

Quiz # 6 Math 102-**001** Calculus 14 July 2016, Thursday Instructor: Ali Sinan Sertöz Solution Key

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Your Name:			
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Student ID:	Your Department:

Q-1) Let $f(x, y) = x^2 + 4xy + 5y^2 - 2x - 4y$.

- (i) Find the critical points of f.
- (ii) Determine the nature of the critical points.
- (iii) Find the global minimum and maximum values of f if they exist.

Show your work in detail. Correct answers without justification are never graded.

Answer:

To find the critical points we must solve simultaneously the equations

$$f_x = 2x + 4y - 2 = 0$$
 and $f_y = 4x + 10y - 4 = 0$.

Thus the only critical point is the sole solution to the above linear system which is (x, y) = (1, 0).

To determine the nature of this critical point we need the second derivative test. For this we need

$$f_{xx} = 2, \ f_{xy} = 4, \ f_{yy} = 10, \ \Delta = f_{xx}f_{yy} - f_{xy}^2 = 4.$$

Since $\Delta > 0$, this critical point is a local minimum.

We can write $f(x, y) = (x + 2y)^2 + y^2 - 2(x + 2y)$ and observe that as |x| and |y| increase, the values of the function go to $+\infty$. Hence there must be a global minimum which must occur at a critical point. Since we have only one critical point for this function, the global minimum whose existence we now know must occur there.

Hence f(1,0) = -1 is the global minimum value of this function.

Note that the existence of a single local minimum point does not guarantee that there is a global minimum. Check for example that the polynomial $f(x, y) = x^2 + y^2(1+x)^3$ has only one critical point at (0,0) which is a local minimum but is not a global minimum. In fact $\lim_{t\to\infty} f(-2,t) = -\infty$.