CHAPTER 13   PARTIAL DERIVATIVES

13.1   Surfaces and Level Curves   (page 475)

The graph of $z = f(x, y)$ is a surface in xyz space. When f is a linear function, the surface is flat (a plane). When $f = x^2 + y^2$ the surface is curved (a parabola is revolved to make a bowl). When $f = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2}$ the surface is pointed (a cone resting on the origin). These three examples carry you a long way.

To visualize a surface we cut through it by planes. Often the cutting planes are horizontal, with the simple equation $z = c$ (a constant). This plane meets the surface in a *level curve*, and the equation of that curve is $c = f(x, y)$. The cutting is up at all different heights c, but we move all the level curves down to the xy plane. For the bowl $z = x^2 + y^2$ the level curves are $c = x^2 + y^2$ (circles). For the cone $z = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2}$ the level curves are $c = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2}$ (again circles – just square both sides). For the plane $z = x + y$ the level curves are straight lines $c = x + y$ (parallel to each other as c changes).

The collection of level curves in the xy plane is a *contour map*. If you are climbing on the surface, the map tells you two important things:

1. Which way is up: Perpendicular to the level curve is the steepest direction.

2. How steep the surface is: Divide the change in c by the distance between level curves.

A climbing map shows the curves at equal steps of c. The mountain is steeper when the level curves are closer.

1. Describe the level curves for the saddle surface $z = xy$.

   - The curve $xy = 1$ is a *hyperbola*. One branch is in the first quadrant through $(1,1)$. The other branch is in the third quadrant through $(-1, -1)$. At these points the saddle surface has $z = 1$.

   The curve $xy = -1$ is also a hyperbola. Its two pieces go through $(1, -1)$ and $(-1, 1)$. At these points the surface has $z = xy = -1$ and it is below the plane $z = 0$.

2. How does a maximum of $f(x, y)$ show up on the contour map of level curves?

   - Think about the top point of the surface. The highest cutting plane just touches that top point. The level curve is only a point! When the plane moves lower, it cuts out a curve that goes around the top point. So the contour map shows "near-circles" closing in on a single maximum point. A minimum looks just the same, but the c's decrease as the contour lines close in.

Read-throughs and selected even-numbered solutions :

The graph of $z = f(x, y)$ is a **surface** in **three-dimensional** space. The **level curve** $f(x, y) = 7$ lies down in the base plane. Above this level curve are all points at height **7** in the surface. The plane $z = 7$ cuts through the surface at those points. The level curves $f(x, y) = $ **c** are drawn in the xy plane and labeled by **c**. The family of labeled curves is a **contour** map.

For $z = f(x, y) = x^2 - y^2$, the equation for a level curve is $\mathbf{x^2 - y^2} = $ c. This curve is a **hyperbola**. For $z = x - y$ the curves are **straight lines**. *Level curves never cross because* $\mathbf{f(x,y)}$ **cannot equal two numbers c and c'**. They crowd together when the surface is **steep**. The curves tighten to a point when **f reaches a maximum or minimum**. The steepest direction on a mountain is **perpendicular to the level curve**.

6 $(x + y)^2 = 0$ gives the line $\mathbf{y = -x}$; $(x + y)^2 = 1$ gives the **pair of lines** $x + y = 1$ and $x + y = -1$; similarly $\mathbf{x + y = \sqrt{2}}$ and $\mathbf{x + y = -\sqrt{2}}$; no level curve $(x + y)^2 = -4$.

16 $f(x, y) = \{$ maximum of $x^2 + y^2 - 1$ and zero $\}$ is zero inside the unit circle.

18 $\sqrt{4x^2 + y^2} = c + 2x$ gives $4x^2 + y^2 = c^2 + 4cx + 4x^2$ or $\mathbf{y^2 = c^2 + 4cx}$. This is a **parabola** opening to the left or right.

30 Direct approach: $xy = \left(\frac{x_1+x_2}{2}\right)\left(\frac{y_1+y_2}{2}\right) = \frac{1}{4}(x_1y_1 + x_2y_2 + x_1y_2 + x_2y_1) = \frac{1}{4}\left(1 + 1 + \frac{x_1}{x_2} + \frac{x_2}{x_1}\right)$

$= 1 + \frac{(x_1-x_2)^2}{4x_1x_2} \geq 1$. **Quicker approach:** $y = \frac{1}{x}$ is concave up (or convex) because $y'' = \frac{2}{x^3}$ is positive.
Note for convex functions: Tangent lines below curve, secant line segments above curve!

13.2   Partial Derivatives   (page 479)

I am sure you are good at taking partial derivatives. They are like ordinary derivatives, when you close your eyes to the other variables. As the text says, *"Do not treat y as zero!* Treat it as a constant." Just pretend that $y = 5$. That applies to $\frac{\partial}{\partial x}e^{xy} = y\, e^{xy}$ and $\frac{\partial}{\partial x}(x^2 + xy^2) = 2x + y^2$.

Remember that $\frac{\partial f}{\partial x}$ is also written f_x. The y-derivative of this function is $\frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial y\, \partial x}$ or f_{xy}. *A major point is that* $f_{xy} = f_{yx}$. The y-derivative of $\frac{\partial f}{\partial x}$ equals the x-derivative of $\frac{\partial f}{\partial y}$. Take $f = x^2 + xy^2$ with $\frac{\partial f}{\partial y} = 2xy$:

$$\frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial y\, \partial x} = \frac{\partial}{\partial y}(2x + y^2) = 2y \qquad \text{and} \qquad \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x\, \partial y} = \frac{\partial}{\partial x}(2xy) = 2y.$$

Problem 43 proves this rule $f_{xy} = f_{yx}$, assuming that both functions are continuous. Here is another example:

1. The partial derivatives of $f(x, y) = e^{xy}$ are $f_x = ye^{xy}$ and $f_y = xe^{xy}$. Find f_{xx}, f_{xy}, f_{yx}, and f_{yy}.

   - f_{xx} is $\frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x^2}$ or $\frac{\partial}{\partial x}\left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial x}\right)$. This is $\frac{\partial}{\partial x}(ye^{xy}) = y^2 e^{xy}$. Similarly f_{yy} is $\frac{\partial}{\partial y}(xe^{xy}) = x^2 e^{xy}$. The mixed derivatives are equal as usual:

   $$\frac{\partial}{\partial y}\left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial x}\right) = \frac{\partial}{\partial y}(ye^{xy}) = y(xe^{xy}) + 1(e^{xy}) \text{ by the product rule}$$

   $$\frac{\partial}{\partial x}\left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial y}\right) = \frac{\partial}{\partial x}(xe^{xy}) = x(ye^{xy}) + 1(e^{xy}) \text{ by the product rule}$$

   You *must* notice that it is $\partial^2 f$ above and ∂x^2 below. We divide $\Delta(\Delta f)$ by $(\Delta x)^2$.

2. What does that mean? How is $\Delta(\Delta f)$ different from $(\Delta f)^2$?

   - Start with $f(x)$. The forward difference Δf is $f(x + \Delta x) - f(x)$. This is a function of x. So we can take *its* forward difference:

   $$\Delta(\Delta f) = \Delta f(x + \Delta x) - \Delta f(x) = [f(x + 2\Delta x) - f(x + \Delta x)] - [f(x + \Delta x) - f(x)]$$

   This is totally different from $(\Delta f)^2 = [f(x + \Delta x) - f(x)]^2$. In the limit $\frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x^2}$ is totally different from $\left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial x}\right)^2$.

3. Which third derivatives are equal to f_{xxy}? This is $\frac{\partial}{\partial y}(f_{xx})$ or $\frac{\partial^3 f}{\partial y\, \partial x^2}$.

   - We are taking *one* y-derivative and *two* x-derivatives. The order does not matter (for a smooth function). Therefore $f_{xxy} = f_{xyx} = f_{yxx}$.

Notice Problems 45 – 52 about limits and continuity for functions $f(x,y)$. This two-variable case is more subtle than limits and continuity of $f(x)$. In a course on mathematical analysis this topic would be expanded. In a calculus course I believe in completing the definitions and applying them.

More important in practice are *partial differential equations* like $\frac{\partial f}{\partial t} = \frac{\partial f}{\partial x}$ and $\frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial t^2} = \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x^2}$ and $\frac{\partial f}{\partial t} = \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x^2}$. Those are the *one-way* wave equation and the *two-way* wave equation and the *heat* equation. Problem 42 says that if $\frac{\partial f}{\partial t} = \frac{\partial f}{\partial x}$ then automatically $\frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial t^2} = \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x^2}$. A one-way wave is a special case of a two-way wave.

4. Solve Problem 42. Then find $f(x,t)$ that satisfies the 2-way equation but not the 1-way equation.

• Suppose a particular function satisfies $f_t = f_x$. Take t-derivatives to get $f_{tt} = f_{xt}$. Take x-derivatives to get $f_{tx} = f_{xx}$. The mixed derivatives agree for *any* smooth function: $f_{xt} = f_{tx}$. Therefore $f_{tt} = f_{xx}$.

Example of a 1-way wave: $f = (x+t)^2$. The function $f = (x-t)^2$ does *not* satisfy the 1-way equation, because $f_x = 2(x-t)$ and $f_t = -2(x-t)$. It satisfies the *other-way* wave equation $f_t = -f_x$ with a minus sign. But this is enough for the 2-way equation because $f_{xx} = 2$ and $f_{tt} = 2$.

In general $F(x+t)$ solves the one-way equation, $G(x-t)$ solves the other-way equation, and their sum $F+G$ solves the two-way equation.

Read-throughs and selected even-numbered solutions :

The **partial derivative** $\partial f/\partial y$ comes from fixing x and moving y. It is the limit of $(\mathbf{f(x, y+\Delta y) - f(x,y)})/\mathbf{\Delta y}$. If $f = e^{2x}\sin y$ then $\partial f/\partial x = \mathbf{2e^{2x}\sin y}$ and $\partial f/\partial y = \mathbf{e^{2x}\cos y}$. If $f = (x^2+y^2)^{1/2}$ then $f_x = \mathbf{x/(x^2+y^2)^{1/2}}$ and $f_y = \mathbf{y/(x^2+y^2)^{1/2}}$. At (x_0, y_0) the partial derivative f_x is the ordinary derivative of the **partial function** $f(x, y_0)$. Similarly f_y comes from $\mathbf{f(x_0, y)}$. Those functions are cut out by vertical planes $x = x_0$ and $\mathbf{y = y_0}$, while the level curves are cut out by **horizontal** planes.

The four second derivatives are $f_{xx}, \mathbf{f_{xy}, f_{yx}, f_{yy}}$. For $f = xy$ they are $\mathbf{0, 1, 1, 0}$. For $f = \cos 2x\cos 3y$ they are $\mathbf{-4\cos 2x\cos y, 6\sin 2x\sin 3y, -9\cos 2x\cos 3y}$. In those examples the derivatives $\mathbf{f_{xy}}$ and $\mathbf{f_{yx}}$ are the same. That is always true when the second derivatives are **continuous**. At the origin, $\cos 2x\cos 3y$ is curving **down** in the x and y directions, while xy goes **up** in the 45° direction and **down** in the −45° direction.

8 $\frac{\partial f}{\partial x} = \frac{1}{x+2y}, \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} = \frac{2}{x+2y}$

18 $f_{xx} = n(n-1)(x+y)^{n-2} = f_{xy} = f_{yx} = f_{yy}$!

20 $f_{xx} = \frac{2}{(x+iy)^3}, f_{xy} = f_{yx} = \frac{2i}{(x+iy)^3}, f_{yy} = \frac{2i^2}{(x+iy)^3} = \frac{-2}{(x+iy)^3}$ Note $f_{xx} + f_{yy} = 0$.

28 $\frac{\partial f}{\partial x} = -v(x)$ and $\frac{\partial f}{\partial y} = v(y)$.

36 $f_x = \frac{1}{\sqrt{t}}(\frac{-2x}{4t})e^{-x^2/4t}$. Then $f_{xx} = f_t = \frac{-1}{2t^{3/2}}e^{-x^2/4t} + \frac{x^2}{4t^{5/2}}e^{-x^2/4t}$.

38 $e^{-m^2t-n^2t}\sin mx\cos ny$ solves $f_t = f_{xx} + f_{yy}$. Also $f = \frac{1}{t}e^{-(x^2+y^2)/4t}$ has $f_t = f_{xx} + f_{yy} = (-\frac{1}{t^2} + \frac{x^2+y^2}{4t^3})e^{-(x^2+y^2)/4t}$.

50 Along $y = mx$ the function is $\frac{mx^3}{x^4+m^2x^2} \to 0$ (the ratio is near $\frac{mx^3}{m^2x^2}$ for small x). But on the parabola $y = x^2$ the function is $\frac{x^4}{2x^4} = \frac{1}{2}$. So this function $f(x,y)$ has **no limit**: not continuous at $(0,0)$.

13.3 Tangent Planes and Linear Approximations (page 488)

A smooth curve has tangent lines. The equation of the line uses the derivative (the slope). *A smooth surface has tangent planes.* The equation of the plane uses *two partial derivatives* f_x and f_y (two slopes). Compare

line $\quad y - f(a) = f'(a)(x - a) \quad$ **with** $\quad z - f(a, b) = f_x(a, b)(x - a) + f_y(a, b)(y - b) \quad$ **plane.**

These are *linear equations.* On the left is $y = mx + $ constant. On the right is $z = Mx + Ny + $ constant. Linear equations give lines in the xy plane, and they give planes in xyz space. The nice thing is that the first slope $M = \partial f / \partial x$ stays completely separate from the second slope $N = \partial f / \partial y$.

I will follow up that last sentence. Suppose we change a by Δx and b by Δy. The basepoint is (a, b) and the movement is to $(a + \Delta x, b + \Delta y)$. Knowing the function f and its derivatives at the basepoint, we can predict the function (*linear approximation*) at the nearby point. In one variable we follow the tangent line to $f(a) + f'(a)\Delta x$. In two variables we follow the tangent plane to the nearby point:

$$f(a + \Delta x, b + \Delta y) \approx f(a, b) + \Delta x \, f_x(a, b) + \Delta y \, f_y(a, b).$$

We add on *two linear corrections*, in the x and y directions. Often these formulas are written with x instead of a and y instead of b. The movement is from $f(x, y)$ to $f(x + \Delta x, y + \Delta y)$. The change is $\Delta x \, f_x + \Delta y \, f_y$.

1. Estimate the change in $f(x, y) = x^3 y^4$ when you move from $(1,1)$ to $(1 + \Delta x, 1 + \Delta y)$.

   - The x-derivative is $f_x = 3x^2 y^4 = 3$ at the basepoint $(1,1)$. The y-derivative is $f_y = 4x^3 y^3 = 4$ at the basepoint. The change Δf is approximately $f_x \Delta x + f_y \Delta y$. This is $3\Delta x + 4\Delta y$:

   $$f(x, y) = (1 + \Delta x)^3 (1 + \Delta y)^4 \approx 1 + 3\Delta x + 4\Delta y.$$

   On the left, the high powers $(\Delta x)^3 (\Delta y)^4$ would multiply. But the lowest powers Δx and Δy just add. You can see that if you write out $(1 + \Delta x)^3$ and $(1 + \Delta y)^4$ and start multiplying:

   $$(1 + 3\Delta x + 3(\Delta x)^2 + (\Delta x)^3)(1 + 4\Delta y + \cdots) = 1 + 3\Delta x + 4\Delta y + \text{ higher terms.}$$

   These higher terms come into the complete Taylor series. The constant and linear terms are the start of that series. They give the linear approximation.

2. Find the equation of the *tangent plane* to the surface $z = x^3 y^4$ at $(x, y) = (1, 1)$.

   The plane is $z - 1 = 3(x - 1) + 4(y - 1)$. If $x - 1$ is Δx and $y - 1$ is Δy, this is $z = 1 + 3\Delta x + 4\Delta y$. Same as Question 1. The tangent plane gives the linear approximation!

   Some surfaces do not have "explicit equations" $z = f(x, y)$. That gives one z for each x and y. A more general equation is $F(x, y, z) = 0$. An example is the sphere $F = x^2 + y^2 + z^2 - 4 = 0$. We could solve to find $z = \sqrt{4 - x^2 - y^2}$ and also $z = -\sqrt{4 - x^2 - y^2}$. These are *two* surfaces of the type $z = f(x, y)$, to give the top half and bottom half of the sphere. In other examples it is difficult or impossible to solve for z and we really want to stay with the "*implicit equation*" $F(x, y, z) = 0$.

   How do you find tangent planes and linear approximations for $F(x, y, z) = 0$? Problem 3 shows by example.

3. The surface $xz + 2yz - 10 = 0$ goes through the point $(x_0, y_0, z_0) = (1, 2, 2)$. Find the tangent plane and normal vector. Estimate z when $x = 1.1$ and $y = 1.9$.

- Main idea: *Go ahead and differentiate* $F = xz + 2yz - 10$. Not only x and y derivatives, also z :

$$\frac{\partial F}{\partial x} = z = 2 \quad \text{and} \quad \frac{\partial F}{\partial y} = 2z = 4 \quad \text{and} \quad \frac{\partial F}{\partial z} = x + 2y = 5 \quad \text{at the basepoint } (1,2,2).$$

The tangent plane is $2(x - 1) + 4(y - 2) + 5(z - 2) = 0$. The normal vector is $N = (2, 4, 5)$. Notice how F_x, F_y, and F_z multiply Δx and Δy and Δz. The total change is ΔF which is zero (because F is constant: the surface is $F = 0$). A linear approximation stays on the tangent plane! So if you know $x = 1.1$ and $y = 1.9$ you can solve for z on the plane:

$$2(1.1 - 1) + 4(1.9 - 2) + 5(z - 2) = 0 \text{ gives } z = 2 - \frac{2(.1)}{5} - \frac{4(-.1)}{5}. \text{ This is } z = z_0 - \frac{F_x}{F_z}\Delta x - \frac{F_y}{F_z}\Delta y.$$

I would memorize the tangent plane formula, which is $(F_x)(x - x_0) + (F_y)(y - y_0) + (F_z)(z - z_0) = 0$.

In this example you *could* solve $F = xz + 2yz - 10 = 0$ to find z. The explicit equation $z = f(x, y)$ is $z = \frac{10}{x + 2y}$. Its x and y derivatives give the same tangent plane as the x, y, z derivatives of F.

The last topic in this important section is ***Newton's method***. It deals with *two* functions $g(x, y)$ and $h(x, y)$. Solving $g(x, y) = 0$ should give a curve, solving $h(x, y) = 0$ should give another curve, and solving *both* equations should give the point (or points) where the two curves meet. When the functions are complicated – they usually are – we "linearize." Instead of $g(x, y) = 0$ and $h(x, y) = 0$ Newton solves

$$g(x_0, y_0) + \left(\frac{\partial g}{\partial x}\right)_0(\Delta x) + \left(\frac{\partial g}{\partial y}\right)_0(\Delta y) = 0$$

$$h(x_0, y_0) + \left(\frac{\partial h}{\partial x}\right)_0(\Delta x) + \left(\frac{\partial h}{\partial y}\right)_0(\Delta y) = 0.$$

Those are linear equations for Δx *and* Δy. We move to the new basepoint $(x_1, y_1) = (x_0 + \Delta x, y_0 + \Delta y)$ and start again. Newton's method solves many linear equations instead of $g(x, y) = 0$ and $h(x, y) = 0$.

4. Take one Newton step from $(x_0, y_0) = (1, 2)$ toward the solution of $g = xy - 3 = 0$ and $h = x + y - 2 = 0$.

- The partial derivatives at the basepoint $(1,2)$ are $g_x = y = 2$ and $g_y = x = 1$ and $h_x = 1$ and $h_y = 1$. The functions themselves are $g = -1$ and $h = 1$. Newton solves the two linear equations above (tangent equations) for Δx and Δy:

$$\begin{array}{l} -1 + 2\Delta x + \Delta y = 0 \\ 1 + \Delta x + \Delta y = 0 \end{array} \text{ give } \begin{array}{l} \Delta x = 2 \\ \Delta y = -3 \end{array} \quad \text{The new guess is } \begin{array}{l} x_1 = x_0 + \Delta x = 3 \\ y_1 = y_0 + \Delta y = -1. \end{array}$$

The new point $(3, -1)$ exactly solves $h = x + y - 2 = 0$. It misses badly on $g = xy - 3 = 0$. This surprised me because the method is usually terrific. Then I tried to solve the equations exactly by algebra.

Substituting $y = 2 - x$ from the second equation into the first gave $x(2 - x) - 3 = 0$. This is a quadratic $x^2 - 2x + 3 = 0$. But it has no real solutions! Both roots are complex numbers. Newton never had a chance.

Read-throughs and selected even-numbered solutions :

The tangent line to $y = f(x)$ is $y - y_0 = \mathbf{f'(x_0)(x - x_0)}$. The tangent plane to $w = f(x, y)$ is $w - w_0 = (\partial f/\partial x)_0(x - x_0) + (\partial f/\partial y)_0(y - y_0)$. The normal vector is $\mathbf{N = (f_x, f_y, -1)}$. For $w = x^3 + y^3$ the tangent equation at $(1,1,2)$ is $\mathbf{w - 2 = 3(x - 1) + 3(y - 1)}$. The normal vector is $\mathbf{N = (3, 3, -1)}$. For a sphere, the direction of $\mathbf{N}$ is **out from the origin**.

The surface given implicitly by $F(x, y, z) = c$ has tangent plane with equation $(\partial F/\partial x)_0(x - x_0) + (\partial \mathbf{F}/\partial \mathbf{y})(\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{y_0}) + (\partial \mathbf{F}/\partial \mathbf{z})_0(\mathbf{z} - \mathbf{z_0}) = 0$. For $xyz = 6$ at $(1,2,3)$ the tangent plane has the equation

$6(x - 1) + 3(y - 2) + 2(z - 3) = 0$. On that plane the differentials satisfy $6dx + 3dy + 2dz = 0$. The differential of $z = f(x, y)$ is $dz = f_x dx + f_y dy$. This holds exactly on the tangent plane, while $\Delta z \approx f_x \Delta x + f_y \Delta y$ holds approximately on the **surface**. The height $z = 3x + 7y$ is more sensitive to a change in **y** than in x, because the partial derivative $\partial z/\partial y = 7$ is larger than $\partial z/\partial x = 3$.

The linear approximation to $f(x, y)$ is $f(x_0, y_0) + (\partial f/\partial x)_0 (x - x_0) + (\partial f/\partial y)_0 (y - y_0)$. This is the same as $\Delta f \approx (\partial f/\partial x) \Delta x + (\partial f/\partial y) \Delta y$. The error is of order $(\Delta x)^2 + (\Delta y)^2$. For $f = \sin xy$ the linear approximation around $(0,0)$ is $f_L = 0$. We are moving along the **tangent plane** instead of the **surface**. When the equation is given as $F(x, y, z) = c$, the linear approximation is $F_x \Delta x + F_y \Delta y + F_z \Delta z = 0$.

Newton's method solves $g(x, y) = 0$ and $h(x, y) = 0$ by a **linear** approximation. Starting from x_n, y_n the equations are replaced by $g_x \Delta x + g_y \Delta y = -g(x_n, y_n)$ and $h_x \Delta x + h_y \Delta y = -h(x_n, y_n)$. The steps Δx and Δy go to the next point (x_{n+1}, y_{n+1}). Each solution has a basin of **attraction**. Those basins are likely to be **fractals**.

8 $\mathbf{N} = 8\pi \mathbf{i} + 4\pi \mathbf{j} - \mathbf{k}; 8\pi(r - 2) + 4\pi(h - 2) = V - 8\pi$

12 $\mathbf{N}_1 = 2\mathbf{i} + 4\mathbf{j} - \mathbf{k}$ and $\mathbf{N}_2 = 2\mathbf{i} + 6\mathbf{j} - \mathbf{k}$ give $\mathbf{v} = \begin{vmatrix} \mathbf{i} & \mathbf{j} & \mathbf{k} \\ 2 & 4 & -1 \\ 2 & 6 & -1 \end{vmatrix} = 2\mathbf{i} + 4\mathbf{k}$ tangent to both surfaces

14 The direction of $\mathbf{N}$ is $2xy^2 \mathbf{i} + 2x^2 y \mathbf{j} - \mathbf{k} = 8\mathbf{i} + 4\mathbf{j} - \mathbf{k}$. So the line through $(1,2,4)$ has $x = 1 + 8t, y = 2 + 4t$, $z = 4 - t$.

18 $df = yz\, dx + xz\, dy + xy\, dz$.

32 $\frac{3}{4}\Delta x - \Delta y = \frac{3}{8}$ and $-\Delta x + \frac{3}{4}\Delta y = \frac{3}{8}$ give $\Delta x = \Delta y = -\frac{3}{2}$. The new point is $(-1, -1)$, an exact solution. The point $(\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2})$ is in the gray band (upper right in Figure 13.11a) or the blue band on the front cover.

38 A famous fractal shows the three basins of attraction – see almost any book on fractals. Remarkable property of the boundaries points between basins: **they touch all three basins!** Try to draw 3 regions with this property.

13.4 Directional Derivatives and Gradients (page 495)

The partial derivatives $\partial f/\partial x$ and $\partial f/\partial y$ are directional derivatives, in special directions. They give the slope in directions $\mathbf{u} = (1, 0)$ and $\mathbf{u} = (0, 1)$, parallel to the x and y axes. From those two partial derivatives we can quickly find the derivative in any other direction $\mathbf{u} = (\cos\theta, \sin\theta)$:

$$\text{directional derivative} \quad D_{\mathbf{u}} f = \left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial x}\right)\cos\theta + \left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial y}\right)\sin\theta.$$

It makes sense that the slope of the surface $z = f(x, y)$, climbing at an angle between the x direction and y direction, should be a combination of slopes $\partial f/\partial x$ and $\partial f/\partial y$. That slope formula is really a dot product between the **direction vector** $\mathbf{u}$ and the **derivative vector** (called the *gradient*):

$$\text{gradient} = \left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial f}{\partial y}\right) = \nabla f \quad \text{direction} = (\cos\theta, \sin\theta) = \mathbf{u} \quad \text{directional derivative} = \nabla \mathbf{f} \cdot \mathbf{u}.$$

1. Find the gradient of $f(x, y) = 4x + y - 7$. Find the derivative in the $45°$ direction, along the line $y = x$.

   - The partial derivatives are $f_x = 4$ and $f_y = 1$. So the gradient is the vector $\nabla f = (4, 1)$.

   - Along the $45°$ line $y = x$, the direction vector is $\mathbf{u} = (\cos \frac{\pi}{4}, \sin \frac{\pi}{4})$. This is $\mathbf{u} = (\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}, \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2})$. The dot product $\nabla f \cdot \mathbf{u} = 4\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2} + 1\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2} = 5\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}$ is $D_\mathbf{u} f$, the directional derivative.

2. Which direction gives the largest value of $D_\mathbf{u} f$? This is the **steepest direction**.

   - The derivative is the dot product of $\nabla f = (4, 1)$ with $\mathbf{u} = (\cos \theta, \sin \theta)$. A dot product equals the length $|\nabla f| = \sqrt{4^2 + 1^2} = \sqrt{17}$ times the length $|\mathbf{u}| = 1$ times the *cosine of the angle* between ∇f and $\mathbf{u}$. To maximize the dot product and maximize that cosine, **choose $\mathbf{u}$ in the same direction as** ∇f. Make $\mathbf{u}$ a unit vector:

$$\mathbf{u} = \frac{\nabla f}{|\nabla f|} = (\frac{4}{\sqrt{17}}, \frac{1}{\sqrt{17}}) \quad \text{and} \quad \nabla f \cdot \mathbf{u} = 4(\frac{4}{\sqrt{17}}) + 1(\frac{1}{\sqrt{17}}) = \frac{17}{\sqrt{17}} = \sqrt{17}.$$

   This is the general rule: The steepest direction is parallel to the gradient $\nabla f = (f_x, f_y)$. The steepness (the slope) is $|\nabla f| = \sqrt{f_x^2 + f_y^2}$. This is the largest value of $D_\mathbf{u} f$.

3. Find a function $f(x, y)$ for which the steepest direction is the x direction.

   - The question is asking for $\frac{\partial f}{\partial y} = 0$. Then the gradient is $(\frac{\partial f}{\partial x}, 0)$. It points in the x-direction. The maximum slope is $\sqrt{(\frac{\partial f}{\partial x})^2 + 0^2}$ which is just $|\frac{\partial f}{\partial x}|$.

   The answer is: Don't let f depend on y. Choose $f = x$ or $f = e^x$ or any $f(x)$. *The slope in the y-direction is zero!* The steepest slope is in the pure x-direction. At every in-between direction the slope is a mixture of $\frac{\partial f}{\partial x}$ and 0. The steepest slope is $|\frac{\partial f}{\partial x}|$ with no zero in the mixture.

$\nabla f \cdot \mathbf{u}$ is the directional derivative along a straight line (in the direction $\mathbf{u}$). What if we travel along a curve? The value of $f(x, y)$ changes as we travel, and calculus asks how fast it changes. This is an "instantaneous" question, at a single point on the curved path. *At each point the path direction is the tangent direction.* So replace the fixed vector $\mathbf{u}$ by the tangent vector $\mathbf{T}$ at that point: Slope of $f(x, y)$ going along path $= \nabla f \cdot \mathbf{T}$.

The tangent vector $\mathbf{T}$ was in Section 12.1. We are given $x(t)$ and $y(t)$, the position as we move along the path. The derivative $(\frac{dx}{dt}, \frac{dy}{dt})$ is the velocity vector $\mathbf{v}$. This is along the tangent direction (parallel to $\mathbf{T}$), but $\mathbf{T}$ is required to be a unit vector. So divide $\mathbf{v}$ by its length which is the speed $|\mathbf{v}| = \sqrt{(\frac{dx}{dt})^2 + (\frac{dy}{dt})^2} = ds/dt$:

$$\mathbf{v} = (\tfrac{dx}{dt}, \tfrac{dy}{dt}) \text{ gives } \nabla f \cdot \mathbf{v} = \frac{\partial f}{\partial x}\frac{\partial x}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial f}{\partial y}\frac{\partial y}{\partial t}. \text{ This is } \frac{df}{dt}.$$

$$\frac{\mathbf{v}}{|\mathbf{v}|} = \frac{\mathbf{v}}{ds/dt} = \mathbf{T} \text{ gives } \nabla f \cdot \mathbf{T}. \text{ This is } \frac{df/dt}{ds/dt} = \frac{df}{ds}.$$

The speed is divided out of the slope df/ds. The speed is *not* divided out of the rate of change df/dt. One says how steeply you climb. The other says how *fast* you climb.

4. How steeply do you climb and how fast do you climb on a roller-coaster of height $f(x, y) = 2x + y$? You travel around the circle $x = \cos 4t$, $y = \sin 4t$ with velocity $\mathbf{v} = (-4\sin 4t, 4\cos 4t)$ and speed $|\mathbf{v}| = 4$.

   - The gradient of $f = 2x + y$ is $\nabla f = (2, 1)$. The tangent vector is $\mathbf{T} = \frac{\mathbf{v}}{|\mathbf{v}|} = (-\sin 4t, \cos 4t)$.

   Slope of path $= \nabla f \cdot \mathbf{T} = -2\sin 4t + \cos 4t$ Maximum slope $\sqrt{5}$.

   Climbing rate $= \nabla f \cdot \mathbf{v} = -8\sin 4t + 4\cos 4t$ Maximum rate $4\sqrt{5}$.

How fast you climb $=$ (how steeply you climb) $\times$ (how fast you travel).

Read-throughs and selected even-numbered solutions :

$D_{\mathbf{u}}f$ gives the rate of change of $f(x,y)$ in the direction $\mathbf{u}$. It can be computed from the two derivatives $\partial f/\partial x$ and $\partial f/\partial y$ in the special directions **(1,0)** and **(0,1)**. In terms of u_1, u_2 the formula is $D_{\mathbf{u}}f = \mathbf{f_x u_1 + f_y u_2}$. This is a **dot** product of $\mathbf{u}$ with the vector $(\mathbf{f_x, f_y})$, which is called the **gradient**. For the linear function $f = ax + by$, the gradient is grad $f = (\mathbf{a, b})$ and the directional derivative is $D_{\mathbf{u}}f = (\mathbf{a, b}) \cdot \mathbf{u}$.

The gradient $\nabla f = (f_x, f_y)$ is not a vector in **three** dimensions, it is a vector in the **base plane**. It is perpendicular to the **level** lines. It points in the direction of **steepest** climb. Its magnitude $|\text{grad} f|$ is the steepness $\sqrt{\mathbf{f_x^2 + f_y^2}}$. For $f = x^2 + y^2$ the gradient points **out from the origin** and the slope in that steepest direction is $|(\mathbf{2x, 2y})| = \mathbf{2r}$.

The gradient of $f(x, y, z)$ is $(\mathbf{f_x, f_y, f_z})$. This is different from the gradient on the surface $F(x, y, z) = 0$, which is $-(F_x/F_z)\mathbf{i} - (F_y/F_z)\mathbf{j}$. Traveling with velocity $\mathbf{v}$ on a curved path, the rate of change of f is $df/dt = (\text{grad } \mathbf{f}) \cdot \mathbf{v}$. When the tangent direction is $\mathbf{T}$, the slope of f is $df/ds = (\text{grad } \mathbf{f}) \cdot \mathbf{T}$. In a straight direction $\mathbf{u}$, df/ds is the same as **the directional derivative** $D_{\mathbf{u}}f$.

12 In one dimension the gradient of $f(x)$ is $\frac{df}{dx}\mathbf{i}$. The two possible directions are $\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{i}$ and $\mathbf{u} = -\mathbf{i}$. The two directional derivatives are $+\dfrac{df}{dx}$ and $-\dfrac{df}{dx}$. The normal vector $\mathbf{N}$ is $\frac{df}{dx}\mathbf{i} - \mathbf{j}$.

14 Here $f = 2x$ above the line $y = 2x$ and $f = y$ below that line. The two pieces agree on the line. Then grad $f = 2\mathbf{i}$ above and grad $f = \mathbf{j}$ below. Surprisingly f increases fastest *along* the line, which is the direction $\mathbf{u} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{5}}(\mathbf{i} + 2\mathbf{j})$ and gives $D_{\mathbf{u}}f = \frac{2}{\sqrt{5}}$.

28 (a) **False** because $f + C$ has the same gradient as f (b) **True** because the line direction $(1, 1, -1)$ is also the normal direction $\mathbf{N}$ (c) **False** because the gradient is in 2 dimensions.

30 $\theta = \tan^{-1}\frac{y}{x}$ has grad $\theta = \left(\frac{-y/x^2}{1+(y/x)^2}, \frac{1/x}{1+(y/x)^2}\right) = \frac{(-y,x)}{x^2+y^2}$. The unit vector in this direction is $\mathbf{T} = \left(\frac{-y}{\sqrt{x^2+y^2}}, \frac{x}{\sqrt{x^2+y^2}}\right)$. Then grad $\theta \cdot \mathbf{T} = \frac{y^2+x^2}{(x^2+y^2)^{3/2}} = \frac{1}{r}$.

34 The gradient is $(2ax + c)\mathbf{i} + (2by + d)\mathbf{j}$. The figure shows $c = 0$ and $d \approx \frac{1}{3}$ at the origin. Then $b \approx \frac{1}{3}$ from the gradient at $(0,1)$. Then $a \approx -\frac{1}{4}$ from the gradient at $(2,0)$. The function $-\frac{1}{4}x^2 + \frac{1}{3}y^2 + \frac{1}{3}y$ has hyperbolas opening upwards as level curves.

44 $\mathbf{v} = (2t, 0)$ and $\mathbf{T} = (1, 0)$; grad $f = (y, x)$ so $\frac{df}{dt} = 2ty = 6t$ and $\frac{df}{ds} = y = 3$.

48 $D^2 = (x - 1)^2 + (y - 2)^2$ has $2D\frac{\partial D}{\partial x} = 2(x - 1)$ or $\frac{\partial D}{\partial x} = \frac{x-1}{D}$. Similarly $2D\frac{\partial D}{\partial y} = 2(y - 2)$ and $\frac{\partial D}{\partial y} = \frac{y-2}{D}$. Then $|\text{grad } D| = (\frac{x-1}{D})^2 + (\frac{y-2}{D})^2 = 1$. The graph of D is a $45°$ cone with its vertex at $(1,2)$.

13.5   The Chain Rule   (page 503)

Chain Rule 1   On the surface $z = g(x,y)$ the partial derivatives of $f(z)$ are $\frac{\partial f}{\partial x} = \frac{df}{dz}\frac{\partial z}{\partial x}$ and $\frac{\partial f}{\partial y} = \frac{df}{dz}\frac{\partial z}{\partial y}$. $z = x^2 + y^2$ gives a bowl. Then $f(z) = \sqrt{z} = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2}$ gives a sharp-pointed cone. The slope of the cone in the x-direction is

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial x} = \frac{df}{dz}\frac{\partial z}{\partial x} = (\frac{1}{2}z^{-1/2})(2x) = \frac{x}{\sqrt{z}} = \frac{x}{\sqrt{x^2 + y^2}}.$$

Check that by directly taking the x-derivative of $f(g(x,y)) = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2}$.

Chain Rule 2   For $z = f(x,y)$ on the curve $x = x(t)$ and $y = y(t)$ the t-derivative is $\frac{\partial z}{\partial t} = \frac{\partial f}{\partial x}\frac{dx}{dt} + \frac{\partial f}{\partial y}\frac{dy}{dt}$.

This is exactly the climbing rate from the previous section 13.4.

Chain Rule 3   For $z = f(x,y)$ when $x = x(t,u)$ and $y = y(t,u)$ the t-derivative is $\frac{\partial z}{\partial t} = \frac{\partial f}{\partial x}\frac{\partial x}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial f}{\partial y}\frac{\partial y}{\partial t}$.

This combines Rule 1 and Rule 2. The outer function f has two variables x, y as in Rule 2. The inner functions x and y have two variables as in Rule 1. So all derivatives are partial derivatives. But notice:

$$\frac{\partial z}{\partial u} \text{ is not } \frac{\partial z}{\partial x}\frac{\partial x}{\partial u}. \text{ The correct rule is } \frac{\partial z}{\partial x}\frac{\partial x}{\partial u} + \frac{\partial z}{\partial y}\frac{\partial y}{\partial u}$$

1. A change in u produces a change in $x = tu$ and $y = t/u$. These produce a change in $z = 3x + 2y$. Find $\partial z / \partial u$.

$$\frac{\partial z}{\partial u} \text{ is } \frac{\partial z}{\partial x}\frac{\partial x}{\partial u} + \frac{\partial z}{\partial y}\frac{\partial y}{\partial u} = (3)(t) + (2)(\frac{-t}{u^2}).$$

2. When would Rule 3 reduce to Rule 2?   ●   The inner functions x and y depend only on t, not u.

Please read the paradox on page 501. Its main point is: For partial derivatives you must know which variable is moving and also which variable is *not* moving.

Read-throughs and selected even-numbered solutions :

The chain rule applies to a function of a function. The x derivative of $f(g(x,y))$ is $\partial f/\partial x = (\partial f/\partial g)(\partial g/\partial x)$. The y derivative is $\partial f/\partial y = (\partial f/\partial g)(\partial g/\partial y)$. The example $f = (x+y)^n$ has $g = \mathbf{x + y}$. Because $\partial g/\partial x = \partial g/\partial y$ we know that $\partial f/\partial \mathbf{x} = \partial f/\partial \mathbf{y}$. This **partial** differential equation is satisfied by any function of $x + y$.

Along a path, the derivative of $f(x(t), y(t))$ is $df/dt = (\partial f/\partial \mathbf{x})(d\mathbf{x}/dt) + (\partial f/\partial \mathbf{y})(d\mathbf{y}/dt)$. The derivative of $f(x(t), y(t), z(t))$ is $\mathbf{f_x x_t + f_y y_t + f_z z_t}$. If $f = xy$ then the chain rule gives $df/dt = \mathbf{y}\, d\mathbf{x}/dt + \mathbf{x}\, d\mathbf{y}/dt$. That is the same as the **product** rule! When $x = u_1 t$ and $y = u_2 t$ the path is a **straight line**. The chain rule for $f(x,y)$ gives $df/dt = \mathbf{f_x u_1 + f_y u_2}$. That is the **directional** derivative $D_u f$.

The chain rule for $f(x(t,u), y(t,u))$ is $\partial f/\partial t = (\partial f/\partial \mathbf{x})(\partial \mathbf{x}/\partial t) + (\partial f/\partial \mathbf{y})(\partial \mathbf{y}/\partial t)$. We don't write df/dt because $\mathbf{f}$ also depends on $\mathbf{u}$. If $x = r\cos\theta$ and $y = r\sin\theta$, the variables t, u change to $\mathbf{r}$ and θ. In this case $\partial f/\partial r = (\partial f/\partial \mathbf{x})\cos\theta + (\partial f/\partial \mathbf{y})\sin\theta$ and $\partial f/\partial \theta = (\partial f/\partial \mathbf{x})(-r\sin\theta) + (df/d\mathbf{y})(r\cos\theta)$. That connects the derivatives in **rectangular** and **polar** coordinates. The difference between $\partial r/\partial x = x/r$ and $\partial r/\partial x = 1/\cos\theta$ is because $\mathbf{y}$ is constant in the first and θ is constant in the second.

With a relation like $xyz = 1$, the three variables are not independent. The derivatives $(\partial f/\partial x)_y$ and $(\partial f/\partial x)_z$ and $(\partial f/\partial x)$ mean that $\mathbf{y}$ is held constant, and $\mathbf{z}$ is constant, and both are constant. For

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$f = x^2 + y^2 + z^2$ with $xyz = 1$, we compute $(\partial f/\partial x)_z$ from the chain rule $\partial f/\partial x + (\partial f/\partial y)(\partial y/\partial x)$. In that rule $\partial z/\partial x = -1/\mathbf{x^2 y}$ from the relation $xyz = 1$.

4 $f_x = \frac{1}{x+7y}$ and $f_y = \frac{7}{x+7y}$; $7f_x = f_y$.

6 $\frac{df}{dt} = \frac{\partial f}{\partial x}\frac{dx}{dt} + \frac{\partial f}{\partial y}\frac{dy}{dt}$ is the **product rule** $y\frac{d\mathbf{x}}{dt} + x\frac{d\mathbf{y}}{dt}$. In terms of u and v this is $\frac{d}{dt}(uv) = v\frac{du}{dt} + u\frac{dv}{dt}$.

12 (a) $f_r = 2re^{2i\theta}$, $f_{rr} = 2e^{2i\theta}$, $f_{\theta\theta} = r^2(2i)^2 e^{2i\theta}$ and $f_{rr} + \frac{f_r}{r} + \frac{f_{\theta\theta}}{r^2} = 0$. Take real parts *throughout* to find

the same for $r^2 \cos 2\theta$ (and imaginary parts for $r^2 \sin 2\theta$). (b) Any function $f(re^{i\theta})$ has

$f_r = e^{i\theta} f'(re^{i\theta})$ and $f_{rr} = (e^{i\theta})^2 f''(re^{i\theta})$ and $f_\theta = ire^{i\theta} f'(re^{i\theta})$ and $f_{\theta\theta} = i^2 re^{i\theta} f' + (ire^{i\theta})^2 f''$.

Any $f(re^{i\theta})$ or any $f(x+iy)$ will satisfy the polar or rectangular form of Laplace's equation.

16 Since $\frac{x}{y} = \frac{1}{2}$ we must find $\frac{df}{dt} = 0$. The chain rule gives $\frac{1}{y}\frac{dx}{dt} - \frac{x}{y^2}\frac{dy}{dt} = \frac{1}{2e^t}(e^t) - \frac{e^t}{4e^{2t}}(2e^t) = 0$.

32 $\frac{\partial r}{\partial x} = \frac{x}{r}$ and then $\frac{\partial^2 r}{\partial y\,\partial x} = -\frac{x}{r^2}\frac{\partial r}{\partial y} = -\frac{x}{r^2}\frac{y}{r} = -\frac{xy}{r^3}$.

40 (a) $\frac{\partial f}{\partial x} = 2x$ (b) $f = x^2 + y^2 + (x^2 + y^2)^2$ so $\frac{\partial f}{\partial x} = 2\mathbf{x} + 4\mathbf{x}(\mathbf{x^2} + \mathbf{y^2})$

(c) $\frac{\partial f}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial f}{\partial z}\frac{\partial z}{\partial x} = 2x + 2z(2x) = 2\mathbf{x} + 4\mathbf{x}(\mathbf{x^2} + \mathbf{y^2})$ (d) y is constant for $\left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial x}\right)_y$.

13.6 Maxima, Minima, and Saddle Points (page 512)

A one-variable function $f(x)$ reaches its maximum and minimum at three types of critical points:

1. Stationary points where $\dfrac{df}{dx} = 0$ **2.** Rough points   **3.** Endpoints (possibly at ∞ or $-\infty$).

A two-variable function $f(x, y)$ has the same three possible types of critical points:

1. Stationary points where $\dfrac{\partial f}{\partial x} = 0$ and $\dfrac{\partial f}{\partial y} = 0$ **2.** Rough points   **3.** Boundary points.

The stationary points come first. Notice that they involve two equations (both partial derivatives are zero). There are two unknowns (the coordinates x and y of the stationary point). The tangent is horizontal as usual, but it is a tangent *plane* to the surface $z = f(x, y)$.

It is harder to solve two equations than one. And the second derivative test (which was previously $f'' > 0$ for a minimum and $f'' < 0$ for a maximum) now involves all three derivatives f_{xx}, f_{yy}, and $f_{xy} = f_{yx}$:

$$\textbf{\textit{Minimum}} \quad \begin{array}{l} f_{xx} > 0 \\ f_{xx}f_{yy} > (f_{xy})^2 \end{array} \qquad \textbf{\textit{Maximum}} \quad \begin{array}{l} f_{xx} < 0 \\ f_{xx}f_{yy} > (f_{xy})^2 \end{array} \qquad \textbf{\textit{Saddle}} \quad f_{xx}f_{yy} < (f_{xy})^2$$

When $f_{xx}f_{yy} = (f_{xy})^2$ the test gives no answer. This is like $f'' = 0$ for a one-variable function $f(x)$.

Our two-variable case really has a 2 by 2 matrix of second derivatives. Its determinant is the critical quantity $f_{xx}f_{yy} - (f_{xy})^2$. This pattern continues on to $f(x, y, z)$ or $f(x, y, z, t)$. Those have 3 by 3 and 4 by 4 matrices of second derivatives and we check 3 or 4 determinants. In linear algebra, a *positive definite second-derivative matrix* indicates that the stationary point is a minimum.

1. (13.6.26) Find the stationary points of $f(x, y) = xy - \frac{1}{4}x^4 - \frac{1}{4}y^4$ and decide between **min**, **max**, and **saddle**.

- The partial derivatives are $f_x = y - x^3$ and $f_y = x - y^3$. Set both derivatives to zero:

$y = x^3$ and $x = y^3$ lead to $y = y^9$. This gives $y = 0$, 1, or -1. Then $x = y^3$ gives $x = 0$, 1, or -1.

The stationary points are $(0,0)$ and $(1,1)$ and $(-1,-1)$. The second derivatives are $f_{xx} = -3x^2$ and $f_{yy} = -3y^2$ and $f_{xy} = 1$:

$(0,0)$ is a **saddle point** because $f_{xx}f_{yy} = (0)(0)$ is less than $(1)^2$

$(1,1)$ and $(-1,-1)$ are **maxima** because $f_{xx}f_{yy} = (-3)(-3)$ is greater than $(1)^2$ and $f_{xx} = -3$.

Solving $x = y^3$ and $y = x^3$ is our example of the **two − variable Newton method** in Section 11.3. This is really important in practice. For this function $xy - \frac{1}{4}x^4 - \frac{1}{4}y^4$ we found a saddle point and two maximum points. The *minimum* is at infinity. This counts as a "boundary point".

2. (This is Problem 13.6.56) Show that a solution to Laplace's equation $f_{xx} + f_{yy} = 0$ has no maximum or minimum stationary points. So where are the maximum and minimum of $f(x,y)$?

- A maximum requires $f_{xx} < 0$. *It also requires* $f_{yy} < 0$. We didn't say that, but it follows from the requirement $f_{xx}f_{yy} > (f_{xy})^2$. The left side has to be positive, so f_{xx} and f_{yy} must have the same sign. If $f_{xx} + f_{yy} = 0$ this can't happen; stationary points must be saddle points (or $f = $ constant). A *max* or *min* is impossible. Those must occur at **rough points** or **boundary points**.

Example A $f(x,y) = \ln(x^2 + y^2)$ has a minimum of $-\infty$ at $(x,y) = (0,0)$, since $\ln 0 = -\infty$. This is a rough point because $f_x = \frac{2x}{x^2+y^2}$ is unbounded. You could check Laplace's equation two ways. One is to compute $f_{xx} = \frac{2}{x^2+y^2} - (\frac{2x}{x^2+y^2})^2$. Also $f_{yy} = \frac{2}{x^2+y^2} - (\frac{2y}{x^2+y^2})^2$. Add to get zero. The other way is to write $f = \ln r^2 = 2\ln r$ in polar coordinates. Then $f_r = \frac{2}{r}$ and $f_{rr} = -\frac{2}{r^2}$. Substitute into the *polar* Laplace equation to get $f_{rr} + \frac{1}{r}f_r + \frac{1}{r^2}f_{\theta\theta} = 0$.

Example B $f(x,y) = xy$ satisfies Laplace's equation because $f_{xx} + f_{yy} = 0 + 0$. The stationary point at the origin cannot be a max or min. It is a typical and famous saddle point: We find $f_{xy} = 1$ and then $f_{xx}f_{yy} = (0)(0) < (1)^2$. There are no rough points. The min and max must be at **boundary points**.

Note: Possibly there are no restrictions on x and y. The boundary is *at infinity*. Then the max and min occur out *at infinity*. Maximum when x and y go to $+\infty$. Minimum when $x \to +\infty$ and $y \to -\infty$, because then $xy \to -\infty$. (Also max when x and y go to $-\infty$. Also min when $x \to -\infty$ and $y \to +\infty$).

Suppose x and y are restricted to stay in the square $1 \le x \le 2$ and $1 \le y \le 2$. Then the max and min of xy occur on the **boundary of the square**. Maximum at $x = y = 2$. Minimum at $x = y = 1$. In a way those are "rough points of the boundary," because they are sharp corners.

Suppose x and y are restricted to stay in the unit circle $x = \cos t$ and $y = \sin t$. The maximum of xy is on the boundary (where $xy = \cos t \sin t$). The circle has no rough points. The maximum is at the $45°$ angle $t = \frac{\pi}{4}$ (also at $t = \frac{5\pi}{4}$). At those points $xy = \cos\frac{\pi}{4}\sin\frac{\pi}{4} = \frac{1}{2}$. To emphasize again: This maximum occurred on the *boundary* of the circle.

Finally we call attention to the **Taylor Series** for a function $f(x, y)$. The text chose (0,0) as basepoint. The whole idea is to match each derivative $(\frac{\partial}{\partial x})^n (\frac{\partial}{\partial y})^m f(x, y)$ at the basepoint by one term in the Taylor series. Since $\frac{x^n y^m}{n!m!}$ has derivative equal to 1, multiply this standard power by the required derivative to find the correct term in the Taylor Series.

When the basepoint moves to (x_0, y_0), change from $x^n y^m$ to $(x - x_0)^n (y - y_0)^m$. Divide by the same $n!m!$

3. Find the Taylor series of $f(x, y) = e^{x-y}$ with (0,0) as the basepoint. Notice $f(x, y) = e^x$ *times* e^{-y}.

- **Method 1:** Multiply the series for e^x and e^{-y} to get $e^{x-y} = (1 + x + \frac{1}{2!}x^2 + \cdots)(1 - y + \frac{1}{2!}y^2 - \cdots) = 1 + x - y + \frac{1}{2}x^2 - xy + \cdots$

- **Method 2:** Substitute $x - y$ directly into the series to get $e^{x-y} = 1 + (x - y) + \frac{1}{2!}(x - y)^2 + \cdots$.

- **Method 3:** (general method): Find all the derivatives of $f(x, y) = e^{x-y}$ at the basepoint (0,0):

$$f(0,0) = 1 \quad f_x(0,0) = 1 \quad f_y(0,0) = -1 \quad f_{xx}(0,0) = 1 \quad f_{xy}(0,0) = -1 \quad f_{yy}(0,0) = 1 \quad \cdots$$

Then the Taylor Series is $\frac{1}{0!0!} + \frac{1}{1!0!}x + \frac{-1}{0!1!}y + \frac{1}{2!0!}x^2 + \frac{-1}{1!1!}xy + \frac{1}{0!2!}y^2 + \cdots$. Remember that 0! = 1.

Read-throughs and selected even-numbered solutions :

A minimum occurs at a **stationary** point (where $f_x = f_y = 0$) or a **rough** point (no derivative) or a **boundary** point. Since $f = x^2 - xy + 2y$ has $f_x = \mathbf{2x - y}$ and $f_y = \mathbf{2 - x}$, the stationary point is $x = \mathbf{2}, y = \mathbf{4}$. This is not a minimum, because f decreases when $y = 2x$ **increases**.

The minimum of $d^2 = (x - x_1)^2 + (y - y_1)^2$ occurs at the rough point $(\mathbf{x_1, y_1})$. The graph of d is a **cone** and grad d is a **unit** vector that points **out** from $(\mathbf{x_1, y_1})$. The graph of $f = |xy|$ touches bottom along the lines $x = 0$ and $y = 0$. Those are "rough lines" because the derivative **does not exist**. The maximum of d and f must occur on the **boundary** of the allowed region because it doesn't occur **inside**.

When the boundary curve is $x = x(t)$, $y = y(t)$, the derivative of $f(x, y)$ along the boundary is $\mathbf{f_x x_t + f_y y_t}$ (chain rule). If $f = x^2 + 2y^2$ and the boundary is $x = \cos t, y = \sin t$, then $df/dt = \mathbf{2 \sin t \cos t}$. It is zero at the points $t = \mathbf{0, \pi/2, \pi, 3\pi/2}$. The maximum is at $(\mathbf{0, \pm 1})$ and the minimum is at $(\pm 1, 0)$. Inside the circle f has an absolute minimum at $(\mathbf{0,0})$.

To separate maximum from minimum from **saddle point**, compute the second derivatives at a stationary point. The tests for a minimum are $\mathbf{f_{xx} > 0}$ and $\mathbf{f_{xx} f_{yy} > f_{xy}^2}$. The tests for a maximum are $\mathbf{f_{xx} < 0}$ and $\mathbf{f_{xx} f_{yy} > f_{xy}^2}$. In case $ac < b^2$ or $f_{xx} f_{yy} < f_{xy}^2$, we have a **saddle point**. At all points these tests decide between concave up and **concave down** and "indefinite". For $f = 8x^2 - 6xy + y^2$, the origin is a **saddle** point. The signs of f at (1,0) and (1,3) are **+ and −**.

The Taylor series for $f(x, y)$ begins with the terms $\mathbf{f(0,0) + x f_x + y f_y + \frac{1}{2}x^2 f_{xx} + xy f_{xy} + \frac{1}{2}y^2 f_{yy}}$. The coefficient of $x^n y^m$ is $\partial^{n+m} f / \partial x^n \partial y^m (0,0)$ divided by $n!m!$ To find a stationary point numerically, use

Newton's method or steepest descent.

18 Volume $= xyz = xy(1 - 3x - 2y) = xy - 3x^2 - 2xy^2; V_x = y - 6x - 2y^2$ and $V_y = x - 4xy$; at $(0, \frac{1}{2}, 0)$ and $(\frac{1}{3}, 0, 0)$ and $(0,0,1)$ the volume is $V = 0$ (minimum); at $(\frac{1}{48}, \frac{12}{48}, \frac{21}{48})$ the volume is $V = \frac{7}{3072}$ (**maximum**)

22 $\frac{\partial f}{\partial x} = 2x + 2$ and $\frac{\partial f}{\partial y} = 2y + 4$. (a) Stationary point $(-1, -2)$ yields $f_{\min} = -5$. (b) On the boundary $y = 0$ the minimum of $x^2 + 2x$ is -1 at $(-1, 0)$ (c) On the boundary $x \geq 0, y \geq 0$ the minimum is 0 at $(0,0)$.

28 $d_1 = x, d_2 = d_3 = \sqrt{(1 - x)^2 + 1}, \frac{d}{dx}(x + 2\sqrt{(1 - x)^2 + 1}) = 1 + \frac{2(x-1)}{\sqrt{(1-x)^2+1}} = 0$ when $(1 - x)^2 + 1 = 4(x - 1)^2$ or $1 - x = \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}$ or $x = 1 - \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}$. From that point to $(1,1)$ the line goes up 1 and across $\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}$, a $60°$ angle with the horizontal that confirms three $120°$ angles.

34 From the point $C = (0, -\sqrt{3})$ the lines to $(-1, 0)$ and $(1, 0)$ make a $60°$ angle. C is the **center** of the circle $x^2 + (y - \sqrt{3})^2 = 4$ through those two points. From any point on that circle, the lines to $(-1, 0)$ and $(1, 0)$ make an angle of $2 \times 60° = 120°$. Theorem from geometry: angle from circle $= 2 \times$ angle from center.

44 $\frac{\partial^{n+m}}{\partial x^n \partial y^m}(xe^y) = xe^y$ for $n = 0, e^y$ for $n = 1$, zero for $n > 1$. Taylor series $xe^y = x + xy + \frac{1}{2!}xy^2 + \frac{1}{3!}xy^3 + \cdots$

50 $f(x + h, y + k) \approx f(x, y) + h\frac{\partial f}{\partial x}(x, y) + k\frac{\partial f}{\partial y}(x, y) + \frac{h^2}{2}\frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x^2}(x, y) + hk\frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x \partial y}(x, y) + \frac{k^2}{2}\frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial y^2}(x, y)$

58 A house costs p, a yacht costs q : $\frac{d}{dx}f(x, \frac{k-px}{q}) = \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial f}{\partial y}(-\frac{p}{q}) = 0$ gives $-\frac{\partial f}{\partial x}/\frac{\partial f}{\partial y} = -\frac{p}{q}$.

13.7   Constraints and Lagrange Multipliers   (page 519)

In reality, a constraint $g(x, y) = k$ is very common. The point (x, y) is restricted to this curve, when we are minimizing or maximizing $f(x, y)$. (Not to the inside of the curve, but right *on* the curve.) It is like looking for a maximum at a boundary point. The great difficulty is that we lose the equations $\frac{\partial f}{\partial x} = 0$ and $\frac{\partial f}{\partial y} = 0$.

The great success of Lagrange multipliers is to bring back the usual equations "x derivative equals zero" and "y derivative equals zero." But these are not f_x and f_y. We must account for the constraint $g(x, y) = k$. The idea that works is to subtract an unknown multiple λ times $g(x, y) - k$. Now set derivatives to zero:

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial x}[f(x, y) - \lambda(g(x, y) - k)] = 0 \quad \text{or} \quad \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} = \lambda\frac{\partial g}{\partial x}$$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial y}[f(x, y) - \lambda(g(x, y) - k)] = 0 \quad \text{or} \quad \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} = \lambda\frac{\partial g}{\partial y}.$$

The text explains the reasoning that leads to these equations. Here we solve them for x, y, and λ. That locates the *constrained* maximum or minimum.

1. (This is Problem 13.7.6) Maximize $f(x, y) = x + y$ subject to $g(x, y) = x^{1/3}y^{2/3} = 1$. That is a special case of the Cobb-Douglas constraint: $x^c y^{1-c} = k$.

   - $f_x = \lambda g_x$ is $1 = \lambda(\frac{1}{3}x^{-2/3}y^{2/3})$ and $f_y = \lambda g_y$ is $1 = \lambda(\frac{2}{3}x^{1/3}y^{-1/3})$. The constraint is $1 = x^{1/3}y^{2/3}$.

   Square the second equation and multiply by the first to get $1 = (\frac{2\lambda}{3})^2(\frac{\lambda}{3})$ or $(\frac{\lambda}{3})^3 = \frac{1}{4}$ or $\frac{\lambda}{3} = 4^{-1/3}$. Then divide the constraint by the first equation to get $1 = \frac{3}{\lambda}x$ or $x = \frac{\lambda}{3} = 4^{-1/3}$. Divide the constraint by the second equation to get $1 = \frac{3}{2\lambda}y$ or $y = \frac{2\lambda}{3} = 2 \cdot 4^{-1/3}$. The constrained maximum is $f = x + y = 3 \cdot 4^{-1/3}$.

2. (This is Problem 13.7.22 and also Problem 13.7.8 with a twist. It gives the shortest distance to a plane.) Minimize $f(x, y, z) = x^2 + y^2 + z^2$ with the constraint $g(x, y, z) = ax + by + cz = d$.

- Now we have three variables x, y, z (also λ for the constraint). The method is the same:

$$f_x = \lambda f_x \text{ is } 2x = \lambda a \qquad f_y = \lambda g_y \text{ is } 2y = \lambda b \qquad f_z = \lambda g_z \text{ is } 2z = \lambda c.$$

Put $x = \frac{1}{2}\lambda a$ and $y = \frac{1}{2}\lambda b$ and $z = \frac{1}{2}\lambda c$ in the constraint to get $\frac{1}{2}\lambda(a^2 + b^2 + c^2) = d$. That yields λ.

The constrained minimum is $x^2 + y^2 + z^2 = (\frac{\lambda}{2})^2(a^2 + b^2 + c^2) = \frac{d^2}{a^2+b^2+c^2}$.

The shortest distance to the plane is the square root $\frac{|d|}{\sqrt{a^2+b^2+c^2}}$. This agrees with the formula $\frac{|d|}{|\mathbf{N}|}$ from Section 11.2, where the normal vector to the plane was $\mathbf{N} = a\,\mathbf{i} + b\,\mathbf{j} + c\,\mathbf{k}$.

The text explains how to handle *two* constraints $g(x, y, z) = k_1$ and $h(x, y, z) = k_2$. There are two Lagrange multipliers λ_1 and λ_2. The text also explains *inequality* constraints $g(x, y) \le k$. The point (x, y) is either *on* the boundary where $g(x, y) = k$ or it is *inside* where $g(x, y) < k$. We are back to our old problem:

The minimum of $f(x, y)$ may be at a boundary point. Using Lagrange multipliers we find $\lambda > 0$.

The minimum of $f(x, y)$ may be at a stationary point. Using Lagrange multipliers we find $\lambda = 0$.

The second case has an inside minimum. The equation $f_x = \lambda g_x$ becomes $f_x = 0$. Similarly $f_y = 0$. Lagrange is giving us one unified way to handle stationary points (inside) and boundary points. Rough points are handled separately. Problems 15–18 develop part of the theory behind λ. I am most proud of including what calculus authors seldom attempt – *the meaning of* λ. It is the derivative of $f_{\min}$ with respect to k. Thus λ measures *the sensitivity of the answer to a change in the constraint.*

This section is not easy but it is really important. Remember it when you need it.

Read-throughs and selected even-numbered solutions :

A restriction $g(x, y) = k$ is called a **constraint**. The minimizing equations for $f(x, y)$ subject to $g = k$ are $\partial f/\partial x = \lambda \partial g/\partial x, \partial f/\partial y = \lambda \partial g/\partial y$, and $\mathbf{g} = \mathbf{k}$. The number λ is the Lagrange **multiplier**. Geometrically, grad f is **parallel** to grad g at the minimum. That is because the **level** curve $f = f_{\min}$ is **tangent** to the constraint curve $g = k$. The number λ turns out to be the derivative of $f_{\min}$ with respect to $\mathbf{k}$. The Lagrange function is $L = \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) - \lambda(\mathbf{g}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) - \mathbf{k})$ and the three equations for x, y, λ are $\partial L/\partial \mathbf{x} = 0$ and $\partial L/\partial \mathbf{y} = 0$ and $\partial L/\partial \lambda = 0$.

To minimize $f = x^2 - y$ subject to $g = x - y = 0$, the three equations for x, y, λ are $\mathbf{2x} = \lambda, -1 = -\lambda$, $\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y} = 0$. The solution is $\mathbf{x} = \frac{1}{2}, \mathbf{y} = \frac{1}{2}, \lambda = 1$. In this example the curve $f(x, y) = f_{\min} = -\frac{1}{4}$ is a **parabola** which is **tangent** to the line $g = 0$ at $(x_{\min}, y_{\min})$.

With two constraints $g(x, y, z) = k_1$ and $h(x, y, z) = k_2$ there are two multipliers λ_1 and λ_2. The five unknowns are $\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}, \mathbf{z}, \lambda_1$, and λ_2. The five equations are $\mathbf{f_x} = \lambda_1 \mathbf{g_x} + \lambda_2 \mathbf{h_x}, \mathbf{f_y} = \lambda_1 \mathbf{g_y} + \lambda_2 \mathbf{h_x}$, $\mathbf{f_z} = \lambda_1 \mathbf{g_z} + \lambda_2 \mathbf{h_z}, \mathbf{g} = 0$, and $\mathbf{h} = 0$. The level surface $f = f_{\min}$ is **tangent** to the curve where $g = k_1$ and $h = k_2$. Then grad f is **perpendicular** to this curve, and so are grad g and **grad h**. With nine variables and six constraints, there will be **six** multipliers and eventually **15** equations. If a constraint is an inequality $g \le k$, then its multiplier must satisfy $\lambda \le 0$ at a minimum.

2 $x^2 + y^2 = 1$ and $2xy = \lambda(2x)$ and $x^2 = \lambda(2y)$ yield $2\lambda^2 + \lambda^2 = 1$. Then $\lambda = \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}$ gives $x_{\max} = \pm\frac{\sqrt{6}}{3}$, $y_{\max} = \frac{\sqrt{3}}{3}, \mathbf{f_{\max}} = \frac{2\sqrt{3}}{9}$. Also $\lambda = -\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}$ gives $\mathbf{f_{\min}} = -\frac{2\sqrt{3}}{9}$.

18 $f = 2x + y = 1001$ at the point $x = 1000, y = -999$. The Lagrange equations are $2 = \lambda$ and $1 = \lambda$ (no solution). Linear functions with linear constraints generally have no maximum.

20 (a) $yz = \lambda, xz = \lambda, xy = \lambda$, and $x + y + z = k$ give $x = y = z = \frac{k}{3}$ and $\lambda = \frac{k^2}{9}$ (b) $\mathbf{V_{max}} = (\frac{\mathbf{k}}{\mathbf{3}})^{\mathbf{3}}$
so $\partial V_{max}/\partial k = \mathbf{k^2}/\mathbf{9}$ (which is λ!) (c) Approximate $\Delta V = \lambda$ times $\Delta k = \frac{108^2}{9}(111 - 108) = \mathbf{3888}$ in^3.
Exact $\Delta V = (\frac{111}{3})^3 - (\frac{108}{3})^3 = \mathbf{3677}$ in^3.

26 Reasoning: By increasing k, *more* points satisfy the constraints. *More* points are available to minimize f. Therefore f_{min} goes **down**.

28 $\lambda = 0$ when $h > k$ (not $h = k$) at the minimum. Reasoning: An increase in k leaves the same minimum. Therefore f_{min} is **unchanged**. Therefore $\lambda = df_{min}/dk$ is **zero**.

13   Chapter Review Problems

Graph Problems

G1   Draw the level curves of the function $f(x, y) = y - x$. Describe the surface $z = y - x$.

G2   Draw the level curves of $f(x, y) = \frac{y-1}{x-2}$. Label the curve through $(3,3)$. Which points (x, y) are not on any level curve? The surface has an infinite crack like an asymptote.

Computing Problems

C1   Set up Newton's method to give two equations for Δx and Δy when the original equations are $y = x^5$ and $x = y^5$. Start from various points (x_0, y_0) to see which solutions Newton converges to. Compare the basins of attraction to Figure 13.3 and the front cover of this Guide.

Review Problems

R1   For $f(x, y) = x^n y^m$ find the partial derivatives $f_x, f_y, f_{xx}, f_{xy}, f_{yx}$, and f_{yy}.

R2   If $z(x, y)$ is defined implicitly by $F(x, y, z) = xy - yz + xz = 0$, find $\partial z/\partial x$ and $\partial z/\partial y$.

R3   Suppose z is a function of x/y. From $z = f(x/y)$, show that $x\frac{\partial z}{\partial x} + y\frac{\partial z}{\partial y} = 0$.

R4   Write down a formula for the linear approximation to $z = f(x, y)$ around the origin. If $f(x, y) = 9 + xy$ show that the linear approximation at $(1,1)$ gives $f \approx 11$ while the correct value is 10.

R5   Find the gradient vector for the function $f(x, y) = xy^2$. How is the direction of the gradient at the point $x = 1, y = 2$ related to the level curve $xy^2 = 4$?

R6   Find the gradient vector in three dimensions for the function $F(x, y, z) = z - x^2 y^2$. How is the direction of the gradient related to the surface $z = x^2 y^2$?

R7   Give a chain rule for df/dt when $f = f(x, y, z)$ and x, y, z are all functions of t.

R8   Find the maximum value of $f(x, y) = x + 2y - x^2 + xy - 2y^2$.

R9   The minimum of $x^2 + y^2$ occurs on the boundary of the region R (not inside) for which regions?

R10   To minimize $x^2 + y^2$ on the line $x + 3y = k$, introduce a Lagrange multiplier λ and solve the three equations for x, y, λ. Check that the derivative df_{min}/dk equals λ.

Drill Problems

D1   If $z = \ln \sqrt{x^2 + y^2}$ show that $x \frac{\partial z}{\partial x} + y \frac{\partial z}{\partial y} = 1$ and $z_{xx} + z_{yy} = 0$ except at _____.

D2   The equation of the tangent plane to $z = x^2 + y^3$ at $(1,1,2)$ is _____.

D3   The normal vector to the surface $xyz^2 = 1$ at $(1,1,1)$ is $\mathbf{N} =$ _____.

D4   The linear approximation to $x^2 + y^2$ near the basepoint $(1,2)$ is _____.

D5   Find the directional derivative of $f(x,y) = xe^y$ at the point $(2,2)$ in the $45°$ direction $y = x$. What is u? Compare with the ordinary derivative of $f(x) = xe^x$ at $x = 2$.

D6   What is the steepest slope on the plane $z = x + 2y$? Which direction is steepest?

D7   From the chain rule for $f(x,y) = xy^2$ with $x = u + v$ and $y = uv$ compute $\frac{\partial f}{\partial u}$ at $u = 2, v = 3$. Check by taking the derivative of $(u + v)(uv)^2$.

D8   What equations do you solve to find stationary points of $f(x,y)$? What is the tangent plane at those points? How do you know from f_{xx}, f_{xy}, and f_{yy} whether you have a saddle point?

D9   Find two functions $f(x,y)$ that have $\partial f / \partial x = \partial f / \partial y$ at all points. Which is the steepest direction on the surface $z = f(x,y)$? Which is the level direction?

D10   If $x = r \cos \theta$ and $y = r \sin \theta$ compute the determinant $J = \begin{vmatrix} \partial x/\partial r & \partial x/\partial \theta \\ \partial y/\partial r & \partial y/\partial \theta \end{vmatrix}$

D11   If $r = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2}$ and $\theta = \tan^{-1} \frac{y}{x}$ compute the determinant $J^* = \begin{vmatrix} \partial r/\partial x & \partial r/\partial y \\ \partial \theta/\partial x & \partial \theta/\partial y \end{vmatrix} = \frac{1}{J}$.

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Resource: Calculus Online Textbook
Gilbert Strang

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