

Using Maple to check partial derivatives

© Mike May, S.J., 2006 - maymk@slu.edu

Edited by Russell Blyth - blythrd@slu.edu

We can use Maple to compute derivatives for us, thus letting us check our hand computations. To show how to do this we first define a function.

```
> f := (x,y) -> x^2+3*x*y+5*x^3+2*sin(exp((y+1)/y^2));
```

$$f := (x, y) \rightarrow x^2 + 3xy + 5x^3 + 2 \sin\left(e^{\frac{y+1}{y^2}}\right) \quad (1)$$

We can then find a partial derivative with the diff command.

```
> fx := diff(f(x,y), x);
```

$$fx := 2x + 3y + 15x^2 \quad (2)$$

We can take second derivatives by either taking the partial of the partial, or by using diff with two x's.

```
> fxx := diff(f(x,y), x, x);  
fxxA := diff(fx, x);
```

$$\begin{aligned} fxx &:= 2 + 30x \\ fxxA &:= 2 + 30x \end{aligned} \quad (3)$$

Third partials work much the same way

```
> fxxx := diff(f(x,y), x, x, x);  
fxxxA := diff(fxx, x);  
fxxxAx := diff(fxxx, x);
```

$$\begin{aligned} fxxx &:= 30 \\ fxxxA &:= 30 \\ fxxxAx &:= 30 \end{aligned} \quad (4)$$

With our function we can also take the partial derivative with respect to y.

```
> fy := diff(f(x,y), y);
```

$$fy := 3x + 2 \cos\left(e^{\frac{y+1}{y^2}}\right) \left(\frac{1}{y^2} - \frac{2(y+1)}{y^3}\right) e^{\frac{y+1}{y^2}} \quad (5)$$

This is messy enough that we would like to see a worked solution rather than just the answer. For that we load the Student[Calculus1] package and use the DiffTutor command.

```
> with(Student[Calculus1]);  
[AntiderivativePlot, AntiderivativeTutor, ApproximateInt, ApproximateIntTutor, ArcLength,  
ArcLengthTutor, Asymptotes, Clear, CriticalPoints, CurveAnalysisTutor, DerivativePlot,  
DerivativeTutor, DiffTutor, ExtremePoints, FunctionAverage, FunctionAverageTutor,  
FunctionChart, FunctionPlot, GetMessage, GetNumProblems, GetProblem, Hint,  
InflectionPoints, IntTutor, Integrand, InversePlot, InverseTutor, LimitTutor,  
MeanValueTheorem, MeanValueTheoremTutor, NewtonQuotient, NewtonsMethod,  
NewtonsMethodTutor, PointInterpolation, RiemannSum, RollesTheorem, Roots, Rule,
```

$$(6)$$

Show, ShowIncomplete, ShowSteps, Summand, SurfaceOfRevolution, SurfaceOfRevolutionTutor, Tangent, TangentSecantTutor, TangentTutor, TaylorApproximation, TaylorApproximationTutor, Understand, Undo, VolumeOfRevolution, VolumeOfRevolutionTutor, WhatProblem]

> TutorAnswer := DiffTutor(f(x,y),y);

$$TutorAnswer := \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \left(x^2 + 3xy + 5x^3 + 2 \sin \left(e^{\frac{y+1}{y^2}} \right) \right) = 3x + \frac{2 \cos \left(e^{\frac{y+1}{y^2}} \right) e^{\frac{y+1}{y^2}} (y^2 - 2(y+1)y)}{y^4} \quad (7)$$

> TutorAnswer;

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial y} \left(x^2 + 3xy + 5x^3 + 2 \sin \left(e^{\frac{y+1}{y^2}} \right) \right) = 3x + \frac{2 \cos \left(e^{\frac{y+1}{y^2}} \right) e^{\frac{y+1}{y^2}} (y^2 - 2(y+1)y)}{y^4} \quad (8)$$

To work with the right hand side of TutorAnswer we use the rhs command.

> Fy := rhs(TutorAnswer);

$$Fy := 3x + \frac{2 \cos \left(e^{\frac{y+1}{y^2}} \right) e^{\frac{y+1}{y^2}} (y^2 - 2(y+1)y)}{y^4} \quad (9)$$

This lets us find mixed partials.

**> Fyx := diff(Fy,x);
fyx := diff(f(x,y),y,x);**

$$Fyx := 3$$

$$fyx := 3$$

(10)

>