# Mathematical Programming Homework 3

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## Problem 1

Let

$$f(x_1, x_2) = (x_1 - 2)^2 + (x_2 - 3)^2$$
  

$$g_1(x_1, x_2) = x_1/2 + x_2 - 3/2$$
  

$$g_2(x_1, x_2) = x_2 - 1$$

Consider the following inequality constrained nonlinear optimization problem (NLP1):

minimize 
$$f(x)$$
  
subject to  $g_1(x) \le 0$   
 $g_2(x) \le 0$ 

### Problem 1.a

**Exercise 1.** Find all solutions to the KKT FONC for this NLP1.

**Solution 1.** A KKT point for this NLP1 is a pair  $(x, \mu)$  which satisfies the following:

$\nabla f(\mathbf{x}) + \boldsymbol{\mu}^{\top} \nabla \mathbf{g}(\mathbf{x}) = 0$	Stationary
$g(x) \leq 0$	Feasibility
$\mu \geq 0$	Nonnegativity
$\mu^{\top}g(x)=0$	Complementary slackness

Suppose  $(x, \mu) = (x_1, x_2, \mu_1, \mu_2)$  is a KKT point. Then from the stationary equations, we have

$$2(x_1 - 2) + \mu_1/2 = 0$$
$$2(x_2 - 3) + \mu_1 + \mu_2 = 0$$

Solving for  $\mu_1$  and  $\mu_2$  in terms of  $x_1$  and  $x_2$  gives us:

$$\mu_1 = 8 - 4x_1$$

$$\mu_2 = -2 + 4x_1 - 2x_2$$

Observe that  $\mu_1 g_1(x) = 0$  and  $\mu_2 g_2(x) = 0$  gives us four cases to consider:

**Case 1:** Suppose  $\mu_1 = 0$  and  $\mu_2 = 0$ . Then

$$0 = 8 - 4x_1$$
  
$$0 = -2 + 4x_1 - 2x_2,$$

which implies  $x_1 = 2$  and  $x_2 = 3$ . In this case  $g_1(2,3) = 5/2$ , which violates feasibility. Therefore (2,3,0,0) is not a KKT point.

**Case 2:** Suppose  $\mu_1 = 0$  and  $g_2(x) = 0$ . Then

$$0 = 8 - 4x_1$$
$$0 = x_2 - 1,$$

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which implies  $x_1 = 2$  and  $x_2 = 1$ . In this case  $\mu_2 = -4$ , which violates nongegativity. Therefore (2, 1, 0, -4) is not a KKT point.

Case 3: Suppose  $g_1(x) = 0$  and  $\mu_2 = 0$ . Then

$$0 = x_1/2 + x_2 - 3/2$$
  
$$0 = -2 + 4x_1 - 2x_2,$$

which implies  $x_1 = 1$  and  $x_2 = 1$ . In this case,  $\mu_1 = 4$  and  $g_2(1,1) = 0$ , and everything is satisfied. Therefore (1,1,4,0) is a KKT point.

**Case 4:** Suppose  $g_1(x) = 0$  and  $g_2(x) = 0$ . Then

$$0 = x_1/2 + x_2 - 3/2$$
  
$$0 = x_2 - 1,$$

which implies  $x_1 = 1$  and  $x_2 = 1$ . In this case,  $\mu_1 = 4$  and  $\mu_2 = 0$ . So we obtain the same KKT point (1, 1, 4, 0).

From our calculations above, we see that the only KKT point is  $(x, \mu) = (1, 1, 4, 0)$ .

#### Problem 1.b

**Exercise 2.** Find an optimal solution  $x^*$  to this NLP1 and clearly explain why  $x^*$  is optimal

**Solution 2.** Note that f is a convex function since its Hessian

$$H(f)(x) = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 \end{pmatrix}$$

is positive semi-definite for all  $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ . Simiarly,  $g_1$  and  $g_2$  are convex functions since they are affine. Also f,  $g_1$ , and  $g_2$  are all differentiable as well. Therefore setting  $x^* = (1,1)$  and  $\mu^* = (4,0)$ , then since  $(x^*, \mu^*)$  is a KKT point, we see that  $x^*$  is a global minimum.

### Problem 1.c and 1.d

**Exercise 3.** Without any calculations or geometric arguments, but based only on your answer to part a and b, give an optimal solution  $x^{**}$  to the following NLP2:

minimize 
$$f(x_1, x_2)$$
  
subject to  $g_1(x_1, x_2) \le 0$ 

Clearly explain why  $x^{**}$  is optimal for NLP2.

**Solution 3.** Note that the equations which describe a KKT point of NLP2 correspond to setting  $\mu_2=0$  in the equations which describe a KKT point of NLP1. In particular, the KKT point  $(x^*, \mu^*)=(1,1,4,0)$  for NLP1 corresponds to a KKT point  $(x^{**}, \mu^{**})=(1,1,4)$  for NLP2, where  $x^{**}=(1,1)$  and  $\mu^{**}=4$ . Again, since f and  $g_1$  are convex and differentiable, it follows that  $x^{**}$  is a global minimum for NLP2.

## Problem 2

Let

$$f(x_1, x_2) = x_1 - x_2$$
  
$$h(x_1, x_2) = x_1^2 + x_2^2 - 1$$

Consider the following equality constrained nonlinear optimization problem (NLP):

minimize 
$$f(x)$$
 subject to  $h(x) = 0$ 

### Problem 2.a

Exercise 4. Find all solutions to the KKT FONC for this NLP.

**Solution 4.** A KKT point for this NLP is a pair  $(x, \lambda)$  which satisfies the following:

$$abla f(\mathbf{x}) + \lambda \nabla h(\mathbf{x}) = 0$$
 Stationary  $h(\mathbf{x}) = 0$  Feasibility

Suppose  $(x, \lambda) = (x_1, x_2, \lambda)$  is a KKT point. Then we have

$$1 + 2\lambda x_1 = 0$$
  
$$-1 + 2\lambda x_2 = 0$$
  
$$x_1^2 + x_2^2 - 1 = 0$$

From the first two equations, we obtain  $x_1 = -x_2$ . Then from the third equation, we obtain  $2x_1^2 = 1$ . In other words,  $x = (\pm \sqrt{2}/2, \pm \sqrt{2}/2)$  and  $\lambda = \mp \sqrt{2}/2$ . So there are two KKT points for this NLP.

### Problem 2.b

Exercise 5. Find all points that satisfy the KKT FOSC for this NLP.

**Solution 5.** We cannot apply FOSC here because h is not affine.

#### Problem 2.c

**Exercise 6.** Regardless of your answer in part b, find an optimal solution  $x^*$  to this NLP.

**Solution 6.** We first note that every point x which is feasible is also regular. Indeed, we have  $\nabla h(x) = (2x_1, 2x_2)^{\top} \neq 0$  (since (0,0) is not feasible). Therefore if x is a local minimum of f, then there exists a unique  $\lambda$  such that  $(x,\lambda)$  is a KKT point. There are only two possible cases, namely  $x^{\pm} = (\pm \sqrt{2}/2, \pm \sqrt{2}/2)$  and  $\lambda^{\pm} = \mp \sqrt{2}/2$ . A quick calculation shows that

$$f(\mathbf{x}^+) = 0$$

$$> -\sqrt{2}$$

$$= f(\mathbf{x}^-).$$

Finally note that f being continuous function defined on the compact domain  $\{h = 0\}$ , we see that f must attain a maximum value and a minimum value. Clearly f attains a maximum value at  $x^+$  and attains a minimum value at  $x^-$ .

## Problem 3

Let

$$f(x_1, x_2) = x_1 + x_2$$
  
$$g(x_1, x_2) = x_1^2 + x_2^2 - 4$$

Consider the following inequality constrained nonlinear optimization problem (INLP):

minimize 
$$f(x)$$
  
subject to  $g(x) \le 0$   
 $-g(x) \le 0$ 

Note that this NLP is equivalent to the following equality constrained nonlinear optimization problem (ENLP):

minimize 
$$f(x)$$
 subject to  $g(x) = 0$ 

## Problem 3.a

**Exercise 7.** Solve this INLP geometrically. Let  $x^*$  be an optimal solution you found.

**Solution 7.** The equation g(x) = 4 describes a circle in the plane which is centered at 0 and has radius 2. Every point on this circle has the form  $(2\cos\theta, 2\sin\theta)$  for a unique  $\theta \in [0, 2\pi)$ . Thus

$$\min_{g(\mathbf{x})=4} f(\mathbf{x}) = \min_{\theta \in [0,2\pi)} 2(\cos \theta + \sin \theta) = \min_{\theta \in [0,2\pi)} h(\theta)$$

where we set  $h(\theta) = 2(\cos \theta + \sin \theta)$ . For  $\theta \in [0, 2\pi)$ , observe that

$$h'(\theta) = 0 \iff 2(\cos \theta - \sin \theta) = 0$$
  
 $\iff \cos \theta = \sin \theta$   
 $\iff \theta = \pi/4 \text{ or } \theta = 5\pi/4.$ 

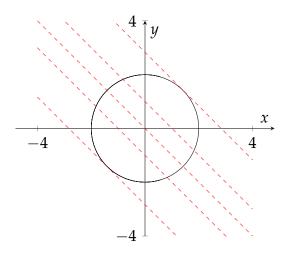
Thus the only critical points of h (excluding the boundary points) are  $\theta = \pi/4$  and  $\theta = 5\pi/4$ . Furthermore, notice that

$$h(0) = 1$$
  
 $h(\pi/4) = 2\sqrt{2}$   
 $h(5\pi/4) = -2\sqrt{2}$ 

It follows that h has a global minimum at  $\theta = 5\pi/4$ . In other words, f has a global minimum at  $x^* = (-\sqrt{2}, -\sqrt{2})^{\top}$ .

Alternative geometric solution:

**Solution 8.** Below we've graphed the circle of radius centered at 0 and of radius 2 (that is, the feasible region), together with countours of the objective function f for various values c (in the image below, we drew  $\{f = 2\sqrt{2}\}$ ,  $\{f = 1\}$ ,  $\{f = 0\}$ ,  $\{f = -1\}$ , and  $\{f = -2\sqrt{2}\}$ ).



Clearly, the function f will be minimized with value c when the contour  $\{f=c\}$  intersects the circle  $\{g=0\}$  tangentially. To determine which c-value does  $\{f=c\}$  intersect  $\{g=0\}$  tangentially, we first solve the system of equations below:

$$x^2 + y^2 - 4 = 0$$
$$x + y - c = 0$$

From these two equations, we obtain

$$y^2 - 2cy + c^2 - 4 = 0.$$

The discriminant  $\Delta$  of  $y^2 - 2cy + c^2 - 4$  is

$$\Delta = 4c^2 - 8(c^2 - 4)$$
$$= -4c^2 + 32.$$

We have  $\Delta = 0$  if and only if  $c = \pm 2\sqrt{2}$ . These two *c*-values correspond to the two contour lines which intersect the circle tangentially. The smaller *c*-value is clearly the min and the larger *c*-value is clearly the max.

## Problem 3.b

**Exercise 8.** Check whether  $x^*$  is a regular point of the constraints of this ENLP/INLP.

**Solution 9.** The INLP system has no regular points since  $\{\nabla g(x), -\nabla g(x)\}$  is always linearly dependent for all x. On the other hand,  $x^*$  is a regular point for the ENLP system. Indeed, we have  $\nabla g(x) = (2x_1, 2x_2)^{\top}$  for all x, in particular  $\nabla g(x^*) \neq 0$ .

### Problem 3.c

**Exercise 9.** Check whether KKT FONC hold at  $x^*$ . Explain.

**Solution 10.** A KKT point for the ENLP is a pair  $(x, \lambda)$  which satisfies the following:

$$abla f(\mathbf{x}) + \lambda \nabla g(\mathbf{x}) = 0$$
 Stationary  $g(\mathbf{x}) = 0$  Feasibility

Suppose  $(x, \lambda) = (x_1, x_2, \lambda)$  is a KKT point. Then we have

$$1 + 2\lambda x_1 = 0$$
$$1 + 2\lambda x_2 = 0$$
$$x_1^2 + x_2^2 - 4 = 0$$

From the first two equations, we obtain  $x_1 = x_2$ . Then from the third equation, we obtain  $2x_1^2 = 4$ . In other words,  $x = (\pm \sqrt{2}, \pm \sqrt{2})$  and  $\lambda = \mp \sqrt{2}/4$ . So there are two KKT points for ENLP. One of the KKT point is  $(x^*, \lambda^*)$  where  $x^* = (-\sqrt{2}, -\sqrt{2})^{\top}$  and  $\lambda^* = -\sqrt{2}/4$ . Therefore KKT FONC hold at  $x^*$ .

A KKT point for the INLP is a pair  $(x, \mu)$  which satisfies the following:

$$abla f(x) + \mu^{ op} \nabla g(x) = 0$$
 Stationary  $g(x) \leq 0$  Feasibility  $\mu \geq 0$  Nonnegativity  $\mu^{ op} g(x) = 0$  Complementary slackness

Suppose  $(x, \mu) = (x_1, x_2, \mu_1, \mu_2)$  is a KKT point. Then we have

$$1 + 2\mu_1 x_1 - 2\mu_2 x_1 = 0$$
  

$$1 + 2\mu_1 x_2 - 2\mu_2 x_2 = 0$$
  

$$x_1^2 + x_2^2 - 4 = 0$$

From the first two equations, we obtain  $x_1 = x_2$ . Then from the third equation, we obtain  $2x_1^2 = 4$ . In other words,  $x = (\pm \sqrt{2}, \pm \sqrt{2})$  and  $\mu_1 - \mu_2 = \mp \sqrt{2}/4$ . There are many KKT points for NLP. One of the KKT points is  $(x^*, \mu^*)$  where  $x^* = (-\sqrt{2}, -\sqrt{2})^{\top}$  and  $\mu^* = (0, \sqrt{2}/4)$ . Therefore KKT FONC hold at  $x^*$ .

### Problem 3.d

**Exercise 10.** Check whether KKT FOSC hold at  $x^*$ . Explain

**Solution 11.** The KKT FOSC do not hold for the INLT because -g(x) is not convex. Similarly, the KKT FOSC does not hold for the ENLT because g(x) is not affine.

## Problem 4

Let

$$f(x_1, x_2) = x_1^2/2 + x_2^2/2 + x_1$$
  
$$g(x_1, x_2) = -x_1$$

Consider the following nonlinear optimization problem (NLP) and the primal problem (PP):

minimize 
$$f(x)$$
 subject to  $g(x) \le 0$ 

## Problem 4.a

Exercise 11. Find an optimal solution and the optimal objective value to the PP.

**Solution 12.** Both f and g are convex and differentiable, so it suffices to find a KKT point for PP. A point  $(x, \mu)$  is a KKT point for PP if

$$abla f(x) + \mu \nabla g(x) = 0$$
 Stationary  $g(x) \leq 0$  Feasibility  $\mu \geq 0$  Nonnegativity  $\mu g(x) = 0$  Complementary slackness

Suppose  $(x, \mu) = (x_1, x_2, \mu)$  is a KKT point. Then we have

$$x_1 + 1 - \mu = 0$$
$$x_2 = 0$$
$$-x_1 \le 0$$

If  $\mu = 0$ , then  $x_1 = -1$ , which contradicts the fact that  $-x_1 \le 0$ . Thus we must have  $g_1(x) = 0$ , which implies  $x_1 = 0$ ,  $x_2 = 0$ , and  $\mu = 1$ . Thus a KKT point for PP is given by  $(x^*, \mu^*) = (0, 0, 1)$  where  $x^* = (0, 0)$  and  $\mu = 1$ . Hence  $x^*$  is a global minimizer for this NLP with optimal value being  $f(x^*) = 0$ .

## Problem 4.b and 4.c

**Exercise 12.** Derive the Lagrangian Dual Problem (DP) (in dual variables only). Check whether the Strong Duality Theorem holds. Explain why.

**Solution 13.** The Langrangian is

$$L(x, \mu) = f(x) + \mu g(x) = x_1^2/2 + x_2^2/2 + (1 - \mu)x_1.$$

Observe that  $L(x, \mu)$  is a convex and differentiable function with  $\mu$  fixed. Also observe

$$x^*$$
 is a global minimizer of  $L(-,\mu) \iff \nabla_x L(x^*,\mu) = 0$   $\iff \begin{pmatrix} x_1^* + 1 - \mu \\ x_2^* \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$   $\iff x_1^* = \mu - 1 \text{ and } x_2^* = 0.$ 

Therefore if we define

$$d(\mu) = \min_{\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n} L(\mathbf{x}, \mu),$$

then we see that  $d(\mu) = -(\mu - 1)^2/2$ . The Lagrandian dual of PP then is

$$d^* = \max_{\mu \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}} \min_{\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n} L(\mathbf{x}, \mu) = \max_{\mu \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}} d(\mu) = 0,$$

where the max is attained at  $\mu = 0$ . Setting

$$p^* = \min_{g(\mathbf{x}) \le 0} f(\mathbf{x}) = 0.$$

Then we see that the duality gap  $p^* - d^* = 0$  is zero. Therefore the strong duality theorem holds.

### Problem 4.d

Exercise 13. Identify a saddle point of the Lagrange function.

**Solution 14.** Since we have strong duality, a saddle point is given by  $(x^*, \mu^*)$  where  $x^* = (0, 0)$  and  $\mu^* = 0$ .

## Problem 5

Let  $b \in \mathbb{R}^m$ , let  $c \in \mathbb{R}^n$ , let  $f, g_j : \mathbb{R}^n \to \mathbb{R}$  be defined by  $f(x) = c^\top x = \sum_{j=1}^n c_j x_j$  and  $g_j(x) = -x_j$  for all  $1 \le j \le n$ , and let A be an  $m \times n$  matrix. Consider the following optimization problem referred to as the linear program (LP):

minimize 
$$f(x)$$
  
subject to  $g(x) \le 0$   
 $Ax = b$ 

For each  $1 \le i \le m$ , we define  $h_i : \mathbb{R}^n \to \mathbb{R}$  by  $h_i(x) = \sum_{j=1}^n a_{ij} x_j$  where

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} a_{11} & \cdots & a_{1n} \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ a_{m1} & \cdots & a_{mn} \end{pmatrix}$$

Thus this LP can be expressed as

minimize 
$$f(x)$$
  
subject to  $g_j(x) \le 0$  for all  $1 \le j \le n$   
 $h_i(x) = b_i$  for all  $1 \le i \le m$ 

## Problem 5.a and 5.b

**Exercise 14.** Apply the theory of nonlinear optimization to this LP and write the complete KKT FONC for optimality for this LP. Are the conditions sufficient? Explain why.

**Solution 15.** A KKT point for LP is a triple  $(x, \mu, \lambda)$  which satisfies the following:

$$abla f(x) + \mu^{ op} \nabla g(x) + \lambda^{ op} \nabla h(x) = 0$$
 Stationary  $g(x) \leq 0$  Feasibility  $h(x) = 0$  Feasibility  $\mu \geq 0$  Nonnegativity  $\mu^{ op} g(x) = 0$  Complementary slackness

Suppose that  $(x, \mu, \lambda)$  is a KKT point for LP. Then we have

$$c_{1} - \mu_{1} + \lambda_{1}a_{11} + \lambda_{2}a_{21} + \dots + \lambda_{m}a_{m1} = 0$$

$$c_{2} - \mu_{2} + \lambda_{1}a_{12} + \lambda_{2}a_{22} + \dots + \lambda_{m}a_{m2} = 0$$

$$\vdots$$

$$c_{n} - \mu_{n} + \lambda_{1}a_{1n} + \lambda_{2}a_{2n} + \dots + \lambda_{m}a_{mn} = 0$$

Alternatively, in matrix form this says

$$\lambda^{\top} A = \mu^{\top} - c^{\top}.$$

If we apply g(x) = -x to both sides, we obtain

$$-\lambda^{\top} b = -\lambda^{\top} A x$$

$$= -\mu^{\top} x + c^{\top} x$$

$$= c^{\top} x$$

$$= f(x).$$

In particular, if  $(x, \mu, \lambda)$  is a KKT point of LP, then since f and the  $g_j$  are all convex, differentiable functions, and the  $h_i$  are all affine functions, we see that x is optimal with optimal objective value being given by  $f(x) = -\lambda^{\top} b$ .

## Problem 5.b

Exercise 15. Are the conditions you wrote in part a sufficient? Explain why.

**Solution 16.** Yes, because f and the  $g_j$  are all convex, differentiable functions, and the  $h_i$  are all affine functions. Therefore KKT FOSC holds.

## Problem 5.c

**Exercise 16.** Treating this LP is a primal problem, relax the equality constraint, and derive the dual problem (in dual variables only!).

**Solution 17.** The Langrangian is

$$L(x, \mu) = f(x) + \mu^{\top} g(x) = (c - \mu)^{\top} x.$$

Observe that  $L(x, \mu)$  is a convex and differentiable function with  $\mu$  fixed. Also observe

$$x^*$$
 is a global minimizer of  $L(-,\mu) \iff \nabla_x L(x^*,\mu) = 0$  
$$\iff \begin{pmatrix} c_1 - \mu_1 \\ \vdots \\ c_n - \mu_n \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$
 
$$\iff c_i = \mu_i \text{ for all } 1 \le i \le n$$

Therefore if we define

$$d(\mu) = \min_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n} L(x, \mu),$$

then we see that

$$d(\mu) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } \mu = c \\ -\infty & \text{else} \end{cases}$$

The Lagrandian dual of PP then is

$$d^* = \max_{\boldsymbol{\mu} \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}} \min_{\boldsymbol{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n} L(\boldsymbol{x}, \boldsymbol{\mu}) = \max_{\boldsymbol{\mu} \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}} \mathrm{d}(\boldsymbol{\mu}) = 0.$$