

Lecture 10A) Partial derivatives and tangent plane

Let $z = f(x, y)$ be a function of two variables.

* If y is held constant, $f(x, y)$ becomes a function of x alone, and its derivative (if it exists) is called the partial derivative of $f(x, y)$ with respect to x .

** Similarly, if x is held constant, then we have partial derivative of $f(x, y)$ with respect to y .

These derivatives, variously denoted by $f_x(x, y)$, $\frac{\partial f}{\partial x}|_{(x, y)}$ and $\frac{\partial z}{\partial x}$

$$f_y(x, y), \frac{\partial f}{\partial y}|_{(x, y)}, \frac{\partial z}{\partial y}$$

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

$$f_y(x, y) = \lim_{k \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x, y+k) - f(x, y)}{k}$$

~~$f_x(x, y)$~~
 ~~$D_1 f(x, y)$~~
No!

Ex. 1 Find

$$f_x(0,1), f_y(0,1)$$

if

$$\underline{f(x,y) = 2x^3y^2 + 3xy + 4x + 5y.}$$

$$f_x(x,y) = 6x^2y^2 + 3y + 4$$

$$f_x(0,1) = 3 + 4 = 7$$

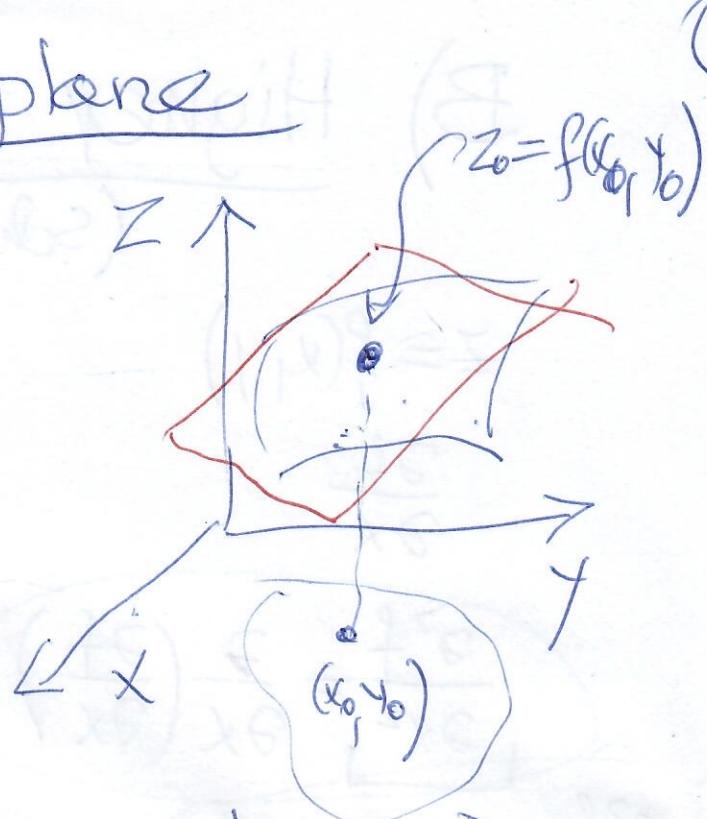
$$f_y(x,y) = 4x^3y + 3x + 5$$

$$f_y(0,1) = 5$$

③

Tangent plane

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



Let $P_0(x_0, y_0, z_0)$ be a point on the surface $z = f(x, y)$.

Thm 1 If $f(x, y)$ is differentiable at (x_0, y_0) , then the surface has a tangent plane at P_0 , and this plane has the equation

$$f_x(x_0, y_0)(x - x_0) + f_y(x_0, y_0)(y - y_0) - (z - z_0) = 0$$

Remark
Normal vector

$$\vec{n} = [f_x(x_0, y_0), f_y(x_0, y_0), -1]$$

is a normal vector to the surface $z = f(x, y)$ at $P_0(x_0, y_0, z_0)$.

Proof. Tangent plane intersects the vertical plane $y=y_0$ in a straight line that is tangent at P_0 to the curve of intersection of the surface $z=f(x,y)$ and the plane $y=y_0$.

Thus line has slope $f_x(x_0, y_0)$.

and is parallel to the vector

$$\vec{v}_1 = \vec{i} + f_x(x_0, y_0) \vec{k}$$

Similarly, the tangent plane intersects the vertical plane $x=x_0$ in a straight line having slope $f_y(x_0, y_0)$.

This line is parallel to the vector

$$\vec{v}_2 = \vec{j} + f_y(x_0, y_0) \vec{k}$$

The surface $z=f(x,y)$ has normal vector

$$\vec{n} = \vec{v}_1 \times \vec{v}_2 = \begin{vmatrix} \vec{i} & \vec{j} & \vec{k} \\ 0 & 1 & f_y(x_0, y_0) \\ 1 & 0 & f_x(x_0, y_0) \end{vmatrix}$$

$$= f_x(x_0, y_0) \vec{i} + f_y(x_0, y_0) \vec{j} - \vec{k}$$

Equation of tangent plane going through

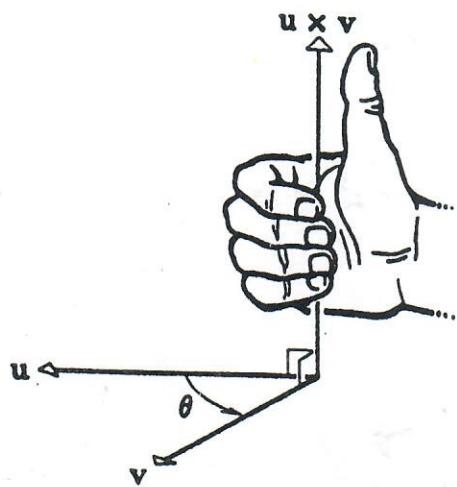
$$f_x(x_0, y_0)(x-x_0) + f_y(x_0, y_0)(y-y_0) - (z-z_0) = 0$$

$$P_0 = (x_0, y_0, z_0)$$

(5)

Vector product $\vec{u} \times \vec{v} = \begin{vmatrix} \vec{i} & \vec{j} & \vec{k} \\ u_1 & u_2 & u_3 \\ v_1 & v_2 & v_3 \end{vmatrix}$

- 1) $\vec{u} \times \vec{v}$ is orthogonal to both \vec{u} and \vec{v}
- 2) the direction of $\vec{u} \times \vec{v}$ is determined by the "right-hand rule"



fingers of the right hand are cupped in the direction of rotation

the thumb indicates the direction of $\vec{u} \times \vec{v}$

3) $\|\vec{u} \times \vec{v}\| = \underbrace{\|\vec{u}\| \|\vec{v}\| \sin \theta}_{\text{area of the parallelogram}}$

= area of the parallelogram determined by \vec{u} and \vec{v}

(6)

EX. 2 Find the equation of
the tangent plane to the surface

$$z = x^2 y$$

at $P_0 = (2, 1, 4)$.

① Point is on the surface since

$$2^2 \cdot 1 = 4$$

$$f_x = 2xy, f_y = x^2$$

$$f_x(2, 1) = 4, f_y(2, 1) = 4$$

$$\vec{n} = [4, 4, -1]$$

Tangent plane

$$4(x-2) + 4(y-1) - (z-4) = 0$$

$$\underline{4x + 4y - z = 8}$$

(7)

B) Higher order derivatives (Schwarz theorem)

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

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial x}$$

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial y}$$

$$\frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x^2} = \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \right)$$

$$\frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial y^2} = \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial y} \right)$$

$$\frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x \partial y} = \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial y} \right)$$

$$\frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial y \partial x} = \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \right)$$

Sometimes we can write

$$f_{xx}, f_{yy}, f_{xy} = \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \right), f_{yx} = \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial y} \right)$$

We can then have higher-order partial derivatives, for example

$$f_{yxy} = \frac{\partial^3 f}{\partial x \partial y^2} \text{ or } f_{xxyy} = \frac{\partial^4 f}{\partial y^2 \partial x^2}$$

Ex. 3 Find the second-order partial derivatives of the function ⑧

$$f(x, y) = x^2 y^3 + x^4 y$$

$$f_x = \underline{2x y^3 + 4x^3 y}, \quad f_y = \underline{3x^2 y^2 + x^4}$$

$$f_{xx} = \underline{2y^3 + 12x^2 y}, \quad f_{yy} = \underline{6x^2 y}$$

$$\boxed{f_{xy} = \underline{6x y^2 + 4x^3}}$$

$$\boxed{f_{yx} = \underline{6x y^2 + 4x^3}}$$

The same!

Ex. 4 Let $f(x, y) = y^2 e^x + y$. Find f_{xy} , f_{yx} and f_{xxyyxx} .

$$f_x = \underline{y^2 e^x}, \quad f_y = \underline{2y e^x + 1}$$

$$\boxed{f_{xy} = \underline{2y e^x}} \quad \boxed{f_{yx} = \underline{2y e^x}}$$

mixed second-order derivatives
are the same!

$$f_{xxyyxx} = (2y e^x)_{yx} = (2e^x)_x = \underline{2e^x}$$

(9)

Ex. 5 Find f_x, f_y, f_z and f_{xy}, f_{yx} ,
 f_{xz}, f_{zx} and f_{yz}, f_{zy} when

$$f(x, y, z) = z \ln(x^2 y \cos z)$$

$$f_x = \frac{z}{x^2 y \cos z} \cdot 2x \cancel{\cos z} = \frac{2z}{x}$$

$$f_y = \frac{z}{x^2 y \cos z} \cdot x^2 \cancel{\cos z} = \frac{z}{y}$$

$$\begin{aligned} f_z &= \ln(x^2 y \cos z) + \frac{z}{x^2 y \cos z} \cdot x^2 y (-\sin z) \\ &= \ln(x^2 y \cos z) - z \cot z \end{aligned}$$

$$\underline{f_{xy}} = \left(\frac{2z}{x}\right)_y = \underline{0}$$

$$\underline{f_{yx}} = \left(\frac{z}{y}\right)_x = \underline{0}$$

$$\underline{f_{xz}} = \left(\frac{2z}{x}\right)_z = \underline{\frac{2}{x}}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \underline{f_{zx}} &= \left[\ln(x^2 y \cos z) - z \cot z \right]_x \\ &= \frac{1}{x^2 y \cos z} \cdot 2x y \cos z = \underline{\frac{2}{x}} \end{aligned}$$

$$\underline{f_{yz}} = \left(\frac{z}{y}\right)_z = \underline{\frac{1}{y}}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \underline{f_{zy}} &= \left[\ln(x^2 y \cos z) - z \cot z \right]_y \\ &= \frac{1}{x^2 y \cos z} \cdot x^2 \cos z = \underline{\frac{1}{y}} \end{aligned}$$

(10)

Thm 2 (Schwarz theorem on equality
of mixed second-order partial derivatives
1873).

Let $f(x, y)$ be a function of two variables.

If f_x, f_y, f_{xy} and f_{yx} are continuous
on some set (open set), then

$f_{xy} = f_{yx}$ at each point of the set

$$\frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial y \partial x} = \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x \partial y}$$

Proof. (x_0, y_0) point in the set. (11)

For

$$F(h, k) = f(x_0 + h, y_0 + k) - f(x_0 + h, y_0) - f(x_0, y_0 + k) + f(x_0, y_0)$$

if we denote by

$$\varphi(x) = f(x, y_0 + k) - f(x, y_0), \quad \psi(y) = f(x_0 + h, y) - f(x_0, y)$$

then

$$F(h, k) = \varphi(x_0 + h) - \varphi(x_0) \text{ and } F(h, k) = \psi(y_0 + k) - \psi(y_0).$$

By the Mean-Value Theorem

$$\varphi(x_0 + h) - \varphi(x_0) \stackrel{f_x \text{ continuous}}{=} \varphi'(x_0 + \theta h) \cdot h, \quad 0 < \theta < 1$$

$$\psi(y_0 + k) - \psi(y_0) \stackrel{f_y \text{ continuous}}{=} \psi'(y_0 + \eta k) \cdot k, \quad 0 < \eta < 1$$

Thus

$$F(h, k) = \begin{cases} \varphi'(x_0 + \theta h) h = \left[f_x(x_0 + \theta h, y_0 + k) - f_x(x_0 + \theta h, y_0) \right] h \\ \psi'(y_0 + \eta k) k = \left[f_y(x_0 + h, y_0 + \eta k) - f_y(x_0, y_0 + \eta k) \right] k \end{cases}$$

$$\stackrel{\text{MVT}}{=} \begin{cases} f_{xy} \text{ continuous} \\ f_{yx} \text{ continuous} \end{cases} \begin{cases} f_{xy}(x_0 + \theta h, y_0 + \eta k) h k, \quad 0 < \theta, \eta < 1 \\ f_{yx}(x_0 + \nu h, y_0 + \eta k) h k, \quad 0 < \eta, \nu < 1 \end{cases}$$

Hence

$$f_{xy}(x_0 + \theta h, y_0 + \eta k) = f_{yx}(x_0 + \nu h, y_0 + \eta k)$$

When $h \rightarrow 0, k \rightarrow 0$ then continuity of f_{xy} and f_{yx} gives

$$f_{xy}(x_0, y_0) = f_{yx}(x_0, y_0).$$

c) Chain Rule

Theorem 3 (one independent variable)

$$x = x(t)$$

$y = y(t)$ differentiable

$z = f(x, y)$ differentiable

$$\Rightarrow z(t) = f(x(t), y(t))$$

differentiable
at t and

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

$$z_t = z_x \cdot x_t + z_y \cdot y_t$$

Theorem 4 (two independent variables)

$$x = x(u, v)$$

$y = y(u, v)$ have first-order
partial derivatives

$z = f(x, y)$ differentiable

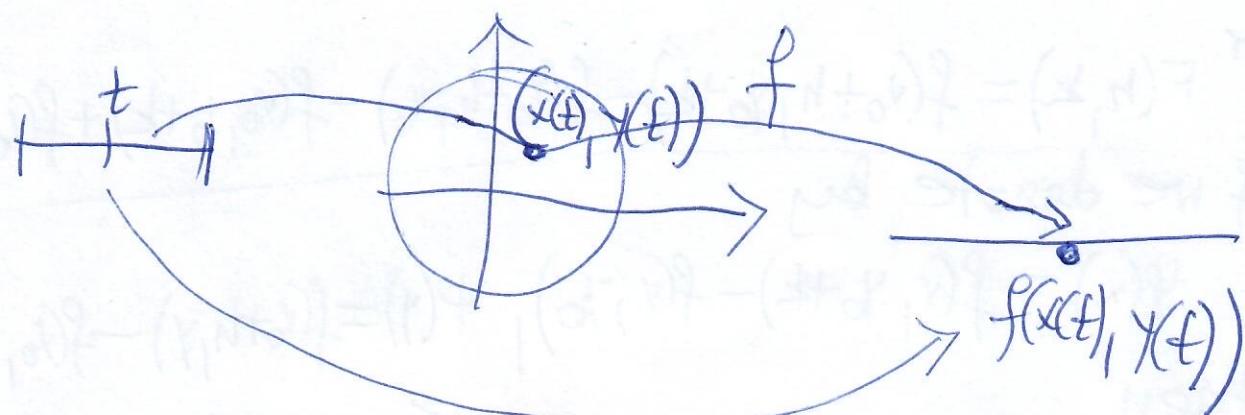
$$z(u, v) =$$

$$f(x(u, v), y(u, v))$$

differentiable
at (u, v) and

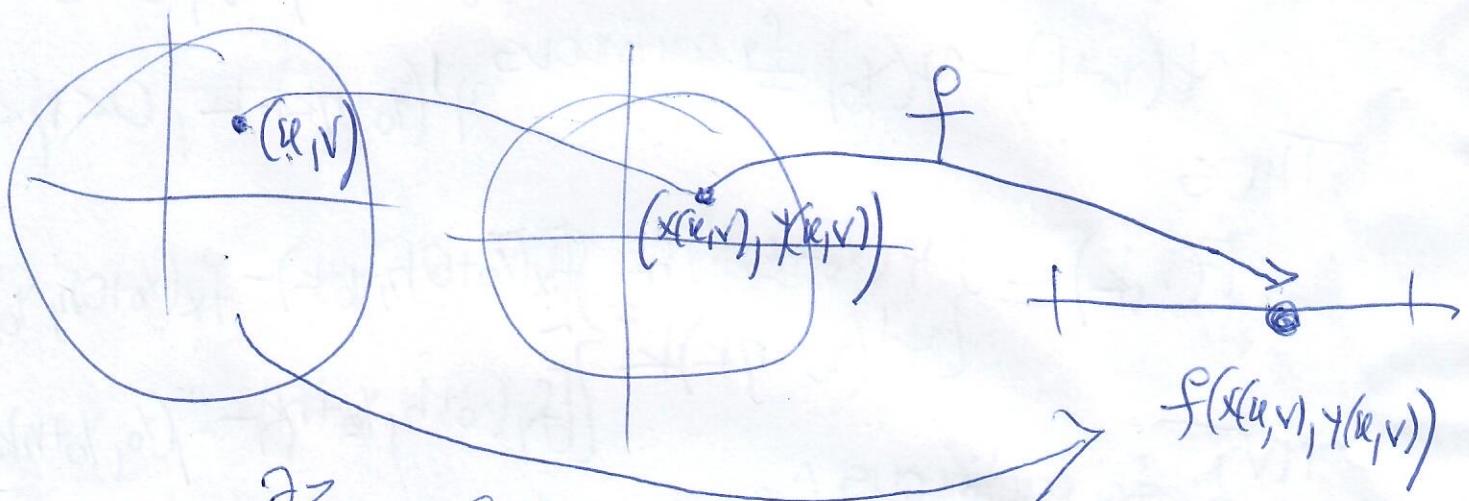
$$\frac{\partial z}{\partial u} = \frac{\partial z}{\partial x} \cdot \frac{\partial x}{\partial u} + \frac{\partial z}{\partial y} \cdot \frac{\partial y}{\partial u}$$

$$\frac{\partial z}{\partial v} = \frac{\partial z}{\partial x} \cdot \frac{\partial x}{\partial v} + \frac{\partial z}{\partial y} \cdot \frac{\partial y}{\partial v}$$

Thm 3

$$\frac{d}{dt} f(x(t), y(t)) = f_x(x(t), y(t)) \cdot x'(t)$$

$$+ f_y(x(t), y(t)) \cdot y'(t)$$

Thm 4

$$\frac{\partial z}{\partial u} = f_x(x(u,v), y(u,v)) \frac{\partial x}{\partial u}(u,v) + f_y(x(u,v), y(u,v)) \frac{\partial y}{\partial u}(u,v)$$

$$\frac{\partial z}{\partial v} = f_x(\quad) \frac{\partial x}{\partial v}(\quad) + f_y(\quad) \cdot \frac{\partial y}{\partial v}(\quad)$$

Ex. 6 Let

$$z = e^{3x+2y}, \text{ where } x = \cos t, y = t^2$$

Find $\frac{dz}{dt}$.

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

$$= e^{3x+2y} \cdot 3 \cdot (-\sin t) + e^{3x+2y} \cdot 2 \cdot 2t$$

$$= e^{3x+2y} (4t - 3\sin t)$$

$$= e^{3\cos t + 2t^2} (4t - 3\sin t)$$

Ex. 7 Let $z = \frac{x}{y}$, where $x = e^{uv}$; $y = u(v)$

Find $\frac{\partial z}{\partial u}$ and $\frac{\partial z}{\partial v}$ using the chain rule.

Solution

$$\frac{\partial z}{\partial u} = \frac{\partial z}{\partial x} \cdot \frac{\partial x}{\partial u} + \frac{\partial z}{\partial y} \cdot \frac{\partial y}{\partial u}$$

$$= \frac{1}{y} \cdot e^{uv} \cdot v + \left(-\frac{x}{y^2}\right) \cdot \frac{1}{uv} \cdot v =$$

$$= \frac{1}{y} e^{uv} \cdot v - \frac{x}{yz} \cdot \frac{1}{u} = \frac{v}{u(uv)} e^{uv} - \frac{e^{uv}}{[u(uv)]^2} \cdot \frac{1}{u}$$

verte!

(15)

$$\begin{aligned}
 \frac{\partial z}{\partial e} &= \frac{\partial z}{\partial x} \cdot \frac{\partial x}{\partial v} + \frac{\partial z}{\partial y} \cdot \frac{\partial y}{\partial v} \\
 &= \frac{1}{y} \cdot e^{uv} \cdot u + \left(-\frac{x}{yz} \right) \cdot \frac{1}{uv} \cdot u \\
 &= \frac{u}{uv} e^{uv} - \frac{e^{uv}}{[uv]^2 \cdot v}
 \end{aligned}$$