

2.2-2.3 Partial Derivatives and Tangent Planes

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Reminders of Formulas from single var

Generally

$$\frac{d}{dx} ax^3 = 3ax^2$$

We're thinking of "a" as a const but you could think of it as a var

→ You could call it y

$$\frac{d}{dy} (yx^3) = 3yx^2$$

Still y (or a) is still a const bc we're diff'ing wrt x

But you can diff wrt y:

$$\frac{d}{dy} (yx^3) = x^3$$

→ i.e., if you plug in some const for x, then the eqn true
e.g. $x = -1$

$$\frac{d}{dy} (-y) = -1 = (-1)^3$$

$$\text{eg } \frac{d}{dy} (8y) = 8$$

If you want to emphasize that x is const when you diff wrt y, you could call it "a" and write

$$\frac{d}{dy} (ya^3) = a^3$$

Another formula

$$\frac{d}{dy} e^{ax} = ae^{ax}$$

equivalently:

$$\frac{d}{dx} (e^{yx}) = \frac{d}{dx} (e^{xy}) = ye^{xy}$$

$$\frac{d}{dy} (e^{xy}) = xe^{xy}$$

In MV calc, when you have multiple vars ? diff wrt one of them, we write ∂ instead of d.

so

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial x} e^{xy} = ye^{xy}$$

In general, if $f(x,y)$ is a fcn of 2 vars, then

$\frac{\partial f}{\partial x}$ is what you get if you treat y as a const and take a deriv. wrt x

$$\Rightarrow \left. \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \right|_{y=100} = \frac{d}{dx} \underbrace{f(x, 100)}_{\text{single var fcn}}$$

eg $f(x,y) = x \sin(y) + e^x + y$

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial x} = \sin(y) + e^x \quad \leftarrow \text{NOT EQUAL!}$$

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial y} = x \cos(y) + 1 \quad \leftarrow \quad \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \neq \frac{\partial f}{\partial y}$$

"Partial derivatives of F "

In 3 variables $f(x,y,z)$

then we have: $\frac{\partial f}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial f}{\partial y}, \frac{\partial f}{\partial z}$

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

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial x} = yz \quad \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} = xz \quad \frac{\partial f}{\partial z} = xy$$

What if we differentiate mult times?

$$\frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x^2} = \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \right) = \frac{\partial}{\partial x} (yz) = 0$$

$$\frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial y^2} = \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial z^2} = 0$$

$$\frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x \partial y} = \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial y} \right) = \frac{\partial}{\partial x} (xz) = z$$

$$\frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial y \partial x} = \frac{\partial}{\partial y} (xz) = z$$

True in general

$$\frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x \partial y} = \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial y \partial x} \quad \text{as long as the partial derivatives are continuous}$$

In general, we only work w Fns whose n th derivatives exist and are continuous

Caveat: sometimes $\frac{\partial f}{\partial x}$ and $\frac{\partial f}{\partial y}$ are def'd but not continuous \Rightarrow various properties fails

$D_x f$

$$\frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x \partial y} = f_{xy} \quad \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial y \partial x} = f_{yy}$$

$$\underline{\text{Exercise}} \quad x \sin y + e^x + y$$

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \left(\frac{\partial y}{\partial x} \right)$$

$$= \cos y$$

Properties

- sum rule: $\frac{\partial (f+g)}{\partial y} = \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial g}{\partial y}$

- scalar mult: $\frac{\partial (af)}{\partial x} = a \frac{\partial f}{\partial x}, \quad a \in \mathbb{R}$

similarly: $\frac{\partial (yf)}{\partial x} = y \frac{\partial f}{\partial x}$

- product rule: $\frac{\partial}{\partial x} (f \cdot g) = \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \cdot g + f \cdot \frac{\partial g}{\partial x}$

(same if we mix up x, y, z)

Let $(a, b) \in D \subseteq \mathbb{R}^2$ and f def'd \Rightarrow diff'able on D .

Consider $g(t) = f(a, b+t)$
this is a one-var fn

$$\frac{dg}{dt} = \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} (a, b+t)$$

Intuitively Why is $\frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x \partial y} = \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial y \partial x}$?

$$\frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x \partial y} = \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial y} \right) = \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left(\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x, y+h) - f(x, y)}{h} \right)$$

$$= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left(\frac{f(x, y+h) - f(x, y)}{h} \right) \right)$$

assume
we can
interchange
derivative
and lim

Notice $h \div y$ const wrt x

so

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left(\frac{f(x, y+h) - f(x, y)}{h} \right)$$

$$= \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left(\frac{f(x, y+h) - f(x, y)}{h} \right)$$

$$= \frac{\partial}{\partial x} (f(x, y+h)) - \frac{\partial}{\partial x} (f(x, y))$$

$$= \frac{\partial f}{\partial x}(x, y+h) - \frac{\partial f}{\partial x}(x, y)$$

$$\underline{\text{so}} \quad \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x \partial y} = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \left(\frac{\frac{\partial f}{\partial x}(x, y+h) - \frac{\partial f}{\partial x}(x, y)}{h} \right)$$

$$\text{set } g = \frac{\partial f}{\partial x}$$

$$= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \left(\frac{g(x, y+h) - g(x, y)}{h} \right)$$

$$= \frac{\partial g}{\partial x}$$

$$= \frac{\partial(\partial f / \partial x)}{\partial y} = \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \right) = \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial y \partial x}$$

Tom Apostol
(calc II) proved
everything
rigorously

2.3 Tangent Planes

Reminder on tangent lines

$$y = f(x)$$

$$\frac{df}{dx} \approx \frac{\Delta f}{\Delta x} = \frac{f(x_1) - f(x_0)}{x_1 - x_0}$$

$$\Rightarrow f(x_1) - f(x_0) \approx (x_1 - x_0) \frac{df}{dx}(x_0)$$

$$\Rightarrow f(x_1) \approx f(x_0) + \frac{df}{dx}(x_0) \cdot \Delta x$$

"linear approximation"

bc if fix x_0 & let x_1 vary, then:

$$\frac{df}{dx}(a+h)x^3 = 3(a+h)x^2$$

bc - if fix x_0 , $\hat{x}_1 \neq x_0$ vary, then:

$$\begin{aligned} f(x_0) + \Delta x \cdot \frac{\partial f}{\partial x}(x_0) \\ = f(x_0) + \frac{\partial f}{\partial x}(x_0) \cdot (x_1 - x_0) \end{aligned}$$

is a linear func of x_1 , that's "approx" $f(x_1)$

Approximation is best when x_1 is close to x_0 .

In other words, the line:

$$y = f(x_0) + \frac{\partial f}{\partial x}(x_0) \cdot (x_1 - x_0)$$

where x_0 is fixed \hat{x}_1 varies

\Rightarrow best linear approximation to f near x_0
aka tan line $\oplus x_0$

Ideas given $f(x, y)$ and (x_0, y_0) in its domain, then
the tan plane should be given by the linear func of

$x \hat{y}$ that best approx. $f(x, y)$ near (x_0, y_0)

Say (x_1, y_1) is near (x_0, y_0) .

$$f(x_1, y_1) \approx f(x_0, y_0) + \Delta x \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} + \Delta y \frac{\partial f}{\partial y}$$

$$\approx f(x_0, y_0) + (x_1 - x_0) \frac{\partial f}{\partial x}(x_0, y_0) + (y_1 - y_0) \frac{\partial f}{\partial y}(x_0, y_0)$$

this is a linear func of $x_1 \hat{y}_1$

the Func

$$z = f(x_0, y_0) + (x_1 - x_0) \frac{\partial f}{\partial x}(x_0, y_0) + (y_1 - y_0) \frac{\partial f}{\partial y}(x_0, y_0)$$

\Rightarrow a linear func of x_1, y_1 (aka x, y) that is a good
approx to $f(x_1, y_1)$ when (x_1, y_1) is near (x_0, y_0)

Notice $z = f(x_0, y_0) + (x_1 - x_0) \frac{\partial f}{\partial x}(x_0, y_0) + (y_1 - y_0) \frac{\partial f}{\partial y}(x_0, y_0)$

def's a plane in \mathbb{R}^3

\hookrightarrow it's the tan plane to $z = f(x, y)$ at $(x_0, y_0, f(x_0, y_0))$

find tangent plane at $(x_0, y_0) = (1, 2)$

Recall $\frac{\partial f}{\partial x} = y e^{xy}$

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial y} = xy$$

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial x} = e^{xy}$$

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial y} = x e^{xy}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{\partial f}{\partial x}(x_0, y_0) &= \frac{\partial f}{\partial x}(1, 2) \\ &= 2e^{(1)(2)} = 2e^2\end{aligned}$$

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial y}(x_0, y_0) = \frac{\partial f}{\partial y}(1, 2) = e^2$$

$$f(x_0, y_0) = e^2$$

$$\begin{aligned}z &= e^2 + (x-1)(2e^2) + (y-2)e^2 \\ &= 2e^2x + e^2y + e^2 - 2e^2 - 2e^2 \\ &= 2e^2x + e^2y - 3e^2 \\ &= e^2(2x + y - 3)\end{aligned}$$

} *the tangent plane*