

Topic: Euler's Theorem for homogeneous functions

LO-1: Define Homogeneous function.

LO-2: State and Derive Euler's theorem for first and second order results.

Homogeneous function:- A function $f(x, y)$ is said to be Homogeneous of degree (or order) n in the variables x and y if it can be expressed in the form $x^n f\left(\frac{y}{x}\right)$ or $y^n f\left(\frac{x}{y}\right)$.

An Alternative test for a function $f(x, y)$ to be Homogeneous of degree n is that

$$f(tx, ty) = t^n f(x, y)$$

example:- If $f(x, y) = \frac{x+y}{\sqrt{x}+\sqrt{y}} = \frac{x(1+\frac{y}{x})}{\sqrt{x}(1+\sqrt{\frac{y}{x}})} = x^{1/2} f\left(\frac{y}{x}\right)$
 $\Rightarrow f(x, y)$ is a Homogeneous function of degree $\frac{1}{2}$ in x and y .

Euler's Theorem:-

① Statement:- If u is a Homogeneous function of degree n in x and y then $x \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + y \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} = nu$

Pf:- Since u is a Homogeneous function, then

$$u = x^n f\left(\frac{y}{x}\right)$$

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial x} = nx^{n-1} f\left(\frac{y}{x}\right) + x^n f'\left(\frac{y}{x}\right) \left(-\frac{y}{x^2}\right)$$

$$x \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} = nx^n f\left(\frac{y}{x}\right) - x^{n-1} y f'\left(\frac{y}{x}\right) \quad \text{--- ①}$$

$$\text{Also } \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} = x^n f'\left(\frac{y}{x}\right) \cdot \frac{1}{x}$$

$$y \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} = x^{n-1} y f'\left(\frac{y}{x}\right) \quad \text{--- ②}$$

adding eqⁿ ① and ②, we get.

$$\begin{aligned} x \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + y \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} &= nx^n f\left(\frac{y}{x}\right) - x^{n-1} y f'\left(\frac{y}{x}\right) + x^{n-1} y f'\left(\frac{y}{x}\right) \\ &= nx^n f\left(\frac{y}{x}\right) \end{aligned}$$

$$x \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + y \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} = nu$$

Proved

② Statement:- If u is a Homogeneous Function of degree n in x and y , then.

$$x^2 \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} + 2xy \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x \partial y} + y^2 \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial y^2} = n(n-1)u.$$

Pf:- we know that Euler's theorem is.

$$x \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + y \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} = nu \quad \text{--- (1)}$$

diffⁿ eqⁿ (1) partially wr to x , we get

$$x \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} \cdot 1 + y \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x \partial y} = n \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} \quad \text{--- (2)}$$

again diffⁿ eqⁿ (1) partially wr to y , we get.

$$x \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial y \partial x} + y \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial y^2} + \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} \cdot 1 = n \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} \quad \text{--- (3)}$$

Multiplying eqⁿ (2) by x and eqⁿ (3) by y , adding them.

$$x^2 \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} + x \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + xy \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x \partial y} + xy \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial y \partial x} + y^2 \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial y^2} + y \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} = nx \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + ny \frac{\partial u}{\partial y}$$

$$x^2 \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} + 2xy \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x \partial y} + y^2 \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial y^2} + nu = n^2 u$$

$$\left[\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x \partial y} = \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial y \partial x} \right]$$

$$x^2 \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} + 2xy \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x \partial y} + y^2 \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial y^2} = n(n-1)u.$$

Proved

Deduction from Euler's Theorem:-

① Statement:- If $f(u) = u(x, y, z)$, where u is a Homogeneous function in x, y, z of degree n , then

$$x \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + y \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} = n \frac{f(u)}{f'(u)}$$

Pf:- we know that the Euler's theorem for first derivative is.

$$x \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + y \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} = nu \quad \text{--- (1)}$$

Since $u = f(u)$ is a Homogeneous function, therefore.

from (1)
$$x \frac{\partial}{\partial x} (f(u)) + y \frac{\partial}{\partial y} (f(u)) = n f(u)$$

$$x f'(u) \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + y f'(u) \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} = n f(u)$$

$$x \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + y \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} = n \frac{f(u)}{f'(u)} \quad \text{--- Proved}$$

② Statement :- If $f(u)$ is a function of $u(x, y, z)$ then

$$x^2 \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} + 2xy \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x \partial y} + y^2 \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial y^2} = \phi(u) [\phi'(u) - 1]$$

$$\text{where } \phi(u) = \frac{xf(u)}{f'(u)}$$

Pf-

$$\text{let } \frac{xf(u)}{f'(u)} = \phi(u)$$

from Deduction ①, we have

$$x \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + y \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} = \phi(u) \quad \text{--- (1)}$$

differentiate eqⁿ ① partially wr to x and y , we get

$$x \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + y \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x \partial y} = \phi'(u) \frac{\partial u}{\partial x}$$

$$x \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} + y \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x \partial y} = [\phi'(u) - 1] \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} \quad \text{--- (2)}$$

and

$$x \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial y \partial x} + y \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial y^2} + \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} = \phi'(u) \frac{\partial u}{\partial y}$$

$$x \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial y \partial x} + y \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial y^2} = [\phi'(u) - 1] \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} \quad \text{--- (3)}$$

Multiplying eqⁿ ② by x and eqⁿ ③ by y and adding them,

$$\begin{aligned} x^2 \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} + 2xy \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x \partial y} + y^2 \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial y^2} &= [\phi'(u) - 1] \left(x \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + y \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} \right) \\ &= \phi(u) [\phi'(u) - 1] \quad [\text{from ①}] \end{aligned}$$

(Example) :-

① If $u = (x^{1/4} + y^{1/4})(x^{1/5} + y^{1/5})$, Apply Euler's theorem to find the value of

$$x \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + y \frac{\partial u}{\partial y}$$

Solⁿ

$$\text{given } u = (x^{1/4} + y^{1/4})(x^{1/5} + y^{1/5})$$

$$u = x^{1/4} \left[1 + \left(\frac{y}{x} \right)^{1/4} \right] x^{1/5} \left[1 + \left(\frac{y}{x} \right)^{1/5} \right]$$

$$= x^{\frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{5}} \left[1 + \left(\frac{y}{x} \right)^{1/4} \right] \left[1 + \left(\frac{y}{x} \right)^{1/5} \right]$$

$$= x^{9/20} \phi \left(\frac{y}{x} \right)$$

$$n = \frac{9}{20}$$

\therefore u is a Homogeneous function of degree $\cdot \frac{9}{20}$

Hence By Euler's theorem.

$$x \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + y \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} = nu$$

$$= \frac{9}{20} u$$

————— Ans

(Problems Based on Euler's Theorem)

① If $u = x^4 y^2 \sin^{-1}\left(\frac{x}{y}\right)$

$v = \log x - \log y$

then find the value of $x \frac{\partial z}{\partial x} + y \frac{\partial z}{\partial y}$.

Solⁿ Here $u = x^4 y^2 \sin^{-1}\left(\frac{x}{y}\right)$
 $u(tx, ty) = (tx)^4 (ty)^2 \sin^{-1}\left(\frac{tx}{ty}\right)$
 $= t^6 x^4 y^2 \sin^{-1}\left(\frac{x}{y}\right)$

$u(tx, ty) = t^6 u(x, y)$

\therefore By Alternative Test u is a Homogeneous function of degree 6.

Now $v = \log x - \log y$.

$v(tx, ty) = \log\left(\frac{tx}{ty}\right)$
 $= t^0 v(x, y)$

\therefore By Alternative Test v is a Homogeneous function of degree 0.

By Euler's Theorem,

$x \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + y \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} = 6u \quad \text{--- ①}$

$x \frac{\partial v}{\partial x} + y \frac{\partial v}{\partial y} = 0 \quad \text{--- ②}$

adding ① and ②

$x \frac{\partial z}{\partial x} + y \frac{\partial z}{\partial y} = 6u$
 $= 6 x^4 y^2 \sin^{-1}\left(\frac{x}{y}\right)$

Ans.

② If $u = \cos\left(\frac{xy + yz + zx}{x^2 + y^2 + z^2}\right)$, Prove that

$x \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + y \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} + z \frac{\partial u}{\partial z} = 0.$

Solⁿ

given that $u(x, y, z) = \cos\left(\frac{xy + yz + zx}{x^2 + y^2 + z^2}\right)$

$$u(tx, ty, tz) = \cos\left(\frac{tx \cdot ty + ty \cdot tz + tz \cdot tx}{t^2(x^2 + y^2 + z^2)}\right)$$

$$= t^0 \cos\left(\frac{xy + yz + zx}{x^2 + y^2 + z^2}\right)$$

$$= t^0 u(x, y, z)$$

Hence u is a Homogeneous function of degree 0.

Therefore by Euler's Theorem

$$x \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + y \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} + z \frac{\partial u}{\partial z} = nu = 0$$

③ Show that $x \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + y \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} + z \frac{\partial u}{\partial z} = 2 \tan u$

where $u = \sin^{-1}\left(\frac{x^3 + y^3 + z^3}{ax + by + cz}\right)$

Solⁿ

$$\sin u = \frac{x^3 + y^3 + z^3}{ax + by + cz} = f(x, y, z)$$

$$f(tx, ty, tz) = \frac{t^3(x^3 + y^3 + z^3)}{t(ax + by + cz)}$$

$$= t^2 f(x, y, z)$$

$\therefore f(x, y, z)$ is a Homogeneous function of degree 2.

\therefore By Euler's theorem,

$$x \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} + y \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} + z \frac{\partial f}{\partial z} = nf$$

$$x \frac{\partial}{\partial x}(\sin u) + y \frac{\partial}{\partial y}(\sin u) + z \frac{\partial}{\partial z}(\sin u) = 2 \sin u$$

$$x \cos u \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + y \cos u \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} + z \cos u \frac{\partial u}{\partial z} = 2 \sin u$$

$$x \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + y \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} + z \frac{\partial u}{\partial z} = 2 \tan u$$

④ Verify Euler's theorem for $u = \log\left(\frac{x^4+y^4}{x+y}\right)$.

Sol: $e^u = \frac{x^4+y^4}{x+y} = f(x,y)$

$$\therefore f(tx, ty) = \frac{t^4(x^4+y^4)}{t(x+y)} = t^3 f(x,y)$$

$\therefore f(x,y)$ is a Homogeneous function of degree 3.

\therefore By Euler's Theorem

$$x \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} + y \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} = nf$$

$$x \frac{\partial}{\partial x} e^u + y \frac{\partial}{\partial y} e^u = n e^u$$

$$e^u \left(x \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + y \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} \right) = n e^u$$

$$x \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + y \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} = 3 \frac{e^u}{e^u} = 3 \quad \text{Ans}$$

To verify - $u = \log(x^4+y^4) - \log(x+y)$

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial x} = \frac{1}{x^4+y^4} \cdot 4x^3 - \frac{1}{x+y}$$

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial y} = \frac{1}{x^4+y^4} \cdot 4y^3 - \frac{1}{x+y}$$

$$\therefore x \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + y \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} = \frac{4x^4}{x^4+y^4} - \frac{x}{x+y} + \frac{4y^4}{x^4+y^4} - \frac{y}{x+y}$$

$$= \frac{4(x^4+y^4)}{x^4+y^4} - \frac{(x+y)}{(x+y)}$$

$$= 4 - 1 = \underline{\underline{3}} \quad \text{Ans}$$

(Exercise) :-

① Verify Euler's Theorem for $u = \frac{x+y+z}{\sqrt{x}+\sqrt{y}+\sqrt{z}}$.

② Using Euler's Theorem to show that $x \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + y \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} = 2u \log u$
where $u = e^{x^2+y^2}$

③ If $u = \tan^{-1} \left(\frac{x^3+y^3}{x-y} \right)$ then prove that

$$x \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + y \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} = \sin 2u \quad \text{and}$$

$$x^2 \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} + 2xy \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x \partial y} + y^2 \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial y^2} = \sin 4u - \sin 2u \\ = 2 \cos 3u \cdot \sin u.$$

④ If $u = \sin^{-1} \left(\frac{x^{1/3} + y^{1/3}}{x^{1/2} - y^{1/2}} \right)$, prove that

$$x \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + y \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} = -\frac{1}{12} \tan u.$$