

Computational Methods in Physics (PHY 365)

FA23

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Lab 9

MATLAB's gradient function

- `FX = gradient(F)` returns the one-dimensional numerical gradient of `vector` `F`.
 - ◇ Here `FX` corresponds to $\partial F / \partial x$, the differences in “`x`” (horizontal) direction.
 - ◇ The spacing between points is assumed to be `1`.

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- $[\text{____}] = \text{gradient}(\text{F}, \text{h})$ uses h as a uniform spacing between points in each direction.

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- **Calculating the first and second derivatives**

```
grad_1 = gradient(f_x, step_size);
```

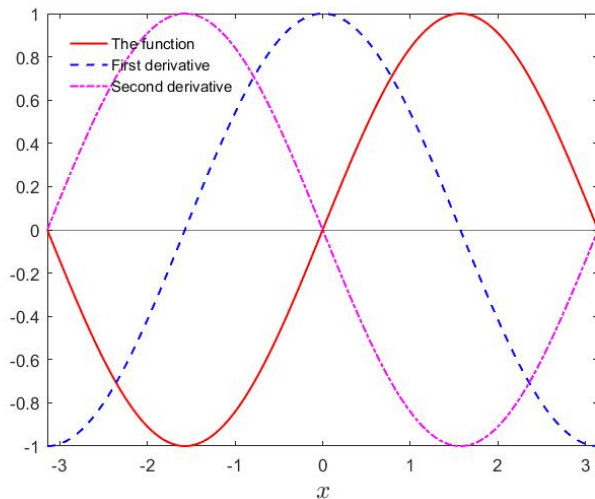
```
grad_2 = gradient(grad_1 , step_size);
```

MATLAB's gradient function

- Plotting

```
plot(x_vec , f_x , 'r' , x_vec , grad_1 , 'b--' , x_vec ,  
grad_2 , 'm-.')
```

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- $Y = \text{diff}(f, \text{var})$ differentiates the function with respect to the differentiation parameter “var”.
- The parameter var can be
 - ◇ a symbolic **scalar** variable, such as **x**,
 - ◇ a **symbolic** function, such as **f(x)**, or
 - ◇ a **derivative** function, such as **diff(f(t), t)**.

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- $Y = \text{diff}(f, \text{var}, n)$ computes the nth derivative of f with respect to var.

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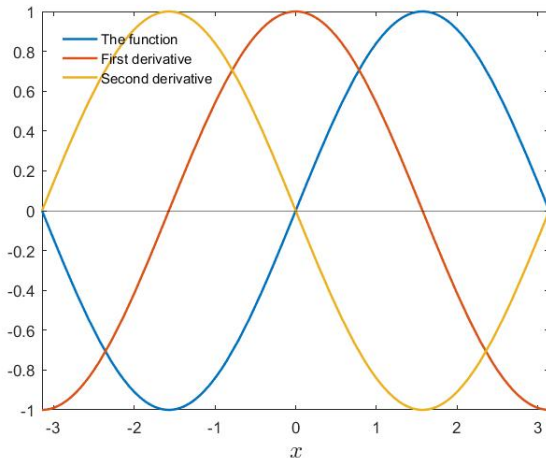
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- `a4 = diff (a2);`

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References

- <https://www.mathworks.com/help/matlab/ref/gradient.html>
- <https://www.mathworks.com/help/symbolic/diff.html>
- <https://www.mathworks.com/help/symbolic/sym.gradient.html>