

MATH 110 Problem Set 2.3 Solutions

Edward Doolittle

Tuesday, February 3, 2026

1. We use the quotient rule first in all of the parts of this question

(a) We have

$$f'(t) = \frac{d}{dt} \frac{2t}{4+t^2} = \frac{(4+t^2) \frac{d}{dt} 2t - 2t \frac{d}{dt} (4+t^2)}{(4+t^2)^2} = \frac{(4+t^2)(2) - 2t(2t)}{(4+t^2)^2}$$

where we have used the sum, constant multiple, and power rules in the last step above. Further simplification is possible, but is not necessary in this question:

$$f'(t) = \frac{8+2t^2-4t^2}{(4+t^2)^2} = \frac{8-2t^2}{(4+t^2)^2}$$

(b) By the quotient rule,

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{(x^3+x-3) \frac{d}{dx} (x+1) - (x+1) \frac{d}{dx} (x^3+x-3)}{(x^3+x-3)^2} = \frac{(x^3-x-3)(1) - (x+1)(3x^2+1)}{(x^3+x-3)^2}$$

Further simplification is optional:

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

Note that I have not expanded the denominator, which is seldom a useful simplification.

(c) By the quotient rule,

$$\frac{dy}{dt} = \frac{(t-1)^2 \frac{d}{dt} t - t \frac{d}{dt} (t-1)^2}{((t-1)^2)^2}$$

In order to take the derivative of $(t-1)^2$ in the above expression we must first expand it (in the numerator, not the denominator) to obtain

$$\frac{dy}{dt} = \frac{(t-1)^2 \frac{d}{dt} t - t \frac{d}{dt} (t^2-2t+1)}{((t-1)^2)^2} = \frac{(t-1)^2(1) - t(2t-2)}{(t-1)^4}$$

where we have used the rules of exponents in the denominator. Further simplification is optional:

$$\frac{dy}{dt} = \frac{t^2-2t+1-2t^2+2t}{(t-1)^4} = \frac{1-t^2}{(t-1)^4}$$

(d) We write all the powers in exponential notation and then apply the quotient rule:

$$\begin{aligned} g'(t) &= \frac{d}{dt} \frac{t-t^{1/2}}{t^{1/3}} = \frac{t^{1/3} \frac{d}{dt} (t-t^{1/2}) - (t-t^{1/2}) \frac{d}{dt} t^{1/3}}{(t^{1/3})^2} \\ &= \frac{t^{1/3}(1-(1/2)t^{-1/2}) - (t-t^{1/2})(1/3)t^{-2/3}}{t^{2/3}} \end{aligned}$$

Further simplification is optional but is not necessary. First we clear fractions by multiplying the numerator and denominator through by 6:

$$g'(t) = \frac{t^{1/3}(6 - 3t^{-1/2}) - (t - t^{1/2})2t^{-2/3}}{t^{2/3}} = \frac{6t^{1/3} - 3t^{-1/6} - 2t^{1/3} + 2t^{-1/6}}{t^{2/3}}$$

2. We are given a point on the tangent line, so we must find its slope in order to write the equation in point-slope form.

- (a) By habit, I first do the optional check that the given point is actually on the line: when $x = 1$, $y = (1 + 2(1))^2 = 3^2 = 9$, so the point $(1, 9)$ actually is on the line. To find the slope, we can use the product rule:

$$y = (1 + 2x)^2 = (1 + 2x)(1 + 2x) \implies y' = 2(1 + 2x) + (1 + 2x)(2) = 2 + 4x + 2 + 4x = 4 + 8x$$

so $y'(1) = 4 + 8(1) = 12$, i.e., the slope of the tangent line at the point $(x, y) = (1, 9)$ is $y'(1) = 12$. Then the equation of the tangent line in point-slope form is

$$y - 9 = 12(x - 1)$$

Further simplification is possible but is not necessary. Finally, if the slope of a line is 12, the slope of the perpendicular line is the negative reciprocal of 12, i.e., $-1/12$, so the equation of the normal line is

$$y - 9 = -\frac{1}{12}(x - 1)$$

- (b) We have

$$y(4) = \frac{\sqrt{4}}{4+1} = \frac{2}{5} = 0.4$$

so the point $(4, 0.4)$ actually is a point on the curve. The slope of the tangent line at that point is found by taking the derivative:

$$y'(x) = \frac{(x+1)\frac{d}{dx}x^{1/2} - x^{1/2}\frac{d}{dx}(x+1)}{(x+1)^2} = \frac{(x+1)(1/2)x^{-1/2} - x^{1/2}(1)}{(x+1)^2}$$

so

$$y'(4) = \frac{5(1/2)(1/2) - 2}{25} = \frac{5 - 8}{100} = -\frac{3}{100}$$

Therefore the equation of the tangent line is

$$y - \frac{2}{5} = -\frac{3}{100}(x - 4)$$

and the equation of the normal line, which has the same point but negative reciprocal slope, is

$$y - \frac{2}{5} = \frac{100}{3}(x - 4)$$

3. (a) By the difference and constant multiple rules, $h'(x) = 3f'(x) - 5g'(x)$ so $h'(1) = 3f'(1) - 5g'(1) = 3(-2) - 5(2) = -16$
 (b) By the product rule, $h'(x) = f'(x)g(x) + f(x)g'(x)$. Evaluating at $x = 1$ we have $h'(1) = f'(1)g(1) + f(1)g'(1) = (-2)(-1) + (3)(2) = 2 + 6 = 8$
 (c) By the quotient rule,

$$h'(x) = \frac{f'(x)g(x) - f(x)g'(x)}{(g(x))^2}$$

Evaluating at $x = 1$,

$$h'(1) = \frac{f'(1)g(1) - f(1)g'(1)}{(g(1))^2} = \frac{(-2)(-1) - (3)(2)}{(-1)^2} = \frac{2 - 6}{1} = -4$$

(d) By the quotient rule,

$$h'(x) = \frac{D(2f(x) - 1)(g(x) + 3) - (2f(x) - 1)D(g(x) + 3)}{(g(x) + 3)^2} = \frac{f'(x)(g(x) + 3) - (2f(x) - 1)g'(x)}{(g(x) + 3)^2}$$

using the sum, difference, and constant multiple rules as well. Evaluating at $x = 1$,

$$h'(1) = \frac{f'(1)(g(1) + 3) - (2f(1) - 1)g'(1)}{(g(1) + 3)^2} = \frac{-2(-1 + 3) - (2(3) - 1)(2)}{(-1 + 3)^2} = \frac{-4 - 10}{2^2} = \frac{7}{2}$$

4. Two lines are parallel if and only if they have the same slope. The slope of the line $x - 2y = 2$ can be obtained by solving for y and examining the coefficient of x : $2y = x - 2$, $y = (1/2)x - 1$, so the slope of the given line is $1/2$, hence the slope of all parallel lines is $1/2$, and we are looking for tangent lines with slope $1/2$.

The slope of a tangent line to the given curve can be obtained by taking the derivative:

$$y' = \frac{(x+1)\frac{d}{dx}(x-1) - (x-1)\frac{d}{dx}(x+1)}{(x+1)^2} = \frac{(x+1) - (x-1)}{(x+1)^2} = \frac{2}{(x+1)^2}$$

We are looking for x values at which $y' = 1/2$; in other words, we want to solve the equation

$$y' = 1/2 \implies \frac{2}{(x+1)^2} = 1/2 \implies (x+1)^2 = 4 \implies x+1 = \pm 2 \implies x = 1, -3$$

The number $x = 1$ gives the point on the curve $(1, y(1)) = (1, 0)$ and of course slope $y'(1) = 1/2$, so the equation of the tangent line is $y - 0 = (1/2)(x - 1)$. The other number $x = -3$ gives the point on the curve $(-3, 2)$ and tangent line $y - 2 = (1/2)(x + 3)$. See Figure 1.

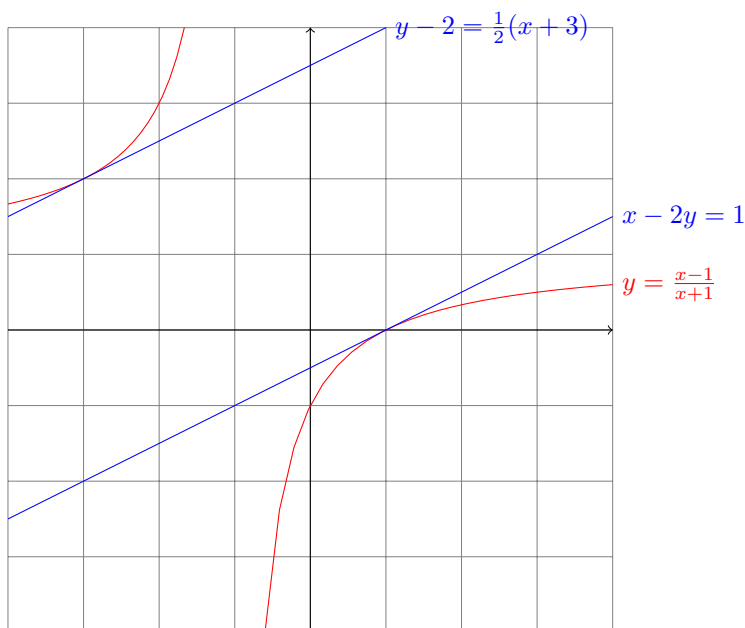


Figure 1: Graph for Problem 4

5. By the product rule applied twice we have

$$(fgh)' = ((fg)h)' = (fg)'h + (fg)h' = (f'g + fg')h + fgh' = f'gh + fg'h + fgh'$$

Applying that result to the expression $(f'gh)'$ we have

$$(f'gh)' = f''gh + f'g'h + f'gh'$$

Similarly,

$$\begin{aligned}(fg'h)' &= f'g'h + fg''h + fg'h' \\ (fgh')' &= f'gh' + fg'h' + fgh''\end{aligned}$$

Assembling everything we know,

$$(fgh)'' = (f'gh + fg'h + fgh')' = f''gh + f'g'h + f'gh' + f'g'h + fg''h + fg'h' + f'gh' + fg'h' + fgh''$$

Some simplification may be helpful:

$$(fgh)'' = f''gh + fg''h + fgh'' + 2f'g'h + 2fg'h' + 2f'gh'$$