Sheet 11

Discussion on Jan. 26, 2022

Exercise 1 Prove the following extension of Theorem 7.21 (l'Hospital's Rule): Given two functions $f, g: (0, \infty) \to \mathbb{R}$ which are both differentiable on $(0, \infty)$,

$$\lim_{x \to \infty} \frac{f(x)}{g(x)} = \lim_{x \to \infty} \frac{f'(x)}{g'(x)}.$$

Hint: Consider substituting 1/x *in for* x*, and taking* $\lim_{x\to 0^+}$ *.*

Exercise 2 Using l'Hospital's Rule, compute

$$\lim_{x \to \infty} \frac{x^2}{e^x}.$$

Does this result depend on the fact that the power of x in the numerator is 2? What if it was 5, or 10, or 1000? What does this tell you about how fast e^x grows, compared to polynomials in x?

Exercise 3 Using l'Hospital's Rule, and remembering that $x^{1/n} = \sqrt[n]{x}$ compute

$$\lim_{x \to \infty} \frac{\sqrt[7]{x}}{\ln(x)}.$$

Does this result depend on the fact that the root of x in the numerator is 7? What if it was 5, or 10, or 1000? What does this tell you about how fast $\ln(x)$ grows, compared to roots of x?

Exercise 4 Compute the following antiderivatives.

- a) $\int (4x^3 6x^2 + 3) dx$
- b) $\int (x^5 + 9x^4 7x^3 + x^2 x 8) dx$
- c) $\int \sin(x)^2 dx$ Hint: Trigonometric identities involving $\sin(x)^2$
- d) $\int \sec(x)^2 dx$

Exercise 5 Compute the following antiderivatives.

a) $\int x \ln(x) dx$

b)
$$\int (-7x^{-1} + 13x^{-2}) dx$$

c) $\int (5x^{-5} - 8x^{-4} + 2x^{-1}) dx$

Exercise 6 Imagine that you throw a ball through the air. The ball will accelerate downward due to gravity at a constant rate $g = 9.81 \ m/s^2$. So our equation for the ball's acceleration as a function of time is a constant function:

$$a(t) = g.$$

- a) The acceleration of the ball is the derivative of its velocity with respect to time. Can we find the equation for velocity? Is there missing information?
- b) The velocity of the ball is the derivative of its height with respect to time. Can we find the equation for the height of the ball? Is there missing information?
- c) What kind of a path do we expect a ball to trace through the air as we throw it? Should it look like a straight line, a parabola, some other sort of curve?

Exercise 7 Consider the function

$$f(x) = x^3 + x^2 - 6x + 3.$$

- a) Using Theorem 7.25, determine the critical points of f(x).
- b) Without looking at a graph of f, how can we determine the local minima (valleys) and local maxima (hills) of f?
- c) Find the local minima and maxima.

Exercise 8 This problem is to show how Theorem 7.25 can be used to estimate the size of an atom. The energy of an electron in a hydrogen atom can be estimated by

$$E = -\underbrace{ke^2}_{\mathbf{a}} \cdot \frac{1}{x} + \underbrace{\hbar^2/2m}_{\mathbf{b}} \cdot \frac{1}{x^2}.$$

The term $-\frac{ke^2}{x}$ gives the classical energy of the electron to the nucleus, while the term $\frac{\hbar^2}{2mx^2}$ is a quantum mechanical effect. Here, e is the charge of the electron, m is the mass of the electron, k and \hbar are certain physical constants, and x is the distance of the electron from the nucleus. Note: e, m, k, \hbar are all *positive* constants.

- a) Compute the first derivative E'(x). Hint: do not be intimidated by the fancy symbols. Think of the equation E as $E(x) = -a \cdot x^{-1} + b \cdot x^{-2}$, with a, b > 0 as positive constants.
- b) Set E'(x) = 0 and solve for x.
- c) Denote x_0 as the solution to (b) above. Compute $E''(x_0)$. What can you say about the energy at $x = x_0$?

- d) In physics, particles tend to occupy the minimal energy state. With this in mind, what does $x = x_0$ represent?
- e) The constants \hbar, k, m, e can be estimated by the following:

$$\begin{split} \hbar &= 1.0546 \times 10^{-34} \text{J} \cdot \text{s}, \\ k &= 8.988 \times 10^9 \frac{\text{kg} \cdot \text{m}^3}{\text{s}^2 \text{C}^2}, \\ m &= 9.109 \times 10^{-31} \text{kg}, \\ e &= 1.602 \times 10^{-19} \text{C}. \end{split}$$

Substitute these numbers for the solution x_0 in (b) in order to give a numerical estimation of x_0 . Hint: This is a straightforward computation. Don't worry about the units on the right of each number, e.g., $J \cdot s$ or $\frac{\text{kg} \cdot \text{m}^3}{\text{s}^2\text{C}^2}$. These are there for reasons connected with the underlying physics.