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# ON FINDING A MINIMAX ON A CONSTRAINED SET

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**Abstract**

**Full Text**

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**MATHEMATICS**

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## **ON FINDING A MINIMAX ON A CONSTRAINED SET**

*(Presented by Academician L. V. Kantorovich, 29 IV 1969)*

1°. Let

$$\varphi(X) = \max_{i \in 1, \dots, N} f_i(X), \quad (1)$$

where  $X \in E_n$ , and the functions  $f_i$  ( $i = 1, \dots, N$ ) are continuously differentiable on a bounded open set  $S \subset E_n$  containing a convex compact set  $\Omega$ . It is required to find

$$\min_{X \in \Omega} \varphi(X).$$

As established in (<sup>1-5</sup>), the function  $\varphi$  is continuous and directionally differentiable.

**Theorem 1** (see (<sup>1-3,6</sup>)). *In order that at a point  $Y \in \Omega$  the function  $\varphi$  attain its minimal value on  $\Omega$ , it is necessary (and, in the case of convexity of  $\varphi$  on  $\Omega$ , sufficient) that*

$$\min_{Z \in \Omega} \max_{i \in R(Y)} \left( \frac{\partial f_i(Y)}{\partial Y}, Z - Y \right) = 0, \quad (2)$$

where  $R(X) = \{i \mid i = 1, \dots, N, f_i(X) = \varphi(X)\}$ .

A point  $Y$  satisfying (2) is called a stationary point of the function  $\varphi$  on the set  $\Omega$ .

Let  $\gamma(X)$  be the cone of feasible directions at the point  $X \in \Omega$ ; let  $\Gamma(X)$  be the closure of  $\gamma(X)$ , and let  $\Gamma^+(X)$  be the cone conjugate to  $\Gamma(X)$ .

Then condition (2) means that at the minimum point one must have

$$L(Y) \cap \Gamma^+(Y) \neq \Lambda, \quad (3)$$

where  $L(Y)$  is the convex hull of the set

$$H(Y) = \{\partial f_i(Y)/\partial Y, i \in R(Y)\}.$$

Let

$$d(X) = \min_{\substack{V \in L(X) \\ Z \in \Gamma^+(X)}} \|V - Z\|.$$

If  $d(X) = 0$ , then the point  $X$  is stationary; if, however,  $d(X) = \|V(X) - Z(X)\| > 0$ , then the direction  $g(X) = d^{-1}(X)(Z(X) - V(X))$  (clearly,  $\|g(X)\| = 1$ ) is a direction of steepest descent of the function  $\varphi$  at the point  $X \in \Omega$  on the set  $\Omega$ . Moreover, such a  $g(X)$  is unique and  $g(X) \in \Gamma(X)$ .

2°. We now consider the case where

$$\Omega = \{X \mid X \in E_n, h_j(X) \leq 0, j = 1, \dots, N_1\}, \quad (4)$$

where the functions  $h_j(X)$  ( $j = 1, \dots, N_1$ ) are continuously differentiable and convex on  $S$ , and Slater's condition is satisfied,

$$\min_{X \in E_n} \max_{j \in 1, \dots, N_1} h_j(X) < 0, \quad (5)$$

i.e., there exists a strictly interior point of the set  $\Omega$ . Without loss of generality we assume that the set  $\Omega$  is bounded.

In (7-10) various methods of successive approximations were obtained for finding stationary points of  $\varphi$  on  $\Omega$ .

To obtain other algorithms, we use the necessary condition (3). In the present case

$$\Gamma^+(X) = \left\{ g \mid g = - \sum_{j \in Q(X)} \alpha_j \frac{\partial h_j(X)}{\partial X}, \alpha_j \geq 0 \right\}.$$

If  $Q(X) = \Lambda$ , then  $\Gamma^+(X) = \{0\}$ .

By virtue of condition (5), there exists  $\mu_0 > 0$  such that, for any  $X$  such that

$$-\mu_0 \leq \max_{j \in 1, \dots, N} k_j(X) h_j(X) \leq 0, \quad (6)$$

we have

$$\min_{\|g\| \leq 1} \max_{j \in Q_{\mu_0}(X)} \left( k_j(X) \frac{\partial h_j(X)}{\partial X}, g \right) = \max_{j \in Q_{\mu_0}(X)} \left( k_j(X) \frac{\partial h_j(X)}{\partial X}, q(X) \right) \leq -a_0 < 0, \quad (7)$$

where

$$Q_{\mu_0}(X) = \{j \mid j \in 1, \dots, N_1, -\mu_0 \leq k_j(X)h_j(X) \leq 0\}, \quad k_j(X) = \left\| \frac{\partial h_j(X)}{\partial X} \right\|^{-1}.$$

It is clear that  $k_j(X) \leq K$ ,  $j \in Q_{\mu_0}(X)$ , for all  $X$  satisfying (6). Then there exists  $a_0 > 0$  such that, for any  $X \in \Omega$ , one has  $X + \alpha q(X) \in \Omega$  for  $\alpha \in [0, a_0]$ .

We now describe a method of successive approximations which is a generalization of the steepest descent method (11). Let  $\varepsilon' > 0$ ,  $\mu' > 0$  (and  $\mu' \leq \mu_0$ ),  $\rho' > 0$  be fixed. Introduce the function

$$d_{\varepsilon\mu}(X) = \min_{\substack{V \in L_\varepsilon(X) \\ Z \in \Gamma_\mu^+(X)}} \|V - Z\|,$$

where

$$\varepsilon \geq 0, \quad \mu \geq 0, \quad L_\varepsilon(X) = \text{co } H_\varepsilon(X), \quad H_\varepsilon(X) = \{\partial f_i(X)/\partial X, i \in R_\varepsilon(X)\},$$

$$[R_\varepsilon(X)] = \{i \mid i \in 1, \dots, N, \varphi(X) - f_i(x) \leq \varepsilon\},$$

$$\Gamma_\mu^+(X) = \left\{ g \mid g = - \sum_{j \in Q_\mu(X)} \alpha_j \frac{\partial h_j(X)}{\partial X}, \quad \alpha_j \geq 0 \right\},$$

$$Q_\mu(X) = \{j \mid j \in 1, \dots, M_1, -\mu \leq k_j(X)h_j(X) \leq 0\},$$

$$k_j(X) = \|\partial h_j(X)/\partial X\|^{-1}.$$

Set  $\Gamma_\mu^+(X) = \{0\}$  if  $Q_\mu(X) = \Lambda$ .

If  $d_{\varepsilon\mu}(X) > 0$ , then  $d_{\varepsilon\mu}(X) = \|V_{\varepsilon\mu}(X) - Z_{\varepsilon\mu}(X)\|$ , and the vector  $g_{\varepsilon\mu}(X) = d_{\varepsilon\mu}^{-1}(X)(Z_{\varepsilon\mu}(X) - V_{\varepsilon\mu}(X))$  is unique, moreover  $g_{\varepsilon\mu}(X) \in \Gamma(\bar{X})$ .

As the first approximation, take an arbitrary point  $X_1 \in \Omega$ . Suppose that  $X_k \in \Omega$  has already been found. If  $d(X_k) = 0$ , then the point  $X_k$  is a stationary point of the function  $\varphi$  on  $\Omega$ , and the process terminates. If  $d(X_k) > 0$ , set  $\varepsilon_{k1} = \varepsilon'$ ,  $\mu_{k1} = \mu'$ ,  $\rho_{k1} = \rho'$ , and find  $d_{\varepsilon_{k1}\mu_{k1}}(X_k)$ .

If  $d_{\varepsilon_{k1}\mu_{k1}}(X_k) \geq \rho_{k1}$ , then set  $\varepsilon_k = \varepsilon_{k1}$ ,  $\mu_k = \mu_{k1}$ ,  $\rho_k = \rho_{k1}$ ,  $g_k = g_{\varepsilon_{k1}\mu_{k1}}(X)$ ,  $\bar{d}_k = d_{\varepsilon_{k1}\mu_{k1}}(X_k)$ . Otherwise, if  $d_{\varepsilon_{k1}\mu_{k1}}(X_k) < \rho_{k1}$ , take  $\varepsilon_{k2} = \frac{1}{2}\varepsilon_{k1}$ ,  $\mu_{k2} = \frac{1}{2}\mu_{k1}$ ,  $\rho_{k2} = \frac{1}{2}\rho_{k1}$ , again find  $d_{\varepsilon_{k2}\mu_{k2}}(X_k)$ , and so continue until we find the smallest  $r_k$  such that

$$d_{\varepsilon_{kr_k}\mu_{kr_k}}(X_k) \geq \rho_{kr_k}. \quad (8)$$

(such a finite  $r_k$  will necessarily be found, since  $d(X_k) > 0$ ), and set

$$\begin{aligned} \varepsilon_k &= \varepsilon_{kr_k}, & \mu_k &= \mu_{kr_k}, & \rho_k &= \rho_{kr_k}, \\ g_k &= g_{\varepsilon_{kr_k}\mu_{kr_k}}(X_k), & \bar{d}_k &= d_{\varepsilon_{kr_k}\mu_{kr_k}}(X_k). \end{aligned}$$

It is clear that

$$g_k \in \Gamma(X_k), \quad (\partial f_i(X_k)/\partial X, g_k) \leq -\bar{d}_k \quad (i \in R_{\varepsilon_k}(X_k)),$$

$$(\partial h_j(X_k)/\partial X, g_k) \leq 0 \quad (j \in Q_{\mu_k}(X_k)).$$

Further, to correct the direction  $g_k$ , one may proceed in one of the following ways.

**Method 1.** Let

$$K = \max_{X \in \Omega} \|\partial f_j(x)/\partial X\|.$$

Take the ray

$$X_{k\alpha} = X_k + \alpha \left( g_k + \frac{\bar{d}_k}{2K} q_k \right).$$

Then for  $j \in Q_{\mu_k}(X_k)$  we have

$$K_j(X_k)h_j(X_{k\alpha}) \leq K_j(X_k)h_j(X_k) - \alpha \frac{\bar{d}_k}{2K} a_0 + o(\alpha),$$

$$f_i(X_{k\alpha}) \leq f_i(X_k) - \frac{1}{2}\alpha \bar{d}_k + o(\alpha) \quad (i \in R_{\varepsilon_k}(X_k)),$$

i.e., for sufficiently small  $\alpha$  it will turn out that  $X_{k\alpha} \in \Omega$ ,  $\varphi(X_{k\alpha}) < \varphi(X_k)$ .

**Method 2.** Let

$$\Gamma_{\mu\xi}^+(X) = \text{co}\{g \mid g = \alpha Z, \|Z - \|V\|^{-1}V\| \leq \xi, \alpha \geq 0, V \neq 0, V \in \Gamma_{\mu}^+(X)\}.$$

Find the maximal  $\xi_k$  such that

$$d_{\varepsilon_k \mu_k \xi_k}(X_k) \equiv \min_{\substack{V \in L_{\varepsilon_k}(X_k) \\ Z \in \Gamma_{\mu_k \xi_k}^+(X_k)}} \|V - Z\| = \|V'_k - Z'_k\| \geq \frac{1}{2}d_k.$$

It is clear that, by condition (5),  $\xi_k > 0$  if  $\bar{d}_k > 0$ . Let

$$g'_k = (Z'_k - V'_k) / \|V'_k - Z'_k\|.$$

It is not difficult to obtain that

$$(\partial f_i(X_k) / \partial X, g'_k) \leq -\frac{1}{2}d_k \quad (i \in R_{\varepsilon_k}(X_k)),$$

$$K_j(X_k)(\partial h_j(X_k) / \partial X, g'_k) \leq -\xi_k \quad (j \in Q_{\mu_k}(X_k)),$$

i.e., the direction  $g'_k$  is feasible.

Consider now the ray  $X_{k\alpha} = X_k + \alpha g'_k$ . Thus, applying Method 1 or 2, we have  $X_{k\alpha}$ . Find  $a_k \geq 0$  such that

$$\varphi(X_{k\alpha_k}) = \min_{\substack{\alpha \geq 0 \\ X_{k\alpha} \in \Omega}} \varphi(X_{k\alpha})$$

and set  $X_{k+1} = X_{k\alpha_k}$  ( $a_k$  is finite, since the set  $\Omega$  is bounded). It is clear that  $X_{k+1} \subset \Omega$ ,  $\varphi(X_{k+1}) < \varphi(X_k)$ , if  $d(X_k) > 0$ .

We then continue analogously. Thus we construct a sequence of points  $\{X_k\} \subset \Omega$ . If this sequence consists of a finite number of points, then its last obtained point is a stationary point of the function  $\varphi$  on  $\Omega$ . Otherwise the following is true.

**Theorem 2.** *Every limit point of the sequence  $\{X_k\}$  is a stationary point of the function  $\varphi$  on the set  $\Omega$ .*

**Remark 1.** If all functions  $h_j$  are linear, then one need not find and use the vector  $q(X_k)$  (or  $q'_k$ ), setting

$$X_{k\alpha} = X_k + \alpha g_k.$$

**Remark 2.** Let

$$\Omega = \{X \mid h_j(X) \leq 0, j \in 1, \dots, N_1; (A_j, X) + b_j = 0, j \in N_1 + 1, \dots, N_2\}.$$

In this case condition (5) is replaced by the condition

$$\min_{X \in \Omega_1} \max_{j \in 1, \dots, N_1} h_j(X) < 0,$$

where  $\Omega_1 = \{X \mid (A_j, X) + b_j = 0, j \in N_1 + 1, \dots, N_2\}$ , and the cone  $\Gamma^+(X)$  is defined as follows:

$$\Gamma^+(X) = \left\{ g \mid g = - \sum_{j \in Q(X)} \alpha_j \frac{\partial h_j(X)}{\partial X} + \sum_{j=N_1+1}^{N_2} \beta_j A_j; \alpha_j \geq 0, -\infty < \beta_j < \infty \right\}.$$

The cone  $\Gamma_\mu^+(X)$  is defined analogously.

**Remark 3.** As in (1-3), the results obtained can be extended to the case when  $\varphi(X) = \max_{Y \in \Omega} f(X, Y)$ , where  $\Omega_1 \in E_m$  is some compact set.

**Remark 4.** All auxiliary problems whose solution is necessary at each step may be solved approximately.

**Remark 5.** It is not difficult to prove that  $r_k \rightarrow \infty$  as  $k \rightarrow \infty$ . To reduce the amount of computation required, note that  $\varepsilon_k, \mu_k, \rho_k$  may be found from the formulas:

$$\varepsilon_k = \varepsilon_{kr_k} = \varepsilon_{k-1}/2^{r_k-1}, \quad \mu_k = \mu_{kr_k} = \mu_{k-1}/2^{r_k-1}, \quad \rho_k = \rho_{kr_k}/2^{r_k-1},$$

where  $r_k$  is the smallest integer (not necessarily nonnegative) for which (8) holds. In addition, it must be that  $\varepsilon_{kr_k} \leq \varepsilon'$ .

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*Note: Figure translations are in progress. See original paper for figures.*

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