

Learning Development Service

Differentiation



To book an appointment email: ltds@qub.ac.uk

Who is this workshop for?

- Scientists-physicists, chemists, social scientists etc.
- Engineers

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- Economists
- Calculus is used almost everywhere!



What we will cover:

- What is differentiation? Differentiation from first principles.
- Differentiating simple functions
- Product and quotient rules
- Chain rule

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- Using differentiation tables
- Finding the maxima and minima of functions

We could also cover:

- Second order differentiation
- Partial differentiation
- Whatever topic you want to know more about...



Slope of a straight line



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What is differentiation?

- In general have function f(x)
- In this case:

$$(x_1, y_1) = (x, f(x))$$

 $(x_2, y_2) = (x + h, f(x + h))$



$$\boldsymbol{m} = \frac{\text{rise}}{\text{run}} = \frac{y_2 - y_1}{x_2 - x_1} = \frac{f(x+h) - f(x)}{(x+h) - x}$$

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What is differentiation?

- What happens as *h* shrinks?
- m gets better at approximating the gradient at f(x). We call the limit when $h \rightarrow 0$ the differential:

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$$\frac{dy}{dx} = f'(x) = \lim_{h \to 0} \frac{f(x+h) - f(x)}{h}$$



What is differentiation? Examples

- (i) What is the **slope**, *m*, of f(x) = 2x + 5 at the points $(x_1, y_1) = (1, f(1))$ and $(x_2, y_2) = (1.01, f(1.01))$?
- (ii) Let $f(x) = x^2$. Find the **slope** joining (x, f(x)) and and (x + h, f(x + h)) if h = 0.1 and x = 1.
- (iii) Using the formal definition of the derivative (previous slide) find the derivative of $f(x) = x^2 + 3$.

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The Tangent

The derivative at a position *x* is the gradient of the tangent to the curve.





The Tangent Example

Find the gradient of the tangent at the point (2,7) in the following example:



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Basic formulae for differentiation

Constant:

$$y = C \rightarrow \frac{dy}{dx} = 0$$

Polynomial:

$$y = Cx^n \rightarrow \frac{dy}{dx} = nCx^{n-1}$$

Sum:

$$y = f + g \rightarrow \frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{df}{dx} + \frac{dg}{dx}$$



Worked Examples

(i) Differentiate y = 5

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(ii) When x = 5 what is the rate of change of y w.r.t. x for the curve $y = -x^3 + \frac{1}{x} - 90?$

(iii) If
$$y = 3x^4 - x^2 + 43x - 2$$
 find dy/dx

Stop. Try some examples:





Finding the maxima and minima





Finding the maxima and minima

- Differentiate
- Set dy/dx=0
- Solve for *x*

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• Use original equation to find y

Find the stationary point of $y = 3x^2 - 12x + 2$

Stop. Try some examples:





Table of Derivatives

y = f(x)	$\frac{\mathrm{d}y}{\mathrm{d}x} = f'(x)$
k, any constant	0
x	1
x^2	2x
x^3	$3x^2$
x^n , any constant n	nx^{n-1}
e^x	e^x
e^{kx}	$k \mathrm{e}^{kx}$
$\ln x = \log_{\rm e} x$	$\frac{1}{x}$
$\sin x$	$\cos x$
$\sin kx$	$k\cos kx$
$\cos x$	$-\sin x$
$\cos kx$	$-k\sin kx$
$\tan x = \frac{\sin x}{\cos x}$	$\sec^2 x$
$\tan kx$	$k \sec^2 kx$

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Product Rule and Quotient Rule

Product Rule:

$$y = uv \rightarrow \frac{dy}{dx} = v\frac{du}{dx} + u\frac{dv}{dx}$$

Quotient Rule:

$$\mathbf{y} = \frac{\mathbf{u}}{\mathbf{v}} \to \frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{v\frac{du}{dx} - u\frac{dv}{dx}}{v^2}$$



Product Rule and Quotient Rule Examples

(i) Differentiate :

$$y = x \sin(2x)$$

(ii) Differentiate:

$$y = \frac{3x - 7}{2x + 7}$$



Stop. Try some examples:





The Chain Rule by Example

(i) Differentiate :

$$y = (x^2 - 4x)^{\frac{1}{2}}$$

Set:
$$u = x^2 - 4x$$

The differential is then:

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$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{dy}{du} \times \frac{du}{dx}$$

Stop. Try some examples:



