

## 2009 Putnam A6

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Let  $f : [0, 1]^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be a continuous function on the closed unit square such that  $\frac{\partial f}{\partial x}$  and  $\frac{\partial f}{\partial y}$  exist and are continuous on the interior  $(0, 1)^2$ . Let  $a = \int_0^1 f(0, y)dy$ ,  $b = \int_0^1 f(1, y)dy$ ,  $c = \int_0^1 f(x, 0)dx$ ,  $d = \int_0^1 f(x, 1)dx$ . Prove or disprove: There must be a point  $(x_0, y_0)$  in  $(0, 1)^2$  such that

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial x}(x_0, y_0) = b - a \quad \text{and} \quad \frac{\partial f}{\partial y}(x_0, y_0) = d - c.$$

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This is false. A counterexample is  $f(x, y) = x \sin(2\pi y)$ . Note that  $a = b = c = d = 0$  while  $\nabla f = \sin(2\pi y)\mathbf{i} + 2\pi x \cos(2\pi y)\mathbf{j}$  is never zero unless  $x = 0$ , which is outside  $(0, 1)^2$ . ■