

# OPTIMIZATION FOR MACHINE LEARNING 2022 CLASS 2

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- Google doc shared document.
- Be active in chat
- Have a pen & paper

REINDER : Continuous optimization

$$\text{minimize } f(x_1, \dots, x_n)$$

$\uparrow \qquad \qquad \qquad \uparrow$   
 $\mathbb{R} \qquad \qquad \qquad \mathbb{R}$

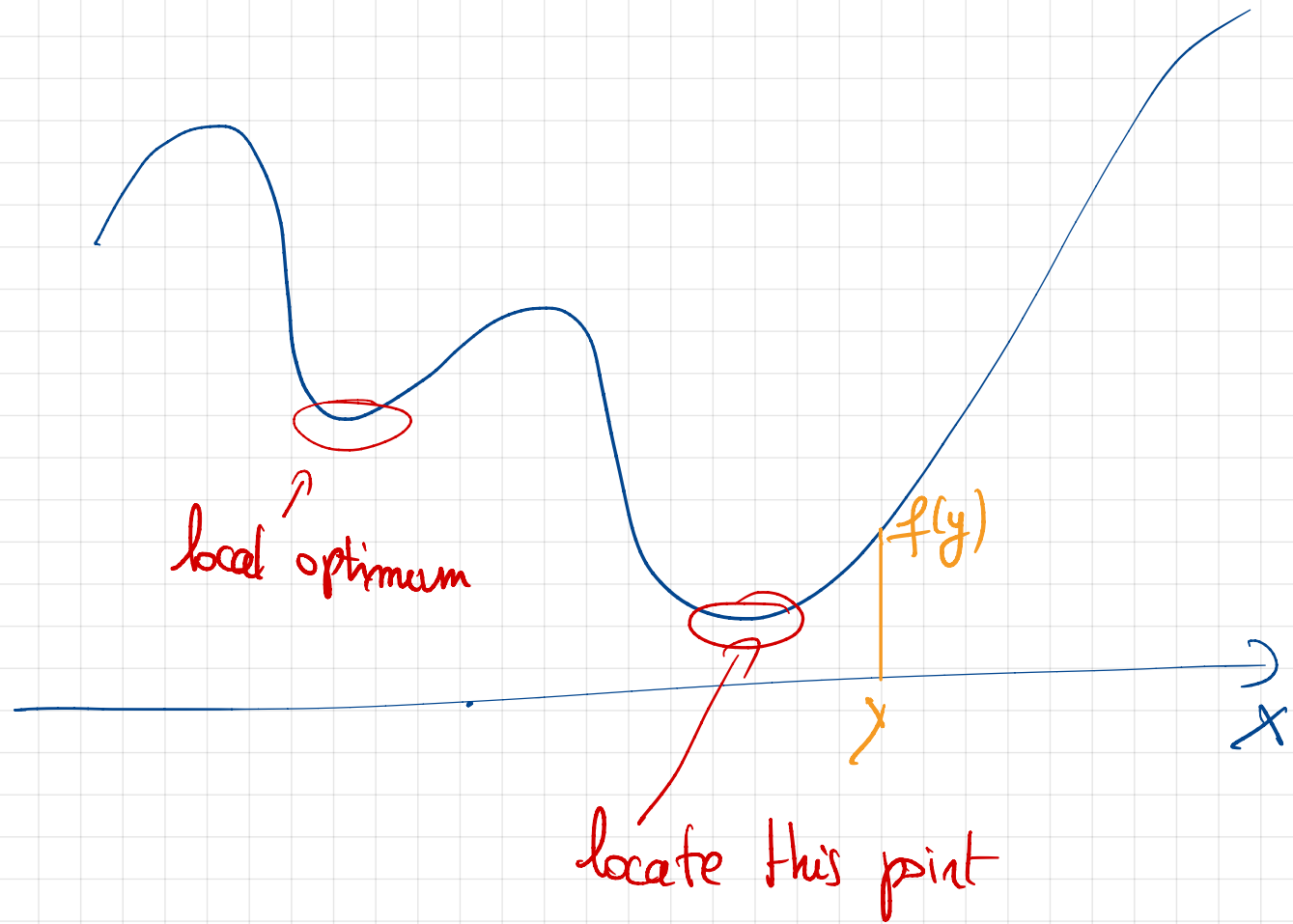
$x = (x_1, \dots, x_n) \in \mathbb{R}^n$   
vector space  
 $n$ : dimension of problem.

Look for  $x^*$   
 $\uparrow$   
 $\mathbb{R}^n$  such that

$$f(x^*) \leq f(x) \quad \forall x \in \mathbb{R}^n$$

When  $n = 1$

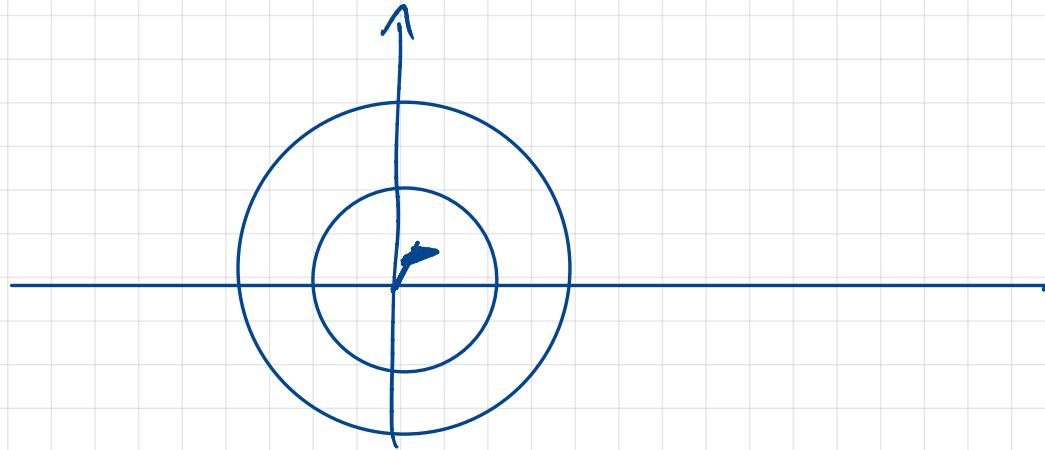
$$\min_{x \in \mathbb{R}} f(x)$$



$n = 2$ , we can represent functions via level sets.

$$L_c = \{ x \in \mathbb{R}^n \mid f(x) = c \}$$

$f(x) = x_1^2 + x_2^2$ , what is the geometric shape of its level sets.

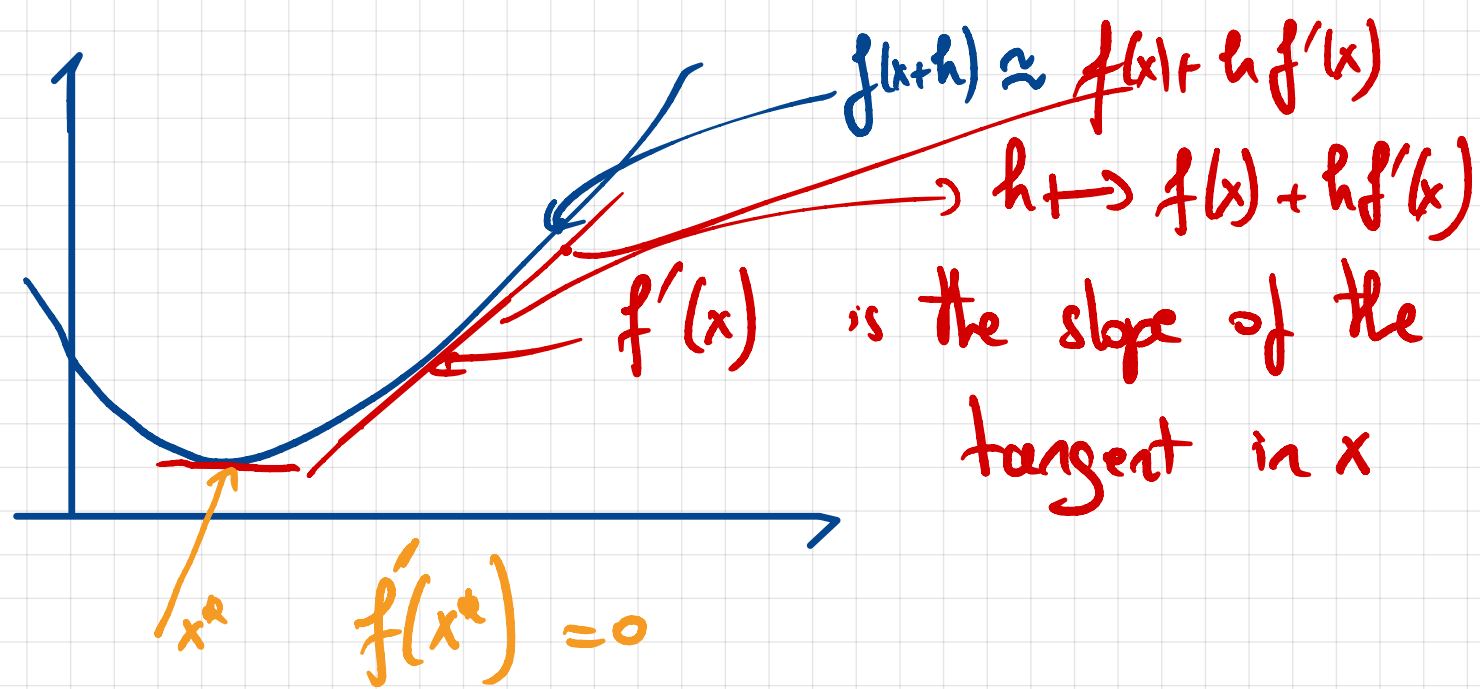


## Derivability or differentiability

$n = 1$ , let  $f: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$

we say that  $f$  is derivable / differentiable in  $x$  if

$\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x+h) - f(x)}{h}$  exists, the limit is denoted  $f'(x)$   
and it is called the derivative of  $f$  in  $x$



If  $f$  is differentiable in  $x$  then

$$f(x+h) = f(x) + f'(x)h + o(\|h\|)$$

Taylor expansion of  $f$  in  $x$ , at first order

For  $h$  small enough  $h \mapsto f(x+h)$  is approximately equal to  $h \mapsto f(x) + f'(x)h$

$$g(h) \in o(\|h\|)$$

$$\frac{g(h)}{\|h\|} \xrightarrow{h \rightarrow 0} 0$$

$g(h)$  is a small  $o$  of  $h$  if it goes faster to  $0$  than  $\|h\|$ .

example  $g(h) = \|h\|^2 (= |h|^2) \in o(\|h\|)$

$$\frac{g(h)}{\|h\|} = \frac{\|h\|^2}{\|h\|} = \|h\| \xrightarrow{h \rightarrow 0} 0$$

• How do we generalize derivative from  $n = 1$  to  $n > 1$ ?

Differential of  $f: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$

Let  $f: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$ , we say that  $f$  is differentiable in  $x$  if there exists a linear transformation  $Df_x: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$  such that  $\forall h \in \mathbb{R}^n$   $f(x+h) = f(x) + Df_x(h) + o(\|h\|)$

If  $n = 1$ ,  $Df_x(h) \stackrel{?}{=} f'(x)h$   
Linear in  $h$ ?

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} f'(x)(h_1 + h_2) = f'(x)h_1 + f'(x)h_2 \\ f'(x)(\alpha h) = \alpha [f'(x)h] \end{array} \right) \begin{array}{l} h \mapsto f'(x)h \\ \text{Linear in } h \end{array}$$

Exercise: 1)  $f(x) = Ax$  where  $A$  is a  $n \times n$  matrix  
 $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$  ( $\Rightarrow Ax \in \mathbb{R}^n$ )  
 $Df_x = A$

2)  $f(x) = \|x\|^2$ ,  $Df_x(h) = 2x^T h$   
 $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$

1)  $f(x) = Ax$   $A = \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & \dots & a_{1n} \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ a_{n1} & \dots & a_{nn} \end{bmatrix} \begin{matrix} \uparrow \\ \vdots \\ \downarrow \end{matrix} n$   $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$   
 $\leftarrow n \rightarrow$

$$f \left( \begin{matrix} x \\ \uparrow \\ \mathbb{R}^n \end{matrix} + \begin{matrix} h \\ \uparrow \\ \mathbb{R}^n \end{matrix} \right) =$$

(we try to find a linear mapping  $L$  s.t.  $f(x+h) = f(x) + L(h) + o(\|h\|)$ )

$$f(x+h) = A(x+h) = Ax + Ah = f(x) + \underbrace{Ah}_{\text{linear in } h} + \underbrace{0}_{o(\|h\|)}$$

$\left. \begin{array}{l} h \mapsto Ah \text{ is linear} \\ \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n \end{array} \right\}$

so  $f$  is differentiable in  $x$  and

$$Df_x = A \quad Df_x(h) = Ah$$

If  $f(x) = \|x\|^2 = x^T x$ ,  $f: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$

$$\begin{aligned}
 f(x+h) &= (x+h)^T (x+h) \\
 &= x^T x + x^T h + \underbrace{h^T x}_{=x^T h} + h^T h \\
 &= x^T x + \underbrace{2x^T h}_{\text{linear in } h} + \underbrace{h^T h}_{=\|h\|^2} = o(\|h\|)
 \end{aligned}$$

$$Df_x: h \mapsto 2x^T h$$



$$h^T x \stackrel{?}{=} x^T h$$

$$\underbrace{h^T x}_{\in \mathbb{R}}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \left( h^T x \right)^T &= h^T x \\ &= x^T \left( h^T \right)^T \\ &= x^T h \end{aligned}$$

We have  $h^T x = x^T h$

Why:  $h \mapsto 2x^T h$  linear.

$$\begin{aligned} L(h_1 + h_2) &= L(h_1) + L(h_2) \rightarrow L(h_1 + h_2) = 2x^T(h_1 + h_2) \\ &= 2x^T h_1 + 2x^T h_2 \\ &= L(h_1) + L(h_2) \\ L(\lambda h_1) &= \lambda L(h_1) \end{aligned}$$

$$\|x\|^2 = x^T x$$

$$x = \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ \vdots \\ x_n \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{aligned} & \underbrace{(x_1, \dots, x_n)}_{x^T} \begin{pmatrix} x \\ \vdots \\ x \end{pmatrix} \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^n x_i^2 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} a \\ b \end{pmatrix}^T \rightarrow \begin{pmatrix} a & b \end{pmatrix}$$

$$(ab)^T = b^T a^T$$

CHAIN RULE :

$$\left[ (f(x)g(x))' = f(x)g'(x) + g(x)f'(x) \right]$$

$$f: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$$

$$g: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$$

$$(f \circ g)'(x) = f'(g(x)) \cdot g'(x)$$

composition

$$x \xrightarrow{f} \sin(x)$$

$$x \xrightarrow{g} x^2$$

$$f \circ g(x) = f(g(x)) = \sin(x^2)$$

$$f(x)g(x) \stackrel{?}{=} \sin(x) \cdot x^2$$

[ composition & product of functions are different ]

$$D(f \circ g)_x(h) = Df_{g(x)}(Dg_x(h))$$

We go back to  $f: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  [ $m=1$ ]

When  $f: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is differentiable in  $x$ , there is a specific representation of the differential of  $f$  in  $x$

$$Df_x: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$$

$$\exists a \in \mathbb{R}^n \text{ such that } Df_x(h) = \langle a, h \rangle = a^T h$$

[This comes from the Riesz representation theorem]

The vector  $a$  has a specific name  $a = \nabla f_x$

[Gradient of  $f$  in  $x$ ]

$$Df_x(h) = \langle \nabla f_x, h \rangle$$

LINK BETWEEN DIFFERENTIAL & GRADIENT

The gradient can also be defined with partial derivatives.

$$\nabla f_x = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_1}(x) \\ \vdots \\ \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_n}(x) \end{pmatrix}$$

Exercise: Compute the gradient of.

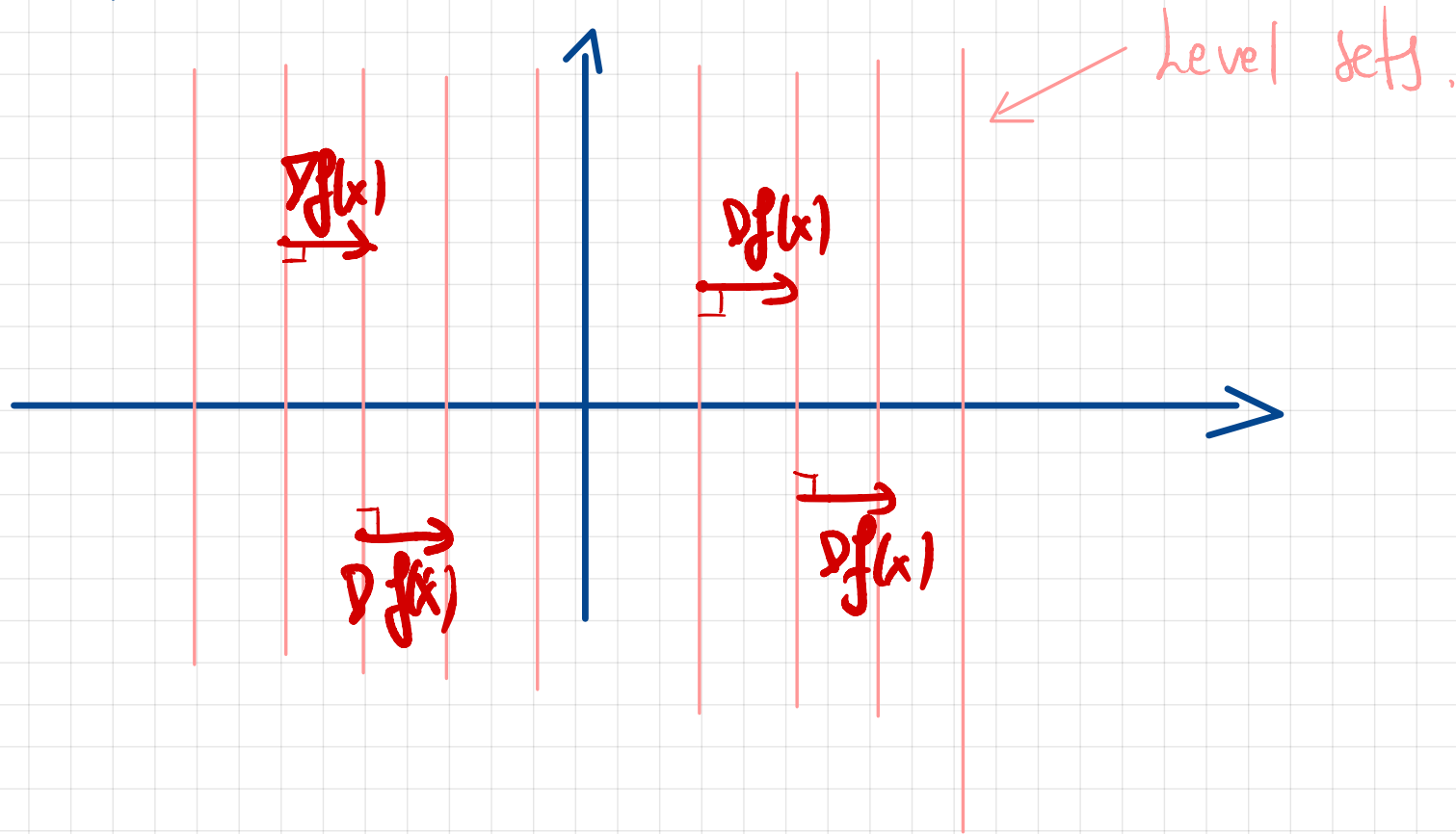
$$f(x) = x_1 \quad x \in \mathbb{R}^n$$

$$f(x) = a^T x \quad a = \begin{pmatrix} a_1 \\ \vdots \\ a_n \end{pmatrix}$$

$$f(x) = x^T x$$

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

$$L_c = \{x = (x_1, x_2) \in \mathbb{R}^2 \mid x_1 = c\}$$



$$\nabla f_x = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

The gradient vector is orthogonal to the level sets.

## Second order derivability / differentiability

$n = 1$  (1D-case)

Let  $f: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be differentiable on  $\mathbb{R}$  and let

$f': x \rightarrow f'(x)$  be its derivative function

If  $f'$  is derivable / differentiable, then we denote  $f''(x)$  its derivative.

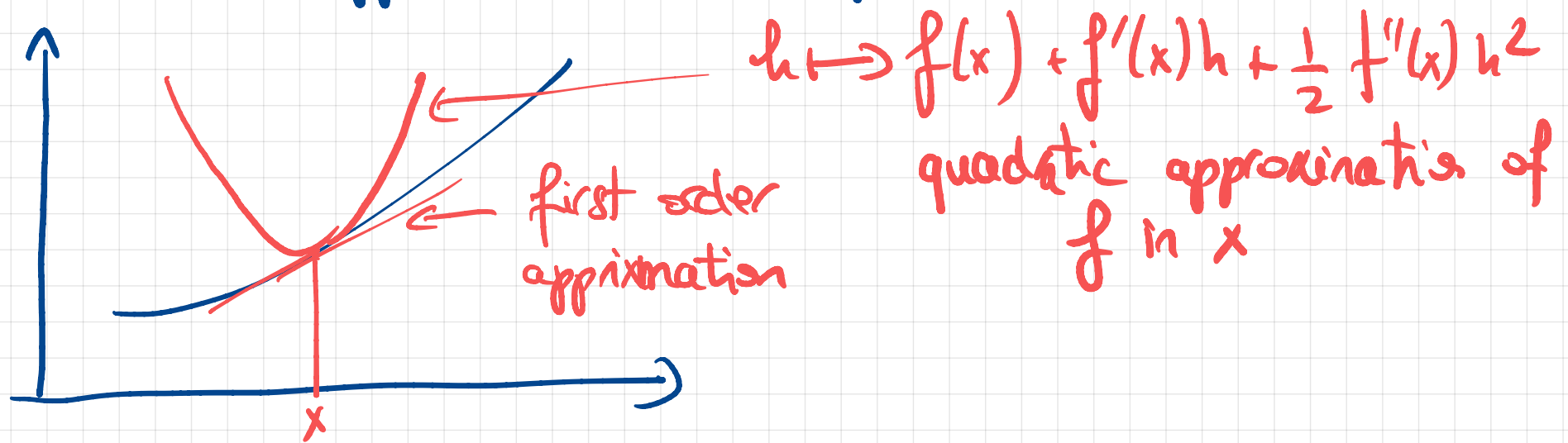
$f''(x)$  is called the second order derivative of  $f$

If  $f$  is two times differentiable then

$$f(x+h) = f(x) + f'(x)h + \frac{1}{2}f''(x)h^2 + o(\|h\|^2)$$

SECOND ORDER TAYLOR | EXPANSION  
FORMULA

for  $h$  small enough  $h \mapsto f(x) + f'(x)h + \frac{1}{2} f''(x)h^2$  (which is quadratic in  $h$ ) approximates  $f$ . This is called a second order approximation of  $f$

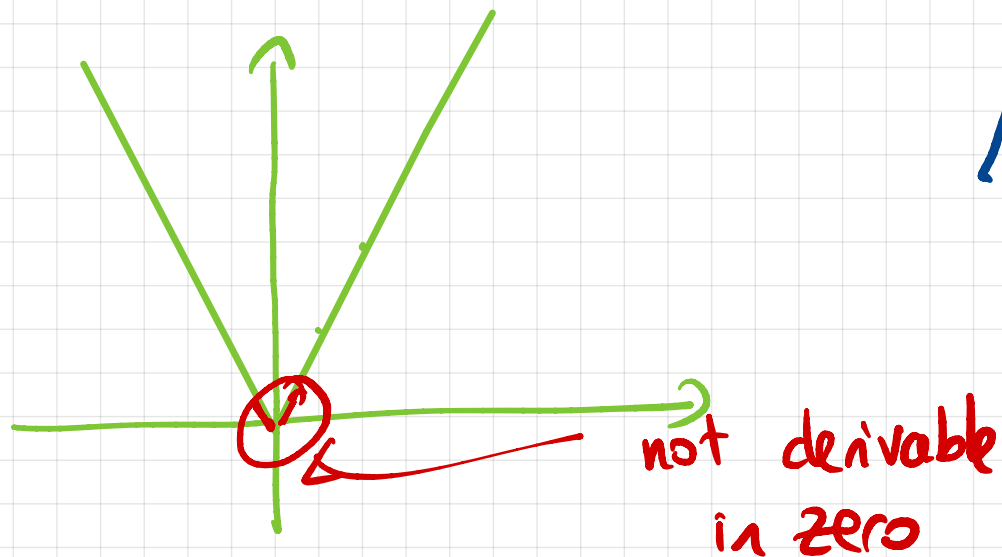
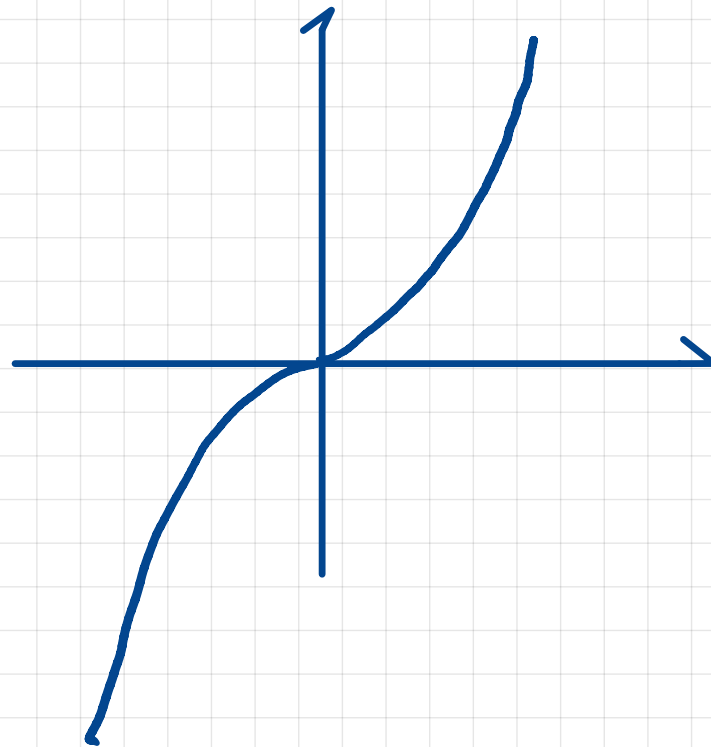




$$f(x) = \begin{cases} x^2 & \text{if } x \geq 0 \\ -x^2 & \text{if } x \leq 0 \end{cases} \quad x \in \mathbb{R}$$

$$f'(x) = \begin{cases} 2x & x \geq 0 \\ -2x & x \leq 0 \end{cases}$$

$$f'(x) = 2|x|$$



We want to generalize second order derivative to functions  $f: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$

The Hessian matrix generalizes  $f''(x)$

$$\text{Hessian}(x) = \nabla^2 f(x) = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x_1 \partial x_1} & & & \\ \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x_1 \partial x_2} & \ddots & & \\ \vdots & & \ddots & \\ \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x_1 \partial x_n} & & & \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x_n \partial x_n} \end{bmatrix}$$

The diagram shows a large square bracket on the right side of the matrix, with a line connecting it to the expression  $f''(x)$  above. Two individual elements of the matrix,  $\frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x_1 \partial x_n}$  and  $\frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x_n \partial x_1}$ , are circled, with a line connecting them to the same  $f''(x)$  label.

The Hessian matrix is symmetric

$$\frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x_i \partial x_n} = \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x_n \partial x_i}$$

Schwarz-Hessen

Example: Compute the Hessian matrix for  $f(x) = \frac{1}{2} x^T A x$

A symmetric  $n \times n$  matrix.

Start with  $A = \begin{pmatrix} 9 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$

$$\frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x_1 \partial x_1} \stackrel{?}{=} 9 \quad f(x) = \frac{1}{2} x^T \begin{pmatrix} 9 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} x = \frac{1}{2} (9x_1^2 + x_2^2 + 2x_1x_2)$$

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial x_1} = \frac{1}{2} (2 \cdot 9 x_1 + 2 x_2) = 9x_1 + x_2$$

$$\frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x_1 \partial x_1} = \frac{\partial}{\partial x_1} [9x_1 + x_2] = 9$$

$$\frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x_2 \partial x_1} = \frac{\partial}{\partial x_2} [9x_1 + x_2] = 1$$

$$\frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x_2 \partial x_1} = \frac{\partial}{\partial x_2} [x_2 + x_1] = 1$$

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial x_2} = \frac{1}{2} (2x_2 + 2x_1) = x_2 + x_1$$

$$\nabla^2 f = \begin{pmatrix} 9 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} = A$$

If  $f(x) = \frac{1}{2} x^T A x$  with  $A$  symmetric.  $A: n \times n$

$$\nabla^2 f(x) = A$$

If  $A$  is not symmetric:  $\nabla^2 f(x) = \frac{1}{2} (A + A^T)$

DETAIL ABOUT:

$$f(x) = \frac{1}{2} x^T \begin{pmatrix} 9 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} x = \frac{1}{2} (9x_1^2 + x_2^2 + 2x_1x_2)$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 9 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 9x_1 + x_2 \\ x_1 + x_2 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\frac{1}{2} x^T \begin{pmatrix} 9x_1 + x_2 \\ x_1 + x_2 \end{pmatrix} = \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} x_1 & x_2 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 9x_1 + x_2 \\ x_1 + x_2 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} x_1 (9x_1 + x_2) + x_2 (x_1 + x_2)$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} (9x_1^2 + x_1x_2 + x_1x_2 + x_2^2)$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} (9x_1^2 + 2x_1x_2 + x_2^2)$$

## SECOND ORDER TAYLOR EXPANSION:

If  $f: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is twice differentiable, then

$$f\left(\underset{\mathbb{R}^n}{\overset{\uparrow}{x}} + \underset{\mathbb{R}^n}{\overset{\uparrow}{h}}\right) = f(x) + \nabla f(x)^T h + \frac{1}{2} h^T \nabla^2 f(x) h + o(\|h\|^2)$$

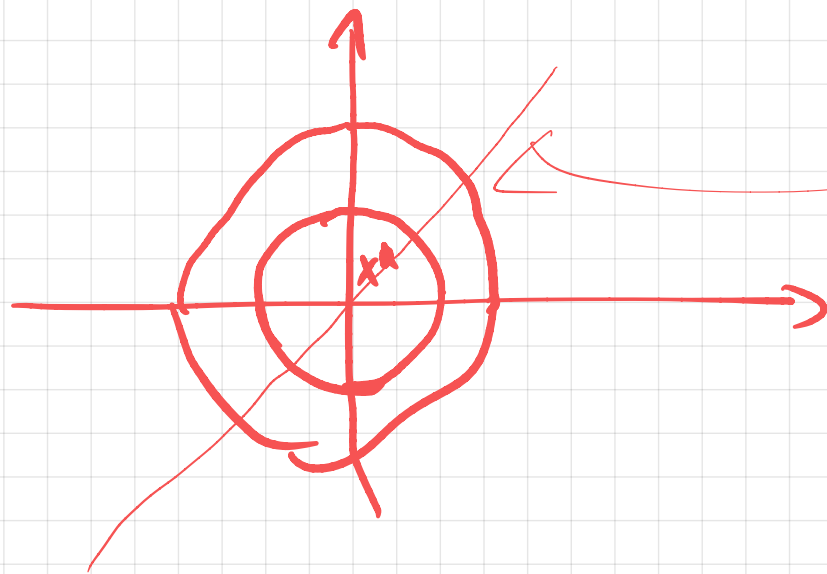
Ill-conditioning is a difficulty in optimization.

For a convex-quadratic problem  $f(x) = \frac{1}{2}(x-x^*)^T A(x-x^*)$   
where  $A$  is symmetric positive definite.

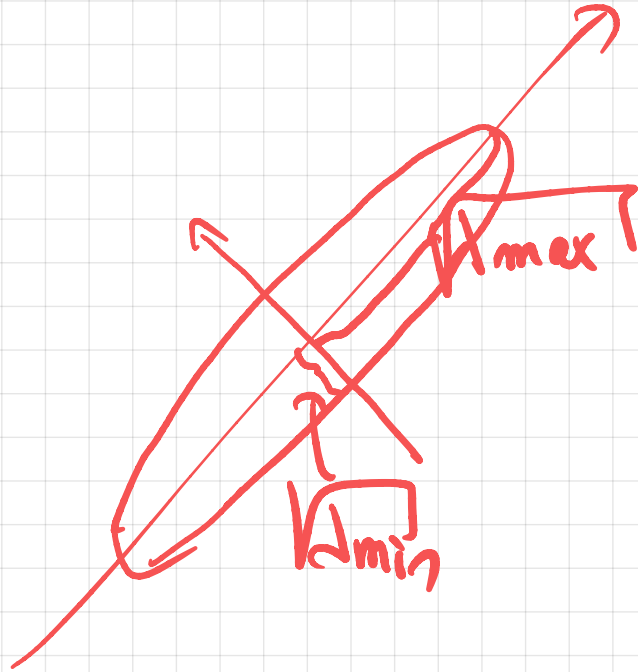
Reminder: If  $A = Id = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \\ & 1 \end{pmatrix}$ ,  $f(x) = \frac{1}{2}(x-x^*)^T A(x-x^*)$

$$= \frac{1}{2}(x-x^*)^T (x-x^*)$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} \|x-x^*\|^2$$



If  $A \neq Id$ , the level sets are ellipsoid.



$\lambda_{max}$  : largest square root of  $A$

$\lambda_{min}$  : smallest square root of  $A$

For a ill-conditioned problem we have a large ratio between the largest axis of ellipsoid and smallest axis, equivalently we have a large ratio between the largest eigenvalue of  $A$  and the smallest eigenvalue of  $A$ .



for a ill-conditioned problem, the condition number of the matrix  $A$  is large (of the order of  $10^6$  or higher)

$$\text{cond}(A) = \frac{\lambda_{\max}(A)}{\lambda_{\min}(A)}$$

↑  
Symmetric matrix

A ill-conditioned convex-quadratic problem is a problem with a ill-conditioned Hessian matrix.

More generally (not just for convex quadratic functions), a function  $f: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  where the Hessian matrix is ill-conditioned is said to be ill-conditioned.

# GRADIENT DIRECTION VERSUS NEWTON DIRECTION

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Gradient direction:  $\nabla f(x)$

Newton direction:  $-\left[\nabla^2 f(x)\right]^{-1} \nabla f(x)$

Exercise:  $f(x) = \frac{1}{2} x^T H x$ ,  $x \in \mathbb{R}^2$   $H = \begin{pmatrix} 9 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$

1) Plot level sets of  $f$

2) Plot the gradient direction at different  $x$

2) Compute & plot the Newton direction

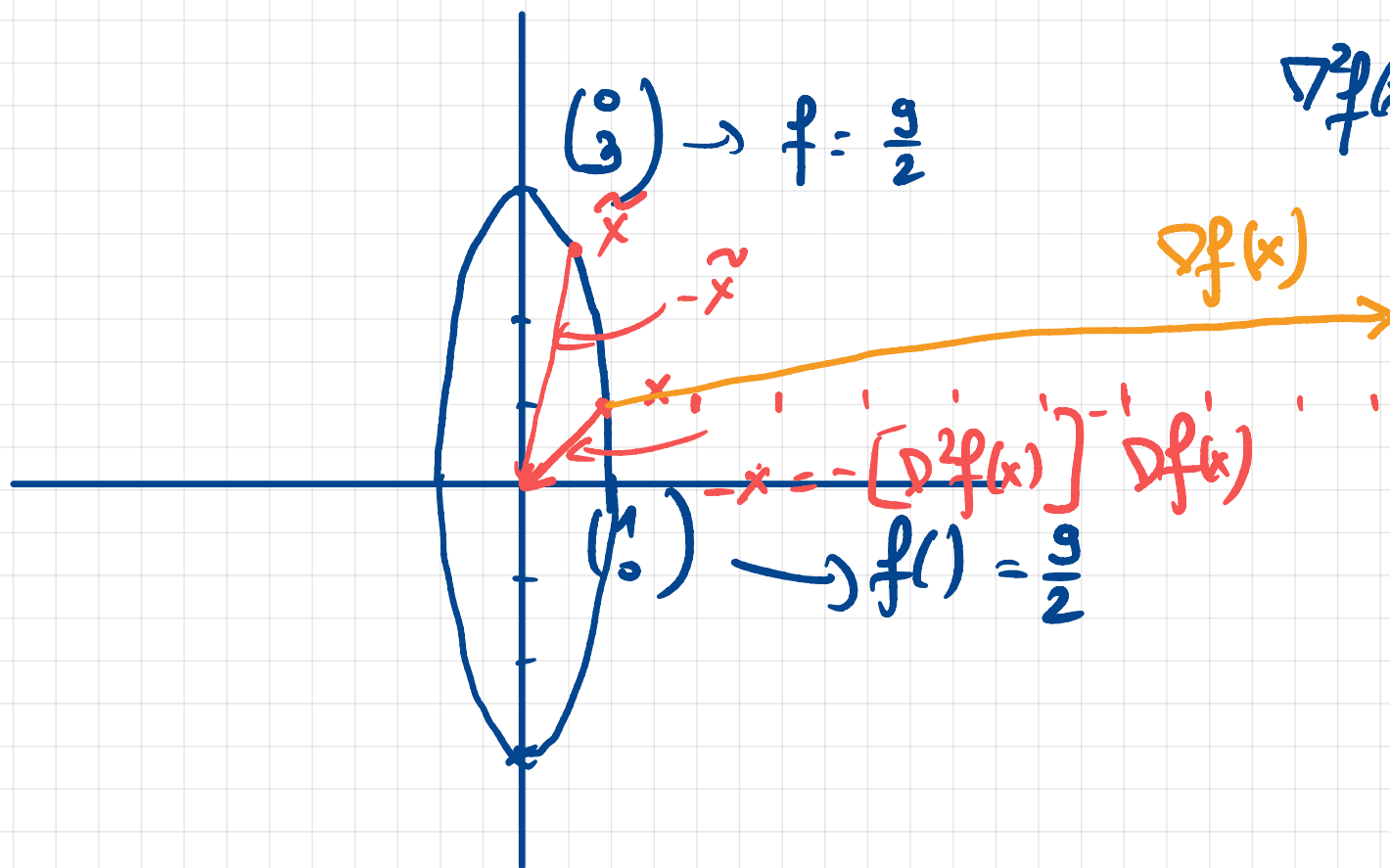
# OPTIMIZATION FOR MACHINE LEARNING 2022 CLASS 3

Correction of previous exercise.

$$f(x) = \frac{1}{2} (9x_1^2 + x_2^2)$$

$$\nabla f(x) = \begin{pmatrix} 9x_1 \\ x_2 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\nabla^2 f(x) = \begin{pmatrix} 9 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$



$$\nabla^2 f(x) = \begin{pmatrix} 9 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad \left[ \nabla^2 f(x) \right]^{-1} = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{9} & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

If  $D = \begin{pmatrix} \lambda_1 & & (0) \\ & \ddots & \\ (0) & & \lambda_n \end{pmatrix}$  is diagonal  $D^{-1} = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{\lambda_1} & & (0) \\ & \ddots & \\ (0) & & \frac{1}{\lambda_n} \end{pmatrix}$

why: Indeed  $DD^{-1} = \text{Id} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & & 0 \\ & \ddots & \\ 0 & & 1 \end{pmatrix}$

Newton direction:  $-\left[ \nabla^2 f(x) \right]^{-1} \nabla f(x) = -\begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{9} & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 9x_1 \\ x_2 \end{pmatrix}$   
 $= -\begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{pmatrix} = -x$

## Iterative algorithm

for  $t = 0, 1, \dots$

$$x_{t+1} = x_t + \underbrace{0,01}_{\eta \text{ (learning rate)}} (-\nabla f(x_t))$$

same with Newton direction

$$x_{t+1} = x_t + \eta \left( -[\nabla^2 f(x_t)]^{-1} \nabla f(x_t) \right)$$

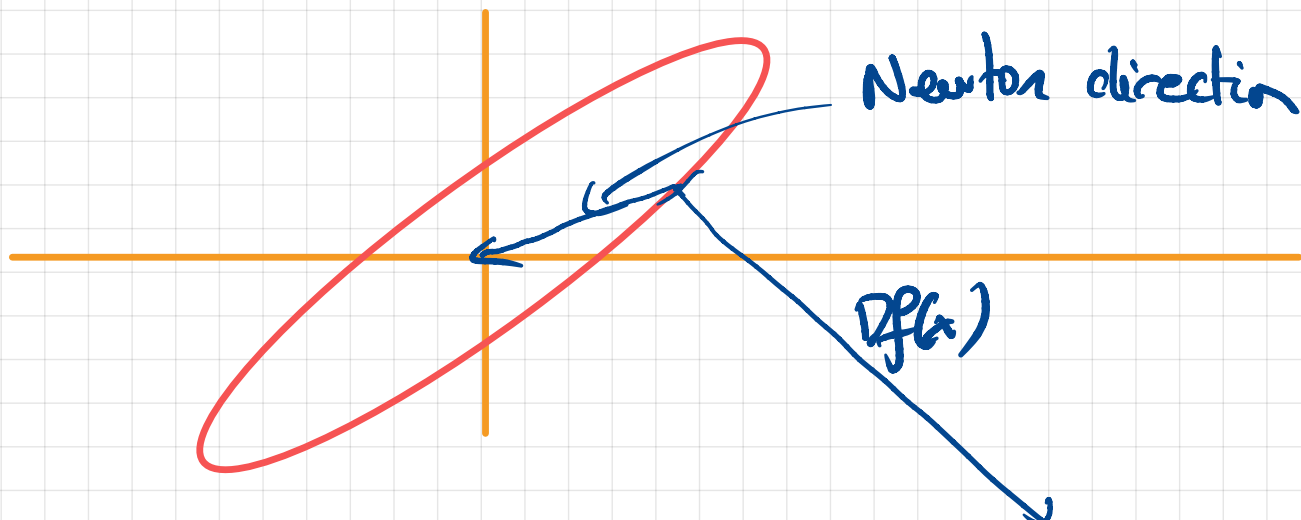
We observe that the Newton direction points towards the optimum on convex-quadratic problems independently of the condition number of the Hessian matrix.

Whereas  $-\nabla f(x)$  points towards the optimum at  $x = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$  if and only if  $D^2f(x) = \text{Id}$  (and thus the condition number equal to 1).

If the Hessian matrix is not diagonal anymore

$$f(x) = \frac{1}{2} x^T A x$$

$A$  sym. pos. def.  
 $A$  not def.  
diagonal



$$Df(x) = Ax$$

$$D^2f(x) = A$$

Newton:  
direction  $-[A]^{-1}Ax = -\text{Id}x = -x$

Optimality conditions

Assume

# Optimality conditions

Assume  $f: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is differentiable ( $f'(x)$  exists for all  $x$ )

Which one of the following statements are correct:

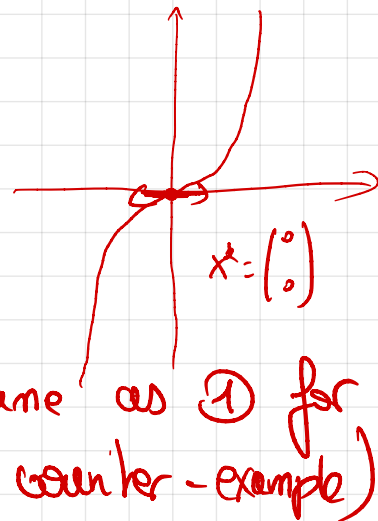
①  $f'(x^*) = 0 \Rightarrow x^*$  is a local optimum of  $f$  **WRONG**

②  $x^*$  is a local optimum  $\Rightarrow f'(x^*) = 0$  **CORRECT**

③  $f'(x^*) = 0 \Rightarrow x^*$  is a global optimum **WRONG**

④  $x^*$  is a global optimum  $\Rightarrow f'(x^*) = 0$  **CORRECT**

$$f(x) = x^3$$
$$f'(x) = 3x^2$$



**WRONG** (same as ① for counter-example)

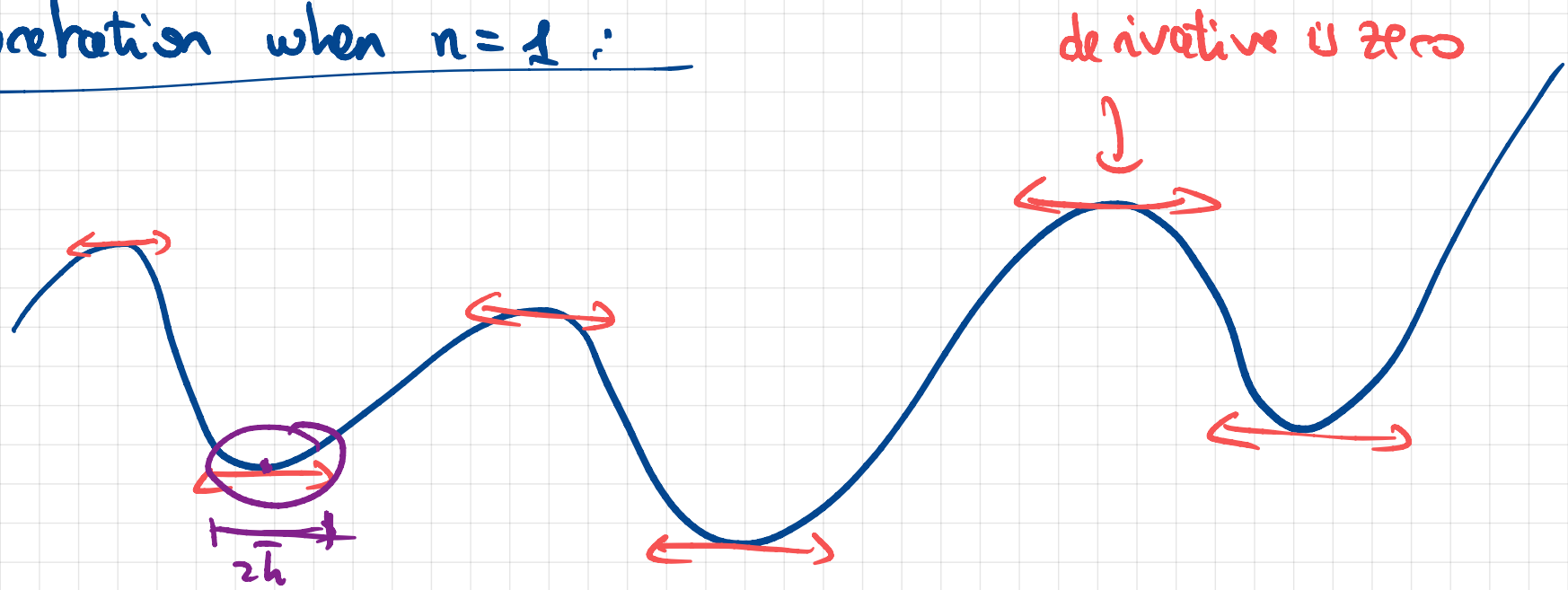
## THEOREM (first order necessary condition)

Let  $f: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be a differentiable function. If  $x^*$  is a local optimum of  $f$  (minimum or maximum) then  $\nabla f(x^*) = 0$



Remark: we talk about first order condition because it involves only first order derivative.

Interpretation when  $n=1$ :



Proof for  $n=1$ :

$$f'(x) = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x+h) - f(x)}{h}$$

assume that  $x^*$  is a local minimum :  $f(x^*) \leq f(x^*+h)$   
 $\forall h$  small enough

$[\exists \bar{h}$  such  $\forall h \leq \bar{h} \quad f(x^*) \leq f(x^*+h)]$

$$A(h) = \frac{f(x^*+h) - f(x^*)}{h}$$

$$\text{if } h > 0 \quad A(h) \geq 0$$

$$\text{if } h < 0 \quad A(h) \leq 0$$

$$\lim_{\substack{h \rightarrow 0 \\ h > 0}} \frac{A(h)}{\geq 0} = f'(x^*) \geq 0$$

$$\lim_{\substack{h \rightarrow 0 \\ h < 0}} A(h) = f'(x^*) \leq 0$$

$$\Rightarrow f'(x) = 0$$

## SECOND ORDER NECESSARY AND SUFFICIENT CONDITIONS:

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Let's assume that  $f$  is twice continuously differentiable.

NECESSARY CONDITION: If  $x^*$  is a local minimum, then

$\nabla f(x^*) = 0$  and  $\nabla^2 f(x)$  is positive semi-definite.

(if  $n=1$   $x^*$  local minimum  $\Rightarrow f'(x^*)=0$ ,  $f''(x) \geq 0$ )

[ A sym. matrix is positive if  $\forall y$   $y^T A y \geq 0$   
definite  $y^T A y = 0 \Rightarrow y = 0$   
positive definite  $y^T A y > 0 \quad \forall y \neq 0$

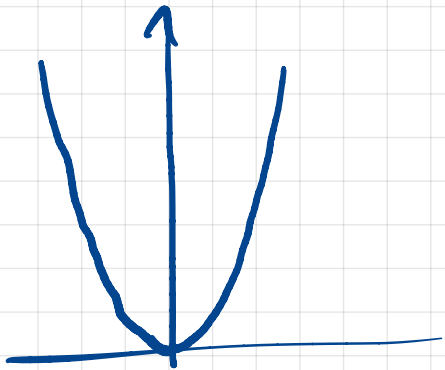
positive semi-definite  $y^T A y \geq 0 \quad \forall y$

Not sufficient:  $f(x) = x^3$ ,  $f'(x) = 0$ ,  $f''(x) = 0 \geq 0$ , yet it not a local minimum.

SUFFICIENT CONDITION : If  $x^*$  such that  $Df(x^*) = 0$  and  $D^2f(x)$  is positive definite, then  $x^*$  is a strict local minimum.

(if  $n=1$ ,  $x^*$  such that  $f'(x) = 0$   $f''(x) > 0 \Rightarrow x^*$  is a strict local optimum.

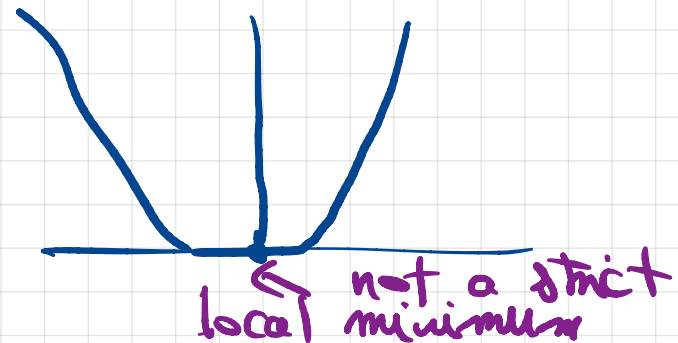
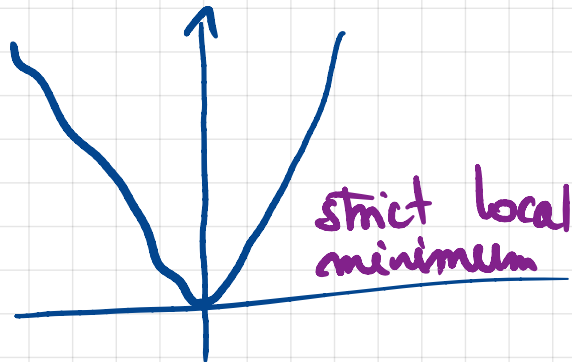
Example:  $f(x) = x^2$ ,  $f'(x) = 2x$   $f''(x) = 2$

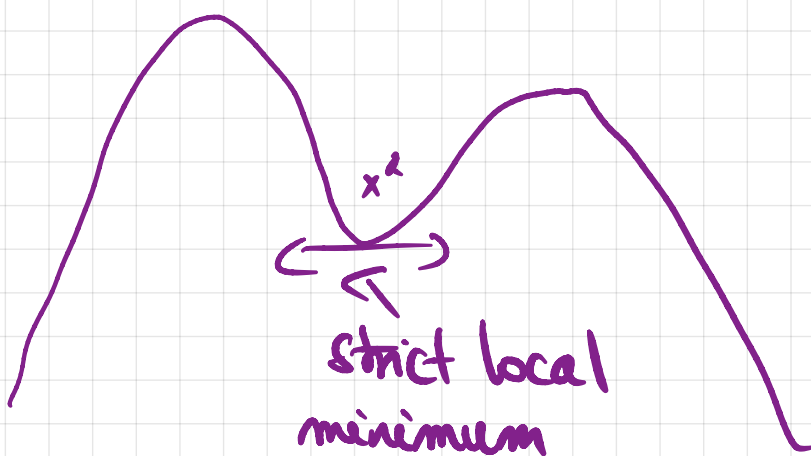


0 satisfies  $f'(0) = 0$   $f''(0) = 2 > 0$

then 0 is a strict local minimum of the function

strict local minimum:

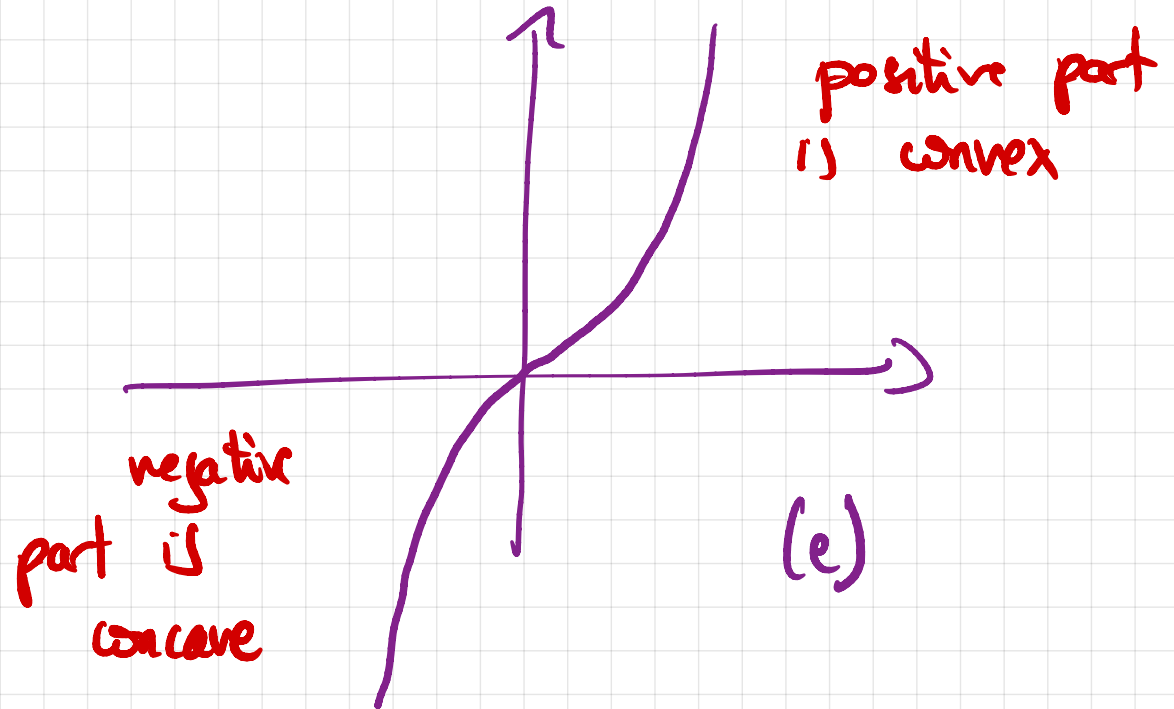
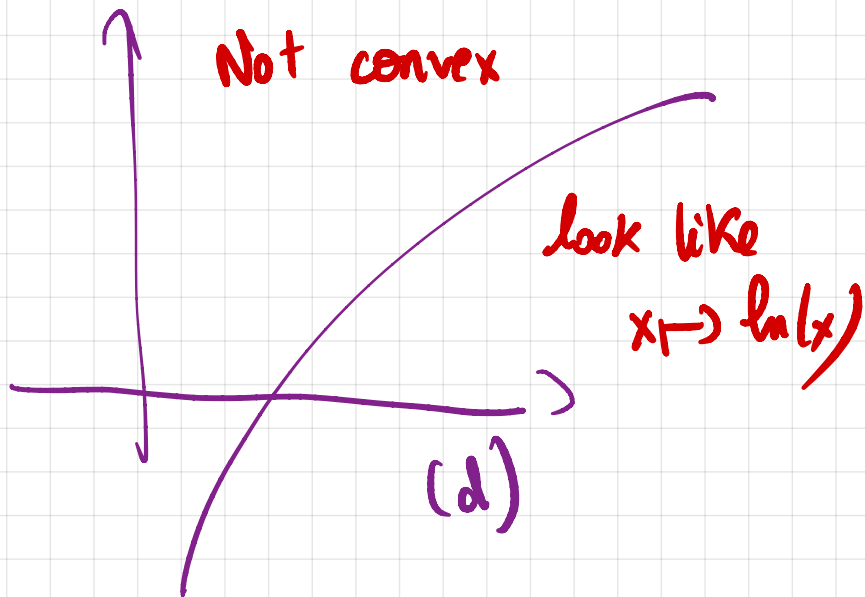
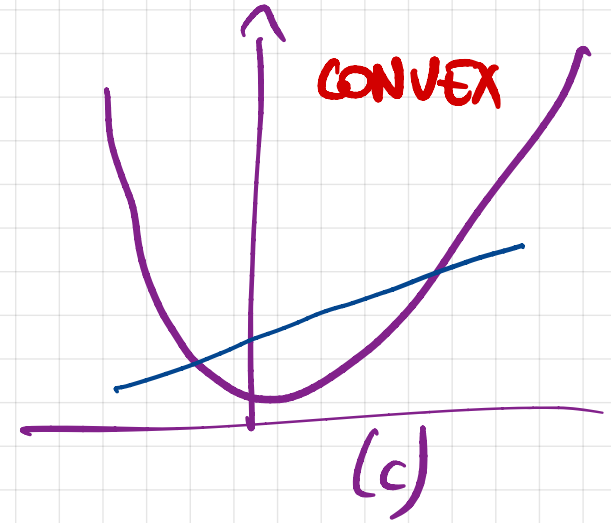
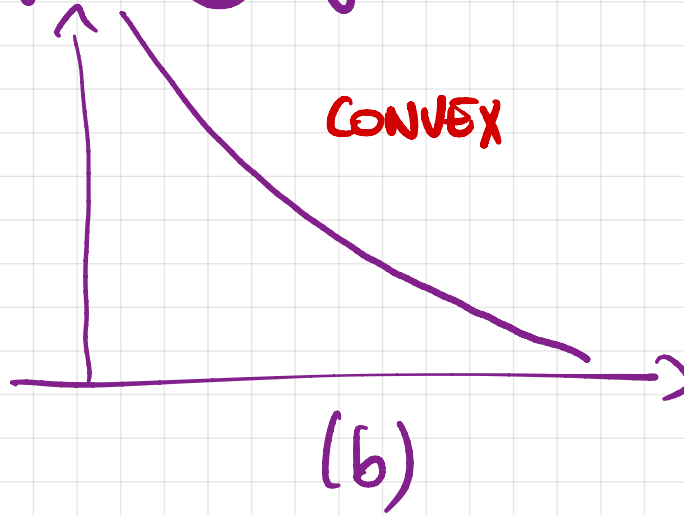
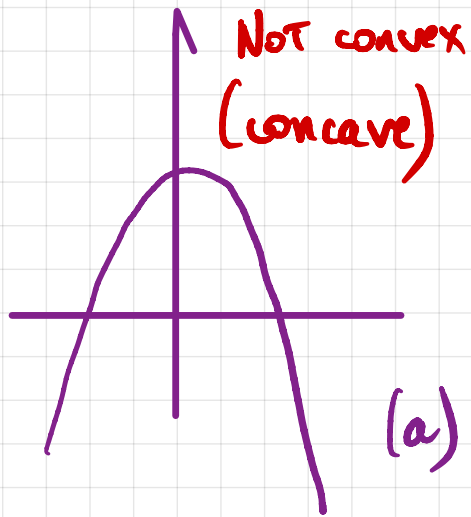




$$f'(x) = 0$$
$$f''(x) = 0$$

# CONVEXITY:

Which of the following functions are convex?



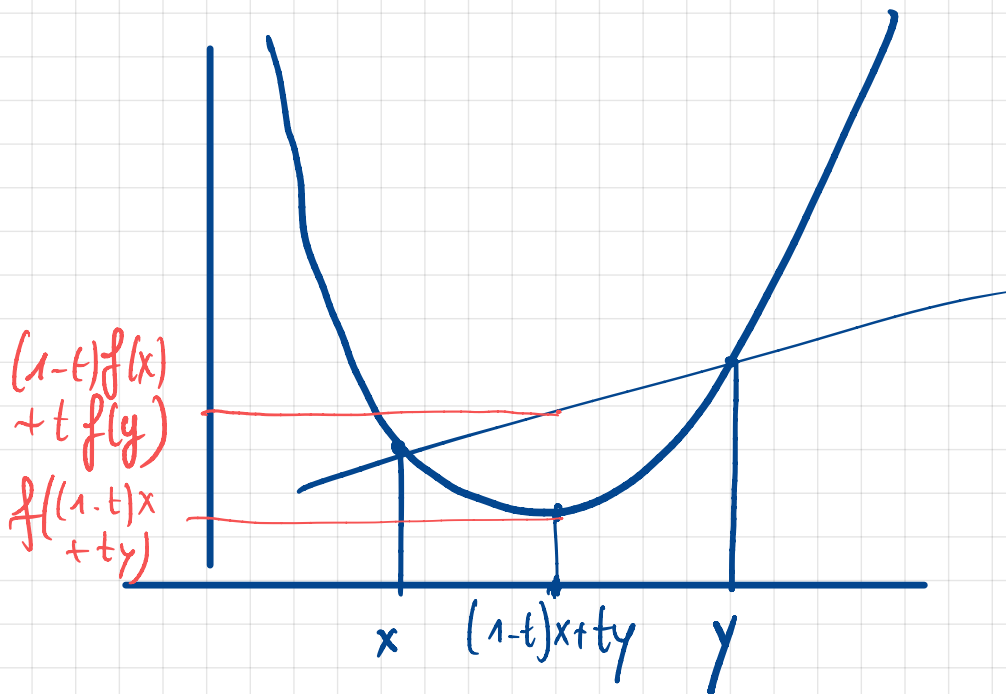
# CONVEX FUNCTIONS

Let  $f: U \subset \mathbb{R}^n \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}$ . We say that  $f$  is convex, if  
for all  $x, y \in U$

$\uparrow$   
open convex set

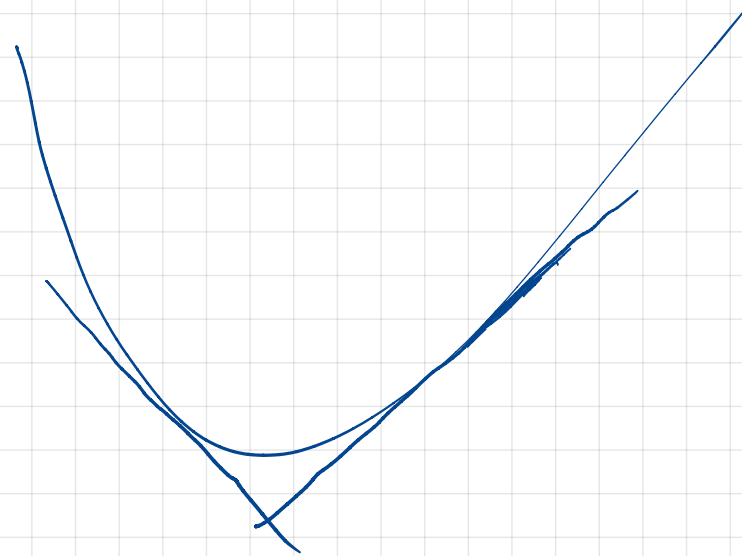
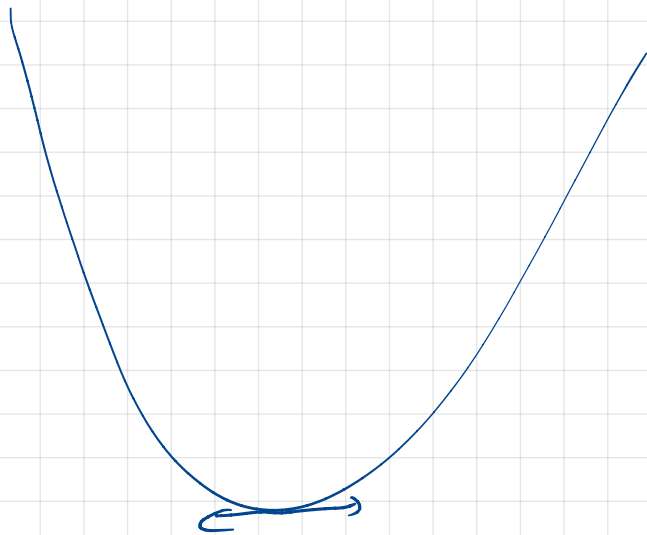
$$\forall t \in [0, 1]$$

$$f((1-t)x + ty) \leq (1-t)f(x) + tf(y)$$



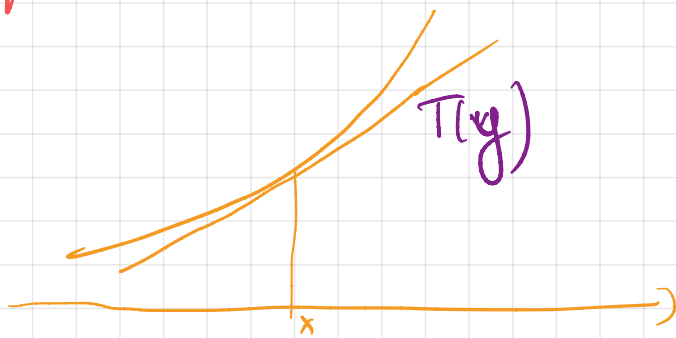
This function is not convex because  $f$  is above the line.

A graph illustrating a function that is not convex. The curve is concave down, and a straight line segment is drawn between two points on the curve. The curve is above the line segment, demonstrating that it does not satisfy the inequality  $f((1-t)x + ty) \leq (1-t)f(x) + tf(y)$ .



Intuition: for a convex function that is differentiable the tangent is below the curve.

Exercise: translate this property into an equation  
(you can assume  $n=1$ )



Equation of the tangent in  $x$

$$y \xrightarrow{T} f'(x)(y-x) + f(x)$$

$$T(x) = f'(x)(x-x) + f(x) = f(x)$$



↳  $T(x)$  goes through  $(x, f(x))$

The slope of  $T(x)$  is the derivative of  $f$  in  $x$ .

If  $n=1$ ,  $f$  is differentiable, then  $f$  is convex if and only if for all  $x$  and  $y$ ,

$$f(y) \geq f'(x)(y-x) + f(x)$$

↳ This property translates that for a convex function the curve is above the tangent.

THEOREM: If  $f$  is differentiable, then  $f$  is convex if and only if for all  $x, y$

$$f(y) - f(x) \geq Df(x)^T (y-x)$$

If  $n=1$ ,  $f$  is twice continuously differentiable, then  $f$  is convex iff  $f''(x) \geq 0$ .

THEOREM: If  $f$  is twice continuously differentiable, then  
|  $f$  is convex if and only if  $D^2f(x)$  is positive semi-definite for all  $x$ .

Definition: A function is concave if and only if  
|  $-f$  is convex.

Examples:

$f(x) = x^2$  is convex because  $f''(x) = 2 \geq 0$

$f(x) = -x^2$  is concave because  $x^2$  is convex.

$f(x) = \log(x)$      $f'(x) = \frac{1}{x}$ ,  $f''(x) = -\frac{1}{x^2} \leq 0$

↳  $f$  is concave.

$f(x) = x$      $f$  is convex (and concave)

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

Other examples of convex functions:

•  $f(x) = \frac{1}{2} x^T A x$      $A$  sym pos semi definite, then

$f$  is convex

•  $f(x) = a^T x + b$      $a \in \mathbb{R}^n$ ,  $b \in \mathbb{R}^n$  [linear slope]

• The negative of the entropy:  $f(x) = -\sum_{i=1}^n x_i \ln(x_i)$

EXERCISE: Let  $f: U \subset \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be a convex and differentiable function. convex open subset of  $\mathbb{R}^n$

Prove that if  $\nabla f(x^*) = 0$ , then  $x^*$  is a global minimum of the function.

If  $f$  is convex and differentiable,  
 $\forall y, x \quad f(y) - f(x) \geq \nabla f(x)^T (y - x)$

If  $x^*$  is such that  $\nabla f(x^*) = 0$ , then  $\nabla f(x^*)^T (y - x^*) = 0$

and the previous equation gives

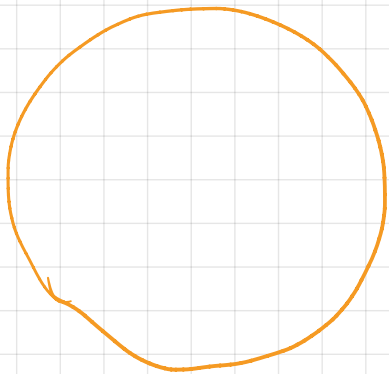
$$f(y) \geq f(x^*) \quad \forall y$$

which means that  $x^*$  is a global minimum of  $f$ .

The important consequence is that for convex and differentiable functions, critical points, ie points where  $\nabla f(x^a) = 0$  are global minima of the function.

We assumed that  $f: U \subset \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  where  $U$  is an open convex set.

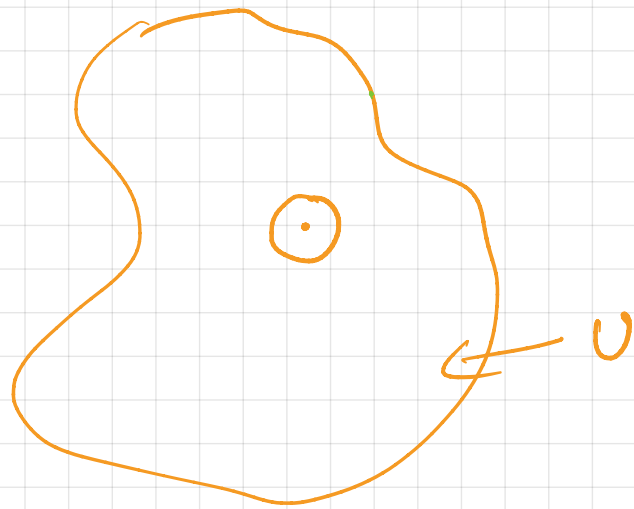
"open : intuition , ball with boundary".



$[0, 1]$  closed       $]0, 1[$   
 $]0, 1[$  ,  $(0, 1)$  ,  $]0, 1[$

Same notation for open intervall  
(excluding 0 and 1 from  $[0, 1]$ )

$]0, 1[ \cup ]2, 3[$  is also an open.



$U$  is open, if  $\forall x \in U$ , I can put a small <sup>open</sup> ball in  $U$  which is fully in  $U$ .

$]0, 1[ \cup ]1, 2[$

