

Liz Bambury
Friday 9/16/16

Reminders:

- Midterm next Friday (no calculators) → Everything Ch 12, 13, 14.1
- Webpage updates:
 - ↳ Piazza (link on course webpage)
 - ↳ Course notes will be posted
 - ↳ link to sage (open source mathematica)

LAST TIME:

- Mathematical writing
- Homework problem session

TODAY:

- Partial derivatives
- Contour plots/ level sets
- Sage (if time)

Partial Derivatives

→ If $f = f(x, y, z)$
"f is a function of 3 variables"

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial x} = \lim_{\Delta x \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x + \Delta x, y, z) - f(x, y, z)}{\Delta x} \left. \vphantom{\frac{\partial f}{\partial x}} \right\} \text{partial derivative of } f \text{ with respect to } x$$

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial y} = \lim_{\Delta y \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x, y + \Delta y, z) - f(x, y, z)}{\Delta y} \left. \vphantom{\frac{\partial f}{\partial y}} \right\} \text{" } y$$

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial z} = \lim_{\Delta z \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x, y, z + \Delta z) - f(x, y, z)}{\Delta z} \left. \vphantom{\frac{\partial f}{\partial z}} \right\} \text{" } z$$

What this does:

$\frac{\partial}{\partial x}$ = "take a derivative with respect to x and treat all other variables as constants"

similarly w/ $\frac{\partial}{\partial y}$ and $\frac{\partial}{\partial z}$

Examples:

$$\rightarrow \frac{\partial}{\partial x} [x^2 + y] = 2x + 0$$

$$\rightarrow \frac{\partial}{\partial y} [xy] = x$$

$$\rightarrow \frac{\partial}{\partial x} [e^y] = 0$$

$$\rightarrow \frac{\partial}{\partial z} [xy] = 0$$

$$\rightarrow \frac{\partial}{\partial x} [xy] = y$$

$$\rightarrow \frac{\partial}{\partial s} [s^2 e^{st} + f(s)]$$

$$= \frac{\partial}{\partial s} [s^2 e^{st}] + \frac{\partial}{\partial s} [f(s)]$$

$$= 2s e^{st} + s^2 e^{st} \frac{\partial}{\partial s} [st] + f'(s)$$

$$= (2s + s^2 t) e^{st} + f'(s)$$

Notations for partial derivatives

If $f = f(x, y, z)$, then

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial x} = \frac{\partial f}{\partial x}(x, y, z) = f_x = f'_x(x, y, z)$$

We can iterate partial derivatives:

Examples:

$$\rightarrow \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x \partial y} [x^2 y + y] = \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left[\frac{\partial}{\partial y} [x^2 y + y] \right] = \frac{\partial}{\partial x} [x^2 + 1] = 2x$$

$$\rightarrow \frac{\partial^2}{\partial y \partial x} [x^2 y + y] = \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \left[\frac{\partial}{\partial x} [x^2 y + y] \right] = \frac{\partial}{\partial y} [2xy + 0] = 2x$$

REMARK

It is not a coincidence that

$$\frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x \partial y} = \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial y \partial x}$$

in this example. This will be true for differentiable functions.

Warning! → Differentiable does not mean that the partial derivatives exist
→ Differentiable means that one can find a linear approximation.
↳ He will explain this later...

CONTOUR PLOTS/LEVEL SETS

Defn → Let $f(x, y, z)$ be a fn. A level set or contour of $f(x, y, z)$ is a set of the form

$$\{(x, y, z) : f(x, y, z) = c\}$$

for some constant c .

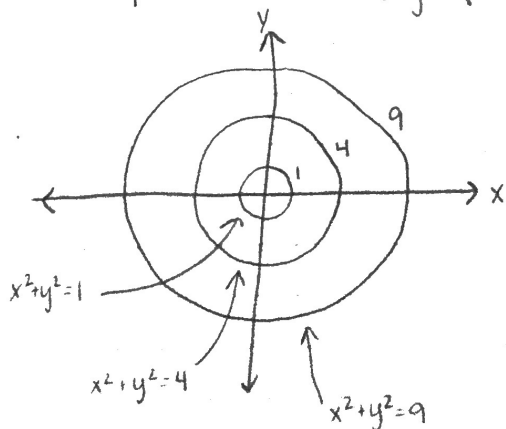
REMARKS:

- One can make a similar 2D defn
- A level set is just a set of pts where the fn stays level

Example: Plot the level sets of
 $f(x, y) = x^2 + y^2$

soln: $\{(x, y) : x^2 + y^2 = c\} = (\text{level set for value } c)$

Contour plots are like topographical maps

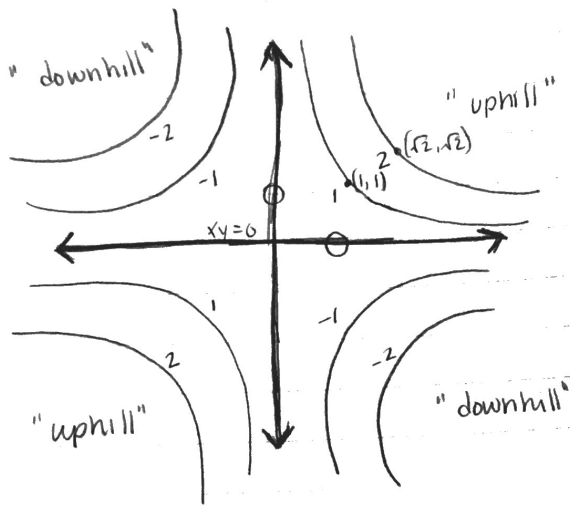


Example: Plot the level sets of

$$g(x, y) = xy$$

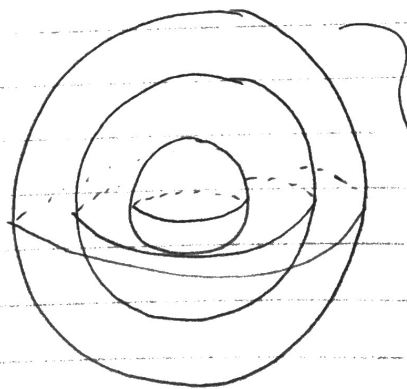
Soln:

look at $xy = c$
 $\Rightarrow y = c/x$ } graph these fns for varying c



Example: What are the level sets of $g(x, y, z) = x^2 + y^2 + z^2$?

Soln: Concentric spheres



"3D contour plot"

(There are graphing programs to draw these)