

## 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  $f(x) = x^7(4x^3)$ .

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

$$= x^7(12x^2) + 4x^3(7x^6)$$

$$= 12x^9 + 28x^9 = 40x^9$$

More efficient way:

$$f(x) = x^7(4x^3) = 4x^{10}$$

$$f'(x) = 40x^9$$

same

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

$$f'(x) = (4x^3 + x^2 - 2) \frac{d}{dx}(x^4 + 8) + (x^4 + 8) \frac{d}{dx}(4x^3 + x^2 - 2)$$

$$= (4x^3 + x^2 - 2)(4x^3 + 0) + (x^4 + 8)(12x^2 + 2x - 0) \quad \text{then clean up}$$

**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:

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

Note:

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

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

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

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

$$\begin{aligned} f'(x) &= \frac{4x^3 \frac{d}{dx}(-x^5) - (-x^5) \frac{d}{dx}(4x^3)}{[4x^3]^2} = \frac{4x^3(-5x^4) + x^5(12x^2)}{16x^6} \\ &= \frac{-20x^7 + 12x^7}{16x^6} = -\frac{8x^7}{16x^6} = \boxed{-\frac{1}{2}x} \end{aligned}$$

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

$$\begin{aligned} g'(x) &= \frac{(x^4+3) \frac{d}{dx}(4-2x^3) - (4-2x^3) \frac{d}{dx}(x^4+3)}{(x^4+3)^2} = \frac{(x^4+3)(-6x^2) - (4-2x^3)(4x^3)}{(x^4+3)^2} \\ &= \frac{-6x^6 - 18x^2 - (16x^3 - 8x^6)}{(x^4+3)^2} = \frac{-6x^6 - 18x^2 - 16x^3 + 8x^6}{(x^4+3)^2} \\ &= \boxed{\frac{2x^6 - 16x^3 - 18x^2}{(x^4+3)^2}} \end{aligned}$$

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

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

$$\begin{aligned} f'(x) &= \frac{(x^3-x^4) \frac{d}{dx}(x^{\frac{1}{2}}) - x^{\frac{1}{2}} \frac{d}{dx}(x^3-x^4)}{(x^3-x^4)^2} \\ &= \frac{(x^3-x^4)^{\frac{1}{2}}x^{-\frac{1}{2}} - x^{\frac{1}{2}}(3x^2-4x^3)}{(x^3-x^4)^2} = \frac{\frac{1}{2}x^{\frac{5}{2}} - \frac{1}{2}x^{\frac{7}{2}} - 3x^{\frac{5}{2}} + 4x^{\frac{7}{2}}}{(x^3-x^4)^2} \\ &= \frac{-\frac{5}{2}x^{\frac{5}{2}} + \frac{7}{2}x^{\frac{7}{2}}}{(x^3-x^4)^2} \left(\frac{2}{2}\right) = \frac{-5x^{\frac{5}{2}} + 7x^{\frac{7}{2}}}{2(x^3-x^4)^2} \end{aligned}$$

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

$$\begin{aligned} f'(x) &= x^2 \frac{d}{dx}(\sin x) + (\sin x) \frac{d}{dx}(x^2) \\ &= x^2 \cos x + (\sin x)(2x) \\ &= \boxed{x^2 \cos x + 2x \sin x} \end{aligned}$$

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

$$\begin{aligned} f'(x) &= 1 + \frac{d}{dx}(\underbrace{\sin x}_{1^{st}} \underbrace{\cos x}_{2^{nd}}) \\ &= 1 + (\sin x) \frac{d}{dx}(\cos x) + (\cos x) \frac{d}{dx}(\sin x) \\ &= 1 + (\sin x)(-\sin x) + (\cos x)(\cos x) \\ &= \underbrace{1 - \sin^2 x}_{\cos^2 x} + \cos^2 x = \cos^2 x + \cos^2 x \\ &= \boxed{2 \cos^2 x} \end{aligned}$$

Recall:  
 $\cos^2 \theta + \sin^2 \theta = 1$   
 for all  $\theta$   
 $\cos^2 \theta = 1 - \sin^2 \theta$   
 $\sin^2 \theta = 1 - \cos^2 \theta$

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

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{dy}{dx} &= \frac{\sin x \frac{d}{dx}(1 - \cos x) - (1 - \cos x) \frac{d}{dx}(\sin x)}{(\sin x)^2} \\ &= \frac{\sin x (0 - (-\sin x)) - (1 - \cos x)(\cos x)}{\sin^2 x} = \frac{\sin x (\sin x) - \cos x (1 - \cos x)}{\sin^2 x} \\ &= \frac{\sin^2 x - \cos x + \cos^2 x}{\sin^2 x} = \frac{-\cos x + \sin^2 x + \cos^2 x}{\sin^2 x} \\ &= \frac{-\cos x + 1}{\sin^2 x} = \frac{1 - \cos x}{1 - \cos^2 x} \\ &= \frac{1 - \cos x}{(1 - \cos x)(1 + \cos x)} = \boxed{\frac{1}{1 + \cos x}} \end{aligned}$$

**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)

$$\begin{aligned} &= \frac{-\cos x + 1}{\sin^2 x} = \frac{1 - \cos x}{1 - \cos^2 x} \\ &= \frac{1 - \cos x}{(1 - \cos x)(1 + \cos x)} = \boxed{\frac{1}{1 + \cos x}} \end{aligned}$$

(Not done during class)

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dx}(\csc x) &= \frac{d}{dx}\left(\frac{1}{\sin x}\right) \\ &= \frac{\sin x \frac{d}{dx}(1) - 1 \frac{d}{dx}(\sin x)}{(\sin x)^2} = \frac{(\sin x)(0) - 1(\cos x)}{\sin^2 x} = \frac{-\cos x}{\sin^2 x} \\ &= -\frac{\cos x}{\sin x} \left(\frac{1}{\sin x}\right) = -\cot x \csc x = -\csc x \cot x \end{aligned}$$



**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  $y'''$ .

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

$$= -\frac{2}{9} x^{-5/3}$$

$$= -\frac{2}{9\sqrt[3]{x^5}}$$

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

$$= \frac{10}{27} x^{-8/3}$$

$$= \frac{10}{27\sqrt[3]{x^8}}$$

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

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

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

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