

Problem Set # 2
(Due Date: September 15, 2009)

1. A company has n factories. Factory i is located at the point (x_i, y_i) in the x - y plane. The company wants to locate a warehouse at a point (x, y) that minimizes

$$\min_{x,y} \sum_{i=1}^n [|x - x_i| + |y - y_i|]$$

Find the optimal location of the warehouse. Interpret the solution.

2. Find all local maxima, local minima, and saddle points for $f(x_1, x_2) = x_1^3 - 3x_1x_2^2 + x_2^4$.
3. In a Basketball league, the following games have been played: team A beats team B by 7 points, team C beats team A by 8 points, team B beats team C by 6 points, and team B beats team C by 9 points. Let r_A, r_B, r_C represent “ratings” for each team in the sense that if, say, team A plays team B, we predict that team A will defeat team B by $(r_A - r_B)$ points. Determine the values of $r_A, r_B,$ and r_C that best fit (in the least-squares sense) these results. To obtain a unique set of ratings, it may be helpful to add the constraint $(r_A + r_B + r_C) = 0$. This ensures that an “average” team will have a rating of 0.
4. Consider a second order Taylor series expansion of $f(\underline{x}_k + \alpha \underline{d}_k)$ around \underline{x}_k , where \underline{d}_k is a descent direction. Assuming that the Hessian $[\partial^2 f / \partial x_i \partial x_j] > 0$, find the optimum α^* . What is $f(\underline{x}_k + \alpha^* \underline{d}_k)$? Specialize the results to the following three cases: (a) Steepest descent, (b) Newton’s method, and (c) General gradient method, $\underline{d}_k = -H_k \underline{g}_k$, where \underline{g}_k is the gradient of $f(\underline{x})$ at $\underline{x} = \underline{x}_k$.
5. Consider a second order Taylor series expansion of $f(\underline{x}_k + \underline{d}_k)$ around \underline{x}_k . If you could choose \underline{d}_k , what would you pick to achieve maximal decrease in f . Assume that $[\partial^2 f / \partial x_i \partial x_j] > 0$.
6. Let $f(\underline{x}) = 3x_1^2 + 2x_1x_2 + x_2^2$. Let the initial point be $\underline{x}_0 = (1, 1)^T$. Find \underline{x}_1 for the following methods: (a) Newton, (b) Diagonal Newton, $H_k = \text{Diag}(1/\partial^2 f / \partial x_i^2)$, and (c) $H_k = [F(\underline{x}_k) + \mu I]^{-1}$, where $F(\underline{x}_k)$ is the Hessian and $\mu = 10$.
7. Let $f(\underline{x}) = x^2$. Show that the infinite sequence of points $x_i = (-1)^i [1 + 2^{-i}]$, $i = 0, 1, 2 \dots$ is not permitted by the Armijo step size rule for any $\sigma > 0$.
8. Apply Fibonacci search to the scalar function $f(x) = x^2 - 6x + 2$ given that $l_1 = 0$, and $r_1 = 10$. It is desired that $(r_N - l_N) \leq 0.1(r_1 - l_1)$.