1}$  is found by solving the subproblem

$$\min_x m_k(x) \quad \text{s.t.} \quad x \in X. \quad (1.4)$$

### Picture of function and cutting plane approximation of it

This subproblem should of course be easier to solve than the original task. A question that depends a lot on the structure of  $X$ . If  $X = \mathbb{R}^n$  or a polyhedron, the problem can be solved easily. Still there are some major drawbacks to the idea. For example if  $X = \mathbb{R}^n$  the solution of the subproblem in the first iteration is always  $-\infty$ . In general we can say that the subproblem does not necessarily have to have a solution. To tackle this problem a penalty term is introduced to the subproblem:

$$\min \tilde{m}_k(x) = m_k(x) + \frac{1}{2t_k} \|x - x^k\|^2 \quad \text{s.t.} \quad x \in X, \quad t_k > 0. \quad (1.5)$$

This new subproblem is strongly convex and has therefore always a unique solution.

This regularization term can be motivated and interpreted in many different ways, c.f. [6]. From different possible regularization terms the most popular in bundle methods is the penalty-like regularization used here.

The second major step towards the bundle algorithm is the introduction of a so called *stability center* or *serious point*  $\hat{x}^k$ . It is the iterate that yields the “best” approximation of the optimal point up to the  $k$ ’th iteration (not necessarily the best function value though). The updating technique for  $\hat{x}^k$  is crucial for the convergence of the method: If the next iterate yields a decrease of  $f$  that is “big enough”, namely bigger than a fraction of the decrease suggested by the model function for this iterate, the stability center is moved to that iterate. If this is not the case, the stability center remains unchanged.

In practice this looks the following: Define first the *model decrease*  $\delta_k$  which is the decrease of the model for the new iterate  $x^{k+1}$  compared to the function value at the current stability center  $\hat{x}^k$ .

$$\delta_k = f(\hat{x}^k) - m_k(x^{k+1}) \geq 0 \quad (1.6)$$

If the actual decrease of the objective function is bigger than a fraction of the nominal decrease

$$f(\hat{x}^k) - f(x^{k+1}) \geq m\delta_k, \quad m \in (0, 1)$$

set the stability center to  $\hat{x}^{k+1} = x^{k+1}$ . This is called a *serious* or *descent step*. If this is not the case a *null step* is executed and the serious iterate remains the same  $\hat{x}^{k+1} = \hat{x}^k$ .

Next to the model decrease other forms of decrease measures and variations of these are possible. Some are used in [6, 24].

The subproblem to be solved to find the next iterate can be rewritten as a smooth optimization problem. For convenience we first rewrite the affine functions  $l_j$  with respect to the stability center  $\hat{x}^k$ .

$$l_j(x) = f(x^j) + g^j{}^\top (x - x^j) \quad (1.7)$$

$$= f(\hat{x}^k) + g^j{}^\top (x - \hat{x}^k) - (f(\hat{x}^k) - f(x^j) + g^j{}^\top (x^j - \hat{x}^k)) \quad (1.8)$$

$$= f(\hat{x}^k) + g^j{}^\top (x - \hat{x}^k) - e_j^k \quad (1.9)$$

where

$$e_j^k := f(\hat{x}^k) - f(x^j) + g^j{}^\top (x^j - \hat{x}^k) \geq 0 \quad \forall j \in J_k \quad (1.10)$$

is the *linearization error*. Its nonnegativity property is essential for the convergence theory and will also be of interest when moving on to the case of nonconvex and inexact objective functions.

Subproblem (1.5) can now be written as

$$\min_{\hat{x}^k + d \in X} \tilde{m}_k(\hat{x}^k + d) = f(\hat{x}^k) + \max_{j \in J_k} \{g^j{}^\top d - e_j^k\} + \frac{1}{2t_k} \|d\|^2 \quad (1.11)$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \min_{\substack{\hat{x}^k + d \in X, \\ \xi \in \mathbb{R}}} \xi + \frac{1}{2t_k} \|d\|^2 \quad \text{s.t.} \quad f(\hat{x}^k) + g^j{}^\top d - e_j^k - \xi \leq 0, \quad j \in J_k \quad (1.12)$$

where the constant term  $f(\hat{x}^k)$  was discarded for the sake of simplicity.

If  $X$  is a polyhedron this is a quadratic optimization problem that can be solved using standard methods of nonlinear optimization. The pair  $(\xi_k, d^k)$  solves (1.12) if and only if

$$d^k \text{ solves the original subproblem (1.11) and} \quad (1.13)$$

$$\xi_k = \max_{j \in J_k} g^j{}^\top d^k - e_j^k = m_k(\hat{x}^k + d^k) - f(\hat{x}^k). \quad (1.14)$$

The new iterate is then given by  $x^{k+1} = \hat{x}^k + d^k$ .

## 1.2 The Prox-Operator

The constraint  $\hat{x}^k + d \in X$  can also be incorporated directly in the objective function by using the indicator function

$$\mathbf{i}_X(x) = \begin{cases} 0, & \text{if } x \in X \\ +\infty, & \text{if } x \notin X \end{cases}.$$

This function is convex if and only if the set  $X$  is convex [18].

Subproblem (1.5) then writes with respect to the serious point  $\hat{x}^k$

$$\min_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n} m_k(x) + \mathbf{i}_X(x) + \frac{1}{2t_k} \|x - \hat{x}^k\|^2. \quad (1.15)$$

The subproblem is now written as the *Moreau-Yosida regularization* of  $\check{f} := m_k(x) + \mathbf{i}_X(x)$ . The emerging mapping is also known as *proximal point mapping* [5] or *prox-operator*

$$\text{prox}_{t,f}(x) = \arg \min_{y \in \mathbb{R}^n} \left\{ \check{f}(y) + \frac{1}{2t} \|x - y\|^2 \right\}, \quad t > 0. \quad (1.16)$$

This special form of the subproblems gives the primal bundle method its name, *proximal bundle method*. The mapping also plays a key role when the method is generalized to nonconvex objective functions and inexact information.

### 1.3 Aggregate Objects

Look again at a slightly different formulation of the bundle subproblem

$$\min_{\substack{d \in \mathbb{R}^n, \\ \xi \in \mathbb{R}}} \quad \xi + \mathbf{i}_X + \frac{1}{2t_k} \|d\|^2 \quad (1.17)$$

$$\text{s.t.} \quad g^j{}^\top d - e_j^k - \xi \leq 0, \quad j \in J_k. \quad (1.18)$$

As the objective function is still convex ( $X$  is a convex set) the following Karush-Kuhn-Tucker (KKT) conditions have to be valid for the minimizer  $(\xi_k, d^k)$  of the above subproblem [7] assuming a constraint qualification if the constraint set  $X$  makes it necessary [21].

There exist a subgradient  $\nu^k \in \partial \mathbf{i}_X$  and Lagrangian multipliers  $\alpha_j$ ,  $j \in J^k$  such that

$$0 = \nu^k + \frac{1}{t_k} d^k + \sum_{j \in J^k} \alpha_j g^j \quad (1.19)$$

$$\sum_{j \in J^k} \alpha_j = 1, \quad (1.20)$$

$$\alpha_j \geq 0, \quad j \in J^k, \quad (1.21)$$

$$g^j{}^\top d^k - e_j^k - \xi_k \leq 0, \quad (1.22)$$

$$\sum_{j \in J^k} \alpha_j (g^j{}^\top d^k - e_j^k - \xi_k) = 0. \quad (1.23)$$

From condition (1.19) follows then

$$d^k = t_k (G^k + \nu^k) \quad \text{with} \quad G^k := \sum_{j \in J^k} \alpha_j g^j \in \partial m_k(x^{k+1}) \quad (1.24)$$

with the *aggregate subgradient*  $G^k$ .

Rewriting condition (1.23) yields the *aggregate error*

$$E_k := \sum_{j \in J^k} \alpha_j e_j^k = (G^k)^\top d^k + f(\hat{x}^k) - m_k(x^{k+1}). \quad (1.25)$$

Here relation (1.14) was used to replace  $\xi_k$ .

The aggregate subgradient and error are used to formulate an implementable stopping condition for the bundle algorithm. The motivation behind that becomes clear with the following lemma.

**Lemma 1.1.** [4, Theorem 6.68, p.387] Let  $X = \mathbb{R}^n$ . Let  $\varepsilon > 0$ ,  $\hat{x}^k \in \mathbb{R}^n$  and  $g^j \in \partial f(x^j)$  for  $j \in J^k$ . Then the set

$$\mathcal{G}_\varepsilon^k := \left\{ \sum_{j \in J^k} \alpha_j g^j \mid \sum_{j \in J^k} \alpha_j e_j \varepsilon, \sum_{j \in J^k} \alpha_j = 1, \alpha_j \geq 0, j \in J^k \right\}$$

is a subset of the  $\varepsilon$ -subdifferential of  $f(\hat{x}^k)$

$$\mathcal{G}_\varepsilon^k \subseteq \partial_\varepsilon f(\hat{x}^k)$$

.

This means that at least in the unconstrained case  $G^k \in \partial_{E_k} f(\hat{x}^k)$ . So driving  $\|G^k\|$  and  $E_k$  close to zero results in some approximate  $\varepsilon$ -optimality of the objective function. In the constraint case the stopping condition is written as

$$\delta_k = E^k + t_k \|G^k + \nu^k\|^2. \quad (1.26)$$

$\delta_k$  is the same measure that is also taken for the decrease test. The relation

$$\delta_k = E^k + t_k \|G^k + \nu^k\|^2 \quad (1.27)$$

$$= E^k - \langle G^k, d^k \rangle - \langle \nu^k, d^k \rangle \quad (1.28)$$

$$= f(\hat{x}^k) - m_k(x^{k+1}) - \langle \nu^k, d^k \rangle \quad (1.29)$$

$$(1.30)$$

where (1.24) and (1.25) were used, shows that the new  $\delta_k$  is only a little variation of the model decrease. If the iterate  $x^{k+1}$  does not lie on the edge of the constraint set  $X$ , the vector  $\nu^k = 0$  and the expression simplifies to the one stated in (1.6).

A totally different use of the aggregate objects was proposed by Kiwiel in [8]. The aggregate subgradient can be used to build the *aggregate linearization*

$$a_k(\hat{x}^k + d) := m_k(x^{k+1}) + \langle G^k, d - d^k \rangle. \quad (1.31)$$

This function can be used to avoid memory problems as it compresses the information of all bundle elements into one affine plane. Adding the function  $a_k$  to the cutting plane model preserves all assumptions put on the model and can therefore be used instead of or in combination with the usual cutting planes.

For the model update only the following two conditions are assumed to be fulfilled in consecutive null steps:

$$\begin{aligned} m_{k+1}(\hat{x}^k + d) &\geq f(\hat{x}^{k+1}) - e_{k+1}^{k+1} + \langle g^{k+1}, d \rangle \\ m_{k+1}(\hat{x}^k + d) &\geq a_k(\hat{x}^k + d) \end{aligned} \tag{1.32}$$

The first condition means, that the newly computed information is always put into the bundle. The second one is important when updating the bundle index set  $J^k$ . It holds trivially if no or only inactive information  $j$  with  $\alpha_j = 0$  is removed.

It is also always satisfied if the aggregate linearization  $a_k$  itself is added to the bundle. In this case active information can be removed without violating the condition. This is the key idea of Kiwiel's aggregation technique and ensures that the set  $\{j \in J^k | \alpha_j > 0\}$  can be bounded.

The following basic bundle algorithm can now be stated:

[algorithm](#)

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### Basic bundle method

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Select a descent parameter  $m \in (0, 1)$  and a stopping tolerance  $\text{tol} \geq 0$ . Choose a starting point  $x^1 \in \mathbb{R}^n$  and compute  $f(x^1)$  and  $g^1$ . Set the initial index set  $J_1 := \{1\}$  and the initial stability center to  $\hat{x}^1 := x^1$ ,  $f(\hat{x}^1) = f(x^1)$  and select  $t_1 > 0$ .

For  $k = 1, 2, 3 \dots$

1. Calculate

$$d^k = \arg \min_{d \in \mathbb{R}^n} m_k(\hat{x}^k + d) + \mathbf{i}_X(\hat{x}^k + d) + \frac{1}{2t_k} \|d\|^2$$

and the corresponding Lagrange multiplier  $\alpha_j^k$ ,  $j \in J_k$ .

2. Set

$$G^k = \sum_{j \in J_k} \alpha_j^k g_j^k, \quad E_k = \sum_{j \in J_k} \alpha_j^k e_j^k, \quad \text{and} \quad \delta_k = E_k + t_k \|G^k + \nu^k\|^2$$

If  $\delta_k \leq \text{tol} \rightarrow \text{STOP}$ .



3. Set  $x^{k+1} = \hat{x}^k + d^k$ .

4. Compute  $f(x^{k+1})$ ,  $g^{k+1}$ .

If

$$f(x^{k+1}) \leq f(\hat{x}^k) - m\delta_k \rightarrow \text{serious step.}$$

Set  $\hat{x}^{k+1} = x^{k+1}$ ,  $f(\hat{x}^{k+1}) = f(x^{k+1})$  and select a suitable  $t_{k+1} > 0$ .

Otherwise

$\rightarrow$  nullstep.

Set  $\hat{x}^{k+1} = \hat{x}^k$ ,  $f(\hat{x}^{k+1}) = f(x^{k+1})$  and choose  $t_{k+1} > 0$  in a suitable way.

5. Select the new bundle index set  $J_{k+1}$ , calculate  $e_j$  for  $j \in J_{k+1}$  and update the model  $m_k$ .

---

In steps 4 and 5 of the algorithm it is not specified how to update the parameter  $t_k$ , the index set  $J^k$  and the model  $m_k$ . For the convergence proof it is only necessary that  $\liminf_{k \rightarrow \infty} t_k > 0$  and that conditions (1.32) are fulfilled.

In practice the choice of  $t_k$  can be realized by taking

$$t_{k+1} = \kappa_+ t_k, \quad \kappa_+ > 1 \tag{1.33}$$

at every serious step and

$$t_{k+1} = \max\{\kappa_- t_k, t_{min}\}, \quad \kappa_- < 1 \text{ and } t_{min} > 0 \tag{1.34}$$

at every null step. The idea behind this management of  $t_k$  is taken from the trust region method: If the computed iterate was good, the model is assumed to be reliable in a bigger area around this serious iterate so bigger step sizes are allowed. If a null step was taken, the model seems to be too inaccurate far from the current serious point. Then smaller step sizes are used. A more sophisticated version of this kind of step size management is also used by Noll et al. in [15] and [13]. The trust region idea was very much exploited by Schramm and Zowe in [19].

For a convergence proof of this basic bundle method c.f [6].

## 2 Variations of The Bundle Method

Bundle method successful

shortly after (when??) generalization -> nonconvex case and inexact information

first inexact information in convex case

### 2.1 Convex Bundle Methods with Inexact Information

Partition section in two parts:

1. How is generally dealt with inexact information in the algorithms

2 a) What information is inexact (only subgradients/both...) -> what do you gain from this?

2 b) What kind of assumptions are on the inexactness? (asymptotic, only over- /under-estimation?)

Explain “most common?” concepts for dealing with nonconvexity??? see [10].

seems to be the same:

$$\|g_a - g\| \leq \theta \tag{2.1}$$

$$\Leftrightarrow g_a \in \partial f + B_\theta(0) \tag{2.2}$$

$$\Leftrightarrow g_a \in \partial_\varepsilon f, \quad \theta \leq \varepsilon^2 \tag{2.3}$$

Last implication only for convex functions because  $\varepsilon$ -subdifferential otherwise not defined.  
See also papers from “Chinese-search”

Different “degrees” of inexactness: inexact subgradients; also function values (only subgradients easier??); asymptotically exact; exactness only for serious steps, not at null steps; accuracy controllable or not -> throughout study in in depth paper.

possible simplifications of the algorithm

Convergence for inexact convex functions:

- states in paper [23] (p. 14) that for convex functions error of  $\bar{\sigma}$  instead of  $2\bar{\sigma}$  possible (and for lower models; see depth paper?)

## 2.2 Nonconvex Bundle Methods with Exact Information

There are different approaches for handling nonconvexity of the objective function in bundle methods. As the nonnegativity property of the linearization errors  $e_j^k$  is crucial for the convergence proof of convex bundle methods an early idea was forcing the errors to be so by different downshifting strategies. A very common one is using the *subgradient locality measure* [8, 10]. Here the linearization error is essentially replaced by the nonnegative number

$$\tilde{e}_j^k := \max_{j \in J_k} \{|e_j^k|, \gamma \|\hat{x}^k - x^j\|^2\} \quad (2.4)$$

or a variation of this expression.

The expression gradient locality measure comes from the dual point of view, where the aggregate linearization error provides a measure for the 'distance' of the calculated  $\varepsilon$ -subgradient to the objective function.

Methods that use downshifting for building the model function are often endowed with a line search to provide sufficient decrease of the objective function. For the linesearch to terminate finitely, usually semismoothness of the objective function is needed.

Instead of using line search it is also possible to do *proximity control*. This means that the step size parameter  $t_k$  is managed in a smart way to ensure the right amount of decrease in the objective function. This method is very helpful in the case of nonconvex objective functions with inexact information as it is predominantly considered in this thesis.

As inexactness can be seen as a kind of slight nonconvexity one could be tempted to think that nonconvex bundle methods are destined to be extended to the inexact case. Indeed, the two existing algorithms [23, 13] that deal with both nonconvexity and inexactness are both extensions of a nonsmooth bundle method. This is however seldom possible for algorithms that employ a line search because for functions with inexact information convergence of this subroutine cannot be proven.

To this end proximity control seems to be a very promising strategy. It is used in many different variations in [1, 9, 14, 12, 15, 20]

In the beginning bundle methods were mostly explored from the dual point of view. Newer concepts focus also on the primal version of the method. This invokes for example having different model functions for the subproblem.

In [2, 3] the difference function

$$h(d) := f(x^j + d) - f(x^j) \quad j \in J_k \quad (2.5)$$

is approximated to find a descent direction of  $f$ . The negative linearization errors are addressed by having two different bundles. One containing the indices with nonnegative linearization errors and one containing the other ones. From these two bundles two cutting plane approximations can be constructed which provide the bases for the calculation of new iterates.

In [15] Noll et al. follow an approach of approximating a local model of the objective function. The model can be seen as a nonsmooth generalization of the Taylor expansion and looks the following:

$$\Phi(y, x) = \phi(y, x) + \frac{1}{2}(y - x)^\top Q(x)(y - x) \quad (2.6)$$

The so called *first order model*  $\phi(., x)$  is convex but possibly nonsmooth and can be approximated by cutting planes. The *second order part* is a quadratic but not necessarily convex. The algorithm then proceeds a lot in the lines of a general bundle algorithm. Instead of a line search it uses proximity control to ensure convergence.

Generally for all of these methods convergence to a stationary point is established under the assumptions of a locally Lipschitz objective function and bounded level sets  $\{x \in \mathbb{R}^n | f(x) \leq f(\hat{x}^1)\}$ . If the method uses a line search additionally semismoothness of the objective function is needed.

In [13] the second order approach of [15] is extended to functions with inexact information. As far as we know this is the only other bundle method that can deal with nonconvexity and inexactness in both the function value and subgradient. It inspires the variable metric variation of the method used by Hare et al. in [23] that is presented in section 4 of this thesis.

To conclude this section we can say: At the moment there exist two fundamentally different approaches to tackle inexactness in various bundle methods depending on if the method is developed for convex or nonconvex objective functions. In the nonconvex case inexactness is only considered in the paper by Hare, Sagastizàbal and Soddolov [23] presented above and Noll [13]. In these cases the inexactness can be seen as an “additional nonconvexity”. In practice this means that the algorithm can be taken from the nonconvex case with no or only minor changes. In case of convex objective functions changes in the algorithm are more involved. The reason for this is that generally stronger convergence

results are possible with inexactness in the convex case than in the nonconvex case. This means however, that the inexactness cannot be incorporated as easily into the algorithm.

### 3 Proximal bundle method for nonconvex functions with inexact information

#### introduction

This section focuses on the proximal bundle method presented by Hare et al. in [23]. The idea is to extend the basic bundle algorithm for nonconvex functions with both inexact function and subgradient information. The key idea of the algorithm is the one already developed by Hare and Sagastizábal in [5]: When dealing with nonconvex functions a very critical difference to the convex case is that the linearization errors are not necessarily nonnegative any more. To tackle this problem the errors are manipulated to enforce nonnegativity. In this case this is done by modeling not the objective function directly but a convexified version of it.

#### 3.1 Derivation of the method

##### “assumptions and notations”

Throughout this section we consider now the optimization problem

$$\min_x f(x) \quad \text{s.t.} \quad x \in X. \quad (3.1)$$

The objective function  $f : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is locally Lipschitz and (subdifferentially) regular.  $X \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$  is assumed to be a convex compact set.

**Definition 3.1.** [17]  $f : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \bar{\mathbb{R}}$  is called *subdifferentially regular* at  $\bar{x}$  if  $f(\bar{x})$  is finite and the epigraph

$$\text{epi}(f) := \{(x, \alpha) \in \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R} \mid \alpha \geq f(x)\}$$

is Clarke regular at  $\bar{x}, f(\bar{x})$ .

Both the function value as well as one element of the subdifferential can be provided in an inexact form.

For the function value inexactness is defined straight forwardly: If

$$\|f - f(x)\| \leq \sigma \quad (3.2)$$

then  $f$  approximates the value  $f(x)$  within  $\sigma$ .

For the subgradients we adopt the notation used in [13] and interpret inexactness in the following way:  $g \in \mathbb{R}^n$  approximates a subgradient of  $\partial f(x)$  within  $\theta \geq 0$  if

$$g \in \partial f(x) + B_\theta(0) := \partial_{[\theta]} f(x) \quad (3.3)$$

where  $\partial f(x)$  is the *Clarke subdifferential* of  $f$ , which is also defined for nonconvex functions.

Like in the paper it is assumed that the errors are bounded although the bound does not have to be known:

$$|\sigma_j| \leq \bar{\sigma} > 0 \quad \text{and} \quad 0 \leq \theta_j \leq \bar{\theta} \quad \forall j \in J^k. \quad (3.4)$$

In the context of inexact information it is important to make a distinction between the (unknown) exact function value and its approximation. Throughout this section we therefore write  $f(x)$  for the exact function value whereas the approximation will be written as  $f_j$  or  $\hat{f}_k$  for the approximation at the current stability center.

#### explanation

A main issue both nonconvexity and inexactness entail is that the linearization errors  $e_j^k$  are not necessarily nonnegative any more. So based on the results in [22] not the objective function but a convexified version of it is modeled as the objective function of the subproblem.

As already pointed out in 1.2 the bundle subproblem can be formulated by means of the prox-operator (1.16).

The key idea is now to use the relation

$$\text{prox}_{T=\frac{1}{\eta}+t, f}(x) = \text{prox}_{t, f+\eta/2|\cdot-x|^2}(x). \quad (3.5)$$

This means, that the proximal point of the function  $f$  for parameter  $T = \frac{1}{\eta} + t$  is the same as calculating the proximal point of the convexified function

$$\tilde{f}(y) = f(y) + \frac{\eta}{2}|y - x|^2 \quad (3.6)$$

with respect to the parameter  $t$  [5].  $\eta$  is therefore called the *convexification parameter* and  $t$  is the *prox-parameter*.

The main difference of the method in [23] to the basic bundle method is that the function that is modeled by the cutting plane model is no longer the original objective function  $f$  but the convexified version  $\tilde{f}$ . This results in the following changes:

The linear functions forming the model have a tilted slope, here called the *augmented subgradient* at the iterate  $x^j$

$$s_j^k = g^j + \eta_k (x^j - \hat{x}^k). \quad (3.7)$$

Additionally they are shifted downwards to keep the linearization error nonnegative. The *augmented linearization error* is therefore defined as

$$0 \leq c_j^k := e_j^k + b_j^k, \quad \text{with} \quad \begin{cases} e_j^k := \hat{f}_k - f_j - \langle g^j, \hat{x}^k - x^j \rangle \\ b_j^k := \frac{\eta_k}{2} \|x^j - \hat{x}^k\|^2 \end{cases} \quad (3.8)$$

and

$$\eta_k \geq \max \left\{ \max_{j \in J_k, x^j \neq \hat{x}^k} \frac{-2e_j^k}{\|x^j - \hat{x}^k\|^2}, 0 \right\} + \gamma. \quad (3.9)$$

The parameter  $\gamma \geq 0$  is a safeguarding parameter to keep the calculation numerically stable.

The new model function can therefore be written as

$$M_k(\hat{x}^k + d) := \hat{f}_k + \max_{j \in J_k} \{s_j^{k\top} d - c_j^k\} \quad (3.10)$$

The definition of the aggregate objects follows straightforwardly:

$$S^k := \sum_{j \in J_k} \alpha_j^k s_j^k, \quad (3.11)$$

$$C_k := \sum_{j \in J_k} \alpha_j^k c_j^k \text{ and } A_k(\hat{x}^k + d) := M_k(x^{k+1}) + \langle S^k, d - d^k \rangle. \quad (3.12)$$

Just as the model decrease

$$\delta^k := C_k + t_k \|S^k + \nu^k\|^2. \quad (3.13)$$

A bundle algorithm that deals with nonconvexity and inexact function and subgradient information can therefor be stated.

algorithm

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### Nonconvex proximal bundle method with inexact information

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Select parameters  $m \in (0, 1)$ ,  $\gamma > 0$  and a stopping tolerance  $\text{tol} \geq 0$ .

Choose a starting point  $x^1 \in \mathbb{R}^n$  and compute  $f_1$  and  $g^1$ . Set the initial index set  $J_1 := \{1\}$  and the initial prox-center to  $\hat{x}^1 := x^1$ ,  $\hat{f}_1 = f_1$  and select  $t_1 > 0$ .

For  $k = 1, 2, 3, \dots$

1. Calculate

$$d^k = \arg \min_{d \in \mathbb{R}^n} \left\{ M_k(\hat{x}^k + d) + \mathbb{I}_X(\hat{x}^k + d) + \frac{1}{2t_k} \|d\|^2 \right\}.$$

2. Set

$$\begin{aligned} G^k &= \sum_{j \in J_k} \alpha_j^k s_j^k, C_k &= \sum_{j \in J_k} \alpha_j^k c_j^k \\ \delta_k &= C_k + t_k \|G^k + \nu^k\|^2 \end{aligned}$$

If  $\delta_k \leq \text{tol} \rightarrow \text{STOP}$ .

3. Set  $x^{k+1} = \hat{x}^k + d^k$ .

4. Compute  $f^{k+1}, g^{k+1}$

If

$$f^{k+1} \leq \hat{f}^k - m\delta_k \rightarrow \text{serious step}$$

Set  $\hat{x}^{k+1} = x^{k+1}$ ,  $\hat{f}^{k+1} = f^{k+1}$  and select  $t_{k+1} > 0$ .

Otherwise

$\rightarrow \text{nullstep}$

Set  $\hat{x}^{k+1} = \hat{x}^k$ ,  $\hat{f}^{k+1} = f^{k+1}$  and choose  $0 < t_{k+1} \leq t_k$ .



5. Select new bundle index set  $J_{k+1}$ , calculate

$$\eta_k \geq \max \left\{ \max_{j \in J_{k+1}, x^j \neq \hat{x}^{k+1}} \frac{-2e_j^k}{|x^j - \hat{x}^{k+1}|^2}, 0 \right\} + \gamma$$

and update the model  $M_k$

---

The update of  $t_k$  can be done in the same way described for the basic bundle method. Similarly the methods to update the bundle index set  $J^k$  stay valid. The update conditions (1.32) for the model are now written with respect to the augmented aggregate linearization and the approximate function value  $\hat{f}_{k+1}$ .

$$\begin{aligned} M_{k+1}(\hat{x}^k + d) &\geq \hat{f}_{k+1} - c_{k+1}^{k+1} + \langle s^{k+1}, d \rangle \\ M_{k+1}(\hat{x}^k + d) &\geq A_k(\hat{x}^k + d). \end{aligned} \tag{3.14}$$

## 3.2 On Different Convergence Results

In terms of usability of the described algorithm it is interesting to see if stronger convergence results are possible if additional assumptions are put on the objective function. This is investigated in the following section.

### 3.2.1 The Constraint Set

The method above can handle nonconvex objective functions. It is not explicitly assumed, that the function taken has a finite minimum. Therefore the constraint set  $X$  has to ensure the boundedness of the sequence  $\{\hat{x}^k\}$ . This is not necessary if the objective function is assumed to have bounded level sets  $\{x \in \mathbb{R}^n | f(x) \leq f(\hat{x}^1)\}$ , an assumption commonly used when optimizing nonconvex functions. As the objective function is assumed to be continuous bounded level sets are compact. Additionally the descent test makes sure that  $f(\hat{x}^{k+1}) \leq f(\hat{x}^k)$  for all  $k$ . The proof holds therefore in the same way as with the set  $X$ .

### 3.2.2 Exact Information

As the presented algorithm was originally designed for nonconvex objective functions where function values as well as subgradients are available in an exact manner, all convergence results stay the same with the error bounds  $\bar{\sigma} = \bar{\theta} = 0$ . As already indicated

previously this is the case because inexactness can be seen as a kind of nonconvexity and no additional concepts had to be added to the method when generalizing it to the inexact setting.

If we additionally require the objective function to be lower- $\mathcal{C}^2$  it can be proven that the sequence  $\{\eta_k\}$  is bounded [5]. This is not possible in the inexact case even for convex objective functions.

### 3.2.3 Asymptotically Vanishing Errors

- asymptotically vanishing error  
→ calculate what happens → think error bounds = 0 possible???
- convex objective function  
→ generally better convergence properties possible  
but more or less only on error bound??? → different concept of algorithm for convex inexact functions to exploit convexity (contrary to nonconvex obj functions)
- assumptions on errors → Noll comment in paper
- stronger convergence results possible because of exploitation of convexity
- changes in the algorithm because if convexity should be exploited: inexactness cannot be treated as nonconvexity
- 
- *inexact*:  $0 \in (\partial f(\bar{x}) + \partial I_D(\bar{x})) + B_{\bar{\theta}}(0)$   
if  $f$  lower- $\mathcal{C}^1$ :

$$\forall \varepsilon > 0 \exists \rho > 0 : \quad f(y) \geq f(\bar{x}) - (\bar{\theta} + \varepsilon)\|y - \bar{x}\| - 2\bar{\sigma} \quad \forall y \in D \cap B_\rho(\bar{x})$$

- obvious difference: no error terms in exact case

## 4 Noll Part

### 4.1 Introduction

### 4.2 Keywords

important in Noll for me: optimize model +  $d^\top(Q + \frac{1}{t_k}\mathbb{I})d \rightarrow$  some kind of second order information

important:  $Q + \frac{1}{t_k}\mathbb{I}$  must have all eigenvalues  $\geq 0$ .

idea to get  $Q$ : BFGS like in Fin-papers; theory

!!! check stopping criterion connection between  $d^k$  and  $G^k/S^k$  now: Optimality condition:

$$0 \in \partial M_k(x^{k+1}) + \partial \mathbf{i}_D(x^{k+1}) + \left(Q + \frac{1}{t_k}\mathbb{I}\right) d^k \quad (4.1)$$

$$\Rightarrow S^k(+\nu^k) = -\left(Q + \frac{1}{t_k}\mathbb{I}\right) d^k \quad (4.2)$$

From this derivation of  $\delta_k \rightarrow$  nominal (model) decrease:

$$\delta_k = \hat{f}_k - M_k(x^{k+1}) - (\nu^k)^\top d^k \quad (4.3)$$

$$= \hat{f}_k - A_k(x^{k+1}) - (\nu^k)^\top d^k \quad (4.4)$$

$$= C_k - (S^k)^\top d^k - (\nu^k)^\top d^k \quad (4.5)$$

$$= C_k - (S^k + \nu^k)^\top d^k \quad (4.6)$$

$$= C_k + (d^k)^\top \left(Q + \frac{1}{t_k}\mathbb{I}\right) d^k \quad (4.7)$$

### 4.3 important assumptions

eigenvalues of  $Q$  are bounded  $\rightarrow$  possible by manipulating BFGS update

$$\text{if } \text{norm} \left( \frac{y^k y^{k\top}}{y^{k\top} d^k} \right) > 10^{??} \quad (4.8)$$

$$\text{set } \frac{y^k y^{k\top}}{\text{threshold}} \quad (4.9)$$

$$threshold = norm(y^k y^{k\top}) / 10^{??} \quad (4.10)$$

$$\text{end} \quad (4.11)$$

same procedure for next term; all  $< 1/3C$  for some overall threshold  $C$

$Q + \frac{1}{t_k} \mathbb{I}$  such that  $\succ \xi \mathbb{I}$  for some fixed  $\xi > 0$ .

$$\min_{\hat{x}+d \in D} M^k(\hat{x}^k + d^k) + d^\top \frac{1}{2} \left( Q + \frac{1}{t_k} \mathbb{I} \right) d \quad (4.12)$$

## 4.4 Algorithm

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### Nonconvex proximal bundle method with inexact information

---

Select parameters  $m \in (0, 1)$ ,  $\gamma > 0$  and a stopping tolerance  $\text{tol} \geq 0$ .

Choose a starting point  $x^1 \in \mathbb{R}^n$  and compute  $f_1$  and  $g^1$ . Set the initial metric matrix  $Q = \mathbb{I}$ , the initial index set  $J_1 := \{1\}$  and the initial prox-center to  $\hat{x}^1 := x^1$ ,  $\hat{f}_1 = f_1$  and select  $t_1 > 0$ .

For  $k = 1, 2, 3, \dots$

1. Calculate

$$d^k = \arg \min_{d \in \mathbb{R}^n} \left\{ M_k(\hat{x}^k + d) + \mathbb{I}_X(\hat{x}^k + d) + \frac{1}{2} d^\top \left( Q + \frac{1}{t_k} \mathbb{I} \right) d \right\}.$$

2. Set  $\rightarrow$  other stopping condition!!!

$$G^k = \sum_{j \in J_k} \alpha_j^k s_j^k, \quad \nu^k = -\frac{1}{t_k} d^k - G^k \text{????????????}$$

$$C_k = \sum_{j \in J_k} \alpha_j^k c_j^k$$

$$\delta_k = C_k + (d^k)^\top \left( Q + \frac{1}{t_k} \mathbb{I} \right) d^k$$

If  $\delta_k \leq \text{tol} \rightarrow \text{STOP}$ .

3. Set  $x^{k+1} = \hat{x}^k + d^k$ .

4. Compute  $f^{k+1}, g^{k+1}$

If

$$f^{k+1} \leq \hat{f}^k - m\delta_k \quad \rightarrow \text{serious step}$$

Set  $\hat{x}^{k+1} = x^{k+1}$ ,  $\hat{f}^{k+1} = f^{k+1}$  and select  $t_{k+1} > 0$ .

Otherwise  $\rightarrow$  nullstep

Set  $\hat{x}^{k+1} = \hat{x}^k$ ,  $\hat{f}^{k+1} = f^{k+1}$  and choose  $0 < t_{k+1} \leq t_k$ .

5. Select new bundle index set  $J_{k+1}$ , keeping all active elements. Calculate

$$\eta_k \geq \max \left\{ \max_{j \in J_{k+1}, x^j \neq \hat{x}^{k+1}} \frac{-2e_j^k}{|x^j - \hat{x}^{k+1}|^2}, 0 \right\} + \gamma$$

and update the model  $M^k$

---

Lemma 5 in [23] stays the same; no  $Q$  involved

**Theorem 4.1.** *Theorem 6 in [23]  $\rightarrow$  take only part with  $\liminf_{k \rightarrow \infty} t_k > 0$  because other one not used in null steps and algorithm this way.*

*Let the algorithm generate an infinite number of serious steps. Then  $\delta_k \rightarrow 0$  as  $k \rightarrow \infty$ .*

*Let the sequence  $\{\eta_k\}$  be bounded. If  $\liminf_{k \rightarrow \infty} t_k > 0$  then as  $k \rightarrow \infty$  we have  $C_k \rightarrow 0$ , and for every accumulation point  $\bar{x}$  of  $\{\hat{x}^k\}$  there exists  $\bar{S}$  such that  $S^k \rightarrow \bar{S}$  and  $S^k + \nu^k \rightarrow 0$ .*

*In particular if the cardinality of  $j \in J^k | \alpha_j^k > 0$  is uniformly bounded in  $k$  then the conclusions of Lemma 5 in [23] hold.*

The proof is very similar to the one stated in [23] but minor changes have to be made due to the different formulation of the nominal decrease  $\delta_k$ .

*Proof.* At each serious step  $k$  holds

$$\hat{f}_{k+1} \leq \hat{f}_k - m\delta_k \tag{4.13}$$

where  $m, \delta_k > 0$ . From this follows that the sequence  $\{\hat{f}_k\}$  is nonincreasing. Since  $\{\hat{x}^k\} \subset D$  the sequence is by the fact that  $f$  is ?????? **which assumption says  $f$  bounded below???** and  $|\sigma_k| < \bar{\sigma}$  the sequence  $\{f(\hat{x}^k) + \sigma_k\} = \{\hat{f}_k\}$  is bounded below. Together with the fact that  $\{\hat{f}_k\}$  is nonincreasing one can conclude that it converges.

Using (4.13), one obtains

$$0 \leq m \sum_{k=1}^l \delta_k \leq \sum_{k=1}^l \left( \hat{f}_k - \hat{f}_{k+1} \right), \quad (4.14)$$

so letting  $l \rightarrow \infty$ ,

$$0 \leq m \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \delta_k \leq \hat{f}_1 - \underbrace{\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \hat{f}_k}_{\neq \pm \infty}. \quad (4.15)$$

As a result,

$$\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \delta_k = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \left( C^k + (d^k)^\top \left( Q + \frac{1}{t_k} \mathbb{I} \right) d^k \right) < \infty \quad (4.16)$$

Hence,  $\delta_k \rightarrow 0$  as  $k \rightarrow \infty$ . As all quantities above are nonnegative due to positive (semi-)definiteness of  $Q + \frac{1}{t_k} \mathbb{I}$ , it also holds that

$$C_k \rightarrow 0 \quad \text{and} \quad (d^k)^\top \left( Q + \frac{1}{t_k} \mathbb{I} \right) d^k \rightarrow 0. \quad (4.17)$$

For any accumulation point  $\bar{x}$  of the sequence  $\{\hat{x}^k\}$  the corresponding subsequence  $d^k \rightarrow 0$  for  $k \in K \subset \{1, 2, \dots\}$ . As  $\liminf_{k \rightarrow \infty} t_k > 0$  and the eigenvalues of  $Q$  are bounded the whole expression

$$S^k + \nu^k = \left( Q + \frac{1}{t_k} I \right) d^k \rightarrow 0 \quad \text{for} \quad k \in K. \quad (4.18)$$

And from local Lipschitz continuity of  $f$  follows then that  $S^k \rightarrow \bar{S}$  for  $k \in K$ .

□

*Remark:* If one assumes that the set  $\Omega = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n | f(x) \leq f(x^1) + 2\bar{\sigma}\}$  is bounded, it is not necessary to use the constraint set  $D$ .

Because all  $\{\hat{x}^k\} \subset \Omega$  one can deduce the boundedness of the sequence.

For the case of infinitely many null steps one show:

**Theorem 4.2.** [23] *Let a finite number of serious iterates be followed by infinite null steps. Let the sequence  $\{\eta_k\}$  be bounded and  $\liminf k \rightarrow \infty > 0$ .*

*Then  $\{x^k\} \rightarrow \hat{x}$ ,  $\delta_k \rightarrow 0$ ,  $C_k \rightarrow 0$ ,  $S^k + \nu^k \rightarrow 0$  and there exist  $K \subset \{1, 2, \dots\}$  and  $\bar{S}$  such that  $S^k \rightarrow \bar{S}^k$  as  $K \ni k \rightarrow \infty$ .*

*In particular if the cardinality of  $j \in J^k | \alpha_j^k > 0$  is uniformly bounded in  $k$  then the conclusions of Lemma 5 in [23] hold for  $\bar{x} = \hat{x}$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $k$  be large enough such that  $k \geq \bar{k}$  and  $\hat{x}^k = \hat{x}$  and  $\hat{f}_k = \hat{f}$  are fixed. Define the optimal value of the subproblem (4.12) by

$$\Psi_k := M_k(x^{k+1}) + (d^k)^\top \frac{1}{2} \left( Q + \frac{1}{t_k} \mathbb{I} \right) d^k. \quad (4.19)$$

It is first shown that the sequence  $\{\Psi_k\}$  is bounded above. **Using the aggregate linearization**

$$A_k(\hat{x}) = M_k(x^{k+1}) - \langle S^k, d^k \rangle. \quad (4.20)$$

Using  $S^k + \nu^k = - \left( Q + \frac{1}{t_k} \mathbb{I} \right) d^k$  and the subgradient inequality for  $\nu^k \in \partial \mathbf{i}_D$  one obtains

$$\begin{aligned} \Psi_k + \frac{1}{2} (d^k)^\top \left( Q + \frac{1}{t_k} \mathbb{I} \right) d^k &= A_k(\hat{x}) + \langle S^k, d^k \rangle + (d^k)^\top \left( Q + \frac{1}{t_k} \mathbb{I} \right) d^k \\ &= A_k(\hat{x}) - \langle \nu^k, d^k \rangle \\ &\leq A(\hat{x}) \\ &\leq M_k(\hat{x}) \\ &= \hat{f} \end{aligned}$$

**where the equations and inequalities follow from???**

By boundedness of  $d^k$  and  $Q + \frac{1}{t_k} \mathbb{I}$  this yields that  $\Psi_k \leq \hat{f}$ , so the sequence  $\{\Psi_k\}$  is bounded above. In the next step is shown that  $\{\Psi_k\}$  is increasing.

$$\Psi_{k+1} = M_k(x^{k+2}) + \frac{1}{2} (d^{k+1})^\top \left( Q + \frac{1}{t_k} \mathbb{I} \right) d^{k+1} \quad (4.21)$$

$$\geq A_k(x^{k+2}) + \frac{1}{2} (d^{k+1})^\top \left( Q + \frac{1}{t_k} \mathbb{I} \right) d^{k+1} \quad (4.22)$$

$$= M_k(x^{k+1}) + \langle S^k, x^{k+2} - x^{k+1} \rangle + \frac{1}{2} (d^{k+1})^\top \left( Q + \frac{1}{t_k} \mathbb{I} \right) d^{k+1} \quad (4.23)$$

$$= \Psi_k - \frac{1}{2} (d^k)^\top \left( Q + \frac{1}{t_k} \mathbb{I} \right) d^k + \frac{1}{2} (d^{k+1})^\top \left( Q + \frac{1}{t_k} \mathbb{I} \right) d^{k+1} \quad (4.24)$$

$$- (d^k)^\top \left( Q + \frac{1}{t_k} \mathbb{I} \right) (d^{k+1} - d^k) - \langle \nu^k, x^{k+2} - x^{k+1} \rangle \quad (4.25)$$

$$\geq \Psi_k + \frac{1}{2} (d^{k+1} - d^k)^\top \left( Q + \frac{1}{t_k} \mathbb{I} \right) (d^{k+1} - d^k) \quad (4.26)$$

say where (in-)equalities come from

As  $Q$  is fixed in null steps and  $\liminf_{k \rightarrow \infty} t_k > 0$   $\{\Psi_k\}$  is increasing. The sequence is therefore convergent. Consequently, taking into account that  $1/t_k \geq 1/t_{\bar{k}}$ , it follows

$$\|d^{k+1} - d^k\| \rightarrow 0, \quad k \rightarrow \infty. \quad (4.27)$$

By the definitions and characterizations that have to be specified one has

$$\hat{f} = \delta_k + M_k(\hat{x}) - C_k - (d^k)^\top \left( Q + \frac{1}{t_k} \mathbb{I} \right) (d^k) \quad (4.28)$$

$$= \delta_k + M_k(x^{k+1}) - \langle S^k, d^k \rangle - (d^k)^\top \left( Q + \frac{1}{t_k} \mathbb{I} \right) (d^k) \quad (4.29)$$

$$= \delta_k \geq \delta_k + M_k(\hat{x} + d^k) \quad (4.30)$$

Where the last inequality is given by  $\nu^k \in \partial \mathbf{i}_D(x^{k+1})$ . Therefore

$$\delta^{k+1} \leq \hat{f} - M_{k+1}(\hat{x} + d^{k+1}). \quad (4.31)$$

By the first inequality in assumption **define assumption** on the model, written for  $d = d^{k+1}$ ,

$$-\hat{f}_{k+1} + c_{k+1}^{k+1} - \langle s_{k+1}^{k+1}, d^{k+1} \rangle \geq -M_{k+1}(\hat{x} + d^{k+1}). \quad (4.32)$$

As  $\hat{f}_{k+1} = \hat{f}$ , adding condition **???** to the inequality above, one obtains that

$$m\delta_k + \langle s_{k+1}^{k+1}, d^k - d^{k+1} \rangle \geq \hat{f} - M_{k+1}(\hat{x} + d^{k+1}). \quad (4.33)$$

Combining this relation with **???** yields

$$0 \leq \delta_{k+1} \leq m\delta_k + \langle s_{k+1}^{k+1}, d^k - d^{k+1} \rangle. \quad (4.34)$$

Since  $m \in (0, 1)$  and  $\langle s_{k+1}^{k+1}, d^k - d^{k+1} \rangle \rightarrow 0$  as  $k \rightarrow \infty$  due to (4.27) and the boundedness of  $\{\eta_k\}$  using [16, Lemma 3, p.45] it follows from (4.34) that



$$\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \delta_k = 0. \quad (4.35)$$

From the formulation  $\delta_k = C_k + (d^k)^\top \left(Q + \frac{1}{t_k} \mathbb{I}\right) d^k$  follows that  $C_k \rightarrow 0$  as  $k \rightarrow \infty$ . As  $Q + \frac{1}{t_k} \mathbb{I} \succ \xi \mathbb{I}$  it follows that

$$\xi (d^k)^\top d^k \leq (d^k)^{top} \left(Q + \frac{1}{t_k} \mathbb{I}\right) d^k \rightarrow 0 \quad (4.36)$$

□

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