Optimization problem

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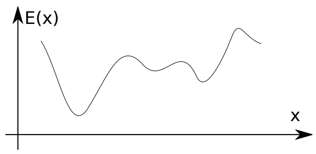
Lecture 15

Notes

Introduction to optimization



Find $\vec{x}$ that minimizes $E(\vec{x})$ subject to $g(\vec{x}) = 0, h(\vec{x}) \leq 0$

- $\vec{x}$ design variables
- $E(\vec{x})$ merit or objective or fitness or energy function
- $g(\vec{x})$ and $h(\vec{x})$ constrains

Easy to see that maximization problem is the same as minimization once $E(\vec{x}) \rightarrow -E(\vec{x})$.

In general, there is no guaranteed way (i.e., algorithm) to find the **global minimum** point at finite time in a general case.

Notes

Analytical solution of the 1D case

If we have the 1D case and $E(x)$ has the analytical derivative, the optimization problem can be restated as

Find x such that $f(x) = 0$
where $f(x) = dE/dx$

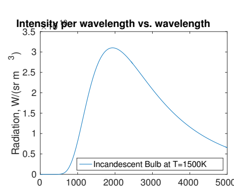
We already know how to find the solution of $f(x) = 0$, so the rest is easy. Note that we will find a **local** minimum or maximum.

Notes

Example: the maximum of a black body radiation spectrum

According to Plank's law energy density per of black body radiation

$$I(\lambda, T) = \frac{2hc^2}{\lambda^5} \frac{1}{e^{\frac{hc}{\lambda k T}} - 1}$$



where

- h is the Planck constant 6.626×10^{-34} J$\times$s,
- c is the speed of light 2.998×10^{8} m/s,
- k is the Boltzmann constant 1.380×10^{-23} J/K,
- T is the body temperature in K,
- λ is the wavelength in m

Notes

1D minimization with the Matlab's built-in: fminbnd

```
function I_lambda=black_body_radiation(lambda,T)
% black body radiation spectrum
% lambda - wavelength of EM wave
% T - temperature of a black body
h=6.626e-34;  % the Plank constant
c=2.998e8;    % the speed of light
k=1.380e-23;  % the Boltzmann constant

I_lambda = 2*h*c^2 ./ (lambda.^5)  ./ (exp(h*c./(lambda*k*T))-1);
end
```

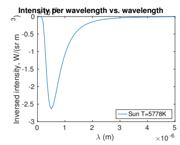
First, we flip/negate the function since our algorithm is suited for a minimum search and set the T close to Sun temperature

```
T=5778;
f = @(x) - black_body_radiation(x,T);
```

Finally, we find the minimum location

```
fminbnd(f,1e-9,2e-6,optimset('TolX',1e-12))
ans = 5.0176e-07
% i.e., the maximum of Sun radiation is at 502 nm
```

Next, we plot it to find a bracket



Golden section search algorithm

If you have an initial bracket for solution i.e. found a, b points such that there is a point x_p satisfying $a < x_p < b$ and $E(x_p) < min(E(a), E(b))$.

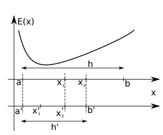
1. Calculate $h = (b - a)$
2. Assign new probe points $x_1 = a + R * h$ and $x_2 = b - R * h$
3. $E_1 = E(x_1)$, $E_2 = E(x_2)$, $E_a = E(a)$, $E_b = E(b)$
4. Note that for small enough h: $E(x_1) < E(a)$ and $E(x2) < E(b)$
5. Shrink/update the bracket
   - if $E_1 < E_2$ then $b = x_2$, $E_b = E_2$ else $a = x_1$, $E_a = E_1$
6. if $h < \varepsilon_x$ then stop otherwise do steps below
7. With the proper R, we can reuse one of the old points; either x_1, E_1 or x_2, E_2 Thus, we reduce the calculation time
   - if $E_1 < E_2$
     then $x_2 = x_1$, $E_2 = E_1$, $x_1 = a + R * h$, $E_1 = E(x_1)$
     else $x_1 = x_2$, $E_1 = E_2$, $x_2 = b - R * h$, $E_2 = E(x_2)$
8. Go to step 5

The R is given by the golden section $R = \frac{3-\sqrt{5}}{2} \approx 0.38197$

Derivation of the R value

at the first step we have

$$x_1 = a + R * h$$
$$x_2 = b - R * h$$



If $E(x_1) < E(x_2)$, then $a' = a$ and $b' = x_2$ then, to find the next bracket, we evaluate x'_1 and x'_2

$$\begin{aligned} x'_1 &= a' + R * h' = a' + R * (b' - a') \\ x'_2 &= b' - R * h' = b' - R * (b' - a') \\ &= x_2 - R * (x_2 - a) = b - R * h - R * (b - R * h - a) \end{aligned}$$

we would like to reuse one of the previous evaluations of E, so we require that $x_1 = x'_2$. This leads to the equation

$$R^2 - 3R + 1 = 0 \text{ with } R = \frac{3 \pm \sqrt{5}}{2}$$

We need to choose minus sign since fraction $R < 1$

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