

Partial derivatives

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14th January

Notation:

- $\langle 2, 3, 4 \rangle$ is the same as $2\vec{i} + 3\vec{j} + 4\vec{k}$.
- contour line is the same as level lines.
- normal to ^{the} a plane is perpendicular to plane
- Distance between $(5, 6, 7)$ and yz -plane.
 yz -plane is $x=0$
 $(5, 6, 7)$ lies on $x=5$.
Distance between them is 5.

Partial Derivatives

$$f(x) = x^2$$
$$f'(x) = 2x$$

$$f(x) = ax^2$$
$$f'(x) = 2ax \quad \text{if}$$

'a' is a constant.

Partial derivatives are derivatives of $f(x, y)$ where one of the variables is fixed and the other is assumed constant.

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Derivatives

$$f(x)$$

$$f'(a), \left. \frac{d}{dx} f(x) \right|_{x=a}$$

Derivative of f at a

is

$$f'(a) = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(a+h) - f(a)}{h}$$

if it exists.

$$f(x) = x^2$$

$$f'(a) = 2a$$

Partial Derivatives

$$f(x, y)$$

Notation:

$$f_x = \frac{\partial f}{\partial x}, \quad f_y = \frac{\partial f}{\partial y}$$

Definition: Partial derivatives of f at (a, b) with respect to x is

$$f_x(a, b) = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(a+h, b) - f(a, b)}{h}$$

f_y and with respect to y is

$$f_y(a, b) = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(a, b+h) - f(a, b)}{h}$$

when it exists.

$$f(x) = x^2 y + z$$

$$f_x = 2xy, \quad f_y = x^2$$

The name of variables is not important. (x, y) could be (P, Q) or (U, V) or anything. (What is a name?)

Alternative notation: $\frac{\partial f}{\partial x} = f_x$ $\frac{\partial f}{\partial y} = f_y$

Meaning: Suppose production P is a function of capital K and labour L . What is meant by $\frac{\partial P}{\partial K}$?

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Solution: $\frac{\partial P}{\partial K}$ is the rate of increase of production with respect to capital keeping labour fixed = marginal production with respect to capital.

• $f(x, y) = x^2y + y^3 - x$. Find $f_x(1, 1)$

Solution: $f_x = \frac{\partial}{\partial x}(x^2y) + \frac{\partial}{\partial x}(y^3) - \frac{\partial}{\partial x}(x)$
 y is fixed, so $\frac{\partial}{\partial x}(y^3) = 0$ and $\frac{\partial}{\partial x}(x) = 1$.

$$f_x = 2xy + 0 - 1 = 2xy - 1$$
$$f_x(1, 1) = 2 - 1 = 1$$

• $f(x, y) = \sin(xy)$ Find $f_y(0, 0)$.

Solution: $f_y = \frac{\partial}{\partial y}(\sin(xy))$ x is fixed.

$$f_y = \frac{\partial}{\partial y}(\sin(xy))$$

$$= \cos(xy) \frac{\partial}{\partial y}(xy)$$

By chain rule
 x is a fixed number.

$$= \cos(xy) \cdot x$$
$$= x \cos(xy)$$

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$$f_y(0,0) = 0 \cdot \cos(0 \cdot 0) = 0 \cdot 1 = 0$$

Second derivatives (derivatives of derivatives)

$$(f_x)_y = f_{xy} = \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \right) = \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \right)$$

$$(f_x)_x = f_{xx} = \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \right)$$

$$(f_y)_y = f_{yy} = \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial y} \right)$$

$$(f_y)_x = f_{yx} = \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial y} \right)$$

first second

Find all second derivatives of $f(x,y) = xy + e^{x+y}$ at $(1,0)$.

key - first find derivative then plug $(1,0)$

Solution: $f_x = \frac{\partial}{\partial x} (xy) + \frac{\partial}{\partial x} (e^{x+y})$

$$= y + e^{x+y} \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial x} (x+y) \right) \text{ [Chain Rule]}$$

$$= y + e^{x+y} (1) = y + e^{x+y}$$

$$f_y = \frac{\partial}{\partial y} (xy) + \frac{\partial}{\partial y} (e^{x+y})$$

$$= x + e^{x+y} \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial y} (x+y) \right) = x + e^{x+y} (1) = x + e^{x+y} \text{ (Chain Rule)}$$

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$$\begin{aligned} f_{xx} &= (f_x)_x = \frac{\partial}{\partial x} (y + e^{x+y}) \\ &= \frac{\partial}{\partial x} (y) + \frac{\partial}{\partial x} (e^{x+y}) \\ &= 0 + e^{x+y} \frac{\partial}{\partial x} (x+y) \quad (\text{Chain Rule}) \\ &= e^{x+y} (1) = e^{x+y}. \end{aligned}$$

$$\cancel{f_{xx}}(f_{xx})(1,0) = e^{1+0} = e$$

$$\begin{aligned} f_{xy} &= (f_x)_y = \frac{\partial}{\partial y} (y + e^{x+y}) \\ &= \frac{\partial}{\partial y} (y) + \frac{\partial}{\partial y} (e^{x+y}) \\ &= 1 + e^{x+y} \frac{\partial}{\partial y} (x+y) \\ &= 1 + e^{x+y} (1) = 1 + e^{x+y}. \end{aligned}$$

$$f_{xy}(1,0) = 1 + e^{1+0} = 1 + e.$$

$$\begin{aligned} f_{yx} &= (f_y)_x = \frac{\partial}{\partial x} (x + e^{x+y}) \\ &= \frac{\partial}{\partial x} (x) + \frac{\partial}{\partial x} (e^{x+y}) \\ &= 1 + e^{x+y} \frac{\partial}{\partial x} (x+y) \\ &= 1 + e^{x+y} (1) = 1 + e^{x+y}. \end{aligned}$$

$$f_{yx}(1,0) = 1 + e^{1+0} = 1 + e.$$

$$\begin{aligned} f_{yy} &= (f_y)_y = \frac{\partial}{\partial y} (x + e^{x+y}) \\ &= \frac{\partial}{\partial y} (x) + \frac{\partial}{\partial y} (e^{x+y}). \end{aligned}$$

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$$= 0 + e^{x+y} \frac{\partial}{\partial y} (xey)$$

$$= \cancel{0} + e^{x+y} (1)$$

$$= e^{x+y}$$

$$f_{yy}(1,0) = e^{1+0} = e$$

Note $f_{xy} = f_{yx}$. This is true in general.

Clairaut's Theorem: If f_{xy} and f_{yx} are continuous then $f_{xy} = f_{yx}$

Application: Does there exist a function f such that $f_x = 2y$ and $f_y = 3x$.

Solution: Suppose there does exist ~~such~~ a function f such that

$$f_x = 2y \quad \text{and} \quad f_y = 3x$$

$$\text{Then } f_{xy} = 2 \quad \text{and} \quad f_{yx} = 3$$

implying $f_{xy} \neq f_{yx}$. This contradicts Clairaut's Theorem. So there does not exist such a function f .