

1. Consider the following algorithm for minimizing a function  $f$ :

$$x^{(k+1)} = x^{(k)} + \alpha_k d^{(k)},$$

where

$$\alpha_k = \arg \min_{\alpha} f(x^{(k)} + \alpha d^{(k)}).$$

Let  $g^{(k)} = \nabla f(x^{(k)})$  (as usual).

Suppose that  $f$  is quadratic with Hessian  $Q$ . We choose

$$d^{(k+1)} = \gamma_k g^{(k+1)} + d^{(k)},$$

and we wish the directions  $d^{(k)}$  and  $d^{(k+1)}$  to be  $Q$ -conjugate. Find a formula for  $\gamma_k$  in terms of  $d^{(k)}$ ,  $g^{(k+1)}$ , and  $Q$ .

**Solution:**

In order to have the directions  $d^{(k)}$  and  $d^{(k+1)}$   $Q$ -conjugate, we must have

$$(d^{(k)})^T Q d^{(k+1)} = 0$$

$$(d^{(k)})^T Q (\gamma_k g^{(k+1)} + d^{(k)}) = 0$$

$$(d^{(k)})^T Q \gamma_k g^{(k+1)} + (d^{(k)})^T Q d^{(k)} = 0$$

$$\gamma_k = \frac{-(d^{(k)})^T Q d^{(k)}}{(d^{(k)})^T Q g^{(k+1)}}$$

2. Represent the function

$$f(x) = \frac{5}{2}x_1^2 + x_2^2 - 3x_1x_2 - x_2 - 7$$

in the form

$$f(x) = \frac{1}{2}x^T Q x - x^T b + c.$$

Then, use the conjugate gradient algorithm to find a minimizer with  $d^{(0)} = \nabla f(x^{(0)})$ , where  $x^{(0)} = 0$ .

**Solution:**

The gradient of this function is  $\nabla f(x) = Qx - b$ .

$$\nabla f(x) = \begin{bmatrix} 5x_1 - 3x_2 \\ 2x_2 - 3x_1 - 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$Q = \begin{bmatrix} 5 & -3 \\ -3 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$f(x) = \frac{1}{2}x^T \begin{bmatrix} 5 & -3 \\ -3 & 2 \end{bmatrix} x - x^T [0, 1]^T - 7$$

The conjugate gradient algorithm is

$$\begin{aligned}
 d^{(0)} &= \nabla f(x^{(0)}) \\
 g^{(0)} &= \nabla f(x^{(0)}) \\
 \alpha_k &= -\frac{(g^{(k)})^T d^{(k)}}{(d^{(k)})^T Q d^{(k)}} \\
 x^{(k+1)} &= x^{(k)} - \alpha_k d^{(k)} \\
 g^{(k+1)} &= \nabla f(x^{(k+1)}) \\
 \beta_k &= \frac{g^{(k+1)T} Q d^{(k)}}{(d^{(k)})^T Q d^{(k)}} \\
 d^{(k+1)} &= -g^{(k+1)} + \beta_k d^{(k)}
 \end{aligned}$$

The stopping condition of the conjugate gradient algorithm is  $g^{(k+1)} = 0$ .

To complete this problem, simply run the above algorithm with  $d^{(0)} = \nabla f(x^{(0)}) = [0, -1]^T$  and  $x^{(0)} = [0, 0]^T$ .

$$\begin{aligned}
 \alpha_0 &= -\frac{\begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}^T \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}}{\begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}^T \begin{bmatrix} 5 & -3 \\ -3 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}} = -\frac{1}{2} \\
 x^{(1)} &= x^{(0)} - \frac{1}{2} \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ \frac{1}{2} \end{bmatrix} \\
 g^{(1)} &= \begin{bmatrix} 5 & -3 \\ -3 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ \frac{1}{2} \end{bmatrix} - \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -\frac{3}{2} \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \\
 \beta_0 &= -\frac{9}{4}
 \end{aligned}$$

Continue until  $g^{(k+1)} = 0$

3. Consider the DFP algorithm applied to the quadratic function

$$f(x) = \frac{1}{2} x^T Q x - x^T b,$$

where  $Q = Q^T > 0$ .

- (a) Write down a formula for  $\alpha_k$  in terms of  $Q$ ,  $g^{(k)}$ , and  $d^{(k)}$ .
- (b) Show that if  $g^{(k)} \neq 0$ , then  $\alpha_k > 0$ .

**Solution:**

By the DFP algorithm,  $\alpha_k = \operatorname{argmin} f(x^{(k)} + \alpha d^{(k)})$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \phi(\alpha) &= \frac{1}{2} (x^{(k)} + \alpha d^{(k)})^T Q (x^{(k)} + \alpha d^{(k)}) - (x^{(k)} + \alpha d^{(k)})^T b \\
 \phi'(\alpha) &= (d^{(k)})^T Q x^{(k)} + \alpha (d^{(k)})^T Q d^{(k)} - b^T d^{(k)} = 0 \\
 \alpha &= \frac{-d^{(k)}(Q x^{(k)} - b)}{(d^{(k)})^T d^{(k)}} = \frac{(-d^{(k)})^T g^{(k)}}{(d^{(k)})^T d^{(k)}}
 \end{aligned}$$

Recall that by DFP, we have

$$d^{(k)} = -H_k g^{(k)}$$

So, we have

$$\alpha = \frac{(g^{(k)})^\top H_k g^{(k)}}{(d^{(k)})^\top d^{(k)}}$$

With the above equation, it is simple to see that  $\alpha > 0$  if  $g^{(k)} > 0$  and if  $g^{(k)} < 0$ . So we can conclude that if  $g^{(k)} \neq 0$ , then  $\alpha > 0$ .

4. Let  $f : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be such that  $f \in C^1$ . Consider an optimization algorithm applied to this  $f$ , of the usual form

$$x^{(k+1)} = x^{(0)} + \alpha_k d^{(k)},$$

where  $\alpha_k \geq 0$  is chosen according to line search. Suppose that

$$d^{(k)} = -H_k g^{(k)},$$

where  $g^{(k)} = \nabla f(x^{(k)})$  and  $H_k$  is symmetric.

- (a) Show that if  $H_k$  satisfies the following conditions whenever the algorithm is applied to a quadratic, then the algorithm is quasi-Newton:
  - i.  $H_{k+1} = H_k + U_k$ .
  - ii.  $U_k \Delta g^{(k)} = \Delta x^{(k)} - H_k \Delta g^{(k)}$ .
  - iii.  $U_k = a^{(k)}(\Delta x^{(k)})^\top + b^{(k)}(\Delta g^{(k)})^\top H_k$ , where  $a^{(k)}$  and  $b^{(k)}$  are in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ .
- (b) Which (if any) among the rank-one, DFP, and BFGS algorithms satisfy the three conditions in part (a) (whenever the algorithm is applied to a quadratic)? For those that do, specify the vectors  $a^{(k)}$  and  $b^{(k)}$ .

- (a) Quasi Newton algorithms have the form

$$d^{(k+1)} = -H_k g^{(k+1)} \tag{1}$$

$$\alpha_k = \operatorname{argmin}_{\alpha \geq 0} f(x^k + \alpha d^k) \tag{2}$$

$$x^{(k+1)} = x^{(k)} + \alpha_k d^{(k)} \tag{3}$$

In the quadratic case, the above matrices are required to satisfy

$$H_{k+1} \Delta g^{(i)} = \Delta x^{(i)}, 1 \leq i \leq k \tag{4}$$

We want to show (4) holds

Using the given equations, we have

$$U_k = H_{k+1} - H_k \tag{5}$$

$$U_k \Delta g^{(k)} = (H_{k+1} - H_k) \Delta g^{(k)} = \Delta x^{(k)} - H_k \Delta g^{(k)} \tag{6}$$

$$H_{k+1} \Delta g^{(k)} = \Delta x^{(k)} \tag{7}$$

To show that this holds for all  $1 \leq i \leq k$ , we use induction: Assume that the above result holds for  $k-1$ , then

$$H_{k+1}\Delta g^{(k-1)} = H_{k-1}\Delta g^{(k-1)} + U_{k-1}\Delta g^{(k-1)} \quad (8)$$

$$= \Delta x^{(k-1)} + U_{k-1}\Delta g^{(k-1)}(IH) \quad (9)$$

$$= \Delta x^{(k-1)} + (a^{(k)}(\Delta x^{(k)})^\top + b^{(k)}(\Delta g^{(k)})^\top H_k)\Delta g^{(k-1)} \quad (10)$$

$$= \Delta x^{(k-1)} + a^{(k)}(\Delta x^{(k)})^\top \Delta g^{(k-1)} + b^{(k)}(\Delta g^{(k)})^\top H_k \Delta g^{(k-1)} \quad (11)$$

Now we want to show that the right two terms of (11) are equal to 0.

To do this, we will use Theorem 11.1 which states (simplified) that for a quasi-Newton algorithm applied to a quadratic function, the directions  $d^{(0)}, \dots, d^{(k+1)}$  are Q-conjugate. Using this theorem, and condition (3), we can find that

$$\begin{aligned} a^{(k)}(\Delta x^{(k)})^\top \Delta g^{(k-1)} &= a^{(k)}(\alpha_k d^{(k)})^\top Q \Delta x^{(k-1)} \\ &= a^{(k)}\alpha_k (d^{(k)})^\top Q d^{(k-1)} \alpha_{k-1} \\ &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

Repeat a similar simplification for the b term to find that it is equal to 0.

Therefore, by induction, we can conclude that for all  $1 \leq i \leq k$ ,  $H_{k+1}\Delta g^{(i)} = \Delta x^{(i)}$ , which completes the proof.

- (b) To show that the first two conditions hold, we want to show that

$$H_{k+1}\Delta g^{(i)} = \Delta x^{(i)}.$$

#### Rank-one Algorithm:

By Theorem 11.2, for the rank-one algorithm applied to the quadratic with Hessian  $Q = Q^\top$ , we have

$$H_{k+1}\Delta g^{(k)} = \Delta x^{(k)}, \quad 0 \leq k < l.$$

Thus, the first two conditions are satisfied.

For condition 3:

$$U_k = H_{k+1} - H_k = \frac{(\Delta x^{(k)} - H_k \Delta g^{(k)})(\Delta x^{(k)} - H_k \Delta g^{(k)})^\top}{\Delta g^{(k)\top}(\Delta x^{(k)} - H_k \Delta g^{(k)})}.$$

From this:

$$a^{(k)} = \frac{\Delta x^{(k)} - H_k \Delta g^{(k)}}{\Delta g^{(k)\top}(\Delta x^{(k)} - H_k \Delta g^{(k)})}, \quad b^{(k)} = -\frac{H_k \Delta g^{(k)}}{\Delta g^{(k)\top}(\Delta x^{(k)} - H_k \Delta g^{(k)})}.$$

#### DFP Algorithm:

By Theorem 11.3, in the DFP algorithm applied to the quadratic with Hessian  $Q = Q^\top$ , we have

$$H_{k+1}\Delta g^{(k)} = \Delta x^{(k)}, \quad 0 \leq k.$$

Thus, conditions 1 and 2 are satisfied.

For condition 3:

$$U_k = H_{k+1} - H_k = \frac{\Delta x^{(k)}(\Delta x^{(k)})^\top}{\Delta x^{(k)\top} \Delta g^{(k)}} - \frac{H_k \Delta g^{(k)}[H_k \Delta g^{(k)}]^\top}{\Delta g^{(k)\top} H_k \Delta g^{(k)}}.$$

From this:

$$a^{(k)} = \frac{\Delta x^{(k)}}{\Delta x^{(k)\top} \Delta g^{(k)}}, \quad b^{(k)} = -\frac{H_k \Delta g^{(k)}}{\Delta g^{(k)\top} H_k \Delta g^{(k)}}.$$

**BFGS Algorithm:**

Recall that the BFGS algorithm is a special case of the DFP algorithm, it's a mirror or dual.

$$\begin{aligned} H_{k+1}^{\text{BFGS}} &= (B_{k+1})^{-1} \\ B_{k+1} &= \Delta g^{(i)} \Delta x^{(i)} \Delta g^{(i)\top} \\ H_{k+1}^{\text{BFGS}} &= (B_{k+1})^{-1} = (\Delta g^{(i)} (\Delta x^{(i)})^{-1})^{-1} \\ &= \Delta x^{(i)} (\Delta g^{(i)})^{-1} \\ H_{k+1}^{\text{BFGS}} \Delta g^{(i)} &= \Delta x^{(i)} \end{aligned}$$

So, conditions 1 and 2 are satisfied.

The correction term update for the BFGS algorithm is given by

$$H_{k+1}^{\text{BFGS}} = H_k + \left( 1 + \frac{\Delta g^{(k)\top} H_k \Delta g^{(k)}}{\Delta g^{(k)\top} \Delta x^{(k)}} \right) \frac{\Delta x^{(k)} (\Delta x^{(k)})^\top}{\Delta x^{(k)\top} \Delta g^{(k)}} - \frac{H_k \Delta g^{(k)} (\Delta x^{(k)})^\top + (H_k \Delta g^{(k)} (\Delta x^{(k)})^\top)^\top}{\Delta g^{(k)\top} \Delta x^{(k)}}.$$

From this, we can find that

$$a^{(k)} = \left( 1 + \frac{\Delta g^{(k)\top} H_k \Delta g^{(k)}}{\Delta g^{(k)\top} \Delta x^{(k)}} \right) \frac{\Delta x^{(k)}}{\Delta x^{(k)\top} \Delta g^{(k)}} - \frac{H_k \Delta g^{(k)}}{\Delta g^{(k)\top} \Delta x^{(k)}}, \quad b^{(k)} = \frac{\Delta x^{(k)}}{\Delta g^{(k)\top} \Delta x^{(k)}}$$

5. Given a function  $f : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ , consider an algorithm

$$x^{(k+1)} = x^{(k)} - \alpha_k H_k g^{(k)}$$

for finding the minimizer of  $f$ , where  $g^{(k)} = \nabla f(x^{(k)})$  and  $H_k \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$  is symmetric. Suppose that

$$H_k = \phi H_k^{\text{DFP}} + (1 - \phi) H_k^{\text{BFGS}},$$

where  $\phi \in \mathbb{R}$ , and  $H_k^{\text{DFP}}$  and  $H_k^{\text{BFGS}}$  are matrices generated by the DFP and BFGS algorithms, respectively.

- (a) Show that the algorithm above is a quasi-Newton algorithm. Is the above algorithm a conjugate direction algorithm?
- (b) Suppose that  $0 \leq \phi \leq 1$ . Show that if  $H_0^{\text{DFP}} > 0$  and  $H_0^{\text{BFGS}} > 0$ , then  $H_k > 0$  for all  $k$ . What can you conclude from this about whether or not the algorithm has the descent property?

(a) To show the algorithm is a quasi-Newton algorithm, we will show

$$\begin{aligned} H_k \Delta g^{(i)} &= \Delta x^{(i)} \\ H_k \Delta g^{(i)} &= (\phi H_k^{\text{DFP}} + (1 - \phi) H_k^{\text{BFGS}}) \Delta g^{(i)} \end{aligned}$$

Since DFP and BFGS are quasi-Newton algorithms, we know that the above relation holds, so distributing  $\Delta g^{(i)}$

$$\begin{aligned} H_k \Delta g^{(i)} &= \phi \Delta x^{(i)} + (1 - \phi) \Delta x^{(i)} \\ &= \Delta x^{(i)} \end{aligned}$$

Since the above algorithm is a quasi-Newton algorithm, the algorithm is a conjugate direction algorithm. (Theorem 11.1)

(b) Observe that

$$(1 - \phi) \geq 0$$

Since  $H_0^{\text{DFP}} > 0$  and  $H_0^{\text{BFGS}} > 0$ , it follows that  $H_k > 0$  for all  $k$ .  $H_k$  is positive definite and symmetric. So, by Proposition 11.1, the algorithm has the descent property.