

Section 2.4 Product and Quotient Rules

1. Product Rule.

If f and g are both differentiable:

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

Alternatively, $(f \cdot g)' = f \cdot g' + g \cdot f'$

What I say to myself: 1st times the derivative of the 2nd + 2nd times the derivative of the 1st.

2. Quotient Rule

If f and g are both differentiable:

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

Alternatively, $\left(\frac{f}{g}\right)' = \frac{g \cdot f' - f \cdot g'}{g^2}$

Common Mnemonic: “(down d up – up d down) / down down”

What I say to myself: denominator times derivative of the numerator – numerator times the derivative of the denominator by the denominator squared.

3. All of the trigonometric functions

$$\frac{d}{dx}(\sin x) = \cos x$$

$$\frac{d}{dx}(\csc x) = -\csc(x) \cdot \cot(x)$$

$$\frac{d}{dx}(\cos x) = -\sin x$$

$$\frac{d}{dx}(\sec x) = \sec(x) \cdot \tan(x)$$

$$\frac{d}{dx}(\tan x) = \sec^2 x$$

$$\frac{d}{dx}(\cot x) = -\csc^2 x$$

Common Memory Tool: derivative of something starting with “c” is negative.

Examples:

1. $f(x) = \sqrt{x} \cdot \sin x$ (Product Rule)

$$\begin{aligned} f'(x) &= \sqrt{x} \cdot \frac{d}{dx}(\sin x) + (\sin x) \cdot \frac{d}{dx}(\sqrt{x}) \\ &= \sqrt{x} \cdot \cos x + (\sin x) \cdot \left(\frac{1}{2}x^{-\frac{1}{2}}\right) \\ &= \sqrt{x} \cdot \cos x + \frac{\sin x}{2\sqrt{x}} \end{aligned}$$

$$2. \quad Y(u) = (u^{-2} + u^{-3})(u^5 - 2u^2)$$

One way: $Y(u) = u^{-2} \cdot u^5 + u^{-2}(-2u^2) + u^{-3} \cdot u^5 + u^{-3}(-2u^2)$

$$Y(u) = u^3 - 2 + u^2 - 2u^{-1}$$

$$Y'(u) = 3u^2 + 2u + 2u^{-2}$$

Another way: $Y(u) = \underbrace{(u^{-2} + u^{-3})}_{1^{\text{st}}} \underbrace{(u^5 - 2u^2)}_{2^{\text{nd}}} \quad (\text{product rule})$

$$Y'(u) = (u^{-2} + u^{-3}) \cdot \frac{d}{du}(u^5 - 2u^2) + (u^5 - 2u^2) \cdot \frac{d}{du}(u^{-2} + u^{-3})$$

$$= (u^{-2} + u^{-3})(5u^4 - 4u) + (u^5 - 2u^2)(-2u^{-3} - 3u^{-4})$$

$$= u^{-2}(5u^4) + u^{-2}(-4u) + u^{-3}(5u^4) + u^{-3}(-4u) + u^5(-2u^{-3}) + u^5(-3u^{-4}) \\ + (-2u^2)(-2u^{-3}) + (-2u^2)(-3u^{-4})$$

$$= 5u^2 - 4u^{-1} + 5u - 4u^{-2} - 2u^2 - 3u + 4u^{-1} + 6u^{-2}$$

$$= 3u^2 + 2u + 2u^{-2}$$

And, we have the same thing!

3. Show $\frac{d}{dx}(\tan x) = \sec^2 x$

$$\frac{d}{dx}(\tan x) = \frac{d}{dx}\left(\frac{\sin x}{\cos x}\right)$$

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

$$= \frac{(\cos x)(\cos x) - (\sin x)(-\sin x)}{\cos^2 x} = \frac{\cos^2 x + \sin^2 x}{\cos^2 x} \quad \text{Apply Pythagorean Identity}$$

$$= \frac{1}{\cos^2 x} = \sec^2 x$$

4. Find $f'(x)$ when $f(x) = \frac{x}{x + \frac{c}{x}}$

Key is to simplify first: $f(x) = \frac{\frac{x}{1}}{\frac{x^2+c}{x}} = \frac{x^2}{x^2+c}$

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

$$= \frac{(x^2+c)(2x) - (x^2)(2x)}{(x^2+c)^2} = \frac{2x^3+2xc-2x^3}{(x^2+c)^2} = \frac{2cx}{(x^2+c)^2}$$

5. Find equation of a tangent line to the curve $y = \frac{\sqrt{x}}{x+1}$ when $x = 4$.

$$y'(x) = \frac{(x+1) \frac{d}{dx}(\sqrt{x}) - (\sqrt{x}) \frac{d}{dx}(x+1)}{(x+1)^2}$$

$$= \frac{(x+1) \left(\frac{1}{2} x^{-\frac{1}{2}} \right) - (\sqrt{x})(1)}{(x+1)^2} = \frac{\frac{x+1}{2\sqrt{x}} - \sqrt{x}}{(x+1)^2}$$

Find the slope at $x = 4$:

$$y'(4) = \frac{\frac{4+1}{2\sqrt{4}} - \sqrt{4}}{(4+1)^2} = \frac{\frac{5}{2} - 2}{25} = \frac{\frac{5}{4} - \frac{8}{4}}{25} = \frac{-\frac{3}{4}}{25} = -\frac{3}{100} = -0.03$$

Now we have a slope

I need a point:

$$y(4) = \frac{\sqrt{4}}{4+1} = \frac{2}{5} = 0.4 \quad (4, 0.4)$$

Find the equation:

$$y - y_1 = m(x - x_1)$$

$$y - 0.4 = -0.03(x - 4)$$