

# Differential Calculus and **SAGE**

(revised edition)

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with extra material added by David Joyner

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# Chapter 0

## Preface

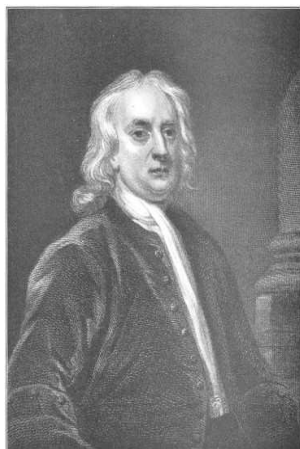


Figure 1: Sir Isaac Newton.

That teachers and students of the Calculus have shown such a generous appreciation of Granville's "Elements of the Differential and Integral Calculus" has been very gratifying to the author. In the last few years considerable progress has been made in the teaching of the elements of the Calculus, and in this revised edition of Granville's "Calculus" the latest and best methods are exhibited, methods that have stood the test of actual classroom work. Those features of the first edition which contributed so much to its usefulness and popularity have been retained. The introductory matter has been cut down somewhat in order to get down to the real business of the Calculus sooner. As this is designed essentially for a drill book, the pedagogic principle that each result should be made intuitively as well as analytically evident to the student has been kept constantly in mind. The object is not to teach the student to rely on his intuition, but, in some cases, to use this faculty in advance of analytical



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investigation. Graphical illustration has been drawn on very liberally.

This Calculus is based on the method of limits and is divided into two main parts, Differential Calculus and Integral Calculus. As special features, attention may be called to the effort to make perfectly clear the nature and extent of each new theorem, the large number of carefully graded exercises, and the summarizing into working rules of the methods of solving problems. In the Integral Calculus the notion of integration over a plane area has been much enlarged upon, and integration as the limit of a summation is constantly emphasized. The existence of the limit  $e$  has been assumed and its approximate value calculated from its graph. A large number of new examples have been added, both with and without answers. At the end of almost every chapter will be found a collection of miscellaneous examples. Among the new topics added are approximate integration, trapezoidal rule, parabolic rule, orthogonal trajectories, centers of area and volume, pressure of liquids, work done, etc. Simple practical problems have been added throughout; problems that illustrate the theory and at the same time are of interest to the student. These problems do not presuppose an extended knowledge in any particular branch of science, but are based on knowledge that all students of the Calculus are supposed to have in common.

The author has tried to write a textbook that is thoroughly modern and teachable, and the capacity and needs of the student pursuing a first course in the Calculus have been kept constantly in mind. The book contains more material than is necessary for the usual course of one hundred lessons given in our colleges and engineering schools; but this gives teachers an opportunity to choose such subjects as best suit the needs of their classes. It is believed that the volume contains all topics from which a selection naturally would be made in preparing students either for elementary work in applied science or for more advanced work in pure mathematics.

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Figure 2: Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz.

Added 2007: For further information on William Granville, please see the Wikipedia article at [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William\\_Anthony\\_Granville](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Anthony_Granville), which has a short biography and links for further information.

Granville's book "Elements of the Differential and Integral Calculus" fell into the public domain and then much of it (but not all, at the time of this writing) was scanned into

[http://en.wikisource.org/wiki/Elements\\_of\\_the\\_Differential\\_and\\_Integral\\_Calculus](http://en.wikisource.org/wiki/Elements_of_the_Differential_and_Integral_Calculus) primarily by P. J. Hall. This wikisource document uses mathml and latex and some Greek letter fonts. The current latex document is due to David Joyner, who is responsible for the formatting, editing for readability, the correction of any typos in the scanned version, and any extra material added (for example, the hyperlinked cross references, and the **SAGE** material). Please email corrections to [wdjoyner@gmail.com](mailto:wdjoyner@gmail.com). In particular, the existence of this document owes itself primarily to three great open source projects: TeX/LaTeX, Wikipedia, and **SAGE**. More information on **SAGE** can be found at the **SAGE** website (<http://www.sagemath.org>). Some material from Sean Mauch's public domain text on Applied Mathematics,

<http://www.its.caltech.edu/~sean/book.html> was also included.

Though the original text of Granville is public domain, the extra material added in this version is licensed under the GNU Free Documentation License (please see <http://www.gnu.org/copyleft/fdl.html>), as is most of Wikipedia.

*Acknowledgements:* I thank the following readers for reporting typos: Mario Pernici, Jacob Hicks.

# Chapter 1

## Collection of formulas

### 1.1 Formulas for reference

For the convenience of the student we give the following list of elementary formulas from Algebra, Geometry, Trigonometry, and Analytic Geometry.

1. Binomial Theorem ( $n$  being a positive integer):

$$(a+b)^n = a^n + na^{n-1}b + \frac{n(n-1)}{2!}a^{n-2}b^2 + \frac{n(n-1)(n-2)}{3!}a^{n-3}b^3 + \dots \\ + \frac{n(n-1)(n-2)\dots(n-r+2)}{(r-1)!}a^{n-r+1}b^{r-1} + \dots$$

2.  $n! = 1 \cdot 2 \cdot 3 \cdot 4 \cdots (n-1)n$ .

3. In the quadratic equation  $ax^2 + bx + c = 0$ ,

when  $b^2 - 4ac > 0$ , the roots are real and unequal;

when  $b^2 - 4ac = 0$ , the roots are real and equal;

when  $b^2 - 4ac < 0$ , the roots are imaginary.

4. When a quadratic equation is reduced to the form  $x^2 + px + q = 0$ ,

$p$  = sum of roots with sign changed, and

$q$  = product of roots.

5. In an arithmetical series,  $a, a+d, a+2d, \dots$ ,

$$s = \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} a + id = \frac{n}{2}[2a + (n-1)d].$$

## 1.1. FORMULAS FOR REFERENCE

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6. In a geometrical series,  $a, ar, ar^2, \dots$ ,

$$s = \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} ar^i = \frac{a(r^n - 1)}{r - 1}.$$

7.  $\log ab = \log a + \log b$ .

8.  $\log \frac{a}{b} = \log a - \log b$ .

9.  $\log a^n = n \log a$ .

10.  $\log \sqrt[n]{a} = \frac{1}{n} \log a$ .

11.  $\log 1 = 0$ .

12.  $\log e = 1$ .

13.  $\log \frac{1}{a} = -\log a$ .

14. <sup>1</sup> Circumference of circle =  $2\pi r$ .

15. Area of circle =  $\pi r^2$ .

16. Volume of prism =  $Ba$ .

17. Volume of pyramid =  $\frac{1}{3}Ba$ .

18. Volume of right circular cylinder =  $\pi r^2 a$ .

19. Lateral surface of right circular cylinder =  $2\pi ra$ .

20. Total surface of right circular cylinder =  $2\pi r(r + a)$ .

21. Volume of right circular cone =  $\frac{1}{3}\pi r^2 s$ .

22. Lateral surface of right circular cone =  $\pi rs$ .

23. Total surface of right circular cone =  $\pi r(r + s)$ .

24. Volume of sphere =  $\frac{4}{3}\pi r^3$ .

25. Surface of sphere =  $4\pi r^2$ .

26.  $\sin x = \frac{1}{\csc x}$ ;

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

$$\tan x = \frac{1}{\cot x}.$$

27.  $\tan x = \frac{\sin x}{\cos x}$ ;

$$\cot x = \frac{\cos x}{\sin x}.$$

---

<sup>1</sup>In formulas 14-25,  $r$  denotes radius,  $a$  altitude,  $B$  area of base, and  $s$  slant height.

28.  $\sin^2 x + \cos^2 x = 1$ ;  
 $1 + \tan^2 x = \sec^2 x$ ;  
 $1 + \cot^2 x = \csc^2 x$ .
29.  $\sin x = \cos\left(\frac{\pi}{2} - x\right)$ ;  
 $\cos x = \sin\left(\frac{\pi}{2} - x\right)$ ;  
 $\tan x = \cot\left(\frac{\pi}{2} - x\right)$ .
30.  $\sin(\pi - x) = \sin x$ ;  
 $\cos(\pi - x) = -\cos x$ ;  
 $\tan(\pi - x) = -\tan x$ .
31.  $\sin(x + y) = \sin x \cos y + \cos x \sin y$ .
32.  $\sin(x - y) = \sin x \cos y - \cos x \sin y$ .
33.  $\cos(x \pm y) = \cos x \cos y \mp \sin x \sin y$
34.  $\tan(x + y) = \frac{\tan x + \tan y}{1 - \tan x \tan y}$ .
35.  $\tan(x - y) = \frac{\tan x - \tan y}{1 + \tan x \tan y}$ .
36.  $\sin 2x = 2 \sin x \cos x$ ;  $\cos 2x = \cos^2 x - \sin^2 x$ ;  $\tan 2x = \frac{2 \tan x}{1 - \tan^2 x}$ .
37.  $\sin x = 2 \sin \frac{x}{2} \cos \frac{x}{2}$ ;  $\cos x = \cos^2 \frac{x}{2} - \sin^2 \frac{x}{2}$ ;  $\tan x = \frac{2 \tan \frac{x}{2}}{1 - \tan^2 \frac{x}{2}}$ .
38.  $\cos^2 x = \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} \cos 2x$ ;  $\sin^2 x = \frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{2} \cos 2x$ .
39.  $1 + \cos x = 2 \cos^2 \frac{x}{2}$ ;  $1 - \cos x = 2 \sin^2 \frac{x}{2}$ .
40.  $\sin \frac{x}{2} = \pm \sqrt{\frac{1 - \cos x}{2}}$ ;  $\cos \frac{x}{2} = \pm \sqrt{\frac{1 + \cos x}{2}}$ ;  $\tan \frac{x}{2} = \pm \sqrt{\frac{1 - \cos x}{1 + \cos x}}$ .
41.  $\sin x + \sin y = 2 \sin \frac{1}{2}(x + y) \cos \frac{1}{2}(x - y)$ .
42.  $\sin x - \sin y = 2 \cos \frac{1}{2}(x + y) \sin \frac{1}{2}(x - y)$ .
43.  $\cos x + \cos y = 2 \cos \frac{1}{2}(x + y) \cos \frac{1}{2}(x - y)$ .
44.  $\cos x - \cos y = -2 \sin \frac{1}{2}(x + y) \sin \frac{1}{2}(x - y)$ .
45.  $\frac{a}{\sin A} = \frac{b}{\sin B} = \frac{c}{\sin C}$ ; Law of Sines.
46.  $a^2 = b^2 + c^2 - 2bc \cos A$ ; Law of Cosines.
47.  $d = \sqrt{(x_1 - x_2)^2 + (y_1 - y_2)^2}$ ; distance between points  $(x_1, y_1)$  and  $(x_2, y_2)$ .
48.  $d = \frac{|Ax_1 + By_1 + C|}{\sqrt{A^2 + B^2}}$ ; distance from line  $Ax + By + C = 0$  to  $(x_1, y_1)$ .
49.  $x = \frac{x_1 + x_2}{2}$ ,  $y = \frac{y_1 + y_2}{2}$ ; coordinates of middle point.

## 1.1. FORMULAS FOR REFERENCE

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50.  $x = x_0 + x'$ ,  $y = y_0 + y'$ ; transforming to new origin  $(x_0, y_0)$ .
51.  $x = x' \cos \theta - y' \sin \theta$ ,  $y = x' \sin \theta + y' \cos \theta$ ; transforming to new axes making the angle  $\theta$  with old.
52.  $x = \rho \cos \theta$ ,  $y = \rho \sin \theta$ ; transforming from rectangular to polar coordinates.
53.  $\rho = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2}$ ,  $\theta = \arctan \frac{y}{x}$ ; transforming from polar to rectangular coordinates.
54. Different forms of equation of a straight line:
- (a)  $\frac{y-y_1}{x-x_1} = \frac{y_2-y_1}{x_2-x_1}$ , two-point form;
  - (b)  $\frac{x}{a} + \frac{y}{b} = 1$ , intercept form;
  - (c)  $y - y_1 = m(x - x_1)$ , slope-point form;
  - (d)  $y = mx + b$ , slope-intercept form;
  - (e)  $x \cos \alpha + y \sin \alpha = p$ , normal form;
  - (f)  $Ax + By + C = 0$ , general form.
55.  $\tan \theta = \frac{m_1 - m_2}{1 + m_1 m_2}$ , angle between two lines whose slopes are  $m_1$  and  $m_2$ .  
 $m_1 = m_2$  when lines are parallel, and  
 $m_1 = -\frac{1}{m_2}$  when lines are perpendicular.
56.  $(x - \alpha)^2 + (y - \beta)^2 = r^2$ , equation of circle with center  $(\alpha, \beta)$  and radius  $r$ .

Many of these facts are already known to **SAGE**:

— SAGE —

```
sage: a,b = var("a,b")
sage: log(sqrt(a))
log(a)/2
sage: log(a/b).simplify_log()
log(a) - log(b)
sage: sin(a+b).simplify_trig()
cos(a)*sin(b) + sin(a)*cos(b)
sage: cos(a+b).simplify_trig()
cos(a)*cos(b) - sin(a)*sin(b)
sage: (a+b)^5
(b + a)^5
sage: expand((a+b)^5)
b^5 + 5*a*b^4 + 10*a^2*b^3 + 10*a^3*b^2 + 5*a^4*b + a^5
```

“Under the hood” **SAGE** used Maxima to do this simplification.

## 1.2 Greek alphabet

letters	names	letters	names
$A, \alpha$	alpha	$N, \nu$	nu
$B, \beta$	beta	$\Xi, \xi$	xi
$\Gamma, \gamma$	gamma	$O, o$	omicron
$\Delta, \delta$	delta	$\Pi, \pi$	pi
$E, \epsilon$	epsilon	$P, \rho$	rho
$Z, \zeta$	zeta	$\Sigma, \sigma$	sigma
$H, \eta$	eta	$T, \tau$	tau
$\Theta, \theta$	theta	$Y, \upsilon$	upsilon
$I, \iota$	iota	$\Phi, \phi$	phi
$K, \kappa$	kappa	$X, \chi$	chi
$\Lambda, \lambda$	lambda	$\Psi, \psi$	psi
$M, \mu$	mu	$\Omega, \omega$	omega

## 1.3 Rules for signs of the trigonometric functions

Quadrant	Sin	Cos	Tan	Cot	Sec	Csc
First	+	+	+	+	+	+
Second	+	-	-	-	-	+
Third	-	-	+	+	-	-
Fourth	-	+	-	-	+	-

## 1.4 Natural values of the trigonometric functions

Angle in Radians	Angle in Degrees	Sin	Cos	Tan	Cot	Sec	Csc
0	0	0	1	0	$\infty$	1	$\infty$
$\frac{\pi}{6}$	30	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}$	$\frac{\sqrt{3}}{3}$	$\sqrt{3}$	$\frac{2\sqrt{3}}{3}$	2
$\frac{\pi}{4}$	45	$\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}$	$\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}$	1	1	$\sqrt{2}$	$\sqrt{2}$
$\frac{\pi}{3}$	60	$\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\sqrt{3}$	$\frac{\sqrt{3}}{3}$	2	$\frac{2\sqrt{3}}{3}$
$\frac{\pi}{2}$	90	1	0	$\infty$	0	$\infty$	1
$\pi$	180	0	-1	0	$\infty$	-1	$\infty$
$\frac{3\pi}{2}$	270	-1	0	$\infty$	0	$\infty$	-1
$2\pi$	360	0	1	0	$\infty$	1	$\infty$

#### 1.4. NATURAL VALUES OF THE TRIGONOMETRIC FUNCTIONS

Angle in Radians	Angle in Degrees	Sin	Cos	Tan	Cot		
.0000	0	.0000	1.0000	.0000	Inf.	90	1.5708
.0175	1	.0175	.9998	.0175	57.290	89	1.5533
.0349	2	.0349	.9994	.0349	28.636	88	1.5359
.0524	3	.0523	.9986	.0524	19.081	87	1.5184
.0698	4	.0698	.9976	.0699	14.300	86	1.5010
.0873	5	.0872	.9962	.0875	11.430	85	1.4835
.1745	10	.1736	.9848	.1763	5.671	80	1.3963
.2618	15	.2588	.9659	.2679	3.732	75	1.3090
.3491	20	.3420	.9397	.3640	2.747	70	1.2217
.4863	25	.4226	.9063	.4663	2.145	65	1.1345
.5236	30	.5000	.8660	.5774	1.732	60	1.0472
.6109	35	.5736	.8192	.7002	1.428	55	.9599
.6981	40	.6428	.7660	.8391	1.192	50	.8727
.7854	45	.7071	.7071	1.0000	1.000	45	.7854
		Cos	Sin	Cot	Tan	Angle in Degrees	Angle in Radians

You can create a table like this in **SAGE**:

```

sage: RR15 = RealField(15)
sage: rads1 = [n*0.0175 for n in range(1,6)]
sage: rads2 = [0.0875+n*0.0875 for n in range(1,9)]
sage: rads = rads1+rads2
sage: trigs = ["sin", "cos", "tan", "cot"]
sage: tbl = [[eval(x+"(%s)"%y) for x in trigs] for y in rads]
sage: tbl = [[RR15(eval(x+"(%s)"%y)) for x in trigs] for y in rads]
sage: print Matrix(tbl)
[0.01750  0.9998 0.01750  57.14]
[0.03499  0.9994 0.03502  28.56]
[0.05247  0.9986 0.05255  19.03]
[0.06994  0.9976 0.07011  14.26]
[0.08739  0.9962 0.08772  11.40]
[ 0.1741  0.9847 0.1768  5.656]
[ 0.2595  0.9658 0.2687  3.722]
[ 0.3429  0.9394 0.3650  2.740]
[ 0.4237  0.9058 0.4677  2.138]
[ 0.5012  0.8653 0.5792  1.726]
[ 0.5749  0.8182 0.7026  1.423]
[ 0.6442  0.7648 0.8423  1.187]
[ 0.7086  0.7056 1.004  0.9958]

```

The first column are the values of  $\sin(x)$  at  $x \in \{0.01750, 0.03500, \dots, 0.7875\}$  (measured in radians). The second, third and fourth rows are the corresponding values for cos, tan and cot, resp..



## 1.5 Logarithms of numbers and trigonometric functions

The common logarithm is the logarithm with base 10. The fractional part of the logarithm of  $x$ , is known as the *mantissa* of the common logarithm of  $x$ . For example, if  $x = 120$  then

$$\log_{10} 120 = \log_{10}(10^2 \times 1.2) = 2 + \log_{10} 1.2 \approx 2 + 0.079181.$$

so the very last number (0.079181...) is the mantissa. In the table below, this is give simply as 0792.

Table of mantissas of the common logarithms of numbers:

No.	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	0000	0414	0792	1139	1461	1761	2041	2304	2553	2788
2	3010	3222	3424	3617	3802	3979	4150	4314	4472	4624
3	4771	4914	5051	5185	5315	5441	5563	5682	5798	5911
4	6021	6128	6232	6335	6435	6532	6628	6721	6812	6902
5	6990	7076	7160	7243	7324	7404	7482	7559	7634	7709
6	7782	7853	7924	7993	8062	8129	8195	8261	8325	8388
7	8451	8513	8573	8633	8692	8751	8808	8865	8921	8976
8	9031	9085	9138	9191	9243	9294	9345	9395	9445	9494
9	9542	9590	9638	9685	9731	9777	9823	9868	9912	9956
10	0000	0043	0086	0128	0170	0212	0253	0294	0334	0374
11	0414	0453	0492	0531	0569	0607	0645	0682	0719	0755
12	0792	0828	0864	0899	0934	0969	1004	1038	1072	1106
13	1139	1173	1206	1239	1271	1303	1335	1367	1399	1430
14	1461	1492	1523	1553	1584	1614	1644	1673	1703	1732
15	1761	1790	1818	1847	1875	1903	1931	1959	1987	2014
16	2041	2068	2095	2122	2148	2175	2201	2227	2253	2279
17	2304	2330	2355	2380	2405	2430	2455	2480	2504	2529
18	2553	2577	2601	2625	2648	2672	2695	2718	2742	2765
19	2788	2810	2833	2856	2878	2900	2923	2945	2967	2989

The table of logarithms of the trigonometric functions (given in Granville's original text) is omitted as they can be computed using a hand calculator or SAGE.

## 1.5. LOGARITHMS OF NUMBERS AND TRIGONOMETRIC FUNCTIONS

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## Chapter 2

# Variables and functions

### 2.1 Variables and constants

A *variable* is a quantity to which an unlimited number of values can be assigned. Variables are denoted by the later letters of the alphabet. Thus, in the equation of a straight line,

$$\frac{x}{a} + \frac{y}{b} = 1$$

$x$  and  $y$  may be considered as the variable coordinates of a point moving along the line. A quantity whose value remains unchanged is called a *constant*.

Numerical or absolute constants retain the same values in all problems, as 2, 5,  $\sqrt{7}$ ,  $\pi$ , etc.

*Arbitrary constants, or parameters*, are constants to which any one of an unlimited set of numerical values may be assigned, and they are supposed to have these assigned values throughout the investigation. They are usually denoted by the earlier letters of the alphabet. Thus, for every pair of values arbitrarily assigned to  $a$  and  $b$ , the equation

$$\frac{x}{a} + \frac{y}{b} = 1$$

represents some particular straight line.

### 2.2 Interval of a variable.

Very often we confine ourselves to a portion only of the number system. For example, we may restrict our variable so that it shall take on only such values as lie between  $a$  and  $b$ , where  $a$  and  $b$  may be included, or either or both excluded. We shall employ the symbol  $[a, b]$ ,  $a$  being less than  $b$ , to represent the numbers  $a$ ,  $b$ , and all the numbers between them, unless otherwise stated. This symbol  $[a, b]$  is read the interval from  $a$  to  $b$ .

### 2.3. CONTINUOUS VARIATION.

---

## 2.3 Continuous variation.

A variable  $x$  is said to vary continuously through an interval  $[a, b]$ , when  $x$  starts with the value  $a$  and increases until it takes on the value  $b$  in such a manner as to assume the value of every number between  $a$  and  $b$  in the order of their magnitudes. This may be illustrated geometrically as follows:

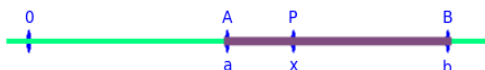


Figure 2.1: Interval from  $A$  to  $B$ .

The origin being at  $O$ , layoff on the straight line the points  $A$  and  $B$  corresponding to the numbers  $a$  and  $b$ . Also let the point  $P$  correspond to a particular value of the variable  $x$ . Evidently the interval  $[a, b]$  is represented by the segment  $AB$ . Now as  $x$  varies continuously from  $a$  to  $b$  inclusive, i.e. through the interval  $[a, b]$ , the point  $P$  generates the segment  $AB$ .

## 2.4 Functions.

When two variables are so related that the value of the first variable depends on the value of the second variable, then the first variable is said to be a *function* of the second variable.

Nearly all scientific problems deal with quantities and relations of this sort, and in the experiences of everyday life we are continually meeting conditions illustrating the dependence of one quantity on another. For instance, the weight a man is able to lift depends on his strength, other things being equal. Similarly, the distance a boy can run may be considered as depending on the time. Or, we may say that the area of a square is a function of the length of a side, and the volume of a sphere is a function of its diameter.

## 2.5 Independent and dependent variables.

The second variable, to which values may be assigned at pleasure within limits depending on the particular problem, is called the *independent variable*, or *argument*; and the first variable, whose value is determined as soon as the value of the independent variable is fixed, is called the *dependent variable*, or *function*.

Frequently, when we are considering two related variables, it is in our power to fix upon whichever we please as the independent variable; but having once

made the choice, no change of independent variable is allowed without certain precautions and transformations.

One quantity (the dependent variable) may be a function of two or more other quantities (the independent variables, or arguments). For example, the cost of cloth is a function of both the quality and quantity; the area of a triangle is a function of the base and altitude; the volume of a rectangular parallelepiped is a function of its three dimensions.

## 2.6 Notation of functions

The symbol  $f(x)$  is used to denote a function of  $x$ , and is read “ $f$  of  $x$ ”. In order to distinguish between different functions, the prefixed letter is changed, as  $F(x)$ ,  $\phi(x)$ ,  $f'(x)$ , etc.

During any investigation the same functional symbol always indicates the same law of dependence of the function upon the variable. In the simpler cases this law takes the form of a series of analytical operations upon that variable. Hence, in such a case, the same functional symbol will indicate the same operations or series of operations, even though applied to different quantities. Thus, if

$$f(x) = x^2 - 9x + 14,$$

then

$$f(y) = y^2 - 9y + 14.$$

Also

$$f(a) = a^2 - 9a + 14,$$

$$f(b+1) = (b+1)^2 - 9(b+1) + 14 = b^2 - 7b + 6,$$

$$f(0) = 0^2 - 9 \cdot 0 + 14 = 14,$$

$$f(-1) = (-1)^2 - 9(-1) + 14 = 24,$$

$$f(3) = 3^2 - 9 \cdot 3 + 14 = -4,$$

$$f(7) = 7^2 - 9 \cdot 7 + 14 = 0,$$

etc. Similarly,  $\phi(x, y)$  denotes a function of  $x$  and  $y$ , and is read “ $\phi$  of  $x$  and  $y$ ”. If

$$\phi(x, y) = \sin(x + y),$$

then

$$\phi(a, b) = \sin(a + b),$$

and

$$\phi\left(\frac{\pi}{2}, 0\right) = \sin \frac{\pi}{2} = 1.$$

Again, if

$$F(x, y, z) = 2x + 3y - 12z,$$

then

$$F(m, -m, m) = 2m - 3m - 12m = -13m.$$

## 2.7. VALUES OF THE INDEPENDENT VARIABLE FOR WHICH A FUNCTION IS DEFINED

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and

$$F(3, 2, 1) = 2 \cdot 3 + 3 \cdot 2 - 12 \cdot 1 = 0.$$

Evidently this system of notation may be extended indefinitely.

You can define a function in **SAGE** in several ways:

```
SAGE
sage: x,y = var("x,y")
sage: f = log(sqrt(x))
sage: f(4)
log(4)/2
sage: f(4).simplify_log()
log(2)
sage: f = lambda x: (x^2+1)/2
sage: f(x)
(x^2 + 1)/2
sage: f(1)
1
sage: f = lambda x,y: x^2+y^2
sage: f(3,4)
25
```

## 2.7 Values of the independent variable for which a function is defined

Consider the functions

$$x^2 - 2x + 5, \sin x, \arctan x$$

of the independent variable  $x$ . Denoting the dependent variable in each case by  $y$ , we may write

$$y = x^2 - 2x + 5, \quad y = \sin x, \quad y = \arctan x.$$

In each case  $y$  (the value of the function) is known, or, as we say, defined, for all values of  $x$ . This is not by any means true of all functions, as the following examples illustrating the more common exceptions will show.

$$y = \frac{a}{x - b} \tag{2.1}$$

Here the value of  $y$  (i.e. the function) is defined for all values of  $x$  except  $x = b$ . When  $x = b$  the divisor becomes zero and the value of  $y$  cannot be computed from (2.1). Any value might be assigned to the function for this value of the argument.

$$y = \sqrt{x}. \tag{2.2}$$

In this case the function is defined only for positive values of  $x$ . Negative values of  $x$  give imaginary values for  $y$ , and these must be excluded here, where we are confining ourselves to real numbers only.

$$y = \log_a x. \quad a > 0 \quad (2.3)$$

Here  $y$  is defined only for positive values of  $x$ . For negative values of  $x$  this function does not exist (see 3.7).

$$y = \arcsin x, \quad y = \arccos x. \quad (2.4)$$

Since sines, and cosines cannot become greater than  $+1$  nor less than  $-1$ , it follows that the above functions are defined for all values of  $x$  ranging from  $-1$  to  $+1$  inclusive, but for no other values.

## 2.8 Exercises

1. Given  $f(x) = x^3 - 10x^2 + 31x - 30$ ; show that

$$\begin{aligned} f(0) &= -30, & f(y) &= y^3 - 10y^2 + 31y - 30, \\ f(2) &= 0, & f(a) &= a^3 - 10a^2 + 31a - 30, \\ f(3) &= f(5), & f(yz) &= y^3z^3 - 10y^2z^2 + 31yz - 30, \\ f(1) &> f(3), & f(x2) &= x^3 - 16x^2 + 83x - 140, \\ & & f(-1) &= 6f(6). \end{aligned}$$

2. If  $f(x) = x^3 - 3x + 2$ , find  $f(0)$ ,  $f(1)$ ,  $f(-1)$ ,  $f(-\frac{1}{2})$ ,  $f(\frac{4}{3})$ .

3. If  $f(x) = x^3 - 10x^2 + 31x - 30$ , and  $\phi(x) = x^4 - 55x^2 + 210x - 216$ , show that  $f(2) = \phi(-2)$ ,  $f(3) = \phi(-3)$ ,  $f(5) = \phi(-4)$ ,  $f(0) + \phi(0) + 246 = 0$ .

4. If  $F(x) = 2x$ , find  $F(0)$ ,  $F(-3)$ ,  $F(\frac{1}{3})$ ,  $F(-1)$ .

5. Given  $F(x) = x(x-1)(x+6)(x-\frac{1}{2})(x+\frac{5}{4})$ , show that  $F(0) = F(1) = F(-6) = F(\frac{1}{2}) = F(-\frac{5}{4}) = 0$ .

6. If  $f(m_1) = \frac{m_1-1}{m_1+1}$ , show that  $\frac{f(m_1)-f(m_2)}{1+f(m_1)f(m_2)} = \frac{m_1-m_2}{1+m_1m_2}$ .

7. If  $\phi(x) = a^x$ , show that  $\phi(y) \cdot \phi(z) = \phi(y+z)$ .

8. Given  $\phi(x) = \log \frac{1-x}{1+x}$ , show that  $\phi(x) + \phi(y) = \phi\left(\frac{x+y}{1+xy}\right)$ .

9. If  $f(\phi) = \cos \phi$ , show that  $f(\phi) = f(-\phi) = -f(\pi - \phi) = -f(\pi + \phi)$ .

10. If  $F(\theta) = \tan \theta$ , show that  $F(2\theta) = \frac{2F(\theta)}{1-[F(\theta)]^2}$ .

11. Given  $\psi(x) = x^{2n} + x^{2m} + 1$ , show that  $\psi(1) = 3$ ,  $\psi(0) = 1$ , and  $\psi(a) = \psi(-a)$ .

12. If  $f(x) = \frac{2x-3}{x+7}$ , find  $f(\sqrt{2})$ .

## 2.8. EXERCISES

---

Here's how to verify the double angle identity for tan in Exercise 10 above:

SAGE

```
sage: theta = var("theta")
sage: tan(2*theta).expand_trig()
2*tan(theta)/(1 - tan(theta)^2)
```



## Chapter 3

# Theory of limits

### 3.1 Limit of a variable

If a variable  $v$  takes on successively a series of values that approach nearer and nearer to a constant value  $L$  in such a manner that  $|v - L|$  becomes and remains less than any assigned arbitrarily small positive quantity, then  $v$  is said to approach the limit  $L$ , or to converge to the limit  $L$ . Symbolically this is written

$$\lim_{v=L}, \text{ or, } \lim_{v \rightarrow L}.$$

The following familiar examples illustrate what is meant:

1. As the number of sides of a regular inscribed polygon is indefinitely increased, the limit of the area of the polygon is the area of the circle. In this case the variable is always less than its limit.
2. Similarly, the limit of the area of the circumscribed polygon is also the area of the circle, but now the variable is always greater than its limit.
3. Consider the series

$$1 - \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{4} - \frac{1}{8} + \cdots \quad (3.1)$$

The sum of any even number ( $2n$ ) of the first terms of this series is

$$\begin{aligned} S_{2n} &= 1 - \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{4} - \frac{1}{8} + \cdots + \frac{1}{2^{2n-2}} - \frac{1}{2^{2n-1}} \\ &= \frac{\frac{1}{2^{2n}} - 1}{-\frac{1}{2} - 1} \\ &= \frac{2}{3} - \frac{1}{3 \cdot 2^{2n-1}}, \end{aligned} \quad (3.2)$$

by item 6, Ch. 1, §1.1. Similarly, the sum of any odd number ( $2n + 1$ ) of the first terms of the series is

### 3.1. LIMIT OF A VARIABLE

---

$$\begin{aligned}
 S_{2n+1} &= 1 - \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{4} - \frac{1}{8} + \cdots - \frac{1}{2^{2n-1}} + \frac{1}{2^{2n}} \\
 &= \frac{-\frac{1}{2^{2n+1}} - 1}{-\frac{1}{2} - 1} \\
 &= \frac{2}{3} + \frac{1}{3 \cdot 2^{2n}},
 \end{aligned} \tag{3.3}$$

again by item 6, Ch. 1, §1.1.

Writing (3.2) and (3.3) in the forms

$$\frac{2}{3} - S_{2n} = \frac{1}{3 \cdot 2^{2n-1}}, \quad S_{2n+1} - \frac{2}{3} = \frac{1}{3 \cdot 2^{2n}}$$

we have

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left( \frac{2}{3} - S_{2n} \right) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{3 \cdot 2^{2n-1}} = 0,$$

and

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left( S_{2n+1} - \frac{2}{3} \right) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{3 \cdot 2^{2n}} = 0.$$

Hence, by definition of the limit of a variable, it is seen that both  $S_{2n}$  and  $S_{2n+1}$  are variables approaching  $\frac{2}{3}$  as a limit as the number of terms increases without limit.

Summing up the first two, three, four, etc., terms of (3.1), the sums are found by ((3.2) and ((3.3) to be alternately less and greater than  $\frac{2}{3}$ , illustrating the case when the variable, in this case the sum of the terms of ((3.1), is alternately less and greater than its limit.

In the examples shown the variable never reaches its limit. This is not by any means always the case, for from the definition of the limit of a variable it is clear that the essence of the definition is simply that the numerical value of the difference between the variable and its limit shall ultimately become and remain less than any positive number we may choose, however small.

**Example 3.1.1.** *As an example illustrating the fact that the variable may reach its limit, consider the following. Let a series of regular polygons be inscribed in a circle, the number of sides increasing indefinitely. Choosing anyone of these, construct the circumscribed polygon whose sides touch the circle at the vertices of the inscribed polygon. Let  $p_n$  and  $P_n$  be the perimeters of the inscribed and circumscribed polygons of  $n$  sides, and  $C$  the circumference of the circle, and suppose the values of a variable  $x$  to be as follows:*

$$P_n, \quad p_{n+1}, \quad C, \quad P_{n+1}, \quad p_{n+2}, \quad C, \quad P_{n+2}, \quad \text{etc.}$$

Then, evidently,

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} x = C$$

and the limit is reached by the variable, every third value of the variable being  $C$ .

## 3.2 Division by zero excluded

$\frac{0}{0}$  is indeterminate. For the quotient of two numbers is that number which multiplied by the divisor will give the dividend. But any number whatever multiplied by zero gives zero, and the quotient is indeterminate; that is, any number whatever may be considered as the quotient, a result which is of no value.

$\frac{a}{0}$  has no meaning,  $a$  being different from zero, for there exists no number such that if it be multiplied by zero, the product will equal  $a$ .

Therefore division by zero is not an admissible operation.

Care should be taken not to divide by zero inadvertently. The following fallacy is an illustration. Assume that

$$a = b.$$

Then evidently

$$ab = a^2.$$

Subtracting  $b^2$ ,

$$ab - b^2 = a^2 - b^2.$$

Factoring,

$$b(a - b) = (a + b)(a - b).$$

Dividing by

$$b = a + b.$$

But  $a = b$ , therefore  $b = 2b$ , or,  $1 = 2$ . The result is absurd, and is caused by the fact that we divided by  $a - b = 0$ .

## 3.3 Infinitesimals

A variable  $v$  whose limit is zero is called an *infinitesimal*<sup>1</sup>. This is written

$$\lim_{v=0}, \text{ or, } \lim_{v \rightarrow 0},$$

and means that the successive numerical values of  $v$  ultimately become and remain less than any positive number however small. Such a variable is said to become indefinitely small or to ultimately vanish.

If  $\lim v = l$ , then  $\lim(v - l) = 0$ ; that is, the difference between a variable and its limit is an infinitesimal.

Conversely, if the difference between a variable and a constant is an infinitesimal, then the variable approaches the constant as a limit.

---

<sup>1</sup>Hence a constant, no matter how small it may be, is not an infinitesimal.

### 3.4 The concept of infinity ( $\infty$ )

If a variable  $v$  ultimately becomes and remains greater than any assigned positive number, however large, we say  $v$  “increases without limit”, and write

$$\lim_{v=+\infty}, \text{ or, } \lim_{v \rightarrow +\infty}, \text{ or, } v \rightarrow +\infty.$$

If a variable  $v$  ultimately becomes and remains algebraically less than any assigned negative number, we say “ $v$  decreases without limit”, and write

$$\lim_{v=-\infty}, \text{ or, } \lim_{v \rightarrow -\infty}, \text{ or, } v \rightarrow -\infty.$$

If a variable  $v$  ultimately becomes and remains in numerical value greater than any assigned positive number, however large, we say  $v$ , in numerical value, “increases without limit”, or  $v$  becomes infinitely great<sup>2</sup>, and write

$$\lim_{v=\infty}, \text{ or, } \lim_{v \rightarrow \infty}, \text{ or, } v \rightarrow \infty.$$

Infinity ( $\infty$ ) is not a number; it simply serves to characterize a particular mode of variation of a variable by virtue of which it increases or decreases without limit.

### 3.5 Limiting value of a function

Given a function  $f(x)$ . If the independent variable  $x$  takes on any series of values such that

$$\lim x = a,$$

and at the same time the dependent variable  $f(x)$  takes on a series of corresponding values such that

$$\lim f(x) = A,$$

then as a single statement this is written

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) = A.$$

Here is an example of a limit using **SAGE**:

---

<sup>2</sup>On account of the notation used and for the sake of uniformity, the expression  $v \rightarrow +\infty$  is sometimes read “ $v$  approaches the limit plus infinity”. Similarly,  $v \rightarrow -\infty$  is read “ $v$  approaches the limit minus infinity”, and  $v \rightarrow \infty$  is read “ $v$ , in numerical value, approaches the limit infinity”. While the above notation is convenient to use in this connection, the student must not forget that infinity is not a limit in the sense in which we defined it in §3.2, for infinity is not a number at all.

SAGE

```
sage: limit((x^2+1)/(2+x+3*x^2),x=infinity)
1/3
```

This tells us that  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{x^2+1}{2+x+3x^2} = \frac{1}{3}$ .

### 3.6 Continuous and discontinuous functions

A function  $f(x)$  is said to be *continuous* for  $x = a$  if the limiting value of the function when  $x$  approaches the limit  $a$  in any manner is the value assigned to the function for  $x = a$ . In symbols, if

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) = f(a),$$

then  $f(x)$  is continuous for  $x = a$ .

The function is said to be *discontinuous* for  $x = a$  if this condition is not satisfied. For example, if

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) = \infty,$$

the function is discontinuous for  $x = a$ .

The attention of the student is now called to the following cases which occur frequently.

**CASE I.** As an example illustrating a simple case of a function continuous for a particular value of the variable, consider the function

$$f(x) = \frac{x^2 - 4}{x - 2}.$$

For  $x = 1$ ,  $f(x) = f(1) = 3$ . Moreover, if  $x$  approaches the limit 1 in any manner, the function  $f(x)$  approaches 3 as a limit. Hence the function is continuous for  $x = 1$ .

**CASE II.** The definition of a continuous function assumes that the function is already defined for  $x = a$ . If this is not the case, however, it is sometimes possible to assign such a value to the function for  $x = a$  that the condition of continuity shall be satisfied. The following theorem covers these cases.

**Theorem 3.6.1.** *If  $f(x)$  is not defined for  $x = a$ , and if*

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) = B,$$

*then  $f(x)$  will be continuous for  $x = a$ , if  $B$  is assumed as the value of  $f(x)$  for  $x = a$ .*

### 3.7. CONTINUITY AND DISCONTINUITY OF FUNCTIONS ILLUSTRATED BY THEIR GRAPHS

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Thus the function

$$\frac{x^2 - 4}{x - 2}$$

is not defined for  $x = 2$  (since then there would be division by zero). But for every other value of  $x$ ,

$$\frac{x^2 - 4}{x + 2} = x + 2;$$

and

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 2} (x + 2) = 4$$

therefore  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 2} \frac{x^2 - 4}{x - 2} = 4$ . Although the function is not defined for  $x = 2$ , if we assign it the value 4 for  $x = 2$ , it then becomes continuous for this value.

A function  $f(x)$  is said to be *continuous in an interval* when it is continuous for all values of  $x$  in this interval<sup>3</sup>.

## 3.7 Continuity and discontinuity of functions illustrated by their graphs

1. Consider the function  $x^2$ , and let

$$y = x^2 \tag{3.4}$$

If we assume values for  $x$  and calculate the corresponding values of  $y$ , we can plot a series of points. Drawing a smooth line free-hand through these points: a good representation of the general behavior of the function may be obtained. This picture or image of the function is called its *graph*. It is evidently the locus of all points satisfying equation (3.4).

It is very easy to create the above plot in **SAGE**, as the example below shows:

SAGE

```
sage: P = plot(x^2, -2, 2)
sage: show(P)
```

---

<sup>3</sup>In this book we shall deal only with functions which are in general continuous, that is, continuous for all values of  $x$ , with the possible exception of certain isolated values, our results in general being understood as valid only for such values of  $x$  for which the function in question is actually continuous. Unless special attention is called thereto, we shall as a rule pay no attention to the possibilities of such exceptional values of  $x$  for which the function is discontinuous. The definition of a continuous function  $f(x)$  is sometimes roughly (but imperfectly) summed up in the statement that a small change in  $x$  shall produce a small change in  $f(x)$ . We shall not consider functions having an infinite number of oscillations in a limited region.

### 3.7. CONTINUITY AND DISCONTINUITY OF FUNCTIONS ILLUSTRATED BY THEIR GRAPHS

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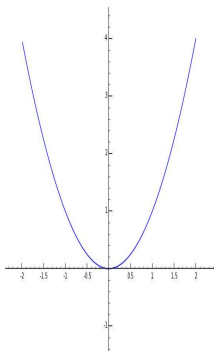


Figure 3.1: The parabola  $y = x^2$ .

Such a series or assemblage of points is also called a *curve*. Evidently we may assume values of  $x$  so near together as to bring the values of  $y$  (and therefore the points of the curve) as near together as we please. In other words, there are no breaks in the curve, and the function  $x^2$  is continuous for all values of  $x$ .

2. The graph of the continuous function  $\sin x$ , plotted by drawing the locus of  $y = \sin x$ ,

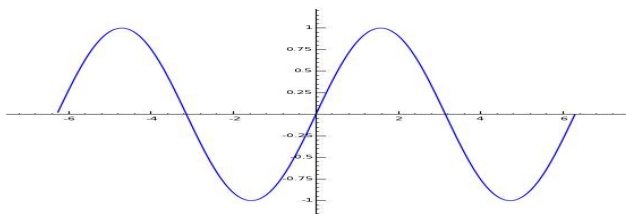


Figure 3.2: The sine function.

It is seen that no break in the curve occurs anywhere.

3. The continuous function  $\exp(x) = e^x$  is of very frequent occurrence in the Calculus. If we plot its graph from

$$y = e^x, \quad (e = 2.718\cdots),$$

we get a smooth curve as shown.

From this it is clearly seen that,

- (a) when  $x = 0$ ,  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} y (= \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} e^x) = 1$ ;
- (b) when  $x > 0$ ,  $y (= e^x)$  is positive and increases as we pass towards the right from the origin;

### 3.7. CONTINUITY AND DISCONTINUITY OF FUNCTIONS ILLUSTRATED BY THEIR GRAPHS

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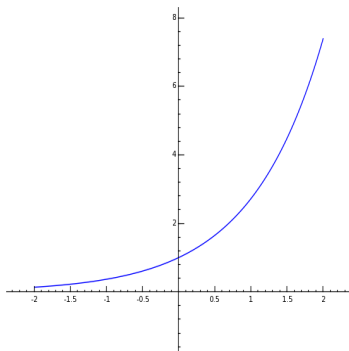


Figure 3.3: The exponential function.

- (c) when  $x < 0$ ,  $y(= e^x)$  is still positive and decreases as we pass towards the left from the origin.
4. The function  $\ln x = \log_e x$  is closely related to the last one discussed. In fact, if we plot its graph from

$$y = \log_e x,$$

it will be seen that its graph has the same relation to  $OX$  and  $OY$  as the graph of  $e^x$  has to  $OY$  and  $OX$ .

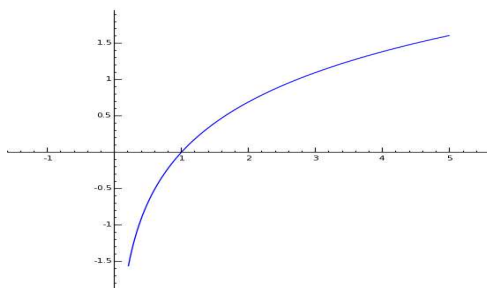


Figure 3.4: The natural logarithm.

Here we see the following facts pictured:

- (a) For  $x = 1$ ,  $\log_e x = \log_e 1 = 0$ .
- (b) For  $x > 1$ ,  $\log_e x$  is positive and increases as  $x$  increases.
- (c) For  $1 > x > 0$ ,  $\log_e x$  is negative and increases in numerical value as  $x$ , that is,  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \log_e x = -\infty$ .
- (d) For  $x \leq 0$ ,  $\log_e x$  is not defined; hence the entire graph lies to the right of  $OY$ .



### 3.7. CONTINUITY AND DISCONTINUITY OF FUNCTIONS ILLUSTRATED BY THEIR GRAPHS

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5. Consider the function  $\frac{1}{x}$ , and set

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

If the graph of this function be plotted, it will be seen that as  $x$  approaches the value zero from the left (negatively), the points of the curve ultimately drop down an infinitely great distance, and as  $x$  approaches the value zero from the right, the curve extends upward infinitely far.

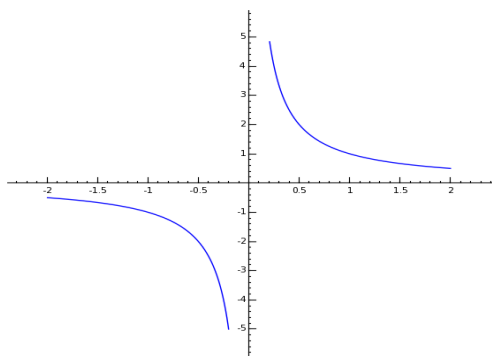


Figure 3.5: The function  $y = 1/x$ .

The curve then does not form a continuous branch from one side to the other of the axis of  $y$ , showing graphically that the function is discontinuous for  $x = 0$ , but continuous for all other values of  $x$ .

6. From the graph (see Figure 3.6) of

$$y = \frac{2x}{1 - x^2}$$

it is seen that the function  $\frac{2x}{1-x^2}$  is discontinuous for the two values  $x = \pm 1$ , but continuous for all other values of  $x$ .

### 3.7. CONTINUITY AND DISCONTINUITY OF FUNCTIONS ILLUSTRATED BY THEIR GRAPHS

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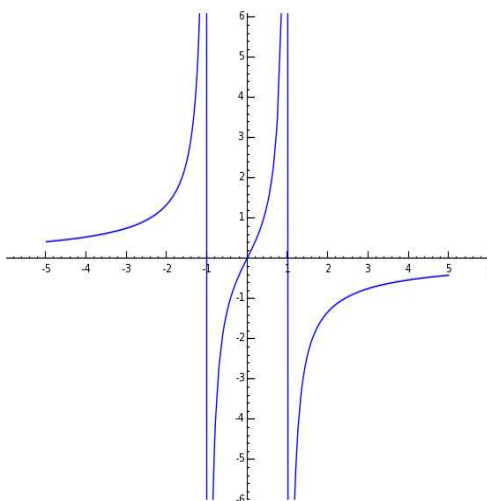


Figure 3.6: The function  $y = 2x/(1 - x^2)$ .

7. The graph of

$$y = \tan x$$

shows that the function  $\tan x$  is discontinuous for infinitely many values of the independent variable  $x$ , namely,  $x = \frac{n\pi}{2}$ , where  $n$  denotes any odd positive or negative integer.

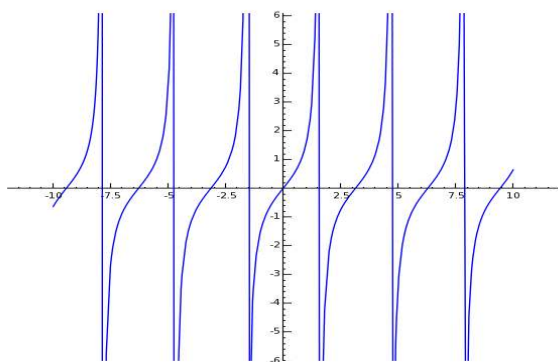


Figure 3.7: The tangent function.

8. The function  $\arctan x$  has infinitely many values for a given value of  $x$ , the graph of equation

$$y = \arctan x$$

### 3.7. CONTINUITY AND DISCONTINUITY OF FUNCTIONS ILLUSTRATED BY THEIR GRAPHS

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consisting of infinitely many branches.

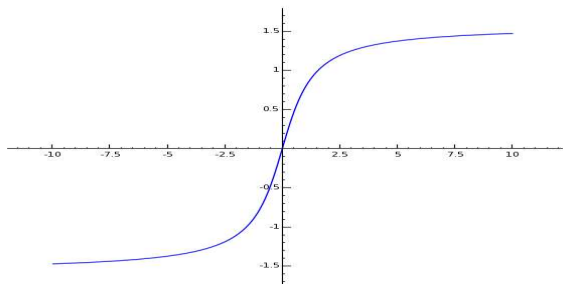


Figure 3.8: The arctangent (or inverse tangent) function.

If, however, we confine ourselves to any single branch, the function is continuous. For instance, if we say that  $y$  shall be the arc of smallest numerical value whose tangent is  $x$ , that is,  $y$  shall take on only values between  $-\frac{\pi}{2}$  and  $\frac{\pi}{2}$ , then we are limited to the branch passing through the origin, and the condition for continuity is satisfied.

9. Similarly,  $\arctan \frac{1}{x}$ , is found to be a many-valued function. Confining ourselves to one branch of the graph of

$$y = \arctan \frac{1}{x},$$

we see that as  $x$  approaches zero from the left,  $y$  approaches the limit  $-\frac{\pi}{2}$ , and as  $x$  approaches zero from the right,  $y$  approaches the limit  $+\frac{\pi}{2}$ . Hence the function is discontinuous when  $x = 0$ . Its value for  $x = 0$  can be assigned at pleasure.

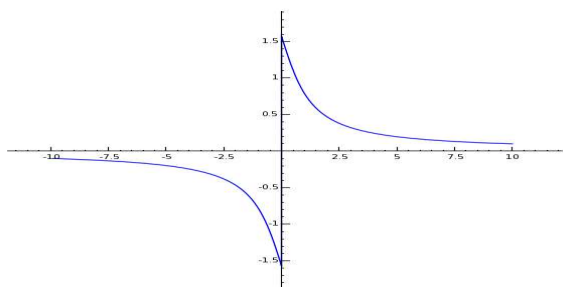


Figure 3.9: The function  $y = \arctan(1/x)$ .

10. A *piecewise defined function* is one which is defined by different rules on different non-overlapping intervals. For example,

### 3.7. CONTINUITY AND DISCONTINUITY OF FUNCTIONS ILLUSTRATED BY THEIR GRAPHS

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$$f(x) = \begin{cases} -1, & x < -\pi/2, \\ \sin(x), & \pi/2 \leq x \leq \pi/2, \\ 1, & \pi/2 < x. \end{cases}$$

is a continuous piecewise defined function.

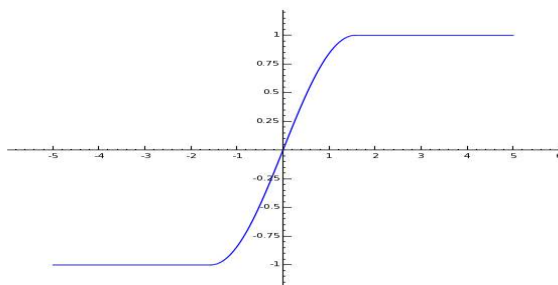


Figure 3.10: A piecewise defined function.

For example,

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} -1, & x < -2, \\ 3, & -2 \leq x \leq 3, \\ 2, & 3 < x. \end{cases}$$

is a discontinuous piecewise defined function, with jump discontinuities at  $x = -2$  and  $x = 3$ .

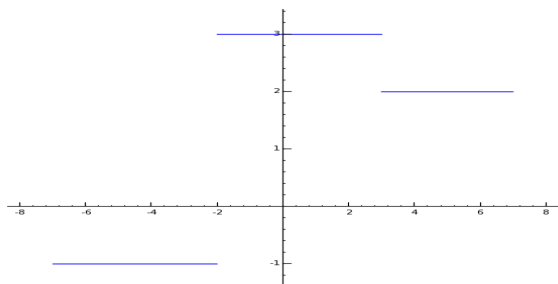


Figure 3.11: Another piecewise defined function.

Functions exist which are discontinuous for every value of the independent variable within a certain range. In the ordinary applications of the Calculus, however, we deal with functions which are discontinuous (if at all) only for certain isolated values of the independent variable; such functions are therefore in general continuous, and are the only ones considered in this book.

## 3.8 Fundamental theorems on limits

In problems involving limits the use of one or more of the following theorems is usually implied. It is assumed that the limit of each variable exists and is finite.

**Theorem 3.8.1.** The limit of the algebraic sum of a finite number of variables is equal to the algebraic sum of the limits of the several variables.

In particular,

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow a} [f(x) + g(x)] = \lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) + \lim_{x \rightarrow a} g(x).$$

**Theorem 3.8.2.** The limit of the product of a finite number of variables is equal to the product of the limits of the several variables.

In particular,

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow a} [f(x) \cdot g(x)] = \lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) \cdot \lim_{x \rightarrow a} g(x).$$

**Theorem 3.8.3.** The limit of the quotient of two variables is equal to the quotient of the limits of the separate variables, provided the limit of the denominator is not zero.

In particular,

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow a} [f(x)/g(x)] = \frac{\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x)}{\lim_{x \rightarrow a} g(x)},$$

provided  $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} g(x) \neq 0$ .

Before proving these theorems it is necessary to establish the following properties of infinitesimals.

1. The sum of a finite number of infinitesimals is an infinitesimal. To prove this we must show that the numerical<sup>4</sup> value of this sum can be made less than any small positive quantity (as  $\epsilon$ ) that may be assigned (§3.3). That this is possible is evident, for, the limit of each infinitesimal being zero, each one can be made numerically less than  $\frac{\epsilon}{n}$  ( $n$  being the number of infinitesimals), and therefore their sum can be made numerically less than  $\epsilon$ .
2. The product of a constant  $c \neq 0$  and an infinitesimal is an infinitesimal. For the numerical value of the product can always be made less than any small positive quantity (as  $\epsilon$ ) by making the numerical value of the infinitesimal less than  $\frac{\epsilon}{|c|}$ .
3. If  $v$  is a variable which approaches a limit  $L$  different from zero, then the quotient of an infinitesimal by  $v$  is also an infinitesimal. For if  $v \rightarrow L$ , and  $k$  is any number numerically less than  $L$ , then, by definition of a limit,  $v$  will ultimately become and remain numerically greater than  $k$ . Hence the quotient  $\frac{\epsilon}{v}$ , where  $\epsilon$  is an infinitesimal, will ultimately become and remain numerically less than  $\frac{\epsilon}{k}$ , and is therefore by the previous item an infinitesimal.

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<sup>4</sup>In this book, the term “numerical” often is synonymous with “absolute” and “numerically” often is synonymous with “in absolute value”.

### 3.8. FUNDAMENTAL THEOREMS ON LIMITS

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4. The product of any finite number of infinitesimals is an infinitesimal. For the numerical value of the product may be made less than any small positive quantity that can be assigned. If the given product contains  $n$  factors, then since each infinitesimal may be assumed less than the  $n$ -th root of  $\epsilon$ , the product can be made less than  $\epsilon$  itself.

*Proof of Theorem 3.8.1.* Let  $v_1, v_2, v_3, \dots$  be the variables, and  $L_1, L_2, L_3, \dots$  their respective limits. We may then write

$$v_1 - L_1 = \epsilon_1, \quad v_2 - L_2 = \epsilon_2, \quad v_3 - L_3 = \epsilon_3,$$

where  $\epsilon_1, \epsilon_2, \epsilon_3, \dots$  are infinitesimals (i.e. variables having zero for a limit). Adding

$$(v_1 + v_2 + v_3 + \dots) - (L_1 + L_2 + L_3 + \dots) = (\epsilon_1 + \epsilon_2 + \epsilon_3 + \dots).$$

Since the right-hand member is an infinitesimal by item (1) above (§3.8), we have, from the converse theorem (§3.3),

$$\lim(v_1 + v_2 + v_3 + \dots) = L_1 + L_2 + L_3 + \dots,$$

or,

$$\lim(v_1 + v_2 + v_3 + \dots) = \lim v_1 + \lim v_2 + \lim v_3 + \dots,$$

which was to be proved.  $\square$

*Proof of Theorem 3.8.2.* Let  $v_1$  and  $v_2$  be the variables,  $L_1$  and  $L_2$  their respective limits, and  $\epsilon_1$  and  $\epsilon_2$  infinitesimals; then

$$v_1 = L_1 + \epsilon_1$$

and  $v_2 = L_2 + \epsilon_2$ . Multiplying,

$$\begin{aligned} v_1 v_2 &= (L_1 + \epsilon_1)(L_2 + \epsilon_2) \\ &= L_1 L_2 + L_1 \epsilon_2 + L_2 \epsilon_1 + \epsilon_1 \epsilon_2 \end{aligned}$$

or,

$$v_1 v_2 - L_1 L_2 = L_1 \epsilon_2 + L_2 \epsilon_1 + \epsilon_1 \epsilon_2.$$

Since the right-hand member is an infinitesimal by items (1) and (2) above, (§3.8), we have, as before,

$$\lim(v_1 v_2) = L_1 L_2 = \lim v_1 \cdot \lim v_2,$$

which was to be proved.  $\square$

*Proof of Theorem 3.8.3.* Using the same notation as before,

$$\frac{v_1}{v_2} = \frac{L_1 + \epsilon_1}{L_2 + \epsilon_2} = \frac{L_1}{L_2} + \left( \frac{L_1 + \epsilon_1}{L_2 + \epsilon_2} - \frac{L_1}{L_2} \right),$$

or,

$$\frac{v_1}{v_2} - \frac{L_1}{L_2} = \frac{L_2\epsilon_1 - L_1\epsilon_2}{L_2(L_2 + \epsilon_2)}.$$

Here again the right-hand member is an infinitesimal by item (3) above, (§3.8), if  $L_2 \neq 0$ ; hence

$$\lim \left( \frac{v_1}{v_2} \right) = \frac{L_1}{L_2} = \frac{\lim v_1}{\lim v_2},$$

which was to be proved.  $\square$

It is evident that if any of the variables be replaced by constants, our reasoning still holds, and the above theorems are true.

### 3.9 Special limiting values

The following examples are of special importance in the study of the Calculus. In the following examples  $a > 0$  and  $c \neq 0$ .

Eqn number	Written in the form of limits	Abbreviated form often used
(1)	$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{c}{x} = \infty$	$\frac{c}{0} = \infty$
(2)	$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} cx = \infty$	$c \cdot \infty = \infty$
(3)	$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{x}{c} = \infty$	$\frac{\infty}{c} = \infty$
(4)	$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{c}{x} = 0$	$\frac{c}{\infty} = 0$
(5)	$\lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} a^x = +\infty$ , when $a < 1$	$a^{-\infty} = +\infty$
(6)	$\lim_{x \rightarrow +\infty} a^x = 0$ , when $a < 1$	$a^{+\infty} = 0$
(7)	$\lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} a^x = 0$ , when $a > 1$	$a^{-\infty} = 0$
(8)	$\lim_{x \rightarrow +\infty} a^x = +\infty$ , when $a > 1$	$a^{+\infty} = +\infty$
(9)	$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \log_a x = +\infty$ , when $a < 1$	$\log_a 0 = +\infty$
(10)	$\lim_{x \rightarrow +\infty} \log_a x = -\infty$ , when $a < 1$	$\log_a(+\infty) = -\infty$
(11)	$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \log_a x = -\infty$ , when $a > 1$	$\log_a 0 = -\infty$
(12)	$\lim_{x \rightarrow +\infty} \log_a x = +\infty$ , when $a > 1$	$\log_a(+\infty) = +\infty$

The expressions in the last column are not to be considered as expressing numerical equalities ( $\infty$  not being a number); they are merely symbolical equa-

### 3.10. SHOW THAT $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sin x}{x} = 1$

---

tions implying the relations indicated in the first column, and should be so understood.

### 3.10 Show that $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sin x}{x} = 1$

To motivate the limit computation of this section, using **SAGE** we compute a number of values of the function  $\frac{\sin x}{x}$ , as  $x$  gets closer and closer to 0:

$x$	0.5000	0.2500	0.1250	0.06250	0.03125
$\frac{\sin(x)}{x}$	0.9589	0.9896	0.9974	0.9994	0.9998

Indeed, if we refer to the table in §1.4, it will be seen that for all angles less than  $10^\circ$  the angle in radians and the sine of that angle are equal to three decimal places. To compute the table of values above using **SAGE**, simply use the following commands.

SAGE

```
sage: f = lambda x: sin(x)/x
sage: R = RealField(15)
sage: L = [1/2^i for i in range(1,6)]; L
[1/2, 1/4, 1/8, 1/16, 1/32]
sage: [R(x) for x in L]
[0.5000, 0.2500, 0.1250, 0.06250, 0.03125]
sage: [R(f(x)) for x in L]
[0.9589, 0.9896, 0.9974, 0.9994, 0.9998]
```

From this we may well suspect that  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sin x}{x} = 1$ .

Let  $O$  be the center of a circle whose radius is unity.

Let arc  $AM = \text{arc } AM' = x$ , and let  $MT$  and  $M'T$  be tangents drawn to the circle at  $M$  and  $M'$ . From Geometry (see Figure 3.12), we have

$$MPM' < MAM' < MTM';$$

or  $2 \sin x < 2x < 2 \tan x$ . Dividing through by  $2 \sin x$ , we get

$$1 < \frac{x}{\sin x} < \frac{1}{\cos x}.$$

If now  $x$  approaches the limit zero,

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{x}{\sin x}$$

must lie between the constant 1 and  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{\cos x}$ , which is also 1. Therefore  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{x}{\sin x} = 1$ , or,  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sin x}{x} = 1$  Theorem 3.8.3.  $\square$



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3.10. SHOW THAT  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sin x}{x} = 1$

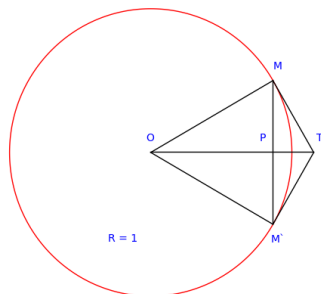


Figure 3.12: Comparing  $x$  and  $\sin(x)$  on the unit circle.

It is interesting to note the behavior of this function from its graph, the locus of equation

$$y = \frac{\sin x}{x}$$

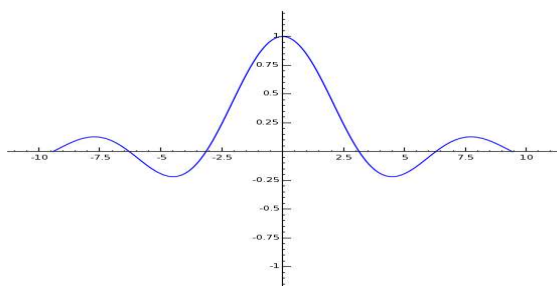


Figure 3.13: The function  $\frac{\sin(x)}{x}$ .

Although the function is not defined for  $x = 0$ , yet it is not discontinuous when  $x = 0$  if we define  $\frac{\sin 0}{0} = 1$  (see Case II in §3.6).

Finally, we show how to use the **SAGE** command `limit` to compute the limit above<sup>5</sup>.

SAGE

```
sage: limit(sin(x)/x,x=0)
1
```

---

<sup>5</sup>We use the command-line version of **SAGE**, as opposed to the GUI notebook version. The commands are the same for the GUI version.

### 3.11 The number $e$

One of the most important limits in the Calculus is

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} (1+x)^{\frac{1}{x}} = 2.71828 \cdots = e$$

To prove rigorously that such a limit  $e$  exists, is beyond the scope of this book. For the present we shall content ourselves by plotting the locus of the equation

$$y = (1+x)^{\frac{1}{x}}$$

and show graphically that, as  $x \rightarrow 0$ , the function  $(1+x)^{\frac{1}{x}} (= y)$  takes on values in the near neighborhood of  $2.718 \dots$ , and therefore  $e = 2.718 \dots$ , approximately.

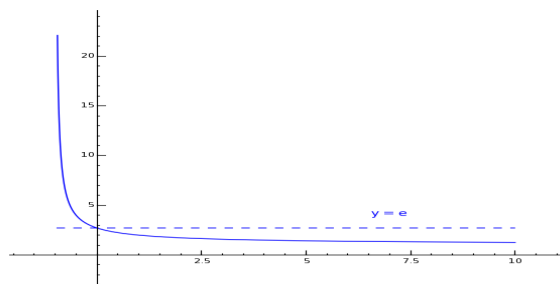


Figure 3.14: The function  $(1+x)^{1/x}$ .

$x$	-.1	-.001	.001	.01	.1	1	5	10
$y = (1+x)^{1/x}$	2.8680	2.7195	2.7169	2.7048	2.5937	2.0000	1.4310	1.0096

As  $x \rightarrow 0-$  from the left,  $y$  decreases and approaches  $e$  as a limit. As  $x \rightarrow 0+$  from the right,  $y$  increases and also approaches  $e$  as a limit.

As  $x \rightarrow \infty$ ,  $y$  approaches the limit 1; and as  $x \rightarrow -1+$  from the right,  $y$  increases without limit.

Natural logarithms are those which have the number  $e$  for base. These logarithms play a very important role in mathematics. When the base is not indicated explicitly, the base  $e$  is always understood in what follows in this book. Thus  $\log_e v$  is written simply  $\log v$  or  $\ln v$ .

Natural logarithms possess the following characteristic property: If  $x \rightarrow 0$  in any way whatever,

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\log(1+x)}{x} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \log(1+x)^{\frac{1}{x}} = \log e = \ln e = 1.$$

### 3.12 Expressions assuming the form $\frac{\infty}{\infty}$

As  $\infty$  is not a number, the expression  $\infty \div \infty$  is indeterminate. To evaluate a fraction assuming this form, the numerator and denominator being algebraic

functions, we shall find useful the following

**RULE.** Divide both numerator and denominator by the highest power of the variable occurring in either. Then substitute the value of the variable.

**Example 3.12.1.** Evaluate

Solution. Substituting directly, we get

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{2x^3 - 3x^2 + 4}{5x - x^2 - 7x^3} = \frac{\infty}{\infty}$$

which is indeterminate. Hence, following the above rule, we divide both numerator and denominator by  $x^3$ , Then

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{2x^3 - 3x^2 + 4}{5x - x^2 - 7x^3} = \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{2 - \frac{3}{x} + \frac{4}{x^3}}{\frac{5}{x^2} - \frac{1}{x} - 7} = -\frac{2}{7}.$$

### 3.13 Exercises

Prove the following:

1.  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \left( \frac{x+1}{x} \right) = 1.$

Solution:

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} &= \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \left( 1 + \frac{1}{x} \right) \\ &= \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} (1) + \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \left( \frac{1}{x} \right) \\ &= 1 + 0 = 1, \end{aligned}$$

by Theorem 3.8.1

2.  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \left( \frac{x^2 + 2x}{5 - 3x^2} \right) = -\frac{1}{3}.$

Solution:

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \left( \frac{x^2 + 2x}{5 - 3x^2} \right) = \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \left( \frac{1 + \frac{2}{x}}{\frac{5}{x^2} - 3} \right)$$

[ Dividing both numerator and denominator by  $x^2$ .]

$$= \frac{\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \left( 1 + \frac{2}{x} \right)}{\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \left( \frac{5}{x^2} - 3 \right)}$$

by Theorem 3.8.3

$$= \frac{\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} (1) + \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \left( \frac{2}{x} \right)}{\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \left( \frac{5}{x^2} \right) - \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} (3)} = \frac{1 + 0}{0 - 3} = -\frac{1}{3},$$

by Theorem 3.8.1.

3.  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \frac{x^2 - 2x + 5}{x^2 + 7} = \frac{1}{2}.$

### 3.13. EXERCISES

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4.  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{3x^3 + 6x^2}{2x^4 - 15x^2} = -\frac{2}{5}.$
5.  $\lim_{x \rightarrow -2} \frac{x^2 + 1}{x + 3} = 5.$
6.  $\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} (3ax^2 - 2hx + 5h^2) = 3ax^2.$
7.  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} (ax^2 + bx + c) = \infty.$
8.  $\lim_{k \rightarrow 0} \frac{(x-k)^2 - 2kx^3}{x(x+k)} = 1.$
9.  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{x^2 + 1}{3x^2 + 2x - 1} = \frac{1}{3}.$
10.  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{3 + 2x}{x^2 - 5x} = 0.$
11.  $\lim_{\alpha \rightarrow \frac{\pi}{2}} \frac{\cos(\alpha - a)}{\cos(2\alpha - a)} = -\tan \alpha.$
12.  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{ax^2 + bx + c}{dx^2 + ex + f} = \frac{a}{d}.$
13.  $\lim_{z \rightarrow 0} \frac{a}{2} (e^{\frac{z}{a}} + e^{-\frac{z}{a}}) = a.$
14.  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{2x^3 + 3x^2}{x^3} = \infty.$
15.  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{5x^2 - 2x}{x} = \infty.$
16.  $\lim_{y \rightarrow \infty} \frac{y}{y+1} = 1.$
17.  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{n(n+1)}{(n+2)(n+3)} = 1.$
18.  $\lim_{s \rightarrow 1} \frac{s^3 - 1}{s - 1} = 3.$
19.  $\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{(x+h)^n - x^n}{h} = nx^{n-1}.$
20.  $\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} [\cos(\theta + h) \frac{\sin h}{h}] = \cos \theta.$
21.  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{4x^2 - x}{4 - 3x^2} = -\frac{4}{3}.$
22.  $\lim_{\theta \rightarrow 0} \frac{1 - \cos \theta}{\theta^2} = \frac{1}{2}.$
23.  $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} \frac{1}{x-a} = -\infty$ , if  $x$  is increasing as it approaches the value  $a$ .
24.  $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} \frac{1}{x-a} = +\infty$ , if  $x$  is decreasing as it approaches the value  $a$ .

Here is an example of the limit in Exercise 22 using **SAGE**:

SAGE

```
sage: theta = var("theta")
sage: limit((1 - cos(theta))/(theta^2), theta=0)
1/2
```

In other words, for small values of  $\theta$ ,  $\cos(\theta) \cong 1 + \frac{1}{2}\theta^2$ .

## Chapter 4

# Differentiation

### 4.1 Introduction

We shall now proceed to investigate the manner in which a function changes in value as the independent variable changes. The fundamental problem of the Differential Calculus is to establish a measure of this change in the function with mathematical precision. It was while investigating problems of this sort, dealing with continuously varying quantities, that Newton<sup>1</sup> was led to the discovery of the fundamental principles of the Calculus, the most scientific and powerful tool of the modern mathematician.

### 4.2 Increments

The *increment* of a variable in changing from one numerical value to another is the difference found by subtracting the first value from the second. An increment of  $x$  is denoted by the symbol  $\Delta x$ , read “delta  $x$ ”.

The student is warned against reading this symbol “delta times  $x$ ”, it having no such meaning. Evidently this increment may be either positive or negative<sup>2</sup> according as the variable in changing is increasing or decreasing in value. Similarly,

$\Delta y$  denotes an increment of  $y$ ,

$\Delta \phi$  denotes an increment of  $\phi$ ,

$\Delta f(x)$  denotes an increment  $f(x)$ , etc.

If in  $y = f(x)$  the independent variable  $x$ , takes on an increment  $\Delta x$ , then  $\Delta y$  is always understood to denote the corresponding increment of the function

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<sup>1</sup>Sir Isaac Newton (1642-1727), an Englishman, was a man of the most extraordinary genius. He developed the science of the Calculus under the name of Fluxions. Although Newton had discovered and made use of the new science as early as 1670, his first published work in which it occurs is dated 1687, having the title **Philosophiae Naturalis Principia Mathematica**. This was Newton’s principal work. Laplace said of it, “It will always remain preminent above all other productions of the human mind.” See frontispiece.

<sup>2</sup>Some writers call a negative increment a decrement.

### 4.3. COMPARISON OF INCREMENTS

---

$f(x)$  (or dependent variable  $y$ ).

The increment  $\Delta y$  is always assumed to be reckoned from a definite initial value of  $y$  corresponding to the arbitrarily fixed initial value of  $x$  from which the increment  $\Delta x$  is reckoned.

**Example 4.2.1.** For instance, consider the function

$$y = x^2.$$

Assuming  $x = 10$  for the initial value of  $x$  fixes  $y = 100$  as the initial value of  $y$ . Suppose  $x$  increases to  $x = 12$ , that is,  $\Delta x = 2$ ; then  $y$  increases to  $y = 144$ , and  $\Delta y = 44$ . Suppose  $x$  decreases to  $x = 9$ , that is,  $\Delta x = -1$ ; then  $y$  increases to  $y = 81$ , and  $\Delta y = -19$ .

It may happen that as  $x$  increases,  $y$  decreases, or the reverse; in either case  $\Delta x$  and  $\Delta y$  will have opposite signs.

It is also clear (as illustrated in the above example) that if  $y = f(x)$  is a continuous function and  $\Delta x$  is decreasing in numerical value, then  $\Delta y$  also decreases in numerical value.

## 4.3 Comparison of increments

Consider the function

$$y = x^2.$$

Assuming a fixed initial value for  $x$ , let  $x$  take on an increment  $\Delta x$ . Then  $y$  will take on a corresponding increment  $\Delta y$ , and we have

$$y + \Delta y = (x + \Delta x)^2,$$

or,

$$y + \Delta y = x^2 + 2x \cdot \Delta x + (\Delta x)^2.$$

Subtracting  $y = x^2$  from this,

$$\Delta y = 2x \cdot \Delta x + (\Delta x)^2, \tag{4.1}$$

we get the increment  $\Delta y$  in terms of  $x$  and  $\Delta x$ . To find the ratio of the increments, divide (4.1) by  $\Delta x$ , giving

$$\frac{\Delta y}{\Delta x} = 2x + \Delta x.$$

If the initial value of  $x$  is 4, it is evident that

$$\lim_{\Delta x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\Delta y}{\Delta x} = 8.$$

#### 4.4. DERIVATIVE OF A FUNCTION OF ONE VARIABLE

---

Let us carefully note the behavior of the ratio of the increments of  $x$  and  $y$  as the increment of  $x$  diminishes.

Initial value of $x$	New value of $x$	Increment $\Delta x$	Initial value of $y$	New value of $y$	Increment $\Delta y$	$\frac{\Delta y}{\Delta x}$
4	5.0	1.0	16	25.	9.	9.
4	4.8	0.8	16	23.04	7.04	8.8
4	4.6	0.6	16	21.16	5.16	8.6
4	4.4	0.4	16	19.36	3.36	8.4
4	4.2	0.2	16	17.64	1.64	8.2
4	4.1	0.1	16	16.81	0.81	8.1
4	4.01	0.01	16	16.0801	0.0801	8.01

It is apparent that as  $\Delta x$  decreases,  $\Delta y$  also diminishes, but their ratio takes on the successive values 9, 8.8, 8.6, 8.4, 8.2, 8.1, 8.01; illustrating the fact that  $\frac{\Delta y}{\Delta x}$  can be brought as near to 8 in value as we please by making  $\Delta x$  small enough. Therefore<sup>3</sup>,

$$\lim_{\Delta x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\Delta y}{\Delta x} = 8.$$

#### 4.4 Derivative of a function of one variable

The fundamental definition of the Differential Calculus is:

**Definition 4.4.1.** The *derivative*<sup>4</sup> of a function is the limit of the ratio of the increment of the function to the increment of the independent variable, when the latter increment varies and approaches the limit zero.

When the limit of this ratio exists, the function is said to be *differentiable*, or to *possess a derivative*.

The above definition may be given in a more compact form symbolically as follows: Given the function

$$y = f(x), \tag{4.2}$$

and consider  $x$  to have a fixed value.

Let  $x$  take on an increment  $\Delta x$ ; then the function  $y$  takes on an increment  $\Delta y$ , the new value of the function being

$$y + \Delta y = f(x + \Delta x). \tag{4.3}$$

To find the increment of the function, subtract (4.2) from (4.3), giving

---

<sup>3</sup>The student should guard against the common error of concluding that because the numerator and denominator of a fraction are each approaching zero as a limit, the limit of the value of the fraction (or ratio) is zero. The limit of the ratio may take on any numerical value. In the above example the limit is 8.

<sup>4</sup>Also called the differential coefficient or the derived function.

## 4.5. SYMBOLS FOR DERIVATIVES

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$$\Delta y = f(x + \Delta x) - f(x).$$

Dividing by the increment of the variable,  $\Delta x$ , we get

$$\frac{\Delta y}{\Delta x} = \frac{f(x + \Delta x) - f(x)}{\Delta x}. \quad (4.4)$$

The limit of this ratio when  $\Delta x$  approaches the limit zero is, from our definition, the derivative and is denoted by the symbol  $\frac{dy}{dx}$ . Therefore

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \lim_{\Delta x \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x + \Delta x) - f(x)}{\Delta x}.$$

defines the *derivative of  $y$  [or  $f(x)$ ] with respect to  $x$* . From (4.3), we also get

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \lim_{\Delta x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\Delta y}{\Delta x}$$

The process of finding the derivative of a function is called *differentiation*.

It should be carefully noted that the derivative is the limit of the ratio, not the ratio of the limits. The latter ratio would assume the form  $\frac{0}{0}$ , which is indeterminate (§3.2).

## 4.5 Symbols for derivatives

Since  $\Delta y$  and  $\Delta x$  are always finite and have definite values, the expression

$$\frac{\Delta y}{\Delta x}$$

is really a fraction. The symbol

$$\frac{dy}{dx},$$

however, is to be regarded not as a fraction but as the limiting value of a fraction. In many cases it will be seen that this symbol does possess fractional properties, and later on we shall show how meanings may be attached to  $dy$  and  $dx$ , but for the present the symbol  $\frac{dy}{dx}$  is to be considered as a whole.

Since the derivative of a function of  $x$  is in general also a function of  $x$ , the symbol  $f'(x)$  is also used to denote the derivative of  $f(x)$ .

Hence, if  $y = f(x)$ , we may write  $\frac{dy}{dx} = f'(x)$ , which is read “the derivative of  $y$  with respect to  $x$  equals  $f$  prime of  $x$ .” The symbol

$$\frac{d}{dx}$$

when considered by itself is called the *differentiating operator*, and indicates that any function written after it is to be differentiated with respect to  $x$ . Thus

$\frac{dy}{dx}$  or  $\frac{d}{dx}y$  indicates the derivative of  $y$  with respect to  $x$ ;  
 $\frac{d}{dx}f(x)$  indicates the derivative of  $f(x)$  with respect to  $x$ ;



$\frac{d}{dx}(2x^2 + 5)$  indicates the derivative of  $2x^2 + 5$  with respect to  $x$ ;

$y'$  is an abbreviated form of  $\frac{dy}{dx}$ .

The symbol  $D_x$  is used by some writers instead of  $\frac{d}{dx}$ . If then

$$y = f(x),$$

we may write the identities

$$y' = \frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{d}{dx}y = D_x f(x) = f'(x).$$

## 4.6 Differentiable functions

From the Theory of Limits (Chapter 3) it is clear that if the derivative of a function exists for a certain value of the independent variable, the function itself must be continuous for that value of the variable.

The converse, however, is not always true, functions having been discovered that are continuous and yet possess no derivative. But such functions do not occur often in applied mathematics, and in this book only differentiable functions are considered, that is, functions that possess a derivative for all values of the independent variable save at most for isolated values.

## 4.7 General rule for differentiation

From the definition of a derivative it is seen that the process of differentiating a function  $y = f(x)$  consists in taking the following distinct steps:

**General rule for differentiating<sup>5</sup>:**

- FIRST STEP. In the function replace  $x$  by  $x + \Delta x$ , giving a new value of the function,  $y + \Delta y$ .
- SECOND STEP. Subtract the given value of the function from the new value in order to find  $\Delta y$  (the increment of the function).
- THIRD STEP. Divide the remainder  $\Delta y$  (the increment of the function) by  $\Delta x$  (the increment of the independent variable).
- FOURTH STEP. Find the limit of this quotient, when  $\Delta x$  (the increment of the independent variable) varies and approaches the limit zero. This is the derivative required.

The student should become thoroughly familiar with this rule by applying the process to a large number of examples. Three such examples will now be worked out in detail.

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<sup>5</sup>Also called the Four-step Rule.

## 4.7. GENERAL RULE FOR DIFFERENTIATION

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**Example 4.7.1.** Differentiate  $3x^2 + 5$ .

Solution. Applying the successive steps in the General Rule, we get, after placing

$$y = 3x^2 + 5,$$

First step.

$$y + \Delta y = 3(x + \Delta x)^2 + 5 = 3x^2 + 6x \cdot \Delta x + 3(\Delta x)^2 + 5.$$

Second step.

$$\begin{aligned} y + \Delta y &= 3x^2 + 6x \cdot \Delta x + 3(\Delta x)^2 + 5 \\ y &= 3x^2 + 5 \\ \Delta y &= 6x \cdot \Delta x + 3(\Delta x)^2. \end{aligned}$$

Third step.  $\frac{\Delta y}{\Delta x} = 6x + 3 \cdot \Delta x$ .

Fourth step.  $\frac{dy}{dx} = 6x$ . We may also write this

$$\frac{d}{dx}(3x^2 + 5) = 6x.$$

Here's how to use **SAGE** to verify this (for simplicity, we set  $h = \Delta x$ ):

SAGE

```
sage: x = var("x")
sage: h = var("h")
sage: f(x) = 3*x^2 + 5
sage: Deltay = f(x+h)-f(x)
sage: (Deltay/h).expand()
6*x + 3*h
sage: limit((f(x+h)-f(x))/h,h=0)
6*x
sage: diff(f(x),x)
6*x
```

**Example 4.7.2.** Differentiate  $x^3 - 2x + 7$ .

Solution. Place  $y = x^3 - 2x + 7$ .

First step.

$$\begin{aligned} y + \Delta y &= (x + \Delta x)^3 - 2(x + \Delta x) + 7 \\ &= x^3 + 3x^2 \cdot \Delta x + 3x \cdot (\Delta x)^2 + (\Delta x)^3 - 2x - 2 \cdot \Delta x + 7 \end{aligned}$$

Second step.

$$\begin{aligned} y + \Delta y &= x^3 + 3x^2 \cdot \Delta x + 3x \cdot (\Delta x)^2 + (\Delta x)^3 - 2x - 2 \cdot \Delta x + 7 \\ y &= x^3 - 2x + 7 \\ \Delta y &= 3x^2 \cdot \Delta x + 3x \cdot (\Delta x)^2 + (\Delta x)^3 - 2 \cdot \Delta x \end{aligned}$$

Third step.  $\frac{\Delta y}{\Delta x} = 3x^2 + 3x \cdot \Delta x + (\Delta x)^2 - 2$ .

Fourth step.  $\frac{dy}{dx} = 3x^2 - 2$ . Or,

$$\frac{d}{dx}(x^3 - 2x + 7) = 3x^2 - 2.$$

**Example 4.7.3.** Differentiate  $\frac{c}{x^2}$ .

Solution. Place  $y = \frac{c}{x^2}$ .

First step.  $y + \Delta y = \frac{c}{(x+\Delta x)^2}$ .

Second step.

$$\begin{aligned} y + \Delta y &= \frac{c}{(x+\Delta x)^2} \\ y &= \frac{c}{x^2} \\ \Delta y &= \frac{c}{(x+\Delta x)^2} - \frac{c}{x^2} = \frac{-c \cdot \Delta x(2x+\Delta x)}{x^2(x+\Delta x)^2}. \end{aligned}$$

Third step.  $\frac{\Delta y}{\Delta x} = -c \cdot \frac{2x+\Delta x}{x^2(x+\Delta x)^2}$ .

Fourth step.  $\frac{dy}{dx} = -c \cdot \frac{2x}{x^2(x)^2} = -\frac{2c}{x^3}$ . Or,  $\frac{d}{dx} \left( \frac{c}{x^2} \right) = \frac{-2c}{x^3}$ .

## 4.8 Exercises

Use the General Rule, §4.7 in differentiating the following functions:

1.  $y = 3x^2$

Ans:  $\frac{dy}{dx} = 6x$

2.  $y = x^2 + 2$

Ans:  $\frac{dy}{dx} = 2x$

3.  $y = 5 - 4x$

Ans:  $\frac{dy}{dx} = -4$

4.  $s = 2t^2 - 4$

Ans:  $\frac{ds}{dt} = 4t$

5.  $y = \frac{1}{x}$

Ans:  $\frac{dy}{dx} = -\frac{1}{x^2}$

6.  $y = \frac{x+2}{x}$

Ans:  $\frac{dy}{dx} = -\frac{2}{x^2}$

7.  $y = x^3$

Ans:  $\frac{dy}{dx} = 3x^2$

8.  $y = 2x^2 - 3$

Ans:  $\frac{dy}{dx} = 4x$

#### 4.8. EXERCISES

---

9.  $y = 1 - 2x^3$

Ans:  $\frac{dy}{dx} = -6x^2$

10.  $\rho = a\theta^2$

Ans:  $\frac{d\rho}{d\theta} = 2a\theta$

11.  $y = \frac{2}{x^2}$

Ans:  $\frac{dy}{dx} = -\frac{4}{x^3}$

12.  $y = \frac{3}{x^2-1}$

Ans:  $\frac{dy}{dx} = -\frac{6x}{(x^2-1)^2}$

Here's how to use **SAGE** to verify this:

SAGE

```
sage: y = 3/(x^2-1)
sage: diff(y,x)
-6*x/(x^4 - 2*x^2 + 1)
```

13.  $y = 7x^2 + x$

14.  $s = at^2 - 2bt$

15.  $r = 8t + 3t^2$

16.  $y = \frac{3}{x^2}$

17.  $s = -\frac{a}{2t+3}$

18.  $y = bx^3 - cx$

19.  $\rho = 3\theta^3 - 2\theta^2$

20.  $y = \frac{3}{4}x^2 - \frac{1}{2}x$

21.  $y = \frac{x^2-5}{x}$

22.  $\rho = \frac{\theta^2}{1+\theta}$

23.  $y = \frac{1}{2}x^2 + 2x$

24.  $z = 4x - 3x^2$

25.  $\rho = 3\theta + \theta^2$

26.  $y = \frac{ax+b}{x^2}$

27.  $z = \frac{x^3+2}{x}$

28.  $y = x^2 - 3x + 6$

Ans:  $y' = 2x - 3$

29.  $s = 2t^2 + 5t - 8$

Ans:  $s' = 4t + 5$  Here's how to use **SAGE** to verify this (for simplicity, we set  $h = \Delta t$ ):

SAGE

```

sage: h = var("h")
sage: t = var("t")
sage: s(t) = 2*t^2 + 5*t - 8
sage: Deltas = s(t+h)-s(t)
sage: (Deltas/h).expand()
4*t + 2*h + 5
sage: limit((s(t+h)-s(t))/h,h=0)
4*t + 5
sage: diff(s(t),t)
4*t + 5

```

30.  $\rho = 5\theta^3 - 2\theta + 6$

Ans:  $\rho' = 15\theta^2 - 2$

31.  $y = ax^2 + bx + c$

Ans:  $y' = 2ax + b$

## 4.9 Applications of the derivative to Geometry

We consider a theorem which is fundamental in all Differential Calculus to Geometry.

Let

$$y = f(x) \tag{4.5}$$

be the equation of a curve  $AB$ .

Now differentiate (4.5) by the General Rule and interpret each step geometrically.

- FIRST STEP.  $y + \Delta y = f(x + \Delta x) = NQ$
- SECOND STEP.

$$\begin{aligned}
 y + \Delta y &= f(x + \Delta x) = NQ \\
 y &= f(x) = MP = NR \\
 \Delta y &= f(x + \Delta x) - f(x) = RQ.
 \end{aligned}$$

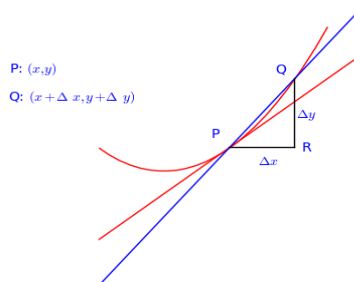


Figure 4.1: The geometry of derivatives.

- THIRD STEP.

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{\Delta y}{\Delta x} &= \frac{f(x+\Delta x)-f(x)}{\Delta x} = \frac{RQ}{MN} = \frac{RQ}{PR} \\ &= \tan RPQ = \tan \phi \\ &= \text{slope of secant line } PQ.\end{aligned}$$

- FOURTH STEP.

$$\begin{aligned}\lim_{\Delta x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\Delta y}{\Delta x} &= \lim_{\Delta x \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x+\Delta x)-f(x)}{\Delta x} \\ &= \frac{dy}{dx} = \text{value of the derivative at } P.\end{aligned}$$

But when we let  $\Delta x \rightarrow 0$ , the point  $Q$  will move along the curve and approach nearer and nearer to  $P$ , the secant will turn about  $P$  and approach the tangent as a limiting position, and we have also

$$\begin{aligned}\lim_{\Delta x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\Delta y}{\Delta x} &= \lim_{\Delta x \rightarrow 0} \tan \phi = \tan \tau \\ &= \text{slope of the tangent at } P.\end{aligned}$$

Hence,  $\frac{dy}{dx}$  = slope of the tangent line  $PT$ . Therefore

**Theorem 4.9.1.** *The value of the derivative at any point of a curve is equal to the slope of the line drawn tangent to the curve at that point.*

It was this tangent problem that led Leibnitz<sup>6</sup> to the discovery of the Differential Calculus.

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<sup>6</sup>Gottfried Wilhelm Leibnitz (1646-1716) was a native of Leipzig. His remarkable abilities were shown by original investigations in several branches of learning. He was first to publish his discoveries in Calculus in a short essay appearing in the periodical Acta Eruditorum at Leipzig in 1684. It is known, however, that manuscripts on Fluxions written by Newton were already in existence, and from these some claim Leibnitz got the new ideas. The decision of modern times seems to be that both Newton and Leibnitz invented the Calculus independently of each other. The notation used today was introduced by Leibnitz. See frontispiece.

**Example 4.9.1.** Find the slopes of the tangents to the parabola  $y = x^2$  at the vertex, and at the point where  $x = \frac{1}{2}$ .

Solution. Differentiating by General Rule, (§4.7), we get

$$y' = \frac{dy}{dx} = 2x = \text{slope of tangent line at any point on curve.}$$

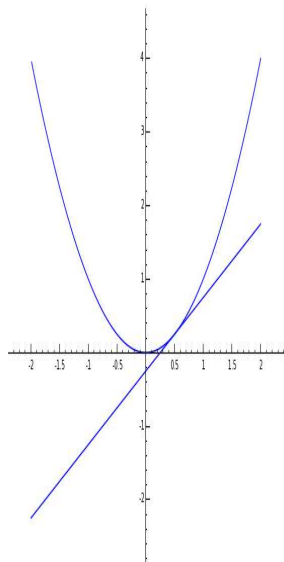


Figure 4.2: The geometry of the derivative of  $y = x^2$ .

To find slope of tangent at vertex, substitute  $x = 0$  in  $y' = 2x$ , giving

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = 0.$$

Therefore the tangent at vertex has the slope zero; that is, it is parallel to the axis of  $x$  and in this case coincides with it.

To find slope of tangent at the point  $P$ , where  $x = \frac{1}{2}$ , substitute in  $y' = 2x$ , giving

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = 1;$$

that is, the tangent at the point  $P$  makes an angle of  $45^\circ$  with the axis of  $x$ .

## 4.10 Exercises

Find by differentiation the slopes of the tangents to the following curves at the points indicated. Verify each result by drawing the curve and its tangent.

#### 4.10. EXERCISES

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1.  $y = x^2 - 4$ , where  $x = 2$ . (Ans. 4.)
2.  $y = 63x^2$  where  $x = 1$ . (Ans. -6.)
3.  $y = x^3$ , where  $x = -1$ . (Ans. -3.)
4.  $y = \frac{2}{x}$ , where  $x = -1$ . (Ans.  $-\frac{1}{2}$ .)
5.  $y = x - x^2$ , where  $x = 0$ . (Ans. 1.)
6.  $y = \frac{1}{x-1}$ , where  $x = 3$ . (Ans.  $-\frac{1}{4}$ .)
7.  $y = \frac{1}{2}x^2$ , where  $x = 4$ . (Ans. 4.)
8.  $y = x^2 - 2x + 3$ , where  $x = 1$ . (Ans. 0.)
9.  $y = 9x^2$ , where  $x = -3$ . (Ans. 6.)
10. Find the slope of the tangent to the curve  $y = 2x^3 - 6x + 5$ , (a) at the point where  $x = 1$ ; (b) at the point where  $x = 0$ .  
(Ans. (a) 0; (b) -6.)
11. (a) Find the slopes of the tangents to the two curves  $y = 3x^2 - 1$  and  $y = 2x^2 + 3$  at their points of intersection. (b) At what angle do they intersect?  
(Ans. (a)  $\pm 12, \pm 8$ ; (b)  $\arctan \frac{4}{97}$ .)

Here's how to use **SAGE** to verify these:

SAGE

```
sage: solve(3*x^2 - 1 == 2*x^2 + 3, x)
[x == -2, x == 2]
sage: g(x) = diff(3*x^2 - 1, x)
sage: h(x) = diff(2*x^2 + 3, x)
sage: g(2); g(-2)
12
-12
sage: h(2); h(-2)
8
-8
sage: atan(12)-atan(8)
atan(12) - atan(8)
sage: atan(12.0)-atan(8.0)
0.0412137626583202
sage: RR(atan(4/97))
0.0412137626583202
```

12. The curves on a railway track are often made parabolic in form. Suppose that a track has the form of the parabola  $y = x^2$  (see Figure 4.2 in §4.9), the directions  $OX$  and  $OY$  being east and north respectively, and the unit of measurement 1 mile. If the train is going east when passing through  $O$ , in what direction will it be going



- (a) when  $\frac{1}{2}$  mi. east of  $OY$ ? (Ans. Northeast.)
  - (b) when  $\frac{1}{2}$  mi. west of  $OY$ ? (Ans. Southeast.)
  - (c) when  $\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}$  mi. east of  $OY$ ? (Ans. N.  $30^\circ$ E.)
  - (d) when  $\frac{1}{12}$  mi. north of  $OX$ ? (Ans. E.  $30^\circ$ S., or E.  $30^\circ$ N.)
13. A street-car track has the form of the cubic  $y = x^3$ . Assume the same directions and unit as in the last example. If a car is going west when passing through  $O$ , in what direction will it be going
- (a) when  $\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}$  mi. east of  $OY$ ? (Ans. Southwest.)
  - (b) when  $\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}$  mi. west of  $OY$ ? (Ans. Southwest.)
  - (c) when  $\frac{1}{2}$  mi. north of  $OX$ ? (Ans. S.  $27^\circ 43'$  W.)
  - (d) when 2 mi. south of  $OX$ ?
  - (e) when equidistant from  $OX$  and  $OY$ ?

#### 4.10. EXERCISES

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## Chapter 5

# Rules for differentiating standard elementary forms

### 5.1 Importance of General Rule

The General Rule for differentiation, given in the last chapter, §4.7, is fundamental, being found directly from the definition of a derivative. It is very important that the student should be thoroughly familiar with it. However, the process of applying the rule to examples in general has been found too tedious or difficult; consequently special rules have been derived from the General Rule for differentiating certain standard forms of frequent occurrence in order to facilitate the work.

It has been found convenient to express these special rules by means of formulas, a list of which follows. The student should not only memorize each formula when deduced, but should be able to state the corresponding rule in words. In these formulas  $u$ ,  $v$ , and  $w$  denote variable quantities which are functions of  $x$ , and are differentiable.

Formulas for differentiation

$$\text{I} \quad \frac{dc}{dx} = 0$$

$$\text{II} \quad \frac{dx}{dx} = 1$$

$$\text{III} \quad \frac{d}{dx}(u + v - w) = \frac{du}{dx} + \frac{dv}{dx} - \frac{dw}{dx}$$

$$\text{IV} \quad \frac{d}{dx}(cv) = c \frac{dv}{dx}$$

$$\text{V} \quad \frac{d}{dx}(uv) = u \frac{dv}{dx} + v \frac{du}{dx}$$

## 5.1. IMPORTANCE OF GENERAL RULE

---

### Formulas for differentiation (cont.)

The function vers used in (XVII) below is defined by  $\text{vers } v = 1 - \cos v$ . See <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Versine> for a history of the versine function.

$$\text{VI} \quad \frac{d}{dx} (v^n) = nv^{n-1} \frac{dv}{dx}$$

$$\text{VI a} \quad \frac{d}{dx} (x^n) = nx^{n-1}$$

$$\text{VII} \quad \frac{d}{dx} \left( \frac{u}{v} \right) = \frac{v \frac{du}{dx} - u \frac{dv}{dx}}{v^2}$$

$$\text{VII a} \quad \frac{d}{dx} \left( \frac{u}{c} \right) = \frac{\frac{du}{dx}}{c}$$

$$\text{VIII} \quad \frac{d}{dx} (\log_a v) = \log_a e \cdot \frac{\frac{dv}{dx}}{v}$$

$$\text{IX} \quad \frac{d}{dx} (a^v) = a^v \log a \frac{dv}{dx}$$

$$\text{IX a} \quad \frac{d}{dx} (e^v) = e^v \frac{dv}{dx}$$

$$\text{X} \quad \frac{d}{dx} (u^v) = vu^{v-1} \frac{du}{dx} + \log u \cdot u^v \frac{dv}{dx}$$

$$\text{XI} \quad \frac{d}{dx} (\sin v) = \cos v \frac{dv}{dx}$$

$$\text{XII} \quad \frac{d}{dx} (\cos v) = -\sin v \frac{dv}{dx}$$

$$\text{XIII} \quad \frac{d}{dx} (\tan v) = \sec^2 v \frac{dv}{dx}$$

$$\text{XIV} \quad \frac{d}{dx} (\cot v) = -\csc^2 v \frac{dv}{dx}$$

$$\text{XV} \quad \frac{d}{dx} (\sec v) = \sec v \tan v \frac{dv}{dx}$$

$$\text{XVI} \quad \frac{d}{dx} (\csc v) = -\csc v \cot v \frac{dv}{dx}$$

$$\text{XVII} \quad \frac{d}{dx} (\text{vers } v) = \sin v \frac{dv}{dx}$$

$$\text{XVIII} \quad \frac{d}{dx} (\arcsin v) = \frac{\frac{dv}{dx}}{\sqrt{1-v^2}}$$

$$\text{XIX} \quad \frac{d}{dx} (\arccos v) = -\frac{\frac{dv}{dx}}{\sqrt{1-v^2}}$$

$$\text{XX} \quad \frac{d}{dx} (\arctan v) = \frac{\frac{dv}{dx}}{1+v^2}$$

$$\text{XXI} \quad \frac{d}{dx} (\text{arccot } v) = -\frac{\frac{dv}{dx}}{1+v^2}$$

*Note:* Sometimes  $\arcsin$ ,  $\arccos$ , and so on, are denoted  $\text{asin}$ ,  $\text{acos}$ , and so on.

Formulas for differentiation (cont.)

$$\text{XXII} \quad \frac{d}{dx}(\operatorname{arcsec} v) = \frac{\frac{dv}{dx}}{v\sqrt{v^2-1}}$$

$$\text{XXIII} \quad \frac{d}{dx}(\operatorname{arccsc} v) = -\frac{\frac{dv}{dx}}{v\sqrt{v^2-1}}$$

$$\text{XXIV} \quad \frac{d}{dx}(\operatorname{arccvers} v) = \frac{\frac{dv}{dx}}{\sqrt{2v-v^2}}$$

$$\text{XXV} \quad \frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{dy}{dv} \cdot \frac{dv}{dx}, \text{ } y \text{ being a function of } v$$

$$\text{XXVI} \quad \frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{1}{\frac{dx}{dy}}, \text{ } y \text{ being a function of } x$$

Here's how to see some of these using **SAGE**:

SAGE

```
sage: t = var("t")
sage: diff(acos(t),t)
-1/sqrt(1 - t^2)
sage: v = var("v")
sage: diff(acsc(v),v)
-1/(sqrt(1 - 1/v^2)*v^2)
```

These tell us that  $\frac{d \arccos t}{dt} = -\frac{1}{\sqrt{1-t^2}}$  and  $\frac{d \operatorname{arccsc} v}{dv} = -\frac{1}{v\sqrt{v^2-1}}$ .

Here are some more examples using **SAGE**:

SAGE

```
sage: x = var("x")
sage: u = function('u', x)
sage: v = function('v', x)
sage: diff(u/v,x)
diff(u(x), x, 1)/v(x) - u(x)*diff(v(x), x, 1)/v(x)^2
sage: diff(sin(v),x)
cos(v(x))*diff(v(x), x, 1)
sage: diff(arcsin(v),x)
diff(v(x), x, 1)/sqrt(1 - v(x)^2)
```

The last **SAGE** computation verifies that  $\frac{d}{dx}(\arcsin v) = \frac{\frac{dv}{dx}}{\sqrt{1-v^2}}$ .

## 5.2 Differentiation of a constant

A function that is known to have the same value for every value of the independent variable is constant, and we may denote it by

$$y = c.$$

### 5.3. DIFFERENTIATION OF A VARIABLE WITH RESPECT TO ITSELF

As  $x$  takes on an increment  $\Delta x$ , the function does not change in value, that is,  $\Delta y = 0$ , and

$$\frac{\Delta y}{\Delta x} = 0.$$

But

$$\lim_{\Delta x \rightarrow 0} \left( \frac{\Delta y}{\Delta x} \right) = \frac{dy}{dx} = 0.$$

Therefore,  $\frac{dc}{dx} = 0$  (equation (I) above). *The derivative of a constant is zero.*

### 5.3 Differentiation of a variable with respect to itself

Let  $y = x$ .

Following the General Rule, §4.7, we have

- FIRST STEP.  $y + \Delta y = x + \Delta x$ .
- SECOND STEP.  $\Delta y = \Delta x$
- THIRD STEP.  $\frac{\Delta y}{\Delta x} = 1$ .
- FOURTH STEP.  $\frac{dy}{dx} = 1$ .

Therefore,  $\frac{dy}{dx} = 1$  (equation (II) above). The derivative of a variable with respect to itself is unity.

### 5.4 Differentiation of a sum

Let  $y = u + v - w$ . By the General Rule,

- FIRST STEP.  $y + \Delta y = u + \Delta u + v + \Delta v - w - \Delta w$ .
- SECOND STEP.  $\Delta y = \Delta u + \Delta v - \Delta w$ .
- THIRD STEP.  $\frac{\Delta y}{\Delta x} = \frac{\Delta u}{\Delta x} + \frac{\Delta v}{\Delta x} - \frac{\Delta w}{\Delta x}$ .
- FOURTH STEP.  $\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{du}{dx} + \frac{dv}{dx} - \frac{dw}{dx}$ . [Applying Theorem 3.8.1]

Therefore,  $\frac{d}{dx}(u + v - w) = \frac{du}{dx} + \frac{dv}{dx} - \frac{dw}{dx}$  (equation (III) above). Similarly, for the algebraic sum of any finite number of functions.

*The derivative of the algebraic sum of a finite number of functions is equal to the same algebraic sum of their derivatives.*

## 5.5 Differentiation of the product of a constant and a function

Let  $y = cv$ . By the General Rule,

- FIRST STEP.  $y + \Delta y = c(v + \Delta v) = cv + c\Delta v$ .
- SECOND STEP.  $\Delta y = c \cdot \Delta v$ .
- THIRD STEP.  $\frac{\Delta y}{\Delta x} = c \frac{\Delta v}{\Delta x}$ .
- FOURTH STEP.  $\frac{dy}{dx} = c \frac{dv}{dx}$ . [Applying Theorem 3.8.2]

Therefore,  $\frac{d}{dx}(cv) = c \frac{dv}{dx}$  (equation (IV) above).

*The derivative of the product of a constant and a function is equal to the product of the constant and the derivative of the function.*

## 5.6 Differentiation of the product of two functions

Let  $y = uv$ . By the General Rule,

- FIRST STEP.  $y + \Delta y = (u + \Delta u)(v + \Delta v)$ . Multiplying out this becomes

$$y + \Delta y = uv + u \cdot \Delta v + v \cdot \Delta u + \Delta u \cdot \Delta v.$$

- SECOND STEP.  $\Delta y = u \cdot \Delta v + v \cdot \Delta u + \Delta u \cdot \Delta v$ .
- THIRD STEP.  $\frac{\Delta y}{\Delta x} = u \frac{\Delta v}{\Delta x} + v \frac{\Delta u}{\Delta x} + \Delta u \frac{\Delta v}{\Delta x}$ .
- FOURTH STEP.  $\frac{dy}{dx} = u \frac{dv}{dx} + v \frac{du}{dx}$ . [Applying Theorem 3.8.1], since when  $\Delta x \rightarrow 0$ ,  $\Delta u \rightarrow 0$ , and  $(\Delta u \frac{\Delta v}{\Delta x}) \rightarrow 0$ .]

Therefore,  $\frac{d}{dx}(uv) = u \frac{dv}{dx} + v \frac{du}{dx}$  (equation (V) above).

*Product rule: The derivative of the product of two functions is equal to the first function times the derivative of the second, plus the second function times the derivative of the first.*

Here's how to use **SAGE** to compute an example of this rule:

— SAGE —

```
sage: t = var("t")
sage: f = cos(t)
sage: g = exp(2*t)
sage: diff(f*g,t)
2*e^(2*t)*cos(t) - e^(2*t)*sin(t)
sage: diff(f,t)*g+f*diff(g,t)
2*e^(2*t)*cos(t) - e^(2*t)*sin(t)
```

This simply computes  $\frac{d}{dt}(e^{2t} \cos(t))$  in two ways (one: directly, the second: using the product rule) and checks that they are the same.

## 5.7. DIFFERENTIATION OF THE PRODUCT OF ANY FINITE NUMBER OF FUNCTIONS

### 5.7 Differentiation of the product of any finite number of functions

Now in dividing both sides of equation (V) by  $uv$ , this formula assumes the form

$$\frac{\frac{d}{dx}(uv)}{uv} = \frac{\frac{du}{dx}}{u} + \frac{\frac{dv}{dx}}{v}.$$

If then we have the product of  $n$  functions  $y = v_1 v_2 \cdots v_n$ , we may write

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\frac{d}{dx}(v_1 v_2 \cdots v_n)}{v_1 v_2 \cdots v_n} &= \frac{\frac{dv_1}{dx}}{v_1} + \frac{\frac{d}{dx}(v_2 v_3 \cdots v_n)}{v_2 v_3 \cdots v_n} \\ &= \frac{\frac{dv_1}{dx}}{v_1} + \frac{\frac{dv_2}{dx}}{v_2} + \frac{\frac{d}{dx}(v_3 v_4 \cdots v_n)}{v_3 v_4 \cdots v_n} \\ &= \frac{\frac{dv_1}{dx}}{v_1} + \frac{\frac{dv_2}{dx}}{v_2} + \frac{\frac{dv_3}{dx}}{v_3} + \cdots + \frac{\frac{dv_n}{dx}}{v_n} \frac{d}{dx}(v_1 v_2 \cdots v_n) \\ &= (v_2 v_3 \cdots v_n) \frac{dv_1}{dx} + (v_1 v_3 \cdots v_n) \frac{dv_2}{dx} + \cdots + (v_1 v_2 \cdots v_{n-1}) \frac{dv_n}{dx}. \end{aligned}$$

*The derivative of the product of a finite number of functions is equal to the sum of all the products that can be formed by multiplying the derivative of each function by all the other functions.*

### 5.8 Differentiation of a function with a constant exponent

If the  $n$  factors in the above result are each equal to  $v$ , we get

$$\frac{\frac{d}{dx}(v^n)}{v^n} = n \frac{\frac{dv}{dx}}{v}.$$

Therefore,  $\frac{d}{dx}(v^n) = nv^{n-1} \frac{dv}{dx}$ , (equation (VI) above).

When  $v = x$  this becomes  $\frac{d}{dx}(x^n) = nx^{n-1}$  (equation (VIa) above).

We have so far proven equation (VI) only for the case when  $n$  is a positive integer. In §5.15, however, it will be shown that this formula holds true for any value of  $n$ , and we shall make use of this general result now.

*The derivative of a function with a constant exponent is equal to the product of the exponent, the function with the exponent diminished by unity, and the derivative of the function.*

### 5.9 Differentiation of a quotient

Let  $y = \frac{u}{v} v \neq 0$ . By the General Rule,

- FIRST STEP.  $y + \Delta y = \frac{u + \Delta u}{v + \Delta v}$ .
- SECOND STEP.  $\Delta y = \frac{u + \Delta u}{v + \Delta v} - \frac{u}{v} = \frac{v \cdot \Delta u - u \cdot \Delta v}{v(v + \Delta v)}$ .



- THIRD STEP.  $\frac{\Delta y}{\Delta x} = \frac{v \frac{\Delta u}{\Delta x} - u \frac{\Delta v}{\Delta x}}{v(v + \Delta v)}$ .
- FOURTH STEP.  $\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{v \frac{du}{dx} - u \frac{dv}{dx}}{v^2}$ . [Applying Theorems 3.8.2 and 3.8.3]

Therefore,  $\frac{d}{dx} \left( \frac{u}{v} \right) = \frac{v \frac{du}{dx} - u \frac{dv}{dx}}{v^2}$  (equation (VII) above).

*The derivative of a fraction is equal to the denominator times the derivative of the numerator, minus the numerator times the derivative of the denominator, all divided by the square of the denominator.*

When the denominator is constant, set  $v = c$  in (VII), giving (VIIa)  $\frac{d}{dx} \left( \frac{u}{c} \right) = \frac{\frac{du}{dx}}{c}$ . [Since  $\frac{dv}{dx} = \frac{dc}{dx} = 0$ .] We may also get (VIIa) from (IV) as follows:

$$\frac{d}{dx} \left( \frac{u}{c} \right) = \frac{1}{c} \frac{du}{dx} = \frac{\frac{du}{dx}}{c}.$$

*The derivative of the quotient of a function by a constant is equal to the derivative of the function divided by the constant.*

All explicit algebraic functions of one independent variable may be differentiated by following the rules we have deduced so far.

## 5.10 Examples

<sup>1</sup>

Differentiate the following<sup>2</sup>:

1.  $y = x^3$ .

Solution.  $\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{d}{dx}(x^3) = 3x^2$ . (By VIa,  $n = 3$ .)

2.  $y = ax^4 - bx^2$ .

Solution.

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{dy}{dx} &= \frac{d}{dx}(ax^4 - bx^2) \\ &= \frac{d}{dx}(ax^4) - \frac{d}{dx}(bx^2) \quad \text{by III} \\ &= a \frac{d}{dx}(x^4) - b \frac{d}{dx}(x^2) \quad \text{by IV} \\ &= 4ax^3 - 2bx \quad \text{by VIa.} \end{aligned}$$

3.  $y = x^{\frac{4}{3}} + 5$ .

Solution.

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{dy}{dx} &= \frac{d}{dx}(x^{\frac{4}{3}}) + \frac{d}{dx}(5) \quad \text{by III} \\ &= \frac{4}{3}x^{\frac{1}{3}} \quad \text{by VIa and I} \end{aligned}$$

<sup>1</sup>When learning to differentiate, the student should have oral drill in differentiating simple functions.

<sup>2</sup>Though the answers are given below, it may be that your computation differs from the solution given. You should then try to show algebraically that your form is that same as that given.

## 5.10. EXAMPLES

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4.  $y = \frac{3x^3}{\sqrt[5]{x^2}} - \frac{7x}{\sqrt[3]{x^4}} + 8\sqrt[7]{x^3}$

Solution.

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{dy}{dx} &= \frac{d}{dx} \left( 3x^{\frac{13}{5}} \right) + \frac{d}{dx} \left( 7x^{-\frac{1}{3}} \right) + \frac{d}{dx} \left( 8x^{\frac{3}{7}} \right) \quad \text{by III} \\ &= \frac{39}{5}x^{\frac{8}{5}} + \frac{7}{3}x^{-\frac{4}{3}} + \frac{24}{7}x^{-\frac{4}{7}} \quad \text{by IV and VIa.}\end{aligned}$$

5.  $y = (x^2 - 3)^5$ .

Solution.

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{dy}{dx} &= 5(x^2 - 3)^4 \frac{d}{dx}(x^2 - 3) \quad \text{by VI, } v = x^2 - 3 \text{ and } n = 5 \\ 5(x^2 - 3)^4 \cdot 2x &= 10x(x^2 - 3)^4.\end{aligned}$$

We might have expanded this function by the Binomial Theorem and then applied III, etc., but the above process is to be preferred.

6.  $y = \sqrt{a^2 - x^2}$ .

Solution.

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{dy}{dx} &= \frac{d}{dx} (a^2 - x^2)^{\frac{1}{2}} \\ &= \frac{1}{2}(a^2 - x^2)^{-\frac{1}{2}} \frac{d}{dx}(a^2 - x^2), \quad \text{by VI } (v = a^2 - x^2, \text{ and } n = \frac{1}{2}) \\ &= \frac{1}{2}(a^2 - x^2)^{-\frac{1}{2}}(-2x) = -\frac{x}{\sqrt{a^2 - x^2}}.\end{aligned}$$

7.  $y = (3x^2 + 2)\sqrt{1 + 5x^2}$ .

Solution.

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{dy}{dx} &= (3x^2 + 2) \frac{d}{dx} (1 + 5x^2)^{\frac{1}{2}} + (1 + 5x^2)^{\frac{1}{2}} \frac{d}{dx} (3x^2 + 2) \\ &\quad \text{(by V, } u = 3x^2 + 2, \text{ and } v = (1 + 5x^2)^{\frac{1}{2}}) \\ &= (3x^2 + 2) \frac{1}{2} (1 + 5x^2)^{-\frac{1}{2}} \frac{d}{dx} (1 + 5x^2) + (1 + 5x^2)^{\frac{1}{2}} 6x \quad \text{by VI, etc.} \\ &= (3x^2 + 2) (1 + 5x^2)^{-\frac{1}{2}} 5x + 6x (1 + 5x^2)^{\frac{1}{2}} \\ &= \frac{5x(3x^2 + 2)}{\sqrt{1 + 5x^2}} + 6x\sqrt{1 + 5x^2} \\ &= \frac{45x^3 + 16x}{\sqrt{1 + 5x^2}}.\end{aligned}$$

8.  $y = \frac{a^2 + x^2}{\sqrt{a^2 - x^2}}$ .

Solution.

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{dy}{dx} &= \frac{(a^2 - x^2)^{\frac{1}{2}} \frac{d}{dx}(a^2 + x^2) - (a^2 + x^2) \frac{d}{dx}(a^2 - x^2)^{\frac{1}{2}}}{(a^2 - x^2)^{\frac{3}{2}}} \quad \text{by VII} \\ &= \frac{2x(a^2 - x^2) + x(a^2 + x^2)}{(a^2 - x^2)^{\frac{3}{2}}} \\ &\quad \text{(multiplying both numerator and denominator by } (a^2 - x^2)^{\frac{1}{2}}) \\ &= \frac{\frac{3}{2}x - x^3}{(a^2 - x^2)^{\frac{3}{2}}}.\end{aligned}$$

9.  $5x^4 + 3x^2 - 6$ . (Ans.  $\frac{dy}{dx} = 20x^3 + 6x$ )
10.  $y = 3cx^2 - 8dx + 5e$ . (Ans.  $\frac{dy}{dx} = 6cx - 8d$ )
11.  $y = x^{a+b}$ . (Ans.  $\frac{dy}{dx} = (a+b)x^{a+b-1}$ )
12.  $y = x^n + nx + n$ . (Ans.  $\frac{dy}{dx} = nx^{n-1} + n$ )
13.  $f(x) = \frac{2}{3}x^3 - \frac{3}{2}x^2 + 5$ . (Ans.  $f'(x) = 2x^2 - 3x$ )
14.  $f(x) = (a+b)x^2 + cx + d$ . (Ans.  $f'(x) = 2(a+b)x + c$ )
15.  $\frac{d}{dx}(a + bx + cx^2) = b + 2cx$ .
16.  $\frac{d}{dy}(5y^m - 3y + 6) = 5my^{m-1} - 3$ .
17.  $\frac{d}{dx}(2x^{-2} + 3x^{-3}) = -4x^{-3} - 9x^{-4}$ .
18.  $\frac{d}{ds}(3s^{-4} - s) = -12s^{-5} - 1$ .
19.  $\frac{d}{dx}(4x^{\frac{1}{2}} + x^2) = 2x^{-\frac{1}{2}} + 2x$ .
20.  $\frac{d}{dy}(y^{-2} - 4y^{-\frac{1}{2}}) = -2y^{-3} + 2y^{-\frac{3}{2}}$ .
21.  $\frac{d}{dx}(2x^3 + 5) = 6x^2$ .
22.  $\frac{d}{dt}(3t^5 - 2t^2) = 15t^4 - 4t$ .
23.  $\frac{d}{d\theta}(a\theta^4 + b\theta) = 4a\theta^3 + b$ .
24.  $\frac{d}{d\alpha}(5 - 2\alpha^{\frac{3}{2}}) = -3\alpha^{\frac{1}{2}}$ .
25.  $\frac{d}{dt}(9t^{\frac{5}{3}} + t^{-1}) = 15t^{\frac{2}{3}} - t^{-2}$ .
26.  $\frac{d}{dx}(2x^{12} - x^9) = 24x^{11} - 9x^8$ .
27.  $r = c\theta^3 + d\theta^2 + e\theta$ . (Ans.  $r' = 3c\theta^2 + 2d\theta + e$ )
28.  $y = 6x^{\frac{7}{2}} + 4x^{\frac{5}{2}} + 2x^{\frac{3}{2}}$ . (Ans.  $y' = 21x^{\frac{5}{2}} + 10x^{\frac{3}{2}} + 3x^{\frac{1}{2}}$ )
29.  $y = \sqrt{3x} + \sqrt{3}x + \frac{1}{x}$ . (Ans.  $y' = \frac{3}{2\sqrt{3x}} + \frac{1}{3\sqrt[3]{x^2}} - \frac{1}{x^2}$ )
30.  $y = \frac{a+bx+cx^2}{x}$ . (Ans.  $y' = c - \frac{a}{x^2}$ )
31.  $y = \frac{(x-1)^3}{x^{\frac{2}{3}}}$ . (Ans.  $y' = \frac{8}{3}x^{\frac{5}{3}} - 5x^{\frac{2}{3}} + 2x^{-\frac{1}{3}} + \frac{1}{3}x^{-\frac{4}{3}}$ )
32.  $y = (2x^3 + x^2 - 5)^3$ . (Ans.  $y' = 6x(3x+1)(2x^3 + x^2 - 5)^2$ )
33.  $y = (2x^3 + x^2 - 5)^3$ . (Ans.  $y' = 6x(3x+1)(2x^3 + x^2 - 5)^2$ )
34.  $f(x) = (a + bx^2)^{\frac{5}{4}}$ . (Ans.  $f'(x) = \frac{5bx}{2}(a + bx^2)^{\frac{1}{4}}$ )

## 5.10. EXAMPLES

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35.  $f(x) = (1 + 4x^3)(1 + 2x^2)$ . (Ans.  $f'(x) = 4x(1 + 3x + 10x^3)$ )
36.  $f(x) = (a + x)\sqrt{a - x}$ . (Ans.  $f'(x) = \frac{a-3x}{2\sqrt{a-x}}$ )
37.  $f(x) = (a+x)^m(b+x)^n$ . (Ans.  $f'(x) = (a+x)^m(b+x)^n \left[ \frac{m}{a+x} + \frac{n}{b+x} \right]$ )
38.  $y = \frac{1}{x^n}$ . (Ans.  $\frac{y}{x} = -\frac{n}{x^{n+1}}$ )
39.  $y = x(a^2 + x^2)\sqrt{a^2 - x^2}$ . (Ans.  $\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{a^4 + a^2x^2 - 4x^4}{\sqrt{a^2 - x^2}}$ )
40. Differentiate the following functions:
- (a)  $\frac{d}{dx}(2x^3 - 4x + 6)$  (e)  $\frac{d}{dt}(b + at^2)^{\frac{1}{2}}$  (i)  $\frac{d}{dx}(x^{\frac{2}{3}} - a^{\frac{2}{3}})$   
 (b)  $\frac{d}{dt}(at^7 + bt^5 - 9)$  (f)  $\frac{d}{dx}(x^2 - a^2)^{\frac{3}{2}}$  (j)  $\frac{d}{dt}(5 + 2t)^{\frac{9}{2}}$   
 (c)  $\frac{d}{d\theta}(3\theta^{\frac{3}{2}} - 2\theta^{\frac{1}{2}} + 6\theta)$  (g)  $\frac{d}{d\phi}(4 - \phi^{\frac{2}{5}})$  (k)  $\frac{d}{ds}\sqrt{a + b\sqrt{s}}$   
 (d)  $\frac{d}{dx}(2x^3 + x)^{\frac{5}{3}}$  (h)  $\frac{d}{dt}\sqrt{1 + 9t^2}$  (l)  $\frac{d}{dx}(2x^{\frac{1}{3}} + 2x^{\frac{5}{3}})$
41.  $y = \frac{2x^4}{b^2 - x^2}$ . (Ans.  $\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{8b^2x^3 - 4x^5}{(b^2 - x^2)^2}$ )
42.  $y = \frac{a-x}{a+x}$ . (Ans.  $\frac{dy}{dx} = -\frac{2a}{(a+x)^2}$ )
43.  $s = \frac{t^3}{(1+t)^2}$ . (Ans.  $\frac{ds}{dt} = \frac{3t^2 + t^3}{(1+t)^3}$ )
44.  $f(s) = \frac{(s+4)^2}{s+3}$ . (Ans.  $f'(s) = \frac{(s+2)(s+4)}{(s+3)^2}$ )
45.  $f(\theta) = \frac{\theta}{\sqrt{a - b\theta^2}}$ . (Ans.  $f'(\theta) = \frac{a}{(a - b\theta^2)^{\frac{3}{2}}}$ )
46.  $F(r) = \sqrt{\frac{1+r}{1-r}}$ . (Ans.  $F'(r) = \sqrt{1}(1-r)\sqrt{1-r^2}$ )
47.  $\psi(y) = \left(\frac{y}{1-y}\right)^m$ . (Ans.  $\psi'(y) = \frac{my^{m-1}}{(1-y)^{m+1}}$ )
48.  $\phi(x) = \frac{2x^2-1}{x\sqrt{1+x^2}}$ . (Ans.  $\phi'(x) = \frac{1+4x^2}{x^2(1+x^2)^{\frac{3}{2}}}$ )
49.  $y = \sqrt{2px}$ . (Ans.  $y' = \frac{p}{y}$ )
50.  $y = \frac{b}{a}\sqrt{a^2 - x^2}$ . (Ans.  $y' = -\frac{b^2x}{a^2y}$ )
51.  $y = (a^{\frac{2}{3}} - x^{\frac{2}{3}})^{\frac{3}{2}}$ . (Ans.  $y' = -\sqrt[3]{\frac{y}{x}}$ )
52.  $r = \sqrt{a\phi} + c\sqrt{\phi^3}$ . (Ans.  $r' = \frac{\sqrt{a+3c\phi}}{2\sqrt{\phi}}$ )
53.  $u = \frac{v^c + v^d}{cd}$ . (Ans.  $u' = \frac{v^{c-1}}{d} + \frac{v^{d-1}}{c}$ )
54.  $p = \frac{(q+1)^{\frac{3}{2}}}{\sqrt{q-1}}$ . (Ans.  $p' = \frac{(q-2)\sqrt{q+1}}{(q-1)^{\frac{3}{2}}}$ )

55. Differentiate the following functions:

$$\begin{array}{lll}
 (a) \frac{d}{dx} \left( \frac{a^2 - x^2}{a^2 + x^2} \right) & (d) \frac{d}{dy} \left( \frac{ay^2}{b + y^3} \right) & (g) \frac{d}{dx} \frac{x^2}{\sqrt{1 - x^2}} \\
 (b) \frac{d}{dx} \left( \frac{x^3}{1 + x^4} \right) & (e) \frac{d}{ds} \left( \frac{a^2 - s^2}{\sqrt{a^2 + s^2}} \right) & (h) \frac{d}{dx} \frac{1 + x^2}{(1 - x^2)^{\frac{3}{2}}} \\
 (c) \frac{d}{dx} \left( \frac{1 + x}{\sqrt{1 - x}} \right) & (f) \frac{d}{dx} \frac{\sqrt{4 - 2x^3}}{x} & (i) \frac{d}{dt} \sqrt{\frac{1 + t^2}{1 - t^2}}
 \end{array}$$

## 5.11 Differentiation of a function of a function

It sometimes happens that  $y$ , instead of being defined directly as a function of  $x$ , is given as a function of another variable  $v$ , which is defined as a function of  $x$ . In that case  $y$  is a function of  $x$  through  $v$  and is called a *function of a function* or a *composite function*. The process of substituting one function into another is sometimes called *composition*.

For example, if  $y = \frac{2v}{1 - v^2}$ , and  $v = 1 - x^2$ , then  $y$  is a function of a function. By eliminating  $v$  we may express  $y$  directly as a function of  $x$ , but in general this is not the best plan when we wish to find  $\frac{dy}{dx}$ .

If  $y = f(v)$  and  $v = g(x)$ , then  $y$  is a function of  $x$  through  $v$ . Hence, when we let  $x$  take on an increment  $\Delta x$ ,  $v$  will take on an increment  $\Delta v$  and  $y$  will also take on a corresponding increment  $\Delta y$ . Keeping this in mind, let us apply the General Rule simultaneously to the two functions  $y = f(v)$  and  $v = g(x)$ .

- FIRST STEP.  $y + \Delta y = f(v + \Delta v)$ ,  $v + \Delta v = g(x + \Delta x)$ .
- SECOND STEP.

$$\begin{array}{ll}
 y + \Delta y &= f(v + \Delta v), & v + \Delta v &= g(x + \Delta x) \\
 y &= f(v), & v &= g(x) \\
 \Delta y &= f(v + \Delta v) - f(v), & \Delta v &= g(x + \Delta x) - g(x)
 \end{array}$$

- THIRD STEP.  $\frac{\Delta y}{\Delta v} = \frac{f(v + \Delta v) - f(v)}{\Delta v}$ ,  $\frac{\Delta v}{\Delta x} = \frac{g(x + \Delta x) - g(x)}{\Delta x}$ .

The left-hand members show one form of the ratio of the increment of each function to the increment of the corresponding variable, and the right-hand members exhibit the same ratios in another form. Before passing to the limit let us form a product of these two ratios, choosing the left-hand forms for this purpose.

This gives  $\frac{\Delta y}{\Delta v} \cdot \frac{\Delta v}{\Delta x}$ , which equals  $\frac{\Delta y}{\Delta x}$ . Write this

$$\frac{\Delta y}{\Delta x} = \frac{\Delta y}{\Delta v} \cdot \frac{\Delta v}{\Delta x}.$$

- FOURTH STEP. Passing to the limit,

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{dy}{dv} \cdot \frac{dv}{dx}, \quad (5.1)$$

## 5.12. DIFFERENTIATION OF INVERSE FUNCTIONS

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by Theorem 3.8.2. This may also be written

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = f'(v) \cdot g'(x).$$

The above formula is sometimes referred to as the *chain rule* for differentiation. If  $y = f(v)$  and  $v = g(x)$ , the derivative of  $y$  with respect to  $x$  equals the product of the derivative of  $y$  with respect to  $v$  and the derivative of  $v$  with respect to  $x$ .

### 5.12 Differentiation of inverse functions

Let  $y$  be given as a function of  $x$  by means of the relation  $y = f(x)$ .

It is usually possible in the case of functions considered in this book to solve this equation for  $x$ , giving

$$x = \phi(y);$$

that is, to consider  $y$  as the independent and  $x$  as the dependent variable. In that case  $f(x)$  and  $\phi(y)$  are said to be *inverse functions*. When we wish to distinguish between the two it is customary to call the first one given the *direct function* and the second one the *inverse function*. Thus, in the examples which follow, if the second members in the first column are taken as the direct functions, then the corresponding members in the second column will be respectively their inverse functions.

**Example 5.12.1.**     •  $y = x^2 + 1, x = \pm\sqrt{y-1}$ .

- $y = a^x, x = \log_a y$ .
- $y = \sin x, x = \arcsin y$ .

The plot of the inverse function  $\phi(y)$  is related to the plot of the function  $f(x)$  in a simple manner. The plot of  $f(x)$  over an interval  $(a, b)$  in which  $f$  is increasing is the same as the plot of  $\phi(y)$  over  $(f(a), f(b))$ .

**Example 5.12.2.** If  $f(x) = x^2$ , for  $x > 0$ , and  $\phi(y) = \sqrt{y}$ , then the graphs are Now flip this graph about the  $45^\circ$  line:

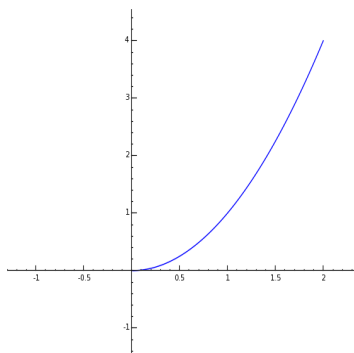


Figure 5.1: The function  $f(x) = x^2$ .

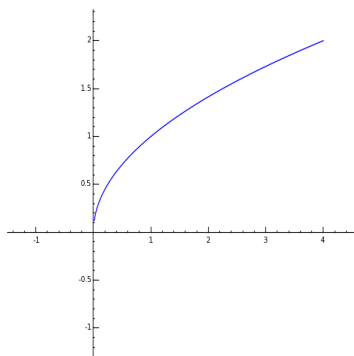


Figure 5.2: The function  $\phi(y) = f^{-1}(y) = \sqrt{y}$ .

The graph of inverse trig functions, for example,  $\tan(x)$  and  $\arctan(x)$ , are related in the same way.

Let us now differentiate the inverse functions

$$y = f(x) \quad \text{and} \quad x = \phi(y)$$

simultaneously by the General Rule.

- FIRST STEP.  $y + \Delta y = f(x + \Delta x)$ ,  $x + \Delta x = \phi(y + \Delta y)$
- SECOND STEP.

$$\begin{aligned} y + \Delta y &= f(x + \Delta x), & x + \Delta x &= \phi(y + \Delta y) \\ y &= f(x), & x &= \phi(y) \\ \Delta y &= f(x + \Delta x) - f(x), & \Delta x &= \phi(y + \Delta y) - \phi(y) \end{aligned}$$

- THIRD STEP.

$$\frac{\Delta y}{\Delta x} = \frac{f(x + \Delta x) - f(x)}{\Delta x}, \quad \frac{\Delta x}{\Delta y} = \frac{\phi(y + \Delta y) - \phi(y)}{\Delta y}.$$

Taking the product of the left-hand forms of these ratios, we get  $\frac{\Delta y}{\Delta x} \cdot \frac{\Delta x}{\Delta y} = 1$ , or,  $\frac{\Delta y}{\Delta x} = \frac{1}{\frac{\Delta x}{\Delta y}}$ .

- FOURTH STEP. Passing to the limit,

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{1}{\frac{dx}{dy}}, \quad (5.2)$$

or,

$$f'(x) = \frac{1}{\phi'(y)}.$$

*The derivative of the inverse function is equal to the reciprocal of the derivative of the direct function.*

## 5.13 Differentiation of a logarithm

Let<sup>3</sup>  $y = \log_a v$ .

Differentiating by the General Rule (§4.7), considering  $v$  as the independent variable, we have

- FIRST STEP.  $y + \Delta y = \log_a(v + \Delta v)$ .
- SECOND STEP<sup>4</sup>.

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta y &= \log_a(v + \Delta v) - \log_a v \\ &= \log_a \left( \frac{v + \Delta v}{v} \right) \\ &= \log_a \left( 1 + \frac{\Delta v}{v} \right). \end{aligned}$$

by item (8), §1.1.

- THIRD STEP.

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\Delta y}{\Delta v} &= \frac{1}{\Delta v} \log_a \left( 1 + \frac{\Delta v}{v} \right) \\ &= \log_a \left( 1 + \frac{\Delta v}{v} \right)^{\frac{1}{\Delta v}} \\ &= \frac{1}{v} \log_a \left( 1 + \frac{\Delta v}{v} \right)^{\frac{v}{\Delta v}}. \end{aligned}$$

---

<sup>3</sup>The student must not forget that this function is defined only for positive values of the base  $a$  and the variable  $v$ .

<sup>4</sup>If we take the third and fourth steps without transforming the right-hand member, there results:

Third step:  $\frac{\Delta y}{\Delta v} = \frac{\log_a(v + \Delta v) - \log_a v}{\Delta v}$ .

Fourth step.  $\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{0}{0}$ , which is indeterminate.

Hence the limiting value of the right-hand member in the third step cannot be found by direct substitution, and the above transformation is necessary.



## 5.14. DIFFERENTIATION OF THE SIMPLE EXPONENTIAL FUNCTION

[Dividing the logarithm by  $v$  and at the same time multiplying the exponent of the parenthesis by  $v$  changes the form of the expression but not its value (see item (9), §1.1.)]

- FOURTH STEP.  $\frac{dy}{dv} = \frac{1}{v} \log_a e$ . [When  $\Delta v \rightarrow 0$   $\frac{\Delta v}{v} \rightarrow 0$ . Therefore  $\lim_{\Delta v \rightarrow 0} \left(1 + \frac{\Delta v}{v}\right)^{\frac{1}{\Delta v}} = e$ , from §3.11, placing  $x = \frac{\Delta v}{v}$ .]

Hence

$$\frac{dy}{dv} = \frac{d}{dv} (\log_a v) = \log_a e \cdot \frac{1}{v}. \quad (5.3)$$

Since  $v$  is a function of  $x$  and it is required to differentiate  $\log_a v$  with respect to  $x$ , we must use formula (5.1), for differentiating a function of a function, namely,

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{dy}{dv} \cdot \frac{dv}{dx}.$$

Substituting the value of  $\frac{dy}{dv}$  from (5.3), we get

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \log_a e \cdot \frac{1}{v} \cdot \frac{dv}{dx}.$$

Therefore,  $\frac{d}{dx} (\log_a x) = \log_a e \cdot \frac{\frac{dx}{dx}}{x}$  (equation (VIII) above). When  $a = e$ ,  $\log_a e = \log_e e = 1$ , and (VIII) becomes  $\frac{d}{dx} (\log v) = \frac{\frac{dv}{dx}}{v}$  (equation (VIIIa) above).

The derivative of the logarithm of a function is equal to the product of the modulus<sup>5</sup> of the system of logarithms and the derivative of the function, divided by the function.

## 5.14 Differentiation of the simple exponential function

Let  $y = a^v$ ,  $a > 0$ . Taking the logarithm of both sides to the base  $e$ , we get  $\log y = v \log a$ , or  $v = \frac{\log y}{\log a} = \frac{1}{\log a} \cdot \log y$ . Differentiate with respect to  $y$  by formula (VIIIa),

$$\frac{dv}{dy} = \frac{1}{\log a} \cdot \frac{1}{y};$$

and from (5.2), relating to inverse functions, we get  $\frac{dy}{dv} = \log a \cdot y$ , or,

$$\frac{dy}{dv} = \log a \cdot a^v.$$

---

<sup>5</sup>The logarithm of  $e$  to any base  $a$  ( $= \log_a e$ ) is called the *modulus* of the system whose base is  $a$ . In Algebra it is shown that we may find the logarithm of a number  $N$  to any base  $a$  by means of the formula  $\log_a N = \log_a e \cdot \log_e N = \frac{\log_e N}{\log_e a}$ . The modulus of the common or Briggs system with base 10 is  $\log_{10} e = .434294\dots$

## 5.15. DIFFERENTIATION OF THE GENERAL EXPONENTIAL FUNCTION

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Since  $v$  is a function of  $x$  and it is required to differentiate  $a^v$  with respect to  $x$ , we must use formula (5.1), for differentiating a function of a function, namely,

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{dy}{dv} \cdot \frac{dv}{dx}.$$

Substituting the value of  $\frac{dy}{dx}$  from above, we get

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \log a \cdot a^v \cdot \frac{dv}{dx}.$$

Therefore,  $\frac{d}{dx}(a^v) = \log a \cdot a^v \cdot \frac{dv}{dx}$  (equation (IX) in §5.1 above). When  $a = e$ ,  $\log a = \log e = 1$ , and (IX) becomes  $\frac{d}{dx}(e^v) = e^v \frac{dv}{dx}$  (equation (IXa) in §5.1 above).

*The derivative of a constant with a variable exponent is equal to the product of the natural logarithm of the constant, the constant with the variable exponent, and the derivative of the exponent.*

## 5.15 Differentiation of the general exponential function

Let<sup>6</sup>  $y = u^v$ . Taking the logarithm of both sides to the base  $e$ ,  $\log_e y = v \log_e u$ , or,  $y = e^{v \log u}$ .

Differentiating by formula (IXa),

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{dy}{dx} &= e^{v \log u} \frac{d}{dx}(v \log u) \\ &= e^{v \log u} \left( \frac{v}{u} \frac{du}{dx} + \log u \frac{dv}{dx} \right) \quad \text{by V} \\ &= u^v \left( \frac{v}{u} \frac{du}{dx} + \log u \frac{dv}{dx} \right) \end{aligned}$$

Therefore,  $\frac{d}{dx}(u^v) = v u^{v-1} \frac{du}{dx} + \log u \cdot u^v \frac{dv}{dx}$  (equation (X) in §5.1 above).

*The derivative of a function with a variable exponent is equal to the sum of the two results obtained by first differentiating by (VI), regarding the exponent as constant, and again differentiating by (IX), regarding the function as constant.*

Let  $v = n$ , any constant; then (X) reduces to

$$\frac{d}{dx}(u^n) = n u^{n-1} \frac{du}{dx}.$$

But this is the form differentiated in §5.8; therefore (VI) holds true for any value of  $n$ .

**Example 5.15.1.** Differentiate  $y = \log(x^2 + a)$ .

Solution.

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{dy}{dx} &= \frac{\frac{d}{dx}(x^2+a)}{x^2+a} \quad \text{by VIIIa } (v = x^2 + a) \\ &= \frac{2x}{x^2+a}. \end{aligned}$$

---

<sup>6</sup>Here  $u$  can assume only positive values.

**Example 5.15.2.** Differentiate  $y = \log \sqrt{1-x^2}$ .

Solution.

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{dy}{dx} &= \frac{\frac{d}{dx}(1-x^2)^{\frac{1}{2}}}{(1-x^2)^{\frac{1}{2}}} \text{ by VIIIa} \\ &= \frac{\frac{1}{2}(1-x^2)^{-\frac{1}{2}}(-2x)}{(1-x^2)^{\frac{1}{2}}} \text{ by VI} \\ &= \frac{x}{x^2-1}.\end{aligned}$$

**Example 5.15.3.** Differentiate  $y = a^{3x^2}$ .

Solution.

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{dy}{dx} &= \log a \cdot a^{3x^2} \frac{d}{dx}(3x^2) \text{ by IX} \\ &= 6x \log a \cdot a^{3x^2}.\end{aligned}$$

**Example 5.15.4.** Differentiate  $y = be^{c^2+x^2}$ .

Solution.

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{dy}{dx} &= b \frac{d}{dx}(e^{c^2+x^2}) \text{ by IV} \\ &= be^{c^2+x^2} \frac{d}{dx}(c^2+x^2) \text{ by IXa} \\ &= 2bx e^{c^2+x^2}.\end{aligned}$$

**Example 5.15.5.** Differentiate  $y = x^{e^x}$ .

Solution.

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{dy}{dx} &= e^x x^{e^x-1} \frac{d}{dx}(x) + x^{e^x} \log x \frac{d}{dx}(e^x) \text{ by X} \\ &= e^x x^{e^x-1} + x^{e^x} \log x \cdot e^x \\ &= e^x x^{e^x} \left( \frac{1}{x} + \log x \right)\end{aligned}$$

## 5.16 Logarithmic differentiation

Instead of applying (VIII) and (VIIIa) at once in differentiating logarithmic functions, we may sometimes simplify the work by first making use of one of the formulas 7-10 in §1.1. Thus above Illustrative Example 5.15.2 may be solved as follows:

**Example 5.16.1.** Differentiate  $y = \log \sqrt{1-x^2}$ .

Solution. By using 10, in §1.1, we may write this in a form free from radicals as follows:  $y = \frac{1}{2} \log(1-x^2)$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{dy}{dx} &= \frac{\frac{1}{2} \frac{d}{dx}(1-x^2)}{\frac{1}{2} \frac{1-x^2}{1-x^2}} \text{ by VIIIa} \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{-2x}{1-x^2} = \frac{x}{x^2-1}.\end{aligned}$$

**Example 5.16.2.** Differentiate  $y = \log \sqrt{\frac{1+x^2}{1-x^2}}$ .

Solution. Simplifying by means of 10 and 8, in §1.1,

## 5.16. LOGARITHMIC DIFFERENTIATION

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$$\begin{aligned} y &= \frac{1}{2} [\log(1+x^2) - \log(1-x^2)] \\ \frac{dy}{dx} &= \frac{1}{2} \left[ \frac{\frac{d}{dx}(1+x^2)}{1+x^2} - \frac{\frac{d}{dx}(1-x^2)}{1-x^2} \right] \text{ by VIIIa, etc.} \\ &= \frac{x}{1+x^2} + \frac{x}{1-x^2} = \frac{2x}{1-x^4}. \end{aligned}$$

In differentiating an exponential function, especially a variable with a variable exponent, the best plan is first to take the logarithm of the function and then differentiate. Thus Example 5.15.5 is solved more elegantly as follows:

**Example 5.16.3.** Differentiate  $y = x^{e^x}$ .

Solution. Taking the logarithm of both sides,  $\log y = e^x \log x$ , by 9 in §1.1. Now differentiate both sides with respect to  $x$ :

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\frac{dy}{dx}}{y} &= e^x \frac{d}{dx}(\log x) + \log x \frac{d}{dx}(e^x) \text{ by VIII and V} \\ &= e^x \cdot \frac{1}{x} + \log x \cdot e^x, \end{aligned}$$

or,

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = e^x \cdot y \left( \frac{1}{x} \log x \right) = e^x x^{e^x} \left( \frac{1}{x} + \log x \right).$$

**Example 5.16.4.** Differentiate  $y = (4x^2 - 7)^{2+\sqrt{x^2-5}}$ .

Solution. Taking the logarithm of both sides,

$$\log y = (2 + \sqrt{x^2 - 5}) \log(4x^2 - 7).$$

Differentiating both sides with respect to  $x$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{y} \frac{dy}{dx} &= (2 + \sqrt{x^2 - 5}) \frac{8x}{4x^2 - 7} + \log(4x^2 - 7) \cdot \frac{x}{\sqrt{x^2 - 5}}. \\ \frac{dy}{dx} &= x(4x^2 - 7)^{2+\sqrt{x^2-5}} \left[ \frac{8(2 + \sqrt{x^2 - 5})}{4x^2 - 7} + \frac{\log(4x^2 - 7)}{\sqrt{x^2 - 5}} \right]. \end{aligned}$$

In the case of a function consisting of a number of factors it is sometimes convenient to take the logarithm before differentiating. Thus,

**Example 5.16.5.** Differentiate  $y = \sqrt{\frac{(x-1)(x-2)}{(x-3)(x-4)}}$ .

Solution. Taking the logarithm of both sides,

$$\log y = \frac{1}{2} [\log(x-1) + \log(x-2) - \log(x-3) - \log(x-4)].$$

Differentiating both sides with respect to  $x$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{y} \frac{dy}{dx} &= \frac{1}{2} \left[ \frac{1}{x-1} + \frac{1}{x-2} - \frac{1}{x-3} - \frac{1}{x-4} \right] \\ &= -\frac{2x^2 - 10x + 11}{(x-1)(x-2)(x-3)(x-4)}, \end{aligned}$$

or,

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = -\frac{2x^2 - 10x + 11}{(x-1)^{\frac{1}{2}}(x-2)^{\frac{1}{2}}(x-3)^{\frac{3}{2}}(x-4)^{\frac{3}{2}}}.$$

## 5.17 Examples

Differentiate the following<sup>7</sup>:

1.  $y = \log(x + a)$

Ans:  $\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{1}{x+a}$

2.  $y = \log(ax + b)$

Ans:  $\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{a}{ax+b}$

3.  $y = \log \frac{1+x^2}{1-x^2}$

Ans:  $\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{4x}{1-x^4}$

4.  $y = \log(x^2 + x)$

Ans:  $y' = \frac{2x+1}{x^2+x}$

5.  $y = \log(x^3 - 2x + 5)$

Ans:  $y' = \frac{3x^2-2}{x^3-2x+5}$

6.  $y = \log_a(2x + x^3)$

Ans:  $y' = \log_a e \cdot \frac{2+3x^2}{2x+x^3}$

7.  $y = x \log x$

Ans:  $y' = \log x + 1$

8.  $f(x) = \log(x^3)$

Ans:  $f'(x) = \frac{3}{x}$

9.  $f(x) = \log^3 x$

Ans:  $f'(x) = \frac{3 \log^2 x}{x}$

(Hint:  $\log^3 x = (\log x)^3$ . Use first VI,  $v = \log x$ ,  $n = 3$ ; and then VIIIa.)

10.  $f(x) = \log \frac{a+x}{a-x}$

Ans:  $f'(x) = \frac{2a}{a^2-x^2}$

11.  $f(x) = \log(x + \sqrt{1+x^2})$

Ans:  $f'(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1+x^2}}$

12.  $\frac{d}{dx} e^{ax} = ae^{ax}$

13.  $\frac{d}{dx} e^{4x+5} = 4e^{4x+5}$

14.  $\frac{d}{dx} a^{3x} = 3a^{3x} \log a$

15.  $\frac{d}{dt} \log(3 - 2t^2) = \frac{4t}{2t^2-3}$

16.  $\frac{d}{dy} \log \frac{1+y}{1-y} = \frac{2}{1-y^2}$

17.  $\frac{d}{dx} e^{b^2+x^2} = 2xe^{b^2+x^2}$

18.  $\frac{d}{d\theta} a^{\log a} = \frac{1}{\theta} a^{\log \theta} \log a$

19.  $\frac{d}{ds} b^{s^2} = 2s \log b \cdot b^{s^2}$

20.  $\frac{d}{dv} ae^{\sqrt{v}} = \frac{ae^{\sqrt{v}}}{2\sqrt{v}}$

21.  $\frac{d}{dx} a^{e^x} = \log a \cdot a^{e^x} \cdot e^x$

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<sup>7</sup>Though the answers are given below, it may be that your computation differs from the solution given. You should then try to show algebraically that your form is that same as that given.

## 5.17. EXAMPLES

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22.  $y = 7^{x^2+2x}$       Ans:  $y' = 2 \log 7 \cdot (x+1)7^{x^2+2x}$
23.  $y = c^{a^2-x^2}$       Ans:  $y' = -2x \log c \cdot c^{a^2-x^2}$
24.  $y = \log \frac{e^x}{1+e^x}$       Ans:  $\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{1}{1+e^x}$
25.  $\frac{d}{dx} [e^x(1-x^2)] = e^x(1-2x-x^2)$
26.  $\frac{d}{dx} \left( \frac{e^x-1}{e^x+1} \right) = \frac{2e^x}{(e^x+1)^2}$
27.  $\frac{d}{dx} (x^2 e^{ax}) = x e^{ax} (ax+2)$
28.  $y = \frac{a}{2} (e^{\frac{x}{a}} - e^{-\frac{x}{a}})$       Ans:  $\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{1}{2} (e^{\frac{x}{a}} + e^{-\frac{x}{a}})$
29.  $y = \frac{e^x - e^{-x}}{e^x + e^{-x}}$       Ans:  $\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{4}{(e^x + e^{-x})^2}$
30.  $y = x^n a^x$       Ans:  $y' = a^x x^{n-1} (n + x \log a)$
31.  $y = x^x$       Ans:  $y' = x^x (\log x + 1)$
32.  $y = x^{\frac{1}{x}}$       Ans:  $y' = \frac{\frac{1}{x}(1-\log x)}{x^2}$
33.  $y = x^{\log x}$       Ans:  $y' = \log(x^2) \cdot x^{\log x-1}$
34.  $f(y) = \log y \cdot e^y$       Ans:  $f'(y) = e^y \left( \log y + \frac{1}{y} \right)$
35.  $f(s) = \frac{\log s}{e^s}$       Ans:  $f'(s) = \frac{1-s \log s}{s e^s}$
36.  $f(x) = \log(\log x)$       Ans:  $f'(x) = \frac{1}{x \log x}$
37.  $F(x) = \log^4(\log x)$       Ans:  $F'(x) = \frac{4 \log^3(\log x)}{x \log x}$
38.  $\phi(x) = \log(\log^4 x)$       Ans:  $\phi'(x) = \frac{4}{x \log x}$
39.  $\psi(y) = \log \sqrt{\frac{1+y}{1-y}}$       Ans:  $\psi'(y) = \frac{1}{1-y^2}$
40.  $f(x) = \log \frac{\sqrt{x^2+1}-x}{\sqrt{x^2+1}+x}$       Ans:  $f'(x) = -\frac{2}{\sqrt{1+x^2}}$
41.  $y = x^{\frac{1}{\log x}}$       Ans:  $\frac{dy}{dx} = 0$
42.  $y = e^{x^x}$       Ans:  $\frac{dy}{dx} = e^{x^x} (1 + \log x) x^x$
43.  $y = \frac{c^x}{x^x}$       Ans:  $\frac{dy}{dx} = \left( \frac{c}{x} \right)^x (\log \frac{c}{x} - 1)$
44.  $y = \left( \frac{x}{n} \right)^{nx}$       Ans:  $\frac{dy}{dx} = n \left( \frac{x}{n} \right)^{nx} \left( 1 + \log \frac{x}{n} \right)$
45.  $w = v^{e^v}$       Ans:  $\frac{dw}{dv} = v^{e^v} e^v \left( \frac{1+v \log v}{v} \right)$

46.  $z = \left(\frac{a}{t}\right)^t$       Ans:  $\frac{dz}{dt} = \left(\frac{a}{t}\right)^t (\log a - \log t - 1)$
47.  $y = x^{x^n}$       Ans:  $\frac{dy}{dx} = x^{x^n+n-1} (n \log x + 1)$
48.  $y = x^{x^x}$       Ans:  $\frac{dy}{dx} = x^{x^x} x^x (\log x + \log^2 x + \frac{1}{x})$
49.  $y = a^{\frac{1}{\sqrt{a^2-x^2}}}$       Ans:  $\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{xy \log a}{(a^2-x^2)^{\frac{3}{2}}}$

50. Compute the following derivatives:

- |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| (a) $\frac{d}{dx} x^2 \log x$                    | (f) $\frac{d}{dx} e^x \log x$                 | (k) $\frac{d}{dx} \log(a^x + b^x)$         |
| (b) $\frac{d}{dx} (e^{2x} - 1)^4$                | (g) $\frac{d}{dx} x^3 3^x$                    | (l) $\frac{d}{dx} \log_1 0(x^2 + 5x)$      |
| (c) $\frac{d}{dx} \log \frac{3x+1}{x+3}$         | (h) $\frac{d}{dx} \frac{1}{x \log x}$         | (m) $\frac{d}{dx} \frac{2+x^2}{e^{3x}}$    |
| (d) $\frac{d}{dx} \log \frac{1-x^2}{\sqrt{1+x}}$ | (i) $\frac{d}{dx} \log x^3 \sqrt{1+x^2}$      | (n) $\frac{d}{dx} (x^2 + a^2) e^{x^2+a^2}$ |
| (e) $\frac{d}{dx} x \sqrt{x}$                    | (j) $\frac{d}{dx} \left(\frac{1}{x}\right)^x$ | (o) $\frac{d}{dx} (x^2 + 4)^x$             |
51.  $y = \frac{(x+1)^2}{(x+2)^3(x+3)^4}$       Ans:  $\frac{dy}{dx} = -\frac{(x+1)(5x^2+14x+5)}{(x+2)^4(x+3)^5}$
52.  $y = \frac{((x-1)^{\frac{5}{2}})}{(x-2)^{\frac{3}{4}}(x-3)^{\frac{7}{3}}}$       Ans:  $\frac{dy}{dx} = -\frac{(x-1)^{\frac{3}{2}}(7x^2+30x-97)}{12(x-2)^{\frac{7}{4}}(x-3)^{\frac{10}{3}}}$
53.  $y = x\sqrt{1-x}(1+x)$       Ans:  $\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{2+x-5x^2}{2\sqrt{1-x}}$
54.  $y = \frac{x(1+x^2)}{\sqrt{1-x^2}}$       Ans:  $\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{1+3x^2-2x^4}{(1-x^2)^{\frac{3}{2}}}$
55.  $y = x^5(a+3x)^3(a-2x)^2$   
 $12x^2)$       Ans:  $\frac{dy}{dx} = 5x^4(a+3x)^2(a-2x)(a^2+2ax-$

## 5.18 Differentiation of $\sin v$

Let  $y = \sin v$ . By General Rule, §4.7, considering  $v$  as the independent variable, we have

- FIRST STEP.  $y + \Delta y = \sin(v + \Delta v)$ .
- SECOND STEP<sup>8 9</sup>

$$\Delta y = \sin(v + \Delta v) - \sin v = 2 \cos \left( v + \frac{\Delta v}{2} \right) \cdot \sin \frac{\Delta v}{2}.$$

<sup>8</sup>If we take the third and fourth steps without transforming the right-hand member, there results:

Third step.  $\frac{\Delta y}{\Delta v} = \frac{\sin(v+\Delta v) - \sin v}{\Delta v}$

Fourth step.  $\frac{dy}{dv} = \frac{0}{0}$ , which is indeterminate (see footnote, §5.13).

<sup>9</sup>Let  $A = v + \Delta v$  and  $B = v$ . Adding,  $A + B = 2v + \Delta v$  and subtracting,  $A - B = \Delta v$ . Therefore  $\frac{1}{2}(A + B) = v + \frac{\Delta v}{2}$  and  $\frac{1}{2}(A - B) = \frac{\Delta v}{2}$ . Substituting these values of  $A$ ,  $B$ ,  $\frac{1}{2}(A + B)$ ,  $\frac{1}{2}(A - B)$  in terms of  $v$  and  $\Delta v$  in the formula from Trigonometry (item 42 from §1.1)  $\sin A - \sin B = 2 \cos \frac{1}{2}(A + B) \sin \frac{1}{2}(A - B)$ , we get

$$\sin(v + \Delta v) - \sin v = 2 \cos \left( v + \frac{\Delta v}{2} \right) \sin \frac{\Delta v}{2}.$$

- THIRD STEP.

$$\frac{\Delta y}{\Delta v} = \cos \left( v + \frac{\Delta v}{2} \right) \left( \frac{\sin \frac{\Delta v}{2}}{\frac{\Delta v}{2}} \right).$$

- FOURTH STEP.  $\frac{dy}{dx} = \cos v$ .

(Since  $\lim_{\Delta v \rightarrow 0} \left( \frac{\sin \frac{\Delta v}{2}}{\frac{\Delta v}{2}} \right) = 1$ , by §3.10, and  $\lim_{\Delta v \rightarrow 0} \cos \left( v + \frac{\Delta v}{2} \right) = \cos v$ .)

Since  $v$  is a function of  $x$  and it is required to differentiate  $\sin v$  with respect to  $x$ , we must use formula (A), §5.11, for differentiating a function of a function, namely,

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{dy}{dv} \cdot \frac{dv}{dx}.$$

Substituting value  $\frac{dy}{dx}$  from Fourth Step, we get  $\frac{dy}{dx} = \cos v \frac{dv}{dx}$ . Therefore,

$$\frac{d}{dx}(\sin v) = \cos v \frac{dv}{dx}$$

(equation (XI) in §5.1 above).

The statement of the corresponding rules will now be left to the student.

## 5.19 Differentiation of $\cos v$

Let  $y = \cos v$ . By item 29, §1.1, this may be written

$$y = \sin \left( \frac{\pi}{2} - v \right).$$

Differentiating by formula (XI),

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{dy}{dx} &= \cos \left( \frac{\pi}{2} - v \right) \frac{d}{dx} \left( \frac{\pi}{2} - v \right) \\ &= \cos \left( \frac{\pi}{2} - v \right) \left( -\frac{dv}{dx} \right) \\ &= -\sin v \frac{dv}{dx}. \end{aligned}$$

(Since  $\cos \left( \frac{\pi}{2} \right) = \sin v$ , by 29, §1.1.) Therefore,

$$\frac{d}{dx}(\cos v) = -\sin v \frac{dv}{dx},$$

(equation (XII) in §5.1 above).



## 5.20 Differentiation of $\tan v$

Let  $y = \tan v$ . By item 27, §1.1, this may be written

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{dy}{dx} &= \frac{\cos v \frac{d}{dx}(\sin v) - \sin v \frac{d}{dx}(\cos v)}{\cos^2 v} \\ &= \frac{\cos^2 v \frac{dv}{dx} + \sin^2 v \frac{dv}{dx}}{\cos^2 v} \\ &= \frac{\frac{dv}{dx}}{\cos^2 v} = \sec^2 v \frac{dv}{dx}.\end{aligned}$$

Therefore,

$$\frac{d}{dx}(\tan x) = \sec^2 x \frac{dx}{dx},$$

(equation (XIII) in §5.1 above).

## 5.21 Differentiation of $\cot v$

Let  $y = \cot v$ . By item 26, §1.1, this may be written  $y = \frac{1}{\tan v}$ . Differentiating by formula VII,

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{dy}{dx} &= -\frac{\frac{d}{dx}(\tan v)}{\tan^2 v} \\ &= -\frac{\sec^2 v \frac{dv}{dx}}{\tan^2 v} \\ &= -\csc^2 v \frac{dv}{dx}.\end{aligned}$$

Therefore,

$$\frac{d}{dx}(\cot v) = -\csc^2 v \frac{dv}{dx}$$

(equation (XIII) in §5.1 above).

## 5.22 Differentiation of $\sec v$

Let  $y = \sec v$ . By item 26, §1.1, this may be written  $y = \frac{1}{\cos v}$ . Differentiating by formula VII,

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{dy}{dx} &= -\frac{\frac{d}{dx}(\cos v)}{\cos^2 v} \\ &= \frac{\sin v \frac{dv}{dx}}{\cos^2 v} \\ &= \frac{1}{\cos v} \frac{\sin v}{\cos v} \frac{dv}{dx} \\ &= \sec v \tan v \frac{dv}{dx}.\end{aligned}$$

Therefore,

$$\frac{d}{dx}(\sec v) = \sec v \tan v \frac{dv}{dx}$$

(equation (XV) in §5.1 above).

## 5.23 Differentiation of $\csc v$

Let  $y = \csc v$ . By item 26, §1.1, this may be written

$$y = \frac{1}{\sin v}.$$

Differentiating by formula VII,

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{dy}{dx} &= -\frac{\frac{d}{dx}(\sin v)}{\sin^2 v} \\ &= -\frac{\cos v \frac{dv}{dx}}{\sin^2 v} \\ &= -\csc v \cot v \frac{dv}{dx}.\end{aligned}$$

Therefore,

$$\frac{d}{dx}(\csc v) = -\csc v \cot v \frac{dv}{dx}$$

(equation (XVI) in §5.1 above).

## 5.24 Differentiation of $\text{vers } v$

Let  $y = \text{vers } v$ . By definition, this may be written

$$y = 1 - \cos v.$$

Differentiating,  $\frac{dy}{dx} = \sin v \frac{dv}{dx}$ . Therefore,  $\frac{d}{dx}(\text{vers } v) = \sin v \frac{dv}{dx}$  (equation (XVII) in §5.1 above).

## 5.25 Exercises

In the derivation of our formulas so far it has been necessary to apply the General Rule, §4.7, (i.e. the four steps), only for the following:

III	$\frac{d}{dx}(u + v - w) = \frac{du}{dx} + \frac{dv}{dx} - \frac{dw}{dx}$	Algebraic sum.
V	$\frac{d}{dx}(uv) = u \frac{dv}{dx} + v \frac{du}{dx}$	Product.
VII	$\frac{d}{dx}\left(\frac{u}{v}\right) = \frac{v \frac{du}{dx} - u \frac{dv}{dx}}{v^2}$	Quotient.
VIII	$\frac{d}{dx}(\log_a v) = \log_a e \frac{dv}{dx}$	Logarithm.
XI	$\frac{d}{dx}(\sin v) = \cos v \frac{dv}{dx}$	Sine.
XXV	$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{dy}{dv} \cdot \frac{dv}{dx}$	Function of a function.
XXVI	$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{1}{\frac{dx}{dy}}$	Inverse functions.

Not only do all the other formulas we have deduced depend on these, but all we shall deduce hereafter depend on them as well. Hence it follows that the derivation of the fundamental formulas for differentiation involves the calculation of only two limits of any difficulty, viz.,

$$\lim_{v \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sin v}{1} = 1 \quad \text{by §3.10,}$$

and

$$\lim_{v \rightarrow 0} (1 + v)^{\frac{1}{v}} = e \quad \text{by §3.11.}$$

**Examples/exercises:**

Differentiate the following:

1.  $y = \sin(ax^2)$  .

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \cos ax^2 \frac{d}{dx}(ax^2), \quad \text{by XI } (v = ax^2).$$

2.  $y = \tan \sqrt{1-x}$ .

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{dy}{dx} &= \sec^2 \sqrt{1-x} \frac{d}{dx}(1-x)^{\frac{1}{2}}, \quad \text{by XIII } (v = \sqrt{1-x}) \\ &= \sec^2 \sqrt{1-x} \cdot \frac{1}{2}(1-x)^{-\frac{1}{2}}(-1) \\ &= -\frac{\sec^2 \sqrt{1-x}}{2\sqrt{1-x}}. \end{aligned}$$

3.  $y = \cos^3 x$ .

This may also be written,  $y = (\cos x)^3$ .

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{dy}{dx} &= 3(\cos x)^2 \frac{d}{dx}(\cos x) \quad \text{by VI } (v = \cos x \text{ and } n = 3) \\ &= 3 \cos^2 x (-\sin x) \quad \text{by XII} \\ &= -3 \sin x \cos^2 x. \end{aligned}$$

4.  $y = \sin nx \sin^n x$ .

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{dy}{dx} &= \sin nx \frac{d}{dx}(\sin x)^n + \sin^n x \frac{d}{dx}(\sin nx) \quad \text{by V } (v = \sin nx \text{ and } v = \sin^n x) \\ &= \sin nx \cdot n(\sin x)^{n-1} \frac{d}{dx}(\sin x) + \sin^n x \cos nx \frac{d}{dx}(nx) \quad \text{by VI and XI} \\ &= n \sin nx \cdot \sin^{n-1} x \cos x + n \sin^n x \cos nx \\ &= n \sin^{n-1} x (\sin nx \cos x + \cos nx \sin x) \\ &= n \sin^{n-1} x \sin(n+1)x. \end{aligned}$$

5.  $y = \sec ax$

Ans:  $\frac{dy}{dx} = a \sec ax \tan ax$

6.  $y = \tan(ax + b)$

Ans:  $\frac{dy}{dx} = a \sec^2(ax + b)$

7.  $s = \cos 3ax$

Ans:  $\frac{ds}{dx} = -3a \sin 3ax$

8.  $s = \cot(2t^2 + 3)$

Ans:  $\frac{ds}{dt} = -4t \csc^2(2t^2 + 3)$

## 5.25. EXERCISES

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9.  $f(y) = \sin 2y \cos y$  Ans:  $f'(y) = 2 \cos 2y \cos y - \sin 2y \sin y$
10.  $F(x) = \cot^2 5x$  Ans:  $F'(x) = -10 \cot 5x \csc^2 5x$
11.  $F(\theta) = \tan \theta - \theta$  Ans:  $F'(\theta) = \tan^2 \theta$
12.  $f(\phi) = \phi \sin \phi + \cos \phi$  Ans:  $f'(\phi) = \phi \cos \phi$
13.  $f(t) = \sin^3 t \cos t$  Ans:  $f'(t) = \sin^2 t(3 \cos t - \sin^2 t)$
14.  $r = a \cos 2\theta$  Ans:  $\frac{dr}{d\theta} = -2a \sin 2\theta$
15.  $\frac{d}{dx} \sin^2 x = \sin 2x$
16.  $\frac{d}{dx} \cos^3(x^2) = -6x \cos^2(x^2) \sin(x^2)$
17.  $\frac{d}{dt} \csc \frac{t^2}{2} = -t \csc \frac{t^2}{2} \cot \frac{t^2}{2}$
18.  $\frac{d}{ds} a \sqrt{\cos 2s} = -\frac{a \sin 2s}{\sqrt{\cos 2s}}$
19.  $\frac{d}{d\theta} a(1 - \cos \theta) = a \sin \theta$
20.  $\frac{d}{dx} (\log \cos x) = -\tan x$
21.  $\frac{d}{dx} (\log \tan x) = \frac{2}{\sin 2x}$
22.  $\frac{d}{dx} (\log \sin^2 x) = 2 \cot x$
23.  $\frac{d}{dt} \cos \frac{a}{t} = \frac{a}{t^2} \sin \frac{a}{t}$
24.  $\frac{d}{d\theta} \sin \frac{1}{\theta^2} = -\frac{2}{\theta^3} \cos \frac{1}{\theta^2}$
25.  $\frac{d}{dx} e^{\sin x} = e^{\sin x} \cos x$
26.  $\frac{d}{dx} \sin(\log x) = \frac{\cos(\log x)}{x}$
27.  $\frac{d}{dx} \tan(\log x) = \frac{\sec^2(\log x)}{x}$
28.  $\frac{d}{dx} a \sin^3 \frac{\theta}{3} = a \sin^2 \frac{\theta}{3} \cos \frac{\theta}{3}$
29.  $\frac{d}{d\alpha} \sin(\cos \alpha) = -\sin \alpha \cos(\cos \alpha)$
30.  $\frac{d}{dx} \frac{\tan x - 1}{\sec x} = \sin x + \cos x$
31.  $y = \log \sqrt{\frac{1+\sin x}{1-\sin x}}$  Ans:  $\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{1}{\cos x}$
32.  $y = \log \tan \left( \frac{\pi}{4} + \frac{x}{2} \right)$  Ans:  $\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{1}{\cos x}$
33.  $f(x) = \sin(x+a) \cos(x-a)$  Ans:  $f'(x) = \cos 2x$
34.  $y = a^{\tan nx}$  Ans:  $y' = na^{\tan nx} \sec^2 nx \log a$

$$35. y = e^{\cos x} \sin x \quad \text{Ans: } y' = e^{\cos x} (\cos x - \sin^2 x)$$

$$36. y = e^x \log \sin x \quad \text{Ans: } y' = e^x (\cot x + \log \sin x)$$

37. Compute the following derivatives:

$$\begin{array}{lll} (a) \frac{d}{dx} \sin 5x^2 & (f) \frac{d}{dx} \csc(\log x) & (k) \frac{d}{dt} e^{a-b \cos t} \\ (b) \frac{d}{dx} \cos(a-bx) & (g) \frac{d}{dx} \sin^3 2x & (l) \frac{d}{dt} \sin \frac{t}{3} \cos^2 \frac{t}{3} \\ (c) \frac{d}{dx} \tan \frac{ax}{b} & (h) \frac{d}{dx} \cos^2(\log x) & (m) \frac{d}{d\theta} \cot \frac{b}{\theta^2} \\ (d) \frac{d}{dx} \cot \sqrt{ax} & (i) \frac{d}{dx} \tan^2 \sqrt{1-x^2} & (n) \frac{d}{d\phi} \sqrt{1+\cos^2 \phi} \\ (e) \frac{d}{dx} \sec e^{3x} & (j) \frac{d}{dx} \log(\sin^2 ax) & (o) \frac{d}{ds} \log \sqrt{1-2\sin^2 s} \end{array}$$

$$38. \frac{d}{dx} (x^n e^{\sin x}) = x^{n-1} e^{\sin x} (n + x \cos x)$$

$$39. \frac{d}{dx} (e^{ax} \cos mx) = e^{ax} (a \cos mx - m \sin mx)$$

$$40. f(\theta) = \frac{1+\cos \theta}{1-\cos \theta} \quad \text{Ans: } f'(\theta) = -\frac{2 \sin \theta}{(1-\cos \theta)^2}$$

$$41. f(\phi) = \frac{e^{a\phi} (a \sin \phi - \cos \phi)}{a^2+1} \quad \text{Ans: } f'(\phi) = e^{a\phi} \sin \phi$$

$$42. f(s) = (s \cot s)^2 \quad \text{Ans: } f'(s) = 2s \cot s (\cot s - s \csc^2 s)$$

$$43. r = \frac{1}{3} \tan^3 \theta - \tan \theta + \theta \quad \text{Ans: } \frac{dr}{d\theta} = \tan^4 \theta$$

$$44. y = x^{\sin x} \quad \text{Ans: } \frac{dy}{dx} = x^{\sin x} \left( \frac{\sin x}{x} + \log x \cos x \right)$$

$$45. y = \frac{(\sin x)^x}{x \cot x} \quad \text{Ans: } y' = (\sin x)^x [\log \sin x + \frac{1}{x}]$$

$$46. y = (\sin x)^{\tan x} \quad \text{Ans: } y' = (\sin x)^{\tan x} (1 + \sec^2 x \log \sin x)$$

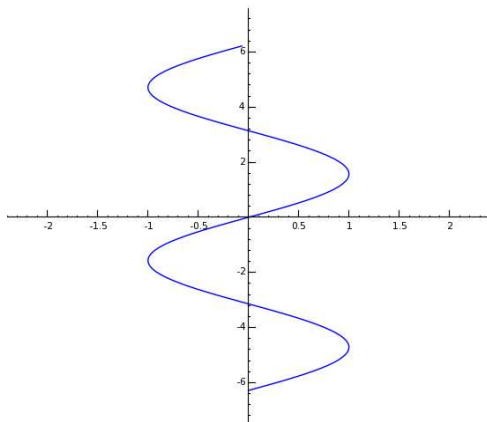
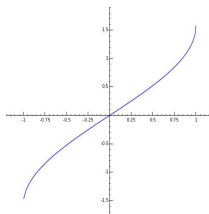
$$47. \text{ Prove } \frac{d}{dx} \cos v = -\sin v \frac{dv}{dx}, \text{ using the General Rule.}$$

$$48. \text{ Prove } \frac{d}{dx} \cot v = -\csc^2 v \frac{dv}{dx} \text{ by replacing } \cot v \text{ by } \frac{\cos v}{\sin v}.$$

## 5.26 Differentiation of arcsin v

Let  $y = \arcsin v$ , then  $v = \sin y$ .

It should be remembered that this function is defined only for values of  $v$  between  $-1$  and  $+1$  inclusive and that  $y$  (the function) is many-valued, there being infinitely many arcs whose sines will equal  $v$ . Thus, Figure 5.4 represents only a piece of the multi-valued inverse function of  $\sin(x)$ , represented by taking the graph of  $\sin(x)$  and flipping it about the  $45^\circ$  line. In the above discussion, in order to make the function single-valued; only values of  $y$  between  $-\frac{\pi}{2}$  and  $\frac{\pi}{2}$  inclusive are considered; that is, the arc of smallest numerical value whose sine is  $v$ .

Figure 5.3: The inverse sine  $\sin^{-1} x$  using **SAGE**.Figure 5.4: A single branch of the function  $f(x) = \arcsin(x)$ .

Differentiating  $v$  with respect to  $y$  by XI,  $\frac{dv}{dy} = \cos y$ ; therefore  $\frac{dy}{dv} = \frac{1}{\cos y}$ , by (5.2). But since  $v$  is a function of  $x$ , this may be substituted in  $\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{dy}{dv} \cdot \frac{dv}{dx}$  (see (5.1)), giving

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{1}{\cos y} \cdot \frac{dv}{dx} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-v^2}} \frac{dv}{dx},$$

(since  $\cos y = \sqrt{1 - \sin^2 y} = \sqrt{1 - v^2}$ ), the positive sign of the radical being taken, since  $\cos y$  is positive for all values of  $y$  between  $-\frac{\pi}{2}$  and  $\frac{\pi}{2}$  inclusive). Therefore,

$$\frac{d}{dx}(\arcsin v) = \frac{\frac{dv}{dx}}{\sqrt{1-v^2}}$$

(equation (XVIII) in §5.1 above).

## 5.27 Differentiation of $\arccos v$

Let<sup>10</sup>  $y = \arccos v$ ; then  $y = \cos^{-1} v$ .

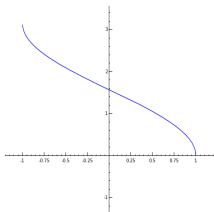


Figure 5.5: A single branch of the function  $f(x) = \arccos(x)$ .

Differentiating with respect to  $y$  by XII,  $\frac{dv}{dy} = -\sin y$ , therefore,  $\frac{dy}{dv} = -\frac{1}{\sin y}$ , by (5.2). But since  $v$  is a function of  $x$ , this may be substituted in the formula  $\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{dy}{dv} \cdot \frac{dv}{dx}$ , by (5.1), giving

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = -\frac{1}{\sin y} \cdot \frac{dv}{dx} = -\frac{1}{\sqrt{1-v^2}} \frac{dv}{dx}$$

( $\sin y = \sqrt{1 - \cos^2 y} = \sqrt{1 - v^2}$ , the plus sign of the radical being taken, since  $\sin y$  is positive for all values of  $y$  between 0 and  $\pi$  inclusive). Therefore,

$$\frac{d}{dx}(\arccos v) = -\frac{\frac{dv}{dx}}{\sqrt{1-v^2}}.$$

(equation (XIX) in §5.1 above).

Here's how to use **SAGE** to compute an example of this rule:

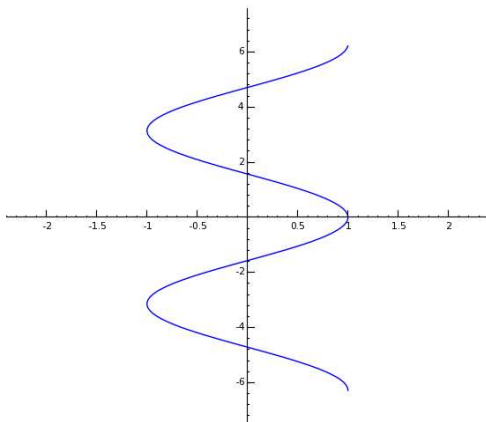
```

SAGE
sage: t = var("t")
sage: x = var("x")
sage: solve(x == cos(t), t)
[t == acos(x)]
sage: f = solve(x == cos(t), t)[0].rhs()
sage: f
acos(x)
sage: diff(f, x)
-1/sqrt(1 - x^2)

```

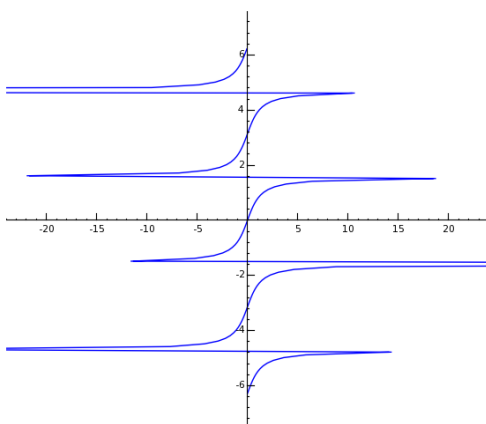
This (1) computes  $\arccos$  directly as the inverse function of  $\cos$  (**SAGE** can use the notation `acos` in addition to `arccos`), (2) computes its derivative.

<sup>10</sup>This function is defined only for values of  $v$  between  $-1$  and  $+1$  inclusive, and is many-valued. In order to make the function single-valued, only values of  $y$  between 0 and  $\pi$  inclusive are considered; that is,  $y$  the smallest positive arc whose cosine is  $v$ .

Figure 5.6: The inverse cosine  $\cos^{-1} x$  using **SAGE**.

## 5.28 Differentiation of $\arctan v$

Let<sup>11</sup> $y = \arctan v$ ; then  $y = \tan y$ .

Figure 5.7: The inverse tangent  $\tan^{-1} x$  using **SAGE**.

Differentiating with respect to  $y$  by (XIV),

$$\frac{dv}{dy} = \sec^2 y;$$

---

<sup>11</sup>This function is defined for all values of  $v$ , and is many-valued. In order to make it single-valued, only values of  $y$  between  $-\frac{\pi}{2}$  and  $\frac{\pi}{2}$  are considered; that is, the arc of smallest numerical value whose tangent is  $v$ .



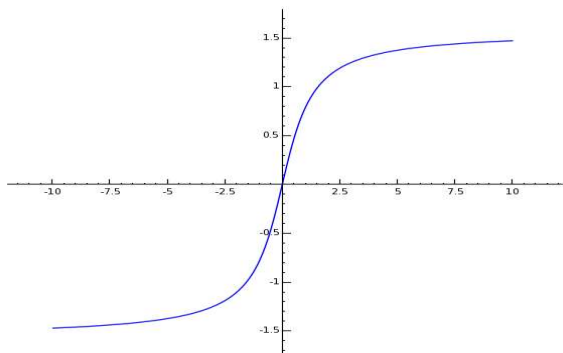


Figure 5.8: The standard branch of  $\arctan x$  using **SAGE**.

therefore  $\frac{dy}{dv} = \frac{1}{\sec^2 y}$ , by (5.2). But since  $v$  is a function of  $x$ , this may be substituted in the formula  $\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{dy}{dv} \cdot \frac{dv}{dx}$ , by (5.1), giving

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{1}{\sec^2 y} \cdot \frac{dv}{dx} = \frac{1}{1 + v^2} \frac{dv}{dx},$$

(since  $\sec^2 y = 1 + \tan^2 y = 1 + v^2$ ). Therefore

$$\frac{d}{dx}(\arctan v) = \frac{\frac{dv}{dx}}{1 + v^2}$$

(equation (XX) in §5.1 above).

## 5.29 Differentiation of $\operatorname{arccot} u$

Let  $y = \operatorname{arccot} v$ ; then  $y = \cot^{-1} v$ . This function is defined for all values of  $v$ , and is many-valued. In order to make it single-valued, only values of  $y$  between 0 and  $\pi$  are considered; that is, the smallest positive arc whose cotangent is  $v$ .

Following the method of the last section, we get

$$\frac{d}{dx}(\operatorname{arccot} v) = -\frac{\frac{dv}{dx}}{1 + v^2}$$

(equation (XXI) in §5.1 above).

## 5.30 Differentiation of $\operatorname{arcsec} u$

Let  $y = \operatorname{arcsec} v$ ; then  $v = \sec y$ . This function is defined for all values of  $v$  except those lying between  $-1$  and  $+1$ , and is seen to be many-valued. To make the function single-valued,  $y$  is taken as the arc of smallest numerical value whose secant is  $v$ . This means that if  $v$  is positive, we confine ourselves

### 5.30. DIFFERENTIATION OF ARCSECU

to points on arc  $AB$  (Figure 5.9),  $y$  taking on values between 0 and  $\frac{\pi}{2}$  (0 may be included); and if  $v$  is negative, we confine ourselves to points on arc  $DC$ ,  $y$  taking on values between  $-\pi$  and  $-\frac{\pi}{2}$  ( $-\pi$  may be included).

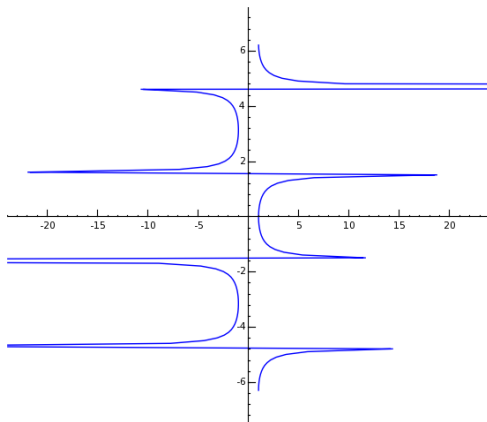


Figure 5.9: The inverse secant  $\sec^{-1} x$  using SAGE.

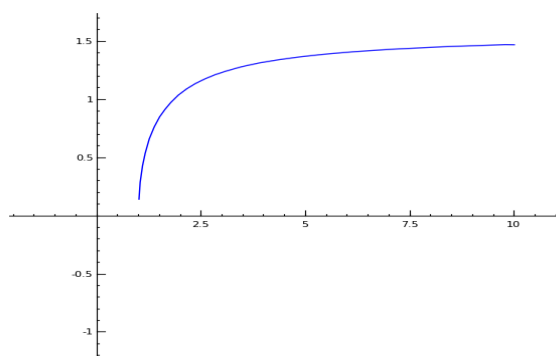


Figure 5.10: The standard branch of  $\text{arcsec } x$  using SAGE.

Differentiating with respect to  $y$  by IV,  $\frac{dv}{dy} = \sec y \tan y$ ; therefore  $\frac{dy}{dv} = \frac{1}{\sec y \tan y}$ , by (5.2). But since  $v$  is a function of  $x$ , this may be substituted in the formula  $\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{dy}{dv} \cdot \frac{dv}{dx}$ , by (5.1).giving

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{1}{\sec y \tan y} \frac{dv}{dx} = \frac{1}{v\sqrt{v^2 - 1}} \frac{dv}{dx}$$

(since  $\sec y = v$ , and  $\tan y = \sqrt{\sec y - 1} = \sqrt{v^2 - 1}$ , the plus sign of the radical being taken, since  $\tan y$  is positive for an values of  $y$  between 0 and  $\frac{\pi}{2}$  and between  $-\pi$  and  $-\frac{\pi}{2}$ , including 0 and  $-\pi$ ). Therefore,

$$\frac{d}{dx}(\operatorname{arcsec} v) = \frac{\frac{dv}{dx}}{v\sqrt{v^2 - 1}}$$

(equation (XXII) in §5.1 above).

## 5.31 Differentiation of $\operatorname{arccsc} v$

Let

$$y = \operatorname{arccsc} v;$$

then

$$v = \csc y.$$

This function is defined for all values of  $v$  except those lying between  $-1$  and  $+1$ , and is seen to be many-valued. To make the function single-valued,  $y$  is taken as the arc of smallest numerical value whose cosecant is  $v$ . This means that if  $v$  is positive, we confine ourselves to points on the arc  $AB$  (Figure 5.11),  $y$  taking on values between  $0$  and  $\frac{\pi}{2}$  ( $\frac{\pi}{2}$  may be included); and if  $v$  is negative, we confine ourselves to points on the arc  $CD$ ,  $y$  taking on values between  $-\pi$  and  $-\frac{\pi}{2}$  ( $-\frac{\pi}{2}$  may be included).

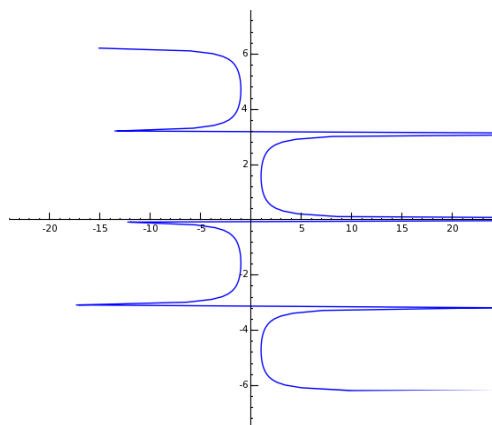
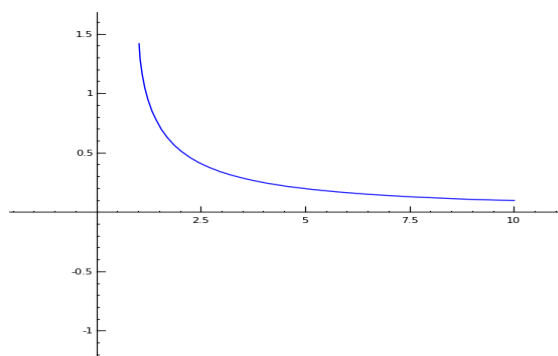


Figure 5.11: The inverse secant function  $\operatorname{arccsc} x$  using **SAGE**.

Differentiating with respect to  $y$  by XVI and following the method of the last section, we get

$$\frac{d}{dx}(\operatorname{arccsc} v) = -\frac{\frac{dv}{dx}}{v\sqrt{v^2 - 1}}$$

(equation (XXIII) in §5.1 above).

Figure 5.12: The standard branch of  $\operatorname{arccsc} x$  using **SAGE**.

### 5.32 Differentiation of $\operatorname{arcvers} v$

Let<sup>12</sup>  $y = \operatorname{arcvers} v$ ; then  $v = \operatorname{vers} y$ . Differentiating with respect to  $y$  by XVII,

$$\frac{dv}{dy} = \sin y;$$

therefore  $\frac{dy}{dv} = \frac{1}{\sin y}$ , by (5.2). But since  $v$  is a function of  $x$ , this may be substituted in the formula  $\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{dy}{dv} \cdot \frac{dv}{dx}$ , by (5.1), giving

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{1}{\sin y} \cdot \frac{dv}{dx} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2v - v^2}} \frac{dv}{dx}$$

(since  $\sin y = \sqrt{1 - \cos^2 y} = \sqrt{1 - (1 - \operatorname{vers} y)^2} = \sqrt{2v - v^2}$ , the plus sign of the radical being taken, since  $\sin y$  is positive for all values of  $y$  between 0 and  $\pi$  inclusive). Therefore,

$$\frac{d}{dx}(\operatorname{arcvers} v) = \frac{\frac{dv}{dx}}{\sqrt{2v - v^2}}$$

(equation (XXIV) in §5.1 above).

### 5.33 Example

Differentiate the following:

$$1. \ y = \arctan(ax^2).$$

Solution. By XX ( $v = ax^2$ )

---

<sup>12</sup>Defined only for values of  $v$  between 0 and 2 inclusive, and is many-valued. To make the function continuous,  $y$  is taken as the smallest positive arc whose versed sine is  $v$ ; that is,  $y$  lies between 0 and  $\pi$  inclusive.

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{\frac{d}{dx}(ax^2)}{1 + (ax^2)^2} = \frac{2ax}{1 + a^2x^4}.$$

2.  $y = \arcsin(3x - 4x^3).$

Solution. By XVIII ( $v = 3x - 4x^3$ ),

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{\frac{d}{dx}(3x - 4x^3)}{\sqrt{1 - (3x - 4x^3)^2}} = \frac{3 - 12x^2}{\sqrt{1 - 9x^2 + 24x^4 - 16x^6}} = \frac{3}{\sqrt{1 - x^2}}.$$

3.  $y = \operatorname{arcsec} \frac{x^2+1}{x^2-1}.$

Solution. By XXII ( $v = \frac{x^2+1}{x^2-1}$ ),

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{\frac{d}{dx} \left( \frac{x^2+1}{x^2-1} \right)}{\frac{\frac{x^2+1}{x^2-1}}{\sqrt{\left( \frac{x^2+1}{x^2-1} \right)^2 - 1}}} = \frac{\frac{(x^2-1)2x - (x^2+1)2x}{(x^2-1)^2}}{\frac{\frac{x^2+1}{x^2-1} \cdot \frac{2x}{x^2-1}}{\sqrt{\left( \frac{x^2+1}{x^2-1} \right)^2 - 1}}} = -\frac{2}{x^2 + 1}.$$

4.  $\frac{d}{dx} \arcsin \frac{x}{a} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{a^2 - x^2}}$

5.  $\frac{d}{dx} \operatorname{arccot}(x^2 - 5) = \frac{-2x}{1 + (x^2 - 5)^2}$

6.  $\frac{d}{dx} \arctan \frac{2x}{1-x^2} = \frac{2}{1+x^2}$

7.  $\frac{d}{dx} \operatorname{arccsc} \frac{1}{2x^2-1} = \frac{2}{\sqrt{1-x^2}}$

8.  $\frac{d}{dx} \operatorname{arcvers} 2x^2 = \frac{2}{\sqrt{1-x^2}}$

9.  $\frac{d}{dx} \arctan \sqrt{1-x} = -\frac{1}{2\sqrt{1-x}(2-x)}$

10.  $\frac{d}{dx} \operatorname{arccsc} \frac{3}{2x} = \frac{2}{9-4x^2}$

11.  $\frac{d}{dx} \operatorname{arcvers} \frac{2x^2}{1+x^2} = \frac{2}{1+x^2}$

12.  $\frac{d}{dx} \arctan \frac{x}{a} = \frac{a}{a^2+x^2}$

13.  $\frac{d}{dx} \arcsin \frac{x+1}{\sqrt{2}} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-2x-x^2}}$

14.  $f(x) = x\sqrt{a^2 - x^2} + a^2 \arcsin \frac{x}{a}$

Ans:  $f'(x) = 2\sqrt{a^2 - x^2}$

15.  $f(x) = \sqrt{a^2 - x^2} + a \arcsin \frac{x}{a}$

Ans:  $f'(x) = \left( \frac{a-x}{a+x} \right)^{\frac{1}{2}}$

16.  $x = r \operatorname{arcvers} \frac{y}{r} - \sqrt{2ry - y^2}$

Ans:  $\frac{dx}{dy} = \frac{y}{\sqrt{2ry - y^2}}$

### 5.33. EXAMPLE

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17.  $\theta = \arcsin(3r - 1)$

Ans:  $\frac{d\theta}{dr} = \frac{3}{\sqrt{6r-9r^2}}$

18.  $\phi = \arctan \frac{r+a}{1-ar}$

Ans:  $\frac{d\phi}{dr} = \frac{1}{1+r^2}$

19.  $s = \operatorname{arcsec} \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-t^2}}$

Ans:  $\frac{ds}{dt} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-t^2}}$

20.  $\frac{d}{dx}(x \arcsin x) = \arcsin x + \frac{x}{\sqrt{1-x^2}}$

21.  $\frac{d}{d\theta}(\tan \theta \arctan \theta) = \sec^2 \theta \arctan \theta + \frac{\tan \theta}{1+\theta^2}$

22.  $\frac{d}{dt}[\log(\arccos t)] = -\frac{1}{\arccos t \sqrt{1-t^2}}$

23.  $f(y) = \arccos(\log y)$

Ans:  $f'(y) = -\frac{1}{y\sqrt{1-(\log y)^2}}$

24.  $f(\theta) = \arcsin \sqrt{\sin \theta}$

Ans:  $f'(\theta) = \frac{1}{2}\sqrt{1+\csc \theta}$

25.  $f(\phi) = \arctan \sqrt{\frac{1-\cos \phi}{1+\cos \phi}}$

Ans:  $f'(\phi) = \frac{1}{2}$

26.  $p = e^{\arctan q}$

Ans:  $\frac{dp}{dq} = \frac{e^{\arctan q}}{1+q^2}$

27.  $u = \arctan \frac{e^v - e^{-v}}{2}$

Ans:  $\frac{du}{dv} = \frac{2}{e^v + e^{-v}}$

28.  $s = \arccos \frac{e^t - e^{-t}}{e^t + e^{-t}}$

Ans:  $\frac{ds}{dt} = -\frac{2}{e^v + e^{-v}}$

29.  $y = x^{\arcsin x}$

Ans:  $y' = x^{\arcsin x} \left( \frac{\arcsin x}{x} + \frac{\log x}{\sqrt{1-x^2}} \right)$

30.  $y = e^{x^x} \arctan x$

Ans:  $y' = e^{x^x} \left[ \frac{1}{1+x^2} + x^x \arctan x (1 + \log x) \right]$

31.  $y = \arcsin(\sin x)$

Ans:  $y' = 1$

32.  $y = \arctan \frac{4 \sin x}{3+5 \cos x}$

Ans:  $y' = \frac{4}{5+3 \cos x}$

33.  $y = \operatorname{arccot} \frac{a}{x} + \log \sqrt{\frac{x-a}{x+a}}$

Ans:  $y' = \frac{2ax^2}{x^4 - a^4}$

34.  $y = \log \left( \frac{1+x}{1-x} \right)^{\frac{1}{4}} - \frac{1}{2} \arctan x$

Ans:  $y' = \frac{x^2}{1-x^4}$

35.  $y = \sqrt{1-x^2} \arcsin x - x$

Ans:  $y' = -\frac{x \arcsin x}{\sqrt{1-x^2}}$

36. Compute the following derivatives:

$$\begin{array}{lll}
(a) \quad \frac{d}{dx} \arcsin 2x^2 & (f) \quad \frac{d}{dt} t^3 \arcsin \frac{t}{3} & (k) \quad \frac{d}{dy} \arcsin \sqrt{1-y^2} \\
(b) \quad \frac{d}{dx} \arctan a^2 x & (g) \quad \frac{d}{dt} e^{\arctan at} & (l) \quad \frac{d}{dz} \arctan(\log 3az) \\
(c) \quad \frac{d}{dx} \operatorname{arcsec} \frac{x}{a} & (h) \quad \frac{d}{d\phi} \tan \phi^2 \cdot \arctan \phi^{\frac{1}{2}} & (m) \quad \frac{d}{ds} (a^2 + s^2) \operatorname{arcsec} \frac{s}{2} \\
(d) \quad \frac{d}{dx} x \arccos x & (i) \quad \frac{d}{d\theta} \arcsin a^\theta & (n) \quad \frac{d}{d\alpha} \operatorname{arccot} \frac{2\alpha}{3} \\
(e) \quad \frac{d}{dx} x^2 \operatorname{arccot} ax & (j) \quad \frac{d}{d\theta} \arctan \sqrt{1+\theta^2} & (o) \quad \frac{d}{dt} \sqrt{1-t^2} \arcsin t
\end{array}$$

Formulas (5.1) for differentiating a function of a function, and (5.2) for differentiating inverse functions, have been added to the list of formulas at the beginning of this chapter as XXV and XXVI respectively.

In the next eight examples, first find  $\frac{dy}{dv}$  and  $\frac{dv}{dx}$  by differentiation and then substitute the results in  $\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{dy}{dv} \cdot \frac{dv}{dx}$  (by XXV) to find  $\frac{dy}{dx}$ . (As was pointed out in §5.11, it might be possible to eliminate  $v$  between the two given expressions so as to find  $y$  directly as a function of  $x$ , but in most cases the above method is to be preferred.)

In general our results should be expressed explicitly in terms of the independent variable; that is,  $\frac{dy}{dx}$  in terms of  $x$ ,  $\frac{dx}{dy}$  in terms of  $y$ ,  $\frac{d\phi}{d\theta}$  in terms of  $\theta$ , etc.

$$37. \quad y = 2v^2 - 4, \quad v = 3x^2 + 1.$$

$$\frac{dy}{dv} = 4v; \quad \frac{dv}{dx} = 6x; \quad \text{substituting in XXV, } \frac{dy}{dx} = 4v \cdot 6x = 24x(3x^2 + 1).$$

$$38. \quad y = \tan 2v, \quad v = \arctan(2x - 1).$$

$$\frac{dy}{dv} = 2 \sec^2 2v; \quad \frac{dv}{dx} = \frac{1}{2x^2 - 2x + 1}; \quad \text{substituting in XXV,}$$

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{2 \sec^2 2v}{2x^2 - 2x + 1} = 2 \frac{\tan^2 2v + 1}{2x^2 - 2x + 1} = \frac{2x^2 - 2x + 1}{2(x - x^2)^2}$$

$$(\text{since } v = \arctan(2x - 1), \tan v = 2x - 1, \tan 2v = \frac{2x-1}{2x-2x^2}).$$

$$39. \quad y = 3v^2 - 4v + 5, \quad v = 2x^3 - 5$$

$$\text{Ans: } \frac{dy}{dx} = 72x^5 -$$

$$204x^2$$

$$40. \quad y = \frac{2v}{3v-2}, \quad v = \frac{x}{2x-1}$$

$$\text{Ans: } \frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{4}{(x-2)^2}$$

$$41. \quad y = \log(a^2 - v^2)$$

$$\text{Ans: } \frac{dy}{dx} = -2 \tan x$$

$$42. \quad y = \arctan(a + v), \quad v = e^x$$

$$\text{Ans: } \frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{e^x}{1+(a+e^x)^2}$$

$$43. \quad r = e^{2s} + e^s, \quad s = \log(t - t^2)$$

$$\text{Ans: } \frac{dr}{dt} = 4t^3 -$$

$$6t^2 + 1$$

### 5.34. IMPLICIT FUNCTIONS

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In the following examples first find  $\frac{dx}{dy}$  by differentiation and then substitute in

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{1}{\frac{dx}{dy}} \quad \text{by XXVI}$$

to find  $\frac{dy}{dx}$ .

$$44. \quad x = y\sqrt{1+y}$$

$$\text{Ans: } \frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{2\sqrt{1+y}}{2+3y} = \frac{2x}{2y+3y^2}$$

$$45. \quad x = \sqrt{1+\cos y} - \frac{2}{\sqrt{2-x^2}}$$

$$\text{Ans: } \frac{dy}{dx} = -\frac{2\sqrt{1+\cos y}}{\sin y} =$$

$$46. \quad x = \frac{y}{1+\log y}$$

$$\text{Ans: } \frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{(1+\log y)^2}{\log y}$$

$$47. \quad x = a \log \frac{a+\sqrt{a^2-y^2}}{y}$$

$$\text{Ans: } \frac{dy}{dx} = -\frac{y\sqrt{a^2-y^2}}{a^2}$$

$$48. \quad x = \text{rarcvers } \frac{y}{r} - \sqrt{2ry - y^2}$$

$$\text{Ans: } \frac{dy}{dx} = \sqrt{\frac{2r-y}{y}}$$

49. Show that the geometrical significance of XXVI is that the tangent makes complementary angles with the two coordinate axes.

## 5.34 Implicit functions

When a relation between  $x$  and  $y$  is given by means of an equation not solved for  $y$ , then  $y$  is called an implicit function of  $x$ . For example, the equation

$$x^2 - 4y = 0$$

defines  $y$  as an implicit function of  $x$ . Evidently  $x$  is also defined by means of this equation as an implicit function of  $y$ . Similarly,

$$x^2 + y^2 + z^2 - a^2 = 0$$

defines anyone of the three variables as an implicit function of the other two.

It is sometimes possible to solve the equation defining an implicit function for one of the variables and thus change it into an explicit function. For instance, the above two implicit functions may be solved for  $y$ , giving  $y = \frac{x^2}{4}$  and  $y = \pm\sqrt{a^2 - x^2 - z^2}$ ; the first showing  $y$  as an explicit function of  $x$ , and the second as an explicit function of  $x$  and  $z$ . In a given case, however, such a solution may be either impossible or too complicated for convenient use.

The two implicit functions used in this section for illustration may be respectively denoted by  $f(x, y) = 0$  and  $F(x, y, z) = 0$ .



## 5.35 Differentiation of implicit functions

When  $y$  is defined as an implicit function of  $x$  by means of an equation in the form

$$f(x, y) = 0, \quad (5.4)$$

it was explained in the last section how it might be inconvenient to solve for  $y$  in terms of  $x$ ; that is, to find  $y$  as an explicit function of  $x$  so that the formulas we have deduced in this chapter may be applied directly. Such, for instance, would be the case for the equation

$$ax^6 + 2x^3y - y^7x - 10 = 0. \quad (5.5)$$

We then follow the rule:

*Differentiate, regarding  $y$  as a function of  $x$ , and put the result equal to zero*<sup>13</sup>. That is,

$$\frac{d}{dx}f(x, y) = 0. \quad (5.6)$$

Let us apply this rule in finding  $\frac{dy}{dx}$  from (5.5): by (5.6),

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dx}(ax^6 + 2x^3y - y^7x - 10) &= 0, \\ \frac{d}{dx}(ax^6) + \frac{d}{dx}(2x^3y) - \frac{d}{dx}(y^7x) - \frac{d}{dx}(10) &= 0; \\ 6ax^5 + 2x^3\frac{dy}{dx} + 6x^2y - y^7 - 7xy^6\frac{dy}{dx} &= 0; \\ (2x^3 - 7xy^6)\frac{dy}{dx} &= y^7 - 6ax^5 - 6x^2y; \\ \frac{dy}{dx} &= \frac{y^7 - 6ax^5 - 6x^2y}{2x^3 - 7xy^6}. \end{aligned}$$

This is the final answer.

The student should observe that in general the result will contain both  $x$  and  $y$ .

## 5.36 Exercises

Differentiate the following by the above rule:

$$1. \ y^2 = 4px \qquad \text{Ans: } \frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{2p}{y}$$

$$2. \ x^2 + y^2 = r^2 \qquad \text{Ans: } \frac{dy}{dx} = -\frac{x}{y}$$

---

<sup>13</sup>Only corresponding values of  $x$  and  $y$  which satisfy the given equation may be substituted in the derivative.

## 5.36. EXERCISES

---

3.  $b^2x^2 + a^2y^2 = a^2b^2$

Ans:  $\frac{dy}{dx} = -\frac{b^2x}{a^2y}$

4.  $y^3 - 3y + 2ax = 0$

Ans:  $\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{2a}{3(1-y^2)}$

5.  $x^{\frac{1}{2}} + y^{\frac{1}{2}} = a^{\frac{1}{2}}$

Ans:  $\frac{dy}{dx} = -\sqrt{\frac{y}{x}}$

6.  $x^{\frac{2}{3}} + y^{\frac{2}{3}} = a^{\frac{2}{3}}$

Ans:  $\frac{dy}{dx} = -\sqrt[3]{\frac{y}{x}}$

7.  $\left(\frac{x}{a}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{y}{b}\right)^{\frac{2}{3}} = 1$

Ans:  $\frac{dy}{dx} = -\frac{3b^{\frac{2}{3}}xy^{\frac{1}{3}}}{a^2}$

8.  $y^2 - 2xy + b^2 = 0$

Ans:  $\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{y}{y-x}$

9.  $x^3 + y^3 - 3axy = 0$

Ans:  $\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{ay-x^2}{y^2-ax}$

10.  $x^y = y^x$

Ans:  $\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{y^2 - xy \log y}{x^2 - xy \log x}$

11.  $\rho^2 = a^2 \cos 2\theta$

Ans:  $\frac{d\rho}{d\theta} = -\frac{a^2 \sin 2\theta}{\rho}$

12.  $\rho^2 \cos \theta = a^2 \sin 3\theta$

Ans:  $\frac{d\rho}{d\theta} = \frac{3a^2 \cos 3\theta + \rho^2 \sin \theta}{2\rho \cos \theta}$

13.  $\cos(uv) = cv$

Ans:  $\frac{du}{dv} = \frac{c+u \sin(uv)}{-v \sin(uv)}$

14.  $\theta = \cos(\theta + \phi)$

Ans:  $\frac{d\theta}{d\phi} = -\frac{\sin(\theta+\phi)}{1+\sin(\theta+\phi)}$

15. Find  $\frac{dy}{dx}$  from the following equations:

(a)  $x^2 = ay$

(f)  $xy + y^2 + 4x = 0$

(k)  $\tan x + y^3 = 0$

(b)  $x^2 + 4y^2 = 16$

(g)  $yx^2 - y^3 = 5$

(l)  $\cos y + 3x^2 = 0$

(c)  $b^2x^2 - a^2y^2 = a^2b^2$

(h)  $x^2 - 2x^3 = y^3$

(m)  $x \cot y + y = 0$

(d)  $y^2 = x^3 + a$

(i)  $x^2y^3 + 4y = 0$

(n)  $y^2 = \log x$

(e)  $x^2 - y^2 = 16$

(j)  $y^2 = \sin 2x$

(o)  $e^{x^2} + 2y^3 = 0$

16. A race track has the form of the circle  $x^2 + y^2 = 2500$ . The  $x$ -axis and  $y$ -axis are east and north respectively, and the unit is 1 rod<sup>14</sup>. If a runner starts east at the extreme north point, in what direction will he be going

(a) when  $25\sqrt{2}$  rods east of OY?

Ans. Southeast or southwest.

(b) when  $25\sqrt{2}$  rods north of OX?

Ans. Southeast or northeast.

(c) when 30 rods west of OY?

Ans. E.  $36^\circ 52' 12''$  N. or W.  $36^\circ 52' 12''$  N.

(d) when 40 rods south of OX?

(e) when 10 rods east of OY?

---

<sup>14</sup> The *rod* is a unit of length equal to 15.5 feet (about 5 meters).

17. An automobile course is elliptic in form, the major axis being 6 miles long and running east and west, while the minor axis is 2 miles long. If a car starts north at the extreme east point of the course, in what direction will the car be going
- (a) when 2 miles west of the starting point?
- (b) when  $1/2$  mile north of the starting point?

## 5.37 Miscellaneous Exercises

Differentiate the following functions:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. $\arcsin \sqrt{1 - 4x^2}$               | Ans: $\frac{-2}{\sqrt{1-4x^2}}$            |
| 2. $xe^{x^2}$                              | Ans: $e^{x^2}(2x^2 + 1)$                   |
| 3. $\log \sin \frac{v}{2}$                 | Ans: $\frac{1}{2} \cot \frac{v}{2}$        |
| 4. $\arccos \frac{a}{y}$                   | Ans: $\frac{a}{y\sqrt{y^2-a^2}}$           |
| 5. $\frac{x}{\sqrt{a^2-x^2}}$              | Ans: $\frac{a^2}{(a^2-x^2)^{\frac{3}{2}}}$ |
| 6. $\frac{x}{1+\log x}$                    | Ans: $\frac{\log x}{(1+\log x)^2}$         |
| 7. $\log \sec(1 - 2x)$                     | Ans: $-2 \tan(1 - 2x)$                     |
| 8. $x^2 e^{2-3x}$                          | Ans: $xe^{2-3x}(2 - 3x)$                   |
| 9. $\log \sqrt{\frac{1-\cos t}{1+\cos t}}$ | Ans: $\csc t$                              |

Here's how **SAGE** tackles this one:

```

sage: t = var("t")
sage: diff(log(sqrt((1-cos(t))/(1+cos(t))))) , t)
(cos(t) + 1)*(sin(t)/(cos(t) + 1) + (1 - cos(t))*sin(t)/(cos(t) + 1)^2)/(2*(1 - cos(t)))
sage: diff(log(sqrt((1-cos(t))/(1+cos(t))))) , t).simplify_trig()
-sin(t)/(cos(t)^2 - 1)

```

Since  $\cos(t)^2 - 1 = -\sin(t)^2$ , the result returned by **SAGE** agrees with the answer given.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 10. $\arcsin \sqrt{\frac{1}{2}(1 - \cos x)}$ | Ans: $\frac{1}{2}$ , for $x > 0$ ; $-\frac{1}{2}$ , for $x < 0$ . |
|--|---|

Here's how **SAGE** tackles this one:

### 5.37. MISCELLANEOUS EXERCISES

---

SAGE

```
sage: diff(arcsin(sqrt((1-cos(x))/2)),x)
sin(x)/(2*sqrt(2)*sqrt(1 - (1 - cos(x))/2)*sqrt(1 - cos(x)))
sage: diff(arcsin(sqrt((1-cos(x))/2)),x).simplify_trig()
sin(x)/(2*sqrt(1 - cos(x))*sqrt(cos(x) + 1))
sage: diff(arcsin(sqrt((1-cos(x))/2)),x).simplify_radical()
sin(x)/(2*sqrt(1 - cos(x))*sqrt(cos(x) + 1))
```

Here we see again that **SAGE** does not simplify the result down to the final answer. Nonetheless, `simplify_trig` is useful. Since

$$\sqrt{1 - \cos(x)}\sqrt{\cos(x) + 1} = \sqrt{(1 - \cos(x))^2} = \sqrt{\sin^2(x)} = \pm \sin(x),$$

we see the answer given is correct (at least for the interval  $-\pi < x < \pi$ ).

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 11. $\arctan \frac{2s}{\sqrt{s^2-1}}$                                  | Ans: $\frac{2}{(1-5s^2)\sqrt{s^2-1}}$             |
| 12. $(2x-1)\sqrt[3]{\frac{2}{1+x}}$                                    | Ans: $\frac{7+4x}{3(1+x)}\sqrt[3]{\frac{2}{1+x}}$ |
| 13. $\frac{x^3 \arcsin x}{3} + \frac{(x^2+2)\sqrt{1-x^2}}{9}$          | Ans: $x^2 \arcsin x$                              |
| 14. $\tan^2 \frac{\theta}{3} + \log \sec^2 \frac{\theta}{3}$           |   |
| 15. $\arctan \frac{1}{2}(e^{2x} + e^{-2x})$                            |   |
| 16. $\left(\frac{3}{x}\right)^{2x}$                                    |   |
| 17. $x^{\tan x}$   |   |
| 18. $\frac{(x+2)^{\frac{1}{3}}(x^2-1)^{\frac{2}{5}}}{x^{\frac{3}{2}}}$ |   |
| 19. $e^{\sec(1-3x)}$   |   |
| 20. $\arctan \sqrt{1-x^2}$   |   |
| 21. $\frac{z^2}{\cos z}$   |   |
| 22. $e^{\tan x^2}$   |   |
| 23. $\log \sin^2 \frac{1}{2}\theta$                                    |   |
| 24. $e^{ax} \log \sin ax$  |   |

Here's how **SAGE** tackles this Exercise:

---

SAGE

```
sage: a = var("a")
sage: diff(exp(a*x)*log(sin(a*x)),x)
a*e^(a*x)*log(sin(a*x)) + a*e^(a*x)*cos(a*x)/sin(a*x)
```

25.  $\sin 3\phi \cos \phi$

26.  $\frac{a}{2\sqrt{(b-cx^n)^m}}$

27.  $\frac{m+x}{1+m^2} \cdot \frac{e^{m \arctan x}}{\sqrt{1+x^2}}$

28.  $\tan^2 x - \log \sec^2 x$

29.  $\frac{3 \log(2 \cos x + 3 \sin x) + 2x}{13}$

30.  $\operatorname{arccot} \frac{a}{x} + \log \sqrt{\frac{x-a}{x+a}}$

31.  $(\log \tan(3 - x^2))^3$

32.  $\frac{2-3t^{\frac{1}{2}}+4t^{\frac{1}{3}}+t^2}{t}$

33.  $\frac{(1+x)(1-2x)(2+x)}{(3+x)(2-3x)}$

34.  $\arctan(\log 3x)$

Here's how **SAGE** tackles this one:

SAGE

```
sage: diff(arctan(log(3*x)),x)
1/(x*(log(3*x)^2 + 1))
```

35.  $\sqrt[3]{(b - ax^m)^n}$

Here's how **SAGE** tackles this one:

SAGE

```
sage: a,b,m,n = var("a,b,m,n")
sage: diff((b-a*x^m)^(n/3),x)
-a*m*n*x^(m-1)*(b-a*x^m)^(n/3-1)/3
```

36.  $\log \sqrt{(a^2 - bx^2)^m}$

37.  $\log \sqrt{\frac{y^2+1}{y^2-1}}$

38.  $e^{\operatorname{arcsec} 2\theta}$

39.  $\sqrt{\frac{(2-3x)^3}{1+4x}}$

40.  $\frac{\sqrt[3]{a^2-x^2}}{\cos x}$

41.  $e^x \log \sin x$

42.  $\arcsin \frac{x}{\sqrt{1+x^2}}$

### 5.37. MISCELLANEOUS EXERCISES

---

43.  $\arctan a^x$

44.  $a^{\sin^2 mx}$

Here's how **SAGE** tackles this one:

SAGE

```
sage: a,m = var("a,m")
sage: diff(a^(sin(m*x)^2),x)
2*a^sin(m*x)^2*log(a)*m*cos(m*x)*sin(m*x)
```

45.  $\cot^3(\log ax)$

46.  $(1 - 3x^2)e^{\frac{1}{x}}$

47.  $\log \frac{\sqrt{1-x^2}}{\sqrt[3]{1+x^3}}$

## Chapter 6

# Simple applications of the derivative

### 6.1 Direction of a curve

It was shown in §4.9, that if

$$y = f(x)$$

is the equation of a curve (see Figure 6.1),

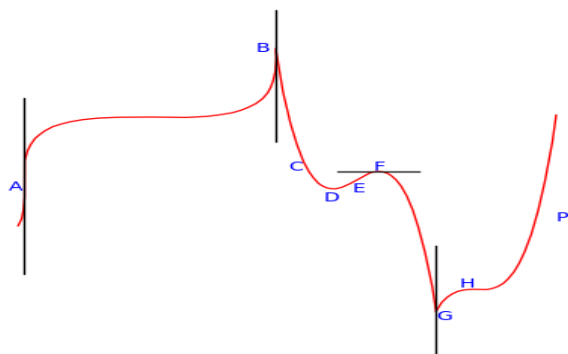


Figure 6.1: The derivative = slope of line tangent to the curve.

then

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \tan \tau = \text{slope of line tangent to the curve at any point } P.$$

## 6.1. DIRECTION OF A CURVE

---

The direction of a curve at any point is defined to be the same as the direction of the line tangent to the curve at that point. From this it follows at once that

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \tan \tau = \text{slope of the curve at any point } P.$$

At a particular point whose coordinates are known we write

$$\left[ \frac{dy}{dx} \right]_{x=x_1, y=y_1} = \text{slope of the curve (or tangent) at point } (x_1, y_1).$$

At points such as D, F, H, where the curve (or tangent) is parallel to the axis of  $x$ ,  $\tau = 0^\circ$ , therefore  $\frac{dy}{dx} = 0$ .

At points such as A, B, G, where the curve (or tangent) is perpendicular to the axis of  $x$ ,  $\tau = 90^\circ$ , therefore  $\frac{dy}{dx} = \infty$ .

At points such as E, where the curve is rising<sup>1</sup>,

$$\tau = \text{an acute angle; therefore } \frac{dy}{dx} = \text{a positive number.}$$

The curve (or tangent) has a positive slope to the left of B, between D and F, and to the right of G in Figure 6.1. At points such as C, where the curve is falling,

$$\tau = \text{an obtuse angle; therefore } \frac{dy}{dx} = \text{a negative number.}$$

The curve (or tangent) has a negative slope between B and D, and between F and G.

**Example 6.1.1.** Given the curve  $y = \frac{x^3}{3} - x^2 + 2$  (see Figure 6.2).

(a) Find  $\tau$  when  $x = 1$ .

(b) Find  $\tau$  when  $x = 3$ .

(c) Find the points where the curve is parallel to the  $x$ -axis.

(d) Find the points where  $\tau = 45^\circ$ .

(e) Find the points where the curve is parallel to the line  $2x - 3y = 6$ .

Differentiating,  $\frac{dy}{dx} = x^2 - 2x = \text{slope at any point.}$

(a)  $\tan \tau = \left[ \frac{dy}{dx} \right]_{x=1} = 1 - 2 = -1$ ; therefore  $\tau = 135^\circ = 3\pi/4$ .

(b)  $\tan \tau = \left[ \frac{dy}{dx} \right]_{x=3} = 9 - 6 = 3$ ; therefore  $\tau = \arctan 3 = 1.1071$  rad.

(c)  $\tau = 0^\circ$ ,  $\tan \tau = \frac{dy}{dx} = 0$ ; therefore  $x^2 - 2x = 0$ . Solving this equation, we find that  $x = 0$  or  $2$ , giving points C and D where the curve (or tangent) is parallel to the  $x$ -axis.

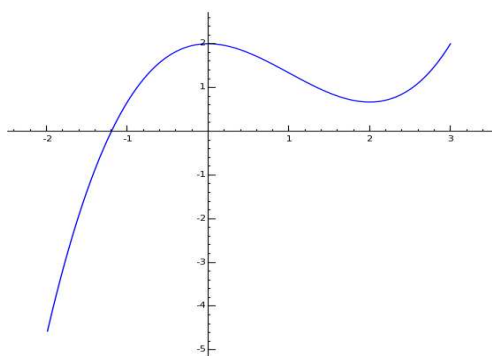
(d)  $\tau = 45^\circ$ ,  $\tan \tau = \frac{dy}{dx} = 1$ ; therefore  $x^2 - 2x = 1$ . Solving, we get  $x = 1 \pm \sqrt{2}$ , giving two points where the slope of the curve (or tangent) is unity.

(e) Slope of line  $= \frac{2}{3}$ ; therefore  $x^2 - 2x = \frac{2}{3}$ . Solving, we get  $x = 1 \pm \sqrt{\frac{5}{3}}$ , giving points E and F where curve (or tangent) is parallel to  $2x - 3y = 6$ .

---

<sup>1</sup>When moving from left to right on curve.



Figure 6.2: The graph of  $y = \frac{x^3}{3} - x^2 + 2$ .

Since a curve at any point has the same direction as its tangent at that point, the angle between two curves at a common point will be the angle between their tangents at that point.

**Example 6.1.2.** Find the angle of intersection of the circles

(A)  $x^2 + y^2 - 4x = 1$ ,

(B)  $x^2 + y^2 - 2y = 9$ .

Solution. Solving simultaneously, we find the points of intersection to be  $(3, 2)$  and  $(1, -2)$ . This can be verified “by hand” or using the **SAGE** `solve` command:

SAGE

```
sage: x = var("x")
sage: y = var("y")
sage: F = x^2 + y^2 - 4*x - 1
sage: G = x^2 + y^2 - 2*y - 9
sage: solve([F == 0, G == 0], x, y)
[[x == 1, y == -2], [x == 3, y == 2]]
```

Using (A), formulas in §5.35 give  $\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{2-x}{y}$ . Using (B), formulas in §5.35 give  $\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{x}{1-y}$ . Therefore,

$$\left[ \frac{2-x}{y} \right]_{x=3, y=2} = -\frac{1}{2} = \text{slope of tangent to (A) at } (3, 2).$$

$$\left[ \frac{x}{1-y} \right]_{x=3, y=2} = -3 = \text{slope of tangent to (B) at } (3, 2).$$

We can check this using the commands

## 6.2. EXERCISES

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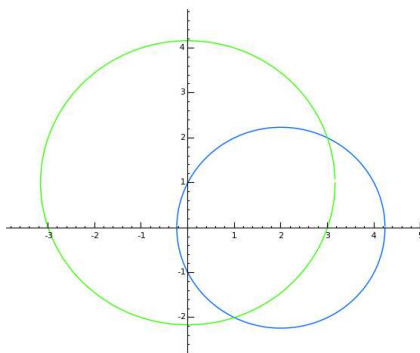


Figure 6.3: The graphs of  $x^2 + y^2 - 4x = 1$ ,  $x^2 + y^2 - 2y = 9$ .

SAGE

```
sage: x = var("x")
sage: y = function("y", x)
sage: F = x^2 + y^2 - 4*x - 1
sage: F.diff(x)
2*y(x)*diff(y(x), x, 1) + 2*x - 4
sage: solve(F.diff(x) == 0, diff(y(x), x, 1))
[diff(y(x), x, 1) == (2 - x)/y(x)]
sage: G = x^2 + y^2 - 2*y - 9
sage: G.diff(x)
2*y(x)*diff(y(x), x, 1) - 2*diff(y(x), x, 1) + 2*x
sage: solve(G.diff(x) == 0, diff(y(x), x, 1))
[diff(y(x), x, 1) == -x/(y(x) - 1)]
```

The formula for finding the angle between two lines whose slopes are  $m_1$  and  $m_2$  is

$$\tan \theta = \frac{m_1 - m_2}{1 + m_1 m_2},$$

by item 55, §1.1. Substituting,  $\tan \theta = \frac{-\frac{1}{2} + 3}{1 + \frac{3}{2}} = 1$ ; therefore  $\theta = \pi/4 = 45^\circ$ . This is also the angle of intersection at the point  $(1, -2)$ .

## 6.2 Exercises

The corresponding figure should be drawn in each of the following examples:

1. Find the slope of  $y = \frac{x}{1+x^2}$  at the origin.

Ans.  $1 = \tan \tau$ .

- 
2. What angle does the tangent to the curve  $x^2y^2 = a^3(x + y)$  at the origin make with the  $x$ -axis?  
Ans.  $\tau = 135^\circ = 3\pi/4$ .
3. What is the direction in which the point generating the graph of  $y = 3x^2 - x$  tends to move at the instant when  $x = 1$ ?  
Ans. Parallel to a line whose slope is 5.
4. Show that  $\frac{dy}{dx}$  (or slope) is constant for a straight line.
5. Find the points where the curve  $y = x^3 - 3x^2 - 9x + 5$  is parallel to the  $x$ -axis.  
Ans.  $x = 3, x = -1$ .
6. At what point on  $y^2 = 2x^3$  is the slope equal to 3?  
Ans.  $(2, 4)$ .
7. At what points on the circle  $x^2 + y^2 = r^2$  is the slope of the tangent line equal to  $-\frac{3}{4}$ ?  
Ans.  $(\pm\frac{3r}{5}, \pm\frac{4r}{5})$
8. Where will a point moving on the parabola  $y = x^2 - 7x + 3$  be moving parallel to the line  $y = 5x + 2$ ?  
Ans.  $(6, -3)$ .
9. Find the points where a particle moving on the circle  $x^2 + y^2 = 169$  moves perpendicular to the line  $5x + 12y = 60$ .  
Ans.  $(\pm 12, \mp 5)$ .
10. Show that all the curves of the system  $y = \log kx$  have the same slope; i.e. the slope is independent of  $k$ .
11. The path of the projectile from a mortar cannon lies on the parabola  $y = 2x - x^2$ ; the unit is 1 mile, the  $x$ -axis being horizontal and the  $y$ -axis vertical, and the origin being the point of projection. Find the direction of motion of the projectile
- (a) at instant of projection;
  - (b) when it strikes a vertical cliff  $\frac{3}{2}$  miles distant.
  - (c) Where will the path make an inclination of  $45^\circ = \pi/4$  with the horizontal?
  - (d) Where will the projectile travel horizontally?
- Ans. (a)  $\arctan 2$ ; (b)  $135^\circ = 3\pi/4$ ; (c)  $(\frac{1}{2}, \frac{3}{4})$ ; (d)  $(1, 1)$ .
12. If the cannon in the preceding example was situated on a hillside of inclination  $45^\circ = \pi/4$ , at what angle would a shot fired up strike the hillside?  
Ans.  $45^\circ = \pi/4$ .

### 6.3. EQUATIONS OF TANGENT AND NORMAL LINES

---

13. At what angles does a road following the line  $3y - 2x - 8 = 0$  intersect a railway track following the parabola  $y^2 = 8x$ ?

Ans.  $\arctan \frac{1}{5}$ , and  $\arctan \frac{1}{8}$ .

14. Find the angle of intersection between the parabola  $y^2 = 6x$  and the circle  $x^2 + y^2 = 16$ .

Ans.  $\arctan \frac{5}{3}\sqrt{3}$ .

15. Show that the hyperbola  $x^2 - y^2 = 5$  and the ellipse  $\frac{x^2}{18} + \frac{y^2}{8} = 1$  intersect at right angles.

16. Show that the circle  $x^2 + y^2 = 8ax$  and the cissoid  $y^2 = \frac{x^3}{2a-x}$

(a) are perpendicular at the origin;

(b) intersect at an angle of  $45^\circ = \pi/4$  at two other points.

17. Find the angle of intersection of the parabola  $x^2 = 4ay$  and the Witch of Agnesi,  $y = \frac{8a^3}{x^2+4a^2}$ .

Ans.  $\arctan 3 = 71^\circ 33' = 1.249\dots$

For the interesting history of this curve, see for example

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Witch\\_of\\_Agnesi](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Witch_of_Agnesi).

18. Show that the tangents to the Folium of Descartes,  $x^3 + y^3 = 3axy$  at the points where it meets the parabola  $y^2 = ax$  are parallel to the  $y$ -axis.

For some history of this curve, see for example

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Folium\\_of\\_Descartes](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Folium_of_Descartes).

19. At how many points will a particle moving on the curve  $y = x^3 - 2x^2 + x - 4$  be moving parallel to the  $x$ -axis? What are the points?

Ans. Two; at  $(1, -4)$  and  $(\frac{1}{3}, -\frac{104}{27})$ .

20. Find the angle at which the parabolas  $y = 3x^2 - 1$  and  $y = 2x^2 + 3$  intersect.

Ans.  $\arctan \frac{4}{97}$ .

21. Find the relation between the coefficients of the conics  $a_1x^2 + b_1y^2 = 1$  and  $a_2x^2 + b_2y^2 = 1$  when they intersect at right angles.

Ans.  $\frac{1}{a_1} - \frac{1}{b_1} = \frac{1}{b_2} - \frac{1}{a_2}$ .

### 6.3 Equations of tangent and normal lines

Full section title: *Equations of tangent and normal lines, lengths of subtangent and subnormal. Rectangular coordinates.*

The equation of a straight line passing through the point  $(x_1, y_1)$  and having the slope  $m$  is

$$y - y_1 = m(x - x_1)$$

(this is item 54, §1.1).

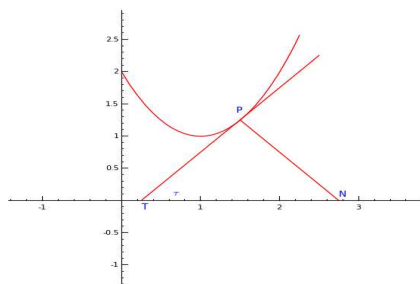


Figure 6.4: The tangent and normal line to a curve.

If this line is tangent to the curve AB at the point  $P_1(x_1, y_1)$ , then from §6.1,

$$m = \tan \tau = \left[ \frac{dy}{dx} \right]_{x=x_1, y=y_1} = \frac{dy}{dx} \Big|_{x=x_1, y=y_1}.$$

Hence at point of contact  $P_1(x_1, y_1)$  the equation of the *tangent line* (containing the segment  $TP_1$ ) is

$$y - y_1 = \left( \frac{dy}{dx} \Big|_{x=x_1, y=y_1} \right) (x - x_1). \quad (6.1)$$

The normal being perpendicular to tangent, its slope is

$$-\frac{1}{m} = -\frac{dx}{dy} \Big|_{x=x_1, y=y_1}$$

(item 55 in §1.1). And since it also passes through the point of contact  $P_1(x_1, y_1)$ , we have for the equation of the *normal line* (containing the segment  $P_1N$ )

$$y - y_1 = -\left( \frac{dx}{dy} \Big|_{x=x_1, y=y_1} \right) (x - x_1). \quad (6.2)$$

That portion of the tangent which is between  $P_1(x_1, y_1)$  and the point of contact with the  $x$ -axis is called the *length of the tangent* ( $= TP_1$ ), and its projection on the  $x$ -axis is called the *length of the subtangent*<sup>2</sup> ( $= TM$ ). Similarly, we have the *length of the normal* ( $= P_1N$ ) and the *length of the subnormal* ( $= MN$ ).

In the triangle  $TP_1M$ ,  $\tan \tau = \frac{MP_1}{TM}$ ; therefore<sup>3</sup>

---

<sup>2</sup>The subtangent is the segment obtained by projecting the portion  $TP_1$  of the tangent line onto the  $x$ -axis).

<sup>3</sup>If subtangent extends to the right of T, we consider it positive; if to the left, negative.

## 6.4. EXERCISES

---

$$TM = \frac{MP_1}{\tan \tau} = y_1 \frac{dx}{dy} \Big|_{x=x_1, y=y_1} = \text{length of subtangent.} \quad (6.3)$$

In the triangle  $MP_1N$ ,  $\tan \tau = \frac{MN}{MP_1}$ ; therefore<sup>4</sup>

$$MN = MP_1 \tan \tau = y_1 \frac{dy}{dx} \Big|_{x=x_1, y=y_1} = \text{length of subnormal.} \quad (6.4)$$

The length of tangent ( $= TP_1$ ) and the length of normal ( $= P_1N$ ) may then be found directly from Figure 6.4, each being the hypotenuse of a right triangle having the two legs known. Thus

$$\begin{aligned} TP_1 &= \sqrt{T\bar{M}^2 + \bar{M}P_1^2} \\ &= \sqrt{\left(y_1 \frac{dx}{dy} \Big|_{x=x_1, y=y_1}\right)^2 + (y_1)^2} \\ &= y_1 \sqrt{\left(\frac{dx}{dy} \Big|_{x=x_1, y=y_1}\right)^2 + 1} \\ &= \text{length of tangent.} \end{aligned} \quad (6.5)$$

Likewise,

$$\begin{aligned} P_1N &= \sqrt{\bar{M}N^2 + \bar{M}P_1^2} \\ &= \sqrt{\left(\frac{dy}{dx} \Big|_{x=x_1, y=y_1}\right)^2 + (y_1)^2} \\ &= y_1 \sqrt{\left(\frac{dy}{dx} \Big|_{x=x_1, y=y_1}\right)^2 + 1} \\ &= \text{length of normal.} \end{aligned} \quad (6.6)$$

The student is advised to get the lengths of the tangent and of the normal directly from the figure rather than by using these equations.

When the length of subtangent or subnormal at a point on a curve is determined, the tangent and normal may be easily constructed.

## 6.4 Exercises

1. Find the equations of tangent and normal, lengths of subtangent, subnormal tangent, and normal at the point  $(a, a)$  on the cissoid  $y^2 = \frac{x^3}{2a-x}$ .

Solution.  $\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{3ax^2 - x^3}{y(2a-x)^2}$ . Hence

$$\frac{dy_1}{dx_1} = \left[ \frac{dy}{dx} \right]_{x=a, y=a} = \frac{3a^3 - a^3}{a(2a-a)^2} = 2$$

is the slope of tangent. Substituting in (6.1) gives

$$y = 2x - a,$$

---

<sup>4</sup> If subnormal extends to the right of M, we consider it positive; if to the left, negative.

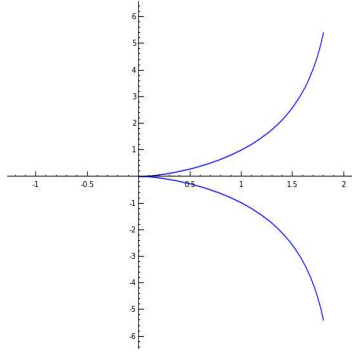


Figure 6.5: Graph of cissoid  $y^2 = \frac{x^3}{2a-x}$  with  $a = 1$ .

the equation of the tangent line. Substituting in (6.2) gives

$$2y + x = 3a,$$

the equation of the normal line. Substituting in (6.3) gives

$$TM = \frac{a}{2},$$

the length of subtangent. Substituting in (6.4) gives

$$MN = 2a,$$

the length of subnormal. Also

$$PT = \sqrt{(TM)^2 + (MP)^2} = \sqrt{\frac{a^2}{4} + a^2} = \frac{a}{2}\sqrt{5},$$

which is the length of tangent, and

$$PN = \sqrt{(MN)^2 + (MP)^2} = \sqrt{4a^2 + a^2} = a\sqrt{5},$$

the length of normal.

2. Find equations of tangent and normal to the ellipse  $x^2 + 2y^2 - 2xy - x = 0$  at the points where  $x = 1$ .

Ans. At  $(1, 0)$ ,  $2y = x - 1$ ,  $y + 2x = 2$ . At  $(1, 1)$ ,  $2y = x + 1$ ,  $y + 2x = 3$ .

3. Find equations of tangent and normal, lengths of subtangent and subnormal at the point  $(x_1, y_1)$  on the circle<sup>5</sup>  $x^2 + y^2 = r^2$ .

Ans.  $x_1x + y_1y = r^2$ ,  $x_1y - y_1x = 0$ ,  $-x_1$ ,  $-\frac{y_1^2}{x_1}$ .

<sup>5</sup>In Exs. 3 and 5 the student should notice that if we drop the subscripts in equations of tangents, they reduce to the equations of the curves themselves.

## 6.4. EXERCISES

4. Show that the subtangent to the parabola  $y^2 = 4px$  is bisected at the vertex, and that the subnormal is constant and equal to  $2p$ .
5. Find the equation of the tangent at  $(x_1, y_1)$  to the ellipse  $\frac{x^2}{a^2} + \frac{y^2}{b^2} = 1$ .

Ans.  $\frac{x_1 x}{a^2} + \frac{y_1 y}{b^2} = 1$ .

Here's how to find the length of tangent, normal, subtangent and subnormal of this in **SAGE** using the values  $a = 1$ ,  $b = 2$  (so  $x^2 + \frac{y^2}{4} = 1$ ) and  $x_1 = 4/5$ ,  $y_1 = 6/5$ .

SAGE

```
sage: x = var("x")
sage: y = var("y")
sage: F = x^2 + y^2/4 - 1
sage: Dx = -diff(F,y)/diff(F,x); Dx; Dx(4/5,6/5)
-y/(4*x)
-3/8
sage: Dy = -diff(F,x)/diff(F,y); Dy; Dy(4/5,6/5)
-4*x/y
-8/3
```

(For this **SAGE** calculation, we have used the fact that  $F(x, y) = 0$  implies  $F_x(x, y) + \frac{dy}{dx} F_y(x, y) = 0$ , where  $y$  is regarded as a function of  $x$ .) Therefore, we have (using (6.3))

$$\text{length of subtangent} = y_1 \frac{dx}{dy} \Big|_{x=x_1, y=y_1} = (6/5)(-3/8) = -9/20,$$

(using (6.4))

$$\text{length of subnormal} = y_1 \frac{dy}{dx} \Big|_{x=x_1, y=y_1} = (6/5)(-8/3) = -16/5,$$

(using (6.5))

$$\begin{aligned} \text{length of tangent} &= y_1 \sqrt{\left(\frac{dx}{dy} \Big|_{x=x_1, y=y_1}\right)^2 + 1} = (6/5) \sqrt{1 + \frac{9}{64}} \\ &= 3\sqrt{73}/20 = 1.2816... , \end{aligned}$$

and (using (6.6))

$$\begin{aligned} \text{length of normal} &= y_1 \sqrt{\left(\frac{dy}{dx} \Big|_{x=x_1, y=y_1}\right)^2 + 1} = (6/5) \sqrt{1 + \frac{64}{9}} \\ &= 2\sqrt{73}/5 = 3.4176... . \end{aligned}$$



6. Find equations of tangent and normal to the Witch of Agnesi  $y = \frac{8a^3}{4a^2+x^2}$  as at the point where  $x = 2a$ .

Ans.  $x + 2y = 4a$ ,  $y = 2x - 3a$ .

7. Prove that at any point on the catenary  $y = \frac{a}{2}(e^{\frac{x}{a}} + e^{-\frac{x}{a}})$  the lengths of subnormal and normal are  $\frac{a}{4}(e^{\frac{2x}{a}} - e^{-\frac{2x}{a}})$  and  $\frac{y^2}{a}$  respectively.
8. Find equations of tangent and normal, lengths of subtangent and subnormal, to each of the following curves at the points indicated:

(a)  $y = x^3$  at  $(\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{8})$

(e)  $y = 9 - x^2$  at  $(-3, 0)$

(b)  $y^2 = 4x$  at  $(9, -6)$

(f)  $x^2 = 6y$  where  $x = -6$

(c)  $x^2 + 5y^2 = 14$  where  $y = 1$

(g)  $x^2 - xy + 2x - 9 = 0$  at  $(3, 2)$

(d)  $x^2 + y^2 = 25$  at  $(-3, -4)$

(h)  $2x^2 - y^2 = 14$  at  $(3, -2)$

9. Prove that the length of subtangent to  $y = a^x$  is constant and equal to  $\frac{1}{\log a}$ .
10. Get the equation of tangent to the parabola  $y^2 = 20x$  which makes an angle of  $45^\circ = \pi/4$  with the  $x$ -axis.  
Ans.  $y = x + 5$ . (Hint: First find point of contact by method of Example 6.1.1.)
11. Find equations of tangents to the circle  $x^2 + y^2 = 52$  which are parallel to the line  $2x + 3y = 6$ .  
Ans.  $2x + 3y \pm 26 = 0$
12. Find equations of tangents to the hyperbola  $4x^2 - 9y^2 + 36 = 0$  which are perpendicular to the line  $2y + 5x = 10$ .  
Ans.  $2x - 5y \pm 8 = 0$ .
13. Show that in the equilateral hyperbola  $2xy = a^2$  the area of the triangle formed by a tangent and the coordinate axes is constant and equal to  $a^2$ .
14. Find equations of tangents and normals to the curve  $y^2 = 2x^2 - x^3$  at the points where  $x = 1$ .  
Ans. At  $(1, 1)$ ,  $2y = x + 1$ ,  $y + 2x = 3$ . At  $(1, -1)$ ,  $2y = -x - 1$ ,  $y - 2x = -3$ .
15. Show that the sum of the intercepts of the tangent to the parabola  $x^{\frac{1}{2}} + y^{\frac{1}{2}} = a^{\frac{1}{2}}$ .
16. Find the equation of tangent to the curve  $x^2(x + y) = a^2(x - y)$  at the origin.

## 6.5. PARAMETRIC EQUATIONS OF A CURVE

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17. Show that for the hypocycloid  $x^{\frac{2}{3}} + y^{\frac{2}{3}} = a^{\frac{2}{3}}$  that portion of the tangent included between the coordinate axes is constant and equal to  $a$ .

(This curve is parameterized by  $x = a \cos(t)^3$ ,  $y = a \sin(t)^3$ ,  $0 \leq t \leq 2\pi$ . Parametric equations shall be discussed in the next section.)

18. Show that the curve  $y = ae^{\frac{x}{c}}$  has a constant subtangent.

## 6.5 Parametric equations of a curve

Let the equation of a curve be

$$F(x, y) = 0. \quad (6.7)$$

If  $x$  is given as a function of a third variable,  $t$  say, called a *parameter*, then by virtue of (6.7)  $y$  is also a function of  $t$ , and the same functional relation (6.7) between  $x$  and  $y$  may generally be expressed by means of equations in the form

$$\begin{cases} x = f(t), \\ y = g(t) \end{cases} \quad (6.8)$$

each value of  $t$  giving a value of  $x$  and a value of  $y$ . Equations (6.8) are called *parametric equations of the curve*. If we eliminate  $t$  between equations (6.8), it is evident that the relation (6.7) must result.

**Example 6.5.1.** For example, take equation of circle

$$x^2 + y^2 = r^2 \text{ or } y = \sqrt{r^2 - x^2}.$$

We have

$$\begin{cases} x = r \cos t \\ y = r \sin t \end{cases} \quad (6.9)$$

as parametric equations of the circle,  $t$  being the parameter<sup>6</sup>.

If we eliminate  $t$  between equations (6.9) by squaring and adding the results, we have

$$x^2 + y^2 = r^2(\cos^2 t + \sin^2 t) = r^2,$$

the rectangular equation of the circle. It is evident that if  $t$  varies from 0 to  $2\pi$ , the point  $P(x, y)$  will describe a complete circumference.

---

<sup>6</sup>Parameterizations are not unique. Another set of parametric equations of the first quadrant of the circle is given by  $x = \frac{\sqrt{2t}}{\sqrt{1+t^2}}$ ,  $y = \frac{1-t}{\sqrt{1+t^2}}$ , for example.

In §6.13 we shall discuss the motion of a point  $P$ , which motion is defined by equations such as

$$\begin{cases} x = f(t), \\ y = g(t) \end{cases}$$

We call these the *parametric equations of the path*, the time  $t$  being the parameter.

**Example 6.5.2.** Newtonian physics tells us that

$$\begin{cases} x = v_0 \cos \alpha \cdot t, \\ y = -\frac{1}{2}gt^2 + v_0 \sin \alpha \cdot t \end{cases}$$

are really the parametric equations of the trajectory of a projectile<sup>7</sup>, the time  $t$  being the parameter. The elimination of  $t$  gives the rectangular equation of the trajectory

$$y = x \tan \alpha - \frac{gx^2}{2v_0^2 \cos^2 \alpha}.$$

Since from (6.8)  $y$  is given as a function of  $t$ , and  $t$  as a function of  $x$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{dy}{dx} &= \frac{dy}{dt} \cdot \frac{dt}{dx} && \text{by XXV} \\ &= \frac{dy}{dt} \cdot \frac{1}{\frac{dx}{dt}} && \text{by XXVI} \end{aligned}$$

that is,

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{\frac{dy}{dt}}{\frac{dx}{dt}} = \frac{g'(t)}{f'(t)}. \quad (6.10)$$

Hence, if the parametric equations of a curve are given, we can find equations of tangent and normal, lengths of subtangent and subnormal at a given point on the curve, by first finding the value of  $\frac{dy}{dx}$  at that point from (6.10) and then substituting in formulas (6.1), (6.2), (6.3), (6.4) of the last section.

**Example 6.5.3.** Find equations of tangent and normal, lengths of subtangent and subnormal to the ellipse

$$\begin{cases} x = a \cos \phi, \\ y = b \sin \phi, \end{cases} \quad (6.11)$$

at the point where  $\phi = \frac{\pi}{4}$ .

As in Figure 6.6 draw the major and minor auxiliary circles of the ellipse. Through two points B and C on the same radius draw lines parallel to the axes of coordinates. These lines will intersect in a point  $P(x, y)$  on the ellipse,

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<sup>7</sup>Subject to (downward) gravitational force but no wind resistance or other external forces.

## 6.5. PARAMETRIC EQUATIONS OF A CURVE

because  $x = OA = OB \cos \phi = a \cos \phi$  and  $y = AP = OD = OC \sin \phi = b \sin \phi$ , or,  $\frac{x}{a} = \cos \phi$  and  $\frac{y}{b} = \sin \phi$ . Now squaring and adding, we get

$$\frac{x^2}{a^2} + \frac{y^2}{b^2} = \cos^2 \phi + \sin^2 \phi = 1,$$

the rectangular equation of the ellipse.  $\phi$  is sometimes called the *eccentric angle* of the ellipse at the point P.

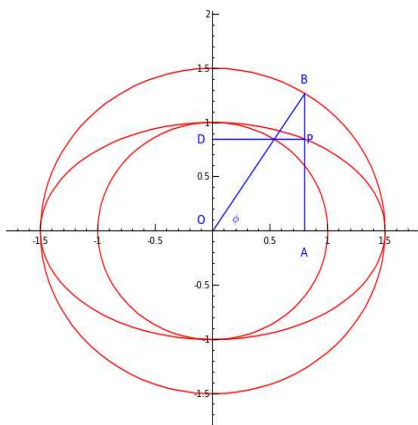


Figure 6.6: Auxiliary circles of an ellipse.

Solution. The parameter being  $\phi$ ,  $\frac{dx}{d\phi} = -a \sin \phi$ ,  $\frac{dy}{d\phi} = b \cos \phi$ .

Substituting  $\phi = \frac{\pi}{4}$  in the given equations (6.11), we get  $\left(\frac{a}{\sqrt{2}}, \frac{b}{\sqrt{2}}\right)$  as the point of contact. Hence  $\frac{dy}{dx}|_{x=x_1, y=y_1} = -\frac{b}{a}$ . Substituting in (6.1),

$$y - \frac{b}{\sqrt{2}} = -\frac{b}{a} \left(x - \frac{a}{\sqrt{2}}\right),$$

or,  $bx + ay = \sqrt{2}ab$ , the equation of tangent. Substituting in (6.2),

$$y - \frac{b}{\sqrt{2}} = \frac{a}{b} \left(x - \frac{a}{\sqrt{2}}\right),$$

or,  $\sqrt{2}(ax - by) = a^2 - b^2$ , the equation of normal. Substituting in (6.3) and (6.4), we find

$$\frac{b}{\sqrt{2}} \left(-\frac{b}{a}\right) = -\frac{b^2}{a\sqrt{2}},$$

the length of subnormal, and

$$\frac{b}{\sqrt{2}} \left(-\frac{a}{b}\right) = -\frac{a}{\sqrt{2}},$$

the length of subtangent.

**Example 6.5.4.** Given equation of the cycloid in parametric form

$$\begin{cases} x = a(\theta - \sin \theta), \\ y = a(1 - \cos \theta), \end{cases}$$

$\theta$  being the variable parameter; find lengths of subtangent, subnormal, tangent, and normal at the point where  $\theta = \frac{\pi}{2}$ .

The path described by a point on the circumference of a circle which rolls without sliding on a fixed straight line is called the *cycloid*. Let the radius of the rolling circle be  $a$ , P the generating point, and M the point of contact with the fixed line OX, which is called *the base*. If arc PM equals OM in length, then P will touch at O if the circle is rolled to the left. We have, denoting angle POM by  $\theta$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} x &= OM - NM = a\theta - a \sin \theta = a(\theta - \sin \theta), \\ y &= PN = MC - AC = a - a \cos \theta = a(1 - \cos \theta), \end{aligned}$$

the parametric equations of the cycloid, the angle  $\theta$  through which the rolling circle turns being the parameter.  $OD = 2\pi a$  is called the *base of one arch* of the cycloid, and the point V is called the *vertex*. Eliminating  $\theta$ , we get the rectangular equation

$$x = a \arccos \left( \frac{a - y}{a} \right) - \sqrt{2ay - y^2}.$$

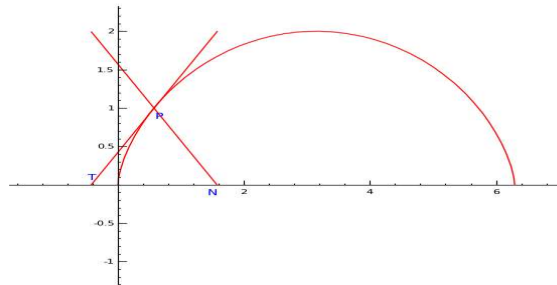


Figure 6.7: Tangent line of a cycloid.

The **SAGE** commands for creating this plot are as follows:

**SAGE**

```
sage: t = var("t")
sage: f1 = lambda t: [t-sin(t),1-cos(t)]
sage: p1 = parametric_plot(f1(t), 0.0, 2*pi, rgbcolor=(1,0,0))
sage: f2 = lambda t: [t+RR(pi)/2-1,t+1]
sage: p2 = parametric_plot(f2(t), -1, 1, rgbcolor=(1,0,0))
sage: f3 = lambda t: [-t+RR(pi)/2,t]
sage: p3 = parametric_plot(f3(t), -1, 1, rgbcolor=(1,0,0))
```

## 6.6. EXERCISES

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```
sage: t1 = text("P", (RR(pi)/2-1+0.1,1-0.1))
sage: t2 = text("T", (-0.4,0.1))
sage: t3 = text("N", (RR(pi)/2,0))
sage: show(p1+p2+p3+t1+t2+t3)
```

Solution:

$$\frac{dx}{d\theta} = a(1 - \cos \theta), \quad \frac{dy}{d\theta} = a \sin \theta.$$

Substituting in (6.10),

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{\sin \theta}{1 - \cos \theta},$$

the slope at any point. Since  $\theta = \frac{\pi}{2}$ , the point of contact is  $(\frac{\pi a}{2} - a, a)$ , and  $\frac{dy}{dx}|_{x=x_1, y=y_1} = 1$ .

Substituting in (6.3), (6.4), (6.5), (6.6) of the last section, we get

length of subtangent =  $a$ ,

length of subnormal =  $a$ ,

length of tangent =  $a\sqrt{2}$ ,

length of normal =  $a\sqrt{2}$ .

## 6.6 Exercises

Find equations of tangent and normal, lengths of subtangent and subnormal to each of the following curves at the point indicated:

1. Curve:  $x = t^2$ ,  $2y = t$ ;

Point:  $t = 1$ .

Tangent line:  $x - 4y + 1 = 0$ ;

Normal line:  $8x + 2y - 9 = 0$ ;

Subtangent: 2;

Subnormal:  $\frac{1}{8}$ .

2. Curve:  $x = t$ ,  $y = t^3$ ;

Point:  $t = 2$ .

Tangent line:  $12x - y - 16 = 0$ ;

Normal line:  $x + 12y - 98 = 0$ ;

Subtangent:  $\frac{2}{3}$ ;

Subnormal: 96.

3. Curve:  $x = t^2$ ,  $y = t^3$ ;  
 Point:  $t = 1$ .  
 Tangent line:  $3x - 2y - 1 = 0$ ;  
 Normal line:  $2x + 3y - 5 = 0$ ;  
 Subtangent:  $\frac{2}{3}$ ;  
 Subnormal:  $\frac{3}{2}$ .
4. Curve:  $x = 2e^t$ ,  $y = e^{-t}$ ;  
 Point:  $t = 0$ .  
 Tangent line:  $x + 2y - 4 = 0$ ;  
 Normal line:  $2x - y - 3 = 0$ ;  
 Subtangent:  $-2$ ;  
 Subnormal:  $-\frac{1}{2}$ .
5. Curve:  $x = \sin t$ ,  $y = \cos 2t$ ;  
 Point:  $t = \frac{\pi}{6}$ .  
 Tangent line:  $2y + 4x - 3 = 0$ ;  
 Normal line:  $4y - 2x - 1 = 0$ ;  
 Subtangent:  $-\frac{1}{4}$ ;  
 Subnormal:  $-1$ .

**SAGE** can help with the computations here:

SAGE

```
sage: t = var("t")
sage: x = sin(t)
sage: y = cos(2*t)
sage: t0 = pi/6
sage: y_x = diff(y,t)/diff(x,t)
sage: y_x
-2*sin(2*t)/cos(t)
sage: y_x(t0)
-2
sage: m = y_x(t0); x0 = x(t0); y0 = y(t0)
sage: X,Y = var("X,Y")
sage: Y - y0 == m*(X - x0)
Y - 1/2 == -2*(X - 1/2)
```

The last line is the point-slope form of the tangent line of the parametric curve at that point  $t_0 = \pi/6$  (so,  $(x_0, y_0) = (\sin(t_0), \cos(2t_0)) =$

## 6.6. EXERCISES

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$(1/2, 1/2)$ ). We use  $X$  and  $Y$  in place of  $x$  and  $y$  so as to not over-ride the entries that **SAGE** has stored for them. Continuing the above **SAGE** computations:

SAGE

```
sage: x_y = diff(x,t)/diff(y,t)
sage: len_subtan = y(t0)*x_y(t0); len_subtan
-1/4
sage:
sage: len_subnor = y(t0)*y_x(t0); len_subnor
-1
sage: len_tan = y(t0)*sqrt(x_y(t0)^2+1); len_tan
sqrt(5)/4
sage: len_nor = y(t0)*sqrt(y_x(t0)^2+1); len_nor
sqrt(5)/2
```

These tell us the length of the subtangent is  $-\frac{1}{4}$  (as expected), as well as the lengths of the subnormal, tangent and normal, using formulas (6.10), (6.3), (6.4), (6.5), (6.6) of the last section.

6. Curve:  $x = 1 - t$ ,  $y = t^2$ ;  
Point:  $t = 3$ .
7. Curve:  $x = 3t$ ;  $y = 6t - t^2$ ;  
Point:  $t = 0$ .
8. Curve:  $x = t^3$ ;  $y = t$ ;  
Point:  $t = 2$ .
9. Curve:  $x = t^3$ ,  $y = t^2$ ;  
Point:  $t = -1$ .
10. Curve:  $x = 2 - t$ ;  $y = 3t^2$ ;  
Point:  $t = 1$ .
11. Curve:  $x = \cos t$ ,  $y = \sin 2t$ ;  
Point:  $t = \frac{\pi}{3}$ .
12. Curve:  $x = 3e^{-t}$ ,  $y = 2e^t$ ;  
Point:  $t = 0$ .
13. Curve:  $x = \sin t$ ,  $y = 2 \cos t$ ;  
Point:  $t = \frac{\pi}{4}$ .
14. Curve:  $x = 4 \cos t$ ,  $y = 3 \sin t$ ;  
Point:  $t = \frac{\pi}{2}$ .



15. Curve:

Point:

In the following curves find lengths of (a) subtangent, (b) subnormal, (c) tangent, (d) normal, at any point:

16. The curve

$$\begin{cases} x = a(\cos t + t \sin t), \\ y = a(\sin t - t \cos t). \end{cases}$$

Ans. (a)  $y \cot t$ , (b)  $y \tan t$ , (c)  $\frac{y}{\sin t}$ , (d)  $\frac{y}{\cos t}$ .

17. The hypocycloid (astroid)

$$\begin{cases} x = 4a \cos^3 t, \\ y = 4a \sin^3 t. \end{cases}$$

Ans. (a)  $-y \cot t$ , (b)  $-y \tan t$ , (c)  $\frac{y}{\sin t}$ , (d)  $\frac{y}{\cos t}$ .

18. The circle

$$\begin{cases} x = r \cos t, \\ y = r \sin t. \end{cases}$$

19. The cardioid

$$\begin{cases} x = a(2 \cos t - \cos 2t), \\ y = a(2 \sin t - \sin 2t). \end{cases}$$

20. The folium

$$\begin{cases} x = \frac{3t}{1+t^3} \\ y = \frac{3t^2}{1+t^3}. \end{cases}$$

21. The hyperbolic spiral

$$\begin{cases} x = \frac{a}{t} \cos t \\ y = \frac{a}{t} \sin t \end{cases}$$

## 6.7 Angle between the radius vector and tangent

Angle between the radius vector drawn to a point on a curve and the tangent to the curve at that point. Let the equation of the curve in polar coordinates be  $\rho = f(\theta)$ .

Let P be any fixed point  $(\rho, \theta)$  on the curve. If  $\theta$ , which we assume as the independent variable, takes on an increment  $\Delta\theta$ , then  $\rho$  will take on a corresponding increment  $\Delta\rho$ .

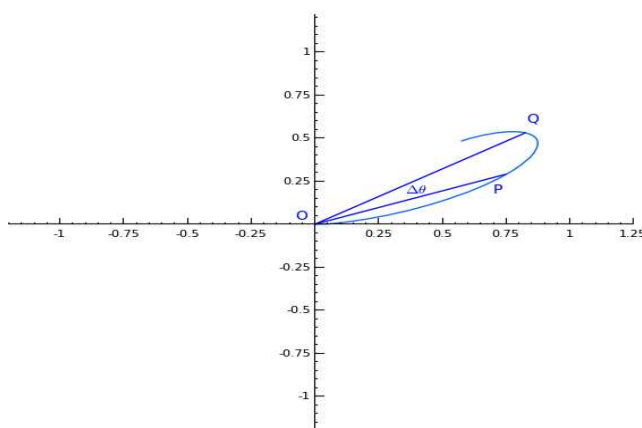


Figure 6.8: Angle between the radius vector drawn to a point on a curve and the tangent to the curve at that point.

Denote by Q the point  $(\rho + \Delta\rho, \theta + \Delta\theta)$ . Draw PR perpendicular to OQ. Then  $OQ = \rho + \Delta\rho$ ,  $PR = \rho \sin \Delta\theta$ , and  $OR = \rho \cos \Delta\theta$ . Also,

$$\tan PQR = \frac{PR}{RQ} = \frac{PR}{OQ - OR} = \frac{\rho \sin \Delta\theta}{\rho + \Delta\rho - \rho \cos \Delta\theta}.$$

Denote by  $\psi$  the angle between the radius vector OP and the tangent PT. If we now let  $\Delta\theta$  approach the limit zero, then

- (a) the point Q will approach indefinitely near P;
- (b) the secant PQ will approach the tangent PT as a limiting position; and
- (c) the angle PQR will approach  $\psi$  as a limit.

Hence

$$\tan \psi = \lim_{\Delta\theta \rightarrow 0} \frac{\rho \Delta\theta}{\rho + \Delta\rho - \rho \cos \Delta\theta} = \lim_{\Delta\theta \rightarrow 0} \frac{\rho \Delta\theta}{2\rho \sin^2 \frac{\Delta\theta}{2} + \Delta\rho}$$

## 6.7. ANGLE BETWEEN THE RADIUS VECTOR AND TANGENT

(since, from 39, §1.1,  $\rho - \rho \cos \Delta\theta = \rho(1 - \cos \Delta\theta) = 2\rho \sin^2 \frac{\Delta\theta}{2}$ ). Dividing both numerator and denominator by  $\Delta\theta$ , this is

$$= \lim_{\Delta\theta \rightarrow 0} \frac{\frac{\rho \sin \Delta\theta}{\Delta\theta}}{\frac{2\rho \sin^2 \frac{\Delta\theta}{2}}{\Delta\theta} + \frac{\Delta\rho}{\Delta\theta}} = \lim_{\Delta\theta \rightarrow 0} \frac{\rho \cdot \frac{\sin \Delta\theta}{\Delta\theta}}{\rho \sin \frac{\Delta\theta}{2} \cdot \frac{\sin \frac{\Delta\theta}{2}}{\frac{\Delta\theta}{2}} + \frac{\Delta\rho}{\Delta\theta}}.$$

Since

$$\lim_{\Delta\theta \rightarrow 0} \left( \frac{\Delta\rho}{\Delta\theta} \right) = \frac{d\rho}{d\theta} \text{ and } \lim_{\Delta\theta \rightarrow 0} \left( \sin \frac{\Delta\theta}{2} \right) = 0,$$

also

$$\lim_{\Delta\theta \rightarrow 0} \left( \frac{\sin \Delta\theta}{\Delta\theta} \right) = 1$$

and

$$\lim_{\Delta\theta \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sin \frac{\Delta\theta}{2}}{\frac{\Delta\theta}{2}} = 1$$

by §3.10, we have

$$\tan \psi = \frac{\rho}{\frac{d\rho}{d\theta}} \quad (6.12)$$

From the triangle OPT we get

$$\tau = \theta + \psi. \quad (6.13)$$

Having found  $\tau$ , we may then find  $\tan \tau$ , the slope of the tangent to the curve at P. Or since, from (6.13),

$$\tan \tau = \tan(\theta + \psi) = \frac{\tan \theta + \tan \psi}{1 - \tan \theta \tan \psi}$$

we may calculate  $\tan \psi$  from (6.12) and substitute in the formula

$$\text{slope of tangent} = \tan \tau = \frac{\tan \theta + \tan \psi}{1 - \tan \theta \tan \psi}. \quad (6.14)$$

**Example 6.7.1.** Find  $\psi$  and  $\tau$  in the cardioid  $\psi = a(1 - \cos \theta)$ . Also find the slope at  $\theta = \frac{\pi}{6}$ .

Solution.  $\frac{d\psi}{d\theta} = a \sin \theta$ . Substituting in (6.12) gives

$$\tan \psi = \frac{\rho}{\frac{d\rho}{d\theta}} = \frac{a(1 - \cos \theta)}{a \sin \theta} = \frac{2a \sin^2 \frac{\theta}{2}}{2a \sin \frac{\theta}{2} \cos \frac{\theta}{2}} = \tan \frac{\theta}{2},$$

by items 39 and 37, §1.1. Since  $\tan \psi = \tan \frac{\theta}{2}$ , we have  $\psi = \frac{\theta}{2}$ .

Substituting in (6.13),  $\tau = \theta + \frac{\theta}{2} = \frac{3\theta}{2}$ . so

$$\tan \tau = \tan \frac{\pi}{4} = 1.$$

## 6.7. ANGLE BETWEEN THE RADIUS VECTOR AND TANGENT

To find the angle of intersection  $\phi$  of two curves  $C$  and  $C'$  whose equations are given in polar coordinates, we may proceed as follows:

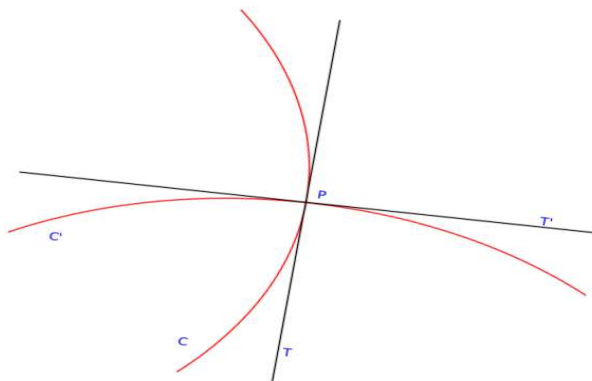


Figure 6.9: The angle between two curves.

$$\text{angle } TPT' = \text{angle } OPT' - \text{angle } OPT,$$

or,  $\phi = \psi' - \psi$ . Hence

$$\tan \phi = \frac{\tan \psi' - \tan \psi}{1 + \tan \psi' \tan \psi}, \quad (6.15)$$

where  $\tan \psi'$  and  $\tan \psi$  are calculated by (6.12) from the two curves and evaluated for the point of intersection.

**Example 6.7.2.** Find the angle of intersection of the curves  $\rho = a \sin 2\theta$ ,  $\rho = a \cos 2\theta$ .

**Solution.** Solving the two equations simultaneously, we get at the point of intersection

$$\tan 2\theta = 1, \quad 2\theta = 45^\circ = \pi/4, \quad \theta = \frac{45^\circ}{2} = \pi/8.$$

From the first curve, using (6.12),

$$\tan \psi' = \frac{1}{2} \tan 2\theta = \frac{1}{2},$$

for  $\theta = \frac{45^\circ}{2} = \pi/8$ . From the second curve,

$$\tan \psi = -\frac{1}{2} \cot 2\theta = -\frac{1}{2},$$

for  $\theta = \frac{45^\circ}{2} = \pi/8$ .

Substituting in ((6.15),

$$\tan \psi = \frac{\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2}}{1 - \frac{1}{4}} = \frac{4}{3}.$$

therefore  $\psi = \arctan \frac{4}{3}$ .

## 6.8 Lengths of polar subtangent and polar subnormal

Draw a line NT through the origin perpendicular to the radius vector of the point P on the curve. If PT is the tangent and PN the normal to the curve at P, then<sup>8</sup>

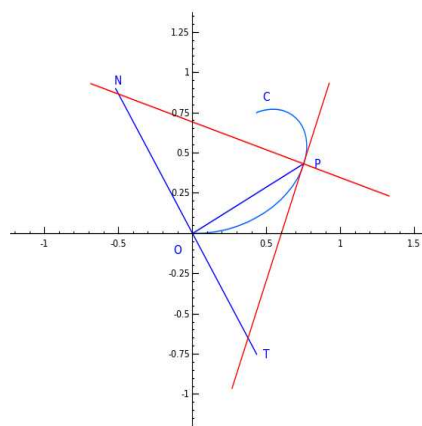


Figure 6.10: The polar subtangent and polar subnormal.

$OT$  = length of polar subtangent,

and

$ON$  = length of polar subnormal

of the curve at P.

In the triangle OPT,  $\tan \psi = \frac{OT}{\rho}$ . Therefore

$$OT = \rho \tan \psi = \rho^2 \frac{d\theta}{d\rho} = \text{length of polar subtangent.} \quad (6.16)$$

In the triangle OPN,  $\tan \psi = \frac{\rho}{ON}$ . Therefore

$$ON = \frac{\rho}{\tan \psi} = \frac{d\rho}{d\theta} = \text{length of polar subnormal.} \quad (6.17)$$

<sup>8</sup>When  $\theta$  increases with  $\rho$ ,  $\frac{d\theta}{d\rho}$  is positive and  $\rho$  is an acute angle, as in Figure 6.10. Then the subtangent  $OT$  is positive and is measured to the right of an observer placed at O and looking along OP. When  $\frac{d\theta}{d\rho}$  is negative, the subtangent is negative and is measured to the left of the observer.

## 6.9. EXAMPLES

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The length of the polar tangent (= PT) and the length of the polar normal (= PN) may be found from the figure, each being the hypotenuse of a right triangle.

**Example 6.8.1.** Find lengths of polar subtangent and subnormal to the lemniscate  $\rho^2 = a^2 \cos 2\theta$ .

Solution. Differentiating the equation of the curve as an implicit function with respect to  $\theta$ , or,  $2\rho \frac{d\rho}{d\theta} = -2a^2 \sin 2\theta$ ,  $\frac{d\rho}{d\theta} = -\frac{a^2 \sin 2\theta}{\rho}$ .

Substituting in (6.16) and (6.17), we get

$$\begin{aligned}\text{length of polar subtangent} &= -\frac{\rho^3}{a^2 \sin 2\theta}, \\ \text{length of polar subnormal} &= -\frac{a^2 \sin 2\theta}{\rho}.\end{aligned}$$

If we wish to express the results in terms of  $\theta$ , find  $\rho$  in terms of  $\theta$  from the given equation and substitute. Thus, in the above,  $\rho = \pm a\sqrt{\cos 2\theta}$ ; therefore

$$\text{length of polar subtangent} = \pm a \cot 2\theta \sqrt{\cos 2\theta}.$$

## 6.9 Examples

1. In the circle  $\rho = r \sin \theta$ , find  $\psi$  and  $\tau$  in terms of  $\theta$ .

Solution:  $\psi = \theta$ ,  $\tau = 2\theta$ .

2. In the parabola  $\rho = a \sec^{\frac{\theta}{2}}$ , show that  $\tau + \psi = \pi$ .
3. In the curve  $\rho^2 = a^2 \cos 2\theta$ , show that  $2\psi = \pi + 4\theta$ .
4. Show that  $\psi$  is constant in the logarithmic spiral  $\rho = e^{a\theta}$ . Since the tangent makes a constant angle with the radius vector, this curve is also called the equiangular spiral.
5. Given the curve  $\rho = a \sin^3 \frac{\theta}{3}$ , prove that  $\tau = 4\psi$ .

**SAGE** can help with this problem. Using (6.12) but with  $t$  in place of  $\theta$  for typographical simplicity, we have

**SAGE**

```
sage: a,t = var("a,t")
sage: r = a*sin(t/3)^3
sage: tanpsi = r/diff(r,t); tanpsi
sin(t/3)/cos(t/3)
```

Therefore,  $\tan(\psi) = \tan(\theta/3)$ , so  $\theta = 3\psi$ . Therefore, according to (6.13), we have  $\tau = \theta + \psi = 3\psi + \psi = 4\psi$ , as expected.

6. Show that  $\tan \psi = \theta$  in the spiral of Archimedes  $\rho = a\theta$ . Find values of  $\psi$  when  $\theta = 2\pi$  and  $4\pi$ .

Solution:  $\psi = 80^\circ 57' = 1.4128\dots$  and  $85^\circ 27' = 1.4913\dots$

7. Find the angle between the straight line  $\rho \cos \theta = 2a$  and the circle  $\rho = 5a \sin \theta$ .

Solution:  $\arctan \frac{3}{4}$ .

8. Show that the parabolas  $\rho = a \sec^2 \frac{\theta}{2}$  and  $\rho = b \csc^2 \frac{\theta}{2}$  intersect at right angles.

9. Find the angle of intersection of  $\rho = a \sin \theta$  and  $\rho = a \sin 2\theta$ .

Solution: At origin  $0^\circ$ ; at two other points  $\arctan 3\sqrt{3}$ .

10. Find the slopes of the following curves at the points designated:

curve	point	solution (if given)
(a) $\rho = a(l - \cos \theta)$	$\theta = \frac{\pi}{2}$	-1
(b) $\rho = a \sec^2 \theta$	$\rho = 2a$	3
(c) $\rho = a \sin 4\theta$	origin	$0, 1, \infty, -1$
(d) $\rho^2 = a^2 \sin 4\theta$	origin	$0, 1, \infty, -1$
(e) $\rho = a \sin 3\theta$	origin	$0, \sqrt{3}, -\sqrt{3}$
(f) $\rho = a \cos 3\theta$	origin	
(g) $\rho = a \cos 2\theta$	origin	
(h) $\rho = a \sin 2\theta$	$\theta = \frac{\pi}{4}$	
(i) $\rho = a \sin 3\theta$	$\theta = \frac{2\pi}{3}$	
(j) $\rho = a\theta$	$\theta = \frac{\pi}{2}$	
(k) $\rho\theta = a$	$\theta = \frac{\pi}{2}$	
(l) $\rho = e^\theta$	$\theta = 0$	

11. Prove that the spiral of Archimedes  $\rho = a\theta$ , and the reciprocal spiral  $\rho = \frac{a}{\theta}$ , intersect at right angles.

12. Find the angle between the parabola  $\rho = a \sec^2 \frac{\theta}{2}$  and the straight line  $\rho \sin \theta = 2a$ .

Solution:  $45^\circ = \pi/4$ .

13. Show that the two cardioids  $\rho = a(1 + \cos \theta)$  and  $\rho = a(1 - \cos \theta)$  cut each other perpendicularly.

14. Find lengths of subtangent, subnormal, tangent, and normal of the spiral of Archimedes  $\rho = a\theta$ .

Solution: subt. =  $\frac{\rho^2}{a}$ , tan. =  $\frac{\rho}{a} \sqrt{a^2 + \rho^2}$ , subn. =  $a$ , nor. =  $\sqrt{a^2 + \rho^2}$ .  
The student should note the fact that the subnormal is constant.

## 6.10. SOLUTION OF EQUATIONS HAVING MULTIPLE ROOTS

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15. Get lengths of subtangent, subnormal, tangent, and normal in the logarithmic spiral  $\rho = a^\theta$ .

Solution: subt. =  $\frac{\rho}{\log a}$ , tan. =  $\rho\sqrt{1 + \frac{1}{\log^2 a}}$ , subn. =  $\rho \log a$ , nor. =  $\rho\sqrt{1 + \log^2 a}$ .

When  $a = e$ , we notice that subt. = subn., and tan. = nor.

16. Find the angles between the curves  $\rho = a(1 + \cos \theta)$  and  $\rho = b(1 - \cos \theta)$ .

Solution: 0 and  $\frac{\pi}{2}$ .

17. Show that the reciprocal spiral  $\rho = \frac{a}{\theta}$  has a constant subtangent.

18. Show that the equilateral hyperbolas  $\rho^2 \sin 2\theta = a^2$ ,  $\rho^2 \cos 2\theta = b^2$  intersect at right angles.

## 6.10 Solution of equations having multiple roots

Any root which occurs more than once in an equation is called a *multiple root*. Thus 3, 3, 3, -2 are the roots of

$$x^4 - 7x^3 + 9x^2 + 27x - 54 = 0;$$

hence 3 is a multiple root occurring three times. Evidently this equation may also be written in the form

$$(x - 3)^3(x + 2) = 0.$$

Let  $f(x)$  denote an integral rational function of  $x$  having a multiple root  $a$ , and suppose it occurs  $m$  times. Then we may write

$$f(x) = (x - a)^m \phi(x), \quad (6.18)$$

where  $\phi(x)$  is the product of the factors corresponding to all the roots of  $f(x)$  differing from  $a$ . Differentiating (6.18),

$$f'(x) = (x - a)^m \phi'(x) + m\phi(x)(x - a)^{m-1},$$

or,

$$f'(x) = (x - a)^{m-1}[(x - a)\phi'(x) + m\phi(x)]. \quad (6.19)$$

Therefore  $f'(x)$  contains the factor  $(x - a)$  repeated  $m - 1$  times and no more; that is, the *highest common factor* (H.C.F.) of  $f(x)$  and  $f'(x)$  has  $m - 1$  roots equal to  $a$ .

In case  $f(x)$  has a second multiple root  $\beta$  occurring  $r$  times, it is evident that the H.C.F. would also contain the factor  $(x - \beta)^{r-1}$  and so on for any number of different multiple roots, each occurring once more in  $f(x)$  than in the H.C.F.

We may then state a *rule for finding the multiple roots* of an equation  $f(x) = 0$  as follows:



- FIRST STEP. Find  $f'(x)$ .
- SECOND STEP. Find the H.C.F. of  $f(x)$  and  $f'(x)$ .
- THIRD STEP. Find the roots of the H.C.F. Each different root of the H.C.F. will occur once more in  $f(x)$  than it does in the H.C.F.

If it turns out that the H.C.F. does not involve  $x$ , then  $f(x)$  has no multiple roots and the above process is of no assistance in the solution of the equation, but it may be of interest to know that the equation has no equal, i.e. multiple, roots.

**Example 6.10.1.** Solve the equation  $x^3 - 8x^2 + 13x - 6 = 0$ .

Solution. Place  $f(x) = x^3 - 8x^2 + 13x - 6$ .

First step.  $f'(x) = 3x^2 - 16x + 13$ .

Second step. H.C.F. =  $x - 1$ .

Third step.  $x - 1 = 0$ , therefore  $x = 1$ .

Since 1 occurs once as a root in the H.C.F., it will occur twice in the given equation; that is,  $(x-1)^2$  will occur there as a factor. Dividing  $x^3 - 8x^2 + 13x - 6$  by  $(x-1)^2$  gives the only remaining factor  $(x-6)$ , yielding the root 6. The roots of our equation are then 1, 1, 6. Drawing the graph of the function, we see that at the double root  $x = 1$  the graph touches the  $x$ -axis but does not cross it.

Note: Since the first derivative vanishes for every multiple root, it follows that the  $x$ -axis is tangent to the graph at all points corresponding to multiple roots. If a multiple root occurs an even number of times, the graph will not cross the  $x$ -axis at such a point (see Figure 6.11); if it occurs an odd number of times, the graph will cross.

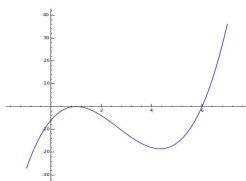


Figure 6.11: plot of  $f(x) = (x-1)^2(x-6)$  illustrating a multiple root.

## 6.11 Examples

1.  $x^3 - 7x^2 + 16x - 12 = 0$ .

Ans. 2, 2, 3.

2.  $x^4 - 6x^2 - 8x - 3 = 0$ .

3.  $x^4 - 7x^3 + 9x^2 + 27x - 64 = 0$ .

Ans. 3, 3, 3, -2.

## 6.11. EXAMPLES

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4.  $x^4 - 5x^3 - 9x^2 + 81x - 108 = 0$ .

Ans. 3, 3, 3, -4.

5.  $x^4 + 6x^3 + x^2 - 24x + 16 = 0$ .

Ans. 1, 1, -4, -4.

6.  $x^4 - 9x^3 + 23x^2 - 3x - 36 = 0$ .

Ans. 3, 3, -1, 4.

7.  $x^4 - 6x^3 + 10x^2 - 8 = 0$ .

Ans. 2, 2,  $1 \pm \sqrt{3}$ .

SAGE can help with this problem.

SAGE

```
sage: x = var("x")
sage: solve(x^4 - 6*x^3 + 10*x^2 - 8 == 0, x)
[x == 1 - sqrt(3), x == sqrt(3) + 1, x == 2]
sage: factor(x^4 - 6*x^3 + 10*x^2 - 8)
(x - 2)^2*(x^2 - 2*x - 2)
```

This tells use that the root 2 occurs with multiplicity 2.

8.  $x^5 - x^4 - 5x^3 + x^2 + 8x + 4 = 0$ .

SAGE can help with this problem.

SAGE

```
sage: x = var("x")
sage: solve(x^5 - 15*x^3 + 10*x^2 + 60*x - 72 == 0, x)
[x == -3, x == 2]
sage: factor(x^5 - 15*x^3 + 10*x^2 + 60*x - 72)
(x - 2)^3*(x + 3)^2
```

This tells use that the root 2 occurs with multiplicity 3 and the root -3 occurs with multiplicity 2, as expected.

9.  $x^5 - 15x^3 + 10x^2 + 60x - 72 = 0$ .

Ans. 2, 2, 2, -3, -3.

10.  $x^5 - 3x^4 - 5x^3 + 13x^2 + 24x + 10 = 0$ .

Show that the following four equations have no multiple (equal) roots:

11.  $x^3 + 9x^2 + 2x - 48 = 0$ .
12.  $x^4 - 15x^2 - 10x + 24 = 0$ .
13.  $x^4 - 3x^3 - 6x^2 + 14x + 12 = 0$ .
14.  $x^n - a^n = 0$ .
15. Show that the condition that the equation

$$x^3 + 3qx + r = 0$$

shall have a double root is  $4q^3 + r^2 = 0$ .

16. Show that the condition that the equation

$$x^3 + 3px^2 + r = 0$$

shall have a double root is  $r(4p^3 + r) = 0$ .

## 6.12 Applications of the derivative in mechanics

Included also are applications to velocity and rectilinear motion.

Consider the motion of a point P on the straight line AB.



Figure 6.12: Scan of Granville's graphic of the rectilinear motion.

Let  $s$  be the distance measured from some fixed point as A to any position of P, and let  $t$  be the corresponding elapsed time. To each value of  $t$  corresponds a position of P and therefore a distance (or space)  $s$ . Hence  $s$  will be a function of  $t$ , and we may write

$$s = f(t)$$

Now let  $t$  take on an increment  $\Delta t$ ; then  $s$  takes on an increment<sup>9</sup>  $\Delta s$ , and

$$\frac{\Delta s}{\Delta t} = \text{the average velocity} \quad (6.20)$$

of P during the time interval  $\Delta t$ . If P moves with uniform motion, the above ratio will have the same value for every interval of time and is the velocity at any instant.

---

<sup>9</sup> $s$  being the space or distance passed over in the time  $\Delta t$ .

## 6.12. APPLICATIONS OF THE DERIVATIVE IN MECHANICS

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For the general case of any kind of motion, uniform or not, we define the *velocity* (or, time rate of change of  $s$ ) at any instant as the limit of the ratio  $\frac{\Delta s}{\Delta t}$  as  $\Delta t$  approaches the limit zero; that is,

$$v = \lim_{\Delta t \rightarrow 0} \frac{\Delta s}{\Delta t},$$

or

$$v = \frac{ds}{dt} \quad (6.21)$$

*The velocity is the derivative of the distance (= space) with respect to the time.*

To show that this agrees with the conception we already have of velocity, let us find the velocity of a falling body at the end of two seconds.

By experiment it has been found that a body falling freely from rest in a vacuum near the earth's surface follows approximately the law

$$s = 16.1t^2 \quad (6.22)$$

where  $s$  = space fallen in feet,  $t$  = time in seconds. Apply the General Rule, §4.7, to (6.22).

FIRST STEP.  $s + \Delta s = 16.1(t + \Delta t)^2 = 16.1t^2 + 32.2t \cdot \Delta t + 16.1(\Delta t)^2$ .

SECOND STEP.  $\Delta s = 32.2t \cdot \Delta t + 16.1(\Delta t)^2$ .

THIRD STEP.  $\frac{\Delta s}{\Delta t} = 32.2t + 16.1\Delta t$  = average velocity throughout the time interval  $\Delta t$ .

Placing  $t = 2$ ,

$$\frac{\Delta s}{\Delta t} = 64.4 + 16.1\Delta t \quad (6.23)$$

which equals the average velocity throughout the time interval  $\Delta t$  after two seconds of falling. Our notion of velocity tells us at once that (6.23) does not give us the actual velocity at the end of two seconds; for even if we take  $\Delta t$  very small, say  $\frac{1}{100}$  or  $\frac{1}{1000}$  of a second, (6.23) still gives only the average velocity during the corresponding small interval of time. But what we do mean by the velocity at the end of two seconds is the limit of the average velocity when  $\Delta t$  diminishes towards zero; that is, the velocity at the end of two seconds is from (6.23), 64.4 ft. per second.

Thus even the everyday notion of velocity which we get from experience involves the idea of a limit, or in our notation

$$v = \lim_{\Delta t \rightarrow 0} \left( \frac{\Delta s}{\Delta t} \right) = 64.4 \text{ ft./sec.}$$

The above example illustrates well the notion of a limiting value. The student should be impressed with the idea that a limiting value is a definite, fixed value, not something that is only approximated. Observe that it does not make any difference how small  $16.1\Delta t$  may be taken; it is only the limiting value of  $64.4 + 16.1\Delta t$ , when  $\Delta t$  diminishes towards zero, that is of importance, and that value is exactly 64.4.

### 6.13 Component velocities. Curvilinear motion.

The coordinates  $x$  and  $y$  of a point P moving in the  $xy$ -plane are also functions of the time, and the motion may be defined by means of two equations<sup>10</sup>,  $x = f(t)$ ,  $y = g(t)$ . These are the parametric equations of the path (see §6.5).

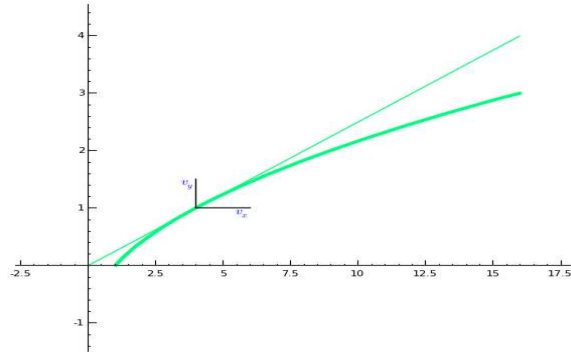


Figure 6.13: The components of velocity.

The horizontal component<sup>11</sup>  $v_x$  of  $v$  is the velocity along the  $x$ -axis of the projection M of P, and is therefore the time rate of change of  $x$ . Hence, from (6.21), when  $s$  is replaced by  $x$ , we get

$$v_x = \frac{dx}{dt}. \quad (6.24)$$

In the same way we get the vertical component, or time rate of change of  $y$ ,

$$v_y = \frac{dy}{dt}. \quad (6.25)$$

Representing the velocity and its components by vectors, we have at once from the figure

$$v^2 = v_x^2 + v_y^2,$$

or,

$$v = \frac{ds}{dt} = \sqrt{\left(\frac{dx}{dt}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{dy}{dt}\right)^2}, \quad (6.26)$$

giving the magnitude of the velocity at any instant.

If  $\tau$  be the angle which the direction of the velocity makes with the  $x$ -axis; we have from the figure, using (6.21), (6.24), (6.25),

<sup>10</sup>The equation of the path in rectangular coordinates may be found by eliminating  $t$  between their equations.

<sup>11</sup>The direction of  $v$  is along the tangent to the path.

$$\sin \tau = \frac{v_y}{v} = \frac{\frac{dy}{dt}}{\frac{ds}{dt}}; \quad \cos \tau = \frac{v_x}{v} = \frac{\frac{dx}{dt}}{\frac{ds}{dt}}; \quad \tan \tau = \frac{v_y}{v_x} = \frac{\frac{dy}{dt}}{\frac{dx}{dt}}. \quad (6.27)$$

## 6.14 Acceleration. Rectilinear motion.

In general,  $v$  will be a function of  $t$ . Now let  $t$  take on an increment  $\Delta t$ , then  $v$  takes on an increment  $\Delta v$ , and  $\frac{\Delta v}{\Delta t}$  is the average acceleration of P during the time interval  $\Delta t$ . We define the *acceleration*  $a$  at any instant as the limit of the ratio  $\frac{\Delta v}{\Delta t}$  as  $\Delta t$  approaches the limit zero; that is,

$$a = \lim_{\Delta t \rightarrow 0} \left( \frac{\Delta v}{\Delta t} \right),$$

or,

$$a = \frac{dv}{dt} \quad (6.28)$$

*The acceleration is the derivative of the velocity with respect to time.*

## 6.15 Component accelerations. Curvilinear motion.

In treatises on Mechanics it is shown that in curvilinear motion the acceleration is not, like the velocity, directed along the tangent, but toward the concave side, of the path of motion. It may be resolved into a tangential component,  $a_t$ , and a normal component,  $a_n$  where

$$a_t = \frac{dv}{dt}; \quad a_n = \frac{v^2}{R}. \quad (6.29)$$

( $R$  is the radius of curvature. See §12.5.)

The acceleration may also be resolved into components parallel to the axes of the path of motion. Following the same plan used in §6.13 for finding component velocities, we define the component accelerations parallel to the  $x$ -axis and  $y$ -axis,

$$a_x = \frac{dv_x}{dt}; \quad a_y = \frac{dv_y}{dt}. \quad (6.30)$$

Also,

$$a = \sqrt{\left( \frac{dv_x}{dt} \right)^2 + \left( \frac{dv_y}{dt} \right)^2}, \quad (6.31)$$

which gives the magnitude of the acceleration at any instant.

## 6.16 Examples

1. By experiment it has been found that a body falling freely from rest in a vacuum near the earth's surface follows approximately the law  $s = 16.1t^2$ , where  $s$  = space (height) in feet,  $t$  = time in seconds. Find the velocity and acceleration

- (a) at any instant;
- (b) at end of the first second;
- (c) at end of the fifth second.

Solution. We have  $s = 16.1t^2$ .

- (a) Differentiating,  $\frac{ds}{dt} = 32.2t$ , or, from (6.21),  $v = 32.2t$  ft./sec. Differentiating again,  $\frac{dv}{dt} = 32.2$ , or, from (6.28),  $a = 32.2$  ft./sec.<sup>2</sup>, which tells us that the acceleration of a falling body is constant; in other words, the velocity increases 32.2 ft./sec. every second it keeps on falling.
  - (b) To find  $v$  and  $a$  at the end of the first second, substitute  $t = 1$  to get  $v = 32.2$  ft./sec.,  $a = 32.2$  ft./sec.<sup>2</sup>.
  - (c) To find  $v$  and  $a$  at the end of the fifth second, substitute  $t = 5$  to get  $v = 161$  ft./sec.,  $a = 32.2$  ft./sec.<sup>2</sup>.
2. Neglecting the resistance of the air, the equations of motion for a projectile are

$$x = v_0 \cos \phi \cdot t, \quad y = v_0 \sin \phi \cdot t - 16.1t^2;$$

where  $v_0$  = initial velocity,  $\phi$  = angle of projection with horizon,  $t$  = time of flight in seconds,  $x$  and  $y$  being measured in feet. Find the velocity, acceleration, component velocities, and component accelerations

- (a) at any instant;
- (b) at the end of the first second, having given  $v_0 = 100$  ft. per sec.,  $\phi = 30^\circ = \pi/6$ ;
- (c) find direction of motion at the end of the first second.

Solution. From (6.24) and (6.25), (a)  $v_x = v_0 \cos \phi$ ;  $v_y = v_0 \sin \phi - 32.2t$ . Also, from (6.26),  $v = \sqrt{v_0^2 - 64.4tv_0 \sin \phi + 1036.8t^2}$ . From (6.30) and (6.31),  $a_x = 0$ ;  $a_y = 32.2$ ;  $a = 32.2$ .

(b) Substituting  $t = 1$ ,  $v_0 = 100$ ,  $\phi = 30^\circ = \pi/6$  in these results, we get  $v_x = 86.6$  ft./sec.,  $a_x = 0$ ;  $v_y = 17.8$  ft./sec.,  $a_y = -32.2$  ft./sec.<sup>2</sup>;  $v = 88.4$  ft./sec.,  $a = 32.2$  ft./sec.<sup>2</sup>.

(c)  $\tau = \arctan \frac{v_y}{v_x} = \arctan \frac{17.8}{86.6} = 0.2027... \approx 11^\circ$ , which is the angle of direction of motion with the horizontal.

## 6.16. EXAMPLES

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3. Given the following equations of rectilinear motion. Find the distance, velocity, and acceleration at the instant indicated:

(a)  $s = t^3 + 2t^2$ ;  $t = 2$ .

Ans.  $s = 16$ ,  $v = 20$ ,  $a = 16$ .

(b)  $s = t^2 + 2t$ ;  $t = 3$ .

Ans.  $s = 15$ ,  $v = 8$ ,  $a = 2$ .

(c)  $s = 3 - 4t$ ;  $t = 4$ .

Ans.  $s = -13$ ,  $v = -4$ ,  $a = 0$ .

(d)  $x = 2t - t^2$ ;  $t = 1$ .

Ans.  $x = 1$ ,  $v = 0$ ,  $a = -2$ .

(e)  $y = 2t - t^3$ ;  $t = 0$ .

Ans.  $y = 0$ ,  $v = 2$ ,  $a = 0$ .

(f)  $h = 20t + 16t^2$ ;  $t = 10$ .

Ans.  $h = 1800$ ,  $v = 340$ ,  $a = 32$ .

(g)  $s = 2 \sin t$ ;  $t = \frac{\pi}{4}$ .

Ans.  $s = \sqrt{2}$ ,  $v = \sqrt{2}$ ,  $a = -\sqrt{2}$ .

(h)  $y = a \cos \frac{\pi t}{3}$ ;  $t = 1$ .

Ans.  $y = \frac{a}{2}$ ,  $v = -\frac{\pi a \sqrt{3}}{6}$ ,  $a = -\frac{\pi^2 a}{18}$ .

(i)  $s = 2e^{3t}$ ;  $t = 0$ .

Ans.  $s = 2$ ,  $v = 6$ ,  $a = 18$ .

(j)  $s = 2t^2 - 3t$ ;  $t = 2$ .

(k)  $x = 4 + t^3$ ;  $t = 3$ .

(l)  $y = 5 \cos 2t$ ;  $t = \frac{\pi}{6}$ .

(m)  $s = b \sin \frac{\pi t}{4}$ ;  $t = 2$ .

(n)  $x = ae^{-2t}$ ;  $t = 1$ .

(o)  $s = \frac{a}{t} + bt^2$ ;  $t = t_0$ .

(p)  $s = 10 \log \frac{4}{4+t}$ ;  $t = 1$ .

4. If a projectile be given an initial velocity of 200 ft. per sec. in a direction inclined  $45^\circ = \pi/4$  with the horizontal, find

- (a) the velocity and direction of motion at the end of the third and sixth seconds;

- (b) the component velocities at the same instants.

Conditions are the same as for Exercise 2.

Ans.

- (a) When  $t = 3$ ,  $v = 148.3$  ft. per sec.,  $\tau = 0.3068... = 17^\circ 35'$ ; when  $t = 6$ ,  $v = 150.5$  ft. per sec.,  $\tau = 2.79049... = 159^\circ 53'$ ;

- (b) When  $t = 3$ ,  $v_x = 141.4$  ft. per sec.,  $v_y = 44.8$  ft. per sec.; when  $t = 6$ ,  $v_x = 141.4$  ft. per sec.,  $v_y = -51.8$  ft. per sec.



5. The height ( $= s$ ) in feet reached in  $t$  seconds by a body projected vertically upwards with a velocity of  $v_0$  ft. per sec. is given by the formula  $s = v_0t - 16.1t^2$ . Find

(a) velocity and acceleration at any instant; and, if  $v_0 = 300$  ft. per sec., find velocity and acceleration

(b) at end of 2 seconds;

(c) at end of 15 seconds. Resistance of air is neglected.

Ans. (a)  $v = v_0 - 32.2t$ ,  $a = -32.2$ ; (b)  $v = 235.6$  ft. per sec. Upwards,  $a = 32.2$  ft. per (sec.)<sup>2</sup> downwards; (c)  $v = 183$  ft. per sec. Downwards,  $a = 32.2$  ft. per (sec.)<sup>2</sup> downwards.

6. A cannon ball is fired vertically upwards with a muzzle velocity of 644 ft. per sec. Find (a) its velocity at the end of 10 seconds; (b) for how long it will continue to rise. Conditions same as for Exercise 5.

Ans. (a) 322 ft. per sec. Upwards; (b) 20 seconds.

7. A train left a station and in  $t$  hours was at a distance (space) of

$$s = t^3 + 2t^2 + 3t$$

miles from the starting point. Find its acceleration (a) at the end of  $t$  hours; (b) at the end of 2 hours.

Ans. (a)  $a = 6t + 4$ ; (b)  $a = 16$  miles/(hour)<sup>2</sup>.

8. In  $t$  hours a train had reached a point at the distance of  $\frac{1}{4}t^4 - 4t^3 + 16t^2$  miles from the starting point.

(a) Find its velocity and acceleration.

(b) When will the train stop to change the direction of its motion?

(c) Describe the motion during the first 10 hours.

Ans. (a)  $v = t^3 - 12t^2 + 32t$ ,  $a = 3t^2 - 24t + 32$ ;

(b) at end of fourth and eighth hours;

(c) forward first 4 hours, backward the next 4 hours, forward again after 8 hours.

9. The space in feet described in  $t$  seconds by a point is expressed by the formula

$$s = 48t - 16t^2.$$

Find the velocity and acceleration at the end of  $\frac{3}{2}$  seconds.

Ans.  $v = 0, a = -32$  ft./(sec.)<sup>2</sup>.

10. Find the acceleration, having given

## 6.16. EXAMPLES

---

(a)  $v = t^2 + 2t$ ;  $t = 3$ .

Ans.  $a = 8$ .

(b)  $v = 3t - t^3$ ;  $t = 2$ .

Ans.  $a = -9$ .

(c)  $v = 4 \sin \frac{t}{2}$ ;  $t = \frac{\pi}{3}$ .

Ans.  $a = \sqrt{3}$ .

(d)  $v = r \cos 3t$ ;  $t = \frac{\pi}{6}$ .

Ans.  $a = -3r$ .

(e)  $v = 5e^{2t}$ ;  $t = 1$ .

Ans.  $a = 10e^2$ .

11. At the end of  $t$  seconds a body has a velocity of  $3t^2 + 2t$  ft. per sec.; find its acceleration (a) in general; (b) at the end of 4 seconds.

Ans. (a)  $a = 6t + 2$  ft./sec.<sup>2</sup>; (b)  $a = 26$  ft./sec.<sup>2</sup>

12. The vertical component of velocity of a point at the end of  $t$  seconds is

$$v_y = 3t^2 - 2t + 6$$

in ft. per sec. Find the vertical component of acceleration (a) at any instant; (b) at the end of 2 seconds.

Ans. (a)  $a_y = 6t - 2$ ; (b) 10 ft./sec.<sup>2</sup>.

13. If a point moves in a fixed path so that

$$s = \sqrt{t},$$

show that the acceleration is negative and proportional to the cube of the velocity.

14. If the distance travelled at time  $t$  is given by

$$s = c_1 e^t + c_2 e^{-t},$$

for some constants  $c_1$  and  $c_2$ , show that the acceleration is always equal in magnitude to the space passed over.

15. If a point referred to rectangular coordinates moves so that

$$x = a_1 + a_2 \cos t, \quad y = b_1 + b_2 \sin t,$$

for some constants  $a_i$  and  $b_i$ , show that its velocity has a constant magnitude.

16. If the path of a moving point is the sine curve

$$\begin{cases} x = at, \\ y = b \sin at \end{cases}$$

show (a) that the  $x$ -component of the velocity is constant; (b) that the acceleration of the point at any instant is proportional to its distance from the  $x$ -axis.

17. Given the following equations of curvilinear motion, find at the given instant

- $v_x, v_y, v$ ;
- $a_x, a_y, a$ ;
- position of point (coordinates);
- direction of motion.
- the equation of the path in rectangular coordinates.

- (a)  $x = t^2, y = t; t = 2$ .  
(g)  $x = 2 \sin t, y = 3 \cos t; t = \pi$ .  
(b)  $x = t, y = t^3; t = 1$ .  
(h)  $x = \sin t, y = \cos 2t; t = \frac{\pi}{4}$ .  
(c)  $x = t^2, y = t^3; t = 3$ .  
(i)  $x = 2t, y = 3e^t; t = 0$ .  
(d)  $x = 2t, y = t^2 + 3; t = 0$ .  
(e)  $x = 1 - t^2, y = 2t; t = 2$ .  
(j)  $x = 3t, y = \log t; t = 1$ .  
(f)  $x = r \sin t, y = r \cos t; t = \frac{3\pi}{4}$ .  
(k)  $x = t, y = 12/t; t = 3$ .

## 6.17 Application: Newton's method

<sup>12</sup>

Newton's method (also known as the NewtonRaphson method) is an efficient algorithm for finding approximations to the zeros (or roots) of a real-valued function. As such, it is an example of a root-finding algorithm. It produces iteratively a sequence of approximations to the root. It can also be used to find a minimum or maximum of such a function, by finding a zero in the function's first derivative.

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<sup>12</sup>This section was modified from the Wikipedia entry [N].

### 6.17.1 Description of the method

The idea of the method is as follows: one starts with an initial guess which is reasonably close to the true root, then the function is approximated by its tangent line (which can be computed using the tools of calculus), and one computes the x-intercept of this tangent line (which is easily done with elementary algebra). This x-intercept will typically be a better approximation to the function's root than the original guess, and the method can be iterated.

Suppose  $f : [a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is a differentiable function defined on the interval  $[a, b]$  with values in the real numbers  $\mathbb{R}$ . The formula for converging on the root can be easily derived. Suppose we have some current approximation  $x_n$ . Then we can derive the formula for a better approximation,  $x_{n+1}$  by referring to the diagram on the right. We know from the definition of the derivative at a given point that it is the slope of a tangent at that point.

That is

$$f'(x_n) = \frac{\text{rise}}{\text{run}} = \frac{\Delta y}{\Delta x} = \frac{f(x_n) - 0}{x_n - x_{n+1}} = \frac{0 - f(x_n)}{(x_{n+1} - x_n)}.$$

Here,  $f'$  denotes the derivative of the function  $f$ . Then by simple algebra we can derive

$$x_{n+1} = x_n - \frac{f(x_n)}{f'(x_n)}.$$

We start the process off with some arbitrary initial value  $x_0$ . (The closer to the zero, the better. But, in the absence of any intuition about where the zero might lie, a "guess and check" method might narrow the possibilities to a reasonably small interval by appealing to the intermediate value theorem.) The method will usually converge, provided this initial guess is close enough to the unknown zero, and that  $f'(x_0) \neq 0$ . Furthermore, for a zero of multiplicity 1, the convergence is at least quadratic (see rate of convergence) in a neighbourhood of the zero, which intuitively means that the number of correct digits roughly at least doubles in every step. More details can be found in the analysis section below.

**Example 6.17.1.** Consider the problem of finding the positive number  $x$  with  $\cos(x) = x^3$ . We can rephrase that as finding the zero of  $f(x) = \cos(x) - x^3$ . We have  $f'(x) = -\sin(x) - 3x^2$ . Since  $\cos(x) \leq 1$  for all  $x$  and  $x^3 > 1$  for  $x > 1$ , we know that our zero lies between 0 and 1. We try a starting value of  $x_0 = 0.5$ .

$$\begin{aligned} x_1 &= x_0 - \frac{f(x_0)}{f'(x_0)} = 0.5 - \frac{\cos(0.5) - 0.5^3}{-\sin(0.5) - 3 \times 0.5^2} = 1.112141637097 \\ x_2 &= x_1 - \frac{f(x_1)}{f'(x_1)} = \underline{0.909672693736} \\ x_3 &= x_2 - \frac{f(x_2)}{f'(x_2)} = \underline{0.867263818209} \\ x_4 &= x_3 - \frac{f(x_3)}{f'(x_3)} = \underline{0.865477135298} \\ x_5 &= x_4 - \frac{f(x_4)}{f'(x_4)} = \underline{0.865474033111} \\ x_6 &= x_5 - \frac{f(x_5)}{f'(x_5)} = \underline{0.865474033102} \end{aligned}$$

The correct digits are underlined in the above example. In particular,  $x_6$  is correct to the number of decimal places given. We see that the number of correct digits after the decimal point increases from 2 (for  $x_3$ ) to 5 and 10, illustrating the quadratic convergence.

### 6.17.2 Analysis

Suppose that the function  $f$  has a zero at  $a$ , i.e.,  $f(a) = 0$ .

If  $f$  is continuously differentiable and its derivative does not vanish at  $a$ , then there exists a neighborhood of  $a$  such that for all starting values  $x_0$  in that neighborhood, the sequence  $\{x_n\}$  will converge to  $a$ .

In practice this result is “local” and the neighborhood of convergence is not known a priori, but there are also some results on “global convergence.” For instance, given a right neighborhood  $U$  of  $a$ , if  $f$  is twice differentiable in  $U$  and if  $f' \neq 0$ ,  $f \cdot f'' > 0$  in  $U$ , then, for each  $x_0 \in U$  the sequence  $x_k$  is monotonically decreasing to  $a$ .

### 6.17.3 Fractals

For complex functions  $f : \mathbb{C} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ , however, Newton's method can be directly applied to find their zeros. For many complex functions, the boundary of the set (also known as the basin of attraction) of all starting values that cause the method to converge to a particular zero is a fractal<sup>13</sup>

For example, the function  $f(x) = x^5 - 1$ ,  $x \in \mathbb{C}$ , has five roots, equally spaced around the unit circle in the complex plane. If  $x_0$  is a starting point which converges to the root at  $x = 1$ , color  $x_0$  yellow. Repeat this using four other colors (blue, red, green, purple) for the other four roots of  $f$ . The resulting image is in Figure 6.14.

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<sup>13</sup>The definition of a fractal would take us too far afield. Roughly speaking, it is a geometrical object with certain self-similarity properties [F].

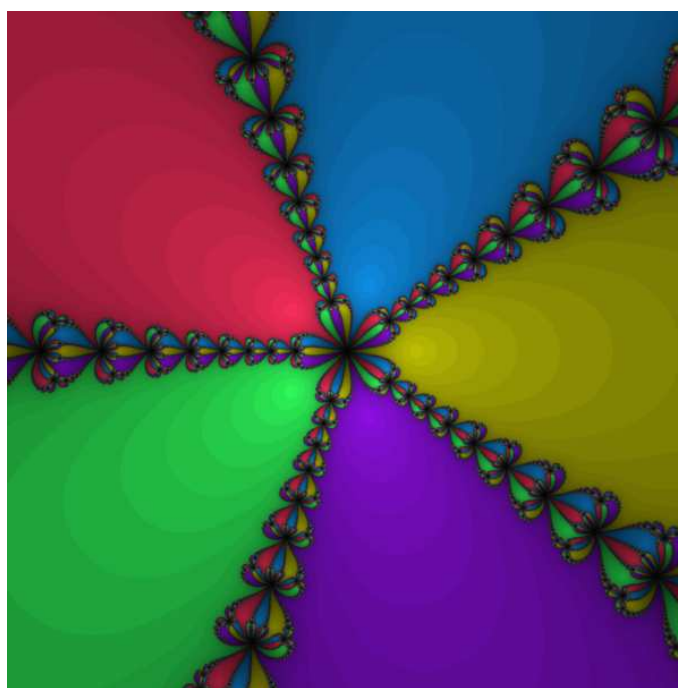


Figure 6.14: Basins of attraction for  $x^5 - 1 = 0$ ; darker means more iterations to converge.

## Chapter 7

# Successive differentiation

### 7.1 Definition of successive derivatives

We have seen that the derivative of a function of  $x$  is in general also a function of  $x$ . This new function may also be differentiable, in which case the derivative of the first derivative is called the second derivative of the original function. Similarly, the derivative of the second derivative is called the third derivative; and so on to the  $n$ -th derivative. Thus, if

$$\begin{aligned}y &= 3x^4, \\ \frac{dy}{dx} &= 12x^3, \\ \frac{d}{dx} \left( \frac{dy}{dx} \right) &= 36x^2, \\ \frac{d}{dx} \left[ \frac{d}{dx} \left( \frac{dy}{dx} \right) \right] &= 72x,\end{aligned}$$

and so on.

### 7.2 Notation

The symbols for the successive derivatives are usually abbreviated as follows:

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{d}{dx} \left( \frac{dy}{dx} \right) &= \frac{d^2y}{dx^2}, \\ \frac{d}{dx} \left[ \frac{d}{dx} \left( \frac{dy}{dx} \right) \right] &= \frac{d}{dx} \left( \frac{d^2y}{dx^2} \right) = \frac{d^3y}{dx^3}, \\ \frac{d}{dx} \left( \frac{d^{n-1}y}{dx^{n-1}} \right) &= \frac{d^ny}{dx^n}.\end{aligned}$$

If  $y = f(x)$ , the successive derivatives are also denoted by

$$f'(x), f''(x), f'''(x), f^{(4)}(x), \dots, f^{(n)}(x);$$

or

$$y', y'', y''', y^{(4)}, \dots, y^{(n)};$$

### 7.3. THE $N$ -TH DERIVATIVE

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or,

$$\frac{d}{dx}f(x), \frac{d^2}{dx^2}f(x), \frac{d^3}{dx^3}f(x), \frac{d^4}{dx^4}f(x), \dots, \frac{d^n}{dx^n}f(x).$$

### 7.3 The $n$ -th derivative

For certain functions a general expression involving  $n$  may be found for the  $n$ -th derivative. The usual plan is to find a number of the first successive derivatives, as many as may be necessary to discover their law of formation, and then by induction write down the  $n$ -th derivative.

**Example 7.3.1.** Given  $y = e^{ax}$ , find  $\frac{d^n y}{dx^n}$ .

Solution.  $\frac{dy}{dx} = ae^{ax}$ ,  $\frac{d^2 y}{dx^2} = a^2 e^{ax}$ ,  $\dots$ ,  $\frac{d^n y}{dx^n} = a^n e^{ax}$ .

**Example 7.3.2.** Given  $y = \log x$ , find  $\frac{d^n y}{dx^n}$ .

Solution.  $\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{1}{x}$ ,  $\frac{d^2 y}{dx^2} = -\frac{1}{x^2}$ ,  $\frac{d^3 y}{dx^3} = \frac{1 \cdot 2}{x^3}$ ,  $\frac{d^4 y}{dx^4} = -\frac{1 \cdot 2 \cdot 3}{x^4}$ ,  $\dots$ ,  $\frac{d^n y}{dx^n} = (-1)^{n-1} \frac{(n-1)!}{x^n}$ .

**Example 7.3.3.** Given  $y = \sin x$ , find  $\frac{d^n y}{dx^n}$ .

Solution.  $\frac{dy}{dx} = \cos x = \sin\left(x + \frac{\pi}{2}\right)$ ,

$$\frac{d^2 y}{dx^2} = \frac{d}{dx} \sin\left(x + \frac{\pi}{2}\right) = \cos\left(x + \frac{\pi}{2}\right) = \sin\left(x + \frac{2\pi}{2}\right),$$

$$\frac{d^3 y}{dx^3} = \frac{d}{dx} \sin\left(x + \frac{2\pi}{2}\right) = \cos\left(x + \frac{2\pi}{2}\right) = \sin\left(x + \frac{3\pi}{2}\right)$$

$\dots$

$$\frac{d^n y}{dx^n} = \sin\left(x + \frac{n\pi}{2}\right).$$

### 7.4 Leibnitz's Formula for the $n$ -th derivative of a product

This formula expresses the  $n$ -th derivative of the product of two variables in terms of the variables themselves and their successive derivatives.

If  $u$  and  $v$  are functions of  $x$ , we have, from equation (V) in §5.1 above,

$$\frac{d}{dx}(uv) = \frac{du}{dx}v + u\frac{dv}{dx}.$$

Differentiating again with respect to  $x$ ,

$$\frac{d^2}{dx^2}(uv) = \frac{d^2 u}{dx^2}v + \frac{du}{dx}\frac{dv}{dx} + \frac{du}{dx}\frac{dv}{dx} + u\frac{d^2 v}{dx^2} = \frac{d^2 u}{dx^2}v + 2\frac{du}{dx}\frac{dv}{dx} + u\frac{d^2 v}{dx^2}.$$

Similarly,



## 7.4. LEIBNITZ'S FORMULA FOR THE $N$ -TH DERIVATIVE OF A PRODUCT

---

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{d^3}{dx^3}(uv) &= \frac{d^3u}{dx^3} + \frac{d^2u}{dx^2} \frac{dv}{dx} + 2 \frac{d^2u}{dx^2} \frac{dv}{dx} + 2 \frac{du}{dx} \frac{d^2v}{dx^2} + \frac{du}{dx} \frac{d^2v}{dx^2} + u \frac{d^3v}{dx^3} \\ &= \frac{d^3u}{dx^3} v + 3 \frac{d^2u}{dx^2} \frac{dv}{dx} + 3 \frac{du}{dx} \frac{d^2v}{dx^2} + u \frac{d^3v}{dx^3}.\end{aligned}$$

However far this process may be continued, it will be seen that the numerical coefficients follow the same law as those of the Binomial Theorem, and the indices of the derivatives correspond<sup>1</sup> to the exponents of the Binomial Theorem. Reasoning then by mathematical induction from the  $m$ -th to the  $(m+1)$ -st derivative of the product, we can prove *Leibnitz's Formula*

$$\frac{d^n}{dx^n}(uv) = \frac{d^nu}{dx^n}v + n \frac{d^{n-1}u}{dx^{n-1}} \frac{dv}{dx} + \frac{n(n-1)}{2!} \frac{d^{n-2}u}{dx^{n-2}} \frac{d^2v}{dx^2} + \cdots + n \frac{du}{dx} \frac{d^{n-1}v}{dx^{n-1}} + u \frac{d^nv}{dx^n}, \quad (7.1)$$

**Example 7.4.1.** Given  $y = e^x \log x$ , find  $\frac{d^3y}{dx^3}$  by Leibnitz's Formula.

Solution. Let  $u = e^x$ , and  $v = \log x$ ; then  $\frac{du}{dx} = e^x$ ,  $\frac{dv}{dx} = \frac{1}{x}$ ,  $\frac{d^2u}{dx^2} = e^x$ ,  $\frac{d^2v}{dx^2} = -\frac{1}{x^2}$ ,  $\frac{d^3u}{dx^3} = e^x$ ,  $\frac{d^3v}{dx^3} = \frac{2}{x^3}$ .

Substituting in (7.1), we get

$$\frac{d^3y}{dx^3} = e^x \log x + \frac{3e^x}{x} - \frac{3e^x}{x^2} = e^x \left( \log x + \frac{3}{x} - \frac{3}{x^2} + \frac{2}{x^3} \right).$$

This can be verified using the **SAGE** commands:

SAGE

```
sage: x = var("x")
sage: f = exp(x)*log(x)
sage: diff(f,x,3)
e^x*log(x) + 3*e^x/x - 3*e^x/x^2 + 2*e^x/x^3
```

**Example 7.4.2.** Given  $y = x^2 e^{ax}$ , find  $\frac{d^ny}{dx^n}$  by Leibnitz's Formula.

Solution. Let  $u = x^2$ , and  $v = e^{ax}$ ; then  $\frac{du}{dx} = 2x$ ,  $\frac{dv}{dx} = ae^{ax}$ ,  $\frac{d^2u}{dx^2} = 2$ ,  $\frac{d^2v}{dx^2} = a^2 e^{ax}$ ,  $\frac{d^3u}{dx^3} = 0$ ,  $\frac{d^3v}{dx^3} = a^3 e^{ax}$ ,  $\dots$ ,  $\frac{d^nu}{dx^n} = 0$ ,  $\frac{d^nv}{dx^n} = a^n e^{ax}$ . Substituting in (7.1), we get

$$\frac{d^ny}{dx^n} = x^2 a^n e^{ax} + 2na^{n-1} x e^{ax} + n(n-1)a^{n-2} e^{ax} = a^{n-2} e^{ax} [x^2 a^2 + 2nax + n(n-1)].$$

---

<sup>1</sup>To make this correspondence complete,  $u$  and  $v$  are considered as  $\frac{d^0u}{dx^0}$  and  $\frac{d^0v}{dx^0}$ .

## 7.5 Successive differentiation of implicit functions

To illustrate the process we shall find  $\frac{d^2y}{dx^2}$  from the equation of the hyperbola

$$b^2x^2 - a^2y^2 = a^2b^2.$$

Differentiating with respect to  $x$ , as in §5.35,

$$2b^2x - 2a^2y \frac{dy}{dx} = 0,$$

or,

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{b^2x}{a^2y}. \quad (7.2)$$

Differentiating again, remembering that  $y$  is a function of  $x$ ,

$$\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} = \frac{a^2yb^2 - b^2xa^2\frac{dy}{dx}}{a^4y^2}.$$

Substituting for  $\frac{dy}{dx}$  its value from (7.2),

$$\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} = \frac{a^2b^2y - a^2b^2x \left( \frac{b^2y}{a^2y} \right)}{a^4y^2} = -\frac{b^2(b^2x^2 - a^2y^2)}{a^4y^3}.$$

The given equation,  $b^2x^2 - a^2y^2 = a^2b^2$ , therefore gives,

$$\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} = -\frac{b^4}{a^2y^3}.$$

**SAGE** can be made to do a lot of this work for you (though the notation doesn't get any prettier):

SAGE

```
sage: x = var("x")
sage: y = function("y",x)
sage: a = var("a")
sage: b = var("b")
sage: F = x^2/a^2 - y^2/b^2 - 1
sage: F.diff(x)
2*x/a^2 - 2*y(x)*diff(y(x), x, 1)/b^2
sage: F.diff(x,2)
-2*y(x)*diff(y(x), x, 2)/b^2 - 2*diff(y(x), x, 1)^2/b^2 + 2/a^2
sage: solve(F.diff(x) == 0, diff(y(x), x, 1))
[diff(y(x), x, 1) == b^2*x/(a^2*y(x))]
sage: solve(F.diff(x,2) == 0, diff(y(x), x, 2))
[diff(y(x), x, 2) == (b^2 - a^2*diff(y(x), x, 1)^2)/(a^2*y(x))]
```

This basically says

$$y' = \frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{b^2x}{a^2y},$$

and

$$y'' = \frac{d^2y}{dx^2} = -\frac{b^2 - a^2(y')^2}{a^2y}.$$

Now simply plug the first equation into the second, obtaining  $y'' = -b^2 \frac{1 - a^{-2}b^2x^2/y^2}{a^2y}$ . Next, use the given equation in the form  $a^{-2}b^2x^2/y^2 - 1 = b^2/y^2$  to get the result above.

## 7.6 Exercises

Verify the following derivatives:

1.  $y = 4x^3 - 6x^2 + 4x + 7$ .

Ans.  $\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} = 12(2x - 1)$ .

2.  $f(x) = \frac{x^3}{1-x}$ .

Ans.  $f^{(4)}(x) = \frac{4!}{(1-x)^5}$ .

3.  $f(y) = y^6$ .

Ans.  $f^{(6)}(y) = 6!$ .

4.  $y = x^3 \log x$ .

Ans.  $\frac{d^4y}{dx^4} = \frac{6}{x}$ .

5.  $y = \frac{c}{x^n}$ .  $y'' = \frac{n(n+1)c}{x^{n+2}}$ .

6.  $y = (x-3)e^{2x} + 4xe^x + x$ .

Ans.  $y'' = 4e^x[(x-2)e^x + x + 2]$ .

7.  $y = \frac{a}{2}(e^{\frac{x}{a}} + e^{-\frac{x}{a}})$ .

Ans.  $y'' = \frac{1}{2a}(e^{\frac{x}{a}} + e^{-\frac{x}{a}}) = \frac{y}{a^2}$ .

8.  $f(x) = ax^2 + bx + c$ .

Ans.  $f'''(x) = 0$ .

9.  $f(x) = \log(x+1)$ .

Ans.  $f^{(4)}(x) = -\frac{6}{(x+1)^4}$ .

10.  $f(x) = \log(e^x + e^{-x})$ .

Ans.  $f'''(x) = -\frac{8(e^x - e^{-x})}{(e^x + e^{-x})^3}$ .

## 7.6. EXERCISES

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11.  $r = \sin a\theta$ .

Ans.  $\frac{d^4 r}{d\theta^4} = a^4 \sin a\theta = a^4 r$ .

12.  $r = \tan \phi$ .

Ans.  $\frac{d^3 r}{d\phi^3} = 6 \sec^6 \phi - 4 \sec^2 \phi$ .

13.  $r = \log \sin \phi$ .

Ans.  $r''' = 2 \cot \phi \csc^2 \phi$ .

14.  $f(t) = e^{-t} \cos t$ .

Ans.  $f^{(4)}(t) = -4e^{-t} \cos t = -4f(t)$ .

15.  $f(\theta) = \sqrt{\sec 2\theta}$ .

Ans.  $f''(\theta) = 3[f(\theta)]^5 - f(\theta)$ .

16.  $p = (q^2 + a^2) \arctan \frac{q}{a}$ .

Ans.  $\frac{d^3 p}{dq^3} = \frac{4a^3}{(a^2 + q^2)^2}$ .

17.  $y = a^x$ .

Ans.  $\frac{d^n y}{dx^n} = (\log a)^n a^x$ .

18.  $y = \log(1 + x)$ .

Ans.  $\frac{d^n y}{dx^n} = (-1)^{n-1} \frac{(n-1)!}{(1+x)^n}$ .

19.  $y = \cos ax$ .

Ans.  $\frac{d^n y}{dx^n} = a^n \cos \left(ax + \frac{n\pi}{2}\right)$ .

20.  $y = x^{n-1} \log x$ .

Ans.  $\frac{d^n y}{dx^n} = \frac{(n-1)!}{x}$ .

21.  $y = \frac{1-x}{1+x}$ .

Ans.  $\frac{d^n y}{dx^n} = 2(-1)^n \frac{n!}{(1+x)^{n+1}}$ .

Hint: Reduce fraction to form  $-1 + \frac{2}{1+x}$  before differentiating.

22. If  $y = e^x \sin x$ , prove that  $\frac{d^2 y}{dx^2} - 2\frac{dy}{dx} + 2y = 0$ .

23. If  $y = a \cos(\log x) + b \sin(\log x)$ , prove that  $x^2 \frac{d^2 y}{dx^2} + x \frac{dy}{dx} + y = 0$ .

Use Leibnitz's Formula in the next four examples:

24.  $y = x^2 a^x$ .

Ans.  $\frac{d^n y}{dx^n} = a^x (\log a)^{n-2} [(x \log a + n)^2 - n]$ .

25.  $y = xe^x$ .

Ans.  $\frac{d^n y}{dx^n} = (x + n)e^x$ .

26.  $f(x) = e^x \sin x$ .

Ans.  $f^{(n)}(x) = (\sqrt{2})^n e^x \sin\left(x + \frac{n\pi}{4}\right)$ .

27.  $f(\theta) = \cos a\theta \cos b\theta$ .

Ans.  $f^{(n)}(\theta) = \frac{(a+b)^n}{2} \cos\left[(a+b)\theta + \frac{n\pi}{2}\right] + \frac{(a-b)^n}{2} \cos\left[(a-b)\theta + \frac{n\pi}{2}\right]$ .

28. Show that the formulas for acceleration, (6.28), (6.30), may be written

$$a = \frac{d^2 s}{dt^2}, \quad a_x = \frac{d^2 x}{dt^2}, \quad a_y = \frac{d^2 y}{dt^2}.$$

29.  $y^2 = 4ax$ .

Ans.  $\frac{d^2 y}{dx^2} = -\frac{4a^2}{y^3}$ .

30.  $b^2 x^2 + a^2 y^2 = a^2 b^2$ .

Ans.  $\frac{d^2 y}{dx^2} = -\frac{b^4}{a^2 y^3}; \quad \frac{d^3 y}{dx^3} = -\frac{3b^6 x}{a^4 y^5}$ .

31.  $x^2 + y^2 = r^2$ .  $\frac{d^2 y}{dx^2} = -\frac{r^2}{y^3}$ .

32.  $y^2 + y = x^2$ .

Ans.  $\frac{d^3 y}{dx^3} = -\frac{24x}{(1+2y)^5}$ .

33.  $ax^2 + 2hxy + by^2 = 1$ .

Ans.  $\frac{d^2 y}{dx^2} = \frac{h^2 - ab}{(hx + by)^3}$ .

34.  $y^2 - 2xy = a^2$ .

Ans.  $\frac{d^2 y}{dx^2} = \frac{a^2}{(y-x)^3}; \quad \frac{d^3 y}{dx^3} = -\frac{3a^2 x}{(y-x)^5}$ .

35.  $\sec \phi \cos \theta = c$ .

Ans.  $\frac{d^2 \theta}{d\phi^2} = \frac{\tan^2 \theta - \tan^2 \phi}{\tan^3 \theta}$ .

36.  $\theta = \tan(\phi + \theta)$ .

Ans.  $\frac{d^3 \theta}{d\phi^3} = -\frac{2(5+8\theta^2+3\theta^4)}{\theta^8}$ .

37. Find the second derivative in the following:

- |                           |                                  |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------|
| (a) $\log(u+v) = u-v$ .   | (e) $y^3 + x^3 - 3axy = 0$ .     |
| (b) $e^u + u = e^v + v$ . | (f) $y^2 - 2mxy + x^2 - a = 0$ . |
| (c) $s = 1 + te^s$ .      | (g) $y = \sin(x+y)$ .            |
| (d) $e^s + st - e = 0$ .  | (h) $e^{x+y} = xy$ .             |

## 7.6. EXERCISES

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## Chapter 8

# Maxima, minima and inflection points.

### 8.1 Introduction

A great many practical problems occur where we have to deal with functions of such a nature that they have a greatest (maximum) value or a least (minimum) value<sup>1</sup> and it is very important to know what particular value of the variable gives such a value of the function.

**Example 8.1.1.** For instance, suppose that it is required to find the dimensions of the rectangle of greatest area that can be inscribed in a circle of radius 5 inches. Consider the circle in Figure 8.1:

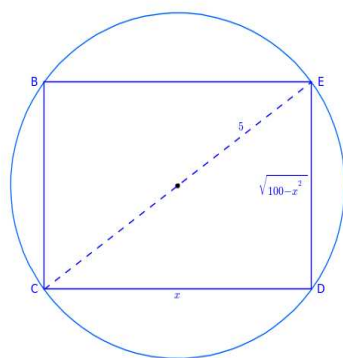


Figure 8.1: A rectangle with circumscribed circle.

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<sup>1</sup>There may be more than one of each.

## 8.1. INTRODUCTION

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Inscribe any rectangle, as BCDE. Let  $CD = x$ ; then  $DE = \sqrt{100 - x^2}$ , and the area of the rectangle is evidently

$$A = A(x) = x\sqrt{100 - x^2}.$$

That a rectangle of maximum area must exist may be seen as follows: Let the base  $CD$  ( $= x$ ) increase to 10 inches (the diameter); then the altitude  $DE$  ( $= \sqrt{100 - x^2}$ ) will decrease to zero and the area will become zero. Now let the base decrease to zero; then the altitude will increase to 10 inches and the area will again become zero. It is therefore intuitively evident that there exists a greatest rectangle. By a careful study of the figure we might suspect that when the rectangle becomes a square its area would be the greatest, but this would at best be mere guesswork. A better way would evidently be to plot the graph of the function  $A = A(x)$  and note its behavior. To aid us in drawing the graph of  $A(x)$ , we observe that

- (a) from the nature of the problem it is evident that  $x$  and  $A$  must both be positive; and
- (b) the values of  $x$  range from zero to 10 inclusive.

Now construct a table of values and draw the graph. What do we learn from the graph?

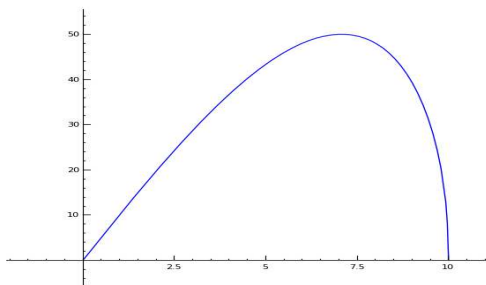


Figure 8.2: The area of a rectangle with fixed circumscribed circle.

(a) If the rectangle is carefully drawn, we may find quite accurately the area of the rectangle corresponding to any value  $x$  by measuring the length of the corresponding ordinate. Thus, when  $x = OM = 3$  inches, then  $A = MP = 28.6$  square inches; and when  $x = ON = \frac{9}{2}$  inches, then  $A = NQ \approx 39.8$  sq. in. (found by measurement).

(b) There is one horizontal tangent (RS). The ordinate TH from its point of contact T is greater than any other ordinate. Hence this discovery: One of the inscribed rectangles has evidently a greater area than any of the others. In other words, we may infer from this that the function defined by  $A = A(x)$  has a maximum value. We cannot find this value ( $= HT$ ) exactly by measurement, but it is very easy to find, using Calculus methods. We observed that at T



the tangent was horizontal; hence the slope will be zero at that point (Example 6.1.1). To find the abscissa of T we then find the first derivative of  $A(x)$ , place it equal to zero, and solve for  $x$ . Thus

$$\begin{aligned} A &= x\sqrt{100-x^2}, \\ \frac{dA}{dx} &= \frac{100-2x^2}{\sqrt{100-x^2}}, \\ \frac{100-2x^2}{\sqrt{100-x^2}} &= 0. \end{aligned}$$

Solving,  $x = 5\sqrt{2}$ . Substituting back, we get  $DE = \sqrt{100-x^2} = 5\sqrt{2}$ . Hence the rectangle of maximum area inscribed in the circle is a square of area  $A = CD \times DE = 5\sqrt{2} \times 5\sqrt{2} = 50$  square inches. The length of HT is therefore 50.

**Example 8.1.2.** A wooden box is to be built to contain 108 cu. ft. It is to have an open top and a square base. What must be its dimensions in order that the amount of material required shall be a minimum; that is, what dimensions will make the cost the least?

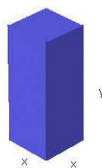


Figure 8.3: A box with square  $x \times x$  base, height  $y = 108/x^2$ , and fixed volume.

Let  $x$  denote the length of side of square base in feet, and  $y$  denote the height of box. Since the volume of the box is given,  $y$  may be found in terms of  $x$ . Thus volume =  $x^2y = 108$ , so  $y = \frac{108}{x^2}$ . We may now express the number ( $= M$ ) of square feet of lumber required as a function of  $x$  as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{area of base} &= x^2 \text{ sq. ft.}, \\ \text{area of four sides} &= 4xy = \frac{432}{x} \text{ sq. ft.} \end{aligned}$$

Hence

$$M = M(x) = x^2 + \frac{432}{x}$$

## 8.1. INTRODUCTION

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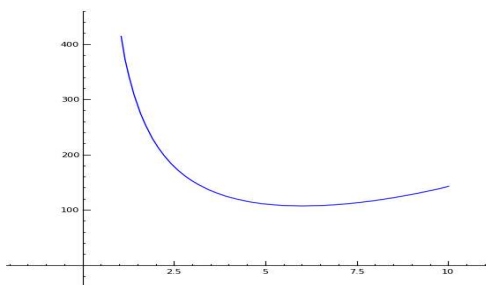


Figure 8.4: **SAGE** plot of  $y = x^2 + \frac{432}{x}$ ,  $1 < x < 10$ .

is a formula giving the number of square feet required in any such box having a capacity of 108 cu. ft. Draw a graph of  $M(x)$ .

What do we learn from the graph?

(a) If the box is carefully drawn, we may measure the ordinate corresponding to any length ( $= x$ ) of the side of the square base and so determine the number of square feet of lumber required.

(b) There is one horizontal tangent (RS). The ordinate from its point of contact T is less than any other ordinate. Hence this discovery: One of the boxes evidently takes less lumber than any of the others. In other words, we may infer that the function defined by  $M = M(x)$  has a minimum value. Let us find this point on the graph exactly, using our Calculus. Differentiating  $M(x)$  to get the slope at any point, we have

$$\frac{dM}{dx} = 2x - \frac{432}{x^2}.$$

At the lowest point T the slope will be zero. Hence

$$2x - \frac{432}{x^2} = 0;$$

that is, when  $x = 6$  the least amount of lumber will be needed.

Substituting in  $M(x)$ , we see that this is  $M = 108$  sq. ft.

The fact that a least value of  $M$  exists is also shown by the following reasoning. Let the base increase from a very small square to a very large one. In the former case the height must be very great and therefore the amount of lumber required will be large. In the latter case, while the height is small, the base will take a great deal of lumber. Hence  $M$  varies from a large value, grows less, then increases again to another large value. It follows, then, that the graph must have a “lowest” point corresponding to the dimensions which require the least amount of lumber, and therefore would involve the least cost.

Here is how to compute the critical points in **SAGE**:

**SAGE**

```
sage: x = var("x")
```

```

sage: f = x^2 + 432/x
sage: solve(f.diff(x)==0,x)
[x == 3*sqrt(3)*I - 3, x == -3*sqrt(3)*I - 3, x == 6]

```

This says that  $(x^2 + 432/x)' = 0$  has three roots, but only one real root - the one reported above at  $x = 6$ .

We will now proceed to the treatment in detail of the subject of maxima and minima.

## 8.2 Increasing and decreasing functions

2

A function is said to be *increasing* when it increases as the variable increases and decreases as the variable decreases. A function is said to be *decreasing* when it decreases as the variable increases and increases as the variable decreases.

The graph of a function indicates plainly whether it is increasing or decreasing.

**Example 8.2.1.** (1) For instance, consider the function  $a^x$  whose graph (Figure 8.5) is the locus of the equation  $y = a^x$ ,  $a > 1$ :

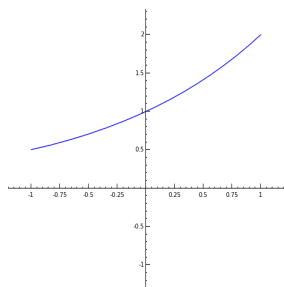


Figure 8.5: SAGE plot of  $y = 2^x$ ,  $-1 < x < 1$ .

As we move along the curve from left to right the curve is rising; that is, as  $x$  increases the function ( $= y$ ) always increases. Therefore  $a^x$  is an increasing function for all values of  $x$ .

(2) On the other hand, consider the function  $(a - x)^3$  whose graph (Figure 8.6) is the locus of the equation  $y = (a - x)^3$ .

Now as we move along the curve from left to right the curve is falling; that is, as  $x$  increases, the function ( $= y$ ) always decreases. Hence  $(a - x)^3$  is a decreasing function for all values of  $x$ .

(3) That a function may be sometimes increasing and sometimes decreasing is shown by the graph (Figure 8.7) of

<sup>2</sup>The proofs given here depend chiefly on geometric intuition.

## 8.2. INCREASING AND DECREASING FUNCTIONS

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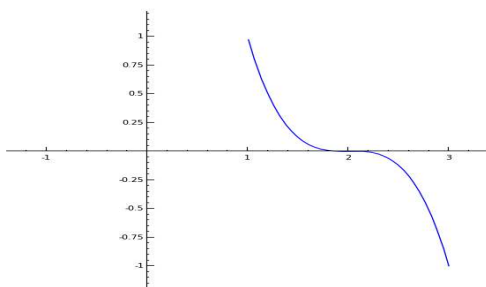


Figure 8.6: **SAGE** plot of  $y = (2 - x)^3$ ,  $1 < x < 3$ .

$$y = 2x^3 - 9x^2 + 12x - 3.$$

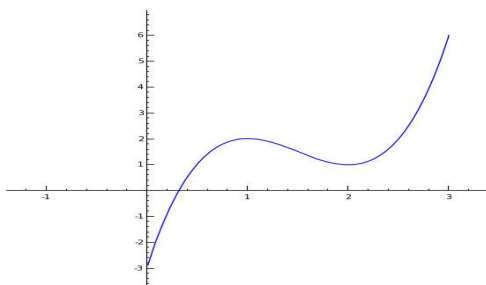


Figure 8.7: **SAGE** plot of  $y = 2x^3 - 9x^2 + 12x - 3$ ,  $0 < x < 3$ .

As we move along the curve from left to right the curve rises until we reach the point A when  $x = 1$ , then it falls from A to the point B when  $x = 2$ , and to the right of B it is always rising. Hence

- (a) from  $x = -\infty$  to  $x = 1$  the function is increasing;
- (b) from  $x = 1$  to  $x = 2$  the function is decreasing;
- (c) from  $x = 2$  to  $x = +\infty$  the function is increasing.

The student should study the curve carefully in order to note the behavior of the function when  $x = 1$  and  $x = 2$ . Evidently A and B are turning points. At A the function ceases to increase and commences to decrease; at B, the reverse is true. At A and B the tangent (or curve) is evidently parallel to the  $x$ -axis, and therefore the slope is zero.

### 8.3 Tests for determining when a function is increasing or decreasing

It is evident from Figure 8.7 that at a point where a function

$$y = f(x)$$

is increasing, the tangent in general makes an acute angle with the  $x$ -axis; hence

$$\text{slope} = \tan \tau = \frac{dy}{dx} = f'(x) = \text{a positive number.}$$

Similarly, at a point where a function is decreasing, the tangent in general makes an obtuse angle with the  $x$ -axis; therefore<sup>3</sup>

$$\text{slope} = \tan \tau = \frac{dy}{dx} = f'(x) = \text{a negative number.}$$

In order, then, that the function shall change from an increasing to a decreasing function, or vice versa, it is a necessary and sufficient condition that the first derivative shall change sign. But this can only happen for a continuous derivative by passing through the value zero. Thus in Figure 8.7 as we pass along the curve the derivative (= slope) changes sign at the points where  $x = 1$  and  $x = 2$ . In general, then, we have at "turning points,"

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = f'(x) = 0.$$

A value of  $y = f(x)$  satisfying this condition is called a *critical point* of the function  $f(x)$ . The derivative is continuous in nearly all our important applications, but it is interesting to note the case when the derivative (= slope) changes sign by passing through<sup>4</sup>  $\infty$ . This would evidently happen at the points on a curve where the tangents (and curve) are perpendicular to the  $x$ -axis. At such exceptional critical points

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = f'(x) = \infty;$$

or, what amounts to the same thing,

$$\frac{1}{f'(x)} = 0.$$

---

<sup>3</sup>Conversely, for any given value of  $x$ , if  $f'(x) > 0$ , then  $f(x)$  is increasing; if  $f'(x) < 0$ , then  $f(x)$  is decreasing. When  $f'(x) = 0$ , we cannot decide without further investigation whether  $f(x)$  is increasing or decreasing.

<sup>4</sup>By this is meant that its reciprocal passes through the value zero.

## 8.4 Maximum and minimum values of a function

A *maximum value* of a function is one that is greater than any values immediately preceding or following. A *minimum value* of a function is one that is less than any values immediately preceding or following.

For example, in Figure 8.7, it is clear that the function has a maximum value ( $y = 2$ ) when  $x = 1$ , and a minimum value ( $y = 1$ ) when  $x = 2$ .

The student should observe that a maximum value is not necessarily the greatest possible value of a function nor a minimum value the least. For in Figure 8.7 it is seen that the function ( $= y$ ) has values to the right of  $x = 1$  that are greater than the maximum 2, and values to the left of  $x = 1$  that are less than the minimum 1.

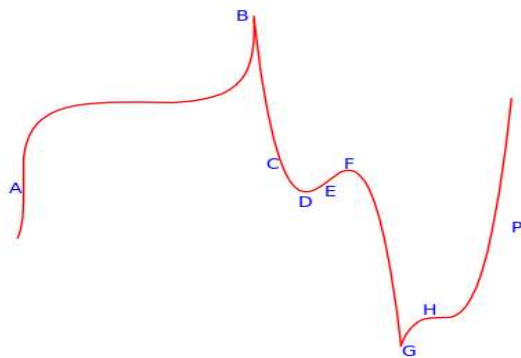


Figure 8.8: A continuous function.

A function may have several maximum and minimum values. Suppose that Figure 8.8 represents the graph of a function  $f(x)$ .

At B, F the function is at a local maximum, and at D, G a minimum. That some particular minimum value of a function may be greater than some particular maximum value is shown in the figure, the minimum value at D being greater than the maximum value at G.

At the ordinary critical points D, F, H the tangent (or curve) is parallel to the  $x$ -axis; therefore

$$\text{slope} = \frac{dy}{dx} = f'(x) = 0.$$

At the exceptional critical points A, B, G the tangent (or curve) is perpendicular

to the  $x$ -axis, giving

$$\text{slope} = \frac{dy}{dx} = f'(x) = \infty.$$

One of these two conditions is then necessary in order that the function shall have a maximum or a minimum value. But such a condition is not sufficient; for at H the slope is zero and at A it is infinite, and yet the function has neither a maximum nor a minimum value at either point. It is necessary for us to know, in addition, how the function behaves in the neighborhood of each point. Thus at the points of maximum value, B, F, the function changes from an increasing to a decreasing function, and at the points of minimum value, D, G, the function changes from a decreasing to an increasing function. It therefore follows from §8.3 that at maximum points

$$\text{slope} = \frac{dy}{dx} = f'(x) \text{ must change from } + \text{ to } -,$$

and at minimum points

$$\text{slope} = \frac{dy}{dx} = f'(x) \text{ must change from } - \text{ to } +$$

when we move along the curve from left to right.

At such points as A and H where the slope is zero or infinite, but which are neither maximum nor minimum points,

$$\text{slope} = \frac{dy}{dx} = f'(x) \text{ does not change sign.}$$

We may then state the conditions in general for maximum and minimum values of  $f(x)$  for certain values of the variable as follows:

$$f(x) \text{ is a maximum if } f'(x) = 0, \text{ and } f'(x) \text{ changes from } + \text{ to } -. \quad (8.1)$$

$$f(x) \text{ is a minimum if } f'(x) = 0, \text{ and } f'(x) \text{ changes from } - \text{ to } +. \quad (8.2)$$

The values of the variable at the turning points of a function are called *critical values*; thus  $x = 1$  and  $x = 2$  are the critical values of the variable for the function whose graph is shown in Figure 8.7. The critical values at turning points where the tangent is parallel to the  $x$ -axis are evidently found by placing the first derivative equal to zero and solving for real values of  $x$ , just as under §6.1. (Similarly, if we wish to examine a function at exceptional turning points where the tangent is perpendicular to the  $x$ -axis, we set the reciprocal of the first derivative equal to zero and solve to find critical values.)

To determine the sign of the first derivative at points near a particular turning point, substitute in it, first, a value of the variable just a little less than the

## 8.5. EXAMINING A FUNCTION FOR EXTREMAL VALUES: FIRST METHOD

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corresponding critical value, and then one a little greater<sup>5</sup>. If the first gives + (as at L, Figure 8.8) and the second - (as at M), then the function ( $= y$ ) has a maximum value in that interval (as at I). If the first gives - (as at P) and the second + (as at N), then the function ( $= y$ ) has a minimum value in that interval (as at C).

If the sign is the same in both cases (as at Q and R), then the function ( $= y$ ) has neither a maximum nor a minimum value in that interval (as at F)<sup>6</sup>.

We shall now summarize our results into a compact working rule.

### 8.5 Examining a function for extremal values: first method

Working rule:

- FIRST STEP. Find the first derivative of the function.
- SECOND STEP. Set the first derivative equal to zero<sup>7</sup> and solve the resulting equation for real roots in order to find the critical values of the variable.
- THIRD STEP. Write the derivative in factor form; if it is algebraic, write it in linear form.
- FOURTH STEP. Considering one critical value at a time, test the first derivative, first for a value a trifle less and then for a value a trifle greater than the critical value. If the sign of the derivative is first + and then -, the function has a maximum value for that particular critical value of the variable; but if the reverse is true, then it has a minimum value. If the sign does not change, the function has neither.

**Example 8.5.1.** In the problem worked out in Example 8.1.1, we showed by means of the graph of the function

$$A = x\sqrt{100 - x^2}$$

that the rectangle of maximum area inscribed in a circle of radius 5 inches contained 50 square inches. This may now be proved analytically as follows by applying the above rule.

Solution.  $f(x) = x\sqrt{100 - x^2}$ .

---

<sup>5</sup>In this connection the term “little less,” or “trifle less,” means any value between the next smaller root (critical value) and the one under consideration; and the term “little greater,” or “trifle greater,” means any value between the root under consideration and the next larger one.

<sup>6</sup>A similar discussion will evidently hold for the exceptional turning points B, E, and A respectively.

<sup>7</sup>When the first derivative becomes infinite for a certain value of the independent variable, then the function should be examined for such a critical value of the variable, for it may give maximum or minimum values, as at B, E, or A (Figure 8.8). See footnote in §8.3.



## 8.6. EXAMINING A FUNCTION FOR EXTREMAL VALUES: SECOND METHOD

First step.  $f'(x) = \frac{100-2x^2}{\sqrt{100-x^2}}$ .

Second step.  $\frac{100-2x^2}{\sqrt{100-x^2}} = 0$  implies  $x = 5\sqrt{2}$ , which is the critical value. Only the positive sign of the radical is taken, since, from the nature of the problem, the negative sign has no meaning.

Third step.  $f'(x) = \frac{2(5\sqrt{2}-x)(5\sqrt{2}+x)}{\sqrt{(10-x)(10+x)}}$ .

Fourth step. When  $x < 5\sqrt{2}$ ,  $f'(x) = \frac{2(+)(+)}{\sqrt{(+)(+)}} = +$ . When  $x > 5\sqrt{2}$ ,  $f'(x) = \frac{2(+)(-)}{\sqrt{(-)(+)}} = -$ .

Since the sign of the first derivative changes from  $+$  to  $-$  at  $x = 5\sqrt{2}$ , the function has a maximum value

$$f(5\sqrt{2}) = 5\sqrt{2} \cdot 5\sqrt{2} = 50.$$

In SAGE:

SAGE

```
sage: x = var("x")
sage: f(x) = x*sqrt(100 - x^2)
sage: f1(x) = diff(f(x),x); f1(x)
sqrt(100 - x^2) - x^2/sqrt(100 - x^2)
sage: crit_pts = solve(f1(x) == 0,x); crit_pts
[x == -5*sqrt(2), x == 5*sqrt(2)]
sage: x0 = crit_pts[1].rhs(); x0
5*sqrt(2)
sage: f(x0)
50
sage: RR(f1(x0-0.1))>0
True
sage: RR(f1(x0+0.1))<0
True
```

This tells us that  $x_0 = 5\sqrt{2}$  is a critical point, at which the area is 50 square inches and at which the area changes from increasing to decreasing. This implies that the area is a maximum at this point.

## 8.6 Examining a function for extremal values: second method

From (8.1), it is clear that in the vicinity of a maximum value of  $f(x)$ , in passing along the graph from left to right,  $f'(x)$  changes from  $+$  to  $0$  to  $-$ . Hence  $f'(x)$  is a decreasing function, and by §8.3 we know that its derivative, i.e. the second derivative ( $= f''(x)$ ) of the function itself, is negative or zero.

## 8.6. EXAMINING A FUNCTION FOR EXTREMAL VALUES: SECOND METHOD

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Similarly, we have, from (8.2), that in the vicinity of a minimum value of  $f(x)$   $f'(x)$  changes from  $-$  to  $0$  to  $+$ . Hence  $f'(x)$  is an increasing function and by §8.3 it follows that  $f''(x)$  is positive or zero.

The student should observe that  $f''(x)$  is positive not only at minimum values but also at “nearby” points,  $P$  say, to the right of such a critical point. For, as a point passes through  $P$  in moving from left to right, slope  $= \tan \tau = \frac{dy}{dx} = f'(x)$  is an increasing function. At such a point the curve is said to be *concave upwards*. Similarly,  $f''(x)$  is negative not only at maximum points but also at “nearby” points,  $Q$  say, to the left of such a critical point. For, as a point passes through  $Q$ , slope  $= \tan \tau = \frac{dy}{dx} = f'(x)$  is a decreasing function. At such a point the curve is said to be *concave downwards*.

At a point where the curve is concave upwards we sometimes say that the curve has a “positive bending,” and where it is concave downwards a “negative bending.”

We may then state the sufficient conditions for maximum and minimum values of  $f(x)$  for certain values of the variable as follows:

$$f(x) \text{ is a maximum if } f'(x) = 0 \text{ and } f''(x) = \text{a negative number.} \quad (8.3)$$

$$f(x) \text{ is a minimum if } f'(x) = 0 \text{ and } f''(x) = \text{a positive number.} \quad (8.4)$$

Following is the corresponding working rule.

- FIRST STEP. Find the first derivative of the function.
- SECOND STEP. Set the first derivative equal to zero and solve the resulting equation for real roots in order to find the critical values of the variable.
- THIRD STEP. Find the second derivative.
- FOURTH STEP. Substitute each critical value for the variable in the second derivative. If the result is negative, then the function is a maximum for that critical value; if the result is positive, the function is a minimum.

When  $f''(x) = 0$ , or does not exist, the above process fails, although there may even then be a maximum or a minimum; in that case the first method given in the last section still holds, being fundamental. Usually this second method does apply, and when the process of finding the second derivative is not too long or tedious, it is generally the shortest method.

**Example 8.6.1.** Let us now apply the above rule to test analytically the function

$$M = x^2 + \frac{432}{x}$$

## 8.6. EXAMINING A FUNCTION FOR EXTREMAL VALUES: SECOND METHOD

found in Example 8.1.2.

Solution.  $f(x) = x^2 + \frac{432}{x}$ .

First step.  $f'(x) = 2x - \frac{432}{x^2}$ .

Second step.  $2x - \frac{432}{x^2} = 0$ .

Third step.  $f''(x) = 2 + \frac{864}{x^3}$ .

Fourth step.  $f''(6) = +$ . Hence  $f(6) = 108$ , minimum value.

In SAGE:

SAGE

```
sage: x = var("x")
sage: f(x) = x^2 + 432/x
sage: f1(x) = diff(f(x),x); f1(x)
2*x - 432/x^2
sage: f2(x) = diff(f(x),x,2); f2(x)
864/x^3 + 2
sage: crit_pts = solve(f1(x) == 0,x); crit_pts
[x == 3*sqrt(3)*I - 3, x == -3*sqrt(3)*I - 3, x == 6]
sage: x0 = crit_pts[2].rhs(); x0
6
sage: f2(x0)
6
sage: f(x0)
108
```

This tells us that  $x_0 = 6$  is a critical point and that  $f''(x_0) > 0$ , so it is a minimum.

The work of finding maximum and minimum values may frequently be simplified by the aid of the following principles, which follow at once from our discussion of the subject.

- (a) The maximum and minimum values of a continuous function must occur alternately,
- (b) When  $c$  is a positive constant,  $c \cdot f(x)$  is a maximum or a minimum for such values of  $x$ , and such only, as make  $f(x)$  a maximum or a minimum. Hence, in determining the critical values of  $x$  and testing for maxima and minima, any constant factor may be omitted.  
When  $c$  is negative,  $c \cdot f(x)$  is a maximum when  $f(x)$  is a minimum, and conversely.
- (c) If  $c$  is a constant,  $f(x)$  and  $c + f(x)$  have maximum and minimum values for the same values of  $x$ .

Hence a constant term may be omitted when finding critical values of  $x$  and testing.

## 8.7. PROBLEMS

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In general we must first construct, from the conditions given in the problem, the function whose maximum and minimum values are required, as was done in the two examples worked out in §8.1. This is sometimes a problem of considerable difficulty. No rule applicable in all cases can be given for constructing the function, but in a large number of problems we may be guided by the following General directions.

- (a) Express the function whose maximum or minimum is involved in the problem.
- (b) If the resulting expression contains more than one variable, the conditions of the problem will furnish enough relations between the variables so that all may be expressed in terms of a single one.
- (c) To the resulting function of a single variable apply one of our two rules for finding maximum and minimum values.
- (d) In practical problems it is usually easy to tell which critical value will give a maximum and which a minimum value, so it is not always necessary to apply the fourth step of our rules.
- (e) Draw the graph of the function in order to check the work.

## 8.7 Problems

1. It is desired to make an open-top box of greatest possible volume from a square piece of tin whose side is  $a$ , by cutting equal squares out of the corners and then folding up the tin to form the sides. What should be the length of a side of the squares cut out?

Solution. Let  $x$  = side of small square = depth of box; then  $a - 2x$  = side of square forming bottom of box, and volume is  $V = (a - 2x)^2 x$ , which is the function to be made a maximum by varying  $x$ . Applying rule:

First step.  $\frac{dV}{dx} = (a - 2x)^2 - 4x(a - 2x) = a^2 - 8ax + 12x^2$ .

Second step. Solving  $a^2 - 8ax + 12x^2 = 0$  gives critical values  $x = \frac{a}{2}$  and  $\frac{a}{6}$ .

It is evident that  $x = \frac{a}{2}$  must give a minimum, for then all the tin would be cut away, leaving no material out of which to make a box. By the usual test,  $x = \frac{a}{6}$  is found to give a maximum volume  $\frac{2a^3}{27}$ . Hence the side of the square to be cut out is one sixth of the side of the given square.

The drawing of the graph of the function in this and the following problems is left to the student.

2. Assuming that the strength of a beam with rectangular cross section varies directly as the breadth and as the square of the depth, what are the dimensions of the strongest beam that can be sawed out of a round log whose diameter is  $d$ ?

Solution. If  $x$  = breadth and  $y$  = depth, then the beam will have maximum strength when the function  $xy^2$  is a maximum. From the construction and the Pythagorean theorem,  $y^2 = d^2 - x^2$ ; hence we should test the function

$$f(x) = x(d^2 - x^2).$$

First step.  $f'(x) = -2x^2 + d^2 - x^2 = d^2 - 3x^2$ .

Second step.  $d^2 - 3x^2 = 0$ . Therefore,  $x = \frac{d}{\sqrt{3}}$  = critical value which gives a maximum.

Therefore, if the beam is cut so that depth =  $\sqrt{\frac{2}{3}}$  of diameter of log, and breadth =  $\sqrt{\frac{1}{3}}$  of diameter of log, the beam will have maximum strength.

3. What is the width of the rectangle of maximum area that can be inscribed in a given segment  $OAA'$  of a parabola?

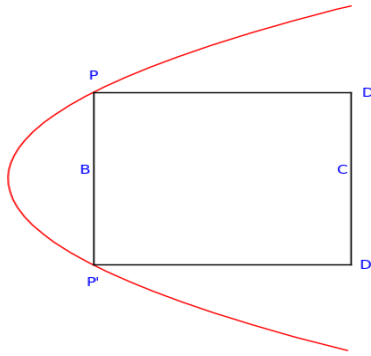


Figure 8.9: An inscribed rectangle in a parabola,  $P = (x, y)$ .

HINT. If  $OC = h$ ,  $BC = h - x$  and  $PP' = 2y$ ; therefore the area of rectangle  $PDD'P'$  is  $2(h - x)y$ .

But since  $P$  lies on the parabola  $y^2 = 2px$ , the function to be tested is  $2(h - x)\sqrt{2px}$

Ans. Width =  $\frac{2}{3}h$ .

4. Find the altitude of the cone of maximum volume that can be inscribed in a sphere of radius  $r$  (see Figure 8.10).

HINT. Volume of cone =  $\frac{1}{3}\pi x^2 y$ . But  $x^2 = BC \times CD = y(2r - y)$ ; therefore the function to be tested is  $f(y) = \frac{\pi}{3}y^2(2r - y)$ .

Ans. Altitude of cone =  $\frac{4}{3}r$ .

## 8.7. PROBLEMS

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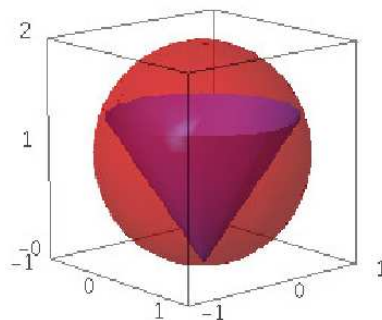


Figure 8.10: An inscribed cone, height  $y$  and base radius  $x$ , in a sphere.

5. Find the altitude of the cylinder of maximum volume that can be inscribed in a given right cone (see Figure 8.11).

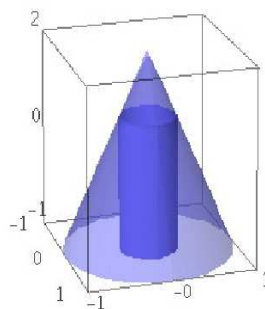


Figure 8.11: An inscribed cylinder in a cone.

HINT. Let  $AU = r$  and  $BC = h$ . Volume of cylinder  $= \pi x^2 y$ . But from similar triangles  $ABC$  and  $DBG$ ,  $r/x = h/(h - y)$ , so  $x = \frac{r(h-y)}{h}$ . Hence the function to be tested is  $f(y) = \frac{r^2}{h^2} y(h - y)^2$ .

Ans. Altitude  $= \frac{1}{3}h$ .

6. Divide  $a$  into two parts such that their product is a maximum.

Ans. Each part  $= \frac{a}{2}$ .

7. Divide 10 into two such parts that the sum of the double of one and square of the other may be a minimum.  
Ans. 9 and 1.
8. Find the number that exceeds its square by the greatest possible quantity.  
Ans.  $\frac{1}{2}$ .
9. What number added to its reciprocal gives the least possible sum?  
Ans. 1.
10. Assuming that the stiffness of a beam of rectangular cross section varies directly as the breadth and the cube of the depth, what must be the breadth of the stiffest beam that can be cut from a log 16 inches in diameter?  
Ans. Breadth = 8 inches.
11. A water tank is to be constructed with a square base and open top, and is to hold 64 cubic yards. If the cost of the sides is \$ 1 a square yard, and of the bottom \$ 2 a square yard, what are the dimensions when the cost is a minimum? What is the minimum cost?  
Ans. Side of base = 4 yd., height = 4 yd., cost \$ 96.
12. A rectangular tract of land is to be bought for the purpose of laying out a quarter-mile track with straightaway sides and semicircular ends. In addition a strip 35 yards wide along each straightaway is to be bought for grand stands, training quarters, etc. If the land costs \$ 200 an acre, what will be the maximum cost of the land required?  
Ans. \$ 856.
13. A torpedo boat is anchored 9 miles from the nearest point of a beach, and it is desired to send a messenger in the shortest possible time to a military camp situated 15 miles from that point along the shore. If he can walk 5 miles an hour but row only 4 miles an hour, required the place he must land.  
Ans. 3 miles from the camp.
14. A gas holder is a cylindrical vessel closed at the top and open at the bottom, where it sinks into the water. What should be its proportions for a given volume to require the least material (this would also give least weight)?  
Ans. Diameter = double the height.
15. What should be the dimensions and weight of a gas holder of 8,000,000 cubic feet capacity, built in the most economical manner out of sheet iron  $\frac{1}{16}$  of an inch thick and weighing  $\frac{5}{2}$  lb. per sq. ft.?  
Ans. Height = 137 ft., diameter = 273 ft., weight = 220 tons.

## 8.7. PROBLEMS

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16. A sheet of paper is to contain 18 sq. in. of printed matter. The margins at the top and bottom are to be 2 inches each and at the sides 1 inch each. Determine the dimensions of the sheet which will require the least amount of paper.

Ans. 5 in. by 10 in.

17. A paper-box manufacturer has in stock a quantity of strawboard 30 inches by 14 inches. Out of this material he wishes to make open-top boxes by cutting equal squares out of each corner and then folding up to form the sides. Find the side of the square that should be cut out in order to give the boxes maximum volume.

Ans. 3 inches.

18. A roofer wishes to make an open gutter of maximum capacity whose bottom and sides are each 4 inches wide and whose sides have the same slope. What should be the width across the top?

Ans. 8 inches. 4

19. Assuming that the energy expended in driving a steamboat through the water varies as the cube of her velocity, find her most economical rate per hour when steaming against a current running  $c$  miles per hour.

HINT. Let  $v$  = most economical speed; then  $av^3$  = energy expended each hour,  $a$  being a constant depending upon the particular conditions, and  $v - c$  = actual distance advanced per hour. Hence  $\frac{av^3}{v-c}$  is the energy expended per mile of distance advanced, and it is therefore the function whose minimum is wanted.

20. Prove that a conical tent of a given capacity will require the least amount of canvas when the height is  $\sqrt{2}$  times the radius of the base. Show that when the canvas is laid out flat it will be a circle with a sector of  $152^{\circ}9' = 2.6555\dots$  cut out. A bell tent 10 ft. high should then have a base of diameter 14 ft. and would require 272 sq. ft. of canvas.

21. A cylindrical steam boiler is to be constructed having a capacity of 1000 cu. ft. The material for the side costs \$ 2 a square foot, and for the ends \$ 3 a square foot. Find radius when the cost is the least.

Ans.  $\frac{1}{\sqrt[3]{3\pi}}$  ft.

22. In the corner of a field bounded by two perpendicular roads a spring is situated 6 rods from one road and 8 rods from the other.

(a) How should a straight road be run by this spring and across the corner so as to cut off as little of the field as possible?

(b) What would be the length of the shortest road that could be run across?

Ans. (a) 12 and 16 rods from corner. (b)  $(6^{\frac{2}{3}} + 8^{\frac{2}{3}})^{\frac{3}{2}}$  rods.



23. Show that a square is the rectangle of maximum perimeter that can be inscribed in a given circle.
24. Two poles of height  $a$  and  $b$  feet are standing upright and are  $c$  feet apart. Find the point on the line joining their bases such that the sum of the squares of the distances from this point to the tops of the poles is a minimum. (Ans. Midway between the poles.) When will the sum of these distances be a minimum?
25. A conical tank with open top is to be built to contain  $V$  cubic feet. Determine the shape if the material used is a minimum.
26. An isosceles triangle has a base 12 in. long and altitude 10 in. Find the rectangle of maximum area that can be inscribed in it, one side of the rectangle coinciding with the base of the triangle.
27. Divide the number 4 into two such parts that the sum of the cube of one part and three times the square of the other shall have a maximum value.
28. Divide the number  $a$  into two parts such that the product of one part by the fourth power of the other part shall be a maximum.
29. A can buoy in the form of a double cone is to be made from two equal circular iron plates of radius  $r$ . Find the radius of the base of the cone when the buoy has the greatest displacement (maximum volume).

Ans.  $r\sqrt{\frac{2}{3}}$ .

30. Into a full conical wineglass of depth  $a$  and generating angle  $\alpha$  there is carefully dropped a sphere of such size as to cause the greatest overflow. Show that the radius of the sphere is  $\frac{\alpha \sin \alpha}{\sin \alpha \cos 2\alpha}$ .
31. A wall 27 ft. high is 8 ft. from a house. Find the length of the shortest ladder that will reach the house if one end rests on the ground outside of the wall.

Ans.  $13\sqrt{13}$ .

Here's how to solve this using **SAGE**: Let  $h$  be the height above ground at which the ladder hits the house and let  $d$  be the distance from the wall that the ladder hits the ground on the other side of the wall. By similar triangles,  $h/27 = (8+d)/d = 1 + \frac{8}{d}$ , so  $d+8 = 8\frac{h}{h-27}$ . The length of the ladder is, by the Pythagorean theorem,  $f(h) = \sqrt{h^2 + (8+d)^2} = \sqrt{h^2 + (8\frac{h}{h-27})^2}$ .

SAGE

```
sage: h = var("h")
sage: f(h) = sqrt(h^2 + (8*h/(h-27))^2)
sage: fl(h) = diff(f(h),h)
```

## 8.7. PROBLEMS

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```
sage: f2(h) = diff(f(h),h,2)
sage: crit_pts = solve(f1(h) == 0,h); crit_pts
[h == 21 - 6*sqrt(3)*I, h == 6*sqrt(3)*I + 21, h == 39, h == 0]
sage: h0 = crit_pts[2].rhs(); h0
39
sage: f(h0)
13*sqrt(13)
sage: f2(h0)
3/(4*sqrt(13))
```

This says  $f(h)$  has four critical points, but only one of which is meaningful,  $h_0 = 39$ . At this point,  $f(h)$  is a minimum.

32. A vessel is anchored 3 miles offshore, and opposite a point 5 miles further along the shore another vessel is anchored 9 miles from the shore. A boat from the first vessel is to land a passenger on the shore and then proceed to the other vessel. What is the shortest course of the boat?

Ans. 13 miles.

33. A steel girder 25 ft. long is moved on rollers along a passageway 12.8 ft. wide and into a corridor at right angles to the passageway. Neglecting the width of the girder, how wide must the corridor be?

Ans. 5.4 ft.

34. A miner wishes to dig a tunnel from a point A to a point B 300 feet below and 500 feet to the east of A. Below the level of A it is bed rock and above A is soft earth. If the cost of tunneling through earth is \$ 1 and through rock \$ 3 per linear foot, find the minimum cost of a tunnel.

Ans. \$ 1348.53.

35. A carpenter has 108 sq. ft. of lumber with which to build a box with a square base and open top. Find the dimensions of the largest possible box he can make.

Ans.  $6 \times 6 \times 3$ .

36. Find the right triangle of maximum area that can be constructed on a line of length  $h$  as hypotenuse.

Ans.  $\frac{h}{\sqrt{2}}$  = length of both legs.

37. What is the isosceles triangle of maximum area that can be inscribed in a given circle?

Ans. An equilateral triangle.

38. Find the altitude of the maximum rectangle that can be inscribed in a right triangle with base  $b$  and altitude  $h$ .

Ans. Altitude =  $\frac{h}{2}$ .

39. Find the dimensions of the rectangle of maximum area that can be inscribed in the ellipse  $b^2x^2 + a^2y^2 = a^2b^2$ .  
Ans.  $a\sqrt{2} \times b\sqrt{2}$ ; area =  $2ab$ .
40. Find the altitude of the right cylinder of maximum volume that can be inscribed in a sphere of radius  $r$ .  
Ans. Altitude of cylinder =  $\frac{2r}{\sqrt{3}}$ .
41. Find the altitude of the right cylinder of maximum convex (curved) surface that can be inscribed in a given sphere.  
Ans. Altitude of cylinder =  $r\sqrt{2}$ .
42. What are the dimensions of the right hexagonal prism of minimum surface whose volume is 36 cubic feet?  
Ans. Altitude =  $2\sqrt{3}$ ; side of hexagon = 2.
43. Find the altitude of the right cone of minimum volume circumscribed about a given sphere.  
Ans. Altitude =  $4r$ , and volume =  $2 \times$  vol. of sphere.
44. A right cone of maximum volume is inscribed in a given right cone, the vertex of the inside cone being at the center of the base of the given cone. Show that the altitude of the inside cone is one third the altitude of the given cone.
45. Given a point on the axis of the parabola  $y^2 = 2px$  at a distance  $a$  from the vertex; find the abscissa of the point of the curve nearest to it.  
Ans.  $x = a - p$ .
46. What is the length of the shortest line that can be drawn tangent to the ellipse  $b^2x^2 + a^2y^2 = a^2b^2$  and meeting the coordinate axes?  
Ans.  $a + b$ .
47. A Norman window consists of a rectangle surmounted by a semicircle. Given the perimeter, required the height and breadth of the window when the quantity of light admitted is a maximum.  
Ans. Radius of circle = height of rectangle.
48. A tapestry 7 feet in height is hung on a wall so that its lower edge is 9 feet above an observer's eye. At what distance from the wall should he stand in order to obtain the most favorable view? (HINT. The vertical angle subtended by the tapestry in the eye of the observer must be at a maximum.)  
Ans. 12 feet.

## 8.7. PROBLEMS

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49. What are the most economical proportions of a tin can which shall have a given capacity, making allowance for waste? (HINT. There is no waste in cutting out tin for the side of the can, but for top and bottom a hexagon of tin circumscribing the circular pieces required is used up. NOTE 1. If no allowance is made for waste, then height = diameter. NOTE 2. We know that the shape of a bee cell is hexagonal, giving a certain capacity for honey with the greatest possible economy of wax.)

Ans. Height =  $\frac{2\sqrt{3}}{\pi} \times$  diameter of base.

50. An open cylindrical trough is constructed by bending a given sheet of tin at breadth  $2a$ . Find the radius of the cylinder of which the trough forms a part when the capacity of the trough is a maximum.

Ans. Rad. =  $\frac{2a}{\pi}$ ; i.e. it must be bent in the form of a semicircle.

51. A weight  $W$  is to be raised by means of a lever with the force  $F$  at one end and the point of support at the other. If the weight is suspended from a point at a distance  $a$  from the point of support, and the weight of the beam is  $w$  pounds per linear foot, what should be the length of the lever in order that the force required to lift it shall be a minimum?

Ans.  $x = \sqrt{\frac{2aW}{w}}$  feet.

52. An electric arc light is to be placed directly over the center of a circular plot of grass 100 feet in diameter. Assuming that the intensity of light varies directly as the sine of the angle under which it strikes an illuminated surface, and inversely as the square of its distance from the surface, how high should the light be hung in order that the best possible light shall fall on a walk along the circumference of the plot?

Ans.  $\frac{50}{\sqrt{2}}$  feet

53. The lower corner of a leaf, whose width is  $a$ , is folded over so as just to reach the inner edge of the page.

(a) Find the width of the part folded over when the length of the crease is a minimum.

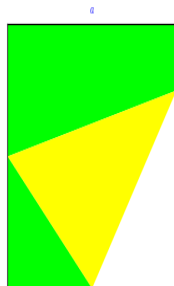
(b) Find the width when the area folded over is a minimum.

Ans. (a)  $\frac{3}{4}a$ ; (b)  $\frac{2}{3}a$ .

54. A rectangular stockade is to be built which must have a certain area. If a stone wall already constructed is available for one of the sides, find the dimensions which would make the cost of construction the least.

Ans. Side parallel to wall = twice the length of each end.

55. When the resistance of air is taken into account, the inclination of a pendulum to the vertical may be given by the formula  $\theta = ae^{-kt} \cos(nt + \eta)$ . Show that the greatest elongations occur at equal intervals  $\frac{\pi}{n}$  of time.

Figure 8.12: A leafed page of width  $a$ .

56. It is required to measure a certain unknown magnitude  $x$  with precision. Suppose that  $n$  equally careful observations of the magnitude are made, giving the results  $a_1, a_2, a_3, \dots, a_n$ . The errors of these observations are evidently  $x - a_1, x - a_2, x - a_3, \dots, x - a_n$ , some of which are positive and some negative. It has been agreed that the most probable value of  $x$  is such that it renders the sum of the squares of the errors, namely  $(x - a_1)^2 + (x - a_2)^2 + (x - a_3)^2 + \dots + (x - a_n)^2$ , a minimum. Show that this gives the arithmetical mean of the observations as the most probable value of  $x$ .

(This is related to the method of least squares, discovered by Gauss, a commonly used technique in statistical applications.)

57. The bending moment at  $x$  of a beam of length  $\ell$ , uniformly loaded, is given by the formula  $M = \frac{1}{2}w\ell x - \frac{1}{2}wx^2$ , where  $w$  = load per unit length. Show that the maximum bending moment is at the center of the beam.
58. If the total waste per mile in an electric conductor is  $W = c^2r + \frac{t^2}{r}$ , where  $c$  = current in amperes (a constant),  $r$  = resistance in ohms per mile, and  $t$  = a constant depending on the interest on the investment and the depreciation of the plant, what is the relation between  $c$ ,  $r$ , and  $t$  when the waste is a minimum?

Ans.  $cr = t$ .

59. A submarine telegraph cable consists of a core of copper wires with a covering made of nonconducting material. If  $x$  denote the ratio of the radius of the core to the thickness of the covering, it is known that the speed of signaling varies as

$$x^2 \log \frac{1}{x}.$$

Show that the greatest speed is attained when  $x = \frac{1}{\sqrt{e}}$ .

## 8.7. PROBLEMS

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60. Assuming that the power given out by a voltaic cell is given by the formula

$$P = \frac{E^2 R}{(r + R)^2},$$

when  $E$  = constant electromotive force,  $r$  = constant internal resistance,  $R$  = external resistance, prove that  $P$  is a maximum when  $r = R$ .

61. The force exerted by a circular electric current of radius  $a$  on a small magnet whose axis coincides with the axis of the circle varies as

$$\frac{x}{(a^2 + x^2)^{\frac{5}{2}}}.$$

where  $x$  = distance of magnet from plane of circle. Prove that the force is a maximum when  $x = \frac{a}{2}$ .

62. We have two sources of heat at A and B, which we visualize on the real line (with B to the right of A), with intensities  $a$  and  $b$  respectively. The total intensity of heat at a point P between A and B at a distance of  $x$  from A is given by the formula  $I = \frac{a}{x^2} + \frac{b}{(d-x)^2}$ . Show that the temperature at P will be the lowest when  $\frac{d-x}{x} = \frac{\sqrt[3]{b}}{\sqrt[3]{a}}$ , that is, the distances BP and AP have the same ratio as the cube roots of the corresponding heat intensities. The distance of P from A is  $x = \frac{a^{\frac{1}{3}} d}{a^{\frac{1}{3}} + b^{\frac{1}{3}}}$ .

63. The range of a projectile in a vacuum is given by the formula  $R = \frac{v_0^2 \sin 2\phi}{g}$ , where  $v_0$  = initial velocity,  $g$  = acceleration due to gravity,  $\phi$  = angle of projection with the horizontal. Find the angle of projection which gives the greatest range for a given initial velocity.

Ans.  $\phi = 45^\circ = \pi/4$ .

64. The total time of flight of the projectile in the last problem is given by the formula  $T = \frac{2v_0 \sin \phi}{g}$ . At what angle should it be projected in order to make the time of flight a maximum?

Ans.  $\phi = 90^\circ = \pi/2$ .

65. The time it takes a ball to roll down an inclined plane with angle  $\phi$  (with respect to the  $x$ -axis) is given by the formula  $T = 2\sqrt{\frac{2}{g \sin 2\phi}}$ . Neglecting friction, etc., what must be the value of  $\phi$  to make the quickest descent?

Ans.  $\phi = 45^\circ = \pi/4$ .

66. Examine the function  $(x-1)^2(x+1)^3$  for maximum and minimum values. Use the first method.

Solution.  $f(x) = (x-1)^2(x+1)^3$ .

First step.  $f'(x) = 2(x-1)(x+1)^3 + 3(x-1)^2(x+1)^2 = (x-1)(x+1)^2(5x-1)$ .

Second step.  $(x-1)(x+1)^2(5x-1) = 0$ ,  $x = 1, -1, \frac{1}{5}$ , which are critical values.

Third step.  $f'(x) = 5(x-1)(x+1)^2(x - \frac{1}{5})$ .

Fourth step. Examine first for critical value  $x = 1$ .

When  $x < 1$ ,  $f'(x) = 5(-)(+)^2(+) = -$ . When  $x > 1$ ,  $f'(x) = 5(+)(+)^2(+) = +$ . Therefore, when  $x = 1$  the function has a minimum value  $f(1) = 0$ . Examine now for the critical value  $x = \frac{1}{5}$ . When  $x < \frac{1}{5}$ ,  $f'(x) = 5(-)(+)^2(-) = +$ . When  $x > \frac{1}{5}$ ,  $f'(x) = 5(-)(+)^2(+) = -$ . Therefore, when  $x = \frac{1}{5}$  the function has a maximum value  $f(\frac{1}{5}) = 1.11$ . Examine lastly for the critical value  $x = -1$ . When  $x < -1$ ,  $f'(x) = 5(-)(-)^2(-) = +$ . When  $x > -1$ ,  $f'(x) = 5(-)(+)^2(-) = +$ . Therefore, when  $x = -1$  the function has neither a maximum nor a minimum value.

67.

Examine the following functions for maximum and minimum values:

69.  $(x-3)^2(x-2)$ .

Ans.  $x = \frac{7}{3}$ , gives max.  $= \frac{4}{27}$ ;  $x = 3$ , gives min.  $= 0$ .

70.  $(x-1)^3(x-2)^2$ .

Ans.  $x = \frac{8}{5}$ , gives max.  $= 0.03456$ ;  $x = 2$ , gives min.  $= 0$ ;  $x = 1$ , gives neither.

71.  $(x-4)^5(x+2)^4$ .

Ans.  $x = -2$ , gives max.;  $x = \frac{2}{3}$  gives min;  $x = 4$ , gives neither.

72.  $(x-2)^5(2x+1)^4$ .

Ans.  $x = -\frac{1}{2}$ , gives max.;  $x = \frac{11}{18}$ , gives min.;  $x = 2$ , gives neither.

73.  $(x+1)^{\frac{2}{3}}(x-5)^2$ .

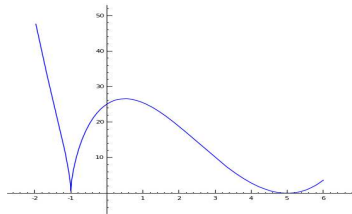


Figure 8.13: SAGE plot of  $y = (x+1)^{\frac{2}{3}}(x-5)^2$ .

Ans.  $x = \frac{1}{2}$ , gives max.;  $x = -1$  and  $5$ , give min.

74.  $(2x-a)^{\frac{1}{3}}(x-a)^{\frac{2}{3}}$ .

Ans.  $x = \frac{2a}{3}$ , gives max.;  $x = 1$  and  $-\frac{1}{3}$ , gives min.;  $x = \frac{a}{2}$ , gives neither.

## 8.7. PROBLEMS

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75.  $x(x-1)^2(x+1)^3$ .

Ans.  $x = \frac{1}{2}$ , gives max.;  $x = 1$  and  $-\frac{1}{3}$ , gives min.;  $x = -1$ , gives neither.

76.  $x(a+x)^2(a-x)^3$

Ans.  $x = -a$  and  $\frac{a}{3}$ , give max.;  $x = -\frac{a}{2}$ ;  $x = a$ , gives neither.

77.  $b + c(x-a)^{\frac{2}{3}}$ .

Ans.  $x = a$ , gives min. =  $b$ .

78.  $a - b(x-c)^{\frac{1}{3}}$ .

Ans. No max. or min.

79.  $\frac{x^2-7x+6}{x-10}$ .

Ans.  $x = 4$ , gives max.  $x = 16$ , gives min.

80.  $\frac{(a-x)^3}{a-2x}$ .

Ans.  $x = \frac{a}{4}$ , gives min.

81.  $\frac{1-x+x^2}{1+x-x^2}$ .

Ans.  $x = \frac{1}{2}$ , gives min.

82.  $\frac{x^2-3x+2}{x^2+3x+2}$ .

Ans.  $x = \sqrt{2}$ , gives min. =  $12\sqrt{2} - 17$ ;  $x = -\sqrt{2}$ , gives max. =  $-12\sqrt{2} - 17$ ;  $x = -1, -2$ , give neither.

83.  $\frac{(x-a)(b-x)}{x^2}$ .

$x = \frac{2ab}{a+b}$ , gives max. =  $\frac{(a-b)^2}{4ab}$ .

84.  $\frac{a^2}{x} + \frac{b^2}{a-x}$ .

Ans.  $x = \frac{a^2}{a-b}$ , gives min.;  $x = \frac{a^2}{a+b}$ , gives max.

85. Examine  $x^3 - 3x^2 - 9x + 5$  for maxima and minima, Use the second method, §8.6.

Solution.  $f(x) = x^3 - 3x^2 - 9x + 5$ .

First step.  $f'(x) = 3x^2 - 6x - 9$ .

Second step,  $3x^2 - 6x - 9 = 0$ ; hence the critical values are  $x = -1$  and  $3$ .

Third step.  $f''(x) = 6x - 6$ .

Fourth step.  $f''(-1) = -12$ .

Therefore,  $f(-1) = 10 = \text{maximum value}$ .  $f''(3) = +12$ . Therefore,  $f(3) = -22 = \text{minimum value}$ .



86. Examine  $\sin^2 x \cos x$  for maximum and minimum values.

Solution.  $f(x) = \sin^2 x \cos x$ .

First step.  $f'(x) = 2 \sin x \cos^2 x - \sin^3 x$ .

Second step.  $2 \sin x \cos^2 x - \sin^3 x = 0$ ; hence the critical values are  $x = n\pi$  and  $x = n\pi \pm \arctan(-\sqrt{2}) = n\pi \pm \alpha$ .

Third step.  $f''(x) = \cos x(2 \cos^2 x - 7 \sin^2 x)$ .

Fourth step.  $f''(0) = +$ . Therefore,  $f(0) = 0 = \text{minimum value}$ .  $f''(\pi) = -$ . Therefore,  $f(\pi) = 0 = \text{maximum value}$ .  $f''(\alpha) = -$ . Therefore,  $f(\alpha)$  maximum value.  $f''(\pi - \alpha) = +$ . Therefore,  $f(\pi - \alpha)$  minimum value.

Examine the following functions for maximum and minimum values:

87.  $3x^3 - 9x^2 - 27x + 30$ .

Ans.  $x = -1$ , gives max. = 45;  $x = 3$ , gives min. = -51.

88.  $2x^3 - 21x^2 + 36x - 20$ .

Ans.  $x = 1$ , gives max. = -3;  $x = 6$ , gives min. = -128.

89.  $\frac{x^3}{3} - 21x^2 + 3x + 1$ .

Ans.  $x = 1$ , gives max. =  $\frac{7}{3}$ ;  $x = 3$ , gives min. = 1.

90.  $2x^3 - 15x^2 + 36x + 10$ .

Ans.  $x = 2$ , gives max. = 38;  $x = 3$ , gives min. = 37.

91.  $x^3 - 9x^2 + 15x - 3$ .

Ans.  $x = 1$ , gives max. = 4;  $x = 5$ , gives min. = -28.

92.  $x^3 - 3x^2 + 6x + 10$ .

Ans. No max. or min.

93.  $x^5 - 5x^4 + 5x^3 + 1$ .  $x = 1$ , gives max. = 2;  $x = 3$ , gives min. = -26;  
 $x = 0$ , gives neither.

94.  $3x^5 - 125x^2 + 2160x$ .

$x = -4$  and 3, give max.;  $x = -3$  and 4, give min.

95.  $2x^3 - 3x^2 - 12x + 4$ .

96.  $2x^3 - 21x^2 + 36x - 20$ .

97.  $x^4 - 2x^2 + 10$ .

98.  $x^4 - 4$ .

99.  $x^3 - 8$ .

100.  $4 - x^6$ .

## 8.7. PROBLEMS

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101.  $\sin x(1 + \cos x)$ .

Ans.  $x = 2n\pi + \frac{\pi}{3}$ , give max.  $= \frac{3}{4}\sqrt{3}$ ;  $x = 2n\pi - \frac{\pi}{3}$ , give min.  $= -\frac{3}{4}\sqrt{3}$ ;  
 $x = n\pi$ , give neither.

102.  $\frac{x}{\log x}$ .

Ans.  $x = e$ , gives min.  $= e$ ;  $x = 1$ , gives neither.

103.  $\log \cos x$ .

Ans.  $x = n\pi$ , gives max.

104.  $ae^{kx} + be^{-kx}$ .

Ans.  $x = \frac{1}{k} \log \sqrt{\frac{b}{a}}$ , gives min.  $= 2\sqrt{ab}$ .

105.  $x^x$ .

$x = \frac{1}{e}$ , gives min.

106.  $x^{\frac{1}{x}}$ .

Ans.  $x = e$ , gives max.

107.  $\cos x + \sin x$ .

Ans.  $x = \frac{\pi}{4}$ , gives max.  $= \sqrt{2}$ .  $x = \frac{5\pi}{4}$ , gives min.  $= -\sqrt{2}$ .

108.  $\sin 2x - x$ .

Ans.  $x = \frac{\pi}{6}$ , gives max.;  $x = -\frac{\pi}{6}$ , gives min.

109.  $x + \tan x$ .

Ans. No max. or min.

110.  $\sin^3 x \cos x$ .

Ans.  $x = n\pi + \frac{\pi}{3}$ , gives max.  $= \frac{3}{16}\sqrt{3}$ ;  $x = n\pi - \frac{\pi}{3}$ , gives min.  $= -\frac{3}{16}\sqrt{3}$ ;  
 $x = n\pi$ , gives neither.

111.  $x \cos x$ .

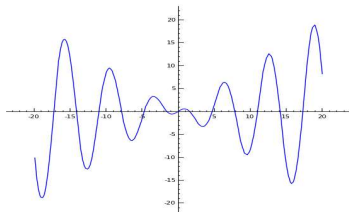


Figure 8.14: SAGE plot of  $y = x \cos(x)$ .

Ans.  $x$  such that  $x \sin x = \cos x$ , gives max/min.

112.  $\sin x + \cos 2x$ .

Ans.  $\arcsin \frac{1}{4}$ , gives max.;  $x = \frac{\pi}{2}$ , gives min.

113.  $2 \tan x - \tan^2 x$ .

Ans.  $x = \frac{\pi}{4}$ , gives max.

114.  $\frac{\sin x}{1 + \tan x}$ .

Ans.  $x = \frac{\pi}{4}$ , gives max.

115.  $\frac{x}{1 + x \tan x}$ .

 $x = \cos x$ , gives max.;  $x = -\cos x$ , gives min.

## 8.8 Points of inflection

**Definition 8.8.1.** *Points of inflection* separate arcs concave upwards from arcs concave downwards. They may also be defined as points where

(a)  $\frac{d^2 y}{dx^2} = 0$  and  $\frac{d^2 y}{dx^2}$  changes sign,

or

(b)  $\frac{d^2 x}{dy^2} = 0$  and  $\frac{d^2 x}{dy^2}$  changes sign.

Thus, if a curve  $y = f(x)$  changes from concave upwards to concave downwards at a point, or the reverse, then such a point is called a *point of inflection*.

From the discussion of §8.6, it follows at once that where the curve is concave up,  $f''(x) = +$ , and where the curve is concave down,  $f''(x) = -$ . In order to change sign it must pass through the value zero<sup>8</sup>; hence we have:

**Lemma 8.8.1.** At points of inflection,  $f''(x) = 0$ .

Solving the equation resulting from Lemma 8.8.1 gives the abscissas of the points of inflection. To determine the direction of curving or direction of bending in the vicinity of a point of inflection, test  $f''(x)$  for values of  $x$ , first a trifle less and then a trifle greater than the abscissa at that point.

If  $f''(x)$  changes sign, we have a point of inflection, and the signs obtained determine if the curve is concave upwards or concave downwards in the neighborhood of each point of inflection.

The student should observe that near a point where the curve is concave upwards the curve lies above the tangent, and at a point where the curve is concave downwards the curve lies below the tangent. At a point of inflection the tangent evidently crosses the curve.

Following is a *rule for finding points of inflection* of the curve whose equation is  $y = f(x)$ . This rule includes also directions for examining the direction of curvature of the curve in the neighborhood of each point of inflection.

- FIRST STEP. Find  $f''(x)$ .

<sup>8</sup>It is assumed that  $f'(x)$  and  $f''(x)$  are continuous. The solution of Exercise 2, §8.8, shows how to discuss a case where  $f'(x)$  and  $f''(x)$  are both infinite.

## 8.9. EXAMPLES

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- SECOND STEP. Set  $f''(x) = 0$ , and solve the resulting equation for real roots.
- THIRD STEP. Write  $f''(x)$  in factor form.
- FOURTH STEP. Test  $f''(x)$  for values of  $x$ , first a trifle less and then a trifle greater than each root found in the second step. If  $f''(x)$  changes sign, we have a point of inflection.

When  $f''(x) = +$ , the curve is concave upwards<sup>9</sup>.

When  $f''(x) = -$ , the curve is concave downwards.

## 8.9 Examples

Examine the following curves for points of inflection and direction of bending.

1.  $y = 3x^4 - 4x^3 + 1$ .

Solution.  $f(x) = 3x^4 - 4x^3 + 1$ .

First step.  $f''(x) = 36x^2 - 24x$ .

Second step.  $36x^2 - 24x = 0$ ,  $x = \frac{2}{3}$  and  $x = 0$ , critical values.

Third step.  $f''(x) = 36x(x - \frac{2}{3})$ .

Fourth step. When  $x < 0$ ,  $f''(x) = +$ ; and when  $x > 0$ ,  $f''(x) = -$ . Therefore, the curve is concave upwards to the left and concave downwards to the right of  $x = 0$ . When  $x < \frac{2}{3}$ ,  $f''(x) = -$ ; and when  $x > \frac{2}{3}$ ,  $f''(x) = +$ . Therefore, the curve is concave downwards to the left and concave upwards to the right of  $x = \frac{2}{3}$ .

The curve is evidently concave upwards everywhere to the left of  $x = 0$ , concave downwards between  $(0, 1)$  and  $(\frac{2}{3}, \frac{11}{27})$ , and concave upwards everywhere to the right of  $(\frac{2}{3}, \frac{11}{27})$ .

2.  $(y - 2)^3 = (x - 4)$ .

Solution.  $y = 2 + (x - 4)^{-\frac{1}{3}}$ .

First step.  $\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{1}{3}(x - 4)^{-\frac{2}{3}}$ .

Second step. When  $x = 4$ , both first and second derivatives are infinite.

Third step. When  $x < 4$ ,  $\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} = +$ ; but when  $x > 4$ ,  $\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} = -$ .

We may therefore conclude that the tangent at  $(4, 2)$  is perpendicular to the  $x$ -axis, that to the left of  $(4, 2)$  the curve is concave upwards, and to the right of  $(4, 2)$  it is concave downwards. Therefore  $(4, 2)$  must be considered a point of inflection.

---

<sup>9</sup>This may be easily remembered if we say that a vessel shaped like the curve where it is concave upwards will hold (+) water, and where it is concave downwards will spill (-) water.

3.  $y = x^2$ .

Ans. Concave upwards everywhere.

4.  $y = 5 - 2x - x^2$ .

Ans. Concave downwards everywhere.

5.  $y = x^3$ .

Ans. Concave downwards to the left and concave upwards to the right of  $(0, 0)$ .

6.  $y = x^3 - 3x^2 - 9x + 9$ .

Ans. Concave downwards to the left and concave upwards to the right of  $(1, -2)$ .

7.  $y = a + (x - b)^3$ .

Ans. Concave downwards to the left and concave upwards to the right of  $(b, a)$ .

8.  $a^2y = \frac{x^3}{3} - ax^2 + 2a^3$ .

Ans. Concave downwards to the left and concave upwards to the right of  $(a, \frac{4a}{3})$ .

9.  $y = x^4$ .

Ans. Concave upwards everywhere.

10.  $y = x^4 - 12x^3 + 48x^2 - 50$ .

Ans. Concave upwards to the left of  $x = 2$ , concave downwards between  $x = 2$  and  $x = 4$ , concave upwards to the right of  $x = 4$ .

11.  $y = \sin x$ .

Ans. Points of inflection are  $x = n\pi$ ,  $n$  being any integer.

12.  $y = \tan x$ .

Ans. Points of inflection are  $x = n$ ,  $n$  being any integer.

13. Show that no conic section can have a point of inflection.

14. Show that the graphs of  $e^x$  and  $\log x$  have no points of inflection.

## 8.10 Curve tracing

The elementary method of tracing (or plotting) a curve whose equation is given in rectangular coordinates, and one with which the student is already familiar, is to solve its equation for  $y$  (or  $x$ ), assume arbitrary values of  $x$  (or  $y$ ), calculate the corresponding values of  $y$  (or  $x$ ), plot the respective points, and draw a smooth curve through them, the result being an approximation to the required

## 8.11. EXERCISES

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curve. This process is laborious at best, and in case the equation of the curve is of a degree higher than the second, the solved form of such an equation may be unsuitable for the purpose of computation, or else it may fail altogether, since it is not always possible to solve the equation for  $y$  or  $x$ .

The general form of a curve is usually all that is desired, and the Calculus furnishes us with powerful methods for determining the shape of a curve with very little computation.

The first derivative gives us the slope of the curve at any point; the second derivative determines the intervals within which the curve is concave upward or concave downward, and the points of inflection separate these intervals; the maximum points are the high points and the minimum points are the low points on the curve. As a guide in his work the student may follow the

Rule for tracing curves. Rectangular coordinates.

- **FIRST STEP.** Find the first derivative; place it equal to zero; solving gives the abscissas of maximum and minimum points.
- **SECOND STEP.** Find the second derivative; place it equal to zero; solving gives the abscissas of the points of inflection.
- **THIRD STEP.** Calculate the corresponding ordinates of the points whose abscissas were found in the first two steps. Calculate as many more points as may be necessary to give a good idea of the shape of the curve. Fill out a table such as is shown in the example worked out.
- **FOURTH STEP.** Plot the points determined and sketch in the curve to correspond with the results shown in the table.

If the calculated values of the ordinates are large, it is best to reduce the scale on the  $y$ -axis so that the general behavior of the curve will be shown within the limits of the paper used. Coordinate plotting (graph) paper should be employed.

## 8.11 Exercises

Trace the following curves, making use of the above rule. Also find the equations of the tangent and normal at each point of inflection.

1.  $y = x^3 - 9x^2 + 24x - 7$ .

Solution. Use the above rule.

First step.  $y' = 3x^2 - 18x + 24$ ,  $3x^2 - 18x + 24 = 0$ ,  $x = 2, 4$ .

Second step.  $y'' = 6x - 18$ ,  $6x - 18 = 0$ ,  $x = 3$ .

Third step.

$x$	$y$	$y'$	$y''$	Remarks	Direction of Curve
0	-7	+	-		concave down
2	13	0	-	max.	concave down
3	11	-	0	pt. of infl.	concave up
4	9	0	+	min.	concave up
6	29	+	+		concave up

Fourth step. Plot the points and sketch the curve. To find the equations of the tangent and normal to the curve at the point of inflection (3, 11), use formulas (6.1), ((6.2). This gives  $3x + y = 20$  for the tangent and  $3y - x = 30$  for the normal.

2.  $y = x^3 - 6x^2 - 36x + 5$ .

Ans. Max.  $(-2, 45)$ ; min.  $(6, -211)$ ; pt. of infl.  $(2, -83)$ ; tan.  $y + 48x - 13 = 0$ ; nor.  $48y - x + 3986 = 0$ .

We shall solve this using **SAGE**.

SAGE

```
sage: x = var("x")
sage: f = x^3 - 6*x^2 - 36*x + 5
sage: f1 = diff(f(x), x); f1
3*x^2 - 12*x - 36
sage: crit_pts = solve(f1(x) == 0, x); crit_pts
[x == 6, x == -2]
sage: f2 = diff(f(x), x, 2); f2(x)
6*x - 12
sage: x0 = crit_pts[0].rhs(); x0
6
sage: x1 = crit_pts[1].rhs(); x1
-2
sage: f(x0); f2(x0)
-211
24
sage: f(x1); f2(x1)
45
-24
sage: infl_pts = solve(f2(x) == 0, x); infl_pts
[x == 2]
sage: p = plot(f, -5, 10)
sage: show(p)
```

3.  $y = x^4 - 2x^2 + 10$ .

Ans. Max.  $(0, 10)$ ; min.  $(\pm 1, 9)$ ; pt. of infl.  $(\pm \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}, \frac{85}{9})$ .

4.  $y = \frac{1}{2}x^4 - 3x^2 + 2$ .

## 8.11. EXERCISES

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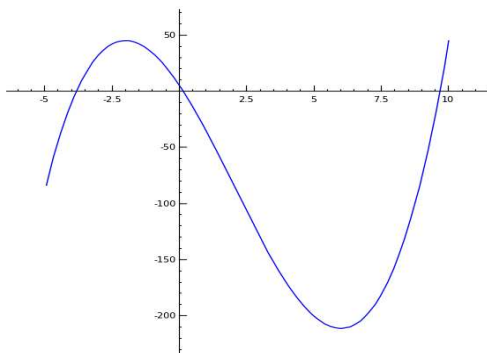


Figure 8.15: Plot for Exercise 8.11-2,  $y = x^3 - 6x^2 - 36x + 5$ .

Ans. Max.  $(0, 2)$ ; min.  $(\pm\sqrt{3}, -\frac{5}{2})$ ; pt. of infl.  $(\pm 1, -\frac{1}{2})$ .

5.  $y = \frac{6x}{1+x^2}$ .

Ans. Max.  $(1, 3)$ ; min.  $(-1, -3)$ ; pt. of infl.  $(0, 0)$ ,  $(\pm\sqrt{3}, \pm\frac{3\sqrt{3}}{2})$ .

6.  $y = 12x - x^3$ .

Ans. Max.  $(2, 16)$ ; min.  $(-2, -16)$ ; pt. of infl.  $(0, 0)$ .

7.  $4y + x^3 - 3x^2 + 4 = 0$ .

Ans. Max.  $(2, 0)$ ; min.  $(0, -1)$ .

8.  $y = x^3 - 3x^2 - 9x + 9$ .

9.  $2y + x^3 - 9x + 6 = 0$ .

10.  $y = x^3 - 6x^2 - 15x + 2$ .

11.  $y(1 + x^2) = x$ .

12.  $y = \frac{8a^3}{x^2 + 4a^2}$ .

13.  $y = e^{-x^2}$ .

14.  $y = \frac{4+x}{x^2}$ .

15.  $y = (x + l)^{\frac{2}{3}}(x - 5)^2$ .

16.  $y = \frac{x+2}{x^3}$ .

17.  $y = x^3 - 3x^2 - 24x$ .

18.  $y = 18 + 36x - 3x^2 - 2x^3$ .

19.  $y = x - 2 \cos x$ .



20.  $y = 3x - x^3$ .

21.  $y = x^3 - 9x^2 + 15x - 3$ .

22.  $x^2y = 4 + x$ .

23.  $4y = x^4 - 6x^2 + 5$ .

24.  $y = \frac{x^3}{x^2+3a^2}$ .

25.  $y = \sin x + \frac{x}{2}$ .

26.  $y = \frac{x^2+4}{x}$ .

27.  $y = 5x - 2x^2 - \frac{1}{3}x^3$ .

28.  $y = \frac{1+x^2}{2x}$ .

29.  $y = x - 2 \sin x$ .

30.  $y = \log \cos x$ .

31.  $y = \log(1 + x^2)$ .

## 8.11. EXERCISES

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## Chapter 9

# Differentials

### 9.1 Introduction

Thus far we have represented the derivative of  $y = f(x)$  by the notation

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = f'(x).$$

We have taken special pains to impress on the student that the symbol

$$\frac{dy}{dx}$$

was to be considered not as an ordinary fraction with  $dy$  as numerator and  $dx$  as denominator, but as a single symbol denoting the limit of the quotient

$$\frac{\Delta y}{\Delta x}$$

as  $\Delta x$  approaches the limit zero.

Problems do occur, however, where it is very convenient to be able to give a meaning to  $dx$  and  $dy$  separately, and it is especially useful in applications of the Integral Calculus. How this may be done is explained in what follows.

### 9.2 Definitions

If  $f'(x)$  is the derivative of  $f(x)$  for a particular value of  $x$ , and  $\Delta x$  is an arbitrarily chosen<sup>1</sup> increment of  $x$ , then the *differential* of  $f(x)$ , denoted by the symbol  $df(x)$ , is defined by the equation

$$df(x) = f'(x)\Delta x. \tag{9.1}$$

---

<sup>1</sup>The term “arbitrarily chosen” essentially means that the variable  $\Delta x$  is independent from the variable  $x$ .

## 9.2. DEFINITIONS

If now  $f(x) = x$ , then  $f'(x) = 1$ , and (9.1) reduces to  $dx = \Delta x$ , showing that when  $x$  is the independent variable, the differential of  $x$  ( $= dx$ ) is identical with  $\Delta x$ . Hence, if  $y = f(x)$ , (9.1) may in general be written in the form

$$dy = f'(x) dx. \quad (9.2)$$

The differential of a function equals its derivative multiplied by the differential of the independent variable.

On account of the position which the derivative  $f'(x)$  here occupies, it is sometimes called the *differential coefficient*. The student should observe the important fact that, since  $dx$  may be given any arbitrary value whatever,  $dx$  is independent of  $x$ . Hence,  $dy$  is a function of two independent variables  $x$  and  $dx$ .

Let us illustrate what this means geometrically.

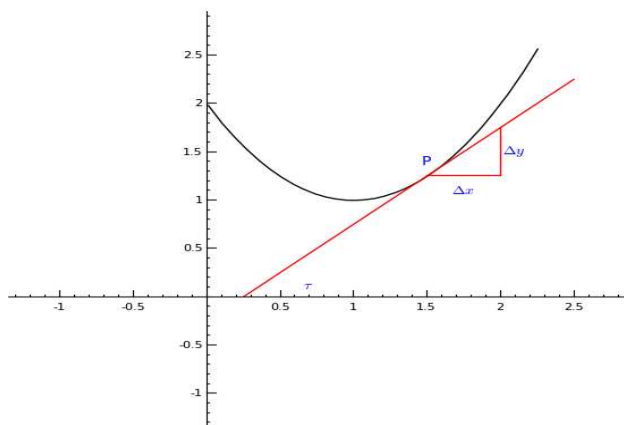


Figure 9.1: The differential of a function.

Let  $f'(x)$  be the derivative of  $y = f(x)$  at P. Take  $dx = PQ$ , then

$$dy = f'(x)dx = \tan \tau \cdot PQ = \frac{QT}{PQ} \cdot PQ = QT.$$

Therefore  $dy$ , or  $df(x)$ , is the increment ( $= QT$ ) of the ordinate of the tangent corresponding<sup>2</sup> to  $dx$ .

This gives the following interpretation of the derivative as a fraction.

If an arbitrarily chosen increment of the independent variable  $x$  for a point  $(x, y)$  on the curve  $y = f(x)$  be denoted by  $dx$ , then in the derivative

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = f'(x) = \tan \tau,$$

<sup>2</sup>The student should note especially that the differential ( $= dy$ ) and the increment ( $= dy$ ) of the function corresponding to the same value of  $dx$  ( $= x$ ) are not in general equal. For, in Figure 9.1,  $dy = QT$ , but  $y = QP'$ .

$dy$  denotes the corresponding increment of the ordinate drawn to the tangent.

## 9.3 Infinitesimals

In the Differential Calculus we are usually concerned with the derivative, that is, with the ratio of the differentials  $dy$  and  $dx$ . In some applications it is also useful to consider  $dx$  as an infinitesimal (see §3.3), that is, as a variable whose values remain numerically small, and which, at some stage of the investigation, approaches the limit zero. Then by (9.2), and item 2 in §3.8,  $dy$  is also an infinitesimal.

In problems where several infinitesimals enter we often make use of the following

**Theorem 9.3.1.** In problems involving the limit of the ratio of two infinitesimals, either infinitesimal may be replaced by an infinitesimal so related to it that the limit of their ratio is unity.

**Proof:** Let  $\alpha, \beta, \alpha', \beta'$  be infinitesimals so related that

$$\lim \frac{\alpha'}{\alpha} = 1, \quad \lim \frac{\beta'}{\beta} = 1.$$

We have

$$\frac{\alpha}{\beta} = \frac{\alpha'}{\beta'} \cdot \frac{\alpha}{\alpha'} \cdot \frac{\beta'}{\beta}$$

identically, and

$$\lim \frac{\alpha}{\beta} = \lim \frac{\alpha'}{\beta'} \cdot \lim \frac{\alpha}{\alpha'} \cdot \lim \frac{\beta'}{\beta} = \lim \frac{\alpha'}{\beta'} \cdot 1 \cdot 1,$$

by Theorem 3.8.2. Therefore,

$$\lim \frac{\alpha}{\beta} = \lim \frac{\alpha'}{\beta'}.$$

□

Now let us apply this theorem to the two following important limits.

For the independent variable  $x$ , we know from the previous section that  $\Delta x$  and  $dx$  are identical. Hence their ratio is unity, and also  $\lim \frac{\Delta x}{dx} = 1$ . That is, by the above theorem, In the limit of the ratio of  $\Delta x$  and a second infinitesimal,  $\Delta x$  may be replaced by  $dx$ .

On the contrary it was shown that, for the dependent variable  $y$ ,  $\Delta y$  and  $dy$  are in general unequal. But we shall now show, however, that in this case also  $\lim \frac{\Delta y}{dy} = 1$ . Since  $\lim_{\Delta x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\Delta y}{\Delta x} = f'(x)$  we may write  $\frac{\Delta y}{\Delta x} = f'(x) + \epsilon$ , where  $\epsilon$  is an infinitesimal which approaches zero when  $\Delta x \rightarrow 0$ .

Clearing of fractions, remembering that  $\Delta x \rightarrow dx$ ,  $\Delta y = f'(x)dx + \epsilon \cdot \Delta x$ , or  $\Delta y = dy + \epsilon \cdot \Delta x$ , by (9.2). Dividing both sides by  $\Delta y$ ,  $1 = \frac{dy}{\Delta y} + \epsilon \cdot \frac{\Delta x}{\Delta y}$ ,

or  $\frac{dy}{\Delta y} = 1 - \epsilon \cdot \frac{\Delta x}{\Delta y}$ . Therefore,  $\lim_{\Delta x \rightarrow 0} \frac{dy}{\Delta y} = 1$ , and hence  $\lim_{\Delta x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\Delta y}{dy} = 1$ . That is, by the above theorem, In the limit of the ratio of  $\Delta y$  and a second infinitesimal,  $\Delta y$  may be replaced by  $dy$ .

## 9.4 Derivative of the arc in rectangular coordinates

Let  $s$  be the length<sup>3</sup> of the arc AP measured from a fixed point A on the curve.

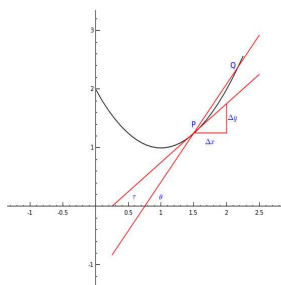


Figure 9.2: The differential of the arc length.

Denote the increment of  $s$  ( $=$  arc PQ) by  $\Delta s$ . The definition of the length of arc depends on the assumption that, as Q approaches P,

$$\lim \left( \frac{\text{chord } PQ}{\text{arc } PQ} \right) = 1.$$

If we now apply Theorem 9.3.1 to this, we get In the limit of the ratio of chord PQ and a second infinitesimal, chord PQ may be replaced by arc PQ ( $= \Delta s$ ).

From the above figure

$$(\text{chord } PQ)^2 = (\Delta x)^2 + (\Delta y)^2, \quad (9.3)$$

Dividing through by  $(\Delta x)^2$ , we get

$$\left( \frac{\text{chord } PQ}{\Delta x} \right)^2 = 1 + \left( \frac{\Delta y}{\Delta x} \right)^2.$$

Now let Q approach P as a limiting position; then  $\Delta x \rightarrow 0$  and we have

$$\left( \frac{ds}{dx} \right)^2 = 1 + \left( \frac{dy}{dx} \right)^2.$$

(Since  $\lim_{\Delta x \rightarrow 0} \left( \frac{\text{chord } PQ}{\Delta x} \right) = \lim_{\Delta x \rightarrow 0} \left( \frac{\Delta s}{\Delta x} \right) = \frac{ds}{dx}$ .) Therefore,

<sup>3</sup>Defined in integral calculus. For now, we simply assume that there is a function  $s = s(x)$  such that if you go along the curve from a point A to a point  $P = (x, y)$  then  $s(x)$  describes the length of that arc.

$$\frac{ds}{dx} = \sqrt{1 + \left(\frac{dy}{dx}\right)^2}. \quad (9.4)$$

Similarly, if we divide (9.3) by  $(\Delta y)^2$  and pass to the limit, we get

$$\frac{ds}{dy} = \sqrt{\left(\frac{dx}{dy}\right)^2 + 1}.$$

Also, from the above figure,

$$\cos \theta = \frac{\Delta x}{\text{chord } PQ}, \quad \sin \theta = \frac{\Delta y}{\text{chord } PQ}.$$

Now as Q approaches P as a limiting position  $\theta \rightarrow \tau$ , and we get

$$\cos \tau = \frac{dx}{ds}, \quad \sin \tau = \frac{dy}{ds}. \quad (9.5)$$

(Since  $\lim \frac{\Delta x}{\text{chord } PQ} = \lim \frac{\Delta x}{\Delta s} = \frac{dx}{ds}$ , and  $\lim \frac{\Delta y}{\text{chord } PQ} = \lim \frac{\Delta y}{\Delta s} = \frac{dy}{ds}$ .) Using the notation of differentials, these formulas may be written

$$ds = \left[ 1 + \left(\frac{dy}{dx}\right)^2 \right]^{\frac{1}{2}} dx \quad (9.6)$$

and

$$ds = \left[ \left(\frac{dx}{dy}\right)^2 + 1 \right]^{\frac{1}{2}} dy, \quad (9.7)$$

respectively. Substituting the value of  $ds$  from (9.6) in (9.5),

$$\cos \tau = \frac{1}{\left[ 1 + \left(\frac{dy}{dx}\right)^2 \right]^{\frac{1}{2}}}, \quad \sin \tau = \frac{\frac{dy}{dx}}{\left[ 1 + \left(\frac{dy}{dx}\right)^2 \right]^{\frac{1}{2}}}, \quad (9.8)$$

the same relations given by (9.5).

## 9.5 Derivative of the arc in polar coordinates

In the derivation which follows we shall employ the same figure and the same notation used in §6.7.

$$(\text{chord } PQY)^2 = (PR)^2 + (RQ)^2 = (\rho \sin \Delta\theta)^2 + (\rho + \Delta\rho - \rho \cos \Delta\theta)^2.$$

Dividing throughout by  $(\Delta\theta)^2$ , we get

$$\left(\frac{\text{chord } PQ}{\Delta\theta}\right)^2 = \rho^2 \left(\frac{\sin \Delta\theta}{\Delta\theta}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{\Delta\rho}{\Delta\theta} + \rho \cdot \frac{1 - \cos \Delta\theta}{\Delta\theta}\right)^2.$$

Passing to the limit as  $\Delta\theta$  diminishes towards zero, we get<sup>4</sup>

$$\begin{aligned} \left(\frac{ds}{d\theta}\right)^2 &= \rho^2 + \left(\frac{d\rho}{d\theta}\right)^2, \\ \frac{ds}{d\theta} &= \sqrt{\rho^2 + \left(\frac{d\rho}{d\theta}\right)^2}. \end{aligned} \tag{9.9}$$

In the notation of differentials this becomes

$$ds = \left[ \rho^2 + \left(\frac{d\rho}{d\theta}\right)^2 \right]^{\frac{1}{2}} d\theta. \tag{9.10}$$

These relations between  $\rho$  and the differentials  $ds$ ,  $d\rho$ , and  $d\theta$  are correctly represented by a right triangle whose hypotenuse is  $ds$  and whose sides are  $d\rho$  and  $\rho d\theta$ . Then

$$ds = \sqrt{(\rho d\theta)^2 + (d\rho)^2},$$

and dividing by  $d\theta$  gives (9.9). Denoting by  $\psi$  the angle between  $d\rho$  and  $ds$ , we get at once

$$\tan \psi = \rho \frac{d\theta}{d\rho},$$

which is the same as ((6.12).

**Example 9.5.1.** Find the differential of the arc of the circle  $x^2 + y^2 = r^2$ .

Solution. Differentiating,  $\frac{dy}{dx} = -\frac{x}{y}$ .

To find  $ds$  in terms of  $x$  we substitute in (9.6), giving

$$ds = \left[1 + \frac{x^2}{y^2}\right]^{\frac{1}{2}} dx = \left[\frac{y^2 + x^2}{y^2}\right]^{\frac{1}{2}} dx = \left[\frac{r^2}{y^2}\right]^{\frac{1}{2}} dx = \frac{r dy}{\sqrt{r^2 - x^2}}.$$

To find  $ds$  in terms of  $y$  we substitute in (9.7), giving

$$ds = \left[1 + \frac{y^2}{x^2}\right]^{\frac{1}{2}} dy = \left[\frac{x^2 + y^2}{x^2}\right]^{\frac{1}{2}} dy = \left[\frac{r^2}{x^2}\right]^{\frac{1}{2}} dy = \frac{r dy}{\sqrt{r^2 - y^2}}.$$

---

<sup>4</sup>Recall:  $\lim_{\Delta\theta \rightarrow 0} \frac{\text{chord } PQ}{\Delta\theta} = \lim_{\Delta\theta \rightarrow 0} \frac{\Delta s}{\Delta\theta} = \frac{ds}{d\theta}$ , by §9.4;  $\lim_{\Delta\theta \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sin \Delta\theta}{\Delta\theta} = 1$ , by §3.10;  $\lim_{\Delta\theta \rightarrow 0} \frac{1 - \cos \Delta\theta}{\Delta\theta} = \lim_{\Delta\theta \rightarrow 0} \frac{2 \sin^2 \frac{\Delta\theta}{2}}{\Delta\theta} = \lim_{\Delta\theta \rightarrow 0} \sin \frac{\Delta\theta}{2} \cdot \frac{\sin \frac{\Delta\theta}{2}}{\frac{\Delta\theta}{2}} = 0 \cdot 1 = 0$ , by §3.10 and 39 in §1.1.



**Example 9.5.2.** Find the differential of the arc of the cardioid  $\rho = a(l - \cos \theta)$  in terms of  $\theta$ .

Solution. Differentiating,  $\frac{d\rho}{d\theta} = a \sin \theta$ .

Substituting in (9.10), gives

$$ds = [a^2(1 - \cos \theta)^2 + a^2 \sin^2 \theta]^{\frac{1}{2}} d\theta = a[2 - 2 \cos \theta]^{\frac{1}{2}} d\theta = a \left[ 4 \sin^2 \frac{\theta}{2} \right]^{\frac{1}{2}} d\theta = 2a \sin \frac{\theta}{2} d\theta.$$

## 9.6 Exercises

Find the differential of arc in each of the following curves:

1.  $y^2 = 4x$ .

Ans.  $ds = \sqrt{\frac{1+x}{x}} dx$ .

2.  $y = ax^2$ .

Ans.  $ds = \sqrt{1 + 4a^2x^2} dx$ .

3.  $y = x^3$ .

Ans.  $ds = \sqrt{1 + 9x^4} dx$ .

4.  $y^3 = x^2$ .

Ans.  $ds = \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{4 + 9y} dy$ .

5.  $x^{\frac{2}{3}} + y^{\frac{2}{3}} = a^{\frac{2}{3}}$ .

Ans.  $ds = \sqrt[3]{\frac{a}{y}} dy$ .

6.  $b^2x^2 + a^2y^2 = a^2b^2$ .

Ans.  $ds = \sqrt{\frac{a^2 - e^2x^2}{a^2 - x^2}} dx$ .

7.  $e^y \cos x = 1$ .

Ans.  $ds = \sec x \, dx$ .

8.  $\rho = a \cos \theta$ .

Ans.  $ds = a \, d\theta$ .

9.  $\rho^2 = a^2 \cos 2\theta$ .

Ans.  $ds = \sqrt{\sec 2\theta} d\theta$ .

10.  $\rho = ae^{\theta \cot a}$ .

Ans.  $ds = \rho \csc a \cdot d\theta$ .

11.  $\rho = a\theta$ .

Ans.  $ds = a^\theta \sqrt{1 + \log^2 a} d\theta$ .

## 9.7. FORMULAS FOR FINDING THE DIFFERENTIALS OF FUNCTIONS

12.  $\rho = a\theta$ .

Ans.  $ds = \frac{1}{a} \sqrt{a^2 + \rho^2} d\rho$ .

13.

(a) $x^2 - y^2 = a^2$ .	(h) $x^{\frac{1}{2}} + y^{\frac{1}{2}} = a^{\frac{1}{2}}$ .
(b) $x^2 = 4ay$ .	(i) $y^2 = ax^3$ .
(c) $y = e^x + e^{-x}$ .	(j) $y = \log x$ .
(d) $xy = a$ .	(k) $4x = y^3$ .
(e) $y = \log \sec x$ .	(l) $\rho = a \sec^2 \frac{\theta}{2}$ .
(f) $\rho = 2a \tan \theta \sin \theta$ .	(m) $\rho = 1 + \sin \theta$ .
(g) $\rho = a \sec^3 \frac{\theta}{3}$ .	(n) $\rho\theta = a$ .

## 9.7 Formulas for finding the differentials of functions

Since the differential of a function is its derivative multiplied by the differential of the independent variable, it follows at once that the formulas for finding differentials are the same as those for finding derivatives given in §5.1, if we multiply each one by  $dx$ .

This gives us

I  $d(c) = 0$ .

II  $d(x) = dx$ .

III  $d(u + v - w) = du + dv - dw$ .

IV  $d(cv) = cdv$ .

V  $d(uv) = u dv + v du$ .

VI  $d(v^n) = nv^{n-1} dv$ .

VIa  $d(x^n) = nx^{n-1} dx$ .

VII  $d\left(\frac{u}{v}\right) = \frac{v du - u dv}{v^2}$ .

VIIa  $d\left(\frac{u}{c}\right) = \frac{du}{c}$ .

VIII  $d(\log av) = \log_a e \frac{dv}{v}$ .

IX  $d(a^v) = a^v \log a dv$ .

IXa  $d(e^v) = e^v dv$ .

X  $d(u^v) = vu^{v-1} du + \log u \cdot u^v \cdot dv$ .

XI  $d(\sin v) = \cos v dv$ .

XII  $d(\cos v) = -\sin v dv$ .

XIII  $d(\tan v) = \sec^2 v dv$ , etc.

XVIII  $d(\arcsin v) = \frac{dv}{\sqrt{1-v^2}}$ , etc.

The term “differentiation” also includes the operation of finding differentials.

In finding differentials the easiest way is to find the derivative as usual, and then multiply the result by  $dx$ .

**Example 9.7.1.** Find the differential of

$$y = \frac{x+3}{x^2+3}.$$

Solution.  $dy = d\left(\frac{x+3}{x^2+3}\right) = \frac{(x^2+3)d(x+3) - (x+3)d(x^2+3)}{(x^2+3)^2} = \frac{(x^2+3)dx - (x+3)2xdx}{(x^2+3)^2} = \frac{(3-6x-x^2)dx}{(x^2+3)^2}.$

**Example 9.7.2.** Find  $dy$  from  $b^2x^2 - a^2y^2 = a^2b^2$ .

Solution.  $2b^2xdx - 2a^2ydy = 0$ . Therefore,  $dy = \frac{b^2x}{a^2y}dx$ .

**Example 9.7.3.** Find  $dy$  from  $\rho^2 = a^2 \cos 2\theta$ .

Solution.  $2\rho d\rho = -a^2 \sin 2\theta \cdot 2d\theta$ . Therefore,  $d\rho = -\frac{a^2 \sin 2\theta}{\rho}d\theta$ .

**Example 9.7.4.** Find  $d[\arcsin(3t - 4t^3)]$ .

Solution.  $d[\arcsin(3t - 4t^3)] = \frac{d(3t-4t^3)}{\sqrt{1-(3t-4t^3)^2}} = \frac{3dt}{\sqrt{1-t^2}}.$

## 9.8 Successive differentials

As the differential of a function is in general also a function of the independent variable, we may deal with its differential. Consider the function

$$y = f(x).$$

$d(dy)$  is called the *second differential* of  $y$  (or of the function) and is denoted by the symbol

$$d^2y.$$

Similarly, the third differential of  $y$ ,  $d[d(dy)]$ , is written  $d^3y$ , and so on, to the  $n$ -th differential of  $y$ ,

$$d^n y.$$

Since  $dx$ , the differential of the independent variable, is independent of  $x$  (see §9.2), it must be treated as a constant when differentiating with respect to  $x$ . Bearing this in mind, we get very simple relations between successive differentials and successive derivatives.

For  $dy = f'(x)dx$ , and  $d^2y = f''(x)(dx)^2$ , since  $dx$  is regarded as a constant. Also,  $d^3y = f'''(x)(dx)^3$ , and in general  $d^n y = f^{(n)}(x)(dx)^n$ .

## 9.9. EXAMPLES

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Dividing both sides of each expression by the power of  $dx$  occurring on the right, we get our ordinary derivative notation

$$\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} = f''(x), \frac{d^3y}{dx^3} = f'''(x), \dots, \frac{d^ny}{dx^n} = f^{(n)}(x).$$

Powers of an infinitesimal are called *infinitesimals of a higher order*. More generally, if for the infinitesimals  $a$  and  $b$ , then  $b$  is said to be an infinitesimal of a higher order than  $a$ .

**Example 9.8.1.** Find the third differential of  $y = x^5 - 2x^3 + 3x - 5$ .

Solution.  $dy = (5x^4 - 6x^2 + 3)dx$ ,  $d^2y = (20x^3 - 12x)(dx)^2$ ,  $d^3y = (60x^2 - 12)(dx)^3$ .

NOTE. This is evidently the third derivative of the function multiplied by the cube of the differential of the independent variable. Dividing through by  $(dx)^3$ , we get the third derivative

$$\frac{d^3y}{dx^3} = 60x^2 - 12.$$

## 9.9 Examples

Differentiate the following, using differentials:

1.  $y = ax^3 - bx^2 + cx + d$ .

Ans.  $dy = (3ax^2 - 2bx + c)dx$ .

2.  $y = 2x^{\frac{5}{2}} - 3x^{\frac{2}{3}} + 6x^{-1} + 5$ .

Ans.  $dy = (5x^{\frac{3}{2}} - 2x^{-\frac{1}{3}} - 6x^{-2})dx$ .

3.  $y = (a^2 - x^2)^5$ .

Ans.  $dy = -10x(a^2 - x^2)^4dx$ .

4.  $y = \sqrt{1 + x^2}$ .

Ans.  $dy = \frac{x}{\sqrt{1+x^2}}dx$ .

5.  $y = \frac{x^{2n}}{(1+x^2)^n}$ .

Ans.  $dy = \frac{2nx^{2n-1}}{(1+x^2)^{n+1}}dx$ .

6.  $y = \log \sqrt{1 - x^3}$ .

Ans.  $dy = \frac{3x^2 dx}{2(x^3 - 1)}$ .

7.  $y = (e^x + e^{-x})^2$ .

Ans.  $dy = 2(e^{2x} - e^{-2x})dx$ .

8.  $y = e^x \log x.$

Ans.  $dy = e^x \left( \log x + \frac{1}{x} \right) dx.$

9.  $s = t - \frac{e^t - e^{-t}}{e^t + e^{-t}}.$

Ans.  $ds = \left( \frac{e^t - e^{-t}}{e^t + e^{-t}} \right)^2 dt.$

10.  $\rho = \tan \psi + \sec \psi.$

Ans.  $d\rho = \frac{1 + \sin \psi}{\cos^2 \psi} d\psi.$

11.  $r = \frac{1}{3} \tan^3 \theta \tan \theta.$

Ans.  $dr = \sec^4 \theta d\theta.$

12.  $f(x) = (\log x)^3.$

Ans.  $f'(x)dx = \frac{3(\log x)^2 dx}{x}.$

13.  $\psi(t) = \frac{t^3}{(1-t^2)^{\frac{3}{2}}}.$

Ans.  $\psi'(t)dt = \frac{3t^2 dt}{(1-t^2)^{\frac{5}{2}}}.$

14.  $d \left[ \frac{x \log x}{1-x} + \log(1-x) \right] = \frac{\log x dx}{(1-x)^2}.$

15.  $d[\arctan \log y] = \frac{dy}{y[1+(\log y)^2]}.$

16.  $d \left[ r \operatorname{arcvers} \frac{y}{r} - \sqrt{2ry - y^2} \right] = \frac{y dy}{\sqrt{2ry - y^2}}.$

17.  $d \left[ \frac{\cos \psi}{2 \sin^2 \psi} - \frac{1}{2} \log \tan \frac{\psi}{2} \right] = -\frac{d\psi}{\sin^3 \psi}.$

## 9.9. EXAMPLES

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## Chapter 10

# Rates

### 10.1 The derivative considered as the ratio of two rates

Let

$$y = f(x)$$

be the equation of a curve generated by a moving point P. Its coordinates  $x$  and  $y$  may then be considered as functions of the time, as explained in §6.13. Differentiating with respect to  $t$ , by the chain rule (Formula XXV in §5.1), we have

$$\frac{dy}{dt} = f'(x) \frac{dx}{dt}. \quad (10.1)$$

*At any instant the time rate of change of  $y$  (or the function) equals its derivative multiplied by the time rate change of the independent variable.*

Or, write (10.1) in the form

$$\frac{\frac{dy}{dt}}{\frac{dx}{dt}} = f'(x) = \frac{dy}{dx}.$$

*The derivative measures the ratio of the time rate of change of  $y$  to that of  $x$ .*  $\frac{ds}{dt}$  being the time rate of change of length of arc, we have from (6.26),

$$\frac{ds}{dt} = \sqrt{\left(\frac{dx}{dt}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{dy}{dt}\right)^2}. \quad (10.2)$$

which is the relation indicated by Figure 10.1.

As a guide in solving rate problems use the following rule:

- FIRST STEP. Draw a figure illustrating the problem. Denote by  $x$ ,  $y$ ,  $z$ , etc., the quantities which vary with the time.

## 10.2. EXERCISES

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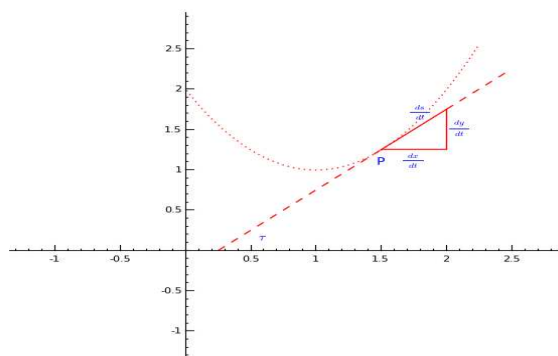


Figure 10.1: Geometric visualization of the derivative the arc length.

- SECOND STEP. Obtain a relation between the variables involved which will hold true at any instant.
- THIRD STEP. Differentiate with respect to the time.
- FOURTH STEP. Make a list of the given and required quantities.
- FIFTH STEP. Substitute the known quantities in the result found by differentiating (third step), and solve for the unknown.

## 10.2 Exercises

1. A man is walking at the rate of 5 miles per hour towards the foot of a tower 60 ft. high. At what rate is he approaching the top when he is 80 ft. from the foot of the tower?

Solution. Apply the above rule.

First step. Draw the figure. Let  $x$  = distance of the man from the foot and  $y$  = his distance from the top of the tower at any instant.

Second step. Since we have a right triangle,  $y^2 = x^2 + 3600$ .

Third step. Differentiating, we get  $2y \frac{dy}{dt} = 2x \frac{dx}{dt}$ , or,  $\frac{dy}{dt} = \frac{x}{y} \frac{dx}{dt}$ , meaning that at any instant whatever (Rate of change of  $y$ ) =  $\left(\frac{x}{y}\right)$  (rate of change of  $x$ ).

Fourth step.

$$\begin{aligned}
 x &= 80, \quad \frac{dx}{dt} = 5 \text{ miles/hour,} \\
 &= 5 \times 5280 \text{ ft/hour,} \\
 y &= \sqrt{x^2 + 3600} \\
 &= 100. \\
 \frac{dy}{dt} &=?
 \end{aligned}$$



Fifth step. Substituting back in the above  $\frac{dy}{dt} = \frac{80}{100} \times 5 \times 5280 \text{ ft/hour} = 4 \text{ miles/hour}$ .

2. A point moves on the parabola  $6y = x^2$  in such a way that when  $x = 6$ , the abscissa is increasing at the rate of 2 ft. per second. At what rates are the ordinate and length of arc increasing at the same instant?

Solution. First step. Plot the parabola.

Second step.  $6y = x^2$ .

Third step.  $6\frac{dy}{dt} = 2x\frac{dx}{dt}$ , or,  $\frac{dy}{dt} = \frac{x}{3} \cdot \frac{dx}{dt}$ . This means that at any point on the parabola (Rate of change of ordinate) =  $\left(\frac{x}{3}\right)$  (rate of change of abscissa).

Fourth step.  $\frac{dx}{dt} = 2 \text{ ft. per second}$ ,  $x = 6$ ,  $\frac{dy}{dt} = ?$ ,  $y = \frac{x^2}{6} = 6$ ,  $\frac{ds}{dt} = ?$

Fifth step. Substituting back in the above,  $\frac{dy}{dt} = \frac{6}{3} \times 2 = 4 \text{ ft. per second}$ .

From the first result we note that at the point  $(6, 6)$  the ordinate changes twice as rapidly as the abscissa.

If we consider the point  $(-6, 6)$  instead, the result is  $\frac{dy}{dt} = -4 \text{ ft. per second}$ , the minus sign indicating that the ordinate is decreasing as the abscissa increases.

We shall now solve this using **SAGE**.

SAGE

```
sage: t = var("t")
sage: x = function("x",t)
sage: y = function("y",t)
sage: eqn = 6*y - x^2
sage: solve(diff(eqn,t) == 0, diff(y(t), t, 1))
[diff(y(t), t, 1) == x(t)*diff(x(t), t, 1)/3]
sage: s = sqrt(x^2+y^2)
sage: diff(s,t)
(2*y(t)*diff(y(t), t, 1)
 + 2*x(t)*diff(x(t), t, 1))/(2*sqrt(y(t)^2 + x(t)^2))
```

This tells us that  $\frac{dy}{dt} = \frac{x}{3} \cdot \frac{dx}{dt}$  and

$$\frac{ds}{dt} = \frac{y(t)y'(t) + x(t)x'(t)}{\sqrt{x(t)^2 + y(t)^2}}.$$

Substituting  $\frac{dx}{dt} = 2$ ,  $x = 6$ , gives  $\frac{dy}{dt} = 4$ . In addition, if  $y = 6$  then this gives  $\frac{ds}{dt} = 36/\sqrt{72} = 3\sqrt{2}$ .

3. A circular plate of metal expands by heat so that its radius increases uniformly at the rate of 0.01 inch per second. At what rate is the surface increasing when the radius is two inches?

## 10.2. EXERCISES

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Solution. Let  $x$  = radius and  $y$  = area of plate. Then  $y = \pi x^2$ ,  $\frac{dy}{dt} = 2\pi x \frac{dx}{dt}$ . That is; at any instant the area of the plate is increasing in square inches  $2\pi x$  times as fast as the radius is increasing in linear inches.  $x = 2$ ,  $\frac{dx}{dt} = 0.01$ ,  $\frac{dy}{dt} = ?$ . Substituting in the above,  $\frac{dy}{dt} = 2\pi \times 2 \times 0.01 = 0.04\pi$  sq. in. per sec.

4. An arc light is hung 12 ft. directly above a straight horizontal walk on which a boy 5 ft. in height is walking. How fast is the boy's shadow lengthening when he is walking away from the light at the rate of 168 ft. per minute?

Solution. Let  $x$  = distance of boy from a point directly under light  $L$ , and  $y$  = length of boy's shadow. By similar triangle,  $y/(y+x) = 5/12$ , or  $y = \frac{5}{7}x$ . Differentiating,  $\frac{dy}{dt} = \frac{5}{7} \frac{dx}{dt}$ ; i.e. the shadow is lengthening  $\frac{5}{7}$  as fast as the boy is walking, or 120 ft. per minute.

5. In a parabola  $y^2 = 12x$ , if  $x$  increases uniformly at the rate of 2 in. per second, at what rate is  $y$  increasing when  $x = 3$  in. ?

Ans. 2 in. per sec.

6. At what point on the parabola of the last example do the abscissa and ordinate increase at the same rate?

Ans. (3, 6).

7. In the function  $y = 2x^3 + 6$ , what is the value of  $x$  at the point where  $y$  increases 24 times as fast as  $x$ ?

Ans.  $x = \pm 2$ .

8. The ordinate of a point describing the curve  $x^2 + y^2 = 25$  is decreasing at the rate of  $3/2$  in. per second. How rapidly is the abscissa changing when the ordinate is 4 inches?

Ans.  $\frac{dx}{dt} = 2$  in. per sec.

9. Find the values of  $x$  at the points where the rate of change of  $x^3 - 12x^2 + 45x - 13$  is zero.

Ans.  $x = 3$  and  $5$ .

10. At what point on the ellipse  $16x^2 + 9y^2 = 400$  does  $y$  decrease at the same rate that  $x$  increases?

Ans.  $(3, \frac{16}{3})$ .

11. Where in the first quadrant does the arc increase twice as fast as the ordinate?

Ans. At  $60^\circ = \pi/3$ .

A point generates each of the following curves (problems 12-16). Find the rate at which the arc is increasing in each case:

12.  $y^2 = 2x$ ;  $\frac{dx}{dt} = 2$ ,  $x = 2$ .  
Ans.  $\frac{ds}{dt} = \sqrt{5}$ .
13.  $xy = 6$ ;  $\frac{dy}{dt} = 2$ ,  $y = 3$ .  
Ans.  $\frac{ds}{dt} = \frac{2}{3}\sqrt{13}$ .
14.  $x^2 + 4y^2 = 20$ ;  $\frac{dx}{dt} = -1$ ,  $y = 1$ .  
Ans.  $\frac{ds}{dt} = \sqrt{2}$ .
15.  $y = x^3$ ;  $\frac{dx}{dt} = 3$ ,  $x = -3$ .
16.  $y^2 = x^3$ ;  $\frac{dy}{dt} = 4$ ,  $y = 8$ .
17. The side of an equilateral triangle is 24 inches long, and is increasing at the rate of 3 inches per hour. How fast is the area increasing?  
Ans.  $36\sqrt{3}$  sq. in. per hour.
18. Find the rate of change of the area of a square when the side  $b$  is increasing at the rate of  $a$  units per second.  
Ans.  $2ab$  sq. units per sec.
19. (a) The volume of a spherical soap bubble increases how many times as fast as the radius? (b) When its radius is 4 in. and increasing at the rate of  $1/2$  in. per second, how fast is the volume increasing?  
Ans. (a)  $4\pi r^2$  times as fast; (b)  $32\pi$  cu. in. per sec.  
How fast is the surface increasing in the last case?
20. One end of a ladder 50 ft. long is leaning against a perpendicular wall standing on a horizontal plane. Supposing the foot of the ladder to be pulled away from the wall at the rate of 3 ft. per minute; (a) how fast is the top of the ladder descending when the foot is 14 ft. from the wall? (b) when will the top and bottom of the ladder move at the same rate? (c) when is the top of the ladder descending at the rate of 4 ft. per minute?  
Ans. (a)  $\frac{7}{78}$  ft. per min.; (b) when  $25\sqrt{2}$  ft. from wall; (c) when 40 ft. from wall.
21. A barge whose deck is 12 ft. below the level of a dock is drawn up to it by means of a cable attached to a ring in the floor of the dock, the cable being hauled in by a windlass on deck at the rate of 8 ft. per minute. How fast is the barge moving towards the dock when 16 ft. away?  
Ans. 10 ft. per minute.
22. An elevated car is 40 ft. immediately above a surface car, their tracks intersecting at right angles. If the speed of the elevated car is 16 miles per hour and of the surface car 8 miles per hour, at what rate are the cars separating 5 minutes after they meet?  
Ans. 17.9 miles per hour.

## 10.2. EXERCISES

23. One ship was sailing south at the rate of 6 miles per hour; another east at the rate of 8 miles per hour. At 4 P.M. the second crossed the track of the first where the first was two hours before; (a) how was the distance between the ships changing at 3 P.M.? (b) how at 5 P.M.? (c) when was the distance between them not changing?

Ans. (a) Diminishing 2.8 miles per hour; (b) increasing 8.73 miles per hour; (c) 3 : 17 P.M.

24. Assuming the volume of the wood in a tree to be proportional to the cube of its diameter, and that the latter increases uniformly year by year when growing, show that the rate of growth when the diameter is 3 ft. is 36 times as great as when the diameter is 6 inches.

25. A railroad train is running 15 miles an hour past a station 800 ft. long, the track having the form of the parabola  $y^2 = 600x$ , and situated as shown in Figure 10.2.

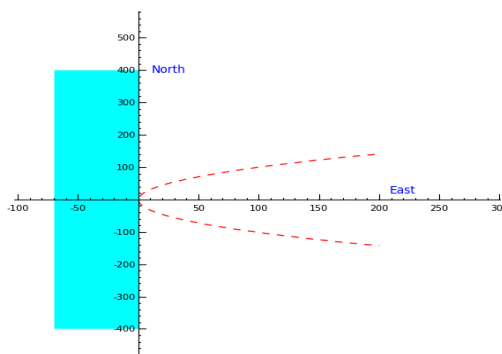


Figure 10.2: Train station and the train's trajectory.

If the sun is just rising in the east, find how fast the shadow  $S$  of the locomotive  $L$  is moving along the wall of the station at the instant it reaches the end of the wall.

Solution.  $y^2 = 600x$ ,  $2y \frac{dy}{dt} = 600 \frac{dx}{dt}$ , or  $\frac{dx}{dt} = \frac{y}{300} \frac{dy}{dt}$ . Substituting this value of  $\frac{dx}{dt}$  in  $\frac{ds}{dt} = \sqrt{\left(\frac{dx}{dt}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{dy}{dt}\right)^2}$ , we get  $\left(\frac{ds}{dt}\right)^2 = \left(\frac{y}{300} \frac{dy}{dt}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{dy}{dt}\right)^2$ . Now  $\frac{ds}{dt} = 15$  miles per hour = 22 ft. per sec.,  $y = 400$  and  $\frac{dy}{dt} = ?$ . Substituting back in the above, we get  $(22)^2 = \left(\frac{16}{9} + 1\right) \left(\frac{dy}{dt}\right)^2$ , or,  $\frac{dy}{dt} = 13\frac{1}{5}$  ft. per second.

26. An express train and a balloon start from the same point at the same instant. The former travels 50 miles an hour and the latter rises at the rate of 10 miles an hour. How fast are they separating?

Ans. 51 miles an hour.

27. A man 6 ft. tall walks away from a lamp-post 10 ft. high at the rate of 4 miles an hour. How fast does the shadow of his head move?

Ans. 10 miles an hour.

28. The rays of the sun make an angle of  $30^\circ = \pi/6$  with the horizon. A ball is thrown vertically upward to a height of 64 ft. How fast is the shadow of the ball moving along the ground just before it strikes the ground?

Ans. 110.8 ft. per sec.

29. A ship is anchored in 18 ft. of water. The cable passes over a sheave on the bow 6 ft. above the surface of the water. If the cable is taken in at the rate of 1 ft. a second, how fast is the ship moving when there are 30 ft. of cable out?

Ans.  $\frac{5}{3}$  ft. per sec.

30. A man is hoisting a chest to a window 50 ft. up by means of a block and tackle. If he pulls in the rope at the rate of 10 ft. a minute while walking away from the building at the rate of 5 ft. a minute, how fast is the chest rising at the end of the second minute?

Ans. 10.98 ft. per min.

31. Water flows from a faucet into a hemispherical basin of diameter 14 inches at the rate of 2 cu. in. per second. How fast is the water rising (a) when the water is halfway to the top? (b) just as it runs over? (The volume of a spherical segment  $= \frac{1}{2}\pi r^2 h + \frac{1}{6}\pi h^3$ , where  $h$  = altitude of segment.)

32. Sand is being poured on the ground from the orifice of an elevated pipe, and forms a pile which has always the shape of a right circular cone whose height is equal to the radius of the base. If sand is falling at the rate of 6 cu. ft. per sec., how fast is the height of the pile increasing when the height is 5 ft.?

33. An aeroplane is 528 ft. directly above an automobile and starts east at the rate of 20 miles an hour at the same instant the automobile starts east at the rate of 40 miles an hour. How fast are they separating?

34. A revolving light sending out a bundle of parallel rays is at a distance of  $t$  a mile from the shore and makes 1 revolution a minute. Find how fast the light is traveling along the straight beach when at a distance of 1 mile from the nearest point of the shore.

Ans. 15.7 miles per min.

35. A kite is 150 ft. high and 200 ft. of string are out. If the kite starts drifting away horizontally at the rate of 4 miles an hour, how fast is the string being paid out at the start?

Ans. 2.64 miles an hour.

## 10.2. EXERCISES

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36. A solution is poured into a conical filter of base radius 6 cm. and height 24 cm. at the rate of 2 cu. cm. a second, and filters out at the rate of 1 cu. cm. a second. How fast is the level of the solution rising when (a) one third of the way up? (b) at the top?

Ans. (a) 0.079 cm. per sec.; (b) 0.009 cm. per sec.

37. A horse runs 10 miles per hour on a circular track in the center of which is an arc light. How fast will his shadow move along a straight board fence (tangent to the track at the starting point) when he has completed one eighth of the circuit?

Ans. 20 miles per hour.

38. The edges of a cube are 24 inches and are increasing at the rate of 0.02 in. per minute. At what rate is (a) the volume increasing? (b) the area increasing?

39. The edges of a regular tetrahedron are 10 inches and are increasing at the rate of 0.3 in. per hour. At what rate is (a) the volume increasing? (b) the area increasing?

40. An electric light hangs 40 ft. from a stone wall. A man is walking 12 ft. per second on a straight path 10 ft. from the light and perpendicular to the wall. How fast is the man's shadow moving when he is 30 ft. from the wall?

Ans. 48 ft. per sec.

41. The approach to a drawbridge has a gate whose two arms rotate about the same axis as shown in the figure. The arm over the driveway is 4 yards long and the arm over the footwalk is 3 yards long. Both arms rotate at the rate of 5 radians per minute. At what rate is the distance between the extremities of the arms changing when they make an angle of  $45^\circ = \pi/4$  with the horizontal?

Ans. 24 yd. per min.

42. A conical funnel of radius 3 inches and of the same depth is filled with a solution which filters at the rate of 1 cu. in. per minute. How fast is the surface falling when it is 1 inch from the top of the funnel?

Ans.  $\frac{1}{4\pi}$  in. per mm.

43. An angle is increasing at a constant rate. Show that the tangent and sine are increasing at the same rate when the angle is zero, and that the tangent increases eight times as fast as the sine when the angle is  $60^\circ = \pi/3$ .

## Chapter 11

# Change of variable

### 11.1 Interchange of dependent and independent variables

It is sometimes desirable to transform an expression involving derivatives of  $y$  with respect to  $x$  into an equivalent expression involving instead derivatives of  $x$  with respect to  $y$ . Our examples will show that in many cases such a change transforms the given expression into a much simpler one. Or perhaps  $x$  is given as an explicit function of  $y$  in a problem, and it is found more convenient to use a formula involving  $\frac{dx}{dy}$ ,  $\frac{d^2x}{dy^2}$ , etc., than one involving  $\frac{dy}{dx}$ ,  $\frac{d^2y}{dx^2}$ , etc. We shall now proceed to find the formulas necessary for making such transformations.

Given  $y = f(x)$ , then from item XXVI in §5.1, we have

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{1}{\frac{dx}{dy}}, \quad \frac{dx}{dy} \neq 0 \quad (11.1)$$

giving  $\frac{dy}{dx}$  in terms of  $\frac{dx}{dy}$ . Also, by XXV in §5.1,

$$\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} = \frac{d}{dx} \left( \frac{dy}{dx} \right) = \frac{d}{dy} \left( \frac{dy}{dx} \right) \frac{dy}{dx},$$

or

$$\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} = \frac{d}{dy} \left( \frac{1}{\frac{dx}{dy}} \right) \frac{dy}{dx}. \quad (11.2)$$

But  $\frac{d}{dy} \left( \frac{1}{\frac{dx}{dy}} \right) = -\frac{\frac{d^2x}{dy^2}}{\left(\frac{dx}{dy}\right)^2}$ ; and  $\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{1}{\frac{dx}{dy}}$  from (11.1). Substituting these in (11.2), we get

$$\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} = -\frac{\frac{d^2x}{dy^2}}{\left(\frac{dx}{dy}\right)^3}, \quad (11.3)$$

## 11.2. CHANGE OF THE DEPENDENT VARIABLE

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giving  $\frac{d^2y}{dx^2}$  in terms of  $\frac{dx}{dy}$  and  $\frac{d^2x}{dy^2}$ . Similarly,

$$\frac{d^3y}{dx^3} = -\frac{\frac{d^3x}{dy^3} \frac{dx}{dy} - 3 \left( \frac{d^2x}{dy^2} \right)^2}{\left( \frac{dx}{dy} \right)^5}, \quad (11.4)$$

and so on for higher derivatives. This transformation is called changing the independent variable from  $x$  to  $y$ .

**Example 11.1.1.** Change the independent variable from  $x$  to  $y$  in the equation

$$3 \left( \frac{d^2y}{dx^2} \right)^2 - \frac{dy}{dx} \frac{d^3y}{dx^3} - \frac{d^2y}{dx^2} \left( \frac{dy}{dx} \right)^2 = 0.$$

Solution. Substituting from (11.1), (11.3), (11.4),

$$3 \left( -\frac{\frac{d^2x}{dy^2}}{\left( \frac{dx}{dy} \right)^3} \right)^2 - \left( \frac{1}{\frac{dx}{dy}} \right) \left( -\frac{\frac{d^3x}{dy^3} \frac{dx}{dy} - 3 \left( \frac{d^2x}{dy^2} \right)^2}{\left( \frac{dx}{dy} \right)^5} \right) - \left( -\frac{\frac{d^2x}{dy^2}}{\left( \frac{dx}{dy} \right)^3} \right) \left( \frac{1}{\frac{dx}{dy}} \right)^2 = 0.$$

Reducing, we get

$$\frac{d^3x}{dy^3} + \frac{d^2x}{dy^2} = 0,$$

a much simpler equation.

## 11.2 Change of the dependent variable

Let

$$y = f(x),$$

and suppose at the same time  $y$  is a function of  $z$ , say

$$y = g(z).$$

We may then express  $\frac{dy}{dx}$ ,  $\frac{d^2y}{dx^2}$  etc., in terms of  $\frac{dz}{dx}$ ,  $\frac{d^2z}{dx^2}$ , etc., as follows

In general,  $z$  is a function of  $y$ , and since  $y$  is a function of  $x$ , it is evident that  $z$  is a function of  $x$ . Hence by XXV of §5.1, we have

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{dy}{dz} \frac{dz}{dx} = \psi'(z) \frac{dz}{dx}.$$

Also  $\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} = \frac{d}{dx} \left( g'(z) \frac{dz}{dx} \right) = \frac{dz}{dx} \frac{d}{dx} g'(z) + g'(z) \frac{d^2z}{dx^2}$ . But  $\frac{d}{dx} g'(z) = \frac{d}{dz} g'(z) \frac{dz}{dx} = g''(z) \frac{dz}{dx}$ . Therefore,

$$\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} = g''(z) \left( \frac{dz}{dx} \right)^2 + g'(z) \frac{d^2z}{dx^2}.$$



Similarly for higher derivatives. This transformation is called *changing the dependent variable* from  $y$  to  $z$ , the independent variable remaining  $x$  throughout. We will now illustrate this process by means of an example.

**Example 11.2.1.** Having given the equation

$$\frac{d^2 y}{dx^2} = 1 + \frac{2(1+y)}{1+y^2} \left( \frac{dy}{dx} \right)^2,$$

change the dependent variable from  $y$  to  $z$  by means of the relation

$$y = \tan z.$$

Solution. From the above,

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \sec^2(z) \frac{dz}{dx}, \quad \frac{d^2 y}{dx^2} = \sec^2(z) \frac{d^2 z}{dx^2} + 2 \sec^2(z) \tan(z) \left( \frac{dz}{dx} \right)^2,$$

Substituting,

$$\sec^2(z) \frac{d^2 z}{dx^2} + 2 \sec^2(z) \tan(z) \left( \frac{dz}{dx} \right)^2 = 1 + \frac{2(1 + \tan z)}{1 + \tan^2 z} \left( \sec^2 z \frac{dz}{dx} \right)^2,$$

and reducing, we get  $\frac{d^2 z}{dx^2} - 2 \left( \frac{dz}{dx} \right)^2 = \cos^2 z$ .

## 11.3 Change of the independent variable

Let  $y$  be a function of  $x$ , and at the same time let  $x$  (and hence also  $y$ ) be a function of a new variable  $t$ . It is required to express

$$\frac{dy}{dx}, \quad \frac{d^2 y}{dx^2}, \quad \text{etc.},$$

in terms of new derivatives having  $t$  as the independent variable. By XXV §5.1,  $\frac{dy}{dt} = \frac{dy}{dx} \frac{dx}{dt}$ , or

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{\frac{dy}{dt}}{\frac{dx}{dt}}. \quad (11.5)$$

This is another formulation of the so-called *chain rule*. Also

$$\frac{d^2 y}{dx^2} = \frac{d}{dx} \left( \frac{dy}{dx} \right) = \frac{d}{dt} \left( \frac{dy}{dx} \right) \frac{dt}{dx} = \frac{\frac{d}{dt} \left( \frac{dy}{dx} \right)}{\frac{dx}{dt}}.$$

But differentiating  $\frac{dy}{dx}$  with respect to  $t$ ,

$$\frac{d}{dt} \left( \frac{dy}{dx} \right) = \frac{d}{dt} \left( \frac{\frac{dy}{dt}}{\frac{dx}{dt}} \right) = \frac{\frac{dx}{dt} \frac{d^2 y}{dt^2} - \frac{dy}{dt} \frac{d^2 x}{dt^2}}{\left( \frac{dx}{dt} \right)^2}.$$

#### 11.4. SIMULTANEOUS CHANGE OF BOTH INDEPENDENT AND DEPENDENT VARIABLES

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Therefore

$$\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} = \frac{\frac{dx}{dt} \frac{d^2y}{dt^2} - \frac{dy}{dt} \frac{d^2x}{dt^2}}{\left(\frac{dx}{dt}\right)^3}, \quad (11.6)$$

and so on for higher derivatives. This transformation is called changing the independent variable from  $x$  to  $t$ . It is usually better to work out examples by the methods illustrated above rather than by using the formulas deduced.

**Example 11.3.1.** Change the independent variable from  $x$  to  $t$  in the differential equation

$$x^2 \frac{d^2y}{dx^2} + x \frac{dy}{dx} + y = 0$$

where  $x = e^t$ .

Solution.  $\frac{dx}{dt} = e^t$ , therefore

$$\frac{dt}{dx} = e^{-t}.$$

Also  $\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{dy}{dt} \frac{dt}{dx}$ ; therefore  $\frac{dy}{dx} = e^{-t} \frac{dy}{dt}$ . Also  $\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} = e^{-t} \frac{d}{dx} \left( \frac{dy}{dt} \right) - \frac{dy}{dt} e^{-t} \frac{dt}{dx} = e^{-t} \frac{d}{dt} \left( \frac{dy}{dt} \right) \frac{dt}{dx} - \frac{dy}{dt} e^{-t} \frac{dt}{dx}$ . Substituting into the last result  $\frac{dt}{dx} = e^{-t}$ ,

$$\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} = e^{-2t} \frac{d^2y}{dt^2} - \frac{dy}{dt} e^{-2t}.$$

Substituting these into the differential equation,

$$e^{2t} \left( e^{-2t} \frac{d^2y}{dt^2} - \frac{dy}{dt} e^{-2t} \right) + e^t \left( e^{-t} \frac{dy}{dt} \right) + y = 0,$$

and reducing, we get  $\frac{d^2y}{dt^2} + y = 0$ .

Since the formulas deduced in the Differential Calculus generally involve derivatives of  $y$  with respect to  $x$ , such formulas as the chain rule are especially useful when the parametric equations of a curve are given. Such examples were given in §6.5, and many others will be employed in what follows.

### 11.4 Simultaneous change of both independent and dependent variables

It is often desirable to change both variables simultaneously. An important case is that arising in the transformation from rectangular to polar coordinates. Since

$$x = \rho \cos \theta, \quad \text{and} \quad y = \rho \sin \theta,$$

the equation

$$f(x, y) = 0$$

becomes by substitution an equation between  $\rho$  and  $\theta$ , defining  $\rho$  as a function of  $\theta$ . Hence  $\rho$ ,  $x$ ,  $y$  are all functions of  $\theta$ .

**Example 11.4.1.** Transform the formula for the radius of curvature (12.5),

$$R = \frac{\left[1 + \left(\frac{dy}{dx}\right)^2\right]^{\frac{3}{2}}}{\frac{d^2y}{dx^2}},$$

into polar coordinates.

Solution. Since in (11.5) and (11.6),  $t$  is any variable on which  $x$  and  $y$  depend, we may in this case let  $t = \theta$ , giving  $\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{\frac{dy}{d\theta}}{\frac{dx}{d\theta}}$ , and

$$\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} = \frac{\frac{dx}{d\theta} \frac{d^2y}{d\theta^2} - \frac{dy}{d\theta} \frac{d^2x}{d\theta^2}}{\left(\frac{dx}{d\theta}\right)^3}.$$

Substituting these into  $R$ , we get

$$R = \left[ \frac{\left(\frac{dx}{d\theta}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{dy}{d\theta}\right)^2}{\left(\frac{dx}{d\theta}\right)^2} \right]^{\frac{3}{2}} \div \frac{\frac{dx}{d\theta} \frac{d^2y}{d\theta^2} - \frac{dy}{d\theta} \frac{d^2x}{d\theta^2}}{\left(\frac{dx}{d\theta}\right)^3},$$

or

$$R = \frac{\left[ \left(\frac{dx}{d\theta}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{dy}{d\theta}\right)^2 \right]^{\frac{3}{2}}}{\frac{dx}{d\theta} \frac{d^2y}{d\theta^2} - \frac{dy}{d\theta} \frac{d^2x}{d\theta^2}}. \quad (11.7)$$

But since  $x = \rho \cos \theta$  and  $y = \rho \sin \theta$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{dx}{d\theta} &= -\rho \sin \theta + \cos \theta \frac{d\rho}{d\theta}; \\ \frac{dy}{d\theta} &= \rho \cos \theta + \sin \theta \frac{d\rho}{d\theta}; \\ \frac{d^2x}{d\theta^2} &= -\rho \cos \theta - 2 \sin \theta \frac{d\rho}{d\theta} + \cos \theta \frac{d^2\rho}{d\theta^2}; \\ \frac{d^2y}{d\theta^2} &= -\rho \sin \theta + 2 \cos \theta \frac{d\rho}{d\theta} + \sin \theta \frac{d^2\rho}{d\theta^2}. \end{aligned}$$

Substituting these in (D) and reducing,

$$R = \frac{\left[ \rho^2 + \left(\frac{d\rho}{d\theta}\right)^2 \right]^{\frac{3}{2}}}{\rho^2 + 2 \left(\frac{d\rho}{d\theta}\right)^2 - \rho \frac{d^2\rho}{d\theta^2}}.$$

## 11.5 Exercises

Change the independent variable from  $x$  to  $y$  in the following equations.

1.  $R = \frac{\left[1 + \left(\frac{dy}{dx}\right)^2\right]^{\frac{3}{2}}}{\frac{d^2y}{dx^2}}$

Ans.  $R = -\frac{\left[1 + \left(\frac{dx}{dy}\right)^2\right]^{\frac{3}{2}}}{\frac{d^2x}{dy^2}}.$

2.  $\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} + 2y\left(\frac{dy}{dx}\right)^2 = 0.$

Ans.  $\frac{d^2x}{dy^2} - 2y\frac{dx}{dy} = 0.$

3.  $x\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} + \left(\frac{dy}{dx}\right)^3 - \frac{dy}{dx} = 0.$

Ans.  $x\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} - 1 + \left(\frac{dx}{dy}\right)^2 = 0.$

4.  $\left(3a\frac{dy}{dx} + 2\right)\left(\frac{d^2y}{dx^2}\right)^2 = \left(a\frac{dy}{dx} + 1\right)\frac{dy}{dx}\frac{d^3y}{dx^3}.$

Ans.  $\left(\frac{d^2x}{dy^2}\right)^2 = \left(\frac{dx}{dy} + a\right)\frac{d^3x}{dy^3}.$

Change the dependent variable from  $y$  to  $z$  in the following equations:

5.  $(1+y)^2\left(\frac{d^3y}{dx^3} - 2y\right) + \left(\frac{dy}{dx}\right)^2 = 2(1+y)\frac{dy}{dx}\frac{d^2y}{dx^2}, y = z^2 + 2z.$

Ans.  $(z+1)\frac{d^3x}{dx^3} = \frac{dz}{dx}\frac{d^2z}{dx^2} + z^2 + 2z.$

6.  $\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} = 1 + \frac{2(1+y)}{1+y^2}\left(\frac{dy}{dx}\right)^2, y = \tan z.$

Ans.  $\frac{d^2z}{dx^2} - 2\left(\frac{dz}{dx}\right)^2 = \cos^2 z.$

7.  $y^2\frac{d^3y}{dx^3} - \left(3y\frac{dy}{dx} + 2xy^2\right)\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} + \left\{2\left(\frac{dy}{dx}\right)^2 2xy\frac{dy}{dx} + 3x^2y^2\right\}\frac{dy}{dx} + x^3y^3 = 0, y = e^z.$

Ans.  $\frac{d^3z}{dx^3} - 2x\frac{d^2z}{dx^2} + 3x^2\frac{dz}{dx} + x^3 = 0.$

Change the independent variable in the following eight equations:

8.  $\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} - \frac{x}{1-x^2}\frac{dy}{dx} + \frac{y}{1-x^2} = 0, x = \cos t.$

Ans.  $\frac{d^2y}{dt^2} + y = 0.$

9.  $(1-x^2)\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} - x\frac{dy}{dx} = 0, x = \cos z.$

Ans.  $\frac{d^2y}{dz^2} = 0.$

10.  $(1 - y^2) \frac{d^2 u}{dy^2} - y \frac{du}{dy} + a^2 u = 0, \quad y = \sin x.$

Ans.  $\frac{d^2 u}{dx^2} + a^2 u = 0.$

11.  $x^2 \frac{d^2 y}{dx^2} + 2x \frac{dy}{dx} + \frac{a^2}{x^2} y = 0, \quad x = \frac{1}{z}.$

Ans.  $\frac{d^2 y}{dz^2} + a^2 y = 0.$

12.  $x^3 \frac{d^3 v}{dx^3} + 3x^2 \frac{d^2 v}{dx^2} + x \frac{dv}{dx} + v = 0, \quad x = e^t.$

Ans.  $\frac{d^3 v}{dx^3} + v = 0.$

13.  $\frac{d^2 y}{dx^2} + \frac{2x}{1+x^2} \frac{dy}{dx} + \frac{y}{(1+x^2)^2} = 0, \quad x = \tan \theta.$

Ans.  $\frac{d^2 y}{d\theta^2} + y = 0.$

14.  $\frac{d^2 u}{ds^2} + su \frac{du}{ds} + \sec^2 s = 0.$

Ans.  $s = \arctan t.$

15.  $x^4 \frac{d^2 y}{dx^2} + a^2 y = 0, \quad x = \frac{1}{z}.$

Ans.  $\frac{d^2 y}{dz^2} + \frac{2}{z} \frac{dy}{dz} + a^2 y = 0.$

In the following seven examples the equations are given in parametric form. Find  $\frac{dy}{dx}$  and  $\frac{d^2 y}{dx^2}$  in each case:

16.  $x = 7 + t^2, \quad y = 3 + t^2 - 3t^4.$

Ans.  $\frac{dy}{dx} = 1 - 6t^2, \quad \frac{d^2 y}{dx^2} = -6.$

We shall solve this using **SAGE**.

```

SAGE
sage: t = var("t")
sage: x = 7 + t^2
sage: y = 3 + t^2 - 3*t^4
sage: f = (x, y)
sage: p = parametric_plot(f, 0, 1)
sage: D_x_of_y = diff(y,t)/diff(x,t); D_x_of_y
(2*t - 12*t^3)/(2*t)
sage: solve(D_x_of_y == 0,t)
[t == -1/sqrt(6), t == 1/sqrt(6)]
sage: t0 = solve(D_x_of_y == 0,t)[1].rhs()
sage: (x(t0),y(t0))
(43/6, 37/12)
sage: D_xx_of_y = (diff(y,t,t)*diff(x,t)-diff(x,t,t)*diff(y,t))/diff(x,t)^2; D_xx_of_y
(2*t*(2 - 36*t^2) - 2*(2*t - 12*t^3))/(4*t^2)
sage: D_xx_of_y(t0)
-12/sqrt(6)

```

This tells us that the critical point is at  $(43/6, 37/12) = (7.166..., 3.0833...)$ , which is a maximum. The plot in Figure 11.1 illustrates this.

## 11.5. EXERCISES

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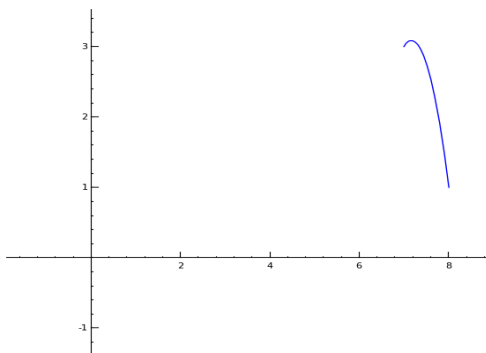


Figure 11.1: Plot for Exercise 11.5-16,  $x = 7 + t^2$ ,  $y = 3 + t^2 - 3t^4$ .

17.  $x = \cot t$ ,  $y = \sin^3 t$ .

Ans.  $\frac{dy}{dx} = -3 \sin^4 t \cos t$ ,  $\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} = 3 \sin^5 t (4 - 5 \sin^2 t)$ .

18.  $x = a(\cos t + \sin t)$ ,  $y = a(\sin t - t \cos t)$ .

Ans.  $\frac{dy}{dx} = \tan t$ ,  $\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} = \frac{1}{at \cos^3 t}$ .

19.  $x = \frac{1-t}{1+t}$ ,  $y = \frac{2t}{1+t}$ .

20.  $x = 2t$ ,  $y = 2 - t^2$ .

21.  $x = 1 - t^2$ ,  $y = t^3$ .

22.  $x = a \cos t$ ,  $y = b \sin t$ .

23. Transform  $\frac{x \frac{dy}{dx} - y}{\sqrt{1 + \left(\frac{dy}{dx}\right)^2}}$  by assuming  $x = \rho \cos \theta$ ,  $y = \rho \sin \theta$ .

Ans.  $\frac{\rho^2}{\sqrt{\rho \left(\frac{d\rho}{d\theta}\right)^2}}$ .

24. Let  $f(x, y) = 0$  be the equation of a curve. Find an expression for its slope  $\left(\frac{dy}{dx}\right)$  in terms of polar coordinates.

Ans.  $\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{\rho \cos \theta + \sin \theta \frac{d\rho}{d\theta}}{-\rho \sin \theta + \cos \theta \frac{d\rho}{d\theta}}$ .

## Chapter 12

# Curvature; radius of curvature

### 12.1 Curvature

The shape of a curve depends very largely upon the rate at which the direction of the tangent changes as the point of contact describes the curve. This rate of change of direction is called *curvature* and is denoted by  $K$ . We now proceed to find its analytical expression, first for the simple case of the circle, and then for curves in general.

### 12.2 Curvature of a circle

Consider a circle of radius  $R$ .

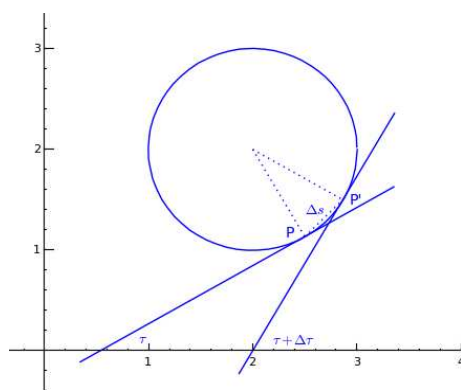


Figure 12.1: The curvature of a circle.

Let

### 12.3. CURVATURE AT A POINT

$\tau$  = angle that the tangent at P makes with the  $x$ -axis,

and

$\tau + \Delta\tau$  = angle made by the tangent at a neighboring point P'.

Then we say  $\Delta\tau$  = *total curvature* of arc PP'. If the point P with its tangent be supposed to move along the curve to P', the total curvature ( $= \Delta\tau$ ) would measure the total change in direction, or rotation, of the tangent; or, what is the same thing, the total change in direction of the arc itself. Denoting by  $s$  the length of the arc of the curve measured from some fixed point (as A) to P, and by  $\Delta s$  the length of the arc P P', then the ratio  $\frac{\Delta\tau}{\Delta s}$  measures the average change in direction per unit length of arc<sup>1</sup>. Since, from Figure 12.1,  $\Delta s = R \cdot \Delta\tau$ , or  $\frac{\Delta\tau}{\Delta s} = \frac{1}{R}$ , it is evident that this ratio is constant everywhere on the circle. This ratio is, by definition, the curvature of the circle, and we have

$$K = \frac{1}{R}. \quad (12.1)$$

*The curvature of a circle equals the reciprocal of its radius.*

### 12.3 Curvature at a point

Consider any curve. As in the last section,  $\Delta\tau$  = total curvature of the arc PP', and  $\frac{\Delta\tau}{\Delta s}$  = average curvature of the arc PP'.

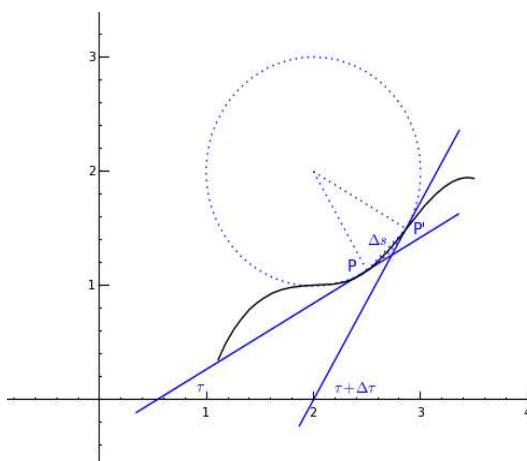


Figure 12.2: Geometry of the curvature at a point.

More important, however, than the notion of the average curvature of an arc is that of curvature at a point. This is obtained as follows. Imagine P to approach

<sup>1</sup>Thus, if  $\Delta\tau = \frac{\pi}{6}$  radians ( $= 30^\circ$ ), and  $\Delta s = 3$  centimeters, then  $\frac{\Delta\tau}{\Delta s} = \frac{\pi}{18}$  radians per centimeter =  $10^\circ$  per centimeter = average rate of change of direction.



P along the curve; then the limiting value of the average curvature  $(= \frac{\Delta\tau}{\Delta s})$  as P' approaches P along the curve is defined as the *curvature at P*, that is,

$$\text{Curvature at a point} = \lim_{\Delta s \rightarrow 0} \left( \frac{\Delta\tau}{\Delta s} \right) = \frac{d\tau}{ds}.$$

Therefore,

$$K = \frac{d\tau}{ds} = \text{curvature.} \quad (12.2)$$

Since the angle  $\Delta\tau$  is measured in radians and the length of arc  $\Delta s$  in units of length, it follows that the unit of curvature at a point is one radian per unit of length.

## 12.4 Formulas for curvature

It is evident that if, in the last section, instead of measuring the angles which the tangents made with the  $x$ -axis, we had denoted by  $\tau$  and  $\tau + \Delta\tau$  the angles made by the tangents with any arbitrarily fixed line, the different steps would in no wise have been changed, and consequently the results are entirely independent of the system of coordinates used. However, since the equations of the curves we shall consider are all given in either rectangular or polar coordinates, it is necessary to deduce formulas for  $K$  in terms of both. We have  $\tan \tau = \frac{dy}{dx}$  by §4.9, or  $\tau = \arctan \frac{dy}{dx}$ . Differentiating with respect to  $x$ , using XX in §5.1,

$$\frac{d\tau}{dx} = \frac{\frac{d^2y}{dx^2}}{1 + \left(\frac{dy}{dx}\right)^2}.$$

Also

$$\frac{ds}{dx} = \left[ 1 + \left(\frac{dy}{dx}\right)^2 \right]^{\frac{1}{2}},$$

by (9.4). Dividing one equation into the other gives

$$\frac{\frac{d\tau}{dx}}{\frac{ds}{dx}} = \frac{\frac{d^2y}{dx^2}}{\left[ 1 + \left(\frac{dy}{dx}\right)^2 \right]^{\frac{3}{2}}}.$$

But

$$\frac{\frac{d\tau}{dx}}{\frac{ds}{dx}} = \frac{d\tau}{ds} = K.$$

Hence

## 12.4. FORMULAS FOR CURVATURE

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$$K = \frac{\frac{d^2 y}{dx^2}}{\left[1 + \left(\frac{dy}{dx}\right)^2\right]^{\frac{3}{2}}}. \quad (12.3)$$

If the equation of the curve be given in polar coordinates,  $K$  may be found as follows: From (6.13),

$$\tau = \theta + \psi.$$

Differentiating,

$$\frac{d\tau}{d\theta} = 1 + \frac{d\psi}{d\theta}.$$

But

$$\tan \psi = \frac{\rho}{\frac{d\rho}{d\theta}},$$

from (6.12). Therefore,

$$\psi = \arctan \frac{\rho}{\frac{d\rho}{d\theta}}.$$

Differentiating with respect to  $\theta$  using XX in §5.1 and reducing,

$$\frac{d\psi}{d\theta} = \frac{\left(\frac{d\rho}{d\theta}\right)^2 - \rho \frac{d^2\rho}{d\theta^2}}{\rho^2 + \left(\frac{d\rho}{d\theta}\right)^2}.$$

Substituting, we get

$$\frac{d\tau}{d\theta} = \frac{\rho^2 - \rho \frac{d^2\rho}{d\theta^2} + 2\left(\frac{d\rho}{d\theta}\right)^2}{\rho^2 + \left(\frac{d\rho}{d\theta}\right)^2}.$$

Also

$$\frac{ds}{d\theta} = \left[\rho^2 + \left(\frac{d\rho}{d\theta}\right)^2\right]^{\frac{1}{2}},$$

by (9.9). Dividing gives

$$\frac{\frac{d\tau}{d\theta}}{\frac{ds}{d\theta}} = \frac{\rho^2 - \rho \frac{d^2\rho}{d\theta^2} + 2\left(\frac{d\rho}{d\theta}\right)^2}{\left[\rho^2 + \left(\frac{d\rho}{d\theta}\right)^2\right]^{\frac{3}{2}}}.$$

But

$$\frac{\frac{d\tau}{d\theta}}{\frac{ds}{d\theta}} = \frac{d\tau}{ds} = K.$$

Hence

$$K = \frac{\rho^2 - \rho \frac{d^2\rho}{d\theta^2} + 2 \left( \frac{d\rho}{d\theta} \right)^2}{\left[ \rho^2 + \left( \frac{d\rho}{d\theta} \right)^2 \right]^{\frac{3}{2}}}. \quad (12.4)$$

**Example 12.4.1.** Find the curvature of the parabola  $y^2 = 4px$  at the upper end of the latus rectum.

The *latus rectum* of a conic section is the chord parallel to the directrix and passing through the single focus, or one of the two foci. For more details, see for example [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Semi-latus\\_rectum](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Semi-latus_rectum).

Solution.  $\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{2p}{y}$ ;  $\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} = -\frac{2p}{y^2} \frac{dy}{dx} = -\frac{4p^2}{y^3}$ . Substituting in (12.3),  $K = -\frac{40-p^2}{(y^2+4p^2)^{\frac{3}{2}}}$ , giving the curvature at any point. At the upper end of the latus rectum  $(p, 2p)$ ,

$$K = -\frac{4p^2}{(4p^2 + 4p^2)^{\frac{3}{2}}} = -\frac{4p^2}{16\sqrt{2}p^3} = -\frac{1}{4\sqrt{2}p}.$$

While in our work it is generally only the numerical value of  $K$  that is of importance, yet we can give a geometric meaning to its sign. Throughout our work we have taken the positive sign of the radical  $\sqrt{1 + \left( \frac{dy}{dx} \right)^2}$ . Therefore  $K$  will be positive or negative at the same time that  $\frac{d^2y}{dx^2}$  is, i.e., (by §8.8), according as the curve is concave upwards or concave downwards.

We shall solve this using **SAGE**.

SAGE

```
sage: x = var("x")
sage: p = var("p")
sage: y = sqrt(4*p*x)
sage: K = diff(y,x,2)/(1+diff(y,x)^2)^(3/2)
sage: K
-p^2/(2*(p/x + 1)^(3/2)*(p*x)^(3/2))
```

Taking  $x = p$  and simplifying gives the result above.

SAGE

```
sage: K.variables()
(p, x)
sage: K(p,p)
```

## 12.5. RADIUS OF CURVATURE

```
-p^2/(4*sqrt(2)*(p^2)^(3/2))
sage: K(p,p).simplify_rational()
-1/(4*sqrt(2)*sqrt(p^2))
```

**Example 12.4.2.** Find the curvature of the logarithmic spiral  $\rho = e^{a\theta}$  at any point.

Solution.  $\frac{d\rho}{d\theta} = ae^{a\theta} = a\rho$ ;  $\frac{d^2\rho}{d\theta^2} = a^2e^{a\theta} = a^2\rho$ .

Substituting in (12.4),  $K = \frac{1}{\rho\sqrt{1+a^2}}$ .

In laying out the curves on a railroad it will not do, on account of the high speed of trains, to pass abruptly from a straight stretch of track to a circular curve. In order to make the change of direction gradual, engineers make use of transition curves to connect the straight part of a track with a circular curve. Arcs of cubical parabolas are generally employed as transition curves.

Now we do this in **SAGE**:

SAGE

```
sage: rho = var("rho")
sage: t = var("t")
sage: r = var("r")
sage: a = var("a")
sage: r = exp(a*t)
sage: K = (r^2-r*diff(r,t,2)+2*diff(r,t)^2)/(r^2+diff(r,t)^2)^(3/2)
sage: K
1/sqrt(a^2*e^(2*a*t) + e^(2*a*t))
sage: K.simplify_rational()
e^(-(a*t))/sqrt(a^2 + 1)
```

**Example 12.4.3.** The transition curve on a railway track has the shape of an arc of the cubical parabola  $y = \frac{1}{3}x^3$ . At what rate is a car on this track changing its direction (1 mi. = unit of length) when it is passing through (a) the point (3, 9)? (b) the point  $(2, \frac{8}{3})$ ? (c) the point  $(1, \frac{1}{3})$ ?

Solution.  $\frac{dy}{dx} = x^2$ ,  $\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} = 2x$ . Substituting in (12.3),  $K = \frac{2x}{(1+x^4)^{\frac{3}{2}}}$ . (a) At (3, 9),  $K = \frac{6}{(82)^{\frac{3}{2}}}$  radians per mile =  $28'$  per mile. (b) At  $(2, \frac{8}{3})$ ,  $K = \frac{4}{(17)^{\frac{3}{2}}}$  radians per mile =  $3^\circ 16'$  per mile. (c) At  $(1, \frac{1}{3})$ ,  $K = \frac{2}{(2)^{\frac{3}{2}}} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}$  radians per mile =  $40^\circ 30'$  per mile.

## 12.5 Radius of curvature

By analogy with the circle (see (12.1)), the radius of curvature of a curve at a point is defined as the reciprocal of the curvature of the curve at that point. Denoting the radius of curvature by  $R$ , we have<sup>2</sup>

<sup>2</sup>Hence the radius of curvature will have the same sign as the curvature, that is, + or −, according as the curve is concave upwards or concave downwards.

$$R = \frac{1}{K}.$$

Or, substituting the values of  $x$  from (12.3) and (12.4),

$$R = \frac{\left[1 + \left(\frac{dy}{dx}\right)^2\right]^{\frac{3}{2}}}{\frac{d^2y}{dx^2}} \quad (12.5)$$

and<sup>3</sup>

$$R = \frac{\left[\rho^2 + \left(\frac{d\rho}{d\theta}\right)^2\right]^{\frac{3}{2}}}{\rho^2 - \rho \frac{d^2\rho}{d\theta^2} + 2\left(\frac{d\rho}{d\theta}\right)^2}. \quad (12.6)$$

**Example 12.5.1.** Find the radius of curvature at any point of the catenary  $y = \frac{a}{2}(e^{\frac{x}{a}} + e^{-\frac{x}{a}})$ .

Solution.  $\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{1}{2}(e^{\frac{x}{a}} - e^{-\frac{x}{a}})$ ;  $\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} = \frac{1}{2a}(e^{\frac{x}{a}} - e^{-\frac{x}{a}})$ . Substituting in (12.5),

$$\begin{aligned} R &= \frac{\left[1 + \left(\frac{e^{\frac{x}{a}} - e^{-\frac{x}{a}}}{2}\right)^2\right]^{\frac{3}{2}}}{\frac{e^{\frac{x}{a}} - e^{-\frac{x}{a}}}{2a}} \\ &= \frac{\left(\frac{e^{\frac{x}{a}} - e^{-\frac{x}{a}}}{2}\right)^3}{\frac{e^{\frac{x}{a}} - e^{-\frac{x}{a}}}{2a}} = \frac{a(e^{\frac{x}{a}} - e^{-\frac{x}{a}})^2}{4} \\ &= \frac{y^2}{a}. \end{aligned}$$

If the equation of the curve is given in parametric form, find the first and second derivatives of  $y$  with respect to  $x$  from (11.5) and (11.6), namely:

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{\frac{dy}{dt}}{\frac{dx}{dt}},$$

and

$$\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} = \frac{\frac{dx}{dt} \frac{d^2y}{dt^2} - \frac{dy}{dt} \frac{d^2x}{dt^2}}{\left(\frac{dx}{dt}\right)^3},$$

and then substitute<sup>4</sup> the results in (12.5).

<sup>3</sup>In §11.4, the next equation is derived from the previous one by transforming from rectangular to polar coordinates.

<sup>4</sup>Substituting these last two equations in (12.5) gives  $R = \frac{\left[\left(\frac{dx}{dt}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{dy}{dt}\right)^2\right]^{3/2}}{\frac{dx}{dt} \frac{d^2y}{dt^2} - \frac{dy}{dt} \frac{d^2x}{dt^2}}$ .

## 12.6. CIRCLE OF CURVATURE

**Example 12.5.2.** Find the radius of curvature of the cycloid  $x = a(t - \sin t)$ ,  $y = a(t - \cos t)$ .

Solution.  $\frac{dx}{dt} = a(1 - \cos t)$ ,  $\frac{dy}{dt} = a \sin t$ ;  $\frac{d^2x}{dt^2} = a \sin t$ ,  $\frac{d^2y}{dt^2} = a \cos t$ . Substituting the previous example and then in (12.5), we get

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{\sin t}{1 - \cos t}, \quad \frac{d^2y}{dx^2} = \frac{a(1 - \cos t)a \cos t - a \sin t a \sin t}{a^3(1 - \cos t)^3} = \frac{1}{a(1 - \cos t)^2}, \text{ and } R = \frac{\left[1 + \left(\frac{\sin t}{1 - \cos t}\right)^2\right]^{\frac{3}{2}}}{-\frac{1}{a(1 - \cos t)^2}} = -2a\sqrt{2 - 2 \cos t}.$$

## 12.6 Circle of curvature

Consider any point P on the curve C. The tangent drawn to the curve at P has the same slope as the curve itself at P (see §6.1). In an analogous manner we may construct for each point of the curve a circle whose curvature is the same as the curvature of the curve itself at that point. To do this, proceed as follows. Draw the normal to the curve at P on the concave side of the curve.

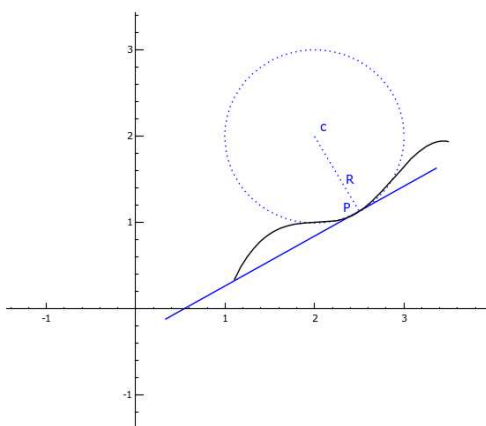


Figure 12.3: The circle of curvature.

Lay off on this normal the distance PC = radius of curvature (= R) at P. With C as a center draw the circle passing through P. The curvature of this circle is then  $K = \frac{1}{R}$ , which also equals the curvature of the curve itself at P. The circle so constructed is called the *circle of curvature* for the point P on the curve.

In general, the circle of curvature of a curve at a point will cross the curve at that point. This is illustrated in the Figure 12.3.

Just as the tangent at P shows the direction of the curve at P, so the circle of curvature at P aids us very materially in forming a geometric concept of the curvature of the curve at P, the rate of change of direction of the curve and of the circle being the same at P.

The circle of curvature can be defined as the limiting position of a secant circle, a definition analogous to that of the tangent given in §4.9.

**Example 12.6.1.** Find the radius of curvature at the point  $(3, 4)$  on the equilateral hyperbola  $xy = 12$ , and draw the corresponding circle of curvature.

Solution.  $\frac{dy}{dx} = -\frac{y}{x}$ ,  $\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} = \frac{2y}{x^2}$ . For  $(3, 4)$ ,  $\frac{dy}{dx} = -\frac{4}{3}$ ,  $\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} = \frac{8}{9}$ , so

$$R = \frac{\left[1 + \frac{16}{9}\right]^{\frac{3}{2}}}{\frac{8}{9}} = \frac{125}{24} = 25\frac{5}{24}.$$

The circle of curvature crosses the curve at two points.

We solve for the circle of curvature using **SAGE**. First, we solve for the intersection of the normal  $y - 4 = (-1/m)(x - 3)$ , where  $m = y'(3) = -4/3$ , and the circle of radius  $R = 125/24$  about  $(3, 4)$ :

```

SAGE
sage: x = var("x")
sage: y = 12/x
sage: K = diff(y,x,2)/(1+diff(y,x)^2)^(3/2)
sage: K
24/((144/x^4 + 1)^(3/2)*x^3)
sage: K(3)
24/125
sage: R = 1/K(3)
sage: m = diff(y,x)(3); m
-4/3
sage: xx = var("xx")
sage: yy = var("yy")
sage: solve((xx-3)^2+(-1/m)^2*(xx-3)^2==R^2, xx)
[xx == -7/6, xx == 43/6]

```

This tells us that the normal line intersects the circle of radius  $R$  centered at  $(3, 4)$  in 2 points, one of which is at  $(43/6, 57/8)$ . This is the center of the circle of curvature, so the equation is  $(x - 43/6)^2 + (y - 57/8)^2 = R^2$ .

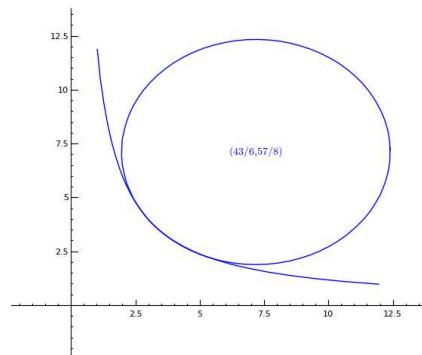


Figure 12.4: The circle of curvature of a hyperbola.

## 12.7 Exercises

1. Find the radius of curvature for each of the following curves, at the point indicated; draw the curve and the corresponding circle of curvature:

(a)  $b^2x^2 + a^2y^2 = a^2b^2$ ,  $(a, 0)$ .

Ans.  $R = \frac{b^2}{a}$ .

(b)  $b^2y^2 + a^2x^2 = a^2b^2$ ,  $(0, b)$ .

Ans.  $R = \frac{a^2}{b}$ .

(c)  $y = x^4 - 4x^3 - 18x^2$ ,  $(0, 0)$ .

Ans.  $R = \frac{1}{36}$ .

(d)  $16y^2 = 4x^4 - x^6$ ,  $(2, 0)$ .

Ans.  $R = 2$ .

(e)  $y = x^3$ ,  $(x_1, y_1)$ .

Ans.  $R = \frac{(1+9x_1^4)^{\frac{3}{2}}}{6x_1}$ .

(f)  $y^2 = x^3$ ,  $(4, 8)$ .

Ans.  $R = \frac{1}{3}(40)^{\frac{3}{2}}$ .

(g)  $y^2 = 8x$ ,  $(\frac{9}{8}, 3)$ .

Ans.  $R = \frac{125}{16}$ .

(h)  $(\frac{x}{a})^2 + (\frac{y}{b})^{\frac{2}{3}} = 1$ ,  $(0, b)$ .

Ans.  $R = \frac{a^2}{3b}$ .

(i)  $x^2 = 4ay$ ,  $(0, 0)$ .

Ans.  $R = 2a$ .

(j)  $(y - x^2)^2 = x^5$ ,  $(0, 0)$ .

Ans.  $R = \frac{1}{2}$ .

(k)  $b^2x^2 - a^2y^2 = a^2b^2$ ,  $(x_1, y_1)$ .

Ans.  $R = \frac{(b^4x_1^2 + a^4y_1^2)^{\frac{3}{2}}}{a^4b^4}$ .

(l)  $e^x = \sin y$ ,  $(x_1, y_1)$ .

(m)  $y = \sin x$ ,  $(\frac{\pi}{2}, 1)$ .

(n)  $y = \cos x$ ,  $(\frac{\pi}{4}, \sqrt{2})$ .

(o)  $y = \log x$ ,  $x = e$ .

(p)  $9y = x^3$ ,  $x = 3$ .

(q)  $4y^2 = x^3$ ,  $x = 4$ .

(r)  $x^2 - y^2 = a^2$ ,  $y = 0$ .

(s)  $x^2 + 2y^2 = 9$ ,  $(1, -2)$ .



2. Determine the radius of curvature of the curve  $a^2y = bx^2 + cx^2y$  at the origin.

Ans.  $R = \frac{a^2}{2b}$ .

3. Show that the radius of curvature of the witch  $y^2 = \frac{a^2(a-x)}{x}$  at the vertex is  $\frac{a}{2}$ .

4. Find the radius of curvature of the curve  $y = \log \sec x$  at the point  $(x_1, y_1)$ .

Ans.  $R = \sec x_1$ .

5. Find  $K$  at any point on the parabola  $x^{\frac{1}{2}} + y^{\frac{1}{2}} = a^{\frac{1}{2}}$ .

Ans.  $K = \frac{a^{\frac{1}{2}}}{2(x+y)^{\frac{3}{2}}}$ .

6. Find  $R$  at any point on the hypocycloid  $x^{\frac{2}{3}} + y^{\frac{2}{3}} = a^{\frac{2}{3}}$ .

Ans.  $R = 3(axy)^{\frac{1}{3}}$ .

7. Find  $R$  at any point on the cycloid  $x = r \text{ arcvers } \frac{y}{r} - \sqrt{2ry - y^2}$ .

Ans.  $R = 2\sqrt{2ry}$ .

Find the radius of curvature of the following curves at any point:

8. The circle  $\rho = a \sin \theta$ .

Ans.  $R = \frac{a}{2}$ .

9. The spiral of Archimedes  $\rho = a\theta$ .

Ans.  $R = \frac{(\rho^2 - a^2)^{\frac{3}{2}}}{\rho^2 + 2a^2}$ .

10. The cardioid  $\rho = a(1 \cos \theta)$ .

$R = \frac{2}{3}\sqrt{2a\rho}$ .

11. The lemniscate  $\rho^2 = a^2 \cos 2\theta$ .

$R = \frac{a^2}{3\rho}$ .

12. The parabola  $\rho = a \sec^2 \frac{\theta}{2}$ .

Ans.  $R = 2a \sec^3 \frac{\theta}{2}$ .

13. The curve  $\rho = a \sin^3 \frac{\theta}{3}$ .

14. The trisectrix  $\rho = 2a \cos \theta - a$ .

Ans.  $R = \frac{a(5-4 \cos \theta)^{\frac{3}{2}}}{9-6 \cos \theta}$ .

15. The equilateral hyperbola  $\rho^2 \cos 2\theta = a^2$ .

Ans.  $R = \frac{\rho^3}{a^2}$ .

## 12.7. EXERCISES

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16. The conic  $\rho = \frac{a(1-e^2)}{1-e \cos \theta}$ .

$$\text{Ans. } R = \frac{a(1-e^2)(1-2e \cos \theta + e^2)^{\frac{3}{2}}}{(1-e \cos \theta)^3}.$$

17. The curve

$$\begin{cases} x = 3t^2, \\ y = 3t - t^3, \end{cases}$$

$t = 1$ .

Ans.  $R = 6$ .

In SAGE:

SAGE

```
sage: x = 3*t^2
sage: y = 3*t-t^3
sage: R = (x.diff(t)^2+y.diff(t)^2)^(3/2)/(x.diff(t)*y.diff(t,2)-y.diff(t)*x.diff(t,2))
sage: R(1)
-6
```

18. The hypocycloid

$$\begin{cases} x = a \cos^3 t, \\ y = a \sin^3 t, \end{cases}$$

$t = t_1$ .

Ans.  $R = 3a \sin t_1 \cos t_1$ .

In SAGE:

SAGE

```
sage: x = cos(t)^3
sage: y = sin(t)^3
sage: R = (x.diff(t)^2+y.diff(t)^2)^(3/2)/(x.diff(t)*y.diff(t,2)-y.diff(t)*x.diff(t,2))
sage: R
(9*cos(t)^2*sin(t)^4 + 9*cos(t)^4*sin(t)^2)^(3/2)/(-3*cos(t)^2*sin(t)*(6*cos(t)^2*sin(t) - 3*sin(t)^3)
sage: R.expand()
(9*cos(t)^2*sin(t)^4 + 9*cos(t)^4*sin(t)^2)^(3/2)/(-9*cos(t)^2*sin(t)^4 - 9*cos(t)^4*sin(t)^2)
```

You can simplify this last result using  $\sin^2 + \cos^2 = 1$ .

19. The curve

$$\begin{cases} x = a(\cos t + t \sin t), \\ y = a(\sin t - t \cos t), \end{cases}$$

$t = \frac{\pi}{2}$ .

Ans.  $R = \frac{\pi a}{2}$ .

20. The curve

$$\begin{cases} x = a(m \cos t + \cos mt), \\ y = a(m \sin t - \sin mt), \end{cases}$$

$$t = t_0.$$

$$\text{Ans. } R = \frac{4ma}{m-1} \sin\left(\frac{m+1}{2} t_0\right).$$

21. Find the radius of curvature for each of the following curves at the point indicated; draw the curve and the corresponding circle of curvature:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| (a) $x = t^2, 2y = t; t = 1.$                     | (e) $x = t, y = 6t - 1; t = 2.$                    |
| (b) $x = t^2, y = t^3; t = 1.$                    | (f) $x = 2e^t, y = e^{-t}; t = 0.$                 |
| (c) $x = \sin t, y = \cos 2t; t = \frac{\pi}{6}.$ | (g) $x = \sin t, y = 2 \cos t; t = \frac{\pi}{4}.$ |
| (d) $x = 1 - t, y = t^3; t = 3.$                  | (h) $x = t^3, y = t^2 + 2t; t = 1.$                |

22. An automobile race track has the form of the ellipse  $x^2 + 16y^2 = 16$ , the unit being one mile. At what rate is a car on this track changing its direction

- when passing through one end of the major axis?
- when passing through one end of the minor axis?
- when two miles from the minor axis?
- when equidistant from the minor and major axes?

$$\text{Ans. (a) 4 radians per mile; (b) } \frac{1}{16} \text{ radian per mile.}$$

23. On leaving her dock a steamship moves on an arc of the semi cubical parabola  $4y^2 = x^3$ . If the shore line coincides with the axis of  $y$ , and the unit of length is one mile, how fast is the ship changing its direction when one mile from the shore?

$$\text{Ans. } \frac{24}{125} \text{ radians per mile.}$$

24. A battleship 400 ft. long has changed its direction  $30^\circ$  while moving through a distance equal to its own length. What is the radius of the circle in which it is moving?

$$\text{Ans. 764 ft.}$$

25. At what rate is a bicycle rider on a circular track of half a mile diameter changing his direction?

$$\text{Ans. 4 rad. per mile} = 43' \text{ per rod.}$$

26. The origin being directly above the starting point, an aeroplane follows approximately the spiral  $\rho = \theta$ , the unit of length being one mile. How rapidly is the aeroplane turning at the instant it has circled the starting point once?

## 12.7. EXERCISES

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27. A railway track has curves of approximately the form of arcs from the following curves. At what rate will an engine change its direction when passing through the points indicated (1 mi. = unit of length):

- |                                  |  |
|----------------------------------|--|
| (a) $y = x^3$ , $(2, 8)$ ?       | (d) $y = e^x$ , $x = 0$ ?                |
| (b) $y = x^2$ , $(3, 9)$ ?       | (e) $y = \cos x$ , $x = \frac{\pi}{4}$ ? |
| (c) $x^2 - y^2 = 8$ , $(3, 1)$ ? | (f) $\rho\theta = 4$ , $\theta = 1$ ?    |

## Chapter 13

# Theorem of mean value; indeterminant forms

### 13.1 Rolle's Theorem

Let  $y = f(x)$  be a continuous single-valued function of  $x$ , vanishing for  $x = a$  and  $x = b$ , and suppose that  $f'(x)$  changes continuously when  $x$  varies from  $a$  to  $b$ . The function will then be represented graphically by a continuous curve as in the figure. Geometric intuition shows us at once that for at least one value of  $x$  between  $a$  and  $b$  the tangent is parallel to the  $x$ -axis (as at P); that is, the slope is zero.

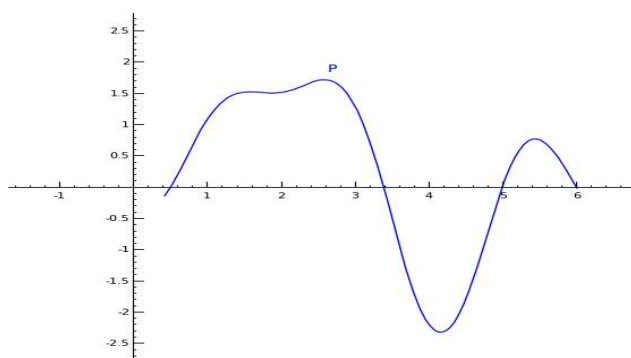


Figure 13.1: Geometrically illustrating Rolle's theorem.

This illustrates

**Rolle's Theorem:** *If  $f(x)$  vanishes when  $x = a$  and  $x = b$ , and  $f(x)$  and  $f'(x)$  are continuous for all values of  $x$  from  $x = a$  to  $x = b$ , then  $f'(x)$  will be zero for at least one value of  $x$  between  $a$  and  $b$ .*

### 13.2. THE MEAN-VALUE THEOREM

---

This theorem is obviously true, because as  $x$  increases from  $a$  to  $b$ ,  $f(x)$  cannot always increase or always decrease as  $x$  increases, since  $f(a) = 0$  and  $f(b) = 0$ . Hence for at least one value of  $x$  between  $a$  and  $b$ ,  $f(x)$  must cease to increase and begin to decrease, or else cease to decrease and begin to increase; and for that particular value of  $x$  the first derivative must be zero (see §8.3).

That Rolle's Theorem does not apply when  $f(x)$  or  $f'(x)$  are discontinuous is illustrated as follows:

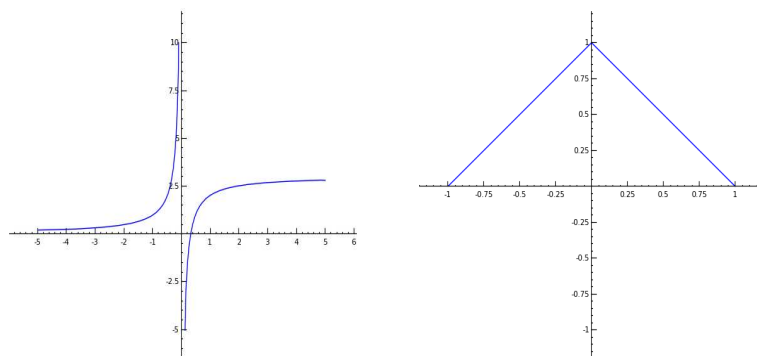


Figure 13.2: Counterexamples to Rolle's theorem.

Figure 13.2 (a) shows the graph of a function which is discontinuous ( $= \infty$ ) for  $x = c$ , a value lying between  $a$  and  $b$ . Figure 13.2 (b) shows a continuous function whose first derivative is discontinuous ( $= \infty$ ) for such an intermediate value  $x = c$ . In either case it is seen that at no point on the graph between  $x = a$  and  $x = b$  does the tangent (or curve) become parallel to the  $x$ -axis.

## 13.2 The Mean-value Theorem

Consider the quantity  $Q$  defined by the equation

$$\frac{f(b) - f(a)}{b - a} = Q, \quad (13.1)$$

or

$$f(b) - f(a) - (b - a)Q = 0. \quad (13.2)$$

Let  $F(x)$  be a function formed by replacing  $b$  by  $x$  in the left-hand member of (13.2); that is,

$$F(x) = f(x) - f(a) - (x - a)Q. \quad (13.3)$$

From (13.2),  $F(b) = 0$ , and from (13.3),  $F(a) = 0$ ; therefore, by Rolle's Theorem (see §13.1),  $F'(x)$  must be zero for at least one value of  $x$  between  $a$  and  $b$ , say for  $x_1$ . But by differentiating (13.3) we get

$$F'(x) = f'(x) - Q.$$

Therefore, since  $F'(x_1) = 0$ , then also  $f'(x_1) - Q = 0$ , and  $Q = f'(x_1)$ . Substituting this value of  $Q$  in (13.1), we get the Theorem of Mean Value<sup>1</sup>,

$$\frac{f(b) - f(a)}{b - a} = f'(x_1), \quad a < x_1 < b \quad (13.4)$$

where in general all we know about  $x_1$  is that it lies between  $a$  and  $b$ .

**The Theorem of Mean Value interpreted Geometrically.**

Let the curve in the figure be the locus of  $y = f(x)$ .

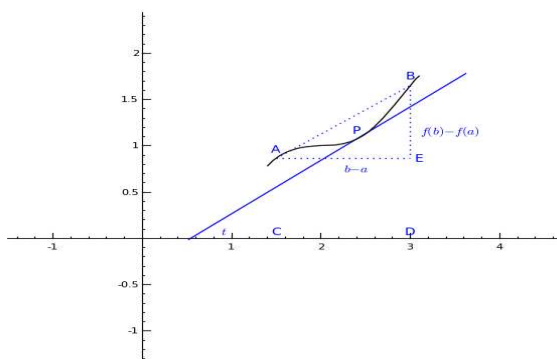


Figure 13.3: Geometric illustration of the Mean value theorem.

Take  $OC = a$  and  $OD = b$ ; then  $f(a) = CA$  and  $f(b) = DB$ , giving  $AE = b - a$  and  $EB = f(b) - f(a)$ . Therefore the slope of the chord  $AB$  is

$$\tan EAB = \frac{EB}{AE} = \frac{f(b) - f(a)}{b - a}.$$

There is at least one point on the curve between  $A$  and  $B$  (as  $P$ ) where the tangent (or curve) is parallel to the chord  $AB$ . If the abscissa of  $P$  is  $x_1$  the slope at  $P$  is

$$\tan t = f'(x_1) = \tan EAB.$$

Equating these last two equations, we get

$$\frac{f(b) - f(a)}{b - a} = f'(x_1),$$

which is the Theorem of Mean Value.

The student should draw curves (as the one in §13.1), to show that there may be more than one such point in the interval; and curves to illustrate, on the other hand, that the theorem may not be true if  $f(x)$  becomes discontinuous

<sup>1</sup>Also called the Law of the Mean.

### 13.3. THE EXTENDED MEAN VALUE THEOREM

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for any value of  $x$  between  $a$  and  $b$  (see Figure 13.2 (a)), or if  $f'(x)$  becomes discontinuous (see Figure 13.2 (b)).

Clearing (13.4) of fractions, we may also write the theorem in the form

$$f(b) = f(a) + (b - a)f'(x_1). \quad (13.5)$$

Let  $b = a + \Delta a$ ; then  $b - a = \Delta a$ , and since  $x_1$  is a number lying between  $a$  and  $b$ , we may write

$$x_1 = a + \theta \cdot \Delta a,$$

where  $\theta$  is a positive proper fraction. Substituting in (13.4), we get another form of the Theorem of Mean Value.

$$f(a + \Delta a) - f(a) = \Delta a f'(a + \theta \cdot \Delta a), \quad 0 < \theta < 1. \quad (13.6)$$

## 13.3 The Extended Mean Value Theorem

Following the method of the last section, let  $R$  be defined by the equation

$$f(b) - f(a) - (b - a)f'(a) - \frac{1}{2}(b - a)^2 R = 0. \quad (13.7)$$

Let  $F(x)$  be a function formed by replacing  $b$  by  $x$  in the left-hand member of (13.1); that is,

$$F(x) = f(x) - f(a) - (x - a)f'(a) - \frac{1}{2}(x - a)^2 R. \quad (13.8)$$

From (13.7),  $F(b) = 0$ ; and from (13.8),  $F(a) = 0$ ; therefore, by Rolle's Theorem, at least one value of  $x$  between  $a$  and  $b$ , say  $x_1$  will cause  $F'(x)$  to vanish. Hence, since

$$F'(x) = f'(x) - f'(a) - (x - a)R,$$

we get

$$F'(x_1) = f'(x_1) - f'(a) - (x_1 - a)R = 0.$$

Since  $F'(x_1) = 0$  and  $F'(a) = 0$ , it is evident that  $F'(x)$  also satisfies the conditions of Rolle's Theorem, so that its derivative, namely  $F''(x)$ , must vanish for at least one value of  $x$  between  $a$  and  $x_1$ , say  $x_2$ , and therefore  $x_2$  also lies between  $a$  and  $b$ . But  $F''(x) = f''(x) - R$ ; therefore  $F''(x_2) = f''(x_2) - R = 0$ , and  $R = f''(x_2)$ . Substituting this result in (13.7), we get

$$f(b) = f(a) + (b - a)f'(a) + \frac{1}{2!}(b - a)^2 f''(x_2), \quad a < x_2 < b.$$

In the same manner, if we define  $S$  by means of the equation

$$f(b) - f(a) - (b - a)f'(a) - \frac{1}{2!}(b - a)^2 f''(a) - \frac{1}{3!}(b - a)^3 f'''(a)S = 0,$$



we can derive the equation

$$f(b) = f(a) + (b-a)f'(a) + \frac{1}{2!}(b-a)^2 f''(a) + \frac{1}{3!}(b-a)^3 f'''(x_3), \quad a < x_3 < b, \quad (13.9)$$

where  $x_3$  lies between  $a$  and  $b$ . By continuing this process we get the general result,

$$f(b) = f(a) + \frac{(b-a)}{1!} f'(a) + \frac{(b-a)^2}{2!} f''(a) + \frac{(b-a)^3}{3!} f'''(a) + \cdots + \frac{(b-a)^{(n-1)}}{(n-1)!} f^{(n-1)}(a) + \frac{(b-a)^n}{n!} f^{(n)}(x_1), \quad a < x_1 < b,$$

where  $x_1$  lies between  $a$  and  $b$ . This equation is called the Extended Theorem of Mean Value<sup>2</sup>, or Taylor's formula.

## 13.4 Exercises

Examine the following functions for maximum and minimum values, using the methods above.

1.  $y = 3x^4 - 4x^3 + 1$

Ans.  $x = 1$  is a min.,  $y = 0$ ;  $x = 0$  gives neither.

2.  $y = x^3 - 6x^2 + 12x + 48$

Ans.  $x = 2$  gives neither.

3.  $y = (x-1)^2(x+1)^3$

Ans.  $x = 1$  is a min.,  $y = 0$ ;  $x = 1/5$  is a max;  $x = -1$  gives neither.

4. Investigate  $y = x^5 - 5x^4 + 5x^3 - 1$  at  $x = 1$  and  $x = 3$ .

5. Investigate  $y = x^3 - 3x^2 + 3x + 7$  at  $x = 1$ .

6. Show that if the first derivative of  $f(x)$  which does not vanish at  $x = a$  is of odd order  $n$  then  $f(x)$  is increasing or decreasing at  $x = a$ , according to whether  $f^{(n)}(a)$  is positive or negative.

## 13.5 Maxima and minima treated analytically

By making use of the results of the last two sections we can now give a general discussion of maxima and minima of functions of a single independent variable.

Given the function  $f(x)$ . Let  $h$  be a positive number as small as we please; then the definitions given in §8.4, may be stated as follows: If, for all values of  $x$  different from  $a$  in the interval  $[a-h, a+h]$ ,

<sup>2</sup>Also called the Extended Law of the Mean.

$$f(x) - f(a) = \text{a negative number}, \quad (13.10)$$

then  $f(x)$  is said to be a *maximum* when  $x = a$ . If, on the other hand,

$$f(x) - f(a) = \text{a positive number}, \quad (13.11)$$

then  $f(x)$  is said to be a *minimum* when  $x = a$ . Consider the following cases:

I Let  $f'(a) \neq 0$ . From (13.5), [§13.2], replacing  $b$  by  $x$  and transposing  $f(a)$ ,

$$f(x) - f(a) = (x - a)f'(x_1), \quad a < x_1 < x, \quad (13.12)$$

Since  $f'(a) \neq 0$ , and  $f'(x)$  is assumed as continuous,  $h$  may be chosen so small that  $f'(x)$  will have the same sign as  $f'(a)$  for all values of  $x$  in the interval  $[a - h, a + h]$ . Therefore  $f'(x_1)$  has the same sign as  $f'(a)$  (Chap. 3). But  $x - a$  changes sign according as  $x$  is less or greater than  $a$ . Therefore, from (13.12), the difference  $f(x) - f(a)$  will also change sign, and, by (13.10) and (13.11),  $f(a)$  will be neither a maximum nor a minimum. This result agrees with the discussion in §8.4, where it was shown that for all values of  $x$  for which  $f(x)$  is a maximum or a minimum, the first derivative  $f'(x)$  must vanish.

II Let  $f'(a) = 0$ , and  $f''(a) \neq 0$ . From (13.12), replacing  $b$  by  $x$  and transposing  $f(a)$ ,

$$f(x) - f(a) = \frac{(x - a)^2}{2!} f''(x_2), \quad a < x_2 < x. \quad (13.13)$$

Since  $f''(a) \neq 0$ , and  $f''(x)$  is assumed as continuous, we may choose our interval  $[a - h, a + h]$  so small that  $f''(x_2)$  will have the same sign as  $f''(a)$  (Chap. 3). Also  $(x - a)^2$  does not change sign. Therefore the second member of (13.13) will not change sign, and the difference  $f(x) - f(a)$  will have the same sign for all values of  $x$  in the interval  $[a - h, a + h]$ , and, moreover, this sign will be the same as the sign of  $f''(a)$ . It therefore follows from our definitions (13.10) and (13.11) that

$$f(a) \text{ is a maximum if } f'(a) = 0 \text{ and } f''(a) = \text{a negative number}; \quad (13.14)$$

$$f(a) \text{ is a minimum if } f'(a) = 0 \text{ and } f''(a) = \text{a positive number} \quad (13.15)$$

These conditions are the same as (8.3) and (8.4), [§8.6].

III Let  $f'(a) = f''(a) = 0$ , and  $f'''(a) \neq 0$ . From (13.9), [§13.3], replacing  $b$  by  $x$  and transposing  $f(a)$ ,

$$f(x) - f(a) = \frac{1}{3!} (x - a)^3 f'''(x_3), \quad a < x_3 < x. \quad (13.16)$$

As before,  $f'''(x_3)$  will have the same sign as  $f'''(a)$ . But  $(x-a)^3$  changes its sign from  $-$  to  $+$  as  $x$  increases through  $a$ . Therefore the difference  $f(x) - f(a)$  must change sign, and  $f(a)$  is neither a maximum nor a minimum.

IV Let  $f'(a) = f''(a) = \cdots = f^{(n-1)}(a) = 0$ , and  $f^{(n)}(a) \neq 0$ . By continuing the process as illustrated in I, II, and III, it is seen that if the first derivative of  $f(x)$  which does not vanish for  $x = a$  is of even order ( $= n$ ), then<sup>3</sup>

$$f(a) \text{ is a maximum if } f^{(n)}(a) = \text{a negative number}; \quad (13.17)$$

$$f(a) \text{ is a minimum if } f^{(n)}(a) = \text{a positive number}. \quad (13.18)$$

If the first derivative of  $f(x)$  which does not vanish for  $x = a$  is of odd order, then  $f(a)$  will be neither a maximum nor a minimum.

**Example 13.5.1.** Examine  $x^3 - 9x^2 + 24x - 7$  for maximum and minimum values.

*Solution.*  $f(x) = x^3 - 9x^2 + 24x - 7$ .  $f'(x) = 3x^2 - 18x + 24$ . Solving  $3x^2 - 18x + 24 = 0$  gives the critical values  $x = 2$  and  $x = 4$ . Thus  $f'(2) = 0$ , and  $f'(4) = 0$ . Differentiating again,  $f''(x) = 6x - 18$ . Since  $f''(2) = -6$ , we know from (13.17) that  $f(2) = 13$  is a maximum. Since  $f''(4) = +6$ , we know from (13.18) that  $f(4) = 9$  is a minimum.

**Example 13.5.2.** Examine  $e^x + 2\cos(x) + e^{-x}$  for maximum and minimum values.

*Solution.*  $f(x) = e^x + 2\cos(x) + e^{-x}$ ,  $f'(x) = e^x - 2\sin x - e^{-x} = 0$ , for  $x = 0$  (and  $x = 0$  is the only root of the equation  $e^x - 2\sin x - e^{-x} = 0$ ),  $f''(x) = e^x - 2\cos(x) + e^{-x} = 0$ , for  $x = 0$ ,  $f'''(x) = e^x + 2\sin x - e^{-x} = 0$ , for  $x = 0$ ,  $f^{(4)}(x) = e^x + 2\cos(x) + e^{-x} = 4$ , for  $x = 0$ . Hence from (13.18),  $f(0) = 4$  is a minimum.

## 13.6 Exercises

Examine the following functions for maximum and minimum values, using the method of the last section.

1.  $3x^4 - 4x^3 + 1$ .

Ans.  $x = 1$  gives min.  $= 0$ ;  $x = 0$  gives neither.

2.  $x^3 - 6x^2 + 12x + 48$ .

Ans.  $x = 2$  gives neither.

3.  $(x-1)^2(x+1)^3$ .

Ans.  $x = 1$  gives min.  $= 0$ ;  $x = \frac{1}{5}$  gives max.;  $x = -1$  gives neither.

<sup>3</sup>As in §8.4, a critical value  $x = a$  is found by placing the first derivative equal to zero and solving the resulting equation for real roots.

### 13.7. INDETERMINATE FORMS

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4. Investigate  $x^6 - 5x^4 + 5x^3 - 1$ , at  $x = 1$  and  $x = 3$ .
5. Investigate  $x^3 - 3x^2 + 3x + 7$ , at  $x = 1$ .
6. Show that if the first derivative of  $f(x)$  which does not vanish for  $x = a$  is of odd order ( $= n$ ), then  $f(x)$  is an increasing or decreasing function when  $x = a$ , according as  $f^{(n)}(a)$  is positive or negative.

## 13.7 Indeterminate forms

Some singularities are easy to diagnose. Consider the function  $\frac{\cos x}{x}$  at the point  $x = 0$ . The function evaluates to  $\frac{1}{0}$  and is thus discontinuous at that point. Since the numerator and denominator are continuous functions and the denominator vanishes while the numerator does not, the left and right limits as  $x \rightarrow 0$  do not exist. Thus the function has an infinite discontinuity at the point  $x = 0$ .

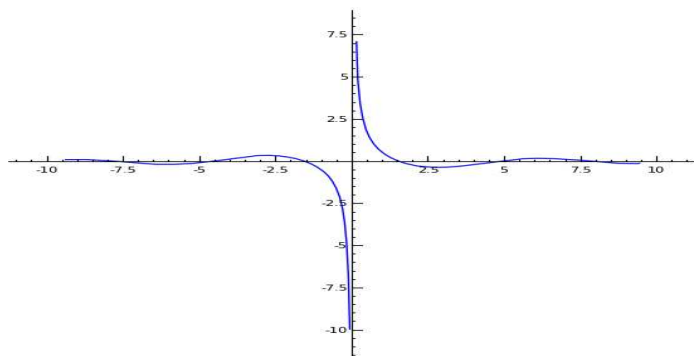


Figure 13.4:  $\frac{\cos(x)}{x}$ .

More generally, a function which is composed of continuous functions and evaluates to  $\frac{a}{0}$  at a point where  $a \neq 0$  must have an infinite discontinuity there.

Other singularities require more analysis to diagnose. Consider the functions  $\frac{\sin x}{x}$ ,  $\frac{\sin x}{|x|}$  and  $\frac{\sin x}{1 - \cos x}$  at the point  $x = 0$ . All three functions evaluate to  $\frac{0}{0}$  at that point, but have different kinds of singularities. The first has a removable discontinuity, the second has a finite discontinuity and the third has an infinite discontinuity. See Figure 13.5.

An expression that evaluates (for a particular value of the independent variable) to  $\frac{0}{0}$ ,  $\frac{\infty}{\infty}$ ,  $0 \cdot \infty$ ,  $\infty - \infty$ ,  $1^\infty$ ,  $0^0$  or  $\infty^0$  is called an *indeterminate*. A function  $h(x)$  which takes an indeterminate form at  $x = a$  is not defined for  $x = a$  by the given analytical expression. For example, suppose we have

$$y = \frac{f(x)}{g(x)},$$

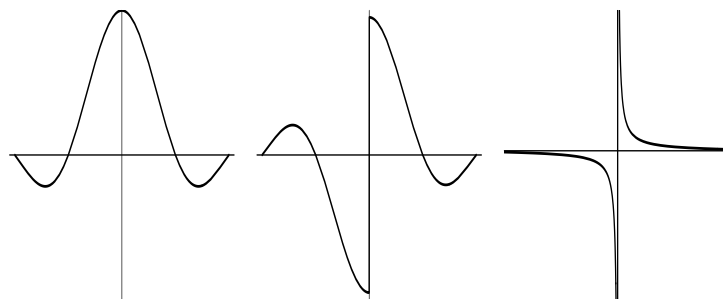


Figure 13.5: The functions  $\frac{\sin x}{x}$ ,  $\frac{\sin x}{|x|}$  and  $\frac{\sin x}{1 - \cos x}$ .

where for some value of the variable, as

$$f(a) = 0, \quad g(a) = 0.$$

For this value of  $x$  our function is not defined and we may therefore assign to it any value we please. It is evident from what has gone before (Case II, [§3.6]) that it is desirable to assign to the function a value that will make it continuous when  $x = a$  whenever it is possible to do so.

## 13.8 Evaluation of a function taking on an indeterminate form

If when  $x = a$  the function  $f(x)$  assumes an indeterminate form, then

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x)$$

is taken as the value of  $f(x)$  for  $x = a$ . The calculation of this limiting value is called *evaluating the indeterminate form*.

The assumption of this limiting value makes  $f(x)$  continuous for  $x = a$ . This agrees with the theorem under Case II [§3.6], and also with our practice in Chapter 3, where several functions assuming the indeterminate form  $\frac{0}{0}$  were evaluated. Thus, for  $x = 2$  the function  $\frac{x^2 - 4}{x - 2}$  assumes the form  $\frac{0}{0}$  but

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 2} \frac{x^2 - 4}{x - 2} = 4.$$

Hence 4 is taken as the value of the function for  $x = 2$ . Let us now illustrate graphically the fact that if we assume 4 as the value of the function for  $x = 2$ , then the function is continuous for  $x = 2$ . Let  $y = \frac{x^2 - 4}{x - 2}$ . This equation may also be written in the form  $y(x - 2) = (x - 2)(x + 2)$ ; or  $(x - 2)(y - x - 2) = 0$ . Placing each factor separately equal to zero, we have  $x = 2$ , and  $y = x + 2$ . Also, when  $x = 2$ , we get  $y = 4$ .

In plotting, the loci of these equations are found to be two lines. Since there are infinitely many points on a line, it is clear that when  $x = 2$ , the value of  $y$  (or the function) may be taken as any number whatever. When  $x$  is different from 2, it is seen from the graph of the function that the corresponding value of  $y$  (or the function) is always found from  $y = x + 2$ , which we saw was also the limiting value of  $y$  (or the function) for  $x = 2$ . It is evident from geometrical considerations that if we assume 4 as the value of the function for  $x = 2$ , then the function is continuous for  $x = 2$ .

Similarly, several of the examples given in Chapter 3 illustrate how the limiting values of many functions assuming indeterminate forms may be found by employing suitable algebraic or trigonometric transformations, and how in general these limiting values make the corresponding functions continuous at the points in question. The most general methods, however, for evaluating indeterminate forms depend on differentiation.

### 13.9 Evaluation of the indeterminate form $\frac{0}{0}$

Given a function of the form  $\frac{f(x)}{F(x)}$  such that  $f(a) = 0$  and  $F(a) = 0$ ; that is, the function takes on the indeterminate form  $\frac{0}{0}$  when  $a$  is substituted for  $x$ . It is then required to find

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow a} \frac{f(x)}{F(x)}.$$

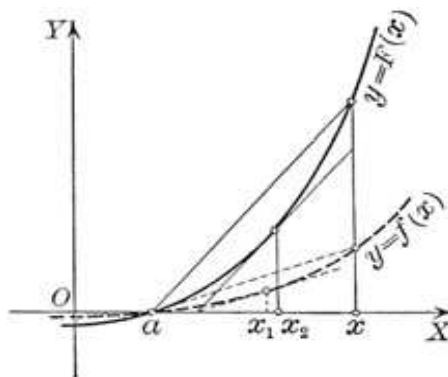


Figure 13.6: The graphs of the functions  $f(x)$  and  $F(x)$ .

Since, by hypothesis,  $f(a) = 0$  and  $F(a) = 0$ , these graphs intersect at  $(a, 0)$ .

Applying the Theorem of Mean Value to each of these functions (replacing  $b$  by  $x$ ), we get  $f(x) = f(a) + (x - a)f'(x_1)$ ,  $a < x_1 < x$ , and  $F(x) = F(a) + (x - a)F'(x_2)$ ,  $a < x_2 < x$ . Since  $f(a) = 0$  and  $F(a) = 0$ , we get, after canceling out  $(x - a)$ ,

$$\frac{f(x)}{F(x)} = \frac{f'(x_1)}{F'(x_2)}.$$

Now let  $x \rightarrow a$ ; then  $x_1 \rightarrow a$ ,  $x_2 \rightarrow a$ , and  $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f'(x_1) = f'(a)$ ,  $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} F'(x_2) = F'(a)$ . Therefore,

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow a} \frac{f(x)}{F(x)} = \frac{f'(a)}{F'(a)}, \quad (13.19)$$

provided  $F'(a) \neq 0$ . This is a special case of the so-called

**L'Hospital's Rule<sup>4</sup>:** Let  $f(x)$  and  $F(x)$  be differentiable and  $f(a) = F(a) = 0$ . Further, let  $F(x)$  be nonzero in a punctured neighborhood of  $x = a$ , (for some small  $\delta$ ,  $F(x) \neq 0$  for  $x \in \{0 < |x - a| < \delta\}$ ). Then

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow a} \frac{f(x)}{F(x)} = \lim_{x \rightarrow a} \frac{f'(x)}{F'(x)}.$$

The rule is named after the 17th-century French mathematician Guillaume de l'Hospital, who published the rule in his book **l'Analyse des Infiniment Petits pour l'Intelligence des Lignes Courbes** (translation: Analysis of the infinitely small to understand curves) (1696), the first book about differential calculus, which consisted of the lectures of his teacher Johann Bernoulli. In particular, this rule is in fact due to Johann Bernoulli (1667 - 1748).

**Example 13.9.1.** Consider the three functions  $\frac{\sin x}{x}$ ,  $\frac{\sin x}{|x|}$  and  $\frac{\sin x}{1 - \cos x}$  at the point  $x = 0$ .

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sin x}{x} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\cos x}{1} = 1$$

Thus  $\frac{\sin x}{x}$  has a removable discontinuity at  $x = 0$ .

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{\sin x}{|x|} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{\sin x}{x} = 1$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0^-} \frac{\sin x}{|x|} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^-} \frac{\sin x}{-x} = -1$$

Thus  $\frac{\sin x}{|x|}$  has a finite discontinuity at  $x = 0$ .

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sin x}{1 - \cos x} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\cos x}{\sin x} = \frac{1}{0} = \infty$$

Thus  $\frac{\sin x}{1 - \cos x}$  has an infinite discontinuity at  $x = 0$ .

**Example 13.9.2.** We use **SAGE** to compute  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\cos(x)-1}{x^2}$ .

---

<sup>4</sup>Also written L'Hôpital and pronounced "low-peetall".

### 13.9. EVALUATION OF THE INDETERMINATE FORM $\frac{0}{0}$

SAGE

```
sage: limit((cos(x)-1)/x^2,x=0)
-1/2
sage: limit((-sin(x))/(2*x),x=0)
-1/2
sage: limit((-cos(x))/(2),x=0)
-1/2
```

This verifies

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\cos(x) - 1}{x^2} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{-\sin(x)}{2x} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{-\cos(x)}{2} = -1/2.$$

**Example 13.9.3.** Let  $a$  and  $d$  be nonzero.

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{ax^2 + bx + c}{dx^2 + ex + f} &= \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{2ax + b}{2dx + e} \\ &= \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{2a}{2d} \\ &= \frac{a}{d} \end{aligned}$$

**Example 13.9.4.** Consider

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\cos x - 1}{x \sin x}.$$

This limit is an indeterminate of the form  $\frac{0}{0}$ . Applying L'Hospital's rule we see that limit is equal to

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{-\sin x}{x \cos x + \sin x}.$$

This limit is again an indeterminate of the form  $\frac{0}{0}$ . We apply L'Hospital's rule again.

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{-\cos x}{-x \sin x + 2 \cos x} = -\frac{1}{2}$$

Thus the value of the original limit is  $-\frac{1}{2}$ . We could also obtain this result by expanding the functions in Taylor series.

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\cos x - 1}{x \sin x} &= \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\left(1 - \frac{x^2}{2} + \frac{x^4}{24} - \dots\right) - 1}{x \left(x - \frac{x^3}{6} + \frac{x^5}{120} - \dots\right)} \\ &= \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{-\frac{x^2}{2} + \frac{x^4}{24} - \dots}{x^2 - \frac{x^4}{6} + \frac{x^6}{120} - \dots} \\ &= \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{-\frac{1}{2} + \frac{x^2}{24} - \dots}{1 - \frac{x^2}{6} + \frac{x^4}{120} - \dots} \\ &= -\frac{1}{2} \end{aligned}$$



**Example 13.9.5.** We use **SAGE** to compute  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\cos(x)-1}{x^2}$ .

SAGE

```
sage: limit((cos(x)-1)/x^2,x=0)
-1/2
sage: limit((-sin(x))/(2*x),x=0)
-1/2
sage: limit((-cos(x))/(2),x=0)
-1/2
```

This verifies

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\cos(x) - 1}{x^2} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{-\sin(x)}{2x} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{-\cos(x)}{2} = -1/2.$$

### 13.9.1 Rule for evaluating the indeterminate form $\frac{0}{0}$

Differentiate the numerator for a new numerator and the denominator for a new denominator<sup>5</sup> The value of this new fraction for the assigned value<sup>6</sup> of the variable will be the limiting value of the original fraction.

In case it so happens that  $f'(a) = 0$  and  $F'(a) = 0$ , that is, the first derivatives also vanish for  $x = a$ , then we still have the indeterminate form  $\frac{0}{0}$ , and the theorem can be applied anew to the ratio  $\frac{f'(x)}{F'(x)}$  giving us  $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} \frac{f(x)}{F(x)} = \frac{f''(a)}{F''(a)}$ . When also  $f''(a) = 0$  and  $F''(a) = 0$ , we get in the same manner  $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} \frac{f(x)}{F(x)} = \frac{f'''(a)}{F'''(a)}$ , and so on.

It may be necessary to repeat this process several times.

**Example 13.9.6.** Evaluate  $\frac{f(x)}{F(x)} = \frac{x^3-3x+2}{x^3-x^2-x-1}$  when  $x = 1$ .

*Solution.*

$$\frac{f(1)}{F(1)} = \frac{x^3 - 3x + 2}{x^3 - x^2 + 1} \Big|_{x=1} = \frac{1 - 3 + 2}{1 - 1 - 1 + 1} = \frac{0}{0}.$$

Therefore, this is an indeterminate form.

$$\frac{f'(1)}{F'(1)} = \frac{3x^2 - 3}{3x^2 - 2x - 1} \Big|_{x=1} = \frac{3 - 3}{3 - 2 - 1} = \frac{0}{0}.$$

Therefore, this is an indeterminate form.

$$\frac{f''(1)}{F''(1)} = \frac{6x}{6x - 2} \Big|_{x=1} = \frac{6}{6 - 2} = \frac{3}{2}. \text{ Ans.}$$

<sup>5</sup>The student is warned against the very careless but common mistake of differentiating the whole expression as a fraction.

<sup>6</sup>If  $a = \inf$ , the substitution  $x = \frac{1}{z}$  reduces the problem to the evaluation of the limit for  $z = 0$ . Thus  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \inf} \frac{f(x)}{F(x)} = \lim_{z \rightarrow 0} \frac{-f'(\frac{1}{z})\frac{1}{z^2}}{-F'(\frac{1}{z})\frac{1}{z^2}} = \lim_{z \rightarrow 0} \frac{f'(\frac{1}{z})}{F'(\frac{1}{z})} = \lim_{x \rightarrow \inf} \frac{f'(x)}{F'(x)}$ . Therefore the rule holds in this case also.

### 13.9. EVALUATION OF THE INDETERMINATE FORM $\frac{0}{0}$

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**Example 13.9.7.** Evaluate  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{e^x - e^{-x} - 2x}{x - \sin x}$ .

*Solution.*

$$\left. \frac{f(0)}{F(0)} = \frac{e^x - e^{-x} - 2x}{x - \sin x} \right]_{x=0} = \frac{1 - 1 - 0}{0 - 0} \quad \text{“} = \frac{0''}{0}.$$

Therefore, this is an indeterminate form.

$$\left. \frac{f'(0)}{F'(0)} = \frac{e^x - e^{-x} - 2}{1 - \cos x} \right]_{x=0} = \frac{1 + 1 - 2}{1 - 1} \quad \text{“} = \frac{0''}{0}.$$

Therefore, this is an indeterminate form.

$$\left. \frac{f''(0)}{F''(0)} = \frac{e^x - e^{-x}}{\sin x} \right]_{x=0} = \frac{1 - 1}{0} \quad \text{“} = \frac{0''}{0}.$$

Therefore, this is an indeterminate form.

$$\left. \frac{f'''(0)}{F'''(0)} = \frac{e^x - e^{-x}}{\cos x} \right]_{x=0} = \frac{1 + 1}{1} = 2. \quad \text{Ans.}$$

### 13.9.2 Exercises

Evaluate the following by differentiation<sup>7</sup>.

1.  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 4} \frac{x^2 - 16}{x^2 + x - 20}.$

Ans.  $\frac{8}{9}.$

2.  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \frac{x-1}{x^n-1}.$

Ans.  $\frac{1}{n}.$

3.  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \frac{\log x}{x-1}.$

Ans. 1.

4.  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{e^x - e^{-x}}{\sin x}.$

Ans. 2.

5.  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\tan x - x}{x - \sin x}.$

Ans. 2.

6.  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \frac{\pi}{2}} \frac{\log \sin x}{(\pi - 2x)^2}.$

Ans.  $-\frac{1}{8}.$

7.  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{a^x - b^x}{x}.$

Ans.  $\log \frac{a}{b}.$

---

<sup>7</sup>After differentiating, the student should in every case reduce the resulting expression to its simplest possible form before substituting the value of the variable.

8.  $\lim_{r \rightarrow a} \frac{r^3 - ar^2 - a^2r + a^3}{r^2 - a^2}.$

Ans. 0.

9.  $\lim_{\theta \rightarrow 0} \frac{\theta - \arcsin \theta}{\sin^3 \theta}.$

Ans.  $-\frac{1}{6}.$ 

10.  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \phi} \frac{\sin x - \sin \phi}{x - \phi}.$

Ans.  $\cos \phi.$ 

11.  $\lim_{y \rightarrow 0} \frac{e^y + \sin y - 1}{\log(1+y)}.$

Ans. 2.

12.  $\lim_{\theta \rightarrow 0} \frac{\tan \theta + \sec \theta - 1}{\tan \theta - \sec \theta + 1}.$

Ans. 1.

13.  $\lim_{\phi \rightarrow \frac{\pi}{4}} \frac{\sec^2 \phi - 2 \tan \phi}{1 + \cos 4\phi}.$

Ans.  $\frac{1}{2}.$ 

14.  $\lim_{z \rightarrow a} \frac{az - z^2}{a^4 - 2a^3z + 2az^3 - z^4}.$

Ans.  $+\infty.$ 

15.  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 2} \frac{(e^x - e^2)^2}{(x-4)e^x + e^2x}.$

Ans.  $6e^4.$ 

16.  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \frac{x^2 + x - 2}{x^2 - 1}.$

17.  $\lim_{x \rightarrow -2} \frac{x^3 + 8}{x^5 + 32}.$

18.  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sin 2x}{x}.$

19.  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{x - \sin x}{x^3}.$

20.  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \frac{\log \cos(x-1)}{1 - \sin \frac{\pi x}{2}}.$

21.  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\tan x - \sin x}{\sin^3 x}.$

## 13.10 Evaluation of the indeterminate form $\frac{\infty}{\infty}$

In order to compute

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow a} \frac{f(x)}{F(x)}$$

when  $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) = \infty$  and  $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} F(x) = \infty$ , that is, when for  $x = a$  the function  $\frac{f(x)}{F(x)}$  assumes the indeterminate form  $\frac{\infty}{\infty}$ , we follow the same rule as that given in §13.9 for evaluating the indeterminate form  $\frac{0}{0}$ .

**Rule for evaluating the indeterminate form  $\frac{\infty}{\infty}$ :** Differentiate the numerator for a new numerator and the denominator for a new denominator. The value of this new fraction for the assigned value of the variable will be the limiting value of the original fraction.

A rigorous proof of this rule is beyond the scope of this book and is left for more advanced treatises.

**Example 13.10.1.** Evaluate  $\frac{\log x}{\csc x}$  for  $x = 0$ .

*Solution.*

$$\left. \frac{f(0)}{F(0)} = \frac{\log(x)}{\csc(x)} \right]_{x=0} \quad " = \frac{-\infty}{\infty}.$$

Therefore, this is an indeterminate form.

$$\left. \frac{f'(0)}{F'(0)} = \frac{\frac{1}{x}}{-\csc x \cot x} \right]_{x=0} = -\left. \frac{\sin^2 x}{x \cos x} \right]_{x=0} \quad " = \frac{0}{0}.$$

Therefore, this is an indeterminate form.

$$\left. \frac{f''(0)}{F''(0)} = -\frac{2 \sin x \cos x}{\cos x - x \sin x} \right]_{x=0} = -\frac{0}{1} = 0. \quad \text{Ans.}$$

**Example 13.10.2.** Let  $a$  and  $d$  be nonzero.

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{ax^2 + bx + c}{dx^2 + ex + f} &= \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{2ax + b}{2dx + e} \\ &= \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{2a}{2d} \\ &= \frac{a}{d} \end{aligned}$$

## 13.11 Evaluation of the indeterminate form $0 \cdot \infty$

If a function  $f(x) \cdot \phi(x)$  takes on the indeterminate form  $0 \cdot \infty$  for  $x = a$ , we write the given function

$$f(x) \cdot \phi(x) = \frac{f(x)}{\frac{1}{\phi(x)}} \left( \text{or} = \frac{\phi(x)}{\frac{1}{f(x)}} \right)$$

so as to cause it to take on one of the forms  $\frac{0}{0}$  or  $\frac{\infty}{\infty}$ , thus bringing it under §13.9 or §13.10.

**Example 13.11.1.** Evaluate  $\sec(3x) \cos(5x)$  for  $x = \frac{\pi}{2}$ .

*Solution.*  $\sec 3x \cos 5x]_{x=\frac{\pi}{2}} \quad " = \infty \cdot 0''$ . Therefore, this is an indeterminate form. Substituting  $\frac{1}{\cos 3x}$  for  $\sec 3x$ , the function becomes  $\frac{\cos 5x}{\cos 3x} = \frac{f(x)}{F(x)}$ .

$$\left. \frac{f(\frac{\pi}{2})}{F(\frac{\pi}{2})} = \frac{\cos 5x}{\cos 3x} \right]_{x=\frac{\pi}{2}} \quad " = \frac{0''}{0}.$$

Therefore, this is an indeterminate form.

$$\left. \frac{f'(\frac{\pi}{2})}{F'(\frac{\pi}{2})} = \frac{-\cos x}{-\sin x} \right]_{x=\frac{\pi}{2}} = \frac{0}{-1} = 0. \quad \text{Ans.}$$

**Example 13.11.2.**

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \left( \cot x - \frac{1}{x} \right) &= \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{x \cos x - \sin x}{x \sin x} \\ &= \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\cos x - x \sin x - \cos x}{\sin x + x \cos x} \\ &= \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{-x \sin x}{\sin x + x \cos x} \\ &= \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{-x \cos x - \sin x}{\cos x + \cos x - x \sin x} \\ &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

Here is the **SAGE** command for this example:

— SAGE —

```
sage: limit(cot(x)-1/x,x=0)
0
sage: limit((- x*cos(x) - sin(x))/(cos(x) + cos(x) - x*sin(x)),x=0)
0
```

## 13.12 Evaluation of the indeterminate form $\infty - \infty$

It is possible in general to transform the expression into a fraction which will assume either the form  $\frac{0}{0}$  or  $\frac{\infty}{\infty}$ .

**Example 13.12.1.** Evaluate  $\sec x - \tan x$  for  $x = \frac{\pi}{2}$ .

*Solution.*  $\sec x - \tan x]_{x=\frac{\pi}{2}} = \infty - \infty$ . Therefore, this is an indeterminate form. By Trigonometry,

$$\sec x - \tan x = \frac{1}{\cos x} - \frac{\sin x}{\cos x} = \frac{1 - \sin x}{\cos x} = \frac{f(x)}{F(x)}.$$

$$\left. \frac{f(\frac{\pi}{2})}{F(\frac{\pi}{2})} = \frac{1 - \sin x}{\cos x} \right]_{x=\frac{\pi}{2}} = \frac{1 - 1}{0} = \frac{0}{0}. \quad \text{Therefore, this is an indeterminate form.}$$

$$\left. \frac{f'(\frac{\pi}{2})}{F'(\frac{\pi}{2})} = \frac{-\cos x}{-\sin x} \right]_{x=\frac{\pi}{2}} = \frac{0}{-1} = 0. \quad \text{Ans.}$$

### 13.12.1 Exercises

Evaluate the following by differentiation<sup>8</sup>.

<sup>8</sup>In solving the remaining exercises in this chapter it may be of assistance to the student to refer to §3.12, where many special forms not indeterminate are evaluated.

### 13.12. EVALUATION OF THE INDETERMINATE FORM $\infty - \infty$

---

1.  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{ax^2+b}{cx^2+d}.$

Ans.  $\frac{a}{c}.$

2.  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\cot x}{\log x}.$

Ans.  $-\infty.$

3.  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\log x}{x^n}.$

Ans. 0.

4.  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{x^2}{e^x}.$

Ans. 0.

5.  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{e^x}{\log x}.$

Ans.  $\infty.$

6.  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} x \cot \pi x.$

Ans.  $\frac{1}{\pi}.$

7.  $\lim_{y \rightarrow \infty} \frac{y}{e^{ay}}.$

Ans. 0.

8.  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \frac{\pi}{2}} (\pi - 2x) \tan x.$

Ans. 2.

9.  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} x \sin \frac{a}{x}.$

Ans.  $a.$

10.  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} x^n \log x. [n \text{ positive}.]$

Ans. 0.

11.  $\lim_{\theta \rightarrow \frac{\pi}{4}} (1 - \tan \theta) \sec 2\theta.$

Ans. 1.

12.  $\lim_{\phi \rightarrow a} (a^2 - \phi^2) \tan \frac{\pi\phi}{2a}.$

Ans.  $\frac{4a^2}{\pi}.$

13.  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\log \sin 2x}{\log \sin x}.$

Ans. 1.

14.  $\lim_{\theta \rightarrow \frac{\pi}{2}} \frac{\tan \theta}{\tan 3\theta}.$

Ans. 3.

15.  $\lim_{\phi \rightarrow \frac{\pi}{2}} \frac{\log(\phi - \frac{\pi}{2})}{\tan \phi}.$

Ans. 0.

### 13.13. EVALUATION OF THE INDETERMINATE FORMS $0^0$ , $1^\infty$ , $\infty^0$

16.  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\log x}{\cot x}$ .

Ans. 0.

17.  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} x \log \sin x$ .

Ans. 0.

18.  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \left[ \frac{2}{x^2-1} - \frac{1}{x-1} \right]$ .

Ans.  $-\frac{1}{2}$ .

SAGE

```
sage: limit(2/(x^2-1) - 1/(x-1), x=1)
-1/2
```

19.  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \left[ \frac{1}{\log x} - \frac{x}{\log x} \right]$ .

Ans. -1.

SAGE

```
sage: limit(1/log(x) - x/log(x), x=1)
-1
```

20.  $\lim_{\theta \rightarrow \frac{\pi}{2}} [\sec \theta - \tan \theta]$ .

Ans. 0.

21.  $\lim_{\phi \rightarrow 0} \left[ \frac{2}{\sin^2 \phi} - \frac{1}{1-\cos \phi} \right]$ .

Ans.  $\frac{1}{2}$ .

22.  $\lim_{y \rightarrow 1} \left[ \frac{y}{y-1} - \frac{1}{\log y} \right]$ .

Ans.  $\frac{1}{2}$ .

23.  $\lim_{z \rightarrow 0} \left[ \frac{\pi}{4z} - \frac{\pi}{2z(e^{\pi z} + 1)} \right]$ .

Ans.  $\frac{\pi^2}{8}$ .

### 13.13 Evaluation of the indeterminate forms $0^0$ , $1^\infty$ , $\infty^0$

Given a function of the form

$$f(x)^{\phi(x)}.$$

In order that the function shall take on one of the above three forms, we must have for a certain value of  $x$ ,  $f(x) = 0$ ,  $\phi(x) = 0$ , giving  $0^0$ ; or,  $f(x) = 1$ ,  $\phi(x) = \infty$ , giving  $1^\infty$ ; or,  $f(x) = \infty$ ,  $\phi(x) = 0$ , giving  $\infty^0$ . Let  $y = f(x)^{\phi(x)}$ ;

## 13.14. EXERCISES

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taking the logarithm of both sides,  $\log y = \phi(x) \log f(x)$ . In any of the above cases the logarithm of  $y$  (the function) will take on the indeterminate form  $0 \cdot \infty$ .

Evaluating this by the process illustrated in §13.11 gives the limit of the logarithm of the function. This being equal to the logarithm of the limit of the function, the limit of the function is known.

**Example 13.13.1.** Evaluate  $x^x$  when  $x = 0$ .

*Solution.* This function assumes the indeterminate form  $0^0$  for  $x = 0$ . Let  $y = x^x$ ; then  $\log y = x \log x = 0 \cdot (-\infty)$ , when  $x = 0$ . By §13.11,

$$\log y \frac{\log x}{\frac{1}{x}} = \frac{-\infty}{\infty},$$

when  $x = 0$ . By §13.10,

$$\log y \frac{\frac{1}{x}}{-\frac{1}{x^2}} = -x = 0,$$

when  $x = 0$ . Since  $y = x^x$ , this gives  $\log_e(x^x) = 0$ ; i.e.,  $x^x = 1$ . Ans.

**Example 13.13.2.** Evaluate  $(1+x)^{\frac{1}{x}}$  when  $x = 0$ .

*Solution.* This function assumes the indeterminate form  $1^\infty$  for  $x = 0$ . Let  $y = (1+x)^{\frac{1}{x}}$ ; then  $\log y = \frac{1}{x} \log(1+x) = \infty \cdot 0$  when  $x = 0$ . By §13.11,  $y = \frac{\log(1+x)}{x} = \frac{0}{0}$ , when  $x = 0$ . By §13.9,  $y = \frac{\frac{1}{1+x}}{\frac{1}{1+x}} = \frac{1}{1+x} = 1$  when  $x = 0$ . Since  $y = (1+x)^{\frac{1}{1+x}}$ , this gives  $\log_e(1+x)^{\frac{1}{x}} = 1$ ; i.e.  $(1+x)^{\frac{1}{x}} = e$ . Ans.

**Example 13.13.3.** Evaluate  $\cot x \sin x$  for  $x = 0$ .

*Solution.* This function assumes the indeterminate form  $\infty^0$  for  $x = 0$ . Let  $y = (\cot x)^{\sin x}$ ; then  $\log y = \sin x \log \cot x = 0 \cdot \infty$  when  $x = 0$ . By §13.11,  $\log y = \frac{\log \cot x}{\csc x} = \frac{\infty}{\infty}$  when  $x = 0$ . §13.10,  $\log y = \frac{\frac{-\csc^2 x}{\cot x}}{-\csc x \cot x} = \frac{\sin x}{\cos^2 x} = 0$ , when  $x = 0$ .

## 13.14 Exercises

Evaluate the following limits.

- $\lim_{x \rightarrow 1} x^{\frac{1}{1-x}}$ .  
Ans.  $\frac{1}{e}$ .
- $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \left(\frac{1}{x}\right)^{\tan x}$ .  
Ans. 1.
- $\lim_{\theta \rightarrow \frac{\pi}{2}} (\sin \theta)^{\tan \theta}$ .  
Ans. 1.



4.  $\lim_{y \rightarrow \infty} \left(1 + \frac{a}{y}\right)^y.$

Ans.  $e^a$ .

5.  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} (1 + \sin x)^{\cot x}.$

Ans.  $e$ .

6.  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \left(\frac{2}{x} + 1\right)^x.$

Ans.  $e^2$ .

7.  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} (e^x + x)^{\frac{1}{x}}.$

Ans.  $e^2$ .

8.  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} (\cot x)^{\frac{1}{\log x}}.$

Ans.  $\frac{1}{e}$ .

9.  $\lim_{z \rightarrow 0} (1 + nz)^{\frac{1}{z}}.$

Ans.  $e^n$ .

10.  $\lim_{\phi \rightarrow 1} \left(\tan \frac{\pi\phi}{4}\right)^{\tan \frac{\pi\phi}{2}}.$

Ans.  $\frac{1}{e}$ .

11.  $\lim_{\theta \rightarrow 0} (\cos m\theta)^{\frac{n}{\theta^2}}.$

Ans.  $e^{-\frac{1}{2}nm^2}$ .

12.  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} (\cot x)^x.$

Ans. 1.

13.  $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} \left(2 - \frac{x}{a}\right)^{\tan \frac{\pi x}{2a}}.$

Ans.  $e^{\frac{2}{\pi}}$ .

14. (a)  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{x - \sin x}{x^3}$

(b)  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \left(\csc x - \frac{1}{x}\right)$

(c)  $\lim_{x \rightarrow +\infty} \left(1 + \frac{1}{x}\right)^x$

(d)  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \left(\csc^2 x - \frac{1}{x^2}\right).$  (First evaluate using L'Hospital's rule then using a Taylor series expansion. You will find that the latter method is more convenient.)

15.

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} x^{a/x}, \quad \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \left(1 + \frac{a}{x}\right)^{bx},$$

where  $a$  and  $b$  are constants.

16.  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 4} \frac{x^2 - 16}{x^2 + x - 20}$

Ans.  $8/9$

13.15. APPLICATION: USING TAYLOR'S THEOREM TO APPROXIMATE FUNCTIONS.

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17.  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \frac{x-1}{x^n-1}.$

Ans.  $1/n$

18.  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \frac{\log x}{x-1}.$

Ans. 1

19.  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{e^x - e^{-x}}{\sin(x)}$

Ans. 2

20.  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \pi/2} \frac{\log \sin(x)}{(\pi-2x)^2}$

Ans.  $-1/8$

21.  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{a^x - b^x}{x}$

Ans.  $\log(a/b)$

22.  $\lim_{\theta \rightarrow 0} \frac{\theta - \arcsin(\theta)}{\theta^2}$

Ans.  $-1/6.$

23.  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \phi} \frac{\sin(x) - \sin(\phi)}{x - \phi}.$

Ans.  $\cos(\phi).$

## 13.15 Application: Using Taylor's Theorem to Approximate Functions.

The material for the remainder of this book was taken from Sean Mauch's **Applied mathematics** text<sup>9</sup>.

**Theorem 13.15.1. Taylor's Theorem of the Mean.** If  $f(x)$  is  $n+1$  times continuously differentiable in  $(a, b)$  then there exists a point  $x = \xi \in (a, b)$  such that

$$f(b) = f(a) + (b-a)f'(a) + \frac{(b-a)^2}{2!}f''(a) + \cdots + \frac{(b-a)^n}{n!}f^{(n)}(a) + \frac{(b-a)^{n+1}}{(n+1)!}f^{(n+1)}(\xi). \quad (13.20)$$

For the case  $n = 0$ , the formula is

$$f(b) = f(a) + (b-a)f'(\xi),$$

which is just a rearrangement of the terms in the theorem of the mean,

$$f'(\xi) = \frac{f(b) - f(a)}{b - a}.$$

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<sup>9</sup>It is in the public domain and available at <http://www.its.caltech.edu/~sean/book.html>.

### 13.15. APPLICATION: USING TAYLOR'S THEOREM TO APPROXIMATE FUNCTIONS.

One can use Taylor's theorem to approximate functions with polynomials. Consider an infinitely differentiable function  $f(x)$  and a point  $x = a$ . Substituting  $x$  for  $b$  into Equation 13.20 we obtain,

$$f(x) = f(a) + (x-a)f'(a) + \frac{(x-a)^2}{2!}f''(a) + \cdots + \frac{(x-a)^n}{n!}f^{(n)}(a) + \frac{(x-a)^{n+1}}{(n+1)!}f^{(n+1)}(\xi).$$

If the last term in the sum is small then we can approximate our function with an  $n^{th}$  order polynomial.

$$f(x) \approx f(a) + (x-a)f'(a) + \frac{(x-a)^2}{2!}f''(a) + \cdots + \frac{(x-a)^n}{n!}f^{(n)}(a)$$

The last term in Equation 13.15 is called the remainder or the error term,

$$R_n = \frac{(x-a)^{n+1}}{(n+1)!}f^{(n+1)}(\xi).$$

Since the function is infinitely differentiable,  $f^{(n+1)}(\xi)$  exists and is bounded. Therefore we note that the error must vanish as  $x \rightarrow 0$  because of the  $(x-a)^{n+1}$  factor. We therefore suspect that our approximation would be a good one if  $x$  is close to  $a$ . Also note that  $n!$  eventually grows faster than  $(x-a)^n$ ,

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{(x-a)^n}{n!} = 0.$$

So if the derivative term,  $f^{(n+1)}(\xi)$ , does not grow too quickly, the error for a certain value of  $x$  will get smaller with increasing  $n$  and the polynomial will become a better approximation of the function. (It is also possible that the derivative factor grows very quickly and the approximation gets worse with increasing  $n$ .)

**Example 13.15.1.** Consider the function  $f(x) = e^x$ . We want a polynomial approximation of this function near the point  $x = 0$ . Since the derivative of  $e^x$  is  $e^x$ , the value of all the derivatives at  $x = 0$  is  $f^{(n)}(0) = e^0 = 1$ . Taylor's theorem thus states that

$$e^x = 1 + x + \frac{x^2}{2!} + \frac{x^3}{3!} + \cdots + \frac{x^n}{n!} + \frac{x^{n+1}}{(n+1)!}e^\xi,$$

for some  $\xi \in (0, x)$ . The first few polynomial approximations of the exponent about the point  $x = 0$  are

$$\begin{aligned} f_1(x) &= 1 \\ f_2(x) &= 1 + x \\ f_3(x) &= 1 + x + \frac{x^2}{2} \\ f_4(x) &= 1 + x + \frac{x^2}{2} + \frac{x^3}{6} \end{aligned}$$

### 13.15. APPLICATION: USING TAYLOR'S THEOREM TO APPROXIMATE FUNCTIONS.

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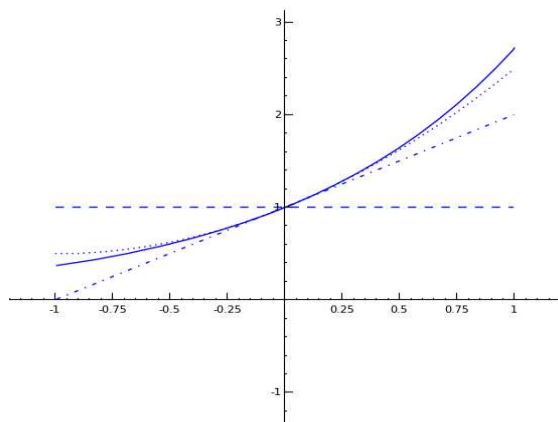


Figure 13.7: Finite Taylor Series Approximations of  $1$ ,  $1 + x$ ,  $1 + x + \frac{x^2}{2}$  to  $e^x$ .

The four approximations are graphed in Figure 13.7.

Note that for the range of  $x$  we are looking at, the approximations become more accurate as the number of terms increases.

Here is one way to compute these approximations using **SAGE**:

SAGE

```
sage: x = var("x")
sage: y = exp(x)
sage: a = lambda n: diff(y,x,n)(0)/factorial(n)
sage: a(0)
1
sage: a(1)
1
sage: a(2)
1/2
sage: a(3)
1/6
sage: taylor = lambda n: sum([a(i)*x^i for i in range(n)])
sage: taylor(2)
x + 1
sage: taylor(3)
x^2/2 + x + 1
sage: taylor(4)
x^3/6 + x^2/2 + x + 1
```

**Example 13.15.2.** Consider the function  $f(x) = \cos x$ . We want a polynomial approximation of this function near the point  $x = 0$ . The first few derivatives

### 13.15. APPLICATION: USING TAYLOR'S THEOREM TO APPROXIMATE FUNCTIONS.

of  $f$  are

$$\begin{aligned} f(x) &= \cos x \\ f'(x) &= -\sin x \\ f''(x) &= -\cos x \\ f'''(x) &= \sin x \\ f^{(4)}(x) &= \cos x \end{aligned}$$

It's easy to pick out the pattern here,

$$f^{(n)}(x) = \begin{cases} (-1)^{n/2} \cos x & \text{for even } n, \\ (-1)^{(n+1)/2} \sin x & \text{for odd } n. \end{cases}$$

Since  $\cos(0) = 1$  and  $\sin(0) = 0$  the  $n$ -term approximation of the cosine is,

$$\cos x = 1 - \frac{x^2}{2!} + \frac{x^4}{4!} - \frac{x^6}{6!} + \cdots + (-1)^{2(n-1)} \frac{x^{2(n-1)}}{(2(n-1))!} + \frac{x^{2n}}{(2n)!} \cos \xi.$$

Here are graphs of the one, two, three and four term approximations.

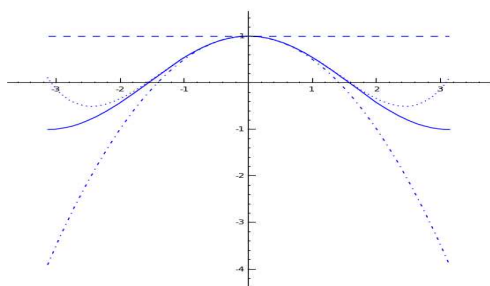


Figure 13.8: Taylor Series Approximations of  $1$ ,  $1 - \frac{x^2}{2}$ ,  $1 - \frac{x^2}{2} + \frac{x^4}{4!}$  to  $\cos x$ .

Note that for the range of  $x$  we are looking at, the approximations become more accurate as the number of terms increases. Consider the ten term approximation of the cosine about  $x = 0$ ,

$$\cos x = 1 - \frac{x^2}{2!} + \frac{x^4}{4!} - \cdots - \frac{x^{18}}{18!} + \frac{x^{20}}{20!} \cos \xi.$$

Note that for any value of  $\xi$ ,  $|\cos \xi| \leq 1$ . Therefore the absolute value of the error term satisfies,

$$|R| = \left| \frac{x^{20}}{20!} \cos \xi \right| \leq \frac{|x|^{20}}{20!}.$$

Note that the error is very small for  $x < 6$ , fairly small but non-negligible for  $x \approx 7$  and large for  $x > 8$ . The ten term approximation of the cosine, plotted below, behaves just as we would predict.

The error is very small until it becomes non-negligible at  $x \approx 7$  and large at  $x \approx 8$ .

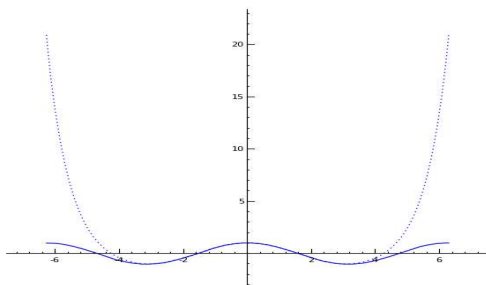


Figure 13.9: Taylor Series Approximation of  $1 - \frac{x^2}{2} + \frac{x^4}{4!} - \frac{x^6}{6!} + \frac{x^8}{8!}$  to  $\cos x$ .

**Example 13.15.3.** Consider the function  $f(x) = \ln x$ . We want a polynomial approximation of this function near the point  $x = 1$ . The first few derivatives of  $f$  are

$$\begin{aligned} f(x) &= \ln x \\ f'(x) &= \frac{1}{x} \\ f''(x) &= -\frac{1}{x^2} \\ f'''(x) &= \frac{2}{x^3} \\ f^{(4)}(x) &= -\frac{3}{x^4} \end{aligned}$$

The derivatives evaluated at  $x = 1$  are

$$f(1) = 0, \quad f^{(n)}(1) = (-1)^{n-1}(n-1)!, \quad \text{for } n \geq 1.$$

By Taylor's theorem of the mean we have,

$$\ln x = (x-1) - \frac{(x-1)^2}{2} + \frac{(x-1)^3}{3} - \frac{(x-1)^4}{4} + \cdots + (-1)^{n-1} \frac{(x-1)^n}{n} + (-1)^n \frac{(x-1)^{n+1}}{n+1} \frac{1}{\xi^{n+1}}.$$

Below are plots of the 1, 2, and 3 term approximations.

Note that the approximation gets better on the interval  $(0, 2)$  and worse outside this interval as the number of terms increases. The Taylor series converges to  $\ln x$  only on this interval.

## 13.16 Example/Application: Finite Difference Schemes

**Example 13.16.1.** Suppose you sample a function at the discrete points  $n\Delta x$ ,  $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ . In Figure 13.11 we sample the function  $f(x) = \sin x$  on the interval  $[-4, 4]$  with  $\Delta x = 1/4$  and plot the data points.

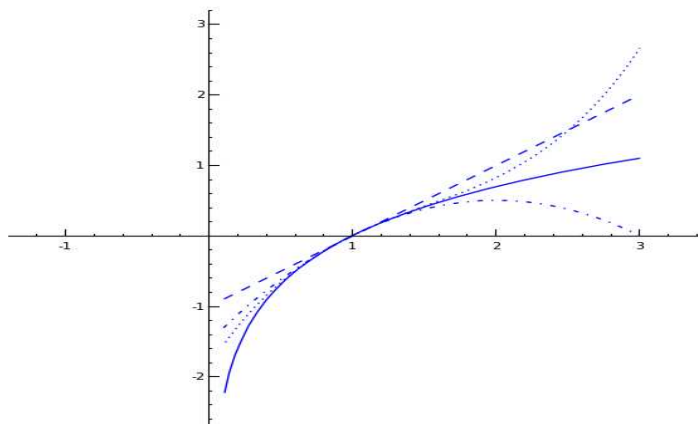


Figure 13.10: Taylor series (about  $x = 1$ ) approximations of  $x - 1$ ,  $x - 1 - \frac{(x-1)^2}{2}$ ,  $x - 1 - \frac{(x-1)^2}{2} + \frac{(x-1)^3}{3}$  to  $\ln x$ .

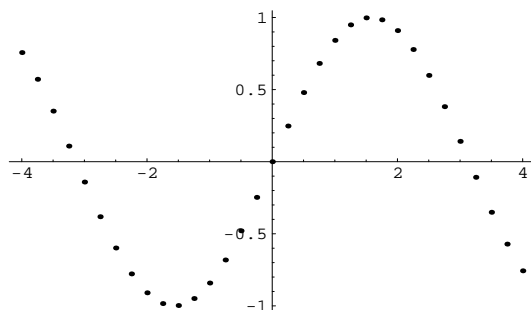


Figure 13.11: Sine function sampling.

We wish to approximate the derivative of the function on the grid points using only the value of the function on those discrete points. From the definition of the derivative, one is lead to the formula

$$f'(x) \approx \frac{f(x + \Delta x) - f(x)}{\Delta x}. \quad (13.21)$$

Taylor's theorem states that

$$f(x + \Delta x) = f(x) + \Delta x f'(x) + \frac{\Delta x^2}{2} f''(\xi).$$

Substituting this expression into our formula for approximating the derivative we obtain

$$\frac{f(x + \Delta x) - f(x)}{\Delta x} = \frac{f(x) + \Delta x f'(x) + \frac{\Delta x^2}{2} f''(\xi) - f(x)}{\Delta x} = f'(x) + \frac{\Delta x}{2} f''(\xi).$$

### 13.16. EXAMPLE/APPLICATION: FINITE DIFFERENCE SCHEMES

Thus we see that the error in our approximation of the first derivative is  $\frac{\Delta x}{2} f''(\xi)$ . Since the error has a linear factor of  $\Delta x$ , we call this a first order accurate method. Equation 13.21 is called the forward difference scheme for calculating the first derivative. Figure 13.12 shows a plot of the value of this scheme for the function  $f(x) = \sin x$  and  $\Delta x = 1/4$ . The first derivative of the function  $f'(x) = \cos x$  is shown for comparison.

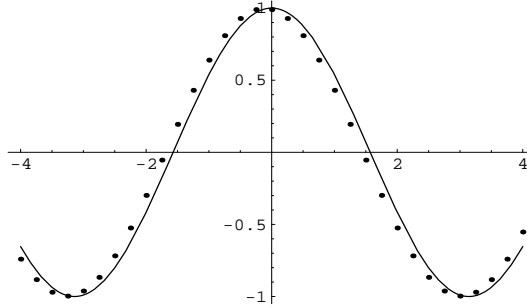


Figure 13.12: Forward Difference Scheme Approximation of the Derivative.

Another scheme for approximating the first derivative is the centered difference scheme,

$$f'(x) \approx \frac{f(x + \Delta x) - f(x - \Delta x)}{2\Delta x}.$$

Expanding the numerator using Taylor's theorem,

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{f(x + \Delta x) - f(x - \Delta x)}{2\Delta x} \\ &= \frac{f(x) + \Delta x f'(x) + \frac{\Delta x^2}{2} f''(x) + \frac{\Delta x^3}{6} f'''(\xi) - f(x) + \Delta x f'(x) - \frac{\Delta x^2}{2} f''(x) + \frac{\Delta x^3}{6} f'''(\psi)}{2\Delta x} \\ &= f'(x) + \frac{\Delta x^2}{12} (f'''(\xi) + f'''(\psi)). \end{aligned}$$

The error in the approximation is quadratic in  $\Delta x$ . Therefore this is a second order accurate scheme. Below is a plot of the derivative of the function and the value of this scheme for the function  $f(x) = \sin x$  and  $\Delta x = 1/4$ .

Notice how the centered difference scheme gives a better approximation of the derivative than the forward difference scheme.



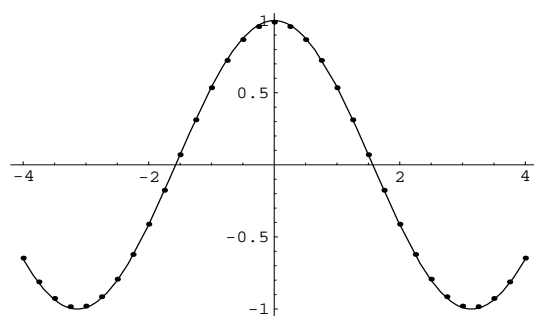


Figure 13.13: Centered Difference Scheme Approximation of the Derivative.



## Chapter 14

# Circle of curvature. Center of Curvature.

### 14.1 Circle of curvature

Center of curvature<sup>1</sup>. If a circle be drawn through three points  $P_0, P_1, P_2$  on a plane curve, and if  $P_1$  and  $P_2$  be made to approach  $P_0$  along the curve as a limiting position, then the circle will in general approach in magnitude and position a limiting circle called the circle of curvature of the curve at the point  $P_0$ . The center of this circle is called the *center of curvature*.

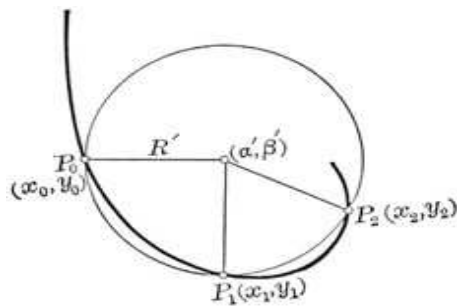


Figure 14.1: Geometric visualization of the circle of curvature.

Let the equation of the curve be

$$y = f(x); \quad (14.1)$$

and let  $x_0, x_1, x_2$  be the abscissas of the points  $P_0, P_1, P_2$  respectively,  $(\alpha', \beta')$  the coordinates of the center, and  $R'$  the radius of the circle passing through the three points. Then the equation of the circle is

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<sup>1</sup>Sometimes called the *osculating circle*. The circle of curvature was defined from another point of view in §12.6.

$$(x - \alpha')^2 + (y - \beta')^2 = (R')^2;$$

and since the coordinates of the points  $P_0$ ,  $P_1$ ,  $P_2$  must satisfy this equation, we have

$$\begin{cases} (x_0 - \alpha')^2 + (y_0 - \beta')^2 - (R')^2 = 0, \\ (x_1 - \alpha')^2 + (y_1 - \beta')^2 - (R')^2 = 0, \\ (x_2 - \alpha')^2 + (y_2 - \beta')^2 - (R')^2 = 0. \end{cases} \quad (14.2)$$

Now consider the function of  $x$  defined by

$$F(x) = (x - \alpha')^2 + (y - \beta')^2 - (R')^2,$$

in which  $y$  has been replaced by  $f(x)$  from (14.1).

Then from equations (14.2) we get

$$F(x_0) = 0, \quad F(x_1) = 0, \quad F(x_2) = 0.$$

Hence, by Rolle's Theorem (§13.1),  $F'(x)$  must vanish for at least two values of  $x$ , one lying between  $x_0$  and  $x_1$ , say  $x'$ , and the other lying between  $x_1$  and  $x_2$  say  $x''$ ; that is,

$$F'(x') = 0, \quad F'(x'') = 0.$$

Again, for the same reason,  $F''(x)$  must vanish for some value of  $x$  between  $x'$  and  $x''$ , say  $x_3$ ; hence

$$F''(x_3) = 0.$$

Therefore the elements  $\alpha'$ ,  $\beta'$ ,  $R'$  of the circle passing through the points  $P_0$ ,  $P_1$ ,  $P_2$  must satisfy the three equations

$$F(x_0) = 0, \quad F'(x') = 0, \quad F''(x_3) = 0.$$

Now let the points  $P_1$  and  $P_2$  approach  $P_0$  as a limiting position; then  $x_1$ ,  $x_2$ ,  $x'$ ,  $x''$ ,  $x_3$  will all approach  $x_0$  as a limit, and the elements  $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$ ,  $R$  of the osculating circle are therefore determined by the three equations

$$F(x_0) = 0, \quad F'(x_0) = 0, \quad F''(x_0) = 0;$$

or, dropping the subscripts, which is the same thing,

$$(x - \alpha)^2 + (y - \beta)^2 = R^2 \quad (14.3)$$

$$(x - \alpha) + (y - \beta) \frac{dy}{dx} = 0, \quad (14.4)$$

differentiating (14.3).

$$1 + \left(\frac{dy}{dx}\right)^2 + (y - \beta) \frac{d^2y}{dx^2} = 0, \quad (14.5)$$

differentiating (14.4). Solving (14.4) and (14.5) for  $x - \alpha$  and  $y - \beta$ , we get  $\left(\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} \neq 0\right)$ ,

$$\begin{cases} x - \alpha = \frac{\frac{dy}{dx} \left[1 + \left(\frac{dy}{dx}\right)^2\right]}{\frac{d^2y}{dx^2}} \\ y - \beta = -\frac{1 + \left(\frac{dy}{dx}\right)^2}{\frac{d^2y}{dx^2}}; \end{cases} \quad (14.6)$$

hence the coordinates of the center of curvature are

$$\alpha = x - \frac{\frac{dy}{dx} \left[1 + \left(\frac{dy}{dx}\right)^2\right]}{\frac{d^2y}{dx^2}}; \beta = y + \frac{1 + \left(\frac{dy}{dx}\right)^2}{\frac{d^2y}{dx^2}}. \left(\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} \neq 0\right) \quad (14.7)$$

Substituting the values of  $x - \alpha$  and  $y - \beta$  from (14.6) in (14.3), and solving for  $R$ , we get

$$R = \pm \frac{\left[1 + \left(\frac{dy}{dx}\right)^2\right]^{\frac{3}{2}}}{\frac{d^2y}{dx^2}},$$

which is identical with (12.5), [§12.5]. Hence

**Theorem 14.1.1.** *The radius of the circle of curvature equals the radius of curvature.*

## 14.2 Second method for finding center of curvature

Here we shall make use of the definition of circle of curvature given in §12.6. Draw a figure showing the tangent line, circle of curvature, radius of curvature, and center of curvature  $(\alpha, \beta)$  corresponding to the point  $P(x, y)$  on the curve. Then

$$\begin{aligned} \alpha &= OA = OD - AD = OD - BP = x - BP, \\ \beta &= AC = AB + BC = DP + BC = y + BC. \end{aligned}$$

But  $BP = R \sin \tau$ ,  $BC = R \cos \tau$ . Hence

$$\alpha = x - R \sin \tau, \quad \beta = y + R \cos \tau. \quad (14.8)$$

From (9.8) [§9.4], and (12.5) [12.5],

$$\sin \tau = \frac{\frac{dy}{dx}}{\left[1 + \left(\frac{dy}{dx}\right)^2\right]^{\frac{1}{2}}},$$

$$\cos \tau = \frac{1}{\left[1 + \left(\frac{dy}{dx}\right)^2\right]^{\frac{1}{2}}},$$

$$R = \frac{\left[1 + \left(\frac{dy}{dx}\right)^2\right]^{\frac{3}{2}}}{\frac{d^2y}{dx^2}}.$$

Substituting these back in (14.8), we get

$$\alpha = x - \frac{\frac{dy}{dx} \left[1 + \left(\frac{dy}{dx}\right)^2\right]}{\frac{d^2y}{dx^2}}; \quad \beta = y + \frac{1 + \left(\frac{dy}{dx}\right)^2}{\frac{d^2y}{dx^2}}. \quad (14.9)$$

From Lemma 8.8.1 [§8.8], we know that at a point of inflection (as  $Q$  in Figure 14.2)

$$\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} = 0.$$

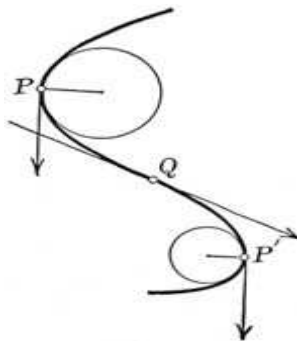


Figure 14.2: Geometric visualization of a change in direction.

Therefore, by (12.3) [§12.4], the curvature  $K = 0$ ; and from (12.5) [§12.5], and (14.9) [§14.2], we see that in general  $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$ ,  $R$  increase without limit as the second derivative approaches zero. That is, if we suppose  $P$  with its tangent to move along the curve to  $P'$ , at the point of inflection  $Q$  the curvature is zero, the rotation of the tangent is momentarily arrested, and as the direction of rotation changes, the center of curvature moves out indefinitely and the radius of curvature becomes infinite.

**Example 14.2.1.** Find the coordinates of the center of curvature of the parabola  $y^2 = 4px$  corresponding (a) to any point on the curve; (b) to the vertex.

*Solution.*  $\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{2p}{y}$ ;  $\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} = -\frac{4p^2}{y^3}$ .

(a) Substituting in (14.7) [§14.1],

$$\alpha = x + \frac{y^2 + 4p^2}{y^2} \cdot \frac{2p}{y} \cdot \frac{y^3}{4p^2} = 3x + 2p.$$

$$\beta = y - \frac{y^2 + 4p^2}{y^2} \cdot \frac{y^3}{4p^2} = -\frac{y^3}{4p^2}.$$

Therefore  $\left(3x + 2p, -\frac{y^3}{4p^2}\right)$  is the center of curvature corresponding to any point on the curve.

(b)  $(2p, 0)$  is the center of curvature corresponding to the vertex  $(0, 0)$ .

## 14.3 Center of curvature

The limiting position of the intersection of normals at neighboring points. Let the equation of a curve be

$$y = f(x). \quad (14.10)$$

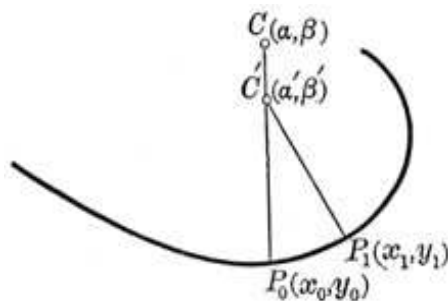


Figure 14.3: Geometric visualization of the center of curvature.

The equations of the normals to the curve at two neighboring points  $P_0$  and  $P_1$  are (using (6.2) [§6.3]),

$$(x_0 - X) + (y_0 - Y) \frac{dy_0}{dx_0} = 0, \quad (x_1 - X) + (y_1 - Y) \frac{dy_1}{dx_1} = 0.$$

If the normals intersect at  $C'(\alpha', \beta')$ , the coordinates of this point must satisfy both equations, giving

$$\begin{cases} (x_0 - \alpha') + (y_0 - \beta') \frac{dy_0}{dx_0} = 0, \\ (x_1 - \alpha') + (y_1 - \beta') \frac{dy_1}{dx_1} = 0. \end{cases} \quad (14.11)$$

## 14.4. EVOLUTES

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Now consider the function of  $x$  defined by

$$\phi(x) = (x - \alpha') + (y - \beta') \frac{dy}{dx},$$

in which  $y$  has been replaced by  $f(x)$  from (14.10). Then equations (14.11) show that

$$\phi(x_0) = 0, \quad \phi(x_1) = 0.$$

But then, by Rolle's Theorem (§13.1),  $\phi'(x)$  must vanish for some value of  $x$  between  $x_0$  and  $x_1$  say  $x'$ . Therefore  $\alpha'$  and  $\beta'$  are determined by the two equations

$$\phi(x_0) = 0, \quad \phi'(x') = 0.$$

If now  $P_1$  approaches  $P_0$  as a limiting position, then  $x'$  approaches  $x_0$ , giving

$$\phi(x_0) = 0, \quad \phi'(x_0) = 0.$$

and  $C'(\alpha', \beta')$  will approach as a limiting position the center of curvature  $C(\alpha, \beta)$  corresponding to  $P_0$  on the curve. For if we drop the subscripts and write the last two equations in the form

$$(x - \alpha') + (y - \beta') \frac{dy}{dx} = 0, \quad 1 + \left( \frac{dy}{dx} \right)^2 + (y - \beta') \frac{d^2y}{dx^2} = 0,$$

it is evident that solving for  $\alpha'$  and  $\beta'$  will give the same results as solving (14.4) and (14.5) for  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$ . Hence we have the following result.

**Theorem 14.3.1.** *The center of curvature  $C$  corresponding to a point  $P$  on a curve is the limiting position of the intersection of the normal to the curve at  $P$  with a neighboring normal.*

## 14.4 Evolutes

The locus of the centers of curvature of a given curve is called the *evolute* of that curve. Consider the circle of curvature corresponding to a point  $P$  on a curve. If  $P$  moves along the given curve, we may suppose the corresponding circle of curvature to roll along the curve with it, its radius varying so as to be always equal to the radius of curvature of the curve at the point  $P$ . The curve  $CC_7$  in Figure 14.4 described by the center of the circle is the evolute of  $PP_7$ . It is instructive to make an approximate construction of the evolute of a curve by estimating (from the shape of the curve) the lengths of the radii of curvature at different points on the curve and then drawing them in and drawing the locus of the centers of curvature.

Formula (14.7) gives the coordinates of any point  $(\alpha, \beta)$  on the evolute expressed in terms of the coordinates of the corresponding point  $(x, y)$  of the given curve. But  $y$  is a function of  $x$ ; therefore



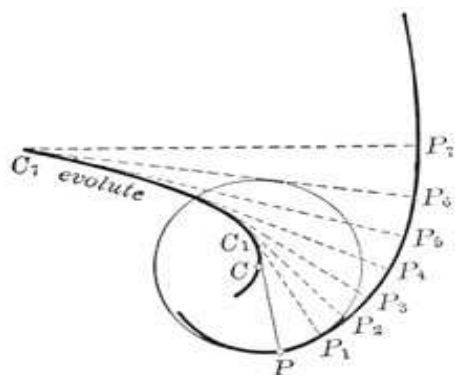


Figure 14.4: Geometric visualization of an evolute.

$$\alpha = x - \frac{\left[1 + \left(\frac{dy}{dx}\right)^2\right] \frac{dy}{dx}}{\frac{d^2y}{dx^2}}, \quad \beta = y + \frac{1 + \left(\frac{dy}{dx}\right)^2}{\frac{d^2y}{dx^2}}$$

give us at once the parametric equations of the evolute in terms of the parameter  $x$ .

To find the ordinary rectangular equation of the evolute we eliminate  $x$  between the two expressions. No general process of elimination can be given that will apply in all cases, the method to be adopted depending on the form of the given equation. In a large number of cases, however, the student can find the rectangular equation of the evolute by taking the following steps:

General directions for finding the equation of the evolute in rectangular coordinates.

- FIRST STEP. Find  $\alpha, \beta$  from (14.9).
- SECOND STEP. Solve the two resulting equations for  $x$  and  $y$  in terms of  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$ .
- THIRD STEP. Substitute these values of  $x$  and  $y$  in the given equation. This gives a relation between the variables  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  which is the equation of the evolute.

**Example 14.4.1.** Find the equation of the evolute of the parabola  $y^2 = 4px$ .

*Solution.*  $\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{2p}{y}, \frac{d^2y}{dx^2} = -\frac{4p^2}{y^3}.$

*First step.*  $\alpha = 3x + 2p, \beta = -\frac{y^3}{4p^2}.$

*Second step.*  $x = \frac{\alpha - 2p}{3}, y = -(4p^2\beta)^{\frac{1}{3}}.$

*Third step*  $(4p^2\beta)^{\frac{2}{3}} = 4p\left(\frac{\alpha - 2p}{3}\right);$  or,  $p\beta^{\frac{2}{3}}\frac{4}{27}(\alpha - 2p)^3.$

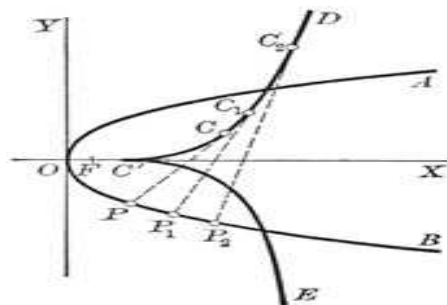


Figure 14.5: Evolute of a parabola.

Remembering that  $\alpha$  denotes the abscissa and  $\beta$  the ordinate of a rectangular system of coordinates, we see that the evolute of the parabola AOB is the semi-cubical parabola  $DC'E$ ; the centers of curvature for  $O$ ,  $P$ ,  $P_1$ ,  $P_2$  being at  $C'$ ,  $C$ ,  $C_1$ ,  $C_2$  respectively.

**Example 14.4.2.** Find the equation of the evolute of the parabola  $b^2x^2 + a^2y^2 = a^2b^2$ .

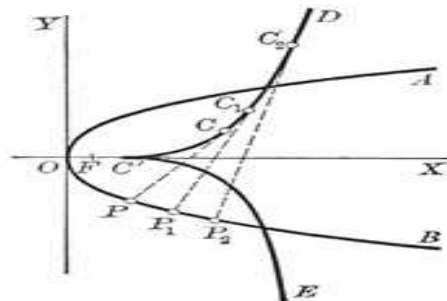


Figure 14.6: Evolute of an ellipse.

Solution.  $\frac{dy}{dx} = -\frac{b^2x}{a^2y}$ ,  $\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} = -\frac{b^4}{a^2y^3}$ .

First step.  $\alpha = \frac{(a^2-b^2)x^3}{a^4}$ ,  $\beta = -\frac{(a^2-b^2)y^3}{b^4}$ .

Second step.  $x = \left(\frac{a^4\alpha}{a^2-b^2}\right)^{\frac{1}{3}}$ ,  $y = -\left(\frac{b^4\beta}{a^2-b^2}\right)^{\frac{1}{3}}$ .

Third step.  $(a\alpha)^{\frac{2}{3}} + (b\beta)^{\frac{2}{3}} = (a^2-b^2)^{\frac{2}{3}}$ , the equation of the evolute  $EHE'H'$  of the ellipse  $ABA'B'$ ,  $E$ ,  $E'$ ,  $H'$ ,  $H$  are the centers of curvature corresponding to the points  $A$ ,  $A'$ ,  $B$ ,  $B'$ , on the curve, and  $C$ ,  $C'$ ,  $C''$  correspond to the points  $P$ ,  $P'$ ,  $P''$ .

When the equations of the curve are given in parametric form, we proceed to find  $\frac{dy}{dx}$  and  $\frac{d^2y}{dx^2}$ , as in §12.5, from

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{\frac{dy}{dt}}{\frac{dx}{dt}}, \quad \frac{d^2y}{dx^2} = \frac{\frac{dx}{dt} \frac{d^2y}{dt^2} - \frac{dy}{dt} \frac{d^2x}{dt^2}}{\left(\frac{dx}{dt}\right)^3} \quad (14.12)$$

and then substitute the results in formulas (14.9). This gives the parametric equations of the evolute in terms of the same parameter that occurs in the given equations.

**Example 14.4.3.** The parametric equations of a curve are

$$x = \frac{t^2 + 1}{4}, \quad y = \frac{t^3}{6}. \quad (14.13)$$

Find the equation of the evolute in parametric form, plot the curve and the evolute, find the radius of curvature at the point where  $t = 1$ , and draw the corresponding circle of curvature.

Solution.  $\frac{dx}{dt} = \frac{t}{2}$ ,  $\frac{d^2x}{dt^2} = \frac{1}{2}$ ,  $\frac{dy}{dt} = \frac{t^2}{2}$ ,  $\frac{d^2y}{dt^2} = t$ . Substituting in above formulas (14.12) and then in (14.9), gives

$$\alpha = \frac{1 - t^2 - 2t^4}{4}, \quad \beta = \frac{4t^3 + 3t}{6}, \quad (14.14)$$

the parametric equations of the evolute. Assuming values of the parameter  $t$ , we calculate  $x, y; \alpha, \beta$  from (14.13) and (14.14). Now plot the curve and its evolute.

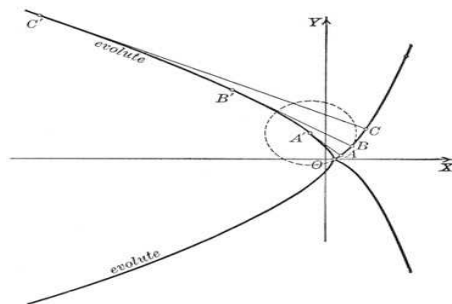


Figure 14.7: Evolute of an parametric curve.

The point  $(\frac{1}{4}, 0)$  is common to the given curve and its evolute. The given curve (a semi-cubical parabola) lies entirely to the right and the evolute entirely to the left of  $x = \frac{1}{4}$ .

The circle of curvature at  $A = (\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{6})$ , where  $t = 1$ , will have its center at  $A' = (-\frac{1}{2}, -\frac{7}{6})$  on the evolute and radius =  $AA'$ . To verify our work, find radius of curvature at  $A$ . From (12.5), we get

$$R = \frac{t(1+t^2)^{\frac{3}{2}}}{2} = \sqrt{2},$$

when  $t = 1$ . This should equal the distance

$$AA' = \sqrt{\left(\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{1}{6} - \frac{7}{6}\right)^2} = \sqrt{2}.$$

**Example 14.4.4.** Find the parametric equations of the evolute of the cycloid,

$$\begin{cases} x = a(t - \sin t) \\ y = a(1 - \cos t). \end{cases} \quad (14.15)$$

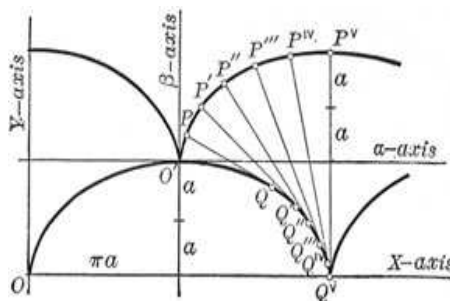


Figure 14.8: Evolute of a cycloid.

**Solution.** As in Example 12.5.2, we get

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{\sin t}{1 - \cos t}, \quad \frac{d^2y}{dx^2} = -\frac{1}{\alpha(1 - \cos t)^2}.$$

Substituting these results in formulas (14.9), we get the answer:

$$\begin{cases} \alpha = a(t + \sin t), \\ \beta = -a(1 - \cos t). \end{cases} \quad (14.16)$$

**Remark 14.4.1.** In the previous example, if we eliminate  $t$  between equations (14.16), there results the rectangular equation of the evolute  $OO'Q^v$  referred to the axes  $O'\alpha$  and  $O'\beta$ . The coordinates of  $O$  with respect to these axes are  $(-\pi a, -2a)$ . Let us transform equations (14.16) to the new set of axes  $OX$  and  $OY$ . Then

$$\alpha = x - \pi a, \quad \beta = y - 2a, \quad t = t' - \pi.$$

Substituting in (14.16) and reducing, the equations of the evolute become

$$\begin{cases} x = a(t' - \sin t'), \\ y = a(1 - \cos t'). \end{cases} \quad (14.17)$$

Since (14.17) and (14.14) are identical in form, we have: *The evolute of a cycloid is itself a cycloid whose generating circle equals that of the given cycloid.*

## 14.5 Properties of the evolute

From (14.8),

$$\alpha = x - R \sin \tau, \quad \beta = y + R \cos \tau. \quad (14.18)$$

Let us choose as independent variable the lengths of the arc on the given curve; then  $x, y, R, T, \alpha, \beta$  are functions of  $s$ . Differentiating (14.18) with respect to  $s$  gives

$$\frac{d\alpha}{ds} = \frac{dx}{ds} - R \cos \tau \frac{d\tau}{ds} - \sin \tau \frac{dR}{ds}, \quad (14.19)$$

$$\frac{d\beta}{ds} = \frac{dy}{ds} - R \sin \tau \frac{d\tau}{ds} + \cos \tau \frac{dR}{ds}. \quad (14.20)$$

But  $\frac{dx}{ds} = \cos \tau$ ,  $\frac{dy}{ds} = \sin \tau$ , from (9.5); and  $\frac{d\tau}{ds} = \frac{1}{R}$ , from (12.1) and (12.2).

Substituting in (14.19) and (14.20), we obtain

$$\frac{d\alpha}{ds} = \cos \tau - R \cos \tau \cdot \frac{1}{R} - \sin \tau \frac{dR}{ds} = -\sin \tau \frac{dR}{ds}, \quad (14.21)$$

and

$$\frac{d\beta}{ds} = \sin \tau - R \sin \tau \cdot \frac{1}{R} + \cos \tau \frac{dR}{ds} = \cos \tau \frac{dR}{ds}. \quad (14.22)$$

Dividing (14.22) by (14.21) gives

$$\frac{d\beta}{d\alpha} = -\cot \tau = -\frac{1}{\tan \tau} = -\frac{1}{\frac{dy}{dx}}. \quad (14.23)$$

But  $\frac{d\beta}{d\alpha} = \tan \tau =$  slope of tangent to the evolute at  $C$ , and  $\frac{dy}{dx} = \tan \tau =$  slope of tangent to the given curve at the corresponding point  $P(x, y)$ .

Substituting the last two results in (14.23), we get

$$\tan \tau' = -\frac{1}{\tan \tau}.$$

Since the slope of one tangent is the negative reciprocal of the slope of the other, they are perpendicular. But a line perpendicular to the tangent at  $P$  is a normal to the curve. Hence

*A normal to the given curve is a tangent to its evolute.*

Again, squaring equations (14.21) and (14.22) and adding, we get

$$\left(\frac{d\alpha}{ds}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{d\beta}{ds}\right)^2 = \left(\frac{dR}{ds}\right)^2. \quad (14.24)$$

But if  $s' =$  length of arc of the evolute, the left-hand member of (14.24) is precisely the square of  $\frac{ds'}{ds}$  (from (10.2), where  $t = s$ ,  $s = s'$ ,  $x = \alpha$ ,  $y = \beta$ ). Hence (14.24) asserts that

$$\left(\frac{ds'}{ds}\right)^2 = \left(\frac{dR}{ds}\right)^2, \quad \text{or} \quad \frac{ds'}{ds} = \pm \frac{dR}{ds}.$$

That is, the radius of curvature of the given curve increases or decreases as fast as the arc of the evolute increases. In our figure this means that

$$P_1C_1 - PC = \text{arc } CC_1.$$

The length of an arc of the evolute is equal to the difference between the radii of curvature of the given curve which are tangent to this arc at its extremities.

Thus in Example 14.4.4, we observe that if we fold  $Q_vP_v$  ( $= 4a$ ) over to the left on the evolute,  $P_v$  will reach to  $O'$ , and we have:

*The length of one arc of the cycloid (as  $OO'Q_v$ ) is eight times the length of the radius of the generating circle.*

## 14.6 Exercises

Find the coordinates of the center of curvature and the equation of the evolute of each of the following curves. Draw the curve and its evolute, and draw at least one circle of curvature.

1. The hyperbola  $\frac{x^2}{a^2} - \frac{y^2}{b^2} = 1$ .

Ans.  $\alpha = \frac{(a^2+b^2)x^3}{a^4}$ ,  $\beta = -\frac{(a^2+b^2)y^3}{b^4}$ ; evolute  $(a\alpha)^{\frac{2}{3}} - (b\beta)^{\frac{2}{3}} = (a^2 + b^2)^{\frac{2}{3}}$ .

2. The hypocycloid  $x^{\frac{2}{3}} + y^{\frac{2}{3}} = a^{\frac{2}{3}}$ .

$\alpha = x + 3x^{\frac{1}{3}}y^{\frac{2}{3}}$ ,  $\beta = y + 3x^{\frac{2}{3}}y^{\frac{1}{3}}$ ; evolute  $(\alpha + \beta)^{\frac{2}{3}} + (\alpha - \beta)^{\frac{2}{3}} = 2a^{\frac{2}{3}}$ .

3. Find the coordinates of the center of curvature of the cubical parabola  $y^3 = a^2x$ .

Ans.  $\alpha = \frac{a^4+15y^4}{6a^2y}$ ,  $\beta = \frac{a^4y-9y^5}{2a^4}$ .

4. Show that in the parabola  $x^{\frac{1}{2}} + y^{\frac{1}{2}} = a^{\frac{1}{2}}$  we have the relation  $\alpha + \beta = 3(x + y)$ .

5. Given the equation of the equilateral hyperbola  $2xy = a^2$  show that

$$\alpha + \beta = \frac{(y+x)^3}{a^2}, \alpha - \beta = \frac{(y-x)^3}{a^2}.$$

From this derive the equation of the evolute  $(\alpha + \beta)^{\frac{2}{3}} - (\alpha - \beta)^{\frac{2}{3}} = 2a^{\frac{2}{3}}$ .

Find the parametric equations of the evolutes of the following curves in terms of the parameter  $t$ . Draw the curve and its evolute, and draw at least one circle of curvature.

6. The hypocycloid  $\begin{cases} x = a \cos^3 t, \\ y = a \sin^3 t. \end{cases}$

$$\text{Ans. } \begin{cases} \alpha = a \cos^3 t + 3a \cos t \sin^2 t, \\ \beta = 3a \cos^2 t \sin t + a \sin^3 t. \end{cases} \quad .$$

$$7. \text{ The curve } \begin{cases} x = 3t^2, \\ y = 3t - t^3. \end{cases}$$

$$\text{Ans. } \begin{cases} \alpha = \frac{3}{2}(1 + 2t^2 - t^4), \\ \beta = -4t^3. \end{cases}$$

$$8. \text{ The curve } \begin{cases} x = a(\cos t + t \sin t), \\ y = a(\sin t - t \cos t). \end{cases} \quad .$$

$$\text{Ans. } \begin{cases} \alpha = a \cos t, \\ \beta = a \sin t. \end{cases} \quad .$$

$$9. \text{ The curve } \begin{cases} x = 3t, \\ y = t^2 - 6. \end{cases} \quad .$$

$$\text{Ans. } \begin{cases} \alpha = -\frac{4}{3}t^3, \\ \beta = 3t^2 - \frac{3}{2}. \end{cases} \quad .$$

$$10. \text{ The curve } \begin{cases} x = 6 - t^2 \\ y = 2t. \end{cases} \quad .$$

$$\text{Ans. } \begin{cases} \alpha = 4 - 3t^2, \\ \beta = -2t^3. \end{cases} \quad .$$

$$11. \text{ The curve } \begin{cases} x = 2t, \\ y = t^2 - 2. \end{cases} \quad .$$

$$\text{Ans. } \begin{cases} \alpha = -2t^3, \\ \beta = 3t^2. \end{cases} \quad .$$

$$12. \text{ The curve } \begin{cases} x = 4t, \\ y = 3 + t^2. \end{cases} \quad .$$

$$\text{Ans. } \begin{cases} \alpha = -t^3, \\ \beta = 11 + 3t^2. \end{cases} \quad .$$

$$13. \text{ The curve } \begin{cases} x = 9 - t^2, \\ y = 2t. \end{cases} \quad .$$

$$\text{Ans. } \begin{cases} \alpha = 7 - 3t^2, \\ \beta = -2t^3. \end{cases} \quad .$$

$$14. \text{ The curve } \begin{cases} x = 2t, \\ y = \frac{1}{3}t^3. \end{cases} \quad .$$

$$\text{Ans. } \begin{cases} \alpha = \frac{4t-t^5}{4}, \\ \beta = \frac{12+5t^4}{6t}. \end{cases} \quad .$$

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15. The curve  $\begin{cases} x = \frac{1}{3}t^3, \\ y = t^2. \end{cases}$  .

Ans.  $\begin{cases} \alpha = \frac{4t^3+12t}{3} \\ \beta = -\frac{2t^2+t^4}{2}. \end{cases}$  .

16. The curve  $\begin{cases} x = 2t, \\ y = \frac{3}{t}. \end{cases}$  .

Ans  $\begin{cases} \alpha = \frac{12t^4+9}{4t^3} \\ \beta = \frac{27+4t^4}{6t}. \end{cases}$  .

17.  $x = 4 - t^2, y = 2t$ .

18.  $x = 2t, y = 16 - t^2$ .

19.  $x = t, y = \sin t$ .

20.  $x = \frac{4}{t}, y = 3t$ .

21.  $x = t^2, y = \frac{1}{6}t^3$ .

22.  $x = t, y = t^3$ .

23.  $x = \sin t, y = 3 \cos t$ .

24.  $x = 1 - \cos t, y = t - \sin t$ .

25.  $x = \cos^4 t, y = \sin^4 t$ .

26.  $x = a \sec t, y = b \tan t$ .



## Chapter 15

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