Formal definition convex function: $tf(a) + (t-1)f(b) \ge f(ta + (1-t)b), \forall a, \forall b, t \in [0,1]$ Proof of Linearity of expectation:

$$\mathbb{E}[aX + bY + c] = \sum_{x,y} P(x,y)(ax + by + c)$$

$$= \sum_{x,y} P(x,y)ax + \sum_{x,y} P(x,y)by + c \sum_{x,y} P(x,y)$$

$$= a \sum_{x,y} P(y|x)P(x)x + b \sum_{x,y} P(x|y)P(y)y + c$$

$$= a \sum_{x} P(x)x \sum_{y} P(y|x) + b \sum_{y} P(y)y \sum_{x} P(x|y) + c$$

$$= a\mathbb{E}[x] + b\mathbb{E}[y] + c$$
(1)