

Separation theorem

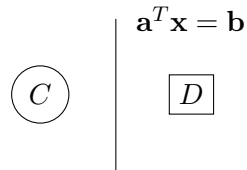
How to show that two convex sets are disjoint?

Theorem 1. *If $C, D \subseteq \mathbb{R}^d$ are convex sets and $C \cap D = \emptyset$, then there exists a hyperplane separating C and D . That is, there exists $\mathbf{a} \in \mathbb{R}^d$, $b \in \mathbb{R}$ such that*

$$\forall \mathbf{x} \in C, \mathbf{a}^T \mathbf{x} \leq b$$

$$\forall \mathbf{x} \in D, \mathbf{a}^T \mathbf{x} \geq b$$

Separation can be strict if C and D closed and one bounded.



1: Why is the theorem true if C and D are compact? (in \mathbb{R}^d compact means closed and bounded)

2: Why is the theorem true if C compact and D closed?

3: Why is the theorem true in general?