# Chapter 14 Questions to Guide Your Review

1. What is a real-valued function of two independent variables? Three independent variables? Give examples.
2. What does it mean for sets in the plane or in space to be open? Closed? Give examples. Give examples of sets that are neither open nor closed.
3. How can you display the values of a function $f(x, y)$ of two independent variables graphically? How do you do the same for a function $f(x, y, z)$ of three independent variables?
4. What does it mean for a function $f(x, y)$ to have limit $L$ as $(x, y) \to (x_0, y_0)$ ? What are the basic properties of limits of functions of two independent variables?
5. When is a function of two (three) independent variables continuous at a point in its domain? Give examples of functions that are continuous at some points but not others.
6. What can be said about algebraic combinations and composites of continuous functions?
7. Explain the two-path test for nonexistence of limits.
8. How are the partial derivatives $\partial f/\partial x$ and $\partial f/\partial y$ of a function $f(x, y)$ defined? How are they interpreted and calculated?
9. How does the relation between first partial derivatives and continuity of functions of two independent variables differ from the relation between first derivatives and continuity for real-valued functions of a single independent variable? Give an example.
10. What is the Mixed Derivative Theorem for mixed second-order partial derivatives? How can it help in calculating partial derivatives of second and higher orders? Give examples.
11. What does it mean for a function $f(x, y)$ to be differentiable? What does the Increment Theorem say about differentiability?
12. How can you sometimes decide from examining $f_x$ and $f_y$ that a function $f(x, y)$ is differentiable? What is the relation between the differentiability of $f$ and the continuity of $f$ at a point?
13. What is the Chain Rule? What form does it take for functions of two independent variables? Three independent variables? Functions defined on surfaces? How do you diagram these different forms? Give examples. What pattern enables one to remember all the different forms?
14. What is the derivative of a function $f(x, y)$ at a point $P_0$ in the direction of a unit vector **u**? What rate does it describe? What geometric interpretation does it have? Give examples.
15. What is the gradient vector of a differentiable function $f(x, y)$? How is it related to the function's directional derivatives? State the analogous results for functions of three independent variables.
16. How do you find the tangent line at a point on a level curve of a differentiable function $f(x, y)$? How do you find the tangent plane and normal line at a point on a level surface of a differentiable function $f(x, y, z)$? Give examples.
17. How can you use directional derivatives to estimate change?
18. How do you linearize a function $f(x, y)$ of two independent variables at a point $(x_0, y_0)$ ? Why might you want to do this? How do you linearize a function of three independent variables?
19. What can you say about the accuracy of linear approximations of functions of two (three) independent variables?
20. If $(x, y)$ moves from $(x_0, y_0)$ to a point $(x_0 + dx, y_0 + dy)$ nearby, how can you estimate the resulting change in the value of a differentiable function $f(x, y)$? Give an example.
21. How do you define local maxima, local minima, and saddle points for a differentiable function $f(x, y)$? Give examples.
22. What derivative tests are available for determining the local extreme values of a function $f(x, y)$? How do they enable you to narrow your search for these values? Give examples.
23. How do you find the extrema of a continuous function $f(x, y)$ on a closed bounded region of the $xy$-plane? Give an example.
24. Describe the method of Lagrange multipliers and give examples.
25. If $w = f(x, y, z)$ , where the variables $x$, $y$, and $z$ are constrained by an equation $g(x, y, z) = 0$ , what is the meaning of the notation $(\partial w/\partial x)_y$ ? How can an arrow diagram help you calculate this partial derivative with constrained variables? Give examples.
26. How does Taylor's formula for a function $f(x, y)$ generate polynomial approximations and error estimates?

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