

# The KKT Conditions

## Lecture 11-2 - CMSE 382

Prof. Elizabeth Munch

Michigan State University

::

Dept of Computational Mathematics, Science & Engineering

Mon, Apr 6, 2026

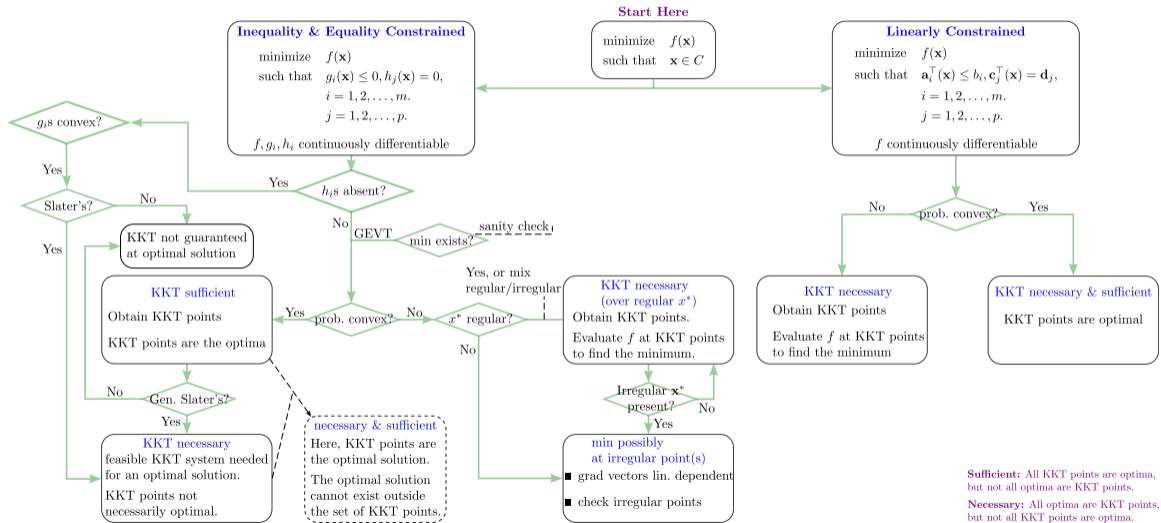
## Topics:

- The convex case: KKT sufficiency
- Slater conditions
- The convex case: KKT necessity

## Announcements:

- HW...

# Big picture view



**Sufficient:** All KKT points are optima, but not all optima are KKT points.

**Necessary:** All optima are KKT points, but not all KKT points are optima.

# Sufficiency and Necessity

## Sufficient

- All KKT points are optima.
- Optima might not be KKT points.

## Necessary

- All optima are KKT points.
- KKT points might not be optima.

## Section 1

Convex case: KKT sufficiency

## Recall: KKT conditions for Inequality and equality constrained problems

### Theorem (Recall: Inequality and equality constrained problems)

Let  $\mathbf{x}^*$  be a local minimum of the problem

$$\begin{aligned} \min \quad & f(\mathbf{x}) \\ \text{such that} \quad & g_i(\mathbf{x}) \leq 0, i = 1, 2, \dots, m, \\ & h_j(\mathbf{x}) = 0, j = 1, 2, \dots, p. \end{aligned}$$

where  $f, g_1, \dots, g_m, h_1, h_2, \dots, h_p$  are continuously differentiable functions over  $\mathbb{R}^n$ . Suppose that  $\mathbf{x}^*$  is **regular**, then  $\mathbf{x}^*$  is a **KKT point**.

- A necessary condition for local optimality of a regular point is that it is a KKT point.
- Regularity is not required in the linearly constrained case.

# Sufficiency of KKT conditions for **convex** problems

## Theorem

Let  $\mathbf{x}^*$  be a feasible solution of

$$\min \quad f(\mathbf{x})$$

$$\text{such that } g_i(\mathbf{x}) \leq 0, i = 1, \dots, m,$$
$$h_j(\mathbf{x}) = 0, j = 1, \dots, p.$$

where  $f, g_1, \dots, g_m$  are continuously differentiable **convex functions** over  $\mathbb{R}^n$ , and  $h_1, h_2, \dots, h_p$  are **affine functions**.

Suppose that there exist  $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_m \geq 0$  and  $\mu_1, \dots, \mu_p \in \mathbb{R}$  such that

$$\nabla f(\mathbf{x}^*) + \sum_{i=1}^m \lambda_i \nabla g_i(\mathbf{x}^*) + \sum_{j=1}^p \mu_j \nabla h_j(\mathbf{x}^*) = \mathbf{0},$$

$$\lambda_i g_i(\mathbf{x}^*) = 0, i = 1, \dots, m.$$

Then  $\mathbf{x}^*$  is an **optimal solution**.

In convex problems, the KKT conditions are always sufficient for optimality. No further conditions (such as regularity) are required.

## Section 2

Convex case: KKT necessity

## Definition (Slater's condition)

Given a set of convex inequalities

$$g_i(\mathbf{x}) \leq 0, \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, m,$$

where  $g_1, g_2, \dots, g_m$  are given **convex functions**, we say that **Slater's condition** is satisfied if there exists  $\hat{\mathbf{x}} \in \mathbb{R}^n$  such that

$$g_i(\hat{\mathbf{x}}) < 0, \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, m.$$

- Requires a point that strictly satisfies the constraints.
- Does not require knowledge on candidates for the optimal solution.
- Usually easier to check than regularity.

## Theorem

Let  $\mathbf{x}^*$  be an optimal solution of the problem

$$\begin{aligned} \min f(\mathbf{x}) \\ \text{s.t. } g_i(\mathbf{x}) \leq 0, \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, m, \end{aligned}$$

where  $f, g_1, \dots, g_m$  are continuously differentiable functions over  $\mathbb{R}^n$ . In addition, assume  $g_1, g_2, \dots, g_m$  are convex functions and there exists  $\hat{\mathbf{x}}$  which satisfies **Slater's condition**. Then  $\mathbf{x}^*$  is a KKT point.

Note: The point  $\hat{\mathbf{x}}$  from Slater's condition does not need to be the same as  $\mathbf{x}^*$  (the candidate for the optimal solution).

# Generalized Slater's condition

## Definition (Generalized Slater's condition)

Consider the system

$$g_i(\mathbf{x}) \leq 0, \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, m,$$

$$h_j(\mathbf{x}) \leq 0, \quad j = 1, 2, \dots, p,$$

$$s_k(\mathbf{x}) = 0, \quad k = 1, 2, \dots, q,$$

where  $g_1, g_2, \dots, g_m$  are convex functions, and  $h_1, h_2, \dots, h_p, s_1, s_2, \dots, s_q$  are affine functions. We say that **generalized Slater's condition** is satisfied if there exists  $\hat{\mathbf{x}} \in \mathbb{R}^n$  such that

$$g_i(\hat{\mathbf{x}}) < 0, \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, m,$$

$$h_j(\hat{\mathbf{x}}) \leq 0, \quad j = 1, 2, \dots, p,$$

$$s_k(\hat{\mathbf{x}}) = 0, \quad k = 1, 2, \dots, q.$$

# Necessity of KKT conditions under the **generalized** Slater's condition

## Theorem

Let  $\mathbf{x}^*$  be an optimal solution of

$$\begin{aligned} & \underset{\mathbf{x}}{\text{minimize}} && f(\mathbf{x}) \\ & \text{subject to} && g_i(\mathbf{x}) \leq 0, i = 1, \dots, m, \\ & && h_j(\mathbf{x}) \leq 0, j = 1, \dots, p, \\ & && s_k(\mathbf{x}) = 0, k = 1, \dots, q, \end{aligned}$$

where  $f$  and all  $g_i$  are continuously differentiable **convex** functions over  $\mathbb{R}^n$ , and all  $h_j, s_k$ , are **affine**. Suppose that there exists  $\hat{\mathbf{x}} \in \mathbb{R}^n$  satisfying the **generalized Slater's condition**.

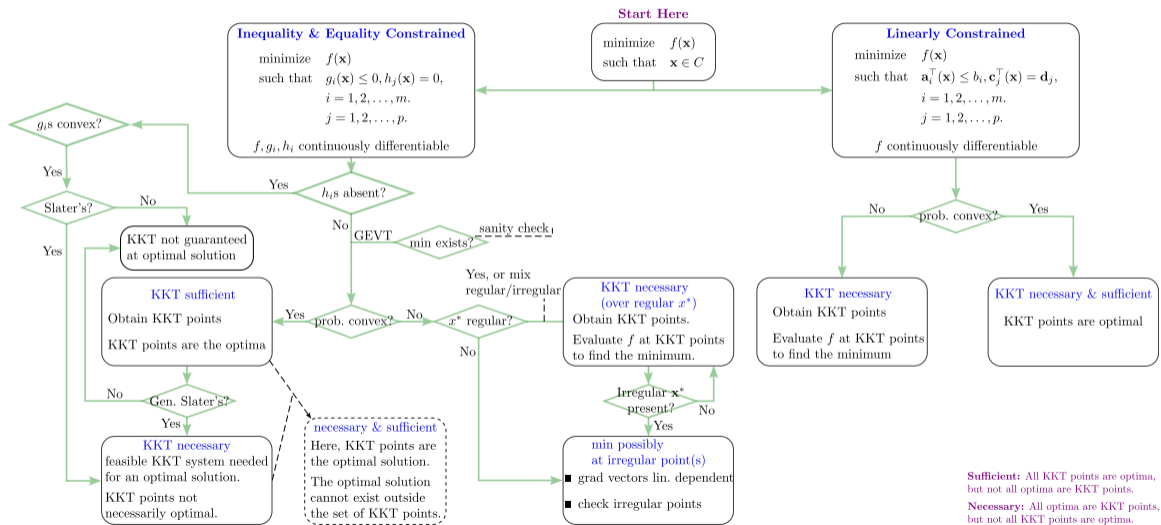
Then  $\mathbf{x}^*$  is a KKT point, i.e. there exist multipliers  $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_m, \eta_1, \dots, \eta_p \geq 0, \mu_1, \dots, \mu_q \in \mathbb{R}$  such that

$$\begin{aligned} \nabla f(\mathbf{x}^*) + \sum_{i=1}^m \lambda_i \nabla g_i(\mathbf{x}^*) \\ + \sum_{j=1}^p \eta_j \nabla h_j(\mathbf{x}^*) + \sum_{k=1}^q \mu_k \nabla s_k(\mathbf{x}^*) = 0, \\ \lambda_i g_i(\mathbf{x}^*) = 0, \quad i = 1, \dots, m, \\ \eta_j h_j(\mathbf{x}^*) = 0, \quad j = 1, \dots, p. \end{aligned}$$

## Section 3

Big picture

# Big picture view



# Groups - Round 5

## **Group 1**

Michal, Kyle, Daniel,  
Purvi

## **Group 2**

Joseph, Jack, Scott,  
Breena

## **Group 3**

Saitej, Dori, Noah,  
Tianjian

## **Group 4**

Dev, Shanze, Lowell,  
Andrew

## **Group 5**

Lora, Aidan, Arjun,  
Monirul Amin

## **Group 6**

Anthony, Abigail,  
Atticus, Yousif

## **Group 7**

Luis, Vinod, Morgan,  
Dominic

## **Group 8**

Jay, Jonid, Alice, Aaron

## **Group 9**

Arya, Jake, K M Tausif,  
Lauryn

## **Group 10**

Maye, Ha, Zheng, Sai

## **Group 11**

Jamie, Karen, Brandon,  
Quang Minh

## **Group 12**

Long, Sanskaar,  
Braedon, Igor