

# Part II: Lagrange Multiplier Method & Karush-Kuhn-Tucker (KKT) Conditions

---

## KKT Conditions

General Non-Linear Constrained Minimum:

Min:  $f[x]$

Constrained by:  $h[x] = 0$  (m equality constraints)  
 $g[x] \leq 0$  (k inequality constraints)

Introduce slack variables  $s_i$  for the inequality constraints:  $g_i[x] + s_i^2 = 0$   
 and construct the monster Lagrangian:

$$L[x, \lambda, \mu] = f[x] + \lambda h[x] + \sum \mu_i (g_i[x] + s_i^2)$$

Recall the geometry of the Lagrange multiplier conditions: The gradient of the objective function must be orthogonal to the tangent plane of the (active) constraints. That is the projection of the gradient of  $f$  onto the space of directions tangent to the constraint "surface" is zero. The KKT conditions are analogous conditions in the case of constraints.

The KKT conditions are the following:

- 1) Gradient of the Lagrangian = 0
- 2) Constraints:  $h[x] = 0$  (m equality constraints) &  $g[x] \leq 0$  (k inequality constraints)
- 3) Complementary Slackness (for the  $s_i$  variables)  $\mu_i s_i = 0$
- 4) Feasibility for the inequality constraints:  $s_i^2 \geq 0$
- 5) Sign condition on the inequality multipliers:  $\mu_i \geq 0$

One final requirement for KKT to work is that the gradient of  $f$  at a feasible point must be a linear combination of the gradients for the equality constraints and the gradients of the active constraints: this is often called regularity of a feasible point.

At a feasible point for the constraints, the active constraints are those components of  $g$  with  $g_i[x] = 0$  (if the value of the constraining function is  $< 0$ , that constraint is said to be inactive).

The solution of a set of KKT equations proceeds by cases according to which inequality constraints are Active & Inactive.

---

## Example: Chong Zak Example 20.2

Consider a circuit with a 20V battery and two resistances in series:  $R$  and 10 ohm.  
 We will investigate the maximization of the power in each of the resistors separately

### ■ Subproblem One: Max in resistor R

Maximize power absorbed by resistance R

Equivalently; minimized: - Power absorbed by R =  $-i^2 R = -400 R / (10 + R)^2$  subject to  $-R \leq 0$ .

The lagrangian is  $L[R, \lambda] =$

$$L[R, \mu] := \frac{-400 R}{(10 + R)^2} + \mu (-R)$$

$$D[L[R, \mu], R]$$

$$D[L[R, \mu], \mu]$$

$$\frac{800 R}{(10 + R)^3} - \frac{400}{(10 + R)^2} - \mu$$

$$-R$$

KKT also gives us the complementary slackness:  $\mu R = 0$  and the sign condition for the inequality constraints:  $\mu \geq 0$ .

But, if  $\mu > 0$ , then  $R = 0$  which gives no power absorbed by R.

If the constraint is inactive we must solve

$$\text{Solve}[D[L[R, \mu], R] /. \{\mu \rightarrow 0\}] == 0, R]$$

$$\{\{R \rightarrow 10\}\}$$

This gives the maximum

### ■ Subproblem Two: Maximization of power in 10 ohm resistor

Find the value of R such that maximal power is delivered to the 10 ohm resistor, i.e:

Min:  $-\frac{4000}{(10+R)^2}$  subject to  $-R \leq 0$

$$L[R, \mu] := \frac{-4000}{(10 + R)^2} + \mu (-R)$$

Again, KKT gives us a complementary slackness condition:  $\mu R = 0$  and the sign condition for the inequality constraints:  $\mu \geq 0$ .

But, if  $\mu = 0$ , we must solve

$$\text{Solve}[D[L[R, \mu], R] /. \{\mu \rightarrow 0\}] == 0, R]$$

$$\{\}$$

This first case has no solutions. However,  $R = 0$  is possible in the case  $\mu > 0$

## KKT conditions for a Linear Program: (Franklin: p. 197)

### ■ Lagrangian

Min:  $c^T \cdot x$  subject to the linear constraints:

$$A \cdot x = b, \quad x \geq 0,$$

the associated Lagrangian is:

$$L[x, \lambda] = c^T \cdot x + \text{Transpose}[\lambda] (A \cdot x - b) + \mu \cdot (-x + s^{[2]})$$

The KKT conditions yield:

$$c^T - \text{Transpose}[\lambda] \cdot A + \text{Transpose}[\mu] = 0$$

$$A \cdot x - b = 0$$

$$x \geq 0,$$

$$2 \text{ Transpose}[\mu] \cdot s = 0$$

$$\mu \geq 0$$

Eliminating  $\mu$ , we obtain the following:  $c^T - \text{Transpose}[\lambda] \cdot A \leq 0$ ,  $(c^T - \text{Transpose}[\lambda] \cdot A) \cdot x - \text{Transpose}[\mu] \cdot (s^{[2]}) = 0$  yielding

$$c^T \cdot x = \text{Transpose}[\lambda] \cdot A \cdot x = \text{Transpose}[\lambda] \cdot b \text{ which is the } \mathbf{\text{equilibrium condition}} \text{ in mild disguise!}$$

## Example: Pedregal Example 3.10, p. 82

A certain electrical networks is designed to supply power  $x_i$  thru 3 channels.

$$p[x_, y_, z_] = z + (x^2 + y^2 + z^2 / 10) / 2;$$

Contraint:  $h[x, y, z] = x + y + z = 5$ ,  $x, y, z \geq 0$

Note that this gives a "slanted" triangles with vertices on the axes 5 units from the origin.

$$h[x_, y_, z_] = x + y + z$$

The KKT conditions give:

$$1) \quad \nabla f + \lambda \nabla h + \mu \nabla g = \{x, y, 1 + z/10\} + \lambda \{1, 1, 1\} + \{\mu_1, \mu_2, \mu_3\} = \{0, 0, 0\}$$

$$2) \quad \text{Constraint: } h = 5$$

$$3) \quad \mu_1 x = 0, \mu_2 y = 0, \mu_3 z = 0,$$

Checking for active constraints will divide in the consideration of 8 cases for the three inequality constraints.

## KKT: Necessary Conditions for Quad. Program

### ■ Review: Quadratic Programs

The general quadratic program proposes to minimize an objective function of the form:  $\text{Min: } x.Q.x/2 + p.x$  subject to the linear constraints:

$$A.x == b, \quad x \geq 0$$

Note that we may assume that  $Q$  is a symmetric matrix (and that  $Q$  is the Hessian of the objective function.) This is a non-linear program problem, for the objective function is a quadratic function (if  $Q$  is non-zero.)

### ■ Wolfe's Reduction to LP

Given the Quadratic Program as above, the associated Linear Program is:

$$\begin{aligned} A.x &== b \\ Q.x + \text{Transpose}[A].u - v &== -p \\ x &\geq 0, v \geq 0, x.v == 0 \end{aligned}$$

Note that the vector  $u$  is not necessarily positive. The only additional feature is the **exclusion rule**:  $x.v == 0$ , this requirement states that the  $i^{\text{th}}$  components of  $x$  and  $v$  can not both be positive simultaneously.

Finally, note that the existence of a solution of the associated LP is only necessary for the existence of a solution to the QP and is sufficient in case  $Q$  is positive semi-definite.

In practice we solve the LP program:

$$\begin{aligned} A.x &== b \\ Q.x + \text{Transpose}[A].u - v + D.z &== -p \\ x &\geq 0, u \text{ free}, v \geq 0, z \geq 0 \\ \text{Min: } \{1, \dots, 1\}.z \end{aligned}$$

Initial Feasible Solution:  $x, u=0, v=0, z$  where  $x$  is a basic feasible solution of  $A.x == b, x \geq 0$ ,  $D$  is a diagonal matrix with entries  $\pm 1$  to correct the signs of  $z$  and  $z$  is chosen such that  $Q.x + D.z == -p, z \geq 0$ .

### ■ KKT conditions for a Quadratic Program

#### ■ Lagrangian

Given:  $x.Q.x/2 + p.x$  subject to the linear constraints:

$$A.x == b, \quad x \geq 0,$$

the associated Lagrangian is:

$$L[x, \lambda] = x.Q.x/2 + p.x + \lambda (A.x - b) + \mu.x$$

The KKT conditions yield:

$$Q.x + p - \text{Transpose}[A].\lambda + \mu == 0$$

$$\text{Transpose}[\lambda].(A.x - b) == 0$$

$$\text{Transpose}[\mu].x == 0$$

$$A.x == b, \quad x \geq 0,$$

## Exercises

I. Write down the KKT conditions for the problem:

Min  $f[x] = -x_1^3 + x_2^2 - 2x_1x_3^2$  subject to the constraints:

$$2x_1 + x_2^2 + x_3 - 5 == 0$$

$$5x_1^2 - x_2^2 - x_3 \geq 2$$

$$x_i \geq 0 \text{ for } i = 1, 2, 3.$$

Verify that the KKT conditions are satisfied at (1,0,3).

II. Write down the KKT conditions for the problem:

Min  $f[x] = x_1^2 + x_2^2 + x_3^2$  subject to the constraints:

$$-x_1 + x_2 - x_3 \geq -10$$

$$x_1 + x_2 + 4x_3 \geq 20$$

Find all the solutions.

III. Here's an exercise from Grieg p. 142):

Minimize:  $f[x] = (x_1 - 1)^2 + (x_2 - 2)^2 + (x_3 - 3)^2 + (x_4 - 4)^2$

$$\text{subject to: } -x_1 - x_2 - x_3 - x_4 + 5 \geq 0$$

$$-3x_1 - 3x_2 - 2x_3 - x_4 + 10 \geq 0$$

$$x \geq 0$$

Verify the KT conditions and then expand  $f$  to obtain a Quadratic Program and compare the KT conditions with Wolfe's.

Solve the problem using Wolfe's method .

Bonus: Solve the problem using a projected gradient methods (mimic affine scaling) and a projected Newton's method.

Compare the results.