

4.7 Identifying conic sections

The quadratic equation

$$ax^2 + bxy + cy^2 = d$$

can be rewritten as

Ex. $5x^2 - 2xy + 5y^2 = 4$

$$\begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix}^T \begin{bmatrix} 5 & -1 \\ -1 & 5 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 4 \end{bmatrix}$$

A

$$\begin{vmatrix} 5-\lambda & -1 \\ -1 & 5-\lambda \end{vmatrix} = (5-\lambda)^2 - 1 = (4-\lambda)(6-\lambda)$$

$\lambda_1 = 4 \quad \lambda_2 = 6$

$\lambda_1 = 4$

$$A - 4I = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 \\ -1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

eigenvector $\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$

$\lambda_2 = 6$

$$A - 6I = \begin{bmatrix} -1 & -1 \\ -1 & -1 \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

eigenvector $\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}$

$$4x^2 + 6y^2 = 4$$

$$x^2 + \frac{3}{2}y^2 = 1$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} x & y \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} a & \frac{b}{2} \\ \frac{b}{2} & c \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix} = d$$

$a, b, c, d \in \mathbb{R}$

D

$$v^T A v = d$$

A symmetric $A^T = A$

A is orthogonal diagonalisable

$$Q^T A Q = D$$

$$A = Q D Q^T$$

$$v^T (Q D Q^T) v = d$$

$$(Q^T v)^T D (Q^T v) = d$$

$$w^T D w = d$$

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$$D = \begin{bmatrix} \lambda_1 & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda_2 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$w = Q^T v = \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\Rightarrow \lambda_1 x^2 + \lambda_2 y^2 = d$$

$$Q = \begin{bmatrix} b_1 & b_2 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

b_1, b_2 are
orthonormal
eigenvectors
of A

5 Introduction to multivariable calculus

5.1 Functions of two variables

A *real-valued function of two variables* is a function $f: D \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, where $D \subset \mathbb{R}^2$.

Example 5.1. The volume of a cylinder of radius r and height h is $V(r, h) = \pi r^2 h$

Example 5.2. Bad-mannered individuals will sometimes give you a formula for the function without specifying the domain of definition D . You should then find the largest subset D of \mathbb{R}^2 that makes sense.

For instance, if

$$f(x, y) = 9 - xy^2$$

$$f: \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$$

If

$$g(x, y) = \sqrt{1 - x^2 - y^2}$$

$$g: D' \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$$

$$1 - x^2 - y^2 \geq 0$$

unit disc

$$1 \geq x^2 + y^2$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} x & y \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix}$$

Quadratic surface in \mathbb{R}^3

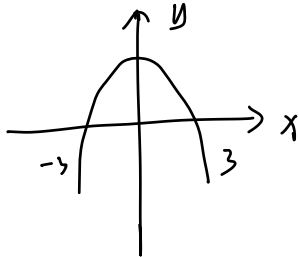
$$3x^2 + 3z^2 + 3xy + 8xz + 4yz = 64$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix}^T \begin{bmatrix} 3 & 1.5 & 4 \\ 1.5 & 0 & 2 \\ 4 & 2 & 3 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix} = 64$$

eigenvalue $\lambda = -1, -1, 8$ eigenvector $\begin{cases} u_1 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{5}} \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 2 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \\ u_2 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{45}} \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ -2 \\ 5 \end{bmatrix} \\ u_3 = \frac{1}{2} \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \end{cases}$

$$-X^2 - Y^2 + 8Z^2 = 64$$

$$g(x) = 9 - x^2$$

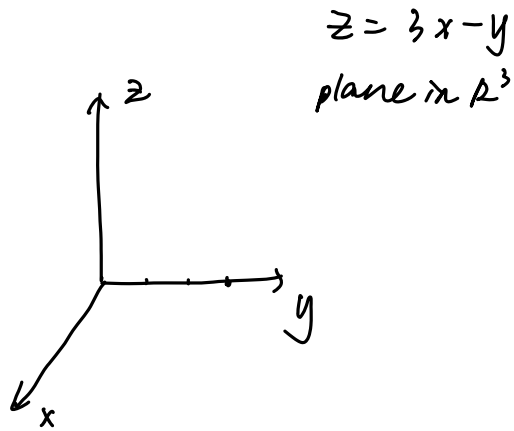


The *graph* of $f: D \subset \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is the surface

$$\{(x, y, z) \in \mathbb{R}^3 \mid z = f(x, y)\}.$$

At a point $(x, y) \in D$, $f(x, y)$ gives the height of the corresponding point on the surface.

Example 5.3. Consider $f: \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ given by $f(x, y) = 3x - y$.



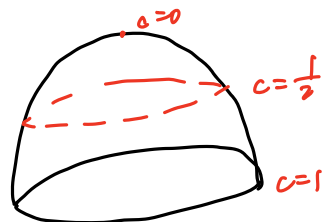
Example 5.4. Consider $f: \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ given by $f(x, y) = 9 - x^2 - y^2$.

The level curves of $f: D \subset \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ are the subsets of D of the form

$$\{(x, y) \in D \mid f(x, y) = C\}$$

for different values of the constant C .

Example 5.5. Consider $f: \mathbb{D}^1 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ given by $f(x, y) = \sqrt{1 - x^2 - y^2}$.



for fixed $C = f(x, y) = \sqrt{1 - x^2 - y^2}$

$$C^2 = 1 - x^2 - y^2$$

$$x^2 + y^2 = 1 - C^2$$

$$C=1 \quad \text{point } (0, 0)$$

$$C=0 \quad x^2 + y^2 = 1$$

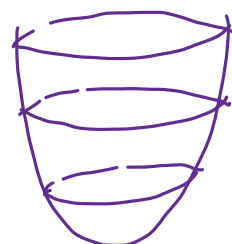
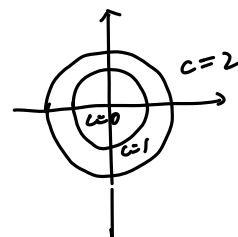
$$0 < C < 1 \quad x^2 + y^2 = 1 - C^2 \quad \text{with radius } \sqrt{1 - C^2}$$

$$C > 1 \quad \text{nothing}$$

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Example 5.6. Consider $f: \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ given by $f(x, y) = x^2 + y^2$.

$$C = f(x, y) = x^2 + y^2$$



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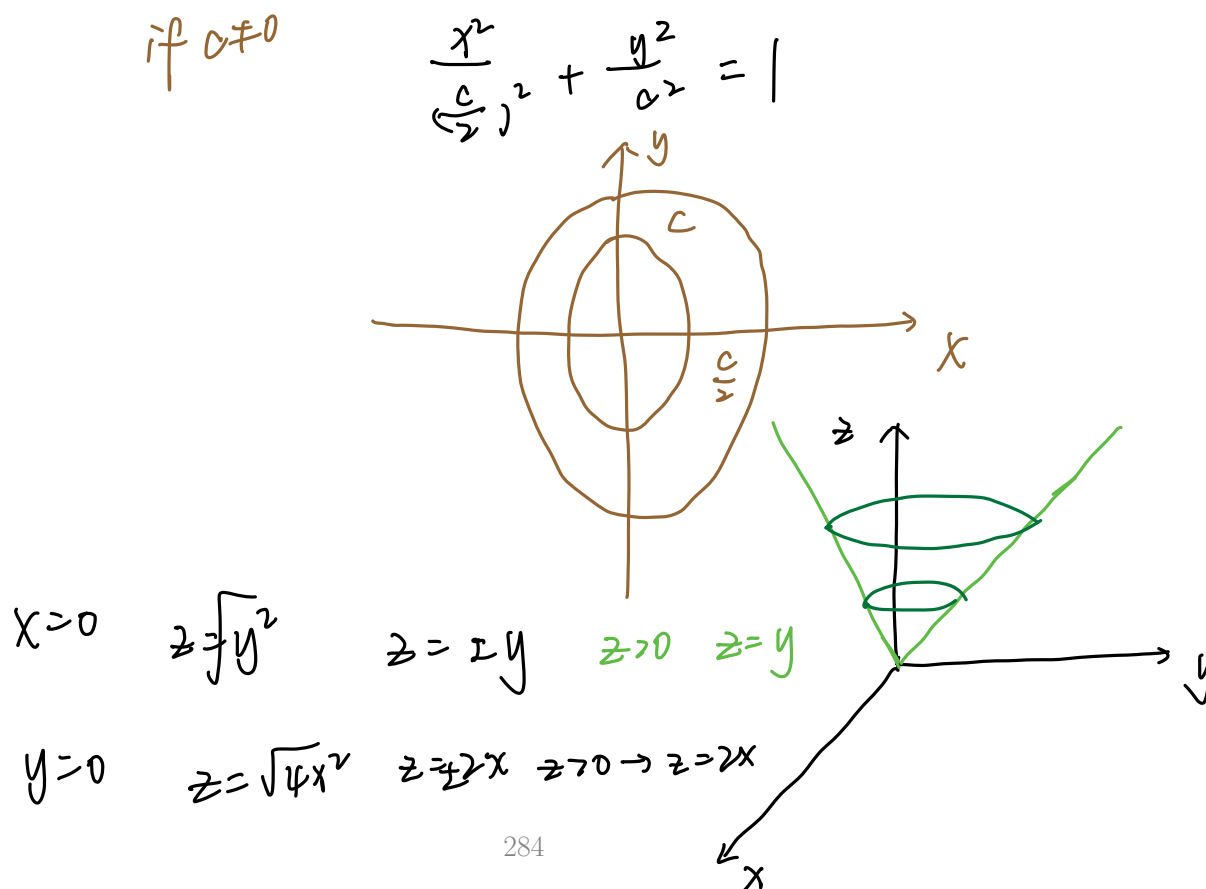
Example 5.7. Consider $f: \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ given by $f(x, y) = x^2 - y^2$.

$$c = x^2 - y^2$$

$$\frac{1}{c} x^2 - \frac{1}{c} y^2 = 1$$

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Example 5.8. Sketch the graph of $z = \sqrt{4x^2 + y^2}$.



5.2 Limits, continuity, and partial derivatives

We say that $f: D \subset \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ has limit $L \in \mathbb{R}$ as (x, y) approaches (x_0, y_0) and write

$$\lim_{(x,y) \rightarrow (x_0,y_0)} f(x,y) = L$$

if, whenever (x, y) approaches (x_0, y_0) along any path in D , the values $f(x, y)$ become arbitrarily close to L .

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We say that $f: D \subset \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is continuous at (x_0, y_0) if

$$\lim_{(x,y) \rightarrow (x_0,y_0)} f(x,y) = f(x_0, y_0).$$

Example.

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

if $xy \neq 0$

$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \\ \\ \\ \end{array} \right.$

0

if $xy = 0$

$$(x,y) \rightarrow (0,0)$$

Along x axis

$$y=0 \quad f(x,y) = \frac{x^2}{x^2} = 1$$

$$\lim_{\text{along } x \text{ axis}} (f(x,y)) = 1$$

Along y axis

$$x=0 \quad f(x,y) = -1$$

$$\lim_{\text{along } y \text{ axis}} (f(x,y)) = -1$$

Example.

$$g(x,y) = \frac{xy^2}{x^2 + y^4}$$

if $(x,y) \neq (0,0)$

fix $a \in \mathbb{R}$

Along y axis

$$g(x,y) = \frac{a^2 x^3}{x^2 + a^4 x^4} = \frac{a^2 x}{1 + a^2 x^2} \rightarrow 0$$

Let $f: D \subset \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ and $(x_0, y_0) \in D$.

The partial derivative of f with respect to x at (x_0, y_0) is

in two variable

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial x}(x_0, y_0) = \lim_{t \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x_0 + t, y_0) - f(x_0, y_0)}{t}$$

if this limit exists.

first find the derivative for one variable

Similarly,

with respect to y

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial y}(x_0, y_0) = \lim_{t \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x_0, y_0 + t) - f(x_0, y_0)}{t}$$

along $y = x^2$

$$g(x, y) = \frac{x^5}{x^2 + y^8} = \frac{x^3}{1 + x^5} \rightarrow (0,0)$$

along $x = y^2$

$$g(x, y) = \frac{y^4}{2y^4} = \frac{1}{2} \rightarrow \frac{1}{2} \text{ as } (x, y) \rightarrow (0,0)$$

in one variable

$$F: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$$

Derivative of F at x_0 is

$$\frac{\partial F}{\partial x} = \lim_{t \rightarrow 0} \frac{F(x_0 + t) - F(x_0)}{t}$$

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Example 5.9. Consider $f: \mathbb{R} \times (0, \infty) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ given by $f(x, y) = x \log(y) + xy$.

domain(x) domain(y)

$$f_x = \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} = \log(y) + y$$

partial derivative

$$f_y = \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} = x \cdot \frac{1}{y} + x = \frac{x}{y} + x$$

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We can of course (try to) differentiate more than once: *second derivative*

$$f_{xx} = \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x^2} = \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \right) = \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \right) \quad \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} = \frac{\partial}{\partial x} (f) = f_x$$

$$f_{xy} = \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial y \partial x} = \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \right) \quad \text{which close to } f, \text{ do first}$$

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

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

If the second partial derivatives are continuous then the mixed partials agree:

$$\boxed{f_{xy} = f_{yx}}$$

Example: $f(x, y) = \begin{cases} \frac{xy(x^2 - y^2)}{x^2 + y^2} & \text{if } (x, y) \neq (0, 0) \\ 0 & \text{if } (x, y) = (0, 0) \end{cases}$

$$(f_{xy})(0, 0) = \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \right) = -1 \quad (f_{yx})(0, 0) = 1$$

Example 5.10. Find the second partial derivatives of $f: \mathbb{R} \times (\mathbb{R} \setminus \{0\}) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ given by

$$f(x, y) = x^3 e^{-2y} + y^{-2} \cos(x).$$

$$f_x = 3x^2 \cdot e^{-2y} - y^{-2} \sin x$$

$$f_y = x^3 \cdot (-2) \cdot e^{-2y} - 2y^{-3} \cos(x)$$

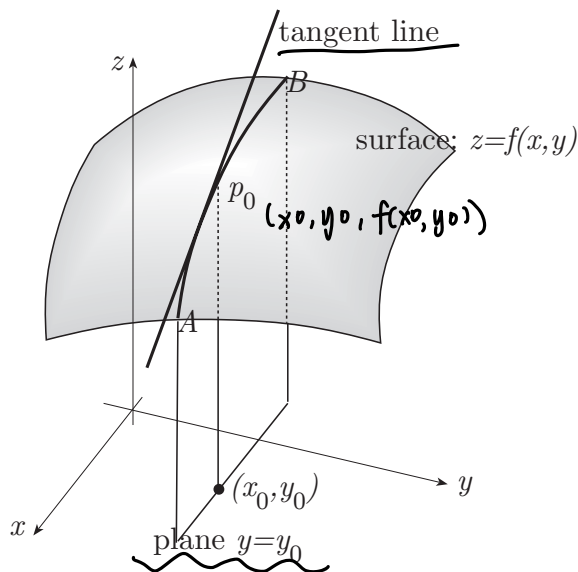
$$f_{xx} = 6x \cdot e^{-2y} - y^{-2} \cos x = 6x e^{-2y} - y^{-2} \cos(x)$$

$$f_{xy} = 3x^2 \cdot (-2) \cdot e^{-2y} + 2y^{-3} \sin x = -6x^2 e^{-2y} + 2y^{-3} \sin(x)$$

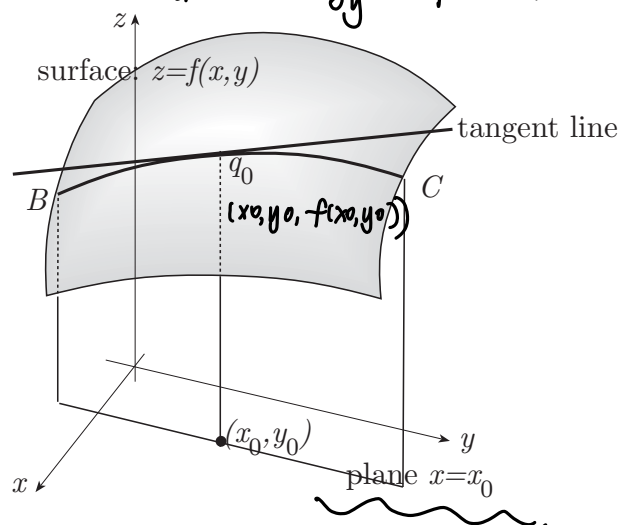
$$f_{yx} = 3x^2 \cdot (-2) \cdot e^{-2y} + 2y^{-3} \sin(x) = -6x^2 e^{-2y} + 2y^{-3} \sin(x)$$

$$f_{yy} = x^3 \cdot 4 e^{-2y} + 6y^{-4} \cos(x) = 4x^3 \cdot e^{-2y} + 6y^{-4} \cos(x)$$

5.2.1 Geometric meaning of partial derivatives $\rightarrow \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \rightarrow$ we fix $y=y_0$

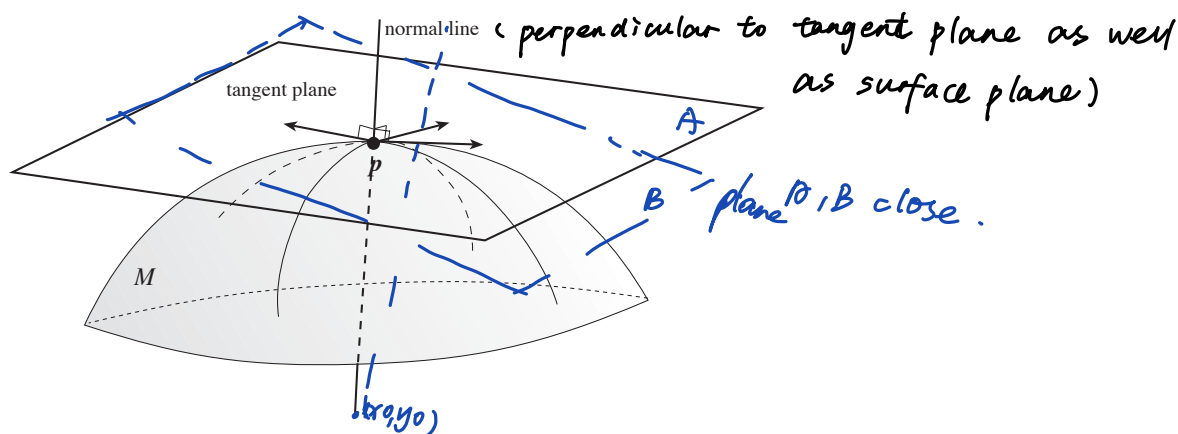


similar $\frac{\partial f}{\partial y} \rightarrow$ fix $x=x_0$



The slope of the tangent line on the left is $f_x(x_0, y_0)$; on the right, $f_y(x_0, y_0)$.

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We say that $f: D \subset \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is differentiable at a point (x_0, y_0) in the interior of D if the tangent lines to all the curves on the surface $z = f(x, y)$ passing through the point (x_0, y_0) form a plane.

This is called the tangent plane to the surface at (x_0, y_0, z_0) , where $z_0 = f(x_0, y_0)$.

The line orthogonal to the tangent plane and passing through (x_0, y_0, z_0) is called the normal line to the surface at (x_0, y_0, z_0) .

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Theorem 5.11. If there exists an open ball $B \subset D$ containing (x_0, y_0) such that f_x and f_y exist and are continuous at all the points of B , then f is differentiable at (x_0, y_0) .

In this case, the equation of the tangent plane is

$$z = f(x_0, y_0) + f_x(x_0, y_0)(x - x_0) + f_y(x_0, y_0)(y - y_0).$$

The plane passes through $(x_0, y_0, f(x_0, y_0))$ and has normal vector $(f_x(x_0, y_0), f_y(x_0, y_0), -1)$.

Example 5.12. Find the Cartesian equation of the tangent plane to the surface

$$z = 1 - x^2 - y^2$$

at the point (x_0, y_0) $(1, 2, -4)$.

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

$$f(1, 2) = -4 = f(x_0, y_0).$$

$$f_x = -2x = -2$$

$$f_y = -2y = -4$$

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

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$$= -2x - 4y + 6$$

$$\boxed{2x + 4y + z = 6}$$

If f is differentiable at (x_0, y_0) , then at points (x, y) close to (x_0, y_0) we can estimate the value $z = f(x, y)$ using the linear approximation to f near (x_0, y_0)

$$f(x, y) \approx f(x_0, y_0) + f_x(x_0, y_0)(x - x_0) + f_y(x_0, y_0)(y - y_0).$$

Example 5.13. Estimate the value $f(0.01, 0.02)$, where

$$f(x, y) = \sqrt{1 - x + 2y}.$$

$$(0.01, 0.02) \approx (0, 0)$$

$$f_x = \frac{-1}{2\sqrt{1-x+2y}} \approx (-1)$$

$$= \frac{-1}{2\sqrt{1-x+2y}} \quad f_x(0,0) = -\frac{1}{2}$$

$$f_y = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-x+2y}} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-x+2y}} \quad f_y(0,0) = 1$$

$$f(0,0) \approx 1 + \left(-\frac{1}{2}\right)(x) + 1(y)$$

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$$= 1 + \left(-\frac{1}{2}\right) \times (0.01) + 1 \times 0.02 = 1 - 0.005 + 0.02$$

5.2.2 Chain rule

Suppose $z = f(x, y)$ is a differentiable function of two variables, $x = g(t)$ and $y = h(t)$ are differentiable functions of a single variable t .

Then the function of one variable $z = f(g(t), h(t))$ is differentiable and its derivative is given by the chain rule

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

Example 5.14. If $z = x^2 - y^2$, $x = \sin(t)$, and $y = \cos(t)$, find $\frac{dz}{dt}$ at $t = \frac{\pi}{3}$.

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{dz}{dt} &= \frac{\partial z}{\partial x} \cdot \frac{dx}{dt} + \frac{\partial z}{\partial y} \cdot \frac{dy}{dt} \\ &= 2\sin t \cdot \cos t + (-2 \cdot \cos(t)) \cdot (-\sin t) \\ &= 4 \sin t \cos t = 2 \sin 2t \stackrel{t=\frac{\pi}{3}}{=} 2 \sin \frac{2\pi}{3} = \sqrt{3} \end{aligned}$$

5.3 Directional derivative and gradient

It is useful to know the rate of change of a function in a certain direction.

The directional derivative of f in the direction of $\mathbf{u} = (u_1, u_2)$ at the point $P_0 = (x_0, y_0)$ is

$$(D_{\mathbf{u}}f)(x_0, y_0) = \frac{d}{dt} f(P_0 + t\mathbf{u}) \Big|_{t=0}$$

$$= \frac{d}{dt} f(x_0 + tu_1, y_0 + tu_2) \Big|_{t=0}$$

$$x(t) = x_0 + tu_1$$

$$y(t) = y_0 + tu_2$$

$$= f \left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \cdot \frac{dx}{dt} \right) \Big|_{t=0} + f \left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial y} \cdot \frac{dy}{dt} \right) \Big|_{t=0}$$

$$= \left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \cdot u_1 \right) \Big|_{t=0} + \left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial y} \cdot u_2 \right) \Big|_{t=0}$$

$$= \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \Big|_{t=0} \cdot u_1 + \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} \Big|_{t=0} \cdot u_2 = \left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \cdot \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} \right) \cdot (P_0) \cdot \mathbf{u}$$

$$= x_0 u_1 + y_0 u_2$$

$$= (\nabla f)(P_0) \cdot \mathbf{u}$$

The *gradient of f* is

$$\nabla f = (f_x, f_y).$$

So the result of the calculation we performed above can be written

$$(D_{\mathbf{u}}f)(P_0) = (\nabla f)(P_0) \cdot \mathbf{u}.$$

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Example 5.15. Find the rate of change of the function $f: \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$

$$f(x, y) = 1 - \frac{x^2}{4} - \frac{y^2}{4}$$

at the point $(1, 0)$ in the direction of the vectors

(a) \mathbf{a} = the unit vector making an angle of $\pi/4$ with the x -axis

(b) $\mathbf{b} = (0, 1)$.

$$f_x = -\frac{x}{2}$$

$$f_y = -\frac{y}{2}$$

$$(\nabla f) \cdot (1, 0) = (-\frac{1}{2}, 0)$$

$$(a) \cdot (\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}, \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2})$$

$$(D_{\mathbf{a}}f)(1, 0) = (-\frac{1}{2}, 0) \cdot (\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}, \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}).$$

$$= -\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}$$

$$(b) \cdot (0, 1)$$

$$D_{\mathbf{b}}f(0, 1) = (-\frac{1}{2}, 0) \cdot (0, 1)$$

$$= 0$$

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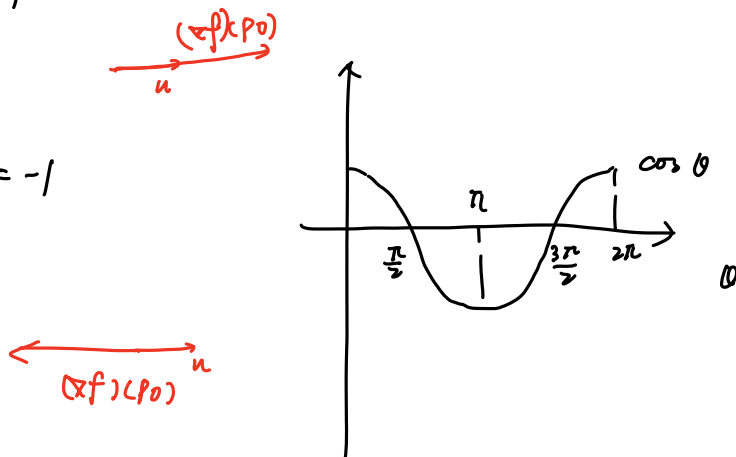
If \mathbf{u} is a unit vector, then

$$(D_{\mathbf{u}}f)(P) = \nabla f(P) \cdot \mathbf{u} = \|\nabla f(P)\| \cdot \underset{=1}{\mathbf{u}} \cdot \underset{\substack{\uparrow \\ \theta \text{ is the angle between } \nabla f(P) \text{ \& } \mathbf{u}}}{\cos \theta}$$

What is the direction \mathbf{u} in which the derivative is

- largest \rightarrow when $\cos \theta = 1$

- smallest \rightarrow when $\cos \theta = -1$



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Example 5.16. In which directions does $f = xy^2$ increase, resp. decrease, most rapidly at $(1, 2)$?

$$f_x = y^2$$

$$f_y = 2xy$$

$$(\nabla f)(1, 2) = (4, 4)$$

direction of steepest increase $(4, 4)$

" " " " decrease $(-4, -4)$

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Consider a level curve of f :

$$f(x(t), y(t)) = C.$$

Apply the chain rule:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{df}{dt} &= \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \cdot \frac{dx}{dt} + \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} \cdot \frac{dy}{dt} = C' = 0 \\ &= \left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} \right) \left(\frac{dx}{dt}, \frac{dy}{dt} \right) \\ &= (\nabla f) \left(\frac{dx}{dt}, \frac{dy}{dt} \right) = 0 \end{aligned}$$

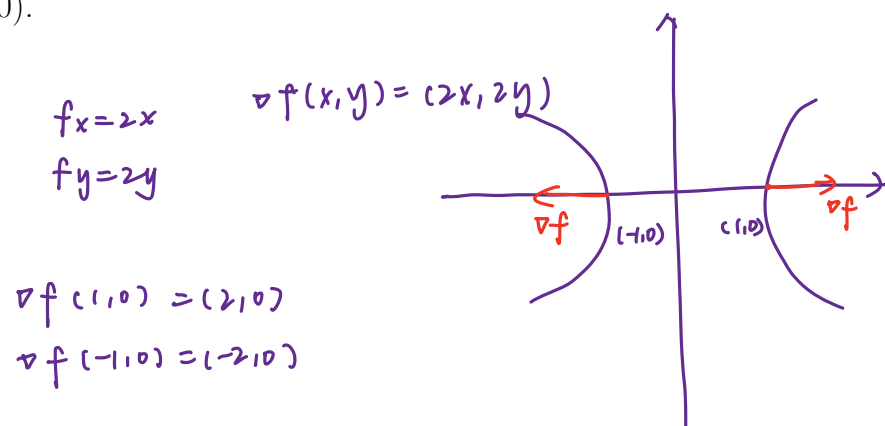
gradient is perpendicular to the
vector tangent to the curve
~~direction~~

gradient is normal to the curve

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So $(\nabla f)(x_0, y_0)$ is normal to the level curve of f at (x_0, y_0) and points in the direction in which f is increasing most rapidly.

Example 5.17. For the level curve $x^2 - y^2 = 1$, sketch the gradient vector at the points $(1, 0)$ and $(-1, 0)$.



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