

The Product Rule

Example 1: Find $f'(x)$ given that $f(x) = 2x^2(3x^4 + 5)$.

What if we take the derivatives of each factor and multiply those together?

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

We can't simply multiply the derivatives of each factor together. Don't do this!!

The Product Rule

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

Example 1 (revisited): Use the product rule to find $f'(x)$ given that $f(x) = 2x^2(3x^4 + 5)$.

Example 2: If $y = 3e^x \sin(x)$, find $y'(\frac{\pi}{2})$.

DIY

1. Find the x -values at which $y = 2x^3e^x$ has a horizontal tangent line.

2. Find the equation of the tangent line to $y = 4x \cos(x)$ at $x = \pi$.