

Problem 8.

If $F(r, \theta) = f(r \cos \theta, r \sin \theta)$ then what are F_θ and $F_{\theta\theta}$.

We apply the chain rule:

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{\partial F}{\partial \theta} &= \frac{\partial f(\overset{=x}{r \cos \theta}, \overset{=y}{r \sin \theta})}{\partial \theta} \\ &= \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \cdot \frac{\partial r \cos \theta}{\partial \theta} + \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} \cdot \frac{\partial r \sin \theta}{\partial \theta} \\ &= -r \sin \theta \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} + r \cos \theta \frac{\partial f}{\partial y}.\end{aligned}$$

Note that here $\frac{\partial f}{\partial x} = \frac{\partial f}{\partial x}(r \cos \theta, r \sin \theta)$.

To get $\frac{\partial^2 F}{\partial \theta^2}$ differentiate again:

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{\partial^2 F}{\partial \theta^2} &= \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \left(-r \sin \theta \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} + r \cos \theta \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} \right) \\ &= \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \left(\overset{\textcircled{1}}{-r \sin \theta} \overset{\textcircled{2}}{\frac{\partial f}{\partial x}}(\overset{\textcircled{3}}{r \cos \theta}, \overset{\textcircled{4}}{r \sin \theta}) + r \cos \theta \overset{\textcircled{5}}{\frac{\partial f}{\partial y}}(\overset{\textcircled{6}}{r \cos \theta}, \overset{\textcircled{7}}{r \sin \theta}) \right)\end{aligned}$$

There are six θ 's so we will get six terms when we differentiate with respect to θ .

The result is

$$\begin{aligned}
 \frac{\partial^2 F}{\partial \theta^2} = & \overbrace{-r \cos \theta \frac{\partial f}{\partial x}}^{(1)} - \overbrace{r \sin \theta \cdot \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x^2} \cdot \frac{\partial r \cos \theta}{\partial \theta}}^{(2)} \\
 & \overbrace{-r \sin \theta \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x \partial y} \cdot \frac{\partial r \sin \theta}{\partial \theta}}^{(3)} - \overbrace{r \sin \theta \frac{\partial f}{\partial y}}^{(4)} \\
 & \overbrace{+ r \cos \theta \cdot \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial y \partial x} \cdot \frac{\partial r \cos \theta}{\partial \theta}}^{(5)} + \overbrace{r \cos \theta \cdot \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial y^2} \cdot \frac{\partial r \sin \theta}{\partial \theta}}^{(6)}
 \end{aligned}$$

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

$$+ r^2 \sin^2 \theta \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x^2} - 2 r^2 \sin \theta \cos \theta \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x \partial y}$$

$$+ r^2 \cos^2 \theta \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial y^2}$$