

**CRITICAL MULTIPLIERS IN VARIATIONAL
SYSTEMS VIA SECOND-ORDER GENERALIZED
DIFFERENTIATION**

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VARIATIONAL SYSTEMS

Given C^2 mappings $\Phi: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$, $\Psi: \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}^m \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^l$ and a convex extended-real-valued function $\theta: \mathbb{R}^m \rightarrow \overline{\mathbb{R}} := (-\infty, \infty]$, consider the variational system (VS)

$$\Psi(x, v) = 0, v \in \partial\theta(\Phi(x))$$

It can be treated as a generalized KKT system being reduced to the classical KKT for nonlinear programs (NLPs) with equality and inequality constraints when $\theta = \delta_\Omega$ with $\Omega := \mathbb{R}^s \times \mathbb{R}_-^{m-s}$

We consider a significantly more general class of θ for which (VS) cover various smooth and nonsmooth optimization problems and may not be even related to optimization

CONVEX PIECEWISE LINEAR FUNCTIONS

Recall that $\theta: \mathbb{R}^m \rightarrow \overline{\mathbb{R}}$ is **convex piecewise linear**, $\theta \in CPWL$, if it admits the following equivalent descriptions

- The **epigraph** $\text{epi } \theta$ is a **convex polyhedron** in \mathbb{R}^{m+1}
- There are $\alpha_i \in \mathbb{R}$, $l \in \mathbb{N}$, and $a_i \in \mathbb{R}^m$ for $i \in T_1 := \{1, \dots, l\}$ such that θ is represented by

$$\theta(z) = \max \left\{ \langle a_1, z \rangle - \alpha_1, \dots, \langle a_l, z \rangle - \alpha_l \right\}, \quad z \in \text{dom } \theta$$

and $\theta(z) = \infty$ otherwise, where the **domain** $\text{dom } \theta$ is a **convex polyhedron** given by

$$\text{dom } \theta = \left\{ z \in \mathbb{R}^m \mid \langle d_i, z \rangle \leq \beta_i, \quad i \in T_2 := \{1, \dots, p\} \right\}$$

with some $d_i \in \mathbb{R}^m$, $\beta_i \in \mathbb{R}$, $p \in \mathbb{N}$

THE SETTING

Impose the following connection between Φ and Ψ in (VS)

$$\Psi(x, v) = f(x) + \nabla\Phi(x)^*v, \quad (x, v) \in \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}^m$$

where $f: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ is a smooth mapping and where A^* stands for the matrix transposition. Consider $\bar{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ satisfying the stationarity condition

$$0 \in f(\bar{x}) + \partial(\theta \circ \Phi)(\bar{x})$$

and define the set of Lagrange multipliers associated with \bar{x} by

$$\Lambda(\bar{x}) = \left\{ v \in \mathbb{R}^m \mid \Psi(\bar{x}, v) = 0, v \in \partial\theta(\bar{z}) \right\}$$

with $\bar{z} = \Phi(\bar{x})$ in what follows

GRAPHICAL DERIVATIVE

The graphical derivative of a set-valued mapping $F: \mathbb{R}^n \rightrightarrows \mathbb{R}^p$ at $(\bar{x}, \bar{y}) \in \text{gph } F$ is

$$DF(\bar{x}, \bar{y})(u) = \left\{ v \in \mathbb{R}^p \mid (u, v) \in T\left((\bar{x}, \bar{y}); \text{gph } F\right) \right\}, \quad u \in \mathbb{R}^n$$

where $T(z; \Omega)$ is a contingent cone to Ω at z defined by

$$T(z; \Omega) := \left\{ w \in \mathbb{R}^m \mid \exists z_k \xrightarrow{\Omega} z, \alpha_k \geq 0, \alpha_k(z_k - z) \rightarrow w \right\}$$

We use the 2nd-order construction $D\partial\theta$ noting that for $\theta \in C^2$

$$(D\partial\theta)(\bar{z}, \theta(\bar{z}))(u) = \left\{ \nabla^2\theta(\bar{z})u \right\}, \quad u \in \mathbb{R}^m$$

For $\theta \in CPWL$ the construction $D\partial\theta$ is explicitly calculated entirely via the given data of θ

CRITICAL AND NONCRITICAL MULTIPLIERS

DEFINITION Let \bar{x} be a stationary point of (VS). Then $\bar{v} \in \Lambda(\bar{x})$ is a **critical multiplier** if there exists $0 \neq \xi \in \mathbb{R}^n$ satisfying

$$0 \in \nabla_x \Psi(\bar{x}, \bar{v})\xi + \nabla \Phi(\bar{x})^* (D\partial\theta)(\bar{z}, \bar{v})(\nabla \Phi(\bar{x})\xi)$$

The multiplier $\bar{v} \in \Lambda(\bar{x})$ is **noncritical** for (VS) otherwise

These notions extend those introduced and developed by **Izmailov and Solodov** (2005+) for **NLPs** and related **smooth KKT**. It has been recognized that critical multipliers are largely responsible for **slow convergence** of major **primal-dual algorithms** of optimization and thus should be **ruled out** for appropriate classes of stationary/optimal solutions

CANONICAL PERTURBATIONS

Consider **canonically perturbed** variational system (PVS) with the parameter pair $(p_1, p_2) \in \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}^m$

$$\begin{bmatrix} p_1 \\ p_2 \end{bmatrix} \in \begin{bmatrix} \Psi(x, v) \\ -\Phi(x) \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ (\partial\theta)^{-1}(v) \end{bmatrix}$$

Define the set-valued mapping

$$G(x, v) := \begin{bmatrix} \Psi(x, v) \\ -\Phi(x) \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ (\partial\theta)^{-1}(v) \end{bmatrix}$$

and the **solution map** to (PVS) by

$$S(p_1, p_2) := \left\{ (x, v) \in \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}^m \mid (p_1, p_2) \in G(x, v) \right\}.$$

ERROR BOUND CHARACT. OF NONCRITICAL MULTIPLIERS

THEOREM The following properties are **equivalent**

(i) The Lagrange multiplier $\bar{v} \in \Lambda(\bar{x})$ is **noncritical** for (VS)

(ii) There are numbers $\varepsilon > 0$, $\ell \geq 0$ and neighborhoods U of $0 \in \mathbb{R}^n$ and W of $0 \in \mathbb{R}^m$ such that for any $(p_1, p_2) \in U \times W$ and any $(x_{p_1 p_2}, v_{p_1 p_2}) \in S(p_1, p_2) \cap \mathcal{B}_\varepsilon(\bar{x}, \bar{v})$ we have

$$\|x_{p_1 p_2} - \bar{x}\| + \text{dist}(v_{p_1 p_2}; \Lambda(\bar{x})) \leq \ell(\|p_1\| + \|p_2\|)$$

COMPOSITE OPTIMIZATION

The general scheme of (CO)

$$\text{minimize } \varphi(x) := \varphi_0(x) + \theta(\Phi(x)), \quad x \in \mathbb{R}^n$$

where $\varphi_0: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ and $\Phi: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$ are C^2 while $\theta: \mathbb{R}^m \rightarrow \overline{\mathbb{R}}$ with $\theta \in CPWL$. Implicit constraints $\Phi(x) \in \text{dom } \theta$.

Consider the Lagrangian

$$L(x, v) = \varphi_0(x) + \langle \Phi(x), v \rangle, \quad (x, v) \in \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}^m$$

and the collection of Lagrange multipliers

$$\Lambda_{\text{com}}(\bar{x}) := \left\{ v \in \mathbb{R}^m \mid \nabla_x L(\bar{x}, v) = 0, v \in \partial\theta(\bar{z}) \right\}$$

SECOND-ORDER SUFFICIENT CONDITION FOR (CO)

We say the **second-order sufficient condition (SOSC)** holds for a feasible solution \bar{x} to (CO) with $\bar{v} \in \Lambda_{\text{com}}(\bar{x})$, $\bar{z} = \Phi(\bar{x})$ if

$$\langle \nabla_{xx}^2 L(\bar{x}, \bar{v})u, u \rangle > 0 \text{ for all } 0 \neq u \in \mathbb{R}^n \text{ with } \nabla \Phi(\bar{x})u \in \mathcal{K}(\bar{z}, \bar{v})$$

where $\mathcal{K}(\bar{z}, \bar{v})$ is the **critical cone** for θ at $(\bar{z}, \bar{v}) \in \text{gph } \partial\theta$ which is **calculated** via the **given data** of $\theta \in CPWL$

THEOREM SOSC ensures that \bar{x} a **strict local minimizer** for (CO). Furthermore, any $\bar{v} \in \Lambda_{\text{com}}(\bar{x})$ for which SOSC holds is a **noncritical multiplier** for (CO) associated with \bar{x}

FULL STABILITY OF LOCAL MINIMIZERS

Consider the canonical perturbation (CP) of (CO)

$$\text{minimize } \varphi_0(x) + \theta(\Phi(x) + p_2) - \langle p_1, x \rangle, \quad x \in \mathbb{R}^n$$

For fixed $\gamma > 0$ and parameters $(p_1, p_2) \in \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}^l$ define

$$m_\gamma(p_1, p_2) = \inf_{\|x - \bar{x}\| \leq \gamma} \{ \varphi_0(x) + \theta(\Phi(x) + p_2) - \langle p_1, x \rangle \}$$

$$M_\gamma(p_1, p_2) = \operatorname{argmin} \{ \varphi_0(x) + \theta(\Phi(x) + p_2) - \langle p_1, x \rangle \mid \|x - \bar{x}\| \leq \gamma \}$$

Then \bar{x} is a fully stable locally optimal solution to CP if the mapping $(p_1, p_2) \mapsto M_\gamma(p_1, p_2)$ is locally single-valued and Lipschitzian with $M_\gamma(0, 0) = \{\bar{x}\}$ and the function $(p_1, p_2) \mapsto m_\gamma(p_1, p_2)$ is locally Lipschitzian around $(0, 0)$ for some $\gamma > 0$

EXCLUDING CRITICAL MULTIPLIERS

THEOREM Let \bar{x} be a **fully stable** locally optimal solution to (CP). Then the Lagrange multiplier set $\Lambda_{\text{com}}(\bar{x})$ **does not include any critical multipliers**

By now we have **complete second-order characterizations** of full stability for various classes of optimization and optimal control problems as well as variational systems. This allows us to efficiently determine settings where critical multipliers **do not appear** and thus **slow convergence** is **eliminated**

Tilt stability ($p_2 = 0$) may not rule out critical multipliers, but it does under certain **nondegeneracy conditions** as well as in some other case for NLPs

ROBUST ISOLATED CALMNESS

DEFINITION A set-valued mapping $F: \mathbb{R}^n \rightrightarrows \mathbb{R}^m$ enjoys the **robust isolated calmness** property at $(\bar{x}, \bar{y}) \in \text{gph } F$ if there exist $\ell \geq 0$ and neighborhoods U of \bar{x} , V of \bar{y} such that

$$F(x) \cap V \subset \{\bar{y}\} + \ell \|x - \bar{x}\| \mathcal{B} \quad \text{for all } x \in U$$

together with the condition

$$F(x) \cap V \neq \emptyset \quad \text{for all } x \in U$$

CHARACT. OF ROBUST ISOLATED CALMNESS FOR (CO)

THEOREM Let \bar{x} be a feasible solution to (CO) with $\theta \in CPWL$. Then the following are **equivalent**

(i) The KKT solution map

$$S_{\text{KKT}}(p_1, p_2) = \left\{ (x, v) \in \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}^m \mid p_1 = \nabla_x L(x, v), v \in \partial\theta(p_2 + \Phi(\bar{x})) \right\}$$

is **robustly isolatedly calm** at $((0, 0), (\bar{x}, \bar{v})) \in \mathbb{R}^{n+m} \times \mathbb{R}^{n+m}$ and \bar{x} is a **locally optimal solution** to (CO).

(ii) **SOSC** holds and $\Lambda_{\text{com}}(\bar{x}) = \{\bar{v}\}$

(iii) $\Lambda_{\text{com}}(\bar{x}) = \{\bar{v}\}$, \bar{x} is a **locally optimal solution** to (CO), and \bar{v} is a **noncritical multipliers** for with $\Psi = \nabla_x L$

(iv) S_{KKT} is **isolatedly calm** at $((0, 0), (\bar{x}, \bar{v}))$ and \bar{x} is a **locally optimal solution** to (CO)

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