UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM

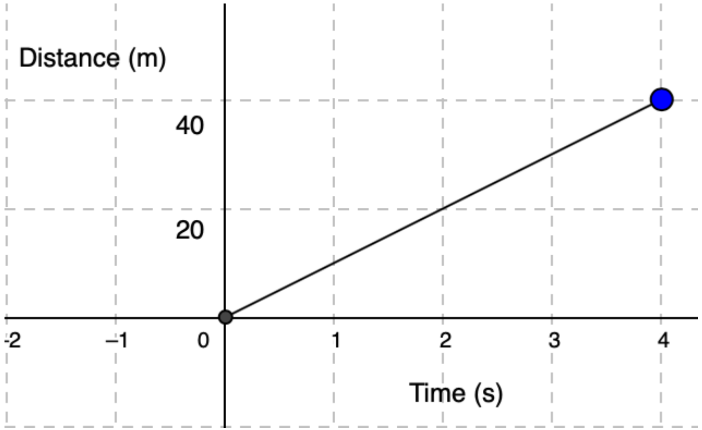
Week 1. Differentiation

Dr. Shuo Wang

Overview

- Univariate differentiation
- Some rules
- Partial differentiation (more than 1 independent variable)

Rate of Change (Gradient) of a Straight Line



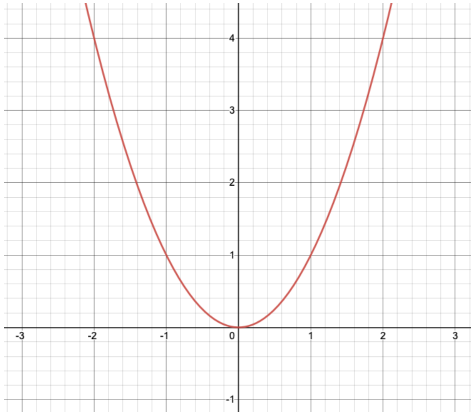
- A car travels 40m over 4s. Speed?
- Gradient = speed/slope = rate of distance change
- $\Delta x, \Delta y$: change of x and y
- Gradient of a straight line: y = 10x
Constant gradient, same at every point.

UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM

Differentiation

The process of finding the rate at which one variable changes with respect to another (i.e. the gradient).

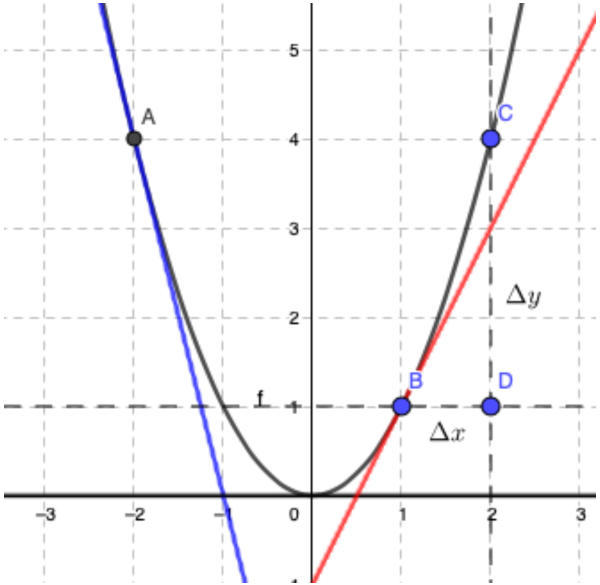
- Gradient $= \frac{\Delta y}{\Delta x}$
- $\Delta x, \Delta y$ represent a change in the value of x and y
- What if our function is a curve, instead of a straight line?



UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM

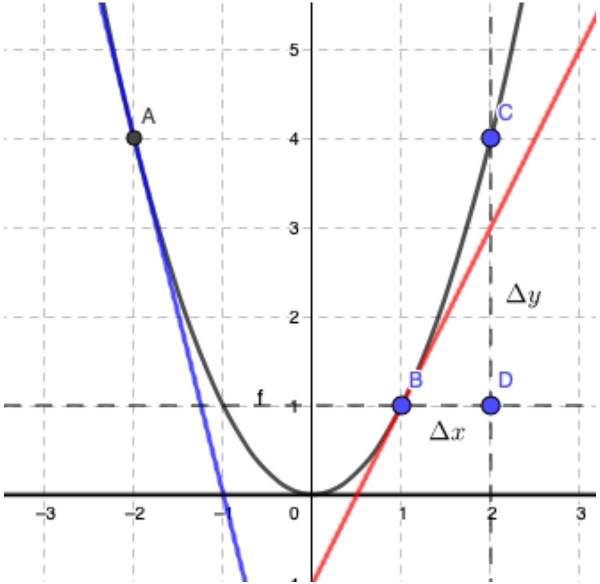
Gradient at a Point, Differentiation from first principles

- The gradient at a point is given by the gradient of the tangent at that point.
- As point C moves closer to B, the gradient of the line BC gets closer to the gradient at B.
- Consider the limit as Δx tends to 0.
- This process called differentiation from first principles.



Gradient/Derived Function, Derivative

- The gradient of the tangent to a curve (non-linear) function $y = f(x)$ varies with variable x. Therefore, it is also a function of x.
- It is called gradient function or derived function.
- Let's see how to obtain the general gradient function of $y = x^2$.



Gradient/Derived Function, Derivative

- Both $f'(x)$ and $\frac{dy}{dx}$ mean the gradient function.
- Also known as the derivative of y with respect to x.

$$f'(x) = \frac{dy}{dx} = \lim_{h \to 0} \frac{f(x+h) - f(x)}{h}$$

Differentiation of Monomials $y = ax^n$

$f(x)$	c	x	x^2	x^3	x^4	x^5
$f'(x)$	0	1	$2x$	$3x^2$	$4x^3$	$5x^4$

- What Pattern do you notice?
- In general:

For $f(x) = x^n$, $f'(x) = nx^{n-1}$
For $f(x) = ax^n$, $f'(x) = anx^{n-1}$

Differentiation of Multiple Terms - Polynomials

- A polynomial function: $y = \ x^3 + 6x^2 - 3x + 1$
- How to differentiate this function with respect to x?

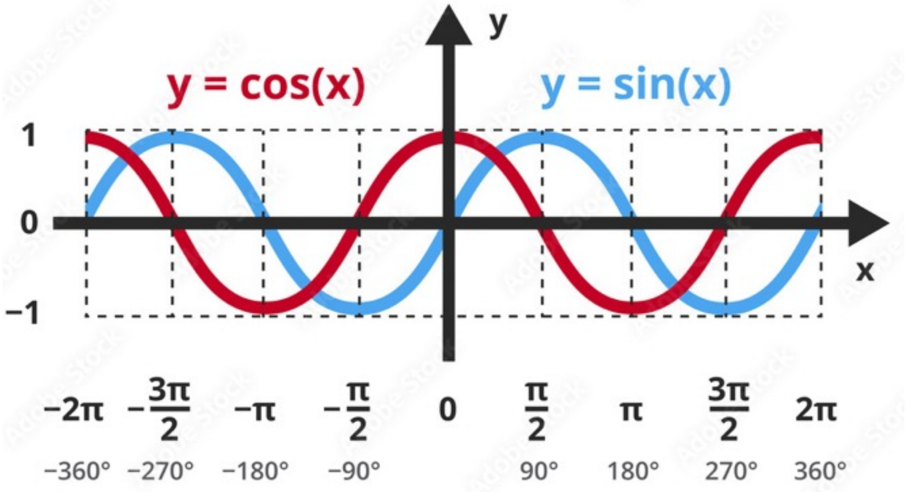
- General rule for sums of functions:

$$\text{If } y = f(x) \pm g(x), \frac{dy}{dx} = f'(x) \pm g'(x)$$

Other Derivatives

- Trigonometric functions: sine and cosine

If $f(x) = \sin x$, $f'(x) = \cos x$
If $f(x) = \cos x$, $f'(x) = -\sin x$



Other Derivatives

- Natural exponential

$$\text{If } f(x) = e^x,\ f'(x) = e^x$$

- Natural logarithm (the inverse of the natural exponential)

$$\text{If } f(x) = \ln x\ \ (x > 0),\ f'(x) = \frac{1}{x}$$

The Rules – The Product Rule

If $y = f(x)g(x)$, $\frac{dy}{dx} = f(x)g'(x) + g(x)f'(x)$

- Example: $y = x^2 \cos x$

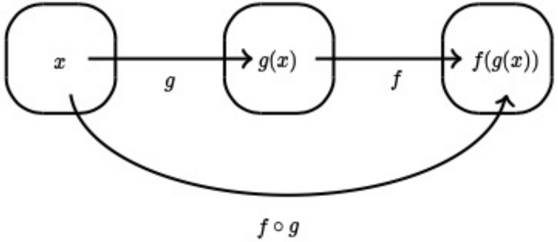
The Rules – The Quotient Rule

If $y = \frac{f(x)}{g(x)}$, $\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{g(x)f'(x) - f(x)g\prime(x)}{g(x)^2}$

- Example: $y = \frac{2x+1}{x^2+2x+1}$

The Rules – The Chain Rule

- Allows us to differentiate a composite function, i.e. a function within a function.
- Composite function:



- How to differentiate it:

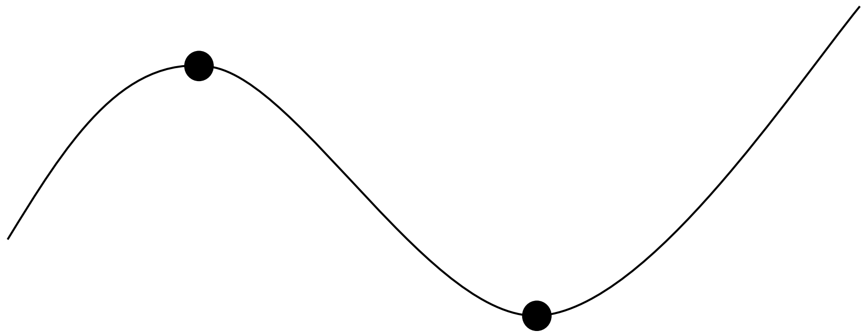
$$\text{If } y = f(g(x))\,,\ \frac{dy}{dx} = f'\big(g(x)\big)g'(x)$$

Outer function differentiated × inner function differentiated

- Example: $y = \ e^{3x}$

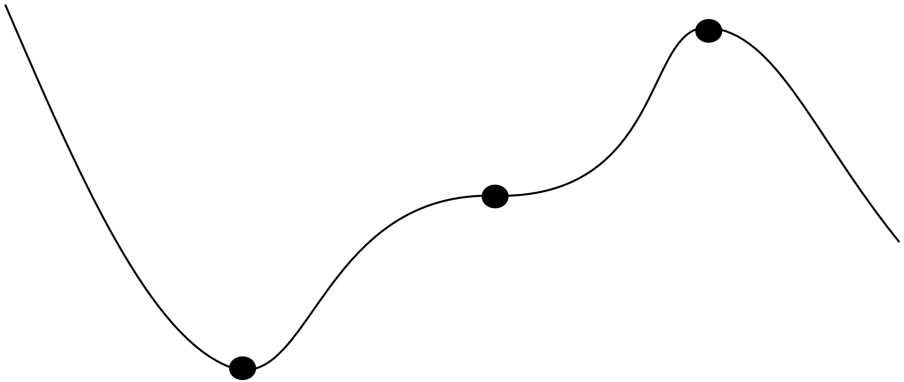
Application of Derivatives– Find out Local Max and Min

- Stationary point and its 3 types:



How to determine type of stationary point?

- Look at the gradient just before and after the point



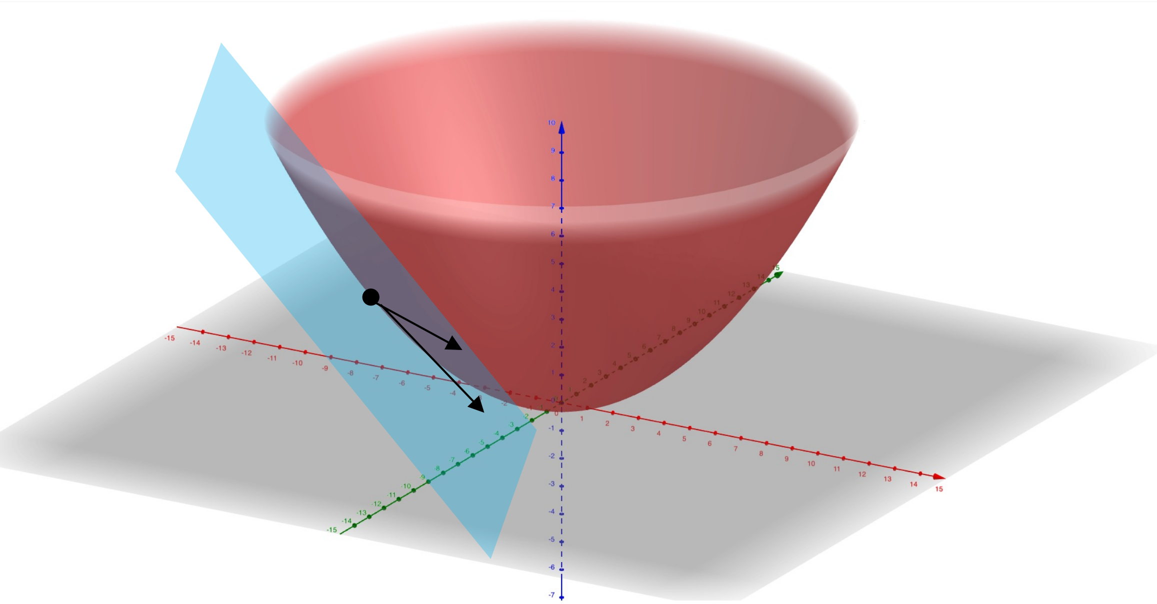
Local Maximum		
Gradient just before	Gradient at max	Gradient just after
?	?	?

Local Minimum		
Gradient just before	Gradient at min	Gradient just after
?	?	?

Point of Inflection		
Gradient just before	Gradient p.o.i	Gradient just after
?	?	?

Multivariable Function and Partial Differentiation

- When a function has more than one independent variable
  e.g. $z = x^2/10 + y^2/10$, or $f(x, y) = x^2/10 + y^2/10$
  3 dimensions, x and y are independent variables and z is the dependent variable.
- In 3D, a tangent line becomes a tangent plane.



- Directional derivative
- Partial derivative

UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM

Partial Differentiation

Notations: for $z = f(x, y)$, we write:

- $f_x(x, y) = \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} = \frac{\partial z}{\partial x}$, the partial derivative of f with respect to x
- $f_y(x, y) = \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} = \frac{\partial z}{\partial y}$, the partial derivative of f with respect to y

Rule:

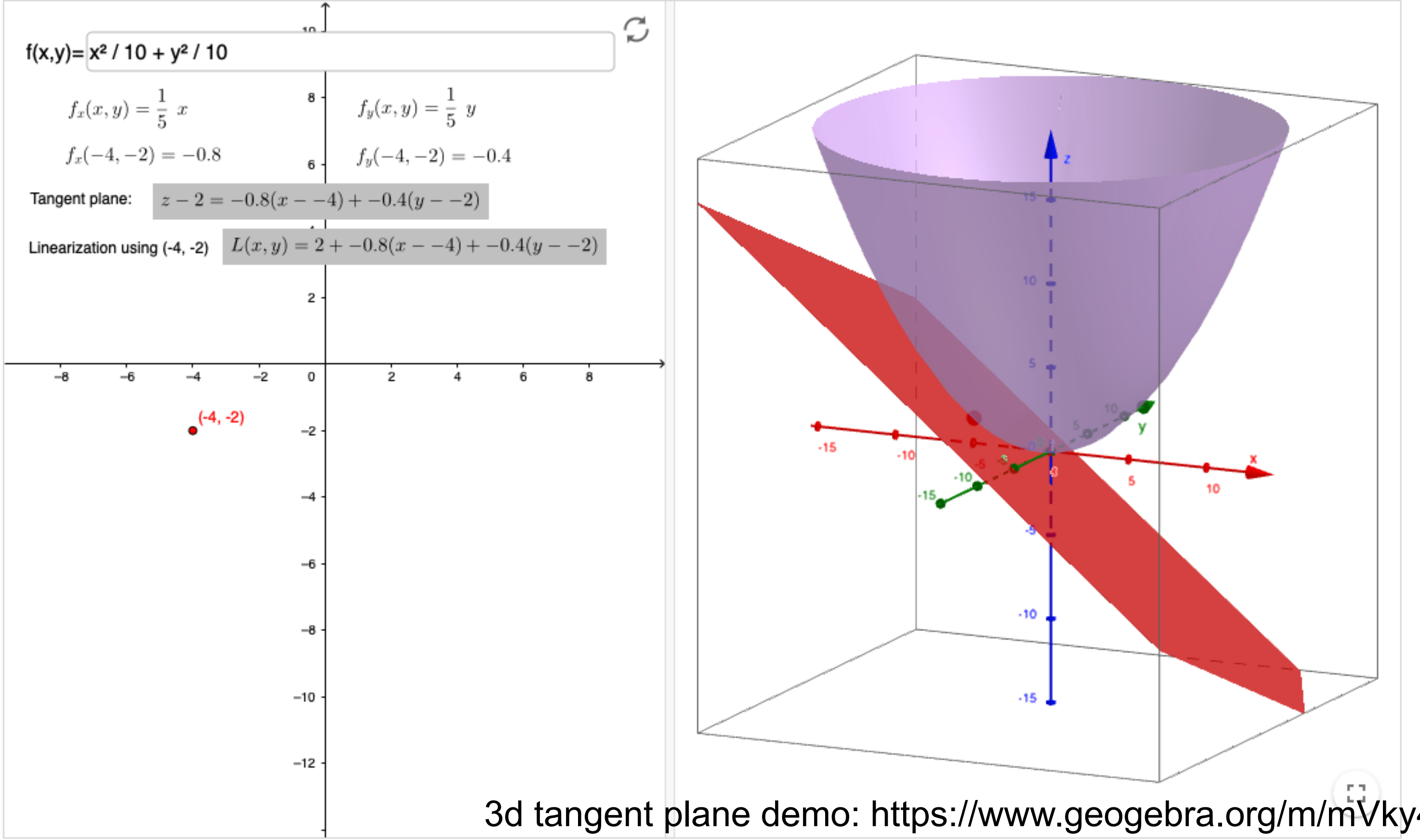
The partial derivative with respect to x is the ordinary derivative of the function of x by treating the other variables as constants.

- To find f_x, treat y as a constant and differentiate $f(x, y)$ with respect to x.
- To find f_y, treat x as a constant and differentiate $f(x, y)$ with respect to y.

UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM

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

Try yourself: Tangent plane of $f(x, y) = x^2/10 + y^2/10$ at (4, -2)



3d tangent plane demo: https://www.geogebra.org/m/mVky4Jkw