

# TANGENT CONE AND CONSTRAINT QUALIFICATIONS

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## 1 TANGENT CONE & LINEARISED FEASIBLE DIRECTIONS

### 1.1 TANGENT CONE

- We determined whether or not it was possible to take a feasible descent step away from a given feasible point  $x$ ;
- by examining the first derivatives of  $f$  and;
- the constraint functions  $c_i$ .
- The first-order Taylor series expansion of these functions about  $x$  was used to form an approximate problem in which both objective and constraints are linear.
- Makes sense if the linearised approximation captures the essential geometric features of the feasible set near the point  $x$  in question.
- Assumptions about the nature of the constraints  $c_i$  that are active at  $x$  are needed to be made to ensure that the linearised approximation is similar to the feasible set, near  $x$ .
- Given a feasible point  $x$ ,  $\{z_k\}$  is called a feasible sequence approaching  $x$ , if  $z_k \in \Omega$  for all  $k$ , sufficiently large and  $z_k \rightarrow x$ .

#### Definition (Cone)

A cone is a set  $\mathcal{F}$  with the property that for all  $x \in \mathcal{F}$  we have

$$x \in \mathcal{F} \implies \alpha x \in \mathcal{F}, \text{ for all } \alpha > 0.$$

#### Example

The set  $\mathcal{F} \subset \mathbb{R}^2$  defined by

$$\{(x_1, x_2)^T \mid x_1 > 0, x_2 \geq 0\}$$

is a cone in  $\mathbb{R}^2$ .

#### Definition

The vector  $d$  is said to be a **tangent** (or **tangent vector**) to  $\Omega$  at a point  $x$  if there are a feasible sequence  $\{z_k\}$  approaching  $x$  and a sequence of positive scalars  $\{t_k\}$  with  $t_k \rightarrow 0$  such that

$$\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \frac{z_k - x}{t_k} = d. \quad (1)$$

The set of all tangents to  $\Omega$  at  $x^*$  is called the tangent cone and is denoted by  $T_\Omega(x^*)$ .

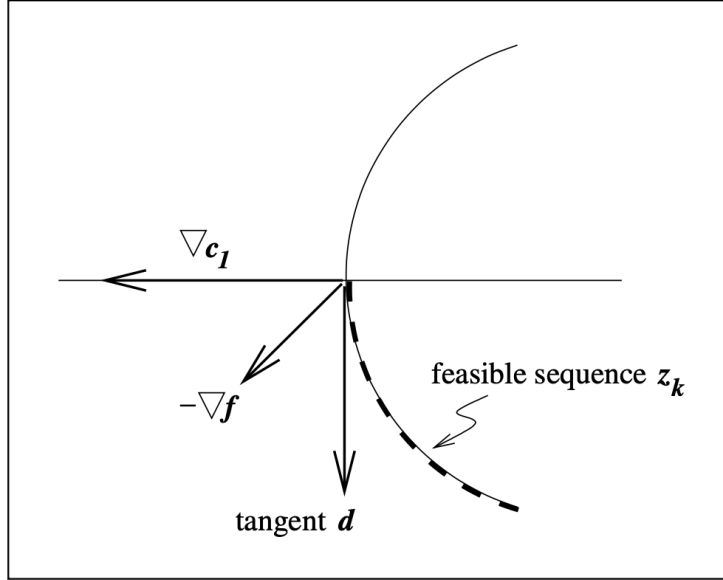


Figure 1: Constraint normal, objective gradient, and feasible sequence

## 1.2 Linearised Feasible Direction

### Definition (Linearised Feasible Direction)

Given a feasible point  $x$  and the active constraint set  $\mathcal{A}(x)$ , the set of linearised feasible directions  $\mathcal{F}(x)$  is

$$\mathcal{F}(x) = \left\{ d \mid \begin{array}{l} d^T \nabla c_i(x) = 0, \quad \text{for all } i \in \mathcal{E} \\ d^T \nabla c_i(x) \geq 0, \quad \text{for all } i \in \mathcal{A}(x) \cap \mathcal{I} \end{array} \right\} \quad (2)$$

- $\mathcal{F}(x)$  is also a cone.
- The definition of tangent cone does not explicitly depend on the constraints  $c_i$  it depends on the geometry of  $\Omega$ .
- The linearised feasible direction set does, however, depend on the definition of the constraint functions  $c_i$ ,  $i \in \mathcal{E} \cup \mathcal{I}$ .

## 1.3 Examples

### Tangent Cone and Feasible Direction for One Equality Constraint

- Consider the problem with one equality constraint.
- The objective function  $f(x) = x_1 + x_2$ ,  $\mathcal{E} = \{1\}$ ,  $\mathcal{I} = \emptyset$
- $c_1(x) = x_1^2 + x_2^2 - 2$
- The feasible set for this problem is the circle of radius  $\sqrt{2}$  centered at the origin.
- Consider the non-optimal point  $x = (-\sqrt{2}, 0)^T$ .

- The figure also shows a feasible sequence approaching  $x$ .

$$z_k = \begin{bmatrix} -\sqrt{2 - 1/k^2} \\ -1/k \end{bmatrix}$$

- Choose  $t_k = \|z_k - x\|$ , to get  $d = (0, -1)^T$  is a tangent.
- $f$  increases as we move along  $z_k$ , i.e.  $f(z_{k+1}) > f(z_k)$  for all  $k = 2, 3, \dots$
- $f(z_k) < f(x)$  for  $k = 2, 3, \dots$ , so  $x$  cannot be a minimiser.
- Consider the non-optimal point  $x = (\sqrt{2}, 0)^T$ .
- The figure also shows a feasible sequence approaching  $x$ .

$$z_k = \begin{bmatrix} -\sqrt{2 - 1/k^2} \\ -1/k \end{bmatrix}$$

- Choose  $t_k = \|z_k - x\|$ , to get  $d = (0, -1)^T$  is a tangent.
- $f$  increases as we move along  $z_k$ , i.e.  $f(z_{k+1}) > f(z_k)$  for all  $k = 2, 3, \dots$
- $f(z_k) < f(x)$  for  $k = 2, 3, \dots$ , so  $x$  cannot be a minimiser.
- Another feasible sequence is one that approaches  $x = (-\sqrt{2}, 0)^T$  from the opposite direction.

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$$z_k = \begin{bmatrix} -\sqrt{2 - 1/k^2} \\ 1/k \end{bmatrix}$$

- $f$  decreases along this sequence.
- The tangents corresponding to this sequence are  $d = (0, \alpha)^T$ .
- In summary, the tangent cone at  $x = (-\sqrt{2}, 0)^T$  is  $\{(0, d_2)^T | d_2 \in \mathbb{R}\}$ .
- For the set of linearised feasible directions  $\mathcal{F}(x)$ ,  $d = (d_1, d_2)^T \in \mathcal{F}(x)$  if

$$0 = \nabla c_1(x)^T d = \begin{bmatrix} 2x_1 \\ 2x_2 \end{bmatrix}^T \begin{bmatrix} d_1 \\ d_2 \end{bmatrix} = -2\sqrt{2}d_1$$

- $\mathcal{F}(x) = \{(0, d_2)^T | d_2 \in \mathbb{R}\}$ .
- In this case  $T_\Omega(x) = \mathcal{F}(x)$ .
- Suppose that the feasible set is defined instead by the formula

$$\Omega = \{x | c_1(x) = 0\}, \quad \text{where } c_1(x) = (x_1^2 + x_2^2 - 2)^2 = 0$$

- $\Omega$  is geometrically the same, but with a different algebraic specification.
- Then  $d$  belongs to the linearised feasible set if:

$$0 = \nabla c_1(x)^T d = \begin{bmatrix} 4(x_1^2 + x_2^2 - 2)x_1 \\ 4(x_1^2 + x_2^2 - 2)x_2 \end{bmatrix}^T \begin{bmatrix} d_1 \\ d_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}^T \begin{bmatrix} d_1 \\ d_2 \end{bmatrix}$$

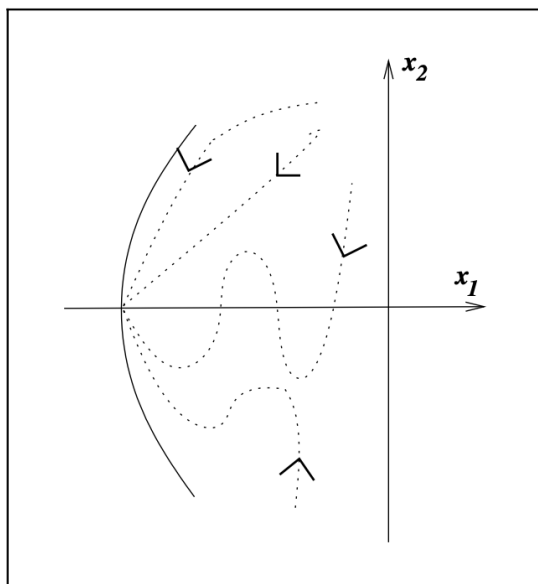


Figure 2: Feasible sequences converging to a particular feasible point for the region defined by  $x_1^2 + x_2^2 \leq 2$

- which is true for all  $(d_1, d_2)^T$ .
- $\mathcal{F}(x) = \mathbb{R}^2$ .
- So for this algebraic specification of  $\Omega$ , the tangent cone and linearised feasible sets differ.

### Tangent Cone and Feasible Direction for One In-Equality Constraint

- The solution  $x = (-1, -1)^T$  is the same as in the equality-constrained case.
- But, there is a much more extensive collection of feasible sequences that converge to any given feasible point.
- From the point  $x = (-\sqrt{2}, 0)^T$ , all the feasible sequences defined above for the equality-constrained problem are still feasible.
- There are also infinitely many feasible sequences that converge to  $x$ , along a straight line from the interior of the circle.

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$$z_k = (-\sqrt{2}, 0)^T + (1/k)w,$$

where  $w$  is any vector whose first component is positive ( $w_1 > 0$ ).

- $z_k$  is feasible provided that  $\|z_k\| \leq \sqrt{2}$  i.e.

$$(-\sqrt{2} + w_1/k)^2 + (w_2/k)^2 \leq 2,$$

- Which is true when  $k \geq (w_1^2 + w_2^2)/(2\sqrt{2}w_1)$
- we can also define an infinite variety of sequences that approach  $x$  along a curve from the interior of the circle.

- To summarize, the tangent cone to this set at  $(-\sqrt{2}, 0)^T$  is  $\{(w_1, w_2)^T | w_1 \geq 0\}$ .
- For the feasibility set  $\mathcal{F}(x)$  let us consider:

$$0 \leq \nabla c_1(x)^T d = \begin{bmatrix} -2x_1 \\ -2x_2 \end{bmatrix}^T \begin{bmatrix} d_1 \\ d_2 \end{bmatrix} = 2\sqrt{2}d_1$$

- Hence, we obtain  $\mathcal{F}(x) = T_\Omega(x)$  for this particular algebraic specification of the feasible set.

## 2 Constraint Qualifications

- Constraint qualifications are conditions under which the linearised feasible set  $\mathcal{F}(x)$  is similar to the tangent cone  $T_\Omega(x)$ .
- Most constraint qualifications ensure that these two sets are identical.
- These conditions ensure that the  $\mathcal{F}(x)$ , which is constructed by linearising the algebraic description of the set  $\Omega$  at  $x$ , captures the essential geometric features of the set  $\Omega$  in the vicinity of  $x$ , as represented by  $T_\Omega$ .

### Definition (LICQ)

Given the point  $x$  and the active set  $\mathcal{A}(x)$ , we say that the linear independence constraint qualification (LICQ) holds if the set of active constraint gradients  $\{\nabla c_i(x) | i \in \mathcal{A}(x)\}$  is linearly independent.

In general, if LICQ holds, none of the active constraint gradients can be zero.

## 3 FIRST-ORDER OPTIMALITY CONDITIONS

Consider the constrained optimisation problem

$$\min_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n} f(x) \quad \text{subject to} \quad \begin{cases} c_i(x) = 0, & i \in \mathcal{E} \\ c_j(x) \geq 0, & j \in \mathcal{I} \end{cases} \quad (3)$$

$f$  and  $c_i$  are scalar valued functions of the vector of unknowns  $x$  and  $\mathcal{E}$  and  $\mathcal{I}$  are set of indices. Define the Lagrangian function for the general problem as

$$\mathcal{L}(x, \lambda) = f(x) - \sum_{i \in \mathcal{E} \cup \mathcal{I}} \lambda_i c_i(x). \quad (4)$$

- The necessary conditions defined in the following theorem are called first-order conditions.
- They are named so owing to their association with gradients (first-derivative vectors) of the objective and constraint functions.
- They act as a foundation for many of the algorithms.

### 3.1 First-Order Necessary Conditions

#### Theorem

Suppose that  $x^*$  is a local solution of the optimisation problem (3), that the functions  $f$  and  $c_i$ 's in (3) are continuously differentiable, and that the LICQ holds at  $x^*$ . Then there is a Lagrange multiplier vector  $\lambda^*$ , with components  $\lambda_i^*$ ,  $i \in \mathcal{E} \cup \mathcal{I}$ , such that the following conditions are satisfied at  $(x^*, \lambda^*)$

$$\nabla_x \mathcal{L}(x^*, \lambda^*) = 0, \quad (5)$$

$$c_i(x^*) = 0, \quad \text{for all } i \in \mathcal{E}, \quad (6)$$

$$c_i(x^*) \geq 0, \quad \text{for all } i \in \mathcal{I}, \quad (7)$$

$$\lambda_i^* \geq 0, \quad \text{for all } i \in \mathcal{I}, \quad (8)$$

$$\lambda_i^* c_i(x^*) = 0, \quad \text{for all } i \in \mathcal{E} \cup \mathcal{I}. \quad (9)$$

- The above stated conditions are often known as the *Karush–Kuhn–Tucker* conditions, or *KKT* conditions for short.
- The last set of conditions comprises of conditions that are the complementarity conditions; they imply that either constraint  $i$  is active or  $\lambda_i^* = 0$ , or possibly both.
- The *Lagrange multipliers* corresponding to *inactive inequality constraints are zero*.
- We can omit the terms for indices  $i \notin \mathcal{A}(x^*)$  and rewrite the first condition as

$$0 = \nabla_x \mathcal{L}(x^*, \lambda^*) = \nabla f(x^*) - \sum_{i \in \mathcal{A}(x^*)} \lambda_i^* \nabla c_i(x^*). \quad (10)$$

#### Definition (Strict Complementarity)

Given a local solution  $x^*$  of the optimisation problem and a vector  $\lambda^*$  satisfying the KKT conditions, we say that the *strict complementarity condition* holds if exactly one of  $\lambda_i^*$  and  $c_i(x^*)$  is zero for each index  $i \in \mathcal{I}$ . In other words, we have that  $\lambda_i^* > 0$  for each  $i \in \mathcal{I} \cup \mathcal{A}(x^*)$ .

- Satisfaction of the strict complementarity property usually makes it easier for algorithms to determine the active set  $\mathcal{A}(x^*)$  and converge rapidly to the solution  $x^*$ .
- For a given problem and solution point  $x^*$ , there may be many vectors  $\lambda^*$  for which the KKT conditions are satisfied.
- When the LICQ holds, however, the optimal  $\lambda^*$  is unique.

### 3.2 KKT Conditions With an Example

Consider the feasible region illustrated in Figure 3 described by the four constraints of the ensuing optimization problem.

$$\min_x \left( x_1 - \frac{3}{2} \right)^2 + \left( x_2 - \frac{1}{2} \right)^2 \quad \text{s.t.} \quad \begin{bmatrix} 1 - x_1 - x_2 \\ 1 - x_1 + x_2 \\ 1 + x_1 - x_2 \\ 1 + x_1 + x_2 \end{bmatrix} \geq 0. \quad (11)$$

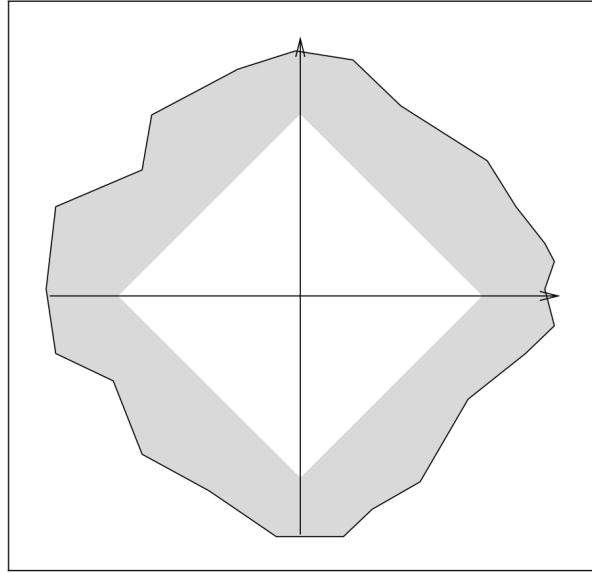


Figure 3: Four constraints

### 3.3 FIRST-ORDER OPTIMALITY CONDITIONS

#### Lemma

Let  $x^*$  be a feasible point. The following two statements are true.

1.  $T_{\Omega}(x^*) \subset \mathcal{F}(x^*)$ .
2. If the LICQ condition is satisfied at  $x^*$ ,  $T_{\Omega}(x^*) = \mathcal{F}(x^*)$ .
  - The above Lemma uses a constraint qualification (LICQ) to relate the tangent cone  $T_{\Omega}$  to the set  $\mathcal{F}$  of first-order feasible directions.

### 3.4 A FUNDAMENTAL NECESSARY CONDITION

#### Definition (Local Solution)

A **local solution** of the optimisation problem is a point  $x$  at which all feasible sequences have the property that  $f(z_k) \geq f(x)$  for all  $k$  sufficiently large.

#### Theorem

If  $x^*$  is a local solution of the optimization problem (3), then we have

$$\nabla f(x^*)^T d \geq 0, \quad \text{for all } d \in T_{\Omega}(x^*) \quad (12)$$

- Therefore the theorem says if a sequence  $z_k$  as considered above exists, then its limiting directions must make a non-negative inner product with the gradient of the objective function.

#### Proof of Theorem

- To contradict lets assume that there is a tangent  $d$  for which  $\nabla f(x^*)^T d < 0$ .
- Let  $\{z_k\}$  and  $\{t_k\}$  be the sequences satisfying definition of tangent vector for this  $d$ .

- Then we have:

$$\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \frac{z_k - x^*}{t_k} = d$$

$$z_k = x^* + t_k d + o(t_k).$$

. for  $k$  sufficiently large.

- We have:

$$\begin{aligned} f(z_k) &= f(x^*) + (z_k - x^*)^T \nabla f(x^*) + o(\|z_k - x^*\|) \\ &= f(x^*) + t_k d^T \nabla f(x^*) + o(t_k) \end{aligned}$$

- Since  $d^T \nabla f(x^*) < 0$ , and the remainder term eventually gets dominated by the first-order term we have

$$f(z_k) < f(x^*) + \frac{1}{2} t_k d^T \nabla f(x^*), \quad \text{for all } k \text{ sufficiently large.}$$

- This implies given an open nbhd of  $x^*$ , a  $k$  sufficiently large can be chosen such that  $z_k$  lies in this nbhd and has a lower value lower value of the objective  $f$ .
- Therefore,  $x^*$  is not a local solution.

## Is the Converse True?

- The converse of this result is not necessarily true.
- We may have  $\nabla f(x^*)^T d \geq 0$  for all  $d \in T_\Omega(x^*)$ , yet  $x^*$  not being a local minimiser.
- Consider the problem

$$\min x_2 \quad \text{subject to } x_2 \geq -x_1^2.$$

- The problem is unbounded.
- Let us examine its behaviour at  $x^* = (0, 0)^T$ .
- All limiting directions  $d$  of feasible sequences must have  $d_2 \geq 0$ , so that  $\nabla f(x^*)^T d = d_2 \geq 0$ .
- $x^*$  is clearly not a local minimiser.
- The point  $(\alpha, -\alpha^2)^T$  for  $\alpha > 0$  has a smaller function value than  $x^*$ , and can be brought arbitrarily close to  $x^*$  by setting  $\alpha$  sufficiently small.

## 3.5 FARKAS' LEMMA

- The most important step in proving the KKT theorem.
- This lemma considers a cone  $K$  defined as follows:

$$K = \{By + Cw \mid y \geq 0\}, \tag{13}$$

where  $B$  and  $C$  are matrices of dimension  $n \times m$  and  $n \times p$ , respectively, and  $y$  and  $w$  are vectors of appropriate dimensions.



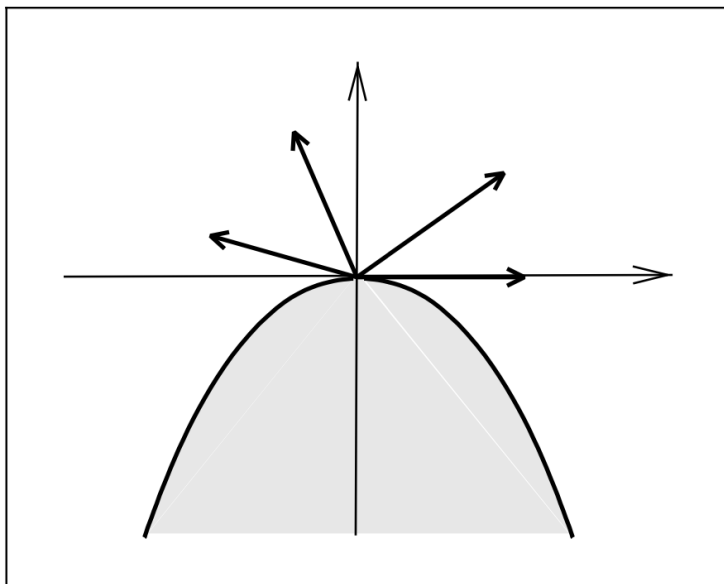


Figure 4: showing various limiting directions of feasible sequences at the point  $(0,0)^T$ .

- Given  $g \in \mathbb{R}^n$ , **Farkas' Lemma** states that one (and only one) of the two alternatives is true.

1. Either  $g \in K$ , or else
2. there is a vector  $d \in \mathbb{R}^n$  such that

$$g^T d < 0, \quad B^T d \geq 0, \quad C^T d = 0. \quad (14)$$

- In the above figure  $B$  has three columns,  $C$  is null and  $n = 2$ .
- Note that in the second case, the vector  $d$  defines a *separating hyperplane*, which is a plane in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  that separates the vector  $g$  from the cone  $K$ .

### Farkas' Lemma

Let the cone  $K$  be defined as above. Given any vector  $g \in \mathbb{R}^n$ , we have either that  $g \in K$  or that there exist  $d \in \mathbb{R}^n$  satisfying (14), but not both.

### 3.6 Proof of First-Order Necessary Conditions (KKT)

- Suppose that  $x^* \in \mathbb{R}^n$  is a feasible point at which the LICQ holds.
- The theorem claims that if  $x^*$  is a solution for the optimisation problem, then there is a vector  $\lambda^* \in \mathbb{R}^m$  that satisfies the KKT conditions.
- We first show that there are multipliers  $\lambda_i, i \in \mathcal{A}(x^*)$ , such that the following is satisfied:

$$\nabla f(x^*) = \sum_{i \in \mathcal{A}(x^*)} \lambda_i \nabla c_i(x^*)$$

- We have from the previous theorem

$$d^T \nabla f(x^*) \geq 0, \quad \text{for all tangent vectors } d \in T_{\Omega}(x^*).$$

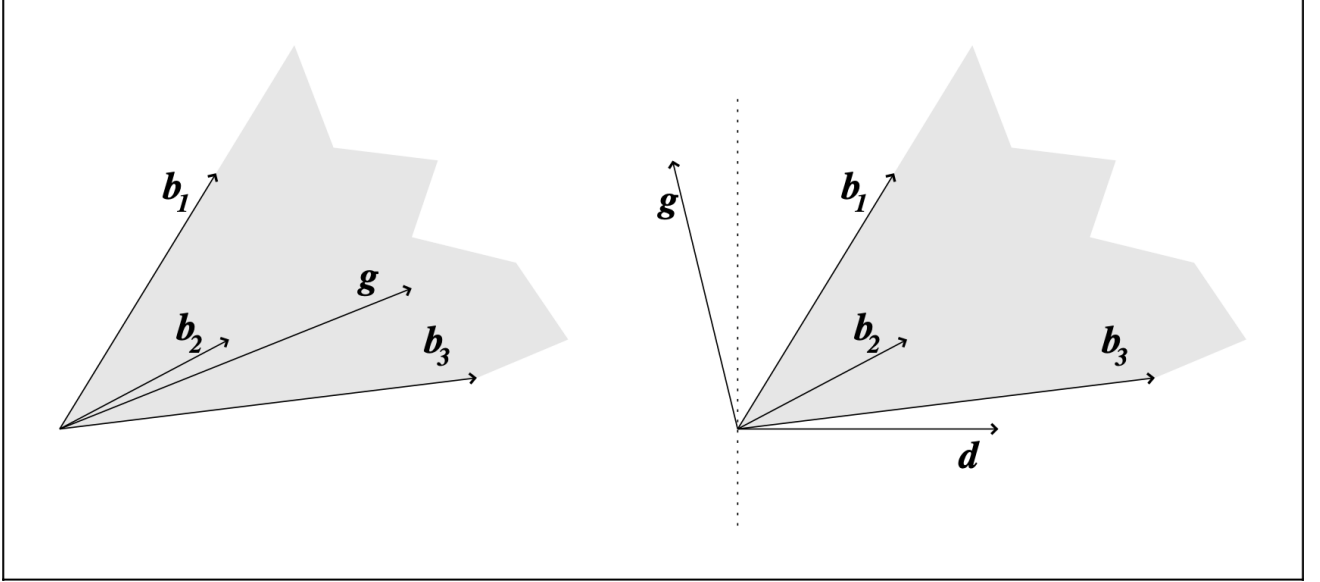


Figure 5: Farkas' Lemma: Either  $g \in L$  (left) or there is a separating hyperplane (right).

- We also have the equivalence of  $\mathcal{F}(x^*)$  and  $T_{\Omega}(x^*)$ , whenever LICQ holds
- But putting together the above two results we have

$$d^T \nabla f(x^*) \geq 0 \quad \text{for all } d \in \mathcal{F}(x^*).$$

- Consider the cone  $N$  defined by:

$$N = \left\{ \sum_{i \in \mathcal{A}(x^*)} \lambda_i \nabla c_i(x^*), \quad \lambda_i \geq 0 \text{ for } i \in \mathcal{A}(x^*) \cap \mathcal{I} \right\} \quad (15)$$

- Set  $g = \nabla f(x^*)$ .
- Now, Farkas' Lemma implies either

$$\nabla f(x^*) = \sum_{i \in \mathcal{A}(x^*)} \lambda_i \nabla c_i(x^*) = A(x^*)^T \lambda^*, \quad \lambda_i \geq 0 \text{ for } i \in \mathcal{A}(x^*) \cap \mathcal{I} \quad (16)$$

- or else there is a direction  $d$  such that  $d^T \nabla f(x^*) < 0$  and  $d \in \mathcal{F}(x^*)$ .
- We have as a consequence of the previously stated results, that (16) holds true.
- We now define the vector  $\lambda^*$  as

$$\lambda_i^* = \begin{cases} \lambda_i, & i \in \mathcal{A}(x^*), \\ 0, & i \in \mathcal{I} \setminus \mathcal{A}(x^*), \end{cases} \quad (17)$$

and show that this choice of  $\lambda^*$ , together with our local solution  $x^*$ , satisfies the KKT conditions.

- The stationary point condition for the Lagrangian function follows immediately from (16) and the definitions of Lagrangian function and the definition of  $\lambda^*$  above.
- Since  $x^*$  is feasible, the two feasibility conditions are satisfied.
- $\lambda_i^* \geq 0$  for  $i \in \mathcal{A}(x^*) \cap \mathcal{I}$ , while from the definition of  $\lambda^*$ ,  $\lambda_i^* = 0$  for  $i \in \mathcal{I} \setminus \mathcal{A}(x^*)$ .

- Hence,  $\lambda_i^* \geq 0$  for  $i \in \mathcal{I}$ .
- We have for  $i \in \mathcal{A}(x^*) \cap \mathcal{I}$  that  $c_i(x^*) = 0$ , while for  $i \in \mathcal{I} \setminus \mathcal{A}(x^*)$ , we have  $\lambda_i^* = 0$ .
- Hence  $\lambda_i^* c_i(x^*) = 0$ , for  $i \in \mathcal{I}$ .

## 4 SECOND-ORDER CONDITIONS

- The KKT conditions tell us how the first derivatives of  $f$  and the active constraints  $c_i$  are related to each other at a solution  $x^*$ .
- When these conditions are satisfied, any movement along any vector  $w \in \mathcal{F}(x^*)$  either increases the first-order approximation to the objective function ( $\nabla f(x^*)^T w > 0$ ) or else keeps this value the same ( $\nabla f(x^*)^T w = 0$ ).
- For the directions  $w \in \mathcal{F}(x^*)$  for which  $\nabla f(x^*)^T w = 0$  one cannot determine from first derivative information alone whether a move along this direction will increase or decrease the objective function  $f$ .
- Second derivatives play a “tiebreaking” role.
- The second derivative terms in the Taylor series expansions of  $f$  and  $c_i$  are examined by the second-order conditions.
- The approach is to see whether this extra information resolves the issue of increase or decrease in  $f$ .
- These conditions are concerned with the curvature of the Lagrangian function in the “undecided” directions ( $w \in \mathcal{F}(x^*)$  for which  $\nabla f(x^*)^T w = 0$ ).
- For second derivatives stronger smoothness assumptions are needed,  $f$  and  $c_i$ ,  $i \in \mathcal{I} \cup \mathcal{E}$ , are all assumed to be twice continuously differentiable.

### Definition (Critical Cone)

Given  $\mathcal{F}(x^*)$  and some Lagrange multiplier vector  $\lambda^*$  satisfying the KKT conditions, we define the critical cone  $\mathcal{C}(x^*, \lambda^*)$  as follows:

$$\mathcal{C}(x^*, \lambda^*) = \{w \in \mathcal{F}(x^*) \mid \nabla c_i(x^*)^T w = 0, \text{ for all } i \in \mathcal{A}(x^*) \cap \mathcal{I} \text{ with } \lambda_i^* > 0\}$$

Equivalently,

$$w \in \mathcal{C}(x^*, \lambda^*) \Leftrightarrow \begin{cases} \nabla c_i(x^*)^T w = 0, & \text{for all } i \in \mathcal{E}, \\ \nabla c_i(x^*)^T w = 0, & \text{for all } i \in \mathcal{A}(x^*) \cap \mathcal{I} \text{ with } \lambda_i^* > 0, \\ \nabla c_i(x^*)^T w \geq 0, & \text{for all } i \in \mathcal{A}(x^*) \cap \mathcal{I} \text{ with } \lambda_i^* = 0. \end{cases}$$

- From the above definition, and the fact that  $\lambda_i^* = 0$  for all inactive components  $i \in \mathcal{I} \setminus \mathcal{A}(x^*)$ , it follows that

$$w \in \mathcal{C}(x^*, \lambda^*) \implies \lambda_i^* \nabla c_i(x^*)^T w = 0, \text{ for all } i \in \mathcal{E} \cup \mathcal{I}.$$

- Now from the first KKT condition and from the definition of the Lagrangian function, we have

$$w \in \mathcal{C}(x^*, \lambda^*) \implies w^T \nabla f(x^*) = \sum_{i \in \mathcal{E} \cup \mathcal{I}} \lambda_i^* w^T \nabla c_i(x^*) = 0.$$

- Hence the critical cone contains directions from  $\mathcal{F}(x^*)$  for which it is not clear from first derivative information alone whether  $f$  will increase or decrease.

### Theorem (Second-Order Necessary Conditions)

Suppose that  $x^*$  is a local solution of the optimisation problem and that the LICQ condition is satisfied. Let  $\lambda^*$  be the Lagrange multiplier vector for which the KKT conditions are satisfied. Then

$$w^T \nabla_{xx}^2 \mathcal{L}(x^*, \lambda^*) w \geq 0, \quad \text{for all } w \in \mathcal{C}(x^*, \lambda^*). \quad (18)$$

### Theorem Second-Order Sufficient Conditions

Suppose that for some feasible point  $x^* \in \mathbb{R}^n$  there is a Lagrange multiplier vector  $\lambda^*$  such that the KKT conditions are satisfied. Suppose also that

$$w^T \nabla_{xx}^2 \mathcal{L}(x^*, \lambda^*) w > 0, \quad \text{for all } w \in \mathcal{C}(x^*, \lambda^*), w \neq 0. \quad (19)$$

Then  $x^*$  is a strict local solution for the optimisation problem.

## 4.1 Example

- $f(x) = x_1 + x_2$ ,  $c_1(x) = 2 - x_1^2 - x_2^2$
- $\mathcal{E} = \emptyset$ ,  $\mathcal{I} = \{1\}$
- The Lagrangian is

$$\mathcal{L}(x, \lambda) = (x_1 + x_2) - \lambda_1(2 - x_1^2 - x_2^2),$$

- It can be verified that the KKT conditions are satisfied at  $x^* = (-1, -1)^T$ , with  $\lambda_1^* = \frac{1}{2}$ .
- The Lagrangian Hessian at this point is

$$\nabla_{xx}^2 \mathcal{L}(x^*, \lambda^*) = \begin{bmatrix} 2\lambda_1^* & 0 \\ 0 & 2\lambda_1^* \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

- This matrix is positive definite, so it certainly satisfies the conditions of the above theorem,  $x^* = (-1, -1)^T$  is a strict local solution.