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GATEAUX DIFFERENTIABLE LIPSCHITZ FUNCTIONS NEED NOT BE FRÉCHET
DIFFERENTIABLE ON A RESIDUAL SUBSET

David Preiss

Although a Lipschitz function on a separable Hilbert space is necessarily Gateaux differentiable on a large set (see, for example, [1], [2], [5], [6]), it is not known whether it is Fréchet differentiable at least at one point. (See [4].) This problem cannot be solved with the help of the Baire category method, since even on the real line there are Lipschitz functions which are not differentiable on a residual subset. (See [7], where it is proved that for a set $E \subset \mathbb{R}$ there is a Lipschitz function f such that E equals to the set of points where f' does not exist if and only if E is a G_{δ} -set of measure zero.) Nevertheless, one may hope that the Baire category method can be used if f is an everywhere Gateaux differentiable Lipschitz function. Here we intend to show that even this is false; we shall construct an everywhere Gateaux differentiable Lipschitz function on a separable Hilbert space which is not Fréchet differentiable on any residual set.

Let H be a real Hilbert space and f a real-valued function on H . Recall that f is said to be Gateaux differentiable at a point x of H if there is an element $df(x)$ of H such that for all $y \in H$

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow 0} t^{-1}(f(x+ty)-f(x)) = \langle df(x), y \rangle,$$

and we call $df(x)$ the Gateaux derivative of f at x .

The function f is said to be Fréchet differentiable at a point x of H if there is an element $f'(x)$ of H such that

$$\lim_{y \rightarrow 0} \|y\|^{-1}(f(x+y)-f(x)-\langle f'(x), y \rangle) = 0,$$

$f'(x)$ is called the Fréchet derivative of f at x . Clearly, if $f'(x)$ exists, then f is also Gateaux differentiable at x and $df(x) = f'(x)$.

Let \mathbb{R} denotes the real line and \mathbb{R}^n the n - dimensional Euclidean space.

We shall first construct Lipschitz functions on R , which are everywhere differentiable with the derivative equal zero on a dense open subset of R , but which are badly approximated by their derivatives. To do this, we use the following consequence of Lemma 7 from [8].

Lemma 1. There is a function $\varphi: R \rightarrow R$ and a constant $C \in R$ such that

- (i) φ is everywhere differentiable and $0 \leq \varphi' \leq C$,
- (ii) $\varphi = 0$ on $(-\infty, 0]$, $0 < \varphi < 1$ on $(0, 1)$ and $\varphi = 1$ on $[1, +\infty)$, and
- (iii) $\varphi' = 0$ on a dense open subset of R .

A simple application of this Lemma gives the following technical result.

Lemma 2. There is a constant $c \in (1, +\infty)$ such that, whenever $\varepsilon, \varepsilon_n$ are positive numbers ($n = 1, 2, \dots$), there is a sequence of functions $h_n: R \rightarrow R$ such that

- (i) $|h_n| \leq \varepsilon_n$,
- (ii) h_n is everywhere differentiable and $|h_n'| \leq c$,
- (iii) the derivative of h_n equals zero on a dense open set, and
- (iv) whenever g is a convex combination of two functions h_n and h_m and $t \in R$, there is $s \in R$ such that $0 < |t-s| < \varepsilon$ and $|g(t)-g(s)| \geq c^{-1}|t-s|$.

Proof. Let α_n be a sequence of positive numbers such that $\alpha_n < \varepsilon$, $\alpha_n < \varepsilon_n$ and $\alpha_{n+1} < (4C+4)^{-1}\alpha_n$. Let $d(x)$ denote the distance from x to the nearest even integer.

Put $h(x) = \varphi(d(x))$, where φ is the function from Lemma 1. Then $0 \leq h \leq 1$, h' exists everywhere, $|h'| \leq C$, $h' = 0$ on a dense open subset of R , $h(x) = 0$ if x is an even integer and $h(x) = 1$ if x is an odd integer.

Let $h_n(t) = \alpha_n h_n(\alpha_n^{-1}t)$. Clearly $0 \leq h_n \leq \alpha_n$, h_n' exists on R , $|h_n'| \leq C$ and $h_n' = 0$ on a dense open subset of R . Whenever $t \in R$, we find $u_n \leq t \leq v_n$ such that $|v_n - u_n| = \alpha_n$ and $|h_n(v_n) - h_n(u_n)| = |v_n - u_n|$. If $g = ah_n + (1-a)h_m$ ($a \in [0, 1]$, $n < m$), then $|g(v_n) - g(u_n)| \geq a|v_n - u_n| - \alpha_m \geq (a - (4C+4)^{-1})|v_n - u_n|$ and $|g(v_m) - g(u_m)| \geq (1-a)|v_m - u_m| - aC|v_m - u_m| = (1-a(C+1))|v_m - u_m|$. Hence, if $a(C+1) \geq 1/2$, then $|g(v_n) - g(u_n)| \geq 1/(4C+4)|v_n - u_n|$, and if $a(C+1) \leq 1/2$, then $|g(v_m) - g(u_m)| \geq 1/2|v_m - u_m| \geq 1/(4C+4)|v_m - u_m|$. Consequently, among the points u_n, v_n, u_m, v_m there is at least one point $s \neq t$ such that $|g(t) - g(s)| \geq 1/(4C+4)|t-s|$. Since $|s-t| < \varepsilon$, this proves that the Lemma holds with $c = 4C+4$.

We shall also need a special partition of unity in R^p .

Lemma 3. Let $G \subset R^p$ be a nonempty open set. Then there is a

sequence of functions $\varphi_n: \mathbb{R}^p \rightarrow [0,1]$ such that

- (i) each φ_n is everywhere Fréchet differentiable, φ_n' is bounded and $\varphi_n' = 0$ on a dense open subset of \mathbb{R}^p ,
- (ii) $\text{supp } \varphi_n$ is a compact subset of G and $\text{supp } \varphi_n \cap \text{supp } \varphi_m = \emptyset$ whenever $|n-m| > 1$, and
- (iii) the sum of φ_n equals to the characteristic function of G .

Proof. Let η_n be a sequence of continuously differentiable functions with compact supports in G which forms a locally finite partition of unity on G (see, e.g., [3], pp.224-225). Put $\psi_0 = 0$ and, by induction, $\psi_{k+1} = \sum \{\eta_i; i \leq k+1 \text{ or } \text{supp } \eta_i \cap \text{supp } \psi_k \neq \emptyset\}$. Then the sequence $\varphi_n = \psi(\psi_n - \psi_{n-1}) / \sum \psi(\psi_k - \psi_{k-1})$ (where ψ is the function from Lemma 1) has the desired properties.

We shall construct our example by induction, the induction step being the following lemma.

Lemma 4. Let $G \subset \mathbb{R}^p$ be an open dense set and let $\varepsilon > 0$. Then there is a function $f: \mathbb{R}^{p+1} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ such that

- (i) $|f| \leq \varepsilon$,
- (ii) f' exists on \mathbb{R}^{p+1} ,
- (iii) $\|f'\| \leq c+1$,
- (iv) if $x, y \in \mathbb{R}^p$ and $t \in \mathbb{R}$, then $|f(x,t) - f(y,t)| \leq \varepsilon \|x-y\|$,
- (v) $f' = 0$ on a dense open subset of \mathbb{R}^{p+1} ,
- (vi) if $x \in \mathbb{R}^p - G$ and $t \in \mathbb{R}$, then $f'(x,t) = 0$, and
- (vii) if $x \in G$ and $t \in \mathbb{R}$ then there is $s \in \mathbb{R}$ such that $0 < |s-t| < \varepsilon$ and $|f(x,t) - f(x,s)| \geq c^{-1} |s-t|$.

Proof. We may assume $\varepsilon < 1$ and $\mathbb{R}^p - G \neq \emptyset$. Let φ_n be a partition of unity on G with the properties from Lemma 3. Let $d_n > 0$ such that $|\varphi_n| \leq d_n^{-1}$ and $\|\varphi_n'\| \leq d_n^{-1}$. For the given $\varepsilon > 0$ and the sequence

$$\varepsilon_n = \min(\varepsilon d_n 2^{-n}, d_n 2^{-n} \text{dist}^2(\mathbb{R}^p - G, \text{supp } \varphi_n))$$

we construct a sequence h_n according to the Lemma 2.

Put $f(x,t) = \sum \varphi_n(x) h_n(t)$ for $(x,t) \in \mathbb{R}^p \times \mathbb{R} = \mathbb{R}^{p+1}$. Then

- (i) $|f(x,t)| \leq \sum d_n^{-1} \varepsilon_n \leq \varepsilon$,
- (ii) is clear for $(x,t) \in G \times \mathbb{R}$ and for other (x,t) it follows from (vi).
- (iii) $\|f'(x,t)\| \leq \sum |h_n(t)| \|\varphi_n'(x)\| + \sum |\varphi_n(x)| |h_n'(t)| \leq 1+c$,
- (iv) for each $t \in \mathbb{R}$ the function $f_t(x) = f(x,t)$ is Fréchet differentiable and $\|f_t'(x)\| \leq \sum |h_n(t)| \|\varphi_n'(x)\| \leq \varepsilon$,
- (v) if D_n is a dense open subset of $\{x; \varphi_n(x) > 0\}$ such that $\varphi_n' = 0$ on D_n , H_n is a dense open subset of \mathbb{R} such that $h_n' = 0$ on H_n and $G_n = H_{n-1} \cap H_n \cap H_{n+1}$, then $f' = 0$ on $\bigcup D_n \times G_n$,
- (vi) for each $(x,t) \in \mathbb{R}^p \times \mathbb{R}$ we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 |f(x,t)| &\leq \sum_{n, x \in \text{supp } \varphi_n} |\varphi_n(x)| |h_n(t)| \\
 &\leq \sum_{n, x \in \text{supp } \varphi_n} 2^{-n} \text{dist}^2(\mathbb{R}^p - G, \text{supp } \varphi_n) \leq \text{dist}^2(x, \mathbb{R}^p - G).
 \end{aligned}$$

Hence, if $z \in (\mathbb{R}^p - G) \times \mathbb{R}$ and $y \in \mathbb{R}^{p+1}$ then $|f(y) - f(z)| \leq \|y - z\|^2$.

(vii) Whenever $x \in G$, the function $g: t \rightarrow f(x, t)$ is a convex combination of two functions from the sequence h_n , hence (vii) follows from Lemma 2, (iv).

The rest of the construction is straightforward. Let E denote the Hilbert space of all sequences $x = (x_n; n=1, 2, \dots)$ of real numbers such that $\|x\|^2 = \sum x_n^2 < \infty$.

Theorem. There is a Lipschitz function f on E which is Gateaux differentiable at each point of E and which is Fréchet differentiable at no point of some residual subset of E .

Proof. By induction we shall construct a sequence of functions $f_p: \mathbb{R}^p \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ and a sequence of open dense subsets G_p of \mathbb{R}^p such that

- (i) $|f_p| \leq 2^{-p}$,
- (ii) f_p is Fréchet differentiable at each point of \mathbb{R}^p ,
- (iii) $\|f'_p\| \leq c+1$,
- (iv) if $(x, t), (y, t) \in \mathbb{R}^p \times \mathbb{R}$ then $|f_{p+1}(x, t) - f_{p+1}(y, t)| \leq 2^{-p} c^{-1} \|x - y\|$,
- (v) $f'_p = 0$ on G_p ,
- (vi) if $(x, t) \in (\mathbb{R}^p - G_p) \times \mathbb{R}$ then $f'_{p+1}(x, t) = 0$,
- (vii) if $(x, t) \in G_p \times \mathbb{R}$ then there is $s \in \mathbb{R}$ such that $0 < |s - t| < 2^{-p}$ and $|f_{p+1}(x, s) - f_{p+1}(x, t)| \geq c^{-1} |s - t|$, and
- (viii) $G_{p+1} \subset G_p \times \mathbb{R}$.

(We put $f_1 = 0$, $G_1 = \mathbb{R}$ and, whenever f_1, \dots, f_p , G_1, \dots, G_p have been defined, we use Lemma 4 with $G = G_p$ and $\epsilon = 2^{-p-1} c^{-1}$ to construct the function f_{p+1} . The set G_{p+1} we define as the intersection of $G_p \times \mathbb{R}$ with a dense open subset of \mathbb{R}^{p+1} at each point of which $f'_{p+1} = 0$.)

For $x \in E$ we put $f(x) = \sum f_p(x_1, \dots, x_p)$.

Since $\sum \|f'_p\| \leq c+1$ according to (iii), (v), (vi) and (viii), each of the functions $\sum_{p < q} f_p(x_1, \dots, x_p)$ has Lipschitz constant

$\leq c+1$. Consequently, the Lipschitz constant of f is $\leq c+1$.

For each $x \in E$ and each natural k the function

$$g_{k,x}(t_1, \dots, t_k) = f(t_1, \dots, t_k, x_{k+1}, \dots) = \sum_{p \leq k} f_p(t_1, \dots, t_p) +$$

$$+ \sum_{p > k} f_p(t_1, \dots, t_k, x_{k+1}, \dots, x_p)$$

is Fréchet differentiable on R^k since the sum of Fréchet derivatives converges uniformly according to (iv). Since f is Lipschitz, this implies that f is Gateaux differentiable at each point of E .

Let $H_p = \{x \in E; (x_1, \dots, x_p) \in G_p\}$ and let H be the intersection of the sequence H_p . Then H is a dense G_δ subset of E and $df(x) = 0$ at each $x \in H$. On the other hand, for each $x \in H$ and each natural k we may find $s \in R$ such that

$$|f_{k+1}(x_1, \dots, x_k, s) - f_{k+1}(x_1, \dots, x_{k+1})| \geq c^{-1} |s - x_{k+1}| \text{ and} \\ 0 < |s - x_{k+1}| < 2^{-k-1} \text{ (property (vii)). Hence}$$

$$|f(x_1, \dots, x_k, s, x_{k+2}, \dots) - f(x)| \geq c^{-1} |s - x_{k+1}| - \sum_{n > k} 2^{-n} c^{-1} |s - x_{k+1}| \\ \geq (2c)^{-1} |s - x_{k+1}|.$$

(The first inequality follows from (iv).) This shows that f is not Fréchet differentiable at x .

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