

MA2321—Analysis in Several Variables
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Section 8: Differentiation of Functions of
Several Real Variables

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8.1. Functions with First Order Partial Derivatives

If a real-valued function of a single real variable is differentiable, then it is guaranteed to be continuous. However, for a function of two or more real variables, the mere existence of first order partial derivatives throughout the domain of the function is not sufficient to ensure continuity.

Example

Let $f: \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be defined so that

$$f(x, y) = \begin{cases} \frac{2xy}{x^2 + y^2} & \text{if } (x, y) \neq (0, 0); \\ 0 & \text{if } (x, y) = (0, 0). \end{cases}$$

If $(x, y) \neq (0, 0)$ then the partial derivatives of f are well-defined at (x, y) , and

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial x} = \frac{2y(x^2 - y^2)}{(x^2 + y^2)^2}, \quad \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} = \frac{-2x(x^2 - y^2)}{(x^2 + y^2)^2}.$$

The partial derivatives of the function f at $(0, 0)$ are also well-defined, and are equal to zero, because the function f has the value zero along the lines $y = 0$ and $x = 0$. Thus the first order partial derivatives of the function f are well-defined throughout the domain \mathbb{R}^2 of the function.

8. Differentiation of Functions of Several Real Variables (continued)

Nevertheless $f(x, y) = 1$ at all points of the line $x = y$ with the exception of the origin $(0, 0)$, where the function takes the value zero. It follows from this that the function f is discontinuous at $(0, 0)$.

Example

Let $g: \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be defined so that

$$g(x, y) = \begin{cases} \frac{2xy}{x^2 + y^2} e^{\frac{1}{x^2 + y^2}} & \text{if } (x, y) \neq (0, 0); \\ 0 & \text{if } (x, y) = (0, 0). \end{cases}$$

This function g also have well-defined first order partial derivatives throughout \mathbb{R}^2 . But $|g(x, y)|$ increases faster than any negative power of the distance from the origin as the point (x, y) approaches the origin along any straight line other than the lines $y = 0$ and $x = 0$.

Example

Let $h: \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be defined so that

$$h(x, y) = \begin{cases} \frac{2x^2y}{x^4 + y^2} & \text{if } (x, y) \neq (0, 0); \\ 0 & \text{if } (x, y) = (0, 0). \end{cases}$$

The function h takes the value zero along the lines $y = 0$ and $x = 0$. It therefore has well-defined first order partial derivatives at the origin that have the value zero. It also has well-defined first order partial derivatives at all other points of \mathbb{R}^2 .

Now if (u, v) is a point of \mathbb{R}^2 , and if $v \neq 0$ and $t \neq 0$, then

$$h(tu, tv) = \frac{2tu^2v}{t^2u^4 + v^2}.$$

It follows that $\lim_{t \rightarrow 0} h(tu, tv) = 0$ whenever $v \neq 0$. This limit is also zero when $v = 0$ because the function takes the value zero along the line $y = 0$. Nevertheless $h(t, t^2) = 1$ for all non-zero real numbers t . The point (t, t^2) approaches the origin $(0, 0)$ as t tends to zero, and $h(0, 0) = 0$. It follows that the function h is not continuous at the origin.

8.2. Growth of Functions with Bounded Partial Derivatives

An open set X in \mathbb{R}^m is a product of open intervals J_1, J_2, \dots, J_m if

$$\begin{aligned} X &= J_1 \times J_2 \times \cdots \times J_m \\ &= \{(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_m) \in \mathbb{R}^m : x_i \in J_i \text{ for } i = 1, 2, \dots, m\}. \end{aligned}$$

Suppose that \mathbf{u} and \mathbf{v} are points of X , where X is an open set in \mathbb{R}^m that is a product of open intervals. Then there exist real numbers a_i and b_i for $i = 1, 2, \dots, m$ such that $a_i < u_i < b_i$ and $a_i < v_i < b_i$ for $i = 1, 2, \dots, m$. Then $H \subset X$, where H is the closed subset of \mathbb{R}^m consisting of those points (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_m) whose i th coordinate x_i satisfies $\min(u_i, v_i) \leq x_i \leq \max(u_i, v_i)$ for $i = 1, 2, \dots, m$.

Lemma 8.1

Let \mathbf{u} and \mathbf{v} be points of \mathbb{R}^m . Then

$$\sum_{i=1}^m |u_i - v_i| \leq \sqrt{m} |\mathbf{u} - \mathbf{v}|.$$

Proof

Consider the scalar product $(\mathbf{u} - \mathbf{v}) \cdot \mathbf{s}$ of the m -dimensional vector $\mathbf{u} - \mathbf{v}$ with the vector \mathbf{s} whose i th component s_i is determined for $i = 1, 2, \dots, m$ so that $s_i = 1$ if $u_i \geq v_i$ and $s_i = -1$ if $u_i < v_i$.

Now $(\mathbf{u} - \mathbf{v}) \cdot \mathbf{s} = \sum_{i=1}^m |u_i - v_i|$ and $|\mathbf{s}| = \sqrt{m}$. Schwarz's Inequality ensures that $(\mathbf{u} - \mathbf{v}) \cdot \mathbf{s} \leq |\mathbf{u} - \mathbf{v}| |\mathbf{s}|$. The required inequality follows immediately. ■

Proposition 8.2

Let X be an open set in \mathbb{R}^m that is a product of open intervals, let $f: X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a real-valued function on X , and let M be a positive constant. Suppose that

$$\left| \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_i} \right| \leq M$$

throughout the open set X for $i = 1, 2, \dots, m$. Then

$$|f(\mathbf{u}) - f(\mathbf{v})| \leq \sqrt{m}M|\mathbf{u} - \mathbf{v}|$$

for all points \mathbf{u} and \mathbf{v} of X .

Proof

Let $\mathbf{u} = (u_1, u_2, \dots, u_m)$ and $\mathbf{v} = (v_1, v_2, \dots, v_m)$. The fact that X is a product of open intervals guarantees that there exist real numbers a_i and b_i for $i = 1, 2, \dots, m$ such that $a_i < u_i < b_i$ and $a_i < v_i < b_i$ for $i = 1, 2, \dots, m$. For each integer k between 0 and m , let

$$\mathbf{w}_k = (w_{k,1}, w_{k,2}, \dots, w_{k,m})$$

where

$$w_{k,i} = \begin{cases} v_i & \text{if } i \leq k; \\ u_i & \text{if } i > k. \end{cases}$$

Then $a_i < w_{k,i} < b_i$ for $k = 0, 1, 2, \dots, m$ and $i = 1, 2, \dots, m$.

Moreover, for each integer k between 1 and m , the points \mathbf{w}_{k-1} and \mathbf{w}_k differ only in the k th coordinate, and the line segment joining these points is wholly contained in the open set X .

8. Differentiation of Functions of Several Real Variables (continued)

It follows that

$$\frac{d}{dt} (f((1-t)\mathbf{w}_{k-1} + t\mathbf{w}_k)) = (v_k - u_k) \left. \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_k} \right|_{(1-t)\mathbf{w}_{k-1} + t\mathbf{w}_k},$$

It follows that

$$\left| \frac{d}{dt} (f((1-t)\mathbf{w}_{k-1} + t\mathbf{w}_k)) \right| \leq M |u_k - v_k|,$$

and therefore

$$|f(\mathbf{w}_{k-1}) - f(\mathbf{w}_k)| \leq M |u_k - v_k|$$

for $i = 1, 2, \dots, m$ (see Corollary 7.6). Applying the inequality stated in Lemma 8.1, we conclude that

8. Differentiation of Functions of Several Real Variables (continued)

$$\begin{aligned} |f(\mathbf{u}) - f(\mathbf{v})| &\leq \sum_{k=1}^m |f(\mathbf{w}_{k-1}) - f(\mathbf{w}_k)| \leq M \sum_{k=1}^n |u_k - v_k| \\ &\leq \sqrt{m} M |\mathbf{u} - \mathbf{v}|, \end{aligned}$$

as required. ■

Example

Let $f: \mathbb{R}^m \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be the function defined so that

$f(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_m) = \sum_{i=1}^m x_i$ for all $(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_m) \in \mathbb{R}^m$. Now

$\frac{\partial f}{\partial x_i} = 1$ throughout \mathbb{R}^m for $i = 1, 2, \dots, m$. Let $\mathbf{u} = (0, 0, \dots, 0)$ and $\mathbf{v} = (1, 1, \dots, 1)$. Then $|\mathbf{u} - \mathbf{v}| = \sqrt{m}$ and $|f(\mathbf{u}) - f(\mathbf{v})| = m$, and thus $|f(\mathbf{u}) - f(\mathbf{v})| = \sqrt{m} |\mathbf{u} - \mathbf{v}|$. This shows that the inequality proved in Proposition 8.2 is sharp, i.e., there exist instances where, with an appropriate choice of the function f and the points \mathbf{u} and \mathbf{v} , the stated upper bound on $|f(\mathbf{u}) - f(\mathbf{v})|$ is attained.

Corollary 8.3

Let X be an open set in \mathbb{R}^m that is a product of open intervals, let $\varphi: X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ be a function mapping X into \mathbb{R}^n , and let M be a positive constant. Suppose that

$$\left| \frac{\partial f_j}{\partial x_i} \right| \leq M$$

throughout the open set X for $i = 1, 2, \dots, m$ and $j = 1, 2, \dots, n$, where $f_j: X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is the j th component of the map φ . Then

$$|\varphi(\mathbf{u}) - \varphi(\mathbf{v})| \leq \sqrt{mn}M|\mathbf{u} - \mathbf{v}|$$

for all points \mathbf{u} and \mathbf{v} of X .

Proof

Let \mathbf{u} and \mathbf{v} be points of X . On applying the inequality stated in Proposition 8.2, we find that

$$|\varphi(\mathbf{u}) - \varphi(\mathbf{v})|^2 = \sum_{j=1}^n (f_j(\mathbf{u}) - f_j(\mathbf{v}))^2 \leq mnM^2 |\mathbf{u} - \mathbf{v}|^2.$$

The result follows. \blacksquare

Corollary 8.4

Let X be an open set in \mathbb{R}^m , let $\varphi: X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ be a function mapping X into \mathbb{R}^n , and let M be a positive constant. Suppose that

$$\left| \frac{\partial f_j}{\partial x_i} \right| \leq M$$

throughout the open set X for $i = 1, 2, \dots, m$ and $j = 1, 2, \dots, n$, where $f_j: X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is the j th component of the map φ . Then the function φ is continuous on X .

Proof

Let \mathbf{p} be a point of X . The set X is open in \mathbb{R}^m , and therefore there exists an open set V that is a product of open intervals such that $\mathbf{p} \in V$ and $V \subset X$. It then follows from Corollary 8.3 that

$$|\varphi(\mathbf{u}) - \varphi(\mathbf{v})| \leq \sqrt{mn}M|\mathbf{u} - \mathbf{v}|$$

for all points \mathbf{u} and \mathbf{v} of V . This inequality ensures that the function φ is continuous around the point \mathbf{p} . The result follows. ■

8.3. Functions with Continuous Partial Derivatives

We now investigate the behaviour of functions of several real variables whose first order partial derivatives are continuous.

Definition

Let X be an open set in \mathbb{R}^m , and let $f: X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ be real-valued function on X , and let \mathbf{p} be a point of X . Suppose that the first order partial derivatives of f are defined at the point \mathbf{p} . The *gradient* $(\nabla f)_{\mathbf{p}}$ of f at the point \mathbf{p} is the m -dimensional vector whose components are the partial derivatives of the function f at the point \mathbf{p} . Thus

$$(\nabla f)_{\mathbf{p}} = \left(\left. \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_1} \right|_{\mathbf{x}=\mathbf{p}}, \left. \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_2} \right|_{\mathbf{x}=\mathbf{p}}, \dots, \left. \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_m} \right|_{\mathbf{x}=\mathbf{p}} \right).$$

Examples previously considered demonstrate that the mere existence of partial derivatives of a real-valued function around a given point is not sufficient to enable the gradient of that function to provide a reasonable approximation to the function around that point. On the other hand, as we shall see, if the partial derivatives are not only defined around that point but are also continuous there, then the gradient of the function does determine a “first order” approximation to the function around that point.

Proposition 8.5

Let X be an open set in \mathbb{R}^m , let $f: X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a real-valued function on X , and let \mathbf{p} be a point of X . Suppose that the first order partial derivatives of the function f are defined throughout the set X and are continuous at the point \mathbf{p} . Then, given any positive real number ε , there exists some positive real number δ such that

$$|f(\mathbf{u}) - f(\mathbf{v}) - (\nabla f)_{\mathbf{p}} \cdot (\mathbf{u} - \mathbf{v})| \leq \varepsilon |\mathbf{u} - \mathbf{v}|$$

for all points \mathbf{u} and \mathbf{v} of X satisfying $|\mathbf{u} - \mathbf{p}| < \delta$ and $|\mathbf{v} - \mathbf{p}| < \delta$, where $(\nabla f)_{\mathbf{p}}$ denotes the gradient of the function f at the point \mathbf{p} .

Proof

Let $\mathbf{p} = (p_1, p_2, \dots, p_m)$, and let $g: X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be the real-valued function on X defined so that

$$g(\mathbf{x}) = f(\mathbf{x}) - f(\mathbf{p}) - (\nabla f)_{\mathbf{p}} \cdot (\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{p})$$

for all $\mathbf{x} \in X$. Then the function g has first order partial derivatives, defined throughout the open set X , which are continuous at the point \mathbf{p} . Moreover $g(\mathbf{p}) = 0$ and

$$\left. \frac{\partial g}{\partial x_i} \right|_{\mathbf{x}=\mathbf{p}} = 0$$

for $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$. Moreover

$$g(\mathbf{u}) - g(\mathbf{v}) = f(\mathbf{u}) - f(\mathbf{v}) - (\nabla f)_{\mathbf{p}} \cdot (\mathbf{u} - \mathbf{v})$$

for all points \mathbf{u} and \mathbf{v} of X .

8. Differentiation of Functions of Several Real Variables (continued)

Let some positive real number ε be given. for $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$. Now the domain X of the functions f and g is an open subset of \mathbb{R}^m . This, together with the continuity of the first order partial derivatives of the function g at the point \mathbf{p} , ensures that some positive real number δ can then be chosen small enough to ensure both that

$$\{(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_m) \in \mathbb{R}^m : |p_i - x_i| \leq \delta \text{ for } i = 1, 2, \dots, m\} \subset X$$

and also that

$$\left| \frac{\partial g}{\partial x_i} \right| \leq \frac{\varepsilon}{\sqrt{m}}$$

for $i = 1, 2, \dots, m$ at all points (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_m) of \mathbb{R}^m that satisfy $|x_i - p_i| < \delta$ for $i = 1, 2, \dots, m$. Now $g(\mathbf{p}) = 0$. It therefore follows from Proposition 8.2 that

$$|g(\mathbf{u}) - g(\mathbf{v})| \leq \varepsilon |\mathbf{u} - \mathbf{v}|$$

at all points \mathbf{x} of \mathbb{R}^m whose components x_1, x_2, \dots, x_m satisfy $|x_i - p_i| < \delta$ for $i = 1, 2, \dots, m$. The result follows. ■

Corollary 8.6

Let X be an open set in \mathbb{R}^m , let $f: X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ be a real-valued function on X , and let \mathbf{p} be a point of X . Suppose that the first order partial derivatives of the function f are defined throughout the set X and are continuous at the point \mathbf{p} . Then

$$\lim_{\mathbf{x} \rightarrow \mathbf{p}} \frac{1}{|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{p}|} |f(\mathbf{x}) - f(\mathbf{p}) - (\nabla f)_{\mathbf{p}} \cdot (\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{p})| = 0,$$

where $(\nabla f)_{\mathbf{p}}$ denotes the gradient of the function f at the point \mathbf{p} .

Proof

Proposition 8.5 ensures that, given any positive real number ε , there exists a positive real number δ such that

$$\frac{1}{|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{p}|} |f(\mathbf{x}) - f(\mathbf{p}) - (\nabla f)_{\mathbf{p}} \cdot (\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{p})| \leq \varepsilon$$

for all points \mathbf{x} of X satisfying $0 < |\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{p}| < \delta$. The result therefore follows directly from the formal definition of limits of functions of several real variables. ■

Corollary 8.7

Let X be an open set in \mathbb{R}^m , let $\varphi: X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ be a function on X taking values in \mathbb{R}^n , let f_1, f_2, \dots, f_n be the components of the map φ , and let \mathbf{p} be a point of X . Suppose that the first order partial derivatives of the components of the map φ are defined throughout the set X and are continuous at the point \mathbf{p} . Then, given any positive real number ε , there exists some positive real number δ such that

$$|\varphi(\mathbf{u}) - \varphi(\mathbf{v}) - (D\varphi)_{\mathbf{p}}(\mathbf{u} - \mathbf{v})| \leq \varepsilon|\mathbf{u} - \mathbf{v}|$$

for all points \mathbf{u} and \mathbf{v} of X satisfying $|\mathbf{u} - \mathbf{p}| < \delta$ and $|\mathbf{v} - \mathbf{p}| < \delta$, where

$$(D\varphi)_{\mathbf{p}} \mathbf{w} = ((\nabla f_1)_{\mathbf{p}} \cdot \mathbf{w}, (\nabla f_2)_{\mathbf{p}} \cdot \mathbf{w}, \dots, (\nabla f_n)_{\mathbf{p}} \cdot \mathbf{w})$$

for all $\mathbf{w} \in \mathbb{R}^m$.

Proof

It follows from Proposition 8.5 that, given any positive real number ε , there exists some positive real number δ such that

$$|f_j(\mathbf{u}) - f_j(\mathbf{v}) - (\nabla f_j)_{\mathbf{p}} \cdot (\mathbf{u} - \mathbf{v})| \leq \frac{\varepsilon}{\sqrt{n}} |\mathbf{u} - \mathbf{v}|$$

for $j = 1, 2, \dots, n$, and for all points \mathbf{u} and \mathbf{v} of X satisfying $|\mathbf{u} - \mathbf{p}| < \delta$ and $|\mathbf{v} - \mathbf{p}| < \delta$. Then

$$\begin{aligned} & |\varphi(\mathbf{u}) - \varphi(\mathbf{v}) - (D\varphi)_{\mathbf{p}}(\mathbf{u} - \mathbf{v})|^2 \\ &= \sum_{j=1}^n (f_j(\mathbf{u}) - f_j(\mathbf{v}) - (\nabla f_j)_{\mathbf{p}} \cdot (\mathbf{u} - \mathbf{v}))^2 \\ &\leq \varepsilon^2 |\mathbf{u} - \mathbf{v}|^2 \end{aligned}$$

for all points \mathbf{u} and \mathbf{v} of X satisfying $|\mathbf{u} - \mathbf{p}| < \delta$ and $|\mathbf{v} - \mathbf{p}| < \delta$. The result follows. ■

Corollary 8.8

Let X be an open set in \mathbb{R}^m , let $\varphi: X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ be a function on X taking values in \mathbb{R}^n , let f_1, f_2, \dots, f_n be the components of the map φ , and let \mathbf{p} be a point of X . Suppose that the first order partial derivatives of the components of the map φ are defined throughout the set X and are continuous at the point \mathbf{p} . Then

$$\lim_{\mathbf{x} \rightarrow \mathbf{p}} \frac{1}{|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{p}|} |\varphi(\mathbf{x}) - \varphi(\mathbf{p}) - (D\varphi)_{\mathbf{p}}(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{p})| = 0,$$

where

$$(D\varphi)_{\mathbf{p}} \mathbf{w} = ((\nabla f_1)_{\mathbf{p}} \cdot \mathbf{w}, (\nabla f_2)_{\mathbf{p}} \cdot \mathbf{w}, \dots, (\nabla f_n)_{\mathbf{p}} \cdot \mathbf{w})$$

for all $\mathbf{w} \in \mathbb{R}^m$.

Proof

Proposition 8.7 ensures that, given any positive real number ε , there exists a positive real number δ such that

$$\frac{1}{|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{p}|} |\varphi(\mathbf{x}) - \varphi(\mathbf{p}) - (Df)_{\mathbf{p}}(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{p})| \leq \varepsilon$$

for all points \mathbf{x} of X satisfying $0 < |\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{p}| < \delta$. The result therefore follows directly from the formal definition of limits of functions of several real variables. ■

8.4. Derivatives of Functions of Several Variables

Definition

Let X be an open subset of \mathbb{R}^m let $\varphi: X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ be a function mapping X into \mathbb{R}^n , let $T: \mathbb{R}^m \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ be a linear transformation from \mathbb{R}^m to \mathbb{R}^n , and let \mathbf{p} be a point of X . The function φ is said to be *differentiable* at \mathbf{p} , with *derivative* $T: \mathbb{R}^m \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ if and only if

$$\lim_{\mathbf{x} \rightarrow \mathbf{p}} \frac{1}{|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{p}|} (\varphi(\mathbf{x}) - \varphi(\mathbf{p}) - T(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{p})) = \mathbf{0}.$$

Henceforth we shall usually denote the derivative of a differentiable map $\varphi: X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ at a point \mathbf{p} of its domain X by $(D\varphi)_{\mathbf{p}}$.

The derivative $(D\varphi)_{\mathbf{p}}$ of φ at \mathbf{p} is sometimes referred to as the *total derivative* of φ at \mathbf{p} . If φ is differentiable at every point of X then we say that φ is differentiable on X .

Lemma 8.9

Let $T: \mathbb{R}^m \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ be a linear transformation from \mathbb{R}^m into \mathbb{R}^n . Then T is differentiable at each point \mathbf{p} of \mathbb{R}^m , and $(DT)_{\mathbf{p}} = T$.

Proof

This follows immediately from definition of differentiability, given that $T\mathbf{x} - T\mathbf{p} - T(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{p}) = \mathbf{0}$ for all $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^m$. ■

Lemma 8.10

Let X be an open subset of \mathbb{R}^m let $\varphi: X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ be a function mapping X into \mathbb{R}^n , let $T: \mathbb{R}^m \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ be a linear transformation from \mathbb{R}^m to \mathbb{R}^n , and let \mathbf{p} be a point of X . Then the function φ is differentiable at \mathbf{p} , with derivative T , if and only if, given any positive real number ε , there exists some positive real number δ such that

$$|\varphi(\mathbf{x}) - \varphi(\mathbf{p}) - T(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{p})| \leq \varepsilon |\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{p}|$$

at all points \mathbf{x} of X that satisfy $|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{p}| < \delta$.

Proof

First suppose that the function $\varphi: X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ has the property that, given any positive real number ε_0 , there exists some positive real number δ such that

$$|\varphi(\mathbf{x}) - \varphi(\mathbf{p}) - T(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{p})| \leq \varepsilon_0 |\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{p}|$$

at all points \mathbf{x} of X that satisfy $|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{p}| < \delta$. Let some positive number ε be given, and let ε_0 be chosen so that $0 < \varepsilon_0 < \varepsilon$. Then there exists some positive real number δ such that the above inequality holds at all points \mathbf{x} of X that satisfy $|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{p}| < \delta$. But then

$$\frac{1}{|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{p}|} |\varphi(\mathbf{x}) - \varphi(\mathbf{p}) - T(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{p})| < \varepsilon$$

at all points \mathbf{x} of X that satisfy $0 < |\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{p}| < \delta$, and therefore

$$\lim_{\mathbf{x} \rightarrow \mathbf{p}} \frac{1}{|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{p}|} (\varphi(\mathbf{x}) - \varphi(\mathbf{p}) - T(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{p})) = \mathbf{0}.$$

Thus the function φ is differentiable at the point \mathbf{p} .

8. Differentiation of Functions of Several Real Variables (continued)

Conversely suppose that the function φ is differentiable at the point \mathbf{p} . Let some positive real number ε be given. Then there exists some positive real number δ such that

$$\frac{1}{|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{p}|} |\varphi(\mathbf{x}) - \varphi(\mathbf{p}) - T(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{p})| < \varepsilon$$

at all points \mathbf{x} of X that satisfy $0 < |\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{p}| < \delta$. Considering separately the cases when $\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{p}$ and when $0 < |\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{p}| < \delta$, it then follows that

$$|\varphi(\mathbf{x}) - \varphi(\mathbf{p}) - T(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{p})| \leq \varepsilon |\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{p}|$$

at all points \mathbf{x} of X that satisfy $|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{p}| < \delta$. The result follows. ■

Lemma 8.11

Let X be an open subset of \mathbb{R}^m let $\varphi: X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ be a function mapping X into \mathbb{R}^n , and let \mathbf{p} be a point of X . Suppose that the function φ is differentiable at the point \mathbf{p} . Then φ is continuous at \mathbf{p} .

Proof

Suppose that the function φ is differentiable at \mathbf{p} with derivative $(D\varphi)_{\mathbf{p}}$. It then follows from the definition of differentiability that

$$\lim_{\mathbf{x} \rightarrow \mathbf{p}} \frac{1}{|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{p}|} |\varphi(\mathbf{x}) - \varphi(\mathbf{p}) - (D\varphi)_{\mathbf{p}}(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{p})| = 0.$$

It then follows from basic properties of limits that

$$\begin{aligned} & \lim_{\mathbf{x} \rightarrow \mathbf{p}} |\varphi(\mathbf{x}) - \varphi(\mathbf{p}) - (D\varphi)_{\mathbf{p}}(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{p})| \\ &= \left(\lim_{\mathbf{x} \rightarrow \mathbf{p}} |\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{p}| \right) \left(\lim_{\mathbf{x} \rightarrow \mathbf{p}} \frac{1}{|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{p}|} |\varphi(\mathbf{x}) - \varphi(\mathbf{p}) - (D\varphi)_{\mathbf{p}}(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{p})| \right) \\ &= 0, \end{aligned}$$

and therefore

$$\lim_{\mathbf{x} \rightarrow \mathbf{p}} (\varphi(\mathbf{x}) - \varphi(\mathbf{p}) - (D\varphi)_{\mathbf{p}}(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{p})) = 0.$$

But then

$$\lim_{\mathbf{x} \rightarrow \mathbf{p}} \varphi(\mathbf{x}) = \lim_{\mathbf{x} \rightarrow \mathbf{p}} (\varphi(\mathbf{p}) + (D\varphi)_{\mathbf{p}}(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{p})) = \varphi(\mathbf{p}),$$

and thus the function φ is continuous at \mathbf{p} . The result follows. ■

Proposition 8.12

Let X be an open set in \mathbb{R}^m , let $\varphi: X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ be a function on X taking values in \mathbb{R}^n , and let \mathbf{p} be a point of X . Suppose that the first order partial derivatives of the components of the map φ are defined throughout the set X and are continuous at the point \mathbf{p} . Then the function φ is differentiable at the point \mathbf{p} .

Proof

Let f_1, f_2, \dots, f_n be the components of the map φ . It follows from Corollary 8.8 that

$$\lim_{\mathbf{x} \rightarrow \mathbf{p}} \frac{1}{|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{p}|} |\varphi(\mathbf{x}) - \varphi(\mathbf{p}) - (D\varphi)_{\mathbf{p}}(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{p})| = 0,$$

where

$$(D\varphi)_{\mathbf{p}} \mathbf{w} = ((\nabla f_1)_{\mathbf{p}} \cdot \mathbf{w}, (\nabla f_2)_{\mathbf{p}} \cdot \mathbf{w}, \dots, (\nabla f_n)_{\mathbf{p}} \cdot \mathbf{w})$$

for all $\mathbf{w} \in \mathbb{R}^m$. The function φ therefore satisfies the definition of differentiability at \mathbf{p} , as required. ■

8. Differentiation of Functions of Several Real Variables (continued)

We now summarize some basic facts concerning differentiability of functions of several real variables. Let X be an open set in \mathbb{R}^m and let $\varphi: X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ be a function mapping X into \mathbb{R}^n . Now the mere existence of first order partial derivatives of the function φ at a point \mathbf{p} of X is not sufficient to ensure that the function φ is differentiable at the point \mathbf{p} . Indeed examples of real-valued functions of two real variables discussed at the beginning of this section demonstrate that the existence of first order partial derivatives of the map φ throughout the domain X of φ is not even sufficient to ensure the continuity of the function φ . However if the first order partial derivatives of the components of the function φ exist and are bounded throughout the open set X then the function φ is at least continuous on X (see Corollary 8.4). And if these first order partial derivatives are continuous throughout the open set X then the function φ is differentiable on X (see Proposition 8.12).

8.5. The Jacobian Matrix of a Differentiable Function

Proposition 8.13

Let X be an open set in \mathbb{R}^m , let $\varphi: X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ be a function mapping X into \mathbb{R}^n , and let \mathbf{p} be a point of X at which the function φ is differentiable. Let \mathbf{w} be an element of \mathbb{R}^m . Then

$$(D\varphi)_{\mathbf{p}}\mathbf{w} = \lim_{t \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{t} (\varphi(\mathbf{p} + t\mathbf{w}) - \varphi(\mathbf{p})).$$

Thus the derivative $(D\varphi)_{\mathbf{p}}$ of φ at \mathbf{p} is uniquely determined by the map φ .

Proof

It follows from the differentiability of φ at \mathbf{p} that

$$\lim_{\mathbf{x} \rightarrow \mathbf{p}} \frac{1}{|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{p}|} (\varphi(\mathbf{x}) - \varphi(\mathbf{p}) - (D\varphi)_{\mathbf{p}}(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{p})) = \mathbf{0}.$$

In particular, if we set $(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{p}) = t\mathbf{w}$, and $(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{p}) = -t\mathbf{w}$, where t is a real variable, we can conclude that

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{1}{t} (\varphi(\mathbf{p} + t\mathbf{w}) - \varphi(\mathbf{p}) - t(D\varphi)_{\mathbf{p}}\mathbf{w}) = \mathbf{0},$$

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow 0^-} \frac{1}{t} (\varphi(\mathbf{p} + t\mathbf{w}) - \varphi(\mathbf{p}) - t(D\varphi)_{\mathbf{p}}\mathbf{w}) = \mathbf{0},$$

It follows that

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{t} (\varphi(\mathbf{p} + t\mathbf{w}) - \varphi(\mathbf{p})) = (D\varphi)_{\mathbf{p}}\mathbf{w},$$

as required.

Corollary 8.14

Let X be an open set in \mathbb{R}^m , let $\varphi: X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ be a function mapping X into \mathbb{R}^n , and let \mathbf{p} be a point of X at which the function φ is differentiable. Then the derivative $(D\varphi)_{\mathbf{p}}$ of φ at the point \mathbf{p} is uniquely determined by the map φ .

Proof

The result of Proposition 8.13 shows that, for all $\mathbf{w} \in \mathbb{R}^m$, the value of $(D\varphi)_{\mathbf{p}} \mathbf{w}$ is expressible as a limit involving the function φ itself and is thus uniquely determined by the function φ itself. Thus there cannot be more than one linear transformation from \mathbb{R}^m to \mathbb{R}^n that can represent the derivative of the function φ at the point \mathbf{p} . ■

Corollary 8.15

Let X be an open set in \mathbb{R}^m , let $\varphi: X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ be a function mapping X into \mathbb{R}^n , and let \mathbf{p} be a point of X at which the function φ is differentiable. Let f_1, f_2, \dots, f_n denote the components of the function let $\varphi: X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$. Then the first order partial derivatives of the components of φ are all defined at the point \mathbf{p} , and the derivative $(D\varphi)_{\mathbf{p}}$ of the map φ at the point \mathbf{p} is represented by the $n \times m$ matrix whose coefficient in the i th row and j th column is equal to the value at \mathbf{p} of the partial derivative $\frac{\partial f_i}{\partial x_j}$ of f_i with respect to the j th coordinate function x_j on X .

Proof

Let $\mathbf{e}_1, \mathbf{e}_2, \dots, \mathbf{e}_m$ denote the standard basis of \mathbb{R}^m , where the i th component of the vector \mathbf{e}_j is equal to 1 when $i = j$, but is equal to zero otherwise. Basic linear algebra ensures that the linear transformation $(D\varphi)_{\mathbf{p}}: \mathbb{R}^m \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ is represented by the matrix $J(\mathbf{p})$ whose coefficient $J_{i,j}(\mathbf{p})$ in the i th row and j th column is equal to the i th component of the vector $(D\varphi)_{\mathbf{p}} \mathbf{e}_j$. It then follows from Proposition 8.14 that

$$J_{i,j}(\mathbf{p}) = \lim_{t \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{t} (f_i(\mathbf{p} + t\mathbf{e}_j) - f_i(\mathbf{e}_j)) = \left. \frac{\partial f_i}{\partial x_j} \right|_{\mathbf{x}=\mathbf{p}},$$

as required. ■

8. Differentiation of Functions of Several Real Variables (continued)

Let X be an open set in \mathbb{R}^m , let $\varphi: X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ be a differentiable function mapping X into \mathbb{R}^n . Corollary 8.15 ensures that the derivative of φ at any point \mathbf{p} of X is the linear transformation from \mathbb{R}^m to \mathbb{R}^n that sends $\mathbf{w} \in \mathbb{R}^m$ to $J(\mathbf{p})\mathbf{w}$, where J is the $n \times m$ matrix

$$\begin{pmatrix} \frac{\partial f_1}{\partial x_1} & \frac{\partial f_1}{\partial x_2} & \cdots & \frac{\partial f_1}{\partial x_m} \\ \frac{\partial f_2}{\partial x_1} & \frac{\partial f_2}{\partial x_2} & \cdots & \frac{\partial f_2}{\partial x_m} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \frac{\partial f_n}{\partial x_1} & \frac{\partial f_n}{\partial x_2} & \cdots & \frac{\partial f_n}{\partial x_m} \end{pmatrix}$$

of functions on X whose coefficients are the first order partial derivatives of the components f_1, f_2, \dots, f_n of the map φ . This matrix of partial derivatives is known as the *Jacobian matrix* of the map φ .

Example

Let $\varphi: \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$ be defined so that

$$\varphi\left(\begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix}\right) = \begin{pmatrix} x^2 - y^2 \\ 2xy \end{pmatrix}$$

for all real numbers x and y . Let p and q be fixed real numbers. Then

$$\begin{aligned}
& \varphi\left(\begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix}\right) - \varphi\left(\begin{pmatrix} p \\ q \end{pmatrix}\right) \\
&= \begin{pmatrix} x^2 - y^2 \\ 2xy \end{pmatrix} - \begin{pmatrix} p^2 - q^2 \\ 2pq \end{pmatrix} \\
&= \begin{pmatrix} (x+p)(x-p) - (y+q)(y-q) \\ 2q(x-p) + 2p(y-q) + 2(x-p)(y-q) \end{pmatrix} \\
&= \begin{pmatrix} 2p(x-p) - 2q(y-q) + (x-p)^2 - (y-q)^2 \\ 2q(x-p) + 2p(y-q) + 2(x-p)(y-q) \end{pmatrix} \\
&= \begin{pmatrix} 2p & -2q \\ 2q & 2p \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x-p \\ y-q \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} (x-p)^2 - (y-q)^2 \\ 2(x-p)(y-q) \end{pmatrix}.
\end{aligned}$$

8. Differentiation of Functions of Several Real Variables (continued)

Now, given $(x, y) \in \mathbb{R}^2$, let $r = \sqrt{(x - p)^2 + (y - q)^2}$. Then $|x - p| < r$ and $|y - q| < r$, and therefore

$$|(x - p)^2 - (y - q)^2| \leq |x - p|^2 + |y - q|^2 < 2r^2$$

and $2(x - p)(y - q) < 2r^2$, and thus

$$\frac{(x - p)^2 - (y - q)^2}{\sqrt{(x - p)^2 + (y - q)^2}} < 2r \quad \text{and} \quad \frac{2(x - p)(y - q)}{\sqrt{(x - p)^2 + (y - q)^2}} < 2r.$$

Thus, given any positive real number ε , let $\delta = \frac{1}{2}\varepsilon$. Then

$$\left| \frac{(x - p)^2 - (y - q)^2}{\sqrt{(x - p)^2 + (y - q)^2}} \right| < \varepsilon \quad \text{and} \quad \left| \frac{2(x - p)(y - q)}{\sqrt{(x - p)^2 + (y - q)^2}} \right| < \varepsilon$$

whenever $0 < |(x, y) - (p, q)| < \delta$. It follows therefore that

$$\lim_{(x,y) \rightarrow (0,0)} \frac{1}{\sqrt{(x-p)^2 + (y-q)^2}} \begin{pmatrix} (x-p)^2 - (y-q)^2 \\ 2(x-p)(y-q) \end{pmatrix} \\ = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Thus the function $\varphi: \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$ is differentiable at (p, q) , and the derivative of this function at (p, q) is the linear transformation represented by the matrix

$$\begin{pmatrix} 2p & -2q \\ 2q & 2p \end{pmatrix}.$$

8.6. Sums, Differences and Multiples of Differentiable Functions

Proposition 8.16

Let X be an open set in \mathbb{R}^m , and let $f: X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ and $g: X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be functions mapping X into \mathbb{R} . Let \mathbf{p} be a point of X . Suppose that f and g are differentiable at \mathbf{p} . Then the functions $f + g$ and $f - g$ are differentiable at \mathbf{p} , and

$$D(f + g)_{\mathbf{p}} = (Df)_{\mathbf{p}} + (Dg)_{\mathbf{p}}$$

and

$$D(f - g)_{\mathbf{p}} = (Df)_{\mathbf{p}} - (Dg)_{\mathbf{p}}.$$

Moreover, given any real number c , the function cf is differentiable at \mathbf{p} and

$$D(cf)_{\mathbf{p}} = c(Df)_{\mathbf{p}}.$$

Proof

The limit of a sum of functions is the sum of the limits of those functions, provided that these limits exist. Applying the definition of differentiability, it therefore follows that

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{\mathbf{x} \rightarrow \mathbf{p}} \frac{1}{|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{p}|} & \left(f(\mathbf{x}) + g(\mathbf{x}) - (f(\mathbf{p}) + g(\mathbf{p})) - ((Df)_{\mathbf{p}} + (Dg)_{\mathbf{p}})(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{p}) \right) \\ &= \lim_{\mathbf{x} \rightarrow \mathbf{p}} \frac{1}{|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{p}|} \left(f(\mathbf{x}) - f(\mathbf{p}) - (Df)_{\mathbf{p}}(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{p}) \right) \\ &\quad + \lim_{\mathbf{x} \rightarrow \mathbf{p}} \frac{1}{|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{p}|} \left(g(\mathbf{x}) - g(\mathbf{p}) - (Dg)_{\mathbf{p}}(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{p}) \right) \\ &= 0. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore

$$D(f + g)_{\mathbf{p}} = (Df)_{\mathbf{p}} + (Dg)_{\mathbf{p}}.$$

Also the function $-g$ is differentiable, with derivative $-(Dg)_{\mathbf{p}}$. It follows that $f - g$ is differentiable, with derivative $(Df)_{\mathbf{p}} - (Dg)_{\mathbf{p}}$.

Let c be a real number. Then

$$\begin{aligned}\lim_{\mathbf{x} \rightarrow \mathbf{p}} \frac{1}{|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{p}|} & \left(cf(\mathbf{x}) - cf(\mathbf{p}) - c(Df)_{\mathbf{p}}(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{p}) \right) \\ &= c \lim_{\mathbf{x} \rightarrow \mathbf{p}} \frac{1}{|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{p}|} \left(f(\mathbf{x}) - f(\mathbf{p}) - (Df)_{\mathbf{p}}(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{p}) \right) \\ &= 0\end{aligned}$$

It follows that the function cf is differentiable at \mathbf{p} , and $D(cf)_{\mathbf{p}} = c(Df)_{\mathbf{p}}$, as required. ■

8.7. An Inequality limiting the Growth of a Differentiable Function

We shall derive an inequality bounding the growth of a function of several real variables around a point where it is differentiable. The statement of the result makes reference to the *operator norm* of a linear transformation. Accordingly we now give the definition of operator norms.

Definition

Let $T: \mathbb{R}^m \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ be a linear transformation. The *operator norm* $\|T\|_{\text{op}}$ of T is the smallest non-negative real number with the property that $|T\mathbf{w}| \leq \|T\|_{\text{op}} |\mathbf{w}|$ for all $\mathbf{w} \in \mathbb{R}^m$.

The operator norm $\|T\|_{\text{op}}$ of a linear transformation $T: \mathbb{R}^m \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ may be characterized as the maximum value attained by $|T\mathbf{w}|$ as \mathbf{w} ranges over all vectors in \mathbb{R}^m that satisfy $|\mathbf{w}| = 1$.

Lemma 8.17

Let $T: \mathbb{R}^m \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ be a linear transformation from \mathbb{R}^m to \mathbb{R}^n , and let $\|T\|_{\text{op}}$ denote the operator norm of T . Also let $A_{i,j} = T\mathbf{e}_i \cdot T\mathbf{e}_j$ for all integers i and j between 1 and m , let A denote the matrix whose coefficient in the i th row and j th column is $A_{i,j}$, and let λ_{\max} denote the maximum eigenvalue of the real symmetric matrix A . Then $\|T\|_{\text{op}} = \sqrt{\lambda_{\max}}$.

Proof

The matrix A is a real symmetric matrix, and, given any such matrix, there exists an orthogonal matrix R , with transpose R^T for which RAR^T is diagonal. The inverse of the matrix R is then equal to its transpose R^T . Let λ_i denote the coefficient in the i th row and column of the diagonal matrix RAR^T for $i = 1, 2, \dots, m$.

Then $\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_m$ are the eigenvalues of the matrix A .

Let $\mathbf{w} \in \mathbb{R}^m$, and let $\mathbf{w} = (w_1, w_2, \dots, w_m)$. Then

$$|T\mathbf{w}|^2 = \left(\sum_{i=1}^m w_i \mathbf{e}_i \right) \cdot \left(\sum_{j=1}^m w_j \mathbf{e}_j \right) = \sum_{i=1}^m \sum_{j=1}^m A_{i,j} w_i w_j.$$

Thus if we represent \mathbf{w} in matrix algebra as a column vector with coefficients w_1, w_2, \dots, w_n then $|T\mathbf{w}|^2 = \mathbf{w}^T A \mathbf{w}$, where \mathbf{w}^T denotes the row vector that is the transpose of the column vector \mathbf{w} .

8. Differentiation of Functions of Several Real Variables (continued)

Let $\mathbf{u} = R\mathbf{w}$, so that $u_k = \sum_{j=1}^m R_{k,j}w_j$ for $k = 1, 2, \dots, m$. Then

$\mathbf{w} = R^T\mathbf{u}$, and therefore

$$|T\mathbf{w}|^2 = \mathbf{w}^T A \mathbf{w} = \mathbf{u}^T R A R^T \mathbf{u} = \sum_{k=1}^m \lambda_k u_k^2 \leq \lambda_{\max} \sum_{k=1}^m u_k^2.$$

Moreover

$$\sum_{k=1}^n u_k^2 = \mathbf{u}^T \mathbf{u} = \mathbf{w}^T R^T R \mathbf{w} = \mathbf{w}^T \mathbf{w} = |\mathbf{w}|^2.$$

We conclude therefore that

$$|T\mathbf{w}|^2 \leq \lambda_{\max} |\mathbf{w}|^2$$

for all $\mathbf{w} \in \mathbb{R}^m$. Moreover if $\mathbf{w} = R^T \mathbf{e}_k$, where k is an integer between 1 and m for which $\lambda_k = \lambda_{\max}$, then

$$|T\mathbf{w}|^2 = \lambda_{\max} |\mathbf{w}|^2.$$

The result follows. ■

Proposition 8.18

Let X be an open set in \mathbb{R}^m , let $\varphi: X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ be a function mapping X into \mathbb{R}^n , let \mathbf{p} be a point of X at which the function φ is differentiable, and let M be a real number satisfying $M > \|(D\varphi)_{\mathbf{p}}\|_{\text{op}}$, where $\|(D\varphi)_{\mathbf{p}}\|_{\text{op}}$ denotes the operator norm of the derivative $(D\varphi)_{\mathbf{p}}$ of φ at \mathbf{p} . Then there exists some positive real number δ such that

$$|\varphi(\mathbf{x}) - \varphi(\mathbf{p})| \leq M |\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{p}|$$

for all points \mathbf{x} of X satisfying $|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{p}| < \delta$.

Proof

Let $\varepsilon = M - \|(D\varphi)_{\mathbf{p}}\|_{\text{op}}$. Then $\varepsilon > 0$. Now

$$|(D\varphi)_{\mathbf{p}}\mathbf{v}| \leq \|(D\varphi)_{\mathbf{p}}\|_{\text{op}} |\mathbf{v}|$$

for all $\mathbf{v} \in \mathbb{R}^m$. The definition of differentiability ensures that

$$\lim_{\mathbf{x} \rightarrow \mathbf{p}} \frac{1}{|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{p}|} (\varphi(\mathbf{x}) - \varphi(\mathbf{p}) - (D\varphi)_{\mathbf{p}}(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{p})) = \mathbf{0},$$

8. Differentiation of Functions of Several Real Variables (continued)

and therefore there exists some positive real number δ such that

$$\frac{1}{|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{p}|} |\varphi(\mathbf{x}) - \varphi(\mathbf{p}) - (D\varphi)_{\mathbf{p}}(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{p})| < \varepsilon$$

for all $\mathbf{x} \in X$ satisfying $0 < |\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{p}| < \delta$. Then

$$|\varphi(\mathbf{x}) - \varphi(\mathbf{p})| \leq |(D\varphi)_{\mathbf{p}}(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{p})| + \varepsilon |\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{p}|$$

for all $\mathbf{x} \in X$ satisfying $|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{p}| < \delta$. Now

$$|(D\varphi)_{\mathbf{p}}(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{p})| \leq \|(D\varphi)_{\mathbf{p}}\|_{\text{op}} |\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{p}|$$

for all $\mathbf{x} \in X$. It follows that

$$|\varphi(\mathbf{x}) - \varphi(\mathbf{p})| \leq (\|(D\varphi)_{\mathbf{p}}\|_{\text{op}} + \varepsilon) |\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{p}| = M |\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{p}|$$

for all $\mathbf{x} \in X$ satisfying $|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{p}| < \delta$, as required. ■

8.8. The Product Rule for Functions of Several Variables

Let $f: X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ and $g: X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be real-valued functions defined over a subset X of \mathbb{R}^m . We denote by $f \cdot g$ the product of the functions f and g , defined so that $(f \cdot g)(\mathbf{x}) = f(\mathbf{x})g(\mathbf{x})$ for all $\mathbf{x} \in X$.

Proposition 8.19 (Product Rule)

Let X be an open set in \mathbb{R}^m , let $f: X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ and $g: X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be real-valued functions on X , and let \mathbf{p} be a point of X . Suppose that f and g are differentiable at \mathbf{p} . Then the function $f \cdot g$ is differentiable at \mathbf{p} , and

$$D(f \cdot g)_{\mathbf{p}} = g(\mathbf{p})(Df)_{\mathbf{p}} + f(\mathbf{p})(Dg)_{\mathbf{p}}.$$

Proof

The differentiability of the functions f and g at \mathbf{p} ensures the existence of positive real numbers ensures that there exist positive real numbers M , N and δ such that $\mathbf{x} \in X$,

$$|f(\mathbf{x}) - f(\mathbf{p})| \leq M |\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{p}|$$

and

$$|g(\mathbf{x}) - g(\mathbf{p})| \leq N |\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{p}|$$

at all points \mathbf{x} of \mathbb{R}^m that satisfy $|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{p}| < \delta$. (This follows from Proposition 8.18.) Let $h: X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be the real-valued function on X defined so that

$$\begin{aligned} h(\mathbf{x}) &= (f(\mathbf{x}) - f(\mathbf{p}))(g(\mathbf{x}) - g(\mathbf{p})) \\ &= f(\mathbf{x})g(\mathbf{x}) + f(\mathbf{p})g(\mathbf{p}) - f(\mathbf{p})g(\mathbf{x}) - f(\mathbf{x})g(\mathbf{p}) \end{aligned}$$

for all $\mathbf{x} \in X$. Then $h(\mathbf{p}) = 0$ and

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{h(\mathbf{x})}{|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{p}|} &= \frac{1}{|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{p}|} |f(\mathbf{x}) - f(\mathbf{p})| |g(\mathbf{x}) - g(\mathbf{p})| \\ &\leq MN |\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{p}| \end{aligned}$$

at all points \mathbf{x} of \mathbb{R}^m that satisfy $|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{p}| < \delta$. It follows that

$$\lim_{\mathbf{x} \rightarrow \mathbf{p}} \frac{1}{|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{p}|} h(\mathbf{x}) = 0.$$

It then follows from the definition of differentiability that the function $h: X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is differentiable at the point \mathbf{p} , and $(Dh)_{\mathbf{p}} = 0$.

Now

$$f(\mathbf{x})g(\mathbf{x}) = f(\mathbf{p})g(\mathbf{x}) + g(\mathbf{p})f(\mathbf{x}) - f(\mathbf{p})g(\mathbf{p}) + h(\mathbf{x})$$

for all $\mathbf{x} \in X$. Differentiating, and using the fact that $(Dh)_{\mathbf{p}} = 0$, we find that $f \cdot g$ is differentiable at \mathbf{p} , and

$$(D(f \cdot g))_{\mathbf{p}} = f(\mathbf{p})(Dg)_{\mathbf{p}} + g(\mathbf{p})(Df)_{\mathbf{p}},$$

as required. ■

8.9. The Chain Rule for Functions of Several Variables

Proposition 8.20 (Chain Rule)

Let X and Y be open sets in \mathbb{R}^m and \mathbb{R}^n respectively, let $\varphi: X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ and $\psi: Y \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^k$ be functions mapping X and Y into \mathbb{R}^n and \mathbb{R}^k respectively, where $\varphi(X) \subset Y$, and let \mathbf{p} be a point of X . Suppose that φ is differentiable at \mathbf{p} and that ψ is differentiable at $\varphi(\mathbf{p})$. Then the composition $\psi \circ \varphi: X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^k$ is differentiable at \mathbf{p} , and

$$D(\psi \circ \varphi)_{\mathbf{p}} = (D\psi)_{\varphi(\mathbf{p})} \circ (D\varphi)_{\mathbf{p}}.$$

Thus the derivative of the composition $\psi \circ \varphi$ of the functions at the point \mathbf{p} is the composition of the derivatives of the functions φ and ψ at \mathbf{p} and $\varphi(\mathbf{p})$ respectively.

Proof

The differentiability of the functions φ and ψ at \mathbf{p} and $\varphi(\mathbf{p})$ respectively ensures that there exist positive real numbers M , N , δ_1 and η_1 such that the following conditions hold: $\mathbf{x} \in X$ and $|\varphi(\mathbf{x}) - \varphi(\mathbf{p})| \leq M|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{p}|$ for all $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^m$ satisfying $|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{p}| < \delta_1$; $\mathbf{y} \in Y$ and $|\psi(\mathbf{y}) - \psi(\varphi(\mathbf{p}))| \leq N|\mathbf{y} - \varphi(\mathbf{p})|$ for all $\mathbf{y} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ satisfying $|\mathbf{y} - \varphi(\mathbf{p})| < \eta_1$; $|(D\psi)_{\varphi(\mathbf{p})}\mathbf{w}| \leq N|\mathbf{w}|$ for all $\mathbf{w} \in \mathbb{R}^n$. (This follows from Proposition 8.18.)

8. Differentiation of Functions of Several Real Variables (continued)

Let some positive real number ε be given. It follows from the differentiability of ψ at $\varphi(\mathbf{p})$ that there exists some real number η_2 , where $0 < \eta_2 \leq \eta_1$, such that

$$|\psi(\mathbf{y}) - \psi(\varphi(\mathbf{p})) - (D\psi)_{\varphi(\mathbf{p})}(\mathbf{y} - \varphi(\mathbf{p}))| \leq \frac{\varepsilon}{2M} |\mathbf{y} - \varphi(\mathbf{p})|$$

for all $\mathbf{y} \in Y$ satisfying $|\mathbf{y} - \varphi(\mathbf{p})| < \eta_2$. (This follows from a direct application of Lemma 8.10.) Let some real number δ_2 be chosen so that $0 < \delta_2 \leq \delta_1$ and $M\delta_2 \leq \eta_2$. If $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^m$ satisfies $|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{p}| < \delta_2$ then $\mathbf{x} \in X$ and $|\varphi(\mathbf{x}) - \varphi(\mathbf{p})| \leq M|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{p}| < \eta_2$, and therefore

$$\begin{aligned} |\psi(\varphi(\mathbf{x})) - \psi(\varphi(\mathbf{p})) - (D\psi)_{\varphi(\mathbf{p})}(\varphi(\mathbf{x}) - \varphi(\mathbf{p}))| \\ \leq \frac{\varepsilon}{2M} |\varphi(\mathbf{x}) - \varphi(\mathbf{p})| \\ \leq \frac{1}{2} \varepsilon |\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{p}|. \end{aligned}$$

8. Differentiation of Functions of Several Real Variables (continued)

Now it follows from the differentiability of φ at \mathbf{p} that there exists some real number δ satisfying the inequalities $0 < \delta \leq \delta_2$ that is small enough to ensure that

$$|\varphi(\mathbf{x}) - \varphi(\mathbf{p}) - (D\varphi)_{\mathbf{p}}(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{p})| \leq \frac{\varepsilon}{2N} |\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{p}|$$

for all $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^m$ satisfying $|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{p}| < \delta$. Now $|(D\psi)_{\varphi(\mathbf{p})}\mathbf{w}| \leq N|\mathbf{w}|$ for all $\mathbf{w} \in \mathbb{R}^n$. It follows that

$$\begin{aligned} |(D\psi)_{\varphi(\mathbf{p})}(\varphi(\mathbf{x}) - \varphi(\mathbf{p})) - (D\psi)_{\varphi(\mathbf{p})}(D\varphi)_{\mathbf{p}}(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{p})| \\ \leq N |\varphi(\mathbf{x}) - \varphi(\mathbf{p}) - (D\varphi)_{\mathbf{p}}(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{p})| \\ \leq \frac{1}{2}\varepsilon |\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{p}| \end{aligned}$$

for all $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^m$ satisfying $|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{p}| < \delta$.

The inequalities obtained above ensure that $\mathbf{x} \in X$ and

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \left| \psi(\varphi(\mathbf{x})) - \psi(\varphi(\mathbf{p})) - (D\psi)_{\varphi(\mathbf{p})}(D\varphi)_{\mathbf{p}}(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{p}) \right| \\
 & \leq \left| \psi(\varphi(\mathbf{x})) - \psi(\varphi(\mathbf{p})) - (D\psi)_{\varphi(\mathbf{p})}(\varphi(\mathbf{x}) - \varphi(\mathbf{p})) \right| \\
 & \quad + \left| (D\psi)_{\varphi(\mathbf{p})}(\varphi(\mathbf{x}) - \varphi(\mathbf{p})) - (D\psi)_{\varphi(\mathbf{p})}(D\varphi)_{\mathbf{p}}(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{p}) \right| \\
 & \leq \varepsilon |\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{p}|
 \end{aligned}$$

at all points \mathbf{x} of \mathbb{R}^m that satisfy $|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{p}| < \delta$. It follows from this that the composition function $\psi \circ \varphi$ is differentiable at \mathbf{p} , and that $(D(\psi \circ \varphi))_{\mathbf{p}} = (D\psi)_{\varphi(\mathbf{p})} \circ (D\varphi)_{\mathbf{p}}$, as required. ■