

Nonsmooth Optimization on Riemannian Manifolds

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Nonsmooth Optimization on Riemannian Manifolds

We are looking for numerical algorithms to find

$$\underset{p \in \mathcal{M}}{\operatorname{arg\,min}} f(p)$$

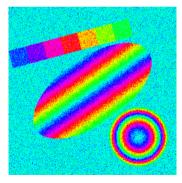
where

- $ightharpoonup \mathcal{M}$ is a Riemannian manifold
- ▶ $f: \mathcal{M} \to \overline{\mathbb{R}}$ is a function
- $\triangle f$ might be nonsmooth and/or nonconvex
- Λ might be high-dimensional
- f has some "nice structure"



- variational models for denoising, inpainting, deconvolution, segmentation, ...
- ▶ applications in medical imaging, computer vision
- 🛕 nonlinear (non-Euclidean) data

- ▶ phase-valued data (S¹)
- ightharpoonup wind-fields, GPS (\mathbb{S}^2)
- **▶** DT-MRI (*P*(3))
- \triangleright EBSD, (grain) orientations (SO(n))

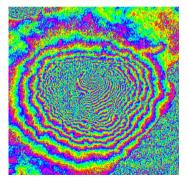


Artificial noisy phase-valued data.



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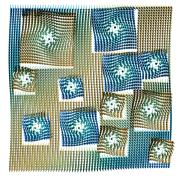


InSAR-Data of Mt. Vesuvius.



- variational models for denoising, inpainting, deconvolution, segmentation, ...
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- ightharpoonup phase-valued data (\mathbb{S}^1)
- ▶ wind-fields, GPS (S²)
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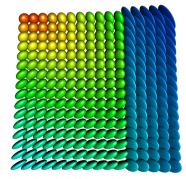


Artificial noisy data on the sphere \mathbb{S}^2 .



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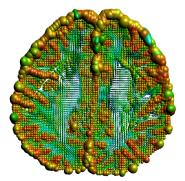


Artificial diffusion data, each pixel is a sym. pos. def. matrix.



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DT-MRI of the human brain.



- variational models for denoising, inpainting, deconvolution, segmentation, ...
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Constraints and/or geometry

constraints

- needs an embedding
- might not always yield a manifold
- slightly more flexible
- algorithms have to deal with constraints
- results might be infeasible

geometry

- might work agnostic of an embedding
- quotient manifolds
- we can use any uncinstrained algorithm...
- ...after adapting it to the manifold setting
- algorithms stay on the manifold
 always feasible

We can also consider a combination of both: constrained optimization on manifolds.



A Riemannian Manifold ${\mathcal M}$

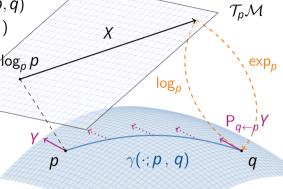
Notation.

- lacksquare Logarithmic map $\log_{
 ho}q=\dot{\gamma}(0;
 ho,q)$
- Exponential map $\exp_p X = \gamma_{p,X}(1)$
- Geodesic $\gamma(\cdot; p, q)$
- ► Tangent space $\mathcal{T}_p\mathcal{M}$
- ▶ inner product $(\cdot, \cdot)_p$
- ▶ parallel transport $PT_{p \leftarrow q}(X)$
- ightharpoonup distance function d(p,q)

Numerics.

 \exp_p and \log_p maybe not available efficiently/ in closed form

⇒ use a retraction and its inverse instead.



 \mathcal{M}



(Geodesic) Convexity

[Sakai, 1996; Udriște, 1994]

A set $\mathcal{C} \subset \mathcal{M}$ is called (strongly geodesically) convex if for all $p, q \in \mathcal{C}$ the geodesic $\gamma(\cdot; p, q)$ is unique and lies in \mathcal{C} .

A function $f: \mathcal{C} \to \overline{\mathbb{R}}$ is called (geodesically) convex if for all $p, q \in \mathcal{C}$ the composition $f(\gamma(t; p, q)), t \in [0, 1]$, is convex.



The Riemannian Subdifferential

Let \mathcal{C} be a convex set.

The subdifferential of f at $p \in \mathcal{C}$ is given by [Ferreira, Oliveira, 2002; Lee, 2003; Udrişte, 1994]

$$\partial_{\mathcal{M}} f(p) := ig\{ \xi \in \mathcal{T}_p^* \mathcal{M} \, ig| f(q) \geq f(p) + \langle \xi \, , \log_p q
angle_p \; ext{ for } q \in \mathcal{C} ig\},$$

where

- $ightharpoonup \mathcal{T}_p^*\mathcal{M}$ is the dual space of $\mathcal{T}_p\mathcal{M}$, also called cotangent space
- $lackbox{} \langle \cdot\,,\cdot
 angle_p$ denotes the duality pairing on $\mathcal{T}_p^*\mathcal{M} imes \mathcal{T}_p\mathcal{M}$
- numerically we use musical isomorphisms $X = \xi^{\flat} \in \mathcal{T}_p \mathcal{M}$ to obtain a subset of $\mathcal{T}_p \mathcal{M}$



The Proximal Point Algorithm

Euclidean case. For $f: \mathbb{R}^n \to \overline{\mathbb{R}}$, $\lambda > 0$, the proximal map given by [Moreau, 1965; Rockafellar, 1970]

 $\operatorname{prox}_{\lambda f}(x) = \operatorname{arg\,min}_{v \in \mathbb{R}^n} \left\{ f(y) + \frac{1}{2\lambda} ||y - x||^2 \right\}.$

Riemannian case. For $f: \mathcal{M} \to \overline{\mathbb{R}}$, $\lambda > 0$, the proximal map is given by

$$\operatorname{prox}_{\lambda \! f}(p) = rg \min_{q \in \mathcal{M}} \Bigl\{ \! f(q) + rac{1}{2\lambda} d(p,q)^2 \Bigr\}.$$

For both. A minimizer p^* of f is a fixed point for $prox_{\lambda f}$.

Proximal Point Algorithm (PPA). Given $p^{(0)} \in \mathcal{M}$, $\lambda_k > 0$, iterate

$$p^{(k+1)} = \operatorname{prox}_{\lambda_k f}(p^{(k)}).$$

The Cyclic Proximal Point Algorithm

For a splitting
$$f(p) = \sum_{i=1}^c f_i(p)$$
 and some $p_0 \in \mathcal{M}$, we can use

$$p_{k+rac{i+1}{c}} = \operatorname{prox}_{\lambda_k f_i}(p_{k+rac{i}{c}}), \qquad i = 0, \ldots, c-1, \quad k = 0, 1, \ldots$$

On a Hadamard manifold \mathcal{M} : Convergence to a minimizer of f if

- \triangleright all f_i proper, convex, lower semi-continuous
- $\setminus \{\lambda_k\}_{k\in\mathbb{N}} \in \ell_2(\mathbb{N}) \setminus \ell_1(\mathbb{N}).$
- also for
 - random order of the prox $_{\lambda f_i}$
 - ▶ inexact evaluations of the prox $_{\lambda f}$.

[Bačák, RB, Steidl, Weinmann, 2016]

! no convergence rate

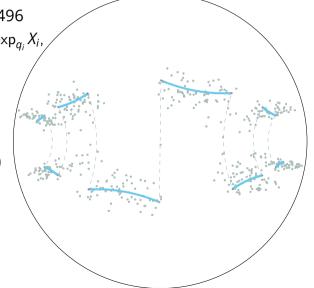


Denoising a Signal on Hyperbolic Space \mathcal{H}^2

- ▶ signal $q \in \mathcal{M}$, $(\mathcal{H}^2)^n$, n = 496
- noisy signal $\bar{q} \in \mathcal{M}$, $\bar{q}_i = \exp_{q_i} X_i$, $\sigma = 0.1$
- ► ROF Model:

$$rg \min_{oldsymbol{p} \in \mathcal{M}} \ rac{1}{n} \, \mathrm{d}_{\mathcal{M}}(oldsymbol{p}, oldsymbol{q})^2 \ + lpha \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \mathrm{d}_{\mathcal{H}^2}(oldsymbol{p}_i, oldsymbol{p}_{i+1})$$

► Setting $\alpha = 0.05$ yields reconstruction p^* .





Algorithms for Denoising a Signal

► Riemannian Convex Bundle Method (RCBM)

[RB, Herzog, Jasa, 2024]

Proximal Bundle Algorithm (PBA)

[Hoseini Monjezi, Nobakhtian, Pouryayevali, 2021]

Subgradient Method (SGM)

[Ferreira, Oliveira, 1998]

► Cyclic Proximal Point Algorithm (CPPA)

[Bačák, 2014]

Algorithm	Iter.	Time (sec.)	Objective	Error
RCBM	3417	51.393	1.7929×10^{-3}	3.3194×10^{-4}
PBA	15 000	102.387	1.8153×10^{-3}	4.3874×10^{-4}
SGM	15 000	99.604	1.7920×10^{-3}	3.3080×10^{-4}
CPPA	15 000	94.200	1.7928×10^{-3}	3.3230×10^{-4}



The Douglas Rachford Algorithm

For a splitting f=g+h, where both are possibly nonsmooth, use the reflection at the proximal map

$$R_{\lambda f}(p) = \exp_{\text{prox}_{\lambda f}(p)}(-\log_{\text{prox}_{\lambda f}(p)}(p))$$
 (Euclidean: $2 \operatorname{prox}_{\lambda f}(x) - x$)

The Douglas Rachford algorithm reads for some $r^{(0)} \in \mathcal{M}, \ \eta > 0$ [RB, Persch, Steidl, 2016] $p^{(k)} = R_{\eta g}(r^{(k)})$

$$egin{aligned} q^{(k)} &= R_{\eta h}(p^{(k)}) \ r^{(k+1)} &= \gamma(\lambda_k; r^{(k)}, q^{(k)}) \end{aligned} \qquad (\gamma ext{ is a geodesic})$$

- converges on Hadamard manifolds if
 - g, h proper, convex, lsc.
 - $\lambda_k \in [0,1]$ and $\sum_k \lambda_k (1-\lambda_k) = \infty$
- ...to a fixed point of $R_{\lambda g} \circ R_{\lambda h}$ (in $r^{(k)}$)
- ...to a minimizer of f in the "shadow iterates" $prox_{ng}(r^{(k)})$



The Fenchel Conjugate

The Fenchel conjugate of a function $f: \mathbb{R}^n \to \overline{\mathbb{R}}$ is given by

$$f^*(\xi) := \sup_{\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n} \langle \xi, \mathbf{x} \rangle - f(\mathbf{x}) = \sup_{\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n} \begin{pmatrix} \xi \\ -1 \end{pmatrix}^{\mathsf{T}} \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{x} \\ f(\mathbf{x}) \end{pmatrix}$$

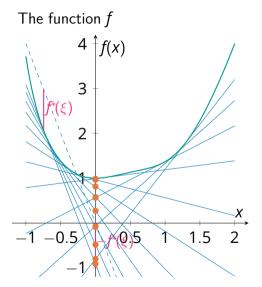
- lacktriangle given $\xi \in \mathbb{R}^n$: maximize the distance between ξ^T and f
- can also be written in the epigraph

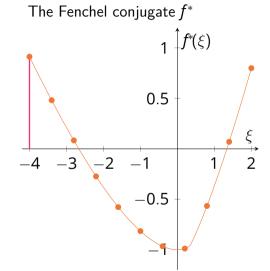
The Fenchel biconjugate reads

$$f^{**}(x) = (f^*)^*(x) = \sup_{\xi \in \mathbb{R}^n} \langle \xi, x \rangle - f^*(\xi).$$



Illustration of the Fenchel Conjugate







The (Riemannian) *m*-Fenchel Conjugate

[RB, Herzog, Silva Louzeiro, Tenbrinck, Vidal-Núñez, 2021]

Idea. Localize to $C \subset M$ around a point m which "acts as" 0.

The m-Fenchel conjugate of a function $f\colon \mathcal{C} \to \overline{\mathbb{R}}$ is given by

$$f_m^*(\xi_m) \coloneqq \sup_{X \in \mathcal{L}_{\mathcal{C},m}} \{ \langle \xi_m, X \rangle - f(\exp_m X) \},$$

where $\mathcal{L}_{\mathcal{C},m} \coloneqq \{X \in \mathcal{T}_m \mathcal{M} \mid q = \exp_m X \in \mathcal{C} \text{ and } \|X\|_p = d(q,p)\}.$

Let $m' \in \mathcal{C}$. The mm'-Fenchel-biconjugate $F^{**}_{mm'} : \mathcal{C} \to \overline{\mathbb{R}}$ is given by

$$F_{mm'}^{**}(p) = \sup_{\xi_{m'} \in \mathcal{T}_m^* \mathcal{M}} \left\{ \langle \xi_{m'} \,, \log_{m'} p \rangle - F_m^* (\mathsf{P}_{m \leftarrow m'} \xi_{m'})
ight\},$$

where usually we only use the case m = m'.



The exact Riemannian Chambolle—Pock Algorithm

```
[RB, Herzog, Silva Louzeiro, Tenbrinck, Vidal-Núñez, 2021; Valkonen, 2014; Chambolle. Pock, 2011]
Input: m, p^{(0)} \in \mathcal{C} \subset \mathcal{M}, n = \Lambda(m), \xi_n^{(0)} \in \mathcal{T}_n^* \mathcal{N}, \text{ and } \sigma, \tau, \theta > 0
  1. k \leftarrow 0
  2: \bar{p}^{(0)} \leftarrow p^{(0)}
  3: while not converged do
              \xi_n^{(k+1)} \leftarrow \operatorname{prox}_{\tau \sigma_*^*} \left( \xi_n^{(k)} + \tau \left( \log_n \Lambda(\bar{p}^{(k)}) \right)^{\flat} \right)
              p^{(k+1)} \leftarrow \operatorname{prox}_{\sigma f} \left( \exp_{p^{(k)}} \left( \mathsf{P}_{p^{(k)} \leftarrow m} (-\sigma D \Lambda(m)^* [\xi_n^{(k+1)}])^{\sharp} \right) \right)
  6: \bar{p}^{(k+1)} \leftarrow \exp_{p^{(k+1)}} \left( -\theta \log_{p^{(k+1)}} p^{(k)} \right)
                k \leftarrow k + 1
  8: end while
Output: p^{(k)}
```



Proximal Gradient

For a splitting f = g + h, where g is smooth and h is possibly nonsmooth, both are convex.

The proximal gradient method reads for given $p^{(0)} \in \mathcal{M}$, $\lambda_k \in (0, \frac{1}{L}]$ reads

[RB, Jasa, John, Pfeffer, 2025b]

$$p^{(k+1)} = \operatorname{prox}_{\lambda_k h} \left(\exp_{p^{(k)}} (-\lambda_k \operatorname{grad} g(p^{(k)})) \right).$$

- convergence rates: sublinear (convex) linear (strongly convex)
- a generalization of the prox-grad inequality
- ightharpoonup even the nonconvex case: sublinear convergence to arepsilon-stationary points [RB, Jasa, John, Pfeffer, 2025a]
 - ! though here: proximal map maybe not unique minimizer

The Riemannian DC Algorithm

[RB, Ferreira, Santos, Souza, 2024]

To solve a Difference of Convex problem

$$\underset{p \in \mathcal{M}}{\operatorname{arg \, min}} g(p) - h(p).$$

use

The Riemannian Difference of Convex Algorithm.

Input: An initial point $p^{(0)} \in \text{dom}(g)$, g and $\partial_{\mathcal{M}} h$

- 1: Set k = 0.
- 2: while not converged do
- 3: Take $X^{(k)} \in \partial_{\mathcal{M}} h(p^{(k)})$
- 4: Compute the next iterate $p^{(k+1)}$ as

$$p^{(k+1)} \in \operatorname*{arg\,min}_{p \in \mathcal{M}} g(p) - \left(X^{(k)}, \log_{p^{(k)}} p\right)_{p^{(k)}}.$$

- 5: Set $k \leftarrow k + 1$
- 6. end while



Convergence of the Riemannian DCA

Let $\{p^{(k)}\}_{k\in\mathbb{N}}$ and $\{X^{(k)}\}_{k\in\mathbb{N}}$ be the iterates and subgradients of the RDCA.

Theorem.

[RB, Ferreira, Santos, Souza, 2024]

If \bar{p} is a cluster point of $\{p^{(k)}\}_{k\in\mathbb{N}}$, then $\bar{p}\in \text{dom}(g)$ and there exists a cluster point \bar{X} of $\{X^{(k)}\}_{k\in\mathbb{N}}$ s. t. $\bar{X}\in\partial g(\bar{p})\cap\partial h(\bar{p})$.

 \Rightarrow Every cluster point of $\{p^{(k)}\}_{k\in\mathbb{N}}$, if any, is a critical point of f.

Proposition.

[RB, Ferreira, Santos, Souza, 2024]

Let g be σ -strongly (geodesically) convex. Then

$$f(p^{(k+1)}) \le f(p^{(k)}) - \frac{\sigma}{2}d^2(p^{(k)}, p^{(k+1)})$$

and
$$\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} d^2(p^{(k)},p^{(k+1)}) < \infty$$
, so in particular $\lim_{k\to\infty} d(p^{(k)},p^{(k+1)}) = 0$.



Software



Goals of the Software – Why Julia?





- ⇒ implement abstract solvers on a generic manifold
- well-documented and well-tested
- ► fast.
- \Rightarrow "Run your favourite solver on your favourite manifold".

Why 💑 Julia?

julialang.org

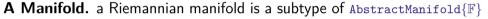
- high-level language, properly typed
- ► multiple dispatch, e.g. *(::AbstractMatrix, ::AbstractMatrix)
- ▶ just-in-time compilation, solves two-language problem ⇒ "nice to write" and as fast as C/C++
- ► I like the community



ManifoldsBase.jl - Motivation

Goal. Provide a generic interface to manifolds for

- defining own (new) manifolds
- lacktriangle implementing generic algorithms on an arbitrary manifold ${\mathcal M}$



- $ightharpoonup \mathbb{F} \in \{\mathbb{R}, \mathbb{C}, \mathbb{H}\}$: field the manifold is build on
- stores all "general" information, (mainly) the manifold dimension
- example (form Manifolds.jl): M = Sphere(2)

Points and Tangent vectors.

- ▶ by default not typed, often <:AbstractArray
- we provide <:AbstractManifoldPoint and <:TVector for more advanced ones



Manifolds.jl

Goal. Provide a library of Riemannian manifolds, that is efficiently implemented and well-documented



Meta. generic implementations for $\mathcal{M}^{n\times m}$, $\mathcal{M}_1 \times \mathcal{M}_2$, vector- and tangent-bundles, esp. $T_p\mathcal{M}$, or Lie groups

Library. Implemented functions for

- ► Circle, Sphere, Torus, Hyperbolic, Projective Spaces, Hamiltonian
- ▶ (generalized, symplectic) Stiefel, Rotations
- ▶ (generalized, symplectic) Grassmann, fixed rank matrices
- Symmetric Positive Definite matrices, with fixed determinant
- ▶ (several) Multinomial, (skew-)symmetric, and symplectic matrices
- ► Tucker & Oblique manifold, Kendall's Shape space
- probability simplex, orthogonal and unitary matrices, ...



Manopt.jl

Goal. Provide optimization algorithms on Riemannian manifolds.



Features. Given a Problem p and a SolverState s, implement initialize_solver!(p, s) and step_solver!(p, s, i) ⇒ an algorithm in the Manopt.jl interface

Highlevel interfaces like gradient_descent(M, f, grad_f) on any manifold M from Manifolds.jl.

All provide debug output, recording, cache & counting capabilities, as well as a library of step sizes and stopping criteria.

Manopt family.









List of Algorithms in Manopt.jl

Derivatve-Free Nelder-Mead, Particle Swarm, CMA-ES, MADS

Subgradient-based Subgradient Method, Convex Bundle Method, Proximal Bundle Method

Gradient-based Gradient Descent, Conjugate Gradient, Stochastic,
Momentum, Nesterov, Averaged; Quasi-Newton with
(L-)BFGS, DFP, Broyden, SR1,...; Levenberg-Marquard

Hessian-based Trust Regions, Adaptive Regularized Cubics (ARC) splitting Chambolle-Pock, Douglas-Rachford, Cyclic Proximal Point, Proximal Gradient

constrained Augmented Lagrangian, Exact Penalty, Frank-Wolfe, Projected Gradient, Interior Point Newton

nonconvex Difference of Convex Algorithm, DCPPA





A Numerical Example



The Difference of Convex Algorithm in Manopt.jl

The algorithm is implemented and released in Julia using Manopt.jl¹. It can be used with any manifold from Manifolds.jl

A solver call looks like

```
q = difference_of_convex_algorithm(M, f, g, \partial h, p0) where one has to implement f(M, p), g(M, p), and \partial h(M, p).
```

- ▶ a sub problem is generated if keyword grad_g= is set
- ▶ an efficient version of its cost and gradient is provided
- you can specify the sub-solver using sub_state= to also set up the specific parameters of your favourite algorithm

¹see https://manoptjl.org/stable/solvers/difference_of_convex/



Rosenbrock and First Order Methods

Problem. We consider the classical Rosenbrock example²

$$\underset{x \in \mathbb{R}^2}{\arg \min} \, \alpha (x_1^2 - x_2)^2 + (x_1 - b)^2,$$

where a, b > 0, usually b = 1 and $a \gg b$, here: $a = 2 \cdot 10^5$.

Known Minimizer
$$x^* = \begin{pmatrix} b \\ b^2 \end{pmatrix}$$
 with cost $f(x^*) = 0$.

Goal. Compare first-order methods, e.g. using the (Euclidean) gradient

$$\nabla f(x) = \begin{pmatrix} 4a(x_1^2 - x_2) \\ -2a(x_1^2 - x_2) \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} 2(x_1 - b) \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

²available online in ManoptExamples.il



A "Rosenbrock-Metric" on \mathbb{R}^2

In our Riemannian framework, we can introduce a new metric on \mathbb{R}^2 as

$$G_{\!
ho} \coloneqq egin{pmatrix} 1 + 4 p_1^2 & -2 p_1 \ -2 p_1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \ ext{with inverse} \ G_{\!
ho}^{-1} = egin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 p_1 \ 2 p_1 & 1 + 4 p_1^2 \end{pmatrix}.$$

We obtain $(X, Y)_{\rho} = X^{\mathsf{T}} G_{\rho} Y$

The exponential and logarithmic map are given as

$$\exp_p(X) = \begin{pmatrix} p_1 + X_1 \\ p_2 + X_2 + X_1^2 \end{pmatrix}, \qquad \log_p(q) = \begin{pmatrix} q_1 - p_1 \\ q_2 - p_2 - (q_1 - p_1)^2 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Manifolds.jl:

Implement these functions on $MetricManifold(\mathbb{R}^2)$, RosenbrockMetric()).



The Riemannian Gradient w.r.t. the new Metric

Let $f: \mathcal{M} \to \mathbb{R}$. Given the Euclidean gradient $\nabla f(p)$, its Riemannian gradient grad $f: \mathcal{M} \to T\mathcal{M}$ is given by

$$\operatorname{\mathsf{grad}} f(p) = G_p^{-1} \nabla f(p).$$

While we could implement this denoting $abla f(p) = ig(f_1'(p) \ f_2'(p)ig)^{\mathsf{T}}$ using

$$\left\langle \operatorname{grad} f(q), \log_q p \right\rangle_q = (p_1 - q_1) f_1'(q) + (p_2 - q_2 - (p_1 - q_1)^2) f_2'(q),$$

but it is automatically done in Manopt.jl.



The Experiment Setup

Algorithms. We now compare

- **1.** The Euclidean gradient descent algorithm on \mathbb{R}^2 ,
- 2. The Riemannian gradient descent algorithm on \mathcal{M} ,
- **3.** The Difference of Convex Algorithm on \mathbb{R}^2 ,
- **4.** The Difference of Convex Algorithm on \mathcal{M} .

For DCA third we split f into f(x) = g(x) - h(x) with

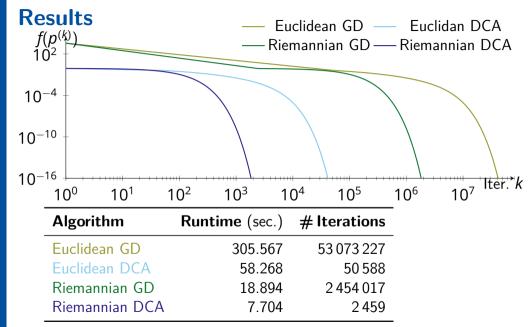
$$g(x) = a(x_1^2 - x_2)^2 + 2(x_1 - b)^2$$
 and $h(x) = (x_1 - b)^2$.

Initial point.
$$p_0 = \frac{1}{10} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}$$
 with cost $f(p_0) \approx 7220.81$.

Stopping Criterion.

$$d_{\mathcal{M}}(p^{(k)}, p^{(k-1)}) < 10^{-16} \text{ or } \|\text{grad}f(p^{(k)})\|_p < 10^{-16}.$$







Summary

Nonsmooth optimization on manifolds appears in several applications.

- many algorithms can be generalized
- many properties carry over, like convergence results
- Fenchel duality can be generalized

[Schiela, Herzog, RB, 2024]

Manifolds.jl & Manopt.jl

[RB, 2022; Axen, Baran, RB, Rzecki, 2023]

- numerical examples available in ManoptExamples.jl
- ▶ Next. LieGroups.jl



Selected References



RB (2022). "Manopt.jl: Optimization on Manifolds in Julia". Journal of Open Source Software 7.70, p. 3866. DOI: 10.21105/joss.03866.

RB; O. P. Ferreira; E. M. Santos; J. C. d. O. Souza (2024). "The difference of convex algorithm on Hadamard manifolds". *Journal of Optimization Theory and Applications*. DOI: 10.1007/s10957-024-02392-8.

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