2. Introduction

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We have seen that we can use linear approximation to represent a function like $z = f(x, y)$ near a given point by its tangent plane. In this lecture, we will explore a way to reframe the approximation using the language of matrices. By repackaging this approximation as a matrix, we can obtain further insight about the behavior of the function near that point.

Approximating a function with a linear function is called "Linearization". You will also see applications of linearization including:

1. Controlling a robot arm.

2. Accurately serving a volleyball.

3. Sensitivity analysis.

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