

9. Worked Example: Concavity and Composition of Functions

Worked Example: Hessian and Concavity

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Multivariate concave functions

More generally for a *multivariate* function: $h : \Theta \subset \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, $d \geq 2$, define the

▶ *gradient* vector: $\nabla h(\theta) = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{\partial h}{\partial \theta_1}(\theta) \\ \vdots \\ \frac{\partial h}{\partial \theta_d}(\theta) \end{pmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^d$

▶ *Hessian* matrix:

$$\mathbf{H}h(\theta) = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{\partial^2 h}{\partial \theta_1 \partial \theta_1}(\theta) & \cdots & \frac{\partial^2 h}{\partial \theta_1 \partial \theta_d}(\theta) \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \frac{\partial^2 h}{\partial \theta_d \partial \theta_1}(\theta) & \cdots & \frac{\partial^2 h}{\partial \theta_d \partial \theta_d}(\theta) \end{pmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times d}$$

h is concave $\Leftrightarrow x^\top \mathbf{H}h(\theta)x \leq 0 \quad \forall x \in \mathbb{R}^d, \theta \in \Theta$.

☐ (Caption will be displayed when you start playing the video.)

examples:

- ▶ $\Theta = \mathbb{R}^2$, $h(\theta) = -\theta_1^2 - 2\theta_2^2$ or $h(\theta) = -(\theta_1 - \theta_2)^2$
- ▶ $\Theta = (0, \infty)$, $h(\theta) = \log(\theta_1 + \theta_2)$,

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How about the second one?

Should we do the second one?

So the second one is log of theta 1 plus theta 2.

OK?

So the gradient-- so that's h of theta.

So gradient h of theta is--

well, it's 1 over theta 1 plus theta 2.

The other one is 1 over theta 1 plus theta 2.

视频

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Combination of Convex functions

2/3 points (graded)

Let f_1, f_2 be convex functions on \mathbb{R} .

Determine if the following functions are necessarily convex or concave.

Hint: Recall a function $g : I \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is convex in the interval I is an interval, if for all pairs of real numbers $x_1 < x_2 \in I$

$$g(tx_1 + (1-t)x_2) \leq tg(x_1) + (1-t)g(x_2) \quad \text{for all } 0 \leq t \leq 1.$$

- $3f_1 + 2f_2$:

☒ Convex ☐

☐ Concave

☐ Cannot be determined without more information

- $-10f_1$:

☐ Convex

☒ Concave ☐

☐ Cannot be determined without more information

• $f_2 f_1$:

☒ Convex ☐

☐ Concave

☐ Cannot be determined without more information ☐

Solution:

Given f_1, f_2 are convex, we have

$$f_1 (tx_1 + (1 - t) x_2) \leq t f_1 (x_1) + (1 - t) f_1 (x_2) \qquad \text{for all } 0 \leq t \leq 1$$

and the same holds for f_2 .

- The same inequality holds for $g = 3f_1 + 2f_2$:

$$\begin{aligned} g (tx_1 + (1 - t) x_2) &= 3f_1 (tx_1 + (1 - t) x_2) + 2f_2 (tx_1 + (1 - t) x_2) \\ &\leq 3 (t f_1 (x_1) + (1 - t) f_1 (x_2)) + 2 (t f_2 (x_1) + (1 - t) f_2 (x_2)) \\ &= t (g (x_1) + (1 - t) g (x_2)) . \end{aligned}$$

Hence $3f_1 + 2f_2$ is also convex.

Remark: In general, any function $c_1 f_1 + c_2 f_2$ where $c_1, c_2 > 0$ is convex if f_1, f_2 are.

- $-10f_1$ is concave, because it is negative of a convex function.
- $f_1 f_2$ is not necessarily convex For example, is $f_1 (x) = x$, and $f_2 = x^2$, then $(f_1 f_2) (x) = x^3$ which is neither convex nor concave. Other examples of f_1 and f_2 , e.g. $f_1 = f_2 = x^2$ will lead to $f_1 f_2$ being convex.

提交

你已经尝试了1次（总共可以尝试1次）

☐ Answers are displayed within the problem

讨论

显示讨论

主题: Unit 3 Methods of Estimation:Lecture 9: Introduction to Maximum Likelihood Estimation / 9.
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