

Day 14

Max/Mins in 3D

- [Recall from Calculus I.....](#)
 - First Derivative Test
 - Second Derivative Test
- In Calculus III.....
 - [At a local max/min the tangent plane must be horizontal.](#)
 - This means $z = \text{constant}$
 - $z = f_x(a,b)(x-a) + f_y(a,b)(y-b) + f(a,b)$
So, $f_x(a,b) = f_y(a,b) = 0$
 - Therefore, points where $f_x(a,b) = f_y(a,b) = 0$ are called critical points.
 - [Example:](#) Given $f(x,y) = \frac{1}{3}x^3 + \frac{1}{2}y^2 - 2xy + 5$, [find the critical points.](#)
 - How can we classify these critical points as max/min/saddle points?
- [The 2nd Derivative Test in 3D](#)
 - Suppose the point (a,b) is a critical point. Let $D = f_{xx}f_{yy} - (f_{xy})^2$
 - If $D > 0$ then the point (a,b) is either a mx or a min.
 - If $f_{xx} > 0$ at the point (a,b) , then the point is a local minimum.
 - If $f_{xx} < 0$ at the point (a,b) , then the point is a local maximum.
 - If $D < 0$ at the point (a,b) , then the point is a saddle point.
 - If $D = 0$, then anything can happen: max, min, saddle point or none of these.
 - [Example:](#) Given $f(x,y) = \frac{1}{3}x^3 + \frac{1}{2}y^2 - 2xy + 5$ and the critical points you found above, use the 2nd Derivative Test to classify the points as max/min/saddle point.
 - [Contour Diagrams](#) at critical points



You Try It

Section 15.1 #9 Answer in Text.

- Did you just make up this test or what????? What is the explanation behind it? If you're interested, settle back.....it's a long story.
 - Recall the Taylor Series approximations from Calculus II
 - For a differentiable function $f(x)$, the Taylor polynomial $P(x) = f(0) + f'(0)x + \frac{1}{2!}f''(0)x^2 + \dots$ is approximately equal to the function $f(x)$ near $x = 0$.
 - Taylor Series approximations for functions of 2 variables

- The linear approximation near the point $(0,0)$ is $L(x,y) = f(0,0) + f_x(0,0)x + f_y(0,0)y$. This is the tangent plane equation.

- The Quadratic approximation is

$$Q(x,y) = f(0,0) + f_x(0,0)x + \frac{1}{2!}f_{xx}(0,0)x^2 + f_y(0,0)y + \frac{1}{2!}f_{yy}(0,0)y^2 + f_{xy}(0,0)xy$$

- Let's assume that the critical point is at the origin $(0,0,0)$. Doesn't change the shape. Then this simplifies to:

$$Q(x,y) = \frac{1}{2}f_{xx}(0,0)x^2 + \frac{1}{2}f_{yy}(0,0)y^2 + f_{xy}(0,0)xy$$

- So any function can be approximated by a 3D quadratic, near its critical point by:

$$f(x,y) = ax^2 + bxy + cy^2, \text{ where } a, b \text{ and } c \text{ are constants.}$$

- Completing the Square - on steroids!

$$ax^2 + bxy + cy^2 = a \left[\left(x + \frac{b}{2a}y \right)^2 + \left(\frac{4ac - b^2}{4a^2} \right) y^2 \right]$$

$$= a \left(x + \frac{b}{2a}y \right)^2 + a \left(\frac{4ac - b^2}{4a^2} \right) y^2$$

- The signs of the 2 squared terms are positive and therefore the shape is determined by the sign of a and $4ac - b^2$. Let's make $4ac - b^2 = D$

- Classifying the Critical Point

- If $D > 0$ and $a > 0$ then $+x^2 + y^2$ and it has this shape \cup and the critical point is a minimum.
- If $D > 0$ and $a < 0$ then $-x^2 - y^2$ and it has this shape \cap and the critical point is a maximum.
- If $D < 0$ and $a > 0$ then $+x^2 - y^2$ and it's a saddle point.
- If $D < 0$ and $a < 0$ then $-x^2 + y^2$ and it's a saddle point.
 - This implies for the case of $D < 0$, the sign of a doesn't matter.

- Connection back to the 2nd Derivative test.

- Recall, $f(x,y) \approx \frac{1}{2}f_{xx}(0,0)x^2 + \frac{1}{2}f_{yy}(0,0)y^2 + f_{xy}(0,0)xy$.

$$f(x,y) \approx \frac{1}{2}f_{xx}(0,0)x^2 + f_{xy}(0,0)xy + \frac{1}{2}f_{yy}(0,0)y^2$$

$$\text{Match the terms up: } ax^2 + bxy + cy^2$$

- This implies

$$D = 4ac - b^2 = 4 \left(\frac{1}{2}f_{xx} \right) \left(\frac{1}{2}f_{yy} \right) - (f_{xy})^2$$

$$D = f_{xx}f_{yy} - (f_{xy})^2 \quad \text{and } a = f_{xx}$$

This get's us to the 2nd Derivative as stated above.