Total Differential For a function f = f(x, y, z, ...), its total derivative is defined as

$$df = \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} dx + \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} dy + \frac{\partial f}{\partial z} dz$$

Identity Involving Partial Derivative

The Jacobian of [u(x,y),v(x,y)] with respect to (x,y) is defined by

$$\frac{\partial(u,v)}{\partial(x,y)} = \begin{vmatrix} \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} & \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} \\ \frac{\partial v}{\partial x} & \frac{\partial v}{\partial y} \end{vmatrix}$$

Here are some identity relating the Jacobian with partial derivative.

Unity. Unity as in one

$$\frac{\partial(u,v)}{\partial(x,y)} = 1$$

Proof. Trivial

$$\frac{\partial(x,y)}{\partial(x,y)} = \begin{vmatrix} \frac{\partial x}{\partial x} & \frac{\partial x}{\partial y} \\ \frac{\partial y}{\partial x} & \frac{\partial y}{\partial y} \end{vmatrix} = \frac{\partial x}{\partial x} \frac{\partial y}{\partial y} - \frac{\partial x}{\partial y} \frac{\partial y}{\partial x} = 1 \quad \blacksquare$$

Change of order. It can be proved that change of order cost the minus sign

$$\frac{\partial(u,v)}{\partial(x,y)} = -\frac{\partial(v,u)}{\partial(x,y)} = -\frac{\partial(u,v)}{\partial(y,x)}$$

Proof. Those three terms literally have the same value when evaluated

$$\frac{\partial(u,v)}{\partial(x,y)} = \begin{vmatrix} \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} & \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} \\ \frac{\partial v}{\partial x} & \frac{\partial v}{\partial y} \end{vmatrix} = \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} \frac{\partial v}{\partial y} - \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} \frac{\partial v}{\partial x}$$

$$-\frac{\partial(v,u)}{\partial(x,y)} = - \begin{vmatrix} \frac{\partial v}{\partial x} & \frac{\partial v}{\partial y} \\ \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} & \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} \end{vmatrix} = \frac{\partial v}{\partial y} \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial v}{\partial x} \frac{\partial u}{\partial y}$$

$$\frac{\partial(u,v)}{\partial(y,x)} = - \begin{vmatrix} \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} & \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} \\ \frac{\partial v}{\partial y} & \frac{\partial v}{\partial x} \end{vmatrix} = \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} \frac{\partial v}{\partial y} - \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} \frac{\partial v}{\partial x}$$

See? ■

Jacobian. In terms of Jacobian, partial derivative of u with respect to x can be written as

$$\left. \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} \right|_y = \frac{\partial (u, y)}{\partial (x, y)}$$

Proof. Just evaluate the Jacobian

$$\frac{\partial(u,y)}{\partial(x,y)} = \begin{vmatrix} \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} & \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} \\ \frac{\partial y}{\partial x} & \frac{\partial y}{\partial y} \end{vmatrix} = \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} \frac{\partial y}{\partial y} - \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} \frac{\partial y}{\partial x} = \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} \quad \blacksquare$$

Chain rule for partial derivative. The expression is

$$\frac{\partial(u,y)}{\partial(x,y)} = \frac{\partial(u,y)}{\partial(w,z)} \frac{\partial(w,z)}{\partial(x,y)}$$

Proof. The total differential of u and v as function w and z read

$$du = \frac{\partial u}{\partial w} dw + \frac{\partial u}{\partial v} dz \quad \wedge \quad dv = \frac{\partial v}{\partial w} dw + \frac{\partial v}{\partial z} dz$$

We can therefore evaluate the Jacobian

$$\frac{\partial(u,y)}{\partial(x,y)} = \begin{vmatrix} \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} & \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} \\ \frac{\partial v}{\partial x} & \frac{\partial v}{\partial y} \end{vmatrix} = \begin{vmatrix} \frac{\partial u}{\partial w} \frac{\partial w}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial u}{\partial z} \frac{\partial z}{\partial x} & \frac{\partial u}{\partial w} \frac{\partial w}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial u}{\partial z} \frac{\partial z}{\partial y} \\ \frac{\partial v}{\partial w} \frac{\partial w}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial v}{\partial z} \frac{\partial z}{\partial x} & \frac{\partial v}{\partial w} \frac{\partial w}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial v}{\partial z} \frac{\partial z}{\partial y} \end{vmatrix}$$

$$= \left| \begin{pmatrix} \frac{\partial u}{\partial w} & \frac{\partial u}{\partial z} \\ \frac{\partial v}{\partial w} & \frac{\partial v}{\partial z} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \frac{\partial w}{\partial x} & \frac{\partial w}{\partial y} \\ \frac{\partial z}{\partial x} & \frac{\partial z}{\partial y} \end{pmatrix} \right| = \left| \frac{\partial u}{\partial w} & \frac{\partial u}{\partial z} \right| \left| \frac{\partial w}{\partial x} & \frac{\partial w}{\partial y} \right| \left| \frac{\partial z}{\partial x} & \frac{\partial z}{\partial y} \right|$$

$$\frac{\partial(u,y)}{\partial(x,y)} = \frac{\partial(u,y)}{\partial(w,z)} \frac{\partial(w,z)}{\partial(x,y)} \quad \blacksquare$$

The real chain rule. We have

$$\frac{\partial x}{\partial z}\Big|_{y} \frac{\partial z}{\partial x}\Big|_{y} = 1$$

Proof. Trivial

$$1 = \frac{\partial(x,y)}{\partial(x,y)} = \frac{\partial(x,y)}{\partial(z,y)} \frac{\partial(z,y)}{\partial(x,y)} = \frac{\partial x}{\partial z} \bigg|_{y} \frac{\partial z}{\partial x} \bigg|_{y} \quad \blacksquare$$

Yet another chain rule... Even more chain rule...

$$\left. \frac{\partial x}{\partial y} \right|_{w} = \left. \frac{\partial x}{\partial z} \right|_{w} \left. \frac{\partial z}{\partial y} \right|_{w}$$

Proof. Trivial

$$\frac{\partial x}{\partial y}\bigg|_{w} = \frac{\partial(x,w)}{\partial(y,w)} = \frac{\partial(x,w)}{\partial(z,w)} \frac{\partial(z,w)}{\partial(y,w)} = \frac{\partial x}{\partial z}\bigg|_{w} \frac{\partial z}{\partial y}\bigg|_{w}$$

Cyclic rule. This is chain rule all over again...

$$\frac{\partial x}{\partial z}\Big|_{y} \frac{\partial z}{\partial y}\Big|_{x} \frac{\partial y}{\partial x}\Big|_{z} = -1$$

Proof. Trivial

$$1 = \frac{\partial(x,y)}{\partial(x,y)} = \frac{\partial(x,y)}{\partial(z,y)} \frac{\partial(z,y)}{\partial(z,x)} \frac{\partial(z,x)}{\partial(x,y)} = -\frac{\partial(x,y)}{\partial(z,y)} \frac{\partial(y,z)}{\partial(x,z)} \frac{\partial(z,x)}{\partial(y,x)}$$
$$= -\frac{\partial x}{\partial z} \Big|_{y} \frac{\partial y}{\partial x} \Big|_{z} \frac{\partial z}{\partial y} \Big|_{x} \blacksquare$$

Application in Thermodynamics

Here we will derive some useful intensive parameter used in thermodynamics. We assumed entropy function S has the form of

$$S = S(U, V, N_{i|r})$$

where N is number of chemical potential and $N_{i|r} \equiv N_1, \dots N_r$. Therefore, its total differential is

$$dS = \frac{\partial S}{\partial U}\bigg|_{V,N_{i|r}} dU + \frac{\partial S}{\partial V}\bigg|_{U,N_{i|r}} dV + \sum_{j=1}^r \frac{\partial S}{\partial N_j}\bigg|_{U,V,N_{i\neq r}} dN_j$$

We also assume the following quantities

$$T = \frac{\partial U}{\partial S}\bigg|_{V,N_i} \quad ; P = -\frac{\partial U}{\partial V}\bigg|_{S,N_i} \quad ; \mu_j = \frac{\partial U}{\partial N}\bigg|_{S,V,N_{i\neq j}}$$

First identity. As follows.

$$\left. \frac{\partial S}{\partial U} \right|_{VN_i} = \frac{1}{T}$$

Proof. We use chain rule with $x \to U, y \to V, z \to S$; while keeping all the N_i constant

$$\left. \frac{\partial U}{\partial S} \right|_{V,N_i} \left. \frac{\partial S}{\partial U} \right|_{V,N_i} = 1 \implies \left. \frac{\partial S}{\partial U} \right|_{V,N_i} = \left(\left. \frac{\partial U}{\partial S} \right|_{V,N_i} \right)^{-1}$$

Then, from the definition of temperature

$$\frac{\partial S}{\partial U}\Big|_{V,N_i} = \frac{1}{T} \quad \blacksquare$$

Second identity. The identity written as

$$\left. \frac{\partial S}{\partial V} \right|_{U.N.} = \frac{P}{T}$$

Proof. We invoke cyclic rule with $x \to U, y \to V, z \to S$; while keeping all the N_i constant

$$1 = -\frac{\partial U}{\partial S}\bigg|_{V,N_i} \left. \frac{\partial S}{\partial V} \right|_{U,N_i} \left. \frac{\partial V}{\partial U} \right|_{U,N_i}$$

Then, from the first identity and the definition of pressure

$$1 = T \left. \frac{\partial S}{\partial V} \right|_{U, N_i} \frac{1}{P} \implies \left. \frac{\partial S}{\partial V} \right|_{U, N_i} = \frac{P}{T} \quad \blacksquare$$

Third Identity. Expressed as

$$\left. \frac{\partial S}{\partial N_j} \right|_{U, N_{i \neq j}} = -\frac{P}{T}$$

Proof. We again invoke cyclic with $x \to U, y \to Nj, z \to S$; while keeping V and all N except N_i constant

$$1 = -\frac{\partial U}{\partial S}\bigg|_{V,N_i} \left. \frac{\partial S}{\partial N_j} \right|_{U,N_{i \neq j}} \left. \frac{\partial N_j}{\partial U} \right|_{U,N_{i \neq j}}$$

Then, from the definition of temperature and chemical potential

$$1 = -T \frac{\partial S}{\partial N_j} \bigg|_{U,N_{i \neq j}} \frac{1}{\mu_j} \implies \left. \frac{\partial S}{\partial N_j} \right|_{U,N_{i \neq j}} = -\frac{\mu_j}{T} \quad \blacksquare$$

Lagrange Multipliers

Let f(x, y, z) be our function that we want to optimize and $\phi(x, y, z)$ = const be our constraint. We then set the total differential of f(x, y, z) and $\phi(x, y, z)$ equal to zero

$$\begin{split} \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} dx + \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} dy + \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} dz &= 0 \\ \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x} dx + \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial y} dy + \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial y} dz &= 0 \end{split}$$

Next, we construct the function

$$F(x, y, z) = f(x, y, z) + \lambda \phi(x, y, z)$$

and set its total derivative to zero

$$\left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial x} + \lambda \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x}\right) dx + \left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial y} + \lambda \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial y}\right) dy + \left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial z} + \lambda \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial z}\right) dz = 0$$

It follows that, for any value of dx, dy, dz, we choose λ such that

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial x} + \lambda \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x} = 0, \quad \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} + \lambda \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial y} = 0, \quad \frac{\partial f}{\partial z} + \lambda \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial z} = 0$$

Putting it all together, to optimize f(x, y, z) with constraint $\phi(x, y, z)$, we need to optimize F(x, y, z), which obtained by solving three partial derivative equations and constraint equation $\phi(x, y, z) = \text{const.}$ The equations in question are

$$\frac{\partial F}{\partial x} = 0, \quad \frac{\partial F}{\partial y} = 0,$$

$$\frac{\partial F}{\partial z} = 0, \quad \phi = \text{const.}$$

Multiple constraint. If there are multiple constraints, say ϕ_1 and ϕ_2 , we function F we construct instead is

$$F(x, y, z) = f(x, y, z) + \lambda_1 \phi_1(x, y, z) + \lambda_2 \phi_2(x, y, z)$$

As a side, the function that we want to optimize need not to a function of three variable $x,\ y,\ z.$ The previous derivation can be justified for any number of variable. Of course, with more variable there are more variables.

Leibniz' rule for Integral

Differentiation under integral sign stated by Leibniz' rule

$$\frac{d}{dx} \int_{u(x)}^{v(x)} f(x,t) dt = \int_{u}^{v} \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} dt + f(x,v) \frac{dv}{dx} - f(x,u) \frac{du}{dx}$$

Proof. Suppose we want dI/dx where

$$I = \int_{u}^{v} f(t) dt$$

By the fundamental theorem of calculus

$$I = F(v) - F(u) = \mathcal{F}(v, u)$$

or I is a function of v and u. Finding dI/dx is then a partial differentiation problem. We can write

$$\frac{dI}{dx} = \frac{\partial I}{\partial v} \frac{dv}{dx} + \frac{\partial I}{\partial u} \frac{du}{dx}$$

By the fundamental theorem of calculus, we have

$$\frac{d}{dv} \int_{a}^{v} f(x) dt = \frac{d}{dv} [F(v) - F(a)] = f(v)$$

$$\frac{d}{dv} \int_{u}^{b} f(x) dt = \frac{d}{dv} [F(b) - F(u)] = -f(u)$$

where u and v are a function of x, while a and b are a constant. This is the case when we consider $\partial I/\partial v$ or $\partial I/\partial v$; the other variable is constant. Then

$$\frac{d}{dx} \int_{u}^{v} f(t) dt = f(v) \frac{dv}{dx} - f(u) \frac{du}{dx}$$

Under not too restrictive conditions,

$$\frac{d}{dx} \int_{a}^{b} f(x,t) dt = \int_{a}^{b} \frac{\partial f(x,t)}{\partial x} dt$$

where, as before, a and b are constant. In other words, we can differentiate under the integral sign. It is convenient to collect these formulas into one formula known as Leibniz' rule:

$$\frac{d}{dx} \int_{u(x)}^{v(x)} f(x,t) dt = \int_{u}^{v} \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} dt + f(x,v) \frac{dv}{dx} - f(x,u) \frac{du}{dx} \quad \blacksquare$$