

4. (a) Define what is meant by "the function f defined on the convex set S is a convex function". (b) Let f and g be convex functions on a convex set S . Define a function h by

$$h(x) = rf(x) + sg(x)$$

for all x in S , where r and s are positive real numbers. Prove that h is also a convex function on S , making it clear in your proof how you are making use of the hypothesis that r and s are positive.

a) A function $f: S \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, S is a convex set is said to be a convex function if $f(\alpha x + (1-\alpha)y) \leq \alpha f(x) + (1-\alpha)f(y)$, for every $\alpha \in [0,1]$ and for every $x, y \in S$.

b) Let $x, y \in S$ and $\alpha \in [0,1]$

$$\begin{aligned} h(\alpha x + (1-\alpha)y) &= r f(\alpha x + (1-\alpha)y) + s g(\alpha x + (1-\alpha)y) \\ (*) &\leq r(\alpha f(x) + (1-\alpha)f(y)) + s(\alpha g(x) + (1-\alpha)g(y)) \\ &= \alpha(r f(x) + s g(x)) + (1-\alpha)(r f(y) + s g(y)) \\ &= \alpha(r f + s g)(x) + (1-\alpha)(r f + s g)(y). \end{aligned}$$

We used the fact that r, s are positive at the inequality (*).