

Rotation invariance means that you see the same function along any radial line, including the axes.

E.g. choosing $y=0$ we have

$$f(x, 0) = g(x) = h(x) h(0)$$

So g and h are essentially the same: $g(x) = c h(x)$

with $c := h(0)$

If $c := h(0) = 0$, then ~~$g(x) = c h(x) = 0$~~ $g(x) = 0 \forall x$. So ~~$f(x, y) = 0$~~

$f \equiv 0$, which is clearly a solution.

Now assume $c = h(0) \neq 0$. Then we can 'scale down' with it:

let $\tilde{h} = \frac{h}{c}$, $\tilde{g} = \frac{g}{c}$. Then $\tilde{h} = \tilde{g}$, and

substituting back gives ~~$f(\sqrt{x^2+y^2}) = f(\tilde{g}(x)) f(\tilde{g}(y))$~~

Now use the hint and introduce $u = x^2$ $v = y^2$,

$\tilde{G}(u) := \tilde{g}(\sqrt{u})$, so $\tilde{g}(x) = \tilde{G}(x^2)$ to get

$$\boxed{\tilde{G}(u+v) = \tilde{G}(u) \tilde{G}(v)} \quad \begin{array}{l} \text{TAKE THE} \\ \text{LOGARITHM} \end{array}$$

! $\delta(u) = \ln \tilde{G}(u)$, so $\delta(u+v) = \delta(u) + \delta(v)$, δ is additive!

We assumed that f (and g) were continuous,
and a continuous, additive function is linear

[Proof: choosing $u=v$, we get $\delta(2u) = 2\delta(u)$, which implies that $\delta(q) = q\delta(1)$ for every q of the form $q = 2^{-n}$. This in turn implies $\delta(r) = r\delta(1)$ for all $r = k2^{-n}$. These r are dense so $\delta(x) = \delta(1) \cdot x$ for all x by continuity.]

So choosing $B := f(1)$ we get $f(u) = Bu$

$$\Rightarrow \hat{G}(u) = e^{\delta(u)} = e^{Bu}$$

~~$$\hat{h}(x) \Rightarrow \hat{g}(x) = \hat{G}(x^2) = e^{Bx^2}$$~~

$$\Rightarrow \hat{h}(x) = \hat{g}(x) = \hat{G}(x^2) = e^{Bx^2} \quad / \text{ So chose } A := c^2 = h(e)^2$$

to get

$$\boxed{f(x, y) = A e^{B(x^2 + y^2)} \quad \left| \begin{array}{l} \text{with } A \geq 0 \\ B \in \mathbb{R} \end{array} \right.}$$

Remark: If you are worried about $\tilde{G}(u)$ being zero when taking the logarithm $f(u) := h \tilde{G}(u)$,

use $\tilde{G}(u+v) = \tilde{G}(u) \tilde{G}(v)$ directly with $u=v$ to

$$\text{get } \tilde{G}(2u) = \tilde{G}(u)^2 \text{ or } \tilde{G}(u) = \tilde{G}\left(\left(\frac{u}{2}\right)^2\right)$$

which implies that if $\tilde{G}(1) \neq 0$, then $\tilde{G}(r) > 0$

for all $r = k e^{-2n}$. This implies $\tilde{G}(u) > 0$ for $u > 0$
by continuity.