

Calculus Quiz 2

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1. Find the derivative of the following functions. (You need not to simplify your answer.)

(a) $\frac{d^7}{dx^7} \left(\frac{\sin^2 x}{1 + \cot x} + \frac{\cos^2 x}{1 + \tan x} \right)$ (10 points)

(b) $\frac{d}{dx} (\csc^{-1}(\frac{\sqrt{1+x^2}}{x}))$ (10 points)

(c) $\frac{d}{dx} (\log_2 x (\log_{x^2} \sec x))$ (15 points)

Solution:

(a) Primarily, we can simplify the formula because direct differentiation is difficult.

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d^7}{dx^7} \left(\frac{\sin^2 x}{1 + \cot x} + \frac{\cos^2 x}{1 + \tan x} \right) &= \frac{d^7}{dx^7} \left(\frac{\sin^3 x}{\sin x + \cos x} + \frac{\cos^3 x}{\sin x + \cos x} \right) \\ &= \frac{d^7}{dx^7} \left(\frac{\sin^3 x + \cos^3 x}{\sin x + \cos x} \right) \\ &= \frac{d^7}{dx^7} (\sin^2 x - \sin x \cos x + \cos^2 x) \\ &= \frac{d^7}{dx^7} \left(1 - \frac{1}{2} \sin 2x \right) \\ &= 64 \cos 2x \end{aligned}$$

(b) Using the chain rule, we have

$$\frac{d}{dx} (\csc^{-1}(\frac{\sqrt{1+x^2}}{x})) = \frac{-1}{\frac{\sqrt{1+x^2}}{x} \cdot \sqrt{(\frac{\sqrt{1+x^2}}{x})^2 - 1}} \cdot \frac{\frac{2x}{2\sqrt{1+x^2}} \cdot x - \sqrt{1+x^2} \cdot 1}{x^2} = \frac{1}{1+x^2}$$

(c) Let $y = \log_2 x (\log_{x^2} \sec x)$, we want to find y' .

$$\begin{aligned} (2^x)^y &= \log_{x^2} \sec x \\ \frac{d}{dx} (2^{xy}) &= \frac{d}{dx} (\log_{x^2} \sec x) \\ 2^{xy} \cdot \ln 2 \cdot (y + xy') &= \frac{d}{dx} (\log_{x^2} \sec x) \\ y' &= \frac{1}{x} \left(\frac{1}{\ln 2 \cdot \log_{x^2} \sec x} \cdot \frac{d}{dx} (\log_{x^2} \sec x) - \log_2 x (\log_{x^2} \sec x) \right) \end{aligned}$$

Let $u = \log_{x^2} \sec x$, we want to find u' .

$$\begin{aligned} (x^2)^u &= \sec x \\ \frac{d}{dx} (x^{2u}) &= \frac{d}{dx} (\sec x) \\ \frac{d}{dx} (e^{2u \ln x}) &= \sec x \tan x \\ e^{2u \ln x} \cdot (2u' \ln x + \frac{2u}{x}) &= \sec x \tan x \\ u' &= \frac{1}{\ln x} \left(\frac{1}{2} \tan x - \frac{\log_{x^2} \sec x}{x} \right) \end{aligned}$$

So, we can conclude

$$y' = \frac{1}{x} \left(\frac{1}{\ln 2 \cdot \log_{x^2} \sec x} \cdot \frac{1}{\ln x} \left(\frac{1}{2} \tan x - \frac{\log_{x^2} \sec x}{x} \right) - \log_2 x (\log_{x^2} \sec x) \right)$$

2. Show that

$$\frac{d^n}{dx^n}(e^{ax} \sin bx) = r^n e^{ax} \sin(bx + n\theta)$$

where a and b are positive numbers, $r^2 = a^2 + b^2$, and $\theta = \tan^{-1}(\frac{b}{a})$.

(Hint: You can use the principle of mathematical induction to prove it.) (20 points)

Solution:

First, show that $n = 1$ holds,

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dx}(e^{ax} \sin bx) &= ae^{ax} \sin bx + be^{ax} \cos bx \\ &= \sqrt{a^2 + b^2} e^{ax} \left(\sin bx \frac{a}{\sqrt{a^2 + b^2}} + \cos bx \frac{b}{\sqrt{a^2 + b^2}} \right) \end{aligned}$$

Let $r = \sqrt{a^2 + b^2}$, $\cos \theta = \frac{a}{\sqrt{a^2 + b^2}}$, $\sin \theta = \frac{b}{\sqrt{a^2 + b^2}}$, and $\theta = \tan^{-1}(\frac{b}{a})$.

So,

$$\frac{d}{dx}(e^{ax} \sin bx) = r e^{ax} (\sin bx \cos \theta + \cos bx \sin \theta) = r e^{ax} \sin(bx + \theta).$$

Second, suppose that $n = k$ holds, that is,

$$\frac{d^n}{dx^n}(e^{ax} \sin bx) = r^n e^{ax} \sin(bx + n\theta)$$

We want to show that $n = k + 1$ holds,

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d^{n+1}}{dx^{n+1}}(e^{ax} \sin bx) &= \frac{d}{dx}(r^n e^{ax} \sin(bx + n\theta)) \\ &= ar^n e^{ax} \sin(bx + n\theta) + br^n e^{ax} \cos(bx + n\theta) \\ &= \sqrt{a^2 + b^2} r^n e^{ax} \left(\sin(bx + n\theta) \frac{a}{\sqrt{a^2 + b^2}} + \cos(bx + n\theta) \frac{b}{\sqrt{a^2 + b^2}} \right) \\ &= r^{n+1} e^{ax} \sin(bx + (n + 1)\theta) \end{aligned}$$

By the principle of mathematical induction, the formula holds for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$.

3. The curve $(x^2 + y^2)^2 = x^2 - y^2$ is called a *lemniscate*. Find all points of the curve at which the tangent line is horizontal. (15 points)

Solution:

By implicit differentiation, we have

$$2(x^2 + y^2)(2x + 2yy') = 2x - 2yy'$$

In order to find horizontal tangent line, let $y' = 0$, and we have

$$4x(x^2 + y^2) = 2x$$

That is, $x = 0$ or $x^2 + y^2 = \frac{1}{2}$. Solve x, y subject to $(x^2 + y^2)^2 = x^2 - y^2$, we have

$$(x, y) = (0, 0), \left(\frac{\sqrt{6}}{4}, \frac{\sqrt{2}}{4}\right), \left(\frac{\sqrt{6}}{4}, -\frac{\sqrt{2}}{4}\right), \left(-\frac{\sqrt{6}}{4}, \frac{\sqrt{2}}{4}\right), \left(-\frac{\sqrt{6}}{4}, -\frac{\sqrt{2}}{4}\right)$$

Ruling out the first improper case, we have

$$(x, y) = \left(\frac{\sqrt{6}}{4}, \frac{\sqrt{2}}{4}\right), \left(\frac{\sqrt{6}}{4}, -\frac{\sqrt{2}}{4}\right), \left(-\frac{\sqrt{6}}{4}, \frac{\sqrt{2}}{4}\right), \left(-\frac{\sqrt{6}}{4}, -\frac{\sqrt{2}}{4}\right)$$

4. Let $f'(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt[3]{1-f^3(x)}}$ and $f''(x) = \frac{1}{f(x)-1}$, Find $g''(x)$, where $g(x)$ is the inverse function of $f(x)$. (15 points)

Solution:

By the definition of inverse function $g(f(x)) = x$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} g'(f(x))f'(x) &= 1 \\ g'(f(x)) &= \frac{1}{f'(x)} \\ g'(x) &= \frac{1}{f'(g(x))} \end{aligned}$$

Similarly, the second derivative is

$$\begin{aligned} g''(f(x))(f'(x))^2 + g'(f(x))f''(x) &= 0 \\ g''(f(x)) &= -\frac{g'(f(x))f''(x)}{(f'(x))^2} \\ g''(f(x)) &= -\frac{f''(x)}{(f'(x))^3} \\ g''(x) &= -\frac{f''(g(x))}{[f'(g(x))]^3} \end{aligned}$$

So,

$$g''(x) = -\frac{\frac{1}{f(g(x))-1}}{\left(\frac{1}{\sqrt[3]{1-f^3(g(x))}}\right)^3} = -\frac{1-f^3(g(x))}{1-f(g(x))}$$

Since $f(g(x)) = x$, we have

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

5. If $P(a, a^2)$ is any first-quadrant point on the parabola $y = x^2$, let Q be the point where the normal line at P intersects the parabola again. For what values of a does the segment PQ have the shortest length? (15 points)

Solution:

The slope of the tangent line is the derivative of the parabola at $x = a$ which is $2a$. Thus, the slope of the normal line is the opposite of reciprocal of $2a$, which is $-\frac{1}{2a}$. Now using the point-slope formula, we find the equation of the normal line

$$y = -\frac{1}{2a}(x-a) + a^2$$

To find the coordinates of Q , we solve the system of the parabola and the normal line, and

use substitution method,

$$\begin{aligned}
 x^2 &= -\frac{1}{2a}(x-a) + a^2 \\
 x^2 - a^2 &= -\frac{1}{2a}(x-a) \\
 x + a &= -\frac{1}{2a} \\
 x &= -\frac{1}{2a} - a \\
 y &= -\frac{1}{2a}\left(-\frac{1}{2a} - 2a - a\right) + a^2 \\
 y &= a^2 + 1 + \frac{1}{4a^2}
 \end{aligned}$$

Hence the coordinates of $Q\left(-a - \frac{1}{2a}, a^2 + 1 + \frac{1}{4a^2}\right)$.

Now we find the segment PQ , and let the segment be $D(a)$.

Then, using the distance formula, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 D^2(a) &= \left(-a - \frac{1}{2a} - a\right)^2 + \left(a^2 + 1 + \frac{1}{4a^2} - a^2\right)^2 \\
 &= \left(-2a - \frac{1}{2a}\right)^2 + \left(1 + \frac{1}{4a^2}\right)^2 \\
 &= 4a^2 + 3 + \frac{3}{4a^2} + \frac{1}{16a^4}
 \end{aligned}$$

By Fermat's Theorem, if $D^2(a)$ has a local maximum or minimum at c , which is critical number, and if $\frac{d}{da}D^2(c)$ exists, then $\frac{d}{da}D^2(c) = 0$, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 \frac{d}{da}D^2(a) &= 0 \\
 8a - \frac{3}{2a^3} - \frac{1}{4a^5} &= 0 \\
 32a^6 - 6a^2 - 1 &= 0 \\
 (2a^2 - 1)(4a^2 + 1)^2 &= 0 \\
 a &= \pm \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}
 \end{aligned}$$

Since we know a is a positive real number, we get $a = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}$.