

General case $w = f(x_1, \dots, x_n)$ & $x_j(t_1, \dots, t_m)$
 $\vdots$
 $x_n(t_1, \dots, t_m)$

$$\frac{\partial w}{\partial t_1} = \frac{\partial w}{\partial x_1} \frac{\partial x_1}{\partial t_1} + \frac{\partial w}{\partial x_2} \frac{\partial x_2}{\partial t_1} + \dots + \frac{\partial w}{\partial x_n} \frac{\partial x_n}{\partial t_1}$$

$$\vdots$$

matrix notation:

$$\frac{\partial w}{\partial t_j} = \sum_i \frac{\partial w}{\partial x_i} \frac{\partial x_i}{\partial t_j}$$

$$\frac{\partial w}{\partial t_m} = \frac{\partial w}{\partial x_1} \frac{\partial x_1}{\partial t_m} + \dots + \frac{\partial w}{\partial x_n} \frac{\partial x_n}{\partial t_m}$$

Example $f(x, y, z) = xyz$ $x = \cos t$
 $y = \sin t$
 $z = t$

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial t} = \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \frac{\partial x}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} \frac{\partial y}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial f}{\partial z} \frac{\partial z}{\partial t}$$

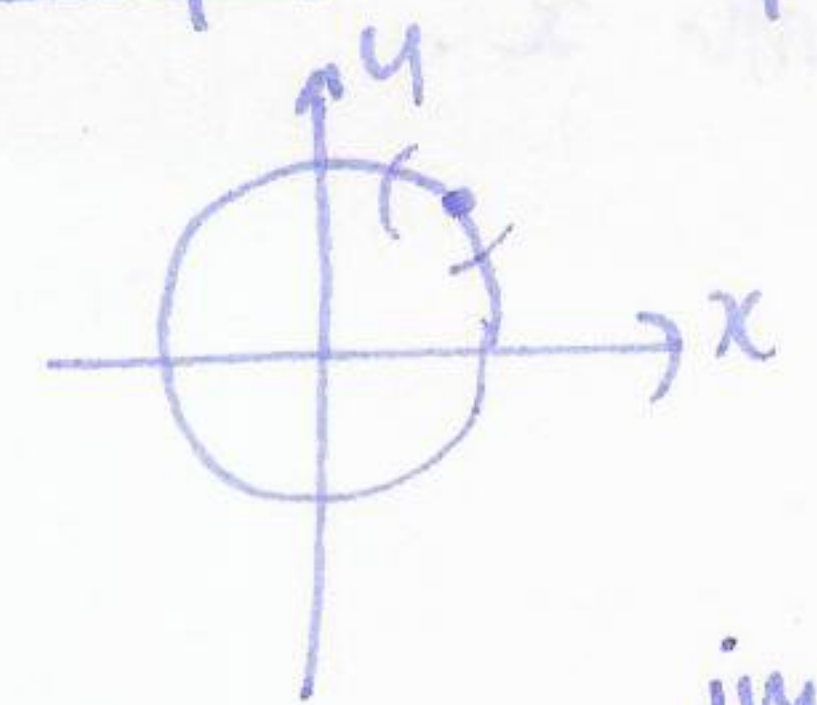
$$= yz \cos t + xz \sin t + yz \cdot 1 = t \sin t \cos t + t \cos t \sin t$$

$$= 2t \sin t \cos t$$

Implicit partial differentiation

we know how to differentiate function how can we differentiate equations?

Example $x^2 + y^2 = 1$ ← equation, but implicitly defines a function
 locally near most points (x, y) .



$$w = F(x, y) = 0 \quad (\text{where } F = x^2 + y^2 - 1 \text{ in this example}).$$

imagine y is a function of x . $y = f(x)$.

$$w = F(x, f(x)) = 0$$

apply chain rule:

$$\frac{dw}{dx} = \frac{\partial F}{\partial x} \frac{dx}{dx} + \frac{\partial F}{\partial y} \frac{dy}{dx}$$

$$\parallel \quad \parallel$$

$$0 \quad 1!$$

so $F_x + F_y \frac{dy}{dx} = 0$ i.e. $\frac{dy}{dx} = -\frac{F_x}{F_y} \quad (F_y \neq 0)$.

Example $F(x,y) = x^2 + y^2 - 1$.

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = -\frac{2x}{2y} = -\frac{x}{y}$$

3 var $F(x,y,z) = 0$ suppose this defines $z(x,y)$.

i.e. $w = F(x,y,z(x,y))$

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} \frac{\partial w}{\partial x} = F_x \frac{\partial x}{\partial x} + F_y \frac{\partial y}{\partial x} + F_z \frac{\partial z}{\partial x} \\ \text{"} \\ 0 \end{array} \right\} \text{so } \frac{\partial z}{\partial x} = -\frac{F_x}{F_z} \quad (F_z \neq 0)$$

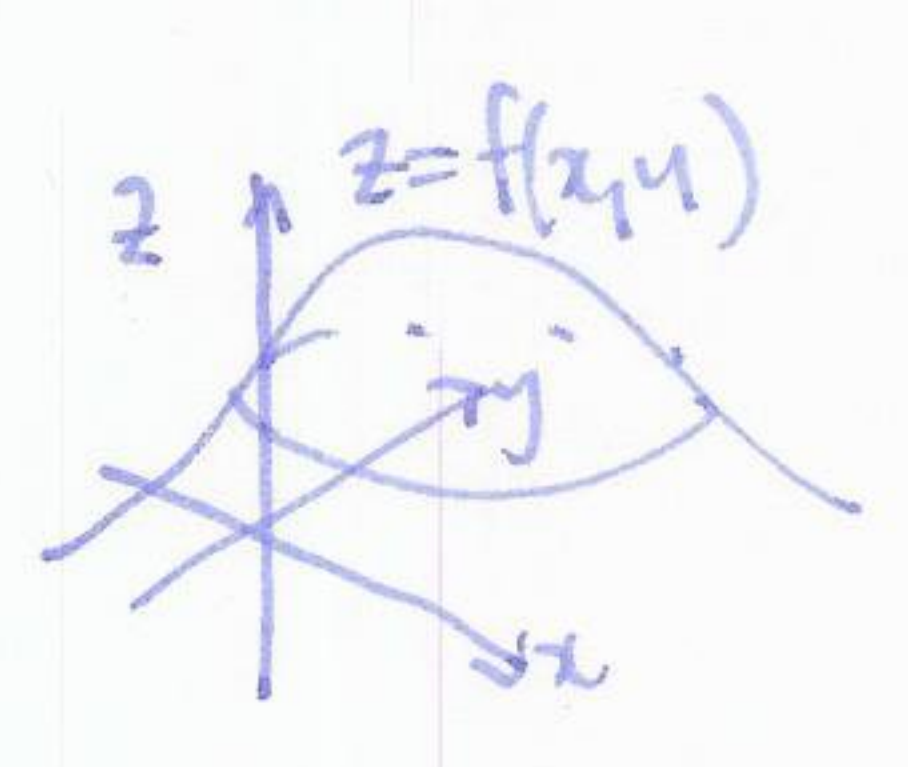
similarly $\frac{\partial z}{\partial y} = -\frac{F_y}{F_z}$

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



$$\frac{\partial z}{\partial x} = -\frac{2x}{2z} \quad \frac{\partial z}{\partial y} = -\frac{2y}{2z}$$

§13.6 Gradients / directional derivatives



$\frac{\partial f}{\partial x}$ = rate of change in x-direction.

$\frac{\partial f}{\partial y}$ = rate of change in y-direction.

Q: what about rate of change in some other direction?

specify direction with unit vector $\underline{v} = \langle \cos\theta, \sin\theta \rangle$.

assume $f(x, y)$ differentiable, so tangent plane is good approximation.

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$\frac{\partial f}{\partial x}$ = slope of tangent plane in x -direction

$\frac{\partial f}{\partial y}$ = slope of tangent plane in y -direction

so. equation for tangent plane is $z = f(x_0, y_0) + f_x(x_0, y_0)(x - x_0) + f_y(x_0, y_0)(y - y_0)$.

so what's the slope in direction $\underline{v}$? plug in $x = x_0 + \cos\theta$
 $y = y_0 + \sin\theta$.

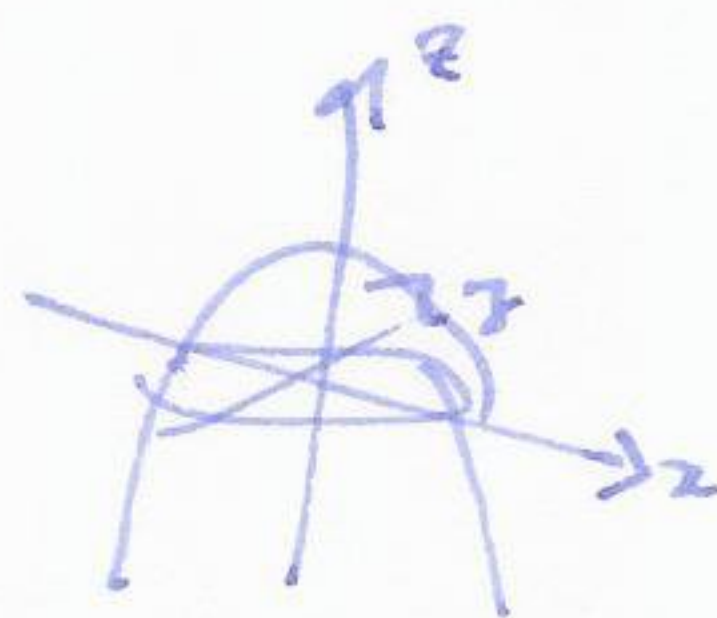
get: $\Delta z = f_x(x_0, y_0) \cos\theta + f_y(x_0, y_0) \sin\theta$.

Defn: The directional derivative is

$$D_{\underline{v}} f(x, y) = f_x(x, y) \cos\theta + f_y(x, y) \sin\theta \quad (*)$$

Example $f(x, y) = 1 - x^2 - y^2$.

direction $\theta = \frac{\pi}{4}$. $\langle \cos \frac{\pi}{4}, \sin \frac{\pi}{4} \rangle$.



$$D_{\underline{v}} f(x, y) = -2x \cos \frac{\pi}{4} - 2y \sin \frac{\pi}{4}.$$

Observation $\odot$ looks like a dot product.

$$D_{\underline{v}} f(x, y) = \langle f_x(x, y), f_y(x, y) \rangle \cdot \underbrace{\langle \cos\theta, \sin\theta \rangle}_{\underline{v}}.$$

Defn: The gradient vector is $\underline{\nabla} f = \langle f_x, f_y \rangle$.

$$D_{\underline{v}} f = \underline{\nabla} f \cdot \underline{v}$$

Important properties

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- the gradient vector points in the direction of greatest increase.
- the length of the gradient vector is the rate of change in the direction of greatest increase.

Proof

$$D_{\underline{v}} f = \underline{\nabla} f \cdot \underline{v} = \|\underline{\nabla} f\| \underbrace{\|\underline{v}\|}_{=1} \cos \theta = \|\underline{\nabla} f\| \cos \theta.$$

max value of $\cos \theta = 1$ when $\theta = 0$.

then $\|D_{\underline{v}} f\| = \|\underline{\nabla} f\|$ in that special direction. $\square$.

Observation

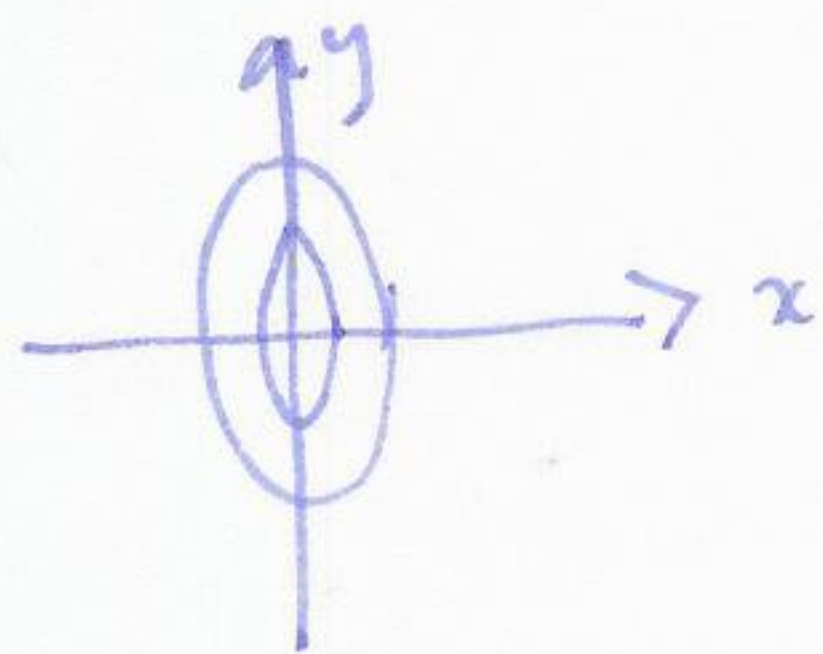
• $-\underline{\nabla} f$ gives direction of greatest decrease.

• if $\underline{\nabla} f = \underline{0}$ then $D_{\underline{v}} f = 0$ for all $\underline{v}$.

Example on the ellipse: $z = 4 - 4x^2 - y^2$ what's the fastest way down?

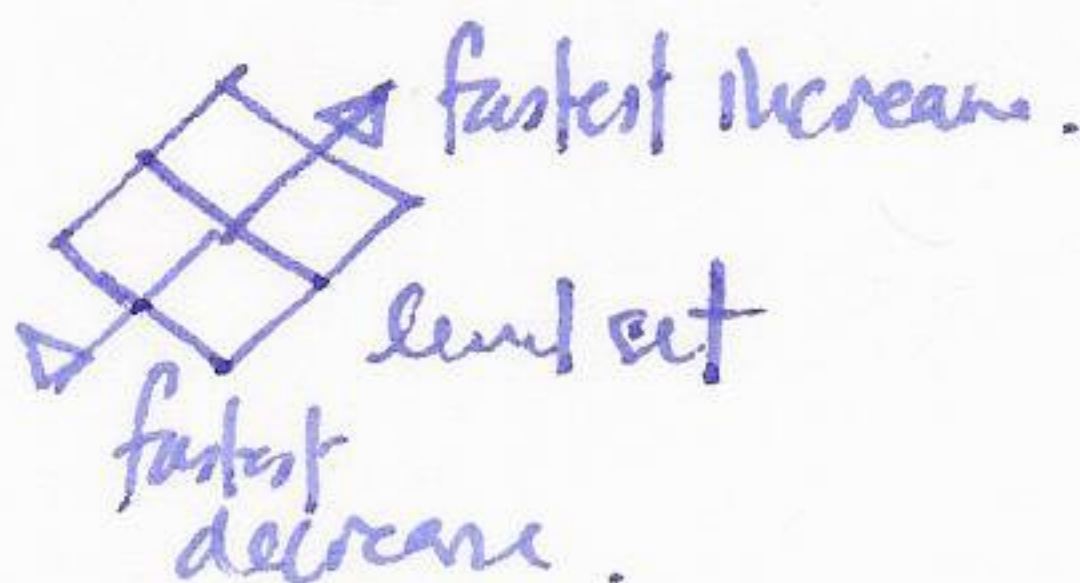
$$\underline{\nabla} f = \langle -8x, -2y \rangle.$$

Gradient vector and contour lines



The gradient vector is perpendicular to the contour lines / level sets.

linear approx:



tangent plane: $z = f_x(x_0, y_0)(x - x_0) + f_y(x_0, y_0)(y - y_0)$ normal vector $\langle f_x, f_y, -1 \rangle$