

$$= \nabla f \cdot \frac{d\vec{r}}{dt}$$

Likewise,

$$\frac{d}{dt} \left[f(x_1(t), \dots, x_n(t)) \right] = \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_1} \frac{dx_1}{dt} + \dots + \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_n} \frac{dx_n}{dt} = \nabla f \cdot \frac{d\vec{r}}{dt}$$

Remark: If $t \mapsto \vec{r}(t)$ parametrizes a curve on $F(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) = 0$ then $F(\vec{r}(t)) = 0$. Then

$$\frac{d}{dt} \left[F(\vec{r}(t)) \right] = \underbrace{\nabla F(\vec{r}(t))}_{\perp \text{ to the curve}} \cdot \underbrace{\frac{d\vec{r}}{dt}}_{\text{defines the direction of the path}} = 0$$

Example:

$$\frac{d}{dt} \left[f(x(t), y(t), z(t), w(t)) \right] = \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \frac{dx}{dt} + \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} \frac{dy}{dt} + \frac{\partial f}{\partial z} \frac{dz}{dt} + \frac{\partial f}{\partial w} \frac{dw}{dt}$$

Def/ PDE - Partial Diff. Eqⁿ (more than one indep. variable)
ODE = Ordinary Diff. Eqⁿ (one indep. variable)