

## Road Gradient problem

A company 'XYZ' is constructing a road through a hilly area. The height of the roadbed should be chosen in such a way that the total cost of construction is minimized. The construction cost depends on the difference between height of the roadbed and the current elevation of the road.  $h_i$  gives the height of the roadbed at a distance  $di$  meters down the road, where  $d > 0$  is a given discretization. The existing elevation at a point  $di$  meters down the road is given by  $e_i$ .

The construction cost is mainly affected by the cuts (roadbed below existing elevation) and fills (roadbed above existing elevation) present in the road. The cut cost  $\phi^{cut}$  and fill cost  $\phi^{fill}$  are the functions of the difference between the existing elevation of the road and height of the roadbed. The overall cost ( $C$ ) is a linear combination of the cut cost and fill cost. .

$$C = \phi^{fill} + \phi^{cut}$$

$$\phi^{fill}(u) = 2(u)_+^2 + 30(u)_+ \quad (1)$$

$$\phi^{cut}(u) = 12(u)_+^2 + (u)_+ \quad (2)$$

Where  $(a)_+ = \max\{a, 0\}$

The goal is to minimize  $C$  subject to the following constraints.

- \* The maximum allowable road slope (first derivative) is  $D^{(1)}$ .
- \* The maximum allowable curvature (second derivative) is  $D^{(2)}$ .
- \* The maximum allowable third derivative is  $D^{(3)}$ .

Formulate the optimization problem and verify the convexity of cut and fill functions by plotting for  $u$  in range (1:0.1:10). Find the optimal grading plan for the problem with data given in the file data.m or data.py. Plot  $h_i, e_i$  and  $h_i - e_i$  for the optimal grading plan and report the associated cost.

Data

$$n = 100$$

$$e = 5 * \sin((1:n) / n * 3 * \pi) + \sin((1:n) / n * 10 * \pi)$$

$$d = 1 \quad \# \text{ discretizing unit}$$

$$D1 = 0.08$$

$$D2 = 0.025$$

$$D3 = 0.005$$