

EXERCISES FOR GEOMETRY IN MOTION

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1. INTRODUCTION

Here are three fun exercises to help you use the ideas seen in class on real problems.

2. PROBLEMS

Problem 2.1. This exercise will prove $\frac{d}{d\theta} \tan \theta = \frac{1}{\cos^2 \theta} = \sec^2 \theta$.

Draw a triangle $\triangle OPQ$ with right angle at P , such that $\overline{OP} = 1$, $\overline{PQ} = t$, and the hypotenuse $\overline{OQ} = l$, where O is the origin. Draw the triangle such that $\angle QOP = \theta$. Then, we have $t = \tan \theta$. To calculate the derivative, we shift θ by a small quantity $d\theta$.

Where does the point Q move? How long is $\tan(\theta + d\theta)$? Conclude from here.

Problem 2.2 (If you know limits). Use the fact that $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sin x}{x} = 1$ to justify rigorously the proofs made in class.

Additionally, try to prove this limit geometrically.

Problem 2.3. In class, we integrated the function x^2 from 0 to a . Emulate the proof to integrate x^n for all $n \geq 2$.

Problem 2.4 (Integration and Differentiation are inverses of each other). You may have heard the statement before that differentiation is the inverse of integration. We'll do so explicitly by proving that

$$\int_0^x \tan^2 \theta d\theta = \tan x - x.$$

Indeed, differentiating both sides of this relation would give, as above,

$$\frac{d \tan x}{dx} - 1 = \tan^2 x \implies \frac{d \tan x}{dx} = 1 + \tan^2 x = \sec^2 x.$$

Here's the proof outline: integrate in polar coordinates the function $r(\theta) = \tan \theta$ from $\theta = 0$ to $\theta = x$. This gives you a tangent sweep. Turn it into a tangent bundle by considering the following geometric figure: draw a circle centred at O of radius 1, a point P on the circle, and a point Q outside the circle such that $\angle POQ = x$.

Thanks to Yale Splash for organizing everything!. You can reach me at edgar.wang@yale.edu if you have questions or need hints.