

MCEN 3030

12 March 2024

HW#5 Due Wednesday  $\frac{\partial}{\partial n}(x^n) = x^n \log(x)$

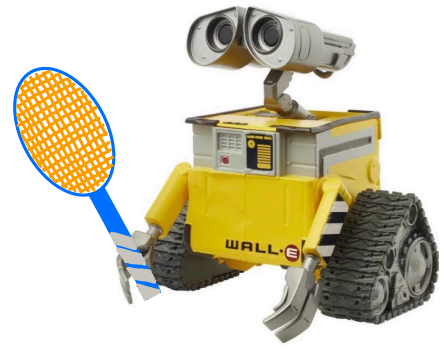
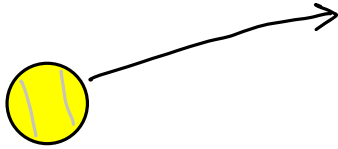
HW#6 Due Friday

$\uparrow$   
 $\ln$

Last time: 1D optimization

Today: 2D optimization

# Multidimensional Unconstrained Optimization



Idea: Robot looks for yellow in image field.  
Seek peak in yellow intensity,  $f(x,y)$

Challenge: We need to respond quickly in order to  
hit the ball  $\rightarrow$  several images per  
second? Each with many thousands of pixels.

One Method: Brute Force

Evaluate  $f(x,y)$  at all points and pick the max.

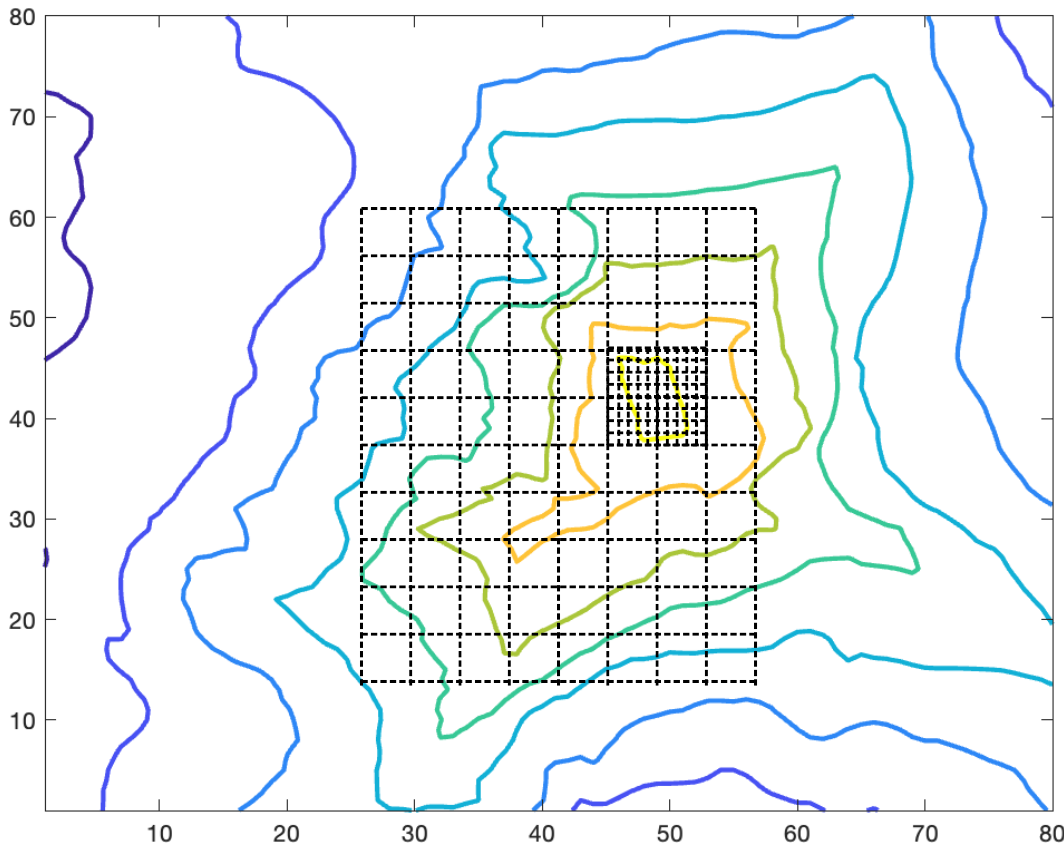
Ex: 2 Megapixel camera

1600 pixels - by - 1200 pixels = 1.9 million nodes

Hopefully there are more efficient ways! ...

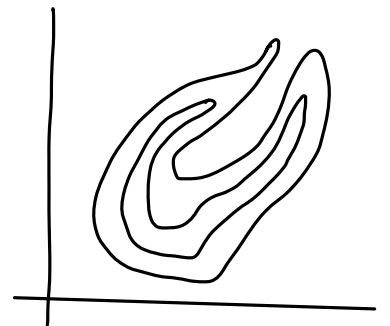
## Grid search

Idea: Coarse search over a region suspected of having a max, and then refine



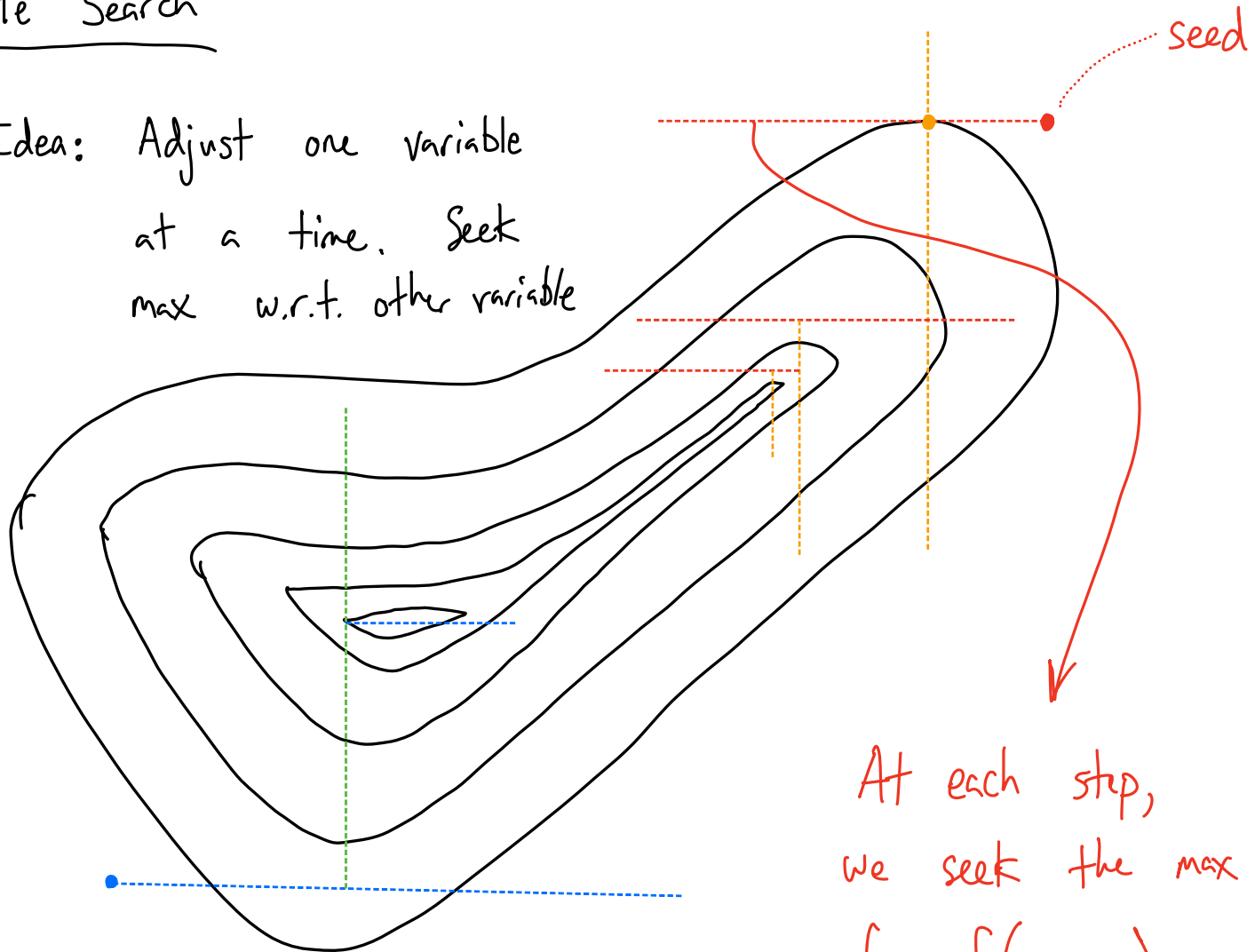
## Random Search

- 0) Define a range over which you know there is a max
- 1) Randomly (uniform distribution) choose a point and compare to the previously found max. Update if the new one is better
- 2) Continue until haven't updated the "best" in a while



# Univariate Search

Idea: Adjust one variable at a time. Seek max w.r.t. other variable



At each step,  
we seek the max  
of,  $f(x, y_0)$   
or  $f(x_0, y)$

const      fn of 1 var

Golden Search

Benefits:

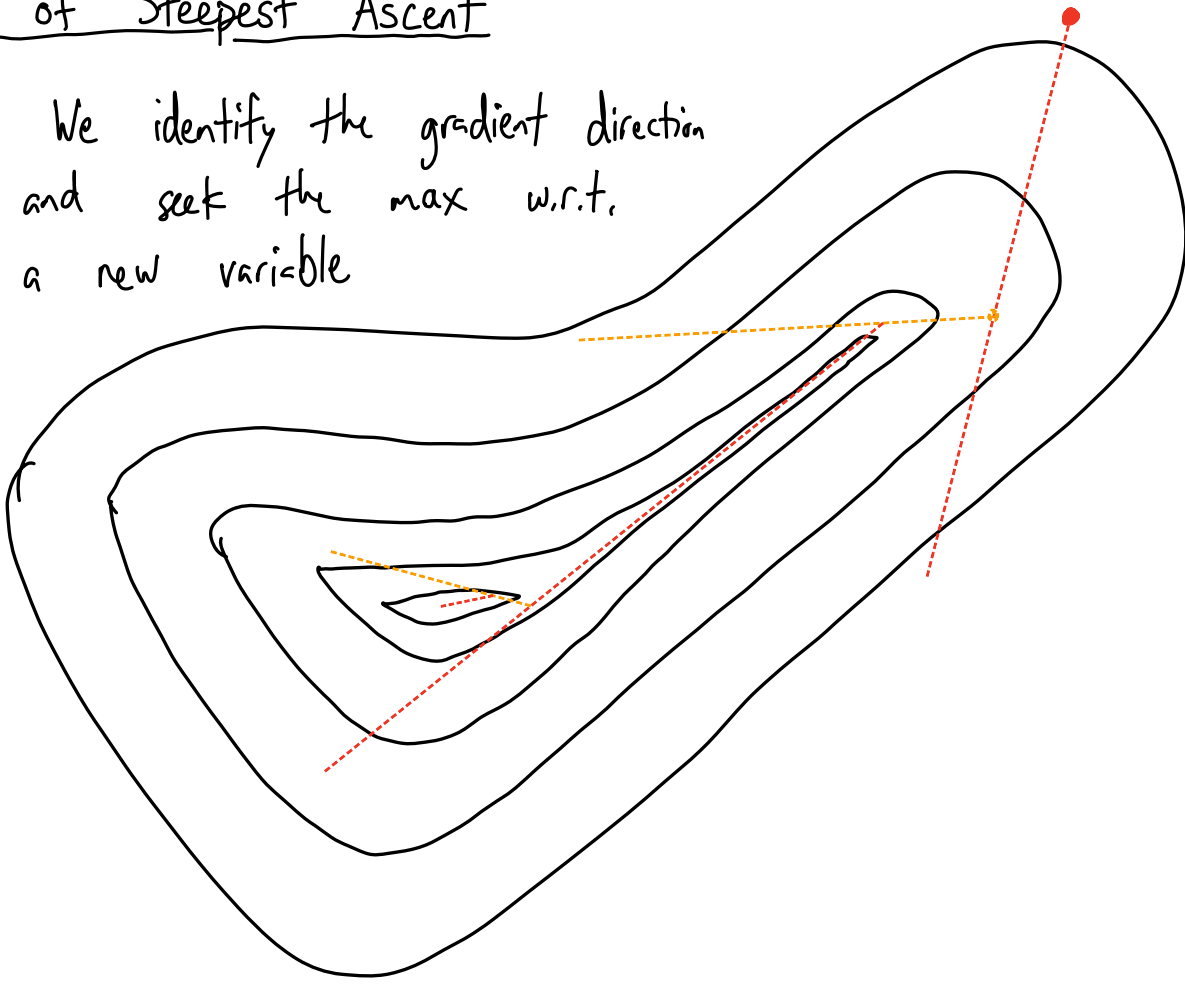
- We didn't have to evaluate at every point, just did a series of Golden Searches
- We didn't need to calculate derivatives
- $f(x, y) \rightarrow$  easy to set, e.g.  $x = \text{const}$

Drawback:

- Thin contours  $\rightarrow$  slow convergence

## Method of Steepest Ascent

Idea: We identify the gradient direction and seek the max w.r.t. a new variable



Benefits:

- Faster convergence than the univariate method

Drawback:

- Must be able to calculate  $\nabla f$

The algorithm + math:

- 0) Pick a seed and evaluate

$$\nabla f(x_0, y_0) = \left\langle \left. \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \right|_{(x_0, y_0)}, \left. \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} \right|_{(x_0, y_0)} \right\rangle$$

- 1) Invent a new "progress" variable, say  $k$ ,  
to consider points  $(x_0 + k \underbrace{\left. \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \right|_{(x_0, y_0)}}_{\text{const}}, y_0 + k \underbrace{\left. \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} \right|_{(x_0, y_0)}}_{\text{const}})$

$\Rightarrow$  Write  $f(x, y) \rightarrow f(k)$

- 2) Use 1D search, e.g. Golden Search Method,  
to identify the max in  $f(k) \rightarrow k^*$

- 3) Convert  $k^* \rightarrow (x_1, y_1)$  & evaluate the  
gradient at this location.

$$x_1 = x_0 + k^* \left. \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \right|_{(x_0, y_0)} \quad \& \quad y_1 = y_0 + k^* \left. \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} \right|_{(x_0, y_0)}$$

Iterate until convergence, e.g.  $\left| \frac{x_{i+1} - x_i}{x_{i+1}} \right|$  &  $\left| \frac{y_{i+1} - y_i}{y_{i+1}} \right|$   
are small