Cookbook for data scientists

Charles Deledalle

Linear algebra I

Notations

<i>x</i> , <i>y</i> , <i>z</i> ,:	vectors of \mathbb{C}^n
a, b, c,:	scalars of $\mathbb C$
A, B, C :	matrices of $\mathbb{C}^{m\times n}$
Id :	identity matrix
$i=1,\ldots,m$ and $j=1,\ldots,n$	

Matrix vector product

$$(Ax)_i = \sum_{k=1}^n A_{i,k} x_k$$
$$(AB)_{i,j} = \sum_{k=1}^n A_{i,k} B_{k,j}$$

Basic properties

$$A(ax + by) = aAx + bAy$$
$$AId = IdA = A$$

(m=n)

Inverse

 \boldsymbol{A} is said invertible, if it exists \boldsymbol{B} st

$$AB = BA = \mathrm{Id.}$$

B is unique and called inverse of A. We write $B = A^{-1}$.

Adjoint and transpose

 $(A^{t})_{j,i} = A_{i,j}, \quad A^{t} \in \mathbb{C}^{m \times n}$ $(A^{*})_{j,i} = (A_{i,j})^{*}, \quad A^{*} \in \mathbb{C}^{m \times n}$ $\langle Ax, y \rangle = \langle x, A^{*}y \rangle$

Trace and determinant(m = n)nn $\operatorname{tr} A = \operatorname{tr} A^*$

$$\operatorname{tr} A = \sum_{i=1}^{n} A_{i,i} = \sum_{i=1}^{n} \lambda_i \quad \operatorname{tr} AB = \operatorname{tr} BA$$
$$\det A^* = \det A$$
$$\det A = \prod_{i=1}^{n} \lambda_i \quad \det A^{-1} = (\det A)^{-1}$$

 $\det AB = \det A \det B$ A is invertible $\Leftrightarrow \det A \neq 0 \Leftrightarrow \lambda_i \neq 0, \forall i$

Scalar products, angles and norms

$$\langle x, y \rangle = x \cdot y = x^* y = \sum_{k=1}^n x_k y_k$$
 (dot product)

$$\|x\|^2 = \langle x, x \rangle = \sum_{k=1}^n x_k^2$$
 (ℓ_2 norm)

$$|\langle x, y \rangle| \leq \|x\| \|y\|$$
 (Cauchy-Schwartz inequality)

$$\cos(\angle(x, y)) = \frac{\langle x, y \rangle}{\|x\| \|y\|}$$
 (angle and cosine)

$$\|x + y\|^2 = \|x\|^2 + \|y\|^2 + 2\langle x, y \rangle$$
 (law of cosines)

$$\|x\|_p^p = \sum_{k=1}^n |x_k|^p, \quad p \ge 1$$
 (ℓ_p norm)

$$\|x + y\|_p \leq \|x\|_p + \|y\|_p$$
 (triangular inequality)

Orthogonality, vector space, basis, dimension

$$\begin{split} x \bot y \Leftrightarrow \langle x, y \rangle &= 0 & (\text{Orthogonality}) \\ x \bot y \Leftrightarrow \|x + y\|^2 &= \|x\|^2 + \|y\|^2 & (\text{Pythagorean}) \end{split}$$

Let d vectors x_i be st $x_i \perp x_j$, $||x_i|| = 1$. Define

$$V = \operatorname{Span}(\{x_i\}) = \left\{ y \setminus \exists \alpha \in \mathbb{C}^d, y = \sum_{i=1}^d \alpha_i x_i \right\}$$

V is a vector space, $\{x_i\}$ is an orthonormal basis of V and

$$\forall y \in V, \quad y = \sum_{i=1}^{d} \langle y, x_i \rangle x_i$$

and $d = \dim V$ is called the dimensionality of V. We have

$$\dim(V \cup W) = \dim V + \dim W - \dim(V \cap W)$$

Column/Range/Image and Kernel/Null spaces

 $Im[A] = \{ y \in \mathbb{R}^m \setminus \exists x \in \mathbb{R}^n \text{ such that } y = Ax \}$ (image) $Ker[A] = \{ x \in \mathbb{R}^n \setminus Ax = 0 \}$ (kernel)

Im[A] and Ker[A] are vector spaces satisfying

$$\begin{split} \mathsf{Im}[A] &= \mathrm{Ker}[A^*]^{\perp} \quad \text{and} \quad \mathrm{Ker}[A] = \mathsf{Im}[A^*]^{\perp} \\ & \mathrm{rank}\,A + \dim(\mathrm{Ker}[A]) = n \quad \text{(rank-nullity theorem)} \\ \text{where} \quad \mathrm{rank}\,A = \dim(\mathsf{Im}[A]) \quad \text{(matrix rank)} \end{split}$$

Note also $\operatorname{rank} A = \operatorname{rank} A^*$ $\operatorname{rank} A + \operatorname{dim}(\operatorname{Ker}[A^*]) = m$ Charles Deledalle

Linear algebra II

Eigenvalues / eigenvectors

If $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}$ and $e \in \mathbb{C}^n (\neq 0)$ satisfy

 $Ae=\lambda e$

 λ is called the eigenvalue associated to the eigenvector e of A. There are at most n distinct eigenvalues λ_i and at least n linearly independent eigenvectors e_i (with norm 1). The set λ_i of n (non necessarily distinct) eigenvalues is called the spectrum of A (for a proper definition see characteristic polynomial, multiplicity, eigenspace). This set has exactly $r = \operatorname{rank} A$ non zero values.

Eigendecomposition

(m = n)

If it exists $E\in\mathbb{C}^{n\times n},$ and a diagonal matrix $\Lambda\in\mathbb{C}^{n\times n}$ st

$$A = E\Lambda E^{-1}$$

A is said diagonalizable and the columns of E are the n eigenvectors e_i of A with corresponding eigenvalues $\Lambda_{i,i} = \lambda_i$.

Properties of eigendecomposition (m = n)

• If, for all $i, \ \Lambda_{i,i} \neq 0$, then A is invertible and

$$A^{-1}=E\Lambda^{-1}E^{-1}$$
 with $\Lambda^{-1}_{i,i}=(\Lambda_{i,i})^{-1}$

• If A is Hermitian $(A = A^*)$, such decomposition always exists, the eigenvectors of E can be chosen orthonormal such that E is unitary $(E^{-1} = E^*)$, and λ_i are real.

• If A is Hermitian $(A = A^*)$ and $\lambda_i > 0$, A is said positive definite, and for all $x \neq 0$, $xAx^* > 0$.

 $\langle x, A^{-2}x \rangle = 1$

Singular value decomposition (SVD)

For **all** matrices A there exists two unitary matrices $U \in \mathbb{C}^{m \times m}$ and $V \in \mathbb{C}^{n \times n}$, and a real non-negative diagonal matrix $\Sigma \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$ st

$$A = U \Sigma V^*$$
 and $A = \sum_{k=1}^r \sigma_k u_k v_k^*$

with $r = \operatorname{rank} A$ non zero singular values $\Sigma_{k,k} = \sigma_k$.

Eigendecomposition and SVD

• If A is Hermitian, the two decompositions coincide with V = U = E and $\Sigma = \Lambda$.

• Let $A = U\Sigma V^*$ be the SVD of A, then the eigendecomposition of AA^* is E = U and $\Lambda = \Sigma^2$.

SVD, image and kernel

Let $A = U\Sigma V^*$ be the SVD of A, and assume $\Sigma_{i,i}$ are ordered in decreasing order then

$$Im[A] = Span(\{u_i \in \mathbb{R}^m \setminus i \in (1...r)\})$$

Ker[A] = Span($\{v_i \in \mathbb{R}^n \setminus i \in (r+1...n)\}$)

Moore-Penrose pseudo-inverse

The Moore-Penrose pseudo-inverse reads

$$A^{+} = V\Sigma^{+}U^{*} \quad \text{with} \quad \Sigma_{i,i}^{+} = \begin{cases} (\Sigma_{i,i})^{-1} & \text{if } \Sigma_{ii} > 0, \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

and is the unique matrix satisfying $A^+AA^+ = A^+$ and $AA^+A = A$ with A^+A and AA^+ Hermitian. If A is invertible, $A^+ = A^{-1}$.

Matrix norms

$$\|A\|_{p} = \sup_{x; \|x\|_{p}=1} \|Ax\|_{p}, \ \|A\|_{2} = \max_{k} \sigma_{k}, \ \|A\|_{*} = \sum_{k} \sigma_{k},$$
$$\|A\|_{F}^{2} = \sum_{i,j} |a_{i,j}|^{2} = \operatorname{tr} A^{*}A = \sum_{k} \sigma_{k}^{2}$$



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Fourier analysis

Fourier Transform (FT)

Let $x: \mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{C}$ such that $\int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} |x(t)| \, \mathrm{d}t < \infty$. Its Fourier transform $X:\mathbb{R}\overset{J-\infty}{\to}\mathbb{C}$ is defined as

$$X(u) = \mathcal{F}[x](u) = \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} x(t)e^{-i2\pi ut} dt$$
$$x(t) = \mathcal{F}^{-1}[X](t) = \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} X(u)e^{i2\pi ut} du$$

where u is referred to as the frequency.

Properties of continuous FT

$\mathcal{F}[ax + by] = a\mathcal{F}[x] + b\mathcal{F}[y]$	(Linearity)
$\mathcal{F}[x(t-a)] = e^{-i2\pi a u} \mathcal{F}[x]$	(Shift)
$\mathcal{F}[x(at)](u) = \frac{1}{ a }\mathcal{F}[x](u/a)$	(Modulation)
$\mathcal{F}[x^*](u) = \mathcal{F}[x](-u)^*$	(Conjugation)
$\mathcal{F}[x](0) = \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} x(t) \mathrm{d}t$	(Integration)
$\int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} x(t) ^2 \mathrm{d}t = \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} X(u) ^2 \mathrm{d}u$	(Parseval)
$\mathcal{F}[x^{(n)}](u) = (2\pi i u)^n \mathcal{F}[x](u)$	(Derivation)
$\mathcal{F}[e^{-\pi^2 a t^2}](u) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\pi a}} e^{-u^2/a}$	(Gaussian)
$x \text{ is real} \Leftrightarrow X(\varepsilon) = X(-\varepsilon)^*$ (Real	$\leftrightarrow Hermitian)$

Properties with convolutions

$$(x \star y)(t) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x(s)y(t-s) \, \mathrm{d}s \quad \text{(Convolution)}$$
$$\mathcal{F}[x \star y] = \mathcal{F}[x]\mathcal{F}[y] \quad \text{(Convolution theorem)}$$

Multidimensional Fourier Transform

Fourier transform is separable over the different ddimensions, hence can be defined recursively as

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{F}[x] &= (\mathcal{F}_1 \circ \mathcal{F}_2 \circ \ldots \circ \mathcal{F}_d)[x] \\ \text{where} \quad \mathcal{F}_k[x](t_1 \ldots, \varepsilon_k, \ldots, t_d) &= \\ \quad \mathcal{F}[t_k \mapsto x(t_1, \ldots, t_k, \ldots, t_d)](\varepsilon_k) \end{aligned}$$

and inherits from above properties (same for DFT).

Discrete Fourier Transform (DFT)

$$X_u = \mathcal{F}[x]_u = \sum_{t=0}^{n-1} x_t e^{-i2\pi u t/n}$$
$$x_t = \mathcal{F}^{-1}[X]_t = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{u=0}^{n-1} X_k e^{i2\pi u t/n}$$

Or in a matrix-vector form X = Fx and $x = F^{-1}X$ where $F_{u,k} = e^{-i2\pi uk/n}$. We have

$$F^* = n F^{-1} \quad \text{and} \quad U = n^{-1/2} F \quad \text{is unitary}$$

Properties of discrete FT

$$\begin{split} \mathcal{F}[ax+by] &= a\mathcal{F}[x] + b\mathcal{F}[y] \qquad \text{(Linearity)} \\ \mathcal{F}[x_{t-a}] &= e^{-i2\pi au/n} \mathcal{F}[x] \qquad \text{(Shift)} \\ \mathcal{F}[x^*]_u &= \mathcal{F}[x]_{n-u \mod n}^* \qquad \text{(Conjugation)} \\ \mathcal{F}[x^*]_u &= \mathcal{F}[x]_{n-u \mod n}^n \qquad \text{(Integration)} \\ \mathcal{F}[x]_0 &= \sum_{t=0}^{n-1} x_t \qquad \text{(Integration)} \\ \mathcal{F}[x]_0 &= \sum_{t=0}^{n-1} x_t \qquad \text{(Integration)} \\ \|x\|_2^2 &= \frac{1}{n} \|X\|_2^2 \qquad \text{(Parseval)} \\ \|x\|_1 &\leq \|X\|_1 \leq n \|x\|_1 \\ \|x\|_\infty &\leq \|x\|_1 \quad \text{and} \quad \|x\|_\infty \leq \frac{1}{n} \|X\|_1 \\ x \text{ is real } \Leftrightarrow X_u &= X_{n-u \mod n}^* \qquad \text{(Real } \leftrightarrow \text{Hermitian)} \end{split}$$

Discrete circular convolution

$$(x*y)_t = \sum_{s=1}^n x_s y_{(t-s \bmod n)+1} \quad \text{or} \quad x*y = \Phi_y x$$

where $(\Phi_y)_{t,s} = y_{(t-s \mod n)+1}$ is a circulant matrix diagonalizable in the discrete Fourier basis, thus

$$\mathcal{F}[x*y]_u = \mathcal{F}[x]_u \mathcal{F}[y]_u$$

Fast Fourier Transform (FFT)

The matrix-by-vector product Fx can be computed in $\mathcal{O}(n \log n)$ operations (much faster than the general matrix-by-vector product that required $\mathcal{O}(n^2)$ operations). Same for F^{-1} and same for multi-dimensional signals.

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Probability and Statistics

Kolmogorov's probability axioms

Let Ω be a sample set and A an event

$$\mathbb{P}[\Omega] = 1, \quad \mathbb{P}[A] \ge 0$$
$$\mathbb{P}\left[\bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} A_i\right] = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \mathbb{P}[A_i] \quad \text{with} \quad A_i \cap A_j = \emptyset$$

Basic properties

$$\begin{split} \mathbb{P}[\emptyset] &= 0, \quad \mathbb{P}[A] \in [0,1], \quad \mathbb{P}[A^c] = 1 - \mathbb{P}[A] \\ \mathbb{P}[A] \leqslant \mathbb{P}[B] \quad \text{if} \quad A \subseteq B \\ \mathbb{P}[A \cup B] &= \mathbb{P}[A] + \mathbb{P}[B] - \mathbb{P}[A \cap B] \end{split}$$

Conditional probability

$$\mathbb{P}[A|B] = \frac{\mathbb{P}[A \cap B]}{\mathbb{P}[B]} \quad \text{subject to} \quad \mathbb{P}[B] > 0$$

Bayes' rule

$$\mathbb{P}[A|B] = \frac{\mathbb{P}[B|A]\mathbb{P}[A]}{\mathbb{P}[B]}$$

Independence

Let A and B be two events, X and Y be two rv

$$A \bot B \quad \text{if} \quad \mathbb{P}[A \cap B] = \mathbb{P}[A]\mathbb{P}[B]$$
$$X \bot Y \quad \text{if} \quad (X \leqslant x) \bot (Y \leqslant y)$$

If X and Y admit a density, then

$$X \perp Y$$
 if $f_{X,Y}(x,y) = f_X(x)f_Y(y)$

Properties of Independence and uncorrelation

 $\mathbb{P}[A|B] = \mathbb{P}[A] \Rightarrow A \bot B$ $X \bot Y \Rightarrow (\mathbb{E}[XY^*] = \mathbb{E}[X]\mathbb{E}[Y^*] \Leftrightarrow \mathsf{Cov}[X, Y] = 0)$ Independence \Rightarrow uncorrelation correlation \Rightarrow dependence uncorrelation \Rightarrow Independence dependence \Rightarrow correlation

Discrete random vectors

Let X be a discrete random vector defined on \mathbb{N}^n

$$\mathbb{E}[X]_i = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} k \mathbb{P}[X_i = k]$$

The function $f_X : k \to \mathbb{P}[X = k]$ is called the probability mass function (pmf) of X.

Continuous random vectors

Let X be a continuous random vector on \mathbb{C}^n . Assume there exist f_X such that, for all $A \subseteq \mathbb{C}^n$,

$$\mathbb{P}[X \in A] = \int_A f_X(x) \, \mathrm{d}x.$$

Then f_X is called the probability density function (pdf) of X, and

$$\mathbb{E}[X] = \int_{\mathbb{C}^n} x f_X(x) \, \mathrm{d}x.$$

Variance / Covariance

Let X and Y be two random vectors. The covariance matrix between X and Y is defined as

$$\mathsf{Cov}[X,Y] = \mathbb{E}[XY^*] - \mathbb{E}[X]\mathbb{E}[Y]^*.$$

X and Y are said uncorrelated if Cov[X, Y] = 0. The variance-covariance matrix is

$$\mathsf{Var}[X] = \mathsf{Cov}[X, X] = \mathbb{E}[XX^*] - \mathbb{E}[X]\mathbb{E}[X]^*.$$

Basic properties

• The expectation is linear

$$\mathbb{E}[aX + bY + c] = a\mathbb{E}[X] + b\mathbb{E}[Y] + c$$

• If X and Y are independent

$$\mathsf{Var}[aX + bY + c] = a^2 \mathsf{Var}[X] + b^2 \mathsf{Var}[Y]$$

• Var[X] is always Hermitian positive definite

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Multi-variate differential calculus

Partial and directional derivatives

Let $f:\mathbb{R}^n\to\mathbb{R}^m.$ The (i,j)-th partial derivative of f, if it exists, is

$$\frac{\partial f_i}{\partial x_j}(x) = \lim_{\varepsilon \to 0} \frac{f_i(x + \varepsilon e_j) - f_i(x)}{\varepsilon}$$

where $e_i \in \mathbb{R}^n$, $(e_j)_j = 1$ and $(e_j)_k = 0$ for $k \neq j$. The directional derivative in the dir. $d \in \mathbb{R}^n$ is

$$\mathcal{D}_d f(x) = \lim_{\varepsilon \to 0} \frac{f(x + \varepsilon d) - f(x)}{\varepsilon} \in \mathbb{R}^m$$

Jacobian and total derivative

$J_f = \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} = \left(\frac{\partial f_i}{\partial x_j}\right)_{i,j}$	(m imes n Jacobian matrix)
$\mathrm{d}f(x) = \mathrm{tr}\left[\frac{\partial f}{\partial x}(x) \mathrm{d}x\right]$	(total derivative)

Gradient, Hessian, divergence, Laplacian $\nabla f = \left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial x_i}\right)_i \qquad (Gradient)$ $H_f = \nabla \nabla f = \left(\frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x_i \partial x_j}\right)_{i,j} \qquad (Hessian)$

div
$$f = \nabla^t f = \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{\partial f_i}{\partial x_i} = \operatorname{tr} J_f$$
 (Divergence)

$$\Delta f = \operatorname{div} \nabla f = \sum_{i=1}^{n} \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x_i^2} = \operatorname{tr} H_f \qquad \text{(Laplacian)}$$

Properties and generalizations

$\nabla f = J_f^t$	$(Jacobian\leftrightarrowgradient)$
$\operatorname{div} = -\nabla^*$	(Integration by part)
$\mathrm{d}f(x) = \mathrm{tr}\left[J_f \; \mathrm{d}x\right]$	(Jacob. character. I)
$\mathcal{D}_d f(x) = J_f(x) \times d$	(II)
$f(x+h) = f(x) + \mathcal{D}_h f(x) +$	$o(\ h\)$ (1st order exp.)
$f(x+h) = f(x) + \mathcal{D}_h f(x) +$	$\frac{1}{2}h^*H_f(x)h + o(h ^2)$
$\frac{\partial (f \circ g)}{\partial x} = \left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \circ g\right) \frac{\partial g}{\partial x}$	(Chain rule)

Elementary calculation rules

$$\begin{split} \mathrm{d} A &= 0 \\ \mathrm{d} [aX + bY] &= a\mathrm{d} X + b\mathrm{d} Y \qquad \text{(Linearity)} \\ \mathrm{d} [XY] &= (\mathrm{d} X)Y + X(\mathrm{d} Y) \qquad \text{(Product rule)} \\ \mathrm{d} [X^*] &= (\mathrm{d} X)^* \\ \mathrm{d} [X^{-1}] &= -X^{-1}(\mathrm{d} X)X^{-1} \\ \mathrm{d} \operatorname{tr} [X] &= \operatorname{tr} [\mathrm{d} X] \\ \mathrm{d} \frac{\mathrm{d} Z}{\mathrm{d} X} &= \frac{\mathrm{d} Z}{\mathrm{d} Y} \frac{\mathrm{d} Y}{\mathrm{d} X} \qquad \text{(Leibniz's chain rule)} \end{split}$$

Classical identities

$$d \operatorname{tr}[AXB] = \operatorname{tr}[BA \, dX]$$

$$d \operatorname{tr}[X^*AX] = \operatorname{tr}[X^*(A^* + A) \, dX]$$

$$d \operatorname{tr}[X^{-1}A] = \operatorname{tr}[-X^{-1}AX^{-1} \, dX]$$

$$d \operatorname{tr}[X^n] = \operatorname{tr}[nX^{n-1} \, dX]$$

$$d \operatorname{tr}[e^X] = \operatorname{tr}[e^X \, dX]$$

$$d|AXB| = \operatorname{tr}[|AXB|X^{-1} \, dX]$$

$$d|X^*AX| = \operatorname{tr}[2|X^*AX|X^{-1} \, dX]$$

$$d|X^n| = \operatorname{tr}[n|X^n|X^{-1} \, dX]$$

$$d \log |aX| = \operatorname{tr}[X^{-1} \, dX]$$

$$d \log |X^*X| = \operatorname{tr}[2X^+ \, dX]$$

Implicit function theorem

Let $f : \mathbb{R}^{n+m} \to \mathbb{R}^n$ be continuously differentiable and f(a,b) = 0 for $a \in \mathbb{R}^n$ and $b \in \mathbb{R}^m$. If $\frac{\partial f}{\partial y}(a,b)$ is invertible, then there exist g such that g(a) = band for all $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ in the neighborhood of a

$$\begin{split} f(x,g(x)) &= 0\\ \frac{\partial g}{\partial x_i}(x) &= -\left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial y}(x,g(x))\right)^{-1}\frac{\partial f}{\partial x_i}(x,g(x)) \end{split}$$

In a system of equations f(x, y) = 0 with an infinite number of solutions (x, y), IFT tells us about the relative variations of x with respect to y, even in situations where we cannot write down explicit solutions (*i.e.*, y = g(x)). For instance, without solving the system, it shows that the solutions (x, y) of $x^2 + y^2 = 1$ satisfies $\frac{\partial y}{\partial x} = -x/y$.

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Convex optimization

Conjugate gradient

Let $A \in \mathbb{C}^{n \times n}$ be Hermitian positive definite The sequence x_k defined as, $r_0 = p_0 = b$, and

 $\begin{aligned} x_{k+1} &= x_k + \alpha_k p_k \\ r_{k+1} &= r_k - \alpha_k A p_k \\ p_{k+1} &= r_{k+1} + \beta_k p_k \end{aligned} \quad \text{with} \quad \alpha_k &= \frac{r_k^* r_k}{p_k^* A p_k} \\ \text{with} \quad \beta_k &= \frac{r_{k+1}^* r_{k+1}}{r_k^* r_k} \end{aligned}$

converges towards $A^{-1}b$ in at most n steps.

Lipschitz gradient

 $f:\mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ has a L Lipschitz gradient if

$$\|\nabla f(x) - \nabla f(y)\|_2 \leqslant L \|x - y\|_2$$

If $\nabla f(x) = Ax$, $L = ||A||_2$. If f is twice differentiable $L = \sup_x ||H_f(x)||_2$, *i.e.*, the highest eigenvalue of $H_f(x)$ among all possible x.

Convexity

 $f:\mathbb{R}^n\to\mathbb{R}$ is convex if for all $x,\,y$ and $\lambda\in(0,1)$

 $f(\lambda x + (1 - \lambda)y) \leq \lambda f(x) + (1 - \lambda)f(y)$

f is strictly convex if the inequality is strict. f is convex and twice differentiable iif $H_f(x)$ is Hermitian non-negative definite. f is strictly convex and twice differentiable iif $H_f(x)$ is Hermitian positive definite. If f is convex, f has only global minima if any. We write the set of minima as

$$\operatorname*{argmin}_{x} f(x) = \{x \setminus \text{ for all } z \in \mathbb{R}^{n} f(x) \leqslant f(z)\}$$

Gradient descent

Let $f: \mathbb{R}^n \to \mathbb{R}$ be differentiable with L Lipschitz gradient then, for $0 < \gamma \leq 1/L$, the sequence

$$x_{k+1} = x_k - \gamma \nabla f(x_k)$$

converges towards a stationary point x^* in O(1/k)

$$\nabla f(x^\star) = 0$$

If f is moreover convex then

$$x^{\star} \in \operatorname*{argmin}_{x} f(x)$$

Newton's method

Let $f:\mathbb{R}^n\to\mathbb{R}$ be convex and twice continuously differentiable then, the sequence

$$x_{k+1} = x_k - H_f(x_k)^{-1} \nabla f(x_k)$$

converges towards a minimizer of f in $O(1/k^2)$.

Subdifferential / subgradient

The subdifferential of a convex^{\dagger} function f is

$$\partial f(x) = \{ p \setminus \forall x', f(x) - f(x') \ge \langle p, x - x' \rangle \}.$$

 $p \in \partial f(x)$ is called a subgradient of f at x. A point x^* is a global minimizer of f iif

$$0 \in \partial f(x^{\star}).$$

If f is differentiable then $\partial f(x) = \{\nabla f(x)\}.$

Proximal gradient method

Let f = g + h with g convex and differentiable with Lip. gradient and h convex[†]. Then, for $0 < \gamma \leq 1/L$,

$$x_{k+1} = \operatorname{prox}_{\gamma h}(x_k - \gamma \nabla g(x_k))$$

converges towards a global minimizer of \boldsymbol{f} where

$$\begin{aligned} \mathsf{prox}_{\gamma h}(x) &= (\mathrm{Id} + \gamma \partial h)^{-1}(x) \\ &= \operatorname*{argmin}_{z} \frac{1}{2} \|x - z\|^2 + \gamma h(z) \end{aligned}$$

is called proximal operator of f.

Convex conjugate and primal dual problem

The convex conjugate of a function $f: \mathbb{R}^n \to \mathbb{R}$ is

$$f^*(z) = \sup_x \langle z, x \rangle - f(x)$$

if f is convex (and lower semi-continuous) $f = f^{\star\star}$. Moreover, if f(x) = g(x) + h(Lx), then minimizers x^{\star} of f are solutions of the saddle point problem

$$(x^{\star}, z^{\star}) \in \arg \min_{x} \max_{z} g(x) + \langle Lx, z \rangle - h^{*}(z)$$

 z^{\star} is called dual of x^{\star} and satisfies $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} Lx^{\star}\in\partial h^{\ast}(z^{\star})\\ L^{\ast}z\in\partial g(x^{\star}) \end{array} \right.$