

$$\nabla f + \sum_k \lambda_k \nabla g_k$$

Linear and Variational Problems

Justin Solomon

MIT, Spring 2019



Some Announcements

- May change **rooms**
Stay tuned!
- **Diagram** in homework revised
- **Reading** assignment posted today

Motivation

Extremely debatable
perspective!

Part I:

Linear algebra \subseteq Geometry

“Geometry of flat spaces”

Part II:

Geometry \subseteq Optimization

Quick intro to variational calculus

Motivation

Part I:

Linear algebra \subseteq Geometry

“Geometry of flat spaces”

Plus:
Intro to terrible notation.
#thankseinstein

Review and Notation

(Column) vector: $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n$

Matrix: $A \in \mathbb{R}^{k \times \ell}$

Transpose: $\mathbf{x}^\top \in \mathbb{R}^{1 \times n}$, $A^\top \in \mathbb{R}^{\ell \times k}$

Useful shorthand:

Dot product: $\mathbf{x}^\top \mathbf{y}$

Quadratic form: $\mathbf{x}^\top A \mathbf{y}$

Aside: Matrix Calculus

The Matrix Cookbook

[<http://matrixcookbook.com>]

Kaare Brandt Petersen
Michael Syskind Pedersen

VERSION: NOVEMBER 15, 2012

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL www.matrixcalculus.org. The page title is "Matrix Calculus" and the navigation menu includes "Matrix Calculus", "Documentation", and "About". The main content area is titled "Matrix Calculus" and contains the following text: "MatrixCalculus provides matrix calculus for everyone. It is an online tool that computes vector and matrix derivatives (n". Below this is a form for calculating a derivative. The input field contains the expression $x^T \cdot A \cdot x + c \cdot \sin(y) \cdot x$ and the variable x is selected in the dropdown menu. The resulting derivative is displayed as $\frac{\partial}{\partial x} (x^T \cdot A \cdot x + c \cdot \sin(y) \cdot x) = 2 \cdot x^T \cdot A + (c \cdot \sin(y))^T$. Below the result, there are dropdown menus for defining the variables: "A is a" (Symmetric Matrix), "c is a" (Scalar), "x is a" (Vector), and "y is a" (Vector). On the right side, there are buttons for "Export functions as" (Python, Latex) and a toggle for "Common subexpressions" (ON).

Two Roles for Matrices

Linear operator (map):

$$L[\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{y}] = L[\mathbf{x}] + L[\mathbf{y}]$$

$$L[c\mathbf{x}] = cL[\mathbf{x}]$$

$$L[\mathbf{x}] = A\mathbf{x}$$

Quadratic form (dot product):

$$g(\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v}) = g(\mathbf{v}, \mathbf{u})$$

$$g(a\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v}) = ag(\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v})$$

$$g(\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v}, \mathbf{w}) = g(\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{w}) + g(\mathbf{v}, \mathbf{w})$$

$$g(\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{u}) \geq 0$$

$$g(\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v}) = \mathbf{u}^\top B\mathbf{v}$$



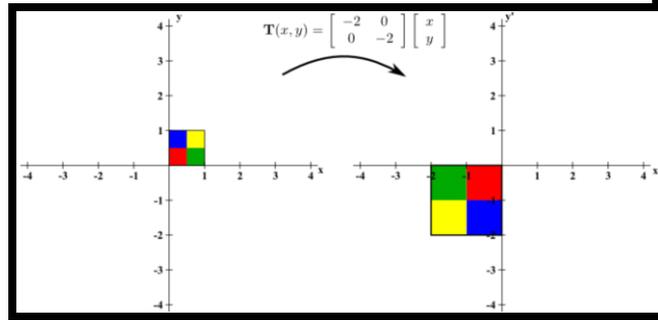
Are these the
interchangeable?

$$L[\mathbf{x}] = A\mathbf{x}$$

$$g(\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v}) = \mathbf{u}^\top B\mathbf{v}$$

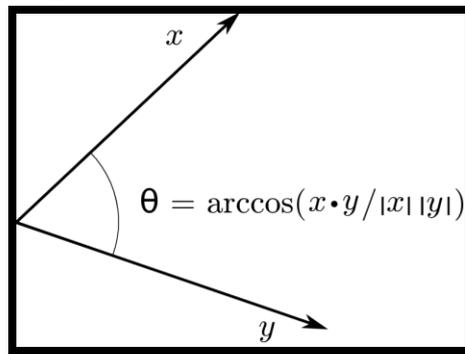
Same Data Structure, Two Uses

- **Map** between vector spaces



$$L[\mathbf{x}] = A\mathbf{x}$$

- **Inner product**



$$g(\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v}) = \mathbf{u}^\top B \mathbf{v}$$

Protip:
Know your input and output

Matrices obscure geometry

Some More Notation

$$\mathbf{v} \stackrel{\text{“}=\text{”}}{=} \begin{pmatrix} v^1 \\ \vdots \\ v^n \end{pmatrix}$$

Standard basis: $\{\mathbf{e}_k\}_{k=1}^n$

$$\implies \mathbf{v} = \sum_k v^k \mathbf{e}_k$$

Einstein Notation

$$\mathbf{v} = v^k \mathbf{e}_k$$



Sum repeated upper/lower indices

Linear Map

$$\begin{pmatrix} L_1^1 & L_2^1 & \cdots & L_n^1 \\ L_1^2 & L_2^2 & \cdots & L_n^2 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ L_1^m & L_2^m & \cdots & L_n^m \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} v^1 \\ v^2 \\ \vdots \\ v^n \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \sum_{k=1}^n L_k^1 v^k \\ \sum_{k=1}^n L_k^2 v^k \\ \vdots \\ \sum_{k=1}^n L_k^m v^k \end{pmatrix} := \begin{pmatrix} w^1 \\ w^2 \\ \vdots \\ w^m \end{pmatrix}$$

Quadratic Form

$$\begin{aligned}g(\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v}) &= g(u^k \mathbf{e}_k, v^\ell \mathbf{e}_\ell) \\ &= u^k v^\ell g(\mathbf{e}_k, \mathbf{e}_\ell) \\ &= u^k v^\ell g_{k\ell}\end{aligned}$$

Typechecking

$$\begin{pmatrix} L_1^1 & L_2^1 & \cdots & L_n^1 \\ L_1^2 & L_2^2 & \cdots & L_n^2 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ L_1^m & L_2^m & \cdots & L_n^m \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} v^1 \\ v^2 \\ \vdots \\ v^n \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \sum_{k=1}^n L_k^1 v^k \\ \sum_{k=1}^n L_k^2 v^k \\ \vdots \\ \sum_{k=1}^n L_k^m v^k \end{pmatrix} := \begin{pmatrix} w^1 \\ w^2 \\ \vdots \\ w^m \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{aligned} g(\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v}) &= g(u^k \mathbf{e}_k, v^\ell \mathbf{e}_\ell) \\ &= u^k v^\ell g(\mathbf{e}_k, \mathbf{e}_\ell) \\ &= u^k v^\ell g_{k\ell} \end{aligned}$$

Upper/lower indices matter

To Ponder At Home

Describe in Einstein notation:

$$\min_{\mathbf{x}} \left[\frac{1}{2} \mathbf{x}^\top A \mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}^\top \mathbf{b} \right] \longrightarrow A \mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$$

What's up with A?

New Terminology

A x
matrix vector

$x \mapsto Ax$
linear operator

Abstract Example: Linear Algebra

$$C^\infty(\mathbb{R})$$

$$\mathcal{L}[f] := -d^2 f / dx^2$$

Eigenvectors?
[“Eigenfunctions!”]

Back to reality:

Linear System of Equations

$$\begin{pmatrix} A \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{x} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{b} \end{pmatrix}$$

Simple “inverse problem”

Common Strategies

- **Gaussian elimination**
 - $O(n^3)$ time to solve $Ax=b$ or to invert
- **But:** Inversion is unstable and slower!
- **Never ever compute A^{-1} if you can avoid it.**

Interesting Perspective

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the arXiv.org abstract page for the paper "How Accurate is $\text{inv}(A)*b$?" by Alex Druinsky and Sivan Toledo. The browser's address bar shows the URL <https://arxiv.org/abs/1201.6035>. The page header includes the Cornell University Library logo and a note of support from the Simons Foundation. The navigation bar shows the breadcrumb "arXiv.org > cs > arXiv:1201.6035" and a search box. The main content area is titled "Computer Science > Numerical Analysis" and features the paper title "How Accurate is $\text{inv}(A)*b$?" with authors "Alex Druinsky, Sivan Toledo" and a submission date of "29 Jan 2012". The abstract text discusses the accuracy of solving linear systems using computed inverses. The right sidebar contains sections for "Download:" (PDF and other formats), "Current browse context:" (cs.NA), "Change to browse by:" (cs, math, math.NA), "References & Citations" (NASA ADS), "1 blog link", "DBLP - CS Bibliography", and "Bookmark". A footer link points back to the arXiv form interface.

Cornell University Library

We gratefully acknowledge support from the Simons Foundation and member institutions

arXiv.org > cs > arXiv:1201.6035

Search or Article ID inside arXiv All papers Search Broaden your search using Semantic Scholar

(Help | Advanced search)

Computer Science > Numerical Analysis

How Accurate is $\text{inv}(A)*b$?

Alex Druinsky, Sivan Toledo

(Submitted on 29 Jan 2012)

Several widely-used textbooks lead the reader to believe that solving a linear system of equations $Ax = b$ by multiplying the vector b by a computed inverse $\text{inv}(A)$ is inaccurate. Virtually all other textbooks on numerical analysis and numerical linear algebra advise against using computed inverses without stating whether this is accurate or not. In fact, under reasonable assumptions on how the inverse is computed, $x = \text{inv}(A)*b$ is as accurate as the solution computed by the best backward-stable solvers. This fact is not new, but obviously obscure. We review the literature on the accuracy of this computation and present a self-contained numerical analysis of it.

Subjects: **Numerical Analysis (cs.NA)**; Numerical Analysis (math.NA)

Cite as: [arXiv:1201.6035 \[cs.NA\]](https://arxiv.org/abs/1201.6035)
(or [arXiv:1201.6035v1 \[cs.NA\]](https://arxiv.org/abs/1201.6035v1) for this version)

Submission history

From: Alex Druinsky [view email]

[v1] Sun, 29 Jan 2012 12:55:30 GMT (20kb,D)

[Which authors of this paper are endorsers?](#) | [Disable MathJax](#) (What is MathJax?)

Download:

- PDF
- Other formats

(license)

Current browse context:

cs.NA
< prev | next >
new | recent | 1201

Change to browse by:

cs
math
math.NA

References & Citations

- NASA ADS

1 blog link (what is this?)

DBLP - CS Bibliography

listing | bibtex

Alex Druinsky
Sivan Toledo

Bookmark (what is this?)

ScienceWISE

Link back to: [arXiv](#), [form interface](#), [contact](#).

Simple Example

$$\frac{d^2 f}{dx^2} = g, f(0) = f(1) = 0$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} -2 & 1 & & & & \\ 1 & -2 & 1 & & & \\ & 1 & -2 & 1 & & \\ & & & \ddots & & \\ & & & & 1 & -2 & 1 \\ & & & & & 1 & -2 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} f_1 \\ f_2 \\ \vdots \\ f_n \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} g_1 \\ g_2 \\ \vdots \\ g_n \end{pmatrix}$$

Structure?

$$\begin{pmatrix} -2 & 1 & & & & & \\ 1 & -2 & 1 & & & & \\ & 1 & -2 & 1 & & & \\ & & & \ddots & & & \\ & & & & 1 & -2 & 1 \\ & & & & & 1 & -2 \end{pmatrix}$$

Linear Solver Considerations

- **Never construct A^{-1} explicitly**
(if you can avoid it)

- **Added structure helps**

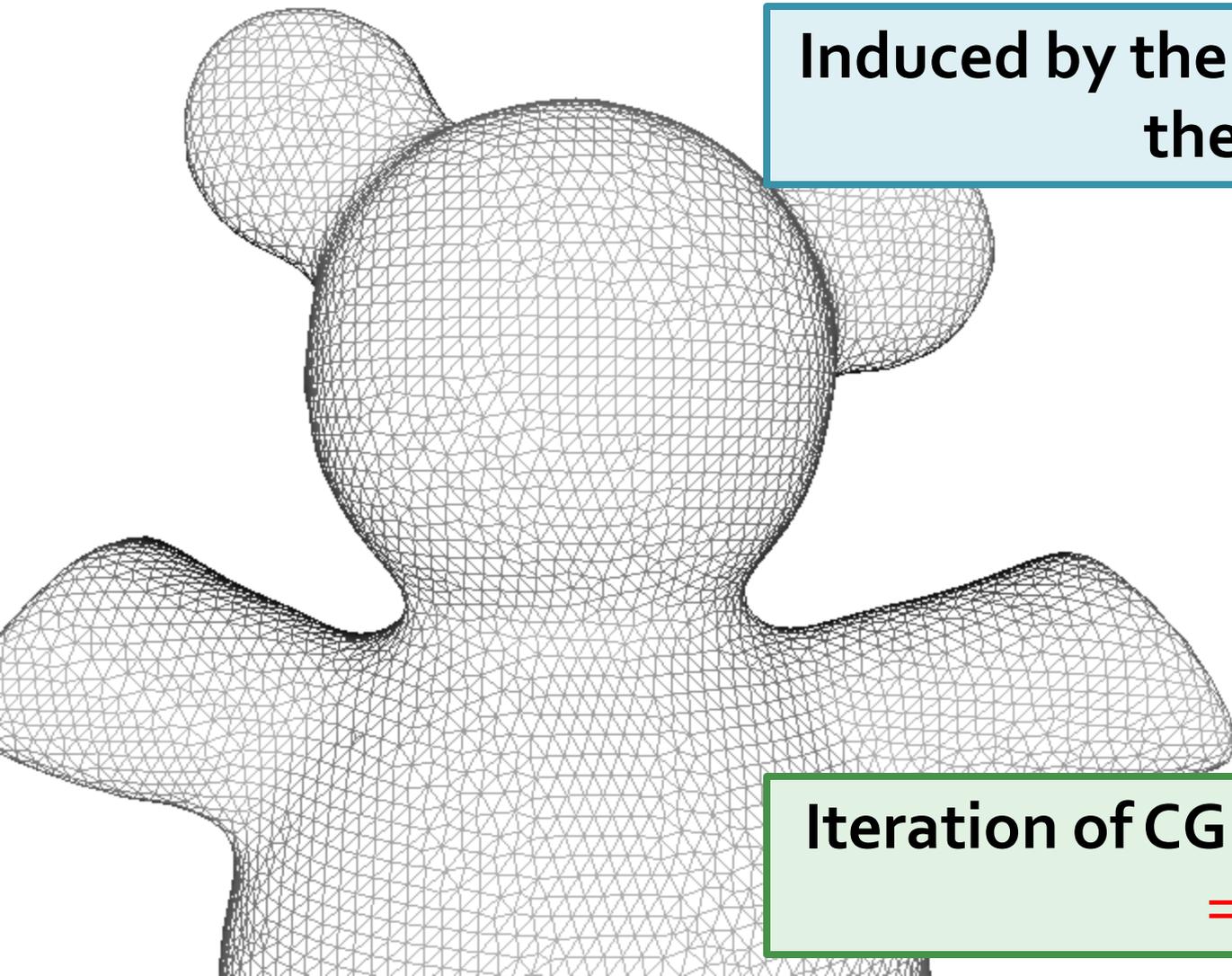
Sparsity, symmetry, positive definiteness,
bandedness

$$\text{inv}(A) * b \ll (A' * A) \setminus (A' * b) \ll A \setminus b$$

Two Classes of Solvers

- **Direct** (*explicit matrix*)
 - **Dense:** Gaussian elimination/LU, QR for least-squares
 - **Sparse:** Reordering (SuiteSparse, Eigen)
- **Iterative** (*apply matrix repeatedly*)
 - **Positive definite:** Conjugate gradients
 - **Symmetric:** MINRES, GMRES
 - **Generic:** LSQR

Very Common: Sparsity



Induced by the **connectivity** of the triangle mesh.

Iteration of CG has local effect
⇒ **Precondition!**

For 6.838

- **No need to implement** a linear solver
- If a matrix is sparse, your code should **store it as a sparse matrix!**

The image shows two overlapping browser windows. The top window displays the Julia documentation page for Sparse Arrays, with the URL `https://docs.julialang.org/en/v0.7.0/stdlib/SparseArrays/`. The page features the Julia logo, a search bar, and a navigation menu on the left. The main content area shows the title "Sparse Arrays" and a brief introduction: "Julia has support for sparse vectors and sparse matrices in the SparseArrays stdlib module. Sparse arrays are".

The bottom window displays the MathWorks documentation page for Sparse Matrices, with the URL `https://www.mathworks.com/help/matlab/sparse-matrices.html`. The page features the MathWorks logo, a navigation menu, and a search bar. The main content area shows the title "Sparse Matrices" and a brief introduction: "Elementary sparse matrices, reordering algorithms, iterative methods, sparse linear algebra".

Motivation

Part I:

Linear algebra \subseteq Geometry

“Geometry of flat spaces”

Part II:

Geometry \subseteq Optimization

Quick intro to variational calculus

Motivation

Part II:

Geometry \subseteq Optimization

Quick intro to variational calculus

Optimization Terminology

$$\begin{aligned} \min_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n} & f(x) \\ \text{s.t.} & g(x) = 0 \\ & h(x) \geq 0 \end{aligned}$$

Objective (“Energy Function”)

Optimization Terminology

$$\min_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n} f(x)$$

$$\text{s.t. } g(x) = 0$$

$$h(x) \geq 0$$

Equality Constraints

Optimization Terminology

$$\min_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n} f(x)$$

$$\text{s.t. } g(x) = 0$$

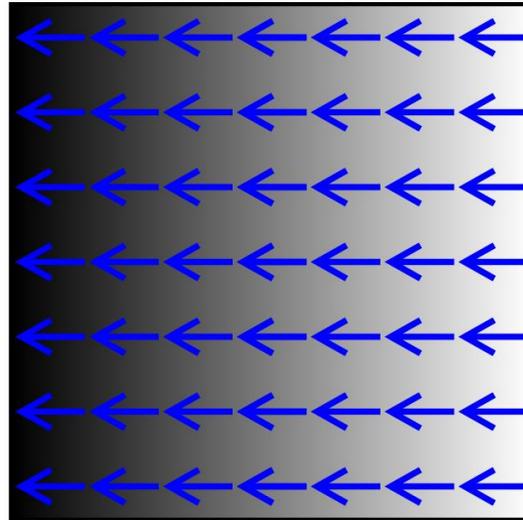
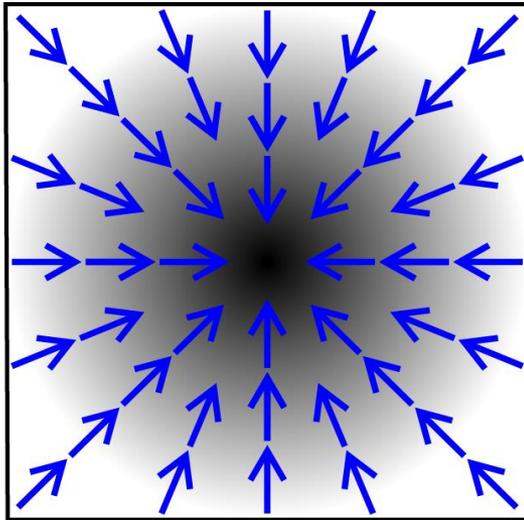
$$h(x) \geq 0$$

Inequality Constraints

Notions from Calculus

$$f : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$$

$$\rightarrow \nabla f = \left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial x_1}, \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_2}, \dots, \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_n} \right)$$



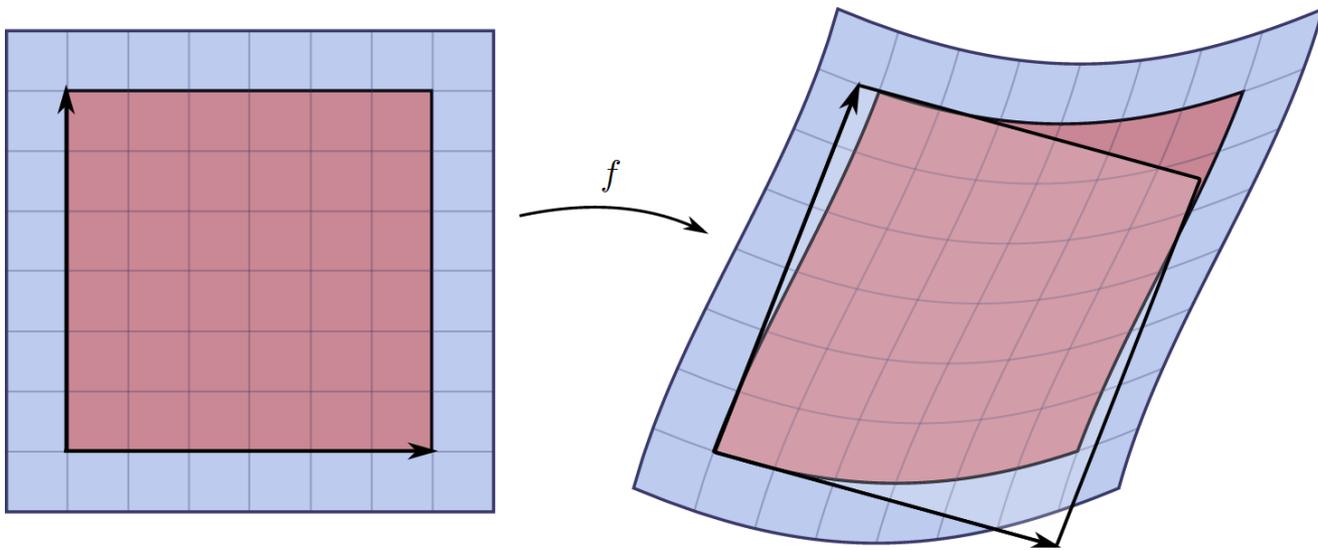
<https://en.wikipedia.org/?title=Gradient>

Gradient

Notions from Calculus

$$f : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$$

$$\rightarrow (Df)_{ij} = \frac{\partial f_i}{\partial x_j}$$

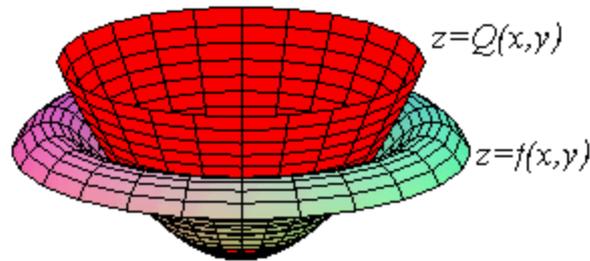


https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jacobian_matrix_and_determinant

Jacobian

Notions from Calculus

$$f : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \rightarrow H_{ij} = \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x_i \partial x_j}$$



$$f(x) \approx f(x_0) + \nabla f(x_0)^\top (x - x_0) + (x - x_0)^\top H f(x_0) (x - x_0)$$

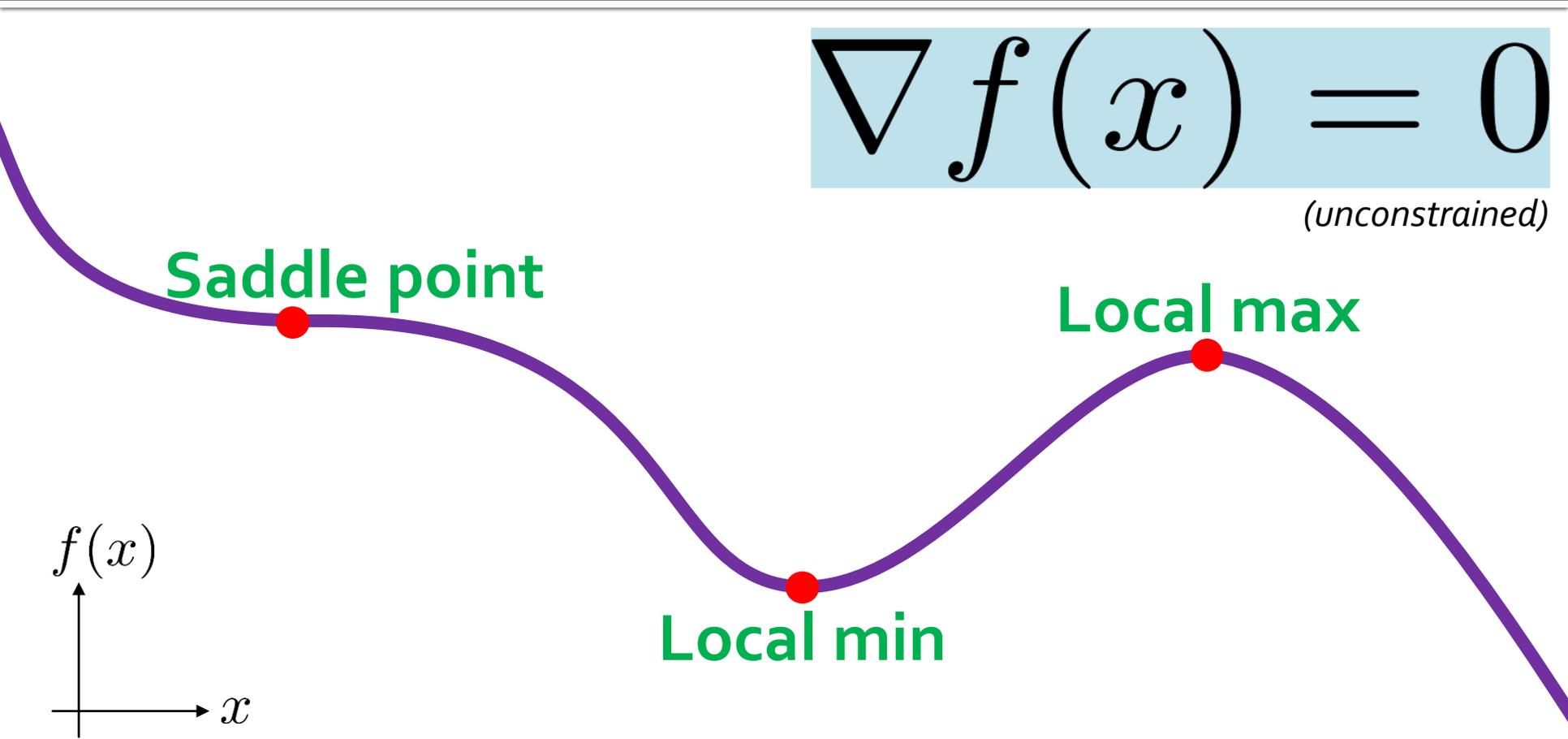
<http://math.etsu.edu/multicalc/prealpha/Chap2/Chap2-5/10-3a-t3.gif>

Hessian

Optimization to Root-Finding

$$\nabla f(x) = 0$$

(unconstrained)



Critical point

Encapsulates Many Problems

$$\begin{aligned} \min_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n} f(x) \\ \text{s.t. } g(x) = 0 \\ h(x) \geq 0 \end{aligned}$$

$$A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b} \leftrightarrow f(\mathbf{x}) = \|A\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{b}\|_2$$

$$A\mathbf{x} = \lambda\mathbf{x} \leftrightarrow f(\mathbf{x}) = \|A\mathbf{x}\|_2, g(\mathbf{x}) = \|\mathbf{x}\|_2 - 1$$

$$\text{Roots of } g(\mathbf{x}) \leftrightarrow f(\mathbf{x}) = 0$$



How effective are
generic
optimization tools?



How effective are
generic
optimization tools?
Not very!

Generic Advice

Try the
simplest method first.

Quadratic with Linear Equality

$$\begin{aligned} \min_{\mathbf{x}} \quad & \frac{1}{2} \mathbf{x}^\top A \mathbf{x} - \mathbf{b}^\top \mathbf{x} + c \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & M \mathbf{x} = \mathbf{v} \end{aligned}$$

(assume A is symmetric and positive definite)


$$\begin{pmatrix} A & M^\top \\ M & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{x} \\ \lambda \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{b} \\ \mathbf{v} \end{pmatrix}$$

Special Case: Least-Squares

$$\min_{\mathbf{x}} \frac{1}{2} \|\mathbf{Ax} - \mathbf{b}\|_2^2$$

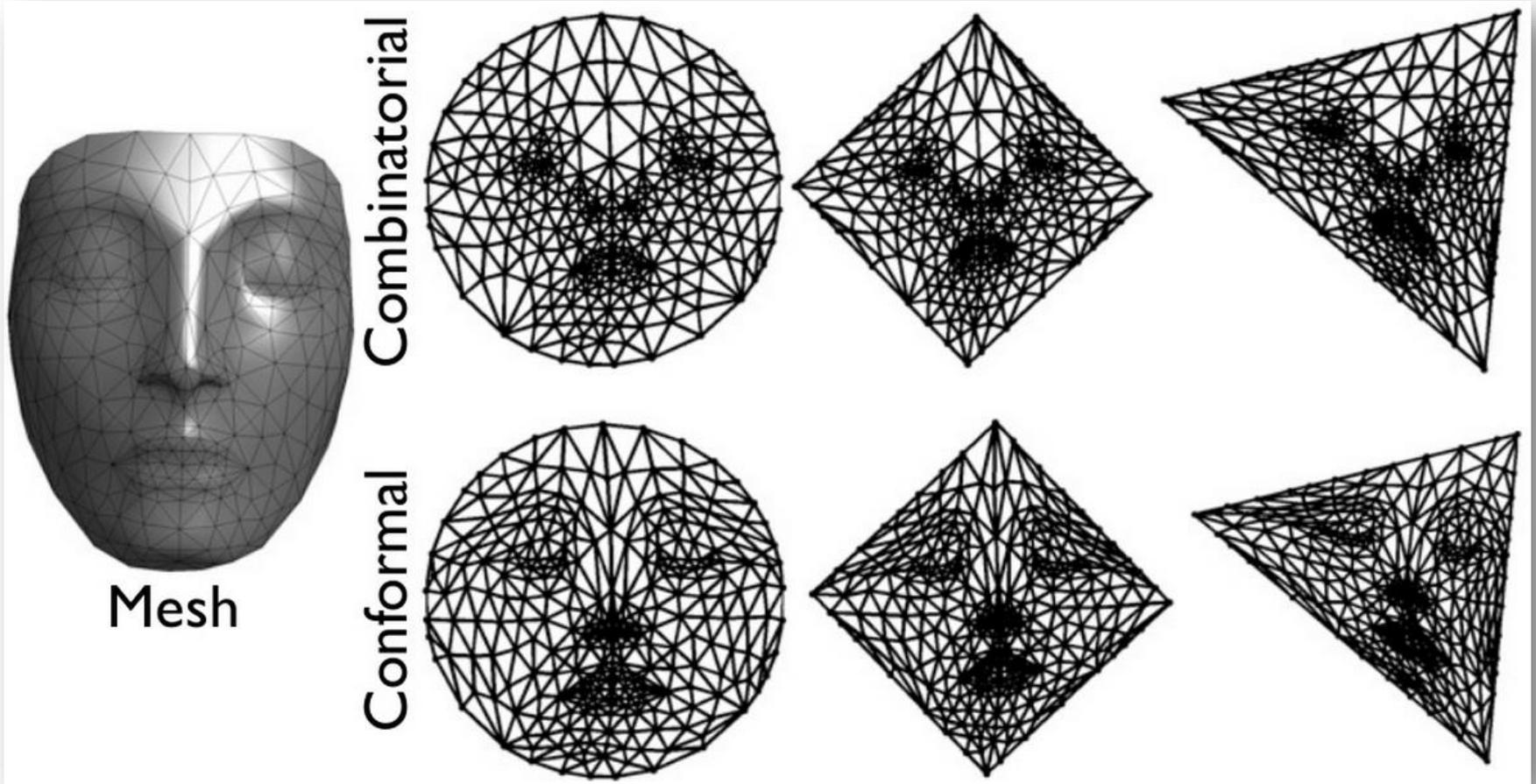
$$\rightarrow \min_{\mathbf{x}} \frac{1}{2} \mathbf{x}^\top \mathbf{A}^\top \mathbf{Ax} - \mathbf{b}^\top \mathbf{Ax} + \|\mathbf{b}\|_2^2$$

$$\implies \mathbf{A}^\top \mathbf{Ax} = \mathbf{A}^\top \mathbf{b}$$

Normal equations

(better solvers for this case!)

Example: Mesh Embedding



Linear Solve for Embedding

$$\begin{aligned} \min_{\mathbf{x}_1, \dots, \mathbf{x}_{|V|}} \quad & \sum_{(i,j) \in E} w_{ij} \|\mathbf{x}_i - \mathbf{x}_j\|_2^2 \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & \mathbf{x}_v \text{ fixed } \forall v \in V_0 \end{aligned}$$

- $w_{ij} \equiv 1$: Tutte embedding
- w_{ij} from mesh: Harmonic embedding

Assumption: w symmetric.

Returning to Parameterization

$$\begin{aligned} \min_{\mathbf{x}_1, \dots, \mathbf{x}_{|V|}} \quad & \sum_{(i,j) \in E} w_{ij} \|\mathbf{x}_i - \mathbf{x}_j\|_2^2 \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & \mathbf{x}_v \text{ fixed } \forall v \in V_0 \end{aligned}$$

**What if
 $V_0 = \{\}$?**

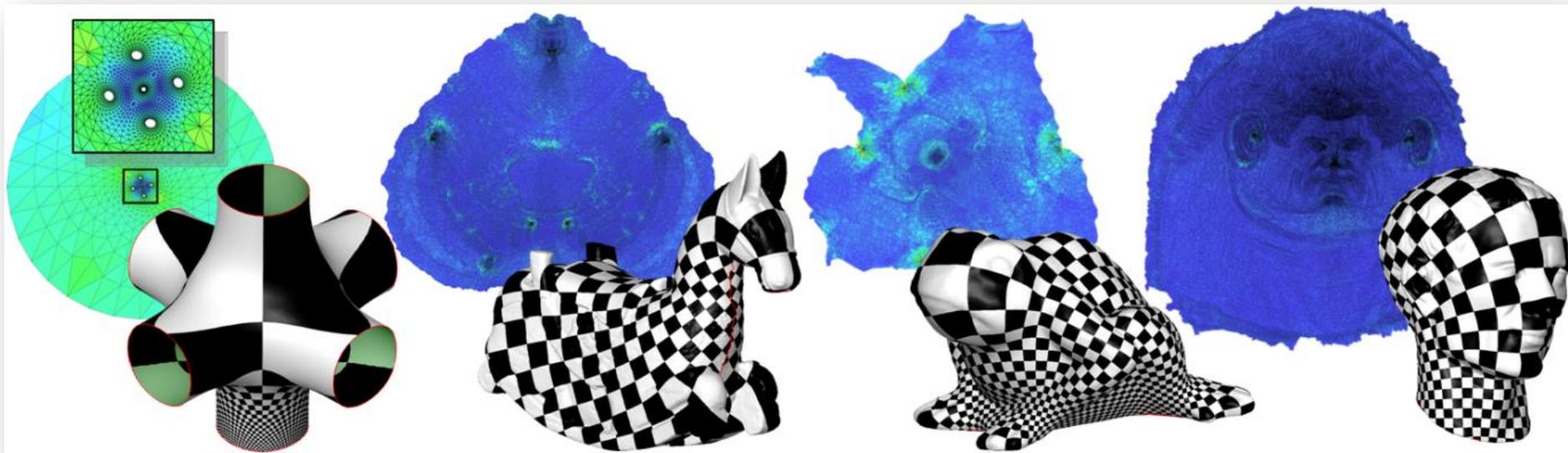
Nontriviality Constraint

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \min_{\mathbf{x}} \quad \|\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}\|_2 \\ \text{s.t.} \quad \|\mathbf{x}\|_2 = 1 \end{array} \right\} \mapsto \mathbf{A}^\top \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} = \lambda \mathbf{x}$$

Prevents trivial solution $\mathbf{x} \equiv \mathbf{0}$.

Extract the **smallest eigenvalue**.

Back to Parameterization



Mullen et al. "Spectral Conformal Parameterization." SGP 2008.

$$\min_{\mathbf{u}} \mathbf{u}^\top L_C \mathbf{u} \quad \longleftrightarrow \quad L_c \mathbf{u} = \lambda B \mathbf{u}$$
$$\mathbf{u}^\top B \mathbf{e} = 0 \quad \leftarrow \text{Easy fix}$$
$$\mathbf{u}^\top B \mathbf{u} = 1$$

Combining Tools So Far

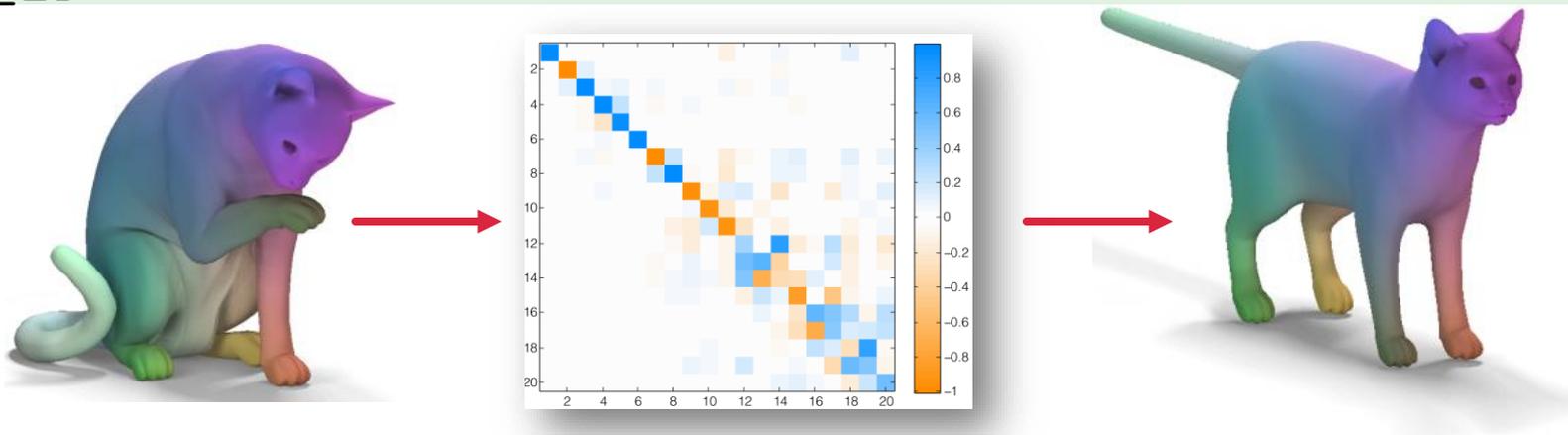
Roughly:

1. Extract Laplace-Beltrami **eigen**functions:

$$L\phi_i = \lambda_i A\phi_i$$

2. Find mapping matrix (**linear** solve!):

$$\min_{A \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}} \|AF_0 - F\|_{\text{Fro}}^2 + \alpha \|A\Delta_0 - \Delta A\|_{\text{Fro}}^2$$

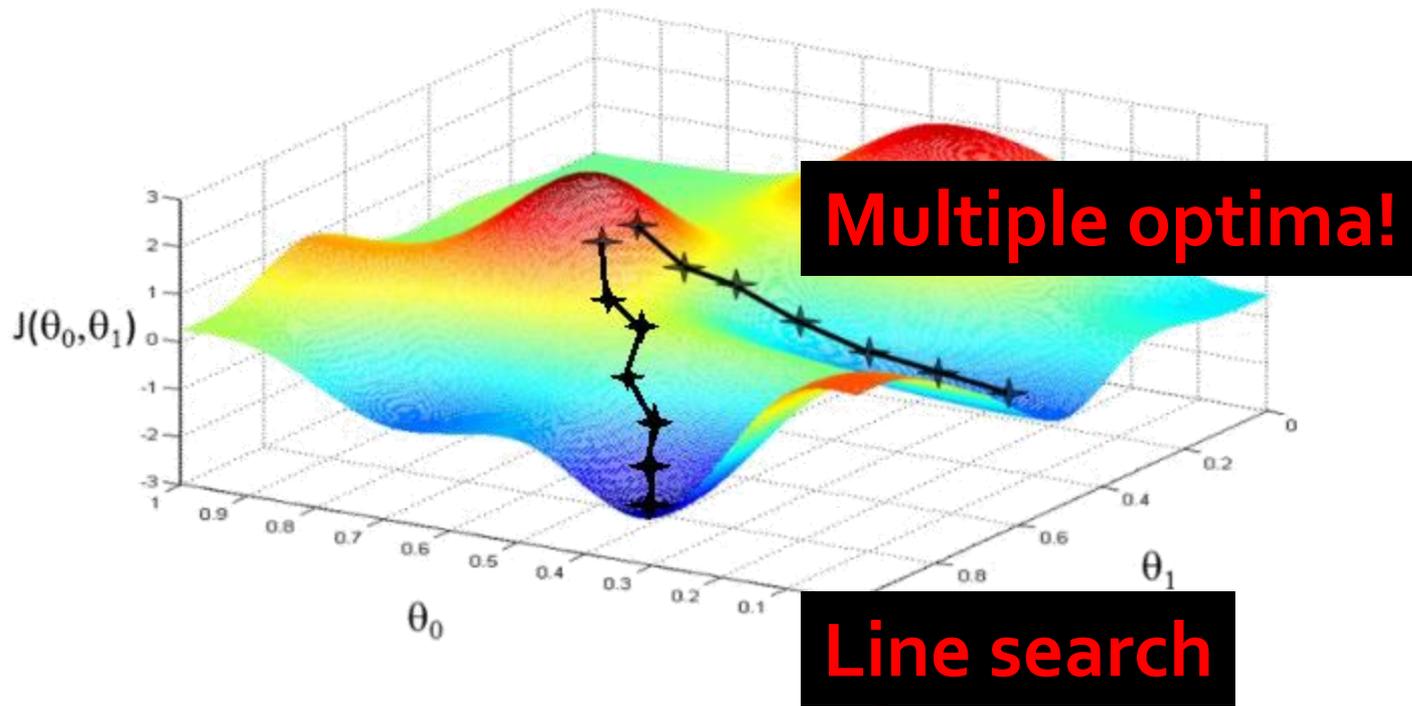


Unconstrained Optimization

$$\min_x f(x)$$

↑
Unstructured.

Basic Algorithms

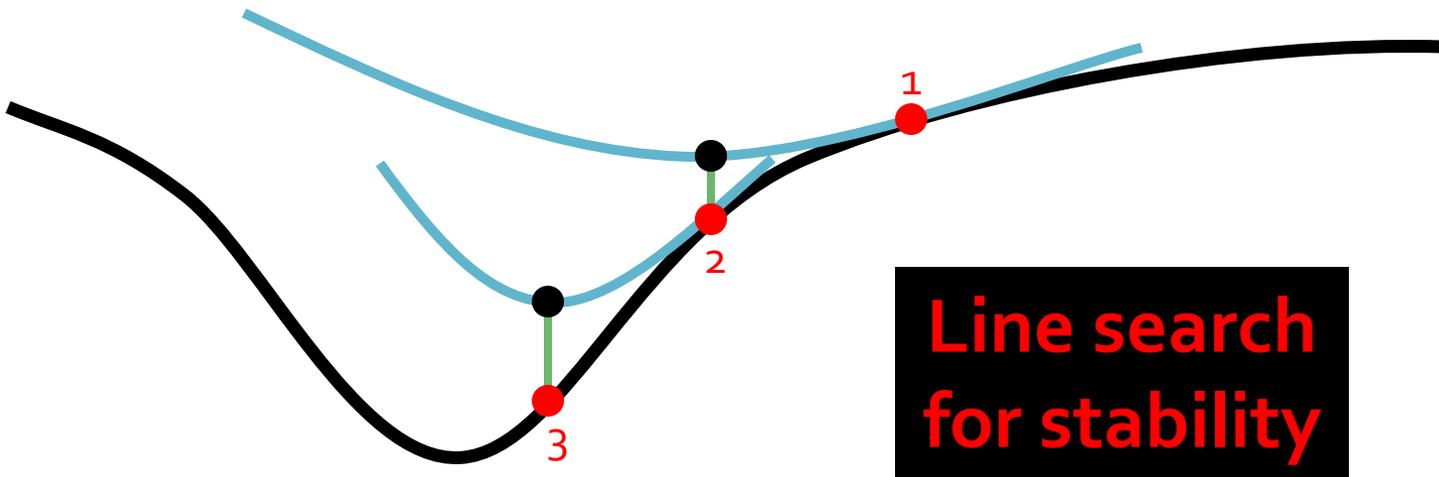


$$x_{k+1} = x_k - \alpha_k \nabla f(x_k)$$

Gradient descent

Basic Algorithms

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



Newton's Method

Basic Algorithms

$$x_{k+1} = x_k - M_k^{-1} \nabla f(x_k)$$

Hessian
approximation

- (Often **sparse**) approximation from previous samples and gradients
- Inverse in **closed form!**

Quasi-Newton: BFGS and friends

Example: Shape Interpolation

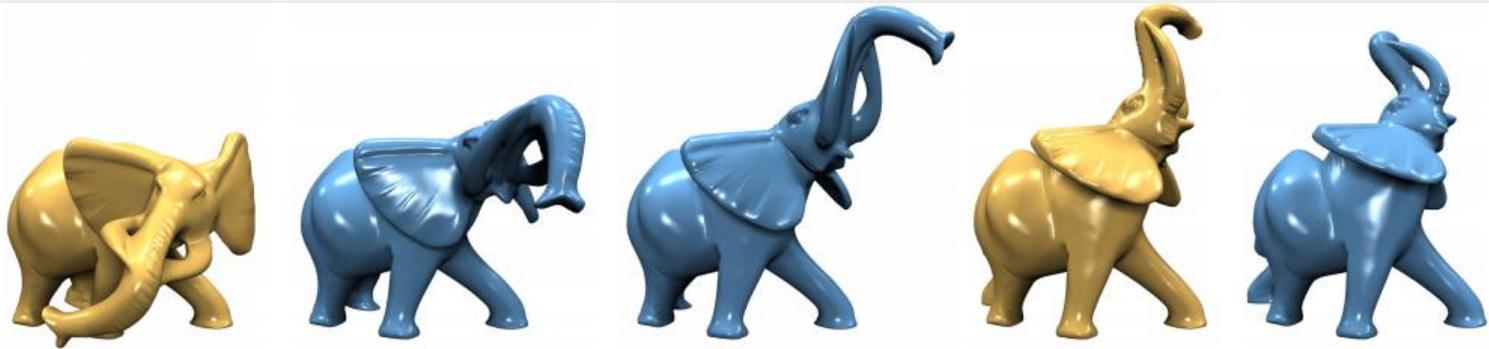


Figure 5: *Interpolation and extrapolation of the yellow example poses. The blending weights are 0, 0.35, 0.65, 1.0, and 1.25.*

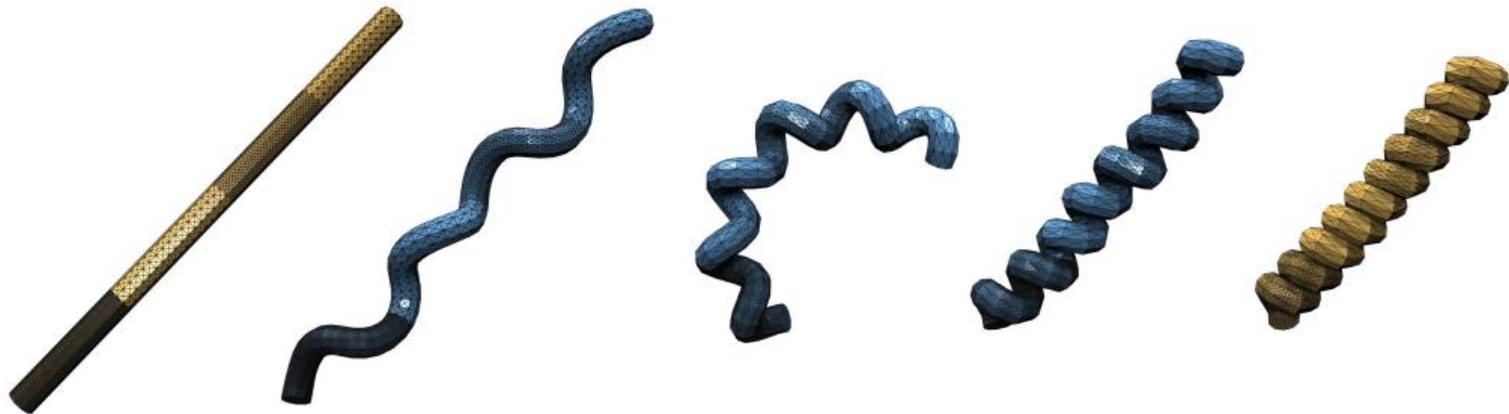


Figure 6: *Interpolation of an adaptively meshed and strongly twisted helix with blending weights 0, 0.25, 0.5, 0.75, 1.0.*

Interpolation Pipeline

Roughly:

1. **Linearly interpolate** edge lengths and dihedral angles.

$$\ell_e^* = (1 - t)\ell_e^0 + t\ell_e^1$$

$$\theta_e^* = (1 - t)\theta_e^0 + t\theta_e^1$$

2. **Nonlinear** optimization for vertex positions.

$$\min_{x_1, \dots, x_m} \lambda \sum_e w_e (\ell_e(x) - \ell_e^*)^2$$

**Sum of squares:
Gauss-Newton**

$$+ \mu \sum_e w_b (\theta_e(x) - \theta_e^*)^2$$

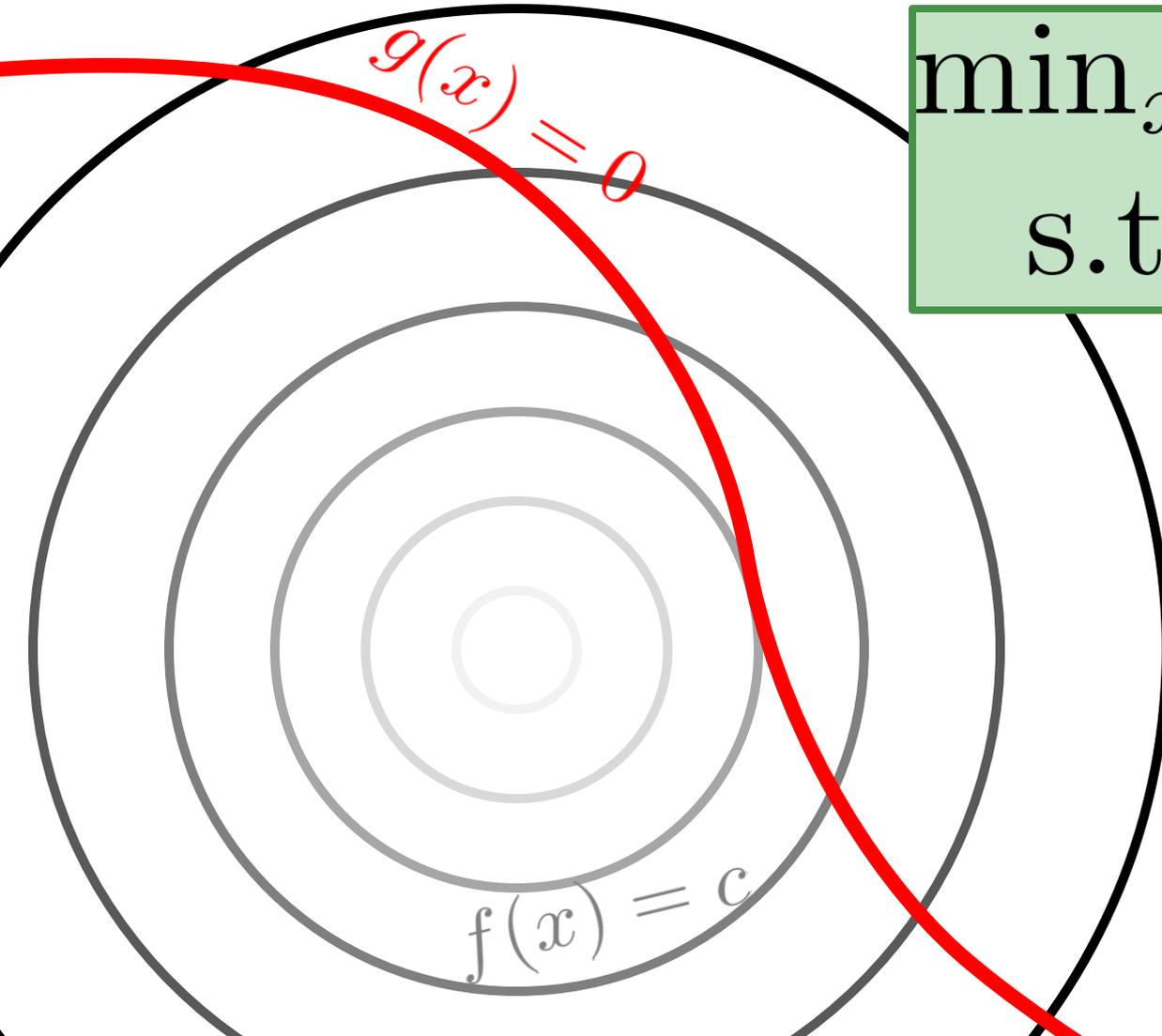
Software

- **Matlab**: `fminunc` or `minfunc`
- **C++**: `libLBFGS`, `dlib`, others

Typically provide functions for **function** and **gradient** (and optionally, **Hessian**).

Try several!

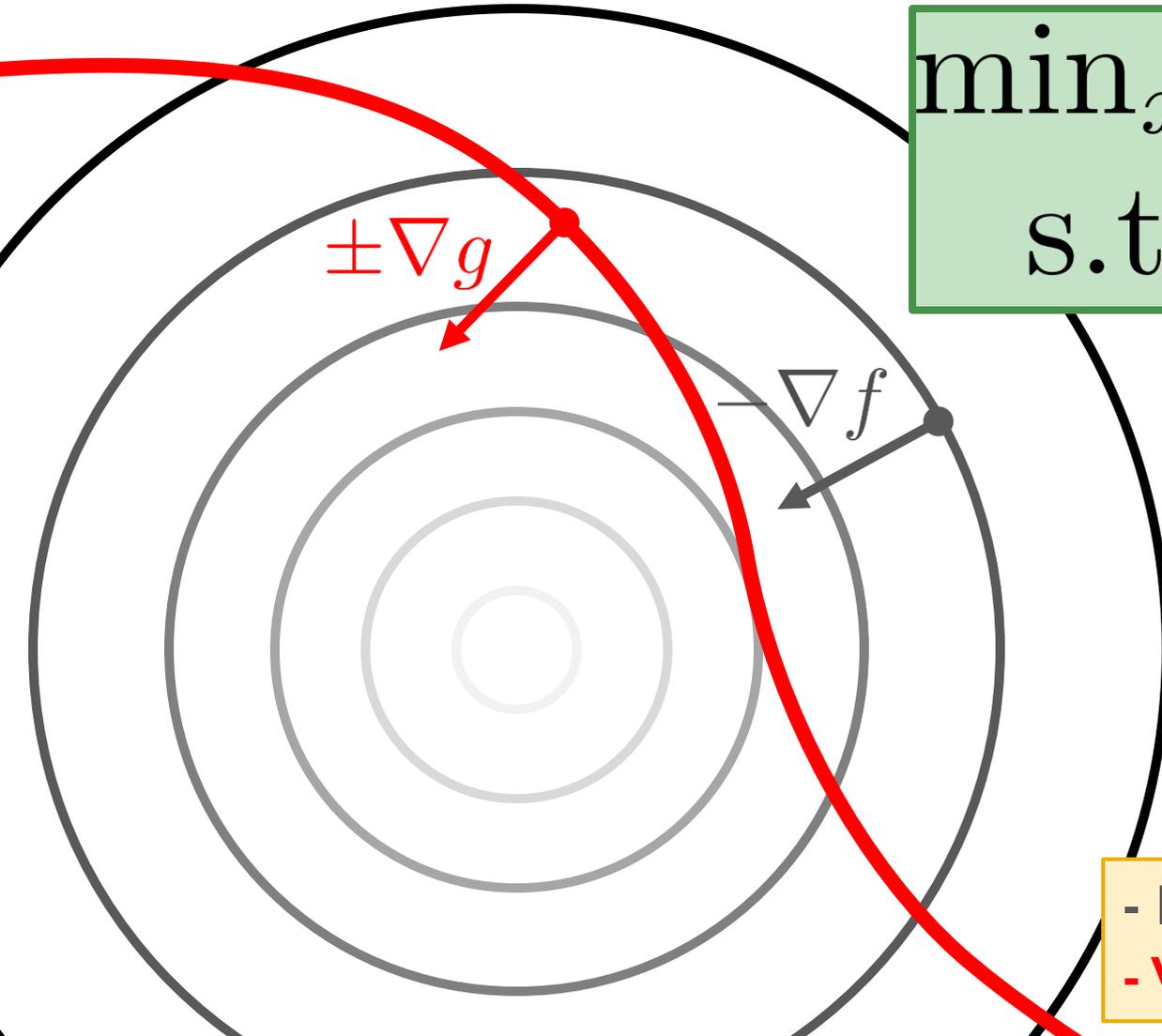
Lagrange Multipliers: Idea



$$\begin{array}{ll} \min_x & f(x) \\ \text{s.t.} & g(x) = 0 \end{array}$$

Lagrange Multipliers: Idea

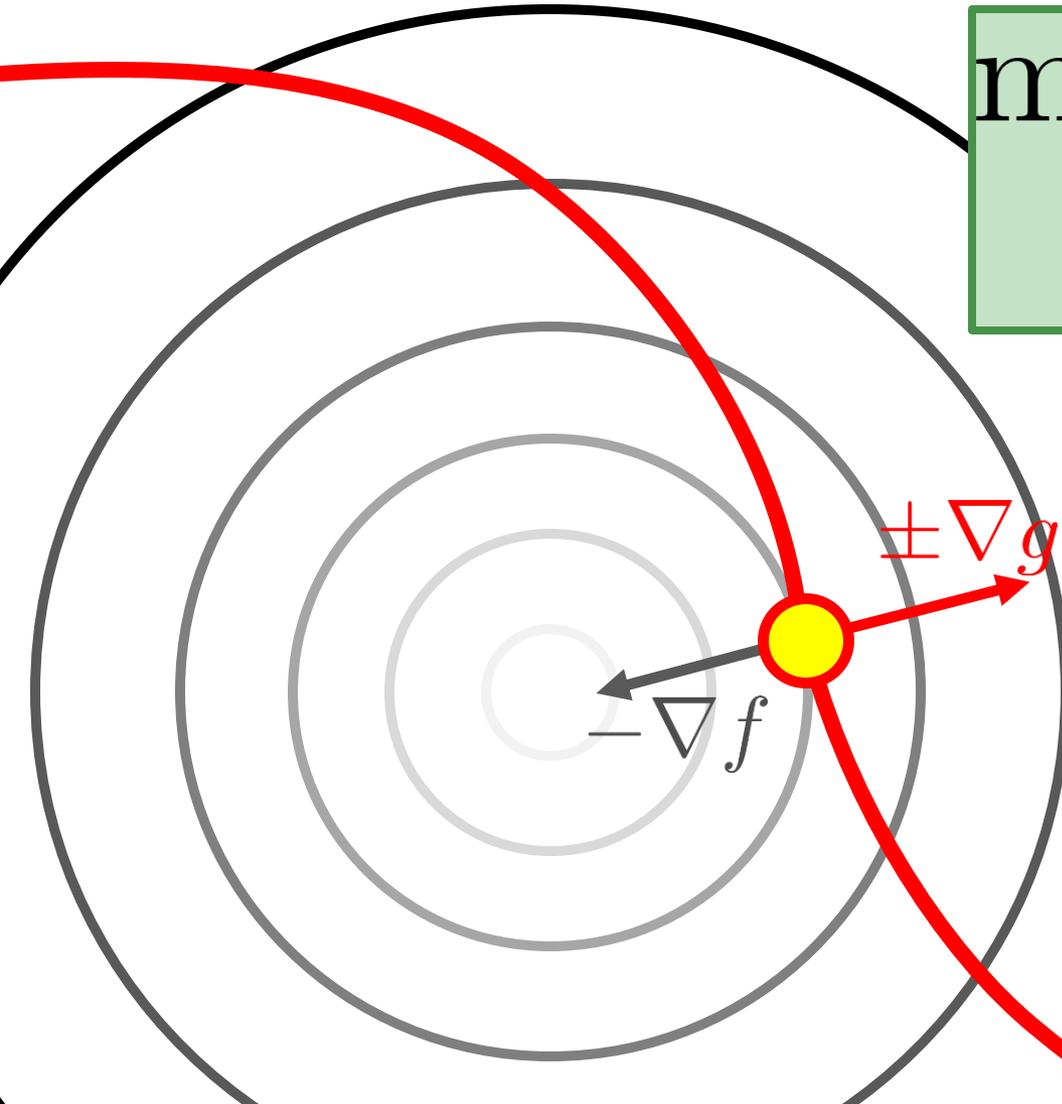
$$\begin{array}{ll} \min_x & f(x) \\ \text{s.t.} & g(x) = 0 \end{array}$$



- Decrease f : $-\nabla f$
- Violate constraint: $\pm \nabla g$

Lagrange Multipliers: Idea

$$\begin{array}{ll} \min_x & f(x) \\ \text{s.t.} & g(x) = 0 \end{array}$$



Want:

$$\begin{array}{l} \nabla f \parallel \nabla g \\ \implies \nabla f = \lambda \nabla g \end{array}$$

Example: Symmetric Eigenvectors

$$f(x) = x^\top Ax \implies \nabla f(x) = 2Ax$$

$$g(x) = \|x\|_2^2 \implies \nabla g(x) = 2x$$

$$\implies Ax = \lambda x$$

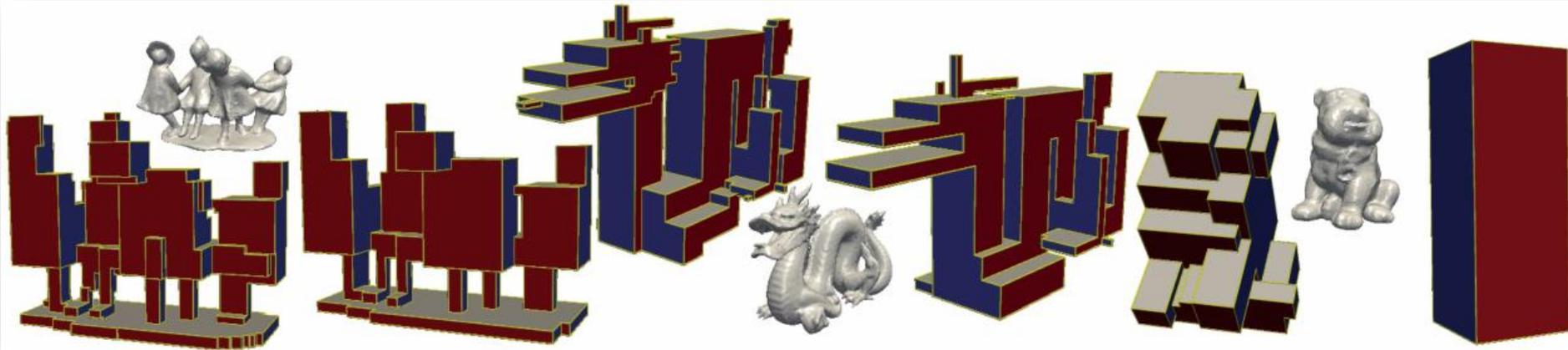
Use of Lagrange Multipliers

Turns constrained optimization into
unconstrained root-finding.

$$\nabla f(x) = \lambda \nabla g(x)$$

$$g(x) = 0$$

Example: Polycube Maps



Huang et al. "L1-Based Construction of Polycube Maps from Complex Shapes." TOG 2014.

Align with coordinate axes

$$\begin{aligned} \min_X \quad & \sum_{b_i} \mathcal{A}(b_i; X) \|n(b_i; X)\|_1 \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & \sum_{b_i} \mathcal{A}(b_i; X) = \sum_{b_i} \mathcal{A}(b_i; X_0) \end{aligned}$$

Preserve area

Note: Final method includes more terms!

Variational Calculus: Big Idea

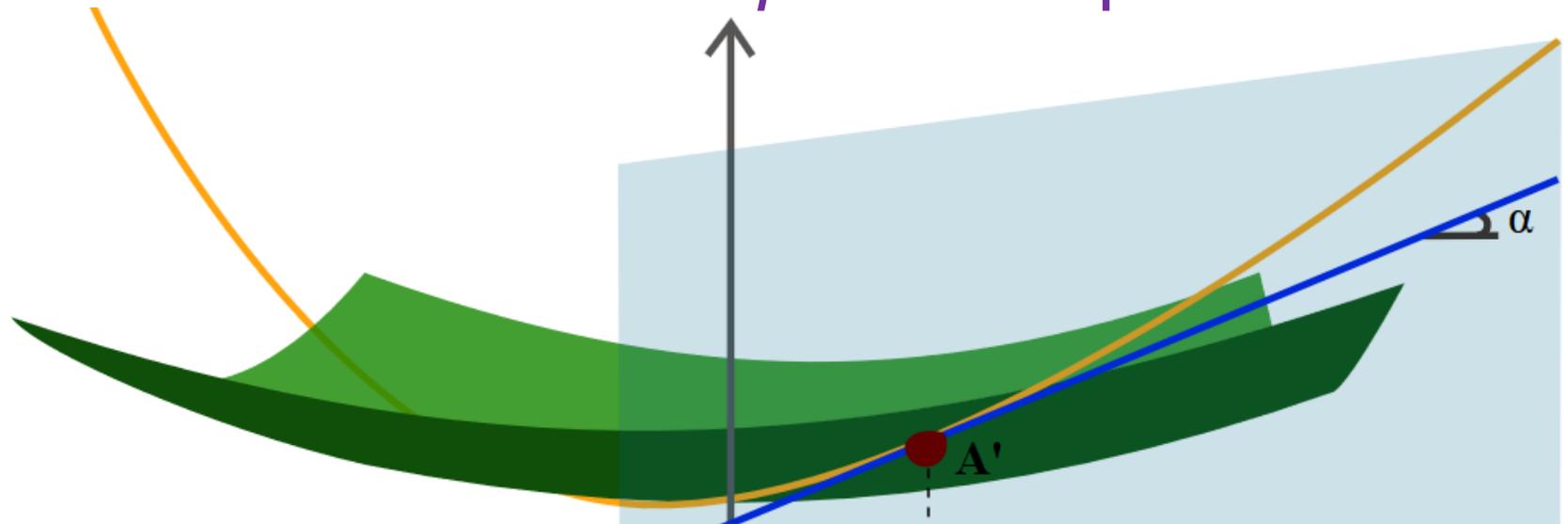
Sometimes your unknowns
are not numbers!

Can we use calculus to optimize anyway?

Gâteaux Derivative

$$d\mathcal{F}[u; \psi] := \frac{d}{dh} \mathcal{F}[u + h\psi] \Big|_{h=0}$$

Vanishes for all ψ at a critical point!



Analog of derivative at u in ψ direction

On the Board

$$\min_f \int_{\Omega} \|\mathbf{v}(\mathbf{x}) - \nabla f(\mathbf{x})\|_2^2 d\mathbf{x}$$

$$\min_{\int_{\Omega} f(\mathbf{x})^2 d\mathbf{x}=1} \int_{\Omega} \|\nabla f(\mathbf{x})\|_2^2 d\mathbf{x}$$

$$\nabla f + \sum_k \lambda_k \nabla g_k$$

Linear and Variational Problems

Justin Solomon

MIT, Spring 2019

