

# The KKT conditions

Lecture 16

November 30, 2021

Beck, sections 11.1-11.3

# Inequality constrained optimization

Goal: solve the optimization problem:

$$\begin{aligned} \min f(\underline{x}) \\ \text{s.t. } g_i(\underline{x}) \leq 0 \quad \forall i=1, \dots, m \end{aligned}$$

where  $\underline{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ ,  $f, g_i \in C^1$ .

Note: Inequality constraints are (much) more "difficult" to handle than equality constraints.

Ex: For equality-constrained problems, we already have a tool to solve these: Lagrange multipliers.

KKT conditions: (Karush-Kuhn-Tucker)

"Necessary conditions for local optimality"

With the above notation, let  $\underline{x}^*$  be a local minimum. Assume that  $\{\nabla g_i(\underline{x}^*)\}_{i=1}^m$  is a collection of linearly independent vectors.\*

Then:

$$\nabla f(\underline{x}^*) + \sum_{i=1}^m \lambda_i \nabla g_i(\underline{x}^*) = \underline{0} \quad \text{for some } \underline{\lambda} = (\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_m) \in \mathbb{R}_+^m$$

that is nonzero.

$$\text{also: } \lambda_i g_i(\underline{x}^*) = 0 \quad \forall i = 1, \dots, m.$$

\*: This condition is actually more strict than necessary.

# Necessary optimality conditions

L16-S02

Definition: Consider the optimization problem

$$\min f(x) \text{ s.t. } x \in C,$$

where  $f \in C^1$  and  $C$  is closed and convex. A vector

$\underline{d} \in \mathbb{R}^n$  is a feasible descent direction at  $\underline{x}$  if

$$\nabla f(\underline{x})^T \underline{d} < 0 \text{ and if } \exists \epsilon > 0 \text{ s.t. } \underline{x} + t \underline{d} \in C \quad \forall t \in [0, \epsilon]$$

Lemma: Consider the optimization problem

$$\min f(x) \text{ s.t. } x \in C.$$

A necessary condition for  $\underline{x}^*$  to be a local minimum is

that there are no feasible descent directions at  $\underline{x}^*$ .

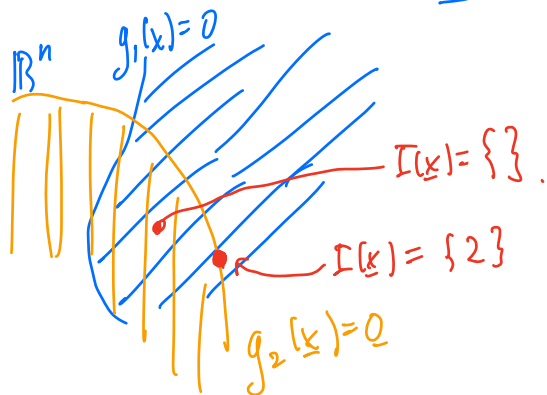
Proof (sketch) By contradiction: if  $\underline{x}^*$  is a local min and  $\underline{d}$  is a feasible descent direction, then we can take a small step in direction  $\underline{d}$  and decrease value of  $f$ , violating definition of a local minimum.

Back to inequality-constrained problem:

$$\min f(\underline{x}) \text{ s.t. } g_i(\underline{x}) \leq 0, i=1 \dots m$$

We will need a notion "active constraints". At a point  $\underline{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ , the set of active constraint indices is

$$I(\underline{x}) = \{ i \in \{1, 2, \dots, m\} \text{ s.t. } g_i(\underline{x}) = 0 \}$$



Lemma: Consider the optimization problem

$$\min f(\underline{x}) \text{ s.t. } g_i(\underline{x}) \leq 0, i=1 \dots m.$$

Assume  $f, g_i \in C^1$ . Let  $\underline{x}^*$  be a local minimum.

Then there does not exist a vector  $\underline{d} \in \mathbb{R}^n$  s.t.

$$\nabla f(\underline{x}^*)^T \underline{d} < 0$$

$$\nabla g_i(\underline{x}^*)^T \underline{d} < 0 \quad \forall i \in I(\underline{x}^*).$$

Proof: (sketch) Again by contradiction. Assume

there does exist a  $\underline{d}$  s.t.  $\nabla f(\underline{x}^*)^T \underline{d} < 0$  and

$$\nabla g_i(\underline{x}^*)^T \underline{d} < 0 \quad \forall i \in I(\underline{x}^*).$$

We can choose an  $\varepsilon > 0$  s.t.  $\underline{x}^* + \varepsilon \underline{d}$  accomplishes:

$$(\star\star) \quad (i) \quad f(\underline{x}^* + \varepsilon \underline{d}) < f(\underline{x}^*)$$

$$(\star) \quad \left\{ \begin{array}{l} (ii) \quad g_i(\underline{x}^* + \varepsilon \underline{d}) < g_i(\underline{x}^*) = 0 \quad \forall i \in I(\underline{x}^*) \end{array} \right.$$

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} (iii) \quad \forall i \notin I(\underline{x}^*) \text{ can choose } \varepsilon \text{ small} \\ \text{enough so that } g_i(\underline{x}^* + \varepsilon \underline{d}) < 0 \text{ since} \\ g_i(\underline{x}^*) < 0. \end{array} \right\}$$

( $\star$ ):  $\underline{x}^* + \varepsilon \underline{d}$  is feasible.

( $\star\star$ ):  $\underline{x}^* + \varepsilon \underline{d}$  has smaller value of  $f$  than  $\underline{x}^*$   
 $\rightarrow$  contradicts def'n of  $\underline{x}^*$  being a local min.

# Farkas' Lemma and Gordan's Theorem

L16-S03

These two results are examples of "theorems of the alternative".

Farkas' Lemma: Let  $\underline{A} \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$ ,  $\underline{b} \in \mathbb{R}^m$ . Then exactly one

of the following is true:

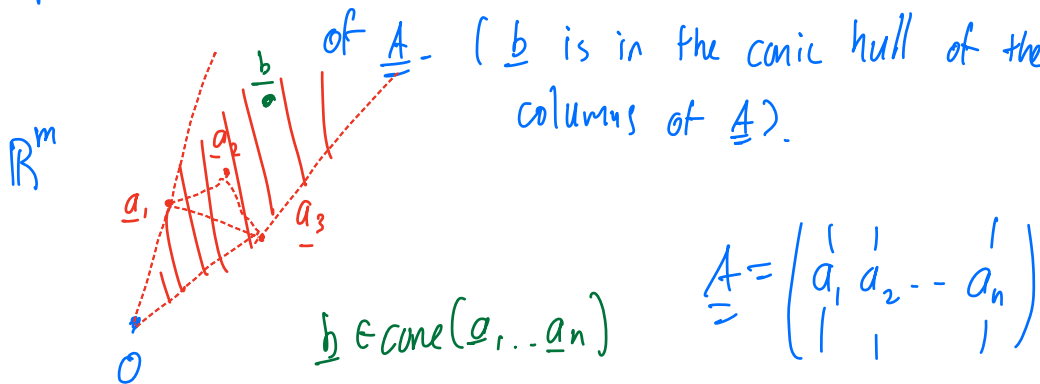
(i)  $\exists \underline{x} \in \mathbb{R}_+^n$  s.t.  $\underline{A}\underline{x} = \underline{b}$  ( $\underline{x} \neq \underline{0}$ )

(ii)  $\exists \underline{y} \in \mathbb{R}^m$  s.t.  $\underline{y}^T \underline{A} \geq \underline{0}$  and  $\underline{y}^T \underline{b} < 0$

non-neg. constant in  $\mathbb{R}^n$

component-wise.

Interpretation: (i)  $\underline{b}$  is a conic combination of the columns of  $\underline{A}$ . ( $\underline{b}$  is in the conic hull of the columns of  $\underline{A}$ ).



(ii)  $\exists \underline{y} \in \mathbb{R}^m$  defining a hyperplane in  $\mathbb{R}^m$   
 (set of  $\underline{z}$  s.t.  $\underline{z}^T \underline{y} = 0$ )

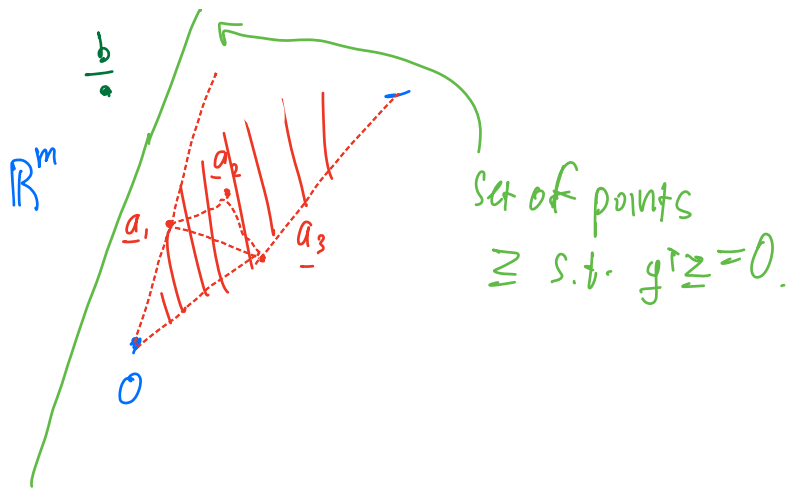
We have  $\underline{y}^T \underline{b} < 0$  :  $\underline{b}$  lies on one side of the hyperplane

$$\underline{y}^T \underline{A} \geq 0$$

$$(\underline{y}^T \underline{a}_1, \underline{y}^T \underline{a}_2, \dots, \underline{y}^T \underline{a}_n) \geq 0$$

We have  $\underline{y}^T \underline{A} \geq 0$  : all columns of  $\underline{A}$  lie on the other side of hyperplane.





Set of points  
 $\geq$  s.t.  $y^T z = 0$ .

### Gordan's Theorem ("of the alternative")

Let  $\underline{A} \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$ . Then exactly one of the following is

true:

(i)  $\exists \underline{x} \in \mathbb{R}_+^n$ , nonzero, s.t.  $\underline{A}\underline{x} = \underline{0}$

(ii)  $\exists \underline{y} \in \mathbb{R}^m$  s.t.  $\underline{y}^T \underline{A} < 0$ .

Proof is almost direct from Farkas' Lemma taking  $\underline{b} = \underline{0}$ .

(Farkas' lemma yields  $\underline{y}^T \underline{A} \leq 0$ , but can make this a strict inequality.)

Back to constrained optimization

# The ~~Fritz-John~~ conditions

L16-S04

Fritz John

Theorem: Consider the problem:

$$\min f(\underline{x}) \quad \text{s.t.} \quad g_i(\underline{x}) \leq 0 \quad \forall i=1, \dots, m$$

$f, g_i \in C^1$ . Let  $\underline{x}^*$  be a local minimum. Then

$$\exists \underline{\lambda} = (\lambda_0, \lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_m) \in \mathbb{R}_+^{m+1} \quad \text{s.t.} \quad (\underline{\lambda} \neq \underline{0})$$

$$\lambda_0 \nabla f(\underline{x}^*) + \sum_{i=1}^m \lambda_i \nabla g_i(\underline{x}^*) = \underline{0}.$$

$$\text{also: } \lambda_i g_i(\underline{x}^*) = 0 \quad \forall i=1, \dots, m.$$

Proof: By a previous Lemma =  $\exists \underline{d} \in \mathbb{R}^n$  s.t.

$$\begin{cases} \nabla f(\underline{x}^*)^T \underline{d} < 0 \\ \nabla g_i(\underline{x}^*)^T \underline{d} < 0 \quad \forall i \in I(\underline{x}^*) \end{cases}$$

"A"

$$\underline{d}^T \begin{pmatrix} \nabla f(\underline{x}^*) & \nabla g_{j_1}(\underline{x}^*) & \dots & \nabla g_{j_k}(\underline{x}^*) \end{pmatrix} < 0$$

$\{j_1, \dots, j_k\} = I(\underline{x}^*)$

Karush-Kuhn-Tucker's theorem  $\Rightarrow \exists \underline{\lambda} \in \mathbb{R}_+^{m+1}$  s.t.  $\underline{A} \underline{\lambda} = \underline{0}$  ( $\underline{\lambda} \neq \underline{0}$ )

$$\underline{A} \underline{\lambda} = \lambda_0 \nabla f(\underline{x}^*) + \sum_{i \in I(\underline{x}^*)} \lambda_i \nabla g_i(\underline{x}^*) = \underline{0}$$

Now: set  $\lambda_i = 0$  when  $i \notin I(\underline{x}^*)$ .  $\square$

We have:  $g_i(\underline{x}^*) = 0$   $i \in I(\underline{x}^*)$ ,  $\lambda_i = 0$ ,  $i \notin I(\underline{x}^*)$ .

$\lambda_i g_i(\underline{x}^*) = 0$   
 $\uparrow \forall i$

Fritz John conditions are not as useful as one might think:  $\lambda_0 = 0$  can happen.

Next Thursday: "review" session.

Final exam: comprehensive exam  
120 minutes  
No notes/calculators.

Content based on HW. (1-6)

Wed Dec. 15 @ 8am (here)

Office hours: until Dec 10 (next Friday), office hours as usually scheduled.

Tues Dec 14, office hours from 11-12pm.

HW solutions: HW 1-5 solutions available (maybe 5 right after class.)

HW 6 solutions: available end of day on Dec 10 (Friday)

Please fill out course evals!

# KKT conditions: inequality constrained problems<sup>L16-S05</sup>

Theorem Consider

$$\min f(x) \text{ s.t. } g_i(x) \leq 0 \quad \forall i=1, \dots, m.$$

Assume  $f, g_i \in C^1$  and  $x^*$  is a local minimum. Assume  $\{\nabla g_i(x^*)\}_{i \in I(x^*)}$  are linearly independent. Then

$$\exists \underline{d} \in \mathbb{R}_+^m, \quad \underline{d} \neq \underline{0} \quad \text{s.t.}$$

$$\nabla f(x^*) + \sum_{i=1}^m d_i \nabla g_i(x^*) = \underline{0}.$$

$$\text{also: } d_i g_i(x^*) = 0, \quad i=1, \dots, m$$

How we got from Fritz John  $\rightarrow$  KKT?

Def (KKT): By Fritz-John conditions  $\exists \eta \in \mathbb{R}_+^{m+1}$  s.t.

$$\eta_0 \nabla f(x^*) + \sum_{i=1}^m \eta_i \nabla g_i(x^*) = \underline{0}, \quad \eta \neq \underline{0}$$

Assumed  $\{\nabla g_i(x^*)\}_{i \in I(x^*)}$  are linearly independent.

Recall:  $\forall i \notin I(x^*), \eta_i = 0$ .

$$\Rightarrow \eta_0 \nabla f(x^*) + \sum_{i \in I(x^*)} \eta_i \nabla g_i(x^*) = \underline{0}, \quad \eta \neq \underline{0}$$

Under the linear independence assumptions,  $\eta_0 \neq 0$ .

(If  $\eta_0 = 0$ , then  $\sum_{i \in I(x^*)} \eta_i \nabla g_i(x^*) = \underline{0}, \eta \neq \underline{0}$ .)

$$\xrightarrow{\eta_0} \nabla f(x^*) + \sum_{i=1}^m \frac{\eta_i}{\eta_0} \nabla g_i(x^*) = \underline{0}$$

$$\lambda_i \geq 0, \quad \underline{\lambda} = (\lambda_1, \lambda_m) \neq \underline{0}. \quad \square$$

# KKT conditions: example

L16-S06

## Example (Beck, 11.6(i))

Use the KKT conditions to compute an optimal solution to:

$$\min_{\underline{x}} 3x_1^2 + x_2^2 \quad \text{subject to} \quad x_1 - x_2 + 8 \leq 0, \quad x_2 \geq 0.$$

$$f(\underline{x}) = 3x_1^2 + x_2^2$$

$$-x_2 \leq 0$$

$$g_1(\underline{x}) = x_1 - x_2 + 8$$

$$g_2(\underline{x}) = -x_2$$

$$\nabla g_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \nabla g_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix}$$

linearly independent  $\forall \underline{x}$

$\Rightarrow$  KKT conditions are necessary.

Which points satisfy KKT conditions?

$$\nabla f = \begin{pmatrix} 6x_1 \\ 2x_2 \end{pmatrix} \quad \nabla g_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} \quad \nabla g_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} \nabla f + \lambda_1 \nabla g_1 + \lambda_2 \nabla g_2 = 0 \\ \lambda_1 g_1 = 0 \\ \lambda_2 g_2 = 0 \\ \lambda_1, \lambda_2 \geq 0 \end{array} \right\} \rightarrow \begin{array}{l} 6x_1 + \lambda_1 = 0 \\ 2x_2 - \lambda_1 - \lambda_2 = 0 \\ \lambda_1 (x_1 - x_2 + 8) = 0 \\ \lambda_2 (-x_2) = 0 \end{array}$$

$\lambda_1 = \lambda_2 = 0$  : corit happen ( $\lambda \neq 0$ )

$\lambda_1 \neq 0, \lambda_2 = 0$  :  $x_1 - x_2 + 8 = 0$

$$\begin{array}{l} 6x_1 + \lambda_1 = 0 \\ 2x_2 - \lambda_1 = 0 \end{array} \rightarrow \begin{array}{l} 6x_1 + 2x_2 = 0 \rightarrow x_2 = -3x_1 \\ x_1 - x_2 + 8 = 0 \end{array}$$

$$x_1 - (-3x_1) + 8 = 0$$

$$x_1 = -2$$

$$x_2 = 6$$

$$\lambda_1 = 12$$

$$(x_1, x_2, \lambda_1, \lambda_2) = (-2, 6, 12, 0).$$



$$\begin{array}{l}
 \underline{\lambda_1 = 0, \lambda_2 \neq 0} : \quad \left. \begin{array}{l} 6x_1 + \lambda_1 = 0 \\ 2x_2 - \lambda_1 - \lambda_2 = 0 \\ \lambda_1(x_1 - x_2 + 8) = 0 \\ \lambda_2(-x_2) = 0 \end{array} \right\} \begin{array}{l} 6x_1 = 0 \\ 2x_2 - \lambda_2 = 0 \\ x_2 = 0 \\ \downarrow \\ \text{no solution} \\ (\lambda_2 \neq 0) \end{array}
 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{l}
 \underline{\lambda_1 \neq 0, \lambda_2 \neq 0} : \quad x_2 = 0 \\
 x_1 - x_2 + 8 = 0 \rightarrow x_1 = -8 \\
 \lambda_1 = -6x_1 = 48 \\
 \lambda_2 = 2x_2 - \lambda_1 = -48 \quad X \\
 \text{(no solution)}
 \end{array}$$

Summary: only point satisfying KKT conditions is  
 $(x_1, x_2) = (-2, 6) \quad (\lambda_1 = 12, \lambda_2 = 0)$

I.e.  $(x_1, x_2) = (-2, 6)$  is a local (also global) minimum.

The KKT conditions can be useless:

$$\begin{array}{lll} \min x & f(x) = x & \\ \text{s.t. } x^2 \leq 0. & g_1(x) = x^2 & \nabla g = 2x. \end{array}$$

At the feasible point  $x=0$ ,  $\nabla g = 0$   
not linearly independent.

# KKT conditions: in/equality constrained problems <sup>L16-S07</sup>

Theorem: Consider the optimization problem

$$\min_{\underline{x}} f(\underline{x}) \quad \text{s.t.} \quad g_i(\underline{x}) \leq 0 \quad \forall i=1, \dots, m$$
$$h_j(\underline{x}) = 0 \quad \forall j=1, \dots, p,$$

where  $f, g_i, h_j \in C^1$ . Let  $\underline{x}^*$  be a local minimum and assume  $\{\nabla g_i(\underline{x}^*)\}_{i \in I(\underline{x}^*)} \cup \{\nabla h_j(\underline{x}^*)\}_{j=1}^p$  are linearly independent.

Then:  $\exists \underline{\lambda} \in \mathbb{R}_+^m, \underline{\lambda} \neq 0, \underline{\mu} \in \mathbb{R}^p$  s.t.

$$\nabla F(\underline{x}^*) + \sum_{i=1}^m \lambda_i \nabla g_i(\underline{x}^*) + \sum_{j=1}^p \mu_j \nabla h_j(\underline{x}^*) = \underline{0}$$

$$\lambda_i g_i(\underline{x}^*) = 0 \quad \forall i=1, \dots, m.$$

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## KKT points and regularity

Consider  $\min_{\underline{x}} f(\underline{x})$ . s.t.  $g_i(\underline{x}) \leq 0, i=1, \dots, m$   
 $h_j(\underline{x}) = 0, j=1, \dots, p.$

Definition: A feasible point  $\underline{x}$  is a KKT point if

$\exists \underline{\lambda} \in \mathbb{R}_+^m, \underline{\lambda} \neq \underline{0}, \underline{\mu} \in \mathbb{R}^p$  s.t.

$$\nabla F(\underline{x}) + \sum_{i=1}^m \lambda_i \nabla g_i(\underline{x}) + \sum_{j=1}^p \mu_j \nabla h_j(\underline{x}) = 0$$

$$\lambda_i g_i(\underline{x}) = 0, i=1, \dots, m.$$

Definition: A feasible point  $\underline{x}$  is regular if it satisfies:  $\{\nabla g_i(\underline{x})\}_{i \in I(\underline{x})} \cup \{\nabla h_j(\underline{x})\}_{j=1}^p$  are linearly independent.

KKT theorem: If a local min  $\underline{x}^*$  is regular, then it's a KKT point.

Consider the KKT conditions: define

$$L(\underline{x}, \underline{\lambda}, \underline{\mu}) = f(\underline{x}) + \sum_{i=1}^m \lambda_i g_i(\underline{x}) + \sum_{j=1}^p \mu_j h_j(\underline{x}).$$

↖  
"Lagrangian"

$$\nabla f + \sum_{i=1}^m \lambda_i \nabla g_i + \sum_{j=1}^p \mu_j \nabla h_j = \underline{0} \rightarrow \text{stationarity of Lagrangian}$$

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} g_i(\underline{x}) \leq 0 \\ h_j(\underline{x}) = 0 \end{array} \right\} \text{"primal feasibility"}$$

$$\underline{\lambda} \in \mathbb{R}_+^m : \text{"dual feasibility"}$$

$$\lambda_i g_i(\underline{x}) = 0 \quad \forall i=1 \dots m : \text{"complementary slackness"}$$

## KKT conditions: convex optimization

KKT conditions are sufficient (!!)

Theorem: Suppose  $f, g_i$  are convex and  $h_j$  are affine.

If  $\underline{x}^*$  is a KKT point, then it's a global minimizer.

Pf: Let  $\underline{x}$  be any other feasible point.

$\underline{x}^*$  is a KKT point:  $h_j(\underline{x}^*) = 0, j = 1 \dots p$

$\lambda_i g_i(\underline{x}^*) = 0, i = 1 \dots m$

$$\text{Lagrangian } L(\underline{x}, \underline{\lambda}, \underline{\mu}) = f(\underline{x}) + \sum_{i=1}^m \lambda_i g_i(\underline{x}) + \sum_{j=1}^p \mu_j h_j(\underline{x})$$

Convex  
 $\lambda \geq 0$

for any  
feasible point.

$\Rightarrow L$  is convex.

$\Rightarrow$  stationary points are global minima.

KKT point:  $\nabla L(x^*, \lambda, \mu) = 0$ .

$\Rightarrow L(x^*) \leq L(x)$

convexity  
of  $L$  and stationarity of KKT points.

$$f(x^*) = L(x^*) \leq L(x) = f(x) + \sum_{j=1}^p \mu_j h_j(x) + \sum_{i=1}^m d_i g_i(x)$$

$$\leq f(x). \quad \square$$



Thursday: review session (i.e. office hours)

Exam: next Wed. (Dec 15), 8am. here (WEB L114)

maybe?

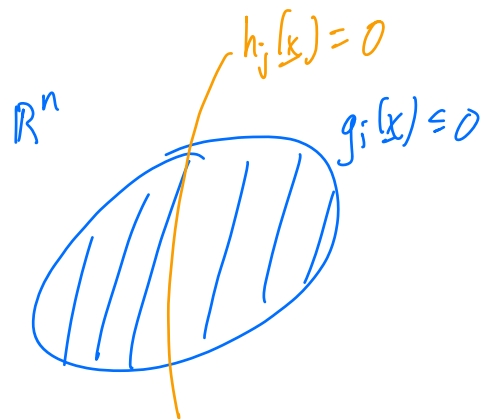
Today: HW #6 due.

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Review KKT conditions

$$\begin{aligned} \min & f(\underline{x}) \\ \text{s.t.} & g_i(\underline{x}) \leq 0 \quad i=1, \dots, m \\ & h_j(\underline{x}) = 0, \quad j=1, \dots, p \end{aligned}$$

Constrained opt. problem



$$\text{Define: } L(\underline{x}, \underline{\lambda}, \underline{\mu}) = f(\underline{x}) + \sum_{i=1}^m \lambda_i g_i(\underline{x}) + \sum_{j=1}^p \mu_j h_j(\underline{x})$$

$\underline{x}$  is a KKT point if:  $\nabla_{\underline{x}} L = \underline{0}$  (no feasible descent directions)

$\lambda_i g_i(\underline{x}) = 0, i=1, \dots, m$  (complementary slackness)

$\underline{\lambda} \in \mathbb{R}_+^m$  ( $\lambda_i \geq 0$ ) (dual feasibility)

$\left. \begin{aligned} \nabla_{\underline{\lambda}} L &\leq \underline{0} \\ \nabla_{\underline{\mu}} L &= \underline{0} \end{aligned} \right\}$  componentwise (primal feasibility)

KKT points aren't necessarily useful without "qualifications" on constraints.

If  $\{\nabla g_i(x)\}_{i=1}^m \cup \{\nabla h_j(x)\}_{j=1}^p$  is a linearly independent set of vectors, then  $\underline{x}$  is said to satisfy the linear independence constraint qualification (LICQ) condition.

Theorem (KKT necessity). Assume  $\underline{x}^*$  satisfies the LICQ condition.

$$\underline{x}^* \text{ is a local minimum of } \begin{array}{l} \min f(x) \\ \text{s.t. } g_i(x) \leq 0, \quad i=1, \dots, m \\ h_j(x) = 0, \quad j=1, \dots, p \end{array}$$

only if  $\underline{x}^*$  ~~satisfies the LICQ condition and~~ is a KKT point

Ex (constraint qualification is not optimal)

$$\begin{array}{ll} \min x & f(x) = x \\ \text{s.t. } -x^3 \leq 0 & (x \in \mathbb{R}) \\ & g(x) = -x^3 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{KKT conditions: } 1 + \lambda(-3x^2) = 0 & (\nabla f + \lambda \nabla g = 0) \\ \lambda(-x^3) = 0 & (\lambda g(x) = 0) \\ \lambda \geq 0 & \\ x \geq 0 & \end{array}$$

There are no solutions : no KKT points  
(but  $x=0$  is a local min!)

Failure:  $\nabla g(x=0) = (-3x^2)|_{x=0} = 0$  (not linearly independent)

( $x$  is feasible + satisfies a constraint qualification  
 $\Rightarrow x$  is "regular".)

Ex. (Reformulation can help)

$$\begin{array}{ll} \min & x \\ \text{s.t.} & -x \leq 0 \quad (x \in \mathbb{R}) \end{array}$$

$x=0$  is a KKT point.

(Here, KKT conditions are necessary.)

There are other kinds of constraint qualification.

E.g. linear constraint qualification (LCQ) =  $g_i, h_j$  are all affine functions.

Thm (sufficiency of KKT)

Assume  $f$  is convex and  $g_i$  are all convex, and  $h_j$  are all affine: then if  $\underline{x}^*$  is a KKT point, then it's a local minimum.

Ex:  $\min x$   
s.t.  $-x^3 \leq 0$  }  $f$  is convex  
 $g(x) = -x^3$  is concave (ok for sufficiency)  
for  $x \geq 0$ .

There are no KKT points (but a local min exists!)