

Annotations : Elementary topics in  
Differential Geometry, John A. Thorpe

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# Chapter 1

## Graphs and Level Sets

§1 pp. 1

**Given a function  $f : U \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  where  $U \subset \mathbb{R}^{n+1}$ , its level sets are the sets  $f^{-1}(c) \dots$**

The set of points in the domain of  $f$  at which  $f$  attains the value  $c$  is the level set at height  $c$ .

§1 pp. 1

**The graph of a function  $f : U \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is the subset of  $\mathbb{R}^{n+2}$  defined by  $\dots$**

The graph of function  $f$  is the set of points  $\{(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_{n+1}, f(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_{n+1}))\}$ .

# Chapter 2

## Vector Fields

**A vector at point  $p \in \mathbb{R}^{n+1}$  is a pair  $\bar{v} = (p, v)$  where  $v \in \mathbb{R}^{n+1}$ .** §2 pp. 6

For example :  $(1, 2, 2, 4)$  is a vector at  $(1, 2)$  defined by  $v = 2p$ . However,  $(1, 2, 2, 4)$  is not a 4-dimensional point in this context. But, the vector  $(2, 4)$  with it's tail shifted from  $(0, 0)$  to  $(1, 2)$ .

**The vectors at  $p$  form a vector space  $\mathbb{R}_p^{n+1}$  of dimension  $n + 1$**  §2 pp. 6

...

The vector space  $\mathbb{R}_p^{n+1}$  is identical with  $\mathbb{R}^{n+1}$ .

... our rule of addition does not permit the addition of vectors at different points of  $\mathbb{R}^{n+1}$ .

The addition of two vectors at different points is not defined.

**A vector field  $\bar{X}$  on  $U \subset \mathbb{R}^{n+1}$  is a function which assigns to each point of  $U$  a vector at that point.** §2 pp. 6

Consider a function  $X : U \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{n+1}$ . Suppose  $X(p) = v$  and  $X(q) = w$ . Then  $\bar{X}(p) = (p, v)$  and  $\bar{X}(q) = (q, w)$ .

**A vector field  $\bar{X}$  on  $U$  is smooth if the associated function  $X : U \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{n+1}$  is smooth.** §2 pp. 7

A vector space is smooth if all partial derivatives of the component functions  $X_i : U \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  exists and are continuous.

**Associated with each smooth function  $f : U \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is a smooth vector field on  $U$  called the gradient  $\nabla f$  of  $f$  ...** §2 pp. 8

Suppose all partial derivatives exists and are continuous for  $f : U \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ . Let  $p \in U$ , then  $\nabla f(p) = (p, \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_1}, \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_2}, \dots, \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_{n+1}})$

For example : Let  $f(x, y) = xy^2$ . Then  $\nabla f(p) = (p, v)$  where  $v = (y^2, 2xy)$ . ie,  $\nabla f$  assigns to the vector  $(1, 3)$  a vector  $(9, 6)$  at  $(1, 3)$ .