

# MATH-UA 123 Calculus 3: Linear Approximation, Tangent Plane, Differentials, Chain Rule

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**START RECORDING  
LIVE TRANSCRIPT**

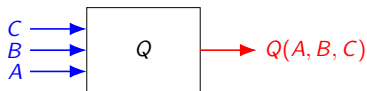
# REMINDER

Next week's Monday lecture  
is on **TUESDAY, October 12**

**REMINDER**

**First Midterm**  
**is on Monday, October 25**

# Partial Derivatives



- ▶ Function:  $Q$ 
  - ▶ Input values:  $A, B, C$
  - ▶ Output value:  $Q(A, B, C)$
- ▶ Partial derivative of  $Q$  with respect to  $B$ :

$$Q_B = \frac{\partial Q}{\partial B} \simeq \frac{\text{Change in } Q}{\text{Small change in } B}$$

with  $A$  and  $C$  assumed to be constants

- ▶ Change in  $Q$  due to small change in  $B$

$$\text{Change in } Q \simeq Q_B(\text{Change in } B)$$

- ▶ Change in  $Q$  due to small changes in  $A, B, C$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Change in } Q &\simeq Q_A(\text{Change in } A) + Q_B(\text{Change in } B) \\ &\quad + Q_C(\text{Change in } C) \end{aligned}$$

## Example of Linear Approximation

- ▶ Suppose  $f(x, y)$  is a function such that

$$f(1, -1) = 2, \quad f_x(1, -1) = -3, \quad f_y(1, -1) = 1$$

- ▶ Since

Change in  $f \simeq f_x(\text{small change in } x) + f_y(\text{small change in } y)$ ,  
it follows that

$$\begin{aligned} f(1.1, -1.2) - f(1, -1) \\ \simeq f_x(1, -1)(1.1 - 1) + f_y(1, -1)(-1.2 - (-1.1)) \end{aligned}$$

- ▶ Equivalently,

$$\begin{aligned} f(1.1, -1.2) \\ \simeq f(1, -1) + f_x(1, -1)(1.1 - 1) + f_y(1, -1)(-1.2 - (-1.1)) \\ = 2 + (-3)(0.1) + 1(-0.2) \\ = 2 - 0.3 - 0.2 = 1.5 \end{aligned}$$

# Tangent Plane

- ▶ Suppose  $f(x, y)$  is a function such that

$$f(1, -1) = 2, \quad f_x(1, -1) = -3, \quad f_y(1, -1) = 1$$

- ▶ Linear Approximation: If  $(x, y)$  is close to  $(1, -1)$ , then

$$\begin{aligned} f(x, y) &\simeq f(1, -1) + f_x(1, -1)(x - 1) + f_y(1, -1)(y - (-1)) \\ &= 2 - 3(x - 1) + 1(y + 1) \\ &= -3x + y + 4 \end{aligned}$$

- ▶ The graph

$$z = -3x + y + 4$$

is called the tangent plane of  $f$  at  $(1, -1)$

- ▶ The tangent plane of  $f$  at  $(1, -1)$  touches the graph of  $f$  at  $(1, -1)$

## Linear Approximation

- ▶ Change in  $f(x, y)$  due to small changes in  $x, y$

$$\text{Change in } f \simeq f_x(\text{Change in } x) + f_y(\text{Change in } y)$$

- ▶ If  $(x, y)$  is close to  $(x_0, y_0)$ , then

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

- ▶ If  $x_0, y_0$  are viewed as constants, then this is the same as

$$f(x, y) \simeq ax + by + c,$$

where

$$a = f_x(x_0, y_0), \quad b = f_y(x_0, y_0),$$

$$c = f(x_0, y_0) - x_0 f_x(x_0, y_0) - y_0 f_y(x_0, y_0)$$

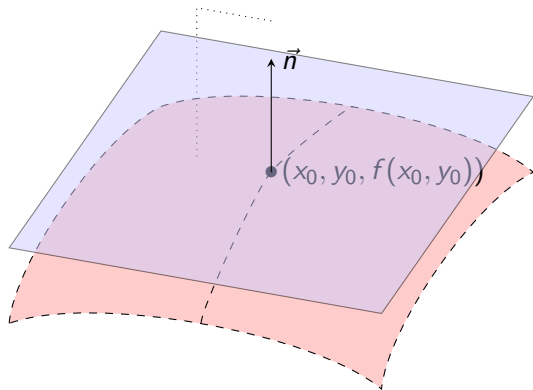
- ▶ The graph of the linear approximation is a plane

$$z = ax + by + c = f(x_0, y_0) + f_x(x_0, y_0)(x - x_0) + f_y(x_0, y_0)(y - y_0)$$

- ▶ This is called the tangent plane of  $f$  at  $(x_0, y_0)$ .



# Tangent Plane



# Differential of a Function

- ▶ Recall that if  $f(x)$  is a function with one input, then

$$df = \frac{df}{dx} dx$$

- ▶ The differential of a function  $A(P, Q, R)$  is

$$dA = \frac{\partial A}{\partial P} dP + \frac{\partial A}{\partial Q} dQ + \frac{\partial A}{\partial R} dR = A_P dP + A_Q dQ + A_R dR$$

- ▶ The differentials  $dP, dQ, dR$  are small changes in inputs
- ▶  $dA$  is the resulting change in output

# Rules of Differentials

- ▶ Sum rule:  $d(f + g) = df + dg$
- ▶ Constant factor rule:  $d(cf) = c df$
- ▶ Product rule:  $d(fg) = g df + f dg$
- ▶ Quotient rule:  $d\left(\frac{f}{g}\right) = \frac{g df - f dg}{g^2}$
- ▶ Example: Suppose  $f(x, y, z) = \frac{ye^z}{x}$

$$\begin{aligned}df &= \frac{x d(ye^z) - (ye^z) dx}{x^2} \\&= \frac{x(e^z dy + ye^z dz) - ye^z dx}{x^2} \\&= \frac{-ye^z dx + xe^z dy + ye^z dz}{x^2}\end{aligned}$$

# Linear Approximation Using Differential

- ▶ Suppose  $(x, y)$  is close to  $(x_0, y_0)$
- ▶  $f(x_0, y_0)$ ,  $f_x(x_0, y_0)$ ,  $f_y(x_0, y_0)$ ,  $f_z(x_0, y_0)$  are known
- ▶ Estimate  $f(x, y)$
- ▶ Differential of  $f$ :

$$df = f_x dx + f_y dy$$

- ▶ Differentials represent small changes:

$$dx \simeq x - x_0$$

$$dy \simeq y - y_0$$

$$df \simeq f(x, y) - f(x_0, y_0)$$

- ▶ Change in  $f$  is therefore

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

## Example of Linear Approximation Using Differential

- ▶ Suppose

$$f(1, 2) = 2$$

$$f_x(1, 2) = 3$$

$$f_y(1, 2) = 5$$

- ▶ Suppose we want to estimate  $f(0.8, 2.1)$
- ▶ View each differential as a small change:

$$dx \simeq 0.8 - 1 = -0.2$$

$$dy \simeq 2.1 - 2 = 0.1$$

$$df \simeq f(0.8, 2.1) - f(1, 2)$$

- ▶ Therefore,

$$df = f_x dx + f_y dy$$

$$f(0.8, 2.1) - f(1, 2) \simeq 3(0.8 - 1) + 5(2.1 - 2)$$

$$f(0.8, 2.1) \simeq 2 - 0.6 + 0.5$$

$$= 1.9$$

## Implicit Differentiation Using Differentials

- ▶ Suppose we want to find the partial derivatives of  $f(x, y)$ , where the graph  $z = f(x, y)$  satisfies

$$x^2 + y^2 + z^2 = 3xyz$$

- ▶ Take differential of both sides of equation

$$2x dx + 2y dy + 2z dz = 3yz dx + 3xz dy + 3xy dz$$

- ▶ Solve for  $dz$ :

$$(2z - 3xy) dz = (3yz - 2x) dx + (3xz - 2y) dy$$
$$dz = \frac{(3yz - 2x) dx + (3xz - 2y) dy}{2z - 3xy}$$

- ▶ Since  $z = f(x, y)$ ,  $dz = f_x dx + f_y dy$
- ▶ Therefore,

$$f_x = \frac{3yz - 2x}{2z - 3xy} \quad \text{and} \quad f_y = \frac{3xz - 2y}{2z - 3xy}$$

# Ideal Gas Law

- ▶ The ideal gas law says

$$\frac{PV}{T} = k,$$

where  $k$  is a physical constant and

$P$  = pressure,  $V$  = volume,  $T$  = temperature

- ▶ Any variable can be viewed as a function of the other two
- ▶ Suppose we want formulas for  $P_V$ ,  $P_T$ ,  $T_V$ ,  $T_P$ ,  $V_P$ ,  $V_T$
- ▶ Rewrite equation:  $PV = kT$
- ▶ Compute differential:  $V dP + P dV = k dT$
- ▶ To compute  $P_V$  and  $P_T$ , solve for  $dP$ :

$$dP = -\frac{P}{V} dV + \frac{k}{V} dT$$

- ▶ Therefore,  $P_V = -\frac{P}{V}$  and  $P_T = \frac{k}{V}$

## Tangent Plane Using Differentials

- ▶ Suppose we want to find the tangent plane of

$$x^2 + y^2 + z^2 = 3xyz$$

at  $(1, 1, 2)$

- ▶ Differential:

$$2x dx + 2y dy + 2z dz = 3yz dx + 3xz dy + 3xy dz$$

- ▶ Only  $(x, y, z) = (1, 1, 2)$  matters:

$$2 dx + 2 dy + 4 dz = 6 dx + 6 dy + 3 dz$$

$$dz = 4 dx + 4 dy$$

$$z - 2 = 4(x - 1) + 4(y - 1)$$

- ▶ The tangent plane is therefore given by

$$z = 4x + 4y - 6$$



## Chain Rule Using Differentials

- ▶ Suppose  $f(x, y) = xe^{-y}$
- ▶ Define a new function  $h(p) = f(1 + 2p, 1 - 3p)$
- ▶ We want to compute  $h'(p)$
- ▶ On one hand,  $dh = h'(p) dp$
- ▶ On the other,  $h(p) = f(x, y)$ , where  $x = 1 + 2p$  and  $y = 1 - 3p$
- ▶ Therefore,

$$dx = 2 dp$$

$$dy = -3 dp$$

$$dh = df$$

$$= e^{-y} dx - xe^{-y} dy$$

$$= e^{3p-1} 2 dp - (1 + 2p)e^{3p-1}(-3) dp$$

$$= e^{3p-1}(2 + (3 + 6p)) dp$$

$$= e^{3p-1}(5 + 6p) dp$$

- ▶ Therefore,  $h'(p) = e^{3p-1}(5 + 6p)$

## Chain Rule Using Differentials

- ▶ Suppose

$$f(x, y) = (2y + 3)^2 e^{5x-4}$$

and we want to calculate  $f_x$  and  $f_y$

- ▶ Write this as  $f = p^2 e^q$ , where  $p = 2y + 3$  and  $q = 5x - 4$
- ▶ Then

$$dp = 2 dy$$

$$dq = 5 dx$$

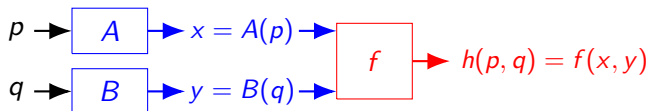
$$\begin{aligned} df &= 2pe^q dp + p^2 e^q dq \\ &= 2(2y + 3)e^{5x-4} dy + (2y + 3)^2 e^{5x-4} 5 dx \end{aligned}$$

- ▶ Since  $df = f_x dx + f_y dy$ ,

$$f_x = 5(2y + 3)^2 e^{5x-4}$$

$$f_y = 2(2y + 3)e^{5x-4}$$

# Chain Rule for Functions with Multiple Inputs



- ▶ Suppose we have a function  $f(x, y)$  and functions  $A(p)$  and  $B(p)$
- ▶ Define a new function  $h(p) = f(A(p), B(p))$
- ▶ Two step description:
  - ▶ Given  $p$ , set  $x = A(p)$  and  $y = B(p)$
  - ▶ Set  $h(p) = f(x, y)$
- ▶ We want to compute the sensitivity of  $h$  to a small change in  $p$ , i.e.,  $h'(p)$

## Chain Rule Using Differentials

- ▶  $h(p) = f(A(p), B(p)) = f(x, y)$ , where

$$x = A(p) \text{ and } y = B(p)$$

- ▶ A small change  $dp$  causes
  - ▶ A small change  $dx = A'(p) dp$
  - ▶ A small change  $dy = B'(p) dp$
- ▶ The small changes  $dx$  and  $dy$  in turn causes a small change in  $f$ , which is also the resulting change in  $f$

$$\begin{aligned} dh &= d(f(x, y)) \\ &= f_x(x, y) dx + f_y(x, y) dy \\ &= f_x(A(p), B(p))A'(p) dp + f_y(A(p), B(p))B'(p) dp \\ &= (f_x(A(p), B(p))A'(p) + f_y(A(p), B(p))B'(p)) dp \end{aligned}$$

- ▶ Since  $dh = h'(p) dp$ ,

$$h'(p) = f_x(A(p), B(p))A'(p) + f_y(A(p), B(p))B'(p)$$

## Chain Rule Using Differentials

- ▶ Suppose  $f(x, y) = xe^y$
- ▶ Define a new function
$$h(p, q) = f(p + q, p - q) = (p + q)^2 e^{p-q}$$
- ▶ We want to compute the partial derivatives  $h_p(p, q)$  and  $h_q(p, q)$
- ▶ If  $x = p + q$  and  $y = p - q$ , then  $h(p, q) = f(x, y)$
- ▶ Their differentials are  $dx = dp + dq$  and  $dy = dp - dq$
- ▶ Since  $h(p) = f(x, y) = xe^y$ ,

$$\begin{aligned}dh &= df \\&= e^y dx + xe^y dy \\&= e^{p-q} (dp + dq) + (p + q)e^{p-q} (dp - dq) \\&= e^{p-q}(1 + p + q) dp + e^{p-q}(1 - p - q) dq\end{aligned}$$

- ▶ Since  $dh = h_p dp + h_q dq$ ,

$$\begin{aligned}h_p(p, q) &= e^{p-q}(1 + p + q) \\h_q(p, q) &= e^{p-q}(1 - p - q)\end{aligned}$$

## Doing the Chain Rule Directly

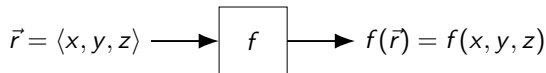
- ▶ If  $h(p, q) = (p + q)e^{p-q}$ , then

$$\begin{aligned}h_p(p, q) &= \partial_p(p + q)e^{p-q} + (p + q)\partial_p(e^{p-q}) \text{ by the product rule} \\ &= e^{p-q} + (p + q)e^{p-q} \\ &= (1 + p + q)e^{p-q}\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}h_q(p, q) &= \partial_q(p + q)e^{p-q} + (p + q)\partial_q(e^{p-q}) \text{ by the product rule} \\ &= e^{p-q} - (p + q)e^{p-q} \\ &= (1 - p + q)e^{p-q}\end{aligned}$$

- ▶ Two separate calculations required, one for each partial derivative
- ▶ Using differentials requires only one calculation

## Derivative of a Function Along a Curve



- ▶ Suppose  $f$  is a function of points in space
- ▶ Suppose  $\vec{r}(t) = \langle x(t), y(t), z(t) \rangle$  is a parameterized curve such that  $\vec{r}(0) = \vec{r}_0 = \langle x_0, y_0, z_0 \rangle$
- ▶ The derivative of  $f$  along the curve  $\vec{r}(t)$  is defined to be

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{d}{dt}f(\vec{r}(t)) &= \frac{d}{dt}f(x(t), y(t), z(t)) \\ &= f_x(\vec{r}(t))x'(t) + f_y(\vec{r}(t))y'(t) + f_z(\vec{r}(t))z'(t)\end{aligned}$$

- ▶ In particular, when  $t = 0$ ,

$$\begin{aligned}\left. \frac{d}{dt} \right|_{t=0} f(\vec{r}(t)) &= f_x(\vec{r}_0)x'(0) + f_y(\vec{r}_0)y'(0) + f_z(\vec{r}_0)z'(0) \\ &= \langle f_x(\vec{r}_0), f_y(\vec{r}_0), f_z(\vec{r}_0) \rangle \cdot \langle x'(0), y'(0), z'(0) \rangle \\ &= \vec{\nabla} f(\vec{r}_0) \cdot \vec{r}'(0),\end{aligned}$$

where  $\vec{\nabla} f = \langle f_x, f_y, f_z \rangle$

## Directional Derivative of a Function

- ▶ Given point  $\vec{r}_0$ , any vector  $\vec{v}_0$ , and any curve  $\vec{r}(t)$  such that  $\vec{r}(0) = \vec{r}_0$  and  $\vec{r}'(0) = \vec{v}_0$ ,

$$\left. \frac{d}{dt} \right|_{t=0} f(\vec{r}(t)) = \vec{\nabla} f(\vec{r}_0) \cdot \vec{r}'(0) = \vec{v}_0 \cdot \vec{\nabla} f(\vec{r}_0)$$

- ▶ The value of the right side depends only on  $f$ ,  $\vec{r}_0$ , and  $\vec{v}_0$  and not on the curve
- ▶ Define the gradient of  $f$  to be the vector field

$$\vec{\nabla} f = \langle f_x, f_y, f_z \rangle$$

- ▶ Given a function  $f$ , a vector  $\vec{v}$ , and a position  $\vec{r}$ , denote

$$D_{\vec{v}} f(\vec{r}) = \vec{v} \cdot \vec{\nabla} f(\vec{r})$$

- ▶ The directional derivative of  $f$  at  $\vec{r}$  in the direction of the vector  $\vec{v}$  is

$$D_{\vec{u}} f(\vec{r}) = \vec{u} \cdot \vec{\nabla} f(\vec{r}),$$

where  $\vec{u} = \frac{\vec{v}}{|\vec{v}|}$  is the direction of  $\vec{v}$



## Examples of Directional Derivatives

- ▶ The directional derivative of a linear function  $f(x, y, z) = ax + by + cz + d$  in a direction  $\vec{u}$  is

$$D_{\vec{u}}f(x, y, z) = \vec{u} \cdot \langle f_x, f_y, f_z \rangle = \vec{u} \cdot \langle a, b, c \rangle,$$

which is constant for all points  $(x, y, z)$

- ▶ The directional derivative of the function

$$f(x, y, z) = x^2 + y^2 + z^2 = |\vec{r}|^2$$

in a direction  $\vec{u}$  is

$$\begin{aligned} D_{\vec{u}}f(x, y, z) &= \vec{u} \cdot \langle f_x, f_y, f_z \rangle = \vec{u} \cdot \langle 2x, 2y, 2z \rangle \\ &= 2\vec{u} \cdot \langle x, y, z \rangle \\ &= 2\vec{u} \cdot \vec{r} \end{aligned}$$

## Vector Fields and the Gradient of a Function

$$\vec{r} = \langle x, y, z \rangle \rightarrow \boxed{\vec{V}} \rightarrow \vec{V}(\vec{r}) = \langle V_1(x, y, z), V_2(x, y, z), V_3(x, y, z) \rangle$$

- ▶ A vector field is a function where the input is a point in space and the output is a vector
- ▶ The gradient of a scalar function of space is a vector field

$$\vec{\nabla} f(\vec{r}) = \langle f_x(x, y, z), f_y(x, y, z), f_z(x, y, z) \rangle$$

$$\vec{r} = \langle x, y, z \rangle \rightarrow \boxed{\vec{\nabla} f} \rightarrow \vec{\nabla} f(\vec{r}) = \langle f_x(x, y, z), f_y(x, y, z), f_z(x, y, z) \rangle$$

## Directional Derivatives and the Gradient

- ▶ The directional derivative of a function  $f$  at a point  $\vec{r}$  in the direction  $\vec{u}$  is defined to be

$$D_{\vec{u}}f(\vec{r}) = \vec{u} \cdot \vec{\nabla}f(\vec{r})$$

- ▶ Since  $\vec{u}$  is a unit vector,

$$D_{\vec{u}}f(\vec{r}) = |\vec{u}| |\vec{\nabla}f(\vec{r})| \cos \theta = |\vec{\nabla}f(\vec{r})| \cos \theta,$$

where  $\theta$  is the angle between the direction  $\vec{u}$  and the vector  $\vec{\nabla}f(\vec{r})$

- ▶ The directional derivative of  $f$  at  $\vec{r}$  is greatest when  $\vec{u}$  points in the same direction as  $\vec{\nabla}f(\vec{r})$
- ▶ The directional derivative of  $f$  at  $\vec{r}$  is most negative when  $\vec{u}$  points in the opposite direction to  $\vec{\nabla}f(\vec{r})$
- ▶ The directional derivative of  $f$  at  $\vec{r}$  is zero when  $\vec{u}$  is orthogonal to  $\vec{\nabla}f(\vec{r})$