

Finally, using the latter inequality along with the fact that for every $k = 0, 1, \dots, n$ the obvious inequality $\|\nabla f(\mathbf{x}_k)\|^2 \geq \min_{k=0,1,\dots,n} \|\nabla f(\mathbf{x}_k)\|^2$ holds, it follows that

$$f(\mathbf{x}_0) - f^* \geq M(n+1) \min_{k=0,1,\dots,n} \|\nabla f(\mathbf{x}_k)\|^2,$$

implying the desired result. \square

Exercises

- 4.1. Let $f \in C_L^{1,1}(\mathbb{R}^n)$ and let $\{\mathbf{x}_k\}_{k \geq 0}$ be the sequence generated by the gradient method with a constant stepsize $t_k = \frac{1}{L}$. Assume that $\mathbf{x}_k \rightarrow \mathbf{x}^*$. Show that if $\nabla f(\mathbf{x}_k) \neq \mathbf{0}$ for all $k \geq 0$, then \mathbf{x}^* is *not* a local maximum point.
- 4.2. [9, Exercise 1.3.3] Consider the minimization problem

$$\min\{\mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{Q} \mathbf{x} : \mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^2\},$$

where \mathbf{Q} is a positive definite 2×2 matrix. Suppose we use the diagonal scaling matrix

$$\mathbf{D} = \begin{pmatrix} Q_{11}^{-1} & 0 \\ 0 & Q_{22}^{-1} \end{pmatrix}.$$

Show that the above scaling matrix improves the condition number of \mathbf{Q} in the sense that

$$\kappa(\mathbf{D}^{1/2} \mathbf{Q} \mathbf{D}^{1/2}) \leq \kappa(\mathbf{Q}).$$

- 4.3. Consider the quadratic minimization problem

$$\min\{\mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{A} \mathbf{x} : \mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^5\},$$

where \mathbf{A} is the 5×5 Hilbert matrix defined by

$$A_{i,j} = \frac{1}{i+j-1}, \quad i, j = 1, 2, 3, 4, 5.$$

The matrix can be constructed via the MATLAB command `A = hilb(5)`. Run the following methods and compare the number of iterations required by each of the methods when the initial vector is $\mathbf{x}_0 = (1, 2, 3, 4, 5)^T$ to obtain a solution \mathbf{x} with $\|\nabla f(\mathbf{x})\| \leq 10^{-4}$:

- gradient method with backtracking stepsize rule and parameters $\alpha = 0.5, \beta = 0.5, s = 1$;
- gradient method with backtracking stepsize rule and parameters $\alpha = 0.1, \beta = 0.5, s = 1$;
- gradient method with exact line search;
- diagonally scaled gradient method with diagonal elements $D_{ii} = \frac{1}{A_{ii}}, i = 1, 2, 3, 4, 5$ and exact line search;
- diagonally scaled gradient method with diagonal elements $D_{ii} = \frac{1}{A_{ii}}, i = 1, 2, 3, 4, 5$ and backtracking line search with parameters $\alpha = 0.1, \beta = 0.5, s = 1$.

- (i) Show that as long as all the points $\mathbf{a}_1, \mathbf{a}_2, \dots, \mathbf{a}_m$ do not reside on the same line in the plane, the method is well-defined, meaning that the linear least squares problem solved at each iteration has a unique solution.
- (ii) Write a MATLAB function that implements the damped Gauss–Newton method employed on problem (SL2) with a backtracking line search strategy with parameters $s = 1, \alpha = \beta = 0.5, \varepsilon = 10^{-4}$. Run the function on the two-dimensional problem ($n = 2$) with 5 anchors ($m = 5$) and data generated by the MATLAB commands

```
randn('seed', 317);
A=randn(2, 5);
x=randn(2, 1);
d=sqrt(sum((A-x*ones(1, 5)).^2))+0.05*randn(1, 5);
d=d';
```

The columns of the 2×5 matrix \mathbf{A} are the locations of the five sensors, \mathbf{x} is the “true” location of the source, and \mathbf{d} is the vector of noisy measurements between the source and the sensors. Compare your results (e.g., number of iterations) to the gradient method with backtracking and parameters $s = 1, \alpha = \beta = 0.5, \varepsilon = 10^{-4}$. Start both methods with the initial vector $(1000, -500)^T$.

- 4.7. Let $f(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{A} \mathbf{x} + 2\mathbf{b}^T \mathbf{x} + c$, where \mathbf{A} is a symmetric $n \times n$ matrix, $\mathbf{b} \in \mathbb{R}^n$, and $c \in \mathbb{R}$. Show that the *smallest* Lipschitz constant of ∇f is $2\|\mathbf{A}\|$.
- 4.8. Let $f: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be given by $f(\mathbf{x}) = \sqrt{1 + \|\mathbf{x}\|^2}$. Show that $f \in C_1^{1,1}$.
- 4.9. Let $f \in C_L^{1,1}(\mathbb{R}^m)$, and let $\mathbf{A} \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}, \mathbf{b} \in \mathbb{R}^m$. Show that the function $g: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ defined by $g(\mathbf{x}) = f(\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{b})$ satisfies $g \in C_{\tilde{L}}^{1,1}(\mathbb{R}^n)$, where $\tilde{L} = \|\mathbf{A}\|^2 L$.
- 4.10. Give an example of a function $f \in C_L^{1,1}(\mathbb{R})$ and a starting point $x_0 \in \mathbb{R}$ such that the problem $\min f(x)$ has an optimal solution and the gradient method with constant stepsize $t = \frac{2}{L}$ diverges.
- 4.11. Suppose that $f \in C_L^{1,1}(\mathbb{R}^n)$ and assume that $\nabla^2 f(\mathbf{x}) \succeq \mathbf{0}$ for any $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n$. Suppose that the optimal value of the problem $\min_{\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n} f(\mathbf{x})$ is f^* . Let $\{\mathbf{x}_k\}_{k \geq 0}$ be the sequence generated by the gradient method with constant stepsize $\frac{1}{L}$. Show that if $\{\mathbf{x}_k\}_{k \geq 0}$ is bounded, then $f(\mathbf{x}_k) \rightarrow f^*$ as $k \rightarrow \infty$.

5.2. Consider the Freudenstein and Roth test function

$$f(\mathbf{x}) = f_1(\mathbf{x})^2 + f_2(\mathbf{x})^2, \quad \mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^2,$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} f_1(\mathbf{x}) &= -13 + x_1 + ((5 - x_2)x_2 - 2)x_2, \\ f_2(\mathbf{x}) &= -29 + x_1 + ((x_2 + 1)x_2 - 14)x_2. \end{aligned}$$

- (i) Show that the function f has three stationary points. Find them and prove that one is a global minimizer, one is a strict local minimum and the third is a saddle point.
- (ii) Use MATLAB to employ the following three methods on the problem of minimizing f :
 1. the gradient method with backtracking and parameters $(s, \alpha, \beta) = (1, 0.5, 0.5)$.
 2. the hybrid Gradient-Newton Method with parameters $(s, \alpha, \beta) = (0.5, 0.5)$.
 3. damped Gauss-Newton's method with a backtracking line search strategy with parameters $(s, \alpha, \beta) = (1, 0.5, 0.5)$.

All the algorithms should use the stopping criteria $\|\nabla f(\mathbf{x})\| \leq 10^{-5}$. Each algorithm should be employed four times on the following four starting points: $(-50, 7)^T, (20, 7)^T, (20, -18)^T, (5, -10)^T$. For each of the four starting points, compare the number of iterations and the point to which each method converged. If a method did not converge, explain why.

5.3. Let f be a twice continuously differentiable function satisfying $L\mathbf{I} \succeq \nabla^2 f(\mathbf{x}) \succeq m\mathbf{I}$ for some $L > m > 0$ and let \mathbf{x}^* be the unique minimizer of f over \mathbb{R}^n .

- (i) Show that

$$f(\mathbf{x}) - f(\mathbf{x}^*) \geq \frac{m}{2} \|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}^*\|^2$$

for any $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n$.

- (ii) Let $\{\mathbf{x}_k\}_{k \geq 0}$ be the sequence generated by damped Newton's method with constant stepsize $t_k = \frac{m}{L}$. Show that

$$f(\mathbf{x}_k) - f(\mathbf{x}_{k+1}) \geq \frac{m}{2L} \nabla f(\mathbf{x}_k)^T (\nabla^2 f(\mathbf{x}_k))^{-1} \nabla f(\mathbf{x}_k).$$

- (iii) Show that $\mathbf{x}_k \rightarrow \mathbf{x}^*$ as $k \rightarrow \infty$.

Proof. For $p = 1$, the inequality follows by summing up the inequalities $|x_i + y_i| \leq |x_i| + |y_i|$. Suppose then that $p > 1$. We can assume that $\mathbf{x} \neq \mathbf{0}, \mathbf{y} \neq \mathbf{0}$, and $\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{y} \neq \mathbf{0}$. Otherwise, the inequality is trivial. The function $\varphi(t) = t^p$ is convex over \mathbb{R}_+ since $\varphi''(t) = p(p-1)t^{p-2} > 0$ for $t > 0$. Therefore, by the definition of convexity we have that for any $\lambda_1, \lambda_2 \geq 0$ with $\lambda_1 + \lambda_2 = 1$ one has

$$(\lambda_1 t + \lambda_2 s)^p \leq \lambda_1 t^p + \lambda_2 s^p.$$

Let $i \in \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$. Plugging $\lambda_1 = \frac{\|\mathbf{x}\|_p}{\|\mathbf{x}\|_p + \|\mathbf{y}\|_p}, \lambda_2 = \frac{\|\mathbf{y}\|_p}{\|\mathbf{x}\|_p + \|\mathbf{y}\|_p}, t = \frac{|x_i|}{\|\mathbf{x}\|_p}$, and $s = \frac{|y_i|}{\|\mathbf{y}\|_p}$ in the above inequality yields

$$\frac{1}{(\|\mathbf{x}\|_p + \|\mathbf{y}\|_p)^p} (|x_i| + |y_i|)^p \leq \frac{\|\mathbf{x}\|_p}{\|\mathbf{x}\|_p + \|\mathbf{y}\|_p} \frac{|x_i|^p}{\|\mathbf{x}\|_p^p} + \frac{\|\mathbf{y}\|_p}{\|\mathbf{x}\|_p + \|\mathbf{y}\|_p} \frac{|y_i|^p}{\|\mathbf{y}\|_p^p}.$$

Summing the above inequality over $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$, we obtain that

$$\frac{1}{(\|\mathbf{x}\|_p + \|\mathbf{y}\|_p)^p} \sum_{i=1}^n (|x_i| + |y_i|)^p \leq \frac{\|\mathbf{x}\|_p}{\|\mathbf{x}\|_p + \|\mathbf{y}\|_p} + \frac{\|\mathbf{y}\|_p}{\|\mathbf{x}\|_p + \|\mathbf{y}\|_p} = 1,$$

and hence

$$\sum_{i=1}^n (|x_i| + |y_i|)^p \leq (\|\mathbf{x}\|_p + \|\mathbf{y}\|_p)^p.$$

Finally,

$$\|\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{y}\|_p = \sqrt[p]{\sum_{i=1}^n |x_i + y_i|^p} \leq \sqrt[p]{\sum_{i=1}^n (|x_i| + |y_i|)^p} \leq \|\mathbf{x}\|_p + \|\mathbf{y}\|_p. \quad \square$$

Exercises

7.1. For each of the following sets determine whether they are convex or not (explaining your choice).

- (i) $C_1 = \{\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n : \|\mathbf{x}\|^2 = 1\}$.
- (ii) $C_2 = \{\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n : \max_{i=1,2,\dots,n} x_i \leq 1\}$.
- (iii) $C_3 = \{\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n : \min_{i=1,2,\dots,n} x_i \leq 1\}$.
- (iv) $C_4 = \{\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}_{++}^n : \prod_{i=1}^n x_i \geq 1\}$.

7.2. Show that the set

$$M = \{\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n : \mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{Q} \mathbf{x} \leq (\mathbf{a}^T \mathbf{x})^2, \mathbf{a}^T \mathbf{x} \geq 0\},$$

where \mathbf{Q} is an $n \times n$ positive definite matrix and $\mathbf{a} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ is a convex cone.

7.3. Let $f : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a convex as well as concave function. Show that f is an affine function; that is, there exist $\mathbf{a} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ and $b \in \mathbb{R}$ such that $f(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{a}^T \mathbf{x} + b$ for any $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n$.

7.4. Let $f : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a continuously differentiable convex function. Show that for any $\varepsilon > 0$, the function

$$g_\varepsilon(\mathbf{x}) = f(\mathbf{x}) + \varepsilon \|\mathbf{x}\|^2$$

is coercive.

7.5. Let $f : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$. Prove that f is convex if and only if for any $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ and $\mathbf{d} \neq \mathbf{0}$, the one-dimensional function $g_{\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{d}}(t) = f(\mathbf{x} + t\mathbf{d})$ is convex.

7.6. Prove Theorem 7.13.

7.7. Let $C \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$ be a convex set. Let f be a convex function over C , and let g be a strictly convex function over C . Show that the sum function $f + g$ is strictly convex over C .

7.8. (i) Let f be a convex function defined on a convex set C . Suppose that f is *not* strictly convex on C . Prove that there exist $\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \in \mathbb{R}^n (\mathbf{x} \neq \mathbf{y})$ such that f is affine over the segment $[\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}]$.

(ii) Prove that the function $f(x) = x^4$ is strictly convex on \mathbb{R} and that $g(x) = x^p$ for $p > 1$ is strictly convex over \mathbb{R}_+ .

7.9. Show that the log-sum-exp function $f(\mathbf{x}) = \ln(\sum_{i=1}^n e^{x_i})$ is *not* strictly convex over \mathbb{R}^n .

7.10. Show that the following functions are convex over the specified domain C :

(i) $f(x_1, x_2, x_3) = -\sqrt{x_1 x_2} + 2x_1^2 + 2x_2^2 + 3x_3^2 - 2x_1 x_2 - 2x_2 x_3$ over \mathbb{R}_{+++}^3 .

(ii) $f(\mathbf{x}) = \|\mathbf{x}\|^4$ over \mathbb{R}^n .

(iii) $f(\mathbf{x}) = \sum_{i=1}^n x_i \ln(x_i) - (\sum_{i=1}^n x_i) \ln(\sum_{i=1}^n x_i)$ over \mathbb{R}_{++}^n .

(iv) $f(\mathbf{x}) = \sqrt{\mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{Q} \mathbf{x} + 1}$ over \mathbb{R}^n , where $\mathbf{Q} \succeq \mathbf{0}$ is an $n \times n$ matrix.

(v) $f(x_1, x_2, x_3) = \max\{\sqrt{x_1^2 + x_2^2 + 20x_3^2 - x_1 x_2 - 4x_2 x_3 + 1}, (x_1^2 + x_2^2 + x_1 + x_2 + 2)^2\}$ over \mathbb{R}^3 .

(vi) $f(x_1, x_2) = (2x_1^2 + 3x_2^2)\left(\frac{1}{2}x_1^2 + \frac{1}{3}x_2^2\right)$.

7.11. Let $\mathbf{A} \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$, and let $f : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be defined by

$$f(\mathbf{x}) = \ln\left(\sum_{i=1}^m e^{\mathbf{A}_i \mathbf{x}}\right),$$

where \mathbf{A}_i is the i th row of \mathbf{A} . Prove that f is convex over \mathbb{R}^n .

7.12. Prove that the following set is a convex subset of \mathbb{R}^{n+2} :

$$C = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{x} \\ y \\ z \end{pmatrix} : \|\mathbf{x}\|^2 \leq yz, \mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n, y, z \in \mathbb{R}_+ \right\}.$$

7.13. Show that the function $f(x_1, x_2, x_3) = -e^{(-x_1 + x_2 - 2x_3)^2}$ is not convex over \mathbb{R}^n .

7.14. Prove that the geometric mean function $f(\mathbf{x}) = \sqrt[n]{\prod_{i=1}^n x_i}$ is concave over \mathbb{R}_{++}^n . Is it strictly concave over \mathbb{R}_{++}^n ?

(iv) Prove that for any $\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \in \mathbb{R}^n$

$$\langle \nabla f(\mathbf{x}) - \nabla f(\mathbf{y}), \mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y} \rangle \geq \frac{1}{L} \|\nabla f(\mathbf{x}) - \nabla f(\mathbf{y})\|^2 \text{ for any } \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \in \mathbb{R}^n.$$

- 7.29. Let $f : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \cup \{\infty\}$ be an extended real-valued function. Show that f is convex if and only if $\text{epi}(f)$ is convex.
- 7.30. Show that the support function of the set $S = \{\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n : \mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{Q} \mathbf{x} \leq 1\}$, where $\mathbf{Q} \succ 0$, is $\sigma_S(\mathbf{y}) = \sqrt{\mathbf{y}^T \mathbf{Q}^{-1} \mathbf{y}}$.
- 7.31. Let $S = \{\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n : \mathbf{a}^T \mathbf{x} \leq b\}$, where $0 \neq \mathbf{a} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ and $b \in \mathbb{R}$. Find the support function σ_S .
- 7.32. Let $p > 1$. Show that the support function of $S = \{\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n : \|\mathbf{x}\|_p \leq 1\}$ is $\sigma_S(\mathbf{y}) = \|\mathbf{y}\|_q$, where q is defined by the relation $\frac{1}{p} + \frac{1}{q} = 1$.
- 7.33. Let f_0, f_1, \dots, f_m be convex functions over \mathbb{R}^n and consider the perturbation function

$$F(\mathbf{b}) = \min_{\mathbf{x}} \{f_0(\mathbf{x}) : f_i(\mathbf{x}) \leq b_i, i = 1, 2, \dots, m\}.$$

Assume that for any $\mathbf{b} \in \mathbb{R}^m$ the minimization problem in the above definition of $F(\mathbf{b})$ has an optimal solution. Show that F is convex over \mathbb{R}^m .

- 7.34. Let $C \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$ be a convex set and let ϕ_1, \dots, ϕ_m be convex functions over C . Let U be the following subset of \mathbb{R}^m :

$$U = \{\mathbf{y} \in \mathbb{R}^m : \phi_1(\mathbf{x}) \leq y_1, \dots, \phi_m(\mathbf{x}) \leq y_m \text{ for some } \mathbf{x} \in C\}.$$

Show that U is a convex set.

- 7.35. (i) Show that the extreme points of the unit simplex Δ_n are the unit-vectors $\mathbf{e}_1, \mathbf{e}_2, \dots, \mathbf{e}_n$.
- (ii) Find the optimal solution of the problem

$$\begin{aligned} \max \quad & 57x_1^2 + 65x_2^2 + 17x_3^2 + 96x_1x_2 - 32x_1x_3 + 8x_2x_3 + 27x_1 - 84x_2 + 20x_3 \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & x_1 + x_2 + x_3 = 1 \\ & x_1, x_2, x_3 \geq 0. \end{aligned}$$

- 7.36. Prove that for any $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n \in \mathbb{R}_+$ the following inequality holds:

$$\frac{\sum_{i=1}^n x_i}{n} \leq \sqrt{\frac{\sum_{i=1}^n x_i^2}{n}}.$$

- 7.37. Prove that for any $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n \in \mathbb{R}_{++}$ the following inequality holds:

$$\frac{\sum_{i=1}^n x_i^2}{\sum_{i=1}^n x_i} \leq \sqrt{\frac{\sum_{i=1}^n x_i^3}{\sum_{i=1}^n x_i}}.$$

- 7.38. Let $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n > 0$ satisfy $\sum_{i=1}^n x_i = 1$. Prove that

$$\sum_{i=1}^n \frac{x_i}{\sqrt{1-x_i}} \geq \sqrt{\frac{n}{n-1}}.$$

We can now use CVX to solve the equivalent problem (8.13):

```
cvx_begin
variable z (3)
minimize (d' * z - 2 * abs(f)' * sqrt(z))
subject to
sum(z) <= 1
z >= 0
cvx_end
```

The optimal solution is then computed by $y_i = -\text{sgn}(f_i)\sqrt{z_i}$ and then $\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{U}\mathbf{y}$:

```
>> y = -sign(f) .* sqrt(z);
>> x = U * y
x =

-0.2300
-0.7259
0.6482
```

■

Exercises

8.1. Consider the problem

$$(P) \quad \begin{array}{ll} \min & f(\mathbf{x}) \\ \text{s.t.} & g(\mathbf{x}) \leq 0 \\ & \mathbf{x} \in X, \end{array}$$

where f and g are convex functions over \mathbb{R}^n and $X \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$ is a convex set. Suppose that \mathbf{x}^* is an optimal solution of (P) that satisfies $g(\mathbf{x}^*) < 0$. Show that \mathbf{x}^* is also an optimal solution of the problem

$$\begin{array}{ll} \min & f(\mathbf{x}) \\ \text{s.t.} & \mathbf{x} \in X. \end{array}$$

8.2. Let $C = B[\mathbf{x}_0, r]$, where $\mathbf{x}_0 \in \mathbb{R}^n$ and $r > 0$ are given. Find a formula for the orthogonal projection operator P_C .

8.3. Let f be a strictly convex function over \mathbb{R}^m and let g be a convex function over \mathbb{R}^n . Define the function

$$h(\mathbf{x}) = f(\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}) + g(\mathbf{x}),$$

where $\mathbf{A} \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$. Assume that \mathbf{x}^* and \mathbf{y}^* are optimal solutions of the unconstrained problem of minimizing h . Show that $\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}^* = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{y}^*$.

8.4. For each of the following optimization problems (a) show that it is convex, (b) write a CVX code that solves it, and (c) write down the optimal solution (by running CVX).

(i)

$$\begin{array}{ll} \min & x_1^2 + 2x_1x_2 + 2x_2^2 + x_3^2 + 3x_1 - 4x_2 \\ \text{s.t.} & \sqrt{2x_1^2 + x_1x_2 + 4x_2^2 + 4} + \frac{(x_1 - x_2 + x_3 + 1)^2}{x_1 + x_2} \leq 6 \\ & x_1, x_2, x_3 \geq 1. \end{array}$$