

## Example

**Exercise.** If  $h : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is convex, and if  $\theta : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is convex and increasing, then  $f(x) = \theta(h(x))$  is convex. That is, for any  $x, y \in \mathbb{R}^n$  and  $\lambda \in [0, 1]$ ,

$$(\theta \circ h)(\lambda x + (1 - \lambda)y) \leq \lambda(\theta \circ h)(x) + (1 - \lambda)(\theta \circ h)(y).$$

*Proof.* Let  $h : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be convex and  $\theta : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be convex and increasing. Take  $x, y \in \mathbb{R}^n, \lambda \in [0, 1]$ . By convexity of  $h$ , we have

$$h(\lambda x + (1 - \lambda)y) \leq \lambda h(x) + (1 - \lambda)h(y),$$

and therefore:

$$\begin{aligned} \theta[h(\lambda x + (1 - \lambda)y)] &\leq \theta[\lambda h(x) + (1 - \lambda)h(y)] && \text{by monotonicity of } \theta \\ &\leq \lambda \theta(h(x)) + (1 - \lambda)\theta(h(y)). && \text{by convexity of } \theta \end{aligned}$$

□