

Assignment 2

Problem 1: Determine whether convex, concave, quasiconvex, or quasiconcave?

a) $f(x) = e^x - 1$ on \mathbb{R}

Strictly convex as $f''(x) > 0$. Therefore, quasiconvex.
Also quasiconcave, but not concave.

b) $f(x_1, x_2) = x_1 x_2$ on \mathbb{R}_{++}^2

Hessian is $\nabla^2 f(x) = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$
which is indefinite. Thus, f is neither convex nor concave. It is quasiconcave, since its ~~supporting~~ superlevel sets $\{(x_1, x_2) \in \mathbb{R}_{++}^2 \mid x_1 x_2 \geq \alpha\}$ are convex. It is not quasiconvex.

c) $f(x_1, x_2) = \frac{1}{x_1 x_2}$ on \mathbb{R}_{++}^2 .

Hessian is $\nabla^2 f(x) = \frac{1}{x_1 x_2} \begin{bmatrix} \frac{2}{x_1^2} & \frac{1}{x_1 x_2} \\ \frac{1}{x_1 x_2} & \frac{2}{x_2^2} \end{bmatrix} \succcurlyeq 0$

It is convex and quasiconvex, not quasiconcave, not concave.

d) $f(x_1, x_2) = \frac{x_1}{x_2}$ on \mathbb{R}_{++}^2

Hessian is $\nabla^2 f(x) = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -\frac{1}{x_2^2} \\ -\frac{1}{x_2^2} & 2\frac{x_1}{x_2^3} \end{bmatrix}$ is indefinite.

Thus, function is not convex, not concave.
It's quasiconvex & quasiconcave (i.e., quasilinear),
because the sublevel and superlevel sets are halfspaces.

e) $f(x_1, x_2) = \frac{x_1^2}{x_2}$ on $\mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}_+$

Hessian: $\nabla^2 f(x) = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{2}{x_2} & -\frac{2x_1}{x_2^2} \\ -\frac{2x_1}{x_2^2} & \frac{2x_1^2}{x_2^3} \end{bmatrix} = \frac{2}{x_2} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -\frac{2x_1}{x_2} \\ -\frac{2x_1}{x_2} & \frac{2x_1^2}{x_2^2} \end{bmatrix} = \frac{2}{x_2} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -2\frac{x_1}{x_2} \\ -2\frac{x_1}{x_2} & 2\frac{x_1^2}{x_2^2} \end{bmatrix}$

i.e. it is rank 1 matrix for which quadratic form is always nonnegative, and thus,

$$\nabla^2 f(x) \succeq 0$$

Thus, f is convex and quasiconvex. It's not concave and quasiconcave.

f) $f(x_1, x_2) = x_1^\alpha x_2^{1-\alpha}$, $0 \leq \alpha \leq 1$ on \mathbb{R}_+^2

Hessian: $\nabla^2 f(x) = \begin{bmatrix} \alpha(\alpha-1)x_1^{\alpha-2}x_2^{1-\alpha} & \alpha(1-\alpha)x_1^{\alpha-1}x_2^{-\alpha} \\ \alpha(1-\alpha)x_1^{\alpha-1}x_2^{-\alpha} & (1-\alpha)(-\alpha)x_1^\alpha x_2^{-\alpha-1} \end{bmatrix} =$

$$= \alpha(1-\alpha)x_1^\alpha x_2^{1-\alpha} \begin{bmatrix} -\frac{1}{x_1^2} & \frac{1}{x_1 x_2} \\ \frac{1}{x_1 x_2} & -\frac{1}{x_2^2} \end{bmatrix} =$$

$$= -\alpha(1-\alpha)x_1^\alpha x_2^{1-\alpha} \begin{bmatrix} 1/x_1 \\ -1/x_2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1/x_1 & -1/x_2 \end{bmatrix} \leq 0$$

rank 1 matrix with '-' in front,

f is concave and quasiconcave, not convex, not quasiconvex.

Problem 2: x is real r.v. that takes values

on $\{a_1, \dots, a_n\}$, $a_1 < a_2 < a_3 < \dots < a_n$ with $\text{prob}(x=a_i) = p_i$

On probability simplex $S \subseteq \mathbb{R}_+^n \mid \sum p_i = 1, p_i \geq 0$ determine

if the following function: convex, concave,

quasiconvex, quasiconcave?

Solution: $E x = p_1 a_1 + \dots + p_n a_n$ is linear. Thus,

convex, concave, quasiconvex, quasiconcave,

2) $\text{prob}(x \geq \alpha)$

Let $j = \min \{i \mid a_i \geq \alpha\}$, Then $\text{prob}(x \geq \alpha) = \sum_{i=j}^n p_i$.
This is linear function of p . Thus, convex, ~~if~~ concave, quasiconvex, quasiconcave.

3) $\text{prob}(\alpha \leq x \leq \beta)$,

Let $j = \min \{i \mid a_i \geq \alpha\}$ and $k = \max \{i \mid a_i \leq \beta\}$,
Then $\text{prob}(\alpha \leq x \leq \beta) = \sum_{i=j}^k p_i$, The same as above,

4) $\sum_{i=1}^n p_i \log p_i$

$p \log p$ is a convex function in \mathbb{R}_+ (assuming $0 \log 0 = 0$), so negentropy is convex (thus, quasiconvex),

It's not concave or quasiconcave.

For example, $n=2$, $p^1 = (\frac{1}{2}, 0)$ and $p^2 = (0, 1)$.

Both p^1 and p^2 have function value 0, but the convex combination $(\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2})$ has function value $\log(\frac{1}{2}) < 0$. Thus, superlevel sets are not convex.

5) $\text{var } x = E(x - Ex)^2$

$$\text{var } x = Ex^2 - (Ex)^2 = \sum_{i=1}^n p_i a_i^2 - \left(\sum_{i=1}^n p_i a_i \right)^2$$

Thus, $\text{var } x$ is concave quadratic function of p . But it is not convex (quasiconvex).

For example, $n=2$, $a_1=0$, $a_2=1$.

Both $(p_1, p_2) = (1/4, 3/4)$ and $(p_1, p_2) = (3/4, 1/4)$ lie in the probability simplex and have $\text{var } x = \frac{3}{16}$, but the convex combination $(p_1, p_2) = (\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2})$ has a variance $\text{var } x = \frac{1}{4} > \frac{3}{16}$. Thus, the sublevel sets are not convex.

6) $\text{quartile}(x) = \inf \{ \beta \mid \text{prob}(x \leq \beta) \geq 0.25 \}$.
The sublevel and superlevel sets are convex. Indeed, $\text{quartile}(x) \geq 0 \Rightarrow$

$$\Rightarrow \text{prob}(x \leq a_1) = \sum_{i=1}^k p_i \geq 0.25$$

$$\Rightarrow \text{prob}(x \leq \beta) < 0.25 \quad \forall \beta < x$$

If $x \leq a_1$, this is always true.

Otherwise, define $k = \max \{ i \mid a_i < x \}$. This is fixed integer, independent on p , and the superlevel set constraint $\sum_{i=k}^n p_i \geq x$

holds iff $\text{prob}(x \leq a_k) = \sum_{i=1}^k p_i < 0.25$.

This is a strict linear inequality of p .

But $\text{quartile}(x)$ is not continuous (it takes values in a discrete set $\{a_1, \dots, a_n\}$, so it is not convex, not concave, but it is quasiconvex and quasiconcave.

7) The cardinality of the smallest set

$A \subseteq \{a_1, \dots, a_n\}$ with probability $\geq 90\%$.

f has integer values, and cannot be convex or concave. But it is quasiconcave because its superlevel sets are convex, $f(p) \geq \alpha$ iff

$$\sum_{i=1}^k p_{[i]} < 0.9,$$

where $k = \max \{i \mid i \leq \alpha\}$ is the largest then α , and $p_{[i]}$ is i th largest component of p .

We know that $\sum_{i=1}^k p_{[i]}$ is a convex function on p , so the inequality $\sum_{i=1}^k p_{[i]} < 0.9$ defines a convex set.

f is not quasiconvex. For example, for $n=2$, $a_1=0$, $a_2=1$, $p^1 = (0.1, 0.9)$, $p^2 = (0.9, 0.1) \Rightarrow$
 $f(p^1) = f(p^2) = 1$, but $f(\frac{p^1 + p^2}{2}) = f(0.5, 0.5) = 2$.

8) min width interval that contains 90% of the probabilities, i.e. $\inf \{ \beta - \alpha \mid \text{prob}(\alpha \leq x \leq \beta) \geq 0.9 \}$.

Find this min width interval $^{as} [a_i, a_j]$ with $1 \leq i \leq j \leq n$. Indeed,

$$\text{prob}(\alpha \leq x \leq \beta) = \sum_{k=i}^j p_k = \text{prob}(a_i \leq x \leq a_k)$$

where $i = \min \{k \mid a_k \geq \alpha\}$, $j = \max \{k \mid a_k \leq \beta\}$

We have $f(p) \geq \gamma$ iff all intervals of width less than γ have a probability $< 90\%$,

$$\sum_{k=i}^j p_k < 0.9, \forall i, j \text{ that satisfy } a_j - a_i < \gamma.$$

This defines a convex set. Thus, the function is quasiconcave.

It is not convex, concave nor quasiconvex.

For example, for $n=3$, $a_1=0$, $a_2=0.5$, $a_3=1$.

On the line $p_1+p_3=0.95$, we have

$$f(p) = \begin{cases} 0, & p_1+p_3=0.95, p_1 \in [0, 0.05] \cup [0.9, 0.95] \\ 0.5, & p_1+p_3=0.95, p_1 \in (0.1, 0.15] \cup [0.85, 0.9) \\ 1, & p_1+p_3=0.95, p_1 \in (0.15, 0.85) \end{cases}$$

which is not convex, concave nor quasiconvex on the line.

Problem 4: Prove that if $h(x)$ is convex and twice continuously differentiable, then $\nabla^2 h(x) \succeq 0$.

Solution: Prove the following lemma for 1D case.

Lemma: A twice continuously differentiable function $f: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is convex iff $f''(x) \geq 0$.

Proof: (\rightarrow): Assume $f(x)$ to be convex.

For convex function 1st order Taylor approximation is

$$f(x) \geq f(y) + f'(y)(x-y) \quad \forall x, y \in \mathbb{R}$$

and $f(y) \geq f(x) + f'(x)(y-x)$

Equivalently,

$$f'(y)(y-x) \geq f(y) - f(x) \geq f'(x)(y-x) \Rightarrow \frac{f'(y) - f'(x)}{y-x} \geq 0$$

Finally, from the definition of the derivative

$$\text{we have } f''(x) = \lim_{y \rightarrow x} \frac{f'(y) - f'(x)}{y-x} \geq 0.$$

(\leftarrow): Consider $f''(x) \geq 0$. In this case, $\forall x, y \in \mathbb{R}$,

we have the nonnegative integral;

$$0 \geq \int_x^y f''(z)(y-z) dz = (f'(z)(y-z)) \Big|_x^y + \int_x^y f'(z) dz = -f'(x)(y-x) + f(y) - f(x)$$

which leads to $f(y) \geq f(x) + f'(x)(y-x)$.

Thus, $f(x)$ is convex \square

Generalize now for $n \geq 1$. Use property

that convex function is convex on lines, that is $g(t) = h(x_0 + t\ell)$ is convex in t , for given x_0 and ℓ . By ~~the~~ lemma above, this is equivalent to the condition that $g''(t) \geq 0$. Therefore, the function $h(x)$ is

$$\text{convex iff } g''(t) = \frac{d^2(h(x_0 + t\ell))}{dt^2} = v^T \nabla^2 h(x_0 + t\ell) v \geq 0, \forall x_0, \ell \in \mathbb{R}^n,$$

But this is exactly the condition that the Hessian should satisfy $\nabla^2 h(x) \succeq 0, \forall x \in \mathbb{R}^n$.

Problem 3: ~~1)~~ $f(x) = \text{tr}(x^{-1})$ is convex?

Consider any symmetric positive definite X such that $X \succ 0$. Using the property that $f(x)$ is convex iff it is convex on all lines $X = Z + tV$ for given symmetric Z and V , that is

$$g(t) = f(Z + tV) \text{ is convex.}$$

Since $X \succ 0$, the dom $g = \{t \mid Z + tV \succ 0\}$

Consider now the equivalence

$$\begin{aligned} g(t) &= \text{tr}\{(Z + tV)^{-1}\} = \text{tr}\left\{Z^{-1/2}(I + tZ^{-1/2}VZ^{-1/2})Z^{-1/2}\right\} \\ &= \text{tr}\{Z^{-1}(I + tZ^{-1/2}VZ^{-1/2})^{-1}\} \end{aligned}$$

given that $Z^{-1/2}Z^{1/2} = I$ is always possible since $Z \succ 0$.

Now note that $Z^{-1/2}VZ^{-1/2} \succ 0$ such that it accepts

~~f is integer-valued, and cannot be~~
~~convex or concave, But it is quasi-concave~~
~~because its Hessian is~~ the eigendecomposition
 $Z^{-1/2} V Z^{-1/2} = U^T \Lambda U$ with

$\Lambda = \text{diag}\{\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n\}$ and $U^T U = I$. Thus,

$$g(t) = \text{tr}\{Z^{-1}(I + tU^T \Lambda U)^{-1}\} = \text{tr}\{Z^{-1}U(I + t\Lambda)^{-1}U^T\} = \\ = \text{tr}\{\underbrace{U^T Z^{-1}U}_W (I + t\Lambda)^{-1}\} = \sum_{i=1}^n w_{ii} \frac{1}{1+t\lambda_i}$$

here the second and third equalities follow from the properties of tr (can be rotated under trace) and the last equality follows from the definition of the trace given the fact that

$(I + t\Lambda)^{-1}$ is a diagonal matrix. Finally,

$$g''(t) = \sum_{i=1}^n w_{ii} \frac{2\lambda_i^2}{(1+t\lambda_i)^3} \geq 0$$

where the last inequality follows from $w_{ii} > 0$ (its diagonal sum is always positive), and the fact that eigenvalues $\{\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n\}$ are all positive. Thus, since $g''(t) \geq 0$, the function

$g(t)$ is convex and so $f(X)$.

2) $f(X) = (\det X)^{1/n}$ is concave?

Similar to the previous case, we show that $f(X)$ is concave in all lines $X = Z + tV$, with Z, V symmetric.

Thus, consider the following one-dimensional function

$g(t) = f(Z + tV)$ such that,

$$\begin{aligned} g(t) &= (\det(Z + tV))^{1/n} = \det(Z^{1/2} (I + tZ^{-1/2} V Z^{-1/2}) Z^{1/2})^{1/n} \\ &= (\det(Z^{1/2}) \det(I + tZ^{-1/2} V Z^{-1/2}) \det(Z^{1/2}))^{1/n} = \\ &= (\det Z)^{1/n} (\det(I + tZ^{-1/2} V Z^{-1/2}))^{1/n}, \end{aligned}$$

Again consider the eigendecomposition

$$Z^{1/2} V Z^{1/2} = U^T \Lambda U > 0$$

$\Lambda = \text{diag}\{\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n\}$ the eigenvalues of $Z^{-1/2} V Z^{-1/2}$, which are positive.

Now notice that the eigenvalues of $(I + tU^T \Lambda U)$ are $\tilde{\lambda}_i = (1 + t\lambda_i)$, $\forall i=1, \dots, n$

Using the property that

$$\det(A) = \prod_{i=1}^n \lambda_i(A) \text{ we have}$$

$$g(t) = (\det Z)^{1/2} \left(\prod_{i=1}^n (1 + t\lambda_i) \right)^{1/n}$$

Since $Z > 0$, we know that $(\det Z)^{1/n} > 0$. Moreover,

we know that the geometric sum

$$\left(\prod_{i=1}^n (1 + t\lambda_i) \right)^{1/n} \text{ is concave on } \mathbb{R}_+^n,$$

Thus, since $f(x)$ consists of the positive scaling of a concave function, it is also concave.

Problem 5: 1) sum of r largest components of a vector $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ is a convex function,

Solution: $f(x) = \sum_{i=1}^r x_{[i]}$ given sorting

$x_{[1]} \geq x_{[2]} \geq x_{[3]} \geq \dots \geq x_{[n]}$, where $x_{[i]}$ is the i th largest element of x .

Adding the largest r element of a vector corresponds to the largest possible sum of r elements of such vector. That is, given any

$x_j \leq x_{[k]}$, inequality

$$\sum_{i=1}^k x_{[i]} + x_j > \sum_{i=1}^k x_{[i]} + x_{[k+1]}$$

would imply that $x_{[k+1]} < x_j < x_{[k]}$, which contradicts the definition that $x_{[k+1]}$ is the $(k+1)$ st largest element for any $1 \leq k < r$.

Therefore, we can represent the function as

$$f(x) = \max \left\{ \sum_{i=1}^r x_{k_i} \mid 1 \leq k_1 < k_2 < \dots < k_r \leq n \right\}$$

which consists of nonnegative linear operations that preserve convexity. Thus, $f(x)$ is convex.

2) X is $n \times n$ symmetric positive semi-definite
 $\lambda_1(x) \geq \lambda_2(x) \geq \dots \geq \lambda_n(x)$

Prove that $f(x) = \sum_{i=1}^k \lambda_k(x)$, $k \leq n$ is convex?

Hint: $f(x) = \sup \{ \text{tr}(U^T X U) \mid U \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times k}, U^T U = I_k \}$.

Solution: \leftarrow not using the hint. The epigraph of $f(x)$ ~~admits~~

$\{(x, t) \mid f(x) \leq t\}$ admits the SDR

(a) $t - ks - \text{Tr}\{Z\} \geq 0$

where $Z \in S^{n \times n}$

(b) $Z \geq 0$

and $s \in \mathbb{R}$ are additional variables

(c) $Z - X + sI_n \geq 0$

We should prove that:

- (i) If a given pair (X, t) can be extended by properly chosen (s, z) to a solution of the LMI (a) - (c), then $f(X) \leq t$.
- (ii) Vice versa, if $f(X) \leq t$, that the pair (X, t) can be extended by properly chosen (s, z) to a solution of (a) - (c).

Proof of (i): Basic fact: The vector $\lambda(X)$ is monotone function of $X \in S^{n \times n}$, the space of symmetric matrices being equipped with the order \succeq

$$X \succeq X' \Leftrightarrow \lambda(X) \geq \lambda(X')$$

Assuming (X, t, s, z) is a solution to (a) - (c), we get $X \preceq z + sI_m$ so that

$$\lambda(X) \leq \lambda(z + sI_m) = \lambda(z) + s \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ \vdots \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

Thus, $f(X) \leq f(z) + sk$

Since $z \succeq 0 \Rightarrow f(X) \leq \text{Tr}\{z\}$, or together

$$f(X) \leq \text{Tr}\{z\} + sk \Rightarrow f(X) \leq t, \quad \text{because of (a)}$$

Proof of (ii): assume that we are given (X, t) with $f(X) \leq t$, and let us use $s = \lambda_k(X)$.

Then the k largest eigenvalues of matrix

$X - sI_m$ are nonnegative, and the remaining are

nonpositive. Let Z being symmetric with the same eigenvalues as X and such that the k largest eigenvalues of Z are the same as those of $X - sI_m$, and the remaining eigenvalues are zeros, Z and $Z - X + sI_m$ are clearly PSD (first by construction, second since in the eigenbasis of X this matrix is diagonal with the first k diagonal entries being 0 and remaining being the same as those of the matrix $sI_m - X$, i.e., being nonnegative). Thus, Z and real s we have built satisfy (b) and (c). To see that (a) is also satisfied, note that by construction $\text{Tr}\{Z\} = f(X) - sk$, $t - sk - \text{Tr}\{Z\} = t - f(X) \geq 0$.

Problem 6: A quadratic-over-linear composition,

$f: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is nonnegative and convex,

$g: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is positive and concave,

Show that f^2/g , with domain $\text{dom} f \cap \text{dom} g$, is convex.

Solution: Show that the function can be represented as

as $h(f^2(x), g^{-1}(x)) = f^2(x)g^{-1}(x)$, which is

convex by the property of k -dimensional composition:

if $h: \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0} \times \mathbb{R}_{> 0} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is convex

nondecreasing in each argument, and both ~~nondecreasing~~

~~decreasing in each argument~~ $f^2: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$ and

$g^{-1}: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_{> 0}$ are convex,

a) First, we show that f^2 is convex,

Consider the function $b_1(x) = x^2$, It is nondecreasing and concave in $\mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$ since $\nabla^2 b_1(x) = 2 \geq 0$ and the domain $\mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$ is convex. Given that f is non-negative and convex, the composition $b_1(f(x)) = f^2(x)$ is thus convex.

b) Now, we show that g^{-1} is convex,

Consider the function $b_2(x) = \frac{1}{x}$, It is nonincreasing and convex in $\mathbb{R}_{> 0}$ since $\nabla^2 b_2(x) = 2x^{-3} \geq 0$ and the domain $\mathbb{R}_{> 0}$ is convex. Given that g is positive and concave, the composition $b_2(g(x)) = 1/g(x)$ is thus convex.

c) Finally, we show that $h(b_1(x), b_2(x)) = a_1(x)a_2(x)$ is convex, nondecreasing, for $a_1(x)$ and $a_2(x)$ non-negative and convex. As $a_1(x) \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$ and $a_2(x) \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$, clearly h is nondecreasing. Consider the following inequality

$$\begin{aligned} a_1(\theta x + (1-\theta)y) a_2(\theta x + (1-\theta)y) &\leq \\ &\leq (\theta a_1(x) + (1-\theta)a_1(y))(\theta a_2(x) + (1-\theta)a_2(y)) \Leftrightarrow \\ &= \theta a_1(x)a_2(x) + (1-\theta)a_1(y)a_2(y) + \theta(1-\theta)(a_1(x) - a_1(y))x \\ &\quad \times (a_2(x) - a_2(y)) \leq \theta a_1(x)a_2(x) + (1-\theta)a_1(y)a_2(y) \end{aligned}$$

where the last inequality follows from

~~$\theta(1-\theta)(a_1(x) - a_1(y)) \leq \theta a_1(x)a_2(x) + (1-\theta)a_1(y)a_2(y)$~~
 $\theta(1-\theta)(a_2(x) - a_2(y))(a_2(x) - a_2(y))$ being always non-negative, this means that $h(a_1(x), a_2(x)) = a_1(x)a_2(x)$ satisfy the Jensen's inequality, and thus is

a convex function.

Thus, as f^2 is nonnegative, g^{-1} is positive, and both functions are convex, and since h is nondecreasing in each argument and convex when its arguments are positive, the composition $h(f^2(x), g^{-1}(x)) = f^2(x)/g(x)$ is convex.

Problem 6: Prove the information theoretic inequality; $D_{KL}(u, v) \geq 0 \quad \forall u, v$,

Also show that $D_{KL}(u, v) = 0$ iff $u = v$.

Hint: $D_{KL} = f(u) - f(v) - \nabla f^T(v)(u - v)$

where $f(v) = \sum_{i=1}^n v_i \log v_i$ is the negative entropy of v ,

Solution: Consider the original definition of the Kullback-Leibler divergence:

$$\begin{aligned} D_{KL}(u, v) &= \sum_{i=1}^n (u_i \log \left(\frac{u_i}{v_i} \right) - u_i + v_i) = \\ &= \underbrace{\sum_{i=1}^n u_i \log u_i}_{f(u)} - \underbrace{\sum_{i=1}^n v_i \log v_i}_{f(v)} - \underbrace{\sum_{i=1}^n (1 + \log v_i)(u - v)}_{\nabla f^T(v)(u - v)} \end{aligned}$$

where $f(v) = \sum v_i \log v_i$ is the negative entropy of $v \in \mathbb{R}_{++}^n$.

Now, note that the negative entropy is convex: it is a nonnegative weighted sum of convex functions $g(v_i) = v_i \log v_i$ (the second derivative satisfies $g''(v_i) = \frac{1}{v_i} > 0$ for $v_i \in \mathbb{R}_{++}$). Being convex, the function f satisfies the first-order Taylor approximation condition,

$$f(u) \geq f(v) + \nabla f^T(v)(u-v)$$

$$\Rightarrow f(u) - f(v) - \nabla f^T(v)(u-v) \geq 0, \forall u, v \in \mathbb{R}_{++}^n$$

which directly proves that

$$D_{KL}(u, v) \geq 0 \quad \forall u, v \in \mathbb{R}_{++}^n$$

We now proceed to prove that

$$D_{KL}(u, v) = 0 \iff u = v,$$

(\rightarrow) is obvious. If $u = v$, then clearly

$$D_{KL}(u, v) = f(u) - f(v) - \nabla f^T(v)(u-v) = 0$$

(\leftarrow): Assume $D_{KL}(u, v) = 0$. without loss of generality, set $u = \frac{1}{1Tx}$ and $v = \frac{y}{1Ty}$,

given some $x, y \in \mathbb{R}_{++}^n$ such that $\sum_{i=1}^n u_i = 1$ and $\sum_{i=1}^n v_i = 1$. That is u and v are probabilities, as it is in original KL divergence!

Considering that the function $-\log(x)$ is a convex function, we have the Jensen's inequality

$$0 = -D_{KL}(u, v) = \sum_{i=1}^n u_i \log\left(\frac{v_i}{u_i}\right) \leq \log\left(\sum_{i=1}^n u_i \left(\frac{v_i}{u_i}\right)\right) = \log 1 = 0.$$

Therefore, since the equality $\sum_{i=1}^n u_i \log\left(\frac{v_i}{u_i}\right) = \log\left(\sum_{i=1}^n u_i \left(\frac{v_i}{u_i}\right)\right)$ holds,

by property of the Jensen's inequality we have that the arguments satisfy

$$\frac{v_1}{u_1} = \frac{v_2}{u_2} = \dots = \frac{v_n}{u_n},$$

Since $D_{KL}(u, v) = 0$, this is only possible if $\frac{v_i}{u_i} = 1$ for all $0 \leq i \leq n$.

Thus, $u = v$.