



Partial Derivatives

Before formal definition. → Show MAPle worksheet

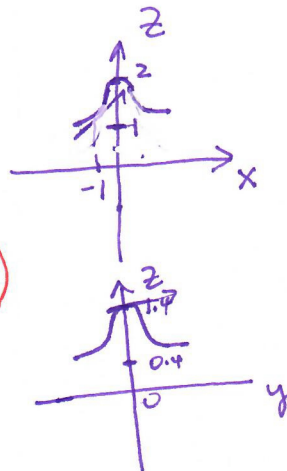
then, Consider $f(x,y) = e^{-x^2} + e^{-4y^2}$

Derivatives at $(-1,0)$

Consider

i) $g(x) \equiv f(x,0) = e^{-x^2} + 1$ ($y=0$)

ii) $h(y) \equiv f(-1,y) = e^{-1} + e^{-4y^2}$ ($x=-1$)



Now,

$$g'(x) = -2x e^{-x^2}$$

$$g'(-1) = 2e^{-1} \text{ slope.}$$

$$h'(y) = -8y e^{-4y^2}$$

$$h'(0) = 0, \text{ slope}$$

In general for any y fixed.

$$g(x) = f(x, y_{\text{fixed}})$$

$$g'(x) = \frac{d}{dx} [f(x, y_{\text{fixed}})] = -2x e^{-x^2} = f_x(x, y) = \frac{\partial f}{\partial x}(x, y)$$

For any x fixed, $h(y) = f(x_{\text{fixed}}, y)$

$$h'(y) = \frac{d}{dy} [f(x_{\text{fixed}}, y)] = -8y e^{-4y^2} = f_y(x, y) = \frac{\partial f}{\partial y}(x, y).$$

Example:

$$f(x, y) = e^{-x^2} + e^{-4y^2}$$

We want to analyze 1-D derivatives at the point $(-1, 0)$. First, we define

$$i) \quad g(x) = f(x, 0) = e^{-x^2} + 1$$

$$ii) \quad h(y) = f(-1, y) = e^{-1} + e^{-4y^2}$$

~~g(x)~~ The graph of $g(x)$ is the curve ~~at~~^{the} intersection of the plane $y=0$ with the surface S corresponding to the given fn. $f(x, y)$.

The graph of $h(y)$ is the curve at the intersection of the plane $x=-1$ with the surface S corresponding to the given fn. $f(x, y)$.

Show MAPLE worksheet.

We can compute $g'(-1)$ and $h'(0)$.

In fact, ~~$g'(x) = -2x e^{-x^2}$~~ $g'(x) = -2x e^{-x^2}$ ~~$h'(y) = -8y e^{-4y^2}$~~ $h'(y) = -8y e^{-4y^2}$

and $h'(0) = 0$

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$$g'(x) = -2x e^{-x^2} \quad \text{everywhere} \Rightarrow f_x(x, y) \Rightarrow g'(-1) = -2e^{-1}$$

It is also written as

$$h'(y) = -8y e^{-4y^2} \quad \text{everywhere} = f_y(x, y) \Rightarrow h'(0) = 0.$$

$f_x(x, y)$ is ^{a new function} called partial derivative of $f(x, y)$ w.r.t. x .

$f_y(x, y)$ is ^{a new function} " " " " $f(x, y)$ w.r.t. y .

~~The~~ From the above results,

$$f_x(-1, 0) = g'(-1) = -2e^{-1}$$

$$f_y(-1, 0) = h'(0) = 0$$

or derivative in the direction of x at the point $(-1, 0)$.

or derivative in the direction of y at the point $(-1, 0)$

these values are the ~~slope~~ numerical values of the slopes of the tangent lines to the graph of $g(x)$ at $x = -1$ and to the graph of $h(y)$ at $y = 0$, respectively.

Show MAPLE Graphs. with tangent vectors.

It is evident from the graphs that if we choose another plane the curve ~~at~~ the intersection and the slope will change.

Def. - let $f(x, y)$ be a real-valued function of two variables.

i) The P.D. w.r.t. x is the fn.

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

ii) The P.D. w.r.t. y is the fn.

$$f_y(x, y) = \lim_{k \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x, y+k) - f(x, y)}{k}$$

provided that these two limits exist.

~~Example~~ COMPUTATIONS ^{where they exist}
 The computation of $f_x(x, y)$ and $f_y(x, y)$ can be done directly without defining $g(x)$ and $h(y)$. ~~For example,~~
 For example, $f_x(x, y)$ can be obtained directly from $f(x, y)$ considering y constant and taking the derivative w.r.t. x .

In our example,

$$f(x, y) = e^{-x^2} + e^{-4y^2}$$

$$\Rightarrow f_x(x, y) = -2x e^{-x^2} + 0.$$

Similarly, ~~$f_y(x, y) = 0 - 8y e^{-4y^2}$~~ $f_y(x, y) = 0 - 8y e^{-4y^2}$.

(II)

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

Use definition to get $f_x(x, y)$

without the definition: $f_x(x, y) = y^2 - 3x^2y$.

Now, using definition:

$$\begin{aligned} f_x(x, y) &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x+h, y) - f(x, y)}{h} \\ &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{(x+h)y^2 - (x+h)^3y - xy^2 + x^3y}{h} \end{aligned}$$

Now, $(x+h)^3 = (x+h)^2(x+h) = (x^2 + 2hx + h^2)(x+h)$

$$\begin{aligned} &= x^3 + hx^2 + 2hx^2 + 2h^2x + h^2x + h^3 \\ &= x^3 + 3hx^2 + 3h^2x + h^3 \end{aligned}$$

$\therefore \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{\cancel{xy^2} + hy^2 - \cancel{x^3y} - 3hx^2y - 3h^2xy - \cancel{hy^3} - \cancel{xy^2} + \cancel{x^3y}}{h}$

$$= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{h(y^2 - 3x^2y - 3hxy - h^2y)}{h} = y^2 - 3x^2y$$

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#76)

Show that $u(x,y) = \ln \sqrt{x^2+y^2} = \ln (x^2+y^2)^{1/2}$
is a solution of

$$u_{xx} + u_{yy} = 0$$

Ans:

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

$$u_{xx} = (x^2+y^2)^{-1} - x (x^2+y^2)^{-2} \cdot 2x$$
$$= \frac{1}{x^2+y^2} - \frac{2x^2}{(x^2+y^2)^2}$$

Similarly,

$$u_{yy} = \frac{1}{x^2+y^2} - \frac{2y^2}{(x^2+y^2)^2}$$

Thus,

$$u_{xx} + u_{yy} = \frac{2}{x^2+y^2} - \frac{2(x^2+y^2)}{(x^2+y^2)^2} =$$
$$= \frac{2}{x^2+y^2} - \frac{2}{x^2+y^2} = 0 \quad \checkmark$$