Mathematics for Machine Learning

Vector Calculus: Linearization & Multivariate Taylor Series

Joseph Chuang-Chieh Lin

Department of Computer Science & Engineering, National Taiwan Ocean University

Fall 2025

Credits for the resource

- The slides are based on the textbooks:
 - Marc Peter Deisenroth, A. Aldo Faisal, and Cheng Soon Ong: Mathematics for Machine Learning. Cambridge University Press. 2020.
 - Howard Anton, Chris Rorres, Anton Kaul: Elementary Linear Algebra. Wiley. 2019.
- We could partially refer to the monograph: Francesco Orabona: A Modern Introduction to Online Learning. https://arxiv.org/abs/1912.13213

Linear Approximation of a Function

The gradient ∇f of a function f can be used for locally linear approximation of f around \mathbf{x}_0 :

$$f(\mathbf{x}) \approx f(\mathbf{x_0}) + (\nabla_{\mathbf{x}} f)(\mathbf{x_0})(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x_0})$$

• $(\nabla_{\mathbf{x}} f)(\mathbf{x}_0)$: the gradient of f w.r.t. \mathbf{x} evaluated at \mathbf{x}_0 .

Multivariate Taylor Series

Multivariate Taylor Series

Consider a function $f: \mathbb{R}^D \to \mathbb{R}$ which is smooth (i.e., infinitely differentiable) at \mathbf{x}_0 .

Define the difference vector $\delta := \mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_0$.

The multivariate Taylor series of f at x_0 is

$$f(\mathbf{x}) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{D_{\mathbf{x}}^{k} f(\mathbf{x}_{0})}{k!} \delta^{k},$$

where $D_{\mathbf{x}}^{k} f(\mathbf{x}_{0})$ is the kth derivative of f w.r.t. \mathbf{x} evaluated at \mathbf{x}_{0} .

4D> 4A> 4B> 4B> B 990

Multivariate Taylor Polynomial

Multivariate Taylor Polynomial

The Taylor polynomial of degree n of f at x_0 is

$$T_{n}(\mathbf{x}) = \sum_{k=0}^{n} \frac{D_{\mathbf{x}}^{k} f(\mathbf{x}_{0})}{k!} \delta^{k},$$

where $D_{\mathbf{x}}^{k} f(\mathbf{x}_{0})$ is the kth derivative of f w.r.t. \mathbf{x} evaluated at \mathbf{x}_{0} .

• It contains the first n+1 components of the Taylor series.

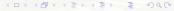
<ロ > ← □ > ← □ > ← □ > □ ● り へ ○

• δ^k is undefined for $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^D$, D > 1 and k > 1.

- δ^k is undefined for $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^D$, D > 1 and k > 1.
- $D_{\mathbf{x}}^{k}$ and δ^{k} are kth order tensors (i.e., k-dimensional arrays).

- δ^k is undefined for $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^D$, D > 1 and k > 1.
- $D_{\mathbf{x}}^k$ and δ^k are kth order tensors (i.e., k-dimensional arrays).

•
$$\delta^k \in \mathbb{R}^{D \times D \times \cdots \times D}$$
.



- δ^k is undefined for $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^D$, D > 1 and k > 1.
- $D_{\mathbf{x}}^{k}$ and δ^{k} are kth order tensors (i.e., k-dimensional arrays).

$$oldsymbol{\delta}^k \in \mathbb{R}^{\overbrace{D imes D imes \dots imes D}}.$$

- $\bullet \ \delta^2 := \delta \otimes \delta = \delta \delta^\top.$
 - $\delta^2[i,j] = \delta[i]\delta[j]$.
- $\delta^3 := \delta \otimes \delta \otimes \delta$.
 - $\delta^3[i,j,k] = \delta[i]\delta[j]\delta[k]$.

- δ^k is undefined for $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^D$, D > 1 and k > 1.
- D_{\bullet}^{k} and δ^{k} are kth order tensors (i.e., k-dimensional arrays).

$$oldsymbol{\delta}^k \in \mathbb{R}^{\overbrace{D imes D imes \dots imes D}}.$$

- $\delta^2 := \delta \otimes \delta = \delta \delta^{\top}$
 - $\delta^2[i,j] = \delta[i]\delta[j]$.
- $\delta^3 := \delta \otimes \delta \otimes \delta$.
 - $\delta^3[i,j,k] = \delta[i]\delta[j]\delta[k]$.
- Hence,

$$D_{\mathbf{x}}^k f(\mathbf{x}_0) \delta^k = \sum_{i_1=1}^D \cdots \sum_{i_k=1}^D D_{\mathbf{x}}^k f(\mathbf{x}_0)[i_1, \dots, i_k] \delta[i_1] \cdots \delta[i_k].$$

6 / 12

Note & Exercise

Exercise

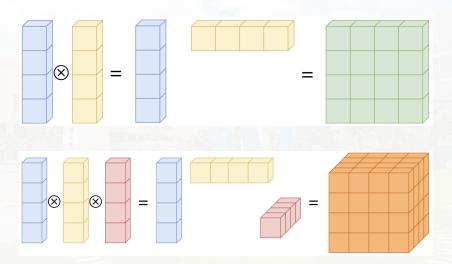
Show that

$$D_{\mathbf{x}}^{2}f(\mathbf{x}_{0})\delta^{2}=\delta^{\top}\mathbf{H}(\mathbf{x}_{0})\delta,$$

where

$$m{H} = \left[egin{array}{ccc} rac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x_1^2} & rac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x_1 \, \partial x_2} \ rac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x_2 \, \partial x_1} & rac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x_2^2} \end{array}
ight].$$

$\delta^2 \& \delta^3$



Example

Consider the function $f(x, y) = x^2 + 2xy + y^3$ and $(x_0, y_0) = (1, 2)$.

• Note: f is a polynomial of degree 3.

$$f(1,2) = 13, \quad \delta = [x-1, y-2]^{\top}.$$

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial x} = 2x + 2y \Longrightarrow \frac{\partial f}{\partial x}(1,2) = 6.$$

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial y} = 2x + 3y^2 \Longrightarrow \frac{\partial f}{\partial y}(1,2) = 14.$$

Example

Consider the function $f(x,y) = x^2 + 2xy + y^3$ and $(x_0, y_0) = (1,2)$.

• Note: f is a polynomial of degree 3.

$$f(1,2) = 13, \quad \delta = [x-1, y-2]^{\top}.$$

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial x} = 2x + 2y \Longrightarrow \frac{\partial f}{\partial x}(1,2) = 6.$$

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial y} = 2x + 3y^2 \Longrightarrow \frac{\partial f}{\partial y}(1,2) = 14.$$

$$\therefore D^1_{x,y}f(1,2) = \nabla_{x,y}f(1,2) = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial f}{\partial x}(1,2) & \frac{\partial f}{\partial y}(1,2) \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 6 & 14 \end{bmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^{1\times 2}.$$

Example

Consider the function $f(x,y) = x^2 + 2xy + y^3$ and $(x_0, y_0) = (1,2)$.

• Note: f is a polynomial of degree 3.

$$f(1,2) = 13, \quad \delta = [x-1, y-2]^{\top}.$$

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial x} = 2x + 2y \Longrightarrow \frac{\partial f}{\partial x}(1,2) = 6.$$

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial y} = 2x + 3y^2 \Longrightarrow \frac{\partial f}{\partial y}(1,2) = 14.$$

$$\therefore D_{x,y}^1 f(1,2) = \nabla_{x,y} f(1,2) = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial f}{\partial x}(1,2) & \frac{\partial f}{\partial y}(1,2) \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 6 & 14 \end{bmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^{1 \times 2}.$$

$$\implies \frac{D_{x,y}^1 f(1,2)}{1!} \delta = \begin{bmatrix} 6 & 14 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x-1 \\ y-2 \end{bmatrix} = 6(x-1) + 14(y-2).$$

Example

$$\frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x^2} = 2 \implies \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x^2} (1, 2) = 2$$

$$\frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial y^2} = 6y \implies \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial y^2} (1, 2) = 12$$

$$\frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial y \partial x} = 2 \implies \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial y \partial x} (1, 2) = 2$$

$$\frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x \partial y} = 2 \implies \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x \partial y} (1, 2) = 2$$

Example

$$\frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial y^2} = 6y \implies \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial y^2}(1,2) = 2$$

$$\frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial y^2} = 6y \implies \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial y^2}(1,2) = 12$$

$$\frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial y \partial x} = 2 \implies \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial y \partial x}(1,2) = 2$$

$$\frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x \partial y} = 2 \implies \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x \partial y}(1,2) = 2$$

Hessian:

$$\frac{\partial^{2} f}{\partial x^{2}} = 2 \implies \frac{\partial^{2} f}{\partial x^{2}} (1, 2) = 2$$

$$\frac{\partial^{2} f}{\partial y^{2}} = 6y \implies \frac{\partial^{2} f}{\partial y^{2}} (1, 2) = 12$$

$$H = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial^{2} f}{\partial x^{2}} & \frac{\partial^{2} f}{\partial x \partial y} \\ \frac{\partial^{2} f}{\partial y \partial x} & \frac{\partial^{2} f}{\partial y^{2}} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 2 \\ 2 & 6y \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\frac{\partial^{2} f}{\partial y^{2}} = \frac{\partial^{2} f}{\partial y^{2}} = \frac{\partial$$

Example

$$\frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x^2} = 2 \implies \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x^2}(1,2) = 2$$

$$\frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial y^2} = 6y \implies \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial y^2}(1,2) = 12$$

$$\frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial y \partial x} = 2 \implies \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial y \partial x}(1,2) = 2$$

$$\frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x \partial y} = 2 \implies \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x \partial y}(1,2) = 2$$

Hessian:

$$\frac{\partial^{2} f}{\partial x^{2}} = 2 \implies \frac{\partial^{2} f}{\partial x^{2}}(1,2) = 2$$

$$\frac{\partial^{2} f}{\partial y^{2}} = 6y \implies \frac{\partial^{2} f}{\partial y^{2}}(1,2) = 12 \quad \mathbf{H} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial^{2} f}{\partial x^{2}} & \frac{\partial^{2} f}{\partial x \partial y} \\ \frac{\partial^{2} f}{\partial y \partial x} & \frac{\partial^{2} f}{\partial y^{2}} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 2 \\ 2 & 6y \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\frac{\partial^{2} f}{\partial y \partial x} = 2 \implies \frac{\partial^{2} f}{\partial y \partial x}(1,2) = 2$$

$$\frac{\partial^{2} f}{\partial y \partial x} = 2 \implies \frac{\partial^{2} f}{\partial y \partial x}(1,2) = 2$$

$$\frac{\partial^{2} f}{\partial y \partial x} = 2 \implies \frac{\partial^{2} f}{\partial y \partial x}(1,2) = 2$$

$$\frac{\partial^{2} f}{\partial y \partial x} = 2 \implies \frac{\partial^{2} f}{\partial y \partial x}(1,2) = 2$$

$$\frac{\partial^{2} f}{\partial y \partial x} = 2 \implies \frac{\partial^{2} f}{\partial y \partial x}(1,2) = 2$$

$$\frac{\partial^{2} f}{\partial y \partial x} = 2 \implies \frac{\partial^{2} f}{\partial y \partial x}(1,2) = 2$$

$$\frac{\partial^{2} f}{\partial y \partial x} = 2 \implies \frac{\partial^{2} f}{\partial y \partial x}(1,2) = 2$$

$$\frac{\partial^{2} f}{\partial y \partial x} = 2 \implies \frac{\partial^{2} f}{\partial y \partial x}(1,2) = 2$$

Example

Hessian:
$$\frac{\partial^{2} f}{\partial x^{2}} = 2 \implies \frac{\partial^{2} f}{\partial x^{2}}(1,2) = 2$$

$$\frac{\partial^{2} f}{\partial y^{2}} = 6y \implies \frac{\partial^{2} f}{\partial y^{2}}(1,2) = 12$$

$$H = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial^{2} f}{\partial x^{2}} & \frac{\partial^{2} f}{\partial x \partial y} \\ \frac{\partial^{2} f}{\partial y \partial x} & \frac{\partial^{2} f}{\partial y^{2}} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 2 \\ 2 & 6y \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\frac{\partial^{2} f}{\partial y \partial x} = 2 \implies \frac{\partial^{2} f}{\partial y \partial x}(1,2) = 2$$

$$\frac{\partial^{2} f}{\partial x \partial y} = 2 \implies \frac{\partial^{2} f}{\partial x \partial y}(1,2) = 2$$

$$\Rightarrow H(1,2) = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 2 \\ 2 & 12 \end{bmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^{2 \times 2}.$$

$$\frac{D_{x,y}^2 f(1,2)}{2!} \boldsymbol{\delta}^2 = \frac{1}{2} \boldsymbol{\delta}^\top \boldsymbol{H}(1,2) \boldsymbol{\delta}$$
$$= \cdots$$

◆□▶◆□▶◆■▶◆■▶ ■ 夕久◎

Example

Hessian:
$$\frac{\partial^{2} f}{\partial x^{2}} = 2 \implies \frac{\partial^{2} f}{\partial x^{2}}(1,2) = 2$$

$$\frac{\partial^{2} f}{\partial y^{2}} = 6y \implies \frac{\partial^{2} f}{\partial y^{2}}(1,2) = 12$$

$$H = \begin{bmatrix}
\frac{\partial^{2} f}{\partial x^{2}} & \frac{\partial^{2} f}{\partial x \partial y} \\
\frac{\partial^{2} f}{\partial y \partial x} & \frac{\partial^{2} f}{\partial y^{2}}
\end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 2 \\ 2 & 6y \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\frac{\partial^{2} f}{\partial y \partial x} = 2 \implies \frac{\partial^{2} f}{\partial y \partial x}(1,2) = 2$$

$$\frac{\partial^{2} f}{\partial x \partial y} = 2 \implies \frac{\partial^{2} f}{\partial x \partial y}(1,2) = 2$$

$$\Rightarrow H(1,2) = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 2 \\ 2 & 12 \end{bmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^{2 \times 2}.$$

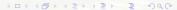
$$\frac{D_{x,y}^2 f(1,2)}{2!} \delta^2 = \frac{1}{2} \delta^\top \mathbf{H}(1,2) \delta$$

= \cdots = (x - 1)^2 + 2(x - 1)(y - 2) + 6(y - 2)^2.

(日) (점) (절) (절) (절)

Now, compute

$$D_{x,y}^3f=$$



Now, compute

$$D_{x,y}^3 f = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial \mathbf{H}}{\partial x} & \frac{\partial \mathbf{H}}{\partial y} \end{bmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^{2 \times 2 \times 2}$$

Now, compute

$$D_{x,y}^3 f = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial \mathbf{H}}{\partial x} & \frac{\partial \mathbf{H}}{\partial y} \end{bmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^{2 \times 2 \times 2}$$

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{H}}{\partial x} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial^3 f}{\partial x^3} & \frac{\partial^3 f}{\partial x^2 \partial y} \\ \frac{\partial^3 f}{\partial x \partial y \partial x} & \frac{\partial^3 f}{\partial x \partial y^2} \end{bmatrix}, \quad \frac{\partial \mathbf{H}}{\partial y} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial^3 f}{\partial y \partial x^2} & \frac{\partial^3 f}{\partial y \partial x \partial y} \\ \frac{\partial^3 f}{\partial y^2 \partial x} & \frac{\partial^3 f}{\partial y^3} \end{bmatrix}$$

Now, compute

$$D_{x,y}^3 f = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial \mathbf{H}}{\partial x} & \frac{\partial \mathbf{H}}{\partial y} \end{bmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^{2 \times 2 \times 2}$$

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{H}}{\partial x} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial^3 f}{\partial x^3} & \frac{\partial^3 f}{\partial x^2 \partial y} \\ \frac{\partial^3 f}{\partial x \partial y \partial x} & \frac{\partial^3 f}{\partial x \partial y^2} \end{bmatrix}, \quad \frac{\partial \mathbf{H}}{\partial y} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial^3 f}{\partial y \partial x^2} & \frac{\partial^3 f}{\partial y \partial x \partial y} \\ \frac{\partial^3 f}{\partial y^2 \partial x} & \frac{\partial^3 f}{\partial y^3} \end{bmatrix}$$

We only need to compute $\frac{\partial^3 f}{\partial y^3} = 6 \implies \frac{\partial^3 f}{\partial y^3}(1,2) = 6$.

Now, compute

$$D_{x,y}^3 f = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial \mathbf{H}}{\partial x} & \frac{\partial \mathbf{H}}{\partial y} \end{bmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^{2 \times 2 \times 2}$$

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{H}}{\partial x} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial^3 f}{\partial x^3} & \frac{\partial^3 f}{\partial x^2 \partial y} \\ \frac{\partial^3 f}{\partial x \partial y \partial x} & \frac{\partial^3 f}{\partial x \partial y^2} \end{bmatrix}, \quad \frac{\partial \mathbf{H}}{\partial y} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial^3 f}{\partial y \partial x^2} & \frac{\partial^3 f}{\partial y \partial x \partial y} \\ \frac{\partial^3 f}{\partial y^2 \partial x} & \frac{\partial^3 f}{\partial y^3} \end{bmatrix}$$

We only need to compute $\frac{\partial^3 f}{\partial y^3} = 6 \implies \frac{\partial^3 f}{\partial y^3}(1,2) = 6$.

$$\frac{D_{x,y}^3 f(1,2)}{3!} \delta^3 = (y-2)^3.$$

Now, compute

$$D_{x,y}^3 f = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial \mathbf{H}}{\partial x} & \frac{\partial \mathbf{H}}{\partial y} \end{bmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^{2 \times 2 \times 2}$$

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{H}}{\partial x} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial^3 f}{\partial x^3} & \frac{\partial^3 f}{\partial x^2 \partial y} \\ \frac{\partial^3 f}{\partial x \partial y \partial x} & \frac{\partial^3 f}{\partial x \partial y^2} \end{bmatrix}, \quad \frac{\partial \mathbf{H}}{\partial y} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial^3 f}{\partial y \partial x^2} & \frac{\partial^3 f}{\partial y \partial x \partial y} \\ \frac{\partial^3 f}{\partial y^2 \partial x} & \frac{\partial^3 f}{\partial y^3} \end{bmatrix}$$

We only need to compute $\frac{\partial^3 f}{\partial y^3} = 6 \implies \frac{\partial^3 f}{\partial y^3}(1,2) = 6$.

$$\frac{D_{x,y}^3 f(1,2)}{3!} \delta^3 = (y-2)^3.$$

Check if
$$f(x) = f(1,2) + D_{x,y}^1 f(1,2) \delta + \frac{D_{x,y}^2 f(1,2)}{2!} \delta^2 + \frac{D_{x,y}^3 f(1,2)}{3!} \delta^3$$
.

(□) (□) (□) (三) (三) (□) (□)

Discussions