

Excerpt from an exam

Let  $f: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be a known  
 $C^1$  function such that  $f(0) = 1$ ,  
 $f'(0) = 1$ , and

$\forall x \in \mathbb{R}$  we have  $f(x) > 0$ .

Define the following function

$h: \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  such that

$\forall (x, y) \in \mathbb{R}^2$  we have

$$h(x, y) = [f(2y - x)]^{x \sin(y)}$$

Find  $\frac{\partial h}{\partial x} \left( \pi, \frac{\pi}{2} \right)$ .

Answer observe that

$$h(x, y) = e^{x \sin y} \ln[f(2y-x)]$$

Since  $f(x) > 0 \quad \forall x \in \mathbb{R}$ , it follows that  $\ln[f(2y-x)]$  exists.

The function ~~h~~<sup>h</sup> is differentiable at all point  $(x, y)$  as a combination of differentiable functions. Thus  $\frac{\partial h}{\partial x}$  exists at all points  $(x, y) \in \mathbb{R}^2$ .

in rough

$$\left( e^{l(x)} \right)' = l'(x) \cdot e^{l(x)}$$

$$\frac{\partial h}{\partial x}(x, y) = \frac{\partial (x \sin(y) \ln[f(2y-x)])}{\partial x} \cdot e^{x \sin(y) \ln[f(2y-x)]}$$

$$\textcircled{1} = \sin(y) \cdot \frac{\partial (x \ln[f(2y-x)])}{\partial x}$$

$$= \sin(y) \cdot \left[ \ln[f(2y-x)] + x \cdot \frac{\partial \ln[f(2y-x)]}{\partial x} \right]$$

$$\textcircled{2} = \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left( \ln \circ f(2y-x) \right) \textcircled{2}$$

rough

$$\left( h_1 \circ h_2(x) \right)'$$
$$= h_1' \left( h_2(x) \right) \cdot h_2'(x)$$

$$h_1(x) = \ln(x)$$

rough

$$h_1'(x) = \ln'(x)$$

$$\frac{\partial h_1(x)}{\partial x} = \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \ln(x)$$

$$= \frac{1}{x}$$

$$\textcircled{2} = \frac{1}{f(2y-x)} \cdot \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left( f(2y-x) \right) \textcircled{3}$$

~~instead of  $\frac{\partial}{\partial x} (f(2y-x))$   
 $f'(2y-x)$~~

③ is the derivative of the composition of two functions

$$\textcircled{3} = \frac{\partial}{\partial x} (f \circ (2y - x))$$

rough  $(h_1 \circ h_2(x))' =$

$$h_1'(h_2(x)) \cdot h_2'(x)$$

$$h_1 = f$$

$$h_1' = \frac{\partial h_1}{\partial x} = \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} = f'$$

$$f: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \text{ (one variable)}$$

$$\textcircled{3} = f'(2y-x) \cdot \underbrace{\frac{\partial}{\partial x} (2y-x)}_{\textcircled{4}}$$

$$\textcircled{4} = \underbrace{\frac{\partial}{\partial x} (2y)}_{=0} - \underbrace{\frac{\partial x}{\partial x}}_1 = -1$$

As a result:  $\frac{\partial h}{\partial x}(x,y) =$

$$\sin(y) \left[ \ln [f(2y-x)] - \frac{x}{f(2y-x)} \cdot f'(2y-x) \right].$$

$$e^{x \sin(y) \ln [f(2y-x)]}$$

$\frac{\partial h}{\partial x} \left( \pi, \frac{\pi}{2} \right) = -\pi$  taking  
into account that  $f(0) = 1$   
and  $f'(0) = 1$ .

student's answer

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left( \frac{\partial f(2y-x)}{\partial x} \right)$$

has not  
computed this

Student's answer

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left[ f(2y-x) \right] = f'(2y-x)$$

Student's answer

$$\frac{\partial h}{\partial x} \left( \pi, \frac{\pi}{2} \right) = \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left( f \left( 2 \cdot \frac{\pi}{2} - \pi \right) \right) \stackrel{\pi/2}{\text{side}} \underbrace{\hspace{10em}}_{\text{constant}} = 0$$