

Lecture # 17

Derivatives of Trigonometric functions

- Derivative of $f(x) = \sin(x)$
- Derivative of $f(x) = \cos(x)$
- Derivative of $f(x) = \tan(x)$
- Derivative of $f(x) = \sec(x)$
- Derivative of $f(x) = \operatorname{cosec}(x)$
- Derivative of $f(x) = \cot(x)$
- Derivative of the functions made of above functions

Derivative of $f(x) = \sin(x)$

- We want to find the derivative of $\sin(x)$ or to differentiate $\sin(x)$.
- By definition of derivative we have the following calculations

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dx}(\sin x) &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sin(x+h) - \sin(x)}{h} \\ &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sin(x)\cos(h) + \cos(x)\sin(h) - \sin(x)}{h} \\ &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sin(x)\cos(h) - \sin(x) + \cos(x)\sin(h)}{h} \\ &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \left[\sin(x) \left(\frac{\cos(h) - 1}{h} \right) + \cos(x) \left(\frac{\sin(h)}{h} \right) \right] \\ &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \left[\cos(x) \left(\frac{\sin(h)}{h} \right) - \sin(x) \left(\frac{1 - \cos(h)}{h} \right) \right] \end{aligned}$$

In $\sin(x)$ and $\cos(x)$ don't involve h , they are constant as $h \rightarrow 0$

$$\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \sin(x) = \sin(x)$$

$$\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \cos(x) = \cos(x)$$

And so

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dx} \sin(x) &= \cos(x) \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \left(\frac{\sin h}{h} \right) - \sin(x) \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \left(\frac{1 - \cos h}{h} \right) \\ &= \cos(x)(1) - \sin(x)(0) = \cos(x) \end{aligned}$$

So we have proved that

$$\frac{d}{dx} \sin(x) = \cos(x)$$

Derivative of $f(x) = \cos(x)$

In the same way we can find the derivative of the cos function

$$\frac{d}{dx} \cos(x) = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{\cos(x+h) - \cos(x)}{h}$$

This is what we get from the definition of the derivative. The student can work out the details of the calculations here!

Derivative of $f(x) = \tan(x)$

We can use the definition of derivative to get

$$\frac{d}{dx} \tan(x) = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{\tan(x+h) - \tan(x)}{h}$$

I don't recall the expansion for $\tan(x+h)$!! However, we can use the identity

$$\tan(x) = \frac{\sin(x)}{\cos(x)}$$

And expand it

$$\tan(x+h) = \frac{\sin(x+h)}{\cos(x+h)} = \frac{\sin(x)\cos(h) + \sin(h)\cos(x)}{\cos(x)\cos(h) - \sin(x)\sin(h)}$$

So we get

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dx} \tan(x) &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{\tan(x+h) - \tan(x)}{h} \\ &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{\frac{\sin(x+h)}{\cos(x+h)} - \frac{\sin(x)}{\cos(x)}}{h} \\ &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{\left[\frac{\sin(x)\cos(h) + \sin(h)\cos(x)}{\cos(x)\cos(h) - \sin(x)\sin(h)} \right] - \frac{\sin(x)}{\cos(x)}}{h} \end{aligned}$$

BIG Formula!!!

I will leave to the student to solve this and get the derivative. But here is what I will do. A simpler way of finding the derivative of $\tan(x)$.

Remember the Quotient Rule from previous lectures?? Well, we can use it here instead of the definition of Derivative for $\tan(x)$.

Here is how

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dx} \tan(x) &= \frac{d}{dx} \left[\frac{\sin(x)}{\cos(x)} \right] = \frac{\cos(x) \frac{d}{dx} \sin(x) - \sin(x) \frac{d}{dx} \cos(x)}{\cos^2(x)} \\ &= \frac{\cos(x)\cos(x) - \sin(x)[- \sin(x)]}{\cos^2(x)} = \frac{\cos^2(x) + \sin^2(x)}{\cos^2(x)} \\ &= \frac{1}{\cos^2(x)} = \sec^2(x) \end{aligned}$$

We used the quotient rule and the derivatives of $\sin(x)$ and $\cos(x)$

Derivative of $f(x) = \sec(x)$

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{d}{dx} \sec(x) &= \frac{d}{dx} \left(\frac{1}{\cos(x)} \right) = \frac{\cos(x)(0) - (1)[- \sin(x)]}{\cos^2(x)} \\ &= \frac{\sin(x)}{\cos(x)} \cdot \frac{1}{\cos(x)} = \sec(x) \tan(x)\end{aligned}$$

Derivative of $f(x) = \operatorname{cosec}(x)$

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{d}{dx} \operatorname{cosec}(x) &= \frac{d}{dx} \left(\frac{1}{\sin(x)} \right) = \frac{\sin(x)(0) - (1)[\cos(x)]}{\sin^2(x)} \\ &= \frac{-\cos(x)}{\sin(x)} \cdot \frac{1}{\sin(x)} = -\operatorname{cosec}(x) \cot(x)\end{aligned}$$

Derivative of $f(x) = \cot(x)$

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{d}{dx} \cot(x) &= \frac{d}{dx} \left(\frac{1}{\tan(x)} \right) = \frac{\tan(x)(0) - (1)[\sec^2(x)]}{\tan^2(x)} \\ &= \frac{-\sec^2(x)}{\tan^2(x)} = -\operatorname{cosec}^2(x)\end{aligned}$$

Example

Suppose that the rising sun passes directly over a building that is 100 feet high and let θ be the angle of elevation of the sun. Find the rate at which the length x of the building's shadow is changing with respect to θ

When $\theta = 45^\circ$. Express the answer in units of feet/degree.

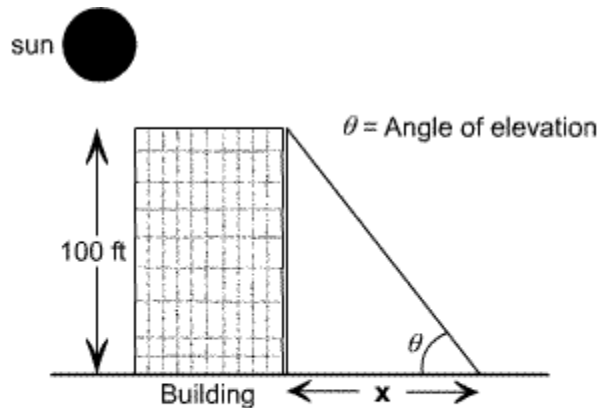
Solution

From the figure, we see that the variable θ and x are related by the equation

$$\tan \theta = \frac{100}{x} \Rightarrow x = 100 \cot \theta$$

We want to find the Rate of Change of x wrt θ or in other words

$$\frac{dx}{d\theta} = ?$$



$$\begin{aligned}\tan \theta &= \frac{100}{x} \\ x &= 100 \cot \theta\end{aligned}$$

I would like to use the fact we got earlier that

$$\frac{d}{dx} \cot(\theta) = -\operatorname{cosec}^2(\theta)$$

This will work only if theta is defined in RADIANS. WHY, because we want cot to be a function which is defined in terms of radians.

We can do that here and instead of degrees, use radians to measure theta. So 45 deg will become radians. $\frac{\pi}{4}$

So we get

$$\frac{dx}{d\theta} = -100 \operatorname{cosec}^2 \theta$$

This is the rate of change of the length x of shadow wrt to the elevation angle theta in units of feet/radian. When theta is $\frac{\pi}{4}$ radians, then

$$\left. \frac{dx}{d\theta} \right|_{\theta=\frac{\pi}{4}} = -100 \operatorname{cosec}^2\left(\frac{\pi}{4}\right) = -200 \text{ feet / radian}$$

Now we want to go back to degrees because we were asked to answer the question with the angle in degrees. We have the relationship

$$180 \text{ degrees} = \pi \text{ radians}$$

$$1 \text{ degree} = \frac{\pi}{180} \text{ radian} \Rightarrow \text{There are } \frac{\pi}{180} \text{ radian/degree}$$

This Gives

$$-200 \text{ feet/radian} \cdot \frac{\pi}{180} \text{ radians/degree} = -\frac{10}{9} \pi \text{ feet/degree}.$$