

Example

$$\textcircled{1} \quad f(x) = \frac{1}{2} \underline{x^T P x} + q^T x + r \quad ; \quad f: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$$

$$P \in \mathbb{S}^n \quad \text{and} \quad q \in \mathbb{R}^n \quad \text{and} \quad r \in \mathbb{R}$$

$$g(x) = ax^2 + bx + c$$

$$g'(x) = 2ax + b$$

$$Df(x) ?$$

$$\nabla f(x) = Df(x)^T$$

$$Df(x) = 2 \cdot \frac{1}{2} x^T P + q^T$$

$$\nabla f(x) = Px + q$$

$$\textcircled{2} \quad f(x) = \log(\det x) \quad ; \quad \det x > 0$$

$$\hookrightarrow \text{dom } f = \mathbb{S}_{++}^n \Rightarrow \text{Positive definite matrices}$$

$$Df(x) \text{ or } \nabla f(x) ?$$

Make use of the fact that $Df(x)$ provides a linear approximation of $f(z)$, when z is 'close' to x .

consider $Z \in \mathbb{S}_{++}^n$ such that Z is close to x

$$\Rightarrow Z = X + \Delta x, \text{ where } \Delta x \rightarrow \underline{0} \text{ as } Z \rightarrow X$$

Note: we cannot claim that $\Delta x \in \mathbb{S}_{++}^n$

Goal: Show that $f(z) = f(x) + \underbrace{Df(x)}_{\text{derivative}}(z-x)$
 as $z \rightarrow x \Rightarrow Df(x)$ would be our derivative

$$Z = X + \Delta X$$

$$= \left(X^{1/2} \left(I + X^{-1/2} \Delta X X^{-1/2} \right) X^{1/2} \right)$$

$$\underbrace{\log \det(z)}_{f(z)} = \log \det \left(X^{1/2} \left(I + X^{-1/2} \Delta X X^{-1/2} \right) X^{1/2} \right)$$

$$= \log \left[(\det X^{1/2}) (\det (I + X^{-1/2} \Delta X X^{-1/2})) (\det X^{1/2}) \right]$$

$$= \log \left[\underbrace{\det X^{1/2} \cdot \det X^{1/2}}_{\det X} \cdot \det (I + X^{-1/2} \Delta X X^{-1/2}) \right]$$

$$= \underbrace{\log \det X}_{f(x)} + \underbrace{\log \det (I + X^{-1/2} \Delta X X^{-1/2})}_{(Z-x)}$$

$I + \underbrace{X^{-1/2} \Delta X X^{-1/2}}_{\text{matrix}}$ \Rightarrow This has eigenvalue decomposition
 $\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_n$ are the eigenvalues of $X^{-1/2} \Delta X X^{-1/2}$

eigenvalues of $(I + A) = 1 + \text{eigenvalues}(A)$

$1 + \lambda_i, i=1, \dots, n$ are the eigenvalues of

$\rightarrow 1 + \lambda_i, i=1, \dots, n$ are the eigenvalues of
 $\det(\mathbb{I} + X^{-1/2} \Delta X X^{-1/2})$
 $\hookrightarrow = \prod_{i=1}^n (1 + \lambda_i)$

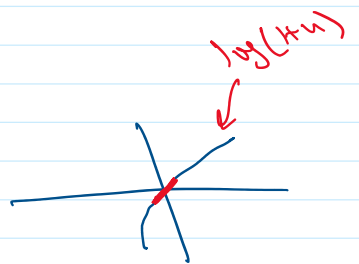
$$f(z) = f(x) + \log \left(\prod_{i=1}^n (1 + \lambda_i) \right)$$

$$= f(x) + \sum_{i=1}^n \log(1 + \lambda_i)$$

Since $\Delta X \rightarrow 0 \Rightarrow X^{-1/2} \Delta X X^{-1/2} \rightarrow 0$

$$\Rightarrow \lambda_i \rightarrow 0 \forall i$$

$$\Rightarrow \text{As } z \rightarrow x, \lambda_i \rightarrow 0$$



$$\log(1+u) \approx u \text{ for } u \text{ very small}$$

$$\Rightarrow \sum_{i=1}^n \log(1 + \lambda_i) \approx \sum_{i=1}^n \lambda_i \text{ when } z \rightarrow x$$

$$f(z) \approx f(x) + \sum_{i=1}^n \lambda_i \text{ as } z \rightarrow x$$

\downarrow
 eigenvalues of $X^{-1/2} \Delta X X^{-1/2}$

$$\sum \text{eigenvalues of } A = \text{tr}(A)$$

$$\rightarrow = f(x) + \text{tr} \left(X^{-1/2} \Delta X X^{-1/2} \right)$$

$$\text{tr}(ABC) = \text{tr}(CAB)$$

$$= f(x) + \text{tr}(\bar{x}^{-1/2} \bar{x}^{-1/2} \Delta x)$$

$$= f(x) + \text{tr}(\bar{x}^{-1} \Delta x)$$

$$\hookrightarrow (z-x)$$

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

$$\nabla f(x) = \bar{x}^{-1} \quad \boxed{\text{Q.E.D.}}$$

Chain rule

It applies in higher dimensions also.

scalar: $h(u) = g(f(u))$

$$h'(u) = g'(f(u)) f'(u)$$

If $h(x) = g(f(x)) ; x \in \mathbb{R}^n$

$$Dh(x) = Dg_{f(x)}(f(x)) \cdot D_x f(x)$$

Example: Say $g(x) = f(Ax+b)$

$$Dg(x) = Df(Ax+b) \cdot D(Ax+b)$$

$$= Df(Ax+b) \cdot A$$

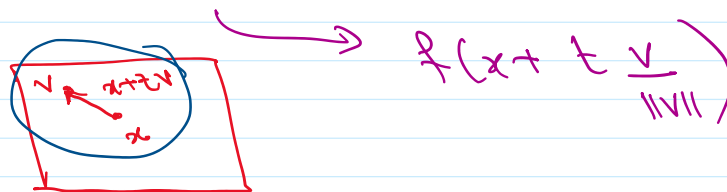
$$\nabla g(x) = A^T \nabla f(Ax+b)$$

Directional derivative of a function

Let $f: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$

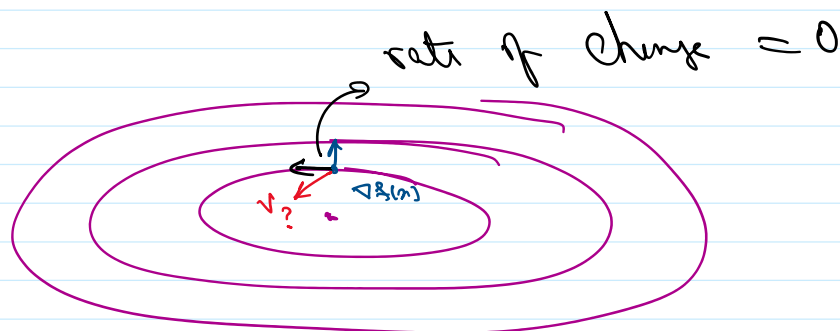
Directional derivative along a vector $v \in \mathbb{R}^n$ is defined as follows:

$$\tilde{f}(t) = f(x + tv) : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$$



$$\begin{aligned}\tilde{f}'(t) &= Df(x + tv) \cdot D(x + tv) \\ &= \nabla f(x + tv) \cdot v\end{aligned}$$

Directional derivative of $f(x)$ in the direction v is defined as $\tilde{f}'(0) = \nabla f(x)^T v$



Algorithms for unconstrained optimization

$f: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$; dom f

$$\min_{x \in \text{dom } f} f(x)$$

$$\min_{x \in \text{dom} f} f(x)$$

Assume the minimum value is attained by $f(x)$.

$$\text{Define } p^* = \min_x f(x)$$

An optimization algorithm is an iterative method that produces a sequence of points $x^{(0)}, x^{(1)}, \dots, x^{(k)}$ such that

$$f(x^{(k)}) \rightarrow p^* \text{ as } k \rightarrow \infty$$

In the case when $\arg \min_x f(x)$ is unique ($= x^*$) then we also hope that $x^{(k)} \rightarrow x^*$ as $k \rightarrow \infty$

Suppose $f(\cdot)$ is continuous

$$f(x^{(k)}) \rightarrow f(x^*) = p^*$$

Question: When to terminate the algorithm?

maybe: $f(x^{(k)}) - p^* \leq \epsilon$ for ϵ small \Rightarrow terminate

\hookrightarrow we do not know $p^* \Rightarrow$ not practical solution.

Search Direction-based Iterative Optimization Algorithms

Pseudo code

Initialize: $x^{(0)} \in \text{dom} f$
 $k \leftarrow 0$

while Stopping criterion not satisfied

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$$x^{(k+1)} \leftarrow x^{(k)} + t^{(k)} \Delta x^{(k)}$$

$$k \leftarrow k+1$$

do

$t^{(k)} \in \underbrace{\mathbb{R}_{++}}_{>0} \rightarrow$ step size \rightarrow (learning rate in stochastic optimization / machine learning)

$\Delta x^{(k)} \rightarrow$ search direction at time k

$x^{(k)} \Rightarrow$ iterate

Main challenge: ① How to pick $\Delta x^{(k)}$?
② How to pick $t^{(k)}$?