

# Unconstrained Optimization Algorithms:

## Gradient Descent & Line Searching

```
In [1]: # Importing packages
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
from numpy import linalg as lp
import numpy as np
import math

%matplotlib inline
```

Example function from section 4.2 of Freund, R.M. (2004).

$$f(x) = \frac{1}{2}x^T Q x - c^T x + 10$$

$$f(x) = \frac{1}{2} \times \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{pmatrix}^T \times \begin{pmatrix} 20 & 5 \\ 5 & 2 \end{pmatrix} \times \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{pmatrix} - \begin{pmatrix} 14 \\ 6 \end{pmatrix}^T \times \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{pmatrix} - 10$$

$$f(x) = 2(5 + 10x_1^2 - 3x_2 + x_2^2 + x_1(-7 + 5x_2))$$

```
In [2]: def function(x):
        return 2*(5+10*x[0]**2-3*x[1]+x[1]**2+x[0]*(-7+5*x[1]))
```

```
In [3]: def gradient(x):
        value = np.full(len(x), 0)
        xd = x.copy()
        h = 10**-6
        for j in range(len(x)):
            xd[j] = x[j] + h
            value[j] = (function(xd) - function(x))/h
            xd = x.copy()
        return value
```

```
In [29]: def step_size(x):
        alpha = 1
        beta = 0.8
        while function(x-alpha*gradient(x)) > \
            (function(x)-.5*alpha*lp.norm(gradient(x))**2):
            alpha *= beta
        return alpha
```

## Steepest Descent Algorithm:

**Step 0.** Given  $x^0$ , set  $k := 0$

**Step 1.**  $d^k := -\nabla f(x^k)$ . If  $d^k = 0$ , then stop.

**Step 2.** Solve  $\min_{\alpha} f(x^k + \alpha d^k)$  for the stepsize  $\alpha^k$ , perhaps chosen by an exact or inexact linesearch.

**Step 3.** Set  $x^{k+1} \leftarrow x^k + \alpha^k d^k$ ,  $k \leftarrow k + 1$ . Go to **Step 1**.

Note from Step 2 and the fact that  $d^k = -\nabla f(x^k)$  is a descent direction, it follows that  $f(x^{k+1}) < f(x^k)$ .

```
In [27]: """
         I would put the starting point at [0, 0]
         but had to follow the example from Freund, R.M. (2004).
         """
         x = [40, -100]
         x1 = np.array([])
         x2 = np.array([])

         pre, k = 0, 0

         # Gradient-Descent Algorithm
         while abs(function(x) - pre) > 0:
             pre = function(x)
             x1 = np.append(x1, x[0])
             x2 = np.append(x2, x[1])

             alpha = step_size(x)
             x -= alpha*gradient(x)
             k += 1

         print("Function Value: ", function(x), "\nAt x = ", x, "in", k, "iterations")
```

Function Value: 5.801090572384302

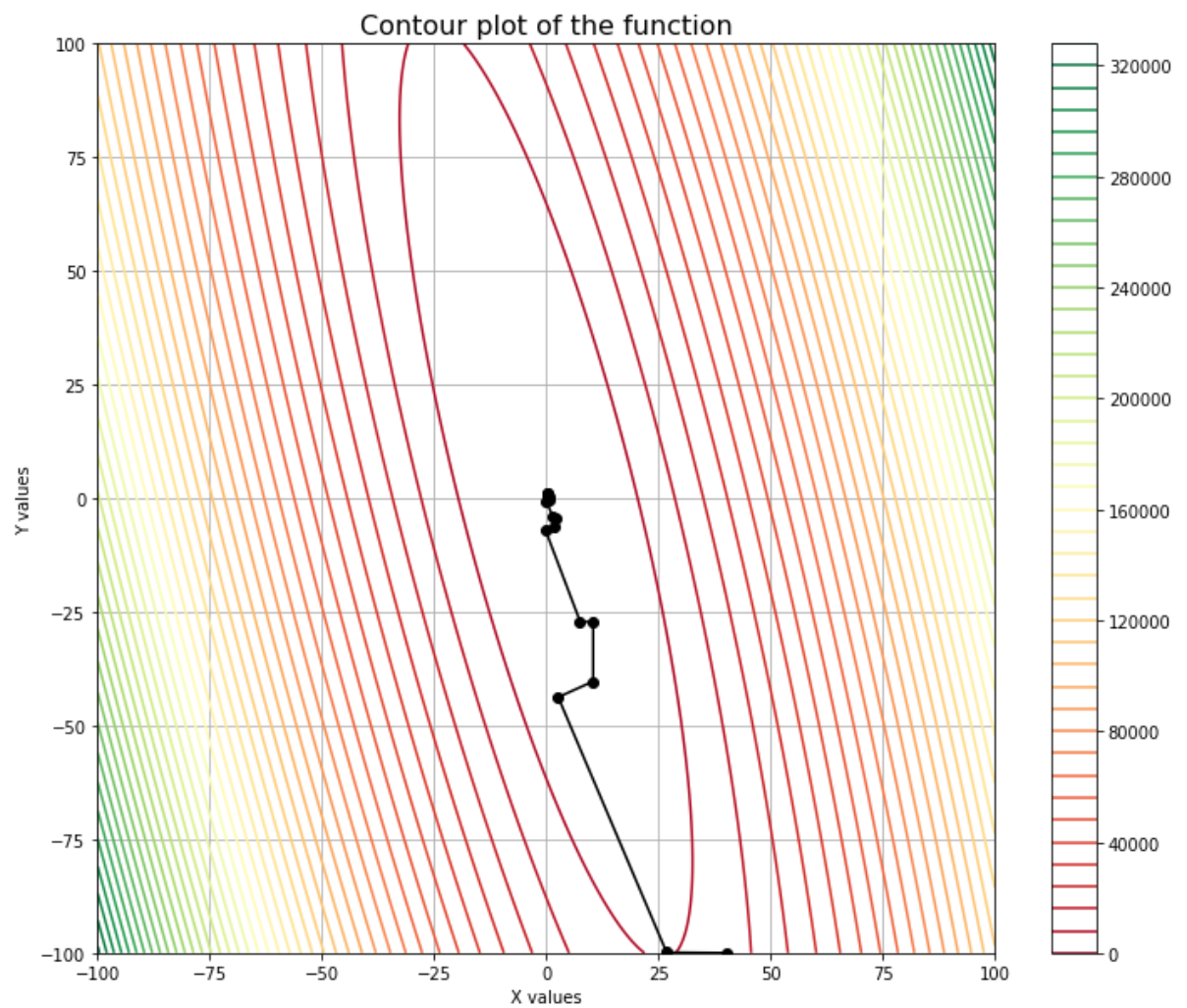
At x = [0.10564042 0.99951905] in 20 iterations

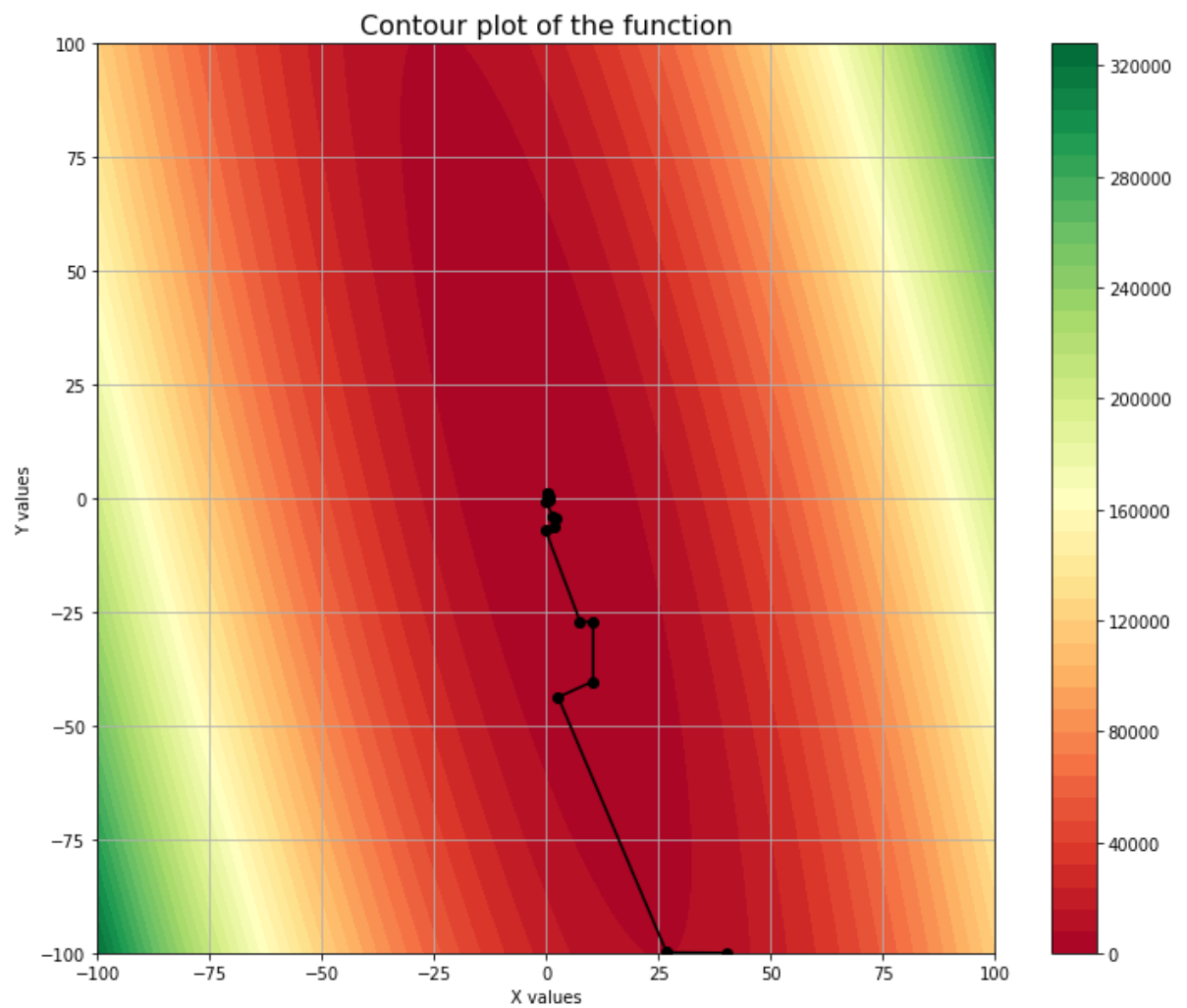
```
In [28]: """
Contour plot of a function
Ref: https://jakevdp.github.io/PythonDataScienceHandbook/04.04-density-and-contour-plots.html
"""

x = np.arange(-100, 100, 0.05)
y = np.arange(-100, 100, 0.05)

X, Y = np.meshgrid(x, y)
Z = 2*(5+10*X**2-3*Y+Y**2+X*(-7+5*Y))

for _ in [plt.contour, plt.contourf]:
    plt.figure(figsize=(12, 10))
    _(X, Y, Z, 50, cmap='RdYlGn')
    plt.plot(x1, x2, 'o-', color='black')
    plt.xlabel('X values')
    plt.ylabel('Y values')
    plt.title('Contour plot of the function', fontsize=16)
    plt.colorbar()
    plt.grid(True)
    plt.show()
```





## Checking the results with Mathematica

```
NMinimize[2 (5 + 10 x^2 - 3 y + y^2 + x (-7 + 5 y)), {x, y}]  
  
{5.46667, {x → -0.0666667, y → 1.66667}}  
  
Show[Plot3D[2 (5 + 10 x^2 - 3 y + y^2 + x (-7 + 5 y)),  
  {x, -2, 1}, {y, -1, 3}, PlotStyle → Opacity[0.3]],  
Graphics3D[{Black, PointSize[0.02],  
  Point[{-0.06667, 1.66667, 5.46667}]}]]
```

