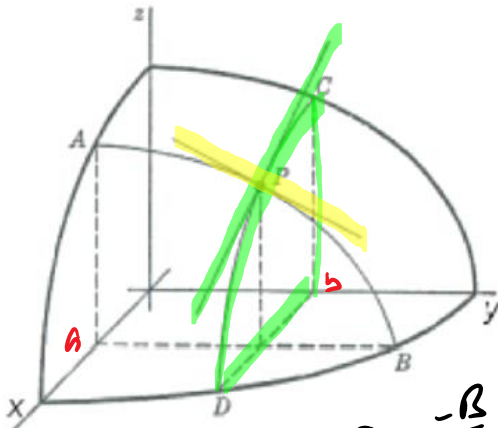


Section 14.4: Tangent Planes and Differentials

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 .



$$A_1 = -\frac{A}{C} \quad B_1 = -\frac{B}{C}$$

f_x
 f_y

$$V_{f_x} = \langle 1, 0, f_x(a, b) \rangle$$

$$V_{f_y} = \langle 0, 1, f_y(a, b) \rangle$$

$$A(x-a) + B(y-b) + C(z-c) = 0$$

$$z - c = A_1(x-a) + B_1(y-b)$$

$$z = A_1(x-a) + B_1(y-b) + c$$

$$\frac{\partial z}{\partial x} = A_1 \quad \frac{\partial z}{\partial y} = B_1$$

$$\hookrightarrow \frac{\partial z}{\partial x} = f_x(a, b) = \underline{A_1} \quad \frac{\partial z}{\partial y} = f_y(a, b) = \underline{B_1}$$

$$n = \langle A_1, B_1, -1 \rangle = \langle \underline{f_x(a, b)}, \underline{f_y(a, b)}, -1 \rangle$$

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

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

The normal vector for this plane is

$$n = \langle f_x, f_y, -1 \rangle \text{ at point } (a, b)$$

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

$$X = a + f_x(a, b) \cdot t$$

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

$$z = c - t$$

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

$$z_x = 6x$$

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

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

$$z_y = 4y^3$$

$$z_y(2, 1) = 4$$

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

$$\text{or } 12x + 4y - z = 15$$

normal line

$$x = 2 + 12t$$

$$y = 1 + 4t$$

$$z = 13 - t$$

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.

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

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

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

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

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

tangent plane $5x + 2y - z = 1$

normal line

$$x = -1 + 5t$$

$$y = 3 + 2t$$

$$z = -t$$

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

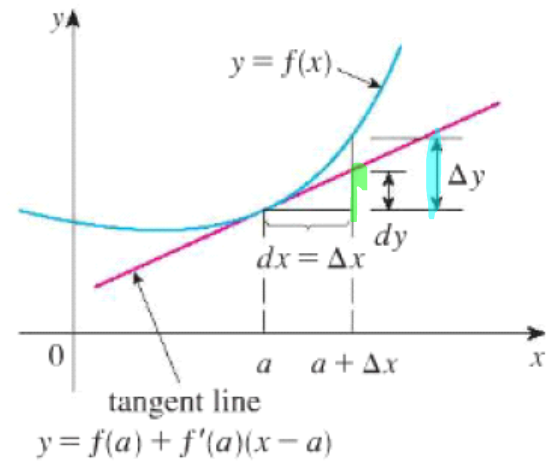
Differentials:

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

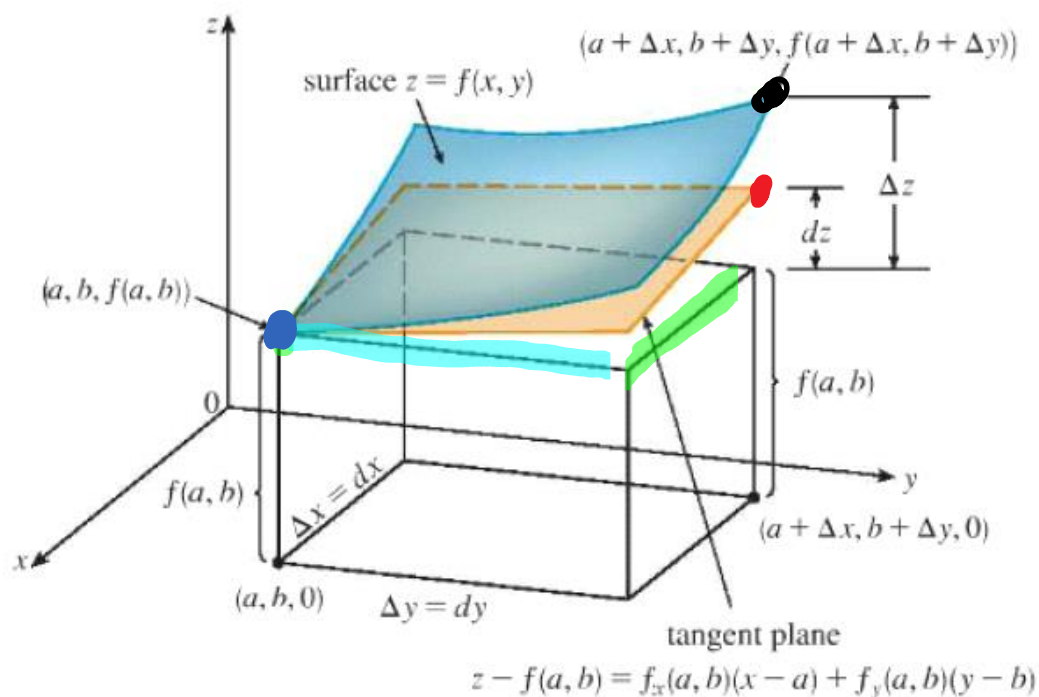
$$\underline{f(a + \Delta x) = f(a) + \Delta y} \approx \underline{f(a) + dy} \approx L(x)$$



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 $\Delta z \approx dz$.



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

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

$\underbrace{\hspace{10em}}_{dz}$

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

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

Start point (1, 2) end point (1.03, 1.98)

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

$$\Delta x = dx = 1.03 - 1 = .03$$

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

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

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

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

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

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

$$f_y = \frac{3(2)^2}{2(3)} = \frac{12}{6} = 2$$

$$dz = f_x dx + f_y dy$$

$$= \frac{1}{3} (.03) + 2 (-.02)$$

$$= .01 - .04 = -.03$$

$$\begin{aligned} f(1.03, 1.98) &\approx f(1, 2) + dz = 3 + (-.03) \\ &= 2.97 \end{aligned}$$

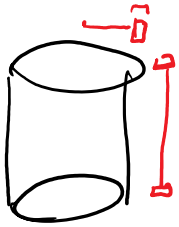
$$\Delta z = f(1.03, 1.58) - f(1, 2) = \underline{-0.029597}$$

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

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

$$\begin{aligned}dw &= w_x dx + w_y dy + w_z dz \\ &= (5x^4 y^3 + 2xz^4) dx + 3x^5 y^2 dy + 4x^2 z^3 dz\end{aligned}$$

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.



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

$$r = 3$$

$$dr = .04$$

$$h = 8$$

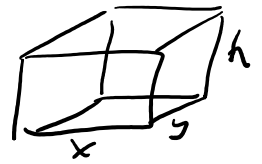
$$dh = 2(.04) \\ = .08$$

$$\begin{aligned} dV &= \pi \cdot 2rh \, dr + \pi r^2 \, dh \\ &= \pi \cdot 2(3)(.04) + \pi(3)^2(.08) \\ &= 2.64\pi \\ &8.29 \text{ cubic inches.} \end{aligned}$$

If $dr = -.04$ $dh = -.08$ then

$$dV = -8.29 \text{ cubic in} \quad \rightsquigarrow \quad 8.29 \text{ cubic in}$$

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.



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

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

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

$$x = 90$$

$$y = 70$$

$$h = 60$$

$$dx = dy = dh = .3$$

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 $(1, 1, 1)$

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

$$t = 1$$

$$1 + 2s = 1$$

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

$$s = 0$$

$$2s = 0$$

$$s = 0$$

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

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

$$r'(1) = \langle 1, 2, 3 \rangle$$

$$g'(0) = \langle 2, 1, -1 \rangle$$

$$n = r'(1) \times g'(0) = \begin{vmatrix} i & j & k \\ 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 2 & 1 & -1 \end{vmatrix} = \dots = \langle -5, 7, -3 \rangle$$

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