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Locating the Optimizer of a Non-Differentiable Convex Function in N-Space

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Abstract

In this paper, we consider the optimization of a convex function in N-space which is a special case of the general non-linear optimization problem of minimizing a non-linear function $f(x)$ over the n-dimensional Euclidean space R^n . The range of applications in which determination of $X^* \epsilon R^n$ at which $f(x)$ attains its minimum are important is extremely wide. There exists a unique minimizing value when the convex is nondifferentiable and the problem is to find it with minimum functional valuation. This is done by exploiting the connection between a convex function and the accretive operator.

Key words: convex function, optimizer, accretive operator and steepest descent.

1. Introduction

We consider the optimization of a convex function in N-space which is a special case of the non-linear optimization problem of minimizing a non-linear function $f(x)$ over the n-dimensional Euclidean space R. The range of applications in which determination of $X^*\epsilon R^n$ at which $f(X)$ attains its minimum are important is extremely wide.

The convex function is specially shaped so that if it possesses a finite minimum, the minimizing value X^* , say, is unique and the gradient of the function vanishes at X^* when f is differentiable and strictly convex. A number of finite terminating algorithms for obtaining approximate values of X are in literature. We implore the use of descent (steepest) method and the Newton's method. The basic problem is that of minimizing the non-linear convex function $f(x)$ subject to constraints

 $C_i(X)$, $i = 1, 2, ..., m$

Then one can view the problem as that of minimizing f over a closed convex subset. In other words, Let T be the projection map of R^n onto C , that is for $X\epsilon R^n\;$, TX is that elements in C such that

$$
||X - TX|| = inf ||X - Y||.
$$

 $\overline{}$

So that the sequence of elements X^n is then defined as follows

$$
X^{n+1} = T\left[X^n - f^n \frac{\partial f}{\partial x}\right] \tag{1}
$$

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Finally, the optimizer can be assumed to exist and the problem is to find it with minimum functional evaluation. We try to locate this X^* of the non-differentiable convex function f by exploiting the connection between a convex function and the accretive operator and central in this formulation is that of optimal experimental design.

2. Constrained Optimization.

An analysis of the multivariable unconstrained non-linear multivariable unconstrained non-linear maximization problems set the stage for the analysis of constrained models. The algorithmic difficulties to be overcome here are present also in the constrained case and the techniques below can be suitably modified when constraints are imposed. However, a constrained problem can often be solved by first converting to an unconstrained problem.

Many of the techniques for solving the general variable non-linear optimization actually employ simple variable optimization in one of the steps for example, a linear function

$$
f(x) = C_0 + C_1 x
$$

Has its optimal solutions at the extreme points, end points, If in a closed interval i.e.

$$
\max_{max} f(x) = f(a), x \in [a, b]
$$

To guarantee that solution techniques are valid, we impose certain assumptions.

2.1. Assumptions of Constrained Optimization.

1. For all values of $x \in R^n$, $f(x)$, is uniquely defined and finite.

2. For all $\frac{x \in R^n}{\sqrt{\frac{3x}{x}}}$ $\frac{1}{\partial x_j}$ is uniquely defined, finite and continuous.

3. $f(x)$ possess a finite optimum $x \in R^n$

4. for any possible value of, $f(x)$, say C, there exist an associated finite number MC. Such that every $|X_j| \leq MC$ if $f(\underline{x}) \geq C$

2.1.1 The Search for Optimal Solution.

In solving non-linear programming problems, it might appear a bit difficult but there are several fundamental theorems that can be utilized to guide our search even in the face of such difficulties. However, if such conditions as convexities or concavity are met, the characterization of the optimal solution becomes relatively well defined. But we are dealing with bounded continuous functions, by Weierstrass theorem guarantees us that a maximum or minimum will always exist either at a point interior to the boundaries of the feasible solution variable or at the boundaries itself. This is intuitively clear, since a bounded function must always possess maximum or minimum values somewhere within the region of interest. If the function is continuous over the domain of interest, stationary points can be located through the use of differential calculus provided all derivations can be found.

2.2 Steepest Descent Method.

The impossibility in finding the minimum of a function analytically paves way for an iterative method for obtaining an approximate solution to it also the Newton's method though being effective but it is unreliable. Hence we consider the steepest descent approach. Given a function $R^n\to R$ that is differentiable at X_0 , the direction of the steepest descent is the vector $-\nabla f(X_0)$.

$$
\varphi(t) = f(X_0 + t u) \tag{1.1}
$$

Where u is a unit vector.

$$
\varphi | (t) = \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_1} \frac{\partial x_1}{\partial t} + \dots + \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_n} \frac{\partial x_n}{\partial t}
$$

$$
\frac{\partial f}{\partial x_1} U_1 + \dots + \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_n} U_n
$$

$$
\nabla f (x_0 + tU) \cdot U
$$

:. φ [|](0) = $\nabla f(x_0)$. $U = |\nabla f(x_0)| \cos \theta$

Where θ is the angle between $\nabla f(x_0)$ and U. it follows that $\varphi^{\vert}(0)$ is minimized when $\theta=\pi$ which yields

$$
U = \frac{-\nabla f(x_0)}{|\nabla f(x_0)|} \varphi(0) = -|\nabla f(x_0)|
$$

We can therefore reduce the problem of minimizing a function of several variable to a single variable minimization problem, by finding the minimum of $\varphi(t)$ for this choice. ie, we can find the value of t, for $t > 0$, that minimizes

$$
\varphi(t) = f\big(x_0 - t\nabla f(x_0)\big) \tag{1.2}
$$

After finding the minimizer t_0 , we can set

$$
X_1 = X_0 - t_0 \nabla f(X_0)
$$

and continue the process by searching from X_1 in the direction of $-\nabla f(X_1)$ to obtain X_2 by minimizing

$$
\varphi_1(t) = f(x_1 - t\nabla f(x_1))
$$

and so on

This is the method of steepest descent qiven an initial guess X_0 . The method computes a sequence of iterates, where

$$
X_{k+1} = X_k - t_k \nabla f(X_0) \quad k = 0, 1, 2, \dots \tag{1.3}
$$

Where t_k 0 minimizes the function

$$
\varphi_k(t) = f\big(x_k - t\nabla f(x_k)\big) \tag{1.4}
$$

Example;

Consider the non-linear minimization problem

Minimize
$$
f(X_1, X_2) = X_1 - X_2 + 2X_1^2 + 2X_1X_2 + X_2
$$
 (1.5)

Using steepest descent method with the initial point at $X_0 = (0,0)$

Solution:

$$
H\langle X\rangle = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial^2 f(x)}{\partial^2 f(x_1)} & \frac{\partial^2 f(x)}{\partial f(x_1) \partial f(x_2)} \\ \frac{\partial^2 f(x)}{\partial x_1 x_2} & \frac{\partial^2 f(x)}{\partial^2 x_2} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 4 & 2 \\ 2 & 2 \end{bmatrix} = 4 > 0
$$

Hence convex.

$$
\nabla f(\underline{x}) = \left(\frac{\partial f(x)}{\partial x_1}, \frac{\partial f(x)}{\partial x_2}\right) = (1 + 4x_1 + x_2 \dots -1 + 2x_1 + 2x_2)
$$

$$
\nabla f(\underline{X}^*) = (1, -1)
$$

$$
X_{n+1} = (0, 0) - t(1, -i) = -t, t
$$

Substituting in (1.5) we obtain

$$
t = 1, \quad X_1^1 = -1, X_2^1 = 1
$$

\n
$$
\frac{X_2}{(1+t)} = \frac{(-1,1) - t(-1,-1)}{(-1,1)} = -1 + t, 1 + t
$$

\n
$$
(-1+t) - (1+t) + 2(-1+t)^2 + [(-1+t)(1+t) + (1+t)^2]
$$

\n
$$
\frac{5t^2 - 2t - 1}{5t^2 - 2t - 1}
$$

\n
$$
\frac{\partial f(x)}{\partial t} = 10t - 2 \rightarrow t = \frac{1}{5}
$$

\n
$$
\rightarrow (-1,1) = \frac{1}{5}(-1,-1)
$$

\n
$$
= -1 + \frac{1}{5} = -0.8 = X_1^2
$$

So from this we can proceed to get the result in the table below.

Table 1: Results of the minimization problem using the steepest descent method

Optimal value -1.0, 1.5

2.3 Nature of the Objective Function

Suppose that the function is now restricted further by adding an assumption about its shape. A general variable function $f(x)$ is defined as convex if the inequality is replaced by $0 < y > 1$ so that we have the sufficient conditions for a minimum.

Given assumption (1) to (4) in 2.1 and that $f(x)$ is convex, if each $\frac{\partial f}{\partial x_j} = 0$ at a point X^* then $f(X^*)$ is the minimum value for $f(x)$.

Further, if $f(x)$ is strictly convexthen X^* is unique.

Therefore, local minimum of a convex function is also a global minimum.

Thus if one applies the method at steepest descent using an optimal step size, then the sequence f descent using an optimal step size, then the sequence $f(X_k)$ decrease the limit to the minimum value of $f(X)$

If the function is strictly convex, the entire sequence X^k converges to the unique optimal solution X^* .

3. Locating the Optimizer of a Non-Differentiable Convex Function in N-Space

A convex function in n-space is defined as; for any two points \underline{X}^1 and \underline{X}^2 and $0 \leq \gamma \leq 1$, $F([\gamma(\underline{X^1}) + (1-\gamma(\underline{X^2})^2 + \gamma(\underline{X^2})^2 + \gamma(\underline{X^3})^2)]$ γ) $(\frac{X^2}{3})$] $\leq X\gamma = \left(\left(\frac{(X^1)}{(X^2)} + (1-\gamma)F(X^2) \right) \right)$.

Where f is non-differentiable convex function, a unique minimizing value $X^* \epsilon R^*$ can be assumed to exist and the problem is to find it with minimum functional evaluation. We try to locate X^* of the differentiable convex function f by exploiting the connection between a convex function and the accretive operator. Central in this formulation is the method of optimal experimental design.

3.1 Accretive Operator's

A mapping T with domain $D(T)$ and range $R(T)$ is accretive if the inequality $\langle X - X^*, TX - TX^* \rangle \geq 0$ holds for every X , $X^*\epsilon D(T)$, where $\langle \rangle$ denotes the inner product in R^n

If \ge this is replaced by $>$ we say that T is strongly accretive. For a convex function, $f(X)$ satisfies:

$$
f(C_1X + C_2X^*) \le C_1f(X) + C_2f(X)
$$

$$
C_1 \ge 0
$$
, $C_2 \ge 0$ and $C_1 + C_2 = 1$ for X and $X^* \in R^n$

Minty [10] for every $X^*\epsilon R^n$, we can associate the vector AX^* , such that

$$
f(X) - f(X^*) \ge \langle X - X^*, AX^* \rangle, X \in \mathbb{R}^n
$$
\n^(1.6)

So that

$$
f(X^*) - f(X) \ge \langle X^* - X, AX \rangle \tag{1.7}
$$

Adding equations 1.6 and 1.7, we have

$$
0 \geq \langle X - X^*, AX^* \rangle + \langle X^* - X, AX \rangle
$$

= $\langle X - X^*, AX - AX^* \rangle$

Thus, we can see that the A associated with the convex function(3.1) is accretive and that $AX^* = 0$. Again from equation 1.6 we have $f(X) - f(X^*) = 0$ so that $f(X) \ge f(X^*)$ Hence X^* is the optimizer of F when $AX^* = 0$

If F differentiable, AX^* is identifiable with the gradient of $f(x)$ at X^* . Let's denote the kernel of A by

$$
K_A = \{x \in R^n : AX = 0\}
$$

Then the kernel of the accretive operator A associated with the convexn function f turns out to be the optimizer of f . Hence the problem of locating the optimizer of f is equivalent to that of obtaining the kernel of the accretive operator A.

Chidume(2) showed that given a sequence $\{C_n\}_{n=0}^\infty$ satisfies A if

$$
A_1: C^2 = 1, 0 < C_n < 1 \text{ for a a } n \ge 1
$$

$$
A_{11}: \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} C^n = \infty
$$

$$
A_{111}: \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (C^n)^2 < \infty
$$

The sequence $\{X^n\}_{n=0}^{\infty}$ generated by $X^0 \in D(A)$, $X^{n+1} = X^n - C^n A X^n$, $n \ge 0$ converges strongly to the solution of the equation $AX=0$ where A is strongly accretive with error estimates $\|X^n-X^*\|=0$ $(n^{-\frac{1}{2}})$

However, the main constraint is that in a given situation, we may not be able to compute the vector AX but only observe it at a point. Thus we employ the method of response surface exploration to estimate it. This method is optimal because it minimizes the Euclidean distance between the true and estimated accretive operator.

3.1.1. Estimating the Accretive Operator.

Let $f(x) = f(x^*) = y(x)$ such that equation 3.2becomes

$$
y(x) \ge \langle X - X^*, AX^* \rangle
$$
 (1.8)
Suppose that the design is chosen in the neighbourhood of X^{*}, the relation between Y((X_j) and the vector
 $X_j = X^* \in R^n$ is well represented by the hyperplane.

$$
y(X_j) = (X_j - X^*, AX^*) + e(X_j)
$$
 (1.9)

Where $e(X_j)$ isan observableand it is error used to account for one's inequality to describe $\langle X_j - X^*, A X^* \rangle$ which is the so called response surface.

Let us suppose also that as a result of the experimental design X_1, \ldots, X_n , it is possible to construct an estimate $\check{A}X^*$ of AX^* "indirectly" based on the measured values $y(X_1),$ … … … . $y(X_n)$ such that the Euclidean distance between the true accretive operator AX^* and the estimated accretive operator $\check{A}X^*$ is minimized. This isvery possible for each observable Y, we associate a positive linear operator P such that

i. If
$$
y(X_j) \ge 0
$$
 then $P(y(X_j) \ge 0$
\nii. $P(\alpha_i, y(X_1) + y(X_2) = \alpha_1 P[y(X_1] + \alpha_2 P[y(X_2])$
\niii. $P[y(X_j) - P\{[y(X_j][y(X_k) - P[y(X_k)]] = (y(X_j - P(y(X_j), y(X_k) - P(y(X_k)))$
\n
$$
= \begin{cases} ||(X_j) - P(y(X)_j||^2 \le \rho : j = k \\ 0 & \text{if } j \ne i \end{cases}
$$

\niv. $P(e(X_j) = 0$

.

So that $P(y(X_j)) = \langle X_j - X^*, AX^* \rangle$

Let
$$
X_j - X^* = t_j \epsilon R^n
$$

So

$$
P(y(X_j)) = t_j^{\perp} A X^*
$$
 (2)

and

$$
m = \sum_{j=1}^n t_j t_j^{\dagger}
$$

is a symmetric matrix.

Thus, when m is non-singular, the unique solution of the equation

$$
\varphi(A^2X^*) = min\varphi(AX^*), \quad AX^* \in R^n
$$

Where

$$
\varphi(AX^*) = \sum_{j=1}^n (y(X_j) - t_j (AX^*)^2)
$$
 (2.1)

Is

$$
\overline{A}X^* = m^{-1} \sum_{j=1}^n t_j y(X_j)
$$
\nThus out to be the least square estimate of AY^*

Which turns out to be the least square estimate of AX

Then

$$
P\left(\overline{A}X^*\right) = m^{-1}\sum_{j=1}^n t_j P\left(y(X_j)\right) = m^{-1}\sum_{j=1}^N t_j t_j^j A X^* = A X^*
$$

So that

$$
||A^2X^* - AX^*||^2 = m^{-1}\varphi(AX^*) = m^{-1}\rho I
$$

(where I is the identity matrix).

 ρ is not known and has no influence on the estimation of AX^* and on the design used so that without loss of generality we assume $\varphi \rho I = I$ and hence magnitude of the Euclidean distance between the estimated and true accretive operator depends only on the design used.

3.2 Numerical example

Consider the convex function

$$
f(X_1, X_2) = X_1 - X_2 + 2X_1^2 + X_2^2 + 2X_1X_2
$$

The optimizer is $X^* = (X_1^*, X_2^*) = (-1, 1.5)$ and let the searching point be and let the design be $X_0 = (0,0)$ and let the design be

$$
\sum_{j=1}^{N} t_{ij} = 0.\frac{1}{N} \sum_{j=1}^{N} t_{ij}^{2} = 1 \quad \text{for each } i.
$$

Where $t_i = (t_{1,i}, t_{2,i}, \dots, t_{nj}) \in R^n$.

Design:

Choose the four vertices of a square of a unit radius centred origin.

We can state the problem as

Minimize $f(X_2, X_2) = X_1 - X_2 + 2X_1^2 + 2X_1X_2 + X_2^2$, $X = (X_1, X_2)$

So that if $Y = (y_1, ..., ..., y_n)$ is known and $Y(X) = f(X) - f(X^*) = (X - X^*, TX^*)$ Our design point constitutes the following:

$$
t_1 = (1,1), t_2 = (1,-1), t_3 = (-1,1), t_4 = (-1,-1)
$$

Then estimate for the accretive operator T denoted by A^* is given by

$$
m^{-1} \sum_{j=1}^{m} t_j y(X_j)
$$
 (2.3)

We denote the sequence $\{X^n\}_{n=0}^\infty \ \epsilon \ R^n$ Iterated by $X^0\epsilon R^n \ \ along\ X^{n+1}=X^n-\mathcal{C}^nX^*$ With error estimate given as $\|X^n-X^*\| = \text{O}\ (n^{-\frac{1}{2}})$

We see $X^n \in R^n$ such that so that $\|X^{n+1} - X^n\| < \delta$ the sequence $\{X^n\}_{n=0}^\infty$ will converge to the solution of $Tx = 0$ for a finite n.

Let the response vector be

$$
Y = \begin{pmatrix} Y(x_1) \\ Y(x_2) \\ Y(x_3) \\ Y(x_4) \end{pmatrix}
$$

$$
Y = \begin{pmatrix} 5 \\ 3 \\ -1 \\ 5 \end{pmatrix}
$$
(2.4)

So that

In order to estimate A*, we compute $t_{i,j} = X_{i,j} - X_j$ $i = 1, 2, ..., n$., $j = 1, 2, ..., ..., m$ From the design so that

$$
X = \begin{pmatrix} X_{11} - X_1^0 & X_{12} - X_2^0 \\ X_{21} - X_1^0 & X_{22} - X_0^0 \\ X_{31} - X_1^0 X_{32} - X_2^0 \\ X_{41} - X_1^0 X_{42} - X_2^0 \end{pmatrix}
$$

$$
\tilde{A} = (y^{|X})^{-1}X^{|Y|} = \begin{pmatrix} t_{11} & t_{12} \\ t_{21}t_{22} \\ t_{31} & t_{32} \\ t_{41} & t_{42} \end{pmatrix}
$$
(2.5)

So that $m = X^{\dagger} X$ thus $A^* X^0 = (X^{\dagger^{-1}} X) X$

 (2.6)

From the design

$$
X = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & -1 \\ -1 & 1 \\ -1 & -1 \end{pmatrix}
$$
 (2.7)

So that

$$
m = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & -1 & -1 \\ 1 & -1 & 1 & -1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & -1 \\ -1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 4 & 0 \\ 0 & 4 \end{pmatrix}
$$

Hence, $A^* = m^{-1}X^{\dagger}y$

$$
= \begin{pmatrix} 0.25 & 0 \\ 0 & 0.25 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & -1 & -1 \\ 1 & -1 & 1 & -1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 5 \\ 3 \\ -1 \\ 5 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0.25 & 0.25 & -0.25 & -0.25 \\ 0.25 & -0.25 & 0.25 & -0.25 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 5 \\ 3 \\ -1 \\ 5 \end{pmatrix}
$$

us

 $A^*X^0 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$

 $\binom{1}{1}$

Thu

Having obtained A^{*}, we approximate
$$
X^S \epsilon K_{T_0}
$$
 along $X^{k+1} = X^k - C^k A^*, K \ge 0$

Where
$$
C^k = \frac{1}{K+1}
$$
 for $k \ge 0$

For the first iteration we have

$$
X^{\dagger} = X_0 - C^0 A^*
$$
, $C^0 = \frac{1}{T} = 1$ and $A^* = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix}$

The starting point is

$$
X^0 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}
$$

So that

$$
X^{\rceil} = \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}
$$

We continue in this manner for the second, third and so on. So the response

$$
y(X_1) = f(X_{1\,1}, X_{12}) - f(X_1^{\mid}, X_2^{\mid})
$$

Which we summarized in a column vector as

$$
Y = \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 7 \end{pmatrix}
$$

The blue A* for the accretive operator T_0X^{\prime} is then

$$
\begin{pmatrix}\n0.25 & 0.25 & -0.25 & -0.25 \\
0.25 & -0.25 & 0.25 & -0.25\n\end{pmatrix}\n\begin{pmatrix}\n3 \\
1 \\
1 \\
7\n\end{pmatrix} =\n\begin{pmatrix}\n0.75 + 0.25 - 0.25 - 1.75 \\
0.75 - 0.25 + 0.25 - 1.75\n\end{pmatrix} =\n\begin{pmatrix}\n-1 \\
-1\n\end{pmatrix}
$$
\n
$$
\therefore A^* = \begin{pmatrix}\n-1 \\
-1\n\end{pmatrix}
$$
\n
$$
C^{\parallel} = \frac{1}{2}
$$
\n
$$
\therefore X^2 = X^{\parallel} - C^{\parallel}A^* =\n\begin{pmatrix}\n-1 \\
-1\n\end{pmatrix} - \frac{1}{2}\begin{pmatrix}\n-1 \\
-1\n\end{pmatrix} =\n\begin{pmatrix}\n-0.5 \\
1.5\n\end{pmatrix}
$$
\n
$$
\therefore X^2 = \begin{pmatrix}\n-0.5 \\
1.5\n\end{pmatrix}
$$

Hence we have the following result in the table

$$
C^n = \frac{1}{n+1}
$$

Table 2: Result of the design

The performance of the steepest descent for the estimated accretive operator relative to the steepest descent method is summarized in the table below.

Table 3: Steepest descent method for estimated accretive operator

4. Conclusion

The steepest descent method for the estimated accretive operator solves the minimization problem with no reference to the derivative of the function. However, if the C^n design are optimized the formulation of the steepest descent for the estimated accretive operator is the generalization of the ordinary steepest descent method.

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