

Mathematics II (BSM 102)

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Function of Several Variables

Outlines:

- Introduction to function
- Function of two or more variables
- Partial first order derivatives
- Higher order partial derivatives
- Homogeneous function
- Maxima & minima of a function

Definition: Suppose D is a set of n -tuples of real numbers (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) . A **realvalued function** f on D is a rule that assigns a real number

$$w = f(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n)$$

to each element in D .

The set D is the function's domain.

The set of w values taken on by f is the function's range.

The symbol w is the dependent variable of f , and f is said to be a function of the n independent variables x_1 to x_n .

We also call the x 's the function's input variables and call w the function's output variable.

Introduction to Function

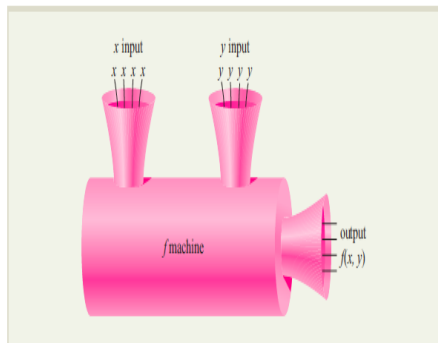
Function: A function is an equation for which any x that can be plugged into the equation will yield exactly one y out of the equation. The common notation for the function is

$$y = f(x)$$

to express a functional relationship between x and y .

$y = f(x)$ is read as ' y equals f of x ' or ' y is a function of x '

Function of Two Variables: A function f of the two independent variables x and y is a rule that assigns to each ordered pair (x, y) in a given set D (the domain of f) exactly one real number, denoted by $f(x, y)$.



Introduction

Domain: Excluding inputs that lead to complex numbers or division by zero. If $f(x, y) = \sqrt{y - x^2}$, y cannot be less than x^2 . If $f(x, y) = 1/(xy)$, xy cannot be zero. The domains of functions are otherwise assumed to be the largest sets for which the defining rules generate real numbers.

Functions of two Variables:

Function	Domain	Range
$w = \sqrt{y - x^2}$	$y \geq x^2$	$[0, \infty)$
$w = \frac{1}{xy}$	$xy \neq 0$	$(-\infty, 0) \cup (0, \infty)$
$w = \sin xy$	Entire plane	$[-1, 1]$

Functions of three Variables:

Function	Domain	Range
$w = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2 + z^2}$	Entire space	$[0, \infty)$
$w = \frac{1}{x^2 + y^2 + z^2}$	$(x, y, z) \neq (0, 0, 0)$	$(0, \infty)$
$w = xy \ln z$	Half-space $z > 0$	$(-\infty, \infty)$

Partial Derivatives

Definition: The partial derivative of $f(x, y)$ with respect to x at the point (x_0, y_0) is

$$\left. \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \right|_{(x_0, y_0)} = \left. \frac{d}{dx} f(x, y_0) \right|_{x=x_0} = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x_0 + h, y_0) - f(x_0, y_0)}{h},$$

provided the limit exists. (Think of ∂ as a kind of d .)

Definition: The partial derivative of $f(x, y)$ with respect to y at the point (x_0, y_0) is

$$\left. \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} \right|_{(x_0, y_0)} = \left. \frac{d}{dy} f(x_0, y) \right|_{y=y_0} = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x_0, y_0 + h) - f(x_0, y_0)}{h},$$

provided the limit exists.

Partial Derivatives

Example: Find the values of $\partial f/\partial x$ and $\partial f/\partial y$ at the point $(4, -5)$ if

$$f(x, y) = x^2 + 3xy + y - 1.$$

Solution: To find $\partial f/\partial x$, we regard y as a constant and differentiate with respect to x :

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial x} = \frac{\partial}{\partial x} (x^2 + 3xy + y - 1) = 2x + 3 \cdot 1 \cdot y + 0 - 0 = 2x + 3y.$$

The value of $\partial f/\partial x$ at $(4, -5)$ is $2(4) + 3(-5) = -7$.

pause To find $\partial f/\partial y$, we con x as a constant and differentiate with respect to y :

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial y} = \frac{\partial}{\partial y} (x^2 + 3xy + y - 1) = 0 + 3 \cdot x \cdot 1 + 1 - 0 = 3x + 1.$$

The value of $\partial f/\partial y$ at $(4, -5)$ is $3(4) + 1 = 13$.

Classwork

- ❶ 1. Find $\frac{\partial f}{\partial x}$ and $\frac{\partial f}{\partial y}$.
- $f(x, y) = 2x^2 - 3y - 4$
 - $f(x, y) = x^2 - xy + y^2$
 - $f(x, y) = (x^2 - 1)(y + 2)$
- ❷ 2. Find f_x , f_y , f_z of the following functions:
- $f(x, y, z) = ax^2 + cy^2 + ez^2$
 - $f(x, y, z) = -x^4 + 2x^2 - y^4 + 2y^2 - z^4 + 2z^2$
 - $f(x, y, z) = e^{x+y-z}$
- ❸ 3. Suppose that at a certain factory, output is given by the Cobb-Douglas production function $Q(K, L) = 60K^{1/3}L^{2/3}$ units, where K is the capital investment measured in units of \$1,000 and L the size of the labor force measured in worker-hours.
- a. Compute the output if the capital investment is \$512,000 and 1,000 worker-hours of labor are used.
 - b. Show that the output in part (a) will double if both the capital investment and the size of the labor force are doubled.

Exercise

Find $\frac{\partial f}{\partial x}$, $\frac{\partial f}{\partial y}$ and $\frac{\partial f}{\partial z}$ from the following functions

- $f(x, y) = 5xy - 7x^2 - y^2 + 3x - 6y + 2$

- $f(x, y) = (xy - 1)^2$

- $f(x, y) = (2x - 3y)^3$

- $f(x, y) = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2}$

- $f(x, y) = (x^3 + (y/2))^{2/3}$

- $f(x, y) = \frac{1}{(x + y)}$

- $f(x, y) = \frac{x}{(x^2 + y^2)}$

- $f(x, y) = \frac{x + y}{xy - 1}$

- $f(x, y, z) = \frac{2xyz}{x^2 + y^2 + z^2}$

Concept of Partial Derivatives

Output Q at a factory is often regarded as a function of the amount K of capital investment and the size L of the labor force. Output functions of the form

$$Q(K, L) = AK^\alpha L^\beta$$

where A , α , and β are positive constants with $\alpha + \beta = 1$, have proved to be especially useful in economic analysis and are known as Cobb-Douglas production functions.

Thank You