

Lesson 9: Section 3.4

Product Rule:

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

• Since there is a '+', the order doesn't matter:

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

• "Derivative of the first times the second left alone plus the first left alone times the derivative of the second"

• You can take the derivative of a product of three or more functions by grouping and using the usual product rule. The outcome follows the same pattern: each function gets one turn as a derivative.

Example:

$$\frac{d}{dx} (f(x) \cdot g(x) \cdot h(x))$$

$$\begin{aligned} &= f'(x) \cdot g(x) \cdot h(x) \\ &\quad + f(x) \cdot g'(x) \cdot h(x) \\ &\quad + f(x) \cdot g(x) \cdot h'(x) \end{aligned}$$

Quotient Rule

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

- Since there is a ' - ' the order does matter.

$$\frac{d}{dx} \left[\frac{\text{high}}{\text{low}} \right] = \frac{\text{low} \cdot (\text{d-high}) - \text{high} \cdot (\text{d-low})}{(\text{low})^2}$$

"Low D High minus High D Low over the square of what's below"

Note: Sometimes simplifying and using the power rule is easier than using the product/quotient rules.

L9 P2

Example:

$$\frac{d}{dx} [x \cdot \sqrt{x} \cdot x^{2/3}]$$

$$\frac{d}{dx} \left[\frac{x^2+1}{x} \right]$$

Practice Problems

1. (Spring 2017 Exam 2 Problem 5)

Find all values of x for which the graph of $f(x) = \frac{2x-1}{x+1}$ has a tangent line parallel to the line $y=3x+1$.

2. Find $\frac{d^2y}{dx^2}$, where

$$y = (5x^2-3)(7x^3+x),$$

in two ways:

- (i) using the product rule
- (ii) expanding and using the power rule