

Chapter 12: Theory of Constrained Optimization

Want:

$$\min_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n} f(x) \text{ subject to } \begin{cases} c_i(x) = 0, i \in E \\ c_i(x) \geq 0, i \in I \end{cases}$$

- * f is the objective function
- * $c_i, i \in E$ are the equality constraints
- * $c_i, i \in I$ are the inequality constraints

Feasible set Ω :

$$\Omega = \{x \mid c_i(x) = 0, i \in E; c_i(x) \geq 0, i \in I\}$$

or write:

$$\min_{x \in \Omega} f(x)$$

Local solution: x^* is a local solution

if $x^* \in \Omega$ and there is a neighborhood

N of x^* such that: $f(x) \geq f(x^*)$ for $x \in N \cap \Omega$.

Strict local solution: x^* is a strict local solution

if it is a local solution with $f(x) > f(x^*)$

for $x \in N \cap \Omega, x \neq x^*$, for some N of $x^* \in \Omega$

Isolated local minimizer: x^* is an isolated local minimizer if it is the only one local minimizer for $N(x^*)$,

$x^* \in \Omega$, for all $x \in N \cap \Omega$.

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Examples:

L_1 -norm: $\|x\|_1 = |x_1| + |x_2| \leq 1$

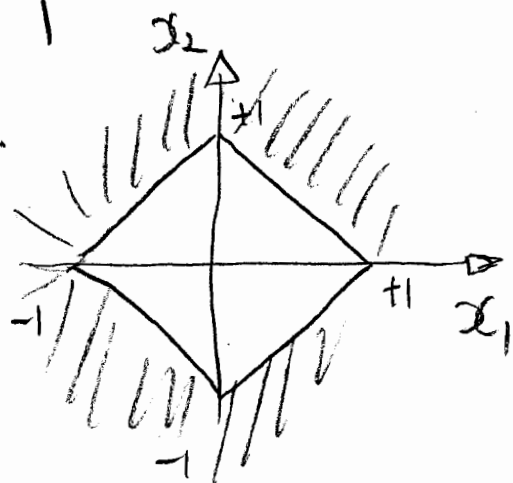
can also be described by:

$$x_1 + x_2 \leq 1$$

$$x_1 - x_2 \leq 1$$

$$-x_1 + x_2 \leq 1$$

$$-x_1 - x_2 \leq 1$$

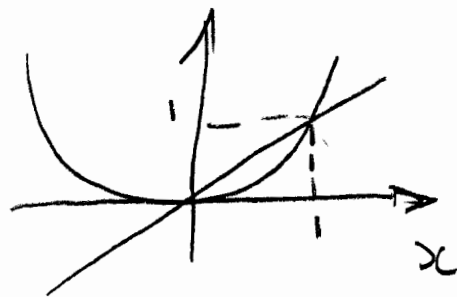


A second one:

$$f(x) = \max(x^2, x)$$

is the same as:

$$\min t \quad \text{s.t.} \quad \begin{cases} t \geq x \\ t \geq x^2 \end{cases}$$



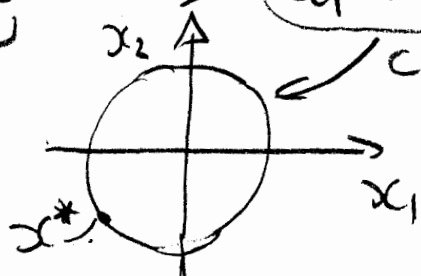
Active: if $c_i(x) = 0, i \in I$,
then the inequality $c_i(x) \geq 0$ is said
to be active. Else, it is inactive.

Ex 12.1

Consider: $\min x_1 + x_2$ s.t. $x_1^2 + x_2^2 - 2 = 0$

$$\underbrace{x_1^2 + x_2^2 - 2 = 0}_{C_1(x)} \Rightarrow x_1^2 + x_2^2 = (\sqrt{2})^2$$

circle.



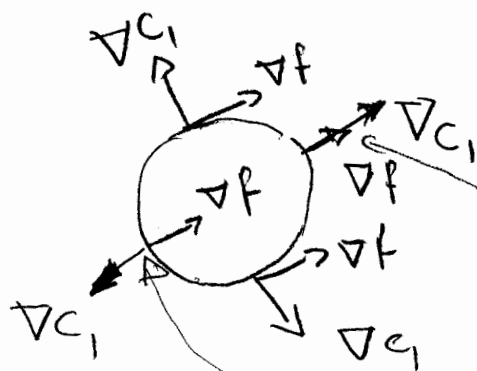
Solution is $(x_1, x_2) = (-1, -1)^T$ satisfying:

$$\boxed{\nabla f(x^*) = \lambda_1^* \nabla C_1(x^*)} \quad (*)$$

or:

$$\nabla f(x) = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \lambda_1^* \begin{bmatrix} 2x_1 \\ 2x_2 \end{bmatrix}$$

is satisfied at x^* ($\lambda_1^* = -1/2$).



Note that
there are
two points
where (*) is
satisfied (one for
min, one for max)

To understand the conditions, note that $c_1(x) = 0$ within the feasible region.

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$$\Rightarrow 0 = c_1(x+d) \approx c_1(x) + \nabla c_1(x)^T d \\ = 0 + \nabla c_1(x)^T d \approx 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \textcircled{*} \quad \nabla c_1(x)^T d = 0 \quad (\text{to first order app.})$$

Furthermore, for decreasing f :

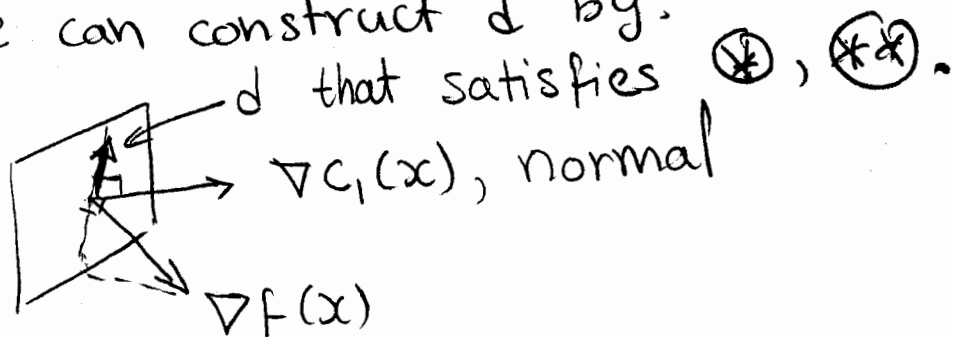
$$0 > f(x+d) - f(x) \approx \nabla f(x)^T d$$

$$\Rightarrow \textcircled{**} \quad \nabla f(x)^T d < 0 \quad (\text{to first order app.})$$

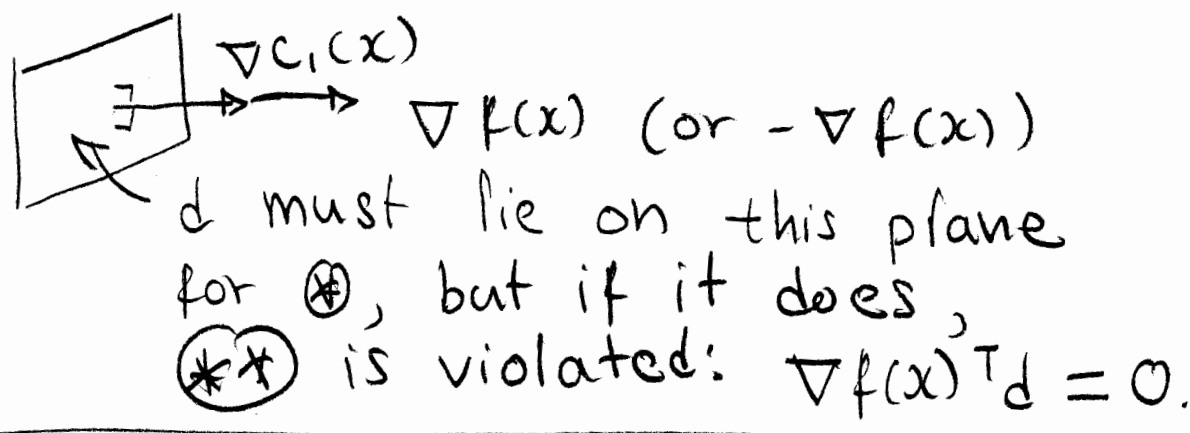
If there is a d that satisfies both, then by taking $x+d$, we can minimize f and stay feasible (up to first order):

\Rightarrow for x^* optimal, we cannot find a d that satisfies both $\textcircled{*}$, $\textcircled{**}$. (necessary).

Now, if $\nabla c_1(x)$, $\nabla f(x)$ are not parallel, then, we can construct d by:



On the other hand, if $\nabla C_1(x), \nabla f(x)$ are parallel, no d can be found:



\Rightarrow

$$\nabla f(x^*) = \lambda_1 \nabla C_1(x^*) \text{ at } x^*$$

necessary condition.

Form the Lagrangian:

$$L(x, \lambda_1) = f(x) - \lambda_1 C_1(x)$$

$$\Rightarrow \nabla_x L(x, \lambda_1) = \nabla f(x) - \lambda_1 \nabla C_1(x)$$

Necessary condition:

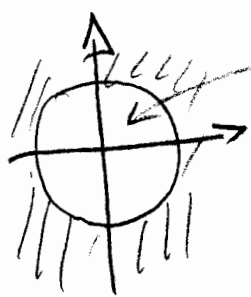
$$\exists \lambda_1^* \text{ such that: } \nabla_x L(x^*, \lambda_1^*) = 0$$

However, it is not sufficient, and we cannot make it so by restricting the sign of λ_1 .

A single inequality:

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min $x_1 + x_2$ such that $2 - x_1^2 - x_2^2 \geq 0$,



inside of the circle.

Still, minimum at $(-1, -1)$

Again, consider:

$$0 \leq c_1(x+d) \approx c_1(x) + \nabla c_1(x)^T d$$

which requires:

$$c_1(x) + \nabla c_1(x)^T d \geq 0$$

~~xxx~~

up to first order app.

Also recall: $\nabla f(x)^T d < 0$, up to first order app.

(I) Consider an interior point, where

$$c_1(x) + \nabla c_1(x)^T d > 0,$$

for small-enough d , we have ~~xxx~~ satisfied.

Set $d = -\nabla f(x) h$, h small.

Then this also satisfies: $\nabla f(x)^T d < 0$.

\Rightarrow for interior points, $\nabla f(x) = 0$.

is required for x^* .

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⊕ On the boundary, we have:

$$\nabla f(x)^T d < 0, \quad \nabla C_1(x)^T d \geq 0,$$

Behind plane:

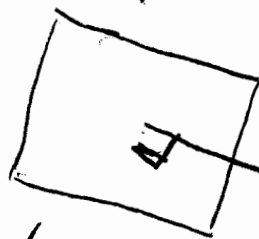
$$\nabla f(x)^T d < 0.$$



$$\nabla f(x)$$

in-front and on-plane:

$$\nabla C_1(x)^T d \geq 0$$



Can always be combined to give a solution, unless

$$\nabla f(x) = \lambda_1 \nabla C_1(x), \quad \text{for } \lambda_1 \geq 0.$$

If $\lambda_1 = 0 \Rightarrow \nabla f(x) = 0$, and we have a stationary point.

Else



and solutions have no points for d .

Lagrangian formulation

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$$\boxed{\nabla_x L(x^*, \lambda_1^*) = 0}, \text{ some } \lambda_1 \geq 0,$$

for $L(x, \lambda_1) = f(x) - \lambda_1 c_1(x)$

and

$$\boxed{\lambda_1^* c_1(x^*) = 0} \sim \textcircled{\Delta}$$

complimentarity condition.

From $\textcircled{\Delta}$:

* minimum is at the boundary
($c_1(x^*) = 0$) OR

* it is a regular minimum
with $\nabla f(x^*) = 0$ on the
boundary.

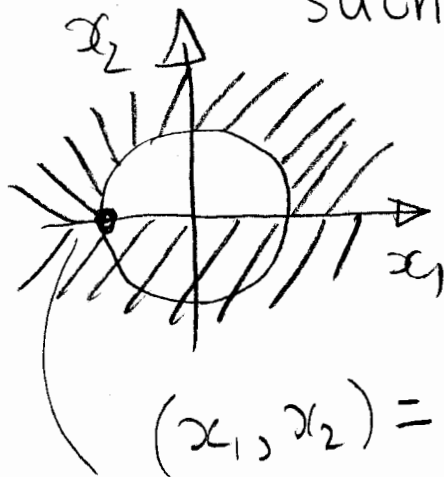
Note that $\nabla f(x^*) = 0$ will
satisfy $\textcircled{\Delta}$ with $\lambda_1^* = 0$.

Two-inequality constraints

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$$\min x_1 + x_2$$

$$\text{such that: } \begin{cases} 2 - x_1^2 - x_2^2 \geq 0, \\ x_2 \geq 0 \end{cases}$$



$$(x_1, x_2) = \begin{bmatrix} -\sqrt{2} \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

where both x_1 & x_2 are minimum.

We again have:

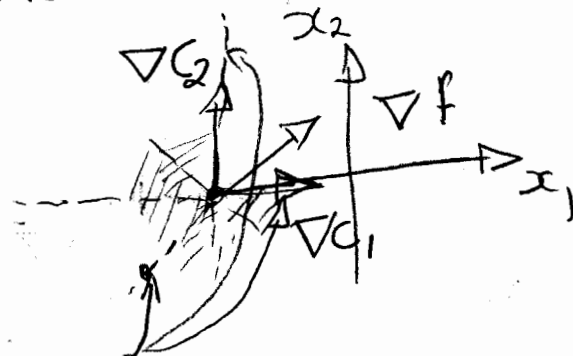
$$\nabla g_1(x)^T d \geq 0$$

$$\nabla g_2(x)^T d \geq 0$$

$$\nabla f(x)^T d < 0$$

for a non-minimum direction.

$$\text{At } \begin{bmatrix} -\sqrt{2} \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}:$$



d must have positive components

(impossible!)

$\Rightarrow (-\sqrt{2}, 0)^T$ optimal.

Again, set:

$$L(x, \lambda) = f(x) - \lambda_1 c_1(x) - \lambda_2 c_2(x)$$

or: $\nabla_x L(x^*, \lambda^*) = 0$, some $\lambda^* \geq 0$.

In our example, we have that:

$$\lambda_1^* c_1(x^*) = 0, \quad \lambda_2^* c_2(x^*) = 0.$$

For the solution to the example:

$$\nabla f(x^*) = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{not zero}$$

$$\nabla c_1(x^*) = \begin{bmatrix} 2\sqrt{2} \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\nabla c_2(x^*) = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

} not allowing
d projections
on $-\nabla f(x^*)$,

with $\lambda_1^* = 1/2\sqrt{2}$, $\lambda_2^* = 1$:

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \frac{1}{2\sqrt{2}} \begin{bmatrix} 2\sqrt{2} \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} + 1 \cdot \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

12.2 First-Order Optimality Conditions

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Recall the problem:

$$\min_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n} f(x) \quad \text{subject to} \quad \begin{cases} c_i(x) = 0, & i \in E \\ c_i(x) \geq 0, & i \in I \end{cases}$$

Form the Lagrangian over all constraints:

$$L(x, \lambda) = f(x) - \sum_{i \in E \cup I} \lambda_i c_i(x)$$

Define the active set at any point x , as:

$$A(x) = E \cup \{i \in I \mid c_i(x) = 0\},$$

in other words, $A(x)$ captures the "boundaries" of the inequality constraints.

We also need to be concerned with degenerate cases, where ∇c_i vanish at the boundaries.

Eg: $c_1(x) = (x_1^2 + x_2^2 - 2)^2 = 0$

gives $\nabla c_1 = 2(x_1^2 + x_2^2 - 2) \begin{bmatrix} 2x_1 \\ 2x_2 \end{bmatrix} = 0$

on the circle:

$$(x_1^2 + x_2^2 - 2) = 0 \quad \text{where } c_1 \text{ is active!}$$

LICQ avoids this:

Def 12.1

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At any point x , consider its active set $A(x)$. Then, LICQ holds if:

$\{\nabla C_i(x), i \in A(x^*)\}$ is linearly independent.

Clearly then: $\nabla C_i(x) \neq 0$, any i .

First-Order Necessary Conditions

Thm 12.1 Suppose that x^* solves:

$\min_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n} f(x)$ subject to $\begin{cases} C_i(x) = 0, i \in E \\ C_i(x) \geq 0, i \in I \end{cases}$,
and LICQ holds at x^* . Then, we
can always find λ_i such that:

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

$C_i(x^*) = 0$, all $i \in E$, $C_i(x^*) \geq 0$, all $i \in I$,

$\lambda_i^* C_i(x^*) = 0$, all $i \in E \cup I$, $\lambda_i^* \geq 0$, $i \in I$.

All conditions are known as the 13
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Karush-Kuhn-Tucker conditions, or KKT conditions.

Using: $\lambda_i^* C_i(x^*) = 0$, we simplify:
 $\nabla_x \mathcal{L}(x^*, \lambda^*) = 0$

to:

$$0 = \nabla_x \mathcal{L}(x^*, \lambda^*)$$

$$= \nabla f(x^*) - \sum_{i \in A(x^*)} \lambda_i^* \nabla C_i(x^*)$$

the rest of the terms have $\lambda_i^* = 0$,
while these ones have $C_i(x^*) = 0$
to be in $A(x^*)$.

From $\lambda_i^* C_i(x^*) = 0$, we have strict
complementarity if $\lambda_i^* = 0$ or $C_i(x^*) = 0$
but not both (replace or by exclusive-or)

This means that: $\lambda_i^* > 0$ for $i \in I \cap A(x^*)$
(where $C_i(x^*) = 0 \dots$)

When LICQ holds, the solution ^{14/30} is unique.

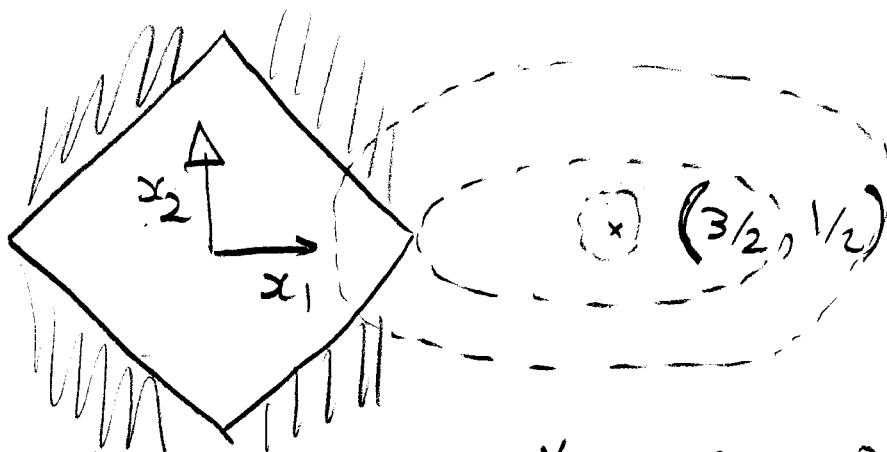
Ex. 12.4

Consider $\min_x \left(x_1 - \frac{3}{2} \right)^2 + \left(x_2 - \frac{1}{2} \right)^4 = f(x)$

such that $\|x\|_1 \leq 1$ or: $|x_1| + |x_2| \leq 1$

or: $\begin{bmatrix} 1 - x_1 - x_2 \\ 1 - x_1 + x_2 \\ 1 + x_1 - x_2 \\ 1 + x_1 + x_2 \end{bmatrix} \geq 0$, which

looks like:



Solution is: $x^* = (1, 0)$.

Plug-in x^* into the $C_i(x)$ to see if $C_i(x^*) = 0$:

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$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 & -0 \\ 1 & -1 & +0 \\ 1 & +1 & -0 \\ 1 & +1 & +0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 2 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} \Rightarrow \begin{cases} C_1(x^*) = 0 \\ C_2(x^*) = 0. \end{cases}$$
$$\Rightarrow \begin{cases} \lambda_3^* = 0 \\ \lambda_4^* = 0 \end{cases}$$

Now C_1, C_2 are active \Rightarrow

$$\nabla f(x^*) = \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ -1/2 \end{bmatrix} = \lambda_1^* \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix} + \lambda_2^* \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\Rightarrow \lambda^* = \begin{bmatrix} 3/4 \\ 1/4 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$



Sensitivity

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Note that for $\lambda_i^* = 0$, we have
no real constraints! So, take $\lambda_i > 0$,
and consider the dependence of
 f on C_i .

For $-\varepsilon \|\nabla C_i(x^*)\|$ change on C_i :

$$\begin{aligned} -\varepsilon \|\nabla C_i(x^*)\| &= C_i(x^*(\varepsilon)) - C_i(x^*) \\ &\approx (x^*(\varepsilon) - x^*)^T \nabla C_i(x^*) \end{aligned}$$

while:

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &= C_j(x^*(\varepsilon)) - C_j(x^*) \\ &\approx (x^*(\varepsilon) - x^*)^T \nabla C_j(x^*) \\ &\text{all } j \in A(x^*), j \neq i \end{aligned}$$

Also:

$$f(x^*(\varepsilon)) - f(x^*) \approx (x^*(\varepsilon) - x^*)^T \nabla f(x^*)$$

But, at x^* : $\nabla f(x^*) = \sum_{j \in A(x^*)} \lambda_j^* \nabla C_j(x^*)$

Thus:

$$f(x^*(\varepsilon)) - f(x^*) \approx \sum_{j \in A(x^*)} \lambda_j^* (x^*(\varepsilon) - x^*)^T \nabla c_j(x^*) \quad \frac{17}{30}$$

$$\approx -\varepsilon \lambda_i^* \|\nabla c_i(x^*)\|$$

Divide by ε and take $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$ to Δ .

$$\boxed{\frac{df(x^*(\varepsilon))}{d\varepsilon} = -\lambda_i^* \|\nabla c_i(x^*)\|}$$

... linear dependence.

independent
of c_i scaling

($c_i \rightarrow 5c_i$ "same")

Strongly-active or Binding:

If $i \in A(x^*)$ and $\lambda_i^* > 0$.

Weakly-active: if $\lambda_i^* = 0$, $i \in A(x^*)$

12.3 Derivation of the First-Order Conditions 18 30

* Key to understanding all constrained optimization algorithms.

Feasible Sequences

Given a feasible point x^* , a sequence $\{z_k\}_{k=0}^{\infty}$ with $z_k \in \mathbb{R}^n$ is a feasible sequence

iff:

- (i) $z_k \neq x^*$, all k ,
- (ii) $\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} z_k = x^*$,
- (iii) z_k is feasible for all sufficiently large values of k .

We also let $T(x)$ denote all feasible sequences approaching x .

Redefine "local solution" as one for which all feasible sequences satisfy: $f(z_k) \geq f(x)$ for all k sufficiently large.

For any point x , consider:

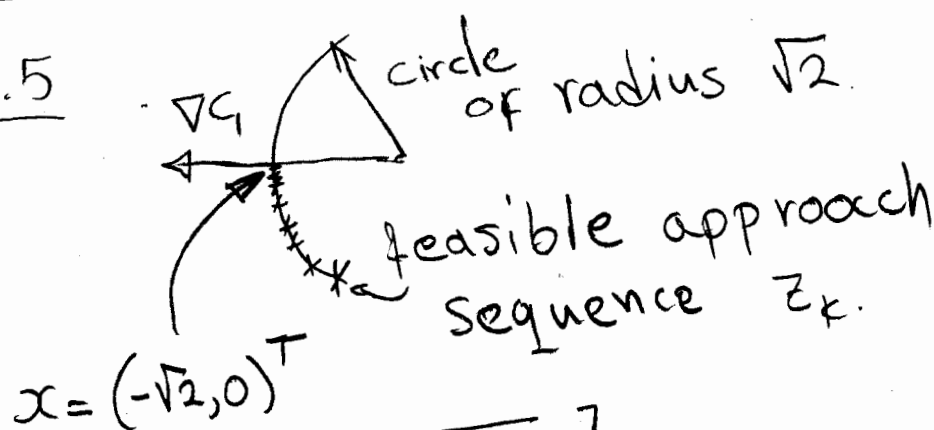
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$$d_k = \frac{z_k - x}{\|z_k - x\|}$$

Now $\|d_k\| = 1$, and thus all d_k lie on the surface of a multidimensional unit sphere, a compact set. Since $z_k \rightarrow x^*$,

$d_k \rightarrow d$, some direction(s) on this compact set. The d -values are called limiting directions.

Ex 12.5



Let
$$z_k = \begin{bmatrix} -\sqrt{2 - 1/k^2} \\ -1/k \end{bmatrix}$$

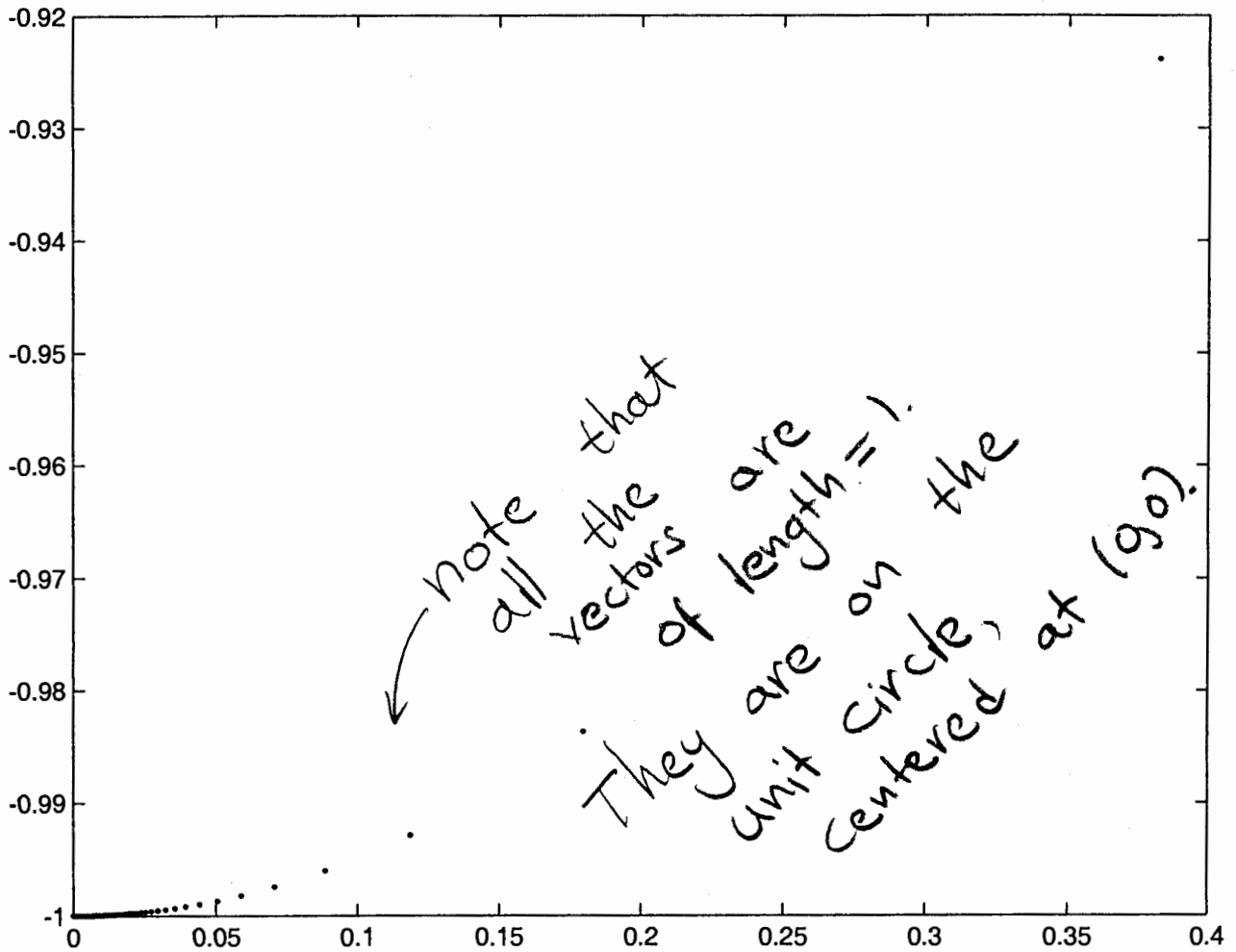
$$d_k = \frac{z_k - x}{\|z_k - x\|} \rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}$$

(see attached)

```
k=1:100000;  
x = -sqrt(2 - 1 ./k.^2);  
y = -1 ./ k;  
xn = x + sqrt(2);  
plot(xn ./ sqrt(xn.^2 + y.^2), y ./ sqrt(xn.^2 + y.^2), '.')
```

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Code to generate the
limit direction.



Similarly, for

$\frac{22}{30}$

$$z_k = \begin{bmatrix} -\sqrt{2 - 1/k^2} \\ 1/k \end{bmatrix}, \text{ we have:}$$

$$d_k \rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Any feasible sequence approaching $(-\sqrt{2}, 0)^T$ will have two limiting directions: $(0, 1)^T$ and $(0, -1)^T$.

If the objective function increases in its first-order approx along ^{any} $\nabla \{z_k\} \in T(x)$ then x must not be optimal.

Thm 12.2 If x^* is a local
solution of 12.1, then all feasible
sequences $\{z_k\}$ in $T(x^*)$ must satisfy:

$$\nabla f(x^*)^T d \geq 0,$$

where d is any limiting direction
of $\{z_k\}$.

Proof (by contradiction).

Assume $\{z_k\}$ is feasible with $\nabla f(x^*)^T d < 0$,
for some limiting direction d . Then, for
subsequence: $z_k \rightarrow x^*$, by Taylor:

$$f(z_k) = f(x^*) + (z_k - x^*)^T \nabla f(x^*) \\ + o(\|z_k - x^*\|)$$

$$= f(x^*) + \|z_k - x^*\| d^T \nabla f(x^*) \\ + o(\|z_k - x^*\|) \quad < 0$$

Since $d^T \nabla f(x^*) < 0$, and the 2nd
term dominates the third as $k \rightarrow \infty$:

$f(x^*) > f(z_k)$, impossible!
(correct your book).

Characterizing Limiting Directions:

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Constraint Qualifications

Define: $\nabla C_i^* = \nabla C_i(x^*)$,

$$A^T = [\nabla C_i^*]_{i \in A(x^*)},$$

$$\nabla f^* = \nabla f(x^*)$$

and recall:

$$A(x^*) = \mathcal{E} \cup \{i \in I \mid c_i(x) = 0\}$$

where constraints are still active.

Lemma 12.3

(i) If d is a limiting direction of a feasible sequence, then:

$$\left. \begin{aligned} d^T \nabla C_i^* &= 0, \text{ all } i \in \mathcal{E} \\ d^T \nabla C_i^* &\geq 0, \text{ all } i \in A(x^*) \cap I \end{aligned} \right\} - (*)$$

(ii) If $(*)$ holds with $\|d\|=1$ and LICQ holds, then d is a limiting direction of some feasible sequence.

Proof of (i):

Let $\{z_k\}$ be a feasible sequence, and let d be its limiting direction. Then either z_k or a subsequence of it must satisfy:

$$\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \frac{z_k - x^*}{\|z_k - x^*\|} = d$$

which gives:

$$z_k = x^* + \|z_k - x^*\| d + o(\|z_k - x^*\|)$$

For active constraints:

$$0 = \frac{1}{\|z_k - x^*\|} c_i(z_k) = 0$$

$$= \frac{1}{\|z_k - x^*\|} \left[c_i(x^*) + \|z_k - x^*\| \underbrace{\nabla c_i^T d}_{\text{directional derivative in } d \text{ direction}} + o(\|z_k - x^*\|) \right]$$

$$= \nabla c_i^T d + \frac{o(\|z_k - x^*\|)}{\|z_k - x^*\|} \rightarrow \nabla c_i^T d \text{ as } k \rightarrow \infty$$

For active constraints, replace "0 =" by "0 ≤".

Def 12.4

Given x^* and the active constraint set $A(x^*)$, define F_1 by:

$$F_1 = \left\{ \alpha d \mid \alpha > 0 \text{ with: } \begin{array}{l} d^T \nabla C_i^* = 0, i \in \mathcal{E} \\ d^T \nabla C_i^* \geq 0, i \in A(x^*) \cap I \end{array} \right\}$$

Lemma 12.4

There is no direction $d \in F_1$ for which:
 $d^T \nabla f^* < 0$, iff $\exists \lambda \in \mathbb{R}^n$ with:

$$\nabla f^* = \sum_{i \in A(x^*)} \lambda_i \nabla C_i^* = A(x^*)^T \lambda, \quad \text{--- } \begin{pmatrix} * & * \\ * \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\lambda_i \geq 0 \text{ for } i \in A(x^*) \cap I.$$

Proof: omitted.

Thm 12.1: Proof outline.

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→ From ***:

$$\nabla f^* = \sum_{i \in A(x^*)} \lambda_i \nabla C_i^*,$$

conclude that: $\nabla_x \mathcal{L}(x^*, \lambda^*) = 0$,
and $\lambda_i \geq 0$ for active constraints,
or $\lambda_i^* = 0$ in the interior.

12.4 Second-Order Conditions

Thm 12.5 Suppose that:

* x^* is a local solution and LICQ is satisfied,
* Let λ^* be a Lagrange multiplier vector satisfying the KKT conditions,

* Define $w \in F_2(\lambda^*)$ by:

$$w \in F_2(\lambda^*) \iff \begin{cases} \nabla C_i(x^*)^T w = 0, & \text{all } i \in E, \\ \nabla C_i(x^*)^T w = 0, & \text{all } i \in A(x^*) \cap I \\ & \text{with } \lambda_i^* > 0, \\ \nabla C_i(x^*)^T w \geq 0, & \text{all } i \in A(x^*) \cap I, \\ & \text{with } \lambda_i^* = 0 \end{cases}$$

Then:

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$$\omega^T \nabla_{xx} \mathcal{L}(x^*, \lambda^*) \omega \geq 0, \\ \text{for all } \omega \in F_2(\lambda^*).$$

Thm 12.5 gives necessary conditions.

Thm 12.6 gives sufficient conditions for a strict local minimum:

Thm 12.6 Suppose that $x^* \in \mathbb{R}^n$ is feasible, λ^* can be found that satisfies the KKT conditions. Also, suppose:

$$\omega^T \nabla_{xx} \mathcal{L}(x^*, \lambda^*) \omega > 0, \omega \in F_2(\lambda^*), \omega \neq 0$$

Then x^* is a strict local solution.

NB: LICQ is gone and \geq replace
 \geq .

Note that thms 12.5, 12.6 cannot $\frac{24}{30}$ directly lead to a test of positive definiteness or semi-definiteness because w_s are constrained to F_2 .

We can correct this by considering "projected Hessians":

Basic idea:

1. Construct z from the null space of A
2. Check:

$$z^T \nabla_{xx} L(x^*, \lambda^*) z$$

for:

- 2(a) positive semi-definiteness (thm 12.5), or
- 2(b) positive definiteness (thm 12.6).

For constructing the nullspace of A , see Strang's discussion on the SVD.

Now, if $\nabla_{xx} L(x^*, \lambda^*)$ is positive definite/semi-definite, then thms 12.5, 12.6 apply. But this is overly restrictive.

We can also reduce our requirements from LICQ to MFCQ:

Def 12.5: For $x^* \in A(x^*)$, MFCQ holds if we can find $w \in \mathbb{R}^n$ with:

- * $\nabla C_i(x^*)^T w > 0, \quad i \in A(x^*) \cap I$
- * $\nabla C_i(x^*)^T w = 0, \quad i \in E$
- * $\{\nabla C_i(x^*), i \in E\}$ is linearly independent.