

R-07

Convex and Nonsmooth Analysis

Convex Set

A set $C \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$ is said to be a **convex set** if for $x, x' \in C$ we have $[x, x'] \subseteq C$, where the closed line segment $[x, x']$ joining x and x' is defined as

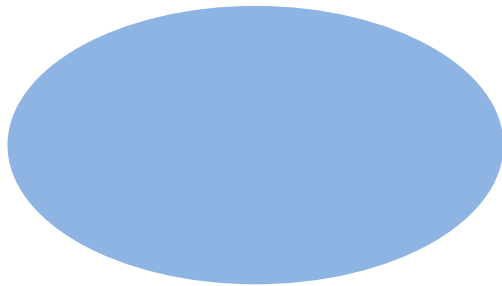
$$[x, x'] := \{tx + (1 - t)x' : t \in [0, 1]\}.$$

Equivalently, if for $x, x' \in C$ we have $]x, x'[\subseteq C$ where

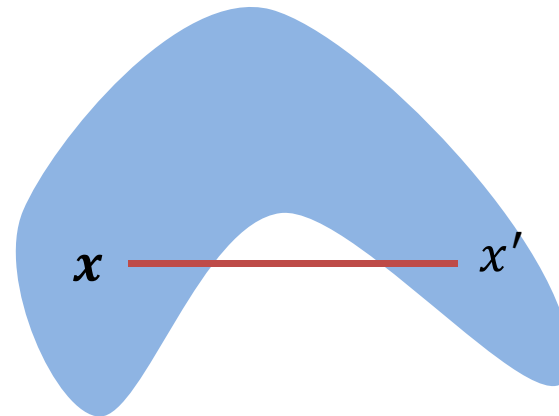
$$]x, x'[:= \{tx + (1 - t)x' : t \in]0, 1[\}.$$

A set C is convex if

$$x_1, x_2 \in C \Rightarrow (1 - \lambda)x_1 + \lambda x_2 \in C \text{ for } \lambda \in [0, 1].$$



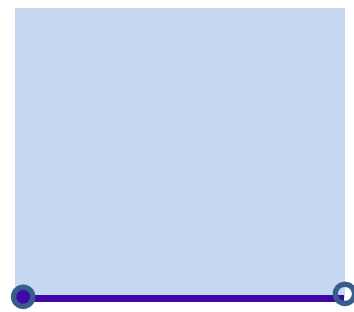
convex



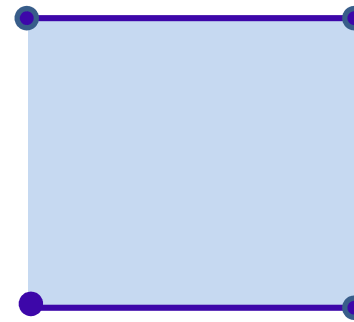
not convex

Convex Set

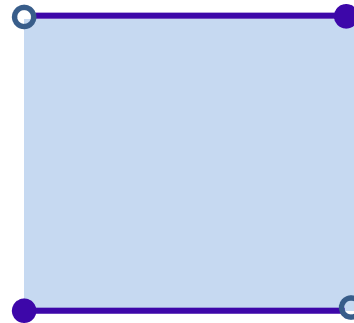
A set $C \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$ is said to be a *convex set* if for $x, y \in C$ we have $[x, y] \subseteq C$.



convex



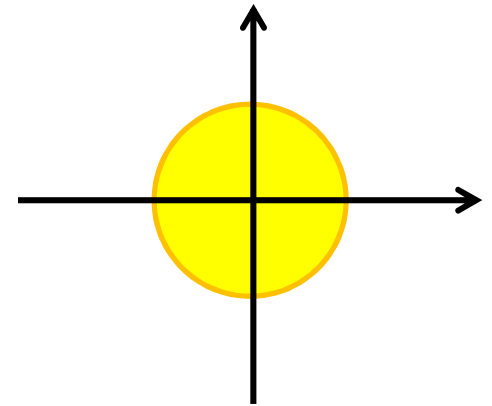
not convex



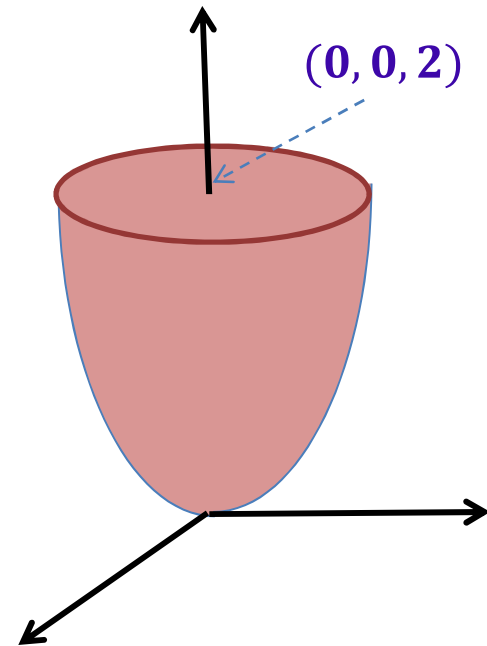
convex

Examples of Convex Sets

$$C = \{(x_1, x_2): x_1^2 + x_2^2 \leq 1\}.$$



$$C = \{(x, y, z): x^2 + y^2 \leq z, z \leq 2\}.$$

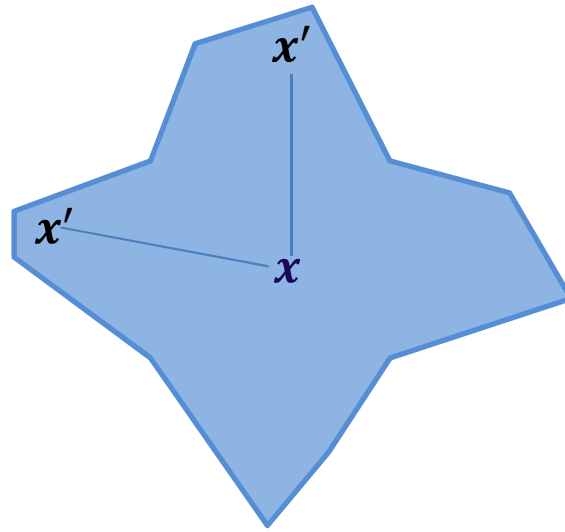


By convention an empty set is a convex set.

Star-shaped set

A set $C \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$ is said to be **star-shaped set** at $x \in C$ if for $x' \in C$ we have

$$(1 - \lambda)x + \lambda x' \in C \text{ for } \lambda \in [0,1].$$



A set C is convex if and only if it is star-shaped at every $x \in C$.

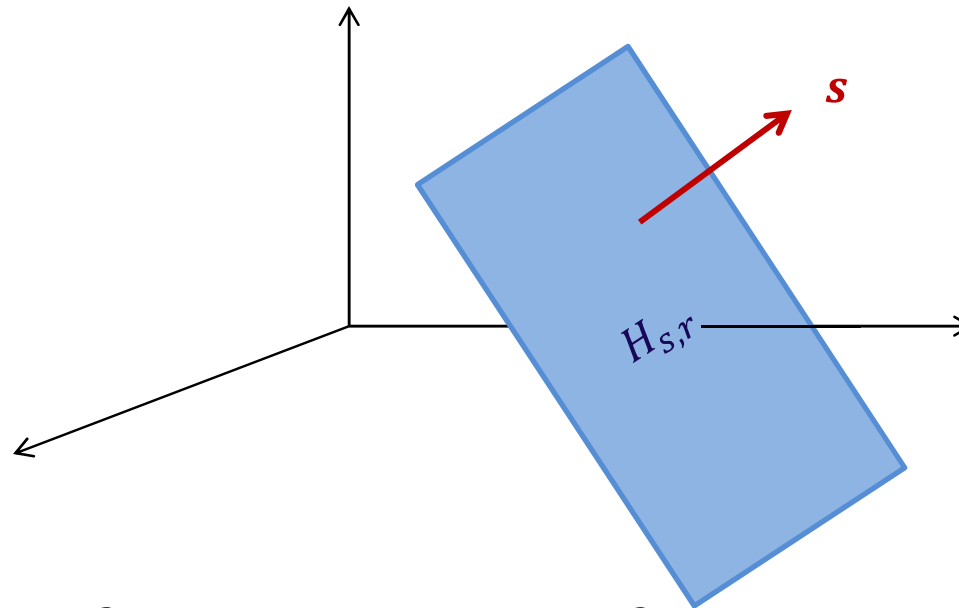
Hyperplane

A **hyperplane** associated with $(s, r) \in \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}$, $s \neq 0$ is a set denoted by $H_{s,r}$, defined as

$$H_{s,r} := \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : \langle s, x \rangle = r\}.$$

Hyperplane is a convex set. This hyperplane is parallel to the subspace $H_{s,0}$. The vector s is orthogonal to the hyperplane, that is,

$$H_{s,0} = \{s\}^\perp.$$



A hyperplane in \mathbb{R}^2 is a line, a plane in \mathbb{R}^3 and a point in \mathbb{R} .

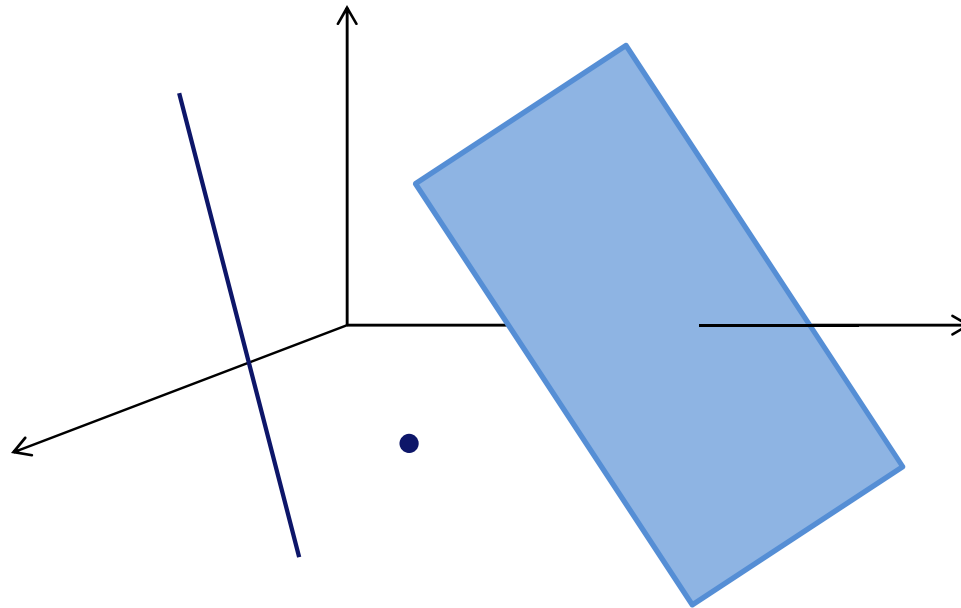
Affine manifold / Affine subspace / Affine set

A set $V \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$ is said to be an **affine manifold** or **affine subspace** if

$$x_1, x_2 \in V \implies (1 - \lambda)x_1 + \lambda x_2 \in V \text{ for } \lambda \in \mathbb{R}.$$

Affine subspaces in \mathbb{R}^3 are planes, lines and single points.

A hyperplane is an affine subspace of dimension $n - 1$.



Affine subspaces and Subspaces

Theorem 1 If a set $V \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$ is an affine subspace and if $v \in V$ then $V - v$ is a subspace.

Proof Let $S = V - v$. Let $x \in S$ and $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}$. Then there exists $v' \in V$, such that

$$x = v' - v.$$

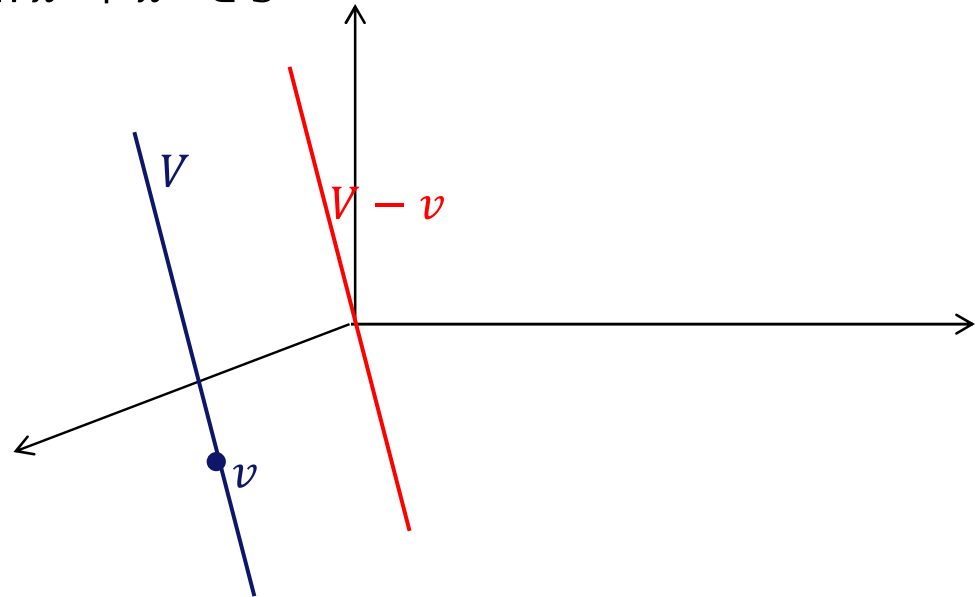
As V is an affine subspace we have $(1 - \alpha)v + \alpha v' \in V$. Hence,

$$\alpha x = \alpha(v' - v) = (1 - \alpha)v + \alpha v' - v \in S.$$

Let $x', x'' \in S$, then there exist $v', v'' \in V$ such that

$$x' = v' - v, x'' = v'' - v.$$

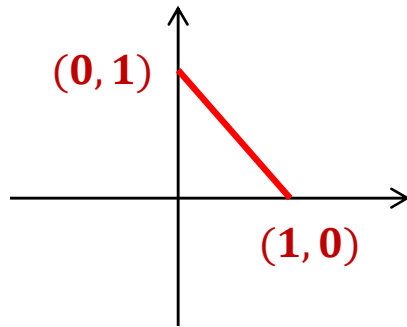
Now $x' + x'' = v' + v'' - 2v = 2\left(\frac{v'}{2} + \frac{v''}{2} - v\right)$. Clearly, $\frac{v'}{2} + \frac{v''}{2} - v \in S$ and hence by the previous justification $x' + x'' \in S$



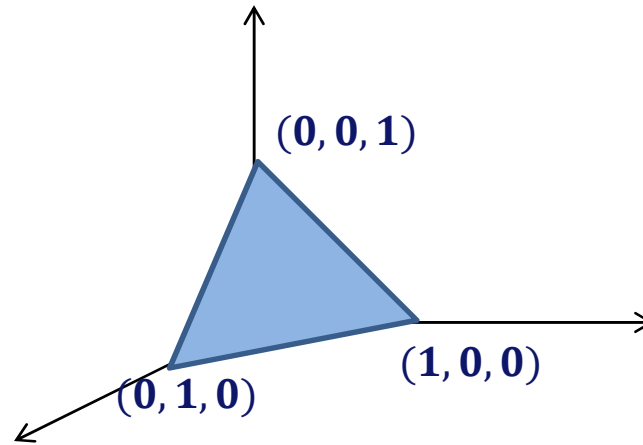
Simplices

Unit simplex in \mathbb{R}^k is denoted by Δ_k , and is defined as

$$\Delta_k := \{\alpha \in \mathbb{R}^k : \sum_{i=1}^k \alpha_i = 1, \alpha_i \geq 0, i = 1, 2, \dots, k\}.$$



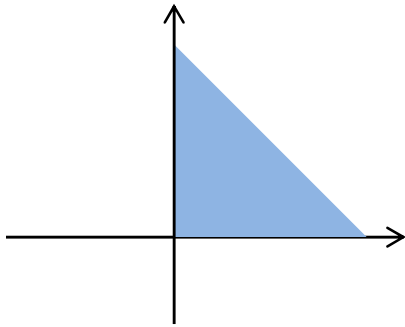
Unit simplex in \mathbb{R}^2



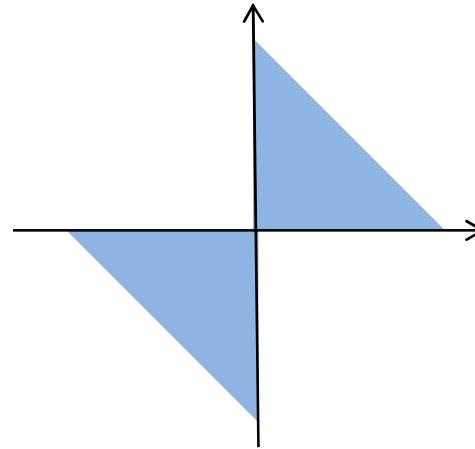
Unit simplex in \mathbb{R}^3

Cones

A set $K \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$ is said to be a **cone** if for $x \in K$ and $\alpha > 0$, we have $\alpha x \in K$.

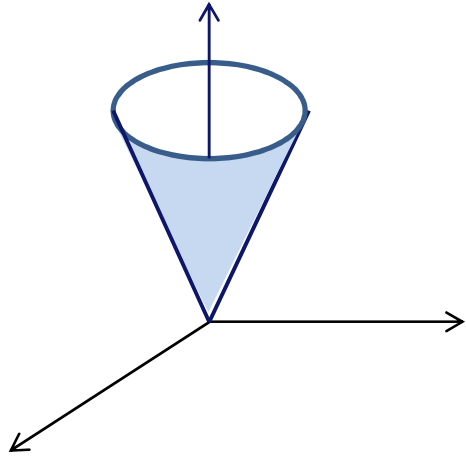


convex cone



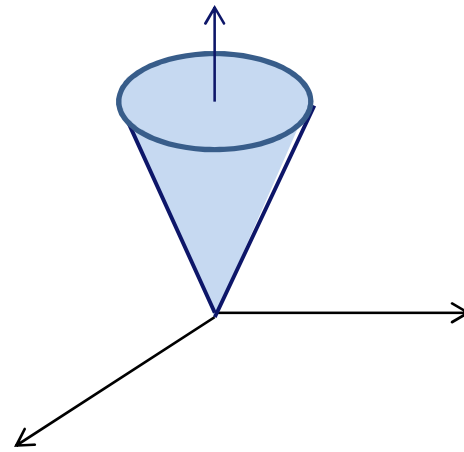
nonconvex cone

Cones



$$K = \{(x_1, x_2, x_3): x_3 = \sqrt{x_1^2 + x_2^2}\}$$

nonconvex cone



$$K = \{(x_1, x_2, x_3): x_3 \geq \sqrt{x_1^2 + x_2^2}\}$$

convex cone

Properties of Convex Sets

Lemma 1 If $\{C_i\}_{i \in I}$ is a family of convex sets in \mathbb{R}^n then $\bigcap_{i \in I} C_i$ is a convex set.

Proof. Let $x, y \in \bigcap_{i \in I} C_i$. As C_i is convex we have

$$[x, y] \subseteq C_i \text{ for } i \in I$$

which implies that

$$[x, y] \subseteq \bigcap_{i \in I} C_i.$$

Lemma 2 If $C_i, i = 1, 2, \dots, k$, are convex sets then

$$C_1 + C_2 + \dots + C_k$$

is a convex set.

Proof. Let $x, y \in C_1 + C_2 + \dots + C_k$. Then

$$x = x_1 + x_2 + \dots + x_k, \quad y = y_1 + y_2 + \dots + y_k,$$

where $x_i, y_i \in C_i, i = 1, 2, \dots, k$. As each C_i is convex we have

$$(1 - \lambda)x_i + \lambda y_i \in C_i, i = 1, 2, \dots, k, \text{ for } \lambda \in [0, 1]$$

which implies that for $\lambda \in [0, 1]$

$$(1 - \lambda)x + \lambda y = \sum_{i=1}^k (1 - \lambda)x_i + \lambda y_i \in C_1 + C_2 + \dots + C_k.$$

Properties of Convex Sets

