



15.7: Maximum & Minimum Problems - Part 1

Calc 1: Q: Where does $f(x)$ have local max/min?

- Find the critical point(s) c where
 - $f'(c) = 0$
 - $f'(c)$ undefined

c is a possible candidate for local max or min
- Second Derivative Test
 - $f''(c) > 0$
 local min
 - $f''(c) < 0$
 local max
 - $f''(c) = 0$
 not enough information

extrema - max or min

Calc 3: Q: where does $f(x,y)$ have a local min/max?

- Find the critical points where
 - $f_x(c_1, c_2) = 0 = f_y(c_1, c_2)$
 - $f_x(c_1, c_2)$ or $f_y(c_1, c_2)$ be undefined

tangent plane is horizontal

Example: $f(x,y) = (x-2)^2 + 3(y-1)^2$
 find the critical point(s)

$$f_x = 2(x-2) = 0 \rightarrow x=2$$

$$f_y = 3 \cdot 2(y-1) = 0 \rightarrow y=1$$

critical point (2,1)

Q: How do we determine if (2,1) is a local max or min?

Q: How do we find local max or min:

f has 4 second derivatives:

$$f_{xx} = 2$$

$$f_{xy} = 0$$

$$f_{yx} = 0$$

$$f_{yy} = 6$$

$$z = f(x,y) = (x-2)^2 + 3(y-1)^2$$

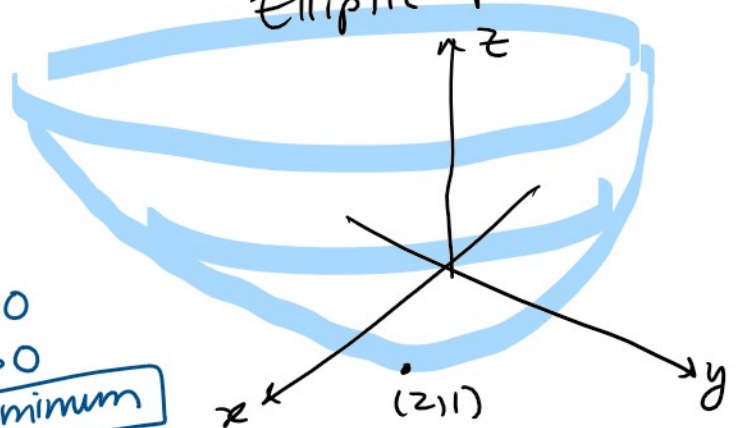
Elliptic Parabola

$f_{xx} > 0$ \smile along x -axis minimum

$f_{yy} > 0$ \smile along y -axis minimum

$$f(2,1) = 0$$

$D > 0$
 $f_{xx} > 0$
minimum



Def: The discriminant D of $f(x,y)$ is:

$$D = f_{xx} f_{yy} - f_{xy} f_{yx} \Big|_{\substack{x=c_1 \\ y=c_2}}$$

$$D = 2 \cdot 6 - 0^2 = 12 > 0$$

All of functions $f_{xy} = f_{yx}$

$$D = f_{xx} f_{yy} - (f_{xy})^2$$

Second Derivative Test:

let (c_1, c_2) be a critical point of $f(x,y)$

$$\text{let } D = f_{xx} f_{yy} - (f_{xy})^2 \Big|_{\substack{x=c_1 \\ y=c_2}}$$

D	f_{xx}/f_{yy}	(c_1, c_2)
+	+	local min
+	-	local max
.	.	saddle point

+	-	saddle point
-	anything	Not enough info
0	anything	Not enough info

Q: why do we need the discriminant
 $D = f_{xx} f_{yy} - (f_{xy})^2$

Ex: $f(x,y) = \frac{x^2}{2} + 2xy + \frac{y^2}{2}$

$$\left. \begin{aligned} f_x = x + 2y &= 0 \\ f_y = 2x + y &= 0 \end{aligned} \right\} \begin{array}{l} (0,0) \text{ satisfies} \\ \text{so it's a critical pt.} \end{array}$$

Discriminant

$$f_{xx} = 1$$

$$f_{yx} = 2$$

$$f_{xy} = 2$$

$$f_{yy} = 1$$

$$\begin{aligned} D &= f_{xx} f_{yy} - (f_{xy})^2 \\ &= 1 \cdot 1 - 2^2 = -3 \\ &\text{saddle point} \end{aligned}$$