

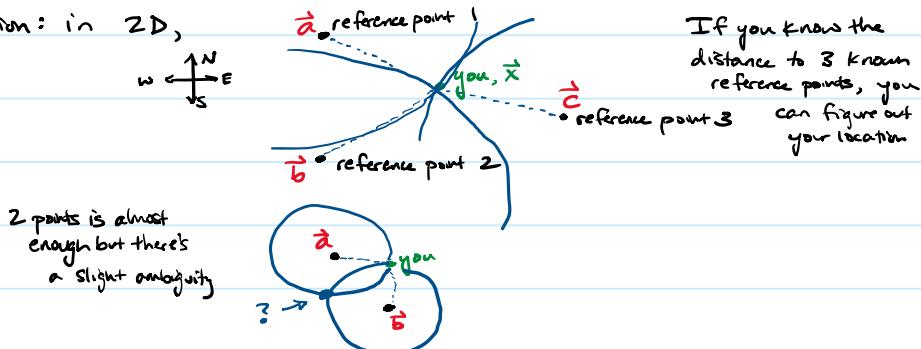
Ch 10.1: Fixed Points for Multivariate Functions and Contraction Mapping Theorem

Tuesday, September 16, 2025 2:14 PM

Motivation (not in book)

How does the Global Positioning System (GPS) work?

Triangulation: in 2D,



If you know the distance to 3 known reference points, you can figure out your location.

In 3D, we need 4 reference points: $\vec{a}, \vec{b}, \vec{c}, \vec{d} \in \mathbb{R}^3$ ← known locations

and your distances to each: $\|\vec{x} - \vec{a}\|_2, \dots, \|\vec{x} - \vec{d}\|_2$

For GPS, reference points are Satellites, and their location at any given time is known precisely.

How do we measure our distance to a satellite, $\|\vec{x} - \vec{a}\|_2$?

- Satellites send out a message that includes information about when they sent it (Very precise! They have atomic clocks)
- You receive it, and can compute how long it took to travel from the satellite to you.
- The distance is proportional to the travel time ✓
i.e. proportionality constant is speed of light.

But there's a catch!

Your GPS receiver (or cell phone) doesn't have an atomic clock.

You don't know the time (not to high enough accuracy).

Solution: Solve for the time! 4 GPS satellites is (almost) redundant.

i.e. solve the following nonlinear system of equations: Use extra info.

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \|\vec{x} - \vec{a}\|_2^2 = s^2 \cdot (t - t_a)^2 \\ \|\vec{x} - \vec{b}\|_2^2 = s^2 \cdot (t - t_b)^2 \\ \|\vec{x} - \vec{c}\|_2^2 = s^2 \cdot (t - t_c)^2 \\ \|\vec{x} - \vec{d}\|_2^2 = s^2 \cdot (t - t_d)^2 \end{array} \right. \quad \begin{array}{l} \text{"distance = rate} \times \text{time"} \text{ or } d^2 = r^2 \times t^2 \\ \text{unknown known} \quad \text{known known} \end{array}$$

$s = \text{speed of light}$
(since "c" is already in use)

$$\vec{x} = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{bmatrix}, t \quad \left\{ \begin{array}{l} 4 \text{ unknowns} \\ \|\vec{x} - \vec{a}\|_2^2 = \sum_{i=1}^3 (x_i - a_i)^2 \end{array} \right. \quad \text{distance formula}$$

... your Phone GPS solves these nonlinear equations to use google maps, etc. !!

Ch 10.1, p. 2

Tuesday, September 16, 2025 2:37 PM

Problems we'll solve in ch. 10

- Solve multivariate equations, $F(\vec{x}) = \vec{0}$, $\vec{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n$, $F: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ for now

$$F(\vec{x}) = \begin{bmatrix} f_1(\vec{x}) \\ \vdots \\ f_n(\vec{x}) \end{bmatrix}$$

n eqn, n unknowns

Assume F is differentiable

(that's why we did $d^2 = r^2 t^2$
not $d = r t$ on GPS example)

multivariate

* if F is linear,
use specialized
linear algebra techniques
instead

- solve fixed point problems: find $\vec{p} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ st. $G(\vec{p}) = \vec{p}$

obviously related to $F(\vec{x}) = \vec{0}$, e.g. $F(\vec{x}) = G(\vec{x}) - \vec{x}$

- optimization, $\min f(\vec{x})$, $f: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$

Stationary point

related to root finding since we want $\nabla f(\vec{x}) = \vec{0}$

More subtle though, since 1) we distinguish saddle pts vs. local min
vs. global min
i.e. not all stationary pts. are equally good

These issues are beyond
the scope of
this class

2) constraints in \mathbb{R}^n are not as simple as

"checking the endpoints"

Fixed point equations

Basic existence question: do we have anything like Thm 2.3(i)? like IVT?

Naive extension of IVT to 2D (or n-dim) fails.

Answer: famous Brouwer Fixed Pt. thm (our book's Thm 10.6 part 1 is a special case)

Thm (Brouwer, 1909)

Nontrivial proof... can use
"hairy ball thm"

Let $D \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$ be a nonempty ^{*}compact convex set and let

$G: D \rightarrow D$ be ① continuous

② $\forall \vec{x} \in D, G(\vec{x}) \in D$ "G maps D into D"

then G has at least one fixed point in D , i.e. $\exists \vec{p} \in D$ such that $\vec{p} = G(\vec{p})$

*For example, a closed ball $D = \{ \vec{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n : \| \vec{x} - \vec{x}_0 \| \leq r \}$

or a hyperrectangle $D = \{ \vec{x} = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ \vdots \\ x_n \end{bmatrix} : a_i \leq x_i \leq b_i, i=1, \dots, n \}$

← Book
specializes
to this case

Finding fixed points

We'll generalize what we did in 1D

Def $G: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ is Lipschitz continuous with respect to the p -norm

if $\exists L$ st. $\forall \vec{x}, \vec{y} \in \mathbb{R}^n$, $\|G(\vec{x}) - G(\vec{y})\|_p \leq L \cdot \|\vec{x} - \vec{y}\|_p$

or if $G: D \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$, we change to " $\forall \vec{x}, \vec{y} \in D$ "

p is unrelated
to n . We choose
 $\downarrow 1 \leq p \leq \infty$

Also unrelated
to our
fixed point
 \vec{p}

Def $G: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ or $G: D \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ is contractive with respect to the p -norm or any norm if it has a Lipschitz constant less than 1 (in that norm)

* really, any norm works. $\|\cdot\|$ is a norm on \mathbb{R}^n as long as it satisfies:

$$1) \|\vec{x}\| \geq 0, \quad \|\vec{x}\| > 0 \text{ except } \|\vec{0}\| = 0$$

$$2) \|\alpha \cdot \vec{x}\| = |\alpha| \cdot \|\vec{x}\|$$

$$3) \|\vec{x} + \vec{y}\| \leq \|\vec{x}\| + \|\vec{y}\| \text{ "triangle inequality"}$$

Common norms: $\|\vec{x}\|_p = \left(\sum_{i=1}^n |x_i|^p \right)^{1/p}$ including $\|\vec{x}\|_1 = \sum |x_i|$, $\|\vec{x}\|_2 = \sqrt{\sum x_i^2}$

$$\|\vec{x}\|_\infty = \max_{i=1, \dots, n} |x_i|$$

$\underbrace{\text{time it takes to leave for a party if you have to wait for everyone}}$

"Euclidean norm"
 \downarrow
 $\underbrace{\text{time it takes in Manhattan (on a grid)}}$
 $\underbrace{\text{time as the crow flies}}$

Thm (similar to 2nd part of Thm 10.6) "Contraction Mapping" aka "Banach-Picard"

Let $G: D \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ where $D \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$ is a closed set, and suppose G is

① contractive in some norm, and ② $\forall \vec{x} \in D$, $G(\vec{x}) \in D$. Then G has

a unique fixed point \vec{p} in G and the fixed point iteration $\vec{p}^{k+1} = G(\vec{p}^k)$
converges to it.

$\vec{p}^k \leftarrow k$ is iteration counter

Don't confuse with coordinate of \vec{p}

Proof

Let $\|\cdot\|$ be the norm that G is contractive in,

w/ Lipschitz constant $L < 1$.

① Existence of \vec{p} : either G is compact, so use Brouwer, or else use "Cauchy sequences", beyond scope of our course (take APPM 4400)

② Uniqueness: let $\vec{p} = G(\vec{p})$ and $\vec{q} = G(\vec{q})$ be fixed points.

$$\|\vec{p} - \vec{q}\| = \|G(\vec{p}) - G(\vec{q})\| \leq L \cdot \|\vec{p} - \vec{q}\| < \|\vec{p} - \vec{q}\|$$

$$\Rightarrow \|\vec{p} - \vec{q}\| = 0, \text{ so } \vec{p} = \vec{q}.$$

③ (see next pg.)

* Closed set: means includes its limit points (e.g. boundary). In particular, all of \mathbb{R}^n is closed; closed balls are closed; hyperrectangles are closed.

(proof cont'd)

Define $\vec{P} = G(\vec{p})$ the unique fixed point, $\vec{P}^{k+1} = G(\vec{p}^k)$

$$\text{So } \underbrace{\|\vec{P}^{k+1} - \vec{P}\|}_{e_{k+1}} = \|G(\vec{p}^k) - G(\vec{p})\| \leq L \cdot \underbrace{\|\vec{p}^k - \vec{p}\|}_{e_k \text{ error}}$$

$$e_{k+1} \leq L \cdot e_k$$

i.e.

$$(*) \quad e_k \leq L^k e_0, \quad e_0 = \|\vec{p}^0 - \vec{p}\| \xrightarrow{\text{initial guess}}$$

and $L < 1$ so $e_k \rightarrow 0$. \square

You're free to "shop around" for norms that are contractive.

One tool:

$$\text{let } G(\vec{x}) = \begin{bmatrix} G_1(\vec{x}) \\ \vdots \\ G_n(\vec{x}) \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{if each } G_i \text{ is } L\text{-Lipschitz in the sense } |G_i(\vec{x}) - G_i(\vec{y})| \leq L \cdot \|\vec{x} - \vec{y}\|_\infty$$

then

$$G \text{ is } L\text{-Lipschitz w.r.t. } \|\cdot\|_\infty \text{ norm: } \|G(\vec{x}) - G(\vec{y})\|_\infty \leq L \cdot \|\vec{x} - \vec{y}\|_\infty$$

$$\text{and for each } G_i, \quad G_i(\vec{x}) - G_i(\vec{y}) = \nabla G_i(\vec{\xi})^\top (\vec{x} - \vec{y}) \quad (\text{not same } \vec{\xi} \text{ for different } i)$$

$$\text{so } |G_i(\vec{x}) - G_i(\vec{y})| \leq \|\nabla G_i(\vec{\xi})\|_1 \cdot \|\vec{x} - \vec{y}\|_\infty$$

via Hölder's inequality.

$$\text{so want } \|\nabla G_i(\vec{\xi})\|_1 \leq L < 1 \quad \forall i=1, \dots, n$$

$$= \sum_{j=1}^n \left| \frac{\partial G_i}{\partial x_j}(\vec{\xi}) \right|$$

i.e. bound it for any input since we don't know what $\vec{\xi}$ is(*) This error bound isn't computable since $e_0 = \|\vec{p}^0 - \vec{p}\|$ isn't known.

$$\text{We can fix that: } e_0 = \|\vec{p}^0 - \vec{p}\| \leq \|\vec{p}^0 - \vec{p}'\| + \|\vec{p}' - \vec{p}\| \quad (\text{triangle inequality})$$

$$\leq \|\vec{p}^0 - \vec{p}'\| + L \cdot \underbrace{\|\vec{p}' - \vec{p}\|}_{e_0}$$

$$\text{so } (1-L)e_0 \leq \|\vec{p}^0 - \vec{p}'\|$$

$$\text{i.e. } e_0 \leq \frac{1}{1-L} \underbrace{\|\vec{p}^0 - \vec{p}'\|}_{\text{computable}}$$