

## Lecture 7

- Muon .

Recall:

Optimizer recipe.

$$\operatorname{argmin}_{\|\Delta W\| \leq \eta}$$

Choose appropriate norm.

$$\langle \underbrace{\nabla_w \mathcal{L}(w)}_{\text{Gradient of Loss}}, \underbrace{\Delta W}_{\text{change in } w} \rangle.$$

Choose spectral norm.

$$\operatorname{argmin}_{\|\Delta W\|_2 \leq \eta} \langle \nabla_w \mathcal{L}(w), \Delta W \rangle = \eta \cdot U_r V_r^T$$

if  $\nabla_w \mathcal{L}(w) = U \Sigma V^T = U_r \Sigma_r V_r^T$

$\Rightarrow$  Semi-orthogonal update

$$W_{t+1} = W_t - \eta \cdot U_r V_r^T$$

[Key update of Shampoo  
(without accumulation)]

Shampoo:

$$L_t = L_{t-1} + G_t G_t^T$$

$$R_t = R_{t-1} + G_t^T G_t$$

$$W_{t+1} = W_t - \eta L_t^{-1/4} G_t R_t^{-1/4}.$$

$$\nabla_{W_t} \mathcal{L}(W_t) = G_t.$$

Shampoo without accumulation:

$$G_t = U \Sigma V^T$$

$$W_{t+1} = W_t - \eta \cdot (G_t G_t^T)^{-1/4} G_t (G_t^T G_t)^{-1/4}.$$

$$G_t G_t^T = U \Sigma V^T V \Sigma^T U^T = U \Sigma \Sigma^T U^T$$

$$G_t^T G_t = V \Sigma^T U^T U \Sigma V^T = V \Sigma^T \Sigma V^T$$

$$G_t \stackrel{\text{dim}}{\underset{\text{dim}}{=}} \boxed{\phantom{0}} \Rightarrow \Sigma = \begin{bmatrix} \Sigma_r & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

Assume full row rank.

$$\Rightarrow \Sigma \Sigma^T \stackrel{\text{dim}}{=} \boxed{\Sigma_r \mid 0} \stackrel{\text{dim}}{\Sigma_r^T} = \Sigma_r \Sigma_r^T = \boxed{\sigma_1^2 \sigma_2^2 \dots}$$

$$(G_t G_t^T)^{-\frac{1}{4}} = U \boxed{\sigma_1^{-\frac{1}{2}} \dots} U^T$$

$$(G_t^T G_t)^{-\frac{1}{4}} = V \boxed{\sigma_1^{-\frac{1}{2}} \dots \sigma_r^{-\frac{1}{2}} \dots} V^T$$

$$\begin{aligned} (G_t G_t^T)^{-\frac{1}{4}} G_t (G_t^T G_t)^{-\frac{1}{4}} &= U \boxed{\sigma_1^{-\frac{1}{2}}} U^T U \Sigma V^T V \boxed{\sigma_1^{-\frac{1}{2}} \dots} V^T \\ &= U \boxed{\Sigma_r^{-\frac{1}{2}}} \boxed{\Sigma_r \mid 0} \boxed{\Sigma_r^{-\frac{1}{2}} \atop 0} V^T = U_r V_r^T \end{aligned}$$

Semi-orthogonal matrices:

$$\{A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n} : AA^T = I_m \text{ or } A^TA = I_n\}$$

What if we had the RMS-RMS norm instead?  $W \in \mathbb{R}^{d_{out} \times d_{in}}$

$$\underset{\|\Delta W\|_{\text{RMS} \rightarrow \text{RMS}} \leq \eta}{\text{argmin}} \quad \langle \nabla_W \mathcal{L}(W), \Delta W \rangle$$

$$= \underset{\|\Delta W\|_2 \leq \sqrt{\frac{d_{out}}{d_{in}}} \cdot \eta}{\text{argmin}} \quad \langle \nabla_W \mathcal{L}(W), \Delta W \rangle$$

$$\Rightarrow \Delta W^* = -\eta \cdot \sqrt{\frac{d_{out}}{d_{in}}} U_r V_r^T$$

Muon key idea 1.

Why might semi-orthogonal matrices be a good idea?

→ Condition number  $U_r V_r^T = 1$ . Uniform step in all directions.

→ Not dominated by largest singular values.

But computing  $UV^T$  is expensive.

→ Needs SVD.

Muon solves this issue through two observations

(1) Getting the direction approximately correct is good enough.

(2) Newton-Schulz iterations. ← Muon key idea 2.

$$\underline{U\Sigma V^T} \rightarrow \underline{UV^T}.$$

i.e. replace all the singular values by 1.

How?

$$f(U\Sigma V^T) \overset{\sim}{\approx} UV^T$$

## Newton-Schulz.

① Odd polynomials commute with the SVD.

$$p(x) = a_0 x + a_1 x x^T x + a_2 (x x^T)^2 x + \dots + a_n (x x^T)^n x.$$

e.g.  $p(x) = \frac{3}{2} \cdot x - \frac{1}{2} x x^T x$ .

$$\begin{aligned} p(U \Sigma V^T) &= \frac{3}{2} U \Sigma V^T - \frac{1}{2} (U \Sigma V^T)(V \Sigma^T U^T) \cdot U \Sigma V^T \\ &= \frac{3}{2} U \Sigma V^T - \frac{1}{2} U \Sigma \Sigma^T \Sigma V^T \\ &= U \left[ \frac{3}{2} \Sigma - \frac{1}{2} \Sigma \Sigma^T \Sigma \right] V^T \\ &= U p(\Sigma) \cdot V^T \end{aligned}$$

So  $p(x) = U \underline{p(\Sigma)} V^T$ .

So can apply to a matrix without changing the singular vectors.

② Can we find  $p(x)$  such that  
 $p(x) \rightarrow 1$  for  $x > 0$

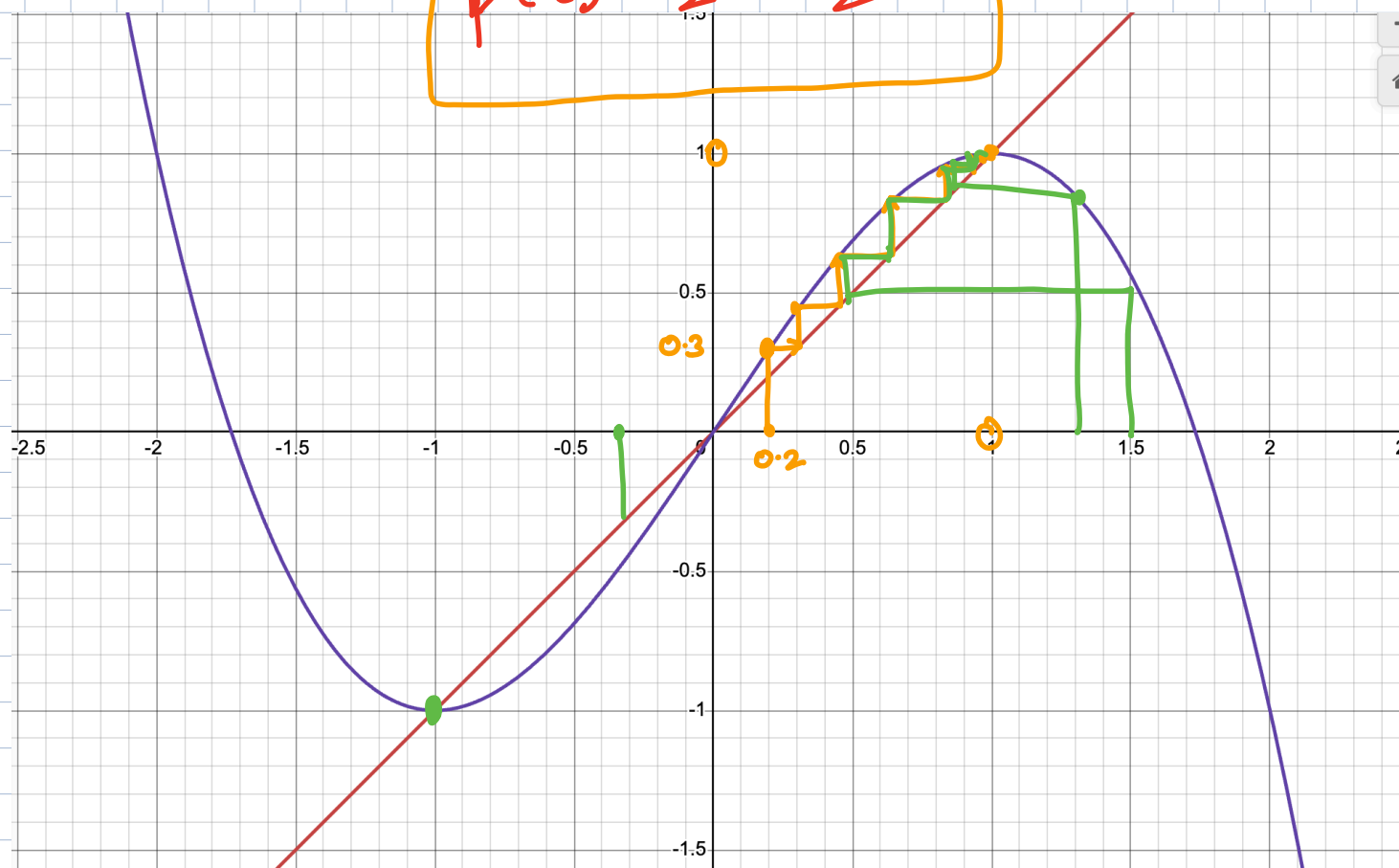
$$p(x) \rightarrow U p(\epsilon) v^T$$

$$p(p(x)) \rightarrow U p(p(\epsilon)) v^T$$

$$\vdots$$

Then, iteratively apply  $p$ .

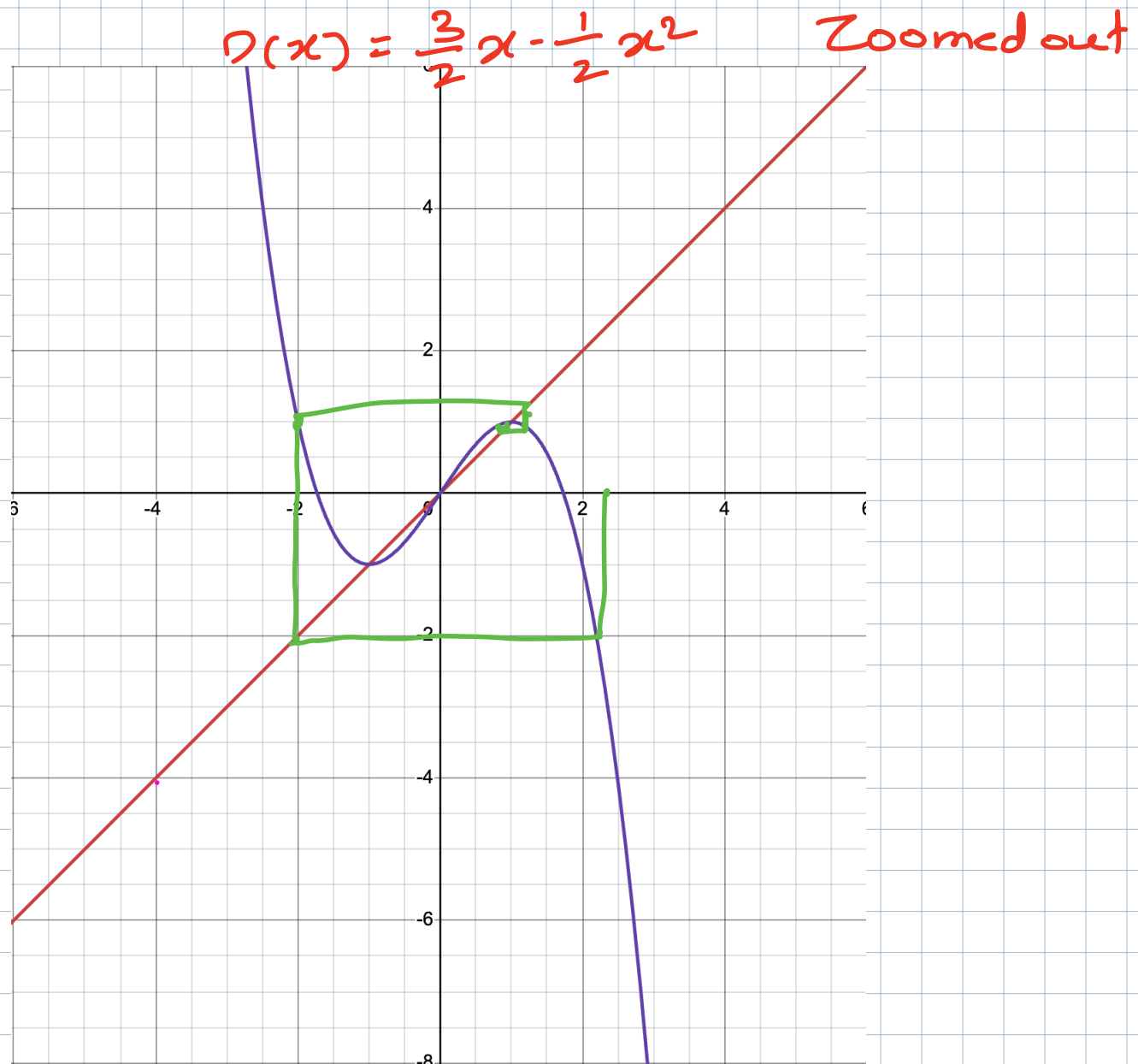
$$p(x) = \frac{3}{2}x - \frac{1}{2}x^3$$



$$p(p(p(p(\sigma)))) \rightarrow p^n(\sigma) \rightarrow 1$$

$$n \rightarrow \infty$$





→ Need to have singular values  $\in (0, 1]$  before applying!

→ How? Normalize by the Frobenius norm :  $\frac{G}{\|G\|_F}$ .

# Muon (Momentum Orthogonalized by Newton Schulz)

$$B_t = \mu \cdot B_{t-1} + \nabla_w \mathcal{L}(w)$$

$$O_t = \text{NewtonSchulz}(B_t)$$

$$W_t = W_{t-1} - \eta \cdot O_t$$

How to choose  $p(x)$ ?

$$p(x) = ax + bx^3 + cx^5 + \dots$$

Can "tune" coefficients for specific characteristics.

- Higher-order may converge faster, but each step is more expensive.

Do you have to converge?

NanoGPT speedrun :  $f(x) = 3.444x - 4.7750x^3 + 2.0315x^5$   
 $f(1) \neq 1$

