

Subgradient

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* Subgradient: (Subgradient notes Boyd page 6)

Optimal value function of a convex optimization problem:

(eq: subgradient of optimal value function)

Alternative Proof: Subgradient of primal convex function

$$f(x, y) = p(x, y) = \begin{cases} f_0(z) & \forall z \in \mathcal{Z} \\ \inf_{i \in \{1, \dots, m\}} f_i(z) & \text{Here } x_i, y \text{ is perturbation in } Az = y \end{cases}$$

// superscript

// dual problem

$$f(x, y) = \inf_z f(x, y, z)$$

$$f(x, y, z) = \begin{cases} f_0(z), & \forall i \in \{1, \dots, m\} f_i(z) \leq x_i, Az = y \\ +\infty, & \text{else} \end{cases}$$

$$\{D_{(x, y)}\}$$

Goal: Want to find subdifferential of $f(x, y)$ at $x = \hat{x}, y = \hat{y}$

Lets find dual of (x): Lagrangian First:

$$L_{xy}(z, \lambda, v) = f_0(z) + \sum_{i=1}^m \lambda_i (f_i(z) - x_i) + v^T (Az - y)$$

$$= f_0(z) + \sum_{i=1}^m \lambda_i f_i(z) + v^T Az - \lambda^T x - v^T y$$

$$= (f_0(z) + \sum_{i=1}^m \lambda_i f_i(z) + v^T Az) - \lambda^T x - v^T y$$

dual function will be:

$$g_{xy}(\lambda, v) = -\lambda^T x - v^T y + \inf_z (f_0(z) + \sum_{i=1}^m \lambda_i f_i(z) + v^T Az)$$

$$= -\lambda^T x - v^T y + g(\lambda, v)$$

So, the dual problem is:

$$d^*(x, y) = \begin{cases} \max_{\lambda \geq 0} g(\lambda, v) - x^T \lambda - y^T v \\ \lambda \geq 0 \end{cases} \quad (3)$$

now assume, $p^*(x, y) = d^*(x, y)$ for $x = \hat{x}, y = \hat{y}$

$$\leq p^*(\hat{x}, \hat{y}) = f(\hat{x}, \hat{y}) = d^*(\hat{x}, \hat{y})$$

Assume for this, a primal optimal solution is z^*

dual optimal solution is (λ^*, v^*)

Now we will use global perturbation inequality:

$$\begin{cases} p^*(u, v) = \begin{cases} f_0(x) \\ \inf_{i \in \{1, \dots, m\}} f_i(x) \leq u_i \\ \inf_{i \in \{1, \dots, m\}} h_i(x) = v_i \end{cases} \end{cases}$$

$$p^*(u, v) \geq p^*(0, 0) - \lambda^{*T} u - v^{*T} v \Leftrightarrow p^*(u, v) \geq p^*(\hat{u}, \hat{v}) - \lambda^{*T} (u - \hat{u}) - v^{*T} (v - \hat{v})$$

$$[\lambda^*, v^* \text{ are the optimal dual vector for unperturbed } u = 0, v = 0]$$

Alternative Proof: Subgradient of primal convex function

Primal convex problem:

$$p^*(u) = \inf_{x \in Q} f_0(x)$$

$$\inf_{i \in \{1, \dots, m\}} f_i(x) \leq u_i$$

$$L_u(x, \lambda) = f_0(x) + \sum_{i=1}^m \lambda_i (f_i(x) - u_i)$$

$$= f_0(x) + \sum_{i=1}^m \lambda_i f_i(x) - \sum_{i=1}^m \lambda_i u_i = f_0(x) + \sum_{i=1}^m \lambda_i f_i(x) - \lambda^T u$$

$$p^*(u) = \min_{x \in Q} L_u(x, \lambda)$$

$$d^*(u) = \max_{\lambda \geq 0} L_u(x, \lambda)$$

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// P → Q:

Goal: $\partial f(x) \neq \emptyset$
 $f \in \mathcal{D} \Leftrightarrow \text{epi } f = \{(z, t) \mid z \in \text{dom } f, t \geq f(z)\} \neq \emptyset$ // epigraph of a convex function
 It is always convex set (this is if and only if)

Supporting hyperplane theorem statement:

$$\forall C \subseteq \mathcal{D}, \exists \text{ supporting hyperplane } \Leftrightarrow \exists a \neq 0, \forall x \in C, a^T(x - x_0) \leq 0$$

Theorem 3.1.2 Nesterov: A function f is convex \Leftrightarrow epi f is convex

$$\forall (x, f(x)) \in \text{epi } f \Leftrightarrow \exists (a, b) \neq 0, \forall (z, t) \in \text{epi } f, (a, b)^T \left(\begin{bmatrix} z \\ t \end{bmatrix} - \begin{bmatrix} x \\ f(x) \end{bmatrix} \right) \leq 0$$

(Sup. Hyp. Th.)

But by defn. point of epi f will be of form $(x, f(x))$
 \downarrow
 $x \in \text{dom } f$

True for all $(z, t) \in \text{epi } f$, so this implies $b < 0$ // otherwise, say $b > 0$
 Or $b = 0$, let consider $b > 0$ first

So far we have proven:

$$\forall (x, f(x)) \in \text{epi } f \Leftrightarrow \exists (a, b) \neq 0, \left(\forall (z, t) \in \text{epi } f, (a, b)^T \left(\begin{bmatrix} z \\ t \end{bmatrix} - \begin{bmatrix} x \\ f(x) \end{bmatrix} \right) \leq 0 \right) \Rightarrow b < 0$$

// we can construct a \tilde{z} such that if $a_i \leq 0$ then $\tilde{z}_i \leq x_i$; $\Leftrightarrow (\tilde{z}_i - x_i) < 0 \Rightarrow a_i(\tilde{z}_i - x_i) > 0$ } thus for that \tilde{z} : $a^T(\tilde{z} - x) > 0$
 if $a_i > 0$ then $\tilde{z}_i > x_i \Leftrightarrow (\tilde{z}_i - x_i) > 0 \Rightarrow a_i(\tilde{z}_i - x_i) > 0$

// no matter what $f(x), f(\tilde{z})$ is as
 // by defn. $t \geq f(z)$ we can take an \tilde{t} such that $\tilde{t} - f(x) > 0$ thus $\frac{a^T(\tilde{z} - x)}{b} + \frac{\tilde{t} - f(x)}{b} > 0 \Rightarrow$ contradiction as ≤ 0
 $\therefore b \geq 0$

// let consider $b = 0 \Rightarrow a \neq 0$ as $(a, b) \neq 0$
 // let's set $\tilde{z} = x + \varepsilon a$ where $\varepsilon > 0$ then
 $a^T(x + \varepsilon a - x) \leq 0 \Leftrightarrow \varepsilon \|a\|^2 \leq 0 \Leftrightarrow \varepsilon = 0 \neq 0$ contradiction

$$(z, t) \in \text{epi } f \Leftrightarrow z \in \text{dom } f \wedge t \geq f(z)$$

epi $(z, t) \in \text{epi } f$ is $\text{epi } f$ (sup. hyp. thm) and $t = f(z)$ is $\text{epi } f$ which implies:

$$\forall (x, f(x)) \in \text{epi } f \Leftrightarrow \exists (a, b) \neq 0, \left(\forall z \in \text{dom } f, (a, b)^T \left(\begin{bmatrix} z \\ f(z) \end{bmatrix} - \begin{bmatrix} x \\ f(x) \end{bmatrix} \right) \leq 0 \right)$$

$$\rightarrow \frac{a}{b}^T (z - x) + f(z) - f(x) \geq 0 \quad [a \leq b < 0, \text{ b.i. slips}]$$

$$\rightarrow f(z) \geq f(x) + \left(-\frac{a}{b}\right)^T (z - x) \quad [\because a \text{ vector, } b \text{ scalar}]$$

$$\therefore \forall x \in \text{int dom } f \Leftrightarrow \exists (a, b) \neq 0, b < 0, \left(\forall z \in \text{dom } f, f(z) \geq f(x) + \left(-\frac{a}{b}\right)^T (z - x) \right)$$

$\therefore \left(-\frac{a}{b}\right)$ is a subgradient at x
 $\rightarrow \partial f(x)$ is nonempty

$x \in \text{int dom } f$
 get $\partial f(x)$ is bounded $\Leftrightarrow \sup \|g\|_2 < \infty$ // Boyd has not proven it, so may be $\partial f(x)$
 // some other time.

Subgradient Calculus (Boyd) Subgradient Contents:
 Composition
 $f(x) = h(f_1(x), \dots, f_k(x))$

vector inequality
 remember this is scalar inequality

Supporting hyperplane theorem: $(C, \mathcal{D}, \square) \Rightarrow \forall x_0 \in \text{bd } C \exists a \neq 0 \forall x \in C a^T(x - x_0) \leq 0$

$$(x_0, f(x_0)) \in \text{bd epi } f \Rightarrow \exists (a, -\alpha) \neq 0, \forall (x, t) \in \text{epi } f, \begin{bmatrix} a \\ -\alpha \end{bmatrix}^T \left(\begin{bmatrix} x \\ t \end{bmatrix} - \begin{bmatrix} x_0 \\ f(x_0) \end{bmatrix} \right) \leq 0$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \begin{bmatrix} a \\ -\alpha \end{bmatrix}^T \begin{bmatrix} x - x_0 \\ t - f(x_0) \end{bmatrix} = a^T(x - x_0) - \alpha(t - f(x_0)) \leq 0 \quad \forall (x, t) \in \text{epi } f$$

$$\Leftrightarrow -\alpha t + a^T x \leq -\alpha f(x_0) + a^T x_0$$

Also the direction of $(a, -\alpha)$ matters, so can be normalized: $\| \frac{a}{-\alpha} \|_2 = 1 \Leftrightarrow \|a\|_2^2 + \alpha^2 = 1$

now,

$$\text{if } t > f(x_0), (x, t) = (x_0, t) \Rightarrow (x_0, t) \in \text{epi } f$$

$$a^T(x - x_0) - \alpha(t - f(x_0)) \leq 0$$

$$\underbrace{a^T(x - x_0)}_{\geq 0} - \underbrace{\alpha(t - f(x_0))}_{> 0} \leq 0$$

contradiction

* A convex function is locally upper bounded in the interior of its domain:

$$\exists \varepsilon > 0 \exists M > 0 \quad B_2(x_0, \varepsilon) \subseteq \text{dom } f \wedge \forall x \in B_2(x_0, \varepsilon) \quad |f(x) - f(x_0)| \leq M \|x - x_0\|_2$$

Euclidean ball

$$\forall (x, t) \in \text{epi } f \quad d^T(x - x_0) \leq \alpha(t - f(x_0))$$

Set $(x, t): x \in B_2(x_0, \varepsilon) \subseteq \text{dom } f, t = f(x) \in \text{dom } f$

$$d^T(x - x_0) \leq \alpha(f(x) - f(x_0)) \leq \alpha |f(x) - f(x_0)| \leq \alpha M \|x - x_0\|_2$$

cool as:
 $x := x_0 + \varepsilon d \nRightarrow x \in B_2(x_0, \varepsilon) \Leftrightarrow \|x - x_0\|_2 \leq \varepsilon$
 $\nRightarrow x := x_0 + \varepsilon d \Rightarrow \|x_0 + \varepsilon d - x_0\|_2 = \|\varepsilon d\|_2 = \varepsilon \|d\|_2 \leq \varepsilon \quad [\because \|d\|_2^2 + \alpha^2 = 1 \Rightarrow \|d\|_2 \leq \sqrt{1 - \alpha^2} \leq 1]$

$$d^T(\varepsilon d) \leq \alpha M \|\varepsilon d\|_2 = \alpha M \varepsilon \|d\|_2$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \varepsilon^2 \|d\|_2^2 \leq M \alpha \varepsilon \|d\|_2$$

$$\therefore \|d\|_2 \leq M \alpha$$

But $\|d\|_2^2 = 1 - \alpha^2$

$$1 - \alpha^2 \leq M \alpha \sqrt{1 - \alpha^2}$$

$$\Leftrightarrow M \alpha \sqrt{1 - \alpha^2} - (1 - \alpha^2) \geq 0$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \sqrt{1 - \alpha^2} (M \alpha - \sqrt{1 - \alpha^2}) \geq 0$$

Composition

- $f(x) = h(f_1(x), \dots, f_k(x))$, with h convex nondecreasing, f_i convex
- find $g \in \partial h(f_1(x), \dots, f_k(x))$, $g_i \in \partial f_i(x)$
- then, $g = g_1 g_1 + \dots + g_k g_k \in \partial f(x)$
- reduces to standard formula for differentiable h , f_i

proof:

$$\begin{aligned} f(y) &= h(f_1(y), \dots, f_k(y)) \\ &\geq h(f_1(x) + g_1^T(y-x), \dots, f_k(x) + g_k^T(y-x)) \\ &\geq h(f_1(x), \dots, f_k(x)) + g^T(g_1^T(y-x), \dots, g_k^T(y-x)) \\ &= f(x) + g^T(y-x) \end{aligned}$$

$$f(x) = h(f_1(x), \dots, f_k(x))$$

$$f(x) \leq f(y) \Leftrightarrow (x \geq y) \Leftrightarrow (f(x) \geq f(y))$$

$$f(x) = h(f_1(x), \dots, f_k(x))$$

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Pointwise supremum

if $f = \sup_{\alpha \in A} f_\alpha$,

$$\text{cl Co} \bigcup \{ \partial f_\beta(x) \mid f_\beta(x) = f(x) \} \subseteq \partial f(x)$$

(usually get equality, but requires some technical conditions to hold, e.g., A compact, f_α cts in x and α)

roughly speaking, $\partial f(x)$ is closure of convex hull of union of subdifferentials of active functions

Weak rule for pointwise supremum

$$f = \sup_{\alpha \in A} f_\alpha \quad \text{// note that } A \text{ can be any set}$$

$$y^T A(x) y = y^T Q \Delta Q^T y$$

$$M \propto 1 - \alpha^2 - (1 - \alpha^2) \geq 0$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \sqrt{1 - \alpha^2} (M \alpha - \sqrt{1 - \alpha^2}) \geq 0$$

$$\geq 0 \quad \# \text{ so } \sqrt{1 - \alpha^2} \text{ is pos, other part positive w/o } \alpha$$

$$\rightarrow M \alpha \geq \sqrt{1 - \alpha^2} \geq 0$$

$$\Leftrightarrow M \alpha \geq \sqrt{1 - \alpha^2}$$

$$\Leftrightarrow M^2 \alpha^2 \geq 1 - \alpha^2 \Leftrightarrow (1 + M^2) \alpha^2 \geq 1 \Leftrightarrow \alpha \geq \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 + M^2}} > 0$$

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Weak rule for pointwise supremum

$$f = \sup_{\alpha \in A} f_{\alpha}$$

- find any β for which $f_{\beta}(x) = f(x)$ (assuming supremum is achieved)
- choose any $g \in \partial f_{\beta}(x)$
- then, $g \in \partial f(x)$

example

$$f(x) = \lambda_{\max}(A(x)) = \sup_{\|y\|_2=1} y^T A(x) y$$

where $A(x) = A_0 + x_1 A_1 + \dots + x_n A_n$, $A_i \in S^k$

- f is pointwise supremum of $g_y(x) = y^T A(x) y$ over $\|y\|_2 = 1$
- g_y is affine in x , with $\nabla g_y(x) = (y^T A_1 y, \dots, y^T A_n y)$
- hence, $\partial f(x) \supseteq \text{Co} \{ \nabla g_y \mid A(x) y = \lambda_{\max}(A(x)) y, \|y\|_2 = 1 \}$ (in fact equality holds here)

to find one subgradient at x , can choose any unit eigenvector y associated with $\lambda_{\max}(A(x))$; then

$$(y^T A_1 y, \dots, y^T A_n y) \in \partial f(x)$$

$$f = \sup_{\alpha \in A} f_{\alpha} \quad // \text{note that } A \text{ can be any set}$$

algorithm for finding $g \in \partial f(x)$:

for β in A

if $f_{\beta}(x) = f(x)$

find g in $\partial f_{\beta}(x)$

return g

end

end

• example:

$$f(x) = \lambda_{\max}(A(x)) = \sup_{\|y\|_2=1} y^T A(x) y$$

$$= \sup_{\alpha \in A = \{ \alpha : \|\alpha\|_2=1 \}} \{ \alpha^T A(x) \alpha \}$$

$$= \sup_{\alpha \in A} f_{\alpha}(x)$$

say, at x , $f(x) = f_{\alpha}(x) = \alpha^T A(x) \alpha$ which is continuous

then $g \in \partial f_{\alpha}(x) = \partial(\alpha^T (A_0 + \sum_{i=1}^n x_i A_i) \alpha)$ continuous in x

$$\therefore g = \nabla_x f_{\alpha}(x) = \nabla_x \left(\text{tr}(\alpha \alpha^T (A_0 + \sum_{i=1}^n x_i A_i)) \right)$$

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{tr}(\alpha \alpha^T (A_0 + \sum_{i=1}^n x_i A_i)) \\ &= \text{tr}(\alpha \alpha^T A_0) + \text{tr}(\alpha \alpha^T \sum_{i=1}^n x_i A_i) \quad \because \text{tr is a linear operator} \\ &= \text{tr}(\alpha \alpha^T A_0) + \sum_{i=1}^n x_i \text{tr}(\alpha \alpha^T A_i) = \text{tr}(\alpha \alpha^T A_0) + x_1 \text{tr}(\alpha \alpha^T A_1) + \dots + x_n \text{tr}(\alpha \alpha^T A_n) \end{aligned}$$

$$\therefore g = \nabla_x f_{\alpha}(x) = \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial x_1} f_{\alpha}(x), \dots, \frac{\partial}{\partial x_n} f_{\alpha}(x) \right) = \left(\text{tr}(\alpha \alpha^T A_1), \dots, \text{tr}(\alpha \alpha^T A_n) \right) = (\alpha^T A_1 \alpha, \alpha^T A_2 \alpha, \dots, \alpha^T A_n \alpha) \in \partial f(x) \quad (i)$$

$$\begin{aligned} y^T A(x) y &= y^T \Omega \Lambda \Omega^T y \\ &= (\Omega^T y)^T \Lambda (\Omega^T y) \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^k \lambda_i (\Omega^T y)_i^2 \quad [\lambda_1 \geq \dots \geq \lambda_k] \\ &\leq \lambda_1 \sum_{i=1}^k (\Omega^T y)_i^2 \quad \left[\begin{array}{l} \because \forall_i, \lambda_i \geq \lambda_1 \\ \therefore \forall_i, \lambda_i (\Omega^T y)_i^2 \geq \lambda_1 (\Omega^T y)_i^2 \\ \therefore \sum_{i=1}^k \lambda_i (\Omega^T y)_i^2 \geq \lambda_1 \sum_{i=1}^k (\Omega^T y)_i^2 \\ \Leftrightarrow \lambda_1 \sum_{i=1}^k (\Omega^T y)_i^2 \geq \sum_{i=1}^k \lambda_i (\Omega^T y)_i^2 \end{array} \right] \\ &= \|\Omega^T y\|_2^2 \\ &= \|y\|_2^2 \end{aligned}$$

$$\rightarrow y^T A(x) y \leq \lambda_1 \|y\|_2^2$$

$$\rightarrow \max_{y \neq 0} y^T A(x) y \leq \lambda_1 \|y\|_2^2$$

$$y \neq 0$$

clearly if $A(x) y^* = \lambda_1 y^*$, i.e., the eigenvector corresponding to λ_1 will result in the maximum value, then $y^{*T} A(x) y^* = y^{*T} (\lambda_1 y^*) = \lambda_1 \|y^*\|_2^2$

$$\rightarrow \max_{y \neq 0} y^T A(x) y = \lambda_1 \|y\|_2^2 \quad // \text{equality asserts that there, as we know } y,$$

λ_{\max} corresponding eigenvector will be attaining the upper bound

We can keep our attention to normalized version of the eigenvector, i.e., $\|y\|_2 = 1$

$$\max_{\|y\|_2=1} y^T A(x) y = \lambda_{\max}$$

$$\# \varepsilon > 0$$

$$\rightarrow \|g\|_2 \leq M \varepsilon$$

$$\rightarrow \|g\|_2 \leq M$$

$$\therefore \forall g \in \partial f(x_0), \#0 \quad \|g\|_2 \leq M \quad \#M > 0$$

$$\text{Obviously if } g \in \partial f(x_0), = 0 \quad \|g\|_2 = 0 < M$$

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} \forall g \in \partial f(x_0) \quad \|g\|_2 \leq M \Leftrightarrow \partial f(x_0) \text{ bounded.} \end{array} \right\} (i)$$

Alternative and shorter calculation:

suppose $\sup_{\|y\|_2=1} y^T A(x) y$ is achieved at $y = \alpha$

$$\text{then at } x \quad f(x) = \sup_{\|y\|_2=1} y^T A(x) y = \alpha^T A(x) \alpha = f_{\alpha}(x)$$

$g \in \partial f_{\alpha}(x)$

$$\text{note: } f_{\alpha}(x) = y^T A(x) y = y^T (A_0 + \sum_{i=1}^n x_i A_i) y$$

$$= y^T A_0 y + \sum_{i=1}^n x_i (y^T A_i y) \quad \# \text{this is affine in } x, \text{ so differentiable}$$

$$= y^T A_0 y + \underbrace{[y^T A_1 y \dots y^T A_n y]}_{b^T} \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ \vdots \\ x_n \end{bmatrix}}_x = a + b^T x$$

$$\therefore \nabla f_{\alpha}(x) = g_x = b = (y^T A_1 y, \dots, y^T A_n y) \in \partial f(x) \quad (ii)$$

Subgradients and sublevel sets

g is a subgradient at x means $f(y) \geq f(x) + g^T(y - x)$

hence $f(y) \leq f(x) \implies g^T(y - x) \leq 0$

- f differentiable at x_0 : $\nabla f(x_0)$ is normal to the sublevel set $\{x \mid f(x) \leq f(x_0)\}$
- f nondifferentiable at x_0 : subgradient defines a supporting hyperplane to sublevel set through x_0

$\nabla f(x_0) \perp \{x \mid f(x) \leq f(x_0)\}$

$\iff \forall x \in \text{dom} f \quad \nabla f(x_0)^T x = 0$

Proof: Given $f(x) \leq f(x_0)$ Goal: $\nabla f(x_0)^T x = 0$

$\forall x \in \{x \mid f(x) \leq f(x_0)\}$

$g \in \partial f(x) \iff \forall y \in \text{dom} f \quad f(y) \geq f(x) + g^T(y - x)$

$\iff g^T(y - x) \leq f(y) - f(x)$

$g^T(y-x) \geq 0 \Rightarrow 0 \leq g^T(y-x) \leq f(y)-f(x) \Rightarrow f(y) \geq f(x)$

So, when we are doing a minimization on $f(x)$: the set

$\{y \mid g^T(y-x) \geq 0\}$

halfspace of search space (not search space).

$f(x) \leq f(x_0)$
 $\therefore \{f(x) \leq f(x_0)\} \iff \forall x \in \text{dom} f \quad f(x) \geq f(x_0) + \nabla f(x_0)^T (x - x_0)$
 $f(x_0) + \nabla f(x_0)^T (x - x_0) \leq f(x) \leq f(x_0)$
 $\rightarrow f(x_0) + \nabla f(x_0)^T (x - x_0) \leq f(x_0)$
 $\rightarrow \nabla f(x_0)^T (x - x_0) \leq 0$

where x is the current point of the subgradient algorithm

where x is the current point of the subgradient algorithm

where x is the current point of the subgradient algorithm

where x is the current point of the subgradient algorithm

where x is the current point of the subgradient algorithm

where x is the current point of the subgradient algorithm

where x is the current point of the subgradient algorithm

where x is the current point of the subgradient algorithm

* Page 21:

$f(x^*) = \inf_x f(x) \iff 0 \in \partial f(x^*)$

$$f(x^*) = \inf_x f(x) \Leftrightarrow 0 \in \partial f(x^*)$$

Proof:

$$f(x^*) = \inf_x f(x)$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \forall x \in \text{dom } f, f(x^*) \leq f(x)$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \forall x \in \text{dom } f, f(x) \geq f(x^*) + 0^T(x - x^*)$$

$$\Leftrightarrow 0 \in \partial f(x^*) \quad (\text{proved})$$

Piecewise linear minimization Subgradient Contents

*Page 23

$$f(x) = \max_{i \in \{1, \dots, m\}} (a_i^T x + b_i)$$

Our goal is to find the optimality condition for the solution in terms of subgradient and show that it is in fact equivalent to KKT condition

$$x^* = \arg \min_{x \in \text{dom } f} f(x) \Leftrightarrow 0 \in \partial f(x^*)$$

$$\text{Fact: } f = \max_{i=1, \dots, m} f_i(x) \rightarrow \partial f(x) = \text{co} \cup \{ \partial f_i(x) \mid f_i(x) = f(x) \}$$

$$\text{Fact: } f(\cdot) = \max_{i=1, \dots, m} (a_i^T(\cdot) + b_i) \rightarrow \partial f(x) = \text{co} \cup \{ \partial f_i(x) \mid a_i^T x + b_i = f(x) \}$$

$$0 \in \partial f(x^*) \Leftrightarrow 0 \in \text{co} \cup \{ \partial f_i(x^*) \mid f_i(x^*) = a_i^T x^* + b_i \} = \text{co} \cup \{ a_i \mid f_i(x^*) = a_i^T x^* + b_i \}$$

$$\text{continuous in } x, \partial f_i(x) = \{ \nabla_x f_i(x) = \nabla_x (a_i^T x + b_i) = a_i \}$$

$$\text{say, at } x^* \quad f(x^*) = f_1(x^*) = \dots = f_{\bar{m}}(x^*) \quad \text{We can always enumerate the functions active at } x^* \text{ by } 1, \dots, \bar{m}$$

$$\text{then } \cup \{ a_i \mid f_i(x^*) = a_i^T x^* + b_i \}$$

$$= \{ a_1 \} \cup \dots \cup \{ a_{\bar{m}} \} = \{ a_1, \dots, a_{\bar{m}} \}$$

$$\therefore \text{co} \left[\{ a_1, \dots, a_{\bar{m}} \} \right] = \left\{ \sum_{i=1}^{\bar{m}} \tilde{\lambda}_i a_i \mid \sum_{i=1}^{\bar{m}} \tilde{\lambda}_i = 1, \tilde{\lambda}_i \geq 0 \right\}$$

$$\text{so: } 0 \in \text{co} \{ \partial f_i(x^*) \mid f_i(x^*) = a_i^T x^* + b_i \} \Leftrightarrow \exists \tilde{\lambda}_i \geq 0, \sum_{i=1}^{\bar{m}} \tilde{\lambda}_i = 1, \sum_{i=1}^{\bar{m}} \tilde{\lambda}_i a_i = 0$$

$$\text{by 0 padding, } \lambda = [\tilde{\lambda}, \tilde{0}]^T$$

$$(\tilde{0}_{\bar{m}+1}, \dots, \tilde{0}_m)$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \exists \lambda \geq 0, \sum_{i=1}^m \lambda_i a_i = 0$$

(1)

not possible as $f(x) = \max_{j=1, \dots, m} f_j(x) \nless f_i(x)$

and

$$\forall i \in \{ \bar{m}+1, \dots, m \} \quad f_i(x) \neq f(x) \Leftrightarrow (f_i(x) > f(x) \vee f_i(x) < f(x)) \rightarrow f_i(x) < f(x)$$

$$\therefore a_i^T x + b_i < f(x) = \max_{i \in \{1, \dots, m\}} f_i(x) \Rightarrow \lambda_i = 0$$

(2)

Consider the epigraph form:

$$\begin{aligned} & \forall t \\ & t \geq \max_{i \in \{1, \dots, m\}} (a_i^T x + b_i) \\ & \Leftrightarrow \forall i \in \{1, \dots, m\} \quad t \geq a_i^T x + b_i \\ & \Leftrightarrow t \geq \begin{bmatrix} a_1^T \\ \vdots \\ a_m^T \end{bmatrix} x + \begin{bmatrix} b_1 \\ \vdots \\ b_m \end{bmatrix} = Ax + b \Leftrightarrow [A \ -I] \begin{bmatrix} x \\ t \end{bmatrix} + b \leq 0 \end{aligned}$$

$$= \begin{pmatrix} \forall (\tilde{0}, 1)^T(x, t) \\ [A \ -I] \begin{bmatrix} x \\ t \end{bmatrix} + b \leq 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{aligned} L(x, t, \lambda) &= (\tilde{0}, 1)^T(x, t) + \lambda^T \left([A \ -I] \begin{bmatrix} x \\ t \end{bmatrix} + b \right) \\ &= (\tilde{0}, 1)^T(x, t) + \lambda^T [A \ -I] \begin{bmatrix} x \\ t \end{bmatrix} + \lambda^T b \\ &= (\tilde{0}, 1) + [A \ -I]^T \lambda \begin{bmatrix} x \\ t \end{bmatrix} + \lambda^T b \end{aligned}$$

$$g(\lambda) = \inf_{(x, t)} L(x, t, \lambda) = \begin{cases} \lambda^T b & \text{if } \begin{bmatrix} \tilde{0} \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} A^T \\ -I^T \end{bmatrix} \lambda = 0, \lambda \geq 0 \\ -\infty & \text{else} \end{cases}$$

dual problem

Dual problem

$$\begin{pmatrix} \text{maximize } b^T \lambda \\ \text{subject to } \begin{bmatrix} \bar{0} \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} A^T \lambda \\ -\bar{1}^T \lambda \end{bmatrix} = 0 \end{pmatrix} \Leftrightarrow \begin{pmatrix} A^T \lambda = 0 \\ \bar{1}^T \lambda = 1 \end{pmatrix} \Leftrightarrow \begin{pmatrix} \sum_{i=1}^m a_i \lambda_i = 0 \\ \sum_{i=1}^m a_i \lambda_i = 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

vector
scalar $\lambda \geq 0$
scalar

$$= \begin{pmatrix} b^T \lambda \\ \sum_{i=1}^m a_i \lambda_i = 0 \\ \bar{1}^T \lambda = 1 \\ \lambda \geq 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

* Complementary slackness:

so optimality condition for subgradient is equivalent to dual feasibility

each component of innerproduct

$$\lambda^T \left([A \ -\bar{1}] \begin{bmatrix} x \\ t \end{bmatrix} + b \right) \text{ will be 0}$$

$$= \lambda^T (Ax - t\bar{1} + b)$$

$$= \sum_{i=1}^m \lambda_i (a_i^T x + b_i - t)$$

$$\forall i \in \{1, \dots, m\} \quad \lambda_i (a_i^T x + b_i - t) = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \underbrace{t = \max_{i \in \{1, \dots, m\}} f(x)}_{\text{because at optimal solution, } t = \max_{i \in \{1, \dots, m\}} f(x)} > a_i^T x + b_i \Rightarrow \lambda_i = 0$$

so (1) and (2) are implications of $0 \in \partial f(x^*)$

same as dual feasibility + complementary conditions

Optimality Conditions - Constrained Subgradient Contents

Page 25: consider a differentiable optimization problem: $(\forall i \in \{1, \dots, m\} \quad f_i(x) \leq 0, \forall i \in \{1, \dots, p\} \quad h_i(x) = 0)$ then the KKT conditions are:

Primal Feasibility:

$$\forall i \in \{1, \dots, m\} \quad f_i(x) \leq 0$$

$$\forall i \in \{1, \dots, p\} \quad h_i(x) = 0$$

Dual Feasibility:

$$\lambda \geq 0$$

Vanishing gradient at Lagrangian:

$$\nabla f(x) + \sum_{i=1}^m \lambda_i \nabla f_i(x) + \sum_{i=1}^p \nu_i \nabla h_i(x) = 0$$

extension to

nondifferentiable case

Primal Feasibility:

$$\forall i \in \{1, \dots, m\} \quad f_i(x) \leq 0$$

$$\forall i \in \{1, \dots, p\} \quad h_i(x) = 0$$

Dual Feasibility:

$$\lambda \geq 0$$

Vanishing subgradient at Lagrangian:

$$\nabla f(x) + \sum_{i=1}^m \lambda_i \nabla f_i(x) + \sum_{i=1}^p \nu_i \nabla h_i(x) = 0$$

Vanishing gradient at Lagrangian:

$$\nabla f(x) + \sum_{i=1}^M \lambda_i \nabla f_i(x) + \sum_{i=1}^P \nu_i \nabla h_i(x) = 0$$

Complementary slackness: (Each term in the λ sum in the Lagrangian, $\sum_{i=1}^P \lambda_i f_i(x)$ is zero

$$\forall_{i \in \{1, \dots, M\}} \lambda_i f_i(x) = 0$$

Vanishing subgradient at Lagrangian:

$$\partial f(x) + \sum_{i=1}^M \lambda_i \partial f_i(x) + \sum_{i=1}^P \nu_i \partial h_i(x) \ni 0$$

Complementary slackness: (Each term in the λ sum in the Lagrangian, $\sum_{i=1}^P \lambda_i f_i(x)$ is zero

$$\forall_{i \in \{1, \dots, M\}} \lambda_i f_i(x) = 0$$

KKT condition for nondifferentiable problems

Directional derivative [Subgradient Contents](#)

⊛ **Directional Derivative:** // this definition has issues, for a nondifferentiable function # at the point of nondifferentiability

$$f'(x; \delta x) = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x+h\delta x) - f(x)}{h} \in [-\infty, \infty]$$

the limit of directional derivative does not exist.

* $\{x \in \mathcal{D} : \text{finite near } x\} \Rightarrow \exists f'(x; \delta x)$

* $\{x \in \mathcal{D} : \exists g \in \partial f(x) \forall \delta x, f'(x; \delta x) = g^T \delta x\}$ // relation between $f'(x; \delta x)$ and g (subgradient)

differentiable

↓

We can extend this definition for nondifferentiable function:

$\{x \in \mathcal{D} : \exists g \in \partial f(x) \forall \delta x, f'(x; \delta x) = g^T \delta x\}$

* Why directional derivatives are important:

Say: $f'(x; \delta x) = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x+h\delta x) - f(x)}{h} < 0$

→ $\forall_{h: h>0, h \in \mathbb{R}_{++}} \left(\frac{f(x+h\delta x) - f(x)}{h} < 0 \right)$

→ $\forall_{h: h>0, h \in \mathbb{R}_{++}} (f(x+h\delta x) < f(x))$: equivalent to saying δx is a cost reducing direction!

scalar search direction

∴ negative directional derivative provides a cost reducing direction!

Alternative importance: if $f'(x; \delta x) = \sup_{g \in \partial f(x)} g^T \delta x \leq 0$: $\delta x = y - x$

→ $\forall_{g \in \partial f(x)} g^T \delta x \leq 0$

$f(y) \geq f(x) + g^T \delta x \Rightarrow f(y) - f(x) \geq g^T \delta x$: does not lead to anything good

⊛ Negative subgradient is a descent direction for distance to optimal point:

(say $g \in \partial f(x)$ and let $z^* = \arg\min_{z \in \mathcal{D}} f(z)$) $\Rightarrow \|x^+ - z^*\|_2 < \|x - z^*\|_2$

$x^+ = x + t(-g)$

proofs negative subgradient (a search direction) can select resultant new point $x^+ = x + t(-g)$ will become strictly closer to the optimal point.

Proofs: $\|x^+ - z^*\|_2^2 = \|x - tg - z^*\|_2^2 = (x - tg - z^*)^T (x - tg - z^*)$

$$= ((x - z^*) - tg)^T ((x - z^*) - tg) = \|x - z^*\|_2^2 + t^2 \|g\|_2^2 - 2t g^T (x - z^*)$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \leq \|x - z^k\|_2^2 + t^2 \|g\|_2^2 + 2t \underbrace{\left(\underbrace{f(z^k) - f(x)}_{\text{small negative number}} \right)}_{\text{small positive number}} \\
 & < \|x - z^k\|_2^2 \quad [\text{By suitable choice of } t] \\
 & \therefore \|z^{k+1} - z\|_2 \leq \|x - z\|_2
 \end{aligned}$$

$g \in \partial f(x) \Leftrightarrow \forall y \in \text{dom } f, f(y) \geq f(x) + g^T(y - x)$

$\therefore y = z^k \Rightarrow f(z^k) \geq f(x) + g^T(z^k - x) \quad \wedge \quad f(x) \geq f(z^k)$

$\Rightarrow g^T(z^k - x) \leq f(z^k) - f(x) \leq 0$

$\Rightarrow -g^T(x - z^k) \leq f(z^k) - f(x) \leq 0$

* Subgradient of the dual function [Subgradient Contents](#)

Subgradients of the dual function

[Calculus 28.6]

$$p^* = \begin{pmatrix} \bigvee_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n} f_0(x) \\ \bigwedge_{i \in \{1, \dots, m\}} f_i(x) \leq 0 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \bigvee_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n} f_0(x) + 1_p(x) \\ \bigwedge_{i \in \{1, \dots, m\}} f_i(x) \leq 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$L(x, \lambda) = f_0(x) + 1_p(x) + \sum_{i=1}^m \lambda_i f_i(x)$$

$$g(\lambda) = \inf_x \left[f_0(x) + 1_p(x) + \sum_{i=1}^m \lambda_i f_i(x) \right]$$

$$= \inf_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n} \left[f_0(x) + \sum_{i=1}^m \lambda_i f_i(x) \right] = f_0(x_\lambda) + \sum_{i=1}^m \lambda_i f_i(x_\lambda)$$

$$x_\lambda^* = \underset{x \in \mathbb{R}^n}{\operatorname{argmin}} \left[f_0(x) + \sum_{i=1}^m \lambda_i f_i(x) \right]$$

Now:

$$g(\bar{\lambda}) = \bigvee_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n} \left[f_0(x) + \sum_{i=1}^m \bar{\lambda}_i f_i(x) \right] \text{ \# let's } x_\lambda^* \text{ be the argmin}$$

$$= f_0(x_\lambda^*) + \sum_{i=1}^m \bar{\lambda}_i f_i(x_\lambda^*)$$

$$\leq f_0(x_\lambda^*) + \sum_{i=1}^m \bar{\lambda}_i f_i(x_\lambda^*) \quad [\text{By } x_\lambda^* \text{ is argmin of this, but not necessarily for } \bar{\lambda} \neq \lambda]$$

$$= f_0(x_\lambda^*) + \sum_{i=1}^m \bar{\lambda}_i f_i(x_\lambda^*) + \sum_{i=1}^m \lambda_i f_i(x_\lambda^*) - \sum_{i=1}^m \lambda_i f_i(x_\lambda^*)$$

$$= g(\lambda) + \sum_{i=1}^m (\bar{\lambda}_i - \lambda_i) f_i(x_\lambda^*)$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \sum_{i=1}^m f_i(x_\lambda^*) (\bar{\lambda}_i - \lambda_i) = \underbrace{(f_1(x_\lambda^*), f_2(x_\lambda^*), \dots, f_m(x_\lambda^*))^T}_{F(x_\lambda^*)} \underbrace{(\bar{\lambda}_1, \dots, \bar{\lambda}_m)}_{\bar{\lambda}} - \underbrace{(\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_m)}_{\lambda} = F(x_\lambda^*)^T (\bar{\lambda} - \lambda) \\
 & = g(\lambda) + F(x_\lambda^*)^T (\bar{\lambda} - \lambda)
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\bullet \quad \text{if } \bar{\lambda} \leq \lambda \text{ i.e. } \bar{\lambda}_i \leq \lambda_i \quad \forall i \in \{1, \dots, m\} \Rightarrow F(x_\lambda^*)^T (\bar{\lambda} - \lambda) \leq 0$$

$$= g(\lambda) + \underbrace{F(x_\lambda^*)}_{\bar{\lambda}}^T (\bar{\lambda} - \lambda)$$

$$\therefore \forall_{\bar{\lambda}} \quad g(\bar{\lambda}) \leq g(\lambda) + F(x_\lambda^*)^T (\bar{\lambda} - \lambda)$$

now remember $g(\lambda)$ is concave in λ by structure, so for definition of subgradient we need convex $-g(\lambda)$

$$\forall_{\bar{\lambda}} \quad [-g(\bar{\lambda})] \leq -g(\lambda) + (-F(x_\lambda^*))^T (\bar{\lambda} - \lambda)$$

so, $(-F(x_\lambda^*)) = (-f_i(x_\lambda^*))_{i=1}^m$ is subgradient of the negative dual function $-g(\lambda)$ at λ

$$x_\lambda^* = \underset{x \in \mathcal{D}}{\operatorname{argmin}} (f_0(x) + \sum_{i=1}^m \lambda_i f_i(x)) \quad g(\lambda) = f_0(x_\lambda) + \sum_{i=1}^m \lambda_i f_i(x_\lambda)$$

$g(\lambda)$ evaluate $\forall \lambda$ at x_λ that is the best x for λ . while we minimize the Lagrangian $L(x, \lambda)$
 # so there is no additional cost,

$$\therefore (-f_i(x_\lambda^*))_{i=1}^m \in \partial(-g(\lambda))$$

[eq: subgradient for negative dual function] ref: [Projected Subgradient for dual problem](#)

dual function of the primal problem :

$$\begin{pmatrix} \forall f_0(x) \\ \forall_{i \in \{1, \dots, m\}} f_i(x) \leq 0 \\ x \in \mathcal{D} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \forall f_0(x) + I_{\mathcal{D}}(x) \\ \forall_{i \in \{1, \dots, m\}} f_i(x) \leq 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$x_\lambda^* = \underset{x}{\operatorname{argmin}} \underbrace{L(x, \lambda)}_{f_0(x) + \sum_{i=1}^m \lambda_i f_i(x)}$$