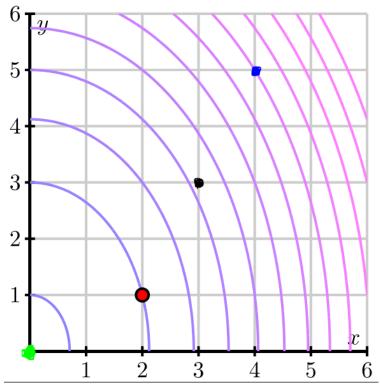
MATH 203 Fall 2024

Checkpoint: Directional derivatives

The function $T(x,y) = 30 - x^2 - y^2$ measures the temperature, in degrees Celsius, at a given point (x,y) on a heated metal plate, where x and y are measured in centimeters. An ant is walking on this plate in a straight line from the point [**TYPO FIX:** (2,1)] to the point (4,5). Here's a contour plot with some relevant points highlighted.



- (a) How fast is the temperature under the ant's feet changing at the beginning of its journey? Give units.
- (b) How fast is the temperature under the ant's feet changing when it's halfway through its journey? (Hint: if you draw this out you'll see that this is at the point (3,3).)
- (c) The ant reaches (4,5) and decides to walk directly back to the origin. Now how fast is the temperature under the ant's feet changing?