
Subject Name: Mathematic II

Subject Code: BCA 2005

Topic: Euler's Theorem

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Euler's Theorem on Homogeneous Function

If $u = f(x, y)$ is a homogeneous function of degree n in x and y .

Then

$$x \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + y \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} = nu$$

If u is a homogeneous function in x , y and z of degree n , then

$$x \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + y \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} + z \frac{\partial u}{\partial z} = nu$$

Euler's Theorem For Homogeneous Functions of two variables

Theorem If $u = f(x, y)$ is a homogeneous function of degree n in x and y .

Then

$$x \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + y \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} = nu$$

Proof Since f is a homogeneous function of x and y of degree n , we can write

$$f(x, y) = x^n F\left(\frac{y}{x}\right)$$

$$\text{Then } \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} = x^n F'\left(\frac{y}{x}\right) \left(-\frac{y}{x^2}\right) + nx^{n-1} F\left(\frac{y}{x}\right)$$

$$x \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} = -x^{n-1} y F'\left(\frac{y}{x}\right) + nx^n F\left(\frac{y}{x}\right) \quad (1)$$

$$\text{Again } \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} = x^n F'\left(\frac{y}{x}\right) \left(\frac{1}{x}\right)$$

$$y \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} = x^{n-1} y F'\left(\frac{y}{x}\right) \quad (2)$$

Adding 1 and 2 we have

$$x \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} + y \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} = n x^n F\left(\frac{y}{x}\right) = n f$$

Q. If $u = \log\left(\frac{x^3 + y^3}{x + y}\right)$, then show that

$$x \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + y \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} = 2$$

Solution We have

$$u = \log\left(\frac{x^3 + y^3}{x + y}\right),$$

$$e^u = \left(\frac{x^3 + y^3}{x + y}\right) = f(x, y)$$

This $f(x, y)$ is a homogeneous functions of degree 2, then by Euler theorem

$$x \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} + y \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} = 2.f$$

$$x \frac{\partial}{\partial x}(e^u) + y \frac{\partial}{\partial y}(e^u) = 2.e^u$$

$$x e^u \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + y e^u \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} = 2.e^u$$

$$x \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + y \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} = 2$$

Q. If $u = \tan^{-1}\left(\frac{x + y}{\sqrt{x} + \sqrt{y}}\right)$, then show that

$$x \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + y \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} = \frac{1}{4} \sin 2u$$

Solution We have

$$u = \tan^{-1} \left(\frac{x+y}{\sqrt{x} + \sqrt{y}} \right),$$

$$\tan u = \left(\frac{x+y}{\sqrt{x} + \sqrt{y}} \right) = f(x, y)$$

This $f(x, y)$ is a homogeneous functions of degree $1/2$, then by Euler theorem

$$x \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} + y \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} = \frac{1}{2} \cdot f$$

$$x \frac{\partial}{\partial x} (\tan u) + y \frac{\partial}{\partial y} (\tan u) = \frac{1}{2} \tan u$$

$$x \sec^2 u \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + y \sec^2 u \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} = \frac{1}{2} \tan u$$

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

$$x \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + y \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} = \frac{1}{4} \sin 2u$$

Q. If $u = \sin^{-1} \left(\frac{x^{1/3} + y^{1/3}}{x^{1/2} + y^{1/2}} \right)^{1/2}$, then show that

$$(i) \quad x^2 \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} + 2xy \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x \partial y} + y^2 \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial y^2} = \frac{\tan u}{144} (13 + \tan^2 u)$$

Solution We have

$$u = \sin^{-1} \left(\frac{x^{1/3} + y^{1/3}}{x^{1/2} + y^{1/2}} \right)^{1/2},$$

$$\sin u = \left(\frac{x^{1/3} + y^{1/3}}{x^{1/2} + y^{1/2}} \right)^{1/2} = f(x, y)$$

This $f(x, y)$ is a homogeneous functions of degree $-1/12$, then by Euler theorem

$$x \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} + y \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} = -\frac{1}{12} \cdot f$$

$$x \frac{\partial}{\partial x} (\sin u) + y \frac{\partial}{\partial y} (\sin u) = -\frac{1}{12} \sin u$$

$$x \cos u \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + y \cos u \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} = -\frac{1}{12} \sin u$$

$$x \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + y \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} = -\frac{1}{12} \tan u \quad (1)$$

(ii) Differentiating equation (1) partially w.r.to x , we get

$$x \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + y \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x \partial y} = -\frac{1}{12} \sec^2 u \frac{\partial u}{\partial x}$$

$$x \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} + y \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x \partial y} = -\left(\frac{1}{12} \sec^2 u + 1 \right) \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} \quad (2)$$

Again, differentiating equation (1) partially w.r.to y , we get

$$x \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x \partial y} + y \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial y^2} + \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} = -\frac{1}{12} \sec^2 u \frac{\partial u}{\partial y}$$

$$x \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x \partial y} + y \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial y^2} = -\left(\frac{1}{12} \sec^2 u + 1 \right) \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} \quad (3)$$

Multiplying equation (2) by x and equation (3) by y and then adding, we get

$$x^2 \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} + 2xy \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x \partial y} + y^2 \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial y^2} = -\left(\frac{1}{12} \sec^2 u + 1 \right) \left(x \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + y \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} \right)$$

$$x^2 \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} + 2xy \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x \partial y} + y^2 \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial y^2} = -\left(\frac{1}{12} \sec^2 u + 1 \right) \left(-\frac{1}{12} \tan u \right)$$

$$x^2 \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} + 2xy \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x \partial y} + y^2 \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial y^2} = \frac{1}{144} (\sec^2 u + 12) \tan u = \frac{\tan u}{144} (13 + \tan^2 u)$$

Referential Books:

1. H.K. Dass, "Advanced Engineering Mathematics", S. Chand & Co., 9th Revised Ed
2. A.R. Vasishtha, "Differential Calculus", Krishna Pra. Media (P) Ltd.
3. V. Kumar, "Differential Calculus", Epsilon Publishing House