

Compute:

$$f''(x_1) = \frac{1}{h^2} \left(\underbrace{f(x_0)}_{=0} - 2f(x_1) + f(x_2) \right) \\ = \frac{1}{h^2} (-2f_1 + f_2)$$

$$f''(x_2) = \frac{1}{h^2} (f_1 - 2f_2 + f_3)$$

$$f''(x_k) = \frac{1}{h^2} (f_{k-1} - 2f_k + f_{k+1})$$

\vdots

$$f''(x_N) = \frac{1}{h^2} (f_{N-1} - 2f_N)$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} f''_1 \\ f''_2 \\ \vdots \\ f''_N \end{pmatrix} = \frac{1}{h^2} \begin{pmatrix} -2 & 1 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 1 & -2 & 1 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & -2 & 1 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ \vdots & 0 & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \ddots & 1 & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & 0 & -2 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & 1 & -2 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} f_1 \\ f_2 \\ \vdots \\ f_N \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\Rightarrow \boxed{\vec{f}'' = \frac{1}{h^2} A \vec{f}} \quad (\text{matrix multiplication})$$

can invert : $\vec{f} = h^2 A^{-1} \vec{f}''$ (finite difference method for PDEs)

nontrivial b.c.s

$$f(x_0) = f_0, \quad f(x_{N+1}) = f_{N+1}$$

$$\rightarrow f_1'' \approx \frac{1}{h^2} (f_0 - 2f_1 + f_2)$$

$$f_N'' \approx \frac{1}{h^2} (f_{N-1} - 2f_N + f_{N+1})$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} f_1'' - \frac{1}{h^2} f_0 \\ f_2'' \\ \vdots \\ f_{N-1}'' \\ f_N'' - \frac{1}{h^2} f_{N+1} \end{pmatrix} = h^2 A \vec{f}$$

$$= \vec{f}'' - \frac{1}{h^2} \vec{\Delta} \quad \text{— sparse vector of b.c.s}$$

$$\Rightarrow \vec{f} = h^2 A^{-1} \left(\vec{f}'' - \frac{1}{h^2} \vec{\Delta} \right)$$

Automatic differentiation

F.D. are inexact and slow

Computing $\nabla f(x_1, \dots, x_N)$ takes $O(N)$ function evaluations

Symbolic methods are cumbersome / may be unavailable

~~symbolic differentiation~~

AD yields reasonably fast, exact gradients/derivatives
in $O(1)$ function evaluations

Idea (Forward mode)

Introduces "dual number" (~~Grassmann number~~)

of the form

$$v + \epsilon \dot{v}, \text{ where } \epsilon^2 = 0$$

with rules

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} (v + \epsilon \dot{v}) + (w + \epsilon \dot{w}) = v + w + \epsilon(\dot{v} + \dot{w}) \\ (v + \epsilon \dot{v})(w + \epsilon \dot{w}) = vw + \epsilon(\dot{v}w + v\dot{w}) \\ f(v + \epsilon \dot{v}) = f(v) + \epsilon f'(v) \dot{v} \end{array} \right.$$

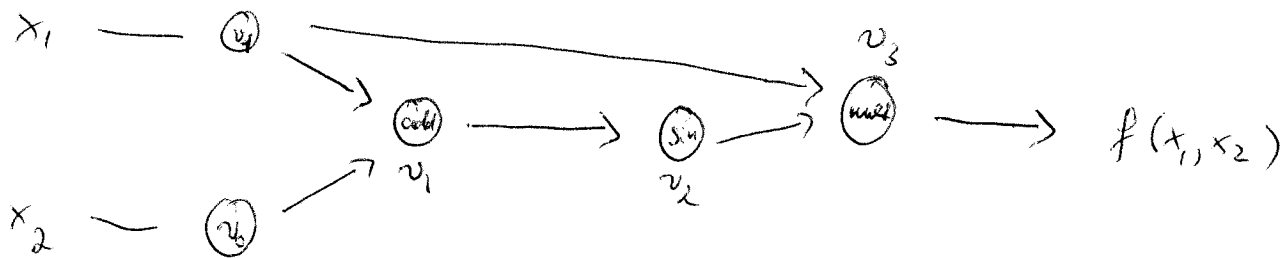
the chain rule works as expected:

$$g(f(v + \epsilon \dot{v})) = g(f(v) + \epsilon f'(v) \dot{v})$$

$$= g(f(v)) + \epsilon g'(f(v)) f'(v) \dot{v}$$

Equivalent to decomposing function evaluations into computational graphs

Ex: $f(x_1, x_2) = x_1 \sin(x_1 + x_2)$



Define:

$$v_{-1} = x_1$$

$$v_0 = x_2$$

$$v_1 = v_{-1} + v_0$$

$$v_2 = \sin(v_1)$$

$$v_3 = v_{-1} \cdot v_2$$

Compute derivatives

$$\dot{v}_{-1} = 1$$

$$\dot{v}_0 = 1$$

$$\dot{v}_1 = \dot{v}_{-1} + \dot{v}_0$$

$$\dot{v}_2 = \dot{v}_1 \cos(v_1)$$

$$\dot{v}_3 = \dot{v}_{-1} v_2 + v_{-1} \dot{v}_2$$

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial x_2} = \dot{v}_3$$

Computationally

implement operator $+$, $*$, \sin , \cos , \exp , ...

that work on dual numbers

evaluate compositions using

$$f(x + e) = f(x) + e f'(x)$$

extract prefactor of e to find derivative in one function evaluation.

very efficient for ^{vector} ~~scalar~~ functions of ^{one} ~~many~~ variables

$$f: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$$

then we have scalar functions of many variables

$$f: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$$

then, use "reverse mode AD"

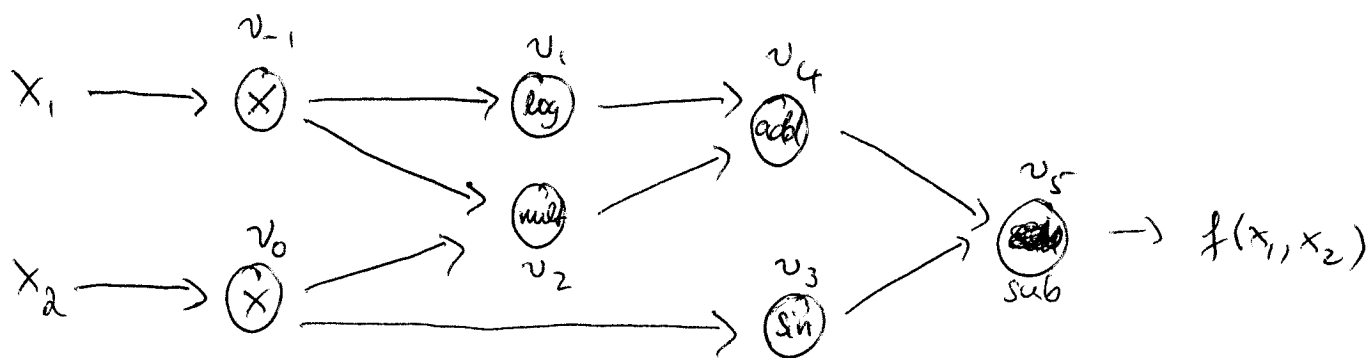
Forward mode is exact but still slow

for $f(x_1, \dots, x_n)$ (need to compute $f(x_1 + \epsilon, x_2, \dots, x_n)$,
 \dots , $f(x_1, \dots, x_{n-1}, x_n + \epsilon)$
individually)

solution: Reverse-mode AD

Ex: $f(x_1, x_2) = \log x_1 + x_1 x_2 - \sin(x_2)$

Computational graph:



~~for each node, we~~

for each node, we are interested in $\frac{\partial f}{\partial v_i} = \bar{v}_i$

cause $\frac{\partial f}{\partial v_5} = \frac{\partial f}{\partial f} = 1$, this is our recursion start.

The chain rule is used to construct all derivatives in one backward pass.

$$\bar{v}_5 = \frac{\partial f}{\partial v_5} = \frac{\partial f}{\partial f} = 1$$

$$\bar{v}_4 = \frac{\partial f}{\partial v_4} = \frac{\partial f}{\partial v_5} \frac{\partial v_5}{\partial v_4} = \bar{v}_5 \underbrace{\frac{\partial v_5}{\partial v_4}}_{= \frac{\partial}{\partial v_4}(v_4 - v_3) = 1} = \bar{v}_5 = 1$$

$$\bar{v}_3 = \frac{\partial f}{\partial v_3} = \frac{\partial f}{\partial v_5} \frac{\partial v_5}{\partial v_3} = \bar{v}_5 \underbrace{\frac{\partial}{\partial v_3}(v_4 - v_3)}_{= -1} = -\bar{v}_5 = -1$$

$$\bar{v}_2 = \frac{\partial f}{\partial v_2} = \frac{\partial f}{\partial v_4} \frac{\partial v_4}{\partial v_2} = \bar{v}_4 \underbrace{\frac{\partial}{\partial v_2}(v_1 + v_2)}_{= 1} = \bar{v}_4 = 1$$

$$\bar{v}_1 = \frac{\partial f}{\partial v_1} = \frac{\partial f}{\partial v_4} \frac{\partial v_4}{\partial v_1} = \bar{v}_4 \frac{\partial}{\partial v_1}(v_1 + v_2) = \bar{v}_4 = 1$$

$$\bar{v}_0 = \frac{\partial f}{\partial v_0} = \frac{\partial f}{\partial v_3} \frac{\partial v_3}{\partial v_0} + \frac{\partial f}{\partial v_2} \frac{\partial v_2}{\partial v_0} = \bar{v}_3 \frac{\partial}{\partial v_0}(\sin v_0) + \bar{v}_2 \frac{\partial}{\partial v_0}(v_0 \cdot v_{-1})$$

$$= -\cos v_0 + v_{-1} = \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_2}$$

$$\bar{v}_{-1} = \frac{\partial f}{\partial v_{-1}} = \frac{\partial f}{\partial v_1} \frac{\partial v_1}{\partial v_{-1}} + \frac{\partial f}{\partial v_2} \frac{\partial v_2}{\partial v_{-1}} = \bar{v}_1 \frac{\partial}{\partial v_{-1}}(v_0 v_{-1}) + \bar{v}_2 \frac{\partial}{\partial v_{-1}}(\log v_{-1})$$

$$= v_0 + \frac{1}{v_{-1}} = \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_1}$$

→ compute all $\frac{\partial f}{\partial x_i}$ in one single pass ($O(1)$)

Efficient implementation is a little trickier.