

Lecture Notes 9 (b)

These are additional notes on  
the mean value theorem in higher  
dimensions.

Lecture 4 (part ii)

One of the basic results of single variable calculus is the mean value theorem (MVT)

Let  $f: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be continuous on  $[a, b]$  and differentiable on  $(a, b)$ . There is  $c$ ,  $a < c < b$  such that the derivative

$$f'(c) = \frac{f(b) - f(a)}{b - a} \quad \square$$

The adjoining picture gives us an idea of what's going on. The essential geometric idea is that at  $c$  (and  $c'$ ) the tangent to the graph of  $f$  is parallel to the line joining points  $(a, f(a))$  and  $(b, f(b))$ .

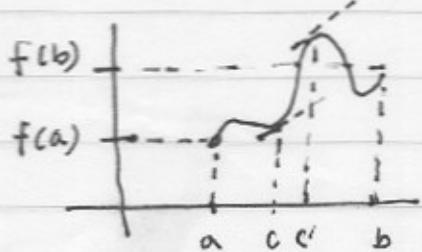


Figure 1. (MVT)

Let us see what happens in higher dimensions. Consider  $f: [a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$

x

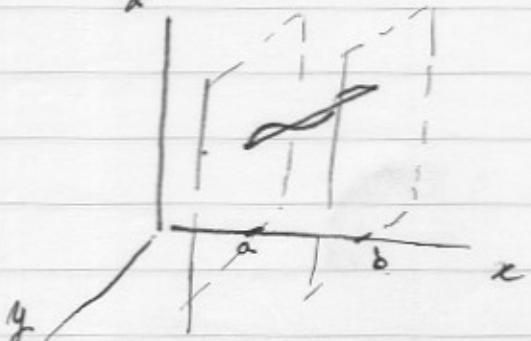


Figure 2. (not MVT)

If the curve defined by  $f$  is of the "corkscrew" variety then, there is no  $c$ ,  $a < c < b$  at which

the tangent to the curve is parallel to the line joining  $\overset{\text{points}}{(a, f(a))}$  and  $(b, f(b))$  in the  $x-y-z$  space. The classical MVT does not hold. For a specific

$$\text{Example: } f: [0, \frac{\pi}{2}] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$$

$$x \mapsto (\cos(x), \sin(x))$$

$$f(b) - f(a) = (-1, 1) \in \mathbb{R}^2$$

$$b - a = \frac{\pi}{2}$$

There does not exist  $c \in [0, \frac{\pi}{2}]$  such that

$$\frac{\pi}{2} \cdot (-\sin(c), \cos(c)) = (-1, 1) \text{ since it}$$

$$\text{would require } \sin^2(c) + \cos^2(c) = \frac{8}{\pi} \neq 1.$$

The correct form of mean value theorem in higher dimensions is actually an inequality. We need some preliminary results.

### Lemma 1

Let  $a < b$   $f: [a, b] \rightarrow V$  a normed linear space and  $g: [a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ ,  $f$  and  $g$  continuous on  $[a, b]$  and differentiable on  $(a, b)$ . Suppose,

$$\|f'(t)\| \leq g'(t) \quad a < t < b.$$

$$\text{Then } \|f(b) - f(a)\| \leq g(b) - g(a).$$

Proof (of Lemma 1) :

$$\begin{aligned} \|f(b) - f(a)\| &= \left\| \int_a^b f'(\sigma) d\sigma \right\| \\ &\leq \int_a^b \|f'(\sigma)\| d\sigma \\ &\leq \int_a^b g'(\sigma) d\sigma \\ &= g(b) - g(a) \quad \square \end{aligned}$$

### Lemma 2

Same hypotheses as in Lemma 1, except that the condition on existence and inequality of derivatives holds for all  $t \in [a, b]$  except for a countable set of points. Same conclusion as Lemma 1.

Proof : (essentially same argument as in Lemma 1 since the integrals are unaffected)  $\square$

### Corollary 3

Same hypotheses on  $f$  as in Lemma 1 and  $g(t) = kt$ ,  $k > 0$   
(thus  $\|f'(t)\| \leq k \quad \forall t \in (a, b)$ ) .

Then,

$$\|f(b) - f(a)\| \leq k(b-a). \quad \square$$

We need the definition of derivative for maps.

Definition Let  $E, F$  be normed linear spaces over  $\mathbb{R}$ . Let  $U \subset \text{open } \mathbb{R}$ . Suppose  $f: U \rightarrow F$ .

We say  $f$  is differentiable at  $a \in U$  if there is a continuous linear map  $L: E \rightarrow F$  such that

$$\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{\|f(a+h) - f(a) - Lh\|_F}{\|h\|_E} = 0,$$

Here  $h$  is such that  $h+a \in U$ .

Clearly, if  $L$  exists it is unique, and is given by

$$\begin{aligned} L(k) &= \lim_{t \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(a+kt) - f(a)}{t} \\ &= \left. \frac{d}{dt} f(a+kt) \right|_{t=0} \end{aligned}$$

We call  $L$  the derivative of  $f$  at  $a$  and denote it by  $(Df)_a$  and sometimes by  $Df(a)$ .

Exercise: (a) Chain Rule

$$(D(g \circ f))(a) = Dg(f(a)) \circ Df(a)$$

Composition of  
nonlinear maps

Composition  
of linear maps.

(b) If  $E = \mathbb{R}^n$  &  $F = \mathbb{R}^m$

$$(Df)(a) \cdot h = \left[ \frac{\partial f^i}{\partial x_j} \right]_a h \quad \text{Jacobian}$$

Mean Value Theorem 4

Let  $f: U \subset E \rightarrow F$  be a map of normed linear spaces. Let  $[a, b]$  denote the line segment  $\{(1-t)a + tb : 0 \leq t \leq 1\}$ , with end-points  $a, b \in U$ , contained in  $U$ . Then,



$$\|f(b) - f(a)\|$$

$$\leq \sup_{0 \leq t \leq 1} \|Df[(1-t)a + tb]\| \cdot \|b-a\|$$

Prof: Simply restrict  $f$  to the line segment  $[a, b]$  and then apply corollary 3 above  $\square$

Another useful result from calculus is

The Fundamental Theorem of Integral Calculus.

Let  $X$  and  $Y$  be Banach spaces. Let  $U \subset^{\text{open}} X$  and  $f: U \rightarrow Y$  be a differentiable, everywhere in  $U$ , map or  $C^1$  map. Suppose  $tx + ty \in U$  for  $t \in [0, 1]$ . Then

$$f(tx+ty) = f(x) + \int_0^1 Df(x+ty)y dt$$

Proof: The completeness / Banach property is used in the proper definition of integral with all attendant properties, as in 1 variable calculus. We take this for granted.

Then, set  $g(t) = f(x+ty)$

$$0 \leq t \leq 1.$$

For  $0 < t < 1$  by chain rule

$$g'(t) = Df(x+ty)y$$

$$\text{let } h(t) = f(x) + \int_0^t Df(x+s)y ds$$

$$0 \leq t \leq 1$$

$$\text{Then } h'(t) = Df(x+ty)y \quad 0 < t < 1$$

$$\text{Hence } g'(t) = h'(t)$$

$$\Rightarrow g(t) = h(t) + \text{constant} \quad 0 < t < 1$$

By continuity of  $g$  &  $h$  (they are integrable)

$$g(t) = h(t) + \text{constant} \quad 0 \leq t \leq 1.$$

$$\text{But } g(0) = h(0) = f(x)$$

$$\text{So } g(1) = h(1) = f(x+y) \quad \square$$

Lemma (Differentiability and Lipschitz Condition).

Let  $f: [a, b] \times D \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$  for domain  $D \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ , continuous in  $t$  and  $(\frac{\partial f}{\partial x})$  exists and is continuous on  $[a, b] \times D$ . Then  $f$  is locally

Lipschitz on  $[a, b] \times D$

Proof: For  $x_0 \in D$ , let  $r > 0$  be such that

$$D_r = \{x / \|x - x_0\| \leq r\} \subset D.$$

$D_r$  is closed and bounded.  $D_r$  is convex,

since, for  $x_1, x_2 \in D_r$  and  $0 \leq \alpha \leq 1$ ,

$$\begin{aligned}\| \alpha x_1 + (1-\alpha)x_2 - x_0 \| &= \| \alpha x_1 + (1-\alpha)x_2 - \alpha x_0 - (1-\alpha)x_0 \| \\ &= \| \alpha(x_1 - x_0) + (1-\alpha)(x_2 - x_0) \|.\end{aligned}$$

$$\leq \alpha \|x_1 - x_0\| + (1-\alpha) \|x_2 - x_0\|$$

$$\leq \alpha r + (1-\alpha)r$$

$$= r.$$

Then, by the Mean Value Theorem,  $\forall x, y \in D_r$

$$\|f(t, y) - f(t, x)\|$$

$$\leq \sup_{0 \leq s \leq 1} \|Df((1-s)x + sy)\| \cdot \|y - x\|$$

$$\leq \sup_{t \in [a, b]} \sup_{0 \leq s \leq 1} \|Df((1-s)x + sy)\| \cdot \|y - x\|$$

$$= L \cdot \|y - x\|,$$

where we used continuity w.r.t both  $t$  &  $x$  of  $Df$  in the sup norms.

addendum: (02/06/02)

Suppose  $f: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is  $C^1$  (i.e. continuously differentiable) at each point  $x$  of an open set  $S \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ .

Suppose  $x^*, y^* \in S$  are such that the line segment  $L(x^*, y^*)$  joining  $x^*$  and  $y^*$   $\subseteq S$ . Then there exists a point  $z \in L(x^*, y^*)$  such that

$$f(y^*) - f(x^*) = \left( \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \right)_{x=z} (y^* - z)$$

Proof Let  $g(t) = f((1-t)x^* + ty^*)$

$$\text{Then } g(0) = f(x^*)$$

$$g(1) = f(y^*).$$

$$\begin{aligned} g'(t) &= \left( \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \right)_{x=(1-t)x^*+ty^*} \cdot \frac{d}{dt} ((1-t)x^* + ty^*) \\ &= \left( \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \right)_{x=(1-t)x^*+ty^*} \cdot (y^* - x^*) \end{aligned}$$

By the scalar mean value theorem

$$(g(1) - g(0)) = g'(t) \Big|_{t=t^*} \cdot (1-0)$$

which is the same as saying

$$f(y^*) - f(x^*) = \left( \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \right)_{x=z} \cdot (y^* - x^*)$$

where  $z = (1-t^*)x^* + t^*y^* \in L(x, y)$

