

# Conjugate functions

Christos Kountzakis

March 2023

Let us consider a vector space  $E$  and  $E'$  is its algebraic dual. The evaluation map is the bilinear function

$$\langle E, E' \rangle \rightarrow R, \langle x, x' \rangle = x'(x)$$

and  $f : E \rightarrow R$ . The conjugate  $f'$  of  $f$  is defined in the following way:

$$f'(x') = \sup\{x'(x) - f(x), x \in E\},$$

either on some subset  $B$  of  $E$ , which is lineally bounded and lineally closed. If  $f$  is convex, then  $-f$  is concave. Then  $f'$  is concave. If  $f$  is strictly convex, then  $f'$  is strictly concave. In this case,  $-f'$  is a strictly convex function.  $f$  may take infinity values, but it is finite valued for some pure subset of  $E$  and especially on  $B$ .