

- You will *not* be able to use a calculator or computer for either the midterm or the final exam, so please do not use one for this assignment. You may use one to *check* your answer, but please do not use one to solve the problem.
- Only part of the problems may be graded. But, you have to submit all the problems.
- The deadline is \*by 6pm on Friday\*, September 27. You have a grace period until 9am Saturday, September 29. The grace period is to take care of any technical issues you have while submitting the file. The grace period should give ample time for handling any issues, so No late HW after the grace period will be accepted, regardless of your technical issues.
- **Submit only pdf files.**
- Remember to use

**Anstee's rule:**

- Choose the entering variable with the largest positive coefficient.
- If there is a tie, then choose the one with the smaller subscript.
- If there is a choice of leaving variable, then choose the one with the smallest subscript.

1. Solve the following LP problems using the simplex method. At each step please state the entering and leaving variables and the current basic feasible solution. Clearly state the optimal solution and the optimal value.

- (a) 3 marks Maximise  $z = 2x_1 + 3x_2 + 3x_3$ , subject to

$$\begin{array}{rrcr} 3x_1 & +x_2 & & \leq 60 \\ -x_1 & +x_2 & +4x_3 & \leq 10 \\ 2x_1 & -2x_2 & +5x_3 & \leq 15 \end{array}$$

and  $x_1, x_2, x_3 \geq 0$ . *This problem requires 2 pivots.*

**Solution:** We first introduce slack variables  $x_4, x_5$  and  $x_6$  and write our first dictionary:

$$\begin{array}{rrrrr} x_4 & = & 60 & -3x_1 & -x_2 \\ x_5 & = & 10 & +x_1 & -x_2 & -4x_3 \\ x_6 & = & 15 & -2x_1 & +2x_2 & -5x_3 \\ \hline z & = & & 2x_1 & +3x_2 & +3x_3 \end{array}$$

A quick check shows that this is feasible. The current basic feasible solution is

$$x_1 = x_2 = x_3 = 0 \quad x_4 = 60 \quad x_5 = 10 \quad x_6 = 15 \quad z = 0$$

We have a choice of 3 entering variables, and  $x_2$  and  $x_3$  both have equally large coefficients, so we pick the one with the smaller subscript —  $x_2$  is the entering variable. Now,  $x_2$  is restricted to be less than 60 and 10 by the first and second equations (the last equation does not constrain it). Hence the leaving variable is  $x_5$ .

$$\begin{array}{rcccc} x_2 & = & 10 & +x_1 & -4x_3 & -x_5 \\ x_4 & = & 50 & -4x_1 & +4x_3 & +x_5 \\ x_6 & = & 35 & & -13x_3 & -2x_5 \\ \hline z & = & 30 & +5x_1 & -9x_3 & -3x_5 \end{array}$$

So the current feasible solution is

$$x_1 = x_3 = x_5 = 0 \quad x_2 = 10 \quad x_4 = 50 \quad x_6 = 35 \quad z = 30$$

Now, since there is a positive coefficient in the expression for  $z$  we are not yet done. There is only 1 choice of entering variable,  $x_1$ . The first and third equations do not restrict  $x_1$ , and the second restricts  $x_1 \leq 50/4 = 25/2$ . Hence  $x_4$  is the leaving variable. Pivoting gives:

$$\begin{array}{rcccc} x_1 & = & \frac{25}{2} & +x_3 & -\frac{1}{4}x_4 & +\frac{1}{4}x_5 \\ x_2 & = & \frac{45}{2} & -3x_3 & -\frac{1}{4}x_4 & -\frac{3}{4}x_5 \\ x_6 & = & 35 & -13x_3 & & -2x_5 \\ \hline z & = & \frac{185}{2} & -4x_3 & -\frac{5}{4}x_4 & -\frac{7}{4}x_5 \end{array}$$

The current feasible solution is

$$x_1 = \frac{25}{2} \quad x_2 = \frac{45}{2} \quad x_3 = x_4 = x_5 = 0 \quad x_6 = 35 \quad z = \frac{185}{2}$$

Since there are no longer any positive coefficients in  $z$ , this is the optimal solution and  $z = \frac{185}{2}$  is the optimal value.

(b) 4 marks Maximise  $z = 3x_1 + 2x_2 + 4x_3$ , subject to

$$\begin{array}{rcccc} x_1 & +x_2 & +2x_3 & \leq & 4 \\ 2x_1 & & +3x_3 & \leq & 5 \\ 2x_1 & +x_2 & +3x_3 & \leq & 7 \end{array}$$

and  $x_1, x_2, x_3 \geq 0$ . *This problem requires 3 pivots.*

*Note:* this problem is Q2.1a from Chvátal.

**Solution:** Introduce slack variables and write in dictionary form

$$\begin{array}{rcll} x_4 & = & 4 & -x_1 & -x_2 & -2x_3 \\ x_5 & = & 5 & -2x_1 & & -3x_3 \\ x_6 & = & 7 & -2x_1 & -x_2 & -3x_3 \\ \hline z & = & & 3x_1 & +2x_2 & +4x_3 \end{array}$$

All the variables are potentially entering, but we pick the one with the largest coefficient — so  $x_3$  is the entering variable. It is restricted to be at most 2,  $5/3$ ,  $7/3$  (respectively). So  $x_5$  is the leaving variable.

Pivoting gives

$$\begin{array}{rcll} x_3 & = & \frac{5}{3} & -\frac{2}{3}x_1 & & -\frac{1}{3}x_5 \\ x_4 & = & \frac{2}{3} & +\frac{1}{3}x_1 & -x_2 & +\frac{2}{3}x_5 \\ x_6 & = & 2 & & -x_2 & +x_5 \\ \hline z & = & \frac{20}{3} & +\frac{1}{3}x_1 & +2x_2 & -\frac{4}{3}x_5 \end{array}$$

The current feasible solution is

$$x_1 = x_2 = x_5 = 0 \quad x_3 = \frac{5}{3} \quad x_4 = \frac{2}{3} \quad x_6 = 2 \quad z = \frac{20}{3}$$

Choose  $x_2$  to be the entering variable. It is constrained to be at most  $2/3$ ,  $2$  — so  $x_4$  is the leaving variable. Pivoting gives

$$\begin{array}{rcll} x_2 & = & \frac{2}{3} & +\frac{1}{3}x_1 & -x_4 & +\frac{2}{3}x_5 \\ x_3 & = & \frac{5}{3} & -\frac{2}{3}x_1 & & -\frac{1}{3}x_5 \\ x_6 & = & \frac{4}{3} & -\frac{1}{3}x_1 & +x_4 & +\frac{1}{3}x_5 \\ \hline z & = & 8 & +x_1 & -2x_4 \end{array}$$

So the current feasible solution is

$$x_1 = x_4 = x_5 = 0 \quad x_2 = \frac{2}{3} \quad x_3 = \frac{5}{3} \quad x_6 = \frac{4}{3} \quad z = 8$$

We only have 1 choice of entering variable —  $x_1$ . It is constrained to be at most  $5/2$  or  $4$ , so  $x_3$  is the leaving variable. Pivoting gives

$$\begin{array}{rcll} x_1 & = & \frac{5}{2} & -\frac{3}{2}x_3 & & -\frac{1}{2}x_5 \\ x_2 & = & \frac{3}{2} & -\frac{1}{2}x_3 & -x_4 & +\frac{1}{2}x_5 \\ x_6 & = & \frac{1}{2} & +\frac{1}{2}x_3 & +x_4 & +\frac{1}{2}x_5 \\ \hline z & = & \frac{21}{2} & -\frac{3}{2}x_3 & -2x_4 & -\frac{1}{2}x_5 \end{array}$$

Since there are no negative coefficients in the expression for  $z$  we are done. The optimal solution is therefore

$$x_1 = \frac{5}{2} \quad x_2 = \frac{3}{2} \quad x_3 = x_4 = x_5 = 0 \quad x_6 = \frac{1}{2}$$

and the optimal value is  $z = \frac{21}{2}$ .

2. 3 marks Show that the three inequalities

$$-x + 2y \leq -2 \quad 2x + y \geq 1 \quad -3x + y \geq -4$$

have no solution  $x, y$  with  $x, y \geq 0$  by using our two phase method.

**Solution:** The three inequalities  $-x + 2y \leq -2$ ,  $2x + y \geq 1$ ,  $-3x + y \geq -4$  have no solution  $x, y$  with  $x, y \geq 0$ :

We first transform the inequalities to standard form  $-x + 2y \leq -2$ ,  $-2x - y \leq -1$ ,  $+3x - y \leq 4$ . Then apply Phase One:

$$\begin{array}{rcll} x_1 & = & -2 & +x & -2y & +x_0 \\ x_2 & = & -1 & +2x & +y & +x_0 \\ x_3 & = & 4 & -3x & +y & +x_0 \\ w & = & & & & -x_0 \end{array}$$

Fake pivot to feasibility,  $x_0$  enters and  $x_1$  leaves.

$$\begin{array}{rcll} x_0 & = & 2 & -x & +2y & +x_1 \\ x_2 & = & 1 & +x & +3y & +x_1 \\ x_3 & = & 6 & -4x & +3y & +x_1 \\ w & = & -2 & +x & +y & -x_1 \end{array}$$

(I used the standard pivoting rule with  $x$  before  $y$ )  $x$  enters and  $x_3$  leaves.

$$\begin{array}{rcll} x_0 & = & 1/2 & +(1/4)x_3 & +(5/4)y & +(3/4)x_1 \\ x_2 & = & 5/2 & -(1/4)x_3 & +(15/4)y & +(5/4)x_1 \\ x & = & 3/2 & -(1/4)x_3 & +(3/4)y & +(1/4)x_1 \\ w & = & -1/2 & -(1/4)x_3 & -(5/4)y & -(3/4)x_1 \end{array}$$

We are at optimality with  $w = -1/2$ . Thus we cannot drive  $x_0$  to 0. Using the magic coefficients, the negatives of the coefficients of the slack variables  $x_1, x_2, x_3$ , namely  $\frac{3}{4}, 0, \frac{1}{4}$  we apply these to the three inequalities:

$$\frac{3}{4}(-x + 2y \leq -2) + 0(-2x - y \leq -1) + \frac{1}{4}(+3x - y \leq 4)$$

to get the contradiction to  $y \geq 0$ :

$$(5/4)y \leq \frac{-1}{2}.$$

Thus the three inequalities only yield solutions with  $y < 0$ .

3. 4 marks Use the two-phase method to find the solution of the following LP problem:

$$\begin{array}{rcll}
 \text{maximise } z & = & 3x_1 + x_2 & \\
 \text{subject to} & & x_1 + x_2 & \leq 1 \\
 & & -2x_1 + x_2 & \geq 1 \\
 & & 3x_1 + 2x_2 & \geq 4 \\
 \text{and} & & x_1, x_2 & \geq 0
 \end{array}$$

This requires around 3 pivots.

**Solution:** Write in dictionary form:

$$\begin{array}{rcll}
 x_3 & = & 1 & -x_1 & -x_2 \\
 x_4 & = & -1 & -2x_1 & +x_2 \\
 x_5 & = & -4 & +3x_1 & +2x_2 \\
 \hline
 z & = & 3x_1 & +x_2 & 
 \end{array}$$

This is not feasible — so we use the two-phase method. Introduce  $x_0$  and maximise  $w = -x_0$ :

$$\begin{array}{rcll}
 x_3 & = & 1 & -x_1 & -x_2 & +x_0 \\
 x_4 & = & -1 & -2x_1 & +x_2 & +x_0 \\
 x_5 & = & -4 & +3x_1 & +2x_2 & +x_0 \\
 \hline
 w & = & & & & -x_0
 \end{array}$$

The most negative variable is  $x_5$  — so it leaves and  $x_0$  enters. This is our “fake pivot to feasibility”:

$$\begin{array}{rcll}
 x_0 & = & 4 & -3x_1 & -2x_2 & +x_5 \\
 x_3 & = & 5 & -4x_1 & -3x_2 & +x_5 \\
 x_4 & = & 3 & -5x_1 & -x_2 & +x_5 \\
 \hline
 w & = & -4 & +3x_1 & +2x_2 & -x_5
 \end{array}$$

Still not finished —  $x_1$  enters and  $x_4$  leaves:

$$\begin{array}{rcll}
 x_0 & = & 11/5 & -(7/5)x_2 & +(3/5)x_4 & +(2/5)x_5 \\
 x_1 & = & 3/5 & -(1/5)x_2 & -(1/5)x_4 & +(1/5)x_5 \\
 x_3 & = & 13/5 & -(11/5)x_2 & +(4/5)x_4 & +(1/5)x_5 \\
 \hline
 w & = & -11/5 & +(7/5)x_2 & -(3/5)x_4 & -(2/5)x_5
 \end{array}$$

Still not finished —  $x_2$  enters and  $x_3$  leaves

$$\begin{array}{rcll}
 x_0 & = & 6/11 & +(7/11)x_3 & +(1/11)x_4 & +(3/11)x_5 \\
 x_1 & = & 4/11 & +(1/11)x_3 & -(3/11)x_4 & +(2/11)x_5 \\
 x_2 & = & 13/11 & -(5/11)x_3 & +(4/11)x_4 & +(1/11)x_5 \\
 \hline
 w & = & -6/11 & -(7/11)x_3 & -(1/11)x_4 & -(3/11)x_5
 \end{array}$$

So we now stop. The maximum value of  $w = -6/11$ . Hence the minimum value of  $x_0 = 6/11$ . Since this is non-zero, we conclude that the original LP problem is not feasible.

4. 4 marks Use the two-phase method to solve the following LP problem:

$$\begin{aligned} &\text{maximise } z = 3x_1 + 2x_2 + 3x_3 \\ &\text{subject to } \begin{array}{rrcr} 2x_1 & +x_2 & +x_3 & \leq & 2 \\ 3x_1 & +4x_2 & +2x_3 & \geq & 8 \end{array} \\ &\text{and } x_1, x_2, x_3 \geq 0 \end{aligned}$$

This requires around 3 pivots.

**Solution:** First put in standard form and write as a dictionary:

$$\begin{array}{rcll} x_4 & = & 2 & -2x_1 & -x_2 & -x_3 \\ x_5 & = & -8 & +3x_1 & +4x_2 & +2x_3 \\ \hline z & = & & 3x_1 & +2x_2 & +3x_3 \end{array}$$

This is not a feasible dictionary — use the 2 phase method. The auxillary problem is to maximise  $w$  with

$$\begin{array}{rcll} x_4 & = & 2 & -2x_1 & -x_2 & -x_3 & +x_0 \\ x_5 & = & -8 & +3x_1 & +4x_2 & +2x_3 & +x_0 \\ \hline w & = & & & & & -x_0 \end{array}$$

Since  $x_5$  is the most-negative basic variable, the “fake pivot to feasibility” swaps  $x_0$  and  $x_5$ :

$$\begin{array}{rcll} x_0 & = & 8 & -3x_1 & -4x_2 & -2x_3 & +x_5 \\ x_4 & = & 10 & -5x_1 & -5x_2 & -3x_3 & +x_5 \\ \hline w & = & -8 & +3x_1 & +4x_2 & +2x_3 & -x_5 \end{array}$$

Pivot again —  $x_2$  enters and  $x_0$  leaves

$$\begin{array}{rcll} x_2 & = & 2 & -(1/4)x_0 & -(3/4)x_1 & -(1/2)x_3 & +(1/4)x_5 \\ x_4 & = & 0 & (5/4)x_0 & -(5/4)x_1 & -(1/2)x_3 & -(1/4)x_5 \\ \hline w & = & & & & & -x_0 \end{array}$$

So we have a feasible solution! To get to the feasible dictionary of the original problem we delete  $x_0$  and rewrite  $z$  in terms of  $x_1$ ,  $x_3$  and  $x_5$ . Rewrite  $z$ :

$$\begin{aligned} z &= 3x_1 + 2x_2 + 3x_3 \\ &= 3x_1 + 3x_3 + 2(2 - (3/4)x_1 - (1/2)x_3 + (1/4)x_5) \\ &= 4 + (3/2)x_1 + 2x_3 + (1/2)x_5 \end{aligned}$$

So the dictionary is:

$$\begin{array}{rcll} x_2 & = & 2 & -(3/4)x_1 & -(1/2)x_3 & +(1/4)x_5 \\ x_4 & = & 0 & -(5/4)x_1 & -(1/2)x_3 & -(1/4)x_5 \\ \hline z & = & 4 & +(3/2)x_1 & +2x_3 & +(1/2)x_5 \end{array}$$

So we pivot again.  $x_3$  enters and  $x_4$  must leave:

$$\begin{array}{rcll} x_2 & = & 2 & +(1/2)x_1 \quad +x_4 \quad +(1/2)x_5 \\ x_3 & = & & -(5/2)x_1 \quad -2x_4 \quad -(1/2)x_5 \\ \hline z & = & 4 & -(7/2)x_1 \quad -4x_4 \quad -(1/2)x_5 \end{array}$$

So we stop here. The optimum solution is

$$x_1 = x_4 = x_5 = 0 \quad x_2 = 2 \quad x_3 = 0 \quad z = 4$$

5. (a) 3 marks We say a set  $C$  of points in  $\mathbf{R}^n$  is convex if for every pair  $\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \in C$ , all points on the line segment joining  $\mathbf{x}$  and  $\mathbf{y}$  are in  $C$ . Thus  $C$  is a convex set if for every pair  $\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \in C$  and any  $\lambda \in (0, 1)$ , then  $\lambda\mathbf{x} + (1 - \lambda)\mathbf{y} \in C$ . Let  $A$  be an  $m \times n$  matrix and  $\mathbf{b}$  a given vector in  $\mathbf{R}^m$ . Show that

$$F = \{\mathbf{x} \in \mathbf{R}^n : A\mathbf{x} \leq \mathbf{b}, \quad \mathbf{x} \geq \mathbf{0}\}$$

is a convex set.

**Solution:**

We check that for  $\lambda \in [0, 1]$ , that  $\lambda \geq 0$  and  $(1 - \lambda) \geq 0$ . Let  $\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \in F$ . Then we have  $A\mathbf{x} \leq \mathbf{b}$ ,  $\mathbf{x} \geq \mathbf{0}$ ,  $A\mathbf{y} \leq \mathbf{b}$  and  $\mathbf{y} \geq \mathbf{0}$ .

We note that if  $\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v}$  are vectors and  $c \geq 0$  a scalar, then if  $\mathbf{u} \geq \mathbf{v}$ , we have  $c\mathbf{u} \geq c\mathbf{v}$ . You can check entry by entry to see this. Now  $\mathbf{x} \geq \mathbf{0}$  implies  $\lambda\mathbf{x} \geq \lambda\mathbf{0} = \mathbf{0}$  and  $\mathbf{y} \geq \mathbf{0}$  implies  $(1 - \lambda)\mathbf{y} \geq (1 - \lambda)\mathbf{0} = \mathbf{0}$ . Then  $\lambda\mathbf{x} + (1 - \lambda)\mathbf{y} \geq \mathbf{0}$ . Also  $A\mathbf{x} \leq \mathbf{b}$  implies  $A(\lambda\mathbf{x}) = \lambda(A\mathbf{x}) \leq \lambda\mathbf{b}$  and  $A\mathbf{y} \leq \mathbf{b}$  implies  $A((1 - \lambda)\mathbf{y}) = (1 - \lambda)(A\mathbf{y}) \leq (1 - \lambda)\mathbf{b}$ . Then we obtain

$$A(\lambda\mathbf{x} + (1 - \lambda)\mathbf{y}) = A(\lambda\mathbf{x}) + A((1 - \lambda)\mathbf{y}) \leq \lambda\mathbf{b} + (1 - \lambda)\mathbf{b} = \mathbf{b}$$

We now conclude  $(\lambda\mathbf{x} + (1 - \lambda)\mathbf{y}) \in F$  and so  $F$  is convex.

- (b) 2 marks Consider an LP:  $\max \mathbf{c} \cdot \mathbf{x}$  such that  $A\mathbf{x} \leq \mathbf{b}$  and  $\mathbf{x} \geq \mathbf{0}$ . Assume the LP has two optimal solutions  $\mathbf{u}$  and  $\mathbf{v}$ . Show that for any choice of  $\lambda \in [0, 1]$  (i.e.  $0 \leq \lambda \leq 1$ ), that  $\lambda\mathbf{u} + (1 - \lambda)\mathbf{v}$  is also an optimal solution. First show that  $\lambda\mathbf{u} + (1 - \lambda)\mathbf{v}$  has the same value of the objective function as  $\mathbf{u}$ . Then show  $\lambda\mathbf{u} + (1 - \lambda)\mathbf{v}$  is a feasible solution to the LP.

**Solution:**

By the previous question,  $\lambda\mathbf{u} + (1 - \lambda)\mathbf{v}$  is a feasible solution to the LP. Since  $\mathbf{u}$  and  $\mathbf{v}$  are both optimal, then  $\mathbf{c} \cdot \mathbf{u} = \mathbf{c} \cdot \mathbf{v}$ . We compute

$$\mathbf{c} \cdot (\lambda\mathbf{u} + (1 - \lambda)\mathbf{v}) = \lambda\mathbf{c} \cdot \mathbf{u} + (1 - \lambda)\mathbf{c} \cdot \mathbf{v} = (\lambda + (1 - \lambda))\mathbf{c} \cdot \mathbf{u} = \mathbf{c} \cdot \mathbf{u}$$

using  $\mathbf{c} \cdot \mathbf{u} = \mathbf{c} \cdot \mathbf{v}$ . We conclude that  $\lambda \mathbf{u} + (1 - \lambda) \mathbf{v}$  is an optimal solution since it is feasible and has the appropriate value of the objective function.

6. We say that a function  $f : \mathbf{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$  is convex if for any  $\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \in \mathbf{R}^n$  and  $\lambda \in [0, 1]$ , we have  $f((1 - \lambda)\mathbf{x} + \lambda\mathbf{y}) \leq (1 - \lambda)f(\mathbf{x}) + \lambda f(\mathbf{y})$ .

- (a) 2 marks Give an example of a convex function. To get credits, you have to justify why it is convex.

**Solution:** For example, any function  $f(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{c} \cdot \mathbf{x}$  while  $\mathbf{c} \in \mathbf{R}^n$  is a given vector, is a convex function; it is a linear function in fact, and any linear function is a particular example of a convex function. It is easy to see why this is convex: for any  $\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \in \mathbf{R}^n$  and  $\lambda \in [0, 1]$ ,  $f((1 - \lambda)\mathbf{x} + \lambda\mathbf{y}) = \mathbf{c} \cdot ((1 - \lambda)\mathbf{x} + \lambda\mathbf{y}) = (1 - \lambda)\mathbf{c} \cdot \mathbf{x} + \lambda\mathbf{c} \cdot \mathbf{y} = (1 - \lambda)f(\mathbf{x}) + \lambda f(\mathbf{y})$ . (Note that it even satisfies the equality which then certainly satisfies the inequality  $\leq$ .)

- (b) 3 marks Let  $f_1, f_2$  be two given convex functions on  $\mathbf{R}^n$ . Then, consider the function  $g : \mathbf{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$  defined as

$$g(\mathbf{x}) = \max[f_1(\mathbf{x}), f_2(\mathbf{x})];$$

this means that given  $\mathbf{x}$ ,  $g(\mathbf{x})$  takes the larger value between  $f_1(\mathbf{x})$  and  $f_2(\mathbf{x})$ , that is,

$$g(\mathbf{x}) = \begin{cases} f_1(\mathbf{x}) & \text{if } f_1(\mathbf{x}) \geq f_2(\mathbf{x}), \\ f_2(\mathbf{x}) & \text{if } f_2(\mathbf{x}) \geq f_1(\mathbf{x}). \end{cases}$$

Prove that  $g$  is a convex function. [Note that you have to prove this for ANY convex functions  $f_1$  and  $f_2$ . You will get zero mark if you do this only for a particular pair of functions.]

**Solution:**

Let  $\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \in \mathbf{R}^n$ , and  $\lambda \in [0, 1]$ . Consider  $(1 - \lambda)\mathbf{x} + \lambda\mathbf{y}$ .

Two cases:

If  $f_1((1 - \lambda)\mathbf{x} + \lambda\mathbf{y}) \geq f_2((1 - \lambda)\mathbf{x} + \lambda\mathbf{y})$ , then  $g((1 - \lambda)\mathbf{x} + \lambda\mathbf{y}) = f_1((1 - \lambda)\mathbf{x} + \lambda\mathbf{y})$  from the definition, which by convexity of  $f_1$ , is  $\leq (1 - \lambda)f_1(\mathbf{x}) + \lambda f_1(\mathbf{y})$ . This is  $\leq (1 - \lambda)g(\mathbf{x}) + \lambda g(\mathbf{y})$  as  $f_1 \leq g$  from the definition of  $g$ . This verifies  $g((1 - \lambda)\mathbf{x} + \lambda\mathbf{y}) \leq (1 - \lambda)g(\mathbf{x}) + \lambda g(\mathbf{y})$  in this case.

The other case is similar. Namely, if  $f_2((1 - \lambda)\mathbf{x} + \lambda\mathbf{y}) \geq f_1((1 - \lambda)\mathbf{x} + \lambda\mathbf{y})$ , then  $g((1 - \lambda)\mathbf{x} + \lambda\mathbf{y}) = f_2((1 - \lambda)\mathbf{x} + \lambda\mathbf{y})$  from the definition, which by convexity of  $f_2$ , is  $\leq (1 - \lambda)f_2(\mathbf{x}) + \lambda f_2(\mathbf{y})$ . This is  $\leq (1 - \lambda)g(\mathbf{x}) + \lambda g(\mathbf{y})$  as  $f_2 \leq g$  from the definition of  $g$ . This verifies  $g((1 - \lambda)\mathbf{x} + \lambda\mathbf{y}) \leq (1 - \lambda)g(\mathbf{x}) + \lambda g(\mathbf{y})$  in this case.



These two cases together imply the desired inequality:

$g((1 - \lambda)\mathbf{x} + \lambda\mathbf{y}) \leq (1 - \lambda)g(\mathbf{x}) + \lambda g(\mathbf{y})$ , completing the proof.