

From last time: • The linearization of  $f: \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  at  $(a,b)$  is:

$$L(x,y) = f(a,b) + \frac{\partial f}{\partial x}(a,b)(x-a) + \frac{\partial f}{\partial y}(a,b)(y-b).$$

•  $f$  is differentiable at  $(a,b)$  if

$$\lim_{(\Delta x, \Delta y) \rightarrow (0,0)} \frac{f(x+\Delta x, y+\Delta y) - L(x+\Delta x, y+\Delta y)}{\sqrt{(\Delta x)^2 + (\Delta y)^2}} = 0.$$

Today: the chain rule.

• Recall: given  $\mathbb{R} \xrightarrow{f} \mathbb{R} \xrightarrow{g} \mathbb{R}$   $h(t) = g(f(t))$ , we can compute  $h'(t)$  in terms of  $g$  and  $f$ .

$\curvearrowright$   
 $h = g \circ f$

$$h'(t) = g'(f(t)) f'(t).$$

• Multivariable set-up

Fix  $f: \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$

(assume differentiable)

$x, y: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$

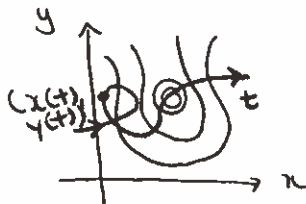
and let  $h(t) = f(x(t), y(t))$ , so  $h: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ .

Can we calculate  $h'(t)$  in terms of  $f, x, y$ ?

e.g.  $f(x,y) =$  ~~pos~~ temperature in terms of position.

$(x(t), y(t))$  - curve parametrizing path of an ant.

$h(t) =$  temperature of ant at time  $t$ .



$\hookrightarrow$  Chain rule: 
$$\frac{dh}{dt}(x(t), y(t)) = \frac{\partial h}{\partial x} f(x(t), y(t)) \cdot \frac{dx}{dt}(t) + \frac{\partial h}{\partial y} f(x(t), y(t)) \cdot \frac{dy}{dt}(t).$$

Sketch of proof:

$$\frac{h(x(t+\epsilon), y(t+\epsilon)) - h(x(t), y(t))}{\epsilon} \xrightarrow{\epsilon \rightarrow 0} \frac{dh}{dt}(t).$$

But also:

$$\frac{f(x(t+\varepsilon), y(t+\varepsilon)) - f(x(t), y(t))}{\varepsilon} = \frac{f(x(t+\varepsilon), y(t+\varepsilon)) - f(x(t), y(t+\varepsilon))}{\varepsilon} + \frac{f(x(t), y(t+\varepsilon)) - f(x(t), y(t))}{\varepsilon} \quad (*)$$

Now

$$\frac{f(x(t), y(t+\varepsilon)) - f(x(t), y(t))}{\varepsilon} = \frac{g(y(t+\varepsilon)) - g(y(t))}{\varepsilon}$$

$$= \frac{g(y(t) + \underbrace{(y(t+\varepsilon) - y(t))}_{\varepsilon'})}{\varepsilon} \cdot \frac{y(t+\varepsilon) - y(t)}{\varepsilon}$$

$\downarrow \varepsilon' \rightarrow 0 (\varepsilon \rightarrow 0)$        $\downarrow \varepsilon \rightarrow 0$   
 $g'(y(t))$        $y'(t)$

$$= \frac{\partial f}{\partial y}(x(t), y(t)).$$

So  $(*) \xrightarrow{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \frac{\partial f}{\partial x}(x(t), y(t)) \frac{dx}{dt}(t) + \frac{\partial f}{\partial y}(x(t), y(t)) \frac{dy}{dt}(t). \quad \square$

Short-hand notation:

← evaluate at  $t_0$ .

$$\frac{dh}{dt} = \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \cdot \frac{dx}{dt} + \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} \cdot \frac{dy}{dt}$$

↑ evaluate at  $(x(t_0), y(t_0))$

$$\frac{dz}{dt} = \frac{\partial z}{\partial x} \frac{dx}{dt} + \frac{\partial z}{\partial y} \frac{dy}{dt}$$

here  $z = h(t)$   
 $= f(x, y)$  } not literally the same function  
 (confusing!)

Example:  $x(t) = \sqrt{2} \cos t$ ,  $y(t) = \sqrt{2} \sin t$

$$f(x, y) = (x+y)^2, \quad h(t) = f(x(t), y(t)).$$

Find  $\frac{dh}{dt}(\pi/4)$ .



$$\hookrightarrow h(s,t) = f(x(s,t), y(s,t)).$$

$$\hookrightarrow \frac{\partial h}{\partial s} = \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \frac{\partial x}{\partial s} + \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} \frac{\partial y}{\partial s} ; \quad \frac{\partial h}{\partial t} = \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \frac{\partial x}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} \frac{\partial y}{\partial t}.$$

Example: Suppose  $x(s,t), y(s,t)$  are differentiable.

and consider  $f: \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  . Let  $h(s,t) = f(x(s,t), y(s,t))$   
 $(x,y) \mapsto \cos(x+y)$ .

2 What can you say about  $\frac{\partial f}{\partial s} \frac{\partial h}{\partial s}(\pi, \pi)$ ?