



SNS COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY

(An Autonomous Institution)

Coimbatore-641035.



UNIT 4-Functions of several variables

Maxima and Minima of functions of two variables

Maxima and Minima:

Necessary condition:

* The necessary condition for $f(x,y)$ to have maxima (or) minima at a point a, b is $\frac{\partial f}{\partial x} = 0, \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} = 0$

Sufficient condition:

* $A = \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x^2}, B = \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x \partial y}, C = \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial y^2}$

* If $AC - B^2$ greater than 0 and $A > 0$ the $f(x,y)$ has a minimum value at (a,b)

* If $AC - B^2 > 0$ and $A < 0$ then $f(x,y)$ has a maximum value at (a,b)

* If $AC - B^2 < 0$ then $f(x,y)$ has either maximum or minimum value at (a,b) . This is called saddle point.

* If $AC - B^2 = 0$ then there is no conclusion. We need further investigation.

(*) Critical point (or) stationary points

* A point A, B is called critical point (or) stationary point of (x,y) if $\frac{\partial f}{\partial x} = 0, \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} = 0$.

Example: 1:

Find the maximum and minimum of $x^3 + y^3 - 12x - 3y + 20$

Soln:

$0x + 0y + 12x - 1 + 8 =$
 $8 =$



SNS COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY

(An Autonomous Institution)

Coimbatore-641035.



Given -

$$f(x, y) = x^3 + y^3 - 12x - 3y + 20.$$

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial x} = 0 \qquad \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} = 0$$

$$3x^2 - 12 = 0 \qquad 3y^2 - 3 = 0$$

$$3x^2 = 12 \qquad 3y^2 = 3$$

$$x^2 = 12/3 \qquad y^2 = 3/3$$

$$x^2 = 4 \qquad y^2 = 1$$

$$x = \pm 2 \qquad y = \pm 1$$

The critical points are $(2, 1), (2, -1), (-2, -1), (-2, 1)$

Necessary condition:

$$A = \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x^2} \qquad B = \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x \partial y} \qquad C = \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial y^2}$$

$$A = \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x^2} = 6x \qquad B = \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x \partial y} = \frac{\partial}{\partial x} (3y) = 0 \qquad C = \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial y^2} = 6y$$

critical points	A	B	C	$AC - B^2$	conclusion
$(2, 1)$	$12 > 0$	0	6	$72 > 0$	Minimum
$(2, -1)$	$12 > 0$	0	-6	$-72 < 0$	saddle point
$(-2, 1)$	$-12 < 0$	0	6	$-72 < 0$	saddle point
$(-2, -1)$	$-12 < 0$	0	-6	$72 > 0$	Maximum

To find minimum $(2, 1)$

$$f(2, 1) = 2^3 + 1^3 - 12(2) - 3(1) + 20$$

$$= 8 + 1 - 24 - 3 + 20$$

$$= 2$$



SNS COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY

(An Autonomous Institution)

Coimbatore-641035.



To find maximum $(-2, -1)$

$$f(-2, -1) = (-2)^3 + (-1)^3 - 12(-2) - 3(-1) + 20$$
$$= -8 - 1 + 24 + 3 + 20$$
$$= 38$$