

# **ORF522 – Linear and Nonlinear Optimization**

## **17. Operator theory**

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# Ed Forum

- What is the advantage of  $(1-\alpha)I + \alpha R$  over simply the  $\alpha * R$ ? it seems  $\alpha * R$  also transforms the original nonexpansive function  $R$  into a contractive one, so why bother adding another term  $I$ ?
- What do the graphs mean for the averaged operator? Does the domain of  $R(x)$  get adjusted by a factor of  $\alpha$  around the fixed point, and then shifted by a factor of  $(1-\alpha)*I$  so that it encompasses both  $x$  and the fixed point, and this becomes  $T(x)$ ?
- Slide 28 uses the phrase, "component-wise soft-thresholding;" what does that mean, as opposed to not component-wise?
- Throughout the lecture, I think it was mentioned that some things are "hard but cheap" or "expensive." In this context, such as slide 26 and 27, what is the difference between hard and expensive?

# Recap

# Separable sum

If  $g(x)$  is block separable, i.e., 
$$g(x) = \sum_{i=1}^N g_i(x_i)$$

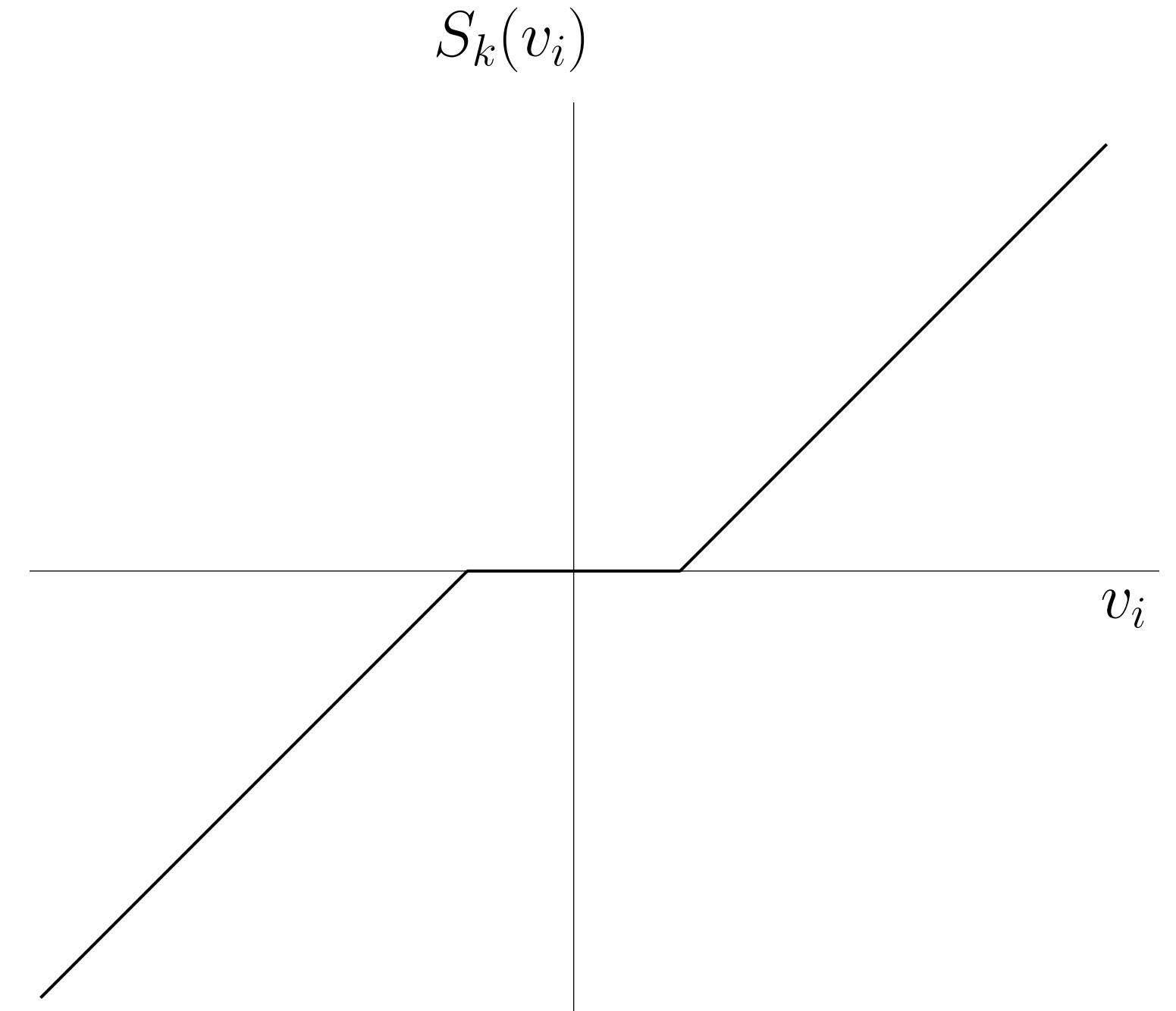
then,  $(\text{prox}_g(v))_i = \text{prox}_{g_i}(v_i), \quad i = 1, \dots, N$

(key to parallel/distributed proximal algorithms)

**Example:**  $g(x) = \lambda \|x\|_1 = \sum_{i=1}^n \lambda |x_i|$

## soft-thresholding

$$(\text{prox}_g(v))_i = \text{prox}_{\lambda|\cdot|}(v_i) = S_\lambda(v_i) = \begin{cases} v_i - \lambda & v_i > \lambda \\ 0 & |v_i| \leq \lambda \\ v_i + \lambda & v_i < -\lambda \end{cases}$$



# Operators

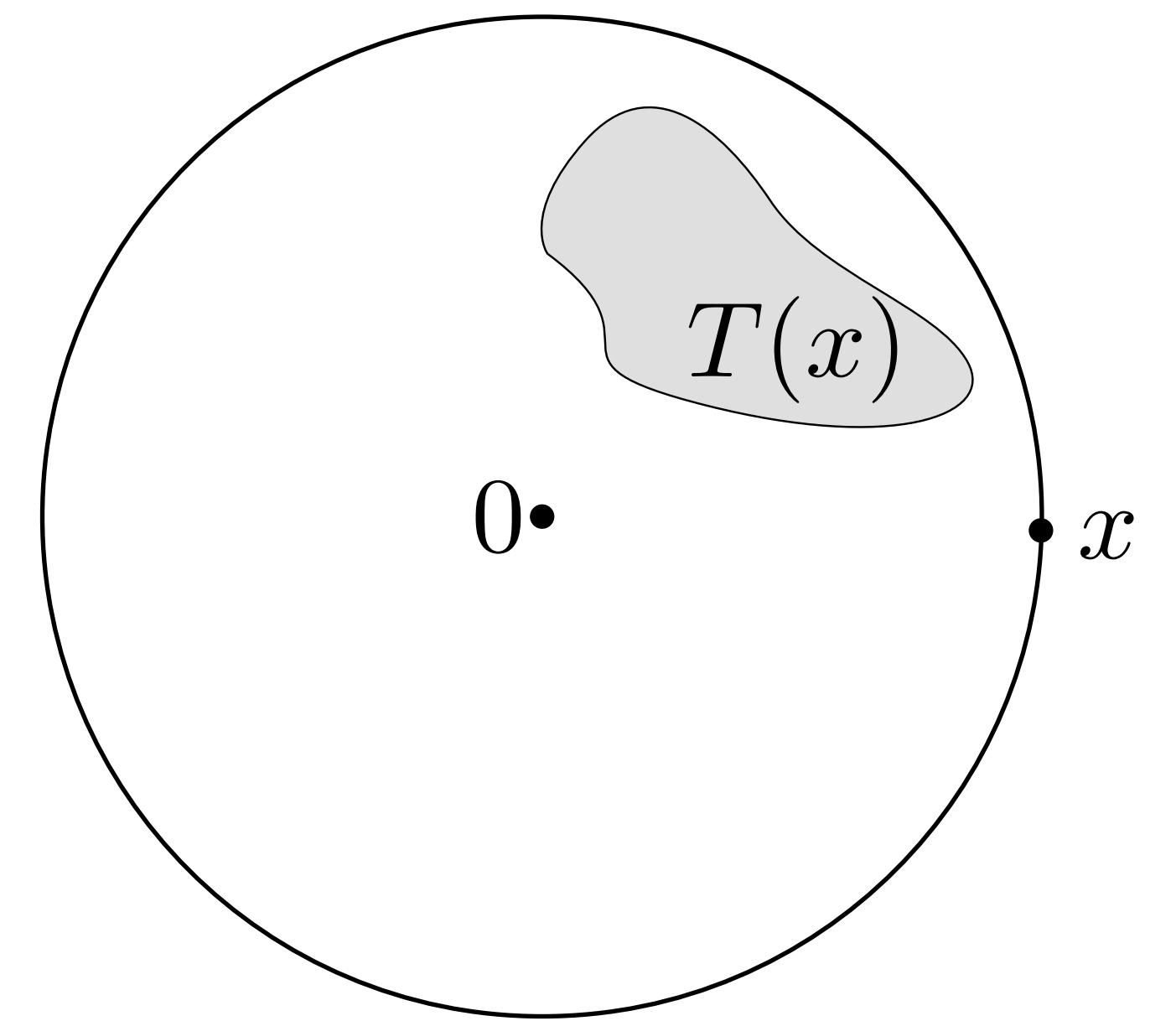
An operator  $T$  maps each point in  $\mathbf{R}^n$  to a subset of  $\mathbf{R}^n$

- **set valued**  $T(x)$  returns a set
- **single-valued**  $T(x)$  (function) returns a singleton

The **domain** of  $T$  is the set  $\text{dom } T = \{x \mid T(x) \neq \emptyset\}$

## Example

- The subdifferential  $\partial f$  is a set-valued operator
- The gradient  $\nabla f$  is a single-valued operator



# Zeros

## Zero

$x$  is a **zero** of  $T$  if  $0 \in T(x)$

## Zero set

The set of all the zeros  $T^{-1}(0) = \{x \mid 0 \in T(x)\}$

## Example

If  $T = \partial f$  and  $f : \mathbf{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$ , then  
 $0 \in T(x)$  means that  $x$  minimizes  $f$

Many problems  
can be posed as finding zeros  
of an operator

# Fixed points

$\bar{x}$  is a **fixed-point** of a single-valued operator  $T$  if

$$\bar{x} = T(\bar{x})$$

**Set of fixed points**  $\text{fix } T = \{x \in \text{dom } T \mid x = T(x)\} = (I - T)^{-1}(0)$

## Examples

- **Identity**  $T(x) = x$ . Any point is a fixed point
- **Zero operator**  $T(x) = 0$ . Only 0 is a fixed point

# Lipschitz operators

An operator  $T$  is  $L$ -Lipschitz if

$$\|T(x) - T(y)\| \leq L\|x - y\|, \quad \forall x, y \in \text{dom } T$$

**Fact** If  $T$  is Lipschitz, then it is single-valued

**Proof** If  $y = T(x), z = T(x)$ , then  $\|y - z\| \leq L\|x - x\| = 0 \implies y = z$  ■

For  $L = 1$  we say  $T$  is **nonexpansive**

For  $L < 1$  we say  $T$  is **contractive** (with contraction factor  $L$ )

# Lipschitz operators and fixed points

Given a  $L$ -Lipschitz operator  $T$  and a fixed point  $\bar{x} = T\bar{x}$ ,

$$\|Tx - \bar{x}\| = \|Tx - T\bar{x}\| \leq L\|x - \bar{x}\|$$

A contractive operator ( $L < 1$ ) can have at most one fixed point, i.e.,  $\text{fix } T = \{\bar{x}\}$

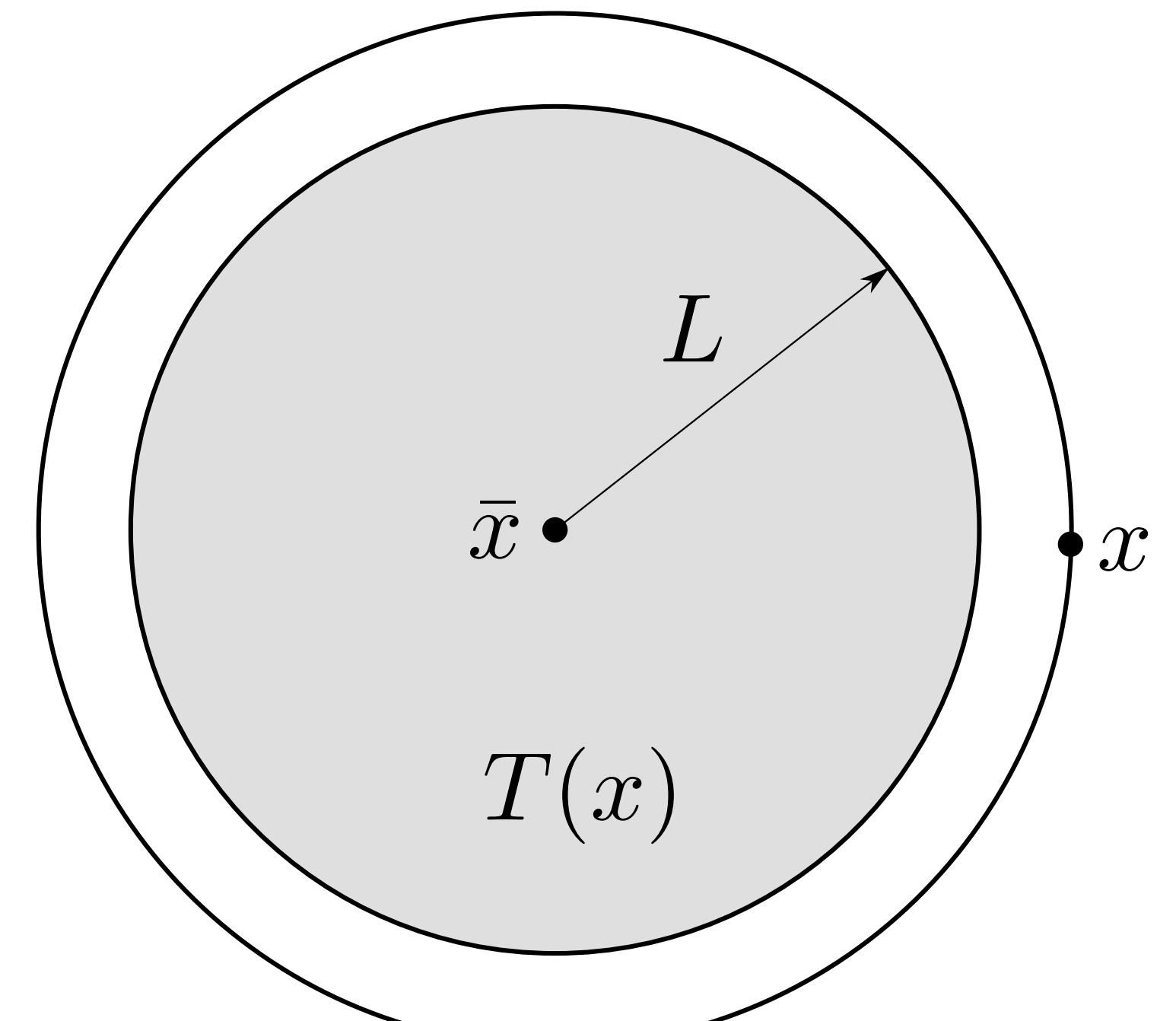
## Proof

If  $\bar{x}, \bar{y} \in \text{fix } T$  and  $\bar{x} \neq \bar{y}$  then

$$\|\bar{x} - \bar{y}\| = \|T(\bar{x}) - T(\bar{y})\| < \|\bar{x} - \bar{y}\| \text{ (contradiction)} \blacksquare$$

A nonexpansive operator ( $L = 1$ ) need not have a fixed point

**Example**  $T(x) = x + 2$



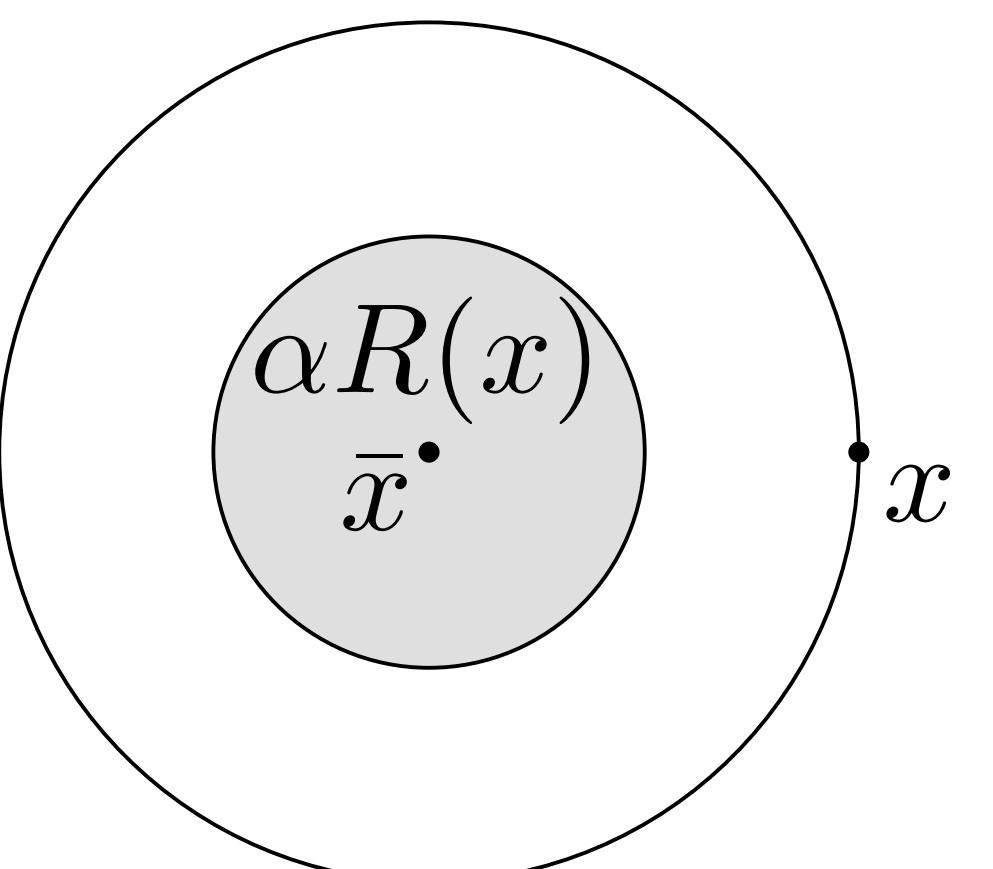
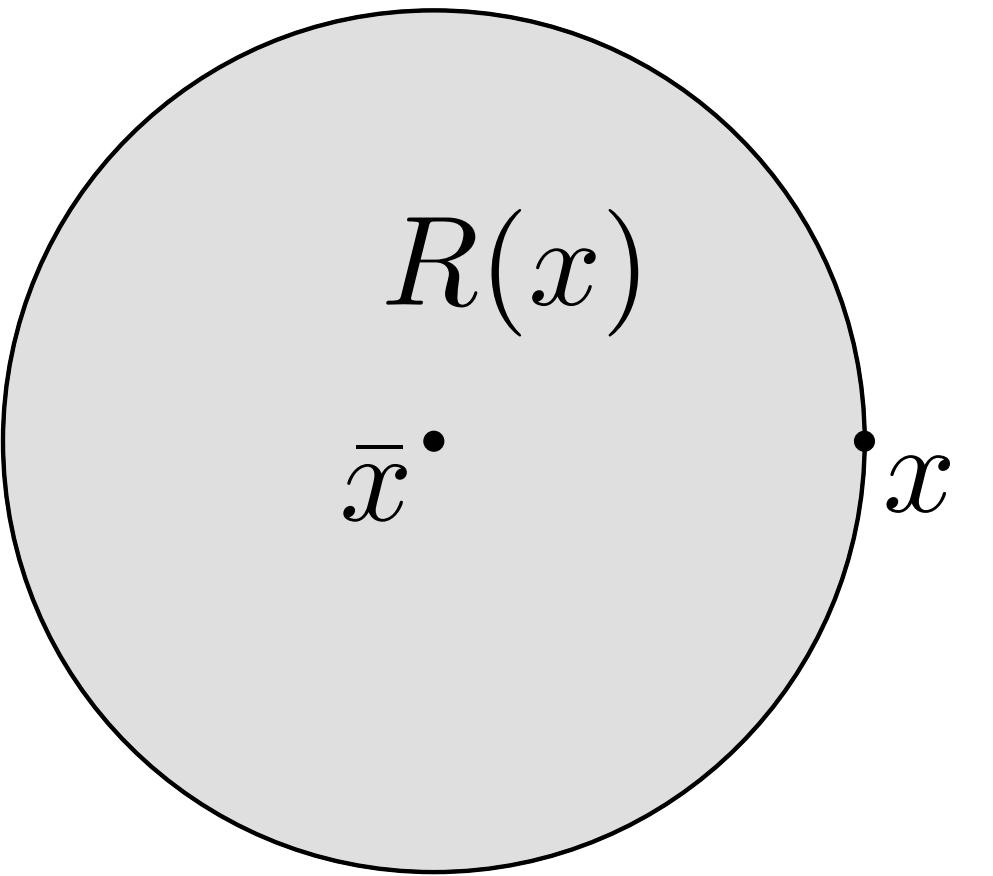
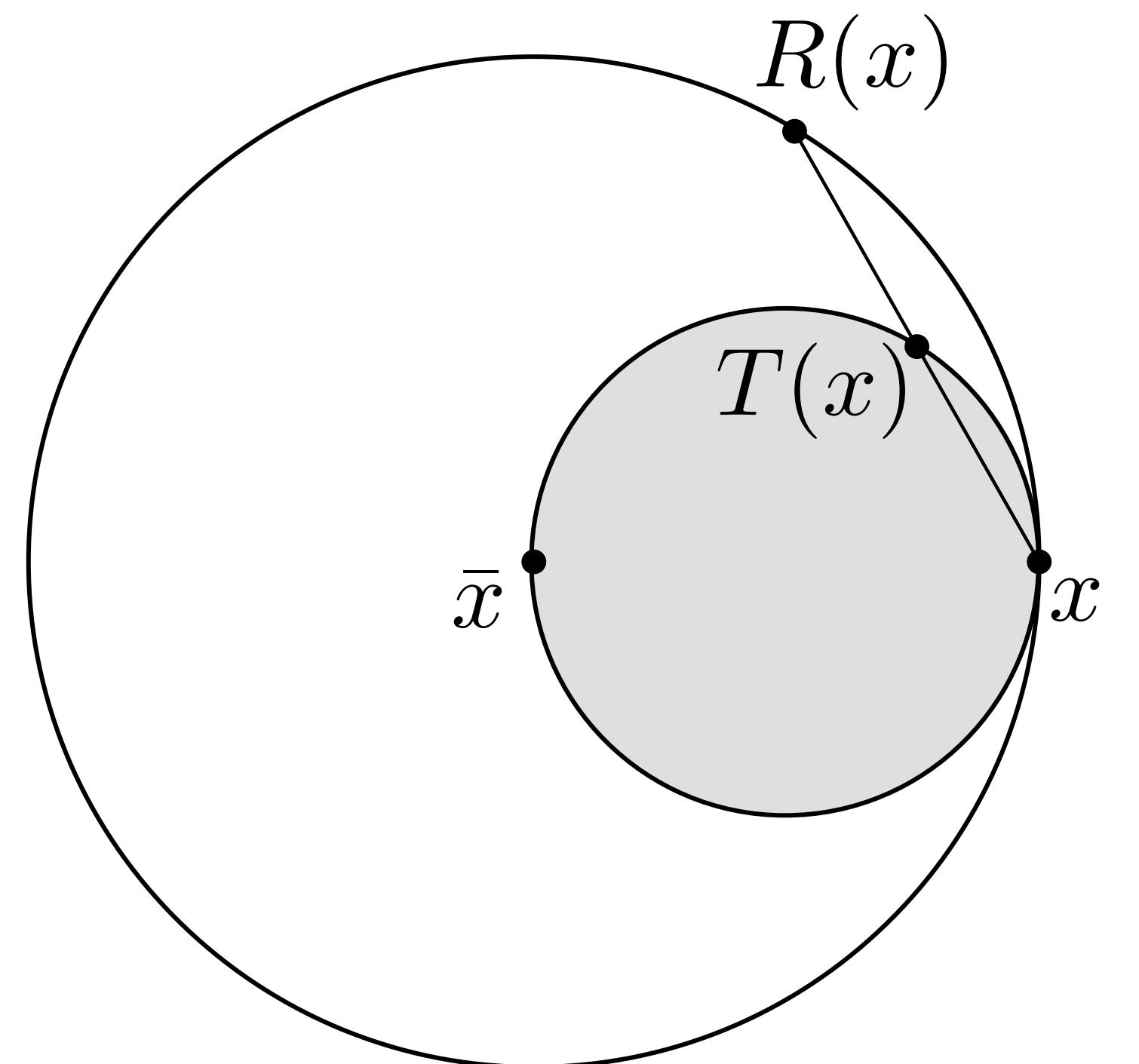
**Example**  $\alpha = 1/2, \bar{x} = 0$

# Averaged operators

We say that an operator  $T$  is  $\alpha$ -averaged with  $\alpha \in (0, 1)$  if

$$T = (1 - \alpha)I + \alpha R$$

and  $R$  is nonexpansive.



# How to design an algorithm

**Problem**

$$\text{minimize } f(x)$$

**Algorithm (operator) construction**

1. Find a suitable  $T$  such that  $\bar{x} \in \text{fix } T$  solve your problem
2. Show that the fixed point iteration converges

If  $T$  is contractive  $\implies$  **linear convergence**

If  $T$  is averaged  $\implies$  **sublinear convergence**

Most first order algorithms can be constructed in this way

# **Today's lecture**

**[Chapter 4, FMO][PA][PMO][LSMO]**

## **Monotone operators**

- Conjugate functions and duality
- Monotone and cocoercive operators
- Subdifferential operator and monotonicity
- Operators in optimization problems
- Operators in algorithms
- Building contractions

# **Conjugate functions and duality**

# Convex closed proper functions

A function  $f : \mathbf{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$  is called **CCP** if it is

**closed**       $\text{epi } f$  is a closed set

**convex**       $f(\alpha x + (1 - \alpha)y) \leq \alpha f(x) + (1 - \alpha)f(y), \quad \alpha \in [0, 1]$

**proper**       $\text{dom } f$  is nonempty

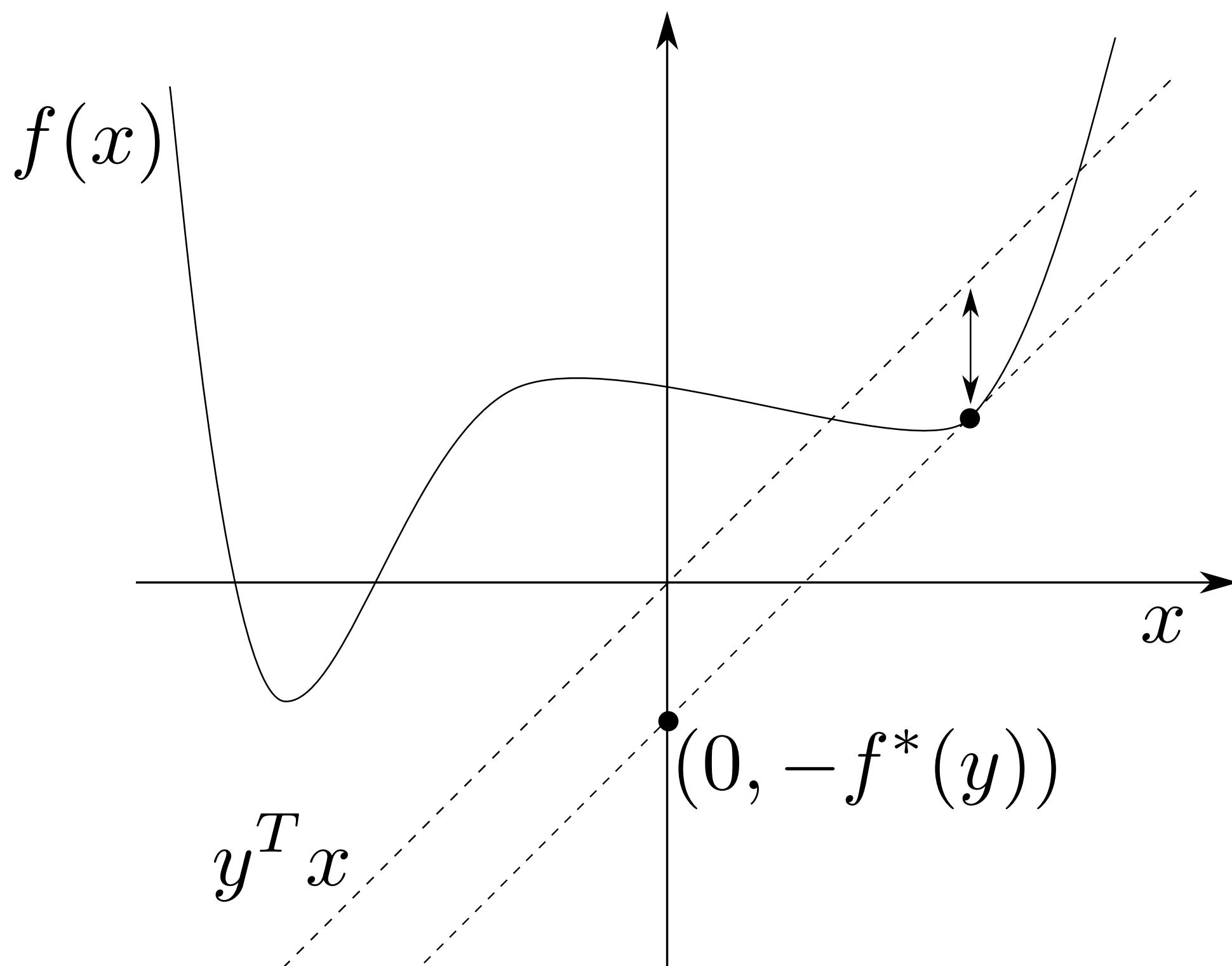
If not otherwise stated, we assume functions to be **CCP**

# Conjugate function

Given a function  $f : \mathbf{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$  we define its **conjugate**  $f^* : \mathbf{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$  as

$$f^*(y) = \max_x y^T x - f(x)$$

**Note**  $f^*$  is always convex (pointwise maximum of affine functions in  $y$ )



$f^*$  is the *maximum gap* between  $y^T x$  and  $f(x)$

# Conjugate function properties and examples

## Properties

**Fenchel's inequality**  $f(x) + f^*(y) \geq y^T x$  (from max inside conjugate)

**Biconjugate**  $f^{**}(y) = \max_x y^T x - f^*(x) \implies f(x) \geq f^{**}(x)$

**Biconjugate for CCP functions** If  $f$  CCP, then  $f^{**} = f$

## Examples

**Norm**  $f(x) = \|x\|$ :  $f^*(y) = \mathcal{I}_{\|y\|_* \leq 1}(y)$  **indicator function of dual norm set**

**Indicator function**  $f(x) = \mathcal{I}_C(x)$ :  $f^*(y) = \mathcal{I}_C^*(y) = \max_{x \in C} y^T x = \sigma_C(y)$  **support function**

# Fenchel dual

## Dual using conjugate functions

$$\text{minimize } f(x) + g(x)$$



Equivalent form (variables split)

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{minimize} && f(x) + g(z) \\ & \text{subject to} && x = z \end{aligned}$$

### Lagrangian

$$L(x, z, y) = f(x) + g(z) + y^T(z - x) = -(y^T x - f(x)) - (-y^T z - g(z))$$

### Dual function

$$\min_{x, z} L(x, z, y) = -f^*(y) - g^*(-y)$$

### Dual problem

$$\text{maximize } -f^*(y) - g^*(-y)$$

# Fenchel dual example

## Constrained optimization

$$\text{minimize } f(x) + \mathcal{I}_C(x)$$



## Dual problem

$$\text{maximize } -f^*(y) - \sigma_C(-y)$$

## Norm penalization

$$\text{minimize } f(x) + \|x\|$$



## Dual problem

$$\begin{aligned} \text{maximize } & -f^*(y) \\ \text{subject to } & \|y\|_* \leq 1 \end{aligned}$$

## Remarks

- Fenchel duality can simplify derivations
- Useful when conjugates are known
- Very common in operator splitting algorithms

# Monotone cocoercive operators

# Monotone operators

An operator  $T$  on  $\mathbf{R}^n$  is **monotone** if

$$(u - v)^T(x - y) \geq 0, \quad \forall (x, u), (y, v) \in \text{gph } T$$

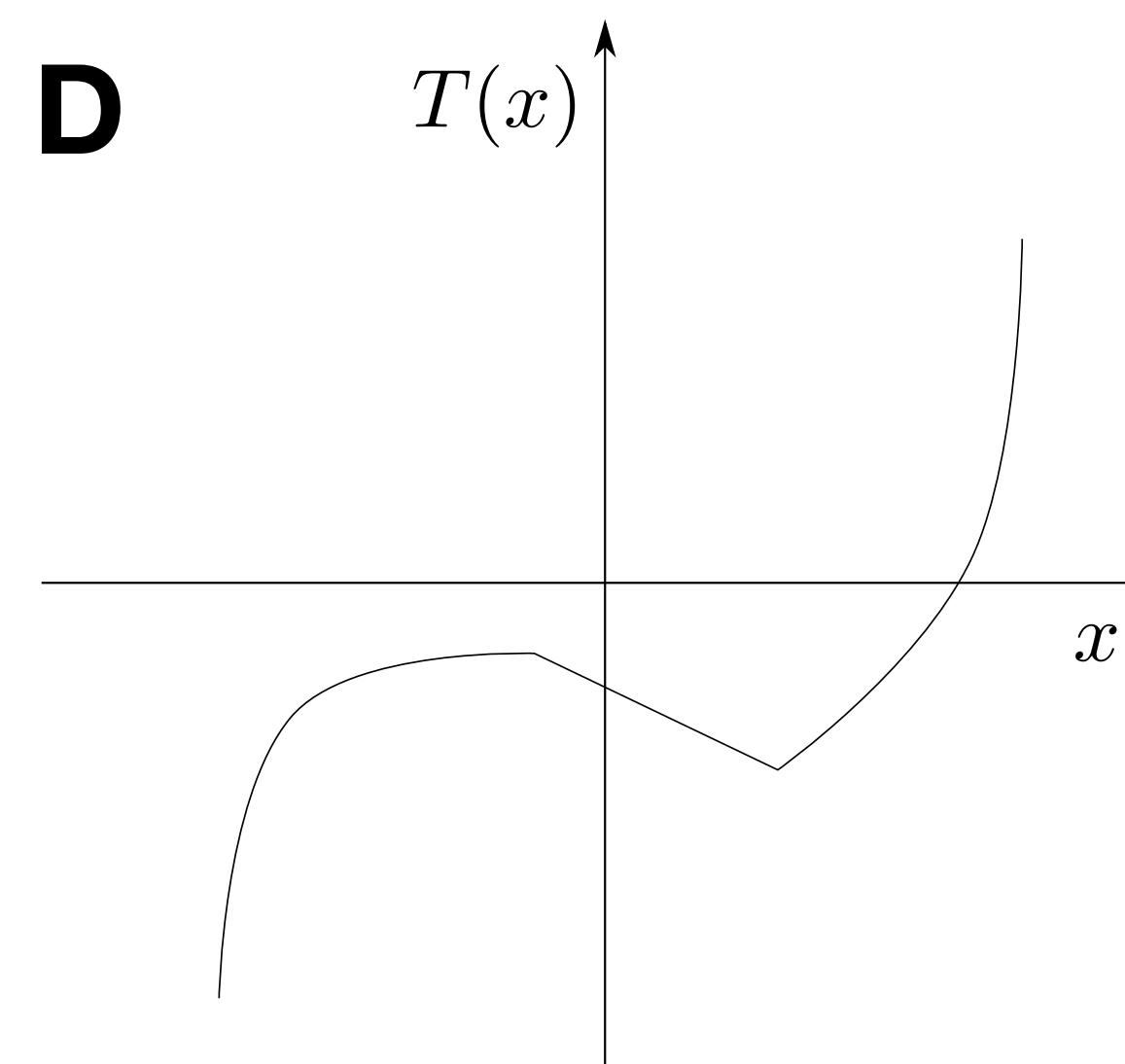
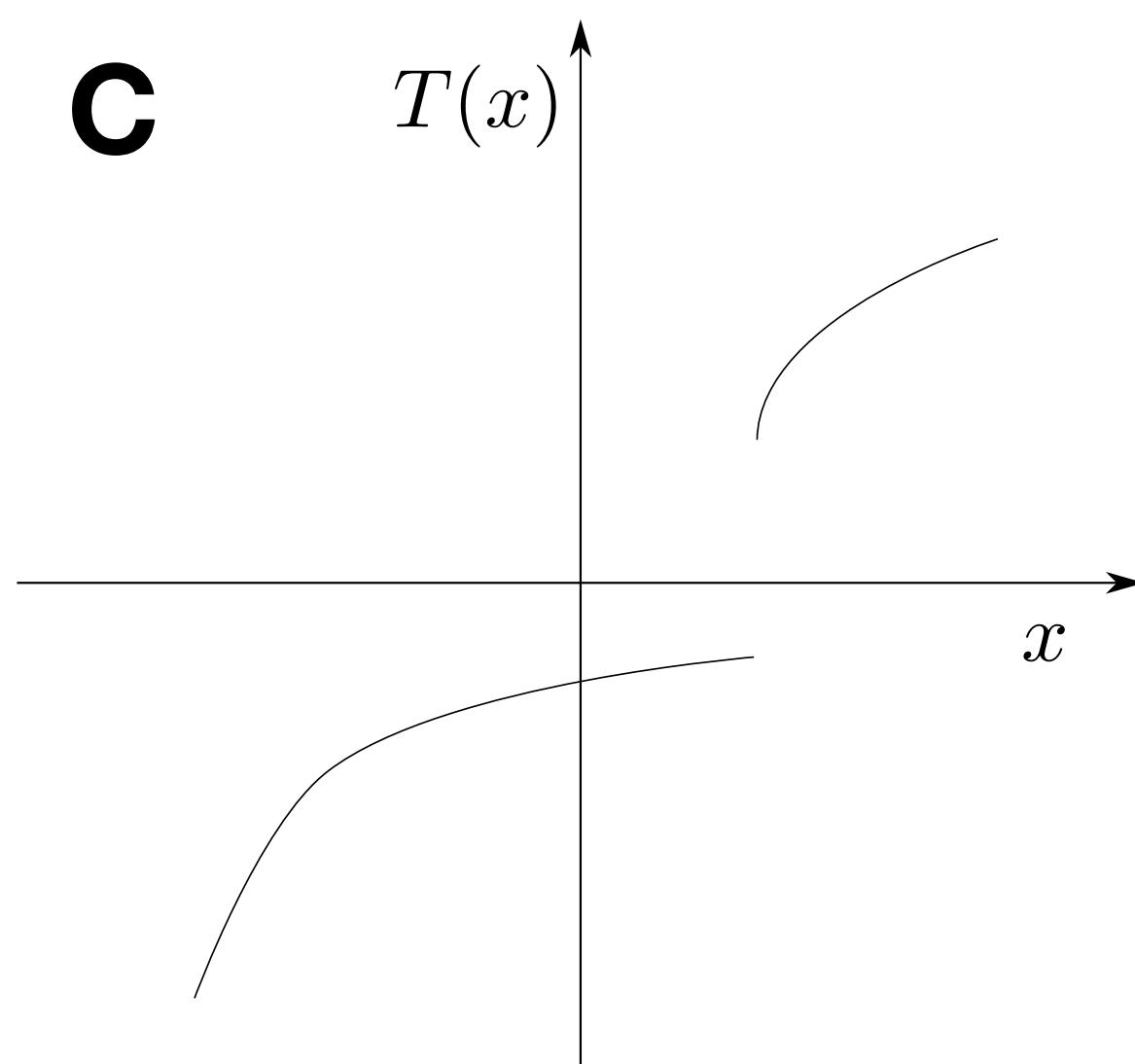
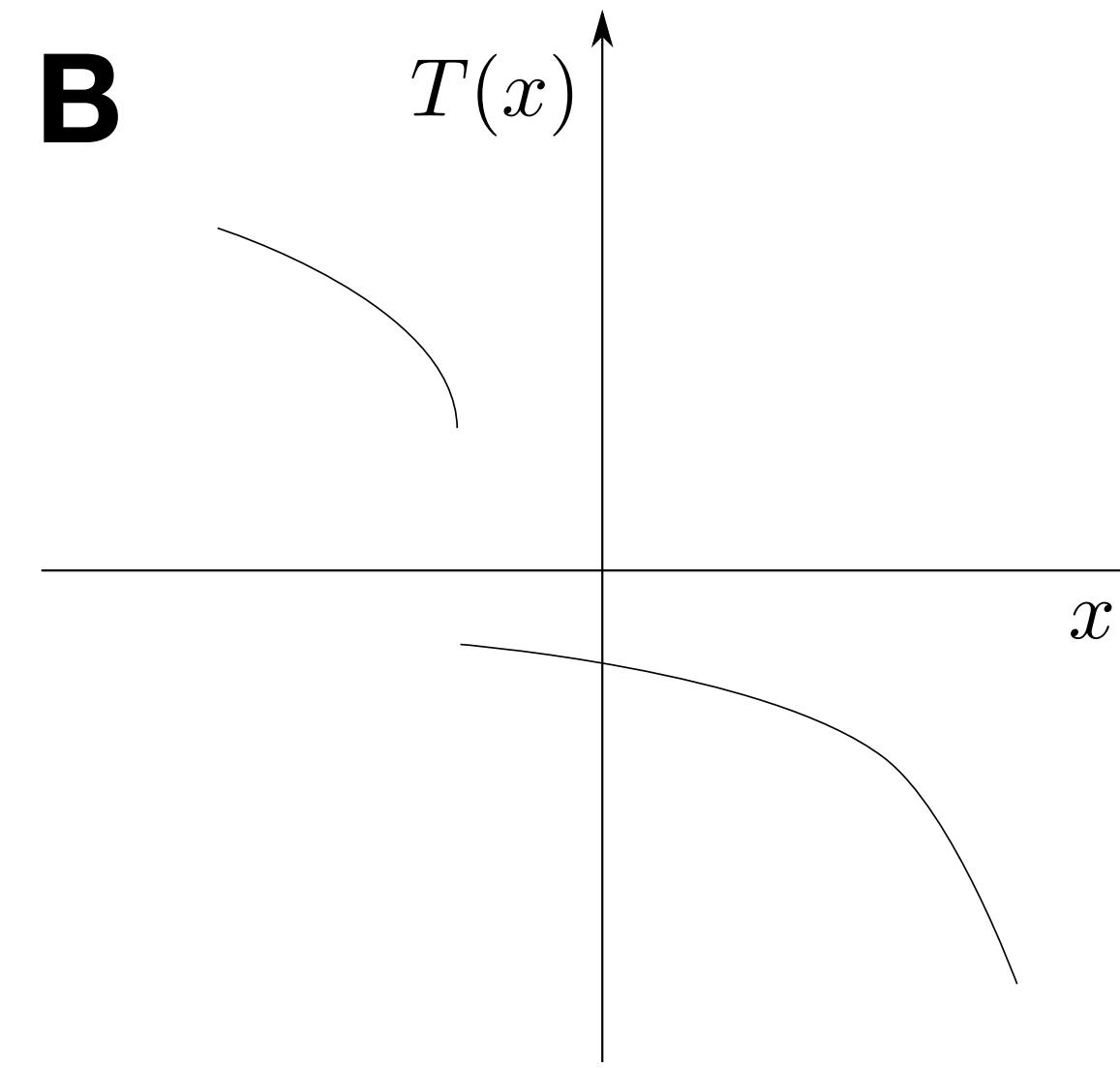
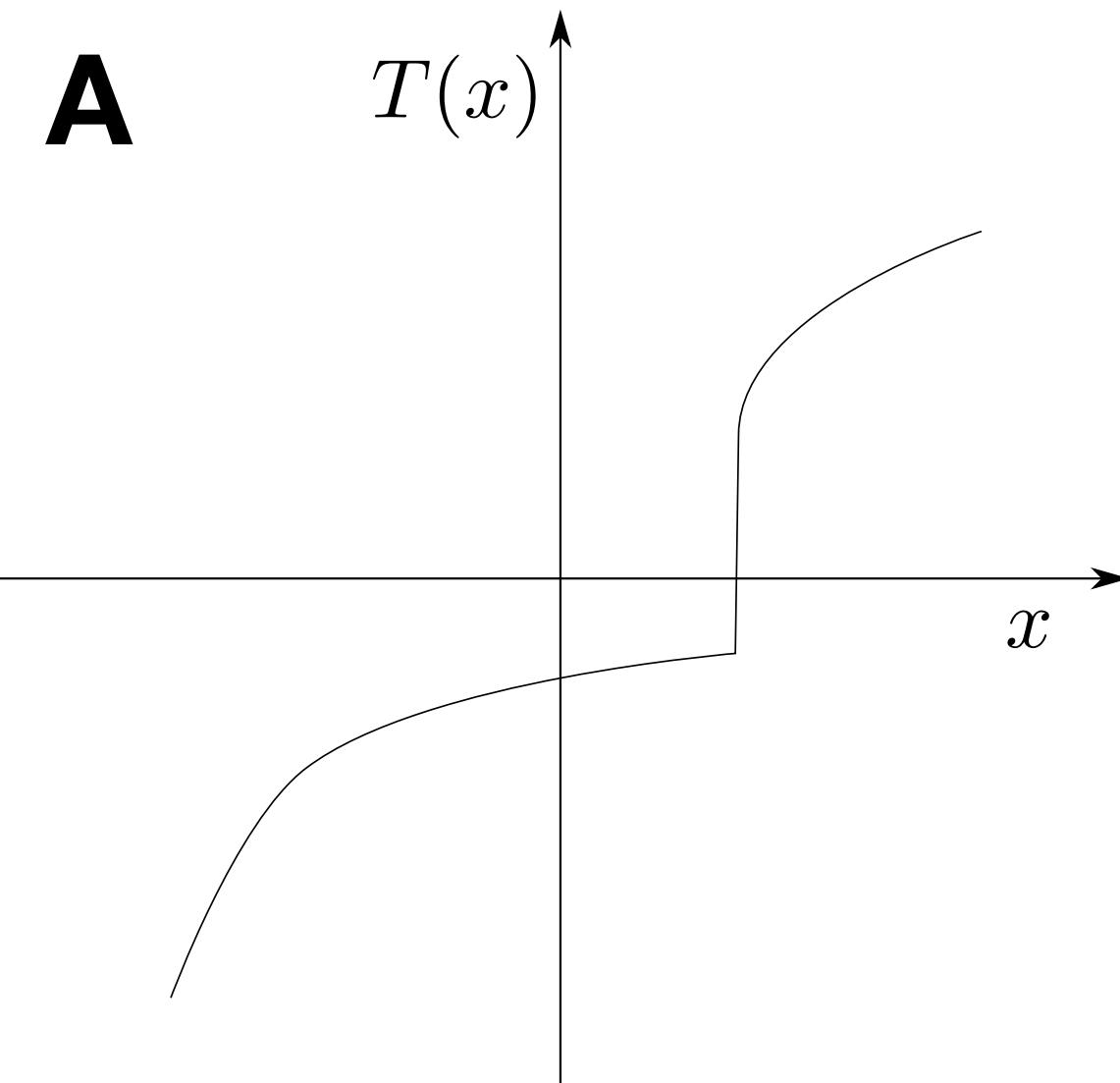
$T$  is **maximal monotone** if  
 $\nexists (\bar{x}, \bar{u}) \notin \text{gph } T$  such that

$$(\bar{u} - u)^T(\bar{x} - x) \geq 0$$

*Equivalently:*  $\nexists$  monotone  $R$   
such that  $\text{gph } T \subset \text{gph } R$

# Monotone operators in 1D

Let's fill the table



	Monotone	Max Monotone
A	No	No
B	No	No
C	Yes	Yes
D	No	No

**Monotonicity**  
 $y > x \Rightarrow T(y) \geq T(x)$

**Continuity**  
If  $T$  single-valued,  
continuous and monotone,  
then it's maximal monotone<sup>21</sup>

# Monotone operator properties

- **sum**  $T + R$  is monotone
- **nonnegative scaling**  $\alpha T$  with  $\alpha \geq 0$  is monotone
- **inverse**  $T^{-1}$  is monotone
- **congruence** for  $M \in \mathbf{R}^{n \times m}$ , then  $M^T T(Mz)$  is monotone on  $\mathbf{R}^m$

**Affine function**  $T(x) = Ax + b$  is maximal monotone  
 $\iff A + A^T \succeq 0$

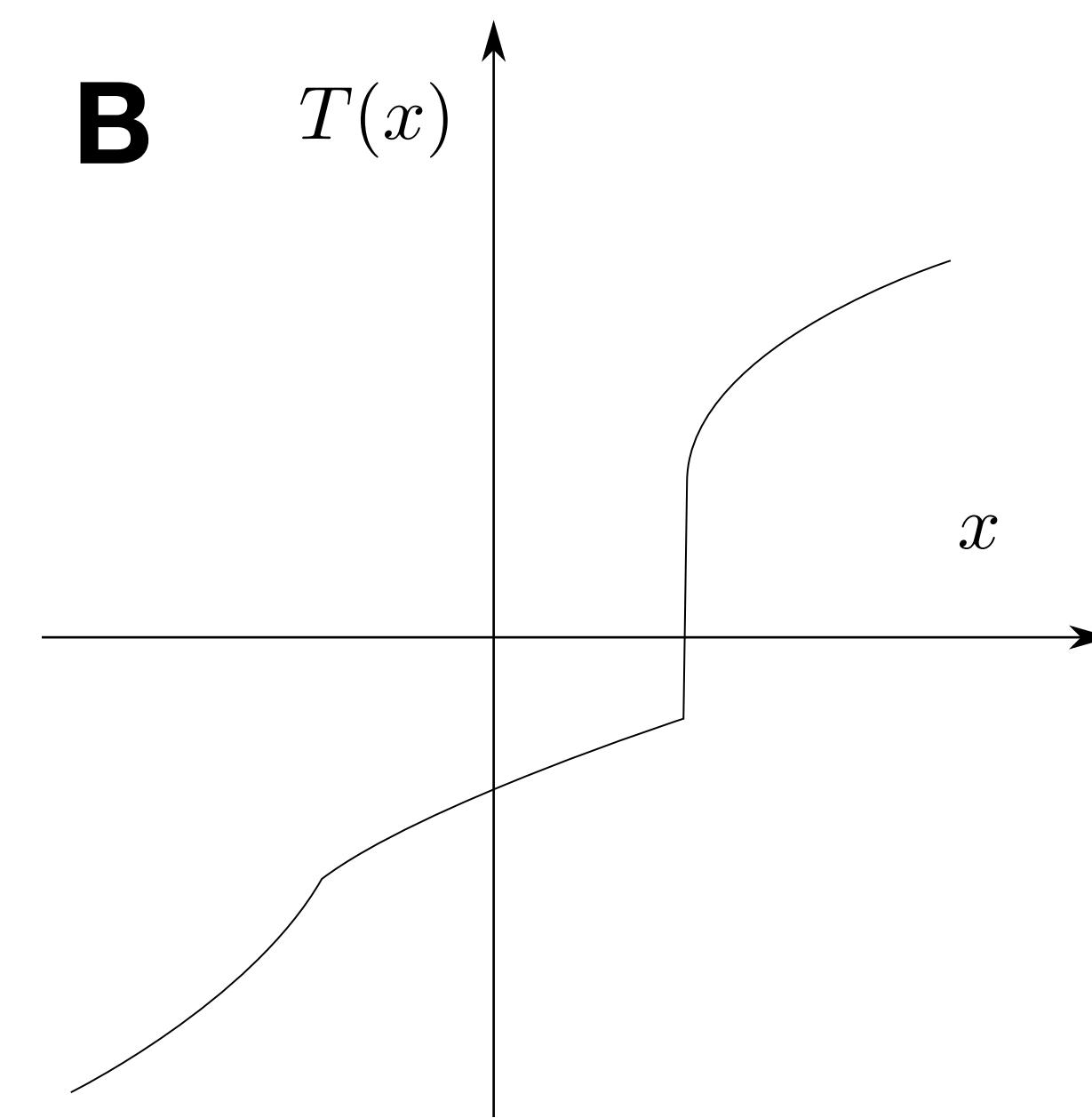
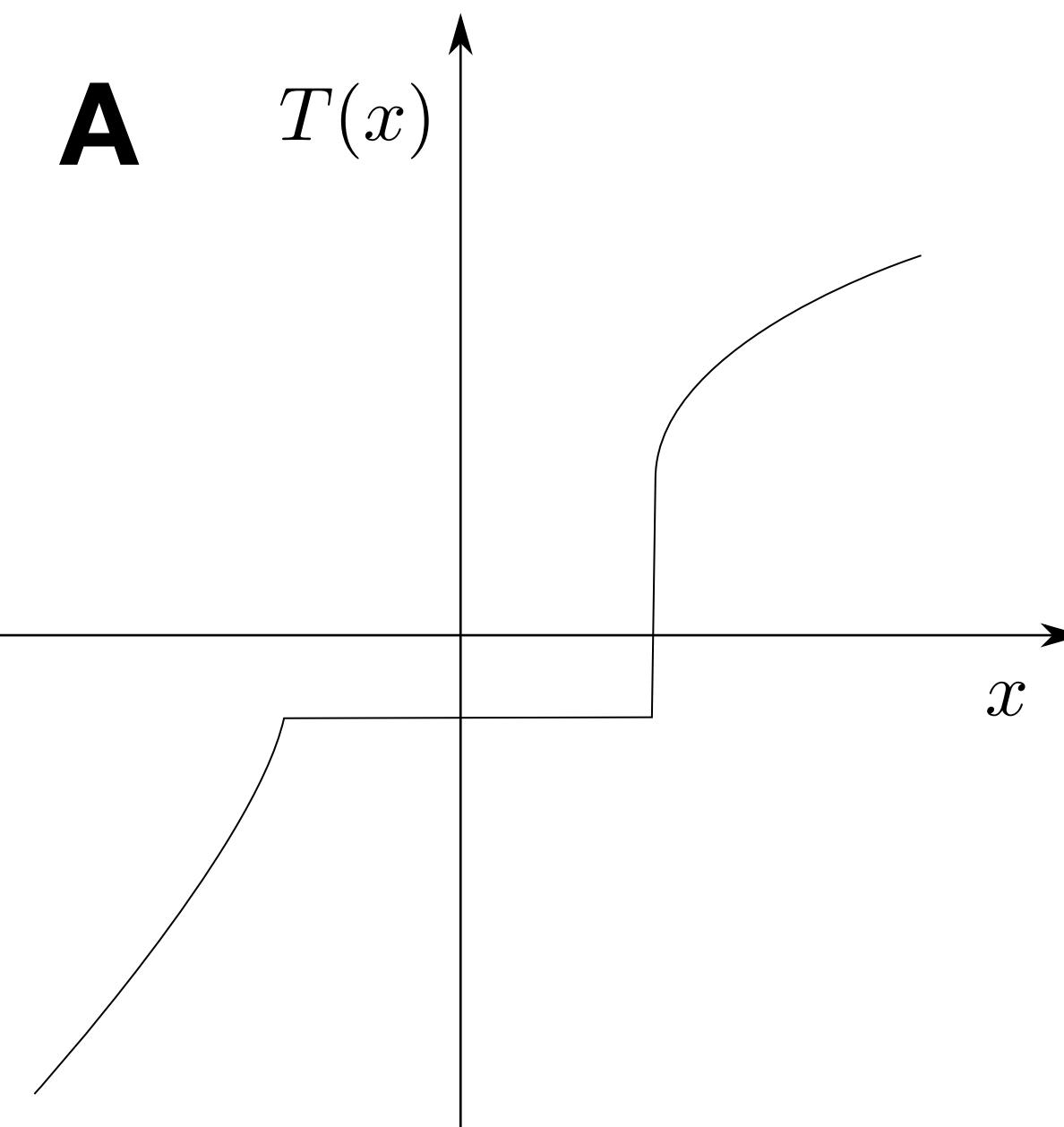
# Strongly monotone operators

An operator  $T$  on  $\mathbf{R}^n$  is  $\mu$ -strongly monotone if

$$(u - v)^T(x - y) \geq \mu \|x - y\|^2, \quad \mu > 0 \quad (\text{also called } \mu\text{-coercive})$$

$$\forall (x, u), (y, v) \in \text{gph } T$$

Let's fill the table



	Monotone	Strongly Monotone
<b>A</b>	Yes	No
<b>B</b>	Yes	Yes

The slope is at least  $\mu$

# Cocoercive operators

An operator  $T$  is  **$\beta$ -cocoercive**,  $\beta > 0$ , if

$$(T(x) - T(y))^T(x - y) \geq \beta \|T(x) - T(y)\|^2$$

If  $T$  is  **$\beta$ -cocoercive**, then  $T$  is  **$(1/\beta)$ -Lipschitz**

**Proof**  $\beta \|T(x) - T(y)\|^2 \leq (T(x) - T(y))^T(x - y) \leq \|T(x) - T(y)\| \|x - y\|$   
 $\implies \|T(x) - T(y)\| \leq (1/\beta) \|x - y\|$  ■

If  $T$  is  **$\mu$ -strongly monotone** if and only if  $T^{-1}$  is  **$\mu$ -cocoercive**

**Proof**  $(T(x) - T(y))^T(x - y) \geq \mu \|x - y\|^2$

Inverse:  $u = T(x)$  and  $v = T(y)$  if and only if  $x \in T^{-1}(u)$  and  $y \in T^{-1}(v)$

$$(u - v)^T(T^{-1}(u) - T^{-1}(v)) \geq \mu \|T^{-1}(u) - T^{-1}(v)\|^2$$
 ■

# Cocoercive and nonexpansive operators

If  $T$  is  **$\beta$ -cocoercive** if and only if  $I - 2\beta T$  is **nonexpansive**

**Proof**

$$\begin{aligned} \|(I - 2\beta T)(y) - (I - 2\beta T)(x)\|^2 &= \\ &= \|y - 2\beta T(y) - x - 2\beta T(x)\|^2 \\ &= \|y - x\|^2 - 4\beta(T(y) - T(x))^T(y - x) + 4\beta^2\|T(y) - T(x)\|^2 \\ &= \|y - x\|^2 - 4\beta \left( (T(y) - T(x))^T(y - x) - \beta\|T(y) - T(x)\|^2 \right) \\ &\leq \|y - x\|^2 \quad \blacksquare \quad (\text{cocoercive}) \end{aligned}$$

# Summary of monotone and cocoercive operators

**Monotone**

$$(T(x) - T(y))^T(x - y) \geq 0$$

$$\uparrow \quad \mu = 0$$

**Lipschitz**

$$\|F(x) - F(y)\| \leq L\|x - y\|$$

$$\uparrow \quad L = 1/\mu$$

**Strongly monotone**

$$(T(x) - T(y))^T(x - y) \geq \mu\|x - y\|^2$$

$$\longleftrightarrow \quad F = T^{-1}$$

**Cocoercive**

$$(F(x) - F(y))^T(x - y) \geq \mu\|F(x) - F(y)\|^2$$

$$\downarrow \quad G = I - 2\mu F$$

**Nonexpansive**

$$\|G(x) - G(y)\| \leq \|x - y\|$$

# **Subdifferential operator and monotonicity**

# Subdifferential operator monotonicity

$$\partial f(x) = \{g \mid f(y) \geq f(x) + g^T(y - x)\}$$

$\partial f(x)$  is **monotone** (also for nonconvex functions)

**Proof** Suppose  $u \in \partial f(x)$  and  $v \in \partial f(y)$  then

$$f(y) \geq f(x) + u^T(y - x), \quad f(x) \geq f(y) + v^T(x - y)$$

By adding them, we can write  $(u - v)^T(x - y) \geq 0$  ■

**Maximal monotonicity**

If  $f$  is convex, closed and proper (CCP), then  $\partial f(x)$  is maximal monotone

# Strongly monotone and cocoercive subdifferential

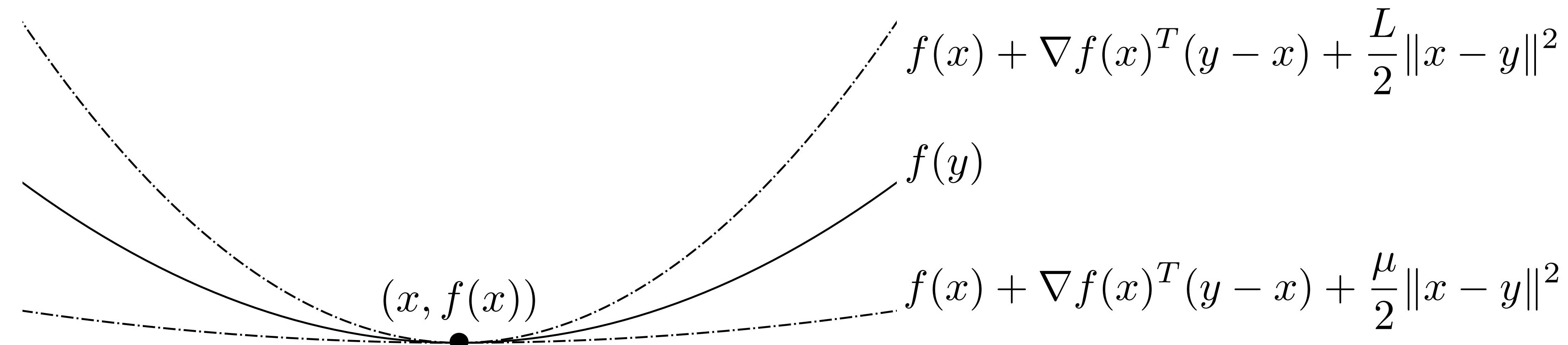
$f$  is  $\mu$ -strongly convex  $\iff \partial f$   $\mu$ -strongly monotone

$$(\partial f(x) - \partial f(y))^T(x - y) \geq \mu \|x - y\|^2$$

$f$  is  $L$ -smooth

$\iff \partial f$   **$L$ -Lipschitz** and  $\partial f = \nabla f$ :  $\|\nabla f(x) - \nabla f(y)\| \leq L\|x - y\|$

$\iff \partial f$   **$(1/L)$ -cocoercive**:  $(\nabla f(x) - \nabla f(y))^T(x - y) \geq (1/L)\|\nabla f(x) - \nabla f(y)\|^2$



# Inverse of subdifferential

If  $f$  is CCP, then,  $(\partial f)^{-1} = \partial f^*$

## Proof

$$\begin{aligned}(u, v) \in \text{gph}(\partial f)^{-1} &\iff (v, u) \in \text{gph} \partial f \\&\iff u \in \partial f(v) \\&\iff 0 \in \partial f(v) - u \\&\iff v \in \operatorname{argmin}_x f(x) - u^T x \\&\iff f^*(u) = u^T v - f(v)\end{aligned}$$

Therefore,  $f(v) + f^*(u) = u^T v$ . If  $f$  is CCP, then  $f^{**} = f$  and we can write

$$f^{**}(v) + f^*(u) = u^T v \iff (u, v) \in \text{gph} \partial f^* \quad \blacksquare$$

# Strong convexity is the dual of smoothness

$$f \text{ is } \mu\text{-strongly convex} \iff f^* \text{ is } (1/\mu)\text{-smooth}$$

## Proof

$$\begin{aligned} f \text{ is } \mu\text{-strongly convex} &\iff \partial f \text{ is } \mu\text{-strongly monotone} \\ &\iff (\partial f)^{-1} = \partial f^* \text{ is } \mu\text{-cocoercive} \\ &\iff f^* \text{ is } (1/\mu)\text{-smooth} \end{aligned}$$

■

**Remark:** strong convexity and (strong) smoothness are dual

# Operators in optimization problems

# KKT operator

minimize  $f(x)$   
subject to  $Ax = b$

**Lagrangian**  
 $L(x, y) = f(x) + y^T(Ax - b)$

## KKT operator

$$T(x, y) = \begin{bmatrix} \partial_x L(x, y) \\ -\partial_y L(x, y) \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \partial f(x) + A^T y \\ b - Ax \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} r^{\text{dual}} \\ -r^{\text{prim}} \end{bmatrix}$$

**zero set**  $\{(x, y) \mid 0 \in T(x, y)\}$  is the set of **primal-dual optimal points**

## Monotonicity

$$T(x, y) = \begin{bmatrix} \partial f(x) \\ b \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} 0 & A^T \\ -A & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix}$$

skew-symmetric

**sum of monotone operators**

# “multiplier to residual” mapping

minimize  $f(x)$   
subject to  $Ax = b$



Lagrangian

$$L(x, y) = f(x) + y^T(Ax - b)$$

Dual problem

$$\text{maximize } g(y) = \min_x L(x, y) = -\max_x -L(x, y) = -(f^*(-A^T y) + y^T b)$$

Operator

Monotonicity

$T(y) = b - Ax$ , where  $x = \operatorname{argmin}_z L(z, y)$   If  $f$  CCP, then  $T$  is monotone

Proof

$$0 \in \partial_x L(x, y) = \partial f(x) + A^T y \iff x = (\partial f)^{-1}(-A^T y)$$

$$\text{Therefore, } T(y) = b - A(\partial f)^{-1}(-A^T y) = \partial_y (b^T y + f^*(-A^T y)) = \partial(-g)$$

monotone

■

# Operators in algorithms

# Forward step operator

The **forward step operator** of  $T$  is defined as

$$I - \gamma T$$

In general **monotonicity of  $T$**  is not enough for convergence

## Example

minimize

$$x$$

subject to

$$x = 0$$

KKT operator

$$T(x, y) = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ -1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

Monotone (skew-symmetric)

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ -1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad A + A^T = 0 \succeq 0$$

Forward step

$$(I - \gamma T) \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -\gamma \\ \gamma & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix} - \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \longrightarrow$$

Expansive

$$\left\| \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -\gamma \\ \gamma & 1 \end{bmatrix} \right\|_2 > 1, \quad \forall \gamma$$

# Gradient step: special case of forward step

$$f \text{ } L\text{-smooth} \iff \nabla f \text{ } (1/L)\text{-cocoercive} \iff I - (2/L)\nabla f \text{ nonexpansive}$$

## Construct averaged iterations

$$I - \gamma \nabla f = (1 - \alpha)I + \alpha(I - (2/L)\nabla f)$$

$$\text{where } \alpha = \gamma L/2 \in (0, 1) \iff \gamma \in (0, 2/L)$$

↑  
(to be averaged)

## Remark

- Only smoothness assumption gives **sublinear convergence**
- Similar result we obtained in gradient descent lecture

# Resolvent and Cayley operators

The **resolvent** of operator  $A$  is defined as

$$R_A = (I + A)^{-1}$$

The **Cayley (reflection) operator** of  $A$  is defined as

$$C_A = 2R_A - I = 2(I + A)^{-1} - I$$

## Properties

- If  $A$  is maximal monotone,  $\text{dom } R_A = \text{dom } C_A = \mathbf{R}^n$  (Minty's theorem)
- If  $A$  is **monotone**,  $R_A$  and  $C_A$  are **nonexpansive** (thus functions)
- Zeros of  $A$  are **fixed points** of  $R_A$  and  $C_A$

**Key result** we can solve  $0 \in A(x)$  by finding fixed points of  $C_A$  or  $R_A$

**Fixed points of  $R_A$  and  $C_A$  are zeros of  $A$**

**Proof**

$$R_A = (I + A)^{-1}$$

$$x \in \text{fix } R_A$$

$$\begin{aligned} 0 \in A(x) &\iff x \in (I + A)(x) \\ &\iff (I + A)^{-1}(x) = x \\ &\iff x = R_A(x) \end{aligned}$$

$$x \in \text{fix } C_A$$

$$C_A(x) = 2R_A(x) - I(x) = 2x - x = x$$

■

**If  $A$  is monotone, then  $R_A$  is nonexpansive**

**Proof**

If  $(x, u) \in \text{gph}R_A$  and  $(y, v) \in \text{gph}R_A$ , then

$$u + A(u) \ni x, \quad v + A(v) \ni y$$

Subtract to get  $u - v + (A(u) - A(v)) \ni x - y$

Multiply by  $(u - v)^T$  and use monotonicity of  $A$  (being also a function:  $\in \rightarrow =$ ),

$$\|u - v\|^2 \leq (x - y)^T(u - v)$$

Apply Cauchy-Schwarz and divide by  $\|u - v\|$  to get

$$\|u - v\| \leq \|x - y\|$$



# If $A$ is monotone, then $C_A$ is nonexpansive

## Proof

Given  $u = R_A(x)$  and  $v = R_A(y)$  ( $R_A$  is a function)

$$\begin{aligned}\|C(x) - C(y)\|^2 &= \|(2u - x) - (2v - y)\|^2 \\&= \|2(u - v) - (x - y)\|^2 \\&= 4\|u - v\|^2 - 4(u - v)^T(x - y) + \|x - y\|^2 \\&\leq \|x - y\|^2\end{aligned}$$

Note  $R_A$  monotonicity (prev slide):  $\|u - v\|^2 \leq (u - v)^T(x - y)$



## Remark

$R_A$  is nonexpansive since it is the average of  $I$  and  $C_A$ :

$$R_A = (1/2)I + (1/2)C_A = (1/2)I + (1/2)(2R_A - 1)$$

# Role of maximality

We mostly consider **maximal** operators  $A$  because of

**Theory:**  $R_A$  and  $C_A$  do not bring iterates outside their domains

**Practice:** hard to compute  $R_A$  and  $C_A$  for non-maximal monotone operators, e.g., when  $A = \partial f(x)$  where  $f$  nonconvex.

# Resolvent of subdifferential: proximal operator

$$\text{prox}_f = R_{\partial f} = (I + \partial f)^{-1}$$

## Proof

Let  $z = \text{prox}_f(x)$ , then

$$\begin{aligned} z &= \underset{u}{\operatorname{argmin}} f(u) + \frac{1}{2} \|u - x\|^2 \\ &\iff 0 \in \partial f(z) + z - x \quad (\text{optimality conditions}) \\ &\iff x \in (I + \partial f)(z) \\ &\iff z = (I + \partial f)^{-1}(x) \end{aligned}$$



# Resolvent of normal cone: projection

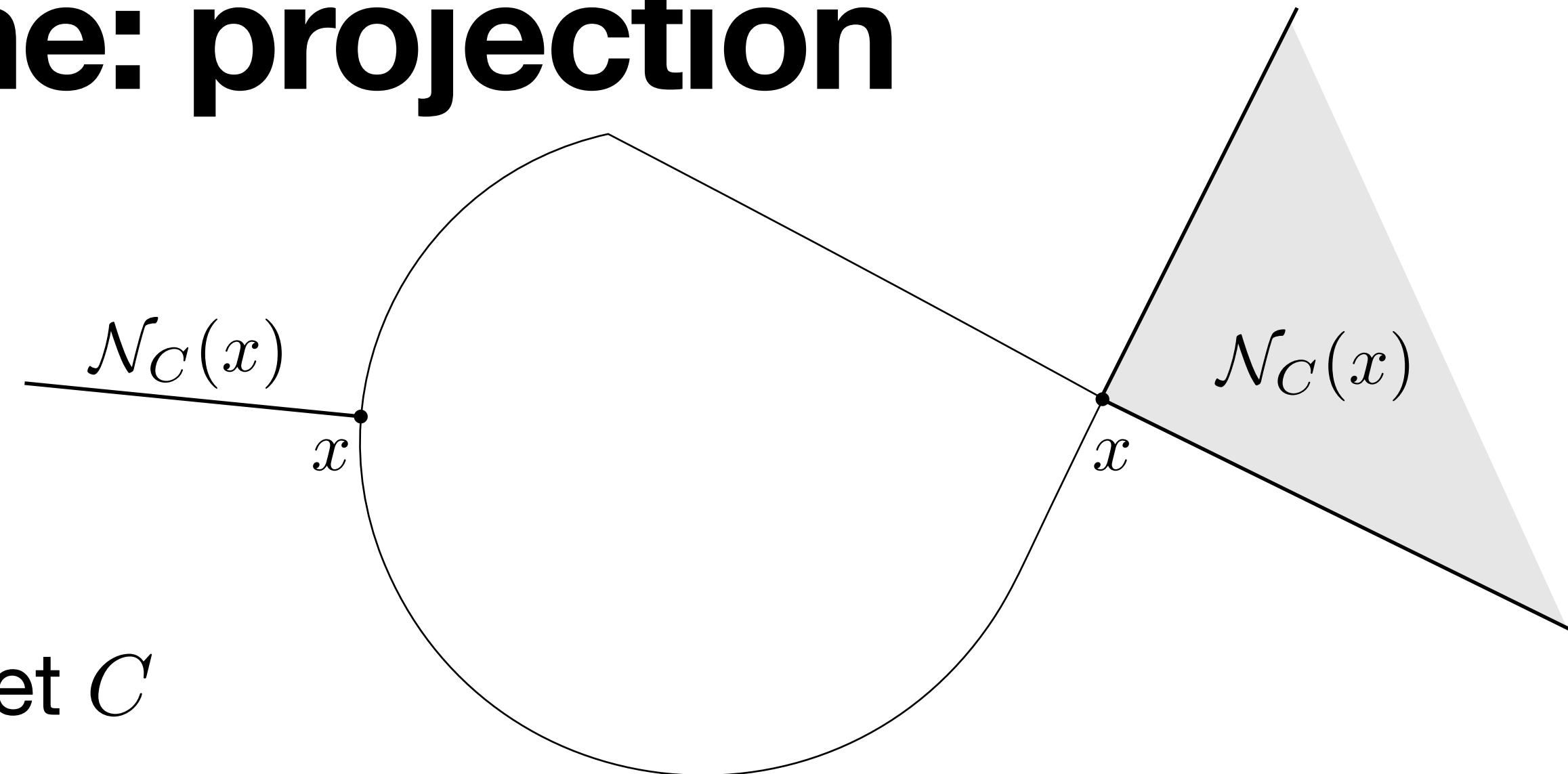
$$R_{\partial\mathcal{I}_C} = \Pi_C(x)$$

**Proof**

Let  $f = \mathcal{I}_C$ , the indicator function of a convex set  $C$

Recall:  $\partial\mathcal{I}_C(x) = \mathcal{N}_C(x)$  **normal cone operator**

$$u = (I + \partial\mathcal{I}_C)^{-1}(x) \iff u = \underset{z}{\operatorname{argmin}} \mathcal{I}_C(u) + (1/2)\|z - x\|^2 = \Pi_C(x)$$



■

$\mathcal{N}_C$  monotone  $\implies \Pi_C$  nonexpansive

**Proof of monotonicity**

$$u \in \mathcal{N}_C(x) \Rightarrow u^T(z - x) \leq 0, \forall z \in C \Rightarrow u^T(y - x) \leq 0$$

$$v \in \mathcal{N}_C(y) \Rightarrow v^T(z - y) \leq 0, \forall z \in C \Rightarrow v^T(x - y) \leq 0$$

$\longrightarrow$  add to obtain  
monotonicity ■ 44

# Building contractions

# Forward step contractions

Given  $T$   $L$ -Lipschitz and  $\mu$ -strongly monotone, then  $I - \gamma T$

converges linearly at rate  $\sqrt{1 - 2\gamma\mu + \gamma^2 L^2}$ , with optimal step  $\gamma = \mu/L^2$ .

## Proof

$$\begin{aligned} \| (I - \gamma T)(x) - (I - \gamma T)(y) \|^2 &= \| x - y + \gamma T(x) - \gamma T(y) \|^2 \\ &= \| x - y \|^2 - 2\gamma(T(x) - T(y))^T(x - y) + \gamma^2 \| T(x) - T(y) \|^2 \\ &\leq (1 - 2\gamma\mu + \gamma^2 L^2) \| x - y \|^2 \end{aligned}$$

strongly  
monotone      Lipschitz

■

## Remarks

- It applies to **gradient descent** with  $L$ -smooth and  $\mu$ -strongly convex  $f$
- Better rate in gradient descent lecture. We can get it by bounding derivative:  $\|D(I - \gamma \nabla^2 f(x))\|_2 \leq \max\{|1 - \gamma L|, |1 - \gamma \mu|\}$ . Optimal step  $\gamma = 2/(\mu + L)$  and factor  $(\mu/L - 1)(\mu/L + 1)$ .

# Resolvent contractions

If  $A$  is  $\mu$ -strongly monotone, then

$$R_A = (I + A)^{-1}$$

is a contraction with Lipschitz parameter  $1/(1 + \mu)$

## Proof

$$\begin{aligned} A \text{ } \mu\text{-strongly monotone} &\implies (I + A) \text{ } (1 + \mu)\text{-strongly monotone} \\ &\implies R_A = (I + A)^{-1} \text{ } (1 + \mu)\text{-cocoercive} \\ &\implies R_A \text{ } (1/(1 + \mu))\text{-Lipschitz} \end{aligned}$$



# Cayley contractions

If  $A$  is  $\mu$ -strongly monotone and  $L$ -Lipschitz, then

$$C_{\gamma A} = 2R_{\gamma A} - I = 2(I + \gamma A)^{-1} - I$$

is a contraction with factor  $\sqrt{1 - 4\gamma\mu/(1 + \gamma L)^2}$

**Remark** need also Lipschitz condition

**Proof** [Page 20, PMO]

If, in addition,  $A = \partial f$  where  $f$  is CCP, then  $C_{\gamma A}$  converges with factor  $(\sqrt{\mu/L} - 1)/(\sqrt{\mu/L} + 1)$  and optimal step  $\gamma = 1/\sqrt{\mu L}$

**Proof**

[*Linear Convergence and Metric Selection for Douglas-Rachford Splitting and ADMM, Giselsson and Boyd*]

# Requirements for contractions

	Operator $A$	Function $f$ ( $A = \partial f$ )
<b>Forward step</b> $I - \gamma A$	$\mu$ -strongly monotone	$\mu$ -strongly convex $L$ -smooth
<b>Resolvent</b> $R_A = (I + A)^{-1}$	$\mu$ -strongly monotone	$\mu$ -strongly convex $L$ -smooth
<b>Cayley</b> $C_A = 2(I + A)^{-1} - I$	$\mu$ -strongly monotone $L$ -Lipschitz	$\mu$ -strongly convex $L$ -smooth
		<b>faster convergence</b>

**Key to contractions:** strong monotonicity/convexity

# Operator theory

Today, we learned to:

- **Use** conjugate functions to define duality
- **Define** monotone and cocoercive operators and their relations
- **Relate** subdifferential operator and monotonicity
- **Recognize** monotone operators in optimization problems
- **Apply** operators in algorithms: forward step, resolvent, Cayley
- **Understand requirements** for building contractions

# Next lecture

- Operator splitting algorithms