

Subgradient Methods

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Subgradient method description

$x^{(k+1)} = x^{(k)} - \alpha_k g^{(k)}$
 k th iterate $\rightarrow g^{(k)} \in \partial f(x^{(k)})$
 $\in \mathbb{R}^n$, step size // rule for step size:

- nonsummable diminishing: step sizes satisfy $\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \alpha_k = 0, \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \alpha_k = \infty$
- $\alpha_k = \alpha$ (constant)
- $\alpha_k = \frac{\gamma}{\|g^{(k)}\|_2}$
- square summable but not summable $(\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \alpha_k^2 < \infty, \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \alpha_k = \infty)$ e.g. $\alpha_k = \frac{1}{k}$

$f_{\text{best}}^{(k)} = \min_{i=1, \dots, k} f(x^{(i)})$ (we can descent method at, so best known point to keep track of)

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Assumptions: f finite minimum exists $\Leftrightarrow f^* = \inf f(x) > -\infty, f(x^*) = f^*$
 and obviously the minimizer x^* lies in domain of f

$\forall g \in \partial f, \|g\|_2 \leq \alpha \Leftrightarrow$ equivalent to Lipschitz condition on f
 the subgradients are bounded at all points

A function $f(x)$ satisfies the Lipschitz condition of order β at $x = 0$ if
 $|f(h) - f(0)| \leq B |h|^\beta$
 for all $|h| < \epsilon$, where B and β are independent of h , $\beta > 0$, and α is an upper bound for all β for which a finite B exists.

we are at a finite distance from the optimum point at the beginning, i.e. $\|x^{(1)} - x^*\|_2 \leq R$

Convergence Proof: Subgradient Method

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*Convergence results:

* $\bar{f} = \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} f_{\text{best}}^{(k)}$ for $\alpha_k = \alpha$:

- constant step size: $0 \leq \bar{f} - f^* \leq \frac{\alpha^2 R}{2}$ (Upper bound of suboptimality, a small enough α optimality achieve)
- constant step length: $0 \leq \bar{f} - f^* \leq \frac{\alpha \gamma}{2}$ ($\frac{\alpha \gamma}{2}$ suboptimal)
- diminishing step size α_k : $\bar{f} = f^*$: converges (either $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \alpha_k^2 < \infty, \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \alpha_k = \infty$ or $\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \alpha_k = 0, \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \alpha_k = \infty$)

Convergence proof:

distance from the optimal set:
 $\mathcal{O} = \{x^* \mid \forall x \in \text{dom} f, f(x^*) \leq f(x)\}$

let $x^* \in \mathcal{O}$

$$\begin{aligned} \|x^{(k+1)} - x^*\|_2^2 &= \|x^{(k)} - \alpha_k g^{(k)} - x^*\|_2^2 = ((x^{(k)} - x^*) - \alpha_k g^{(k)})^T ((x^{(k)} - x^*) - \alpha_k g^{(k)}) \\ &= (x^{(k)} - x^*)^T - \alpha_k g^{(k)T} \quad (x^{(k)} - x^*) - \alpha_k g^{(k)} \\ &= \|x^{(k)} - x^*\|_2^2 + \alpha_k^2 \|g^{(k)}\|_2^2 - 2\alpha_k g^{(k)T} (x^{(k)} - x^*) \\ &= \|x^{(k)} - x^*\|_2^2 + \alpha_k^2 \|g^{(k)}\|_2^2 + 2\alpha_k (-g^{(k)T} (x^{(k)} - x^*)) \end{aligned}$$

$g^{(k)}$ subgradient at $f(x^{(k)})$

$g^{(k)} \in \partial f(x^{(k)}) \Leftrightarrow \forall \bar{y} \in \text{dom } f, f(\bar{y}) \geq f(x^{(k)}) + g^{(k)T}(\bar{y} - x^{(k)})$
 $\bar{y} = x^*$
 $\rightarrow f(x^*) \geq f(x^{(k)}) + g^{(k)T}(x^* - x^{(k)}) \wedge f(x^*) \leq f(x^{(k)})$
 $\rightarrow g^{(k)T}(x^* - x^{(k)}) \leq f(x^*) - f(x^{(k)}) \leq 0$
 $\rightarrow -g^{(k)T}(x^{(k)} - x^*) \leq f(x^*) - f(x^{(k)}) \leq 0$

$$\leq \|x^{(k)} - x^*\|_2^2 + \alpha_k^2 \|g^{(k)}\|_2^2 + 2\alpha_k (f(x^*) - f(x^{(k)}))$$

$$= \|x^{(k)} - x^*\|_2^2 + \alpha_k^2 \|g^{(k)}\|_2^2 - 2\alpha_k (f(x^{(k)}) - f(x^*))$$

$$\therefore \|x^{(k+1)} - x^*\|_2^2 \leq \|x^{(k)} - x^*\|_2^2 + \alpha_k^2 \|g^{(k)}\|_2^2 - 2\alpha_k (f(x^{(k)}) - f(x^*)) \leq \|x^{(k-1)} - x^*\|_2^2 + \alpha_{k-1}^2 \|g^{(k-1)}\|_2^2 - 2\alpha_{k-1} (f(x^{(k-1)}) - f(x^*)) + \alpha_k^2 \|g^{(k)}\|_2^2 - 2\alpha_k (f(x^{(k)}) - f(x^*))$$

$$\text{similarly } \|x^{(k)} - x^*\|_2^2 \leq \|x^{(k-1)} - x^*\|_2^2 + \alpha_{k-1}^2 \|g^{(k-1)}\|_2^2 - 2\alpha_{k-1} (f(x^{(k-1)}) - f(x^*))$$

$$= \|x^{(k-1)} - x^*\|_2^2 + \sum_{i=k}^{k-1} \alpha_i^2 \|g^{(i)}\|_2^2 - 2 \sum_{i=k}^{k-1} \alpha_i (f(x^{(i)}) - f(x^*))$$

So:

$$\|x^{(k+1)} - x^*\|_2^2 \leq \|x^{(k)} - x^*\|_2^2 + \sum_{i=k}^{k-1} \alpha_i^2 \|g^{(i)}\|_2^2 - 2 \sum_{i=k}^{k-1} \alpha_i (f(x^{(i)}) - f(x^*))$$

Same recursion structure exploit structure & exploit sub-problem easily generalize recursion:

$$\|x^{(k+1)} - x^*\|_2^2 \leq \|x^{(1)} - x^*\|_2^2 + \sum_{i=k}^1 \alpha_i^2 \|g^{(i)}\|_2^2 - 2 \sum_{i=k}^1 \alpha_i (f(x^{(i)}) - f(x^*))$$

$$\rightarrow 0 \leq \|x^{(k+1)} - x^*\|_2^2 \leq \|x^{(1)} - x^*\|_2^2 + \sum_{i=1}^k \alpha_i^2 \|g^{(i)}\|_2^2 - 2 \sum_{i=1}^k \alpha_i (f(x^{(i)}) - f(x^*))$$

$$\rightarrow 0 \leq \underbrace{\|x^{(1)} - x^*\|_2^2}_{\leq R^2} + \sum_{i=1}^k \alpha_i^2 \|g^{(i)}\|_2^2 - 2 \sum_{i=1}^k \alpha_i (f(x^{(i)}) - f(x^*)) \leq R^2 + \sum_{i=1}^k \alpha_i^2 \|g^{(i)}\|_2^2 - 2 \sum_{i=1}^k \alpha_i (f(x^{(i)}) - f(x^*)) \quad \text{equation 1}$$

$\exists \text{ non-} \forall_{i \in \{1, \dots, k\}} f_{\text{best}}^{(k)} = \min_{i=1, \dots, k} f(x^{(i)}) \leq f(x^{(i)})$
 $\rightarrow \forall_{i \in \{1, \dots, k\}} f_{\text{best}}^{(k)} - f(x^*) \leq f(x^{(i)}) - f(x^*)$
 $\rightarrow \forall_{i \in \{1, \dots, k\}} \alpha_i (f_{\text{best}}^{(k)} - f(x^*)) \leq \alpha_i (f(x^{(i)}) - f(x^*)) \quad [\because \alpha_i > 0]$
 $\rightarrow \sum_{i=k}^1 \alpha_i (f_{\text{best}}^{(k)} - f(x^*)) \leq \sum_{i=k}^1 \alpha_i (f(x^{(i)}) - f(x^*))$
 $\rightarrow -2 \sum_{i=k}^1 \alpha_i (f_{\text{best}}^{(k)} - f(x^*)) \geq -2 \sum_{i=k}^1 \alpha_i (f(x^{(i)}) - f(x^*))$
 $\stackrel{11}{\Leftrightarrow} -2 \sum_{i=k}^1 \alpha_i (f(x^{(i)}) - f(x^*)) \leq -2 (f_{\text{best}}^{(k)} - f(x^*)) \sum_{i=k}^1 \alpha_i$

$$\rightarrow 0 \leq R^2 + \sum_{i=1}^k \alpha_i^2 \|g^{(i)}\|_2^2 - 2 (f_{\text{best}}^{(k)} - f(x^*)) \sum_{i=1}^k \alpha_i$$

$$\rightarrow 2 (f_{\text{best}}^{(k)} - f(x^*)) \sum_{i=1}^k \alpha_i \leq R^2 + \sum_{i=1}^k \alpha_i^2 \|g^{(i)}\|_2^2$$

$$(f_{\text{best}}^{(k)} - f(x^*)) \leq \frac{R^2 + \sum_{i=1}^k \alpha_i^2 \|g^{(i)}\|_2^2}{2 \sum_{i=1}^k \alpha_i}$$

Now $\|x^{(1)} - x^*\|_2 \leq R, \forall_i \|g^{(i)}\|_2 \leq G$ by assumption

$$\therefore \sum_{i=1}^k \alpha_i^2 \|g^{(i)}\|_2^2 \leq \sum_{i=1}^k \alpha_i^2 G^2 = G^2 \sum_{i=1}^k \alpha_i$$

$$\forall k \in \{1, \dots\} \quad 0 \leq f_{\text{best}}^{(k)} - f(x^*) \leq \frac{R^2 + \sum_{i=1}^k \alpha_i^2 \|g^{(i)}\|_2^2}{2 \sum_{i=1}^k \alpha_i} \leq \frac{R^2 + G^2 \sum_{i=1}^k \alpha_i}{2 \sum_{i=1}^k \alpha_i}$$

eq: inequality of subgradient convergence

Optimality bound for different step sizes [Contents of this page](#)

now set $\alpha_i = \alpha$ then the right handside of the inequality becomes:

$$\frac{R^2 + G^2 k \alpha^2}{2 k \alpha}$$

constant step size: $\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} 0 \leq \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} f_{\text{best}}^{(k)} - f(x^*) \leq \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \frac{R^2 + G^2 k \alpha^2}{2 k \alpha} = \frac{G^2 \alpha}{2} = \frac{G^2 \alpha}{2} \checkmark$

constant step length: $\alpha_i = \frac{\gamma}{\|g^{(i)}\|_2}$

then left R.H.S becomes

$$\frac{R^2 + \sum_{i=1}^k \frac{\gamma^2}{\|g^{(i)}\|_2^2} \|g^{(i)}\|_2^2}{2 \sum_{i=1}^k \frac{\gamma}{\|g^{(i)}\|_2}} = \frac{R^2 + k \gamma^2}{2 \gamma \sum_{i=1}^k \frac{1}{\|g^{(i)}\|_2}} = \frac{R^2 + k \gamma^2}{2 \gamma} \cdot \frac{1}{\sum_{i=1}^k \frac{1}{\|g^{(i)}\|_2}} \leq \frac{R^2 + k \gamma^2}{2 \gamma} \cdot \frac{1}{k} = \frac{R^2 + k \gamma^2}{2 \gamma k} = \frac{R^2}{2 \gamma k} + \frac{\gamma}{2}$$

$\|g^{(i)}\|_2 \leq G \rightarrow \frac{1}{\|g^{(i)}\|_2} \geq \frac{1}{G} \rightarrow \sum_{i=1}^k \frac{1}{\|g^{(i)}\|_2} \geq \sum_{i=1}^k \frac{1}{G} = \frac{k}{G} \rightarrow \frac{1}{\sum_{i=1}^k \frac{1}{\|g^{(i)}\|_2}} \leq \frac{G}{k}$

$$\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} 0 \leq \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} (f_{\text{best}}^{(k)} - f^*) \leq \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \frac{(R^2 + G^2) \alpha^k}{2\gamma} = \frac{h\gamma}{2} = \frac{h\gamma}{2}$$

$$\therefore 0 \leq \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} f_{\text{best}}^{(k)} - f^* \leq \frac{h\gamma}{2} \neq \frac{h\gamma}{2} \text{ optimal}$$

diminishing step size:
 obviously $\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{i=1}^k \alpha_i = \infty$, $\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{i=1}^k \alpha_i^2 = \text{finite}$ (say $\alpha_i = \frac{1}{i}$) \Rightarrow $\sum \alpha_i^2$ series
 select $\alpha_i = \frac{1}{i}$
 $\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} f_{\text{best}}^{(k)} - f^* = 0$ \Rightarrow optimal!

3.3 A bound on the suboptimality bound

It's interesting to ask the question, what sequence of step sizes minimizes the righthand side of (3)? In other words, how do we choose positive $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_k$ so that

$$\frac{R^2 + G^2 \sum_{i=1}^k \alpha_i^2}{2 \sum_{i=1}^k \alpha_i}$$

(which is an upper bound on $f_{\text{best}}^{(k)} - f^*$) is minimized? This is a convex and symmetric function of $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_k$, so we conclude the optimal occurs when all α_i are equal (to, say, α). This reduces our suboptimality bound to

$$\frac{R^2 + G^2 k \alpha^2}{2k\alpha}$$

which is minimized by $\alpha = (R/G)/\sqrt{k}$.

In other words, the choice of $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_k$ that minimizes the suboptimality bound (3) is given by

$$\alpha_i = (R/G)/\sqrt{k}, \quad i = 1, \dots, k.$$

This choice of constant step size yields the suboptimality bound

$$f_{\text{best}}^{(k)} - f^* \leq RG/\sqrt{k}.$$

Put another way, we can say that for any choice of step sizes, the suboptimality bound (3) must be at least as large as RG/\sqrt{k} . If we use (3) as our stopping criterion, then the number of steps to achieve a guaranteed accuracy of ϵ will be at least $(RG/\epsilon)^2$, no matter what step sizes we use. (It will be this number if we use the step size $\alpha_k = (R/G)/\sqrt{k}$.)

Note that RG has a simple interpretation as an initial bound on $f(x^{(1)}) - f^*$, based on $\|x^{(1)} - x^*\|_2 \leq R$ and the Lipschitz constant G for f . Thus $(RG)/\epsilon$ is the ratio of initial uncertainty in f^* to final uncertainty in f^* . If we square this number, we get the minimum number of steps it will take to achieve this reduction in uncertainty. This tells us that the

3.3 A bound on the suboptimality:

(3) Step size select $\alpha_i = \frac{1}{i}$

$$\min_{(\alpha_i)_{i=1}^k} \frac{R^2 + G^2 \sum_{i=1}^k \alpha_i^2}{2 \sum_{i=1}^k \alpha_i} = ?$$

$\frac{R^2 + G^2 \sum_{i=1}^k \alpha_i^2}{2 \sum_{i=1}^k \alpha_i} = \frac{R^2}{2} \frac{1}{\sum_{i=1}^k \alpha_i} + \frac{G^2}{2} \frac{\|\alpha\|_2^2}{\sum_{i=1}^k \alpha_i}$
 $\therefore (\cdot)$ convex in α as this is a nonnegative weighted sum of two \square functions.

$$\phi(\alpha) = \frac{R^2 + G^2 \sum_{i=1}^k \alpha_i^2}{2 \sum_{i=1}^k \alpha_i}$$

is a convex function which is

Alternative proof: scalar composition rule

$f(x) = h(g(x))$ is convex now $g(x) = c^T x + d$ is affine so concave
 $f: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is convex $\Rightarrow f \circ g: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is convex

convex in α : proof: $f(x) = (c^T x)^{-1}$, $c^T x > 0$
 $\nabla f(x) = \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial x_j} \cdot \frac{1}{\sum_{i=1}^n c_i x_i} \right) = \left(-\frac{c_j}{(\sum_{i=1}^n c_i x_i)^2} \right)$

$\nabla^2 f(x) = \left[\frac{\partial^2}{\partial x_j \partial x_i} f(x) \right] = \left[\frac{\partial}{\partial x_j} \left[-c_i \left(\sum_{k=1}^n c_k x_k \right)^{-2} \right] \right]$
 $= -c_i \left[-2 \cdot \left(\sum_{k=1}^n c_k x_k \right)^{-3} c_j \right] = \frac{2 c_i c_j}{\left(\sum_{k=1}^n c_k x_k \right)^3}$

$\nabla^2 f(x) = \frac{2}{(c^T x)^3} \left[c_i c_j \right]_{i,j=1}^n$
 $\frac{2}{(c^T x)^3} \begin{bmatrix} c_1 c_1 & c_1 c_2 & \dots & c_1 c_n \\ c_2 c_1 & c_2 c_2 & \dots & c_2 c_n \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ c_n c_1 & c_n c_2 & \dots & c_n c_n \end{bmatrix} = \frac{2}{(c^T x)^3} [c_i c_j]_{i,j=1}^n$

$\frac{2}{(c^T x)^3} \begin{bmatrix} c_1 c_1 & c_1 c_2 & \dots & c_1 c_n \\ c_2 c_1 & c_2 c_2 & \dots & c_2 c_n \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ c_n c_1 & c_n c_2 & \dots & c_n c_n \end{bmatrix}$
 $\frac{2}{(c^T x)^3} \begin{bmatrix} c_1^2 & c_1 c_2 & \dots & c_1 c_n \\ c_2 c_1 & c_2^2 & \dots & c_2 c_n \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ c_n c_1 & c_n c_2 & \dots & c_n^2 \end{bmatrix} = \frac{2}{(c^T x)^3} [c_i c_j]_{i,j=1}^n$
 $\frac{2}{(c^T x)^3} \begin{bmatrix} c_1^2 & c_1 c_2 & \dots & c_1 c_n \\ c_2 c_1 & c_2^2 & \dots & c_2 c_n \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ c_n c_1 & c_n c_2 & \dots & c_n^2 \end{bmatrix}$
 $\frac{2}{(c^T x)^3} [c_i c_j]_{i,j=1}^n$
 $\frac{2}{(c^T x)^3} \begin{bmatrix} c_1^2 & c_1 c_2 & \dots & c_1 c_n \\ c_2 c_1 & c_2^2 & \dots & c_2 c_n \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ c_n c_1 & c_n c_2 & \dots & c_n^2 \end{bmatrix}$

$\text{dom } g = \mathbb{R}^n$
 $\text{dom } f = \{x \in \text{dom } g \mid g(x) \in \text{dom } h\} = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n \mid g(x) = c^T x + d \in \text{dom } h = \mathbb{R}_{++}\} = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n \mid c^T x + d > 0\}$

$f(x) = h(g(x)) = \left(\frac{1}{\square} \right) \circ \left(\frac{1}{\square} \right) (c^T x + d) = \left(\frac{1}{\square} \right) (c^T x + d) = \frac{1}{c^T x + d}$ is convex on $\{x \in \mathbb{R}^n \mid c^T x + d > 0\}$

$\nabla^2 f(x) = \frac{2}{(c^T x)^3} \begin{bmatrix} c_1 c_1 & c_1 c_2 & \dots & c_1 c_n \\ c_2 c_1 & c_2 c_2 & \dots & c_2 c_n \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ c_n c_1 & c_n c_2 & \dots & c_n c_n \end{bmatrix} = \frac{2}{(c^T x)^3} [c_i c_j]_{i,j=1}^n$
 $\frac{2}{(c^T x)^3} \begin{bmatrix} c_1^2 & c_1 c_2 & \dots & c_1 c_n \\ c_2 c_1 & c_2^2 & \dots & c_2 c_n \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ c_n c_1 & c_n c_2 & \dots & c_n^2 \end{bmatrix}$

$\frac{2}{(c^T x)^3} \begin{bmatrix} c_1^2 & c_1 c_2 & \dots & c_1 c_n \\ c_2 c_1 & c_2^2 & \dots & c_2 c_n \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ c_n c_1 & c_n c_2 & \dots & c_n^2 \end{bmatrix}$
 $\frac{2}{(c^T x)^3} \begin{bmatrix} c_1^2 & c_1 c_2 & \dots & c_1 c_n \\ c_2 c_1 & c_2^2 & \dots & c_2 c_n \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ c_n c_1 & c_n c_2 & \dots & c_n^2 \end{bmatrix}$

$\frac{2}{(c^T x)^3} \begin{bmatrix} c_1^2 & c_1 c_2 & \dots & c_1 c_n \\ c_2 c_1 & c_2^2 & \dots & c_2 c_n \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ c_n c_1 & c_n c_2 & \dots & c_n^2 \end{bmatrix}$
 $\frac{2}{(c^T x)^3} \begin{bmatrix} c_1^2 & c_1 c_2 & \dots & c_1 c_n \\ c_2 c_1 & c_2^2 & \dots & c_2 c_n \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ c_n c_1 & c_n c_2 & \dots & c_n^2 \end{bmatrix}$

$\frac{2}{(c^T x)^3} \begin{bmatrix} c_1^2 & c_1 c_2 & \dots & c_1 c_n \\ c_2 c_1 & c_2^2 & \dots & c_2 c_n \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ c_n c_1 & c_n c_2 & \dots & c_n^2 \end{bmatrix}$
 $\frac{2}{(c^T x)^3} \begin{bmatrix} c_1^2 & c_1 c_2 & \dots & c_1 c_n \\ c_2 c_1 & c_2^2 & \dots & c_2 c_n \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ c_n c_1 & c_n c_2 & \dots & c_n^2 \end{bmatrix}$

Note that RG has a simple interpretation as an initial bound on $f(x^{(1)}) - f^*$, based on $\|x^{(1)} - x^*\|_2 \leq R$ and the Lipschitz constant G for f . Thus $(RG)/\epsilon$ is the ratio of initial uncertainty in f^* to final uncertainty in f^* . If we square this number, we get the minimum number of steps it will take to achieve this reduction in uncertainty. This tells us that the subgradient method is going to be very slow, if we use (3) as our stopping criterion. To reduce the initial uncertainty by a factor of 1000, say, it will require at least 10^6 iterations.

$\phi(\kappa) = \frac{R^2 + G^2 \sum_{i=1}^k \alpha_i^2}{2 \sum_{i=1}^k \alpha_i}$ is a convex function which is symmetric in κ as well, so at optimal α^* , $\alpha_1^* = \alpha_2^* = \dots = \alpha_n^*$ that can be found by setting $\alpha_1^* = \alpha_2^* = \dots = \alpha_n^* = \alpha^*$ in

$$\kappa = \frac{R^2 + G^2 \sum_{i=1}^k \alpha^2}{2 \sum_{i=1}^k \alpha} = \frac{R^2 + G^2 k \alpha^2}{2 k \alpha}$$

$\rightarrow 2 G^2 k \alpha^2 = R^2 + G^2 k \alpha^2$
 $\rightarrow G^2 k \alpha^2 = R^2 \rightarrow \alpha = \frac{R}{G} \cdot \frac{1}{\sqrt{k}} = \alpha_1 = \dots = \alpha_n$
 $\therefore \forall_j \alpha_j = \frac{R}{G} \cdot \frac{1}{\sqrt{k}}$

Rigorous explanation: $\nabla_{\alpha} \phi(\alpha) = 0 \Leftrightarrow \forall_j \frac{\partial}{\partial \alpha_j} \phi(\alpha) = 0$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \alpha_j} = \frac{\partial}{\partial \alpha_j} \left(\frac{R^2 + G^2 \|\alpha\|_2^2}{2 \sum \alpha} \right) = \frac{(2^T \alpha) (G^2 2 \alpha_j) - (R^2 + G^2 \|\alpha\|_2^2) 1}{(\sum \alpha)^2} = 0 \rightarrow 2 G^2 (2^T \alpha) \alpha_j = R^2 + G^2 \|\alpha\|_2^2$$

$$\therefore \forall_j \alpha_j = \frac{R^2 + G^2 \|\alpha\|_2^2}{2 G^2 (2^T \alpha)}$$

$$\downarrow \alpha_j^* = \frac{R^2 + G^2 \|\alpha^*\|_2^2}{2 G^2 (2^T \alpha^*)}$$

$$\alpha = \alpha_1^* = \alpha_2^* = \dots = \alpha_k^* = \frac{R^2 + G^2 \|\alpha^*\|_2^2}{2 G^2 (2^T \alpha)}$$

$f(x)$: convex in $(x,x) \Leftrightarrow f(x)$: convex in x
 If a function $f(x)$ is convex in $(x,x) \Leftrightarrow f(x)$ is convex in x

rigorous proof:

$f(x)$ $\nabla_{(x,x)} \Leftrightarrow f(x)$ ∇_x proof: (\leftarrow) trivial

(\rightarrow) say $f(x)$ $\nabla_x \Leftrightarrow \forall (x_1, x_2) \in \text{dom} f \times \text{dom} f, \lambda_1, \lambda_2 \geq 0, \lambda_1 + \lambda_2 = 1$

but per absurdum let

$\exists \bar{x}_1 \in \text{dom} f, \bar{x}_2 \in \text{dom} f$

$$f(\theta \begin{bmatrix} \bar{x}_1 \\ \bar{x}_1 \end{bmatrix} + (1-\theta) \begin{bmatrix} \bar{x}_2 \\ \bar{x}_2 \end{bmatrix}) \leq \theta f \left(\begin{bmatrix} \bar{x}_1 \\ \bar{x}_1 \end{bmatrix} \right) + (1-\theta) f \left(\begin{bmatrix} \bar{x}_2 \\ \bar{x}_2 \end{bmatrix} \right)$$

(contradiction!)

$$f(\theta \bar{x}_1 + (1-\theta) \bar{x}_2) > \theta f(\bar{x}_1) + (1-\theta) f(\bar{x}_2) \Leftrightarrow f(\theta \begin{bmatrix} \bar{x}_1 \\ \bar{x}_1 \end{bmatrix} + (1-\theta) \begin{bmatrix} \bar{x}_2 \\ \bar{x}_2 \end{bmatrix}) > \theta f \left[\begin{bmatrix} \bar{x}_1 \\ \bar{x}_1 \end{bmatrix} \right] + (1-\theta) f \left[\begin{bmatrix} \bar{x}_2 \\ \bar{x}_2 \end{bmatrix} \right]$$

but, $f(\bar{x}_1) = f \begin{bmatrix} \bar{x}_1 \\ \bar{x}_1 \end{bmatrix}, f(\bar{x}_2) = f \begin{bmatrix} \bar{x}_2 \\ \bar{x}_2 \end{bmatrix}$

Stopping Criterion for Subgradient

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* A stopping criterion for subgradient:

from equation 1

$$0 \leq R^2 + \sum_{i=1}^k \kappa_i \|g^{(i)}\|_2^2 - 2 \sum_{i=1}^k \kappa_i (f(x^{(i)}) - f(x^*))$$

$$-2 \sum_{i=1}^k \kappa_i f(x^{(i)}) + 2 \sum_{i=1}^k \kappa_i f^*$$

$$-2 \sum_{i=1}^k \alpha_i \langle g^{(i)}, f^* \rangle + 2 \sum_{i=1}^k \alpha_i \langle g^{(i)}, f^* \rangle$$

$$\rightarrow 0 \leq R^2 + \sum_{i=1}^k \alpha_i \|g^{(i)}\|_2^2 - 2 \sum_{i=1}^k \alpha_i \langle f(x^{(i)}), f^* \rangle + 2 \sum_{i=1}^k \alpha_i \langle f(x^{(i)}), f^* \rangle$$

$$\rightarrow -R^2 - \sum_{i=1}^k \alpha_i \|g^{(i)}\|_2^2 + 2 \sum_{i=1}^k \alpha_i \langle f(x^{(i)}), f^* \rangle \leq 2 \sum_{i=1}^k \alpha_i \langle f(x^{(i)}), f^* \rangle$$

$$\rightarrow f^* \geq \frac{2 \sum_{i=1}^k \alpha_i \langle f(x^{(i)}), f^* \rangle - R^2 - \sum_{i=1}^k \alpha_i \|g^{(i)}\|_2^2}{2 \sum_{i=1}^k \alpha_i} = l_k \rightarrow \forall_k f^* \geq l_k \rightarrow f^* \geq \max_k \{l_k\} = l_{\text{best}} \therefore 0 \leq f^* - l_{\text{best}}^{(k)}$$

l_k can be computed at each step, in best case we want $\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} l_k = f^*$ and l_k increase as iteration progresses, but as $f(x^{(i)})$ itself fluctuates and $\|g^{(i)}\|$ can fluctuate, so l_k may not be increasing, so we keep track of best lower bound found so far:

$$l_{\text{best}}^{(k)} = \max\{l_1, \dots, l_k\} \text{ this is increasing}$$

Stopping criterion: $0 \leq f^* - l_{\text{best}}^{(k)} \leq \epsilon$ some small number

* Speeding up subgradient:

• Heavy ball method:

$$x^{(k+1)} = \underbrace{x^{(k)} - \alpha_k g^{(k)}}_{\text{basic}} + \underbrace{\beta_k (x^{(k)} - x^{(k-1)})}_{\text{memory of past steps}}$$

• Filtered subgradient:

$$\tilde{g}^{(k)} = (1-\beta) g^{(k)} + \beta \tilde{g}^{(k-1)}, \beta \in (0,1) \text{ \# so, a convex combination of hybrid subgradient \# and subgradient is taken at each step}$$

$\tilde{g}^{(k)}$ hybrid subgradient at k-th step
 $\tilde{g}^{(k-1)}$ hybrid subgradient at (k-1)-th step
 $g^{(k)} \in \partial f(x^{(k)})$

• An Italian subgradient:

$$\tilde{g}^{(k)} = g^{(k)} + \beta_k \tilde{g}^{(k-1)}$$

$$\beta_k = \max\{0, -\gamma_k \frac{\langle \tilde{g}^{(k-1)}, g^{(k)} \rangle}{\|\tilde{g}^{(k-1)}\|_2^2}\}$$

$\gamma_k \in [0, 2]$