

Lecture 7: Constrained Optimization: Lagrangian Multipliers, Optimality Conditions

- Equality constrained problems
- Basic Lagrange multiplier theorem
- Inequality constrained problems
- Sensitivity analysis
- Farkas lemma
- Linearly constrained problems

Equality Constrained Problem

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{minimize} & f(\mathbf{x}) \\ \text{subject to} & h_i(\mathbf{x}) = 0, \quad i = 1, \dots, m. \end{array}$$

where $f : \mathbb{R}^n \mapsto \mathbb{R}$, $h_i : \mathbb{R}^n \mapsto \mathbb{R}$, $i = 1, \dots, m$, are continuously differentiable functions.

Lagrange Multiplier Theorem

- Let \mathbf{x}^* be a local min and a regular point $[\nabla h_i(\mathbf{x}^*) : \text{linearly independent}]$. Then there exist unique scalars $\lambda_1^*, \dots, \lambda_m^*$ such that

$$\nabla f(\mathbf{x}^*) + \sum_{i=1}^m \lambda_i^* \nabla h_i(\mathbf{x}^*) = \mathbf{0}.$$

- If in addition f and h are twice continuously differentiable,

$$\mathbf{y}' \left(\nabla^2 f(\mathbf{x}^*) + \sum_{i=1}^m \lambda_i^* \nabla^2 h_i(\mathbf{x}^*) \right) \mathbf{y} \geq 0, \quad \forall \mathbf{y} \text{ s.t. } \nabla h(\mathbf{x}^*)' \mathbf{y} = \mathbf{0}$$

Proof

- Suppose \mathbf{x}^* is a local min satisfying $h(\mathbf{x}^*) = \mathbf{0}$ and $\alpha > 0$. Consider

$$f^k(\mathbf{x}) = f(\mathbf{x}) + k\|\mathbf{h}(\mathbf{x})\|^2 + \frac{\alpha}{2}\|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}^*\|^2.$$

- Let \mathbf{x}^k be a constrained minimizer of f^k over the ball $\|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}^*\| \leq 1$. We will show that \mathbf{x}^k is an *unconstrained local min* of f^k for all large k .

- Taking limit $k \rightarrow \infty$ of

$$f^k(\mathbf{x}^k) = f(\mathbf{x}^k) + k|h(\mathbf{x}^k)|^2 + \frac{\alpha}{2}\|\mathbf{x}^k - \mathbf{x}^*\|^2 \leq f^k(\mathbf{x}^*) = f(\mathbf{x}^*),$$

along **any** convergent subsequence of $\{\mathbf{x}^k\}$, we get $h(\bar{\mathbf{x}}) = \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} h(\mathbf{x}^k) = 0$.

- Furthermore, taking limit of $f(\mathbf{x}^k) + \frac{\alpha}{2}\|\mathbf{x}^k - \mathbf{x}^*\|^2 \leq f(\mathbf{x}^*)$ shows

$$f(\bar{\mathbf{x}}) + \frac{\alpha}{2}\|\bar{\mathbf{x}} - \mathbf{x}^*\|^2 \leq f(\mathbf{x}^*)$$

- Since $h(\bar{\mathbf{x}}) = 0$, it follows that $f(\mathbf{x}^*) \leq f(\bar{\mathbf{x}})$. Thus, we have $\bar{\mathbf{x}} = \mathbf{x}^*$ and $f(\mathbf{x}^*) = f(\bar{\mathbf{x}})$.
- Since $\bar{\mathbf{x}}$ is any limit point, we have $\mathbf{x}^k \rightarrow \mathbf{x}^*$, so $\|\mathbf{x}^k - \mathbf{x}^*\| < 1$ for large k , $\Rightarrow \mathbf{x}^k$ is an unconstrained local min of f^k , $\nabla f^k(\mathbf{x}^k) = 0$, $\nabla^2 f^k(\mathbf{x}^k) \succeq \mathbf{0}$.
- Taking limit of

$$\mathbf{0} = \nabla f(\mathbf{x}^k) + 2kh(\mathbf{x}^k)\nabla h(\mathbf{x}^k) + \alpha(\mathbf{x}^k - \mathbf{x}^*) \quad (1)$$

Since $\nabla h(\mathbf{x}^*)$ has rank m , $\nabla h(\mathbf{x}^k)$ also has rank m for large k , so $\nabla h(\mathbf{x}^k)'\nabla h(\mathbf{x}^k)$: invertible. Thus, multiplying (1) w/ $\nabla h(\mathbf{x}^k)'$ yields

$$kh(\mathbf{x}^k) = -(\nabla h(\mathbf{x}^k)'\nabla h(\mathbf{x}^k))^{-1} \nabla h(\mathbf{x}^k)' (\nabla f(\mathbf{x}^k) + \alpha(\mathbf{x}^k - \mathbf{x}^*)).$$

- Taking limit as $k \rightarrow \infty$ and $\mathbf{x}^k \rightarrow \mathbf{x}^*$,

$$\{kh(\mathbf{x}^k)\} \rightarrow (\nabla h(\mathbf{x}^*)'\nabla h(\mathbf{x}^*))^{-1} \nabla h(\mathbf{x}^*)'\nabla f(\mathbf{x}^*) \equiv \lambda.$$

Taking limit as $k \rightarrow \infty$ in Eq. (1), we obtain

$$\nabla f(\mathbf{x}^*) + \nabla h(\mathbf{x}^*)\boldsymbol{\lambda} = 0.$$

- **Exercise:** 2nd order L-multiplier condition: Use 2nd order unconstrained condition for \mathbf{x}^k , and algebra.

Lagrangian Function

- Define the Lagrangian function

$$L(\mathbf{x}, \boldsymbol{\lambda}) = f(\mathbf{x}) + \sum_{i=1}^m \lambda_i h_i(\mathbf{x}).$$

Then, if \mathbf{x}^* is a local minimum which is regular, the Lagrange multiplier conditions can be written as

$$\nabla_{\mathbf{x}} L(\mathbf{x}^*, \boldsymbol{\lambda}^*) = \mathbf{0}, \quad \nabla_{\boldsymbol{\lambda}} L(\mathbf{x}^*, \boldsymbol{\lambda}) = \mathbf{0}.$$

- System of $n + m$ equations with $n + m$ unknowns.
- 2nd order condition: $\mathbf{y}' \nabla_{\mathbf{x}\mathbf{x}}^2 L(\mathbf{x}^*, \boldsymbol{\lambda}^*) \mathbf{y} \geq 0, \quad \forall \mathbf{y} \text{ s.t. } \nabla h(\mathbf{x}^*)' \mathbf{y} = 0.$
- Example:

$$\begin{aligned} &\text{minimize} && \frac{1}{2} (x_1^2 + x_2^2 + x_3^2) \\ &\text{subject to} && x_1 + x_2 + x_3 = 3. \end{aligned}$$

Necessary conditions

$$x_1^* + \lambda^* = 0, \quad x_2^* + \lambda^* = 0, \quad x_3^* + \lambda^* = 0, \quad x_1^* + x_2^* + x_3^* = 3.$$

Sufficiency Condition

- Second Order Sufficiency Conditions: Let $\mathbf{x}^* \in \mathbb{R}^n$ and $\boldsymbol{\lambda} \in \mathbb{R}^m$ satisfy

$$\begin{aligned} \nabla_{\mathbf{x}} L(\mathbf{x}^*, \boldsymbol{\lambda}^*) &= \mathbf{0}, \quad \nabla_{\boldsymbol{\lambda}} L(\mathbf{x}^*, \boldsymbol{\lambda}^*) = \mathbf{0}, \\ \mathbf{y}' \nabla_{\mathbf{x}\mathbf{x}}^2 L(\mathbf{x}^*, \boldsymbol{\lambda}^*) \mathbf{y} &> 0, \quad \forall \mathbf{y} \neq \mathbf{0} \text{ with } \nabla h(\mathbf{x}^*)' \mathbf{y} = 0. \end{aligned}$$

Then \mathbf{x}^* is a strict local minimum.

- Example:

$$\begin{aligned} &\text{minimize} && -(x_1 x_2 + x_2 x_3 + x_1 x_3) \\ &\text{subject to} && x_1 + x_2 + x_3 = 3. \end{aligned}$$

We have that $x_1^* = x_2^* = x_3^* = 1$ and $\boldsymbol{\lambda}^* = 2$ satisfy the 1st order conditions.

Also

$$\nabla_{\mathbf{x}\mathbf{x}}^2 L(\mathbf{x}^*, \boldsymbol{\lambda}^*) = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -1 & -1 \\ -1 & 0 & -1 \\ -1 & -1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

We have for all $\mathbf{y} \neq \mathbf{0}$ with $\nabla h(\mathbf{x}^*)' \mathbf{y} = 0$ or $y_1 + y_2 + y_3 = 0$,

$$\mathbf{y}' \nabla_{\mathbf{x}\mathbf{x}}^2 L(\mathbf{x}^*, \boldsymbol{\lambda}^*) \mathbf{y} = -y_1(y_2 + y_3) - y_2(y_1 + y_3) - y_3(y_1 + y_2) = y_1^2 + y_2^2 + y_3^2 > 0.$$

Hence, \mathbf{x}^* is a strict local minimum.

A Useful Lemma

- Let P and Q be two symmetric matrices. Assume that $Q \succeq 0$ and $P \succ 0$ on the nullspace of Q , i.e., $x'Px > 0$ for all $x \neq 0$ with $x'Qx = 0$. Then there exists a scalar c such that

$$P + cQ : \text{positive definite, } \forall c > \bar{c}.$$

- Proof: Assume the contrary. Then for every k , there exists a vector x^k with $\|x^k\| = 1$ such that

$$(x^k)'Px^k + k(x^k)'Qx^k \leq 0.$$

Consider a subsequence $\{x^k\}_{k \in \mathcal{K}}$ converging to some x with $\|x\| = 1$. Taking the limit supremum,

$$x'Px + \limsup_{k \rightarrow \infty, k \in \mathcal{K}} (k(x^k)'Qx^k) \leq 0.$$

We have $(x^k)'Qx^k \geq 0$ (since $Q \succeq 0$), so

$$\{(x^k)'Qx^k\}_{k \in \mathcal{K}} \rightarrow 0.$$

Therefore, $x'Qx = 0$ and using the hypothesis, $x'Px > 0$, a contradiction.

Proof of Sufficiency Conditions

Consider the *augmented Lagrangian function*

$$L_c(\mathbf{x}, \boldsymbol{\lambda}) = f(\mathbf{x}) + \boldsymbol{\lambda}'\mathbf{h}(\mathbf{x}) + \frac{c}{2}\|\mathbf{h}(\mathbf{x})\|^2,$$

where c is a scalar. We have

$$\nabla_{\mathbf{x}}L_c(\mathbf{x}, \boldsymbol{\lambda}) = \nabla_{\mathbf{x}}L(\mathbf{x}, \tilde{\boldsymbol{\lambda}}), \quad \nabla_{\mathbf{x}\mathbf{x}}^2L_c(\mathbf{x}, \boldsymbol{\lambda}) = \nabla_{\mathbf{x}\mathbf{x}}^2L(\mathbf{x}, \tilde{\boldsymbol{\lambda}}) + c\nabla\mathbf{h}(\mathbf{x})\nabla\mathbf{h}(\mathbf{x})'$$

where $\tilde{\boldsymbol{\lambda}} = \boldsymbol{\lambda} + c\mathbf{h}(\mathbf{x})$. If $(\mathbf{x}^*, \boldsymbol{\lambda}^*)$ satisfy the sufficiency conditions, we have using the lemma,

$$\nabla_{\mathbf{x}}L_c(\mathbf{x}^*, \boldsymbol{\lambda}^*) = \mathbf{0}, \quad \nabla_{\mathbf{x}\mathbf{x}}^2L_c(\mathbf{x}^*, \boldsymbol{\lambda}^*) > 0,$$

for sufficiently large c . Hence for some $\gamma > 0$, $\epsilon > 0$,

$$L_c(\mathbf{x}, \boldsymbol{\lambda}^*) \geq L_c(\mathbf{x}^*, \boldsymbol{\lambda}^*) + \frac{\gamma}{2}\|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}^*\|^2,$$

if $\|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}^*\| < \epsilon$. Since $L_c(\mathbf{x}, \boldsymbol{\lambda}^*) = f(\mathbf{x})$ when $\mathbf{h}(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{0}$,

$$f(\mathbf{x}) \geq f(\mathbf{x}^*) + \frac{\gamma}{2}\|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}^*\|^2, \quad \text{if } \mathbf{h}(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{0}, \|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}^*\| < \epsilon.$$

Sensitivity

- Consider the linearly constrained problem $\min_{\mathbf{a}'\mathbf{x}=b} f(\mathbf{x})$.
- If b is changed to $b + \Delta b$, the minimum \mathbf{x}^* will change to $\mathbf{x}^* + \Delta \mathbf{x}$.
- Since $b + \Delta b = \mathbf{a}'(\mathbf{x}^* + \Delta \mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{a}'\mathbf{x}^* + \mathbf{a}'\Delta \mathbf{x} = b + \mathbf{a}'\Delta \mathbf{x}$, we have $\mathbf{a}'\Delta \mathbf{x} = \Delta b$. Using the condition $\nabla f(\mathbf{x}^*) = -\boldsymbol{\lambda}^* \mathbf{a}$,

$$\Delta \text{cost} = f(\mathbf{x}^* + \Delta \mathbf{x}) - f(\mathbf{x}^*) = \nabla f(\mathbf{x}^*)' \Delta \mathbf{x} + o(\|\Delta \mathbf{x}\|) = -\boldsymbol{\lambda}^* \mathbf{a}' \Delta \mathbf{x} + o(\|\Delta \mathbf{x}\|)$$
- Thus $\Delta \text{cost} = -\boldsymbol{\lambda}^* \Delta b + o(\|\Delta \mathbf{x}\|)$, so up to first order

$$\boldsymbol{\lambda}^* = -\frac{\Delta \text{cost}}{\Delta b}.$$

- For multiple constraints $\mathbf{a}'_i \mathbf{x} = b_i$, $i = 1, \dots, n$, we have

$$\Delta \text{cost} = -\sum_{i=1}^m \boldsymbol{\lambda}_i^* \Delta b_i + o(\|\Delta \mathbf{x}\|).$$

Sensitivity Theorem

Consider the family of problems

$$\min_{h(\mathbf{x})=\mathbf{u}} f(\mathbf{x}) \quad (2)$$

parameterized by $\mathbf{u} \in \mathbb{R}^m$. Assume that for $\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{0}$, this problem has a local minimum \mathbf{x}^* , which is regular and together with its unique Lagrange multiplier $\boldsymbol{\lambda}^*$ satisfies the sufficiency conditions. Then there exists an open sphere S centered at $\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{0}$ such that for every $\mathbf{u} \in S$, there is an $\mathbf{x}(\mathbf{u})$ and a $\boldsymbol{\lambda}(\mathbf{u})$, which are a local minimum-Lagrange multiplier pair of problem (2). Furthermore, $\mathbf{x}(\cdot)$ and $\boldsymbol{\lambda}(\cdot)$ are continuously differentiable within S and we have

$$\mathbf{x}(\mathbf{0}) = \mathbf{x}^*, \quad \boldsymbol{\lambda}(\mathbf{0}) = \boldsymbol{\lambda}^*.$$

In addition, $\nabla p(\mathbf{u}) = -\boldsymbol{\lambda}(\mathbf{u})$, $\forall \mathbf{u} \in S$ where $p(\mathbf{u})$ is the primal function $p(\mathbf{u}) = f(\mathbf{x}(\mathbf{u}))$.

Examples

- The primal function $p(\mathbf{u}) = f(\mathbf{x}(\mathbf{u}))$ for the two-dimensional problem

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{minimize} & f(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{1}{2} (x_1^2 - x_2^2) - x_2 \\ \text{subject to} & h(\mathbf{x}) = x_2 = 0. \end{array}$$

is given by

$$p(u) = \min_{h(\mathbf{x})=u} f(\mathbf{x}) = -\frac{1}{2}u^2 - u$$

and $\lambda^* = -\nabla p(0) = 1$, consistent with the sensitivity theorem.

- Need for regularity of \mathbf{x}^* : Change constraint to $h(\mathbf{x}) = x_2^2 = 0$. Then $p(u) = -u/2 - \sqrt{u}$ for $u \geq 0$ and is undefined for $u < 0$.

Proof of Sensitivity Theorem

- Apply implicit function theorem to the system

$$\nabla f(\mathbf{x}) + \nabla h(\mathbf{x})\boldsymbol{\lambda} = \mathbf{0}, \quad h(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{u}$$

- For $\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{0}$ the system has the solution $(\mathbf{x}^*, \boldsymbol{\lambda}^*)$, and the corresponding $(n + m) \times (n + m)$ Jacobian

$$J = \begin{bmatrix} \nabla^2 f(\mathbf{x}^*) + \sum_{i=1}^m \lambda_i^* \nabla^2 h_i(\mathbf{x}^*) & \nabla h(\mathbf{x}^*) \\ \nabla h(\mathbf{x}^*)' & \mathbf{0} \end{bmatrix}$$

is shown nonsingular using the sufficiency conditions.

- Hence, for all \mathbf{u} in some open sphere S centered at $\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{0}$, there exist $\mathbf{x}(\mathbf{u})$ and $\boldsymbol{\lambda}(\mathbf{u})$ such that $\mathbf{x}(\mathbf{0}) = \mathbf{x}^*$, $\boldsymbol{\lambda}(\mathbf{0}) = \boldsymbol{\lambda}^*$, the functions $\mathbf{x}(\cdot)$ and $\boldsymbol{\lambda}(\cdot)$ are

continuously differentiable, and

$$\nabla f(\mathbf{x}(\mathbf{u})) + \nabla h(\mathbf{x}(\mathbf{u})) \boldsymbol{\lambda}(\mathbf{u}) = \mathbf{0}, \quad h(\mathbf{x}(\mathbf{u})) = \mathbf{u}$$

- For \mathbf{u} close to $\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{0}$, using the sufficiency conditions, $\mathbf{x}(\mathbf{u})$ and $\boldsymbol{\lambda}(\mathbf{u})$ are a local minimum-Lagrange multiplier pair for the problem $\min_{h(\mathbf{x})=\mathbf{u}} f(\mathbf{x})$.
- To derive $\nabla p(\mathbf{u})$, differentiate $h(\mathbf{x}(\mathbf{u})) = \mathbf{u}$, to obtain

$$\mathbf{I} = \nabla \mathbf{x}(\mathbf{u}) \nabla h(\mathbf{x}(\mathbf{u})),$$

and combine with the relations

$$\nabla \mathbf{x}(\mathbf{u}) \nabla f(\mathbf{x}(\mathbf{u})) + \nabla \mathbf{x}(\mathbf{u}) \nabla h(\mathbf{x}(\mathbf{u})) \boldsymbol{\lambda}(\mathbf{u}) = \mathbf{0}$$

and

$$\nabla p(\mathbf{u}) = \nabla_{\mathbf{u}} \{f(\mathbf{x}(\mathbf{u}))\} = \nabla \mathbf{x}(\mathbf{u}) \nabla f(\mathbf{x}(\mathbf{u})) = -\boldsymbol{\lambda}(\mathbf{u}).$$

Inequality Constrained Problem

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{minimize} & f(\mathbf{x}) \\ \text{subject to} & \mathbf{h}(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{0}, \mathbf{g}(\mathbf{x}) \leq \mathbf{0}. \end{array}$$

where $f : \mathbb{R}^n \mapsto \mathbb{R}$, $\mathbf{h} : \mathbb{R}^n \mapsto \mathbb{R}^m$, $\mathbf{g} : \mathbb{R}^n \mapsto \mathbb{R}^r$ are continuously differentiable. Here $\mathbf{h} = (h_1, \dots, h_m)$, $\mathbf{g} = (g_1, \dots, g_r)$.

- Consider the set of active inequality constraints

$$A(\mathbf{x}) = \{j \mid g_j(\mathbf{x}) = 0\}$$

- If \mathbf{x}^* is a local minimum:
 - ★ The active inequality constraints at \mathbf{x}^* can be treated as equations
 - ★ The inactive constraints at \mathbf{x}^* do not matter

- Assuming regularity of \mathbf{x}^* and assigning zero Lagrange multipliers to inactive constraints, we have

$$\nabla f(\mathbf{x}^*) + \sum_{i=1}^m \lambda_i^* \nabla h_i(\mathbf{x}^*) + \sum_{j=1}^r \mu_j^* \nabla g_j(\mathbf{x}^*) = \mathbf{0}, \quad \mu_j^* = 0, \quad \forall j \notin A(\mathbf{x}^*).$$

- Extra property: $\mu_j^* \geq 0$ for all j .
- Intuitive reason: Relax the j -th constraint, $g_j(\mathbf{x}) \leq u_j$, and notice

$$\mu_j^* = -\frac{\Delta \text{cost due to } u_j}{u_j}.$$

Karash-Kuhn-Tucker Conditions

- Let \mathbf{x}^* be a local minimum and a regular point. Then there exist unique Lagrange multiplier vectors $\boldsymbol{\lambda}^* = (\lambda_1^*, \dots, \lambda_m^*)$, $\boldsymbol{\mu}^* = (\mu_1^*, \dots, \mu_r^*)$, such that

$$\nabla_{\mathbf{x}} L(\mathbf{x}^*, \boldsymbol{\lambda}^*, \boldsymbol{\mu}^*) = \mathbf{0}, \quad \mu_j^* \geq 0, \quad j = 1, \dots, r, \quad \mu_j^* = 0, \quad j \notin A(\mathbf{x}^*).$$

- If f , \mathbf{h} , and \mathbf{g} are twice continuously differentiable,

$$\mathbf{y}' \nabla_{\mathbf{x}\mathbf{x}}^2 L(\mathbf{x}^*, \boldsymbol{\lambda}^*, \boldsymbol{\mu}^*) \mathbf{y} \geq 0, \quad \text{for all } \mathbf{y} \in V(\mathbf{x}^*),$$

where

$$V(\mathbf{x}^*) = \{ \mathbf{y} \mid \nabla \mathbf{h}(\mathbf{x}^*)' \mathbf{y} = 0, \quad \nabla g_j(\mathbf{x}^*)' \mathbf{y} = 0, \quad j \in A(\mathbf{x}^*) \}.$$

- Similar sufficiency conditions and sensitivity results. They require strict complementarity, i.e.,

$$\mu_j^* > 0, \quad \forall j \in A(\mathbf{x}^*).$$

Proof of KKT Conditions

- Use equality-constraints result to obtain all the conditions except for $\mu_j^* \geq 0$ for $j \in A(\mathbf{x}^*)$.
- Introduce the penalty functions $g_j^+(\mathbf{x}) = \max\{0, g_j(\mathbf{x})\}$, $j = 1, \dots, r$, and for $k = 1, 2, \dots$, let \mathbf{x}^k minimize

$$f(\mathbf{x}) + \frac{k}{2} \|\mathbf{h}(\mathbf{x})\|^2 + \frac{k}{2} \sum_{j=1}^r (g_j^+(\mathbf{x}))^2 + \frac{1}{2} \|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}^*\|^2$$

over a closed sphere of \mathbf{x}^* .

- Using the same argument as for equality constraints,

$$\begin{aligned} \lambda_i^* &= \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} k h_i(\mathbf{x}^k), \quad i = 1, \dots, m, \\ \mu_j^* &= \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} k g_j^+(\mathbf{x}^k), \quad j = 1, \dots, r. \end{aligned}$$

- Since $g_j^+(\mathbf{x}^k) \geq 0$, we obtain $\mu_j^* \geq 0$ for all j .

Linear Constraints

Consider the linearly constrained problem

$$\min_{\mathbf{a}'_j \mathbf{x} \leq b_j, \ j=1, \dots, r} f(\mathbf{x}).$$

- Remarkable property: No need for regularity.
- Proposition: If \mathbf{x}^* is a local minimum, there exist $\boldsymbol{\mu}^* = (\mu_1^*, \dots, \mu_r^*)$ with $\mu_j^* \geq 0, \ j = 1, \dots, r$, such that

$$\nabla f(\mathbf{x}^*) + \sum_{j=1}^r \mu_j^* \mathbf{a}_j = \mathbf{0}, \quad \mu_j^* = 0, \quad \forall j \notin A(\mathbf{x}^*).$$

- Proof uses Farkas Lemma: Consider the cones C and C^\perp

$$C = \{\mathbf{x} \mid \mathbf{x} = \sum_{j=1}^r \mu_j \mathbf{a}_j, \mu_j \geq 0\}, \quad C^\perp = \{\mathbf{y} \mid \mathbf{a}_j' \mathbf{y} \leq 0, j = 1, \dots, r\}$$

Then

$$\mathbf{x} \in C \text{ iff } \mathbf{x}' \mathbf{y} \leq 0, \forall \mathbf{y} \in C^\perp.$$

- To see why Farkas' lemma is true, first show that C is closed (nontrivial). Then, let \mathbf{x} be such that $\mathbf{x}' \mathbf{y} \leq 0, \forall \mathbf{y} \in C^\perp$, and consider its projection $\tilde{\mathbf{x}}$ on C . We have

$$\mathbf{x}'(\mathbf{x} - \tilde{\mathbf{x}}) = \|\mathbf{x} - \tilde{\mathbf{x}}\|^2, \quad (\mathbf{x} - \tilde{\mathbf{x}})' \mathbf{a}_j \leq 0, \quad \forall j.$$

Hence, $(\mathbf{x} - \tilde{\mathbf{x}}) \in C^\perp$, and using the hypothesis,

$$\mathbf{x}'(\mathbf{x} - \tilde{\mathbf{x}}) \leq 0.$$

- From the above two relations, we obtain $\mathbf{x} = \tilde{\mathbf{x}}$, so $\mathbf{x} \in C$.

Proof of Lagrangian Multiplier Theorem

- The local min \mathbf{x}^* of the original problem is also a local min for the problem

$$\min_{\mathbf{a}'_j \mathbf{x} \leq b_j, j \in A(\mathbf{x}^*)} f(\mathbf{x}).$$

Hence

$$\nabla f(\mathbf{x}^*)'(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}^*) \geq 0, \quad \forall \mathbf{x} \text{ with } \mathbf{a}'_j \mathbf{x} \leq b_j, j \in A(\mathbf{x}^*).$$

- Since a constraint $\mathbf{a}'_j \mathbf{x} \leq b_j, j \in A(\mathbf{x}^*)$ can also be expressed as $\mathbf{a}'_j(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}^*) \leq 0$, we have

$$\nabla f(\mathbf{x}^*)'\mathbf{y} \geq 0, \quad \forall \mathbf{y} \text{ with } \mathbf{a}'_j \mathbf{y} \leq 0, j \in A(\mathbf{x}^*).$$

- From Farkas' lemma, $-\nabla f(\mathbf{x}^*)$ has the form

$$\sum_{j \in A(\mathbf{x}^*)} \mu_j^* \mathbf{a}_j, \quad \text{for some } \mu_j^* \geq 0, \ j \in A(\mathbf{x}^*).$$

- To complete the proof, let $\mu_j^* = 0$ for $j \notin A(\mathbf{x}^*)$.