A trust region method for solving grey-box mixed integer nonlinear problems.

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joint work with Claudia D'Ambrosio, Leo Liberti, and Ky Vu.

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- One almost never sees asymptotics
- One almost never reaches a solution but even 1% improvement can be extremely valuable
- Because of their complexity, simulation is often required
- Because of simulation derivatives are often not available
- It is always better to obtain and use derivatives if you can
- Simulated Annealing, Genetic Algorithms etc are usually for the ignorant or the desperate or both.

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Some remarks:

- 1 the function can have many local minima,
- 2 the value of the function can include both noise and error
- 3 the evaluation of the function can be expensive,
- 4 the domain of the function can be unknown.

- Typical trust region or line search method builds linear or quadratic model of the objective function f.
- The model has to satisfy Taylor-like error bounds Second Order

$$|f(x) - m(x)| \le \mathcal{O}(\Delta^3)$$
$$|\nabla f(x) - \nabla m(x)| \le \mathcal{O}(\Delta^2)$$
$$|\nabla^2 f(x) - \nabla^2 m(x)| \le \mathcal{O}(\Delta)$$

- In fact it typically is a first (or second) order Taylor seriess approximation.
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Abstraction of required bounds for derivative free

- $f \in C^1$ and ∇f Lipschitz continuous on $\{x | f_k \leq f_0\}$.
- Δ_k bounded above.
- A model is called:

Fully Linear on $B(x, \Delta)$ iff

$$|f(x) - m(x)| \le \kappa_{ef} \Delta^2$$

$$|\nabla f(x) - \nabla m(x)| \le \kappa_{eg} \Delta$$

for all x in $B(x, \Delta)$

 A Fully Linear model that is suitably minimized replaces the Cauchy Point.

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Abstraction of required bounds

- $f \in C^2$ and $\nabla^2 f$ Lipschitz continuous on $\{x | f_k \le f_0\}$.
- \bullet Δ_k bounded above.
- A model is called:
 Fully Quadratic on B(x, Δ) iff

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- Model depends on previous iterates!
- Geometry matters
- In derivative free methods we use sample based models; e.g., interpolation or regression or pattern-based methods.
- The O in Taylor-like bounds depends not only on f, but also on the geometry of the sample set.
- We need to have some constant characterizing the quality of the sample set(automatic in pattern-based methods).
- We need to control this constant to keep it uniformly bounded.

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Initialize: x_0, Δ

Compute Model: $m_k()$

Compute Step: Compute s_k from

$$\min_{\|s\|\leq\Delta} m_k(x_k+s)$$

Trust-region Update:
$$ho = rac{f(x_k) - f(x_k + s_k)}{m_k(x_k) - m_k(x_k + s_k)}$$

If
$$\rho > 0.75$$
 $\Delta \leftarrow 2.0\Delta$

Accept
$$x_k + s_k$$

If
$$0.25 < \rho < 0.75$$
 $\Delta \leftarrow \Delta$ Accept $x_k + s_k$

If
$$\rho < 0.25$$
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Fundamental result:

$$m_k(x_k) - m_k(x_k^{\mathsf{c}}) \ge \frac{1}{2} \|g_k\| \min \left[\frac{\|g_k\|}{\beta_k}, \Delta_k \right]$$

where

$$\mathbf{g}_k =
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\Rightarrow Define

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- Use interpolation/regression models that mimic the Taylor series expansions.
- Never reduce the trust region radius Δ_k if the sample set is badly-poised (has bad geometry).
- Incorporate a stationarity condition (first or second order) when 'stationarity' of the model is sufficiently small.
 - \longrightarrow Iterative process with successive contractions of Δ_k .
- Converged when the radius is small enough

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Grey-box MINLP

$$\min_{x,y} S(x,y) + f(x,y)$$

subject to

$$\phi(x, y) \le 0$$

$$Ax + By \le b$$

$$x \in [x^{L}, x^{U}]$$

$$y \in \{0, 1\}^{q},$$

- $x \in \mathbb{R}^p, y \in \{0,1\}^q$ are decision variables
- $S: \mathbb{R}^n \to \mathbb{R}$ is a black-box function
- $f: \mathbb{R}^{p+q} \to \mathbb{R}$ and $\phi: \mathbb{R}^{p+q} \to \mathbb{R}^r$ are closed-form functions
- assumption: S (for relaxed y), f, and ϕ are twice differentiable; furthermore ϕ is convex.

Define
$$F(x, y) = S(x, y) + f(x, y)$$

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Trust region methods for grey-box MINLP

Subproblem trust region and constraint

- center (x^k, y^k) : select from the previous iterate.
- 2 trust region for x: a ball centered at x^k (normally) in I_{∞} , i.e TR is a box $[x, \overline{x}]$.
- 3 trust region subproblem constraint for y: local branching constraint to limit the number of flips in binary variables

$$\sum_{\{j:\,y_i^k=0\}}y_j+\sum_{\{j:\,y_i^k=1\}}(1-y_j)\leq k.$$

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Trust region methods for grey-box MINLP

Model for f

- multivariate Taylor series approximation truncated at degree 1 or 2
- 2 can be written in the form

$$f_{\mathcal{M}}(x,y) = a + b^{T}x + c^{T}y + \frac{1}{2}(x,y)^{T}\Omega(x,y).$$

Model for S

Iinear or quadratic function

2

$$S_{\mathcal{M}}(x,y) = \alpha + \beta^{\mathsf{T}} x + \gamma^{\mathsf{T}} y + \frac{1}{2} (x,y)^{\mathsf{T}} \Gamma(x,y).$$

found by regression or interpolation.

Trust region methods for grey-box MINLP

Putting it all together: the overall trust region subproblem

$$\min_{x,y} S_{\mathcal{M}}(x,y) + f_{\mathcal{M}}(x,y)$$

subject to

$$\phi(x,y) \leq 0$$

$$Ax + By \leq b$$

$$x \in [x^{L}, x^{U}] \cap [\underline{x}, \overline{x}]$$

$$y \in \{0, 1\}^{q}$$

$$\sum_{\{j: y_{j}^{*}=0\}} y_{j} + \sum_{\{j: y_{j}^{*}=1\}} (1 - y_{j}) \leq k.$$

For simplicity of explanation I will assume that the constraints

$$\phi(x,y) \le 0$$
$$Ax + By \le b$$

are absent.

We first need to define a modified version of the Cauchy step. Since we have a mixture of discrete and continuous variables we consider such a direction for fixed discrete variables.

Thus, we define the modified Cauchy step $s_k^{y,c}$, for fixed y

$$t_k^{\mathsf{x,C}} = \operatorname{argmin}_{t \geq 0 : x_k - t g_k \in B(x_k; y; \Delta_k) \cap [x^L, x^U]} m_k(x_k - t g_k, y).$$

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We define our fully linear or fully quadratic models in x and y, as if the y are relaxed.

The Algorithm and theory are developed for fixed y.

But when we solve the trust region subproblem for y not fixed we solve it as a mixed integer problem.

So eventually we have the correct y and the correct (local) solution

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The Algorithm -1^{st} order version

Step 0: Initialization. Choose a FL class of models and a corresponding MIA. Choose x_0 , y_0 (feasible) and Δ_{max} , $\Delta_i^{icb} \in (0, \Delta_{max})$, and a initial model m_0^{icb} . and the constants η_0 , η_1 , γ , γ_{inc} , ϵ_c , β , μ , and ω with $0 \leq \eta_0 \leq \eta_1 < 1$ (with $\eta_1 \neq 0$), $0 < \gamma < 1 < \gamma_{inc}$.

Step 1: Criticality test. If
$$\|g_k^{m,inc}\| > \epsilon_c$$
 then $m_k = m_k^{icb}$ and $\Delta_k = \Delta_k^{icb}$. Otherwise call the MIA to certify m_k^{icb} is FL on $B(x_k; y; \Delta_k^{icb})$. If $g_k^{m,inc} \le \epsilon_c$ and at least one of

 $\epsilon_c > 0$, $\mu > \beta > 0$, and $\omega \in (0,1)$. Set k = 0.

- the model m_k^{icb} is not certifiably FL on $B(x_k; y; \Delta_k^{icb})$,
- \bullet $\Delta_{k}^{icb} > \mu \|g_{k}^{m,inc}\|,$

holds then apply a criticality step algorithm to construct a model that is FL on a suitably small region, the ball $B(x_k;y;\tilde{\Delta}_k)$, for some $\tilde{\Delta}_k\in(0,\mu\|\tilde{g}_k\|]$

Otherwise set $m_k = m_k^{icb}$ and $\Delta_k = \Delta_k^{icb}$.

Step 2: Step calculation. Choose a step s_k that (sufficiently) reduces the model $m_k(x,y)$ (approximate CP) such that $x_k + s_k \in B_k(x_k; y; \Delta_k)$.

The Algorithm (continued)

Step 3: Acceptance of the trial point. Compute
$$F(x_k + s_k, y)$$
 and $\rho_k = \frac{F(x_k, y) - F(x_k + s_k, y)}{m_k(x_k, y) - m_k(x_k + s_k, y)}$.

If $\rho_k > \eta_1$ or $\rho_k > \eta_0$ and m_k is FL on $B(x_k; y; \Delta_k)$, then $x_{k+1} = x_k + s_k$, and the model is updated; otherwise the model and the iterate remain unchanged.

Step 4: Model improvement. If $\rho_k < \eta_1$ use MIA to

- attempt to certify that m_k is FL on $B(x_k; y; \Delta_k)$,
- if such a certificate is not obtained, we say that m_k is not certifiably FL and make one or more suitable improvement steps.

Define m_{k+1}^{icb} to be the (possibly improved) model.

The Algorithm (continued)

```
Step 5: Possible second step calculation. As long as x_{k+1} \neq x_k choose a step \tilde{s}_k that (sufficiently) reduces the model m_k(x_{k+1}, y) such that x_{k+1} + \bar{s}_k \in B_k(x_k; y; \Delta_k). Note y is not fixed, \bar{s}_k are the x-components of \tilde{s}_k Set (x_{k+1}, y) = (x_k, y) + \tilde{s}_k
```

Step 6: Trust-region radius update. Set

$$\Delta_{k+1}^{icb} \in \begin{cases} \left[\Delta_k, \min\{\gamma_{inc}\Delta_k, \Delta_{max}\}\right] & \text{if } \rho_k \geq \eta_1, \\ \left\{\gamma\Delta_k\right\} & \text{if } \rho_k < \eta_1 \text{ and } m_k \text{ is FL,} \\ \left\{\Delta_k\right\} & \text{if } \rho_k < \eta_1 \text{ and } m_k \\ & \text{is not certifiably fully linear.} \end{cases}$$

Increment k by one and go to Step 1.

Note: the model-improvement algorithm to improve the model until it is fully linear on the required TR can be done in a finite, uniformly bounded number of steps .

The Algorithm (continued)

```
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Increment k by one and go to Step 1.

Note: the model-improvement algorithm to improve the model until it is fully linear on the required TR can be done in a finite, uniformly bounded number of steps .

- **1** $\rho_k \geq \eta_1$ **Successful** iteration. $\Delta_{k+1} \geq \Delta_k$
- ② $\eta_1 > \rho_k \geq \eta_0$ and m_k is FL. Acceptable iteration. $\Delta_{k+1} < \Delta_k$

- ① $\eta_1 > \rho_k$, m_k not certifiably FL. Model must be improved. Model-improving iteration. So Δ_k and x_k not changed
- ① $\rho_k < \eta_0$ and m_k is FL. $\Delta_{k+1} < \Delta_k$ and $x_{k+1} = x_k$ Unsuccessful iteration.

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- **1** $\rho_k \geq \eta_1$ **Successful** iteration. $\Delta_{k+1} \geq \Delta_k$
- ② $\eta_1 > \rho_k \geq \eta_0$ and m_k is FL. Acceptable iteration. $\Delta_{k+1} < \Delta_k$

- **3** $\eta_1 > \rho_k$, m_k not certifiably FL. Model must be improved. Model-improving iteration. So Δ_k and x_k not changed
- **1** $\rho_k < \eta_0$ and m_k is FL. $\Delta_{k+1} < \Delta_k$ and $x_{k+1} = x_k$ **Unsuccessful** iteration.

- Do at least as well as (a fixed fraction of) the Cauchy point. (the minimum of the model in the "steepest descent" direction within the TR)
- Manage the size of the TR (Delta) appropriately
- \odot Have consistency between F and m
- Because of 3 we want to define the Cauchy point, guarantee the convergence, and do the trust region management, etc for fixed v
- Solve the subproblem (now the y is not fixed) using, for example bonmin, its solution will be guaranteed to be better than the value for the Cauchy point for the fixed y. Iterating, eventually will have the right y and converge to the solution!

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Numerical Results