

Section 3.2: Implicit Differentiation; Derivatives of the Inverse Trigonometric Functions

Inverse Functions Suppose $y = f(x)$ and $x = g(y)$ are inverse functions—i.e. $(g \circ f)(x) = g(f(x)) = x$ for all x in the domain of f .

Note: As inverse functions, if

$$f(x_0) = y_0 \quad \text{then} \quad g(y_0) = x_0.$$

This means that

(x_0, y_0) is a point on the graph of f , and

(y_0, x_0) is a point on the graph of g .

Derivatives of Inverse Functions

Theorem: Let f be differentiable on an open interval containing the number x_0 . If $f'(x_0) \neq 0$, then g is differentiable at $y_0 = f(x_0)$. Moreover

$$\frac{d}{dy}g(y_0) = g'(y_0) = \frac{1}{f'(x_0)}.$$

Note that this refers to a pair (x_0, y_0) on the graph of f —i.e. (y_0, x_0) on the graph of g . The slope of the curve of f at this point is the reciprocal of the slope of the curve of g at the associated point.

Example

The function $f(x) = x^7 + x + 1$ has an inverse function g . Determine $g'(3)$.

$$g'(3) = \frac{1}{f'(x_0)} \quad \text{if } f(x_0) = 3$$

We need to find the number x_0 . We need

$$f(x_0) = 3 \Rightarrow 3 = x_0^7 + x_0 + 1$$

By observation (i.e. clever guessing) $x_0 = 1$.

$$g'(3) = \frac{1}{f'(1)}$$

$$f(x) = x^7 + x + 1 \Rightarrow f'(x) = 7x^6 + 1 + 0 = 7x^6 + 1$$

$$f'(1) = 7(1)^6 + 1 = 7 + 1 = 8$$

$$\infty \quad g'(3) = \frac{1}{f'(1)} = \frac{1}{8}$$

Inverse Trigonometric Functions

Recall the definitions of the inverse trigonometric functions.

$$y = \sin^{-1} x \iff x = \sin y, \quad -1 \leq x \leq 1, \quad -\frac{\pi}{2} \leq y \leq \frac{\pi}{2}$$

quad I and IV

$$y = \cos^{-1} x \iff x = \cos y, \quad -1 \leq x \leq 1, \quad 0 \leq y \leq \pi$$

quad I + II

$$y = \tan^{-1} x \iff x = \tan y, \quad -\infty < x < \infty, \quad -\frac{\pi}{2} < y < \frac{\pi}{2}$$

quad I and IV

Inverse Trigonometric Functions

There are different conventions used for the ranges of the remaining functions. Sullivan and Miranda use

$$y = \cot^{-1} x \iff x = \cot y, \quad -\infty < x < \infty, \quad 0 < y < \pi$$

quad I and II

$$y = \csc^{-1} x \iff x = \csc y, \quad |x| \geq 1, \quad y \in \left(-\pi, -\frac{\pi}{2}\right] \cup \left(0, \frac{\pi}{2}\right]$$

quad III and I

$$y = \sec^{-1} x \iff x = \sec y, \quad |x| \geq 1, \quad y \in \left[0, \frac{\pi}{2}\right) \cup \left[\pi, \frac{3\pi}{2}\right)$$

quad I and III

Derivative of the Inverse Sine

Use implicit differentiation to find $\frac{d}{dx} \sin^{-1} x$, and determine the interval over which $y = \sin^{-1} x$ is differentiable.

$$y = \sin^{-1} x \Rightarrow x = \sin y \quad \text{and} \quad -\frac{\pi}{2} \leq y \leq \frac{\pi}{2}$$

Take $\frac{d}{dx}$ of both sides.

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

chain rule

$$1 = \cos y \cdot \frac{dy}{dx}$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{1}{\cos y} \quad \text{when} \quad \cos y \neq 0$$

We need $\cos y$ in terms of x . $y = \sin^{-1} x$ so

$$\cos y = \cos(\sin^{-1} x)$$

we'll write this as an algebraic expression in x

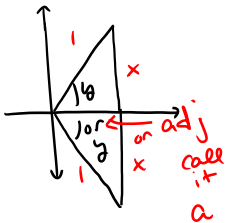
opp
hyp

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

adj
hyp

s.

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



y in quad I or
in quad IV

$$a^2 + x^2 = 1^2$$

$$a^2 = 1 - x^2$$

$$a = \sqrt{1-x^2}$$

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{1}{\cos y}, \text{ but } \cos y = \sqrt{1-x^2}$$

hence $\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-x^2}}$ for $1-x^2 > 0$
 $1 > x^2 \Rightarrow |x| < 1$

$$\frac{d}{dx} \sin^{-1} x = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-x^2}}, \quad -1 < x < 1$$

Examples

$$\frac{d}{dx} \sin^{-1} x = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-x^2}}$$

Evaluate each derivative

$$(a) \quad \frac{d}{dx} \sin^{-1}(e^x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-(e^x)^2}} \cdot e^x = \frac{e^x}{\sqrt{1-e^{2x}}}$$

↑ outside ↑ inside
↑ f'(u) ↑ u'(x)

$$(b) \quad \frac{d}{dx} (\sin^{-1} x)^3 = 3(\sin^{-1} x)^2 \cdot \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-x^2}} = \frac{3(\sin^{-1} x)^2}{\sqrt{1-x^2}}$$

↑ inside ↑ outside
~~~~~      ~~~~~  
f'(u)      u'(x)

## Derivative of the Inverse Tangent

Use implicit differentiation to find  $\frac{d}{dx} \tan^{-1} x$ , and determine the interval over which  $y = \tan^{-1} x$  is differentiable.

$$y = \tan^{-1} x \Rightarrow x = \tan y \quad \text{and} \quad -\pi/2 < y < \pi/2$$

$$\frac{d}{dx} x = \frac{d}{dx} \tan y$$

$$1 = \sec^2 y \cdot \frac{dy}{dx} \Rightarrow \frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{1}{\sec^2 y}$$

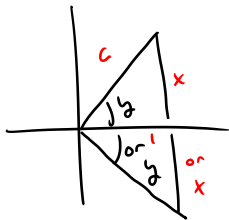
we need  $\sec y = \sec(\tan^{-1} x)$  in terms of  $x$ .

opp  
adj

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

$$\sec y = \frac{\text{hyp}}{\text{adj}} = \frac{\sqrt{1+x^2}}{1}$$

$$= \sqrt{1+x^2}$$



$$c^2 = x^2 + 1^2 \Rightarrow c = \sqrt{1+x^2}$$

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{1}{(\sec y)^2} = \frac{1}{(\sqrt{1+x^2})^2} = \frac{1}{1+x^2}$$

$$\frac{d}{dx} \tan^{-1} x = \frac{1}{1+x^2} \quad -\infty < x < \infty$$

## Questions

Find  $\frac{d^2y}{dx^2}$  where  $y = \tan^{-1} x$ .

$$\frac{d}{dx} \tan^{-1} x = \frac{1}{1+x^2}$$

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

(b)  $\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} = \left(\frac{1}{1+x^2}\right)^2$

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

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

## Derivative of the Inverse Secant

**Theorem:** If  $f(x) = \sec^{-1} x$ , then  $f$  is differentiable for all  $|x| > 1$  and

$$f'(x) = \frac{d}{dx} \sec^{-1} x = \frac{1}{x\sqrt{x^2 - 1}}.$$

## Examples

$$\frac{d}{dx} \tan^{-1} x = \frac{1}{1+x^2}$$

Evaluate

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

$$= \frac{2x}{x^2 \sqrt{x^4 - 1}} = \frac{2}{x \sqrt{x^4 - 1}}$$

$$\frac{d}{dx} \sec^{-1} x = \frac{1}{x \sqrt{x^2 - 1}}$$

$$(b) \frac{d}{dx} \tan^{-1}(\sec x) = \frac{1}{1 + (\sec x)^2} \cdot \sec x \tan x = \frac{\sec x \tan x}{1 + \sec^2 x}$$



## The Remaining Inverse Functions

Due to the trigonometric cofunction identities, it can be shown that

$$\cos^{-1} x = \frac{\pi}{2} - \sin^{-1} x$$

$$\cot^{-1} x = \frac{\pi}{2} - \tan^{-1} x$$

and

$$\csc^{-1} x = \frac{\pi}{2} - \sec^{-1} x$$

## Derivatives of Inverse Trig Functions

$$\frac{d}{dx} \sin^{-1} x = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-x^2}},$$

$$\frac{d}{dx} \cos^{-1} x = -\frac{1}{\sqrt{1-x^2}}$$

$$\frac{d}{dx} \tan^{-1} x = \frac{1}{1+x^2},$$

$$\frac{d}{dx} \cot^{-1} x = -\frac{1}{1+x^2}$$

$$\frac{d}{dx} \sec^{-1} x = \frac{1}{x\sqrt{x^2-1}},$$

$$\frac{d}{dx} \csc^{-1} x = -\frac{1}{x\sqrt{x^2-1}}$$