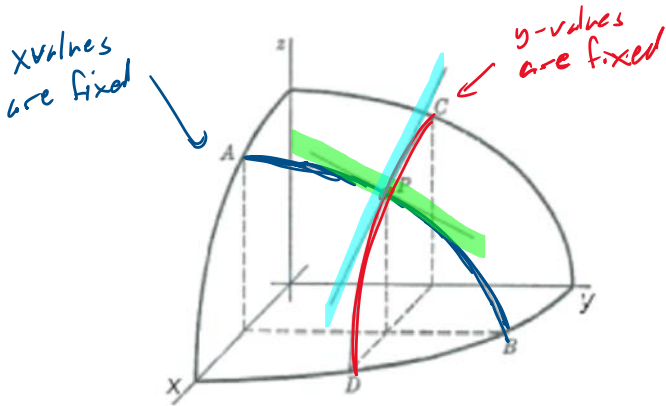


Section 14.4: Tangent Planes and Differentials

Definition: Suppose the surface S has the equation $z = f(x, y)$, where f has continuous first partials, and let $P(a, b, c)$ be a point on the surface. If C_1 and C_2 be the curves obtained by intersecting the planes $x = a$ and $y = b$ with the surface, then T_1 and T_2 are the respective tangent lines to the curves at point P . The **tangent plane** to the surface S at the point $P(a, b, c)$ is defined to be the plane that contains both of the tangent lines at point P .



$V_1 = \langle 0, 1, f_y(a, b) \rangle$

$V_2 = \langle 1, 0, f_x(a, b) \rangle$

$$n = V_2 \times V_1 = \begin{vmatrix} i & j & k \\ 1 & 0 & f_x(a, b) \\ 0 & 1 & f_y(a, b) \end{vmatrix}$$

$$\begin{cases} n = \langle -f_x(a, b), -f_y(a, b), 1 \rangle \\ n = \langle -f_x, -f_y, 1 \rangle \end{cases}$$

also $\langle f_x, f_y, -1 \rangle$

Theorem: An equation of the tangent plane to the surface $z = f(x, y)$ at the point $P(a, b, c)$ or $P(a, b, f(a, b))$ is

$$-f_x(a, b)(x-a) - f_y(a, b)(y-b) + 1(z-c) = 0$$

The normal vector for this plane is

The normal line is the line through the point $P(a, b, c)$ that is perpendicular to the tangent plane.

$$x = a - f_x(a, b) \cdot t$$

$$y = b - f_y(a, b) \cdot t$$

$$z = c + t$$

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

Example: Find an equation of the tangent plane to the graph of the function $z = 3x^2 + y^4$ at the point $(2, 1, 13)$.

$$\begin{aligned} n &= \langle -f_x, -f_y, 1 \rangle \\ &= \langle -z_x, -z_y, 1 \rangle \end{aligned}$$

$$z_x = f_x = 6x$$

$$f_x(2, 1) = 12$$

$$z_y = f_y = 4y^3$$

$$f_y(2, 1) = 4(1)^3 = 4$$

$$n = \langle -12, -4, 1 \rangle$$

Normal line

$$x = 2 - 12t$$

$$y = 1 - 4t$$

$$z = 13 + t$$

Tangent plane

$$-12(x-2) - 4(y-1) + 1(z-13) = 0$$

$$-12x - 4y + z = -15$$

Example: Find an equation of the tangent plane $f(x, y) = \ln(5x + 2y)$ at the point $(-1, 3, 0)$. Also find a formula for the normal line at this point.

$$f_x = \frac{5}{5x+2y}$$

$$f_x(-1, 3) = \frac{5}{5(-1)+2(3)} = \frac{5}{-5+6} = \frac{5}{1} = 5$$

$\langle f_x, f_y, -1 \rangle$

$$f_y = \frac{2}{5x+2y}$$

$$f_y(-1, 3) = \frac{2}{1} = 2$$

$$n = \langle -f_x, -f_y, 1 \rangle$$

$$n = \langle -5, -2, 1 \rangle$$

normal line

$$x = -1 - 5t$$

$$y = 3 - 2t$$

$$z = 0 + t$$

Tangent plane

$$-5(x+1) - 2(y-3) + 1(z-0) = 0$$

Differentials:

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = f'(x)$$

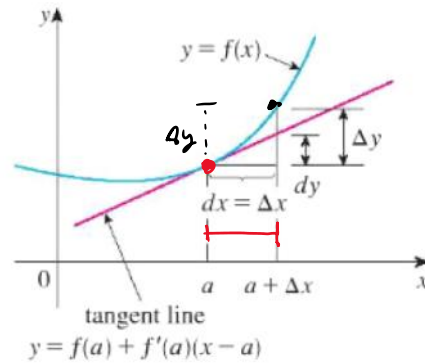
In Cal I we had for $y = f(x)$ the differentials dy and dx defined as

$$dy = f'(x)dx$$

We saw that for the point $(a, f(a))$ and $dx = \Delta x$ we found that

$$\underline{f(a + \Delta x)} = \underline{f(a)} + \underline{\Delta y} \approx \underline{f(a)} + \underline{dy}$$

$$f(a) + f'(a) dx$$



$\Delta y = \text{exact change}$

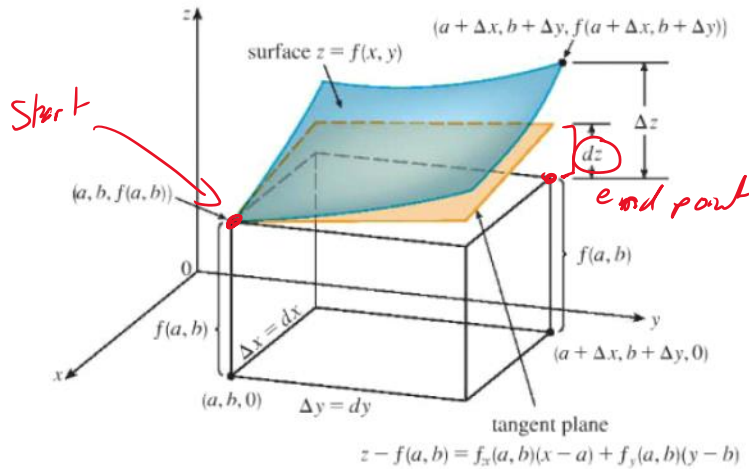
$dy = \text{approx. change.}$

Definition: Consider a function of two variables $z = f(x, y)$. Let Δx and Δy be increments of x and y , respectively.

- Then differentials dx and dy are independent variables and $dx = \Delta x$ and $dy = \Delta y$
- The differential dz , also called the **total differential**, is a dependent variable and is defined by $dz = f_x(x, y)dx + f_y(x, y)dy$

Note: $\Delta z = f(x + \Delta x, y + \Delta y) - f(x, y)$ and when Δx and Δy are small and the partials are both continuous, then $\Delta z \approx dz$.

Actual change
 $\Delta z = f(\text{end pt.}) - f(\text{start pt.})$



$$f(\text{end pt.}) \approx f(\text{start pt.}) + dz$$

The linearization, $L(x, y)$, of the function $f(x, y)$ at the point (a, b) is

$$L(x, y) \approx \underbrace{f(a, b)}_{\text{start}} + \underbrace{f_x(a, b)(x - a) + f_y(a, b)(y - b)}_{dz}$$

Example: Use differentials to find an approximate value for $\sqrt{1.03^2 + 1.98^3}$

$$f(x, y) = \sqrt{x^2 + y^3}$$

$$\text{start pt) } \begin{matrix} x = 1 \\ y = 2 \end{matrix}$$

$$f(1, 2) = \sqrt{1^2 + 2^3} = \sqrt{1+8} = \sqrt{9} = 3$$

$$f_x = \frac{1}{2} (x^2 + y^3)^{-\frac{1}{2}} \cdot 2x$$

$$\text{end pt) } \begin{matrix} x = 1.03 \\ y = 1.98 \end{matrix}$$

$$dx = \Delta x = \text{end pt} - \text{start pt} = 1.03 - 1 = .03$$

$$dy = \Delta y = 1.98 - 2 = -.02$$

$$f_x = \frac{x}{\sqrt{x^2 + y^3}}$$

$$f_y = \frac{1}{2} (x^2 + y^3)^{-\frac{1}{2}} \cdot 3y^2$$

$$f_x(1, 2) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1^2 + 2^3}} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{9}} = \frac{1}{3}$$

$$f_y = \frac{3y^2}{2\sqrt{x^2 + y^3}}$$

$$f_y(1, 2) = \frac{3(2)^2}{2\sqrt{1^2 + 2^3}} = \frac{12}{2\sqrt{9}} = \frac{6}{3} = 2$$

Compute the total differential

$$\begin{aligned} dz &= f_x(1, 2) \cdot dx + f_y(1, 2) \cdot dy = \frac{1}{3} (.03) + 2 (-.02) \\ &= .01 - .04 = -.03 \end{aligned}$$

$$\sqrt{1.03^2 + 1.98^3} \approx f(1, 2) + dz = 3 - .03 = \underline{\underline{2.97}}$$

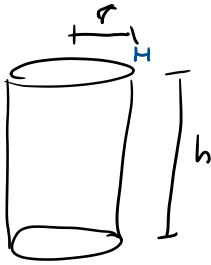
$$\begin{aligned} l(x, y) &\approx f(1, 2) + f_x(1, 2)(x-1) + f_y(1, 2)(y-2) \\ &= 3 + \frac{1}{3}(x-1) + 2(y-2) \end{aligned}$$

Example: Find the differential (i.e. the total differential) of the function
 $w = x^5y^3 + x^2z^4$.

$$dw = w_x dx + w_y dy + w_z dz$$

$$dw = (5x^4y^3 + 2xz^4) dx + (x^5 \cdot 3y^2) dy + (x^2 \cdot 4z^3) dz$$

Example: Estimate the amount of material in a closed can (right circular cylinder) with a radius of 3 in and a height of 8 in if the material of the can is 0.04 in thick.



$$V = \pi r^2 h$$

$$r = 3 \text{ in}$$

$$h = 8 \text{ in}$$

$$dr = .04$$

$$dh = \underbrace{.04}_{\text{Top}} + \underbrace{.04}_{\text{Bottom}} = .08$$

$$dV = V_r dr + V_h dh$$

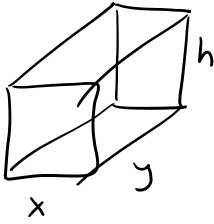
$$= (2\pi r h) dr + (\pi r^2) dh$$

$$= 2\pi(3)(8)(.04) + \pi(3)^2(.08)$$

$$= 2.64 \pi$$

$$= 8.29 \text{ cubic in.}$$

Example: The dimensions of a closed rectangular box are measured as 90cm, 70cm, and 60cm with a possible error of 0.3cm in each dimension. Use differentials to estimate the maximum error in calculating the surface area of the box.



$$SA = 2xy + 2xh + 2yh$$

$$x = 90$$

$$y = 70$$

$$h = 60$$

$$dx = dy = dh = 0.3$$

$$dSA = \underbrace{SA_x}_{2y+2h} dx + \underbrace{SA_y}_{2x+2h} dy + \underbrace{SA_h}_{2x+2y} dh$$

$$= (2y + 2h) dx + (2x + 2h) dy + (2x + 2y) dh$$

$$= [2(70) + 2(60)](0.3) + [2(90) + 2(60)](0.3) + [2(90) + 2(70)](0.3)$$

$$= 264 \text{ sq cm.}$$

Definition: A function $f(x, y)$ is differentiable at (a, b) if its partial derivatives f_x and f_y exist and are continuous at (a, b) .

Note: Polynomial and rational functions are differentiable on their domains.

Example: Find an equation of a tangent plane for the surface at the point $(1, 1, 1)$, if it is known the two space curves $r(t)$ and $g(s)$ are both on the surface and they both go through the point $(1, 1, 1)$

$$r(t) = \langle t, t^2, t^3 \rangle$$

$$\hookrightarrow t=1 \quad z=0$$

$$g(s) = \langle 1+2s, 1+s-s^2, 1-s+s^2-s^3 \rangle$$

$$r'(t) = \langle 1, 2t, 3t^2 \rangle \quad r'(1) = \langle 1, 2, 3 \rangle$$

$$g'(s) = \langle 2, 1-2s, -1+2s-3s^2 \rangle \quad g'(0) = \langle 2, 1, -1 \rangle$$

$$n = r'(1) \times g'(0) = \dots = \langle -5, 7, -3 \rangle$$

tangent plane

$$-5(x-1) + 7(y-1) - 3(z-1) = 0$$

$f(x, y)$

normal vectors

$$n = \langle -f_x, -f_y, 1 \rangle$$

$$n = \langle f_x, f_y, -1 \rangle$$

$$1+2z=1$$

$$2z=0$$

$$z=0$$