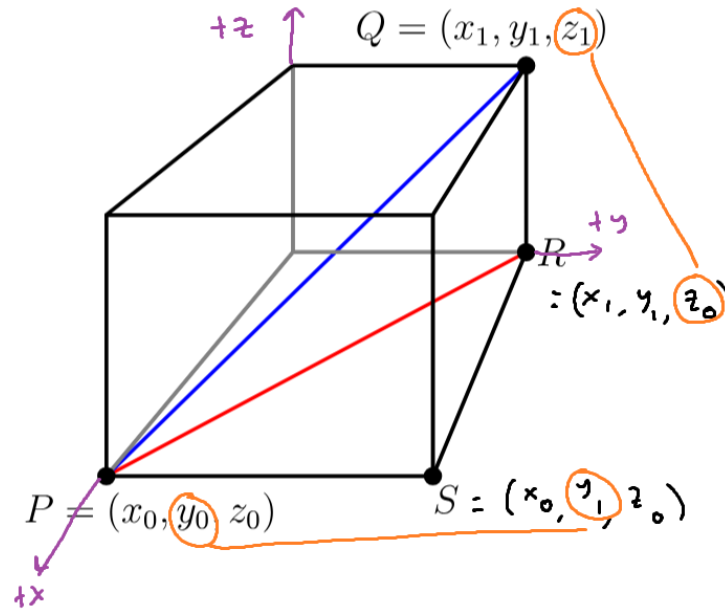


## PS#2: Multivariate functions - Answer key

1. (ACM Activity 9.1.5) Let  $P = (x_0, y_0, z_0)$  and  $Q = (x_1, y_1, z_1)$  be two points in  $\mathbb{R}^3$ . These two points form opposite vertices of a rectangular box whose sides are planes parallel to the coordinate planes, as illustrated in Figure 9.1.10, and the distance between  $P$  and  $Q$  and is the length of the blue diagonal shown in Figure 9.1.10.

- (a) Consider the right triangle  $PRS$  in the base of the box whose hypotenuse is shown as the red line in Figure 9.1.10. What are the coordinates of the vertices of this triangle?



Assuming the standard right-hand-rule setup – I’ve added purple axes to the figure above –  $+z$  is up,  $+y$  is to the right, and  $+x$  comes out of the page. Therefore, the coordinates of  $S$  are  $(x_0, y_1, z_0)$ , since it’s at the same position along the  $x$ -axis and along the  $z$ -axis as the point  $P$ , but in a different place on the  $y$ -axis.

Similarly, the coordinates of  $R$  are  $(x_1, y_1, z_0)$ , since it’s at the same position along the  $x$ -axis and along the  $y$ -axis as the point  $Q$ , but in a different place on the  $z$ -axis.

Since this right triangle lies in a plane, we can use the Pythagorean Theorem to find a formula for the length of the hypotenuse of this triangle. Find such a formula, which will be in terms of  $x_0, y_0, x_1$ , and  $y_1$ .

The line  $PS$  has length  $y_1 - y_0$ , and the line  $RS$  has length  $x_1 - x_0$ . Therefore the hypotenuse  $PR$  has length  $\sqrt{(x_1 - x_0)^2 + (y_1 - y_0)^2}$ .

- (b) Now notice that the triangle  $PRQ$  whose hypotenuse is the blue segment connecting the points  $P$  and  $Q$  and with a leg as the hypotenuse of the triangle found in part (a) lies entirely in a plane, so we can again use the Pythagorean Theorem to find the length of its hypotenuse. Explain why the length of this hypotenuse, which is the distance between the points  $P$  and  $Q$ , is

$$\sqrt{(x_1 - x_0)^2 + (y_1 - y_0)^2 + (z_1 - z_0)^2}.$$

The length of the segment  $RQ$  is  $z_1 - z_0$ . Therefore, by the Pythagorean Theorem,

$$\begin{aligned} PQ &= \sqrt{PR^2 + RQ^2} \\ &= \sqrt{\left[ \sqrt{(x_1 - x_0)^2 + (y_1 - y_0)^2} \right]^2 + RQ^2} \\ &= \sqrt{(x_1 - x_0)^2 + (y_1 - y_0)^2 + RQ^2} \\ &= \sqrt{(x_1 - x_0)^2 + (y_1 - y_0)^2 + (z_1 - z_0)^2} \end{aligned}$$

2. (ACM 9.1 Exercise 15) The Ideal Gas Law,  $PV = RT$ , relates the pressure ( $P$ , in pascals), temperature ( $T$ , in Kelvin), and volume ( $V$ , in cubic meters) of 1 mole of a gas ( $R = 8.314 \frac{\text{J}}{\text{mol K}}$  is the universal gas constant), and describes the behavior of gases that do not liquefy easily, such as oxygen and hydrogen. We can solve the ideal gas law for the volume and hence treat the volume as a function of the pressure and temperature:

$$V(P, T) = \frac{8.314T}{P}.$$

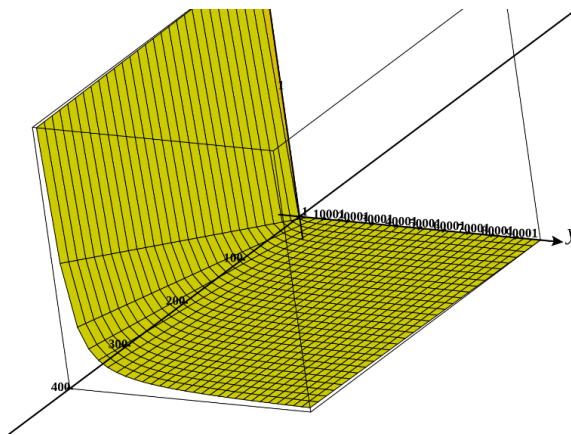
- (a) Explain in detail what the trace of  $V$  with  $P = 1000$  tells us about a key relationship between two quantities.  
 When  $P = 1000$ ,  $V(1000, T) = \frac{8.314}{1000}T$ . That is, volume increases linearly with temperature, when pressure is held constant. (In fact, even better: volume is *proportional* to temperature if pressure is held constant.)
- (b) Explain in detail what the trace of  $V$  with  $T = 5$  tells us.  
 When  $T = 5$ ,  $V(P, 5) = \frac{41.57}{P}$ . That is, volume is *inversely* proportional to pressure, when temperature is held constant: if the pressure gets higher, the volume gets lower, and if the pressure gets lower, the volume gets higher.
- (c) Explain in detail what the level curve  $V = 0.5$  tells us.  
 If  $V = 0.5$ :

$$0.5 = \frac{8.314T}{P}$$

$$P = \frac{8.314}{0.5}T = 16.628T$$

This tells us that at constant volume, temperature is proportional to pressure (or, equivalently, pressure is proportional to temperature).

- (d) Use 2 or three additional traces in each direction to make a rough sketch of the surface over the domain of  $V$  where  $P$  and  $T$  are each nonnegative. Write at least one sentence that describes the way the surface looks.  
 Okay, so we've got linear level curves, linear  $P$ -traces, and  $T$ -traces that look like  $1/P$ . So  $V$  increases linearly in the  $T$  direction, and decreases asymptotically in the  $P$  direction.  
 Here's a graph of  $z = 8.314x/y$  in CalcPlot3D: [Click me](#)



- (e) Based on all your work above, write a couple of sentences that describe the effects that temperature and pressure have on volume.  
 Increasing temperature increases volume (proportionally). Increasing pressure decreases volume (in inverse proportion). If we hold volume constant, then increasing temperature increases pressure, and increasing pressure increases temperature.

3. (ACM 9.1 Exercise 16) When people buy a large ticket item like a car or a house, they often take out a loan to make the purchase. The loan is paid back in monthly installments until the entire amount of the loan, plus interest, is paid. The monthly payment that the borrower has to make depends on the amount  $P$  of money borrowed (called the principal),

the duration  $t$  of the loan in years, and the interest rate  $r$ . For example, if we borrow \$18,000 to buy a car, the monthly payment  $M$  that we need to make to pay off the loan is given by the formula

$$M(r, t) = \frac{1500r}{1 - \frac{1}{\left(1 + \frac{r}{12}\right)^{12t}}}.$$

- (a) Find the monthly payments on this loan if the interest rate is 6% and the duration of the loan is 5 years.

$$M(0.06, 5) = \frac{1500 \cdot 0.06}{1 - \frac{1}{\left(1 + \frac{0.06}{12}\right)^{12 \cdot 5}}} = \$347.99.$$

(Thanks, Wolfram|Alpha!)

- (b) Create a table of values that illustrates the trace of  $M$  with  $r$  fixed at 5%. Use yearly values of  $t$  from 2 to 6. Round payments to the nearest penny. Explain in detail in words what this trace tells us about  $M$ .

$t$	2	3	4	5	6
$M(0.05, t)$	\$789.69	\$539.48	\$414.53	\$339.68	\$289.89

So this tells us that at a fixed interest rate, extending the loan duration decreases the monthly payments (in fact, by a decreasing amount).

- (c) Create a table of values that illustrates the trace of  $M$  with  $t$  fixed at 3 years. Use rates from 3% to 11% in increments of 2%. Round payments to the nearest penny. Explain in detail what this trace tells us about  $M$ .

$r$	3%	5%	7%	9%	11%
$M(r, 3)$	\$523.46	\$539.48	\$555.79	\$572.40	\$589.30

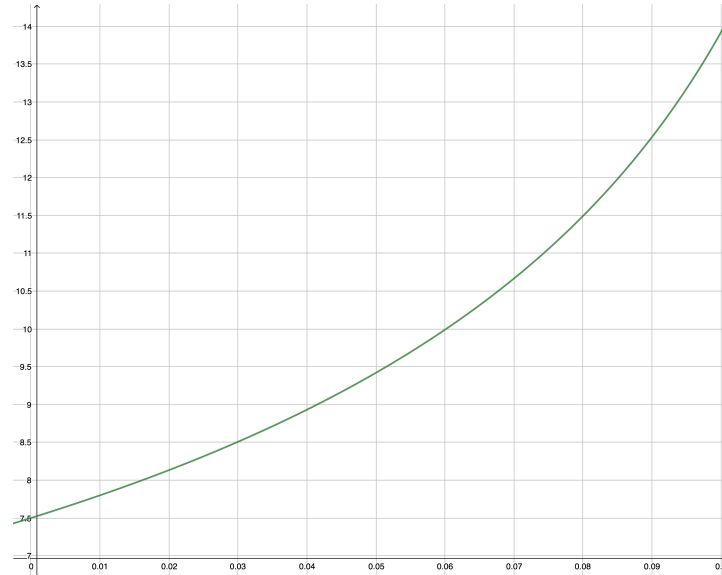
So this tells us that at a fixed loan duration, increasing the interest rate increases the monthly payment (in fact, by an amount that is sliiiiiiiightly increasing).

- (d) Consider the combinations of interest rates and durations of loans that result in a monthly payment of \$200. Solve the equation  $M(r, t) = 200$  for  $t$  to write the duration of the loan in terms of the interest rate. Graph this level curve and explain as best you can the relationship between  $t$  and  $r$ .

Algebra time:

$$\begin{aligned} 200 &= \frac{1500r}{1 - \frac{1}{\left(1 + \frac{r}{12}\right)^{12t}}} \\ 200 \left[ 1 - \left(1 + \frac{r}{12}\right)^{-12t} \right] &= 1500r \\ 1 - \left(1 + \frac{r}{12}\right)^{-12t} &= 7.5r \\ 1 - 7.5r &= \left(1 + \frac{r}{12}\right)^{-12t} \\ \ln(1 - 7.5r) &= -12t \cdot \ln\left(1 + \frac{r}{12}\right) \\ t &= \frac{\ln(1 - 7.5r)}{-12 \ln\left(1 + \frac{r}{12}\right)} \end{aligned}$$

Okay, so that's a perfectly fine function of  $r$  that we now have for  $t$ . We can graph it:



Some notes on the domain and range: reasonable values of  $r$  are probably very small, because  $r$  is our interest rate written as a proportion – that is, an interest rate of 5% is written as  $r = 0.05$ .  $t$  is the number of years, so we can expect it to be probably around 10 or something.

So, if we want to have a fixed monthly payment of \$200, then increasing the duration will force us to increase the interest rate, and increasing the interest rate will force us to increase the duration.

(In other words that are more practical: if we're offered a lower interest rate and we want to keep our payments the same, then we can pay off the loan in a shorter duration.)

4. (ACM 9.1 Exercise 17) Consider the function  $h$  defined by  $h(x, y) = 8 - \sqrt{4 - x^2 - y^2}$ .

- (a) What is the domain of  $h$ ?

Whatever's inside the square root can't be negative, so we need

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &\leq 4 - x^2 - y^2 \\ x^2 + y^2 &\leq 4 \end{aligned}$$

This is any ordered pair  $(x, y)$  inside of a circle of radius 2.

- (b) The *range* of a function is the set of all outputs the function generates. Given that the range of the square root function  $g(t) = \sqrt{t}$  is the set of all nonnegative real numbers, what do you think is the range of  $h$ ? Why?

On the one hand, since  $\sqrt{4 - x^2 - y^2} \geq 0$ , it must be true that  $h(x, y) = 8 - \sqrt{4 - x^2 - y^2} \leq 8$ . This is because the outputs of the square root are 0 or greater, so 8 minus that needs to be below 8.

On the other hand,  $4 - x^2 - y^2$  is definitely below 4, since you're subtracting some definitely-positive things from 4. So  $\sqrt{4 - x^2 - y^2} \leq 2$ , which means that  $h(x, y) = 8 - \sqrt{4 - x^2 - y^2} \geq 6$ .

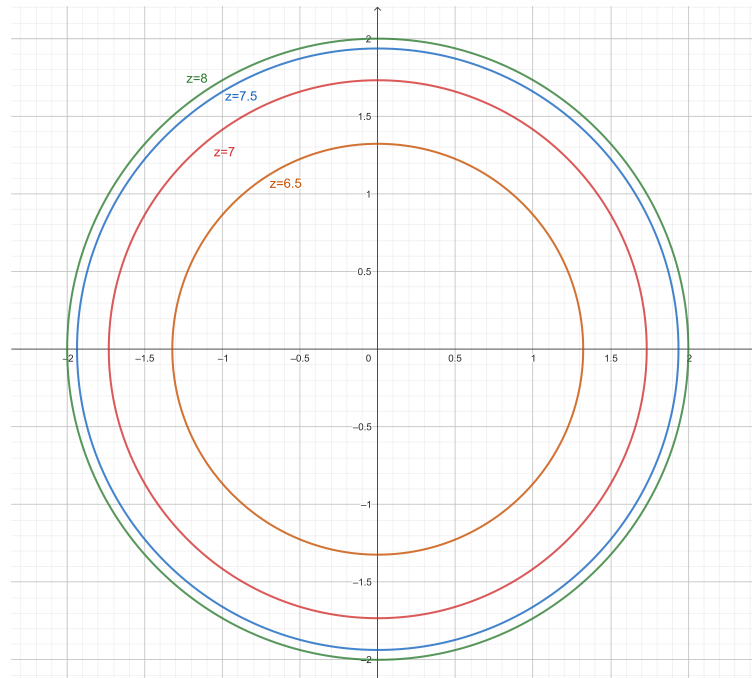
Therefore the range of  $h$  is  $6 \leq z \leq 8$ .

- (c) Choose 4 different values from the range of  $h$  and plot the corresponding level curves in the plane. What is the shape of a typical level curve?

I chose  $z = 6.5, 7, 7.5, 8$ . Level curves are circles:

$$\begin{aligned} 8 - \sqrt{4 - x^2 - y^2} &= 6.5 \\ \sqrt{4 - x^2 - y^2} &= 8 - 6.5 = 1.5 \\ 4 - x^2 - y^2 &= 1.5^2 = 2.25 \\ x^2 + y^2 &= 4 - 2.25 = 1.75 \end{aligned}$$

This is a circle with radius  $\sqrt{1.75} \approx 1.32$ . Similarly, the level curves at  $z = 7, 7.5, 8$  are circles with radius  $\sqrt{3} \approx 1.73$ ,  $\sqrt{3.75} \approx 1.94$ , and 2, respectively.



- (d) Choose 5 different values of  $x$  (including at least one negative value and zero), and sketch the corresponding traces of the function  $h$ .

I chose  $x = -1, -0.5, 0, 0.5, 1$ :

$$h(-1, y) = 8 - \sqrt{4 - (-1)^2 - y^2} = 8 - \sqrt{3 - y^2}$$

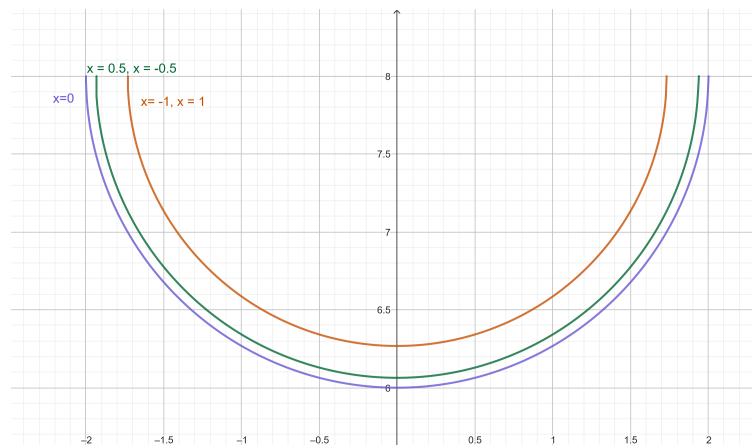
$$h(-0.5, y) = 8 - \sqrt{4 - (-0.5)^2 - y^2} = 8 - \sqrt{3.75 - y^2}$$

$$h(0, y) = 8 - \sqrt{4 - (0)^2 - y^2} = 8 - \sqrt{4 - y^2}$$

$$h(0.5, y) = 8 - \sqrt{4 - (0.5)^2 - y^2} = 8 - \sqrt{3.75 - y^2}$$

$$h(1, y) = 8 - \sqrt{4 - (1)^2 - y^2} = 8 - \sqrt{3 - y^2}$$

These are all semicircles:



Notice in particular there's a symmetry with positive vs. negative values for  $x$ .

- (e) Choose 5 different values of  $y$  (including at least one negative value and zero), and sketch the corresponding traces of the function  $h$ .

These are totally the same!

$$h(x, -1) = 8 - \sqrt{4 - (-1)^2} = 8 - \sqrt{3 - x^2}$$

$$h(x, -0.5) = 8 - \sqrt{4 - x^2 - (-0.5)^2} = 8 - \sqrt{3.75 - x^2}$$

$$h(x, 0) = 8 - \sqrt{4 - x^2 - (0)^2} = 8 - \sqrt{4 - x^2}$$

$$h(x, 0.5) = 8 - \sqrt{4 - x^2 - (0.5)^2} = 8 - \sqrt{3.75 - x^2}$$

$$h(x, 1) = 8 - \sqrt{4 - x^2 - (1)^2} = 8 - \sqrt{3 - x^2}$$

- (f) Sketch an overall picture of the surface generated by  $h$  and write at least one sentence to describe how the surface appears visually. Does the surface remind you of a familiar physical structure in nature?

It's a spherical bowl! ([Click me!](#))

