

Large-scale convex optimisation

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Exercise 7

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Problem 1. Let $f: \mathcal{H} \rightarrow \overline{\mathbb{R}}$ be proper, convex, and lower semicontinuous, and let $\gamma > 0$. The function $\gamma f: \mathcal{H} \rightarrow \overline{\mathbb{R}}$ (called the *Moreau envelope*) is defined as

$$\gamma f(x) = \left(f \square \frac{1}{2\gamma} \|\cdot\|^2 \right)(x) = \inf_{y \in \mathcal{H}} \left\{ f(y) + \frac{1}{2\gamma} \|y - x\|^2 \right\}.$$

Show that $\gamma f(x) \in \mathbb{R}$ for all $x \in \mathcal{H}$, that f and γf have the same set of minimisers, and that γf is differentiable and $\nabla \gamma f(x) = \frac{1}{\gamma} (x - \text{Prox}_f^\gamma(x))$ for all $x \in \mathcal{H}$.

Problem 2. Let $C \subseteq \mathcal{H}$ be nonempty, closed, and convex, and let $\gamma > 0$. Calculate $\gamma \delta_C(x)$ and $\text{Prox}_{\delta_C}^\gamma(x)$ for $x \in \mathcal{H}$.

Problem 3. For $\gamma > 0$ and $x \in \mathbb{R}$, compute $\gamma |\cdot|(x)$ and $\text{Prox}_{|\cdot|}^\gamma(x)$ (i.e., the Moreau envelope and proximal points of the absolute value function), the inner product on \mathbb{R} being the usual product of real numbers.