

Chapter 6

Multivariable Optimization without Constraints

6.1 Definitions of Extreme Points Similar to the definitions of extreme points of single-variable functions, we have

Definition 6.1 A point $\mathbf{x}^*$ is a *local maximum point* of $f: S \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, $S \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$, if

$$f(\mathbf{x}^*) \geq f(\mathbf{x}),$$

for any $\mathbf{x} \in S$ such that $\|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}^*\| < \varepsilon$ for some $\varepsilon > 0$.

Definition 6.2 A point $\mathbf{x}^*$ is a *local strict maximum point* of $f: S \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, $S \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$, if

$$f(\mathbf{x}^*) > f(\mathbf{x}),$$

for any $\mathbf{x} \in S$, $\mathbf{x} \neq \mathbf{x}^*$, such that $\|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}^*\| < \varepsilon$ for some $\varepsilon > 0$.

Definition 6.3 A point $\mathbf{x}^*$ is a *global maximum point* of $f: S \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, $S \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$, if

$$f(\mathbf{x}^*) \geq f(\mathbf{x}),$$

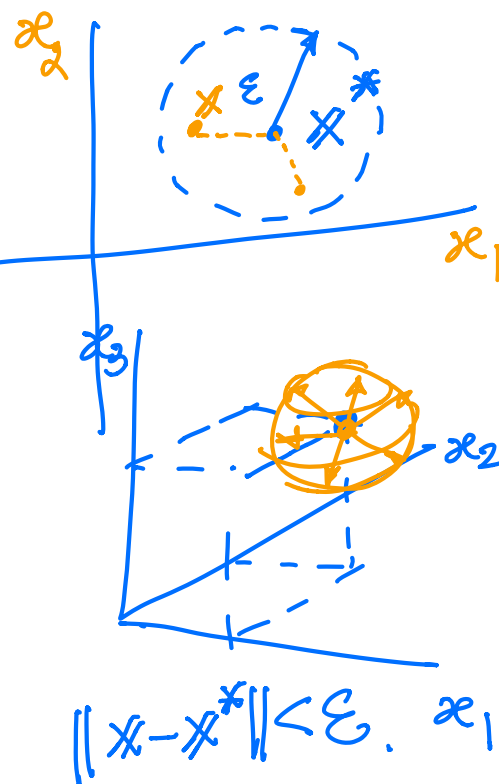
for any $\mathbf{x} \in S$.

Definition 6.4 A point $\mathbf{x}^*$ is a *global strict maximum point* of $f: S \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, $S \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$, if

$$f(\mathbf{x}^*) > f(\mathbf{x}),$$

for any $\mathbf{x} \in S$, $\mathbf{x} \neq \mathbf{x}^*$.

$|x - x^*| < \varepsilon$
 $\Leftrightarrow x^* - \varepsilon < x < x^* + \varepsilon$
 distance between x and x^*
 $\|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}^*\|$
 $= \sqrt{(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}^*)^T (\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}^*)}$



6.2 2-Variable Optimization A 2-variable differentiable function and its total differential are given by

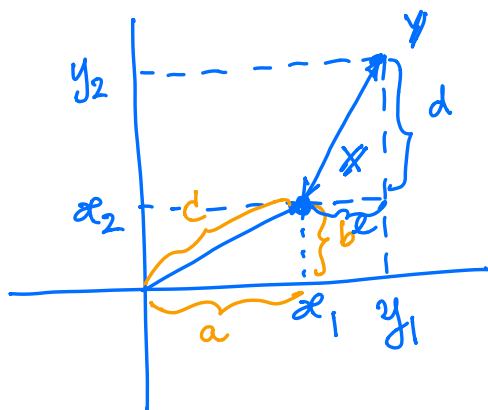
$$y = f(x_1, x_2)$$

$$dy = f_1(x_1, x_2)dx_1 + f_2(x_1, x_2)dx_2.$$

At extreme point (x_1^*, x_2^*) , minimum or maximum, for any arbitrarily small changes in x_1 and x_2 , in terms of dx_1 and dx_2 , there is no change in y , i.e.,

$$dy = f_1(x_1^*, x_2^*)dx_1 + f_2(x_1^*, x_2^*)dx_2 = 0.$$

6.3 First-Order Necessary Condition From the last equation, we can conclude that



$$\begin{aligned} \|x\| &= \sqrt{x_1^2 + x_2^2} \\ \|x - y\| &= \sqrt{e^2 + d^2} \\ &= \sqrt{(y_1 - x_1)^2 + (y_2 - x_2)^2} \\ &= \sqrt{\begin{bmatrix} x_1 - y_1 & x_2 - y_2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 - y_1 \\ x_2 - y_2 \end{bmatrix}} \end{aligned}$$

x^* local max of $f, f \in C^1$

$$\Rightarrow \nabla f(x^*) = 0$$

Theorem 6.1 If (x_1^*, x_2^*) is an extreme point of a differentiable function $f: S \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, $S \subseteq \mathbb{R}^2$, then $f_1(x_1^*, x_2^*) = 0$ and $f_2(x_1^*, x_2^*) = 0$.

Proof See Theorem 6.6 for the case of n variables case. ■

At maximum point (x_1^*, x_2^*) , the change of the change must be non-positive, i.e.,

$$dy^2 \leq 0,$$

where for any dx_1 and dx_2 , with the argument (x_1^*, x_2^*) is suppressed for brevity and legibility,

$$\begin{aligned} dy^2 &= d(f_1(x_1^*, x_2^*)dx_1 + f_2(x_1^*, x_2^*)dx_2) \\ &= (f_{11}dx_1 + f_{12}dx_2)dx_1 + (f_{21}dx_1 + f_{22}dx_2)dx_2 \\ &= f_{11}dx_1^2 + 2f_{12}dx_1dx_2 + f_{22}dx_2^2 \\ &= [dx_1 \quad dx_2] \begin{pmatrix} f_{11} & f_{12} \\ f_{21} & f_{22} \end{pmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} dx_1 \\ dx_2 \end{bmatrix} \\ &= \mathbf{dx}^T \mathbf{H}(x_1^*, x_2^*) \mathbf{dx} \leq 0. \end{aligned}$$

Hessian.

The quadratic form $\mathbf{dx}^T \mathbf{H}(x_1^*, x_2^*) \mathbf{dx} \leq 0$ for any vector $\mathbf{dx}$ means that the symmetric matrix $\mathbf{H}$ is negative semi-definite. We have the second-order necessary condition as follows.

6.4 Second-Order Necessary Condition

Theorem 6.2 If (x_1^*, x_2^*) is a *maximum point* of a twice-differentiable function $f: S \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, $S \subseteq \mathbb{R}^2$, then $\mathbf{H}(x_1^*, x_2^*)$ is *negative semi-definite*. That means,

- $f_{11}(x_1^*, x_2^*) \leq 0, f_{22}(x_1^*, x_2^*) \leq 0$, and
- $f_{11}(x_1^*, x_2^*)f_{22}(x_1^*, x_2^*) - [f_{12}(x_1^*, x_2^*)]^2 \geq 0$.

Proof See Theorem 6.6 for the case of n variables case. ■

Theorem 6.3 If (x_1^*, x_2^*) is a *minimum point* of a twice-differentiable function $f: S \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, $S \subseteq \mathbb{R}^2$, then $\mathbf{H}(x_1^*, x_2^*)$ is *positive semi-definite*. That means,

- $f_{11}(x_1^*, x_2^*) \geq 0, f_{22}(x_1^*, x_2^*) \geq 0$, and
- $f_{11}(x_1^*, x_2^*)f_{22}(x_1^*, x_2^*) - [f_{12}(x_1^*, x_2^*)]^2 \geq 0$.

Proof See Theorem 6.6 and for the case of n variables case. ■

Example Profit Maximization. Let the production function be given by

$$q = f(L, K)$$

each finished good is sold at p bahts. The price of capital and labor is fixed at p_L and p_K , respectively. The profit function is thus a function of both labor L and capital K ,

$$\pi(L, K) = pf(L, K) - (p_L L + p_K K).$$

If (L^*, K^*) is the profit maximizing (locally) point, by the first order necessary condition,

$$\begin{aligned}\pi_L(L^*, K^*) &= pf_L(L^*, K^*) - p_L = 0 \\ \pi_K(L^*, K^*) &= pf_K(L^*, K^*) - p_K = 0.\end{aligned}$$

Thus, at the maximum point, the *value of the marginal product* of each input must equal its price. Since $p_L, p_K > 0$, this is equivalent to

$$\frac{f_L(L^*, K^*)}{f_K(L^*, K^*)} = \frac{p_L}{p_K}.$$

By the second-order necessary condition,

$$\begin{aligned}pf_{LL}(L^*, K^*) &\leq 0 \\ pf_{KK}(L^*, K^*) &\leq 0 \\ p^2 f_{LL}(L^*, K^*) f_{KK}(L^*, K^*) - (pf_{LK}(L^*, K^*))^2 &\geq 0.\end{aligned}$$

6.5 Sufficient Conditions These are the conditions that, when satisfied, guarantee that a point is a maximum or minimum point of a twice-differentiable function. However, these conditions may not identify every maximum and minimum points.

Theorem 6.4 For a twice-differentiable function , $f: S \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, $S \subseteq \mathbb{R}^2$, if

- a) $f_1(x_1^*, x_2^*) = 0, f_2(x_1^*, x_2^*) = 0$
 - b) $f_{11}(x_1^*, x_2^*) < 0$ and $f_{11}(x_1^*, x_2^*) f_{22}(x_1^*, x_2^*) - [f_{12}(x_1^*, x_2^*)]^2 > 0$,
- then (x_1^*, x_2^*) is a *local maximum point*.

Proof See Theorem 6.6 and Theorem 6.8 for the case of n variables case. ■

- Both conditions must be satisfied.
- Part (b) means the Hessian is negative definite.
- The sufficient conditions actually find a local *strict* maximum point.

Theorem 6.5 For a twice-differentiable function $f: S \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, $S \subseteq \mathbb{R}^2$, if

- a) $f_1(x_1^*, x_2^*) = 0, f_2(x_1^*, x_2^*) = 0$
b) $f_{11}(x_1^*, x_2^*) < 0$ and $f_{11}(x_1^*, x_2^*)f_{22}(x_1^*, x_2^*) - [f_{12}(x_1^*, x_2^*)]^2 > 0$,

then (x_1^*, x_2^*) is a *local minimum point*.

Proof See Theorem 6.6 and Theorem 6.8 for the case of n variables case. ■

Example Use the sufficient conditions to find the point of maximum profit, when the production function is $q = f(L, K) = 5L^{\frac{1}{5}}K^{\frac{2}{5}}$, and $p_L = 4, p_K = 3$. The output price p is assumed to be 1. The profit function is then given by

$$\pi(L, K) = 5L^{\frac{1}{5}}K^{\frac{2}{5}} - 4L - 3K.$$

The partial derivatives with respect to each input at the maximum point are given by

$$\begin{aligned} L_0^{-\frac{4}{5}}K_0^{\frac{2}{5}} - 4 &= 0 \\ 2L_0^{\frac{1}{5}}K_0^{-\frac{3}{5}} - 3 &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

The *critical point* is $(L_0, K_0) = (\frac{1}{12}, \frac{2}{9})$. Verify that the second-order sufficient conditions

$$\begin{aligned} &-\frac{4}{5}L_0^{-\frac{9}{5}}K_0^{\frac{2}{5}} < 0, \text{ and} \\ &\left(-\frac{4}{5}L_0^{-\frac{9}{5}}K_0^{\frac{2}{5}}\right)\left(-\frac{6}{5}L_0^{\frac{1}{5}}K_0^{-\frac{8}{5}}\right) - \left(\frac{2}{5}L_0^{\frac{4}{5}}K_0^{-\frac{3}{5}}\right)^2 > 0 \end{aligned}$$

are satisfied. Then conclude that the point $(L_0, K_0) = (\frac{1}{12}, \frac{2}{9})$ is a local maximum point.

- If all the prices p, p_L and p_K are increased by 5%, will the point $(L_0, K_0) = (\frac{1}{12}, \frac{2}{9})$ still be a local maximum point?

Problem With production function $q = f(L, K) = 5LK^2$, recalculate the maximum point.

Example Find the input levels that maximize the profit when the production function is given by

$$q = f(L, K) = 5L + L^{\frac{3}{4}}K^{\frac{1}{2}},$$

and $p = 2$, $p_L = 16$, and $p_K = 4$. The profit function is then given by

$$\pi(L, K) = 2 \left(5L + L^{\frac{3}{4}}K^{\frac{1}{2}} \right) - 16L - 4K,$$

The partial derivatives with respect to each input at the maximum point are given by

$$\begin{aligned} 10 + \frac{3}{2}L_0^{-\frac{1}{4}}K_0^{\frac{1}{2}} - 16 &= 0 \\ L_0^{\frac{3}{4}}K_0^{-\frac{1}{2}} - 4 &= 0. \end{aligned}$$

The **critical point** is $(L_0, K_0) = (256, 256)$. However, the second-order sufficient conditions are not satisfied because

$$\begin{aligned} \pi_{LL}(L_0, K_0) &= -\frac{3}{16}L_0^{-\frac{5}{4}}K_0^{\frac{1}{2}} < 0 \\ \pi_{LL}(L_0, K_0)\pi_{KK}(L_0, K_0) - [\pi_{LK}(L_0, K_0)]^2 \\ &= \left(-\frac{3}{8}L_0^{-\frac{5}{4}}K_0^{\frac{1}{2}} \right) \left(-\frac{1}{2}L_0^{\frac{3}{4}}K_0^{-\frac{3}{2}} \right) - \left(\frac{3}{4}L_0^{-\frac{1}{4}}K_0^{-\frac{1}{2}} \right)^2 \\ &= \left(\frac{3}{16}L_0^{-\frac{1}{2}}K_0^{-1} \right) - \left(\frac{9}{16}L_0^{-\frac{1}{2}}K_0^{-1} \right) \\ &= -\frac{6}{16}L_0^{-\frac{1}{2}}K_0^{-1} < 0. \end{aligned}$$

We cannot conclude that the critical point found is a maximum point.

Problem Baldani, p. 193, #7.1 (a,b,c), 7.2 (a,b,c)

6.6 Multivariable Optimization without Constraints

With the same exposition as in the 2-variable case, we can discuss the necessary and sufficient conditions of the extreme points of functions with n variables as follows. A differentiable function with n variables and its differential is given by

$$y = f(\mathbf{x}) = f(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n)$$

At extreme point $\mathbf{x}^* = (x_1^*, x_2^*, \dots, x_n^*)$ minimum or maximum, similar to the case of two variables that for any arbitrarily small changes in terms of $d\mathbf{x}$ there is no change in y , i.e.,

$$dy = \nabla f(\mathbf{x}^*)^T d\mathbf{x} = \sum_{i=1}^n f_j(\mathbf{x}^*) dx_j = 0,$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} dy^2 &= d(\nabla f(\mathbf{x}^*)^T \mathbf{d}\mathbf{x}) = d\left(\sum_{j=1}^n f_j(\mathbf{x}^*) dx_j\right) \\ &= (f_{11}dx_1 + f_{12}dx_2 + \cdots + f_{1n}dx_n)dx_1 \\ &\quad + (f_{21}dx_1 + f_{22}dx_2 + \cdots + f_{2n}dx_n)dx_2 \\ &\quad + \cdots + (f_{n1}dx_1 + f_{n2}dx_2 + \cdots + f_{nn}dx_n)dx_n \\ &= \mathbf{d}\mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{H}(\mathbf{x}^*) \mathbf{d}\mathbf{x} \leq 0. \end{aligned}$$

The necessary and sufficient conditions can be found by defining a composite function $g_{\mathbf{d}}: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, $g_{\mathbf{d}}(t) = f(\mathbf{x}^* + t\mathbf{d})$, where $\mathbf{d} \in \mathbb{R}^n$, and find its first- and second-order directional derivatives. The following establishes that the maximum point of f is closely related to the maximum point of $g_{\mathbf{d}}$.

Theorem 6.6 A point $\mathbf{x}^*$ is a local maximum point of $f: S \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, $S \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$, if, and only if, $g_{\mathbf{d}}: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, $g_{\mathbf{d}}(t) = f(\mathbf{x}^* + t\mathbf{d})$, has a local maximum point at $t = 0$ for any $\mathbf{d} \in \mathbb{R}^n$.

Proof If $\mathbf{x}^*$ is a local maximum point of $f: S \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, $S \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$, there exists some $\varepsilon_0 > 0$, such that $f(\mathbf{x}^*) \geq f(\mathbf{x})$, for any $\|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}^*\| < \varepsilon_0$. Suppose $t = 0$ is not a local maximum point for $g_{\mathbf{d}}$ for some $\mathbf{d} \in \mathbb{R}^n$. Then, for any $\varepsilon > 0$, there exists some $\hat{t}$, $-\varepsilon < \hat{t} < \varepsilon$, such that

$$\begin{aligned} g_{\mathbf{d}}(\hat{t}) &> g_{\mathbf{d}}(0) \\ f(\mathbf{x}^* + \hat{t}\mathbf{d}) &> f(\mathbf{x}^*), \end{aligned}$$

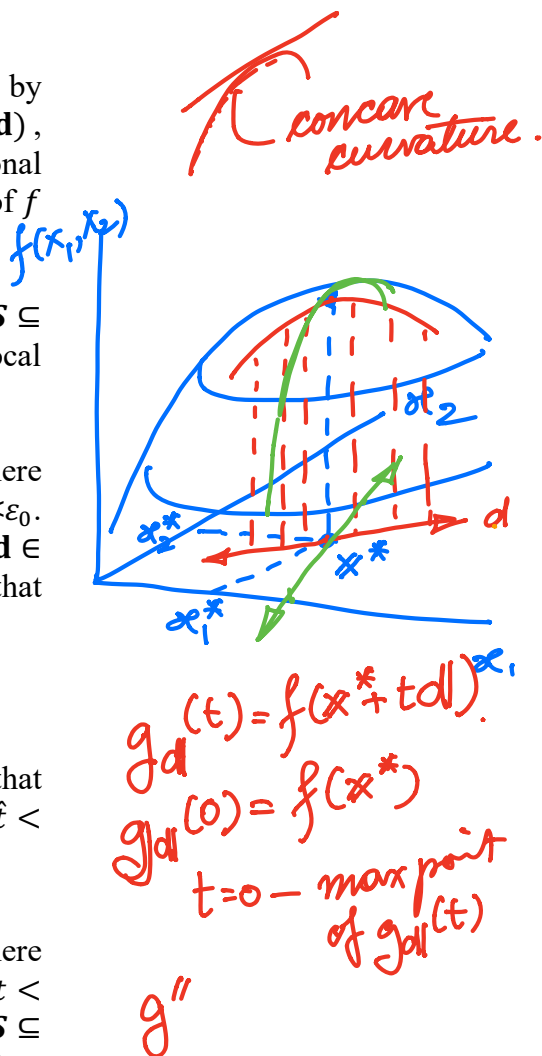
Note that $\|\mathbf{x}^* + \hat{t}\mathbf{d} - \mathbf{x}^*\| = |\hat{t}|\|\mathbf{d}\|$. We then need to show that $|\hat{t}|\|\mathbf{d}\| < \varepsilon_0$. This can be easily done by choosing ε such that $\hat{t} < \varepsilon < \frac{\varepsilon_0}{\|\mathbf{d}\|}$ so that we have a contradiction.

If $t = 0$ is a local maximum point for $g_{\mathbf{d}}$ for any $\mathbf{d} \in \mathbb{R}^n$, there exists some $\varepsilon_0 > 0$, such that $g_{\mathbf{d}}(0) \geq g_{\mathbf{d}}(t)$, for any t , $-\varepsilon_0 < t < \varepsilon_0$. Suppose that $\mathbf{x}^*$ is not a local maximum point of $f: S \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, $S \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$. Then, for any $\varepsilon > 0$, there exists some $\hat{\mathbf{x}}$ such that $f(\mathbf{x}^*) < f(\hat{\mathbf{x}})$, $\|\hat{\mathbf{x}} - \mathbf{x}^*\| < \varepsilon$. Write $\mathbf{x}(\hat{t}) = \hat{\mathbf{x}} = \mathbf{x}^* + \hat{t}\mathbf{d}$, for some $\mathbf{d}$ such that $|\hat{t}| < \varepsilon_0$ so that we have a contradiction.

Choose $\mathbf{d} = z(\hat{\mathbf{x}} - \mathbf{x}^*)$, $z > \frac{\varepsilon}{\varepsilon_0\|\hat{\mathbf{x}} - \mathbf{x}^*\|}$. Then,

$$\begin{aligned} \|\hat{\mathbf{x}} - \mathbf{x}^*\| &= \|\mathbf{x}^* + \hat{t}\mathbf{d} - \mathbf{x}^*\| = |\hat{t}|\|\mathbf{d}\| = |\hat{t}|z\|\hat{\mathbf{x}} - \mathbf{x}^*\| < \varepsilon \\ |\hat{t}| &< \frac{\varepsilon}{z\|\hat{\mathbf{x}} - \mathbf{x}^*\|} < \varepsilon_0 \blacksquare \end{aligned}$$

As a result of Theorem 6.5, we can apply the Necessary and Sufficient Conditions of single-variable function to obtain those of multi-variable functions.



6.7 First-Order and Second-Order Necessary Condition

Theorem 6.7 If $\mathbf{x}^*$ is an extreme point of a twice-differentiable function $f: S \rightarrow \mathbb{R}, S \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$, then

- 1) $\nabla f(\mathbf{x}^*) = \mathbf{0}$,
- 2) $\mathbf{d}^T \mathbf{H}(\mathbf{x}^*) \mathbf{d} \leq 0$, for any $\mathbf{d} \in \mathbb{R}^n$.

Proof Define composite function $g_{\mathbf{d}}: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}, g_{\mathbf{d}}(t) = f(\mathbf{x}^* + t\mathbf{d})$, where $\mathbf{d} \in \mathbb{R}^n$. The function $g_{\mathbf{d}}$ attains local maximum value at $t = 0$ for each direction $\mathbf{d} \in \mathbb{R}^n$. By Theorem 2.5, for any $\mathbf{d} \in \mathbb{R}^n$

- 1) $g'_{\mathbf{d}}(0) = \nabla f(\mathbf{x}^*)^T \mathbf{d} = 0 \Leftrightarrow \nabla f(\mathbf{x}^*) = \mathbf{0}$.
- 2) $g''_{\mathbf{d}}(0) = \mathbf{d}^T \nabla^2 f(\mathbf{x}^*) \mathbf{d} = \mathbf{d}^T \mathbf{H}(\mathbf{x}^*) \mathbf{d} \leq 0$. ■

This means that when $\mathbf{x}^*$ is a local maximum point, moving away from it in any direction $\mathbf{d}$ infinitesimally will not increase the value of f , and the curvature of the graph is concave, which means the Hessian is negative semi-definite according to the following definition.

Definition 6.5 A square matrix $\mathbf{A} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ is negative (positive) semi-definite if for any $\mathbf{d} \in \mathbb{R}^n, \mathbf{d}^T \mathbf{A} \mathbf{d} \leq (\geq) 0$.

For the Sufficient Conditions, we will need the following definiteness definition.

Definition 6.6 A square matrix $\mathbf{A} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ is negative (positive) definite if for any $\mathbf{d} \in \mathbb{R}^n, \mathbf{d} \neq \mathbf{0}, \mathbf{d}^T \mathbf{A} \mathbf{d} < (>) 0$.

6.9 Sufficient Conditions These are the conditions that, when satisfied, guarantee that a point is a maximum or minimum point of a twice-differentiable function of multivariable. However, these conditions may not identify every maximum and minimum points.

Theorem 6.8 For a twice-differentiable function $f: S \rightarrow \mathbb{R}, S \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$, if at any $\mathbf{x}^* \in S$,

- 1) $\nabla f(\mathbf{x}^*) = \mathbf{0}$, and
- 2) $\mathbf{H}(\mathbf{x}^*)$ is negative (positive) definite,

then $\mathbf{x}^*$ is a local maximum (minimum) point of f .

Proof Since $\mathbf{x}^*$ is a local maximum (minimum) point of f if, and only if, the composite function $g_{\mathbf{d}}: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}, g_{\mathbf{d}}(t) = f(\mathbf{x}^* + t\mathbf{d})$, has a local maximum (minimum) at $t = 0$, for any $\mathbf{d} \in \mathbb{R}^n$. By Theorem 2.6, the function $g_{\mathbf{d}}$ has a local maximum at $t = 0$, if

$\mathbf{x}^*$ local max of f

$\Leftrightarrow g_{\mathbf{d}}(t)$ has local max at $t=0$
single var. fn
Necessary Conditions.

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} g'_{\mathbf{d}}(0) = 0 \\ g''_{\mathbf{d}}(0) < 0 \end{array} \right\} \text{ for any } \mathbf{d} \in \mathbb{R}^n.$$

$\mathbf{H}(\mathbf{x}^*)$ is neg semidef.

$$f(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{A} \mathbf{x} = a_{11}x_1^2 + a_{12}x_1x_2 + \dots + a_{nn}x_n^2$$

- 1) $g'_d(0) = \nabla f(\mathbf{x}^*)^T \mathbf{d} = 0 \Leftrightarrow \nabla f(\mathbf{x}^*) = \mathbf{0}$, and
- 2) $g''_d(0) = \mathbf{d}^T \nabla^2 f(\mathbf{x}^*) \mathbf{d} = \mathbf{d}^T \mathbf{H}(\mathbf{x}^*) \mathbf{d} < 0$.

For local minimum, the inequality in (2) is of the reverse direction. ■

- Both conditions must be satisfied.
- The sufficient conditions actually find a local *strict* maximum (minimum) point.

6.10 Test of Definiteness of the Hessian

See Simon and Blume [1994] Theorem 16.2, page 383, for the test of semi-definiteness of a square matrix. Only the test for definiteness is discussed here.

Definition 6.7 The submatrix $\mathbf{H}_k$ of $\mathbf{H}(\mathbf{x}^*)$ is called the *leading principal submatrix* of order k if it is the matrix $\mathbf{H}(\mathbf{x}^*)$ with the last $n - k$ rows and columns deleted.

Definition 6.8 $|\mathbf{H}_k|$ is called the *leading principal minor* of order k .

Theorem 6.9 $\mathbf{H}(\mathbf{x}^*)$ is *positive* definite if $|\mathbf{H}_k| > 0, k = 1, 2, \dots, n$.

Theorem $\mathbf{H}(\mathbf{x}^*)$ is *negative* definite if $(-1)^k |\mathbf{H}_k| > 0, k = 1, 2, \dots, n$.

HW Baldani, p. 194, #7.4 (a,b,c,d)

6.11 Concavity, Convexity and Optimization

The sufficient conditions can only guarantee that a point is a local maximum or minimum. We need additional assumption to obtain a global extreme point. One of such assumptions is the concavity or convexity of the function. This is similar to the concavity and convexity of the single-variable functions as discussed in Chapter 2.

Definition 6.9 A function $f: S \rightarrow \mathbb{R}, S \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$, is a *concave* (convex) function, if

$$f(\lambda \mathbf{x}_1 + (1 - \lambda) \mathbf{x}_2) \geq \lambda f(\mathbf{x}_1) + (1 - \lambda) f(\mathbf{x}_2)$$

convex combination of $\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2$

for any $\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2 \in S$, and $0 \leq \lambda \leq 1$.

Definition 6.10 A function $f: S \rightarrow \mathbb{R}, S \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$, is a *strictly concave* (convex) function, if

$$f(\lambda \mathbf{x}_1 + (1 - \lambda) \mathbf{x}_2) > \lambda f(\mathbf{x}_1) + (1 - \lambda) f(\mathbf{x}_2)$$

MA217 $\mathbf{H}(\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2) = \begin{bmatrix} f_{11} & f_{12} \\ f_{21} & f_{22} \end{bmatrix}$

Test:

- 1) $f_{11} < 0$
- 2) $f_{11}f_{22} - (f_{12})^2 > 0$

$$\mathbf{H} = \begin{bmatrix} f_{11} & f_{12} \\ f_{21} & f_{22} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$f_{21} \cdot f_{12} = (f_{12})^2$$

$$\mathbf{H} = \begin{bmatrix} f_{11} & f_{12} & f_{13} \\ f_{21} & f_{22} & f_{23} \\ f_{31} & f_{32} & f_{33} \end{bmatrix} \quad n=3$$

last $n-1$ row + col.

$$\mathbf{H}_1 = f_{11}$$

$$\mathbf{H}_2 = \begin{bmatrix} f_{11} & f_{12} \\ f_{21} & f_{22} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\mathbf{H}_3 = \mathbf{H}$$

$$\lambda \mathbf{x}_1 + (1 - \lambda) \mathbf{x}_2$$

$$\lambda \begin{bmatrix} x_1^1 \\ \vdots \\ x_1^n \end{bmatrix} + (1 - \lambda) \begin{bmatrix} x_2^1 \\ \vdots \\ x_2^n \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\max f(x), f \in C^2$$

Necessary Conditions.

$$x^* \text{ local max of } f \Rightarrow \begin{cases} 1) \nabla f(x^*) = 0 \\ 2) H(x^*) \text{ neg semi def.} \end{cases}$$

$$g''(0) \leq 0 \quad \forall d.$$

$$d^T \nabla^2 f(x^*) d = d^T H(x^*) d \leq 0 \quad \forall d \in \mathbb{R}^n$$

$H(x^*)$ neg semi-definite.

Sufficient Conditions.

$$1) \nabla f(x^*) = 0.$$

$$2) \begin{cases} d^T \nabla^2 f(x^*) d < 0 \\ d^T H(x^*) d < 0 \end{cases} \quad \forall d \in \mathbb{R}^n, d \neq 0.$$

— $H(x^*)$ neg definite.

all leading principle minors ≥ 0

$$\left. \begin{aligned} |H(x^*)| &> 0 \\ \text{or } < 0 \end{aligned} \right\} \Rightarrow H(x^*) \text{ is nonsing.}$$

if x^* was found by Suff conditions to be a local max (min), we have $|H(x^*)| \neq 0$.

for any $\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2 \in \mathcal{S}$, $\mathbf{x}_1 \neq \mathbf{x}_2$, and $0 < \lambda < 1$.

We will have the following results similar to the case of single variable in Chapter 2. We can extend the results of Chapter 2 to multivariable concave (convex) function by first proving the following Theorem.

Definition 6.11 Given a function $f: \mathcal{S} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$, $\mathcal{S} \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$, for any $\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \in \mathcal{S}$, define $g_{\mathbf{xy}}: [0, 1] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, where

$$g_{\mathbf{xy}}(t) = f(t\mathbf{x} + (1-t)\mathbf{y}).$$

Theorem 6.10 (Simon & Blume, Theorem 21.1) A function $f: \mathcal{S} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, $\mathcal{S}$ is a convex set, $\mathcal{S} \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$, is concave (convex) if, and only if, for any $\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \in \mathcal{S}$, $g_{\mathbf{xy}}$ is.

Proof First, assume that $g_{\mathbf{xy}}$ is concave for any $\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \in \mathcal{S}$. Note that

$$\begin{aligned} g_{\mathbf{xy}}(0) &= f(\mathbf{y}), \\ g_{\mathbf{xy}}(1) &= f(\mathbf{x}), \text{ and} \\ g_{\mathbf{xy}}(\lambda) &= f(\mathbf{x} + (1-\lambda)(\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{x})) = f(\lambda\mathbf{x} + (1-\lambda)\mathbf{y}). \end{aligned}$$

Thus,

$$\begin{aligned} f(\lambda\mathbf{x} + (1-\lambda)\mathbf{y}) &= g_{\mathbf{xy}}(\lambda) = g_{\mathbf{xy}}(\lambda \cdot 1 + (1-\lambda) \cdot 0) \\ &\geq \lambda g_{\mathbf{xy}}(1) + (1-\lambda)g_{\mathbf{xy}}(0) \\ &= \lambda f(\mathbf{x}) + (1-\lambda)f(\mathbf{y}). \end{aligned}$$

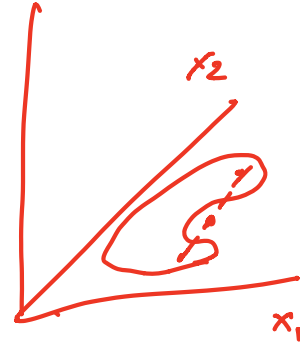
Now, if f is concave, we have to show that $g_{\mathbf{xy}}$ is concave for any $\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \in \mathcal{S}$. For any $s_1, s_2, \lambda \in [0, 1]$,

$$\begin{aligned} g_{\mathbf{xy}}(\lambda s_1 + (1-\lambda)s_2) &= f((\lambda s_1 + (1-\lambda)s_2)\mathbf{x} + (1 - (\lambda s_1 + (1-\lambda)s_2))\mathbf{y}) \\ &= f((\lambda s_1 + (1-\lambda)s_2)\mathbf{x} + (\lambda + (1-\lambda) - (\lambda s_1 + (1-\lambda)s_2))\mathbf{y}) \\ &= f((\lambda s_1 + (1-\lambda)s_2)\mathbf{x} + (\lambda(1-s_1) + (1-\lambda) - (1-\lambda)s_2)\mathbf{y}) \\ &= f((\lambda s_1 + (1-\lambda)s_2)\mathbf{x} + (\lambda(1-s_1) + (1-\lambda)(1-s_2))\mathbf{y}) \\ &= f(\lambda(s_1\mathbf{x} + (1-s_1)\mathbf{y}) + (1-\lambda)(s_2\mathbf{x} + (1-s_2)\mathbf{y})) \\ &\geq \lambda f(s_1\mathbf{x} + (1-s_1)\mathbf{y}) + (1-\lambda)f(s_2\mathbf{x} + (1-s_2)\mathbf{y}) \\ &= \lambda g_{\mathbf{xy}}(s_1) + (1-\lambda)g_{\mathbf{xy}}(s_2). \end{aligned}$$

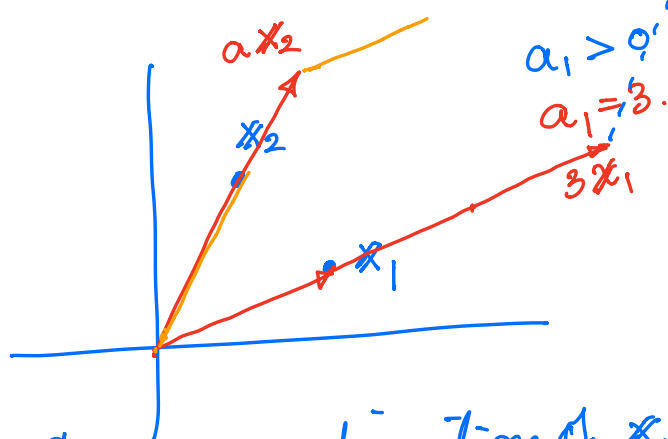
Thus, $g_{\mathbf{xy}}$ is concave. ■

We can now use results from Chapter 2 to obtain the analogous results for the multivariable function.

Theorem 6.11 Let $f: \mathcal{S} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$, $\mathcal{S} \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$, be a differentiable function. The function f is concave (convex) if, and only if,

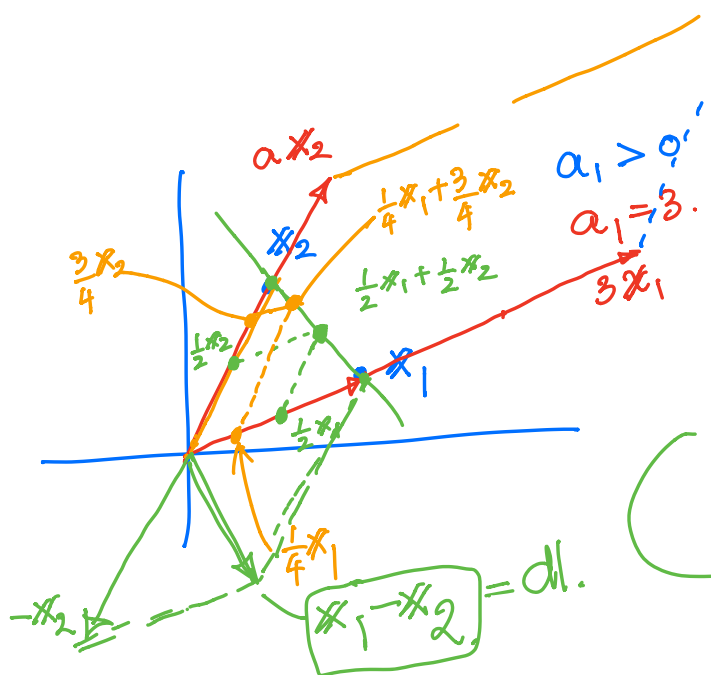


Linear Combination of x_1, x_2 $a_1 x_1 + a_2 x_2$ a_1, a_2 are scalars (numbers).	$x_1, x_2, \dots, x_k$ $a_1 x_1 + a_2 x_2 + \dots + a_k x_k$ $a_1, \dots, a_k$ numbers.
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Convex combination of x_1, x_2

$x_\lambda = \lambda x_1 + (1-\lambda) x_2, 0 \leq \lambda \leq 1$



$\lambda = \frac{1}{2}$
 $(1-\lambda) = \frac{1}{2}$

$\lambda = \frac{1}{4}$
 $(1-\lambda) = \frac{3}{4}$

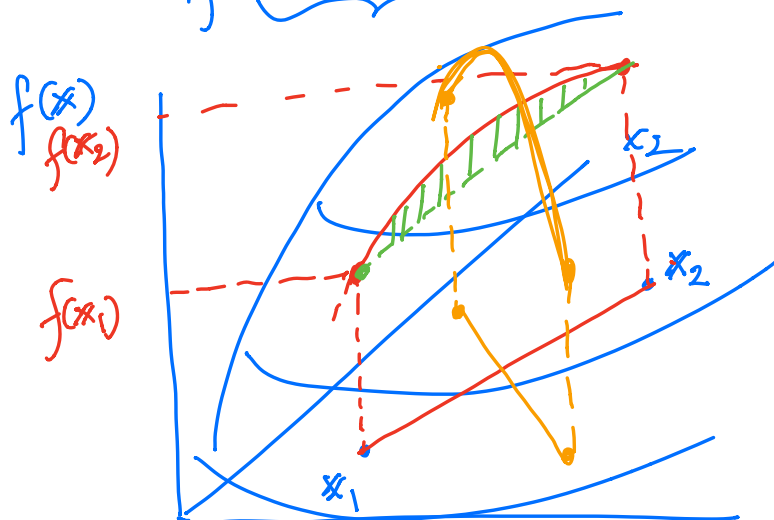
$\lambda x_1 + (1-\lambda) x_2 = x_2 + \lambda (x_1 - x_2)$
 $= x_2 + \lambda dl$

$\lambda = 1 \quad x_\lambda = x_1 \checkmark$
 $\lambda = \frac{1}{2} \quad x_\lambda =$

$f: S \rightarrow \mathbb{R}, S \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$
 f concave if for any $x_1, x_2 \in S$, then

$$f(\lambda x_1 + (1-\lambda)x_2) \geq \lambda f(x_1) + (1-\lambda)f(x_2)$$

for any $0 \leq \lambda \leq 1$



wok.



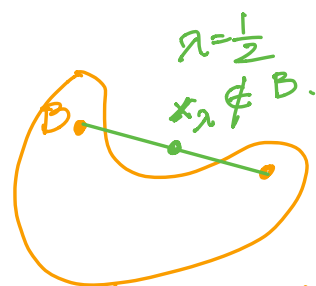
$$g(\lambda) = f(x_2 + \lambda(x_1 - x_2))$$

$$g'(t) = f'(x_0 + td)$$

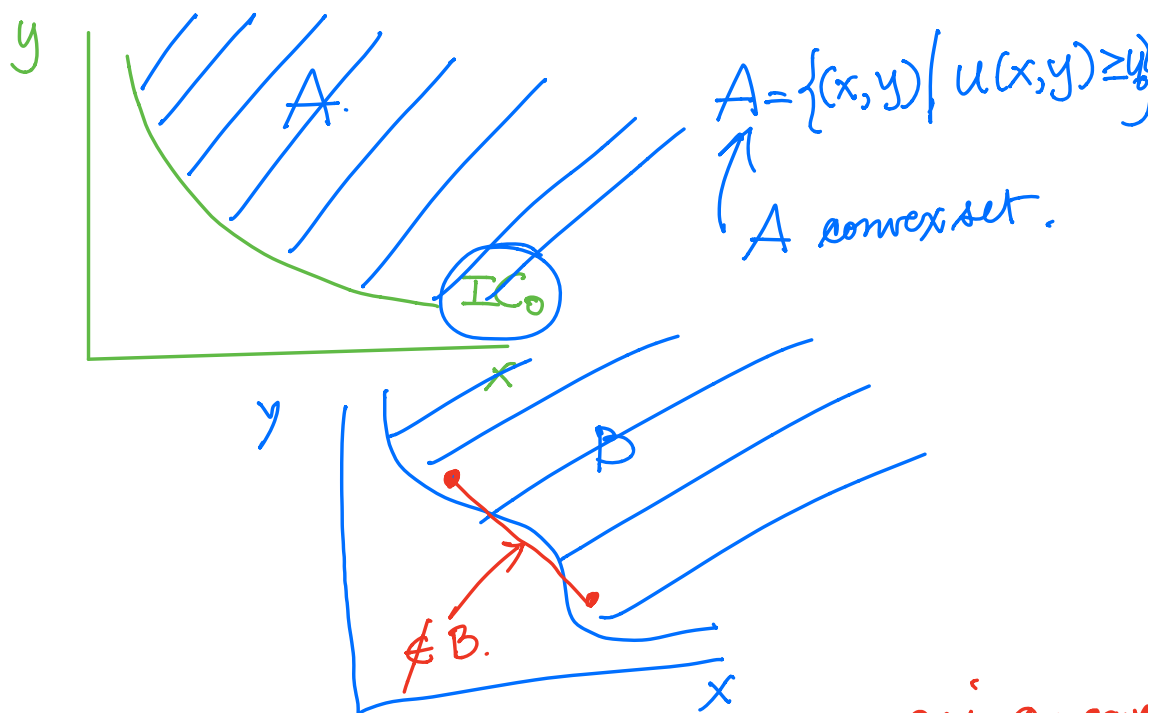
convex combination
 Convex set. $A \subseteq \mathbb{R}^2$, if for any $x_1, x_2 \in A$
 $\lambda x_1 + (1-\lambda)x_2 \in A$



a convex set



not a convex set.



This is needed to show that $u(x)$ is quasi-concave

$$f(\lambda x_1 + (1-\lambda)x_2) \geq \min \{f(x_1), f(x_2)\}.$$

$$f(y) - f(x) \leq \nabla f(x)^T(y - x), \quad (f \in C^1, \text{concave})$$

(≥) ← convex.

for any $x, y \in S$.

Proof We show only for the case of concave function. If we define function g_{xy} slightly different from the previous theorem, namely

$$g_{xy}(t) = f((1-t)x + ty) = f(x + t(y-x)).$$

then by the previous theorem, $f: S \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$, $S \subseteq \mathbb{R}$, is a differentiable and concave if, and only if g_{xy} is, and by Theorem 2.8,

$$\begin{aligned} &\Leftrightarrow g_{xy}(1) - g_{xy}(0) \leq g'_{xy}(0)(1-0) \\ &\Leftrightarrow f(y) - f(x) \leq \nabla f(x)^T(y-x) \quad \blacksquare \end{aligned}$$

Similarly, with the same argument we can write for strict concavity and convexity

Theorem 6.12 Let $f: S \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$, $S \subseteq \mathbb{R}$, be a differentiable function. The function f is strictly concave (convex) if, and only if,

$$f(y) - f(x) < \nabla f(x)^T(y-x), \quad (>)$$

for any $x, y \in S, x \neq y$.

Problem. Prove this Theorem 6.11. The proof is similar to that of Theorem 6.10 but with strict inequality.

Theorem 6.13 (Simon & Blume, Theorem 21.5, page 513) If $f: S \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, S is a convex set, $S \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$, is twice differentiable, then

- a) f is concave $\Leftrightarrow$ For any $x \in S$, $d^T H(x) d \leq 0$, $d \in \mathbb{R}^n$,
b) For any $x \in S$, $d^T H(x) d < 0$, $d \in \mathbb{R}^n$, $d \neq 0 \Rightarrow f$ is strictly concave

Proof (a) ($\Rightarrow$) Let f be concave over a convex set S . We have to show that $d^T H(x) d \leq 0$, $d \in \mathbb{R}^n$. For any $x \in S$, since f is differentiable at x , there exists some sufficiently small $t_0 > 0$, such that $y_d = x + t_0 d \in S$, for any $d \in \mathbb{R}^n$. Since f is concave, g_{xy_d} is concave and $g''_{xy_d}(0) \leq 0$. Thus

$$\begin{aligned} 0 \geq g''_{xy_d}(0) &= (y_d - x)^T H(x) (y_d - x) \\ &= t_0 d^T H(x) t_0 d \\ &= t_0^2 d^T H(x) d \end{aligned}$$

Thus, we have $d^T H(x) d \leq 0$, for any $x \in S$.

$f(x)$ concave
if $f''(x) \leq 0 \forall x$

($\Leftarrow$) If, for any $\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \in S$, $\mathbf{d}^T \mathbf{H}(\mathbf{x}) \mathbf{d} \leq 0$, $\mathbf{d} \in \mathbb{R}^n$. Since, $g''_{\mathbf{xy}}(0) = \mathbf{d}^T \mathbf{H}(\mathbf{x}) \mathbf{d} \leq 0$, then $g_{\mathbf{xy}}(t)$ is concave and so is f . ■

Problem Prove (b) of Theorem 6.12¹³ above. Note that the arrow is only in one direction.

This means that if the function f is twice differentiable, it is concave if and only if the Hessian is negative semi-definite everywhere. And the function is strictly concave if the Hessian is negative definite everywhere.

Theorem 6.14 If a matrix is positive (negative) definite, it is nonsingular.

Problem Prove Theorem 6.13¹⁴

Problem Baldani, p. 194, #7.6, 7.7, 7.8

Theorem 6.15 Let $f: S \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, $S \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$,

- a) If f is concave, a local maximum point $\mathbf{x}^*$ is also a global one.
- b) If f is strictly concave, a local maximum point $\mathbf{x}^*$ is also a strictly global one.

Proof Similar to the proof of Theorem 2.12.

Theorem 6.16 Let $f: S \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, $S \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$, be differentiable.

- a) If f is concave and $\nabla f(\mathbf{x}^*) = \mathbf{0}$, $\mathbf{x}^* \in S$, then $\mathbf{x}^*$ is a global maximum of f .
- b) If f is strictly concave and $\nabla f(\mathbf{x}^*) = \mathbf{0}$, $\mathbf{x}^* \in S$, then $\mathbf{x}^*$ is a strict global maximum of f .

Proof We prove only for (a). By Theorem..., for any $\mathbf{y} \in S$,

$$f(\mathbf{y}) - f(\mathbf{x}^*) \leq \nabla f(\mathbf{x}^*)^T (\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{x}^*) = 0.$$

Thus, $f(\mathbf{x}^*) \geq f(\mathbf{y})$, and $\mathbf{x}^*$ is a global maximum of f . ■

6.12 Comparative Statics Analysis

Consider $y = f(\mathbf{x}; \mathbf{c})$, with $\mathbf{c}$ being a vector of parameters $\mathbf{c} \in \mathbb{R}^k$.

Suppose that the optimal solution is found by the first-order sufficient condition at some specific value of $\mathbf{c}_0$

$$f(\mathbf{x}^*; \mathbf{c}_0) = \nabla_{\mathbf{x}} f(\mathbf{x}^*; \mathbf{c}_0) = \mathbf{0} \Rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} f_1(\mathbf{x}^*; \mathbf{c}_0) \\ \vdots \\ f_n(\mathbf{x}^*; \mathbf{c}_0) \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \left. \vphantom{\begin{bmatrix} f_1(\mathbf{x}^*; \mathbf{c}_0) \\ \vdots \\ f_n(\mathbf{x}^*; \mathbf{c}_0) \end{bmatrix}} \right\} \begin{array}{l} n \text{ implicit fns.} \\ \mathbf{x} \text{ endog.} \\ \mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n \end{array}$$

This can be considered as a system of n implicit functions with n endogenous variables $\mathbf{x}$ and k exogenous variables $\mathbf{c}$.

$$k \geq 1$$

how each of $\mathbf{c}_0$ exog variables affect each of endog variables $\mathbf{x}$

Test Definiteness

$$|H_k| \geq 0$$

$$(|H_n| = |H|) \leq 0$$

↑
nonzero.

$$f(\mathbf{y}) - f(\mathbf{x}^*) \leq 0.$$

$$f(\mathbf{y}) \leq f(\mathbf{x}^*) \quad \mathbf{y} \in S$$

$$f: \mathbb{R}^{n+k} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$$

If the optimal solution is found by the sufficient conditions, $\mathbf{H}(\mathbf{x}^*; \mathbf{c}_0)$ is either positive or negative definite and thus nonsingular. Thus the Implicit Function Theorem applies because

yes if $\mathbf{x}^*$ was found by 1st or 2nd order suff. cond!

$$\nabla_{\mathbf{x}}(\nabla_{\mathbf{x}}f(\mathbf{x}^*; \mathbf{c}_0)) = \nabla_{\mathbf{x}}^2 f(\mathbf{x}^*; \mathbf{c}_0) = \mathbf{H}(\mathbf{x}^*; \mathbf{c}_0) \text{ - nonsingular.}$$

By the Implicit Function Theorem (Theorem 4.8), there exists a differentiable function $\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{x}(\mathbf{c})$ and $\varepsilon > 0$ such that

- a) $\nabla_{\mathbf{x}}f(\mathbf{x}(\mathbf{c}); \mathbf{c}) = \mathbf{0}$, for $\|\mathbf{c} - \mathbf{c}_0\| < \varepsilon$,
b) $\mathbf{x}(\mathbf{c}_0) = \mathbf{x}^*$, and
c) the gradient

$$\begin{aligned} \nabla_{\mathbf{x}}(\mathbf{c}_0) &= -[\nabla_{\mathbf{x}}(\nabla_{\mathbf{x}}f(\mathbf{x}^*; \mathbf{c}_0))]^{-1} \nabla_{\mathbf{c}}(\nabla_{\mathbf{x}}f(\mathbf{x}^*; \mathbf{c}_0)) \\ &= -[\nabla_{\mathbf{x}}^2 f(\mathbf{x}^*; \mathbf{c}_0)]^{-1} \nabla_{\mathbf{c}}(\nabla_{\mathbf{x}}f(\mathbf{x}^*; \mathbf{c}_0)) \\ &= -[\mathbf{H}(\mathbf{x}^*; \mathbf{c}_0)]^{-1} \nabla_{\mathbf{c}}(\nabla_{\mathbf{x}}f(\mathbf{x}^*; \mathbf{c}_0)). \end{aligned}$$

Example Suppose $y = f(x_1, x_2, x_3; c)$ is a function of three decision variables and one parameter c . By the first-order condition at $(x_1^*, x_2^*, x_3^*; c_0)$ as the system of implicit functions

$$\begin{cases} f_1(x_1^*, x_2^*, x_3^*; c_0) = 0 \\ f_2(x_1^*, x_2^*, x_3^*; c_0) = 0 \\ f_3(x_1^*, x_2^*, x_3^*; c_0) = 0 \end{cases} \text{ imp functions if } \mathbf{H} \text{ is nonsing.}$$

There exists a function $\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{x}(c)$ such that $\nabla_{\mathbf{x}}f(\mathbf{x}(c); c) = \mathbf{0}$ for, $|c - c_0| < \varepsilon$, $\mathbf{x}^* = \mathbf{x}(c_0)$ and

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{x}'(c_0) &= -[\mathbf{H}(\mathbf{x}^*; c_0)]^{-1} \nabla_{\mathbf{c}}(\nabla_{\mathbf{x}}f(\mathbf{x}^*; c_0)) \\ \begin{bmatrix} x'_1(c_0) \\ x'_2(c_0) \\ x'_3(c_0) \end{bmatrix} &= - \begin{bmatrix} f_{11} & f_{12} & f_{13} \\ f_{21} & f_{22} & f_{23} \\ f_{31} & f_{32} & f_{33} \end{bmatrix}^{-1} \begin{bmatrix} f_{1c} \\ f_{2c} \\ f_{3c} \end{bmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

Hessian.

where all second-order and cross-partial derivatives are evaluated at $(x_1^*, x_2^*, x_3^*; c_0)$.

By Cramer's Rule,

$$x'_3(c_0) = - \frac{\begin{vmatrix} f_{11} & f_{12} & f_{1c} \\ f_{21} & f_{22} & f_{2c} \\ f_{31} & f_{32} & f_{3c} \end{vmatrix}}{\begin{vmatrix} f_{11} & f_{12} & f_{13} \\ f_{21} & f_{22} & f_{23} \\ f_{31} & f_{32} & f_{33} \end{vmatrix}},$$

whose sign is difficult to determine without explicit computation.

If f_1 and f_2 does not involve c so that $f_{1c} = f_{2c} = 0$ and then

$$x'_3(c_0) = - \frac{\begin{vmatrix} f_{11} & f_{12} & 0 \\ f_{21} & f_{22} & 0 \\ f_{31} & f_{32} & f_{3c} \end{vmatrix}}{\begin{vmatrix} f_{11} & f_{12} & f_{13} \\ f_{21} & f_{22} & f_{23} \\ f_{31} & f_{32} & f_{33} \end{vmatrix}} = - \frac{f_{3c} |\mathbf{H}_2|}{|\mathbf{H}|}.$$

Thus if $\mathbf{x}^*$ is determined to be a local maximum point by the 1st and 2nd-order sufficient conditions, $-\frac{|\mathbf{H}_2|}{|\mathbf{H}|} > 0$ and thus $\text{sign}[x'_3(c_0)] = \text{sign}[f_{3c}]$.

Problem Baldani, p. 194, #7.9 (a,b,c)