

Partial Derivatives

- Derivative for univariate functions:

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- Partial derivative for multivariate functions:

$$y = f(x_1, \dots, x_n), \quad \frac{\partial y}{\partial x_i} = f'_{x_i} = \lim_{\Delta x_i \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x_1, \dots, x_i + \Delta x_i, \dots, x_n) - f(x_1, \dots, x_i, \dots, x_n)}{\Delta x_i}$$

*Compute derivative with respect to x_i
regarding all other variables as constants.*

Partial Derivatives - Example

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Higher Derivatives

- Consider $f(x, y)$.
- $f'_x(x, y)$, $f'_y(x, y)$ – also functions of two variables.
We can compute their partial derivatives!

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$$(f'_x)'_x = f''_{xx}(x, y) = \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x^2}, \quad (f'_x)'_y = f''_{xy}(x, y) = \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial y \partial x}$$

$$(f'_y)'_y = f''_{yy}(x, y) = \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial y^2}, \quad (f'_y)'_x = f''_{yx}(x, y) = \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x \partial y}$$

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Hessian

- A matrix of second derivatives.
- $f(x_1, \dots, x_n)$

$$H = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x_1^2} & \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x_1 x_2} & \cdots & \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x_1 x_n} \\ \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x_2 x_1} & \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x_2^2} & \cdots & \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x_2 x_n} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x_n x_1} & \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x_n x_2} & \cdots & \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x_n^2} \end{pmatrix}$$

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$$H = \begin{pmatrix} 6x + 2y^3 & 6xy^2 \\ 6xy^2 & 6x^2y - 4 \end{pmatrix}$$

Extrema

- Univariate case: a stationary point x_0 is a local **minimum** (**maximum**) if

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- Multivariate case:

x_0 is a stationary point: $\nabla f(x_0) = 0$

H – Hessian.

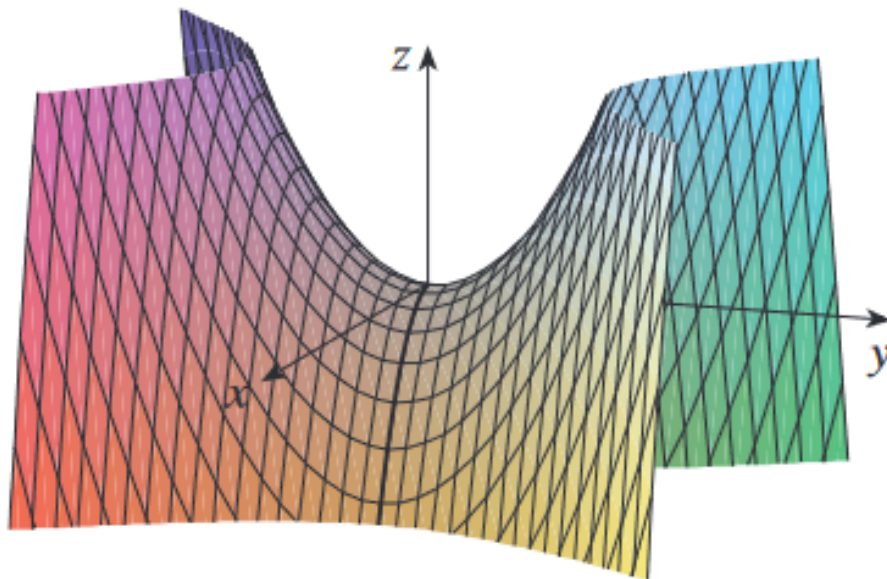
Then, if H is a **positive-definite** matrix, then x_0 is a **local minimum**.

If H is a **negative-definite** matrix, then x_0 is a **local maximum**.

If $\det H = 0$, we need to check manually.

Otherwise, x_0 is a **saddle point**.

Saddle Points



Positive vs Negative Definite Matrices

- A matrix A is called positive-definite if

$$x^T A x > 0 \quad \forall x \neq 0$$

- A matrix A is called negative-definite if

$$x^T A x < 0 \quad \forall x \neq 0$$

Positive vs Negative Definite Matrices



- How to check if a matrix is positive (negative) definite?

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- How to check if a matrix is positive (negative) definite?

Check principal minors D_k !

For positive definite:

$$D_1 > 0, \quad D_2 > 0, \quad \dots, D_n > 0$$

For negative definite:

$$D_1 < 0, \quad D_2 > 0, \quad D_3 < 0, \dots$$

$$H = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x_1^2} & \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x_2 x_1} & \dots & \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x_n x_1} \\ \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x_1 x_2} & \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x_2^2} & \dots & \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x_2 x_n} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x_n x_1} & \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x_n x_2} & \dots & \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x_n^2} \end{pmatrix}$$

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$$\begin{aligned} 4x^3 - 4y &= 0 \\ 4y^3 - 4x &= 0 \end{aligned} \iff$$

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Stationary points: $(0, 0), (-1, -1), (1, 1)$

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$\det H = 144x^2y^2 - 16|_{(0;0)} < 0$, $(0, 0)$ – saddle point.

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$(1, 1)$ – local minimum.

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$(-1, -1)$ – local minimum.

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