

# MATH 105: MULTIVARIABLE CALCULUS REVIEW SHEET

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ABSTRACT. Below is a summary of definitions and some key lemmas, theorems and concepts from multivariable calculus. **Note: you are responsible for making sure all items below are correct; if you find any mistakes please let me know.**

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## 1. CHAPTER 1: THE GEOMETRY OF EUCLIDEAN SPACE

### 1.1. Definitions.

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**Definition 1.1** (Equation of a line). *The line going through the point  $\vec{P}$  in the direction  $\vec{v}$  is the set of all points  $(x_1, \dots, x_n)$  such that*

$$(x_1, \dots, x_n) = \vec{P} + t\vec{v}.$$

*In three dimensions, we have*

$$(x, y, z) = \vec{P} + t\vec{v}.$$

*If  $\vec{v} = (v_1, v_2, v_3)$  and  $\vec{P} = (P_1, P_2, P_3)$ , this is equivalent to the system of equations*

$$\begin{aligned} x &= P_1 + tv_1 \\ y &= P_2 + tv_2 \\ z &= P_3 + tv_3. \end{aligned}$$

If we have two points on the line but not the direction, we may find the direction by subtracting one point from the other.

**Definition 1.2** (Equation of a plane). *The plane going through the point  $\vec{P}$  with directions  $\vec{v}$  and  $\vec{w}$  is all points  $(x, y, z)$  satisfying*

$$(x, y, z) = \vec{P} + t\vec{v} + s\vec{w}.$$

*If instead we are given a normal direction  $\vec{n}$ , then the plane going through  $\vec{P}$  with normal in the direction  $\vec{n}$  is the set of all points  $(x, y, z)$  such that*

$$\left( (x, y, z) - \vec{P} \right) \cdot \vec{n} = 0.$$

**Definition 1.3** (Determinants). *The determinant of two vectors represents the signed area of the parallelogram generated by the two vectors (for three vectors it is the signed volume). If*

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix}$$

*then*

$$\det(A) = |A| = ad - bc.$$

*If*

$$B = \begin{pmatrix} a & b & c \\ d & e & f \\ g & h & i \end{pmatrix}$$

*then*

$$\det(B) = |B| = aei + bfg + cdh - gec - hfa - idb.$$

One can remember the definition of the determinant in the  $3 \times 3$  case by copying the first two columns of the matrix and looking at the three diagonals from upper left to lower right and the three diagonals from the lower left to the upper right. The first three are all added while the last three are all subtracted.

**Definition 1.4** (Dot Product). If  $\vec{v} = (v_1, \dots, v_n)$  and  $\vec{w} = (w_1, \dots, w_n)$  then the dot (or inner) product is defined by

$$\vec{v} \cdot \vec{w} = v_1 w_1 + \dots + v_n w_n = \sum_{i=1}^n v_i w_i.$$

For example, if  $\vec{v} = (1, 2, 3)$  and  $\vec{w} = (3, 2, 1)$  then

$$\vec{v} \cdot \vec{w} = 1 \cdot 3 + 2 \cdot 2 + 3 \cdot 1 = 10.$$

**Definition 1.5** (Cross product). If  $\vec{v} = (v_1, v_2, v_3)$  and  $\vec{w} = (w_1, w_2, w_3)$  then the cross product is defined by

$$\vec{v} \times \vec{w} = (v_2 w_3 - v_3 w_2, v_3 w_1 - v_1 w_3, v_1 w_2 - v_2 w_1).$$

One can remember this by abusing notation and computing

$$\begin{vmatrix} \vec{i} & \vec{j} & \vec{k} \\ v_1 & v_2 & v_3 \\ w_1 & w_2 & w_3 \end{vmatrix}.$$

**Definition 1.6** (Cylindrical coordinates). We have

$$x = r \cos \theta, \quad y = r \sin \theta,$$

with  $\theta \in [0, 2\pi)$  and  $r \geq 0$ . We may invert these relations, and find

$$r = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2}, \quad \theta = \arctan(y/x).$$

## 1.2. Theorems.

**Theorem 1.7** (Pythagorean Theorem). If we have a right triangle with sides  $a$  and  $b$  and hypotenuse  $c$ , then

$$c^2 = a^2 + b^2.$$

**Theorem 1.8** (Law of Cosines). Consider a triangle with sides  $a, b, c$  and angle  $\theta$  opposite of the side of length  $c$ . Then

$$c^2 = a^2 + b^2 - 2ab \cos \theta.$$

**Theorem 1.9** (Length of a vector). If  $\vec{v} = (v_1, \dots, v_n)$  then

$$\|\vec{v}\| = \sqrt{v_1^2 + \dots + v_n^2}.$$

If we want to normalize a vector, that means constructing a new vector of the same direction but of unit length. If  $\vec{v}$  is not the zero vector, then

$$\vec{u} = \frac{\vec{v}}{\|\vec{v}\|}$$

is a unit vector in the direction of  $\vec{v}$ .

**Theorem 1.10** (Angle formula). If  $\theta$  denotes the angle between vectors  $\vec{v}$  and  $\vec{w}$ , then

$$\vec{v} \cdot \vec{w} = \|\vec{v}\| \|\vec{w}\| \cos \theta.$$

**Theorem 1.11** (Cross product interpretation). *The vector  $\vec{v} \times \vec{w}$  is a vector perpendicular to  $\vec{v}$  and  $\vec{w}$  such that its length is the signed area of the parallelogram generated by  $\vec{v}$  and  $\vec{w}$ .*

**Theorem 1.12** (Cauchy-Schwarz Inequality). *For any two vectors  $\vec{v}$  and  $\vec{w}$  we have*

$$|\vec{v} \cdot \vec{w}| \leq \|\vec{v}\| \|\vec{w}\|.$$

## 2. CHAPTER 2: DIFFERENTIATION

**2.1. Definitions.** *Just because a quantity does not have an arrow over it should not be construed as implying it cannot be a vector. Many of the concepts have the same definition for scalars and vectors, and for brevity we typically give just one.*

**Definition 2.1** (Function terminology). *The domain is the set of inputs for the function, while the range is the set of possible outputs. When we write  $f : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$  we mean the function takes  $n$  inputs and gives  $m$  outputs. We typically denote this*

$$f(x_1, \dots, x_n) = (f_1(x_1, \dots, x_n), \dots, f_m(x_1, \dots, x_n)).$$

An example of an  $f : \mathbb{R}^3 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$  is

$$f(x, y, z) = (xy \cos(y^2 z) + e^z, 3 + 4x + 5y^2 + 6z^3).$$

**Definition 2.2** (Level sets). *The level set of value  $c$  of a function is the set of all inputs where the function takes on the value  $c$ . Specifically, if  $f : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  then the level set of value  $c$  is*

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

For example, see the plots of  $\sin(x + y)$  in Figure 1 and  $\sin(xy)$  in Figure 2. We also show their level sets (which is frequently called a contour plot).

**Definition 2.3** (Limit of a sequence). *We say a sequence  $\{a_n\}_{n=0}^{\infty}$  has  $L$  as a limit if as  $n$  tends to infinity we have  $a_n$  tends to  $L$ . We denote this as  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n = L$ .*

For example, consider the sequence  $\{a_n\}_{n=1}^{\infty}$  where  $a_n = (-1)^n/n$ ; thus our sequence is  $\{-1, 1/2, -1/3, 1/4, \dots\}$  and its limit exists, which is 0. The sequence  $\{b_n\}_{n=1}^{\infty}$  given by  $b_n = (-1)^n$  has no limit, as its terms oscillate between -1 and 1.

**Definition 2.4** (Limit of a function). *A function  $f(x)$  has  $L$  as a limit at  $x_0$  if however  $x$  approaches  $x_0$  we have  $f(x)$  approaches  $L$ . We denote this by  $\lim_{x \rightarrow x_0} f(x) = L$ . NOTE: we never have a term in any of our sequence equal to  $x_0$ ; the goal is to understand what happens as  $x$  approaches  $x_0$ .*

For the above definition, what we are essentially saying is that given *any* sequence  $x_n$  which approaches  $x_0$  we have  $f(x_n)$  approaching  $f(x_0)$ . For example, consider the function

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} \sin(1/x) & \text{if } x \neq 0 \\ 0 & \text{if } x = 0. \end{cases}$$

This function does not have a limit at the point  $x_0 = 0$ . To see this, consider the sequence  $x_n = \frac{1}{2\pi n}$  and  $\tilde{x}_n = \frac{1}{(2\pi + \frac{1}{2})n}$ . Note  $f(x_n) = 0$  for every term in this sequence, but  $f(\tilde{x}_n) = 1$  for every term in this sequence. Thus there are two sequences with two different limits, and thus the function does not have a limit at 0.

**Definition 2.5** (Continuity of a function). *A function  $f(x)$  is continuous at  $x_0$  if the limit exists as  $x \rightarrow x_0$  and that limit is  $f(x_0)$ . This means  $\lim_{x \rightarrow x_0} f(x) = f(x_0)$ .*

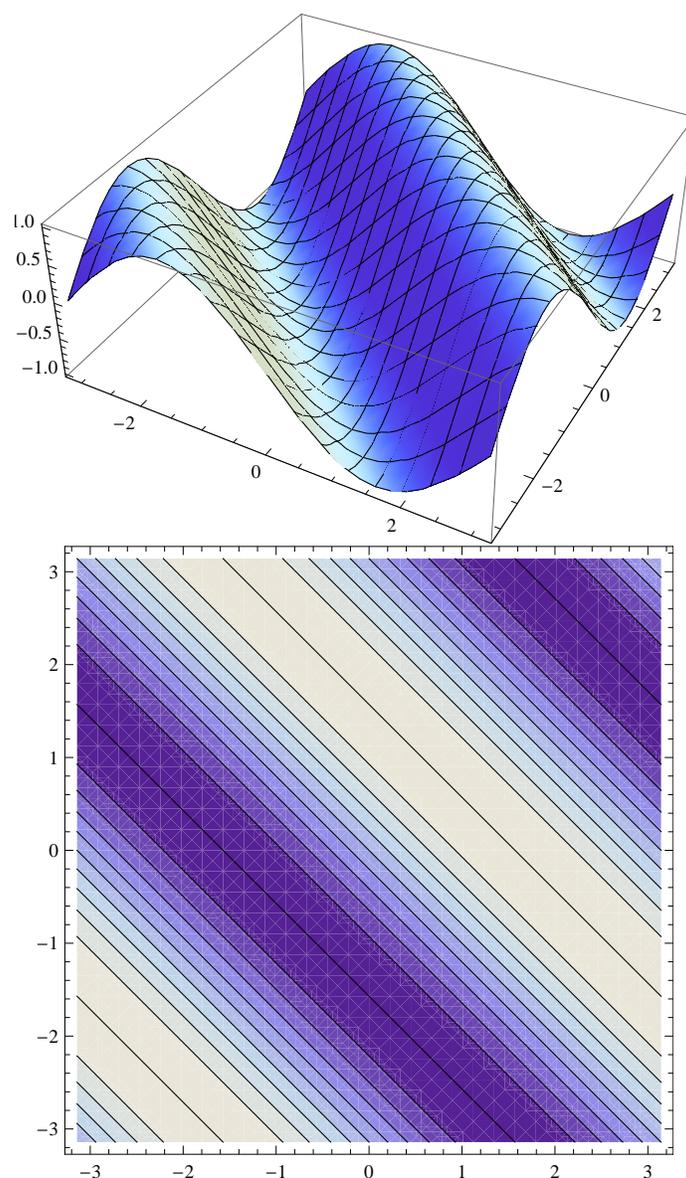


FIGURE 1. Plot of  $\sin(x + y)$  and then the level sets of  $\sin(x + y)$ .

For example, consider

$$g(x) = \begin{cases} x \sin(1/x) & \text{if } x \neq 0 \\ 0 & \text{if } x = 0. \end{cases}$$

This function is continuous at 0; see Figure 3.

**Definition 2.6** (Ball or Disk). *The ball or disk of radius  $r$  about a point  $\vec{x}_0$  is the set of all points that are less than  $r$  units from  $\vec{x}_0$ . We assume  $r > 0$  as otherwise the ball is empty. We denote this set by*

$$D_r(\vec{x}_0) = \{\vec{x} \text{ such that } \|\vec{x} - \vec{x}_0\| < r\}.$$

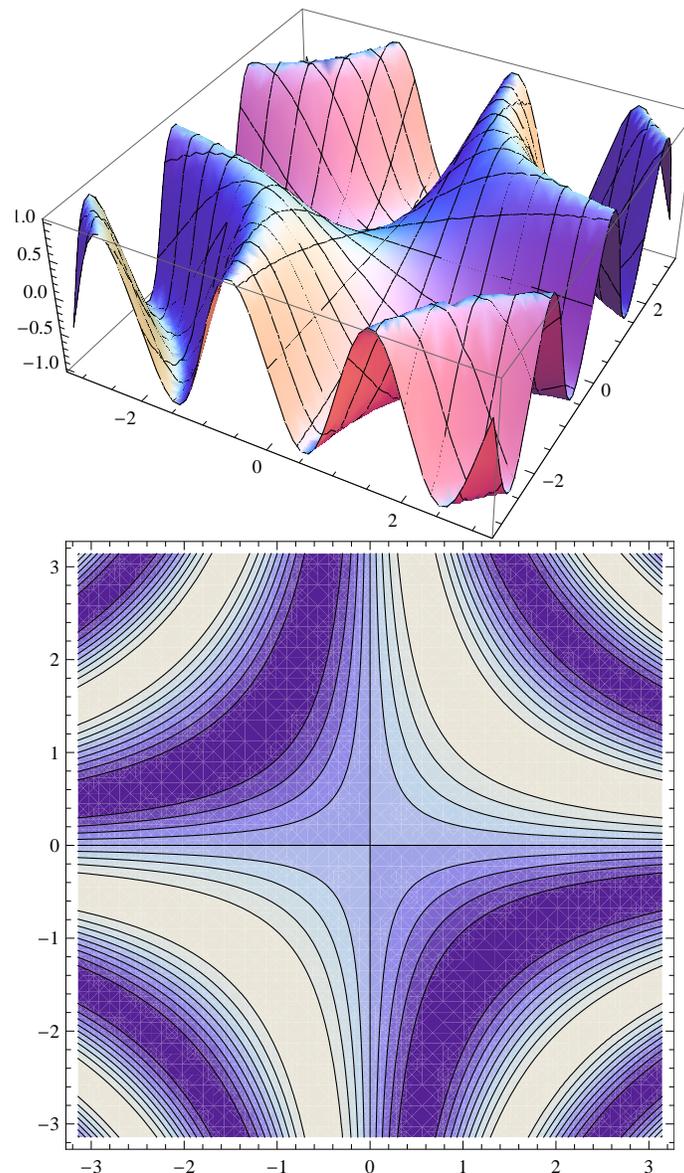
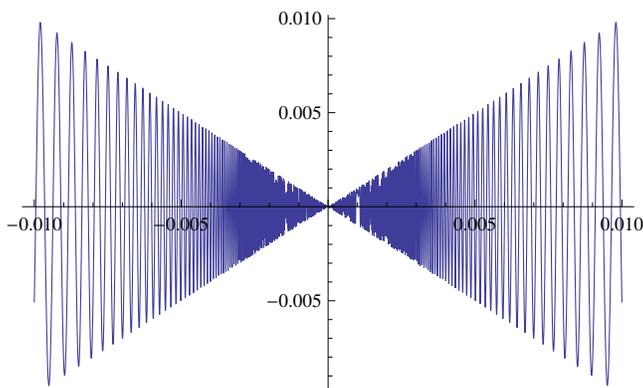
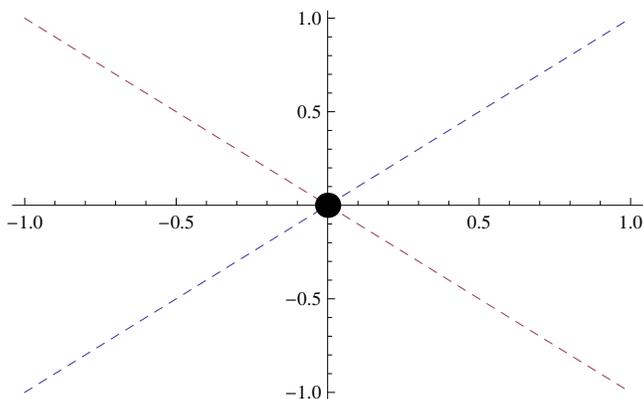


FIGURE 2. Plot of  $\sin(xy)$  and then the level sets of  $\sin(xy)$ .

**Definition 2.7** (Open Set). A set  $U$  is open if for any  $\vec{x}_0 \in U$  we can always find an  $r$  (which may depend on the point  $\vec{x}_0$  such that  $D_r(\vec{x}_0) \subset U$ . This means that, no matter what point we take in  $U$ , we can find a very small ball (or disk) centered at that point and entirely contained in  $U$ .

The following sets are open:  $\{(x, y) : y > 0\}$ ,  $\{(x, y, z) : x^2 + 4y^2 + 9z^2 < 1\}$ . The following sets are not open:  $\{(x, y) : y \geq 0\}$  and  $\{(x, y, z) : x^2 + 4y^2 + 9z^2 \leq 1\}$ . For another set that is not open, consider  $\{(x, y) : |y| < x\} \cup \{(0, 0)\}$ ; this is the set of all points between the lines  $y = x$  and  $y = -x$  and the origin. See Figure 4.

FIGURE 3. Plot of  $x \sin(1/x)$ .FIGURE 4. Plot of  $|y| < x$  union the origin.

**Definition 2.8** (Derivative). Let  $f : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be a function. We say  $f$  is differentiable at  $x_0$ , and denote this by  $f'(x_0)$  or  $df/dx$ , if the following limit exists:

$$\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x_0 + h) - f(x_0)}{h}.$$

We may also write this limit by

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow x_0} \frac{f(x) - f(x_0)}{x - x_0},$$

or as

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow x_0} \frac{f(x) - f(x_0) - f'(x_0)(x - x_0)}{x - x_0} = 0.$$

**Definition 2.9** (Partial derivatives). Let  $f : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be a function of  $n$  variables  $x_1, \dots, x_n$ . We say the partial derivative with respect to  $x_i$  exists at the point  $a = (a_1, \dots, a_n)$  if

$$\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(\vec{a} + h\vec{e}_i) - f(\vec{a})}{h}$$

exists, where

$$\vec{a} + h\vec{e}_i = (a_1, \dots, a_{i-1}, a_i + h, a_{i+1}, \dots, a_n).$$

For example, if  $f(x, y, z) = 3x^2y + x \cos(y)$ , then

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial x} = 6xy + \cos(y), \quad \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} = 3x^2 - x \sin(y), \quad \frac{\partial f}{\partial z} = 0.$$

Note that to take a partial derivative with respect to  $x$ , we treat all the other variables as constants. A good way to test your answer at the end is to go back to the original equation and replace all variables with constants, and then see if your answer agrees with the derivative of this (when you put in constants). For example, in our case if we set  $y = 3$  and  $z = 5$  we get  $g(x) = f(x, 3, 5) = 9x^2 + x \cos(3)$ , and  $dg/dx = 18x + \cos(3)$ , which is exactly  $\frac{\partial f}{\partial x}(x, 3, 5)$ .

**Definition 2.10** (Tangent plane approximation). *Let  $f : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ . The tangent plane approximation to  $f$  at  $(x_0, y_0)$  is given by*

$$z = f(x_0, y_0) + \frac{\partial f}{\partial x}(x_0, y_0)(x - x_0) + \frac{\partial f}{\partial y}(x_0, y_0)(y - y_0),$$

provided of course the two partial derivatives exist.

In one variable, we write  $y = f(x)$  and we write the tangent line as  $y = f(x_0) + f'(x_0)(x - x_0)$ . The above is the natural generalization, with now  $z = f(x, y)$ .

**Definition 2.11** (Differentiability: two variables). *Let  $f : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ . We say  $f$  is differentiable at  $(x_0, y_0)$  if the tangent plane approximation tends to zero significantly more rapidly than  $\|(x, y) - (x_0, y_0)\|$  tends to 0 as  $(x, y) \rightarrow (x_0, y_0)$ . Specifically,  $f$  is differentiable if*

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

Note the above is truly the generalization of the derivative in one variable. The distance  $x - x_0$  is replaced with  $\|(x, y) - (x_0, y_0)\|$ ; while this is always positive, the fact that the limit must equal zero for the function to be differentiable means we could have used  $|x - x_0|$  in the denominator in the definition of the derivative of one variable. Also note that the last two parts of the tangent plane approximation can be written as a dot product of two vectors:

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial x}(x_0, y_0)(x - x_0) + \frac{\partial f}{\partial y}(x_0, y_0)(y - y_0) = \left( \frac{\partial f}{\partial x}(x_0, y_0), \frac{\partial f}{\partial y}(x_0, y_0) \right) \cdot (x - x_0, y - y_0).$$

**Definition 2.12** (Gradient). *The gradient of a function  $f : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is the vector of the partial derivatives with respect to each variable. We write*

$$\text{grad}(f) = \nabla f = \left( \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_1}, \dots, \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_n} \right).$$

If  $f(x, y, z) = 3x^2y + x \cos(y)$ , then  $\nabla f = (6xy + \cos(y), 3x^2 - x \sin(y), 0)$ .

**Definition 2.13** (Differentiability: several variables (but only one output)). *Let  $f : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ . We say  $f$  is differentiable at  $\vec{a}$  if the tangent hyperplane approximation*

tends to zero significantly more rapidly than  $\|\vec{x} - \vec{a}\|$  tends to 0 as  $\vec{x} \rightarrow \vec{a}$ . Specifically,  $f$  is differentiable if

$$\lim_{\vec{x} \rightarrow \vec{a}} \frac{f(x, y) - f(\vec{a}) - (\nabla f)(\vec{a}) \cdot (\vec{x} - \vec{a})}{\|\vec{x} - \vec{a}\|} = 0.$$

For example, if  $f$  is a function of two variables then  $f$  is differentiable at  $(0, 0)$  if

$$\lim_{(x, y) \rightarrow (0, 0)} \frac{f(x, y) - f(0, 0) - \frac{\partial f}{\partial x}(0, 0)(x - 0) - \frac{\partial f}{\partial y}(0, 0)(y - 0)}{\|(x, y) - (0, 0)\|} = 0.$$

**Definition 2.14** (Derivative notation). Let  $f : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$ ; we may write

$$f(\vec{x}) = (f_1(\vec{x}), \dots, f_m(\vec{x})).$$

By  $(Df)(\vec{x}_0)$  we mean the matrix whose first row is  $(\nabla f_1)(\vec{x}_0)$ , whose second row is  $(\nabla f_2)(\vec{x}_0)$ , and so on until the last row, which is  $(\nabla f_m)(\vec{x}_0)$ . In full glory, we have

$$(Df)(x_0) = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{\partial f_1}{\partial x_1}(\vec{x}) & \cdots & \frac{\partial f_1}{\partial x_n}(\vec{x}) \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \frac{\partial f_m}{\partial x_1}(\vec{x}) & \cdots & \frac{\partial f_m}{\partial x_n}(\vec{x}) \end{pmatrix}.$$

Note  $(Df)(\vec{x})$  is a matrix with  $m$  rows and  $n$  columns.

**Definition 2.15** (Differentiability: several variables (and several outputs)). Let  $f : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$ . We say  $f$  is differentiable at  $\vec{a}$  if the tangent hyperplane approximation for each component tends to zero significantly more rapidly than  $\|\vec{x} - \vec{a}\|$  tends to 0 as  $\vec{x} \rightarrow \vec{a}$ . Specifically,  $f$  is differentiable if

$$\lim_{\vec{x} \rightarrow \vec{a}} \frac{f(\vec{x}) - f(\vec{a}) - (Df)(\vec{a}) \cdot (\vec{x} - \vec{a})}{\|\vec{x} - \vec{a}\|} = \vec{0},$$

where we regard  $\vec{x} - \vec{a}$  as a column vector being acted on by the matrix  $(Df)(\vec{a})$ .

**Definition 2.16** ( $C^1$ ). A function is said to be  $C^1$  (or of class  $C^1$ ) if all of its partial derivatives exist and if these partial derivatives are continuous.

While all the partial derivatives of the function  $f(x, y) = (xy)^{1/3}$  exist, this function is not  $C^1$  as the partial derivatives are not continuous at the origin.

**Definition 2.17** (Parametrization of paths / curves). A map  $c$  from an interval to  $\mathbb{R}^n$  traces out a path or curve in space. If  $c : [a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$  then  $c(a)$  is the initial point of the path and  $c(b)$  is the endpoint. If  $c(a) = c(b)$  then the path is closed. It is a path in the plane if  $n = 2$  and a path in space if  $n = 3$ . When  $n = 2$  we often write  $c(t) = (x(t), y(t))$ , and if  $n = 3$  we write  $c(t) = (x(t), y(t), z(t))$ . The vector  $c'(t)$  is the velocity vector, and the instantaneous speed at time  $t$  is given by  $\|c'(t)\|$ . The tangent line at time  $t_0$  is given by  $(x, y, z) = c(t_0) + c'(t_0)t$ .

**Remark 2.18.** Note that  $(Dc)(t)$  is a column vector. The reason this is so is that  $c : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$  in general, so  $c(t) = (c_1(t), \dots, c_n(t))$ . The derivative matrix  $Dc$  has as its first row  $Dc_1 = \nabla c_1$ , ..., and its last row is  $Dc_n = \nabla c_n$ . As there is only one variable,  $Dc_1 = \nabla c_1 = dc_1/dt$ , and thus  $(Dc)(t)$  is a column vector. This is needed so that the multiplication of matrices in the chain rule is well-defined.

**Definition 2.19** (Directional derivatives). *The directional derivative of  $f$  in the direction of  $\vec{v}$  at  $\vec{x}$  is defined by*

$$\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(\vec{x} + h\vec{v}) - f(\vec{x})}{h}.$$

*We typically take  $\vec{v}$  to be a vector of unit length. One way to compute the directional derivative is  $(\nabla f)(\vec{x}) \cdot \vec{v}$ .*

**Definition 2.20** (Tangent plane from the gradient). *Let  $S$  be the level set of value  $k$  for the function  $f$ . The tangent plane at  $\vec{x}_0 \in S$  is defined by*

$$(\nabla f)(\vec{x}_0) \cdot (\vec{x} - \vec{x}_0) = 0.$$

## 2.2. Theorems.

**Theorem 2.21** (Limit Properties for sequences and functions). *Provided all limits are finite,*

- *The limit of a constant times our sequence is that constant times our sequence:*  
 $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} cx_n = c \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} x_n.$
- *The limit of a sum is the sum of the limits.*
- *The limit of a difference is the difference of the limits.*
- *The limit of a product is the product of the limits.*
- *The limit of a quotient is the quotient of the limits, provided additionally that the limit of the denominator is non-zero.*

*These limit laws imply corresponding results for continuous functions, namely the sum, difference or product of continuous functions is continuous, as well as the quotient (provided the denominator is non-zero). We also have the composition of continuous functions is continuous.*

It is essential that the limits are finite. For example, consider the three limits below:

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \left( x \cdot \frac{1}{x} \right), \quad \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \left( x \cdot \frac{1}{x^2} \right), \quad \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \left( x^3 \cdot \frac{1}{x^2} \right).$$

All of these limits are of the form  $0 \cdot \infty$ ; the first is 1, the second is undefined and the third is zero. We can make  $0 \cdot \infty$ ,  $\infty/\infty$ ,  $\infty - \infty$  and  $0/0$  equal anything we want. More care is thus needed whenever one of these is encountered. As the fundamental limit of calculus involves  $0/0$ , the quotient rule is not applicable and we need more powerful arguments.

**Theorem 2.22** (Main Theorem on Differentiation). *The following implications hold: (1) implies (2) implies (3), where*

- (1) *The partial derivatives of  $f$  are continuous.*
- (2) *The function  $f$  is differentiable.*
- (3) *The partial derivatives of  $f$  exist.*

*Each reverse implication may fail.*

Note that (2) trivially implies (3) and (1) trivially implies (3); the meat of the argument is proving that (1) implies (2). The proof uses the Mean Value Theorem and adding zero.

**Theorem 2.23** (Differentiation rules). *Let  $f, g : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be differentiable functions, and let  $c$  be a constant. Then*

- *Constant rule: The derivative of  $cf(\vec{x})$  is  $c(Df)(\vec{x})$ .*
- *Sum rule: The derivative of  $f(\vec{x}) + g(\vec{x})$  is  $(Df)(\vec{x}) + (Dg)(\vec{x})$ .*
- *Difference rule: The derivative of  $f(\vec{x}) - g(\vec{x})$  is  $(Df)(\vec{x}) - (Dg)(\vec{x})$ .*
- *Product rule: The derivative of  $f(\vec{x})g(\vec{x})$  is  $(Df)(\vec{x})g(\vec{x}) + f(\vec{x})(Dg)(\vec{x})$ .*
- *Quotient rule: The derivative of  $f(\vec{x})/g(\vec{x})$  is*

$$\frac{(Df)(\vec{x})g(\vec{x}) - f(\vec{x})(Dg)(\vec{x})}{g(\vec{x})^2}.$$

**Theorem 2.24** (Chain Rule). *Let  $g : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$  and  $f : \mathbb{R}^m \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^p$  be differentiable functions, and set  $h = f \circ g$  (the composition). Then*

$$(Dh)(\vec{x}) = (Df)(g(\vec{x}))(Dg)(\vec{x}).$$

*Important special cases are:*

- *Let  $c : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$  and  $f : \mathbb{R}^3 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ , and set  $h(t) = f(c(t))$ . Then*

$$\frac{dh}{dt} = (\nabla f)(c(t)) \cdot c'(t) = \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \frac{dx}{dt} + \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} \frac{dy}{dt} + \frac{\partial f}{\partial z} \frac{dz}{dt}.$$

*Note that we could have written  $\partial f / \partial x$  for  $df/dx$ .*

- *Let  $g(x_1, \dots, x_n) = (u_1(x_1, \dots, x_n), \dots, u_m(x_1, \dots, x_n))$  and set  $h(x_1, \dots, x_n) = f(g(x_1, \dots, x_n))$ , where  $f : \mathbb{R}^m \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ . Then*

$$\frac{\partial h}{\partial x_i} = \frac{\partial f}{\partial u_1} \frac{\partial u_1}{\partial x_i} + \frac{\partial f}{\partial u_2} \frac{\partial u_2}{\partial x_i} + \dots + \frac{\partial f}{\partial u_m} \frac{\partial u_m}{\partial x_i}.$$

**Theorem 2.25** (Computing Directional Derivatives). *The directional derivative of  $f$  at  $\vec{x}$  in the direction  $\vec{v}$  is  $(\nabla f)(\vec{x}) \cdot \vec{v}$ .*

**Theorem 2.26** (Geometric interpretation of the gradient). *If  $(\nabla f)(\vec{x}) \neq \vec{0}$  then  $(\nabla f)(\vec{x})$  points in the direction of fastest increase of  $f$ .*

**Theorem 2.27** (Gradients and level sets). *Let  $S$  be the level set of value  $k$  for a function  $f : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ . Then  $(\nabla f)(\vec{x})$  is perpendicular to any tangent vector on  $S$ . More explicitly, if  $c(t)$  is a path in  $S$  such that  $c(0) = \vec{x}$  and  $c'(0) = \vec{v}$  is the tangent vector at time 0, then  $(\nabla f)(\vec{x}) \cdot \vec{v} = 0$ .*

### 3. CHAPTER 3: HIGHER ORDER DERIVATIVES: MAXIMA AND MINIMA

#### 3.1. Definitions.

**Definition 3.1** (Higher partial derivatives). *We write*

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

*for*

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial y} \left( \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \right);$$

note that we read the variables from right to left. In other words, the variable furthest to the right is what we differentiate with respect to first, while the one furthest to the left is the last one. This is similar to composition of functions, where in  $f(g(x))$  we first apply  $g$  and then  $f$ , reading from right to left. If  $y = x$  we write

$$\frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x^2}.$$

**Definition 3.2** (Degree or order of a partial derivative). We say the number of partial derivatives taken in an expression is the order or degree of the term. For example,  $\frac{\partial^3 f}{\partial x^2 \partial y}$  and  $\frac{\partial^3 f}{\partial x \partial z \partial y}$  are all degree 3, while  $\frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial y^2}$  and  $\frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x \partial y}$  are of degree 2.

**Definition 3.3** (Class  $\mathcal{C}^2$ ). A function  $f$  is of class  $\mathcal{C}^2$  if all of its partial derivatives up to order 2 exist and are continuous. For  $f : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ , this implies that  $\frac{\partial f}{\partial x}$ ,  $\frac{\partial f}{\partial y}$ ,  $\frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x^2}$ ,  $\frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial y^2}$ ,  $\frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x \partial y}$  and  $\frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial y \partial x}$  all exist and are continuous.

**Definition 3.4** (Hessian matrix). Let  $f$  be a twice-differentiable function. The Hessian of  $f$  is the matrix of second partial derivatives:

$$Hf = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x_1 \partial x_1} & \cdots & \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x_n \partial x_1} \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x_1 \partial x_n} & \cdots & \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x_n \partial x_n} \end{pmatrix}.$$

One easy way to remember what the order of derivatives is for the Hessian is the following:

$$Df = \nabla f = \left( \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_1}, \dots, \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_n} \right).$$

The Hessian is the derivative of this, and so the first row of  $Hf = D(Df)$  is  $\nabla \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_1}$ , and we continue in this manner until the last row, which is  $\nabla \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_n}$ .

**Definition 3.5** (Local extrema). A function  $f$  has a local maximum at  $\vec{x}_0$  if there is a ball  $B$  about  $\vec{x}_0$  such that  $f(\vec{x}_0) \geq f(\vec{x})$  for all  $\vec{x} \in B$ ; the definition for minimum is similar.

**Definition 3.6** (Critical point). A point  $\vec{x}_0$  is a critical point of  $f$  if  $(Df)(\vec{x}_0) = \vec{0}$ .

### 3.2. Theorems.

**Theorem 3.7** (Equality of Mixed Partial Derivatives). Let  $f : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be a function of class  $\mathcal{C}^2$  (which means that all the partial derivatives of order at most 2 exist and are continuous). Then for any two variables  $x_i$  and  $x_j$  we have

$$\frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x_i \partial x_j} = \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x_j \partial x_i}.$$

**Theorem 3.8** (Taylor's Theorem (One Variable)). The Taylor Series approximation to  $f$  of order  $n$  at the point  $x_0$  is

$$f(x_0) + f'(x_0)(x - x_0) + \frac{f''(x_0)}{2!}(x - x_0)^2 + \cdots + \frac{f^{(n)}(x_0)}{n!}(x - x_0)^n,$$

where  $f^{(n)}(x_0)$  denotes the  $n^{\text{th}}$  derivative of  $f$  at  $x_0$ .

Common examples are

$$\begin{aligned}
 e^x &= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{x^n}{n!} = 1 + x + \frac{x^2}{2!} + \dots \\
 \cos x &= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n x^{2n}}{(2n)!} = 1 - \frac{x^2}{2!} + \frac{x^4}{4!} - \dots \\
 \sin x &= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n x^{2n+1}}{(2n+1)!} = x - \frac{x^3}{3!} + \frac{x^5}{5!} - \dots \\
 \log(1-x) &= -\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{x^n}{n} = -\left(x + \frac{x^2}{2} + \frac{x^3}{3} + \dots\right) \\
 \log(1+x) &= \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^{n+1} x^n}{n} = x - \frac{x^2}{2} + \frac{x^3}{3} - \dots \\
 \frac{1}{1-x} &= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} x^n = 1 + x + x^2 + x^3 + \dots
 \end{aligned}$$

**Theorem 3.9** (Taylor's Theorem (Several Variables)). *We have*

$$f(\vec{x}_0 + \vec{h}) = f(\vec{x}_0) + (\nabla f)(\vec{x}_0) \cdot \vec{h} + \frac{1}{2} \vec{h}^T (Hf)(\vec{x}_0) \vec{h} + \dots,$$

where  $Hf$  is the Hessian of  $f$  and  $\vec{h}^T$  is a row vector and  $\vec{h}$  is a column vector.

**Theorem 3.10** (Tricks for Taylor Series Expansions). *We give a few examples of some powerful tricks to find Taylor series expansions.*

- (1)  $\cos(x+y) = 1 - \frac{(x+y)^2}{2!} + \frac{(x+y)^4}{4!} - \dots$
- (2)  $\cos x \sin y = \left(1 - \frac{x^2}{2!} + \dots\right) \left(y - \frac{y^3}{3!} + \dots\right)$ .
- (3)  $e^{x-y} \cos(x+y) = \left(1 + (x-y) + \frac{(x-y)^2}{2!} + \dots\right) \left(1 - \frac{(x+y)^2}{2!} + \dots\right)$ .

*To obtain a Taylor expansion of a given order, we just need to take enough terms above and expand.*

**Theorem 3.11** (First derivative test for local extremum). *Let  $f$  be a differentiable function on an open set  $U$ . If  $\vec{x}_0 \in U$  is a local extremum, then  $(Df)(\vec{x}_0) = \vec{0}$ .*

*The following is an advanced theorem that is proved in an analysis class.*

**Theorem 3.12.** *Let  $f$  be a continuous function on a closed and bounded set. Then  $f$  attains its maximum and minimum on this set.*

**Remark 3.13.** *The corresponding result fails for open sets. Consider, for example,  $f(x) = \frac{1}{x} + \frac{1}{x-1}$ . This function does not attain a maximum or minimum value; as  $x \rightarrow 0$  the function diverges to  $\infty$ , while as  $x \rightarrow 1$  the function diverges to  $-\infty$ .*

**Theorem 3.14** (Method of Lagrange Multipliers). *Let  $f, g : U \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ , where  $U$  is an open subset of  $\mathbb{R}^n$ . Let  $S$  be the level set of value  $c$  for the function  $g$ , and let  $f|_S$  be the function  $f$  restricted to  $S$  (in other words, we only evaluate  $f$  at  $\vec{x} \in U$ ). Assume*

$(\nabla g)(\vec{x}_0) \neq \vec{0}$ . Then  $f|_S$  has an extremum at  $\vec{x}_0$  if and only if there is a  $\lambda$  such that  $(\nabla f)(\vec{x}_0) = \lambda(\nabla g)(\vec{x}_0)$ .

**Theorem 3.15** (Method of Least Squares). Given a set of observations

$$(x_1, y_1), (x_2, y_2), \dots, (x_N, y_N)$$

and a proposed linear relationship between  $x$  and  $y$ , namely

$$y = ax + b,$$

then the best fit values of  $a$  and  $b$  (according to the Method of Least Squares) are given by minimizing the error function given by

$$E(a, b) = \sum_{n=1}^N (y_n - (ax_n + b))^2.$$

You do not need to know this for an exam, but the best fit values are

$$\begin{aligned} a &= \frac{\sum_{n=1}^N 1 \sum_{n=1}^N x_n y_n - \sum_{n=1}^N x_n \sum_{n=1}^N y_n}{\sum_{n=1}^N 1 \sum_{n=1}^N x_n^2 - \sum_{n=1}^N x_n \sum_{n=1}^N x_n} \\ b &= \frac{\sum_{n=1}^N x_n \sum_{n=1}^N x_n y_n - \sum_{n=1}^N x_n^2 \sum_{n=1}^N y_n}{\sum_{n=1}^N x_n \sum_{n=1}^N x_n - \sum_{n=1}^N x_n^2 \sum_{n=1}^N 1}. \end{aligned} \tag{3.1}$$

**Remark 3.16.** In the Method of Least Squares, we measure error by looking at the sum of the squares of the errors between the observed values and the predicted values. There are other measurements of error possible, such as summing the absolute values of the errors or just summing the signed errors. The advantage of measuring errors by squaring is that it is not a signed quantity and calculus is applicable; the disadvantage is that larger errors are given greater weight. Using absolute values weighs all errors equally, but as the absolute value function is not differentiable the tools of calculus are unaccessible. If we just summed signed errors, then positive errors could cancel with negative errors, which is quite bad.

#### 4. CHAPTER 4: VECTOR VALUED FUNCTIONS

#### 5. CHAPTER 5: DOUBLE AND TRIPLE INTEGRALS

##### 5.1. Definitions.

**Definition 5.1** (Iterated Integral). The notation

$$\int_a^b \int_c^d f(x, y) dy dx$$

means

$$\int_a^b \left[ \int_c^d f(x, y) dy \right] dx.$$

**Definition 5.2** (Bounded function). A real-valued function  $f$  is bounded by  $B$  if for any  $\vec{x}$  in the domain of  $f$  we have

$$-B \leq f(\vec{x}) \leq B;$$

equivalently,

$$|f(\vec{x})| \leq B.$$

**Definition 5.3** (Rectangle). The rectangle  $[a, b] \times [c, d]$  is the set of all  $(x, y)$  such that  $a \leq x \leq b$  and  $c \leq y \leq d$ .

**Definition 5.4** (Integral over an interval). The integral of a continuous function  $f$  over an interval  $[a, b]$  is the limit of the upper or lower sum as the partition becomes finer and finer (this means that the length of each subinterval used in partitioning the interval  $[a, b]$  tends to 0).

**Definition 5.5** (Integral over a rectangle). The integral of a continuous function  $f$  over a rectangle  $R = [a, b] \times [c, d]$  is the limit of the upper or lower sum as the partition becomes finer and finer (this means that the length and width of each sub-rectangle in the partition of the rectangle  $[a, b] \times [c, d]$  tends to 0). We denote this by

$$\int \int_R f(x, y) dA,$$

where we use  $dA$  to denote area.

**Definition 5.6** ( $x$ -simple,  $y$ -simple, simple). A region  $D \subset \mathbb{R}^2$  is  $x$ -simple if there are continuous  $\psi_1$  and  $\psi_2$  defined on  $[c, d]$  such that

$$\psi_1(y) \leq \psi_2(y)$$

and

$$D = \{(x, y) : \psi_1(y) \leq x \leq \psi_2(y) \text{ and } c \leq y \leq d\};$$

similarly,  $D$  is  $y$ -simple if there are continuous functions  $\phi_1(x)$  and  $\phi_2(x)$  such that

$$\phi_1(x) \leq \phi_2(x)$$

and

$$D = \{(x, y) : \phi_1(x) \leq y \leq \phi_2(x) \text{ and } a \leq x \leq b\}.$$

If  $D$  is both  $x$ -simple and  $y$ -simple then we say  $D$  is simple.

**Definition 5.7** (Elementary region). A region that is either  $x$ -simple,  $y$ -simple or simple is frequently called an elementary region.

**Definition 5.8** (Probability distribution). A random variable  $X$  has a continuous probability distribution  $p$  if

- (1)  $p(x) \geq 0$  for all  $x$ ;
- (2)  $\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} p(x) dx = 1$ ;
- (3) the probability  $X$  takes on a value between  $a$  and  $b$  is  $\int_a^b p(x) dx$ .

**Definition 5.9** (Uniform distribution). If  $p(x) = \frac{1}{b-a}$  for  $a \leq x \leq b$  and 0 otherwise, then  $p$  is the uniform distribution on  $[a, b]$ . We often consider the special case when  $a = 0$  and  $b = 1$ . Note that for the uniform distribution on  $[0, 1]$ , the probability we take a value in an interval is just the length of the interval.

**Definition 5.10** (Mean, Variance). *The mean or expected value of a random variable is  $\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} xp(x)dx$ . We typically denote the mean by  $\mu$ . The variance is defined by  $\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} (x - \mu)^2 p(x)dx$ , and measures how spread out a distribution is (the larger the variance, the more spread out it is). We typically denote the variance by  $\sigma^2$  and the standard deviation by  $\sigma$ . Note that  $\sigma$ ,  $\mu$  and  $x$  all have the same units, while the variance has units equal to the square of this.*

## 5.2. Theorems.

**Theorem 5.11** (Fubini's Theorem). *Let  $f$  be a continuous, bounded function on a rectangle  $[a, b] \times [c, d]$ . Then*

$$\int \int_R f(x, y) dA = \int_a^b \int_c^d f(x, y) dy dx = \int_c^d \int_a^b f(x, y) dx dy.$$

**Theorem 5.12** (Integral over elementary regions). *Let  $D \subset \mathbb{R}^2$  be an elementary region and  $f : D \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be continuous on  $D$ . Let  $R$  be a rectangle containing  $D$  and extend  $f$  to a function  $f^*$  by*

$$f^*(x, y) = \begin{cases} f(x, y) & \text{if } (x, y) \in D \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Then

$$\int \int_D f(x, y) dA = \int \int_R f^*(x, y) dA.$$

**Theorem 5.13** (Reduction to iterated integrals). *Let  $D$  be a  $y$ -simple region given by continuous functions  $\phi_1(x) \leq \phi_2(x)$  for  $a \leq x \leq b$ . Then*

$$\int \int_D f(x, y) dA = \int_a^b \int_{\phi_1(x)}^{\phi_2(x)} f(x, y) dy dx.$$

**5.3. Special Topics. Mathematical modeling:** In mathematical modeling there are two competing factors. We want the model rich enough to capture the key features of the system, yet be mathematically tractable. In general the more complicated the system is, the more involved the model will be and the harder it will be to isolate nice properties of the solution. For example, in modeling baseball games we assumed runs scored and allowed were independent random variables. This clearly cannot be true (the simplest reason is that if a team scores  $r$  runs then they cannot allow  $r$  runs, as games do not end in ties). The hope is that simple models which clearly cannot be the entire story can nevertheless capture enough of the important properties of the system that the resulting solutions will provide some insight. This is somewhat similar to Taylor series, where we replace complicated functions with polynomials; as we've seen with the incredibly fast convergence of Newton's Method, it is possible to obtain very useful information from these approximations!

In Monte Carlo Integration we will use Chebyshev's Theorem:

**Theorem 5.14.** *Let  $X$  be a random variable with finite mean  $\mu$  and finite variance  $\sigma^2$ . Then for any  $k > 0$  we have*

$$\text{Prob}(|X - \mu| \geq k\sigma) \leq \frac{1}{k^2}.$$

**Monte Carlo Integration:** Let  $D$  be a nice region in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ , and assume for simplicity that it is contained in the  $n$ -dimensional unit hypercube  $[0, 1] \times [0, 1] \times \cdots \times [0, 1]$ . Assume further that it is easy to verify if a given point  $(x_1, \dots, x_n)$  is in  $D$  or not in  $D$ . Draw  $N$  points from the  $n$ -dimensional uniform distribution; in other words, each of the  $n$  coordinates of the  $N$  points is uniformly distributed on  $[0, 1]$ . Then as  $N \rightarrow \infty$  the  $n$ -dimensional volume of  $D$  is well approximated by the number of points inside  $D$  divided by the total number of points.

## 6. CHANGE OF VARIABLES FORMULA

### 6.1. Change of Variable Formula in the Plane.

**Theorem 6.1** (Change of Variables Formula in the Plane). *Let  $S$  be an elementary region in the  $xy$ -plane (such as a disk or parallelogram for example). Let  $T : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$  be an invertible and differentiable mapping, and let  $T(S)$  be the image of  $S$  under  $T$ . Then*

$$\int \int_S 1 \cdot dx dy = \int \int_{T(S)} 1 \cdot \left| \frac{\partial x}{\partial u} \frac{\partial y}{\partial v} - \frac{\partial x}{\partial v} \frac{\partial y}{\partial u} \right| dudv,$$

or more generally

$$\int \int_S f(x, y) \cdot dx dy = \int \int_{T(S)} f(T^{-1}(u, v)) \cdot \left| \frac{\partial x}{\partial u} \frac{\partial y}{\partial v} - \frac{\partial x}{\partial v} \frac{\partial y}{\partial u} \right| dudv.$$

Some notes on the above:

- (1) We assume  $T$  has an inverse function, denoted  $T^{-1}$ . Thus  $T(x, y) = (u, v)$  and  $T^{-1}(u, v) = (x, y)$ .
- (2) We assume for each  $(x, y) \in S$  there is one and only one  $(u, v)$  that it is mapped to, and conversely each  $(u, v)$  is mapped to one and only one  $(x, y)$ .
- (3) The derivative of  $T^{-1}(u, v) = (x(u, v), y(u, v))$  is

$$(DT^{-1})(u, v) = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{\partial x}{\partial u} & \frac{\partial x}{\partial v} \\ \frac{\partial y}{\partial u} & \frac{\partial y}{\partial v} \end{pmatrix},$$

and the absolute value of the determinant of the derivative is

$$|\det (DT^{-1})(u, v)| = \left| \frac{\partial x}{\partial u} \frac{\partial y}{\partial v} - \frac{\partial x}{\partial v} \frac{\partial y}{\partial u} \right|,$$

which implies the area element transforms as

$$dx dy = \left| \frac{\partial x}{\partial u} \frac{\partial y}{\partial v} - \frac{\partial x}{\partial v} \frac{\partial y}{\partial u} \right| dudv.$$

- (4) Note that  $f$  takes as input  $x$  and  $y$ , but when we change variables our new inputs are  $u$  and  $v$ . The map  $T^{-1}$  takes  $u$  and  $v$  and gives  $x$  and  $y$ , and thus we need to evaluate  $f$  at  $T^{-1}(u, v)$ . Remember that we are now integrating over  $u$  and  $v$ , and thus the integrand must be a function of  $u$  and  $v$ .
- (5) Note that the formula requires an absolute value of the determinant. The reason is that the determinant can be negative, and we want to see how a small area element transforms. Area is supposed to be positively counted. Note in one-variable calculus that  $\int_a^b f(x) dx = -\int_b^a f(x) dx$ ; we need the absolute value to take care of issues such as this.

- (6) While we stated  $T$  is a differentiable mapping, our assumptions imply  $T^{-1}$  is differentiable as well.

## 6.2. Change of Variable Formula: Special Cases.

**Theorem 6.2** (Change of Variables Theorem: Polar Coordinates). *Let*

$$x = r \cos \theta, \quad y = r \sin \theta$$

with  $r \geq 0$  and  $\theta \in [0, 2\pi)$ ; note the inverse functions are

$$r = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2}, \quad \theta = \arctan(y/x).$$

Let  $D$  be an elementary region in the  $xy$ -plane, and let  $D^*$  be the corresponding region in the  $r\theta$ -plane. Then

$$\int \int_D f(x, y) dx dy = \int \int_{D^*} f(r \cos \theta, r \sin \theta) r dr d\theta.$$

For example, if  $D$  is the region  $x^2 + y^2 \leq 1$  in the  $xy$ -plane then  $D^*$  is the rectangle  $[0, 1] \times [0, 2\pi]$  in the  $r\theta$ -plane.

**Theorem 6.3** (Change of Variables Theorem: Cylindrical Coordinates). *Let*

$$x = r \cos \theta, \quad y = r \sin \theta, \quad z = z$$

with  $r \geq 0$ ,  $\theta \in [0, 2\pi)$  and  $z$  arbitrary; note the inverse functions are

$$r = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2}, \quad \theta = \arctan(y/x), \quad z = z.$$

Let  $D$  be an elementary region in the  $xyz$ -plane, and let  $D^*$  be the corresponding region in the  $r\theta z$ -plane. Then

$$\int \int \int_D f(x, y, z) dx dy dz = \int \int \int_{D^*} f(r \cos \theta, r \sin \theta, z) r dr d\theta dz.$$

**Theorem 6.4** (Change of Variables Theorem: Spherical Coordinates). *Let*

$$x = \rho \sin \phi \cos \theta, \quad y = \rho \sin \phi \sin \theta, \quad z = \rho \cos \phi$$

with  $\rho \geq 0$ ,  $\theta \in [0, 2\pi]$  and  $\phi \in [0, \pi)$ . Note that the angle  $\phi$  is the angle made with the  $z$ -axis; many books (such as physics texts) interchange the role of  $\phi$  and  $\theta$ . Let  $D$  be an elementary region in the  $xyz$ -plane, and let  $D^*$  be the corresponding region in the  $\rho\theta\phi$ -plane. Then

$$\begin{aligned} & \int \int \int_D f(x, y, z) dx dy dz \\ &= \int \int \int_{D^*} f(\rho \sin \phi \cos \theta, \rho \sin \phi \sin \theta, \rho \cos \phi) \rho^2 \sin(\phi) d\rho d\theta d\phi. \end{aligned}$$

Note that the most common mistake is to have incorrect bounds of integration.

## 7. SEQUENCES AND SERIES

## 7.1. Definitions.

**Definition 7.1** (Sequence). A sequence  $\{a_n\}_{n=1}^{\infty}$  is the collection  $\{a_0, a_1, a_2, \dots\}$ . Note sometimes the sequence starts with  $a_0$  and not  $a_1$ .

For example, if  $a_n = 1/n^2$  then the sequence is  $\{1, 1/4, 1/9, 1/16, \dots\}$ .

**Definition 7.2** (Series). A series is the sum of the terms in a sequence. If we have a sequence  $\{a_n\}_{n=0}^{\infty}$  then the partial sum  $s_N$  is the sum of the first  $N$  terms in the sequence:  $s_N = \sum_{n=1}^N a_n$ . We often denote the infinite sum by  $s$ :

$$s = \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} s_N = \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{n=1}^N a_n.$$

**Definition 7.3** (Alternating series). An alternating series is an infinite sum of a sequence where the terms alternate in sign.

For example,  $a_n = (-1)^n/2^n$  leads to an alternating series.

**Definition 7.4** (Geometric Sequence / Series). A geometric sequence with common ratio  $r$  and initial value  $a$  is the sequence  $\{a, ar, ar^2, ar^3, \dots\}$ . The partial sums are

$$s_N = \frac{a - ar^{N+1}}{1 - r}$$

and the series sum (when  $|r| < 1$ ) is

$$s = \frac{1}{1 - r}.$$

**Definition 7.5** (Absolutely convergent series). Consider the sequence  $\{a_n\}_{n=1}^{\infty}$ . The corresponding series is absolutely convergent (or converges absolutely) if the sum of the absolute values of the  $a_n$ 's converges; explicitly,

$$\lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{n=1}^N |a_n|$$

exists. If the sequence is just non-negative terms, we often say the series converges.

**Definition 7.6** (Conditionally convergent series). Consider the sequence  $\{a_n\}_{n=1}^{\infty}$ . The corresponding series is conditionally convergent (or converges conditionally) if

$$\lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{n=1}^N a_n$$

exists.

Note a series may be conditionally convergent but not absolutely convergent. For example, consider  $a_n = (-1)^n/n$ ; the series converges conditionally but not absolutely.

**Definition 7.7** (Diverges). If  $\lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{n=1}^N a_n$  does not converge, then we say the series diverges.

## 7.2. Tests.

**Theorem 7.8** (End-term test). *Let  $\{a_n\}_{n=1}^{\infty}$  be a sequence. If  $\lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} a_n \neq 0$  then the series diverges.*

**Theorem 7.9** (Comparison Test). *Let  $\{b_n\}_{n=1}^{\infty}$  be a sequence of non-negative terms (so  $b_n \geq 0$ ). Assume the series converges, and  $\{a_n\}_{n=1}^{\infty}$  is another sequence such that  $|a_n| \leq b_n$  for all  $n$ . Then the series attached to  $\{a_n\}_{n=1}^{\infty}$  also converges.*

**Theorem 7.10** ( $p$ -Test). *Let  $\{a_n\}_{n=1}^{\infty}$  be the sequence with  $a_n = 1/n^p$  for some fixed  $p > 0$ ; this is frequently called a  $p$ -series. If  $p > 1$  then the series converges, while if  $p \leq 1$  the series diverges.*

**Theorem 7.11** (Ratio Test). *Consider a sequence  $\{a_n\}_{n=1}^{\infty}$  of positive terms. Let*

$$r = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{a_{n+1}}{a_n}.$$

*If  $r$  exists and  $r < 1$  then the series converges, while if  $r > 1$  then the series diverges; if  $r = 1$  then this test provides no information on the convergence or divergence of the series.*

For example, applying this test to the geometric series with  $a_n = r^n$  we find the series converges for  $r < 1$  and diverges for  $r > 1$ . If we consider  $b_n = 1/n$  and  $c_n = 1/n^2$  then both of these have a corresponding value of  $r$  equal to 1, but the first diverges while the second converges.

**Theorem 7.12** (Root Test). *Consider a sequence  $\{a_n\}_{n=1}^{\infty}$  of positive terms. Let*

$$\rho = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n^{1/n},$$

*the  $n^{\text{th}}$  root of  $a_n$ . If  $\rho < 1$  then the series converges, while if  $\rho > 1$  then the series diverges; if  $\rho = 1$  then the test does not provide any information.*

**Theorem 7.13** (Integral Test). *Consider a sequence  $\{a_n\}_{n=1}^{\infty}$  of non-negative terms. Assume there is some function  $f$  such that  $f(n) = a_n$  and  $f$  is non-increasing. Then the series*

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n$$

*converges if and only if the integral*

$$\int_1^{\infty} f(x) dx$$

*converges.*

**Theorem 7.14** (Alternating Test). *If  $\{a_n\}_{n=1}^{\infty}$  is an alternating sequence with  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} |a_n| = 0$  then the series converges.*

**7.3. Examples of divergent and convergent series.** We first list some convergent series. If  $\{a_n\}_{n=1}^{\infty}$  and  $\{b_n\}_{n=1}^{\infty}$  are convergent series and  $c_1, c_2$  are any constants, then  $\{c_1a_n + c_2b_n\}_{n=1}^{\infty}$  is a convergent series; i.e.,

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (c_1a_n + c_2b_n)$$

converges.

### Convergent series

- $a_n = r^n, |r| < 1$ .
- $a_n = 1/n^p, p > 1$ .
- $a_n = x^n/n!$  for any  $x$ .

### Divergent series

- $a_n = r^n, |r| > 1$ .
- $a_n = 1/n^p$  for  $p \leq 1$  (in particular,  $a_n = 1/n$ ).
- If  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n \neq 0$  then the series cannot converge.

We have many tests – Comparison Test, Ratio Test, Root Test, Integral Test. If possible, I like to try to use the Comparison Test first. It is very simple, but has the significant drawback that you need to be able to choose a good series to compare with. This is reminiscent of finding the roots of a quadratic. If you can ‘see’ how to factor it then the problem is easy; if not, you have to resort to the quadratic formula (which *will* solve the problem after some work).

So too it is here. We first try to see if we can be clever and choose the right series to compare with, but if we fail then we can resort to one of the other tests.