

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Score: \_\_\_\_\_ /20

# Partial Derivatives and Tangent Planes

Please staple your work and use this page as a cover page.

1. Find  $F_\alpha$  and  $F_\beta$  for the function

$$F(\alpha, \beta) = \int_\alpha^\beta \sqrt{t^3 + 1} dt.$$

2. Given  $f(x, y, z) = xy^2z^3 + \arcsin(x\sqrt{z})$ , find  $f_{xzy}$ .

Hint: Which order of differentiation is easiest?

3. In a study of frost penetration it was found that the temperature  $T$  at time  $t$  (measured in days) at a depth  $x$  (measured in feet) can be modeled by the function

$$T(x, t) = T_0 + T_1 e^{-\lambda x} \sin(\omega t - \lambda x),$$

where  $\omega$  and  $\lambda$  are positive constants.

- (a) Find  $\partial T / \partial x$ . What is its physical significance?  
(b) Find  $\partial T / \partial t$ . What is its physical significance?  
(c) Show that  $T$  satisfies the equation  $T_t = kT_{xx}$  for some constant  $k$ .

(The equation  $T_t = kT_{xx}$  is a famous partial differential equation called the heat equation. Showing that this function  $T(x, t)$  satisfies the equation means that we have found a solution.)

4. Find an equation of the tangent plane for  $z = x \sin(x + y)$  at the point  $(-1, 1, 0)$ .
5. Show that each function on the left can be approximated by the function on the right near  $(0, 0)$ .
- (a)  $\frac{2x + 3}{4y + 1} \approx 3 + 2x - 12y$   
(b)  $\sqrt{y + \cos^2 x} \approx 1 + \frac{1}{2}y$

6. We don't know the equation that defines a certain surface  $S$ , but we are able to determine two tangent vectors at the point  $(2, 1, 3)$  on the surface, namely

$$\vec{v}_1 = \langle 3, 0, -4 \rangle \quad \text{and} \quad \vec{v}_2 = \langle 1, 6, 2 \rangle.$$

Using this information, determine an equation for the tangent plane at  $(2, 1, 3)$ .

7. Show that the function  $f(x, y) = x^2 + 4y^2 - 4xy + 2$  has an infinite number of critical points and that  $D = 0$  at each one. Use another method to show that every critical point is actually a local minimum.

Hint: What type of shape are the  $x$ - and  $y$ -traces of this function's graph?

8. For a function of one variable, it is impossible for a continuous function to have, for example, two local maxima without a local minimum (or vice versa). However, for functions of two or more variables, such functions exist. Given the function

$$f(x, y) = -(x^2 - 1)^2 - (x^2 y - x - 1)^2,$$

show that  $(-1, 0, 0)$  and  $(1, 2, 0)$  are critical points and that both are local maxima. (In fact, it can be shown that these two points are the only critical points for this function).