

## Section 14.3: Estimating Partial Derivatives

Estimating	One Variable	Two Variables (y)	Two Variable (x)
Forward Difference	$f'(x) = \frac{f(x+h) - f(x)}{h}$	$f_y = \frac{f(x, y+h) - f(x, y)}{h}$	$f_x = \frac{f(x+h, y) - f(x, y)}{h}$
Backward Difference	$f'(x) = \frac{f(x) - f(x-h)}{h}$	$f_y = \frac{f(x, y) - f(x, y-h)}{h}$	$f_x = \frac{f(x, y) - f(x-h, y)}{h}$
Central Difference	$f'(x) = \frac{f(x+h) - f(x-h)}{2h}$	$f_y = \frac{f(x, y+h) - f(x, y-h)}{2h}$	$f_x = \frac{f(x+h, y) - f(x-h, y)}{2h}$

$$h = \Delta x \text{ or } h = \Delta y$$

$$h = \Delta x \text{ or } h = \Delta y$$

$$2h = \Delta x \text{ or } 2h = \Delta y$$

**example.** A two-variable function  $f(x, y)$  has selected values given by

$y \backslash x$	2.5	3.0	3.5
-1.0	6.0	6.5	8.0
-1.5	6.5	7.0	8.5
-2.0	5.8	6.9	7.8

(a) Write down three estimates for the value of  $\frac{\partial f}{\partial y}(3.5, -1.5)$ . State what estimates they are.

**Central difference:**  $\frac{1}{\Delta y} [f(x, y+h) - f(x, y-h)]$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial f}{\partial y}(3.5, -1.5) &= \frac{1}{\Delta y} [f(3.5, -1.0) - f(3.5, -2.0)] \quad ; \quad \Delta y = -1 - (-2) = 1 \\ &= 1 [8 - 7.8] \\ &= 1 [0.2] \\ &= 0.2 \end{aligned}$$

**Forward difference:**  $\frac{1}{\Delta y} [f(x, y+h) - f(x, y)]$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial f}{\partial y}(3.5, -1.5) &= \frac{1}{\Delta y} [f(3.5, -1.0) - f(3.5, -1.5)] \quad ; \quad \Delta y = -1 - (-1.5) = 0.5 \\ &= \frac{1}{0.5} [8 - 8.5] \\ &= 2 [-0.5] \\ &= -1 \end{aligned}$$

**Backward difference:**  $\frac{1}{\Delta y} [f(x, y) - f(x, y-h)]$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial f}{\partial y}(3.5, -1.5) &= \frac{1}{\Delta y} [f(3.5, -1.5) - f(3.5, -2.0)] \quad ; \quad \Delta y = -1.5 - (-2) = 0.5 \\ &= \frac{1}{0.5} [8.5 - 7.8] \\ &= 2 [0.7] \\ &= 1.4 \end{aligned}$$

(b) Estimate  $\frac{\partial f}{\partial x}(3.5, -1.5)$ . Which did you use?

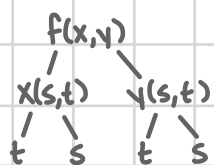
**We can only look backwards:**

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial f}{\partial x}(3.5, -1.5) &= \frac{1}{\Delta x} [f(3.5, -1.5) - f(3.0, -1.5)] \quad ; \quad \Delta x = 3.5 - 3 = 0.5 \\ &= \frac{1}{0.5} [8.5 - 7] \\ &= 2 [1.5] \\ &= 3 \end{aligned}$$

## Section 14.6: Chain Rule and Implicit Differentiation

### Chain Rule

The chain rule allows us to take a derivative down a tree of functions:



The derivative down each line is the top over the bottom

$$\frac{df}{ds} = \frac{df}{dx} \cdot \frac{dx}{ds} + \frac{df}{dy} \cdot \frac{dy}{ds} \quad \frac{df}{dt} = \frac{df}{dx} \cdot \frac{dx}{dt} + \frac{df}{dy} \cdot \frac{dy}{dt}$$

This replicates the process of plugging in the parameterizations  $f(x(s, t), y(s, t))$  and taking the derivative

**example.** Let  $w = 3x \cos \pi y$ . If  $x = u^2 + v^2$ ,  $y = \frac{v}{u}$ , find the following partial derivatives at the given point. Use a tree diagram.

(a)  $\frac{\partial w}{\partial u}$  at  $u=1$  and  $v=-1$

$$w(u,v) = 3x(u,v) \cdot \cos(\pi y(u,v))$$

$$\frac{\partial w}{\partial u} = 3 \frac{\partial x}{\partial u} \cos(\pi y) + (-\sin(\pi y)) \cdot \pi \frac{\partial y}{\partial u} \cdot 3x$$

$$= 3(2u) \cos(\pi y) - \sin(\pi y) \cdot \pi (-v u^{-2}) \cdot 3x$$

$$= 6(1) \cos(\pi(1)) - \sin(\pi(1)) \cdot \pi (-1 \cdot (1)^{-2}) \cdot 3(2)$$

$$= 6 \cos(\pi) + 6\pi \sin(\pi)$$

$$= -6 + 0$$

$$= -6$$

$$\frac{\partial x}{\partial u} = \frac{\partial}{\partial u}(u^2 + v^2) = 2u$$

$$\frac{\partial y}{\partial u} = \frac{\partial}{\partial u} \left( \frac{v}{u} \right) = -1 \cdot v \cdot u^{-2}$$

$$@ u=1, v=1$$

$$x = u^2 + v^2 = 2$$

$$y = \frac{v}{u} = 1$$

$$(b) \frac{\partial w}{\partial v}$$

$$\frac{\partial w}{\partial v} = 3 \frac{\partial x}{\partial v} \cos(\pi y) + (-\sin(\pi y)) \cdot \frac{\partial y}{\partial v} \cdot \pi \cdot 3x$$

$$\frac{\partial x}{\partial v} = 2v$$

$$\frac{\partial y}{\partial v} = \frac{1}{u}$$

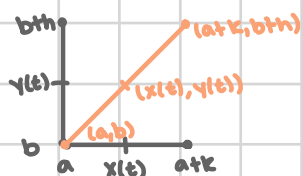
$$= 3(2v) \cos(\pi y) - \sin(\pi y) \cdot \left( \frac{1}{u} \right) \cdot \pi \cdot 3x$$

$$= 6v \cos(\pi y) - 3\pi \frac{1}{u} x \sin(\pi y)$$

$$= 6v \cos(\pi \frac{v}{u}) - 3\pi \frac{1}{u} (x^2 + y^2) \sin(\pi \frac{v}{u})$$

## Linear Approximation

Consider a particle moving from point  $(a,b)$  to point  $(a+k, b+h)$ . If the particle travels at a constant speed and the total duration of the motion is 1 second, find in terms of time  $t$  (in seconds), a formula for the position  $(x,y)$ .



$$(x(0), y(0)) = (a, b)$$

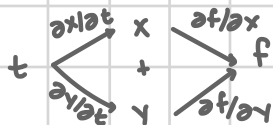
$$(x(1), y(1)) = (a+k, b+h)$$

$$(x(t), y(t)) = (a+tk, b+ht)$$

$$w/ \frac{dx}{dt} = k, \frac{dy}{dt} = h$$

Consider a function  $f(x,y)$  such that its first partial derivatives exist for all points near  $(a,b)$ . If  $(x,y)$  is a point on the line segment found above, find a formula for the rate of change of  $f$  with respect to  $t$ .

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial f}{\partial t} &= \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \frac{\partial x}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} \frac{\partial y}{\partial t} \\ &= k \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} + h \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} \end{aligned}$$



For a small change in time  $\Delta t$ , let the corresponding change in  $x$  be from  $a$  be  $\Delta x$ , the corresponding change in  $y$  from  $b$  be  $\Delta y$  and  $\Delta f$  be the corresponding change in  $f$  from  $f(a,b)$ . Then we have  $\frac{\Delta f}{\Delta t} \approx \frac{df}{dt} \Big|_{t=0}$ . We want to show that  $\Delta f \approx \frac{\partial f}{\partial x}(a,b) \cdot \Delta x + \frac{\partial f}{\partial y}(a,b) \cdot \Delta y$  where  $\Delta f = f(a+\Delta x, b+\Delta y) - f(a,b)$ . This  $\Delta f$  is called the Linear Approximation of change in  $f$  when  $(x,y)$  changes from  $(a,b)$  to  $(a+\Delta x, b+\Delta y)$ .

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta t &\longrightarrow \Delta x \approx \frac{dx}{dt} \Delta t \\ &\Delta y \approx \frac{dy}{dt} \Delta t \end{aligned}$$

$$\frac{\Delta f}{\Delta t} = \frac{f(t+h) - f(t)}{h}$$

$$f(t+h) - f(t) \approx \frac{\partial f}{\partial x}(a,b) \Delta x + \frac{\partial f}{\partial y}(a,b) \Delta y$$

**example.** A two-variable function  $f(x,y)$  has selected values given by

$y \backslash x$	2.5	3.0	3.5
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Using the central difference estimate for  $\frac{\partial f}{\partial y}(3.5, -1.5)$  and the estimate of  $\frac{\partial f}{\partial x}(3.5, -1.5)$  approximate the value of  $f(3.2, -1.1)$ .

$$\text{formula: } f(x,y) \approx f(a,b) + \frac{\partial f}{\partial x}(a,b)(x-a) + \frac{\partial f}{\partial y}(a,b)(y-b)$$

$$\text{estimates: } \frac{\partial f}{\partial y}(3.5, -1.5) \approx 0.2, \quad \frac{\partial f}{\partial x}(3, -1.5) \approx 3$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{linear approximation: } f(3.5, -1.1) &\approx f(3.5, -1.5) + \frac{\partial f}{\partial x}(3.5, -1.5)(3.2-3.5) + \frac{\partial f}{\partial y}(3.5, -1.5)(-1.1+1.5) \\ &= 8.5 + 3(-0.3) + 0.2(0.4) \\ &= 7.68 \end{aligned}$$