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# Multivariable Calculus

Math 212 Spring 2006  
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Fowler 112 MWF 8:30pm - 9:25am  
<http://faculty.oxy.edu/ron/math/212/06/>

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*Class 14: Friday February 24*

**SUMMARY** The Jacobian Matrix

**CURRENT READING** Williamson & Trotter, Section (Section 5.4)

**HOMEWORK** Williamson & Trotter, page 236: # 1, 4, **9**; page 243: 3, 4, 8, 17, **18, 23**

**Extra Credit page 244: 27, 28**

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## Definition: jacobian

The **derivative matrix** (usually called the **jacobian**) of a vector function  $\vec{f} : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$  is the matrix consisting of the  $n$  partial derivatives of each of the  $m$  co-ordinate functions arranged so that the rows of the matrix are exactly gradient vectors of each coordinate function. The Jacobian has  $mn$  entries where  $J_{i,j} = \frac{\partial f_i}{\partial x_j}$ . In other words,

$$J(\vec{x}) = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial f_1}{\partial x_1} & \frac{\partial f_1}{\partial x_2} & \cdots & \frac{\partial f_1}{\partial x_n} \\ \frac{\partial f_2}{\partial x_1} & \frac{\partial f_2}{\partial x_2} & \cdots & \frac{\partial f_2}{\partial x_n} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \frac{\partial f_m}{\partial x_1} & \frac{\partial f_m}{\partial x_2} & \cdots & \frac{\partial f_m}{\partial x_n} \end{bmatrix}$$

(NOTE on NOTATION: To denote the Jacobian, we may use  $\vec{f}_{\vec{x}}$  or  $\vec{f}'$  or  $\frac{\partial \vec{f}}{\partial \vec{x}}$  or simply  $J$ .)

## EXAMPLE 1

**Williamson & Trotter, page 243, #1.** Find the “derivative matrix”  $\vec{f}'$  at a general point of the domain of the function  $f$  from  $\mathbb{R}^n$  to  $\mathbb{R}^m$  where  $f(x, y) = (xy, x + y)$

## Exercise

**Williamson & Trotter, page 243, #2.** Find the “derivative matrix”  $\vec{f}'$  at a general point of the domain of the function  $f$  from  $\mathbb{R}^n$  to  $\mathbb{R}^m$  where  $f(r, \theta) = (r \cos(\theta), r \sin(\theta))$

## First Degree Taylor Approximations For Different Types of Functions

We know that for a scalar function of a scalar variable ( $f : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ ) one can approximate the function  $f(x)$  near  $x_0$  with the equation of the tangent line:

$$T(x) = f(x_0) + f'(x_0)(x - x_0)$$

For a scalar function of a vector variable ( $f : \mathbb{R}^m \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ ) the tangent approximation becomes

$$T(\vec{x}) = f(\vec{x}_0) + \vec{\nabla} f(\vec{x}_0) \cdot (\vec{x} - \vec{x}_0)$$

For a vector function of a scalar variable ( $f : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ ) the tangent approximation is

$$\vec{T}(t) = \vec{f}(t_0) + \frac{d\vec{f}}{dt}(t_0)(t - t_0)$$

For a vector function of a vector variable ( $f : \mathbb{R}^m \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ ) the tangent approximation is

$$\vec{T}(\vec{x}) = \vec{f}(\vec{x}_0) + \vec{f}_x(\vec{x}_0)(\vec{x} - \vec{x}_0)$$

### GROUPWORK

Write down YOUR OWN FOUR DIFFERENT examples of the four different types of function and take their “effective derivative” in each case. Compare your examples with your nearest neighbors.

### EXAMPLE 2

**Williamson & Trotter, page 243, #25.** Consider the function from Example 1 (i.e.  $\vec{f}(x, y) = (xy, x + y)$  with  $\vec{x}_0 = (1, 0)$ ,  $\Delta\vec{x}_1 = (0.1, 0)$ ,  $\Delta\vec{x}_2 = (0, 0.1)$  and  $\Delta\vec{x}_3 = (0.1, 0.1)$ )

(a) Compute  $\vec{f}(\vec{x}_0 + \Delta\vec{x}_i)$  for  $i = 1, 2, 3$

(b) Find the tangent approximation to  $\vec{f}(\vec{x}_0 + \Delta\vec{x})$

(c) Use the tangent approximation from (b) to approximate the vectors  $\vec{f}(\vec{x}_0 + \Delta\vec{x}_i)$  for  $i = 1, 2, 3$