

2009年11月4日 下午 04:35 If the Hessian $\nabla^2 f$ is positive (semi)definite then f is a convex function

Proof: Let $x, u \in \Omega$, Ω is a convex domain

By Taylor expansion around u ,

$$f(x) = f(u) + \nabla f(u)(x-u) + \frac{1}{2}(x-u)^T \nabla^2 f(u^*)(x-u)$$

u^* is some point in Ω

Since the Hessian matrix $\nabla^2 f(v)$ is positive (semi)definite for all v in Ω , the last quadratic term (error term) in the above equation is non-negative

$$f(x) \geq f(u) + \nabla f(u)(x-u)$$

Now consider $x, y \in \Omega$ and any point z on the segment between x and y . We may express z by $tx + (1-t)y$, $t \in [0, 1]$, and hence $z \in \Omega$.

Using the above inequality with the Taylor expansions around z

$$tf(x) \geq tf(z) + t\nabla f(z)(x-z)$$

$$(1-t)f(y) \geq (1-t)f(z) + (1-t)\nabla f(z)(y-z)$$

\Rightarrow

$$tf(x) + (1-t)f(y) \geq f(z) + \nabla f(z)(tx + (1-t)y - z)$$

$$= f(z)$$

$$= f(tx + (1-t)y)$$

Therefore $f(\cdot)$ is a convex function.