

Chapter 14: Partial Derivatives

Section 14.1: Functions of several variables

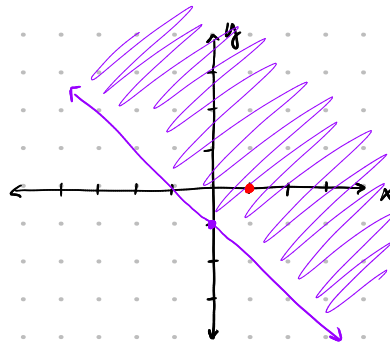
Definition: A function of n variables is a rule that assigns to each ordered tuple of real numbers (x_1, \dots, x_n) in a set D a **unique** real number denoted by $f(x_1, \dots, x_n)$. The set D is called the **domain** of f and its **range** is the set

$$\text{rang}(f) = \{ f(x_1, \dots, x_n) \mid (x_1, \dots, x_n) \in D \}$$

We may write $z = f(x_1, \dots, x_n)$.
 (Note: z is labeled as **dependent** and x_1, \dots, x_n as **independent variables**)

Example: Sketch the domain:

$$f(x, y) = \frac{\sqrt{x+y+1}}{x-1}$$



$$\sqrt{x+y+1} \geq 0$$

$$x+y+1 \geq 0$$

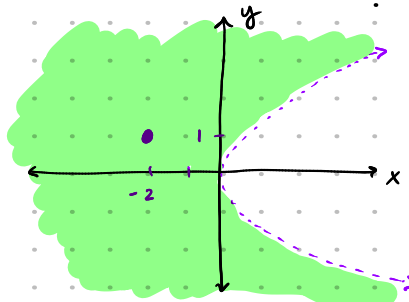
$$x+y \geq -1$$

$$y \geq -x-1$$

$$f(x, y) = x \ln(y^2 - x)$$

$$D(f) = \{ (x, y) \in \mathbb{R}^2 : y^2 - x > 0 \}$$

$$y^2 - x > 0 \\ y^2 > x$$

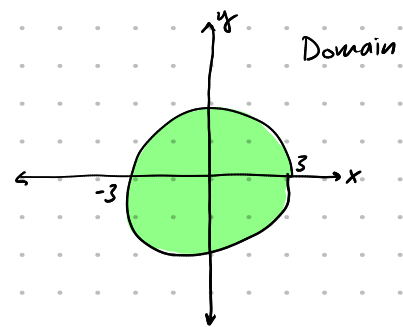


Example: Find the domain and range of $f(x, y) = \sqrt{9 - x^2 - y^2}$

$$\text{Domain: } D(f) = \{ (x, y) : 9 - x^2 - y^2 \geq 0 \Rightarrow 9 \geq x^2 + y^2 \}$$

$$\text{Range: } R(f) = \{ k \in \mathbb{R} : \sqrt{9 - x^2 - y^2} = k \\ \Leftrightarrow 9 - x^2 - y^2 = k^2 \} = [0, 3]$$

$$f(x, y, z, w) \quad (x, y, z, w) \in \mathbb{R}^4$$



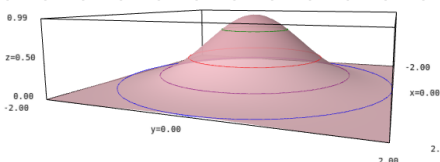
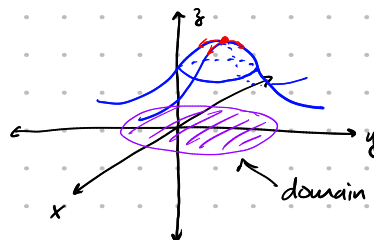
Graphs

Definition: If f is a function of **two variables** with domain D , then the graph of f is:

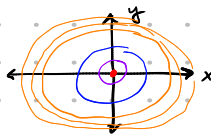
$$\text{graph}(f) = \{ (x, y, z) \in \mathbb{R}^3 : z = f(x, y), (x, y) \in D \}$$

* graphs are a special case of surfaces.

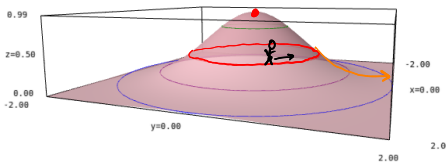
$$\text{Example: } f(x, y) = e^{-x^2 - y^2}$$



□ Level Curves



Definition: The level curves of a function f are curves of the form $f(x,y) = k$ where k is a constant in the range of f . (think traces).



$f(x,y) = e^{-x^2-y^2}$ $f(x,y) = 0$?
 $e^{-x^2-y^2} = 1$ $e^{-x^2-y^2} = .5 \Leftrightarrow -x^2-y^2 = \ln(.5)$ (negative number)
 $e^r = 1$ $-x^2-y^2 = 0 \Leftrightarrow (x,y) = (0,0)$ $x^2+y^2 = k$

When we have 3 or more variables, we can no longer visualize the graphs but we can still get an idea of how the function behaves.

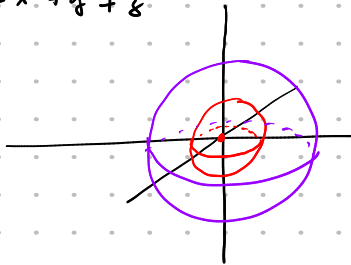
Example: Find the domain of $f(x,y,z) = \ln(z-y) + xy \sin(z)$

Domain: $\{(x,y,z) \in \mathbb{R}^3 : z-y \geq 0\}$

Example: Find the level surfaces of $f(x,y,z) = x^2 + y^2 + z^2$

$x^2 + y^2 + z^2 = 1 \iff$ sphere

$x^2 + y^2 + z^2 = 0 \iff$ point



**** Section 14.2: Limits and Continuity ****

Example: Compare the following:

$\lim_{(x,y) \rightarrow (0,0)} \frac{\sin(x^2+y^2)}{x^2+y^2}$

Let $x^2+y^2 = r$

* You must prove that the limit is the same no matter which path you take.

$\lim_{r \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sin(r)}{r} = 1$

$\lim_{(x,y) \rightarrow (0,0)} \frac{x^2-y^2}{x^2+y^2}$

Let $y=0$

$\lim_{(x,0) \rightarrow (0,0)} \frac{x^2}{x^2} = 1$

$1 \neq -1 \Rightarrow$ limit DNE

Let $x=0$

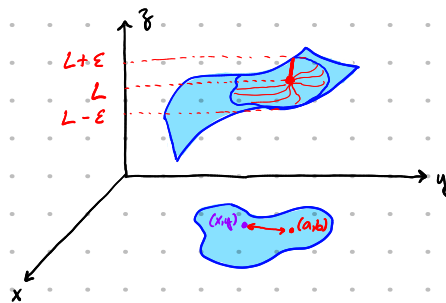
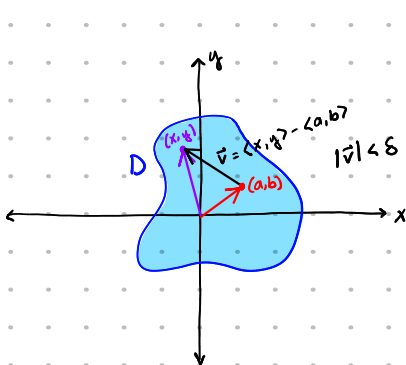
$\lim_{(0,y) \rightarrow (0,0)} \frac{-y^2}{y^2} = -1$

What can you say about how these functions behave at the origin?

Definition: Let f be a function of two variables whose domain D includes points arbitrarily close to (a,b) . Then we say that the limit of $f(x,y)$ as (x,y) goes to (a,b) is L and we write

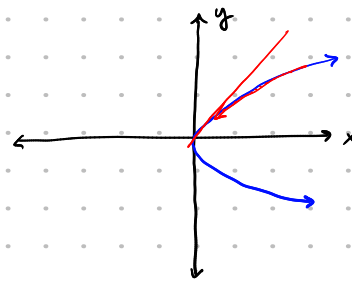
$$\lim_{(x,y) \rightarrow (a,b)} f(x,y) = L$$

if for every number $\epsilon > 0$, there exists a corresponding number $\delta > 0$ such that if $(x,y) \in D$ and $0 < \sqrt{(x-a)^2 + (y-b)^2} < \delta$ then $|f(x,y) - L| < \epsilon$.



$y = k$

* Showing a limit DNE is usually a lot easier than showing it does.



Limit Strategies

1. $\lim_{(x,y) \rightarrow (0,0)} \frac{xy^2}{x^2+y^4}$ Show DNE

Let $x=0$ $\lim_{(0,y) \rightarrow (0,0)} \frac{0}{y^4} = 0$

Let $y=0$ $\lim_{(x,0) \rightarrow (0,0)} \frac{0}{x^2} = 0$

Let $x=y^2$ $\lim_{y \rightarrow 0} \frac{y^4}{2y^4} = \lim_{y \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{2} = \frac{1}{2} \checkmark$ DNE

Let $x=my$ $\lim_{y \rightarrow 0} \frac{my^3}{m^2y^2+y^4} = \lim_{y \rightarrow 0} \frac{my}{m^2+y^2} = 0$

2. Radial Symmetry \rightarrow limit exists

$\lim_{(x,y) \rightarrow (0,0)} \frac{\sin(x^2+y^2)}{x^2+y^2}$ plug in $x^2+y^2 = r$

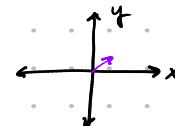
* Substitution.

3. "Squeeze" \rightarrow limit exists

$\lim_{(x,y) \rightarrow (0,0)} \frac{3x^2y}{x^2+y^2}$

Let $\epsilon > 0$. We want to find $\delta > 0$ such that if $0 < \sqrt{x^2+y^2} < \delta$ then $\left| \frac{3x^2y}{x^2+y^2} \right| < \epsilon$

Observation: $x^2 \leq x^2+y^2 \Rightarrow \frac{x^2}{x^2+y^2} \leq 1$



Assume that $\sqrt{x^2+y^2} < \delta \stackrel{?}{\Rightarrow} \left| \frac{3x^2y}{x^2+y^2} \right| < \epsilon \Leftrightarrow \frac{3x^2|y|}{x^2+y^2} < \epsilon$

$\frac{3x^2|y|}{x^2+y^2} \leq 3|y| = 3\sqrt{y^2} \leq 3\sqrt{x^2+y^2} \leq 3\delta$

* Let $\epsilon = 3\delta$. $|f(x,y) - L| \leq \epsilon$

$$\lim_{(x,y) \rightarrow (0,0)} \left| \frac{3x^2y}{x^2+y^2} \right| = \lim_{(x,y) \rightarrow (0,0)} \left| 3y \cdot \frac{x^2}{x^2+y^2} \right| \leq \lim_{(x,y) \rightarrow (0,0)} |3y| = 0$$

\Rightarrow limit must be zero.

□ Continuity

Definition: A function of two variables is continuous at (a, b) if $\lim_{(x,y) \rightarrow (a,b)} f(x,y) = f(a,b)$.
We say a function f is continuous if it's continuous at all the points in its domain D .

Example: Is f continuous?

$$\lim_{(x,y) \rightarrow (0,0)} \frac{3x^2y}{x^2+y^2} = 0$$

$$f(x,y) = \begin{cases} \frac{3x^2y}{x^2+y^2} & \text{if } (x,y) \neq (0,0) \\ 0 & \text{if } (x,y) = (0,0) \end{cases}$$

Where is $f(x,y) = \frac{x^2 - y^2}{x^2 + y^2}$ continuous? $\{(x,y) \in \mathbb{R}^2 : (x,y) \neq (0,0)\}$

Examples + Practice Problems

Section 14.1

32. Match the function with its graph (labeled I–VI). Give reasons for your choices.

(a) $f(x, y) = \frac{1}{1 + (x^2 + y^2)}$

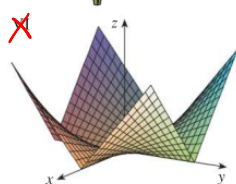
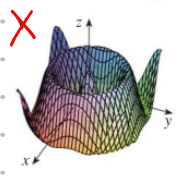
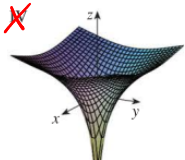
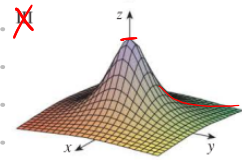
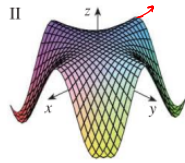
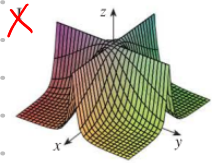
(b) $f(x, y) = \frac{1}{1 + x^2 y^2}$

(c) $f(x, y) = \ln(x^2 + y^2)$

(d) $f(x, y) = \cos \sqrt{x^2 + y^2}$

(e) $f(x, y) = |xy|$

(f) $f(x, y) = \cos(xy)$



a) III

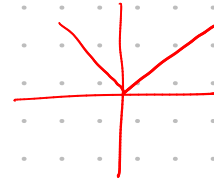
b) I

c) IV

d) V

e) VI

f) II



67–70 Describe the level surfaces of the function.

67. $f(x, y, z) = x + 3y + 5z$

68. $f(x, y, z) = x^2 + 3y^2 + 5z^2$

69. $f(x, y, z) = y^2 + z^2$

70. $f(x, y, z) = x^2 - y^2 - z^2$

67) $x + 3y + 5z = k$

The level surfaces are all planes with normal vector $\vec{n} = \langle 1, 3, 5 \rangle$

68) $x^2 + 3y^2 + 5z^2 = k$

ellipsoids

69) $y^2 + z^2 = k$

Cylinders

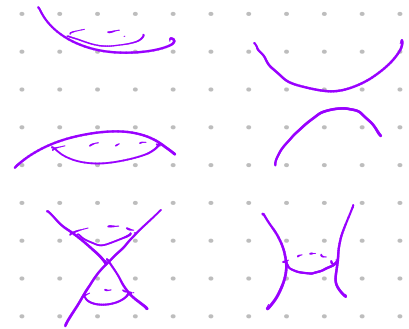
70) $x^2 - y^2 - z^2 = k$

Hyperboloid of two sheets

$x^2 - y^2 - z^2 = 0 \rightsquigarrow x^2 = y^2 + z^2 \rightsquigarrow$ cone

$-x^2 + y^2 + z^2 = k$

Hyperboloid of one sheet



Section 14.2

5-22 Find the limit, if it exists, or show that the limit does not exist.

5. $\lim_{(x,y) \rightarrow (3,2)} (x^2y^3 - 4y^2)$

6. $\lim_{(x,y) \rightarrow (2,-1)} \frac{x^2y + xy^2}{x^2 - y^2}$

7. $\lim_{(x,y) \rightarrow (\pi, \pi/2)} y \sin(x - y)$

8. $\lim_{(x,y) \rightarrow (3,2)} e^{\sqrt{2x-y}}$

9. $\lim_{(x,y) \rightarrow (0,0)} \frac{x^4 - 4y^2}{x^2 + 2y^2}$

10. $\lim_{(x,y) \rightarrow (0,0)} \frac{5y^4 \cos^2 x}{x^4 + y^4}$

11. $\lim_{(x,y) \rightarrow (0,0)} \frac{y^2 \sin^2 x}{x^4 + y^4}$

12. $\lim_{(x,y) \rightarrow (1,0)} \frac{xy - y}{(x-1)^2 + y^2}$

13. $\lim_{(x,y) \rightarrow (0,0)} \frac{xy}{\sqrt{x^2 + y^2}}$

14. $\lim_{(x,y) \rightarrow (0,0)} \frac{x^3 - y^3}{x^2 + xy + y^2}$

15. $\lim_{(x,y) \rightarrow (0,0)} \frac{xy^2 \cos y}{x^2 + y^4}$

16. $\lim_{(x,y) \rightarrow (0,0)} \frac{xy^4}{x^4 + y^4}$

17. $\lim_{(x,y) \rightarrow (0,0)} \frac{x^2 + y^2}{\sqrt{x^2 + y^2 + 1} - 1}$

18. $\lim_{(x,y) \rightarrow (0,0)} \frac{xy^4}{x^2 + y^8}$

19. $\lim_{(x,y,z) \rightarrow (\pi, 0, 1/3)} e^{y^2} \tan(xz)$

20. $\lim_{(x,y,z) \rightarrow (0,0,0)} \frac{xy + yz}{x^2 + y^2 + z^2}$

5) $\lim_{(x,y) \rightarrow (3,2)} (x^2y^3 - 4y^2)$

9.8 - 16

9) $\lim_{(x,y) \rightarrow (0,0)} \frac{x^4 - 4y^2}{x^2 + 2y^2}$

let $x=0$ $\lim_{(0,y) \rightarrow (0,0)} \frac{-4y^2}{2y^2} = -2$

let $y=0$ $\lim_{(x,0) \rightarrow (0,0)} \frac{x^4}{x^2} = 0 \quad 0 \neq -2 \text{ DNE}$

13) $\lim_{(x,y) \rightarrow (0,0)} \frac{xy}{\sqrt{x^2 + y^2}}$

$\left| \frac{xy}{\sqrt{x^2 + y^2}} \right|$

$\frac{|x|}{\sqrt{x^2 + y^2}} \leq 1$

$= \frac{|x| \cdot |y|}{\sqrt{x^2 + y^2}} \leq |y|$

$\frac{|x|}{\sqrt{x^2}} = 1$

$\lim_{y \rightarrow 0} |y| = 0 \Rightarrow \lim_{(x,y) \rightarrow (0,0)} \left| \frac{xy}{\sqrt{x^2 + y^2}} \right| = 0$

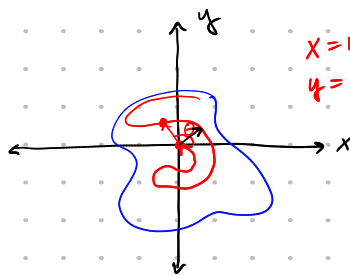
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39-41 Use polar coordinates to find the limit. [If (r, θ) are polar coordinates of the point (x, y) with $r \geq 0$, note that $r \rightarrow 0^+$ as $(x, y) \rightarrow (0, 0)$.]

39. $\lim_{(x,y) \rightarrow (0,0)} \frac{x^3 + y^3}{x^2 + y^2}$

40. $\lim_{(x,y) \rightarrow (0,0)} (x^2 + y^2) \ln(x^2 + y^2)$

41. $\lim_{(x,y) \rightarrow (0,0)} \frac{e^{-x^2-y^2} - 1}{x^2 + y^2}$



39) $x = r \cos \theta$
 $y = r \sin \theta$

$$\frac{r^3 \cos^3 \theta + r^3 \sin^3 \theta}{r^2 \cos^2 \theta + r^2 \sin^2 \theta}$$

$$\lim_{(r,\theta) \rightarrow (0,\theta)} \frac{r^3 \cos^3 \theta + r^3 \sin^3 \theta}{r^2 \cos^2 \theta + r^2 \sin^2 \theta}$$

$$= \lim_{(r,\theta) \rightarrow (0,\theta)} \frac{r^3 \cos^3 \theta + r^3 \sin^3 \theta}{r^2}$$

$$= \lim_{(r,\theta) \rightarrow (0,\theta)} (r \cos^3 \theta + r \sin^3 \theta) = 0$$

40) $\lim_{r \rightarrow 0^+} r^2 \ln(r^2) = 0$

Participation Points Questions

1. What are the level surfaces of $f(x, y, z) = x^2 + y^2$?

2. What is the domain of $f(x, y) = \frac{x+y}{x-1}$?