

Exercise sheet

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Part 1. Stochastic learning

Exercise 1. (★) Let $f : \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ such that $f(w) = g(\langle w, x \rangle + y)$ for some $x \in \mathbb{R}^d, y \in \mathbb{R}$. If g is a convex function then f is a convex function.

Solution. Let $u, v \in \mathbb{R}^d$ and $\alpha \in [0, 1]$. It is

$$\begin{aligned}
 f(\alpha u + (1 - \alpha)v) &= g(\langle \alpha u + (1 - \alpha)v, x \rangle + y) \\
 &= g(\alpha \langle u, x \rangle + (1 - \alpha) \langle v, x \rangle + y) \\
 &= g(\alpha (\langle u, x \rangle + y) + (1 - \alpha) (\langle v, x \rangle + y)) & y = \alpha y + (1 - \alpha)y \\
 &\leq \alpha g(\langle u, x \rangle + y) + (1 - \alpha) g(\langle v, x \rangle + y) & (g \text{ is convex}) \\
 &= \alpha f(u) + (1 - \alpha) f(v)
 \end{aligned}$$

Exercise 2. (★) Let functions g_1 be ρ_1 -Lipschitz and g_2 be ρ_2 -Lipschitz. Then f with $f(x) = g_1(g_2(x))$ is $\rho_1\rho_2$ -Lipschitz.

Solution.

$$\begin{aligned}
 |f(w_1) - f(w_2)| &= |g_1(g_2(w_1)) - g_1(g_2(w_2))| \\
 &\leq \rho_1 |g_2(w_1) - g_2(w_2)| \\
 &\leq \rho_1 \rho_2 |w_1 - w_2|
 \end{aligned}$$

Exercise 3. (★) Let $f : \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ with $f(w) = g(\langle w, x \rangle + y)$ $x \in \mathbb{R}^d$ and $y \in \mathbb{R}$. Let $g : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a β -smooth function. Then f is a $(\beta \|x\|^2)$ -smooth.

Hint:: You may use Cauchy-Schwarz inequality $\langle y, x \rangle \leq \|y\| \|x\|$

$$f(v) = g(\langle w, x \rangle + y)$$

$$\leq g(\langle w, x \rangle + y) + g'(\langle w, x \rangle + y) \langle v - w, x \rangle + \frac{\beta}{2} (\langle v - w, x \rangle)^2 \quad (g \text{ is smooth})$$

$$\leq g(\langle w, x \rangle + y) + g'(\langle w, x \rangle + y) \langle v - w, x \rangle + \frac{\beta}{2} (\|v - w\| \|x\|)^2 \quad (\text{Cauchy-Schwarz inequality})$$

$$= f(w) + \langle \nabla f(w), v - w \rangle + \frac{\beta \|x\|^2}{2} \|v - w\|^2$$

Exercise 4. $(\star) f : S \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is ρ -Lipschitz over an open convex set S if and only if for all $w \in S$ and $v \in \partial f(w)$ it is $\|v\| \leq \rho$.

Hint:: You may use Cauchy-Schwarz inequality $\langle y, x \rangle \leq \|y\| \|x\|$

Solution. \implies Let $f : S \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be ρ -Lipschitz over convex set S , $w \in S$ and $v \in \partial f(w)$.

- Since S is open we get that there exist $\epsilon > 0$ such as $u := w + \epsilon \frac{v}{\|v\|}$ where $u \in S$. So $\langle u - w, v \rangle = \epsilon \|v\|$ and $\|u - w\| = \epsilon$.
- From the subgradient definition we get

$$f(u) - f(w) \geq \langle u - w, v \rangle = \epsilon \|v\|$$

- From the Lipschitzness of $f(\cdot)$ we get

$$f(u) - f(w) \leq \rho \|u - w\| = \rho \epsilon$$

Therefore $\|v\| \leq \rho$.

Proof. \Leftarrow It is for all $w \in S$ and $v \in \partial f(w)$ it is $\|v\| \leq \rho$. □

- For any $u \in S$, it is

$$\begin{aligned} f(w) - f(u) &\leq \langle v, w - u \rangle && (\text{because } v \in \partial f(w)) \\ (1) \quad &\leq \|v\| \|w - u\| && \text{by Cauchy-Schwarz inequality} \\ &\leq \rho \|w - u\| && \text{because } \|v\| \leq \rho \end{aligned}$$

- Similarly it results $u, w \in S$

$$f(w) - f(u) \leq \langle v, u - w \rangle \|v\| \leq \|v\| \|u - w\| \leq \rho \|u - w\|$$

from (1) because w, u can be swapped in (1) as they both are any values in S .

Exercise 5. (\star) Let $g_1(w), \dots, g_r(w)$ be r convex functions, and let $g(\cdot) = \max_{\forall j} (g_j(\cdot))$. Show that for some w it is $\nabla g_k(w) \in \partial g(w)$ where $k = \arg \max_j (g_j(w))$ is the index of function $g_j(\cdot)$ presenting the greatest value at w .

Since g_j is convex, for all u

$$g_j(u) \geq g_j(w) + \langle u - w, \nabla g_j(w) \rangle$$

However $g(u) = \max_j g_j(u) \geq g_j(u)$ for any j , and $g(w) = g_j(w)$ at w . Then

$$g(u) \geq g(w) + \langle u - w, \nabla g_j(w) \rangle$$

Then by the definition of the sub-gradient $\nabla g_j(w) \in \partial g(w)$
