

GOVERNMENT ENGINEERING COLLEGE BHUJ  
BE01R00041

TWA-4: Applications of Partial Derivatives  
Term Work Assignment

Department of Mathematics

September 11, 2025

**Instructions:** Show all steps. Unless stated otherwise, justify answers using appropriate calculus tools (gradients, tangent planes, Lagrange multipliers, etc.).

**Problem 1** (Tangent plane). *Find the equation of the tangent plane to the surface  $z = x^2 + xy + 2y^2$  at the point  $(1, -1, f(1, -1))$ .*

**Problem 2** (Steepest ascent). *For  $f(x, y) = x^2 + 3y^2 - 4x + 12y$ , find the direction of maximal increase and the maximal directional derivative at  $(1, -2)$ .*

**Problem 3** (Critical points and classification). *Find and classify all critical points of  $f(x, y) = x^3 - 3xy^2$ .*

**Problem 4** (Laplace's equation). *Suppose  $u$  has continuous second partials and satisfies  $u_{xx} + u_{yy} = 0$ . If  $u_{xx}(1, 2) = 4$ , find  $u_{yy}(1, 2)$ .*

**Problem 5** (Lagrange on a line). *Use Lagrange multipliers to find the extrema of  $f(x, y) = x^2 + y^2$  subject to the constraint  $x + y = 1$ .*

**Problem 6** (Normal vector and normal line). *For the surface  $z = xy^2$ , find (i) a normal vector and (ii) parametric equations of the normal line at  $(2, 1, 2)$ .*

**Problem 7** (Differentials error estimate). *A rectangle has measured sides  $x = 10$ , cm,  $y = 5$ , cm with errors  $\Delta x = 0.1$ , cm,  $\Delta y = -0.05$ , cm. Using differentials, estimate the change in area  $A = xy$ .*

**Problem 8** (Tangent plane: level surface). *Find the tangent plane and the normal line to the surface  $x^2 + y^2 + z - 9 = 0$  at the point  $(1, 2, 4)$ .*

**Problem 9** (Normal to a sphere). *Find the equations of the normal line to the sphere  $x^2 + y^2 + z^2 = 6$  at  $(a, b, c)$  and show it passes through the origin.*

**Problem 10** (Distance to quadratic surface). *Find the minimum distance from the surface  $x^2 + y^2 - z^2 = 1$  to the origin using Lagrange multipliers.*

**Problem 11** (Box in first octant under a plane). *A rectangular box lies in the first octant with one corner at the origin and the opposite corner on the plane  $x + 2y + 3z = 3$ . Find the maximum possible volume.*

**Problem 12.** Extremize  $x^2 + y^2 + z^2 + xy + yz + zx$  subject to  $x + y + z = 1$  and  $x + 2y + 3z = 1$ .

**Problem 13** (Unconstrained). Find and classify the critical points of  $f(x, y) = x^3 + y^3 - 3x - 12y + 20$ .

**Problem 14** (Unconstrained). Determine local maxima, minima, and saddle points of  $f(x, y) = x^4 + y^4 - 2x^2 + 4y$ .

**Problem 15** (Constrained: line). Use Lagrange multipliers to find extrema of  $f(x, y) = x^2 + y^2$  subject to  $x + y = 1$ .

**Problem 16** (Constrained: quadratic). Find the maximum and minimum of  $f(x, y) = x^2 + y^2$  subject to  $x^2 - 2x + y^2 - 4y = 0$ .

**Problem 17** (Distance). Find the minimum distance from the surface  $x^2 + y^2 - z^2 = 1$  to the origin.

**Problem 18** (Inscribed box). Find the volume of the largest axis-aligned rectangular box that can be inscribed in the ellipsoid  $\frac{x^2}{a^2} + \frac{y^2}{b^2} + \frac{z^2}{c^2} = 1$ .

**Problem 19** (Three-part split). Divide 24 into three parts  $a, b, c$  so that the product  $a, b^2, c^3$  is maximized. Find the maximum value.

**Problem 20** (Quadratic form on disk). Find the maximum and minimum of  $f(x, y) = 4x^2 + 10y^2$  on the disk  $x^2 + y^2 \leq 4$ .