

**Problem 1 Score:** \_\_\_\_\_. **RGD on product of spheres**

Let  $\mathcal{M} = \mathbb{S}^{m-1} \times \mathbb{S}^{n-1}$ , which is an embedded submanifold of  $\mathcal{E} = \mathbb{R}^m \times \mathbb{R}^n$  with its usual Euclidean structure. We turn  $\mathcal{M}$  into a Riemannian manifold by using the Euclidean structure of the ambient space  $\mathcal{E} = \mathbb{R}^m \times \mathbb{R}^n$ . Let  $M \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$  and

$$f : \mathcal{M} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}, \quad f(x, y) = x^\top M y.$$

- (1) Show that  $\max_{(x, y) \in \mathcal{M}} f(x, y) = \sigma_1(M)$ , where  $\sigma_1(M)$  is the largest singular value of  $M$ .
- (2) Characterize the critical points of  $f$  on  $\mathcal{M}$ , and relate them to the eigenvectors of  $M^\top M$  and  $MM^\top$ .
- (3) Propose a retraction for  $\mathcal{M}$ .
- (4) Write down the RGD algorithm for  $-f$  on  $\mathcal{M}$ .
- (5) Write code of the algorithm.

**Solution:** (1) For  $(x, y) \in \mathcal{M}$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} x^\top M y &\leq \|x^\top M y\|_2 \\ &\leq \|x\|_2 \cdot \|M\|_2 \cdot \|y\|_2 \\ &= \sigma_1(M) \end{aligned}$$

When  $x, y$  are the singular vectors corresponding to  $\sigma_1(M)$ ,  $x^\top M y = \sigma_1(M)$ .

- (2) For  $(x, y) \in \mathcal{M}$ , we have

$$\text{grad} f(x, y) = ((I - xx^\top)M y, (I - yy^\top)M^\top x).$$

If  $\text{grad} f(x, y) = 0$ , then

$$\begin{aligned} M y &= (x^\top M y) x \\ M^\top x &= (x^\top M y) y \end{aligned}$$

Hence,

$$\begin{aligned} M^\top M y &= (x^\top M y) M^\top x = (x^\top M y)^2 y \\ M M^\top x &= (x^\top M y) M y = (x^\top M y)^2 x \end{aligned}$$

which means that  $x$  is an eigenvector of  $MM^\top$  and  $y$  is an eigenvector of  $M^\top M$ , corresponding to the eigenvalue  $(x^\top M y)^2$ .

- (3) The retraction for  $\mathcal{M}$  can be

$$R : T\mathcal{M} \rightarrow \mathcal{M}, \quad R_{(x, y)}(v, w) = \left( \frac{x + v}{\|x + v\|_2}, \frac{y + w}{\|y + w\|_2} \right).$$

□

**Problem 2 Score:** \_\_\_\_\_. **RGD on Stiefel** For  $p \leq n$ , consider the Stiefel manifold

$$\mathcal{M} = St(n, p) = \{X \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times p} : X^\top X = I_p\}.$$

We endow  $\mathcal{M}$  with the inner product  $\langle X, Y \rangle = \text{Tr}(X^\top Y)$ . Let

$$f : \mathcal{M} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}, \quad f(X) = \text{Tr}(X^\top A X),$$

where  $A$  is a real symmetric  $n \times n$  matrix.

- (1) Compute the orthogonal projector  $\text{Proj}_X : \mathcal{E} \rightarrow T_X \mathcal{M}$ .
- (2) Given  $X \in \mathcal{M}$  and  $U \in \mathcal{E}$ , give its time complexity to compute  $\text{Proj}_X(U)$ .
- (3) Give an expression of the Riemannian gradient  $\text{grad} f(X)$ .

We want to solve

$$\min_{X \in \mathcal{M}} f(X),$$

which amounts to identifying a left invariant subspace of  $A$ .

**Solution:** (1) For  $X \in \mathcal{M}$ , we have

$$T_X \mathcal{M} = \{V \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times p} : X^\top V + V^\top X = 0\}, \quad N_X \mathcal{M} = \{XA : A \in \text{Sym}(p)\}.$$

Hence, for  $U \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times p}$ , we have  $\text{Proj}_X(U) \in T_X \mathcal{M}$  and  $U - \text{Proj}_X(U) \in N_X \mathcal{M}$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Proj}_X(U)^\top X + X^\top \text{Proj}_X(U) &= (U - XA)^\top X + X^\top (U - XA) \\ &= U^\top X - A^\top X^\top X + X^\top U - X^\top XA \\ &= U^\top X + X^\top U - 2A \\ &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

that is,  $A = \frac{U^\top X + X^\top U}{2}$ , therefore  $\text{Proj}_X(U) = U - XA = U - X \frac{U^\top X + X^\top U}{2}$ .

(2) The time complexity to compute  $\text{Proj}_X(U)$  is  $O(np^2)$ .

(3)  $f$  can be smoothly extended by

$$\bar{f} : \mathbb{R}^{n \times p} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}, \quad \bar{f}(X) = \text{Tr}(X^\top AX).$$

The gradient of  $\bar{f}$ ,  $\text{grad} \bar{f}(X) = 2AX$ . Hence, the Riemannian gradient of  $f$  is

$$\begin{aligned} \text{grad} f(X) &= \text{Proj}_X(\text{grad} \bar{f}(X)) \\ &= \text{Proj}_X(2AX) \\ &= 2\text{Proj}_X(AX) \\ &= 2\left(AX - X \frac{X^\top AX + X^\top AX}{2}\right) \\ &= 2(AX - XX^\top AX) \end{aligned}$$

□

**Problem 3 Score:** \_\_\_\_\_. **PL-condition, sufficient decrease and linear convergence**

Let  $\mathcal{M}$  be a Riemannian manifold and  $f : \mathcal{M} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be a smooth function satisfying the PL-condition:

$$\exists \mu > 0 \text{ s.t. } \|\text{grad} f(x)\|_x^2 \geq 2\mu(f(x) - f^*), \quad \forall x \in \mathcal{M},$$

where  $f^* = \min_{x \in \mathcal{M}} f(x)$ .

Consider an iterative algorithm  $\mathcal{A}$  with iterates  $\{x_k\}$  satisfying the sufficient decrease condition:

$$\exists c > 0 \text{ s.t. } f(x_{k+1}) - f(x_k) \leq -c \|\text{grad} f(x_k)\|_{x_k}^2, \quad \forall k = 0, 1, 2, \dots$$

Backtracking line-search satisfies sufficient decrease (assuming Lipschitz conditions on  $f$ )

(1) Show that algorithm  $\mathcal{A}$  converges at a linear rate:

$$f(x_{k+1}) - f^* \leq (1 - 2\mu c)(f(x_k) - f^*), \quad \forall k = 0, 1, 2, \dots$$

(2) Show that if  $f : \mathcal{M} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  satisfies the PL-condition, then all critical points of  $f$  are global minimizers.

(3) If  $\mathcal{M}$  is a sphere, can a non constant function  $f : \mathcal{M} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  satisfy the PL-condition? What about if  $\mathcal{M}$  is a compact Riemannian manifold?

(4) Let  $\mathcal{M} = \mathbb{R}^d$  endowed with the standard inner product ( $\mathcal{M}$  is a Euclidean space). Show that if  $f$  is differentiable and  $\mu$ -strongly convex, i.e.,

$$f(y) \geq f(x) + \langle \text{grad} f(x), y - x \rangle + \frac{\mu}{2} \|y - x\|_2^2, \quad \forall x, y \in \mathcal{M},$$

then  $f$  satisfies the PL-condition with  $\mu$ .

**Solution:** (1) We have

$$\begin{aligned} 2\mu c(f(x_k) - f^*) &\leq c \|gradf(x_k)\|_{x_k}^2 \\ &\leq f(x_k) - f(x_{k+1}) \\ &= (f(x_k) - f^*) - (f(x_{k+1}) - f^*) \end{aligned}$$

which means that

$$f(x_{k+1}) - f^* \leq (1 - 2\mu c)(f(x_k) - f^*).$$

(2) If  $x \in \mathcal{M}$  is a critical point of  $f$ , then  $gradf(x) = 0$ . By the PL-condition, we have

$$0 \geq 2\mu(f(x) - f^*),$$

which means that  $f(x) = f^*$ .

(3) Suppose that  $f : \mathcal{M} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  satisfies the PL-condition. Then, for  $x_{max} \in \operatorname{argmax}_{x \in \mathcal{M}} f(x)$ , we have

$$0 \geq 2\mu(f(x_{max}) - f^*),$$

which means that  $f(x_{max}) = f^*$ . Hence,  $f$  is constant.

(4) Fix  $x \in \mathcal{M}$ , we define

$$g(y) = f(x) + \langle gradf(x), y - x \rangle + \frac{\mu}{2} \|y - x\|_2^2.$$

Then, we have

$$Dg(y)[v] = \langle gradf(x) + \mu(y - x), v \rangle, \quad v \in \mathbb{R}^d.$$

The only critical point of  $g$  is  $y^* = x - \frac{1}{\mu} gradf(x)$ . Hence

$$f(y) \geq f(x) + \langle gradf(x), y - x \rangle + \frac{\mu}{2} \|y - x\|_2^2 \geq f(y^*) = f(x) - \frac{1}{2\mu} \|gradf(x)\|_2^2.$$

That means

$$\|gradf(x)\|_2^2 \geq 2\mu(f(x) - f(y)), \quad \forall x, y \in \mathcal{M}.$$

In particular, for  $y = \operatorname{argmin}_{x \in \mathcal{M}} f(x)$ , we have

$$\|gradf(x)\|_2^2 \geq 2\mu(f(x) - f^*), \quad \forall x \in \mathcal{M}.$$

□