MA 138 – Calculus 2 with Life Science Applications
Vector Valued Functions
(Section 10.4)

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Vector-valued functions

- So far, we have considered only real-valued functions $f : \mathbb{R}^n \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}$.
- We now extend our discussion to functions whose the range is a subset of $\mathbb{R}^m$ — that is, $\mathbf{f} : \mathbb{R}^n \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$.
- Such functions are vector-valued functions, since they take on values that are represented by vectors:

$$\mathbf{f} : \mathbb{R}^n \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}^m \qquad (x_1, x_2, \ldots, x_n) \mapsto \begin{bmatrix} f_1(x_1, x_2, \ldots, x_n) \\ f_2(x_1, x_2, \ldots, x_n) \\ \vdots \\ f_m(x_1, x_2, \ldots, x_n) \end{bmatrix}.$$

- Here, each function $f_i(x_1, \ldots, x_n)$ is a real-valued function:

$$f_i : \mathbb{R}^n \longrightarrow \mathbb{R} \qquad (x_1, x_2, \ldots, x_n) \mapsto f_i(x_1, x_2, \ldots, x_n).$$

We will encounter vector-valued functions where $n = m = 2$ in Chapter 11.

Example

As an example, consider a community consisting of two species.
Let u and v denote the respective densities of the species and $f(u, v)$ and $g(u, v)$ the per capita growth rates of the species as functions of the densities u and v.
We can then write this relationship as a map

$$\mathbf{h} : \mathbb{R}^2 \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}^2 \qquad (u, v) \mapsto \begin{bmatrix} f(u, v) \\ g(u, v) \end{bmatrix}.$$

E.g., in the Lotka-Volterra predator-prey model: $(u, v) \mapsto \begin{bmatrix} \alpha - \beta v \\ \gamma u - \delta \end{bmatrix}$,

where α, β, γ, and δ are constants.

Review

- We have defined earlier the linearization at a point (x_0, y_0) of a real-valued function $f : \mathbb{R}^2 \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}$; namely,

$$L_f(x, y) = f(x_0, y_0) + \frac{\partial f(x_0, y_0)}{\partial x}(x - x_0) + \frac{\partial f(x_0, y_0)}{\partial y}(y - y_0).$$

- We can write the above equation in matrix notation as

$$L_f(x, y) = f(x_0, y_0) + \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} \dfrac{\partial f(x_0, y_0)}{\partial x} & \dfrac{\partial f(x_0, y_0)}{\partial y} \end{bmatrix}}_{1\times 2 \text{ matrix}} \cdot \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} x - x_0 \\ y - y_0 \end{bmatrix}}_{2\times 1 \text{ matrix}}.$$

Our Goal

- Our task is to define the linearization at a point (x_0, y_0) of vector-valued functions whose domain and range are $\mathbb{R}^2$; that is,

$$\mathbf{h} : \mathbb{R}^2 \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}^2 \qquad (x, y) \mapsto \begin{bmatrix} f(x,y) \\ g(x,y) \end{bmatrix}.$$

- To do so, we linearize at the point (x_0, y_0) each component of $\mathbf{h}(x, y)$

$$L_f(x,y) = f(x_0,y_0) + \frac{\partial f(x_0,y_0)}{\partial x}(x - x_0) + \frac{\partial f(x_0,y_0)}{\partial y}(y - y_0)$$

$$L_g(x,y) = g(x_0,y_0) + \frac{\partial g(x_0,y_0)}{\partial x}(x - x_0) + \frac{\partial g(x_0,y_0)}{\partial y}(y - y_0).$$

- We define the linearization of $\mathbf{h}(x, y)$ at the point (x_0, y_0) to be the vector-valued function $\mathbf{L}(x, y)$

$$\mathbf{L}(x,y) = \begin{bmatrix} L_f(x,y) \\ L_g(x,y) \end{bmatrix}.$$

The Jacobi (or Derivative) Matrix

We can rewrite the linearization $\mathbf{L}(x, y)$ at a point (x_0, y_0) of the vector-valued functions $\mathbf{h}(x, y)$ in the following matrix form

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{h}(x,y) \approx \mathbf{L}(x,y) &= \begin{bmatrix} L_f(x,y) \\ L_g(x,y) \end{bmatrix} \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} f(x_0,y_0) + \frac{\partial f(x_0,y_0)}{\partial x}(x - x_0) + \frac{\partial f(x_0,y_0)}{\partial y}(y - y_0) \\ g(x_0,y_0) + \frac{\partial g(x_0,y_0)}{\partial x}(x - x_0) + \frac{\partial g(x_0,y_0)}{\partial y}(y - y_0) \end{bmatrix} \\ &= \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} f(x_0,y_0) \\ g(x_0,y_0) \end{bmatrix}}_{\mathbf{h}(x_0,y_0)} + \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial f(x_0,y_0)}{\partial x} & \frac{\partial f(x_0,y_0)}{\partial y} \\ \frac{\partial g(x_0,y_0)}{\partial x} & \frac{\partial g(x_0,y_0)}{\partial y} \end{bmatrix}}_{(D\mathbf{h})(x_0,y_0)} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} (x - x_0) \\ (y - y_0) \end{bmatrix}\end{aligned}$$

$(D\mathbf{h})(x_0, y_0)$ is a 2×2 matrix called the **Jacobi matrix** of $\mathbf{h}$ at (x_0, y_0).

Example 1 (Problem #10, Exam 3, Spring 2012)

Consider the vector valued function $\mathbf{h} : \mathbb{R}^2 \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$ given by

$$\mathbf{h}(x,y) = \begin{bmatrix} x^2y - y^3 \\ 2x^3y^2 + y \end{bmatrix}.$$

(a) Compute the **Jacobi matrix** $(D\mathbf{h})(x, y)$ and evaluate it at the point $(1, 2)$.

(b) Find the linear approximation of $\mathbf{h}(x, y)$ at the point $(1, 2)$.

Example 2 (Problem #46, Section 10.4, p. 536)

Find a linear approximation to

$$\mathbf{f}(x,y) = \begin{bmatrix} \sqrt{2x + y} \\ x - y^2 \end{bmatrix}$$

at $(1, 2)$. Use your result to find an approximation for $\mathbf{f}(1.05, 2.05)$.

Example 3 (Example # 9, Section 10.4, p. 534)

Consider the function $\mathbf{f} : \mathbb{R}^2 \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}^2 \qquad (x,y) \mapsto \begin{bmatrix} u(x,y) \\ v(x,y) \end{bmatrix}$, with

$$u(x,y) = y\,e^{-x} \qquad \text{and} \qquad v(x,y) = \sin x + \cos y.$$

Find the linear approximation to $\mathbf{f}(x,y)$ at $(0,0)$.

Compare $\mathbf{f}(0.1,-0.1)$ with its linear approximation.

The General Case

- Consider the function $\mathbf{f} : \mathbb{R}^n \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$, say $\mathbf{f}(x_1,\dots,x_n) = \begin{bmatrix} f_1(x_1,\dots,x_n) \\ \vdots \\ f_m(x_1,\dots,x_n) \end{bmatrix}$,

  where $f_i : \mathbb{R}^n \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}$, are m real-valued functions of n variables.
- The Jacobi matrix of $\mathbf{f}$ is an $m \times n$ matrix of the form

$$(D\mathbf{f})(x_1,\dots,x_n) = \begin{bmatrix} \dfrac{\partial f_1}{\partial x_1} & \cdots & \dfrac{\partial f_1}{\partial x_n} \\ \vdots & & \vdots \\ \dfrac{\partial f_m}{\partial x_1} & \cdots & \dfrac{\partial f_m}{\partial x_n} \end{bmatrix}$$

- The linearization of $\mathbf{f}$ about the point $(x_1^*,\dots,x_n^*)$ is then

$$\mathbf{L}(x_1,\dots,x_n) = \begin{bmatrix} f_1(x_1^*,\dots,x_n^*) \\ \vdots \\ f_m(x_1^*,\dots,x_n^*) \end{bmatrix} + (D\mathbf{f})(x_1^*,\dots,x_n^*) \cdot \begin{bmatrix} x_1 - x_1^* \\ \vdots \\ x_n - x_n^* \end{bmatrix}$$