As we can see from Corollary 3 and Theorem 4, a function $f(x, y)$ must be continuous at a point (x_0, y_0) if f_x and f_y are continuous throughout an open region containing (x_0, y_0). Remember, however, that it is still possible for a function of two variables to be discontinuous at a point where its first partial derivatives exist, as we saw in Example 8. Existence alone of the partial derivatives at that point is not enough, but continuity of the partial derivatives guarantees differentiability.

Exercises 14.3

Calculating First-Order Partial Derivatives

In Exercises 1–22, find $\partial f/\partial x$ and $\partial f/\partial y$.

1. $f(x, y) = 2x^2 - 3y - 4$

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

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

4. $f(x, y) = 5xy - 7x^2 - y^2 + 3x - 6y + 2$

5. $f(x, y) = (xy - 1)^2$

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

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

8. $f(x, y) = (x^3 + (y/2))^{2/3}$

9. $f(x, y) = 1/(x + y)$

10. $f(x, y) = x/(x^2 + y^2)$

11. $f(x, y) = (x + y)/(xy - 1)$

12. $f(x, y) = \tan^{-1}(y/x)$

13. $f(x, y) = e^{(x+y+1)}$

14. $f(x, y) = e^{-x}\sin(x + y)$

15. $f(x, y) = \ln(x + y)$

16. $f(x, y) = e^{xy}\ln y$

17. $f(x, y) = \sin^2(x - 3y)$

18. $f(x, y) = \cos^2(3x - y^2)$

19. $f(x, y) = x^y$

20. $f(x, y) = \log_y x$

21. $f(x, y) = \int_x^y g(t)\,dt$ (g continuous for all t)

22. $f(x, y) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty}(xy)^n$ ($|xy| < 1$)

In Exercises 23–34, find f_x, f_y, and f_z.

23. $f(x, y, z) = 1 + xy^2 - 2z^2$

24. $f(x, y, z) = xy + yz + xz$

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

26. $f(x, y, z) = (x^2 + y^2 + z^2)^{-1/2}$

27. $f(x, y, z) = \sin^{-1}(xyz)$

28. $f(x, y, z) = \sec^{-1}(x + yz)$

29. $f(x, y, z) = \ln(x + 2y + 3z)$

30. $f(x, y, z) = yz\ln(xy)$

31. $f(x, y, z) = e^{-(x^2+y^2+z^2)}$

32. $f(x, y, z) = e^{-xyz}$

33. $f(x, y, z) = \tanh(x + 2y + 3z)$

34. $f(x, y, z) = \sinh(xy - z^2)$

In Exercises 35–40, find the partial derivative of the function with respect to each variable.

35. $f(t, \alpha) = \cos(2\pi t - \alpha)$

36. $g(u, v) = v^2 e^{(2u/v)}$

37. $h(\rho, \phi, \theta) = \rho\sin\phi\cos\theta$

38. $g(r, \theta, z) = r(1 - \cos\theta) - z$

39. Work done by the heart (Section 3.11, Exercise 61)

$$W(P, V, \delta, v, g) = PV + \frac{V\delta v^2}{2g}$$

40. Wilson lot size formula (Section 4.6, Exercise 53)

$$A(c, h, k, m, q) = \frac{km}{q} + cm + \frac{hq}{2}$$

Calculating Second-Order Partial Derivatives

Find all the second-order partial derivatives of the functions in Exercises 41–50.

41. $f(x, y) = x + y + xy$

42. $f(x, y) = \sin xy$

43. $g(x, y) = x^2y + \cos y + y\sin x$

44. $h(x, y) = xe^y + y + 1$

45. $r(x, y) = \ln(x + y)$

46. $s(x, y) = \tan^{-1}(y/x)$

47. $w = x^2\tan(xy)$

48. $w = ye^{x^2-y}$

49. $w = x\sin(x^2y)$

50. $w = \dfrac{x - y}{x^2 + y}$

Mixed Partial Derivatives

In Exercises 51–54, verify that $w_{xy} = w_{yx}$.

51. $w = \ln(2x + 3y)$

52. $w = e^x + x\ln y + y\ln x$

53. $w = xy^2 + x^2y^3 + x^3y^4$

54. $w = x\sin y + y\sin x + xy$

55. Which order of differentiation will calculate f_{xy} faster: x first or y first? Try to answer without writing anything down.

a. $f(x, y) = x\sin y + e^y$

b. $f(x, y) = 1/x$

c. $f(x, y) = y + (x/y)$

d. $f(x, y) = y + x^2y + 4y^3 - \ln(y^2 + 1)$

e. $f(x, y) = x^2 + 5xy + \sin x + 7e^x$

f. $f(x, y) = x\ln xy$

56. The fifth-order partial derivative $\partial^5 f/\partial x^2\partial y^3$ is zero for each of the following functions. To show this as quickly as possible, which variable would you differentiate with respect to first: x or y? Try to answer without writing anything down.

a. $f(x, y) = y^2x^4e^x + 2$

b. $f(x, y) = y^2 + y(\sin x - x^4)$

c. $f(x, y) = x^2 + 5xy + \sin x + 7e^x$

d. $f(x, y) = xe^{y^2/2}$

Using the Partial Derivative Definition

In Exercises 57–60, use the limit definition of partial derivative to compute the partial derivatives of the functions at the specified points.

57. $f(x, y) = 1 - x + y - 3x^2y, \quad \dfrac{\partial f}{\partial x}$ and $\dfrac{\partial f}{\partial y}$ at $(1, 2)$

58. $f(x, y) = 4 + 2x - 3y - xy^2, \quad \dfrac{\partial f}{\partial x}$ and $\dfrac{\partial f}{\partial y}$ at $(-2, 1)$

59. $f(x, y) = \sqrt{2x + 3y - 1}, \quad \dfrac{\partial f}{\partial x}$ and $\dfrac{\partial f}{\partial y}$ at $(-2, 3)$

60. $f(x, y) = \begin{cases} \dfrac{\sin(x^3 + y^4)}{x^2 + y^2}, & (x, y) \neq (0, 0) \\ 0, & (x, y) = (0, 0), \end{cases}$

$\dfrac{\partial f}{\partial x}$ and $\dfrac{\partial f}{\partial y}$ at $(0, 0)$

61. Let $f(x, y) = 2x + 3y - 4$. Find the slope of the line tangent to this surface at the point $(2, -1)$ and lying in the **a.** plane $x = 2$ **b.** plane $y = -1$.

62. Let $f(x, y) = x^2 + y^3$. Find the slope of the line tangent to this surface at the point $(-1, 1)$ and lying in the **a.** plane $x = -1$ **b.** plane $y = 1$.

63. **Three variables** Let $w = f(x, y, z)$ be a function of three independent variables and write the formal definition of the partial derivative $\partial f/\partial z$ at (x_0, y_0, z_0). Use this definition to find $\partial f/\partial z$ at $(1, 2, 3)$ for $f(x, y, z) = x^2yz^2$.

64. **Three variables** Let $w = f(x, y, z)$ be a function of three independent variables and write the formal definition of the partial derivative $\partial f/\partial y$ at (x_0, y_0, z_0). Use this definition to find $\partial f/\partial y$ at $(-1, 0, 3)$ for $f(x, y, z) = -2xy^2 + yz^2$.

Differentiating Implicitly

65. Find the value of $\partial z/\partial x$ at the point $(1, 1, 1)$ if the equation

$$xy + z^3x - 2yz = 0$$

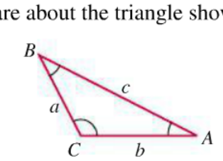
defines z as a function of the two independent variables x and y and the partial derivative exists.

66. Find the value of $\partial x/\partial z$ at the point $(1, -1, -3)$ if the equation

$$xz + y \ln x - x^2 + 4 = 0$$

defines x as a function of the two independent variables y and z and the partial derivative exists.

Exercises 67 and 68 are about the triangle shown here.



67. Express A implicitly as a function of a, b, and c and calculate $\partial A/\partial a$ and $\partial A/\partial b$.

68. Express a implicitly as a function of A, b, and B and calculate $\partial a/\partial A$ and $\partial a/\partial B$.

69. **Two dependent variables** Express v_x in terms of u and y if the equations $x = v \ln u$ and $y = u \ln v$ define u and v as functions of the independent variables x and y, and if v_x exists. (*Hint:* Differentiate both equations with respect to x and solve for v_x by eliminating u_x.)

70. **Two dependent variables** Find $\partial x/\partial u$ and $\partial y/\partial u$ if the equations $u = x^2 - y^2$ and $v = x^2 - y$ define x and y as functions of the independent variables u and v, and the partial derivatives exist. (See the hint in Exercise 69.) Then let $s = x^2 + y^2$ and find $\partial s/\partial u$.

Theory and Examples

71. Let $f(x, y) = \begin{cases} y^3, & y \geq 0 \\ -y^2, & y < 0. \end{cases}$

Find f_x, f_y, f_{xy}, and f_{yx}, and state the domain for each partial derivative.

72. Let $f(x, y) = \begin{cases} xy\dfrac{x^2 - y^2}{x^2 + y^2}, & \text{if } (x, y) \neq 0, \\ 0, & \text{if } (x, y) = 0. \end{cases}$

a. Show that $\dfrac{\partial f}{\partial y}(x, 0) = x$ for all x, and $\dfrac{\partial f}{\partial x}(0, y) = -y$ for all y.

b. Show that $\dfrac{\partial^2 f}{\partial y \partial x}(0, 0) \neq \dfrac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x \partial y}(0, 0)$.

The graph of f is shown on page 800.

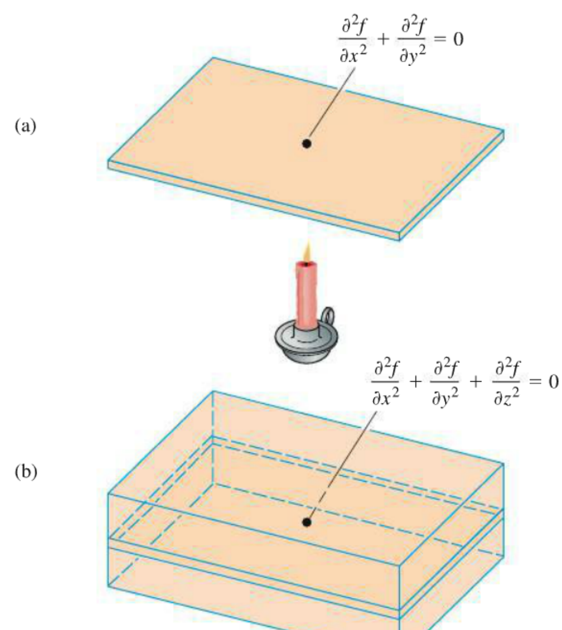
The **three-dimensional Laplace equation**

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

is satisfied by steady-state temperature distributions $T = f(x, y, z)$ in space, by gravitational potentials, and by electrostatic potentials. The **two-dimensional Laplace equation**

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

obtained by dropping the $\partial^2 f/\partial z^2$ term from the previous equation, describes potentials and steady-state temperature distributions in a plane (see the accompanying figure). The plane (a) may be treated as a thin slice of the solid (b) perpendicular to the z-axis.



Boundary temperatures controlled

Show that each function in Exercises 73–80 satisfies a Laplace equation.

73. $f(x, y, z) = x^2 + y^2 - 2z^2$

74. $f(x, y, z) = 2z^3 - 3(x^2 + y^2)z$

75. $f(x, y) = e^{-2y} \cos 2x$

76. $f(x, y) = \ln \sqrt{x^2 + y^2}$

77. $f(x, y) = 3x + 2y - 4$

78. $f(x, y) = \tan^{-1} \dfrac{x}{y}$

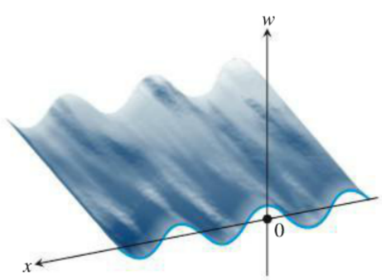
79. $f(x, y, z) = (x^2 + y^2 + z^2)^{-1/2}$

80. $f(x, y, z) = e^{3x+4y} \cos 5z$

The Wave Equation If we stand on an ocean shore and take a snapshot of the waves, the picture shows a regular pattern of peaks and valleys in an instant of time. We see periodic vertical motion in space, with respect to distance. If we stand in the water, we can feel the rise and fall of the water as the waves go by. We see periodic vertical motion in time. In physics, this beautiful symmetry is expressed by the **one-dimensional wave equation**

$$\frac{\partial^2 w}{\partial t^2} = c^2 \frac{\partial^2 w}{\partial x^2},$$

where w is the wave height, x is the distance variable, t is the time variable, and c is the velocity with which the waves are propagated.



In our example, x is the distance across the ocean's surface, but in other applications, x might be the distance along a vibrating string, distance through air (sound waves), or distance through space (light waves). The number c varies with the medium and type of wave.

Show that the functions in Exercises 81–87 are all solutions of the wave equation.

81. $w = \sin (x + ct)$

82. $w = \cos (2x + 2ct)$

83. $w = \sin (x + ct) + \cos (2x + 2ct)$

84. $w = \ln (2x + 2ct)$

85. $w = \tan (2x - 2ct)$

86. $w = 5 \cos (3x + 3ct) + e^{x+ct}$

87. $w = f(u)$, where f is a differentiable function of u, and $u = a(x + ct)$, where a is a constant

88. Does a function $f(x, y)$ with continuous first partial derivatives throughout an open region R have to be continuous on R? Give reasons for your answer.

89. If a function $f(x, y)$ has continuous second partial derivatives throughout an open region R, must the first-order partial derivatives of f be continuous on R? Give reasons for your answer.

90. The heat equation An important partial differential equation that describes the distribution of heat in a region at time t can be represented by the *one-dimensional heat equation*

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial t} = \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x^2}.$$

Show that $u(x, t) = \sin(\alpha x) \cdot e^{-\beta t}$ satisfies the heat equation for constants α and β. What is the relationship between α and β for this function to be a solution?

91. Let $f(x, y) = \begin{cases} \dfrac{xy^2}{x^2 + y^4}, & (x, y) \neq (0, 0) \\ 0, & (x, y) = (0, 0). \end{cases}$

Show that $f_x(0, 0)$ and $f_y(0, 0)$ exist, but f is not differentiable at $(0, 0)$. (*Hint:* Use Theorem 4 and show that f is not continuous at $(0, 0)$.)

92. Let $f(x, y) = \begin{cases} 0, & x^2 < y < 2x^2 \\ 1, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$

Show that $f_x(0, 0)$ and $f_y(0, 0)$ exist, but f is not differentiable at $(0, 0)$.

14.4 The Chain Rule

The Chain Rule for functions of a single variable studied in Section 3.6 says that when $w = f(x)$ is a differentiable function of x and $x = g(t)$ is a differentiable function of t, w is a differentiable function of t and dw/dt can be calculated by the formula

$$\frac{dw}{dt} = \frac{dw}{dx}\frac{dx}{dt}.$$

For this composite function $w(t) = f(g(t))$, we can think of t as the independent variable and $x = g(t)$ as the "intermediate variable," because t determines the value of x which in turn gives the value of w from the function f. We display the Chain Rule in a "branch diagram" in the margin on the next page.

For functions of several variables the Chain Rule has more than one form, which depends on how many independent and intermediate variables are involved. However, once the variables are taken into account, the Chain Rule works in the same way we just discussed.