

# MATH 118

## Planes in $\mathbb{R}^3$ and functions of 2 variables

1. Find a non-zero vector perpendicular to the plane  $2x - y + 3z = 5$ .

$$\vec{n} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ -1 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}$$

2. Find the equation of the plane which passes through the point  $P(0, 1, 1)$  and is perpendicular to the line given by  $\mathbf{r}(t) = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} + t \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$ .

The line is in the direction of  $\vec{n} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$ .

Therefore, the plane passing through  $(0, 1, 1)$  perpendicular to the line has the equation

$$1 \cdot (x - 0) + 1 \cdot (y - 1) + 1 \cdot (z - 1) = 0$$

or  $x + y + z = 2$ .

3. Find the equation of the plane which passes through the point  $P(2, -1, 1)$  and contains the

non-parallel vectors  $\mathbf{u} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}$  and  $\mathbf{v} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -3 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$ .

$$\text{Let } \vec{n} = \vec{u} \times \vec{v} = \begin{vmatrix} \hat{i} & \hat{j} & \hat{k} \\ 2 & 1 & -1 \\ 1 & -3 & 1 \end{vmatrix} = \hat{i}(1 - 3) + \hat{j}(-1 - 2) + \hat{k}(-6 - 1) \\ = \begin{bmatrix} -2 \\ -3 \\ -7 \end{bmatrix}$$

Therefore, the equation of the plane is

$$-2(x - 2) - 3(y + 1) - 7(z - 1) = 0$$

4. Find and sketch the domain for each of the following functions.

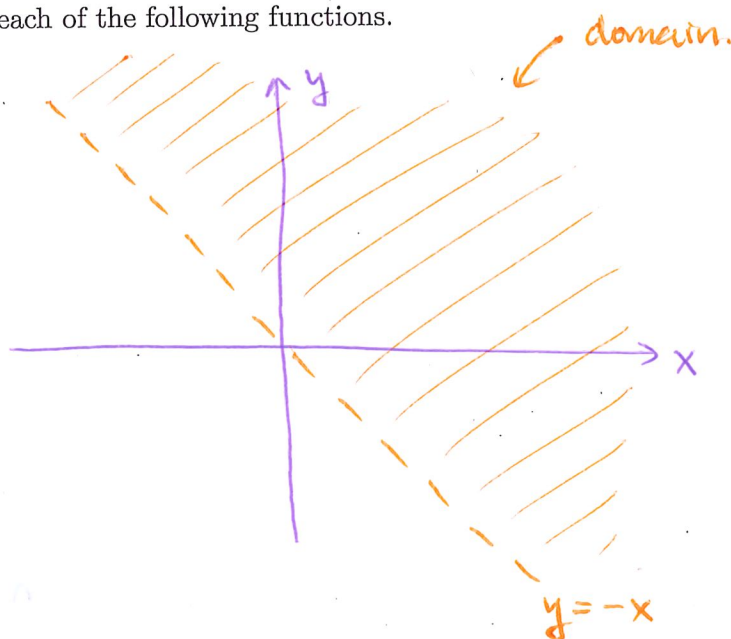
(a)  $f(x, y) = \frac{\sin(xy)}{\sqrt{x+y}}$

Need  $x+y > 0$

$\Leftrightarrow y > -x$

$\therefore$  The domain is

$\{(x, y) \mid y > -x\}$



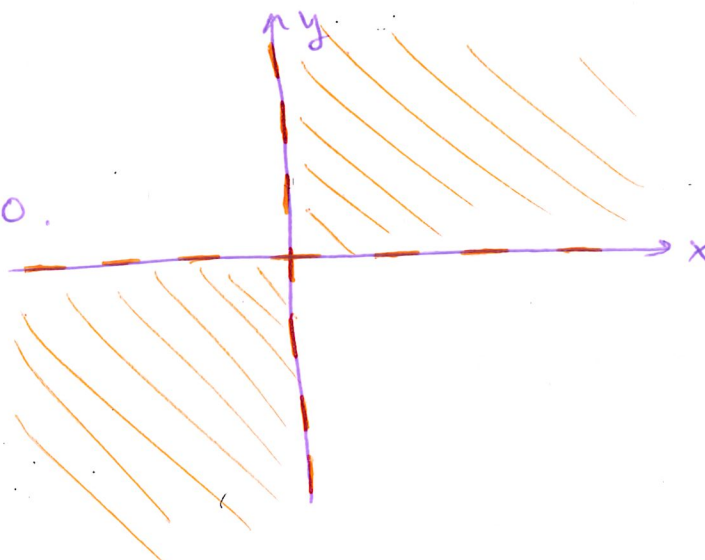
(b)  $g(x, y) = \ln\left(\frac{x}{y}\right)$

Need  $\frac{x}{y} > 0$

$\Leftrightarrow x > 0, y > 0$  or  $x < 0, y < 0$ .

$\therefore$  domain is

$\{(x, y) \mid \frac{x}{y} > 0\}$



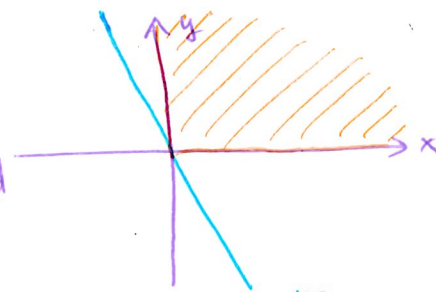
5. When  $x$  and  $y$  represent physical quantities, sometimes there are additional restrictions on the domain due to physical limitations of the quantities. In such a case we will refer to the result as the "physical domain" of the function.

If a company sells  $x$  units of good A and  $y$  units of good B, their revenue is  $R(x, y) = 40x + 22y$ . What is the "physical domain" of  $R(x, y)$ ?

$x$  and  $y$  must both be non-negative and  $R(x, y)$  should be non-negative.  $\Rightarrow 40x + 22y \geq 0$

$\Rightarrow y \geq -\frac{40}{22}x$

already guaranteed by insisting  $x, y \geq 0$ .



domain is

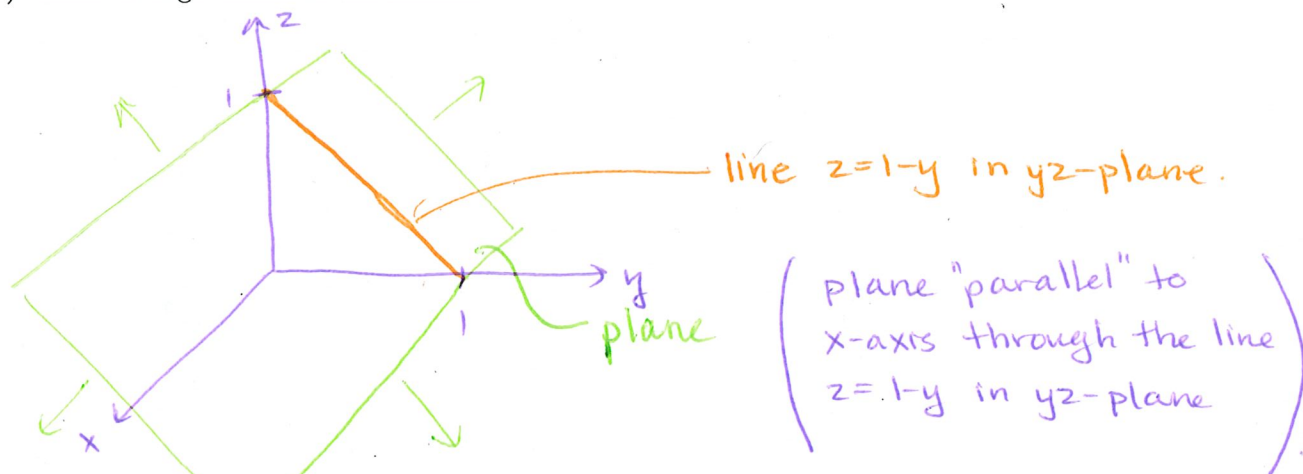
$\{(x, y) \mid x \geq 0, y \geq 0\}$

6. Consider the surface defined by  $z = 1 - y$ .

(a) What kind of surface is defined by the equation?

A plane!  $z = 1 - y$  is a linear equation in  $x, y$  and  $z$ .  
same as  $z = 1 - y + 0 \cdot x$

(b) Make a rough sketch of the surface.

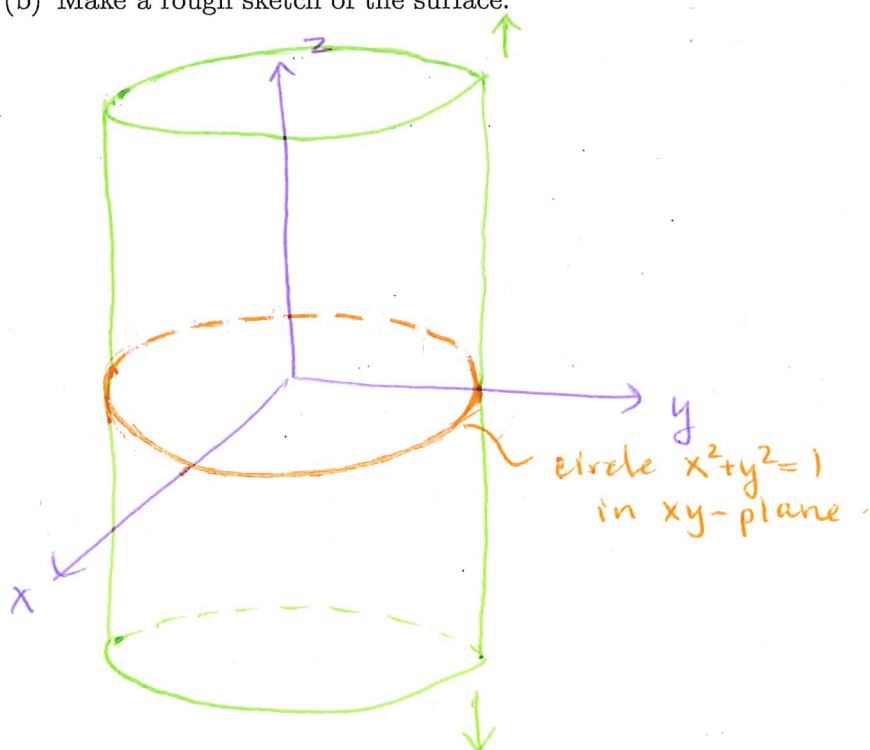


7. Consider the surface defined by  $x^2 + y^2 = 1$ .

(a) What kind of surface is defined by the equation?

A circular cylinder!

(b) Make a rough sketch of the surface.



# MATH 118

## Contour plots and partial derivatives

1. For each of the following functions, make a contour plot for  $f(x, y)$  and use it to help you sketch the graph of the surface  $z = f(x, y)$ .

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

Set  $f(x, y) = k$ :  $\sqrt{x^2 + y^2} = k \Rightarrow x^2 + y^2 = k^2$

$k=0$ :  $x^2 + y^2 = 0 \Rightarrow x=0, y=0$

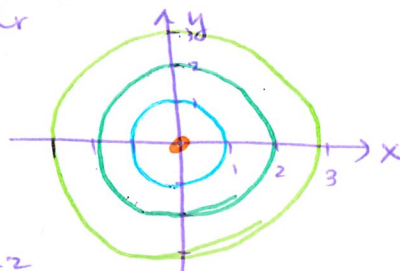
$k=1$ :  $x^2 + y^2 = 1 \Rightarrow$  circle of radius 1

$k=2$ :  $x^2 + y^2 = 4 \Rightarrow$  " 2

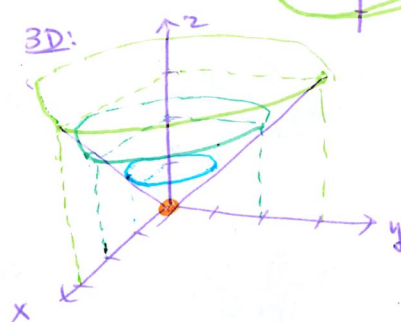
$k=3$ :  $x^2 + y^2 = 9 \Rightarrow$  " 3

(no solution for  $k < 0$ )

Contour Plot



3D:



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

Set  $f(x, y) = k$ :  $x^2 + y^2 = k$

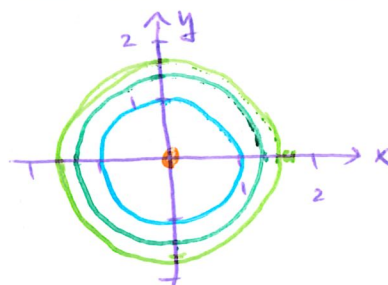
$k=0$ :  $x^2 + y^2 = 0 \Rightarrow x=0, y=0$

$k=1$ :  $x^2 + y^2 = 1 \Rightarrow$  circle of radius 1

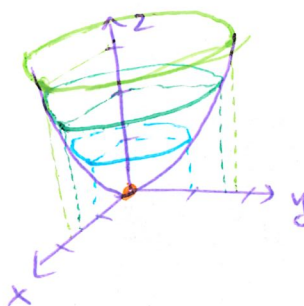
$k=2$ :  $x^2 + y^2 = 2 \Rightarrow$  "  $\sqrt{2} \sim 1.4$

$k=3$ :  $x^2 + y^2 = 3 \Rightarrow$  "  $\sqrt{3} \sim 1.7$

CONTOUR PLOT



3D:



2. The contour plots in question 1 are very similar. Write a sentence or two describing the difference in the corresponding surfaces.

The paraboloid gets steeper faster (level curves get closer together) whereas the cone gets steeper at a constant rate (level curves are equally spaced at closer level curves  $\Rightarrow$  steeper surface)



3. Match the following equations with their graphs and contour plots.

|                                   |                |                  |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|------------------|
| $f(x, y) = e^{x-y}$               | Graph <u>C</u> | Contour <u>E</u> |
| $f(x, y) = e^x$                   | Graph <u>F</u> | Contour <u>A</u> |
| $f(x, y) = \cos(x - y)$           | Graph <u>D</u> | Contour <u>D</u> |
| $f(x, y) = \ln(x^2 + y^2)$        | Graph <u>E</u> | Contour <u>F</u> |
| $f(x, y) = \frac{x-y}{1+x^2+y^2}$ | Graph <u>B</u> | Contour <u>C</u> |
| $f(x, y) = \cos(x^2 + y^2)$       | Graph <u>A</u> | Contour <u>B</u> |

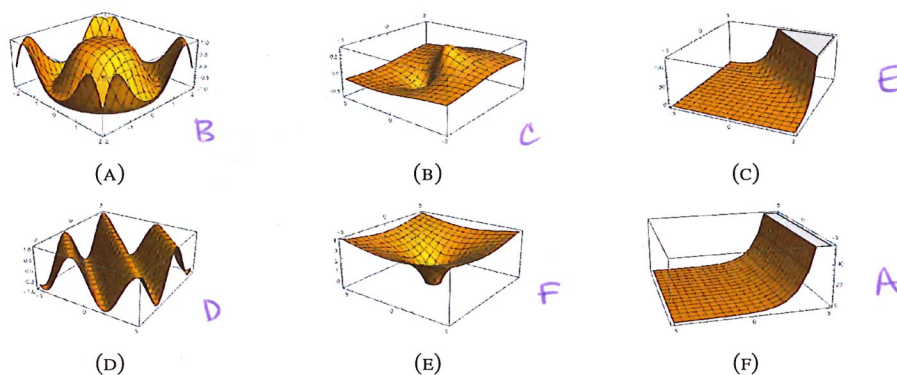


FIGURE 1. The graphs for problem

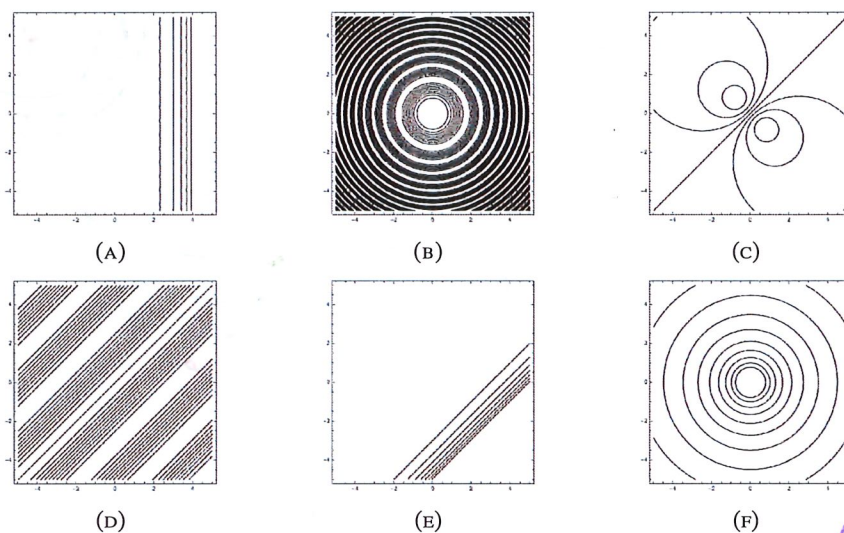


FIGURE 2. The contours for problem

(SEE ATTACHED  
PAGES FOR FULL  
SOLUTIONS)

STRATEGY: ① Visually match graphs to contour plots.

② Make contour plots for functions and match to given contour plots.

③ Use ① and ② to match functions to graphs.

4. Calculate the partial derivatives of each of the following functions.

(a)  $f(x, y) = 1 + x \sin(xy)$

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial x} = \sin(xy) + xy \cos(xy)$$

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial y} = x^2 \cos(xy)$$

(b)  $g(x, y, z) = \frac{z}{1+x^2} + e^{xyz}$

$$\frac{\partial g}{\partial x} = -z(1+x^2)^{-2} \cdot 2x + yze^{xyz} = -\frac{2xz}{(1+x^2)^2} + yze^{xyz}$$

$$\frac{\partial g}{\partial y} = xze^{xyz}$$

$$\frac{\partial g}{\partial z} = \frac{1}{1+x^2} + xye^{xyz}$$

5. Recall your solutions to question 2.

(a) Use your contour plots to determine the sign of  $f_x(1, 1)$  and  $f_y(1, 1)$  for each function.

1(a)

$$f_x(1, 1) > 0$$

$$f_y(1, 1) > 0$$

(b)

$$f_x(1, 1) > 0$$

$$f_y(1, 1) > 0$$

(b) Do your answer to (a) agree with your sketches of the surfaces  $z = f(x, y)$  in each case?

Yes, the surface slopes upward at (1, 1) in the positive x and y-directions

(c) Now calculate  $f_x(1, 1)$  and  $f_y(1, 1)$  in each case and verify that the result agrees with your answers to the questions above.

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

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial x} = \frac{x}{\sqrt{x^2 + y^2}} \Rightarrow f_x(1, 1) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} > 0$$

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial y} = \frac{y}{\sqrt{x^2 + y^2}} \Rightarrow f_y(1, 1) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} > 0$$

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

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial x} = 2x \Rightarrow f_x(1, 1) = 2 > 0$$

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial y} = 2y \Rightarrow f_y(1, 1) = 2 > 0$$

$$f(x,y) = e^{x-y}$$

Contour plot: Set  $e^{x-y} = k$  ( $\Rightarrow k > 0$ , otherwise no solution).

$$\Rightarrow x-y = \ln(k)$$

$$\Rightarrow y = x - \ln(k)$$

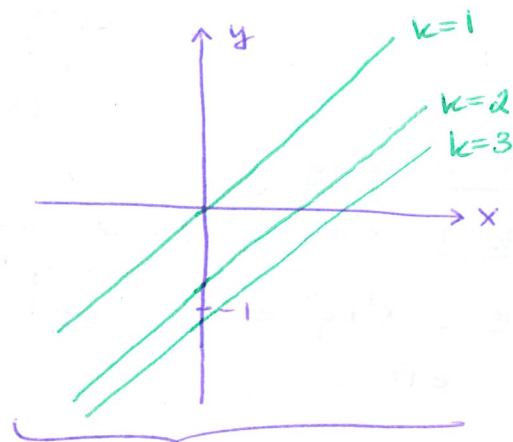
$k=1$ :  $y=x$  (line of slope 1 through  $(0,0)$ ).

$k=2$ :  $y=x - \ln(2)$  (" through  $(0, \underline{-\ln(2)})$ ).

$k=3$ :  $y=x - \ln(3)$  (" through  $(0, \underline{-\ln(3)})$ ).

etc...

$\Rightarrow$  all y-intercepts have  $y \leq 0$



looks like (E).

$$f(x,y) = e^x$$

Contour plot: Set  $e^x = k$  ( $\Rightarrow k > 0$ ).

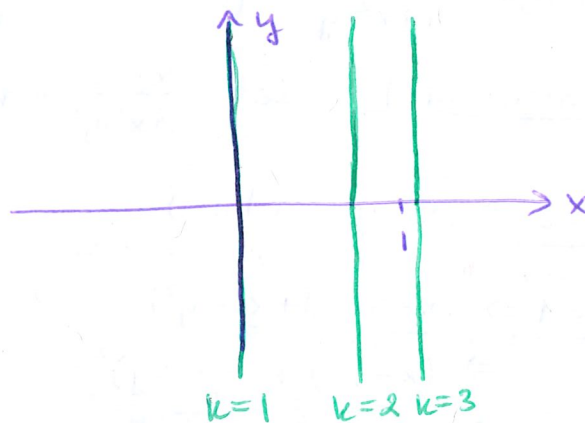
$$\Rightarrow x = \ln(k)$$

$k=1$ :  $x=0$  (vertical line)

$k=2$ :  $x=\ln(2)$  (")

$k=3$ :  $x=\ln(3)$  ("

etc...



looks like (A).

$$f(x,y) = \cos(x-y)$$

Contour plot: Set  $\cos(x-y) = k$

$k=0$ :  $\cos(x-y)=0 \Rightarrow x-y = \pm \frac{\pi}{2}, \pm \frac{3\pi}{2}, \pm \frac{5\pi}{2}, \dots$

$$\Rightarrow y = x \mp \frac{\pi}{2}, x \mp \frac{3\pi}{2}, x \mp \frac{5\pi}{2}, \dots$$

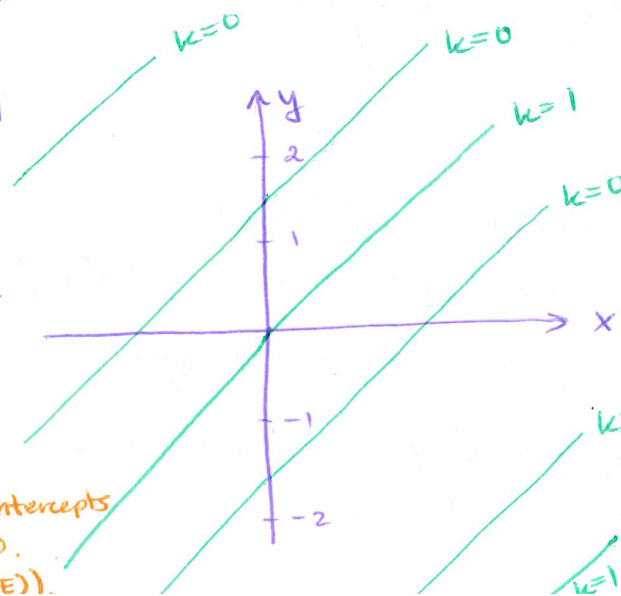
lines with slope 1 with y-int

$$\mp \frac{\pi}{2}, \mp \frac{3\pi}{2}, \mp \frac{5\pi}{2}, \dots$$

$k=1$ :  $\cos(x-y)=1 \Rightarrow y=x, x \pm 2\pi, x \pm 4\pi, \dots$

some y-intercepts are  $> 0$ . (unlike (E)).

looks like (D).



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

Contour plot: Set  $\ln(x^2+y^2) = k$   
 $\Rightarrow x^2+y^2 = e^k$   
 circle of radius  $\sqrt{e^k}$  centred at  $(0,0)$ .

$$k=0: x^2+y^2=1$$

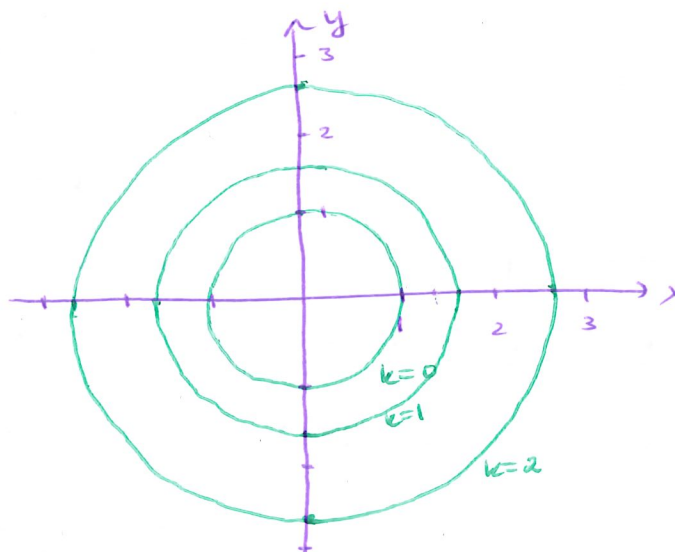
$$k=1: x^2+y^2=e$$

$$k=2: x^2+y^2=e^2$$

etc...

circles are getting further apart.

(not (B))



looks like (F).

$$f(x,y) = \frac{x-y}{1+x^2+y^2} \quad \left( \text{Easiest to do this one by process of elimination} \right)$$

Contour plot: Set  $\frac{x-y}{1+x^2+y^2} = k$ .

$$k=0 \Rightarrow x=y \quad (\text{line})$$

no solution for  $k=\pm 1, \pm 2, \dots$

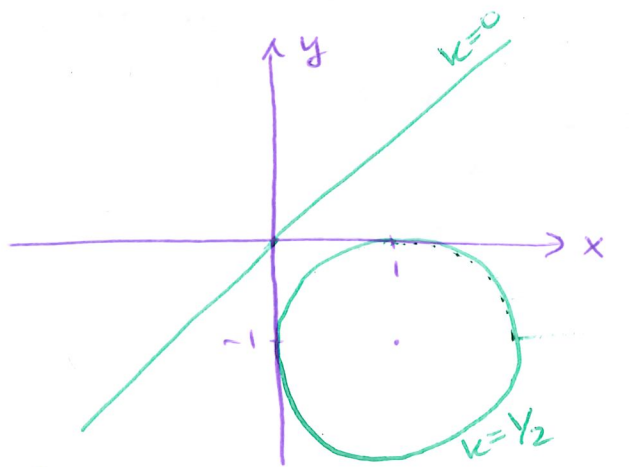
$$k=\frac{1}{2} \Rightarrow \frac{x-y}{1+x^2+y^2} = \frac{1}{2}$$

$$\Rightarrow 2x-2y = 1+x^2+y^2$$

$$\Rightarrow x^2-2x+y^2+2y+1=0$$

$$(x-1)^2 + (y+1)^2 = 1 \quad (\text{circle centred at } (1,-1))$$

complete the squares



looks like (C)

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

Contour plot: Set  $\cos(x^2+y^2) = k$ .

$$k=0 \Rightarrow x^2+y^2 = \frac{\pi}{2}, \frac{3\pi}{2}, \frac{5\pi}{2}, \dots$$

$$k=1 \Rightarrow x^2+y^2 = 0, 2\pi, 4\pi, 6\pi, \dots$$

(circles)

looks like (B)

