

Calculus II Math 1038 (1002&1003)

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Week 7: Ch14 Partial differentiation

1. Limit

To check whether a limit

$$\lim_{(x,y) \rightarrow (a,b)} f(x,y) = L$$

exist or not, if yes, find the limit, if not, prove the limit does not exist (find two paths).

2. Continuity

Definition: f is continuous on D if f is continuous at every point (a,b) in D .

$$\lim_{(x,y) \rightarrow (a,b)} f(x,y) = L = f(a,b)$$

$f(x,y)$ is **defined** at (a,b) and the limit **exists** and **equals** to $f(a,b)$.

(a) Any rational function is **continuous** on its domain.

(b) To prove a function $f(x,y)$ is **continuous at a given point** (a,b)

- i. IF $(a,b) \in D$ (the point is in the domain) and $f(x,y)$ is a polynomial/rational/trig function and other simple functions, THEN $f(x,y)$ is continuous at (a,b) , and the value equals to $f(a,b)$ (no jump!)
- ii. If $(a,b) \notin D$ (not in the domain), then we have to check
 - A. whether the limit L **exists**
 - B. whether the limit **equal to** $f(a,b)$

(c) To prove a function $f(x,y)$ is **continuous on a given region** D , then it is equivalent to prove f is continuous at every the point $(x,y) \in D$.

3. Partial derivative

(a) **Definition:** partial derivative with respect to x at (a,b) ,

$$f_x(a,b) = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(a+h,b) - f(a,b)}{h}$$

$$f_x(a,b) = \lim_{k \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(a,b+k) - f(a,b)}{k}$$

(b) to find partial derivatives $f_x(x,y)$

- i. **use definition as a limit.**
- ii. treat the other variable y as **a constant** and differentiate it as a function of single variable: important rules: **Product, Quotient and Chain Rule.**

(c) notations:

$$f_x(x,y) = f_x = \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} = \frac{\partial}{\partial x} f(x,y) = D_x f$$

if $z = f(x,y)$, we can also use

$$\frac{\partial z}{\partial x}$$

(d) interpretation of $f_x(a,b)$: slope of the tangent lines at point $(a,b, f(a,b))$ to the traces C in the plane $y = b$.

- (e) **Clairaut's Theorem:** $f(x, y)$ is defined on a disk D that contains (a, b) . If f_{xy} and f_{yx} are **both continuous on D** , then

$$f_{xy}(a, b) = f_{yx}(a, b)$$

4. Differentiability

- (a) Increment/difference of z : Δz

$$\Delta z = f(a + \Delta x, b + \Delta y) - f(a, b)$$

- (b) Definition: The function is **differentiable at (a, b)** if $f_x(a, b)$ and $f_y(a, b)$ exist and

$$\Delta z = f_x(a, b)\Delta x + f_y(a, b)\Delta y + \epsilon_1\Delta x + \epsilon_2\Delta y$$

where ϵ_1 and $\epsilon_2 \rightarrow 0$ as $(\Delta x, \Delta y) \rightarrow (0, 0)$.

- (c) If $f_x(a, b)$ and $f_y(a, b)$ exist and are **continuous** at (a, b) , then f is differentiable, and if a function f is differentiable at (a, b) , then it is continuous at (a, b) .

- (d) **Important relationships:** i \rightarrow ii \rightarrow iii \rightarrow iv

- i. $f_x(a, b)$ and $f_y(a, b)$ are **continuous**
- ii. f is **differentiable at (a, b)**
- iii. f is continuous at (a, b)
- iv. $\lim_{(x, y) \rightarrow (a, b)} f(x, y) = L$ limit exist.

iv \nrightarrow iii \nrightarrow ii \nrightarrow i.

- (e) To prove f is differentiable

- i. Use definition: difficulty
- ii. To show $f_x(a, b)$ and $f_y(a, b)$ exist AND are **continuous** at (a, b) , .

- (f) To prove f is NOT differentiable:

- i. To show f is not continuous, or
- ii. by definition: ϵ_1 and $\epsilon_2 \not\rightarrow 0$.

5. Tangent plane through a point $P(x_0, y_0, z_0)$

- (a) two tangent directions: $\vec{u}_x = \langle 1, 0, f_x(x_0, y_0) \rangle$ and $\vec{u}_y = \langle 0, 1, f_y(x_0, y_0) \rangle$

- (b) normal vector of tangent plane $\vec{n} = \vec{u}_x \times \vec{u}_y = \langle f_x, f_y, -1 \rangle$

- (c) **equation of a tangent plane** to the surface $z = f(x, y)$

$$z - z_0 = f_x(x_0, y_0)(x - x_0) + f_y(x_0, y_0)(y - y_0)$$

- (d) **equation of a normal line**

$$(x, y, z) = (x_0, y_0, z_0) + t \langle f_x, f_y, -1 \rangle$$

6. Linear approximations

for $f(x, y)$

$$L(x, y) = f(a, b) + f_x(a, b)(x - a) + f_y(a, b)(y - b)$$

7. Differentials

total differential

$$dz = f_x(a, b)dx + f_y(a, b)dy$$

compare with the difference/increment $\Delta z = f(a + \Delta x, b + \Delta y) - f(a, b)$, we have $dz \approx \Delta z$.

8. Chain rule

- (a) Recall for $y = f(x)$ and $x = g(t)$

$$\frac{dy}{dt} = \frac{dy}{dx} \cdot \frac{dx}{dt}$$

x is a intermediate variable and t is the sole independent variable.

(b) $z = f(x(t), y(t))$

$$\frac{dz}{dt} = \frac{\partial z}{\partial x} \cdot \frac{dx}{dt} + \frac{\partial z}{\partial y} \cdot \frac{dy}{dt}$$

with x and y are intermediate variables and t is the sole independent variable.

(c) $z = f(x(s, t), y(s, t))$

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{\partial z}{\partial t} &= \frac{\partial z}{\partial x} \cdot \frac{dx}{dt} + \frac{\partial z}{\partial y} \cdot \frac{dy}{dt} \\ \frac{\partial z}{\partial s} &= \frac{\partial z}{\partial x} \cdot \frac{dx}{ds} + \frac{\partial z}{\partial y} \cdot \frac{dy}{ds}\end{aligned}$$

(d) change of coordinate $(x, y) \rightarrow (r, \theta)$, with $x = r \cos \theta$ and $y = r \sin \theta$

(e) **Implicit differentiation** $F(x, y) = 0$, where $y = f(x)$ but f is not in an explicit form, and we need to find dy/dx

Differentiate both side

$$\frac{\partial F}{\partial x} \frac{dx}{dx} + \frac{\partial F}{\partial y} \frac{dy}{dx} = 0$$

then

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = -\frac{\frac{\partial F}{\partial x}}{\frac{\partial F}{\partial y}} = -\frac{F_x}{F_y}$$

(f) Implicit Differentiation Theorem for $F(x, y, z) = 0$ where $z = f(x, y)$ is not explicit, to find $\frac{\partial z}{\partial x}$ and $\frac{\partial z}{\partial y}$ we can use the formula

$$\frac{\partial z}{\partial x} = -\frac{F_x}{F_z}$$

9. Directional derivatives $D_{\vec{u}}f = \nabla f \cdot \vec{u}$

(a) Recall $z = f(x, y)$, $f_x = D_x f$ represents the rates of change of z in the x -direction, in the directions of the unit vector $\vec{i} = \langle 1, 0 \rangle$, similarly, $f_y = D_y f$ represents the rates of change of z in the y -direction, in the directions of the unit vector $\vec{j} = \langle 0, 1 \rangle$.
along direction $\vec{u} = \vec{i} = \langle 1, 0 \rangle$ parallel to x -axis where y is fixed to be a constant,

$$f_x = D_x = \langle f_x, f_y \rangle \cdot \langle 1, 0 \rangle = f_x$$

similarly, along direction $\vec{u} = \vec{j} = \langle 0, 1 \rangle$ parallel to y -axis where x is fixed to be a constant,

$$f_y = D_y = \langle f_x, f_y \rangle \cdot \langle 0, 1 \rangle = f_y$$

(b) Definition of **directional derivative** of f at (x_0, y_0) in the direction of a unit vector $\vec{u} = \langle a, b \rangle$

$$D_{\vec{u}}f(x_0, y_0) = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x_0 + ha, y_0 + hb) - f(x_0, y_0)}{h}$$

or we can represent $\vec{u} = \langle \cos \theta, \sin \theta \rangle$.

(c) Theorem

$$D_{\vec{u}}f(x, y) = f_x(x, y)a + f_y(x, y)b = \langle f_x(x, y), f_y(x, y) \rangle \cdot \langle a, b \rangle = \nabla f \cdot \vec{u}$$

or

$$D_{\vec{u}}f(x, y) = f_x(x, y) \cos \theta + f_y(x, y) \sin \theta = \langle f_x(x, y), f_y(x, y) \rangle \cdot \langle \cos \theta, \sin \theta \rangle$$

prove by **Chain Rule** via defining a new function $g(h) = f(x + ha, y + hb)$ then $g(h) = f(x, y)$ with $x = x_0 + ha$ and $y = y_0 + hb$, so $\frac{dx}{dh} = a$ and $\frac{dy}{dh} = b$.

$$g'(h) = \frac{dg}{dh} = \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \frac{dx}{dh} + \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} \frac{dy}{dh} = \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} a + \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} b$$

10. Gradient vector ∇f

(a) Recall $f(x)$, the slope/gradient is $f'(x)$

- (b) The gradient of a function $f(x, y)$, $\text{grad} f$, ∇f (read “del f ”), which is a **vector** function

$$\nabla f = \langle f_x(x, y), f_y(x, y) \rangle = \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \vec{i} + \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} \vec{j}$$

$$\nabla f = \langle f_x(x, y, z), f_y(x, y, z), f_z(x, y, z) \rangle = \left\langle \frac{\partial f}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial f}{\partial y}, \frac{\partial f}{\partial z} \right\rangle = \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \vec{i} + \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} \vec{j} + \frac{\partial f}{\partial z} \vec{k}$$

- (c) **directional derivative**

$$D_{\vec{u}} f(x, y) = \nabla f \cdot \vec{u}$$

a projection of the gradient vector onto \vec{u} , which gives the

- i. **rate of change** of a function z in a given direction \vec{u} .
- ii. gradient of function of three variables

- (d) **maximizing** $D_{\vec{u}}$

$$D_{\vec{u}} f(x, y) = \nabla f \cdot \vec{u} = |\nabla f| \cdot |\vec{u}| \cos \theta$$

it attains its maxima when $\theta = 0$ which means \vec{u} is in the same direction as the gradient of f . Since $|\vec{u}| = 1$ and $\cos \theta = 1$

$$\max D_{\vec{u}} f(x, y) = |\nabla f|$$

direction of steepest ascent. When $\theta = \pi$, $\cos \theta = -1$, \vec{u} is the **direction of greatest descent**.

$$\min D_{\vec{u}} f(x, y) = -|\nabla f|$$

- (e) **To find the maximum rate of change,**

- i. find the gradient vector $\nabla f = \langle f_x, f_y \rangle$
- ii. compute its length $|\nabla f|$ and get the maximum rate and $-|\nabla f|$ is the minimum rate ,
- iii. the direction of the maximum and minimum rate of change is the normalized ∇f :

$$\vec{u} = \frac{\nabla f}{|\nabla f|}, \quad \text{and} \quad \vec{u} = -\frac{\nabla f}{|\nabla f|}$$

- (f) other conclusions

- i. $D_{\vec{u}} = 0$, when $\theta = \pi/2$ $\cos \theta = 0$, \vec{u} is perpendicular to ∇f (tangent to the **level curves**).
- ii. The **paths of steepest ascent/descent** is a curve that remains **perpendicular to each level curves** through which it passes.

- (g) Theorem: tangent to the level curve of f at (a, b) is orthogonal to the gradient $\nabla f(a, b)$ given $\nabla f(a, b) = 0$.
at level curves $f(x, y) = k$, so $f_x + f_y y'(x) = 0$ and $y' = -f_x/f_y$, so
tangent direction

$$\vec{t} = \langle 1, y' \rangle = \langle 1, -f_x/f_y \rangle$$

gradient vector:

$$\nabla f(a, b) = \langle f_x(a, b), f_y(a, b) \rangle$$

therefore

$$\vec{t} \cdot \nabla f(a, b) = 0$$

- (h) Equation of the tangent line for $f(x, y) = z$

$$\nabla f(a, b) \cdot \langle x - a, y - b \rangle = 0$$

or

$$f_x(a, b)(x - a) + f_y(a, b)(y - b) = 0$$

- (i) Theorem: the gradient of function $f(x, y, z)$ is normal to the tangent plane to the **level surface** $f(x, y, z) = k$ at the point (a, b, c) . The equation of the tangent plane

$$f_x(a, b, c)(x - a) + f_y(a, b, c)(y - b) + f_z(a, b, c)(z - c) = 0$$

11. Extreme values

- (a) local maximum/minimum values
- (b) absolute maximum/minimum values
- (c) saddle point is a critical point which is a local max in one direction and local min in another direction
- (d) critical (stationary) point (a, b)

$$f_x(a, b) = f_y(a, b)$$

- (e) Discriminant: $D = f_{xx}f_{yy} - f_{xy}^2$
- (f) Second Derivatives Test for critical points
 - i. $f_{xx} > 0$, $D > 0$, local min
 - ii. $f_{xx} < 0$, $D > 0$, local max
 - iii. $D < 0$, saddle point
- (g) Extreme value theorem: if $f(x, y)$ is continuous on the closed and bounded region $R \subset \mathbb{R}^2$, then f has absolute max and min on R .
- (h) To find absolute max and min:
 - i. find all the critical points
 - ii. find all the boundary points
 - iii. compare the values at these points to get the greatest and least values to the absolute max and mean.

12. Optimization problems with two independent variables

- (a) objective function $f(x, y)$ to maximize or to minimize
- (b) constraints $g(x, y) = 0$
- (c) Lagrange multiplier λ

$$\nabla f(a, b) = \lambda \nabla g(a, b)$$

or for three variables

$$\nabla f(a, b, c) = \lambda \nabla g(a, b, c)$$

- (d) double constraints $g(x, y, z) = 0$ and $h(x, y, z) = 0$

$$\nabla f(a, b, c) = \lambda \nabla g(a, b, c) + \mu \nabla h(a, b, c)$$

- (e) Our goal is to find the point (a, b, c) where extreme value locates and then compute $f(a, b, c)$.