

Section 14.7 - Max and Min Values

Vector Calc

1. (a,b) is a local max of f if $f(x,y) \leq f(a,b)$ when (x,y) is near (a,b) .

2. (a,b) is a local min of f if $f(x,y) \geq f(a,b)$ when (x,y) is near (a,b) .

If ① holds for all (x,y) then (a,b) is an absolute max.

If ② holds for all (x,y) then (a,b) is an absolute min.

Theorem 2 If f has a local max/min at (a,b) and $f_x(a,b)$ and $f_y(a,b)$ exist then $f_x(a,b) = f_y(a,b) = 0$ or $\nabla f(a,b) = \vec{0}$.

Proof: Translate to derivatives of curves by fixing x or y .

(a,b) is a critical point of f if $\nabla f(a,b) = \vec{0}$.

→ Either a local max, local min or neither.

Second Derivative Test:

Second partial derivatives of f are continuous on a disk containing (a,b) ,

$$D(a,b) = f_{xx}(a,b)f_{yy}(a,b) - [f_{xy}(a,b)]^2 = \begin{vmatrix} f_{xx} & f_{xy} \\ f_{yx} & f_{yy} \end{vmatrix} = f_{xx}f_{yy} - f_{xy}^2$$

If $\nabla f(a,b) = \vec{0}$ and if:

(a) $D(a,b) > 0$ with $f_{xx}(a,b) > 0$, then (a,b) is a local min.

(b) $D(a,b) > 0$ with $f_{xx}(a,b) < 0$, then (a,b) is a local max.

(c) If $D(a,b) < 0$, then (a,b) is neither a local max or min, called a Saddle point.

(d) If $D(a,b) = 0$ then nothing can be concluded.

Ex. 3 Find the local max. and min values and saddle points of $f(x,y) = x^4 + y^4 - 4xy + 1$

① Critical numbers: $\nabla f = \vec{0}$ $\vec{0} = \langle 4x^3 - 4y, 4y^3 - 4x \rangle$

Critical points: $(0,0), (1,1), (-1,-1)$ $y = x^3$ or $y = x^{1/3}$

$$\begin{aligned} D(x,y) &= f_{xx}f_{yy} - f_{xy}^2 \\ &= 12x^2 \cdot 12y^2 - (-4)^2 \\ &= 12^2(x^2y^2) - 16 \\ &= 16(9x^2y^2 - 1) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &= x^9 - x = x(x^8 - 1) = x(x^4 - 1)(x^4 + 1) \\ &= x(x-1)(x+1)(x^2+1)(x^4+1) \\ x &= 0, 1, -1 \end{aligned}$$

• $D(0,0) = -16$

By Second Derivative Test

$(0,0)$ is a Saddle point

• $D(1,1) = 16(8) > 0$

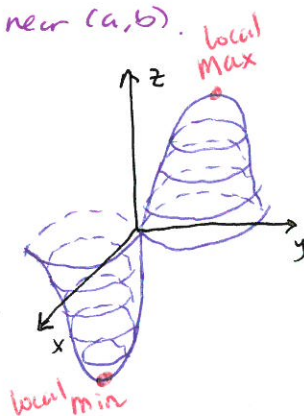
$f_{xx}(1,1) = 12 > 0$

$(1,1)$ local min

• $D(-1,-1) = 16(8) > 0$

$f_{xx}(-1,-1) = 12 > 0$

$(-1,-1)$ local min



Section 14.7 - Max and Min Values

Vector Calc

Ex 5 Find the shortest distance from the point $(1, 0, -2)$ to the plane
 $x + 2y + z = 4$

$$\text{minimize } f(d)^2 = (x-1)^2 + (y)^2 + (z+2)^2 = (x-1)^2 + y^2 + (6-x-2y)^2$$

① Critical points:

$$\begin{aligned}\vec{0} = \nabla f &= \langle 2(x-1) + 2(6-x-2y)(-1), 2y + 2(6-x-2y)(-2) \rangle \\ &= \langle 2x - 2 - 12 + 2x + 4y, 2y - 24 + 4x + 8y \rangle \\ &= \langle 4x + 4y - 14, 10y + 4x - 24 \rangle\end{aligned}$$

$$6y = 10$$

$$y = \frac{10}{6} \quad x = \frac{11}{6}$$

② Second Derivative Test:

$$D(x, y) = f_{xx}f_{yy} - f_{xy}^2 = (4)(10) - (4)^2 > 0$$

$$f_{xx} = 4 > 0 \quad \text{thus } \left(\frac{11}{6}, \frac{5}{3}\right) \text{ is a local min (must be absolute)}$$

EVT - f continuous on a closed interval $[a, b]$ then f has an absolute max/min.

↓
 Translates to a closed set in \mathbb{R}^2 : i.e. must contain all boundary points

8 EVT for functions of Two Variables

f continuous on a closed bounded set D in \mathbb{R}^2 , then f

attains an absolute max and min value at some points in D . ★ Existence Thm

Steps to find the absolute max/min:

- ① find all critical points of f in D
- ② find extreme values of f on the boundary of D
- ③ the largest function value from ① and ② is the absolute max (similar for abs. min)

Ex. 7 Find the absolute max/min of

$$f(x, y) = x^2 - 2xy + 2y$$

on the rectangle $D = \{(x, y) \mid 0 \leq x \leq 3, 0 \leq y \leq 2\}$

① Critical points: $\vec{0} = \nabla f = \langle 2x - 2y, -2x + 2 \rangle$
 $x = 1 \quad y = 1 \quad f(1, 1) = 1$

② Extreme values on D : 4 edges

$$x = 0 \quad f_{\max} = 4 \quad f_{\min} = 0 \quad y = 0$$

$$x = 3 \quad f(3, y) = 9 - 6y + 2y = 9 - 4y$$

$$f_{\max} = 9 \quad y = 0 \quad f_{\min} = 1 \quad y = 2$$

$$y = 0 \quad f_{\max} = 9 \quad x = 3 \quad f_{\min} = 0 \quad x = 0$$

$$y = 2 \quad f(x, 2) = x^2 - 4x + 4 = (x-2)^2$$

$$f_{\max} = 4 \quad x = 0 \quad f_{\min} = 0 \quad x = 2$$

2

③ Absolute max points:

$$(3, 0) \text{ or } (0, 3)$$

$$\text{max value is } 9$$

Absolute min points:

$$(0, 0), (2, 2)$$

$$\text{min value is } 0$$