# R 语言做符号计算

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### 1 引言

谈起符号计算,大家首先想到的可能就是大名鼎鼎的 Maple,其次是 Mathematica,但是他们都是商业软件,除了昂贵的价格外,对于想知道底层,并做一些修改的极客而言,都是很不可能的。自从遇到 R 以后,还是果断脱离商业软件的苦海,话说 R 做符号计算固然比不上 Maple,但是你真的需要 Maple 这样的软件去做符号计算吗?我们看看 R 语言的符号计算能做到什么程度。

## 2 符号计算

#### 2.1 符号微分

在 R 中能够直接用来符号计算的是表达式,下面以 Tetrachoric 函数为例,

$$\tau(x) = \frac{(-1)^{j-1}}{\sqrt{j!}} \phi^{(j)}(x)$$

其中

$$\phi(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{x^2}{2}}$$

在R里,声明表达式对象使用 expression 函数

```
NormDensity <- expression(1/sqrt(2 * pi) * exp(-x^2/2))
class(NormDensity)
## [1] "expression"</pre>
```

计算一阶导数

```
D(NormDensity, "x")
## -(1/sqrt(2 * pi) * (exp(-x^2/2) * (2 * x/2)))
deriv(NormDensity, "x")
## expression({
##
       .expr3 <- 1/sqrt(2 * pi)
       .expr7 <- exp(-x^2/2)
##
##
       .value <- .expr3 * .expr7
       .grad <- array(0, c(length(.value), 1L), list(NULL, c("x")))</pre>
##
       .grad[, "x"] <- -(.expr3 * (.expr7 * (2 * x/2)))
##
       attr(.value, "gradient") <- .grad
##
##
       .value
## })
deriv3(NormDensity, "x")
## expression({
       .expr3 <- 1/sqrt(2 * pi)
##
       .expr7 <- exp(-x^2/2)
##
```

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```
.expr10 < -2 * x/2
##
       .expr11 <- .expr7 * .expr10
##
##
       .value <- .expr3 * .expr7
       .grad <- array(0, c(length(.value), 1L), list(NULL, c("x")))</pre>
##
       .hessian <- array(0, c(length(.value), 1L, 1L), list(NULL,</pre>
##
           c("x"), c("x")))
##
##
       .grad[, "x"] <- -(.expr3 * .expr11)
       .hessian[, "x", "x"] <- -(.expr3 * (.expr7 * (2/2) - .expr11 *
##
##
            .expr10))
       attr(.value, "gradient") <- .grad
##
       attr(.value, "hessian") <- .hessian
##
##
       .value
## })
```

计算 n 阶导数

```
DD <- function(expr, name, order = 1) {
    if (order < 1)
        stop("'order' must be >= 1")
    if (order == 1)
        D(expr, name) else DD(D(expr, name), name, order - 1)
}

DD(NormDensity, "x", 3)

## 1/sqrt(2 * pi) * (exp(-x^2/2) * (2 * x/2) * (2/2) + ((exp(-x^2/2) * (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2) + (2/2
```

#### 2.2 表达式转函数

很多时候我们使用 R 目的是计算,符号计算后希望可以直接代入计算,那么只需要在 deriv 中指定 function.arg 参数为 TRUE。

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```
## x
## [1,] 0
```

从计算结果可以看出,deriv 不仅计算了导数值还计算了原函数在该处的函数值。我们可以作如下简单验证:

```
Normfun <- function(x) 1/sqrt(2 * pi) * exp(-x^2/2)
Normfun(1)

## [1] 0.2419707

Normfun(0)

## [1] 0.3989423
```

在讲另外一个将表达式转化为函数的方法之前,先来一个小插曲,有没有觉得之前计算 3 阶导数的结果太复杂了,说不定看到这的人,早就要吐槽了!这个问题已经有高人写了 Deriv 包 [1] 来解决,请看:

```
DD(NormDensity, "x", 3)

## 1/sqrt(2 * pi) * (exp(-x^2/2) * (2 * x/2) * (2/2) + ((exp(-x^2/2) * # (2/2) - exp(-x^2/2) * (2 * x/2) * (2 * x/2)) * (2 * x/2) + # exp(-x^2/2) * (2 * x/2) * (2/2)))

library(Deriv)
Simplify(DD(NormDensity, "x", 3))

## x * (3 - x^2) * exp(-(x^2/2))/sqrt(2 * pi)
```

三阶导数根本不在话下,如果想体验更高阶导数,不妨请读者动动手! 表达式转函数的关键是理解函数其实是由参数列表 (args) 和函数体 (body) 两部分构成,以前面自编的 Normfun 函数为例

```
body(Normfun)
## 1/sqrt(2 * pi) * exp(-x^2/2)
args(Normfun)
## function (x)
## NULL
```

而函数体被一对花括号括住的就是表达式,查看 eval 函数帮助,我们可以知道 eval 计算的对象就是表达式。下面来个小示例以说明此问题。

```
eval({
    x <- 2
    x^2
})</pre>
```

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```
## [1] 4
eval(body(Normfun))
## [1] 0.05399097
Normfun(2)
## [1] 0.05399097
```

至此我们可以将表达式转化为函数,也许又有读者耐不住了,既然可以用 eval 函数直接计算,干嘛还要转化为函数?这个主要是写成函数比较方便,你可能需要重复计算不同的函数值,甚至放在你的算法的中间过程中......(此处省略 500 字,请读者自己理解)

终于又回到开篇处 Tetrachoric 函数, 里面要计算任意阶导数, 反正现在是没问题了, 管他几阶, 算完后 化简转函数, 请看:

```
Tetrachoric <- function(x, j) {
    (-1)^(j - 1)/sqrt(factorial(j)) * eval(Simplify(DD(NormDensity, "x", j)))
}
Tetrachoric(2, 3)
## [1] -0.04408344</pre>
```

有时候我们有的就是函数,这怎么计算导数呢?按道理,看完上面的过程,这已经不是什么问题啦!

```
Simplify(D(body(Normfun), "x"))
## -(x * exp(-(x^2/2))/sqrt(2 * pi))
```

作为本节的最后,献上 Tetrachoric 函数图像,这个函数的作用主要是计算多元正态分布的概率,详细内容参看 [2]。

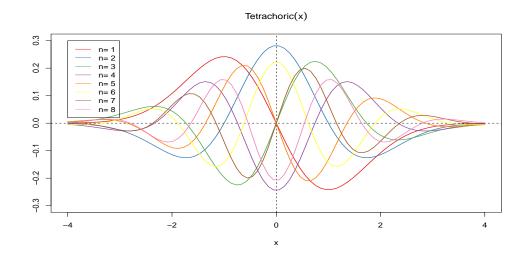


图 1: Tetrachoric 函数

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### 3 符号计算扩展包

#### 3.1 Ryacas

想要做更多的符号计算内容,如解方程,泰勒展开等,可以借助第三方 R 扩展包 Ryacas [3]

```
suppressPackageStartupMessages(library(Ryacas))
yacas("Solve(x/(1+x) == a, x)")

## [1] "Starting Yacas!"

## expression(list(x == a/(1 - a)))

yacas(expression(Expand((1 + x)^3)))

## expression(x^3 + 3 * x^2 + 3 * x + 1)

yacas("OdeSolve(y''==4*y)")

## expression(C95 * exp(2 * x) + C99 * exp(-2 * x))

yacas("Taylor(x,a,3) Exp(x)")

## expression(exp(a) + exp(a) * (x - a) + (x - a)^2 * exp(a)/2 +

## (x - a)^3 * exp(a)/6)
```

#### 3.2 rSymPy

rSymPy 是 Python 的符号计算库 SymPy 的 R 接口

```
library(rSymPy)

## Loading required package: rJava

## Loading required package: rJava

## Loading required package: rjson

x <- Var("x")

x + x

## [1] "2*x"

sympy("y = x*x")

## [1] "x**2"

sympy("y")

## [1] "x**2"

sympy("limit(1/x, x, oo)")

## [1] "o"</pre>
```

```
sympy("diff(sin(2*x), x, 1)")
## [1] "2*cos(2*x)"

sympy("diff(sin(2*x), x, 5)")

## [1] "32*cos(2*x)"

sympy("integrate(exp(-x), (x, 0, oo))")

## [1] "1"

cat(sympy("A = Matrix([[1,x], [y,1]])"), "\n")

## [ 1, x]
## [x**2, 1]

cat(sympy("A**2"), "\n")

## [1 + x**3, 2*x]
## [ 2*x**2, 1 + x**3]
```

## 4 符号计算在优化算法中的应用

学过运筹学或者数值分析课程的可能知道,有不少优化算法是要求导或者求梯度的,如拟牛顿算法,最速下降法和共轭梯度法,还有求解非线性方程组的拟牛顿算法及其修正算法。 下面以求 Rosenbrock 函数的极小值为例:

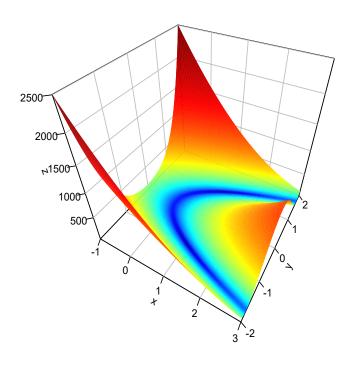


图 2: Rosenbrock 函数

符号微分

```
fun <- expression(100 * (x2 - x1^2)^2 + (1 - x1)^2)
D(fun, "x1")
## -(2 * (1 - x1) + 100 * (2 * (2 * x1 * (x2 - x1^2))))
D(fun, "x2")
## 100 * (2 * (x2 - x1^2))</pre>
```

调用拟牛顿法求极值

```
fr <- function(x) {</pre>
    x1 < - x[1]
    x2 < - x[2]
    100 * (x2 - x1 * x1)^2 + (1 - x1)^2
}
grr1 <- function(x) {</pre>
   x1 < - x[1]
    x2 < - x[2]
    c(-400 * x1 * (x2 - x1 * x1) - 2 * (1 - x1), 200 * (x2 - x1 * x1))
optim(c(-1.2, 1), fr, grr1, method = "BFGS")
## $par
## [1] 1 1
##
## $value
## [1] 9.594956e-18
##
## $counts
## function gradient
        110
                 43
##
##
## $convergence
## [1] 0
##
## $message
## NULL
```

仿照 Tetrachoric 函数的写法,可以简写 grr1 函数 (这个写法可以稍微避免一点复制粘贴):

```
grr2 <- function(x) {
    x1 <- x[1]
    x2 <- x[2]</pre>
```

```
c(eval(D(fun, "x1")), eval(D(fun, "x2"))) # 表达式微分
}
optim(c(-1.2, 1), fr, grr2, method = "BFGS")
## $par
## [1] 1 1
##
## $value
## [1] 9.594956e-18
## $counts
## function gradient
      110 43
##
##
## $convergence
## [1] 0
##
## $message
## NULL
```

如果调用 numDeriv 包 [4], 可以再少写点代码:

```
library(numDeriv)
grr3 <- function(x) {</pre>
  x1 < - x[1]
   x2 < -x[2]
   grad(fr, c(x1, x2)) # 函数微分
}
optim(c(-1.2, 1), fr, grr3, method = "BFGS")
## $par
## [1] 1 1
##
## $value
## [1] 9.595012e-18
##
## $counts
## function gradient
     110 43
##
##
## $convergence
## [1] 0
##
## $message
```

## NULL

如果一定要体现符号微分的过程,就调用 Deriv 包:

```
library(Deriv)
fr1 \leftarrow function(x1, x2) {
    # 函数形式与上面不同
    100 * (x2 - x1 * x1)^2 + (1 - x1)^2
}
grr2 <- function(x) {</pre>
    x1 < - x[1]
    x2 < -x[2]
    Deriv(fr1, cache.exp = FALSE)(x1, x2) # 符号微分
}
optim(c(-1.2, 1), fr, grr2, method = "BFGS")
## $par
## [1] 1 1
##
## $value
## [1] 9.594956e-18
##
## $counts
## function gradient
        110
                  43
##
##
## $convergence
## [1] 0
##
## $message
## NULL
```

从上面可以看出函数 (Deriv 与 optim) 之间不兼容: Deriv 与 optim 接受的函数形式不同,导致两个函数 (fr 与 fr1) 的参数列表的形式不一样,应能看出 fr 这种写法更好些。 注:

- 1. 求极值和求解方程 (组) 往往有联系的,如统计中求参数的最大似然估计,有不少可以转化为求方程 (组),如 stat4 包 [5] 的 mle 函数。
- 2. 目标函数可以求导,使用拟牛顿算法效果比较好,如上例中 methods 参数设置成 CG, 结果就会不一样。
- 3. nlm、optim 和 nlminb 等函数都实现了带梯度的优化算法。
- 4. 不过话又说回来,真实的场景大多是目标函数不能求导,一阶导数都不能求,更多细节请读者参见 optim 函数帮助。

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5. 还有一些做数值优化的 R 包,如 BB 包 [6] 求解大规模非线性系统,numDeriv 包是数值微分的通用 求解器,更多的内容可参见 https://cran.rstudio.com/web/views/Optimization.html。

6. 除了数值优化还有做概率优化的 R 包,如仅遗传算法就有 GA [7], gafit [8], galts [9], mcga [10], rgenoud [11], gaoptim [12], genalg [13] 等 R 包,这方面的最新成果参考文献 [14]。

## 5 R 软件信息

```
sessionInfo()
## R version 3.2.5 (2016-04-14)
## Platform: x86_64-w64-mingw32/x64 (64-bit)
## Running under: Windows 8.1 x64 (build 9600)
##
## locale:
## [1] LC_COLLATE=Chinese (Simplified)_China.936
## [2] LC_CTYPE=Chinese (Simplified)_China.936
## [3] LC_MONETARY=Chinese (Simplified)_China.936
## [4] LC_NUMERIC=C
## [5] LC_TIME=Chinese (Simplified)_China.936
##
## attached base packages:
## [1] stats
                 graphics grDevices utils
                                               datasets methods
                                                                   base
##
## other attached packages:
## [1] numDeriv_2014.2-1 rSymPy_0.2-1.1
                                           rJython_0.0-4
                                                             rjson_0.2.15
                         Deriv_3.7.0
## [5] rJava_0.9-8
                                           knitr_1.13
##
## loaded via a namespace (and not attached):
## [1] magrittr_1.5
                     Ryacas_0.2-12.1 formatR_1.4
                                                       tools_3.2.5
## [5] stringi_1.1.1
                     highr_0.6
                                       stringr_1.0.0
                                                       XML_3.98-1.4
## [9] evaluate_0.9
```

本文是在 RStudio 环境下用 R sweave 编写的,用 knitr[15] 处理 R 代码,XqIATeX 编译生成 pdf 文档。

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