ESE 605-001: Modern Convex Optimization

Spring 2020

Homework 3

Assigned: 02/04/2020 Due: 02/14/2020

Homework must be LATEX'd or it will not be graded.

Problems from Boyd & Vandenberghe: 3.15, 3.30, 3.39, 3.42, 3.54, 4.2

Bonus questions: Bonus questions are completely optional. If a certain threshold of correctness is exceeded, you will earn an additional 0.5 marks on your assignment grade. These are fun, challenging problems, and we ask that you try your best to get as far into the proofs/answers as you can without consulting outside sources! Once you get stuck, indicate the point at which you were stuck in your solutions with a "I made it this far on my own," after which, you should indicate what outside source you consulted in order to finish the problem, in accordance with the Penn Academic Integrity policy.

1. Let $X \in \mathbb{S}^n$ be a symmetric matrix, and for any $1 \leq k \leq n$, define

$$S_k(X) = \sum_{i=1}^k \lambda_i(X)$$

to be the sum of the largest k eigenvalues of X. Prove that $S_k(X)$ is convex for any choice of $1 \le k \le n$ by showing that its epigraph is convex. Your characterization of the epigraph should be in terms of a finite number of convex constraints.

2. Compute the conjugate function for the convex quadratic $f(x) = \frac{1}{2}x^{\top}Qx$ with $Q \in \mathbb{S}^n_+$.