

Exercise 1

a. Solution  $f(a) = \int_0^1 (g(x) - p_a(x))^2 dx$

Let  $w = (1, x, x^2, \dots, x^n)$ ,  $a = (a_0, a_1, \dots, a_n)$  both are column vectors,  $f(a) = \int_0^1 (g(x) - a^T w)^2 dx$

$$= \int_0^1 (g(x)^2 - 2a^T w g(x) + a^T w^T a) dx$$

$$= \int_0^1 (g(x))^2 dx - 2a^T \int_0^1 w g(x) dx + \int_0^1 a^T w w^T a dx$$

$$= a^T \left( \int_0^1 w w^T dx \right) a - 2a^T \int_0^1 w g(x) dx + \int_0^1 (g(x))^2 dx$$

$$= a^T Q a - 2b^T a + \int_0^1 (g(x))^2 dx$$

Therefore  $Q = \int_0^1 w w^T dx$ ,  $b = \int_0^1 w g(x) dx$ ,  $c = \int_0^1 (g(x))^2 dx$

Thus  $f(a) = a^T Q a - 2b^T a + c$

Notice that  $Q = \int_0^1 w w^T dx$

$$\text{Since } w \cdot w^T = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ x \\ x^2 \\ \vdots \\ x^n \end{bmatrix} [1 \ x \ x^2 \ \dots \ x^n] = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & x & x^2 & \dots & x^n \\ x & x^2 & x^3 & \dots & \vdots \\ x^2 & x^3 & x^4 & \dots & \vdots \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ x^n & \dots & x^{n+1} & \dots & x^{2n} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\text{So } Q = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & \frac{1}{2} & \dots & \frac{1}{n+1} \\ \frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{3} & \dots & \vdots \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \frac{1}{n+1} & \dots & \dots & \frac{1}{2n+1} \end{bmatrix}$$

Then  $Q$  is symmetric.

b. Solution By a we know  $f(a) = a^T Q a - 2b^T a + c$

First order necessary condition :

$$\nabla f(a) = 0 = 2a^T Q - 2b^T$$

If  $a^*$  is minimum point, then

$$2a^{*T} Q = 2b^T$$

$$\text{so } Q \cdot a^* = b$$

c. Since  $g(x) \equiv 0$ , then by (a) we know  $b=0, c=0$

$$f(a) = a^T Q a$$

$$\text{so by (b). } Q a^* = b = 0$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & \frac{1}{2} & \cdots & \frac{1}{n+1} \\ \frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{3} & \cdots & \frac{1}{n+2} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \frac{1}{n+1} & \frac{1}{n+2} & \cdots & \frac{1}{2n+1} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} a_0 \\ a_1 \\ \vdots \\ a_n \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

So  $a_0 = a_1 = \cdots = a_n = 0$  is a solution.

And we want to prove it's the only solution.  
we have  $(n+1)$  unknown variables.

and  $(n+1)$  independent equations:

$$a_0 + \frac{1}{2}a_1 + \cdots + \frac{1}{n+1}a_n = 0$$

$$\frac{1}{2}a_0 + \frac{1}{3}a_1 + \cdots + \frac{1}{n+2}a_n = 0$$

⋮

$$\frac{1}{n+1}a_0 + \frac{1}{n+2}a_1 + \cdots + \frac{1}{n+3}a_n = 0$$

Thus they must have one and only one solution.

Note: e.g.  $\begin{cases} x+2y=0 \\ 2x+4y=0 \end{cases}$  does not have only one solution,

$$\begin{cases} x+2y=0 \\ x-y=0 \end{cases}$$

but  $\begin{cases} x+2y=0 \\ x-y=0 \end{cases}$  has only one solution.

d. Solution:

$$\nabla f(a) = 2Qa - b^T$$

$$\nabla^2 f(a) = 2Q$$

By 2nd order Taylor expansion in  $\mathbb{E}^n$ .

$$f(x+v) = f(x) + \nabla f(x) \cdot v + \frac{1}{2} v^T \nabla^2 f(x) v + O(|v|^3)$$

Let  $a^*$  satisfy  $\nabla f(a^*) = 0$

$$\text{then } f(a^*+v) = f(a^*) + \nabla f(a^*) \cdot v + \frac{1}{2} v^T \nabla^2 f(a^*) v + O(|v|^3)$$
$$= f(a^*) + 0 \cdot v + v^T Q v + O(|v|^3)$$

Suppose  $v^T Q v$  negative definite, i.e.  $v^T Q v < 0$ .

Then  $f(a^*+v) < f(a^*)$  for some  $v$ .

Contradiction, since  $a^*$  is a minimum point.

So  $v^T Q v \geq 0$ , nonnegative definite. (positive semidefinite)

Then if  $v^T Q v = 0$

$\Rightarrow Q$  has at least one eigenvalue say  $\lambda = 0$ .

then  $\det Q = 0$

Impossible since  $Q$  is invertible.

Hence  $v^T Q v > 0$ .

i.e.  $Q$  is positive definite.

Exercise 2.

Solution  $\nabla f(x) = 0$

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial x} = 4x + y - 6 = 0$$

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial x} = x + 2y + z - 8 = 0$$

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial z} = y + 2z - 8 = 0$$

$$\text{so } x=1, y=2, z=3$$

$$\nabla f(1, 2, 3) = 0$$

$$F(1, 2, 3) = \nabla^2 f(1, 2, 3) = \begin{bmatrix} 4 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 2 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$$

For any feasible direction  $d = [a, b, c]$

$$d^T \nabla^2 f(x)d = [a \ b \ c] \begin{bmatrix} 4 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 2 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} a \\ b \\ c \end{bmatrix}$$

$$= 4a^2 + 2ab + 2b^2 + 2bc + 2c^2$$

$$= 3a^2 + (a+b)^2 + (b+c)^2 + c^2 \geq 0$$

Hence  $(1, 2, 3)$  is a local minimum.

Next we want to know it's global.

Need find eigenvalues of  $F(1, 2, 3)$

$$F - \lambda I = \begin{bmatrix} 4-\lambda & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 2-\lambda & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 2-\lambda \end{bmatrix} = (4-\lambda)[(2-\lambda)^2 - 1] - (2-\lambda) + 0$$

$$= (4-\lambda)[4-4\lambda+\lambda^2-1] - (2-\lambda)$$

$$= 12 - 16\lambda + 4\lambda^2 - 3\lambda + 4\lambda^2 - \lambda^3 - 2 + \lambda$$

$$= -\lambda^3 + 8\lambda^2 - 18\lambda + 10$$

It's continuous on  $\mathbb{R}$ . (3 roots possibly) let it be  $g(\lambda)$

We notice that  $g(0) > 0$ ,  $g(6) = -1 < 0$ .

By intermediate value theorem,  $\lambda_1 \in (0, 1)$

Similarly we can find  $\lambda_2 \in (2, 3)$ ,  $\lambda_3 \in (4, 5)$

For  $\lambda_i, i \in \{1, 2, 3\}$ ,  $g(\lambda_i) = 0$

Since  $\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \lambda_3$  all positive then  $F(x, y, z)$  is positive definite.  
 By theorem,  $(1, 2, 3)$  is a global minimum.

Exercise 3.

a. Solution: Since  $g$  is a convex function,

$$\text{then } g(\theta x + (1-\theta)y) \leq \theta(g(x)) + (1-\theta)g(y)$$

Since LHS  $\leq$  RHS,  $f$  is a non-decreasing function,  
 $f(LHS) \leq f(RHS)$

$$\text{i.e. } f(\theta x + (1-\theta)y) \leq f(\theta g(x) + (1-\theta)g(y))$$

$$= f(\theta g(x)) + f(1-\theta)g(y)$$

$$= \theta f(g(x)) + (1-\theta)f(g(y))$$

$$F(\theta x + (1-\theta)y) \leq \theta F(x) + (1-\theta)F(y)$$

b. Solution: Idea: Want to show  $H = \nabla^2 F$  is nonnegative-definite  
 need to show  $\forall d, d^T H d \geq 0$

Suppose  $d = \begin{bmatrix} d_1 \\ d_2 \\ \vdots \\ d_n \end{bmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^n$  ( $H$  is  $n \times n$ )

$$H = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial^2 F}{\partial x_1^2} & \frac{\partial^2 F}{\partial x_1 \partial x_2} & \cdots & \frac{\partial^2 F}{\partial x_1 \partial x_n} \\ \frac{\partial^2 F}{\partial x_2 \partial x_1} & \frac{\partial^2 F}{\partial x_2^2} & \cdots & \frac{\partial^2 F}{\partial x_2 \partial x_n} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \frac{\partial^2 F}{\partial x_n \partial x_1} & \cdots & -\frac{\partial^2 F}{\partial x_n^2} & \frac{\partial^2 F}{\partial x_n \partial x_n} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} h_{11} & h_{12} & \cdots & h_{1n} \\ h_{21} & h_{22} & \cdots & h_{2n} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ h_{n1} & h_{n2} & \cdots & h_{nn} \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{for simplicity}$$

(see next page)

$$\begin{aligned}
 d^T H d &= (d_1^2 h_{11} + \dots + d_n^2 h_{nn}) + (d_1 d_2 h_{12} + \dots + d_n d_k h_{nk}) \\
 &\quad + \dots + (d_1 d_m h_{1m} + \dots + d_n d_m h_{nm}) \\
 &= \sum_{i,j=1}^n d_i d_j h_{ij} = \sum_{i,j=1}^n d_i d_j \left( f'' \frac{\partial^2 g}{\partial x_i \partial x_j} + f' \frac{\partial^2 g}{\partial x_i \partial x_j} \right)
 \end{aligned}$$

Since  $f$  is nondecreasing, then  $f' \geq 0$   
 Since  $g$  is convex, then  $\nabla^2 g \geq 0$

so  $d^T \nabla^2 g d \geq 0$   
 i.e.  $\sum_{i,j=1}^n \frac{\partial^2 g}{\partial x_i \partial x_j} d_i d_j \geq 0$

As  $f'' \geq 0$

Then  $\sum_{i,j=1}^n \left( f'' \frac{\partial^2 g}{\partial x_i \partial x_j} \right) d_i d_j \geq 0$  ①

Since  $f$  is also convex,  $\nabla^2 f \geq 0$

so  $f'' \geq 0 \Rightarrow \sum_{i,j=1}^n d_i d_j \left( f'' \frac{\partial^2 g}{\partial x_i \partial x_j} \right) \geq 0$  ②

Next, we want to show  $\sum_{i,j=1}^n \frac{\partial g}{\partial x_i} \frac{\partial g}{\partial x_j} d_i d_j \geq 0$

$$\begin{aligned}
 &\Rightarrow \sum_{i,j=1}^n \frac{\partial g}{\partial x_i} d_i \cdot \sum_{i,j=1}^n \frac{\partial g}{\partial x_j} d_j \\
 &= (\nabla g d^T) \cdot (\nabla g d^T) \\
 &= (\nabla g d^T)^2 \geq 0 \quad ③
 \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, consider ① ② & ③, we

can say  $d^T H d \geq 0$

i.e.  $H$  is positive semidefinite.

Exercise 4.

Solution:

$$\forall 0 \leq \alpha \leq 1, \forall x_1, x_2 \in E^n$$

$$\begin{aligned} \textcircled{1} \quad & g(\alpha x_1 + (1-\alpha)x_2) \\ &= \max \{ f_1(\alpha x_1 + (1-\alpha)x_2), \dots, f_k(\alpha x_1 + (1-\alpha)x_2) \} \\ &\leq \max \{ \alpha f_1(x_1) + (1-\alpha)f_1(x_2), \dots, \alpha f_k(x_1) + (1-\alpha)f_k(x_2) \} \\ \textcircled{2} \quad & \alpha g(x_1) + (1-\alpha)g(x_2) \\ &= \alpha \max \{ f_1(x_1), \dots, f_k(x_1) \} + (1-\alpha) \max \{ f_1(x_2), \dots, f_k(x_2) \} \\ &= \max \{ \alpha f_1(x_1) + (1-\alpha)f_1(x_2), \dots, \alpha f_k(x_1) + (1-\alpha)f_k(x_2) \} \end{aligned}$$

Hence  $\textcircled{1} \leq \textcircled{2}$

Thus  $g(x)$  is convex.