

Tutorial Exercises

T1 Find all second order partial derivatives of

$$(a) z = x \log(1 + y), \quad (b) z = \sin(xy), \quad (c) z = \left(\frac{x}{y}\right)^2.$$

Check in each case that $z_{xy} = z_{yx}$.

T2 Let $\phi(x, y) = f(u)$, where $u = x^2y^3$ and f is a twice differentiable function of one variable. Show that

$$\frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x} = 2xy^3 f'(u) \quad \text{and} \quad \frac{\partial^2 \phi}{\partial x^2} = 4x^2y^6 f''(u) + 2y^3 f'(u).$$

Find similar expressions for $\frac{\partial \phi}{\partial y}$ and $\frac{\partial^2 \phi}{\partial y^2}$. Hence show that

$$9x^2 \frac{\partial^2 \phi}{\partial x^2} - 4y^2 \frac{\partial^2 \phi}{\partial y^2} + 3x \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x} = 0.$$

T3 Let $z(x, y) = e^x g(y - 4x)$, where g is an arbitrary twice differentiable function of one variable. Show that

$$\frac{\partial z}{\partial x} + 4 \frac{\partial z}{\partial y} = z.$$

By taking suitable partial derivatives of this equation, show that

$$\frac{\partial^2 z}{\partial x^2} + 8 \frac{\partial^2 z}{\partial x \partial y} + 16 \frac{\partial^2 z}{\partial y^2} = z.$$

T4 Let $z = z(x, y)$. Use the chain rule¹ for functions of two variables to find z_x and z_y when

$$(a) z = \tan^{-1} r, \text{ where } r = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2}, \quad (b) z = \cos uv, \text{ where } u = xy, v = \frac{x}{y}.$$

¹ In (b) you verify the answers you get by first expressing z directly in terms x and y .

T5 Find the general solution of the PDE

$$\frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x} = y \cos(2x + y),$$

where ϕ is a function of two independent variables x and y .

Lecture 3

• Key Points:

- implicit partial differentiation
- finding higher order partial derivatives
- Clairaut's Theorem

• Read:

- Stewart Section 14.3 (p930)

• Textbook Exercises:

- Exercises 14.3 (p) Qs 53–72

Further Exercises

F1 Use implicit differentiation to find $\frac{\partial z}{\partial x}$ and $\frac{\partial z}{\partial y}$, where

$$(a) x \ln z + y = 3, \quad (b) x^2y + y^2z = z^3,$$

F2 Let $\phi(x, y) = f(r)$ where $r^2 = x^2 + y^2$ and let f be a twice differentiable function of one variable. Show that

$$\frac{\partial^2 \phi}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 \phi}{\partial y^2} = f''(r) + \frac{1}{r} f'(r).$$

F3 Find the value of n such that the function $2xy + x^n y^{2n}$ is a solution of the partial differential equation

$$2x^2 \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x^2} - y^2 \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial y^2} + 18f = 36xy.$$

F4 Let $f(x, y) = 3r^2 + 2 \log r$, where $r^2 = x^2 + y^2$. Evaluate $\frac{\partial f}{\partial x}$ and $\frac{\partial f}{\partial y}$ and show that

$$\frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial y^2} = 12.$$

By suitable partial differentiation of this equation, deduce that

$$\frac{\partial^4 f}{\partial x^4} + 2 \frac{\partial^4 f}{\partial x^2 \partial y^2} + \frac{\partial^4 f}{\partial y^4} = 0.$$

F5 Let $z(x, y) = (x + y)^2 + h(xy)$, where h is an arbitrary twice differentiable function of one variable. Show that

$$x \frac{\partial z}{\partial x} - y \frac{\partial z}{\partial y} = 2(x^2 - y^2).$$

Deduce that

$$x^2 \frac{\partial^2 z}{\partial x^2} - y^2 \frac{\partial^2 z}{\partial y^2} = 2(x^2 - y^2).$$

F6 Let $z = z(x, y)$. Use the chain rule for functions of two variables to find z_x and z_y when

- (a) $z = f(u)$, where $u = \sin(x - y)$, (b) $z = \log(1 + uv)$, where $u = x + y$, $v = x - y$,
 (c) $z = \phi(u, v)$, where $u = e^x$, $v = e^y$, (d) $z = u^2 + v^2$, where $u = a(x, y)$, $v = b(x, y)$.

F7 Find the general solution of the PDE

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial y} = xy \exp(y^2) + 4 \log x,$$

where f is a function of two independent variables x and y .

Lecture 4

• Key Points:

- chain rule for functions of several variables
- definition of a PDE
- finding the general solution to a PDE

• Read:

- Stewart Section 14.5 (p948)
- Stewart Section 14.3 (p932)

• Textbook Exercises:

- Exercises 14.5 (p954) Qs 1–34