

# 2D max-min 2<sup>nd</sup> derivative test

1D :

## derivative icons

- horizontal tangent line  $f' = 0$  at a point
- ∪ concave up (happy) positive  $f'' > 0$
- ∩ concave down (sad) negative  $f'' < 0$

2nd derivative test where  $f' = 0$

- ∪  $f'' > 0$  local min
- ∩  $f'' < 0$  local max
- $f'' = 0$  inconclusive

2D: critical point where  $f_x(x_0, y_0) = 0 = f_y(x_0, y_0)$   $\Leftrightarrow$  horizontal tangent plane



local min  , local max 

chart of signs of 2nd derivatives at  $(x_0, y_0)$  :

$f_{xx}$	+ ∪ } local min?	- ∩ } local max?	+ ∪ } saddle!	- ∩ } saddle!	0! or 0?
$f_{yy}$	+ ∪ } local min?	- ∩ } local max?	- ∩ } saddle!	+ ∪ } saddle!	↓
$f_{xx}f_{yy} - f_{xy}^2$	+ confirm - saddle 0 inconclusive	+ confirm - saddle 0 inconclusive	-	-	○ or -

If  $f_{xx}, f_{yy}$  have same sign then  $f_{xx}f_{yy} > 0$ .

If still  $> 0$  when subtract  $f_{xy}^2$ , then initial guess is confirmed.

when  $< 0$ , then in some directions between the axes, the concavity is reversed, so saddle.

$f_{xx}f_{yy} < 0$  already  
 $f_{xx}f_{yy} - f_{xy}^2 < 0$  automatic

$f_{xx}f_{yy} = 0$   
 $f_{xx}f_{yy} - f_{xy}^2 \leq 0$   
same 2 conclusions