

Test: Wednesday 9 October,  
5 questions taken from Sections  
1-7 of problem sheet.

## Continuity

A function  $f(x, y)$  is continuous  
at  $(x_0, y_0)$  if

$$\lim_{(x, y) \rightarrow (x_0, y_0)} f(x, y)$$

exists, and

$$\lim_{(x, y) \rightarrow (x_0, y_0)} f(x, y) = f(x_0, y_0).$$

Example Consider

$$f(x, y) = \begin{cases} 3xy & (x, y) \neq (1, 2) \\ 0 & (x, y) = (1, 2) \end{cases}$$

At the point  $(1, 2)$

$$\lim_{(x, y) \rightarrow (1, 2)} f(x, y)$$

$$= \lim_{(x, y) \rightarrow (1, 2)} 3xy = 6$$

But

$$f(1, 2) = 0,$$

Hence  $f(x, y)$  is not continuous at  $(1, 2)$ .

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Example Consider

$$f(x, y) = \begin{cases} \frac{x^2 - y^2}{x^2 + y^2}, & (x, y) \neq (0, 0) \\ 0, & (x, y) = (0, 0) \end{cases}$$

Is this continuous at  $(0, 0)$ ?

Choose some constant  $m$ .

Suppose  $x \rightarrow 0$ . Then  $y = mx \rightarrow 0$

$$\lim_{(x,y) \rightarrow (0,0)} f(x,y) = ?$$

$$\lim_{\substack{x \rightarrow 0 \\ y = mx \rightarrow 0}} f(x,y) =$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{x^2 - m^2 x^2}{x^2 + m^2 x^2} =$$

$$= \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{1 - m^2}{1 + m^2} = \frac{1 - m^2}{1 + m^2}$$

This blue answer depends on the choice of  $m$ . Thus

$\lim_{(x,y) \rightarrow (0,0)} f(x,y)$  does not

exist, it follows that

$f(x,y)$  is not continuous at  $(0,0)$ .

Defn If a function  $f(x, y)$  has continuous partial derivatives  $\frac{\partial f}{\partial x}$  and  $\frac{\partial f}{\partial y}$

at each point in a region  $S$ , then  $f$  is said to be continuously differentiable in  $S$ .

Proposition If  $f$  is continuously differentiable in a region, then  $f$  is continuous in the region, and  $f$  is "differentiable" in the region.

Example Consider

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

Show that

$f_x(0, 0)$  exists, and that

$f_y(0, 0)$  exists, but that

$f(x, y)$  is not continuous at  $(0, 0)$ .

Sol<sup>n</sup>  $f_x(0, 0)$

$$= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(h, 0) - f(0, 0)}{h}$$

$$= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{0}{h^3} = 0.$$

$f_y(0, 0) =$

$$\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(0, h) - f(0, 0)}{h} = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{0}{h^3} = 0.$$

Consider  $y = mx$ ,  $m$  constant.

$$\lim_{\substack{x \rightarrow 0 \\ y = mx \rightarrow 0}} \frac{xy}{x^2 + y^2} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{mx^2}{x^2 + m^2x^2}$$

$$= \frac{m}{1+m^2}.$$

This depends on  $m$ .

Hence  $\lim_{(x,y) \rightarrow (0,0)} f(x,y)$  does

not exist, Hence  $f(x,y)$

is not continuous at

$(0,0)$ .

# Partial Derivatives of Composite functions. (Chain Rule)

Let  
 $u = F(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n)$

where

$$x_1 = g_1(r_1, r_2, \dots, r_p)$$

$$x_2 = g_2(r_1, r_2, \dots, r_p)$$

⋮

$$x_n = g_n(r_1, r_2, \dots, r_p),$$

then

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial r_i} = \frac{\partial u}{\partial x_1} \frac{\partial x_1}{\partial r_i} + \frac{\partial u}{\partial x_2} \frac{\partial x_2}{\partial r_i} + \dots + \frac{\partial u}{\partial x_n} \frac{\partial x_n}{\partial r_i}.$$

Proof is easy & boring.

Example Consider

$$u = x^2 e^{yx}$$

where

$$x = t \cos(t)$$

$$y = t \sin(t)$$

find  $\frac{\partial u}{\partial t}$  at  $t = \frac{\pi}{2}$ .

Soln

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} \frac{\partial x}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} \frac{\partial y}{\partial t}$$

$$= (2x e^{yx} + x^2 y e^{yx}) (\cos(t) - t \sin(t)) \\ + (x^2 y e^{yx}) (\sin(t) + t \cos(t)).$$

Evaluate  $\frac{\partial u}{\partial t}$  at  $t = \frac{\pi}{2}$

etc.