

Exercise 1

Show that if S is an open set, its complement S^c is closed, and viceversa.

Exercise 2

If S_1, S_2 are convex subsets, prove that the following are also convex sets:

$$\begin{aligned} S_1 \cap S_2 &= \{x : x \in S_1 \text{ and } x \in S_2\} \\ S_1 + S_2 &= \{x + x' : x \in S_1, x' \in S_2\} \\ S_1 - S_2 &= \{x - x' : x \in S_1, x' \in S_2\} \end{aligned}$$

Exercise 3

If $f : S \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is a convex function on the convex set S , the set $\{x : x \text{ is a minimum of } f\}$ is a convex set.

Exercise 4

Given a quadratic form $q(w) = w^T Q w + b^T w + c$, with Q a symmetric $d \times d$ matrix, w, b being $d \times 1$ vectors and c a real number, derive its gradient and Hessian

$$\nabla q(w) = Qw + b, \quad Hq(w) = Q$$

Hint: expand $q(w) = \sum_{i=1}^d \sum_{j=1}^d Q_{ij} w_i w_j + \sum_{i=1}^d b_i w_i + c$ and take the partials $\frac{\partial q}{\partial w_i}$ and $\frac{\partial^2 q}{\partial w_i \partial w_j}$.

Exercise 5

If (p_1, \dots, p_n) is a probability distribution, prove that its entropy $H(p_1, \dots, p_n) = -\sum_{i=1}^n p_i \log p_i$ is a concave function. Show also that its maximum is $\log n$, attained when $p_i = \frac{1}{n}$ for all i .

Exercise 6

We want to solve the following constrained restriction problem:

$$\begin{aligned} \min \quad & x^2 + 2y^2 + 4xy \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & x + y = 1 \\ & x, y \geq 0. \end{aligned}$$

1. Write its Lagrangian with α, β the multipliers of the inequality constraints.
2. Write the KKT conditions.
3. Use them to solve the problem. For this consider separately the $(\alpha = \beta = 0)$, $(\alpha > 0, \beta = 0)$, $(\alpha = 0, \beta > 0)$, $(\alpha > 0, \beta > 0)$ cases.

Exercise 11

If Q is a symmetric, positive definite $d \times d$ matrix, show that $f(x) = x^T Q x$, $x \in \mathbb{R}^d$, is a convex function.

Exercise 12

Let $f : \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a function and assume that $\text{epi}(f) \subset \mathbb{R}^d \times \mathbb{R}$ is convex. Prove that then f is convex.

Exercise 13

Let $f : \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a convex function. Prove that $\text{epi}(f)$ is a closed set and that $(x, f(x)) \in \partial \text{epi}(f)$.

Exercise 14

Prove that if f is strictly convex, it has a unique global minimum.

Exercise 15

Let $f, g : S \subset \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be two convex functions on the convex set S . Prove that, as subsets, $\partial(f + g)(x) \subset \partial f(x) + \partial g(x)$ for any $x \in S$.

Exercise 16

Compute the proximal of $f(x) = 0$ and of $g(x) = \frac{1}{2}\|x\|^2$.

Exercise 17

Assume that f is convex. Prove that for any $\lambda > 0$, $\partial(\lambda f)(x) = \lambda \partial f(x)$ as subsets.

Exercise 19

Compute the proximals of the hinge $f(x) = \max\{0, -x\}$ and the ϵ -insensitive $g(x) = \max\{0, |x| - \epsilon\}$ loss functions.