Toy Matrix gradient

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1 矩阵梯度

1.1 实值函数相对于实向量的梯度

对于 $n \times 1$ 向量 X 的梯度算子记作 ∇_X ,定义为:

$$\nabla_{\boldsymbol{X}} = \left[\frac{\partial}{\partial x_1}, \frac{\partial}{\partial x_2}, \cdots, \frac{\partial}{\partial x_n}\right]^T = \frac{\partial}{\partial \boldsymbol{X}}.$$
 (1.1)

因此, $n \times 1$ 实向量 X 为变元的实际标量函数 f(X) 相对于 X 的梯度是一个 $n \times 1$ 的一列向量,定义为:

$$\nabla_{\boldsymbol{X}} f(\boldsymbol{X}) = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial f(\boldsymbol{X})}{\partial x_1}, & \frac{\partial f(\boldsymbol{X})}{\partial x_2}, & \cdots, & \frac{\partial f(\boldsymbol{X})}{\partial x_n} \end{bmatrix}^T = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial f(\boldsymbol{X})}{\partial x_1} \\ \frac{\partial f(\boldsymbol{X})}{\partial x_2} \\ \vdots \\ \frac{\partial f(\boldsymbol{X})}{\partial x_n} \end{bmatrix} = \frac{\partial f(\boldsymbol{X})}{\partial \boldsymbol{X}}.$$
(1.2)

梯度方向的负方向为变元 X 的梯度流 (gradient flow),记作:

$$\dot{\boldsymbol{X}} = -\nabla_{\boldsymbol{X}} f(\boldsymbol{X}). \tag{1.3}$$

可以看出:

- 1. 一个以向量为变元函数的梯度为一个向量;
- 2. 梯度的每个分量代表变量函数在该分量方向上的变化率.

梯度向量最重要的性质之一是,它指出了当变元增大时函数 f 的最大增大率。相反,梯度的负值(负梯度)指出了当变元增大时函数 f 的最大减小率。根据这样一种性质,即可设计出求一函数极小值的迭代算法。

类似地,实值函数 f(x) 相对于 $1 \times n$ 一行向量 x^T 的梯度为 $1 \times n$ 一行行向量,定义为:

$$\nabla_{\mathbf{X}^T} f(\mathbf{X}) = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial f(\mathbf{X})}{\partial x_1}, & \frac{\partial f(\mathbf{X})}{\partial x_2}, & \cdots, & \frac{\partial f(\mathbf{X})}{\partial x_n} \end{bmatrix} = \frac{\partial f(\mathbf{X})}{\partial \mathbf{X}^T}.$$
 (1.4)

m 维一行向量函数 $f(\mathbf{X}) = [f_1(\mathbf{X}), \cdots, f_m(\mathbf{X})]$ 对 n 维一列向量 \mathbf{X} 的梯度为 $n \times m$ 矩阵¹:

$$\begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial f_1(\mathbf{X})}{\partial x_1} & \frac{\partial f_2(\mathbf{X})}{\partial x_1} & \dots & \frac{\partial f_n(\mathbf{X})}{\partial x_1} \\ \frac{\partial f_1(\mathbf{X})}{\partial x_2} & \frac{\partial f_2(\mathbf{X})}{\partial x_2} & \dots & \frac{\partial f_n(\mathbf{X})}{\partial x_2} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \dots & \vdots \\ \frac{\partial f_1(\mathbf{X})}{\partial x_n} & \frac{\partial f_2(\mathbf{X})}{\partial x_n} & \dots & \frac{\partial f_n(\mathbf{X})}{\partial x_n} \end{bmatrix}.$$

$$(1.5)$$

下面举几个例子:

 $^{^{1}}f(x)$ 为列,X 为行.

1 矩阵梯度 3

Example 1.1. 若 $f(x) = [x_1, \dots, x_n]$,则 $\frac{\partial \mathbf{X}^T}{\partial \mathbf{X}} = \mathbf{I}$: 由 (1.5),有:

$$\begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial x_1}{\partial x_1} & \frac{\partial x_2}{\partial x_1} & \cdots & \frac{\partial x_n}{\partial x_1} \\ \frac{\partial x_1}{\partial x_2} & \frac{\partial x_2}{\partial x_2} & \cdots & \frac{\partial x_n}{\partial x_2} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \cdots & \vdots \\ \frac{\partial x_1}{\partial x_n} & \frac{\partial x_2}{\partial x_n} & \cdots & \frac{\partial x_n}{\partial x_n} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & \cdots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \cdots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & 1 \end{bmatrix} = \boldsymbol{I}.$$

1.2 实值函数的梯度矩阵

在最优化问题中,需要最优化的对象可能是某个加权矩阵。因此,有必要分析实值函数相对于矩阵变元的梯度。实值函数 f(A) 相对于 $m \times n$ 是矩阵 A 的梯度为一 $m \times n$ 矩阵,简称梯度矩阵,定义为:

$$\frac{\partial f(\mathbf{A})}{\partial \mathbf{A}} = \begin{bmatrix}
\frac{\partial f(\mathbf{A})}{\partial A_{11}} & \frac{\partial f(\mathbf{A})}{\partial A_{12}} & \cdots & \frac{\partial f(\mathbf{A})}{\partial A_{1n}} \\
\frac{\partial f(\mathbf{A})}{\partial A_{21}} & \frac{\partial f(\mathbf{A})}{\partial A_{22}} & \cdots & \frac{\partial f(\mathbf{A})}{\partial A_{2n}} \\
\vdots & \vdots & \cdots & \vdots \\
\frac{\partial f(\mathbf{A})}{\partial A_{m1}} & \frac{\partial f(\mathbf{A})}{\partial A_{m2}} & \cdots & \frac{\partial f(\mathbf{A})}{\partial A_{mn}}
\end{bmatrix}.$$
(1.6)

式中 A_{ij} 为矩阵 A 的元素.

实值函数相对于矩阵变元的梯度具有以下性质:

Example 1.2. 若 $f(\mathbf{A}) = c$ 是常数, 其中 \mathbf{A} 为 $m \times n$ 矩阵, 则梯度 $\frac{\partial c}{\partial A} = \mathbf{O}_{m \times n}$.

Example 1.3. 若 $A \in R^{m \times n}$, $x \in R^{m \times 1}$, $y \in R^{n \times 1}$, 则 $\frac{\partial x^T A y}{\partial A} = xy^T$. *ANS:*

$$\mathbf{A} = \begin{bmatrix} A_{11} & A_{12} & \cdots & A_{1n} \\ A_{21} & A_{22} & \cdots & A_{2n} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \cdots & \vdots \\ A_{m1} & A_{m2} & \cdots & A_{mn} \end{bmatrix}, x = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ \vdots \\ x_m \end{bmatrix}, y = \begin{bmatrix} y_1 \\ y_2 \\ \vdots \\ y_m \end{bmatrix}.$$

$$\frac{\partial x^{T} A y}{\partial A} = \frac{\partial \sum_{i=1}^{m} \sum_{j=1}^{n} x_{i} A_{ij} y_{j}}{\partial A}, \quad \text{th} \quad (1.6), \quad \frac{\partial \sum_{i=1}^{m} \sum_{j=1}^{n} x_{i} A_{ij} y_{j}}{\partial A} = \begin{vmatrix} x_{1} y_{1} & x_{1} y_{2} & \cdots & x_{1} y_{n} \\ x_{2} y_{1} & x_{2} y_{2} & \cdots & x_{2} y_{n} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \cdots & \vdots \\ x_{m} y_{1} & x_{m} y_{2} & \cdots & x_{m} y_{n} \end{vmatrix} = x y^{T}.$$