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A recursive formulation of limited memory variable metric methods

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Variable metric methods with limited memory can be efficiently used for large-scale unconstrained optimization in case the sparsity pattern of the Hessian matrix is not known. These methods are usually realized in the line-search framework so that they generate a sequence of points $x_i \in \mathcal{R}^n$, $i \in \mathcal{N}$, by the simple process

$$x_{i+1} = x_i + \alpha_i d_i, \quad (1)$$

where $d_i = -H_i g_i$ is a direction vector, H_i is a positive definite approximation of the inverse Hessian matrix and $\alpha_i > 0$ is a scalar step-size chosen in such a way that

$$F_{i+1} - F_i \leq \varepsilon_1 \alpha_i d_i^T g_i, \quad d_i^T g_{i+1} \geq \varepsilon_2 d_i^T g_i \quad (2)$$

(the weak Wolfe conditions), where $F_i = F(x_i)$, $g_i = \nabla F(x_i)$ and $0 < \varepsilon_1 < 1/2$, $\varepsilon_1 < \varepsilon_2 < 1$. Matrices H_i , $i \in \mathcal{N}$, are computed either by using a limited number ($m \ll n$) of variable metric updates applied to the scaled unit matrix or by updating low dimension matrices. The first approach, used in [9], is based on the computation of the direction vector d_i using the Strang recurrences [8]. The second approach, used in [1], is based on the matrix expression described below. To simplifying notation, we omit index i and replace index $i + 1$ by $+$.

Variable metric method from the Broyden class use the update

$$\begin{aligned} H_+ &= H + U M U^T = H + [d, Hy] \begin{bmatrix} m_1 & m_2 \\ m_2 & m_3 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} d \\ Hy \end{bmatrix} \\ &= H + \frac{1}{b} d d^T - \frac{1}{a} Hy (Hy)^T + \frac{\eta}{a} \left(\frac{a}{b} d - Hy \right) \left(\frac{a}{b} d - Hy \right)^T, \end{aligned} \quad (3)$$

where $d = x_+ - x$, $y = g_+ - g$, $a = y^T Hy$, $b = y^T d$ and η is a free parameter. We need to express m consecutive steps of (3) (with the initial matrix γI) in the form $H_+ = \gamma I + \bar{U} \bar{M} \bar{U}^T$, where $\bar{U} \in \mathcal{R}^{n \times 2m}$ and $\bar{M} \in \mathcal{R}^{2m \times 2m}$. In [1], the authors propose explicit expressions of the matrix \bar{M} for three classic variable metric updates: DFP ($\eta = 0$), BFGS ($\eta = 1$) and the rank one ($\eta = b/(b - a)$). For other values of the parameter η , such explicit expressions are not known. In this contribution we describe another way, based on recursive construction of the matrix \bar{M} , which allows us to realize any member of the Broyden class of the variable metric updates. The following theorem is proved in [7].

Theorem 1 *Let H_+ be a matrix defined by (3) and $H = \gamma I + \bar{U} \bar{M} \bar{U}^T$. Then*

$$H_+ = H_1 + \bar{U}_+ \bar{M}_+ \bar{U}_+^T,$$

where $\bar{U}_+ = [\bar{U}, d, H_1 y]$ and

$$\bar{M}_+ = \begin{bmatrix} \bar{M} + m_3 z z^T & m_2 z & m_3 z \\ m_2 z^T & m_1 & m_2 \\ m_3 z^T & m_2 & m_3 \end{bmatrix}. \quad (4)$$

Here $m_1 = (1/b)(\eta a/b + 1)$, $m_2 = -\eta/b$, $m_3 = (\eta - 1)/a$ are elements of matrix M , $z = \bar{M} \bar{r}$ and $\bar{r} = \bar{U}^T y$.

If $i \leq m$, the construction of matrix H_{i+1} follows straightforwardly from Theorem 1. Thus we describe the construction of matrix H_{i+1} in case $i > m$. We will assume that $H_{i+1-m} = \gamma_i I$. At the beginning of the i -th iteration, we have available the rectangular matrix $\bar{U}_{i-1} = [d_{i-m}, y_{i-m}, \dots, d_{i-1}, y_{i-1}]$ and the block upper triangular matrix

$$\bar{R}_{i-1} = \begin{bmatrix} d_{i-m}^T y_{i-m}, & \dots & d_{i-m}^T y_{i-1} \\ y_{i-m}^T y_{i-m}, & \dots & y_{i-m}^T y_{i-1} \\ \dots & \dots & \dots \\ 0, & \dots & d_{i-1}^T y_{i-1} \\ 0, & \dots & y_{i-1}^T y_{i-1} \end{bmatrix},$$

whose every block contains two rows and one column. First we determine matrix $\bar{U}_i = [d_{i-m+1}, y_{i-m+1}, \dots, d_i, y_i]$ from matrix \bar{U}_{i-1} by deleting the first two columns and adding the last two columns. Similarly easily we obtain matrix \bar{R}_i from matrix \bar{R}_{i-1} . Only the last column $\bar{U}_i^T y_i$ of this matrix has to be computed. Furthermore, we compute recursively matrix $\bar{M}_i = \bar{M}_i^i$ in such a way that we set

$$\bar{M}_{i-m+1}^i = \begin{bmatrix} m_{i-m+1}^1, & m_{i-m+1}^2 \\ m_{i-m+1}^2, & m_{i-m+1}^3 \end{bmatrix}$$

(indices 1, 2, 3 are now placed up) and for $i-m+1 \leq j \leq i-1$, compute vector $z_j = \bar{M}_j^i \bar{r}_j$, where \bar{r}_j is $j-i+m$ -th column of matrix \bar{R}_i , whose every even element is multiplied by number γ_i (since $H_{i+1-m} = \gamma_i I$), and set

$$\bar{M}_{j+1}^i = \begin{bmatrix} \bar{M}_j^i + m_{j+1}^3 z_j z_j^T, & m_{j+1}^2 z_j, & m_{j+1}^3 z_j \\ m_{j+1}^2 z_j^T, & m_{j+1}^1, & m_{j+1}^2 \\ m_{j+1}^3 z_j^T, & m_{j+1}^2, & m_{j+1}^3 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Vector $H_{i+1} g_{i+1}$ is computed by the formula

$$H_{i+1} g_{i+1} = \gamma_i g_{i+1} + [d_{i-m+1}, \gamma_i y_{i-m+1}, \dots, d_i, \gamma_i y_i] \bar{M}_i [d_{i-m+1}, \gamma_i y_{i-m+1}, \dots, d_i, \gamma_i y_i]^T g_{i+1}$$

(even columns of matrix \bar{U}_i are multiplied by number γ_i). As we can see, approximately $6mn$ operations (addition and multiplication) are consumed in i -th iteration. However, approximately $2(m-1)n$ operations can be saved, if we compute and store inner products $d_j^T g_{i+1}$, $y_j^T g_{i+1}$ instead of $d_j^T y_i$, $y_j^T y_i$, $i-m+1 \leq j \leq i$. Then the first $m-1$ inner products $d_j^T y_i$, $y_j^T y_i$, $i-m+1 \leq j \leq i-1$ can be determined from the previously computed inner products by the formulas $d_j^T y_i = d_j^T g_{i+1} - d_j^T g_i$, $y_j^T y_i = y_j^T g_{i+1} - y_j^T g_i$, $i-m+1 \leq j \leq i-1$. Thus it is necessary to compute only two inner products $d_i^T y_i$, $y_i^T y_i$. Inner products $d_j^T g_{i+1}$, $y_j^T g_{i+1}$, $i-m+1 \leq j \leq i$ can be used for the computation of direction vector s_{i+1} , so we save $2mn$ operations.

The method described has been tested by using a set of 60 test problems with 1000 variables. This set (Test25) was obtained by merging the sets Test14, Test15, Test18 described in [6], which can be downloaded from <http://www.cs.cas.cz/luksan/test.html> (together with report [6]). The results of the tests are listed in Table 1, where NIT is the total number of iterations, NFV is the total number of function and gradient evaluations, NF is the number of failures and TIME is the total CPU time. We have tested the original LBFGS subroutine, described in [2], and our realizations of limited memory variable metric methods implemented in the UFO system [5]. In Table 1, BFGSSTR denotes the limited memory BFGS method with the Strang recurrences [9] (an analogy of LBFGS), BFGSBNS denotes the limited memory BFGS method with compact matrices described in [1], BFGSNEW denotes the limited memory BFGS method with recursive construction

of matrix \bar{M} described above, LMVMNEW denotes the limited memory variable metric method with recursive construction of matrix \bar{M} that use parameter η proposed in [4], and CG denotes the conjugate gradient method. Note that the first four rows in Table 1 correspond to different implementations of the BFGS method and that our approach gives the best results.

Method	NIT	NFV	F	TIME
LBFGS	110406	117226	2	43.38
BFGSSTR	99125	104085	-	37.56
BFGSBNS	91650	96235	-	36.89
BFGSNEW	85430	89796	-	33.50
LMVMNEW	92877	99033	-	34.61
CG	144990	222460	1	60.77

Table 1: Test results.

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