

Kotlin▽

A Shape Safe eDSL for Differentiable Functional Programming

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- 1 A Short Lesson on Computing Derivatives
- 2 Introduction and motivation
- 3 Usage
- 4 Future exploration

Differentiation

If we have a function, $P(x) : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, recall the derivative is defined as:

$$P'(x) = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x+h) - f(x)}{h} = \frac{\Delta y}{\Delta x} = \frac{dP}{dx} \quad (1)$$

For $P(x_1, \dots, x_n) : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, the gradient is a vector of derivatives:

$$\nabla P = \left[\frac{\partial P}{\partial x_1}, \dots, \frac{\partial P}{\partial x_n} \right] \text{ where } \frac{\partial P}{\partial x_i} = \frac{dP}{dx_i} \quad (2)$$

For $\mathbf{P}(\mathbf{x}) : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$, the Jacobian is a vector of gradients:

$$\mathcal{J}_{\mathbf{P}} = [\nabla P_1, \dots, \nabla P_n] \text{ or equivalently, } \mathcal{J}_{ij} = \frac{\partial P_i}{\partial x_j} \quad (3)$$

Automatic differentiation

Suppose we have a scalar function $P_k : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ such that:

$$P_k(x) = \begin{cases} p_1(x) = x & \text{if } k = 1 \\ (p_k \circ P_{k-1})(x) & \text{if } k > 1 \end{cases}$$

From the chain rule of calculus, we know that:

$$\frac{dP}{dp_1} = \frac{dp_k}{dp_{k-1}} \frac{dp_{k-1}}{dp_{k-2}} \cdots \frac{dp_2}{dp_1} = \prod_{i=1}^k \frac{dp_{i+1}}{dp_i}$$

For a vector function $\mathbf{P}_k(\mathbf{x}) : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$, the chain rule still applies:

$$\mathcal{J}_{\mathbf{P}_k} = \prod_{i=1}^k \mathcal{J}_{p_i} = \underbrace{\left(\left((\mathcal{J}_{p_k} \mathcal{J}_{p_{k-1}}) \cdots \mathcal{J}_{p_2} \right) \mathcal{J}_{p_1} \right)}_{\text{"Reverse accumulation"}} = \underbrace{\left(\mathcal{J}_{p_k} \left(\mathcal{J}_{p_{k-1}} \cdots (\mathcal{J}_{p_2} \mathcal{J}_{p_1}) \right) \right)}_{\text{"Forward accumulation"}}$$

If \mathbf{P}_k were a program, what would the type signature of $\mathbf{p}_{0 < i < k}$ be?

$$\mathbf{p}_i : \mathcal{T}_{out}(\mathbf{p}_{i-1}) \rightarrow \mathcal{T}_{in}(\mathbf{p}_{i+1})$$

Parameter learning and gradient descent

For parametric models, let us rewrite $\mathbf{P}_k(\mathbf{x})$ as:

$$\hat{\mathbf{P}}_k(\mathbf{x}; \Theta) = \begin{cases} \mathbf{p}_1(\theta_1)(\mathbf{x}) & \text{if } k = 1 \\ (\mathbf{p}_k(\theta_k) \circ \hat{\mathbf{P}}_{k-1}(\Theta_{[1,k-1]}))(\mathbf{x}) & \text{if } k > 1 \end{cases}$$

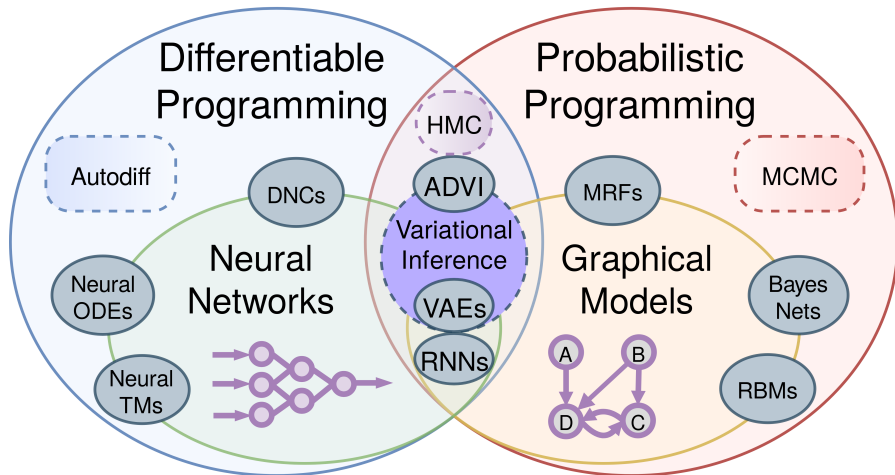
Where $\Theta = \{\theta_1, \dots, \theta_k\}$ are free parameters and $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ is a single input. Given $\mathbf{Y} = \{\mathbf{y}^{(1)} = \mathbf{P}(\mathbf{x}^{(1)}), \dots, \mathbf{y}^{(z)} = \mathbf{P}(\mathbf{x}^{(z)})\}$ from an oracle, in order to approximate $\mathbf{P}(\mathbf{x})$, repeat the following procedure until Θ converges:

$$\Theta \leftarrow \Theta - \frac{1}{z} \nabla_{\Theta} \sum_{i=0}^z \mathcal{L}(\hat{\mathbf{P}}_k(\mathbf{x}^{(i)}), \mathbf{y}^{(i)})$$

If $\hat{\mathbf{P}}_k$ were a program, what would the type signature of $\mathbf{p}_{1 < i < k}$ be?

$$\mathbf{p}_i : \mathcal{T}_{out}(\mathbf{p}_{i-1}) \times \mathcal{T}(\theta_i) \rightarrow \mathcal{T}_{in}(\mathbf{p}_{i+1}(\theta_{i+1}))$$

What is differentiable programming?



Shape checking and inference

- Scalar functions implicitly represent shape as arity $f(\cdot, \cdot) : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$
- To check array programs, we need a type-level encoding of shape
- Arbitrary ops (e.g. convolution, vectorization) require dependent types
- But parametric polymorphism will suffice for many tensor functions
- For most algebraic operations, we just need to check for equality. . .

Math	Derivative	Code	Type Signature
$a(b)$	$\mathcal{J}_a \mathcal{J}_b$	$a(b)$	$(a : \mathbb{R}^\tau \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^\pi, b : \mathbb{R}^\lambda \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^\tau) \rightarrow (\mathbb{R}^\lambda \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^\pi)$
$a + b$	$\mathcal{J}_a + \mathcal{J}_b$	$a + b$ $a.\text{plus}(b)$ $\text{plus}(a, b)$	$(a : \mathbb{R}^\tau \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^\pi, b : \mathbb{R}^\lambda \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^\tau) \rightarrow (\mathbb{R}^\tau \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^\pi)$
ab	$\mathcal{J}_a b + \mathcal{J}_b a$	$a * b$ $a.\text{times}(b)$ $\text{times}(a, b)$	$(a : \mathbb{R}^\tau \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}, b : \mathbb{R}^\lambda \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{n \times p}) \rightarrow (\mathbb{R}^\tau \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{m \times p})$
a^b	$a^b(a' \frac{b}{a} + b' \ln a)$	$a.\text{pow}(b)$ $\text{pow}(a, b)$	$(a : \mathbb{R}^\tau \rightarrow \mathbb{R}, b : \mathbb{R}^\lambda \rightarrow \mathbb{R}) \rightarrow (\mathbb{R}^\tau \rightarrow \mathbb{R})$

- Abstract algebra can be useful when generalizing to new structures
- Helps us to easily translate between mathematics and source code
- Fields are a useful concept when computing over real numbers
 - A field is a set \mathbb{F} with two operations $+$ and \times , with the properties:
 - Associativity: $\forall a, b, c \in \mathbb{F}, a + (b + c) = (a + b) + c$
 - Commutivity: $\forall a, b \in \mathbb{F}, a + b = b + a$ and $a \times b = b \times a$
 - Distributivity: $\forall a, b, c \in \mathbb{F}, a \times (b + c) = (a \times b) + (a \times c)$
 - Identity: $\forall a \in \mathbb{F}, \exists 0, 1 \in \mathbb{F}$ s.t. $a + 0 = a$ and $a \times 1 = a$
 - $+$ inverse: $\forall a \in \mathbb{F}, \exists (-a)$ s.t. $a + (-a) = 0$
 - \times inverse: $\forall a \neq 0 \in \mathbb{F}, \exists (a^{-1})$ s.t. $a \times a^{-1} = 1$
- Extensible to other number systems (e.g. complex, dual numbers)
- What is a program, but a series of arithmetic operations?





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 through 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)



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

Feature Comparison Matrix

Framework	Language	SD	AD	FP	TS	SS	DP	MP
Kotlin ∇	Kotlin	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
DiffSharp	F#	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗
TensorFlow.FSharp	F#	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
Nexus	Scala	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
Lantern	Scala	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗
Grenade	Haskell	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗
JAutoDiff	Java	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗
Halide	C++	✗	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓	✗
Stalin ∇	Scheme	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Myia	Python	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	
Autograd	Python	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
JAX	Python	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	

SD: Symbolic Differentiation, AD: Automatic Differentiation, FP: Functional Program, TS: Type-Safe, SS: Shape Safe, DP: Differentiable Programming, MP: Multiplatform

```
val z = sin(10 * (x * x + pow(y, 2))) / 10
```

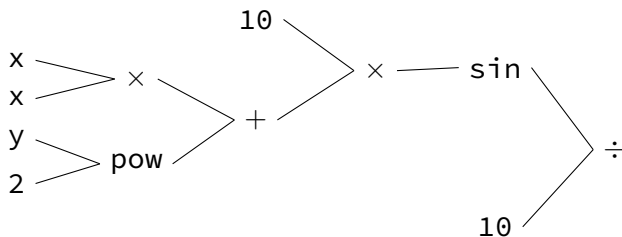


Figure: Implicit DFG constructed by the above expression, `z`.

Usage: Plotting higher derivatives of nested functions

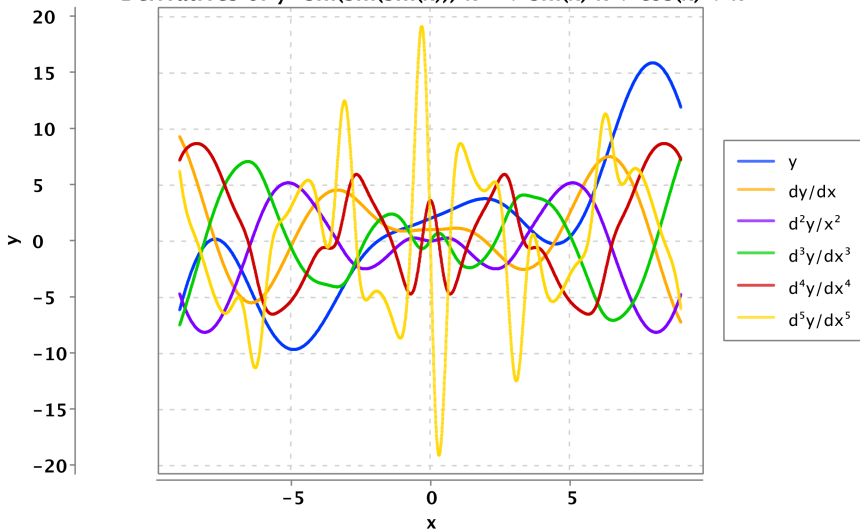
```
// Use double-precision floating point numerics
with(DoublePrecision) {
    val x = Var()
    val y = sin(sin(sin(x)))/x + x*sin(x) + cos(x) + x

    // Perform lazy symbolic differentiation
    val dy_dx = d(y) / d(x)
    val d2y_dx = d(dy_dx) / d(x)
    val d3y_dx = d(d2y_dx) / d(x)
    val d4y_dx = d(d3y_dx) / d(x)
    val d5y_dx = d(d4y_dx) / d(x)

    plot(-9..9, dy_dx, dy2_dx, d3y_dx, d4y_dx, d5y_dx)
}
```

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

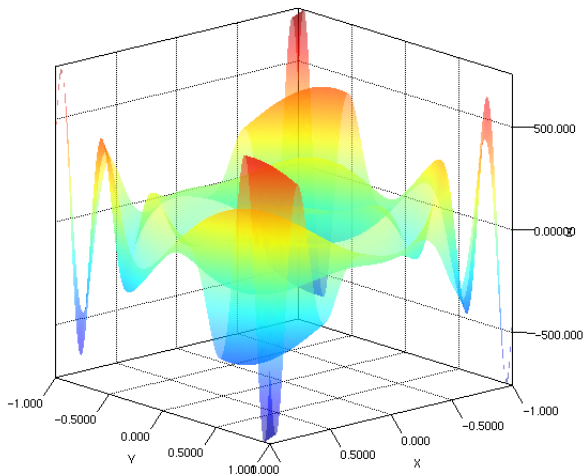
Derivatives of $y = \sin(\sin(\sin(x))) \cdot x^{-1} + \sin(x) \cdot x + \cos(x) + x$



Usage: 3D plotting with mixed higher order partials

```
with(DoublePrecision) {  
    val x = Var()  
    val y = Var()  
  
    val z = sin(10 * (x * x + pow(y, 2))) / 10  
    val dz_dx = d(z) / d(x)  
    val d2f_dxdy = d(dz_dx) / d(y)  
    val d3z_d2xdy = d(d(dz_dx) / d(y)) / d(x)  
  
    plot3d(-1, 1, d3z_d2xdy)  
}
```

$$z = \sin(10(x^2 + y^2))/10, \frac{\partial^3 z}{\partial^2 x \partial y}$$



Currying and Partial Application

```
with(DoublePrecision) {  
    val q0 = X + Y * Z + Y + 0.0  
    val p0 = q(X to 1.0, Y to 2.0, Z to 3.0)  
    val p1 = q(X to 1.0, Y to 1.0)(Z to 1.0)  
    val p3 = q(Z to 1.0)(X to 1.0, Y to 1.0)  
    val p4 = q(Z to 1.0)(X to 1.0)(Y to 1.0)  
    val p5 = q(Z to 1.0)(X to 1.0) // Fn<Y>  
    val q1 = X + Z + 0.0  
    val p6 = q1(Y to 1.0) // Error  
}
```

Vector Shape Safety

```
with(DoublePrecision) {           // Inferred type:
    val a = Vec(1.0, 2.0)           // Vec<Double, 2>
    val b = Vec(1.0, 2.0, 3.0)      // Vec<Double, 3>
    val c = b + b                   // Vec<Double, 3>
    val d = a + b                   // Compile error
    val e = b dot b                 // Vec<Double, 1>
    val f = b dot a                 // Compile error
}
```

Matrix Shape Safety

```
// Inferred type: Mat<Double, `1`, `4`>
val a = Mat(1.0, 2.0, 3.0, 4.0)
// Inferred type: Mat<Double, `4`, `1`>
val b = Mat(1.0)(2.0)(3.0)(4.0)
val c = a * b

// Does not compile, inner dimension mismatch
// a * a
// b * b
```

Further directions to explore

- Theory Directions

- Generalization of types to higher order functions, vector spaces
- Dependent types via code generation to type-check convolution
- General programming operators and data structures
- Imperative define-by-run array programming syntax
- Program induction and synthesis, cf.
 - The Derivative of a Regular Type is its Type of One-Hole Contexts
 - The Differential Lambda Calculus (2003)
- Asynchronous gradient descent (cf. HogWild, YellowFin, et al.)

- Implementation Details

- Closer integration with Kotlin/Java standard library
- Encode additional structure, i.e. function arity into type system
- Vectorized optimizations for matrices with certain properties
- Configurable forward and backward AD modes based on dimension
- Automatic expression refactoring for numerical stability
- Primitive type specialization, i.e. `FloatVector <: Vector<T>?`

Learn more at:

<http://kg.ndan.co>

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