CO 367

272284444

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Contents

1 Introduction

1.1 Lecture 1-Preliminaries

Definition 1.1 – Quadratic Form

Let A be a symmetric matrix and $x = \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ \vdots \\ x_n \end{pmatrix}$. The **quadratic form** Q of the matrix A is defined as

$$Q = x^T A x$$

Problem 1.1 – Example

Consider the matrix $A = \begin{bmatrix} 5 & -5 \\ -5 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$. The quadratic form of A is

$$Q(x) = 5x_1^2 - 10x_1x_2 + x_2^2$$

Definition 1.2 – Classification of Quadratic Forms

Let Q be a quadratic form of a matrix A. Then Q is

1. positive definite if $Q(x) > 0$ for all non-zero vectors x, and $Q(x) = 0$ if and only if $x = 0$. Or all eigenvalues of A are positive.
2. positive semidefinite if $Q(x) \geq 0$ for all vectors x, with $Q(x) = 0$ occurring for some non-zero vectors x. Or all eigenvalues of A are non-negative.
3. negative definite if $Q(x) < 0$ for all non-zero vectors x, and $Q(x) = 0$ if and only if $x = 0$. Or all eigenvalues of A are negative.
4. negative semidefinite if $Q(x) \leq 0$ for all vectors x, with $Q(x) = 0$ occuring for some non-zero vectors x. Or all eigenvalues of A are non-negative.
5. indefinite if $Q(x)$ can be positive or negative. Or there are positive and negative eigenvalues for A.

Definition 1.3 – Big O and little o

Big O is basically the rate of growth of that function. A function $f(n)$ is of order 1, or $O(1)$ if there exists some non zero constant c such that

$$\frac{f(n)}{c} \to 1$$

as $n \to \infty$.

Little o is the upper bound of the rate of growth of that function. Therefore, a function $f(n)$ is of order 1, or $o(1)$ if for all constants $c > 0$,

$$\frac{f(n)}{c} \to 0$$

as $n \to \infty$.

Definition 1.4 – Differentiability Based on Big o and Little o

If f is differentiable at $x = a$, then

$$f(a + h) = f(a) + f'(a)h + o(h)$$

Conversely, if there exists constants A and B such that

$$f(a+h) = A + Bh + o(h)$$

then f is differentiable at $x = a$. Moreover, $A = f(a)$ and $B = f'(a)$.

Definition 1.5 – Product Rule
If f, g are differentiable at $x = a$, then

$$f(a+h) = f(a) + f'(a)h + o(h), \quad g(a+h) = g(a) + g'(a)h + o(h)$$

Then

$$\begin{aligned} p(a+h) &= f(a+h)g(a+h) \\ &= f(a)g(a) + [f(a)g'(a) + g(a)f(a)]h + o(h) \end{aligned}$$

Then by above theorem, $p = fg$ is differentiable at $x = a$, and $p'(a) = f(a)g'(a) + g(a)f'(a)$.

Definition 1.6 – Chain Rule
WIP

Definition 1.7 – Inner Product Space
Let $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$, represented as:

$$x = \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ \vdots \\ x_n \end{pmatrix}$$

The inner product space is defined as:

$$\langle x, y \rangle = x^T y = \sum_{i=1}^{n} x_i y_i \quad \text{(dot product)}$$

The angle between vectors x and y is given by $\cos(\theta) = \frac{\langle x,y \rangle}{\|x\|}$.
With corresponding norm to be the Euclidean Norm

Definition 1.8 – Open ball
Given $\delta > 0$, $\bar{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n$, the open ball $B_\delta(\bar{x}) = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n \,|\|x - \bar{x}\| < \delta\}$

Definition 1.9 – map
Suppose the map $f : \mathbb{R}^n - > \mathbb{R}$.

Definition 1.10 – open set
Let D $\subset \mathbb{R}^n$, D open set. $\forall x \in D$, $\exists \delta > 0$, s.t $B_\delta(x) \subset D$

Definition 1.11 – differ
We define f to be in C^1, C^2 on an open set $D \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$, denoted $f \in C^1(D), C^2(D)$, respectively, if the partial first $\frac{\partial f(x)}{\partial x_i}$ and second $\frac{\partial^2 f(x)}{\partial x_i \partial x_j}$ derivatives exist and are continuous for all i, j, respectively. We then get the gradient vector in $\mathbb{R}^n$ and the $n \times n$ symmetric Hessian matrix, respectively denoted as:

$$\nabla f(x) = \left(\frac{\partial f(x)}{\partial x_i}\right) \in \mathbb{R}^n, \quad \nabla^2 f(x) = \left[\frac{\partial^2 f(x)}{\partial x_i \partial x_j}\right] \in \mathbb{S}^n.$$

Here, $\mathbb{S}^n$ is the vector space of $n \times n$ symmetric matrices.

Definition 1.12 – General Nonlinear opt. function NLO
The general problem of nonlinear optimization, denoted NLO, is defined as follows: Given C²-smooth functions $f, g_i, h_j : D \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n \to \mathbb{R}$ for $i = 1, \ldots, m$ and $j = 1, \ldots, p$, where D is an open subset of $\mathbb{R}^n$, the objective is to find the optimal value p^* and an optimum x^* of NLO, represented as:

$$p^* := \min f(x) \text{s.t.} \quad g_i(x) \leq 0, \quad \forall i = 1, \ldots, m h_j(x) = 0, \quad \forall j = 1, \ldots, p x \in D$$

If f, g_i, h_i are all **affine** function and D=R^2, then we have an LP

Definition 1.13 – affine

$$f(x) = Ax + b \tag{1}$$

where b≠0

Definition 1.14 – Types of Minimality
Consider $f : \mathbb{R}^n \to \mathbb{R}$ and $D \subset \mathbb{R}^n$. Then $\bar{x} \in D$ is:

- a *global minimizer* for f on D if $f(\bar{x}) \leq f(x)$ for all $x \in D$.
- a *strict global minimizer* for f on D if $f(\bar{x}) < f(x)$ for all $x \in D$ where $x \neq \bar{x}$.
- a *local minimizer* for f on D if there exists $\delta > 0$ such that $f(\bar{x}) \leq f(x)$ for all $x \in D \cap B_\delta(\bar{x})$.
- a *strict local minimizer* for f on D if there exists $\delta > 0$ such that $f(\bar{x}) < f(x)$ for all $x \in D \cap B_\delta(\bar{x})$ where $x \neq \bar{x}$.

Definition 1.15 – Linear Approximation
Suppose f is a function that is differentiable on an interval I containing the point a. The **linear approximation** to f at a is the linear function

$$L(x) = f(a) + f'(a)(x - a)$$

for $x \in I$.

Definition 1.16 – Quadratic Approximation
Similar as above, the **quadratic approximation** to f at a is the quadratic function

$$Q(x) = f(a) + f'(a)(x - a) + \frac{1}{2} f''(a)(x - a)^2$$

for $x \in I$.

Definition 1.17 – Formal Definition of Derivative
The **derivative** of f at a is defined as

$$f'(a) = \lim_{x \to a} \frac{f(x) - f(a)}{x - a}$$

if the limit exists.
An alternate definition is

$$f'(a) = \lim_{h \to 0} \frac{f(a+h) - f(a)}{h}$$

1.2 Lecture 2

Definition 1.18 – General NLO/NLP
A **Non-linear Optimization Problem** (NLP) is of the following form:

$$\underbrace{p^*}_{\text{Optimal Value}} = \min \quad \underbrace{f(x)}_{\text{Objective function}}$$

s.t.

$$g(x) = (g_i(x)) \leq 0 \in \mathbb{R}^m$$
$$h(x) = (h_j(x)) = 0 \in \mathbb{R}^p$$

Problem 1.2 – Example

$$\min(x_1 - 2)^2 + (x_2 - 1)^2$$

s.t.

$$x_1^2 - x_2 \leq 0 \qquad (g_1(x) \leq 0)$$
$$x_1 + x_2 - 2 \leq 0 \qquad (g_2(x) \leq 0)$$

Definition 1.19 – Contour
For $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}$, the **contour** of a function f is

$$C_\alpha = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : f(x) = \alpha\}$$

Definition 1.20 – Feasible Set
The **feasible set** is

$$F = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : g(x) \leq 0, h(x) = 0, x \in D\}$$

(Is D the domain??)

Definition 1.21 – Gradient

The **gradient** of f is

$$\nabla f(x) = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{\partial f(x)}{\partial x_1} \\ \vdots \\ \frac{\partial f(x)}{\partial x_n} \end{pmatrix}$$

For the optimal solution x^*, we have

$$\alpha \nabla f(x^*) = \lambda_1 \nabla g_1(x^*) + \lambda_2 \nabla g_2(x^*)$$

for some $\alpha, \lambda_1, \lambda_2 \in \mathbb{R}$.
We will see later that we can choose $\alpha = 1$ and we need $\lambda_1 \geq 0, \lambda_2 \geq 0$.

Problem 1.3 – Max-cut Problem
Given a weighted graph $G = (\underbrace{V}_{\text{vertices}}, \underbrace{E}_{\text{edges}}, \underbrace{w}_{\text{weight}})$, a **cut** is $U \subseteq V, U \neq \emptyset$. The objective function

$$\max \quad \frac{1}{2} \sum_{\substack{i \in U, j \notin U \\ (i,j) \in E}} w_{i,j}$$

maximizes the sum of edges in a cut.
Formulating as an NLP, we introduce variables $x_i \in \{\pm 1\}, i = 1, \ldots, n$. Then the Max-cut problem (MC) is as follows:

$$\max \quad \frac{1}{2} \sum_{ij \in E} w_{ij}(1 - x_i x_j)$$

Why 1/2 s.t.

$$x_i \in \{\pm 1\} \quad (\text{equivalent to } x_i^2 = 1) \quad \forall i = 1, \ldots, n$$

This works because

$$1 - x_i x_j = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } x_i = x_j \quad (i, j \text{ in the same set, } U \text{ or } U^c) \\ 2 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

MC is a **quadratically constrained quadratic program** (QQP) since each constraint $x_i \in \{-1, 1\}$ is equivalent to the quadratic constraint $x_i^2 = 1$. Note that MC is an NP-hard problem.

2 Unconstrained Optimization

2.1 Lecture 2

Problem 2.1 – Simplest Case - No Constraints
Let $\Omega \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$ be an open set. Assume f is sufficiently smooth (differentiable) then the NLP with no constraints is

$$\min_{x \in \Omega} \quad f(x)$$

Theorem 2.1 – Taylor's Theorem on the real line
Let $f : (a, b) \to \mathbb{R}$, and $\bar{x}, x \in (a, b)$, then there exists z strictly between $x, \bar{x}$ such that

$$f(x) = f(\bar{x}) + f'(\bar{x})(x - \bar{x}) + \frac{f''(z)}{2}(x - \bar{x})^2$$

or equivalently

$$f(\bar{x}+\delta x) = \underbrace{f(x) + f'(x)\delta x}_{\text{Linear approximation}} + o(|\delta x|)(\text{little O})$$

Lemma 2.1 – Directional Derivative
Let $f : \mathbb{R}^n \to \mathbb{R}, \bar{x}, d \in \mathbb{R}^n$ where d is the direction. We define

$$\phi(\epsilon) = f(\bar{x} + \epsilon d) : \mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{R}$$

Then the **directional derivative**, denoted $f'(x; d)$ of f at x at the direction d is

$$f'(x;d) = \phi'(0) = \lim_{\epsilon \to 0} \frac{f(x+\epsilon d) - f(x)}{\epsilon} = \nabla f(x)^T d$$

Problem 2.2

Let $f(x,y,z) = x^2 z + y^3 z^2 - xyz$ with $d = \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 0 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix}$ Then the **directional derivative** in the direction d is

$$\nabla f(x,y,z)^T d = \begin{pmatrix} 2xz - yz \\ 3y^2 z^2 - xz \\ x^2 + 2y^3 z - xy \end{pmatrix}^T \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 0 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix} = -2xz + yz + 3x^2 + 6y^3 z - 3xy$$

Corollary 2.1
Let $f : (a,b) \to \mathbb{R}$

1. If $\bar{x}$ is a **local minimizer** of f on (a,b), then $f'(\bar{x}) = 0$ and $f''(\bar{x}) \geq 0$.
2. If $f(\bar{x}) = 0, f''(\bar{x}) > 0$ then $\bar{x}$ is a **strict local minimizer** of f.

Definition 2.1 – Hessian

The **Hessian** of f at $x = \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ \vdots \\ x_n \end{pmatrix}$ is the matrix

$$\nabla^2 f(x) = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial f(x)}{\partial x_1^2} & \frac{\partial f(x)}{\partial x_1 \partial x_2} & \cdots & \frac{\partial f(x)}{\partial x_1 \partial x_n} \\ \frac{\partial f(x)}{\partial x_2 \partial x_1} & \frac{\partial f(x)}{\partial x_2^2} & \cdots & \frac{\partial f(x)}{\partial x_2 \partial x_n} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \frac{\partial f(x)}{\partial x_n \partial x_1} & \frac{\partial f(x)}{\partial x_n \partial x_2} & \cdots & \frac{\partial f(x)}{\partial x_n^2} \end{bmatrix}$$

Theorem 2.2 – Multivariate Taylor
Consider a C^2-smooth function $f : U \to \mathbb{R}$ on an open set $U \subset \mathbb{R}^n$. If $\bar{x}$ and x are such that the segment $[\bar{x}, x] := \{\bar{x} + t(x - \bar{x}) : t \in [0,1]\}$ is contained in U, then there exists a point $z \in [\bar{x}, x]$ such that

$$f(x) = f(\bar{x}) + \langle \nabla f(\bar{x}), x - \bar{x} \rangle + \frac{1}{2} \langle \nabla^2 f(z)(x - \bar{x}), (x - \bar{x}) \rangle$$

Lemma 2.2
Let $v \in \mathbb{R}^n$. Then
$$v = 0 \iff \langle v, d \rangle = 0, \quad \forall d \in \mathbb{R}^n$$

2.2 Lecture 3

Definition 2.2 – Matrix Norm

$$\|Q\| = max_{\|x\|=1}\|Qx\| = \text{Largest singular value of A}$$

Definition 2.3
Define $f, D, \bar{x}, D$ is an open set Then:

1. Nec: If $\bar{x}$ is a local minimum for f on D, then $\nabla f(\bar{x}) = 0$ and $\nabla^2 f(\bar{x}) \succeq 0$ is positive semidefinite.
2. Suff: If $\nabla f(\bar{x}) = 0, \nabla^2 f(\bar{x}) \succ 0$ is positive definite then $\bar{x}$ is a strict local minimum of f on D.

Proof. 1. updated later after I confirmed some details with the professor □

Definition 2.4 – Critical/Stationary Points
A point $\bar{x} \in U$ is a critical point of a function $f : U \to \mathbb{R}$ if $\nabla f(\bar{x})$ exists and satisfies $\nabla f(\bar{x}) = 0$.

Problem 2.3 – Algorithm to Find Local Minimizer
Given $f : \mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{R}$ and $f'(\bar{x}) \neq 0$, then $x_{new} = \bar{x} - (\text{step}) * f'(\bar{x})$.
The idea is that if $f'(\bar{x}) > 0$, then we know that the function is increasing at $\bar{x}$, so we want to move to the left to obtain the minimum. Similarly, if $f'(\bar{x}) < 0$, then we know that the function is decreasing at $\bar{x}$, so we want to move to the right to obtain the minimum.

Problem 2.4
Given f:$\mathbb{R}^n \implies \mathbb{R}, \phi(\epsilon) = f(\bar{x} + \epsilon d)$
using tylar expansion $f(\bar{x} + \epsilon d)$= $f(\bar{x})$+ϵ $\nabla f(\bar{x})^T d$ +$o(\|\epsilon\|)$ shouldnt be ϵd? or d is the unit vector
let $d = -\nabla f(\bar{x})$, f($\bar{x}$)-$\epsilon\|f(\bar{x})\|^2$+$o(\epsilon)$. $< f(x)$ (if $\nabla f(\bar{x}) \neq 0$)
i.e test nec condition
If $\nabla f(\bar{x}) \neq 0$, then $x_{new} = \bar{x} + \epsilon(-\nabla f(\bar{(x)}))$ Move to the deapest direction

Definition 2.5 – Cauchy's method of steepest descant
https://www.math.usm.edu/lambers/mat419/lecture10.pdf $x_0 \in \mathbb{R}^n$.

$$Is \nabla f(x_k) \approxeq 0?\text{IF yes Stop}$$

.

$$O.W, \text{ find a Stop}\alpha > 0$$
$$x_{k+1} = x_k - \alpha \nabla f(x_k)$$
$$repeat$$

Problem 2.5 – Example of finding global and local minimizers
Find global and local minimizers of $f(x, y) = x^3 - 12xy + 8y^3$.

We first find the gradient and the Hessian:

$$\nabla f(x, y) = \begin{pmatrix} 3x^2 - 12y \\ -12x + 24y^2 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\nabla^2 f(x, y) = \begin{bmatrix} -6x & -12 \\ -12 & 48y \end{bmatrix}$$

We can find the critical points when we solve for $\nabla f(x, y) = 0$. Solving it, we get solutions $(0, 0)$ or $(2, 1)$.
The Hessian at $(0, 0)$ is

$$\nabla^2 f(0, 0) = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -12 \\ -12 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

The eigenvalues of $\nabla^2 f(0, 0)$ are $-12, 12$. Therefore it is indefinite. So $(0, 0)$ is a saddle point.
The Hessian at $(2, 1)$ is

$$\nabla^2 f(2, 1) = \begin{bmatrix} -12 & -12 \\ -12 & 48 \end{bmatrix}$$

Checking all leading principal minors, we see that they are all positive. So $\nabla^2 f(2, 1)$ is positive definite. So $(2, 1)$ is a local minimizer.

2.3 Lecture 4

Definition 2.6 – Principal Submatrices
Let

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 2 & 7 \\ 1 & 1 & 4 & 6 \\ 2 & 4 & 7 & 8 \\ 7 & 6 & 8 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \quad I = \{1, 3\}, \quad A[I] = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 2 & 7 \end{bmatrix}$$

Then $A[I]$ is a **principal submatrix** of A.

Definition 2.7 – Principal Minors
Let $A \in \mathbb{S}^n$, where $\mathbb{S}^n$ is the set of all symmetric $n \times n$ matrices.

1. $\det(A[I])$ is called the **principal minor** of A.
2. If $I = \{1, \ldots, k\}$ then $\det(A[I])$ is called the **leading principal minor** of A.

Proposition 2.1 – Characterizing Positive Definiteness with Principal Minors
Let $A \in \mathbb{S}^n$. Then

1. $A \succeq 0 \iff \det(A[I]) \geq 0$ for all principal minors $\det(A[I])$.
2. $A \succ 0 \iff \det(A[I]) > 0$ for all **leading** principal minors $\det(A[I])$.

Definition 2.8 – Eigenvectors and Eigenvalues
$0 \neq v \in \mathbb{R}^n$ is an **eigenvector** of A if there exists $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$ such that $Av = \lambda v$. The number λ is called an **eigenvalue** of A.

Theorem 2.3 – Finding Eigenvectors and Eigenvalues
Let A be a matrix.

1. Set up the characteristic equation. We find

$$\det(A - \lambda I) = 0$$

2. Solve for λ. These are the eigenvalues.
3. Plug eigenvalues $\lambda_1, \ldots, \lambda_n$ into $(A - \lambda I)v = 0$ and solve for v. These are the eigenvectors.

Theorem 2.4 – Orthogonal Spectral Decomposition
Let $A \in \mathbb{S}^n$. Then A has an **orthogonal spectral decomposition**

$$A = \sum_i \lambda_i u_i u_i^T = UDU^T$$

where U is orthogonal with the orthogonal eigenvectors u_i as columns and D is a diagonal matrix with real eigenvalues on the diagonal.

Corollary 2.2
Let $A \in \mathbb{S}^n$. Then

1. $A \succeq 0$ (positive semidefinite) iff all eigenvalues of A are nonnegative.
2. $A \succ 0$ (positive definite) iff all eigenvalues of A are positive.

Proposition 2.2
Let $A \in \mathbb{S}^n$. The following are equivalent (Positive definite):

1. $A \succ 0$.
2. All the eigenvalues of A are in $\mathbb{R}^n_{++}$, the interior of the nonnegative orthant.
3. A has a real symmetric positive definite square root, $A = SS, S \in \mathbb{S}^n_{++}$.
4. A has a lower triangular factorization, a Cholesky factorization, $A = LL^T$ and L has positive diagonal elements.
5. All principal minors of A are positive.
6. All leading principal minors of A are positive.

And the following are equivalent (Positive semidefinite):

1. $A \succeq 0$.
2. All the eigenvalues of A are in $\mathbb{R}^n_{+}$, the nonnegative orthant.
3. A has a real symmetric square root, $A = SS, S \in \mathbb{S}^n$.
4. A has a lower triangular factorization, a Cholesky factorization, $A = LL^T$.
5. All principal minors of A are nonnegative.

Problem 2.6 – Motivation
When can we guarantee that global minimizers of $f : \mathbb{R}^n \to \mathbb{R}$ exist?
For example, the real valued function on $\mathbb{R}$ $f(x) = e^x$ is bounded below by 0 but has no minimizers. The minimum value is 0 but is not attained.

Proposition 2.3 – Weierstrass Extreme Value Theorem
If $f : \mathbb{R}^n \to \mathbb{R}$ is continuous, and if $D \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ is a closed and bounded set, then f is bounded below and the minimum value is attained on D.

Definition 2.9 – Coercive function
A continuous function $f : \mathbb{R}^n \to \mathbb{R}$ is **coercive** if for any sequence x_i with $\|x_i\| \to \infty$, it must be the case that $f(x_i) \to +\infty$. In other words,

$$\lim_{\|x\| \to \infty} f(x) = +\infty$$

Here are some examples:

1. $f_1(x) = x^2$ is coercive.
2. $g(x) = x$ is not coercive (because as $x \to -\infty$, $g(x) \to -\infty \neq \infty$).
3. $h(x) = e^x$ is not coercive.

Proposition 2.4 – Coercive Functions and Minimizers
A coercive function $f : \mathbb{R}^n \to \mathbb{R}$ has a global minimizer.

Definition 2.10 – Level Sets
Let $f : \mathbb{R}^n \to \mathbb{R}$ be a function and let $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}$. An α-level set of f is defined by

$$L_\alpha = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : f(x) = \alpha\}$$

That is, all points x such that $f(x) = \alpha$.

- When $n = 2$, we call this a level curve.
- When $n = 3$, we call this a level surface.
- When $n > 3$, we call this a level hypersurface.

Definition 2.11 – Sub-level set
Let $f : \mathbb{R}^n \to \mathbb{R}$ be a function and let $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}$. An α-sublevel set of f is defined by

$$S_\alpha(f) = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : f(x) \leq \alpha\}$$

That is, all points x below the line $f(x) = \alpha$.

3 Linear Least Squares & Solving Linear Systems

3.1 Lecture 5

Problem 3.1 – Motivation For Least Squares
Suppose we have a series of observed values from an experiment:

$$\{(t_1, s_1), (t_2, s_2), \dots, (t_m, s_m)\}$$

where t_i is the time and s_i is the observed value at time t_i. We want to find a polynomial function

$$p(t) = x_0 + x_1 t + \dots + x_n t^n$$

that fits the data. So we want to find coefficients $x_0, \dots x_n$ such that $p(t_i) \approx s_i$ for all i. More formally, we want to minimize the absolute value of the error of each term. The error (ℓ_1 norm) is defined as

$$|e_i| = |p(t_i) - s_i|$$

This can be formulated into a ℓ_1 norm minimization problem:

$$\min \left\{ \sum_{i=1}^{m} |p(t_i) - s_i| : (x_0, \dots, x_n) \in \mathbb{R}^{n+1} \right\}$$

This is a non-differentiable optimization problem since we have absolute values which make it not smooth. So we can be reformualte it as a linear program:

$$\min \quad \sum_{i=1}^{m} \lambda_i$$

s.t.

$$\begin{aligned} s_i - p(t_i) &\leq \lambda_i && \text{for all } i = 1, \dots, m \\ p(t_i) - s_i &\leq \lambda_i && \text{for all } i = 1, \dots, m \end{aligned}$$

This minimization problem is called **compressive sensing**.

Definition 3.1 – Vandermonde Matrix
Let

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & t_1 & t_1^2 & \cdots & t_1^n \\ 1 & t_2 & t_2^2 & \cdots & t_2^n \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 1 & t_m & t_m^2 & \cdots & t_m^n \end{bmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times (n+1)}, \quad b = \begin{pmatrix} s_1 \\ s_2 \\ \vdots \\ s_m \end{pmatrix}, \quad x = \begin{pmatrix} x_0 \\ x_1 \\ \vdots \\ x_n \end{pmatrix}$$

A is called a **Vandermonde matrix**.

Theorem 3.1

The Vandermonde Matrix

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & t_1 & t_1^2 & \cdots & t_1^n \\ 1 & t_2 & t_2^2 & \cdots & t_2^n \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 1 & t_m & t_m^2 & \cdots & t_m^n \end{bmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^{m\times(n+1)}, \quad b = \begin{pmatrix} s_1 \\ s_2 \\ \vdots \\ s_m \end{pmatrix}, \quad x = \begin{pmatrix} x_0 \\ x_1 \\ \vdots \\ x_n \end{pmatrix}$$

is full column rank if $n+1 \leq m$ and the points t_i are distinct.

Definition 3.2 – ℓ_1 and ℓ_2 Norm
The ℓ_1 norm of a vector x is defined to be

$$\|x\| = \sum |x_i|$$

The ℓ_2 norm of a vector x is defined to be

$$\|x\| = \sqrt{\sum x_i^2}$$

Problem 3.2 – Linear Least Squares Problem
Recall our ℓ_1 norm minimization problem:

$$\min \left\{ \sum_{i=1}^{m} |p(t_i) - s_i| : (x_0, \ldots, x_n) \in \mathbb{R}^{n+1} \right\}$$

We can instead use ℓ_2 norm defined as $\|e\|_2 = \sqrt{\sum e_i^2}$. So our ℓ_2 minimization problem is

$$\min \left\{ \sum_{i=1}^{m} (p(t_i) - s_i)^2 : (x_0, \ldots, x_n) \in \mathbb{R}^{n+1} \right\}$$

where $p(t) = x_0 + x_1 t + \cdots + x_n t^n$. Using the Vandermonde matrix, we can rewrite our problem to be

$$\min \frac{1}{2}\|Ax - b\|^2$$

where

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & t_1 & t_1^2 & \cdots & t_1^n \\ 1 & t_2 & t_2^2 & \cdots & t_2^n \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 1 & t_m & t_m^2 & \cdots & t_m^n \end{bmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^{m\times(n+1)}, \quad b = \begin{pmatrix} s_1 \\ s_2 \\ \vdots \\ s_m \end{pmatrix}, \quad x = \begin{pmatrix} x_0 \\ x_1 \\ \vdots \\ x_n \end{pmatrix}$$

The objective function is $g(x) = \frac{1}{2}\|Ax - b\|^2$. Let's first expand $g(x)$:

$$\begin{aligned} g(x) &= \frac{1}{2}\|Ax - b\|^2 \\ &= \frac{1}{2}(Ax - b)^T(Ax - b) \\ &= \frac{1}{2}(Ax)^T Ax - (Ax)^T b + \frac{1}{2}\|b\|^2 \\ &= \frac{1}{2}x^T A^T Ax - x^T A^T b + \frac{1}{2}\|b\|^2 \end{aligned}$$

Then, using the definition of linear transformation definition of the gradient (WTF is this), we have

$$\nabla g(x) = A^T A x - A^T b$$

To find the critical points, we solve for $\nabla g(x) = 0$. So the critical points are x^* that satisfy the equation

$$A^T A x = A^T b$$

This is also called a **normal equation**.
also something about the condition number, i dont really understand.

Definition 3.3 – Condition Number of a Matrix
The condition number of a matrix A is $\kappa_A = \|A\| \|A^{-1}\|$.