

ROB 101: Computational Linear Algebra

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Abstract

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Chapter 11

Solutions of Nonlinear Equations

Lecture 18: Review and Approximating Nonlinear Equations

11.1 Bisection Algorithm

14 Mar. 12:00

Theorem 11.1.1 (Intermediate Value Theorem). Suppose $f : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is a continuous function and you know two real numbers, $a < b$, such that $f(a) \cdot f(b) < 0$. Then $\exists c \in \mathbb{R}$ such that:

$$\begin{aligned} a &< c < b \\ f(c) &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

Using the midpoint between two numbers to find the root may not give us the root right away. Further, the root isn't always exactly in between a and b . So, we can use the **bisection algorithm** to *approximate* roots:

Algorithm 11.1: Bisection Algorithm

Data: $a < b \in \mathbb{R}$ such that $f(a) \cdot f(b) < 0$

```
1  $c = (a + b)/2$  if  $f(c) = 0$  then
2   return  $x^* = c$ 
3 else
4   if  $f(c) \cdot f(a) < 0$  then
5      $b = c$ 
6   else
7      $a = c$ 
8 Loop back to 1.
```

11.2 Derivatives and Approximation

Definition 11.2.1 (Derivative). A **derivative** is the slope of a function at a specific point.

There are 3 ways to represent the numerical approximation of a derivative:

1. **Forward Difference Approximation:** $\frac{df(x_0)}{dx} = \frac{f(x_0+h)-f(x_0)}{h}$
2. **Backward Difference Approximation:** $\frac{df(x_0)}{dx} = \frac{f(x_0)-f(x_0-h)}{h}$
3. **Symmetric Difference Approximation:** $\frac{df(x_0)}{dx} = \frac{f(x_0+h)-f(x_0-h)}{2h}$

Remark. If the 3 approximations above don't agree, then the limit does not exist and the function is not differentiable.

For a differentiable function, $f(x)$, $f(x) \approx f(x_0) + \frac{df(x_0)}{dx}(x - x_0)$ near point $(x_0, f(x_0)) \forall x_0$. We can use this idea to *find roots* using linear approximations to nonlinear functions.

11.3 Newton's Method

To find the roots using linear approximations to nonlinear functions we can use **Newton's Method**:

Definition 11.3.1 (Newton's Method). Assume $f : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is differentiable everywhere. Let x_k be our current estimate of a root, then:

$$f(x) \approx f(x_k) + \frac{df(x_k)}{dx}(x - x_k).$$

We want x_{k+1} such that $f(x_{k+1}) = 0$.

If we solve for x_{k+1} we get:

$$x_{k+1} = x_k - \frac{df(x_k)}{dx}^{-1} f(x_k).$$

This method takes very big "steps", so it may be more beneficial to take smaller "steps". This leads to the **damped Newton Method**,

$$x_{k+1} = x_k - \epsilon \left(\frac{df(x_k)}{dx} \right)^{-1} f(x_k),$$

where $0 < \epsilon < 1$. A typical value may be $\epsilon = 0.1$.

Lecture 19: Vectors and Approximating Nonlinear Equations

11.4 Vectors and Nonlinear Equations

16 Mar. 9:00

We can use vectors for linear approximations by understanding partial derivatives. Given nonlinear functions $f : \mathbb{R}^m \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ we want the linear approximation at $x_0 \in \mathbb{R}^m$.

$$f(x) \approx f(x_0) + A(x - x_0)$$

where $A_{n \times m}$, $x, x_0 \in \mathbb{R}^m$, and $f(x_0), f(x) \in \mathbb{R}^n$. Here, A represents a matrix made up of partial derivatives.

Remark. Everything is the same as finding a linear approximation at a point. We are just replacing the slope with a matrix and the x s with vectors.

11.5 Partial Derivatives

Set $x = x_0 + he_i$ where he_i is some small outside adjustment to x_0 such that all x_0 remain the same except the i -th component.

$$x_0 + he_i = \begin{bmatrix} x_{01} \\ x_{02} \\ \vdots \\ x_{0m} \end{bmatrix} + h \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ \vdots \\ 1 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} x_{01} \\ x_{02} \\ \vdots \\ x_{0i} + h \\ \vdots \\ x_{0m} \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{where } h \text{ is small}$$

Equivalently, we have:

$$f(x_0 + he_i) \approx f(x_0) + A(x_0 + he_i - x_0) = f(x_0) + ha_i^{col}$$

where we can now solve for a_i^{col} , which represents the derivative of f with respect to x_i .

We can represent the numerical approximation of a partial derivative similar to how we represented the numerical approximation of a standard derivative. A partial derivative is represented with the mathematical symbol ∂ .

11.6 Jacobian

Given the nonlinear functions $f : \mathbb{R}^m \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$, the **Jacobian** is

$$\frac{\partial f(x)}{\partial x} := \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial f(x)}{\partial x_1} & \frac{\partial f(x)}{\partial x_2} & \cdots & \frac{\partial f(x)}{\partial x_m} \end{bmatrix}_{n \times m}.$$

- The partial derivatives are stacked to form a matrix
 - For each $x \in \mathbb{R}^m$, $\frac{\partial f(x)}{\partial x}$ is an $n \times m$ matrix
 - The **gradient** of $f : \mathbb{R}^m \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is a special Jacobian that for each $x \in \mathbb{R}^m$, $\nabla f(x)$ is a $1 \times m$ matrix
- $f : \mathbb{R}^m \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ looks like:

$$f(x) = \begin{bmatrix} f_1(x) \\ f_2(x) \\ \vdots \\ f_n(x) \end{bmatrix}$$

$\frac{\partial f(x)}{\partial x}$ looks like:

$$\frac{\partial f(x)}{\partial x} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial f_1(x)}{\partial x_1} & \frac{\partial f_1(x)}{\partial x_2} & \cdots & \frac{\partial f_1(x)}{\partial x_m} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \frac{\partial f_n(x)}{\partial x_1} & \frac{\partial f_n(x)}{\partial x_2} & \cdots & \frac{\partial f_n(x)}{\partial x_m} \end{bmatrix}$$

The linear approximation of nonlinear functions $f : \mathbb{R}^m \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ at point $x_0 \in \mathbb{R}^m$ is

$$f(x) \approx f(x_0) + A(x - x_0) = f(x_0) + \frac{\partial f(x_0)}{\partial x}(x - x_0).$$

Problem 11.6.1. We have two functions:

$$\begin{aligned} f_1(x_1, x_2) &= \log(x_1) + \sqrt{x_2} \\ f_2(x_1, x_2) &= x_1 \cdot x_2 \end{aligned}$$

and let $x_0 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}$.

Answer. $f : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$ so $\frac{\partial f(x)}{\partial x}$ is a 2×2 matrix. Using forward approximation we have $\frac{\partial f(x_0)}{\partial x} = \frac{f(x_0 + he_i) - f(x_0)}{h}$ with $h = 0.001$.

- f_1 w.r.t x_1 :

$$\frac{\partial f_1(x_1, x_2)}{\partial x_1} = \frac{(\log(1 + 0.001) + \sqrt{2}) - (\log(1) + \sqrt{2})}{0.001} = 0.43408$$

- f_1 w.r.t x_2 :

$$\frac{\partial f_1(x_1, x_2)}{\partial x_2} = \frac{(\log(1) + \sqrt{2 + 0.0001}) - (\log(1) + \sqrt{2})}{0.001} = 0.35351$$

- f_2 w.r.t. x_1 :

$$\frac{\partial f_1(x_1, x_2)}{\partial x_1} = \frac{(1.001)(2) - (1)(2)}{0.001} = 2$$

- f_2 w.r.t. x_2 :

$$\frac{\partial f_1(x_1, x_2)}{\partial x_2} = \frac{(1)(2.001) - (1)(2)}{0.001} = 1$$

So, the linear approximation is $f(x) \approx f(x_0) + \frac{\partial f(x_0)}{\partial x}(x - x_0)$

$$\begin{aligned} f(x) &\approx f(x_0) + \frac{\partial f(x_0)}{\partial x}(x - x_0) \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} \log(1) + \sqrt{2} \\ (1)(2) \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} 0.43408 & 0.35351 \\ 2 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 - 1 \\ x_2 - 2 \end{bmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

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11.7 Newton-Raphson Method

Just as Newton's Method was a useful tool for linear approximations, we can use the **Newton-Raphson Method** for *non-linear approximations*. Given $f : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$, we want to find a root $f(x_0) = 0$. Using our approximation above, we can substitute in x_{k+1} and solve for it:

$$x_{k+1} = x_k - \frac{\partial f(x)}{\partial x}^{-1} f(x_k)$$

Remark. Similarly to when we were solving $Ax - b = 0$ we made sure $\det(A) \neq 0$, we want to make sure $\det\left(\frac{\partial f(x_k)}{\partial x}\right) \neq 0$.

We can find Δx_k to avoid the inverses in the equations above:

$$\Delta x_k = -\left(\frac{\partial f(x_k)}{\partial x}\right)^{-1} f(x_k)$$

Instead of the inverses or dividing matrices, we solve for Δx_k using LU or QR factorization. This can be done using the Newton-Raphson algorithm:

Algorithm 11.2: Newton-Raphson Algorithm

```

Data:  $f$ 
1  $F \leftarrow \mathbf{LU}\left(\frac{\partial f(x_k)}{\partial x}\right)$  // find  $\Delta x_k$ 
2  $y \leftarrow \mathbf{ForwardSub}(F.L, F.P \cdot -f(x_k))$ 
3  $\Delta x_k \leftarrow \mathbf{BackwardSub}(F.U, y)$ 
4  $x_{k+1} \leftarrow x_k + \Delta x_k$  // use  $\Delta x_k$  to find  $x_{k+1}$ 
5 if  $f(x_{k+1}) = 0$  then
6   return  $x_{k+1}$  as the root
7 else
8   loop back to 1.

```

If we replace $x_{k+1} = x_k + \Delta x_k$ with

$$x_{k+1} = x_k + \varepsilon \Delta x_k$$

we get the **Damped Newton-Raphson Method** for $\varepsilon > 0$ (usually $\varepsilon = 0.1$ is sufficient). This prevents Δx_k from being too big by decreasing the step size.

Chapter 12

Basic Ideas of Optimization

Lecture 20: Vectors and Approximating Nonlinear Equations

12.1 Gradient

16 Mar. 9:00

Let $f : \mathbb{R}^m \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, then the **gradient** of f is the partial derivatives of f with respect to x_i :

$$\nabla f(x_0) = \left[\frac{\partial f(x_0)}{\partial x_1} \frac{\partial f(x_0)}{\partial x_2} \cdots \frac{\partial f(x_0)}{\partial x_m} \right]_{1 \times m}.$$

For linear approximation about a point:

$$f(x) \approx f(x_0) + \nabla f(x_0)(x - x_0)$$

12.2 Building Towards Optimization

Optimization is finding a potential set of solutions to a problem in \mathbb{R}^m . The **cost function** $f : \mathbb{R}^m \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ allows us to compare elements of \mathbb{R}^m in order for us to decide which are more advantageous to us.

1. **REGRET** functions minimize. If $*$ is the minimum point of interest, as $x \in \mathbb{R}^m$ gets close to our x^* , it is small and as x get far from x^* , it is large. Mathematically:

$$x^* = \operatorname{argmin}_{x \in \mathbb{R}^m} f(x).$$

2. **REWARD** functions maximize. Here we will focus on minimization.

Suppose we start at $x_k \in \mathbb{R}$ and we want to find $x_{k+1} \in \mathbb{R}$ where $f(x_{k+1}) < f(x_k)$. We note that $f(x_{k+1}) - f(x_k) < 0$ if and only if $\frac{\partial f(x_k)}{\partial x}(x_{k+1} - x_k) < 0$.

Remark. Make sure that you do not begin with $\frac{\partial f(x_k)}{\partial x} = 0$, as this would indicate x_k is already an extremum.

So, we let $\Delta x_k = -s \frac{\partial f(x_k)}{\partial x}$ for $s > 0$ (**step size**). If s is too big then we may overshoot our estimate. We typically use $s \approx 0.1$. Solving for x_{k+1} (i.e. our *next best guess* closer to the local extremum):

$$x_{k+1} = x_k - s \frac{\partial f(x_k)}{\partial x}$$

Appendix