

Research Article

Sufficient Optimality and Sensitivity Analysis of a Parameterized Min-Max Programming

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Sufficient optimality and sensitivity of a parameterized min-max programming with fixed feasible set are analyzed. Based on Clarke's subdifferential and Chaney's second-order directional derivative, sufficient optimality of the parameterized min-max programming is discussed first. Moreover, under a convex assumption on the objective function, a subdifferential computation formula of the marginal function is obtained. The assumptions are satisfied naturally for some application problems. Moreover, the formulae based on these assumptions are concise and convenient for algorithmic purpose to solve the applications.

1. Introduction

In this paper, sufficient optimality and sensitivity analysis of a parameterized min-max programming are given. The paper is triggered by a local reduction algorithmic strategy for solving following nonsmooth semi-infinite min-max-min programming (SIM³P, see [1, 2], etc. for related applications reference):

$$\begin{aligned} \min_x \quad & f(x) \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & g(x) = \max_{y \in Y} \min_{1 \leq i \leq q} \{g_i(x, y)\} \leq 0. \end{aligned} \tag{1.1}$$

With the local reduction technique, the SIM³P can be rewritten as a bilevel programming first, where the lower problem is the following parameterized min-max programming P_x (see [3–5] for related reference of local reduction strategy):

$$\begin{aligned} \min_y \quad & g(x, y) = \max_{1 \leq i \leq q} \{-g_i(x, y)\} \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & y \in Y. \end{aligned} \tag{1.2}$$

To make the bilevel strategy applicable to SIM³P, it is essential to discuss the second-order sufficient optimality of P_x and give sensitivity analysis of the parameterized minimum $y(x)$ and corresponding marginal function $g(x, y(x))$.

Sensitivity analysis of optimization problems is an important aspect in the field of operation and optimization research. Based on different assumptions, many results on kinds of parametric programming have been obtained ([6–9], etc.). Among these, some conclusions on parameterized min-max programming like (1.2) have also been given. For example, based on variation analysis, parameterized continuous programming with fixed constraint was discussed in [7]. Problem like (1.2) can be seen as a special case. Under the inf-compactness condition and the condition objective function is concave with respect to the parameter, directional derivative computational formula of marginal function for (1.2) can be obtained directly. However, concave condition cannot be satisfied for many problems. Recently, Fréchet subgradients computation formula of marginal functions for nondifferentiable programming in Asplund spaces was given ([9]). By using Fréchet subgradients computation formula in [9], subgradient formula of marginal function for (1.2) is direct. But the formula is tedious, if utilizing the formula to construct optimality system of (1.1), the system is so complex that it is difficult to solve the obtained optimality system.

For more convenient computational purpose, the focus of this paper is to establish sufficient optimality and simple computation formula of marginal function for (1.2). Based on Clarke's subdifferential and Chaney's second-order directional derivative, sufficient optimality of the parameterized programming P_x is given first. And then Lipschitzian continuousness of the parameterized isolated minimizer $y(x)$ and the marginal function $g(y(x), x)$ is discussed; moreover, subdifferential computation formula of the marginal function is obtained.

2. Main Results

Let Y in (1.2) be defined as $Y = \{y \in R^m : h_i(y) \leq 0, i = 1, \dots, l\}$, where $h_i(\cdot)$ and $i = 1, \dots, l$, are twice continuously differentiable functions on R^m , and $g_i(\cdot, \cdot)$ in (1.2) are twice continuously differentiable functions on $R^{n \times m}$. In the following, we first give the sufficient optimality condition of (1.2) based on Clarke's subdifferential and Chaney's second-order directional derivative, and then make sensitivity analysis of the parameterized problem P_x .

2.1. Sufficient Optimality Conditions of P_x

Definition 2.1 (see [10]). For a given parameter x , a point $y^* \in Y$ is said to be an local minimum of problem P_x if there exists a neighborhood U of y^* such that

$$g(x, y) \geq g(x, y^*), \quad \forall y \in U \cap Y, \quad y \neq y^*. \quad (2.1)$$

Assumption 2.2. For a given parameter x , suppose that P_x satisfying the following constraint qualification:

$$\left\{ d \in \mathbb{R}^m : \nabla h_i(y)^T d < 0, \quad \forall i \in I_h(y), \quad y \in Y \right\} \neq \emptyset, \quad (2.2)$$

where $I_h(y) = \{i = \{1, \dots, l\} : h_i(y) = 0\}$.

For a given parameter x , denote the Lagrange function of P_x as $L(x, y, \lambda) = g(x, y) + \sum_{i=1}^l \lambda_i h_i(y)$, then the following holds.

Theorem 2.3. For a given parameter x , if y^* is a minimum of P_x , Assumption 2.2 holds, then there exists a $\lambda^* \in \mathbb{R}_+^l$ such that $0 \in \partial_y L(x, y^*, \lambda^*)$, where $\partial_y L(x, y^*, \lambda^*)$ denotes the Clarke's subdifferential of $L(x, y^*, \lambda^*)$. Specifically, the following system holds:

$$0 \in \partial_y g(x, y^*) + \sum_{i=1}^l \lambda_i \nabla h_i(y^*), \quad (2.3)$$

where $\partial_y g(x, y)$ denotes Clarke's subdifferential of $g(x, y)$ with respect to y , it can be computed as $\text{co}\{\nabla_y g_i(x, y^*) : i \in I(x, y^*)\}$, $\text{co}\{\cdot\}$ is an operation of making convex hull of the elements, $I(x, y^*) = \{i \in \{1, \dots, q\} : g(x, y^*) = g(x, y^*)\}$.

Proof. The conclusion is direct from Theorem 3.2.6 and Corollary 5.1.8 in [11]. \square

Since $g(x, y) = \max_{1 \leq i \leq p} \{g_i(x, y)\}$ is a directional differentiable function (Theorem 3.2.13 in [11]), the directional derivative of $g(x, y)$ with respect to y in direction d can be computed as follows:

$$g'_y(x, y; d) = \max \left\{ \xi^T d : \forall \xi \in \partial_y g(x, y), \quad \forall d \in \mathbb{R}^m \right\}. \quad (2.4)$$

Definition 2.4 (see [10]). Let $f(x)$ is a locally Lipschitzian function on \mathbb{R}^n , u be a nonzero vector in \mathbb{R}^n . Suppose that

$$d \in \partial_u f(x) = \left\{ v \in \mathbb{R}^n : \exists \{x_k\}, \{v_k\}, \text{ s. t. } x_k \xrightarrow{x} v, v_k \rightarrow v, v_k \in \partial f(x_k) \text{ for each } k \right\} \quad (2.5)$$

define Chaney's lower second-order directional derivative as follows:

$$f''_-(x, v, u) = \liminf \frac{f(x_k) - f(x) - v^T(x_k - x)}{t_k^2}, \quad (2.6)$$

taking over all triples of sequences $\{x_k\}$, $\{v_k\}$, and $\{t_k\}$ for which

- (a) $t_k > 0$ for each k and $\{x_k\} \rightarrow x$;
- (b) $t_k \rightarrow 0$ and $(x_k - x^*)/t_k$ converges to u ;
- (c) $\{v_k\} \rightarrow v$ with $v_k \in \partial f(x_k)$ for each k .

Similarly, Chaney's upper second-order directional derivative can be defined as

$$f_+'' = \limsup \frac{f(x_k) - f(x) - v^T(x_k - x)}{t_k^2}, \quad (2.7)$$

taking over all triples of sequences $\{x_k\}$, $\{v_k\}$, and $\{t_k\}$ for which (a), (b), and (c) above hold.

For parameterized max-type function $g(x, y) = \max_{1 \leq i \leq p} \{-g_i(x, y)\}$, where x is a given parameter, its Chaney's lower and upper second-order directional derivatives can be computed as follows.

Proposition 2.5 (see [12]). *For any given parameter x , Chaney's lower and upper second-order directional derivatives of $g(x, y)$ with respect to y exist; moreover, for any given $0 \neq u \in R^q$, $v \in \partial_u g(x, y)$, it has*

$$\begin{aligned} g_-''(x, y; d) &= \min \left\{ \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^q a_i u^T \nabla_y^2 g_i(x, y) u : a \in T_u(g, y, v) \right\}, \\ g_+''(x, y; d) &= \max \left\{ \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^q a_i u^T \nabla_y^2 g_i(x, y) u : a \in T_u(g, y, v) \right\}, \end{aligned} \quad (2.8)$$

where

$$T_u(g, y, v) = \left\{ a \in R_+^q : \begin{array}{l} \exists \{y^{(k)}\}, \{a^{(k)}\}, \{v^{(k)}\}, \text{ such that} \\ (1) \ y^{(k)} \rightarrow y \text{ in direction } u, \\ (2) \ v^{(k)} \rightarrow v, \text{ and } v^{(k)} \in \partial_y g(x, y^{(k)}), \ k = 1, 2, \dots, \\ (3) \ a^{(k)} \rightarrow a, \ a^{(k)} \in E_q, \ v^{(k)} = \sum_{i=1}^p a_i^{(k)} \nabla_y g_i(x, y^{(k)}), \\ (4) \ a_j^{(k)} = 0, \ \text{for } j \notin K_g(y^{(k)}) \end{array} \right\}, \quad (2.9)$$

where $K_g(y^{(k)}) = \{i \in Q : g_i(x, y^{(k)}) = g(x, y^{(k)}), \exists y^{(n)} \in B(y, 1/n), \forall n \in N\}$, $E_q = \{a \in R_+^q : \sum_{i=1}^p a_i = 1\}$, $Q = \{1, \dots, q\}$, and $B(y, 1/n)$ denotes the ball centered in y with radius $1/n$.

Theorem 2.6 (sufficiency theorem). *For a given parameter $x \in R^n$, Assumption 2.2 holds, then there exists $y^* \in R^m$ such that (2.3) holds. Moreover, for any feasible direction $d \in R^m$ of Y , that is, $\max\{\nabla h_i(y^*)^T d : 1 \leq i \leq l\} \leq 0$, if d satisfying one of the following conditions:*

- (1) $g'_y(x, y^*; d) \neq 0$;
 (2) $g'_y(x, y^*; d) = 0$, $\sum_{i=1}^l \lambda_i \nabla h_i(y)^T d = 0$, that is, $L'_y(x, y; d) = 0$, and

$$\min \left\{ \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^q a_i d^T \nabla_y^2 g_i(x, y^*) d : a \in E_q \right\} + \sum_{i=1}^l \lambda_i d^T \nabla^2 h_i(y^*) d > 0, \quad (2.10)$$

then y^* is a local minimum of P_x .

Proof. (1) If not, then there exists sequences $t_k \downarrow 0$, $d_k \rightarrow d$, $y_k = y^* + t_k d_k \in Y$ such that

$$g(x, y_k) < g(x, y^*). \quad (2.11)$$

As a result, $g'_y(x, y^*; d) = \lim_{t \downarrow 0} (g(x, y^* + td) - g(x, y^*)) / t = \lim_{k \rightarrow +\infty} (g(x, y^* + t_k d_k) - g(x, y^*)) / t_k \leq 0$. If $g'_y(x, y^*; d) \neq 0$, then $g'_y(x, y^*; d) < 0$. From (2.4), we know that $\xi^T d < 0$ for all $\xi \in \partial_y g(x, y^*)$. Hence, for the direction $d \in R^m$, we have

$$\xi^T d + \sum_{i=1}^l \nabla h_i(y^*)^T d < 0, \quad \xi \in \partial_y g(x, y^*). \quad (2.12)$$

On the other hand, from y^* satisfying (2.3), we know that there exists a $\xi \in \partial_y g(x, y^*)$ such that

$$\xi^T d + \sum_{i=1}^l \nabla h_i(y^*)^T d = 0, \quad (2.13)$$

which leads to a contradiction to (2.12).

(2) From Theorem 4 in [10] and Proposition 2.5, the conclusion is direct. \square

2.2. Sensitivity Analysis of Parameterized P_x

In the following, we make sensitivity analysis of parameterized min-max programming P_x , that is, study variation of isolated local minimizers and corresponding marginal function under small perturbation of x .

For convenience of discussion, for any given parameter x , denote $y^*(x)$ as a minimizer of P_x , $v(x) = \min\{g(x, y) : y \in Y\}$ as the corresponding marginal function value and make the following assumptions first.

Assumption 2.7. For given $x \in R^n$, the parametric problem P_x is a convex problem, specifically, $g_i(x, y)$ and $i = 1, \dots, q$ are concave functions with respect to that variables y and $h_j(y)$, $j = 1, \dots, l$ are convex functions.

Assumption 2.8. Let $I_h(y) = \{i \in L : h_i(y) = 0\}$, $\{\nabla h_i(y) : i \in I_h(y)\}$ are linearly independent.

Definition 2.9 (see Definition 2.1, [13]). For a given $\bar{x}, \bar{y} \in Y$ is said to be an isolated local minimum with order i ($i = 1$ or 2) of $P_{\bar{x}}$ if there exists a real $m > 0$ and a neighborhood V of \bar{y} such that

$$g(\bar{x}, y) > g(\bar{x}, \bar{y}) + \frac{1}{2}m\|y - \bar{y}\|^i, \quad \forall y \in V \cap Y, y \neq \bar{y}. \quad (2.14)$$

Theorem 2.10. For a given $x \in R^n$, Assumptions 2.2–2.8 hold, then the following conclusions hold:

- (1) if $y^*(x)$ with corresponding multiplier λ^* is the solution of (2.3), then $y^*(x)$ is a unique first-order isolated minimizer of P_x ;
- (2) for any minimum $y^*(x)$, it is a locally Lipschitzian function with respect to x , that is, there exists a $L_1 > 0, \delta > 0$ such that

$$\|y^*(x^k) - y^*(x)\| \leq L_1\|x^k - x\|, \quad \forall x^k \in U(x, \delta), y^*(x^k) \in Y(x^k), \quad (2.15)$$

where $Y(x^k)$ denotes minima set of P_{x^k} ;

- (3) for any minimum $y^*(x)$, marginal function $v(x) = g(x, y^*(x))$ is also a locally Lipschitz function with respect to x , and $\partial v(x) \subseteq S(x)$, where

$$S(x) = \text{co}\{\nabla_x g_i(x, y^*(x)), i \in I(x, y^*(x))\}, \quad (2.16)$$

and $I(x, y^*(x)) = \{i \in \{1, \dots, q\} : g_i(x, y^*(x)) = g(x, y^*(x))\}$. As a result,

$$\partial v(x) = \left\{ \sum_{i \in I(x, y^*(x))} \lambda_i \nabla_x g_i(x, y^*(x)) : \lambda_i \geq 0, \sum_{i \in I(x, y^*(x))} \lambda_i = 1 \right\}. \quad (2.17)$$

Proof. (1) From Assumption 2.7, it is direct that $y^*(x)$ is a global minimizer of P_x . We only prove $y^*(x)$ is a first-order isolated minimizer.

If the conclusion does not hold, then there exists a sequence $\{y^k\} \in Y(x)$ converging to $y^*(x)$, $y^k \neq y^*(x)$, and a sequence $m_k, m_k > 0$, and m_k converges to 0 such that

$$g(x, y^k) \leq g(x, y^*(x)) + \frac{1}{2}m_k\|y^k - y^*\|, \quad y^k \in Y. \quad (2.18)$$

Take $d_k = (y^k - y^*(x))/\|y^k - y^*(x)\|$, for simplicity, we suppose $d_k \rightarrow d$, with $\|d\| = 1$. Let $t_k = \|y^k - y^*(x)\|$, then from $y^k \in Y, d_k \rightarrow d$ and Y is compact, we have

$$y^*(x) + t_k d \in Y, \quad t_k \rightarrow 0, \quad (2.19)$$

that is,

$$\nabla h_i(y^*(x))^T d \leq 0, \quad \forall i \in I(x, y^*(x)). \quad (2.20)$$

From Assumption 2.8, we know that $\sum_{i \in I(x, y^*(x))} \nabla h_i(y^*(x))^T d \neq 0$. As a result, we have $\sum_{i \in I(x, y^*(x))} \nabla h_i(y^*(x))^T d < 0$.

From the first equation of (2.3), we know that there exists a $z \in \partial_y g(x, y^*(x))$ such that for any feasible direction d , $z^T d = -\sum_{i \in I(x, y^*(x))} \lambda_i \nabla h_i(y^*(x))^T d > 0$. Hence,

$$g'_y(x, y^*(x); d) = \max \left\{ \xi^T d : \xi \in \partial_y g(x, y^*(x)) \right\} \geq z^T d > 0. \quad (2.21)$$

On the other hand, from $y^*(x)$ is a minimizer, we know that $g'_y(x, y^*(x); d) \geq 0$, this leads to a contradiction;

(2) from Assumption 2.8 and Theorem 3.1 in [13], the conclusion is direct;

(3) since $g(x, y)$ is a locally Lipschitzian function with respect to x and y , then there exists $\delta > 0$, $\delta' > 0$, and $L_2 > 0$ such that for any $x_1 \in U(x, \delta)$, $y \in U(y^*(x), \delta')$, it has

$$\begin{aligned} |g(x_1, y^*(x)) - g(x, y^*(x))| &\leq L_2 \|x_1 - x\|, \\ |g(x, y) - g(x, y^*(x))| &\leq L_2 \|y - y^*(x)\|. \end{aligned} \quad (2.22)$$

As to $x_1 \in U(x, \delta)$, from the conclusion in (1.2), there exists a $L_1 > 0$ such that $\|y^*(x_1) - y^*(x)\| \leq L_1 \|x_1 - x\|$. As a result,

$$\begin{aligned} |v(x_1) - v(x)| &= |g(x_1, y^*(x_1)) - g(x, y^*(x))| \\ &= |g(x_1, y^*(x_1)) - g(x_1, y^*(x)) + g(x_1, y^*(x)) - g(x, y^*(x))| \\ &\leq |g(x_1, y^*(x_1)) - g(x_1, y^*(x))| + |g(x_1, y^*(x)) - g(x, y^*(x))| \\ &\leq L_2 \|y^*(x_1) - y^*(x)\| + L_2 \|x_1 - x\| \leq L_2(1 + L_1) \|x_1 - x\|. \end{aligned} \quad (2.23)$$

Hence, the marginal function $v(x)$ is a local Lipschitzian function with respect to x .

Let $\widehat{S}(x) = \{-\nabla_x g_i(x, y(x)), i \in I(x, y(x))\}$, then $S(x) = \text{co}\{\xi, \xi \in \widehat{S}(x)\}$. We prove that $\widehat{S}(x)$ is closed first, that is, prove for any sequence $\{x^k\} \subset R^n$, $x^k \rightarrow \bar{x}$, $z^k \in \widehat{S}(x^k)$, $z^k \rightarrow z$, it has $z \in \widehat{S}(\bar{x})$.

From $z^k \in \widehat{S}(x^k)$, there exist $y^k \in Y(x^k)$; $i_k \in I(x^k, y^k)$ such that $z^k = -\nabla_x g_{i_k}(x^k, y^k)$. Without loss of generality, suppose that $\{y^k\}$ converges to \bar{y} ; $\{i_k\}$ converges to \bar{i} . From Proposition 3.3 in [14], it has $\bar{y} \in Y(\bar{x})$, and $\bar{i} \in I(\bar{x}, \bar{y})$ and from $\nabla_x g_{\bar{i}}(x, y)$ is a continuous function, it has $z = \lim_{k \rightarrow +\infty} z^k = \lim_{k \rightarrow +\infty} \nabla_x g_{i_k}(x^k, y^k) = \nabla_x g_{\bar{i}}(\bar{x}, \bar{y}) \in \widehat{S}(x)$. As a result, $\widehat{S}(x)$ is a closed set.

From Theorem 3.2.16 in [11], for any $\xi \in \partial v(x)$, there exists $x^k \in R^n$, $x^k \rightarrow x$ such that $\nabla v(x^k)$ exists and $\xi = \lim_{k \rightarrow +\infty} \nabla v(x^k)$. In addition, for arbitrary $d \in R^n$, it has

$$\begin{aligned}
 \nabla v(x^k)^T d &= v'(x^k; d) = \lim_{t \downarrow 0} \frac{v(x^k + td) - v(x^k)}{t} \\
 &= \lim_{t \downarrow 0} \frac{g(x^k + td, y^*(x^k + td)) - g(x^k, y^*(x^k))}{t} \\
 &\leq \lim_{t \downarrow 0} \frac{g(x^k + td, y^*(x^k)) - g(x^k, y^*(x^k))}{t} \\
 &= \max_{i \in I(x^k, y)} \left\{ -\nabla_x g_i(x^k, y)^T d \right\}.
 \end{aligned} \tag{2.24}$$

From the definition of $S(x^k)$, $\exists z^k \in S(x^k)$ such that $z^{kT} d = \max_{i \in I(x^k, y)} \{-\nabla_x g_i(x^k, y)^T d\}$. Hence, it has $\nabla v(x^k)^T d \leq z^{kT} d$.

From $z^k \rightarrow z \in \widehat{S}(x) \subset S(x)$, $\nabla v(x^k) \rightarrow \xi$ and $\nabla v(x^k)^T d \leq z^{kT} d$, it has $\xi^T d \leq z^T d$, that is, for arbitrary $d \in R^n$ and $\xi \in \partial v(x)$, there exists $z \in S(x)$ such that $\xi^T d \leq z^T d$.

If $\partial v(x) \subset S(x)$ does not hold, then there exists a $\xi \in \partial v(x)$ and $\xi \notin S(x)$. From $S(x)$ is a compact convex set and separation theorem ([15]), there exists a $d \in R^n$ such that $\xi^T d < 0$ and for arbitrary $z \in S(x)$, $z^T d \geq 0$, which leads to a contradiction. As a result, $\partial v(x) \subset S(x)$ holds. From $\partial v(x) \subset S(x)$ and $S(x) = \text{co}\{\nabla_x g_i(x, y^*(x)), i \in I(x, y^*(x))\}$, computation formula (2.17) is direct. \square

3. Discussion

In this paper, sufficient optimality and sensitivity analysis of a parameterized min-max programming are given. A rule for computation the subdifferential of $v(x)$ is established. Though the assumptions in this paper are some restrictive compared to some existing work, the assumptions hold naturally for some applications. Moreover, the obtained computation formula is simple, it is beneficial for establishing a concise first-order necessary optimality system of (1.1), and then constructing effective algorithms to solve the applications.

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