Convex Optimization M2

Lecture 2

Convex Optimization Problems

Outline

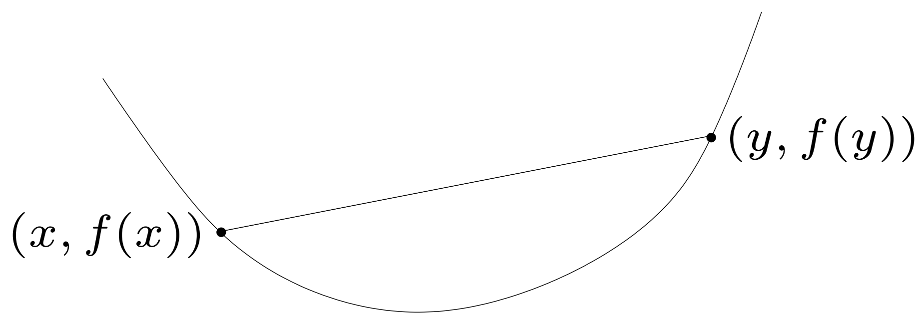
- basic properties and examples
- operations that preserve convexity
- the conjugate function
- quasiconvex functions
- log-concave and log-convex functions
- convexity with respect to generalized inequalities

Definition

$f : \mathbb{R}^n \to \mathbb{R}$ is convex if $\mathbf{dom}\, f$ is a convex set and

$$f(\theta x + (1-\theta)y) \leq \theta f(x) + (1-\theta) f(y)$$

for all $x, y \in \mathbf{dom}\, f$, $0 \leq \theta \leq 1$



- f is concave if $-f$ is convex
- f is strictly convex if $\mathbf{dom}\, f$ is convex and

$$f(\theta x + (1-\theta)y) < \theta f(x) + (1-\theta) f(y)$$

  for $x, y \in \mathbf{dom}\, f$, $x \neq y$, $0 < \theta < 1$

Examples on $\mathbb{R}$

convex:

- affine: $ax + b$ on $\mathbb{R}$, for any $a, b \in \mathbb{R}$
- exponential: e^{ax}, for any $a \in \mathbb{R}$
- powers: x^α on $\mathbb{R}_{++}$, for $\alpha \geq 1$ or $\alpha \leq 0$
- powers of absolute value: $|x|^p$ on $\mathbb{R}$, for $p \geq 1$
- negative entropy: $x \log x$ on $\mathbb{R}_{++}$

concave:

- affine: $ax + b$ on $\mathbb{R}$, for any $a, b \in \mathbb{R}$
- powers: x^α on $\mathbb{R}_{++}$, for $0 \leq \alpha \leq 1$
- logarithm: $\log x$ on $\mathbb{R}_{++}$

Examples on $\mathbb{R}^n$ and $\mathbb{R}^{m\times n}$

affine functions are convex and concave; all norms are convex

examples on $\mathbb{R}^n$

- affine function $f(x) = a^Tx + b$
- norms: $\|x\|_p = (\sum_{i=1}^n |x_i|^p)^{1/p}$ for $p \geq 1$; $\|x\|_\infty = \max_k |x_k|$

examples on $\mathbb{R}^{m\times n}$ ($m \times n$ matrices)

- affine function

$$f(X) = \mathbf{Tr}(A^TX) + b = \sum_{i=1}^{m}\sum_{j=1}^{n} A_{ij}X_{ij} + b$$

- spectral (maximum singular value) norm

$$f(X) = \|X\|_2 = \sigma_{\max}(X) = (\lambda_{\max}(X^TX))^{1/2}$$

Restriction of a convex function to a line

$f : \mathbb{R}^n \to \mathbb{R}$ is convex if and only if the function $g : \mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{R}$,

$$g(t) = f(x + tv), \qquad \mathbf{dom}\, g = \{t \mid x + tv \in \mathbf{dom}\, f\}$$

is convex (in t) for any $x \in \mathbf{dom}\, f$, $v \in \mathbb{R}^n$

can check convexity of f by checking convexity of functions of one variable

example. $f : \mathbf{S}^n \to \mathbb{R}$ with $f(X) = \log\det X$, $\mathbf{dom}\, X = \mathbf{S}^n_{++}$

$$\begin{aligned} g(t) = \log\det(X + tV) &= \log\det X + \log\det(I + tX^{-1/2}VX^{-1/2}) \\ &= \log\det X + \sum_{i=1}^{n} \log(1 + t\lambda_i) \end{aligned}$$

where λ_i are the eigenvalues of $X^{-1/2}VX^{-1/2}$

g is concave in t (for any choice of $X \succ 0$, V); hence f is concave

Extended-value extension

extended-value extension $\tilde{f}$ of f is

$$\tilde{f}(x) = f(x), \quad x \in \mathbf{dom}\, f, \qquad \tilde{f}(x) = \infty, \quad x \notin \mathbf{dom}\, f$$

often simplifies notation; for example, the condition

$$0 \le \theta \le 1 \quad \Longrightarrow \quad \tilde{f}(\theta x + (1-\theta)y) \le \theta \tilde{f}(x) + (1-\theta)\tilde{f}(y)$$

(as an inequality in $\mathbb{R} \cup \{\infty\}$), means the same as the two conditions

- $\mathbf{dom}\, f$ is convex
- for $x, y \in \mathbf{dom}\, f$,

$$0 \le \theta \le 1 \quad \Longrightarrow \quad f(\theta x + (1-\theta)y) \le \theta f(x) + (1-\theta)f(y)$$

First-order condition

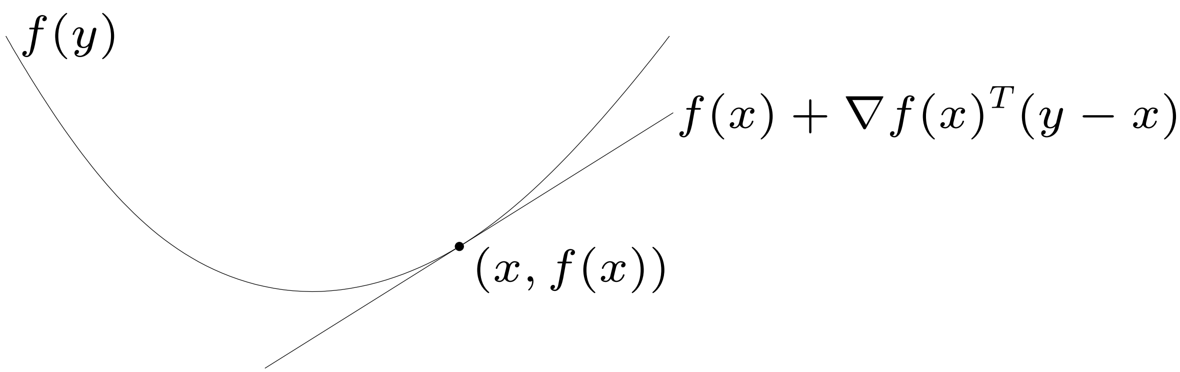
f is **differentiable** if $\mathbf{dom}\, f$ is open and the gradient

$$\nabla f(x) = \left(\frac{\partial f(x)}{\partial x_1}, \frac{\partial f(x)}{\partial x_2}, \ldots, \frac{\partial f(x)}{\partial x_n}\right)$$

exists at each $x \in \mathbf{dom}\, f$

1st-order condition: differentiable f with convex domain is convex iff

$$f(y) \geq f(x) + \nabla f(x)^T(y - x) \quad \text{for all } x, y \in \mathbf{dom}\, f$$



first-order approximation of f is global underestimator

Second-order conditions

f is **twice differentiable** if $\textbf{dom}\, f$ is open and the Hessian $\nabla^2 f(x) \in \mathbf{S}^n$,

$$\nabla^2 f(x)_{ij} = \frac{\partial^2 f(x)}{\partial x_i \partial x_j}, \quad i, j = 1, \ldots, n,$$

exists at each $x \in \textbf{dom}\, f$

2nd-order conditions: for twice differentiable f with convex domain

- f is convex if and only if

$$\nabla^2 f(x) \succeq 0 \quad \text{for all } x \in \textbf{dom}\, f$$

- if $\nabla^2 f(x) \succ 0$ for all $x \in \textbf{dom}\, f$, then f is strictly convex

Examples

quadratic function: $f(x) = (1/2)x^T Px + q^T x + r$ (with $P \in \mathbf{S}^n$)

$$\nabla f(x) = Px + q, \qquad \nabla^2 f(x) = P$$

convex if $P \succeq 0$

least-squares objective: $f(x) = \|Ax - b\|_2^2$

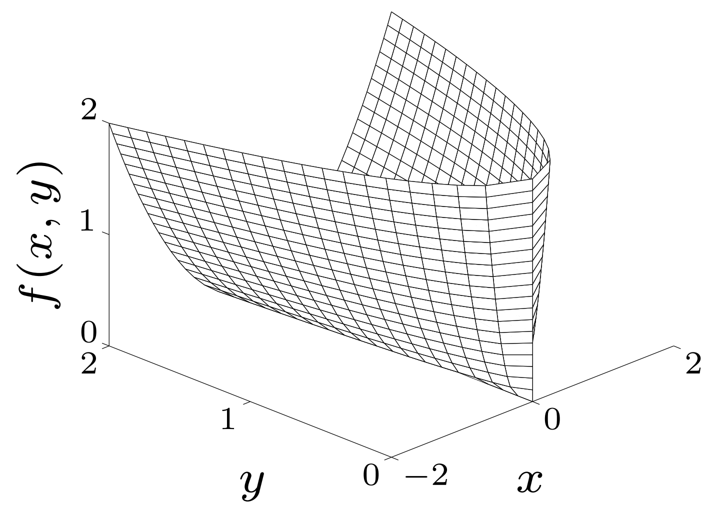
$$\nabla f(x) = 2A^T(Ax - b), \qquad \nabla^2 f(x) = 2A^T A$$

convex (for any A)

quadratic-over-linear: $f(x, y) = x^2/y$

$$\nabla^2 f(x, y) = \frac{2}{y^3} \begin{bmatrix} y \\ -x \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} y \\ -x \end{bmatrix}^T \succeq 0$$

convex for $y > 0$



log-sum-exp: $f(x) = \log \sum_{k=1}^{n} \exp x_k$ is convex

$$\nabla^2 f(x) = \frac{1}{\mathbf{1}^T z} \mathbf{diag}(z) - \frac{1}{(\mathbf{1}^T z)^2} z z^T \qquad (z_k = \exp x_k)$$

to show $\nabla^2 f(x) \succeq 0$, we must verify that $v^T \nabla^2 f(x) v \geq 0$ for all v:

$$v^T \nabla^2 f(x) v = \frac{(\sum_k z_k v_k^2)(\sum_k z_k) - (\sum_k v_k z_k)^2}{(\sum_k z_k)^2} \geq 0$$

since $(\sum_k v_k z_k)^2 \leq (\sum_k z_k v_k^2)(\sum_k z_k)$ (from Cauchy-Schwarz inequality)

geometric mean: $f(x) = (\prod_{k=1}^{n} x_k)^{1/n}$ on $\mathbb{R}^n_{++}$ is concave

(similar proof as for log-sum-exp)

Epigraph and sublevel set

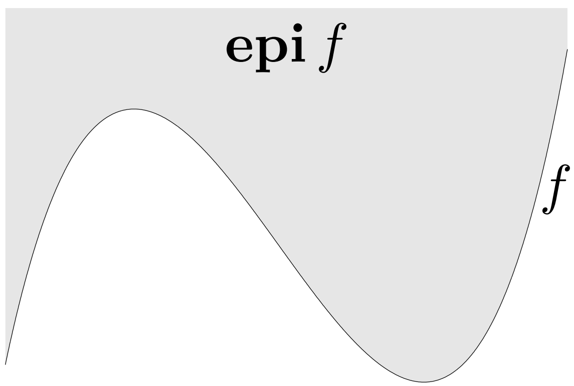
α-**sublevel set** of $f : \mathbb{R}^n \to \mathbb{R}$:

$$C_\alpha = \{x \in \mathbf{dom}\, f \mid f(x) \le \alpha\}$$

sublevel sets of convex functions are convex (converse is false)

epigraph of $f : \mathbb{R}^n \to \mathbb{R}$:

$$\mathbf{epi}\, f = \{(x,t) \in \mathbb{R}^{n+1} \mid x \in \mathbf{dom}\, f,\ f(x) \le t\}$$



f is convex if and only if $\mathbf{epi}\, f$ is a convex set

Jensen's inequality

basic inequality: if f is convex, then for $0 \leq \theta \leq 1$,

$$f(\theta x + (1-\theta)y) \leq \theta f(x) + (1-\theta) f(y)$$

extension: if f is convex, then

$$f(\mathbf{E}\, z) \leq \mathbf{E}\, f(z)$$

for any random variable z

basic inequality is special case with discrete distribution

$$\mathbf{Prob}(z = x) = \theta, \qquad \mathbf{Prob}(z = y) = 1 - \theta$$

Operations that preserve convexity

practical methods for establishing convexity of a function

1. verify definition (often simplified by restricting to a line)

2. for twice differentiable functions, show $\nabla^2 f(x) \succeq 0$

3. show that f is obtained from simple convex functions by operations that preserve convexity

   - nonnegative weighted sum
   - composition with affine function
   - pointwise maximum and supremum
   - composition
   - minimization
   - perspective

Positive weighted sum & composition with affine function

nonnegative multiple: αf is convex if f is convex, $\alpha \geq 0$

sum: $f_1 + f_2$ convex if f_1, f_2 convex (extends to infinite sums, integrals)

composition with affine function: $f(Ax + b)$ is convex if f is convex

examples

- log barrier for linear inequalities

$$f(x) = -\sum_{i=1}^{m} \log(b_i - a_i^T x), \qquad \mathbf{dom}\, f = \{x \mid a_i^T x < b_i, i = 1, \ldots, m\}$$

- (any) norm of affine function: $f(x) = \|Ax + b\|$

Pointwise maximum

if f_1, . . . , f_m are convex, then $f(x) = \max\{f_1(x), \ldots, f_m(x)\}$ is convex

examples

- piecewise-linear function: $f(x) = \max_{i=1,\ldots,m}(a_i^T x + b_i)$ is convex
- sum of r largest components of $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$:

$$f(x) = x_{[1]} + x_{[2]} + \cdots + x_{[r]}$$

  is convex ($x_{[i]}$ is ith largest component of x)

  proof:

$$f(x) = \max\{x_{i_1} + x_{i_2} + \cdots + x_{i_r} \mid 1 \leq i_1 < i_2 < \cdots < i_r \leq n\}$$

Pointwise supremum

if $f(x,y)$ is convex in x for each $y \in \mathcal{A}$, then

$$g(x) = \sup_{y \in \mathcal{A}} f(x,y)$$

is convex

examples

- support function of a set C: $S_C(x) = \sup_{y \in C} y^T x$ is convex
- distance to farthest point in a set C:

$$f(x) = \sup_{y \in C} \|x - y\|$$

- maximum eigenvalue of symmetric matrix: for $X \in \mathbf{S}^n$,

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

Composition with scalar functions

composition of $g : \mathbb{R}^n \to \mathbb{R}$ and $h : \mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{R}$:

$$f(x) = h(g(x))$$

f is convex if $\begin{array}{l} g \text{ convex, } h \text{ convex, } \tilde{h} \text{ nondecreasing} \\ g \text{ concave, } h \text{ convex, } \tilde{h} \text{ nonincreasing} \end{array}$

- proof (for $n = 1$, differentiable g, h)

$$f''(x) = h''(g(x))g'(x)^2 + h'(g(x))g''(x)$$

- note: monotonicity must hold for extended-value extension $\tilde{h}$

examples

- $\exp g(x)$ is convex if g is convex
- $1/g(x)$ is convex if g is concave and positive

Vector composition

composition of $g : \mathbb{R}^n \to \mathbb{R}^k$ and $h : \mathbb{R}^k \to \mathbb{R}$:

$$f(x) = h(g(x)) = h(g_1(x), g_2(x), \ldots, g_k(x))$$

f is convex if
- g_i convex, h convex, $\tilde{h}$ nondecreasing in each argument
- g_i concave, h convex, $\tilde{h}$ nonincreasing in each argument

proof (for $n = 1$, differentiable g, h)

$$f''(x) = g'(x)^T \nabla^2 h(g(x)) g'(x) + \nabla h(g(x))^T g''(x)$$

examples

- $\sum_{i=1}^m \log g_i(x)$ is concave if g_i are concave and positive
- $\log \sum_{i=1}^m \exp g_i(x)$ is convex if g_i are convex

Minimization

if $f(x,y)$ is convex in (x,y) and C is a convex set, then

$$g(x) = \inf_{y \in C} f(x,y)$$

is convex

examples

- $f(x,y) = x^T A x + 2x^T B y + y^T C y$ with

$$\left[\begin{array}{cc} A & B \\ B^T & C \end{array}\right] \succeq 0, \qquad C \succ 0$$

  minimizing over y gives $g(x) = \inf_y f(x,y) = x^T(A - BC^{-1}B^T)x$

  g is convex, hence Schur complement $A - BC^{-1}B^T \succeq 0$

- distance to a set: $\mathbf{dist}(x,S) = \inf_{y \in S} \|x - y\|$ is convex if S is convex

Perspective

the **perspective** of a function $f : \mathbb{R}^n \to \mathbb{R}$ is the function $g : \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{R}$,

$$g(x,t) = tf(x/t), \qquad \mathbf{dom}\, g = \{(x,t) \mid x/t \in \mathbf{dom}\, f,\ t > 0\}$$

g is convex if f is convex

examples

- $f(x) = x^T x$ is convex; hence $g(x,t) = x^T x/t$ is convex for $t > 0$
- negative logarithm $f(x) = -\log x$ is convex; hence relative entropy $g(x,t) = t\log t - t\log x$ is convex on $\mathbb{R}^2_{++}$
- if f is convex, then

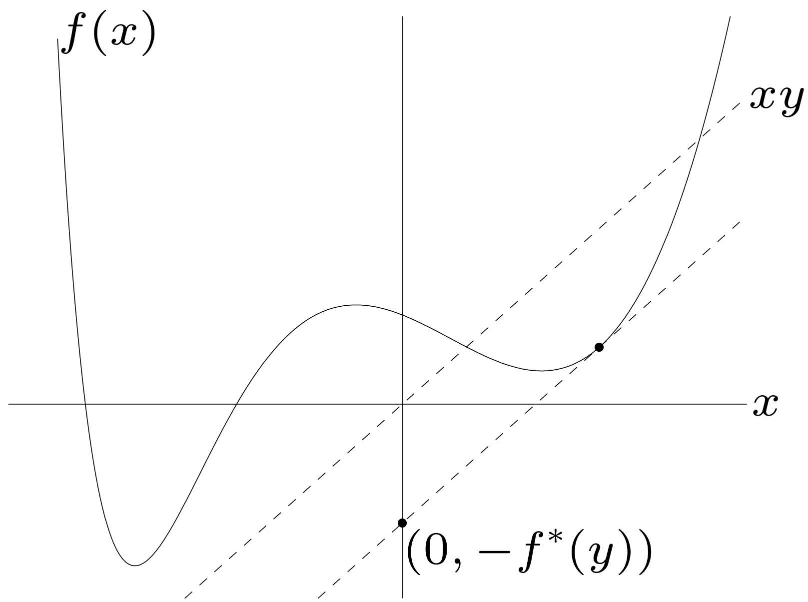
$$g(x) = (c^T x + d) f\left((Ax+b)/(c^T x + d)\right)$$

is convex on $\{x \mid c^T x + d > 0,\ (Ax+b)/(c^T x + d) \in \mathbf{dom}\, f\}$

The conjugate function

the **conjugate** of a function f is

$$f^*(y) = \sup_{x \in \mathbf{dom}\, f} (y^T x - f(x))$$



- f^* is convex (even if f is not)
- Used in regularization, duality results, . . .

examples

- negative logarithm $f(x) = -\log x$

$$
\begin{aligned}
f^*(y) &= \sup_{x>0}(xy + \log x) \\
&= \begin{cases} -1 - \log(-y) & y < 0 \\ \infty & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}
\end{aligned}
$$

- strictly convex quadratic $f(x) = (1/2)x^T Q x$ with $Q \in \mathbf{S}^n_{++}$

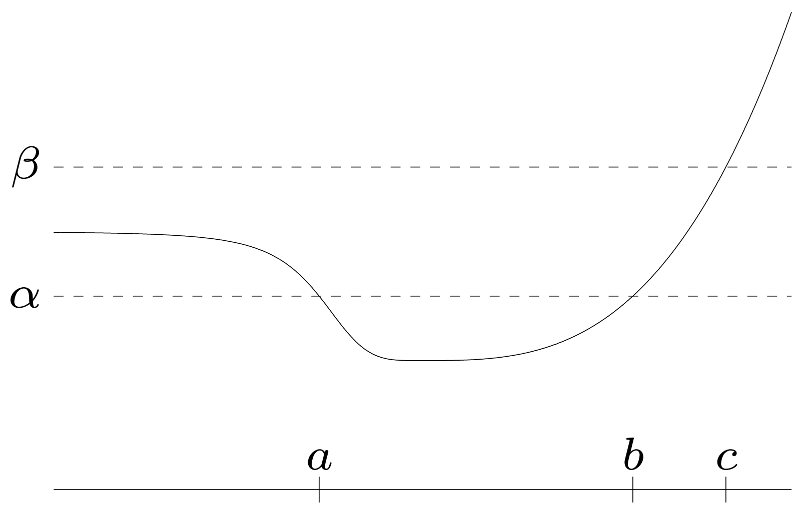
$$
\begin{aligned}
f^*(y) &= \sup_x (y^T x - (1/2)x^T Q x) \\
&= \frac{1}{2} y^T Q^{-1} y
\end{aligned}
$$

Quasiconvex functions

$f : \mathbb{R}^n \to \mathbb{R}$ is quasiconvex if $\mathbf{dom}\, f$ is convex and the sublevel sets

$$S_\alpha = \{x \in \mathbf{dom}\, f \mid f(x) \leq \alpha\}$$

are convex for all α



- f is quasiconcave if $-f$ is quasiconvex
- f is quasilinear if it is quasiconvex and quasiconcave

Examples

- $\sqrt{|x|}$ is quasiconvex on $\mathbb{R}$
- $\operatorname{ceil}(x) = \inf\{z \in \mathbf{Z} \mid z \geq x\}$ is quasilinear
- $\log x$ is quasilinear on $\mathbb{R}_{++}$
- $f(x_1, x_2) = x_1 x_2$ is quasiconcave on $\mathbb{R}^2_{++}$
- linear-fractional function

$$f(x) = \frac{a^T x + b}{c^T x + d}, \qquad \mathbf{dom}\, f = \{x \mid c^T x + d > 0\}$$

  is quasilinear

- distance ratio

$$f(x) = \frac{\|x - a\|_2}{\|x - b\|_2}, \qquad \mathbf{dom}\, f = \{x \mid \|x - a\|_2 \leq \|x - b\|_2\}$$

  is quasiconvex

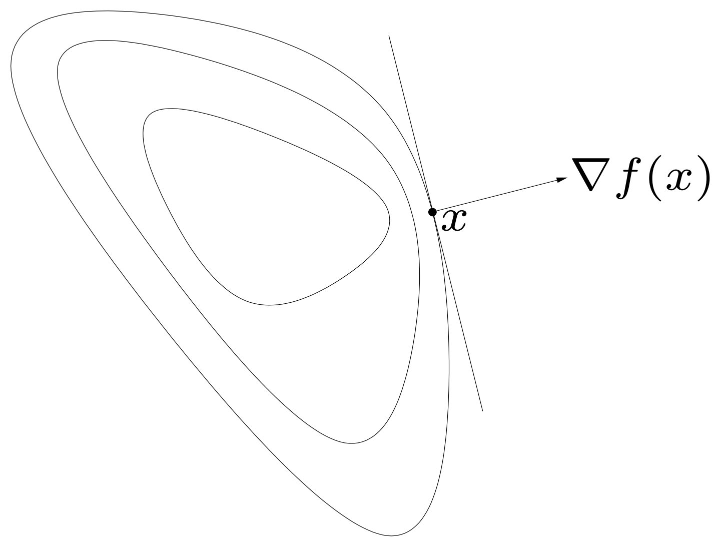
Properties

modified Jensen inequality: for quasiconvex f

$$0 \leq \theta \leq 1 \quad \Longrightarrow \quad f(\theta x + (1-\theta)y) \leq \max\{f(x), f(y)\}$$

first-order condition: differentiable f with cvx domain is quasiconvex iff

$$f(y) \leq f(x) \quad \Longrightarrow \quad \nabla f(x)^T (y - x) \leq 0$$



sums of quasiconvex functions are not necessarily quasiconvex

Log-concave and log-convex functions

a positive function f is log-concave if $\log f$ is concave:

$$f(\theta x + (1-\theta)y) \geq f(x)^{\theta} f(y)^{1-\theta} \quad \text{for } 0 \leq \theta \leq 1$$

f is log-convex if $\log f$ is convex

- powers: x^a on $\mathbb{R}_{++}$ is log-convex for $a \leq 0$, log-concave for $a \geq 0$
- many common probability densities are log-concave, $e.g.$, normal:

$$f(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{(2\pi)^n \det \Sigma}} e^{-\frac{1}{2}(x-\bar{x})^T \Sigma^{-1}(x-\bar{x})}$$

- cumulative Gaussian distribution function Φ is log-concave

$$\Phi(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^{x} e^{-u^2/2}\, du$$

Properties of log-concave functions

- twice differentiable f with convex domain is log-concave if and only if

$$f(x)\nabla^2 f(x) \preceq \nabla f(x) \nabla f(x)^T$$

  for all $x \in \mathbf{dom}\, f$

- product of log-concave functions is log-concave
- sum of log-concave functions is not always log-concave
- integration: if $f : \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}^m \to \mathbb{R}$ is log-concave, then

$$g(x) = \int f(x, y)\, dy$$

  is log-concave (not easy to show)

consequences of integration property

- convolution $f * g$ of log-concave functions f, g is log-concave

$$(f * g)(x) = \int f(x-y)g(y)dy$$

- if $C \subseteq \mathbf{R}^n$ convex and y is a random variable with log-concave pdf then

$$f(x) = \mathbf{Prob}(x + y \in C)$$

  is log-concave

  proof: write $f(x)$ as integral of product of log-concave functions

$$f(x) = \int g(x+y)p(y)\,dy, \qquad g(u) = \begin{cases} 1 & u \in C \\ 0 & u \notin C, \end{cases}$$

  p is pdf of y

example: yield function

$$Y(x) = \mathbf{Prob}(x + w \in S)$$

- $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$: nominal parameter values for product
- $w \in \mathbb{R}^n$: random variations of parameters in manufactured product
- S: set of acceptable values

if S is convex and w has a log-concave pdf, then

- Y is log-concave
- yield regions $\{x \mid Y(x) \geq \alpha\}$ are convex
- Not necessarily tractable though. . .

Convexity with respect to generalized inequalities

$f : \mathbb{R}^n \to \mathbb{R}^m$ is K-convex if $\mathbf{dom}\, f$ is convex and

$$f(\theta x + (1-\theta)y) \preceq_K \theta f(x) + (1-\theta) f(y)$$

for x, $y \in \mathbf{dom}\, f$, $0 \leq \theta \leq 1$

example $f : \mathbf{S}^m \to \mathbf{S}^m$, $f(X) = X^2$ is $\mathbf{S}^m_+$-convex

proof: for fixed $z \in \mathbb{R}^m$, $z^T X^2 z = \|Xz\|_2^2$ is convex in X, *i.e.*,

$$z^T(\theta X + (1-\theta)Y)^2 z \leq \theta z^T X^2 z + (1-\theta) z^T Y^2 z$$

for $X, Y \in \mathbf{S}^m$, $0 \leq \theta \leq 1$

therefore $(\theta X + (1-\theta)Y)^2 \preceq \theta X^2 + (1-\theta)Y^2$

Convex Optimization Problems

Outline

- optimization problem in standard form
- convex optimization problems
- quasiconvex optimization
- linear optimization
- quadratic optimization
- geometric programming
- generalized inequality constraints
- semidefinite programming
- vector optimization

Optimization problem in standard form

$$
\begin{array}{ll}
\text{minimize} & f_0(x) \\
\text{subject to} & f_i(x) \leq 0, \quad i = 1, \ldots, m \\
& h_i(x) = 0, \quad i = 1, \ldots, p
\end{array}
$$

- $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ is the optimization variable
- $f_0 : \mathbb{R}^n \to \mathbb{R}$ is the objective or cost function
- $f_i : \mathbb{R}^n \to \mathbb{R}$, $i = 1, \ldots, m$, are the inequality constraint functions
- $h_i : \mathbb{R}^n \to \mathbb{R}$ are the equality constraint functions

optimal value:

$$
p^\star = \inf\{f_0(x) \mid f_i(x) \leq 0,\ i = 1, \ldots, m,\ h_i(x) = 0,\ i = 1, \ldots, p\}
$$

- $p^\star = \infty$ if problem is infeasible (no x satisfies the constraints)
- $p^\star = -\infty$ if problem is unbounded below

Optimal and locally optimal points

x is **feasible** if $x \in \mathbf{dom}\, f_0$ and it satisfies the constraints

a feasible x is **optimal** if $f_0(x) = p^\star$; $X_{\rm opt}$ is the set of optimal points

x is **locally optimal** if there is an $R > 0$ such that x is optimal for

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{minimize (over } z) & f_0(z) \\ \text{subject to} & f_i(z) \leq 0, \quad i = 1, \ldots, m, \quad h_i(z) = 0, \quad i = 1, \ldots, p \\ & \|z - x\|_2 \leq R \end{array}$$

examples (with $n = 1$, $m = p = 0$)

- $f_0(x) = 1/x$, $\mathbf{dom}\, f_0 = \mathbb{R}_{++}$: $p^\star = 0$, no optimal point
- $f_0(x) = -\log x$, $\mathbf{dom}\, f_0 = \mathbb{R}_{++}$: $p^\star = -\infty$
- $f_0(x) = x \log x$, $\mathbf{dom}\, f_0 = \mathbb{R}_{++}$: $p^\star = -1/e$, $x = 1/e$ is optimal
- $f_0(x) = x^3 - 3x$, $p^\star = -\infty$, local optimum at $x = 1$

Implicit constraints

the standard form optimization problem has an **implicit constraint**

$$x \in \mathcal{D} = \bigcap_{i=0}^{m} \mathbf{dom}\, f_i \;\cap\; \bigcap_{i=1}^{p} \mathbf{dom}\, h_i,$$

- we call $\mathcal{D}$ the **domain** of the problem
- the constraints $f_i(x) \leq 0$, $h_i(x) = 0$ are the explicit constraints
- a problem is **unconstrained** if it has no explicit constraints ($m = p = 0$)

example:

$$\text{minimize} \quad f_0(x) = -\textstyle\sum_{i=1}^{k} \log(b_i - a_i^T x)$$

is an unconstrained problem with implicit constraints $a_i^T x < b_i$

Feasibility problem

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{find} & x \\ \text{subject to} & f_i(x) \leq 0, \quad i = 1, \ldots, m \\ & h_i(x) = 0, \quad i = 1, \ldots, p \end{array}$$

can be considered a special case of the general problem with $f_0(x) = 0$:

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{minimize} & 0 \\ \text{subject to} & f_i(x) \leq 0, \quad i = 1, \ldots, m \\ & h_i(x) = 0, \quad i = 1, \ldots, p \end{array}$$

- $p^\star = 0$ if constraints are feasible; any feasible x is optimal
- $p^\star = \infty$ if constraints are infeasible

Convex optimization problem

standard form convex optimization problem

$$\begin{array}{ll} \mbox{minimize} & f_0(x) \\ \mbox{subject to} & f_i(x) \leq 0, \quad i = 1, \ldots, m \\ & a_i^T x = b_i, \quad i = 1, \ldots, p \end{array}$$

- f_0, f_1, . . . , f_m are convex; equality constraints are affine
- problem is *quasiconvex* if f_0 is quasiconvex (and f_1, . . . , f_m convex)

often written as

$$\begin{array}{ll} \mbox{minimize} & f_0(x) \\ \mbox{subject to} & f_i(x) \leq 0, \quad i = 1, \ldots, m \\ & Ax = b \end{array}$$

important property: feasible set of a convex optimization problem is convex

example

$$
\begin{array}{ll}
\text{minimize} & f_0(x) = x_1^2 + x_2^2 \\
\text{subject to} & f_1(x) = x_1/(1+x_2^2) \leq 0 \\
& h_1(x) = (x_1 + x_2)^2 = 0
\end{array}
$$

- f_0 is convex; feasible set $\{(x_1, x_2) \mid x_1 = -x_2 \leq 0\}$ is convex
- not a convex problem (according to our definition): f_1 is not convex, h_1 is not affine
- equivalent (but not identical) to the convex problem

$$
\begin{array}{ll}
\text{minimize} & x_1^2 + x_2^2 \\
\text{subject to} & x_1 \leq 0 \\
& x_1 + x_2 = 0
\end{array}
$$

Local and global optima

any locally optimal point of a convex problem is (globally) optimal

proof: suppose x is locally optimal and y is optimal with $f_0(y) < f_0(x)$

x locally optimal means there is an $R > 0$ such that

$$z \text{ feasible}, \quad \|z - x\|_2 \leq R \quad \Longrightarrow \quad f_0(z) \geq f_0(x)$$

consider $z = \theta y + (1-\theta)x$ with $\theta = R/(2\|y - x\|_2)$

- $\|y - x\|_2 > R$, so $0 < \theta < 1/2$
- z is a convex combination of two feasible points, hence also feasible
- $\|z - x\|_2 = R/2$ and

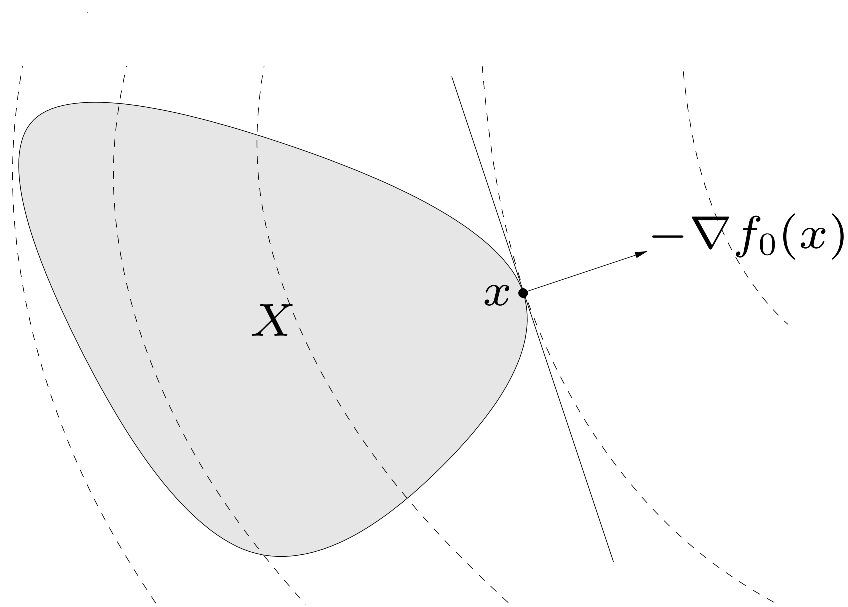
$$f_0(z) \leq \theta f_0(x) + (1-\theta) f_0(y) < f_0(x)$$

which contradicts our assumption that x is locally optimal

Optimality criterion for differentiable f_0

x is optimal if and only if it is feasible and

$$\nabla f_0(x)^T(y - x) \geq 0 \quad \text{for all feasible } y$$



if nonzero, $\nabla f_0(x)$ defines a supporting hyperplane to feasible set X at x

- **unconstrained problem**: x is optimal if and only if

$$x \in \mathbf{dom}\, f_0, \qquad \nabla f_0(x) = 0$$

- **equality constrained problem**

$$\text{minimize} \quad f_0(x) \quad \text{subject to} \quad Ax = b$$

x is optimal if and only if there exists a ν such that

$$x \in \mathbf{dom}\, f_0, \qquad Ax = b, \qquad \nabla f_0(x) + A^T \nu = 0$$

- **minimization over nonnegative orthant**

$$\text{minimize} \quad f_0(x) \quad \text{subject to} \quad x \succeq 0$$

x is optimal if and only if

$$x \in \mathbf{dom}\, f_0, \qquad x \succeq 0, \qquad \left\{ \begin{array}{ll} \nabla f_0(x)_i \geq 0 & x_i = 0 \\ \nabla f_0(x)_i = 0 & x_i > 0 \end{array} \right.$$

Equivalent convex problems

two problems are (informally) **equivalent** if the solution of one is readily obtained from the solution of the other, and vice-versa

some common transformations that preserve convexity:

- **eliminating equality constraints**

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{minimize} & f_0(x) \\ \text{subject to} & f_i(x) \leq 0, \quad i = 1, \ldots, m \\ & Ax = b \end{array}$$

  is equivalent to

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{minimize (over } z\text{)} & f_0(Fz + x_0) \\ \text{subject to} & f_i(Fz + x_0) \leq 0, \quad i = 1, \ldots, m \end{array}$$

  where F and x_0 are such that

$$Ax = b \quad \Longleftrightarrow \quad x = Fz + x_0 \text{ for some } z$$

- **introducing equality constraints**

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{minimize} & f_0(A_0x+b_0) \\ \text{subject to} & f_i(A_ix+b_i) \le 0, \quad i=1,\ldots,m \end{array}$$

is equivalent to

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{minimize (over } x,\ y_i) & f_0(y_0) \\ \text{subject to} & f_i(y_i) \le 0, \quad i=1,\ldots,m \\ & y_i = A_ix+b_i, \quad i=0,1,\ldots,m \end{array}$$

- **introducing slack variables for linear inequalities**

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{minimize} & f_0(x) \\ \text{subject to} & a_i^Tx \le b_i, \quad i=1,\ldots,m \end{array}$$

is equivalent to

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{minimize (over } x,\ s) & f_0(x) \\ \text{subject to} & a_i^Tx+s_i = b_i, \quad i=1,\ldots,m \\ & s_i \ge 0, \quad i=1,\ldots m \end{array}$$

- **epigraph form**: standard form convex problem is equivalent to

$$\begin{array}{ll}\text{minimize (over } x,\ t) & t\\ \text{subject to} & f_0(x) - t \leq 0\\ & f_i(x) \leq 0, \quad i = 1, \ldots, m\\ & Ax = b\end{array}$$

- **minimizing over some variables**

$$\begin{array}{ll}\text{minimize} & f_0(x_1, x_2)\\ \text{subject to} & f_i(x_1) \leq 0, \quad i = 1, \ldots, m\end{array}$$

is equivalent to

$$\begin{array}{ll}\text{minimize} & \tilde{f}_0(x_1)\\ \text{subject to} & f_i(x_1) \leq 0, \quad i = 1, \ldots, m\end{array}$$

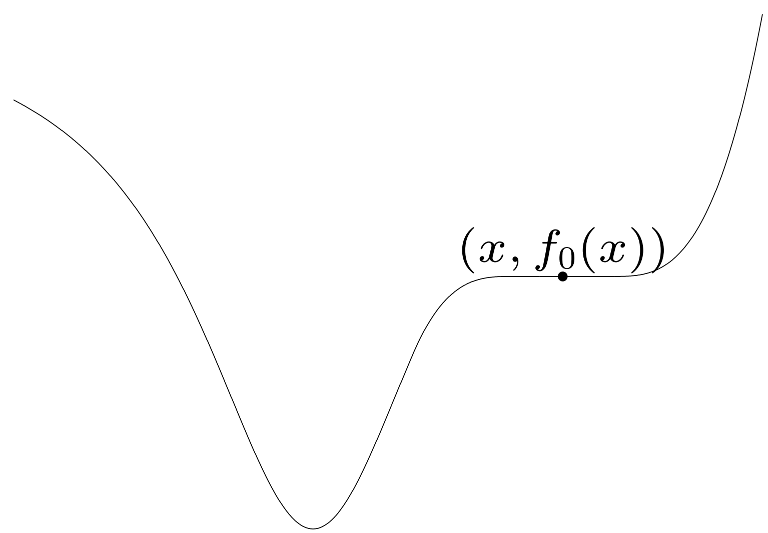
where $\tilde{f}_0(x_1) = \inf_{x_2} f_0(x_1, x_2)$

Quasiconvex optimization

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{minimize} & f_0(x) \\ \text{subject to} & f_i(x) \leq 0, \quad i = 1, \ldots, m \\ & Ax = b \end{array}$$

with $f_0 : \mathbb{R}^n \to \mathbb{R}$ quasiconvex, $f_1, \ldots, f_m$ convex

can have locally optimal points that are not (globally) optimal



quasiconvex optimization via convex feasibility problems

$$f_0(x) \le t, \qquad f_i(x) \le 0, \quad i = 1, \ldots, m, \qquad Ax = b \tag{1}$$

- for fixed t, a convex feasibility problem in x
- if feasible, we can conclude that $t \ge p^\star$; if infeasible, $t \le p^\star$

Bisection method for quasiconvex optimization

given $l \le p^\star$, $u \ge p^\star$, tolerance $\epsilon > 0$.
repeat
1. $t := (l + u)/2$.
2. Solve the convex feasibility problem (1).
3. **if** (1) is feasible, $u := t$; **else** $l := t$.

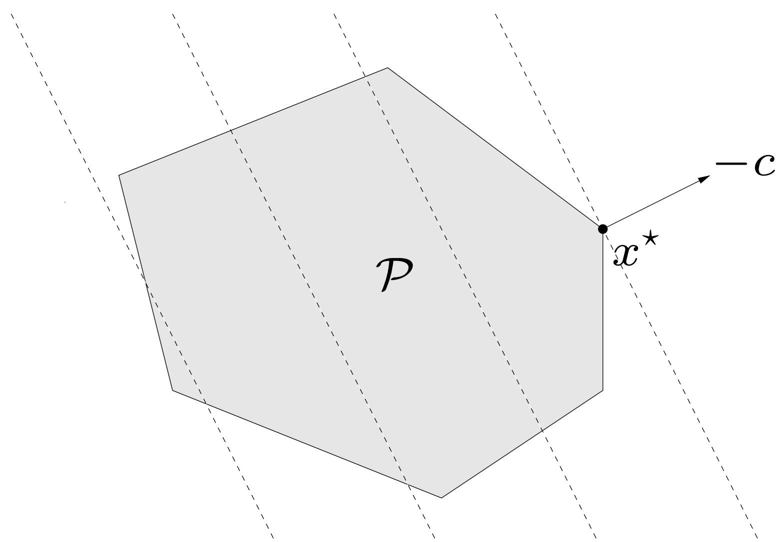
until $u - l \le \epsilon$.

requires exactly $\lceil \log_2((u - l)/\epsilon) \rceil$ iterations (where u, l are initial values)

Linear program (LP)

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{minimize} & c^T x + d \\ \text{subject to} & Gx \preceq h \\ & Ax = b \end{array}$$

- convex problem with affine objective and constraint functions
- feasible set is a polyhedron



Examples

diet problem: choose quantities $x_1, \ldots, x_n$ of n foods

- one unit of food j costs c_j, contains amount a_{ij} of nutrient i
- healthy diet requires nutrient i in quantity at least b_i

to find cheapest healthy diet,

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{minimize} & c^T x \\ \text{subject to} & Ax \succeq b, \quad x \succeq 0 \end{array}$$

piecewise-linear minimization

$$\text{minimize} \quad \max_{i=1,\ldots,m}(a_i^T x + b_i)$$

equivalent to an LP

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{minimize} & t \\ \text{subject to} & a_i^T x + b_i \leq t, \quad i = 1, \ldots, m \end{array}$$

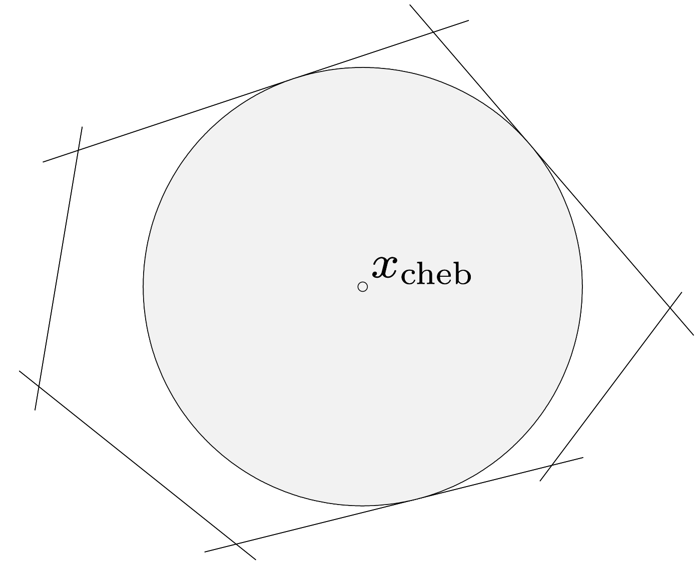
Chebyshev center of a polyhedron

Chebyshev center of

$$\mathcal{P} = \{x \mid a_i^T x \leq b_i, \ i = 1, \ldots, m\}$$

is center of largest inscribed ball

$$\mathcal{B} = \{x_c + u \mid \|u\|_2 \leq r\}$$



- $a_i^T x \leq b_i$ for all $x \in \mathcal{B}$ if and only if

$$\sup\{a_i^T(x_c + u) \mid \|u\|_2 \leq r\} = a_i^T x_c + r\|a_i\|_2 \leq b_i$$

- hence, x_c, r can be determined by solving the LP

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{maximize} & r \\ \text{subject to} & a_i^T x_c + r\|a_i\|_2 \leq b_i, \quad i = 1, \ldots, m \end{array}$$

(Generalized) linear-fractional program

$$
\begin{array}{ll}
\text{minimize} & f_0(x) \\
\text{subject to} & Gx \preceq h \\
& Ax = b
\end{array}
$$

linear-fractional program

$$
f_0(x) = \frac{c^T x + d}{e^T x + f}, \qquad \mathbf{dom}\, f_0(x) = \{x \mid e^T x + f > 0\}
$$

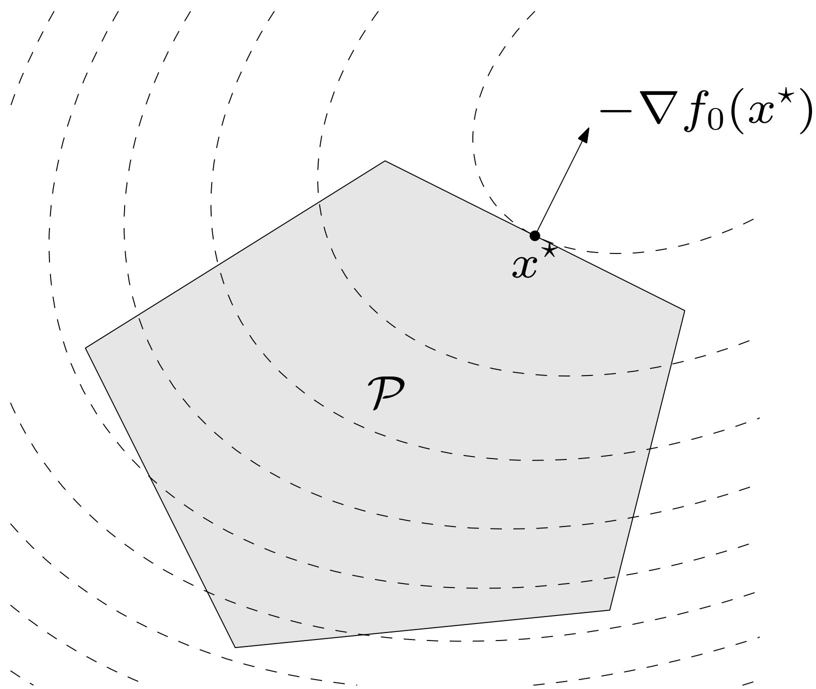
- a quasiconvex optimization problem; can be solved by bisection
- also equivalent to the LP (variables y, z)

$$
\begin{array}{ll}
\text{minimize} & c^T y + dz \\
\text{subject to} & Gy \preceq hz \\
& Ay = bz \\
& e^T y + fz = 1 \\
& z \geq 0
\end{array}
$$

Quadratic program (QP)

$$
\begin{array}{ll}
\text{minimize} & (1/2)x^T P x + q^T x + r \\
\text{subject to} & Gx \preceq h \\
& Ax = b
\end{array}
$$

- $P \in \mathbf{S}_+^n$, so objective is convex quadratic
- minimize a convex quadratic function over a polyhedron



Examples

least-squares

$$\text{minimize} \quad \|Ax - b\|_2^2$$

- analytical solution $x^\star = A^\dagger b$ ($A^\dagger$ is pseudo-inverse)
- can add linear constraints, *e.g.*, $l \preceq x \preceq u$

linear program with random cost

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{minimize} & \bar{c}^T x + \gamma x^T \Sigma x = \mathbf{E}\, c^T x + \gamma\, \mathbf{var}(c^T x) \\ \text{subject to} & Gx \preceq h, \quad Ax = b \end{array}$$

- c is random vector with mean $\bar{c}$ and covariance Σ
- hence, $c^T x$ is random variable with mean $\bar{c}^T x$ and variance $x^T \Sigma x$
- $\gamma > 0$ is risk aversion parameter; controls the trade-off between expected cost and variance (risk)

Quadratically constrained quadratic program (QCQP)

$$
\begin{array}{ll}
\mbox{minimize} & (1/2)x^T P_0 x + q_0^T x + r_0 \\
\mbox{subject to} & (1/2)x^T P_i x + q_i^T x + r_i \leq 0, \quad i = 1, \ldots, m \\
& Ax = b
\end{array}
$$

- $P_i \in \mathbf{S}_+^n$; objective and constraints are convex quadratic
- if $P_1, \ldots, P_m \in \mathbf{S}_{++}^n$, feasible region is intersection of m ellipsoids and an affine set

Second-order cone programming

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{minimize} & f^T x \\ \text{subject to} & \|A_i x + b_i\|_2 \leq c_i^T x + d_i, \quad i = 1, \ldots, m \\ & Fx = g \end{array}$$

($A_i \in \mathbb{R}^{n_i \times n}$, $F \in \mathbb{R}^{p \times n}$)

- inequalities are called second-order cone (SOC) constraints:

$$(A_i x + b_i, c_i^T x + d_i) \in \text{second-order cone in } \mathbb{R}^{n_i+1}$$

- for $n_i = 0$, reduces to an LP; if $c_i = 0$, reduces to a QCQP
- more general than QCQP and LP

Robust linear programming

the parameters in optimization problems are often uncertain, *e.g.*, in an LP

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{minimize} & c^T x \\ \text{subject to} & a_i^T x \leq b_i, \quad i = 1, \ldots, m, \end{array}$$

there can be uncertainty in c, a_i, b_i

two common approaches to handling uncertainty (in a_i, for simplicity)

- deterministic model: constraints must hold for all $a_i \in \mathcal{E}_i$

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{minimize} & c^T x \\ \text{subject to} & a_i^T x \leq b_i \text{ for all } a_i \in \mathcal{E}_i, \quad i = 1, \ldots, m, \end{array}$$

- stochastic model: a_i is random variable; constraints must hold with probability η

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{minimize} & c^T x \\ \text{subject to} & \mathbf{Prob}(a_i^T x \leq b_i) \geq \eta, \quad i = 1, \ldots, m \end{array}$$

deterministic approach via SOCP

- choose an ellipsoid as $\mathcal{E}_i$:

$$\mathcal{E}_i = \{\bar{a}_i + P_i u \mid \|u\|_2 \leq 1\} \qquad (\bar{a}_i \in \mathbb{R}^n, \quad P_i \in \mathbb{R}^{n\times n})$$

  center is $\bar{a}_i$, semi-axes determined by singular values/vectors of P_i

- robust LP

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{minimize} & c^T x \\ \text{subject to} & a_i^T x \leq b_i \quad \forall a_i \in \mathcal{E}_i, \quad i = 1, \ldots, m \end{array}$$

  is equivalent to the SOCP

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{minimize} & c^T x \\ \text{subject to} & \bar{a}_i^T x + \|P_i^T x\|_2 \leq b_i, \quad i = 1, \ldots, m \end{array}$$

  (follows from $\sup_{\|u\|_2 \leq 1} (\bar{a}_i + P_i u)^T x = \bar{a}_i^T x + \|P_i^T x\|_2$)

stochastic approach via SOCP

- assume a_i is Gaussian with mean $\bar{a}_i$, covariance Σ_i ($a_i \sim \mathcal{N}(\bar{a}_i, \Sigma_i)$)
- $a_i^T x$ is Gaussian r.v. with mean $\bar{a}_i^T x$, variance $x^T \Sigma_i x$; hence

$$\mathbf{Prob}(a_i^T x \leq b_i) = \Phi\left(\frac{b_i - \bar{a}_i^T x}{\|\Sigma_i^{1/2} x\|_2}\right)$$

  where $\Phi(x) = (1/\sqrt{2\pi}) \int_{-\infty}^{x} e^{-t^2/2}\, dt$ is CDF of $\mathcal{N}(0,1)$
- robust LP

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{minimize} & c^T x \\ \text{subject to} & \mathbf{Prob}(a_i^T x \leq b_i) \geq \eta, \quad i = 1, \ldots, m, \end{array}$$

  with $\eta \geq 1/2$, is equivalent to the SOCP

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{minimize} & c^T x \\ \text{subject to} & \bar{a}_i^T x + \Phi^{-1}(\eta) \|\Sigma_i^{1/2} x\|_2 \leq b_i, \quad i = 1, \ldots, m \end{array}$$

Geometric programming

monomial function

$$f(x) = c x_1^{a_1} x_2^{a_2} \cdots x_n^{a_n}, \qquad \mathbf{dom}\, f = \mathbb{R}^n_{++}$$

with $c > 0$; exponent α_i can be any real number

posynomial function: sum of monomials

$$f(x) = \sum_{k=1}^{K} c_k x_1^{a_{1k}} x_2^{a_{2k}} \cdots x_n^{a_{nk}}, \qquad \mathbf{dom}\, f = \mathbb{R}^n_{++}$$

geometric program (GP)

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{minimize} & f_0(x) \\ \text{subject to} & f_i(x) \leq 1, \quad i = 1, \ldots, m \\ & h_i(x) = 1, \quad i = 1, \ldots, p \end{array}$$

with f_i posynomial, h_i monomial

Geometric program in convex form

change variables to $y_i = \log x_i$, and take logarithm of cost, constraints

- monomial $f(x) = c x_1^{a_1} \cdots x_n^{a_n}$ transforms to

$$\log f(e^{y_1}, \ldots, e^{y_n}) = a^T y + b \qquad (b = \log c)$$

- posynomial $f(x) = \sum_{k=1}^K c_k x_1^{a_{1k}} x_2^{a_{2k}} \cdots x_n^{a_{nk}}$ transforms to

$$\log f(e^{y_1}, \ldots, e^{y_n}) = \log \left(\sum_{k=1}^K e^{a_k^T y + b_k} \right) \qquad (b_k = \log c_k)$$

- geometric program transforms to convex problem

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{minimize} & \log \left(\sum_{k=1}^K \exp(a_{0k}^T y + b_{0k}) \right) \\ \text{subject to} & \log \left(\sum_{k=1}^K \exp(a_{ik}^T y + b_{ik}) \right) \leq 0, \quad i = 1, \ldots, m \\ & Gy + d = 0 \end{array}$$

Minimizing spectral radius of nonnegative matrix

Perron-Frobenius eigenvalue $\lambda_{\rm pf}(A)$

- exists for (elementwise) positive $A \in \mathbb{R}^{n\times n}$
- a real, positive eigenvalue of A, equal to spectral radius $\max_i |\lambda_i(A)|$
- determines asymptotic growth (decay) rate of A^k: $A^k \sim \lambda_{\rm pf}^k$ as $k \to \infty$
- alternative characterization: $\lambda_{\rm pf}(A) = \inf\{\lambda \mid Av \preceq \lambda v \text{ for some } v \succ 0\}$

minimizing spectral radius of matrix of posynomials

- minimize $\lambda_{\rm pf}(A(x))$, where the elements $A(x)_{ij}$ are posynomials of x
- equivalent geometric program:

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{minimize} & \lambda \\ \text{subject to} & \sum_{j=1}^n A(x)_{ij} v_j/(\lambda v_i) \leq 1, \quad i = 1, \ldots, n \end{array}$$

variables λ, v, x

Generalized inequality constraints

convex problem with generalized inequality constraints

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{minimize} & f_0(x) \\ \text{subject to} & f_i(x) \preceq_{K_i} 0, \quad i = 1, \ldots, m \\ & Ax = b \end{array}$$

- $f_0 : \mathbb{R}^n \to \mathbb{R}$ convex; $f_i : \mathbb{R}^n \to \mathbb{R}^{k_i}$ K_i-convex w.r.t. proper cone K_i
- same properties as standard convex problem (convex feasible set, local optimum is global, etc.)

conic form problem: special case with affine objective and constraints

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{minimize} & c^T x \\ \text{subject to} & Fx + g \preceq_K 0 \\ & Ax = b \end{array}$$

extends linear programming ($K = \mathbb{R}^m_+$) to nonpolyhedral cones

Semidefinite program (SDP)

$$
\begin{array}{ll}
\text{minimize} & c^T x \\
\text{subject to} & x_1 F_1 + x_2 F_2 + \cdots + x_n F_n + G \preceq 0 \\
& Ax = b
\end{array}
$$

with F_i, $G \in \mathbf{S}^k$

- inequality constraint is called linear matrix inequality (LMI)
- includes problems with multiple LMI constraints: for example,

$$
x_1 \hat{F}_1 + \cdots + x_n \hat{F}_n + \hat{G} \preceq 0, \qquad x_1 \tilde{F}_1 + \cdots + x_n \tilde{F}_n + \tilde{G} \preceq 0
$$

is equivalent to single LMI

$$
x_1 \begin{bmatrix} \hat{F}_1 & 0 \\ 0 & \tilde{F}_1 \end{bmatrix} + x_2 \begin{bmatrix} \hat{F}_2 & 0 \\ 0 & \tilde{F}_2 \end{bmatrix} + \cdots + x_n \begin{bmatrix} \hat{F}_n & 0 \\ 0 & \tilde{F}_n \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} \hat{G} & 0 \\ 0 & \tilde{G} \end{bmatrix} \preceq 0
$$

LP and SOCP as SDP

LP and equivalent SDP

LP: minimize $c^T x$
subject to $Ax \preceq b$

SDP: minimize $c^T x$
subject to $\mathbf{diag}(Ax - b) \preceq 0$

(note different interpretation of generalized inequality $\preceq$)

SOCP and equivalent SDP

SOCP: minimize $f^T x$
subject to $\|A_i x + b_i\|_2 \leq c_i^T x + d_i, \quad i = 1, \ldots, m$

SDP: minimize $f^T x$
subject to $\begin{bmatrix} (c_i^T x + d_i)I & A_i x + b_i \\ (A_i x + b_i)^T & c_i^T x + d_i \end{bmatrix} \succeq 0, \quad i = 1, \ldots, m$

Eigenvalue minimization

$$\text{minimize} \quad \lambda_{\max}(A(x))$$

where $A(x) = A_0 + x_1 A_1 + \cdots + x_n A_n$ (with given $A_i \in \mathbf{S}^k$)

equivalent SDP

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{minimize} & t \\ \text{subject to} & A(x) \preceq tI \end{array}$$

- variables $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$, $t \in \mathbb{R}$
- follows from

$$\lambda_{\max}(A) \leq t \quad \Longleftrightarrow \quad A \preceq tI$$

Matrix norm minimization

$$\text{minimize} \quad \|A(x)\|_2 = \left(\lambda_{\max}(A(x)^T A(x))\right)^{1/2}$$

where $A(x) = A_0 + x_1 A_1 + \cdots + x_n A_n$ (with given $A_i \in \mathbf{S}^{p \times q}$)

equivalent SDP

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{minimize} & t \\ \text{subject to} & \left[\begin{array}{cc} tI & A(x) \\ A(x)^T & tI \end{array}\right] \succeq 0 \end{array}$$

- variables $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$, $t \in \mathbb{R}$
- constraint follows from

$$\begin{aligned} \|A\|_2 \leq t \quad & \Longleftrightarrow \quad A^T A \preceq t^2 I, \quad t \geq 0 \\ & \Longleftrightarrow \quad \left[\begin{array}{cc} tI & A \\ A^T & tI \end{array}\right] \succeq 0 \end{aligned}$$