

Calculus III

Lecture 9

Todor Milev

<https://github.com/tmilev/freecalc>

2020

Outline

1 Partial Derivatives

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- 1 Partial Derivatives
- 2 Linearizations

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- 3 Differentiability

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- 2 Linearizations
- 3 Differentiability
- 4 Differentials

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- Naive answer: with respect to **distance** from P_0 : $\frac{f(P) - f(P_0)}{|P_0P|}$.
- Problem with naive answer: **the instantaneous rate of change may fail to exist**: $\lim_{P \rightarrow P_0} \frac{f(P) - f(P_0)}{|P_0P|}$.

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- Almost solves the problem: orientation still matters.

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- Define $(D_{\mathbf{u}}f)(P_0)$ to be the instantaneous rate of change of f along the line L .

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- Then $(D_i f)(x_0, y_0) = \lim_{t \rightarrow 0} \frac{g(t) - g(0)}{t}$.
- Define $\frac{\partial}{\partial x}$ to be the differential operator D_i , and similarly define $\frac{\partial}{\partial y}$ to be the differential operator D_j .

Definition (partial derivatives)

The partial derivatives $\frac{\partial}{\partial x}$, $\frac{\partial}{\partial y}$ of f are defined as the directional derivatives of f in the direction of the unit vector along the x , y axes, i.e.,

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{\partial}{\partial x}(f) &= (D_i)(f) \\ \frac{\partial}{\partial y}(f) &= (D_j)(f) \quad .\end{aligned}$$

- Just as with one-variable derivatives, a number of notations are used/accepted.
- Notations for partial derivatives:

$$\begin{aligned}(D_i f)(x_0, y_0) &= \frac{\partial f}{\partial x}(x_0, y_0) \\ &= f_x(x_0, y_0) \\ &= (\partial_x f)(x_0, y_0) \\ (D_j f)(x_0, y_0) &= \frac{\partial f}{\partial y}(x_0, y_0) \\ &= f_y(x_0, y_0) \\ &= (\partial_y f)(x_0, y_0)\end{aligned}$$

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- To compute a partial derivative with respect to a variable:
 - consider all other variables as constants and
 - apply the rules for differentiation for single variable functions.

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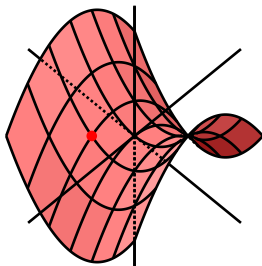
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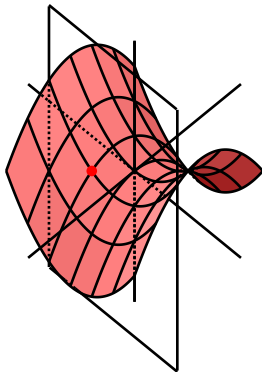
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Graphical Interpretation

- Recall the graph of f is the surface whose points are $\{(x, y, f(x, y))\}$.

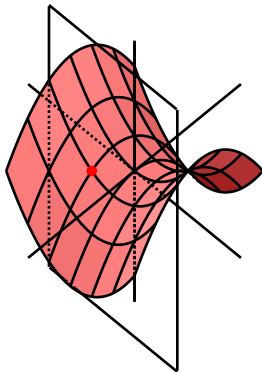


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- The vertical plane containing the line $\mathbf{r} = \mathbf{r}_0 + t\mathbf{i}$ is the plane $y = y_0$.

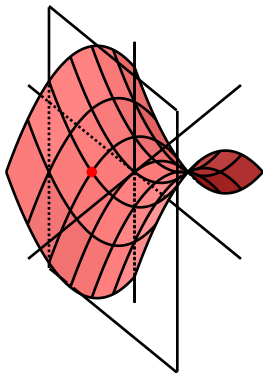
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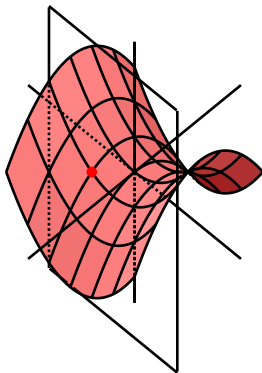
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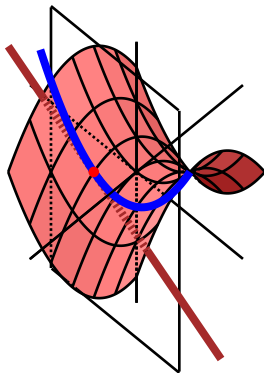


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- In the xz -plane $y = y_0$, the slope of this line is $h'(x_0) = f_x(x_0, y_0)$.

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- An analogous theorem is valid in n dimensions.

Linearizations

$$z = f(x_0, y_0) + f_x(x_0, y_0)(x - x_0) + f_y(x_0, y_0)(y - y_0) \quad .$$

Definition

The function

$$L_{f, (x_0, y_0)}(x, y) = f(x_0, y_0) + f_x(x_0, y_0)(x - x_0) + f_y(x_0, y_0)(y - y_0)$$

is called the is called the **linearization** of f at (x_0, y_0) .

Differentiability

If $y = h(x)$ is a function of one variable, then

$$L_{h,x_0}(x) = h(x_0) + h'(x_0)(x - x_0)$$

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But is that a *good* linear approximation? Unfortunately, **not always!**

Multivariable Differentiability Definition

- Let (x_0, y_0) be a fixed point and a and b be arbitrary numbers.
- Define $\varepsilon_{f,a,b}(x, y) = f(x, y) - f(x_0, y_0) - a(x - x_0) - b(y - y_0)$.
- $\varepsilon_{f,a,b}$ measures how well does $f(x_0, y_0) + a(x - x_0) + b(y - y_0)$ approximate f .

For the particular case: $a = \frac{\partial f}{\partial x}(x_0, y_0)$ $b = \frac{\partial f}{\partial y}(x_0, y_0)$ we have:

$$\varepsilon_{f,a,b}(x, y) = f(x, y) - f(x_0, y_0) - \frac{\partial f}{\partial x}(x_0, y_0)(x - x_0) - \frac{\partial f}{\partial y}(x_0, y_0)(y - y_0).$$

Definition

f is called *differentiable* at (x_0, y_0) if there exist a and b such that

$$\lim_{(x,y) \rightarrow (0,0)} \frac{\varepsilon_{f,a,b}(x, y)}{|(x - x_0, y - y_0)|} = 0$$

Remark. If a function f is differentiable, then the numbers a and b equal $f_x(x_0, y_0)$ and $f_y(x_0, y_0)$.

Example: $f(x, y) = x^2 + xy + 2y^2$ is differentiable at $(4, 1)$.

Total Differential

If f is differentiable at (x_0, y_0) , then

$$f(x, y) \simeq f(x_0, y_0) + f_x(x_0, y_0)(x - x_0) + f_y(x_0, y_0)(y - y_0)$$

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Alternatively:

$$df = f_x dx + f_y dy \quad \text{or} \quad df = f_x dx + f_y dy + f_z dz$$

Δf : actual change in f

$df \simeq \Delta f$: infinitesimal change in f

$f_x(x_0, y_0), f_y(x_0, y_0)$: error propagation factors

Example

A cylinder has radius $r = 3\text{cm}$ and height $h = 5\text{cm}$. The error in measuring the radius is $\pm 1\text{mm}$, and the error in measuring the height is $\pm 1\text{mm}$. Estimate the error in the volume of the cylinder.

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Remark: Since $V_r(3, 5) > V_h(3, 5)$, the result is more sensitive to errors in r than to errors in h .