

Date: August 4, 2025

Based on MIT 6.01 SC Video Lecture 3

Derivative formulas

- Specific formulas
- General formulas

Specific formulas

$$\hookrightarrow \frac{d}{dx} \sin x = \cos x, \quad \frac{d}{dx} \cos x = -\sin x$$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dx} \sin x &= \frac{\sin(x+\Delta x) - \sin x}{\Delta x} \quad \text{Sum formula for sine function} \\ &= \frac{\sin x \cos \Delta x + \cos x \sin \Delta x - \sin x}{\Delta x} \\ &= \sin x \left[\frac{\cos \Delta x - 1}{\Delta x} \right] + \cos x \left[\frac{\sin \Delta x}{\Delta x} \right] \\ &\quad \xrightarrow{\Delta x \rightarrow 0} 0 \quad \quad \quad \xrightarrow{\Delta x \rightarrow 0} 1 \\ &\quad \xrightarrow{\Delta x \rightarrow 0} \cos x \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dx} \cos x &= \frac{\cos(x+\Delta x) - \cos x}{\Delta x} \quad \text{Cos(a+b) = cos a cos b - sin a sin b} \\ &= \frac{\cos x \cos \Delta x - \sin x \sin \Delta x - \cos x}{\Delta x} \\ &= \cos x \left[\frac{\cos \Delta x - 1}{\Delta x} \right] + (-\sin x) \left[\frac{\sin \Delta x}{\Delta x} \right] \\ &\quad \xrightarrow{\Delta x \rightarrow 0} -\sin x \end{aligned}$$

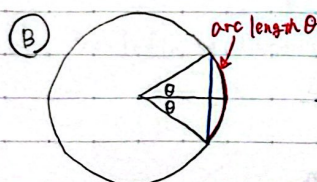
Remarks

$$\frac{d}{dx} \cos x \Big|_{x=0} = \lim_{\Delta x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\cos 0 \Delta x - 1}{\Delta x} \stackrel{(A)}{=} 0$$

$$\frac{d}{dx} \sin x \Big|_{x=0} = \lim_{\Delta x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sin \Delta x}{\Delta x} \stackrel{(B)}{=} 1$$

* θ is in radians

→ Geometric proof



bow string

$$\frac{2 \sin \frac{\theta}{2}}{\theta} = \frac{\sin \frac{\theta}{2}}{\frac{\theta}{2}} \xrightarrow{\theta \rightarrow 0} 1$$

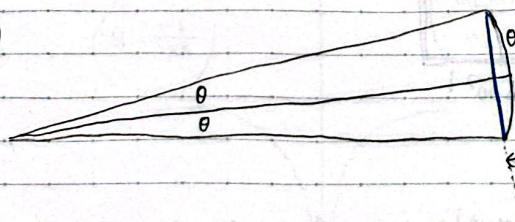
↑ θ get smaller

→ the curved piece looks more like a straight one

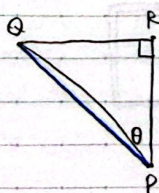
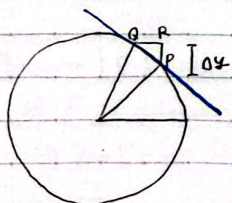
Principle

Short pieces of curves are nearly straight

(A)



$$\frac{1 - \cos \frac{\theta}{2}}{\frac{\theta}{2}} = - \left(\frac{1 - \cos \theta}{\theta} \right) \rightarrow 0 \text{ as } \theta \rightarrow 0$$

this gap = $1 - \cos \theta$ Geometric proof of $\frac{d}{dx} \sin \theta = \cos \theta$ (all θ)

$$\widehat{PQ} \approx PQ$$

$$PQ \approx \Delta \theta$$

$$PQ \perp OP; PR \text{ vertical}$$

$$\angle QPR \approx \theta$$

$$\therefore \frac{\Delta y}{\Delta \theta} \approx \cos \theta$$

$$\lim_{\Delta \theta \rightarrow 0} \frac{\Delta y}{\Delta \theta} = \cos \theta$$

$$y = \sin \theta$$

vertical position of

circular motion

General Derivative Rules

Product rule:

$$(uv)' = u'v + uv' \quad \leftarrow \text{change at a time}$$

Quotient rule:

$$\left(\frac{u}{v}\right)' = \frac{u'v - uv'}{v^2} \quad (v \neq 0)$$

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Based on MIT OCW [8.01 SC] Video Lecture 4

$$\frac{d}{dt}(cu) = c \frac{du}{dt}$$

$$\frac{d}{dt}(u+v) = \frac{du}{dt} + \frac{dv}{dt}$$

$$(u+v)' = u' + v'$$

Product rule

$$(uv)' = u'v + uv'$$

$$\text{ex.) } \frac{d}{dx}(x^n \sin(x)) = nx^{n-1} \sin(x) + x^n \cos(x)$$

proof $\Delta(uv)$

$$= u(x+\Delta x)v(x+\Delta x) - u(x)v(x)$$

$$= (u(x+\Delta x) - u(x))v(x+\Delta x)$$

$$+ u(x)(v(x+\Delta x) - v(x))$$

$$= (\Delta u)v(x+\Delta x) + u(x)\Delta v$$

$$\frac{\Delta(uv)}{\Delta x} = \frac{\Delta u}{\Delta x} v(x+\Delta x) + u \frac{\Delta v}{\Delta x}$$

 $\Delta x \rightarrow 0$

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

$$\leftarrow u(x+\Delta x)v(x+\Delta x) - u(x)v(x+\Delta x)$$

$$\leftarrow u(x)v(x+\Delta x) - u(x)v(x) \quad \text{Cancel}$$

Quotient rule

$$\left(\frac{u}{v}\right)' = \frac{u'v - uv'}{v^2}$$

proof $\Delta\left(\frac{u}{v}\right) = \frac{u + \Delta u}{v + \Delta v} - \frac{u}{v}$

$$= \frac{(u + \Delta u)v - uv + u\Delta v}{(v + \Delta v)v}$$

$$= \frac{(\Delta u)v - u\Delta v}{(v + \Delta v)v}$$

$$\Delta\left(\frac{u}{v}\right) = \frac{\frac{\Delta u}{\Delta x}v - u\frac{\Delta v}{\Delta x}}{(v + \Delta v)v}$$

$\downarrow \Delta x \rightarrow 0$

$$\frac{d}{dx}\left(\frac{u}{v}\right) = \frac{\frac{du}{dx} \cdot v - u \cdot \frac{dv}{dx}}{v \cdot v}$$

ex.) $u = 1$

$$\frac{d}{dx}\left(\frac{1}{v}\right) = \frac{-1 \cdot v'}{v^2} = -v^{-2}v'$$

→ Subexample) $u = 1, v = x^n, n = 0, \pm 1, \pm 2, \pm 3, \dots$

$$\frac{d}{dx}x^{(-n)} = \frac{d}{dx}\left(\frac{1}{x^n}\right)' = -x^{-2n}nx^{n-1}$$

$$= (-n)x^{(-n)-1}$$

Composition rule

$$\frac{\Delta y}{\Delta t} = \frac{\Delta y}{\Delta x} \cdot \frac{\Delta x}{\Delta t}$$

$\downarrow \Delta x \rightarrow 0$

$$\frac{dy}{dt} = \frac{dy}{dx} \cdot \frac{dx}{dt}$$

Chain rule

⤴ Differentiation of a composition is a product

ex.) $(\sin t)^{10} = \sin^{10}(t) \rightarrow \overset{\text{inside}}{x = \sin(t)}, \overset{\text{outside}}{y = x^{10}}$

$$\frac{d}{dt}(\sin t)^{10} = 10x^9 \cdot \cos t = 10(\sin t)^9 \cos t = 10 \sin^9(t) \cos t$$

Higher Derivatives

$$u = u(x), u' \rightarrow u'' = (u')'$$

ex.) $u = \sin(x)$

$$u' = \cos(x)$$

$$u'' = -\sin(x)$$

$$u''' = (u'')' = -\cos(x) \quad \leftarrow \text{third derivative}$$

$$u^{(4)} = (u''')' = \sin(x)$$

Other notation: $\frac{d}{dx}$ "operator", applied to a function

$$u' = \frac{du}{dx} = \left(\frac{d}{dx} \right) u = Du$$

$$u'' = \frac{d}{dx} \frac{du}{dx} = \frac{d}{dx} \frac{d}{dx} u = \left(\frac{d}{dx} \right)^2 u = \frac{d^2}{(dx)^2} u = \frac{d^2 u}{dx^2} = D^2 u$$

$$u''' = \frac{d^3 u}{dx^3} = D^3 u \quad \text{etc.} \quad \text{not } d(x^2)$$

ex.) $D^n x^n = ? \quad (n = 1, 2, 3, \dots)$

$$Dx^n = nx^{n-1}$$

$$D^2 x^n = n(n-1)x^{n-2}$$

$$D^3 x^n = n(n-1)(n-2)x^{n-3}$$

\vdots

$$D^{n-1} x^n = n(n-1) \dots 2x^1 \quad \leftarrow \text{constant function}$$

$$D^n x^n = \underbrace{n(n-1) \dots 2 \cdot 1}_{n!} \cdot 1$$

n -factorial

$n!$

$$D^n x^n = n!$$

$$\star D^{n+1} x^n = 0$$