Convexity: convex sets, convex functions. Polyak - Lojasiewicz Condition. Strong Convexity

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Convex sets





Suppose x_1,x_2 are two points in $\mathbb{R}^{\ltimes}.$ Then the line passing through them is defined as follows:

 $x=\theta x_1+(1-\theta)x_2, \theta\in\mathbb{R}$

The set A is called affine if for any x_1, \bar{x}_2 from A the line passing through them also lies in A, i.e.

$$\forall \theta \in \mathbb{R}, \forall x_1, x_2 \in A: \theta x_1 + (1-\theta) x_2 \in A$$

i Example

• \mathbb{R}^n is an affine set.

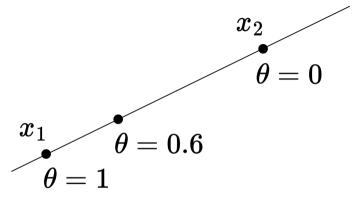


Figure 1: Illustration of a line between two vectors x_1 and x_2



Affine set

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i Example

 \mathbb{R}^n
 is an affine set.

• The set of solutions $\{x \mid Ax = b\}$ is also an affine set.

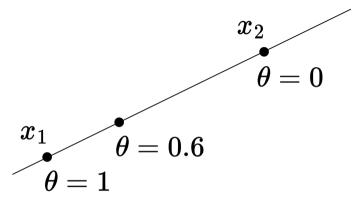


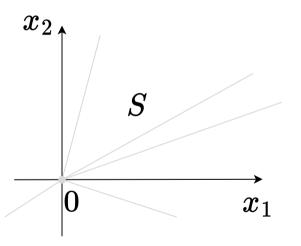
Figure 1: Illustration of a line between two vectors x_1 and x_2

Cone

A non-empty set ${\boldsymbol{S}}$ is called a cone, if:

 $\forall x \in S, \; \theta \geq 0 \;\; \rightarrow \;\; \theta x \in S$

For any point in the cone, it also contains a beam through this point.





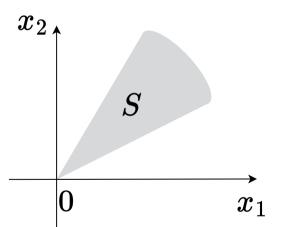
Convex cone $\mathcal{B}_{\mathcal{A}}$ $\mathcal{$

 $\forall x_1, x_2 \in S, \; \theta_1, \theta_2 \geq 0 \;\; \rightarrow \;\; \theta_1 x_1 + \theta_2 x_2 \in S$

A Convex cone is just like a cone, but it is also convex.

• \mathbb{R}^n		

Convex cone: set that contains all conic combinations of points in the set



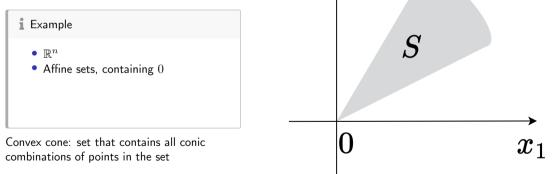


Convex cone

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 $x_{2\, \star}$

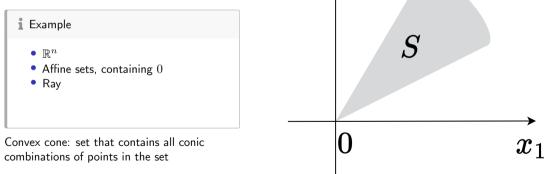


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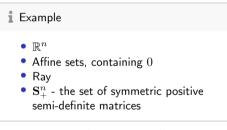


Convex cone

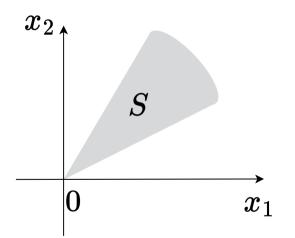
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Convex cone: set that contains all conic combinations of points in the set



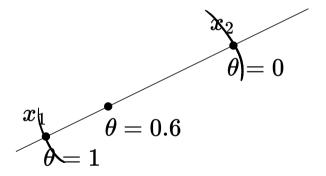


Line segment

Suppose x_1,x_2 are two points in $\mathbb{R}^n.$ Then the line segment between them is defined as follows:

$$x=\theta x_1+(1-\theta)x_2,\;\theta\in[0,1]$$

A Convex set contains a line segment between any two points in the set.





Convex set

The set S is called **convex** if for any x_1, x_2 from S the line segment between them also lies in S, i.e.

 $\forall \theta \in [0, 1] \quad \forall x_1, x_2 \in S : \theta x_1 + (1 - \theta) x_2 \in S$

i Example

An empty set and a set from a single vector are convex by definition.

i Example

Any affine set, a ray, or a line segment are all convex sets.

Figure 5: Top: examples of convex sets. Bottom: examples of non-convex sets.

Convex combination BUNVKAAA KOMBUHAUUA = TOYKA

Let
$$x_1, x_2, \ldots, x_k \in S$$
 then the point $\theta_1 x_1 + \theta_2 x_2 + \ldots + \theta_k x_k$ is called the convex combination of points x_1, x_2, \ldots, x_k if $\sum_{i=1}^k \theta_i = 1, \ \theta_i \geq 0$.
 $\Theta \in \mathbb{R}$ - Boingen. Kouldanayles
 $\Theta \in \mathbb{R}$ - Nuhan. Kouldanayles
 $\Theta = 0$ - Konuleckas kouldanayles
 $Z = 1$ - adalkhas kouldanayles



Convex hull BOINYKAR & OGONOUKA

The set of all convex combinations of points from S is called the convex hull of the set S.

$$\mathbf{conv}(S) = \left\{ \sum_{i=1}^k \theta_i x_i \mid x_i \in S, \sum_{i=1}^k \theta_i = 1, \; \theta_i \geq 0 \right\}$$

• The set $\mathbf{conv}(S)$ is the smallest convex set containing S.

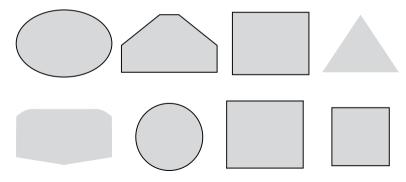


Figure 6: Top: convex hulls of the convex sets. Bottom: the convex hull of the non-convex sets.

 $\operatorname{conv}(X_1, X_2)$

conv (x1; x2)

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Convex hull

The set of all convex combinations of points from S is called the convex hull of the set S.

$$\mathbf{conv}(S) = \left\{ \sum_{i=1}^k \theta_i x_i \mid x_i \in S, \sum_{i=1}^k \theta_i = 1, \; \theta_i \geq 0 \right\}$$

- The set conv(S) is the smallest <u>convex set containing</u> S.
- The set S is convex if and only if $S = \operatorname{conv}(S)$.

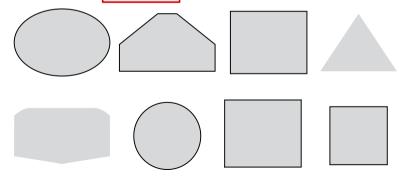


Figure 6: Top: convex hulls of the convex sets. Bottom: the convex hull of the non-convex sets.

Minkowski addition

The Minkowski sum of two sets of vectors S_1 and S_2 in Euclidean space is formed by adding each vector in S_1 to each vector in S_2 .

$$S_1 + S_2 = \{\mathbf{s_1} + \mathbf{s_2} \, | \, \mathbf{s_1} \in S_1, \ \mathbf{s_2} \in S_2 \}$$

Similarly, one can define a linear combination of the sets.

i Example

We will work in the \mathbb{R}^2 space. Let's define:

 $S_1 := \{ x \in \mathbb{R}^2 : x_1^2 + x_2^2 \leq 1 \}$

This is a unit circle centered at the origin. And:

$$S_2:=\{x\in \mathbb{R}^2: -4\leq x_1\leq -1, -3\leq x_2\leq -1\}$$

This represents a rectangle. The sum of the sets S_1 and S_2 will form an enlarged rectangle S_2 with rounded corners. The resulting set will be convex.

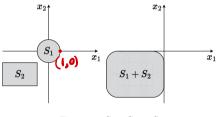


Figure 7: $S = S_1 + S_2$

Finding convexity

In practice, it is very important to understand whether a specific set is convex or not. Two approaches are used for this depending on the context.

By definition.

 $X_{1}, X_{2} \in S$ $\Theta X_{L} + (1 - \Theta) X_{2} \in S$ De[0;J]



Finding convexity

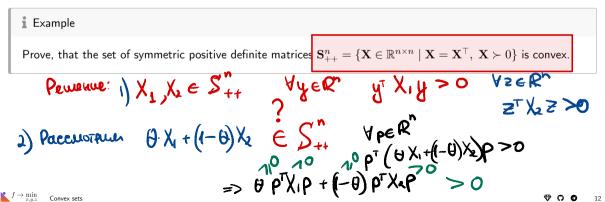
In practice, it is very important to understand whether a specific set is convex or not. Two approaches are used for this depending on the context.

- By definition.
- Show that S is derived from simple convex sets using operations that preserve convexity.



Finding convexity by definition

$$x_1, x_2 \in S, \ 0 \leq \theta \leq 1 \quad \rightarrow \quad \theta x_1 + (1-\theta) x_2 \in S$$



Operations, that preserve convexity

$$S = C_1 S_1 + C_2 S_2$$

The linear combination of convex sets is convex Let there be 2 convex sets S_x, S_y , let the set

$$S=\left\{s\mid s=c_1x+c_2y,\;x\in S_x,\;y\in S_y,\;c_1,c_2\in\mathbb{R}\right\}$$

Take two points from $S: s_1 = c_1x_1 + c_2y_1, s_2 = c_1x_2 + c_2y_2$ and prove that the segment between them $\theta s_1 + (1 - \theta)s_2, \theta \in [0, 1]$ also belongs to S

$$\theta s_1 + (1-\theta)s_2$$

$$\theta(c_1x_1+c_2y_1)+(1-\theta)(c_1x_2+c_2y_2)$$

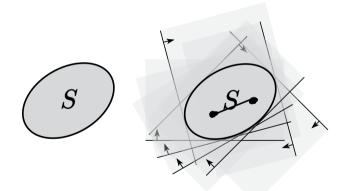
$$c_1(\theta x_1+(1-\theta)x_2)+c_2(\theta y_1+(1-\theta)y_2)$$

$$c_1x + c_2y \in S$$



The intersection of any (!) number of convex sets is convex

If the desired intersection is empty or contains one point, the property is proved by definition. Otherwise, take 2 points and a segment between them. These points must lie in all intersecting sets, and since they are all convex, the segment between them lies in all sets and, therefore, in their intersection.



The image of the convex set under affine mapping is convex

$$S \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n \text{ convex } \rightarrow f(S) = \{f(x) \mid x \in S\} \text{ convex } (f(x) = \mathbf{A}x + \mathbf{b})$$

Examples of affine functions: extension, projection, transposition, set of solutions of linear matrix inequality $\{x \mid x_1A_1 + \ldots + x_mA_m \preceq B\}$. Here $A_i, B \in \mathbf{S}^p$ are symmetric matrices $p \times p$.

Note also that the prototype of the convex set under affine mapping is also convex.

$$S \subseteq \mathbb{R}^m \text{ convex} \rightarrow \boxed{f^{-1}(S) = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n \mid f(x) \in S\}} \text{ convex } (f(x) = \mathbf{A}x + \mathbf{b})$$



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Example

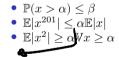
Let $x \in \mathbb{R}$ is a random variable with a given probability distribution of $\mathbb{P}(x = a_i) = p_i$, where i = 1, ..., n, and $a_1 < ... < a_n$. It is said that the probability vector of outcomes of $p \in \mathbb{R}^n$ belongs to the probabilistic simplex, i.e.

Example

Let $x \in \mathbb{R}$ is a random variable with a given probability distribution of $\mathbb{P}(x = a_i) = p_i$, where i = 1, ..., n, and $a_1 < ... < a_n$. It is said that the probability vector of outcomes of $p \in \mathbb{R}^n$ belongs to the probabilistic simplex, i.e.

$$P = \{p \mid \mathbf{1}^T p = 1, p \succeq 0\} = \{p \mid p_1 + \ldots + p_n = 1, p_i \ge 0\}.$$

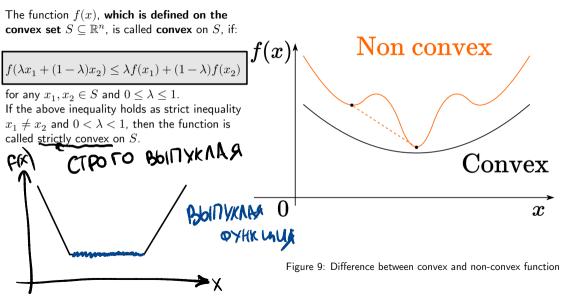
Determine if the following sets of p are convex:





Convex functions





i Theorem

Let f(x) be a convex function on a convex set $X \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$ and let $x_i \in X, 1 \le i \le m$, be arbitrary points from X. Then

Proof

1. First, note that the point $\sum_{i=1}^{m} \lambda_i x_i$ as a convex combination of points from the convex set X belongs to X.



i Theorem

Let f(x) be a convex function on a convex set $X \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$ and let $x_i \in X, 1 \le i \le m$, be arbitrary points from X. Then

$$f\left(\sum_{i=1}^m\lambda_ix_i\right)\leq \sum_{i=1}^m\lambda_if(x_i)$$

for any $\lambda = [\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_m] \in \Delta_m$ - probability simplex.

Proof

- 1. First, note that the point $\sum_{i=1}^{m} \lambda_i x_i$ as a convex combination of points from the convex set X belongs to X.
- 2. We will prove this by induction. For m = 1, the statement is obviously true, and for m = 2, it follows from the definition of a convex function.



3. Assume it is true for all m up to m = k, and we will prove it for m = k + 1. Let $\lambda \in \Delta k + 1$ and

$$x = \sum_{i=1}^{k+1} \lambda_i x_i = \sum_{i=1}^k \lambda_i x_i + \lambda_{k+1} x_{k+1}.$$

Assuming $0<\lambda_{k+1}<1,$ as otherwise, it reduces to previously considered cases, we have

$$x=\lambda_{k+1}x_{k+1}+(1-\lambda_{k+1})\bar{x},$$

where $\bar{x} = \sum_{i=1}^k \gamma_i x_i$ and $\gamma_i = \frac{\lambda_i}{1 - \lambda_{k+1}} \geq 0, 1 \leq i \leq k.$

$$f\left(\sum_{i=1}^{k+1} \lambda_i x_i\right) = f\left(\lambda_{k+1} x_{k+1} + (1-\lambda_{k+1})\bar{x}\right) \leq \lambda_{k+1} f(x_{k+1}) + (1-\lambda_{k+1}) f(\bar{x}) \leq \sum_{i=1}^{k+1} \lambda_i f(x_i) \leq \sum_{i=1}^{k+1}$$

Thus, initial inequality is satisfied for m = k + 1 as well.

 $f \rightarrow \min_{x,y,z}$ Convex functions

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where $\bar{x} = \sum_{i=1}^{k} \gamma_i x_i$ and $\gamma_i = \frac{\lambda_i}{1 - \lambda_{k+1}} \ge 0, 1 \le i \le k$.

4. Since $\lambda \in \Delta_{k+1}$, then $\gamma = [\gamma_1, \dots, \gamma_k] \in \Delta_k$. Therefore $\bar{x} \in X$ and by the convexity of f(x) and the induction hypothesis:

$$f\left(\sum_{i=1}^{k+1} \lambda_i x_i\right) = f\left(\lambda_{k+1} x_{k+1} + (1-\lambda_{k+1})\bar{x}\right) \le \lambda_{k+1} f(x_{k+1}) + (1-\lambda_{k+1}) f(\bar{x}) \le \sum_{i=1}^{k+1} \lambda_i f(x_i)$$

Thus, initial inequality is satisfied for m = k + 1 as well.

 $f \rightarrow \min_{x,y,z}$ Convex functions

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Examples of convex functions

X > 0

- $f(x) = x^p, \ p > 1, \ x \in \mathbb{R}_+$
- $f(x) = ||x||^p, \ p > 1, x \in \mathbb{R}^n$
- $f(x) = e^{cx}, \ c \in \mathbb{R}, x \in \mathbb{R}$
- $\bullet \ f(x)=-\ln x, \ x\in \mathbb{R}_{++}$
- $f(x) = x \ln x, \ x \in \mathbb{R}_{++}$
- The sum of the largest k coordinates $f(x) = x_{(1)} + \ldots + x_{(k)}, \; x \in \mathbb{R}^n$
- $f(X) = \lambda_{max}(X), \ X = X^T$
- $\bullet \ f(X)=-\log \det X, \; X\in S^n_{++}$

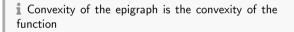


Ерідгарһ НА АЛРАФИК ФУнк ЦИИ

For the function f(x), defined on $S\subseteq \mathbb{R}^n,$ the following set:

epi
$$f = \{[x,\mu] \in S \times \mathbb{R} : f(x) \leq \mu\}$$

is called **epigraph** of the function f(x).



For a function f(x), defined on a convex set X, to be convex on X, it is necessary and sufficient that the epigraph of f is a convex set. $f: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ PA3 MEP HOCT6 HAATPAPU KA

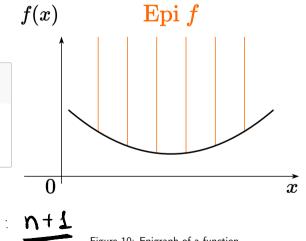


Figure 10: Epigraph of a function

Convexity of the epigraph is the convexity of the function.

1. Necessity: Assume f(x) is convex on X. Take any two arbitrary points $[x_1, \mu_1] \in epi f$ and $[x_2, \mu_2] \in epi f$. Also take $0 \le \lambda \le 1$ and denote $x_\lambda = \lambda x_1 + (1 - \lambda) x_2, \mu_\lambda = \lambda \mu_1 + (1 - \lambda) \mu_2$. Then, $\lambda \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ \mu_1 \end{bmatrix} + (1 - \lambda) \begin{bmatrix} x_2 \\ \mu_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} x_\lambda \\ \mu_\lambda \end{bmatrix}$. $f(x_\lambda) \le \mu_1$

From the convexity of the set X, it follows that $x_{\lambda} \in X$. Moreover, since f(x) is a convex function,



Convexity of the epigraph is the convexity of the function

1. Necessity: Assume f(x) is convex on X. Take any two arbitrary points $[x_1, \mu_1] \in epif$ and $[x_2, \mu_2] \in epif$. Also take $0 \le \lambda \le 1$ and denote $x_{\lambda} = \lambda x_1 + (1 - \lambda)x_2, \mu_{\lambda} = \lambda \mu_1 + (1 - \lambda)\mu_2$. Then,

epif - boin. MH- 60 $\lambda \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ \mu_1 \end{bmatrix} + (1-\lambda) \begin{bmatrix} x_2 \\ \mu_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} x_\lambda \\ \mu_\lambda \end{bmatrix}$ Both.

From the convexity of the set X, it follows that $x_{\chi} \in X$. Moreover, since f(x) is a convex function,

$$x_{\lambda}) \leq \lambda f(x_1) + (1-\lambda)f(x_2) \leq \lambda \mu_1 + (1-\lambda)\mu_2 = \mu_{\lambda}$$

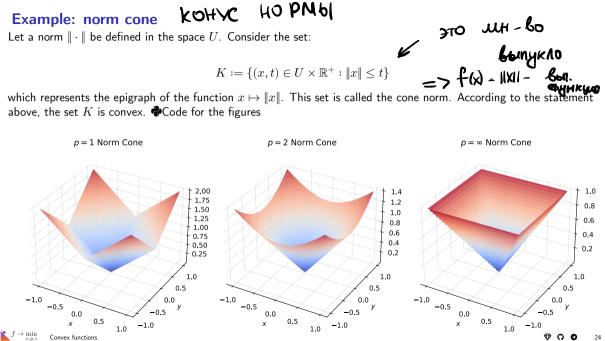
Inequality above indicates that $\begin{bmatrix} x_\lambda \\ u_\lambda \end{bmatrix} \in epif$. Thus, the epigraph of f is a convex set.

2. Sufficiency: Assume the epigraph of f, epif, is a convex set. Then, from the membership of the points $[x_1, \mu_1]$ and $[x_2, \mu_2]$ in the epigraph of f, it follows that $f(x_1, \mu_1)$

$$\begin{bmatrix} x_\lambda \\ \mu_\lambda \end{bmatrix} = \lambda \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ \mu_1 \end{bmatrix} + (1-\lambda) \begin{bmatrix} x_2 \\ \mu_2 \end{bmatrix} \in \operatorname{epi} f$$

for any $0 \le \lambda \le 1$, i.e., $f(x_{\lambda}) \le \mu_{\lambda} = \lambda \mu_1 + (1 - \lambda)\mu_2$. But this is true for all $\mu_1 \ge f(x_1)$ and $\mu_2 \ge f(x_2)$, particularly when $\mu_1 = f(x_1)$ and $\mu_2 = f(x_2)$. Hence we arrive at the inequality $f(x_1) = f(x_1) - f(x_2) - f(x_2)$

f(k) = N



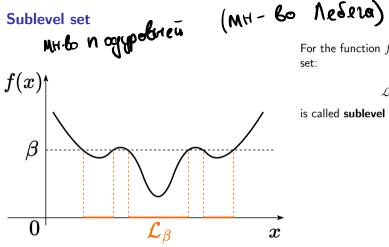


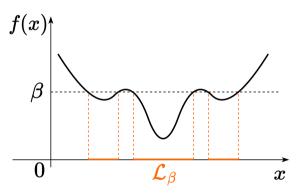
Figure 12: Sublevel set of a function with respect to level β

For the function f(x), defined on $S\subseteq \mathbb{R}^n,$ the following set:

$$\mathcal{L}_\beta = \{x \in S: f(x) \leq \beta\}$$

is called **sublevel set** or Lebesgue set of the function f(x).

Sublevel set



For the function f(x), defined on $S\subseteq \mathbb{R}^n,$ the following set:

$$\mathcal{L}_{\beta} = \{x \in S : f(x) \leq \beta\}$$

is called **sublevel set** or Lebesgue set of the function f(x). Note, that if the function f(x) is convex, then its sublevel sets are convex for any $\beta \in \mathbb{R}$. While the **converse is not true**. (For example, consider

the function $f(x) = \sqrt{|x|}$)

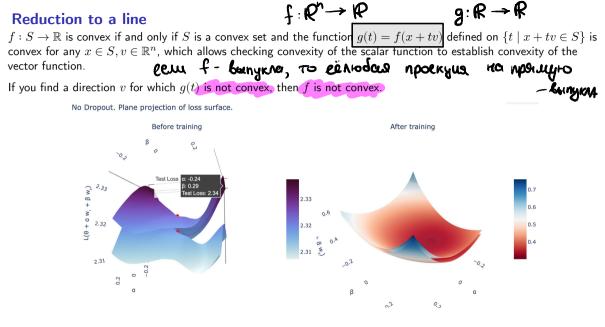


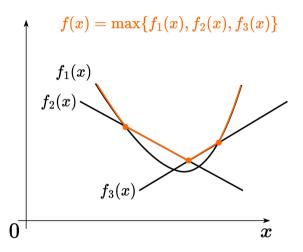
Figure 12: Sublevel set of a function with respect to level β

Reduction to a line

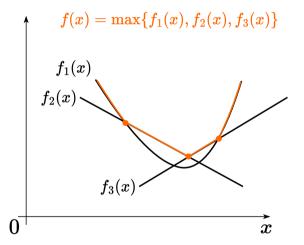
 $f: S \to \mathbb{R}$ is convex if and only if S is a convex set and the function g(t) = f(x + tv) defined on $\{t \mid x + tv \in S\}$ is convex for any $x \in S, v \in \mathbb{R}^n$, which allows checking convexity of the scalar function to establish convexity of the vector function.





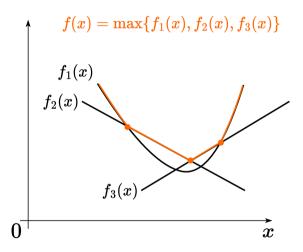


• Pointwise maximum (supremum) of any number of functions: If $f_1(x), \ldots, f_m(x)$ are convex, then $f(x) = \max\{f_1(x), \ldots, f_m(x)\}$ is convex.

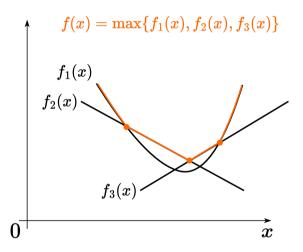


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- Non-negative sum of the convex functions: $\alpha f(x) + \beta g(x), (\alpha \ge 0, \beta \ge 0).$

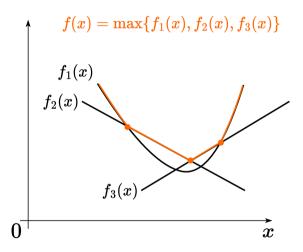
 x^2 $-x^2$



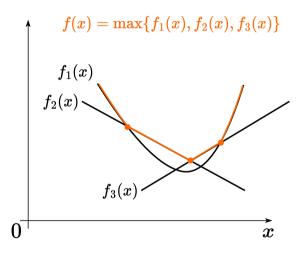
- Pointwise maximum (supremum) of any number of functions: If $f_1(x), \ldots, f_m(x)$ are convex, then $f(x) = \max\{f_1(x), \ldots, f_m(x)\}$ is convex.
- Non-negative sum of the convex functions: $\alpha f(x) + \beta g(x), (\alpha \ge 0, \beta \ge 0).$
- Composition with affine function f(Ax + b) is convex, if f(x) is convex.



- Pointwise maximum (supremum) of any number of functions: If $f_1(x), \ldots, f_m(x)$ are convex, then $f(x) = \max\{f_1(x), \ldots, f_m(x)\}$ is convex.
- Non-negative sum of the convex functions: $\alpha f(x) + \beta g(x), (\alpha \ge 0, \beta \ge 0).$
- Composition with affine function f(Ax + b) is convex, if f(x) is convex.
- If f(x, y) is convex on x for any $y \in Y$: $g(x) = \sup_{y \in Y} f(x, y)$ is convex.



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- If f(x, y) is convex on x for any $y \in Y$: $g(x) = \sup_{y \in Y} f(x, y)$ is convex.
- If f(x) is convex on S, then g(x,t) = tf(x/t) is convex with $x/t \in S, t > 0$.



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- If f(x) is convex on S, then g(x,t) = tf(x/t) is convex with $x/t \in S, t > 0$.
- Let $f_1: S_1 \to \mathbb{R}$ and $f_2: S_2 \to \mathbb{R}$, where range $(f_1) \subseteq S_2$. If f_1 and f_2 are convex, and f_2 is increasing, then $f_2 \circ f_1$ is convex on S_1 .

Strong convexity criteria

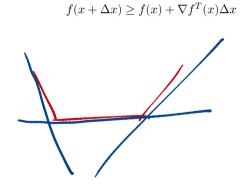


First-order differential criterion of convexity

The differentiable function f(x) defined on the convex set $S \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$ is convex if and only if $\forall x, y \in S$:

 $f(y) \geq f(x) + \nabla f^T(x)(y-x)$

Let $y = x + \Delta x$, then the criterion will become more tractable:



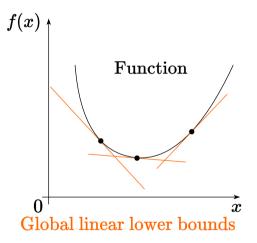


Figure 14: Convex function is greater or equal than Taylor linear approximation at any point

Second-order differential criterion of convexity

Twice differentiable function f(x) defined on the convex set $S \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$ is convex if and only if $\forall x \in int(S) \neq \emptyset$:

 $\nabla^2 f(x) \succeq 0$

In other words, $\forall y \in \mathbb{R}^n$:

 $\langle y, \nabla^2 f(x)y\rangle \geq 0$



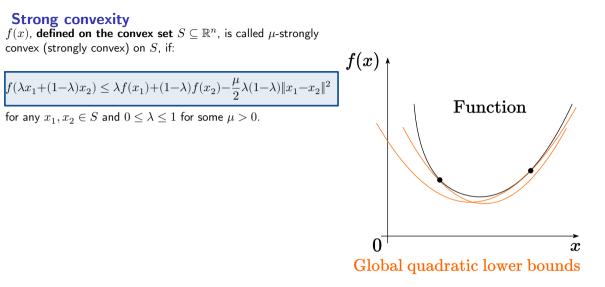


Figure 15: Strongly convex function is greater or equal than Taylor quadratic approximation at any point

Differentiable f(x) defined on the convex set $S \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$ is μ -strongly convex if and only if $\forall x, y \in S$:

$$f(y) \geq f(x) + \nabla f^T(x)(y-x) + \frac{\mu}{2}\|y-x\|^2$$

Differentiable f(x) defined on the convex set $S \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$ is μ -strongly convex if and only if $\forall x, y \in S$:

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Let $y = x + \Delta x$, then the criterion will become more tractable:

$$f(x + \Delta x) \ge f(x) + \nabla f^T(x) \Delta x + \frac{\mu}{2} \|\Delta x\|^2$$

Differentiable f(x) defined on the convex set $S \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$ is μ -strongly convex if and only if $\forall x, y \in S$:

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Let $y = x + \Delta x$, then the criterion will become more tractable:

$$f(x + \Delta x) \ge f(x) + \nabla f^T(x) \Delta x + \frac{\mu}{2} \|\Delta x\|^2$$
 $\mu > 0$ - culture of the second second

i Theorem

Let f(x) be a differentiable function on a convex set $X \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$. Then f(x) is strongly convex on X with a constant $\mu > 0$ if and only if $f(x) - f(x_0) \ge \langle \nabla f(x_0), x - x_0 \rangle + \frac{\mu}{2} \|x - x_0\|^2$

for all $x, x_0 \in X$.

or Micho

- GEMYKAOCTZ

Necessity: Let $0 < \lambda \leq 1$. According to the definition of a strongly convex function,

$$f(\lambda x + (1-\lambda)x_0) \leq \lambda f(x) + (1-\lambda)f(x_0) - \frac{\mu}{2}\lambda(1-\lambda)\|x-x_0\|^2$$



Necessity: Let $0 < \lambda \leq 1$. According to the definition of a strongly convex function,

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or equivalently,

$$f(x) - f(x_0) - \frac{\mu}{2}(1-\lambda) \|x - x_0\|^2 \geq \frac{1}{\lambda} [f(\lambda x + (1-\lambda)x_0) - f(x_0)] = 0$$

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or equivalently,

$$\begin{split} f(x) - f(x_0) &- \frac{\mu}{2} (1-\lambda) \|x - x_0\|^2 \geq \frac{1}{\lambda} [f(\lambda x + (1-\lambda)x_0) - f(x_0)] = \\ &= \frac{1}{\lambda} [f(x_0 + \lambda(x - x_0)) - f(x_0)] = \frac{1}{\lambda} [\lambda \langle \nabla f(x_0), x - x_0 \rangle + o(\lambda)] = \end{split}$$

Necessity: Let $0 < \lambda \leq 1$. According to the definition of a strongly convex function,

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$$=\frac{1}{\lambda}[f(x_0+\lambda(x-x_0))-f(x_0)]=\frac{1}{\lambda}[\lambda\langle \nabla f(x_0),x-x_0\rangle+o(\lambda)]=$$

$$= \langle \nabla f(x_0), x - x_0 \rangle + \frac{o(\lambda)}{\lambda}.$$

Thus, taking the limit as $\lambda \downarrow 0$, we arrive at the initial statement.



Sufficiency: Assume the inequality in the theorem is satisfied for all $x, x_0 \in X$. Take $x_0 = \lambda x_1 + (1 - \lambda)x_2$, where $x_1, x_2 \in X$, $0 \le \lambda \le 1$. According to the inequality, the following inequalities hold:

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$$\begin{split} f(x_1) - f(x_0) &\geq \langle \nabla f(x_0), x_1 - x_0 \rangle + \frac{\mu}{2} \| x_1 - x_0 \|^2, \\ f(x_2) - f(x_0) &\geq \langle \nabla f(x_0), x_2 - x_0 \rangle + \frac{\mu}{2} \| x_2 - x_0 \|^2. \end{split}$$

Multiplying the first inequality by λ and the second by $1-\lambda$ and adding them, considering that



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and $\lambda(1-\lambda)^2+\lambda^2(1-\lambda)=\lambda(1-\lambda),$ we get

$$\begin{split} \lambda f(x_1) + (1-\lambda) f(x_2) - f(x_0) - \frac{\mu}{2} \lambda (1-\lambda) \|x_1 - x_2\|^2 \geq \\ \langle \nabla f(x_0), \lambda x_1 + (1-\lambda) x_2 - x_0 \rangle = 0. \end{split}$$

Thus, inequality from the definition of a strongly convex function is satisfied. It is important to mention, that $\mu = 0$ stands for the convex case and corresponding differential criterion.

Twice differentiable function f(x) defined on the convex set $S \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$ is called μ -strongly convex if and only if $\forall x \in int(S) \neq \emptyset$:

 $\nabla^2 f(x) \succeq \mu I$

In other words:

 $\langle y, \nabla^2 f(x)y\rangle \geq \mu \|y\|^2$

Twice differentiable function f(x) defined on the convex set $S \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$ is called μ -strongly convex if and only if $\forall x \in \mathbf{int}(S) \neq \emptyset:$ $\nabla^2 f(x) \succ \mu I$ Takor MH-BIODA In other words: $\langle y, \nabla^2 f(x)y \rangle > \mu \|y\|^2$ $\int_{J} \nabla^2 f(x) y \ge \mu \|y\|^2$ int X - Bhyspenhoas Mrs-Bo $J_{ae} \times X \in X$; X+B(BEX) i Theorem Let $X \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ be a convex set, with $(int X) \neq \emptyset$. Furthermore, let f(x) be a twice continuously differentiable function on X. Then f(x) is strongly convex on X with a constant $\mu > 0$ if and only if $\langle y, \nabla^2 f(x)y \rangle \ge \mu \|y\|^2$ $\forall f(x) \ge \mu I$ for all $x \in X$ and $y \in \mathbb{R}^n$. ~f(x) -µI ≥0

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The target inequality is trivial when $y = \mathbf{0}_n$, hence we assume $y \neq \mathbf{0}_n$.

Necessity: Assume initially that x is an interior point of X. Then $x + \alpha y \in X$ for all $y \in \mathbb{R}^n$ and sufficiently small α . Since f(x) is twice differentiable,

$$f(x + \alpha y) = f(x) + \alpha \langle \nabla f(x), y \rangle + \frac{\alpha^2}{2} \langle y, \nabla^2 f(x)y \rangle + o(\alpha^2).$$

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$$f(x + \alpha y) = f(x) + \alpha \langle \nabla f(x), y \rangle + \frac{\alpha^2}{2} \langle y, \nabla^2 f(x)y \rangle + o(\alpha^2).$$

Based on the first-order criterion of strong convexity, we have

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

This inequality reduces to the target inequality after dividing both sides by α^2 and taking the limit as $\alpha \downarrow 0$.

If $x \in X$ but $x \notin \text{int}X$, consider a sequence $\{x_k\}$ such that $x_k \in \text{int}X$ and $x_k \to x$ as $k \to \infty$. Then, we arrive at the target inequality after taking the limit.



Sufficiency: Using Taylor's formula with the Lagrange remainder and the target inequality, we obtain for $x + y \in X$:

$$f(x+y) - f(x) - \langle \nabla f(x), y \rangle = \frac{1}{2} \langle y, \nabla^2 f(x+\alpha y) y \rangle \geq \frac{\mu}{2} \|y\|^2,$$

where $0 \le \alpha \le 1$. Therefore,



Sufficiency: Using Taylor's formula with the Lagrange remainder and the target inequality, we obtain for $x + y \in X$:

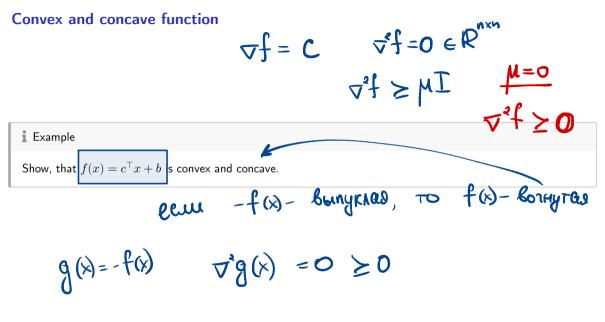
$$f(x+y) - f(x) - \langle \nabla f(x), y \rangle = \frac{1}{2} \langle y, \nabla^2 f(x+\alpha y) y \rangle \geq \frac{\mu}{2} \|y\|^2,$$

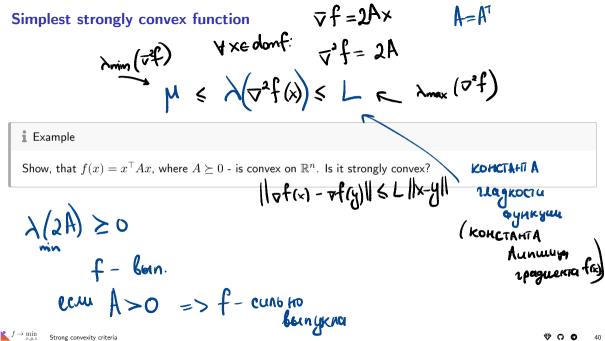
where $0 \le \alpha \le 1$. Therefore,

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

Consequently, by the first-order criterion of strong convexity, the function f(x) is strongly convex with a constant μ . It is important to mention, that $\mu = 0$ stands for the convex case and corresponding differential criterion.







Convexity and continuity

Let f(x) - be a convex function on a convex set $S\subseteq \mathbb{R}^n.$ Then f(x) is continuous $\forall x\in \mathrm{ri}(S).$ s

i Proper convex function

Function $f : \mathbb{R}^n \to \mathbb{R}$ is said to be **proper convex** function if it never takes on the value $-\infty$ and not identically equal to ∞ .

i Indicator function

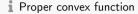
$$\delta_S(x) = \begin{cases} \infty, & x \in S \\ 0, & x \notin S \end{cases}$$

is a proper convex function.

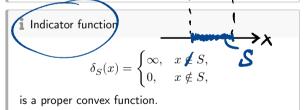
^aPlease, read here about difference between interior and relative interior.



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Function $f : \mathbb{R}^n \to \mathbb{R}$ is said to be **proper convex** function if it never takes on the value $-\infty$ and not identically equal to ∞ .



^aPlease, read here about difference between interior and relative interior.

i Closed function

Function $f: \mathbb{R}^n \to \mathbb{R}$ is said to be **closed** if for each $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}$, the sublevel set is closed. Equivalently, if the epigraph is closed, then the function f is closed.

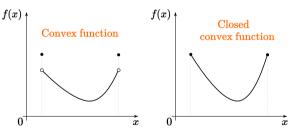


Figure 16: The concept of a closed function is introduced to avoid such breaches at the border.

Facts about convexity

- f(x) is called (strictly, strongly) concave if the function -f(x) is (strictly, strongly) convex.
- Jensen's inequality for the convex functions:

$$f\left(\sum_{i=1}^{n} \alpha_i x_i\right) \leq \sum_{i=1}^{n} \alpha_i f(x_i)$$

for
$$\alpha_i \geq 0$$
; $\sum_{i=1}^{n} \alpha_i = 1$ (probability simplex)
For the infinite dimension case:

$$f\left(\int\limits_{S} xp(x)dx\right) \leq \int\limits_{S} f(x)p(x)dx$$

If the integrals exist and $p(x) \ge 0$, $\int_{S} p(x) dx = 1$.

• If the function f(x) and the set S are convex, then any local minimum $x^* = \arg \min_{x \in S} f(x)$ will be the global one. Strong convexity guarantees the uniqueness of the solution.

Other forms of convexity

- Log-convexity: $\log f$ is convex; Log convexity implies convexity.
- Log-concavity: log f concave; **not** closed under addition!
- Exponential convexity: $[f(x_i+x_j)]\succeq 0, \mbox{ for } x_1,\ldots,x_n$
- Operator convexity: $f(\lambda X + (1 \lambda)Y)$
- Quasiconvexity: $f(\lambda x + (1 \lambda)y) \le \max\{f(x), f(y)\}$
- Pseudoconvexity: $\langle \nabla f(y), x-y\rangle \geq 0 \longrightarrow f(x) \geq f(y)$
- Discrete convexity: $f : \mathbb{Z}^n \to \mathbb{Z}$; "convexity + matroid theory."

Polyak- Lojasiewicz condition. Linear convergence of gradient descent without convexity

PL inequality holds if the following condition is satisfied for some $\mu > 0$,

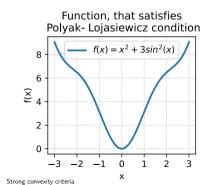
$$\|\nabla f(x)\|^2 \geq \mu(f(x) - f^*) \forall x$$

условие градиенного долини рования

It is interesting, that the Gradient Descent algorithm has

The following functions satisfy the PL condition but are not convex. PLink to the code

 $f(x) = x^2 + 3\sin^2(x)$



 $f \to \min_{x,y,z}$

Polyak- Lojasiewicz condition. Linear convergence of gradient descent without convexity

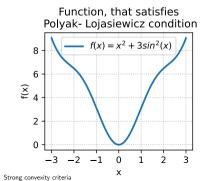
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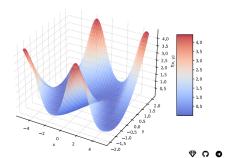
 $f(x) = x^2 + 3\sin^2(x)$



 $f \rightarrow \min$

$$f(x,y) = \frac{(y - \sin x)^2}{2}$$

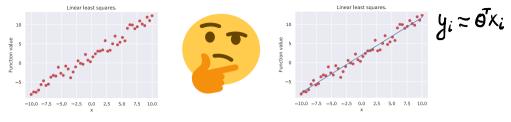




Convexity in ML



Linear Least Squares aka Linear Regression



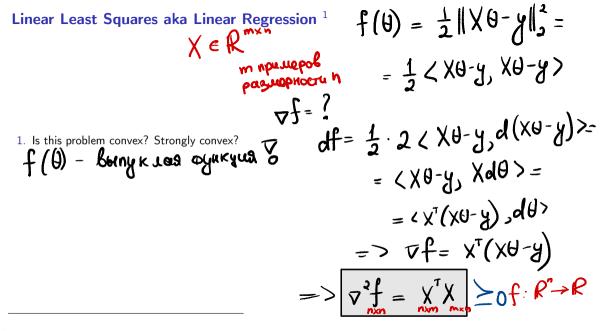
 X_i

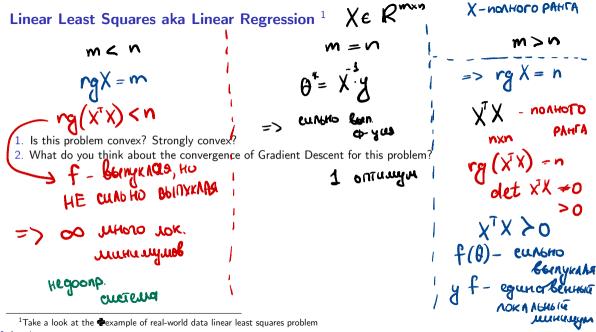
Figure 19: Illustration

In a least-squares, or linear regression, problem, we have measurements $X \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$ and $y \in \mathbb{R}^m$ and seek a vector $\theta \in \mathbb{R}^n$ such that $X\theta$ is close to y. Closeness is defined as the sum of the squared differences:

$$\sum_{i=1}^m (x_i^\top \theta - y_i)^2 = \|X\theta - y\|_2^2 \to \min_{\theta \in \mathbb{R}^n}$$

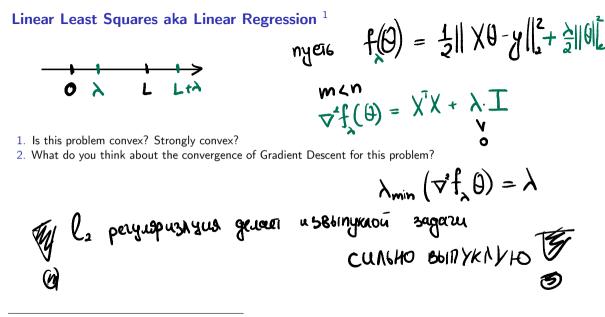
For example, we might have a dataset of m users, each represented by n features. Each row x_i^{\top} of X is the features for user i, while the corresponding entry y_i of y is the measurement we want to predict from x_i^{\top} , such as ad spending. The prediction is given by $x_i^{\top}\theta$.





 $\rightarrow \min_{x,y,z}$ Convexity in ML

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 1 Take a look at the \clubsuit example of real-world data linear least squares problem

 $t \rightarrow \min_{x,y,z}$ Convexity in ML

l_2 -regularized Linear Least Squares

In the underdetermined case, it is often desirable to restore the strong convexity of the objective function by adding an l_2 -penality, also known as Tikhonov regularization, l_2 -regularization, or weight decay.

$$\|X\theta-y\|_2^2+\frac{\mu}{2}\|\theta\|_2^2\to\min_{\theta\in\mathbb{R}^n}$$

Note: With this modification, the objective is μ -strongly convex again.

Take a look at the **@**code



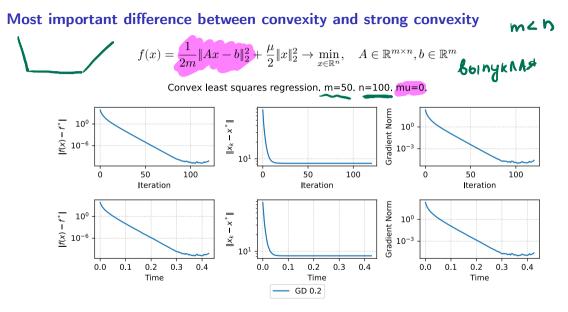


Figure 20: Convex problem does not have convergence in domain

Most important difference between convexity and strong convexity

$$f(x) = \frac{1}{2m} \|Ax - b\|_2^2 + \frac{\mu}{2} \|x\|_2^2 \rightarrow \min_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n}, \quad A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}, b \in \mathbb{R}^m$$

Strongly convex least squares regression. m=50. n=100. mu=0.1,

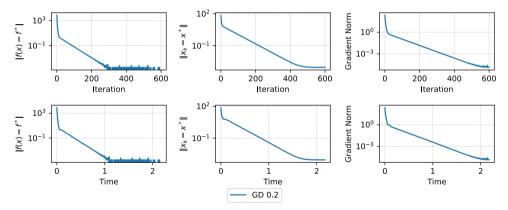


Figure 21: But if you add even small amount of regularization, you will ensure convergence in domain

 $f \rightarrow \min_{x,y,z}$ Convexity in ML

Most important difference between convexity and strong convexity

$$f(x) = \frac{1}{2m} \|Ax - b\|_2^2 + \frac{\mu}{2} \|x\|_2^2 \to \min_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n}, \quad A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}, b \in \mathbb{R}^m$$

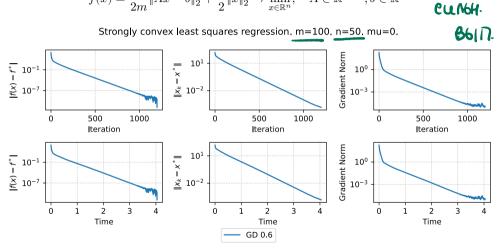
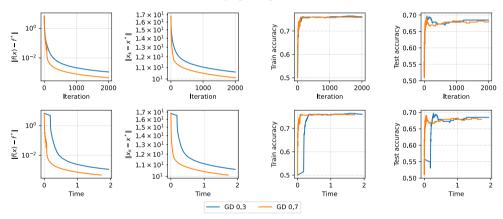


Figure 22: Another way to ensure convergence in the previous problem is to switch the dimension values

 $f \rightarrow \min_{x,y,z}$ Convexity in ML

m > n

You have to have strong convexity (or PL) to ensure convergence with a high precision



Convex binary logistic regression. mu=0.

Figure 23: Only small precision is achievable with sublinear convergence

You have to have strong convexity (or PL) to ensure convergence with a high precision

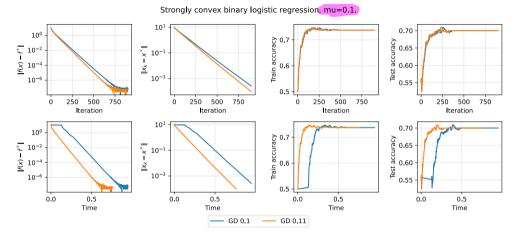


Figure 24: Strong convexity ensures linear convergence

Any local minimum is a global minimum for Deep Linear Networks²

We consider the following optimization problem:

$$\begin{split} \min_{W_1,\ldots,W_L} L(W_1,\ldots,W_L) &= \frac{1}{2} \| W_L W_{L-1} \cdots W_1 X - Y \|_F^2, \end{split}$$
 where
$$X \in \mathbb{R}^{d_x \times n} \text{ is the data/input matrix,} \\ Y \in \mathbb{R}^{d_y \times n} \text{ is the "label"/output matrix.} \end{split}$$
 Kotopoù V nok. Luuh u Lug u gba. I Theorem I theorem I he min(d_x, d_y) be the "width" of the network, and define

$$V = \{(W_1, \dots, W_L) \mid \operatorname{rank}(\Pi_i W_i) = k\}.$$

Then, every critical point of L(W) in V is a global minimum, while every critical point in the complement V^c is a saddle point.

²Global optimality conditions for deep neural networks