

# Mathematics for Economists: Lecture 4

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Spring 2022

## Content of Lecture 4

- ▶ In Lecture 3, Linear approximations of non-linear functions
- ▶ This Lecture:
  1. Linear approximation of vector valued functions
  2. Implicit function theorem
  3. Comparative statics of economic models

# Linear approximation of vector-valued functions

- ▶ What is a vector valued function?
  - ▶ A function whose values take the form of a column vector
  - ▶ Each component in the vector is a (possibly) multivariate function

$$\mathbf{f} = \begin{pmatrix} f_1(x_1, \dots, x_n) \\ f_2(x_1, \dots, x_n) \\ \vdots \\ f_n(x_1, \dots, x_n) \end{pmatrix}.$$

- ▶ What is an economic example: the vector of demands

$$\mathbf{x}(p_1, \dots, p_n, I) = \begin{pmatrix} x_1(p_1, \dots, p_n, I) \\ x_2(p_1, \dots, p_n, I) \\ \vdots \\ x_n(p_1, \dots, p_n, I) \end{pmatrix}.$$

- ▶ The domain of this function is  $\{(p_1, \dots, p_n, I) \mid p_i > 0 \text{ for all } i, \text{ and } I > 0\}$ .
- ▶ The values of this function are in  $\{(x_1, \dots, x_n) \mid x_i \geq 0 \text{ for all } i\}$ .

# Linear approximation of vector-valued functions

- ▶ How do we find a linear approximation?
  - ▶ Vector of linear approximations to component functions

$$D_{\mathbf{x}}\mathbf{f} = \begin{pmatrix} D_{\mathbf{x}}f_1(x_1, \dots, x_n) \\ D_{\mathbf{x}}f_2(x_1, \dots, x_n) \\ \vdots \\ D_{\mathbf{x}}f_n(x_1, \dots, x_n) \end{pmatrix}.$$

# Linear approximation of vector-valued functions

- ▶ Writing in full:

$$D_{\mathbf{x}}\mathbf{f} = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{\partial f_1(x_1, \dots, x_n)}{\partial x_1} & \frac{\partial f_1(x_1, \dots, x_n)}{\partial x_2} & \cdots & \frac{\partial f_1(x_1, \dots, x_n)}{\partial x_n} \\ \frac{\partial f_2(x_1, \dots, x_n)}{\partial x_1} & \frac{\partial f_2(x_1, \dots, x_n)}{\partial x_2} & \cdots & \frac{\partial f_2(x_1, \dots, x_n)}{\partial x_n} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \cdots & \vdots \\ \frac{\partial f_n(x_1, \dots, x_n)}{\partial x_1} & \frac{\partial f_n(x_1, \dots, x_n)}{\partial x_2} & \cdots & \frac{\partial f_n(x_1, \dots, x_n)}{\partial x_n} \end{pmatrix}.$$

- ▶ We get the linear approximation at  $\hat{\mathbf{x}}$  by evaluating the derivative matrix at  $\hat{\mathbf{x}}$ :

$$D_{\mathbf{x}}\mathbf{f}(\hat{\mathbf{x}}) = \begin{pmatrix} D_{\mathbf{x}}f_1(\hat{\mathbf{x}}) \\ D_{\mathbf{x}}f_2(\hat{\mathbf{x}}) \\ \vdots \\ D_{\mathbf{x}}f_n(\hat{\mathbf{x}}) \end{pmatrix}.$$

## Linear approximation of vector-valued functions: numerical example

- ▶ Consider the following vector-valued function:

$$\mathbf{f}(x, y, z) = \begin{pmatrix} f_1(x, y, z) \\ f_2(x, y, z) \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} x + y^2 + \frac{1}{z} \\ -x + \sqrt{y} + 2z \end{pmatrix}.$$

- ▶ To compute the derivative at  $(x = 1, y = 1, z = 1)$ , compute first the matrix of partial derivatives:

$$D_{x,y,z}\mathbf{f}(x, y, z) = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & +2y & -\frac{1}{z^2} \\ -1 & \frac{1}{2\sqrt{y}} & 2 \end{pmatrix}.$$

- ▶ Evaluating at  $(1, 1, 1)$  gives

$$D_{x,y,z}\mathbf{f}(1, 1, 1) = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & -1 \\ -1 & \frac{1}{2} & 2 \end{pmatrix}.$$

## Chain rule for multivariate functions:

- ▶ Recall the chain rule: If  $y = f(x)$  and  $z = g(y)$ , then for  $h(x) = g(f(x))$ :

$$h'(x) = g'(f(x))f'(x).$$

- ▶ Consider now a similar situation where  $\mathbf{f} : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^k$ , and  $\mathbf{g} : \mathbb{R}^k \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$  and  $\mathbf{h} : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$  given by  $\mathbf{h}(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{g}(\mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}))$ . Let  $\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x})$ .
- ▶ By the linear approximation at  $\hat{\mathbf{x}}$  to  $\mathbf{f}$ , we get:

$$\mathbf{f}(\hat{\mathbf{x}} + \Delta \mathbf{x}) \approx \mathbf{f}(\hat{\mathbf{x}}) + D_{\mathbf{x}}\mathbf{f}(\hat{\mathbf{x}})\Delta \mathbf{x}.$$

- ▶ Similarly

$$\mathbf{g}(\mathbf{f}(\hat{\mathbf{x}}) + D_{\mathbf{x}}\mathbf{f}(\hat{\mathbf{x}})\Delta \mathbf{x}) \approx \mathbf{g}(\mathbf{f}(\hat{\mathbf{x}})) + D_{\mathbf{y}}\mathbf{g}(\mathbf{f}(\hat{\mathbf{x}}))D_{\mathbf{x}}\mathbf{f}(\hat{\mathbf{x}})\Delta \mathbf{x}.$$

- ▶ Hence we have:

$$D_{\mathbf{x}}\mathbf{h}(\hat{\mathbf{x}}) = D_{\mathbf{y}}\mathbf{g}(\mathbf{f}(\hat{\mathbf{x}}))D_{\mathbf{x}}\mathbf{f}(\hat{\mathbf{x}}).$$

## Comparative statics: motivating examples

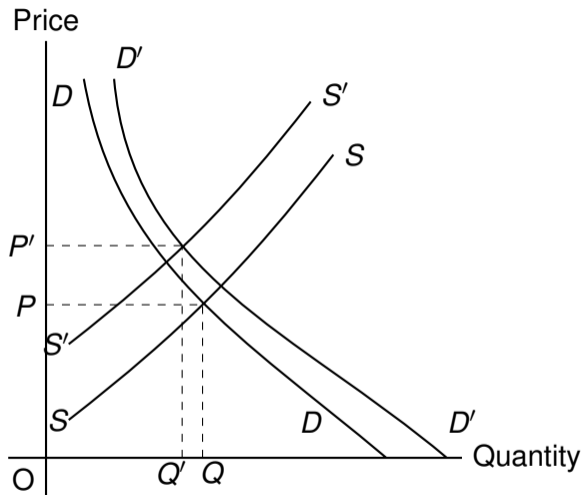


Figure: Exogenous variable shifting demand and supply



## Comparative statics: motivating examples

- ▶ In Principles 1, we argued that at optimal consumption,

$$MRS_{x_1, x_2}(\hat{\mathbf{x}}) = \frac{p_1}{p_2},$$

where  $p_i$  is the price of good  $i$ .

- ▶ We have also the budget constraint:

$$p_1 x_1 + p_2 x_2 = w,$$

where  $w$  is the total budget.

$$\begin{aligned} p_2 \frac{\partial u(x_1, x_2)}{\partial x_1} - p_1 \frac{\partial u(x_1, x_2)}{\partial x_2} &= 0, \\ p_1 x_1 + p_2 x_2 - w &= 0. \end{aligned}$$

- ▶ Again for many  $u$ , no explicit solution is possible.
- ▶ Still, how do the optimal consumptions change when some of the  $p_1, p_2, w$  change?

## Linear implicit function theorem

- ▶ Because of linearity, this is not really needed since the system can be solved explicitly
- ▶ Consider the system of equations:

$$\begin{aligned} a_{11}y_1 + \dots + a_{1n}y_n + b_{11}x_1 + \dots + b_{1m}x_m &= 0, \\ &\vdots \\ a_{n1}y_1 + \dots + a_{nn}y_n + b_{n1}x_1 + \dots + b_{nm}x_m &= 0. \end{aligned}$$

- ▶ In matrix form:

$$\mathbf{f}(\mathbf{y}; \mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{y} + \mathbf{B}\mathbf{x} = 0,$$

where  $\mathbf{A}$  is an  $n \times n$  matrix and  $\mathbf{B}$  is an  $n \times m$  matrix,  $\mathbf{y} = (y_1, \dots, y_n)$ ,  $\mathbf{x} = (x_1, \dots, x_m)$ .

## Linear implicit function theorem

- ▶ Assume that the system is solved at  $(\hat{\mathbf{y}}, \hat{\mathbf{x}})$ :

$$\mathbf{f}(\hat{\mathbf{y}}; \hat{\mathbf{x}}) = 0 \text{ or } \mathbf{A}\hat{\mathbf{y}} + \mathbf{B}\hat{\mathbf{x}} = 0,$$

and consider the effect of a small change

$(d\mathbf{y}; d\mathbf{x}) = (dy_1, \dots, dy_n; dx_1, \dots, dx_m)$  on the value of  $f$  :

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{f}(\hat{\mathbf{y}} + d\mathbf{y}, \hat{\mathbf{x}} + d\mathbf{x}) - \mathbf{f}(\hat{\mathbf{y}}, \hat{\mathbf{x}}) &= \mathbf{A}d\mathbf{y} + \mathbf{B}d\mathbf{x} \\ &= D_{\mathbf{y}}\mathbf{f}(\hat{\mathbf{y}}; \hat{\mathbf{x}}) d\mathbf{y} + D_{\mathbf{x}}\mathbf{f}(\hat{\mathbf{y}}; \hat{\mathbf{x}}) d\mathbf{x}, \end{aligned}$$

where  $D_{\mathbf{y}}\mathbf{f}(\hat{\mathbf{y}}, \hat{\mathbf{x}})$  consists of the partial derivatives of  $\mathbf{f}$  w.r.t. the endogenous variables  $\mathbf{y}$  and  $D_{\mathbf{x}}\mathbf{f}(\hat{\mathbf{y}}, \hat{\mathbf{x}})$  w.r.t. the exogenous variables  $\mathbf{x}$ .

# Linear implicit function theorem

- ▶ For

$$\mathbf{f}(\mathbf{y}; \mathbf{x}) = 0.$$

to hold at  $(\mathbf{y}, \mathbf{x}) = (\hat{\mathbf{y}} + d\mathbf{y}, \hat{\mathbf{x}} + d\mathbf{x})$ , the change must be zero:

$$D_{\mathbf{y}}\mathbf{f}(\hat{\mathbf{y}}; \hat{\mathbf{x}})d\mathbf{y} + D_{\mathbf{x}}\mathbf{f}(\hat{\mathbf{y}}; \hat{\mathbf{x}})d\mathbf{x} = 0.$$

- ▶ In other words,

$$d\mathbf{y} = -D_{\mathbf{y}}\mathbf{f}(\hat{\mathbf{y}}; \hat{\mathbf{x}})^{-1}D_{\mathbf{x}}\mathbf{f}(\hat{\mathbf{y}}; \hat{\mathbf{x}})d\mathbf{x} = -\mathbf{A}^{-1}\mathbf{B}d\mathbf{x}.$$

- ▶ This equation has a solution for all  $d\mathbf{x}$  if and only if  $\mathbf{A}^{-1}$  exists, i.e. if  $\mathbf{A} = D_{\mathbf{y}}\mathbf{f}(\hat{\mathbf{y}}; \hat{\mathbf{x}})$  has full rank.
- ▶ The generalization of this result for the non-linear case in a neighborhood of  $(\hat{\mathbf{y}}; \hat{\mathbf{x}})$  is called the *implicit function theorem*.

## Linear implicit function theorem: Example

Consider the linear system around  $(\hat{y}_1, \hat{y}_2, \hat{x}) = (2, 5, -3)$ :

$$2y_1 + y_2 + 3x = 0,$$

$$y_1 - y_2 - x = 0.$$

Compute the value of the function at  $(\hat{y}_1 + dy_1, \hat{y}_2 + dy_2, \hat{x} + dx)$ :

$$\begin{pmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ 1 & -1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 2 + dy_1 \\ 5 + dy_2 \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} (3 + dx) = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix},$$

or

$$\begin{pmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ 1 & -1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} dy_1 \\ dy_2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -3 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} dx.$$

By Cramer's rule:

$$dy_1 = \frac{\det \begin{pmatrix} -3 & 1 \\ 1 & -1 \end{pmatrix} dx}{\det \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ 1 & -1 \end{pmatrix}} = \frac{-2}{3} dx, \quad dy_2 = \frac{\det \begin{pmatrix} 2 & -3 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} dx}{\det \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ 1 & -1 \end{pmatrix}} = \frac{-5}{3} dx.$$

Implicit function for  $y$ :  $f(x, y) = x^2 + y^2 = 1$

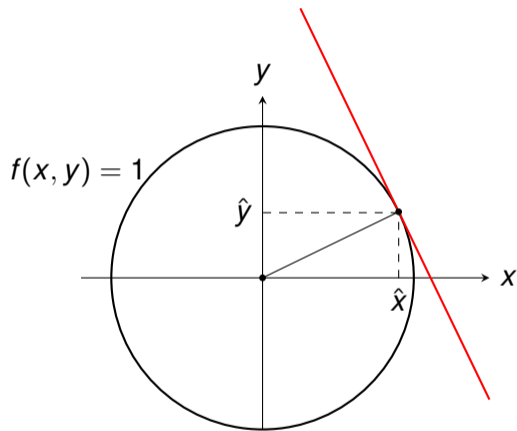


Figure: What's the slope of the tangent at  $(\hat{x}, \hat{y})$ ?

## Implicit function theorem for $n = m = 1$

We start this section with an example of a univariate function.

$$f(y, x) = xy + \ln(xy + x) = 0. \quad (1)$$

- ▶ Note that  $(\hat{y}, \hat{x}) = (0, 1)$  satisfies equation 2.
- ▶ What is the impact of a small change  $dx$  in  $\hat{x}$  on the value of  $y$  satisfying the equation.
- ▶ We are interested in all points  $(y, x)$  near  $(0, 1)$  satisfying equation 2.
- ▶ Let's assume that such a  $y(x)$  exists for all  $x$  near  $\hat{x}$ .
- ▶ Assume also that  $y(x)$  has a derivative at  $\hat{x}$ . We can then write:

$$g(x) = f(y(x), x) = xy(x) + \ln(xy(x) + x) = 0$$

for all  $x$  near  $\hat{x} = 1$ .

- ▶ We see that the original equation has been reduced to an equation in a single variable  $x$ .
- ▶ Since the composite function is constant in  $x$  ( $=0$ ), the composite function  $g$  must have a zero derivative in  $x$  near  $\hat{x} = 1$ .
- ▶ By the chain rule:

$$\begin{aligned}g'(x) &= \frac{\partial f(y; x)}{\partial y} y'(x) + \frac{\partial f(y; x)}{\partial x} \\ &= \left(x + \frac{x}{xy + x}\right) y'(x) + y + \frac{y + 1}{xy + x}.\end{aligned}$$

- ▶ By requiring  $g'(1) = 0$ , we get:

$$y'(1) = -\frac{\frac{\partial f(0,1)}{\partial x}}{\frac{\partial f(0,1)}{\partial y}} = -\frac{1}{2}.$$

- ▶ Notice that this is a valid computation only if  $\frac{\partial f(0,1)}{\partial y} \neq 0$ .



# One-dimensional implicit function theorem

## Theorem

Let  $f(y, x)$  be a continuously differentiable in a neighborhood of  $(\hat{y}, \hat{x})$  and  $f(\hat{y}, \hat{x}) = 0$ . If  $\frac{\partial f(\hat{y}, \hat{x})}{\partial y} \neq 0$ , then there exists a continuously differentiable function  $y(x)$  in a neighborhood  $B_{\hat{x}}$  of  $\hat{x}$  such that:

1.  $f(y(x), x) = 0$  for all  $x \in B_{\hat{x}}$ ,
2.  $y(\hat{x}) = \hat{y}$ ,
3. The derivative of  $y$  at  $\hat{x}$  satisfies:

$$y'(\hat{x}) = -\frac{\frac{\partial f(\hat{y}, \hat{x})}{\partial x}}{\frac{\partial f(\hat{y}, \hat{x})}{\partial y}}$$

The textbook has a proof of this theorem.

# The Implicit function theorem

- ▶ Consider now a continuously differentiable non-linear function

$$\mathbf{f} : \mathbb{R}^{n+m} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$$

in a neighborhood of the point  $(\hat{\mathbf{y}}, \hat{\mathbf{x}}) \in \mathbb{R}^{n+m}$ , where

$$\mathbf{f}(\hat{\mathbf{y}}, \hat{\mathbf{x}}) = 0.$$

- ▶ Use the derivative of  $D\mathbf{f}(\hat{\mathbf{x}}, \hat{\mathbf{x}})$  to approximate  $\mathbf{f}$  at  $(\hat{\mathbf{y}} + d\mathbf{y}, \hat{\mathbf{x}} + d\mathbf{x})$ :

$$\mathbf{f}(\hat{\mathbf{y}} + d\mathbf{y}, \hat{\mathbf{x}} + d\mathbf{x}) - \mathbf{f}(\hat{\mathbf{y}}, \hat{\mathbf{x}}) = D\mathbf{f}(\hat{\mathbf{y}}, \hat{\mathbf{x}})(d\mathbf{x}, d\mathbf{y}) = D_{\mathbf{y}}\mathbf{f}(\hat{\mathbf{y}}; \hat{\mathbf{x}}) d\mathbf{y} + D_{\mathbf{x}}\mathbf{f}(\hat{\mathbf{y}}, \hat{\mathbf{x}}) d\mathbf{x},$$

- ▶ Suppose we have a solution to the system at  $(\hat{\mathbf{y}}, \hat{\mathbf{x}})$ :

$$D_{\mathbf{y}}\mathbf{f}(\hat{\mathbf{y}}, \hat{\mathbf{x}}) d\mathbf{y} + D_{\mathbf{x}}\mathbf{f}(\hat{\mathbf{y}}, \hat{\mathbf{x}}) d\mathbf{x} = 0.$$

- ▶ Since  $D_{\mathbf{y}}\mathbf{f}(\hat{\mathbf{y}}; \hat{\mathbf{x}})$  ja  $D_{\mathbf{x}}\mathbf{f}(\hat{\mathbf{y}}; \hat{\mathbf{x}})$  are matrices, we continue here exactly as in the linear case.
- ▶ With differential calculus, we have reduced the really complicated non-linear problem to the much simpler linear case locally, i.e. in a neighborhood of the solution point  $(\hat{\mathbf{y}}, \hat{\mathbf{x}})$ .

# The Implicit function theorem: An example

- ▶ Consider the following system:

$$\begin{aligned}f_1(y_1, y_2; x_1, x_2) &= y_1 y_2^2 - x_1 x_2 + x_2 + 1 = 0, \\f_2(y_1, y_2; x_1, x_2) &= y_1 + \frac{x_1}{y_2} + x_2 - 5 = 0.\end{aligned}$$

- ▶ Analyze the system of equations in a neighborhood of the point

$$(\hat{y}_1, \hat{y}_2; \hat{x}_1, \hat{x}_2) = (1, 1, 2, 2).$$

## The Implicit function theorem: An example

- ▶ Check first that the equation is satisfied at  $(1, 1, 2, 2)$  and form the appropriate matrices of partial derivatives:

$$D_{\mathbf{y}}\mathbf{f}(\hat{\mathbf{y}}; \hat{\mathbf{x}}) = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{\partial f_1(\hat{\mathbf{y}}; \hat{\mathbf{x}})}{\partial y_1} & \frac{\partial f_1(\hat{\mathbf{y}}; \hat{\mathbf{x}})}{\partial y_2} \\ \frac{\partial f_2(\hat{\mathbf{y}}; \hat{\mathbf{x}})}{\partial y_1} & \frac{\partial f_2(\hat{\mathbf{y}}; \hat{\mathbf{x}})}{\partial y_2} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \hat{y}_2^2 & 2\hat{y}_1\hat{y}_2 \\ 1 & \frac{-\hat{x}_1}{\hat{y}_2^2} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 1 & -2 \end{pmatrix},$$

$$D_{\mathbf{x}}\mathbf{f}(\hat{\mathbf{y}}; \hat{\mathbf{x}}) = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{\partial f_1(\hat{\mathbf{y}}; \hat{\mathbf{x}})}{\partial x_1} & \frac{\partial f_1(\hat{\mathbf{y}}; \hat{\mathbf{x}})}{\partial x_2} \\ \frac{\partial f_2(\hat{\mathbf{y}}; \hat{\mathbf{x}})}{\partial x_1} & \frac{\partial f_2(\hat{\mathbf{y}}; \hat{\mathbf{x}})}{\partial x_2} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -\hat{x}_2 & 1 - \hat{x}_1 \\ \frac{1}{\hat{y}_2} & 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -2 & -1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

## The Implicit function theorem: An example

- ▶ We see that  $\det (D_{\mathbf{y}}\mathbf{f}(\hat{\mathbf{y}}; \hat{\mathbf{x}})) \neq 0$ , and therefore the matrix  $D_{\mathbf{y}}\mathbf{f}(\hat{\mathbf{y}}, \hat{\mathbf{x}})$  has full rank and an inverse matrix  $[D_{\mathbf{y}}\mathbf{f}(\hat{\mathbf{y}}, \hat{\mathbf{x}})]^{-1}$
- ▶ Exercise: Show that

$$[D_{\mathbf{y}}\mathbf{f}(\hat{\mathbf{y}}, \hat{\mathbf{x}})]^{-1} = \frac{-1}{4} \begin{pmatrix} -2 & -2 \\ -1 & 1 \end{pmatrix},$$

and therefore:

$$d\mathbf{y} = \frac{1}{4} \begin{pmatrix} -2 & -2 \\ -1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} -2 & -1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} d\mathbf{x}.$$

# Implicit function theorem

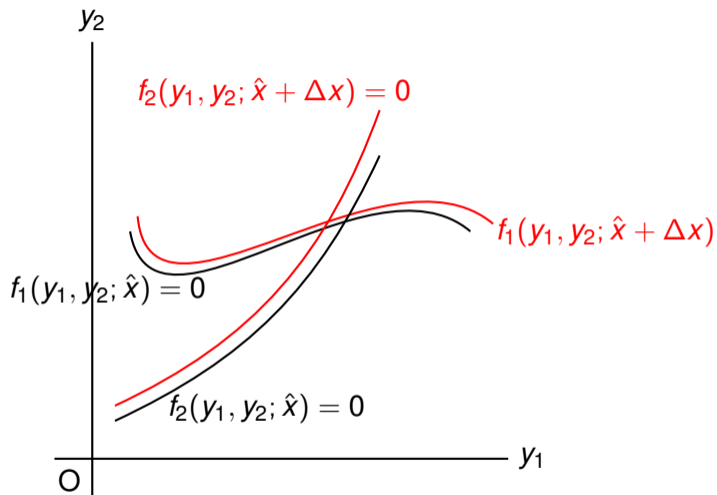


Figure: Implicit function theorem: exogenous changes in  $x$ . Red curves after change.

# Failure of implicit function theorem

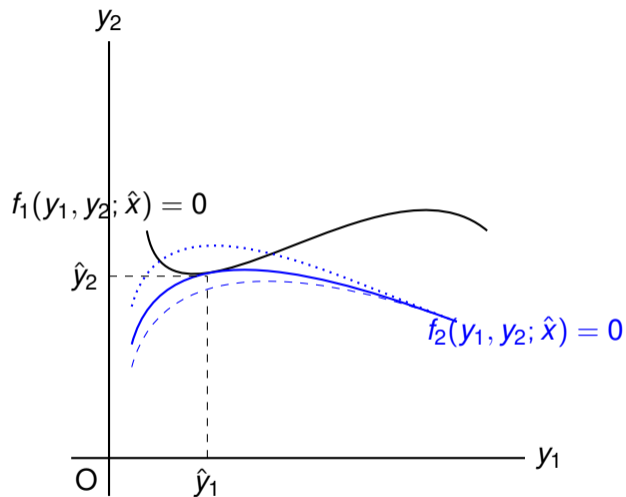


Figure:  $D_y \mathbf{f}(\hat{y}_1, \hat{y}_2; \hat{x})$  does not have full rank. Solid curves drawn for  $\hat{x}$ .

# The Implicit function theorem: Main theorem

We are now ready for the main theorem in this section.

## Theorem

Let  $\mathbf{f} : \mathbb{R}^{n+m} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$  be continuously differentiable in a neighborhood  $B^\varepsilon(\hat{\mathbf{y}}, \hat{\mathbf{x}})$ , of  $(\hat{\mathbf{y}}, \hat{\mathbf{x}})$  and

$$\mathbf{f}(\hat{\mathbf{y}}, \hat{\mathbf{x}}) = 0.$$

If  $\det(D_{\mathbf{y}}\mathbf{f}(\hat{\mathbf{y}}; \hat{\mathbf{x}})) \neq 0$ , then there exists a continuously differentiable function  $\mathbf{y}(\mathbf{x})$  defined in a neighborhood  $B^\delta(\hat{\mathbf{x}})$  of  $\hat{\mathbf{x}}$  such that :

1.  $\mathbf{f}(\mathbf{y}(\mathbf{x}), \mathbf{x}) = 0$  for all  $\mathbf{x} \in B^\delta(\hat{\mathbf{x}})$ ,
2.  $\mathbf{y}(\hat{\mathbf{x}}) = \hat{\mathbf{y}}$ ,
3. The derivative of the function  $\mathbf{y}$  satisfies:

$$D\mathbf{y}(\hat{\mathbf{x}}) = - (D_{\mathbf{y}}\mathbf{f}(\hat{\mathbf{y}}; \hat{\mathbf{x}}))^{-1} D_{\mathbf{x}}\mathbf{f}(\hat{\mathbf{y}}; \hat{\mathbf{x}})$$



## The Implicit function theorem: Main theorem

- ▶ Proving this theorem is beyond the scope of this course.
- ▶ Assuming points 1. and 2. above, point 3. is an application of the chain rule in the vector-valued multivariate case.
- ▶ It is nothing more than a local version of the linear implicit function theorem.
- ▶ Parts 1. and 2. require some more sophisticated mathematics. Proving the existence of the implicit function  $y(x)$  near  $\hat{x}$  requires the use of a fixed point theorem (similar to the case of showing the existence of local solutions to differential equations).
- ▶ We will see more examples once we have more tools from optimization available.

## Next lecture:

- ▶ Higher order Taylor approximations
- ▶ Quadratic forms
- ▶ Minima and maxima of non-linear functions
- ▶ Applications: Least squares estimators, Cost minimization