Kotlin∇

Differentiable functional programming with algebraic data types

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Overview

Type checking automatic differentiation

Suppose we have a program $P : \mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{R}$ where:

$$P(x) = p_n \circ p_{n-1} \circ p_{n-2} \circ \ldots \circ p_1 \circ p_0 \tag{1}$$

From the chain rule of calculus, we know that:

$$\frac{dP}{dp_0} = \prod_{i=1}^{n} \frac{dp_i}{dp_{i-1}} \tag{2}$$

In order for P to type check, what is the type of $p_{0<i<n}$?

$$p_i : T_{out}(p_{i-1}) \to T_{in}(p_{i+1}) \tag{3}$$

What happens if we let $P : \mathbb{R}^c \to \mathbb{R}$, $P : \mathbb{R}^c \to \mathbb{C}^d$ or $P : \Psi^p \to \Omega^q$?

Why Kotlin?

- Goal: To implement automatic differentiation in Kotlin
- Kotlin is a language with strong static typing and null safety
- Supports first-class functions, higher order functions and lambdas
- Has support for algebraic data types, via tuples sealed classes
- Extension functions, operator overloading other syntax sugar
- Offers features for embedding domain specific languages (DSLs)
- Access to all libraries and frameworks in the JVM ecosystem
- Multi-platform and cross-platform (JVM, Android, iOS, JS, native)

Kotlin∇ Priorities

- Type system requirements
  - Strong type system based on algebraic principles
  - Leverage the compiler for static analysis
  - No implicit broadcasting or shape coercion
  - Parameterized numerical types and arbitary-precision
- Design principles
  - Functional programming and lazy numerical evaluation
  - Eager algebraic simplification of expression trees
  - Operator overloading and tapeless reverse mode AD
- Usage desirata
  - Generalized AD with imperative array programming
  - Automatic differentiation with infix and Polish notation
  - Partials and higher order derivatives and gradients
- Testing and validation
  - Numerical gradient checking and property-based testing
  - Performance benchmarks and thorough regression testing

Algebraic types

- Abstract algebra can be useful when generalizing to new structures
- Helps us to easily translate between mathematics and code
- Most of the time in numerical computing, we are dealing with Fields
  - A set F together with two operations $+$ and $\times$
    - Associativity: $\forall a, b, c \in F, a + (b + c) = (a + b) + c$
    - Commutivity: $\forall a, b \in F, a + b = b + a$ and $a \times b = b \times a$
    - Distributivity: $\forall a, b, c \in F, a \times (b \times c) = (a \times b) \times c$
    - Identity: $\forall a \in F, \exists 0, 1 \in F$ s.t. $a + 0 = a$ and $a \times 1 = a$
    - $+$ inverse: $\forall a \in F, \exists - a$ s.t. $a + (-a) = 0$
    - $\times$ inverse: $\forall a \neq 0 \in F, \exists a^{-1}$ s.t. $a \times a^{-1} = 1$
- Readily extensible to complex numbers, quaternions, dual numbers
- Can be implemented using parametric polymorphism a.k.a. generics

How do we define algebraic types in Kotlin∇?

```
// T: Group<T> is effectively a self type
interface Group<T: Group<T>> {
operator fun plus(f: T): T
operator fun times(f: T): T
}

// Inherits from Group, default methods
interface Field<T: Field<T>>: Group<T> {
operator fun unaryMinus(): T
operator fun minus(f: T): T = this + -f
fun inverse(): T
operator fun div(f: T): T = this * f.inverse()
}
```

Algebraic Data Types

```
class Var: Expr()
class Const(val num: Number): Expr()
class Sum(val e1: Expr, val e2: Expr): Expr()
class Prod(val e1: Expr, val e2: Expr): Expr()
sealed class Expr: Group {
fun diff() = when(expr) {
is Const -> Zero
is Sum -> e1.diff() + e2.diff()
// d(u*v)/dx = du/dx * v + u * dv/dx
is Prod -> e1.diff() * e2 + e1 * e2.diff()
is Var -> One
}
operator fun plus(e: Expr) = Sum(this, e)
operator fun times(e: Expr) = Prod(this, e)
}
```

Expression Simplification

```
operator fun Expr.times(exp: Expr) = when {
this is Const && num == 0.0 -> Const(0.0)
this is Const && num == 1.0 -> exp
exp is Const && exp.num == 0.0 -> exp
exp is Const && exp.num == 1.0 -> this
this is Const && exp is Const -> Const(num*exp.num)
else -> Prod(this, e)
}

// Sum(Prod(Const(2.0), Var()), Const(6.0))
val q = Const(2.0) * Sum(Var(), Const(3.0))
```

Testing

```kotlin
val x = variable("x")
val y = variable("y")

val z = y * (sin(x * y) - x) // Function under test
val dz_dx = d(z) / d(x)      // Automatic derivative
val manualDx = y * (cos(x * y) * y - 1)

"dz/dx should be y * (cos(x * y) * y - 1)" {
assertAll (NumGen, NumGen) { cx, cy ->
// Evaluate the results at a given seed
val autoEval = dz_dx(x to cx, y to cy)
val manualEval = manualDx(x to cx, y to cy)
// Should pass if |adEval - manualEval| < eps
autoEval shouldBeApproximately manualEval
}
}
```

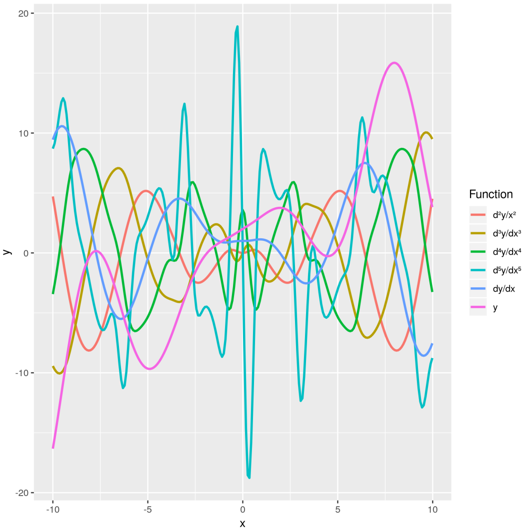
Usage

```
with(DoubleFunctor) {// Use double-precision numerics
val x = variable()  // Declare an immutable variable
val y = sin(sin(sin(x)))/x + sin(x) * x + cos(x) + x

// Lazily compute reverse-mode automatic derivatives
val dy_dx = d(y) / d(x)
val d2y_dx = d(dy_dx) / d(x)
val d3y_dx = d(d2y_dx2) / d(x)
val d4y_dx = d(d3y_dx3) / d(x)
val d5y_dx = d(d4y_dx4) / d(x)

plot(-10..10, dy_dx, dy2_dx, d3y_dx, d4y_dx, d5y_dx)
}
```

$y = \frac{\sin\sin\sin x}{x} + x\sin x + \cos x + x,\ \frac{dy}{dx},\ \frac{d^2y}{dx^2},\ \frac{d^3y}{dx^3},\ \frac{d^4y}{dx^4},\ \frac{d^5y}{dx^5}$



Further directions to explore

- Closer integration with Kotlin/Java standard library
- Primitive type specialization
- Dependent types via code generation to type check tensor shapes
- Encode additional structure like arity into the type system
- Performance benchmarks and zero-cost un/boxing abstractions
- Lazy evaluation and configurable forward/backward AD modes
- Automatic expression refactoring for numerical stability

Learn more at:
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