

*Students may use the formulae sheet and a pocket calculator.*

**Solutions must be properly justified with all details.**

1. a) Comparing the Steepest Descent method (SD) and Newton's method (NM): provide an example of a function  $f(x, y)$ , for which
- (i) NM works very well, but SD works badly, and
  - (ii) SD works very well, but NM works badly. (0.4)

- b) Solve the optimization problem

$$\min \|Ax - b\|$$

where

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & -1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \quad b = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}. \quad (0.3)$$

- c) Alice is studying Optimization and comes up with an optimization problem she has got trouble with. Here it is

$$\min (x^2y + xy^2) \quad \text{subject to } x + y \geq 1.$$

Do your best to help her to tackle this problem. (0.3)

2. Consider the function

$$f(x, y, z) = 2x^2 + (x + y)^2 + (x + z)^2 + 2ayz.$$

- a) For what values of  $a \in \mathbb{R}$  is the function convex in  $\mathbb{R}^3$ ? (0.5)
- b) Set  $a = 0$ . Let  $H$  be the Hessian of  $f$  and  $d_1 = (1 \ 0 \ 0)^T$ . Find vectors  $d_2$  and  $d_3$  such that all three vectors are  $H$ -conjugate. (0.5)

3. a) Consider the LP problem

$$\min_{x \in S} c^T x, \quad S = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : Ax \geq b, x \geq 0\}.$$

Let  $T$  denote the feasible set for the dual problem. Prove that  $x \in S, y \in T$  satisfy the Complementary Slackness Principle equations if and only if  $c^T x = b^T y$ . (0.4)

- b) Consider the following LP problem

$$\min (2x_1 + x_2 + x_3 + x_4) \quad \text{subject to} \quad \begin{cases} x_1 - 2x_2 + 3x_3 + 2x_4 \geq c_1, \\ -x_1 + x_2 - x_3 + 2x_4 \geq c_2, \\ x_1 \geq 0, x_2 \geq 0, \\ x_3 \leq 0, x_4 \leq 0. \end{cases}$$

State the dual problem. Make a graphical argument for solving the dual problem in order to find all  $(c_1, c_2)$  such that the primal feasible set is empty. (0.6)

**Please, turn over**

4. a) Let  $f, g: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  and  $\phi: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be given functions. Determine if each statement is true or false (providing a proof or a counter-example):

(i) if  $f, g$  are convex then  $h(x, y) = (f(x) + g(y))^2$  is convex.

(ii) if  $f, \phi$  are convex and differentiable, and  $\phi' > 0$  then  $\phi(f(x))$  is convex.

(iii) if  $f, g$  are concave then  $\min\{f(x), g(x)\}$  is concave. (0.6)

b) Verify if the following set is convex (0.4)

$$S = \{(x, y) \in \mathbb{R}^2: x \geq 0, y \geq 0, (\sqrt{x} + \sqrt{y})^2 \geq 2\}.$$

5. Use the KKT method to find the shortest distance from the origin to points within the intersection of the two sets in  $\mathbb{R}^3$  that are given by  $x^2 + y^2 - z^2 \geq 1$  and  $x^2 + y^2 + z = 1$ , respectively. In particular, determine all KKT and CQ points for the problem.

6. a) Consider the set  $X = \{(x, y) \in \mathbb{R}^2: x \geq 0, y \geq 0\}$  and the optimization problem

$$\min(x^2 + xy + y^2) \quad \text{subject to } (x, y) \in X, xy \geq 2.$$

Calculate the dual function and find a possible saddle point of the Lagrange function. (0.5)

b) Let  $f: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be a convex function that is bounded from above, i.e.  $f(x) \leq C$  for some  $C \in \mathbb{R}$ . Prove that  $f$  is constant. (0.5)

**GOOD LUCK!**