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### 3. The geometry of linear approximation

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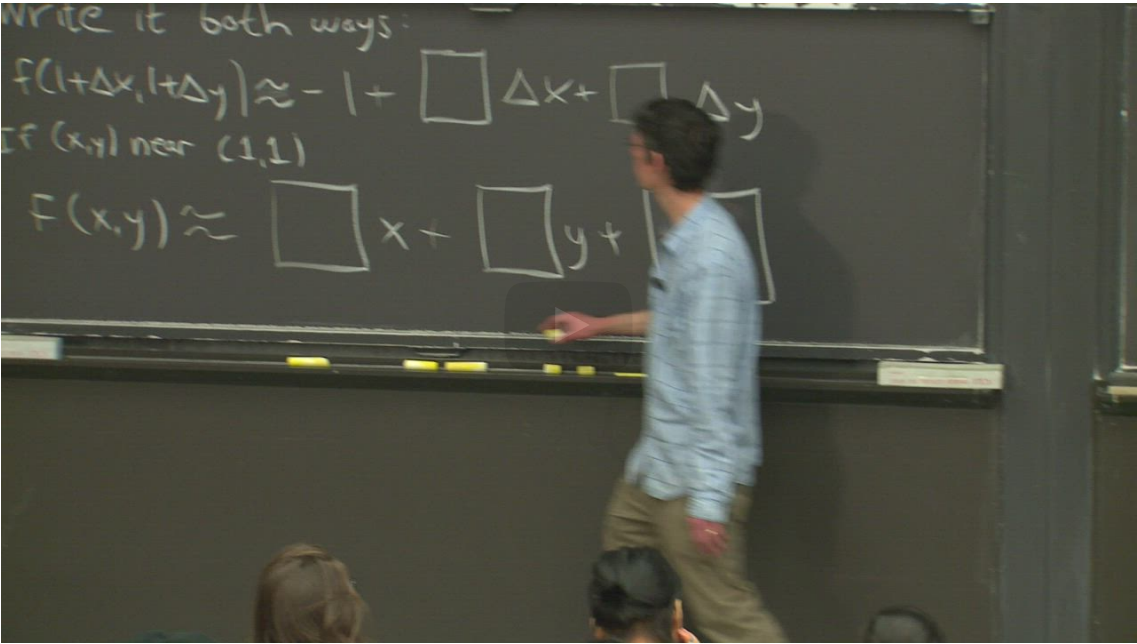
Lecture due Aug 18, 2021 20:30 IST    Completed



Review

Review of linear approximation

Start of transcript. Skip to the end.



PROFESSOR: Let's start to talk it through together.

If you want to, you can keep working until I get down to here or so.

So we take the x derivative of this-- that.

And if we plug in x equals 1-- if you plug in 1 and 1

▶ 0:00 / 0:00

▶ 2.0x

🔊

🔍

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Video

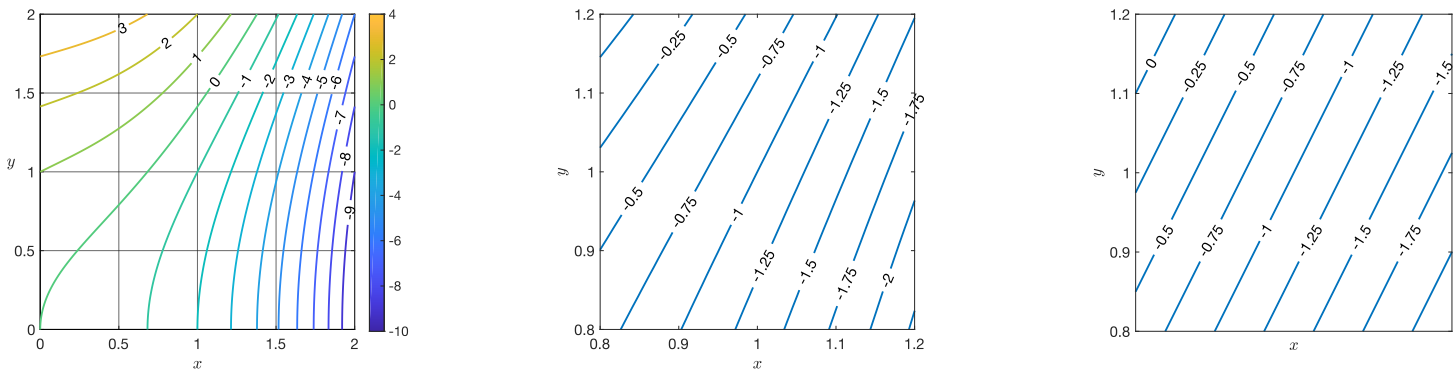
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Consider the following figures.



Left: Level curves of  $f(x, y) = y^2 - x^3 - x$ .

Center: Level curves of  $f(x, y) = y^2 - x^3 - x$  zoomed in near  $(1, 1)$ .

Right: Level curves of the tangent plane  $z = -4x + 2y + 1$ .

On the left, we have the level curves of  $f(x, y) = y^2 - x^3 - x$ . In the center, we have those same level curves but zoomed in near  $(1, 1)$ . On the right, we have the level curves of the tangent plane at  $(1, 1)$  given by  $z = -4x + 2y + 1$ .

You can see that the level curves in the center are similar to the parallel lines on the right. When we zoom in on the function  $f(x, y)$ , its level curves look more and more like the level curves of the tangent plane.

Find a normal vector

1.0/1 point (graded)

Find a normal vector to level curves of  $f$  at  $(1, 1)$ .

Calculator

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(Enter as a vector between square brackets. For example, enter the vector  $\langle \mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b} \rangle$  as .)

 $[-4, 2]$ 

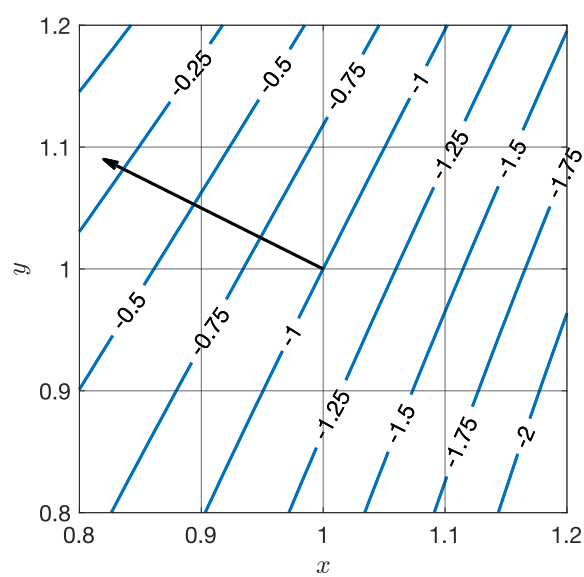
✓ **Answer:**  $[-4, 2]$

**Solution:**

One idea is to find the normal vector to the level lines of  $z = -4x + 2y + 1$ . We saw how to do this last lecture. Let's take the level curve at height  $-1$  since this is the value of  $f(1, 1)$ . So the level curve we have is

$$-4x + 2y + 1 = -1$$

and the normal vector is  $(-4, 2)$ . Let's look at a picture of this. I've re-scaled the vector so it fits on the axes shown.



A scaled vector pointing in the direction  $(-4,2)$  is

perpendicular to the level curve of  $f$  at the point  $(1,1)$ .

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You have used 1 of 7 attempts

**i** Answers are displayed within the problem

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