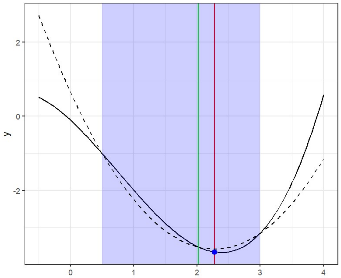
Optimization in Machine Learning

Univariate optimization
Brent’s method



Learning goals

- Quadratic interpolation
- Brent’s procedure

QUADRATIC INTERPOLATION

Similar to golden ratio procedure but select x^{new} differently: x^{new} as minimum of a parabola fitted through

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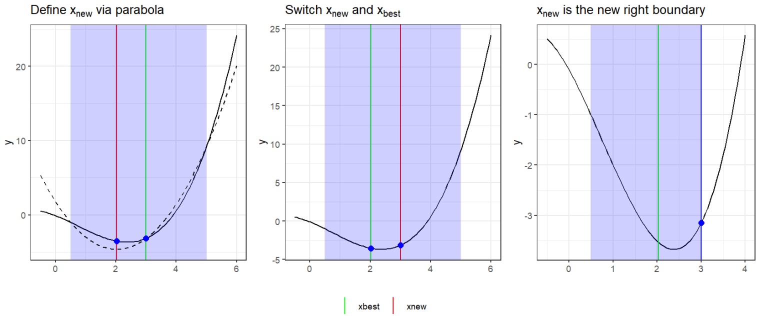

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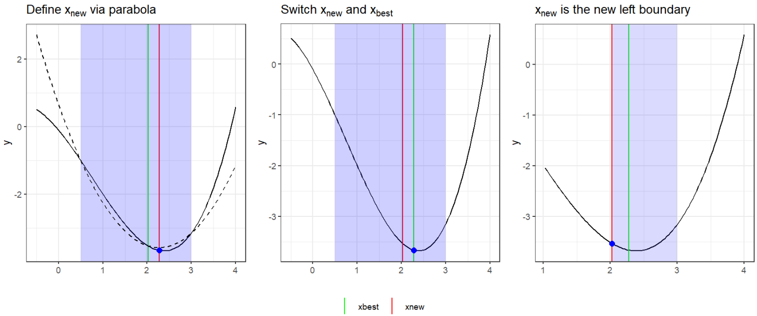

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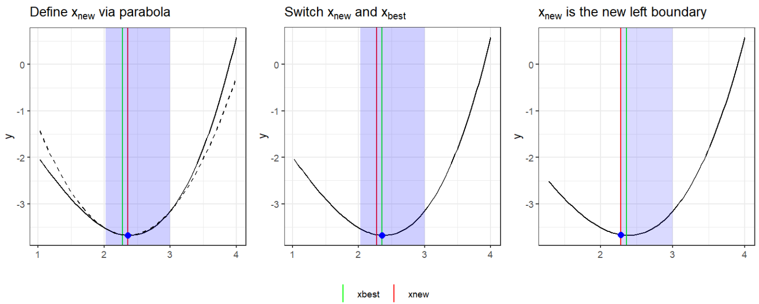

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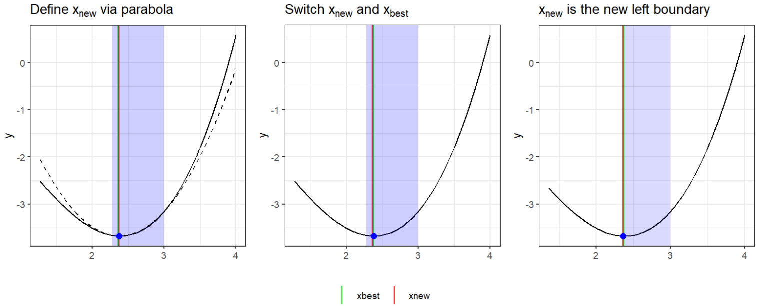

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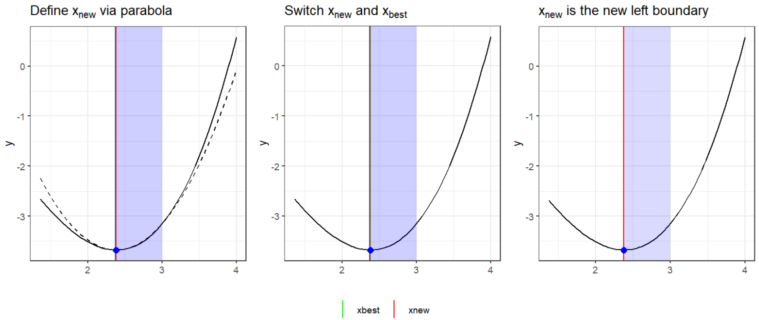

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QUADRATIC INTERPOLATION COMMENTS

- Quadratic interpolation **not robust**. The following may happen:
  - Algorithm suggests the same x^{new} in each step,
  - x^{new} outside of search interval,
  - Parabola degenerates to line and no real minimum exists
- Algorithm must then abort, finding a global minimum is not guaranteed.

BRENT'S METHOD

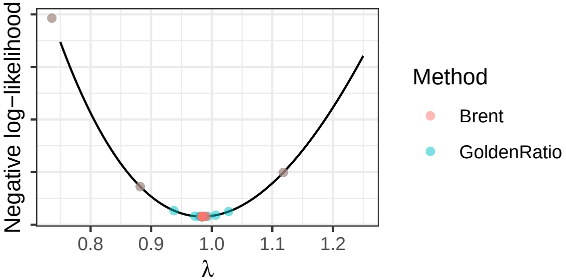
- Brent proposed an algorithm (1973) that alternates between golden ratio search and quadratic interpolation as follows:
  - Quadratic interpolation step acceptable if: (i) x^{new} falls within $[x^{\text{left}}, x^{\text{right}}]$ (ii) x^{new} sufficiently far away from x^{best}

    (Heuristic: Less than half of movement of step before last)
  - Otherwise: Proposal via golden ratio
- Benefit: Fast convergence (quadratic interpolation), unstable steps (e.g. parabola degenerated) stabilized by golden ratio search
- Convergence guaranteed if the function f has a local minimum
- Used in R-function `optimize()`

EXAMPLE: MLE POISSON

- Poisson density: $f(k \mid \lambda) := \mathbb{P}(x = k) = \frac{\lambda^k \cdot \exp(-\lambda)}{k!}$
- Negative log-likelihood for n observations:

$$-\ell(\lambda, \mathcal{D}) = -\log \prod_{i=1}^{n} f\left(x^{(i)} \mid \lambda\right) = -\sum_{i=1}^{n} \log f\left(x^{(i)} \mid \lambda\right)$$



GR and Brent converge to minimum at $x^* \approx 1$.
But: GR needs $\approx$ 45 it., Brent only needs $\approx$ 15 it. for same tolerance.