

# Mix Derivative

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2011-6-6

This is a short illustration of the following equality

$$\frac{\partial f(x, y)}{\partial x \partial y} = \frac{\partial f(x, y)}{\partial y \partial x}$$

Consider the LHS

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{\partial f(x, y)}{\partial x \partial y} = \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left[ \frac{\partial f(x, y)}{\partial y} \right] \\ &= \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left[ \lim_{\delta y \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x, y + \delta y) - f(x, y)}{\delta y} \right] \\ &= \lim_{\delta x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\left\{ \lim_{\delta y \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x + \delta x, y + \delta y) - f(x + \delta x, y)}{\delta y} \right\} - \left\{ \lim_{\delta y \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x, y + \delta y) - f(x, y)}{\delta y} \right\}}{\delta x} \\ &= \lim_{\delta y \rightarrow 0} \frac{\lim_{\delta x \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x + \delta x, y + \delta y) - f(x + \delta x, y)}{\delta x} - \lim_{\delta x \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x, y + \delta y) - f(x, y)}{\delta x}}{\delta y} \\ &= \lim_{\delta y \rightarrow 0} \frac{\lim_{\delta x \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x + \delta x, y + \delta y) - f(x + \delta x, y) - f(x, y + \delta y) + f(x, y)}{\delta x}}{\delta y} \\ &= \lim_{\delta y \rightarrow 0} \frac{\lim_{\delta x \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x + \delta x, y + \delta y) - f(x, y + \delta y)}{\delta x} - \lim_{\delta x \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x + \delta x, y) - f(x, y)}{\delta x}}{\delta y} \\ &= \lim_{\delta y \rightarrow 0} \frac{\frac{\partial f(x, y + \delta y)}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial f(x, y)}{\partial x}}{\delta y} \\ &= \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \frac{\partial f(x, y)}{\partial x} \\ &= \frac{\partial f(x, y)}{\partial y \partial x} \end{aligned}$$

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