

Example



$$F(x) = e^{-x}$$

Taylor series of F(x) about $x^* = 0$:

$$F(x) = e^{-x} = e^{-0} - e^{-0}(x-0) + -\frac{1}{2} \stackrel{-0}{-}(x-0) \stackrel{2}{-} - \frac{1}{6} \stackrel{7}{(x-0)} + \frac{3}{\dots}$$

$$F(x) = 1 - x + \frac{1}{2} \, \frac{2}{3} - \frac{1}{6} \, \frac{3}{3} \dots$$

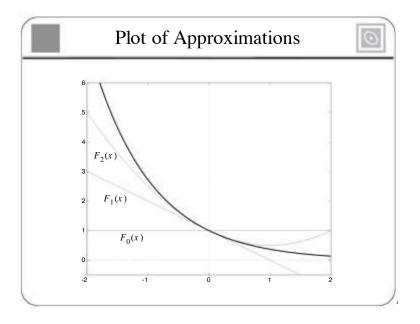
Taylor series approximations:

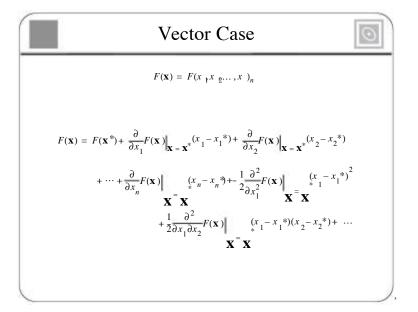
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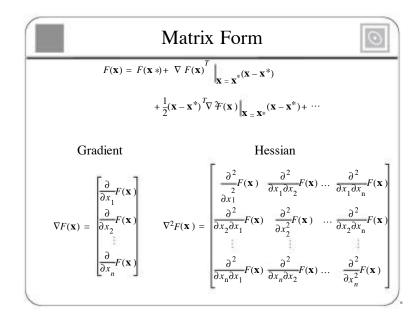
$$F(x) \approx F_0(x) = 1$$

$$F(x) \approx F_1(x) = 1 - x$$

$$F(x) \approx F^{2}(x) = 1 - x + \frac{1}{2}x^{2}$$







Directional Derivatives



First derivative (slope) of $F(\mathbf{x})$ along x_i axis: $\partial F(\mathbf{x})/\partial x_i$

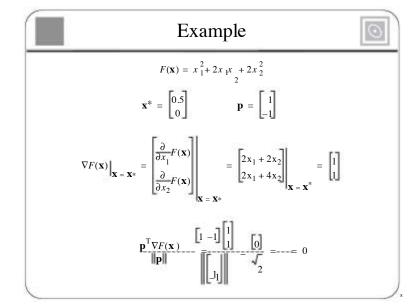
(ith element of gradient)

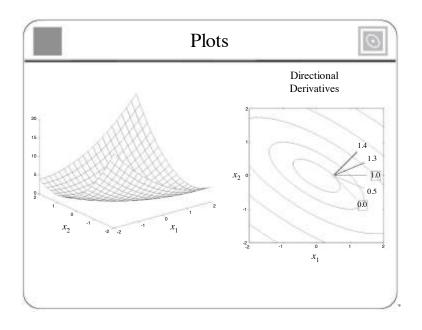
Second derivative (curvature) of $F(\mathbf{x})$ along x_i axis: $\frac{\partial^2 F(\mathbf{x})}{\partial x_i^2}$

(i,i element of Hessian)

First derivative (slope) of $F(\mathbf{x})$ along vector \mathbf{p} : $\frac{\mathbf{p}^T \nabla F(\mathbf{x})}{\|\mathbf{p}\|}$

Second derivative (curvature) of $F(\mathbf{x})$ along vector \mathbf{p} : $\frac{\mathbf{p}^T \nabla^2 F(\mathbf{x}) \mathbf{p}}{\|\mathbf{p}\|^2}$





Minima



Strong Minimum

The point \mathbf{x}^* is a strong minimum of $F(\mathbf{x})$ if a scalar $\delta > 0$ exists, such that $F(\mathbf{x}^*) < F(\mathbf{x}^* + \Delta \mathbf{x})$ for all $\Delta \mathbf{x}$ such that $\delta > ||\Delta \mathbf{x}|| > 0$.

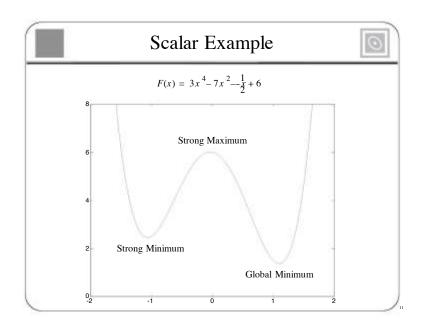
Global Minimum

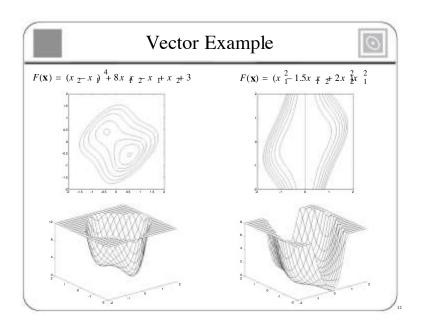
The point \mathbf{x}^* is a unique global minimum of $F(\mathbf{x})$ if $F(\mathbf{x}^*) < F(\mathbf{x}^* + \Delta \mathbf{x})$ for all $\Delta \mathbf{x} \neq 0$.

Weak Minimum

The point \mathbf{x}^* is a weak minimum of $F(\mathbf{x})$ if it is not a strong minimum, and a scalar $\delta > 0$ exists, such that $F(\mathbf{x}^*) \leq F(\mathbf{x}^* + \Delta \mathbf{x})$ for all $\Delta \mathbf{x}$ such that $\delta > ||\Delta \mathbf{x}|| > 0$.

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First-Order Optimality Condition



$$F(\mathbf{x}) = F(\mathbf{x}^* + \Delta \mathbf{x}) = F(\mathbf{x}^*) + \nabla F(\mathbf{x})^T \Big|_{\mathbf{X} = \mathbf{X}^*} \Delta \mathbf{x} + \frac{1}{2} \Delta \mathbf{x}^T \nabla^2 F(\mathbf{x}) \mathbf{x} = \mathbf{x}_* \Delta \mathbf{x} + \cdots$$
$$\Delta \mathbf{x} = \mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}^*$$

For small Δx :

If \mathbf{x}^* is a minimum, this implies:

$$F(\mathbf{x}^* + \Delta \mathbf{x}) \cong F(\mathbf{x}^*) + \nabla F(\mathbf{x})^T \Big|_{\mathbf{X} = \mathbf{X}^*} \Delta \mathbf{x} \qquad \nabla F(\mathbf{x})^T \Big|_{\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{X}^* \Delta \mathbf{X} \ge 0}$$

If
$$\nabla F(\mathbf{x})^T \Big| \sum_{\substack{* \\ \mathbf{X} = \mathbf{X}}} \Delta \mathbf{x} > 0$$
 then $F(\mathbf{x}^* - \Delta \mathbf{x}) \cong F(\mathbf{x}^*) - \nabla F(\mathbf{x})^T \Big|_{\mathbf{X} = \mathbf{X}^*} \Delta \mathbf{x} < F(\mathbf{x}^*)$

But this would imply that \mathbf{x}^* is not a minimum. Therefore $\nabla F(\mathbf{x})^T = \Delta \mathbf{x} = 0$

Since this must be true for every $\Delta \mathbf{x}$, $\nabla F(\mathbf{x}) \Big|_{\mathbf{X} = \mathbf{X}^*} = \mathbf{0}$

Second-Order Condition



If the first-order condition is satisfied (zero gradient), then

$$F(\mathbf{x}^* + \Delta \mathbf{x}) = F(\mathbf{x}^*) + \frac{1}{2} \mathbf{x}^T \vec{\nabla} F(\mathbf{x}) \Big|_{\mathbf{X}^{=} \mathbf{X}^{+}} \Delta \mathbf{x} + \cdots$$

A strong minimum will exist at \mathbf{x}^* if $\Delta \mathbf{x}^T \nabla^2 F(\mathbf{x}) \mathbf{x} = \mathbf{x}_* \Delta \mathbf{x} > 0$ for any $\Delta \mathbf{x} \neq \mathbf{0}$.

Therefore the Hessian matrix must be positive definite. A matrix \mathbf{A} is positive definite if:

$$\mathbf{z}^T \mathbf{A} \mathbf{z} > 0$$
 for any $\mathbf{z} \neq 0$.

This is a sufficient condition for optimality.

A **necessary** condition is that the Hessian matrix be positive semidefinite. A matrix A is positive semidefinite if:

 $\mathbf{z}^{T}\mathbf{A}\mathbf{z} \ge 0$

for any z.

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Example



$$F(\mathbf{x}) = x_1^2 + 2x_1x_2 + 2x_2^2 + x_1$$

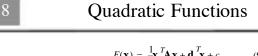
$$\nabla F(\mathbf{x}) = \begin{bmatrix} 2x_1 + 2x_2 + 1 \\ 2x_1 + 4x_2 \end{bmatrix} = \mathbf{0} \quad \mathbf{x}^* = \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 0.5 \end{bmatrix}$$

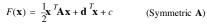
$$\nabla^2 F(\mathbf{x}) = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 2 \\ 2 & 4 \end{bmatrix}$$
 (Not a function of \mathbf{x} in this case.)

To test the definiteness, check the eigenvalues of the Hessian. If the eigenvalues are all greater than zero, the Hessian is positive definite.

$$\left|\nabla^2 F(\mathbf{x}) - \lambda \mathbf{I}\right| = \begin{bmatrix} 2 - \lambda & 2\\ 2 & 4 - \lambda \end{bmatrix} = \lambda^2 - 6\lambda + 4 = (\lambda - 0.76)(\lambda - 5.24)$$

 $\lambda = 0.76,5.24$ Both eigenvalues are positive, therefore strong minimum.





Gradient and Hessian:

Useful properties of gradients:

$$\nabla(\mathbf{h}^T\mathbf{x}) = \nabla(\mathbf{x}^T\mathbf{h}) = \mathbf{h}$$

$$\nabla \mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{Q} \mathbf{x} = \mathbf{Q} \mathbf{x} + \mathbf{Q}^T \mathbf{x} = 2\mathbf{Q} \mathbf{x} \text{ (for symmetric } \mathbf{Q})$$

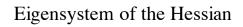
Gradient of Quadratic Function:

$$\nabla F(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{d}$$

Hessian of Quadratic Function:

$$\nabla^2 F(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{A}$$

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Consider a quadratic function which has a stationary point at the origin, and whose value there is zero.

$$F(\mathbf{x}) = -\frac{1}{2} \overset{T}{\mathbf{A}} \mathbf{x}$$

Perform a similarity transform on the Hessian matrix, using the eigenvalues as the new basis vectors.

$$\mathbf{B} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{z}_1 & \mathbf{z}_2 & \dots & \mathbf{z}_n \end{bmatrix}$$

Since the Hessian matrix is symmetric, its eigenvectors are orthogonal. $\mathbf{B}^{-1} = \mathbf{B}^T$

$$\mathbf{A}' = [\mathbf{B}^T \mathbf{A} \mathbf{B}] = \begin{bmatrix} \lambda_1 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda_2 & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & \lambda_n \end{bmatrix} = \Lambda \qquad \mathbf{A} = \mathbf{B} \Lambda \mathbf{B}^T$$

Second Directional Derivative



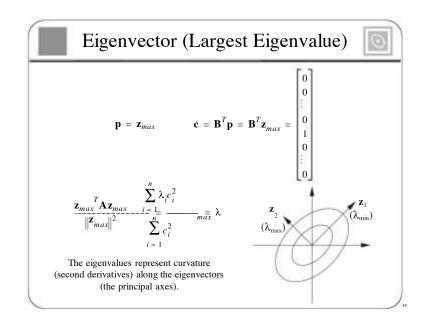
 $\frac{\mathbf{p}^T \nabla^2 F(\mathbf{x}) \mathbf{p}}{\|\mathbf{p}\|^2} \frac{\mathbf{p}^T \mathbf{A} \mathbf{p}}{\|\mathbf{p}\|^2}$

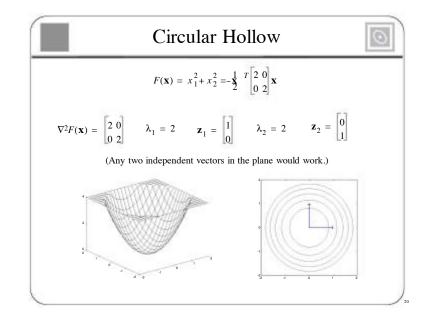
Represent **p** with respect to the eigenvectors (new basis):

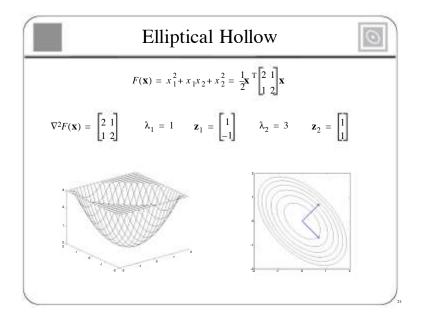
$$p = Bc$$

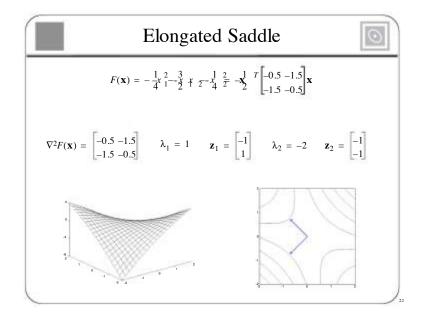
$$\frac{\mathbf{p}^T \mathbf{A} \mathbf{p}}{\|\mathbf{p}\|^2} = \frac{\mathbf{c}^T \mathbf{B}^T (\mathbf{B} \Lambda \mathbf{B}^T) \mathbf{B} \mathbf{c}}{\mathbf{c}^T \mathbf{B}^T \mathbf{B} \mathbf{c}} = \frac{\mathbf{c}^T \Lambda \mathbf{c}}{\mathbf{c}^T \mathbf{c}} = \sum_{i=1}^n \lambda_i c_i^2$$

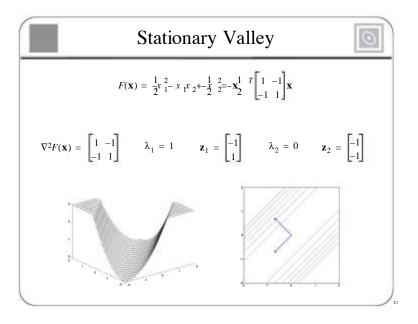
$$\lambda_{min} \le \frac{\mathbf{p}^T \mathbf{A} \mathbf{p}}{\|\mathbf{p}\|^2} \le \lambda_{max}$$











Quadratic Function Summary



- If the eigenvalues of the Hessian matrix are all positive, the function will have a single strong minimum.
- If the eigenvalues are all negative, the function will have a single strong maximum.
- If some eigenvalues are positive and other eigenvalues are negative, the function will have a single saddle point.
- If the eigenvalues are all nonnegative, but some eigenvalues are zero, then the function will either have a weak minimum or will have no stationary point.
- If the eigenvalues are all nonpositive, but some eigenvalues are zero, then the function will either have a weak maximum or will have no stationary point.

Stationary Point: $\mathbf{x}^* = -\mathbf{A}^{-1}\mathbf{d}$

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