

Lecture 8

Thursday, May 12, 2022 2:32 PM

* Prayer

* Spiritual thought

* Geometric meaning of partial derivatives ----

Ex $f(x, y) = xy + y^2$

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial x}(1, 2) = ? , \quad \frac{\partial f}{\partial y}(1, 2) = ?$$

Another notation for $\frac{\partial f}{\partial x}$ is f_x , for $\frac{\partial f}{\partial y}$ is f_y .

Higher derivative :

$$f_x, f_{xx}, f_{xy}, f_{yx}, \dots \quad \text{same as} \quad \frac{\partial f}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x^2}, \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x \partial y}, \frac{\partial^3 f}{\partial x \partial y \partial x}, \dots$$

Ex $f(x, y) = x^y$

Find f_{xy} and f_{yx} .

Clairaut's theorem : partial derivatives don't depend on the order of differentiation.

Why is $f_{xy} = f_{yx}$?

* Applications of partial derivatives :

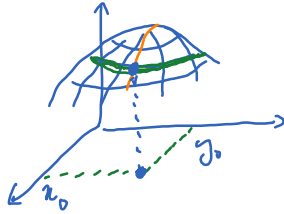
• Tangent plane

• Linear approximation

• rate of change in a certain direction

• optimisation problems

* Tangent plane:



The red curve has equation:

$$\begin{cases} x = t \\ y = y_0 \\ z = f(t, y_0) \end{cases}$$

and has tangent vector at (x_0, y_0) : $v = (1, 0, \frac{\partial f}{\partial x}(x_0, y_0))$

The green curve has tangent vector at (x_0, y_0) : $w = (0, 1, \frac{\partial f}{\partial y}(x_0, y_0))$

The tangent plane has a normal vector $v \times w = (-f_x, -f_y, 1)$.

The tangent plane has eq.

$$(-f_x)(x - x_0) + (-f_y)(y - y_0) + (z - z_0) = 0$$

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

Ex $f(x, y) = x^2 + 2y^2$

Find tangent to this elliptic paraboloid at $(1, -1, 3)$.

Ex $x^2 + 2y^2 + 2z^2 = 1$

Find tangent plane to this ellipsoid at $(\frac{1}{2}, -\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2})$.

* Linear approximation:

$$y = f(x) \rightsquigarrow dy = f'(x) dx$$

↑
change in y
caused by change
in x

↑
change in x

$$z = f(x, y)$$

$$dz = f_x dx + f_y dy$$

↑
change in z
due to change in
 x and y

↑
change in z due to
change in y (with
 x fixed)

↑
change in z
due to change
in x (with y fixed)

dz : total differential

$f_x dx, f_y dy$: partial differential

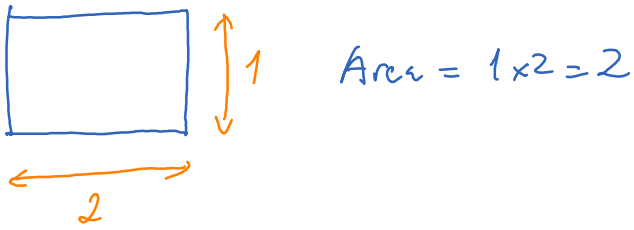
Linear approximation:

$$f(x_0+h, y_0+k) - f(x_0, y_0) \approx f_x(x_0, y_0)h + f_y(x_0, y_0)k$$

In other words,

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

Ex



If the sides of the rectangle are measured with error: $x = 1 + h$, $y = 2 + k$

where $-0.01 \leq h, k \leq 0.01$.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Area} &= xy = f(x, y) \approx f(x_0, y_0) + f_x(x_0, y_0)(x - x_0) + f_y(x_0, y_0)(y - y_0) \\ &= 1(2) + 2h + 1(k) \\ &= 2 + \underbrace{2h + k}_{-0.03 \leq \dots \leq 0.03} \end{aligned}$$