

Constrained Optimization, Duality

CSci 8980: ML at Large Scale and High Dimensions

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Constrained Optimization

- The equality & inequality constrained optimization problem

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- Domain $\text{dom}(L) = \mathcal{D} \times \mathbb{R}^m \times \mathbb{R}^n$
- $\{\lambda_i\}_{i=1}^m, \{\nu_j\}_{j=1}^n$ are the Lagrange multipliers

- The Lagrange dual function

$$\begin{aligned} L^*(\lambda, \nu) &= \inf_{\mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{D}} L(\mathbf{x}, \lambda, \nu) \\ &= \inf_{\mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{D}} \left(f(\mathbf{x}) + \sum_{i=1}^m \lambda_i h_i(\mathbf{x}) + \sum_{j=1}^n \nu_j g_j(\mathbf{x}) \right) \end{aligned}$$

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- How close is the maximum of $L^*(\boldsymbol{\lambda}, \boldsymbol{\nu})$ to p^* ?

An Example

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{minimize } \mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{x} \\ & \text{subject to } A\mathbf{x} = b \end{aligned}$$

- Lagrangian $L(\mathbf{x}, \boldsymbol{\lambda}) = \mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{x} + \boldsymbol{\lambda}^T (A\mathbf{x} - b)$
- Recall that $L^*(\boldsymbol{\lambda}) = \inf_{\mathbf{x}} L(\mathbf{x}, \boldsymbol{\lambda})$
- Setting gradient to 0, $\mathbf{x} = -\frac{1}{2}A^T \boldsymbol{\lambda}$
- Hence, the dual

$$L^*(\boldsymbol{\lambda}) = L\left(-\frac{1}{2}A^T \boldsymbol{\lambda}, \boldsymbol{\lambda}\right) = -\frac{1}{4}\boldsymbol{\lambda}^T A A^T \boldsymbol{\lambda} - \boldsymbol{\lambda}^T b$$

- $L^*(\boldsymbol{\lambda})$ is a lower bounding concave function

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- Best lower bound to p^* , the optimal of the primal

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- For example, in linear programming

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{minimize } \mathbf{c}^T \mathbf{x} \\ & \text{subject to } A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b} \\ & \mathbf{x} \geq 0 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{maximize } -\mathbf{b}^T \boldsymbol{\lambda} \\ & \text{subject to } A^T \boldsymbol{\lambda} + \mathbf{c} \geq 0 \end{aligned}$$

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- Slater's Condition for strong duality

Example: Quadratic Programs

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- Lagrange dual

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- Dual problem

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{maximize } -\frac{1}{4} \boldsymbol{\nu}^T A A^T \boldsymbol{\nu} - \mathbf{b}^T \boldsymbol{\nu} \\ & \text{subject to } \boldsymbol{\nu} \geq 0 \end{aligned}$$

- From Slater's condition, $p^* = d^*$
- It is sufficient to solve the dual

Complementary Slackness

- If strong duality holds, \mathbf{x}^* for primal, $(\boldsymbol{\lambda}^*, \boldsymbol{\nu}^*)$ for dual

$$\begin{aligned} f(\mathbf{x}^*) = L^*(\boldsymbol{\lambda}^*, \boldsymbol{\nu}^*) &= \inf_{\mathbf{x}} \left(f(\mathbf{x}) + \sum_{i=1}^m \lambda_i^* h_i(\mathbf{x}) + \sum_{j=1}^n \nu_j^* g_j(\mathbf{x}) \right) \\ &\leq f(\mathbf{x}^*) + \sum_{i=1}^m \lambda_i^* h_i(\mathbf{x}^*) + \sum_{j=1}^n \nu_j^* g_j(\mathbf{x}^*) \\ &\leq f(\mathbf{x}^*) \end{aligned}$$

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- The two inequalities hold with equality
 - \mathbf{x}^* minimizes the Lagrangian $L(\mathbf{x}, \boldsymbol{\lambda}^*, \boldsymbol{\nu}^*)$
 - $\nu_j^* g_j(\mathbf{x}^*) = 0$ for all $j = 1, \dots, n$ so that

$$\nu_j^* > 0 \Rightarrow g_j(\mathbf{x}^*) = 0, \quad \text{and} \quad g_j(\mathbf{x}^*) < 0 \Rightarrow \nu_j^* = 0$$

Karush-Kuhn-Tucker (KKT) Conditions

Necessary conditions satisfied by any primal and dual optimal pairs $\tilde{\mathbf{x}}$ and $(\tilde{\lambda}, \tilde{\nu})$

- Primal Feasibility:

$$h_i(\tilde{\mathbf{x}}) = 0, i = 1, \dots, n, \quad g_j(\tilde{\mathbf{x}}) \leq 0, j = 1, \dots, m$$

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- Gradient condition:

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- The conditions are sufficient for a convex problem