Labs
Optimization for Machine Learning
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EPFL

School of Computer and Communication Sciences

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github.com/epfml/OptML_course

Problem Set 1, Feb 24, 2023 (Convexity, Python Setup)

Convexity

Solve Exercises 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 10 from the lecture notes.

Getting Started with Python

Many exercises in this course use Python notebooks. We recommend running these notebooks in the cloud using Google Colab. This way, you do not have to install anything, and you can even get a free GPU. If you prefer to work locally, follow the python_setup_tutorial.md provided on our GitHub repository.

The first practical exercise is a primer on NumPy, a scientific computing library for Python. You can open the corresponding notebook in Colab with this link:

 $colab.research.google.com/github/epfml/OptML_course/blob/master/labs/ex01/npprimer.ipynb$

For computational efficiency, avoid for-loops in favor of NumPy's built-in commands. These commands are vectorized and thoroughly optimized and bring the performance of numerical Python code (like for Matlab) closer to lower-level languages like C.