

# Nuevos resultados sobre e-convexidad

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- 1 Introduction
  - Notation and basic definitions
  - On even convexity
- 2 Evenly convex functions
  - Introduction: Motivation
  - Basic properties of e-convex functions
  - Functional operations preserving even convexity
- 3 Duality for evenly convex functions
  - A new support function for e-convex sets
  - New characterizations of e-convex functions
  - A conjugation scheme for e-convex functions
- 4 Fenchel duality in evenly convex optimization problems
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# Convex Analysis

- $X$  is a separated locally convex real topological vector space, with dual space  $X^*$  and duality product  $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle : X^* \times X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ ,

$$\langle x^*, x \rangle := x^*(x)$$

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- $K \subset X$  is a **cone** if  $\alpha K \subset K$  for every  $\alpha > 0$ .  
 $C \subset X$  is **convex** if  $(1 - \lambda)x + \lambda y \in C$  for all  $x, y \in C$ ,  $0 \leq \lambda \leq 1$ .

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- A **face** of a convex set  $C$  is a convex subset  $F$  of  $C$  such that  $x, y \in C$  and  $(x + y)/2 \in F$  imply that  $x, y \in F$ .  
The **extreme points** are the faces with a single point.  
A face is said to be **exposed** if it is the set where a certain  $x^* \in X^*$  attains its minimum on  $C$ .

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- **Notation:**  $\text{conv } C$ ,  $\text{cone } C$ ,  $\text{rint } C$ ,  $\text{cl } C$  (*weak\**-closure if  $C \subset X^*$ ).



- The **indicator function** of  $C \subset X$ ,  $\delta_C : X \rightarrow \overline{\mathbb{R}}$ , is

$$\delta_C(x) := \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } x \in C, \\ +\infty & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

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For a given function  $f : X \rightarrow \overline{\mathbb{R}}$  we consider the following notions:

- The **effective domain**, the **sublevel set** ( $r \in \mathbb{R}$ ) and the **epigraph** of  $f$ :

$$\text{dom } f := \{x \in X \mid f(x) < +\infty\},$$

$$L(f, r) := \{x \in X \mid f(x) \leq r\},$$

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- The (Fenchel) **conjugate** of  $f$  is the function  $f^* : X^* \rightarrow \overline{\mathbb{R}}$  defined by

$$f^*(x^*) := \sup_{x \in X} \{\langle x^*, x \rangle - f(x)\}.$$

- $f$  is **lsc at**  $\bar{x} \in X$  if for each  $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$  such that  $\lambda < f(\bar{x})$  there exists a neighbourhood of  $\bar{x}$ ,  $V_{\bar{x}}$ , such that  $\lambda < f(x)$  for all  $x \in V_{\bar{x}}$ .

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- For  $\varepsilon \geq 0$  and  $x \in X$  with  $f(x) \in \mathbb{R}$  the  **$\varepsilon$ -subdifferential** of  $f$  at  $\bar{x}$  is

$$\partial_{\varepsilon} f(\bar{x}) := \{x^* \in X^* \mid f(x) - f(\bar{x}) \geq \langle x^*, x - \bar{x} \rangle - \varepsilon, \forall x \in X\};$$

otherwise,  $\partial_{\varepsilon} f(\bar{x}) = \emptyset$ .



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### Lower semicontinuous hull of $f$

- $\text{cl } f : X \rightarrow \overline{\mathbb{R}}$  with  $\text{epi}(\text{cl } f) = \text{cl}(\text{epi } f)$ .
- When  $f$  is convex:

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### Infimal convolution of $f, g : X \rightarrow \overline{\mathbb{R}}$

- **$f \square g$**  :  $X \rightarrow \overline{\mathbb{R}}$  with  $(f \square g)(x) := \inf_{u \in X} \{f(u) + g(x - u)\}$ .
- For  $f, g$  proper, convex and lsc with  $\text{dom } f \cap \text{dom } g \neq \emptyset$ ,

$$\text{Moreau-Rockafellar formula : } (f + g)^* = \text{cl}(f^* \square g^*).$$

# The Hahn-Banach theorem

## Separation of convex sets

### Theorem

Suppose  $A$  and  $B$  are disjoint, nonempty, convex sets in a topological (real) vector space  $X$ .

(i) If  $A$  is open, there exist  $v^* \in X^*$  and  $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}$  such that

$$\langle v^*, x \rangle < \alpha \leq \langle v^*, y \rangle \quad \text{for all } x \in A, y \in B.$$

(ii) If  $A$  is compact,  $B$  is closed and  $X$  is *locally convex*, then there exist  $v^* \in X^*$ ,  $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}$  and  $\varepsilon > 0$  such that

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- $X^* \neq \{0\} \Rightarrow$  there exist open and closed halfspaces.
- $X^*$  separates points on  $X$ , i.e.,  $\forall x_1, x_2 \in X, \exists x^* \in X^*$  such that

$$\langle x^*, x_1 \rangle \neq \langle x^*, x_2 \rangle.$$

- $C \subset X$  is a closed convex set  $\Leftrightarrow C$  is the intersection of some family of closed halfspaces.

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# Evenly convex sets

## Definition (Fenchel, 1952)

A set  $C \subset X$  is said to be *evenly convex* (or, in brief, *e-convex*), if it is the intersection of some family, possibly empty, of open halfspaces.

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$$\{\langle a_t, x \rangle \geq b_t, t \in T\} \Rightarrow \{\langle a_t, x \rangle > b_t, t \in S; \langle a_t, x \rangle \geq b_t, t \in W\}$$



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closed convex set



evenly convex set

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# Main Properties

## Proposition (Goberna et al. 2003)

*Given  $\emptyset \neq C \subsetneq \mathbb{R}^n$ , the following conditions are equivalent to each other:*

- (i)  $C$  is  $e$ -convex.*
- (ii)  $C$  is a convex set and for each  $x \notin C$  there exists a hyperplane  $H$  such that  $x \in H$  and  $H \cap C = \emptyset$ .*
- (iii)  $C$  is the result of eliminating from a closed convex set the union of a certain family of its exposed faces.*
- (iv)  $C$  is a convex set and for any convex set  $K \subset (\text{cl}C) \setminus C$ , there exists a hyperplane containing  $K$  and not intersecting  $C$ .*

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If  $C \subset X$  is  $e$ -convex, then:

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- $x \in C, y \in \text{cl } C \Rightarrow ]x, y[ \subset C$ .
- $0^+C = 0^+(\text{cl } C)$ .

The  *$e$ -convex hull* of  $C \subset X$ ,  $\text{eco } C$ , is the intersection of all the open halfspaces containing  $C$ , i.e., the smallest  $e$ -convex set that contains  $C$ .

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- $\bar{x} \notin \text{eco } C \Leftrightarrow \exists x^* \in X^*$  such that  $\langle x^*, x \rangle < \langle x^*, \bar{x} \rangle$  for all  $x \in C$ .  
In particular,  $0 \notin \text{eco } C \Leftrightarrow \{\langle z, x \rangle < 0, x \in C\}$  is consistent.

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- If  $C_1, C_2 \subset X$ , then  $\text{eco } C_1 + \text{eco } C_2 \subset \text{eco}(C_1 + C_2)$ .
- For any  $D \subset X \times Y$ ,  $\text{proj}_X(\text{eco } D) \subset \text{eco}(\text{proj}_X D)$ .



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## Definition

A function  $f : X \rightarrow \overline{\mathbb{R}}$  is said to be *evenly convex* (or, in brief, *e-convex*), if its epigraph,  $\text{epi } f$ , is an e-convex set in  $X \times \mathbb{R}$ .

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convex functions

epi  $f$  convex

quasiconvex functions

 $L(f, r)$  convex  $\forall r \in \mathbb{R}$ 

lsc convex functions

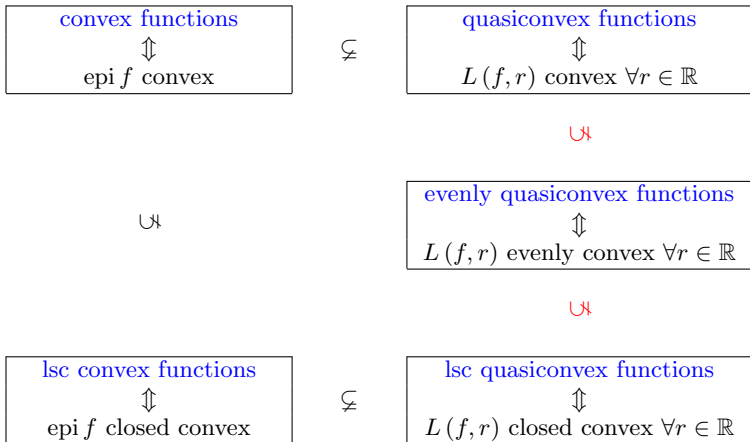
epi  $f$  closed convex

lsc quasiconvex functions

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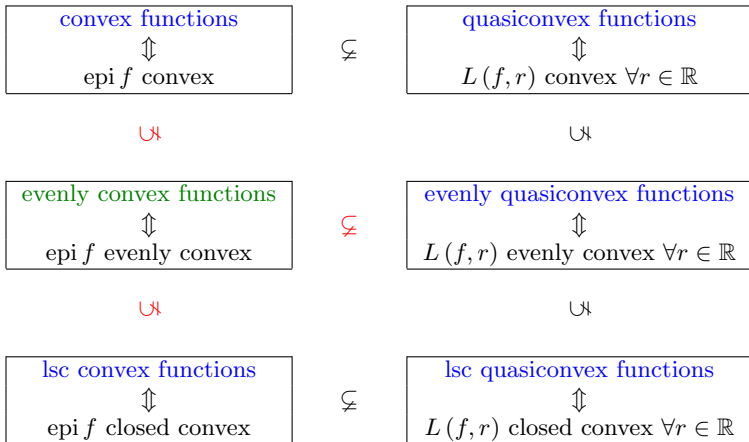
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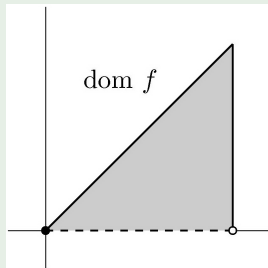
# On the effective domain

- The effective domain of an e-convex function is **not** necessarily an e-convex set in  $X$ .

## Example

Consider the function  $f : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \overline{\mathbb{R}}$  defined by

$$f(x_1, x_2) = \begin{cases} x_1 \ln \frac{x_1}{x_2} & \text{if } 0 < x_1 \leq 1, 0 < x_2 \leq x_1, \\ 0 & \text{if } x_1 = x_2 = 0, \\ +\infty & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$



# On the effective domain

## Proposition

Let  $f$  be an  $e$ -convex function. If either

- $f$  is improper, or
- $f$  is proper and bounded from above on  $\text{dom } f$ ,

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Let  $f$  be an improper function such that  $f(x_0) = -\infty$  for some  $x_0 \in X$ . If  $f$  is  $e$ -convex, then  $f(x) = -\infty$  for all  $x \in \text{dom } f$ .

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## Theorem

Let  $f$  be an *improper function* s.t.  $f(x_0) = -\infty$  for some  $x_0 \in X$ . Then,

$$f \text{ is } e\text{-convex} \Leftrightarrow \begin{array}{l} \text{dom } f \text{ is } e\text{-convex and} \\ f(x) = -\infty \quad \forall x \in \text{dom } f. \end{array}$$

# Characterization

## Theorem

Let  $f : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \overline{\mathbb{R}}$  be a *proper function*. Then,

$f$  is *e-convex*  $\Leftrightarrow f$  is *convex* and *lsc* on  $\text{eco}(\text{dom } f)$ .

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( $\Rightarrow$ ) It is well-known that  $f$  is convex and lsc on  $\text{rint}(\text{dom } f)$ .

- We prove that  $f$  is lsc on  $\text{eco}(\text{dom } f) \setminus \text{rint}(\text{dom } f) \subset \text{rbd}(\text{dom } f)$ .

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- $\bar{x} \notin \text{eco}(\text{dom } f)$ : Easy!
- $\bar{x} \in \text{eco}(\text{dom } f) \setminus \text{rint}(\text{dom } f)$ :  $(\bar{x}, \bar{a}) \notin \text{cl}(\text{epi } f)$ .
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## Theorem (Rockafellar, 1970)

Let  $f : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \overline{\mathbb{R}}$  be a proper convex function and  $\bar{x} \in \text{rint}(\text{dom } f)$ . Then,  $\exists u \in \mathbb{R}^n$  such that  $a - f(\bar{x}) \geq \langle u, x - \bar{x} \rangle$  for all  $(x, a) \in \text{epi } f$ .

# On the strict epigraph

- The strict epigraph of an e-convex function is **not** necessarily an e-convex set.

## Example

Consider the function  $f : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \overline{\mathbb{R}}$  defined by

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} -\sqrt{1-x^2} & \text{if } -1 \leq x \leq 1, \\ +\infty & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

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Let  $\emptyset \neq C \subset X \times \mathbb{R}$  be an e-convex set such that  $(0, 1) \in 0^+C$ . Then, the function  $f_C : X \rightarrow \overline{\mathbb{R}}$  is e-convex.

$$f_C(x) := \inf \{a \in \mathbb{R} \mid (x, a) \in C\}.$$

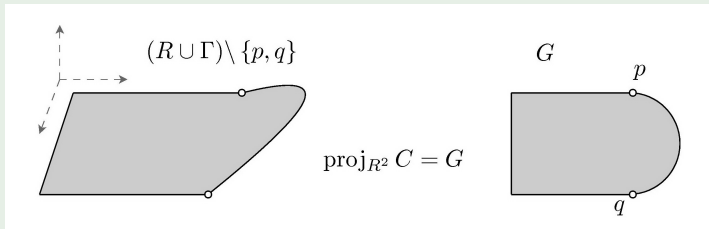
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Consider the e-convex set  $C := \text{conv}(R \cup \Gamma) \setminus \{p, q\} \subset \mathbb{R}^2 \times \mathbb{R}$ .



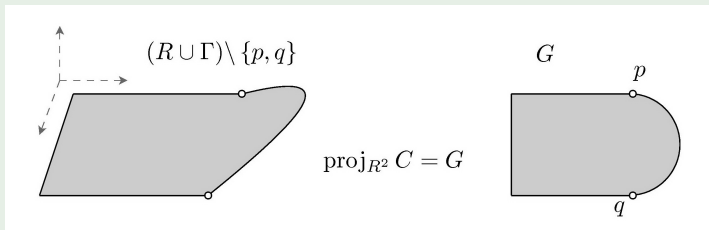
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Observe that  $(0, 1) \notin 0^+C = \{0_n\}$  ( $C$  is bounded), but the function  $f_C : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \overline{\mathbb{R}}$  is **not** e-convex.

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## Proposition

Let  $f$  and  $g$  be  $e$ -convex functions and assume that  $f$  is *improper*. Then,

$$f + g \text{ is } e\text{-convex} \Leftrightarrow \text{dom}(f + g) \text{ is an } e\text{-convex set.}$$

# E-convex hull function

## Definition

The *e-convex hull* of  $f$ ,  $\text{eco } f$ , is the largest e-convex minorant of  $f$ .  
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- $f$  is e-convex at  $x_0 \in X \Leftrightarrow (x_0, a) \notin \text{eco}(\text{epi } f)$  for all  $a < f(x_0)$ .
- $f$  is e-convex  $\Leftrightarrow f$  is e-convex at  $x_0$ , for every  $x_0 \in X$ .

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# The e-support function $\tau_C$

$L := \overline{\mathbb{R}} \times \{0, 1\}$  with the lexicographic order  $\leq_L$  is a complete chain.

$$(a_1, a_2) \leq_L (b_1, b_2) \Leftrightarrow (a_1 < b_1) \text{ or } (a_1 = b_1, a_2 \leq b_2)$$

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# The e-support function $\tau_C$

$L := \overline{\mathbb{R}} \times \{0, 1\}$  with the lexicographic order  $\leq_L$  is a complete chain.

$$(a_1, a_2) \leq_L (b_1, b_2) \Leftrightarrow (a_1 < b_1) \text{ or } (a_1 = b_1, a_2 \leq b_2)$$

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- Geometric interpretation:  $\tau_C$  describes all the **closed** and the **open** halfspaces containing  $C$ .

$$\{x \in X \mid (\langle x^*, x \rangle, 1) \leq_L (\alpha, 1)\} = \{x \in X \mid \langle x^*, x \rangle \leq \alpha\}$$

$$\{x \in X \mid (\langle x^*, x \rangle, 1) \leq_L (\alpha, 0)\} = \{x \in X \mid \langle x^*, x \rangle < \alpha\}$$



# Relationship between $\tau_C$ and $\sigma_C$

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## Proposition

For any  $C \subset X$  and  $x^* \in X^*$ , one has

$$\tau_C(x^*) = (\sigma_C(x^*), \eta_C(x^*)),$$

where  $\eta_C : X^* \rightarrow \{0, 1\}$  is the function defined by

$$\eta_C(x^*) := \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } \langle x^*, x \rangle < \sigma_C(x^*) \quad \forall x \in C, \\ 1 & \text{if } \exists x \in C \mid \langle x^*, x \rangle = \sigma_C(x^*). \end{cases}$$

# Relationship between $C$ and $\mathcal{T}_{\tau_C}$

- For any  $g : X^* \rightarrow L$ , we define the e-convex set

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## Corollary

Given  $C, D \subset X$ , the following statements hold:

- $C$  is e-convex  $\Leftrightarrow C = \mathcal{T}_{\tau_C}$ .
- $C$  is e-convex  $\Leftrightarrow C$  is the solution set of the general linear system
 
$$\{\langle x^*, x \rangle < \sigma_C(x^*), \forall x^* \mid \eta_C(x^*) = 0; \langle x^*, x \rangle \leq \sigma_C(x^*), \forall x^* \mid \eta_C(x^*) = 1\}.$$
- $\text{eco } C \subset \text{eco } D \Leftrightarrow \tau_C \leq_L \tau_D$ .
- $\tau_C = \tau_{\text{eco } C}$ .

# Characterization of $\tau_C$

## Theorem (Rockafellar, 1970)

*The functions which are the support functions of non-empty (closed) convex sets are the closed proper sublinear functions.*

- What conditions should satisfy a function  $g : X^* \rightarrow L$  for being the e-support function of some non-empty set?

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## Theorem

Let  $g : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow L$  be a function such that  $g = (\sigma, \eta)$ . Then,  
 $g$  is the e-support function of some non-empty e-convex set  $C$  ( $g = \tau_C$ )  
 if and only if the following conditions hold:

- (i)  $\sigma$  is sublinear, lsc and does not take  $-\infty$ .
- (ii) if  $\sigma(x^*) = -\sigma(-x^*)$  then  $\eta(x^*) = 1$ .
- (iii) if  $\partial\sigma(x^*) = \emptyset$  then  $\eta(x^*) = 0$ .
- (iv) if there exists  $\hat{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n$  such that  $\eta(\hat{x}) = 0$  and  $\partial\sigma(x^*) \subset \partial\sigma(\hat{x})$ , then  $\eta(x^*) = 0$ .

# Consequences

- The mapping  $C \mapsto \tau_C$  is a bijection from the family of non-empty e-convex sets in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ , to the family of functions  $g = (\sigma, \eta) : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow L$  satisfying conditions (i) to (iv).

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$$C \text{ is closed} \Leftrightarrow \eta_C(x^*) = 1 \quad \forall x^* \in \mathbb{R}^n \mid \partial\sigma_C(x^*) \neq \emptyset.$$



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$$C \text{ is relatively open} \Leftrightarrow \eta_C(x^*) = 0 \quad \forall x^* \in \mathbb{R}^n \mid \sigma_C(x^*) \neq -\sigma_C(-x^*).$$

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# Characterization (1)

## Definition

Let  $C \subset X$ . A function  $a : X \rightarrow \overline{\mathbb{R}}$  is called *C-affine* if there exist  $y^* \in X^*$  and  $\beta \in \mathbb{R}$  such that

$$a(x) = \begin{cases} \langle y^*, x \rangle - \beta & \text{if } x \in C, \\ +\infty & \text{if } x \notin C. \end{cases}$$

- If  $C$  is e-convex, then every  $C$ -affine function is e-convex.

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For any  $f : X \rightarrow \overline{\mathbb{R}}$ , if  $M_f := \text{eco}(\text{dom } f)$ , we define the set  $\mathcal{H}_f$  as

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- (i)  $\mathcal{H}_f \neq \emptyset$ .
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- $\text{eco}(\text{dom } f) = \bigcap_{a \in \mathcal{E}_f} \text{dom } a$ , for any proper e-convex function  $f$ .

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# Generalized convex conjugation

Moreau (1970), Martínez-Legaz (2005)

- $X, W$  arbitrary sets.
- $c : X \times W \rightarrow \overline{\mathbb{R}}$  is called the coupling function.
- $c' : W \times X \rightarrow \overline{\mathbb{R}}$  is given by  $c'(w, x) = c(x, w) \quad \forall x \in X, w \in W$ .
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- **Fenchel conjugate**:  $X, W = X^*$ ,  $c(x, x^*) = \langle x^*, x \rangle$ ,  $f^c = f^*$ .

$$f^*(x^*) = \sup_{x \in X} \{\langle x^*, x \rangle - f(x)\}.$$

# A new conjugation scheme

- Consider  $X$  and  $W = X^* \times X^* \times \mathbb{R}$ , and the coupling function

$$c(x, (y^*, z^*, \alpha)) := \begin{cases} \langle y^*, x \rangle & \text{if } \langle z^*, x \rangle < \alpha, \\ +\infty & \text{if } \langle z^*, x \rangle \geq \alpha. \end{cases}$$

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$$f^{cc'} = \begin{cases} f^{**} + \delta_{\text{eco}(\text{dom } f)} & \text{if } \text{dom } f^* \neq \emptyset, \\ -\infty & \text{if } \text{dom } f^* = \emptyset. \end{cases}$$



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- $c$ -elementary functions:  $x \in X \mapsto c(x, (y^*, z^*, \alpha)) - \beta \in \overline{\mathbb{R}}$ .  
 $c'$ -elementary functions:  $(y^*, z^*, \alpha) \in W \mapsto c'((y^*, z^*, \alpha), x) - \beta \in \overline{\mathbb{R}}$ .
- The **c-elementary** functions are the **e-affine** functions.
- $\Phi_c$  ( $\Phi_{c'}$ ): the set of **c-elementary** (**c'-elementary**) functions.

- A function  $f : X \rightarrow \overline{\mathbb{R}}$  is called  $\Phi$ -convex if it is the pointwise supremum of a subset of  $\Phi$ .
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Let  $f : X \rightarrow \overline{\mathbb{R}}$  and  $g : W \rightarrow \overline{\mathbb{R}}$ . Then,

- (i)  $f^c$  is  $e'$ -convex,  $g^{c'}$  is e-convex.
- (ii)  $f^{cc'} \leq f$ ,  $g^{c'c} \leq g$ .
- (iii)  $f^{cc'c} = f^c$ ,  $g^{c'cc'} = g^{c'}$ .

- A function  $f : X \rightarrow \overline{\mathbb{R}}$  is called  $\Phi$ -convex if it is the pointwise supremum of a subset of  $\Phi$ .
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# Generalized Optimization

Consider the **primal problem**

$$(GP) \quad \text{Inf}_{x \in X} F(x),$$

where  $F : X \rightarrow \overline{\mathbb{R}}$  is a proper function, and the **perturbation function**  $\Phi : X \times \Theta \rightarrow \overline{\mathbb{R}}$  having the property that, for every  $x \in X$ ,

$$\Phi(x, 0_\Theta) = F(x).$$

The **infimum value function**  $p : \Theta \rightarrow \overline{\mathbb{R}}$  is defined by

$$p(u) := \inf_{x \in X} \Phi(x, u).$$

The **dual problem** of  $(GP)$  associated to  $\Phi$  is

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*One has weak duality, i.e.,*

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We have **strong duality** if

$v(GD) = v(GP)$  and the dual problem is solvable when  $v(GP)$  is finite.

# Convex Optimization

Let us consider the primal problem

$$(P) \quad \text{Inf}_{x \in A} f(x)$$

where  $f : X \rightarrow \overline{\mathbb{R}}$  is proper **closed convex** and  $\emptyset \neq A \subset X$  is **closed convex**, and the perturbation function  $\Phi : X \times X \rightarrow \overline{\mathbb{R}}$  defined by

$$\Phi(x, u) := \begin{cases} f(x + u) & \text{if } x \in A, \\ +\infty & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

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## Theorem (Burachik & Jeyakumar, 2005)

*If  $A \cap \text{dom } f \neq \emptyset$  and the set  $\text{epi } f^* + \text{epi } \delta_A^*$  is weak\*-closed, then **strong duality** holds for (P)-(D), i.e.,*

$$\inf_{x \in A} f(x) = \max_{u^* \in X^*} \{-f^*(u^*) - \delta_A^*(-u^*)\}.$$

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## Definition

A set  $D \subset W \times \mathbb{R}$  is called **e'-convex** if there exists an e'-convex function  $k : W \rightarrow \overline{\mathbb{R}}$  such that  $D = \text{epi } k$ . The **e'-convex hull** of  $D \subset W \times \mathbb{R}$ ,  $\text{e}'\text{co } D$ , is the smallest e'-convex containing  $D$ .

- For any  $D \subset W \times \mathbb{R}$ , one has  $\text{e}'\text{co } D = \text{epi } f_D^{\text{e}'c}$ .

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## Definition

Given  $f, g : X \rightarrow \overline{\mathbb{R}}$ , a function  $a : X \rightarrow \overline{\mathbb{R}}$  belongs to  $\tilde{\mathcal{E}}_{f+g}$  if there exist  $a_1 \in \mathcal{E}_f$  and  $a_2 \in \mathcal{E}_g$  such that, if

$$a_i(\cdot) := \begin{cases} \langle y_i^*, \cdot \rangle - \beta_i & \text{if } \langle z_i^*, \cdot \rangle < \alpha_i, \\ +\infty & \text{otherwise,} \end{cases}$$

for  $i = 1, 2$ , then

$$a(\cdot) = \begin{cases} \langle y_1^* + y_2^*, \cdot \rangle - (\beta_1 + \beta_2) & \text{if } \langle z_1^* + z_2^*, \cdot \rangle < \alpha_1 + \alpha_2, \\ +\infty & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

- $\tilde{\mathcal{E}}_{f+g} \subset \mathcal{E}_{f+g}$ .

# Evenly Convex Optimization

Let us consider the primal problem

$$(P) \quad \text{Inf}_{x \in A} f(x)$$

where  $f : X \rightarrow \overline{\mathbb{R}}$  is proper **e-convex** and  $\emptyset \neq A \subset X$  is **e-convex**, and the perturbation function  $\Phi : X \times X \rightarrow \overline{\mathbb{R}}$  defined by

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The **Fenchel dual problem** of  $(P)$  is

$$(D) \quad \text{Sup}_{\substack{u^*, v^* \in X^* \\ \alpha > 0}} -p^c(u^*, v^*, \alpha)$$



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## Theorem

If  $A \cap \text{dom } f \neq \emptyset$ , the set  $\text{epi } f^c + \text{epi } \delta_A^c$  is  $e'$ -convex and  $f + g = \sup \{a \mid a \in \tilde{\mathcal{E}}_{f+g}\}$ , then **strong duality** holds for (P)-(D).

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