

This project considers the Global Positioning System (GPS). To make things simple, we start with 4 satellites. At an instant time  $t = d$ , the receiver collects the synchronized signal from the satellites, which was sent at time  $t_i$  from the coordinate  $(A_i, B_i, C_i)$ . To find out the receiver's position  $(x, y, z)$ , we have the following system of equations,

$$\begin{cases} r_1 = \sqrt{(x - A_1)^2 + (y - B_1)^2 + (z - C_1)^2} = c(t_1 - d), \\ r_2 = \sqrt{(x - A_2)^2 + (y - B_2)^2 + (z - C_2)^2} = c(t_2 - d), \\ r_3 = \sqrt{(x - A_3)^2 + (y - B_3)^2 + (z - C_3)^2} = c(t_3 - d), \\ r_4 = \sqrt{(x - A_4)^2 + (y - B_4)^2 + (z - C_4)^2} = c(t_4 - d), \end{cases}$$

Here  $c \approx 299792.458$  km/sec is the speed of light. Notice  $d$  should also be considered to be unknown because the receiver's time is inaccurate.

Setup -

First, I defined functions which would return a function to evaluate the following for given values of  $A_i, B_i, C_i, D_i$ :

$$\begin{aligned} f(x, y, z, d) &= \sqrt{(x - A_i)^2 + (y - B_i)^2 + (z - C_i)^2} - c * (t_i - d) \\ f_x(x, y, z, d) &= \frac{(x - A_i)}{\text{sqrt}(x - A_i)^2 + (y - B_i)^2 + (z - C_i)^2} \\ f_y(x, y, z, d) &= \frac{(y - B_i)}{\text{sqrt}(x - A_i)^2 + (y - B_i)^2 + (z - C_i)^2} \\ f_z(x, y, z, d) &= \frac{(z - C_i)}{\text{sqrt}(x - A_i)^2 + (y - B_i)^2 + (z - C_i)^2} \\ f_d(x, y, z, d) &= c \end{aligned}$$

The code for which is as follows:

```
# returns f with certain values of a, b, c, and t plugged in
def f(a: float, b: float, c: float, t: float, speed: float):
    def f_const(x: float, y: float, z: float, d: float):
        return sqrt((a - x)**2 + (b - y)**2 + (c - z)**2) - speed * (t - d)

    return f_const
```

```

# returns the partial derivative of f wrt x for a certain value of a, b, c,
and t
def fx(a: float, b: float, c: float, t: float, speed: float):
    def fx_const(x: float, y: float, z: float, d: float):
        return (x - a)/sqrt((a - x)**2 + (b - y)**2 + (c - z)**2)

    return fx_const

# returns the partial derivative of f wrt y for a certain value of a, b, c,
and t
def fy(a: float, b: float, c: float, t: float, speed: float):
    def fy_const(x: float, y: float, z: float, d: float):
        return (y - b)/sqrt((a - x)**2 + (b - y)**2 + (c - z)**2)

    return fy_const

# returns the partial derivative of f wrt z for a certain value of a, b, c,
and t
def fz(a: float, b: float, c: float, t: float, speed: float):
    def fz_const(x: float, y: float, z: float, d: float):
        return (z - c)/sqrt((a - x)**2 + (b - y)**2 + (c - z)**2)

    return fz_const

# returns the partial derivative of f wrt d for a certain value of a, b, c,
and t
def fd(a: float, b: float, c: float, t: float, speed: float):
    def fd_const(x: float, y: float, z: float, d: float):
        return speed

    return fd_const

```

## Part I

Write a program to solve  $(x, y, z, d)$  with given  $(A_i, B_i, C_i, t_i)$ , using Multivariable Newton's method. Notice, the system might have 2 solutions, one is near earth, one is far from earth. We only want the near earth solution. The earth center is fixed at  $(0, 0, 0)$ .

I created a method to take in a starting guess, a system of functions, a system of derivatives of those functions, and a max number of iterations to run, and implemented multivariate Newton's method.

```

# does multivariable newton's method
def multivariable_newtons(start, funcs, derivs: np.array, maxits: int) ->
np.array:
    # initialize our starting point
    new_point = start.copy()
    current_f = np.zeros([len(funcs), 1])
    jacobian = np.zeros([len(funcs), len(derivs)])

    # delta = how much the iteration has changed
    # its = how many iterations are we on?
    delta = 1
    its = 0
    while delta > 1e-16 and its < maxits:
        # xi = xi-1
        current_point = new_point.copy()

        # calculate the jacobian and the values of f(x)
        for i in range(len(funcs)):
            for j in range(derivs.shape[1]):
                # derivs[i][j] is holds the derivative of the ith
equation wrt the jth variable
                # plug our current point into that
                jacobian[i][j] = derivs[i][j](*current_point)
            # funcs[i] holds our ith function
            # plug current point into that
            current_f[i] = funcs[i](*current_point)

        # solve -J*h = f
        h = np.linalg.solve(-jacobian, current_f)

        # set our new point
        new_point = current_point + h

        # calculate the absolute distance of the norms between last iter and
this iter
        delta = fabs(np.linalg.norm(new_point) -
np.linalg.norm(current_point))
        its += 1

    # returns our best guess
    return new_point

```

This program, broadly, does the following:

- Set  $x_{\text{new}}$  = initial guess
- Loop until the change is small or we reach maxits iterations
  - Set  $x = x_{\text{new}}$
  - Calculate  $f(x) = f_1(x), f_2(x), \dots, f_k(x)$
  - Calculate the Jacobian matrix,  $J$ , of  $f_1, f_2, \dots, f_k$  on  $x$
  - Solve  $f(x) + J * h = 0$  for  $h$
  - Set  $x_{\text{new}} = x + h$
  - Set  $\text{delta} = |\text{norm}(x_{\text{new}}) - \text{norm}(x)|$
- Return  $x_{\text{new}}$ , our best answer

## Part II

Given (15600, 7540, 20140, 0.07074), (18760, 2750, 18610, 0.07220), (17610, 14630, 13480, 0.07690), (19170, 610, 18390, 0.07242), as the position (in km) and time (in second) of the four satellites. Use the program in part (I) to find the receiver's position and time. Set the initial guess (0, 0, 6670, 0).

The data I got was:

```
PART A/B - INFO
The coordinates are:
P1 = (A1 = 5600.000, B1 = 7540.000, C1 = 20140.000, D1 = 0.07074)
P2 = (A2 = 18760.000, B2 = 2750.000, C2 = 18610.000, D2 = 0.07220)
P3 = (A3 = 17610.000, B3 = 14630.000, C3 = 13480.000, D3 = 0.07690)
P4 = (A4 = 19170.000, B4 = 610.000, C4 = 18390.000, D4 = 0.07242)

Distance Matrix:
1      0.000
2 14087.959      0.000
3 15455.219 12991.297      0.000
4 15337.285 2190.000 14936.603      0.000
      1      2      3      4

PART A/B - SOLUTION
The solution is:
x = 8783.51290
y = 1499.49768
z = 6102.17482
d = 0.01867

Results:
[0.]
[0.]
[0.]
[0.]
```

The Distance Matrix shows how far two points are from each other, ignoring the time value. I added this for extra analysis in part III.

The final solution I found to the system was:

$$(x = 8783.51290, y = 1499.49768, z = 6102.17482, d = 0.01867)$$

Plugging this back into all the equations, each evaluated to zero, making this an exact solution.

## Part III

The clocks aboard the satellites are correct up to about  $10^{-8}$  seconds. Change each  $t_i$  in Part (II) with  $\pm 10^{-8}$ , then the position as an output will be changed by  $(\Delta x, \Delta y, \Delta z)$ .

The distance  $\|(\Delta x, \Delta y, \Delta z)\|_2$  tells the error estimate of the position found in Part (II).

Notice, some  $t_i$  could be changed by  $10^{-8}$ , some could be changed by  $-10^{-8}$ . Please try all possible combinations, and find the largest distance (error).

For this part, I developed the below function that provides all  $2^n$  combinations of  $\pm 10^{-8}$  for some arbitrary  $n$ , and used this to modulate the  $t_i$ 's.

```
# generates 2^size unique combinations of size choices of +/-
def generate_binary(size: int) -> np.array:
    final = np.zeros(size)
    current = np.zeros(size)

    # we're going to have 2^n ways to form a string of n bits
    # iterate 2^n - 1 times since we already have a row of all zeros
    for version in range(0, 2**size-1):
        # increment the last bit by one
        current[-1] += 1

    # iterate over the size while making sure we don't have any 2's
    for i in range(1, size):

        # handle overflow
        if current[size - i] == 2:
            current[size - i] = 0
            current[size - i - 1] += 1

    # add the current bit pattern to our final array
    final = np.block([[final], [current]])
    return final
```

This final is a list of all possible binary strings of length size, which is then transformed by:

$$v_{i,new} = 2 * (v_i - 1) * 10^{-8}$$

To receive all combinations of  $10^{-8}$  and  $-10^{-8}$ .

I plugged in all combination of variations from the original values and found that the largest error was had when satellites 1, 3, and 4 were modulated by  $-10^{-8}$ , and satellite 2 was modulated by  $10^{-8}$ . The error from this combination was 0.09793590532841971 s, or about  $9.79 \times 10^{-2}$  seconds.

Distance Matrix:				
1	0.000			
2	14087.959	0.000		
3	15455.219	12991.297	0.000	
4	15337.285	2190.000	14936.603	0.000
	1	2	3	4

Based on the distance matrix for these 4 satellites, I suspect this is because satellite 2 was generally closer to all the other satellites than they were to each other, so this small discrepancy was far more noticeable, since we'd expect satellite 2 to be getting roughly similar readings to the rest, especially satellite 4. But this combination of values meant that, instead, satellite 2 was getting the most dissimilar readings from the rest.

## Part IV

In order to increase accuracy, we add another 4 satellites, so that we have 8 satellites in total. Design a program to solve the least square problem using Gauss–Newton's method.

Gauss-Newton's method is a small variation from Newton's multivariate method that handles the situation where there are  $m$  equations and  $n$  unknowns, where  $m > n$ . As such, it can be built out of the framework of Newton's multivariate method.

I implemented Gauss-Newton with the following code.

```
# gauss-newton method
# takes in start: our starting guess, funcs: our list of functions,
# derivs: a matrix of functions defining our partial derivatives, maxits:
# how many iterations to go over at max
def gauss_newton(start, funcs, derivs: np.array, maxits: int) -> np.array:
    # set up
    new_point = start.copy()
    current_f = np.zeros([len(funcs), 1])
```

```

jacobian = np.zeros([len(funcs), derivs.shape[1]])

# delta = how much change since last iteration?
delta = 1
# its = how many iterations are we on?
its = 0
while delta > 1e-16 and its < maxits:
    # xi = xi-1
    current_point = new_point.copy()

    # calculate the jacobian and the current value of f(x)
    for i in range(len(funcs)):
        for j in range(derivs.shape[1]):
            # derivs[i][j] holds the derivative of the ith function
            wrt the jth variable
            # plug in the current x
            jacobian[i][j] = derivs[i][j>(*current_point)
        # funcs[i] holds the ith function
        # plug in the current x
        current_f[i] = funcs[i>(*current_point)

    # for line spacing, store pseudo inverse = (JT J)^-1 JT
    pseudo_inverse = np.linalg.inv(jacobian.T @ jacobian) @ jacobian.T
    # xi+1 = xi - pseudo_inverse f(xi)
    new_point = current_point - pseudo_inverse @ current_f

    # how much have we changed?
    delta = fabs(np.linalg.norm(new_point) -
np.linalg.norm(current_point))
    its += 1

    return new_point

```

This is practically the same method as Newton's multivariate method, but instead of solving  $f(x) + J_h = 0$ , it instead calculates the left pseudoinverse of the Jacobian matrix to determine how much to change  $x$  by.

## Part V

Arbitrarily choose the location ( $A_i$ ,  $B_i$ ,  $C_i$ ) of the eight satellites on a sphere of radius 26570 km. In order for the receiver at (0, 0, 6670) to receive the signal, we require  $C_i > 6670$ . In order to have good accuracy, we do not want the satellites to be too close to each other.

The time  $t_i$  is given by:

$$t_i = \frac{\sqrt{A_i^2 + B_i^2 + (6670 - C_i)^2}}{c}$$

Now the system of eight equations and four unknowns have an exact solution (0, 0, 6670, 0). Estimate the error in position by changing each  $t_i$  by  $10^{-8}$  second

To create my system, I randomly chose  $z$ , based on the factor that it had to be greater than 6670, but smaller than the radius. Then, I randomly generated  $y$  such that it could feasibly be a point on the given sphere with the generated  $z$ . And lastly, I solved for  $x$  since I had  $r$ ,  $y$ , and  $z$  at this point.

This was implemented in the function below:

```
# generates an n points on a sphere of radius=radius, which have to have z
> min_height
def generate_points_on_sphere(radius: float, min_height: float, n: int) ->
np.array:
    points = np.array([0, 0, 0])

    # generates n points (x, y, z)
    for i in range(n):
        # z is at least min_height, but random otherwise
        z = min_height + random() * (radius - min_height)

        # y is a random value between 0 and r^2 - z^2
        random_fact = 2 * random() - 1
        y = random_fact/fabs(random_fact) *
sqrt((fabs(random_fact))*(radius**2 - z**2))

        # x we can solve for with sqrt(r^2 - y^2 - z^2)
        sign = random() - 0.5
        x = sign/fabs(sign) * sqrt(radius**2 - y**2 - z**2)

        # add to our list of points
        points = np.block([[points], [np.array([x, y, z])]])

    # return all but the initial (empty) value
    return points[1:]
```

I generated 8 points this way, resulting with the final coordinate system:



#### PART D/E - INFO

The coordinates are:

```
P1 = (A1 = -8660.449, B1 = 8940.531, C1 = 23473.995, D1 = 0.06975)
P2 = (A2 = -23525.037, B2 = 3573.146, C2 = 11822.443, D2 = 0.08121)
P3 = (A3 = -11289.982, B3 = -9091.511, C3 = 22267.592, D3 = 0.07103)
P4 = (A4 = 8266.386, B4 = 17421.219, C4 = 18279.303, D4 = 0.07508)
P5 = (A5 = 16466.808, B5 = 16853.658, C5 = 12278.573, D5 = 0.08079)
P6 = (A6 = 10144.539, B6 = 21615.097, C6 = 11655.076, D6 = 0.08136)
P7 = (A7 = -6039.724, B7 = 12245.450, C7 = 22793.323, D7 = 0.07048)
P8 = (A8 = 7208.013, B8 = 14312.183, C8 = 21193.652, D8 = 0.07214)
```

I verified that these lead to an exact solution, and it did, so I kept on with the last part.

I followed the same procedure from part III to generate the new points and evaluated the error at each step. The maximum error I got was 0.012668867365909948 s, or roughly  $1.267 \times 10^{-2}$  s. This happened when satellites 2, 3, 5, and 6 were modulated by  $-10^{-8}$ s, and the rest were modulated by  $10^{-8}$ s.

Looking at the distance matrix of these 8 satellites:

Distance Matrix:

1	0.000							
2	19634.751	0.000						
3	18262.649	20474.160	0.000					
4	19632.235	35272.577	33185.581	0.000				
5	28624.013	42141.757	39285.769	10177.318	0.000			
6	25572.623	38199.219	38922.486	8062.038	7939.215	0.000		
7	4272.471	22389.846	21979.706	15869.145	25265.382	21766.516	0.000	
8	16907.474	33877.231	29850.662	4390.864	13102.023	12366.898	13503.069	0.000
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8

The connection between proximity and error-sensitivity is far messier here. In many cases, the nearest neighbor is of the same shift. However, one notable change is that the satellites which got modulated with a negative shift are often very spread out from one another. They cover more ground this way and are thus less affected by small shifts in the timing, while the nearer satellites are far more affected.