

Q)

Given that ' f ' and ' g ' are convex functions,
prove that $f-g$ is not necessarily convex.

SOL:

We know that for any convex function ' h ',

$$h(\lambda x + (1-\lambda)y) \leq \lambda h(x) + (1-\lambda)h(y)$$

 for all $x, y \in \mathbb{R}$ and $\lambda \in [0, 1]$.

Now consider a $f^h : h(n) = f(n) - g(n)$

Let us say that this func. is a convex f^h

$\Rightarrow \exists t \in [0, 1] \text{ s.t.}$

$$h(tn + (1-t)y) \leq t h(n) + (1-t) h(y)$$

$$\Rightarrow f(tn + (1-t)y) - g(tn + (1-t)y)$$

$$\leq +[f(n) - g(n)] + (1-t)[f(y) - g(y)]$$

but since ' f ' is convex, we know that

$$f(tn + (1-t)y) \leq t f(n) + (1-t) f(y)$$

$$\Rightarrow -g(tn + (1-t)y) \leq -tg(n) - (1-t)g(y)$$

$$\Rightarrow g(tn + (1-t)y) \geq tg(n) + (1-t)g(y)$$



this contradicts the fact that ' g ' is convex

$$\text{i.e. } g(tn + (1-t)y) \leq tg(n) + (1-t)g(y)$$

$\Rightarrow 'f-g'$ need not be convex if ' f ' & ' g ' are convex.

