3. Goldstein-Armijo Rule

Find a sequence $\{h_k\}_{k=0}^{\infty}$ such that

$$egin{array}{lll} lpha\langle f'(oldsymbol{x}_k),oldsymbol{x}_k-oldsymbol{x}_{k+1}
angle &\leq f(oldsymbol{x}_k)-f(oldsymbol{x}_{k+1}), \ eta\langle f'(oldsymbol{x}_k),oldsymbol{x}_k-oldsymbol{x}_{k+1}
angle &\geq f(oldsymbol{x}_k)-f(oldsymbol{x}_{k+1}), \end{array}$$

where $0 < \alpha < \beta < 1$ are fixed parameters.

Since $f(\boldsymbol{x}_{k+1}) = f(\boldsymbol{x}_k - h_k f'(\boldsymbol{x}_k)),$

$$f(\boldsymbol{x}_k) - \beta h_k \|f'(\boldsymbol{x}_k)\|_2^2 \le f(\boldsymbol{x}_{k+1}) \le f(\boldsymbol{x}_k) - \alpha h_k \|f'(\boldsymbol{x}_k)\|_2^2$$

The acceptable steps exist unless $f(\boldsymbol{x}_{k+1}) = f(\boldsymbol{x}_k - hf'(\boldsymbol{x}_k))$ is not bounded from below.

4. Barzilai-Borwein Step-Size¹

Let us define $\mathbf{s}_{k-1} := \mathbf{x}_k - \mathbf{x}_{k-1}$ and $\mathbf{y}_{k-1} := f'(\mathbf{x}_k) - f'(\mathbf{x}_{k-1})$. Then, we can define the Barzilai-Borwein (BB) step sizes $\{h_k^1\}_{k=1}^{\infty}$ and $\{h_k^2\}_{k=1}^{\infty}$:

$$egin{aligned} h_k^1 &:= rac{\|m{s}_{k-1}\|_2^2}{\langlem{s}_{k-1},m{y}_{k-1}
angle}, \ h_k^2 &:= rac{\langlem{s}_{k-1},m{y}_{k-1}
angle}{\|m{y}_{k-1}\|_2^2}. \end{aligned}$$

The first step-size is the one which minimizes the following secant condition $\|\frac{1}{h}\boldsymbol{s}_{k-1} - \boldsymbol{y}_{k-1}\|_2^2$ while the second one minimizes $\|\boldsymbol{s}_{k-1} - h\boldsymbol{y}_{k-1}\|_2^2$.

Now, consider the problem

$$\label{eq:constraint} \min_{{\bm x}\in\mathbb{R}^n}f({\bm x})$$
 where $f\in\mathcal{C}_L^{1,1}(\mathbb{R}^n),$ and $f({\bm x})$ is bounded from below.

Let us evaluate the result of one step of the steepest descent method. Consider y = x - hf'(x). From Lemma 3.4,

$$egin{array}{rll} f(m{y}) &\leq & f(m{x}) + \langle f'(m{x}), m{y} - m{x}
angle + rac{L}{2} \|m{y} - m{x}\|_2^2 \ &= & f(m{x}) - h \|f'(m{x})\|_2^2 + rac{h^2 L}{2} \|f'(m{x})\|_2^2 \end{array}$$

$$= f(\boldsymbol{x}) - h\left(1 - \frac{h}{2}L\right) \|f'(\boldsymbol{x})\|_{2}^{2}.$$
 (5)

Thus, one step of the steepest descent method decreases the value of the objective function at least as follows for $h^* = 1/L$.

$$f(y) \le f(x) - \frac{1}{2L} \|f'(x)\|_2^2$$

¹J. Barzilai and J. M. Borwein, "Two-point step size gradient methods," *IMA Journal of Numerical Analysis*, **8** (1988), pp. 141–148.

Now, for the Goldstein-Armijo Rule, since $\boldsymbol{x}_{k+1} = \boldsymbol{x}_k - h_k f'(\boldsymbol{x}_k)$, we have:

$$f(\boldsymbol{x}_k) - f(\boldsymbol{x}_{k+1}) \le \beta h_k \| f'(\boldsymbol{x}_k) \|_2^2$$

and from (5)

$$f(\boldsymbol{x}_k) - f(\boldsymbol{x}_{k+1}) \ge h_k \left(1 - \frac{h_k}{2}L\right) \|f'(\boldsymbol{x}_k)\|_2^2.$$

Therefore, $h_k \ge 2(1-\beta)/L$.

Also, substituting in

$$f(\boldsymbol{x}_k) - f(\boldsymbol{x}_{k+1}) \ge \alpha h_k \|f'(\boldsymbol{x}_k)\|_2^2 \ge \frac{2}{L} \alpha (1-\beta) \|f'(\boldsymbol{x}_k)\|_2^2.$$

Thus, in the three step-size strategies excepting the BB step size considered here, we can say that

$$f(\boldsymbol{x}_k) - f(\boldsymbol{x}_{k+1}) \geq rac{\omega}{L} \|f'(\boldsymbol{x}_k)\|_2^2$$

for some positive constant ω .

Summing up the above inequality we have:

$$\frac{\omega}{L} \sum_{k=0}^{N} \|f'(\boldsymbol{x}_k)\|_2^2 \le f(\boldsymbol{x}_0) - f(\boldsymbol{x}_{N+1}) \le f(\boldsymbol{x}_0) - f^*$$

where f^* is the optimal value of the problem.

As a simple consequence we have

$$||f'(\boldsymbol{x}_k)||_2 \to 0 \text{ as } k \to \infty.$$

Finally,

$$g_N^* \equiv \min_{0 \le k \le N} \|f'(\boldsymbol{x}_k)\|_2 \le \frac{1}{\sqrt{N+1}} \left[\frac{1}{\omega} L(f(\boldsymbol{x}_0) - f^*)\right]^{1/2}.$$
 (6)

Remark 5.8 $g_N^* \to 0$, but we cannot say anything about the rate of convergence of the sequence $\{f(\boldsymbol{x}_k)\}$ or $\{\boldsymbol{x}_k\}$.

Example 5.9 Consider the function $f(x,y) = \frac{1}{2}x^2 + \frac{1}{4}y^4 - \frac{1}{2}y^2$. $(0,-1)^T$ and $(0,1)^T$ are local minimal solutions, but $(0,0)^T$ is a stationary point.

If we start the steepest descent method from $(1,0)^T$, we will only converge to the stationary point.

We focus now on the following problem class:

Model:	1. $\min_{\boldsymbol{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n} f(\boldsymbol{x})$
	2. $f \in \mathcal{C}_L^{1,1}(\mathbb{R}^n)$
	3. $f(\boldsymbol{x})$ is bounded from below
Oracle:	Only function values are available
Approximate solution:	Find $\bar{\boldsymbol{x}} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ such that $f(\bar{\boldsymbol{x}}) \leq f(\boldsymbol{x}_0)$ and $\ f'(\bar{\boldsymbol{x}})\ _2 < \epsilon$

From (6), we have

$$g_N^* < \varepsilon$$
 if $N+1 > \frac{L}{\omega \varepsilon^2} (f(\boldsymbol{x}_0) - f^*)$