

Discussion #1

~~Thurs day 12:30-2~~

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This week, Wed 4-5  
Th 3-4

Review of Calculus 31A, 32A  
Linear Algebra

Simple function

~~f~~  $f(x) = x^2 - 4x + 3$

2. Problem: Minimize  $f$ !  
Prove it is a minimum

2 steps

1. Set  $f' = 0$

$$f'(x) = 2x - 4 = 0$$

$\Rightarrow x^* = 2$   
2. Check  $f''(x) > 0$

$$f''(x) = 2 > 0$$

For  $x \in \text{int dom } F$

1. ~~FONC~~ First order necessary condition (FONC)

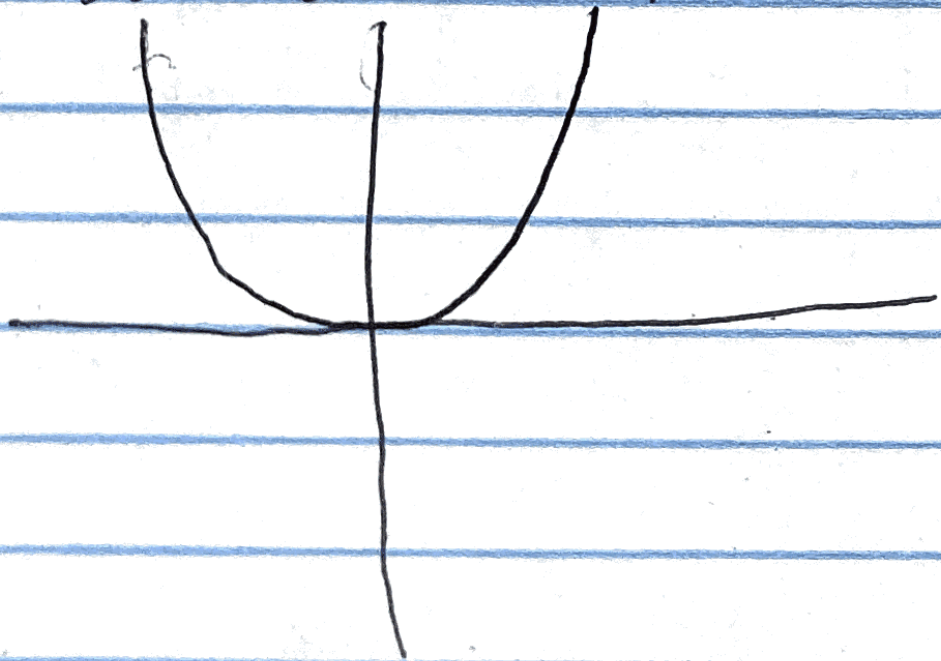
If  $F'(x) \neq 0$ ,  $x$  is not a minimizer of  $f$   
( ~~$x$  is an interior point of domain of  $f$~~ )

2. Second order sufficient condition (SOSC)

~~If~~ If  $F'(x) = 0$ ,  $f''(x) > 0$ ,  
 $x$  is a strict local minimizer of  $f$ ,  
i.e.,  $f(x^*) < f(y)$  for  $y$  close to  $x$ .

Not necessary ~~to~~ to be a minimizer

$f(x) = x^4 \hookrightarrow f''(0) = 0$   
but 0 is a minimizer



Problem: Minimize  $f(x) = x^2 + 4xy + y^2 - 8x - 10y$

1. Find critical points of  $f$ ?
2. Are they minimizers?

1.  $\nabla f(x) = \begin{pmatrix} 2x + 4y - 8 \\ 4x + 2y - 10 \end{pmatrix} = 0 \quad (\text{FONC})$  Set  $\nabla f = 0$

$$\begin{aligned} 2x + 4y &= 8 \\ -6y &= -6 \end{aligned} \Rightarrow y = 1$$

$$\Rightarrow \text{put } y=1 \text{ in eq 1. } 2x + 4 \cdot 1 = 8 \\ \Rightarrow 2x = 4 \\ x = 2$$

Critical points of  $f$  is  $\begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$

2.  $\nabla^2 f = \begin{pmatrix} f_{xx} & f_{xy} \\ f_{yx} & f_{yy} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 4 \\ 4 & 2 \end{pmatrix}$

SOSC If  $\nabla f(x) = 0$ ,  $\nabla^2 f(x) > 0$

$x$  is a minimizer

↑  
What does this mean?

symmetric  
matrix  $A \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$

$A$  is positive definite (denoted  $A > 0$ )

1) if  $\forall$  vectors  $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ ,  $x^T A x > 0$

2) if all eigenvalues are positive

3) all <sup>principal</sup> minors are positive

E.g. 
$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 2 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 3 \end{pmatrix}$$

1st minor  $\det \begin{pmatrix} 1 \end{pmatrix} = 1$

2nd minor  $\det \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 2 \end{pmatrix} = 2 - 1 = 1$

3rd minor  $\det \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 2 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 3 \end{pmatrix}$

$$= \det \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ 1 & 3 \end{pmatrix} - \det \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 3 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$+ \det \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$= (6 - 1) - (3 - 1) + (1 - 2)$$

$$= 5 - 2 - 1 = 2$$

Special class of functions  
cont.

if  $f \in C^2 \leftarrow 2 \times$  differentiable function,

s.t.  $\nabla^2 f > 0$ , it is called strictly convex

For these functions if  $\nabla f = 0$ , SOSC is  
automatically satisfied

Issues with Set  $\nabla f = 0$   
check  $\nabla^2 f > 0$

1. Solving  $\nabla f = 0$  can be hard (maybe impossible) (like Numerical Analysis)
2. Solving  $\nabla f = 0$  can be very expensive, (f may be a function of 1,000,000 variables)
3.  $\nabla f$  may not exist
4.  $\nabla^2 f$  is very expensive to calculate  
If f has a million variables  
 $\nabla^2 f$  has a trillion
5. We may have domain restrictions  
e.g. minimize f  
st.  $(A(x))$  ✓  
 $\|x\|_2^2 \leq 1$