Functions of several variables
Lecture 5a – 2021-06-09

MAT A35 – Summer 2021 – UTSC

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What is a function?

- A function $f: V \to W$ takes an input in V and gives a (single) output in W.
- Easiest example is when $V = W = \mathbb{R}$, i.e. both are real numbers.
- Another classic example is when $V = W = \mathbb{C}$, both complex numbers.
- We also have less “mathematical” examples. Let V be the set of days, and let W be the set of emotions, and let $f: V \to W$ be your dominant emotion on that day.

Try it out: is this a function?

- f: [set of persons] → [set of colors], where given a person, f tells you what their favorite color is (assuming each person has exactly 1 favorite color)
- g: [set of persons] → [set of colors], where given a person, g tells you all the colors they like (can be multiple).
- h: [set of persons] → [set of all sets of colors], where given a person, h tells you all the colors they like (can be multiple).
- r: [photos on Reddit] → $\{0,1\}$, where r returns 1 if the photo has a cat, and 0 if the photo does not have a cat.
- $r($  $) = 1$, $r($  $) = 0$
- $f: \mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{R}$, where $f(x) = \pm\sqrt{x}$
- $g: \mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{R}$, where $g(x) = \sqrt{x}$
- $h: \mathbb{R}^2 \to \mathbb{R}^2$, where $h(v) = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 3 & 4 \end{bmatrix} v$

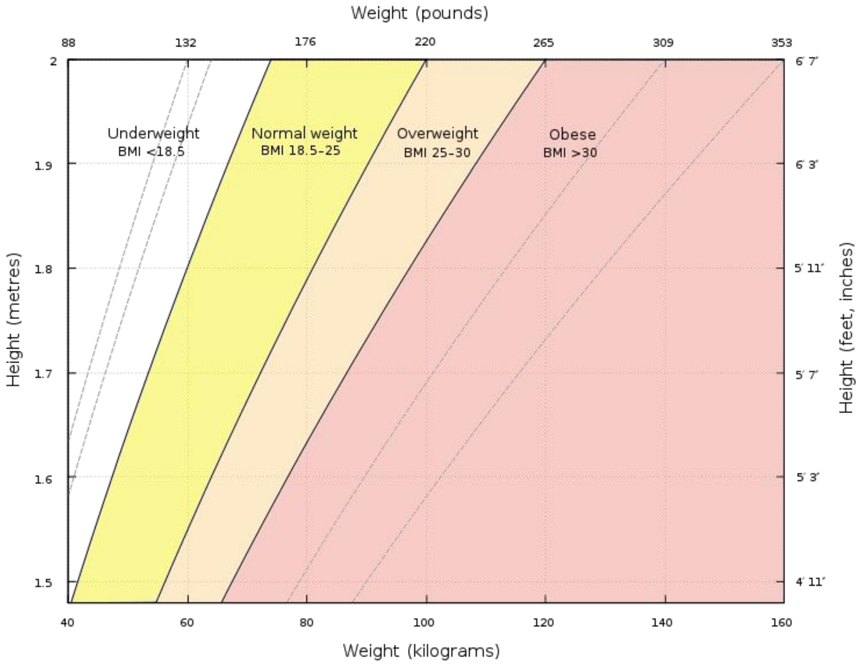
A: Yes
B: No
C: Maybe
D: ???
E: None of the above

Functions of two variables

- Given $f: \mathbb{R}^2 \to \mathbb{R}$, we know that given any 2D vector $\begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix}$, where $x, y \in \mathbb{R}$ are real numbers and the output $f\left(\begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix}\right)$ is another real number.
  - Often, we will write $f\left(\begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix}\right)$ as $f(x, y)$ for convenience, so f can be thought of as a function of two real variables.

Application – body mass index (BMI)

- The Body-Mass Index (BMI) was developed by Adolphe Quetelet to (approximately) quantify obesity.
- $B(m, h) = \frac{m}{h^2}$, where m is mass in kilograms and h is height in meters.



https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:BMI_chart.svg

When was BMI invented?
A: Before 1700 A.D.
B: 1700-1800 A.D.
C: 1800-1900 A.D.
D: 1900-2000 A.D.
E: After 2000 A.D.

Functions of several variables

- $f: \mathbb{R}^n \to \mathbb{R}$ is a function from n real numbers that outputs 1 real number.

Geometric interpretation of functions

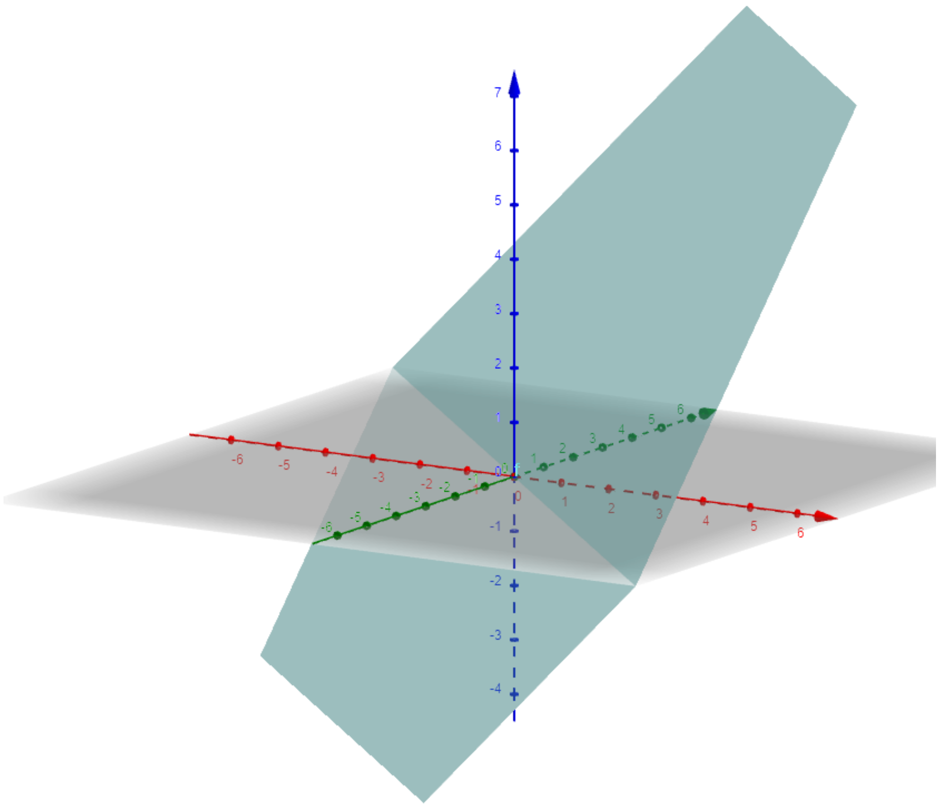
- $f: \mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{R}$ "maps" a real number to a real number.
- We can think of the function as pairs of numbers in $\mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R} = \mathbb{R}^2$, which is what we do when we draw the graph of a function.

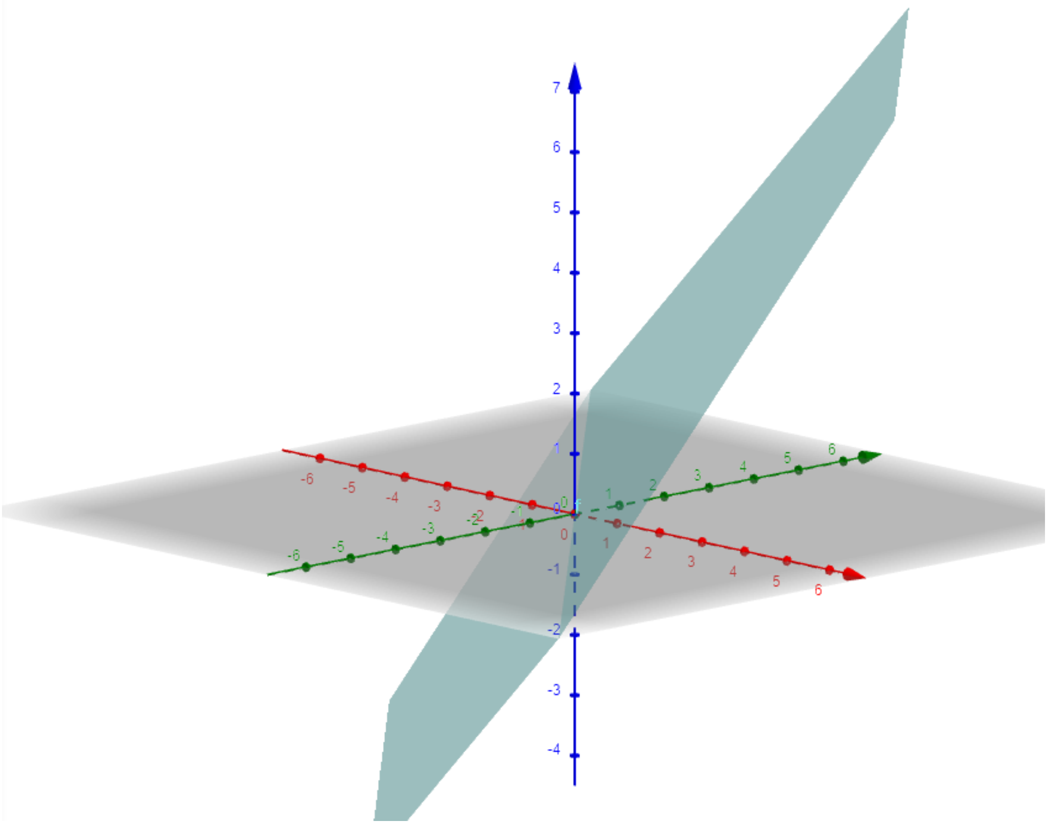
Geom. interpret. of 2-variable function

- $f: \mathbb{R}^2 \to \mathbb{R}$ "maps" a pair of numbers to a single number.
- We can think of the function as a list of ordered pairs $\big((x, y), z\big) \in \mathbb{R}^2 \times \mathbb{R}$, where the first part of the ordered pair is a pair $(x, y) \in \mathbb{R}^2$ itself. We can then "graph" the function by drawing a surface in $\mathbb{R}^3$.

3D plotting

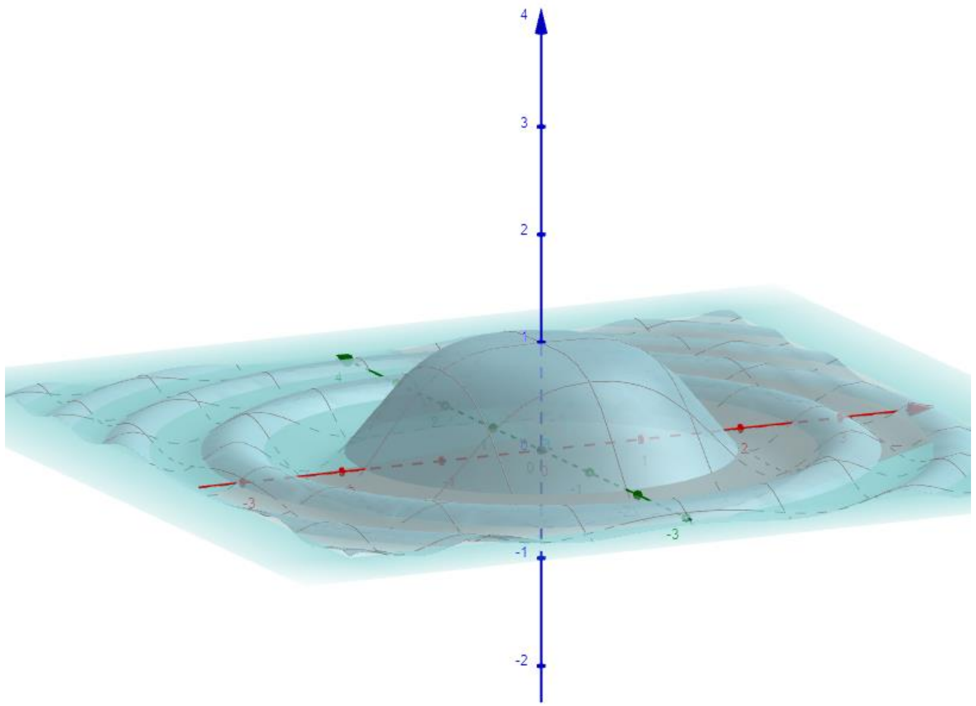
- https://www.geogebra.org/3d?lang=en
  - $z = 0$
  - $f(x, y) = x + y$





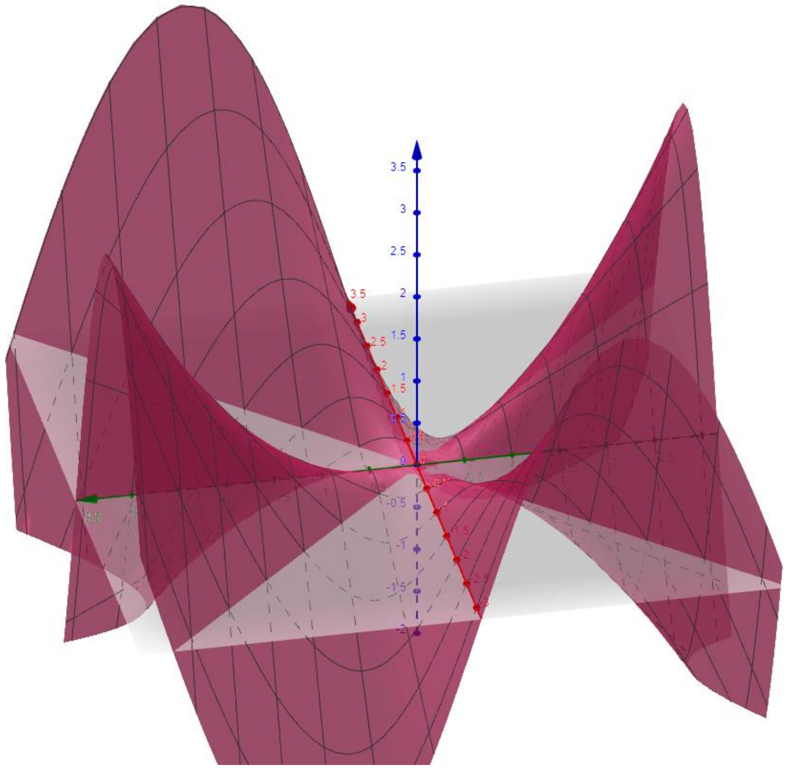
More 3D plotting examples

- https://www.geogebra.org/3d?lang=en
  - $z = 0$
  - $f(x, y) = \frac{\sin(x^2+y^2)}{x^2+y^2}$ `f(x,y)=sin(x^2+y^2)/(x^2+y^2)`



More 3D plotting examples

- https://www.geogebra.org/3d?lang=en
  - $z = 0$
  - $f(x, y) = \frac{xy(x^2 - y^2)}{x^2 + y^2}$ f(x,y)=x*y(x^2-y^2)/(x^2+y^2)



Try it out yourself:

- https://www.geogebra.org/3d?lang=en
- $f(x,y) = x^2 + y^2$
  `f(x,y)=x^2+y^2`
- $f(x,y) = 5$
  `f(x,y)=5`
- $f(x,y) = x^2 - y^2$
  `f(x,y)=x^2-y^2`
- $f(x,y) = x^2 + y^2 + \frac{1}{x^2+y^2}$
  `f(x,y)=x^2+y^2+1/(x^2+y^2)`
- $f(x,y) = \sin x + \cos y$
  `f(x,y)=sin(x)+cos(y)`