

Introduction to dual methods

Daniil Merkulov

Optimization methods. MIPT

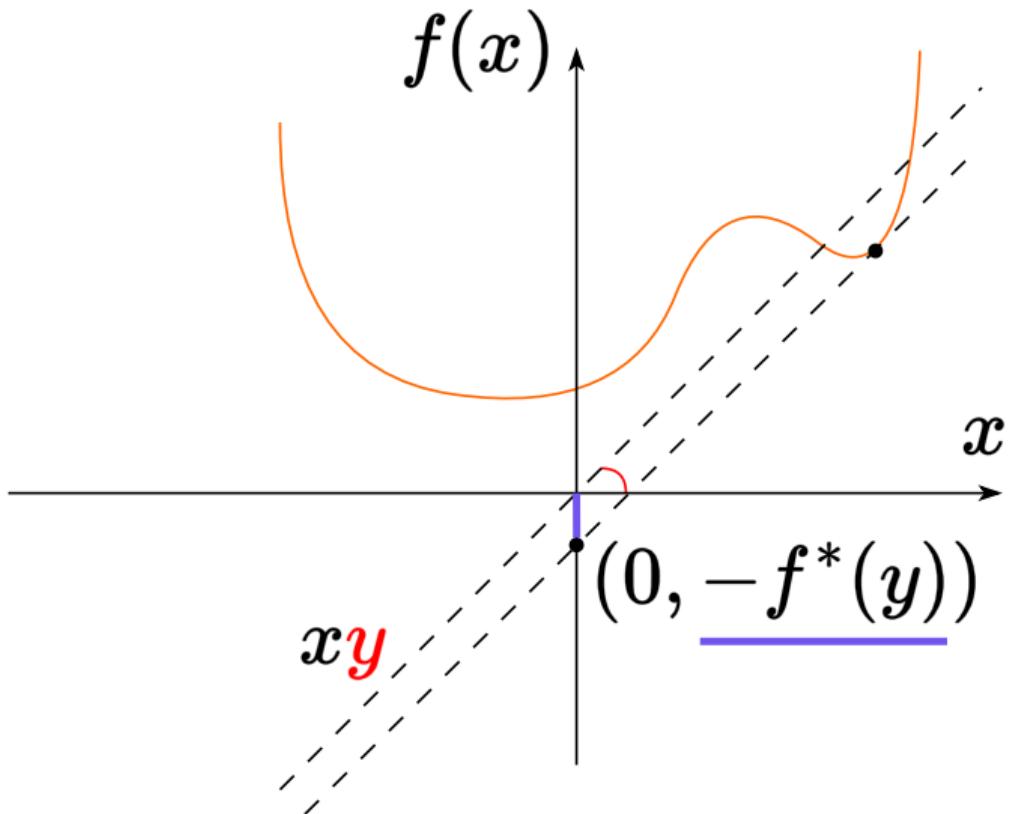
Definition

Recall that given $f : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, the function defined by

$$f^*(y) = \max_x [y^T x - f(x)]$$

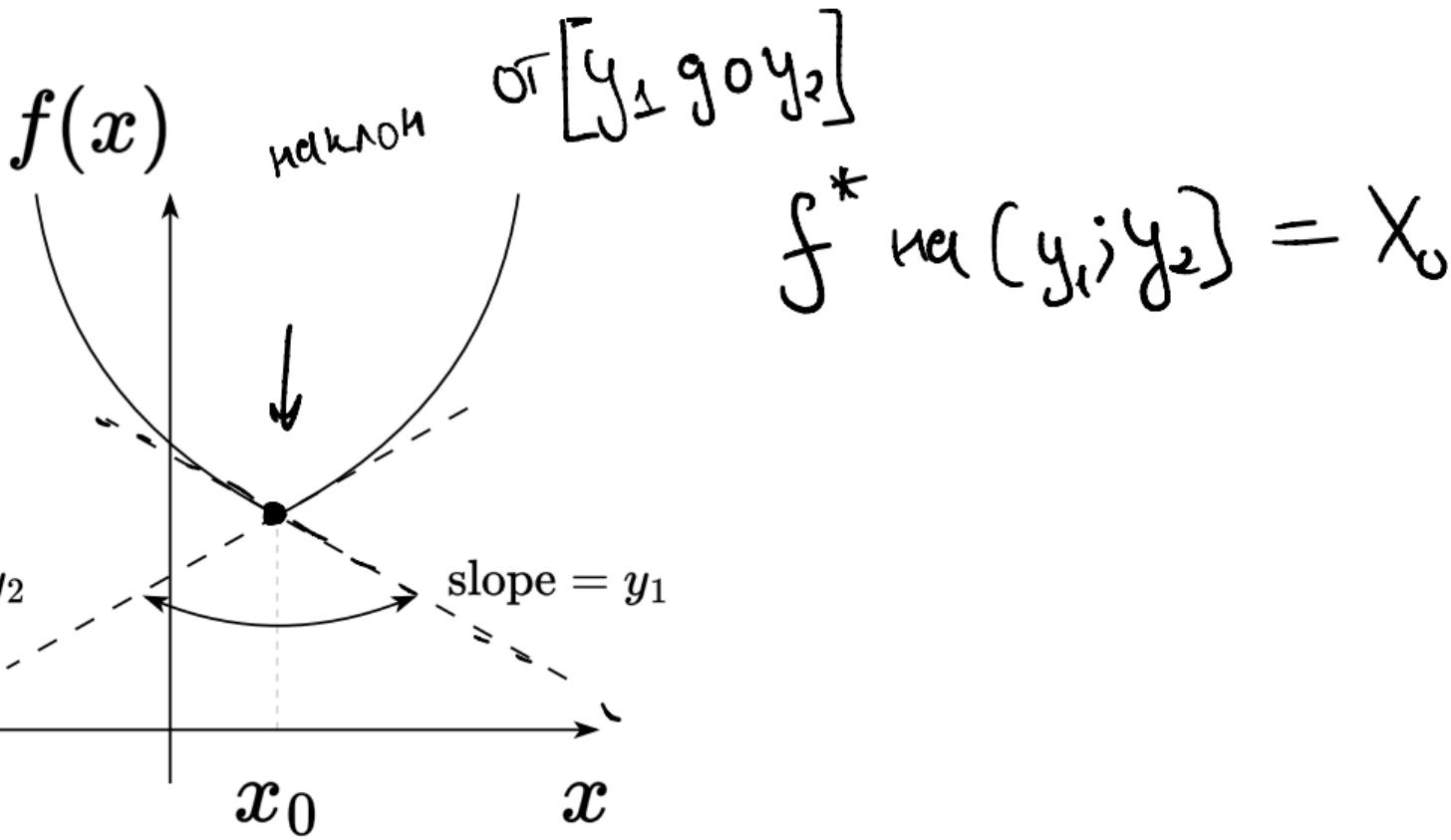
is called its conjugate.

$$-f^*(y) = \min_x [f(x) - x^T y]$$

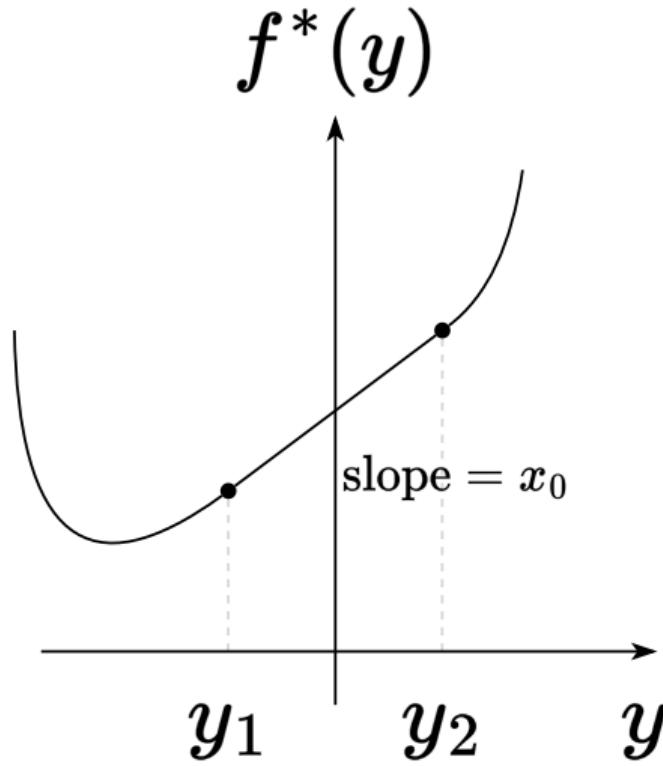
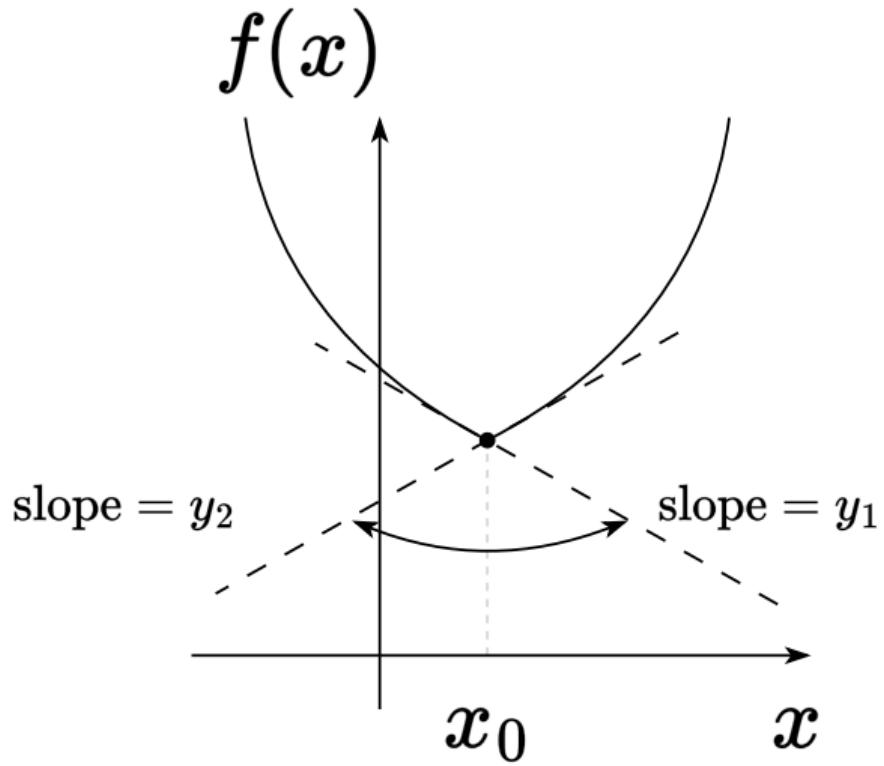


Geometrical intution

Квазиградиентный метод



Geometrical intuition



Conjugate function properties

Recall that given $f : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, the function defined by

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- Conjugates appear frequently in dual programs, since

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$$-f^*(y) = \min_x [f(x) - y^T x]$$

- If f is closed and convex, then $f^{**} = f$. Also, $\nabla f(x)$

$$x \in \partial f^*(y) \Leftrightarrow y \in \nabla f(x) \Leftrightarrow x \in \arg \min_z [f(z) - y^T z]$$

$x = \nabla f^*(y)$ nygyt⁶ f - buein.
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Conjugate function properties

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- If f is strictly convex, then

$$\nabla f^*(y) = \arg \min_z [f(z) - y^T z]$$

Conjugate function properties (proofs)

$$f^*(y) = \max_z z^T y - f(z)$$

We will show that $x \in \partial f^*(y) \Leftrightarrow y \in \partial f(x)$, assuming that f is convex and closed.

- Proof of \Leftarrow : Suppose $y \in \partial f(x)$. Then $x \in M_y$, the set of maximizers of $y^T z - f(z)$ over z . But

$$f^*(y) = \max_z \{y^T z - f(z)\}$$

$$\text{and } \partial f^*(y) = \text{cl}(\text{conv}(\bigcup_{z \in M_y} \{z\})).$$

Thus $x \in \partial f^*(y)$.

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нормаэм ∂f^* Дубликаты-Миткы

$$f^*(y) = \max_z f_z(y)$$

$$f_z(y) = y^T z - f(z)$$

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 $\nabla_y f_z(y) = z$

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$$x \in \partial f^*(y) \Leftrightarrow f^*(y) = \max_z \{y^T z - f(z)\} \quad \text{and} \quad \partial f^*(y) = \text{cl}(\text{conv}(\bigcup_{z \in M_y} \{z\})).$$

Thus $x \in \partial f^*(y)$.

- **Proof of \Rightarrow :** From what we showed above, if $x \in \partial f^*(y)$, then $y \in \partial f^*(x)$, but $f^{**} = f$.

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 $x \in \partial f^*(y) \Rightarrow y \in \partial f(x)$

bnpengig.
nykate:
 $y \in \partial f^{**}(x) \Rightarrow y \in \partial f(x)$

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Conjugate function properties (proofs)

$$y \in \partial f(x) \quad ? \quad \forall x$$

$$f(x) \geq f(\tilde{x}) + y^T(\tilde{x} - x)$$

We will show that $x \in \partial f^*(y) \Leftrightarrow y \in \partial f(x)$, assuming that f is convex and closed.

- **Proof of \Leftarrow :** Suppose $y \in \partial f(x)$. Then $x \in M_y$, the set of maximizers of $y^T z - f(z)$ over z . But

$$f^*(y) = \max_z \{y^T z - f(z)\} \quad \text{and} \quad \partial f^*(y) = \text{cl}(\text{conv}(\bigcup_{z \in M_y} \{z\})).$$

Thus $x \in \partial f^*(y)$.

- **Proof of \Rightarrow :** From what we showed above, if $x \in \partial f^*(y)$, then $y \in \partial f^*(x)$, but $f^{**} = f$.

Clearly $y \in \partial f(x) \Leftrightarrow x \in \arg \min_z \{f(z) - y^T z\}$

Lastly, if f is strictly convex, then we know that $f(z) - y^T z$ has a unique minimizer over z , and this must be $\nabla f^*(y)$.

$$\varphi(k) = f(k) - y^T k$$

$$\varphi(\tilde{x}) \geq \varphi(x)$$

Dual (sub)gradient method

Even if we can't derive dual (conjugate) in closed form, we can still use dual-based gradient or subgradient methods.

Consider the problem:

$$\min_x f(x) \quad \text{subject to} \quad Ax = b$$

$$A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$$

$$L(x, u) = f(x) + u^T(Ax - b)$$

$$g(u) = \inf_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n} L = \min_x f(x) + u^T Ax - u^T b = \\ = \min_x (f(x) - (-A^T u) \cdot x - u^T b) =$$

$$\min \left[f(x) - x^T y \right] = -f^*(y)$$

$$g(u) \rightarrow \max_{u \in \mathbb{R}^m}$$

$$\langle u, Ax \rangle = \langle A^T u, x \rangle$$

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Consider the problem:

$$\min_x \quad f(x) \quad \text{subject to} \quad Ax = b$$

Its dual problem is:

$$\max_u \quad -f^*(-A^T u) - b^T u$$

where f^* is the conjugate of f . Defining $g(u) = -f^*(-A^T u) - b^T u$, note that:

$$\partial g(u) = A\partial f^*(-A^T u) - b$$

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$$A \cdot \tilde{x} - b$$

$$y \in \partial f(x) \Leftrightarrow x \in \partial f^*(y)$$

$$\Leftrightarrow$$

$$x \in \arg \min_{\mathbf{z}} f(\mathbf{z}) - y^T \mathbf{z}$$

$$\tilde{x} \in \partial f^*(-A^T u)$$

$$-A^T u \in \partial f(x)$$

Therefore, using what we know about conjugates

$$\boxed{\partial g(u) = Ax - b} \quad \text{where} \quad \boxed{\tilde{x} \in \arg \min_z [f(z) + u^T Az]}$$

$$\max_{u \in \mathbb{R}^n} g(u)$$

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$$g(u)$$

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Dual ascent method for maximizing dual objective:

- Step sizes α_k , $k = 1, 2, 3, \dots$, are chosen in standard ways.

i

$$x_k \in \arg \min_x [f(x) + (u_{k-1})^T Ax]$$

$$u_k = u_{k-1} + \alpha_k (Ax_k - b)$$

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 $g(u)$: $u_{k+1} = u_k + \alpha_k \nabla g(u)$

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Dual ascent method for maximizing dual objective:

i Dual Ascent

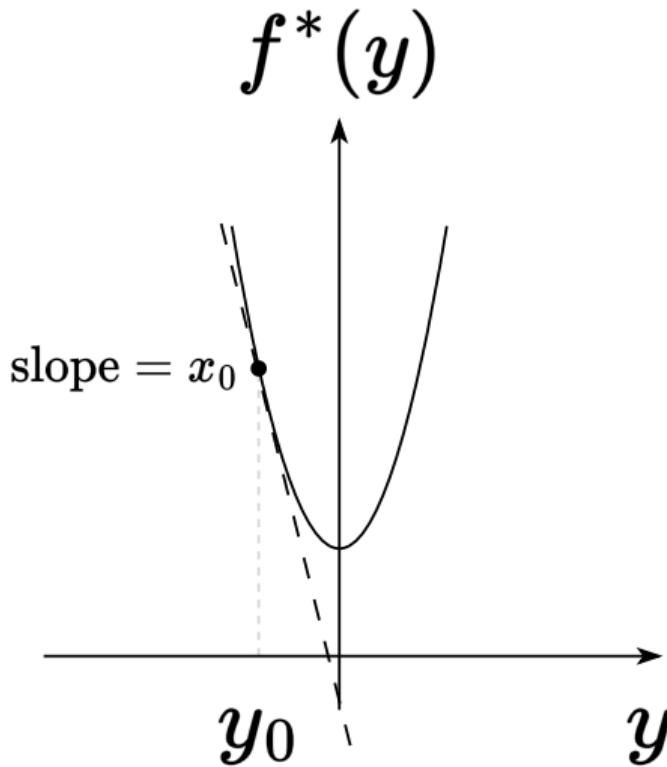
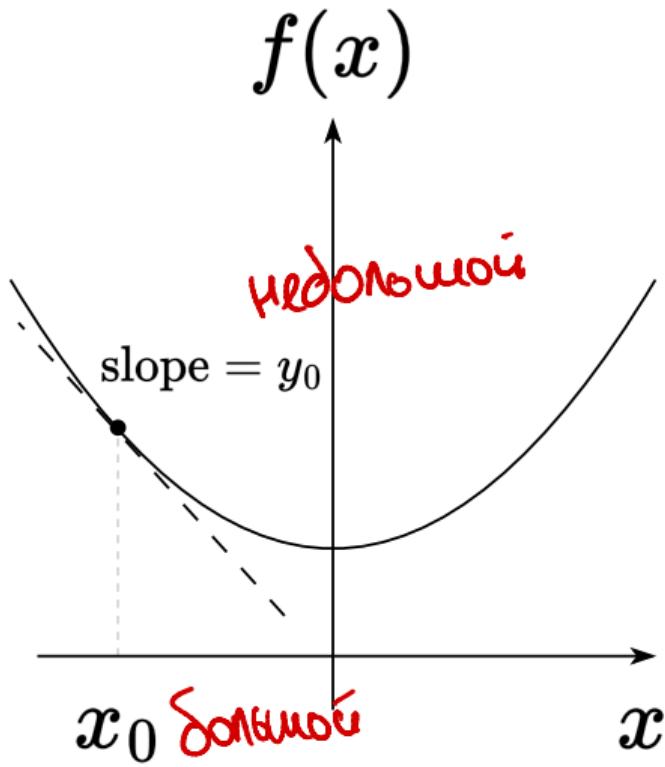
$$x_k \in \arg \min_x [f(x) + (u_{k-1})^T Ax]$$

$$u_k = u_{k-1} + \alpha_k (Ax_k - b)$$

- Step sizes α_k , $k = 1, 2, 3, \dots$, are chosen in standard ways.
- Proximal gradients and acceleration can be applied as they would usually.

Slopes of f and f^*

$$y \in \partial f(x) \iff x \in \partial f^*(y)$$



Slopes of f and f^*

Assume that f is a closed and convex function. Then f is strongly convex with parameter $\mu \Leftrightarrow \nabla f^*$ is Lipschitz with parameter $1/\mu$.

f -Measurable bounded
 $\Leftrightarrow \nabla f^*$ bounded $\frac{1}{\mu}$

Slopes of f and f^*



Assume that f is a closed and convex function. Then f is strongly convex with parameter $\mu \Leftrightarrow \nabla f^*$ is Lipschitz with parameter $1/\mu$.

Proof of " \Rightarrow : Recall, if g is strongly convex with minimizer x , then

$$g(y) \geq g(x) + \frac{\mu}{2} \|y - x\|^2, \quad \text{for all } y$$



Slopes of f and f^*

x_u

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$$\nabla f(z) = u \quad \nabla f^*(u) = x_u$$

$$g_1(z) = f(z) - u^T z$$

$$g_1(x) \geq g_1(x_u) + \frac{\mu}{2} \|x - x_u\|^2 \quad f(x_v) - u^T x_v \geq f(x_u) - u^T x_u + \frac{\mu}{2} \|x_u - x_v\|^2$$

$$f(x_u) - v^T x_u \geq f(x_v) - v^T x_v + \frac{\mu}{2} \|x_u - x_v\|^2$$

$$g_2(z) = f(z) - v^T z$$

$$g_2(x) \geq g_2(x_v) + \frac{\mu}{2} \|x - x_v\|^2$$

$$\nabla f(z) = v$$

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Hence, defining $x_u = \nabla f^*(u)$ and $x_v = \nabla f^*(v)$,

$$\begin{aligned} f(x_v) - u^T x_v &\geq f(x_u) - u^T x_u + \frac{\mu}{2} \|x_u - x_v\|^2 \\ f(x_u) - v^T x_u &\geq f(x_v) - v^T x_v + \frac{\mu}{2} \|x_u - x_v\|^2 \end{aligned}$$

$$\nabla f^* - \frac{1}{\mu} \text{I}_{\mathbb{R}^n}$$

Adding these together, using the Cauchy-Schwarz inequality, and rearranging shows that \Rightarrow

$$\begin{aligned} \|x_u - x_v\|^2 &\leq \frac{1}{\mu} \|u - v\|^2 \\ \|\nabla f^*(u) - \nabla f^*(v)\|^2 &\leq \frac{1}{\mu} \|u - v\|^2 \end{aligned}$$

Slopes of f and f^*

Proof of “ \Leftarrow ”: for simplicity, call $g = f^*$ and $L = \frac{1}{\mu}$. As ∇g is Lipschitz with constant L , so is $g_x(z) = g(z) - \nabla g(x)^T z$, hence

$$g_x(z) \leq g_x(y) + \nabla g_x(y)^T (z - y) + \frac{L}{2} \|z - y\|_2^2$$

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Minimizing each side over z , and rearranging, gives

$$\frac{1}{2L} \|\nabla g(x) - \nabla g(y)\|^2 \leq g(y) - g(x) + \nabla g(x)^T (x - y)$$

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Exchanging roles of x , y , and adding together, gives

$$\frac{1}{L} \|\nabla g(x) - \nabla g(y)\|^2 \leq (\nabla g(x) - \nabla g(y))^T (x - y)$$

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Let $u = \nabla f(x)$, $v = \nabla g(y)$; then $x \in \partial g^*(u)$, $y \in \partial g^*(v)$, and the above reads $(x - y)^T (u - v) \geq \frac{\|u - v\|^2}{L}$, implying the result.

Convergence guarantees

The following results hold from combining the last fact with what we already know about gradient descent:¹

- If f is strongly convex with parameter μ , then dual gradient ascent with constant step sizes $\alpha_k = \mu$ converges at sublinear rate $O(\frac{1}{\epsilon})$.

¹This is ignoring the role of A , and thus reflects the case when the singular values of A are all close to 1. To be more precise, the step sizes here should be: $\frac{\mu}{\sigma_{\max}(A)^2}$ (first case) and $\frac{2}{\frac{\sigma_{\max}(A)^2}{\mu} + \frac{\sigma_{\min}(A)^2}{L}}$ (second case).

Convergence guarantees

↓ CX-TG *глобальной
стабильности*

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- If f is strongly convex with parameter μ , then dual gradient ascent with constant step sizes $\alpha_k = \mu$ converges at sublinear rate $O(\frac{1}{\epsilon})$.
- If f is strongly convex with parameter μ and ∇f is Lipschitz with parameter L , then dual gradient ascent with step sizes $\alpha_k = \frac{2}{\frac{1}{\mu} + \frac{1}{L}}$ converges at linear rate $O(\log(\frac{1}{\epsilon}))$.

μ CUNБ KTAЯ Bb(ПУЧНОСТ \Rightarrow $\frac{1}{\mu}$ ЧАГКОСТЬ &
L ЧАГКОСТЬ \Rightarrow $\frac{1}{L}$ CUNБ KTAЯ
Bb(ПУЧНОСТ & DUAL

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Note that this describes convergence in the dual. (Convergence in the primal requires more assumptions)

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Dual decomposition

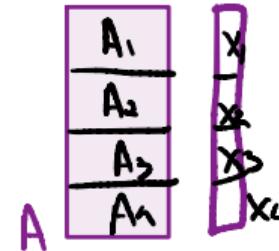
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Here $x = (x_1, \dots, x_B) \in \mathbb{R}^n$ divides into B blocks of variables, with each $x_i \in \mathbb{R}^{n_i}$. We can also partition A accordingly:

$$A = [A_1 \dots A_B], \text{ where } A_i \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n_i}$$

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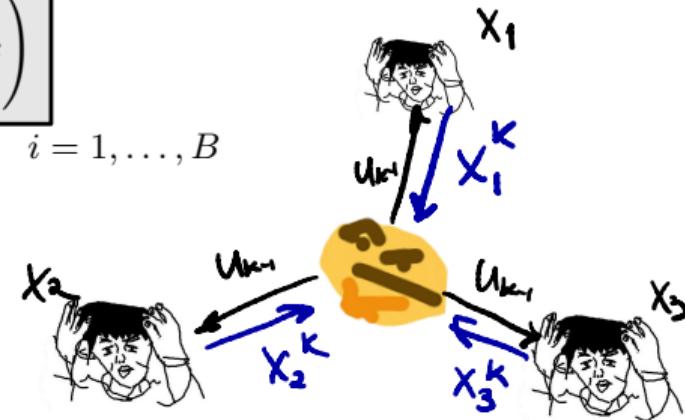
Simple but powerful observation, in calculation of subgradient, is that the minimization decomposes into B separate problems:

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$$x^{\text{new}} \in \arg \min_x \left(\sum_{i=1}^B f_i(x_i) + u^T A x \right)$$
$$\Rightarrow x_i^{\text{new}} \in \arg \min_{x_i} \underbrace{(f_i(x_i) + u^T A_i x_i)}, \quad i = 1, \dots, B$$

$$x_i^k \in \arg \min_{x_i} (f_i(x_i) + (u^{k-1})^T A_i x_i), \quad i = 1, \dots, B$$

$$u^k = u^{k-1} + \alpha_k \left(\sum_{i=1}^B A_i x_i^k - b \right)$$



Dual decomposition

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Can think of these steps as:

$$x_i^k \in \arg \min_{x_i} \left(f_i(x_i) + (u^{k-1})^T A_i x_i \right), \quad i = 1, \dots, B$$

- **Broadcast:** Send u to each of the B processors, each optimizes in parallel to find x_i .

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Can think of these steps as:

- **Broadcast:** Send u to each of the B processors, each optimizes in parallel to find x_i .
- **Gather:** Collect $A_i x_i$ from each processor, update the global dual variable u .

Inequality constraints

$$Ax \leq b$$

Consider the optimization problem:

$$\begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 2 \\ -3 \\ -4 \\ 5 \end{pmatrix} \quad \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 2 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 5 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\min_x \sum_{i=1}^B f_i(x_i) \quad \text{subject to} \quad \sum_{i=1}^B A_i x_i \leq b$$

$$g(u) \rightarrow \max_{u \in \mathbb{R}^n} \quad u \geq 0$$

$$y_+ \quad \Pi_S(y) = y_+$$

S^- специ

Метод
неко
загущен

Inequality constraints

Consider the optimization problem:

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Using **dual decomposition**, specifically the **projected subgradient method**, the iterative steps can be expressed as:

- The primal update step:

$$x_i^k \in \arg \min_{x_i} \left[f_i(x_i) + (u^{k-1})^T A_i x_i \right], \quad i = 1, \dots, B$$

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- The dual update step:

$$u^k = \left(u^{k-1} + \alpha_k \left(\sum_{i=1}^B A_i x_i^k - b \right) \right)_+$$

where $(u)_+$ denotes the positive part of u , i.e., $(u)_+ = \max\{0, u_i\}$, for $i = 1, \dots, m$.

метод поиска
субграви
гн
max g(u)

Price Coordination Interpretation (Vandenberghe)

- **System Overview:** Consider a system with B units, where each unit independently chooses its decision variable x_i , which determines how to allocate its goods.

Price Coordination Interpretation (Vandenberghe)

нормативное представление



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ресурси Мощь ГАЗ МОСУ МЕМЧ НЕСОК

мощи, ограничения $a_i^T x_i \leq b_i$

которые либо генератор

$\left(\min_{x_i} f(x_i) + u_{k,i}^T A x_i \right)$

$u_i \leftarrow$ глобаль.
неп.
Четыре
на ресурсах

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✓ izpauken tiekšķī nozīmēm

$$u_j^{\text{new}} = (u_j - ts_j)_+, \quad j = 1, \dots, m$$

where $s = b - \sum_{i=1}^B A_i x_i$ represents the slacks.

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 - Increase price u_j if resource j is over-utilized ($s_j < 0$).
 - Decrease price u_j if resource j is under-utilized ($s_j > 0$).
 - Never let prices get negative; hence the use of the positive part notation $(\cdot)_+$.

Augmented Lagrangian method aka method of multipliers

Dual ascent disadvantage: convergence requires strong conditions. Augmented Lagrangian method transforms the primal problem:

$$\min_x f(x) + \frac{\rho}{2} \|Ax - b\|^2$$

s.t. $Ax = b$

гладкое условие
влияния

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$$0 \in \partial f(x_k) + A^T u + \rho A^T(Ax_k - b)$$

Dual gradient ascent: The iterative updates are given by:

$$x_k = \arg \min_x \left[f(x) + (u_{k-1})^T A x + \frac{\rho}{2} \|Ax - b\|^2 \right]$$

$$u_k = u_{k-1} + \rho(Ax_k - b)$$

Augmented Lagrangian method aka method of multipliers

$$y \in \partial f(x)$$

$$\Leftrightarrow$$

$$x \in \partial^*(y)$$

$$\Leftrightarrow$$

$$x \in \arg\min_z (f(z) - y^T z)$$

Notice step size choice $\alpha_k = \rho$ in dual algorithm. Why?

Since x_k minimizes the function:

$$f(x) + (u_{k-1})^T A x + \frac{\rho}{2} \|Ax - b\|^2$$

over x , we have the stationarity condition:

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which simplifies to:

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This represents the stationarity condition for the original primal problem; under mild conditions, $Ax_k - b \rightarrow 0$ as $k \rightarrow \infty$, so the KKT conditions are satisfied in the limit and x_k, u_k converge to the solutions.

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- **Advantage:** The augmented Lagrangian gives better convergence.
- **Disadvantage:** We lose decomposability! (Separability is ruined)

Alternating Direction Method of Multipliers (ADMM)

Alternating direction method of multipliers or ADMM aims for the best of both worlds. Consider the following optimization problem:

Minimize the function:

$$\min_{x,z} f(x) + g(z)$$

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where $\rho > 0$ is a parameter. The augmented Lagrangian for this problem is defined as:

$$L_\rho(x, z, u) = f(x) + g(z) + u^T(Ax + Bz - c) + \frac{\rho}{2} \|Ax + Bz - c\|^2$$

Alternating Direction Method of Multipliers (ADMM)

ADMM repeats the following steps, for $k = 1, 2, 3, \dots$:

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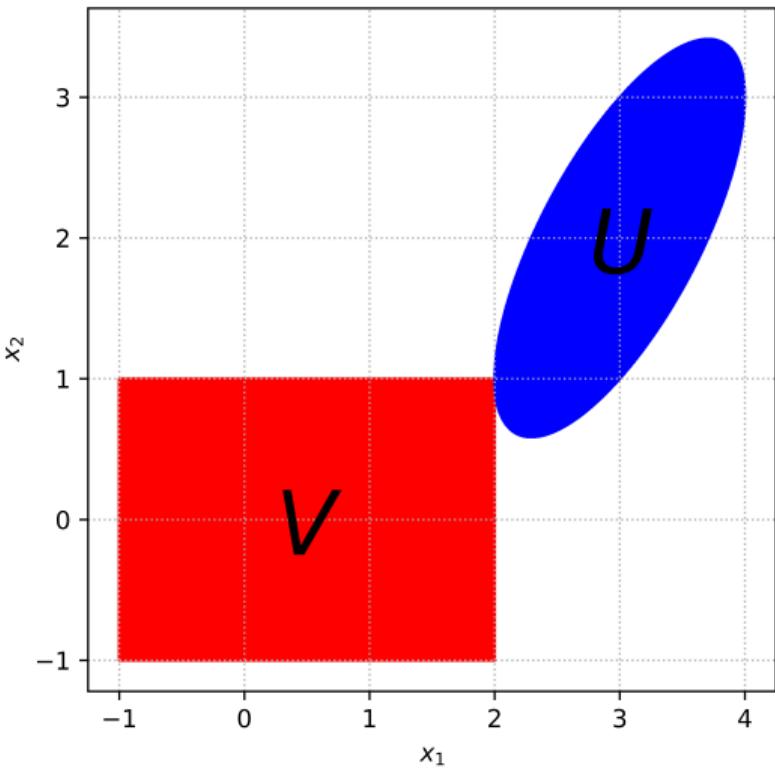
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Note: The usual method of multipliers would replace the first two steps by a joint minimization:

$$(x^{(k)}, z^{(k)}) = \arg \min_{x, z} L_\rho(x, z, u^{(k-1)})$$

Example: Alternating Projections



Consider finding a point in the intersection of convex sets $U, V \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$:

$$\min_x I_U(x) + I_V(x)$$

To transform this problem into ADMM form, we express it as:

$$\min_{x,z} I_U(x) + I_V(z) \quad \text{subject to} \quad x - z = 0$$

Each ADMM cycle involves two projections:

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} x_k = \arg \min_x P_U(z_{k-1} - w_{k-1}) \\ z_k = \arg \min_z P_V(x_k + w_{k-1}) \\ w_k = w_{k-1} + x_k - z_k \end{array} \right.$$

Sources

- Ryan Tibshirani. Convex Optimization 10-725