

SHOW

$$\frac{\partial^2 z}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 z}{\partial y^2} = \frac{\partial^2 z}{\partial r^2} + \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial z}{\partial r} + \frac{1}{r^2} \frac{\partial^2 z}{\partial \theta^2}$$

Method I: (Work from RHS to LHS.)

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial z}{\partial r} &= \frac{\partial z}{\partial x} \frac{\partial x}{\partial r} + \frac{\partial z}{\partial y} \frac{\partial y}{\partial r} \\ &= \frac{\partial z}{\partial x} \cos \theta + \frac{\partial z}{\partial y} \sin \theta \quad \text{--- (1)} \end{aligned}$$

FORMULA I

$$\begin{aligned} x &= r \cos \theta \\ \Rightarrow \frac{\partial x}{\partial r} &= \cos \theta \\ &\& \frac{\partial x}{\partial \theta} = -r \sin \theta \\ \hline y &= r \sin \theta \\ \Rightarrow \frac{\partial y}{\partial r} &= \sin \theta \\ &\& \frac{\partial y}{\partial \theta} = r \cos \theta \end{aligned}$$

$$\frac{\partial^2 z}{\partial r^2} = \frac{\partial}{\partial r} \left(\frac{\partial z}{\partial r} \right)$$

$$= \cos \theta \frac{\partial}{\partial r} \left(\frac{\partial z}{\partial x} \right) + \sin \theta \frac{\partial}{\partial r} \left(\frac{\partial z}{\partial y} \right) \quad \text{--- using (1), sum rule, & fact that } \theta = \text{const} \text{ when taking } \frac{\partial}{\partial r}$$

$$= \cos \theta \left(\frac{\partial^2 z}{\partial x^2} \frac{\partial x}{\partial r} + \frac{\partial^2 z}{\partial y \partial x} \frac{\partial y}{\partial r} \right) + \sin \theta \left(\frac{\partial^2 z}{\partial x \partial y} \frac{\partial x}{\partial r} + \frac{\partial^2 z}{\partial y^2} \frac{\partial y}{\partial r} \right)$$

$$= \cos \theta \left(z_{xx} \cos \theta + z_{xy} \sin \theta \right) + \sin \theta \left(z_{yx} \cos \theta + z_{yy} \sin \theta \right)$$

$$= z_{xx} \cos^2 \theta + z_{yy} \sin^2 \theta + 2 z_{xy} \cos \theta \sin \theta \quad \text{--- (2)}$$

--- using $z_{xy} = z_{yx}$
Result

$$\frac{\partial z}{\partial \theta} = \frac{\partial z}{\partial x} \frac{\partial x}{\partial \theta} + \frac{\partial z}{\partial y} \frac{\partial y}{\partial \theta}$$

$$= -\frac{\partial z}{\partial x} r \sin \theta + \frac{\partial z}{\partial y} r \cos \theta \quad \text{--- (3)}$$

$$\frac{\partial^2 z}{\partial \theta^2} = \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \left(\frac{\partial z}{\partial \theta} \right)$$

$$= -\frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \left(\frac{\partial z}{\partial x} \right) r \sin \theta - \frac{\partial z}{\partial x} r \cos \theta$$

$$+ \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \left(\frac{\partial z}{\partial y} \right) r \cos \theta - \frac{\partial z}{\partial y} r \sin \theta \quad \text{--- use (3),}$$

Sum +
Product Rules
& fact that
 $r = \text{const.}$
when taking $\frac{\partial}{\partial \theta}$

$$= -r \sin \theta \left(\frac{\partial^2 z}{\partial x^2} \frac{\partial x}{\partial \theta} + \frac{\partial^2 z}{\partial y \partial x} \frac{\partial y}{\partial \theta} \right) - \frac{\partial z}{\partial x} r \cos \theta$$

$$+ r \cos \theta \left(\frac{\partial^2 z}{\partial x \partial y} \frac{\partial x}{\partial \theta} + \frac{\partial^2 z}{\partial y^2} \frac{\partial y}{\partial \theta} \right) - \frac{\partial z}{\partial y} r \sin \theta$$

$$= r^2 \sin^2 \theta \frac{\partial^2 z}{\partial x^2} - r^2 \cos \theta \sin \theta z_{xy} - z_x r \cos \theta$$

$$+ r^2 \cos \theta \sin \theta z_{xy} + r^2 \cos^2 \theta z_{yy} - z_y r \sin \theta$$

--- (4)

Substitute ①, ②, ④ into RHS to get

$$\frac{\partial^2 z}{\partial r^2} + \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial z}{\partial r} + \frac{1}{r^2} \frac{\partial^2 z}{\partial \theta^2}$$

$$= z_{xx} \cos^2 \theta + z_{yy} \sin^2 \theta + 2z_{xy} \cos \theta \sin \theta + \frac{1}{r} (z_x \cos \theta + z_y \sin \theta) + \frac{1}{r^2} (z_{xx} r^2 \sin^2 \theta + z_{yy} r^2 \cos^2 \theta - 2z_{xy} r^2 \cos \theta \sin \theta) - r (z_x \cos \theta + z_y \sin \theta)$$

↓ cancel
↑
↓ cancel
↓ cancel

$$= z_{xx} (\cos^2 \theta + \sin^2 \theta) + z_{yy} (\cos^2 \theta + \sin^2 \theta) + 0 + 0 + 0$$

$$= z_{xx} + z_{yy}$$

$$= \text{LHS} \quad \text{done!}$$

Method II (Work from LHS to RHS)

We will use expressions like

$$\frac{\partial z}{\partial x} = \frac{\partial z}{\partial r} \frac{\partial r}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial z}{\partial \theta} \frac{\partial \theta}{\partial x} \quad \text{etc.} \dots$$

--- So we need to find $r_x, r_y, \theta_x, \theta_y$ ---

This involves (at least implicitly) solving for r, θ in terms of x, y ... →

$$x = r \cos \theta$$

$$y = r \sin \theta$$

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

$$\Downarrow$$
$$\boxed{\tan \theta = \frac{y}{x}} \quad \text{--- I}$$

$$\Downarrow$$
$$\boxed{r = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2}} \quad \text{--- II}$$

First \rightarrow $\left(\frac{\partial}{\partial x} \text{ \& } \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \right) \text{ II}$

$$\frac{\partial r}{\partial x} = \frac{1}{2} (x^2 + y^2)^{-\frac{1}{2}} \cdot 2x = \frac{x}{\sqrt{x^2 + y^2}} = \frac{r \cos \theta}{r} = \cos \theta$$

$$\frac{\partial r}{\partial y} = \frac{1}{2} (x^2 + y^2)^{-\frac{1}{2}} \cdot 2y = \frac{y}{r} = \sin \theta$$

Now \rightarrow $\left(\frac{\partial}{\partial x} \text{ \& } \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \right) \text{ I}$

$$\left(\frac{\partial}{\partial x} \right): \sec^2 \theta \frac{\partial \theta}{\partial x} = -\frac{y}{x^2}$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{\partial \theta}{\partial x} = -\frac{y}{x^2} \cos^2 \theta = -\frac{r \sin \theta}{r^2 \cos^2 \theta} \cos^2 \theta = -\frac{\sin \theta}{r}$$

$$\left(\frac{\partial}{\partial y} \right): \sec^2 \theta \frac{\partial \theta}{\partial y} = \frac{1}{x}$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{\partial \theta}{\partial y} = \frac{1}{x} \cos^2 \theta = \frac{\cos^2 \theta}{r \cos \theta} = \frac{\cos \theta}{r}$$

Record These

$$\frac{\partial r}{\partial x} = \cos \theta$$

$$\frac{\partial r}{\partial y} = \sin \theta$$

$$\frac{\partial \theta}{\partial x} = -\frac{\sin \theta}{r}$$

$$\frac{\partial \theta}{\partial y} = \frac{\cos \theta}{r}$$

\rightarrow (*)
FORMULA II

Now we are ready to work from LHS to RHS.

$$\frac{\partial z}{\partial x} = \frac{\partial z}{\partial r} \frac{\partial r}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial z}{\partial \theta} \frac{\partial \theta}{\partial x}$$

$$= \frac{\partial z}{\partial r} \cos \theta + \frac{\partial z}{\partial \theta} \left(-\frac{\sin \theta}{r} \right)$$

$$\frac{\partial^2 z}{\partial x^2} = \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left(\frac{\partial z}{\partial r} \cos \theta + \frac{\partial z}{\partial \theta} \left(-\frac{\sin \theta}{r} \right) \right)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \Rightarrow & \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left(\frac{\partial z}{\partial r} \right) \cos \theta + \frac{\partial z}{\partial r} \frac{\partial}{\partial x} (\cos \theta) - \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left(\frac{\partial z}{\partial \theta} \right) \frac{\sin \theta}{r} \\ & - \frac{\partial z}{\partial \theta} \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left(\frac{\sin \theta}{r} \right) \end{aligned}$$

Sum +
product
Rules

Chain Rule (multiple times) \rightarrow

$$\begin{aligned} \Rightarrow & \left(\frac{\partial^2 z}{\partial r^2} \frac{\partial r}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial^2 z}{\partial \theta \partial r} \frac{\partial \theta}{\partial x} \right) \cos \theta + \frac{\partial z}{\partial r} \left(\frac{\partial (\cos \theta)}{\partial r} \frac{\partial r}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial (\cos \theta)}{\partial \theta} \frac{\partial \theta}{\partial x} \right) \\ & - \left(\frac{\partial^2 z}{\partial r \partial \theta} \frac{\partial r}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial^2 z}{\partial \theta^2} \frac{\partial \theta}{\partial x} \right) \frac{\sin \theta}{r} - \frac{\partial z}{\partial \theta} \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial r} \left(\frac{\sin \theta}{r} \right) \frac{\partial r}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \left(\frac{\sin \theta}{r} \right) \frac{\partial \theta}{\partial x} \right) \end{aligned}$$

$$= z_{rr} \cos^2 \theta - \frac{2 \cos \theta \sin \theta}{r} z_{r\theta} + z_{\theta\theta} \frac{\sin^2 \theta}{r^2}$$

$$+ z_r \frac{\sin^2 \theta}{r} + 2 z_\theta \frac{\cos \theta \sin \theta}{r^2}$$

— (A)

Similarly,

$$\frac{\partial z}{\partial y} = \frac{\partial z}{\partial r} \frac{\partial r}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial z}{\partial \theta} \frac{\partial \theta}{\partial y}$$

$$= \frac{\partial z}{\partial r} \sin \theta + \frac{\partial z}{\partial \theta} \frac{\cos \theta}{r}$$

$$\frac{\partial^2 z}{\partial y^2} = \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \left(\frac{\partial z}{\partial r} \sin \theta + \frac{\partial z}{\partial \theta} \frac{\cos \theta}{r} \right)$$

$$= \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \left(\frac{\partial z}{\partial r} \right) \sin \theta + \frac{\partial z}{\partial r} \frac{\partial}{\partial y} (\sin \theta) + \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \left(\frac{\partial z}{\partial \theta} \right) \frac{\cos \theta}{r} + \frac{\partial z}{\partial \theta} \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \left(\frac{\cos \theta}{r} \right)$$

$$= \left(\frac{\partial^2 z}{\partial r^2} \frac{\partial r}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial^2 z}{\partial \theta \partial r} \frac{\partial \theta}{\partial y} \right) \sin \theta + \frac{\partial z}{\partial r} \left(\frac{\partial \sin \theta}{\partial r} \frac{\partial r}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial \sin \theta}{\partial \theta} \frac{\partial \theta}{\partial y} \right)$$

$$+ \left(\frac{\partial^2 z}{\partial r \partial \theta} \frac{\partial r}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial^2 z}{\partial \theta^2} \frac{\partial \theta}{\partial y} \right) \frac{\cos \theta}{r} + \frac{\partial z}{\partial \theta} \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial r} \left(\frac{\cos \theta}{r} \right) \frac{\partial r}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \left(\frac{\cos \theta}{r} \right) \frac{\partial \theta}{\partial y} \right)$$

$$= z_{rr} \sin^2 \theta + 2 \frac{\cos \theta \sin \theta}{r} z_{r\theta} + z_{\theta\theta} \frac{\cos^2 \theta}{r^2}$$

$$+ z_r \frac{\cos^2 \theta}{r} + z_\theta \left(-2 \frac{\cos \theta \sin \theta}{r^2} \right) \quad \text{--- (B)}$$

Now $z_{xx} + z_{yy} =$

$$\begin{aligned} & z_{rr} (\cos^2 \theta + \sin^2 \theta) + z_{r\theta} (0) \\ & + z_{\theta\theta} \left(\frac{\cos^2 \theta + \sin^2 \theta}{r^2} \right) + z_r \left(\frac{\cos^2 \theta + \sin^2 \theta}{r} \right) \\ & + z_\theta (0) \end{aligned}$$

$$= z_{rr} + \frac{1}{r} z_r + \frac{1}{r^2} z_{\theta\theta} = \text{RHS} \quad \text{(done!)}$$

Remark ①: " \rightarrow " vs. " \leftarrow "

You should compare the two methods ...

$x = r \cos \theta$, $y = r \sin \theta$ are explicitly given to us, and

so $x_r, x_\theta, y_r, y_\theta$ are easy to compute.

There are $Z_r = Z_x x_r + Z_y y_r$ etc are easy to compute.

This suggests working from RHS to LHS.
(Method I)

Note: Working from LHS to RHS took more

work:

① We need to find (and to justify!) expressions for $r_x, r_y, \theta_x, \theta_y$.

② The calculations $Z_x = Z_r r_x + Z_\theta \theta_x$ + resetting computations for 2nd derivatives Z_{xx} etc are at least as hard as those in Method ②

MORALS (i) Resist the temptation to always work from left to Right!

(ii) Justify new expressions that magically appear in your solutions (eg r_x, θ_x etc..)

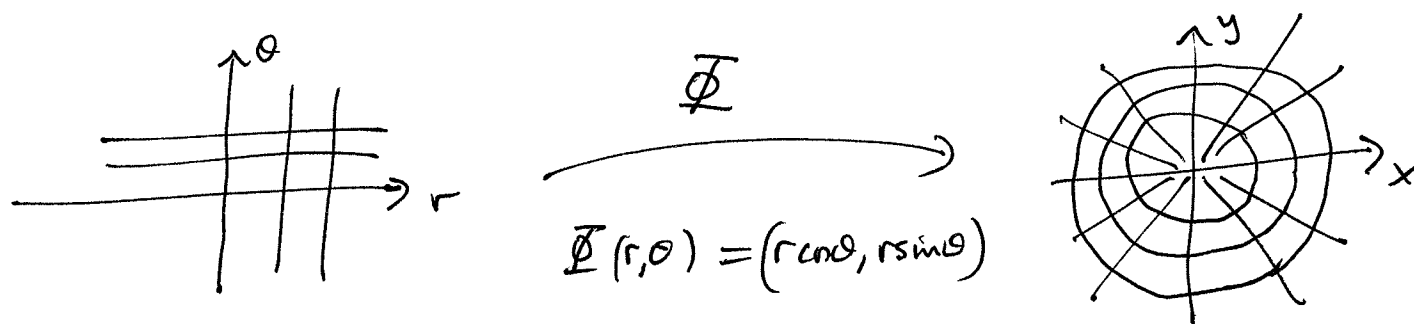
Remark (2): You might be surprised by the fact that

$$\frac{\partial r}{\partial x} = \cos \theta \neq \frac{1}{\frac{\partial x}{\partial r}}; \quad \frac{\partial \theta}{\partial x} = -\frac{\sin \theta}{r} \neq \frac{1}{\frac{\partial x}{\partial \theta}}$$

etc...

Partial derivatives do not behave like ordinary (1-variable) derivatives in this respect $\left(\frac{dx}{dy} \neq \left(\frac{dy}{dx} \right) \right)$.

However, there is an analogue of $\frac{dx}{dy} = \left(\frac{dy}{dx} \right)$ in the multivariable world; but it involves matrices of partial derivatives.



The DERIVATIVE, $D\Phi$, is a LINEAR FUNCTION from \mathbb{R}^2 to \mathbb{R}^2 . It is represented by a (2×2) -matrix of partial derivatives:

$$D\Phi = \begin{pmatrix} x_r & x_\theta \\ y_r & y_\theta \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \cos \theta & -r \sin \theta \\ \sin \theta & r \cos \theta \end{pmatrix}$$

From FORMULA I
(PAGE 1)

$$D(\Phi^{-1}) = (D\Phi)^{-1} = \begin{pmatrix} \cos\theta & -r\sin\theta \\ \sin\theta & r\cos\theta \end{pmatrix}^{-1}$$

This is the analogue

$$d) \frac{dx}{dy} = \frac{1}{\left(\frac{dy}{dx}\right)}$$

for multivariable functions (suitable ones).

Now, from your linear algebra class you see that the inverse of a (2×2) matrix is given by

$$\begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix}^{-1} = \frac{1}{ad-bc} \begin{pmatrix} d & -b \\ -c & a \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{In our case } ad-bc &= r\cos^2\theta - (-r\sin^2\theta) \\ &= r(\cos^2\theta + \sin^2\theta) = r \end{aligned}$$

& the inverse becomes ...

$$D\Phi^{-1} = \frac{1}{r} \begin{pmatrix} r\cos\theta & -r\sin\theta \\ -\sin\theta & \cos\theta \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \Phi^{-1}(r, \theta) &= (r\cos\theta, r\sin\theta) \\ D\Phi^{-1} &= \begin{pmatrix} \theta_x & \theta_y \\ r_x & r_y \end{pmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

$$D\Phi^{-1} = \begin{pmatrix} \cos\theta & \sin\theta \\ -\frac{\sin\theta}{r} & \frac{\cos\theta}{r} \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\leftarrow \text{But this is } \begin{pmatrix} \theta_x & \theta_y \\ r_x & r_y \end{pmatrix}$$

\Rightarrow Reclaim Formula II!