



Math 142 - copyright Angela Allen, Fall 2012

4.1 Supplement: Derivatives of Powers, Exponents, and Sums

**Derivative Notation** - If  $y = f(x)$ , then

$$f'(x) \quad y' \quad \frac{dy}{dx} \quad \frac{d}{dx}f(x)$$

all represent the derivative of  $f$  at  $x$ .

**Derivative Rules:**

- 1) If  $f(x) = c$ , where  $c$  is a constant, then  $f'(x) = 0$ . (Constant Function Rule)  
*constant*
- 2) If  $f(x) = ax + b$ , then  $f'(x) = a$ . (Derivative of a Linear Function)
- 3) If  $f(x) = x^n$ , where  $n$  is any nonzero real number, then  $f'(x) = nx^{n-1}$ . (Power Rule)  
 *$y = t^{-3}$*
- 4) If  $f(x) = ku(x)$ , where  $k$  is a constant, then  $f'(x) = ku'(x)$ . (Constant Multiple Rule)  
 *$y' = -3 \cdot t^{-3-1} = -3 \cdot t^{-4}$*
- 5) If  $f(x) = u(x) + v(x)$ , then  $f'(x) = u'(x) + v'(x)$ . If  $f(x) = u(x) - v(x)$ , then  $f'(x) = u'(x) - v'(x)$ . (Sum and Difference Rules)

Example:  $y = \sqrt{7}$ . Find  $y'$ . = 0 since it is constant.

① function  $f(x)$  or  $y$

Example:  $f(x) = x^5$ . Find  $f'(x)$ . =  $5x^4$

(Newton) ① Derivative 1st notation.

Example:  $y = t^{-3}$ . Find  $\frac{dy}{dt}$ . =  $-3t^{-3-1} = -3t^{-4}$   
*variable = t*

$f'(x)$  or  $y'$   
⇒ Derivative of  $f(x)$  or  $y$

Example:  $\frac{d}{dx} \frac{1}{x^2} = \frac{d}{dx} (x^{-2}) = -\frac{2}{3} \cdot x^{-\frac{5}{3}}$

(Leibniz) ② Derivative 2nd notation

$\frac{d}{dx} \frac{1}{(x^2)^{\frac{1}{2}}} = \frac{d}{dx} \frac{1}{x^{\frac{1}{2}}} = \frac{d}{dx} x^{-\frac{1}{2}} = -\frac{1}{2} x^{-\frac{1}{2}-1} = -\frac{1}{2} x^{-\frac{3}{2}} = -\frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{1}{x^{\frac{3}{2}}} = -\frac{1}{2x^{\frac{3}{2}}}$

$\frac{df(x)}{dx}$  or  $\frac{dy}{dx}$   
⇒  $\frac{d}{dx} \cdot f(x)$

Example:  $f(x) = 3x^2$ . Find  $f'(x)$ . =  $3 \cdot (\text{derivative of } x^2) = 3 \cdot 2x = 6x$ .  
 *$x^2 \rightarrow 2x$*

$f(x)$   
 $f'(x) = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x+h) - f(x)}{x+h - x}$   
=  $\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x+h) - f(x)}{h}$   
= Slope of tangent line at  $x$ .

Example:  $y = 2x$ . Find  $y'$ .  $\leftarrow 2 \cdot (\text{derivative of } x) = 2 \cdot 1 = 2$ .

Example:  $f(x) = 3x^2 + 7x - 9$ . Find  $f'(x)$ .

$$f'(x) = 6x + 7 - 0 = 6x + 7.$$

Example:  $y = \sqrt[3]{w} - 3w$ . Find  $\frac{dy}{dw}$ .

$$y = w^{\frac{1}{3}} - 3w$$

$$\frac{dy}{dw} = \frac{1}{3}w^{-\frac{2}{3}} - 3$$

① Change terms with exponent form

② Use power rule to each term

Example:  $\frac{d}{dx} \frac{3x^2 + x^4}{5\sqrt{x}} = \frac{d}{dx} \left( \frac{3x^2}{5\sqrt{x}} + \frac{x^4}{5\sqrt{x}} \right)$

$$= \frac{d}{dx} \left( \frac{3}{5} \cdot x^{2-\frac{1}{2}} + \frac{1}{5} x^{4-\frac{1}{2}} \right)$$

$$= \frac{3}{5} \cdot (2-\frac{1}{2}) \cdot x^{2-\frac{1}{2}-1} + \frac{1}{5} (4-\frac{1}{2}) \cdot x^{4-\frac{1}{2}-1}$$

$$= \frac{3}{5} \cdot \frac{3}{2} \cdot x^{\frac{3}{2}} + \frac{1}{5} \cdot \left(\frac{7}{2}\right) \cdot x^{\frac{7}{2}}$$

$$= \frac{9}{10} x^{\frac{3}{2}} + \frac{7}{10} x^{\frac{7}{2}}$$

Simplification.

**Applications**

**Example:** An object moves along the  $y$  axis (marked in feet) so that its position at time  $t$  (in seconds) is  $s(t) = t^3 - 6t^2 + 9t$ . Find

a) The instantaneous velocity function  $v$ .

derivative of  $s$   $s(t) = t^3 - 6t^2 + 9t$

$$v = s'(t) = 3t^2 - 12t + 9$$

b) The velocity at  $t = 2$  and  $t = 5$  seconds.

$$v(5) = 3 \cdot 25 - 12 \cdot 5 + 9 = 75 - 60 + 9 = 24$$

c) The time(s) when the velocity is 0 ft/s.

$$v(2) = 3 \cdot 4 - 12 \cdot 2 + 9 = 12 - 24 + 9 = -3 \text{ ft/s}$$

$\Rightarrow$  Find  $t$  such that  $v(t) = 0$

$$3t^2 - 12t + 9 = 0$$

$$t^2 - 4t + 3 = 0 \Rightarrow (t-1)(t-3) = 0$$

$$t = 1 \text{ or } 3$$

**Example:** Let  $f(x) = x^4 - 6x^2 + 10$ . Find

a) The equation of the tangent line at  $x = 1$ .

$$f(x) = x^4 - 6x^2 + 10 = 5$$

$$f'(x) = 4x^3 - 12x + 0$$

$$y = -8x + 8 + 5 = -8x + 13$$

$$y - 5 = -8(x - 1)$$

(Slope point form on

slope = -8, point = (1, 5)

- ① slope  $\rightarrow f'(x) = 4x^3 - 12x$
  - ② point slope at  $x=1 = f'(1)$
  - ③ equation  $= 4 - 12 = -8$
- $(1, f(1)) = (1, 5)$

b) Find the values of  $x$  where the tangent line is horizontal.

$\Leftrightarrow$  " where  $f'(x) = 0$ .

$$f'(x) = 4x^3 - 12x = 0 \Rightarrow 4x^2 - 12 = 0$$

$$4x(x^2 - 3) = 0$$

$$4x(x - \sqrt{3})(x + \sqrt{3}) = 0 \Rightarrow x = 0, \sqrt{3}, -\sqrt{3}$$

**Example:** The total sales of a company (in millions of dollars)  $t$  months from now are given by  $S(t) = 0.015t^4 + 0.4t^3 + 3.4t^2 + 10t - 3$ . Find  $S(4)$  and  $S'(4)$ . Then, **interpret both results.**

$$S'(t) = 4 \cdot 0.015t^3 + 3 \cdot 0.4 \cdot t^2 + 2 \cdot (3.4) \cdot t + 10$$

$$= 0.06t^3 + 1.2t^2 + 6.8t + 10$$

$S(4) =$  Use calculator  $= 120.84$

$S'(4) =$  "  $= 60.24$

**S(4)**  
The amount of sales after 4 months will be 120.84 mil\$.

**S'(4)**  
Four months now on sales will increase by 60.24 mil\$/month

**Marginal Cost, Revenue, and Profit** - If  $x$  is the number of units of a product produced in some time interval, then

1) total cost =  $C(x)$  and marginal cost =  $C'(x)$

2) total revenue =  $R(x)$  and marginal revenue =  $R'(x)$

3) total profit =  $P(x) = R(x) - C(x)$  and marginal profit =  $R'(x) - C'(x)$

\*Marginal cost (or revenue or profit) is the instantaneous rate of change of cost (or revenue or profit) relative to production at a given production level.

**Example:** A company that makes grills has a total weekly cost function (in dollars) of  $C(x) = 10,000 + 90x - 0.05x^2$ , where  $x$  is the number of grills produced.

a) Find  $C(500)$  and interpret your answer.

$$\begin{aligned} C(500) &= 10,000 + 45,000 - 0.05 \cdot 250,000 \\ &= 42,500 \text{ \$} \end{aligned} \quad (= 12500)$$

When you produce 500 grills then cost is 42,500\$

b) Find the marginal cost at a production level of 500 grills per week. Then, interpret your result.

$$\begin{aligned} C'(x) &= 0 + 90 - 0.1x = -0.1x + 90 \\ C'(500) &= -0.1(500) + 90 = -50 + 90 = 40 \text{ \$/grill} \end{aligned}$$

When you already produce 500 grills, then producing 1 more grill will increase the cost by amount of 40\$.

c) Approximate/estimate the cost of producing 501 grills.

$$500 \text{ grills} \rightarrow \text{costs } 42,500 \text{ \$}$$

$$C(500) + C'(500) = 42,500 \text{ \$} + 40 \text{ \$}$$

d) Approximate/estimate the cost of the 501st grill. (= Marginal Cost)

$$40 \text{ \$}$$

e) Find the exact cost of producing the 501st grill.

$$C(501) - C(500) = \text{Calculator} = 39.95 \text{ \$}$$

**Derivatives of Exponential and Logarithmic Functions**

- 1.  $\frac{d}{dx} e^x = e^x$
- 2.  $\frac{d}{dx} \ln x = \frac{1}{x}$
- 3.  $\frac{d}{dx} b^x = b^x \ln b$
- 4.  $\frac{d}{dx} \log_b x = \frac{1}{\ln b} \left( \frac{1}{x} \right)$

$$\log_b x = \frac{\ln x}{\ln b}$$

$$b = e^{\ln b} = b^{\ln e} = b$$

$$b^x = (e^{\ln b})^x = (e^{x \ln b})$$

$$(b^x)' = \ln b \cdot e^{x \ln b} = \ln b \cdot b^x$$

**Example:** Find  $\frac{dy}{dx}$  for the following. Do not simplify your answer!

$$\frac{d}{dx} \log_b x = \frac{d}{dx} \frac{\ln x}{\ln b}$$

$$= \frac{1}{\ln b} \frac{d}{dx} \ln x$$

$$= \frac{1}{\ln b} \cdot \frac{1}{x}$$

constant

a)  $y = \log_{\pi} x$   $\frac{dy}{dx} = \left( \begin{smallmatrix} b = \pi \\ \text{Rule 4} \end{smallmatrix} \right) \frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{1}{\ln \pi} \cdot \frac{1}{x}$

b)  $y = 7 \cdot 129^x$   $\frac{dy}{dx} = \left( \begin{smallmatrix} b = 129 \\ \text{Rule 3} \end{smallmatrix} \right) = (7 \cdot 129)^x \ln(7 \cdot 129)$

c)  $y = 8e^x - e^8 + \frac{1}{9} \ln x$   $\frac{dy}{dx} = 8e^x + 0 + \frac{1}{9} \cdot \frac{1}{x}$

d)  $y = x^4 - 4^x - 3 \log_6 x + 7(5^x)$   $\frac{dy}{dx} = 4x^3 - 4^x \ln 4 - 3 \cdot \frac{1}{\ln 6} \cdot \frac{1}{x} + 7 \cdot 5^x \cdot \ln 5$

e)  $y = \frac{x^3 - 3x(2^x) - \frac{4}{11}}{x}$

$$= x^2 - 3(2^x) - \frac{4}{11} x^{-1}$$

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = 2x - 3(2^x \cdot \ln 2) - \frac{4}{11} \cdot (-x^{-2})$$

$$= 2x - (3 \ln 2) \cdot 2^x + \frac{4}{11} x^{-2}$$

**Note:** In some cases it might be necessary to simplify a function using logarithmic properties before taking the derivative.

**Example:** Find  $f'(x)$  if  $f(x) = 5 + 7 \ln \frac{6}{x^3}$ .

$$\ln \frac{6}{x^3} = \ln 6 - \ln x^3$$

$$= \ln 6 - 3 \ln x$$

$$= 5 + 7(\ln 6 - 3 \ln x)$$

$$f(x) = 5 + 7 \ln 6 - 21 \ln x$$

$$f'(x) = \frac{0}{0} + \frac{0}{0} - 21 \cdot \frac{1}{x} = -21 \cdot \frac{1}{x}$$