



**Optimization**  
**Fourth Class**  
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# Chapter Two



# Line Search

## Lecture 3

### 3: The Golden Section Method

Let  $\Phi(\alpha) = f(X + \alpha d)$  be a unimodal function on *the interval*  $[a, b]$ .

At the iteration  $k$  of the golden section method, let *the interval of uncertainty* be  $[a_k, b_k]$ .

Take two observations  $\lambda_k$  and  $\mu_k \in [a_k, b_k]$  such that  $\lambda_k < \mu_k$ . Evaluate  $\Phi(\lambda_k)$  and  $\Phi(\mu_k)$ .

Then we have two cases:

Case 1: if  $\Phi(\lambda_k) < \Phi(\mu_k)$ , then set  $a_{k+1} = a_k$ ,  $b_{k+1} = \mu_k$ .

Case 2: if  $\Phi(\lambda_k) > \Phi(\mu_k)$ , then set  $a_{k+1} = \lambda_k$ ,  $b_{k+1} = b_k$ .



## How to choose the observations $\lambda_k$ and $\mu_k$ ?

We require that  $\lambda_k$  and  $\mu_k$  satisfy the following conditions:

1: The distance from  $\lambda_k$  and  $\mu_k$  to the end points of the interval  $[a_k, b_k]$  are equivalent, that is:

$$b_k - \lambda_k = \mu_k - a_k.$$

2: The reduction rate of the intervals of uncertainty for each iteration is the same, that is:

$$b_{k+1} - a_{k+1} = \tau(b_k - a_k), \tau \in (0, 1).$$

3: Only one extra observation is needed for each new iteration.



Now, we consider case 1:

Since

$$a_{k+1} = a_k, b_{k+1} = \mu_k \dots \dots \dots (1)$$



And

$$b_{k+1} - a_{k+1} = \tau(b_k - a_k) \dots \dots \dots (2)$$

From (1) and (2) we have

$$\mu_k - a_k = \tau(b_k - a_k) \dots \dots \dots (3)$$

$$\therefore \mu_k = \tau(b_k - a_k) + a_k \dots \dots \dots (4)$$

Since

$$b_k - \lambda_k = \mu_k - a_k \dots \dots \dots (5)$$

∴ From (4) and (5), we have:

$$\lambda_k = b_k - \mu_k + a_k = b_k - (\tau(b_k - a_k) + a_k) + a_k$$

$$\lambda_k = (b_k - a_k) - \tau(b_k - a_k) + a_k$$

$$\therefore \lambda_k = (1 - \tau)(b_k - a_k) + a_k \dots \dots \dots (6)$$

Note that, in this case the new interval is  $[a_{k+1}, b_{k+1}] = [a_k, \mu_k]$ .

For further reducing the interval of uncertainty, the observations

$\lambda_{k+1}$  and  $\mu_{k+1}$  are selected.

Since  $\mu_k = a_k + \tau(b_k - a_k)$

$$\therefore \mu_{k+1} = a_{k+1} + \tau(b_{k+1} - a_{k+1}) .$$



∴ From case 1 and (4), we get

$$\mu_{k+1} = a_k + \tau(\mu_k - a_k) = a_k + \tau[a_k + \tau(b_k - a_k) - a_k]$$

$$\therefore \mu_{k+1} = a_k + \tau^2(b_k - a_k) \dots \dots \dots (7)$$

If we set

$$\tau^2 = 1 - \tau \dots \dots \dots (8)$$

Then

$$\mu_{k+1} = a_k + (1 - \tau)(b_k - a_k) = \lambda_k \dots \dots \dots (9)$$

It means that the new observation  $\mu_{k+1}$  does not need to compute because coincides with  $\lambda_k$ .

Similarly, if we consider Case 2, the new observation  $\lambda_{k+1}$  coincides with  $\mu_k$ .

Therefore, for each new iteration, only one extra observation is needed, which is just required by third condition.



**Now, what is the reduction rate of the interval of uncertainty for each iteration?**

*By solving the equation  $\tau^2 = 1 - \tau$ , we immediately obtain*

$$\tau^2 + \tau - 1 = 0 \rightarrow \tau = \frac{-1 \pm \sqrt{1+4}}{2} = \frac{-1 \pm \sqrt{5}}{2}.$$

Since  $\tau > 0$ , then take

$$\tau = \frac{b_{k+1} - a_{k+1}}{b_k - a_k} = \frac{-1 + \sqrt{5}}{2} \cong 0.618 \dots \dots \dots (10)$$

Then the formulas (6) and (4) can be written as

$$\lambda_k = a_k + 0.382(b_k - a_k) \dots \dots \dots (11)$$

$$\mu_k = a_k + 0.618(b_k - a_k) \dots \dots \dots (12)$$

Therefore, the golden section method is also called the 0.618 method.





## Algorithm 2: (The Golden Section Method)

### Step 1: (Initial Step)

Determine the initial interval  $[a_1, b_1]$  and give the precision  $\delta > 0$ .

Compute initial observations  $\lambda_1$  and  $\mu_1$  as

$$\lambda_1 = a_1 + 0.382(b_1 - a_1) \text{ and } \mu_1 = a_1 + 0.618(b_1 - a_1).$$

Evaluate  $\Phi(\lambda_1)$  and  $\Phi(\mu_1)$ . Set  $k = 1$ .

### Step 2: (Compare the function values)

If  $\Phi(\lambda_k) > \Phi(\mu_k)$ , go to step 3.

If  $\Phi(\lambda_k) \leq \Phi(\mu_k)$ , go to step 4.

### Step 3: (Case 2)

If  $b_k - \lambda_k \leq \delta$ , stop and output  $\mu_k$ ; otherwise set

$$a_{k+1} = \lambda_k, b_{k+1} = b_k, \lambda_{k+1} = \mu_k, \Phi(\lambda_{k+1}) = \Phi(\mu_k),$$

$$\mu_{k+1} = a_{k+1} + 0.618(b_{k+1} - a_{k+1}).$$

Evaluate  $\Phi(\mu_{k+1})$  and go to step 5.



### Step 4: (Case 1)

If  $\mu_k - a_k \leq \delta$ , stop and output  $\lambda_k$ ; otherwise set

$$a_{k+1} = a_k, b_{k+1} = \mu_k, \mu_{k+1} = \lambda_k, \Phi(\mu_{k+1}) = \Phi(\lambda_k),$$

$$\lambda_{k+1} = a_{k+1} + 0.382 (b_{k+1} - a_{k+1}).$$

Evaluate  $\Phi(\lambda_{k+1})$  and go to step 5.

### Step 5:

Set  $k = k + 1$  and go to step 2.

### H.W:

Use golden section method to find the location of the minimizer for  $f(x) = x(1.5 - x)$ .

Take the initial interval  $(0, 1)$  and  $\delta = 0.05$ .

