

Sec. 14.3:  
Partial Derivatives

# What We Will Go Over In Section 14.3

1. What is a Partial Derivative
2. How to Calculate a Partial Derivative
3. Second and Higher Order Partial Derivatives
4. Clairaut's Theorem

# 1. What is a Partial Derivative

## What is a (Calc 1) Derivative?

Picture of derivative at a point

$$f'(x) = 2x \text{ at } (3,9)$$

Picture of derivative function

$$f'(x) = 2x \text{ at } (3,9)$$

### Notes

- Any time you have a function of 1 variable, you can find the derivative function
- When plugging in a number to the derivative function, you get the slope of the tangent line to the graph of the original function

# 1. What is a Partial Derivative

## Picture/Story of a Calc. 3 Partial Derivative (w.r.t. $x$ )

Given a 2 variable function  $f(x, y)$  and a point  $(a, b, c)$ , slice with  $y = b$ .

### Situation

- You are given a 2-variable function  $f(x, y)$  and a point  $(a, b, c)$  on its graph
- Slice the surface with the plane  $y = b$
- Project the curve to the  $xz$ -plane
- Find the derivative of this as a function (1-variable since  $y$  is constant)
- Plug in  $x = a$  to get slope of the tangent line
- When we actually calculate a partial derivative, we will do it slightly differently. This is just the story

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## 2. How to Calculate a Partial Derivative

### To find the partial derivative of a 2-variable function (w.r.t. $x$ )

- Notation:  $f_x$  or  $z_x$  or  $\frac{\partial f}{\partial x}$  or  $\frac{\partial z}{\partial x}$
- Find the derivative as a function using Calc. 1 rules, but...  
**treat  $x$  as the variable and treat all other letters as constants**
- The partial derivative as a function will have  $x$ 's and  $y$ 's in it
- If a point is given, plug in the  $x$  and  $y$  coordinate of the point to get the partial derivative at that point

### To find the partial derivative of a 2-variable function (w.r.t. $y$ )

- Notation:  $f_y$  or  $z_y$  or  $\frac{\partial f}{\partial y}$  or  $\frac{\partial z}{\partial y}$
- Find the derivative as a function using Calc. 1 rules, but...  
**treat  $y$  as the variable and treat all other letters as constants**
- The partial derivative as a function will have  $x$ 's and  $y$ 's in it
- If a point is given, plug in the  $x$  and  $y$  coordinate of the point to get the partial derivative at that point

## 2. How to Calculate a Partial Derivative

Ex 1: If  $f(x, y) = x^3 + x^2y^3 - 2y^2$  , find  $f_x(2,1)$  and  $f_y(2,1)$  and draw pictures

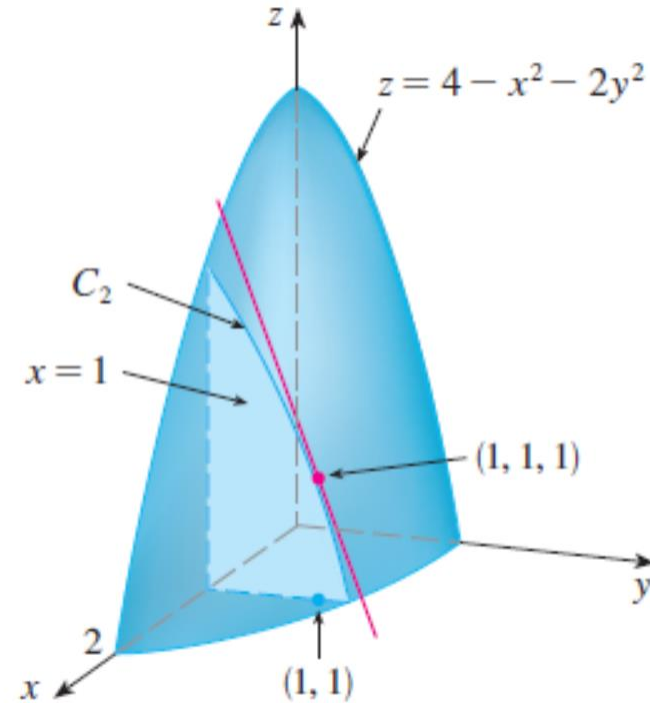
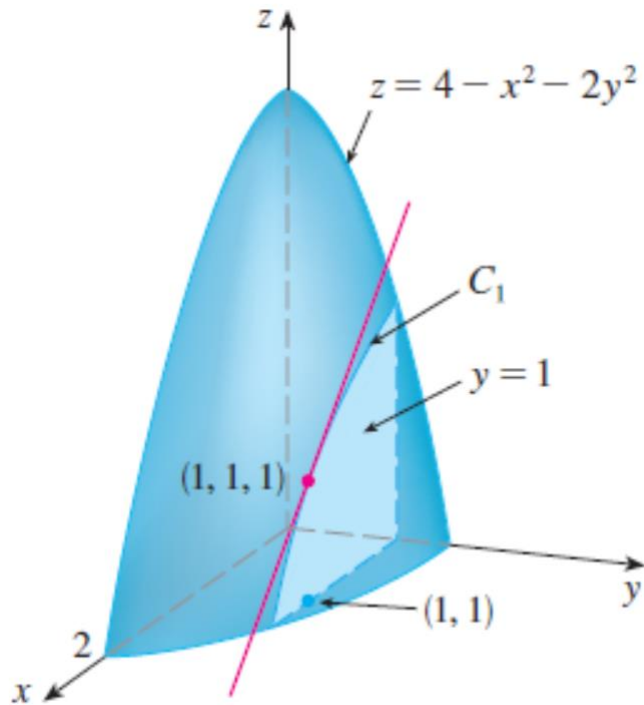
## 2. How to Calculate a Partial Derivative

Ex 2: If  $f(x, y) = 4 - x^2 - 2y^2$  , find  $f_x(1,1)$  and  $f_y(1,1)$



## 2. How to Calculate a Partial Derivative

Ex 2: If  $f(x, y) = 4 - x^2 - 2y^2$ , find  $f_x(1,1)$  and  $f_y(1,1)$



## 2. How to Calculate a Partial Derivative

Ex 4: If  $f(x, y) = \sin\left(\frac{x}{1+y}\right)$ , calculate  $\frac{\partial f}{\partial x}$  and  $\frac{\partial f}{\partial y}$

## 2. How to Calculate a Partial Derivative

### Calc. 1 Implicit Differentiation Story...

Recall Calc. 1 CHAIN RULE

Ex: Find...

$$[\sin x]'$$

$$[\sin(x^2 + 1)]'$$

$$[\sin y]'$$

$$[\ln x]'$$

$$[\ln(e^x + \sin x)]'$$

$$[\ln y]'$$

## 2. How to Calculate a Partial Derivative

### Calc. 1 Implicit Differentiation Story...

#### Recall Calc. 1 CHAIN RULE

Ex: Find...

$$\frac{d}{dx} e^x$$

$$\frac{d}{dx} e^{\sin x}$$

$$\frac{d}{dx} e^x$$

$$\frac{d}{dx} x^3$$

$$\frac{d}{dx} (x^2 + e^x)^3$$

$$\frac{d}{dx} y^3$$

## 2. How to Calculate a Partial Derivative

### Calc. 1 Implicit Differentiation Story...

Ex: Find  $y'(4,3)$  if  $x^2 + y^2 = 25$ . [Picture/Solve for y](#)

## 2. How to Calculate a Partial Derivative

### Calc. 1 Implicit Differentiation Story...

Ex: Find  $y'(4,3)$  if  $x^2 + y^2 = 25$ . [Picture/DO NOT SOLVE FOR  \$y\$](#)

## 2. How to Calculate a Partial Derivative

### Calc. 1 Implicit Differentiation Story...

Most interesting when you can't solve for  $y$ ...

Ex: Find  $\left. \frac{dy}{dx} \right|_{(3,3)}$  if  $x^3 + y^3 = 6xy$ . [Picture](#)

## 2. How to Calculate a Partial Derivative

How does Implicit Differentiation Change in Calc. 3?

For a 2-variable function,  $z$  will be a function of  $x$  and  $y$  and so you will take partial derivatives instead of regular Calc. 1 derivatives.



## 2. How to Calculate a Partial Derivative

Ex 5: Find  $\frac{\partial z}{\partial x}$  and  $\frac{\partial z}{\partial y}$  if  $z$  is defined implicitly as a function of  $x$  and  $y$  by the equation

$$x^3 + y^3 + z^3 + 6xyz = 1$$

## 2. How to Calculate a Partial Derivative

Functions of 3 or more variables ... What Changes?

To find the partial derivative of a 3 or more variable function

- Lose the ability to graph
- Whichever letter is the variable, **ALL OTHER LETTERS** should be treated as constants

## 2. How to Calculate a Partial Derivative

Ex 6: Find  $f_x$  ,  $f_y$  , and  $f_z$  if  $f(x, y, z) = e^{xy} \ln z$

### 3. Second and Higher Order Derivatives

Ex 7: Find the second partial derivatives of  $f(x, y) = x^3 + x^2y^3 - 2y^2$

### 3. Second and Higher Order Derivatives

Ex 8: Calculate  $f_{xxyz}$  if  $f(x, y, z) = \sin(3x + yz)$

## 4. Clairaut's Theorem

### Clairaut's Theorem

Suppose  $f$  is defined on a disk  $D$  that contains the point  $(a, b)$ .

If the functions  $f_{xy}$  and  $f_{yx}$  are both continuous on  $D$ , then

$$f_{xy}(a, b) = f_{yx}(a, b)$$