

Lecture XIII: § 13.2 Graphs & level curves, § 13.3 Limits and continuity

§ 13.2

§ 1 Functions of 2 variables

- Explicit form: $(x, y) \mapsto f(x, y) = z$ ((x, y) in some set D = domain of f)
- Implicit form: $F(x, y, z) = 0$ [e.g. quadratic surfaces]

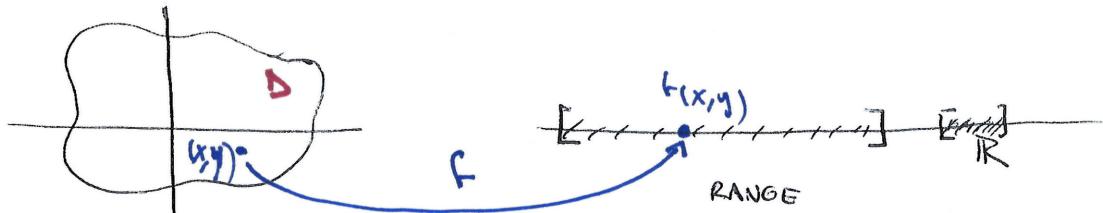
Eg planes:

Explicit	$(s, t) \mapsto -\left(\frac{1}{2}s + \frac{3}{4}t\right)$
Implicit	$2x + 3y + 4z = 0$

Def: A function $z = f(x, y)$ assigns to each point (x, y) in a set D in \mathbb{R}^2 a unique number z in a subset of \mathbb{R}^n .

- The domain of f is the set D
- The range (codomain, or image) is the set of all z in \mathbb{R} that can be written as $f(x_0, y_0)$ for some (x_0, y_0) in D .

[f : functions of n variables: $x = f_{n+1}(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n)$
 - Domain: set in \mathbb{R}^n
 - Range: possible values of x_{n+1} in \mathbb{R}]



Eg: Find the domain of $f(x, y) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{x^2+y^2}}$ & the range.

Soln: $u = \sqrt{x^2+y^2}$ cannot be 0 so $x^2+y^2 \neq 0$ is the domain.

$$D = \{(x, y) \in \mathbb{R}^2 \mid (x, y) \neq (0, 0)\} = \mathbb{R}^2 \setminus \{(0, 0)\}.$$

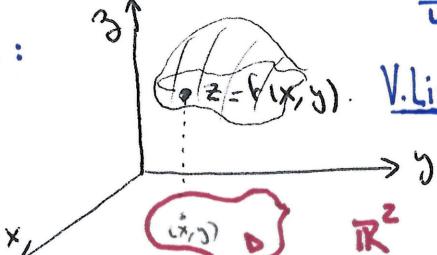
Range = The range of $g(u) = \frac{1}{u}$ is $\mathbb{R} \setminus \{0\}$, & the range of f .

Analyze the question by composing maps:



$$\text{Range} = \mathbb{R}_+ \setminus \{0\} = \mathbb{R}_{>0}$$

§ 2 Graphs:



V. Line Test: Every vertical line meets the surface $z = f(x, y)$ at EXACTLY ONE POINT (Otherwise, a point (x_0, y_0) would have 2 images under f)

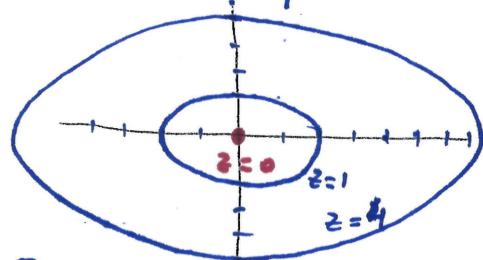
• Ellipsoid: fails the test (e.g.: $x^2 + y^2 + z^2 = 1$). 

• Elliptic paraboloid : passes the test ($\text{e.g. } z = \frac{x^2}{4} + y^2$)

§ 3 Level curves: e.g. Topographic maps.

Def.: Pick $z = f(x, y)$ a function & draw its graph in \mathbb{R}^2 . A level curve at $z=z_0$ is the xy -trace of the surface at $z=z_0$.

Eg: $z = \frac{x^2}{4} + y^2$ Elliptic paraboloid from Lecture XII.



... 3 level curves.

centered at $(0,0)$.

Concentric ellipses that grow away
as $z_0 \rightarrow +\infty$.

• Q: Can two different level curves intersect?

A: No Otherwise $z_0 = f(x_0, y_0) = z_1$, where (x_0, y_0) is the intersection pt of the 2 level curves, but $z_0 \neq z_1$.

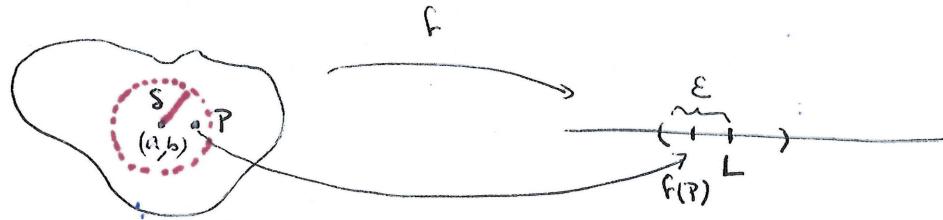
• Level curves can change shapes with z_0 (see Fig 13.34)

§ 13.3

§ 1 Limit of a function of two variables:

Def.: A function $f: D \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ has a limit L as $P=(x, y)$ approaches a fixed point $P_0(a, b)$ if $|f(x, y) - L|$ can be made arbitrarily small for all P in D that are sufficiently close to P_0 . If the limit exists, we write $\lim_{(x,y) \rightarrow (a,b)} f(x, y) = L$.

Q: What does "close to" mean?

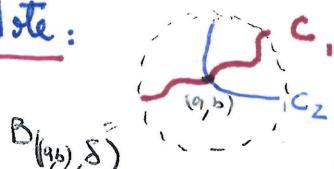


$\text{dist}(L, f(P)) = |f(P) - L|$ small? Given $\epsilon > 0$, want to find $\delta > 0$ (small) such that for all P in D if $\|\vec{PP_0}\| < \delta$, then $|f(P) - L| < \epsilon$

$$\sqrt{(x-a)^2 + (y-b)^2}$$

(CURVE TEST)

Note:



If a limit L exists, then $L = \lim_{(x,y) \rightarrow P_0} f(x, y) = \lim_{(x,y) \rightarrow P_0} f(x, y)$
So the limit is the same if we approach (a, b) along any curve C in D passing through (a, b) .

This remark will be useful to show a given limit does not exist. □

Example $f(x,y) = \frac{x}{y}$. $D = \{(x,y) \mid y \neq 0\} = \mathbb{R}^2 \setminus \{x\text{-axis}\}$.

$\lim_{\substack{(x,y) \rightarrow (0,0) \\ (x,y) \in C_1}} f(x,y) = ?$ Try with curve $C_1: \vec{r}(x) = \langle x, x \rangle$, $C_2: \vec{r}(y) = \langle 0, y \rangle$

• $\lim_{\substack{(x,y) \rightarrow (0,0) \\ (x,y) \in C_1}} f(x,y) = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} f(x,x) = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{x}{x} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} 1 = 1$

• $\lim_{\substack{(x,y) \rightarrow (0,0) \\ (x,y) \in C_2}} f(x,y) = \lim_{y \rightarrow 0} f(0,y) = \lim_{y \rightarrow 0} 0 = 0$

$0 \neq 1$ so
the original
limit does
NOT exist.

Theorem 1: Some useful limits

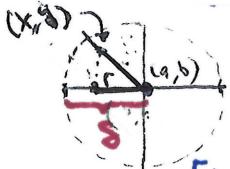
(1) $\lim_{(x,y) \rightarrow (a,b)} c = c$ (limit of constant function)

(2) $\lim_{(x,y) \rightarrow (a,b)} x = a$ & $\lim_{(x,y) \rightarrow (a,b)} y = b$. (limit of linear functions)

Pf/ (1) Pick $\epsilon > 0$: $f(p) = c$ for all p so $|f(p) - c| = 0 < \epsilon$.
for any p , so we can take $\delta = \epsilon$ (any $\delta > 0$ would do). ✓

(2) Pick $\epsilon > 0$. $f(p) = x$ $|f(p) - a| = |x - a| < \epsilon$ is our goal

Whenever $|<x-a, y-b>| < \delta$ We must find $\delta > 0$ ensuring our goal.



want $r < \epsilon$ if $r < \delta$. Pick $\delta < \epsilon$ ✓

Theorem 2: [Algebra of limits] Pick L, M in \mathbb{R} where $\lim_{(x,y) \rightarrow (a,b)} f(x,y) = L$
and $\lim_{(x,y) \rightarrow (a,b)} g(x,y) = M$. Assume $c \in \mathbb{R}$ is a constant, $m, n \in \mathbb{Z}$
(integers). with no common factors & $n \neq 0$.

(1) SUM & $\lim_{(x,y) \rightarrow (a,b)} f + g = L + M$

(2) DIFFERENCE $\lim_{(x,y) \rightarrow (a,b)} f - g = L - M$

(3) CONSTANT MULTIPLE $\lim_{(x,y) \rightarrow (a,b)} c f(x,y) = cL$.

(4) PRODUCT: $\lim_{(x,y) \rightarrow (a,b)} f(x,y) g(x,y) = LM$.

(5) QUOTIENT: If $M \neq 0$, $\lim_{(x,y) \rightarrow (a,b)} \frac{f(x,y)}{g(x,y)} = \frac{L}{M}$

(6) POWER: $\lim_{(x,y) \rightarrow (a,b)} (f(x,y))^m = L^m$, $\lim_{(x,y) \rightarrow (a,b)} (f(x,y))^n = L^{mn}$ ($L > 0$ if n even)