

ChE352
Numerical Techniques for Chemical Engineers
Professor Stevenson

Lecture 15

Questions about pseudocode?

- Follows the structure of code
- Intended for human reading, not machine
- Must be **clear** and **logically correct**
- No points off for simple syntax errors
- Example:

```
x = [0, 1, 2]  # comments help  
for i in range(0, len(x)):  
    print sign(x[i])  # eg +/-
```

The optimal topic to learn

- Many problems in engineering (and life?) can be phrased as optimization:
 - Optimal conditions for a reactor
 - Optimal choice of reactor for a plant
 - Optimal plant for the world economy
 - Optimal studying for your GPA

Other examples?

A friendly objective function



- QALY the lightbulb
- Mascot of EA (Effective Altruism)
- "Quality-Adjusted Life Years" are a popular objective function for public health charities

Optimization formalism

Optimization problems are typically stated as:

$$(P_1) \equiv \begin{array}{ll} \text{minimize:} & f(x) \\ \text{subject to:} & x \in \Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^n \end{array}$$

Objective function

Constraint set

Where: $f : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, $\Omega = \{x : g(x) \leq 0, \quad h(x) = 0\}$

Why “minimize”?

Optimization formalism

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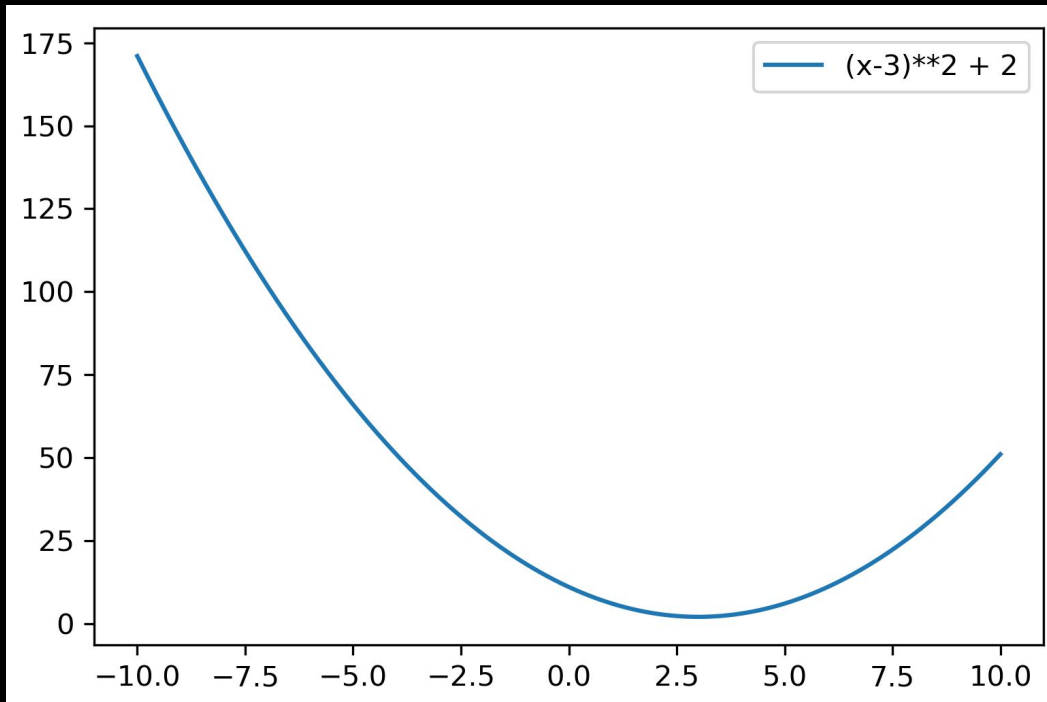
Or abbreviated as:

Problem name \rightarrow

$$(P_1) \equiv \begin{array}{ll} \min & f(x) \\ \text{s.t.} & x \in \Omega \end{array} \quad OR \quad \boxed{\min_{x \in \Omega} f(x)} = v^*$$

Optimal value

Simple Minimization Example



$$\boxed{\min_{x \in \Omega} f(x)} \quad (\text{unconstrained})$$

$$f(x) = (x-3)^2 + 2, \quad \Omega = \mathbb{R}$$

If we constrain this problem to some bounds, what does the Extreme Value Theorem say?

$$\arg \min_{x \in \Omega} f(x) = \boxed{x^* = ?}$$

$$\boxed{v^* = ?}$$

Optimal solution

What is constrained optimization?

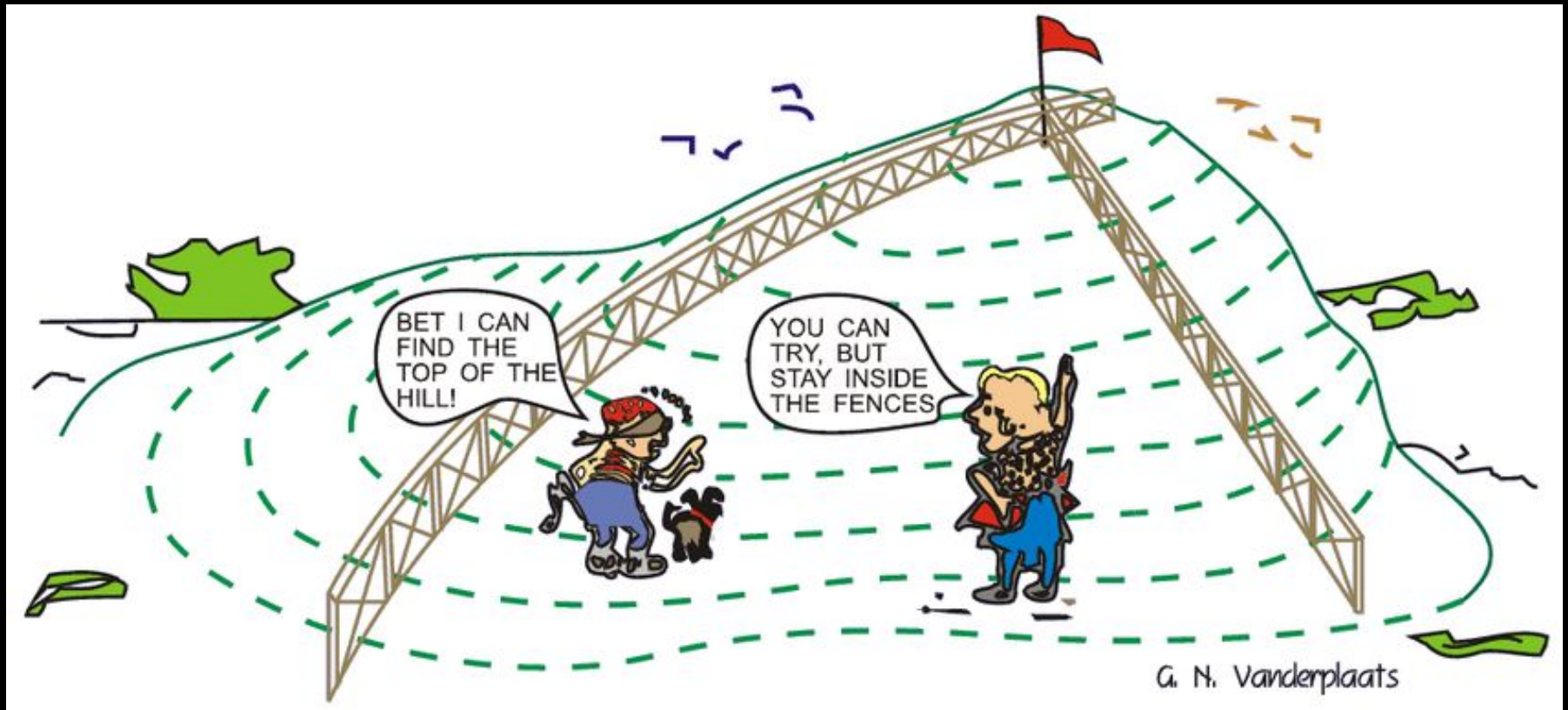
- If Ω is all of \mathbb{R}^n , then we have an unconstrained optimization problem: $g(x) = h(x) = \emptyset$ (often we don't even write the Ω for unconstrained)
- If $g(x)$ and/or $h(x)$ are non-zero, then we have a constrained optimization problem
- **Most problems in engineering have constraints**
- There are tricks to turn constrained problems into unconstrained problems to solve them more easily

Multi-dimensional optimization

- Typically more than one variable to optimize
- Eg: why is this reactor this exact shape?
- Make a geometric representation of the shape (many variables)
- Optimize all variables together



Gradient-based optimization



- If we have the gradient $\nabla f(x)$, we can optimize functions up to **trillions** of variables
- Without the gradient, even 100 is tough

Defining the gradient

"Nabla"
aka "del"

$\nabla \equiv \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial}{\partial x_1} \\ \frac{\partial}{\partial x_2} \\ \vdots \\ \frac{\partial}{\partial x_n} \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow \forall f : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}, \quad \nabla f(x) = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_1} \\ \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_2} \\ \vdots \\ \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_n} \end{bmatrix}$

- First derivative for a scalar function in n dims
- Same shape (n) as the input vector x
- (What's the derivative of a vector function?)

Solve Linear Systems via Gradients

- We can pose the solution to $Ax = b$ as an optimization problem of finding a vector $r = Ax - b$ which is zero (if A is invertible) or with $\text{norm}(r)$ as small as possible
- We call r the residual vector:

$$\underset{r, x \in \mathbb{R}^n}{\text{minimize}} \quad \|r\|$$

$$\text{subject to:} \quad r = Ax - b$$

Rearrange & simplify $\|r\|$...

$$x^* = \operatorname{argmin}_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n} \|Ax - b\|_2 = \operatorname{argmin}_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n} \sqrt{(Ax - b)^T (Ax - b)}$$

*norms
are > 0*

What's "argmin"?

$$= \operatorname{argmin}_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n} (Ax - b)^T (Ax - b)$$

$$= \operatorname{argmin}_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n} (Ax - b)^T Ax - (Ax - b)^T b$$

$$= \operatorname{argmin}_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n} (Ax)^T Ax - b^T Ax - \left((Ax)^T - b^T \right) b$$

$$= \operatorname{argmin}_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n} x^T A^T Ax - b^T Ax - x^T A^T b + b^T b$$

Making an Equivalent Problem

Since we don't care what the actual value of the residual is, just where it is minimized, we can ignore the constant $b^T b$:

$$x^* = \operatorname{argmin}_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n} x^T A^T A x - b^T A x - x^T A^T b - \cancel{b^T b}$$

$$= \operatorname{argmin}_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n} x^T A^T A x - b^T A x - x^T A^T b$$

$$= \operatorname{argmin}_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n} x^T A^T A x - 2b^T A x$$

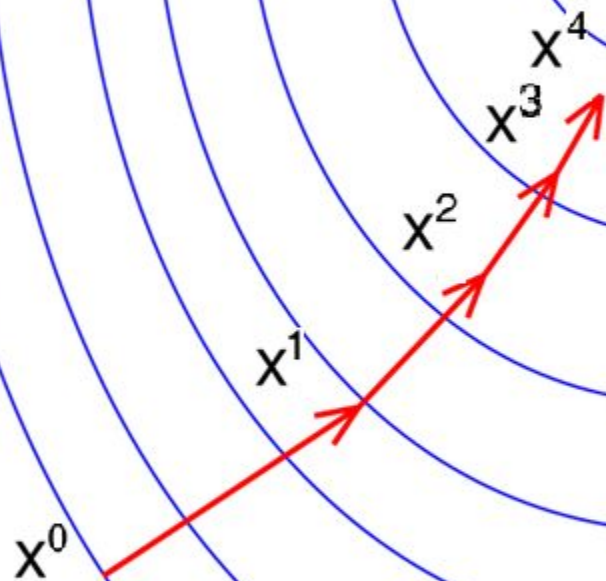
Let $P = A^T A$
Let $c = 2A^T b$

$$= \operatorname{argmin}_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n} \boxed{x^T P x - c^T x} = \operatorname{argmin}_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n} \boxed{f(x)}$$

Iterative optimizers

$$x^{k+1} = x^k + t_k d^k$$

- x^{k+1} is the next guess
- x^k is the current guess
- d^k is the search direction (e.g. the gradient)
- t_k is the step size



$$\boxed{x^{k+1} = x^k + t_k d^k} \quad \forall k = 0, 1, 2, \dots$$

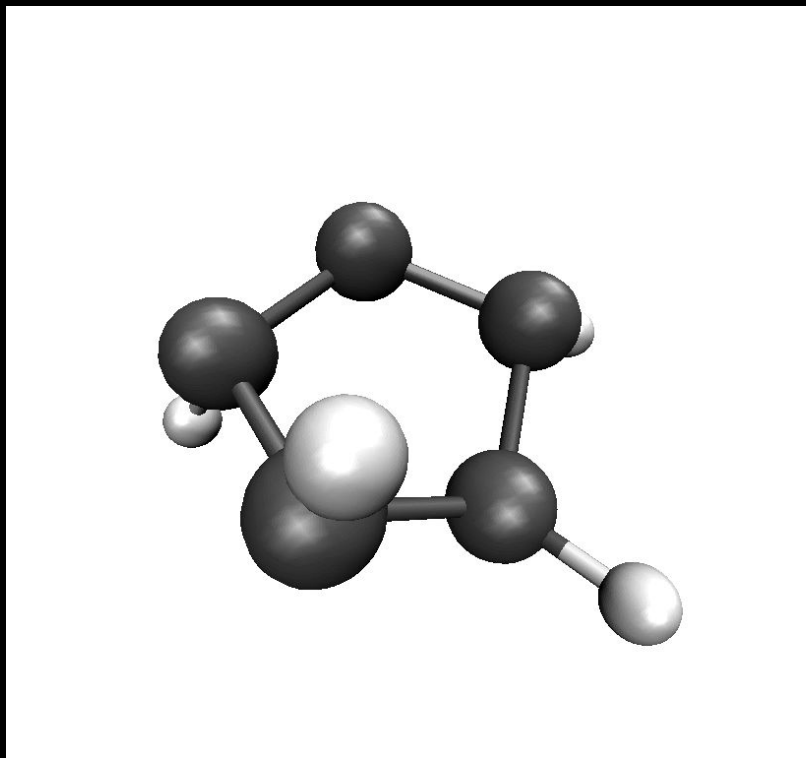
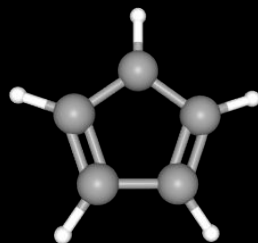
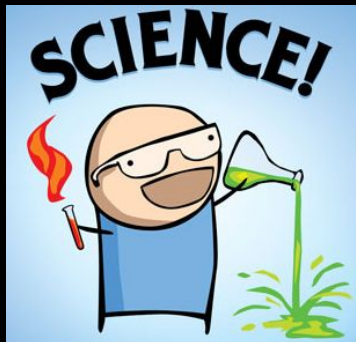
Method of Steepest Descent

- The simplest gradient-based optimizer is steepest descent
- Search direction = negative of gradient

$$d^k = -\nabla f(x^k)$$

- This direction is guaranteed to be a descent direction (f goes down, by definition)
- Obviously effective: we go in the direction in which f goes down the fastest

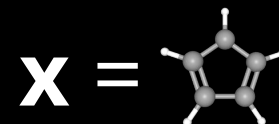
Molecule shape discovery



- Preferred shape is near minimum energy ΔU (aka E)
 - Why just E not ΔG ?
 - $\Delta G = \Delta H - T\Delta S$
 - $\Delta H = \Delta U + P\Delta V$
 - $\Delta G \approx \Delta H \approx \Delta U = E$
- Can calculate $E(\mathbf{x})$ and $\nabla E(\mathbf{x})$ with quantum mechanics
- Given $E(\mathbf{x})$ and $\nabla E(\mathbf{x})$, how can we find \mathbf{x}_{\min} ?

Follow the forces \Rightarrow find \mathbf{x}_{\min}

- Coords vector \mathbf{x} represents all atoms
- Potential energy $E(\mathbf{x})$ is a scalar
- $\nabla E(\mathbf{x})$ has same dimensions as \mathbf{x}
- Each component of $-\nabla E(\mathbf{x})$ is a force
- Follow the forces: gradient descent

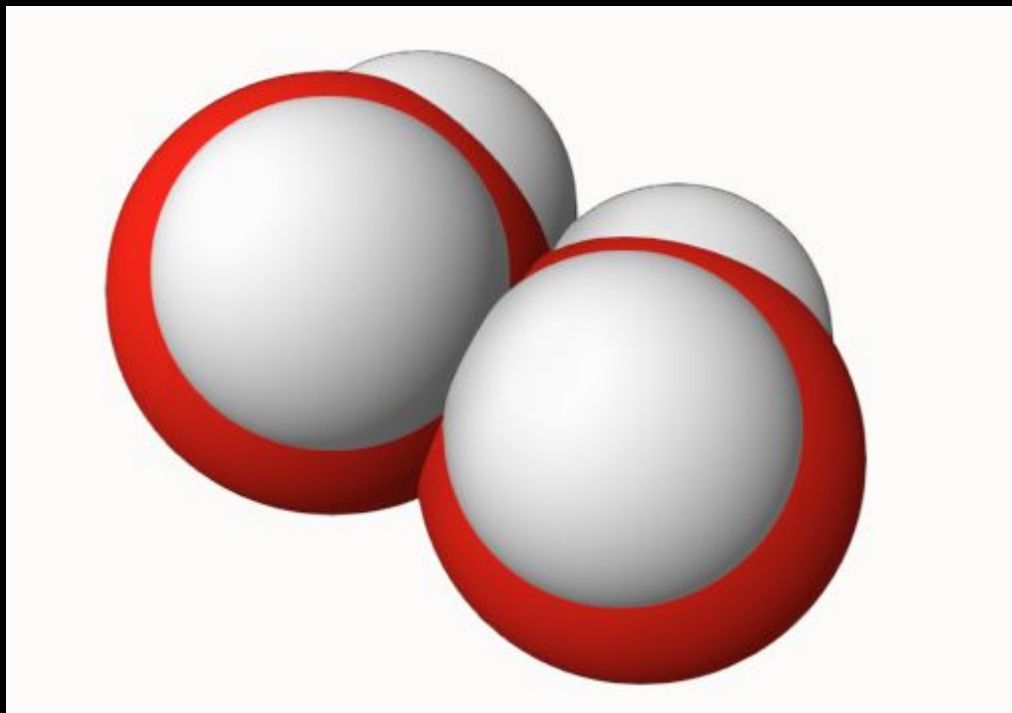


x y z

C	2.80	0.45	0.01
C	2.00	-0.12	0.00
C	3.61	-0.12	0.03
C	2.30	-1.07	0.01
C	3.30	-1.07	0.00
H	2.80	1.07	0.02
H	1.41	0.06	0.00
H	4.20	0.06	0.01
H	1.94	-1.58	0.00
H	3.67	-1.58	0.01

Where do we get F?

<https://www.kaggle.com/allaboutchemistry/xtb-water-ivp>



To view, download the xyz file
and open it using:
<https://molstar.org/viewer/>

