

Solutions to selected problems in HW for Week 10

1. Homework assignment: Problem 2.

Short summary:

- All nearby gradient vectors point towards the critical point: local maximum.
- All nearby gradient vectors point away from the critical point: local minimum.
- Some nearby gradient vectors point towards the critical point, some nearby gradient vectors point away from the critical point: saddle point.

2. Section 14.10: Problem 12.

$$\begin{cases} \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial f}{\partial z} \frac{\partial z}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial f}{\partial w} \frac{\partial w}{\partial x} = 0 \\ \frac{\partial g}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial g}{\partial z} \frac{\partial z}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial g}{\partial w} \frac{\partial w}{\partial x} = 0 \end{cases} \Rightarrow \frac{\partial z}{\partial x} = -\frac{f_x g_w - f_w g_x}{f_z g_w - f_w g_z}$$

$$\begin{cases} \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial f}{\partial z} \frac{\partial z}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial f}{\partial w} \frac{\partial w}{\partial y} = 0 \\ \frac{\partial g}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial g}{\partial z} \frac{\partial z}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial g}{\partial w} \frac{\partial w}{\partial y} = 0 \end{cases} \Rightarrow \frac{\partial w}{\partial y} = -\frac{f_z g_y - f_y g_z}{f_z g_w - f_w g_z}$$

3. Homework assignment: Problem 5.

Note that

$$\left(\frac{\partial u}{\partial x}\right)_y = \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial u}{\partial z} \frac{\partial z}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial u}{\partial w} \frac{\partial w}{\partial x}.$$

We've known from Problem.12 that

$$\frac{\partial z}{\partial x} = -\frac{f_x g_w - f_w g_x}{f_z g_w - f_w g_z}.$$

For another unknown term, consider

$$\begin{cases} \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial f}{\partial z} \frac{\partial z}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial f}{\partial w} \frac{\partial w}{\partial x} = 0 \\ \frac{\partial g}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial g}{\partial z} \frac{\partial z}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial g}{\partial w} \frac{\partial w}{\partial x} = 0 \end{cases} \Rightarrow \frac{\partial w}{\partial x} = -\frac{f_x g_z - f_z g_x}{f_w g_z - f_z g_w}.$$

Therefore,

$$\left(\frac{\partial u}{\partial x}\right)_y = \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial u}{\partial z} \left(-\frac{f_x g_w - f_w g_x}{f_z g_w - f_w g_z}\right) + \frac{\partial u}{\partial w} \left(-\frac{f_x g_z - f_z g_x}{f_w g_z - f_z g_w}\right).$$

4. Homework assignment: Problem 6.

$$\begin{aligned} \left.\frac{d}{dx} f(x, y(x), z(x))\right|_{x=1/\sqrt{2}} &= 2x + 2y \left(-\frac{x}{y}\right) + 2z \left(-1 + \frac{x}{y}\right) \Big|_{(1/\sqrt{2}, 1/\sqrt{2}, 1-\sqrt{2})} \\ &= 2z \left(-1 + \frac{x}{y}\right) \Big|_{(1/\sqrt{2}, 1/\sqrt{2}, 1-\sqrt{2})} = 0. \end{aligned}$$