

Convex sets in \mathbb{R}^n



$C \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ is convex

$$x, y \in C \Rightarrow (1-t)x + ty \in C \quad t \in [0, 1]$$

A convex set is non-trivial if it contains at least two points.

Convex $C \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ is called convex cone

if $cx \in C \quad \forall c \geq 0$ and $x \in C$

• The only convex sets of \mathbb{R} are intervals and \emptyset with the points.
(Singletons)

• V subspace of \mathbb{R}^n , V is convex and closed.

If $a \notin V$ then $\{a + v \mid v \in V\}$ is called affine subspace of \mathbb{R}^n and is convex

• $H = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n, \langle a, x \rangle = c\}$ where a is a unit vector in \mathbb{R}^n is called a hyperplane in \mathbb{R}^n and it is closed and convex.

• ~~\mathbb{R}~~ Positive orthant in \mathbb{R}^n .

$$\{x \in \mathbb{R}^n; x_j \geq 0, j \in \{1, \dots, n\}\}$$

$\mathbb{R}_{++}^n = (0, \infty)^n$ — set of all ~~positive~~ strictly positive vectors.

$\Gamma = \{a_j, 1 \leq j \leq J\}$ finite set of

vectors in \mathbb{R}^n .

$$x = \sum_{j=1}^J t_j a_j, \quad t_j \geq 0, \quad \sum_{j=1}^J t_j = 1$$

↳ convex combination of vectors in Γ

$\text{co}(\Gamma)$ — the set of all convex combinations of points in Γ

If Γ is finite then $\text{co}(\Gamma)$ is called polyhedron. and it is a bounded closed convex set. of \mathbb{R}^n .

When $J = n+1$. Such a set is called simplex. whose vertices are Γ .

Ex. $n=2$, Triangle is a simplex
 $n=3$, tetrahedron is a simplex.

Unit Simplex of \mathbb{R}^n

Closed convex hull of $\{0, e_1, \dots, e_n\}$.
where $\{e_i\}_i$ are the canonical vectors.

$$\Delta_n = \text{co} \{0, e_1, \dots, e_n\}.$$

The set of vectors in \mathbb{R}^n whose components

x_j satisfy

$$x_j \geq 0, \quad \sum_{j=1}^n x_j \leq 1$$

Δ_n has $n+1$ vertices and $n+1$ faces.

Probability vectors in \mathbb{R}^n .

$$x \in \text{co}\{e_1, \dots, e_n\} = \Delta_n'$$

$$x_j \geq 0, \sum_{j=1}^n x_j = 1$$

If $x \in \Delta_n'$, $|x| := (|x_1|, |x_2|, \dots, |x_n|)$
L₁ notation

C_1, C_2 non-empty convex subset of \mathbb{R}^n .

$\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$

$\lambda C_1, C_1 \cap C_2, C_1 + C_2, C_1 \supseteq C_2$ are

convex subsets of \mathbb{R}^n .

$C_1 \cup C_2$ - in general not convex.

$\{C_k, k \in J\}$, $\bigcap_{k \in J} C_k$ - is convex if C_k are convex

$L: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$ linear, affine transform. of C then $L(C)$ is convex if C is convex.

• $C \neq \emptyset$, convex, $0 \in C$.

dimension of C is the maximal number of lin. independent vectors in C .

If $0 \notin C$ choose $a \in C$ and let

$$C_1 = C - \{a\}$$

dimension of C is the dimension of C_1

dimension of C — $\dim(C)$

• $B = \{ a_0 + \sum_{j=1}^m t_j d_j \mid 0 \leq t_j \leq 1, 1 \leq j \leq m \}$

\hookrightarrow m -dimensional parallelepiped of \mathbb{R}^n

if $\{d_j\}$ are lin. independent.

If $\{d_j\}$ are orthogonal B is m -dimensional box of \mathbb{R}^n

Volume $|B|_m = \prod_{j=1}^m |d_j|$, $|\Delta_n| = \frac{1}{n!} \det [d_1, \dots, d_n]$

Convex Functions in \mathbb{R}^n

$C \neq \emptyset$ convex set in \mathbb{R}^n .

$$f: C \rightarrow \bar{\mathbb{R}}$$

$$\text{dom } f = \{ x \in C, f(x) \in \mathbb{R} \} \quad \text{essential domain}$$

$$\text{epi}(f) = \{ (x, z) \in C \times \mathbb{R}, z \geq f(x) \}.$$

f is convex if $\text{epi}(f)$ is convex set in \mathbb{R}^{n+1}

f is concave if $-f$ is convex

f is affine if $f(x+y) - f(x) = f(y)$
 $\forall x, y \in \mathbb{R}^n$.

f is real valued on C if $|f(x)|$ is finite

$f \neq \infty \forall x \in C$. $\text{dom}(f) = C$.

f is proper if $\text{dom}(f) \neq \emptyset$ and $f(C) \subset (-\infty, \infty]$

Note This definition applies to extended real valued functions.

$f: C \rightarrow \bar{\mathbb{R}}$ may be extended to \mathbb{R}^n

$$f_e(x) = \begin{cases} f(x) & x \in C \\ \infty & x \notin C. \end{cases}$$

$$\text{epi}(f_e) = \text{epi } f.$$

f convex on C iff f_e convex on \mathbb{R}^n .

If f is proper convex function then $\text{dom}(f)$ is nonempty convex set in \mathbb{R}^n .

* $C \neq \emptyset$, convex subset of \mathbb{R}^n .

$f: C \rightarrow [-\infty, \infty]$, ~~proper~~ proper is convex iff

$$f((1-t)x + ty) \leq (1-t)f(x) + tf(y), \quad \forall t \in [0,1] \\ \forall x \neq y \in \text{dom}(f)$$

f is strictly proper convex if the inequality holds with $(<)$ for $t \in (0,1)$.

• $f: C \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ convex

$\{a_j : 1 \leq j \leq J\}$ finite subset of C .

$$f\left(\sum_{j=1}^J t_j a_j\right) \leq \sum_{j=1}^J t_j f(a_j)$$

* $(t_1, t_2, \dots, t_J) \geq 0$ in \mathbb{R}^J with

$$\sum_{j=1}^J t_j = 1$$

Ex. 1. $l(x) = \langle a, x \rangle + c = c + \sum_{j=1}^n a_j x_j$ convex in \mathbb{R}^n .

$a \in \mathbb{R}^n \setminus \{0\}$, $c \in \mathbb{R}$

2. $f(x) = \begin{cases} b & x \in C \\ \infty & x \notin C \end{cases}$ - convex.

$b \in \bar{\mathbb{R}}$, $C \subset \mathbb{R}^n$

$b = 0$ f is indicator function, I_C .

Operations on Convex Fct.

$f_1, f_2 : C \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ convex.

$c_1 f_1 + c_2 f_2$ convex if $c_1, c_2 \geq 0$.

$f(x) = \sum_{j=1}^m c_j f_j(x)$ convex whenever $c_1, c_2, \dots, c_m \geq 0$.

$\hookrightarrow f$ is a positive linear combination of $\{f_1, f_2, \dots, f_m\}$.

Product in general not convex.

Ex. $g, f : [-1, 1] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, $f(x) = x^2$, $g(x) = x$.

• $\{f_k, k \in K\}$ collection of proper convex functions on $C \subset \mathbb{R}^n$.

$F : C \rightarrow [-\infty, \infty]$

$F(x) = \sup_{k \in K} f_k(x)$

F is proper convex function on C

• If k is finite and f_k continuous

so is F

• k infinite. then F is l.s.c on C .

$L: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$ linear transformation.

$L(C) \subset C_1$, $g: C_1 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ convex.

Then $f = g \circ L$ is convex. | $f: C \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$

• $C \neq \emptyset$, $C \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ convex.

$I \subset \mathbb{R}$ interval $f: C \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ convex.

$f(C) \subset I$. If $\gamma: I \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ convex

and increasing then $g(x) = \gamma(f(x))$ is convex.

Proof · $x, y \in C$

$$z = (1-t)x + ty.$$

$$g(z) \leq t((1-t)f(x) + t f(y)).$$

Since f is convex. - QED.

Ex. $f: C \rightarrow [0, \infty)$ convex fct.

$$f^m: C \rightarrow [0, \infty).$$

$$f^m(x) = f(x) \quad \text{convex } \forall m \in \mathbb{N}.$$

$g: C \rightarrow \overline{\mathbb{R}}$ convex minorant of $f: C \rightarrow \overline{\mathbb{R}}$

$$g(x) \leq f(x) \quad \forall x \in C. \quad \Leftrightarrow \quad \text{epi}(g) \supset \text{epi}(f)$$

If g affine, g is called an affine

minorant if $g(x) \leq f(x) \quad \forall x \in C$

If f is bounded below on I

$g(x) = c \leq \inf_{x \in I} f(x)$ is a convex

minorant, of f .

Let $\Gamma(f)$ - the set of all convex minorants
of $f: C \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$.

Define $\bar{f}(x): C \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$

$$\bar{f}(x) = \sup \{ g(x) : g \in \Gamma(f) \}$$

\bar{f} - convex hull, (envelope) of
 f on C and is convex on C .

$$\alpha(\bar{f}, C) = \alpha(f, C)$$

$$\bar{f}(x) \leq f(x) \quad \forall x \in C$$

\bar{f} - largest such convex fct on I .

$f: C \rightarrow \overline{\mathbb{R}}$ is said to be γ -quasi-convex

if $S_c(f) = \{x \in C : f(x) \leq c\}$ are
convex for all $c \in \mathbb{R}$.