

Spatial Derivatives: Gradient, Divergence, Laplacian

1. Consider the scalar function

$$f(x, y) = \sin\left(\frac{x}{\sqrt{y}}\right) + xy^2 + x.$$

Notice that f takes a point in 2D space and returns a single number. In math language, this can be written as

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

- (a) Compute f 's gradient ∇f . Remember that the gradient operator acts on a scalar function, and returns a vector field.
- (b) Compute f 's laplacian $\nabla^2 f$. Remember that the laplacian operator acts on a scalar function, and returns a scalar field.
- (c) Compute the divergence of f 's gradient of $\nabla \cdot \nabla f$.