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# Comparison between BZAU, SRMI and MRM Conjugate Gradient Methods in Minimization Problems

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### ABSTRACT

The conjugate gradient method is one of the best methods that can be used to solve nonlinear unconstrained optimization problems. This method has gained the interest of researchers and has expanded rapidly. There are many versions of the conjugate gradient method. Each version claims to be efficient. In this paper, we make the comparison among three versions of the conjugate gradient method (MRM, SRMI and BZAU) by using exact line search. The methods were tested in terms of number of iteration and CPU time using 20 standard test functions. The result showed that MRM is the most efficient followed by BZAU and then SRMI. However, BZAU successfully found all the minimizers of the test functions whereas both SRMI and MRM failed at least once. In order to test the robustness of the methods, extensive tests are required.

Keywords: Conjugate gradient method; unconstrained; optimization; line search

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### 1. Introduction

Consider the following unconstrained optimization problem:

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

where  $f: \mathbb{R}^n \to \mathbb{R}$  is a continuously differentiable function. One of the most popular methods to solve this kind of problem is the conjugate gradient method. This is due to low memory requirement and global convergence properties.

Generally the method generated the sequence

$$
x_{k+1} = x_k + \alpha_k d_k, \quad k = 0, 1, 2, \dots,
$$
\n<sup>(1)</sup>

where the step length  $\alpha_k > 0$  is obtained by some line search method. Both exact and inexact line searches can be used. For exact line search, the step length  $\alpha_k$  is computed such that the objective function with  $d_k$  direction is exactly minimized. The formula is

$$
\alpha_k = \min_{\alpha \ge 0} f(x_k + \alpha d_k). \tag{2}
$$

One popular inexact line search used to find the step length is the Wolfe line search. The step length  $\alpha_k$  is computed such that

$$
f(x_k + \alpha_k d_k) \le f(x_k) + \rho \alpha_k g_k^T d_k,
$$
\n(3)

$$
g(x_k + \alpha_k d_k)^T d_k \ge \sigma g_k^T d_k,
$$
\n(4)

where  $0 < \rho < \sigma < 1$ . The search direction  $d_k$  is generated by

<span id="page-1-0"></span>
$$
d_k = \begin{cases} -g_k & \text{if } k = 0\\ -g_k + \beta_k d_{k-1} & \text{if } k \ge 1 \end{cases} \tag{5}
$$

where  $g_k = \nabla f(x_k)$  is the gradient and  $\beta_k$  is a scalar. Most modifications of the conjugate gradient are on the  $\beta_k.$  Some of the well-known classic  $\beta_k$  are as follows.

Hestenes-Stiefel Formula [\(Hestenes and Stiefel](#page-10-0) [\(1952\)](#page-10-0)),

$$
\beta_k^{HS} = \frac{g_k^T (g_k - g_{k-1})}{d_{k-1}^T (g_k - g_{k-1})}
$$

Polak-Ribiere-Polyak Formula [\(Polak and Ribiere](#page-10-1) [\(1969\)](#page-10-1), [Polyak](#page-10-2) [\(1969\)](#page-10-2)),

$$
\beta_k^{PRP} = \frac{g_k^T (g_k - g_{k-1})}{g_{k-1}^T g_{k-1}}
$$

Fletcher-Reeves Formula [\(Fletcher and Reeves](#page-10-3) [\(1964\)](#page-10-3)),

$$
\beta_k^{FR} = \frac{g_k^T g_k}{g_{k-1}^T g_{k-1}}
$$

Many versions of the conjugate gradient method can be found in literature. Each version claims to be efficient. It is important to determine which version is the most efficient among the new variety of conjugate gradient methods. In this paper, we make the comparison among three versions of conjugate gradient method, which are MRM [\(Hamoda et al.](#page-10-4) [\(2015\)](#page-10-4)), SRMI [\(Shoid et al.](#page-10-5) [\(2015\)](#page-10-5)) and BZAU [\(Baluch et al.](#page-9-0) [\(2017\)](#page-9-0)).

In section 2, we will discuss the modified conjugate gradient method  $\beta_k^{MRM}$ ,  $\beta_k^{SRMI}$  and  $\beta_k^{BZAU}$ . In section 3, we present the numerical results and discussion. Finally we conclude the findings in section 4.

### 2. The Methods

The three versions of conjugate gradient method that we compared are MRM, SRMI and BZAU.

The differences among versions of conjugate gradient method are usually step length  $\alpha_k$  and parameter  $\beta_k$ . The MRM method used the following parameter  $\beta_k^{MRM}$ 

$$
\beta_k^{MRM} = \frac{g_k^T (g_k - \frac{\|g_k\|}{\|g_{k-1}\|} g_{k-1})}{\|g_{k-1}\|^2 + |g_{k+1}^T d_{k-1}|}
$$

It was claimed to be promising and efficient when compared to Fletcher-Reeves (FR) and Polak-Ribiere-Polyak (PRP). The MRM method is globally converged under exact line search. The next method, SRMI, was proposed by [Shoid et al.](#page-10-5) [\(2015\)](#page-10-5). The method was modified from PRP and [Shapiee et al.](#page-10-6) [\(2014\)](#page-10-6) by taking the average  $\beta_k$  of the two methods.

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$$
\beta_k^{NRMI} = \frac{g_k^T (g_k - g_{k-1})}{g_{k-1}^T (g_k - d_{k-1})}
$$

$$
\beta_k^{SRMI} = PRP + NRMI
$$

$$
\frac{g_k^T (g_k - g_{k-1})}{g_{k-1}^T g_{k-1}} + \frac{g_k^T (g_k - g_{k-1})}{g_{k-1}^T (g_k - d_{k-1})}
$$

The convergence analysis showed that this method was globally converged under exact line search [\(Shoid et al.](#page-10-5) [\(2015\)](#page-10-5)). When compared to FR, HS and RMIL methods, the SRMI method was more efficient.

2

 $\beta_k^{SRMI}=$ 

The third method was BZAU which was introduced by [Baluch et al.](#page-9-0) [\(2017\)](#page-9-0). The method was modified from the PRP method and the method of [Wei et al.](#page-10-7) [\(2006\)](#page-10-7) denominator to produce the new parameter

$$
\beta_k^{BZAU} = \frac{g_k^T (g_k - g_{k-1})}{-\eta g_{k-1}^T d_{k-1} + \mu \left| g_k^T d_{k-1} \right|},
$$

for  $\eta \in [1, +\infty)$ ,  $\mu \in (\eta, +\infty)$ . The best value for the parameter was  $(\eta, \mu) = (1, 2)$ . The algorithm proposed by [Baluch et al.](#page-9-0) [\(2017\)](#page-9-0) proved to be globally converged under Wolfe line search. The method also had sufficient descent property independent of any line search. Numerical result showed that the method outperformed TMPRP1 [\(Sun and Liu](#page-10-8) [\(2015\)](#page-10-8))] which was more efficient than the CG Descent method [\(Hager and Zhang](#page-10-9) [\(2006\)](#page-10-9)) and DTPRP method [\(Dai and Wen](#page-10-10) [\(2012\)](#page-10-10)).

The following is the general algorithm for the conjugate gradient method.

#### Algorithm 1:

Step 1: Given an initial point  $x_0 \in R^n, \epsilon \ge 0$  and set  $k = 0, d_0 = -g_0$  if  $||g_0|| <$  $\epsilon$ , then stop.

Step 2: Compute  $\alpha_k$  using line search.

Step 3: Let  $x_{k+1} = x_k + \alpha_k d_k$ , if  $||g_{k+1}|| < \epsilon$ , then stop.

Step 4: Compute  $\beta_k$  and  $d_{k+1}$ .

Step 5: Set  $k = k + 1$  and go to Step 2.

### 2.1 Numerical Results and Discussion

Each of the three methods (MRM, SRMI and BZAU) claims to be more efficient. Each method was compared with different methods. Hence, we wanted to determine which method between MRM, SRMI and BZAU was the most ef ficient based on number of iterations and CPU time. The BZAU held sufficient descent property independent of any line search. Hence, in our experiment, we used exact line search and search direction [\(5\)](#page-1-0). There were 20 test functions used. All the comparisons were done with three different initial points. All the test functions were solved by MATLAB software. In the experiment, we took  $\epsilon = 10^{-6}$  and iteration was terminated when the stopping criteria  $||g_k|| < 10^{-6}$ was fulfilled.

In the Tables 1 to 4, the symbol "FAIL" was represented when the routines of code stopped, since it failed to find the positive value of step size or when the number of iterations exceeded 1,000. Tables 1 and 2 show the performance comparison of MRM, SRMI and BZAU methods based on number of iterations. Tables 3 and 4 show the performance comparison of MRM, SRMI and BZAU methods based on CPU time.

From Tables 1 to 4, the BZAU method successfully reached the minimizer without fail. Each SRMI and MRM method failed to reach the minimizer at least once. From Table 5 and Table 6, the BZAU method outperformed SRMI, while MRM outperformed both BZAU and SRMI based on number of iteration. Table 5 shows that the BZAU method had 56.35% less number of iterations, 18.25% equal number of iterations and 25.40% greater number of iterations compared to SRMI. When compared to MRM, 34.13% of the BZAU had less number of iterations, 26.98% was equal and 38.89% of the BZAU had greater number of iterations. This also means that 38.89% of the MRM method had less number of iterations compared to BZAU. Table 6 also shows that 52.38% of MRM method had less number of iterations compared to SRMI.

From Table 7 and 8, BZAU outperformed both SRMI and MRM method, while MRM outperformed SRMI in terms of CPU time. From Table 7, 67.46% of the BZAU method had less CPU time compared to SRMI method and 53.17% of the BZAU method had less CPU time compared to the MRM method. From Table 8, 66.67% of the MRM method had less CPU time compared to the SRMI method.

Therefore, we can conclude that MRM outperformed BZAU and SRMI.















Table 3: Performance comparison between MRM, SRMI and BZAU based on CPU time.



#### Table 4: Performance comparison between MRM, SRMI and BZAU based on CPU time

Table 5: Percentage performance of BZAU method compared to SRMI and MRM based on number of iterations.



Table 6: Percentage performance of MRM method compared to BZAU and SRMI based on number of iterations.



Table 7: Percentage performance of BZAU method compared to SRMI and MRM based on CPU time.

Method		Comparison	
		-SRMI-	MRM
<b>BZAU</b>	Less CPU time	67.46%	53.17\%
	Equal CPU time	2.38\%	$0.79\%$
	Greater CPU time	$30.16\%$	46.03%

Table 8: Percentage performance of MRM method compared to BZAU and SRMI based on CPU time.



### 3. Conclusions

In this paper, three different versions of conjugate gradient which were BZAU method, SRMI method and MRM method were compared using 20 standard test functions. The methods were compared in terms of number of iteration and CPU time in order to determine the efficiency of the method. The result showed that MRM was the most efficient followed by BZAU and then SRMI. However, BZAU successfully found all the minimizers of the test functions. Both SRMI and MRM failed at least once. In this test, however, only exact line search and search direction [\(5\)](#page-1-0) was used. If different line search and different search directions were used, the result could be different. Furthermore, we only used 20 test functions. In order to test the robustness of the methods, extensive testing is required.

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