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ISyE 6673: Financial Optimization

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Recap

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- Farkas' lemma underpins fundamental theorems in asset pricing
- Markets that obey the law of one price have linear pricing rules
- Complete markets have a unique pricing rule
- Arbitrage-free markets have positive pricing rules

Today

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Beyond linear optimization, towards optimization under uncertainty.

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History

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George Dantzig

inventor of linear programming
and the simplex method

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George B. Dantzig

History

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History

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History

Wisconsin Econometrics Society, 1948

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History

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I was a young unknown and I
remember how frightened I was with
the idea of presenting for the first time
to such a distinguished audience the
concept of linear programming.

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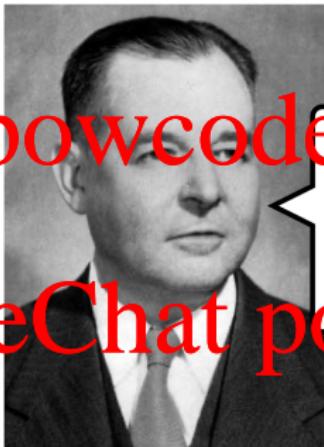
Harold Hotelling
prominent economist
and statistician

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What good is any of
this? We all know the
world is nonlinear.

History

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There was, I was, frantically trying to compose a proper reply...

What good is any of this? We all know the world is nonlinear.

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History

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John von Neumann
mathematician, physicist, computer scientist,
engineer, economist

perhaps the most brilliant mind of the 20th century



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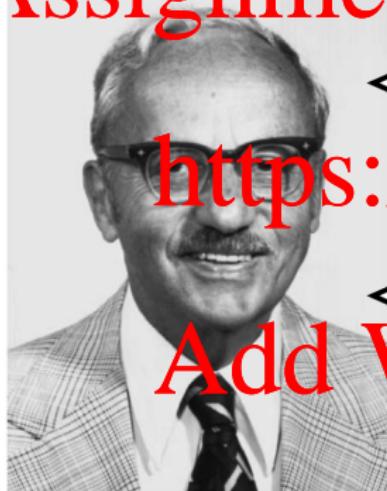
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The speaker was very clear about his axioms.
If you have an application that satisfies the
axioms, well, use it! If not, then don't!

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History

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In the final analysis, of course, Hotelling was right! The world is highly nonlinear.

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But systems of linear inequalities permit us to approximate most of the kinds of nonlinear relations encountered in practical planning.

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George B. Dantzig

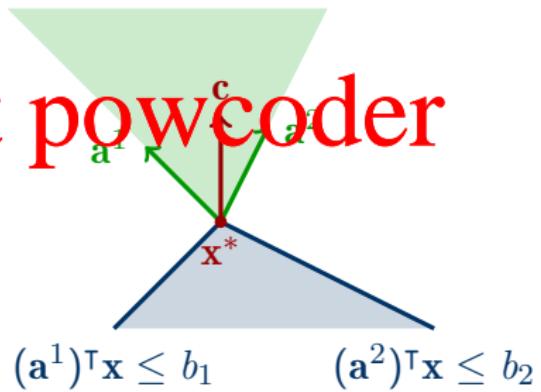
A two-dimensional LP

(P) $\max c_1x_1 + c_2x_2$
 s.t. $(\mathbf{a}^i)^\top \mathbf{x} \leq b_i \quad 1 \leq i \leq m$

(D) $\min \sum_{i=1}^m b_i p_i$
 s.t. $\sum_{i=1}^m p_i \mathbf{a}^i = \mathbf{c}$
 $p \geq 0$

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- \mathbf{x}^* primal optimal
nondegenerate with active
constraints $\mathbf{a}^1, \mathbf{a}^2$
- Equivalent to $\mathbf{c} \in \text{cone}(\mathbf{a}^1, \mathbf{a}^2)$



From LP to NLP

- Now consider a two-dimensional nonlinear optimization problem:

$$\begin{array}{ll} \min & c(\mathbf{x}) \\ \text{s.t.} & f_i(\mathbf{x}) \leq 0 \quad 1 \leq i \leq m \end{array}$$

- Assume c and f_i are all differentiable convex functions
- Consider an optimal solution \mathbf{x}^* and take the Taylor expansion of all nonlinear functions around \mathbf{x}^* :

$$\begin{array}{ll} \min & c(\mathbf{x}^*) + \nabla c(\mathbf{x}^*)^\top (\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}^*) \\ \text{s.t.} & f_i(\mathbf{x}^*) + \nabla f_i(\mathbf{x}^*)^\top (\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}^*) \leq 0 \quad 1 \leq i \leq m \end{array}$$

- Equivalently:

$$\begin{array}{ll} \max & -\nabla c(\mathbf{x}^*)^\top \mathbf{x} \\ \text{s.t.} & \nabla f_i(\mathbf{x}^*)^\top \mathbf{x} \leq \nabla f_i(\mathbf{x}^*)^\top \mathbf{x}^* - f_i(\mathbf{x}^*) \quad 1 \leq i \leq m \end{array}$$

From LP to NLP

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$$\begin{array}{ll} \max & -\nabla c(\mathbf{x}^*)^\top \mathbf{x} \\ \text{s.t.} & \nabla f_i(\mathbf{x}^*)^\top \mathbf{x} \leq \nabla g_i(\mathbf{x}^*)^\top \mathbf{x}^* - f_i(\mathbf{x}^*) := b_i \quad 1 \leq i \leq m \end{array}$$

\mathbf{x}^* optimal, f_1, f_2 active $\Leftrightarrow -\nabla c(\mathbf{x}^*) \in \text{cone}(\nabla f_1(\mathbf{x}^*), \nabla f_2(\mathbf{x}^*))$

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Normal cone

- We can define $\text{cone}(\nabla f_1(x^*), \nabla f_2(x^*))$ a bit more generally

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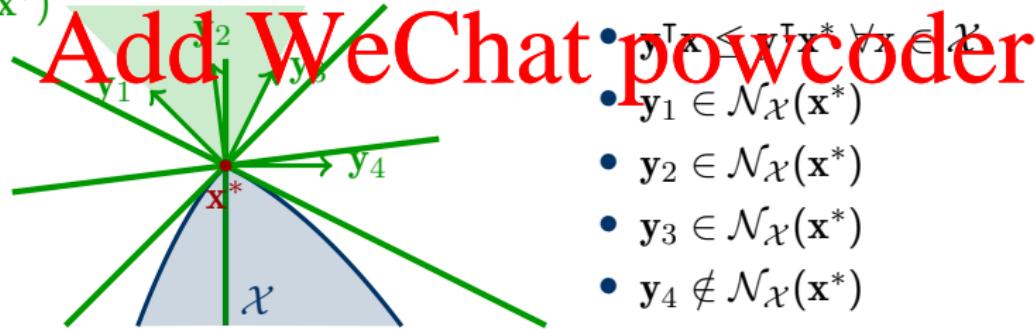
Definition

Given a convex set \mathcal{X} and a point x^* on its boundary, the *normal cone* of \mathcal{X} at x^* is the set

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$$\mathcal{N}_{\mathcal{X}}(x^*) = \{y \in \mathbb{R}^n : y^\top (x - x^*) \leq 0 \ \forall x \in \mathcal{X}\}$$

$\mathcal{N}_{\mathcal{X}}(x^*)$

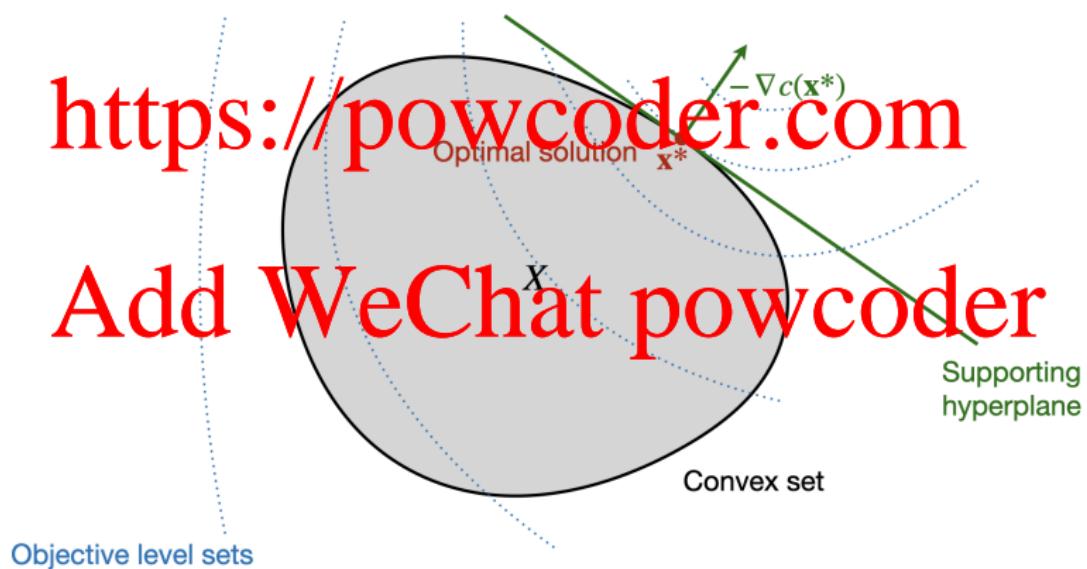


- $y_1 \in \mathcal{N}_{\mathcal{X}}(x^*)$
- $y_2 \in \mathcal{N}_{\mathcal{X}}(x^*)$
- $y_3 \in \mathcal{N}_{\mathcal{X}}(x^*)$
- $y_4 \notin \mathcal{N}_{\mathcal{X}}(x^*)$

Supporting hyperplane

- Each vector y in the normal cone defines a *supporting hyperplane* of the set \mathcal{C} (generalization of a “tangent line”)

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Geometric optimality conditions

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- Convex optimization problem over set \mathcal{X}

$$\min c(\mathbf{x})$$

$$\text{s.t. } f_i(\mathbf{x}) \leq 0, \quad 1 \leq i \leq m$$

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- A point \mathbf{x}^* is an optimal solution if and only if \mathbf{x}^* is feasible and

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- Equivalently

$$\nabla c(\mathbf{x}^*)^\top (\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}^*) \geq 0, \quad \forall \mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{X}$$

Algebraic optimality conditions

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- A point \mathbf{x}^* is an optimal solution if and only if \mathbf{x}^* is feasible and

$$-\nabla c(\mathbf{x}^*) \in \mathcal{N}_{\mathcal{X}}(\mathbf{x}^*) = \text{cone}(\{\nabla f_i(\mathbf{x}^*)\}_{i \text{ active}})$$

- We can write membership in the normal cone algebraically:

$$-\nabla c(\mathbf{x}^*) = \sum_{i=1}^m \lambda_i \nabla f_i(\mathbf{x}^*) \quad (\text{linear combination})$$

$$\lambda_i \geq 0 \quad \forall i \in [m] \quad (\text{conic combination})$$

$$\lambda_i f_i(\mathbf{x}^*) = 0 \quad \forall i \in [m] \quad (\text{active constraints only})$$

- These are called the *Karush-Kuhn-Tucker (KKT)* conditions

KKT conditions

KKT conditions for general nonlinear problems

Consider a convex optimization problem (differentiable):

$$\begin{aligned} \min \quad & c(\mathbf{x}) \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & f_i(\mathbf{x}) \leq 0 \quad 1 \leq i \leq m \end{aligned} \tag{P}$$

If \mathbf{x}^* is an optimal solution of (P) and the gradients of the active constraints at \mathbf{x}^* are linearly independent, the following conditions hold:

1. **Stationarity:** there exist multipliers $\lambda_i \geq 0$ for $i \in [m]$ such that

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$$\nabla c(\mathbf{x}^*) + \sum_{i=1}^m \lambda_i \nabla f_i(\mathbf{x}^*) = 0$$

2. **Complementary slackness:** for each constraint $i \in [m]$

$$\lambda_i f_i(\mathbf{x}^*) = 0$$

Equality constraints

- Consider the more general convex optimization problem:

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$$\text{s.t. } f_i(\mathbf{x}) \leq 0 \quad 1 \leq i \leq m$$

$$\text{s.t. } h_k(\mathbf{x}) = 0 \quad 1 \leq k \leq r$$

- Recall $h_k(\mathbf{x}) = 0 \Leftrightarrow h_k(\mathbf{x}) \leq 0 \text{ and } -h_k(\mathbf{x}) \leq 0$
- Introduce multipliers $\mu_k^+ \geq 0, \mu_k^- \geq 0$ and write the stationarity conditions:

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$$\nabla c(\mathbf{x}^*) + \sum_{i=1}^m \lambda_i \nabla f_i(\mathbf{x}^*) + \sum_{i=1}^m \mu_k^+ \nabla h_k(\mathbf{x}^*) - \sum_{i=1}^m \mu_k^- \nabla h_k(\mathbf{x}^*) = 0$$

$$\nabla c(\mathbf{x}^*) + \sum_{i=1}^m \lambda_i \nabla f_i(\mathbf{x}^*) + \sum_{i=1}^m (\mu_k^+ - \mu_k^-) \nabla h_k(\mathbf{x}^*) = 0$$

KKT conditions

KKT conditions for convex problems with equality constraints

If \mathbf{x}^* is an optimal solution and the gradients of the active constraints at \mathbf{x}^* are linearly independent, the following hold:

1. **Stationarity:** there exist multipliers $\lambda_i \geq 0$ for $i \in [m]$ and $\mu_k \in \mathbb{R}$ for $k \in [r]$ such that

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$$\nabla c(\mathbf{x}^*) + \sum_{i=1}^m \lambda_i \nabla f_i(\mathbf{x}^*) + \sum_{k=1}^r \mu_k \nabla h_k(\mathbf{x}^*) = 0$$

2. **Complementary slackness:** for each constraint $i \in [m]$

$$\lambda_i f_i(\mathbf{x}^*) = 0$$

- Multipliers for equality constraints are unconstrained
- Complementary slackness for equality constraints already follows from primal feasibility

Are the KKT conditions ever sufficient?

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- The KKT conditions are necessary and sufficient in problems where strong duality holds
- In convex optimization, strong duality doesn't hold automatically, but holds under some regularity assumptions

Slater's condition

There exists a feasible \mathbf{x} such that $f_i(\mathbf{x}) < 0$ for all $i \in [m]$.

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- If Slater's condition is satisfied, the KKT conditions are both necessary and sufficient!

What about nonconvex problems?

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- There exist analogs to the KKT conditions for nonconvex problems, with two caveats
- For nonconvex problems typically the most we can certify is a local optimal solution (not necessarily global)
- If the problem becomes really ugly, the stationarity conditions can become more complex to define
- We can use the KKT conditions for nonlinear nonconvex problems, but we need to be aware of their limitations!

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Quadratic programming

- Convex quadratic program (QP):

$$\min_{\mathbf{x}} \frac{1}{2} \mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{P} \mathbf{x} + \mathbf{q}^T \mathbf{x} + r$$

$$\text{s.t. } \mathbf{Gx} \leq \mathbf{h}$$

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(\mathbf{P} is positive semi-definite)

- Convex quadratically constrained quadratic program (QCQP):

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$$\min_{\mathbf{x}} \frac{1}{2} \mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{P}_0 \mathbf{x} + \mathbf{q}_0^T \mathbf{x} + r_0$$

$$\text{s.t. } \frac{1}{2} \mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{P}_i \mathbf{x} + \mathbf{q}_i^T \mathbf{x} + r_i \quad 1 \leq i \leq m$$

$$\mathbf{Ax} = \mathbf{b}$$

(all \mathbf{P}_i are positive semi-definite)

Unconstrained quadratic optimization

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- Minimizing a quadratic function

$$v^* = \min f_0(\mathbf{x}) := \frac{1}{2} \mathbf{x}^\top \mathbf{P} \mathbf{x} + \mathbf{q}^\top \mathbf{x} + r$$

- Optimality condition (KKT):

$$\nabla f_0(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{P} \mathbf{x} + \mathbf{q} = 0$$

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- If $\mathbf{q} \notin \text{span}(\mathbf{P})$, then $v^* = -\infty$
- If \mathbf{P} is invertible, then $\mathbf{x}^* = -\mathbf{P}^{-1}\mathbf{q}$ is the unique optimum
- If \mathbf{P} is singular but $\mathbf{q} \in \text{span}(\mathbf{P})$, there may be multiple optimal solutions

Least-squares regression

Example

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- We are given some data points $\{(x_i, y_i)\}_{i=1}^n$ and want to fit a linear model
- Model parameters are vector of coefficients w (assume the first feature of x is constantly 1 so no intercept is needed)
- Optimization problem:

$$\min_w \sum_{i=1}^n (x_i^T w - y_i)^2$$

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- Define $X = \begin{bmatrix} x_1^T \\ \vdots \\ x_n^T \end{bmatrix}$, $y = \begin{bmatrix} y_1 \\ \vdots \\ y_n \end{bmatrix}$; then $w = (X^T X)^{-1} X^T y$

Quadratic optimization with equality constraints

- Equality-constrained convex QP:

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$$\min \frac{1}{2} \mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{P} \mathbf{x} + \mathbf{q}^T \mathbf{x} + r$$

$$\text{s.t. } \mathbf{A} \mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$$

- KKT conditions (just stationarity)

$$\mathbf{P} \mathbf{x} + \mathbf{q} + \sum_{i=1}^m \lambda_i \mathbf{a}_i = 0 = \mathbf{P} \mathbf{x} + \mathbf{q} + \mathbf{A}^T \boldsymbol{\lambda}$$

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- Combine with feasibility conditions $\mathbf{A} \mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$ to get the following linear system

$$\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{P} & \mathbf{A}^T \\ \mathbf{A} & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{x} \\ \boldsymbol{\lambda} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -\mathbf{q} \\ \mathbf{b} \end{bmatrix}$$

Quadratic optimization with inequality constraints

- Inequality-constrained convex QP:

$$\min \quad \frac{1}{2} \mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{P} \mathbf{x} + \mathbf{q}^T \mathbf{x} + r$$

$$\text{s.t. } \mathbf{A} \mathbf{x} \leq \mathbf{b}$$

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- Stationarity conditions:

$$\mathbf{P} \mathbf{x} + \mathbf{q} + \mathbf{A}^T \boldsymbol{\lambda} = 0, \boldsymbol{\lambda} \geq 0$$

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- Complementary slackness:

$$\lambda_i(b_i - \mathbf{a}_i^T \mathbf{x}) = 0$$

- Nonlinear!

Nonlinear system of equations

- We can define slack variables $s = b - Ax \geq 0$

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- Allows to reformulate the KKT conditions as the following nonlinear system:

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$$\begin{bmatrix} Px + A^T \lambda + q \\ Ax + s - b \\ S \Lambda e \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

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where

$$S = \begin{bmatrix} s_1 & 0 & \dots \\ 0 & s_2 & \dots \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots \end{bmatrix}, \quad \Lambda = \begin{bmatrix} \lambda_1 & 0 & \dots \\ 0 & \lambda_2 & \dots \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots \end{bmatrix}, \quad e = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ \vdots \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \Rightarrow S \Lambda e = \begin{bmatrix} \lambda_1 s_1 \\ \vdots \\ \lambda_m s_m \end{bmatrix}$$

Newton's method

Root-finding

Given a differentiable function f , how to find x such that $f(x) = 0$?

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Newton's iterative idea

1. Start with a guess x^k
2. Replace f with its first-order Taylor approximation around x^k :

$$f(x^k + d) \approx f(x^k) + f'(x_k) \cdot d = 0$$

3. Solve for the step d

$$f'(x_k) \cdot d = -f(x^k) \Rightarrow d = -\frac{f(x^k)}{f'(x_k)}$$

4. Update $x^{k+1} = x^k + d$ and go to step 2

Newton's method in higher dimensions

- Consider the linear system:

$$f_1(\mathbf{x}) = 0$$

$$f_2(\mathbf{x}) = 0$$

$$f_3(\mathbf{x}) = 0$$

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where $f_i : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ are all differentiable

- Starting from a guess \mathbf{x}^k , we can obtain $\mathbf{x}^{k+1} = \mathbf{x}^k + \mathbf{d}$ by solving

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$$\nabla f_1(\mathbf{x}^k)^\top \mathbf{d} = -f_1(\mathbf{x}^k)$$

$$\nabla f_2(\mathbf{x}^k)^\top \mathbf{d} = -f_2(\mathbf{x}^k)$$

$$\nabla f_3(\mathbf{x}^k)^\top \mathbf{d} = -f_3(\mathbf{x}^k)$$

Newton's method for quadratic programming

- We want to solve the system

$$\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{P}\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{A}^T\boldsymbol{\lambda} + \mathbf{q} \\ \mathbf{Ax} + \mathbf{s} - \mathbf{b} \\ \mathbf{S}\boldsymbol{\Lambda}\mathbf{e} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

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- Three functions on the left; vector-valued, but it doesn't matter

- Start with a guess $\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{x}^k \\ \mathbf{s}^k \\ \boldsymbol{\lambda}^k \end{bmatrix}$ with $s^k, \lambda^k > 0$, find $\mathbf{d} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{d}_x \\ \mathbf{d}^s \\ \mathbf{d}_{\lambda} \end{bmatrix}$ such

that

$$\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{P} & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{A}^T \\ \mathbf{A} & \mathbf{I} & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{0} & \boldsymbol{\Lambda}^k & \mathbf{S}^k \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{d}_x \\ \mathbf{d}^s \\ \mathbf{d}_{\lambda} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -\mathbf{Px}^k - \mathbf{A}^T\boldsymbol{\lambda}^k - \mathbf{q} \\ -\mathbf{Ax}^k - \mathbf{s}^k + \mathbf{b} \\ -\mathbf{S}^k\boldsymbol{\Lambda}^k\mathbf{e} \end{bmatrix}$$

Interior-point method

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- The direction d is rescaled so that s and λ always remain strictly positive
- At each iteration the solution is strictly feasible
- This is called an *interior-point algorithm* because we only work with interior points, not boundary points
- Results also work in linear programming; philosophically, this is the opposite of what the simplex method does
- There are many more interior-point algorithms and they are the core of convex optimization

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A new perspective on inequalities

- Consider the vector inequality $x \geq y \Leftrightarrow x_i \geq y_i, \forall i$
- Vector inequalities define a *partial ordering* on \mathbb{R}^n

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Definition

The relation \succeq is a partial ordering on \mathbb{R}^n if it satisfies

- $x \succeq x$ for all $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$
- If $x \succeq y$ and $y \succeq x$ then $x = y$
- If $x \succeq y$ and $y \succeq z$ then $x \succeq z$

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- Trivial to see that linear inequalities satisfy these properties
- Notice that $x \geq y \Leftrightarrow x - y \geq 0 \Leftrightarrow x - y \in \mathbb{R}_+^n$
- What kind of set is \mathbb{R}_+^n ?

Convex cones, revisited

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- \mathbb{R}_+^n (non-negative orthant) is a *convex cone*!

Theorem
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Any convex cone \mathcal{K} induces a partial ordering on \mathbb{R}^n :

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Useful convex cones

- Non-negative orthant \mathbb{R}_+^n
- Norm cones

$$\mathcal{K} = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{x} \\ t \end{bmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^n : \|\mathbf{x}\| \leq t \right\}$$

\mathcal{K} is the epigraph of a (convex) norm function means \mathcal{K} is convex

- If $(\mathbf{x}, t) \in \mathcal{K}$ then for any $a \geq 0$, $\|a\mathbf{x}\| = a\|\mathbf{x}\| \leq at$ so $(a\mathbf{x}, at)$ is in \mathcal{K} (indeed a cone)

- Our favorite norm is the Euclidean norm $\|\cdot\|_2$ which induces a second-order cone.

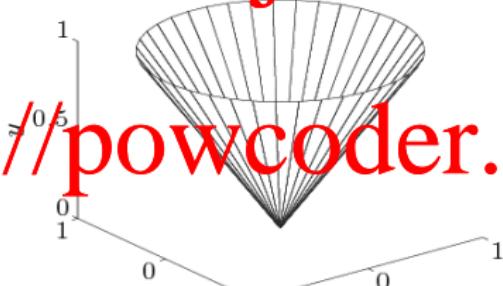
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$$\mathcal{L}^{n+1} = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ \vdots \\ x_n \\ t \end{bmatrix} : \sqrt{x_1^2 + \dots + x_n^2} \leq t \right\}$$

Second-order cone

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- Boundary of $\mathcal{L}^3 \subseteq \mathbb{R}^3$
- Also called Lorentz cone, quadratic cone, ice-cream cone

Linear conic inequalities

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Linear conic inequality (aka generalized inequality)

Given a partial ordering $\succeq_{\mathcal{K}}$ induced by the cone \mathcal{K} , we can define a linear conic inequality as

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$$\mathbf{Ax} \succeq_{\mathcal{K}} \mathbf{b} \Leftrightarrow \mathbf{Ax} - \mathbf{b} \in \mathcal{K}$$

- Can be nonlinear if \mathcal{K} is nonlinear
- Unlike \geq , this is not a component-wise inequality

Second-order inequality example

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Example

Is it true that $\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix} \succeq_{\mathbb{R}^3} \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$?

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- $\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix} - \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}$
- $\sqrt{(-1)^2 + 1^2} = \sqrt{2} \leq 2$

Second-order cone programming (SOCP)

- Second-order cone program (SOCP):

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$$\min_{\mathbf{x}} \mathbf{p}^T \mathbf{x}$$

s.t. $\mathbf{A}_i \mathbf{x} \succeq_{\mathcal{L}^{n_i}} \mathbf{b}_i \quad \forall i \in [m]$

$$\mathbf{Gx} = \mathbf{h}$$

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where $\mathbf{A}_i = \begin{bmatrix} \bar{\mathbf{A}}_i \\ \mathbf{c}_i^\top \end{bmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^{n_i \times n}$ and $\mathbf{b}_i = \begin{bmatrix} \bar{\mathbf{b}}_i \\ d_i \end{bmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^{n_i}$

- Equivalently:

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$$\min_{\mathbf{x}} \mathbf{p}^T \mathbf{x}$$

s.t. $\left\| \bar{\mathbf{A}}_i \mathbf{x} - \bar{\mathbf{b}}_i \right\|_2 \leq \mathbf{c}_i^\top \mathbf{x} - d_i \quad \forall i \in [m]$

$$\mathbf{Gx} = \mathbf{h}$$

Recap

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- Geometric optimality conditions in LP generalize to NLP as KKT conditions
- Interior-point methods solve convex optimization problems
- Next week: application to portfolio optimization

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