

Section 3.3: Derivatives of Logarithmic Functions

We have the new rules:

$$\frac{d}{dx} \log_a(x) = \frac{1}{x \ln a}, \quad \frac{d}{dx} \ln(x) = \frac{1}{x}$$

with the chain rule

$$\frac{d}{dx} \log_a(f(x)) = \frac{f'(x)}{f(x) \ln a}, \quad \frac{d}{dx} \ln(f(x)) = \frac{f'(x)}{f(x)}$$

Properties of Logs

We'll make use of the properties

$$\log_a(xy) = \log_a x + \log_a y$$

$$\log_a\left(\frac{x}{y}\right) = \log_a x - \log_a y$$

$$\log_a(x^r) = r \log_a x$$

for $x, y > 0$, and any base $a > 0, a \neq 1$.

Using Properties of Logs

Properties of logarithms can be used to simplify expressions characterized by products, quotients and powers.

Illustrative Example: Evaluate $\frac{d}{dx} \ln \left(\frac{x^2 \cos(2x)}{\sqrt[3]{x^2 + x}} \right)$

First we rewrote the function using properties of logs

$$\ln \left(\frac{x^2 \cos(2x)}{\sqrt[3]{x^2 + x}} \right) = 2 \ln x + \ln \cos(2x) - \frac{1}{3} \ln(x^2 + x).$$

Then we took the derivative of the sum

$$\frac{d}{dx} \ln \left(\frac{x^2 \cos(2x)}{\sqrt[3]{x^2 + x}} \right) = \frac{2}{x} - \frac{2 \sin(2x)}{\cos(2x)} - \frac{1}{3} \frac{2x + 1}{x^2 + x}.$$

Question

Expand the following **completely** as a sum/difference/and multiple of logs

$$\ln \left(\frac{x^3 + 4}{\sqrt{x} \tan x} \right)$$

$$= \ln(x^3 + 4) - \ln(\sqrt{x} \tan x)$$

(a) $3 \ln x + \ln 4 - \ln \sqrt{x} - \ln \tan x$

$$= \ln(x^3 + 4) - (\ln x^{1/2} + \ln \tan x)$$

(b) $\ln(x^3 + 4) - \ln \sqrt{x} - \ln \tan x$

$$= \ln(x^3 + 4) - \ln x^{1/2} - \ln \tan x$$

(c) $\ln(x^3 + 4) - \frac{1}{2} \ln x + \ln \tan x$

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

(d) $\ln(x^3 + 4) - \frac{1}{2} \ln x - \ln \tan x$

Question

Evaluate the derivative.

$$\frac{d}{dx} \ln \left(\frac{x^3 + 4}{\sqrt{x} \tan x} \right)$$

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

(a) $\frac{3x^2}{x^2} + \frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{2x} + \frac{\sec^2 x}{\tan x}$

(b) $\frac{3x^2}{x^3 + 4} - \frac{1}{2x} + \frac{\sec^2 x}{\tan x}$

(c) $\frac{3x^2}{x^3 + 4} - \frac{1}{2x} - \frac{\sec^2 x}{\tan x}$

Logarithmic Differentiation

We can use properties of logarithms to simplify the process of taking derivatives of expressions that are complicated by

products quotients and powers.

Illustrative Example: Evaluate $\frac{d}{dx} \left(\frac{x^2 \sqrt{x+1}}{\cos^4(3x)} \right)$

Let $y = \frac{x^2 \sqrt{x+1}}{\cos^4(3x)}$. Instead of finding $\frac{dy}{dx}$ directly, we'll take the natural log of y and use implicit diff.

$$\ln y = \ln \left(\frac{x^2 \sqrt{x+1}}{\cos^4(3x)} \right)$$

Expand using log properties

$$\begin{aligned}\ln y &= \ln \left(x^2 \sqrt{x+1} \right) - \ln \left(\cos^4(3x) \right) \\ &= \ln x^2 + \ln(x+1)^{1/2} - \ln \left(\cos(3x) \right)^4\end{aligned}$$

$$\ln y = 2 \ln x + \frac{1}{2} \ln(x+1) - 4 \ln \cos(3x)$$

Now take $\frac{d}{dx}$ of both sides

$$\frac{d}{dx} \ln y = \frac{d}{dx} \left(2 \ln x + \frac{1}{2} \ln(x+1) - 4 \ln \cos(3x) \right)$$

$$\frac{\frac{dy}{dx}}{y} = 2 \frac{1}{x} + \frac{1}{2} \frac{1}{x+1} - 4 \frac{(-\sin(3x) \cdot 3)}{\cos(3x)}$$

$$\frac{\frac{dy}{dx}}{y} = \frac{2}{x} + \frac{1}{2} \frac{1}{x+1} + 12 \frac{\sin(3x)}{\cos(3x)}$$

Since $y = \frac{x^2 \sqrt{x+1}}{\cos^4(3x)}$, $\frac{dy}{dx}$ is the derivative we're looking for.

Isolate $\frac{dy}{dx}$

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = y \left(\frac{2}{x} + \frac{1}{2} \frac{1}{x+1} + 12 \tan(3x) \right)$$

Substitute

$$y = \frac{x^2 \sqrt{x+1}}{\cos^4(3x)}$$

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{x^2 \sqrt{x+1}}{\cos^4(3x)} \left(\frac{2}{x} + \frac{1}{2} \frac{1}{x+1} + 12 \tan(3x) \right)$$

Logarithmic Differentiation

If the differentiable function $y = f(x)$ consists of complicated products, quotients, and powers:

- (i) Take the logarithm of both sides, i.e. $\ln(y) = \ln(f(x))$. Then use properties of logs to express $\ln(f(x))$ as a sum/difference of simpler terms.

- (ii) Take the derivative of each side, and use the fact that
$$\frac{d}{dx} \ln(y) = \frac{dy}{y}.$$

- (iii) Solve for $\frac{dy}{dx}$ (i.e. multiply through by y), and replace y with $f(x)$ to express the derivative explicitly as a function of x .

Example

Find $\frac{dy}{dx}$.

$$y = x^{\tan x}$$

This is neither exponential nor power.
It's complicated by a variable base
and variable power.

Using log diff.

$$\ln y = \ln x^{\tan x}$$

← take the log

$$\ln y = \tan x \ln x$$

← use log properties

$\tan x$ times $\ln x$ is a product.

$$\frac{d}{dx} \ln y = \frac{d}{dx} (\tan x \ln x)$$

← take the derivative

product rule

$$\frac{\frac{dy}{dx}}{y} = \sec^2 x \ln x + \tan x \left(\frac{1}{x}\right)$$

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = y \left(\sec^2 x \ln x + \frac{\tan x}{x} \right)$$

← mult. by $\frac{1}{y}$

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = x^{\tan x} \left(\sec^2 x \ln x + \frac{\tan x}{x} \right)$$

← sub in
 $y = x^{\tan x}$

Example

Find $\frac{dy}{dx}$.

$$y = \frac{x^3(4x-1)^5}{\sqrt[4]{x+5}}$$

We'll use log. diff.

$$\ln y = \ln \left(\frac{x^3(4x-1)^5}{\sqrt[4]{x+5}} \right)$$

$$= \ln(x^3(4x-1)^5) - \ln(x+5)^{1/4}$$

$$= \ln x^3 + \ln(4x-1)^5 - \ln(x+5)^{1/4}$$

$$= 3\ln x + 5\ln(4x-1) - \frac{1}{4}\ln(x+5)$$

$$\frac{d}{dx} \ln y = \frac{d}{dx} \left(3 \ln x + 5 \ln(4x-1) - \frac{1}{4} \ln(x+5) \right)$$

$$\frac{1}{y} y' = 3 \frac{1}{x} + 5 \frac{4}{4x-1} - \frac{1}{4} \frac{1}{x+5}$$

$$\frac{1}{y} y' = \frac{3}{x} + \frac{20}{4x-1} - \frac{1}{4} \frac{1}{x+5}$$

$$y' = y \left(\frac{3}{x} + \frac{20}{4x-1} - \frac{1}{4} \frac{1}{x+5} \right)$$

$$y' = \frac{x^3(4x-1)^5}{\sqrt[4]{x+5}} \left(\frac{3}{x} + \frac{20}{4x-1} - \frac{1}{4} \frac{1}{x+5} \right)$$

Question

Find $\frac{dy}{dx}$.

$$y = \sqrt[3]{x^2 \sin(x)}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\ln y &= \ln \sqrt[3]{x^2 \sin(x)} \\ &= \ln (x^2 \sin(x))^{1/3} \\ &= \frac{1}{3} \ln (x^2 \sin(x)) \\ &= \frac{1}{3} (\ln x^2 + \ln \sin(x))\end{aligned}$$

$$(a) \quad \frac{dy}{dx} = \left[\sqrt[3]{x^2 \sin(x)} \right] \left(\frac{2}{x} + \cot x \right)$$

$$\frac{d}{dx} \ln x^2 = \frac{2x}{x^2} = \frac{2}{x}$$

$$(b) \quad \frac{dy}{dx} = \left[\sqrt[3]{x^2 \sin(x)} \right] \left(\frac{2}{3x} + \frac{1}{3} \cot x \right)$$

$$\frac{d}{dx} \ln \sin x = \frac{\cos x}{\sin x}$$

$$= \cot x$$

$$(c) \quad \frac{dy}{dx} = \left[\sqrt[3]{x^2 \sin(x)} \right] \left(\frac{1}{x^2} + \frac{1}{\sin x} \right)$$

Section 4.5: Indeterminate Forms & L'Hôpital's Rule

Consider the following three limit statements (all of which are true):

$$(a) \quad \lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \frac{x^2 - 1}{x - 1} = 2$$

$$(b) \quad \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sin x}{x} = 1$$

$$(c) \quad \lim_{x \rightarrow 3} \frac{x^2 - 9}{(x - 3)^2} \text{ doesn't exist}$$

Note: Each of these three limits involve both numerator and denominator going to zero—giving the form $\frac{0}{0}$. In the top two, the limit exists, but the limits are different. In the third, the limit doesn't exist.

Indeterminate Forms

$0/0$ is called an **Indeterminate form**.

Other indeterminate forms we'll encounter include

$$\frac{\pm\infty}{\pm\infty}, \quad \infty - \infty, \quad 0 \cdot \infty, \quad 1^\infty, \quad 0^0, \quad \text{and} \quad \infty^0.$$

Indeterminate forms are not defined (as numbers)

Question

(1) **True or False:** $\infty - \infty = 0$. *$\infty - \infty$ is not defined*

(2) **True or False:** The form $\frac{1}{0}$ is indeterminate.
This is either an ∞ or not existing

(3) **True or False:** $\frac{0}{1} = 0$.

Theorem: l'Hospital's Rule (part 1)

Suppose f and g are differentiable on an open interval I containing c (except possibly at c), and suppose $g'(x) \neq 0$ on I . If

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow c} f(x) = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad \lim_{x \rightarrow c} g(x) = 0$$

then

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow c} \frac{f(x)}{g(x)} = \lim_{x \rightarrow c} \frac{f'(x)}{g'(x)}$$

provided the limit on the right exists (or is ∞ or $-\infty$).

This is useful (perhaps) when the limit
 $\lim_{x \rightarrow c} \frac{f(x)}{g(x)}$ gives the form " $\frac{0}{0}$ "

Evaluate each limit if possible

(a) $\lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \frac{\ln x}{x-1} = \frac{0}{0}$ " " note $\lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \ln x = \ln 1 = 0$
and $\lim_{x \rightarrow 1} x-1 = 1-1 = 0$

apply l'H rule

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \frac{\ln x}{x-1} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \frac{\frac{d}{dx} \ln x}{\frac{d}{dx} (x-1)}$$

$$= \lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \frac{\frac{1}{x}}{1} = \frac{1}{1} = 1$$

Theorem: l'Hospital's Rule (part 2)

Suppose f and g are differentiable on an open interval I containing c (except possibly at c), and suppose $g'(x) \neq 0$ on I . If

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow c} f(x) = \pm\infty \quad \text{and} \quad \lim_{x \rightarrow c} g(x) = \pm\infty$$

then

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow c} \frac{f(x)}{g(x)} = \lim_{x \rightarrow c} \frac{f'(x)}{g'(x)}$$

provided the limit on the right exists (or is ∞ or $-\infty$).

We can use this if " $\frac{\pm\infty}{\pm\infty}$ "

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow c} \frac{f(x)}{g(x)} = \frac{\pm\infty}{\pm\infty}$$

$$(b) \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} x e^{-x} = \infty \cdot 0$$

Recall $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} e^{-x} = 0$

$\infty \cdot 0$ is an indeterminate form, but it's not $\frac{0}{0}$ or $\frac{\infty}{\infty}$

We need to write $x e^{-x}$ as a quotient.

$$\text{We can write } x e^{-x} = \frac{e^{-x}}{\frac{1}{x}} \text{ or } x e^{-x} = \frac{x}{e^x}$$

We'll use the second one since $\frac{1}{e^{-x}} = e^x$

$$\text{So } x e^{-x} = \frac{x}{e^x}$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} x e^{-x} = \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{x}{e^x} = \frac{\infty}{\infty}$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} e^x = \infty$$

Now l'H rule applies

Using l'H rule

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{x}{e^x} = \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\frac{d}{dx} x}{\frac{d}{dx} e^x} = \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{e^x} = 0$$

Remember $\frac{k}{\infty}$ for constant k is zero.

$$(c) \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\cos x - 1}{x^2} = \frac{0}{0}$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \cos x - 1 = \cos 0 - 1 = 1 - 1 = 0$$

Use l'H rule

$$= \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\frac{d}{dx} (\cos x - 1)}{\frac{d}{dx} x^2}$$

$$= \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{-\sin x}{2x} = \frac{0}{0}$$

apply
l'H again

$$= \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\frac{d}{dx} (-\sin x)}{\frac{d}{dx} (2x)}$$

we can use the
rule again since
we have a form
it applies to!

$$= \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{-\cos x}{2} = \frac{-\cos 0}{2} = \frac{-1}{2}$$