

2.3: Product and Quotient Rules and Higher Order Derivatives

The Product Rule:

$$\frac{d}{dx}[f(x)g(x)] = f(x)g'(x) + g(x)f'(x)$$

“the first times the derivative of the second plus the second times the derivative of the first”

Example 1: Find the derivative of $f(x) = x^7(4x^3)$.

using Product Rule.

$$\begin{aligned} f'(x) &= x^7 \frac{d}{dx}(4x^3) + (4x^3) \frac{d}{dx}(x^7) \\ &= x^7(12x^2) + (4x^3)(7x^6) \\ &= 12x^9 + 28x^9 = \boxed{40x^9} \end{aligned}$$

The easy way:

$$\begin{aligned} f(x) &= 4x^{10} \\ f'(x) &= \boxed{40x^9} \end{aligned}$$

Example 2: Find the derivative of $f(x) = (4x^3 + x^2 - 2)(x^4 + 8)$.

$$\begin{aligned} f'(x) &= (4x^3 + x^2 - 2) \frac{d}{dx}(x^4 + 8) + (x^4 + 8) \frac{d}{dx}(4x^3 + x^2 - 2) \\ &= (4x^3 + x^2 - 2)(4x^3) + (x^4 + 8)(12x^2 + 2x) \quad \text{simplified it after class;} \\ &= 16x^6 + 4x^5 - 8x^3 + 12x^6 + 2x^5 + 96x^2 + 16x \\ &= \boxed{28x^6 + 6x^5 - 8x^3 + 96x^2 + 16x} \end{aligned}$$

Example 3: Find the derivative of $f(x) = \sqrt{x}(x^5 - 3x^2 + 12x)$.

Example 4: Find the derivative of $(4x^3 + 1)(\sqrt{x} + \frac{1}{x} - 2x)$.

The Quotient Rule:

$$\frac{d}{dx} \left[\frac{f(x)}{g(x)} \right] = \frac{g(x)f'(x) - f(x)g'(x)}{[g(x)]^2}$$

Example 5: Find the derivative of $f(x) = \frac{-x^5}{4x^3}$.

$$f'(x) = \frac{4x^3 \frac{d}{dx}(-x^5) - (-x^5) \frac{d}{dx}(4x^3)}{(4x^3)^2}$$

$$= \frac{4x^3(-5x^4) + x^5(12x^2)}{16x^6}$$

$$= \frac{-20x^7 + 12x^7}{16x^6} = \frac{-8x^7}{16x^6} = \boxed{-\frac{x}{2}}$$

Without quotient rule:

$$f(x) = \frac{-x^5}{4x^3} = -\frac{x^2}{4}$$

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

$$f'(x) = -\frac{1}{4}(2x)$$

$$\leftarrow \text{match} \quad = \boxed{-\frac{x}{2}}$$

Example 6: Find the derivative of $g(x) = \frac{4-2x^3}{x^4+3x^7}$.

$$g'(x) = \frac{(x^4+3x^7) \frac{d}{dx}(4-2x^3) - (4-2x^3) \frac{d}{dx}(x^4+3x^7)}{(x^4+3x^7)^2}$$

$$= \frac{(x^4+3x^7)(-6x^2) - (4-2x^3)(4x^3+21x^6)}{(x^4+3x^7)^2} = \frac{-6x^6-18x^9 - (16x^3+84x^6-8x^6-42x^9)}{(x^4+3x^7)^2}$$

$$= \frac{-6x^6-18x^9-16x^3-76x^6+42x^9}{(x^4+3x^7)^2} = \boxed{\frac{24x^9-82x^6-16x^3}{(x^4+3x^7)^2}}$$

can simplify more

Example 7: Find the derivative of $f(x) = \frac{\sqrt{x}}{x^3-x^4}$.

$$f(x) = \frac{x^{\frac{1}{2}}}{x^3-x^4}$$

$$f'(x) = \frac{(x^3-x^4) \frac{d}{dx}(x^{\frac{1}{2}}) - x^{\frac{1}{2}} \frac{d}{dx}(x^3-x^4)}{(x^3-x^4)^2} = \frac{(x^3-x^4)(\frac{1}{2}x^{-\frac{1}{2}}) - x^{\frac{1}{2}}(3x^2-4x^3)}{(x^3-x^4)^2}$$

$$= \frac{\frac{1}{2}x^{\frac{5}{2}} - \frac{1}{2}x^{\frac{7}{2}} - 3x^{\frac{5}{2}} + 4x^{\frac{7}{2}}}{(x^3-x^4)^2} = \boxed{\frac{\frac{7}{2}x^{\frac{7}{2}} - \frac{5}{2}x^{\frac{5}{2}}}{(x^3-x^4)^2}}$$

Example 8: Find the derivative of $f(x) = x^2 \sin x$.

$$f'(x) = x^2 \frac{d}{dx}(\sin x) + (\sin x) \frac{d}{dx}(x^2)$$

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

$$= \boxed{x^2 \cos x + 2x \sin x} = \boxed{x(x \cos x + 2 \sin x)}$$

Example 9: Find the derivative of $f(x) = x + \sin x \cos x$.

$$f'(x) = 1 + (\sin x) \frac{d}{dx}(\cos x) + (\cos x) \left(\frac{d}{dx}(\sin x) \right)$$

$$= 1 + (\sin x)(-\sin x) + (\cos x)(\cos x)$$

$$= \underbrace{1 - \sin^2 x}_{\cos^2 x} + \cos^2 x$$

$$= \cos^2 x + \cos^2 x = \boxed{2 \cos^2 x}$$

Example 10: Find the derivative of $y = \frac{1 - \cos x}{\sin x}$.

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{(\sin x) \frac{d}{dx}(1 - \cos x) - (1 - \cos x) \frac{d}{dx}(\sin x)}{(\sin x)^2}$$

$$= \frac{(\sin x)(0 - (-\sin x)) - (1 - \cos x)(\cos x)}{\sin^2 x}$$

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

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

Example 11: Prove that $\frac{d}{dx}(\csc x) = -\csc x \cot x$.

(Use the fact that $\frac{d}{dx}(\cos x) = -\sin x$ and $\frac{d}{dx}(\sin x) = \cos x$, along with the quotient rule)

(Not done during class)

$$\frac{d}{dx}(\csc x) = \frac{d}{dx}\left(\frac{1}{\sin x}\right)$$

$$= \frac{\sin x \frac{d}{dx}(1) - 1 \frac{d}{dx}(\sin x)}{(\sin x)^2} = \frac{(\sin x)(0) - 1(\cos x)}{\sin^2 x} = \frac{-\cos x}{\sin^2 x}$$

$$= -\frac{\cos x}{\sin x} \left(\frac{1}{\sin x} \right) = -\cot x \csc x = -\csc x \cot x$$



Higher order derivatives:

Once the derivative of $f(x)$ is also a function, it is possible to find the derivative of $f'(x)$ too. This is called the *second derivative* and is denoted $f''(x)$. The second derivative gives the instantaneous rate of change of the derivative. In other words, it tells us how fast the slope is changing.

Similarly, the derivative of $f''(x)$ can be calculated and this is called the *third derivative* $f'''(x)$.

In general, we can keep calculating the derivative of the previous derivative. The *n th derivative* is found by taking the derivative n times. The *n th derivative of f* is denoted $f^{(n)}(x)$.

Other notation: $y', y'', y''', \dots, y^{(n)}$

$$\frac{dy}{dx}, \frac{d^2y}{dx^2}, \frac{d^3y}{dx^3}, \dots, \frac{d^ny}{dx^n}$$

$$D'y, D^2y, D^3y, \dots, D^ny$$

Example 12: Suppose that $y = -7x^5 + 6x^4 - \frac{2}{x}$. Find y''' .

$$y = -7x^5 + 6x^4 - 2x^{-1}$$

$$y' = -35x^4 + 24x^3 + 2x^{-2}$$

$$y'' = -140x^3 + 72x^2 - 4x^{-3}$$

$$y''' = -420x^2 + 144x + 12x^{-4} = -420x^2 + 144x + \frac{12}{x^4}$$

Example 13: Suppose that $f(x) = \sqrt[3]{x}$. Find the second and third derivatives.

$$f(x) = x^{1/3}$$

$$f'(x) = \frac{1}{3}x^{-2/3}$$

$$f''(x) = \frac{1}{3} \left(-\frac{2}{3}x^{-5/3} \right) = -\frac{2}{9}x^{-5/3}$$

$$f'''(x) = -\frac{2}{9} \left(-\frac{5}{3}x^{-8/3} \right) = \frac{10}{27}x^{-8/3} = \frac{10}{27\sqrt[3]{x^8}}$$

Using derivatives to describe the motion of an object:

If the dependent variable t represents time, and the function $s(t)$ represents the position (distance from a particular point) of an object, then

- the velocity $v(t)$ is the first derivative $s'(t) = \frac{ds}{dt}$.
- the acceleration $a(t)$ is the second derivative $s''(t) = \frac{dv}{dt}$.
- the jerk $j(t)$ is the third derivative $s'''(t) = \frac{da}{dt}$.
- the speed is the absolute value of the velocity $|v(t)| = \left| \frac{ds}{dt} \right|$.

Example 14: The position (in feet) of an object is given by $s(t) = t^4 - 32t + 7$, with t measured in seconds. Find functions representing the velocity, acceleration, and jerk. Find the velocity and acceleration after 1, 2, and 3 seconds.

$$s(t) = t^4 - 32t + 7$$

velocity: $v(t) = s'(t) = 4t^3 - 32$

acceleration: $a(t) = v'(t) = s''(t) = 12t^2$

jerk: $j(t) = a'(t) = s'''(t) = 24t$

$$v(1) = s'(1) = 4(1)^3 - 32 = 4 - 32 = -28 \text{ ft/s}$$

$$a(1) = 12(1)^2 = 12 \text{ ft/s}^2$$

acceleration = $\frac{dv}{dt} \Rightarrow \frac{\text{ft/s}}{\text{sec}} = \frac{\text{ft}}{\text{sec}} \cdot \frac{1}{\text{sec}} = \text{ft/sec}^2$