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Author(s)	Lee, Jae Hyoung; Lee, Gue Myung
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## RECENT RESULTS ON SEQUENTIAL OPTIMALITY THEOREMS FOR CONVEX OPTIMIZATION PROBLEMS

JAE HYOUNG LEE AND GUE MYUNG LEE

ABSTRACT. In this brief note, we review sequential optimality theorems in [5]. We give two kinds of sequential optimality theorems for a convex optimization problem, which are expressed in terms of sequences of  $\epsilon$ -subgradients and subgradients of involved functions.

### 1. INTRODUCTION

Consider the following convex programming problem

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

where  $\overline{\mathbb{R}} = [-\infty, +\infty]$  and  $f, g_i : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \overline{\mathbb{R}}, i = 1, \dots, m$ , are proper lower semi-continuous convex functions.

New sequential Lagrange multiplier conditions characterizing optimality without any constraint qualification for convex programs have been presented in terms of the subgradients and the  $\epsilon$ -subgradients ([2, 3, 4]).

In this paper, we review sequential optimality results in [5]. We give two kinds of sequential optimality theorems for a convex optimization problem, which are expressed in terms of sequences of  $\epsilon$ -subgradients and subgradients of involved functions. The involved functions of the problem are proper, lower semi-continuous and convex functions.

### 2. PRELIMINARIES

Let us give some notations and preliminary results which will be used throughout this thesis.

$\mathbb{R}^n$  denotes the  $n$ -dimensional Euclidean space. The inner product in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  is defined by  $\langle x, y \rangle := x^T y$  for all  $x, y \in \mathbb{R}^n$ . We say that a set  $A$  in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  is convex whenever  $\mu a_1 + (1 - \mu)a_2 \in A$  for all  $\mu \in [0, 1], a_1, a_2 \in A$ .

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Let  $f$  be a function from  $\mathbb{R}^n$  to  $\overline{\mathbb{R}}$ , where  $\overline{\mathbb{R}} = [-\infty, +\infty]$ . Here,  $f$  is said to be proper if for all  $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ ,  $f(x) > -\infty$ , and there exists  $x_0 \in \mathbb{R}^n$  such that  $f(x_0) \in \mathbb{R}$ . We denote the domain of  $f$  by  $\text{dom}f$ , that is,  $\text{dom}f := \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : f(x) < +\infty\}$ . The epigraph of  $f$ ,  $\text{epi}f$ , is defined as  $\text{epi}f := \{(x, r) \in \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R} : f(x) \leq r\}$ , and  $f$  is said to be convex if  $\text{epi}f$  is convex.

Let  $f : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \cup \{+\infty\}$  be a convex function. The subdifferential of  $f$  at  $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$  is defined by

$$\partial f(x) = \begin{cases} \{x^* \in \mathbb{R}^n : \langle x^*, y - x \rangle \leq f(y) - f(x), \forall y \in \mathbb{R}^n\}, & \text{if } x \in \text{dom}f, \\ \emptyset, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

More generally, for any  $\epsilon \geq 0$ , the  $\epsilon$ -subdifferential of  $f$  at  $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$  is defined by

$$\partial_\epsilon f(x) = \begin{cases} \{x^* \in \mathbb{R}^n : \langle x^*, y - x \rangle \leq f(y) - f(x) + \epsilon, \forall y \in \mathbb{R}^n\}, & \text{if } x \in \text{dom}f, \\ \emptyset, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

We say that  $f$  is a lower semicontinuous function if  $\liminf_{y \rightarrow x} f(y) \geq f(x)$  for all  $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ .

As usual, for any proper convex function  $g$  on  $\mathbb{R}^n$ , its conjugate function  $g^* : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \cup \{+\infty\}$  is defined by  $g^*(x^*) = \sup \{\langle x^*, x \rangle - g(x) : x \in \mathbb{R}^n\}$  for any  $x^* \in \mathbb{R}^n$ .

We recall a version of the Brondsted-Rockafellar theorem which was established in [6].

**Proposition 2.1.** [1, 6] (**Brondsted-Rockafellar Theorem**) *Let  $f : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \cup \{+\infty\}$  be a proper lower semi-continuous convex function. Then for any real number  $\epsilon > 0$  and any  $x^* \in \partial_\epsilon f(\bar{x})$  there exist  $x_\epsilon \in \mathbb{R}^n$ ,  $x_\epsilon^* \in \partial f(x_\epsilon)$  such that*

$$\|x_\epsilon - \bar{x}\| \leq \sqrt{\epsilon}, \quad \|x_\epsilon^* - x^*\| \leq \sqrt{\epsilon} \quad \text{and} \quad |f(x_\epsilon) - \langle x_\epsilon^*, x_\epsilon - \bar{x} \rangle - f(\bar{x})| \leq 2\epsilon.$$

### 3. SEQUENTIAL OPTIMALITY THEOREMS

The following theorem is a sequential optimality result for (CP), which is expressed sequences of  $\epsilon$ -subgradients of involved functions. The involved functions of the problem are proper, lower semi-continuous and convex functions.

**Theorem 3.1.** [5] *Let  $f, g_i : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \overline{\mathbb{R}}$ ,  $i = 1, \dots, m$ , be proper lower semi-continuous convex functions. Let  $A := \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : g_i(x) \leq 0, i = 1, \dots, m\} \neq \emptyset$  and let  $\bar{x} \in A$ . Assume that  $A \cap \text{dom}f \neq \emptyset$ . Then the following statements are equivalent:*

- (i)  $\bar{x}$  is an optimal solution of (CP);
- (ii) there exist  $\delta_k \geq 0$ ,  $\gamma_k \geq 0$ ,  $\lambda_i^k \geq 0$ ,  $i = 1, \dots, m$ ,  $\xi_k \in \partial_{\delta_k} f(\bar{x})$  and  $\zeta_k \in \partial_{\gamma_k} (\sum_{i=1}^m \lambda_i^k g_i)(\bar{x})$  such that

$$\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} (\xi_k + \zeta_k) = 0, \quad \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} (\delta_k + \gamma_k) = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \left( \sum_{i=1}^m \lambda_i^k g_i \right) (\bar{x}) = 0.$$

**Theorem 3.2.** [5] *Let  $f, g_i : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \overline{\mathbb{R}}, i = 1, \dots, m$ , be proper lower semi-continuous convex functions. Let  $A := \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : g_i(x) \leq 0, i = 1, \dots, m\} \neq \emptyset$  and let  $\bar{x} \in A$ . Assume that  $A \cap \text{dom} f \neq \emptyset$ . Assume that  $\text{epi} f^* + \text{cl} \bigcup_{\lambda_i \geq 0} \text{epi} (\sum_{i=1}^m \lambda_i g_i)^*$  is closed. Then the following statements are equivalent:*

- (i)  $\bar{x}$  is an optimal solution of (CP);
- (ii) there exist  $\gamma_k \geq 0, \lambda_i^k \geq 0, i = 1, \dots, m, \xi \in \partial f(\bar{x}), \zeta_k \in \partial_{\gamma_k} (\sum_{i=1}^m \lambda_i^k g_i)(\bar{x})$  such that

$$\xi + \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \zeta_k = 0, \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \gamma_k = 0 \text{ and } \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \left( \sum_{i=1}^m \lambda_i^k g_i \right) (\bar{x}) = 0.$$

The following theorem is a sequential optimality result for (CP), which involve only the subgradients at nearby points to a minimizer of (CP). It is established by Proposition 2.1(a version of Brondsted-Rockafellar Theorem) and Theorem 3.1

**Theorem 3.3.** [5] *Let  $f, g_i : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \overline{\mathbb{R}}, i = 1, \dots, m$ , be proper lower semi-continuous convex functions. Let  $A := \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : g_i(x) \leq 0, i = 1, \dots, m\} \neq \emptyset$  and let  $\bar{x} \in A$ . Assume that  $A \cap \text{dom} f \neq \emptyset$ . Then the following statements are equivalent:*

- (i)  $\bar{x}$  is an optimal solution of (CP);
- (ii) there exist  $x_k \in \mathbb{R}^n, \lambda_i^k \geq 0, i = 1, \dots, m, \bar{\xi}_k \in \partial f(x_k), \bar{\zeta}_k \in \partial (\sum_{i=1}^m \lambda_i^k g_i)(x_k)$  such that

$$\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} x_k = \bar{x}, \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} (\bar{\xi}_k + \bar{\zeta}_k) = 0,$$

and  $\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \left[ f(x_k) + \left( \sum_{i=1}^m \lambda_i^k g_i \right) (x_k) - f(\bar{x}) \right] = 0.$

The following theorem is a sequential optimality result for (CP), which involve only the subgradients at nearby points to a minimizer of (CP). It is established by Proposition 2.1(a version of Brondsted-Rockafellar Theorem) and Theorem 3.2

**Theorem 3.4.** [5] *Let  $f, g_i : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \overline{\mathbb{R}}, i = 1, \dots, m$ , be proper lower semi-continuous convex functions. Let  $A := \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : g_i(x) \leq 0, i = 1, \dots, m\} \neq \emptyset$  and let  $\bar{x} \in A$ . Assume that  $A \cap \text{dom} f \neq \emptyset$  and  $\text{epi} f^* + \text{cl} \bigcup_{\lambda_i \geq 0} \text{epi} (\sum_{i=1}^n \lambda_i g_i)^*$  is closed. Then the following statements are equivalent:*

- (i)  $\bar{x}$  is an optimal solution of (CP);
- (ii) there exist  $x_k \in \mathbb{R}^n, \lambda_i^k \geq 0, i = 1, \dots, m, \bar{\xi} \in \partial f(\bar{x}), \bar{\zeta}_k \in \partial (\sum_{i=1}^m \lambda_i^k g_i)(x_k)$  such that

$$\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} x_k = \bar{x}, \bar{\xi} + \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \bar{\zeta}_k = 0 \text{ and } \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \left( \sum_{i=1}^m \lambda_i^k g_i \right) (x_k) = 0.$$

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DEPARTMENT OF APPLIED MATHEMATICS, PUKYONG NATIONAL UNIVERSITY, BUSAN 48513,  
KOREA

*E-mail address:* mc7558@naver.com

DEPARTMENT OF APPLIED MATHEMATICS, PUKYONG NATIONAL UNIVERSITY, BUSAN 48513,  
KOREA

*E-mail address:* gmlee@pknu.ac.kr