

# TD - SD-TSIA 211

**Exercise 1** (Gradient descent).

The exercises 1 to 3 are aimed at proving that the gradient algorithm for minimizing  $f$ , where  $f$  is convex and differentiable has convergence rate  $O(1/k)$  in general (where  $k$  is the number of iterations) and  $O((\frac{Q-1}{Q})^k)$  when  $f$  is strongly convex (where  $Q$  is called the *condition number*)

Let  $f : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be a differentiable function whose gradient is  $L$ -Lipschitz continuous *i.e.*  $\|\nabla f(y) - \nabla f(x)\| \leq L\|y - x\|$  for all  $x, y$ .

1. Prove that for all  $x, y$ ,  $\langle \nabla f(y) - \nabla f(x), y - x \rangle \leq L\|y - x\|^2$ .
2. Set  $\varphi(t) = f(x + t(y - x))$  for all  $t \in [0, 1]$ . Prove that

$$f(y) - f(x) - \langle \nabla f(x), y - x \rangle = \varphi(1) - \varphi(0) - \varphi'(0).$$

3. Deduce that

$$f(y) - f(x) - \langle \nabla f(x), y - x \rangle = \int_0^1 \langle \nabla f(x + t(y - x)) - \nabla f(x), y - x \rangle dt$$

4. Using the first question, conclude that

$$f(y) \leq f(x) + \langle \nabla f(x), y - x \rangle + \frac{L}{2}\|y - x\|^2.$$

We consider the gradient algorithm *i.e.*, the sequence  $(x_k)$  defined by  $x_{k+1} = x_k - \gamma \nabla f(x_k)$  where  $\gamma > 0$  is a constant step size.

5. Show that

$$x_{k+1} = \arg \min_{y \in \mathbb{R}^n} \langle \nabla f(x_k), y - x_k \rangle + \frac{1}{2\gamma}\|x_k - y\|^2.$$

6. Prove that for all  $z \in \mathbb{R}^n$ ,

$$\langle \nabla f(x_k), x_{k+1} - x_k \rangle + \frac{1}{2\gamma}\|x_k - x_{k+1}\|^2 = \langle \nabla f(x_k), z - x_k \rangle + \frac{1}{2\gamma}\|x_k - z\|^2 - \frac{1}{2\gamma}\|x_{k+1} - z\|^2. \quad (1)$$

7. Deduce that  $f(x_{k+1}) \leq f(x_k) - \frac{1}{\gamma}(1 - \frac{\gamma L}{2})\|x_{k+1} - x_k\|^2$ .

8. Provide a condition on  $\gamma$  which ensures that when  $x_{k+1} \neq x_k$ ,  $f(x_{k+1}) < f(x_k)$ .

From now on, we set  $\gamma = \frac{1}{L}$ .

9. Using (1), show that for all  $z \in \mathbb{R}^n$ ,

$$f(x_{k+1}) \leq f(x_k) + \langle \nabla f(x_k), z - x_k \rangle + \frac{L}{2}\|x_k - z\|^2 - \frac{L}{2}\|x_{k+1} - z\|^2. \quad (2)$$

We assume from now on that  $f$  is convex and admits (at least) one minimizer  $x^*$ .

10. Show that

$$f(x_{k+1}) \leq f(x^*) + \frac{L}{2}\|x_k - x^*\|^2 - \frac{L}{2}\|x_{k+1} - x^*\|^2.$$

11. Deduce that for all  $k \geq 1$ ,

$$\sum_{i=1}^k f(x_i) \leq kf(x^*) + \frac{L}{2}\|x_0 - x^*\|^2.$$

12. Show that

$$f(x_k) - f(x^*) \leq \frac{L\|x_0 - x^*\|^2}{2k}.$$

**Exercise 2** (Gradient descent – strongly convex functions).

We assume from now on that  $f$  is  $\mu$ -strongly convex. Thus, for any  $x, y$ ,

$$f(y) \geq f(x) + \langle \nabla f(x), y - x \rangle + \frac{\mu}{2}\|y - x\|^2.$$

1. Using Eq. (2), prove that

$$f(x_{k+1}) \leq f(x^*) + \frac{L - \mu}{2}\|x_k - x^*\|^2 - \frac{L}{2}\|x_{k+1} - x^*\|^2.$$

2. Define  $\Delta_{k+1} = f(x_{k+1}) - f(x^*) + \frac{L}{2}\|x_{k+1} - x^*\|^2$ . Show that

$$\Delta_{k+1} \leq \left(1 - \frac{\mu}{L}\right) \Delta_k.$$

3. Conclude that

$$\begin{aligned} f(x_k) - f(x^*) &\leq \left(1 - \frac{\mu}{L}\right)^k \Delta_0 \\ \|x_k - x^*\|^2 &\leq \left(1 - \frac{\mu}{L}\right)^k \frac{2\Delta_0}{L}. \end{aligned}$$

4. The ratio  $Q = L/\mu$  is called the *condition number* of  $f$ . Discuss the influence of  $Q$  on the convergence rate.

**Exercise 3** (Quadratic case).

From now on, we define  $f(x) = \frac{1}{2}x^T Hx + c^T x$  where  $H$  is positive semidefinite  $n \times n$  matrix, and  $g(x) = 0$ . We denote by  $\lambda_{max}$  and  $\lambda_{min}$  the largest and smallest eigenvalues of  $H$  respectively.

1. What is the Hessian matrix of  $f$ ? Deduce that  $f$  is convex.

2. Justify briefly that  $\nabla f$  is  $\lambda_{max}$ -Lipschitz continuous.

3. Prove that  $f$  is  $\lambda_{min}$ -strongly convex.

4. Write the condition number  $Q$  of  $f$ . What kind of matrix  $H$  yields the smallest condition number?

5. Characterize the set of minimizers of  $f$ .

**Exercise 4** (Proximal gradient descent).

The aim of this exercise is to prove that the proximal gradient algorithm for minimizing  $F := f + g$ , where :

- $f$  is convex and differentiable ;
- $g$  is convex and possibly nondifferentiable ;
- there exists at least one minimizer  $x^*$ ,

has convergence rate  $O(1/k)$  in general (where  $k$  is the number of iterations) and  $O((\frac{Q-1}{Q})^k)$  when  $f$  is strongly convex (where  $Q$  is called the *condition number*)

Let  $g : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \cup \{+\infty\}$  be a convex function whose proximal operator defined by  $\text{prox}_g(x) = \arg \min_{y \in \mathbb{R}^n} g(y) + \frac{1}{2} \|y - x\|^2$  is easy to compute. We consider the proximal gradient algorithm *i.e.*, the sequence  $(x_k)$  defined by  $x_{k+1} = \text{prox}_{\gamma g}(x_k - \gamma \nabla f(x_k))$  where  $\gamma > 0$  is a constant step size.

1. Show that

$$x_{k+1} = \arg \min_{y \in \mathbb{R}^n} g(y) + \langle \nabla f(x_k), y - x_k \rangle + \frac{1}{2\gamma} \|x_k - y\|^2. \quad (3)$$

2. Let us define

$$h : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \cup \{+\infty\}$$

$$y \mapsto g(y) + \langle \nabla f(x_k), y - x_k \rangle + \frac{1}{2\gamma} \|x_k - y\|^2 - \frac{1}{2\gamma} \|x_{k+1} - y\|^2.$$

Show that  $h$  is convex and that  $0 \in \partial h(x_{k+1})$ .

3. Prove that for all  $z \in \mathbb{R}^n$ ,

$$g(x_{k+1}) + \langle \nabla f(x_k), x_{k+1} - x_k \rangle + \frac{1}{2\gamma} \|x_k - x_{k+1}\|^2$$

$$\leq g(z) + \langle \nabla f(x_k), z - x_k \rangle + \frac{1}{2\gamma} \|x_k - z\|^2 - \frac{1}{2\gamma} \|x_{k+1} - z\|^2. \quad (4)$$

4. Deduce that  $F(x_{k+1}) \leq F(x_k) - \frac{1}{\gamma}(1 - \frac{\gamma L}{2})\|x_{k+1} - x_k\|^2$ .

5. Provide a condition on  $\gamma$  which ensures that when  $x_{k+1} \neq x_k$ ,  $F(x_{k+1}) < F(x_k)$ .

From now on, we set  $\gamma = \frac{1}{L}$ .

6. Show that

$$F(x_k) - F(x^*) \leq \frac{L\|x_0 - x^*\|^2}{2k}.$$

7. Suppose that  $f$  is  $\mu$ -strongly convex. Define  $\Delta_{k+1} = f(x_{k+1}) - f(x^*) + \frac{L}{2}\|x_{k+1} - x^*\|^2$ . Show that

$$F(x_k) - F(x^*) \leq \left(1 - \frac{\mu}{L}\right)^k \Delta_0 \quad \text{and} \quad \|x_k - x^*\|^2 \leq \left(1 - \frac{\mu}{L}\right)^k \frac{2\Delta_0}{L}.$$

**Exercise 5** (Proximal operator of the absolute value).

Let  $f$  be the absolute value, that is  $f(x) = |x|$  for all  $x \in \mathbb{R}$ . We recall that the proximal operator of  $f$  at  $x$  is given by

$$\text{prox}_f(x) = \arg \min_{y \in \mathbb{R}} f(y) + \frac{1}{2}|y - x|^2$$

1. Show that  $f$  is convex.
2. What is the subdifferential of  $f$ ?

We are now interested in  $p = \text{prox}_f(x)$ .

3. Show that

$$\begin{cases} x - p = -1 & \text{if } p < 0 \\ x - p \in [-1; 1] & \text{if } p = 0 \\ x - p = 1 & \text{if } p > 0 \end{cases} \quad (5)$$

4. In order to get a formula, we need  $p$  as a function of  $x$ . Hence, the following questions aim at inverting the system of inclusions.

Show that

$$\begin{cases} x < -1 & \text{if } p < 0 \\ x \in [-1; 1] & \text{if } p = 0 \\ x > 1 & \text{if } p > 0 \end{cases}$$

5. Using contrapositive arguments, deduce that

$$\begin{cases} p \geq 0 & \text{if } x \geq -1 \\ p \neq 0 & \text{if } x \notin [-1; 1] \\ p \leq 0 & \text{if } x \leq 1 \end{cases}$$

6. Taking the conditions two by two, show that

$$\begin{cases} p > 0 & \text{if } x > 1 \\ p = 0 & \text{if } -1 \leq x - p \leq 1 \\ p < 0 & \text{if } x < -1 \end{cases} \quad (6)$$

7. Combine (5) and (6) to get the subdifferential of the absolute value.

**Exercise 6** (Proximal operator of the 1-norm).

We say that a function  $\phi : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \cup \{+\infty\}$  is separable if there exists  $n$  functions  $\phi_i : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \cup \{+\infty\}$  such that for all  $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ ,

$$\phi(x) = \sum_{i=1}^n \phi_i(x_i) .$$

1. Let  $\phi$  be a separable function. Show that

$$\partial\phi(x) = \partial\phi_1(x_1) \times \dots \times \partial\phi_n(x_n)$$

where  $\times$  denotes the cartesian product.

2. Show that

$$\inf_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n} \sum_{i=1}^n \phi_i(x_i) = \sum_{i=1}^n \inf_{x \in \mathbb{R}} \phi_i(x)$$

and

$$\arg \min_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n} \sum_{i=1}^n \phi_i(x_i) = \arg \min_{x \in \mathbb{R}} \phi_1(x) \times \dots \times \arg \min_{x \in \mathbb{R}} \phi_n(x) .$$

3. Let  $\phi$  be a separable function. Show that

$$\text{prox}_{\phi}(x) = (\text{prox}_{\phi_1}(x_1), \dots, \text{prox}_{\phi_n}(x_n))$$

4. Let  $F$  be the 1-norm, that is  $F(x) = \sum_{i=1}^n |x_i|$ .

Show that  $F$  is convex and separable.

5. Recall the proximal operator of the absolute value and give the formula for the proximal operator of the 1-norm.

**Exercise 7** (LASSO). We consider the problem

$$\min_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n} \frac{1}{2} \|Ax - b\|_2^2 + \lambda \|x\|_1 .$$

1. Prove that the solution is  $\{0\}$  for large  $\lambda$ .
2. For an arbitrary  $\lambda$ , provide the expression of the proximal gradient algorithm, using the step size suggested in Exercise 4.
3. Assume that the initial point is at distance  $D$  from a minimizer. How many iterations are needed (at most) to achieve an  $\varepsilon$ -minimizer?

**Exercise 8** (Link between two LASSO formulations). We consider the problem

$$\min_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n} \|Ax - b\|_2^2 \quad \text{s.t.} \quad \|x\|_1 \leq \epsilon .$$

Show that there exist  $\lambda \geq 0$  such that any minimizer is a solution to the LASSO( $\lambda$ ) problem defined by

$$\min_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n} \frac{1}{2} \|Ax - b\|_2^2 + \lambda \|x\|_1 .$$

**Exercise 9** (Proximal stochastic gradient for logistic regression).

We consider a classification problem defined by observations  $(x_i, y_i)_{1 \leq i \leq n}$  where for all  $i$ ,  $x_i \in \mathbb{R}^p$  and  $y_i \in \{-1, 1\}$ . We propose the following linear model for the generation of the data. Each observation is supposed to be independent and there exists a vector  $w \in \mathbb{R}^p$  and  $w_0 \in \mathbb{R}$  such that for all  $i$ ,  $(y_i, x_i)$  is a realization of the random variable  $(Y, X)$  whose law satisfies

$$\mathbb{P}_{w, w_0}(Y = 1|X) = \frac{\exp(X^\top w + w_0)}{1 + \exp(X^\top w + w_0)}.$$

1. Show that  $\forall i \in \{1, \dots, n\}$ ,  $\mathbb{P}(Y_i = y_i|x_i) = \frac{1}{1 + \exp(-y_i(x_i^\top w + w_0))}$ .
2. Show that the maximum likelihood estimator is

$$\hat{w} = \arg \min_w \sum_{i=1}^n \log(1 + \exp(-y_i(x_i^\top w + w_0)))$$

3. Denote  $f(w) = \sum_{i=1}^n \log(1 + \exp(-y_i(x_i^\top w + w_0)))$ . Compute  $\nabla f(w, w_0)$ .
4. Compute the proximal operator of  $(x \mapsto \frac{\lambda}{2} \|x\|^2)$ .
5. Write the proximal stochastic gradient method for the logistic regression problem with ridge regularizer

$$(\hat{w}^{(\lambda)}, \hat{w}_0^{(\lambda)}) = \arg \min_{w, w_0} \sum_{i=1}^n \log(1 + \exp(-y_i(x_i^\top w + w_0))) + \frac{\lambda}{2} \|w\|^2.$$

**Exercise 10** (Optimisation with explicit constraints).

We consider the following optimization problem

$$\min_{x \in C} f(x) \tag{7}$$

where  $C \subset \mathbb{R}^d$  is a convex set and  $f : \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is differentiable.

1. We define the convex indicator function of the set  $C$  as

$$\iota_C(x) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } x \in C \\ +\infty & \text{if } x \notin C \end{cases}$$

Show that (7) is equivalent to

$$\min_{x \in \mathbb{R}^d} f(x) + \iota_C(x) \tag{8}$$

2. Show that for all  $x \in C$ ,  $\partial \iota_C(x) = \{q \in \mathbb{R}^n : \forall y \in C, \langle q, y - x \rangle \leq 0\}$  and that  $\partial \iota_C(x)$  is a cone (it is called the normal cone to  $C$  at  $x$ ). Show that for all  $x \notin C$ ,  $\partial \iota_C(x) = \emptyset$ .

3. Show that  $x^*$  is a solution to (8) if and only if

$$-\nabla f(x^*) \in \partial \iota_c(x^*) .$$

4. Denote

$$\mathcal{H}_{w,b} = \{x \in \mathcal{X} : \langle w, x \rangle + b = 0\}$$

Compute  $\partial \iota_{\mathcal{H}_{w,b}}(x)$  for all  $x \in \mathbb{R}^d$ .

5. Prove that the distance of a point  $z$  to  $\mathcal{H}$  is equal to

$$d(z, \mathcal{H}_{w,b}) = \min_{x \in \mathcal{H}_{w,b}} \|x - z\|_2 = \frac{|\langle w, z \rangle + b|}{\|w\|_2} .$$

**Exercise 11** (Distance to an hyperplane). Set  $\mathcal{X} = \mathbb{R}^d$ . Define the hyperplane

$$\mathcal{H}_{w,b} = \{x \in \mathcal{X} : \langle w, x \rangle + b = 0\}$$

for some fixed  $w \in \mathcal{X}$  ( $w \neq 0$ ) and  $b \in \mathbb{R}$ . For a fixed  $z \in \mathcal{X}$ , consider the problem

$$\min_{x \in \mathcal{H}_{w,b}} \frac{1}{2} \|x - z\|^2 .$$

1. Write the Lagrangian function  $L(x; \nu)$  associated with this problem.
2. Solve the KKT conditions and characterize the solution.
3. Prove that the distance of a point  $z$  to  $\mathcal{H}$  is equal to

$$d(z, \mathcal{H}_{w,b}) = \frac{|\langle w, z \rangle + b|}{\|w\|} .$$

**Exercise 12** (SVM - linearly separable case). Consider a training set formed by couples  $(x_i, y_i)$  for  $i \in \{1, \dots, n\}$  where  $x_i$  is a feature vector in  $\mathcal{X}$  and  $y_i \in \{-1, +1\}$  for all  $i$ . The hyperplane  $\mathcal{H}_{w,b}$  is called *separating* if

$$\forall i, \quad y_i(\langle w, x_i \rangle + b) > 0 .$$

In the sequel, we assume that a separating hyperplane exists. Among all separating hyperplanes, we seek to find the one which maximizes the minimum distance

$$f(w, b) = \min_{i=1, \dots, n} d(x_i, \mathcal{H}_{w,b}) .$$

1. Show that if  $(w, b)$  defines a separating hyperplane, then  $f(w, b) = c(w, b)/\|w\|$  where  $c(w, b) = \min_i y_i(\langle w, x_i \rangle + b)$ .

Thus, we are interested in solving the problem

$$\max_{w,b} \frac{c(w, b)}{\|w\|} \text{ such that } \forall i, \quad y_i(\langle w, x_i \rangle + b) \geq 0 .$$

Let  $(w^*, b^*)$  be a solution and define

$$v^* = \frac{w^*}{c(w^*, b^*)} \text{ and } a^* = \frac{b^*}{c(w^*, b^*)}$$

2. Justify that  $(w^*, b^*)$  and  $(v^*, a^*)$  define the same separating hyperplane.
3. Prove that  $(v^*, a^*)$  solves the optimization problem

$$\max_{v,a} \frac{1}{\|v\|} \text{ such that } \forall i, y_i(\langle v, x_i \rangle + a) \geq 1.$$

4. Deduce that  $(v^*, a^*)$  solves the optimization problem

$$\min_{v,a} \frac{\|v\|^2}{2} \text{ such that } \forall i, 1 - y_i(\langle v, x_i \rangle + a) \leq 0. \quad (9)$$

5. Write the Lagrangian  $L(v, a; \phi)$ .
6. Write the KKT conditions.
7. Let  $(v, a; \phi)$  be a saddle point of the Lagrangian. Show that  $\phi_i$  is non-zero only if  $y_i(\langle v, x_i \rangle + a) = 1$ .

The training points  $(x_i, y_i)$  satisfying the above property are the closest to the hyperplane  $\mathcal{H}_{v,a}$ . The corresponding  $x_i$ 's are often called *support vectors*.

8. If one is given a dual solution  $\phi^*$ , how to recover a primal solution  $(v^*, a^*)$  from  $\phi^*$ ? Define the  $n \times n$  matrices  $K = (\langle x_i, x_j \rangle)_{i,j=1\dots n}$ ,  $D = \text{diag}(y_1 \dots y_n)$  and  $\mathbf{1}^T = (1, \dots, 1)$ .

9. Prove that the dual problem reduces to

$$\min_{\substack{\phi \geq 0 \\ y^T \phi = 0}} \frac{1}{2} \phi^T D K D \phi - \mathbf{1}^T \phi.$$

10. Assume that this algorithm has identified a dual solution  $\phi^*$ . Write explicitly the classifier as a function of  $\phi^*$ .
11. What part of the training data do you need in order to implement the above classifier?

**Exercise 13** (SVM - non separable case).

Consider the case when a separable hyperplane might not exist. The constraints  $1 - y_i(\langle v, x_i \rangle + a) \leq 0$  in Problem (9) may not be jointly feasible. For a fixed  $c > 0$ , we consider the relaxed problem

$$\min_{v,a} \frac{\|v\|^2}{2} + c \sum_i \xi_i \text{ such that } \forall i, 1 - y_i(\langle v, x_i \rangle + a) \leq \xi_i \text{ and } \xi_i \geq 0. \quad (10)$$

1. How many constraints has this problem?
2. Write the Lagrangian function.
3. Show that the dual problem reduces to

$$\min_{\substack{c \geq \phi \geq 0 \\ y^T \phi = 0}} \frac{1}{2} \phi^T D K D \phi - \mathbf{1}^T \phi.$$



**Exercise 14** (Gaussian Channel, Water filling). In signal processing, a *Gaussian channel* refers to a transmitter-receiver framework with Gaussian noise : the transmitter sends an information  $X$  (real valued), the receiver observes  $Y = X + \epsilon$ , where  $\epsilon$  is a noise.

A Channel is defined by the joint distribution of  $(X, Y)$ . If it is Gaussian, the channel is called *Gaussian*. In other words, if  $X$  and  $\epsilon$  are Gaussian, we have a Gaussian channel.

Say the transmitter wants to send a word of size  $p$  to the receiver. He does so by encoding each possible word  $w$  of size  $p$  by a certain vector of size  $n$ ,  $\mathbf{x}_n^w = (x_1^w, \dots, x_n^w)$ . To stick with the Gaussian channel setting, we assume that the  $x_i^w$ 's are chosen as i.i.d. replicates of a Gaussian, centered random variable, with variance  $x$ .

The receiver knows the code (the dictionary of all  $2^p$  possible  $\mathbf{x}_n^w$ 's) and he observes  $\mathbf{y}_n = \mathbf{x}_n^w + \epsilon$ , where  $\epsilon \sim \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, \sigma^2 \mathbf{I}_n)$ . We want to recover  $w$ .

The *capacity* of the channel, in information theory, is (roughly speaking) the maximum ratio  $C = n/p$ , such that it is possible (when  $n$  and  $p$  tend to  $\infty$  while  $n/p \equiv C$ ), to recover a word  $w$  of size  $p$  using a code  $\mathbf{x}_n^w$  of length  $n$ .

For a Gaussian Channel,  $C = \log(1 + x/\sigma^2)$ . ( $x/\sigma^2$  is the ratio signal/noise). For  $n$  Gaussian channels in parallel, with  $\alpha_i = 1/\sigma_i^2$ , then

$$C = \sum_{i=1}^n \log(1 + \alpha_i x_i).$$

The variance  $x_i$  represents a *power* affected to channel  $i$ . The aim of the transmitter is to maximize  $C$  under a *total power constraint* :  $\sum_{i=1}^n x_i \leq P$ . In other words, the problem is

$$\max_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n} \sum_{i=1}^n \log(1 + \alpha_i x_i) \quad \text{under constraints : } \forall i, x_i \geq 0, \quad \sum_{i=1}^n x_i \leq P. \quad (11)$$

1. Write problem (11) as a minimization problem under constraint  $g(x) \preceq 0$ . Show that this is a convex problem (objective and constraints both convex).
2. Show that the constraints are qualified. (hint : Slater).
3. Write the Lagrangian function
4. Using the KKT theorem, show that a primal optimal  $x^*$  exists and satisfies :
  - $\exists K > 0$  such that  $x_i = \max(0, K - 1/\alpha_i)$ .
  - $K$  is given by

$$\sum_{i=1}^n \max(K - 1/\alpha_i, 0) = P$$

5. Justify the expression *water filling*

**Exercise 15** (Dual of the Lasso problem).

We consider the Lasso problem

$$\min_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n} \frac{1}{2} \|Ax - b\|_2^2 + \lambda \|x\|_1,$$

where  $A$  is a  $m \times n$  matrix and  $b$  is a vector of  $\mathbb{R}^m$ . The goal of this exercise is to give a dual Lasso problem.

1. Show that the objective function of this problem is convex.
2. By considering an auxiliary variable  $z$  and the constraint  $z = Ax - b$ , write an equivalent Lasso problem with a separable objective, which means that it can be written as  $f_1(x) + f_2(z)$ .

Two optimization problems are said to be equivalent if there exists a bijection between their set of optimal solutions and their optimal value is equal.

3. Write the Lagrangian of this new problem.
4. Compute the dual problem.

**Exercise 16** (Total-Variation-regularized least squares regression).

Let  $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$  be a vector. We consider the following problem

$$\min_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n} \frac{1}{2} \|Ax - b\|_2^2 + \alpha \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} |x_{i+1} - x_i|,$$

where  $A$  is a  $m \times n$  matrix,  $b$  is a vector of  $\mathbb{R}^m$ . The second term is called the total-variation (TV) regularization term.

1. Can you guess what type of solution is promoted by the TV regularization?
2. Show that the problem writes as

$$\min_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n} \frac{1}{2} \|Ax - b\|_2^2 + \alpha \|Dx\|_1, \tag{12}$$

where matrix  $D$  should be explicitated.

3. Show that the problem (12) is convex.
4. By considering an auxiliary variable  $z$  and the constraint  $z = Dx$ , write an equivalent problem with an objective that can be written as  $f_1(Ax) + f_2(z)$ .
5. Write the Lagrangian of this new problem.
6. Write the Lagrange multipliers method for this problem.