

Unconstrained Optimization

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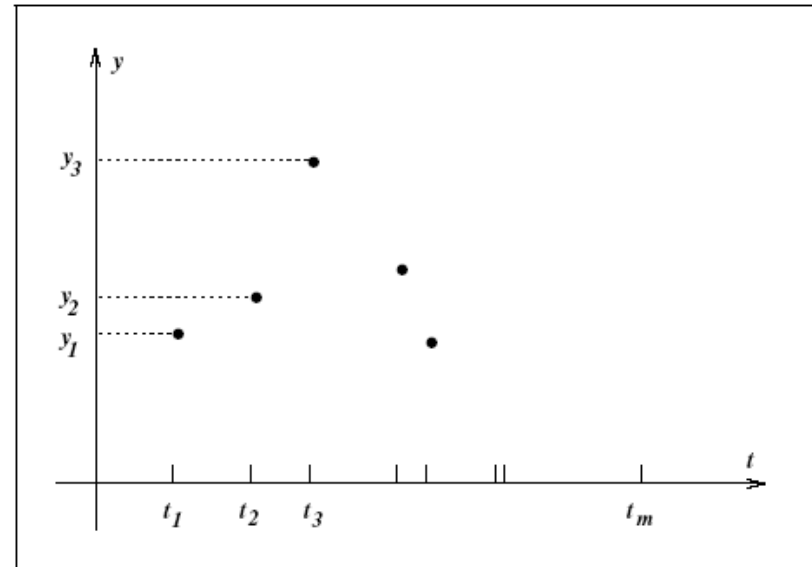
example

- ✓ find a curve that fits some experimental data
- ✓ Minimize the MSE

$$\phi(t; x) = x_1 + x_2 e^{-(x_3 - t)^2 / x_4} + x_5 \cos(x_6 t).$$

$$x = (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_6)^T$$

$$r_j(x) = y_j - \phi(t_j; x), \quad j = 1, 2, \dots, m$$



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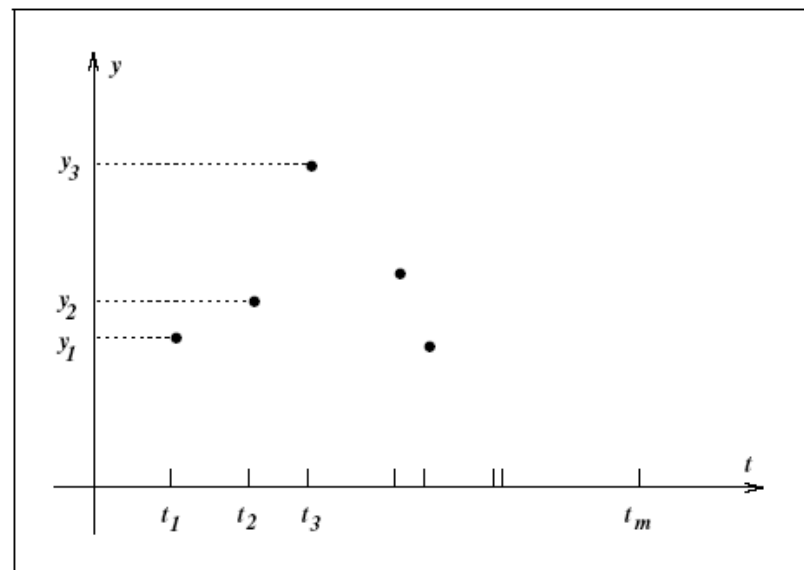
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$$r_j(x) = y_j - \phi(t_j; x), \quad j = 1, 2, \dots, m$$



$$\min_{x \in \mathbb{R}^6} f(x) = r_1^2(x) + r_2^2(x) + \dots + r_m^2(x).$$

Minimizer

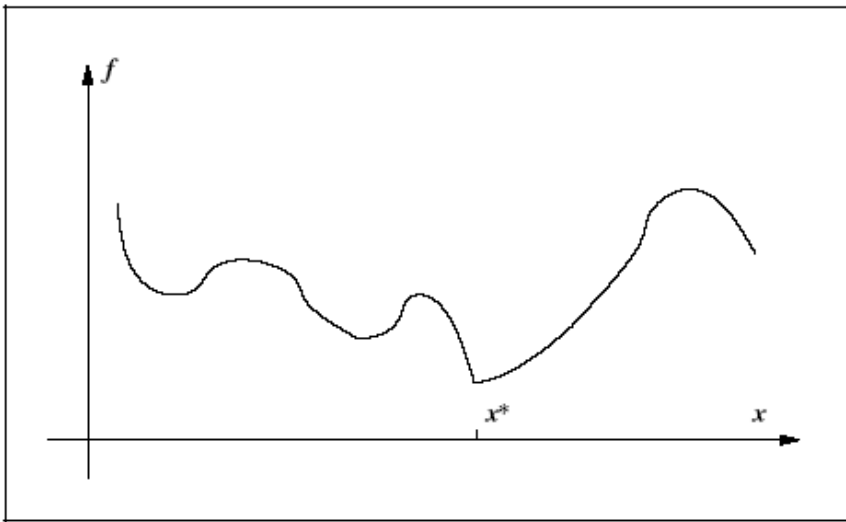
A point x^* is a *global minimizer* if $f(x^*) \leq f(x)$ for all x

A point x^* is a *local minimizer* if there is a neighborhood \mathcal{N} of x^* such that $f(x^*) \leq f(x)$ for all $x \in \mathcal{N}$.

A point x^* is a *strict local minimizer* (also called a *strong local minimizer*) if there is a neighborhood \mathcal{N} of x^* such that $f(x^*) < f(x)$ for all $x \in \mathcal{N}$ with $x \neq x^*$.

We focus on smooth functions, functions whose second derivatives exist and are continuous.

Non-smooth Problems



subgradient or generalized gradient
minimizing each smooth piece individually

$$f(x) = \|r(x)\|_1, \quad f(x) = \|r(x)\|_\infty$$

reformulated as smooth constrained optimization problems

Recognizing a Local Minimum

Theorem (Second-Order Necessary Conditions).

If x^ is a local minimizer of f then $\nabla f(x^*) = 0$ and $\nabla^2 f(x^*)$ is positive semidefinite.*

Theorem (Second-Order Sufficient Conditions).

Suppose that $\nabla f(x^) = 0$ and $\nabla^2 f(x^*)$ is positive definite.*

Then x^ is a strict local minimizer of f .*

When f is convex, any local minimizer x^ is a global minimizer of f .*

Overview of algorithms

x_0 generate a sequence of iterates $\{x_k\}_{k=0}^{\infty}$

terminate : no more progress or a solution point with sufficient accuracy.

two strategies for moving
from x_k to a new iterate x_{k+1}

Overview of algorithms

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from x_k to a new iterate x_{k+1}

1. Line search

✓ choose a direction p_k and search along this direction

$$\min_{\alpha > 0} f(x_k + \alpha p_k).$$

Overview of algorithms

2. Trust region

- ✓ construct a model function m_k whose behavior near x_k is similar to f
- ✓ search for a minimizer of m_k to some region around x_k

$$\min_p m_k(x_k + p), \quad \text{where } x_k + p \text{ lies inside the trust region.}$$

$$\|p\|_2 \leq \Delta, \quad m_k(x_k + p) = f_k + p^T \nabla f_k + \frac{1}{2} p^T B_k p,$$

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line search and trust-region approaches differ in the order in which they choose the *direction and distance of the move to the next iterate*

SEARCH DIRECTIONS FOR LINE SEARCH METHODS

Theorem (Taylor's Theorem).

Suppose that $f : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is continuously differentiable and that $p \in \mathbb{R}^n$. Then we have that

$$f(x + p) = f(x) + \nabla f(x)^T p + \frac{1}{2} p^T \nabla^2 f(x + tp) p,$$

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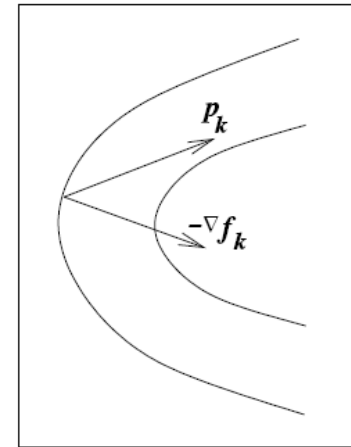
$$f(x + p) = f(x) + \nabla f(x)^T p + \frac{1}{2} p^T \nabla^2 f(x + tp) p,$$

$$f(x_k + \alpha p) = f(x_k) + \alpha p^T \nabla f_k + \frac{1}{2} \alpha^2 p^T \nabla^2 f(x_k + tp) p,$$

Descent Methods

Descent methods

✓ any descent direction is guaranteed to produce a decrease in f , provided that the step length is sufficiently small



Descent Methods

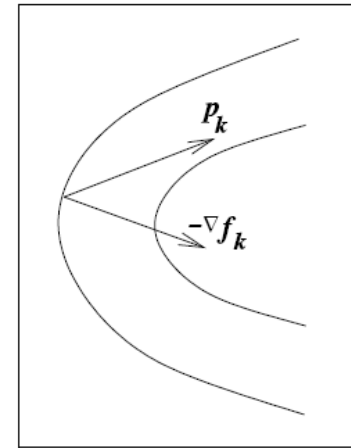
Descent methods

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steepest descent direction

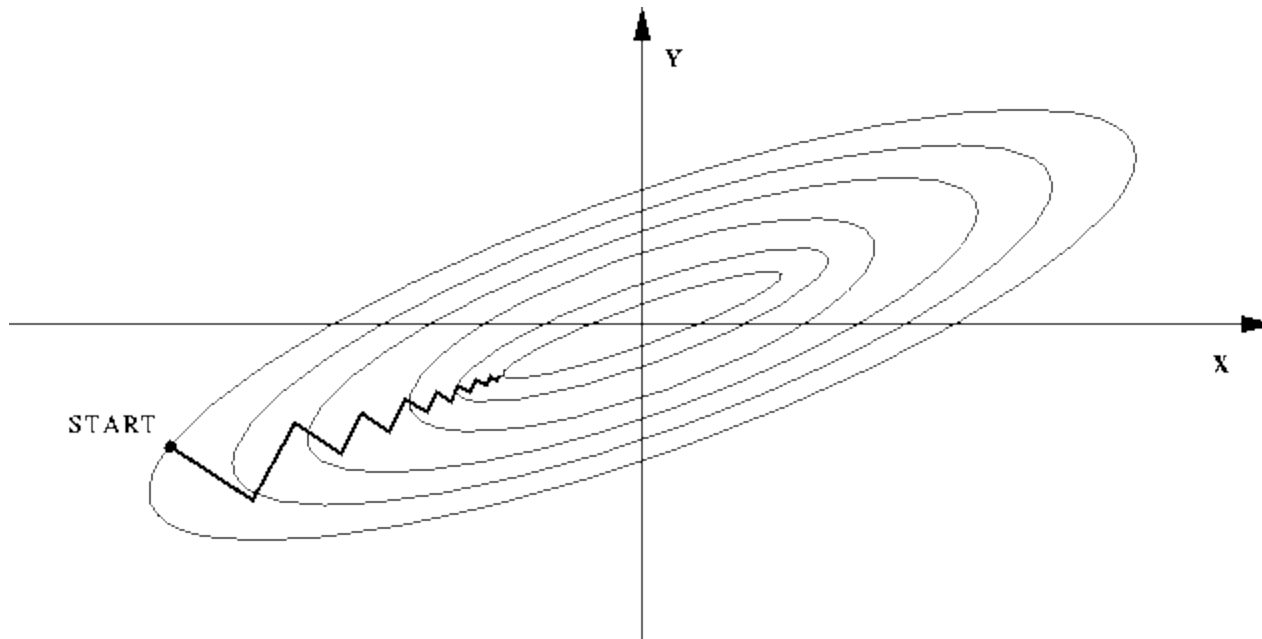
✓ steepest descent direction $-\nabla f_k$ is the most obvious choice for search direction for a line search method.

✓ choose the step length α_k in a variety of ways



steepest descent direction

$$x_{k+1} = x_k + \alpha_k (-\nabla f(x_k))$$



Newton direction

Newton direction

second-order Taylor series approximation

finding the vector p that minimizes $m_k(p)$

$$f(x_k + p) \approx f_k + p^T \nabla f_k + \frac{1}{2} p^T \nabla^2 f_k p \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} m_k(p).$$

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$$p_k^N = -(\nabla^2 f_k)^{-1} \nabla f_k.$$

The Newton direction is reliable when the difference between the true function $f(x_k + p)$ and its quadratic model $m_k(p)$ is not too large.

Newton direction

The Newton direction is a descent direction

$$x_{k+1} = x_k + \alpha_k (-(\nabla^2 f(x_k))^{-1} \nabla f(x_k))$$

- ✓ Fast rate of convergence (quadratic)
- ✓ Main drawback need for the Hessian

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Quasi-Newton
search direction

- ✓ Fast rate of convergence (quadratic)
- ✓ Main drawback need for the Hessian

Quasi-Newton search directions

- ✓ Quasi-Newton search directions do not require computation of the Hessian
- ✓ still attain a superlinear rate of convergence
- ✓ In place of the true Hessian , *they use an approximation B_k*

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Hessian approximation

$$s_k = x_{k+1} - x_k, \quad y_k = \nabla f_{k+1} - \nabla f_k.$$

symmetric-rank-one (SR1)

$$B_{k+1} = B_k + \frac{(y_k - B_k s_k)(y_k - B_k s_k)^T}{(y_k - B_k s_k)^T s_k}$$

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$$B_{k+1} = B_k + \frac{(y_k - B_k s_k)(y_k - B_k s_k)^T}{(y_k - B_k s_k)^T s_k}$$

BFGS

$$B_{k+1} = B_k - \frac{B_k s_k s_k^T B_k}{s_k^T B_k s_k} + \frac{y_k y_k^T}{y_k^T s_k}$$

Quasi-Newton search directions

$$p_k = -B_k^{-1} \nabla f_k$$

$$H_k \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} B_k^{-1}$$

$$\text{(BFGS)} \quad H_{k+1} = (I - \rho_k s_k y_k^T) H_k (I - \rho_k y_k s_k^T) + \rho_k s_k s_k^T, \quad \rho_k = \frac{1}{y_k^T s_k}$$

$$\text{(SR1)} \quad H_{k+1} = H_k + \frac{(s_k - H_k y_k)(s_k - H_k y_k)^T}{(s_k - H_k y_k)^T y_k}.$$

$$p_k = -H_k \nabla f_k$$

Nonlinear conjugate gradient direction

$$p_k = -\nabla f(x_k) + \beta_k p_{k-1}.$$

- ✓ NLCG more effective than the steepest descent direction
- ✓ almost as simple to compute
- ✓ not attain the fast convergence rates of Newton or quasi-Newton methods
- ✓ not requiring storage of matrices.

Models for Trust Region Methods

$$m_k(x_k + p) = f_k + p^T \nabla f_k + \frac{1}{2} p^T B_k p,$$

$$B_k = 0$$

$$\min_p f_k + p^T \nabla f_k \quad \text{subject to } \|p\|_2 \leq \Delta_k.$$

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$$p_k = -\frac{\Delta_k \nabla f_k}{\|\nabla f_k\|}.$$

simply a steepest
descent step

Models for Trust Region Methods

$$m_k(x_k + p) = f_k + p^T \nabla f_k + \frac{1}{2} p^T B_k p,$$

choosing B_k to be the exact Hessian $\nabla^2 f_k$

trust-region Newton method

$$\min_p m_k(x_k + p), \quad \text{where } x_k + p \text{ lies inside the trust region.} \quad \|p\|_2 \leq \Delta_k$$

Rate of Convergence

One of the key measures of performance of an algorithm

Let $\{x_k\}$ be a sequence in \mathbb{R}^n that converges to x^* . We say that the convergence is *Q-linear* if there is a constant $r \in (0, 1)$ such that

$$\frac{\|x_{k+1} - x^*\|}{\|x_k - x^*\|} \leq r, \quad \text{for all } k \text{ sufficiently large.}$$

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The convergence is said to be *superlinear* if

$$\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\|x_{k+1} - x^*\|}{\|x_k - x^*\|} = 0.$$

Rate of Convergence

quadratic convergence is obtained if

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order of convergence is p (with $p > 1$) if there is a positive constant M such that

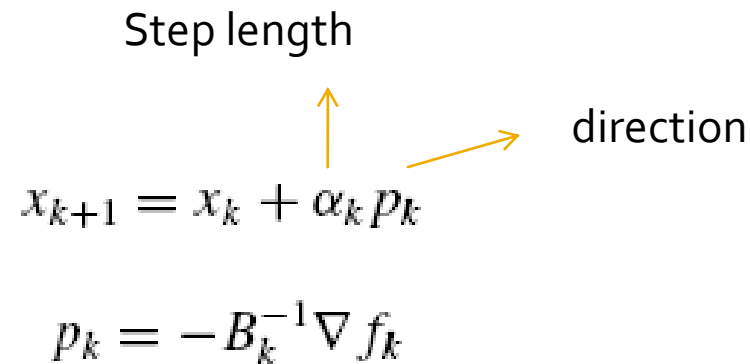
$$\frac{\|x_{k+1} - x^*\|}{\|x_k - x^*\|^p} \leq M, \quad \text{for all } k \text{ sufficiently large.}$$

Step Length Selection

Line Search Methods

Step length

direction

$$x_{k+1} = x_k + \alpha_k p_k$$
$$p_k = -B_k^{-1} \nabla f_k$$


choice of the step-length parameter α_k

Step Length Selection

Tradeoff

- ✓ a substantial reduction of f
- ✓ Not spend too much time making the choice

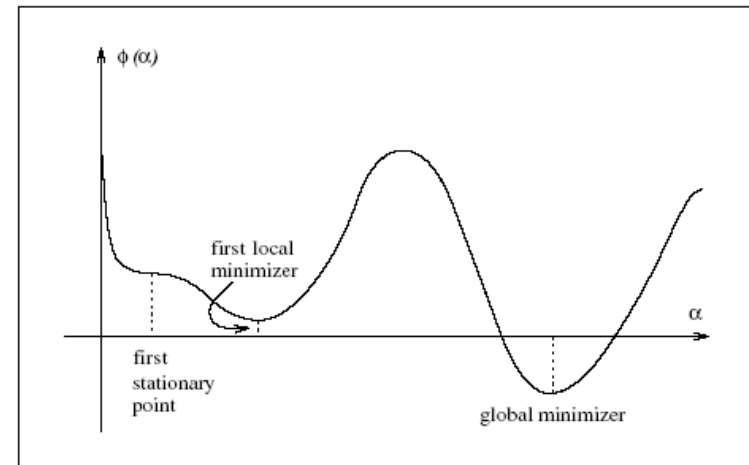
ideal choice would be the global minimizer of

too expensive to identify

$$\phi(\alpha) = f(x_k + \alpha p_k), \quad \alpha > 0$$

Inexact line search

- ✓ Try out a sequence of candidate values for α
- ✓ Stop when certain conditions are satisfied.



Wolfe Conditions

1. sufficient decrease condition

$$f(x_k + \alpha p_k) \leq f(x_k) + c_1 \alpha \nabla f_k^T p_k$$

$$\phi(\alpha) \leq l(\alpha)$$

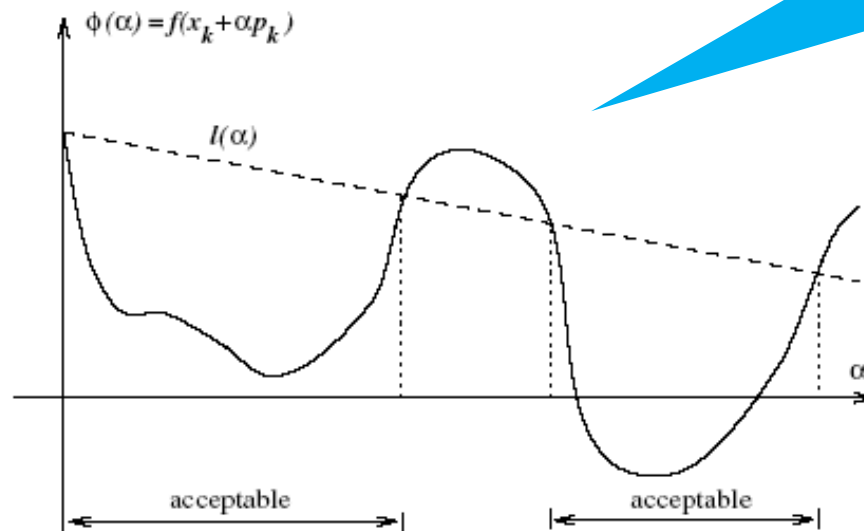
Wolfe Conditions

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$$\phi(\alpha) \leq l(\alpha)$$

not enough to
ensure reasonable
progress



Wolfe Conditions

2. curvature condition

$$\nabla f(x_k + \alpha_k p_k)^T p_k \geq c_2 \nabla f_k^T p_k, \quad c_2 \in (c_1, 1)$$

$$\phi(\alpha) = f(x_k + \alpha p_k), \quad \alpha > 0$$

Wolfe Conditions

2. *curvature condition*

$$\phi'(\alpha_k) \geq c_1 \phi'(0)$$

$$\nabla f(x_k + \alpha_k p_k)^T p_k \geq c_2 \nabla f_k^T p_k, \quad c_2 \in (c_1, 1)$$

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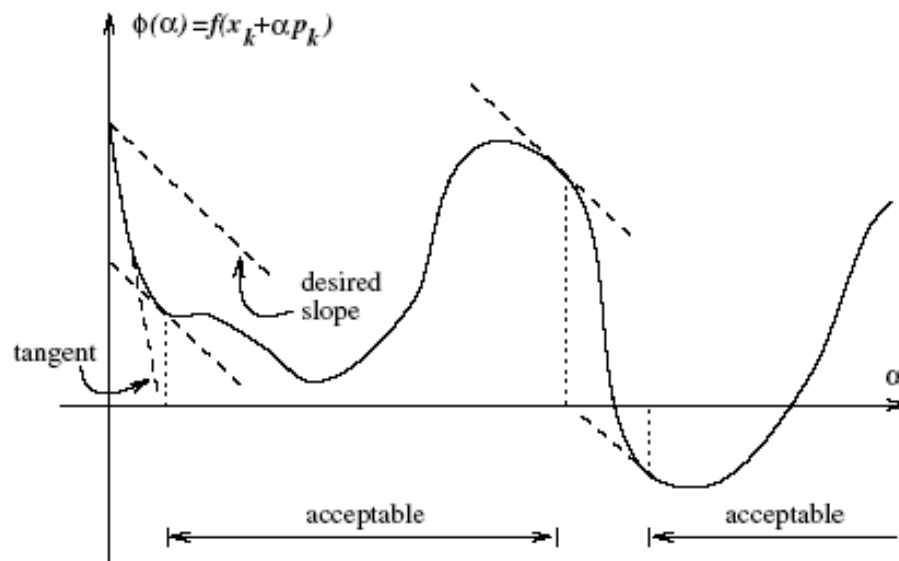
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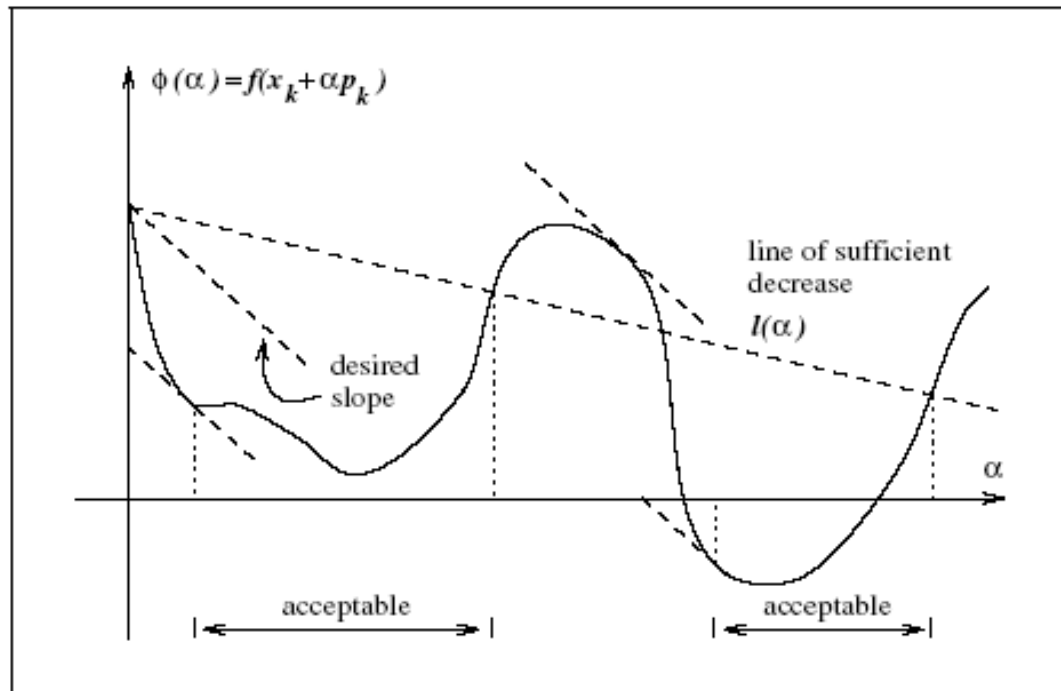
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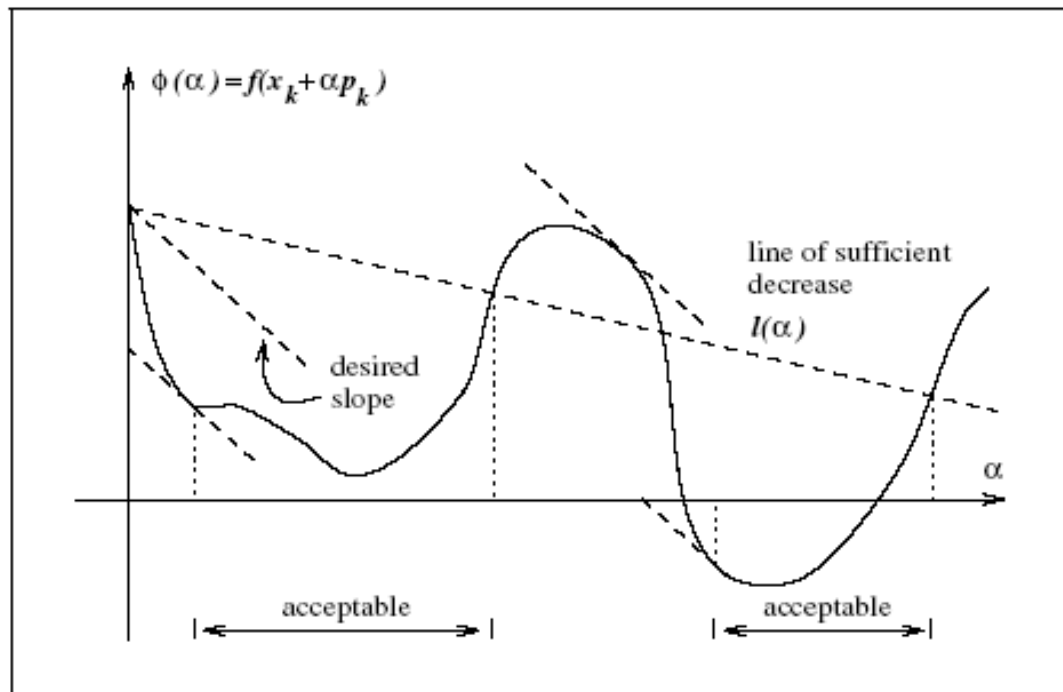
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$$\begin{aligned} f(x_k + \alpha_k p_k) &\leq f(x_k) + c_1 \alpha_k \nabla f_k^T p_k, \\ |\nabla f(x_k + \alpha_k p_k)^T p_k| &\leq c_2 |\nabla f_k^T p_k|, \end{aligned}$$

there exist step lengths that satisfy the Wolfe conditions for every function f that is smooth and bounded below

Backtracking

If line search algorithm chooses its candidate step lengths by *backtracking approach*, sufficient decrease condition is sufficient to terminate the line search procedure

Algorithm (Backtracking Line Search).
Choose $\bar{\alpha} > 0$, $\rho \in (0, 1)$, $c \in (0, 1)$; Set $\alpha \leftarrow \bar{\alpha}$;
repeat until $f(x_k + \alpha p_k) \leq f(x_k) + c\alpha \nabla f_k^T p_k$
 $\alpha \leftarrow \rho\alpha$;
end (repeat)
Terminate with $\alpha_k = \alpha$.

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end (repeat)
Terminate with $\alpha_k = \alpha$.

An acceptable step length will be found after a finite number of trials

selected step length is short enough to satisfy the sufficient decrease condition but not too short.

Interpolation

The aim is to find a value of α that satisfies the sufficient decrease condition without being “too small.”

Procedures generate a decreasing sequence of values α_i

$$f(x_k + \alpha p_k) \leq f(x_k) + c_1 \alpha \nabla f_k^T p_k$$

$$\phi(\alpha_k) \leq \phi(0) + c_1 \alpha_k \phi'(0)$$

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α_0 is given. If we have

$$\phi(\alpha_0) \leq \phi(0) + c_1 \alpha_0 \phi'(0)$$

terminate the search

Interpolation

interval $[0, \alpha_0]$ contains acceptable step lengths

✓ form a quadratic approximation ϕ by interpolating the three pieces of information available— $\phi(0)$, $\phi'(0)$, and $\phi(\alpha_0)$

Interpolation

interval $[0, \alpha_0]$ contains acceptable step lengths

✓ form a quadratic approximation ϕ by interpolating the three pieces of information available— $\phi(0)$, $\phi'(0)$, and $\phi(\alpha_0)$

$$\phi_q(\alpha) = \left(\frac{\phi(\alpha_0) - \phi(0) - \alpha_0 \phi'(0)}{\alpha_0^2} \right) \alpha^2 + \phi'(0)\alpha + \phi(0)$$

✓ The new trial value α_1 is defined as the minimizer of this quadratic

Interpolation

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✓ The new trial value α_1 is defined as the minimizer of this quadratic

$$\alpha_1 = -\frac{\phi'(0)\alpha_0^2}{2 [\phi(\alpha_0) - \phi(0) - \phi'(0)\alpha_0]}$$

✓ If the sufficient decrease condition satisfied at α_1 , *we terminate the search.*

Interpolation

✓ we construct a cubic function that interpolates the four pieces of information $\phi(0)$, $\phi(\alpha_0)$, $\phi(\alpha_1)$, and $\phi'(0)$

$$\phi_c(\alpha) = a\alpha^3 + b\alpha^2 + \alpha\phi'(0) + \phi(0)$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} a \\ b \end{bmatrix} = \frac{1}{\alpha_0^2\alpha_1^2(\alpha_1 - \alpha_0)} \begin{bmatrix} \alpha_0^2 & -\alpha_1^2 \\ -\alpha_0^3 & \alpha_1^3 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \phi(\alpha_1) - \phi(0) - \phi'(0)\alpha_1 \\ \phi(\alpha_0) - \phi(0) - \phi'(0)\alpha_0 \end{bmatrix}$$

Interpolation

✓ we construct a cubic function that interpolates the four pieces of information $\phi(o)$, $\phi(o)$, $\phi(\alpha_0)$, and $\phi(\alpha_1)$

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✓ the minimizer α_2 of ϕ_c

$$\alpha_2 = \frac{-b + \sqrt{b^2 - 3a\phi'(0)}}{3a}$$

✓ If the sufficient decrease condition satisfied at α_2 , *we terminate the search.*

✓ this process is repeated, using a cubic interpolant of $\phi(o)$, $\phi'(o)$ and the two most recent values of ϕ , until an α that satisfies is located

Initial Step Length

$\alpha_0 = 1$ \longrightarrow For Newton and quasi-Newton methods

first-order change in the function at iterate x_k will be the same as that obtained at the previous step

$$\alpha_0 = \alpha_{k-1} \frac{\nabla f_{k-1}^T p_{k-1}}{\nabla f_k^T p_k}.$$

Trust Region Methods

Trust-region methods

- Trust-region methods define a region within *trust* the model
- choose the step to be the minimizer of the model in this region
- choose the direction and length of the step simultaneously
- If a step is not acceptable, reduce the size of the region
- size of the trust region is critical
- performance of the algorithm during previous iterations

Trust-region methods

$$m_k(p) = f_k + g_k^T p + \frac{1}{2} p^T B_k p$$

$$f_k = f(x_k) \text{ and } g_k = \nabla f(x_k)$$

$$\min_{p \in \mathbb{R}^n} m_k(p) = f_k + g_k^T p + \frac{1}{2} p^T B_k p \quad \text{s.t. } \|p\| \leq \Delta_k$$

Trust-region radius

Base this choice on the agreement between the model function m_k and the objective function f at previous iterations

$$\rho_k = \frac{f(x_k) - f(x_k + p_k)}{m_k(0) - m_k(p_k)}$$

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Actual Reduction

Predicted Reduction

- Predicted reduction nonnegative

Trust-region radius

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Actual Reduction

Predicted Reduction

- Predicted reduction nonnegative
- Ratio
 - is negative \Rightarrow step rejected
 - close to 1 \Rightarrow good agreement
 - positive but significantly smaller than 1 \Rightarrow not change in radius
 - Close to zero or negative \Rightarrow reduce radius

Trust-region radius

Algorithm (Trust Region).

Given $\hat{\Delta} > 0$, $\Delta_0 \in (0, \hat{\Delta})$, and $\eta \in [0, \frac{1}{4})$:

for $k = 0, 1, 2, \dots$

Obtain p_k by (approximately) solving $\min_{p \in \mathbb{R}^n} m_k(p) = f_k + g_k^T p + \frac{1}{2} p^T B_k p \quad \text{s.t. } \|p\| \leq \Delta_k$

Evaluate ρ_k :

if $\rho_k < \frac{1}{4}$

$$\Delta_{k+1} = \frac{1}{4} \Delta_k$$

else

if $\rho_k > \frac{3}{4}$ and $\|p_k\| = \Delta_k$

$$\Delta_{k+1} = \min(2\Delta_k, \hat{\Delta})$$

else

$$\Delta_{k+1} = \Delta_k;$$

if $\rho_k > \eta$

$$x_{k+1} = x_k + p_k$$

else

$$x_{k+1} = x_k;$$

end (for).

Trust-region methods

$$m_k(p) = f_k + g_k^T p + \frac{1}{2} p^T B_k p$$

$$f_k = f(x_k) \text{ and } g_k = \nabla f(x_k)$$

$$\min_{p \in \mathbb{R}^n} m_k(p) = f_k + g_k^T p + \frac{1}{2} p^T B_k p \quad \text{s.t. } \|p\| \leq \Delta_k$$



solve a sequence of subproblems

p_k^*

Trust-region methods

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solve a sequence of subproblems



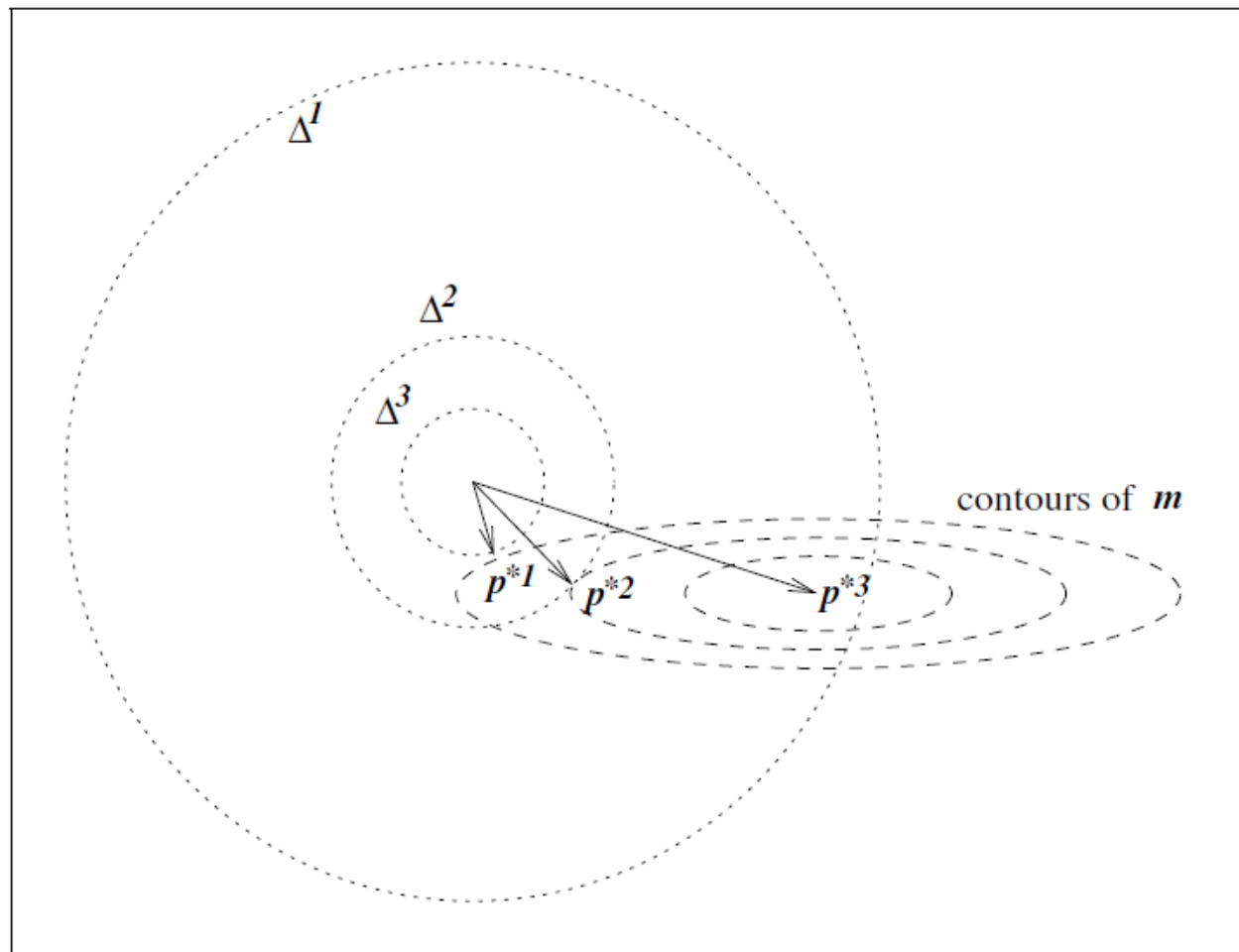
When B_k is positive definite and $\|B_k^{-1} g_k\| \leq \Delta_k$



$$p_k^B = -B_k^{-1} g_k$$

- ✓ The solution of is not so obvious in other cases need only an *approximate* solution to obtain convergence and good practical behavior

Trust-region



Cauchy Point

- line search methods can be globally convergent even when the optimal step length is not used at each iteration
- Seek the optimal solution of the subproblem
- for global convergence to find an approximate solution p_k lies in the trust region and gives a *sufficient reduction* in the model
- sufficient reduction can be quantified in terms of the Cauchy point p_k^c

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a trust-region method will be globally convergent if its steps p_k give a reduction in the model m_k that is at least some fixed positive multiple of the decrease attained by the Cauchy step.

Cauchy Point

Algorithm (Cauchy Point Calculation).

Find the vector p_k^s that solves a linear version of (4.3), that is,

$$p_k^s = \arg \min_{p \in \mathbb{R}^n} f_k + g_k^T p \quad \text{s.t. } \|p\| \leq \Delta_k;$$

Calculate the scalar $\tau_k > 0$ that minimizes $m_k(\tau p_k^s)$ subject to satisfying the trust-region bound, that is,

$$\tau_k = \arg \min_{\tau \geq 0} m_k(\tau p_k^s) \quad \text{s.t. } \|\tau p_k^s\| \leq \Delta_k;$$


Set $p_k^c = \tau_k p_k^s$.

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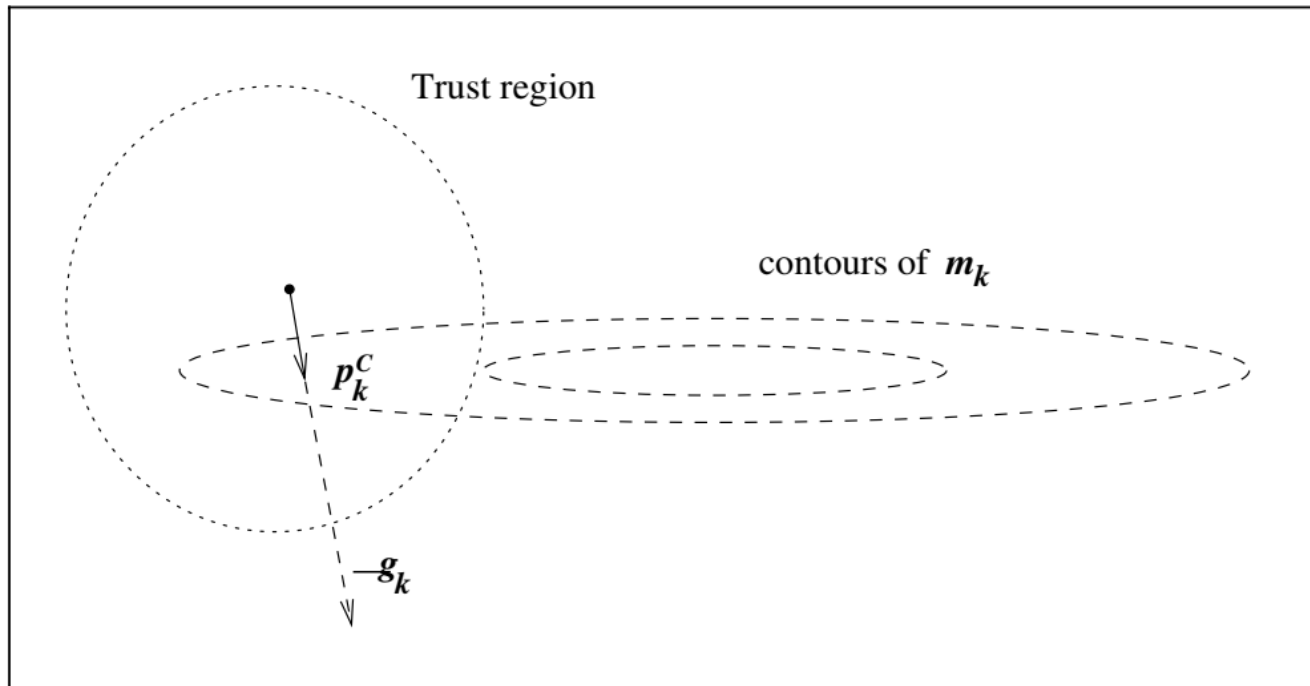

$$p_k^s = -\frac{\Delta_k}{\|g_k\|} g_k.$$

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Set $p_k^c = \tau_k p_k^s$.

minimizer of m_k along the steepest descent direction $-g_k$. subject to the trust-region bound.



Cauchy Point

$$p_k^s = -\frac{\Delta_k}{\|g_k\|} g_k. \quad \Rightarrow \quad \tau_k = \arg \min_{\tau \geq 0} m_k(\tau p_k^s) \quad \text{s.t. } \|\tau p_k^s\| \leq \Delta_k; \quad \Rightarrow \quad p_k^c = \tau_k p_k^s$$

$$m_k(p) = f_k + g_k^T p + \frac{1}{2} p^T B_k p$$

$\nearrow g_k^T B_k g_k \leq 0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad \text{decreases monotonically} \quad \Rightarrow \quad \tau_k = 1$
 $\searrow g_k^T B_k g_k > 0 \quad \begin{cases} \nearrow \text{Unconstrained minimizer of this quadratic} & \|g_k\|^3 / (\Delta_k g_k^T B_k g_k) \\ \searrow \text{boundary value 1} \end{cases}$

$$p_k^c = -\tau_k \frac{\Delta_k}{\|g_k\|} g_k \quad \tau_k = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } g_k^T B_k g_k \leq 0; \\ \min(\|g_k\|^3 / (\Delta_k g_k^T B_k g_k), 1) & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$



Cauchy Point

always taking the Cauchy point as our step?



Problems?

Cauchy Point



Problems?

always taking the Cauchy point as our step?

Some algorithms for approximate solutions of subproblem

$$\min_{p \in \mathbb{R}^n} m(p) = f + g^T p + \frac{1}{2} p^T B p, \quad \text{s.t. } \|p\| \leq \Delta$$

dropping the subscript “ k ” $p^*(\Delta)$

Dogleg Method

B is positive definite.

$$\min_{p \in \mathbb{R}^n} m(p) = f + g^T p + \frac{1}{2} p^T B p, \quad \text{s.t. } \|p\| \leq \Delta$$

$$p^B = -B^{-1}g$$

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$$p^*(\Delta) = p^B, \quad \text{when } \Delta \geq \|p^B\|$$

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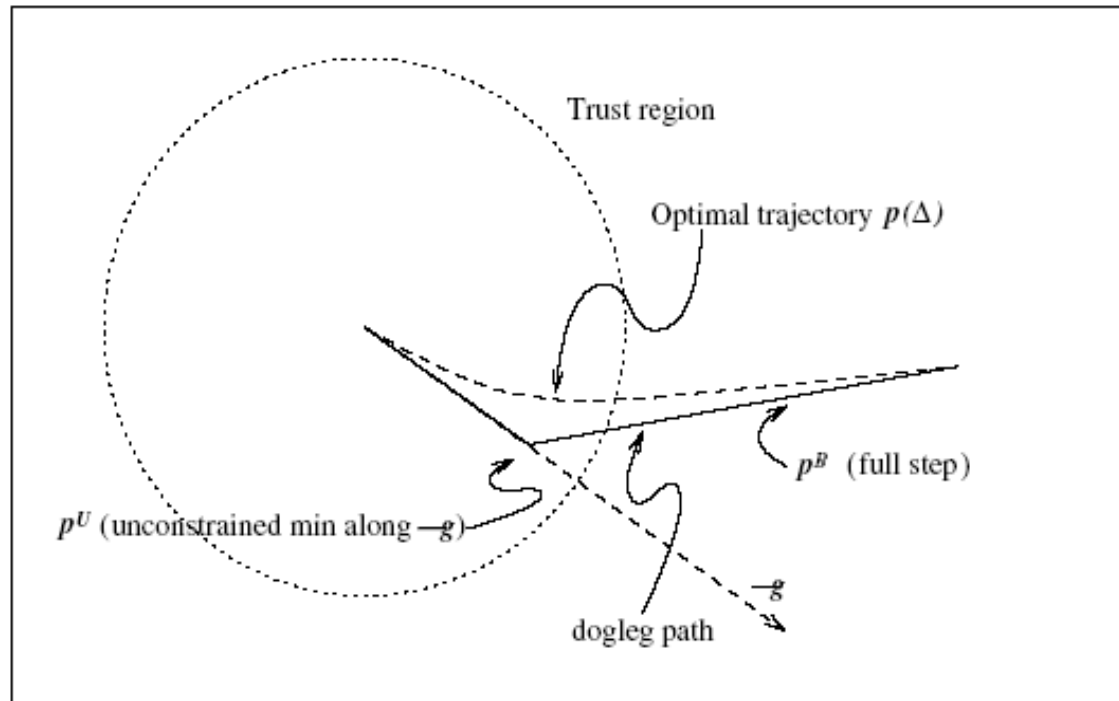
$$p^*(\Delta) = p^B, \quad \text{when } \Delta \geq \|p^B\|$$

Δ is small omitting the quadratic term

$$p^*(\Delta) \approx -\Delta \frac{g}{\|g\|}, \quad \text{when } \Delta \text{ is small.}$$

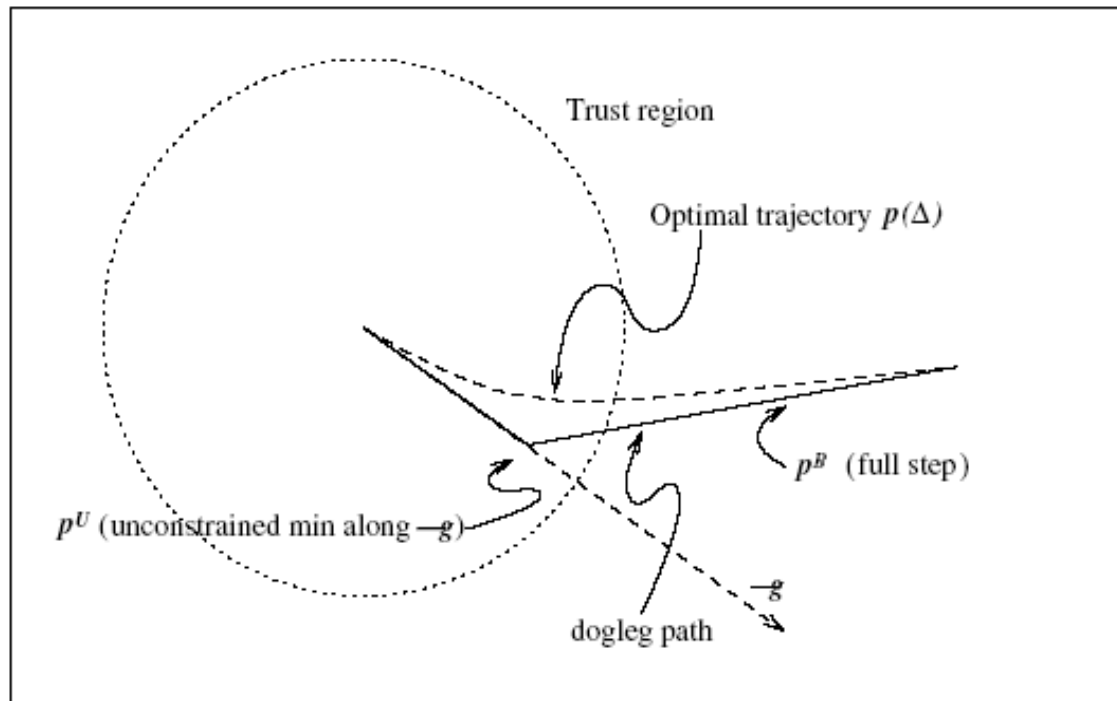
For intermediate values of Δ , the solution $p^*(\Delta)$ typically follows a curved trajectory

Dogleg Method



Idea of dogleg method: replacing the curved trajectory for $p^*(\Delta)$ with a path consisting of two line segments.

Dogleg Method



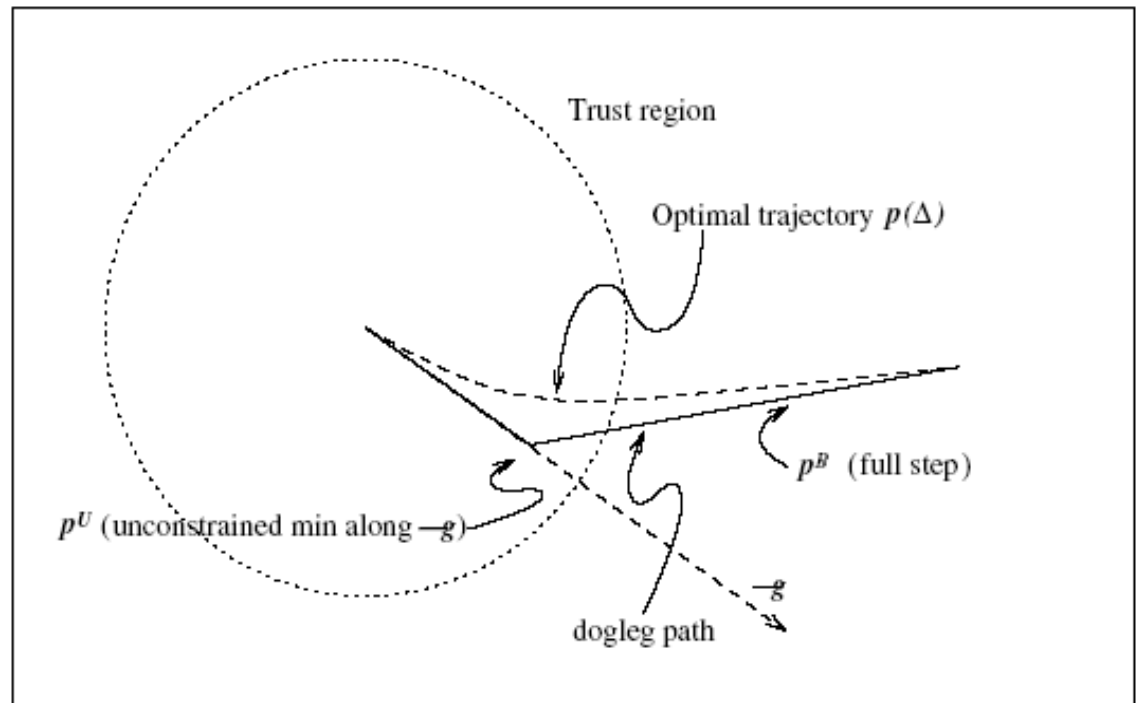
Idea of dogleg method: replacing the curved trajectory for $p^*(\Delta)$ with a path consisting of two line segments.

- ✓ first line segment runs from the origin to the minimizer of m along the steepest descent direction
- ✓ second line segment runs from p_U to p_B

Dogleg Method

$$\tilde{p}(\tau) = \begin{cases} \tau p^u, & 0 \leq \tau \leq 1, \\ p^u + (\tau - 1)(p^B - p^u), & 1 \leq \tau \leq 2. \end{cases}$$

$$p^u = -\frac{g^T g}{g^T B g} g$$



Idea of dogleg method: replacing the curved trajectory for $p^*(\Delta)$ with a path consisting of two line segments.

- ✓ first line segment runs from the origin to the minimizer of m along the steepest descent direction
- ✓ second line segment runs from p_U to p_B

Dogleg Method

- The dogleg method chooses p to minimize the model m along this path, subject to the trust-region bound.
- This line intersects the trust-region boundary at exactly one point if $\|p^B\| \geq \Delta$

$$\|p^U + (\tau - 1)(p^B - p^U)\|^2 = \Delta^2$$

Two-dimensional subspace minimization

widening the search for p to *the entire two-dimensional subspace spanned by p_U and p_B*

$$\min_p m(p) = f + g^T p + \frac{1}{2} p^T B p \quad \text{s.t. } \|p\| \leq \Delta, \quad p \in \text{span}[g, B^{-1}g].$$

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Cauchy point p_C is feasible



- ✓ optimal solution of this subproblem yields at least as much reduction in m as the Cauchy point
- ✓ global convergence of the algorithm
- ✓ extension of the dogleg method entire dogleg path lies in $\text{span}[g, B^{-1}g]$.

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- ✓ extension of the dogleg method entire dogleg path lies in $\text{span}[g, B^{-1}g]$.

Two-dimensional subspace minimization

When B has negative eigenvalues

$$\min_{p \in \mathbb{R}^n} m(p) = f + g^T p + \frac{1}{2} p^T B p, \quad \text{s.t. } \|p\| \leq \Delta$$

$$\min_p m(p) = f + g^T p + \frac{1}{2} p^T B p \quad \text{s.t. } \|p\| \leq \Delta, \quad \text{span}[g, (B + \alpha I)^{-1} g],$$