

## 3.2

## Differentiation Rules

This section introduces a few rules that allow us to differentiate a great variety of functions. By proving these rules here, we can differentiate functions without having to apply the definition of the derivative each time.

## Powers, Multiples, Sums, and Differences

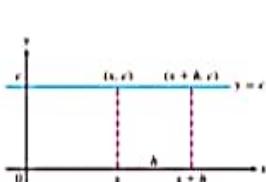
The first rule of differentiation is that the derivative of every constant function is zero.

## RULE 1 Derivative of a Constant Function

If  $f$  has the constant value  $f(x) = c$ , then

$$\frac{df}{dx} = \frac{d}{dx}(c) = 0.$$

186 / 1564



**FIGURE 3.8** The rule  $(d/dx)(c) = 0$  is another way to say that the values of constant functions never change and that the slope of a horizontal line is zero at every point.

## EXAMPLE 1

If  $f$  has the constant value  $f(x) = 8$ , then

$$\frac{df}{dx} = \frac{d}{dx}(8) = 0.$$

Similarly,

$$\frac{d}{dx}\left(-\frac{\pi}{2}\right) = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad \frac{d}{dx}(\sqrt{3}) = 0. \quad \blacksquare$$

**Proof of Rule 1** We apply the definition of derivative to  $f(x) = c$ , the function whose outputs have the constant value  $c$  (Figure 3.8). At every value of  $x$ , we find that

$$f'(x) = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x+h) - f(x)}{h} = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{c - c}{h} = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} 0 = 0. \quad \blacksquare$$

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160 Chapter 3: Differentiation

The second rule tells how to differentiate  $x^n$  if  $n$  is a positive integer.

## RULE 2 Power Rule for Positive Integers

If  $n$  is a positive integer, then

$$\frac{d}{dx}x^n = nx^{n-1}.$$

To apply the Power Rule, we subtract 1 from the original exponent ( $n$ ) and multiply the result by  $n$ .

## EXAMPLE 2 Interpreting Rule 2

$f$	$x$	$x^2$	$x^3$	$x^4$	...
$f'$	1	$2x$	$3x^2$	$4x^3$	...

■

## First Proof of Rule 2 The formula

$$z^n - x^n = (z-x)(z^{n-1} + z^{n-2}x + \dots + zx^{n-2} + x^{n-1})$$

can be verified by multiplying out the right-hand side. Then from the alternative form for the definition of the derivative,

$$\begin{aligned} f'(x) &= \lim_{z \rightarrow x} \frac{f(z) - f(x)}{z - x} = \lim_{z \rightarrow x} \frac{z^n - x^n}{z - x} \\ &= \lim_{z \rightarrow x} (z^{n-1} + z^{n-2}x + \dots + zx^{n-2} + x^{n-1}) \\ &= nx^{n-1} \end{aligned}$$

**Second Proof of Rule 2** If  $f(x) = x^n$ , then  $f(x+h) = (x+h)^n$ . Since  $n$  is a positive integer, we can expand  $(x+h)^n$  by the Binomial Theorem to get

$$\begin{aligned} f'(x) &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x+h) - f(x)}{h} = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{(x+h)^n - x^n}{h} \\ &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{\left[ x^n + nx^{n-1}h + \frac{n(n-1)}{2}x^{n-2}h^2 + \dots + nhx^{n-1} + h^n \right] - x^n}{h} \\ &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{nx^{n-1}h + \frac{n(n-1)}{2}x^{n-2}h^2 + \dots + nhx^{n-1} + h^n}{h} \\ &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \left[ nx^{n-1} + \frac{n(n-1)}{2}x^{n-2}h + \dots + nhx^{n-2} + h^{n-1} \right] \\ &= nx^{n-1} \quad \blacksquare \end{aligned}$$

The third rule says that when a differentiable function is multiplied by a constant, its derivative is multiplied by the same constant.

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## HISTORICAL BIOGRAPHY

Richard Courant  
(1888–1972)



Biography

and

$$\begin{aligned}
 f(x+k) &= \frac{(x+k)}{(x+k)-1} \cdot \infty \\
 f'(x) &= \lim_{k \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x+k) - f(x)}{k} \\
 &= \lim_{k \rightarrow 0} \frac{\frac{x+k}{(x+k)-1} - \frac{x}{(x-1)}}{k} \\
 &= \lim_{k \rightarrow 0} \frac{\frac{1}{(x+k)-1} - \frac{1}{(x-1)}}{k} \\
 &= \lim_{k \rightarrow 0} \frac{-k}{(x+k-1)(x-1)} = \frac{-1}{(x-1)^2}. \quad \blacksquare
 \end{aligned}$$

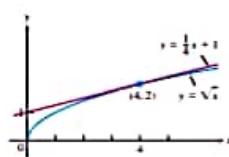
**EXAMPLE 2** Derivative of the Square Root Function

- (a) Find the derivative of  $y = \sqrt{x}$  for  $x > 0$ .  
 (b) Find the tangent line to the curve  $y = \sqrt{x}$  at  $x = 4$ .

174 / 1564

You will often need to know the derivative of  $\sqrt{x}$  for  $x > 0$ .

$$\frac{d}{dx} \sqrt{x} = \frac{1}{2\sqrt{x}}$$



**FIGURE 3.2** The curve  $y = \sqrt{x}$  and its tangent at  $(4, 2)$ . The tangent's slope is found by evaluating the derivative at  $x = 4$  (Example 2).

**Solution**

- (a) We use the equivalent form to calculate  $f'$ :

$$\begin{aligned}
 f'(x) &= \lim_{z \rightarrow x} \frac{f(z) - f(x)}{z - x} \\
 &= \lim_{z \rightarrow x} \frac{\sqrt{z} - \sqrt{x}}{z - x} \\
 &= \lim_{z \rightarrow x} \frac{\sqrt{z} - \sqrt{x}}{(\sqrt{z} - \sqrt{x})(\sqrt{z} + \sqrt{x})} \\
 &= \lim_{z \rightarrow x} \frac{1}{\sqrt{z} + \sqrt{x}} = \frac{1}{2\sqrt{x}}
 \end{aligned}$$

- (b) The slope of the curve at  $x = 4$  is

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

The tangent is the line through the point  $(4, 2)$  with slope  $1/4$  (Figure 3.2):

$$\begin{aligned}
 y &= 2 + \frac{1}{4}(x - 4) \\
 y &= \frac{1}{4}x + 1. \quad \blacksquare
 \end{aligned}$$

We consider the derivative of  $y = \sqrt{x}$  when  $x = 0$  in Example 6.

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**Notations**

There are many ways to denote the derivative of a function  $y = f(x)$ , where the independent variable is  $x$  and the dependent variable is  $y$ . Some common alternative notations for the derivative are:

$$f'(x) = y' = \frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{df}{dx} = \frac{d}{dx} f(x) = D(f)(x) = D_x f(x).$$

The symbols  $d/dx$  and  $D$  indicate the operation of differentiation and are called **differentiation operators**. We read  $dy/dx$  as "the derivative of  $y$  with respect to  $x$ " and  $df/dx$  and  $(d/dx)f(x)$  as "the derivative of  $f$  with respect to  $x$ ". The "prime" notations  $y'$  and  $f'$  come from notations that Newton used for derivatives. The  $d/dx$  notations are similar to those used by Leibniz. The symbol  $dy/dx$  should not be regarded as a ratio (until we introduce the idea of "differentials" in Section 3.8).

Be careful not to confuse the notation  $D(f)$  as meaning the domain of the function  $f$  instead of the derivative function  $f'$ . The distinction should be clear from the context.

To indicate the value of a derivative at a specified number  $x = a$ , we use the notation

$$f'(a) = \left. \frac{dy}{dx} \right|_{x=a} = \left. \frac{df}{dx} \right|_{x=a} = \left. \frac{d}{dx} f(x) \right|_{x=a}.$$

For instance, in Example 2b we could write

$$f'(4) = \left. \frac{d}{dx} \sqrt{x} \right|_{x=4} = \left. \frac{1}{2\sqrt{x}} \right|_{x=4} = \frac{1}{2\sqrt{4}} = \frac{1}{4}.$$

To evaluate an expression, we sometimes use the right bracket } in place of the vertical bar |.

**Graphing the Derivative**

We can often make a reasonable plot of the derivative of  $y = f(x)$  by estimating the slopes on the graph of  $f$ . That is, we plot the points  $(x, f'(x))$  in the  $xy$ -plane and connect them with a smooth curve, which represents  $y = f'(x)$ .

**EXAMPLE 3** Graphing a Derivative

Graph the derivative of the function  $y = f(x)$  in Figure 3.3a.

**Solution** We sketch the tangents to the graph of  $f$  at frequent intervals and use their slopes to estimate the values of  $f'(x)$  at these points. We plot the corresponding  $(x, f'(x))$  pairs and connect them with a smooth curve as sketched in Figure 3.3b. ■

What can we learn from the graph of  $y = f'(x)$ ? At a glance we can see

- where the rate of change of  $f$  is positive, negative, or zero;
- the rough size of the growth rate at any  $x$  and its size in relation to the size of  $f(x)$ ;
- where the rate of change itself is increasing or decreasing.

Here's another example.

**EXAMPLE 4** Concentration of Blood Sugar

On April 23, 1988, the human-powered airplane *Icarus II* flew a record-breaking 119 km from Crete to the island of Santorini in the Aegean Sea, southeast of mainland Greece. Dur-

Step 2 is to show that if the statement is true for any positive integer  $n = k$ , where  $k \geq n_0 = 2$ , then it is also true for  $n = k + 1$ . So suppose that

$$\frac{d}{dx}(u_1 + u_2 + \dots + u_k) = \frac{du_1}{dx} + \frac{du_2}{dx} + \dots + \frac{du_k}{dx}. \quad (1)$$

Then

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{d}{dx}(u_1 + u_2 + \dots + u_k + u_{k+1}) \\ & \quad \text{Call the function defined by this sum } u. \quad \text{Call this function } v. \\ & = \frac{d}{dx}(u_1 + u_2 + \dots + u_k) + \frac{du_{k+1}}{dx} \quad \text{Rule 4 for } \frac{d}{dx}(u + v) \\ & = \frac{du_1}{dx} + \frac{du_2}{dx} + \dots + \frac{du_k}{dx} + \frac{du_{k+1}}{dx}. \quad \text{Eq. (1)} \end{aligned}$$

With these steps verified, the mathematical induction principle now guarantees the Sum Rule for every integer  $n \geq 2$ . ■

### EXAMPLE 6 Finding Horizontal Tangents

Does the curve  $y = x^4 - 2x^2 + 2$  have any horizontal tangents? If so, where?

**Solution** The horizontal tangents, if any, occur where the slope  $dy/dx$  is zero. We have,

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{d}{dx}(x^4 - 2x^2 + 2) = 4x^3 - 4x.$$

Now solve the equation  $\frac{dy}{dx} = 0$  for  $x$ :

$$\begin{aligned} 4x^3 - 4x &= 0 \\ 4x(x^2 - 1) &= 0 \\ x &= 0, 1, -1. \end{aligned}$$

The curve  $y = x^4 - 2x^2 + 2$  has horizontal tangents at  $x = 0, 1$ , and  $-1$ . The corresponding points on the curve are  $(0, 2), (1, 1)$  and  $(-1, 1)$ . See Figure 3.10. ■

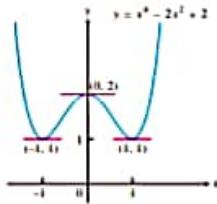


FIGURE 3.10 The curve  $y = x^4 - 2x^2 + 2$  and its horizontal tangents (Example 6).

### Products and Quotients

While the derivative of the sum of two functions is the sum of their derivatives, the derivative of the product of two functions is not the product of their derivatives. For instance,

$$\frac{d}{dx}(x \cdot x) = \frac{d}{dx}(x^2) = 2x, \quad \text{while} \quad \frac{d}{dx}(x) \cdot \frac{d}{dx}(x) = 1 \cdot 1 = 1.$$

The derivative of a product of two functions is the sum of two products, as we now explain.

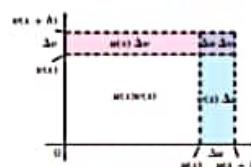
#### RULE 5 Derivative Product Rule

If  $u$  and  $v$  are differentiable at  $x$ , then  $uv$  is their product  $uv$ , and

$$\frac{d}{dx}(uv) = u \frac{dv}{dx} + v \frac{du}{dx}.$$

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**Picturing the Product Rule**  
If  $u(x)$  and  $v(x)$  are positive and increase when  $x$  increases, and if  $h > 0$ ,



then the total shaded area in the picture is

$$\begin{aligned} u(x+h)v(x+h) - u(x)v(x) &= u(x+h)\Delta v + v(x+h)\Delta u \\ &= \Delta u \Delta v. \end{aligned}$$

Dividing both sides of this equation by  $h$  gives

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{u(x+h)v(x+h) - u(x)v(x)}{h} &= u(x+h)\frac{\Delta v}{h} + v(x+h)\frac{\Delta u}{h} \\ &= \Delta u \frac{\Delta v}{h}. \end{aligned}$$

As  $h \rightarrow 0^+$ ,

$$\Delta u \frac{\Delta v}{h} \rightarrow 0 \cdot \frac{dv}{dx} = 0,$$

leaving

$$\frac{d}{dx}(uv) = u \frac{dv}{dx} + v \frac{du}{dx}.$$

The derivative of the product  $uv$  is  $u$  times the derivative of  $v$  plus  $v$  times the derivative of  $u$ . In prime notation,  $(uv)' = uv' + vu'$ . In function notation,

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

### EXAMPLE 7 Using the Product Rule

Find the derivative of

$$y = \frac{1}{x} \left( x^2 + \frac{1}{x} \right).$$

**Solution** We apply the Product Rule with  $u = 1/x$  and  $v = x^2 + (1/x)$ :

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dx} \left[ \frac{1}{x} \left( x^2 + \frac{1}{x} \right) \right] &= \frac{1}{x} \left( 2x - \frac{1}{x^2} \right) + \left( x^2 + \frac{1}{x} \right) \left( -\frac{1}{x^2} \right) & \frac{d}{dx}(uv) = u \frac{dv}{dx} + v \frac{du}{dx} \text{ and} \\ &= 2 - \frac{1}{x^3} - 1 - \frac{1}{x^3} & \frac{d}{dx}\left(\frac{1}{x}\right) = -\frac{1}{x^2} \text{ by} \\ &= 1 - \frac{2}{x^3}. & \text{Example 3, Section 2.7.} \end{aligned}$$



#### Proof of Rule 5

$$\frac{d}{dx}(uv) = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{u(x+h)v(x+h) - u(x)v(x)}{h}$$

To change this fraction into an equivalent one that contains difference quotients for the derivatives of  $u$  and  $v$ , we subtract and add  $u(x+h)v(x)$  in the numerator:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dx}(uv) &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{u(x+h)v(x+h) - u(x+h)v(x) + u(x+h)v(x) - u(x)v(x)}{h} \\ &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \left[ u(x+h) \frac{v(x+h) - v(x)}{h} + v(x) \frac{u(x+h) - u(x)}{h} \right] \\ &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} u(x+h) \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{v(x+h) - v(x)}{h} + v(x) \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{u(x+h) - u(x)}{h}. \end{aligned}$$

As  $h$  approaches zero,  $u(x+h)$  approaches  $u(x)$  because  $u$ , being differentiable at  $x$ , is continuous at  $x$ . The two fractions approach the values of  $dv/dx$  at  $x$  and  $du/dx$  at  $x$ . In short,

$$\frac{d}{dx}(uv) = u \frac{dv}{dx} + v \frac{du}{dx}. \quad \blacksquare$$

In the following example, we have only numerical values with which to work.

### EXAMPLE 8 Derivative from Numerical Values

Let  $y = uv$  be the product of the functions  $u$  and  $v$ . Find  $y'(2)$  if

$$u(2) = 3, \quad u'(2) = -4, \quad v(2) = 1, \quad \text{and} \quad v'(2) = 2.$$

**Solution** From the Product Rule, in the form

$$uv = u \cdot v = u v + u v,$$

we have

$$\begin{aligned}y'(2) &= u(2)v'(2) + v(2)u'(2) \\&= (3)(2) + (1)(-4) = 6 - 4 = 2.\end{aligned}$$

### EXAMPLE 9 Differentiating a Product in Two Ways

Find the derivative of  $y = (x^2 + 1)(x^3 + 3)$ .

**Solution**

(a) From the Product Rule with  $u = x^2 + 1$  and  $v = x^3 + 3$ , we find

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

(b) This particular product can be differentiated as well (perhaps better) by multiplying out the original expression for  $y$  and differentiating the resulting polynomial:

$$\begin{aligned}y &= (x^2 + 1)(x^3 + 3) = x^5 + x^3 + 3x^2 + 3 \\ \frac{dy}{dx} &= 5x^4 + 3x^2 + 6x.\end{aligned}$$

This is in agreement with our first calculation.

Just as the derivative of the product of two differentiable functions is the sum of their derivatives, the derivative of the quotient of two differentiable functions is the Quotient Rule.

192 / 1564

### RULE 6 Derivative Quotient Rule

If  $u$  and  $v$  are differentiable at  $x$  and if  $v(x) \neq 0$ , then the quotient  $u/v$  is differentiable at  $x$ , and

$$\frac{d}{dx}\left(\frac{u}{v}\right) = \frac{v \frac{du}{dx} - u \frac{dv}{dx}}{v^2}.$$

In function notation,

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



### EXAMPLE 10 Using the Quotient Rule

Find the derivative of

$$y = \frac{t^2 - 1}{t^2 + 1}.$$

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166 Chapter 3: Differentiation

**Solution**

We apply the Quotient Rule with  $u = t^2 - 1$  and  $v = t^2 + 1$ :

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{dy}{dt} &= \frac{(t^2 + 1)2t - (t^2 - 1)2t}{(t^2 + 1)^2} = \frac{2t^3 + 2t - 2t^3 + 2t}{(t^2 + 1)^2} \\&= \frac{4t}{(t^2 + 1)^2}.\end{aligned}$$

**Proof of Rule 6**

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{d}{dx}\left(\frac{u}{v}\right) &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{\frac{u(x+h)}{v(x+h)} - \frac{u(x)}{v(x)}}{h} \\&= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{u(x)\frac{u(x+h) - u(x)}{h} - u(x+h)\frac{u(x) - u(x+h)}{h}}{h(v(x+h)v(x))}.\end{aligned}$$

To change the last fraction into an equivalent one that contains the difference quotients for the derivatives of  $u$  and  $v$ , we subtract and add  $v(x)v(x)$  in the numerator. We then get

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{d}{dx}\left(\frac{u}{v}\right) &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{v(x)\frac{u(x+h) - u(x)}{h} - v(x+h)\frac{u(x) - u(x+h)}{h}}{h(v(x+h)v(x))} \\&= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{v(x)\frac{u(x+h) - u(x)}{h} - u(x)\frac{u(x+h) - u(x)}{h}}{v(x+h)v(x)}.\end{aligned}$$

Taking the limit in the numerator and denominator now gives the Quotient Rule. ■

### Negative Integer Powers of x

The Power Rule for negative integers is the same as the rule for positive integers.

### RULE 7 Power Rule for Negative Integers

If  $n$  is a negative integer and  $x \neq 0$ , then

$$\frac{d}{dx}(x^n) = nx^{n-1}.$$

### EXAMPLE 11

$$(a) \frac{d}{dx}\left(\frac{1}{x}\right) = \frac{d}{dx}(x^{-1}) = (-1)x^{-2} = -\frac{1}{x^2} \quad \text{Agrees with Example 3, Section 2.7}$$

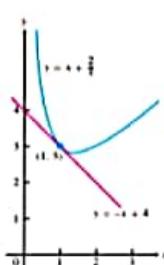
$$(b) \frac{d}{dx}\left(\frac{4}{x^3}\right) = 4 \frac{d}{dx}(x^{-3}) = 4(-3)x^{-4} = -\frac{12}{x^4}$$

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**Proof of Rule 7** The proof uses the Quotient Rule. If  $n$  is a negative integer, then  $n = -m$ , where  $m$  is a positive integer. Hence,  $x^n = x^{-m} = 1/x^m$ , and

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{d}{dx}(x^n) &= \frac{d}{dx}\left(\frac{1}{x^m}\right) \\ &= \frac{x^m \cdot \frac{d}{dx}(1) - 1 \cdot \frac{d}{dx}(x^m)}{(x^m)^2} && \text{Quotient Rule with } n = -1 \text{ and } u = x^m \\ &= \frac{0 - mx^{m-1}}{x^{2m}} && \text{Since } m > 0, \frac{d}{dx}(x^m) = mx^{m-1} \\ &= -mx^{m-1} && \\ &= nx^{n-1}. && \text{Since } -m = n\end{aligned}$$



**FIGURE 3.11** The tangent to the curve  $y = x + (2/x)$  at  $(1, 3)$  in Example 12. The curve has a third-quadrant portion not shown here. We see how to graph functions like this one in Chapter 4.

### EXAMPLE 12 Tangent to a Curve

Find an equation for the tangent to the curve



$$y = x + \frac{2}{x}$$

at the point  $(1, 3)$  (Figure 3.11).

**Solution** The slope of the curve is

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{d}{dx}(x) + 2 \frac{d}{dx}\left(\frac{1}{x}\right) = 1 + 2/x'$$

The slope at  $x = 1$  is

$$\frac{dy}{dx} \Big|_{x=1} = \left[1 - \frac{2}{x^2}\right]_{x=1} = 1 - 2 = -1.$$

The line through  $(1, 3)$  with slope  $m = -1$  is

$$\begin{aligned}y - 3 &= (-1)(x - 1) && \text{Point-slope equation} \\ y &= -x + 1 + 3 \\ y &= -x + 4.\end{aligned}$$

194 / 1564

The choice of which rules to use in solving a differentiation problem can make a difference in how much work you have to do. Here is an example.

### EXAMPLE 13 Choosing Which Rule to Use

Rather than using the Quotient Rule to find the derivative of

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

expand the numerator and divide by  $x^4$ :

$$y = \frac{(x-1)(x^2-2x)}{x^4} = \frac{x^3 - 3x^2 + 2x}{x^4} = x^{-1} - 3x^{-2} + 2x^{-3}.$$

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### 168 Chapter 3: Differentiation

Then use the Sum and Power Rules:

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{dy}{dx} &= -x^{-2} - 3(-2)x^{-3} + 2(-3)x^{-4} \\ &= -\frac{1}{x^2} + \frac{6}{x^3} - \frac{6}{x^4}.\end{aligned}$$

#### Second- and Higher-Order Derivatives

If  $y = f(x)$  is a differentiable function, then its derivative  $f'(x)$  is also a function. If  $f'$  is also differentiable, then we can differentiate  $f'$  to get a new function of  $x$  denoted by  $f''$ . So  $f'' = (f')$ . The function  $f''$  is called the **second derivative** of  $f$  because it is the derivative of the first derivative. Notationally,

$$f''(x) = \frac{d^2y}{dx^2} = \frac{d}{dx}\left(\frac{dy}{dx}\right) = \frac{dy'}{dx} = y'' = D^2(f)(x) = D_x^2 f(x).$$

The symbol  $D^2$  means the operation of differentiation is performed twice.

If  $y = x^6$ , then  $y' = 6x^5$  and we have

$$y'' = \frac{dy'}{dx} = \frac{d}{dx}(6x^5) = 30x^4.$$

Thus  $D^2(x^6) = 30x^4$ .

If  $y''$  is differentiable, its derivative,  $y''' = d^3y/dx^3 = D^3(y)(x) = D_x^3 f(x)$ , is the **third derivative** of  $y$  with respect to  $x$ . The names continue as you imagine, with

$$y^{(n)} = \frac{d}{dx} y^{(n-1)} = \frac{d^2y}{dx^2} = D^2 y$$

denoting the  **$n$ th derivative** of  $y$  with respect to  $x$  for any positive integer  $n$ .

We can interpret the second derivative as the rate of change of the slope of the tangent to the graph of  $y = f(x)$  at each point. You will see in the next chapter that the second derivative reveals whether the graph bends upward or downward from the tangent line as we move off the point of tangency. In the next section, we interpret both the second and third derivatives in terms of motion along a straight line.

#### How to Read the Symbols for Derivatives

$y'$	" $y$ prime"
$y''$	" $y$ double prime"
$\frac{dy}{dx}$	" $d$ squared $x$ divided by $dx$ "
$y'''$	" $y$ triple prime"
$y^{(n)}$	" $y$ super $n$ "
$\frac{d^n y}{dx^n}$	" $d$ to the $n$ of $y$ by $dx$ to the $n$ "
$D^n$	" $D$ to the $n$ "



### EXAMPLE 14 Finding Higher Derivatives

The first four derivatives of  $y = x^3 - 3x^2 + 2$  are

- First derivative:  $y' = 3x^2 - 6x$
- Second derivative:  $y'' = 6 - 6$
- Third derivative:  $y''' = 6$
- Fourth derivative:  $y^{(4)} = 0$ .

The function has derivatives of all orders, the fifth and later derivatives all being zero.

## EXERCISES 3.2

## Derivative Calculations

In Exercises 1–12, find the first and second derivatives.



1.  $y = -x^2 + 3$       2.  $y = x^2 + x + 8$   
 3.  $x = 5x^2 - 3x^3$       4.  $w = 3x^2 - 7x^2 + 21x^2$   
 5.  $y = \frac{4x^3}{3} - x$       6.  $y = \frac{x^3}{3} + \frac{x^2}{2} + \frac{x}{4}$   
 7.  $u = 3x^2 - \frac{1}{2}$       8.  $x = -2x^3 + \frac{4}{x^2}$   
 9.  $y = 6x^2 - 10x - 5x^{-2}$       10.  $y = 4 - 2x - x^{-3}$   
 11.  $x = \frac{1}{3x^2} - \frac{5}{2x}$       12.  $x = \frac{12}{\theta} - \frac{4}{\theta^2} + \frac{1}{\theta^3}$

In Exercises 13–16, find  $y'$  (a) by applying the Product Rule and (b) by multiplying the factors to produce a sum of simpler terms to differentiate.

13.  $y = (3 - x^2)(x^3 - x + 1)$       14.  $y = (x - 1)(x^2 + x + 1)$   
 15.  $y = (x^2 + 1)(x + 5 + \frac{1}{x})$       16.  $y = \left(x + \frac{1}{x}\right)\left(x - \frac{1}{x} + 1\right)$

Find the derivatives of the functions in Exercises 17–28.



17.  $y = \frac{2x + 5}{3x - 2}$       18.  $x = \frac{2x + 1}{x^2 - 1}$   
 19.  $g(x) = \frac{x^2 - 4}{x + 3}$       20.  $f(t) = \frac{t^2 - 1}{t^2 + t - 2}$   
 21.  $v = (1 - t)(1 + t^2)^{-1}$       22.  $w = (2x - 7)^{-1}(x + 5)$   
 23.  $f(x) = \frac{\sqrt{x} - 1}{\sqrt{x} + 1}$       24.  $u = \frac{5x + 1}{2\sqrt{x}}$   
 25.  $v = \frac{1 + x - 4\sqrt{x}}{x}$       26.  $r = 2\left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{u}} + \sqrt{u}\right)$   
 27.  $y = \frac{1}{(x^2 - 1)(x^2 + x + 1)}$       28.  $y = \frac{(x + 1)(x + 2)}{(x - 1)(x - 2)}$

Find the derivatives of all orders of the functions in Exercises 29 and 30.



29.  $y = \frac{x^4}{2} - \frac{1}{2}x^2 - x$       30.  $y = \frac{x^4}{120}$

Find the first and second derivatives of the functions in Exercises 31–38.



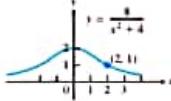
31.  $y = \frac{x^3 + 7}{x}$       32.  $x = \frac{t^2 + 5t - 1}{t^2}$   
 33.  $r = \frac{(t - 1)(t^2 + t + 1)}{t^3}$       34.  $u = \frac{(x^2 + x)(x^2 - x + 1)}{x^4}$   
 35.  $w = \left(\frac{1 + 3x}{3x}\right)(1 - z)$       36.  $w = (z + 1)(z - 1)(z^2 + 1)$

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## 170 Chapter 3: Differentiation



44. Find the tangent to the Witch of Agnesi (graphed here) at the point  $(2, 1)$ .



45. Quadratic tangent to identity function The curve  $y = ax^2 + bx + c$  passes through the point  $(1, 2)$  and is tangent to the line  $y = x$  at the origin. Find  $a$ ,  $b$ , and  $c$ .  
 46. Quadratics having a common tangent The curves  $y = x^2 + ax + b$  and  $y = cx - x^2$  have a common tangent line at the point  $(1, 0)$ . Find  $a$ ,  $b$ , and  $c$ .  
 47. a. Find an equation for the line that is tangent to the curve  $y = x^2 - x$  at the point  $(-1, 0)$ .  
     b. Graph the curve and tangent line together. The tangent intersects the curve at another point. Use Zoom and Trace to estimate the point's coordinates.  
     c. Confirm your estimates of the coordinates of the second intersection point by solving the equations for the curve and tangent simultaneously (Solver key).  
 48. a. Find an equation for the line that is tangent to the curve  $y = x^2 - 6x^2 + 5$  at the origin.  
     b. Graph the curve and tangent together. The tangent intersects the curve at another point. Use Zoom and Trace to estimate the point's coordinates.  
     c. Confirm your estimates of the coordinates of the second intersection point by solving the equations for the curve and tangent simultaneously (Solver key).

## Theory and Examples

49. The general polynomial of degree  $n$  has the form

$$P(x) = a_n x^n + a_{n-1} x^{n-1} + \cdots + a_2 x^2 + a_1 x + a_0$$

where  $a_n \neq 0$ . Find  $P'(x)$ .

50. The body's reaction to medicine The reaction of the body to a dose of medicine can sometimes be represented by an equation of the form

$$R = M^2 \left( \frac{C}{2} - \frac{M}{1} \right),$$

where  $C$  is a positive constant and  $M$  is the amount of medicine absorbed in the blood. If the reaction is a change in blood pressure,  $R$  is measured in millimeters of mercury. If the reaction is a change in temperature,  $R$  is measured in degrees, and so on.

Find  $dR/dM$ . This derivative, as a function of  $M$ , is called the sensitivity of the body to the medicine. In Section 4.5, we will see

$$37. P = \left( \frac{q^2 + 3}{12q} \right) \left( \frac{q^2 - 1}{q^3} \right) \quad 38. P = \frac{q^2 + 3}{(q - 1)^2 + (q + 1)^2}$$



## Using Numerical Values

39. Suppose  $u$  and  $v$  are functions of  $s$  that are differentiable at  $s = 0$  and that

$$u(0) = 5, \quad u'(0) = -3, \quad v(0) = -1, \quad v'(0) = 2.$$

Find the values of the following derivatives at  $s = 0$ .

$$a. \frac{d}{ds}(uv) \quad b. \frac{d}{ds}\left(\frac{u}{v}\right) \quad c. \frac{d}{ds}\left(\frac{v}{u}\right) \quad d. \frac{d}{ds}(7u - 2v)$$

40. Suppose  $u$  and  $v$  are differentiable functions of  $s$  and that

$$u(1) = 2, \quad u'(1) = 0, \quad v(1) = 5, \quad v'(1) = -1.$$

Find the values of the following derivatives at  $s = 1$ .

$$a. \frac{d}{ds}(uv) \quad b. \frac{d}{ds}\left(\frac{u}{v}\right) \quad c. \frac{d}{ds}\left(\frac{v}{u}\right) \quad d. \frac{d}{ds}(7u - 2v)$$

## Slopes and Tangents

41. a. Normal to a curve Find an equation for the line perpendicular to the tangent to the curve  $y = x^2 - 4x + 1$  at the point  $(2, 1)$ .

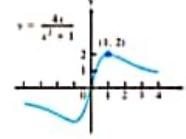
b. Smallest slope What is the smallest slope on the curve? At what point on the curve does the curve have this slope?

- c. Tangents having specified slope Find equations for the tangents to the curve at the points where the slope of the curve is 8.

- d. Horizontal tangents Find equations for the horizontal tangents to the curve  $y = x^2 - 3x - 2$ . Also find equations for the lines that are perpendicular to these tangents at the points of tangency.

- e. Smallest slope What is the smallest slope on the curve? At what point on the curve does the curve have this slope? Find an equation for the line that is perpendicular to the curve's tangent at this point.

43. Find the tangents to Newton's serpentine (graphed here) at the origin and the point  $(1, 2)$ .



how to find the amount of medicine to which the body is most sensitive.

51. Suppose that the function  $u$  in the Product Rule has a constant value  $c$ . What does the Product Rule then say? What does this say about the Constant Multiple Rule?

## 52. The Reciprocal Rule

- a. The Reciprocal Rule says that at any point where the function  $v(x)$  is differentiable and different from zero,

$$\frac{d}{dx}\left(\frac{1}{v}\right) = -\frac{1}{v^2} \frac{dv}{dx}.$$

Show that the Reciprocal Rule is a special case of the Quotient Rule.

- b. Show that the Reciprocal Rule and the Product Rule together imply the Quotient Rule.

53. Generalizing the Product Rule The Product Rule gives the formula

$$\frac{d}{dx}(uv) = u \frac{dv}{dx} + v \frac{du}{dx}$$

for the derivative of the product  $uv$  of two differentiable functions  $u$  and  $v$ .

- a. What is the analogous formula for the derivative of the product  $uvw$  of three differentiable functions of  $x$ ?

- b. What is the formula for the derivative of the product  $u_1 u_2 u_3 \dots u_n$  of  $n$  differentiable functions of  $x$ ?

- c. What is the formula for the derivative of a product  $u_1 u_2 u_3 \dots u_n$  of a finite number  $n$  of differentiable functions of  $x$ ?

## 54. Rational Powers

- a. Find  $\frac{d}{dx}(x^{1/2})$  by writing  $x^{1/2}$  as  $x \cdot x^{-1/2}$  and using the Product Rule. Express your answer as a rational number times a rational power of  $x$ . Work parts (b) and (c) by a similar method.

$$b. \frac{d}{dx}(x^{3/2})$$

$$c. \frac{d}{dx}(x^{5/2})$$

- d. What patterns do you see in your answers to parts (a), (b), and (c)? Rational powers are one of the topics in Section 3.6.

55. Cylinder pressure If gas in a cylinder is maintained at a constant temperature  $T$ , the pressure  $P$  is related to the volume  $V$  by a formula of the form

$$P = \frac{aRT}{V - bV} = \frac{aV^2}{V^2 - bV},$$

in which  $a$ ,  $b$ , and  $R$  are constants. Find  $dP/dV$ . (See accompanying figure.)