

Homework 6

Exercise 1 (Spherical coordinates) Consider the map $\Phi : [0, \infty) \times [0, 2\pi) \times [0, \pi) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$ with

$$\Phi(r, \theta, \varphi) := (r \cos(\theta) \sin(\varphi), r \sin(\theta) \sin(\varphi), r \cos(\varphi)).$$

Compute the Jacobian matrix corresponding to this function.

Exercise 2 Let us consider $f : \mathbb{R}^3 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ defined by $f(x, y, z) = e^{xy} \cos(z)$ for any $(x, y, z) \in \mathbb{R}^3$. Assume also that $x = tu$, $y = \sin(tu)$ and $z = u^2$ for some $t, u \in \mathbb{R}$. By setting

$$F(t, u) := f(tu, \sin(tu), u^2)$$

Compute the derivative $\partial_2 F \equiv \partial_u F$ by three different methods: once by a direct computation, once as one component of the derivative of the composition of two functions (chain rule), and once with the formula often seen in the literature

$$\frac{\partial F}{\partial u} = \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \frac{\partial x}{\partial u} + \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} \frac{\partial y}{\partial u} + \frac{\partial f}{\partial z} \frac{\partial z}{\partial u}.$$

Can you explain where this formula comes from ? Can you also understand the (horrible) formula

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial u} = \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \frac{\partial x}{\partial u} + \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} \frac{\partial y}{\partial u} + \frac{\partial f}{\partial z} \frac{\partial z}{\partial u}.$$

In the following exercises we call a *vector field* a function f defined on an open set $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ and taking values in \mathbb{R}^n . In other words, for $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ open, a function $f : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^d$ is a vector field if $d = n$.

Exercise 3 Provide a picture for the following vector fields:

(i) $f : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$, $f(x, y) = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$,

(ii) $g : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$, $g(x, y) = x E_1 + y E_2$,

(iii) $\nabla k : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$ for $k : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ given by $k(x, y) = \frac{1}{1+x^2+y^2}$.

Let $f : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ be a vector field. If there exists a differentiable function $\phi : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ such that $f = \nabla \phi$ we say that ϕ is a *potential function* for f .

Exercise 4 For the following functions, does a potential function exist ?

(i) $f(x, y) = (y, x)$, (ii) $f(x, y) = (3x^2y + 2x + y^3, x^3 + 3xy^2 - 2y)$,

(iii) $f(x, y) = (\cos(x), \sin(y))$, (iv) $f(x, y, z) = (x^2 - yz, y^2 - zx, z^2 - xy)$.