

MATH60005/70005: Optimization (Autumn 22-23)

Week 4: Exercises

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1. Find the exact linesearch stepsize when $f(\mathbf{x})$ is a quadratic function $f(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{x}^\top \mathbf{A} \mathbf{x} + 2\mathbf{b}^\top \mathbf{x} + \mathbf{c}$ where \mathbf{A} is an $n \times n$ positive definite matrix, $\mathbf{b} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ and $\mathbf{c} \in \mathbb{R}$.
2. Let \mathbf{A} be a symmetric $n \times n$ matrix, $\mathbf{b} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ and $c \in \mathbb{R}$. Then the function $f(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{x}^\top \mathbf{A} \mathbf{x} + 2\mathbf{b}^\top \mathbf{x} + c$ is a $C^{1,1}$ function. The smallest Lipschitz constant of f is $2\|\mathbf{A}\|_2$.
3. Show that $f(x) = \sqrt{1+x^2} \in C_L^{1,1}$.
4. Give an example of a function $f \in C_L^{1,1}(\mathbb{R})$ and a starting point $x_0 \in \mathbb{R}$ such that the problem $\min f(x)$ has an optimal solution and the gradient method with constant stepsize $t = \frac{2}{L}$ diverges.
5. Consider the localization problem where we are given m locations of sensors $\mathcal{A} := \{\mathbf{a}_1, \mathbf{a}_2, \dots, \mathbf{a}_m\}$, with each sensor in \mathbb{R}^n , and approximate distances between the sensors and an unknown source located at $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n$: $d_i \approx \|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{a}_i\|$. We try to find the source location \mathbf{x} given the sensor locations \mathcal{A} and the approximate distances d_1, d_2, \dots, d_m . For this, we write the optimization problem:

$$\min_{\mathbf{x}} \left\{ f(\mathbf{x}) \equiv \sum_{i=1}^m (\|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{a}_i\| - d_i)^2 \right\}.$$

- a) State the first-order optimality condition for this problem, and show that for $\mathbf{x} \notin \mathcal{A}$ it is equivalent to

$$\mathbf{x} = \frac{1}{m} \left\{ \sum_{i=1}^m \mathbf{a}_i + \sum_{i=1}^m d_i \frac{\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{a}_i}{\|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{a}_i\|} \right\}$$

- b) Show that the iteration:

$$\mathbf{x}^{k+1} = \frac{1}{m} \left\{ \sum_{i=1}^m \mathbf{a}_i + \sum_{i=1}^m d_i \frac{\mathbf{x}^k - \mathbf{a}_i}{\|\mathbf{x}^k - \mathbf{a}_i\|} \right\}$$

is a gradient method, assuming that $\mathbf{x}^k \notin \mathcal{A}$ for all $k \geq 0$. What is the stepsize?



c) Write an explicit Gauss-Newton iteration of the form

$$\mathbf{x}^{k+1} = \mathbf{x}^k - \mathbf{d}^k,$$

giving an expression for \mathbf{d}^k in terms of the Jacobian and vectorized cost for this problem, without computing the inverse.

6. Consider the quadratic function $f : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$

$$f(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{1}{2} \mathbf{x}^\top Q \mathbf{x}$$

where Q is a symmetric matrix of size 2×2 with eigenvalues $0 < \lambda_{\min} < \lambda_{\max}$. Suppose we apply the gradient descent method to the problem of minimizing f , with exact line search and initial point

$$\mathbf{x}_0 = \frac{1}{\lambda_{\min}} \mathbf{u}_{\min} + \frac{1}{\lambda_{\max}} \mathbf{u}_{\max}$$

where \mathbf{u}_{\min} and \mathbf{u}_{\max} are the norm one eigenvectors associated with λ_{\min} and λ_{\max} , respectively.

a) Show that after 1 iteration

$$\mathbf{x}_1 = \left(\frac{\lambda_{\max} - \lambda_{\min}}{\lambda_{\max} + \lambda_{\min}} \right) \left(\frac{1}{\lambda_{\min}} \mathbf{u}_{\min} - \frac{1}{\lambda_{\max}} \mathbf{u}_{\max} \right).$$

b) Assuming that

$$\mathbf{x}_k = \left(\frac{\lambda_{\max} - \lambda_{\min}}{\lambda_{\max} + \lambda_{\min}} \right)^k \left(\frac{1}{\lambda_{\min}} \mathbf{u}_{\min} + \frac{(-1)^k}{\lambda_{\max}} \mathbf{u}_{\max} \right) \quad \text{for } k = 0, 1, \dots,$$

show that

$$\frac{f(\mathbf{x}_{k+1})}{f(\mathbf{x}_k)} = \left(\frac{\lambda_{\max} - \lambda_{\min}}{\lambda_{\max} + \lambda_{\min}} \right)^2.$$

Using this, what can be said about the convergence of this method based on the ratio $\kappa = \frac{\lambda_{\max}}{\lambda_{\min}}$?

Quadratic Optimization Benchmark

Consider the quadratic minimization problem

$$\min_{\mathbf{x}} \{ \mathbf{x}^\top \mathbf{A} \mathbf{x} : \mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^5 \}$$

where \mathbf{A} is the 5×5 Hilbert matrix defined by

$$\mathbf{A}_{i,j} = \frac{1}{i+j-1}, \quad i, j = 1, 2, 3, 4, 5$$

The matrix can be constructed via the MATLAB command `A=hilb(5)`. Run the following methods and compare the number of iterations required by each of the methods when the initial vector is $\mathbf{x}^0 = (1, 2, 3, 4, 5)^\top$ to obtain a solution \mathbf{x}^* with $\|\nabla f(\mathbf{x})\| \leq 10^{-4}$:



- Gradient method with backtracking stepsize rule and parameters $\alpha = 0.5, \beta = 0.5, s = 1$
- Gradient method with backtracking stepsize rule and parameters $\alpha = 0.1, \beta = 0.5, s = 1$
- Diagonally scaled gradient method with diagonal elements $D_{i,i} = \frac{1}{A_{i,i}}, i = 1,2,3,4,5$ and exact line search;
- Diagonally scaled gradient method with diagonal elements $D_{i,i} = \frac{1}{A_{i,i}}, i = 1,2,3,4,5$ and backtracking line search with parameters $\alpha = 0.1, \beta = 0.5, s = 1$.

