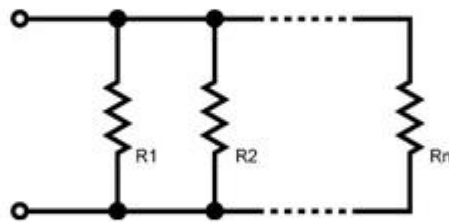


**Multivariate Calculus/Mathematics IV**  
**Mid Term Examination Fall Semester- 2022**

When two resistors having resistances  $R_1$  ohms and  $R_2$  ohms are connected in parallel, their combined resistance  $R$  in ohms is  $R = \frac{R_1 R_2}{R_1 + R_2}$ . Show that  $\frac{\partial R}{\partial R_1} + \frac{\partial R}{\partial R_2} = \frac{4R}{(R_1 + R_2)^2}$



Both resistors are subjected to the same voltage  $U = U_1 = U_2$

The intensity of the generator current is equal to the sum of the intensities of the currents flowing in the resistors:

$$I = I_1 + I_2$$

Ohm's law applied to each of the resistors gives

$$U_1 = R_1 I_1$$

$$U_2 = R_2 I_2$$

$$I_1 = \frac{U}{R_1}$$

$$I_2 = \frac{U}{R_2}$$

$$I = I_1 + I_2 = \frac{U}{R_1} + \frac{U}{R_2} = U \left( \frac{1}{R_1} + \frac{1}{R_2} \right)$$

We can deduce the equivalent conductance  $1/R$

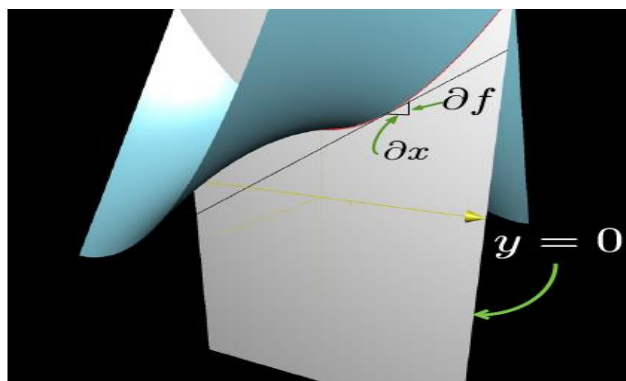
$$\frac{1}{U} = \frac{1}{R} = \frac{1}{R_1} + \frac{1}{R_2}$$

The conductance of a set of resistors in parallel is equal to the sum of their conductances  
 In the case of 2 resistances the relation can be put in the form:

$$R = \frac{R_1 R_2}{R_1 + R_2}$$

QUESTION#02: (06) Let  $u(w, x, y, z) = x e^{y w \sin^2 z}$  Find i.  $\frac{\partial}{\partial x} u$  ii.  $\frac{\partial}{\partial w} u$

- For a multivariable function, like  $f(x, y) = x^2 y$ , computing partial derivatives looks something like this:
 
$$\frac{\partial}{\partial x} (x^2 y) = 2xy$$
 (Treat  $y$  as constant; take derivative.)
 
$$\frac{\partial}{\partial y} (x^2 y) = x^2$$
 (Treat  $x$  as constant; take derivative.)
- This swirly-d symbol,  $\frac{\partial}{\partial}$ , often called "del", is used to distinguish partial derivatives from ordinary single-variable derivatives. Or, should I say ... to differentiate them.
- The reason for a new type of derivative is that when the input of a function is made up of multiple variables, we want to see how the function changes as we *let just one of those variables change* while holding all the others constant.
- With respect to three-dimensional graphs, you can picture the partial derivative  $\frac{\partial f}{\partial x}$  by slicing the graph of  $f$  with a plane representing a constant  $y$ -value and measuring the slope of the resulting curve along the cut.



Intersecting  $y=0$  plane with the graph

### What is a *partial* derivative?

We'll assume you are familiar with the ordinary derivative  $\frac{df}{dx}$  from single variable calculus. I actually quite like this notation for the derivative, because you can interpret it as follows:

- Interpret  $dx$ ,  $x$  as "a very tiny change in  $x$ ".
  - Interpret  $df$ ,  $f$  as "a very tiny change in the output of  $f$ ", where it is understood that this tiny change is whatever results from the tiny change  $dx$ ,  $x$  to the input.
- In fact, I think this intuitive feel for the symbol  $\frac{df}{dx}$  is one of the most useful takeaways from single-variable calculus, and when you really start feeling it in your bones, most of the concepts around derivatives start to click. For example, when you apply it to the graph of  $f$ , you can interpret this "ratio"  $\frac{df}{dx}$  as the rise-over-run slope of the graph of  $f$ , which depends on the point where you started.

$\frac{df}{dx}$   
 Interpretation of  $\frac{df}{dx}$  in a single variable function.

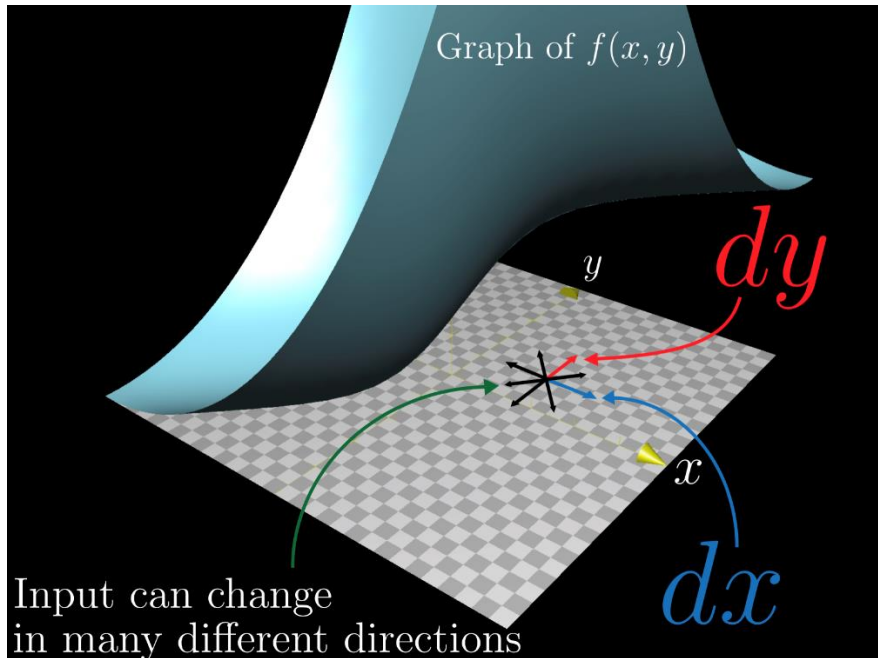
**How does this work for multivariable functions?**

Consider some function with a two-dimensional input and a one-dimensional output.  
 $f(x, y) = x^2 - 2xy$

There's nothing stopping us from writing the same expression,  $\frac{df}{dx}$ , and interpreting it the same way:

- $dx$ ,  $x$  can still represent a tiny change in the variable  $x$ , which is now just one component of our input.
- $df$ ,  $f$  can still represent the resulting change to the output of the function  $f(x, y)$ .

However, this ignores the fact that there is another input variable  $y$ . The input space now has multiple dimensions, so we can change the input in many directions other than the  $x$ -direction. For example, what about changing  $y$  slightly by some small value  $dy$ ,  $y$ ? Now if we re-interpret  $df$ ,  $f$  to represent the tiny change to the function that this  $dy$ ,  $y$  shift brings about, we would have a different derivative  $\frac{df}{dy}$ .



Indication that the input of a multivariable function can change in many directions. Neither one of these derivatives tells the full story of how our function  $f(x, y)$  changes when its input changes slightly, so we call them **partial derivatives**. To emphasize the difference, *we no longer use the letter d to indicate tiny changes, but instead introduce a newfangled symbol  $\partial$  to do the trick, writing each partial derivative as  $\frac{\partial f}{\partial x}$  or  $\frac{\partial f}{\partial y}$ , etc.* You read the symbol  $\frac{\partial f}{\partial x}$  out loud by saying "the partial derivative of  $f$  with respect to  $x$ ".

Can be thought of as "a tiny change in the function's output" Used instead of "d" in usual  $df/dx$  notation to emphasize that this is a partial derivative.

$\frac{\partial f}{\partial x}$  Used instead of "d" in usual  $df/dx$  notation to emphasize that this is a partial derivative.  $\frac{\partial f}{\partial x}$  Multivariable function Indicates which input variable is changed slightly. Can be thought of as "a tiny change in  $x$ "

### Example: Computing a partial derivative

Consider this function:

$f(x, y) = x^2 y^3$ , left parenthesis, start color #0c7f99, x, end color #0c7f99, comma, start color #bc2612, y, end color #bc2612, right parenthesis, equals, start color #0c7f99, x, end color #0c7f99, squared, start color #bc2612, y, end color #bc2612, cubed

Suppose I asked you to evaluate  $\frac{\partial f}{\partial x}$ , the partial derivative with respect to x, at the input  $(3, 2)$ .

"What? But I haven't learned how yet!"

Don't worry, it's mostly just the same mechanics as an ordinary derivative.

From the introduction above, you should know that this is asking about the rate at which the output of  $f$  changes as we nudge the x-component of the input slightly, perhaps moving from  $(3, 2)$  to  $(3.01, 2)$ .

Since we only care about movement in the x-direction, we might as well treat the y-value as a constant. In fact, we can just plug in  $y=2$  ahead of time before computing any derivatives:

$f(x, 2) = x^2 (2)^3 = 8x^2$ , left parenthesis, start color #0c7f99, x, end color #0c7f99, comma, start color #bc2612, 2, end color #bc2612, right parenthesis, equals, start color #0c7f99, x, end color #0c7f99, squared, left parenthesis, start color #bc2612, 2, end color #bc2612, right parenthesis, cubed, equals, 8, start color #0c7f99, x, end color #0c7f99, squared

Now, asking how  $f$  changes in response to a small shift in  $x$  is just an ordinary, single-variable derivative.

CONCEPT CHECK

**What is the derivative of this function  $f(x, 2) = 8x^2$  evaluated at  $x = 3$ ?**

**Without pre-evaluating y**

Now suppose I asked you to find  $\frac{\partial f}{\partial x}$ , but I didn't ask you to evaluate it at a specific point. In other words, you should give me new multivariable function which takes *any* point  $(x, y)$  as its input and tells me what the rate of change of  $f$  near that point is as we move purely in the x-direction.

You can start the same way, treating the y value as a constant. However, this time, you cannot plug in an actual constant value, like  $y = 2$ .

Instead, pretend that y is constant and take the derivative:

$\frac{d}{dx}f(x, y) = \frac{d}{dx}(x^2y^3)$   
 $\frac{d}{dx}(x^2y^3) = 2xy^3$  Pretend  $y$  is constant  $\frac{d}{dx}(x^2y^3) = 2xy^3$   
 $\frac{\partial}{\partial x}f(x, y) = \frac{\partial}{\partial x}(x^2y^3) = 2xy^3$

Or rather, since to emphasize that this is a multivariable function, we use the symbol  $\frac{\partial}{\partial x}$  instead of  $\frac{d}{dx}$ :

$\frac{\partial}{\partial x}f(x, y) = \frac{\partial}{\partial x}(x^2y^3) = 2xy^3$   
 $\frac{\partial}{\partial x}(x^2y^3) = 2xy^3$

As a sanity check, you can plug in  $(3, 2)$  to see that we get the same result as above.

"So, what's the difference between  $\frac{d}{dx}f(x, y)$  and  $\frac{\partial}{\partial x}f(x, y)$ ? They seem to be used the same way."

Honestly, as far as I'm concerned, there's not really a difference between these operations. You could be pedantic and say one is only defined for single variable functions. But as far as intuition and computation go, they are one and the same, and the difference is just meant to clarify what *type* of function is being differentiated.

### Interpreting partial derivatives with graphs

Consider this function:

$f(x, y) = \frac{1}{5}(x^2 - 2xy) + 3f(x, y) = \frac{1}{5}(x^2 - 2xy) + 3$

Here is a video showing its graph rotating, just to get a feel for the three-dimensional nature of it.  
 Khan Academy video wrapper

[See video transcript](#)

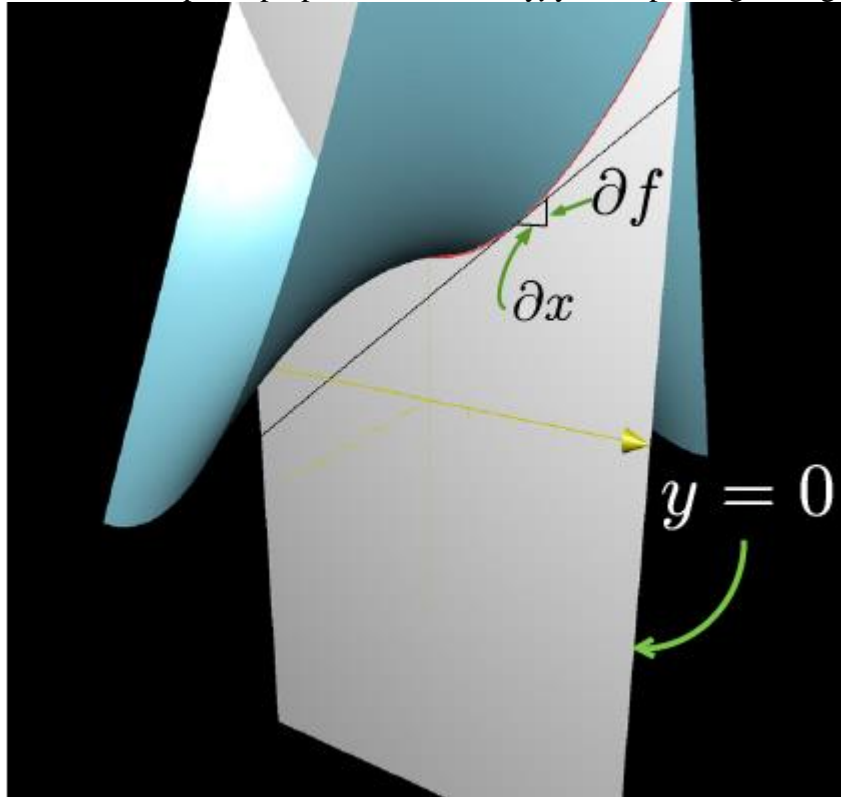
Think about the partial derivative of  $f$  with respect to  $x$  at the point  $(2, 0)$ .

$\frac{\partial f}{\partial x}(2, 0)$

In terms of the graph, what does the value of this expression tell us about the behavior of the function  $f$  at the point  $(2, 0)$ ?

### Treat $y$ as constant $\rightarrow$ right arrow slice graph with plane

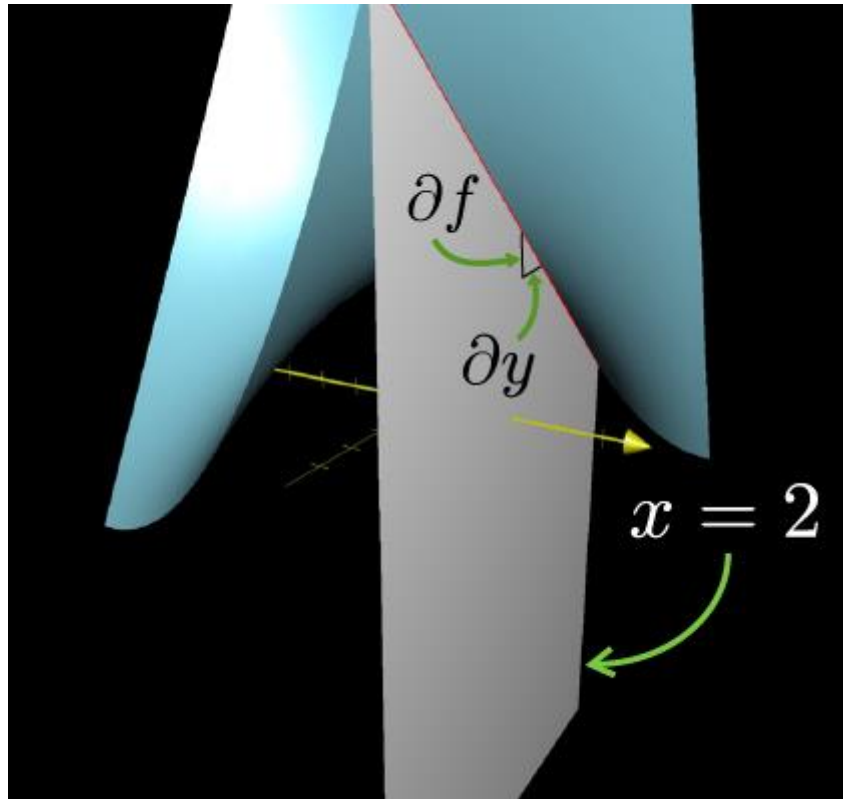
The first step when computing this value is to treat  $y$  as a constant. Specifically, if we are limiting our view to what happens at the point  $(2, 0)$ , we should only look at the set of points where  $y = 0$ . In three-dimensional space, this set is a plane perpendicular to the  $y$ -axis, passing through the origin.



Intersecting  $y=0$  plane with the graph

This plane  $y = 0$ , shown in white, slices into the graph of  $f(x, y)$  along a parabolic curve, shown faintly in red. We can interpret  $\frac{\partial f}{\partial x}$  as giving the slope of a tangent line to this curve. Why? Because  $\partial x$  is a slight nudge in the  $x$ -direction, the run, and  $\partial f$  is the resulting change in the  $z$ -direction, the rise.

What about  $\frac{\partial f}{\partial y}$  at that same point  $(2, 0)$ ? The points where  $x = 2$  also make up a plane, but this time it's a plane perpendicular to the  $x$ -axis intersecting the point  $x = 2$ . This slices the graph along a new curve, and  $\frac{\partial f}{\partial y}$  will give the slope of that new curve.



Intersecting  $x=2$  plane with the graph.

### REFLECTION QUESTION

In the picture to the right, the "curve" where the graph of  $f(x, y) = \frac{1}{5}(x^2 - 2xy) + 3f(x, y) = 51(x^2 - 2xy) + 3f$ , left parenthesis,  $x$ , comma,  $y$ , right parenthesis, equals, start fraction, 1, divided by, 5, end fraction, left parenthesis,  $x$ , squared, minus, 2,  $x$ ,  $y$ , right parenthesis, plus, 3 intersects the plane defined by  $x=2$  looks like it might be a straight line.

**Is it really a line?**

Choose 1 answer:

**Choose 1 answer:**

- (Choice A)  
A  
Yes
- (Choice B)  
B  
No

Check Explain

[Deeper evaluation of this partial derivative]

### Phrasing and notation

Here are some of the phrases you might hear in reference to this  $\frac{\partial f}{\partial x}$  operation: start fraction,  $\partial$ ,  $f$ , divided by,  $\partial$ ,  $x$ , end fraction operation:

- "The partial derivative of  $f$  with respect to  $x$ "
- "Del  $f$ , del  $x$ "
- "Partial  $f$ , partial  $x$ "
- "The partial derivative (of  $f$ ) in the  $x$ -direction"

### Alternate notation

In the same way that people sometimes prefer to write  $f'_x$ , prime instead of  $\frac{df}{dx}$ , start fraction, d, f, divided by, d, x, end fraction, we have the following notation:

$$\begin{aligned} f_x &\leftarrow \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \\ f_y &\leftarrow \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} \\ f_{\langle \text{Some variable} \rangle} &\leftarrow \frac{\partial f}{\partial \langle \text{That same variable} \rangle} \end{aligned}$$

### A note about "del"

While it's common to refer to the partial symbol  $\partial$  as "del", this can be confusing because "del" is also the name of the Nabla symbol  $\nabla$ , which we will introduce in the next article.

### A more formal definition

Although thinking of  $\frac{df}{dx}$ ,  $x$  or  $\frac{\partial f}{\partial x}$ ,  $x$  as really tiny changes in the value of  $x$  is a useful intuition, it is healthy to occasionally step back and remember that defining things precisely requires introducing limits. After all, what specific small value would  $\frac{\partial f}{\partial x}$ ,  $x$  be? One one hundredth? One one millionth?  $10^{-10}$ , start superscript, minus, 10, end superscript, end superscript?

The point of calculus is that we don't use any one tiny number, but instead consider all possible values and analyze what tends to happen as they approach a limiting value. The single variable derivative, for example, is defined like this:

$$\frac{df}{dx}(x_0) = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x_0 + h) - f(x_0)}{h}$$

- $h$  represents the "tiny value" that we intuitively think of as  $\frac{df}{dx}$ ,  $x$ .
- The  $h \rightarrow 0$ ,  $h \rightarrow 0$ ,  $h \rightarrow 0$  under the limit indicates that we care about very small values of  $h$ , those approaching 0.
- $f(x_0 + h) - f(x_0)$ , left parenthesis,  $x$ , start subscript, 0, end subscript, plus,  $h$ , right parenthesis, minus,  $f$ , left parenthesis,  $x$ , start subscript, 0, end subscript, right parenthesis is the change in the output that results from adding  $h$  to the input, which is what we think of as  $\frac{df}{dx}$ ,  $f$ .

Formally defining the partial derivative looks almost identical. If  $f(x, y, \dots)$ , left parenthesis,  $x$ , comma,  $y$ , comma, dots, right parenthesis is a function with multiple inputs, here's how that looks:

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial x}(x_0, y_0, \dots) = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x_0 + h, y_0, \dots) - f(x_0, y_0, \dots)}{h}$$

Similarly, here's how the partial derivative with respect to  $y$  looks:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial f}{\partial y}(x_0, y_0, \dots) &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x_0, y_0+h, \dots) - f(x_0, y_0, \dots)}{h} \\ &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x_0, y_0+h, \dots) - f(x_0, y_0, \dots)}{h} \end{aligned}$$

The point is that  $h/h$ , which represents a tiny tweak to the input, is added to different input variables depending on which partial derivative we are taking.

People will often refer to this as the **limit definition** of a partial derivative.

**Reflection question:** How can we think about this limit definition in the context of the graphical interpretation above? What is  $h/h$ ? What does it look like for  $h \rightarrow 0$ ,  $h \rightarrow 0$ ,  $h \rightarrow 0$ ?

### Summary

- For a multivariable function, like  $f(x, y) = x^2y$ , computing partial derivatives looks something like this:
 
$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} &= \frac{\partial}{\partial x} (x^2y) = 2xy \\ \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} &= \frac{\partial}{\partial y} (x^2y) = x^2 \end{aligned}$$
- This swirly-d symbol  $\frac{\partial}{\partial}$ , often called "del", is used to distinguish partial derivatives from ordinary single-variable derivatives.
- The reason for a new type of derivative is that when the input of a function is made up of multiple variables, we want to see how the function changes as we *let just one of those variables change* while holding all the others constant.
- With respect to three-dimensional graphs, you can picture the partial derivative  $\frac{\partial f}{\partial x}$  by slicing the graph of  $f$  with a plane representing a constant  $y$ -value, and measuring the slope of the resulting cut.

QUESTION#03: (06) Express  $\frac{\partial w}{\partial u}$  and  $\frac{\partial w}{\partial v}$  as functions of  $u$  and  $v$  both by using the Chain Rule and expressing  $w$  directly in terms of  $u$  and  $v$  before differentiating.  $w = \ln(x^2 + y^2 + z^2)$ ,  $x = e^u \sin v$ ,  $y = e^v \cos v$ ,  $z = uv$  :  $(u, v) = (-2, 0)$

Recall that the chain rule for the derivative of a composite of two functions can be written in the form

$$\frac{d}{dx}(f(g(x))) = f'(g(x))g'(x).$$

In this equation, both  $f(x)$  and  $g(x)$  are functions of one variable. Now suppose that  $f$  is a function of two variables and  $g$  is a function of one variable. Or perhaps they are both functions of two variables, or even more. How would we calculate the derivative in these cases? The following theorem gives us the answer for the case of one independent variable.

## THEOREM 4.8

### Chain Rule for One Independent Variable

Suppose that  $x=g(t)$  and  $y=h(t)$  are differentiable functions of  $t$  and  $z=f(x,y)$  is a differentiable function of  $x$  and  $y$ . Then  $z=f(x(t),y(t))$  is a differentiable function of  $t$  and

$$dz/dt = \partial z/\partial x \cdot dx/dt + \partial z/\partial y \cdot dy/dt$$

(4.29)

where the ordinary derivatives are evaluated at  $t$  and the partial derivatives are evaluated at  $(x,y)$ .

### Proof

The proof of this theorem uses the definition of differentiability of a function of two variables. Suppose that  $f$  is differentiable at the point  $P(x_0,y_0)$ , where  $x_0=g(t_0)$  and  $y_0=h(t_0)$  for a fixed value of  $t_0$ . We wish to prove that  $z=f(x(t),y(t))$  is differentiable at  $t=t_0$  and that Equation 4.29 holds at that point as well.

Since  $f$  is differentiable at  $P$ , we know that

$$z(t) = f(x(t),y(t)) = f(x_0,y_0) + f_x(x_0,y_0)(x(t)-x_0) + f_y(x_0,y_0)(y(t)-y_0) + E(x,y)$$

(4.30)

where  $\lim_{(x,y) \rightarrow (x_0,y_0)} \frac{E(x,y)}{\sqrt{(x-x_0)^2 + (y-y_0)^2}} = 0$ . We then subtract  $z_0 = f(x_0,y_0)$  from both sides of this equation:

$$z(t) - z_0 = f(x(t),y(t)) - f(x_0,y_0) = f_x(x_0,y_0)(x(t)-x_0) + f_y(x_0,y_0)(y(t)-y_0) + E(x,y)$$

Next, we divide both sides by  $t-t_0$ :

$$\frac{z(t) - z_0}{t-t_0} = f_x(x_0,y_0) \frac{x(t)-x_0}{t-t_0} + f_y(x_0,y_0) \frac{y(t)-y_0}{t-t_0} + \frac{E(x,y)}{t-t_0}$$

Then we take the limit as  $t$  approaches  $t_0$ :

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow t_0} \frac{z(t) - z_0}{t-t_0} = f_x(x_0,y_0) \lim_{t \rightarrow t_0} \frac{x(t)-x_0}{t-t_0} + f_y(x_0,y_0) \lim_{t \rightarrow t_0} \frac{y(t)-y_0}{t-t_0} + \lim_{t \rightarrow t_0} \frac{E(x,y)}{t-t_0}$$



Using the Chain Rule

Calculate  $dz/dt$  for each of the following functions:

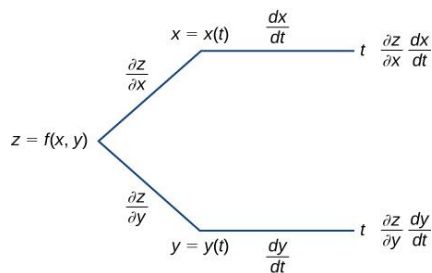
- a.  $z=f(x,y)=4x^2+3y^2, x=x(t)=\sin t, y=y(t)=\cos t$
- b.  $z=f(x,y)=x^2-y^2, x=x(t)=e^{2t}, y=y(t)=e^{-t}$

**CHECKPOINT 4.23**

Calculate  $dz/dt$  given the following functions. Express the final answer in terms of  $t$ .

$$z=f(x,y)=x^2-3xy+2y^2, x=x(t)=3\sin 2t, y=y(t)=4\cos 2t$$

It is often useful to create a visual representation of Equation 4.29 for the chain rule. This is called a **tree diagram** for the chain rule for functions of one variable and it provides a way to remember the formula (Figure 4.34). This diagram can be expanded for functions of more than one variable, as we shall see very shortly.



**Figure 4.34** Tree diagram for the case  $dz/dt = \partial z/\partial x \cdot dx/dt + \partial z/\partial y \cdot dy/dt$ .

In this diagram, the leftmost corner corresponds to  $z=f(x,y)$ . Since  $f$  has two independent variables, there are two lines coming from this corner. The upper branch corresponds to the variable  $x$  and the lower branch corresponds to the variable  $y$ . Since each of these variables is then dependent on one variable  $t$ , one branch then comes from  $x$  and one branch comes from  $y$ . Last, each of the branches on the far right has a label that represents the path traveled to reach that branch. The top branch is reached by following the  $x$  branch, then the  $t$  branch; therefore, it is labeled  $(\partial z/\partial x) \times (dx/dt)$ . The bottom branch is similar: first the  $y$  branch, then the  $t$  branch. This branch is labeled  $(\partial z/\partial y) \times (dy/dt)$ . To get the formula for  $dz/dt$ , add all the terms that appear on the rightmost side of the diagram. This gives us Equation 4.29.

In Chain Rule for Two Independent Variables,  $z=f(x,y)$  is a function of  $x$  and  $y$ , and both  $x=g(u,v)$  and  $y=h(u,v)$  are functions of the independent variables  $u$  and  $v$ .

**THEOREM 4.9**

*Chain Rule for Two Independent Variables*

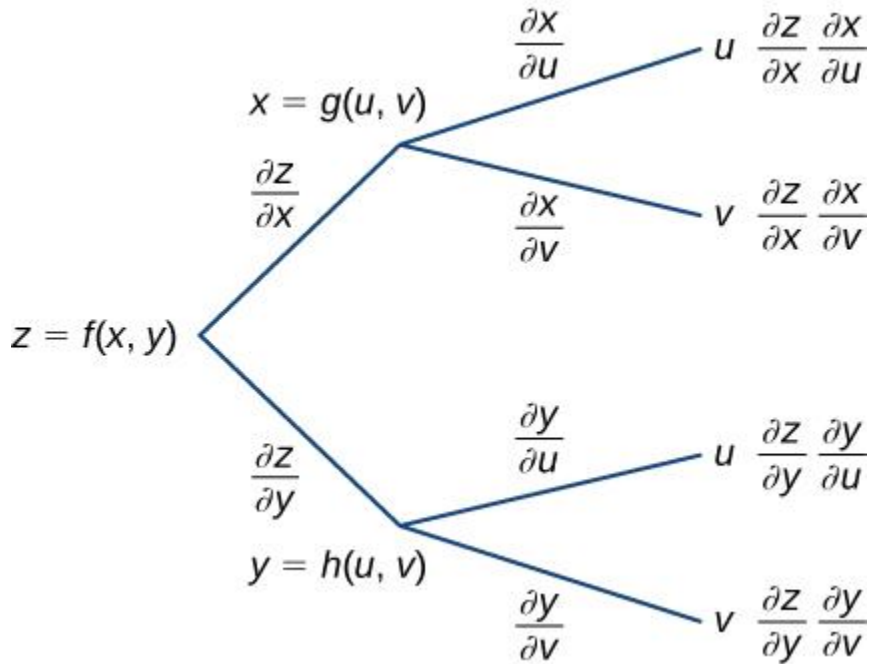
Suppose  $x=g(u,v)$  and  $y=h(u,v)$  are differentiable functions of  $u$  and  $v$ , and  $z=f(x,y)$  is a differentiable function of  $x$  and  $y$ . Then,  $z=f(g(u,v),h(u,v))$  is a differentiable function of  $u$  and  $v$ , and

$$\frac{\partial z}{\partial u} = \frac{\partial z}{\partial x} \frac{\partial x}{\partial u} + \frac{\partial z}{\partial y} \frac{\partial y}{\partial u} \tag{4.31}$$

and

$$\frac{\partial z}{\partial v} = \frac{\partial z}{\partial x} \frac{\partial x}{\partial v} + \frac{\partial z}{\partial y} \frac{\partial y}{\partial v} \tag{4.32}$$

We can draw a tree diagram for each of these formulas as well as follows.



**Figure 4.35** Tree diagram

for  $\frac{\partial z}{\partial u} = \frac{\partial z}{\partial x} \cdot \frac{\partial x}{\partial u} + \frac{\partial z}{\partial y} \cdot \frac{\partial y}{\partial u}$  and  $\frac{\partial z}{\partial v} = \frac{\partial z}{\partial x} \cdot \frac{\partial x}{\partial v} + \frac{\partial z}{\partial y} \cdot \frac{\partial y}{\partial v}$ .

To derive the formula for  $\frac{\partial z}{\partial u}$ , start from the left side of the diagram, then follow only the branches that end with  $u$  and add the terms that appear at the end of those branches. For the

formula for  $\partial z/\partial v, \partial z/\partial v$ , follow only the branches that end with  $v$  and add the terms that appear at the end of those branches.

There is an important difference between these two chain rule theorems. In Chain Rule for One Independent Variable, the left-hand side of the formula for the derivative is not a partial derivative, but in Chain Rule for Two Independent Variables it is. The reason is that, in Chain Rule for One Independent Variable,  $z$  is ultimately a function of  $t$  alone, whereas in Chain Rule for Two Independent Variables,  $z$  is a function of both  $u$  and  $v$ .

**EXAMPLE 4.27**

*Using the Chain Rule for Two Variables*

Calculate  $\partial z/\partial u, \partial z/\partial u$  and  $\partial z/\partial v, \partial z/\partial v$  using the following functions:

$$z=f(x,y)=3x^2-2xy+y^2, x=x(u,v)=3u+2v, y=y(u,v)=4u-v. z=f(x,y)=3x^2-2xy+y^2, x=x(u,v)=3u+2v, y=y(u,v)=4u-v.$$

**CHECKPOINT 4.24**

Calculate  $\partial z/\partial u, \partial z/\partial u$  and  $\partial z/\partial v, \partial z/\partial v$  given the following functions:

$$z=f(x,y)=2x-yx+3y, x(u,v)=e^{2u}\cos 3v, y(u,v)=e^{2u}\sin 3v. z=f(x,y)=2x-yx+3y, x(u,v)=e^{2u}\cos 3v, y(u,v)=e^{2u}\sin 3v.$$

**The Generalized Chain Rule**

Now that we've seen how to extend the original chain rule to functions of two variables, it is natural to ask: Can we extend the rule to more than two variables? The answer is yes, as the **generalized chain rule** states.

**THEOREM 4.10**

*Generalized Chain Rule*

Let  $w=f(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_m)$  be a differentiable function of  $m$  independent variables, and for each  $i \in \{1, \dots, m\}$ , let  $x_i=x_i(t_1, t_2, \dots, t_n)$  be a differentiable function of  $n$  independent variables. Then

$$\partial w/\partial t_j = \partial w/\partial x_1 \partial x_1/\partial t_j + \partial w/\partial x_2 \partial x_2/\partial t_j + \dots + \partial w/\partial x_m \partial x_m/\partial t_j$$

(4.33)

for any  $j \in \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$ .

In the next example we calculate the derivative of a function of three independent variables in which each of the three variables is dependent on two other variables.

**EXAMPLE 4.28**

*Using the Generalized Chain Rule*

Calculate  $\partial w/\partial u$  and  $\partial w/\partial v$  using the following functions:

$$w = f(x, y, z) = 3x^2 - 2xy + 4z \quad x = x(u, v) = e^u \sin v \quad y = y(u, v) = e^u \cos v \quad z = z(u, v) = e^u$$

**CHECKPOINT 4.25**

Calculate  $\partial w/\partial u$  and  $\partial w/\partial v$  given the following functions:

$$w = f(x, y, z) = x + 2y - 4z \quad x = x(u, v) = e^{2u} \cos 3v \quad y = y(u, v) = e^{2u} \sin 3v \quad z = z(u, v) = e^{2u}$$

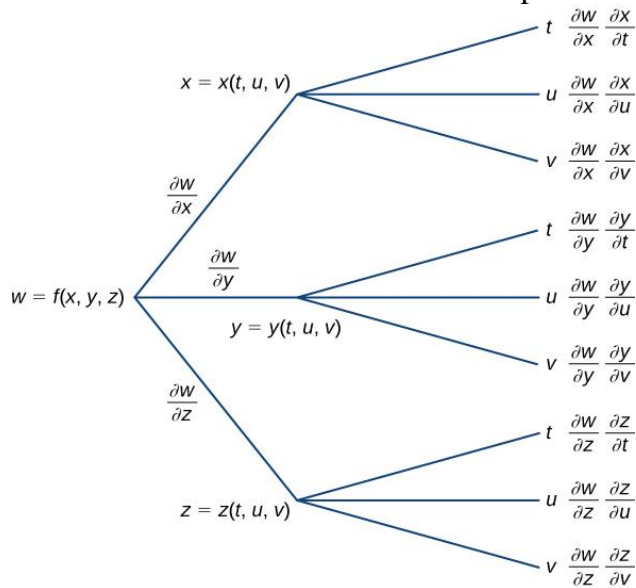
**EXAMPLE 4.29**

*Drawing a Tree Diagram*

Create a tree diagram for the case when

$$w = f(x, y, z), \quad x = x(t, u, v), \quad y = y(t, u, v), \quad z = z(t, u, v)$$

and write out the formulas for the three partial derivatives of  $w$ .



**CHECKPOINT 4.26**

Create a tree diagram for the case when

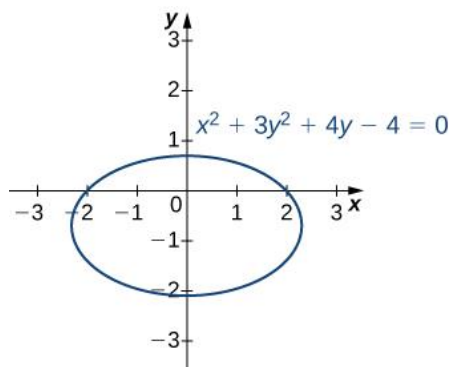
$$w = f(x, y), \quad x = x(t, u, v), \quad y = y(t, u, v)$$

and write out the formulas for the three partial derivatives of  $w$ .

**Implicit Differentiation**

Recall from Implicit Differentiation that implicit differentiation provides a method for finding  $dy/dx$  when  $y$  is defined implicitly as a function of  $x$ . The method involves differentiating both sides of the equation defining the function with respect to  $x$ , then solving for  $dy/dx$ . Partial derivatives provide an alternative to this method.

Consider the ellipse defined by the equation  $x^2 + 3y^2 + 4y - 4 = 0$  as follows.



**Figure 4.37** Graph of the ellipse defined by  $x^2 + 3y^2 + 4y - 4 = 0$ .

This equation implicitly defines  $y$  as a function of  $x$ . As such, we can find the derivative  $dy/dx$  using the method of implicit differentiation:

$$\frac{d}{dx}(x^2 + 3y^2 + 4y - 4) = \frac{d}{dx}(0) \implies 2x + 6y \frac{dy}{dx} + 4 \frac{dy}{dx} = 0 \implies (6y + 4) \frac{dy}{dx} = -2x \implies \frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{-2x}{6y + 4}$$

We can also define a function  $z = f(x, y)$  by using the left-hand side of the equation defining the ellipse. Then  $f(x, y) = x^2 + 3y^2 + 4y - 4$ . The ellipse  $x^2 + 3y^2 + 4y - 4 = 0$  can then be described by the equation  $f(x, y) = 0$ . Using this function and the following theorem gives us an alternative approach to calculating  $dy/dx$ .

### THEOREM 4.11

*Implicit Differentiation of a Function of Two or More Variables*

Suppose the function  $z = f(x, y)$  defines  $y$  implicitly as a function  $y = g(x)$  of  $x$  via the equation  $f(x, y) = 0$ . Then

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = -\frac{\partial f / \partial x}{\partial f / \partial y} \quad (4.34)$$

provided  $f_y(x, y) \neq 0$ .

If the equation  $f(x, y, z) = 0$  defines  $z$  implicitly as a differentiable function of  $x$  and  $y$ , then

$$\frac{\partial z}{\partial x} = -\frac{\partial f / \partial x}{\partial f / \partial z} \quad \text{and} \quad \frac{\partial z}{\partial y} = -\frac{\partial f / \partial y}{\partial f / \partial z} \quad (4.35)$$

as long as  $f_z(x, y, z) \neq 0$ .

Equation 4.34 is a direct consequence of Equation 4.31. In particular, if we assume that  $y$  is defined implicitly as a function of  $x$  via the equation  $f(x, y) = 0$ , we can apply the chain rule to find  $dy/dx$ :

$$\frac{d}{dx} \left( \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \cdot dx + \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} \cdot dy \right) = \frac{d}{dx} (0) = 0$$

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} \cdot \frac{dy}{dx} = 0$$

Solving this equation for  $\frac{dy}{dx}$  gives Equation 4.34. Equation 4.35 can be derived in a similar fashion.

Let's now return to the problem that we started before the previous theorem. Using Implicit Differentiation of a Function of Two or More Variables and the function  $f(x,y) = x^2 + 3y^2 + 4y - 4$ , we obtain

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial x} = 2x, \quad \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} = 6y + 4$$

Then Equation 4.34 gives

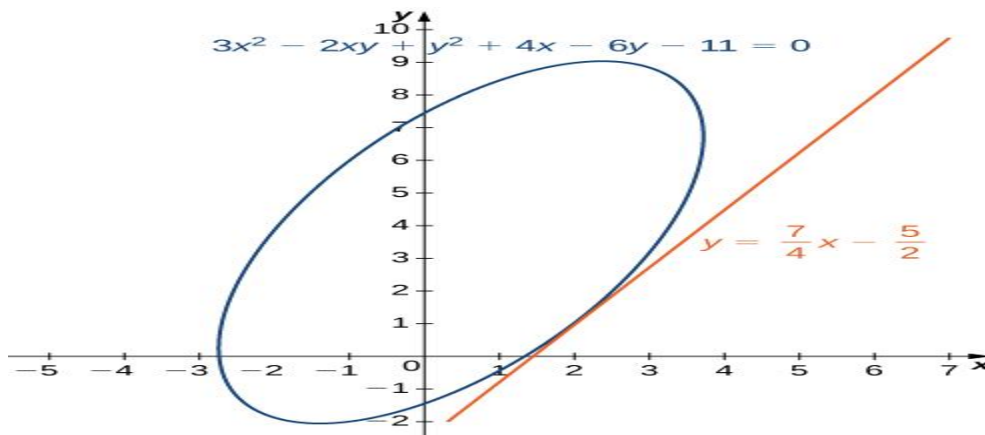
$$\frac{dy}{dx} = -\frac{\partial f / \partial x}{\partial f / \partial y} = -\frac{2x}{6y + 4} = -\frac{x}{3y + 2}$$

which is the same result obtained by the earlier use of implicit differentiation.

### EXAMPLE 4.30

*Implicit Differentiation by Partial Derivatives*

- Calculate  $\frac{dy}{dx}$  if  $y$  is defined implicitly as a function of  $x$  via the equation  $3x^2 - 2xy + y^2 + 4x - 6y - 11 = 0$ . What is the equation of the tangent line to the graph of this curve at point  $(2, 1)$ ?
- Calculate  $\frac{\partial z}{\partial x}$  and  $\frac{\partial z}{\partial y}$ , given  $x^2ey - yz = 0$ .



a.

### CHECKPOINT 4.27

Find  $dy/dx$  if  $yy$  is defined implicitly as a function of  $xx$  by the equation  $x^2+xy-y^2+7x-3y-26=0$ . What is the equation of the tangent line to the graph of this curve at point  $(3,-2)$ ?

### Section 4.5 Exercises

For the following exercises, use the information provided to solve the problem.

215.

Let  $w(x,y,z)=xy\cos z$ , where  $x=t, y=t^2, z=\arcsin t$ . Find  $dw/dt$ .

216.

Let  $w(t,v)=etv$  where  $t=r+st$  and  $v=rs$ . Find  $\partial w/\partial r$  and  $\partial w/\partial s$ .

217.

If  $w=5x^2+2y^2, x=-3s+t, y=s-4t$ , find  $\partial w/\partial s$  and  $\partial w/\partial t$ .

218.

If  $w=xy^2, x=5\cos(2t), y=5\sin(2t)$ , find  $dw/dt$ .

219.

If  $f(x,y)=xy, x=r\cos\theta, y=r\sin\theta$ , find  $\partial f/\partial r$  and express the answer in terms of  $r$  and  $\theta$ .

220.

Suppose  $f(x,y)=x+y, x=r\cos\theta, y=r\sin\theta$ . Find  $\partial f/\partial \theta$ .

For the following exercises, find  $df/dt$  using the chain rule and direct substitution.

221.

$f(x,y)=x^2+y^2, x=t, y=t^2$

222.

$f(x,y)=x^2+y^2, y=t, x=t\sqrt{f(x,y)}$

223.

$f(x,y)=xy, x=1-t, y=1+t$

224.

$f(x,y)=xy, x=et, y=2et$

225.

$f(x,y)=\ln(x+y), x=et, y=et$

226.

$f(x,y)=x^4, x=t, y=t$

227.

Let  $w(x,y,z)=x^2+y^2+z^2, x=\cos t, y=\sin t, z=et$ . Express  $dw/dt$  as a function of  $t$  and find  $dw/dt$  directly. Then, find  $dw/dt$  using the chain rule.

228.

Let  $z=x^2y, x=t^2, y=t^3$ . Find  $dz/dt$ .

229.

Let  $u=ex\sin y, x=-\ln 2t, y=\pi t$ . Find  $du/dt$  when  $x=\ln 2$  and  $y=\pi/4$ .

For the following exercises, find  $dy/dx$  using partial derivatives.

230.

$\sin(6x)+\tan(8y)+5=0$

231.

$x^3+y^2x-3=0$

232.

$$\sin(x+y)+\cos(x-y)=4\sin(x+y)+\cos(x-y)=4$$

233.

$$x^2-2xy+y^4=4x^2-2xy+y^4=4$$

234.

$$xey+yex-2x^2y=0xey+yex-2x^2y=0$$

235.

$$x^{2/3}+y^{2/3}=a^{2/3}x^{2/3}+y^{2/3}=a^{2/3}$$

236.

$$x\cos(xy)+y\cos x=2x\cos(xy)+y\cos x=2$$

237.

$$exy+yey=1exy+yey=1$$

238.

$$x^2y^3+\cos y=0x^2y^3+\cos y=0$$

239.

Find  $dz/dt$  using the chain rule where  $z=3x^2y^3, x=t^4, z=3x^2y^3, x=t^4$ , and  $y=t^2, y=t^2$ .

240.

Let  $z=3\cos x-\sin(xy), x=1t, z=3\cos x-\sin(xy), x=1t$ , and  $y=3t, y=3t$ . Find  $dz/dt, dz/dt$ .

241.

Let  $z=e^{1-xy}, x=t^{1/3}, z=e^{1-xy}, x=t^{1/3}$ , and  $y=t^3, y=t^3$ . Find  $dz/dt, dz/dt$ .

242.

Find  $dz/dt, dz/dt$  by the chain rule where  $z=\cosh^2(xy), x=12t, z=\cosh^2(xy), x=12t$ , and  $y=et, y=et$ .

243.

Let  $z=xy, x=2\cos u, z=xy, x=2\cos u$ , and  $y=3\sin v, y=3\sin v$ . Find  $\partial z/\partial u, \partial z/\partial u$  and  $\partial z/\partial v, \partial z/\partial v$ .

244.

Let  $z=ex^{2y}, z=ex^{2y}$ , where  $x=uv, \sqrt{x}=uv$  and  $y=1v, y=1v$ . Find  $\partial z/\partial u, \partial z/\partial u$  and  $\partial z/\partial v, \partial z/\partial v$ .

245.

If  $z=xyex/y, z=xyex/y$ ,  $x=r\cos\theta, x=r\cos\theta$ , and  $y=r\sin\theta, y=r\sin\theta$ , find  $\partial z/\partial r, \partial z/\partial r$  and  $\partial z/\partial\theta, \partial z/\partial\theta$  when  $r=2, r=2$  and  $\theta=\pi/6, \theta=\pi/6$ .

246.

Find  $\partial w/\partial s, \partial w/\partial s$  if  $w=4x+y^2+z^3, x=ers^2, y=\ln(r+st), w=4x+y^2+z^3, x=ers^2, y=\ln(r+st)$ , and  $z=rst^2, z=rst^2$ .

247.

If  $w=\sin(xyz), x=1-3t, y=e^{1-t}, w=\sin(xyz), x=1-3t, y=e^{1-t}$ , and  $z=4t, z=4t$ , find  $\partial w/\partial t, \partial w/\partial t$ .

For the following exercises, use this information: A function  $f(x,y)$  is said to be homogeneous of degree  $n$  if  $f(tx,ty)=t^n f(x,y)$ . For all homogeneous functions of degree  $n$ , the following equation is true:  $x\partial f/\partial x+y\partial f/\partial y=nf(x,y)$ . Show that the given function is homogeneous and verify that  $x\partial f/\partial x+y\partial f/\partial y=nf(x,y)$ .

248.

$$f(x,y)=3x^2+y^2f(x,y)=3x^2+y^2$$

249.

$$f(x,y)=x^2+y^2-\sqrt{f(x,y)}=x^2+y^2$$

250.

$$f(x,y)=x^2y-2y^3f(x,y)=x^2y-2y^3$$

251.

The volume of a right circular cylinder is given by  $V(x,y)=\pi x^2y$ , where  $x$  is the radius of the cylinder and  $y$  is the cylinder height. Suppose  $x$  and  $y$  are functions of  $t$  given by  $x=12t$  and  $y=13t$  so that  $x$  and  $y$  are both increasing with time. How fast is the volume increasing when  $x=2$  and  $y=4$ ?

252.

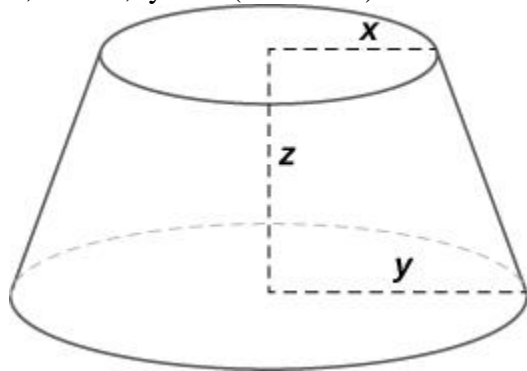
The pressure  $P$  of a gas is related to the volume and temperature by the formula  $PV=kT$ , where temperature is expressed in kelvins. Express the pressure of the gas as a function of both  $V$  and  $T$ . Find  $\frac{dP}{dt}$  when  $k=1$ ,  $\frac{dV}{dt}=2 \text{ cm}^3/\text{min}$ ,  $\frac{dT}{dt}=12 \text{ K/min}$ ,  $V=20 \text{ cm}^3$ , and  $T=20^\circ\text{F}$ .

253.

The radius of a right circular cone is increasing at  $33 \text{ cm/min}$  whereas the height of the cone is decreasing at  $22 \text{ cm/min}$ . Find the rate of change of the volume of the cone when the radius is  $13 \text{ cm}$  and the height is  $18 \text{ cm}$ .

254.

The volume of a frustum of a cone is given by the formula  $V=\frac{1}{3}\pi z(x^2+y^2+xy)$ , where  $x$  is the radius of the smaller circle,  $y$  is the radius of the larger circle, and  $z$  is the height of the frustum (see figure). Find the rate of change of the volume of this frustum when  $x=10 \text{ in.}$ ,  $y=12 \text{ in.}$ , and  $z=18 \text{ in.}$  if  $\frac{dz}{dt}=-5$ ,  $\frac{dx}{dt}=1$ ,  $\frac{dy}{dt}=1$  (all in/min).



255.

A closed box is in the shape of a rectangular solid with dimensions  $x$ ,  $y$ , and  $z$ . (Dimensions are in inches.) Suppose each dimension is changing at the rate of  $0.5 \text{ in./min}$ . Find the rate of change of the total surface area of the box when  $x=2 \text{ in.}$ ,  $y=3 \text{ in.}$ , and  $z=1 \text{ in.}$

256.

The total resistance in a circuit that has three individual resistances represented by  $x$ ,  $y$ , and  $z$  is given by the formula  $R(x,y,z)=\frac{xyz}{yz+xz+xy}$ . Suppose at a given time the  $x$  resistance is  $100\Omega$ , the  $y$  resistance is  $200\Omega$ , and the  $z$  resistance is  $300\Omega$ . Also, suppose the  $x$  resistance is changing at a rate of  $2\Omega/\text{min}$ , the  $y$  resistance is changing at the rate of  $1\Omega/\text{min}$ , and

the  $z$  resistance has no change. Find the rate of change of the total resistance in this circuit at this time.

257.

The temperature  $T$  at a point  $(x, y)$  is  $T(x, y)$  and is measured using the Celsius scale. A fly crawls so that its position after  $t$  seconds is given

by  $x = 1 + t$  and  $y = 2 + 13t$ , where  $x$  and  $y$  are measured in centimeters.

The temperature function satisfies  $T_x(2, 3) = 4$  and  $T_y(2, 3) = 3$ . How fast is the temperature increasing on the fly's path after 33 sec?

258.

The  $x$  and  $y$  components of a fluid moving in two dimensions are given by the following functions:  $u(x, y) = 2y$  and  $v(x, y) = -2x$ ;  $x \geq 0; y \geq 0$ . The speed of the fluid at the

point  $(x, y)$  is  $s(x, y) = \sqrt{u(x, y)^2 + v(x, y)^2}$ . Find  $\frac{\partial s}{\partial x}$  and  $\frac{\partial s}{\partial y}$  using the chain rule.

259.

Let  $u = u(x, y, z)$ , where  $x = x(w, t), y = y(w, t), z = z(w, t), w = w(r, s), t = t(r, s)$ . Use a tree diagram and the chain rule to find an expression for  $\frac{\partial u}{\partial r}$ .

QUESTION#04: (06) Let  $w = \ln(e^r + e^s + e^t + e^u)$ . Show that  $w_{rstu} = -6e^{r+s+t+u-4}$

Let  $w(x, y, z) = xy \cos z$ , where  $x = t, y = t^2, z = \arcsin t$ . Find  $\frac{dw}{dt}$ .

216.

Let  $w(t, v) = etv$  where  $t = r + s$  and  $v = rs$ . Find  $\frac{\partial w}{\partial r}$  and  $\frac{\partial w}{\partial s}$ .

217.

If  $w = 5x^2 + 2y^2, x = -3s + t, y = s - 4t$ , find  $\frac{\partial w}{\partial s}$  and  $\frac{\partial w}{\partial t}$ .

218.

If  $w = xy^2, x = 5 \cos(2t), y = 5 \sin(2t)$ , find  $\frac{dw}{dt}$ .

219.

If  $f(x, y) = xy, x = r \cos \theta, y = r \sin \theta$ , find  $\frac{\partial f}{\partial r}$  and express the answer in terms of  $r$  and  $\theta$ .

220.

Suppose  $f(x, y) = x + y$ , where  $x = r \cos \theta, y = r \sin \theta$ . Find  $\frac{\partial f}{\partial \theta}$ .

For the following exercises, find  $\frac{df}{dt}$  using the chain rule and direct substitution.

221.

$$f(x,y)=x^2+y^2, f(x,y)=x^2+y^2, x=t, y=t^2 \quad x=t, y=t^2$$

222.

$$f(x,y)=x^2+y^2, y=t^2, x=t \quad f(x,y)=x^2+y^2, y=t^2, x=t$$

223.

$$f(x,y)=xy, x=1-t, y=1+t \quad f(x,y)=xy, x=1-t, y=1+t$$

224.

$$f(x,y)=xy, x=et, y=2et \quad f(x,y)=xy, x=et, y=2et$$

225.

$$f(x,y)=\ln(x+y), f(x,y)=\ln(x+y), x=et, y=et \quad x=et, y=et$$

226.

$$f(x,y)=x^4, f(x,y)=x^4, x=t, y=t \quad x=t, y=t$$

227.

Let  $w(x,y,z)=x^2+y^2+z^2$ ,  $w(x,y,z)=x^2+y^2+z^2$ ,  $x=\cos t$ ,  $y=\sin t$ ,  $x=\cos t$ ,  $y=\sin t$ , and  $z=et$ . Express  $w$  as a function of  $t$  and find  $\frac{dw}{dt}$  directly. Then, find  $\frac{dw}{dt}$  using the chain rule.

228.

Let  $z=x^2y$ ,  $z=x^2y$ , where  $x=t^2$  and  $y=t^3$ . Find  $\frac{dz}{dt}$ .

229.

Let  $u=ex^y \sin y$ ,  $u=ex^y \sin y$ , where  $x=-\ln 2t$  and  $y=\pi t$ . Find  $\frac{du}{dt}$  when  $x=\ln 2$  and  $y=\pi$ .

For the following exercises, find  $\frac{dy}{dx}$  using partial derivatives.

230.

$$\sin(6x)+\tan(8y)+5=0 \quad \sin(6x)+\tan(8y)+5=0$$

231.

$$x^3+y^2x-3=0 \quad x^3+y^2x-3=0$$

232.

$$\sin(x+y)+\cos(x-y)=4 \quad \sin(x+y)+\cos(x-y)=4$$

233.

$$x^2-2xy+y^4=4 \quad x^2-2xy+y^4=4$$

234.

$$xey+yex-2x^2y=0 \quad xey+yex-2x^2y=0$$

235.

$$x^{2/3} + y^{2/3} = a^{2/3} \quad x^{2/3} + y^{2/3} = a^{2/3}$$

236.

$$x \cos(xy) + y \cos x = 2x \cos(xy) + y \cos x = 2$$

237.

$$e^{xy} + y e^y = 1 \quad e^{xy} + y e^y = 1$$

238.

$$x^2 y^3 + \cos y = 0 \quad x^2 y^3 + \cos y = 0$$

239.

Find  $\frac{dz}{dt}$  using the chain rule where  $z = 3x^2 y^3$ ,  $x = t^4$ ,  $z = 3x^2 y^3$ ,  $x = t^4$ , and  $y = t^2$ .

240.

Let  $z = 3 \cos x - \sin(xy)$ ,  $x = 1/t$ ,  $z = 3 \cos x - \sin(xy)$ ,  $x = 1/t$ , and  $y = 3t$ . Find  $\frac{dz}{dt}$ .

241.

Let  $z = e^{1-xy}$ ,  $x = t^{1/3}$ ,  $z = e^{1-xy}$ ,  $x = t^{1/3}$ , and  $y = t^3$ . Find  $\frac{dz}{dt}$ .

242.

Find  $\frac{dz}{dt}$  by the chain rule where  $z = \cosh^2(xy)$ ,  $x = 12t$ ,  $z = \cosh^2(xy)$ ,  $x = 12t$ , and  $y = e^t$ .

243.

Let  $z = xy$ ,  $x = 2 \cos u$ ,  $z = xy$ ,  $x = 2 \cos u$ , and  $y = 3 \sin v$ . Find  $\frac{\partial z}{\partial u}$  and  $\frac{\partial z}{\partial v}$ .

244.

Let  $z = e^{x^2 y}$ ,  $z = e^{x^2 y}$ , where  $x = uv$  and  $y = 1/v$ . Find  $\frac{\partial z}{\partial u}$  and  $\frac{\partial z}{\partial v}$ .

245.

If  $z = xy e^{x/y}$ ,  $z = xy e^{x/y}$ ,  $x = r \cos \theta$ ,  $x = r \cos \theta$ , and  $y = r \sin \theta$ ,  $y = r \sin \theta$ , find  $\frac{\partial z}{\partial r}$  and  $\frac{\partial z}{\partial \theta}$  when  $r = 2$  and  $\theta = \pi/6$ .

246.

Find  $\frac{\partial w}{\partial s}$  if  $w = 4x + y^2 + z^3$ ,  $x = e^{rs^2}$ ,  $y = \ln(r+st)$ ,  $w = 4x + y^2 + z^3$ ,  $x = e^{rs^2}$ ,  $y = \ln(r+st)$ , and  $z = rst^2$ .

247.

If  $w = \sin(xyz)$ ,  $x = 1 - 3t$ ,  $y = e^{1-t}$ ,  $w = \sin(xyz)$ ,  $x = 1 - 3t$ ,  $y = e^{1-t}$ , and  $z = 4t$ , find  $\frac{\partial w}{\partial t}$ .

For the following exercises, use this information: A function  $f(x, y)$  is said to be homogeneous of degree  $n$  if  $f(tx, ty) = t^n f(x, y)$ . For all homogeneous functions of degree  $n$ , the following equation is true:  $x \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} + y \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} = n f(x, y)$ . Show that the given function is homogeneous and verify that  $x \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} + y \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} = n f(x, y)$ .

248.

$$f(x,y)=3x^2+y^2$$

249.

$$f(x,y)=x^2+y^2 \quad \sqrt{f(x,y)}=x^2+y^2$$

250.

$$f(x,y)=x^2y-2y^3$$

251.

The volume of a right circular cylinder is given by  $V(x,y)=\pi x^2y$ , where  $x$  is the radius of the cylinder and  $y$  is the cylinder height. Suppose  $x$  and  $y$  are functions of  $t$  given by  $x=12t$  and  $y=13t$  so that  $x$  and  $y$  are both increasing with time. How fast is the volume increasing when  $x=2$  and  $y=43$ ?

252.

The pressure  $P$  of a gas is related to the volume and temperature by the formula  $PV=kT$ , where temperature is expressed in kelvins. Express the pressure of the gas as a function of both  $V$  and  $T$ . Find  $dP/dt$  when  $k=1$ ,  $dV/dt=2 \text{ cm}^3/\text{min}$ ,  $dT/dt=12 \text{ K/min}$ ,  $V=20 \text{ cm}^3$ , and  $T=20^\circ\text{F}$ .

253.

The radius of a right circular cone is increasing at  $33 \text{ cm/min}$  whereas the height of the cone is decreasing at  $22 \text{ cm/min}$ . Find the rate of change of the volume of the cone when the radius is  $13 \text{ cm}$  and the height is  $18 \text{ cm}$ .

QUESTION#05: (06) Show that function in satisfies a LAPLACE equation:  $z = \ln(x^2 + y^2) + 2 \tan^{-1}(y/x)$

101. Show that the function satisfies Laplace's equation

$$\frac{\partial^2 z}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 z}{\partial y^2} = 0$$

- (a)  $z = x^2 - y^2 + 2xy$
- (b)  $z = e^x \sin y + e^y \cos x$
- (c)  $z = \ln(x^2 + y^2) + 2 \tan^{-1}(y/x)$

I can get to the first partial derivative of  $\partial z / \partial x$  of course, but after that I get this, which I don't know how to differentiate further... I am talking about c part of the question. Attaching my working...

57-59.

$$\underline{9/c} \quad z = \ln(x^2 + y^2) + 2 \tan^{-1}(y/x)$$

$$\frac{\partial z}{\partial x} = \frac{1}{x^2 + y^2} \cdot 2x + \frac{2}{1 + (y/x)^2} \cdot y(-1)x^{-2}$$

$$= \frac{2x}{x^2 + y^2} - \frac{2yx^{-2}}{1 + (y/x)^2}$$

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edited Jun 4, 2016 at 12:22  
asked Jun 4, 2016 at 12:07



studious

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- 2  
Will it not be easier using polar coordinate form of Laplace equation  $2(\log r + \theta)^2 + 2(\log \frac{1}{r} + \theta)^2$ ?  
– Narasimham  
Jun 4, 2016 at 12:23
- possibly, but this is not covered in class, would rather go through a 'basic' elementary route.  
– studious  
Jun 4, 2016 at 12:24
- 1  
@studious I left an answer doing it the "brute force" way. Tell me in case anything is not clear.  
– qmd  
Jun 4, 2016 at 13:06

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1 Answer

Sorted by:

Differentiating once:

$$\frac{\partial z}{\partial x} (\ln(x^2+y^2) + 2 \tan^{-1}(\frac{y}{x})) = 2x(x^2+y^2)^{-1/2} + 2 \cdot \frac{-y}{x^2+y^2} = 2x(x^2+y^2)^{-1/2} - 2y(x^2+y^2)^{-3/2}$$

Differentiating again:

$$\frac{\partial^2 z}{\partial x^2} (\ln(x^2+y^2) + 2 \tan^{-1}(\frac{y}{x})) = 2(x^2+y^2)^{-3/2} - 2x \cdot \frac{-3}{2} (x^2+y^2)^{-5/2} = 2(x^2+y^2)^{-3/2} + 3xy(x^2+y^2)^{-5/2}$$

Now let us show  $\frac{\partial^2 z}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 z}{\partial y^2} = 0$ :

$$\frac{\partial^2 z}{\partial y^2} (\ln(x^2+y^2) + 2 \tan^{-1}(\frac{y}{x})) = 2y(x^2+y^2)^{-3/2} + 2 \cdot \frac{1}{x^2+y^2} = 2y(x^2+y^2)^{-3/2} + 2x^2(x^2+y^2)^{-5/2}$$

$$\frac{\partial^2 z}{\partial y^2} (2y + x^2 + y^2) = 2(x^2+y^2)^{-3/2} - (2y)(2y+x)(x+y)^{-2} = 2x^2 - 2y^2 - 2xy(x^2+y^2)^{-2}$$

Therefore,

$$\frac{\partial^2 z}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 z}{\partial y^2} = -2x^2 + 2y^2 + 2xy(x^2+y^2)^{-2} + 2x^2 - 2y^2 - 2xy(x^2+y^2)^{-2} = 0 \checkmark$$