

Unit 2: Differentiation
2.4 Product & Quotient Rules

Theorem – The Product Rule

The derivative of the product fg of two differentiable functions f and g exists and

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

ex. $h(x) = (3x - 2x^2)(5 + 4x)$

$$\begin{aligned} h'(x) &= (3x - 2x^2) \frac{d}{dx} [5 + 4x] + (5 + 4x) \frac{d}{dx} [3x - 2x^2] \\ &= (3x - 2x^2)(4) + (5 + 4x)(3 - 4x) \\ &= 12x - 8x^2 + 15 - 8x - 16x^2 \end{aligned}$$

$$h'(x) = -24x^2 + 4x + 15$$

ex. $y = x \sin x$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{dy}{dx} &= x \frac{d}{dx} [\sin x] + \sin x \frac{d}{dx} [x] \\ &= x \cos x + \sin x (1) \end{aligned}$$

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = x \cos x + \sin x$$

ex. $f(x) = 2x \cos x - 2 \sin x$

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

$$f'(x) = -2x \sin x$$

Theorem – The Quotient Rule

The derivative of the quotient $\frac{f}{g}$ of two differentiable functions f and g exists for all x such that $g(x) \neq 0$ and

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

ex.

$$f(x) = \frac{5x - 2}{x^2 + 1}$$

$$\begin{aligned} f'(x) &= \frac{(x^2 + 1) \frac{d}{dx} [5x - 2] - (5x - 2) \frac{d}{dx} [x^2 + 1]}{(x^2 + 1)^2} \\ &= \frac{(x^2 + 1)(5) - (5x - 2)(2x)}{(x^2 + 1)^2} \\ &= \frac{5x^2 + 5 - 10x^2 + 4x}{(x^2 + 1)^2} \end{aligned}$$

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

ex.

$$y = \frac{3 - \frac{1}{x}}{x + 5}$$

rewrite:

$$y = \frac{3x - 1}{x} \cdot \frac{1}{x + 5} = \frac{3x - 1}{x^2 + 5x}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{dy}{dx} &= \frac{(x^2 + 5x) \frac{d}{dx} [3x - 1] - (3x - 1) \frac{d}{dx} [x^2 + 5x]}{(x^2 + 5x)^2} \\ &= \frac{(x^2 + 5x)(3) - (3x - 1)(2x + 5)}{(x^2 + 5x)^2} \\ &= \frac{3x^2 + 15x - 6x^2 - 13x + 5}{(x^2 + 5x)^2} \end{aligned}$$

$$\boxed{\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{-3x^2 + 2x + 5}{(x^2 + 5x)^2}}$$

ex. Determine the derivative of $\tan x$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dx} [\tan x] &= \frac{d}{dx} \left[\frac{\sin x}{\cos x} \right] = \frac{(\cos x) \frac{d}{dx} [\sin x] - (\sin x) \frac{d}{dx} [\cos x]}{(\cos x)^2} \\ &= \frac{(\cos x)(\cos x) - (\sin x)(-\sin x)}{\cos^2 x} \\ &= \frac{\cos^2 x + \sin^2 x}{\cos^2 x} \\ &= \frac{1}{\cos^2 x} \end{aligned}$$

$$\boxed{\frac{d}{dx} [\tan x] = \sec^2 x}$$

Similarly we can determine derivatives for the other trig ratios:

$$\frac{d}{dx} [\cot x] = -\csc^2 x$$

$$\frac{d}{dx} [\sec x] = \sec x \tan x$$

$$\frac{d}{dx} [\csc x] = -\csc x \cot x$$

Practice Questions

Pg. 121/ # 1 – 6, 13 – 41 (odd), 51, 53, 59 – 62