EE24BTECH11030 - KEDARANANDA

Question: Find the maximum area of an isosceles triangle inscribed in the ellipse $\frac{x^2}{a^2} + \frac{y^2}{b^2} = 1$ with its vertex at one end of the major axis.

Solution

Theoretical solution: Consider the isosceles triangle ABC:

A(a,0), $B(a\cos\theta,b\sin\theta)$, and $C(a\cos\theta,-b\sin\theta)$

Area of
$$\triangle ABC = \frac{1}{2} \times BC \times \text{height of } \triangle ABC$$
 (1)

Height of
$$\triangle ABC = a(1 - \cos \theta)$$
 (2)

$$BC = 2b\sin\theta \tag{3}$$

$$\Delta = \frac{1}{2} \times 2b \sin \theta \times a(1 - \cos \theta) \tag{4}$$

$$= ab\sin\theta(1-\cos\theta) \tag{5}$$

For the maximum area of the triangle:

$$\frac{d\Delta}{d\theta} = ab\cos\theta(1-\cos\theta) + ab\sin^2\theta = 0 \tag{6}$$

$$\cos\theta(1-\cos\theta) + \sin^2\theta = 0 \tag{7}$$

$$\cos \theta = \cos 2\theta \tag{8}$$

(9)

1

$$\cos\theta = -\frac{1}{2} \tag{10}$$

(11)

For the maximum value:

$$\cos \theta = -\frac{1}{2}, \quad \sin \theta = \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} \tag{12}$$

Maximum area =
$$ab \times \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} \left(1 + \frac{1}{2} \right)$$
 (13)

$$=\frac{3\sqrt{3}}{4}ab\tag{14}$$

Computational solution:

By the gradient descent algorithm, the difference equation is given by,

$$f(x) = ab\sin x(1 - \cos x) \tag{15}$$

(16)

to find value of x_n for max area

$$x_{n+1} = x_n + \mu f'(x_n) \tag{17}$$

$$x_{n+1} = x_n + \mu \left(ab \cos x_n (1 - \cos x_n) + ab \sin^2 x_n \right)$$
 (18)

$$x_{n+1} = x_n + \mu ab \cos x_n (1 - \cos x_n) + \mu ab \sin^2 x_n$$

Taking the Z-transform on both sides:

$$zX(z) - zx_0 = X(z) + \mu ab \cos(X(z))(1 - \cos(X(z))) + \mu ab \sin^2(X(z)).$$

$$(Z-1)X(Z) - Zx_0 = \mu ab \left(\frac{1 - Z^{-1}\cos 1}{1 - 2Z^{-1}\cos 1 + Z^{-2}} - \frac{1 - Z^{-1}\cos 2}{1 - 2Z^{-1}\cos 2 + Z^{-2}} \right)$$
(19)

If the sequence x_n has to converge,

$$\lim_{n \to \infty} |x_{n+1} - x_n| = 0 \tag{20}$$

$$\implies \lim_{n \to \infty} |\mu ab(\cos(2x_n) - \cos(x_n))| = 0 \tag{21}$$

$$\implies \mu \lim_{n \to \infty} |\mu ab(\cos(2x_n) - \cos(x_n))| = 0, \ \mu > 0$$
 (22)

$$\implies \lim_{n \to \infty} \cos(2x_n) - \cos(x_n) = 0 \tag{23}$$

$$\implies \lim_{n \to \infty} x_n = \frac{2\pi}{3} \tag{24}$$

to find value of x_n for min area

$$x_{n+1} = x_n - \mu f'(x_n)$$
 (25)

$$x_{n+1} = x_n - \mu \left(ab \cos x_n (1 - \cos x_n) + ab \sin^2 x_n \right)$$
 (26)

$$x_{n+1} = x_n - \mu ab \cos x_n (1 - \cos x_n) + \mu ab \sin^2 x_n$$

Taking the Z-transform on both sides:

$$zX(z) - zx_0 = X(z) - \mu ab \cos(X(z))(1 - \cos(X(z))) + \mu ab \sin^2(X(z)).$$

$$(Z-1)X(Z) - Zx_0 = -\mu ab \left(\frac{1 - Z^{-1}\cos 1}{1 - 2Z^{-1}\cos 1 + Z^{-2}} - \frac{1 - Z^{-1}\cos 2}{1 - 2Z^{-1}\cos 2 + Z^{-2}} \right)$$
(27)

If the sequence x_n has to converge,

$$\lim_{n \to \infty} |x_{n+1} - x_n| = 0 \tag{28}$$

$$\implies \lim_{n \to \infty} |-\mu ab(\cos(2x_n) - \cos(x_n))| = 0$$
 (29)

$$\implies \mu \lim_{n \to \infty} |-\mu ab(\cos(2x_n) - \cos(x_n))| = 0, \ \mu > 0$$
(30)

$$\implies \lim_{n \to \infty} \cos(2x_n) - \cos(x_n) = 0 \tag{31}$$

$$\implies \lim_{n \to \infty} x_n = 0 \tag{32}$$

