

# Machine Learning Calculus

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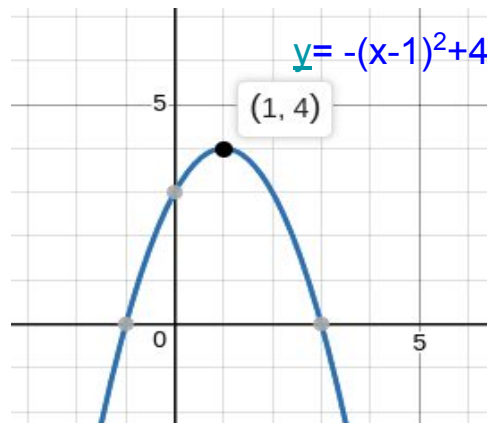
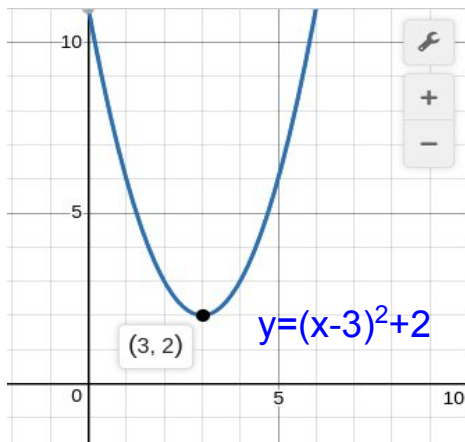
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# Question!

- Your mother is preparing **pizza**
- She wants to add the **right** (optimal) **amount** of **amount** to it
  - Too little salt will make the pizza very bland (دلعة)
  - Too much salt will make the pizza salty (مملحة)
- Let's model this as an equation
  - X: input, the amount of salt
  - Y: error criteria (i.e. how salty or bland the pizza will be)
  - Goal: find the optimal amount of salt that makes the best-tasting pizza
- Which **function** represents the phenomena?
  - Linear? Quadratic? Cubic? Quartic?

# Quadratic function

- The **minimum** of the first function is at  $y = 2$
- This is known as **global minimum** value
  - You can't find a value with smaller  $y$
- The graph of the quadratic function is **decreasing** on one side of the axis and **increasing** on the other side (**U-shaped**) - **convex function**
  - ML focuses on the decrease/increase case (**minimization**)

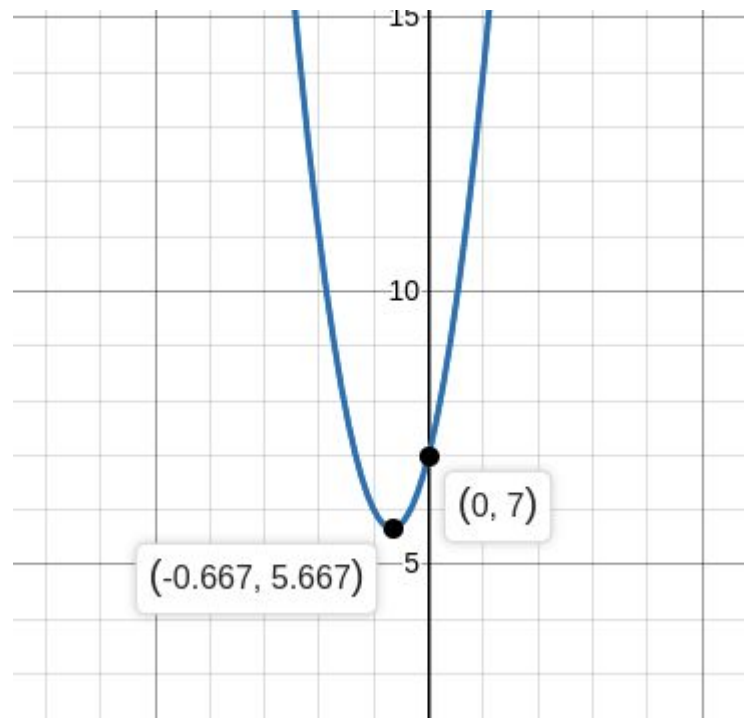


# Find min/max of quadratic function

- To find the minimum (or max) point, we need to compute the **derivative**
  - The **derivative** is what measures the **steepness** of the graph of a **function** at a **specific point** on the graph (so it is a **slope = rate of change**)
- Assume we have a function:  **$f(x) = 3x^2 + 4x + 7$**
- What is its derivative?
- **$f'(x) = 6x + 4$** 
  - $aX^b = (a * b)X^{b-1}$
- Set to zero and solve:  $6x + 4 = 0$ 
  - $x = -2/3 = -0.6666666$  (the minimum)
  - This is an **analytical** solution (*steps to give the exact solution*)
- Minimum or maximum?
  - We can work that out by double differentiation

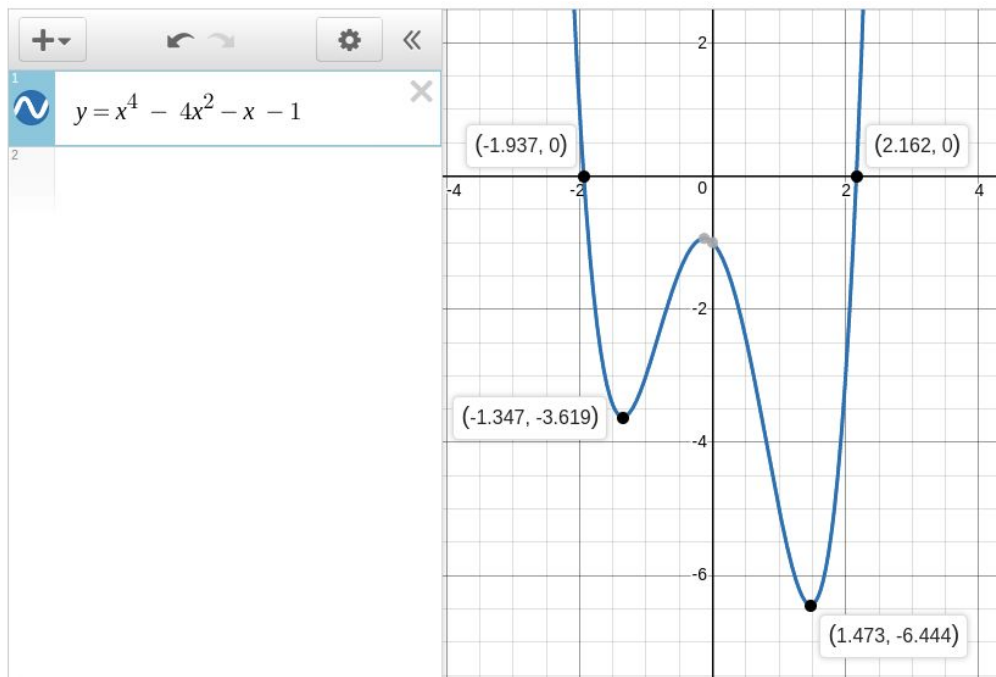
# Tangent slopes

- $f(x) = 3x^2 + 4x + 7$
- $f'(x) = 6x + 4$ 
  - The minimum:  $x = -2/3 = -0.6666666$
  - We can use it to know the sign at specific points
- Evaluate at  $f'$ 
  - $x = -2/3 \Rightarrow 0$  (**zero** slope)
  - $x = 0 \Rightarrow 4$  (**positive** slope)
  - $x = -2 \Rightarrow -8$  (**negative** slope)



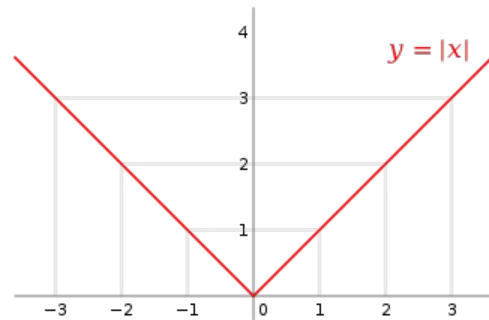
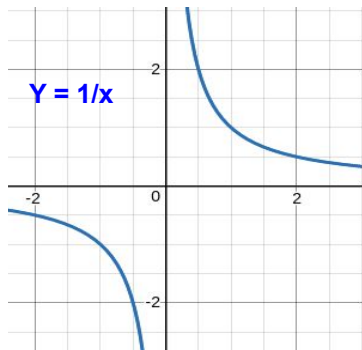
# Visualize functions

- You might use some online sites to visualize functions
  - For example: <https://www.transum.org/Maths/Activity/Graph/Desmos.asp>



# Differentiable Function

- A **differentiable** function of one real variable is a function whose **derivative exists** at each point in its **domain**
- 3 cases for non-differentiable functions
  - discontinuity, corner, cusp, tangent line has vertical slope



The **absolute value** function is **continuous** (i.e. it has no gaps). It is differentiable everywhere **except at the point  $x = 0$**

# Derivative Rules

1. Constant Rule:  $\frac{d}{dx}(c) = 0$ , where  $c$  is a constant

2. Power Rule:  $\frac{d}{dx}(x^n) = nx^{n-1}$

3. Product Rule:  $(fg)' = f'g + fg'$

4. Quotient Rule:  $\left(\frac{f}{g}\right)' = \frac{f'g - fg'}{g^2}$

5. Chain Rule:  $(f(g(x)))' = f'(g(x))g'(x)$



# Common Derivatives

## Polynomials

$$\frac{d}{dx}(c) = 0$$

$$\frac{d}{dx}(x) = 1$$

$$\frac{d}{dx}(cx) = c$$

$$\frac{d}{dx}(x^n) = nx^{n-1}$$

$$\frac{d}{dx}(cx^n) = ncx^{n-1}$$

## Exponential/Logarithm Functions

$$\frac{d}{dx}(a^x) = a^x \ln(a)$$

$$\frac{d}{dx}(e^x) = e^x$$

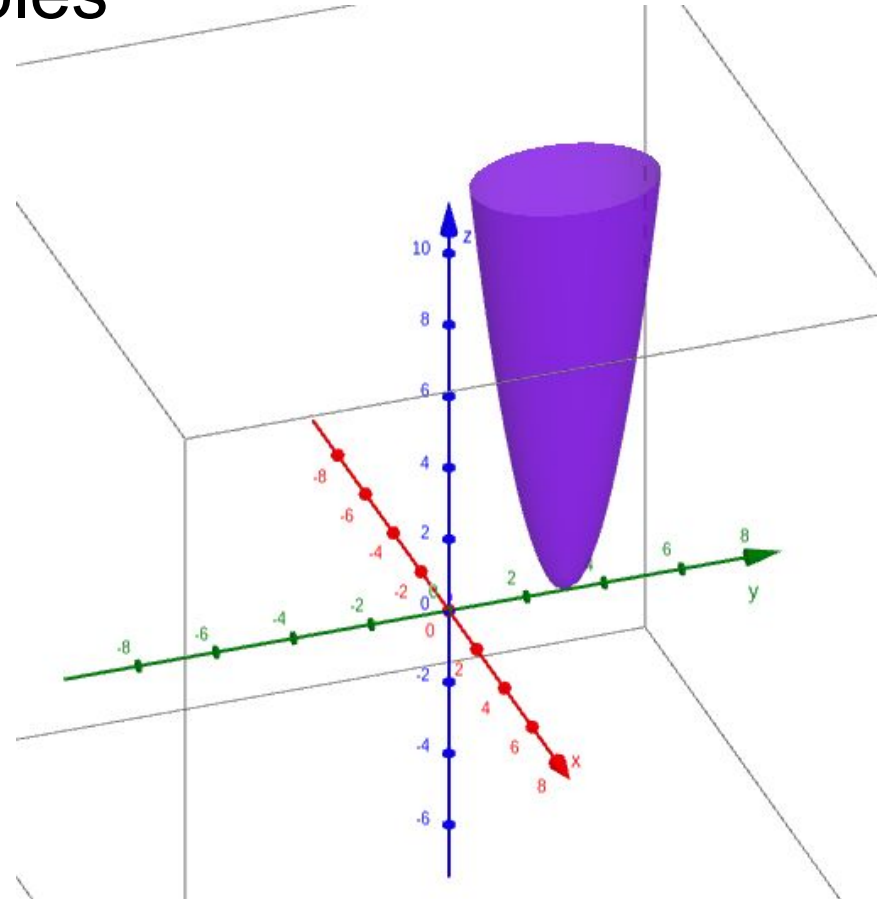
$$\frac{d}{dx}(\ln(x)) = \frac{1}{x}, \quad x > 0$$

$$\frac{d}{dx}(\ln|x|) = \frac{1}{x}, \quad x \neq 0$$

$$\frac{d}{dx}(\log_a(x)) = \frac{1}{x \ln a}, \quad x > 0$$

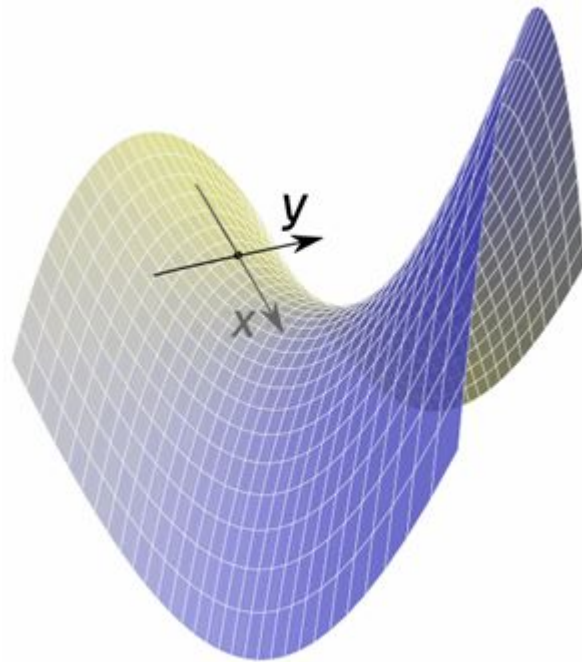
# Function of Several Variables

- Sometimes, our function consists of several variables
- Assume our function is:  
 $f(x, y) = z = 4x^2 + 2(y - 3)^2$ 
  - 2 independent variables (x, y)
  - Dependent variable: z
- Let's draw using an [online](#) site



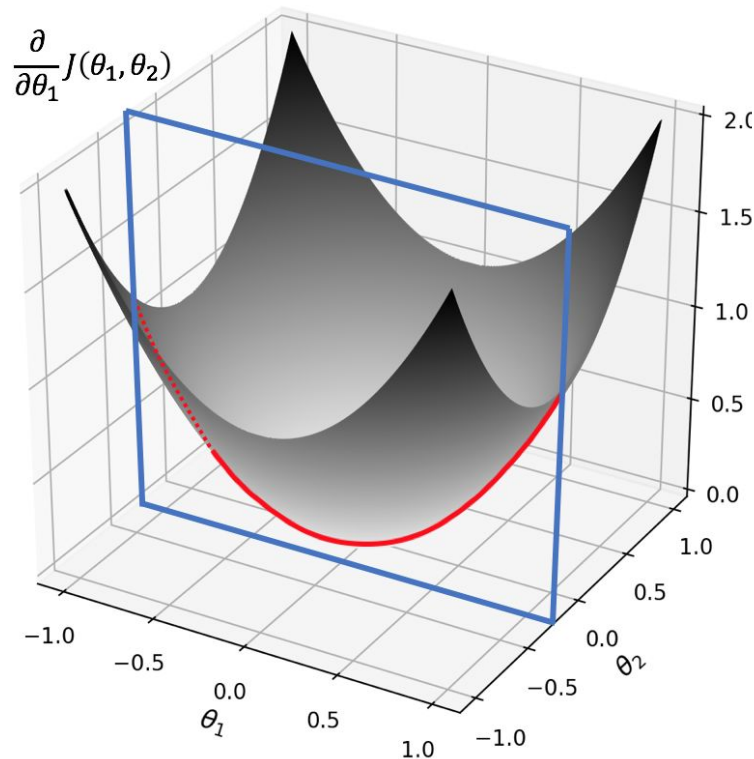
# Partial Derivatives

- Partial Derivative: derivatives of a **multivariate** function with respect to one of its arguments (*other variables are constants*)
  - When we find the slope in the **x direction** (while keeping y fixed) we have found a partial derivative
    - The opposite for y
  - Derivatives are called the **partial** derivative
- Syn  $f_x = \frac{\partial f}{\partial x}$  ;  $f_y = \frac{\partial f}{\partial y}$ 
  -



# Partial Derivatives: Intuition

- We have 2 variables:  $\theta_1$  and  $\theta_2$
- When we take partial derivatives for  $\theta_1$ , we fix  $\theta_2$
- Intuitively, we took a slice of the 2D Graph
  - This slice is 1D
- Now we apply normal univariate derivatives



# Partial Derivatives

- Can you compute the partial derivative of  $f(x, y) = 4x^2 + 2(y - 3)^2$ 
  - Once for x and once y

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial x} [4x^2 + 2(y - 3)^2]$$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial y} [4x^2 + 2(y - 3)^2]$$

Differentiate the sum term by term and factor out constants:

$$= 4 \left( \frac{\partial}{\partial x} (x^2) \right) + \frac{\partial}{\partial x} (2(-3 + y)^2)$$

---

Use the power rule,  $\frac{\partial}{\partial x} (x^n) = n x^{n-1}$ , where  $n = 2$ .

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial x} (x^2) = 2x:$$

$$= \frac{\partial}{\partial x} (2(-3 + y)^2) + 4 \boxed{2x}$$

---

Simplify the expression:

$$= 8x + \frac{\partial}{\partial x} (2(-3 + y)^2)$$

---

The derivative of  $2(y - 3)^2$  is zero:

$$= 8x + \boxed{0}$$

Let's use an [online calculator](#)

Differentiate the sum term by term and factor out constants:

$$= \frac{\partial}{\partial y}(4x^2) + 2\left(\frac{\partial}{\partial y}((-3+y)^2)\right)$$

---

The derivative of  $4x^2$  is zero:

$$= 2\left(\frac{\partial}{\partial y}((-3+y)^2)\right) + \boxed{0}$$

---

Simplify the expression:

$$= 2\left(\frac{\partial}{\partial y}((-3+y)^2)\right)$$

---

Using the chain rule,  $\frac{\partial}{\partial y}((y-3)^2) = \frac{\partial u^2}{\partial u} \frac{\partial u}{\partial y}$ , where  $u = y-3$  and  $\frac{\partial}{\partial u}(u^2) = 2u$ :

$$= 2\left(2(-3+y)\left(\frac{\partial}{\partial y}(-3+y)\right)\right)$$

---

Simplify the expression:

$$= 4(-3+y)\left(\frac{\partial}{\partial y}(-3+y)\right)$$

Differentiate the sum term by term:

$$= \left[\frac{\partial}{\partial y}(-3) + \frac{\partial}{\partial y}(y)\right] 4(-3+y)$$

---

The derivative of  $-3$  is zero:

$$= 4(-3+y)\left(\frac{\partial}{\partial y}(y) + \boxed{0}\right)$$

---

Simplify the expression:

$$= 4(-3+y)\left(\frac{\partial}{\partial y}(y)\right)$$

---

The derivative of  $y$  is 1:

$$= \boxed{1} 4(-3+y)$$

# Homework

- Compute the partial derivatives of these functions and compare with the [tool](#)
- $(2x-4)^5 + 4yx$
- $6(2x^3-4)^5 + 4yx$
- $\text{sqrt}(4yx)$
- $\log(2x^3 + 4yx)$
- $\exp(2x^3 + 4yx)$



# Relevant Resources

- [intuition about derivatives](#) - [More](#) - By Andrew NG
- Chain Rule- [StatQuest](#)

*“Acquire knowledge and impart it to the people.”*

*“Seek knowledge from the Cradle to the Grave.”*

