

RULE 5 **Derivative Product Rule**

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

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

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 $v = x^2 + (1/x)$:

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

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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

$$y' = (uv)' = uv' + vu',$$

we have

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

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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 not the product of their derivatives, the derivative of the quotient of two functions is not the quotient of their derivatives. What happens instead is the Quotient Rule.

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

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

Solution

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

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{dy}{dt} &= \frac{(t^2 + 1) \cdot 2t - (t^2 - 1) \cdot 2t}{(t^2 + 1)^2} & \frac{d}{dt} \left(\frac{u}{v} \right) &= \frac{v(du/dt) - u(dv/dt)}{v^2} \\ &= \frac{2t^3 + 2t - 2t^3 + 2t}{(t^2 + 1)^2} \\ &= \frac{4t}{(t^2 + 1)^2}.\end{aligned}$$

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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

$$(a) \quad \frac{d}{dx} \left(\frac{1}{x} \right) = \frac{d}{dx}(x^{-1}) = (-1)x^{-2} = -\frac{1}{x^2}$$

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

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 5)

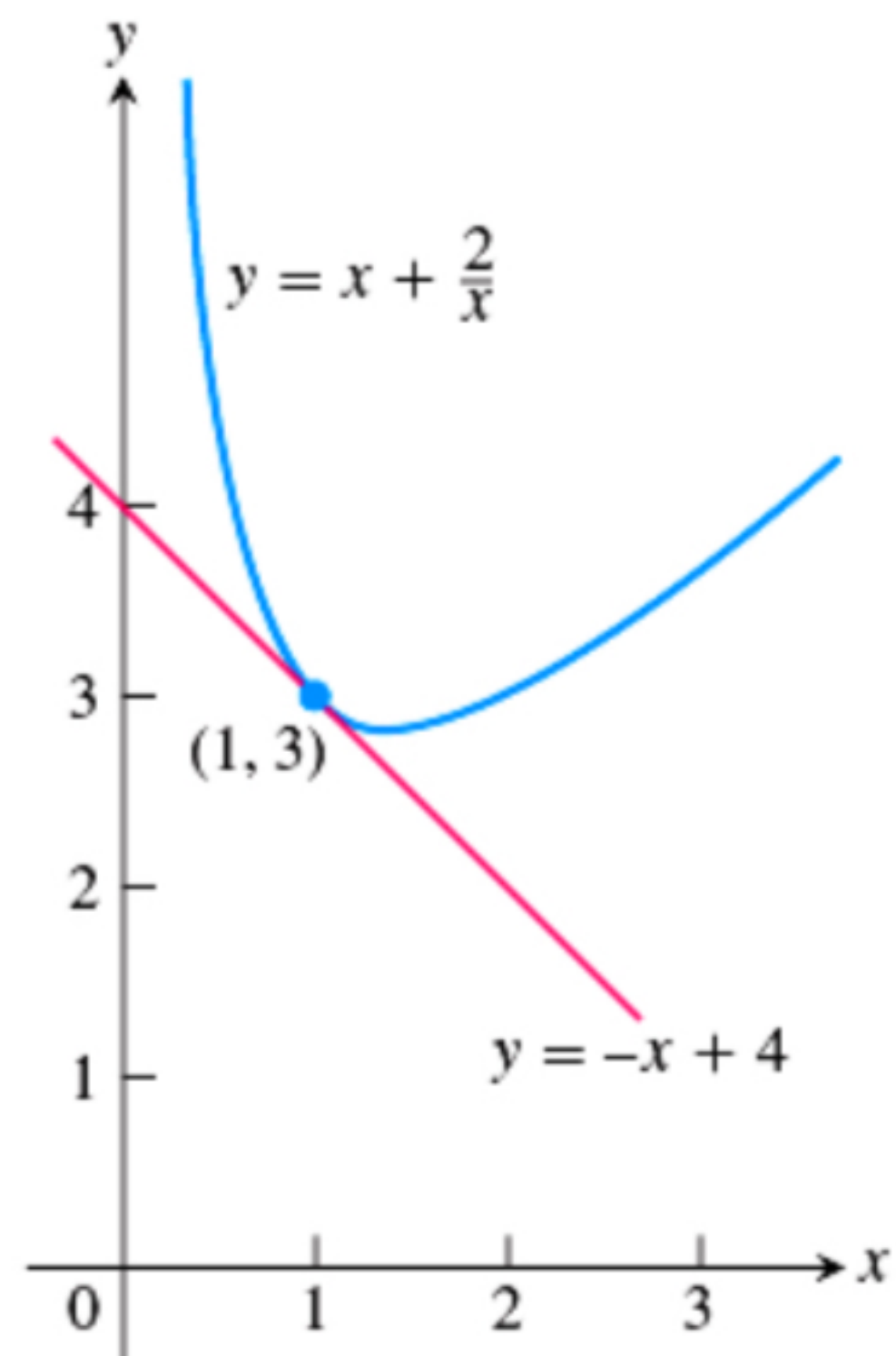


FIGURE 5 The tangent to the curve $y = x + (2/x)$ at $(1, 3)$ in Example 12. The curve has a third-quadrant portion not shown here. We see how to graph functions like this one in Chapter 4.

Solution The slope of the curve is

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{d}{dx}(x) + 2 \frac{d}{dx}\left(\frac{1}{x}\right) = 1 + 2\left(-\frac{1}{x^2}\right) = 1 - \frac{2}{x^2}.$$

The slope at $x = 1$ is

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

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

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



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 :

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

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, $y''' = dy''/dx = d^3y/dx^3$ is the **third derivative** of y with respect to x . The names continue as you imagine, with

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

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.

EXAMPLE 14 Finding Higher Derivatives

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

$$\text{First derivative: } y' = 3x^2 - 6x$$

$$\text{Second derivative: } y'' = 6x - 6$$

$$\text{Third derivative: } y''' = 6$$

$$\text{Fourth derivative: } y^{(4)} = 0.$$

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