Duality & Reductions

Monday, January 27, 2020 10:35 PM

Yln

ORACLES for a convex set K

$MEM(x)$: YES if $x \in K$

NO o.w.

$SEP(x)$: YES if $x \in K$

NO o.w., and c : $c^T y < c^T x \ \forall y \in K$.

$VAL(c)$: OUTPUTS $\max_{x \in K} c^T x$

or "K is EMPTY"

$OPT(c)$: $x \in K$ s.t. $c^T x \leq c^T y \quad \forall x \in K$

or "K is EMPTY".

Cutting Plane Method: $OPT_K \longrightarrow SEP_K$.

SEP is stronger than MEM

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OPT ——————— VAL.

For different problems, different oracles can be more convenient/efficient.

E.g. $K = \{x : Ax \geq b\}$ SEP_K is easy – check all constraints

$K =$ Conv Hull $\{a_1, \dots, a_m\}$ OPT_K is easy – $\sup_i c^T a_i$

Q. Are these fundamentally equivalent?

ORACLES for convex functions.

$EVAL_f(x)$: $f(x)$.

$GRAD_f(x)$: $f(x), g$ s.t. $\forall y$ $f(y) \geq f(x) + g^T(y-x)$.

(g is a subgradient of f at x).

Recall $\delta_K(x) = \begin{cases} 0 & x \in K \\ \infty & x \notin K \end{cases}$ convex.

$MEM_K \equiv \delta_K$.

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Dual of a convex function $f : \mathbb{R}^n \to \mathbb{R}$.

$$f^*(\theta) = \sup_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n} \theta^T x - f(x) \qquad \forall \theta \in \mathbb{R}^n.$$

Note: f^* is max of affine functions (one per x)

so f^* is convex.

$$- \quad f^*(0) = -\inf_x f(x).$$

$$- \quad \delta_K^*(c) = \sup_x c^T x - \delta_K(x)$$

$$= \sup_{x \in K} c^T x \qquad \boxed{\mathrm{EVAL}_{\delta_K^*} \equiv \mathrm{VAL}_K.}$$

Lemma $\nabla f^*(\theta) = \arg\max_x \theta^T x - f(x)$

Pf. $x_\theta = \arg\max_x \theta^T x - f(x).$

$$f^*(\theta) = \theta^T x_\theta - f(x_\theta)$$

$$\forall \eta \quad f^*(\eta) \geq \eta^T x_\theta - f(x_\theta)$$

$$\forall \eta \quad f^*(\eta) \geq \eta' x_\theta - f(x_\theta)$$

$$\Rightarrow \quad f^*(\eta) - f^*(\theta) \geq x_\theta^T (\eta - \theta)$$

$$\Rightarrow \quad x_\theta \in \text{subgrad}(f^*).$$

$$\boxed{\mathrm{GRAD}_{\delta^*_K} \equiv \mathrm{OPT}_K.}$$

$$\begin{tikzcd}
\boxed{\mathrm{OPT}} \arrow[r, shift left] \arrow[d, Rightarrow, shift right] & \boxed{\mathrm{SEP}} \arrow[l, shift left] \arrow[d, Rightarrow, shift right] \\
\boxed{\mathrm{VAL}} \arrow[u, dashed, shift right] & \boxed{\mathrm{MEM}} \arrow[u, shift right]
\end{tikzcd}
\qquad
\begin{tikzcd}
\boxed{\mathrm{GRAD}_{f^*}} \arrow[r, shift left] \arrow[d, Rightarrow, shift right] & \boxed{\mathrm{GRAD}_f} \arrow[l, shift left] \arrow[d, Rightarrow, shift right] \\
\boxed{\mathrm{EVAL}_{f^*}} \arrow[u, dashed, shift right] & \boxed{\mathrm{EVAL}_f} \arrow[u, shift right]
\end{tikzcd}$$

Thm. Convex f, $\mathrm{Epi}(f)$ closed, then $f^{**} = f$.

Pf. $\mathrm{Epi}(f) = \{(x,t) : f(x) \leq t\}$ is a convex set.

So it is an intersection of halfspaces H.

We can assume of the form $(\theta, b) : \theta^T x \geq b \quad \forall x \in \mathrm{Epi}(f)$

(Why?: $\theta^T x + \alpha t \leq b$

but if $(x,t) \in \mathrm{Epi} f$, then $\forall t' \geq t$, $(x, t') \in \mathrm{Epi} f$.

So take $\bar{t} = \underset{\substack{t \\ (x,t) \in \mathrm{Epi}(f)}}{\arg\max}\ \theta^T x + \alpha t \leq b$

So ... $\displaystyle t$
$(x,t)\in \mathrm{Epi}(f)$

$$\Leftrightarrow \quad \theta^T x \le b - \alpha \bar{t}.$$

$$f(x) \geq \theta^T x - b \quad \forall (\theta, b) \in \mathcal{H}$$

Fix θ.
$$b \geq \theta^T x - f(x) \quad \forall x$$
$$b \geq \sup_x \theta^T x - f(x) = f^*(\theta)$$

$$\Rightarrow f(x) = \sup_{(\theta,b)} \theta^T x - b = \sup_\theta \theta^T x - f^*(\theta) = f^{**}(x)$$

$\boxtimes$

Examples.

$$f(x) = \frac{1}{p} \sum x_i^p$$

$$f^*(x) = \frac{1}{q} \sum x_i^q$$

$$\frac{1}{p} + \frac{1}{q} = 1$$

$$f(x) = ax - b$$

$$f^*(\theta) = \begin{cases} 0 \\ \infty \end{cases} \qquad \theta = a$$

$$\nabla f \longleftrightarrow \nabla f^*$$

$$h = h^{**}$$

$$\ldots \theta^T x - h^*(\theta)$$

v.

$$\min_x \; g(x) + h(Ax) = \min_x \max_\theta \; g(x) + \theta^T A x - h^*(\theta)$$

$$= \max_\theta \min_x \; g(x) + (A^T\theta)^T x - h^*(\theta)$$

$$= \max_\theta - \max_x \; (-A^T\theta)^T x - g(x) \; - h^*(\theta)$$

$$= - \min_\theta \; g^*(-A^T\theta) + h^*(\theta) .$$

Sion's minimax Theorem. $X \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ compact, convex set.

$Y \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ convex. $f : X \times Y \to \mathbb{R} \cup \{+\infty\}$ s.t.

$f(x, \cdot)$ is upper semi-continuous and quasi-concave on Y

$f(\cdot, y)$ is lower ——— quasi convex on X.

Then

$$\min_{x\in X} \sup_{y \in Y} f(x,y) = \sup_{y\in Y} \min_{x \in X} f(x,y)$$

Example. SDP.

$C \bullet X \quad A_i \bullet X = b_i \quad i = 1, 2, \dots m$

Primal: $\max_{X \succeq 0} \quad C \cdot X \qquad A_i \bullet X = b_i \quad i=1,2,\dots m$

Dual: $\min_{y} \quad b^T y \qquad \sum_{i=1}^{m} y_i A_i \succeq C$

X is $n \times n$ symmetric.

Primal takes $O(n^2(Z+n^4))$ $\quad Z$: total # nnz in A_i.

Dual takes $O(m(Z+n^\omega+m^2))$

better when $m < n^2$, often the case.

But how to recover primal solution from dual?
(we only solve to some error ε).

$$\min_{\sum_i y_i A_i \succeq C} b^T y \quad = \quad \min_{v^T(\sum y_i A_i - C)v \geq 0 \ \forall v} b^T y$$

When running the cutting plane method on DUAL,

we get planes of the form $v^T(\sum y_i A_i - C)v \geq 0$

we get planes of the form $v^T(\sum_i y_i A_i - C)v \geq 0$
Let S be the set of all such v. At the end,

$$\min_{\sum y_i A_i \succeq C} b^T y \leq \min_{\substack{v^T(\sum_i y_i A_i - C)v \geq 0 \\ v \in S}} b^T y + \varepsilon.$$

Now consider RHS.

$$\min_{\substack{v^T(\sum_i y_i A_i - C)v \geq 0 \\ v \in S}} b^T y = \min_y \max_{\substack{\lambda_v \geq 0 \\ v \in S}} b^T y - \sum_{v \in S} \lambda_v v^T(\sum_i y_i A_i - C)v$$

$$= \max_{\lambda_v \geq 0} \min_y C \bullet \sum \lambda_v v v^T + b^T y - \sum_i y_i \left(A_i \bullet \sum_{v \in S} \lambda_v v v^T\right)$$

$$= \max_{X = \sum_{v \in S} \lambda_v v v^T, \lambda_v \geq 0} \min_y C \bullet X + \sum_i y_i (b_i - A_i \bullet X)$$

$$= \max_{X = \sum \lambda_v v v^T, \lambda_v \geq 0} C \bullet X$$ (else the OPT is $-\infty$)

$X = \sum \lambda_v \ldots \, , \; \lambda_v \geq 0$

$A_i \bullet X = b_i$

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this is $\max \sum_{v \in S} \lambda_v (v^T C v)$

$\sum_v \lambda_v (v^T A_i v) = b_i \, , \quad \lambda_v \geq 0$

an LP !
