

## A NEW NONMONOTONE TRUST REGION ALGORITHM FOR SOLVING UNCONSTRAINED OPTIMIZATION PROBLEMS\*

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### Abstract

Based on the nonmonotone line search technique proposed by Gu and Mo (Appl. Math. Comput. 55, (2008) pp. 2158-2172), a new nonmonotone trust region algorithm is proposed for solving unconstrained optimization problems in this paper. The new algorithm is developed by resetting the ratio  $\rho_k$  for evaluating the trial step  $d_k$  whenever acceptable. The global and superlinear convergence of the algorithm are proved under suitable conditions. Numerical results show that the new algorithm is effective for solving unconstrained optimization problems.

*Mathematics subject classification:* 90C30.

*Key words:* Unconstrained optimization problems; Nonmonotone trust region method; Global convergence; Superlinear convergence.

### 1. Introduction

We consider the following unconstrained optimization problem

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

where  $f : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is a continuously differentiable function.

Line search method and trust region method are two principal methods for solving unconstrained optimization problem (1.1). Line search method produce a sequence  $x_0, x_1, \dots$ , where  $x_{k+1}$  is generated from the current approximate solution  $x_k$ , the specific direction  $d_k$  and a stepsize  $\alpha_k > 0$  by the rule  $x_{k+1} = x_k + \alpha_k d_k$ . On the other hand, the trust region methods obtain a trial step  $d_k$  by solving the following quadric program subproblem:

$$\begin{aligned} \min_{d \in \mathbb{R}^n} \quad & \phi_k(d) = g_k^T d + \frac{1}{2} d^T B_k d, \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & \|d\| \leq \Delta_k, \end{aligned} \quad (1.2)$$

where  $g_k = \nabla f(x_k)$ ,  $B_k \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$  is a symmetric matrix which is either the exact Hessian matrix of  $f$  at  $x_k$  or an approximation for it,  $\Delta_k > 0$  is the trust region radius and  $\|\cdot\|$  denotes the Euclidean norm. The traditional trust region methods evaluate the trial step  $d_k$  by the ratio

$$\rho_k = \frac{f(x_k) - f(x_k + d_k)}{\phi_k(0) - \phi_k(d_k)}. \quad (1.3)$$

The trial step  $d_k$  is accepted whenever  $\rho_k$  is greater than a positive constant  $\mu$ , then we can set the new point  $x_{k+1} = x_k + d_k$  and enlarge the trust region radius. Otherwise, the traditional

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trust region methods resolve the subproblem (1.2) by reducing the trust region radius until an acceptable step is found. Solving the region subproblems may lead us to solve one or more quadric program problems and increase the total cost of computation for large scale problems. Compared with line search techniques, new trust region methods have a strong convergence property, its computational cost is much lower than the traditional trust region methods (e.g. [1-3]). Some theoretical and numerical results of these trust region methods with line search are also interesting.

However, all these methods enforce monotonically decreasing of the objective function values at each iteration may slow the convergence rate in the minimization process, see [4,8]. In order to overcome the shortcomings, the earliest nonmonotone line search framework was developed by Grippo, Lampariello and Lucidi in [5] for Newton’s method, in which their approach was: parameters  $\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \sigma$  and  $\beta$  are introduced, where  $0 < \lambda_1 < \lambda_2, \beta, \sigma \in (0, 1)$  and  $\alpha_k = \bar{\alpha}_k \sigma^{h_k}$ , where  $\bar{\alpha}_k \in (\lambda_1, \lambda_2)$  is the trial step and  $h_k$  is the smallest nonnegative integer such that

$$f(x_k + d_k) \leq \max_{0 \leq j \leq m_k} f(x_{k-j}) + \beta \alpha_k \nabla f(x_k)^T d_k, \tag{1.4}$$

the memory  $m_k$  is a nondecreasing integer by setting

$$m_k = \begin{cases} 0, & k = 0, \\ 0 < m_k \leq \min\{m_{k-1} + 1, M\}, & k > 0, \end{cases}$$

where  $M$  is a prefixed nonnegative integer.

From then on, researches in nonlinear optimization area have paid great attentions to it, see [7,8,10-14]. Deng et al. [4] made some changes in the common ratio (1.3) by resetting the rule as follows:

$$\hat{\rho}_k = \frac{\max_{0 \leq j \leq m_k} f(x_{k-j}) - f(x_k + d_k)}{\phi_k(0) - \phi_k(d_k)}. \tag{1.5}$$

The ratio (1.5) which assesses the agreement between the quadratic model and the objective function in trust region methods is the most common nonmonotone ratio, some researchers showed that the nonmonotone method can improve both the possibility of finding the global optimum and the rate of convergence when a monotone scheme is forced to creep along the bottom of a narrow curved valley (see [4,9,17]).

Although the nonmonotone technique (1.4) has many advantages, Zhang and Hager [18] proposed a new nonmonotone line search algorithm, which had the same general form as the scheme of Grippo et al. [5], except that their “max” was replaced by an average of function values. The nonmonotone line search found a step length  $\beta$  to satisfy the following inequality:

$$f(x_k + \beta d_k) \leq C_k + \delta \beta \nabla f(x_k)^T d_k, \tag{1.6}$$

where

$$C_k = \begin{cases} f(x_k), & k = 0, \\ (\eta_{k-1} Q_{k-1} C_{k-1} + f(x_k)) / Q_k, & k \geq 1, \end{cases} \tag{1.7}$$

$$Q_k = \begin{cases} 1, & k = 0, \\ \eta_{k-1} Q_{k-1} + 1, & k \geq 1, \end{cases} \tag{1.8}$$

$\eta_{k-1} \in [\eta_{\min}, \eta_{\max}]$ , where  $\eta_{\min} \in [0, 1)$  and  $\eta_{\max} \in [\eta_{\min}, 1]$  are two chosen parameters. Numerical results showed that the new nonmonotone can improve the efficiency of the nonmonotone trust region methods.

Observing that  $C_{k+1}$  is a convex combination between  $C_k$  and  $f(x_{k+1})$ . Since  $C_0 = f(x_0)$ , we see that  $C_k$  is a convex combination of the function values  $f(x_0), f(x_1), \dots, f(x_k)$  from (1.7), the degree of nonmonotonicity and (1.8) depend on the choice  $\eta_k$ . If  $\eta_k = 0$  for each  $k$ , then the line search is the usual Armijo line search. If  $\eta_k = 1$  for each  $k$ , then  $C_k = A_k$ , where

$$A_k = \frac{1}{k+1} \sum_{i=0}^k f_i, \quad f_i = f(x_i),$$

is the average function value.

However, it becomes an encumbrance to update  $\eta_k$  and  $Q_k$  at each  $k$  in practice. Recently Gu and Mo [6] developed an algorithm that combining a new nonmonotone technique and trust region method for unconstrained optimization problems. The new nonmonotone line search is as follows:

$$f(x_k + \beta d_k) \leq D_k + \delta \beta \nabla f(x_k)^T d_k, \tag{1.9}$$

where the parameter  $\eta \in (0, 1)$  or a variable  $\eta_k$  and

$$D_k = \begin{cases} f(x_k), & k = 0, \\ \eta D_{k-1} + (1 - \eta) f(x_k), & k \geq 1, \end{cases} \tag{1.10}$$

is a simple convex combination of the previous  $D_{k-1}$  and  $f_k$ .

In this paper, we develop an algorithm by resetting the ratio  $\rho_k$  in the trust region method for unconstrained optimization problems. The algorithm does not restrict monotonically decreasing of the objective function values at each iteration. Under suitable assumptions, we establish the global and superlinear convergence of the new algorithm. Numerical experiments show that our algorithm is quite effective.

Our paper is organized as follows: In Section 2, a new nonmonotone trust region algorithm is described. Under certain conditions, the global and superlinear convergence of the algorithm are proved in Sections 3 and 4, respectively. Numerical results are provided in Section 5 which showed that the new method is quite effective for unconstrained optimization problems. Finally, some concluding remarks are given in Section 6.

## 2. New Nonmonotone Trust Region Algorithm

For convenience, we denote  $f(x_k)$  by  $f_k$  and  $g(x_k)$  by  $g_k$ , where  $g(x_k) \in \mathbb{R}^n$  is the gradient of  $f$  evaluated at  $x_k$ . The trial step  $d_k$  is obtained by solving the subproblem (1.2) at each iteration. In this paper, we solve (1.2) such that  $\|d_k\| \leq \Delta_k$  and

$$\phi_k(0) - \phi_k(d_k) \geq \tau \|g_k\| \min\{\Delta_k, \|g_k\|/\|B_k\|\}, \tag{2.1}$$

where  $\tau \in (0, 1)$  is a constant.

Obviously if  $B_k$  is a symmetric and positive definite diagonal matrix, we can obtained the solution  $d_k$  easily. More precisely, if  $\|B_k^{-1}g_k\| \leq \Delta_k$ , then  $d_k = -B_k^{-1}g_k$  is the optimal solution of the subproblem (1.2); otherwise, if  $\|B_k^{-1}g_k\| > \Delta_k$ , we choose the optimal solution

$$d_k = -\frac{\Delta_k}{\|B_k^{-1}g_k\|} B_k^{-1}g_k.$$

In order to decide whether the obtained trial step  $d_k$  will be accepted or not, and how to adjust the new trust region radius, we compute the ratio  $\rho_k$  between the actual reduction,

$$Ared_k = D_k - f(x_k + d_k),$$

and the predicted reduction as follows:

$$Pred_k = \phi_k(0) - \phi_k(d_k),$$

i.e.,

$$\rho_k = \frac{Ared_k}{Pred_k} = \frac{D_k - f(x_k + d_k)}{\phi_k(0) - \phi_k(d_k)}, \tag{2.2}$$

where  $D_k$  is computed by (1.10). If  $\rho_k \geq \mu$ , where  $\mu \in (0, 1)$  is a constant, we accept the trial step  $d_k$ , set  $x_{k+1} = x_k + d_k$  and enlarge the trust region radius  $\Delta_k$ . Otherwise we set  $x_{k+1} = x_k$ , reduce the trust region radius and resolve the subproblem (1.2).

Now, we propose a new nonmonotone trust region algorithm as follows:

**Algorithm 2.1.** (New nonmonotone trust region algorithm)

**Step 0** Choose parameters  $\eta \in (0, 1)$ ,  $\mu \in (0, 1)$ ,  $\Delta_0 > 0$ ,  $0 < c_1 < 1 < c_2$ . Given an arbitrary point  $x_0 \in \mathbb{R}^n$  and a symmetric matrix  $B_0 \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ . Set  $k := 0$ .

**Step 1** Compute  $g_k$ . If  $\|g_k\| = 0$ , stop. Otherwise, go to Step 2.

**Step 2** Compute an approximate solution  $d_k$  so that  $\|d_k\| \leq \Delta_k$  and (2.1) is satisfied.

**Step 3** Compute  $D_k$  by (1.10), and  $\rho_k$  by (2.2).

**Step 4** Set

$$x_{k+1} = \begin{cases} x_k + d_k & \text{if } \rho_k \geq \mu, \\ x_k & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases} \tag{2.3}$$

**Step 5** Compute  $\Delta_{k+1}$  as

$$\Delta_{k+1} = \begin{cases} c_1 \|d_k\| & \text{if } \rho_k < \mu, \\ c_2 \|d_k\| & \text{if } \rho_k \geq \mu. \end{cases} \tag{2.4}$$

**Step 6** Update  $B_k$ . Set  $k := k + 1$  and go to Step 1.

### 3. Global Convergence

In this section, we discuss the global convergence of Algorithm 2.1. Suppose an infinite sequence of iterations  $\{x_k\}$  is obtained from Algorithm 2.1. Some common assumptions are as follows:

**Assumption 3.1.** The level set  $\Omega_0 = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n | f(x) \leq f(x_0)\}$  is bounded.

**Assumption 3.2.** The gradient function of  $g(x)$  is Lipschitz continuous in  $\Omega_0$ .

**Assumption 3.3.** The matrix sequence  $\{B_k\}$  is uniformly bounded.

For simplicity, we define two index sets as follows:

$$I = \{k | \rho_k \geq \mu\} \quad \text{and} \quad J = \{k | \rho_k < \mu\}.$$

**Lemma 3.1.** *Suppose that the sequence  $\{x_k\}$  is generated by Algorithm 2.1. Then the following inequality holds for all  $k$ :*

$$f_{k+1} \leq D_{k+1} \leq D_k. \tag{3.1}$$

*Proof.* Firstly we prove that (3.1) holds for all  $k \in I$ , i.e.,

$$f_{k+1} \leq D_{k+1} \leq D_k \quad \forall k \in I. \tag{3.2}$$

For  $k \in I$ , according to  $\rho_k \geq \mu$ , (2.1) and (2.2), we know that

$$f_{k+1} \leq D_k - \mu\tau\|g_k\| \min\{\Delta_k, \|g_k\|/\|B_k\|\}. \tag{3.3}$$

Following from (1.10) and (3.3), we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} D_{k+1} &= \eta D_k + (1 - \eta)f(x_{k+1}) \\ &\leq \eta D_k + (1 - \eta)D_k - \mu\tau\|g_k\| \min\{\Delta_k, \|g_k\|/\|B_k\|\} \\ &= D_k - \mu\tau\|g_k\| \min\{\Delta_k, \|g_k\|/\|B_k\|\}. \end{aligned} \tag{3.4}$$

By (1.10), if  $\eta \neq 0$ , we have

$$D_{k+1} - D_k = \frac{(1 - \eta)(f_{k+1} - D_{k+1})}{\eta}, \tag{3.5}$$

and if  $\eta = 0$ , we have

$$D_{k+1} = f_{k+1}. \tag{3.6}$$

Combining (3.4) and (3.6), yields (3.2).

Secondly we prove that (3.1) holds for all  $k \in J$ . From Step 4 of Algorithm 2.1, we get  $x_{k+1} = x_k$  and  $f_{k+1} = f_k$  for all  $k \in J$ . First we prove that  $f_{k+1} \leq D_{k+1}$ . We consider two cases, respectively.

(i) If  $k - 1 \in I$ . According to (3.2), we have  $f_k \leq D_k$ . Following from (1.10) and  $f_{k+1} = f_k$ , we can deduce that

$$D_{k+1} = \eta D_k + (1 - \eta)f_{k+1} \geq \eta f_{k+1} + (1 - \eta)f_{k+1} = f_{k+1}. \tag{3.7}$$

(ii) If  $k - 1 \in J$ . In this case, we define a index set  $\mathcal{F} = \{i | 1 < i \leq k, k - i \in I\}$ . If  $\mathcal{F} = \emptyset$ , by Step 4 of Algorithm 2.1 we get  $f_0 = f_{k-j} = f_{k+1}, j = 0, 1, \dots, k - 1$ . Following from (1.10) we get

$$D_{k+1} = D_k = f_{k+1}. \tag{3.8}$$

Now, we suppose that  $\mathcal{F} \neq \emptyset$ . Let  $s = \min\{i : i \in \mathcal{F}\}$ . Then we have

$$f_{k+1} = f_k = f_{k-j}, \quad j = 0, 1, \dots, s - 1. \tag{3.9}$$

By (1.10), we know

$$D_k = \eta D_{k-1} + (1 - \eta)f_k, \quad k \geq 1. \tag{3.10}$$

Using (3.10) repeatedly, we get

$$\eta D_k + (1 - \eta)f_{k+1} = \eta^s D_{k-s+1} + \sum_{i=0}^{s-2} \eta^{i+1} (1 - \eta)f_{k-i} + (1 - \eta)f_{k+1}. \tag{3.11}$$

According to the definition of  $\mathcal{F}$ ,  $s$  and (3.2), we have  $k - s \in I$  and  $D_{k-s+1} \geq f_{k-s+1}$ . Combining (3.9) and (3.11) together, we can deduce that

$$\begin{aligned} \eta D_k + (1 - \eta)f_{k+1} &\geq \eta^s f_{k-s+1} + \sum_{i=0}^{s-2} \eta^{i+1} (1 - \eta)f_{k-i} + (1 - \eta)f_{k+1} \\ &= [\eta^s + \sum_{i=0}^{s-2} \eta^{i+1} (1 - \eta) + (1 - \eta)] f_{k+1} \\ &= f_{k+1}. \end{aligned} \tag{3.12}$$

Hence, it follows from (1.10) and (3.12) that

$$D_{k+1} = \eta D_k + (1 - \eta)f_{k+1} \geq f_{k+1}. \tag{3.13}$$

By (3.7), (3.8) and (3.13), we conclude that

$$f_{k+1} \leq D_{k+1}, \quad \forall k \in J. \tag{3.14}$$

If  $\eta \neq 0$ , by (3.5) and (3.14) we obtain that  $f_{k+1} \leq D_{k+1} \leq D_k$ .

If  $\eta = 0$ , then, by (1.10) and  $k \in J$ , we get  $D_{k+1} = f_{k+1} = f_k$ . Combining  $k - 1 \in J$  and (3.14), we obtain that  $f_k \leq D_k$ . Thus (3.1) holds for all  $k \in J$ . The proof is completed.  $\square$

**Lemma 3.2.** *Suppose that Assumption 3.1 holds, then the sequence  $\{x_k\}$  generated by Algorithm 2.1 is contained in the level set  $\Omega_0$ .*

*Proof.* Following from Lemma 3.1, Assumption 3.1 and  $D_0 = f_0$ , we can easily obtain the assertion.  $\square$

For convenience's sake, we refer to a successful iteration point  $x_{k+1} = x_k + d_k$ , and an unsuccessful iteration point if  $x_{k+1} = x_k$ .

**Lemma 3.3.** ([15]) *Suppose that Assumptions 3.2 and 3.3 hold, the sequence  $\{x_k\}$  is generated by Algorithm 2.1, and the following inequality holds for all  $k$ :*

$$\|g_k\| \geq \epsilon, \tag{3.15}$$

where  $\epsilon \in (0, 1)$  is a constant. Then for each  $k$ , there is a nonnegative integer  $m$  such that  $x_{k+m+1}$  is a successful iteration point.

Based on the above lemmas, we establish the global convergence of Algorithm 2.1.

**Theorem 3.1.** *Suppose that Assumptions 3.1 – 3.3 hold. Then the sequence  $\{x_k\}$  generated by Algorithm 2.1 satisfies*

$$\liminf_{k \rightarrow \infty} \|g_k\| = 0. \tag{3.16}$$

*Proof.* By contradiction, we suppose that there exists a constant  $\epsilon \in (0, 1)$  such that the following inequality holds for all  $k$ :

$$\|g_k\| \geq \epsilon. \tag{3.17}$$

Firstly, we prove that

$$\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty, k \in I} \Delta_k = 0. \tag{3.18}$$

From the prove of Lemma 3.3 in [15], we know that  $I$  is an infinite set. If  $k \in I$ , then by (3.4) and (3.17), we get

$$D_{k+1} \leq D_k - \mu\tau\epsilon(1 - \eta) \min\{\Delta_k, \epsilon/\|B_k\|\}. \tag{3.19}$$

From Lemma 3.1, we know that  $\{D_k\}$  is nonincreasing and  $f_{k+1} \leq D_{k+1}$  for all  $k \geq 0$ . By Assumption 3.1, Lemma 3.2 and the continuity of  $f$ , we know that the sequence  $\{f_k\}$  is bounded below, and  $\{D_k\}$  is convergent. By taking limits as  $k \rightarrow \infty$  and  $k \in I$  in both sides of (3.19), we have

$$\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty, k \in I} \min\{\Delta_k, \epsilon/\|B_k\|\} = 0. \tag{3.20}$$

By Assumption 3.3 and (3.20) that (3.18) holds.

Next, we prove that

$$\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \Delta_k = 0. \tag{3.21}$$

- (i) If  $J$  is a finite set, then (3.18) holds, which implies that (3.21) holds.
- (ii) If  $J$  is an infinite set, we define  $\mathcal{F}_1 = \{i_k \mid k = 0, 1, \dots\}$  which is a subset of  $J$  satisfies:

$$\begin{aligned} i_1 &= \min\{j \mid j \in J\}, \\ i_{k+1} &= \min\{j \in J \mid j - 1 \in I, j - 1 > i_k\}, \quad \forall k \geq 1. \end{aligned}$$

According to Lemma 3.3, we know that  $\mathcal{F}_1$  is an infinite set. For  $k \geq 1$ , by the definition of  $i_k$  we know that  $i_k - 1 \in I$ . According to Step 5 of Algorithm 2.1, we have

$$\Delta_{i_k} \leq c_2 \Delta_{i_k - 1}. \tag{3.22}$$

The definition of  $i_{k+1}$  implies that there exists at least an integer  $l$  such that

$$i_k + l < i_{k+1} - 1 \quad \text{and} \quad i_k + l \in J. \tag{3.23}$$

Let  $l_k$  be the maximum integer satisfies (3.23). It follows from Step 5 of Algorithm 2.1 that

$$\Delta_{i_k + l} \geq \Delta_{i_k + l + 1}, \quad l = 0, 1, \dots, l_k, \tag{3.24a}$$

$$\Delta_{i_k + l} \leq \Delta_{i_k + l + 1}, \quad l = l_k + 1, l_k + 2, \dots, i_{k+1} - i_k - 1. \tag{3.24b}$$

Following from (3.18), we see that  $\Delta_{i_k - 1} \rightarrow 0$  as  $k \rightarrow \infty$ . This fact combined with (3.22) and (3.24) implies that

$$\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty, k \in J} \Delta_k = 0. \tag{3.25}$$

Hence, it follows from (3.18) and (3.25) that (3.21) holds.

Based on the above work, we prove the theorem now. By the Taylor expansion, Assumption 3.2,  $\|d_k\| \leq \Delta_k$  and (3.21), we get

$$\begin{aligned} & |f_k - f(x_k + d_k) - (\phi_k(0) - \phi_k(d_k))| \\ &= \left| \frac{1}{2} d_k^T B_k d_k - \int_0^1 [g(x_k + \xi d_k) - g_k]^T d_k d\xi \right| \\ &\leq O(\Delta_k^2 \|B_k\|) + o(\Delta_k). \end{aligned} \tag{3.26}$$

By (2.1), (3.17) and (3.26), it follows that

$$\left| \frac{f_k - f(x_k + d_k)}{\phi_k(0) - \phi_k(d_k)} - 1 \right| \leq \frac{O(\Delta_k^2 \|B_k\|) + o(\Delta_k)}{\tau\epsilon \min\{\Delta_k, \epsilon/\|B_k\|\}}.$$

Combining the above inequality, (3.21) and Assumption 3.3, we can deduce that

$$\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \frac{f_k - f(x_k + d_k)}{\phi_k(0) - \phi_k(d_k)} = 1. \tag{3.27}$$

It follows from (2.2) and (3.1) that

$$\rho_k = \frac{D_k - f(x_k + d_k)}{\phi_k(0) - \phi_k(d_k)} \geq \frac{f_k - f(x_k + d_k)}{\phi_k(0) - \phi_k(d_k)}. \tag{3.28}$$

Thus, for  $k$  large enough, according to  $\mu \in (0, 1)$ , (3.27) and (3.28), we have that

$$\rho_k \geq \mu.$$

From Step 5 of Algorithm 2.1, we know that  $\Delta_{k+1} \geq \Delta_k$  holds for sufficiently large  $k$ , which contradicts (3.21). The theorem is true.  $\square$

### 4. Local Superlinear Convergence

In this section, we analyze the superlinear convergence for Algorithm 2.1 under suitable conditions. First we present the following assumptions.

**Assumption 4.1.**  $f(x)$  is twice continuously differentiable.

**Assumption 4.2.** The matrix  $B_k$  is invertible,  $\|B_k^{-1}g_k\| \leq \Delta_k$  and Algorithm 2.1 chooses the step  $d_k = -B_k^{-1}g_k$  for all  $k$ .

**Theorem 4.1.** Suppose that Assumptions 3.1, 3.3, 4.1, and 4.2 hold. Suppose that the sequence  $\{x_k\}$  is generated by Algorithm 2.1 convergence to a point  $x^*$ , where  $\nabla^2 f(x^*)$  is positive definite and  $\nabla^2 f(x)$  is Lipschitz continuous on a neighborhood of  $x^*$ . If

$$\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\|(B_k - \nabla^2 f(x_k))d_k\|}{\|d_k\|} = 0, \tag{4.1}$$

then the sequence  $\{x_k\}$  converges to  $x^*$  superlinearly.

*Proof.* According to Assumption 3.2 and Theorem 3.1, we know that there exists a constant  $L_1 > 0$  such that

$$\|g(x_k) - g(x^*)\| \leq L_1 \|x_k - x^*\|,$$

the sequence  $\{x_k\}$  is generated by Algorithm 2.1 and converges to a point  $x^*$ , it follows that

$$\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \|g(x_k) - g(x^*)\| \leq 0.$$

This implies that

$$\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \|g_k\| = \|g(x^*)\| = 0. \tag{4.2}$$

Then it means that  $x^*$  is a strict local minimizer. Suppose that  $\Omega = \{x \mid \|x - x^*\| \leq \Delta\}$ , where  $\Delta > 0$  is a sufficiently small constant such that  $x_k \in \Omega$  for all  $k \geq k_0$ , where  $k_0$  is a positive integer. From Assumption 4.1, we know that there exist two positive constants  $m$  and  $M$ , such that

$$m\|d\|^2 \leq d^T \nabla^2 f(x)d \leq M\|d\|^2, \quad \forall d \in \mathbb{R}^n, \tag{4.3}$$

for all  $x \in \Omega$ . For sufficiently large  $k > k_0$ , from (1.2), it follows that

$$\phi_k(0) - \phi_k(d_k) = \frac{1}{2}d_k^T(B_k - \nabla^2 f(x_k))d_k + \frac{1}{2}d_k^T \nabla^2 f(x_k)d_k. \tag{4.4}$$

From Assumption 3.3 we have that  $d_k \rightarrow 0$  as  $k \rightarrow \infty$ . Combining  $d_k \rightarrow 0$ , (4.1), (4.3) and (4.4), we know that

$$\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\phi_k(0) - \phi_k(d_k)}{\|d_k\|^2} \leq M.$$

This implies that

$$\phi_k(0) - \phi_k(d_k) = O(\|d_k\|^2). \tag{4.5}$$

By Mean-value Theorem, it follows that

$$\begin{aligned} & f_k - f(x_k + d_k) - (\phi_k(0) - \phi_k(d_k)) \\ &= \frac{1}{2}d_k^T(\nabla^2 f(x_k) - \nabla^2 f(x_k + \xi d_k))d_k + \frac{1}{2}d_k^T(B_k - \nabla^2 f(x_k))d_k, \end{aligned}$$

where  $\xi \in (0, 1)$ . For large enough  $k$ , due to the Lipschitz continuity of  $\nabla^2 f(x)$ , (4.1) and  $d_k \rightarrow 0$ , it follows that

$$f_k - f(x_k + d_k) - (\phi_k(0) - \phi_k(d_k)) = o(\|d_k\|^2). \tag{4.6}$$

Combining (4.5) and (4.6), we know that

$$\left| \frac{f_k - f(x_k + d_k)}{\phi_k(0) - \phi_k(d_k)} - 1 \right| = \left| \frac{f_k - f(x_k + d_k) - \phi_k(0) + \phi_k(d_k)}{\phi_k(0) - \phi_k(d_k)} - 1 \right| \leq \frac{o(\|d_k\|^2)}{O(\|d_k\|^2)}. \tag{4.7}$$

By (4.7), we know (3.27) holds. Combining (3.27) and (3.28) we know that  $\rho_k \geq \mu$  for sufficiently large  $k$ . Therefore, Algorithm 2.1 reduces to the standard quasi-Newton method when  $k$  is sufficiently large and we can obtain the superlinear convergent result by following from the stand results of quasi-Newton method. The theorem is true.  $\square$

### 5. Computational Experiments

In this section, we provide some preliminary numerical experiments to show the performance of our proposed algorithm. The new nonmonotone trust region algorithm is denoted by NNTR from now on. In Algorithm 2.1, the parameter  $\eta$  has a wide scope. If we take  $\eta = 0$ , then we can obtain the usual trust region methods described in [4](denoted by UTR). Besides, we compare Algorithm 2.1 with NTR method proposed by Mo et al. [15].

The mentioned algorithms are coded in Matlab 7.10.0 environment. All numerical computation were conducted using an Intel(R) Core(TM) 2 Duo CPU 2.20 GHZ computer with 2GB of RAM. We exploit the parameters of Algorithm 2.1 as follows:

$$\Delta_0 = 2, \mu = 0.25, c_1 = 0.25, c_2 = 1.25.$$

In all tests the maximum number of iterations is 300, and the termination condition is  $\|g_k\| \leq 10^{-6}$ . In all algorithms,  $B_k$  is updated by the following BFGS formula:

$$B_{k+1} = B_k + \frac{B_k s_k s_k^T B_k}{s_k^T B_k s_k} + \frac{y_k^* (y_k^*)^T}{(y_k^*)^T s_k},$$

where

$$y_k^* = \frac{y_k^T s_k}{|y_k^T s_k|} y_k, \quad s_k = x_{k+1} - x_k, \quad y_k = g_{k+1} - g_k.$$

For each test, we choose the initial matrix  $B_0 = |f_0|E$ , where  $E$  is the unit matrix. For simplicity, in the tables of test results, “Iter” denotes the numbers of iterations and “Dim” denotes the dimensions of the problems, “FV”, “GV” denote the final value of  $f(x_k)$  and  $g(x_k)$  respectively when the algorithm terminates, “TCPU” represents the CPU time in second for solving each problem and “NF”, “NG” denote the function evaluations and gradient evaluations in sequence respectively. we choose some test functions from [22] and [23].

**Example 5.1.** Extended Rosenbrock function. The test function is the 21th example of [22]. Let

$$f(x) = \sum_{i=1}^{n/2} \left( 100(x_{2i} - x_{2i-1}^2)^2 + (1 - x_{2i-1})^2 \right).$$

The minima of the problem is  $f(\min) = 0$ , and the standard starting point  $x_0 = (-1.2, 1, \dots, -1.2, 1)^T$ .

Table 5.1: Numerical results for Example 5.1.

Dim	NNTR( $\eta = 0.2$ )					NNTR( $\eta = 0.5$ )				
	Iter	FV	TCPU	NF	NG	Iter	FV	TCPU	NF	NG
32	44	2.54e-016	0.0559	89	84	48	5.08e-018	0.0626	97	91
64	46	4.99e-017	0.0891	93	90	46	4.99e-017	0.0924	93	90
128	42	1.64e-016	0.1874	85	83	43	1.11e-018	0.1932	87	84
256	47	3.01e-016	0.7310	95	93	48	2.56e-021	0.7844	97	97
512	45	1.65e-019	3.4084	91	91	45	1.65e-019	3.3937	91	91

**Example 5.2.** Extended Powell singular function. The test function is the 22th example of [22]. Let

$$f(x) = \sum_{i=1}^{n/4} \left( (x_{4i-1} + 10x_{4i-2})^2 + 5(x_{4i-2} - x_{4i})^2 + (x_{4i-2} - 2x_{4i-1})^2 + 10(x_{4i-3} - x_{4i})^4 \right).$$

The minima of the problem is  $f(\min) = 0$ , the standard starting point  $x_0 = (3, -1, 0, 1, \dots, 3, -1, 0, 1)^T$ .

Table 5.2: Numerical results for Example 5.2.

Dim	NNTR( $\eta = 0.2$ )					NNTR( $\eta = 0.5$ )				
	Iter	FV	TCPU	NF	NG	Iter	FV	TCPU	NF	NG
32	50	2.60e-011	0.0617	101	101	50	2.60e-011	0.0596	101	101
64	50	5.44e-010	0.0766	101	101	50	5.44e-010	0.0976	101	101
128	62	4.86e-013	0.2241	125	125	62	4.86e-013	0.1811	125	125
256	62	1.43e-010	0.9593	125	125	62	1.43e-010	0.9602	125	125
512	68	1.24e-009	5.0646	137	137	68	1.24e-009	5.0746	137	137

**Example 5.3.** Extended Dixon test function. The test function is the Problem 4.5 of [23]. Let

$$f(x) = \sum_{i=1}^{n/10} \left( (1 - x_{10i-9})^2 + (1 - x_{10i})^2 + \sum_{j=10i-9}^{10i-1} (x_j^2 - x_{j+1})^2 \right).$$

The minima of the problem is  $f(\min) = 0$ , the standard starting point  $x_0 = (-2, -2, \dots, -2, -2)^T$ .

Table 5.3: Numerical results for Example 5.3.

Dim	NNTR( $\eta = 0.2$ )					NNTR( $\eta = 0.5$ )				
	Iter	FV	TCPU	NF	NG	Iter	FV	TCPU	NF	NG
32	80	7.40e-016	0.0475	161	160	82	1.02e-014	0.0819	165	165
64	85	4.38e-016	0.1415	171	171	85	4.38e-014	0.1378	171	171
128	106	1.09e-015	0.3623	213	211	100	2.97e-015	0.3024	201	201
256	114	1.87e-016	1.8159	229	229	114	1.87e-016	1.7932	229	229
512	130	1.38e-015	9.9293	261	261	130	1.38e-015	9.8413	261	261

**Example 5.4.** Broyden tridiagonal function. The test function is the 30th example of [22].

Let

$$f(x) = \sum_{i=1}^n \left( (3 - 2x_i)x_i - x_{i-1} - 2x_{i+1} + 1 \right)^2.$$

The minima of the problem is  $f(\min) = 0$ , the standard starting point  $x_0 = (-1, -1, \dots, -1, -1)^T$ .

Table 5.4: Numerical results for Example 5.4.

Dim	NNTR( $\eta = 0.2$ )					NNTR( $\eta = 0.5$ )				
	Iter	FV	TCPU	NF	NG	Iter	FV	TCPU	NF	NG
32	33	4.38e-016	0.0182	67	67	33	4.38e-016	0.0572	67	67
64	28	7.47e-015	0.0724	57	57	28	7.47e-015	0.0706	57	57
128	37	8.04e-015	0.1233	75	75	37	8.04e-015	0.1712	75	75
256	55	1.01e-014	0.8374	111	111	55	1.01e-014	0.8589	111	111
512	81	8.00e-015	5.9847	163	163	81	8.00e-015	5.9419	163	163

**Example 5.5.** Trigonometric function. The test function is the 26th example of [22]. Let

$$f(x) = \sum_{i=1}^n \left( n - \sum_{j=1}^n \cos x_j + i(1 - \cos x_i) - \sin x_i \right)^2.$$

The minima of the problem is  $f(\min) = 0$ ,  $x_0 = (1/2n, 1/2n, \dots, 1/2n)^T$  is the standard starting point.

In Tables 5.1 to 5.5 we give some test results about five large scale unconstrained optimization problems to show that whether the parameter  $\eta$  has impact on Algorithm 2.1, we test the five problems with two cases, say,  $\eta = 0.2$  and  $\eta = 0.5$ . The dimensions of the problems are chosen from 32 to 512. It is shown from the tables that the numbers of iterations, the CPU time, the function evaluations and gradient evaluations in sequence didn't appear to be much

Table 5.5: Numerical results for Example 5.5.

Dim	NNTR( $\eta = 0.2$ )					NNTR( $\eta = 0.5$ )				
	Iter	FV	TCPU	NF	NG	Iter	FV	TCPU	NF	NG
32	68	4.24e-014	0.0658	137	119	55	1.66e-015	0.0991	111	96
64	86	1.76e-013	0.2987	173	152	74	1.32e-013	0.2884	149	130
128	100	1.24e-014	0.8947	201	179	80	9.20e-015	0.7324	161	142
256	177	5.30e-012	6.7765	355	321	173	5.86e-012	6.6022	347	314
512	183	7.52e-013	30.502	367	332	196	6.30e-013	32.668	393	356

Table 5.6: Numerical comparisons about the mentioned algorithms(1).

Problem	Dim	UTR			NTR			NNTR		
		Iter	FV	GV	Iter	FV	GV	Iter	FV	GV
5.1	32	46	6.39e-017	3.53e-007	44	2.54e-016	7.12e-007	44	2.54e-016	7.12e-007
	64	55	2.05e-020	6.24e-009	53	1.53e-023	9.67e-011	46	4.99e-017	9.83e-008
	128	47	5.74e-016	9.35e-007	47	5.74e-016	9.35e-007	42	4.65e-028	5.73e-007
	256	49	3.10e-018	6.50e-008	49	6.21e-016	8.77e-007	47	6.78e-028	3.10e-007
	512	50	7.29e-017	3.74e-007	50	7.29e-017	3.74e-007	45	2.20e-025	1.65e-008
5.2	32	60	8.65e-014	5.14e-007	60	8.65e-014	5.14e-007	50	2.60e-011	4.20e-007
	64	57	9.21e-010	9.43e-007	57	9.21e-010	9.43e-007	50	5.44e-010	9.96e-007
	128	69	1.28e-013	2.53e-007	67	4.62e-016	1.34e-007	62	4.86e-013	2.69e-007
	256	60	1.03e-009	6.70e-007	60	1.03e-009	6.74e-007	62	1.43e-010	6.92e-007
	512	63	6.82e-010	5.24e-007	63	6.82e-010	5.24e-007	68	1.24e-009	6.16e-007
5.3	32	90	1.52e-017	1.86e-008	85	2.00e-015	2.28e-007	80	7.40e-016	1.45e-007
	64	97	4.81e-015	2.82e-007	97	4.81e-015	2.82e-007	85	4.38e-016	9.04e-007
	128	109	1.41e-016	6.14e-008	109	1.41e-016	6.14e-008	106	1.09e-015	1.15e-007
	256	120	1.06e-014	4.27e-007	120	1.06e-014	4.27e-007	114	1.87e-016	6.78e-008
	512	124	3.98e-014	8.44e-007	124	3.98e-014	8.44e-007	130	1.38e-015	1.47e-007
5.4	32	43	3.36e-015	6.07e-007	33	4.38e-016	1.80e-007	33	4.38e-016	1.80e-007
	64	28	7.47e-015	7.18e-009	28	7.47e-015	7.18e-007	28	7.47e-015	7.18e-007
	128	37	8.04e-015	6.75e-007	37	8.04e-015	6.75e-007	37	8.04e-015	6.75e-007
	256	55	1.01e-014	9.71e-007	55	1.01e-014	9.71e-007	55	1.01e-014	9.71e-007
	512	81	8.00e-015	8.17e-007	81	8.00e-015	8.17e-007	81	8.00e-015	8.17e-007
5.5	32	71	8.04e-014	5.67e-007	68	4.24e-014	4.12e-007	68	4.23e-014	4.12e-007
	64	121	9.03e-015	1.90e-007	86	1.76e-013	8.40e-007	86	1.76e-013	8.40e-007
	128	231	2.48e-013	9.96e-007	100	1.24e-014	2.23e-007	100	1.24e-014	2.23e-007
	256	300	4.26e-010	4.13e-005	177	5.30e-012	6.02e-007	177	5.30e-012	6.02e-007
	512	300	2.26e-008	2.94e-004	183	7.52e-013	9.46e-007	183	7.52e-013	9.46e-007

different from  $\eta = 0.2$  to  $\eta = 0.5$ . The results imply that the parameter values of  $\eta$  have slight impact on the unconstrained optimization test problems.

We can compute a variable  $\eta_k$  by a formula as follows for further research:

$$\eta_k = \begin{cases} \theta\eta_0, & k = 1, \\ \theta\eta_{k-1} + (1 - \theta)\eta_{k-2}, & k \geq 2, \end{cases}$$

where  $\eta_0 = 0.2, 0.5$  and  $0.8$ , the parameter  $\theta \in (0, 1)$ . Other choice such that  $\eta_k = 0.95$  for  $k \in [1, 20]$ ,  $\eta_k = 0.5$  for  $k \in [21, 40]$ ,  $\eta_k = 0.25$  for  $k \in [41, 60]$  and  $\eta_k = 0.01$  for  $k \geq 61$  in [6] can also be computed. The choice for  $\eta_k$  mentioned above was not used in the numerical results of this paper.

The Numerical results about the mentioned three algorithms are shown in Tables 5.6 and

Table 5.7: Numerical comparisons about the mentioned algorithms(2).

Problem	Dim	UTR			NTR			NNTR		
		TCPU	NF	NG	TCPU	NF	NG	TCPU	NF	NG
5.1	32	0.0623	93	86	0.0543	89	84	0.0559	89	84
	64	0.0869	111	101	0.0959	107	100	0.0891	93	90
	128	0.1576	95	89	0.1210	95	89	0.1874	85	83
	256	0.7269	99	93	0.7406	99	94	0.7310	95	93
	512	3.6349	101	96	3.6587	101	96	3.4084	91	91
5.2	32	0.0746	121	117	0.0765	121	117	0.0617	101	101
	64	0.1006	115	110	0.1045	115	110	0.0766	101	101
	128	0.2784	139	134	0.1979	135	130	0.2241	125	125
	256	0.9529	121	116	0.9691	121	116	0.9593	125	125
	512	4.7554	127	125	4.8502	127	125	5.0646	137	137
5.3	32	0.0784	181	177	0.0786	171	169	0.0475	161	160
	64	0.1235	195	192	0.1135	195	192	0.1415	171	171
	128	0.3312	219	214	0.2522	219	214	0.3623	213	211
	256	1.8305	241	236	1.9156	241	236	1.8159	229	229
	512	9.2297	249	245	9.4650	249	245	9.9293	261	261
5.4	32	0.0683	87	75	0.0555	67	67	0.0182	67	67
	64	0.0768	57	57	0.0802	57	57	0.0724	57	57
	128	0.1689	75	75	0.1828	75	75	0.1233	75	75
	256	0.8796	111	111	0.9228	111	111	0.8374	111	111
	512	6.1910	163	163	6.1125	163	163	5.9847	163	163
5.5	32	0.0995	143	129	0.1246	137	119	0.0658	137	119
	64	0.3913	243	219	0.2644	173	152	0.2987	173	152
	128	2.0889	463	420	0.8881	201	179	0.8947	201	179
	256	11.612	601	550	6.8966	355	321	6.7765	355	321
	512	51.597	601	550	31.244	367	332	30.502	367	332

5.7, including two nonmonotone trust region methods (NTR and NNTR) and a traditional monotone trust region method, i.e., the UTR method. Considering that the parameter values of  $\eta$  have slight impact on the unconstrained optimization test problems, we chosen  $\eta = 0.2$  for NNTR method to compare with the other two methods.

Considering that NTR and UTR are two nonmonotone trust region methods without line search, we compare NNTR with a trust region method with line search, which seems more convincingly. The nonmonotone trust region algorithm with Armijo line search is denoted by BLS from now on, i.e., when the direction  $d_k$  was not accepted, then we choose the step length to satisfy the Armijo line search rule. The BLS method can regard as the special case of [17]. In our experiments, unless otherwise stated, the other parameters in UTR and NTR methods were set as the NNTR method.

It is shown from Tables 5.6 and 5.7 that NNTR method performs better than UTR and NTR method since the new algorithm needs less numbers of iterations, less function and gradient evaluation in most cases. Besides, NNTR uses the least CPU time for solving almost the test problems. In Table 5.8 BLS seems perform better than NNTR in most cases. Considering that trust region with line search can speed up the rate of convergence and NNTR performs better than BLS sometimes. Therefore, we can deduce that the new nonmonotone algorithm is more robust than the other mentioned algorithms, which indicates that extending trust region method from monotone to nonmonotone is meaningful for solving large scale unconstrained optimization

Table 5.8: Numerical comparisons about the mentioned algorithms.

Example	Dim	NNTR				BLS			
		Iter	FV	TCPU	NF	Iter	FV	TCPU	NF
5.2	32	50	2.60e-011	0.0617	101	49	1.33e-015	0.0749	98
	64	50	5.44e-010	0.0766	101	50	2.50e-012	0.0498	95
	128	62	4.86e-013	0.2241	125	64	2.22e-010	0.2445	128
	256	62	1.43e-010	0.9593	125	57	2.94e-014	0.9663	104
	512	68	1.24e-009	5.0646	137	63	3.25e-010	4.4531	119
5.3	32	80	7.40e-016	0.0475	161	73	1.33e-015	0.0749	164
	64	85	4.38e-016	0.1415	171	81	2.50e-011	0.1498	173
	128	106	1.09e-015	0.3623	213	101	3.35e-012	0.3516	198
	256	114	1.87e-016	1.8159	229	109	4.91e-015	1.7621	227
	512	130	1.38e-015	9.9293	261	136	5.31e-015	9.9442	273
5.5	32	68	4.23e-014	0.0658	137	70	5.63e-016	0.1179	138
	64	86	1.76e-013	0.2987	173	78	4.45e-012	0.2382	166
	128	100	1.24e-014	0.8947	201	101	4.52e-016	0.8094	178
	256	177	5.30e-012	6.7765	355	170	4.82e-011	6.5065	351
	512	183	7.52e-013	30.502	367	189	3.88e-011	32.251	375

problems. In a word, the proposed new algorithm is efficient and robust for solving large scale unconstrained optimization problems.

## 6. Conclusions

In this paper, we proposed a new nonmonotone trust region algorithm based on the nonmonotone line search proposed by Gu and Mo [6]. By resetting the ratio  $\rho_k$  for evaluation the trial step, the new algorithm is developed. Theoretical analysis shows that the new algorithm inherits the global convergence of the traditional trust region method. Under suitable conditions the superlinear convergence of the algorithm are proved. Preliminary numerical experiments indicate that our algorithm is quite effective for large scale unconstrained optimization problems.

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