



University
of Manitoba

Math prelims – Linear algebra & Multivariable calculus

MATH 2740 – Mathematics of Data Science – Lecture 03

Julien Arino

`julien.arino@umanitoba.ca`

Department of Mathematics @ University of Manitoba

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The University of Manitoba campuses are located on original lands of Anishinaabeg, Ininew, Anisininew, Dakota and Dene peoples, and on the National Homeland of the Red River Métis. We respect the Treaties that were made on these territories, we acknowledge the harms and mistakes of the past, and we dedicate ourselves to move forward in partnership with Indigenous communities in a spirit of Reconciliation and collaboration.

Outline

Similarity and diagonalisation

Linear independence/Bases/Dimension

A crash course in multivariable calculus



A stylized illustration of a robot standing in a desert landscape. The robot is on the left, facing right. It has a boxy head, a rectangular torso with circular details, and jointed limbs. The background features a large, leafless tree on the right, distant mountains, and a hazy sky. The ground is sandy with some small rocks and a fallen log in the foreground.

Similarity and diagonalisation

Linear independence/Bases/Dimension

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Similarity

Definition 29 (Similarity)

$A, B \in \mathcal{M}_n$ are **similar** ($A \sim B$) if $\exists P \in \mathcal{M}_n$ invertible s.t.

$$P^{-1}AP = B$$

Theorem 30 ($\sim$ is an equivalence relation)

$A, B, C \in \mathcal{M}_n$, then

- ▶ $A \sim A$ ($\sim$ **reflexive**)
- ▶ $A \sim B \implies B \sim A$ ($\sim$ **symmetric**)
- ▶ $A \sim B$ and $B \sim C \implies A \sim C$ ($\sim$ **transitive**)

Similarity (cont.)

Theorem 31

$A, B \in \mathcal{M}_n$ with $A \sim B$. Then

- ▶ $\det A = \det B$
- ▶ A invertible $\iff B$ invertible
- ▶ A and B have the same eigenvalues

Diagonalisation

Definition 32 (Diagonalisability)

$A \in \mathcal{M}_n$ is **diagonalisable** if $\exists D \in \mathcal{M}_n$ diagonal s.t. $A \sim D$

In other words, $A \in \mathcal{M}_n$ is diagonalisable if there exists a diagonal matrix $D \in \mathcal{M}_n$ and a nonsingular matrix $P \in \mathcal{M}_n$ s.t. $P^{-1}AP = D$

Could of course write $PAP^{-1} = D$ since P invertible, but $P^{-1}AP$ makes more sense for computations

Theorem 33

$A \in \mathcal{M}_n$ diagonalisable $\iff A$ has n linearly independent eigenvectors

Corollary 34 (Sufficient condition for diagonalisability)

$A \in \mathcal{M}_n$ has all its eigenvalues distinct $\implies A$ diagonalisable

For $P^{-1}AP = D$: in P , put the linearly independent eigenvectors as columns and in D , the corresponding eigenvalues

A stylized illustration of a robot standing in a vast, arid landscape. The robot is a boxy, grey-colored figure with a rectangular head, a square torso, and thick, jointed limbs. It stands on the left side of the frame, facing right. The ground is a mix of orange and yellow, dotted with small, dark rocks. In the background, a large, leafless tree with a complex, branching structure stands on the right. The sky is a pale, hazy blue, and distant, low mountains are visible on the horizon. The overall mood is desolate and contemplative.

Similarity and diagonalisation

Linear independence/Bases/Dimension

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Linear combination and span

Definition 35 (Linear combination)

Let V be a vector space. A **linear combination** of a set $\{\mathbf{v}_1, \dots, \mathbf{v}_k\}$ of vectors in V is a *vector*

$$c_1 \mathbf{v}_1 + \dots + c_k \mathbf{v}_k$$

where $c_1, \dots, c_k \in \mathbb{F}$

Definition 36 (Span)

The set of all linear combinations of a set of vectors $\mathbf{v}_1, \dots, \mathbf{v}_k$ is the **span** of $\{\mathbf{v}_1, \dots, \mathbf{v}_k\}$,

$$\text{span}(\mathbf{v}_1, \dots, \mathbf{v}_k) = \{c_1 \mathbf{v}_1 + \dots + c_k \mathbf{v}_k : c_1, \dots, c_k \in \mathbb{F}\}$$

Finite/infinite-dimensional vector spaces

Theorem 37

The span of a set of vectors in V is the smallest subspace of V containing all the vectors in the set

Definition 38 (Set of vectors spanning a space)

If $\text{span}(\mathbf{v}_1, \dots, \mathbf{v}_k) = V$, we say $\mathbf{v}_1, \dots, \mathbf{v}_k$ **spans** V

Definition 39 (Dimension of a vector space)

A vector space V is **finite-dimensional** if some set of vectors in it spans V . A vector space V is **infinite-dimensional** if it is not finite-dimensional

Linear (in)dependence

Definition 40 (Linear independence/Linear dependence)

A set $\{\mathbf{v}_1, \dots, \mathbf{v}_k\}$ of vectors in a vector space V is **linearly independent** if

$$(c_1 \mathbf{v}_1 + \dots + c_k \mathbf{v}_k = \mathbf{0}) \Leftrightarrow (c_1 = \dots = c_k = 0),$$

where $c_1, \dots, c_k \in \mathbb{F}$. A set of vectors is **linearly dependent** if it is not linearly independent.

If linearly dependent, assume w.l.o.g. that $c_1 \neq 0$, then

$$\mathbf{v}_1 = -\frac{c_2}{c_1} \mathbf{v}_2 - \dots - \frac{c_k}{c_1} \mathbf{v}_k$$

i.e., $\mathbf{v}_1$ is a linear combination of the other vectors in the set

Theorem 41

*Let V be a finite-dimensional vector space. Then the **cardinal** (number of elements) of every linearly independent set of vectors is less than or equal to the number of elements in every spanning set of vectors*

E.g., in $\mathbb{R}^3$, a set with 4 or more vectors is automatically linearly dependent

Basis

Definition 42 (Basis)

Let V be a vector space. A **basis** of V is a set of vectors in V that is both linearly independent and spanning

Theorem 43 (Criterion for a basis)

A set $\{\mathbf{v}_1, \dots, \mathbf{v}_k\}$ of vectors in a vector space V is a basis of $V \iff \forall \mathbf{v} \in V, \mathbf{v}$ can be written uniquely in the form

$$\mathbf{v} = c_1 \mathbf{v}_1 + \dots + c_k \mathbf{v}_k,$$

where $c_1, \dots, c_k \in \mathbb{F}$

More on bases

Theorem 44 (Basis of finite-dimensional vector space)

Every finite-dimensional vector space has a basis

Theorem 45

Any two bases of a finite-dimensional vector space have the same number of vectors

Definition 46 (Dimension)

The **dimension** $\dim V$ of a finite-dimensional vector space V is the number of vectors in any basis of the vector space

Theorem 47 (Dimension of a subspace)

Let V be a finite-dimensional vector space and $U \subset V$ be a subspace of V . Then $\dim U \leq \dim V$

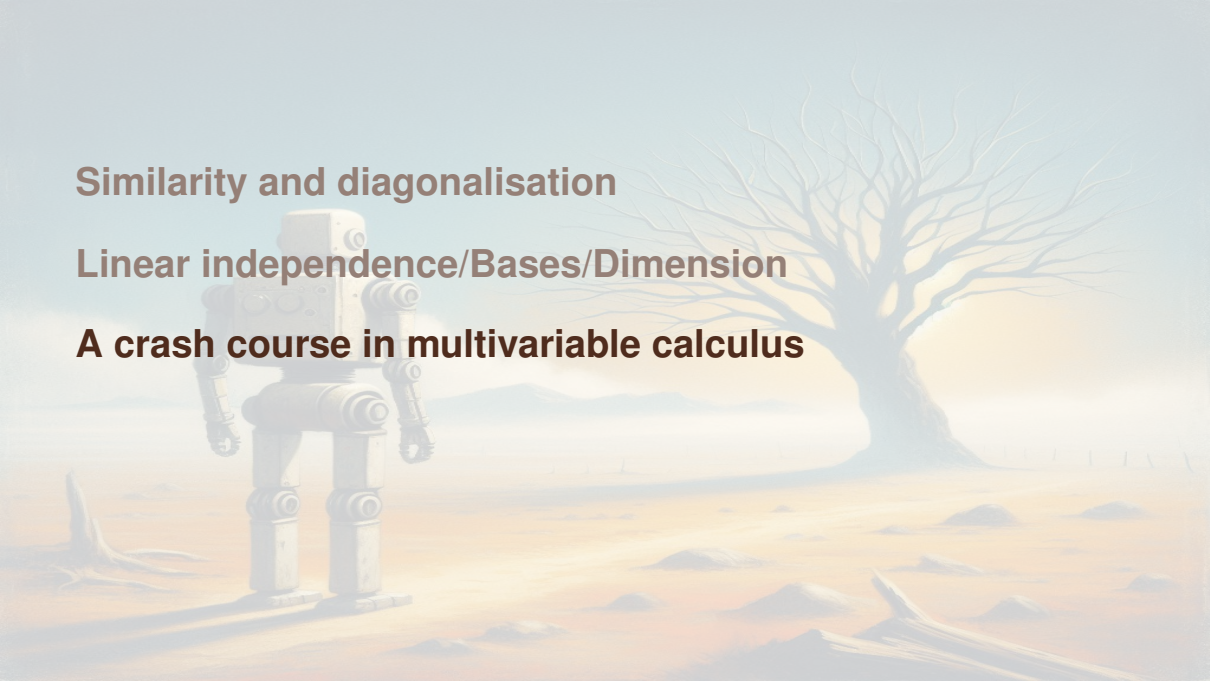
Constructing bases

Theorem 48

Let V be a finite-dimensional vector space. Then every linearly independent set of vectors in V with $\dim V$ elements is a basis of V

Theorem 49

Let V be a finite-dimensional vector space. Then every spanning set of vectors in V with $\dim V$ elements is a basis of V

A stylized illustration of a robot standing in a desert landscape. The robot is on the left, facing right. It has a boxy head, a rectangular torso with circular details, and jointed limbs. The ground is sandy and dotted with small rocks. In the background, a large, leafless tree stands on the right, and distant mountains are visible under a hazy sky. The overall color palette is muted, with earthy tones and a soft, atmospheric light.

Similarity and diagonalisation

Linear independence/Bases/Dimension

A crash course in multivariable calculus

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What is Multivariable Calculus?

Optimization with Constraints

The Lagrangian Method

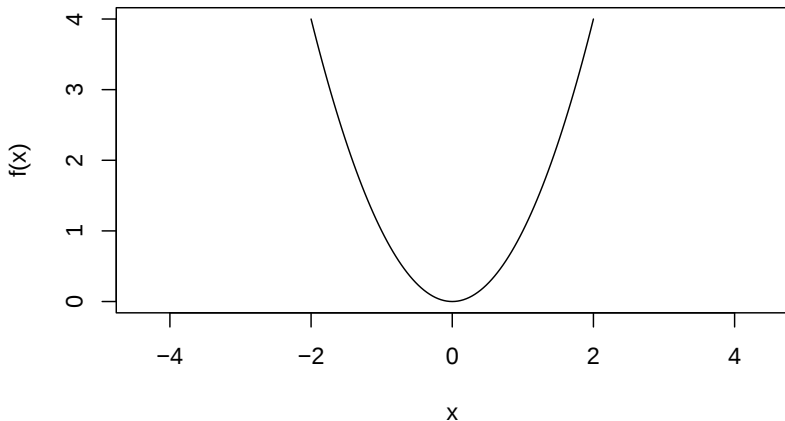
Conclusion



One dimension

MATH 1500 & 1700 deal with functions of one variable, like $f(x) = x^2$

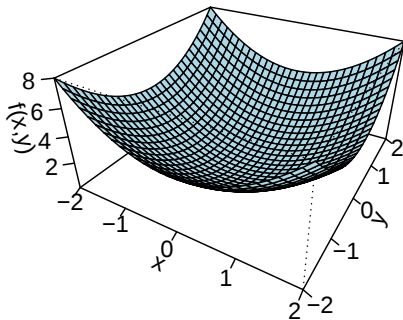
A 1D function



Multivariable calculus

Multivariable calculus extends this to functions of two or more variables, like
 $f(x, y) = x^2 + y^2$

A 2D function surface



Partial derivatives

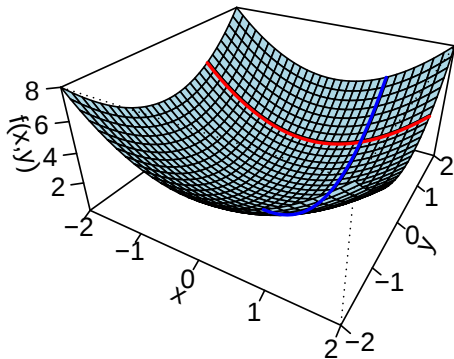
How do we measure the “slope” on a 3D surface?

A **partial derivative** measures the slope in a direction parallel to one of the axes

- ▶ $\frac{\partial f}{\partial x}$ measures height change as we move only in the x direction. Treat y as a constant
- ▶ $\frac{\partial f}{\partial y}$ measures height change as we move only in the y direction. Treat x as a constant

Partial derivatives

Slices for Partial Derivatives



The Steepest path: the gradient

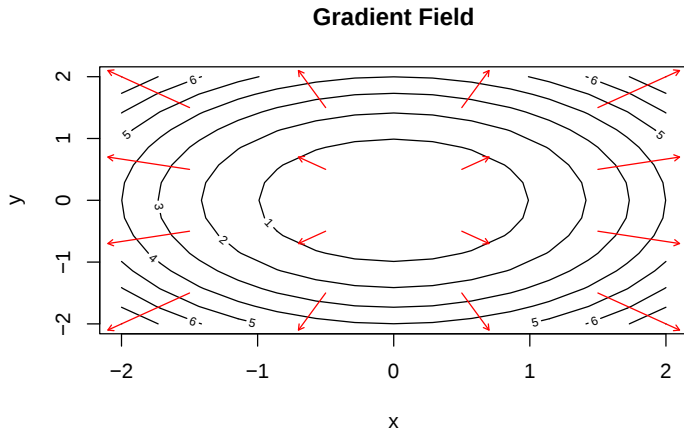
The **gradient**, denoted ∇f , is a vector that combines all the partial derivatives:

$$\nabla f(x, y) = \left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} \right)$$

What does it tell us?

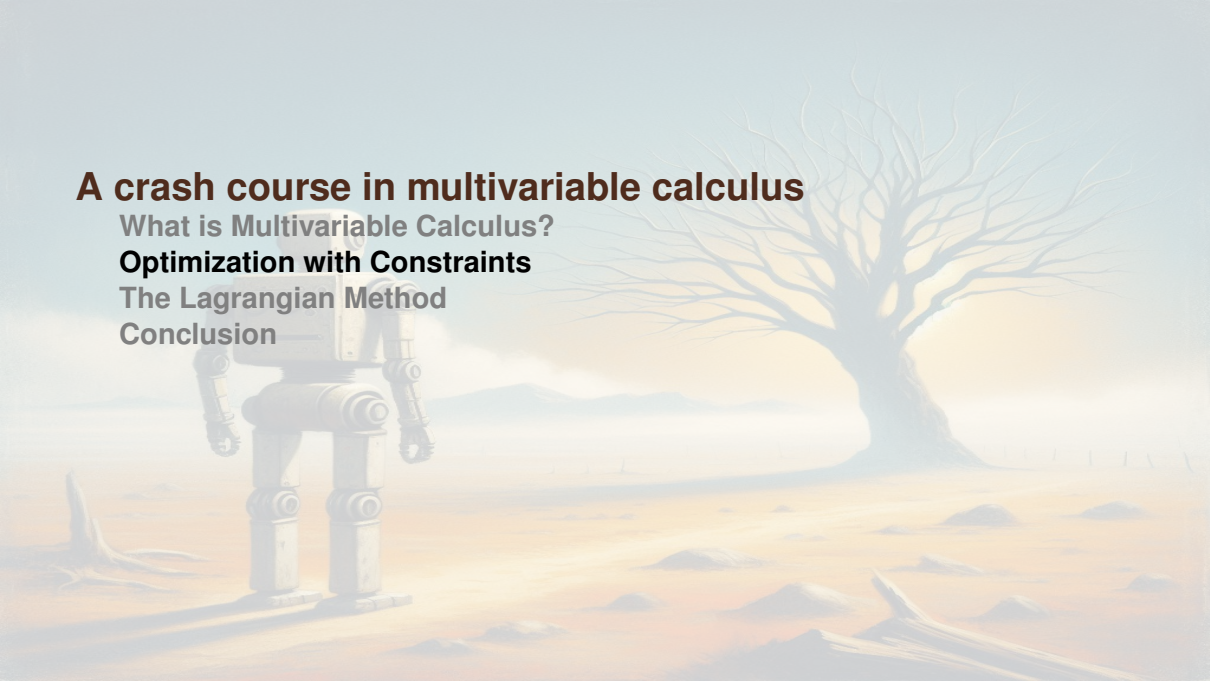
- ▶ **Direction:** it points in the direction of the *steepest ascent*
- ▶ **Magnitude:** its length represents the steepness of that ascent

Follow the gradient



At a peak or a valley (a local max/min), the ground is flat. So, $\nabla f = (0, 0)$

A crash course in multivariable calculus

A stylized illustration of a robot standing in a vast, arid desert landscape. The robot is positioned on the left side of the frame, facing right. It has a boxy, mechanical design with visible joints and a small antenna on its head. The ground is sandy and dotted with small, dark rocks. In the background, a large, leafless tree with a thick trunk and sprawling branches stands on the right. The sky is a pale, hazy blue, and distant mountains are visible on the horizon. The overall atmosphere is quiet and contemplative.

What is Multivariable Calculus?

Optimization with Constraints

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Conclusion

The real-world problem

Often, we want to maximize or minimize a function, but we don't have unlimited freedom. We have **constraints**

- ▶ Maximize the profit of your company... *subject to a limited budget*
- ▶ Minimize the material used for a can... *that must hold a specific volume*
- ▶ Find the highest point on a mountain... *while staying on a specific trail*

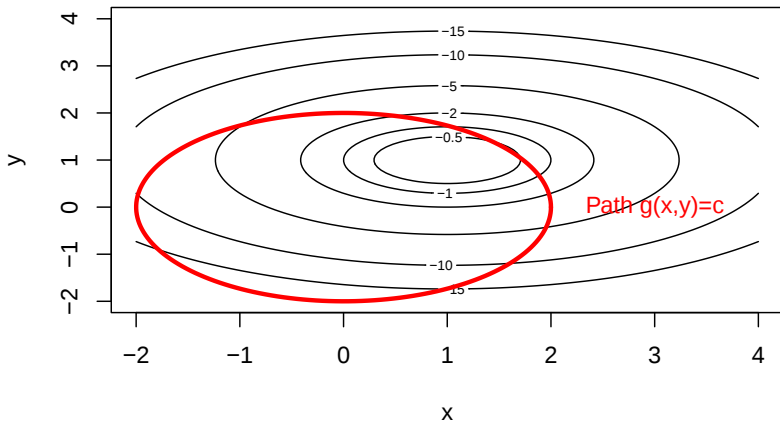
Setting the gradient to zero ($\nabla f = 0$) finds the highest point on the whole mountain, which might not be on our trail!

Visualizing the problem

Imagine our function $f(x, y)$ is the altitude on a map (contour lines)

Our constraint, $g(x, y) = c$, is a specific path we must walk on

Optimization with a Constraint

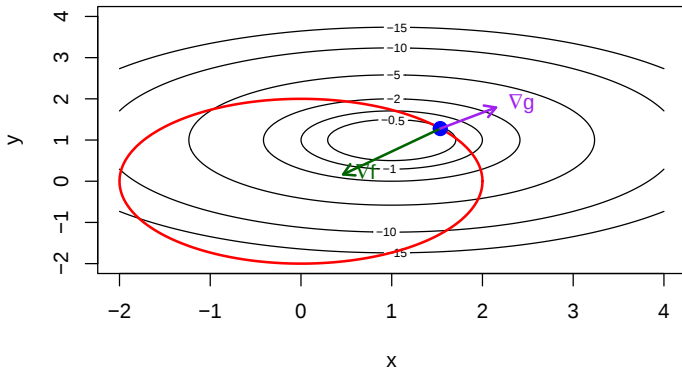


We are looking for the highest (or lowest) point *along the red path*

The key insight

At the optimal point on the path, the path will be perfectly **tangent** to the contour line of the surface

Tangency at the Optimum



Why? If the path crossed the contour line, you could move along the path to get to a higher (or lower) contour

Mathematically, this tangency means the gradient vectors of the function and the constraint are **parallel**

$$\nabla f = \lambda \nabla g$$

The scalar λ (lambda) is called the **Lagrange multiplier**

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The Lagrangian function

The condition $\nabla f = \lambda \nabla g$ is clever, but solving it can be messy

Instead, we combine our function and constraint into a single, new function called the **Lagrangian**

$$\mathcal{L}(x, y, \lambda) = f(x, y) - \lambda[g(x, y) - c]$$

- ▶ $f(x, y)$ the function we want to optimize
- ▶ $g(x, y) = c$ the constraint we must follow
- ▶ λ the Lagrange multiplier

Finding the unconstrained optimum of $\mathcal{L}$ solves the original constrained problem!

The method – step-by-step

To find the optimum of the Lagrangian $\mathcal{L}(x, y, \lambda)$, we find where its gradient is zero

We take the partial derivative with respect to *all* its variables (x , y , and λ) and set them to zero

$$1. \quad \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial x} = \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} - \lambda \frac{\partial g}{\partial x} = 0$$

$$2. \quad \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial y} = \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} - \lambda \frac{\partial g}{\partial y} = 0$$

$$3. \quad \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \lambda} = -(g(x, y) - c) = 0 \implies g(x, y) = c$$

The first two equations rearrange to $\nabla f = \lambda \nabla g$ and the third equation is the original constraint

Example: Fencing a Field

Problem: You have 40 meters of fence. What is the largest rectangular area you can enclose?

- ▶ **Maximize Area:** $A(x, y) = xy$
- ▶ **Constraint (Perimeter):** $2x + 2y = 40$

1. Form the Lagrangian:

$$\mathcal{L}(x, y, \lambda) = xy - \lambda(2x + 2y - 40)$$

2. Take Partial Derivatives:

- ▶ $\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial x} = y - 2\lambda = 0 \implies y = 2\lambda$
- ▶ $\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial y} = x - 2\lambda = 0 \implies x = 2\lambda$
- ▶ $\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \lambda} = -(2x + 2y - 40) = 0$

Example: Solution

From the first two equations, we see that $x = y$

Now, substitute this into the third equation (the constraint):

$$2x + 2(x) = 40$$

$$4x = 40$$

$$x = 10$$

Since $x = y$, we have $y = 10$, i.e., optimal dimensions are 10m by 10m (a square), giving a maximum area of 100 m^2

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What does λ mean?

The Lagrange multiplier λ has a very useful interpretation

It tells you how much the optimal value of your function f will change if you slightly relax the constraint c

$$\lambda = \frac{df_{\text{optimal}}}{dc}$$

In our example: If we had 41 meters of fence instead of 40 (so c changes by 1), how much would the max area increase?

$x = y = 2\lambda$, so $\lambda = x/2 = 10/2 = 5$. The maximum area would increase by approximately 5 m^2