

Chapter 3: Derivatives

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Calculus Inspiration

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- Geometric Algebra
- Geometric Calculus
- Relativity and Electron Theory
- Oersted Medal (2002)
- Cognitive Research in Science Education



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POLAR DERIVATIVES OF POLAR FUNCTIONS

To find the derivative $dr/d\theta$ of a curve $r(\theta)$ we differentiate the curve in the usual fashion:

1) Consider a polynomial where the radius r is a function of the angle θ :

$$r(\theta) = a \theta^{\theta} + b \theta^{1} + c \theta^{2} + d\theta^{3} + e\theta^{4}$$

2) We rewrite this to obtain the familiar looking form:

$$r(\theta) = a + b \theta + c \theta^2 + d\theta^3 + e\theta^4$$

3) And differentiate in the usual fashion to obtain:

$$r'(\theta) = 0 + b + 2c\theta^{1} + 3d\theta^{2} + 4e\theta^{3}$$
$$r'(\theta) = b + 2c\theta + 3d\theta^{2} + 4e\theta^{3}$$



APPROXIMATION OF FUNCTIONS

It is often convenient to approximate one function using another function. When we are approximating a function in a neighborhood of the origin, the Maclaurin series is often used:

$$f(x) \approx f(0) + f'(0) \cdot x + \frac{f''(0)}{2!} \cdot x^2 + \frac{f'''(0)}{3!} \cdot x^3 + \dots$$

The series goes on, but when we are approximating a function with a polynomial of degree n, we know that there are only n non-zero **derivatives**, so we neglect the higher order terms.

Let's approximate the function $a + \sin(x)$ using the Maclaurin series:

$$a + \sin(x) \approx a + \sin(0) + \cos(0) \cdot x + \frac{-\sin(0)}{2!} \cdot x^2 + \frac{-\cos(0)}{3!} \cdot x^3 + \dots$$
$$\approx a + 0 \qquad x + 0 \qquad + \frac{-1}{6} \cdot x^3 + \dots$$



Lecture12-FullSinDeriv.gx

Derivative of Sine:

EXERCISES:

- 1) What do the parameters A, b, ω and ϕ control in the sine function?
- 2) Drag the control point for $(-\phi, b)$.
- 3) Why doesn't the derivative curve move up and down?.
- 4) Why does $-\phi$ make a better control than ϕ ?
- 5) Drag the control point for $(1/\omega, A)$. Why does $1/\omega$ make a better control than ω ?

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6) Revise the example to demonstrate the cosine and its derivative.



















CARTESIAN DERIVATIVES OF POLAR FUNCTIONS

To find the slope dy/dx of the line tangent to a curve $r(\theta)$ we follow a three step process:

1) Use the Cartesian coordinate system conversion:

 $x = r(\theta) \cos \theta$

 $y = r(\theta) \sin \theta$

2) Differentiate both equations against θ :

 $dx/d\theta = r'(\theta)\cos\theta - r(\theta)\sin\theta$

 $dy/d\theta = r'(\theta) \sin\theta + r(\theta) \cos\theta$

3) Divide the second equation by the first to obtain dy/dx =

 $r'(\theta) \sin\theta + r(\theta) \cos\theta$

 $r'(\theta)\cos\theta - r(\theta)\sin\theta$

CARTESIAN DERIVATIVE OF COCHLEOID

Here we use <u>wxMaxima[™]</u> to find the slope of the cochleoid – the polar sinc function:

(%i1) r(t):=sin(a*t)/(a*t)\$

(%i2) x(t):=r(t)*cos(t)\$

- (%i3) y(t):=r(t)*sin(t)\$
- (%i4) tangent(t):=diff(y(t),t)/diff(x(t),t)\$

(%i5) radcan(tangent(t));
(%o5)
$$\frac{(\sin(t) - t\cos(t))\sin(at) - at\sin(t)\cos(at)}{(t\sin(t) + \cos(t))\sin(at) - at\cos(t)\cos(at)}$$

Note that \$ at the end of a line suppresses output, and that radcan simplifies the expression.

















