Chapter 21 Problems with Inequality Constraints

An Introduction to Optimization Spring, 2014

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 Consider the following problem: minimize f(x)
 subject to h(x) = 0
 g(x) ≤ 0

where $f: \mathbb{R}^n \to \mathbb{R}$, $h: \mathbb{R}^n \to \mathbb{R}^m$, $m \leq n$, and $g: \mathbb{R}^n \to \mathbb{R}^p$.

- ▶ Definition 21.1. An inequality constraint g_j(x) ≤ 0 is said to be *active* at x^{*} if g_j(x^{*}) = 0. It is *inactive* at x^{*} if g_j(x^{*}) < 0</p>
- ▶ Definition 21.2. Let x* satisfy h(x*) = 0, g(x*) ≤ 0, and let J(x*) be the index set of active inequality constraints J(x*) ≜ {j : g_j(x*) = 0}

Then, we say that \mathbf{x}^* is a *regular point* if the vectors $\nabla h_i(\mathbf{x}^*), \nabla g_j(\mathbf{x}^*), 1 \le i \le m, j \in J(\mathbf{x}^*)$ are linearly independent.

- We now prove a first-order necessary condition for a point to be a local minimizer. We call this condition the Karush-Kuhn-Tucker (KKT) condition (or Kuhn-Tucker condition)
- Theorem 21.1. Karush-Kuhn-Tucker Theorem. Let *f*, *h*, *g* ∈ C¹. Let *x*^{*} be a regular point and a local minimizer for the problem of minimizing *f* subject to *h*(*x*) = 0, *g*(*x*) ≤ 0 Then, there exists *λ*^{*} ∈ ℝ^m and *µ*^{*} ∈ ℝ^p such that:

▶ 1.
$$\mu^* \ge 0$$

► 2.
$$Df(x^*) + \lambda^{*T} Dh(x^*) + \mu^{*T} Dg(x^*) = 0^T$$

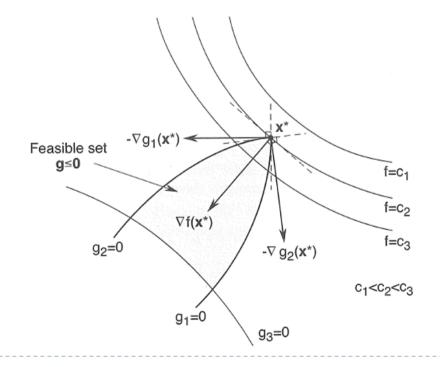
▶ 3.
$$\mu^{*T} g(x^*) = 0$$

- In Theorem 21.1, we refer to λ* as the Lagrange multiplier vector and μ* as the Karush-Kuhn-Tucker (KKT) multiplier vector. We refer to their components as Lagrange multipliers and KKT multipliers, respectively.
- Observe that $\mu_j^* \ge 0$ (by condition 1) and $g_j(\boldsymbol{x}^*) \le 0$. Therefore, the condition

 $u^{*T}g(x^{*}) = u_{1}^{*}g_{1}(x^{*}) + \dots + u_{p}^{*}g_{p}(x^{*}) = 0$

implies that if $g_j(\boldsymbol{x}^*) < 0$, then $\mu_j^* = 0$; that is, for all $j \notin J(\boldsymbol{x}^*)$ we have $\mu_j^* = 0$. In other words, the KKT multipliers μ_j^* corresponding to inactive constraints are zero. The other KKT multipliers, μ_j^* , $j \in J(\boldsymbol{x}^*)$, are nonnegative; they may or may not be equal to zero.

- A graphical illustration of the KKT theorem is given in Figure 21.1. In this two-dimensional example, we have only inequality constraints g_j(x*) ≤ 0, j = 1,2,3. Note that the point x* in the figure is indeed a minimizer.
- Figure 21.1



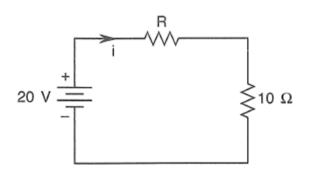
 The constraint g₃(x) ≤ 0 is inactive: g₃(x*) < 0; hence μ₃* = 0 By the KKT theorem, we have

 $\nabla f(\boldsymbol{x}^*) + \mu_1^* \bigtriangledown g_1(\boldsymbol{x}^*) + \mu_2^* \bigtriangledown g_2(\boldsymbol{x}^*) = \boldsymbol{0}$ or, equivalently, $\nabla f(\boldsymbol{x}^*) = -\mu_1^* \bigtriangledown g_1(\boldsymbol{x}^*) - \mu_2^* \bigtriangledown g_2(\boldsymbol{x}^*)$ where $\mu_1^* > 0, \mu_2^* > 0$

It is easy to interpret the KKT condition graphically for this example. Specifically, we can see from Figure 21.1 that
¬f(x*) must be a linear combination of the vectors
- ¬g₁(x*) and - ¬g₂(x*) with positive coefficients. This is reflected exactly in the equation above, where the coefficients μ^{*}₁, μ^{*}₂ are the KKT multipliers.

• We apply the KKT condition in the same way that we apply any necessary condition. Specifically, we search for points satisfying the KKT condition and treat these points as candidate minimizers. To summarize, the KKT condition consists of five parts (three equations and two inequalities):

- Consider the circuit in Figure 21.2. Formulate and solve the KKT condition for the following problems.
 - ▶ 1. Find the value of the resistor R ≥ 0 such that the power absorbed by this resistor is maximized.
 - 2. Find the value of the resistor R ≥ 0 such that the power delivered to the 10 Ω resistor is maximized.
- Figure 21.2



• The power absorbed by the resistor *R* is $p = i^2 R$, where $i = \frac{20}{10+R}$. The optimization problem can be represented as minimize $-\frac{400R}{(10+R)^2}$

subject to $-R \leq 0$

The derivative of the objective function is

 $-\frac{400(10+R)^2-800R(10+R)}{(10+R)^4}=-\frac{400(10-R)}{(10+R)^3}$

Thus, the KKT condition is

$$-\frac{400(10-R)}{(10+R)^3} - \mu = 0$$

$$\mu \ge 0, \quad \mu R = 0, \quad -R \le 0$$

 We consider two cases. In the first case, suppose that µ > 0 Then, R = 0. But this contradicts the first condition above. Now suppose that µ = 0. Then, by the first condition, we have R = 10. Therefore, the only solution to the KKT condition is R = 10, µ = 0

• The power absorbed by the $10 - \Omega$ resistor is $p = i^2 10$, where i = 20/(10 + R). The optimization problem can be represented as minimize $-\frac{4000}{(10 + R)^2}$ subject to $-R \le 0$

The derivative of the objective function is $\frac{8000}{(10+R)^3}$ Thus, the KKT condition is $\frac{8000}{(10+R)^3} - \mu = 0$

$$\mu \ge 0, \quad \mu R = 0, \quad -R \le 0$$



As before, we consider two cases. In the first case, suppose that μ > 0. Then, R = 0, which is feasible. For the second case, suppose that μ = 0. But this contradicts the first condition. Therefore, the only solution to the KKT condition is R = 0, μ = 0

• In the case when the objective function is to be maximized, that is, when the optimization problem has the form

maximize $f(\boldsymbol{x})$ subject to $\boldsymbol{h}(\boldsymbol{x}) = \boldsymbol{0}$ $\boldsymbol{g}(\boldsymbol{x}) \leq \boldsymbol{0}$

The KKT condition can be written as

 The above is easily derived by converting the maximization problem above into a minimization problem, by multiplying the objective function by -1. It can further rewritten as

• 1.
$$\mu^* \le 0$$

▶ 2.
$$Df(x^*) + \lambda^{*T} Dh(x^*) + \mu^{*T} Dg(x^*) = 0^T$$
▶ 3. $\mu^{*T}g(x^*) = 0$

4.
$$h(x^*) = 0$$

▶ 5.
$$g(x^*) ≤ 0$$

 The form shown above is obtained from the preceding one by changing the signs of μ* and λ* and multiplying condition 2 by -1.

 We can simply derive the KKT condition for the case when the inequality constraint is of the form g(x) ≥ 0.
 Specifically, consider the problem

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minimize f(\boldsymbol{x})
subject to \boldsymbol{h}(\boldsymbol{x}) = \boldsymbol{0}
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$$oldsymbol{g}(oldsymbol{x}) \geq oldsymbol{0}$$

We multiply the inequality constraint function by -1 to obtain -g(x) ≤ 0. Thus, the KKT condition for this case is

1.
$$\mu^* \ge 0$$
2. $Df(x^*) + \lambda^{*T} Dh(x^*) - \mu^{*T} Dg(x^*) = 0^T$
3. $\mu^{*T}g(x^*) = 0$
4. $h(x^*) = 0$
5. $g(x^*) \ge 0$

Changing the sign of µ^{*} as before, we obtain

1.
$$\mu^* \leq 0$$
2. $Df(x^*) + \lambda^{*T} Dh(x^*) + \mu^{*T} Dg(x^*) = 0^T$
3. $\mu^{*T}g(x^*) = 0$
4. $h(x^*) = 0$

- ▶ 5. $g(x^*) \ge 0$
- ▶ For the problem maximize f(x)subject to h(x) = 0 $g(x) \ge 0$

the KKT condition is exactly the same as in Theorem 21.1, except for the reversal of the inequality constraint.

In Figure 21.3, the two points x₁ and x₂ are feasible points; that is, g(x₁) ≥ 0 and g(x₂) ≥ 0, and they satisfy the KKT condition. The point x₁ is a maximizer. The KKT condition for this point (with KKT multiplier µ₁) is

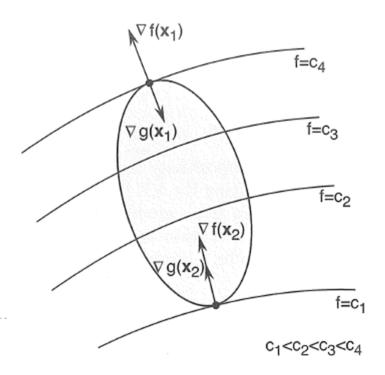
• 1.
$$\mu_1 \ge 0$$

▶ 2.
$$\nabla f(\boldsymbol{x}_1) + \mu_1 \nabla g(\boldsymbol{x}_1) = \boldsymbol{0}$$

▶ 3. $\mu_1 g(\boldsymbol{x}_1) = 0$

• 4.
$$g(x_1) \ge 0$$

Figure 21.3



- The point x₂ is a minimizer of f. The KKT condition for this point (with KKT multiplier μ₂) is
 - ▶ 1. $\mu_2 \le 0$
 - ▶ 2. $\nabla f(\boldsymbol{x}_2) + \mu_2 \nabla g(\boldsymbol{x}_2) = \boldsymbol{0}$
 - ▶ 3. $\mu_2 g(\boldsymbol{x}_2) = 0$
 - ▶ 4. $g(x_2) \ge 0$

• Consider the problem

minimize $f(x_1, x_2)$ subject to $x_1, x_2 \ge 0$

where $f(x_1, x_2) = x_1^2 + x_2^2 + x_1x_2 - 3x_1$ The KKT condition for this problem is

$$\mu_1 x_1 + \mu_2 x_2 = 0$$

- We now have four variables, three equations, and the inequality constraints on each variable. To find a solution (*x**, *μ**), we first try μ₁* = 0, x₂* = 0, which gives x₁* = ³/₂, μ₂* = -³/₂. The above satisfies all the KKT and feasibility conditions.
- In a similar fashion, we can try µ₂^{*} = 0, x₁^{*} = 0, which gives x₂^{*} = 0, µ₁^{*} = 3. This point clearly violates the nonpositivity constraints on µ₁^{*}.
- The feasible point above satisfying the KKT condition is only a candidate for a minimizer. However, there is no guarantee that the point is indeed a minimizer, because the KKT condition is, in general, only necessary. A sufficient condition for a point to be a minimizer is given as follows.

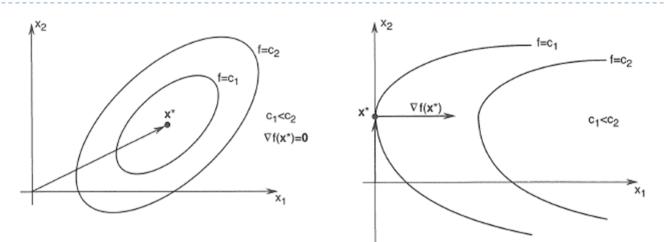
Example 21.4 is a special case of a more general problem of the form
 minimize f(x)

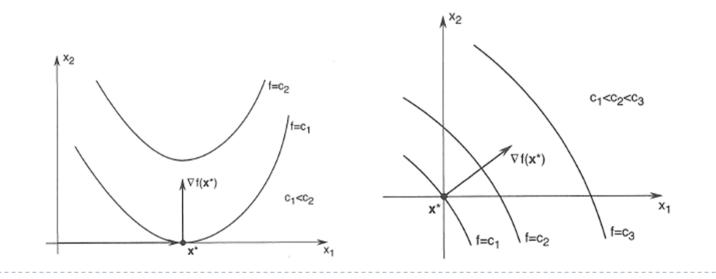
subject to $\boldsymbol{x} \ge \boldsymbol{0}$ The KKT condition for this problem has the form $\boldsymbol{\mu} \le \boldsymbol{0} \qquad \boldsymbol{\mu}^T \boldsymbol{x} = 0$ $\nabla f(\boldsymbol{x}) + \boldsymbol{\mu} = \boldsymbol{0} \qquad \boldsymbol{x} \ge \boldsymbol{0}$

• For the above, we can eliminate μ to obtain

$$\nabla f(\boldsymbol{x}) \ge \boldsymbol{0} \qquad \boldsymbol{x} \ge \boldsymbol{0}$$
$$\boldsymbol{x}^T \bigtriangledown f(\boldsymbol{x}) = 0$$

Some possible points in ℝ² that satisfy these conditions are depicted in Figure 21.4.





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Second-Order Conditions

• We can also give second-order necessary and sufficient conditions for extremum problems involving inequality constraints. Define the following matrix:

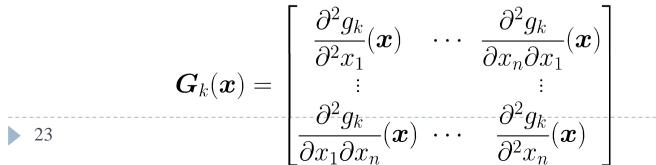
$$oldsymbol{L}(oldsymbol{x},oldsymbol{\lambda},oldsymbol{\mu})=oldsymbol{F}(oldsymbol{x})+[oldsymbol{\lambda}oldsymbol{H}(oldsymbol{x})]+[oldsymbol{\mu}oldsymbol{G}(oldsymbol{x})]$$

where F(x) is the Hessian matrix of f at x, and the notation $[\lambda H(x)]$ represents

$$[\boldsymbol{\lambda}\boldsymbol{H}(\boldsymbol{x})] = \lambda_1 \boldsymbol{H}_1(\boldsymbol{x}) + \dots + \lambda_m \boldsymbol{H}_m(\boldsymbol{x})$$

as before. Similarly, the notation $[\mu G(x)]$ represents $[\mu G(x)] = \mu_1 G_1(x) + \cdots + \mu_p G_p(x)$

where $G_k(x)$ is the Hessian of g_k at x, given by



• In the following theorem, we use

 $T(\mathbf{x}^*) = \{\mathbf{y} \in \mathbb{R}^n : D\mathbf{h}(\mathbf{x}^*)\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{0}, Dg_j(\mathbf{x}^*)\mathbf{y} = 0, j \in J(\mathbf{x}^*)\}$ that is, the tangent space to the surface defined by active constraints.

Theorem 21.2. Second-Order Necessary Conditions. Let x* be a local minimizer of f : ℝⁿ → ℝ subject to h(x) = 0, g(x) ≤ 0 h : ℝⁿ → ℝ^m, m ≤ n, g : ℝⁿ → ℝ^p and f, h, g ∈ C². Suppose that x* is regular. Then, there exist λ* ∈ ℝ^m and μ* ∈ ℝ^p such that
1. μ* ≥ 0, Df(x*) + λ*TDh(x*) + μ*TDg(x*) = 0^T, μ*Tg(x*) = 0
2. For all y ∈ T(x*) we have y^TL(x*, λ*, μ*)y ≥ 0

Second-Order Conditions

We now state the second-order sufficient conditions for extremum problems involving inequality constraints. In the formulation of the result, we use the following set *T̃*(*x**, *µ**) = {*y* : *Dh*(*x**)*y* = 0, *Dg_j*(*x**)*y* = 0, *j* ∈ *J̃*(*x**, *µ**)} where *J̃*(*x**, *µ**) = {*i*, *g_i*(*x**) = 0, *µ*^{*}_{*i*} > 0}. Note that *J̃*(*x**, *µ**) is a subset of *J*(*x**). This, in turn, implies that *T*(*x**) is a subset of *T̃*(*x**, *µ**)

Second-Order Conditions

Theorem 21.3. Second-Order Sufficient Conditions. Suppose that f, h, g ∈ C² and there exist a feasible point x* ∈ ℝⁿ and vectors λ* ∈ ℝ^m and μ* ∈ ℝ^p such that
1. μ* ≥ 0, Df(x*) + λ*TDh(x*) + μ*TDg(x*) = 0^T, μ*Tg(x*) = 0
2. For all y ∈ T̃(x*, μ*), y ≠ 0, we have yTL(x*, λ*, μ*)y > 0
Then, x* is a strict local minimizer of f subject to h(x) = 0, g(x) ≤ 0

• Consider the following problem:

minimize $x_1 x_2$ subject to $x_1 + x_2 \ge 2$ $x_2 \ge x_1$

- a. Write down the KKT condition for this problem
- Write $f(\boldsymbol{x}) = x_1 x_2$, $g_1(\boldsymbol{x}) = 2 x_1 x_2$, and $g_2(\boldsymbol{x}) = x_1 x_2$. The KKT condition is

$$\begin{aligned} x_2 &- \mu_1 + \mu_2 = 0, \\ x_1 &- \mu_1 - \mu_2 = 0, \\ \mu_1(2 - x_1 - x_2) + \mu_2(x_1 - x_2) = 0, \\ \mu_1, \mu_2 &\ge 0, \\ 2 - x_1 - x_2 &\le 0, \\ x_1 - x_2 &\le 0 \end{aligned}$$

 $T(\boldsymbol{x}^*) = \{ \boldsymbol{y} \in \mathbb{R}^n : D\boldsymbol{h}(\boldsymbol{x}^*)\boldsymbol{y} = \boldsymbol{0}, Dg_j(\boldsymbol{x}^*)\boldsymbol{y} = 0, j \in J(\boldsymbol{x}^*) \}$

Example 21.5

- b. Find all points (and KKT multipliers) satisfying the KKT condition. In each case, determine if the point is regular.
- It is easy to check that µ₁ ≠ 0, µ₂ ≥ 0. This leaves us with only one solution to the KKT condition: x₁^{*} = x₂^{*} = 1, µ₁^{*} = 1, µ₂^{*} = 0 For this point we have Dg₁(x^{*}) = [-1, -1] and Dg₂(x^{*}) = [1, -1] Hence, x^{*} is regular.
- c. Find all points in part b that also satisfy the SONC.
- Both constraints are active. Hence, because x* is regular, T(x*) = {0}. This implies that the SONC is satisfied.

- d. Find all points in part c that also satisfy the SOSC.
- Now $\boldsymbol{L}(\boldsymbol{x}^*, \boldsymbol{\mu}^*) = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$

Moreover, $\tilde{T}(x^*, \mu^*) = \{y : [-1, -1]y = 0\} = \{y : y_1 = -y_2\}$. Pick $y = [1, -1]^T \in \tilde{T}(x^*, \mu^*)$. We have $y^T L(x^*, \mu^*)y = -2 < 0$, which means that the SOSC fails.

- e. Find all points in part c that are local minimizers.
- In fact, the point x* is not a local minimizer. To see this, draw a picture of the constraint set and level sets of the objective function. Moving in the feasible direction [1,1]^T, the objective function increases; but moving in the feasible direction [-1,1]^T the objective function decreases.

• We wish to minimize $f(\mathbf{x}) = (x_1 - 1)^2 + x_2 - 2$ subject to $h(\mathbf{x}) = x_2 - x_1 - 1 = 0$ $g(\mathbf{x}) = x_1 + x_2 - 2 \le 0$

For all $x \in \mathbb{R}^2$, we have Dh(x) = [-1, 1], Dg(x) = [1, 1]Thus, $\nabla h(x)$ and $\nabla g(x)$ are linearly independent and hence all feasible points are regular. We first write the KKT condition. Because $Df(x) = [2x_1 - 2, 1]$ $Df(x) + \lambda Dh(x) + \mu Dg(x) = [2x_1 - 2 - \lambda + \mu, 1 + \lambda + \mu] = \mathbf{0}^T$ $\mu(x_1 + x_2 - 2) = 0$ $\mu \ge 0,$ $x_2 - x_1 - 1 = 0.$

$$\begin{array}{l} x_2 - x_1 - 1 = 0, \\ x_1 + x_2 - 2 \le 0 \end{array}$$

➤ To find points that satisfy the conditions above, we first try µ > 0, which implies that x₁ + x₂ - 2 = 0. Thus, we are faced with a system of four linear equations

$$\begin{array}{l} 2x_1 - 2 - \lambda + \mu = 0, \\ 1 + \lambda + \mu = 0, \\ x_2 - x_1 - 1 = 0, \\ x_1 + x_2 - 2 = 0 \end{array}$$

Solving the system of equations above, we obtain $x_1 = \frac{1}{2}, x_2 = \frac{3}{2}, \lambda = -1, \mu = 0$

However, the above is not a legitimate solution to the KKT condition, because we obtained $\mu = 0$, which contradicts the assumption that $\mu > 0$

• In the second try, we assume that $\mu = 0$. Thus, we have to solve the system of equations

$$2x_1 - 2 - \lambda = 0, 1 + \lambda = 0, x_2 - x_1 - 1 = 0$$

and the solutions must satisfy $g(x_1, x_2) = x_1 + x_2 - 2 \le 0$

Solving the equations above, we obtain

$$x_1 = \frac{1}{2}, x_2 = \frac{3}{2}, \lambda = -1$$

Note that $\mathbf{x}^* = [1/2, 3/2]^T$ satisfies the constraint $g(\mathbf{x}^*) \le 0$. The point \mathbf{x}^* satisfying the KKT necessary condition is therefore the candidate for being a minimizer.

• We now verify if $\mathbf{x}^* = [1/2, 3/2]^T$, $\lambda^* = -1, \mu^* = 0$, satisfy the second-order sufficient conditions. For this, we form the matrix $\mathbf{L}(\mathbf{x}^*, \lambda^*, \mu^*) = \mathbf{F}(\mathbf{x}^*) + \lambda^* \mathbf{H}(\mathbf{x}^*) + \mu^* \mathbf{G}(\mathbf{x}^*)$ $= \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} + (-1) \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} + (0) \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$ $= \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$

We then find the subspace $\tilde{T}(\boldsymbol{x}^*, \mu^*) = \{\boldsymbol{y} : Dh(\boldsymbol{x}^*)\boldsymbol{y} = 0\}$ Note that because $\mu^* = 0$, the active constraint $g(\boldsymbol{x}^*) = 0$ does not enter the computation of $\tilde{T}(\boldsymbol{x}^*, \mu^*)$. Note also that in this case, $T(\boldsymbol{x}^*) = \{0\}$. We have $\tilde{T}(\boldsymbol{x}^*, \mu^*) = \{0\}$. We have

$$T(m{x}^*,\mu^*) = \{m{y}: [-1,1]m{y} = 0\} = \{[a,a]^T: a \in \mathbb{R}\}$$

• We then check for positive definiteness of $L(x^*, \lambda^*, \mu^*)$ on $\tilde{T}(x^*, \mu^*)$. We have

$$\boldsymbol{y}^T \boldsymbol{L}(\boldsymbol{x}^*, \lambda^*, \mu^*) \boldsymbol{y} = [a, a] \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} a \\ a \end{bmatrix} = 2a^2$$

Thus, $L(x^*, \lambda^*, \mu^*)$ is positive definite on $\tilde{T}(x^*, \mu^*)$. Observe that $L(x^*, \lambda^*, \mu^*)$ is, in fact, only positive semidefinite on \mathbb{R}^2

By the second-order sufficient conditions, we conclude that x* = [1/2, 3/2]^T is a strict local minimizer.