

Example 3: Calculate the derivative of $f(x) = 2e^x(x^3 - \sqrt{x})$.

note $\sqrt{x} = x^{\frac{1}{2}}$

Solution: $f(x) = 2e^x(x^3 - \sqrt{x})$ is a product of $g(x) = 2e^x$ and $h(x) = x^3 - \sqrt{x}$. The product law is

$$(g \cdot h)' = g' \cdot h + g \cdot h'.$$

$$g'(x) = 2e^x$$

$$h'(x) = 3x^2 - \frac{1}{2}x^{-\frac{1}{2}}$$

so

$$\begin{aligned} f'(x) &= (g \cdot h)'(x) = g'(x) \cdot h(x) + g(x) \cdot h'(x) = 2e^x(x^3 - \sqrt{x}) + 2e^x(3x^2 - \frac{1}{2}x^{-\frac{1}{2}}) \\ &= 2e^x\left(x^3 + 3x^2 - \sqrt{x} - \frac{1}{2\sqrt{x}}\right) \end{aligned}$$

Example 4: Calculate the derivative of $f(x) = \frac{3x^2 - 1}{x^3 + 2x}$.

Solution: $f(x) = \frac{g(x)}{h(x)}$ where $g(x) = 3x^2 - 1$ and $h(x) = x^3 + 2x$. The quotient law is

$$\left(\frac{g}{h}\right)' = \frac{g' \cdot h - g \cdot h'}{h^2}.$$

$$g'(x) = 6x \quad \text{and} \quad h'(x) = 3x^2 + 2$$

so

$$\begin{aligned} f'(x) &= \left(\frac{g}{h}\right)'(x) = \frac{g'(x) \cdot h(x) - g(x) \cdot h'(x)}{h(x)^2} = \frac{6x(x^3 + 2x) - (3x^2 - 1)(3x^2 + 2)}{(x^3 + 2x)^2} \end{aligned}$$

$$= \frac{-3x^4 + 9x^2 + 2}{(x^3 + 2x)^2}$$

Example 5: Calculate the derivative of $\sin(\theta) \cos(\theta)$ with respect to θ .

Solution:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{d\theta} \sin(\theta) \cos(\theta) &= \left(\frac{d}{d\theta} \sin(\theta)\right) \cdot \cos(\theta) + \sin(\theta) \cdot \left(\frac{d}{d\theta} \cos(\theta)\right) = (\cos(\theta)) \cos(\theta) + \sin(\theta)(-\sin(\theta)) \\ &\equiv \cos^2 \theta - \sin^2 \theta \\ &= 2\cos^2 \theta - 1 \end{aligned}$$

Example 5: Calculate the derivative of $2^x \cdot x^2 \cdot \cos(x)$ with respect to x .

Solution: $2^x \cdot x^2 \cdot \cos(x) = (2^x) \cdot (x^2 \cdot \cos(x))$, so by the product rule

$$\frac{d}{dx} (2^x \cdot x^2 \cdot \cos(x)) = \left(\frac{d}{dx} 2^x \right) \cdot (x^2 \cdot \cos(x)) + (2^x) \cdot \left(\frac{d}{dx} x^2 \cdot \cos(x) \right)$$

We need to calculate $\frac{d}{dx} 2^x$ and $\frac{d}{dx} x^2 \cdot \cos(x)$.

$$\frac{d}{dx} 2^x = \ln(2) 2^x$$

To calculate $\frac{d}{dx} x^2 \cdot \cos(x)$ we need to use the product rule again:

$$\frac{d}{dx} x^2 \cdot \cos(x) = \left(\frac{d}{dx} x^2 \right) \cos(x) + x^2 \left(\frac{d}{dx} \cos(x) \right) = 2x \cos(x) - x^2 \sin(x)$$

Finally, we can calculate $\frac{d}{dx} (2^x \cdot x^2 \cdot \cos(x))$:

$$\frac{d}{dx} (2^x \cdot x^2 \cdot \cos(x)) = \left(\frac{d}{dx} 2^x \right) \cdot (x^2 \cdot \cos(x)) + (2^x) \cdot \left(\frac{d}{dx} x^2 \cdot \cos(x) \right) =$$

$$= 2^x \left[x^2 \cos(x) + 2x \cos(x) - x^2 \sin(x) \right]$$

$$= x 2^x \left[(x+2) \cos(x) - x \sin(x) \right]$$

Example 6: Calculate the derivative of $\frac{e^x \sin(x)}{x^2 + 7}$ with respect to x .

Solution: By the quotient rule we have

$$\frac{d}{dx} \frac{e^x \sin(x)}{x^2 + 7} = \frac{\left(\frac{d}{dx} e^x \sin(x) \right) \cdot (x^2 + 7) - (e^x \sin(x)) \cdot \left(\frac{d}{dx} (x^2 + 7) \right)}{(x^2 + 7)^2}$$

We need to calculate $\frac{d}{dx} e^x \sin(x)$ and $\frac{d}{dx} (x^2 + 7)$.

$$\frac{d}{dx} (x^2 + 7) = 2x$$

Using the product rule we see that

$$\frac{d}{dx} e^x \sin(x) = \left(\frac{d}{dx} e^x \right) \sin(x) + e^x \left(\frac{d}{dx} \sin(x) \right) = e^x \sin(x) + e^x \cos(x) = e^x (\sin(x) + \cos(x))$$

Finally, we have

$$\frac{d}{dx} \frac{e^x \sin(x)}{x^2 + 7} = \frac{\left(\frac{d}{dx} e^x \sin(x) \right) \cdot (x^2 + 7) - (e^x \sin(x)) \cdot \left(\frac{d}{dx} (x^2 + 7) \right)}{(x^2 + 7)^2} = \frac{e^x (\sin(x) + \cos(x)) (x^2 + 7) - 2x e^x \sin(x)}{(x^2 + 7)^2}$$

$$= \frac{e^x [\sin(x)(x^2 + 7) + \cos(x)(x^2 + 7)]}{(x^2 + 7)^2}$$