

TANGENT PLANE TO $z = f(x, y)$ and LINEARIZATIONS of f : (311)

(We expand on §11.4 of Stewart in essence.)

To begin we consider $z = f(x, y)$, we assume that f_x and f_y are continuous so we are assured that the tangent plane is well defined (see (306) for what happens otherwise).

PROPOSITION: The tangent plane to $z = f(x, y)$ at $(a, b, f(a, b))$ is

$$z = f(a, b) + \left. \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \right|_{(a, b)} (x-a) + \left. \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} \right|_{(a, b)} (y-b)$$

provided that f is differentiable at (a, b) .

Pf. will have to wait until we give a better technical description of what a tangent plane is theoretically. Ignorance of that defⁿ will not hinder us in our work on graphs. You may skip ahead to (318-319) for details, or see (306) for the defⁿ.

Defⁿ: Let $f: S \subseteq \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be differentiable at (a, b) . We say $L: \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is the linearization of f at (a, b) defined by

$$L(x, y) = f(a, b) + \left. \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \right|_{(a, b)} (x-a) + \left. \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} \right|_{(a, b)} (y-b)$$

we may add an f and (a, b) if we have several linearizations and need a distinguishing notation ($L = L_{(a, b)}^f$ or $L_{f(a, b)}$ perhaps)

Remark: the linearization L of f is the best linear approximation of the function near the base point of the linearization. This is the natural generalization of the tangent line approx. of a function, the closer to the point of tangency the closer the tangent line approximates the function.

E71 Find the eqⁿ of the tangent plane at $(1, 2, 5)$ for $f(x, y) = x^2 + y^2$. We calculate $f_x(1, 2)$ and $f_y(1, 2)$,

$$f_x(1, 2) = 2x|_{(1, 2)} = 2 \quad f(1, 2) = 1^2 + 2^2 = 5$$

$$f_y(1, 2) = 2y|_{(1, 2)} = 4$$

Thus the tangent plane is $z = 5 + 2(x-1) + 4(y-2)$

TANGENT PLANES, LINEARIZATIONS, TOTAL DERIVATIVE

312

E72 Find the linearization of $f(x,y) = x^2 + y^2$ at $(1,2)$. Then approximate $f(2,2)$ and compare to the real-value. We found the tangent plane's eqⁿ in **E71** so we already know

$$L(x,y) = 5 + 2(x-1) + 4(y-2)$$

We approximate f via L ,

$$f(2,2) \cong L(2,2) = 5 + 2(2-1) + 4(0) = 7$$

Of course we can just evaluate $f(2,2) = 2^2 + 2^2 = 8$ to see we have an absolute error of $8 - 7 = 1$. We can express these thoughts via the "increments" and "total differential"

$$\Delta z = f(x_2, y_2) - f(x_1, y_1)$$

total differential $\rightarrow dz = f_x(x_1, y_1) \underbrace{(x_2 - x_1)}_{dx} + f_y(x_1, y_1) \underbrace{(y_2 - y_1)}_{dy}$

In particular we have $(x_1, y_1) = (1, 2)$ and $(x_2, y_2) = (2, 2)$ thus $dx = 1$ and $dy = 0$ hence

$$dz = 2dx + 4dy = 2 + 0 = 2$$

$$\Delta z = f(2,2) - f(1,2) = 8 - 5 = 3$$

Then $f(2,2) = f(1,2) + \Delta z = 5 + 3 = 8$ (the true value)

$L(2,2) = f(1,2) + dz = 5 + 2 = 7$ (the approximate value)

Remark: this is a reasonable notation for approximation work, but I much prefer to use $\Delta x = x_2 - x_1$ and $\Delta y = y_2 - y_1$ for finite increments. Conceptually, when I write dx or dy then I have in mind an infinitesimal change in x or y . Stewart does not share my vision, see E4 on p. 775.

Defⁿ The total differential of $z = f(x,y)$ is defined to be

$$dz \equiv \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} dx + \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} dy \equiv df$$

- notice this is for $f(x,y)$. When we have $W = f(x,y,z)$ then we will write $dW = \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} dx + \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} dy + \frac{\partial f}{\partial z} dz = \frac{\partial W}{\partial x} dx + \frac{\partial W}{\partial y} dy + \frac{\partial W}{\partial z} dz$ (since $W = f$)

E73 It is known that if we place resistors R_1 and R_2 in parallel then the effective resistance R of the system is

$$R = \frac{1}{R_1} + \frac{1}{R_2}$$

we can view $R = f(R_1, R_2)$, it is a function of two variables. Now suppose $R_1 = 10 \Omega \pm 1 \Omega$ and $R_2 = 2 \Omega \pm 0.5 \Omega$, here $\Omega \equiv$ "ohm" and we'll drop them for convenience sake. Interpretation:

$$dR_1 = 1 \quad \text{and} \quad dR_2 = 0.5$$

what is the order of our uncertainty in R then? Essentially upto a convention or two its the total differential in R ,

$$dR = \left. \frac{\partial R}{\partial R_1} \right|_{(10,2)} dR_1 + \left. \frac{\partial R}{\partial R_2} \right|_{(10,2)} dR_2$$

$$= \left(\frac{-1}{R_1^2} (1) - \frac{1}{R_2^2} (0.5) \right) \Big|_{(10,2)}$$

$$= \left(\frac{-1}{100} - \frac{0.5}{4} \right)$$

$$= \frac{-1}{100} - \frac{1}{8} = \boxed{-0.115 = dR} \quad (\text{Mostly from } \Delta R_2.)$$

Remark: this is the largest uncertainty or error if you prefer. Be warned you should study error & measurements & statistics elsewhere.

E74 Let $R = R_1 + R_2 = g(R_1, R_2)$. That is assume the resistors are in series this time. Find dR in this case,

$$dR = \left. \frac{\partial R}{\partial R_1} \right|_{(10,2)} dR_1 + \left. \frac{\partial R}{\partial R_2} \right|_{(10,2)} dR_2$$

$$= dR_1 + dR_2$$

$$= 1 + 0.5$$

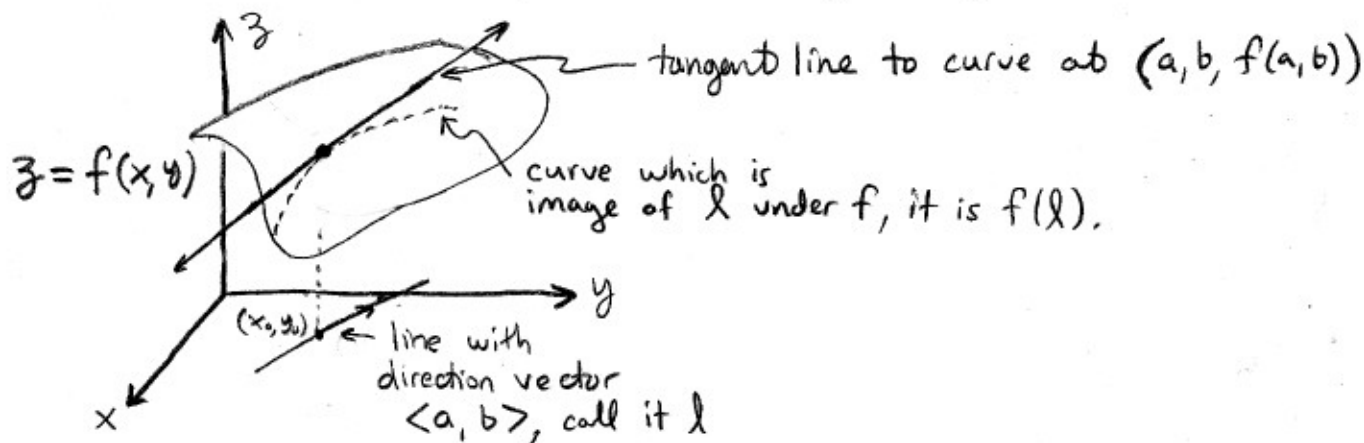
$$= \boxed{1.5 = dR} \quad (\text{Mostly from } \Delta R_1)$$

Remark: You can see the net-error is a consequence of both the error in the inputs and the eqⁿ that gives the output. The total differential gives us an estimation of that net-error.

The directional derivative of f at (x_0, y_0) in the direction $\hat{u} = (a, b)$ is the rate of change in f in that direction from (x_0, y_0) ,

$$D_{\hat{u}} f(x_0, y_0) \equiv \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x_0 + ah, y_0 + bh) - f(x_0, y_0)}{h}$$

Here the notation $D_u f(x_0, y_0)$ is usually employed, but take note that $|u| = 1$ is required. The geometry of this is



in the special cases $\langle a, b \rangle = \langle 1, 0 \rangle$ or $\langle 0, 1 \rangle$ we obtain plain-old partial derivatives, it's the same idea of tangency to $z = f(x, y)$ just tilted. That is,

$$D_{\langle 1, 0 \rangle} f(a, b) = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(a+h, b) - f(a, b)}{h} \equiv f_x(a, b).$$

$$D_{\langle 0, 1 \rangle} f(a, b) = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(a, b+h) - f(a, b)}{h} \equiv f_y(a, b).$$

Proposition: $D_{\langle a, b \rangle} f(x_0, y_0) = f_x(x_0, y_0)a + f_y(x_0, y_0)b$

Proof: see p. 791, its an easy consequence of the chain rule.

Defⁿ: The gradient of f is denoted $\text{grad}(f)$ or ∇f and for $f: \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ it is defined by

$$\text{grad}(f) = \nabla f = \langle f_x, f_y \rangle$$

Or at a point $(\nabla f)(x_0, y_0) = \langle f_x(x_0, y_0), f_y(x_0, y_0) \rangle$.

Observation: $D_{\langle a, b \rangle} f(x_0, y_0) = (\nabla f)(x_0, y_0) \cdot \langle a, b \rangle$

this is a nice way to remember it.

E75 Let $f(x, y) = \ln(xy)$. Find the rate of change in f at the point $(1, 2)$ in the $\langle 1, -1 \rangle$ direction. To begin we calculate the gradient,

$$\nabla f = \left\langle \frac{\partial}{\partial x} [\ln(xy)], \frac{\partial}{\partial y} [\ln(xy)] \right\rangle = \left\langle \frac{1}{x}, \frac{1}{y} \right\rangle$$

Notice $\langle 1, -1 \rangle$ has length $\sqrt{1^2 + 1^2} = \sqrt{2}$ so the unit vector we need here is $u = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \langle 1, -1 \rangle$. So calculate,

$$\begin{aligned} D_u f(1, 2) &= \left\langle \frac{1}{1}, \frac{1}{2} \right\rangle \cdot \left\langle \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}, -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \right\rangle \\ &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} - \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \right) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \left(1 - \frac{1}{2} \right) = \frac{1}{2\sqrt{2}} = \boxed{\frac{\sqrt{2}}{4}} \end{aligned}$$

in geometric terms this says the slope of the curve on $z = \ln(xy)$ above $r(t) = \langle 1, 2 \rangle + t \langle 1, -1 \rangle$ at $(1, 2, \ln(2))$ has slope $\sqrt{2}/4$. This is how quickly f changes in the $\langle 1, -1 \rangle$ direction at $(1, 2)$.

• WHAT $\langle a, b \rangle$ give min/max rates of change at $(1, 2)$?

Recall that $\vec{v} \cdot \vec{w} = |\vec{v}| |\vec{w}| \cos \theta$ and $-1 \leq \cos \theta \leq 1$ so we obtain max. when $\theta = 0$ and min. when $\theta = \pi$.

$$\Delta f_{\max} = |\nabla f(1, 2)| = \sqrt{1^2 + \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^2} = \sqrt{\frac{4+1}{4}} = \boxed{\frac{\sqrt{5}}{2}} \text{ max rate.}$$

$$\Delta f_{\min} = -|\nabla f(1, 2)| = -\sqrt{5}/2.$$

We find that $\langle \frac{1}{\sqrt{5}}, -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \rangle$ gives max rate of change of f at $(1, 2)$ while $\langle -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}, \frac{1}{\sqrt{5}} \rangle$ gives minimum rate of change of f at $(1, 2)$.

E76 Let $f(x, y) = x \sin(y) + y \cos(x)$ find rate of change in the $\langle 1, 1 \rangle$ direction at (π, π) . Note $u = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \langle 1, 1 \rangle$,

$$\begin{aligned} D_u f(\pi, \pi) &= \left\langle \sin(y) - y \sin(x), x \cos y + \cos(x) \right\rangle \Big|_{(\pi, \pi)} \cdot \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \langle 1, 1 \rangle \right) \\ &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \left[(\sin \pi - \pi \sin \pi) \cdot 1 + (\pi \cos \pi + \cos \pi) \cdot 1 \right] \\ &= \boxed{\frac{-1}{\sqrt{2}} (\pi + 1)} \end{aligned}$$

SUMMARY: $D_u f(x_0, y_0)$ gives the rate of change of f at (x_0, y_0) in the u -direction. If $u = \langle a, b \rangle$ then

$$D_u f(x_0, y_0) = \nabla f(x_0, y_0) \cdot u = f_x(x_0, y_0)a + f_y(x_0, y_0)b$$

The max/min rates of change at (x_0, y_0) occur in the $\pm \nabla f(x_0, y_0)$ directions, with values $\pm |\nabla f(x_0, y_0)|$.

DIRECTIONAL DERIVATIVES OF FUNCTIONS OF THREE OR MORE VARIABLES

The gradient vector for $f: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is defined by

$$\nabla f \equiv \left\langle \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_1}, \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_2}, \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_3}, \dots, \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_n} \right\rangle$$

Of course we usually encounter $n=2$ or 3 , $n=2$ we've discussed and used many times, $n=3$ is basically the same

$$\nabla f = \left\langle \frac{\partial f}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial f}{\partial y}, \frac{\partial f}{\partial z} \right\rangle \text{ where } f = f(x, y, z)$$

again assumed to have length one.

The rate of change of $f: \mathbb{R}^3 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ at P in the $\langle a, b, c \rangle$ direction is simply a a, b, c weighted sum of the change of f at P in the x, y, z -directions, we call this the DIRECTIONAL DERIVATIVE of f in the $\langle a, b, c \rangle$ direction at the point $P = (P_1, P_2, P_3)$

$$D_{\langle a, b, c \rangle} f(P) \equiv (\nabla f)(P_1, P_2, P_3) \cdot \langle a, b, c \rangle$$

again it should be emphasized $|\langle a, b, c \rangle| = 1$ is assumed here.

E77 Let $f(x, y, z) = x^2 + y^2 + z^2$. Find the maximum rate of change at the point $(1, 1, 1)$. To begin find ∇f

$$\nabla f = \langle 2x, 2y, 2z \rangle$$

$$\nabla f(1, 1, 1) = \langle 2, 2, 2 \rangle$$

Then $D_u f(1, 1, 1) = \langle 2, 2, 2 \rangle \cdot u$, this is maximized when $u \parallel \nabla f$. We need to find unit vector, so divide by the length of $\langle 2, 2, 2 \rangle$ to obtain

$$u = \frac{1}{\sqrt{12}} \langle 2, 2, 2 \rangle = \langle \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}, \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}, \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} \rangle = u$$

• we see in higher dimensions the directional derivative works the same, I will not try to graph this situation as it is in 4-dimensional space.

PARAMETRIZED SURFACES

317

We have seen that surfaces in \mathbb{R}^3 can be described as level surfaces ($x^2 + y^2 + z^2 = 1$ for example) or possibly as the graph of some function of two variables ($z = x + y$ for example). The case of the graph is really just a special case of the level surface idea, given $z = f(x, y)$ we can always construct $F(x, y, z) = z - f(x, y)$ and describe $z = f(x, y) \iff F(x, y, z) = 0$.

There is another approach to describing a surface in \mathbb{R}^3 .

Defⁿ $\Sigma: D \subseteq \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow S \subseteq \mathbb{R}^3$ is a parametrization of the surface S . We say D is the parameter space and denote

$$\Sigma(u, v) = (x(u, v), y(u, v), z(u, v))$$

the mapping Σ should be smooth

E78 The sphere $x^2 + y^2 + z^2 = 1$ has a natural parametrization in terms of the polar angle θ and azimuthal angle φ ,

$$x = \cos \theta \sin \varphi \quad y = \sin \theta \sin \varphi \quad z = \cos \varphi$$

Notice that

$$\begin{aligned} x^2 + y^2 + z^2 &= \cos^2 \theta \sin^2 \varphi + \sin^2 \theta \sin^2 \varphi + \cos^2 \varphi \\ &= \sin^2 \varphi (\cos^2 \theta + \sin^2 \theta) + \cos^2 \varphi \\ &= \sin^2 \varphi + \cos^2 \varphi \\ &= 1 \quad (\text{this shows the parametrization works}) \end{aligned}$$

Thus $\Sigma(\theta, \varphi) = (\cos \theta \sin \varphi, \sin \theta \sin \varphi, \cos \varphi)$ parametrizes the sphere, we take $D = [0, 2\pi] \times [0, \pi]$ in this case since we want our angles to range $0 \leq \theta \leq 2\pi$ and $0 \leq \varphi \leq \pi$.

E79 Let $z = f(x, y)$ be a graph of some smooth function $f: D \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ then we can choose x & y as our parameters and write

$$\Sigma(x, y) = (x, y, f(x, y))$$

thus we find graphs are a special case of parametrically described surfaces.

E80 Consider $x^2 + y^2 - z^2 = 1$ this is a hyperboloid. If you know a little about hyperbolic trig. functions then the following parametrization is fairly obvious

$$\begin{array}{l|l} x = \cosh \gamma \cos \theta & x^2 + y^2 - z^2 = \cosh^2 \gamma \cos^2 \theta + \cosh^2 \gamma \sin^2 \theta - \sinh^2 \gamma \\ y = \cosh \gamma \sin \theta & = \cosh^2 \gamma - \sinh^2 \gamma \\ z = \sinh \gamma & = 1. \quad (\text{it works}) \end{array}$$

We'd say γ is a hyperbolic angle, in contrast to the ordinary angle θ we must allow γ to range over $(-\infty, \infty)$ whereas $0 \leq \theta \leq 2\pi$. The mapping in total is $\Sigma(\gamma, \theta) = (\cosh \gamma \cos \theta, \cosh \gamma \sin \theta, \sinh \gamma)$

Remark: you've probably noticed that we don't have to use "u" and "v" for the parameters. Likewise the mapping Σ is often replaced with r in the text or my homework sol^os.

TANGENT PLANES:

We give the methodology for each description of a surface

I.) If $F(x, y, z) = 0$ and (x_0, y_0, z_0) is a point on that surface then the tangent plane at (x_0, y_0, z_0) is

$$(\nabla F)(x_0, y_0, z_0) \cdot (x - x_0, y - y_0, z - z_0) = 0.$$

II.) If $z = f(x, y)$ and $z_0 = f(x_0, y_0)$ then the tangent plane at (x_0, y_0, z_0) ,

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

this is really just a special case of I.) just take $F = f(x, y) - z$.

TANGENT PLANES CONTINUED:

319

III) Given a parametrized surface $\Sigma(u, v)$ we study a particular point $\Sigma(u_0, v_0)$. Notice we have two curves through the point which are constructed by fixing one of the parameters and letting the other vary; let's denote them α & β ,

$$\alpha(u) \equiv \Sigma(u, v_0)$$

$$\beta(v) \equiv \Sigma(u_0, v)$$

The tangent vectors to these curves are given by the partial derivatives of the map Σ ,

$$\alpha'(u) = \frac{\partial \Sigma}{\partial u}(u, v_0) \quad \& \quad \beta'(v) = \frac{\partial \Sigma}{\partial v}(u_0, v)$$

then at the point of interest we have two tangent vectors to the surface and presumably $\alpha'(u_0) \times \beta'(v_0) \neq 0$, actually this is not universally true for all surfaces, but it is true for oriented surfaces where $\Sigma_u \times \Sigma_v \neq 0 \quad \forall u, v$.

$$N(u_0, v_0) = \begin{vmatrix} \hat{i} & \hat{j} & \hat{k} \\ \frac{\partial x}{\partial u} & \frac{\partial y}{\partial u} & \frac{\partial z}{\partial u} \\ \frac{\partial x}{\partial v} & \frac{\partial y}{\partial v} & \frac{\partial z}{\partial v} \end{vmatrix} \Bigg|_{(u_0, v_0)}$$
$$= \left\langle \frac{\partial y}{\partial v} \frac{\partial z}{\partial u} - \frac{\partial z}{\partial v} \frac{\partial y}{\partial u}, \frac{\partial z}{\partial v} \frac{\partial x}{\partial u} - \frac{\partial x}{\partial v} \frac{\partial z}{\partial u}, \frac{\partial x}{\partial v} \frac{\partial y}{\partial u} - \frac{\partial y}{\partial v} \frac{\partial x}{\partial u} \right\rangle \Bigg|_{(u_0, v_0)}$$

then we have a normal vector $N(u_0, v_0)$ and a point so we construct the plane in the usual way

$$N(u_0, v_0) \cdot (\vec{r} - \Sigma(u_0, v_0)) = 0, \quad \vec{r} = \langle x, y, z \rangle.$$

Remark: its very simple, we get the normal one of two ways

(i) by a gradient ∇F normal to $F=0$

(ii) by cross product of tangents $N = \Sigma_u \times \Sigma_v$ to $\Sigma(u, v)$.