

In physical sciences we often have powers that can be approximated.

Why approximate?

- Ease Derivations
- Reduce Computational Workload
- Simplify Equations

The Binomial Approximation

Lets look at a few powers of numbers close to 1.

$$(1+x)^1 = 1 + 1x$$

$$(1+x)^2 = (1+x)(1+x) = 1 + 2x + x^2$$

$$\begin{aligned}(1+x)^3 &= (1+x)(1+x)^2 = (1+x)(1+2x+x^2) \\ &= 1+2x+x^2+x+2x^2+x^3 \\ &= 1+3x+3x^2+x^3\end{aligned}$$

We see a pattern emerging

$$(1+x)^\alpha = 1 + \alpha x + \frac{\alpha(\alpha-1)}{2!} x^2 + \dots + x^\alpha$$

α can be positive or negative and does NOT have to be an integer

Consider a small x , so $|x| \ll 1$

We know $|x^3| \ll |x^2| \ll |x|$ * To do this multiply both sides of the inequality above by $|x|$

This means for a small x we can say:

$$\Rightarrow \boxed{(1+x)^\alpha \approx 1 + \alpha x}$$

Example

$$\left(1 + \frac{1}{100}\right)^{8.2} = 1.0850 \text{ (from calculator)}$$

$$\text{Use Binomial Approximation } \left(1 + \frac{1}{100}\right)^{8.2} \approx 1 + 8.2(0.01) = 1.082$$

$$\text{Error} = \frac{1.082 - 1.0850}{1.0850} \times 100\% = -0.28\% < 1\% \text{ Not Bad!}$$

Example

$$\left(10 + \frac{1}{100}\right)^{7.6} = 40,114,278.8$$

$$\left(10 + \frac{1}{100}\right)^{7.6} = 10^{7.6} \left(1 + \frac{1}{1000}\right)^{7.6} \cong 10^{7.6} \cdot \left(1 + 7.6 \cdot \frac{1}{1000}\right) = 40,113,278.5$$

(error $\ll 1\%$).

Example

$$(1 + 70)^{3.4} = 1,969,148.12$$

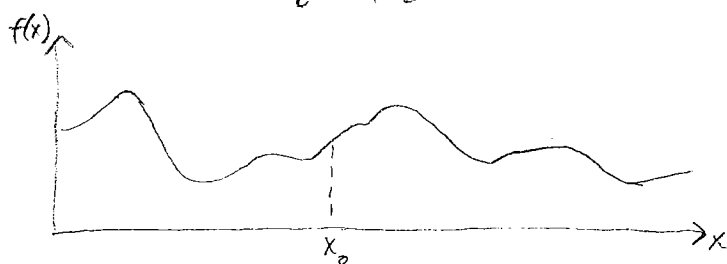
$$(1 + 70)^{3.4} = (70 + 1)^{3.4} = 70^{3.4} \left(1 + \frac{1}{70}\right)^{3.4}$$

$$70^{3.4} \left(1 + \frac{1}{70}\right)^{3.4} \cong 70^{3.4} \cdot \left(1 + \frac{3.4}{70}\right) = 1,967,575.27$$

(error $\ll 1\%$)

Taylor's Theorem

Pick some arbitrary function:



If you look at any VERY SMALL section of the curve around any point x_0 , it looks like a straight line. Larger sections begin to resemble higher order functions like quadratic (x^2), cubic (x^3), and quartic (x^4) functions.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Expanding } f(x) \text{ about } x_0: f(x) = & f(x_0) + \left. \frac{df}{dx} \right|_{x_0} (x - x_0) + \left. \frac{d^2f}{dx^2} \right|_{x_0} \frac{(x - x_0)^2}{2!} \\ & + \left. \frac{d^3f}{dx^3} \right|_{x_0} \frac{(x - x_0)^3}{3!} + \dots \end{aligned}$$

Example

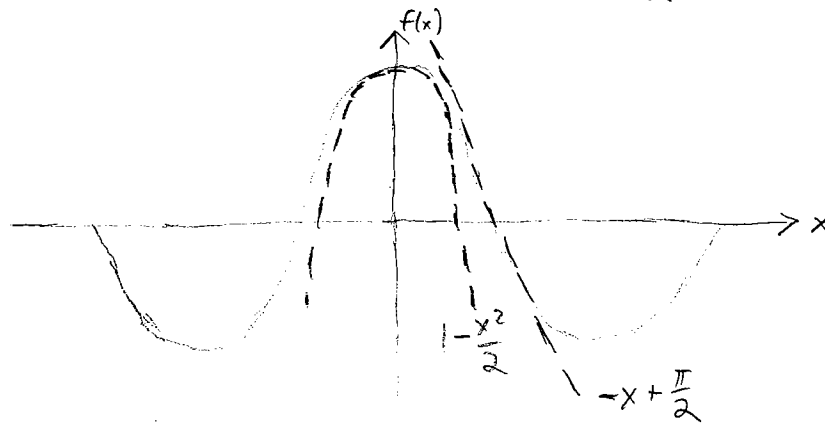
Expand $f(x) = \cos(x)$ about x_0

$$\begin{aligned} \cos(x) = & \cos(x_0) - \sin(x_0) (x - x_0) - \cos(x_0) \frac{(x - x_0)^2}{2!} + \sin(x_0) \frac{(x - x_0)^3}{3!} \\ & + \cos(x_0) \frac{(x - x_0)^4}{4!} + \dots \end{aligned}$$

Lets consider $x_0 = 0$

$$\cos(x) = 1 - \frac{x^2}{2!} + \frac{x^4}{4!} + \dots$$

For $|x| \ll 1$ (near $x_0 = 0$) $\cos(x) \approx 1 - \frac{x^2}{2}$



* Remember Euler's Formula? We could get there from here
But we won't.

Distance Between Points

Finding Vectors

Finding the Distance Between Points

$$P_1 = (x_1, y_1) \quad P_2 = (x_2, y_2)$$

$$D(P_1, P_2) = \sqrt{(x_2 - x_1)^2 + (y_2 - y_1)^2}$$

$$P_3 = (x_3, y_3, z_3) \quad P_4 = (x_4, y_4, z_4)$$

$$D(P_3, P_4) = \sqrt{(x_4 - x_3)^2 + (y_4 - y_3)^2 + (z_4 - z_3)^2}$$

Finding a Vector Between Two Points

$$\vec{P_1 P_2} = \langle \overset{\uparrow}{x_2 - x_1}, \overset{\uparrow}{y_2 - y_1} \rangle$$

$\uparrow \qquad \uparrow$
 $\hat{i} \qquad \hat{j}$

$$\vec{P_3 P_4} = \langle \overset{\uparrow}{x_4 - x_3}, \overset{\uparrow}{y_4 - y_3}, \overset{\uparrow}{z_4 - z_3} \rangle$$

$\uparrow \qquad \uparrow \qquad \uparrow$
 $\hat{i} \qquad \hat{j} \qquad \hat{k}$

Vector / Calculus Review

Vector - geometric object with both a magnitude and direction commonly noted with an arrow.



Magnitude is $|\vec{A}| \equiv A$

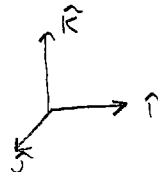
Unit Vector - Any vector which has a magnitude of 1. commonly denoted with a "hat"

So a unit vector in the direction of $\vec{A}$ above is $\hat{a} = \frac{\vec{A}}{|\vec{A}|}$

Think of a vector in normal 3D space.

$$\vec{A} = a_1\hat{i} + a_2\hat{j} + a_3\hat{k}$$

$\uparrow \quad \uparrow \quad \uparrow$
magnitudes



$$|\vec{A}| = \sqrt{a_1^2 + a_2^2 + a_3^2}$$

Vector Addition

"Tip to tail"

$$\vec{C} = \vec{A} + \vec{B}$$



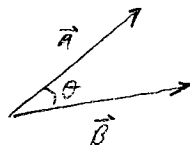
Properties of Vector Addition:

- Commutative $\vec{A} + \vec{B} = \vec{B} + \vec{A}$
- Associative $(\vec{A} + \vec{B}) + \vec{C} = \vec{A} + (\vec{B} + \vec{C})$
- Distributive $c(\vec{A} + \vec{B}) = c\vec{A} + c\vec{B}$ or $(b+c)\vec{A} = b\vec{A} + c\vec{A}$

Dot Product

- Product of vector magnitudes and the cosine of the angle between them. "How parallel are they?"

$$\vec{A} \cdot \vec{B} = AB \cos \theta$$



$$\text{For } \vec{A} = a_1\hat{i} + a_2\hat{j} + a_3\hat{k} \quad \vec{B} = b_1\hat{i} + b_2\hat{j} + b_3\hat{k}$$

$$\vec{A} \cdot \vec{B} = a_1b_1 + a_2b_2 + a_3b_3$$

When is the dot product 0? When is it maximized?
Is the output a scalar or vector?

Cross Product

Results in a vector which is perpendicular to both of the vectors being multiplied and normal to the plane containing them.

$$|\vec{A} \times \vec{B}| = AB \sin \theta$$

To determine direction point R# fingers in direction of $\vec{A}$ and curl them towards $\vec{B}$. The thumb is the resultant direction.

<demonstrate R# Rule>

Examples

$$\hat{i} \times \hat{j} = \hat{k}$$

$$\hat{k} \times \hat{k} = 0$$

$$\hat{k} \times \hat{i} = \hat{j}$$

$$\hat{j} \times \hat{i} = -\hat{k}$$

Evaluating the Cross Product in Matrix Notation

$$\vec{A} = a_1 \hat{i} + a_2 \hat{j} + a_3 \hat{k}$$

$$\vec{B} = b_1 \hat{i} + b_2 \hat{j} + b_3 \hat{k}$$

$$\vec{A} \times \vec{B} = \begin{vmatrix} \hat{i} & \hat{j} & \hat{k} \\ a_1 & a_2 & a_3 \\ b_1 & b_2 & b_3 \end{vmatrix}$$

2 ways to approach this determinant.

$$1) \vec{A} \times \vec{B} = \begin{vmatrix} a_2 & a_3 \\ b_2 & b_3 \end{vmatrix} \hat{i} - \begin{vmatrix} a_1 & a_3 \\ b_1 & b_3 \end{vmatrix} \hat{j} + \begin{vmatrix} a_1 & a_2 \\ b_1 & b_2 \end{vmatrix} \hat{k}$$

$$2) \vec{A} \times \vec{B} = \begin{vmatrix} \hat{i} & \hat{j} & \hat{k} \\ a_1 & a_2 & a_3 \\ b_1 & b_2 & b_3 \end{vmatrix} \begin{vmatrix} \hat{i} & \hat{j} & \hat{k} \\ a_1 & a_2 & a_3 \\ b_1 & b_2 & b_3 \end{vmatrix}$$

$$\text{Both lead to } \vec{A} \times \vec{B} = \hat{i} a_2 b_3 + \hat{j} a_3 b_1 + \hat{k} a_1 b_2 - \hat{i} a_3 b_2 - \hat{j} a_1 b_3 - \hat{k} a_2 b_1$$

The gradient of a vector field is represented by "del" ∇

$f(x, y, z)$ is our function of interest

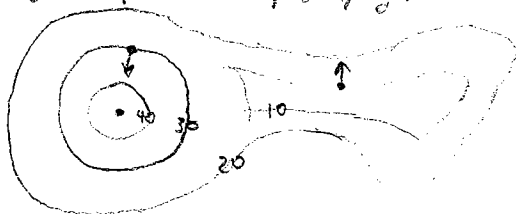
$$\nabla = \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \hat{i} + \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \hat{j} + \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \hat{k}$$

$$\nabla f = \text{grad } f = \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \hat{i} + \frac{\partial f}{partial y} \hat{j} + \frac{\partial f}{\partial z} \hat{k}$$

The gradient vector always points toward HIGHER values

Example

Draw the gradient vector at the given points on the following map of topography.



Example

Find the gradient of the following function:

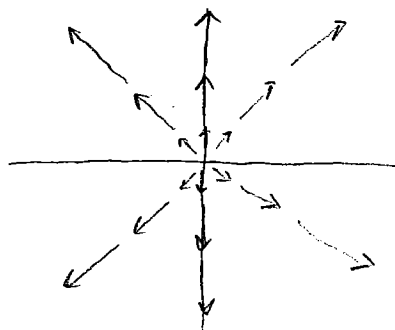
$$f(x, y, z) = 2x^3 + 3xy + y^2 + 6\cos(z)$$

$$\nabla f = \langle (6x^2 + 3y), (3x + 2y), (-6\sin(z)) \rangle$$

Divergence

$$\text{div } \vec{A} = \nabla \cdot \vec{A} = \frac{\partial a_1}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial a_2}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial a_3}{\partial z} \quad (\text{scalar result})$$

Imagine fluid exploding from a central point

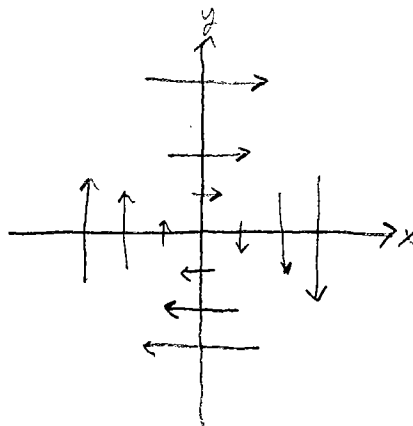


$$\text{div } \vec{A} > 0$$

Curl

Describes the rotation of a vector field

$$\text{curl } \vec{A} = \nabla \times \vec{A} = \begin{vmatrix} \hat{i} & \hat{j} & \hat{k} \\ \frac{\partial}{\partial x} & \frac{\partial}{\partial y} & \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \\ a_1 & a_2 & a_3 \end{vmatrix} = \left(\frac{\partial a_3}{\partial y} - \frac{\partial a_2}{\partial z} \right) \hat{i} + \left(\frac{\partial a_1}{\partial z} - \frac{\partial a_3}{\partial x} \right) \hat{j} + \left(\frac{\partial a_2}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial a_1}{\partial y} \right) \hat{k}$$



* Imagine placing a pinwheel anywhere in this flow

what is the curl?

NEGATIVE $\hat{k}$ (use RH rule)

what if all vectors were the same magnitude?