

Here are some points I would like to address about problem 3.

1. Definition of subgradient

A matrix $\mathbf{G} \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$ is a subgradient for a matrix function at \mathbf{X} if for any $\mathbf{Z} \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$,

$$f(\mathbf{Z}) - f(\mathbf{X}) \geq \langle \mathbf{G}, \mathbf{Z} - \mathbf{X} \rangle := \sum_{i,j} g_{ij}(z_{ij} - x_{ij}) = \text{Trace}(\mathbf{G}^\top (\mathbf{Z} - \mathbf{X})). \quad (1)$$

For vectors, we have

$$\langle \mathbf{g}, \mathbf{z} - \mathbf{x} \rangle = \mathbf{g}^\top (\mathbf{z} - \mathbf{x}). \quad (2)$$

But (2) does not hold generally for matrices.

2. Your solution for the scalar case is not correct:

When $a < 0$, we actually have $ga \leq |a| \iff g \geq |a|/a$.

3. Solution steps:

- (a) It would be much easier if you consider the form $\|\mathbf{X}\|_2 = \sup_{\|\mathbf{u}\|_2=1, \|\mathbf{v}\|_2=1} \mathbf{u}^\top \mathbf{X} \mathbf{v}$.
- (b) Use matrix differentiation (formula is in topic 3's slides) to get the subdifferential of $\mathbf{u}^\top \mathbf{X} \mathbf{v}$ at $\mathbf{0}$.
- (c) Use the result on page 39 in topic 3.
- (d) Write the resulting convex hull in terms of the nuclear norm. (Hint: consider the SVD form on page 5 in topic 1)