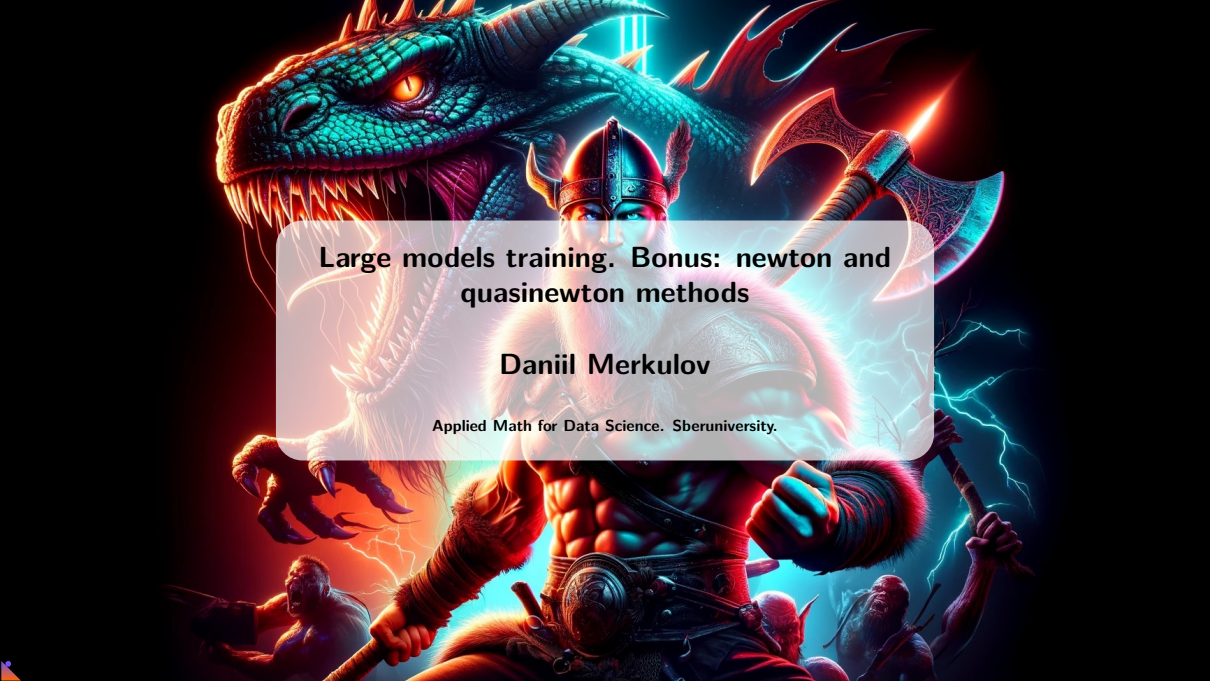


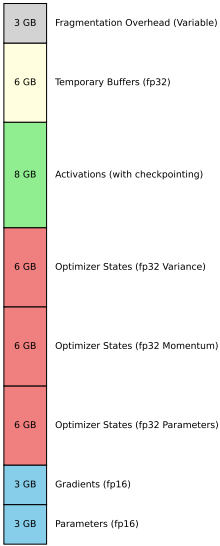
Large models training. Bonus: newton and quasinewton methods

Daniil Merkulov

Applied Math for Data Science. Sberuniversity.

GPT-2 training Memory footprint

GPT-2 training Memory footprint



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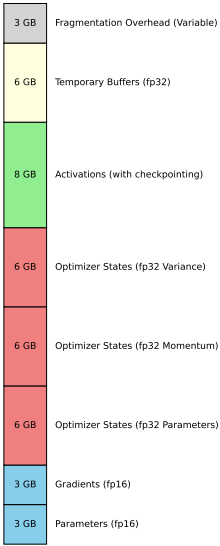
Model States:

- Optimizer states (e.g., Adam) require memory for time-averaged momentum and gradient variance.

Memory Requirements Example:

Residual Memory Consumption:

GPT-2 training Memory footprint



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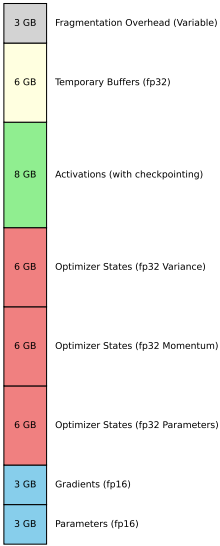

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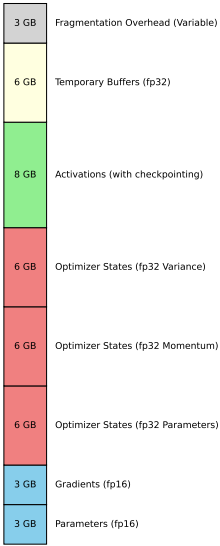

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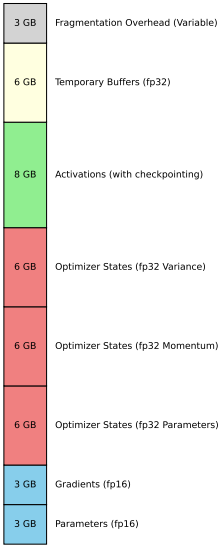

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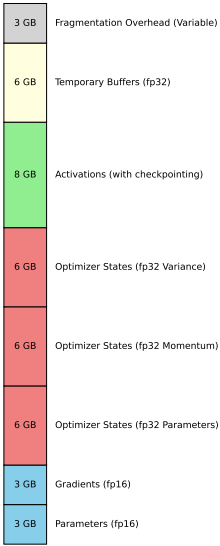
GPT-2 training Memory footprint



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- Activation checkpointing can reduce activation memory by about 50%, with a 33% recomputation overhead.

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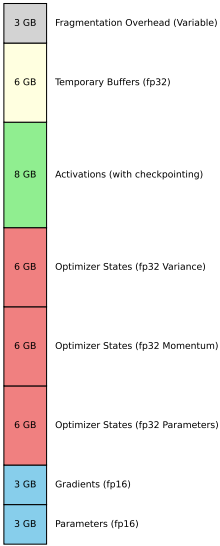

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Memory Fragmentation:

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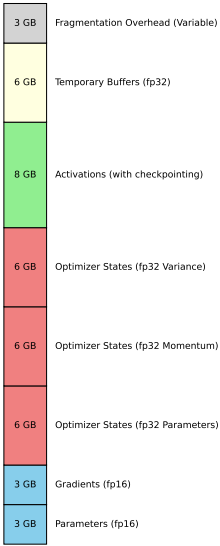

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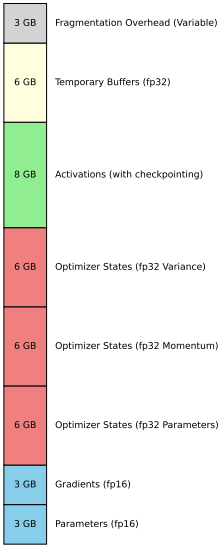

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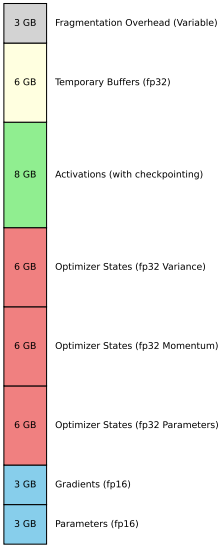

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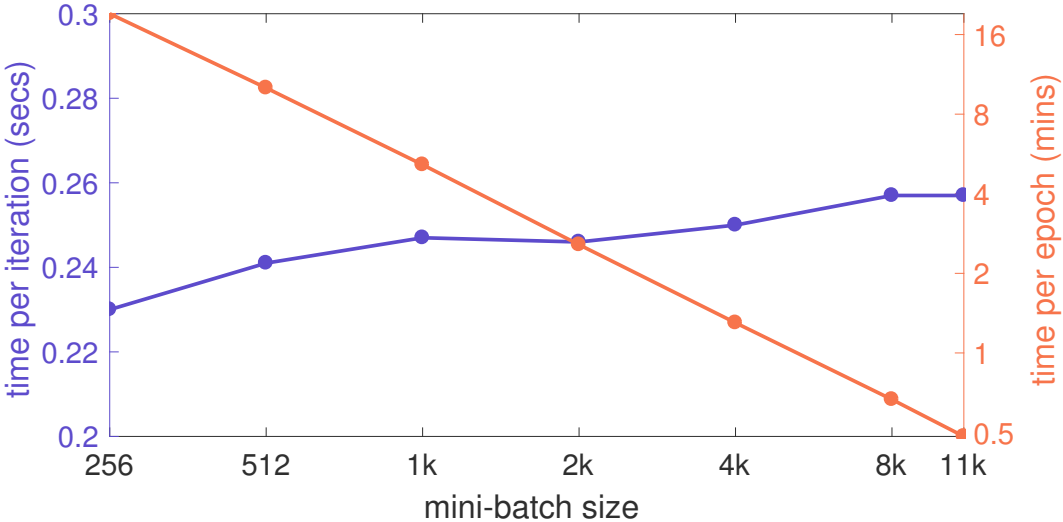
Memory Fragmentation:

- Memory fragmentation can cause out-of-memory issues despite available memory, as contiguous blocks are required.
- In some cases, over 30% of memory remains unusable due to fragmentation.

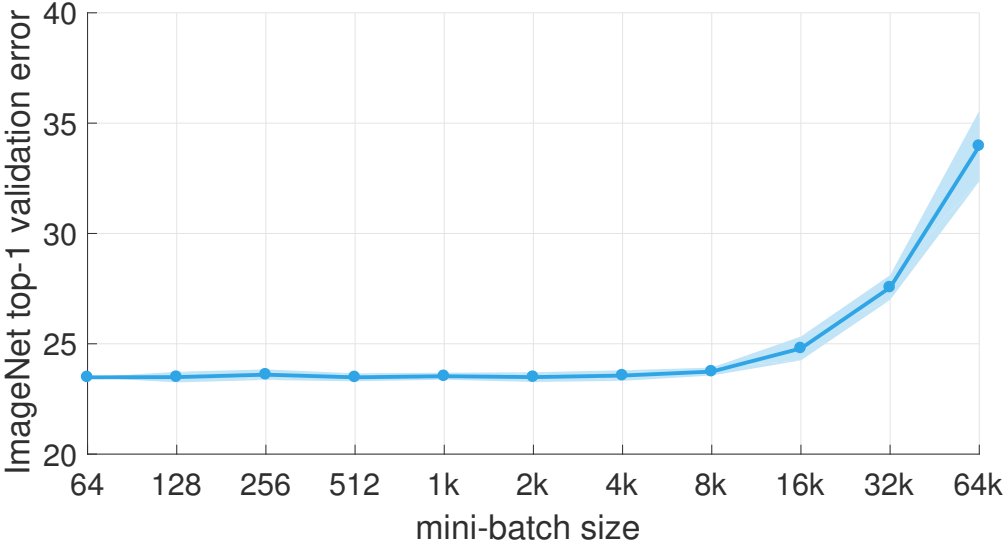
Large batch training

Large batch training [1]



[1] Accurate, Large Minibatch SGD: Training ImageNet in 1 Hour

Large batch training [2]



[2] Accurate, Large Minibatch SGD: Training ImageNet in 1 Hour

Large batch training [3]

Effective batch size (kn)	α	top-1 error (%)
256	0.05	23.92 $\pm$ 0.10
256	0.10	23.60 $\pm$ 0.12
256	0.20	23.68 $\pm$ 0.09
8k	$0.05 \cdot 32$	24.27 $\pm$ 0.08
8k	$0.10 \cdot 32$	23.74 $\pm$ 0.09
8k	$0.20 \cdot 32$	24.05 $\pm$ 0.18
8k	0.10	41.67 $\pm$ 0.10
8k	$0.10 \cdot \sqrt{32}$	26.22 $\pm$ 0.03

Comparison of learning rate scaling rules. ResNet-50 trained on ImageNet. A reference learning rate of $\alpha = 0.1$ works best for $kn = 256$ (23.68% error). The linear scaling rule suggests $\alpha = 0.1 \cdot 32$ when $kn = 8$k, which again gives best performance (23.74% error). Other ways of scaling α give worse results.

[3] Accurate, Large Minibatch SGD: Training ImageNet in 1 Hour

Linear and square root scaling rules

When training with large batches, the learning rate must be adjusted to maintain convergence speed and stability. The **linear scaling rule**[4] suggests multiplying the learning rate by the same factor as the increase in batch size:

$$\alpha_{\text{new}} = \alpha_{\text{base}} \cdot \frac{\text{Batch Size}_{\text{new}}}{\text{Batch Size}_{\text{base}}}$$

The **square root scaling rule**[5] proposes scaling the learning rate with the square root of the batch size increase:

$$\alpha_{\text{new}} = \alpha_{\text{base}} \cdot \sqrt{\frac{\text{Batch Size}_{\text{new}}}{\text{Batch Size}_{\text{base}}}}$$

Authors claimed, that it suits for adaptive optimizers like Adam, RMSProp and etc. while linear scaling rule serves well for SGD.

[4] Accurate, Large Minibatch SGD: Training ImageNet in 1 Hour

[5] Learning Rates as a Function of Batch Size: A Random Matrix Theory Approach to Neural Network Training

Gradual warmup [6]

Gradual warmup helps to avoid instability when starting with large learning rates by slowly increasing the learning rate from a small value to the target value over a few epochs. This is defined as:

$$\alpha_t = \alpha_{\text{max}} \cdot \frac{t}{T_w}$$

where t is the current iteration and T_w is the warmup duration in iterations. In the original paper, authors used first 5 epochs for gradual warmup.

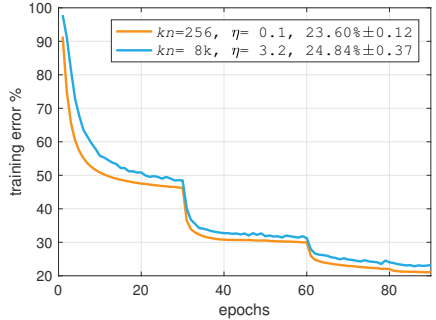


Figure 1: no warmup

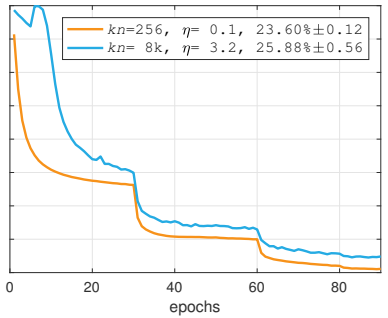


Figure 2: constant warmup

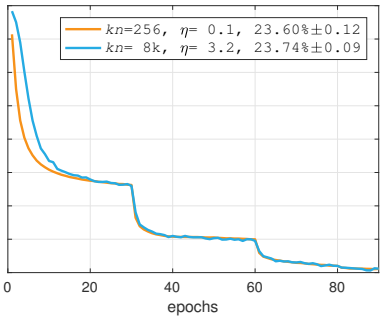


Figure 3: gradual warmup

[6] Accurate, Large Minibatch SGD: Training ImageNet in 1 Hour

Gradient accumulation

Gradient accumulation allows the effective batch size to be increased without requiring larger memory by accumulating gradients over several mini-batches:

Without gradient accumulation

```
for i, (inputs, targets) in enumerate(data):
    outputs = model(inputs)
    loss = criterion(outputs, targets)
    loss.backward()

    optimizer.step()
    optimizer.zero_grad()
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```

With gradient accumulation

```
for i, (inputs, targets) in enumerate(data):
    outputs = model(inputs)
    loss = criterion(outputs, targets)
    loss.backward()
    if (i+1) % accumulation_steps == 0:
        optimizer.step()
        optimizer.zero_grad()
```

MultiGPU training

Data Parallel training

1. Parameter server sends the full copy of the model to each device

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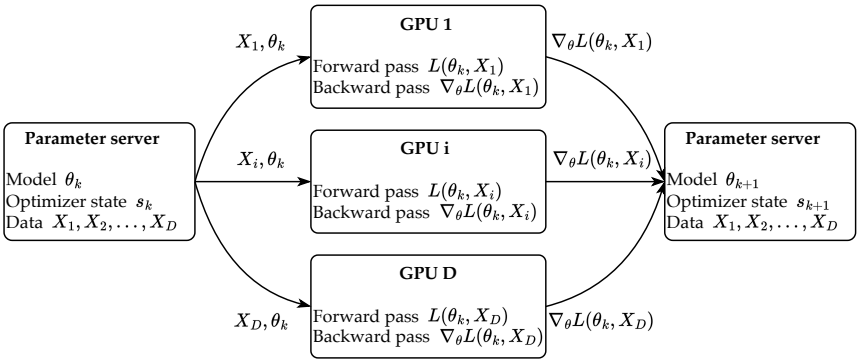
Per device batch size: b. Overall batchsize: Db. Data parallelism involves splitting the data across multiple GPUs, each with a copy of the model. Gradients are averaged and weights updated synchronously:



Distributed Data Parallel training

Distributed Data Parallel (DDP) [7] extends data parallelism across multiple nodes. Each node computes gradients locally, then synchronizes with others. Below one can find differences from the PyTorch site. This is used by default in Accelerate library.

DataParallel	DistributedDataParallel
More overhead; model is replicated and destroyed at each forward pass	Model is replicated only once
Only supports single-node parallelism	Supports scaling to multiple machines
Slower; uses multithreading on a single process and runs into Global Interpreter Lock (GIL) contention	Faster (no GIL contention) because it uses multiprocessing

[7] Getting Started with Distributed Data Parallel

Naive model parallelism

Model parallelism divides the model across multiple GPUs. Each GPU handles a subset of the model layers, reducing memory load per GPU. Allows to work with the models, that won't fit in the single GPU Poor resource utilization.

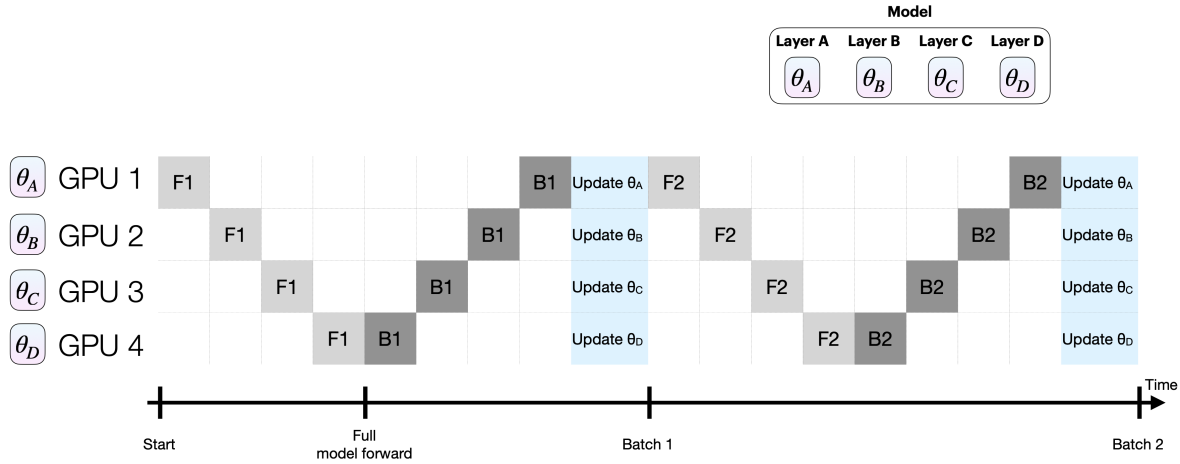
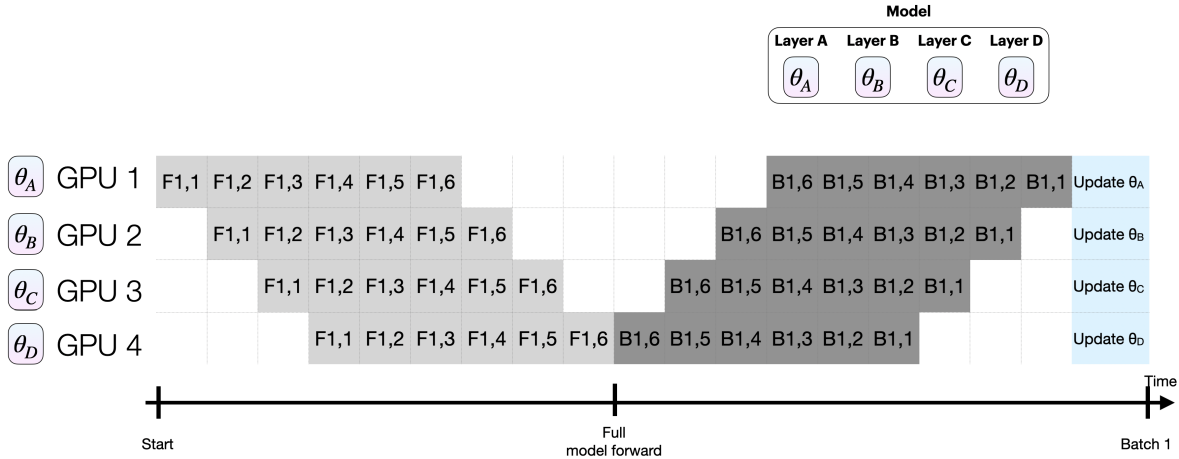


Figure 5: Model parallelism

Pipeline model parallelism (GPipe) [8]

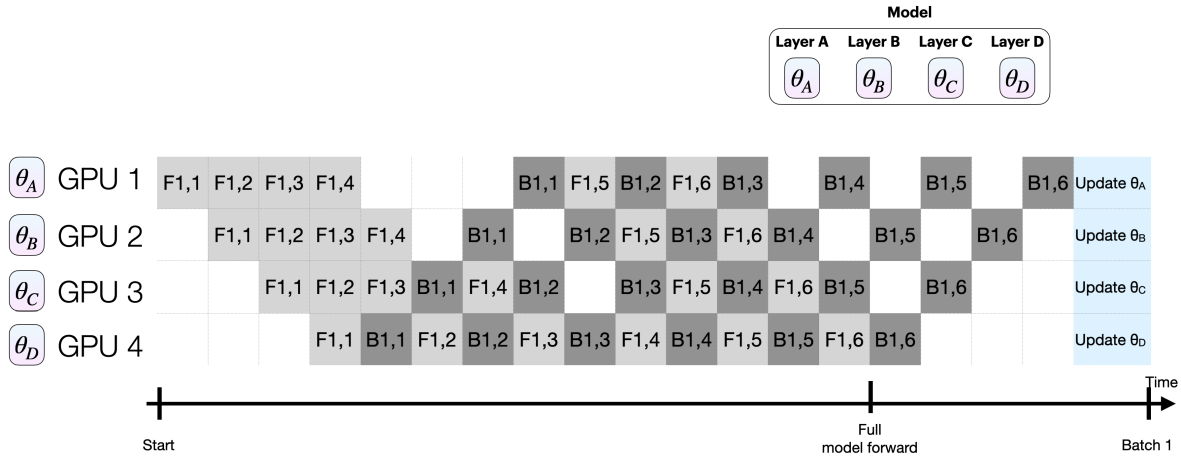
GPipe splits the model into stages, each processed sequentially. Micro-batches are passed through the pipeline, allowing for overlapping computation and communication:



[8] GPipe: Efficient Training of Giant Neural Networks using Pipeline Parallelism

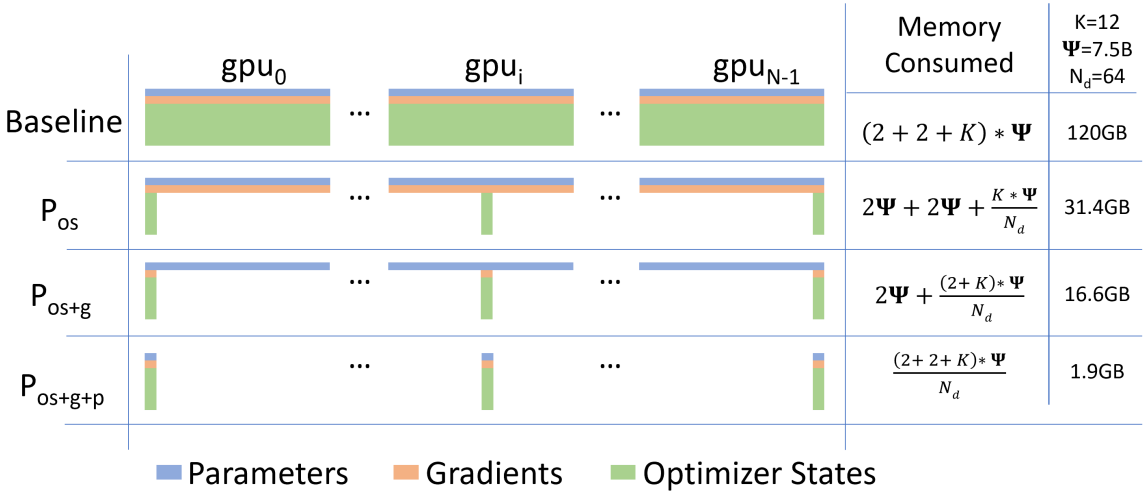
Pipeline model parallelism (PipeDream) [9]

PipeDream uses asynchronous pipeline parallelism, balancing forward and backward passes across the pipeline stages to maximize utilization and reduce idle time:



[9] PipeDream: Generalized Pipeline Parallelism for DNN Training

ZeRO [10]



[10] ZeRO: Memory Optimizations Toward Training Trillion Parameter Models

Automatic Mixed Precision training

Two copies of the models needed to be stored - fp32 and fp16 (fp8). Rewrite the computational graph with respect to the following idea:

Numerically-Safe plus Performance Critical (always in fp16/fp8)

Convolution & Matmul

Numerically-Neutral (Context-Dependent)

Max, min

Numerically-Safe (Conditional, Context-Dependent)

Activations

Numerically-Dangerous (Always in fp32)

Exp, Log, Pow, Softmax, Reduction Sum, Mean

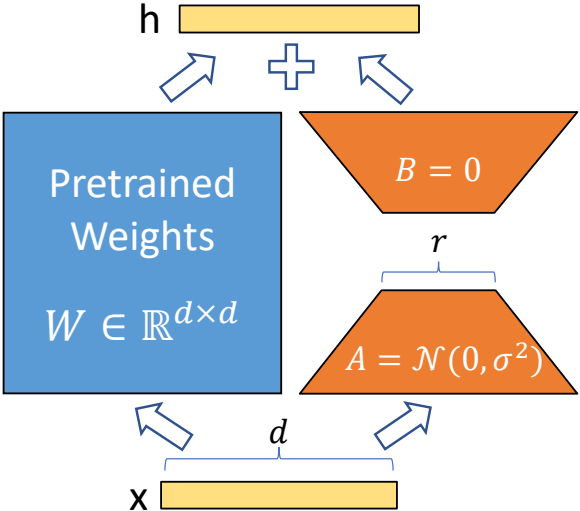
In `accelerate`:

```
torch.cuda.amp.autocast(dtype=torch.float16)(model_forward_func)
```

or

```
torch.autocast(device_type=self.device.type, dtype=torch.bfloat16)(model_forward_func)
```

LoRA [11]



LoRA reduces the number of parameters by approximating weight matrices with low-rank factorization:

$$W_{\text{new}} = W + \Delta W$$

where $\Delta W = AB^T$, with A and B being low-rank matrices. This reduces computational and memory overhead while maintaining model performance.

- A is initialized as usual, while B is initialized with zeroes in order to start from identity mapping

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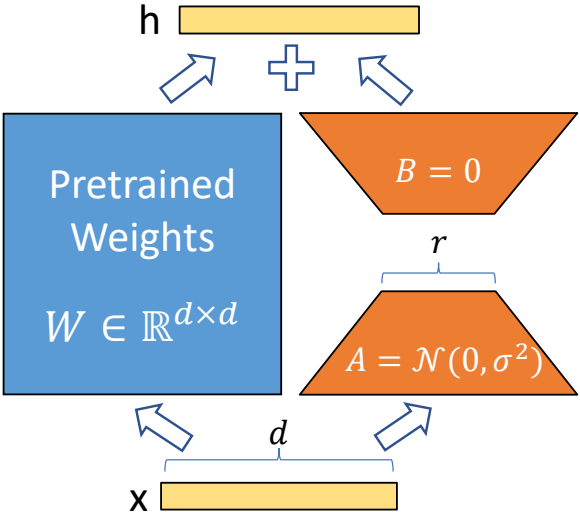

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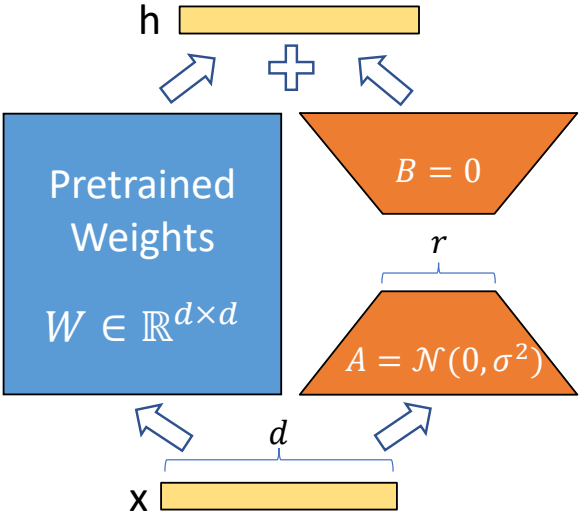

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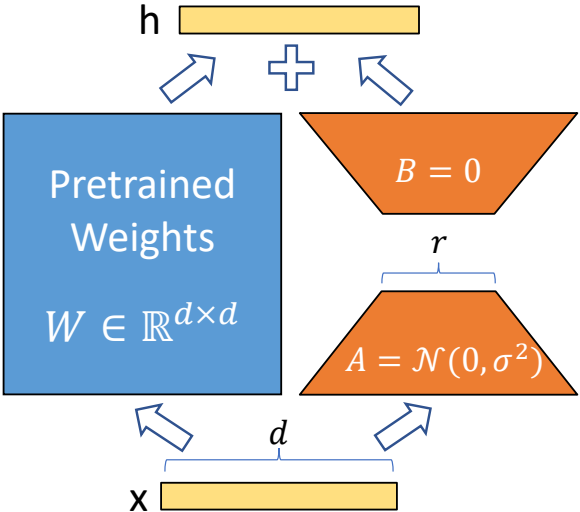

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[11] LoRA: Low-Rank Adaptation of Large Language Models

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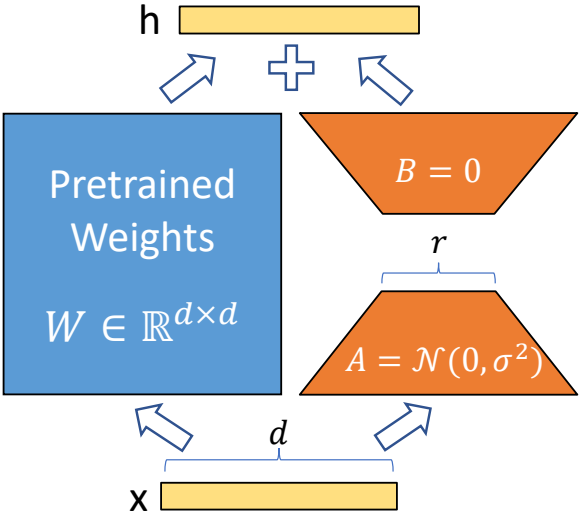

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- r is typically selected between 2 and 64
- Usually applied to attention modules

$$h = W_{\text{new}}x = Wx + \Delta Wx = Wx + AB^T x$$

[11] LoRA: Low-Rank Adaptation of Large Language Models

Feedforward Architecture

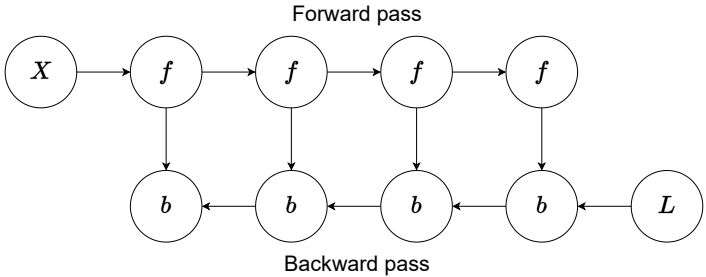


Figure 6: Computation graph for obtaining gradients for a simple feed-forward neural network with n layers. The activations marked with an f. The gradient of the loss with respect to the activations and parameters marked with b.

Feedforward Architecture

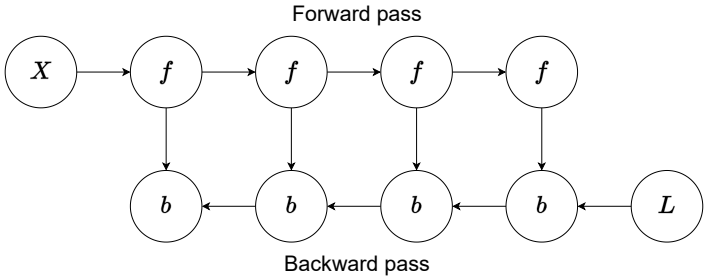


Figure 6: Computation graph for obtaining gradients for a simple feed-forward neural network with n layers. The activations marked with an f. The gradient of the loss with respect to the activations and parameters marked with b.

! Important

The results obtained for the f nodes are needed to compute the b nodes.

Vanilla backpropagation

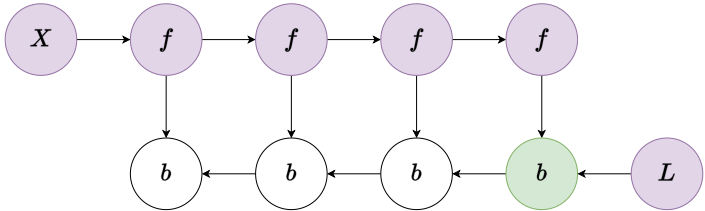
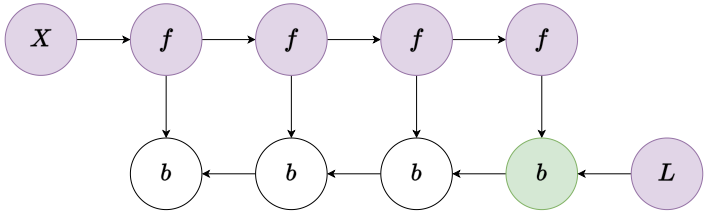


Figure 7: Computation graph for obtaining gradients for a simple feed-forward neural network with n layers. The purple color indicates nodes that are stored in memory.

Vanilla backpropagation



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- All activations f are kept in memory after the forward pass.

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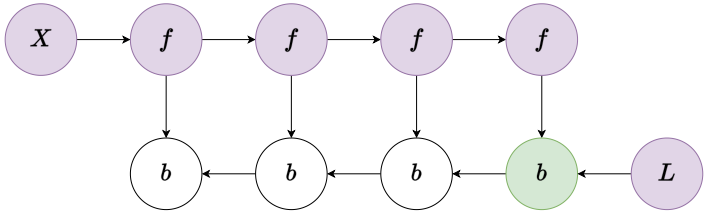

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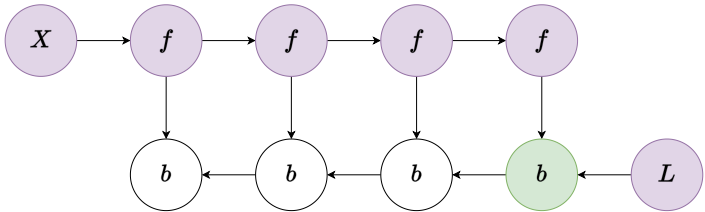

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- All activations f are kept in memory after the forward pass.

- Optimal in terms of computation: it only computes each node once.

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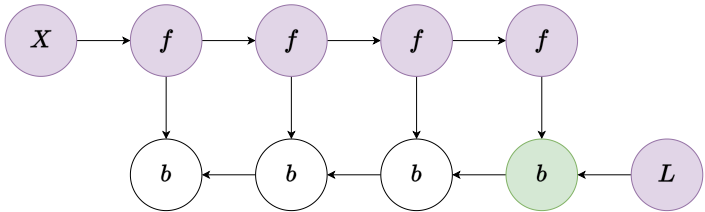

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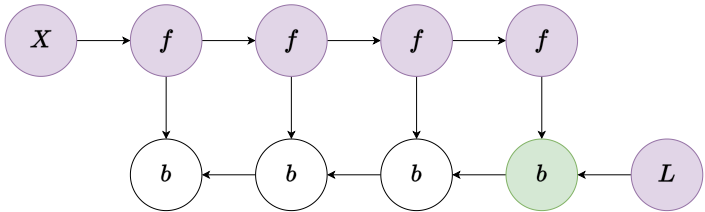

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- Optimal in terms of computation: it only computes each node once.

- High memory usage. The memory usage grows linearly with the number of layers in the neural network.

Memory poor backpropagation

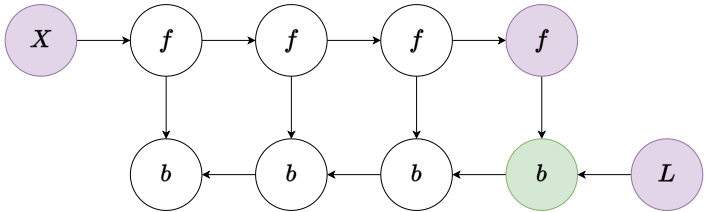
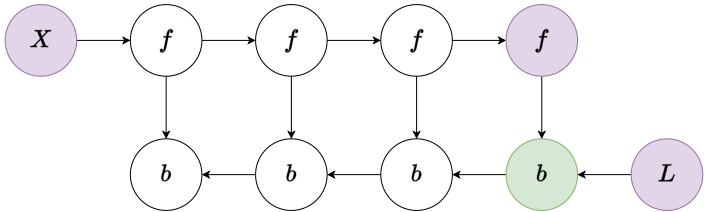


Figure 8: Computation graph for obtaining gradients for a simple feed-forward neural network with n layers. The purple color indicates nodes that are stored in memory.

Memory poor backpropagation



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- Each activation f is recalculated as needed.

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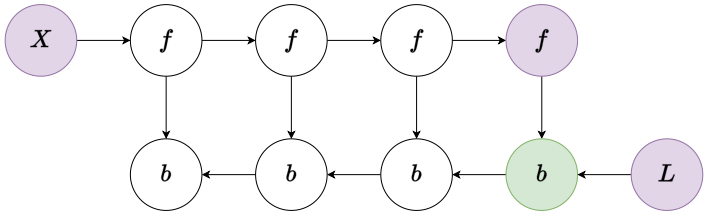

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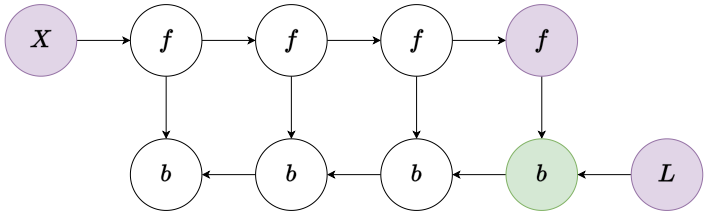

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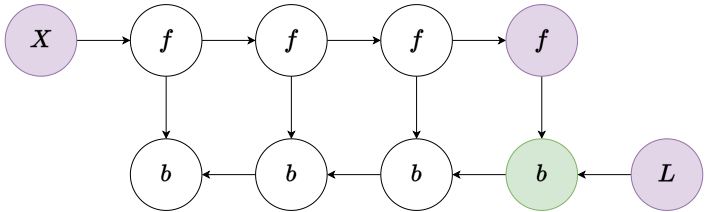

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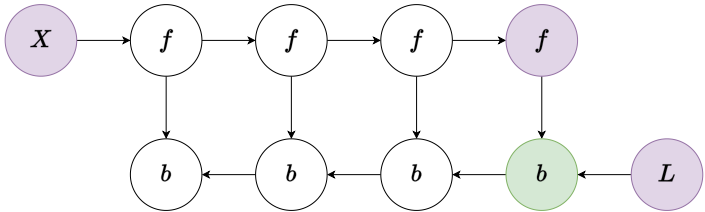

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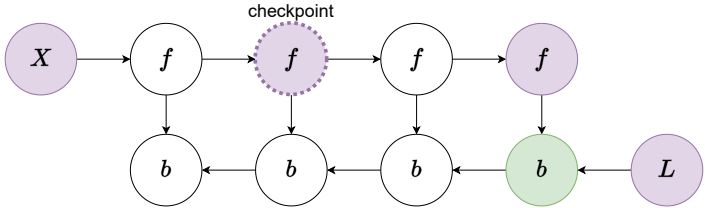
- Each activation f is recalculated as needed.

- Optimal in terms of memory: there is no need to store all activations in memory.

- Computationally inefficient. The number of node evaluations scales with n^2, whereas it vanilla backprop scaled as n: each of the n nodes is recomputed on the order of n times.

Checkpointed backpropagation



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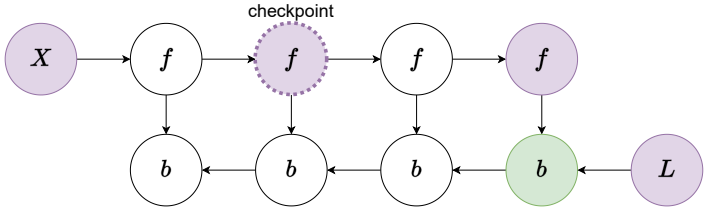

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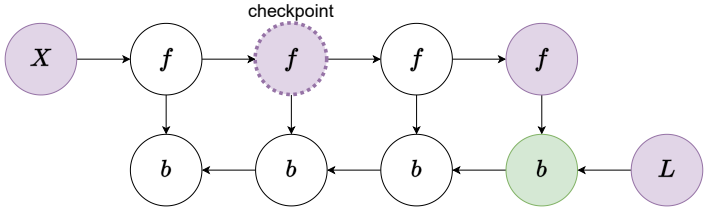
- Trade-off between the **vanilla** and **memory poor** approaches. The strategy is to mark a subset of the neural net activations as checkpoint nodes, that will be stored in memory.

Checkpointed backpropagation



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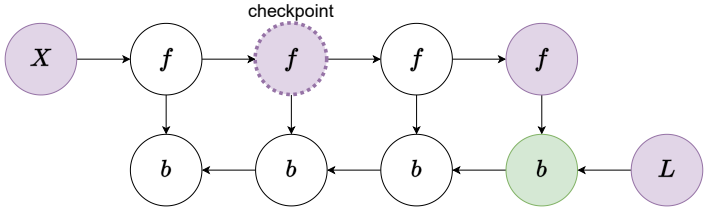

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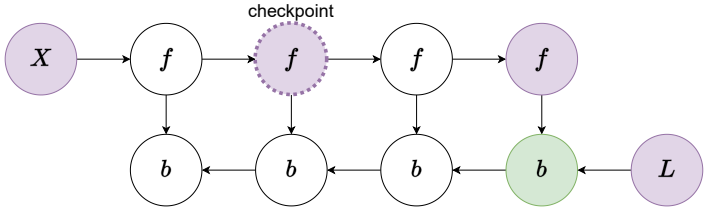
- Faster recalculation of activations f. We only need to recompute the nodes between a b node and the last checkpoint preceding it when computing that b node during backprop.

Checkpointed backpropagation



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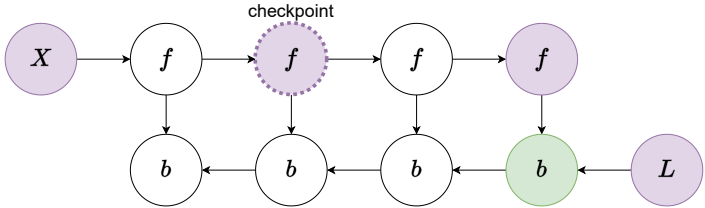

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- Faster recalculation of activations f. We only need to recompute the nodes between a b node and the last checkpoint preceding it when computing that b node during backprop.

- Memory consumption depends on the number of checkpoints. More effective then **vanilla** approach.

Gradient checkpointing visualization

The animated visualization of the above approaches

An example of using a gradient checkpointing

Quantization

Split the weight matrix into 2 well clustered factors [12]

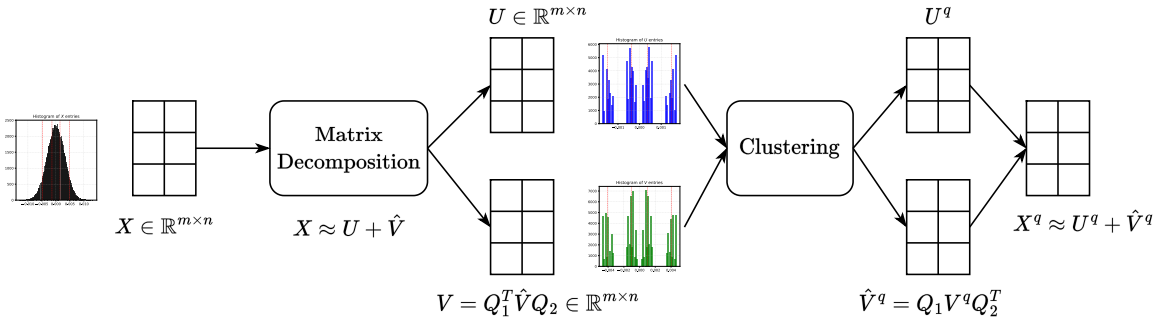


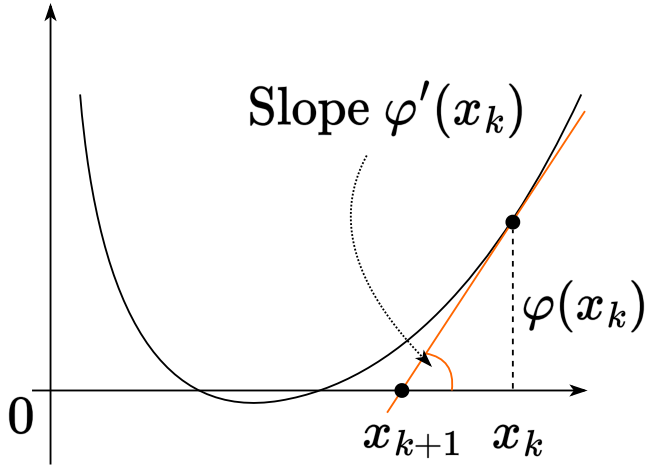
Figure 10: Scheme of post-training quantization approach.

[12] Quantization of Large Language Models with an Overdetermined Basis

Newton method

Idea of Newton method of root finding

Consider the function $\varphi(x) : \mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{R}$.



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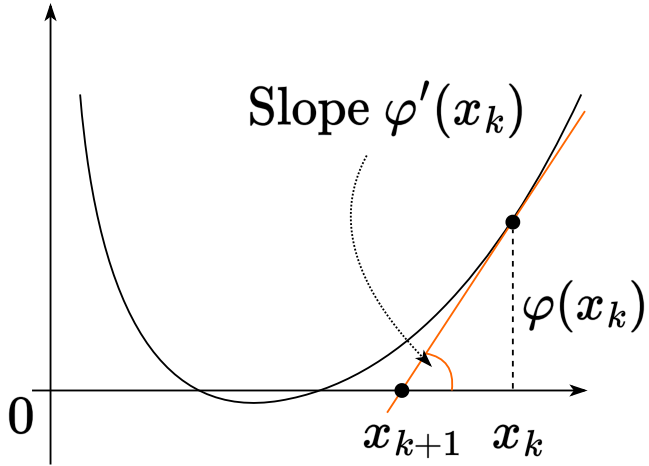

Consider the function $\varphi(x) : \mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{R}$.
The whole idea came from building a linear approximation at the point x_k and find its root, which will be the new iteration point:

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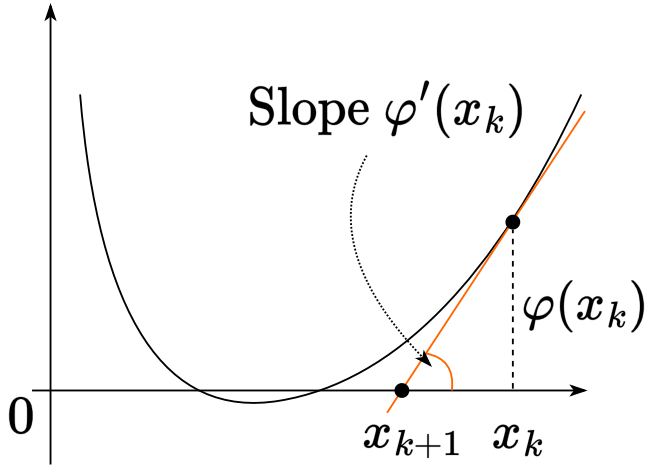

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The whole idea came from building a linear approximation at the point x_k and find its root, which will be the new iteration point:

$$\varphi'(x_k) = \frac{\varphi(x_k)}{x_{k+1} - x_k}$$

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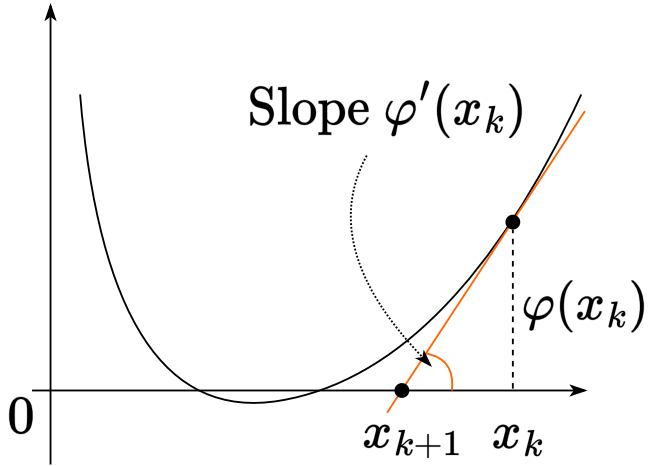

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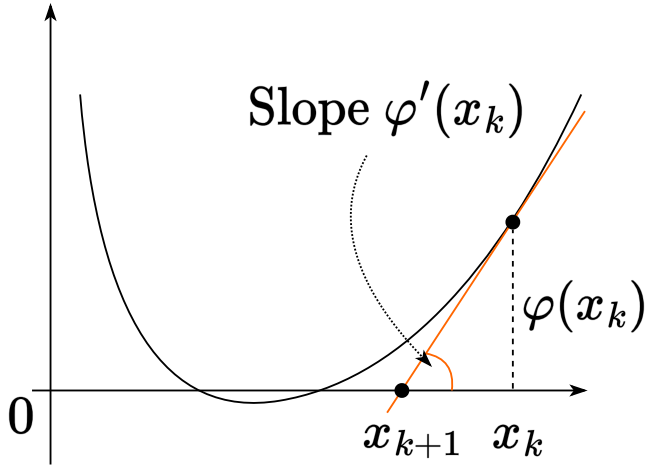

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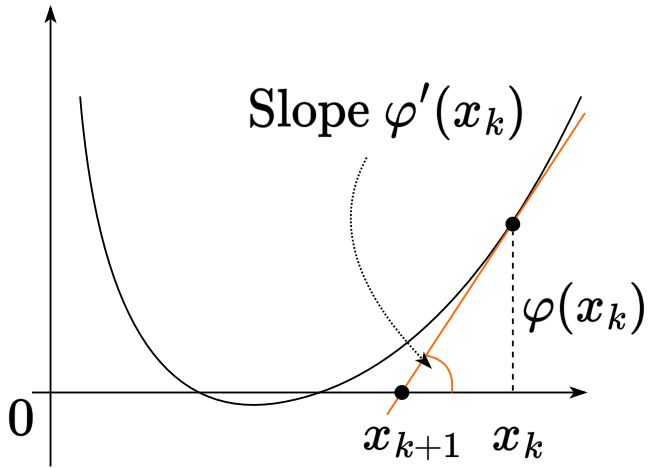
$$x_{k+1} = x_k - \frac{\varphi(x_k)}{\varphi'(x_k)}.$$

Idea of Newton method of root finding



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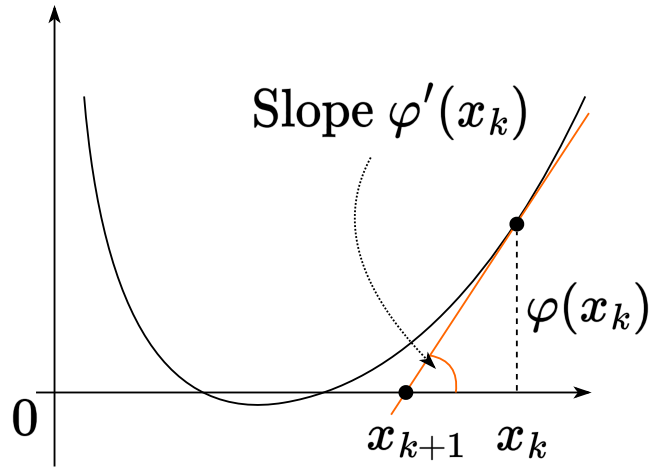
Which will become a Newton optimization method in case $f'(x) = \varphi(x)^a$:

Idea of Newton method of root finding



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We get an iterative scheme:

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Which will become a Newton optimization method in case $f'(x) = \varphi(x)$[a]:

$$x_{k+1} = x_k - \left[\nabla^2 f(x_k)\right]^{-1} \nabla f(x_k)$$

[a] Literally we aim to solve the problem of finding stationary points $\nabla f(x) = 0$

Newton method as a local quadratic Taylor approximation minimizer

Let us now have the function $f(x)$ and a certain point x_k. Let us consider the quadratic approximation of this function near x_k:

Newton method as a local quadratic Taylor approximation minimizer

Let us now have the function $f(x)$ and a certain point x_k. Let us consider the quadratic approximation of this function near x_k:

$$f^{II}_{x_k}(x) = f(x_k) + \langle \nabla f(x_k), x - x_k \rangle + \frac{1}{2} \langle \nabla^2 f(x_k)(x - x_k), x - x_k \rangle.$$

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The idea of the method is to find the point x_{k+1}, that minimizes the function $f^{II}_{x_k}(x)$, i.e. $\nabla f^{II}_{x_k}(x_{k+1}) = 0$.

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$$\nabla f_{x_k}^{II}(x_{k+1}) = \nabla f(x_k) + \nabla^2 f(x_k)(x_{k+1} - x_k) = 0$$
$$\nabla^2 f(x_k)(x_{k+1} - x_k) = -\nabla f(x_k)$$

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$$\begin{aligned} \nabla f_{x_k}^{II}(x_{k+1}) &= \nabla f(x_k) + \nabla^2 f(x_k)(x_{k+1} - x_k) = 0 \\ \nabla^2 f(x_k)(x_{k+1} - x_k) &= -\nabla f(x_k) \\ \left[\nabla^2 f(x_k)\right]^{-1} \nabla^2 f(x_k)(x_{k+1} - x_k) &= -\left[\nabla^2 f(x_k)\right]^{-1} \nabla f(x_k) \end{aligned}$$

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$$\begin{aligned}
\nabla f_{x_k}^{II}(x_{k+1}) &= \nabla f(x_k) + \nabla^2 f(x_k)(x_{k+1} - x_k) = 0 \\
\nabla^2 f(x_k)(x_{k+1} - x_k) &= -\nabla f(x_k) \\
\left[\nabla^2 f(x_k)\right]^{-1} \nabla^2 f(x_k)(x_{k+1} - x_k) &= -\left[\nabla^2 f(x_k)\right]^{-1} \nabla f(x_k) \\
x_{k+1} &= x_k - \left[\nabla^2 f(x_k)\right]^{-1} \nabla f(x_k).
\end{aligned}$$

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The idea of the method is to find the point x_{k+1}, that minimizes the function $f_{x_k}^{II}(x)$, i.e. $\nabla f_{x_k}^{II}(x_{k+1}) = 0$.

$$\begin{aligned}
\nabla f_{x_k}^{II}(x_{k+1}) &= \nabla f(x_k) + \nabla^2 f(x_k)(x_{k+1} - x_k) = 0 \\
\nabla^2 f(x_k)(x_{k+1} - x_k) &= -\nabla f(x_k) \\
\left[\nabla^2 f(x_k)\right]^{-1} \nabla^2 f(x_k)(x_{k+1} - x_k) &= -\left[\nabla^2 f(x_k)\right]^{-1} \nabla f(x_k) \\
x_{k+1} &= x_k - \left[\nabla^2 f(x_k)\right]^{-1} \nabla f(x_k).
\end{aligned}$$

Newton method as a local quadratic Taylor approximation minimizer

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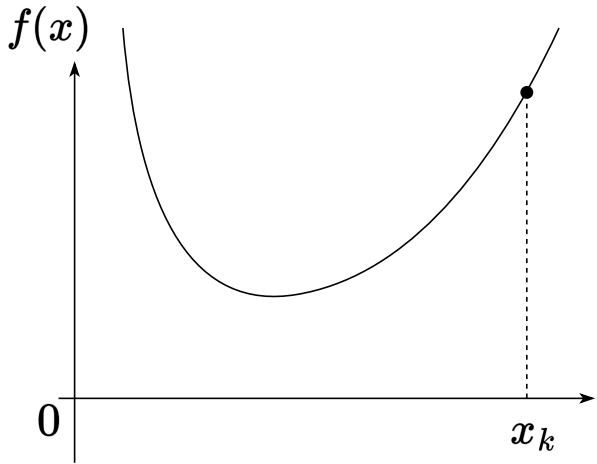
Let us immediately note the limitations related to the necessity of the Hessian's non-degeneracy (for the method to exist), as well as its positive definiteness (for the convergence guarantee).

Newton method as a local quadratic Taylor approximation minimizer



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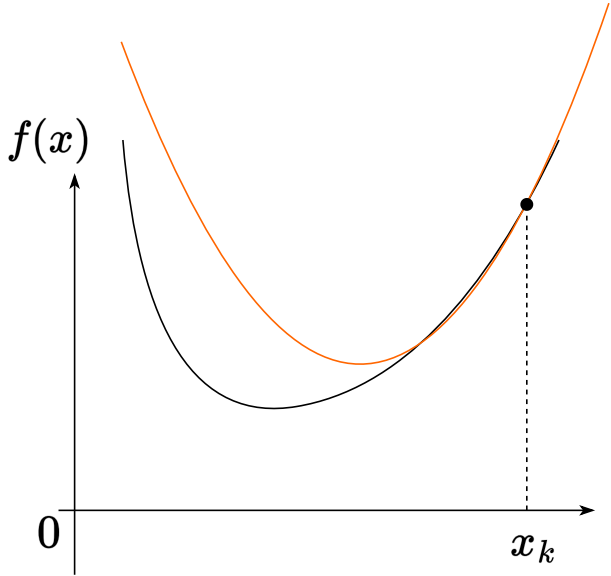

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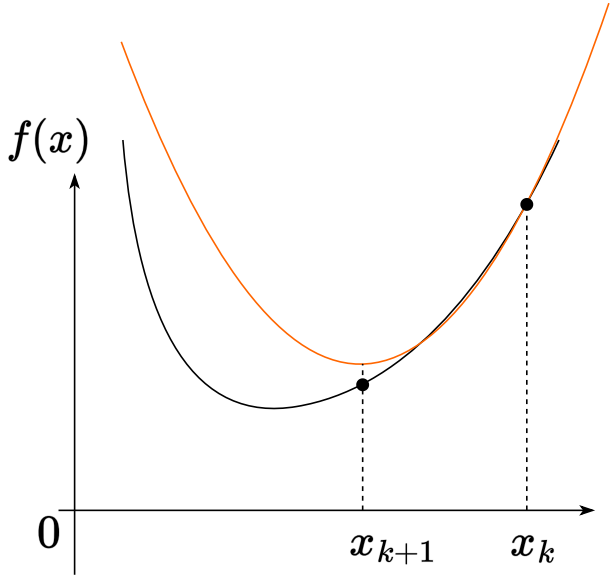

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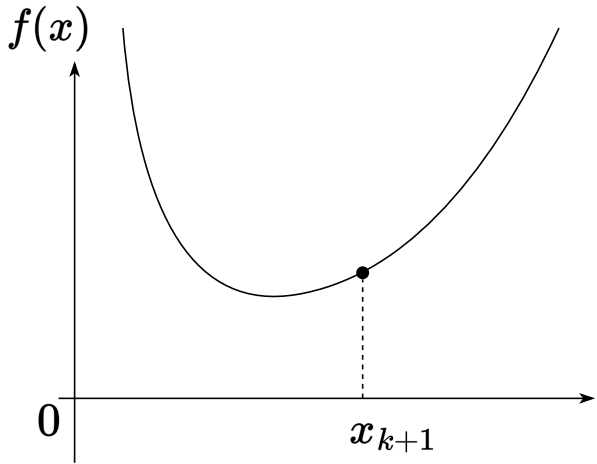

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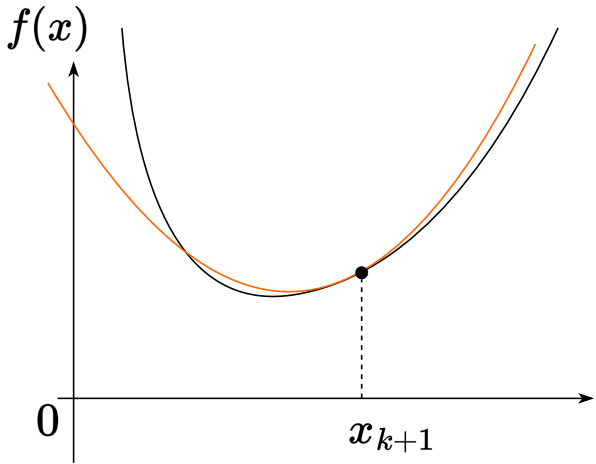

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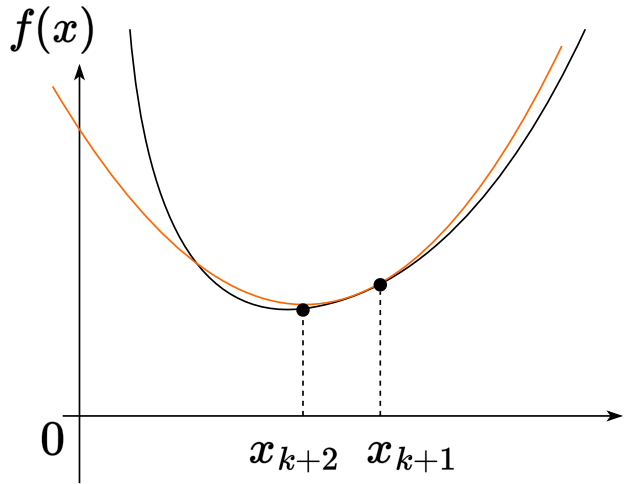

Convergence

Theorem

Let $f(x)$ be a strongly convex twice continuously differentiable function at $\mathbb{R}^n$, for the second derivative of which inequalities are executed: $\mu I_n \preceq \nabla^2 f(x) \preceq L I_n$. Then Newton's method with a constant step locally converges to solving the problem with superlinear speed. If, in addition, Hessian is M-Lipschitz continuous, then this method converges locally to x^* at a quadratic rate.

Thus, we have an important result: Newton's method for the function with Lipschitz positive-definite Hessian converges **quadratically** near ($\|x_0 - x^*\| < \frac{2\mu}{3M}$) to the solution.

Affine Invariance of Newton's Method

An important property of Newton's method is **affine invariance**. Given a function f and a nonsingular matrix $A \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$, let $x = Ay$, and define $g(y) = f(Ay)$. Note, that $\nabla g(y) = A^T \nabla f(x)$ and $\nabla^2 g(y) = A^T \nabla^2 f(x) A$. The Newton steps on g are expressed as:

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Using the property of matrix inverse $(AB)^{-1} = B^{-1} A^{-1}$, this simplifies to:

$$y_{k+1} = y_k - A^{-1} \left(\nabla^2 f(Ay_k)\right)^{-1} \nabla f(Ay_k)$$
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This shows that the progress made by Newton's method is independent of problem scaling. This property is not shared by the gradient descent method!

Summary

What's nice:

- quadratic convergence near the solution x^*

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- it is necessary to solve linear systems: $\mathcal{O}(n^3)$ operations
- the Hessian can be degenerate at x^*
- the hessian may not be positively determined $\rightarrow$ direction $-(f''(x))^{-1}f'(x)$ may not be a descending direction

Newton method problems

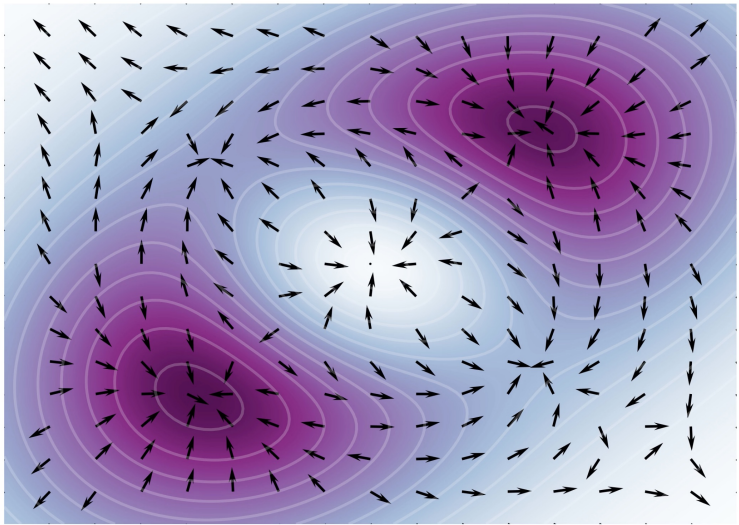

Figure 17: Animation

Newton method problems

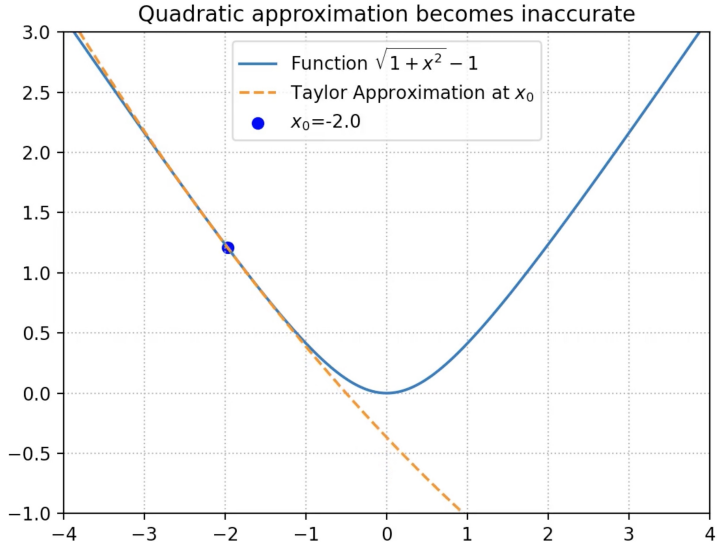

Figure 18: Animation

The idea of adapive metrics

Given $f(x)$ and a point x_0. Define $B_\varepsilon(x_0) = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : d(x, x_0) = \varepsilon^2\}$ as the set of points with distance ε to x_0. Here we presume the existence of a distance function $d(x, x_0)$.

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$$f(x_0 + \delta x) \approx f(x_0) + \nabla f(x_0)^\top \delta x \tag{1}$$

Now we can explicitly pose a problem of finding s, as it was stated above.

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Which means, that new direction of steepest descent is nothing else, but $A^{-1} \nabla f(x_0)$.

. . . Indeed, if the space is isotropic and $A = I$, we immediately have gradient descent formula, while Newton method uses local Hessian as a metric matrix.

Quasi-Newton methods

Quasi-Newton methods intuition

For the classic task of unconditional optimization $f(x) \to \min\limits_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n}$ the general scheme of iteration method is written as:

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Note here that if we take a single matrix of $B_k = I_n$ as B_k at each step, we will exactly get the gradient descent method.

The general scheme of quasi-Newton methods is based on the selection of the B_k matrix so that it tends in some sense at $k \to \infty$ to the truth value of the Hessian $\nabla^2 f(x_k)$.

Quasi-Newton Method Template

Let $x_0 \in \mathbb{R}^n$, $B_0 \succ 0$. For $k = 1, 2, 3, \ldots$, repeat:

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Quasi-Newton Method Template

Let $x_0 \in \mathbb{R}^n$, $B_0 \succ 0$. For $k = 1, 2, 3, \ldots$, repeat:

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Symmetric Rank-One Update

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This only holds if u is a multiple of $\Delta y_k - B_k d_k$. Putting $u = \Delta y_k - B_k d_k$, we solve the above,

$$a = \frac{1}{(\Delta y_k - B_k d_k)^T d_k},$$

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which leads to

$$B_{k+1} = B_k + \frac{(\Delta y_k - B_k d_k)(\Delta y_k - B_k d_k)^T}{(\Delta y_k - B_k d_k)^T d_k}$$

called the symmetric rank-one (SR1) update or Broyden method.

Symmetric Rank-One Update with inverse

How can we solve

$$B_{k+1}d_{k+1} = -\nabla f(x_{k+1}),$$

in order to take the next step? In addition to propagating B_k to B_{k+1}, let's propagate inverses, i.e., $C_k = B_k^{-1}$ to $C_{k+1} = (B_{k+1})^{-1}$.

Sherman-Morrison Formula:

The Sherman-Morrison formula states:

$$(A + uv^T)^{-1} = A^{-1} - \frac{A^{-1}uv^TA^{-1}}{1 + v^TA^{-1}u}$$

Thus, for the SR1 update, the inverse is also easily updated:

$$C_{k+1} = C_k + \frac{(d_k - C_k\Delta y_k)(d_k - C_k\Delta y_k)^T}{(d_k - C_k\Delta y_k)^T\Delta y_k}$$

In general, SR1 is simple and cheap, but it has a key shortcoming: it does not preserve positive definiteness.

Davidon-Fletcher-Powell Update

We could have pursued the same idea to update the inverse C:

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Multiplying by Δy_k, using the secant equation $d_k = C_k \Delta y_k$, and solving for a, b, yields:

$$C_{k+1} = C_k - \frac{C_k \Delta y_k \Delta y_k^T C_k}{\Delta y_k^T C_k \Delta y_k} + \frac{d_k d_k^T}{\Delta y_k^T d_k}$$

Woodbury Formula Application

Woodbury then shows:

$$B_{k+1} = \left(I - \frac{\Delta y_k d_k^T}{\Delta y_k^T d_k} \right) B_k \left(I - \frac{d_k \Delta y_k^T}{\Delta y_k^T d_k} \right) + \frac{\Delta y_k \Delta y_k^T}{\Delta y_k^T d_k}$$

This is the Davidon-Fletcher-Powell (DFP) update. Also cheap: $O(n^2)$, preserves positive definiteness. Not as popular as BFGS.

Broyden-Fletcher-Goldfarb-Shanno update

Let's now try a rank-two update:

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Putting $u = \Delta y_k$, $v = B_k d_k$, and solving for a, b we get:

$$B_{k+1} = B_k - \frac{B_k d_k d_k^T B_k}{d_k^T B_k d_k} + \frac{\Delta y_k \Delta y_k^T}{d_k^T \Delta y_k}$$

called the Broyden-Fletcher-Goldfarb-Shanno (BFGS) update.

Broyden-Fletcher-Goldfarb-Shanno update with inverse

Woodbury Formula

The Woodbury formula, a generalization of the Sherman-Morrison formula, is given by:

$$(A + UCV)^{-1} = A^{-1} - A^{-1}U(C^{-1} + VA^{-1}U)^{-1}VA^{-1}$$

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Applied to our case, we get a rank-two update on the inverse C:

$$C_{k+1} = C_k + \frac{(d_k - C_k\Delta y_k)d_k^T}{\Delta y_k^T d_k} + \frac{d_k(d_k - C_k\Delta y_k)^T}{\Delta y_k^T d_k} - \frac{(d_k - C_k\Delta y_k)^T\Delta y_k}{(\Delta y_k^T d_k)^2} d_k d_k^T$$

$$C_{k+1} = \left(I - \frac{d_k\Delta y_k^T}{\Delta y_k^T d_k}\right) C_k \left(I - \frac{\Delta y_k d_k^T}{\Delta y_k^T d_k}\right) + \frac{d_k d_k^T}{\Delta y_k^T d_k}$$

This formulation ensures that the BFGS update, while comprehensive, remains computationally efficient, requiring $O(n^2)$ operations. Importantly, BFGS update preserves positive definiteness. Recall this means $B_k \succ 0 \Rightarrow B_{k+1} \succ 0$. Equivalently, $C_k \succ 0 \Rightarrow C_{k+1} \succ 0$

Code

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