

on a train w/ no wifi

$\Rightarrow$ no fancy videos today :)

§14.7 Extreme Values and Saddle Points

$f(x,y)$ function of two variables

want to find maximum and
minimum values of f

(together, called extreme values or
extrema of f)

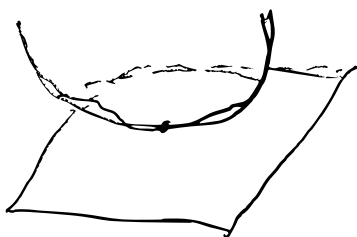
e.g. least cost, most power, ...

Def Let $f(x,y)$ be defined
on a region containing (a,b)

(a,b) is a local maximum of
 f if $f(a,b) \geq f(x,y)$ for all
 (x,y) in some open disk centered
@ (a,b)

(a,b) is a local minimum of
 f if $f(a,b) \leq f(x,y)$ for
all (x,y) in some open disk
centered @ (a,b) .

Graphically: if $z = f(x, y)$,



max = "peak"

min = "valley"

in both cases! looks like
tangent plane is horizontal
why?

Then (First derivative test)

If f has a local max(min) @ (a, b) ,
and $f_x(a, b)$ and $f_y(a, b)$ exist, then
 $f_x(a, b) = 0$ and $f_y(a, b) = 0$.

Proof Bootstrap from 1d case!

If $f(x, y)$ has a local max (min)
@ (a, b) , then

$$g(x) = f(x, b)$$

has a local max (min) @ a .

$$\Rightarrow g'(a) = 0 \quad (\text{by single-variable calculus})$$

but $g'(a) = f_x(a, b)$, so $f_x(a, b) = 0$.

Same argument shows

$$f_y(a, b) = 0.$$

Def An interior point of the domain of f is $\hat{(a,b)}$ a critical point of f if

$$[\text{both } f_x(a,b)=0 \text{ and } f_y(a,b)=0]$$

OR $[\text{at least one of } f_x(a,b) \text{ or } f_y(a,b) \text{ is undefined}]$

So to find local extrema, first look for critical points.

ex Find the critical points
of $f(x,y) = x^2 + 2xy$

$$f_x = 2x + 2y \text{] need } x = -y \text{ for this to be } 0$$

$$f_y = 2x \text{] need } x = 0 \text{ for this to be } 0$$

so only critical point is $(0,0)$.

but this is not a local min or max!

• if we fix $y=0$, then $f(x,0) = x^2 \geq 0$
so could only be a local min $= f(0,0)$

• but for x small and $y < 0$, $f(x,y) < 0$
 $\Rightarrow$ not a local min

Def A critical point (a,b) of f is a saddle point if every open disk centered at (a,b) contains points with $f(x,y) > f(a,b)$ and also points (x,y) with $f(x,y) < f(a,b)$.

(This is the higher-dimensional analogue of inflection points from single-variable calculus.)

E.g. $(0,0)$ is a saddle point of $f(x,y) = x^2 + 2xy$.

In this case, we could analyze the critical point $(0,0)$ by direct inspection. But what do we do in general?

Thm (Second derivative test)

Suppose $f(x,y)$ and its first (f_x, f_y) and second (f_{xx}, f_{xy}, f_{yy}) partial derivatives are cts throughout a disk centered @ (a,b) , and

$$f_x(a,b) = 0 = f_y(a,b).$$

Then:



(a) f has a local max @ (a, b)
if $f_{xx} < 0$ and $f_{xx}f_{yy} - f_{xy}^2 > 0$
at (a, b)

(b) f has a local min @ (a, b) if
 $f_{xx} > 0$ and $f_{xx}f_{yy} - f_{xy}^2 > 0$
at (a, b)

(c) f has a saddle point @ (a, b) if
 $f_{xx}f_{yy} - f_{xy}^2 < 0$ at (a, b)

(d) the test is inconclusive if
 $f_{xx}f_{yy} - f_{xy}^2 = 0$ at (a, b) .

Notes: ① $f_{xx}f_{yy} - f_{xy}^2 = \begin{vmatrix} f_{xx} & f_{xy} \\ f_{xy} & f_{yy} \end{vmatrix}$ is
called the discriminant or Hessian of f

② It seems like f_{xx} is playing a special role, as opposed to f_{yy} .

But in fact, if $f_{xx}f_{yy} - f_{xy}^2 > 0$,

Then

$$f_{xx}f_{yy} - f_{xy}^2 \geq 0$$



since a square
is always ≥ 0

So $f_{xx} \leq 0$ if and only if $f_{yy} \leq 0$
and $f_{xx} \geq 0$ if and only if $f_{yy} \geq 0$.

So could have used f_{yy} instead
of f_{xx} in parts (a) and (b).

Going back to our earlier example,

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

$$f_x = 2x + 2y \quad f_y = 2x$$

$$f_{xx} = 2, \quad f_{xy} = 2, \quad f_{yy} = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \text{Hess}(f) = \begin{vmatrix} 2 & 2 \\ 2 & 0 \end{vmatrix} = -4$$

$\Rightarrow$ saddle point @ $(0,0)$
(as we already observed).

Let's see some more interesting examples.

$$\frac{\text{ex 2}}{f(x,y)} = x^2 - 2xy + 2y^2 - 2x + 2y + 1$$

$$f_x = 2x - 2y - 2, \quad f_y = -2x + 4y + 2$$

$$f_{xx} = 2, \quad f_{xy} = -2, \quad f_{yy} = 4$$

Find critical points:

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} f_x = 0 \Rightarrow x - y = 1 \\ f_y = 0 \Rightarrow x - 2y = 1 \end{array} \right\} \Rightarrow \begin{array}{l} x = 1, \\ y = 0 \end{array}$$

$$f_{xx} = 2 > 0, \quad \text{Hess}(f) = \begin{vmatrix} 2 & -2 \\ -2 & 4 \end{vmatrix} = 4 > 0 \quad (f(1,0) = 0)$$

$\Rightarrow f$ has a local min @ $(1,0)$.

could also have seen this by observing that $f(x,y) = (x - (y+1))^2 + y^2$. But above gives systematic method.

ex 3 $f(x,y) = e^y - ye^x$

$$f_x = -ye^x, \quad f_y = e^y - e^x$$

$$f_{xx} = -ye^x, \quad f_{xy} = -e^x, \quad f_{yy} = e^y$$

Find critical points!

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} f_x = 0 \Rightarrow y = 0 \\ f_y = 0 \Rightarrow x = y \end{array} \right\} \Rightarrow (x,y) = (0,0) \text{ is the only crit pt}$$

$f_{xx}(0,0) = 0$, oh no! But $f_{yy}(0,0) = 1$, so use that.

$$\text{Hess}(f) = \begin{pmatrix} -ye^x & -e^x \\ -e^x & e^y \end{pmatrix} = -1 \text{ @ } (0,0)$$

$\Rightarrow f$ has saddle point @ $(0,0)$.

ex 4

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

$$f_x = \frac{1}{x+y} + 2x, \quad f_y = \frac{1}{x+y} - 1$$

$$f_{xx} = -\frac{1}{(x+y)^2} + 2, \quad f_{xy} = -\frac{1}{(x+y)^2},$$

$$f_{yy} = -\frac{1}{(x+y)^2}$$

f_x, f_y are undefined whenever $x+y=0$
but then so is f (can't take $\ln(0)$), so
don't need to include these as crit pts

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} f_y = 0 \Rightarrow x+y=1 \\ f_x = 0 \Rightarrow \frac{1}{x+y} + 2x = 0 \end{array} \right\} \Rightarrow \begin{array}{l} \frac{1}{1} + 2x = 0 \\ \Rightarrow x = -\frac{1}{2}, \\ y = \frac{3}{2} \end{array}$$

$\Rightarrow$ critical point @ $(-1/2, 3/2)$.

$$f_{xx}(-1/2, 3/2) = 1$$

$$f_{xy}(-1/2, 3/2) = -1$$

$$f_{yy}(-1/2, 3/2) = -1$$

$$\Rightarrow \text{Hess}(f)_{(0,0)} = \begin{vmatrix} 1 & -1 \\ -1 & -1 \end{vmatrix} = -2 < 0$$

$\Rightarrow f$ has a saddle point @ $(-1/2, 3/2)$

Recall: Extreme Value Theorem (for higher dimensions) tells us f always achieves an absolute max and min on any closed and bounded (= compact) region

So to find absolute extrema,
look @ boundary points of the domain
as well as critical points in the
interior of the domain.

ex 1 Find the absolute extrema of

$$D(x,y) = x^2 - xy + y^2 + 1$$

on the closed triangular plate in
the first quadrant bounded by

$$x=0, y=4, x=y$$



① Find partials:

$$D_x = 2x - y, D_y = -x + 2y$$

$$D_{xx} = 2, D_{xy} = -1, D_{yy} = 2$$

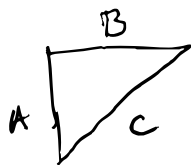
② Find critical points!

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} D_x = 0 \Rightarrow 2x - y = 0 \\ D_y = 0 \Rightarrow -x + 2y = 0 \end{array} \right\} \Rightarrow \begin{array}{l} x = 0, \\ y = 0 \end{array}$$

(not in interior)

③ Analyze boundary points!

We'll consider each side of the triangle



separately.

① $x=0, 0 \leq y \leq 4, D = y^2 + 1$ min value 1
max value 17

② $0 \leq x \leq 4, y=4, D = x^2 - 4x + 17$

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} D_x = 2x - 4 \\ D_{xx} = 2 \end{array} \right\} \Rightarrow \text{local min on this segment}$$

$D(2, 4) = 13$

boundary pts of this segment: $D(0, 4) = 17$
 $D(4, 4) = 17$

$$\textcircled{c} \quad 0 \leq x = y \leq 4, \quad D = x^2 + 1$$

$$\text{min value: } D(0,0) = 1$$

$$\text{max value: } D(4,4) = 17$$

Altogether, we see that the min value of D on this region is $D(0,0) = 1$ and the max value is $D(4,4) = 17$.

ex 2 Find the extreme values of $f(x,y) = 48xy - 32x^3 - 24y^2$ on the unit square $0 \leq x \leq 1, 0 \leq y \leq 1$.

① Find partials:

$$f_x = 48y - 96x^2, \quad f_y = 48x - 48y$$

$$f_{xx} = -192x, \quad f_{xy} = 48, \quad f_{yy} = -48$$

② Find critical points!

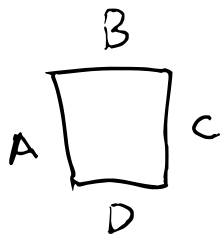
$$\left. \begin{aligned} f_x = 0 &\Rightarrow 48y - 96x^2 = 0 \\ f_y = 0 &\Rightarrow 48x - 48y = 0 \end{aligned} \right\} \begin{aligned} &\Rightarrow x = y \\ &\Rightarrow 48x - 96x^2 = 0 \\ &\Rightarrow x - 2x^2 = 0 \\ &\Rightarrow (x, y) = (0, 0) \\ &\quad \text{or } (1/2, 1/2) \end{aligned}$$

$(0, 0)$ is not in interior tho

$$\text{Hess}(f)_{(1/2, 1/2)} = \begin{vmatrix} -96 & 48 \\ 48 & -48 \end{vmatrix} = 48^2 > 0, \quad f_{xx}(1/2, 1/2) = -96 < 0$$

so local max @ $(1/2, 1/2)$, $f(1/2, 1/2) = 2$

③ Analyze boundary points.



(A) $x=0, 0 \leq y \leq 1 \Rightarrow f = -24y^2$

max val = 0, min val = -24

(B) $0 \leq x \leq 1, y=1 \Rightarrow f = 48x - 32x^3 - 24$

$$f_x = 48 - 96x^2$$

$$f_x = 0 \Rightarrow 2x^2 = 1 \Rightarrow x = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \quad (\text{since } -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \text{ is not in our domain})$$

$$f_{xx}(1/\sqrt{2}, 1) = \frac{-192}{\sqrt{2}}$$

$\Rightarrow f$ has local max on this segment

$$\begin{aligned} f(1/\sqrt{2}, 1) &= \frac{48}{\sqrt{2}} - \frac{32}{2\sqrt{2}} - 24 \\ &= 16\sqrt{2} - 24 \end{aligned}$$

@ boundary pts of this segment,

$$f(0, 1) = -24, \quad f(1, 1) = -8$$

$$\textcircled{C} \quad x=1, \quad 0 \leq y \leq 1 \Rightarrow f = -24y^2 + 48y - 32$$

$$f_y = -48y + 48$$

$$f(1, 0) = -32$$

$$f(1, 1) = -8$$

$$\textcircled{D} \quad 0 \leq x \leq 1, \quad y=0 \Rightarrow f = -32x^3$$

max value $f(0, 0) = 0$, min value $f(1, 0) = -32$

Altogether, we see that the
absolute max/min of f on
the unit square are

$$\text{max: } f(1/2, 1/2) = 2$$

$$\text{min: } f(1, 0) = -32.$$