

Zeitschrift: L'Enseignement Mathématique
Herausgeber: Commission Internationale de l'Enseignement Mathématique
Band: 10 (1964)
Heft: 1-2: L'ENSEIGNEMENT MATHÉMATIQUE

Artikel: VERTEX POINTS OF FUNCTIONS
Autor: Amir-Moéz, Ali R.
Kapitel: 4. Direction of quadric curvature
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-39423>

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II. Let the rank of Q be k , and centers exist. Then these centers are solutions of

$$\xi_k = \xi E = - \left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial \xi} \right) EQ^{-1}, \quad (3.2)$$

where Q^{-1} is the reciprocal of Q , see [2]. That is, if E is the projection on the range of Q , then

$$Q^{-1} Q = QQ^{-1} = E.$$

Here we choose the center of quadric curvatures at a point of (3.2) so that, it is at the shortest distance from γ .

III. When the rank of Q is k and the quadric does not have centers, then we say that f does not have a center of quadric curvature.

4. DIRECTION OF QUADRIC CURVATURE

In part I and II of section 3 we respectively call the vectors ξ and ξ_k the directions of quadric curvature of f at (c_1, \dots, c_n) . In III of section 3, we define the direction of quadric curvature to be a vector δ which satisfies

$$\delta = \delta E = - \left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial \xi} \right) EQ^{-1},$$

where E is the projection described in section 3.

5. VERTEX POINTS

Let at the point $\gamma = (c_1, \dots, c_n)$ of f the direction of quadric curvature be the same as the normal to $f = 0$. Then γ is called a vertex point of the function f .

Theorem: A necessary and sufficient condition for a point to be a vertex point of the function f is that at that point

$$PQ = QP,$$

where P and Q are the matrices described in section 3.