

Solution to Problem Set 8

1. Let  $f(x, y) = xy$ .

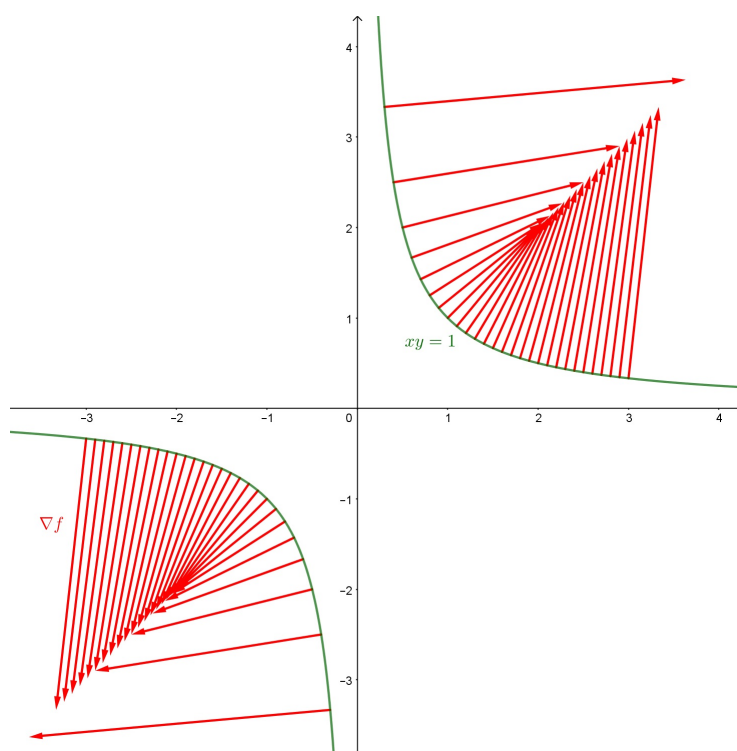
(a) Draw the level set  $L_1(f)$ .

(b) Find  $\nabla f$  and draw  $\nabla f$  restricted on  $L_1(f)$ .

**Ans:**

(a)  $L_1(f) = \{(x, y) \in \mathbb{R}^2 : xy = 1\}$  which is a hyperbola.

(b)  $\nabla f(x, y) = (y, x)$ .



(Remark: You can observe that  $\nabla f$  is normal to the level set.)

2. Let  $f : \mathbb{R}^3 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be a function such that all second partials of  $f$  are continuous. Suppose that  $\mathbf{v} = (v_1, v_2, v_3)$  is a unit vector, express  $\nabla_{\mathbf{v}}(\nabla_{\mathbf{v}}f)$  in terms of the components of  $\mathbf{v}$  and the second partials of  $f$ .

What is the interpretation of this quantity for a moving observer?

**Ans:**

Let  $\mathbf{v} = v_1\mathbf{i} + v_2\mathbf{j} + v_3\mathbf{k}$ . Thus

$$\nabla f = \left( \frac{\partial f}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial f}{\partial y}, \frac{\partial f}{\partial z} \right)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \nabla_{\mathbf{v}}f &= \mathbf{v} \cdot \nabla f \\ &= v_1 \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} + v_2 \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} + v_3 \frac{\partial f}{\partial z} \end{aligned}$$

$$\nabla(\nabla_{\mathbf{v}}f) = \left( v_1 \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x^2} + v_2 \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x \partial y} + v_3 \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x \partial z} \right) \mathbf{i} + \left( v_1 \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial y \partial x} + v_2 \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial y^2} + v_3 \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial y \partial z} \right) \mathbf{j} + \left( v_1 \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial z \partial x} + v_2 \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial y \partial z} + v_3 \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial z^2} \right) \mathbf{k}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \nabla_{\mathbf{v}}(\nabla_{\mathbf{v}}f) &= \mathbf{v} \cdot \nabla(\nabla_{\mathbf{v}}f) \\ &= v_1^2 \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x^2} + 2v_1v_2 \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x \partial y} + 2v_1v_3 \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x \partial z} + v_2^2 \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial y^2} + 2v_2v_3 \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial y \partial z} + v_3^2 \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial z^2} \end{aligned}$$

Furthermore,  $\nabla_{\mathbf{v}}(\nabla_{\mathbf{v}}f)$  gives the second time derivative of the quantity  $f$  as measured by an observer moving with constant velocity  $\mathbf{v}$ .

3. Find the Taylor series generated by the following functions at given points and write down your answers in summation notation.

(a)  $f(x) = \cos x$  at  $x = \pi/2$ ;

(b)  $f(x) = \ln(1+x)$  at  $x = 0$ ;

(c)  $f(x) = e^x$  at  $x = 1$ .

**Ans:**

(a) 
$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n}{(2n-1)!} \left(x - \frac{\pi}{2}\right)^{2n-1}$$

(b) 
$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^{n-1}}{n} x^n$$

(c) 
$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{e}{n!} (x-1)^n$$

4. By considering the Taylor series generated by  $e^x$  and  $\cos x$  at  $x = 0$ , find the Taylor polynomials of degree 3 generated by the following functions at  $x = 0$ .

(a)  $e^x \cos x$ ;

(b)  $e^{\cos x}$ ;

(c)  $\frac{e^x}{\cos x}$ .

**Ans:**

(a)

$$\begin{aligned} T(x) &= \left(1 + x + \frac{x^2}{2} + \frac{x^3}{6} + \dots\right) \left(1 - \frac{x^2}{2} + \dots\right) \\ &= 1 + x + \left(\frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{2}\right)x^2 + \left(\frac{1}{6} - \frac{1}{2}\right)x^3 + \dots \\ \therefore T_3(x) &= 1 + x - \frac{x^3}{3}. \end{aligned}$$

(b)

$$\begin{aligned} T(x) &= 1 + \cos x + \frac{\cos^2 x}{2!} + \frac{\cos^3 x}{3!} + \dots \\ &= 1 + \left(1 - \frac{x^2}{2!} + \frac{x^4}{4!} + \dots\right) + \frac{1}{2!} \left(1 - \frac{x^2}{2!} + \frac{x^4}{4!} + \dots\right)^2 \\ &\quad + \frac{1}{3!} \left(1 - \frac{x^2}{2!} + \frac{x^4}{4!} + \dots\right)^3 + \dots \\ \therefore T_3(x) &= \left(1 + 1 + \frac{1}{2!} + \frac{1}{3!} + \dots\right) + \left[-\frac{x^2}{2} + \frac{1}{2!} \cdot 2 \cdot \left(-\frac{x^2}{2}\right) + \frac{1}{3!} \cdot 3 \cdot \left(-\frac{x^2}{2}\right) + \dots\right] \\ &= e - \frac{x^2}{2} \left(1 + 1 + \frac{1}{2!} + \frac{1}{3!} + \dots\right) \\ &= e - \frac{e}{2} x^2. \end{aligned}$$

(c) Suppose  $T(x) = c_0 + c_1x + c_2x^2 + c_3x^3 + \dots$ , then

$$\begin{aligned}
 e^x &= (c_0 + c_1x + c_2x^2 + c_3x^3 + \dots) \cos x \\
 1 + x + \frac{x^2}{2} + \frac{x^3}{6} + \dots &= \left(1 - \frac{x^2}{2} + \dots\right) (c_0 + c_1x + c_2x^2 + c_3x^3 + \dots) \\
 \therefore &\begin{cases} 1 \cdot c_0 = 1 \\ 1 \cdot c_1 = 1 \\ c_2 - \frac{c_0}{2} = \frac{1}{2} \\ c_3 - \frac{c_2}{2} = \frac{1}{6} \end{cases} \\
 c_0 = 1, c_1 = 1, c_2 = 1, c_3 &= \frac{2}{3}.
 \end{aligned}$$

Therefore,  $T_3(x) = 1 + x + x^2 + \frac{2}{3}x^3$ .

5. (a) Find the Taylor polynomial  $P_2(x)$  of degree 2 generated by the function  $\sqrt[3]{1+x}$ .  
 (b) Hence, approximate  $\sqrt[3]{1.3}$  and show that the error of your approximation is less than  $2 \times 10^{-3}$ .

**Ans:**

(a)  $P_2(x) = f(0) + f'(0)x + \frac{f''(0)}{2!}x^2 = 1 + \frac{x}{3} - \frac{x^2}{9}$

(b) We can approximate  $\sqrt[3]{1.3}$  by  $P_2(0.3) = 1.09$ . The error of this approximation is  $E_2(0.3)$  which can be estimated by

$$\begin{aligned}
 E_2(0.3) &= \frac{f'''(c)}{3}(0.3)^3 \quad \text{for some } c \in (0, 0.3) \\
 &= \frac{5}{81}(1+c)^{-8/3} \left(\frac{3}{10}\right)^3 \\
 &< \frac{5}{81} \left(\frac{3}{10}\right)^3 \\
 &= \frac{1}{600} \\
 &< 2 \times 10^{-3}
 \end{aligned}$$

6. Let  $f(x) = \ln(1-x)$  for  $x < 1$ .

- (a) Find the Taylor series generated by  $f(x)$  at  $x = 0$ .  
 (b) Write down the Taylor polynomial  $T_3(x)$  of degree 3 generated by  $f(x)$  at  $x = 0$  and the Lagrange remainder  $E_3(x)$ .  
 (c) Hence, approximate  $\ln 0.9$  and show that the error of your approximation is less than  $\frac{1}{4 \times 9^4}$ .

**Ans:**

(a) Taylor series generated by  $f(x)$  at  $x = 0$  is

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} -\frac{1}{n}x^n = -x - \frac{x^2}{2} - \frac{x^3}{3} - \dots$$

(b)  $T_3(x) = -x - \frac{x^2}{2} - \frac{x^3}{3}$  and

$$E_3(x) = \frac{f^{(4)}(c)}{4!}x^4 \text{ for some } c \text{ lying between } 0 \text{ and } x \text{ (and so } c \text{ depends on } x\text{)}.$$

Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned}
 f(x) &= T_3(x) + E_3(x) \\
 \ln(1-x) &= -x - \frac{x^2}{2} - \frac{x^3}{3} + \frac{f^{(4)}(c)}{4!}x^4
 \end{aligned}$$

(c) By putting  $x = 0.1$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned}\ln(1 - 0.1) &= -0.1 - \frac{0.1^2}{2} - \frac{0.1^3}{3} + \frac{f^{(4)}(c)}{4!}(0.1^4) \\ \ln 0.9 &= -\frac{79}{750} + \frac{\frac{-3!}{(1-c)^4}}{4!}(0.1)^4 \\ \left| \ln 0.9 - \left(-\frac{79}{750}\right) \right| &= \frac{1}{4(1-c)^4}(0.1)^4 \\ &< \left(\frac{1}{4}\right)\left(\frac{10}{9}\right)^4\left(\frac{1}{10}\right)^4 \\ &= \frac{1}{4 \times 9^4}\end{aligned}$$

Note that  $0 < c < 0.1$ , so  $\frac{1}{1-c} < \frac{1}{0.9} = \frac{10}{9}$

$\ln 0.9$  can be approximated by  $-\frac{79}{750} \approx -0.1053333$  with absolute error less than  $\frac{1}{4 \times 9^4}$ .

7. Let  $f(x)$  is a polynomial of degree  $n > 0$  and let  $a \in \mathbb{R}$ .

(a) If  $P_n(x)$  is the Taylor polynomial of degree  $n$  generated by  $f(x)$  at  $x = a$ , show that  $f(x) = P_n(x)$ .

(b) Suppose that  $f(a) = f'(a) = \dots = f^{(r-1)}(a) = 0$  and  $f^{(r)}(a) \neq 0$ , where  $1 \leq r \leq n$ .

Prove that  $(x - a)$  is a factor of  $f(x)$  with multiplicity  $r$ , i.e.  $f(x) = (x - a)^r g(x)$  for some polynomial  $g(x)$  such that  $g(x)$  is not divisible by  $x - a$ .

(c) By using the result in (b), factorize  $x^5 - 7x^4 + 19x^3 - 25x^2 + 16x - 4$ .

**Ans:**

(a) Let  $x \in \mathbb{R}$ . By Taylor's theorem, there exists  $c$  that lies on the open interval between  $x$  and  $a$  such that

$$f(x) - P_n(x) = E_n(x) = \frac{f^{(n+1)}(c)}{(n+1)!}(x-a)^{n+1} = 0.$$

We have the last equality since  $f$  is only a polynomial of degree  $n$ .

(b) By (a), we have

$$\begin{aligned}f(x) &= P_n(x) \\ &= f(a) + f'(a)(x-a) + \dots + \frac{f^{(r-1)}(a)}{(r-1)!}(x-a)^{r-1} + \\ &\quad \frac{f^{(r)}(a)}{r!}(x-a)^r + \dots + \frac{f^{(n)}(a)}{n!}(x-a)^n \\ &= \frac{f^{(r)}(a)}{r!}(x-a)^r + \dots + \frac{f^{(n)}(a)}{n!}(x-a)^n \quad (\text{By assumption}) \\ &= (x-a)^r \left( \frac{f^{(r)}(a)}{r!} + \dots + \frac{f^{(n)}(a)}{n!}(x-a)^{n-r} \right) \\ &= (x-a)^r g(x)\end{aligned}$$

where  $g(x) = \frac{f^{(r)}(a)}{r!} + \dots + \frac{f^{(n)}(a)}{n!}(x-a)^{n-r}$  which is a polynomial.

Note that  $g(a) = \frac{f^{(r)}(a)}{r!} \neq 0$ , therefore  $g(x)$  is not divisible by  $x - a$ .

(c) Note that  $f(1) = f'(1) = f''(1) = 0$  but  $f'''(1) \neq 0$ , so  $f(x)$  is divisible by  $(x - 1)^3$  (but not  $(x - 1)^k$  for any  $k \geq 4$ ).

Similarly, note that  $f(2) = f'(2) = 0$ , so  $f(x)$  is divisible by  $(x - 2)^2$  (but not  $(x - 2)^k$  for any  $k \geq 3$ ).

Furthermore,  $f(x)$  is of degree 5 and so  $f(x) = A(x - 1)^3(x - 2)^2$ .

The coefficient of  $x^5$  of  $f(x)$  is 1, so  $A = 1$  and  $f(x) = (x - 1)^3(x - 2)^2$ .