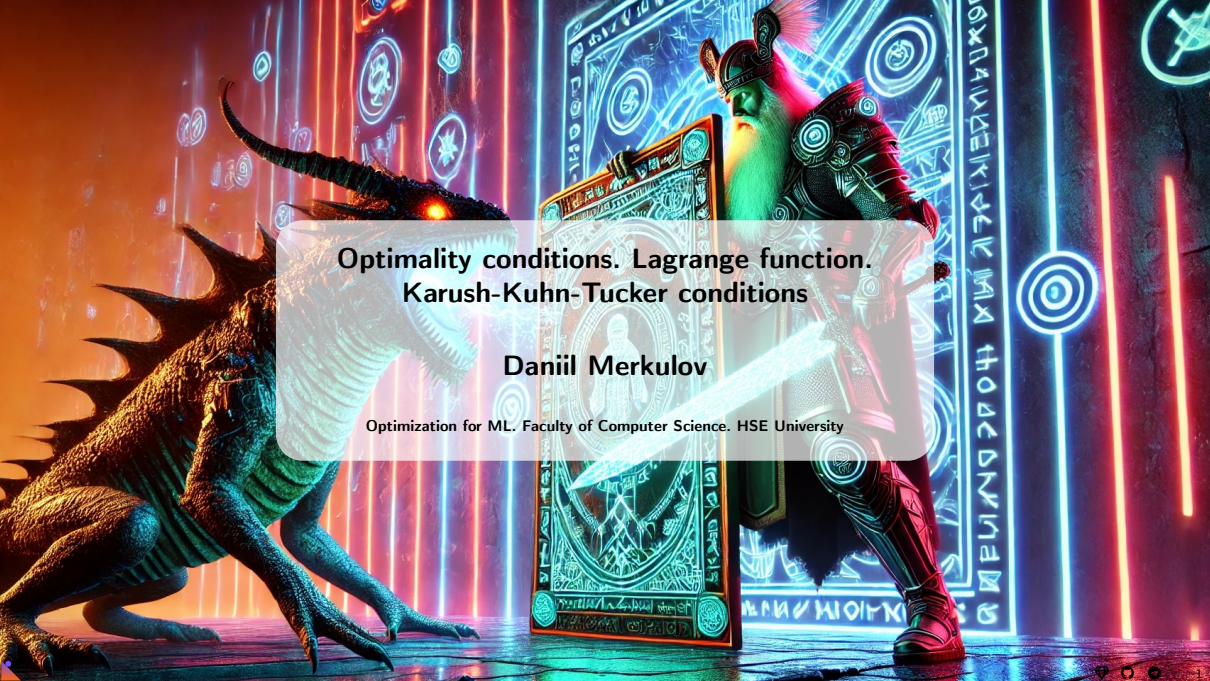

Optimality conditions. Lagrange function. Karush-Kuhn-Tucker conditions

Daniil Merkulov

Optimization for ML. Faculty of Computer Science. HSE University

The reader will find no figures in this work. The methods which I set forth do not require either constructions or geometrical or mechanical reasonings: but only algebraic operations, subject to a regular and uniform rule of procedure.

Preface to Mécanique analytique

Рисунок 1: Joseph-Louis Lagrange

Optimality conditions

Background

$$f(x) \to \min_{x \in S}$$

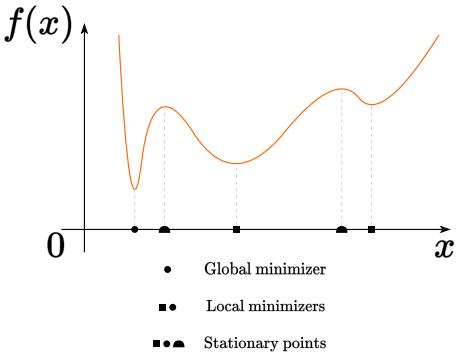

Рисунок 2: Illustration of different stationary (critical) points

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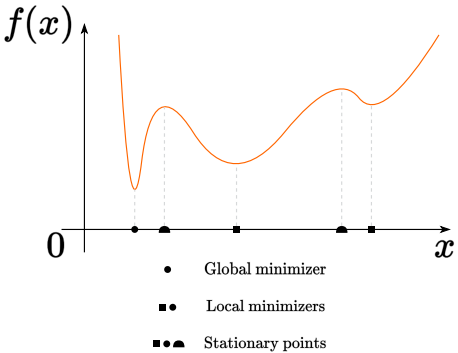

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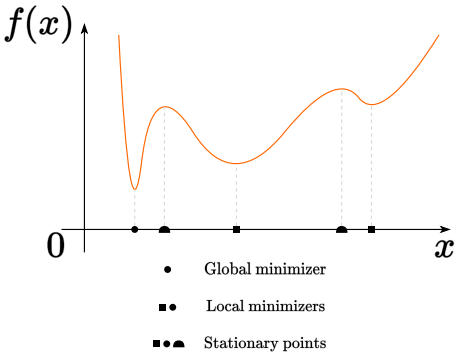

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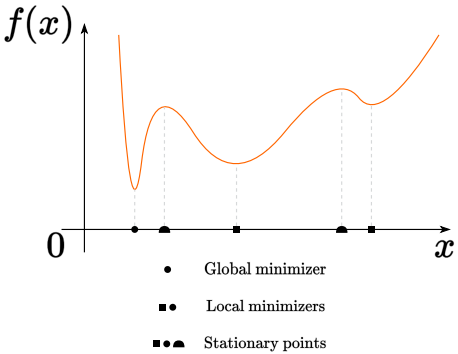

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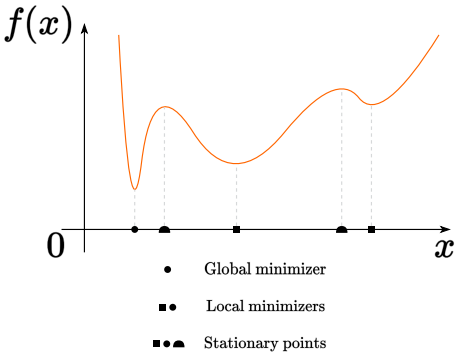

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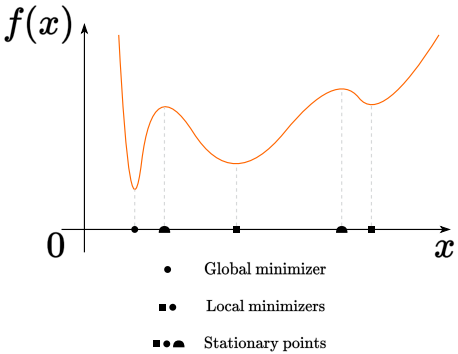

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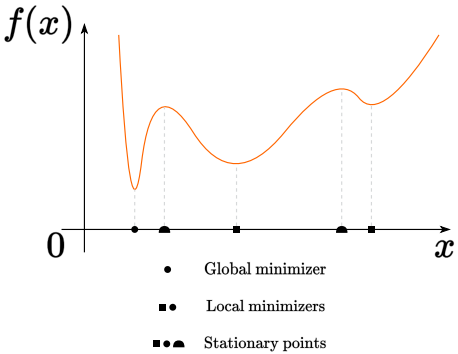

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- We call x^* a **stationary point** (or critical) if $\nabla f(x^*) = 0$. Any local minimizer of a differentiable function must be a stationary point.

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Let $S \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ be a compact set and $f(x)$ a continuous function on S. So, the point of the global minimum of the function $f(x)$ on S exists.

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Suppose that $f : \mathbb{R}^n \to \mathbb{R}$ is continuously differentiable and that $p \in \mathbb{R}^n$. Then we have:

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Moreover, if f is twice continuously differentiable, we have:

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Unconstrained optimization

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If x^* is a local minimizer and f is continuously differentiable in an open neighborhood, then

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Therefore, $f(x^* + \bar{t}p) < f(x^*)$ for all $\bar{t} \in (0, T]$. We have found a direction from x^* along which f decreases, so x^* is not a local minimizer, leading to a contradiction.

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where $z = x^* + tp$ for some $t \in (0, 1)$. Since $z \in B$, we have $p^T \nabla^2 f(z) p > 0$, and therefore $f(x^* + p) > f(x^*)$, giving the result.

Peano counterexample

Note, that if $\nabla f(x^*) = 0, \nabla^2 f(x^*) \succeq 0$, i.e. the hessian is positive *semidefinite*, we cannot be sure if x^* is a local minimum.

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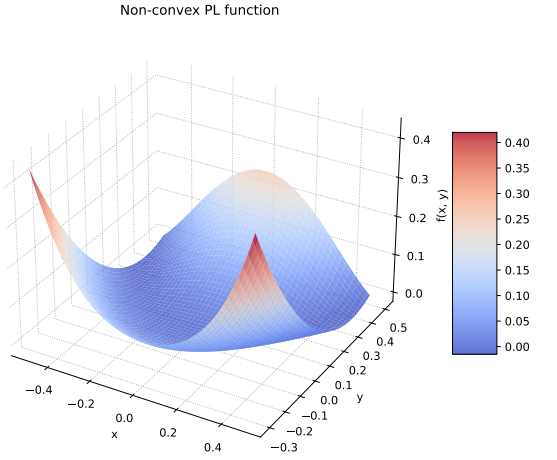

Constrained optimization

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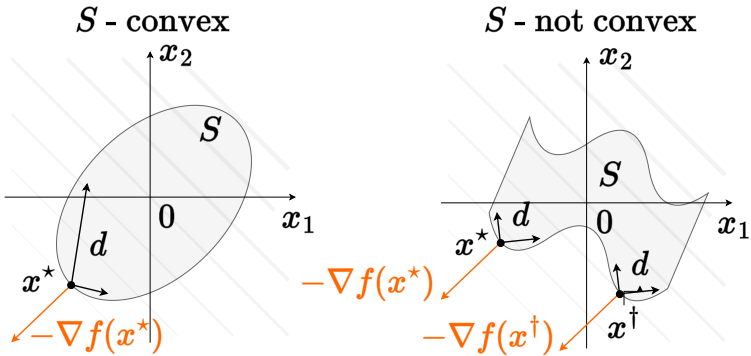

Рисунок 4: General first order local optimality condition

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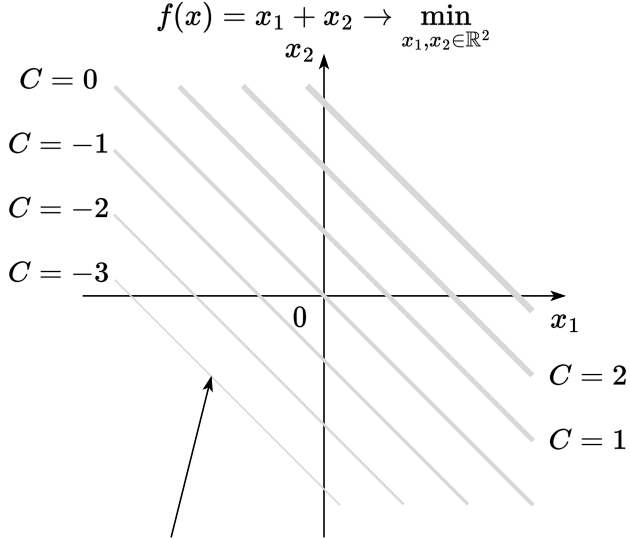
We will try to illustrate an approach to solve this problem through the simple example with $f(x) = x_1 + x_2$ and $h(x) = x_1^2 + x_2^2 - 2$.

Optimization with equality constraints



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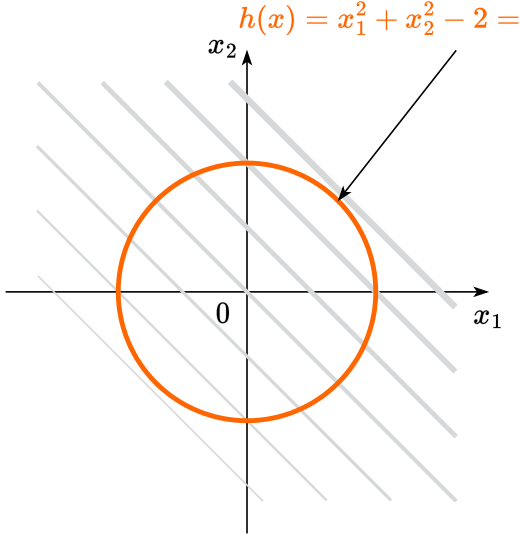

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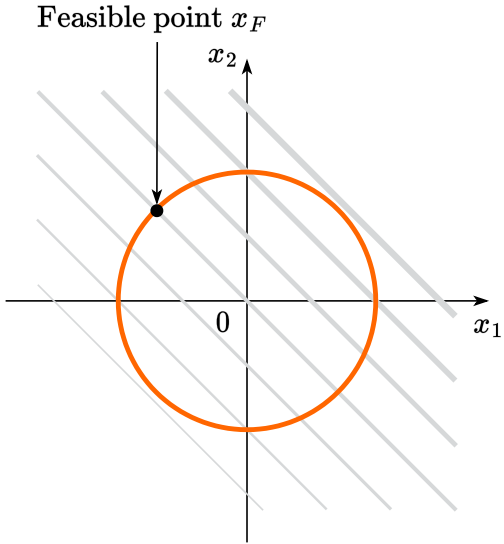

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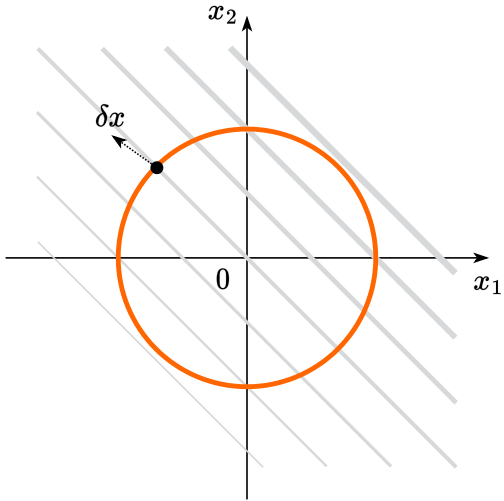

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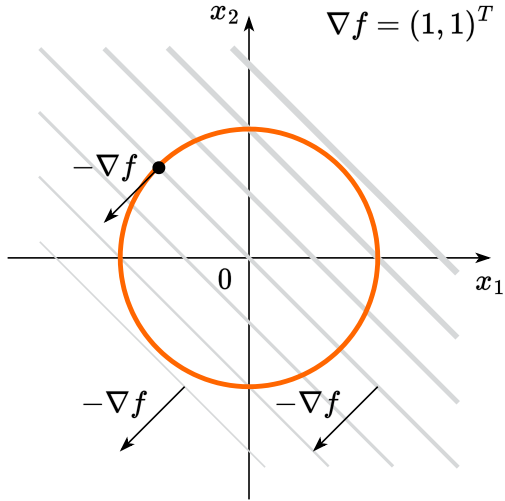

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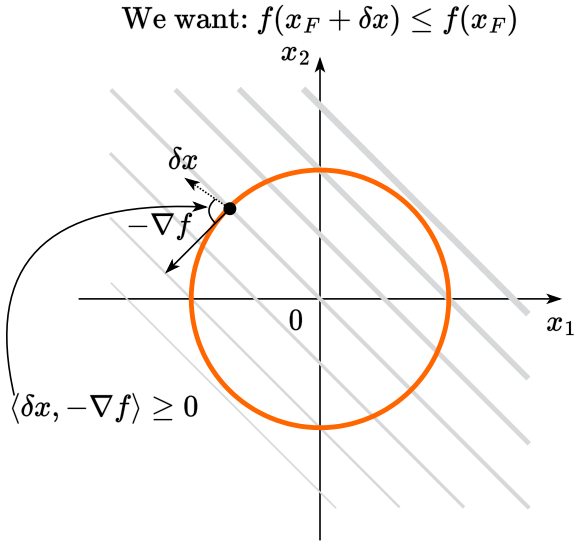
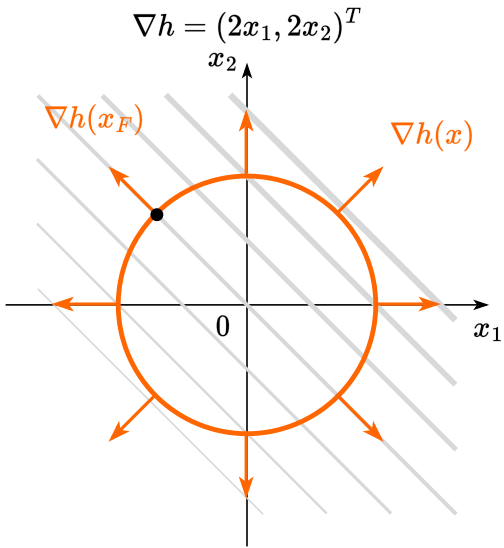


Optimization with equality constraints



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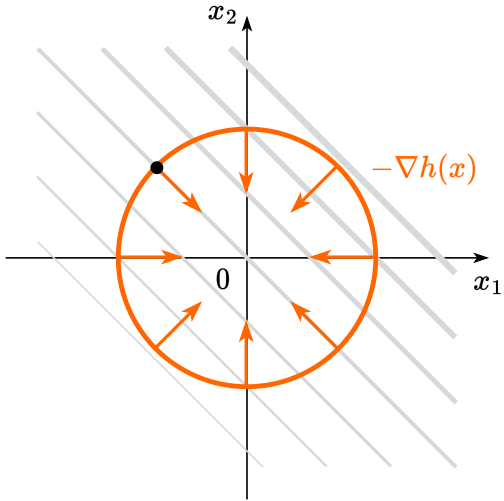

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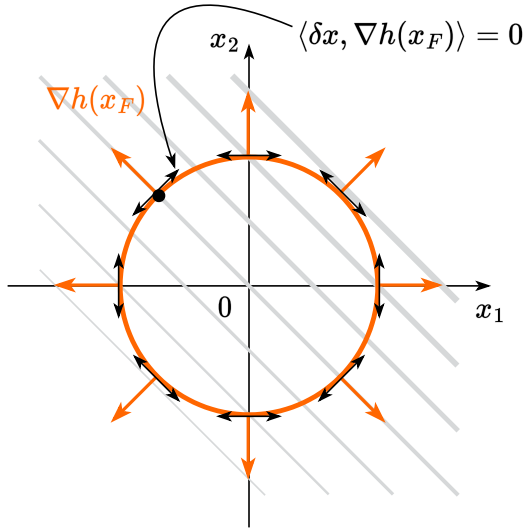

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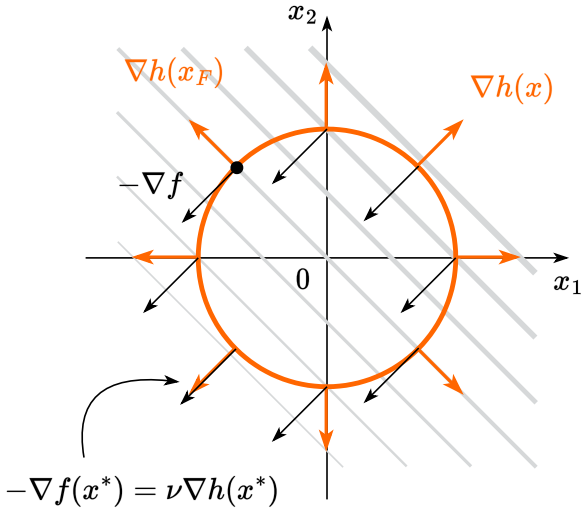
Then we reached the point of the budget set, moving from which it will not be possible to reduce our function. This is the local minimum in the constrained problem :)

Optimization with equality constraints



Lagrangian

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Sufficient conditions

$\langle y, \nabla^2_{xx} L(x^*, \nu^*) y \rangle > 0,$

$\forall y \neq 0 \in \mathbb{R}^n : \nabla h(x^*)^\top y = 0$

We should notice that $L(x^*, \nu^*) = f(x^*)$.

Equality constrained problem

$$f(x) \to \min_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n}$$
$$\text{s.t. } h_i(x) = 0,\ i = 1, \dots, p \tag{ECP}$$

$$L(x, \nu) = f(x) + \sum_{i=1}^{p} \nu_i h_i(x) = f(x) + \nu^\top h(x)$$

Let $f(x)$ and $h_i(x)$ be twice differentiable at the point x^* and continuously differentiable in some neighborhood of x^*. The local minimum conditions for $x \in \mathbb{R}^n, \nu \in \mathbb{R}^p$ are written as

ECP: Necessary conditions

$$\nabla_x L(x^*, \nu^*) = 0$$
$$\nabla_\nu L(x^*, \nu^*) = 0$$

ECP: Sufficient conditions

$$\langle y, \nabla^2_{xx} L(x^*, \nu^*) y \rangle > 0,$$
$$\forall y \neq 0 \in \mathbb{R}^n : \nabla h_i(x^*)^\top y = 0$$

Linear Least Squares

Example

Pose the optimization problem and solve them for linear system $Ax = b, A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$ for three cases (assuming the matrix is full rank):

- $m < n$

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- $m < n$
- $m = n$
- $m > n$

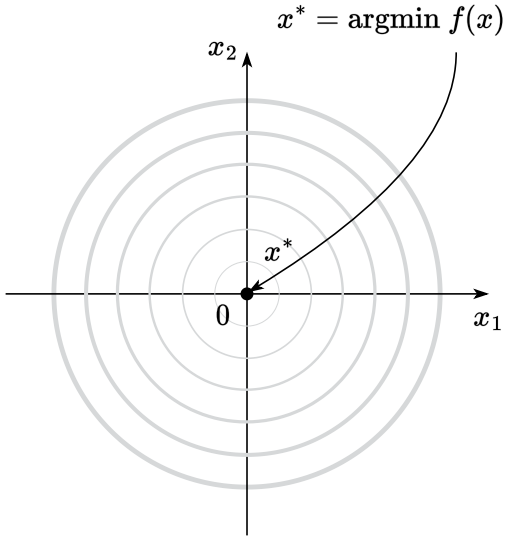
Optimization with inequality constraints

Example of inequality constraints

$$f(x) = x_1^2 + x_2^2 \quad g(x) = x_1^2 + x_2^2 - 1$$

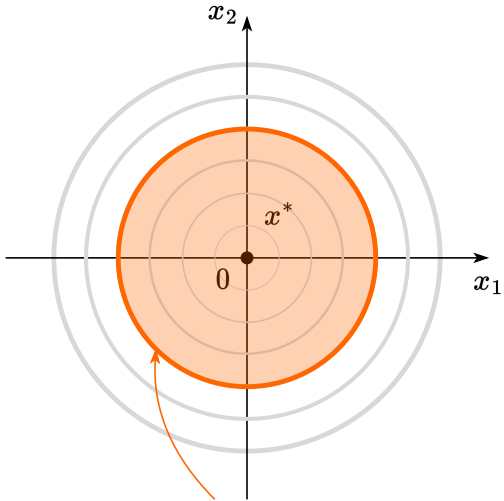
$$f(x) \to \min_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n}$$
$$\text{s.t. } g(x) \leq 0$$

Optimization with inequality constraints



Contour lines of $f(x) = x_1^2 + x_2^2 = C$

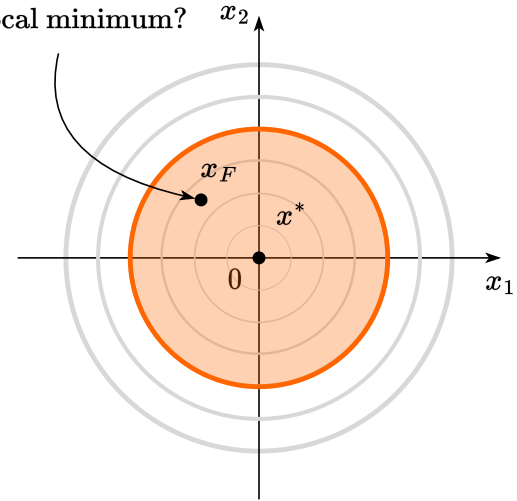
Optimization with inequality constraints



Feasible region $g(x) = x_1^2 + x_2^2 - 1 \leq 0$

Optimization with inequality constraints

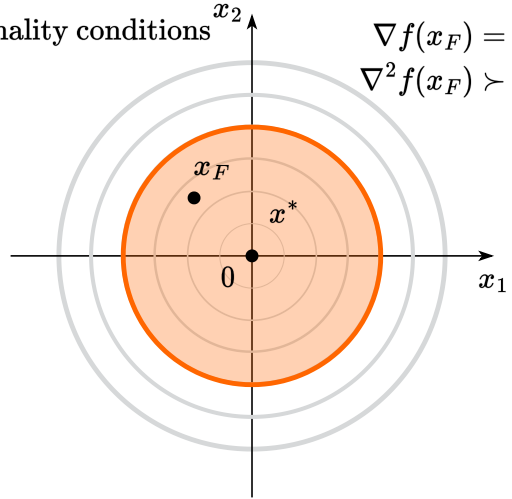
How to recognize that some feasible point is at local minimum?



Optimization with inequality constraints

Easy in this case! Just check unconstrained optimality conditions

$$\nabla f(x_F) = 0$$
$$\nabla^2 f(x_F) \succ 0$$



Optimization with inequality constraints

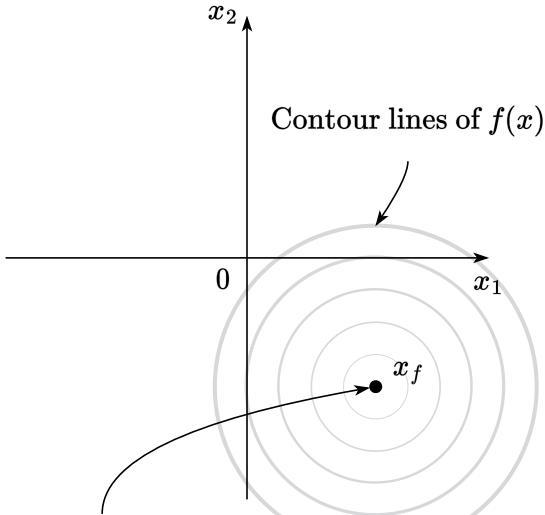
Thus, if the constraints of the type of inequalities are inactive in the constrained problem, then don't worry and write out the solution to the unconstrained problem. However, this is not the whole story. Consider the second childish example

$$f(x) = (x_1 - 1)^2 + (x_2 + 1)^2 \quad g(x) = x_1^2 + x_2^2 - 1$$

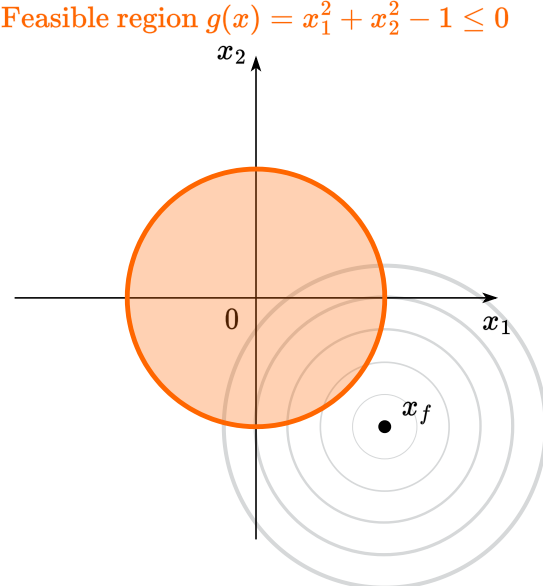
$$f(x) \to \min_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n}$$
$$\text{s.t. } g(x) \leq 0$$

Optimization with inequality constraints

$$f(x) = (x_1 - 1)^2 + (x_2 + 1)^2 = C$$

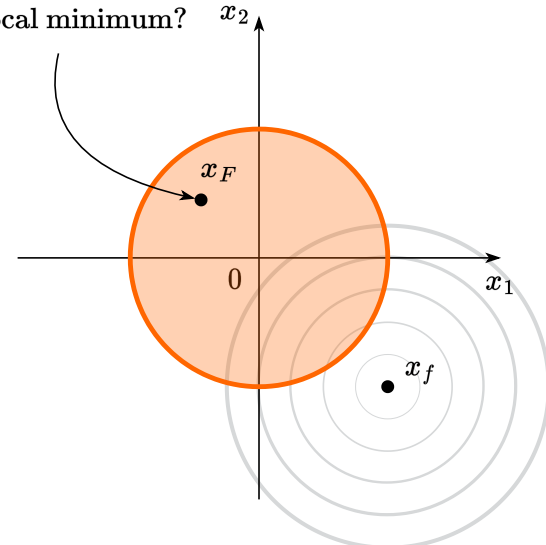


Optimization with inequality constraints



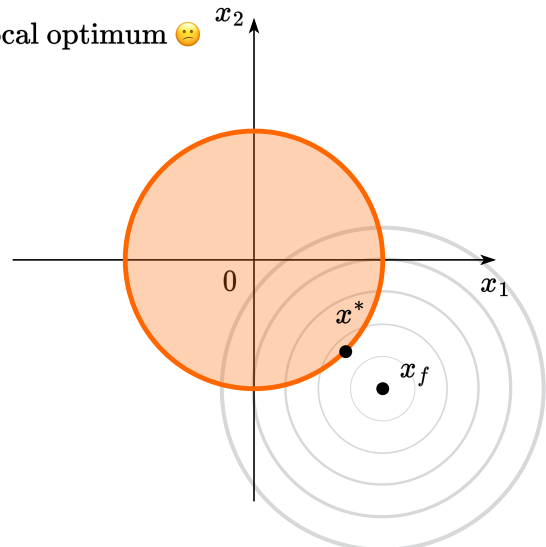
Optimization with inequality constraints

How to recognize that some feasible point is at local minimum?



Optimization with inequality constraints

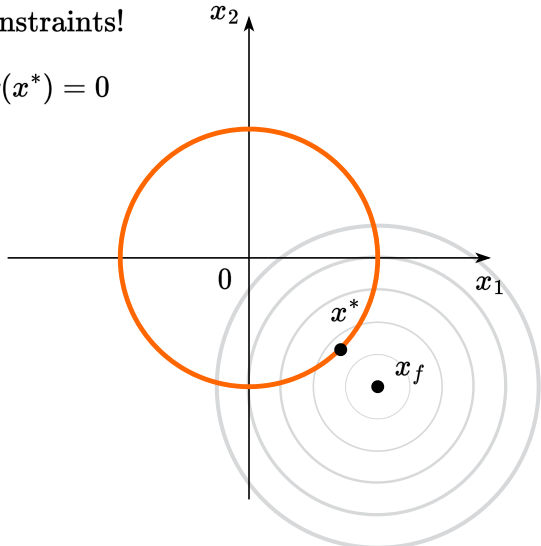
Not very easy in this case! Even gradient $\neq 0$ at local optimum 😕



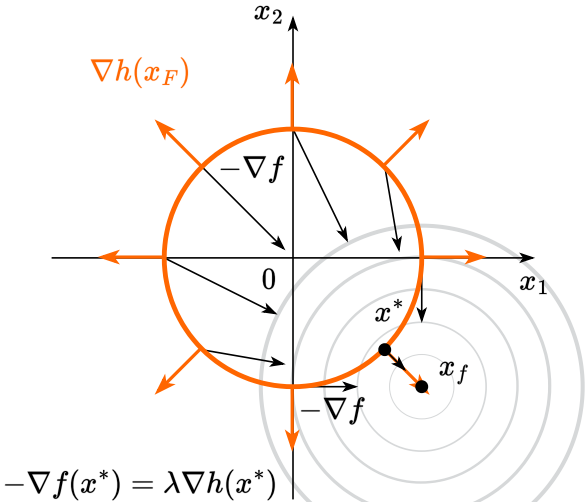
Optimization with inequality constraints

Effectively have a problem with equality constraints!

$g(x^*) = 0$



Optimization with inequality constraints



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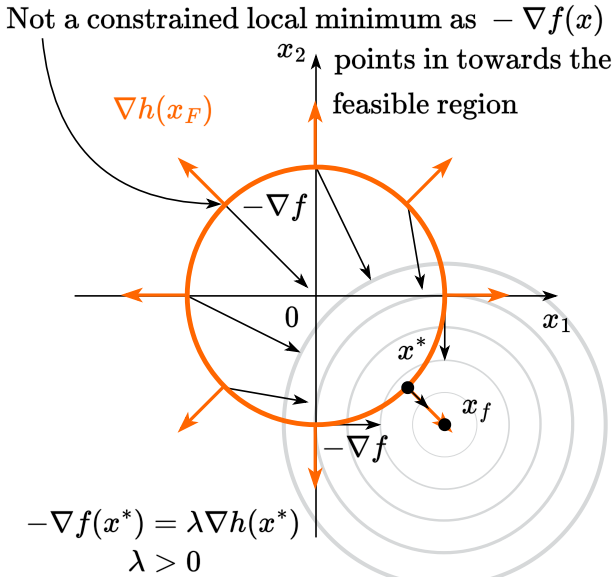

Optimization with inequality constraints

So, we have a problem:

$$f(x) \to \min_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n}$$

$$\text{s.t. } g(x) \leq 0$$

Two possible cases:

$g(x) \leq 0$ is inactive. $g(x^*) < 0$

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Lagrange function for inequality constraints

Combining two possible cases, we can write down the general conditions for the problem:

$$f(x) \to \min_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n}$$
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Let's define the Lagrange function:

$$L(x, \lambda) = f(x) + \lambda g(x)$$

The classical Karush-Kuhn-Tucker first and second-order optimality conditions for a local minimizer x^*, stated under some regularity conditions, can be written as follows.

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$$(1)\ \nabla_x L(x^*, \lambda^*) = 0$$

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$$(4)\ g(x^*) \leq 0$$

General formulation

$$
\begin{aligned}
& f_0(x) \to \min_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n} \\
\text{s.t. } & f_i(x) \leq 0,\ i = 1, \dots, m \\
& h_i(x) = 0,\ i = 1, \dots, p
\end{aligned}
$$

This formulation is a general problem of mathematical programming.

The solution involves constructing a Lagrange function:

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

Necessary conditions

Let x^*, (λ^*, ν^*) be a solution to a mathematical programming problem with zero duality gap (the optimal value for the primal problem p^* is equal to the optimal value for the dual problem d^*). Let also the functions f_0, f_i, h_i be differentiable.

- $\nabla_x L(x^*, \lambda^*, \nu^*) = 0$

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Some regularity conditions

These conditions are needed to make KKT solutions the necessary conditions. Some of them even turn necessary conditions into sufficient (for example, Slater's). Moreover, if you have regularity, you can write down necessary second order conditions $\langle y, \nabla^2_{xx} L(x^*, \lambda^*, \nu^*) y \rangle \geq 0$ with *semi-definite* hessian of Lagrangian.

- **Slater's condition.** If for a convex problem (i.e., assuming minimization, f_0, f_i are convex and h_i are affine), there exists a point x such that $h(x) = 0$ and $f_i(x) < 0$ (existence of a strictly feasible point), then we have a zero duality gap and KKT conditions become necessary and sufficient.

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- For other examples, see wiki.

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- Numerical Optimization by Jorge Nocedal and Stephen J. Wright.