

Derivatives of Trigonometric Functions

KEY

• Trig. Function Rules

- If $y = f(x) = \sin x$, then $y' = \frac{dy}{dx} = f'(x) = \cos x$
- If $y = f(x) = \cos x$, then $y' = \frac{dy}{dx} = f'(x) = -\sin x$

Proof of Sine Derivative

Limit Definition for sin:

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

Using angle sum identity, we get

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

Rearrange the limit so that the sin(x)'s are next to each other

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

Factor out a sin from the quantity on the right

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

Separate the two quantities and put the functions with x in front of the limit (We are only concerned with the limit of h)

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

We can plug in 1 and 0 for the limits and get cos(x)

$$\frac{d}{dx}\sin(x) = \cos(x)(1) - \sin(x)(0)$$

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

The proof of the cosine derivative is similar.

• Examples

1. Find y' for $y = x + \frac{\cos x}{2}$

$$y = x + \frac{1}{2} \cos x$$

$$y' = 1 + \frac{1}{2}(-\sin x)$$

$$y' = 1 - \frac{1}{2} \sin x$$

2. Find $\frac{dy}{dx}$ for $y = 2x \cos x + 2 \sin^2 x$

$$y = 2x \cos x + 2(\sin x)^2$$

$$y' = 2x(\cos x)' + \cos x(2x)' + 4(\sin x)(\sin x)'$$

$$y' = 2x(-\sin x) + \cos x(2) + 4(\sin x)(\cos x)$$

$$y' = -2x \sin x + 2 \cos x + 4 \sin x \cos x$$

3. Find $g'(x)$ for $g(x) = \sqrt{\cos x \sin^2 x}$

$$g(x) = (\cos x \sin^2 x)^{1/2}$$

$$g(x) = (\cos x)^{1/2} (\sin^2 x)^{1/2}$$

$$g(x) = (\cos x)^{1/2} (\sin x)$$

$$g'(x) = ((\cos x)^{1/2})(\sin x)' + (\sin x)((\cos x)^{1/2})'$$

$$g'(x) = ((\cos x)^{1/2})(\cos x) + (\sin x)(\frac{1}{2}(\cos x)^{-1/2})(-\sin x)$$

4. Find $\frac{dy}{dx}$ given $y = \log_3 \left(\frac{3e^{-x}}{\sin^2 x} \right)$

$$y = \log_3 (3e^{-x}) - \log_3 (\sin x)^2$$

$$y = (\log_3 3) + (\log_3 e^{-x}) - 2 \log_3 (\sin x)$$

$$y = 1 - x \log_3 e - 2 \log_3 \sin x$$

$$y' = 0 - \log_3 e - 2 \left(\frac{1}{\ln 3} \right) \left(\frac{\cos x}{\sin x} \right)$$

5. Find $h'(x)$ for $h(x) = \frac{\sin x}{\cos x} \rightarrow \tan x$

$$h'(x) = \frac{\cos x (\sin x)' - (\sin x) (\cos x)'}{(\cos x)^2} = \frac{\cos x (\cos x) - (\sin x) (-\sin x)}{(\cos x)^2}$$

$$= \frac{\cos^2 x + \sin^2 x}{(\cos x)^2} = \frac{1}{(\cos x)^2} = \sec^2 x$$

More Trig Rules:

$$1. \frac{d}{dx} [\tan x] = \sec^2 x$$

$$2. \frac{d}{dx} [\cot x] = -\csc^2 x$$

$$3. \frac{d}{dx} [\sec x] = \sec x \tan x$$

$$4. \frac{d}{dx} [\csc x] = -\csc x \cot x$$

Examples: Find the derivative of the given function.

$$1. f(x) = \frac{x - \tan x}{\csc^2 x + \sec x}$$

$$f'(x) = \frac{(\csc^2 x + \sec x)(x - \tan x)' - (x - \tan x)(\csc^2 x + \sec x)'}{(\csc^2 x + \sec x)^2}$$

→ chain

$$\frac{(\csc^2 x + \sec x)(1 - \sec^2 x) - (x - \tan x)(2\csc x(-\csc x \cot x) + \sec x \tan x)}{(\csc^2 x + \sec x)^2}$$

$$2. g(x) = e^{x \cot x} e^{f(x)}$$

$$g'(x) = (e^{x \cot x}) (x \cot x)'$$

$$g'(x) = (e^{x \cot x}) \left((x)(-\csc^2 x) + (\cot x)(1) \right)$$

$$3. y = \sqrt[3]{(\sec^2 x)(\cos x)}$$

$$\text{or } y = \sqrt[3]{\frac{\cos x}{\cos^2 x}} = \sqrt[3]{\frac{1}{\cos x}} = \sqrt[3]{\sec x} = (\sec x)^{1/3}$$

$$y = (\sec x)^{2/3} (\cos x)^{1/3}$$

$$y = (\sec x)^{2/3} (\cos x)^{1/3}$$

$$y' = (\sec x)^{2/3} \left((\cos x)^{1/3} \right)' + (\cos x)^{1/3} \left((\sec x)^{2/3} \right)'$$

$$(\sec x)^{2/3} \left(\frac{1}{3} (\cos x)^{-2/3} \right) (-\sin x) + (\cos x)^{1/3} \left(\frac{2}{3} (\sec x)^{-1/3} \right) (\sec x \tan x)$$

$$4. y = \sin(2x) + \tan\left(\frac{x}{2}\right)$$

$$y = 2 \sin x \cos x + \frac{1 - \cos x}{\sin x}$$

$$y' = 2 \sin x (\sin x) + (\cos x)(-2 \sin x) + \frac{(\sin x)(\sin x) - (1 - \cos x)(-\sin x)}{(\sin x)^2}$$