

2.11 Derivatives of Inverse Trigonometric Functions



Old Implicit Differentiation & Chain Rule

$$\begin{aligned}\textcircled{1} \frac{d}{dx} [2x + \sin(2x^2) + 5] &= 2 + [\cos(2x^2) \cdot 4x] \\ &= 2 + 4x \cos(2x^2)\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\textcircled{2} \frac{d}{dx} (x^4 y + 4y^3 = 10x) &= [(x^4)(y') + (y)(4x^3) + 12y^2 \cdot y'] = 10 \\ x^4 y' + 4x^3 y + 12y^2 y' &= 10 \\ x^4 y' + 12y^2 y' &= 10 - 4x^3 y \\ y'(x^4 + 12y^2) &= 10 - 4x^3 y \\ y' &= \frac{10 - 4x^3 y}{x^4 + 12y^2}\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\textcircled{3} y &= \cos^2(4x+3) = (\cos 4x+3)^2 \\ y' &= 2(\cos(4x+3)) \cdot (-\sin(4x+3)) \cdot 4 \\ &= -8 \cos(4x+3) \sin(4x+3).\end{aligned}$$

New Inverse Trigonometric Function Derivatives

• The inverse trig functions are $\sin^{-1}x$, $\cos^{-1}x$, $\tan^{-1}x$.

please note: These do not mean $\frac{1}{\sin x}$, $\frac{1}{\cos x}$, $\frac{1}{\tan x}$ \rightarrow these are reciprocal functions like $\csc x$, $\sec x$ & $\cot x$.

• Inverse Trig Functions are inverses of each trig functions.

(For example) $\sin^{-1}x \rightarrow$ means "inverse sine" where $\sin^{-1}x$ is the angle whose sine is x .

$$\begin{aligned} \sin \theta &= x \\ \theta &= \sin^{-1}x. \end{aligned}$$



$$\begin{aligned} \sin y &= x \\ \sin^{-1}x &= y. \end{aligned}$$

Let's consider $y = \sin^{-1}x$. Derive the derivative.

$$y = \sin^{-1}x$$

$$\text{So, } \sin y = x.$$

Then if we find the derivative:

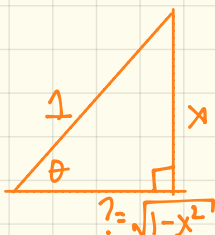
$$\cos y \cdot y' = 1$$

$$y' = \frac{1}{\cos y}.$$

$$\text{Since } y = \sin^{-1}x, \text{ then } y' = \frac{1}{\cos(\sin^{-1}x)}.$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Let } \theta &= \sin^{-1}x \\ \text{Then } \sin \theta &= x \end{aligned}$$

$$\sin \theta = \frac{x}{1}$$



$$\begin{aligned} x^2 + ?^2 &= 1^2 \\ ?^2 &= 1 - x^2 \\ ? &= \sqrt{1 - x^2} \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{Now, } y' = \frac{1}{\cos \theta} \quad \& \quad \cos \theta = \frac{\sqrt{1-x^2}}{1},$$

$$\text{Therefore } y' = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-x^2}}. \quad \blacksquare$$

Let's consider $y = \tan^{-1} x$. Derive the derivative.

$$y = \tan^{-1} x$$

$$\text{So, } \tan y = x.$$

Now, take the derivative:

$$\sec^2 y \cdot y' = 1$$

$$y' = \frac{1}{\sec^2 y}$$

$$\text{Since } y = \tan^{-1} x, \quad y' = \frac{1}{\sec^2(\tan^{-1} x)}.$$

$$\text{Let } \theta = \tan^{-1} x.$$

$$\text{Then } \tan \theta = x$$

Background Information \Rightarrow

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Trig Identities} \\ \sin^2 x + \cos^2 x &= 1 \\ 1 + \tan^2 x &= \sec^2 x. \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{So since } 1 + \tan^2 x = \sec^2 x,$$

$$y' = \frac{1}{1 + \tan^2 \theta}$$

Furthermore, since $\tan^2 \theta$,

$$y' = \frac{1}{1 + x^2}. \quad \blacksquare$$

Derivatives of Inverse Trig Functions

$$\frac{d}{dx} \sin^{-1} x = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-(f(x))^2}} \cdot f'(x) \quad \frac{d}{dx} \cos^{-1} x = \frac{-1}{\sqrt{1-(f(x))^2}} \cdot f'(x)$$

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

[Examples]

① $f(x) = \sin^{-1}(x^2)$

$$f'(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-(x^2)^2}} \cdot 2x = \frac{2x}{\sqrt{1-x^4}}$$

② $\frac{d}{dx} \arcsin(3x^2) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-(3x^2)^2}} \cdot 9x$
 $= \frac{9x}{\sqrt{1-9x^4}}$

③ $\frac{d}{dx} \arccos\left(\frac{1}{x}\right) = \frac{-1}{\sqrt{1-(x^{-1})^2}} \cdot (-x^{-2})$
 $= \frac{1}{x^2 \sqrt{1-x^{-2}}}$

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• 1-7, 13, 21, 27,

• Also derive the derivative of $y = \cos^{-1} x$.