

## HIGER – ORDER PARTIAL DERIVATIVES

We have seen that if  $y = f(x)$ , then

$$y' = \frac{df}{dx} \quad \text{and} \quad y'' = \frac{d^2f}{dx^2} = \frac{d}{dx} \left( \frac{df}{dx} \right)$$

That is ,the second derivative of  $f$  is the derivative of the first derivative of  $f$  . , if  $z = f(x, y)$ , then we can differentiate each of the two "first" partial derivatives  $\frac{\partial f}{\partial x}$  and  $\frac{\partial f}{\partial y}$  with respect to both  $x$  and  $y$  to obtain four second partial derivatives as follows :

### Definition 1: SECOND PARTIAL DERIVATIVES

(i) Differentiate twice with respect to  $x$  :

$$\frac{\partial^2 z}{\partial x^2} = \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x^2} = f_{xx} = \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left( \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \right) \quad (1)$$

(ii) Differentiate first with respect to  $x$  and then with respect to  $y$  :

$$\frac{\partial^2 z}{\partial y \partial x} = \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial y \partial x} = f_{xy} = \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \left( \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \right) \quad (2)$$

(iii) Differentiate first with respect to  $y$  and then with respect to  $x$  :

$$\frac{\partial^2 z}{\partial x \partial y} = \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x \partial y} = f_{yx} = \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left( \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} \right) \quad (3)$$

(iv) Differentiate twice with respect to  $y$  :

$$\frac{\partial^2 z}{\partial y^2} = \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial y^2} = f_{yy} = \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \left( \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} \right) \quad (4)$$

REMARK1. The derivatives  $\frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x \partial y}$  and  $\frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial y \partial x}$  are called the mixed second partials.

REMARK2. It is much easier to denote the second partials by  $f_{xx}$ ,  $f_{yy}$ ,  $f_{xy}$  and  $f_{yx}$ . We

Will there f are use this notation for the remainder of this section. Note that the symbol  $f_{xy}$  indicates that we differentiate first with respect to  $y$ .

**EXAMPLE 1** Let  $z = f(x,y) = x^3y^2 - xy^5$ . Calculate the four second partial derivatives.

Solution. We have  $f_x = 3x^2y^2 - y^5$  and  $f_y = 2x^3y - 5xy^4$ .

$$(a) \quad f_{xx} = \frac{\partial}{\partial x}(f_x) = 6xy^2$$

$$(b) \quad f_{xy} = \frac{\partial}{\partial y}(f_x) = 6x^2y - 5y^2$$

$$(c) \quad f_{xy} = \frac{\partial}{\partial x}(f_y) = 6x^2y - 5y^2$$

$$(d) \quad f_{yy} = \frac{\partial}{\partial y}(f_y) = 2x^3 - 20xy^3$$

In Example 1 we saw that  $f_{xy} = f_{yx}$ . This result is no accident, as we see by the following theorem whose proof can be found in any intermediate calculus text.

**Theorem 1** : Suppose that  $f, f_x, f_y, f_{xy}$  and  $f_{yx}$  are all continuous at  $(x_0, y_0)$ . Then

$$f_{xy}(x_0, y_0) = f_{yx}(x_0, y_0) \quad (5)$$

This result is often referred to as the equality of mixed partials  $\neq 0$ .

The definition of second partial derivatives and the theorem on the equality of mixed partials are easily extended to functions of three variables. If  $w = (x, y, z)$ , then we have the nine second partial derivatives (assuming that they exist):

$$\frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x^2} = f_{xx}, \quad \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial y \partial x} = f_{xy}, \quad \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial z \partial x} = f_{xz},$$

$$\frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x \partial y} = f_{yx}, \quad \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial y^2} = f_{yy}, \quad \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial z \partial y} = f_{yz}$$

$$\frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x \partial z} = f_{zx}, \quad \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial y \partial z} = f_{zy}, \quad \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial z^2} = f_{zz}.$$

**Theorem 2** If  $f, f_x, f_y, f_z$  and all six mixed partial are continuous at a point  $(x_0, y_0, z_0)$  then at a point This theorem was first stated by Euler in a 1734 paper devoted to a problem in hydrodynamics

$$f_{xy} = f_{yx}, \quad f_{xz} = f_{zx}, \quad f_{yz} = f_{zy}.$$

**EXAMPLE 2 :** Let  $f(x, y, z) = xy^3 - zx^5 + x^2yz$  be a function , Calculate all for nine second partial derivatives and show that all three pairs of mixed partials are equal

Solution : We have

$$f_x = y^3 - 5zx^4 + 2xyz ,$$

$$f_y = 3xy^2 + x^2z ,$$

and

$$f_z = -x^5 + x^2y$$

Then

$$f_{xx} = -20zx^3 + 2yz , \quad f_{yy} = 6xy , \quad f_{zz} = 0 ,$$

$$f_{xy} = \frac{\partial}{\partial y}(y^3 - 5zx^4 + 2xyz) = 3y^2 + 2xz ,$$

$$f_{yx} = \frac{\partial}{\partial x}(3xy^2 + x^2z) = 3y^2 + 2xz ,$$

$$f_{xz} = \frac{\partial}{\partial z}(y^3 - 5zx^4 + 2xyz) = -5x^4 + 2xy ,$$

$$f_{zx} = \frac{\partial}{\partial x}(-x^5 + x^2y) = -5x^4 + 2xy ,$$

$$f_{yz} = \frac{\partial}{\partial z}(3xy^2 + x^2z) = x^2 ,$$

$$f_{zy} = \frac{\partial}{\partial y}(-x^5 + x^2y) = x^2$$

We conclude this section by pointing out that we can easily define partial derivatives of orders higher than two . For example,

$$f_{zyx} = \frac{\partial^3 f}{\partial x \partial y \partial z} = \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left( \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial y \partial z} \right) = \frac{\partial}{\partial x} (f_{zy})$$

**EXAMPLE 3** Calculate and for the function of Example 2 .

Solution We easily obtain the three third partial derivatives:

$$f_{xxx} = \frac{\partial}{\partial x}(f_{xx}) = \frac{\partial}{\partial x}(20zx^3 + 2yz) = -60zx^2$$

$$f_{zzy} = \frac{\partial}{\partial y}(f_{xz}) = \frac{\partial}{\partial y}(5x^4 + 2yz) = 2x$$

$$f_{yxz} = \frac{\partial}{\partial z}(f_{yx}) = \frac{\partial}{\partial z}(3y^2 + 2xz) = 2x$$

Note that  $f_{xzy} = f_{yxz}$  This again is no accident and follows from the generalization of Theorem 2 to mixed third partial derivatives. Finally, the fourth partial derivative  $f_{yxzx}$  is given by

$$f_{yxzx} = \frac{\partial}{\partial x}(f_{yxz}) = \frac{\partial}{\partial x}(2x) = 2.$$

### PROBLEMS

In problems 1-12, calculate the four second partial derivatives and show that the mixed partials are equal.

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

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

3.  $f(x, y) = 3e^{xy^3}$

4.  $f(x, y) = \sin(x^2 + y^3)$

5.  $f(x, y) = \frac{4x}{y^5}$

6.  $f(x, y) = e^y \tan x.$

7.  $f(x, y) = \ln(x^3 y^5 - 2)$

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

9.  $f(x, y) = (x + 5y \sin x)$  اكتب المعادلة هنا.

10.  $f(x, y) = \sinh(2x - y)$

11.  $f(x, y) = \sin^{-1}\left(\frac{x^2 - y^2}{x^2 + y^2}\right)$

12.  $f(x, y) = \sec xy$

In Problems 13 -21 , calculate the nine second partial derivatives and show that the three pairs of mixed partials are equal

13 .  $f ( x , y , z ) = xyz$

14 .  $f ( x , y , z ) = x^2y^3z^4$

15 .  $f ( x , y , z ) = \frac{x+y}{z}$

16 .  $f ( x , y , z ) = \sin ( x + 2y + z^2 )$

17 .  $f ( x , y , z ) = \tan^{-1} \frac{xz}{y}$

18 .  $f ( x , y , z ) = \cos xyz$

19 .  $f ( x , y , z ) = e^{3xy} \cos z$

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

21 .  $f ( x , y , z ) = \cosh \sqrt{x + yz}$

22 . How many third partial derivatives are there for a function of (a) two variables; (b) three variables?

23 . How many fourth partial derivatives are there for a function of (a) two variables; (b) three variables?

24 . How many nth partial derivatives are there for a function of (a) two variables; (b) three variables ?

In Problems 25 -30 , calculate the given partial derivative

25 .  $f ( x , y ) = x^2y^3 + 2y; f_{xyx}$

26 .  $f ( x , y ) = \sin ( 2xy^4 ); f_{xyt}$

27 .  $f ( x , y ) = \ln ( 3x - 2y ); f_{yxy}$

28 .  $f ( x , y , z ) = x^2y + y^2z - 3\sqrt{xz}; f_{xyz}$

29 .  $f ( x , y , z ) = \cos(x + 2y + 3z ); f_{zzx}$

30  $f ( x , y , z ) = e^{xy} \sin z; f_{zxyx} .$