

Lipschitz function.

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Def: Let $A \subset \mathbb{R}^n$. A function $f: A \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$ is called Lipschitz provided that:

$$(*) \quad |f(x) - f(y)| \leq C |x - y|,$$

for some constant C and all $x, y \in A$.

The smallest constant such that $(*)$ holds for all x, y is denoted:

$$\text{Lip}(f) := \sup \left\{ \frac{|f(x) - f(y)|}{|x - y|}, x, y \in A, x \neq y \right\}.$$

Def: A function $f: A \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$ is called locally Lipschitz if for each compact

$K \subset A$, $\exists C_K$ s.t.:

$$|f(x) - f(y)| \leq C_K |x - y|, \quad \forall x, y \in K.$$

Rademacher's Theorem.

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We next prove Rademacher's remarkable theorem that a Lipschitz function is differentiable λ -a.e.

This is surprising since the inequality

$$|f(x) - f(y)| \leq \text{Lip}(f) |x - y|$$

apparently says nothing about the possibility of locally approximating f by a linear map.

Thm: Let $f: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$ be a locally Lipschitz function. Then f is differentiable λ_n -a.e.

Proof:

We may assume $m=1$. Since differentiability is a local property, we may as well also suppose f is Lipschitz.

Fix $v \in \mathbb{R}$, $|v|=1$, and define:

$$D_v f(x) \equiv \lim_{t \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x+tv) - f(x)}{t}$$

provided this limit exists.

$D_v f(x)$ is the directional derivative of f at x in the direction v .

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Claim #1: $D_v f$ exists for λ -a.e. x .

For each $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$, define:

$$\bar{D}_v f(x) := \limsup_{t \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x+tv) - f(x)}{t}$$

\therefore

$$(A) \quad \bar{D}_v f(x) = \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \sup_{\substack{0 < |t| < \frac{1}{k} \\ t \text{ rational}}} \frac{f(x+tv) - f(x)}{t}$$

In order to understand the previous equality (A), we recall the following definition:

Def: $\liminf_{x \rightarrow x_0} f(x) := \lim_{r \rightarrow 0} m(r, x_0)$

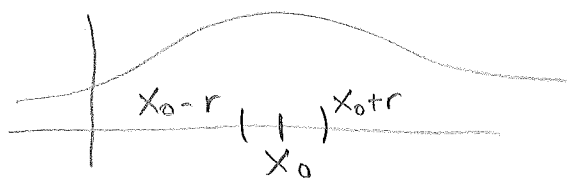
where $m(r, x_0) = \inf \{ f(x) : 0 < |x - x_0| < r \}$

and

$$\limsup_{x \rightarrow x_0} f(x) := \lim_{r \rightarrow 0} M(r, x_0),$$

where

$$M(r, x_0) = \sup \{ f(x) : 0 < |x - x_0| < r \}$$



Note: Since rationals are dense, the sup and inf can be taken over all $0 < |x - x_0| < r$, x rational

Claim: The function:

$$x \mapsto \bar{D}_r f(x)$$

is a Borel measurable map.

Since the rational numbers are countable, we can enumerate all rationals t with $0 < |t| < \frac{1}{K}$ as $t_1^k, t_2^k, t_3^k, \dots$

Define now:

$$G_i^k: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$$

$$G_i^k(x) = \frac{f(x + t_i^k v) - f(x)}{t_i^k}, \quad i=1, 2, \dots$$

The function G_i^k is Borel measurable since it is continuous (If a function F is continuous then $F^{-1}(B)$ is a Borel set for every Borel set B).

Since the sup of measurable functions is again measurable, it follows that:

$$\sup_i \{G_i^k(x)\} \text{ is measurable}$$

Note that:

$$F^k := \sup_i \{G_i^k(x)\} = \sup_{\substack{0 < |t| < \frac{1}{K} \\ t \text{ rational}}} \frac{f(x + tv) - f(x)}{t}$$

Thus, for each $k=1, 2, \dots$:

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F^k is Borel measurable.

Since the pointwise limit of measurable functions is again measurable it follows that:

$$\bar{D}_v f(x) = \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} F^k(x)$$

is Borel measurable.

We now define:

$$\underline{D}_v f(x) := \liminf_{t \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x+tv) - f(x)}{t}$$

Proceeding as before we show that

$x \mapsto \underline{D}_v f(x)$ is Borel measurable.

We have then:

$x \mapsto \underline{D}_v f(x)$ is Borel measurable
 $x \mapsto \bar{D}_v f(x)$ is Borel measurable.

Define:

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$$N_v \equiv \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : D_v f(x) \text{ does not exist}\}$$
$$= \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : \underline{D}_v f(x) < \bar{D}_v f(x)\}$$

Since both $\underline{D}_v f(x)$ and $\bar{D}_v f(x)$ are Borel measurable we conclude

N_v is Borel

Claim: For each line L parallel to v we have:

$$\mathcal{H}^1(N_v \cap L) = 0.$$

In order to prove this claim we define:

$$\gamma: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$$

$$\gamma(t) = f(x + tv), \quad x, v \in \mathbb{R}^n, |v| = 1$$

Then, γ is Lipschitz, thus absolutely continuous and thus differentiable λ_1 -a.e.

Let

$$z: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$$
$$z(t) = x + tv$$
$$z(0) = x$$

Let $A_v = \{t \in \mathbb{R} : \gamma(t) \text{ is not differentiable}\}$

$$\therefore \lambda_1(A_v) = 0.$$

Let $t_0 \notin A_v$.

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$\therefore \gamma'(t_0)$ exists and

$$\gamma'(t_0) = \lim_{t \rightarrow t_0} \frac{\gamma(t) - \gamma(t_0)}{t - t_0}$$

$$= \lim_{t \rightarrow t_0} \frac{f(x + t v) - f(x + t_0 v)}{t - t_0}$$

(with $h = t - t_0$)

$$= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x + t_0 v + (t - t_0)v) - f(x + t_0 v)}{h}$$

$$= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x + t_0 v + h v) - f(x + t_0 v)}{h}$$

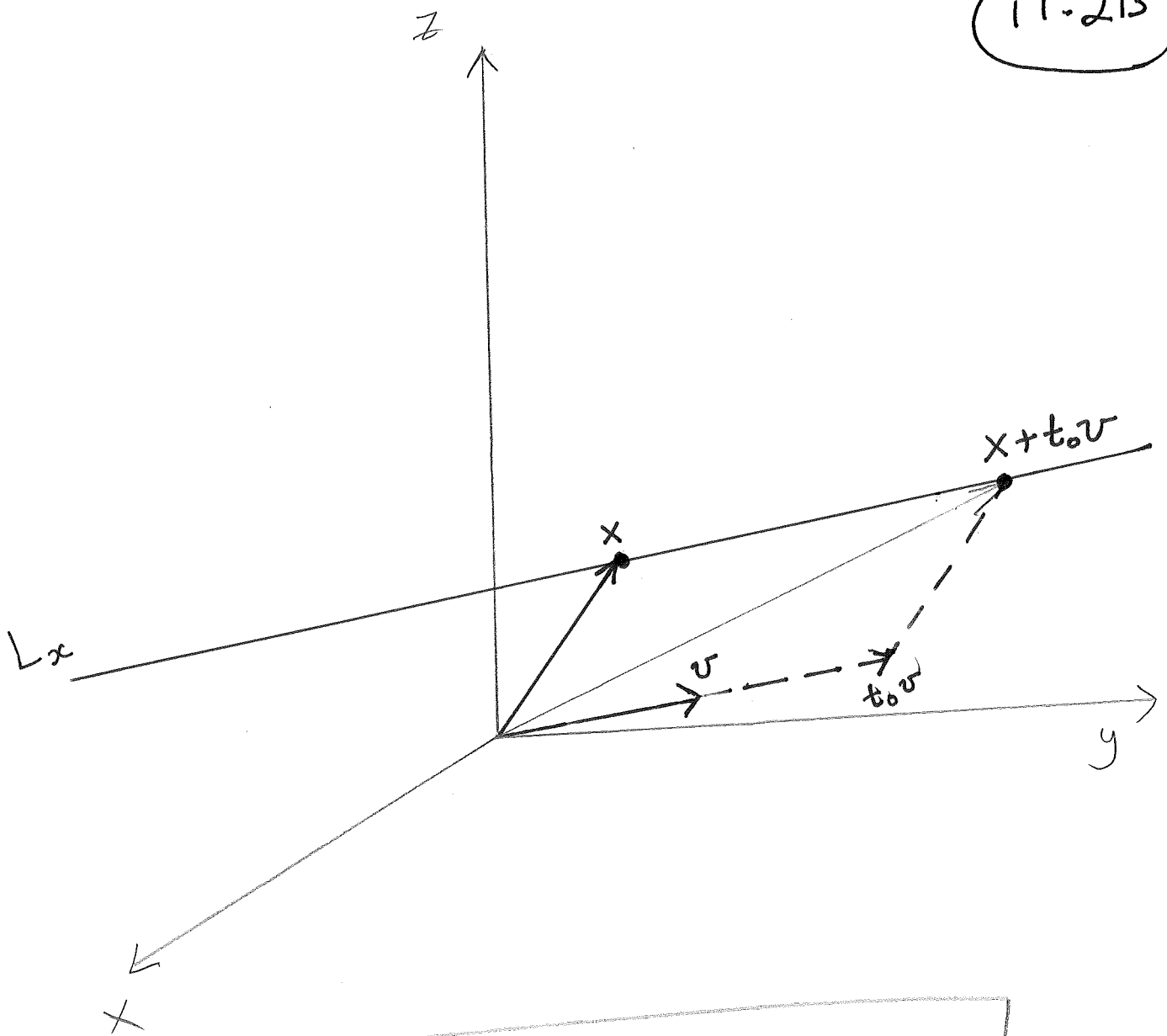
$$= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(z(t_0) + h v) - f(z(t_0))}{h}$$

$$= D_v f(z(t_0))$$

Hence the directional derivative of f exists, at the point $z(t_0) = x + t_0 v$, in the direction of v .

Note that $z(t_0)$ belongs to L_x , which is the line parallel to v that passes through x .

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We have
 $t_0 \notin A_v \iff z(t_0) = x + t_0 v \notin N_v$

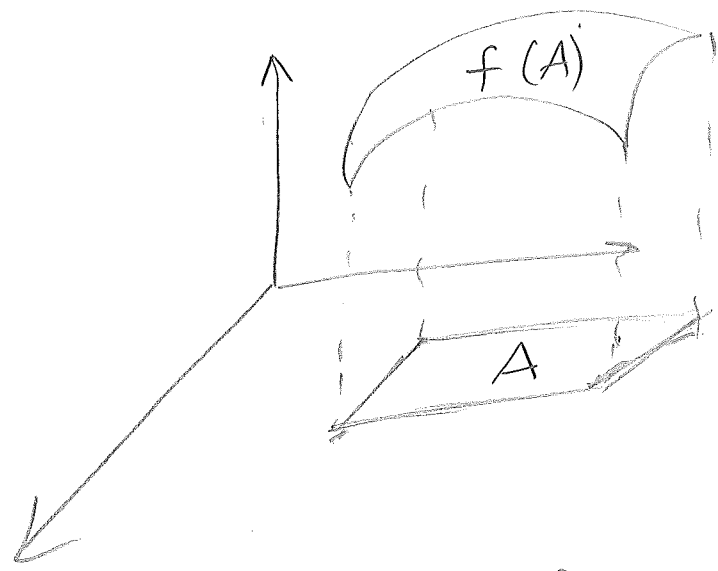
Let $R_v := z(A_v) \subset L_x$

We now claim that

$\mathcal{H}'(R_v) = 0 \quad (B)$

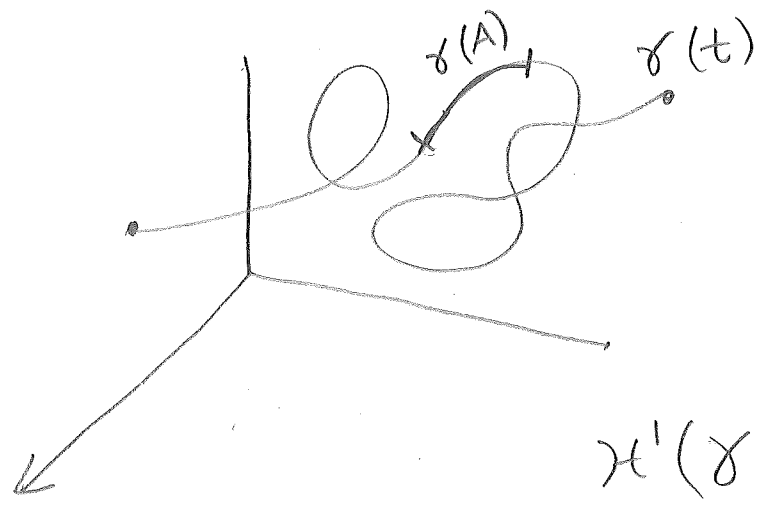
(B) follows from the following theorem:

Thm: Let $f: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$ be Lipschitz, $A \subset \mathbb{R}^n$, $0 \leq s < \infty$. Then $\mathcal{H}^s(f(A)) \leq (\text{Lip}(f))^s \mathcal{H}^s(A)$.



$f: \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$
Lipschitz

$\mathcal{H}^2(f(A)) \leq C \mathcal{H}^2(A)$



$\gamma: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$
Lipschitz

$\mathcal{H}^1(\gamma(A)) \leq C \mathcal{H}^1(A)$,
 $A \subset \mathbb{R}$.

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Since $z(t): \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$

$$z(t) = x + tv$$

is Lipschitz, the Theorem gives:

$$\mathcal{H}'(R_v) \leq C \mathcal{H}'(A_v)$$

Since $\mathcal{H}'(A_v) = \lambda, (A_v) = 0$, then

$$\mathcal{H}'(R_v) = 0$$

But

$D_v f(z)$ exists $\iff z \notin R_v$

$$\therefore \mathcal{H}'(N_v \cap L_x) = 0$$

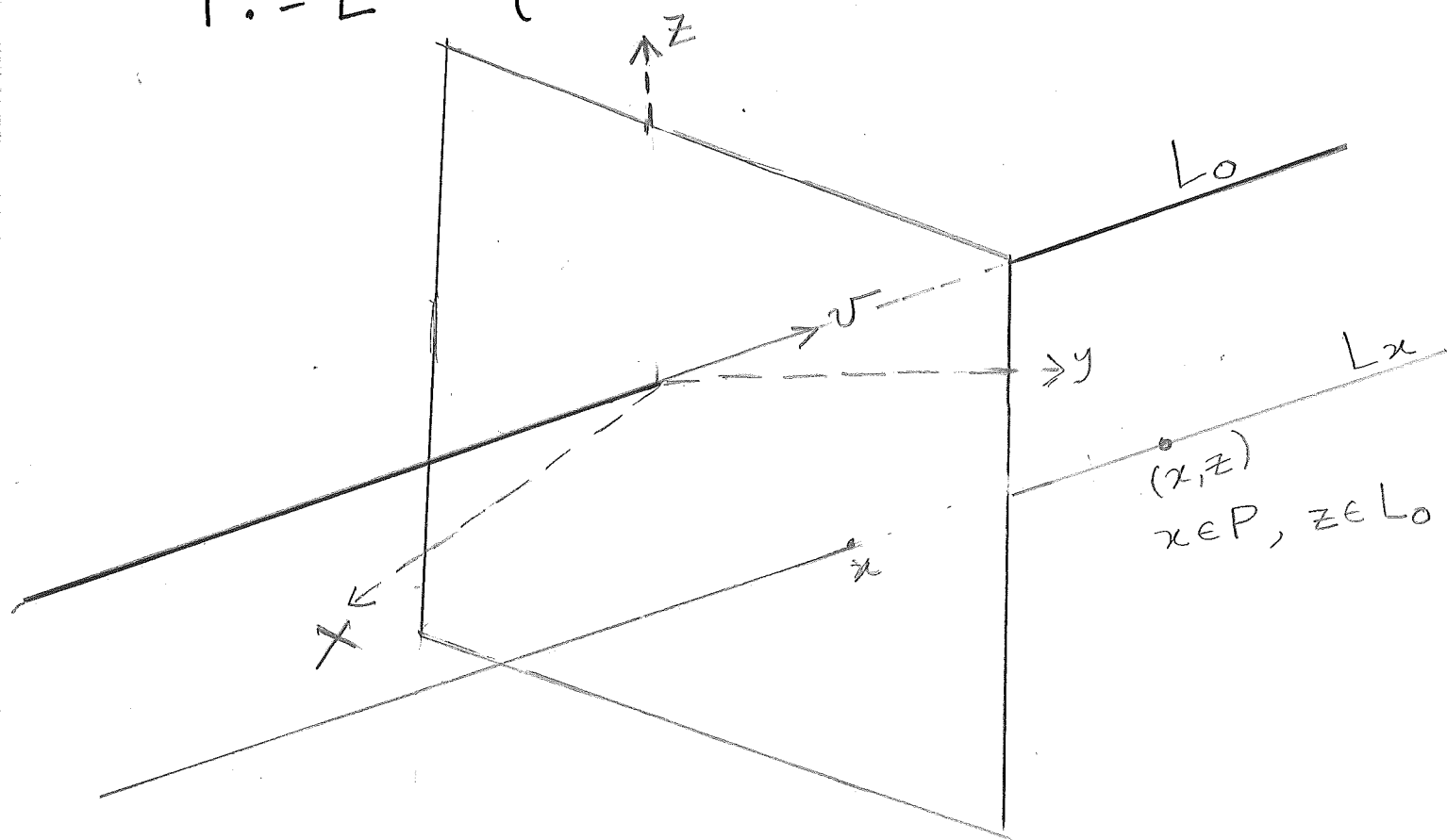
$$\therefore \mathcal{H}'(N_v \cap L) = 0$$

for every line parallel to v .

Fix now L_0 a line
parallel to v . Let:

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$$P := L^\perp = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : \langle x, z \rangle = 0 \ \forall z \in L\}$$



Since N_v is a Borel measurable set,
we can apply Fubini's Theorem to

$$(\mathbb{R}^n, \mathcal{H}^n) = (P, \mathcal{H}^{n-1}) \times (L_0, \mathcal{H}^1)$$

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \chi_{N_v} d\mathcal{H}^n = \int_P \left[\int_{L_0} \chi_{N_v}(x, z) d\mathcal{H}^1(z) \right] d\mathcal{H}^{n-1}(x)$$

$$= \int_P \mathcal{H}^1(N_v \cap L_x) d\mathcal{H}^{n-1}(x)$$

$$= 0$$

We conclude that:

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$$\begin{aligned}\sigma &= \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \chi_{N_\nu} dx^n = \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \chi_{N_\nu} d\lambda(x) \\ &= \lambda_n(N_\nu)\end{aligned}$$

$$\therefore \lambda_n(N_\nu) = 0$$

Since

$D_\nu f(z)$ exists $\Leftrightarrow z \notin N_\nu$,

and $\lambda_n(N_\nu) = 0$ we conclude that

Claim #1 is true; i.e.:

$D_\nu f$ exists for λ_n -a.e. z .

As a consequence of Claim #1, we see

$$\nabla f(x) = \left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial x_1}(x), \dots, \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_n}(x) \right)$$

exists for λ_n -a.e. x .