Convex Function

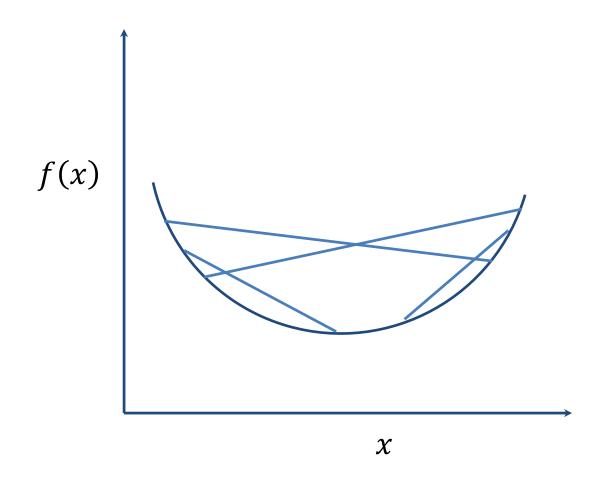
Prof. (Dr.) Rajib Kumar Bhattacharjya

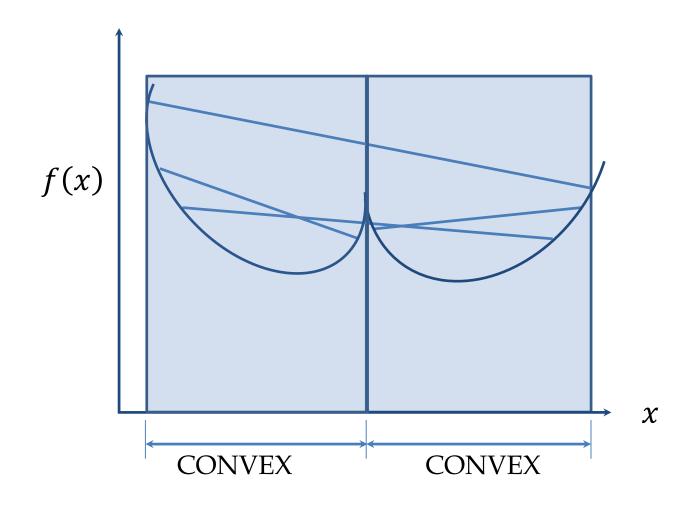


Professor, Department of Civil Engineering Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati, India

Room No. 206, M Block

Email: rkbc@iitg.ernet.in, Ph. No 2428

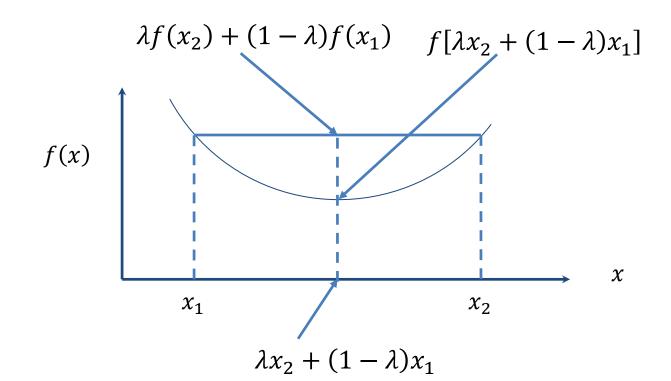




A function f(X) is said to be convex if for any pair of points $X_1 = [x_1^1, x_2^1, x_3^1, ..., x_n^1]^T$ and $X_2 = [x_1^2, x_2^2, x_3^2, ..., x_n^2]^T$ and all λ , where $0 \le \lambda \le 1$, the following condition is satisfied

$$f[\lambda X_2 + (1 - \lambda)X_1] \le \lambda f(X_2) + (1 - \lambda)f(X_1)$$

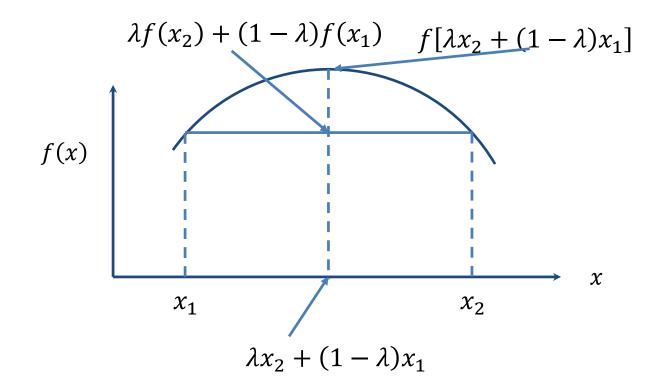
That is, if the segment joining the two points lies entirely above or on the graph of f(X)



A function f(X) is said to be concave if for any pair of points $X_1 = [x_1^1, x_2^1, x_3^1, ..., x_n^1]^T$ and $X_2 = [x_1^2, x_2^2, x_3^2, ..., x_n^2]^T$ and all λ , where $0 \le \lambda \le 1$, the following condition is satisfied

$$f[\lambda X_2 + (1 - \lambda)X_1] \ge \lambda f(X_2) + (1 - \lambda)f(X_1)$$

That is, if the segment joining the two points lies entirely above or on the graph of f(X)



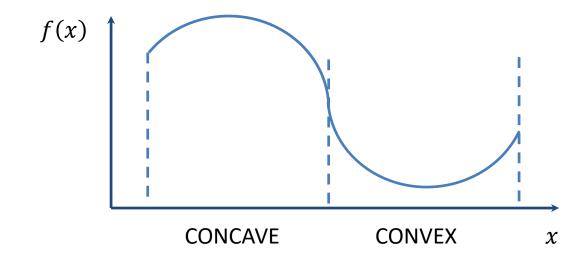
A function f(X) will be called strictly convex if

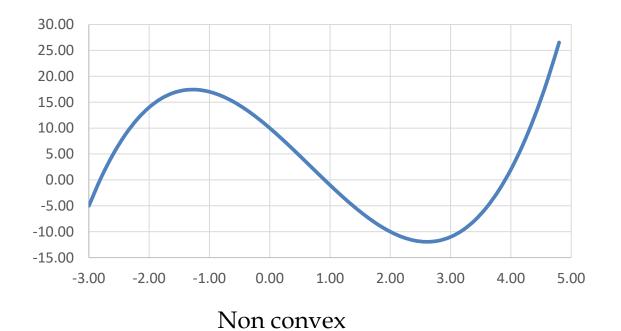
$$f[\lambda X_2 + (1 - \lambda)X_1] < \lambda f(X_2) + (1 - \lambda)f(X_1)$$

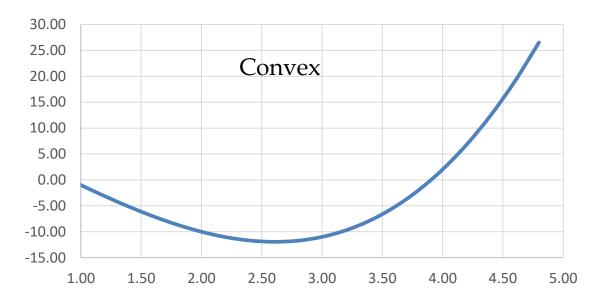
A function f(X) will be called strictly concave if

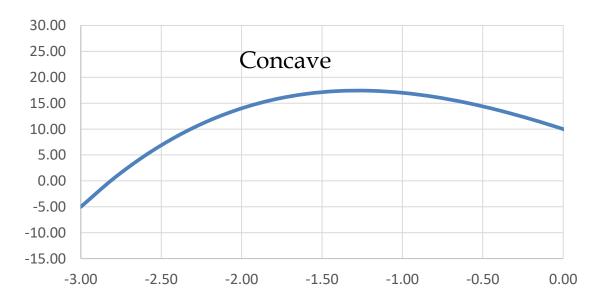
$$f[\lambda X_2 + (1 - \lambda)] > \lambda f(X_2) + (1 - \lambda)f(X_1)$$

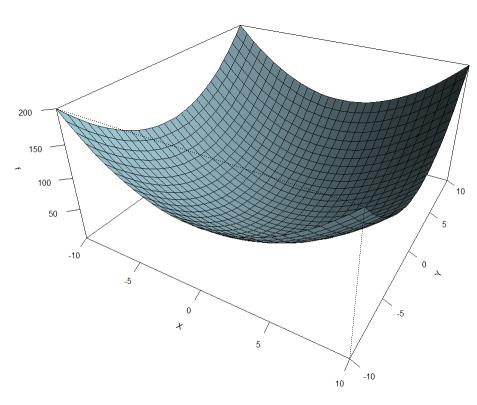
Further a function may be convex within a region and concave elsewhere





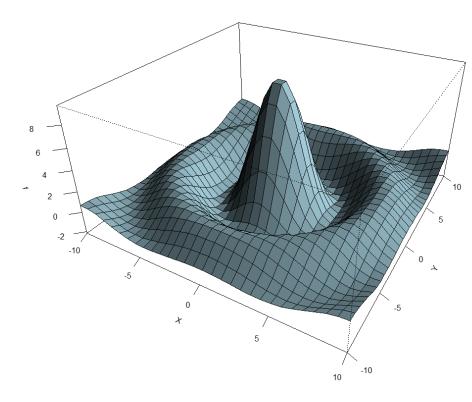




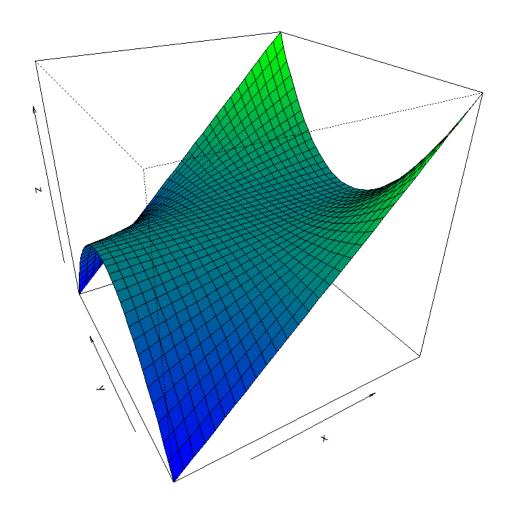


$$f(x,y) = (x^2 + y^2)$$

$$10 \le x, y \le 10$$

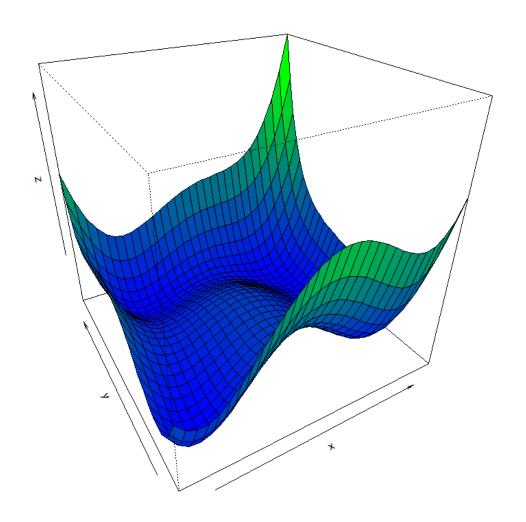


$$f(x,y) = 10sin(r)/r$$
$$r = \sqrt{(x^2 + y^2)}$$
$$10 \le x, y \le 10$$



$$f(x,y) = xy^2$$

-1.95 \le x, y \le 1.95



$$f(x,y) = (x^2 + y - 11)^2 + (x + y^2 - 7)^2$$

-5 \le x, y \le 5

Theorem 1: A function f(X) is convex if for any two points X_1 and X_2 , we have

$$f(X_2) \ge f(X_1) + \nabla f^T(X_1)(X_2 - X_1)$$

Proof: If f(X) is convex, we have

$$f[\lambda X_2 + (1 - \lambda)X_1] \le \lambda f(X_2) + (1 - \lambda)f(X_1)$$

$$f[X_1 + \lambda(X_2 - X_1)] \le f(X_1) + \lambda[f(X_2) - f(X_1)]$$

$$\lambda[f(X_2) - f(X_1)] \ge f[X_1 + \lambda(X_2 - X_1)] - f(X_1)$$

$$[f(X_2) - f(X_1)] \ge \frac{f[X_1 + \lambda(X_2 - X_1)] - f(X_1)}{\lambda}$$

$$[f(X_2) - f(X_1)] \ge \frac{f[X_1 + \lambda(X_2 - X_1)] - f(X_1)}{\lambda(X_2 - X_1)} (X_2 - X_1)$$

By defining
$$\Delta X = \lambda (X_2 - X_1)$$

By taking limit as
$$\Delta X \rightarrow 0$$

$$[f(X_2) - f(X_1)] \ge \frac{f[X_1 + \lambda(X_2 - X_1)] - f(X_1)}{\Delta X} (X_2 - X_1)$$

$$[f(X_2) - f(X_1)] \ge \nabla f^T(X_1)(X_2 - X_1)$$

$$f(X_2) \ge f(X_1) + \nabla f^T(X_1)(X_2 - X_1)$$

Theorem 2: A function f(X) is convex if Hessian matrix H(X) is positive semi definite.

Proof: From the Taylor's series

$$f(X^* + h) = f(X^*) + \nabla f^T(X^*)h + \frac{1}{2!}hHh^T$$

Let
$$X^* = X_1$$
, $X^* + h = X_2$ and $h = (X_2 - X_1)$

We have
$$f(X_2) = f(X_1) + \nabla f^T(X_1)(X_2 - X_1) + \frac{1}{2!}(X_2 - X_1)H(X_2 - X_1)^T$$

$$f(X_2) - f(X_1) = \nabla f^T(X_1)(X_2 - X_1) + \frac{1}{2!}(X_2 - X_1)H(X_2 - X_1)^T$$

Now
$$f(X_2) - f(X_1) \ge \nabla f^T(X_1)(X_2 - X_1)$$
 i.e. $f(X_2) \ge f(X_1) + \nabla f^T(X_1)(X_2 - X_1)$

if
$$(X_2 - X_1)H(X_2 - X_1)^T \ge 0$$

That is *H* should be positive semi definite

Theorem 3: A local minimum of a convex function f(X) is a global minimum

Proof: Suppose there exist two different local minima, say X_1 and X_2 , for the function f(X).

Let
$$f(X_2) < f(X_1)$$

Since f(X) is convex between X_1 and X_2 we have

$$f(X_2) \ge f(X_1) + \nabla f^T(X_1)(X_2 - X_1)$$

$$f(X_2) - f(X_1) \ge \nabla f^T(X_1)(X_2 - X_1)$$

Or
$$f^T(X_1)(X_2 - X_1) \le 0$$

Or
$$f^{T}(X_{1})S \leq 0$$
 Where $S = (X_{2} - X_{1})$

This is the condition of descent direction

As such X_1 is not an optimal point and function value will reduce if you go along the direction S

Convex optimization problem

Standard form

Minimize

f(X)

Subject to

 $g(X) \leq 0$

$$h(X) = 0$$

The problem will be convex, if

g(X) is a convex function

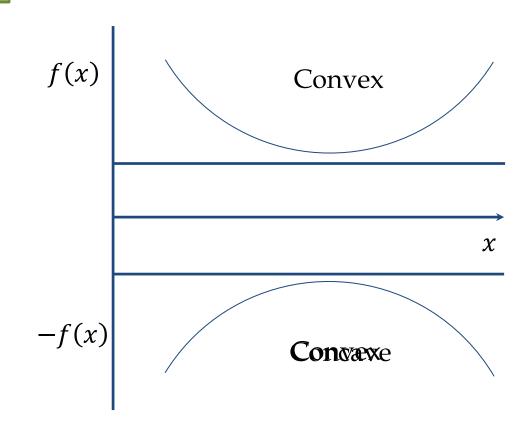
h(X) is a affine function h(X) = AX + B

h(X) = 0 can be written as

 $h(X) \le 0$ and $-h(X) \le 0$

If $h(X) \le 0$ is convex, then $-h(X) \le 0$ is concave

Hence only way that h(X) = 0 will be convex is that h(X) to be affine



Thank you