

### The basis of Multivariable Calculus

If a function is continuous and differentiable, on a small enough interval, the function will approximate a line (i.e., a function of  $x$ ).

A similar intuition applies to functions of more than one variable (but with a plane, cube, hypercube, etc.). However, in multivariable functions, we will have to sacrifice the ability to visualize it.

For example, in multiple dimensions, it is possible for there to be a function that is both strictly decreasing (in one dimension) and strictly increasing (in another dimension).

### Some Functions and Sets

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

DOMAIN:  $\{(x, y) \mid \exists f(x, y)\}$

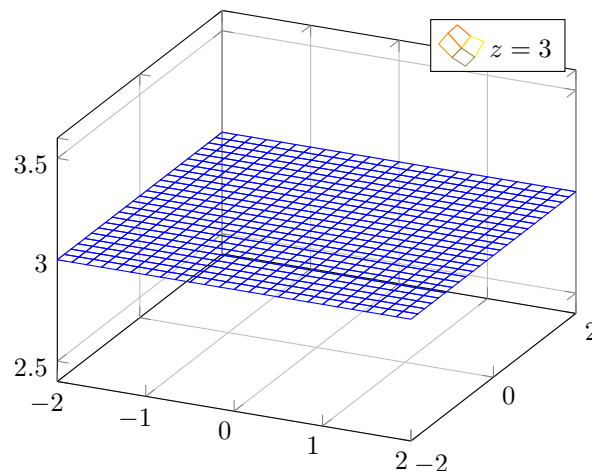
RANGE:  $\{f(x, y) \mid (x, y) \in \text{Dom}(f)\} = \mathbb{R}$

GRAPH:  $\text{Graph}(f) = \{x, y, f(x, y) \mid x, y \in \text{Dom}(f)\}$ . For example,  $(1, 3, 4) \notin \text{Graph}(f)$  since  $1^2 - 3^2 \neq 4$ .

### Examples

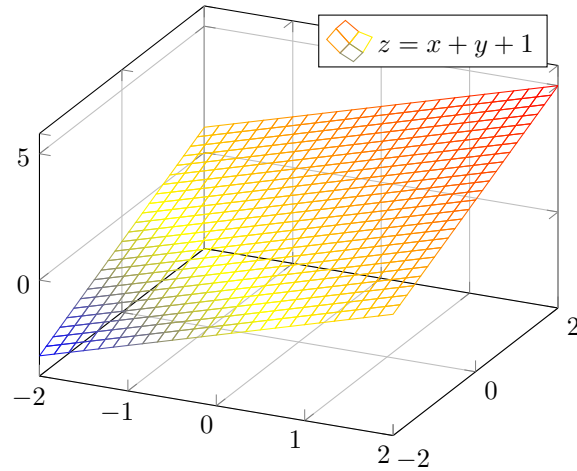
In  $\mathbb{R}^3$ , in  $x, y, z$  coordinates,  $z = 3$  is a plane defined as follows:

- Parallel to the  $xy$  plane.
- Passes through the point  $(0, 0, 3)$ .



Meanwhile,  $y = 0$  would be a “wall” that passes through the origin that contains the line  $y = 0$  in the  $xy$  plane.

Finally,  $z = x + y + 1$  is a plane, as we can see below.

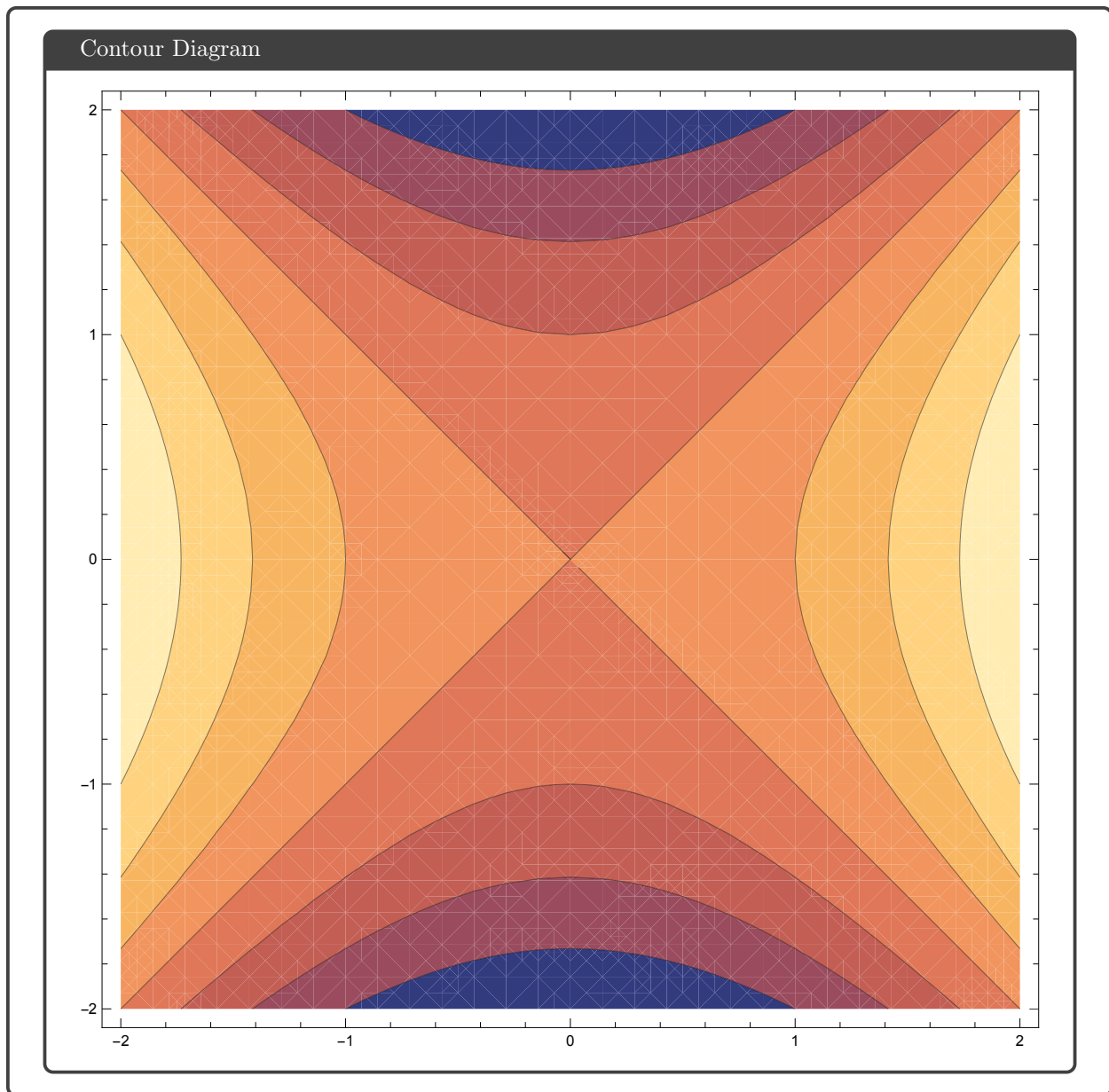


### Visualizing a function of multiple variables

Consider the function  $f(x, y) = x^2 - y^2$ . We can try visualizing slices as follows:

- $f(-2, y) = 4 - y^2$
- $f(0, y) = -y^2$
- $f(2, y) = 4 - y^2$
- $f(x, -2) = x^2 + 4$
- $f(x, 0) = x^2$
- $f(x, 2) = x^2 + 4$

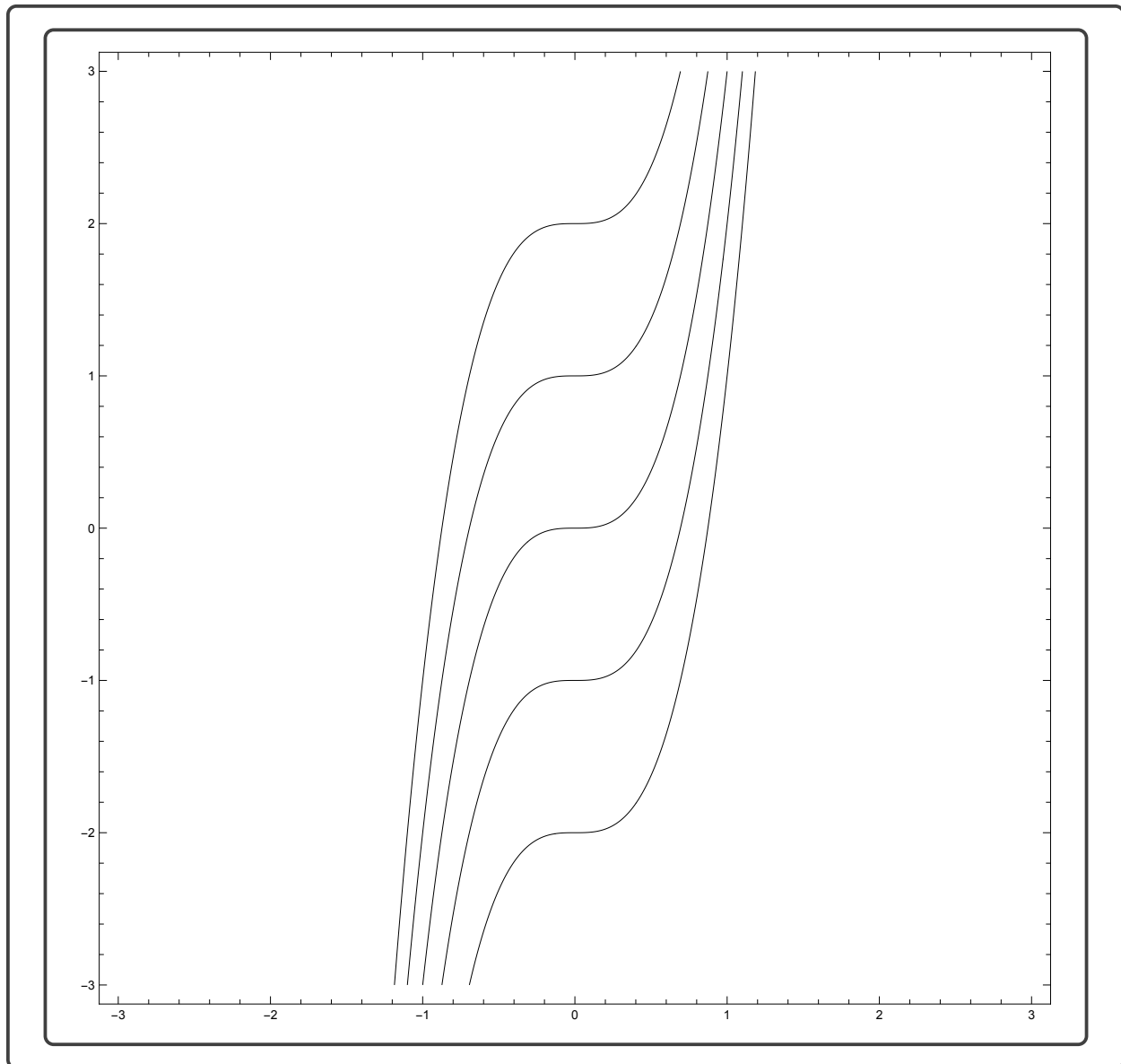
Alternatively, we can visualize via contour diagrams (i.e., everywhere that  $z$  is a certain value), as seen in mathematica as follows:



### Contour Example

Consider the function  $f(x, y) = y - 3x^2$ . We want to find the contours.

For any  $c$ , we have that  $c = y - 3x^3$ , or  $y = 3x^3 + c$ . Therefore, every contour “looks like”  $3x^3 + c$  for values of  $c$ . For example, in the following, we have  $c = \{-2, -1, 0, 1, 2\}$

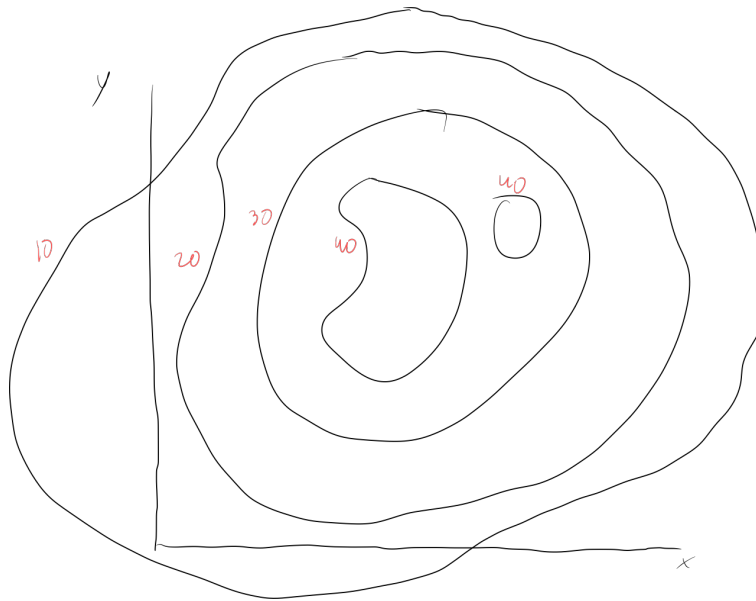


### Distance

In  $\mathbb{R}^5$ , let  $p = (3, 1, 4, 1, 5)$ , and  $q = (1, 0, -2, 0, 2)$ . Using the Euclidean metric, we can find the distance between  $p$  and  $q$  is  $d(p, q) = ((3 - 1)^2 + (1 - 0)^2 + (4 - (-2))^2 + (1 - 0)^2 + (5 - 2)^2)^{1/2} = (4 + 1 + 36 + 1 + 9)^{1/2} = \sqrt{51} = 7.14$ . We can also call this the 2-norm.

$$d(p, q) = \left( \sum_{k=1}^n (p_k - q_k)^2 \right)^{1/2}$$

## Derivatives



To denote a derivative, we can't talk about one value, we must use a *partial* derivative,  $\frac{\partial f}{\partial x}$ , or  $\frac{\partial f}{\partial y}$ . The closeness of the contours specifies both resolution and steepness.

We can estimate slope by calculating the difference between two contours, divided by the distance between them along a path.

We can also analyze via a table:

$x \backslash y$	0	1	2
4	5	6	7
6	8	9	10
8	11	12	13

A “linear” approximation for a function of two variables is expressed as follows:

$$z - z_0 = m(x - x_0) + n(y - y_0)$$

Where  $(x_0, y_0, z_0) \in \mathbb{R}^3$ , and is an output in  $z = f(x, y)$ , and  $m, n \in \mathbb{R}$ .

For example, with the above table, we can see that the function is linear in  $x$  and  $y$  (i.e., the slope holding the other variable constant is constant).