

# 15.093 Optimization Methods

Lecture 18: Optimality Conditions and  
Gradient Methods  
for Unconstrained Optimization

# 1 Outline

SLIDE 1

1. Necessary and sufficient optimality conditions
2. Gradient methods
3. The steepest descent algorithm
4. Rate of convergence
5. Line search algorithms

# 2 Last Lecture

SLIDE 2

Nonlinear Optimization Applications

- Portfolio Selection
- Facility Location (Geometry Problems)
- Traffic Assignment, Routing

# 3 The general problem

SLIDE 3

$$f: \mathfrak{R}^n \mapsto \mathfrak{R}$$

is a continuous (usually differentiable) function of  $n$  variables

$$g_i: \mathfrak{R}^n \mapsto \mathfrak{R}, i = 1, \dots, m, h_j: \mathfrak{R}^n \mapsto \mathfrak{R}, j = 1, \dots, l$$

$NLP:$	$\min$	$f(\mathbf{x})$	
	$s.t.$	$g_1(\mathbf{x})$	$\leq 0$
		$\vdots$	
		$g_m(\mathbf{x})$	$\leq 0$
		$h_1(\mathbf{x})$	$= 0$
		$\vdots$	
		$h_l(\mathbf{x})$	$= 0$

## 3.1 Local vs Global Minima

SLIDE 4

- $\mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{F}$  is a *local minimum* of  $NLP$  if there exists  $\epsilon > 0$  such that  $f(\mathbf{x}) \leq f(\mathbf{y})$  for all  $\mathbf{y} \in B(\mathbf{x}, \epsilon) \cap \mathcal{F}$
- $\mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{F}$  is a *global minimum* of  $NLP$  if  $f(\mathbf{x}) \leq f(\mathbf{y})$  for all  $\mathbf{y} \in \mathcal{F}$ .

## 4 Convex Sets and Functions

SLIDE 5

- A subset  $S \subset \mathbb{R}^n$  is a *convex set* if

$$\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \in S \Rightarrow \lambda \mathbf{x} + (1 - \lambda) \mathbf{y} \in S \quad \forall \lambda \in [0, 1]$$

- A function  $f(\mathbf{x})$  is a *convex function* if

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

$$\forall \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \quad \forall \lambda \in [0, 1]$$

## 5 Convex Optimization

### 5.1 Convexity and Minima

SLIDE 6

*COP* is called a *convex optimization problem* if  $f(\mathbf{x}), g_1(\mathbf{x}), \dots, g_m(\mathbf{x})$  are convex functions

This implies that the objective function is convex and the feasible region  $\mathcal{F}$  is a convex set.

Implication: If *COP* is a convex optimization problem, then any local minimum will be a global minimum.

## 6 Optimality Conditions

SLIDE 7

### Necessary Conds for Local Optima

“If  $\bar{\mathbf{x}}$  is local optimum then  $\bar{\mathbf{x}}$  must satisfy ...”

Identifies all candidates for local optima.

### Sufficient Conds for Local Optima

“If  $\bar{\mathbf{x}}$  satisfies ..., then  $\bar{\mathbf{x}}$  must be a local optimum ”

## 7 Optimality Conditions

### 7.1 Necessary conditions

SLIDE 8

Consider

$$\min_{\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n} f(\mathbf{x})$$

Zero first order variation along all directions

Theorem

Let  $f(\mathbf{x})$  be continuously differentiable.

If  $\mathbf{x}^* \in \mathfrak{R}^n$  is a local minimum of  $f(\mathbf{x})$ , then

$$\nabla f(\mathbf{x}^*) = \mathbf{0} \text{ and } \nabla^2 f(\mathbf{x}^*) \text{ PSD}$$

**7.2 Proof**

SLIDE 9

Zero slope at local min  $\mathbf{x}^*$

- $f(\mathbf{x}^*) \leq f(\mathbf{x}^* + \lambda \mathbf{d})$  for all  $\mathbf{d} \in \mathfrak{R}^n, \lambda \in \mathfrak{R}$
- Pick  $\lambda > 0$

$$0 \leq \frac{f(\mathbf{x}^* + \lambda \mathbf{d}) - f(\mathbf{x}^*)}{\lambda}$$

- Take limits as  $\lambda \rightarrow 0$

$$0 \leq \nabla f(\mathbf{x}^*)' \mathbf{d}, \quad \forall \mathbf{d} \in \mathfrak{R}^n$$

- Since  $\mathbf{d}$  arbitrary, replace with  $-\mathbf{d} \Rightarrow \nabla f(\mathbf{x}^*) = \mathbf{0}$ .

SLIDE 10

Nonnegative curvature at a local min  $\mathbf{x}^*$

- $f(\mathbf{x}^* + \lambda \mathbf{d}) - f(\mathbf{x}^*) = \nabla f(\mathbf{x}^*)'(\lambda \mathbf{d}) + \frac{1}{2}(\lambda \mathbf{d})' \nabla^2 f(\mathbf{x}^*)(\lambda \mathbf{d}) + \|\lambda \mathbf{d}\|^2 R(\mathbf{x}^*; \lambda \mathbf{d})$   
 where  $R(\mathbf{x}^*; y) \rightarrow 0$  as  $y \rightarrow 0$ . Since  $\nabla f(\mathbf{x}^*) = \mathbf{0}$ ,

$$= \frac{1}{2} \lambda^2 \mathbf{d}' \nabla^2 f(\mathbf{x}^*) \mathbf{d} + \lambda^2 \|\mathbf{d}\|^2 R(\mathbf{x}^*; \lambda \mathbf{d}) \Rightarrow$$

$$\frac{f(\mathbf{x}^* + \lambda \mathbf{d}) - f(\mathbf{x}^*)}{\lambda^2} = \frac{1}{2} \mathbf{d}' \nabla^2 f(\mathbf{x}^*) \mathbf{d} + \|\mathbf{d}\|^2 R(\mathbf{x}^*; \lambda \mathbf{d})$$

If  $\nabla^2 f(\mathbf{x}^*)$  is not PSD,  $\exists \bar{\mathbf{d}}: \bar{\mathbf{d}}' \nabla^2 f(\mathbf{x}^*) \bar{\mathbf{d}} < 0 \Rightarrow f(\mathbf{x}^* + \lambda \bar{\mathbf{d}}) < f(\bar{\mathbf{x}}), \forall \lambda$   
 suff. small QED.

**7.3 Example**

SLIDE 11

$$f(x) = \frac{1}{2}x_1^2 + x_1 \cdot x_2 + 2x_2^2 - 4x_1 - 4x_2 - x_2^3$$

$$\nabla f(x) = (x_1 + x_2 - 4, x_1 + 4x_2 - 4 - 3x_2^2) \text{ Candidates } \mathbf{x}^* = (4, 0) \text{ and } \bar{\mathbf{x}} = (3, 1)$$

$$\nabla^2 f(x) = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 4 - 6x_2 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\nabla^2 f(\mathbf{x}^*) = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 4 \end{bmatrix}$$

PSD

SLIDE 12

$$\bar{\mathbf{x}} = (3, 1)$$

$$\nabla^2 f(\bar{\mathbf{x}}) = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & -2 \end{bmatrix}$$

Indefinite matrix

$\mathbf{x}^*$  is the only candidate for local min

## 7.4 Sufficient conditions

SLIDE 13

Theorem  $f$  twice continuously differentiable. If  $\nabla f(\mathbf{x}^*) = \mathbf{0}$  and  $\nabla^2 f(\mathbf{x})$  PSD in  $B(\mathbf{x}^*, \epsilon)$ , then  $\mathbf{x}^*$  is a local minimum.

Proof: Taylor series expansion: For all  $\mathbf{x} \in B(\mathbf{x}^*, \epsilon)$

$$f(\mathbf{x}) = f(\mathbf{x}^*) + \nabla f(\mathbf{x}^*)'(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}^*) + \frac{1}{2}(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}^*)' \nabla^2 f(\mathbf{x}^* + \lambda(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}^*))(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}^*)$$

for some  $\lambda \in [0, 1]$

$$\Rightarrow f(\mathbf{x}) \geq f(\mathbf{x}^*)$$

## 7.5 Example Continued...

SLIDE 14

At  $\mathbf{x}^* = (4, 0)$ ,  $\nabla f(\mathbf{x}^*) = \mathbf{0}$  and

$$\nabla^2 f(\mathbf{x}) = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 4 - 6x_2 \end{bmatrix}$$

is PSD for  $\mathbf{x} \in B(\mathbf{x}^*, \epsilon)$

SLIDE 15

$f(\mathbf{x}) = x_1^3 + x_2^2$  and  $\nabla f(\mathbf{x}) = (3x_1^2, 2x_2)$   $\mathbf{x}^* = (0, 0)$

$\nabla^2 f(\mathbf{x}) = \begin{bmatrix} 6x_1 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$  is not PSD in  $B(\mathbf{0}, \epsilon)$

$$f(-\epsilon, 0) = -\epsilon^3 < 0 = f(\mathbf{x}^*)$$

## 7.6 Characterization of convex functions

SLIDE 16

Theorem Let  $f(\mathbf{x})$  be continuously differentiable.

Then  $f(\mathbf{x})$  is convex if and only if

$$\nabla f(\mathbf{x})'(\bar{\mathbf{x}} - \mathbf{x}) \leq f(\bar{\mathbf{x}}) - f(\mathbf{x})$$

## 7.7 Proof

SLIDE 17

By convexity

$$f(\lambda\bar{\mathbf{x}} + (1-\lambda)\mathbf{x}) \leq \lambda f(\bar{\mathbf{x}}) + (1-\lambda)f(\mathbf{x})$$

$$\frac{f(\mathbf{x} + \lambda(\bar{\mathbf{x}} - \mathbf{x})) - f(\mathbf{x})}{\lambda} \leq f(\bar{\mathbf{x}}) - f(\mathbf{x})$$

As  $\lambda \rightarrow 0$ ,

$$\nabla f(\mathbf{x})'(\bar{\mathbf{x}} - \mathbf{x}) \leq f(\bar{\mathbf{x}}) - f(\mathbf{x})$$

## 7.8 Convex functions

SLIDE 18

Theorem Let  $f(\mathbf{x})$  be a continuously differentiable convex function. Then  $\mathbf{x}^*$  is a minimum of  $f$  if and only if

$$\nabla f(\mathbf{x}^*) = \mathbf{0}$$

Proof: If  $f$  convex and  $\nabla f(\mathbf{x}^*) = \mathbf{0}$

$$f(\mathbf{x}) - f(\mathbf{x}^*) \geq \nabla f(\mathbf{x}^*)'(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}^*) = 0$$

## 7.9 Descent Directions

SLIDE 19

Interesting Observation

$f$  diff/ble at  $\bar{\mathbf{x}}$

$\exists d: \nabla f(\bar{\mathbf{x}})'d < 0 \Rightarrow \forall \lambda > 0$ , suff. small,  $f(\bar{\mathbf{x}} + \lambda d) < f(\bar{\mathbf{x}})$

( $d$ : descent direction)

## 7.10 Proof

SLIDE 20

$$f(\bar{\mathbf{x}} + \lambda d) = f(\bar{\mathbf{x}}) + \lambda \nabla f(\bar{\mathbf{x}})'d + \lambda \|d\| R(\bar{\mathbf{x}}, \lambda d)$$

where  $R(\bar{\mathbf{x}}, \lambda d) \xrightarrow{\lambda \rightarrow 0} 0$

$$\frac{f(\bar{\mathbf{x}} + \lambda d) - f(\bar{\mathbf{x}})}{\lambda} = \nabla f(\bar{\mathbf{x}})'d + \|d\| R(\bar{\mathbf{x}}, \lambda d)$$

$\nabla f(\bar{\mathbf{x}})'d < 0$ ,  $R(\bar{\mathbf{x}}, \lambda d) \xrightarrow{\lambda \rightarrow 0} 0 \Rightarrow$

$\forall \lambda > 0$  suff. small  $f(\bar{\mathbf{x}} + \lambda d) < f(\bar{\mathbf{x}})$ . QED

# 8 Algorithms for unconstrained optimization

## 8.1 Gradient Methods-Motivation

SLIDE 21

- Decrease  $f(\mathbf{x})$  until  $\nabla f(\mathbf{x}^*) = \mathbf{0}$

- 

$$f(\bar{\mathbf{x}} + \lambda d) \approx f(\bar{\mathbf{x}}) + \lambda \nabla f(\bar{\mathbf{x}})'d$$

- If  $\nabla f(\bar{\mathbf{x}})'d < 0$ , then for small  $\lambda > 0$ ,

$$f(\bar{\mathbf{x}} + \lambda d) < f(\bar{\mathbf{x}})$$

## 9 Gradient Methods

### 9.1 A generic algorithm

SLIDE 22

- $\mathbf{x}^{k+1} = \mathbf{x}^k + \lambda^k \mathbf{d}^k$
- If  $\nabla f(\mathbf{x}^k) \neq \mathbf{0}$ , direction  $\mathbf{d}^k$  satisfies:

$$\nabla f(\mathbf{x}^k)' \mathbf{d}^k < 0$$

- Step-length  $\lambda^k > 0$
- Principal example:

$$\mathbf{x}^{k+1} = \mathbf{x}^k - \lambda^k \mathbf{D}^k \nabla f(\mathbf{x}^k)$$

$\mathbf{D}^k$  positive definite symmetric matrix

### 9.2 Principal directions

SLIDE 23

- Steepest descent:

$$\mathbf{x}^{k+1} = \mathbf{x}^k - \lambda^k \nabla f(\mathbf{x}^k)$$

- Newton's method:

$$\mathbf{x}^{k+1} = \mathbf{x}^k - \lambda^k (\nabla^2 f(\mathbf{x}^k))^{-1} \nabla f(\mathbf{x}^k)$$

### 9.3 Other directions

SLIDE 24

- Diagonally scaled steepest descent

$$\mathbf{D}^k = \text{Diagonal approximation to } (\nabla^2 f(\mathbf{x}^k))^{-1}$$

- Modified Newton's method

$$\mathbf{D}^k = \text{Diagonal approximation to } (\nabla^2 f(\mathbf{x}^0))^{-1}$$

- Gauss-Newton method for least squares problems  $f(\mathbf{x}) = \|g(\mathbf{x})\|^2$   $\mathbf{D}^k = (\nabla g(\mathbf{x}^k) \nabla g(\mathbf{x}^k)')^{-1}$

## 10 Steepest descent

### 10.1 The algorithm

SLIDE 25

- Step 0** Given  $\mathbf{x}^0$ , set  $k := 0$ .
- Step 1**  $\mathbf{d}^k := -\nabla f(\mathbf{x}^k)$ . If  $\|\mathbf{d}^k\| \leq \epsilon$ , then stop.
- Step 2** Solve  $\min_{\lambda} h(\lambda) := f(\mathbf{x}^k + \lambda \mathbf{d}^k)$  for the step-length  $\lambda^k$ , perhaps chosen by an exact or inexact line-search.
- Step 3** Set  $\mathbf{x}^{k+1} \leftarrow \mathbf{x}^k + \lambda^k \mathbf{d}^k$ ,  $k \leftarrow k + 1$ .  
Go to **Step 1**.

## 10.2 An example

SLIDE 26

minimize  $f(x_1, x_2) = 5x_1^2 + x_2^2 + 4x_1x_2 - 14x_1 - 6x_2 + 20$

$$\mathbf{x}^* = (x_1^*, x_2^*)' = (1, 1)'$$

$$f(\mathbf{x}^*) = 10$$

SLIDE 27

Given  $\mathbf{x}^k$

$$\mathbf{d}^k = -\nabla f(x_1^k, x_2^k) = \begin{pmatrix} -10x_1^k - 4x_2^k + 14 \\ -2x_2^k - 4x_1^k + 6 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} d_1^k \\ d_2^k \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{aligned} h(\lambda) &= f(\mathbf{x}^k + \lambda \mathbf{d}^k) \\ &= 5(x_1^k + \lambda d_1^k)^2 + (x_2^k + \lambda d_2^k)^2 + 4(x_1^k + \lambda d_1^k)(x_2^k + \lambda d_2^k) - \\ &\quad - 14(x_1^k + \lambda d_1^k) - 6(x_2^k + \lambda d_2^k) + 20 \end{aligned}$$

$$\lambda^k = \frac{(d_1^k)^2 + (d_2^k)^2}{2(5(d_1^k)^2 + (d_2^k)^2 + 4d_1^k d_2^k)}$$

SLIDE 28

Start at  $\mathbf{x} = (0, 10)'$

$$\varepsilon = 10^{-6}$$

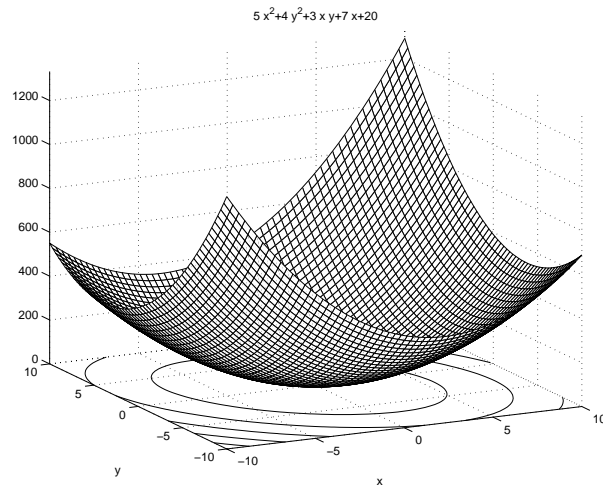
$k$	$x_1^k$	$x_2^k$	$d_1^k$	$d_2^k$	$\ \mathbf{d}^k\ _2$	$\lambda^k$	$f(\mathbf{x}^k)$
1	0.000000	10.000000	-26.000000	-14.000000	29.52964612	0.0866	60.000000
2	-2.252782	8.786963	1.379968	-2.562798	2.91071234	2.1800	22.222576
3	0.755548	3.200064	-6.355739	-3.422321	7.21856659	0.0866	12.987827
4	0.204852	2.903535	0.337335	-0.626480	0.71152803	2.1800	10.730379
5	0.940243	1.537809	-1.553670	-0.836592	1.76458951	0.0866	10.178542
6	0.805625	1.465322	0.082462	-0.153144	0.17393410	2.1800	10.043645
7	0.985392	1.131468	-0.379797	-0.204506	0.43135657	0.0866	10.010669
8	0.952485	1.113749	0.020158	-0.037436	0.04251845	2.1800	10.002608
9	0.996429	1.032138	-0.092842	-0.049992	0.10544577	0.0866	10.000638
10	0.988385	1.027806	0.004928	-0.009151	0.01039370	2.1800	10.000156

SLIDE 29

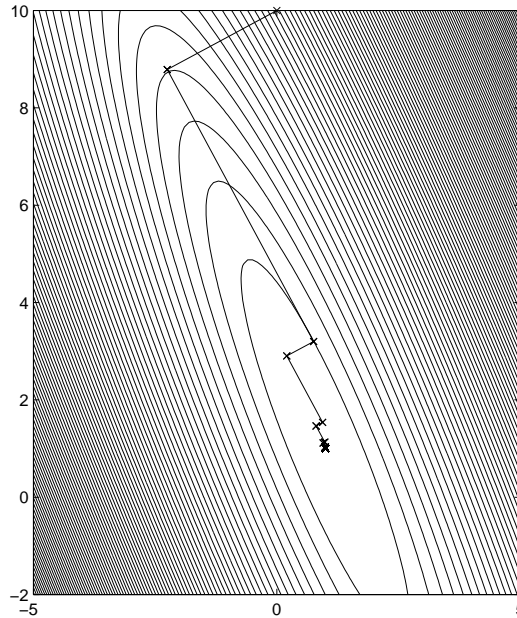
$k$	$x_1^k$	$x_2^k$	$d_1^k$	$d_2^k$	$\ \mathbf{d}^k\ _2$	$\lambda^k$	$f(\mathbf{x}^k)$
11	0.999127	1.007856	-0.022695	-0.012221	0.02577638	0.0866	10.000038
12	0.997161	1.006797	0.001205	-0.002237	0.00254076	2.1800	10.000009
13	0.999787	1.001920	-0.005548	-0.002987	0.00630107	0.0866	10.000002
14	0.999306	1.001662	0.000294	-0.000547	0.00062109	2.1800	10.000001
15	0.999948	1.000469	-0.001356	-0.000730	0.00154031	0.0866	10.000000
16	0.999830	1.000406	0.000072	-0.000134	0.00015183	2.1800	10.000000
17	0.999987	1.000115	-0.000332	-0.000179	0.00037653	0.0866	10.000000
18	0.999959	1.000099	0.000018	-0.000033	0.00003711	2.1800	10.000000
19	0.999997	1.000028	-0.000081	-0.000044	0.00009204	0.0866	10.000000
20	0.999990	1.000024	0.000004	-0.000008	0.00000907	2.1803	10.000000
21	0.999999	1.000007	-0.000020	-0.000011	0.00002250	0.0866	10.000000
22	0.999998	1.000006	0.000001	-0.000002	0.00000222	2.1817	10.000000
23	1.000000	1.000002	-0.000005	-0.000003	0.00000550	0.0866	10.000000
24	0.999999	1.000001	0.000000	-0.000000	0.00000054	0.0000	10.000000

SLIDE 30





SLIDE 31



### 10.3 Important Properties

SLIDE 32

- $f(\mathbf{x}^{k+1}) < f(\mathbf{x}^k) < \dots < f(\mathbf{x}^0)$  (because  $\mathbf{d}^k$  are descent directions)
- Under reasonable assumptions of  $f(\mathbf{x})$ , the sequence  $\mathbf{x}^0, \mathbf{x}^1, \dots$ , will have at least one cluster point  $\bar{\mathbf{x}}$
- Every cluster point  $\bar{\mathbf{x}}$  will satisfy  $\nabla f(\bar{\mathbf{x}}) = \mathbf{0}$
- *Implication:* If  $f(\mathbf{x})$  is a convex function,  $\bar{\mathbf{x}}$  will be an optimal solution

## 11 Global Convergence Result

SLIDE 33

### Theorem:

$f : R^n \rightarrow R$  is continuously diff/ble on  $\mathcal{F} = \{x \in R^n : f(x) \leq f(x^0)\}$  closed, bounded set

Every cluster point  $\bar{x}$  of  $\{x_k\}$  satisfies  $\nabla f(\bar{x}) = 0$ .

### 11.1 Work Per Iteration

SLIDE 34

Two computation tasks at each iteration of steepest descent:

- Compute  $\nabla f(\mathbf{x}^k)$  (for quadratic objective functions, it takes  $O(n^2)$  steps) to determine  $\mathbf{d}^k = -\nabla f(\mathbf{x}^k)$
- Perform line-search of  $h(\lambda) = f(\mathbf{x}^k + \lambda \mathbf{d}^k)$  to determine  $\lambda^k = \arg \min_{\lambda} h(\lambda) = \arg \min_{\lambda} f(\mathbf{x}^k + \lambda \mathbf{d}^k)$

## 12 Rate of convergence of algorithms

SLIDE 35

Let  $z_1, \dots, z_n, \dots \rightarrow z$  be a convergent sequence. We say that the order of convergence of this sequence is  $p^*$  if

$$p^* = \sup \left\{ p : \limsup_{k \rightarrow \infty} \frac{|z_{k+1} - z|}{|z_k - z|^p} < \infty \right\}$$

Let

$$\beta = \limsup_{k \rightarrow \infty} \frac{|z_{k+1} - z|}{|z_k - z|^{p^*}}$$

The larger  $p^*$ , the faster the convergence

### 12.1 Types of convergence

SLIDE 36

1.  $p^* = 1$ ,  $0 < \beta < 1$ , then linear (or geometric) rate of convergence
2.  $p^* = 1$ ,  $\beta = 0$ , super-linear convergence
3.  $p^* = 1$ ,  $\beta = 1$ , sub-linear convergence
4.  $p^* = 2$ , quadratic convergence

## 12.2 Examples

SLIDE 37

- $z_k = a^k$ ,  $0 < a < 1$  converges linearly to zero,  $\beta = a$
- $z_k = a^{2^k}$ ,  $0 < a < 1$  converges quadratically to zero
- $z_k = \frac{1}{k}$  converges sub-linearly to zero
- $z_k = \left(\frac{1}{k}\right)^k$  converges super-linearly to zero

## 12.3 Steepest descent

SLIDE 38

- $z_k = f(\mathbf{x}^k)$ ,  $z = f(\mathbf{x}^*)$ , where  $\mathbf{x}^* = \arg \min f(\mathbf{x})$
- Then an algorithm exhibits *linear convergence* if there is a constant  $\delta < 1$  such that

$$\frac{f(\mathbf{x}^{k+1}) - f(\mathbf{x}^*)}{f(\mathbf{x}^k) - f(\mathbf{x}^*)} \leq \delta,$$

for all  $k$  sufficiently large, where  $\mathbf{x}^*$  is an optimal solution.

### 12.3.1 Discussion

SLIDE 39

$$\frac{f(\mathbf{x}^{k+1}) - f(\mathbf{x}^*)}{f(\mathbf{x}^k) - f(\mathbf{x}^*)} \leq \delta < 1$$

- If  $\delta = 0.1$ , every iteration adds another digit of accuracy to the optimal objective value.
- If  $\delta = 0.9$ , every 22 iterations add another digit of accuracy to the optimal objective value, because  $(0.9)^{22} \approx 0.1$ .

## 13 Rate of convergence of steepest descent

### 13.1 Quadratic Case

#### 13.1.1 Theorem

SLIDE 40

Suppose  $f(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{1}{2} \mathbf{x}' \mathbf{Q} \mathbf{x} - \mathbf{c}' \mathbf{x}$   
 $\mathbf{Q}$  is psd

$\lambda_{\max}$  = largest eigenvalue of  $\mathbf{Q}$   
 $\lambda_{\min}$  = smallest eigenvalues of  $\mathbf{Q}$

*Linear Convergence Theorem:* If  $f(\mathbf{x})$  is a quadratic function and  $\mathbf{Q}$  is psd, then

$$\frac{f(\mathbf{x}^{k+1}) - f(\mathbf{x}^*)}{f(\mathbf{x}^k) - f(\mathbf{x}^*)} \leq \left( \frac{\left( \frac{\lambda_{\max}}{\lambda_{\min}} \right) - 1}{\left( \frac{\lambda_{\max}}{\lambda_{\min}} \right) + 1} \right)^2$$

### 13.1.2 Discussion

SLIDE 41

$$\frac{f(\mathbf{x}^{k+1}) - f(\mathbf{x}^*)}{f(\mathbf{x}^k) - f(\mathbf{x}^*)} \leq \left( \frac{\left( \frac{\lambda_{\max}}{\lambda_{\min}} \right) - 1}{\left( \frac{\lambda_{\max}}{\lambda_{\min}} \right) + 1} \right)^2$$

- $\kappa(\mathbf{Q}) := \frac{\lambda_{\max}}{\lambda_{\min}}$  is the *condition number* of  $\mathbf{Q}$
- $\kappa(\mathbf{Q}) \geq 1$
- $\kappa(\mathbf{Q})$  plays an extremely important role in analyzing computation involving  $\mathbf{Q}$

SLIDE 42

$$\frac{f(\mathbf{x}^{k+1}) - f(\mathbf{x}^*)}{f(\mathbf{x}^k) - f(\mathbf{x}^*)} \leq \left( \frac{\kappa(\mathbf{Q}) - 1}{\kappa(\mathbf{Q}) + 1} \right)^2$$

$\kappa(\mathbf{Q}) = \frac{\lambda_{\max}}{\lambda_{\min}}$	Upper Bound on Convergence Constant $\delta$	Number of Iterations to Reduce the Optimality Gap by 0.10
1.1	0.0023	1
3.0	0.25	2
10.0	0.67	6
100.0	0.96	58
200.0	0.98	116
400.0	0.99	231

SLIDE 43

For  $\kappa(\mathbf{Q}) \sim O(1)$  converges fast.

For large  $\kappa(\mathbf{Q})$

$$\left( \frac{\kappa(\mathbf{Q}) - 1}{\kappa(\mathbf{Q}) + 1} \right)^2 \sim \left( 1 - \frac{1}{\kappa(\mathbf{Q})} \right)^2 \sim 1 - \frac{2}{\kappa(\mathbf{Q})}$$

Therefore

$$(f(\mathbf{x}^k) - f(\mathbf{x}^*)) \leq \left( 1 - \frac{2}{\kappa(\mathbf{Q})} \right)^k (f(\mathbf{x}^0) - f(\mathbf{x}^*))$$

In  $k \sim \frac{1}{2} \kappa(\mathbf{Q}) (-\ln \epsilon)$  iterations, finds  $\mathbf{x}^k$ :

$$(f(\mathbf{x}^k) - f(\mathbf{x}^*)) \leq \epsilon (f(\mathbf{x}^0) - f(\mathbf{x}^*))$$

### 13.2 Example 2

SLIDE 44

$$f(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{1}{2} \mathbf{x}' \mathbf{Q} \mathbf{x} - \mathbf{c}' \mathbf{x} + 10$$

$$\mathbf{Q} = \begin{bmatrix} 20 & 5 \\ 5 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad \mathbf{c} = \begin{pmatrix} 14 \\ 6 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\kappa(\mathbf{Q}) = 30.234$$

$$\delta = \left( \frac{\kappa(\mathbf{Q})-1}{\kappa(\mathbf{Q})+1} \right)^2 = 0.8760$$

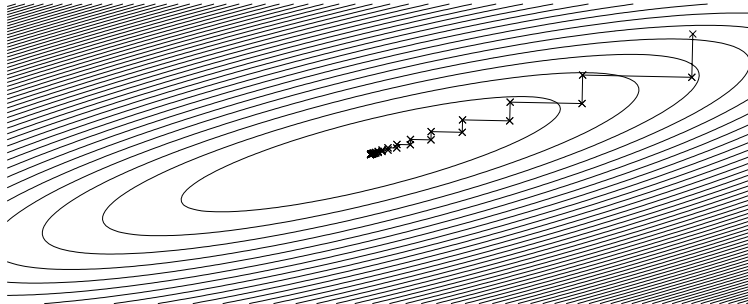
SLIDE 45

$k$	$x_1^k$	$x_2^k$	$\ \mathbf{d}^k\ _2$	$\lambda^k$	$f(\mathbf{x}^k)$	$\frac{f(\mathbf{x}^k) - f(\mathbf{x}^*)}{f(\mathbf{x}^{k-1}) - f(\mathbf{x}^*)}$
1	40.000000	-100.000000	286.06293014	0.0506	6050.000000	
2	25.542693	-99.696700	77.69702948	0.4509	3981.695128	0.658079
3	26.277558	-64.668130	188.25191488	0.0506	2620.587793	0.658079
4	16.763512	-64.468535	51.13075844	0.4509	1724.872077	0.658079
5	17.247111	-41.416980	123.88457127	0.0506	1135.420663	0.658079
6	10.986120	-41.285630	33.64806192	0.4509	747.515255	0.658079
7	11.304366	-26.115894	81.52579489	0.0506	492.242977	0.658079
8	7.184142	-26.029455	22.14307211	0.4509	324.253734	0.658079
9	7.393573	-16.046575	53.65038732	0.0506	213.703595	0.658079
10	4.682141	-15.989692	14.57188362	0.4509	140.952906	0.658079

SLIDE 46

$k$	$x_1^k$	$x_2^k$	$\ \mathbf{d}^k\ _2$	$\lambda^k$	$f(\mathbf{x}^k)$	$\frac{f(\mathbf{x}^k) - f(\mathbf{x}^*)}{f(\mathbf{x}^{k-1}) - f(\mathbf{x}^*)}$
20	0.460997	0.948466	1.79847660	0.4509	3.066216	0.658079
30	-0.059980	3.038991	0.22196980	0.4509	0.965823	0.658079
40	-0.124280	3.297005	0.02739574	0.4509	0.933828	0.658079
50	-0.132216	3.328850	0.00338121	0.4509	0.933341	0.658079
60	-0.133195	3.332780	0.00041731	0.4509	0.933333	0.658078
70	-0.133316	3.333265	0.00005151	0.4509	0.933333	0.658025
80	-0.133331	3.333325	0.00000636	0.4509	0.933333	0.654656
90	-0.133333	3.333332	0.00000078	0.0000	0.933333	0.000000

SLIDE 47



### 13.3 Example 3

SLIDE 48

$$f(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{1}{2} \mathbf{x}' \mathbf{Q} \mathbf{x} - \mathbf{c}' \mathbf{x} + 10$$

$$\mathbf{Q} = \begin{bmatrix} 20 & 5 \\ 5 & 16 \end{bmatrix} \quad \mathbf{c} = \begin{pmatrix} 14 \\ 6 \end{pmatrix}$$

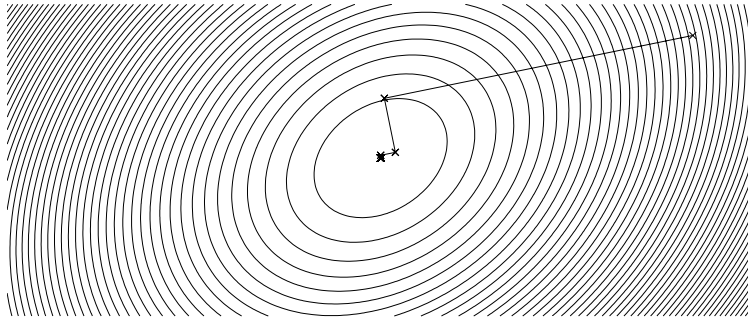
$$\kappa(Q) = 1.8541$$

$$\delta = \left( \frac{\kappa(Q) - 1}{\kappa(Q) + 1} \right)^2 = 0.0896$$

SLIDE 49

$k$	$x_1^k$	$x_2^k$	$\ d^k\ _2$	$\lambda^k$	$f(x^k)$	$\frac{f(x^k) - f(x^*)}{f(x^{k-1}) - f(x^*)}$
1	40.000000	-100.000000	1434.79336491	0.0704	76050.000000	
2	19.867118	-1.025060	385.96252652	0.0459	3591.615327	0.047166
3	2.513241	-4.555081	67.67315150	0.0704	174.058930	0.047166
4	1.563658	0.113150	18.20422450	0.0459	12.867208	0.047166
5	0.745149	-0.053347	3.19185713	0.0704	5.264475	0.047166
6	0.700361	0.166834	0.85861649	0.0459	4.905886	0.047166
7	0.661755	0.158981	0.15054644	0.0704	4.888973	0.047166
8	0.659643	0.169366	0.04049732	0.0459	4.888175	0.047166
9	0.657822	0.168996	0.00710064	0.0704	4.888137	0.047166
10	0.657722	0.169486	0.00191009	0.0459	4.888136	0.047166
11	0.657636	0.169468	0.00033491	0.0704	4.888136	0.047166
12	0.657632	0.169491	0.00009009	0.0459	4.888136	0.047161
13	0.657628	0.169490	0.00001580	0.0704	4.888136	0.047068
14	0.657627	0.169492	0.00000425	0.0459	4.888136	0.045002
15	0.657627	0.169491	0.00000075	0.0000	4.888136	0.000000

SLIDE 50



### 13.4 Empirical behavior

SLIDE 51

- The convergence constant bound is not just theoretical. It is typically experienced in practice.
- Analysis is due to Leonid Kantorovich, who won the Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Science in 1975 for his contributions to optimization and economic planning.

SLIDE 52

- What about non-quadratic functions?

– Suppose  $x^* = \arg \min_x f(x)$

- $\nabla^2 f(\mathbf{x}^*)$  is the Hessian of  $f(\mathbf{x})$  at  $\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{x}^*$
- Rate of convergence will depend on  $\kappa(\nabla^2 f(\mathbf{x}^*))$

## 14 Summary

SLIDE 53

1. Optimality Conditions
2. The steepest descent algorithm - Convergence
3. Rate of convergence of Steepest Descent

## 15 Choices of step sizes

SLIDE 54

- $\text{Min}_\lambda f(\mathbf{x}^k + \lambda d^k)$
- Limited Minimization:  $\text{Min}_{\lambda \in [0, s]} f(\mathbf{x}^k + \lambda d^k)$
- Constant stepsize  $\lambda^k = s$  constant
- Diminishing stepsize:  $\lambda^k \rightarrow 0, \sum_k \lambda^k = \infty$
- Armijo Rule