

14.7, F18-e3-2: Find the absolute maximum and the absolute minimum values of

$$f(x, y) = 3xy - 6x - 3y + 7$$

on the triangular region with vertices $(0, 0)$, $(3, 0)$, and $(0, 5)$.

Answer:

We compute $\frac{\partial f}{\partial x} = 3y - 6$ and $\frac{\partial f}{\partial y} = 3x - 3$. Both partial derivatives are zero at the point $(x, y) = (1, 2)$. This interior critical point might be an absolute extreme point.

We look at the restriction of f to the line $y = 0$ with $0 \leq x \leq 3$.

$$f|_{y=0}(x) = -6x + 7$$

and the derivative is -6 which is never zero. So the absolute extreme points of the restriction of f to the line $y = 0$ with $0 \leq x \leq 3$ occur at the end points.

We look at the restriction of f to the line $x = 0$ with $0 \leq y \leq 5$.

$$f|_{x=0}(y) = -3y + 7$$

and the derivative is -3 which is never zero. So the absolute extreme points of the restriction of f to the line $x = 0$ with $0 \leq y \leq 5$ occur at the end points.

The line which connects $(3, 0)$ to $(0, 5)$ is $y = -\frac{5}{3}x + 5$. We look at the restriction of f to the line $y = -\frac{5}{3}x + 5$ with $0 \leq x \leq 3$.

$$\begin{aligned} f|_{\text{top boundary}}(x) &= 3x\left(-\frac{5}{3}x + 5\right) - 6x - 3\left(-\frac{5}{3}x + 5\right) + 7 \\ &= -5x^2 + 15x - 6x + 5x - 15 + 7. \end{aligned}$$

The derivative is $-10x + 15 - 6 + 5$. The derivative is zero when $-10x + 14 = 0$; that is when $x = 7/5$ and $y = 8/3$.

The extreme points of f on our domain occur at $(0, 0)$, $(3, 0)$, $(0, 5)$, or $(7/5, 8/3)$. We plug these points into f :

$$f(0, 0) = 7, \quad \text{absolute maximum}$$

$$f(3, 0) = -18 + 7 = -11 \quad \text{absolute minimum}$$

$$f(0, 5) = -15 + 7 = -8$$

$$f(7/5, 8/3) = 56/5 - 42/5 - 8 + 7 = 9/5$$

$$f(1, 2) = 6 - 6 - 6 + 7 = 1$$

The absolute minimum of f on our domain occurs at $(3, 0, -11)$.
The absolute maximum of f on our domain occurs at $(0, 0, 7)$.