

The following problem

$$\begin{aligned} \min_{x \in \mathbb{R}^d} & f(x) \\ & h_i(x) = 0 \\ & g_i(x) \leq 0 \end{aligned}$$

is a convex optimization if $f(x)$, $g_i(x)$ are convex and $h_i(x)$ are affine functions.

Assume that $f(x)$ is a convex function. Let $A = \{x | f(x) \leq 0\}$ and $B = \{x | f(x) = 0\}$. Then A is convex but B may not be convex.

For any $x, y \in A$ and $\lambda \in [0, 1]$,

$$\begin{aligned} f(\lambda x + (1 - \lambda)y) &\leq \lambda f(x) + (1 - \lambda)f(y) \\ &\leq \lambda \cdot 0 + (1 - \lambda) \cdot 0 \\ &\leq 0 \end{aligned}$$

This implies $\lambda x + (1 - \lambda)y \in A$ so A is a convex set.

Consider $f(x) = x^2 - 4x + 3$. Then $B = \{1, 3\}$ is obviously not a convex set.

KKT condition

$$\begin{cases} \nabla f(x) + \mu \nabla g(x) = 0 \\ g(x) \leq 0 \\ \mu \geq 0 \\ \mu g(x) = 0 \end{cases}$$

In general case, KKT condition is not solvable. Instead, it's easier to solve

$$\begin{cases} \nabla f(x) + \mu \nabla g(x) = 0 \\ g(x) \leq 0 \\ \mu \geq 0 \\ \mu g(x) = -t \\ t > 0 \text{ but small} \end{cases}$$

which is a relaxation of KKT condition.