

*Students may use the formula sheet and a pocket calculator. All solutions should be properly justified.*

1. Which of the following statements are correct? Provide a short explanation.

- a) The Dichotomous Search method always converges. (0.2)
- b) The Steepest Descent method is faster than the Newton method. (0.2)
- c) The modified Newton method does not use second derivatives of the function. (0.2)
- d) For convex functions a global minimum always exists. (0.2)
- e) There is no duality gap in LP problems. (0.2)

2. Consider the matrix

$$H = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

- a) Is the matrix positive (negative) definite or semidefinite? (0.4)
- b) Is the function  $f(x) = \exp(x^T H x)$  convex on  $\mathbf{R}^3$ ? (0.4)
- c) State the Sylvester criterion. What does it tell us about  $H$ ? (0.2)

3. a) Use the Phase 1 method for the LP set

$$\begin{cases} 2x_1 - 5x_2 - 3x_3 - 6x_4 = 2, \\ 2x_2 + x_3 + x_4 = 1, \\ 2x_1 + 2x_2 - 2x_3 - 4x_4 = 1, \\ \text{all } x_k \geq 0 \end{cases}$$

and find a feasible point in case the set is not empty. (0.5)

- b) Does the vector  $b = \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$  belong to the convex hull of the columns

of the matrix  $A = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & -5 & -3 & -6 \\ 0 & 2 & 1 & 1 \\ 2 & 2 & -2 & -4 \end{pmatrix}$ ? (0.5)

**Please, turn over**

4. a) Prove that if  $f$  is a convex function on  $S$  then for any constant  $\alpha \in \mathbf{R}$  the set  $M = \{x \in S: f(x) \leq \alpha\}$  is convex. (0.3)

b) Provide an example of a non-convex function  $f(x, y)$  such that the set  $M = \{(x, y) \in \mathbf{R}^2: f(x, y) \leq 1\}$  is nevertheless convex. (0.2)

c) Is the set  $\{(x, y) \in \mathbf{R}^2: x^4 + 2x^2y^2 + y^4 \leq 1\}$  convex? (0.5)

5. Consider the problem

$$\min (x^2 + 2(y + 3)^2) \quad \text{subject to} \quad 2xy + 2 \leq 0, \quad y \geq 1.$$

Calculate the dual function if we treat the second constraint implicitly (that is, for  $X = \{(x, y): y \geq 1\}$ ), solve the dual problem and then solve the primal problem by showing that there is no duality gap.

6. Prove the existence and uniqueness of a global minimum for a quadratic polynomial with a positive definite Hessian.

**GOOD LUCK!**