

September 18

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1. Find the derivatives of the following functions.

(a)  $f(x) = 6x - 2xe^x$

**SOLUTION:** Use the sum/difference rule, followed by a product rule

$$f'(x) = \left( \frac{d}{dx} 6x \right) - \left( \frac{d}{dx} \underbrace{2x}_u \underbrace{e^x}_v \right) = 6 - (u'v + v'u) = 6 - ((2)e^x + (2x)e^x)$$

(b)  $f(x) = (1 + \frac{1}{x^2})(x^2 + 1)$

**SOLUTION:** It's easier to write  $\frac{1}{x^2} = x^{-2}$ . Use product rule again

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dx} \underbrace{(1 + x^{-2})}_u \underbrace{(x^2 + 1)}_v &= u'v + v'u \quad \text{where } u' = -2x^{-3}, v' = 2x. \\ &= (-2x^{-3})(x^2 + 1) + (2x)(1 + x^{-2}) \\ &= -2x^{-1} - 2x^{-3} + 2x + 2x^{-1} \\ &= 2x - 2x^{-3} \end{aligned}$$

(c)  $f(x) = \frac{2e^x - 1}{2e^x + 1}$

**SOLUTION:** Use the quotient rule

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dx} \frac{2e^x - 1}{2e^x + 1} &\leftarrow \frac{u}{v} = \frac{u'v - v'u}{v^2} \quad \text{where } u' = 2e^x, v' = 2e^x \\ &= \frac{(2e^x)(2e^x + 1) - (2e^x)(2e^x - 1)}{(2e^x + 1)^2} \quad \text{Stop here; don't simplify.} \end{aligned}$$

(d)  $f(t) = 2500e^{.075t}$

**SOLUTION:** This just follows from the derivative of  $e^{kx}$  for some constant  $k$ .

$$f'(t) = (.075)2500e^{.075t} = 1875e^{.075t}$$

(e)  $f(x) = \frac{1}{x^5}$

**SOLUTION:** Write it as  $f(x) = x^{-5}$  and it becomes easy.

$$f'(x) = -5x^{-5-1} = -5x^{-6}$$

2. Find the  $x$  values such that the slope of  $f(x) = xe^{2x}$  is zero.**SOLUTION:** We first find the derivative,  $f'(x)$  using the product rule:

$$\frac{d}{dx} \underbrace{x}_u \underbrace{e^{2x}}_v = u'v + v'u = (1)(e^{2x}) + (e^{2x})(x) = e^{2x} + xe^{2x}$$

Now we set this equal to zero and solve for  $x$ .

$$0 = e^{2x} + xe^{2x}$$

$$0 = e^{2x}(1 + 2x) \quad \text{and we can divide by } e^{2x} \text{ because it is nonzero for all } x.$$

$$0 = 1 + 2x$$

The only solution is  $x = -\frac{1}{2}$ .

3. True or false:

(a)  $\frac{d}{dx}(e^5) = 5e$

**SOLUTION:** False!  $e^5$  is not an exponential function - it is a constant function (about 148.413), its derivative is zero. Same goes for part b.

(b)  $\frac{d}{dx}(e^5) = e^5$

4. Based on the following table of  $x$  values and function/derivative values, evaluate the following:

$x$	1	2	3	4
$f(x)$	5	4	3	2
$f'(x)$	3	5	2	1
$g(x)$	4	2	5	3
$g'(x)$	2	4	3	1

a)  $\frac{d}{dx}(f(x)g(x))\Big|_{x=1}$       b)  $\frac{d}{dx}\left(\frac{xf(x)}{g(x)}\right)\Big|_{x=4}$

a) **SOLUTION:**

$$\frac{d}{dx}(f(x)g(x))\Big|_{x=1} = (f'(x)g(x) + g'(x)f(x))\Big|_{x=1} = (3)(4) + (2)(5) = 10$$

b) **SOLUTION:** We use the quotient rule, with  $u = xf(x)$  and  $v = g(x)$ .

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dx}\left(\frac{xf(x)}{g(x)}\right)\Big|_{x=4} &= \left(\frac{u'v - v'u}{v^2}\right)\Big|_{x=4} \\ &= \left(\frac{(f(x) + xf'(x))g(x) - g'(x)(xf(x))}{g(x)^2}\right)\Big|_{x=4} \\ &= \frac{(f(4) + 4f'(4))g(4) - g'(4)(4f(4))}{g(4)^2} \\ &= \frac{(2 + 4 \cdot 1)3 - (1)(4 \cdot 2)}{3^2} \\ &= \frac{10}{9} \end{aligned}$$

5. Find  $f'(x)$ ,  $f''(x)$ , and  $f'''(x)$ .

(a)  $f(x) = \frac{1}{x}$

**SOLUTION:** It is much easier to first write  $f(x) = x^{-1}$  and use the power rule.

$$\begin{aligned} f'(x) &= -1x^{-1-1} = -x^{-2} \\ f''(x) &= -(-2)x^{-2-1} = 2x^{-3} \\ f'''(x) &= (-3)2x^{-3-1} = -6x^{-4} \end{aligned}$$

(b)  $f(x) = x^2 e^{3x}$

**SOLUTION:** We just have to use product rule.

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dx} f(x) &= \frac{d}{dx} \underbrace{x^2}_u \underbrace{e^{3x}}_v \\ &= u'v + v'u \\ &= (2x)(e^{3x}) + (3e^{3x})(x^2) \\ &= 2xe^{3x} + 3x^2 e^{3x} \end{aligned}$$

It is helpful when evaluating the second derivative to write  $f'(x) = 2xe^{3x} + 3f(x)$ .

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dx} f'(x) &= \frac{d}{dx} \left( \underbrace{(2x)}_u \underbrace{e^{3x}}_v + 3f(x) \right) \\ &= u'v + v'u + 3f'(x) \\ &= (2)(e^{3x}) + (3e^{3x})(2x) + 3(2xe^{3x} + 3x^2 e^{3x}) \\ &= 2e^{3x} + 6xe^{3x} + 6xe^{3x} + 9x^2 e^{3x} \\ &= 2e^{3x} + 12xe^{3x} + 9x^2 e^{3x} \end{aligned}$$

Again, it may be helpful to write this as  $f''(x) = 2e^{3x} + 6f'(x) - 9f(x)$  for the third derivative.

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dx} f''(x) &= \frac{d}{dx} (2e^{3x} + 6f'(x) - 9f(x)) \\ &= (3)2e^{3x} + 6f''(x) - 9f'(x) \\ &= 6e^{3x} + 6(2e^{3x} + 12xe^{3x} + 9x^2 e^{3x}) - 9(2xe^{3x} + 3x^2 e^{3x}) \\ &= 6e^{3x} + 12e^{3x} + 72xe^{3x} + 54x^2 e^{3x} - 18xe^{3x} - 27x^2 e^{3x} \\ &= 18e^{3x} + 54xe^{3x} + 27x^2 e^{3x} \end{aligned}$$

6. Find some  $f$  and  $g$  non-constant functions such that  $\frac{d}{dx} f(x)g(x) = f'(x)g'(x)$ **SOLUTION:** This is very tricky. We wouldn't expect you to get this one, but here's a solution, see if you understand it.In general,  $\frac{d}{dx} f(x)g(x) = f'(x)g(x) + f(x)g'(x)$  (this is the Product Rule for derivatives). If we find  $f$  and  $g$  as desired, then they satisfy the equation

$$f'(x)g(x) + f(x)g'(x) = f'(x)g'(x)$$

Let's put all terms with  $f'(x)$  as a factor on the right. We get

$$f(x)g(x) = f'(x)(g'(x) - g(x))$$

For any  $x$  such that  $g'(x) \neq 0$  we could divide by  $g(x)$  and get

$$f(x) = f'(x) \frac{g'(x) - g(x)}{g'(x)} \tag{6.1}$$

What does this tell us about the  $f$  we are looking for? Well, for one thing if it is possible that its derivative is a scalar multiple of itself, then it might do the trick. The same goes for  $g$  (since we could have done the

same thing swapping the places of  $f$  and  $g$ . So we want functions whose derivatives are scalar multiples of themselves. One such candidate is  $e^{kx}$ , whose slope is never equal to zero. Let us try such functions. Assume

$$f(x) = e^{ax}, g(x) = e^{bx} \quad \text{for some } a, b \in \mathbb{R}.$$

Plugging these into equation 6.1, we get

$$e^{ax} = (ae^{ax}) \frac{be^{bx} - e^{bx}}{e^{bx}} = ae^{ax} \frac{b-1}{b}$$

Which is true only when

$$a = \frac{b}{b-1}$$

So pick some  $b \neq 1$  or  $0$  and you will get your  $a$ . It turns out that  $a = b = 2$  works, so one solution is  $f(x) = g(x) = e^{2x}$ .