

# Conjugate Gradients: The short and painful explanation with oblique projections

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## Abstract

Conjugate Gradient (*CG*) algorithm and its variants are among the most popular methods for iteratively solving linear systems. Their adaptation for nonlinear optimization, the nonlinear CG methods, also enjoys wide spread notoriety. Many available essays describe the algorithm in a very algorithmic way; as a series of strange scalar and vector multiplications that achieve the desired result. It is hard to see the mathematics behind these cake recipes. Here we emphasize a mathematical description and leave implementation issues separate for, well, when we need to implement. We particularly enjoy writing the method using oblique projections. This is useful, as mathematics has a lot to say about projections and their properties. Preconditioned and projected CG is also covered and an additional new method for achieving conjugate directions by restarting CG method with a preconditioner that “remembers” previous conjugate directions. For most readers, we refer to the excellent, intuitive, though rather long explanation offered by J. Shewchuk [6]. This essay, rather, offers a short and painful description of the CG method.

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**Disclaimer:** This text is aimed at readers who need to quickly understand details of the CG method. I personally wrote this essay as I needed to consider a number of adaptations of the CG method to mesh with different optimization methods. These alterations required understanding restricting the search space, projecting the iterates, preconditioning, restarting, and a mix of the above. Comments and suggestions are always welcome: gower-robert@gmail.com.

## 1 CG through projections

The conjugate gradient method, by Hestenes and Stiefel [4], is an iterative method for finding the solution to

$$\min_x \phi(x) := \min_x \frac{1}{2}x^T Ax - x^T b, \tag{1}$$

where  $x, b \in \mathbb{R}^n$  and  $A \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$  is a positive definite matrix which guarantees that the critical point defined by  $\nabla\phi(x) = Ax - b = 0$  is the unique solution. Given a  $x_0 \in \mathbb{R}^n$ , the method iteratively finds  $x_k$ , the minimum of  $\phi(x)$  constrained to  $x_0 \oplus \mathcal{K}_k$ , where

$$\mathcal{K}_k := \text{span}(\{\nabla\phi(x_0), A\nabla\phi(x_0), \dots, A^{k-1}\nabla\phi(x_0)\}),$$

is the  $k$ th *Krylov subspace*. The Krylov subspaces are nested, in that  $\mathcal{K}_k \subset \mathcal{K}_{k+1}$ , thus each  $x_{k+1}$  tends to be an improvement over the previous  $x_k$ . What is more, the solution to (1) is often encountered before reaching  $\mathcal{K}_n$ . This depends on the number of distinct eigenvalues of  $A$ .

**Lemma 1.** *Let  $\lambda_i$  for  $i = 1, \dots, \rho$  be these distinct eigenvalues of  $A$ , then  $\mathcal{K}_\rho$  is a  $\rho$ -dimensional subspace that contains the solution to (1).*

*Proof.* As  $A$  is symmetric,  $\mathbb{R}^n$  is a direct sum of the Eigenspaces of  $A$ . Thus we can decompose  $\nabla\phi(x_0) = \sum_{j=1}^{\rho} w_j$  where  $w_j$  is an eigenvector associated to  $\lambda_j$ , for  $j = 1, \dots, \rho$ . Let  $x = \sum_{i=1}^{\rho} \alpha_i A^{i-1} \nabla\phi(x_0) \in \mathcal{K}_{\rho}$  it follows that

$$\begin{aligned} Ax &= \sum_{i=1}^{\rho} \alpha_i A^i \nabla\phi(x_0) \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^{\rho} \alpha_i A^i \sum_{j=1}^{\rho} w_j \\ &= \sum_{j=1}^{\rho} \sum_{i=1}^{\rho} (\alpha_i \lambda_j^i) w_j. \end{aligned}$$

The uniqueness of the  $\lambda_j$ 's guarantees that the system  $\sum_{i=1}^{\rho} (\alpha_i \lambda_j^i) = 1$ , for  $j = 1, \dots, \rho$ , has a unique solution  $\alpha$ . Thus the solution  $x$  to (1) is in  $\mathcal{K}_{\rho}$ . Similar arguments show that  $\{\nabla\phi(x_0), \dots, A^{\rho-1} \nabla\phi(x_0)\}$  is a basis and  $\mathcal{K}_{\rho}$  is  $\rho$ -dimensional subspace.  $\square$

Restricting the search for a solution to  $\mathcal{K}_{\rho}$  is a good idea as it can be a smaller space than the entire  $\mathbb{R}^n$ . But how to orderly search through the Krylov subspaces and for  $k < \rho$  use the solution restricted to  $\mathcal{K}_k$  in calculating the solution restricted to the next space  $\mathcal{K}_{k+1}$ ? The answer is to search along a basis of  $\mathcal{K}_k$  of conjugate vectors in relation to  $A$ . Two vectors  $d_1, d_2 \in \mathbb{R}^n$  are  $A$ -conjugate if they are orthogonal in relation to the inner product defined by  $A$ ,

$$\langle d_1, d_2 \rangle_A := \langle d_1, Ad_2 \rangle = 0.$$

If the columns of  $D_k := [d_0 \cdots d_{k-1}] \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times k}$  form an  $A$ -conjugate basis of  $\mathcal{K}_k$ , then the minimization of  $\phi(x)$  over  $\mathcal{K}_k$  can be written as  $x_k = D_k y_k + x_0$ , where

$$\min_{\substack{x_k = D_k y_k + x_0 \\ y_k \in \mathbb{R}^k}} \frac{1}{2} x^T A x - x^T b = \min_{y \in \mathbb{R}^k} \frac{1}{2} y^T D_k^T A D_k y + y^T D_k^T \nabla\phi(x_0).$$

Taking the gradient, the solution satisfies  $D_k^T A D_k y_k = -D_k^T \nabla\phi(x_0)$ . The matrix  $D_k^T A D_k$  is diagonal due to the conjugacy of the columns of  $D_k$ , so the solution

$$y_k^i = -\frac{\langle d_i, \nabla\phi(x_0) \rangle}{\langle d_i, d_i \rangle_A}, \quad \text{for } i = 0, \dots, k-1.$$

Each element  $y_k^i$  depends only on one conjugate direction  $d_i$ , thus with an additional conjugate direction  $d_k \in \mathcal{K}_{k+1}$ , the the minima of  $\phi(x)$  restricted to  $\mathcal{K}_{k+1}$  is

$$\begin{aligned} x_{k+1} &= x_0 + D_k y_k - \frac{\langle d_k, \nabla \phi(x_0) \rangle}{\langle d_k, d_k \rangle_A} d_k \\ &= x_k - \text{proj}_{d_k}^A \nabla \phi(x_0), \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

where  $\text{proj}_d^A := d(d^T A d)^{-1} d^T$ . The matrix  $\text{proj}_d^A A$  is an oblique projection onto the space spanned by  $d$ , and it's the solution to

$$\text{proj}_d^A A v = \arg \min_{y \in \text{span}\{d\}} \|v - y\|_A.$$

Conjugate directions allow us build upon previous Krylov restricted solution  $x_k$  by minimizing along  $d_k$  to find the next solution  $x_{k+1}$ . Though (2) is correct, it is not the standard update formula used in the Conjugate Gradient algorithms. Rather, as  $\phi(x)$  is a quadratic function the solution to  $\arg \min_{\alpha} \phi(x_k + \alpha d_k)$  is achieved with

$$\alpha_k := -\frac{\langle \nabla \phi(x_k), d_k \rangle}{\langle d_k, d_k \rangle_A}.$$

Therefore

$$\begin{aligned} x_{k+1} &= x_k - \frac{\langle \nabla \phi(x_k), d_k \rangle}{\langle d_k, d_k \rangle_A} d_k \\ &= x_k - \text{proj}_{d_k}^A \nabla \phi(x_k). \end{aligned} \quad (3)$$

The projection is a handy tool, as it highlights that  $x_{k+1}$  results from a minimization problem. The well known properties of projections can be also be called upon, for instance, the above step from  $x_k$  to  $x_{k+1}$  is invariant under scaling  $d_k$ .

But how to obtain a basis of  $A$ -conjugate directions? The same way we obtain any orthogonal basis: use Gram-Schmidt procedure with the inner product  $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle_A$ . Starting with a given set of linearly independent vectors  $r_0, \dots, r_k \in \mathbb{R}^n$  that span  $\mathcal{K}_{k+1}$  and conjugate directions  $d_0, \dots, d_{k-1}$  that span  $\mathcal{K}_k$ , the next conjugate direction  $d_k$  can be obtained by “projecting out” the components of  $r_k$  that are in  $\mathcal{K}_k$  using the Gram-Schmidt process,

where  $r_0 = d_0$  and

$$\begin{aligned}
d_k &= r_k - \sum_{j=0}^{k-1} \frac{\langle r_k, d_j \rangle_A}{\langle d_j, d_j \rangle_A} d_j \\
&= r_k - \sum_{j=0}^{k-1} \frac{1}{\langle d_j, d_j \rangle_A} d_j p_j^T A r_k \\
&= (I - \sum_{j=0}^{k-1} \text{proj}_{d_j}^A A) r_k.
\end{aligned}$$

This is a computationally expensive way of obtaining  $d_k$  and would be significantly cheaper if the inner product of  $r_k$  with most of the  $Qd_j$  vectors are zero. **Selecting:**  $r_k = -\nabla\phi(x_k) = b - Ax_k$  does just that, for  $x_k$  is the minima restricted to  $\mathcal{K}_k$ , thus  $r_k \in \mathcal{K}_k^\perp \subset (A\mathcal{K}_{k-1})^\perp$  and  $r_k$  is orthogonal to each  $\{Ad_0, \dots, Ad_{k-1}\}$ . Now calculating the next conjugate direction is reduced to performing a single projection

$$d_k = (I - \text{proj}_{d_{k-1}}^A A) r_k. \quad (4)$$

The vectors  $r_k$  are known as the residuals, as  $\|r_k\|$  is a measure how close we are to optimality, where  $\|r_k\| = 0$  signifies we have encountered the solution. The vectors  $d_k$  are known as the search directions.

Finally, to efficiently calculate the  $r_k$  gradients, we use

$$\nabla\phi(x_k + \alpha_k d_k) - \nabla\phi(x_k) = r_k - r_{k+1} = \alpha_k A d_k.$$

This to can be written as a projection and allows for the calculating of the  $r_k$ 's iteratively with

$$\begin{aligned}
r_{k+1} &= r_k - \alpha_k A d_k \\
&= r_k - A d_k \frac{d_k^T r_k}{\langle d_k, d_k \rangle_A} \\
&= (I - A \text{proj}_{d_k}^A) r_k.
\end{aligned} \quad (5)$$

Collecting the updates of  $x_k$  (3),  $d_k$  (4) and  $r_k$  (5) we have the Conjugate Gradient Algorithm (1.1). The calculation of the conjugate search directions can also be written in a single formula

$$d_{k+1} = (I - \text{proj}_{d_k}^A A)(I - A \text{proj}_{d_k}^A) r_k.$$

**Input:**  $r_0 = p_0 = \nabla\phi(x_0)$ ,  $k = 0$  and tolerance  $\epsilon \in \mathbb{R}_+$ .

- 1 **repeat**
- 2      $r_{k+1} = (I - A\text{proj}_{d_k}^A)r_k$
- 3      $x_{k+1} = x_k + \text{proj}_{d_k}^A r_k$
- 4      $d_{k+1} = (I - \text{proj}_{d_k}^A A)r_{k+1}$
- 5      $k = k + 1$
- 6 **until**  $\|r_k\| \geq \epsilon\|r_0\|$

**Output:**  $x_k$ .

**Algorithm 1.1:** CG: Conjugate Gradient Method

## 1.1 Affine restrictions and Preconditioning

How do we minimize  $\phi(x)$  but restricted to an affine space  $x_0 \oplus Z$ , where  $x_0 \in \mathbb{R}^n$  and  $Z \subset \mathbb{R}^n$  is a subspace? This situation arises when we have to minimize  $\phi(x)$  subject to linear constraints, say,  $Bx = d$  where  $B \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$  and  $d \in \mathbb{R}^m$ .

Let  $P : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow Z$  be any surjective linear function. Our restricted problem is equivalent to

$$\min_{x \in x_0 \oplus P\mathbb{R}^n} \phi(x) = \min_{\bar{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n} \bar{x}^T P^T A P \bar{x} / 2 + \bar{x}^T P^T \nabla\phi(x_0) =: \bar{\phi}(\bar{x}), \quad (6)$$

We could now apply the standard CG method to  $\bar{\phi}(\bar{x})$  to obtain a convergent sequence  $\{\bar{x}_k\}_k$ , but for most applications of interest,  $P$  is only known implicitly and calculating  $P^T A P$  is expensive. Thus we will examine what happens when we apply the CG method to  $\bar{\phi}(\bar{x})$ , then try to lift these results to the untransformed space  $x_k = P\bar{x}_k + x_0$ . Let  $\bar{d}_k$  and  $\bar{r}_k$  be the search directions and residuals at iteration  $k$  of the CG method applied to  $\bar{\phi}(\bar{x})$ , and  $\bar{x}_0 = 0$  the initial point. The CG method is initiated with  $\bar{r}_0 = -\nabla\bar{\phi}(0)$  and  $\bar{p}_0 = \bar{r}_0$ . Left multiplying the  $\bar{x}_k$  update (3) by  $P$  and summing  $x_0$  to both sides

$$\begin{aligned} x_{k+1} &= P\bar{x}_{k+1} + x_0 \\ &= P\bar{x}_k + x_0 + P\text{proj}_{\bar{d}_k}^{P^T A P} \bar{r}_k \\ &= x_k + P\bar{d}_k (\bar{d}_k^T P^T A P \bar{d}_k)^{-1} \bar{d}_k^T \bar{r}_k. \end{aligned}$$

Suggestively, defining  $d_k = P\bar{d}_k$  and  $\bar{r}_k = P^T r_k$  allows us to apply a standard

CG step in  $x_k$

$$\begin{aligned} x_{k+1} &= x_k + d_k (d_k^T A d_k)^{-1} \bar{d}_k^T P^T r_k \\ &= x_k + \text{proj}_{d_k}^A r_k. \end{aligned}$$

The  $r_k$ 's are also residuals in the untransformed space

$$\begin{aligned} P^T r_k &= \bar{r}_k \\ &= -P^T (A P \bar{x}_k + \nabla \phi(x_0)) \\ &= -P^T (\nabla \phi(x_0 + P \bar{x}_k)). \end{aligned}$$

The  $d_k$ 's and  $r_k$ 's have some of the same properties as they would in the standard CG method. The  $d_k$ 's are  $A$ -conjugate

$$d_k^T A d_i = \bar{d}_k^T P^T A P \bar{d}_i = 0, \quad \text{if } i < k.$$

The  $r_k$ 's are orthogonal to previous search directions

$$\begin{aligned} r_k^T d_i &= r_k^T P \bar{d}_i \\ &= \bar{r}_k^T \bar{d}_i = 0, \quad \text{for } i < k. \end{aligned}$$

In contrast to standard CG properties, the  $r_k$ 's are mutually  $PP^T$ -conjugate instead of simply orthogonal

$$r_k^T P P^T r_i = \bar{r}_k^T \bar{r}_i = 0, \quad \text{for } i < k. \quad (7)$$

To calculate the  $d_k$ 's, left multiplying by  $P$  the update to  $\bar{d}_k$

$$\begin{aligned} P \bar{d}_{k+1} &= P (I - \text{proj}_{\bar{d}_k}^{P^T A P} P^T A P) \bar{r}_{k+1} \\ &= (I - P \text{proj}_{\bar{d}_k}^{P^T A P} P A) P \bar{r}_{k+1} \\ &= (I - \text{proj}_{d_k}^A A) P P^T r_k. \end{aligned}$$

Thus by substituting line 4 in the Conjugate Gradients Algorithm 1.1 for

$$d_{k+1} = (I - \text{proj}_{d_k}^A A) P P^T r_k, \quad (8)$$

results in the *PCG* method (the projected conjugate gradients method) in Algorithm 1.2. The stopping criteria is now based on a relative decrease of

**Input:**  $PP^T \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ ,  $r_0 = p_0 = PP^T \nabla \phi(x_0)$ ,  $k = 0$  and tolerance  $\epsilon \in \mathbb{R}_+$ .

- 1 **repeat**
- 2      $r_{k+1} = (I - \text{Aproj}_{d_k}^A) r_k$
- 3      $x_{k+1} = x_k + \text{proj}_{d_k}^A r_k$
- 4      $d_{k+1} = (I - \text{proj}_{d_k}^A A) PP^T r_{k+1}$
- 5      $k = k + 1$
- 6 **until**  $\|r_k\|_{PP^T} \geq \epsilon \|r_0\|_{PP^T}$

**Output:**  $x_\rho$ .

**Algorithm 1.2:** The PCG method: Projected Conjugate Gradients

the projected residual. It would not do to use the residual as a stopping criteria, as there is no longer any guarantee of  $\|r_k\|$  converging to zero!

As a single equation

$$d_{k+1} = (I - \text{proj}_{d_k}^A A) PP^T (I - \text{Aproj}_{d_k}^A) r_k$$

which is remarkably similar to the BFGS search direction [2], where  $PP^T$  is a given previous approximation to a Hessian matrix, then the next BFGS search direction is

$$d_{k+1}^{BFGS} = -\text{proj}_{d_k}^A r_k + (I - \text{proj}_{d_k}^A A) PP^T (I - \text{Aproj}_{d_k}^A) r_k.$$

In the case that  $S = \mathbb{R}^n$ , then  $P$  is a change of coordinates and is chosen to precondition the system. When  $Z$  is a proper subspace,  $P$  acts as a submersion. In either case,  $PP^T$  can be chosen to improve the spectral properties of  $P^T A P$  because  $\lambda(P^T A P) \cup \{0\} = \lambda(PP^T A)$ , where  $\lambda(A)$  denotes the set of eigenvalues of  $A$ . The number of iteration required by the Conjugate Gradient Algorithm 1.1 to reach the exact solution is equal to, at most, the number of distinct eigenvalues in  $\lambda(P^T A P)$ . Thus ideally we would like  $PP^T$  to be an approximate inverse of  $A$  so that  $PP^T A$  has eigenvalues concentrated around one, and  $PP^T$  is referred to as the preconditioning matrix. Often the notation is  $M^{-1} = PP^T$ , emphasizing that it is some sort of estimate of the inverse.

When  $Z$  is a proper subspace, slightly abusing notation, let  $Z \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times q}$  be a matrix whose columns form a basis of the subspace  $Z$ . As  $P$  is a linear submersion, it must be of the form  $P = ZH$  where  $H \in \mathbb{R}^{q \times q}$  is nonsingular. As  $Z^T A Z$  is also nonsingular

$$\lambda(P^T A P) = \lambda(H^T Z^T A Z H) = \lambda(H H^T Z^T A Z).$$



Thus  $HH^T$  should be chosen to act as a preconditioner of the matrix  $Z^T AZ$ . For this special matrix, preconditioners of the form  $HH^T = (Z^T GZ)^{-1} \approx (Z^T AZ)^{-1}$  have shown to be successful [**Keller2000**], where  $G \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ . In this case  $PP^T = Z(Z^T GZ)^{-1}Z = \text{proj}_Z^G$  which is similar to an oblique projection, in that  $PP^T(GZ) = Z$ . Note that in this development, nor  $A$  nor  $G$  need be positive definite, but instead, only  $Z^T AZ$  and  $Z^T GZ$  need be positive definite.

### 1.1.1 Linear constrained case

Let  $x_0 \oplus Z = \{x \mid Bx = d\}$ . The initial point  $x_0$  is feasible point:  $Bx_0 = d$ . The objective is to minimize  $\phi(x)$  restricted to  $x_0 \oplus \text{Ker}(B)$ .

Note that to execute Algorithm 1.2, we do not need the whole matrix  $PP^T$ , but instead, we only need to know how to apply  $PP^T$  to the residual vectors  $r_k$ . As shown by Gould, Hribar and Nocedal [3], when the affine subspace is defined by a linear constraint  $Bx = d$ , we can implicitly apply  $PP^T = \text{proj}_Z^G$  without calculating  $Z = \text{Ker}(B)$ . In fact, as  $PP^T r = PP^T G G^{-1} r$ , which is a projection of  $G^{-1} r$  given by

$$\begin{aligned} PP^T r &= \arg \min_{x \in Z} \frac{1}{2} \|x - G^{-1} r\|_G^2 \\ &= \arg \min_{Bx=0} \frac{1}{2} x^T G x - x^T r. \end{aligned}$$

To solve the above, we form the associated Lagrangian

$$L(x, \mu) = \frac{1}{2} x^T G x - x^T r + x^T B^T \mu,$$

where  $\mu \in \mathbb{R}^m$ . Differentiating in  $\mu$  and  $x$

$$\begin{bmatrix} G & B^T \\ B & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ \mu \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} r \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}. \quad (9)$$

This system, also known as a KKT system, can be solved in a number of efficient ways so long as  $G$  is positive definite and by factorizing  $B$ , see [5]. Of course, one could model our original problem (6) as a KKT system. But if  $A$  is not positive definite, but only  $Z^T AZ \succ 0$ , then solving the KKT system is expensive. In this case, using the Projected CG Algorithm 1.2 where  $PP^T r_{k+1}$  is calculated by solving (9) becomes worthwhile.

## 1.2 Restarting with remembering preconditioners

In certain circumstances, it can be advantageous to stop the CG iterations and restart on a given point  $\bar{x}_0$ . In other words, apply the standard CG method to

$$A(x - \bar{x}_0) = b \Leftrightarrow Ax = b + A\bar{x}_0 =: \bar{b}.$$

This can switch the search to a different set of Krylov subspaces. We have used this property in an article “Action constrained quasi-Newton methods”. Let  $d_0 \dots d_p$  and  $r_0, \dots, r_p$  be a set of conjugate and residual directions. Suppose we have a point  $\bar{x}_0 \in \mathbb{R}^n$  with a gradient  $\bar{r}_0 = \nabla\phi(\bar{x}_0)$  such that  $\bar{r}_0 \in \mathcal{K}_{p+1}^\perp = \text{span}\{r_0, \dots, r_p\}$ . Furthermore, suppose we have a symmetric preconditioner  $M^{-1}$  that “remembers” all previous conjugate directions

$$d_j^T AM^{-1} = d_j^T, \quad \text{for } j = 1, \dots, p. \quad (10)$$

In quasi-Newton methods, this property is referred to the quadratic hereditary property and is satisfied by all metric matrices of the Broyden family after  $p$  iterations [1] on convex quadratic functions. By then starting the PCG iterations with  $\bar{r}_0$  and  $\bar{d}_0 = M^{-1}\bar{r}_0$  we generate vectors  $\bar{d}_0, \dots, \bar{d}_q$  such that  $d_0 \dots d_{p-1}, \bar{d}_0, \dots, \bar{d}_q$  are a conjugate set.

**proof:** The proof is by induction on  $d_j^T Ad_i = 0$  and  $d_j^T \bar{r}_i = 0$  for  $1 \leq j \leq p$  and  $1 \leq i \leq q$ . For  $i = 0$ , the spectral properties of  $M^{-1}$  and  $\bar{r}_0 \in \mathcal{K}_{p+1}^\perp$  guarantee that

$$\begin{aligned} d_j^T A\bar{d}_0 &= d_j^T AM^{-1}\bar{r}_0 \\ &= d_j^T \bar{r}_0 = 0, \quad \text{for } j = 1, \dots, p. \end{aligned}$$

Supposing the induction hypothesis is true for  $i$  and all  $0 \leq j \leq p$ , using (5) to calculate the next residual  $\bar{r}_{i+1}$ , then by induction

$$\begin{aligned} d_j^T \bar{r}_{i+1} &= d_j^T (I - \text{Aproj}_{\bar{d}_i}^A) \bar{r}_i \\ &= d_j^T \bar{r}_i \quad (\text{by induction } d_j^T A\bar{d}_i = 0) \\ &= 0. \quad (\text{by induction } d_j^T \bar{r}_i = 0) \end{aligned}$$

Using (8) to substitute  $\bar{d}_{i+1}$

$$\begin{aligned}
d_j^T A \bar{d}_{i+1} &= d_j^T A (I - \text{proj}_{\bar{d}_i}^A A) M^{-1} \bar{r}_{i+1} \\
&= d_j^T A M^{-1} \bar{r}_{i+1} \quad (\text{by induction } d_j^T A \bar{d}_i = 0) \\
&= d_j^T \bar{r}_{i+1} \quad \text{by (10)} \\
&= 0. \quad \square
\end{aligned}$$

The conjugate directions that result from using a remembering preconditioner are not necessary the same as those generated by the CG method. Though they still serve as search directions that can be used to iteratively minimize  $\phi(x)$  as in Algorithm 1.3. On iteration  $k$ , the subroutine `update_remember` on line 7 updates the preconditioner  $M^{-1}$  so (10) holds for all search directions  $d_i, i = 1, \dots, k$ .

**Input:**  $M^{-1} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}, r_0 = p_0 = M^{-1} \nabla \phi(x_0), k = 0, m = 1, M \in \mathbb{N},$   
 $\epsilon \in \mathbb{R}_+, \mathcal{D} = \{\emptyset\}, \mathcal{AD} = \{\emptyset\}$

```

1 repeat
2    $\alpha_k = \frac{\langle r_k, r_k \rangle_{M^{-1}}}{\langle d_k, d_k \rangle_A}$ 
3    $r_{k+1} = r_k - \alpha_k A d_k$ 
4    $x_{k+1} = x_k + \alpha_k d_k$ 
5    $\mathcal{D} \leftarrow d_{k+1}, \mathcal{AD} \leftarrow A d_{k+1}$ 
6   if  $m = M$  then
7      $M^{-1} = \text{update\_remember}(M^{-1}, \mathcal{D}, \mathcal{AD})$ 
8      $d_{k+1} = M^{-1} r_{k+1}$ 
9      $m = 0, \mathcal{D} = \{\emptyset\}, \mathcal{AD} = \{\emptyset\}$ 
10  else
11     $d_{k+1} = M^{-1} r_{k+1} + \frac{\langle r_{k+1}, r_{k+1} \rangle_{M^{-1}}}{\langle r_k, r_k \rangle_{M^{-1}}} d_k$ 
12  end
13   $k = k + 1, m = m + 1$ 
14 until  $\|r_k\| \geq \epsilon \|r_0\|$ 

```

**Output:**  $x_{p-1}$ .

**Algorithm 1.3:** Restarting Conjugate Gradients method

## 2 Implementing

We focus on implementing the PCG Algorithm 1.2 as this covers all cases, in that, with  $PP^T = I$  it is the standard CG method, with  $PP^T = M^{-1}$ , where  $M^{-1}$  is an approximate inverse, it is the Preconditioned CG method.

First we say goodbye to our projection notation, for  $v \in \mathbb{R}^n$

$$\text{proj}_{d_k}^A v = \frac{d_k^T v}{\langle d_k, d_k \rangle_A} d_k.$$

To further simplify computations, we need two identities. For the first, recall that  $r_k \in \mathcal{K}_{k-1}^\perp$  thus using (8)

$$\begin{aligned} \langle r_k, d_k \rangle &= \left\langle r_k, (I - \text{proj}_{d_{k-1}}^A A) PP^T r_k \right\rangle \\ &= \langle r_k, r_k \rangle_{PP^T} - \underbrace{\langle r_k, d_{k-1} \rangle}_{=0} \frac{d_{k-1}^T PP^T r_k}{\langle d_{k-1}, d_{k-1} \rangle_A} \\ &= \langle r_k, r_k \rangle_{PP^T}. \end{aligned} \tag{11}$$

This identity applied to the  $r_k$  update (5) and  $x_k$  update (3) results in lines 3 and 4 of the implemented PCG method in Algorithm 2.1.

The second identity relies rearranging (5) to see that

$$\begin{aligned} r_{k+1} &= r_k - \frac{\langle r_k, d_k \rangle}{\langle d_k, d_k \rangle_A} Ad_k \\ &= r_k - \frac{\langle r_k, r_k \rangle_{PP^T}}{\langle d_k, d_k \rangle_A} Ad_k. \end{aligned} \tag{12}$$

Equivalently

$$Ad_k = \frac{r_k - r_{k+1}}{\alpha_k},$$

where  $\alpha_k = \frac{\langle r_k, r_k \rangle_{PP^T}}{\langle d_k, d_k \rangle_A}$ . Using this to substitute  $Ad_k$  and recalling that  $\langle r_k, r_{k+1} \rangle_{PP^T} = 0$  (see (7)), the second identity is

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\langle r_{k+1}, Ad_k \rangle_{PP^T}}{\langle d_k, d_k \rangle_A} &= - \frac{\langle r_{k+1}, r_{k+1} \rangle_{PP^T}}{\langle d_k, d_k \rangle_A} \left( \frac{\langle d_k, d_k \rangle_A}{\langle r_k, r_k \rangle_{PP^T}} \right) \\ &= - \frac{\langle r_{k+1}, r_{k+1} \rangle_{PP^T}}{\langle r_k, r_k \rangle_{PP^T}}. \end{aligned} \tag{13}$$

This identity

$$\begin{aligned} d_{k+1} &= (I - \text{proj}_{d_k}^A A) P P^T r_k \\ &= P P^T r_k + \frac{\langle r_{k+1}, r_{k+1} \rangle_{P P^T}}{\langle r_k, r_k \rangle_{P P^T}} d_k. \end{aligned} \quad (14)$$

The search directions are updated using the above on line (6) of Algorithm (2.1).

**Input:**  $P P^T \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ ,  $r_0 = p_0 = P P^T \nabla \phi(x_0)$ ,  $k = 0$  and tolerance  $\epsilon \in \mathbb{R}_+$ .

**1 repeat**

**2**      $\alpha_k = \frac{\langle r_k, r_k \rangle_{P P^T}}{\langle d_k, d_k \rangle_A}$

**3**      $r_{k+1} = r_k - \alpha_k A d_k$

**4**      $x_{k+1} = x_k + \alpha_k d_k$

**5**      $d_{k+1} = P P^T r_{k+1} + \frac{\langle r_{k+1}, r_{k+1} \rangle_{P P^T}}{\langle r_k, r_k \rangle_{P P^T}} d_k$

**6**      $k = k + 1$

**7 until**  $\|r_k\|_{P P^T} \geq \epsilon \|r_0\|_{P P^T}$

**Output:**  $x_{p-1}$ .

**Algorithm 2.1:** Implemented Projected Conjugate Gradients

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