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Course / Unit 1: Functions of two variables / Problem Set 1A



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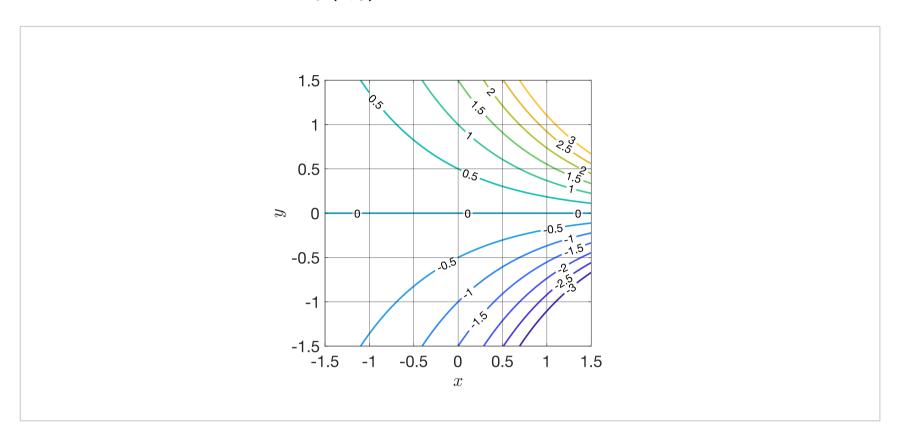
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Problem Set A due Aug 4, 2021 20:30 IST Completed

1A-1

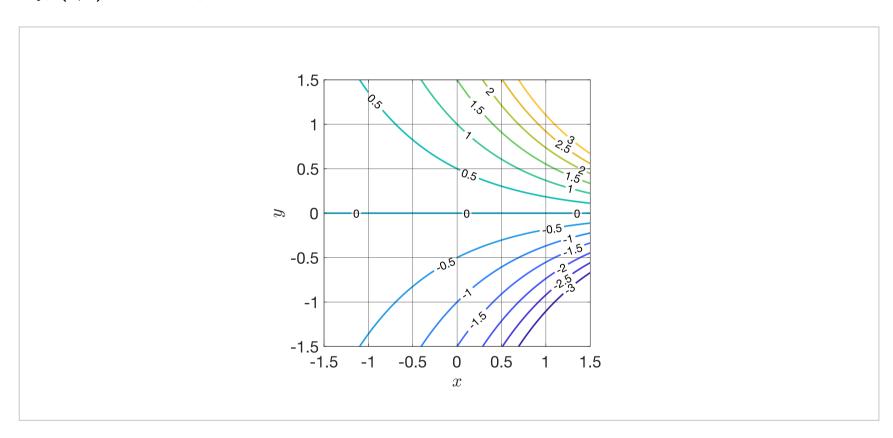
4/4 points (graded)

Consider the level curves of a function $f\left(x,y
ight)$ shown below.



Answer the following questions based on the level curves above.

Is $f_{x}\left(0,1
ight)$ positive, negative, or zero?

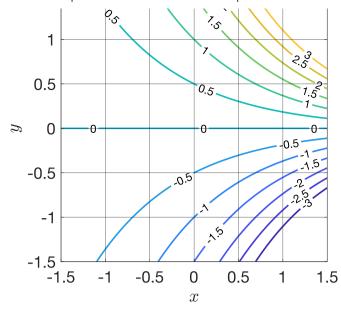


positive
negative
zero

~

Is $f_x\left(0,-1
ight)$ positive, negative, or zero?

2/6



positive



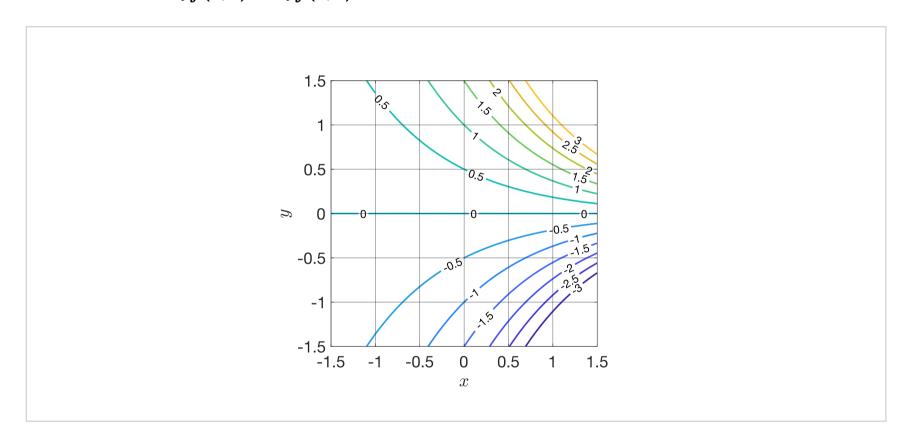
negative



zero



Consider the values $f_y\left(0,0
ight)$ and $f_y\left(1,0
ight)$. Which of the following is true? Choose the best option.



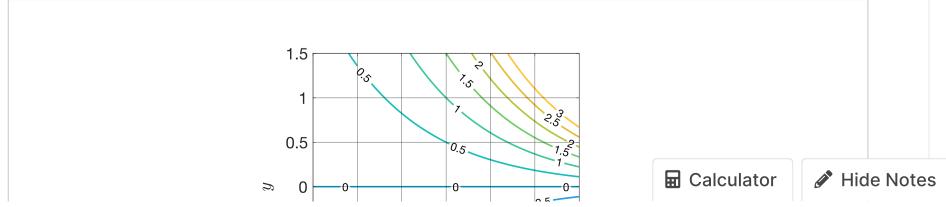
 $\bigcirc \ f_y\left(0,0\right) > f_y\left(1,0\right)$

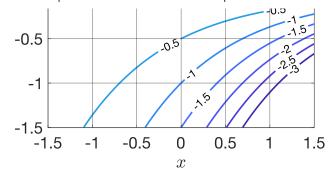


 $\bigcirc \ f_y\left(0,0\right) < f_y\left(1,0\right)$

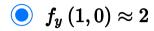
$$\bigcirc f_y(0,0) = f_y(1,0)$$

What is the approximate value of $f_y \ (1,0)$?





 $\bigcirc f_y(1,0)\approx 1$



 $\bigcirc \ f_y\left(1,0
ight)pprox 1/2$

~

Solution:

If we start at the point (0,1) and move in the positive x direction, we are moving from the level curve of height 1 towards the level curve of height 1.5. Therefore, $f_x(0,1)$ is positive.

If we start at the point (0,-1) and move in the positive x direction, we are moving from the level curve of height -1 towards the level curve of height -1.5. Therefore, $f_x(0,-1)$ is negative.

The level curves at (1,0) are closer together when moving in the positive y direction compared to the level curves at (0,0) when moving in the positive y direction. Therefore, $f_y(0,0) < f_y(1,0)$.

If we start at (1,0), we are on the level curve of height 0. If we move up to the level curve of height 0.5, we move approximately 0.25 units in the y direction. So the slope in the y direction is approximately $rise/run \approx 0.5/0.25 = 2$. Note that in this case, the "rise" is the change in the heights of the level curves and the run is the change in the y-values.

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You have used 3 of 2 attempts

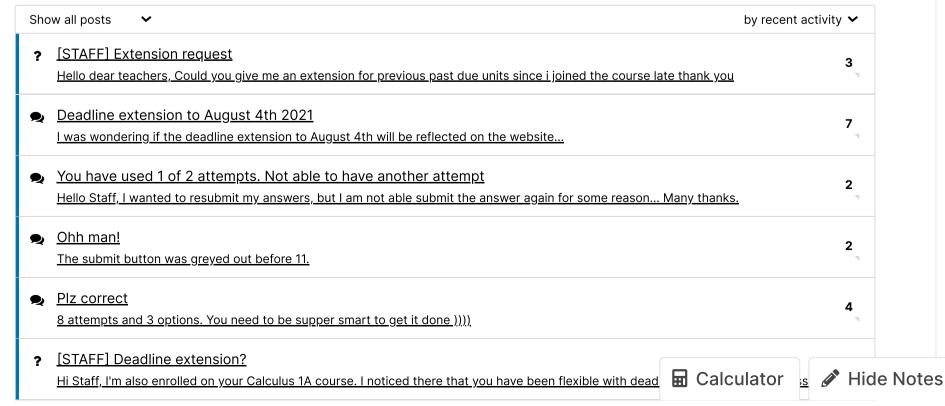
Answers are displayed within the problem

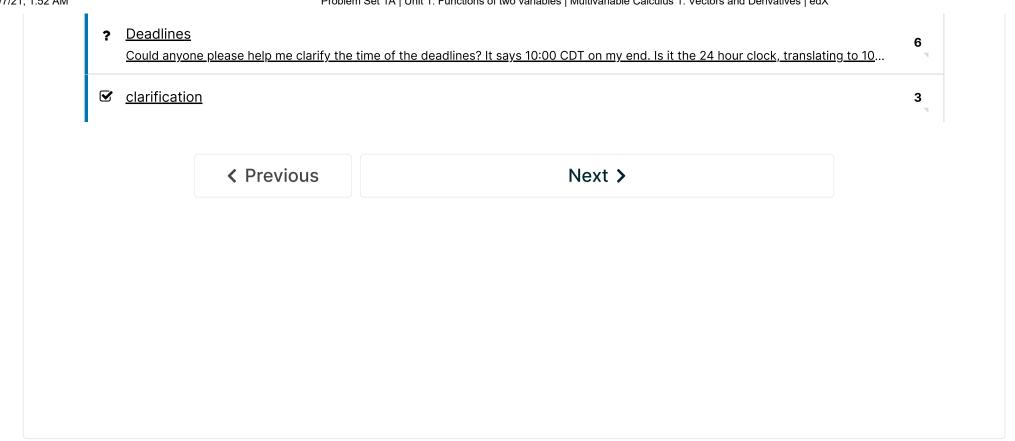
1. Level curves

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