# CONVERGENCE OF THE BARZILAI-BORWEIN METHOD FOR SOLVING SLIGHTLY UNSYMMETRIC LINEAR SYSTEMS

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#### Abstract:

Due to its simplicity and numerical efficiency, the Barzilai and Borwein (BB) gradient method has received numerous attentions in different scientific fields. In this paper, the sufficient condition for convergence of the BB method when the coefficient matrix of linear algebraic equations is slightly unsymmetric with positive definite symmetric part is presented.

*Keywords:* Unsymmetric linear algebraic equations, Barzilai and Borwein gradient method, symmetric and skew-symmetric matrices, eigenvalues, condition number.

#### 1. Introduction

A significant development that has completely changed our perspectives on the effectiveness of gradient methods is due to Barzilai and Borwein (Barzilai andBorwein, 1988). They proposed two choices of step size the gradient method. The computational cost and typical behaviour of the algorithm for both choices of step size are quite similar. Their method aimed to accelerate the convergence of the steepest descent (SD) method.

The main idea of Barzilai and Borwein's approach is to use the information in the previous iteration to decide the step size in the current iteration. The Barzilai-Borwein (BB) method requires few storage locations and inexpensive computations. Therefore, several authors have paid attention to the BB method. Their method is strongly related to Quasi-Newton (QN) algorithms (Dennis and Schnabel, 1983) and (Fletcher, 2000).

It is known that the (BB) method (Barzilai andBorwein, 1988) converge when this method is applied to solve linear systems of the form

Ax = b,

where A is symmetric and positive definite. For some finite difference discretizations of elliptic problems, one gets positive definite matrices that are almost symmetric. Practically, the BB method works for these matrices. However, the convergence of this method is not guaranteed theoretically.

For quadratics that the BB method has been shown to converge (Raydan. ,1993) and its convergence is R-linear (Dai and Liao, 2002). For the case of n = 2, the method is R-superlinearly convergent (Barzilai andBorwein, 1988). For more details on the Barzilai and Borwein method see (Raydan, 1991) and (Dai and R. Fletcher, 2005). The BB algorithm for quadratic case is summarized in Algorithm 1.

#### Algorithm 1 Barzilai and Borwein (BB)

1. Given 
$$x_0 \in \mathbb{R}^n$$
, choose arbitrary  $\gamma_0 > 0$ , for instance,  $\gamma_k = \frac{(g_0, g_0)}{(g_0, Ag_0)}$ , (or  $\gamma_k = \frac{(Ag_0, g_0)}{(Ag_0, Ag_0)}$ )

2. For k=0, 1, 2, ...(until convergence) do

3.  $g_0 = Ax_o - b$ 4.  $x_{k+1} = x_k - \gamma_k g_k$ 5.  $g_{k+1} = g_k - \gamma_k Ag_k$ 6.  $\gamma_k = \frac{(g_{k-1}, g_{k-1})}{(g_{k-1}, Ag_{k-1})}$ , (or  $\gamma_k = \frac{(Ag_{k-1}, g_{k-1})}{(Ag_{k-1}, Ag_{k-1})}$ ) 7. End for

This paper presents the proof of convergence of the BB method when the Euclidian norm  $(l^2)$  of the unsymmetric part of a positive definite matrix is less than some value related to the smallest and the largest eigenvalues of the symmetric part of the given matrix. This means that the restriction of A be symmetric is removed, and required only that its symmetric part  $(A + A^T)/2$  be positive definite.

Let us begin with some notations:

- 1- The Euclidean inner product of any two vectors  $u, v \in \mathbb{R}^n$  is defined by  $(u, v) = u^T v$ ,
  - and the induced Euclidean norm (or 2-norm) of u is

$$\|u\| = \sqrt{(u,u)}$$

2- Let A be an  $n \times n$  matrix and the associated matrix norm is given by

 $A \coloneqq \operatorname{Sup}_{\|u\|=1} \|Au\|.$ It is known that A can be represented as

 $A = A_0 + A_1$ ,

where  $A_0$  and  $A_1$  the symmetric and skew-symmetric of a matrix A, i.e.

 $A_0 = (A + A^T)/2, \quad A_1 = (A - A^T)/2.$ 

4- Let A be positive definite, then the symmetric part  $A_0$  is also positive definite. Hence A and  $A_0$  are invertible and the eigenvalues of  $A_0$  are all positive real numbers. If  $\lambda_{min}, \dots, \lambda_{max}$  are the eigenvalues of  $A_0$  such that

$$0 < \lambda_{min} \leq \dots \leq \lambda_{max}$$

then  $\lambda_{min}^{-1}, \ldots, \lambda_{max}^{-1}$  are the eigenvalues of  $A_0^{-1}$ .

5- The condition number of  $A_0$  is defined to be

$$\rho := \|A_0\| \|A_0^{-1}\|.$$
  
Since  $A_0$  is symmetric,  
$$\rho = \frac{\lambda_{max}}{2} > 1$$

 $p - \frac{1}{\lambda_{min}} \ge 1$ . 6- The Rayleigh-quotient of any vector  $u \in \mathbb{R}^n$  with respect to A is defined by

$$r(u) = \frac{(u, Au)}{(u, u)}.$$

The lemmas that will be used frequently in the proof of the main theorem are follows:

# Lemma1. For any vector *u*,

 $\lambda_{min} \| u \|^2 \le (u, A_0 u) \le \lambda_{max} \| u \|^2.$ 

**Proof.** For a symmetric matrix positive definite matrix  $A_0$ , the Rayleigh quotients are bounded by the smallest and the largest eigenvalues of the matrix. Thus, the following relation holds for any u

 $\lambda_{min} \leq \frac{(u, A_0 u)}{\|u\|^2} \leq \lambda_{max}.$ Hence the proof is comp

Hence the proof is complete.

**Lemma 2.** For any vector *u*,  $\lambda_{max}^{-1} \| u \|^2 \le (u, A_0^{-1} u) \le \lambda_{min}^{-1} \| u \|^2$ .

Proof. Similar to proof Lemma 1.

**Lemma 3.** For any vector u,  $(u, Au) = (u, A_0u)$  and  $(u, A_1u) = 0$ 

Proof. We have

 $(u, Au) = (u, A_0u) + (u, A_1u)$ 

Since  $u^T A_1 u$  is a real number,  $u^T A_1 u = (u^T A_1 u)^T = u^T A_1^T u = -u^T A_1 u$ . Therefore  $(u, A_1 u) = 0$  and  $(u, Au) = (u, A_0 u)$ .

**Lemma 4** (Cauchy-Schwarz inequality for a positive definite matrix). If  $A_0$  is a positive definite matrix, then for any u and v  $|(u, A_0v)| \le \sqrt{(u, A_0u)(v, A_0v)}$ .

# 2. Convergence of the BB Method

In this section, the proof of convergence of the BB method applied to the slightly unsymmetric linear system Ax = b with the positive definite symmetric part is given.

### Theorem 1. If

$$||A_1|| < \lambda_{\min} \sqrt{\rho^{-1}} \left(-1 + \sqrt{1 + \rho^{-1}}\right),$$

then the BB method, defined by

$$g_{k+1} = g_k - \gamma_k A g_k \qquad (2.1)$$
  
where  
$$\gamma_k = \frac{(g_{k-1}, g_{k-1})}{(g_{k-1}, A g_{k-1})}, \quad (\text{ or } \gamma_k = \frac{(A g_{k-1}, g_{k-1})}{(A g_{k-1}, A g_{k-1})}), \qquad (2.2)$$
  
converges.

**Proof.** Using (2.1), (2.2), Lemma (3), Lemma (1) and since  $\gamma_k$  is the Rayleigh quotient of the symmetric positive definite matrix  $A_0$  (i.e.  $0 < \lambda_{min} \le \gamma_k \le \lambda_{max}$  for all k), we have

$$(g_{k}, A_{0}^{-1}g_{k}) = (g_{k-1} - \gamma_{k}Ag_{k-1}, A_{0}^{-1}g_{k-1} - \gamma_{k}A_{0}^{-1}Ag_{k-1})$$

$$= (g_{k-1}, A_{0}^{-1}g_{k-1}) - 2\gamma_{k}(Ag_{k-1}, A_{0}^{-1}g_{k-1}) + \gamma_{k}^{2}(Ag_{k-1}, A_{0}^{-1}Ag_{k-1})$$

$$= (g_{k-1}, A_{0}^{-1}g_{k-1}) - 2\gamma_{k}[(g_{k-1}, g_{k-1}) + (A_{1}g_{k-1}, A_{0}^{-1}g_{k-1})]$$

$$+ \gamma_{k}^{2}[(Ag_{k-1}, g_{k-1}) + (Ag_{k-1}, A_{0}^{-1}A_{1}g_{k-1})]$$

$$= (g_{k-1}, A_{0}^{-1}g_{k-1}) - \gamma_{k}(g_{k-1}, g_{k-1}) - 2\gamma_{k}(A_{1}g_{k-1}, A_{0}^{-1}g_{k-1})$$

$$+ \gamma_{k}^{2}(Ag_{k-1}, A_{0}^{-1}A_{1}g_{k-1})$$

$$= (g_{k}, A_{0}^{-1}g_{k}) - \gamma_{k}(g_{k}, g_{k}) - 2\gamma_{k}(A_{1}g_{k}, A_{0}^{-1}g_{k})$$

$$+ \gamma_{k}^{2}[(g_{k}, A_{1}g_{k}) + (A_{1}g_{k}, A_{0}^{-1}A_{1}g_{k})]$$

$$= (g_{k-1}, A_{0}^{-1}g_{k-1}) - \gamma_{k}(g_{k-1}, g_{k-1}) - 2\gamma_{k}(A_{1}g_{k-1}, A_{0}^{-1}g_{k-1})$$

$$+ \gamma_{k}^{2}(A_{1}g_{k-1}, A_{0}^{-1}A_{1}g_{k-1}).$$

$$(2.4)$$

Assuming  $\delta := ||A_1||$  and  $c_{k-1} := (g_{k-1}, A_0^{-1}, g_{k-1})$  for any k, using Lemma 2 and since  $\lambda_{max}^{-1} \le \gamma_k \le \lambda_{min}^{-1}$ , we obtain

$$\gamma_k(g_{k-1}, g_{k-1}) \ge \lambda_{max}^{-1} \lambda_{min} c_{k-1} = \rho^{-1} c_{k-1} .$$
(2.5)

By using Lemma 2 twice, we have

$$\left| (A_1 g_{k-1}, A_0^{-1} A_1 g_{k-1}) \right| \le \lambda_{\min}^{-1} \|A_1 g_{k-1}\|^2 \le \lambda_{\min}^{-1} \delta^2 \|g_{k-1}\|^2 \le \lambda_{\min}^{-1} \delta^2 \lambda_{\max}(g_{k-1}, A_0^{-1} g_{k-1}) \le \rho \delta^2 c_{k-1} .$$
 (2.6)

Using Lemma 4, we get

$$|A_1g_{k-1}, A_0^{-1}g_{k-1}| \le \sqrt{(A_1g_{k-1}, A_0^{-1}A_1g_{k-1})c_{k-1}} = \sqrt{\rho} \,\delta c_{k-1}.$$
(2.7)

From (2.3) to (2.7) and utilizing Lemma 3,

$$c_{k} \leq c_{k-1} - \rho^{-1}c_{k-1} + 2\lambda_{\min}^{-1}\sqrt{\rho} \,\delta c_{k-1} + \lambda_{\min}^{-2}\rho\delta^{2}c_{k-1}$$

$$= c_{k-1}(1 - \rho^{-1} + 2\lambda_{\min}^{-1}\sqrt{\rho} \,\delta + \lambda_{\min}^{-2}\rho\delta^{2}).$$
For the purpose of convergence, we need
$$1 - \rho^{-1} + 2\lambda_{\min}^{-1}\sqrt{\rho} \,\delta + \lambda_{\min}^{-2}\rho\delta^{2} < 1,$$

$$2\lambda_{\min}^{-1}\sqrt{\rho} \,\delta + \lambda_{\min}^{-2}\rho\delta^{2} - \rho^{-1} < 0,$$
multiplying by
$$\lambda_{\min}^{2}\rho^{-1} \,\delta - \lambda_{\min}^{2}\rho^{-2} < 0.$$
This satisfies when
$$\delta < -\lambda_{\min}\sqrt{\rho^{-1}} + \sqrt{\lambda_{\min}^{2}\rho^{-1} + \lambda_{\min}^{2}\rho^{-2}} = \lambda_{\min}\sqrt{\rho^{-1}} \left(-1 + \sqrt{1 + \rho^{-1}}\right).$$

This completes the proof.  $\square$ 

# 3. Numerical Experiments

In this section, two numerical experiments are presented to show the rate of convergence of the Barzilai-Borwein (BB) algorithm for solving the linear system of equations Ax = b where A is slightly unsymmetric positive definite matrix. They demonstrate that if the sufficient condition

 $||A_1|| < \lambda_{min} \sqrt{\rho^{-1}} \left( -1 + \sqrt{1 + \rho^{-1}} \right)$ 

Satisfies, then the BB algorithm convergence. Simulations were run in MatLab 27.

**Example 1.** For the first experiment, a matrix A with size  $d \times d$  can be taken as

1.0000	-0.0009	-0.0001	-0.0013	-0.0007	0.0020	0.0021
-0.0007	1.6667	-0.0000	-0.0022	-0.0013	0.0012	0.0008
0.0013	0.0015	2.3333	-0.0007	-0.0029	0.0018	0.0003
-0.0004	-0.0014	-0.0023	3.0000	-0.0007	-0.0019	0.0027
0.0000	0.0024	-0.0014	0.0026	3.6667	-0.0024	0.0026
-0.0017	0.0011	-0.0020	0.0007	-0.0033	4.3333	0.001
-0.0021	0.0021	0.0028	-0.0027	0.0023	0.0020	5.0000-

where n = 7,  $A = [a_{ij}]$ , i = 1, 2, ..., n; j = 1, 2, ..., n such that  $a_{ij}$  are equally spaced real numbers between 1 and 5 when i = j, and  $a_{ij}$  is a random number between -1 and 1 when  $i \neq j$ . The symmetric part of  $A(A_0)$  is symmetric positive definite matrix and its condition number  $\rho = 5$  where  $\lambda_{min} = 1$  and  $\lambda_{max} = 5$ .  $||A_1|| = 0.0041$ . The value of  $\lambda_{min}\sqrt{\rho^{-1}}\left(-1 + \sqrt{1 + \rho^{-1}}\right) = 0.0427$ .

Figure 1 shows the rate of convergence  $r_k = \frac{(g_{k+1}, g_{k+1})}{(g_k, g_k)}$  of the BB algorithm as a function of number of iteration k=300



Figure 1: Rate  $r_k$  of convergence as a function of k for Example 1.

**Example 2.** For the second experiment, a matrix A with size  $d \times d$  can be taken as

11.0000	0.7621	0.7621	0.4057	ן 0.0579	
0.0000	11.0000	0.7919	0.9355	0.3529	
0.0000	0.0000	11.0000	0.9169	0.8132	
0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	11.0000	0.0099	
L 0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	11.0000 <sup>J</sup>	

where d = 5,  $A = [a_{ij}]$ , i = 1, 2, ..., n; j = 1, 2, ..., n such that  $a_{ij} = 11$  when i = j, and  $a_{ij} = rand(d)$  when  $i \neq j$ .  $A_0$  is symmetric positive definite matrix and its condition number  $\rho = 1.1801$  where  $\lambda_{min} = 10.3449$  and  $\lambda_{max} = 12.2082$ .  $||A_1|| = 1.0117$  and the value of  $\lambda_{min}\sqrt{\rho^{-1}} \left(-1 + \sqrt{1 + \rho^{-1}}\right) = 3.4204$ .

Figure 2 shows the rate of convergence  $r_k = \frac{(g_{k+1}, g_{k+1})}{(g_k, g_k)}$  of the BB algorithm as a function of number of iteration k = 100.



Figure 2: Rate  $r_k$  of convergence as a function of k for Example 2.

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پوخته

پهيدا کرنا ريکهکا پلهی لاری Borweinو Barzilai کرنگيهکا زيده د بوارين زانستی جودادا ههيه جونکه هژمارتنا وی ب ساناهی و تواناتره . د ڨی ڨهکولينی دا مهرجيّن پيدڨی هاتيه ديتن بو نيزيکرنا ريکن Barzilai و Borwein ژ بو شيکارکرنا هاوکيّشن جبری، د وی دوميدا وهختی ژماريّن ريّزکری نه هاوتايه بيّت تا وي رادي کو بهشهك ژ وي نيف هاوتايه و موجهبه

### الملخص

لاقت طريقة التدرج ل Barzilai و Borwein اهتمامات كثيرة في مختلف الحقول العلمية نظرا لبساطتها وكفائتها العددية. في هذا البحث تم ايجاد الشرط الكافي لتقارب طريقة Barzilai و Borwein لحل المعادلات الجبرية عندما تكون مصفوفة المعاملات غير متناظرة الى حد ما ويكون الجزء الشبه المتنناظرة منها موجب