

# INTEGRATION BY PARTS

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This is another widely used technique which reduces the evaluation of certain anti-derivatives to ones we already know. We begin by defining

$$D F(x) \equiv \frac{dF(x)}{dx} = f(x) \quad D G(x) = \frac{dG(x)}{dx} = g(x) \quad (1)$$

$$\text{We have previously shown that } D(FG) = D F \cdot G + F \cdot D G \quad (2) \\ = fG + Fg$$

Suppose that for a given problem we are given  $f(x)$  and  $g(x)$  and also  $G(x)$ ;  $F(x)$ .

Using (2) we can then

write

$$Fg = D(FG) - Gf \quad (3)$$

$$\text{It follows from (3) that } \int_{x_1}^{x_2} F(x)g(x) dx = \int_{x_1}^{x_2} \frac{d}{dx}(F(x)G(x)) dx - \int_{x_1}^{x_2} G(x)f(x) dx \quad (4)$$


Consider the term shown by 

$$= \int_{x_1}^{x_2} \frac{d}{dx}(FG) dx \equiv FG \Big|_{x_1}^{x_2} \quad (5)$$

This simply states that the process of differentiation and the process of integration offset each other

Combining (4) and (5) we arrive at

$$\int_{x_1}^{x_2} F(x)g(x) dx = F(x)G(x) \Big|_{x_1}^{x_2} - \int_{x_1}^{x_2} G(x)f(x) dx \quad (6)$$

 "SURFACE TERM"

PARTIAL  
INTEGRATION  
FORMULA

As we will see in an example below, this is particularly useful in situations where the "surface term" vanishes,

## Comments:

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(1) Note that on the r.h.s. (right hand side) of (6) we have to know  $G(x)$  obtained from  $g(x)$  so that  $dG(x)/dx = g(x)$ .

We have also noted that  $G(x)$  is undetermined up to a constant. This means that for any  $G(x)$  we can find a new  $G(x)$  by adding a constant  $c$ . Here we show explicitly that this constant does not change the answer in (6). If we replace  $G(x) \rightarrow G(x) + c$  in (6) then

$$\int_{x_1}^{x_2} F(x') g(x') dx' = [F(x') G(x') + F(x') \cdot c]_{x_1}^{x_2} - \int_{x_1}^{x_2} [G(x') + c] f(x') dx' \quad (7)$$

The extra terms due to  $c$  are:

$$\text{extra terms} = c F(x') \Big|_{x_1}^{x_2} - c \underbrace{\int_{x_1}^{x_2} f(x') dx'}_{F(x') \Big|_{x_1}^{x_2}} = 0 \Rightarrow \underline{\text{no change due to } c} \quad (8)$$

(2) NOTATIONS: In many texts you will see the partial integration formula written as

$$\int u dv = uv - \int (v) du$$

or simply:  $\boxed{\int u dv = uv - \int v du} \quad (9)$

(3) WHY IS PARTIAL INTEGRATION USEFUL?

Example [1]  $\int_{x_1}^{x_2} x' \cos x' dx'$        $\underbrace{\text{let } u = x'}_{du = 1 dx'} \quad \underbrace{dv = \cos x' dx'}_{V = + \sin x'} \quad (10)$

$$\Rightarrow \boxed{\int_{x_1}^{x_2} x' \cos x' dx' = x' \sin x' \Big|_{x_1}^{x_2} - \int_{x_1}^{x_2} \sin x' \cdot 1 dx'} \quad (11)$$

The first term in (11) - the "surface term" can be evaluated trivially for any  $x_2, x_1$ .

The remaining integral is:

$$-\int_{x_1}^{x_2} \sin x' dx' = \cos x' \Big|_{x_1}^{x_2} \quad (12)$$

Hence altogether we find:

$$\int_{x_1}^{x_2} \underbrace{x' \cos x'}_{f(x')} dx' = \left[ \underbrace{x' \sin x' + \cos x'}_{F(x')} \right]_{x_1}^{x_2} \quad (13)$$

Check: we can (and must!) verify that  $dF(x')/dx' = f(x')$

$$\frac{d}{dx'} [x' \sin x' + \cos x'] = 1 \cdot \sin x' + x' \cos x' - \sin x' = x' \cos x' \checkmark$$

Example [2] - Problem 2.1.3 of text

Consider the function  $F(n) = \int_0^{\infty} \underbrace{x'^n}_u \underbrace{e^{-x'}}_{dv} dx' = \int_0^{\infty} u dv \quad (14)$

If  $u = x'^n \Rightarrow du = n(x')^{n-1} dx'$

If  $dv = e^{-x'} dx' \Rightarrow v = -e^{-x'}$

Then (14)  $\Rightarrow F(n) = \underbrace{x'^n (-e^{-x'})}_{\equiv 0} \Big|_0^{\infty} - \int_0^{\infty} (-) e^{-x'} \cdot n(x')^{n-1} dx' \quad (15)$

$\rightarrow$  This is one of the powerful uses of partial integration: it happens sometimes that the surface term  $\equiv 0$ .

From (15) we then have:  $F(n) = (-)(-)n \int_0^{\infty} \underbrace{e^{-x'} (x')^{n-1}}_{\equiv F(n-1)} dx' \quad (16)$

$\Rightarrow$   $F(n) = n F(n-1) \quad (17)$

Continuing:  $F(n-1) = (n-1) F(n-2) \Rightarrow F(n) = n(n-1) F(n-2) \quad (18)$

Continuing in this manner we find in the end

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$$F(n) = n(n-1)(n-2)(n-3)\dots 3 \times 2 \times 1 = n!$$

(19)

Later you will learn of the gamma function  $\Gamma(n)$ :

$$\Gamma(n) = F(n-1) = (n-1)! \quad (20)$$

From the preceding we then see that  $\Gamma(n)$  can be expressed as

$$\Gamma(n) = (n-1)! = \int_0^{\infty} (x')^{n-1} e^{-x'} dx' \quad (21)$$

Integral  
Representation of  
 $\Gamma(n)$

One advantage of the Integral Representation is that it allows us to define  $\Gamma(n)$  for any value of  $n$ : positive, negative, zero, complex.

For example:

$$(n-1)! \xrightarrow{n \Rightarrow 0} 0! = \int_0^{\infty} (x')^{1-1} e^{-x'} dx' = \int_0^{\infty} e^{-x'} dx' = -e^{-x'} \Big|_0^{\infty} = -e^{-\infty} + e^0 = 1 \quad (22)$$

Hence

$$0! = 1 \quad (23)$$

We can use this result to evaluate  $\Gamma(n)$  for negative  $n$ :

Note that:

$$n! = n(n-1)! \Rightarrow (n-1)! = \frac{n!}{n} \quad (23)$$

$$n=1 \Rightarrow (n-1)! = \frac{n!}{n} = \frac{1!}{1} = 1$$

(24)

$$n=0 \Rightarrow (-1)! = \frac{0!}{0} = \frac{1}{0} = \infty$$

$$n=-1 \Rightarrow (-2)! = \frac{-1!}{-1} = \frac{+\infty}{-1} = -\infty$$

etc.  $\Rightarrow \Gamma(n) \rightarrow \infty$  when  $n \leq -1$

# EVALUATION OF GAUSSIAN INTEGRALS

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This is a class of integrals of great importance which recur often in physics. Additionally their evaluation exhibits added tricks that we can use for other integrals.

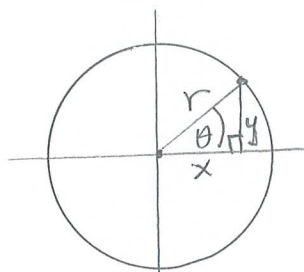
Consider  $I \equiv \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-x^2} dx$  (1) (here we are dropping the primes on  $x$ , since there is no chance of confusion)

The first trick is to write  $I^2$  as

$$I^2 = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-x^2} dx \cdot \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-y^2} dy = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-x^2} e^{-y^2} dx dy \quad (2)$$

Here  $x$  and  $y$  are dummy variables: The key point is that we want to make clear that each integral is to be treated separately, at least initially.

Next we transform to polar coordinates:



$$x = r \cos \theta \quad y = r \sin \theta$$

$$x^2 + y^2 = r^2 (\cos^2 \theta + \sin^2 \theta) = r^2$$

Returning to (2):  $I^2 = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-(x^2+y^2)} dx dy = \int_0^{\infty} r dr \int_0^{2\pi} d\theta e^{-r^2} \quad (3)$

From (3):  $I^2 = 2\pi \cdot \int_0^{\infty} r e^{-r^2} dr \quad (4)$

we will show this later!

Note that by allowing  $\theta$  to range from 0 to  $2\pi$ , while  $r$  ranges from 0 to  $\infty$ , the range of integration extends over all space, just as the integration over  $dx dy$  does in (2).

In Eq. (4) make the substitution  $s=r^2$

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$$\text{Then } \frac{ds}{dr} = 2r \Rightarrow ds = 2r dr \text{ or } r dr = \frac{ds}{2} \quad (5)$$

$$\text{Now Eq. (4) becomes: } I^2 = 2\pi \int_0^{\infty} e^{-s} \frac{ds}{2} \quad (6)$$

Note that since  $s=r^2$ ,  $r=0 \Rightarrow s=0$ , and  $r \rightarrow \infty \Rightarrow s \rightarrow \infty$ , so that the integration limits in (6) remain  $[0, \infty]$  just as in the original expression in (4), hence

$$I^2 = \pi \underbrace{\int_0^{\infty} e^{-s} ds}_{1^*} \leftarrow \text{this is the integral we have already evaluated on p. 43}^*$$

$$\text{Thus } I^2 = \pi \cdot 1 \Rightarrow I = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-x^2} dx = \sqrt{\pi} \quad (7)$$

Moreover, since  $e^{-x^2}$  has the same numerical value for  $\pm x$ , it follows that negative values contribute exactly  $1/2$  of the result in (7), so that

$$\int_0^{\infty} e^{-x^2} dx = \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{\pi} \quad (8)$$

The function  $e^{-x^2}$  is called a GAUSSIAN (or "NORMAL") function and describes the usual "bell-shaped" curve. For many purposes we "normalize" the curve, so that the area under it is 1. So in the end

$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-x^2} dx = 1$$

# GAUSSIAN INTEGRALS (Continued)

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In practice we would like to have available normalized Gaussians which are more or less - sharply peaked.

Consider the function  $e^{-y^2/a^2}$  and the integral

$$J = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-y^2/a^2} dy \quad ; \quad \text{let } y^2/a^2 \equiv x^2 \Rightarrow y^2 = a^2 x^2 \Rightarrow 2y dy = a^2 2x dx \quad (1)$$

To understand the last step start with  $y^2 = a^2 x^2$  and let  $x \rightarrow x + \Delta x$ .

This produces a change  $\Delta y$  in  $y$  given by  $(y + \Delta y)^2 = a^2 (x + \Delta x)^2$

$$\Rightarrow y^2 + 2y\Delta y + \cancel{(\Delta y)^2} = a^2 (x^2 + 2x\Delta x + \cancel{(\Delta x)^2}) \quad \Rightarrow \text{higher order}$$

$$\therefore \cancel{y^2} + 2y\Delta y = \cancel{a^2 x^2} + a^2 2x\Delta x \quad ; \quad \text{but } y^2 = a^2 x^2$$

$$\Rightarrow 2y\Delta y \cong a^2 2x\Delta x \Rightarrow 2y dy = a^2 2x dx$$

$$\Rightarrow dy = \frac{x}{y} a^2 dx = a dx$$

$$\text{Hence in (1): } J = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-x^2} a dx = a \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-x^2} dx = a\sqrt{\pi} \quad (3)$$

Finally  $\frac{1}{a\sqrt{\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-y^2/a^2} dy = 1 \quad (4)$

In this form we can vary  $a$  so as to achieve Gaussian functions which are broader or narrower, while remaining normalized.

$$\text{From (4) we can define } b = 1/a^2 \Rightarrow f(b) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dy e^{-by^2} = \sqrt{\pi/b} \quad (5)$$

$$\frac{df(b)}{db} = - \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-by^2} \cdot y^2 dy = \frac{d}{db} \sqrt{\frac{\pi}{b}} = -\frac{1}{2} \sqrt{\frac{\pi}{b^3}}$$

$$\text{Hence finally: } \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-by^2} \cdot y^2 dy = \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{\frac{\pi}{b^3}} \quad (6)$$

The previous discussion of Gaussian integrals introduced several techniques for integration: substitution (change of variables), use of dummy variables, and differentiation with respect to a parameter.

We now exhibit other examples:

$$[1] \text{ Text p. 44} \quad F(x_1, x_2) = \int_{x_1}^{x_2} \frac{x'^2 dx'}{(x'^3 + 4)^2} \quad (1)$$

In this case we can begin by dropping the primes so that  $x' \rightarrow x$ . We can do this here because  $x$  does not appear anywhere else in the integrand.

$$\text{The trick here is to try the substitution } \underline{x^3 = u} \Rightarrow \frac{du}{dx} = 3x^2 \quad (2)$$

In the spirit of  $dy/dx = 1/ax \Rightarrow dy = 1/ax dx$  etc. we can substitute for  $dx$  in (1):

$$\frac{du}{dx} = 3x^2 \Rightarrow dx = \frac{du}{3x^2} \quad \text{or} \quad dx = \frac{d\cancel{x}}{du} du = \frac{1}{3x^2} du \quad (3)$$

$$\Rightarrow F(x_1, x_2) = \int_{x_1}^{x_2} \frac{\cancel{x^2} \cdot \left(\frac{1}{3\cancel{x^2}}\right) du}{(u+4)^2} = \int_{x_1}^{x_2} \frac{du}{3(u+4)^2} \quad (4)$$

Comments: up to this point the "trick" was to recognize that the various powers of  $x$  in the numerator & denominator of (1) would combine to give a simple expression in terms of  $u$ .

Note also that we should be re-expressing the upper and lower limits  $x_2, x_1$  in terms of  $u_2$  &  $u_1$ , but we can do this later.

To continue we carry out another substitution  $v = u + 4$   $\Rightarrow dv = du$

$$\Rightarrow J = \int_{x_1}^{x_2} \frac{dv}{3v^2} = -\frac{1}{3} \frac{1}{v} \Big|_{x_1}^{x_2} \quad (5)$$



Finally we straighten out the limits: Since (5) is now expressed in terms of  $v$  we have two choices:

We can re-express the limits in terms of  $v$ , or we can leave the limits as is and re-express  $v$  in terms of  $x$ . Using the latter approach

$$v = u + 4 ; u = x^3 \Rightarrow v = x^3 + 4. \text{ Hence altogether}$$

$$F(x_1, x_2) = \int_{x_1}^{x_2} \frac{x^2 dx}{(x^3 + 4)^2} = -\frac{1}{3} \frac{1}{(x^3 + 4)} \Big|_{x_1}^{x_2} = \dots \text{ etc.} \quad (6)$$

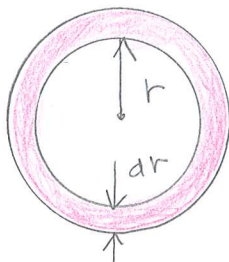
### Importance of the JACOBIANS!

One of the key steps in the preceding discussion is the substitution

$$x^3 = u \Rightarrow \Rightarrow \boxed{dx = \frac{dx}{du} \cdot du} \quad \frac{dx}{du} \equiv J\left(\frac{x}{u}\right) = \text{JACOBIAN} \quad (7)$$

Whenever a change of variables is made, the Jacobian will enter to give a proper weighting of the infinitesimal volume element. For example the 3-dimensional volume element in a spherically symmetric world is

$dx dy dz \rightarrow 4\pi r^2 dr$  ; the factor of  $r^2$  expresses the fact that for a given thin shell  $dr$ , there is more volume the bigger  $r$  is.



In the general case:

$$\int_{x_1}^{x_2} f(x) dx = \int_{u(x_1)}^{u(x_2)} f(x(u)) J\left(\frac{x}{u}\right) du$$

Example [2] Text 2.2.1

$$F(x_1, x_2) = \int_{x_1}^{x_2} \frac{1}{\sqrt{a^2 - x^2}} dx \quad 0 < x < \pi/2 \quad (1)$$

Here we follow the text and substitute  $x = a \sin \theta$ : (2)

$$\frac{dx}{d\theta} = a \cos \theta \Rightarrow dx = a \cos \theta d\theta$$

$$\Rightarrow F(x_1, x_2) = \int_{x_1}^{x_2} \frac{1}{\sqrt{a^2 - a^2 \sin^2 \theta}} \cdot a \cos \theta d\theta = \int_{x_1}^{x_2} \frac{1}{\underbrace{a \sqrt{1 - \sin^2 \theta}}_{\cos \theta}} \cdot a \cos \theta d\theta \quad (3)$$

$$\therefore F(x_1, x_2) = \int_{x_1}^{x_2} d\theta = \theta \Big|_{x_1 = \dots}^{x_2 = \dots} \quad (4)$$

But we can write  $\theta = \sin^{-1}(x/a)$  from (2)

$$\text{Hence: } F(x_1, x_2) = \sin^{-1}(x_2/a) - \sin^{-1}(x_1/a) \quad (5)$$

Example [3]  $F(x_1, x_2) = \int_0^{\infty} \frac{1}{x^2 + a^2} dx$  ; let  $x = a \tan \theta$   
 $x^2 + a^2 = a^2(\tan^2 \theta + 1) = \frac{a^2}{\cos^2 \theta} \quad (6)$

$$\frac{dx}{d\theta} = a \frac{d}{d\theta} \left( \frac{\sin \theta}{\cos \theta} \right) = a \frac{1}{\cos^2 \theta} \Rightarrow F(x_1, x_2) = \int \frac{\frac{a}{\cos^2 \theta} d\theta}{\frac{a^2}{\cos^2 \theta}} = \frac{1}{a} \int d\theta \quad (7)$$

$\rightarrow dx = \frac{a}{\cos^2 \theta} d\theta$

limits:  $x = a \tan \theta \Rightarrow \begin{cases} x=0 \leftrightarrow \theta=0 \\ x=\infty \leftrightarrow \theta=\pi/2 \end{cases} \Rightarrow F(x_1, x_2) = \frac{1}{a} \int_0^{\pi/2} d\theta \quad (8)$   
 $= \pi/2 a$

We will later show how to obtain the same result by contour integration in the complex plane.

Example [4]: Text 2.2.7

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Evaluate  $I = \int_0^1 2^x dx$  ; using  $z = e^{\ln 2}$

we avail ourselves of the knowledge of how to integrate  $e^x$ .

Note that  $I = \int_0^1 (e^{\ln 2})^x dx = \int_0^1 e^{x \ln 2} dx$  ; let  $y = x \ln 2$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{dy}{dx} = \ln 2 \Rightarrow dx = \frac{1}{\ln 2} dy$$

$$\Rightarrow I = \int e^y \cdot \frac{dy}{\ln 2} = \frac{1}{\ln 2} e^y \Big|_{x=0}^{x=1} = \frac{1}{\ln 2} [e^{x \ln 2}]_0^1 = \frac{1}{\ln 2} [e^{1 \ln 2} - 1]$$

$$\Rightarrow I = \frac{1}{\ln 2} [2 - 1] = \frac{1}{\ln 2} \quad (9)$$

Example [5]: Text 2.2.27

Consider  $\int_0^\infty \frac{dx}{(x^2+a^2)^2}$  ; We have already shown that  $\int_0^\infty \frac{dx}{x^2+a^2} = \frac{\pi}{2a}$  (10)

Starting with (10):  $\frac{d}{da} \int_0^\infty \frac{1}{x^2+a^2} dx$  ; let  $u = x^2+a^2$  ; (11)

$$I = \frac{d}{da} \int_0^\infty \frac{1}{u(a)} dx = \int_0^\infty -\frac{1}{u^2} \left(\frac{du}{da}\right) dx = -\int_0^\infty \frac{1}{(x^2+a^2)^2} \cdot 2a dx \quad (12)$$
$$= -2a \int_0^\infty \frac{dx}{(x^2+a^2)^2}$$

On the other hand, we have from (10):

$$\frac{d}{da} \left(\frac{\pi}{2a}\right) = -\frac{\pi}{2a^2} \Rightarrow \text{Combining this with (12)} \Rightarrow -\frac{\pi}{2a^2} = -2a \int_0^\infty \frac{dx}{(x^2+a^2)^2} \quad (13)$$

Hence finally:  $\int_0^\infty \frac{dx}{(x^2+a^2)^2} = \frac{\pi}{4a^3}$  (14)

# CALCULUS OF MANY VARIABLES

Since we live in a world of 3+ spatial dimensions (+ = string theory!) we want to generalize the preceding results beyond 1-dimension.

Following the text we consider, initially, a function of 2 variables  $x, y$  such as the temperature  $T(x, y)$  at a point  $(x, y)$  in this room. We then introduce the concept of the PARTIAL DERIVATIVE: Simply stated, this is the derivative with respect to one of the variables, while the other is held constant:

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \equiv \frac{\partial f(x, y)}{\partial x} = f_x(x, y) = \frac{f(x+\Delta x, y) - f(x, y)}{\Delta x} \quad (1)$$

EXAMPLE: The volume of a cylinder is  $V = \pi R^2 H$ , where  $R$  is the radius and  $H$  is its height. We can ask how the volume changes when we separately change the radius and height:

$$\frac{\partial V(R, H)}{\partial R} = 2\pi R H \quad ; \quad \frac{\partial V(R, H)}{\partial H} = \pi R^2 \quad (2)$$

A manufacturer wishing to increase the volume of a cylindrical can could then do this by changing  $R$  or  $H$ , and (2) tells her how to do it. Thus if the plan is to change  $R$  then

$$V(R_0 + \Delta R, H_0) = V(R_0, H_0) + \frac{\partial V}{\partial R} \Big|_{R_0, H_0} \otimes \Delta R + \dots$$

higher order terms

(3)

Suppose now that the manufacturer wishes to have the option of changing both R and H. Intuitively we guess that this is just the sum of the separate effects of changing  $R \rightarrow R + \Delta R$  and  $H \rightarrow H + \Delta H$ . So we guess that

$$V(R_0 + \Delta R, H_0 + \Delta H) - V(R_0, H_0) \cong \frac{\partial V}{\partial R} \Big|_{R_0, H_0} \otimes \Delta R + \frac{\partial V}{\partial H} \Big|_{R_0, H_0} \otimes \Delta H \quad (4)$$

This turns out to be correct, if we neglect all the higher-order terms. We can prove this more generally, following the text:

$$\begin{aligned}
 f(x_0 + \Delta x, y_0 + \Delta y) - f(x_0, y_0) &\cong \underbrace{f(x_0 + \Delta x, y_0 + \Delta y) - f(x_0 + \Delta x, y_0)}_{\frac{\partial f}{\partial y} \Big|_{x_0 + \Delta x, y_0} \otimes \Delta y} \\
 &\quad + \underbrace{f(x_0 + \Delta x, y_0) - f(x_0, y_0)}_{\frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \Big|_{x_0, y_0} \otimes \Delta x} \\
 \Downarrow \\
 \Rightarrow &\cong \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} \Big|_{x_0, y_0} \otimes \Delta y + \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \Big|_{x_0, y_0} \otimes \Delta x \quad (6)
 \end{aligned}$$

Notice that in the last we are justified in dropping the  $\Delta x$  in  $x_0 + \Delta x, y_0$  (so that we are evaluating at  $x_0, y_0$ ), because retaining this extra  $\Delta x$  would only produce higher order terms such as  $\Delta x \Delta y$ .

HIGHER ORDER DERIVATIVES

Taking a partial derivative produces a new function, which itself can be further differentiated, as in the above example:

Following the text consider  $f = x^3 + 2xy^2$

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$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \equiv f_x = 3x^2 + 2y^2 \quad ; \quad \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} \equiv f_y = 4xy \quad \text{FIRST DERIVATIVES}$$

$$\frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x^2} \equiv f_{xx} = 6x = \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left( \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \right) \quad ; \quad \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial y^2} \equiv f_{yy} = \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \left( \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} \right) = 4x \quad (7)$$

$$\frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x \partial y} \equiv f_{xy} = \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left( \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} \right) = 4y \quad ; \quad \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial y \partial x} \equiv f_{yx} = \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \left( \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \right) = 4y \quad (8)$$

Note in (8) that  $f_{xy} = f_{yx}$  ; this is a general result which holds for all continuous functions.

As in the case of a single variable, these derivatives determine where a function has maxima and minima.

Problem 3.1.2: Evaluate the first and second derivatives for

$$f(x,y) = x^3 + x^2y^5 + y^4$$

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial x} = 3x^2 + 2xy^5 \quad ; \quad \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} = 5x^2y^4 + 4y^3$$

$$f_{xx} = 6x + 2y^5 \quad ; \quad f_{yy} = 20x^2y^3 + 12y^2$$

$$f_{xy} = 10xy^4 \quad ; \quad f_{yx} = 10xy^4$$