

# Lagrangian Duality (Bloomberg)

Linear programs (linear objective & constraints)  
were the focus

Nonlinear programs

Convex:  $\forall C_1, C_2 \in \mathcal{C} \quad \forall \theta \in [0, 1]$

$$\theta C_1 + (1-\theta)C_2 \in \mathcal{C}$$

A function  $f$ : convex if  $\text{dom } f$  is  
a convex set and if for all  $x, y \in \text{dom } f$   
and  $0 \leq \theta \leq 1$

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

Eg. ①  $x \rightarrow ax + b$  convex affine

②  $x \rightarrow |x|^p$  for  $p \geq 1$  convex for all  $p$ .

③  $x \rightarrow e^{ax}$  convex on  $\mathbb{R}$  &  $\mathbb{R}$ .

④ norm

⑤ max

Strictly convex: exclude end points,

convex: local minimum  $\rightarrow$  global optimum

strictly convex: local minimum  $\rightarrow$  unique global minimum,

General optimization problem.

$$\min f_0(x)$$

$$\text{subj to } f_i(x) \leq 0 \quad i=1, \dots, m$$

$$h_i(x) = 0 \quad i=1, \dots, p.$$

$$x \in \mathbb{R}^n$$

optimization variable

$$f_0$$

objective function

domain nonempty

Set of points in constraint feasible set.

If  $x$  feasible and  $f_i(x) = 0$ .

then  $f_i(x) \leq 0$  active at  $x$ .

Optimal value  $p^* = \inf \{f_0(x) \mid x \text{ satisfies all constraints}\}$

$x^*$  optimal point

Lagrangian :  $L(x, \lambda) = f_0(x) + \sum_{i=1}^m \lambda_i f_i(x)$

$\lambda \geq 0$  Lagrangian multipliers  
(dual variable)

$$\sup_{\lambda \geq 0} L(x, \lambda) = \sup_{\lambda \geq 0} (f_0(x) + \sum_{i=1}^m \lambda_i f_i(x))$$

$$= \begin{cases} f_0(x) & \text{when } f_i(x) \leq 0 \forall i \\ \infty & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

> just another  
form of the  
original obj

So primal form  $p^* = \inf_x \sup_{\lambda \geq 0} L(x, \lambda)$

dual form :  $\sup \inf$  -  $\sup$

$$\downarrow$$

$$d^* = \sup_{\lambda \geq 0} \inf_x L(x, \lambda)$$

Weak duality :  $p^* \geq d^*$

$$\sup_{z \in Z} \inf_{w \in W} f(w, z) \leq \inf_{w \in W} \sup_{z \in Z} f(w, z)$$

Proof:  $\inf_{w \in W} f(w, z) \leq f(w_0, z_0) \leq \sup_{z \in Z} f(w_0, z)$

$$\Rightarrow \inf_w f(w, z_0) \leq \sup_{z \in Z} f(w, z_0)$$

$$\sup_{z_0 \in Z} \inf_{w \in W} f(w, z_0) \leq \inf_{w \in W} \sup_{z \in Z} f(w, z)$$

Duality gap:  $p^* - d^*$

Strong duality:  $p^* = d^*$

Lagrangian dual function

$$g(\lambda) = \inf_x L(x, \lambda) = \inf_x (f_0(x) + \sum_{i=1}^m \lambda_i f_i(x))$$

$$p^* \geq \sup_{\lambda \geq 0} g(\lambda) = d^*$$

$$p^* \geq g(\lambda) \quad \forall \lambda$$

$$\max g(\lambda)$$

$$\text{subj } \lambda \geq 0$$

## Complementary slackness

$$\lambda_i^* f_i(x^*) = 0$$

def of strong duality

$$\begin{aligned} f_0(x^*) &= g(\lambda^*) = \inf_{x \in \mathcal{X}} [L(x, \lambda^*)] \\ &\leq L(x^*, \lambda^*) \\ &= f_0(x^*) + \underbrace{\sum_{i=1}^m \lambda_i^* f_i(x^*)}_{\leq 0} \\ &\leq f_0(x^*) \end{aligned}$$

$$\Rightarrow \underbrace{\sum_{i=1}^m \lambda_i^* f_i(x^*)}_{\leq 0}$$

## Convex Optimization

Convex: A set is convex if

$$\{x, x'\} \in S \Rightarrow [x, x'] \in S$$

$\downarrow$

$$\{ \alpha x + (1-\alpha)x' : \alpha \in [0, 1] \}$$

Eg. ① All of  $\mathbb{R}^d$

② Empty set

③ Half spaces  $\{x \in \mathbb{R}^d, a^T x \leq b\}$

④ Intersection of convex sets.

⑤ polyhedra  $\{x \in \mathbb{R}^d; A^T x \leq b\}$

$= \bigcap_{i=1}^m \{x \in \mathbb{R}^d; a_i^T x \leq b_i\}$

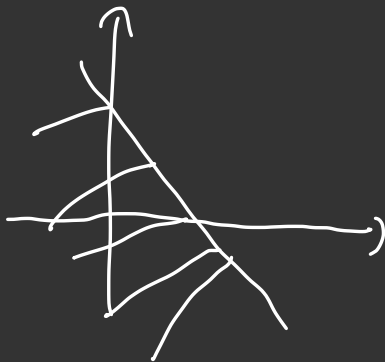
⑥ convex hulls.

$= \{ \sum_{i=1}^K a_i \cdot x_i; K \in \mathbb{N}$

$x_i \in S, a_i \geq 0, \sum_{i=1}^K a_i = 1 \}$

Proof half space is convex.

$H := \{x \in \mathbb{R}^d; a^T x \leq b\}.$



Let  $x, x' \in H$

be given,  $\alpha \in [0, 1]$

want:  $\alpha x + (1-\alpha)x' \in H$

Show  $a^T (\alpha x + (1-\alpha)x') \leq b$

$$= \alpha a^T x + (1-\alpha) a^T x'$$

$$= \alpha b + (1-\alpha)b$$

$$= b$$

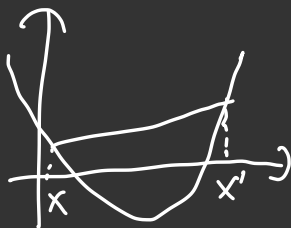
**Epi**graph: area above curve.

$$\text{epi}(f) := \{(x, y) \in \mathbb{R}^{d+1} \mid y \geq f(x)\}$$

A function is convex if its epigraph is convex

**Convex function**

$$f((1-\alpha)x + \alpha x') \leq (1-\alpha)f(x) + \alpha f(x')$$



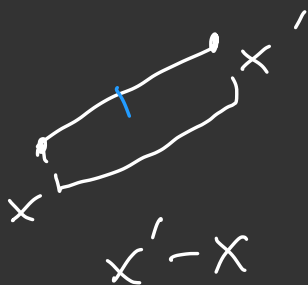
$$f(x) = b^T x \text{ for any } b \in \mathbb{R}^d$$

$$f(x) = \|x\| \text{ for any norm } \|\cdot\|$$

$$f(x) = x^T A x \text{ for symmetric positive semidefinite } A$$

$$f(x) = \ln\left(\sum_{i=1}^d \exp(x_i)\right) \text{ which approximates } \max_i x_i$$





Line segment

point between  $x$   $x'$

$$x + (x' - x)\alpha$$

Proof  $f(x) = \|x\|$  convex

Let  $x, x' \in \mathbb{R}^d$   $\alpha \in [0, 1]$

$$\begin{aligned} & f(\alpha x + (1-\alpha)x') \\ &= \|\alpha x + (1-\alpha)x'\| \leq \|\alpha x\| + \|(1-\alpha)x'\| \\ & \leq \alpha \|x\| + (1-\alpha) \|x'\| \end{aligned}$$

$$\alpha f(x) + (1-\alpha) f(x')$$

Eg

Summation: if  $(f_1, \dots, f_k)$

convex and  $(\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_k)$  nonnegative.

$x \rightarrow \alpha_1 f_1(x) + \dots + \alpha_k f_k(x)$  convex

Affine composition:  $f(x)$  convex

$\rightarrow f(Ax+b)$  convex

Maxima

max convex

Suppose  $\ell_i$  convex

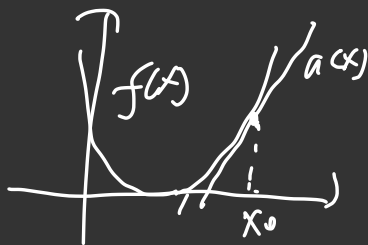
$\hat{R}$  convex, since

$$\begin{aligned}\hat{R}(w) &= \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (\langle w^T x_i, y_i \rangle) \\ &= \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \ell_i(w).\end{aligned}$$

Convexity of differentiable functions.

If  $f: \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  differentiable, then  $f$  is convex if and only if

$$f(x) \geq f(x_0) + \nabla f(x_0)^T (x - x_0)$$



Increasing slopes:

$$(\nabla f(x) - \nabla f(y))^T (x - y) \geq 0$$

Twice differentiable functions

$$\nabla^2 f(x) \succeq 0$$

## Strict convexity

Function values:  $\forall x \neq y \quad \forall \alpha \in (0,1)$

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

Derivatives:  $\forall x \neq y$

$$f(y) > f(x) + \nabla f(x)^T (y-x)$$

Hessian:  $\forall x$

$$\forall x \quad \nabla^2 f(x) \succ 0$$



## Strong convexity at least as quadratic

Function values:  $\forall x \neq y \quad \forall \alpha \in (0,1)$

$$f(\alpha x + (1-\alpha)y) \leq \alpha f(x) + (1-\alpha)f(y) - \frac{\lambda \alpha(1-\alpha)}{2} \|x-y\|^2$$

Derivatives:  $\forall x \neq y$

$$f(y) \geq f(x) + \nabla f(x)^T (y-x) + \frac{\lambda}{2} \|y-x\|^2$$

Hessian:  $\forall x$

$$\forall x \quad \nabla^2 f(x) \succeq \lambda I$$

Logistic loss  $z \rightarrow \ln(1 + \exp(-z))$   
strictly convex

Squared loss  $z \rightarrow \frac{1}{2}(1-z)^2$   
strongly convex

Convex: local optimum  
 $\rightarrow$  global optimum

$\beta$ -smooth:  $f(w') \leq f(w) + \nabla f(w)^T (w' - w) + \frac{\beta}{2} \|w' - w\|^2$

Theorem.

$$\underbrace{\min_{i \leq t} \|\nabla f(w_{i-1})\|^2}_{\text{norm of gradient descent}} \leq \underbrace{\frac{1}{t} \sum_{i=1}^t \|\nabla f(w_{i-1})\|^2}_{\leq \frac{2\beta}{t} (f(w_0) - \min_w f(w))} \leq \underbrace{\frac{2\beta}{t} (f(w_0) - \min_w f(w))}_{O(1/t)}$$

## Stochastic GD

take  $|S| = B$  (mini-batch)

$$\frac{1}{B} \sum_{i \in S} L'(y_i f(x_i; w)) y_i \nabla_w f(x_i; w)$$