

Lecture 07: Methods for One-dimensional Unconstrained Optimization Problems

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Unconstrained Optimization

Unconstrained optimization

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graph TD
    A[Unconstrained optimization] --> B[One-dimensional or line search problems]
    A --> C[Multidimensional problems]
    B --> D[To find a scalar alpha* to minimize a function f(alpha)]
    C --> E[To find points x* to minimize a function f(x) = f(x1, x2, ..., xn)]
        
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Iterative Algorithm

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Numerical Methods

- To find out local minimizer, just find where $f'(x) = 0$.
- But f' may not exist, or may be difficult to calculate, or $f'(x) = 0$ may not be explicitly solvable for x .
- Three types of methods:
 - (A) Solve $f'(x) = 0$: methods to solve $g(x) = 0$, use $g = f'$.
 - (B) Find minimizer of f without using f' .
 - (C) Use information from both f and f' .

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Numerical Methods

- (A) methods to solve $g(x) = 0$
 - Newton's method
 - Bisection method
 - Regula falsi (false position) method
 - Secant method
- (B) methods using f and not f'
 - Golden section method
 - Quadratic interpolation method
- (C) methods using both f and f'
 - Cubic interpolation method

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Newton's Method

- Given x_k , approximate $g(x)$ by tangent line at x_k .

$$y = I_k(x) = g(x_k) + g'(x_k) (x - x_k)$$

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Newton's Method

$$y = I_k(x) = g(x_k) + g'(x_k) (x - x_k)$$

- Let x_{k+1} , solve $I_k(x)$:

$$0 = g(x_k) + g'(x_k) (x_{k+1} - x_k)$$

$$x_{k+1} = x_k - g(x_k) / g'(x_k)$$

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Newton's Method

- Termination Criteria:
 - (i) $|g(x_k)| < \epsilon$
 - (ii) $|x_{k+1} - x_k| < \delta$
 - (iii) $k > K, |g(x_k)| > E, |x_{k+1} - x_k| > D \rightarrow$ Check for divergence
 - (iv) some combination of the above
- Cons: May diverge, requires g' (f').
- Pros: If converges, very fast convergence.

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Newton's Method



Example: find the maximum value of $f(x) = 2\sin x - \frac{x^2}{10}$ with an initial guess of $x_0 = 2.5$.