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Functions of multiple variables

$f(x, y)$ has a **local maximum** at (a, b)
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If $f(x, y)$ has a local max or local min at $(x, y) = (a, b)$, **then:**

$f_x(a, b) = 0$ and $f_y(a, b) = 0$ (or DNE)

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Determining local extrema

Important vocabulary:

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We can try to determine if a critical point is a local extremum using:

The second derivative test.

If the second partial derivatives of $f(x, y)$ are continuous around (a, b)

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$$D(a, b) = f_{xx}(a, b) \cdot f_{yy}(a, b) - (f_{xy}(a, b))^2$$

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1. If $D > 0$ and $f_{xx} > 0$, then (a, b) is a local minimum.
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4. If $D = 0$, the test is inconclusive.

Extreme Examples

Example. Find the local extrema and saddle points of

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- ▶ Critical points:

- ▶ For each: Find $D(a, b)$, classify.

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Extreme Value Theorem:

If f is continuous on a **closed interval**, then f attains an absolute max and absolute min **somewhere** on this interval.

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Check for interior critical points

Find boundary extreme values

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- ▶ Parametrize the boundary.
(Including endpoints!)

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Largest, smallest function values determine absolute extrema on set.

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Example. Find the global extrema of $f(x, y) = x^2 - 2xy + 2y$ on the rectangle $0 \leq x \leq 3$ and $0 \leq y \leq 2$.

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▶ Find extreme values along boundary. (Piecewise-defined!)

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$$f(3, y) = 9 - 4y \rightsquigarrow \text{min: } 1 \text{ @ } (3, 2) \qquad \text{max: } 9 \text{ @ } (3, 0)$$

$$f(x, 2) = x^2 - 4x + 4 \rightsquigarrow \text{min: } \underline{\hspace{2cm}} \qquad \text{max: } \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$$

$$f(0, y) = 2y \rightsquigarrow \text{min: } 0 \text{ @ } (0, 0) \qquad \text{max: } 4 \text{ @ } (0, 2)$$

▶ Determine largest & smallest.

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Solving for z gives $z = \frac{12-xy}{2x+2y}$.

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To find an optimum value, solve for $\frac{\partial V}{\partial x} = 0$ and $\frac{\partial V}{\partial y} = 0$.

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$$\frac{\partial V}{\partial x} = 0 \rightsquigarrow$$

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Solving these simultaneous equations, $12 - 2xy = x^2 = y^2 \Rightarrow x = \pm y$.

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Because this is real world, $\underline{\hspace{1cm}}$,

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Example. A rectangular box with no lid is made from 12 m² of cardboard. What is the maximum volume of the box?

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Solving these simultaneous equations, $12 - 2xy = x^2 = y^2 \Rightarrow x = \pm y$. Because this is real world, $\underline{\hspace{1cm}}$, so we solve $12 - 3x^2 = 0$: $\underline{\hspace{1cm}}$.

This problem must have an absolute maximum, which must occur at a critical point. (Why?) Therefore $(x, y, z) = (2, 2, 1)$ is the absolute maximum, and the maximum volume is $xyz = 4$.