

Foundations of Machine Learning in Python

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Derivatives and Gradients

Optimization

Traditionally, optimization means minimizing using a cost function $f(x)$. Given the cost, we must find the cheapest point x_{min} on the function, or in other words,

$$x_{min} = \min_x f(x) \quad (1)$$

Functions

Functions are mathematical mappings. Consider for example the quadratic function, $f(x) : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$:

$$f(x) = x^2 \quad (2)$$

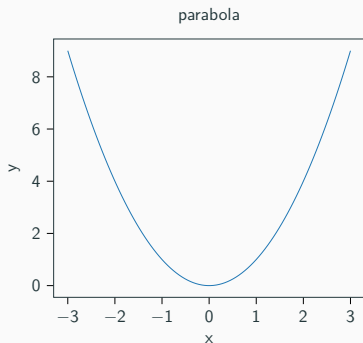


Figure: The parabola function

Derivatives and Gradients

The derivative

$$\frac{df(x)}{dx} = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x+h) - f(x)}{h} \quad (3)$$

The gradient

$$\nabla_{\mathbf{x}} = \frac{f(x+h) - f(x)}{h} \quad (4)$$

Optimization

TODO