

Eqn of tangent plane at  $(x_0, y_0)$ :

$$z = f(x_0, y_0) + \partial_1 f(x_0, y_0)(x - x_0) + \partial_2 f(x_0, y_0)(y - y_0)$$

Condition:  $\lim_{(x,y) \rightarrow (x_0, y_0)} \frac{|f(x,y) - T(x,y)|}{|(x,y) - (x_0, y_0)|} = 0.$

Example:  $f(x,y) = \frac{xy}{\sqrt{x^2+y^2}}, (x,y) \neq (0,0)$ . Claim: there is no tangent plane at  $(0,0,0)$ .

$$f(x,0) = 0 \Rightarrow \partial_1 f(0,0) = 0$$

$$f(0,y) = 0 \Rightarrow \partial_2 f(0,0) = 0.$$

if there is a tangent plane, it is  $z = 0$ .

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

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

approach along the line  $\vec{\gamma}(t) = (t, t)$

$$= \lim_{t \rightarrow 0} \frac{t^2}{2t^2} = \frac{1}{2} \neq 0.$$

Problem: Find tangent hyperplane to the graph  $z = f(\vec{x})$  where  $f: U \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  at a given point  $(\vec{x}_0, f(\vec{x}_0))$

Eqn of hyperplane:

$$z = a_1 x_1 + a_2 x_2 + \dots + a_n x_n + c$$

$$= \vec{a} \cdot \vec{x} + c \quad \text{where } \vec{a} = (a_1, \dots, a_n)$$

Since hyperplane must pass thru  $(\vec{x}_0, f(\vec{x}_0))$ , we must have  $f(\vec{x}_0) = \vec{a} \cdot \vec{x}_0 + c$

$$\text{so } c = f(\vec{x}_0) - \vec{a} \cdot \vec{x}_0.$$

$$\text{so } z = \vec{a} \cdot \vec{x} + f(\vec{x}_0) - \vec{a} \cdot \vec{x}_0.$$

$$= \vec{a} \cdot (\vec{x} - \vec{x}_0) + f(\vec{x}_0) = T(\vec{x}).$$

Definition: Let  $U \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$  be an open set and  $f: U \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ .

$f$  is differentiable at  $\vec{x}_0 \in U$  if  $\exists \vec{a} \in \mathbb{R}^n$  so that

$$\lim_{\vec{x} \rightarrow \vec{x}_0} \frac{|f(\vec{x}) - f(\vec{x}_0) - \vec{a} \cdot (\vec{x} - \vec{x}_0)|}{|\vec{x} - \vec{x}_0|} = 0. \quad (*)$$

( $\text{dom } f = U \text{ open} \Rightarrow$  limit is strong limit).

Remark: it does not matter which norm is used on  $\mathbb{R}^n$ .

By comparability of norms,

$$A\|\vec{x} - \vec{x}_0\| \leq |\vec{x} - \vec{x}_0| \leq B\|\vec{x} - \vec{x}_0\| \quad \text{for some } A, B \in \mathbb{R}^+$$

So the limit would be adjusted by multiplication of a constant and would still be 0. (also some squeeze theorem involved).

a convenient reformulation of (\*). let  $\vec{h} = \vec{x} - \vec{x}_0 \Rightarrow \vec{x} = \vec{x}_0 + \vec{h}$ .

$$(*) \Leftrightarrow \lim_{\vec{h} \rightarrow 0} \frac{|f(\vec{x}_0 + \vec{h}) - f(\vec{x}_0) - \vec{a} \cdot \vec{h}|}{|\vec{h}|} = 0.$$

Theorem: if  $f$  is differentiable at  $\vec{x}_0$  then  $\vec{a} = (\partial_1 f(\vec{x}_0), \partial_2 f(\vec{x}_0), \dots, \partial_n f(\vec{x}_0))$   
 $= \vec{\nabla} f(\vec{x}_0).$

Proof: let  $\vec{h} = (0, 0, \dots, \overset{\substack{\uparrow \\ i\text{-th coordinate}}}{h_i}, \dots, 0, 0).$

$$\begin{aligned}
\text{Then } (*) &\Leftrightarrow \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \left| \frac{f(x_0, \dots, x_{i-1}, x_i+h, \dots, x_n) - f(\vec{x}_0) - h a_i}{h} \right| = 0 \\
&= \left| \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x_0, \dots, x_{i-1}, x_i+h, \dots, x_n) - f(\vec{x}_0) - h a_i}{h} \right| \\
&= \left| \partial_i f(\vec{x}_0) - a_i \right| = 0 \Rightarrow a_i = \partial_i f(\vec{x}_0) \quad \blacksquare
\end{aligned}$$

Condition (\*) is difficult to check, but there is a stronger condition which is easier to check:

**Theorem:** Suppose  $U \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$  is open, and all partial derivatives  $\partial_i f : U \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  are defined and continuous for  $i=1, 2, \dots, n$ .  
Then  $f$  is differentiable on  $U$ .

Proof: Let  $\vec{h} = (h_1, \dots, h_n)$  be given. Let  $\vec{h}^{(i)} = (0, \dots, 0, h_i, h_{i+1}, \dots, h_n)$  for  $i=0, \dots, n$ .  
We define  $\vec{h}^{(n+1)} = \vec{0}$ . By the single-variable mean value theorem,

$$f(\vec{x}_0 + \vec{h}^{(i)}) - f(\vec{x}_0 + \vec{h}^{(i+1)}) = \partial_i f(\vec{c}^{(i)}) h_i$$

$\underbrace{\hspace{10em}}$   
 all components except  $i$ -th are equal

$$\pi_i(\vec{x}_0 + \vec{h}^{(i)}) = x_{0i} + h_i, \quad \pi_i(\vec{x}_0 + \vec{h}^{(i+1)}) = x_{0i}$$

where  $\vec{c}^{(i)} = (x_{01}, x_{02}, \dots, \overset{x_{0i}+h_i}{\underset{x_{0i}}{\overset{x_{0i}+h_i}{\text{VA}}}{c_i}}, x_{0i+1}+h_{i+1}, \dots, x_{0n}+h_n)$

$$\begin{aligned}
\text{note } f(\vec{x}_0 + \vec{h}) - f(\vec{x}_0) &= \sum_{i=1}^n [f(\vec{x}_0 + \vec{h}^{(i)}) - f(\vec{x}_0 + \vec{h}^{(i+1)})] \quad (\text{telescoping series}). \\
&= \sum_{i=1}^n (\partial_i f(\vec{c}^{(i)}) h_i)
\end{aligned}$$

Now we have

$$\frac{|f(\vec{x}_0 + \vec{h}) - f(\vec{x}_0) - \sum_{i=1}^n \partial_i f(\vec{x}_0) h_i|}{|\vec{h}|} \quad (**)$$

$$= \frac{\left| \sum_{i=1}^n [\partial_i f(\vec{c}^{(i)}) - \partial_i f(x_0)] \right| |\vec{h}|}{|\vec{h}|} \leq \sum_{i=1}^n |\partial_i f(\vec{c}^{(i)}) - \partial_i f(x_0)| \frac{|\vec{h}|}{|\vec{h}|}$$

note that  $\frac{|\vec{h}|}{|\vec{h}|} = \frac{|\vec{h}|}{\left| \sum_{j=1}^n h_j^2 \right|} \leq \frac{|\vec{h}|}{\sqrt{h_i^2}} = 1$

$$\rightarrow \leq \sum_{i=1}^n |\partial_i f(\vec{c}^{(i)}) - \partial_i f(x_0)|. \quad \text{as } \vec{h} \rightarrow \vec{0}, \quad \vec{c}^{(i)} \rightarrow \vec{x}_0$$

$$\Rightarrow \lim_{\vec{h} \rightarrow \vec{0}} \sum_{i=1}^n |\partial_i f(\vec{c}^{(i)}) - \partial_i f(x_0)| = 0.$$

So  $\lim_{\vec{h} \rightarrow \vec{0}} (\star\star) = 0$  by sq. thm.