

partial derivatives

A partial derivative is the derivative of a multivariable function with respect to one variable while treating all other variables as constants.

example

Assume following function:


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

Partial Derivative with Respect to x : $\frac{\partial f}{\partial x} = \frac{\partial}{\partial x}(x^2y + 3xy^3) \implies \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} = 2xy + 3y^3$

Partial Derivative with Respect to y : $\frac{\partial f}{\partial y} = \frac{\partial}{\partial y}(x^2y + 3xy^3) \implies \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} = x^2 + 9xy^2$

the symmetry of second partial derivatives

example

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


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graph TD; A["f(x, y) = x^2y + 3xy^3"] --> B["∂f/∂x = 2xy + 3y^3"]; A --> C["∂f/∂y = x^2 + 9xy^2"];
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$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial x} = 2xy + 3y^3$$

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial y} = x^2 + 9xy^2$$