

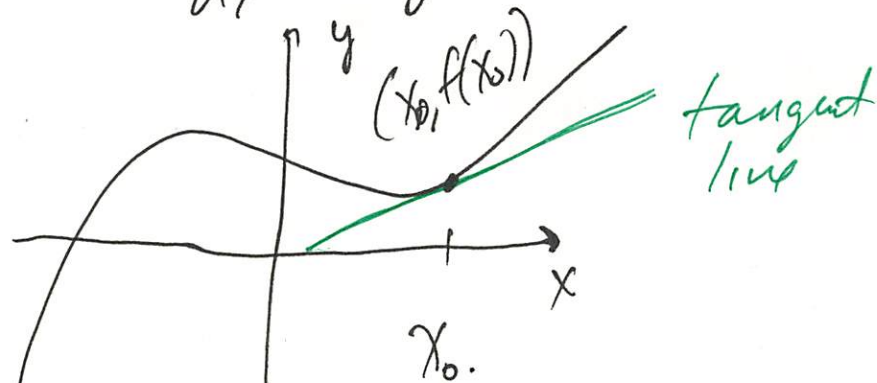
Exam will cover through 13.4  
Review session with TA.

ch 14.

Last time:  $z = f(x, y)$   
 $w = g(x, y, z)$   
graphing  
contour graphs/  
level curves.  
limits / continuity.

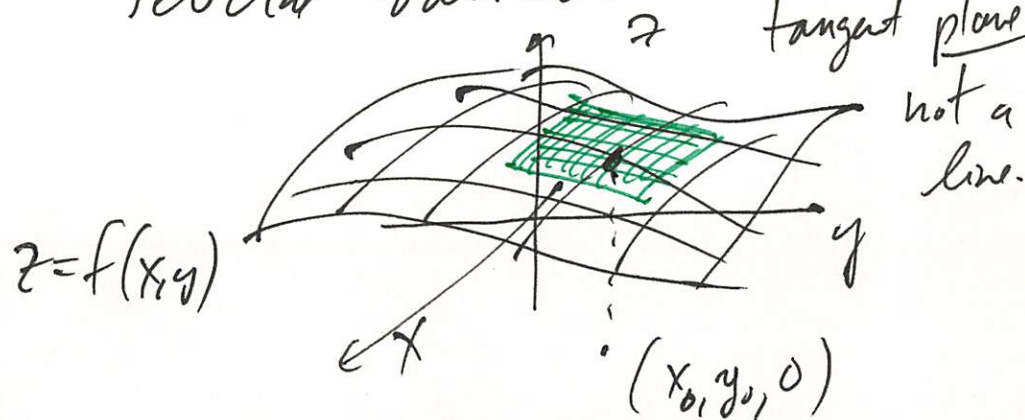
Today: partial derivatives  
tangent planes /  
linear approximation.

usual calc:  $y = f(x)$  ①  
 $\frac{dy}{dx} = y' = f'(x)$  derivative



$f'(x_0) = \text{slope of tangent line.}$

want similar for fns of  
several variables should have  
tangent plane



now have 2 independent vars  $x, y$   
get 2 different derivatives, one  
for  $x$ , one for  $y$ .

"partial derivatives" of  $f(x, y)$

Idea: fix all variables except for  
one, and see how the function  
changes as we vary this variable.

Def.  $f(x, y)$   $(x_0, y_0)$  pt in  
domain of  $f$ .

Then the partial derivative of  
 $f$  w.r.t.  $x$  at  $(x_0, y_0)$  is

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

Similarly, ②

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

→ 2 derivatives.

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

e.g.  $w = g(x, y, z)$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{\partial g}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial g}{\partial y}, \frac{\partial g}{\partial z}$$

To compute, treat all  
fixed variables as constants,  
and differentiate as usual.

e.g.  $f(x, y) = x^2 + y^2$

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

diff. w.r.t  $x$ , pretend  $y$  is a constant.

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial x} (x^2 + y^2) = 2x + 0$$

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

e.g.  $f(x, y) = x^3y + x^2y^2 + e^{xy}$

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial x} = 3x^2y + 2xy^2 + e^{xy} \cdot y$$

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial y} = x^3 + 2x^2y + e^{xy} \cdot x$$

e.g.  $g(x, y, z) = x^2 \sin y + e^{xyz}$

$$\frac{\partial g}{\partial x} = 2x \sin y + e^{xyz} yz$$

$$\frac{\partial g}{\partial y} = x^2 \cos y + e^{xyz} xz$$

$$\frac{\partial g}{\partial z} = e^{xyz} xy$$

other notations:

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

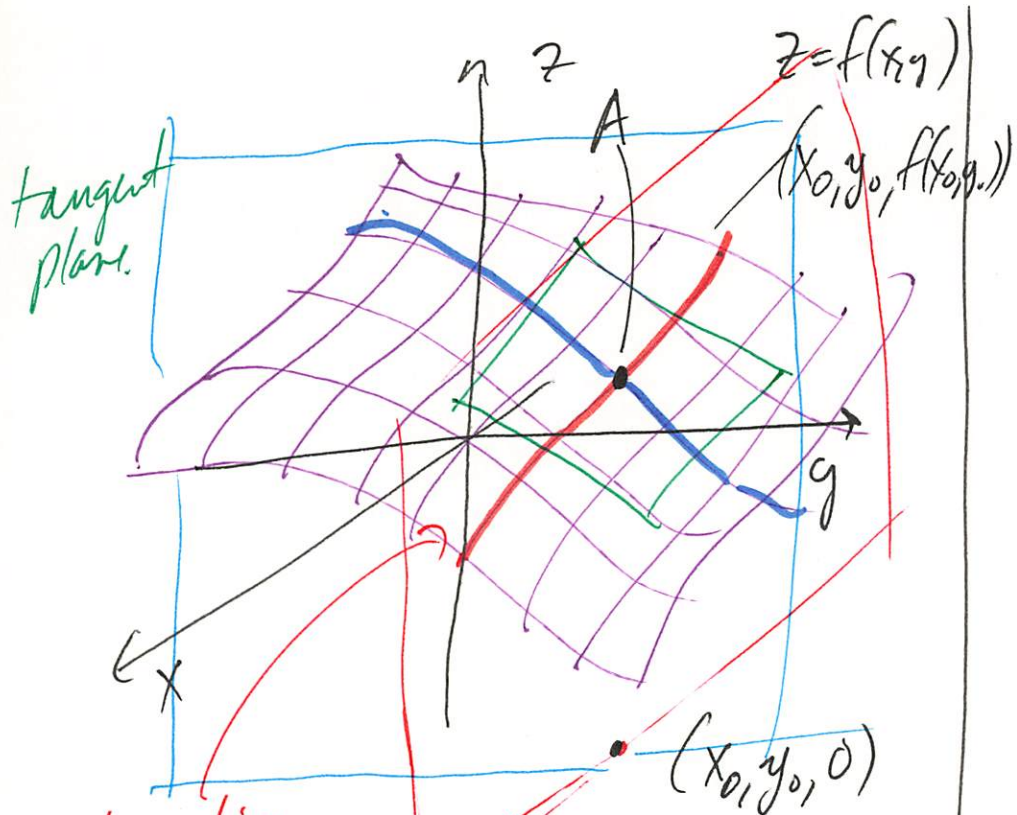
$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial z}{\partial x}, f_x, z_x$$

all mean same partial der.

sim.  $\frac{\partial f}{\partial y}, \frac{\partial z}{\partial y}, f_y, z_y$ .

Geometric meaning.

partial derivatives are related to slopes.  
slopes of certain lines on the tangent plane.



Intersection  
is this  
curve.

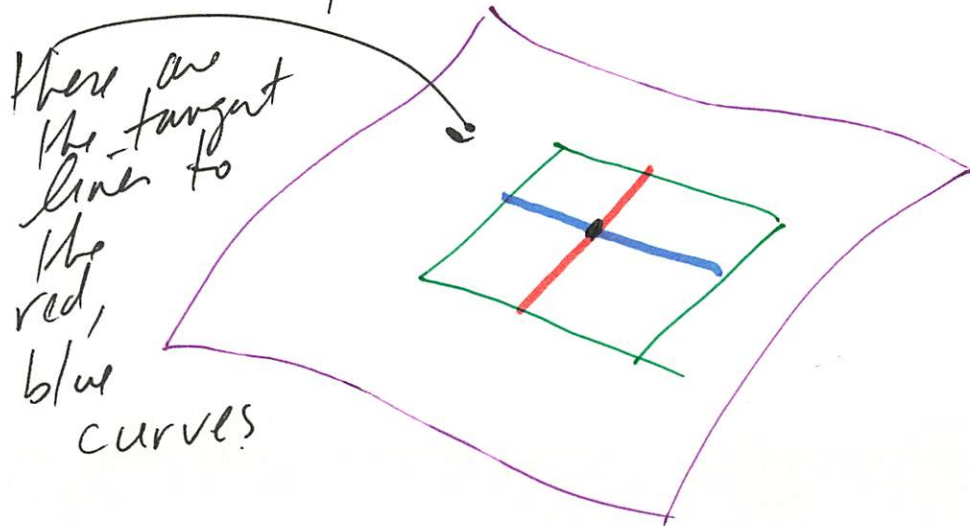
parallel to xz  
coord plane

slope at A  
of this curve is  $f_x(x_0, y_0)$   
its tangent line  
lies in green plane.

if consider  $f_y(x_0, y_0)$ ,  
get similar picture, with  
the red plane replaced by  
one parallel to the y-z  
plane.

Blue plane

$f_y(x_0, y_0)$  is slope of  
blue curve at that  
point.



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How 2nd partial derivatives

$f \leadsto f_x, f_y$   
since each can be diff.  
in 2 different ways, we  
get 4 possible 2nd  
partial derivatives.

$$\left. \begin{aligned} (f_x)_x &= f_{xx} \\ (f_x)_y &= f_{xy} \\ (f_y)_x &= f_{yx} \\ (f_y)_y &= f_{yy} \end{aligned} \right\} \begin{array}{l} 4 \\ \text{things.} \end{array}$$

e.g.  $f = x^2y + y^3 + x^4$

$$f_x = 2xy + 4x^3$$

$$f_y = x^2 + 3y^2$$

$$f_{xx} = 2y + 12x^2$$

$$f_{xy} = 2x$$

$$f_{yx} = 2x$$

$$f_{yy} = 6y$$

In fact, we always  
equality of mixed partial,

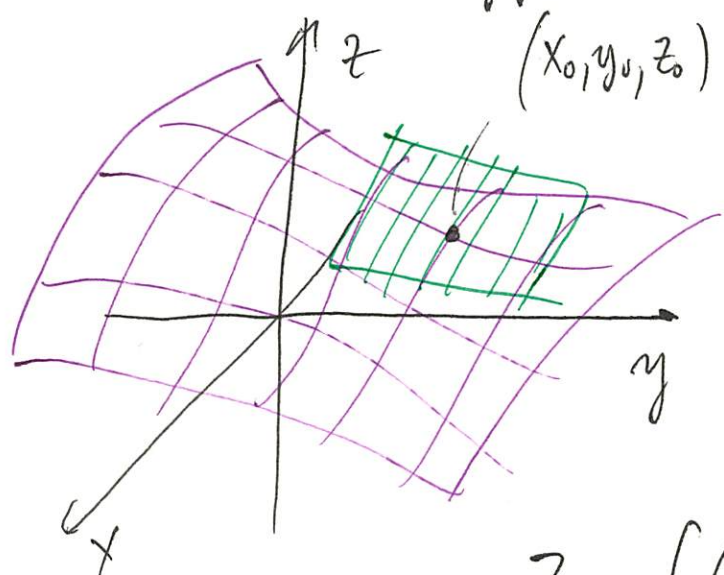
$$f_{xy} = f_{yx}$$

⑤



Later: geometry of 2nd partial derivatives.

Tangent planes / linear approximation.



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

$$\begin{aligned} z - z_0 &= f_x(x_0, y_0)(x - x_0) \\ &\quad + f_y(x_0, y_0)(y - y_0) \end{aligned}$$

graph of a function itself. ⑥  
namely

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

notice it has the same partial derivatives as  $f$  does at the point  $(x_0, y_0)$   
 $\Rightarrow$  it's the tangent plane.

- ① passes through  $(x_0, y_0, z_0)$
- ② has same partial derivatives, so it contains the tangent line to the red, blue curves.

e.g.  $f(x, y) = x^2y + y^3$

pt  $(1, 1, 2) = (x_0, y_0, z_0)$   
 what's tangent plane?

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

$$f_x = 2xy, \quad f_y = x^2 + 3y^2$$

@ pt:  $f_x = 2$   
 $f_y = 4$

so plane is

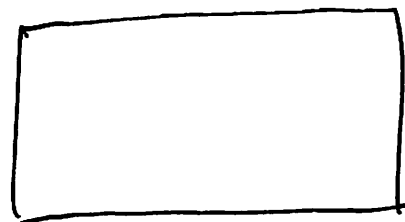
$$z - 2 = 2(x - 1) + 4(y - 1)$$

linear approximation.  
 using the tangent plane  
 to approximate the graph  
 of the function.

application: propagation of  
 error in computations

e.g.

$5 \pm 0.1$   
 cm



$10 \pm 0.1$  cm

rectangle  
 $Q$ : area,  
 with  
 reasonable  
 err. est.

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$$z = f(x, y) \quad \begin{array}{l} x \rightarrow x + \Delta x \\ y \rightarrow y + \Delta y. \end{array}$$

what is approximate change

in  $z$ ? i.e.

$$f(x + \Delta x, y + \Delta y)$$

$$= z + \Delta z$$

we want a reasonable approximation  
to  $\Delta z$

Lin approx:

$$\Delta z \approx f_x(x, y) \Delta x + f_y(x, y) \Delta y.$$

comes directly from  
tangent plane

$$\begin{aligned} z - z_0 &= f_x(x_0, y_0) (x - x_0) \\ &\approx \Delta z + f_y(x_0, y_0) (y - y_0) \end{aligned}$$

$\Delta x$   
 $\Delta y$

e.g.  $A = xy$

$$\Delta A \approx A_x \Delta x + A_y \Delta y$$

$$A_x = y, \quad A_y = x$$

$$\Rightarrow \Delta A \approx y \Delta x + x \Delta y.$$



$\Delta A$  is going to give  
approximate error.

$$x=10, \Delta x=0.1$$

$$y=5, \Delta y=0.1$$

$$\Delta A = 5 \cdot 0.1 + 10 \cdot 0.1 \\ = 1.5$$

$$A = 50 \pm 1.5 \text{ cm}^2$$

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