

Calc H Notes Section 2-3 Derivatives of Products and Quotients

The derivative of a product is not equal to the product of the derivatives. The rule for finding derivatives of products is as follows.

PRODUCT RULE

If $f(x) = u(x) \cdot v(x)$, and if $u'(x)$ and $v'(x)$ both exist, then

$$f'(x) = u(x) \cdot v'(x) + v(x) \cdot u'(x).$$

(The derivative of a product of two functions is the first function times the derivative of the second, plus the second function times the derivative of the first.)

Work p118 examples 1 - 3

Ex 1 Find the derivative of $h(x) = (3x - 2x^2)(5 + 4x)$

Ex 2 Find the derivative of $y = x \sin x$

Ex 3 Find the derivative of $y = 2x \cos x - 2 \sin x$

To find the derivative of the quotient of two functions, use the next rule.

QUOTIENT RULE

If $f(x) = u(x)/v(x)$, if all indicated derivatives exist, and if $v(x) \neq 0$, then

$$f'(x) = \frac{v(x) \cdot u'(x) - u(x) \cdot v'(x)}{[v(x)]^2}.$$

(The derivative of a quotient is the denominator times the derivative of the numerator, minus the numerator times the derivative of the denominator, all divided by the square of the denominator.)

Work Examples 4 - 5

Ex 4 Find y' if $y = \frac{5x-2}{x^2+1}$

Ex 5 Find y' if $y = \frac{3-(1/x)}{x+5}$.

Rewrite as simple fraction:

Ex Using the Constant Multiple Rule

Original Function	Rewrite	Differentiate	Simplify
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a) $y = \frac{x^2 + 3x}{6}$

b) $y = \frac{5x^4}{8}$

c) $y = \frac{-3(3x-2x^2)}{7x}$

d) $y = \frac{9}{5x^2}$

Derivatives of Trig Functions

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

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

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

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

Examples

Function

Derivative

a) $y = x - \tan x$

b) $y = x \sec x$

Much of the work of simplifying the derivative occurs after you differentiate. Simplified derivatives should not have negative exponents and similar terms should be combined.

Higher-Order Derivatives

$$\begin{array}{ll} s(t) & \text{Position function} \\ v(t)=s'(t) & \text{Velocity function} \\ a(t)=v'(t)=s''(t) & \text{Acceleration function} \end{array}$$

The function $a(t)$ is the second derivative of the position function. This is an example of a higher-order derivative. For example, the third derivative is the derivative of the second derivative. Notation for higher-order derivatives:

$$\text{First derivative:} \quad y' \quad f'(x) \quad \frac{dy}{dx} \quad \frac{d}{dx}[f(x)] \quad D_x[y]$$

$$\text{Second derivative:} \quad y'' \quad f''(x) \quad \frac{d^2y}{dx^2} \quad \frac{d^2}{dx^2}[f(x)] \quad D_x^2[y]$$

Third derivative:	y'''	$f'''(x)$	$\frac{d^3 y}{dx^3}$	$\frac{d^3}{dx^3}[f(x)]$	$D_x^3[y]$
Fourth derivative:	$y^{(4)}$	$f^{(4)}(x)$	$\frac{d^4 y}{dx^4}$	$\frac{d^4}{dx^4}[f(x)]$	$D_x^4[y]$
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nth derivative:	$y^{(n)}$	$f^{(n)}(x)$	$\frac{d^n y}{dx^n}$	$\frac{d^n}{dx^n}[f(x)]$	$D_x^n[y]$

Example 10 Finding the Acceleration of Gravity

Because the moon has no atmosphere, falling objects on the moon encounter no air resistance. In 1971, astronaut David Scott demonstrated that a feather and a hammer fall at the same rate on the moon. The position function for each of these falling objects is given by

$$s(t) = -0.81t^2 + 2$$

where $s(t)$ is the height in meters and t is time in seconds. What is the ratio of earth's gravitational force to the moon's?

Solution: To find acceleration, differentiate the position function twice.

$$\begin{array}{ll} s(t) = -0.81t^2 + 2 & \text{position function} \\ s'(t) = -1.62t & \text{velocity function} \\ s''(t) = -1.62 & \text{acceleration function} \end{array}$$

So the acceleration of gravity on the moon is -1.62 m/sec^2 . So the ratio of earth's gravitational force to the moon's is:

$$\frac{-9.8}{-1.62} \approx 6.05$$

Example 11 p124 #3 $h(t) = \sqrt[3]{t}(t^2 + 4)$

Example 12 #12 $f(t) = \frac{\cos t}{t^3}$