

1. (4pts.) The air pressure is dropping at a constant rate with respect to time everywhere. In the eastward direction, the air pressure decreases at a rate of 1 pascal per kilometer. A ship sailing eastward at 15 km/hr past an island records a pressure drop of 40 pascals in 2 hours. Estimate the time rate of change of the air pressure on the island.

Solution

Let $p(x, t)$ be the air pressure at location x and time t . We want the time rate of change of the air pressure on the island (at fixed x) which is $\frac{\partial p(x, t)}{\partial t}$. The pressure drop measured on the boat is the time change for varying x and varying t , that is, $\frac{dp(x, t)}{dt} = -40/2 = -20$. Further, the speed of the boat is $\frac{\partial x}{\partial t} = 15$, and the pressure drop in the eastward direction (at constant t) is $\frac{\partial p(x, t)}{\partial x}$. Therefore, by the chain rule,

$$\frac{dp(x, t)}{dt} = \frac{\partial p}{\partial x} \frac{\partial x}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial p}{\partial t} \quad \text{which leads to} \quad \boxed{\frac{\partial p}{\partial t} = -20 - (-1 \cdot 15) = -5 \text{ Pa/hr.}}$$

2. (6pts.) Let $f(x, y) = \sqrt{2x + y}$. Find the quadratic Taylor polynomial $Q(x, y)$ valid near $(0, 1)$.

$$Q(x, y) = f(0, 1) + f_x(0, 1)x + f_y(0, 1)(y - 1) + \frac{1}{2}f_{xx}(0, 1)x^2 + f_{xy}(0, 1)x(y - 1) + \frac{1}{2}f_{yy}(0, 1)(y - 1)^2$$

$$\begin{aligned} f(0, 1) &= 1 & f_{xx}(0, 1) &= \left. \frac{-2}{2(2x + y)^{3/2}} \right|_{(0,1)} = -1 \\ f_x(0, 1) &= \left. \frac{2}{2\sqrt{2x + y}} \right|_{(0,1)} = 1 & f_{xy}(0, 1) &= \left. \frac{-1}{2(2x + y)^{3/2}} \right|_{(0,1)} = \frac{-1}{2} \\ f_y(0, 1) &= \left. \frac{1}{2\sqrt{2x + y}} \right|_{(0,1)} = \frac{1}{2} & f_{yy}(0, 1) &= \left. \frac{-1}{4(2x + y)^{3/2}} \right|_{(0,1)} = \frac{-1}{4} \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, the quadratic Taylor polynomial is

$$\boxed{Q(x, y) = 1 + x + \frac{1}{2}(y - 1) - \frac{1}{2}x^2 - \frac{1}{2}x(y - 1) - \frac{1}{8}(y - 1)^2}$$