

# Intro to Automatic Differentiation

Thomas Kaminski (<http://FastOpt.com>)

Thanks to:

Simon Blessing (FastOpt), Ralf Giering (FastOpt), Nadine Gobron (JRC),  
Wolfgang Knorr (QUEST), Thomas Lavergne (Met.No), Bernard Pinty (JRC),  
Peter Rayner (LSCE), Marko Scholze (QUEST), Michael Voßbeck (FastOpt)

4th Earth Observation Summer School, Frascati, August 2008

# Recap

- Derivative information useful for solving inverse problems
  - 1<sup>st</sup> derivative of cost function for minimisation with gradient algorithm (mean value of posterior PDF)
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> derivative of cost function for approximation of uncertainties (covariance of posterior PDF)
- This lecture: Construction of efficient derivative code

# Outline

- Chain Rule
- Basic Concepts: Active and Required Variables
- Tangent linear and adjoint code
- Verification of derivative code

# Intro AD

Example:

$$\begin{aligned} F &: \mathbb{R}^5 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^1 \\ &: \mathbf{x} \rightarrow y \end{aligned}$$

$$F(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{f}_4 \circ \mathbf{f}_3 \circ \mathbf{f}_2 \circ \mathbf{f}_1(\mathbf{x}), \quad \text{let each } \mathbf{f}_i \text{ be differentiable}$$

**Apply the chain rule for Differentiation!**

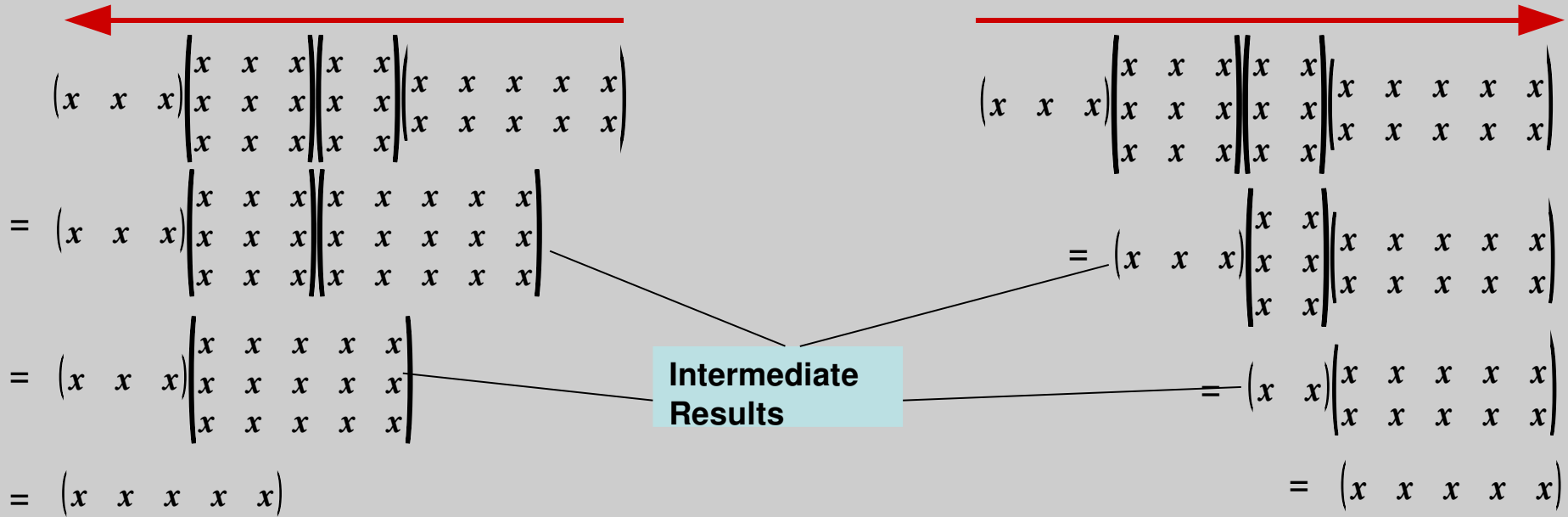
$$DF = D\mathbf{f}_4 \cdot D\mathbf{f}_3 \cdot D\mathbf{f}_2 \cdot D\mathbf{f}_1$$

# AD: Forward vs. Reverse

Forward mode

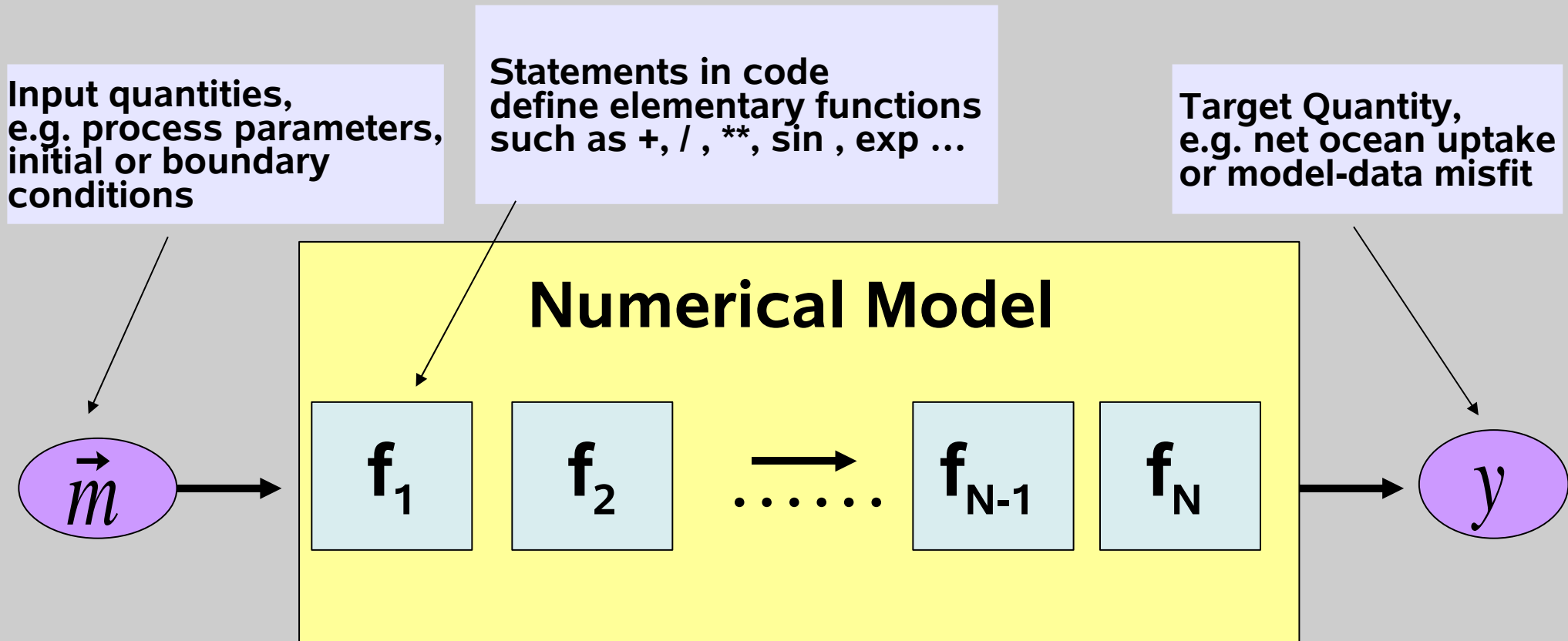
Example function:  
N=5 inputs and M=1 output

Reverse mode



- Forward and reverse mode yield the same result.
- Reverse mode: fewer operations (time) and less space for intermediates (memory)
- Cost for forward mode grows with N
- Cost for reverse mode grows with M

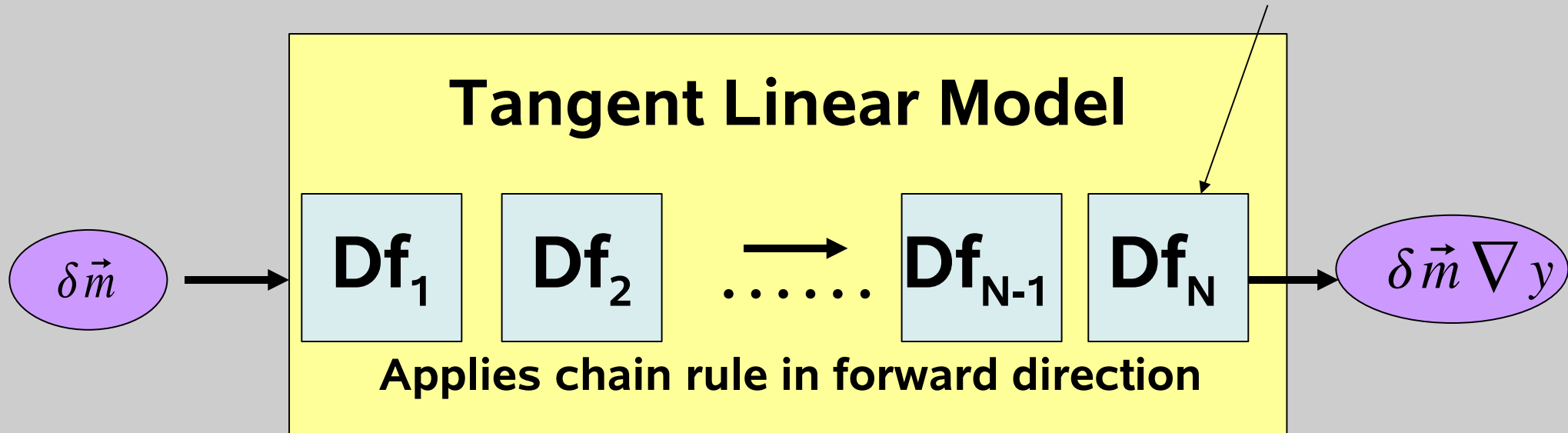
# Sensitivities via AD



# Sensitivities via AD

Cost of gradient evaluation proportional to # of parameters

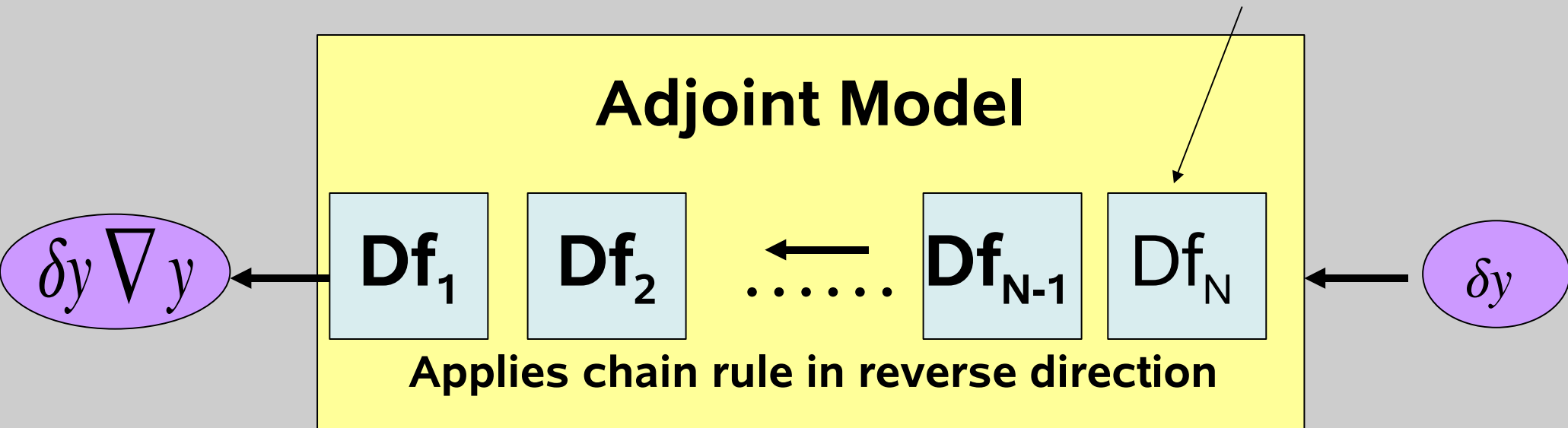
Derivatives of elementary functions are simple, they define local Jacobians



# Sensitivities via AD

Cost of gradient evaluation independent of # of inputs

Derivatives of elementary functions are simple, they define local Jacobians





## Reverse and Adjoint

$$DF = \overrightarrow{Df_4 \cdot Df_3 \cdot Df_2 \cdot Df_1}$$

$$DF^T = \overleftarrow{Df_1^T \cdot Df_2^T \cdot Df_3^T \cdot Df_4^T}$$

## Propagation of Derivatives

Function:

$$x = z_0 \xrightarrow{f_1} z_1 \xrightarrow{f_2} z_2 \xrightarrow{f_3} z_3 \xrightarrow{f_4} z_4 = y$$

Forward:

$$x' = z'_0 \xrightarrow{Df_1} z'_1 \xrightarrow{Df_2} z'_2 \xrightarrow{Df_3} z'_3 \xrightarrow{Df_4} z'_4 = y'$$

$z'_0 \dots z'_4$  are called **tangent linear variables**

Reverse:

$$\overleftarrow{x} = z_0 \xleftarrow{Df_1^T} z_1 \xleftarrow{Df_2^T} z_2 \xleftarrow{Df_3^T} z_3 \xleftarrow{Df_4^T} z_4 = \overleftarrow{y}$$

$z_0 \dots z_4$  are called **adjoint variables**

# Forward Mode

## Interpretation of tangent linear variables

Function:

$$\mathbf{x} = z_0 \xrightarrow{f_1} z_1 \xrightarrow{f_2} z_2 \xrightarrow{f_3} z_3 \xrightarrow{f_4} z_4 = y$$

Forward:

$$\mathbf{x}' = z'_0 \xrightarrow{Df_1} z'_1 \xrightarrow{Df_2} z'_2 \xrightarrow{Df_3} z'_3 \xrightarrow{Df_4} z'_4 = y'$$

$\mathbf{x}' = \text{Id}$ :  $z'_2 = Df_2 \cdot Df_1 \cdot \mathbf{x}' = Df_2 \cdot Df_1$   
 tangent linear variable  $z'_2$  holds derivative of  $z_2$  w.r.t.  $\mathbf{x}$ :  $d\mathbf{z}_2/d\mathbf{x}$

$\mathbf{x}' = \mathbf{v}$ :  $z'_2 = Df_2 \cdot Df_1 \cdot \mathbf{v}$   
 tangent linear variable  $z'_2$  holds directional derivative  
 of  $z_2$  w.r.t.  $\mathbf{x}$  in direction of  $\mathbf{v}$

# Function $y=F(x)$ defined by Fortran code:

```
u = 3*x(1)+2*x(2)+x(3)
v = cos(u)
w = sin(u)
y = v * w
```

**Task:** Evaluate  $DF = dy/dx$  in forward mode!

**Problem:** Identify  $f_1$   $f_2$   $f_3$   $f_4$   $z_1$   $z_2$   $z_3$

**Observation:**  $f_3: w = \sin(u)$  can't work, dimensions don't match!

**Instead:**  
Just take all  
variables

$$f_3: z_2 = \begin{pmatrix} x(1) \\ x(2) \\ x(3) \\ u \\ v \\ w \\ y \end{pmatrix} \rightarrow z_3 = \begin{pmatrix} x(1) \\ x(2) \\ x(3) \\ u \\ v \\ \sin(u) \\ y \end{pmatrix}$$

# A step in forward mode

$$f_3 : z_2 = \begin{pmatrix} x(1) \\ x(2) \\ x(3) \\ u \\ v \\ w \\ y \end{pmatrix} \rightarrow z_3 = \begin{pmatrix} x(1) \\ x(2) \\ x(3) \\ u \\ v \\ \sin(u) \\ y \end{pmatrix}$$

$$w = \sin(u)$$

$$z'_3 = Df_3 z'_2$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} x'(1) \\ x'(2) \\ x'(3) \\ u' \\ v' \\ w' \\ y' \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \cos(u) & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x'(1) \\ x'(2) \\ x'(3) \\ u' \\ v' \\ w' \\ y' \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{aligned} gx(1) &= gx(1) \\ gx(2) &= gx(2) \\ gx(3) &= gx(3) \\ gu &= gu \\ gv &= gv \\ gw &= gu * \cos(u) \\ gy &= gy \end{aligned}$$

# Entire Function + required variables

## Function code

```
u = 3*x(1)+2*x(2)+x(3)
```

```
v = cos(u)
```

```
w = sin(u)
```

```
y = v * w
```

## Forward mode/ tangent linear code

```
gu = 3*gx(1)+2*gx(2)+gx(3)
```

```
u = 3* x(1)+2* x(2)+ x(3)
```

```
gv = -gu*sin(u)
```

```
v = cos(u)
```

```
gw = gu*cos(u)
```

```
w = sin(u)
```

```
gy = gv*w + v*gw
```

```
y = v * w
```

**u v w** are *required* variables, their values need to be provided to the derivative statements

# Active and passive variables

Consider slight modification of code for  $y = F(x)$ :

```
u      = 3*x(1)+2*x(2)+x(3)
pi     = 3.14
v      = pi*cos(u)
w      = pi*sin(u)
sum    = v + u
y      = v * w
```

**Observation:** Variable **sum** (diagnostic) does not influence the function value  $y$   
Variable **pi** (constant) does not depend on the independent variables  $x$

Variables that do influence  $y$  and are influenced by  $x$  are called *active variables*.

The remaining variables are called *passive variables*

# Active and passive variables

## Function code

```
u = 3*x(1)+2*x(2)+x(3)
```

```
pi = 3.14
```

```
v = pi*cos(u)
```

```
w = pi*sin(u)
```

```
sum = v + u
```

```
y = v * w
```

## Forward mode/ tangent linear code

```
gu = 3*gx(1)+2*gx(2)+gx(3)
```

```
u = 3* x(1)+2* x(2)+ x(3)
```

```
pi = 3.14
```

```
gv = -gu*pi*sin(u)
```

```
v = pi*cos(u)
```

```
gw = gu*pi*cos(u)
```

```
w = pi*sin(u)
```

```
gy = gv*w + v*gw
```

For passive variables

- no tangent linear variables needed
- no tangent linear statements for their assignments needed

# Reverse Mode

Function:

$$\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{z}_0 \xrightarrow{\mathbf{f}_1} \mathbf{z}_1 \xrightarrow{\mathbf{f}_2} \mathbf{z}_2 \xrightarrow{\mathbf{f}_3} \mathbf{z}_3 \xrightarrow{\mathbf{f}_4} \mathbf{z}_4 = \mathbf{y}$$

Reverse:

$$\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{z}_0 \xleftarrow{\mathbf{Df}_1^T} \mathbf{z}_1 \xleftarrow{\mathbf{z}_2} \mathbf{z}_2 \xleftarrow{\mathbf{Df}_3^T} \mathbf{z}_3 \xleftarrow{\mathbf{Df}_4^T} \mathbf{z}_4 = \bar{\mathbf{y}}$$

$$\bar{\mathbf{y}} = \text{Id}: \quad \mathbf{z}_2 = \mathbf{Df}_3^T \cdot \mathbf{Df}_4^T \cdot \bar{\mathbf{y}} = (\mathbf{Df}_4 \cdot \mathbf{Df}_3)^T$$

Adjoint variable  $\mathbf{z}_2$  holds (transposed) derivative of  $\mathbf{y}$  w.r.t.  $\mathbf{z}_2$ :  $dy/d\mathbf{z}_2$

For example:  $\mathbf{y}$  scalar, i.e.  $\bar{\mathbf{y}} = 1$



# A step in reverse mode

$$f_3 : z_2 = \begin{pmatrix} x(1) \\ x(2) \\ x(3) \\ u \\ v \\ w \\ y \end{pmatrix} \rightarrow z_3 = \begin{pmatrix} x(1) \\ x(2) \\ x(3) \\ u \\ v \\ \sin(u) \\ y \end{pmatrix}$$

$$w = \sin(u)$$

$$Df_3 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \cos(u) & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\bar{z}_2 = Df_3^T \bar{z}_3$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} \bar{x}(1) \\ \bar{x}(2) \\ \bar{x}(3) \\ \bar{u} \\ \bar{v} \\ \bar{w} \\ \bar{y} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & \cos(u) & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \bar{x}(1) \\ \bar{x}(2) \\ \bar{x}(3) \\ \bar{u} \\ \bar{v} \\ \bar{w} \\ \bar{y} \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\text{adx}(1) = \text{adx}(1)$$

$$\text{adx}(2) = \text{adx}(2)$$

$$\text{adx}(3) = \text{adx}(3)$$

$$\text{adu} = \text{adu} + \text{adw} * \cos(u)$$

$$\text{adv} = \text{adv}$$

$$\text{adw} = 0.$$

$$\text{ady} = \text{ady}$$

# Function code

```
u = 3*x(1)+2*x(2)+x(3)
v = cos(u)
w = sin(u)
y = v * w
```

# Adjoint code

```
u = 3*x(1)+2*x(2)+x(3)
v = cos(u)
w = sin(u)
```

```
adv = adv+ady*w
adw = adw+ady*v
ady = 0.
```

```
adu = adu+adw*cos(u)
adw = 0.
```

```
adu = adu-adv*sin(u)
adv = 0.
```

```
adx(3) = adx(3)+3*adu
adx(2) = adx(2)+2*adu
adx(1) = adx(1)+adu
adu = 0.
```

## Function F defined by Fortran code:

```
u = 3*x(1)+2*x(2)+x(3)
v = cos(u)
w = sin(u)
y = v * w
```

Typically, to save memory, variables are used more than once!

```
u = 3*x(1)+2*x(2)+x(3)
v = cos(u)
u = sin(u)
y = v * u
```

# Function code

```
u = 3*x(1)+2*x(2)+x(3)
v = cos(u)
u = sin(u)
y = v * u
```

# Adjoint code

```
u = 3*x(1)+2*x(2)+x(3)
v = cos(u)
u = sin(u)

adv = adv+ady*u
adu = adu+ady*v
ady = 0.

u = 3*x(1)+2*x(2)+x(3)

adu = adu*cos(u)

adu = adu-adv*sin(u)
adv = 0.

adx(3) = adx(3)+3*adu
adx(2) = adx(2)+2*adu
adx(1) = adx(1)+adu
adu = 0.
```

# Store and retrieve values

## Function code

```
u = 3*x(1)+2*x(2)+x(3)
v = cos(u)
u = sin(u)
y = v * u
```

Bookkeeping must be arranged  
(store / retrieve)

Values can be saved

- on disc or
- in memory

## Adjoint code

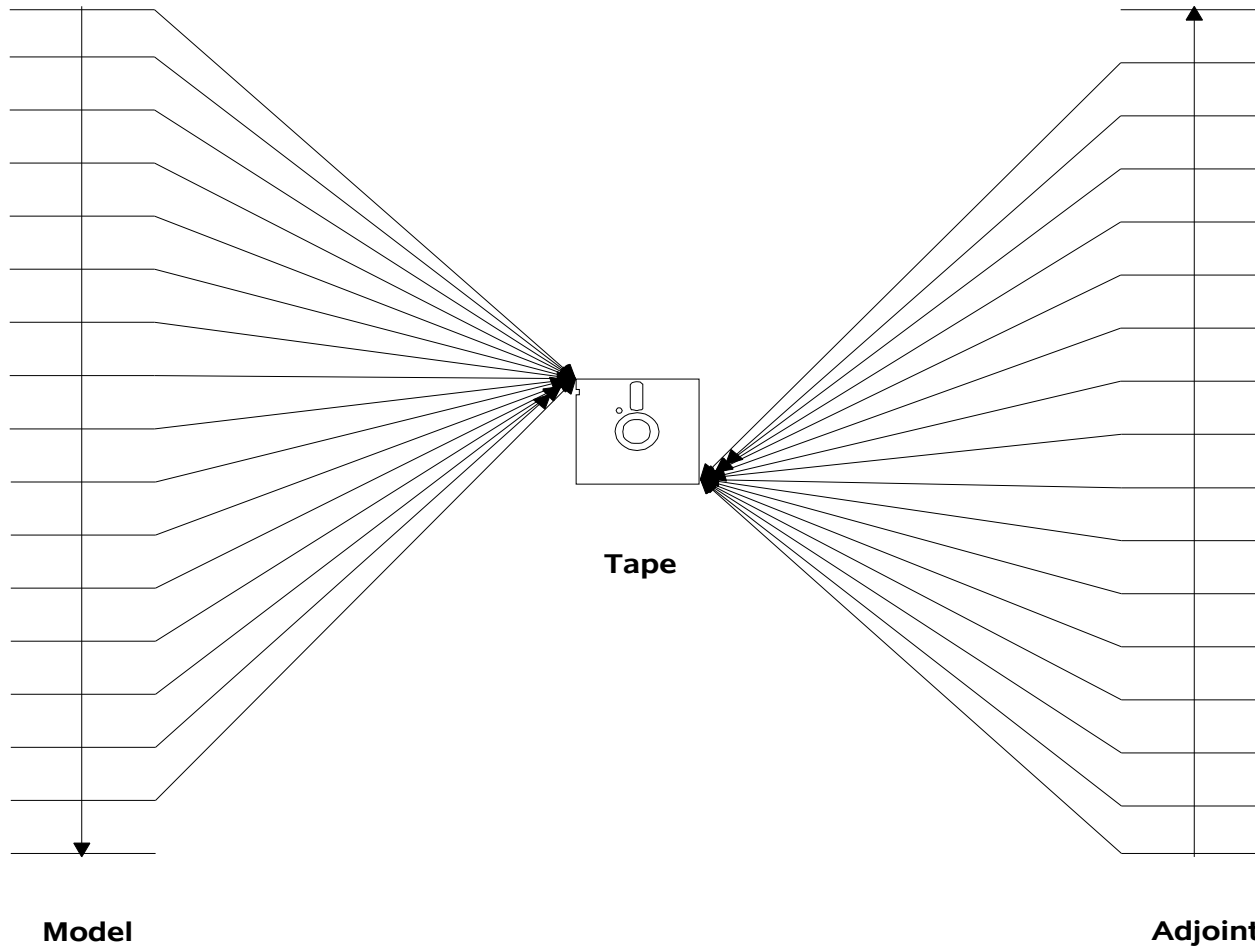
```
u = 3*x(1)+2*x(2)+x(3)
  store (u)
v = cos(u)
u = sin(u)

adv = adv+ady*u
adu = adu+ady*v
ady = 0.

  retrieve (u)
adu = adu*cos(u)
adu = adu-adv*sin(u)
adv = 0.

adx(3) = adx(3)+3*adu
adx(2) = adx(2)+2*adu
adx(1) = adx(1)+adu
adu = 0.
```

# Storing of required variables



# AD Summary

- AD exploits chain rule
- Forward and reverse modes
- Active/Passive variables
- Required variables: Recomputation vs. Store/Reading

## Further Reading

- AD Book of **Andreas Griewank**: *Evaluating Derivatives: Principles of Algorithmic Differentiation*, SIAM, 2000
- Books on **AD Workshops**:  
Chicago 2004: *Buecker et al. (Eds.)*, Springer  
Nice 2000: *Corliss et al. (Eds.)*, Springer  
Santa Fe 1996: *Berz et al. (Eds.)*, SIAM  
Beckenridge 1991: *Griewank and Corliss (Eds.)*, SIAM
- **Olivier Talagrand's** overview article in Santa Fe Book
- **RG/TK** article: *Recipes of Adjoint Code Construction*, TOMS, 1998

# AD Tools

- **Specific to programming language**
- **Source-to-source / Operator overloading**
- **For details check <http://www.autodiff.org> !**

## **Selected Fortran tools (source to source):**

- **ADIFOR (M. Fagan, Rice, Houston)**
- **Odyssee (C. Faure) -> TAPENADE (L. Hascoet, INRIA, Sophia- Antipolis, France)**
- **TAMC (R. Giering) -> TAF (FastOpt)**

## **Selected C/C++ tools:**

- **ADOLC (A. Walther, TU-Dresden, Operator Overloading)**
- **ADIC (P. Hovland, Argonne, Chicago)**
- **TAC++ (FastOpt)**



# very simple example

ex1.f90

```
subroutine ex1( x, u, y )  
  implicit none  
  real x, u, y  
  
  y = 4*x + sin(u)  
end
```

drv1t1m.f90

```
program driver  
  implicit none  
  real x, u, y  
  
  x = 1.2  
  u = 0.5  
  call ex1( x, u, y )  
  print *, ' y = ', y  
end
```

command line:

```
taf -f90 -v2 -forward -toplevel ex1 -input x,u -output y ex1.f90
```

# generated tangent linear code (ex1\_tl.f90)

```
subroutine ex1_tl( x, x_tl, u, u_tl, y, y_tl )
implicit none

!=====
! declare arguments
!=====
real u
real u_tl
real x
real x_tl
real y
real y_tl

!-----
! TANGENT LINEAR AND FUNCTION STATEMENTS
!-----
y_tl = u_tl*cos(u)+4*x_tl
y = 4*x+sin(u)

end subroutine ex1_tl
```

# driver of tangent linear code

```
program drivertlm
  implicit none
  real x_tl, u_tl, y_tl
  real x, u, y

  x = 1.2      ! initial x
  u = 0.5      ! initial u
  x_tl = 0.0  ! define direction in input space
  u_tl = 1.0  !

  call ex1_tl( x, x_tl, u, u_tl, y, y_tl )

  print *, ' y = ', y
  print *, ' y_tl = ', y_tl
end
```

```
subroutine ex1_tl( x, x_tl, u, u_tl, y, y_tl )
  ...
end
```

# very simple example

ex1.f90

```
subroutine ex1( x, u, y )  
  implicit none  
  real x, u, y  
  y = 4*x + sin(u)  
end
```

command line:

```
taf -f90 -v2 -reverse -toplevel ex1 -input x,u -ouput y ex1.f90
```

# generated adjoint code (ex1\_ad.f90)

```
subroutine ex1_ad( x, x_ad, u, u_ad, y, y_ad )
implicit none

!=====
! declare arguments
!=====
real u
real u_ad
real x
real x_ad
real y
real y_ad

!-----
! FUNCTION AND TAPE COMPUTATIONS
!-----
y = 4*x+sin(u)

!-----
! ADJOINT COMPUTATIONS
!-----
u_ad = u_ad+y_ad*cos(u)
x_ad = x_ad+4*y_ad
y_ad = 0.

end subroutine ex1_ad
```

# driver of adjoint code

```
program driveradm
  implicit none
  real x_ad, u_ad, y_ad
  real x, u, y

  x = 1.2      ! initial x
  u = 0.5      ! initial u
  x_ad = 0.    ! no other influence
  u_ad = 0.    ! no other influence
  y_ad = 1.    ! just some sensitivity

  call ex1_ad( x, x_ad, u, u_ad, y, y_ad )

  print *, ' x_ad = ', x_ad
  print *, ' u_ad = ', u_ad

end

subroutine ex1_ad( x, x_ad, u, u_ad, y, y_ad )
  ...
end
```

# Verification of Derivative code

Compare to finite difference approximation:

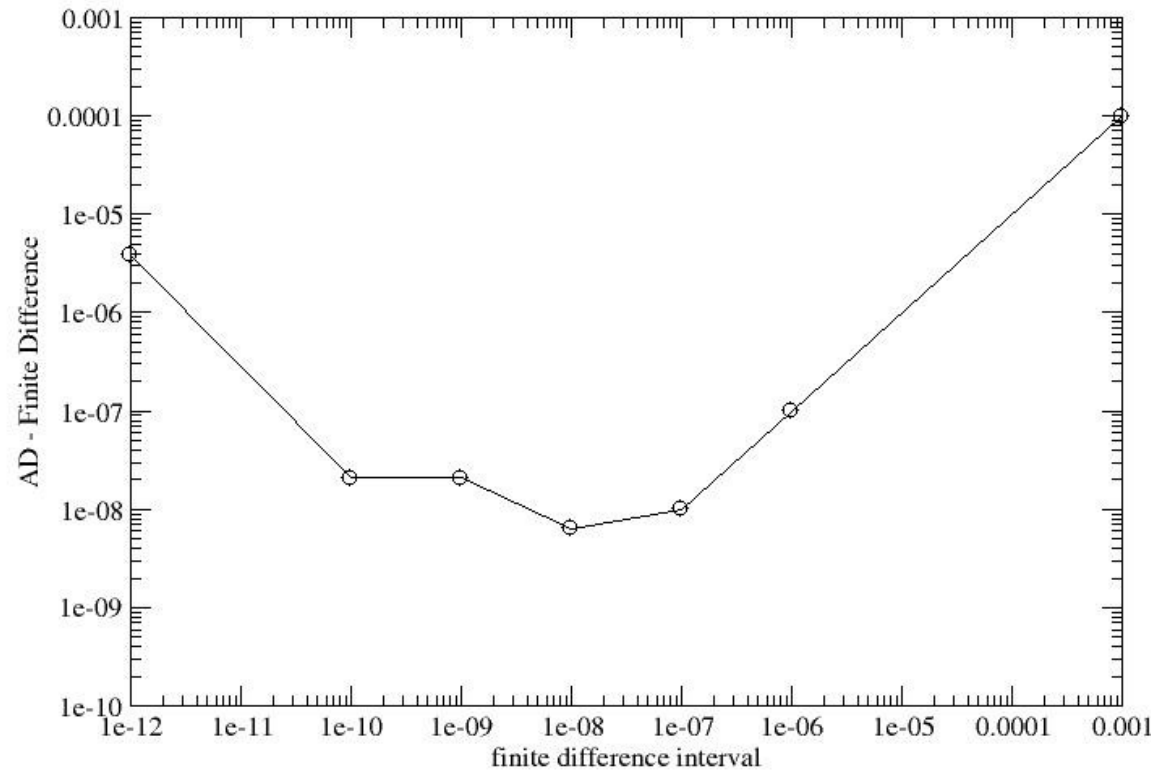
$$\text{FD} = (f(x+\text{eps})-f(x))/\text{eps}$$

Result depends on eps:

- Too large eps: Non linear terms spoil result
- Too small eps: Rounding error problems:

$$f(x+\text{eps}) = f(x) \rightarrow \text{FD} = 0.$$

Example ----->



# Exercise

Hand code tangents and adjoints and the respective drivers for:

```
subroutine func( n, x, m, y )
  implicit none
  integer :: n, m
  real    :: x(n), y(m), u, v
  u = cos(x(1))
  v = sqrt(x(2)) + x(1)
  y(1) = u + v
end subroutine func

program main
  implicit none
  ! dimensions
  integer, parameter :: n = 3
  integer, parameter :: m = 1
  real    :: x(n), y(m)
  ! initialisation
  x(1) = 0.
  x(2) = 1.
  x(3) = 2.
  ! function evaluation
  call func( n, x, m, y )
  ! postprocessing
  print '(a2,3(x,f6.2),a4,f6.2)', 'y(',x,') = ',y
end program main
```