

5.

Derivative of a product. (The product Rule)

If f and g are differentiable at x , then fg is also differentiable at x and

$$[f(x)g(x)]' = f'(x)g(x) + f(x)g'(x), \text{ that is,}$$

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

Proof: Let $\phi(x) = f(x)g(x)$. Then

$$(i) \quad \phi(x + \delta x) = f(x + \delta x)g(x + \delta x) \text{ and}$$

$$(ii) \quad \phi(x + \delta x) - \phi(x) = f(x + \delta x)g(x + \delta x) - f(x)g(x)$$

Subtracting and adding $f(x)g(x + \delta x)$ in step (ii), gives

$$\phi(x + \delta x) - \phi(x) = f(x + \delta x)g(x + \delta x) - f(x)g(x + \delta x) + f(x)g(x + \delta x) - f(x)g(x)$$

$$(iii) \quad \frac{\phi(x + \delta x) - \phi(x)}{\delta x} = \left[\frac{f(x + \delta x) - f(x)}{\delta x} \right] g(x + \delta x) + f(x) \left[\frac{g(x + \delta x) - g(x)}{\delta x} \right]$$

Taking limit when $\delta x \rightarrow 0$

$$(iv) \quad \lim_{\delta x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\phi(x + \delta x) - \phi(x)}{\delta x}$$

$$= \lim_{\delta x \rightarrow 0} \left[\frac{f(x + \delta x) - f(x)}{\delta x} \cdot g(x + \delta x) + f(x) \cdot \frac{g(x + \delta x) - g(x)}{\delta x} \right]$$

$$= \lim_{\delta x \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x + \delta x) - f(x)}{\delta x} \cdot \lim_{\delta x \rightarrow 0} g(x + \delta x) + \lim_{\delta x \rightarrow 0} f(x) \cdot \lim_{\delta x \rightarrow 0} \frac{g(x + \delta x) - g(x)}{\delta x}$$

(Using limit theorem)

$$\text{Thus } \phi'(x) = f'(x)g(x) + f(x)g'(x) \quad \left[\because \lim_{\delta x \rightarrow 0} g(x + \delta x) = g(x) \right]$$

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

Example: Find derivative of $y = (2\sqrt{x} + 2)(x - \sqrt{x})$ with respect to x .

$$\text{Solution: } y = (2\sqrt{x} + 2)(x - \sqrt{x})$$

$$= 2(\sqrt{x} + 1)(x - \sqrt{x})$$

Differentiating with respect to x , we get

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = 2 \frac{d}{dx} [(\sqrt{x} + 1)(x - \sqrt{x})]$$

$$= 2 \left[\left(\frac{d}{dx} (\sqrt{x} + 1) \right) (x - \sqrt{x}) + (\sqrt{x} + 1) \frac{d}{dx} (x - \sqrt{x}) \right]$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&= 2 \left[\left(\frac{1}{2} x^{-\frac{1}{2}} + 0 \right) (x - \sqrt{x}) + (\sqrt{x} + 1) \times \left(1 - \frac{1}{2} x^{-\frac{1}{2}} \right) \right] \\
&= 2 \left[\frac{1}{2\sqrt{x}} (x - \sqrt{x}) + (\sqrt{x} + 1) \times \left(1 - \frac{1}{2\sqrt{x}} \right) \right] \\
&= 2 \left[\frac{x - \sqrt{x}}{2\sqrt{x}} + (\sqrt{x} + 1) \left(\frac{2\sqrt{x} - 1}{2\sqrt{x}} \right) \right] \\
&= \frac{1}{\sqrt{x}} [x - \sqrt{x} + 2x - \sqrt{x} + 2\sqrt{x} - 1] \\
&= \frac{3x - 1}{\sqrt{x}}
\end{aligned}$$

6. Derivative of a Quotient (The Quotient Rule)

If f and g are differentiable at x and $g(x) \neq 0$, for any $x \in D(g)$

then $\frac{f}{g}$ is differentiable at x and $\left(\frac{f(x)}{g(x)} \right)' = \frac{f'(x)g(x) - f(x)g'(x)}{[g(x)]^2}$

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

Proof: Let $\phi(x) = \frac{f(x)}{g(x)}$. Then

(i) $\phi(x + \delta x) = \frac{f(x + \delta x)}{g(x + \delta x)}$ and

(ii) $\phi(x + \delta x) - \phi(x) = \frac{f(x + \delta x)}{g(x + \delta x)} - \frac{f(x)}{g(x)} = \frac{f(x + \delta x)g(x) - f(x)g(x + \delta x)}{g(x)g(x + \delta x)}$

Subtracting and adding $f(x)g(x)$ in the numerator of step (ii), gives

$$\begin{aligned}
\phi(x + \delta x) - \phi(x) &= \frac{f(x + \delta x)g(x) - f(x)g(x) - f(x)g(x + \delta x) + f(x)g(x)}{g(x)g(x + \delta x)} \\
&= \frac{1}{g(x)g(x + \delta x)} [(f(x + \delta x) - f(x))g(x) - f(x)(g(x + \delta x) - g(x))]
\end{aligned}$$

$$(iii) \quad \frac{\phi(x + \delta x) - \phi(x)}{\delta x} = \frac{1}{g(x)g(x + \delta x)} \left[\frac{f(x + \delta x) - f(x)}{\delta x} \cdot g(x) - f(x) \cdot \frac{g(x + \delta x) - g(x)}{\delta x} \right]$$

Taking limit when $\delta x \rightarrow 0$

$$(iv) \quad \lim_{\delta x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\phi(x + \delta x) - \phi(x)}{\delta x} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \left[\frac{1}{g(x)g(x + \delta x)} \left(\frac{f(x + \delta x) - f(x)}{\delta x} \cdot g(x) - f(x) \cdot \frac{g(x + \delta x) - g(x)}{\delta x} \right) \right]$$

Using limit theorems, we have

$$\phi'(x) = \frac{1}{g(x) \cdot g(x)} [f'(x)g(x) - f(x)g'(x)] \left(\because \lim_{\delta x \rightarrow 0} g(x + \delta x) = g(x) \right)$$

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

First Alternative Proof:

$$\phi(x) = \frac{f(x)}{g(x)} \text{ can be written as } f(x) = \phi(x)g(x)$$

Using the procedure used to prove product rule, quotient rule can be proved.

Second Alternative Proof: We first prove the reciprocal rule and then use product rule to prove the quotient rule.

The reciprocal rule. If g is differentiable at x and $g(x) \neq 0$, then $\frac{1}{g}$ is differentiable at x and

$$\frac{d}{dx} \left[\frac{1}{g(x)} \right] = \frac{-\frac{d}{dx} [g(x)]}{[g(x)]^2} \text{ (Proof of the reciprocal rule is left as an exercise)}$$

Using the product rule to $f(x) \cdot \frac{1}{g(x)}$, we have

$$\frac{d}{dx} \left[f(x) \cdot \frac{1}{g(x)} \right] = \left(\frac{d}{dx} [f(x)] \right) \cdot \frac{1}{g(x)} + f(x) \cdot \frac{d}{dx} \left[\frac{1}{g(x)} \right]$$

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

$$\text{i.e., } \frac{d}{dx} \left[\frac{f(x)}{g(x)} \right] = \frac{\left[\frac{d}{dx} [f(x)] \right] g(x) - f(x) \left[\frac{d}{dx} [g(x)] \right]}{[g(x)]^2}$$

Example 2. Find $\frac{dy}{dx}$ if $y = \frac{(\sqrt{x} + 1)(x^{3/2} - 1)}{x^{1/2} - 1}$, ($x \neq 1$)

Solution. Given that

$$\begin{aligned}
 y &= \frac{(\sqrt{x} + 1)(x^{3/2} - 1)}{x^{1/2} - 1} = \frac{(\sqrt{x} + 1)[(\sqrt{x})^3 - (1)^3]}{\sqrt{x} - 1} \\
 &= \frac{(\sqrt{x} + 1)(\sqrt{x} - 1)(x + 1 + \sqrt{x})}{\sqrt{x} - 1} = (\sqrt{x} + 1)(x + 1 + \sqrt{x}) \\
 &= (\sqrt{x} + 1)(\sqrt{x} + 1 + x) = (\sqrt{x} + 1)^2 + (\sqrt{x} + 1)x \\
 &= x + 1 + 2\sqrt{x} + x\sqrt{x} + x = x^{3/2} + 2x + 2x^{1/2} + 1 \\
 \frac{dy}{dx} &= \frac{d}{dx}(x^{3/2} + 2x + 2x^{1/2} + 1) = \frac{d}{dx}(x^{3/2}) + \frac{d}{dx}(2x) + \frac{d}{dx}(2x^{1/2}) + \frac{d}{dx}(1) \\
 &= \frac{3}{2}x^{1/2} + 2(1) + 2 \cdot \frac{1}{2\sqrt{x}} + 0 = \frac{3}{2}\sqrt{x} + 2 + \frac{1}{\sqrt{x}}
 \end{aligned}$$

Example 3: Differentiate $\frac{(\sqrt{x} + 1)(x^{3/2} - 1)}{x^{3/2} - x^{1/2}}$ with respect to x .

Solution: Let $y = \frac{(\sqrt{x} + 1)(x^{3/2} - 1)}{x^{3/2} - x^{1/2}}$

$$\begin{aligned}
 &= \frac{(\sqrt{x} + 1)[(\sqrt{x})^3 - 1]}{\sqrt{x}(x - 1)} \\
 &= \frac{(\sqrt{x} + 1)(\sqrt{x} - 1)(x + \sqrt{x} + 1)}{\sqrt{x}(x - 1)} = \frac{(x - 1)(x + \sqrt{x} + 1)}{\sqrt{x}(x - 1)} \\
 &= \frac{x + \sqrt{x} + 1}{\sqrt{x}}
 \end{aligned}$$

Differentiating with respect to x , we have

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

$$\begin{aligned}
&= \frac{\sqrt{x} \left(1 + \frac{1}{2} x^{-\frac{1}{2}} + 0 \right) - (x + \sqrt{x} + 1) \cdot \left(\frac{1}{2} x^{-\frac{1}{2}} \right)}{x} \\
&= \frac{\sqrt{x} \left(1 + \frac{1}{2\sqrt{x}} \right) - (x + \sqrt{x} + 1) \frac{1}{2\sqrt{x}}}{x} \\
&= \frac{\sqrt{x} \left(\frac{2\sqrt{x} + 1}{2\sqrt{x}} \right) - \frac{x + \sqrt{x} + 1}{2\sqrt{x}}}{x} = \frac{2x + \sqrt{x} - x - \sqrt{x} - 1}{x \cdot 2\sqrt{x}} = \frac{x - 1}{2x^{3/2}}
\end{aligned}$$

Example 4: Differentiate $\frac{2x^3 - 3x^2 + 5}{x^2 + 1}$ with respect to x .

Solution: Let $\phi(x) = \frac{2x^3 - 3x^2 + 5}{x^2 + 1}$. Then we take

$$f(x) = 2x^3 - 3x^2 + 5 \quad \text{and} \quad g(x) = x^2 + 1$$

$$\text{Now } f'(x) = \frac{d}{dx} [2x^3 - 3x^2 + 5] = 2(3x^2) - 3(2x) + 0 = 6x^2 - 6x$$

$$\text{and } g'(x) = \frac{d}{dx} [x^2 + 1] = 2x + 0 = 2x$$

Using the quotient formula: $\phi'(x) = \frac{f'(x)g(x) - f(x)g'(x)}{[g(x)]^2}$, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
\frac{d}{dx} \left[\frac{2x^3 - 3x^2 + 5}{x^2 + 1} \right] &= \frac{(6x^2 - 6x)(x^2 + 1) - (2x^3 - 3x^2 + 5)(2x)}{(x^2 + 1)^2} \\
&= \frac{6x^4 - 6x^3 + 6x^2 - 6x - (4x^4 - 6x^3 + 10x)}{(x^2 + 1)^2} \\
&= \frac{6x^4 - 6x^3 + 6x^2 - 6x - 4x^4 + 6x^3 - 10x}{(x^2 + 1)^2} \\
&= \frac{2x^4 + 6x^2 - 16x}{(x^2 + 1)^2}
\end{aligned}$$