

## MINIMIZATION OF A NONDIFFERENTIABLE FUNCTION: AN ALGORITHM USING TRUST REGION TECHNIQUE AND CONJUGATE SUBGRADIENT METHOD

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**Abstract.** In this paper we present a method for minimization of a nondifferentiable function. The method uses trust region strategy combined with a conjugate subgradient method. It is proved that the sequence of points generated by the algorithm has an accumulation point which satisfies the first order necessary and sufficient conditions.

**Keywords:** non-smooth convex optimization, trust region method, conjugate subgradient method, bundle methods.

### 1. Introduction

The following minimization problem is considered:

$$(1.1) \quad \min_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n} f(x)$$

where  $f : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \cup \{+\infty\}$  is a convex and not necessary differentiable function with a nonempty set  $X^*$  of minima.

Nonsmooth optimization problems, in general, are difficult to solve, even when they are unconstrained. For nonsmooth programs, many approaches have been presented so far and they are often restricted to the convex unconstrained case. In general, the various approaches are based on combinations of the following three methods: (i) subgradient methods (see [9], [15], [27], [28]); (ii) bundle techniques (see [14], [16], [18], [20], [25]), (iii) Moreau-Yosida regularization (see [5], [6], [7], [8], [13], [19], [22], [23]). A good overview can be found in [1] and [21].

The algorithm we are going to present here combines the trust region method with the conjugate subgradient method. We build our iterative method on the

following idea. If we, on the  $k$ -th iteration, approximate the objective function  $f$  of the problem (1.1) by a function  $\Phi$  then it is reasonable to assume that it could be possible to define some neighborhood about  $x_k$  where the approximation function  $\Phi$  of the objective function  $f$  agrees with the objective function in some sense. Then it would be appropriate to choose for the next iteration the minimizer of the approximation function  $\Phi$ , that is to apply a trust region technique. If the approximation function  $\Phi$  of the objective function  $f$  does not agree with the objective function in an appropriate degree then we proceed to solve problem (1.1) by conjugate subgradient method (instead of bundle philosophy which is used in [12]) for solving the latter problem.

In the second section some basic theoretical preliminaries are given. In the third section a model algorithm is suggested. In the fourth section the convergence of the algorithm is proved.

## 2. THEORETICAL PRELIMINARIES

Throughout the paper we will use the following notation. A vector  $s$  refers to a column vector, and  $\nabla$  denotes the gradient operator  $(\frac{\partial}{\partial x_1}, \frac{\partial}{\partial x_2}, \dots, \frac{\partial}{\partial x_n})^T$ . The Euclidean product is denoted by  $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$  and  $\|\cdot\|$  is the associated norm.

The *domain* of a given function  $f : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \cup \{+\infty\}$  is the set  $dom(f) = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n \mid f(x) < +\infty\}$ . We say  $f$  is proper if its domain is nonempty. The point  $x^* = \arg \min_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n} f(x)$  refers to the minimum point of a given function  $f : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \cup \{+\infty\}$ . A vector  $g \in \mathbb{R}^n$  is said to be a *subgradient* of a given proper convex function  $f : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \cup \{+\infty\}$  at a point  $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$  if the inequality  $f(z) \leq f(x) + g^T(z - x)$  holds for all  $z \in \mathbb{R}^n$ . The set of all subgradients of  $f(x)$  at the point  $x$ , called the *subdifferential* at the point  $x$ , is denoted by  $\partial f(x)$ . The subdifferential  $\partial f(x)$  is a nonempty set if and only if  $x \in dom(f)$  and the set  $\partial f(x)$  is bounded for  $\forall x \in B \subset dom(f)$ , where  $B$  is compact. If a proper convex function  $f : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \cup \{+\infty\}$  is a differentiable function at a point  $x \in dom(f)$ , then  $\partial f(x) = \{\nabla f(x)\}$ .

**Proposition 2.1.** *Let  $f : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \cup \{+\infty\}$  be a proper convex function. The condition  $0 \in \partial f(x)$  is a first order necessary and sufficient condition for a global minimizer at  $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ . This can be stated alternatively as:*

$$\max_{g \in \partial f(x)} s^T g \geq 0, \forall s \in \mathbb{R}^n, \|s\| = 1.$$

*Proof.* See in [10], [17] or [24]  $\square$

In [10] it is proved that for the sequence  $x_k \rightarrow x'$ , defined by  $x_k = x' + \epsilon_k s_k$ , such that  $\epsilon_k > 0$ ,  $\epsilon_k \rightarrow 0$  and  $s_k \rightarrow s$  if  $g_k \in \partial f(x_k)$  then all accumulation points of the sequence  $\{g_k\}$  lie in the set  $\partial f(x')$ , where  $f : S \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \cup \{+\infty\}$  is a convex function defined on a

convex set  $S \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$ .

The *directional derivative* of a real function defined on  $\mathbb{R}^n$  at the point  $x' \in \mathbb{R}^n$  in the direction  $s \in \mathbb{R}^n$ , denoted by  $f'(x', s)$ , is  $f'(x', s) = \lim_{t \downarrow 0} \frac{f(x'+ts) - f(x')}{t}$  when this limit exists. For a real convex function a directional derivative at the point  $x' \in \mathbb{R}^n$  in the direction  $s$  exists in any direction  $s \in \mathbb{R}^n$  (see theorem 2.1.3, page 10 in [21]). In [10] it is proved that if the sequence  $x_k \rightarrow x'$ , defined by  $x_k = x' + \epsilon_k s_k$ , such that  $\epsilon_k > 0$ ,  $\epsilon_k \rightarrow 0$  and  $s_k \rightarrow s$ , then it holds that  $f'(x', s) = \lim_{k \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{f(x_k) - f(x')}{\epsilon_k} = \max_{g \in \partial f(x')} s^T g$ , where  $f: S \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \cup \{+\infty\}$  is a convex function defined on a convex set  $S \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$ . Hence, it follows that if the function  $f$  is convex then  $f(x' + ts) = f(x') + t f'(x', s) + o(t)$  holds, which can be considered as one linearization of the function  $f$  (see in [11]). It also follows that the first order necessary and sufficient condition for a global minimizer of the convex function  $f$  at the point  $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$  can be stated alternatively as  $\max_{g \in \partial f(x)} s^T g \geq 0, \forall s \in \mathbb{R}^n, \|s\| = 1$  (see in [2]).

**Lemma 2.1.** *Let  $f_i: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \cup \{+\infty\}$  for  $i \in I = \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$ ,  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  be convex functions, and  $f(x) = \max_{i \in \{1, 2, \dots, n\}} f_i(x)$ . Then the function  $f$  is a convex function, and its subdifferential at the point  $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ , is given by  $\partial f(x) = \left\{ \sum_{i \in \hat{I}} \lambda_i g_i \mid \sum_{i \in \hat{I}} \lambda_i = 1, \lambda_i \geq 0, g_i \in \partial f_i(x), \text{ for } i \in \hat{I} \right\}$ , where  $\hat{I}$  is the set  $\hat{I} = \{i \in I \mid f(x) = f_i(x)\}$ .*

*Proof.* See in [24]  $\square$

### 3. A MODEL ALGORITHM

We suppose that at the  $k$ -th iteration, there is an index set  $I_k = \{1, 2, \dots, k\}$ , and we store information as a bundle  $B_k = \{(x_i, f(x_i), g_i) \mid i \in I_k\}$ , i.e. a set of triplets indexed by  $I_k$  consisting of the generic point  $x_i$ , the value  $f(x_i)$  of the objective function  $f$  at the point  $x_i$ , and an arbitrary subgradient  $g_i \in \partial f(x_i)$ .

Each triplet in the bundle  $B_k$  defines one linearization  $f_i(x)$  of the objective function given as follows:

$$(3.1) \quad f_i(x) = f(x_i) + g_i^T(x - x_i), \text{ where } i \in I_k.$$

If  $f$  is a convex function then  $f(x) = \max_{z \in \mathbb{R}^n} \{f(z) + g^T(x - z)\}$  holds (proved in [4]), where  $g \in \partial f(z)$ . Hence, it is reasonable to consider the next function

$$(3.2) \quad \hat{f}_k(x) = \max_{0 \leq i \leq k} f_i(x) = \max_{0 \leq i \leq k} \{f(x_i) + g_i^T(x - x_i)\}$$

which is known as a cutting plane function [1].

It is easy to see that  $f(x) \geq \hat{f}_{k+1}(x) \geq \hat{f}_k(x)$  for all  $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ .

Now, let us consider the next function:

$$(3.3) \quad \Phi_k(x) = \hat{f}_k(x) + \frac{1}{2} \|x_k - x\|^2$$

Clearly, we have that  $\Phi_k(x_k) = \hat{f}_k(x_k)$  holds. Function  $\hat{f}_k(x)$  is a polyhedral function (piecewise linear function) and hence it is a closed convex function. More than that,  $\hat{f}_k(x)$  could be considered as a composition of two type of functions - the maximum function and the linear functions, i.e.  $\max_{0 \leq i \leq k} f_i(x)$ . Then the function defined by (3.3) is a sum of one differentiable convex quadratic function and maximum of the linear functions. So, the function defined by (3.3) is a closed convex nonsmooth function.

If  $z \in \partial\Phi_k(x)$  then  $z \in \partial\hat{f}_k(x) + \partial(\frac{1}{2}\|x_k - x\|^2)$ . Hence,  $z \in \partial\hat{f}_k(x) + x - x_k$  and  $z = \hat{g} + x - x_k$  for some  $\hat{g} \in \partial\hat{f}_k(x)$ . Since  $\hat{f}_k(x)$  is a polyhedral function we have, according to Lemma 2.1, that  $\hat{g} = \sum_{i \in \hat{I}_k} \lambda_i g_i$ , where  $\hat{I} = \{i \in I_k | \hat{f}_k(x) = f_i(x)\}$  and  $g_i \in \partial f(x_i)$ ,  $i \in \hat{I}_k$ ,  $\sum_{i \in \hat{I}_k} \lambda_i = 1$ ,  $\lambda_i \geq 0$ , i.e.  $\hat{g}$  is a convex combination of the subgradients from the bundle  $B_k$ .

The algorithm we are going to present constructs a sequence  $\{x_k\}$  in  $R^n$  in the following way. On the  $k$ -th iteration, we consider the function defined by (3.3) as an approximation of the objective function  $f$  about the point  $x_k$  i.e.  $\Phi_k(x) = \hat{f}_k(x) + \frac{1}{2}\|x_k - x\|^2$ . For the next iteration it would be appropriate to choose  $x_{k+1} = x_k + \delta_k$ , where the correction  $\delta_k$  minimizes  $\Phi_k(x)$  for all  $x = x_k + \delta_k \in \Omega_k$ , where  $\Omega_k$  denotes the trust region. Namely,  $\Omega_k$  denotes the neighborhood about the point  $x_k$  where the function defined by (3.3) approximates the objective function of the problem (1.1). Hence, we have that the function defined by (3.3) can be written as:

$$(3.4) \quad \Phi_k(x_k + \delta) := \hat{f}_k(x_k + \delta) + \frac{1}{2} \|\delta\|^2 = \max_{1 \leq i \leq k} \{f(x_i) + g(x_i)^T(x_k + \delta - x_i)\} + \frac{1}{2} \|\delta\|^2.$$

It is convenient to consider the case  $\Omega_k = B(x_k, h_k)$  for some positive  $h_k$ , i.e.  $\delta_k$  is a solution of the subproblem

$$(3.5) \quad \min_{\delta} \Phi_k(x_k + \delta) \quad \text{subject to } \|\delta\| \leq h_k.$$

If  $\Phi_k(x_k + \delta)$  attains its minimum at  $\delta_k$ , then we have that  $0 \in \partial\Phi_k(x_k + \delta_k)$ , i.e.  $0 \in \partial\hat{f}_k(x_k + \delta_k) + \delta_k$ .

Since  $\delta_k$  has to satisfy the condition  $\|\delta_k\| \leq h_k$ , we consider the following problem.

For a given  $g_i \in \partial f(x_i)$ ,  $i \in \tilde{I}_k$  compute  $\lambda_i$  as a solution of the next problem:

$$(3.6) \quad \max \left\| \sum_{i \in \tilde{I}_k} \lambda_i g_i \right\| \text{ such that } \sum_{i \in \tilde{I}_k} \lambda_i = 1, \lambda_i \geq 0.$$

We can choose the radius  $h_k$  as a maximum value of the objective function in the problem (3.6), i.e. such that the next equality:

$$(3.7) \quad h_k = \max_{\sum_{i \in \tilde{I}_k} \lambda_i = 1, \lambda_i \geq 0} \left\| \sum_{i \in \tilde{I}_k} \lambda_i g_i \right\|$$

holds. Under the assumption (3.7) the subproblem (3.5) has a solution. Namely, the next theorem holds.

**Theorem 3.1.** *If the point  $x_k$  is given and  $h_k$  is chosen such that the equality (3.7) holds, then the subproblem (3.5) has the unique solution. More than that, this solution is the solution of the problem  $\min_{\delta \in R^n} \Phi_k(x_k + \delta)$ .*

*Proof.* At the given point  $x_k$  the objective function for the subproblem (3.5) has a subgradient  $\hat{g}(x_k + \delta) + \delta \in \partial \Phi(x_k + \delta)$ , where  $\hat{g}(x_k + \delta) := \hat{g} = \sum_{i \in \tilde{I}_k} \lambda_i g_i$  for  $g_i \in \partial f(x_i)$ ,  $i \in \tilde{I}_k$  and  $\sum_{i \in \tilde{I}_k} \lambda_i = 1, \lambda_i \geq 0$ , and

$$\tilde{I}_k = \left\{ i \in I_k \mid \hat{f}_k(x_k + \delta) = f_i(x_k + \delta) = f(x_i) + g_i^T(x_k + \delta - x_i) \right\}.$$

If the point  $x_k + \delta_k$  is a minimum point of  $\Phi_k(x_k + \delta)$  on  $R^n$  then by Proposition 2.1 it follows that  $0 \in \partial \Phi_k(x_k + \delta_k)$  and hence  $\delta_k = -\hat{g}(x_k + \delta_k) = -\sum_{i \in \tilde{I}_k} \lambda_i g_i$ , for  $g_i \in \partial f(x_i)$ ,  $i \in \tilde{I}_k$  and  $\sum_{i \in \tilde{I}_k} \lambda_i = 1, \lambda_i \geq 0$ , where  $\tilde{I}_k = \{i \in I_k \mid \hat{f}_k(x_k + \delta_k) = f_i(x_k + \delta_k)\}$ .

Because of the equality (3.7), we have that

$$h_k = \max_{\sum_{i \in \tilde{I}_k} \lambda_i = 1, \lambda_i \geq 0} \left\| \sum_{i \in \tilde{I}_k} \lambda_i g_i \right\| \geq \left\| \sum_{i \in \tilde{I}_k} \lambda_i g_i \right\| = \|\hat{g}\| = \|\delta_k\|$$

hold. So, it follows that  $\delta_k = -\hat{g}$  is a solution of the subproblem (3.5). The solution is unique since  $\Phi_k$  is a strongly convex function (as a sum of maximum of linear functions and strongly convex quadratic function)  $\square$

**Corollary 3.1.** *If the point  $x_k$  is given and  $h_k$  is chosen such that*

$$h_k = \max_{\sum_{i \in I_k} \lambda_i = 1, \lambda_i \geq 0} \left\| \sum_{i \in I_k} \lambda_i g_i \right\|$$

*holds (we use the whole index set  $I_k$  instead of the  $\tilde{I}_k$  used in (3.7)), then the subproblem (3.5) has the unique solution. More than that, this solution is the solution of the problem  $\min_{\delta \in R^n} \Phi_k(x_k + \delta)$ .*

*Proof.* If we choose  $h_k$  such that the condition (3.7) holds, then, by Theorem 3.1, the solution of the problem (3.5) there exists. More precisely, there exists the solution of the problem (3.5) over the set

$$\mathcal{S}_0 = \left\{ \delta \mid \|\delta\| \leq h_k, h_k = \max_{\sum_{i \in \tilde{I}_k} \lambda_i = 1, \lambda_i \geq 0} \left\| \sum_{i \in \tilde{I}_k} \lambda_i g_i \right\| \right\}.$$

If we choose  $h_k = \max_{\sum_{i \in I_k} \lambda_i = 1, \lambda_i \geq 0} \left\| \sum_{i \in I_k} \lambda_i g_i \right\|$ , i.e. if we use the whole index set  $I_k$  instead of the  $\tilde{I}_k$  used in (3.7), then we have to solve the problem (3.5) on the larger set

$$\mathcal{S} = \left\{ \delta \mid \|\delta\| \leq h_k, h_k = \max_{\sum_{i \in I_k} \lambda_i = 1, \lambda_i \geq 0} \left\| \sum_{i \in I_k} \lambda_i g_i \right\| \right\}$$

such that  $\mathcal{S}_0 \subseteq \mathcal{S}$  (since  $\tilde{I}_k \subseteq I_k$ ). So, if a solution there exists on the subset  $\mathcal{S}_0$ , then a solution there exists on the set  $\mathcal{S}$ , where  $\mathcal{S}_0 \subseteq \mathcal{S}$ .

The solution is unique since  $\Phi_k$  is a strongly convex function (as a sum of maximum of linear functions and strongly convex quadratic function)  $\square$

On the  $k$ -th iteration we denote by  $\Delta f_k = f(x_k) - f(x_k + \delta_k)$  the actual reduction of the function  $f(\cdot)$ , and by  $\Delta \Phi_k = \Phi_k(x_k) - \Phi_k(x_k + \delta_k)$  the predicted reduction. Hence, the ratio  $r_k = \frac{\Delta f_k}{\Delta \Phi_k}$  measures the accuracy to which  $\Phi_k(x_k + \delta)$  approximates  $f(x_k + \delta)$ . The ratio  $r_k$  plays an important role in selecting a new iteration point  $x_{k+1}$  and updating the trust-region radius  $h_k$ . If the ratio is close to 1, it means that there is good agreement. If the ratio is close to zero or negative then we quit the trust region and find the next iteration by a conjugate subgradient method.

We will present the algorithm now.

#### Algorithm

- **Step 0:** Let  $\beta$  and  $\eta$  be constants such that  $0.5 < \beta < 1$  and  $0 < \eta < 1$ . Let  $\epsilon, \gamma$  and  $\mu$  be real positive numbers small enough. Suppose that we have a given initial point  $x_1 \in \mathbb{R}^n$ . For a given  $x_1 \in \mathbb{R}^n$  calculate  $g_1 = g(x_1) \in \partial f(x_1)$ . Set  $k = 1$  and  $I_0 = \emptyset, B_0 = \emptyset$ .
- **Step 1:** For a given  $x_k$  calculate  $f_k = f(x_k)$ .  
Set  $I_k = \{k\} \cup I_{k-1} \setminus S_k$ , where  $S_k = \{i \in I_{k-1} \mid \|x_i - x_k\| \geq \mu\}$ .  
Set  $B_k = \{(x_i, f(x_i), g_i) \mid i \in I_k\}$ .  
Solve the problem (3.6) with  $I_k$  instead of  $\tilde{I}_k$  and denote by  $h_k$  its solution.

- **Step 2:** Solve the problem (3.5)  $\min_{\delta \in \mathbb{R}^n} \Phi_k(x_k + \delta)$  and denote by  $\delta_k$  its solution. Denote by

$$\hat{I}_k = \{ i \in I_k \mid \hat{f}_i(x_k + \delta_k) = f_i(x_k + \delta_k) = f(x_i) + g_i^T(x_k + \delta_k - x_i) \}$$

- **Step 3:** If  $\|\delta_k\| < \epsilon$  then stop. Otherwise, solve the problem  $\min \|\sum_{i \in \hat{I}_k} \lambda_i g_i\|$  such that  $\sum_{i \in \hat{I}_k} \lambda_i = 1, \lambda_i \geq 0$ , and denote by  $\lambda_i^{(k)}$  its solution. If  $\|\lambda_i^{(k)} g_i\| \leq \epsilon$ , then stop. Otherwise go to Step 4.
- **Step 4:** Calculate  $f(x_k + \delta_k), \phi(x_k + \delta_k), \Delta f_k, \Delta \phi_k, r_k$ .

- **Step 5:** If  $r_k < \beta$  then go to Step 6. Otherwise set  $x_{k+1} = x_k + \delta_k$  and calculate

$$g_{k+1} = g(x_{k+1}) \in \partial f(x_{k+1}).$$

Set  $k = k + 1$  and go to Step 1.

- **Step 6:** Set  $\bar{\delta}_k = -\sum_{i \in \hat{I}_k} \lambda_i^{(k)} g_i$ . Compute  $\alpha_k > \gamma > 0$  such that  $\alpha_k \|\bar{\delta}_k\| \leq \epsilon \eta \mu$  holds. Compute  $g_{k+1} \in \partial f(x_k + \alpha_k \bar{\delta}_k)$ .
- **Step 7:** If the inequality  $g_{k+1}^T \bar{\delta}_k \leq -\frac{\eta}{2} \|\bar{\delta}_k\|^2$  holds then set  $x_{k+1} = x_k + \alpha_k \bar{\delta}_k$ , else set  $x_{k+1} = x_k$ . Set  $k = k + 1$  and go to Step 1.

**Remark 1.** Now we see in detail how to implement Step 2 of Algorithm. The problem  $\min_{\delta \in \mathbb{R}^n} \Phi_k(x_k + \delta)$  to be solved at Step 2, by Corollary 3.1, can be written in the following way:

$$\min_{\delta \in \mathbb{R}^n, v \in \mathbb{R}} \{ v + \frac{1}{2} \|\delta\|^2 \} \text{ subject to } f(x_i) + g(x_i)^T(x_k + \delta - x_i) \leq v, i \in I_k.$$

The above problem has a nonlinear structure and a nonempty feasible region, and by duality solving the above problem is equivalent to finding multipliers  $\lambda_i^k$  for  $i \in I_k$  that solve the quadratic problem

$$\min_{\delta \in \mathbb{R}^n, v \in \mathbb{R}} \{ \frac{1}{2} \|\sum_{i \in I_k} \lambda_i g(x_i)\|^2 + \sum_{i \in I_k} \lambda_i [f(x_i) + g(x_i)^T(x_i - x_k)] \}$$

subject to  $\sum_{i \in I_k} \lambda_i = 1, \lambda_i \geq 0$  for  $i \in I_k$ . If the multipliers  $\lambda_i^k$  for  $i \in I_k$  solve the above problem then the solution of the problem  $\min_{\delta \in \mathbb{R}^n} \Phi_k(x_k + \delta)$  is  $\delta_k = -\sum_{i \in I_k} \lambda_i^k g(x_i)$ . The set  $\tilde{I}_k$  is the set of indices  $i \in I_k$  such that  $\lambda_i^k \geq 0$ .

**Remark 2.** It is possible to consider  $e_i^k := f(x_k) - f_i(x_k) = f(x_k) - f(x_i) - g_i^T(x_k - x_i)$  named linearization error, and rewrite the polyhedral function in the form  $\hat{f}_k(x) = \max_{i \in I_k} f_i(x) = f(x_k) + \min_{i \in I_k} e_i^k$ . In that case the bundle consists of  $(g_j, e_j^k)$  instead of  $(x_j, f(x_j), g_j)$ , and that can be a way to cope with a finite storage.

**Remark 3.** Note that the passing to the next iteration is faster at Step 5 (the case  $r_k \geq \beta$ , i.e. when the quadratic approximation (defined by (3.4)) of the objective function is in the trust region) than at Step 7. Namely, in the first case ( $r_k \geq \beta$ ) we made a step in the direction  $\delta_k = -\sum_{i \in \tilde{I}_k} \lambda_i g_i$  such that  $\sum_{i \in \tilde{I}_k} \lambda_i = 1, \lambda_i \geq 0$ . In the second case  $r_k < \beta$  at Step 7, when  $g_{k+1}^T \bar{\delta}_k \leq -\frac{\eta}{2} \|\bar{\delta}_k\|^2$  holds, we made a step in the direction  $\bar{\delta}_k = -\sum_{i \in \tilde{I}_k} \lambda_i^k g_i$ , where  $\lambda_i^k$  is a solution of the problem  $\min \|\sum_{i \in \tilde{I}_k} \lambda_i g_i\|$  such that  $\sum_{i \in \tilde{I}_k} \lambda_i = 1, \lambda_i \geq 0$ , with a step length  $\alpha_k \in (0, \eta\mu)$  or we do not move at all, when  $g_{k+1}^T \bar{\delta}_k \leq -\frac{\eta}{2} \|\bar{\delta}_k\|^2$  does not hold. The moving at the Step 7 is in the spirit of the conjugate subgradients method [29], so this Algorithm has a faster part (case  $r_k \geq \beta$ ) than the conjugate subgradients algorithm (ref. [26], page 617).

#### 4. CONVERGENCE PROOF

**Lemma 4.1.** Let  $\{x_k\}$  be a sequence generated by the Algorithm such that  $x_k \rightarrow x', x_k = x' + \alpha_k s_k, s_k \rightarrow s, \alpha_k \downarrow 0$ , where  $\|s_k\| = 1$ . Then  $\hat{f}_k(x_k) - \hat{f}_k(x') = o(\alpha_k)$  holds. More than that then  $\lim_{k \rightarrow +\infty} \hat{f}_k(x_k) = f(x')$  holds.

*Proof.* We denote by  $f_k = f(x_k), f' = f(x'), g_k = g(x_k) \in \partial f(x_k)$  and  $g' = g(x') \in \partial f'$ .

Since  $\Phi_k$  is a convex function we have that  $\Phi_k(x' + \alpha_k s_k) = \Phi_k(x') + \alpha_k \Phi_k'(x', s_k) + o(\alpha_k)$  holds. Hence, it follows that:

$$(4.1) \quad \Phi_k(x' + \alpha_k s_k) = \Phi_k(x') + \alpha_k \max_{g \in \partial \Phi_k(x')} g^T s_k + o(\alpha_k)$$

If  $z \in \partial \Phi_k(x')$  such that  $z^T s_k = \max_{g \in \partial \Phi_k(x')} g^T s_k$  then  $z = \hat{g} + x' - x_k$  and  $\hat{g} = \sum_{i \in \tilde{I}_k} \lambda_i g_i$ , where  $\tilde{I}_k = \{i \in I_k \mid \hat{f}_k(x) = f_i(x)\}$  and  $g_i \in \partial f(x_i), i \in \tilde{I}_k, \sum_{i \in \tilde{I}_k} \lambda_i = 1, \lambda_i \geq 0$ . Hence, from (4.1) it follows that:

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{f}_k(x_k) &= \Phi_k(x_k) = \Phi(x' + \alpha_k s_k) = \Phi_k(x') + \alpha_k z^T s_k + o(\alpha_k) = \Phi_k(x') + z^T (x_k - x') + o(\alpha_k) \\ &= \max_{0 \leq i \leq k} \left\{ f(x_i) + g(x_i)^T (x' - x_i) \right\} + \frac{1}{2} \|x_k - x'\|^2 + (\hat{g} + x' - x_k)^T (x_k - x') + o(\alpha_k) \\ &= f(x_i) + g(x_i)^T (x' - x_i) + \frac{1}{2} \|\alpha_k s_k\|^2 + \left( \sum_{i \in \tilde{I}_k} \lambda_i g_i - \alpha_k s_k \right)^T (\alpha_k s_k) + o(\alpha_k), \text{ for some } i \in \tilde{I}_k \end{aligned}$$



$$\begin{aligned}
&= f(x_i) + g(x_i)^T(x' - x_i) - \frac{1}{2}\|\alpha_k s_k\|^2 + \left(\sum_{i \in \hat{I}_k} \lambda_i g_i\right)^T (\alpha_k s_k) + o(\alpha_k), \quad i \in \hat{I}_k \\
&= \hat{f}_k(x') - \frac{1}{2}\alpha_k^2 + \left(\sum_{i \in \hat{I}_k} \lambda_i g_i\right)^T (\alpha_k s_k) + o(\alpha_k) = \hat{f}_k(x') + o(\alpha_k).
\end{aligned}$$

So, we get that  $\hat{f}_k(x_k) - \hat{f}_k(x') = o(\alpha_k)$  holds.

As  $k \rightarrow +\infty$  we have that  $\lim_{k \rightarrow +\infty} \hat{f}_k(x_k) = \lim_{k \rightarrow +\infty} \left\{ \max_{1 \leq i \leq k} (f_i + g_i^T(x_k - x_i)) \right\}$ .

Since  $f(x) \geq \hat{f}_{k+1}(x) \geq \hat{f}_k(x)$  for any  $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$  it follows that the sequence  $\{\hat{f}_k(x)\}$  is an increasing and bounded above. The sequence  $x_k \rightarrow x'$  and starting from  $k$  large enough infinitely many points of this sequence lies in the neighbourhood of the point  $x'$ . Hence, according to the fact that  $f(x') = \max_{z \in \mathbb{R}^n} \{f(z) + g^T(x' - z)\}$  where  $g \in \partial f(z)$ , we can state that  $f(x') = \lim_{k \rightarrow +\infty} \left\{ \max_{1 \leq i \leq k} (f_i + g_i^T(x_k - x_i)) \right\}$ .

If we suppose contrary, that is  $f(x') > \lim_{k \rightarrow +\infty} \left\{ \max_{1 \leq i \leq k} (f_i + g_i^T(x_k - x_i)) \right\}$ , then we have that

$$f(x') > \max_{1 \leq i \leq k} (f_i + g_i^T(x_k - x_i)) \geq f_k + g_k^T(x_k - x_k) = f_k$$

holds for every  $k$ . Hence, as  $k \rightarrow +\infty$  we get  $f(x') > f(x')$  (because of convexity of the function  $f$ )  $\square$

**Lemma 4.2.** *Let  $\{x_k\}$  be a sequence generated by the Algorithm such that  $x_k \rightarrow x'$ ,  $x_k = x' + \alpha_k s_k$ ,  $s_k \rightarrow s$ ,  $\alpha_k \downarrow 0$ , where  $\|s_k\| = 1$ . Then  $\lim_{k \rightarrow +\infty} \phi_k(x_k) = f(x')$ .*

*Proof.* As  $k \rightarrow +\infty$  by Lemma 4.1 and  $\Phi_k(x) = \hat{f}_k(x) + \frac{1}{2}\|x_k - x\|^2$  we have that  $\lim_{k \rightarrow +\infty} \Phi_k(x_k) = \lim_{k \rightarrow +\infty} \hat{f}_k(x_k) = f(x')$  holds  $\square$

If we denote by  $\Phi_\infty(x) = \hat{f}_\infty(x) + \frac{1}{2}\|x' - x\|^2$  then we have  $\Phi_\infty(x') = \hat{f}_\infty(x') = f(x')$ . Now we can prove the main result of this paper.

**Theorem 4.1.** *Let  $\{x_k\}$  be a sequence generated by the Algorithm such that  $x_k \in B \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ ,  $\forall k$  where  $B$  is compact. Then there exists an accumulation point  $x_\infty$  of the sequence  $\{x_k\}$  satisfying the first order necessary and sufficient conditions, that is the following*

$$(4.2) \quad 0 \in \partial f_\infty$$

*holds (where  $\partial f_\infty = \partial f(x_\infty)$ ).*

*Proof.* Since the set  $B$  is compact and  $x_k \in B$ , it follows that the sequence  $\{x_k\}$  has an accumulation point  $x_\infty$ . Hence it follows that there exists a convergent subsequence  $x_k \rightarrow x_\infty$ ,  $k \in K$ . The Algorithm generates a subsequence for which either:

(i)  $r_k < \beta$  and hence  $\|\bar{\delta}_k\| \rightarrow 0$ ,  $k \in K_1 \subseteq K$  or

(ii)  $r_k \geq \beta$  and  $\inf(h_k) > 0$ ,  $k \in K_2 \subseteq K$

is fulfilled. We will prove that (4.2) holds in either case (i) or (ii). In the case (i) we have that  $r_k < \beta$ ,  $k \in K_1$ , and at Step 6 we calculate  $g_{k+1} = g(x_{k+1}) \in \partial f(x_k + \alpha_k \bar{\delta}_k)$ , where  $\alpha_k > \gamma > 0$  is such that  $\alpha_k \|\bar{\delta}_k\| \leq \eta\mu$  holds. Since  $g_{k+1}$  is a subgradient of the function  $f$  we have that:

$$(4.3) \quad f(z) \geq f(x_k + \alpha_k \bar{\delta}_k) + g_{k+1}^T (z - x_k - \alpha_k \bar{\delta}_k)$$

holds for every  $z \in \mathbb{R}^n$ . If the inequality

$$(4.4) \quad g_{k+1}^T \bar{\delta}_k \leq -\frac{\eta}{2} \|\bar{\delta}_k\|^2$$

holds at Step 7, then from (4.3) we have (for  $z = x_k$ ):

$$(4.5) \quad \begin{aligned} f(x_k) &\geq f(x_k + \alpha_k \bar{\delta}_k) + \alpha_k (-g_{k+1}^T \bar{\delta}_k) \geq f(x_k + \alpha_k \bar{\delta}_k) + \frac{\alpha_k \eta}{2} \|\bar{\delta}_k\|^2 \\ &> f(x_k + \alpha_k \bar{\delta}_k), \end{aligned}$$

i.e.  $f(x_k) > f(x_{k+1})$ . Since the sequence  $\{f(x_k)\}$ ,  $k \in K_1$ , is decreasing and bounded below on the compact  $B$  it follows that  $f(x_{k+1}) - f(x_k) \rightarrow 0$  as  $k \rightarrow +\infty$ ,  $k \in K_1$ . From (4.5) it follows that

$$(4.6) \quad f(x_k) - f(x_{k+1}) \geq \frac{\alpha_k \eta}{2} \|\bar{\delta}_k\|^2 > \frac{\gamma \eta}{2} \|\bar{\delta}_k\|^2$$

holds, and since  $f(x_{k+1}) - f(x_k) \rightarrow 0$  as  $k \rightarrow +\infty$ ,  $k \in K_1$ , then from (4.6) it follows

that  $\|\bar{\delta}_k\| \rightarrow 0$  as  $k \rightarrow +\infty$ ,  $k \in K_1$ . Since  $\partial f_k$  is bounded in a neighborhood of  $x_\infty$  there exists a subsequence for which  $g_k \rightarrow g_\infty$ ,  $k \in K_3 \subseteq K_1$ , and  $g_\infty \in \partial f_\infty$ . At Step 6 we have that  $\|\bar{\delta}_k\| > \epsilon$  and  $\alpha_k \|\bar{\delta}_k\| \leq \epsilon \eta \mu$  hold, consequently we have that  $0 < \epsilon \alpha_k < \alpha_k \|\bar{\delta}_k\| \leq \epsilon \eta \mu$ , and hence it follows that  $0 < \epsilon \alpha_k \leq \epsilon \eta \mu$  hold. Dividing the last inequalities by  $\epsilon$  we get  $0 < \alpha_k \leq \eta \mu$ . Since  $\|x_{k+1} - x_k\| = \alpha_k \|\bar{\delta}_k\| \rightarrow 0$  as  $k \rightarrow +\infty$ ,  $k \in K_1$ , over the subsequence (because of the boundness of  $\{\alpha_k\}$ ) then according to the Step 1 of the Algorithm and Lemma 2.1 it follows that  $\|x_i - x_k\| \rightarrow 0$ ,  $i \in \tilde{I}_k$ ,  $k \in K_1$ . It also follows that since  $\partial f_i$  for  $i \in \tilde{I}_k$  are bounded in a neighborhood of  $x_\infty$  that there are corresponding subsequences for which  $g_i \rightarrow g_\infty^i$  for  $i \in \tilde{I}_k$ ,  $k \in K_3$ , and  $g_\infty^i \in \partial f_\infty$ . Since  $\partial f_\infty$  is a convex set it follows that every convex combination of points from the set  $\partial f_\infty$  belongs to  $\partial f_\infty$ , i.e.  $\bar{\delta}_\infty = \sum_{i \in \tilde{I}_\infty} \lambda_i^{(\infty)} g_\infty^i \in \partial f_\infty$ , where  $\bar{\delta}_k = \sum_{i \in \tilde{I}_k} \lambda_i^{(k)} g_i \rightarrow \bar{\delta}_\infty = \sum_{i \in \tilde{I}_\infty} \lambda_i^{(\infty)} g_\infty^i$ . Since  $\bar{\delta}_k \rightarrow \bar{\delta}_\infty$ ,  $k \in K_3$ , and  $\|\bar{\delta}_k\| \rightarrow 0$ ,  $k \in K_1$ , it follows that  $0 \in \partial f_\infty$  (because of  $K_3 \subseteq K_1$ ).

If the inequality (4.4) does not hold at Step 7, i.e.  $g_{k+1}^T \bar{\delta}_k > -\frac{\eta}{2} \|\bar{\delta}_k\|^2$  we choose  $x_{k+1} = x_k$  and consequently we have that  $f(x_k) - f(x_{k+1}) = 0$  holds. Since  $\|x_{k+1} - x_k\| = 0 < \mu$ , at the next iteration we change the set  $I_k$  (adding the new  $k$ ) and the bundle  $B_k$  (adding a new triplet  $(x_k, f(x_k), g(x_{k+1}))$ ). In that case we find another

solution of the problem (3.6), and consequently we find another solution of the problem (3.5), because we change the trust region radius. So, for the next iteration we get a new  $r_k$  for which either  $r_k < \beta$  or  $r_k \geq \beta$ . In that case if  $r_k < \beta$  holds, then at the new iteration condition (4.4) maybe holds. If not, then we compute another  $g_{k+1} = g(x_{k+1}) \in \partial f(x_k + \alpha_k \bar{\delta}_k)$ , and try to find another solution. This situation can be repeated finitely many times.

Suppose contrary, that is, the algorithm is passing infinitely many iterations when the condition (4.4) does not hold. Then for some  $k$  large enough the function  $\Phi_k(x_k + \delta)$  attains its minimum at the point  $\delta_k$ . So,  $0 \in \partial \Phi_k(x_k + \delta_k)$ , i.e.  $0 \in \partial \hat{f}_k(x_k + \delta_k) + \delta_k$  and  $0 = \hat{g} + \delta_k$  for some  $\hat{g} \in \partial \hat{f}_k(x_k + \delta_k)$ , i.e.  $-\delta_k \in \partial \hat{f}_k(x_k + \delta_k)$ . From  $\Phi_k(x_k + 0) \geq \Phi_k(x_k + \delta_k)$  it follows that  $\hat{f}_k(x_k) \geq \hat{f}_k(x_k + \delta_k) + \frac{1}{2} \|\delta_k\|^2$  and by Lemma 4.1 (as  $k \rightarrow +\infty$ )  $f(x_k) \geq f(x_k + \delta_k) + \frac{1}{2} \|\delta_k\|^2 > f(x_k + \delta_k)$  (since at Step 3 we have that  $\|\delta_k\| > \epsilon > 0$ ). So, we have the following inequality:

$$(4.7) \quad f(x_k) > f(x_k + \delta_k).$$

Since  $r_k < \beta$  holds, i.e.  $\frac{f(x_k) - f(x_k + \delta_k)}{f(x_k) - \Phi_k(x_k + \delta_k)} < \beta$ , it follows that  $\frac{f(x_k) - \Phi_k(x_k + \delta_k)}{f(x_k) - f(x_k + \delta_k)} > \frac{1}{\beta}$ , i.e.  $\frac{\Phi_k(x_k + \delta_k) - f(x_k)}{f(x_k + \delta_k) - f(x_k)} > \frac{1}{\beta}$ . Hence we have that:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{\beta} &< \frac{\Phi_k(x_k + \delta_k) - f(x_k)}{f(x_k + \delta_k) - f(x_k)} = \frac{\hat{f}_k(x_k + \delta_k) + \frac{1}{2} \|\delta_k\|^2 - f(x_k)}{f(x_k + \delta_k) - f(x_k)} \\ &\leq \frac{f(x_k + \delta_k) + \frac{1}{2} \|\delta_k\|^2 - f(x_k)}{f(x_k + \delta_k) - f(x_k)} \quad (\text{since } f(x_k + \delta_k) \geq \hat{f}_k(x_k + \delta_k)) \\ &= 1 + \frac{\frac{1}{2} \|\delta_k\|^2}{f(x_k + \delta_k) - f(x_k)} \end{aligned}$$

hold, i.e.  $\frac{\frac{1}{2} \|\delta_k\|^2}{f(x_k + \delta_k) - f(x_k)} > \frac{1}{\beta} - 1 > 0$ , where the last inequality holds since  $0.5 < \beta < 1$ .

From  $\frac{\frac{1}{2} \|\delta_k\|^2}{f(x_k + \delta_k) - f(x_k)} > 0$  it follows that  $f(x_k + \delta_k) > f(x_k)$  (since  $\|\delta_k\| > \epsilon > 0$ ) which contradicts (4.7).

In the case (ii) we have that  $f_1 - f_\infty \geq \sum_{k \in K_2} \Delta f_k$  (where sum is taken over the subsequence) and by the assumption  $r_k \geq \beta$ ,  $k \in K_2$ , implies  $\Delta \Phi_k \rightarrow 0$ ,  $k \in K_2$ , since  $f_1 - f_\infty$  is constant. Let  $\bar{h}$  satisfy the inequality  $0 < \bar{h} < \inf(h_k)$  and let  $\bar{\delta}$  be the minimum point of  $\Phi_\infty(x_\infty + \delta)$  on  $\|\delta\| \leq \bar{h}$ . Since the point  $\bar{x} = x_\infty + \bar{\delta}$  belongs to the set  $\Omega_k = B(x_k, h_k)$  for  $k$  large enough,  $k \in K_2$ , by the definition of  $\Delta \Phi_k$  and the fact that the minimum over the smaller set is not less than the minimum over the larger set it follows that

$$(4.8) \quad \Phi_k(x_k + \bar{\delta}) = \Phi_k(x_k + \bar{x} - x_\infty) \geq \Phi_k(x_k + \delta_k) = f_k - \Delta \Phi_k.$$

As  $k \rightarrow +\infty$ ,  $k \in K_2$ , since  $f$  and  $\Phi_k$  are continuous as convex functions, and since  $\Delta \Phi_k \rightarrow 0$  and  $\bar{x} - x_k \rightarrow \bar{\delta}$ , from (4.8) by Lemma 4.2 we have that:

$$\Phi_\infty(x_\infty + \bar{\delta}) \geq f_\infty - 0 = \Phi_\infty(x_\infty + 0)$$

holds. Notice that since  $\delta = 0$  is the minimum point of  $\Phi_\infty(x_\infty + \delta)$  for  $\|\delta\| \leq \bar{h}$  then it follows that  $\bar{\delta} = 0$ . Since  $\bar{\delta} = 0$  minimizes  $\Phi_\infty(x_\infty + \delta)$  and since the later constraint is not active (because of  $0 < \bar{h} < \inf(h_k)$ ) it follows that the first necessary condition holds, that is  $0 \in \partial f_\infty$  (because of  $\Phi_\infty(x_\infty + 0) = \hat{f}_\infty(x_\infty) = f(x_\infty) = f_\infty$ ). Since the function  $f$  is convex it is also sufficient condition for a global minimum of the problem (1.1) at the point  $x_\infty$   $\square$

## 5. CONCLUSION

Our algorithm defined above combines the bundle trust region and the conjugate subgradient method. To our knowledge it is a new approach to solve the nonsmooth problem defined by (1.1). If we use some other norms in (3.3) then it would be reasonable to expect some new results.

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