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**Convex Analysis:
Theory and Applications**

G. G. Magaril-Il'yaev

V. M. Tikhomirov



American Mathematical Society

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Translated by
Dmitry Chibisov



American Mathematical Society
Providence, Rhode Island

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Preface

Convex analysis is a branch of mathematics that studies convex sets, convex functions, and convex extremal problems.

Historically the beginnings of convex analysis date back to antiquity, but its name was coined only in the 60s of the 20th century. Many remarkable facts of convex analysis have been obtained quite recently. So, this is at the same time an ancient and modern part of mathematics.

Convex analysis is closely related to geometry (in which it has its origins, since convexity is a geometric notion), but it is also deeply connected with analysis, and these latter connections stimulated intense interest in convex analysis in recent period. Hence the duality in the very name: *convex analysis*.

At first sight it may seem surprising that convex functions and convex sets, which are very special objects of analysis and geometry, have diverse applications in mathematics, mathematical physics, technology, and economics. In fact, there are good grounds for that (which will be exposed in this book), but anyhow, the fact that the theory of convexity has diverse and fruitful applications is now so unquestionable that basic knowledge of convex analysis is nowadays necessary for almost every mathematician (especially for those dealing with applications). Moreover, studying convex analysis can be motivated aesthetically because it comprises many beautiful phenomena and facts.

Apparently, certain elements of the convexity theory should become part of mathematical education at any level. The present book is intended to contribute to this.

Convex analysis is one of the disciplines which require little preliminary knowledge for their study. This book was also written for a broad readership. Specially for “beginners” we have written the Introduction, where the fundamentals of convex analysis are illustrated in an elementary finite-dimensional setting.

Moreover, the subject matter of Chapter 1 dealing with theoretical aspects of the convexity theory also relies only on the notion of n -dimensional space and therefore, we believe, is accessible to a fairly broad readership.

The geometrically minded reader is advised to combine reading with drawing, since many concepts and proofs have a very simple (and beautiful) geometric interpretation (which we tried to demonstrate by our figures).

This book was originally conceived as the translation of the Russian publication by Magaril-Il'yaev and Tikhomirov (2000), but in the course of preparation of the English edition many parts were essentially revised, so that it became actually a different book. For this reason we somewhat changed its title.

We express our deep gratitude to our colleagues, J. Brinkhuis, A. D. Ioffe, C. V. Konyagin, V. L. Levin, K. Yu. Osipenko, and V. Yu. Protasov for the material kindly provided to us, for useful discussions, and for assistance in preparation of the Russian edition of this book. We thank the student S. S. Chudova for drawing the figures. We are grateful to the translator, Professor D. M. Chibisov, for competent advice and comments which led to improvement of the book.

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Convex analysis is a branch of mathematics that studies convex sets, convex functions, and convex extremal problems. It has surprisingly diverse and fruitful applications in mathematics, mathematical physics, technology, and economics.

This book is an introduction to convex analysis and some of its applications. It starts with basic theory, which is explained within the framework of finite-dimensional spaces. The only prerequisites are basic analysis and simple geometry. The second chapter presents some applications of convex analysis, including problems of linear programming, geometry, and approximation. Special attention is paid to applications of convex analysis to Kolmogorov-type inequalities for derivatives of functions in one variable. Chapter 3 collects some results on geometry and convex analysis in infinite-dimensional spaces. A comprehensive introduction written “for beginners” illustrates the fundamentals of convex analysis in finite-dimensional spaces.

The book can be used for an advanced undergraduate or graduate-level course on convex analysis and its applications. It is also suitable for independent study of this extremely important area of mathematics.

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