

# The Continuum

## Multi-Scale Modelling IMSE

Part 1

9th November

By Edward Smith



# Introduction

## Plan for the Continuum Part of the Course

- Where we are in the wider modelling hierarchy Session 1
- Understand the Continuum assumption
- Partial differential equations and numerical solutions

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- More partial differential equations and numerical solutions
- Two dimensional vector fields
- The Navier-Stokes Equation Session 2
  - Assumptions that lead to it
  - Key terms and their meaning (with some extensions)
  - Simplifications and solutions

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- Link to the molecular dynamics equations
- Numerical solutions to the Navier Stokes equation Session 3

## Aims

- By the end of the 3 part course you should be able to:
  - State the Continuum assumption, specifically for continuous fields and how this underpins fluid dynamics
  - Understand three dimensional fields, vector calculus and partial differential equations
  - Be able to solve basic differential equations numerically
  - State the Navier-Stokes Equation, key assumptions, the meaning of the terms and how to simplify and solve.
  - Understand how to treat the various terms in a numerical solutions to the Navier-Stokes equation
  - Understand where the continuum modelling fits into the hierarchy and links to the molecular and plant scales [4](#)

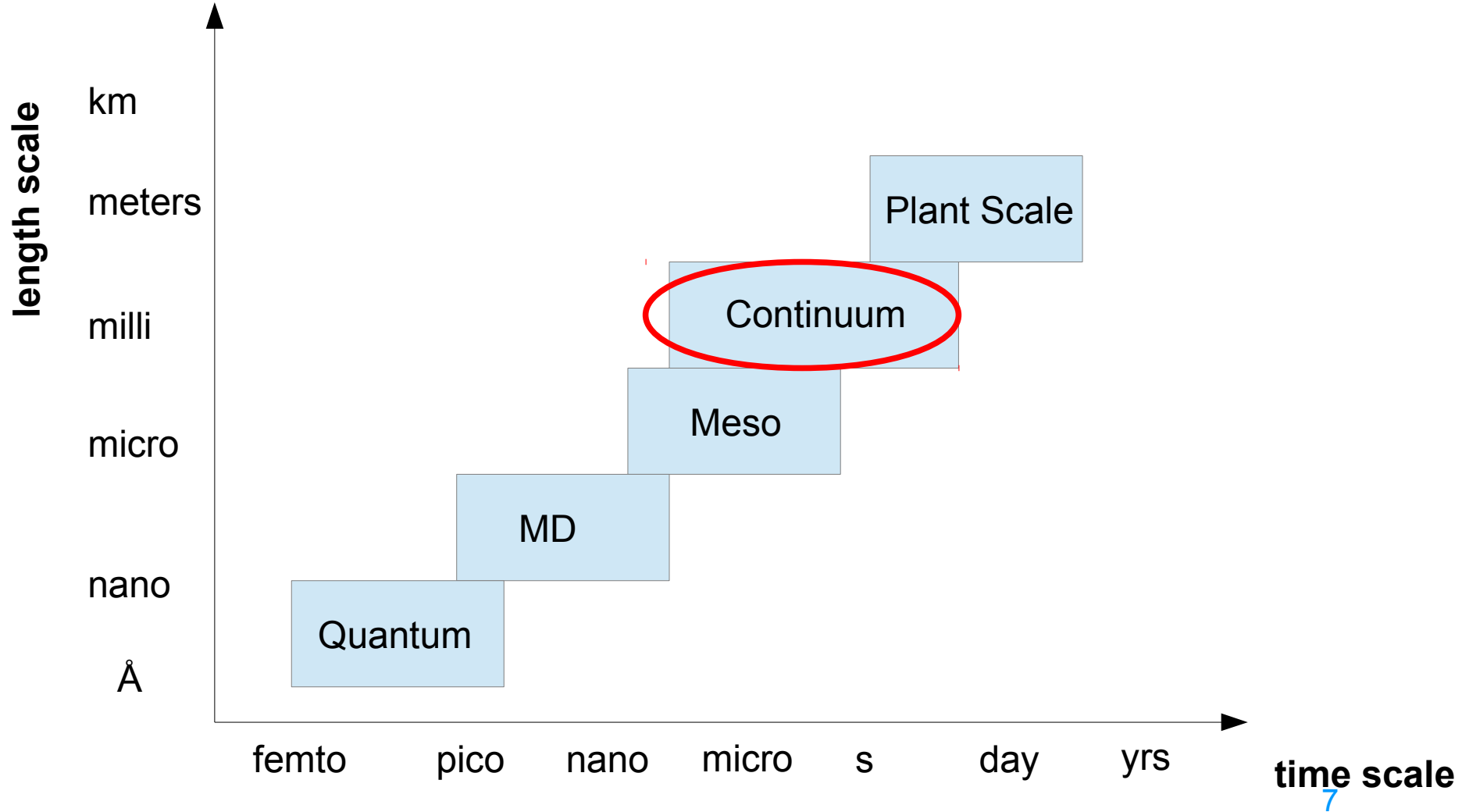
## Aims

- By the end of today's session you will have:
  - Seen what the Continuum assumption means and been shown that, crucially, it describes continuous fields
  - An understanding of fields and how to plot them
  - Been introduced to some simple ordinary and partial differential equations
  - Been shown how to solve basic differential equations numerically
  - Tried to solve them using either a programming language of your choice or Excel



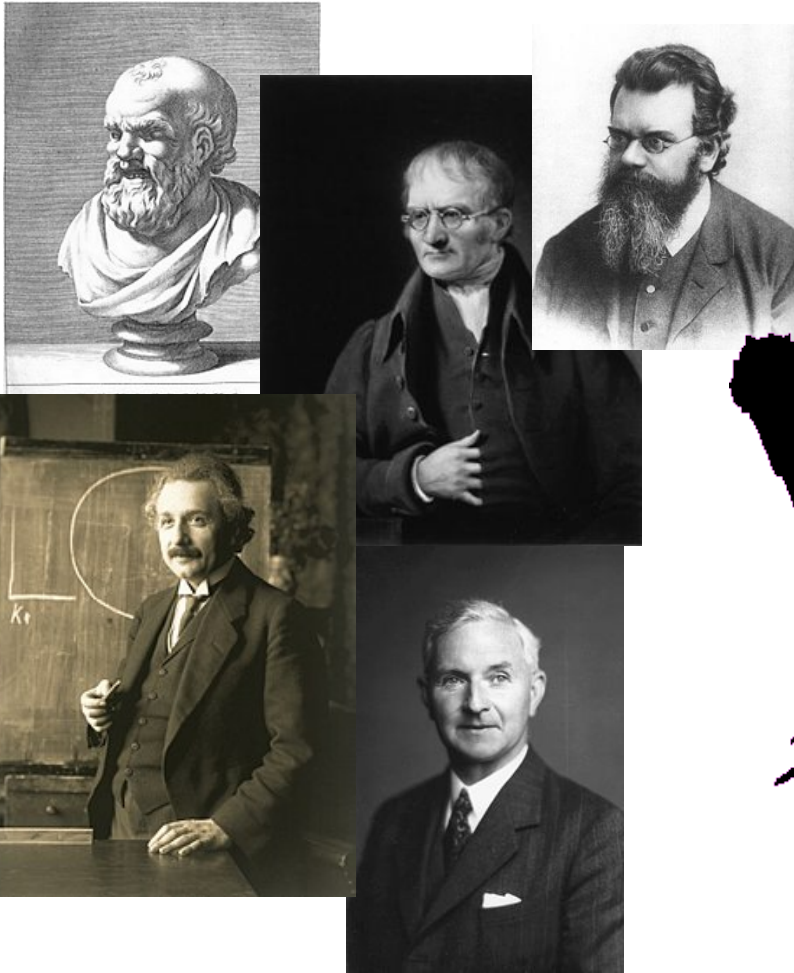
# Introduction

# Scale Hierarchy



# History of the Continuum vs Atomistic

## Molecular/Atomistic



## Continuum



VS



## Video of MD vs Continuum



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aQABqOkPXXA>

## The Navier-Stokes Equation

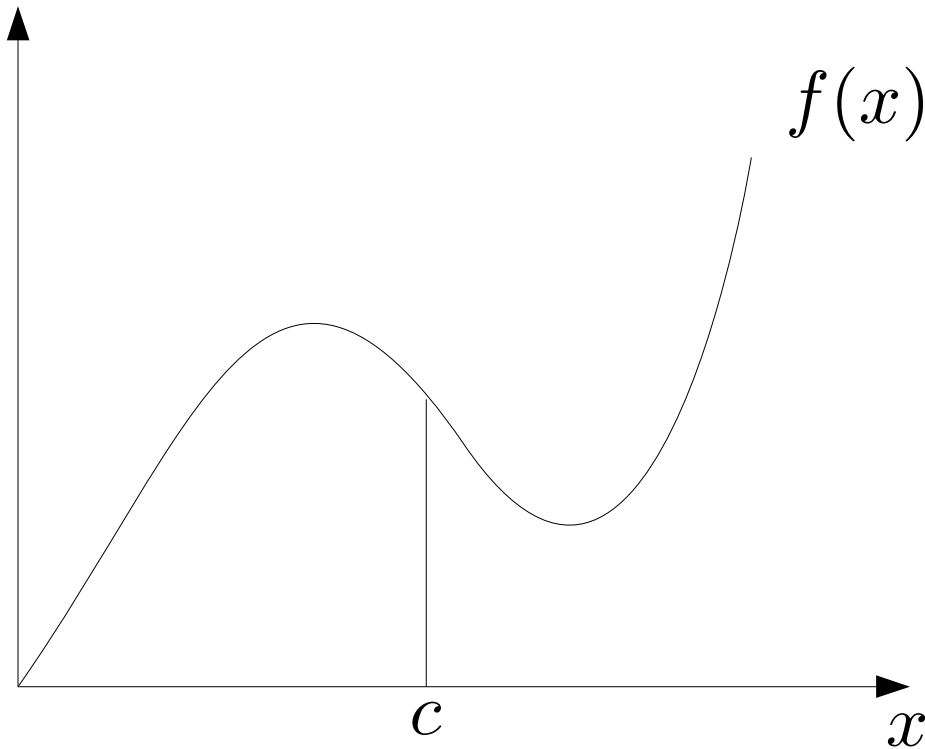
- Describes the flow of single phase Newtonian fluids

$$\underbrace{\frac{\partial \underline{u}}{\partial t}}_{\text{Unsteady Term}} + \underbrace{\underline{u} \cdot \nabla \underline{u}}_{\text{Convection Term}} = - \frac{1}{\rho} \underbrace{\nabla P}_{\text{Pressure Term}} + \underbrace{\nu \nabla^2 \underline{u}}_{\text{Diffusion Term}}$$

- Lots of complexity here, a non-linear partial differential equation for velocity and pressure – we'll build up to it
- Apparently impossible to solve directly, complex to solve numerically and not proven to have existence and smoothness (Clay prize with \$1,000,000 reward)

# The Continuum, Calculus and Differential Equations

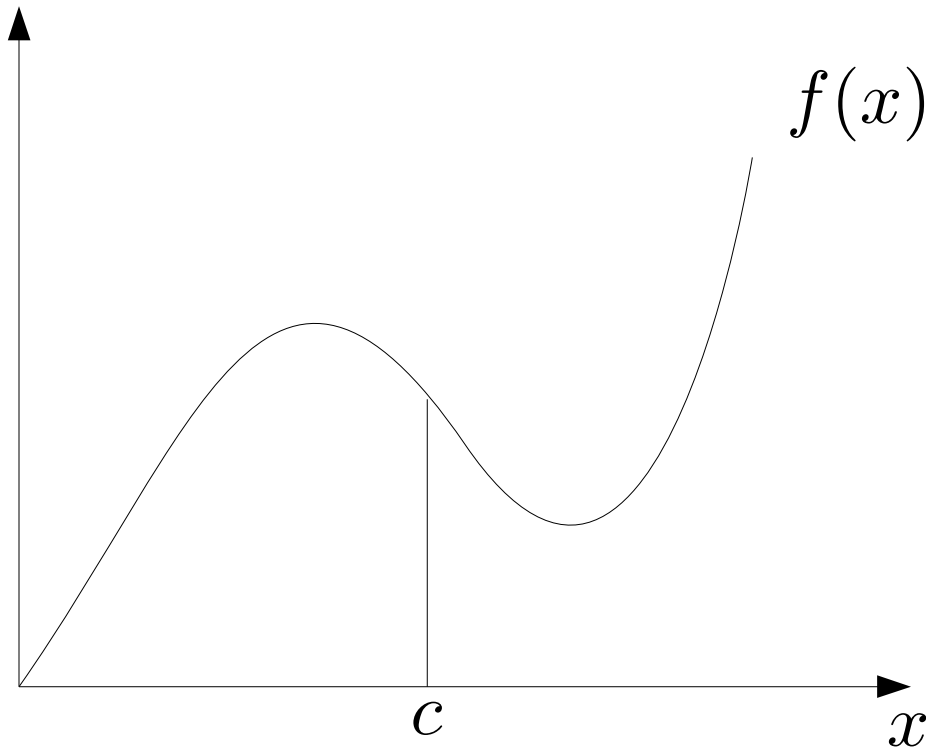
# Definition of a Continuous Function



$f$  is continuous if and only if the limit  $\lim_{x \rightarrow c} f(x)$  exists

Also  $\epsilon - \delta$  definition  
which is more formal.

## Definition of a Continuous Function

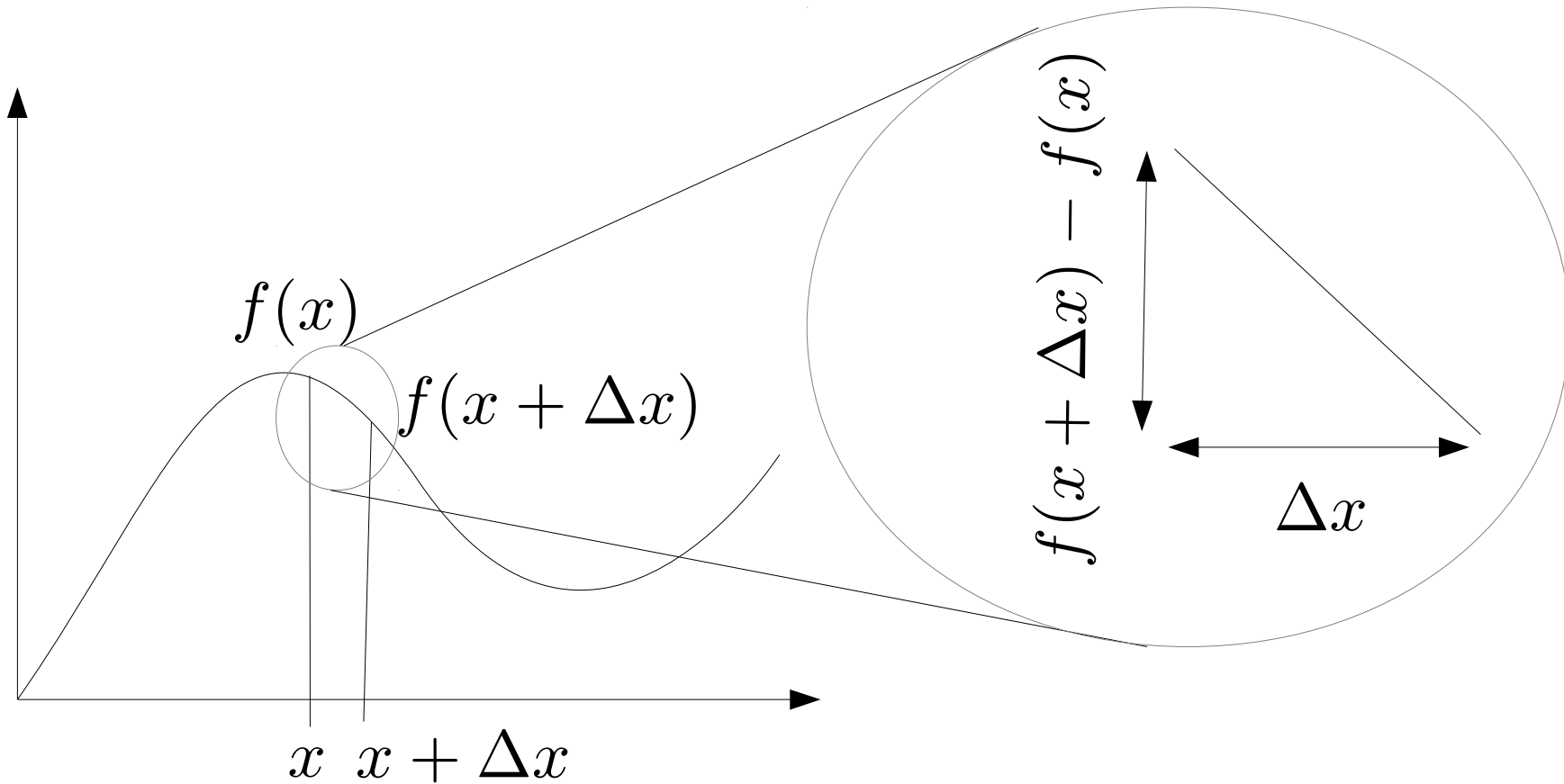


$f$  is continuous if and only if the limit  $\lim_{x \rightarrow c} f(x)$  exists

Note the continuum is a definition; essentially an assumption that works very well in most cases (and underpins the majority of applied mathematics)

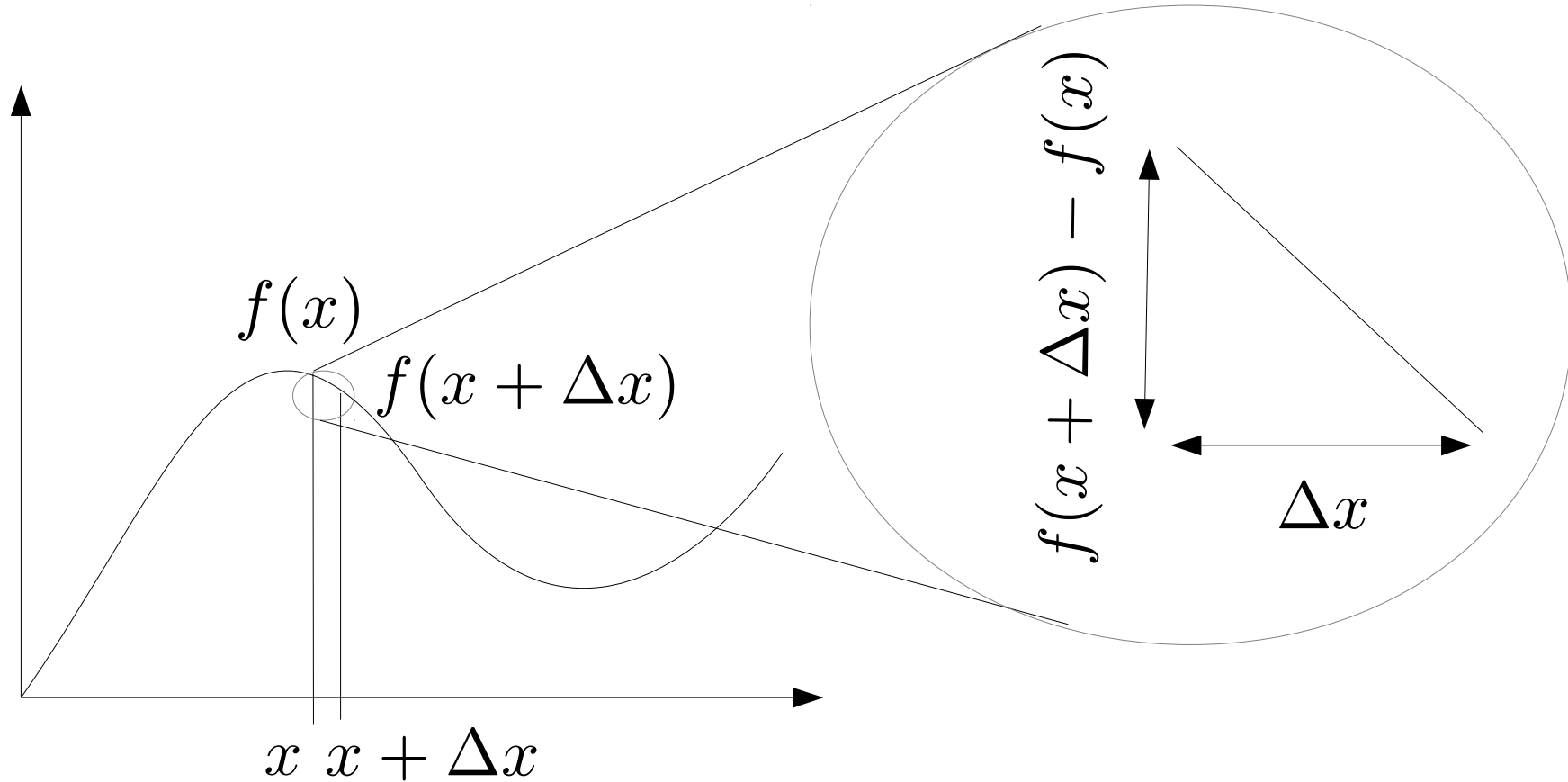
Also  $\epsilon - \delta$  definition which is more formal.

# Definition of a Derivative



$$\text{Gradient} \approx \frac{f(x + \Delta x) - f(x)}{\Delta x}$$

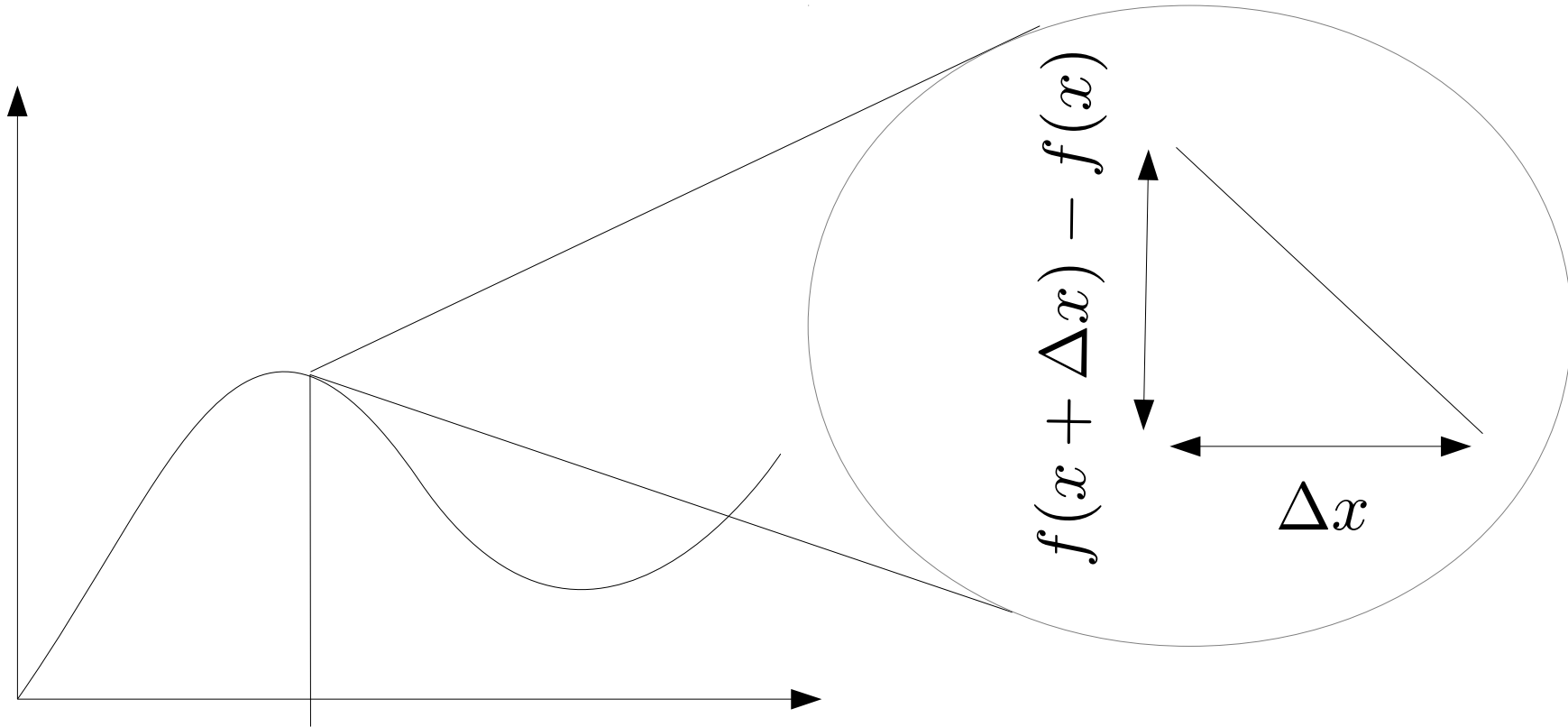
# Definition of a Derivative



Better with smaller  $\Delta x$

$$\text{Gradient} \approx \frac{f(x + \Delta x) - f(x)}{\Delta x}$$

# Definition of a Derivative



Exact in Limit  $\Delta x \rightarrow 0$   $\frac{df}{dx} = \lim_{\Delta x \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x + \Delta x) - f(x)}{\Delta x}$



# Differential Equations

- Equations which include derivatives are differential equations, e.g.

$$\frac{df}{dx} = 0 \quad \frac{df}{dx} = ax + b \quad \frac{d^2 f}{dx^2} = 5$$

- These are the same as any other equation, for example the equation for a line or Newton's law

$$y = mx + c \quad F = ma$$

- Which can also be written as differential equations

$$y = \frac{dy}{dx}x + c \quad F = m \frac{d^2 x}{dt^2}$$

# Differential Equations

- Equations which include derivatives are differential equations, e.g.

$$\frac{d^3 f}{dx^3} + \frac{df}{dx} = 9$$

$$\frac{d^2 f}{dx^2} = 0$$

$$\frac{df}{dx} + x = 0$$

- Order of equation is highest derivative, here 3, 2 and 1
- Equations can be linear or non-linear. Roughly speaking, any equation which contains a product of unknown function or it's derivatives (here  $f$ ) is non-linear, e.g.

$$f \frac{d^2 f}{dx^2} + x \frac{df}{dx} = 0$$

$$\frac{d^4 f}{dx^4} + f^2 = 0$$

$$\left( \frac{df}{dx} \right)^2 + x^2 = 0$$

## Differential Equations

- Differential equations are useful because they describe physics in the continuum, for example the Wave Equation

$$\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial t^2} = c^2 \nabla^2 u$$

- The Advection-Diffusion Equation (for some chemical concentration  $C$ , diffusing with coefficient  $D$ )

$$\frac{\partial C}{\partial t} = \nabla \cdot (D \nabla C) - \nabla \cdot (\underline{u} C)$$

- Even Newton's Law, which is continuous in time

$$m \frac{dx^2}{dt^2} = F$$

## Solving Differential Equations

- Some differential equations, especially if they are linear, can be solved exactly. For example:

$$\frac{df}{dx} = a \qquad f(x) = ax + C_1$$

- This is integrated to give  $f$  as a function of  $x$  with an arbitrary constant of integration. Also for second order equations,

$$\frac{d^2 f}{dx^2} = b \qquad \frac{df}{dx} = bx + C_2$$

$$f(x) = bx^2 + C_2x + C_3$$

- Most differential equations are too complex to solve directly, research typically focuses on numerical solutions

# Numerical Solution to Differential Equations

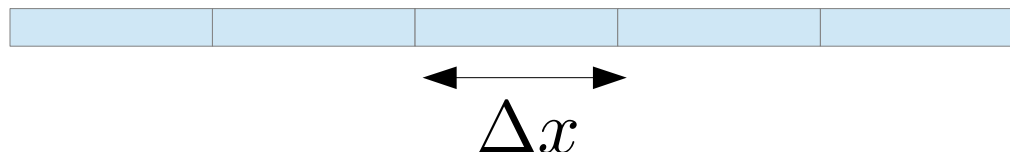
- Instead we solve numerically, consider the definition of the derivative

$$\frac{df}{dx} = \lim_{\Delta x \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x + \Delta x) - f(x)}{\Delta x}$$

If we make delta x small we can approximate the derivative by taking two points which are arbitrarily close

$$\frac{df}{dx} \approx \frac{f(x + \Delta x) - f(x)}{\Delta x}$$

$$f(x) \quad f(x + \Delta x)$$



# Numerical Solution to Differential Equations

- First order derivatives

$$\frac{df}{dx} \approx \frac{f(x + \Delta x) - f(x)}{\Delta x}$$

- Second order derivatives

$$\frac{d^2 f}{dx^2} \approx \frac{f(x + \Delta x) - 2f(x) + f(x - \Delta x)}{(\Delta x)^2}$$

- We can introduce short-hand notation for this

$$\frac{f(x + \Delta x) - f(x)}{\Delta x} \equiv \frac{f_{i+1} - f_i}{\Delta x}$$

$$\frac{f(x + \Delta x) - 2f(x) + f(x - \Delta x)}{(\Delta x)^2} \equiv \frac{f_{i+1} - 2f_i + f_{i-1}}{(\Delta x)^2}$$

# Numerical Solution to Differential Equations

- First order derivatives

$$\frac{df}{dx} \approx \frac{f_{i+1} - f_i}{\Delta x}$$

- Second order derivatives

$$\frac{d^2 f}{dx^2} \approx \frac{f_{i+1} - 2f_i + f_{i-1}}{(\Delta x)^2}$$

- How to write this as code, as an example we consider

for  $\frac{df}{dx} = a$  and use  $\frac{df}{dx} \approx \frac{f_{i+1} - f_i}{\Delta x}$

and rearrange to get i+1 value,

$$f_{i+1} = f_i + a\Delta x \quad \longrightarrow \quad \mathbf{f[i+1] = f[i] + a*\Delta x}$$

# Numerical Solution to Differential Equations

- First order derivatives

$$\frac{df}{dx} \approx \frac{f_{i+1} - f_i}{\Delta x}$$

- Second order derivatives

$$\frac{d^2 f}{dx^2} \approx \frac{f_{i+1} - 2f_i + f_{i-1}}{(\Delta x)^2}$$

- How to write this as code (rearranged to get i+1 value)

$$\frac{df}{dx} = a$$

$$f[i+1] = f[i] + a * dx$$

$$\frac{d^2 f}{dx^2} = b$$

$$f[i+1] = 2 * f[i] - f[i-1] + b * dx ** 2$$

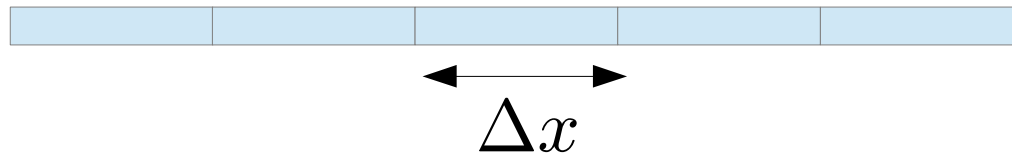


# Numerical Solution to Differential Equations

- So if we know the value at  $f_i$ , we can get the value at  $f_{i+1}$  a small distance, delta x, away

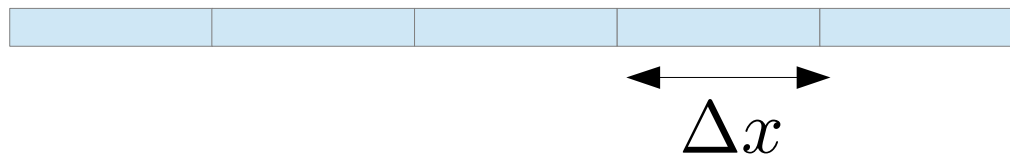
$$\frac{df}{dx} = a \quad f_{i+1} = f_i + a\Delta x$$

$f_i \quad f_{i+1}$



- Once we know the value at  $f_{i+1}$ , we can get the value at  $f_{i+2}$ , and so on

$$f_i \quad f_{i+1} \quad f_{i+2}$$



# Python vs MATLAB

```
%MATLAB
```

```
clear all
```

```
close all
```

```
x = linspace(0,2*pi,100);
```

```
y = sin(x);
```

```
z = cos(x);
```

```
plot(x,y,'-r');
```

```
hold all
```

```
plot(x,z,'-b')
```

```
#python
```

```
from numpy import *
```

```
from matplotlib.pyplot import *
```

```
x = linspace(0,2*pi,100)
```

```
y = sin(x)
```

```
z = cos(x)
```

```
plot(x,y,'-r')
```

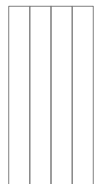
```
plot(x,z,'-b')
```

```
show()
```

## Python vs MATLAB

- Loop “for i in range(1, Nsteps-1)” where range(1, Nsteps-1) replace 1:Nsteps in MATLAB's “for i=1:Nsteps”
- Python uses zero indexing (arrays start from 0)
- Square brackets to access array elements, normal brackets for functions (e.g. range function here)
- Indentation used to define scope (four spaces here) no end statements needed after loop

```
for i in range(1,Nsteps-1):
```



```
    #Comment with hash
```

```
    f[i+1] = 2.*f[i] - f[i-1] + dt**2 * F
```

```
    plot(x, 'bo')
```

```
    show()
```

- Plots added to figure will only appear when show() called

## Questions 1

1) Use the definition of the derivative  $\frac{df}{dx} = \lim_{\Delta x \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x + \Delta x) - f(x)}{\Delta x}$  to calculate  $f(x) = x^3$

2) Identify order of the following. Which are linear?

$$a) \frac{d^3 y}{dx^3} + \left(\frac{dy}{dx}\right)^2 = 4 \qquad b) x^2 \frac{d^2 y}{dx^2} + 3(y - x) = 5x \frac{dy}{dx} \qquad c) \frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{y - x}{y + x}$$

3) Integrate Newton's Law for constant acceleration,

$$\frac{dx^2}{dt^2} = -g \text{ with } x = 0 \text{ and } \frac{dx}{dt} = v_0 \text{ at } t = 0$$

using initial conditions to replace integration constants.  
Solve numerically on a computer and compare results

4) Now solve  $\frac{dx^2}{dt^2} = \left(\frac{1}{x} - g\right)$  with varying initial conditions.  
What do you notice?



# Fields and Partial Differential Equations

## Continuum Fields

- We use Newton's law assuming continuity in time and position (even in a discrete molecular system)
- The Continuum hypothesis refers to the continuous nature of fields in space. These are 2D or 3D continuous functions which evolve in time
- Assumes that we have so many particles it is a continuum.
- In practice, one meter cube of air has  $10^{25}$  molecules so works very well
- Although this also works down to smaller scales than would be expected...



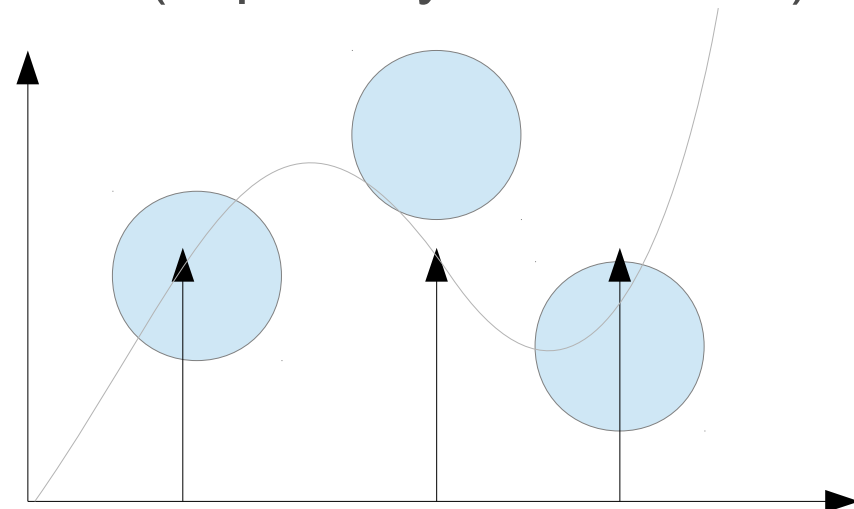
# Continuum Fields

$f$  is continuous if and only if the limit  $\lim_{x \rightarrow c} f(x)$  exists

- When is this not true?
  - When the Molecular nature becomes apparent
  - Extreme events like shock waves
  - Discontinuities or near boundaries (especially contact line)
  - Fractal systems?
- How do we tell if valid
  - Knudsen number for gases

$$Kn = \frac{\lambda}{L}$$

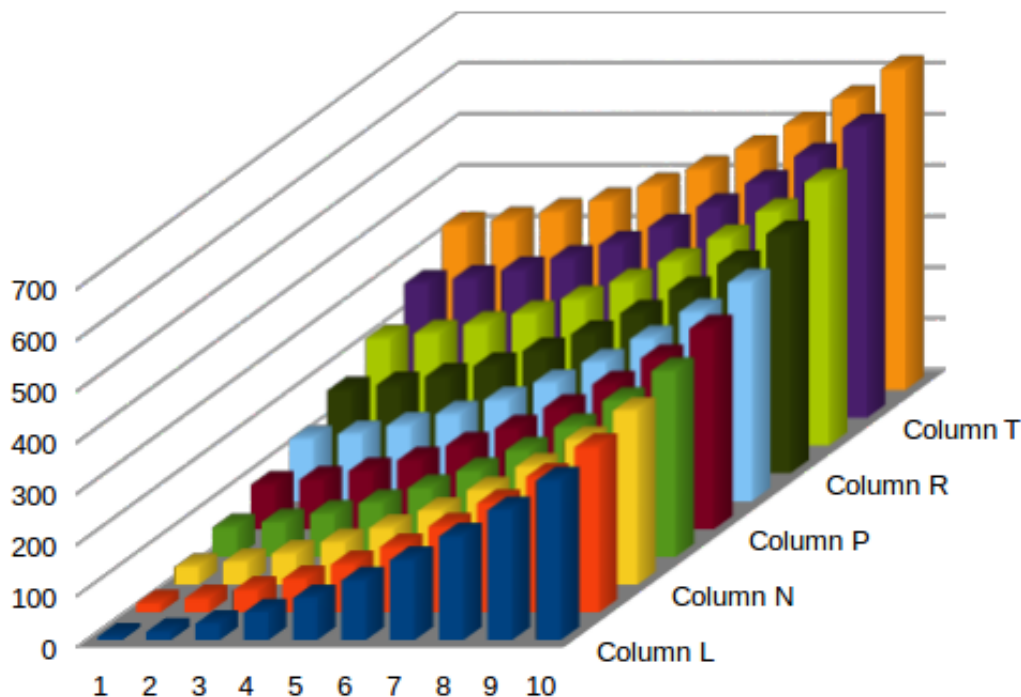
- No Similar metric for dense fluids (most cases of interest)



## Example of a Field

- Consider an example 2D field described by an x-y polynomial

$$f(x, y) = ax^2 + bx + cy^2 + dy + exy + f$$



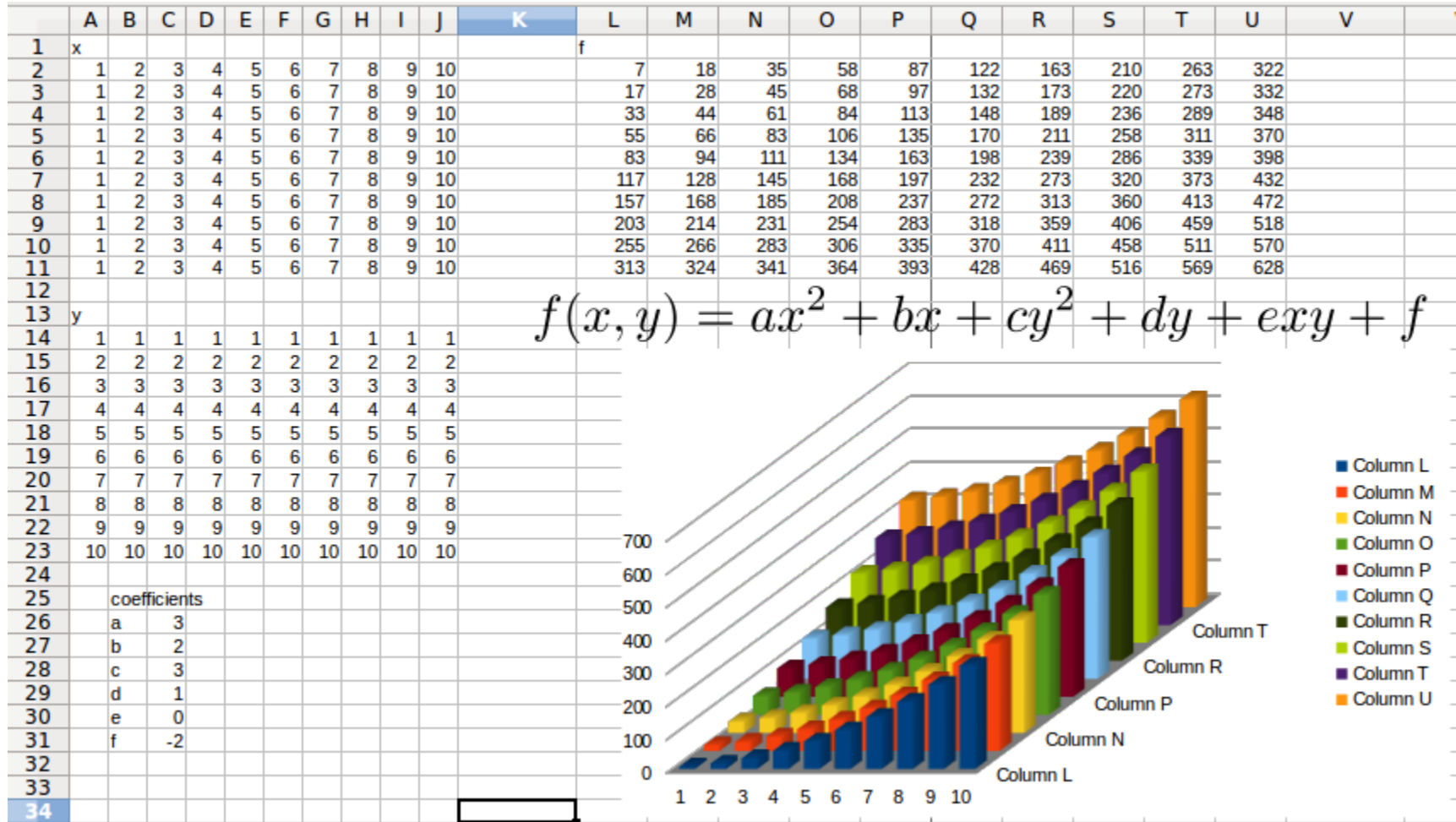
- Consider a grid of x and y values

$$f = f(x, y)$$

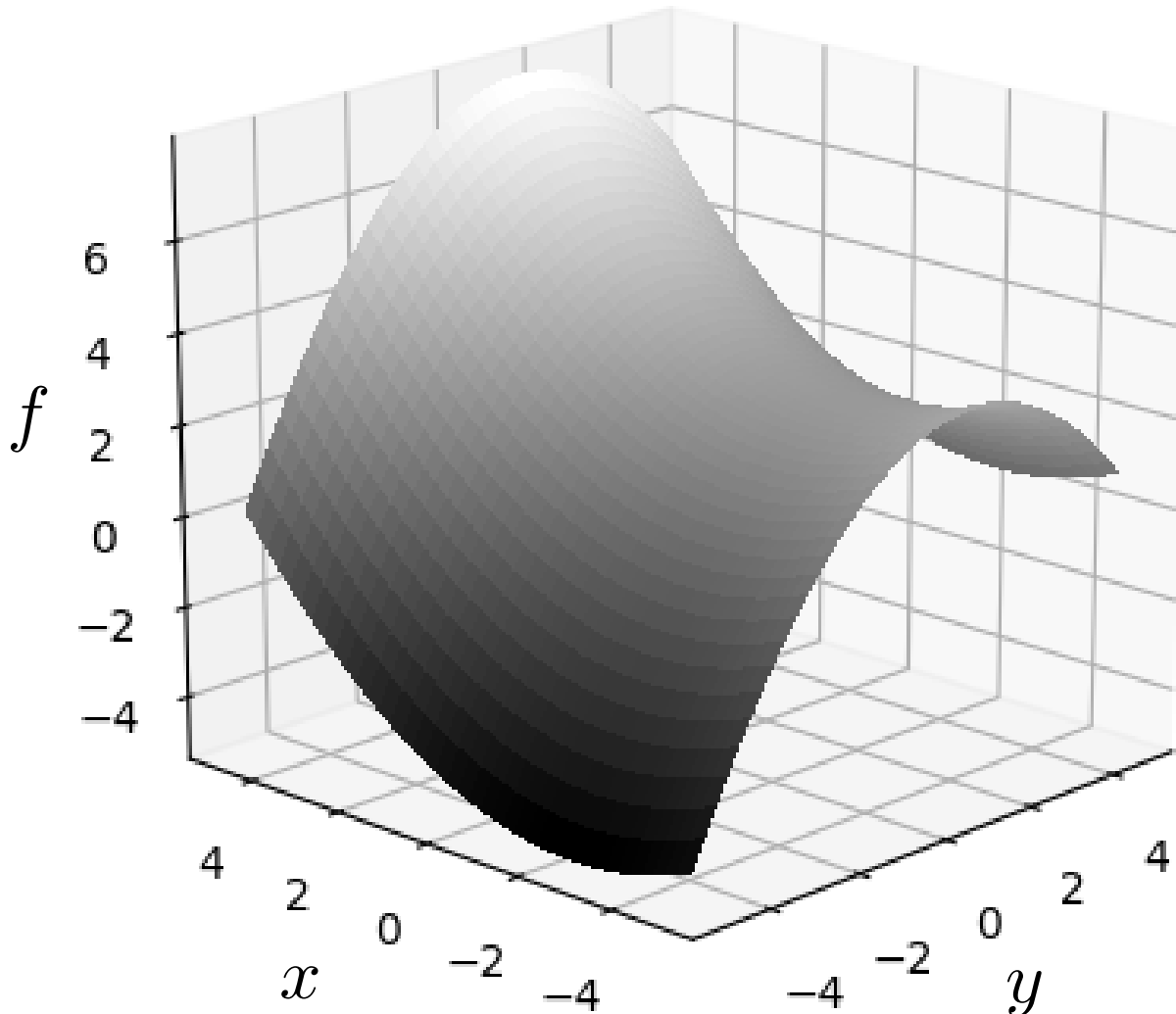
- We plot a bar at each x or y location with the value there



# Example of a Field



## Two Dimensions Fields (3D plot)



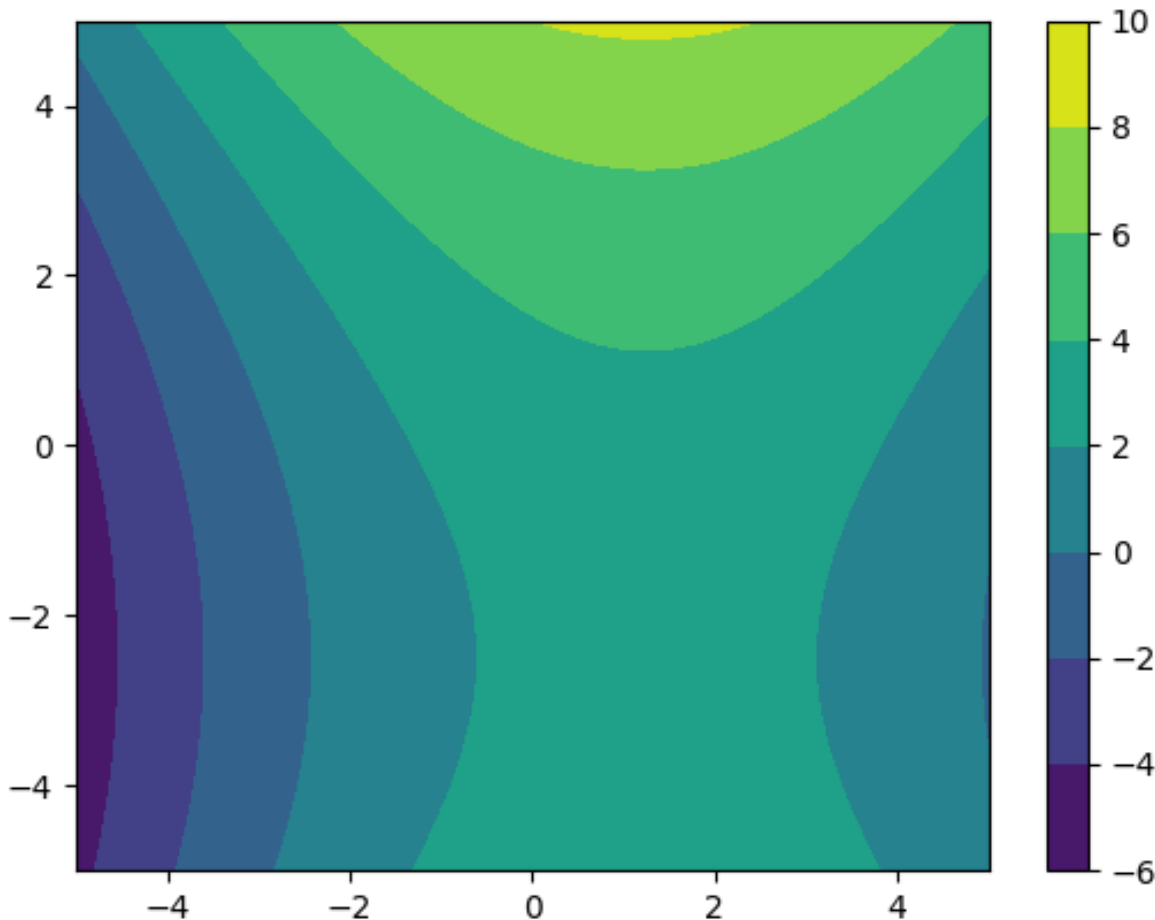
- Limit is a continuous function
- Here a function of two variables

$$f = f(x, y)$$

- As we move in either  $x$  or  $y$  direction the value of  $f$  changes

## Two Dimensions Fields (2D plot)

- Contour plot



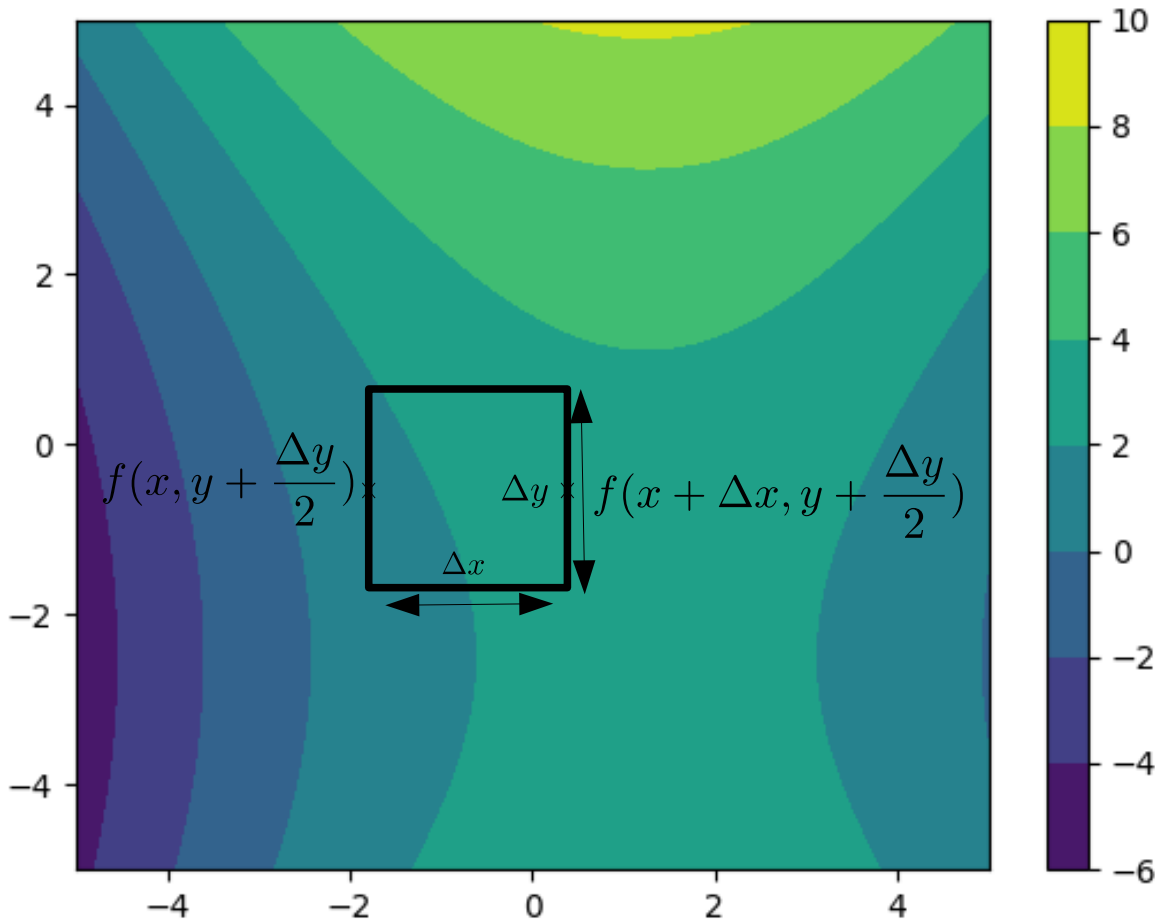
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## Two Dimensions Fields (2D plot)

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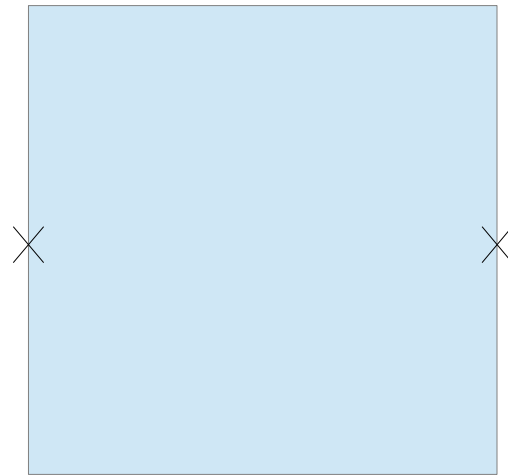
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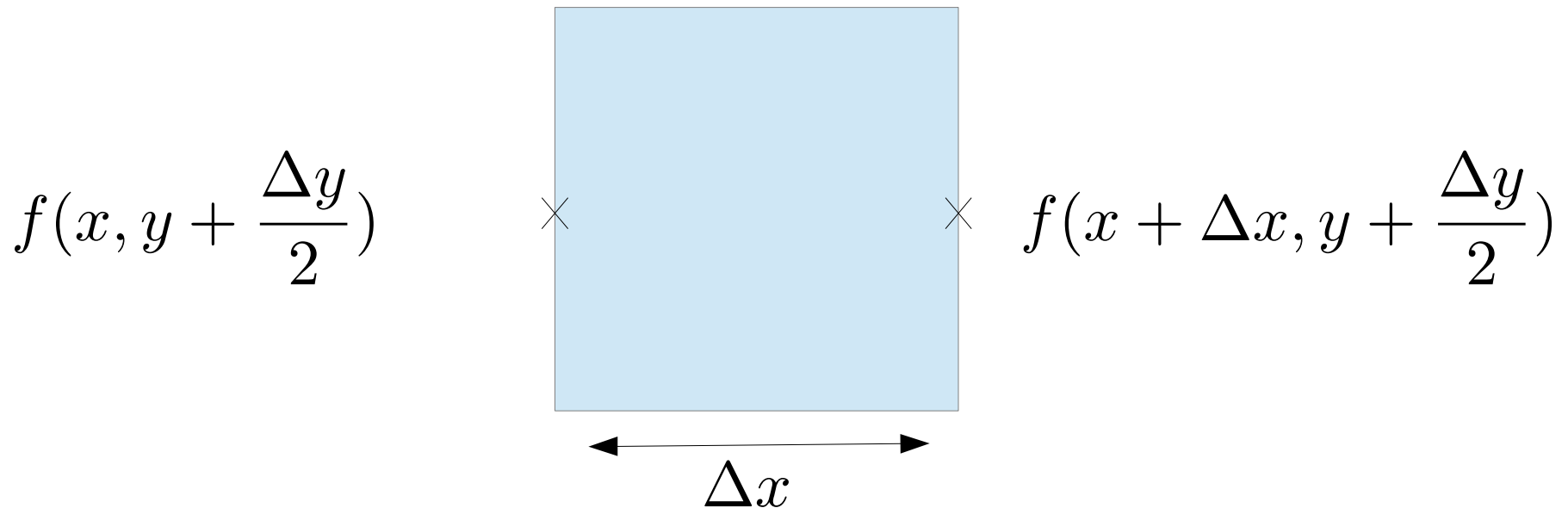
## Two Dimensions and Partial Derivatives

$$f\left(x, y + \frac{\Delta y}{2}\right)$$



$$f\left(x + \Delta x, y + \frac{\Delta y}{2}\right)$$

## Two Dimensions and Partial Derivatives

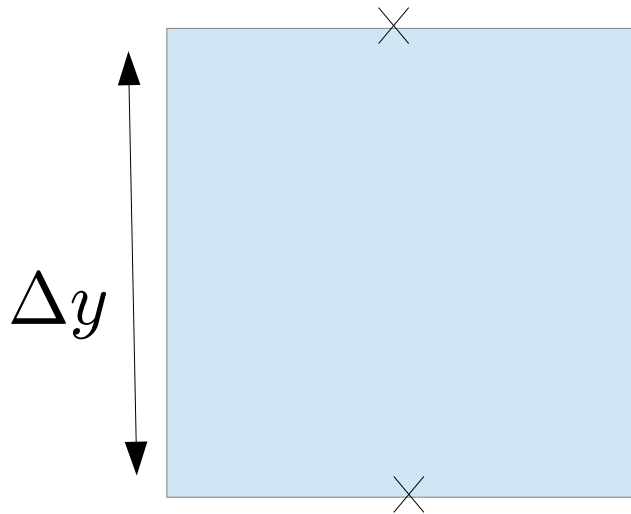


- Note we have dropped the half Delta terms for simplicity

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \Big|_{y \text{ constant}} = \lim_{\Delta x \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x + \Delta x, y) - f(x, y)}{\Delta x}$$

## Two Dimensions and Partial Derivatives

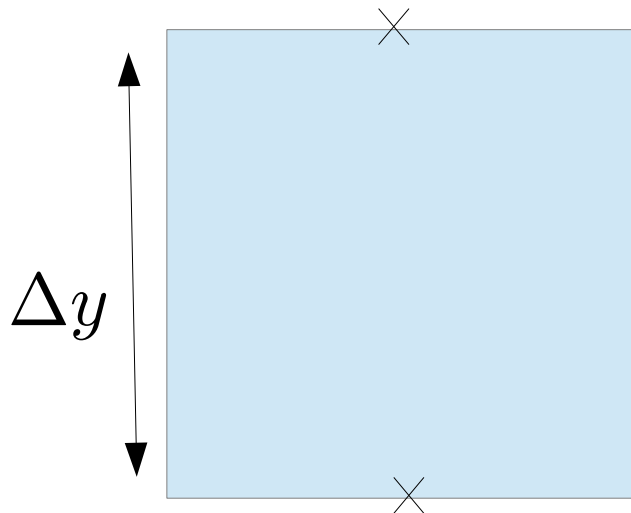
$$f\left(x + \frac{\Delta x}{2}, y + \Delta y\right)$$



$$f\left(x + \frac{\Delta x}{2}, y\right)$$

## Two Dimensions and Partial Derivatives

$$f\left(x + \frac{\Delta x}{2}, y + \Delta y\right)$$



- Note we have dropped the half Delta terms for simplicity

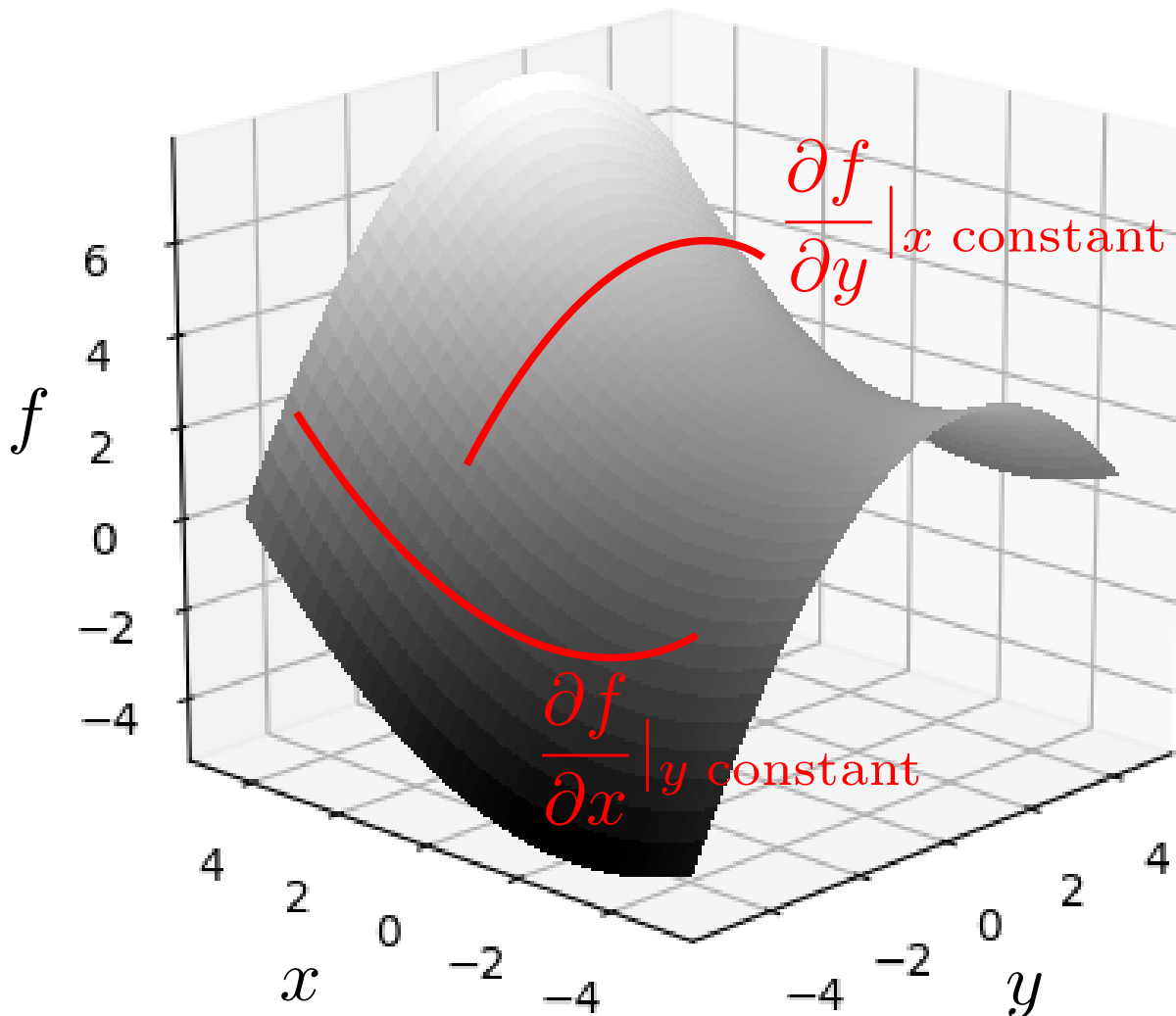
$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial y} \Big|_{x \text{ constant}}$$

$$= \lim_{\Delta y \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x, y + \Delta y) - f(x, y)}{\Delta y}$$

$$f\left(x + \frac{\Delta x}{2}, y\right)$$



## Two Dimensions and Partial Derivatives



- Consider a function of two variables

$$f = f(x, y)$$

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \Big|_{y \text{ constant}}$$

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial y} \Big|_{x \text{ constant}}$$

## Example of a Field and it's Derivatives

- Consider an example field described by an x-y polynomial

$$f(x, y) = ax^2 + bx + cy^2 + dy + exy + f$$

- We can calculate the derivatives at any point

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \Big|_{y \text{ constant}} = 2ax + b + ey$$

$$\frac{\partial f^2}{\partial x^2} \Big|_{y \text{ constant}} = 2a$$

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial y} \Big|_{x \text{ constant}} = 2cy + d + ex$$

$$\frac{\partial f^2}{\partial y^2} \Big|_{y \text{ constant}} = 2c$$

## Example of a Field and it's Derivatives

- Consider an example field described by an x-y polynomial

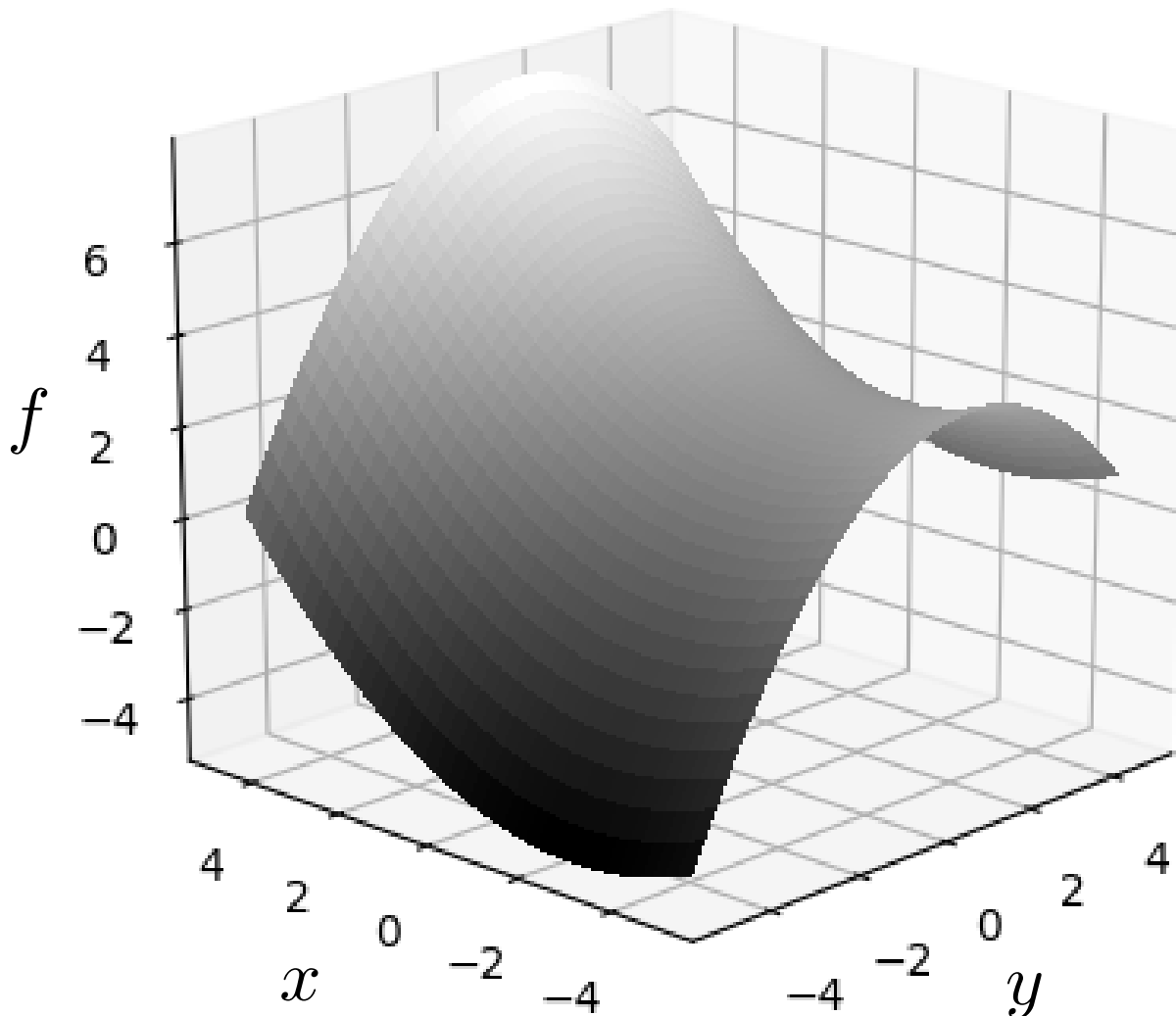
$$f(x, y) = ax^2 + bx + cy^2 + dy + exy + f$$

- We can also calculate the derivatives numerically (note the subscript notation is used again but in 2D with i and j)

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \approx \frac{f(x + \Delta x, y) - f(x, y)}{\Delta x} \equiv \frac{f_{i+1,j} - f_{i,j}}{\Delta x}$$

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial y} \approx \frac{f(x, y + \Delta y) - f(x, y)}{\Delta y} \equiv \frac{f_{i,j+1} - f_{i,j}}{\Delta y}$$

## Plotting Fields (3D plot)



- Limit is a continuous function
- Here a function of two variables

$$f = f(x, y)$$

- As we move in either  $x$  or  $y$  direction the value of  $f$  changes

## Plotting Fields (3D plot Code)

```
from mpl_toolkits.mplot3d import Axes3D
from matplotlib.pyplot import *
from numpy import *

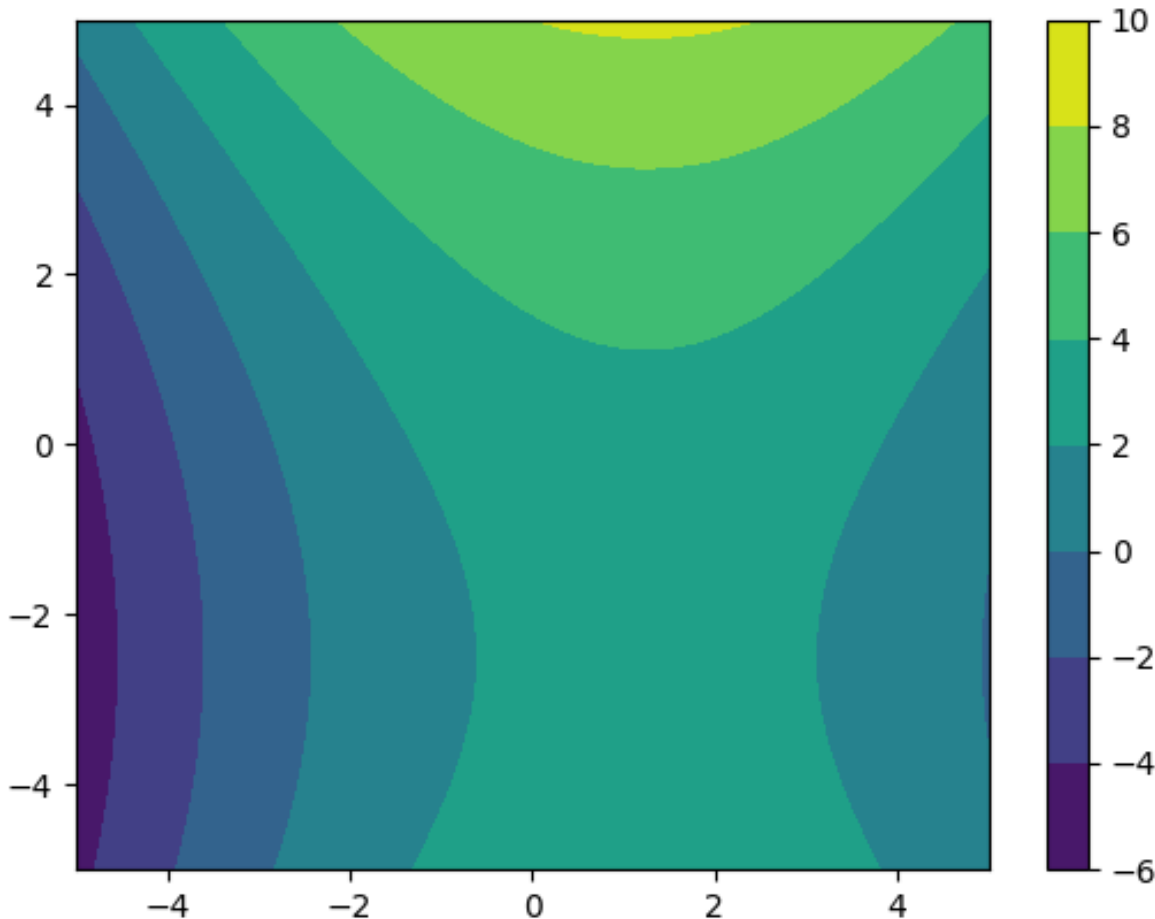
#Constants
a = -0.2; b = 0.5; c=0.1; d=0.5; e=0.; f=3.
Npoints = 50

#Define Domain
X = linspace(-5, 5, Npoints)
Y = linspace(-5, 5, Npoints)
X, Y = meshgrid(X, Y)
Z = a*X**2 + b*X + c*Y**2. + d*Y + e*X*Y + f

#Plot 3D figure
fig = figure()
ax = fig.gca(projection='3d')
surf = ax.plot_surface(X, Y, Z, cmap=cm.gray)
fig.colorbar(surf)
show()
```

## Plotting Fields (2D plot)

- Contour plot



- Limit is a continuous function
- Here a function of two variables

$$f = f(x, y)$$

- As we move in either x or y direction the value of f changes

## Plotting Fields (2D plot Code)

```
from matplotlib.pyplot import *
from numpy import *

#Constants
a = -0.2; b = 0.5; c=0.1; d=0.5; e=0.; f=3.
Npoints = 50

#Define Domain
X = linspace(-5, 5, Npoints)
Y = linspace(-5, 5, Npoints)
X, Y = meshgrid(X, Y)
Z = a*X**2 + b*X + c*Y**2. + d*Y + e*X*Y + f

#Plot 2D figure
contourf(X, Y, Z)
colorbar()
show()
```

## Questions 2

- Plot the following field as a contour (Python/MATLAB/excel)  
 $f(x, y) = \sin(2\pi x) \cos(2\pi y)$  for  $0 < x < 1$  and  $0 < y < 1$
- Evaluate partial derivatives in x and y and plot these fields

$$\left. \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \right|_{y \text{ constant}}$$

$$\left. \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} \right|_{x \text{ constant}}$$

- Calculate the numerical derivatives of  $f(x,y)$  and compare to the partial derivatives from part 2. What happens if you increase the number of points you use?

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \approx \frac{f_{i+1,j} - f_{i,j}}{\Delta x}$$

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial y} \approx \frac{f_{i,j+1} - f_{i,j}}{\Delta y}$$



# Solving Partial Differential Equations

## Partial Differential Equations

- To describe the change in fields, we use partial differential equations which vary in space (2D here), for example:

$$\frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial y^2} = 0$$

- Note we have dropped the  $x=\text{constant}$ ,  $y=\text{constant}$  for notational conciseness, but they are always implied by partial derivatives
- This equation describes the final state for the process of diffusion of a substance, such as ink in water or concentration of a chemical in a mixture. It can also be solved to define electromagnetic fields or potential fluid flow

## Partial Differential Equations

- This equation is known as Laplace's Equation

$$\frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial y^2} = 0$$

- Often written using other notation,

$$\nabla^2 f = 0 \text{ or } \Delta f = 0 \text{ where } \nabla^2 \equiv \Delta \equiv \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2}{\partial y^2}$$

$f_{xx} + f_{yy} = 0$  where subscripts denote derivatives

- In practice, fields are usually a function of three spatial coordinates and time (2D here for simplicity)

$$f = f(x, y, z, t)$$

## Solving Numerically

- There are a number of analytical solutions to this equation

$$\frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial y^2} = 0$$

- But we will use numerical solutions, recall the numerical approximation for the second derivative, adapted for 2D,

$$\frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x^2} \approx \frac{f(x + \Delta x, y) - 2f(x, y) + f(x - \Delta x, y)}{(\Delta x)^2}$$

$$\frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial y^2} \approx \frac{f(x, y + \Delta y) - 2f(x, y) + f(x, y - \Delta y)}{(\Delta y)^2}$$

## Solving Numerically

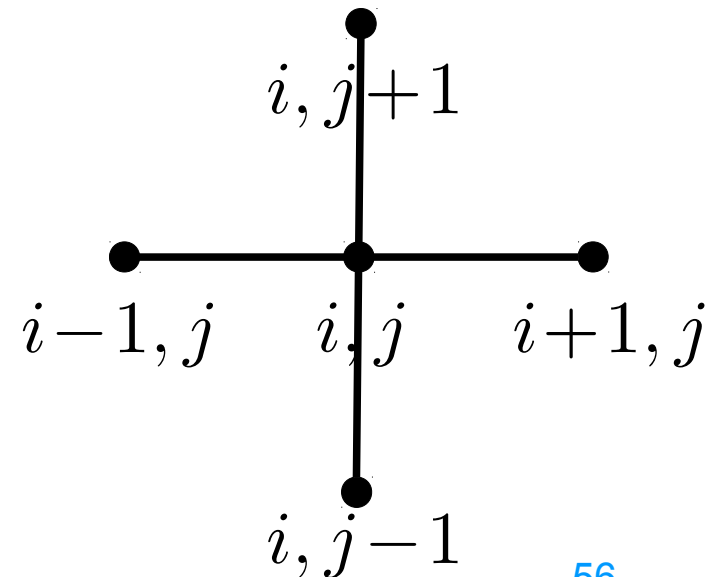
- There are a number of analytical solutions to this equation

$$\frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial y^2} = 0$$

- But we will use numerical solutions, written here in index notation which shows the “stencil”

$$\frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x^2} \approx \frac{f_{i+1,j} - 2f_{i,j} + f_{i-1,j}}{(\Delta x)^2}$$

$$\frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial y^2} \approx \frac{f_{i,j+1} - 2f_{i,j} + f_{i,j-1}}{(\Delta y)^2}$$



## Solving Numerically

- So we are solving  $\frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial y^2} = 0$

$$\frac{f_{i+1,j} - 2f_{i,j} + f_{i-1,j}}{(\Delta x)^2} + \frac{f_{i,j+1} - 2f_{i,j} + f_{i,j-1}}{(\Delta y)^2} = 0$$

- Which we rearrange to give

$$f_{i,j} = \frac{1}{2} \frac{(\Delta x)^2 (\Delta y)^2}{(\Delta x)^2 + (\Delta y)^2} \left[ \frac{f_{i+1,j} + f_{i-1,j}}{(\Delta x)^2} + \frac{f_{i,j+1} + f_{i,j-1}}{(\Delta y)^2} \right]$$

$$f_{i,j} = \frac{1}{4} \left[ \frac{f_{i+1,j} + f_{i-1,j}}{(\Delta x)^2} + \frac{f_{i,j+1} + f_{i,j-1}}{(\Delta y)^2} \right] \Delta x = \Delta y = 1$$

## Boundary Conditions

- Notice that if we solve this equation, we use points either side

Get  $f_{i,j}$

The diagram shows a grid of points. A central point is labeled  $(i, j)$ . To its left is  $(i-1, j)$  and to its right is  $(i+1, j)$ . Above it is  $(i, j+1)$  and below it is  $(i, j-1)$ . There are also grey dots representing other points in the grid. A red arrow points from the  $\frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial y^2}$  equation to the vertical line of points.

$$\frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x^2} \approx \frac{f_{i+1,j} - 2f_{i,j} + f_{i-1,j}}{(\Delta x)^2}$$

$$\frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial y^2} \approx \frac{f_{i,j+1} - 2f_{i,j} + f_{i,j-1}}{(\Delta y)^2}$$

## Boundary Conditions

- Notice that if we solve this equation, we use points either side
- Then we move to the next point

Use  $f_{i-1,j}$       Get  $f_{i,j}$        $\frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x^2} \approx \frac{f_{i+1,j} - 2f_{i,j} + f_{i-1,j}}{(\Delta x)^2}$

$i-1, j$        $i, j$        $i+1, j$

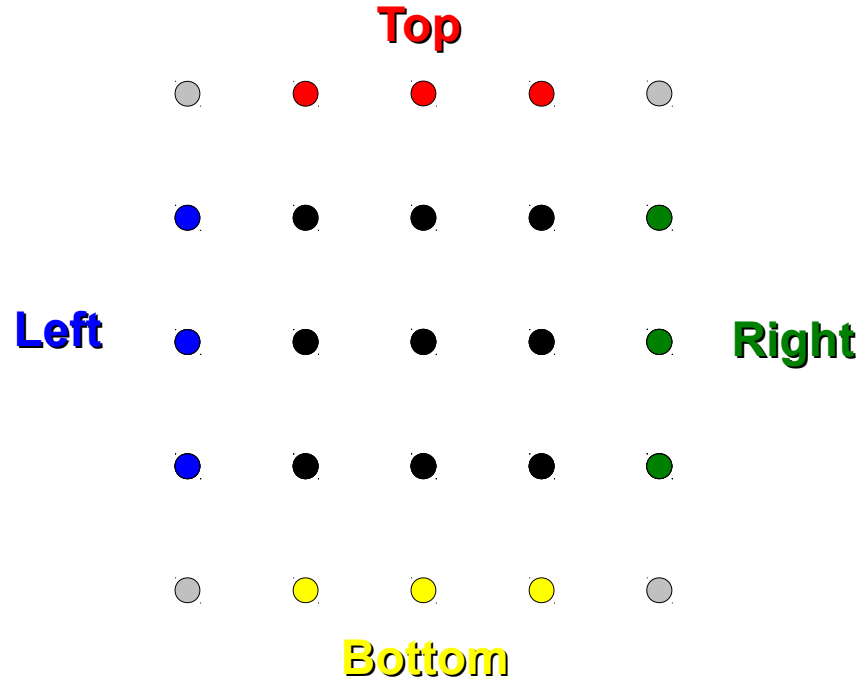
$i, j-1$        $i, j$        $i, j+1$

$\frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial y^2} \approx \frac{f_{i,j+1} - 2f_{i,j} + f_{i,j-1}}{(\Delta y)^2}$



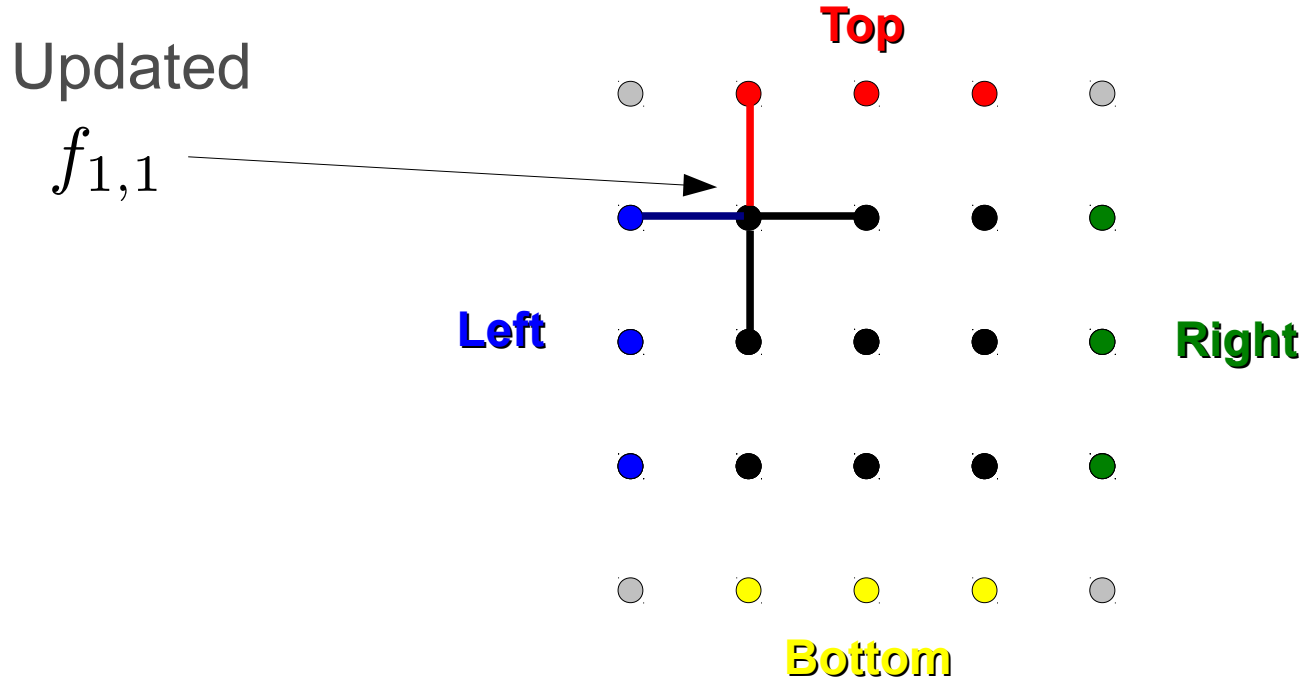
## Boundary Conditions

- Notice that if we solve this equation, we use points either side
- Then we move to the next point
- We start from the edge of our domain (boundary)
- These boundary values must be specified and determine the solution we get from solving Laplace's equation



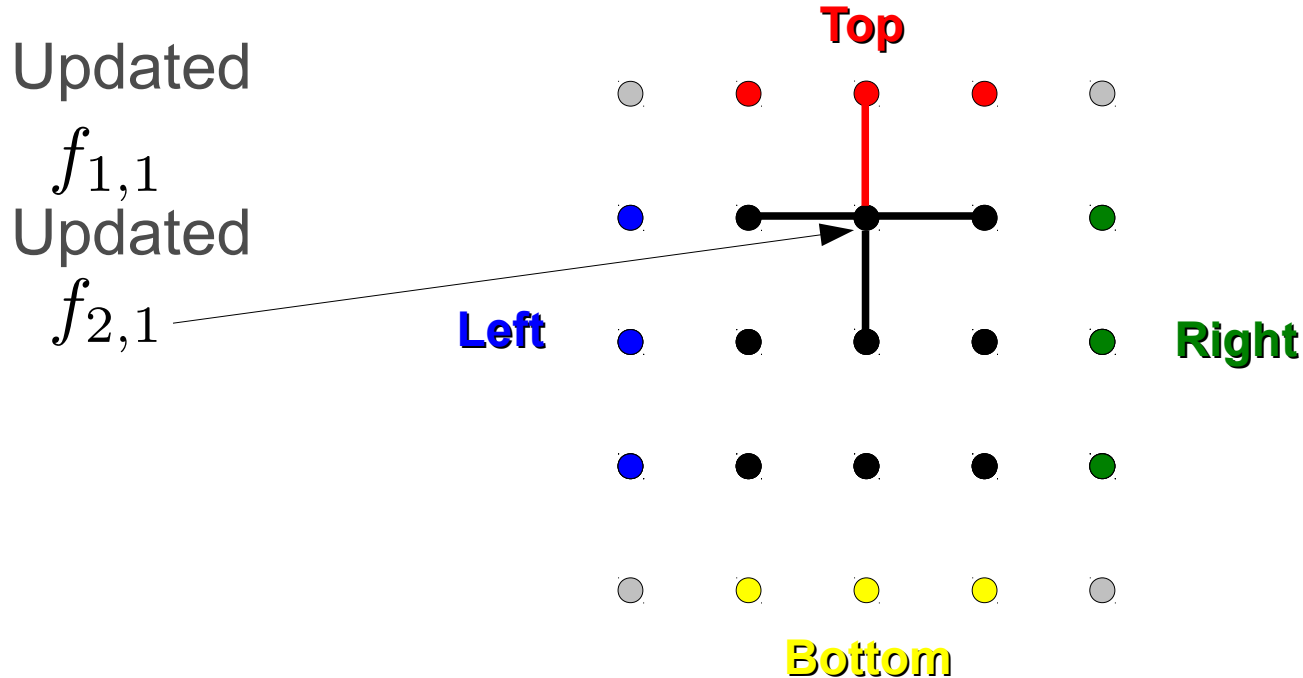
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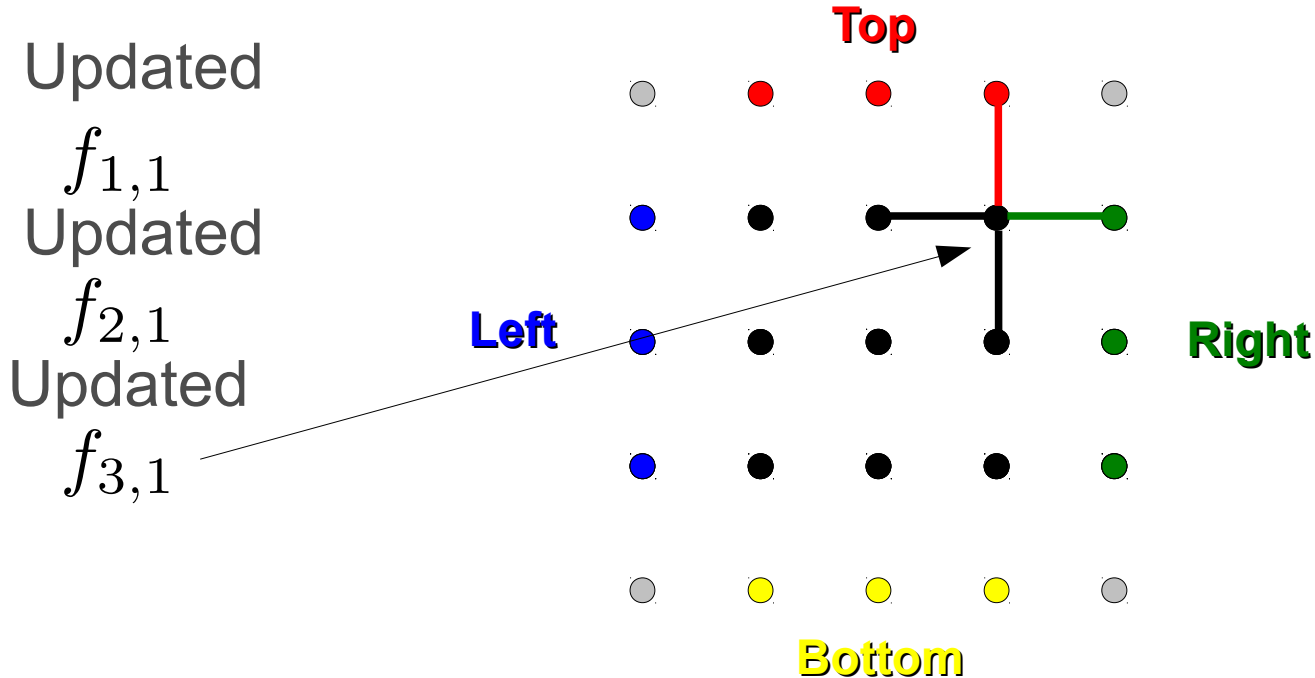
# Boundary Conditions

- Notice that if we solve this equation, we use points either side
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# Boundary Conditions

- Notice that if we solve this equation, we use points either side
- Then we move to the next point
- We start from the edge of our domain (boundary)
- These boundary values must be specified and determine the solution we get from solving Laplace's equation

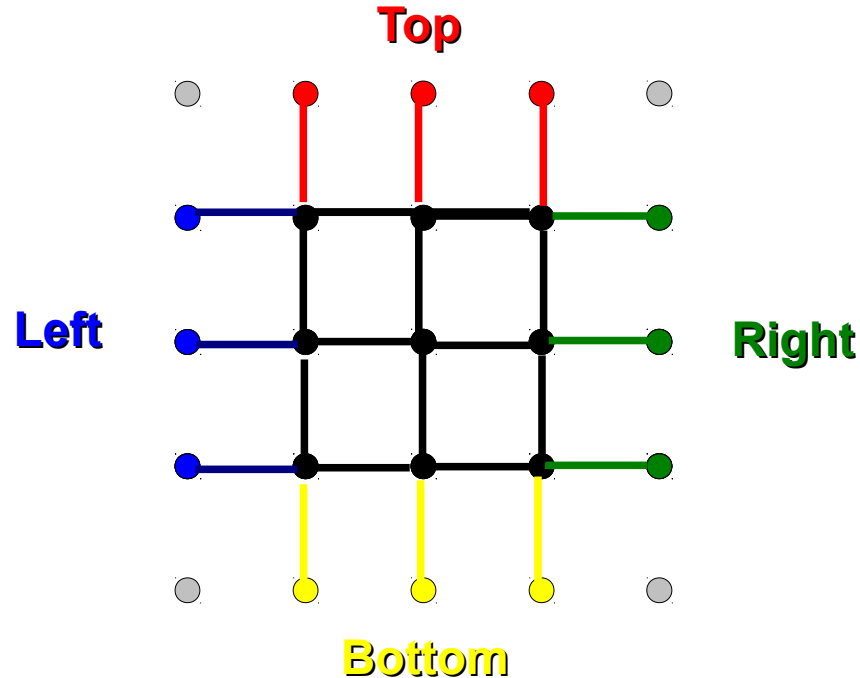


## Boundary Conditions

- Proceed until all 9 internal values (in black) are updated

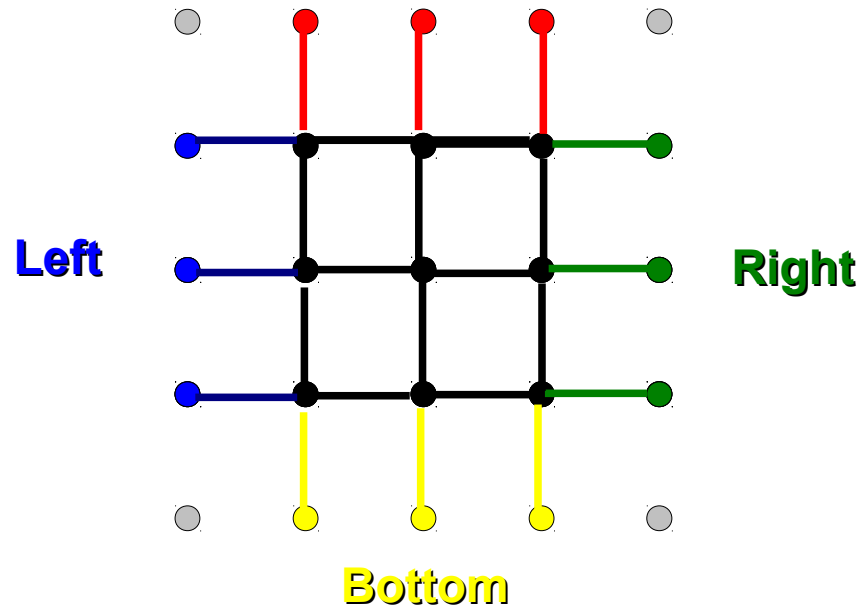
Updated  $f_{1,1}$   $f_{2,1}$   $f_{3,1}$   $f_{1,2}$   $f_{2,2}$   $f_{3,2}$   $f_{1,3}$   $f_{2,3}$   $f_{3,3}$

- We then repeat the process again starting from these updated values



## Boundary Conditions

- Iteration should proceed until a solution is reached, convergence check:
 
$$\left| \sum_{i=1}^9 \sum_{j=1}^9 f_{i,j} - \sum_{i=1}^9 \sum_{j=1}^9 f_{i,j}^{\text{Previous Iteration}} \right| < \epsilon$$
- Iteration must be turned on in Excel (options) or explicitly iterated using a loop in Python/MATLAB



## Questions 3

- Starting from Laplace's equation:  $\frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial y^2} = 0$   
derive the approximation for  $f_{ij}$ ,

$$f_{i,j} = C \left[ \frac{f_{i+1,j} + f_{i-1,j}}{(\Delta x)^2} + \frac{f_{i,j+1} + f_{i,j-1}}{(\Delta y)^2} \right]$$

- Where  $C = 1/4$
- Solve with Python, MATLAB or Excel for 9 points, N.B. this must be iterated. Try the following boundary conditions:
  - Top = 0, Bottom = 1, Left = 1, Right = 0
  - Top = 1, Bottom = 0 and use Periodic Boundaries for others, i.e. for Left = Copy right cell-1 and for Right = Copy left cell+1
  - Top = 0, Bottom = 0, Left =  $\sin(\pi y)$ , Right = 0 with  $0 < y < 1$
- Before next week: Make sure you understand this. Comment your code, try different numbers of points in the domain, try plotting, test other boundaries. Make notes on what you observe.

## Summary

- In today's session you have:
  - Seen what the Continuum assumption means and been shown that, crucially, it describes continuous fields
  - An introduction to fields and how to plot them
  - Been introduced to some simple ordinary and partial differential equations
  - Been shown how to solve basic differential equations numerically
  - Tried to solve them using either a programming language of your choice or Excel



## Scalar, Vector and Tensor Fields

- Note that the fields can also be scalar, vector or even tensor fields. Examples include:
  - Pressure, Concentration of chemical species

$$P = P(x, y, z, t) \quad C = C(x, y, z, t)$$

- Velocity (3 values at every space and time)

$$\underline{u} = \underline{u}(x, y, z, t) = \begin{pmatrix} u \\ v \\ w \end{pmatrix}$$

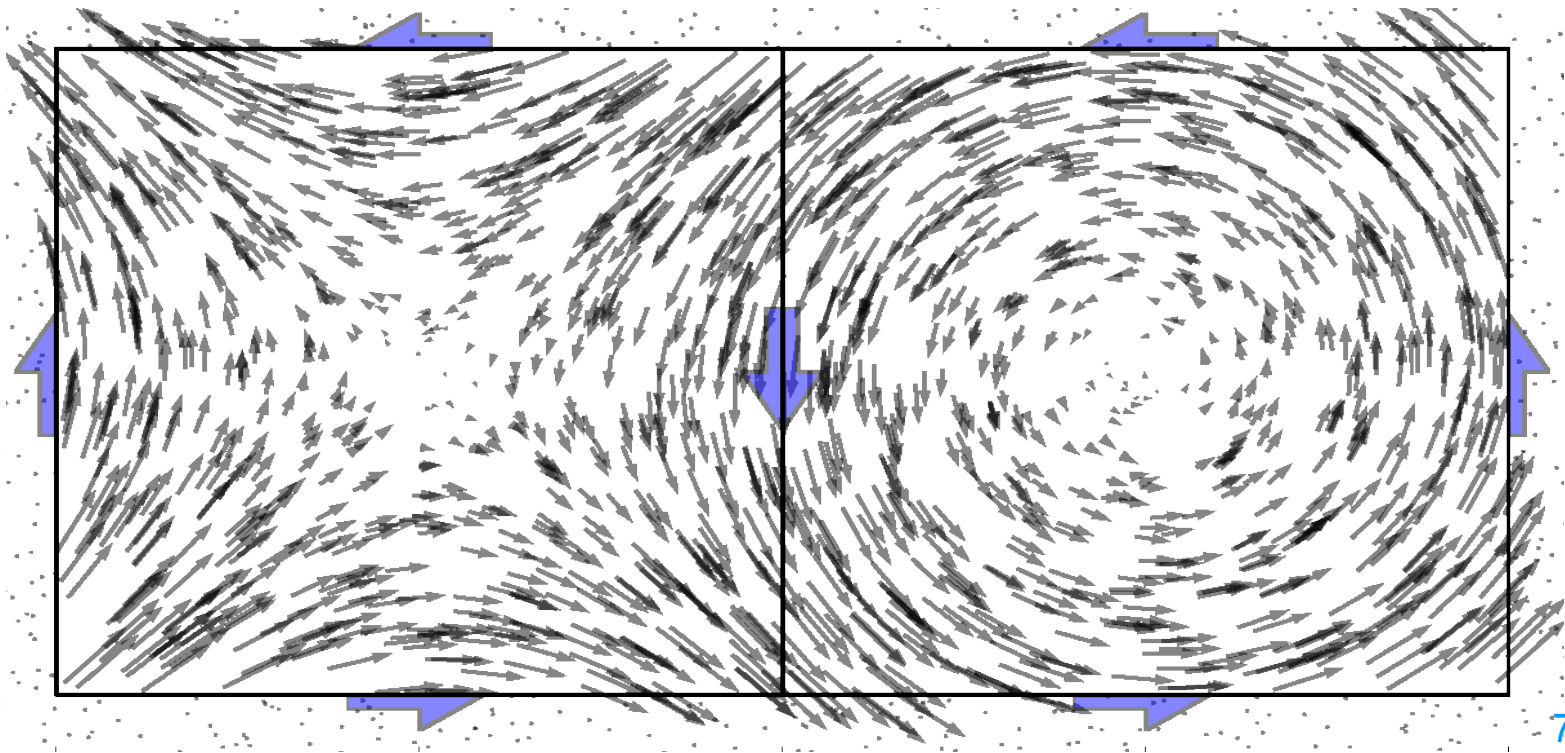
- Stress tensor (9+ values)

$$\underline{\underline{\Pi}} = \underline{\underline{\Pi}}(x, y, z, t) = \begin{pmatrix} \Pi_{xx} & \Pi_{xy} & \Pi_{xz} \\ \Pi_{yx} & \Pi_{yy} & \Pi_{yz} \\ \Pi_{zx} & \Pi_{zy} & \Pi_{zz} \end{pmatrix}$$

# Scalar, Vector and Tensor Fields

- 2D Velocity Fields example (2 values at every space)

$$\underline{u} = \underline{u}(x, y) = \begin{pmatrix} u \\ v \end{pmatrix}$$



# The Navier-Stokes Equation

- Describes the flow of single phase Newtonian fluids

$$\underbrace{\frac{\partial \underline{u}}{\partial t}}_{\text{Unsteady Term}} + \underbrace{\underline{u} \cdot \underline{\nabla} \underline{u}}_{\text{Convection Term}} = - \frac{1}{\rho} \underbrace{\underline{\nabla} P}_{\text{Pressure Term}} + \nu \underbrace{\nabla^2 \underline{u}}_{\text{Laplace's Equation}}$$

- Lots of complexity here – we'll cover in next few lessons
- Velocity vector equation so actually three simultaneous equations connected by scalar pressure P

## Plan for the Continuum Part of the Course

- Where we are in the wider modelling hierarchy Session 1
- Understand the Continuum assumption
- Partial differential equations and numerical solutions

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- More partial differential equations and numerical solutions
- Two dimensional vector fields
- The Navier-Stokes Equation Session 2
  - Assumptions that lead to it
  - Key terms and their meaning (with some extensions)
  - Simplifications and solutions

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- Link to the molecular dynamics equations
- Numerical solutions to the Navier-Stokes equation Session 3

## Further Reading

- Differential Equations
  - Engineering Mathematics by K. A. Stroud
- Fluid Dynamics and CFD
  - Hirsch (2007) "Numerical Computation of Internal and External Flows" Elsevier
  - 12 Step Navier Stokes (<http://lorenabarba.com/blog/cfd-python-12-steps-to-navier-stokes/>)
- Introduction to links to other scales (next week)
  - Mohamed Gad-El-Hak (2006) Gas and Liquid Transport at the Microscale, Heat Transfer Eng., 27:4, 13-29,
  - Irving and Kirkwood (1950) The Statistical Mechanics Theory of Transport Process IV, J. Chem Phys