

An example of an exact differential equation where the function F is
 $F = 1/2 (x^2 + y^2 + 10 x^2 y^2)$

The equation is

$$x(1 + 10 y^2) dx + dy (1 + 10 x^2) = 0$$

Since $P = x(1 + 10 y^2)$ and $Q = y (1 + 10 x^2)$
we see that

$$P_y = 20 xy$$

also

$$Q_x = 20 xy = P_y$$

Hence this is an exact differential equation. We can find the solution by setting

$$P = F_x$$

and $Q = F_y$ where F can be found from integrating these equations

$F = \int dx P = 1/2 x^2(1 + 10 y^2) + A(y)$ (Here A is an arbitrary function of y. It is allowed since the integration over x assumes that y is a constant)

Similarly integrating Q

$$F = \int dy Q = 1/2 y^2(1 + 10 x^2) + B(x)$$

Equating the two we get

$$1/2 y^2(1 + 10 x^2) + B(x) = 1/2 x^2(1 + 10 y^2) + A(y)$$

This equation is easily solved by choosing $A(y) = 1/2 y^2$ and $B(x) = 1/2 x^2$

Plugging in, we get

$$F = 1/2 (x^2 + y^2 + 10 x^2 y^2)$$

Summarizing, our differential equation

$$x(1 + 10 y^2) dx + dy (1 + 10 x^2) = 0$$

is completely equivalent to saying that

$$F(x,y) = C_0,$$

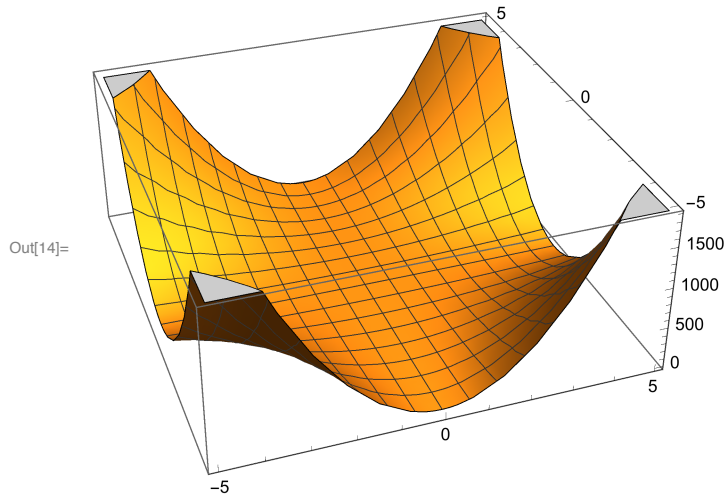
where C_0 is an arbitrary constant and F is defined above.

To understand the meaning of this constant, and also of F, we have spoken of F as a height of a mountain, and the value of C_0 as specifying the height at which we are seeking a (x,y) curve. Let us see this in pictures.

```
In[13]:= f = 1 / 2 (x^2 + y^2 + 10 x^2 y^2)
```

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Out[13]:=  $\frac{1}{2} (x^2 + y^2 + 10 x^2 y^2)$ 
```

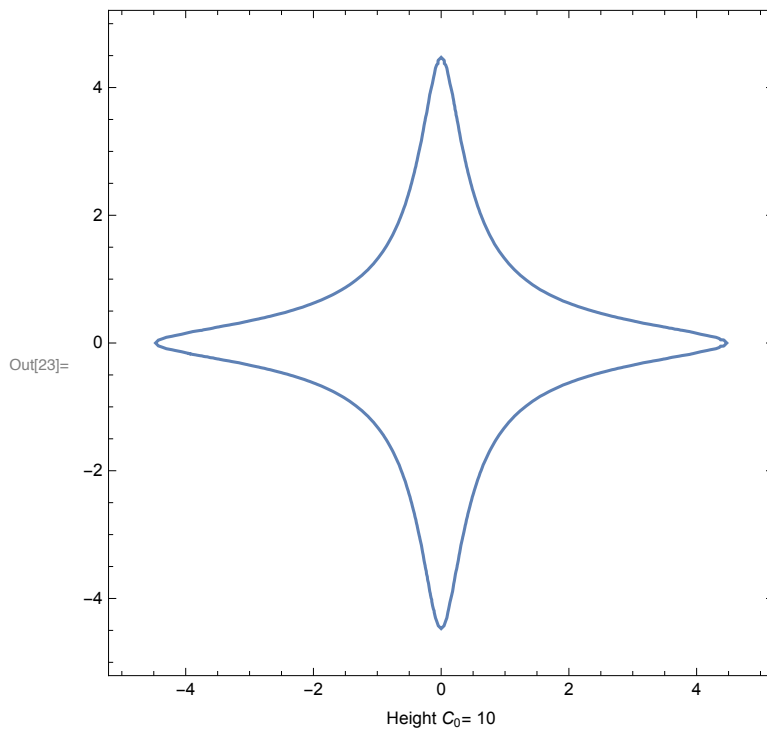
```
In[14]:= Plot3D[f, {x, -5, 5}, {y, -5, 5}]
```



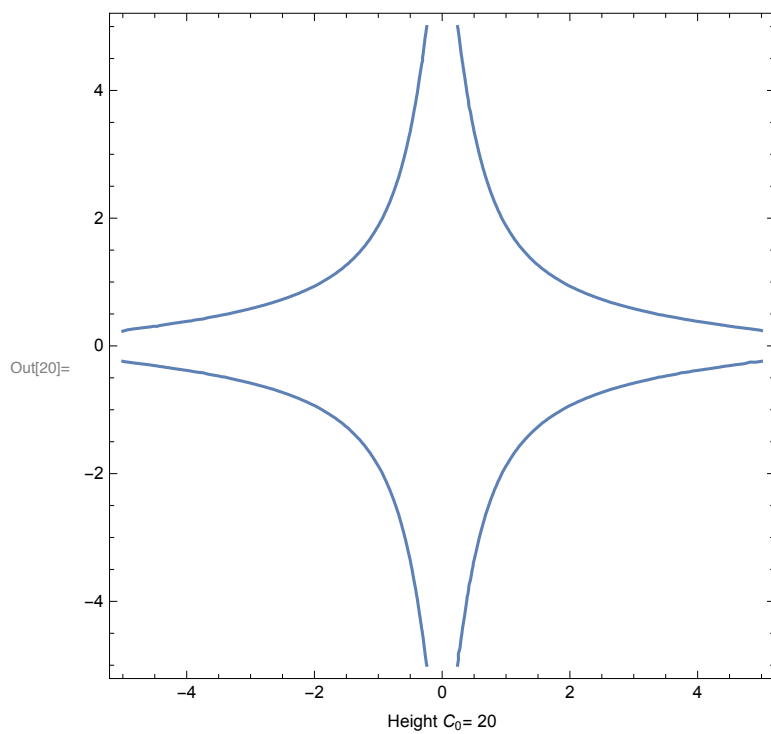
We observe that the mountain has a steep climb away from (0,0), which the bottom of the valley.

We can now specify the height C_0 as we like and discover the curves at that height.

```
In[23]:= ContourPlot[f == 10, {x, -5, 5}, {y, -5, 5}, FrameLabel -> "Height C_0= 10"]
```



```
In[20]:= ContourPlot[f == 20, {x, -5, 5}, {y, -5, 5}, FrameLabel -> "Height C0= 20"]
```



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In[26]:= ContourPlot[f == 500, {x, -5, 5}, {y, -5, 5}, FrameLabel -> "Height C0= 500"]
```

