

Lecture 2: Math background review II and Convexity I

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IE 539: Convex Optimization

~~August 30, 2022~~

September 1

Outline

- Symmetric matrices, eigenvalue decomposition, positive semidefinite matrices
- Gradient, Hessian, Multivariate calculus.
- Convex sets.
- ~~(If time allows) Convex functions.~~
- ~~(If time allows) First-order, second-order characterizations of convex functions,~~

Symmetric matrices, eigenvalue-eigenvector pair

$$\begin{bmatrix} \cdot & \cdot \\ \cdot & \ddots \end{bmatrix}$$

Symmetric matrices $M \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times d}$, is symmetric if $M = M^T$

$$M_{ij} = M_{ji}$$

eigenvalue-eigenvector pair If $M \cdot v = \lambda \cdot v$, then

$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathbb{R}^d & & \\ \downarrow & \downarrow & \downarrow \\ M \cdot v & = & \lambda \cdot v \\ \mathbb{R}^{d \times d} & \mathbb{R} & \mathbb{R} \end{array}$

λ : eigen value

v : eigen vector

(λ, v) : eigen pair.

Eigenvalue decomposition

v^1, \dots, v^k are orthonormal if

- ① $\langle v^i, v^j \rangle = 0$
- ② $\|v^i\|_2 = 1$

Theorem

Let M be a symmetric matrix. Then M can be written as $M = Q \Lambda Q^\top$ where

- ① Q is an orthonormal matrix, i.e. $Q^\top Q = \underline{QQ^\top} = I$, whose columns are the eigenvectors of M ,
- ② Λ is a diagonal matrix whose diagonal entries are the eigenvalues of M .

$$M = \begin{bmatrix} v^1 & v^2 & v^3 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \lambda_1 & & \\ & \ddots & \\ & & \lambda_k \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} v_1^T \\ v_2^T \\ v_3^T \end{bmatrix}$$

Express a symmetric matrix using its eigenvalues and eigenvectors

$$M = \sum_{i=1}^k \lambda_i \cdot v^i \cdot v^{i\top}$$

Positive semidefinite matrices

square M . ($M = M^T$)

We say that a symmetric matrix is positive semidefinite (PSD) if

all of its eigenvalues are nonnegative.

$$M = \sum_{i=1}^d \lambda_i v_i \cdot v_i^T$$

Theorem

Let M be an $d \times d$ symmetric matrix. Then M is PSD if and only if $x^T M x \geq 0$ for all $x \in \mathbb{R}^d$.

Proof $Q Q^T = I$.

↓
invertible

↓
 $\text{rank}(Q) = d$

Columns
 v^1, v^2, \dots, v^d are
linearly independent.

$$\begin{aligned} & x^T M x = x^T \left(\sum_{i=1}^d \lambda_i v_i \cdot v_i^T \right) x \\ & \quad \xrightarrow{\text{distributive}} x^T \left(\sum_{i=1}^d \lambda_i v_i \cdot v_i^T \right) x \\ & \quad \xrightarrow{\text{distributive}} \sum_{i=1}^d \lambda_i (v_i^T x)^2 \\ & \quad \xrightarrow{\text{nonnegativity}} \sum_{i=1}^d \lambda_i \geq 0 \end{aligned}$$

Lipschitz continuity, partial derivatives, gradient

Let $f : \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$.

Lipschitz continuity f is Lipschitz continuous if

$$\frac{|f(\underline{x}) - f(\underline{y})|}{\|\underline{x} - \underline{y}\|} \leq L \quad \text{for some } L. \quad \forall \underline{x}, \underline{y} \in \mathbb{R}^d$$

Partial derivatives

$$\left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial x_i} \right) = \lim_{t \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(\underline{x} + t \cdot e^i) - f(\underline{x})}{t} \quad e^i = (0, \dots, 0, 1, 0, \dots, 0)$$

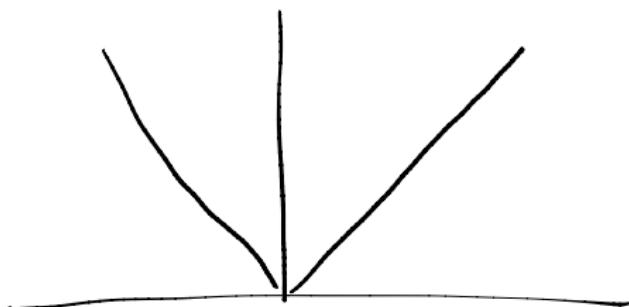
Gradient

$$\nabla f(\underline{x}) = \left(\frac{\partial f(\underline{x})}{\partial x_1}, \frac{\partial f(\underline{x})}{\partial x_2}, \dots, \frac{\partial f(\underline{x})}{\partial x_d} \right)^T$$

Lipschitz continuous but not differentiable function

Lipschitz continuous functions are

- continuous,
- differentiable almost everywhere

$$f(x) = |x| : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$$
$$|f(x) - f(y)| \leq |x - y|$$


Second partial derivatives, Hessian, Schwarz's theorem

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial x_j} \left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial x_i} \right) = \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x_j \partial x_i}$$

The Hessian

$$\nabla^2 f(x) = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x_1^2}(x) & \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x_1 \partial x_2}(x) & \cdots & \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x_1 \partial x_d}(x) \\ \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x_2 \partial x_1}(x) & \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x_2^2}(x) & \cdots & \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x_2 \partial x_d}(x) \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x_d \partial x_1}(x) & \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x_d \partial x_2}(x) & \cdots & \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x_d^2}(x) \end{pmatrix} \cdot \text{row } i, \text{ column } j$$

Schwarz's theorem

$$= \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x_i \partial x_j}$$

If all second-order partial derivatives
are "continuous", then $\nabla^2 f(x)$ is symmetric

$$\frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x_j \partial x_i}$$

Multivariate differentiation

Exercise: $f(t) = \frac{1}{2} \|x + t \cdot y\|_2^2 : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$

$$f'(t) = ? \quad y^T \overset{\leftarrow A}{\cancel{\nabla}} g(x+ty).$$

$$f''(t) = y^T \overset{\leftarrow A}{\cancel{\nabla}} g(x+ty) \cdot y.$$

Let A be a $n \times d$ matrix and $b \in \mathbb{R}^n$, and let $f(x) = g(Ax - b) : \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$. Then

$$\begin{aligned} & \bullet \nabla f(x) = A^T \overset{\leftarrow A}{\cancel{\nabla}} g(Ax - b) \quad \underset{\mathbb{R}^d}{\text{)}} \quad A^T \overset{\leftarrow A}{\cancel{\nabla}} g(Ax - b) \\ & \bullet \nabla^2 f(x) = A^T \overset{\leftarrow A}{\cancel{\nabla}} g(Ax - b) A \quad \underset{\mathbb{R}^d}{\text{)}} \end{aligned}$$

Example

Consider $f(x) = Ax - b$. Then $\nabla f(x) = A^T$

$$= g(Ax - b)$$

$$g(Ax - b) = y$$

Multivariate differentiation

Consider a quadratic function $f(x) = x^\top Qx + p^\top x = \sum_{i=1}^d \sum_{j=1}^d Q_{ij} x_i x_j + \sum_{i=1}^d p_i x_i$.
Then

- $\nabla f(x) = (Q + Q^\top)x + p$
- $\nabla^2 f(x) = Q + Q^\top$

Example

Consider $f(x) = \|Ax - b\|_2^2$. Then $\nabla f(x) =$, $\nabla^2 f(x) =$

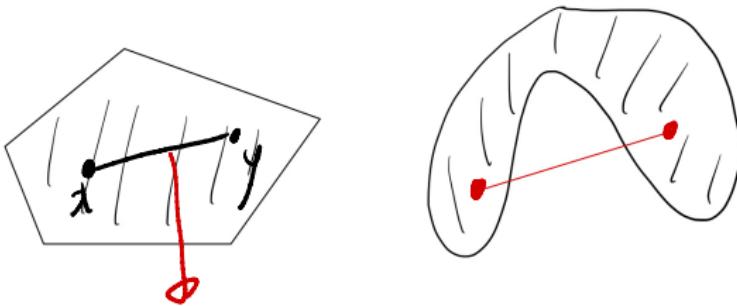
$$= (Ax - b)^\top (Ax - b)$$

Convex set

A set $X \subseteq \mathbb{R}^d$ is convex if for any $x, y \in X$ and $\lambda \in [0, 1]$,

$$\underline{\lambda x + (1-\lambda)y} \in X.$$

In words,



$$\underline{\lambda x + (1-\lambda)y}$$

Convex combination, convex hull

Given $v^1, \dots, v^k \in \mathbb{R}^d$, a convex combination of v^1, \dots, v^k is

a linear combination $\sum_{i=1}^k \alpha_i \cdot v^i$ where

$$\sum_{i=1}^k \alpha_i = 1, \quad \alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_k \geq 0.$$

The convex hull of a set X , denoted $\text{conv}(X)$, is

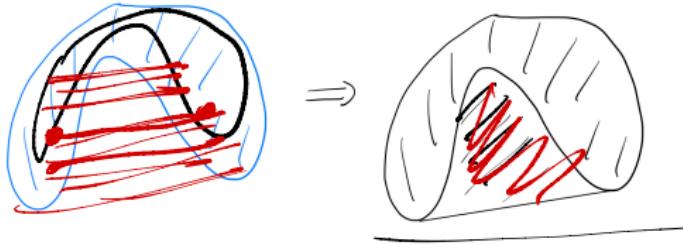
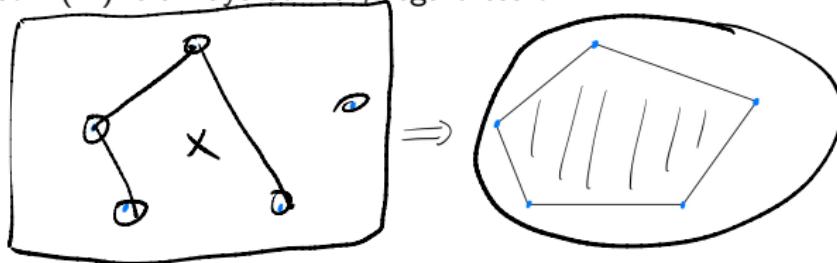
the set of all convex combinations of vectors in X .

Convex hull example

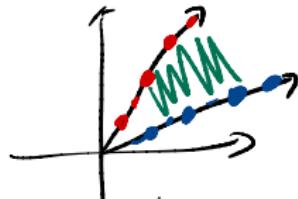
By definition,

$$\text{conv}(X) = \left\{ \sum_{i=1}^n \lambda_i v^i : n \in \mathbb{N}, v^1, \dots, v^n \in X, \sum_{i=1}^n \lambda_i = 1, \lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n \geq 0 \right\}.$$

Exercise: $\text{conv}(X)$ is always convex, regardless of X .



Cones, convex cones, conic combination



A set $C \subseteq \mathbb{R}^d$ is a cone if for any $v \in C$ and $\alpha \geq 0$,

$$\alpha \cdot v \in C.$$

A convex cone is a cone that is convex

Given $v^1, \dots, v^k \in \mathbb{R}^d$, a conic combination of v^1, \dots, v^k is

a linear combination $\sum_{i=1}^k \alpha_i \cdot v^i$ where

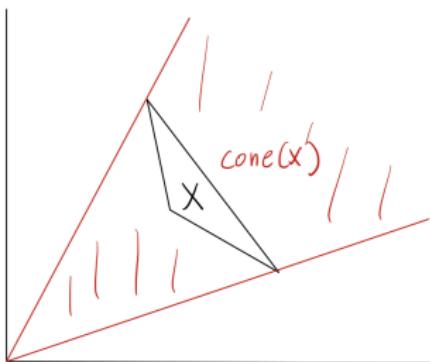
$$\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_k \geq 0$$

Conic hull

The conic hull of a set X , denoted $\text{cone}(X)$, is the set of all conic combinations of points in X . By definition,

$$\text{conv}(X) = \left\{ \sum_{i=1}^n \lambda_i v^i : n \in \mathbb{N}, v^1, \dots, v^n \in X, \begin{array}{c} \lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n \geq 0 \end{array} \right\}.$$

Exercise: $\text{cone}(X)$ is always a convex cone, regardless of X .



Affine combination, affine hull

Given $v^1, \dots, v^k \in \mathbb{R}^d$, an affine combination of v^1, \dots, v^k is

a linear combination $\sum_{i=1}^k \alpha_i \cdot v^i$ where
 $\sum_{i=1}^k \alpha_i = 1$,

The affine hull of a set X is

the set of all affine combinations of vectors in X ,

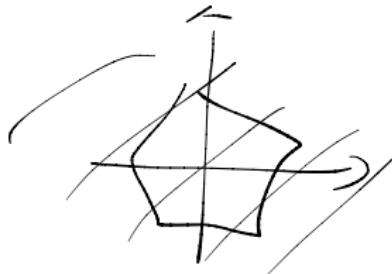
The affine hull of X = The affine subspace spanned by X

Affine subspace, linear hull

The affine suspace spanned by $X = \text{affine hull of } X$

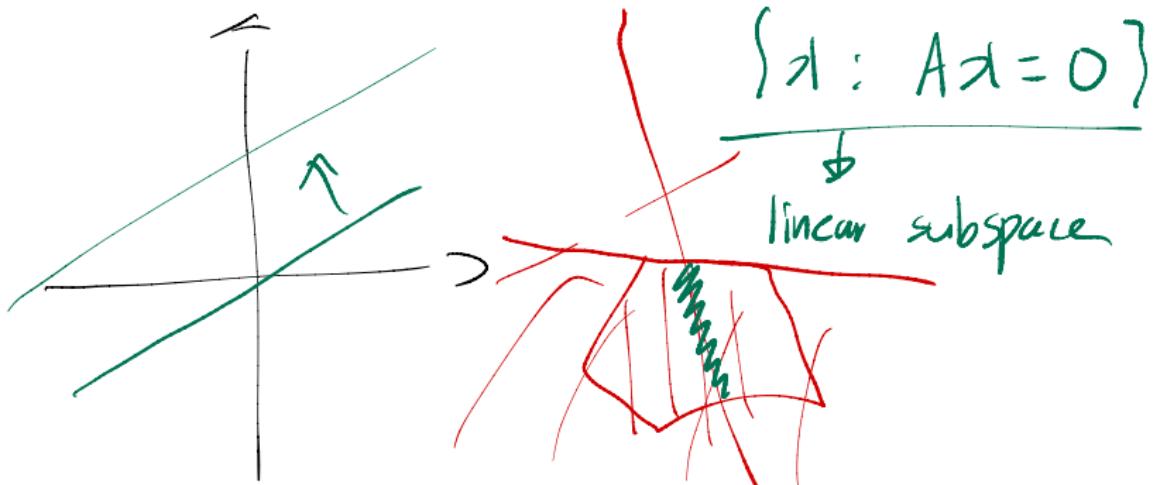
Linear hull of $X = \text{the } \underbrace{\text{"linear"}}_{\leftarrow} \underbrace{\text{subspace}}_{\leftarrow} \text{ spanned by } X$

Affine subspace vs linear subspace



Theorem

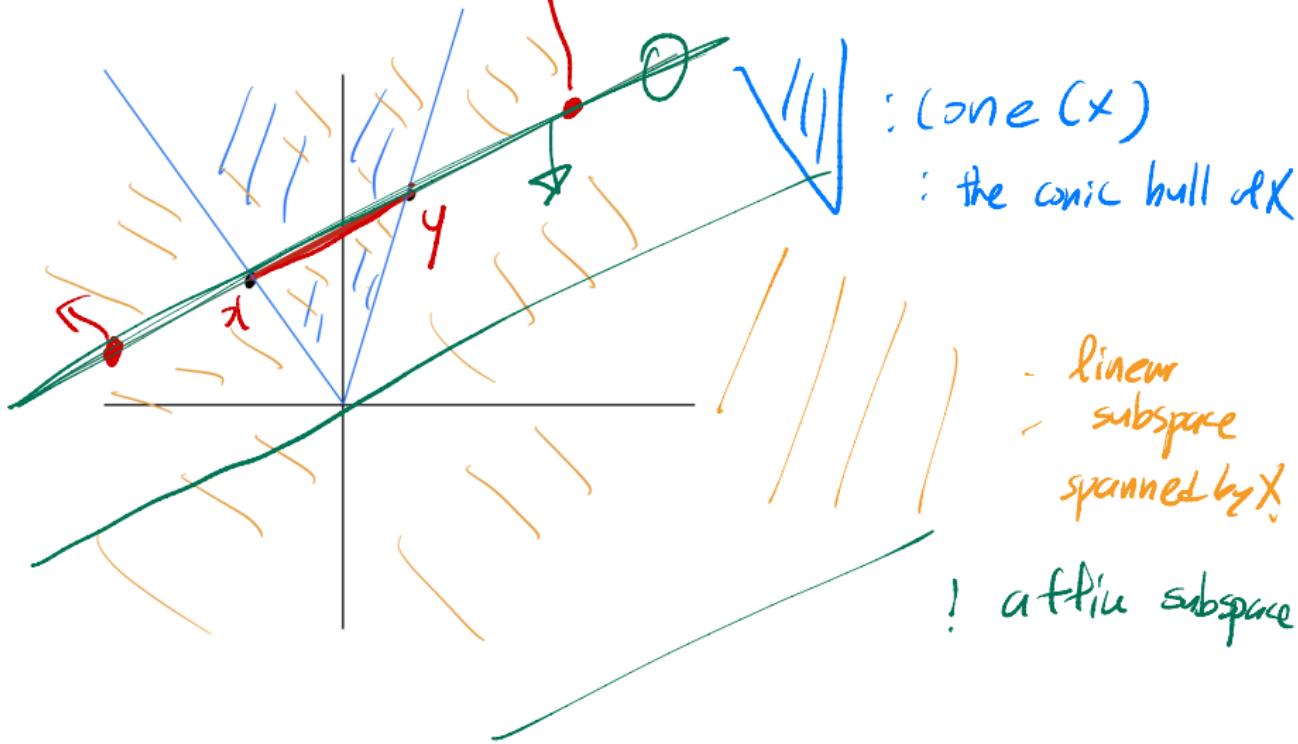
An affine subspace is a translation of a linear subspace. For an affine subspace $V \subseteq \mathbb{R}^d$, there exist matrices A and b such that $V = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^d : Ax = b\}$.



Comparison ---

$$-\emptyset \cdot x + (2-d)y$$

: x .



Examples

We saw that the convex hull and conic hull of a set are convex and that the linear subspace and affine subspace spanned by a set are convex. There are many more examples.

- $\emptyset, \{v\}$
 - Norm ball : $\{x : \|x - c\| \leq r\}$
-
- The diagram illustrates three different norm balls centered at point c :
- $\|\cdot\|_2$: A circle representing the Euclidean norm, with radius r .
 - $\|\cdot\|_1$: A diamond shape representing the Manhattan norm, also known as the taxicab norm.
 - $\|\cdot\|_\infty$: A square representing the Chebyshev norm.

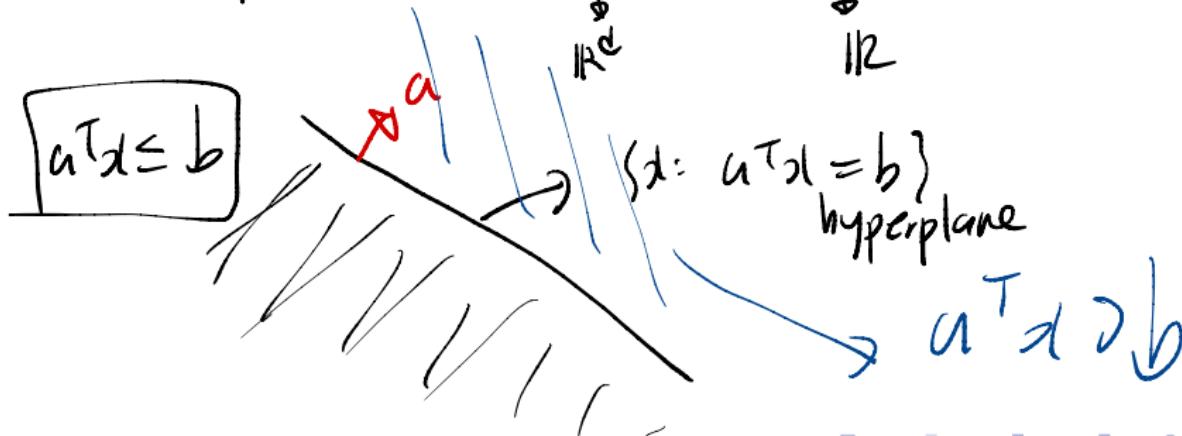
Examples

- Ellipsoid: $\{x : (x - c)^T Q (x - c) \leq r\}$

PD



- Half-space $\{x : a^T x \leq b\}$



Examples

Polyhedron.

= finite intersection of half-spaces



$$\text{Sol: } \left\{ \begin{array}{l} Ax \leq b \\ \Phi_{\mathbb{R}^{n \times d}} \\ \Phi_{\mathbb{R}^n} \end{array} \right\}$$

$$\left\{ \|x\|_2 \leq 1 \right\} = \bigcap_{d \in \mathbb{R}^n} \left\{ \|x\|_2 \leq \underline{\|d\|_2} \right\}$$

Examples

Polytope = polyhedron & bounded.

Simplex = $\{x \in \mathbb{R}^d : \sum_{i=1}^d x_i = 1, x \geq 0\}$

$\mathbb{R}_+^d = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^d : x \geq 0\}$:

non negative orthant.

$\mathbb{R}_{++}^d = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^d : x > 0\}$

positive orthant.

Convex cone example

Norm cone

$$\{(x, t) : \|x\| \leq t\}$$

Positive semidefinite cone

: the set of all positive semidefinite matrices