Subgradient

Nipun Batra

IIT Gandhinagar

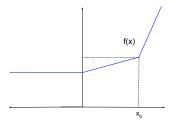
August 30, 2025

Subgradient

- Generalises gradient to convex but non-differentiable problems
- Examples:
 - f(x) = |x|

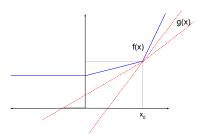
Task at hand

• TASK: find derivative of f(x) at $x = x_0$



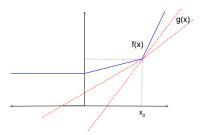
Solution

- Construct a differentiable g(x)
 - Intersecting f(x) at $x = x_0$
 - Below or on f(x) for all x



Solution

• Compute slope of g(x) at $x = x_0$



Another Example: f(x) = |x|

• Subgradient of f(x) belongs to [-1,1]

