

Problem 10: The Archimedes spiral is the graph of  $r = \theta$  for  $\theta \geq 0$ . Find the slope of the tangent line to the spiral at  $\theta$ . (Source: AoPS Calculus)

We have

$$\begin{aligned}y &= r \sin \theta = \theta \sin \theta \\x &= r \cos \theta = \theta \cos \theta\end{aligned}$$

Taking the derivative with respect to  $\theta$ , we get

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{dy}{d\theta} &= \sin \theta + \theta \cos \theta \\ \frac{dx}{d\theta} &= \cos \theta - \theta \sin \theta\end{aligned}$$

Now we can write the slope of the tangent line as a function of  $\theta$ .

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{dy}{dx} &= \frac{\frac{dy}{d\theta}}{\frac{dx}{d\theta}} \\ &= \boxed{\frac{\sin \theta + \theta \cos \theta}{\cos \theta - \theta \sin \theta}}\end{aligned}$$