

Lecture VIII §3.1 Derivatives of polynomials  
 §3.2 Product & Quotient Rules

§1: Rules of differentiation of  $f(x) = c_n x^n + \dots + c_2 x^2 + c_1 x + c_0$  (polynomial of degree  $n$  with real coeffs)

- Prop (1)  $\frac{d}{dx} c = 0$  (derivative of a constant function)  
 (2)  $\frac{d}{dx} (x^n) = n x^{n-1}$  for any positive integer  $n$

Proof: By definition!

- 1)  $c(x) = c$  for all  $x$  so  $\frac{dc}{dx} = \lim_{\Delta x \rightarrow 0} \frac{c(x+\Delta x) - c(x)}{\Delta x} = \lim_{\Delta x \rightarrow 0} \frac{0}{\Delta x} = 0$   
 2) want to show:  $\lim_{\Delta x \rightarrow 0} \frac{(x+\Delta x)^n - x^n}{\Delta x} = n x^{n-1}$

To do so, we need to rewrite the numerator  $(a+b)^n = \underbrace{(a+b)(a+b)\dots(a+b)}_{n \text{ times}}$   
 (so that we can cancel  $\Delta x$ !)

Use distribution to get

Binomial Thm:  $(a+b)^n = a^n + n a^{n-1} b + \frac{n(n-1)}{2} a^{n-2} b^2 + \dots + \frac{n(n-1)\dots(n-k)}{1 \cdot 2 \dots k} a^{n-k} b^k + \dots + n a b^{n-1} + b^n$   
 (Note:  $\frac{n(n-1)\dots(n-k)}{1 \cdot 2 \dots k}$  is labeled as  $\binom{n}{k}$  and  $k^{\text{th}} \text{ term}$ )  
 $= a^n + n a^{n-1} b + \binom{n}{2} a^{n-2} b^2 + \dots + \binom{n}{k} a^{n-k} b^k + \dots + \binom{n}{n-1} a b^{n-1} + b^n$   
 palindromic in  $a$  &  $b$  with integer coefficients

Example:  $(a+b)^2 = a^2 + 2ab + b^2$        $(a+b)^3 = a^3 + 3a^2b + 3ab^2 + b^3$ , etc.

In our case:  $(x+\Delta x)^n = x^n + n x^{n-1} \Delta x + \dots + \binom{n}{k} x^{n-k} (\Delta x)^k + \dots + n x (\Delta x)^{n-1} + (\Delta x)^n$   
 so  $\frac{(x+\Delta x)^n - x^n}{\Delta x} = n x^{n-1} \frac{\Delta x}{\Delta x} + \dots + \binom{n}{k} x^{n-k} \frac{(\Delta x)^{k-1}}{\Delta x} + \dots + n x \frac{(\Delta x)^{n-2}}{\Delta x} + \frac{(\Delta x)^{n-1}}{\Delta x}$

Each summand  $\binom{n}{k} x^{n-k} (\Delta x)^{k-1} \xrightarrow{\Delta x \rightarrow 0} 0$  if  $k \geq 2$

so only  $k=1$  term survives. This was  $n x^{n-1}$ , as we wanted!  $\square$

(\*) Choose 2 slots for  $b$  in an ordered fashion  
 $\left. \begin{matrix} n \text{ choices for } 1^{\text{st}} b \\ n-1 \text{ choices for } 2^{\text{nd}} b \end{matrix} \right\}$  account by ordering so we need to divide by 2  
 (Eg think  $n=3$  & choose 2 boxes for 2 colored balls)

General Properties: (1)  $\frac{d}{dx} (c f(x)) = c \frac{df}{dx}$

(2)  $\frac{d}{dx} (f(x) + g(x)) = \frac{df}{dx} + \frac{dg}{dx}$

These follow DIRECTLY from the definition of derivatives + limit laws. (exercise)

Consequence: If  $f = a_n x^n + \dots + a_1 x + a_0$  is a polynomial of degree  $n \geq 0$

then  $\frac{df}{dx} = a_n n x^{n-1} + \dots + a_k k x^{k-1} + \dots + a_2 2x + a_1$ .  
(general term)

Q: How to interpret these 2 general properties?

A: "Differentiation is a linear operator on the space of functions"

$f \mapsto f'$

Linear sends sums to sums (2)

• sends multiplication by constants (scalars) to multiplication by constants (1).

This linear condition & spaces with these 2 operations are the subject

LINEAR ALGEBRA (MATH 2568)

§2. Product Rule:

Thm 1: Assume  $f(x), g(x)$  are differentiable, then the product  $h(x) = f(x)g(x)$

is also differentiable at  $x$  &  $\frac{d}{dx} (f(x)g(x)) = \frac{df}{dx}(x)g(x) + f(x)\frac{dg}{dx}(x)$

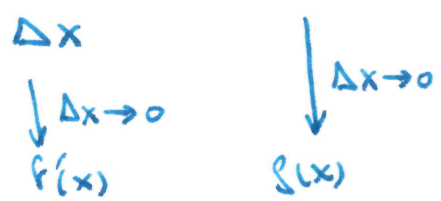
Proof. Use definition!

$+g - f(x)g(x+\Delta x)$

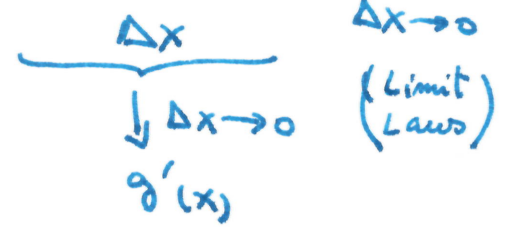
$$\frac{f(x+\Delta x)g(x+\Delta x) - f(x)g(x)}{\Delta x} = \frac{f(x+\Delta x)g(x+\Delta x) - f(x)g(x+\Delta x) + f(x)g(x+\Delta x) - f(x)g(x)}{\Delta x}$$

manipulate

$$= \frac{(f(x+\Delta x) - f(x))g(x+\Delta x)}{\Delta x} + f(x)\frac{(g(x+\Delta x) - g(x))}{\Delta x} \xrightarrow{\Delta x \rightarrow 0} f'g + fg'$$



(diff'l, cont.)



Example 1: Verify that this agrees w/ Power Rule.

$$4x^3 = \frac{d}{dx}(x^4) = \frac{d}{dx}(x^3 \cdot x) = \boxed{\frac{dx^3}{dx}} x + x^3 \frac{dx}{dx} = \boxed{3x^2} x + x^3 = 4x^3$$

Power Rule

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

Example 2  $f = (2x-5)(x^3-4x+8)$

Use distribution:  $f = 2x^4 - 5x^3 - 8x^2 + 36x - 40 \Rightarrow f'(x) = 8x^3 - 15x^2 - 16x + 36$

Use Prod Rule:  $f' = 2(x^3-4x+8) + (2x-5)(3x^2-4) = 2x^3-8x+16 + 6x^3-15x^2-8x-20$  (same!)

§ 2. Quotient Rule:

Q: Given  $f(x)$  &  $g(x)$ , when can we define  $h(x) = \frac{f(x)}{g(x)}$ ?

A: Need  $g(x) \neq 0$ .

Domain of  $h = \{ x : f \text{ \& } g \text{ are both defined at } x \text{ \& } g(x) \neq 0 \}$   
(in Domain  $f$  & Domain  $g$ )

How to differentiate  $h(x)$ ? Write  $h(x) = f(x) \cdot \frac{1}{g(x)}$  & use product rule

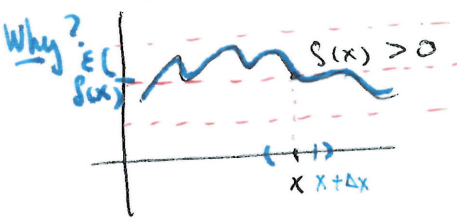
$$h'(x) = f' \cdot \frac{1}{g} + f \cdot \left( \frac{1}{g} \right)'$$

How to do this?

Thm 2: Assume  $g(x) \neq 0$  &  $g$  is differentiable at  $x$ . Then

$p(x) = \frac{1}{g(x)}$  is defined in a neighborhood of  $x$  & it's differentiable at  $x$  with  $p'(x) = \frac{-g'(x)}{g^2(x)}$ .

Proof: Since  $g$  is diff'ble at  $x$ , it's continuous at  $x$ . We can show that the sign of  $g$  is constant in a neighborhood of  $x$ , in particular it's never 0.



Why?  $\epsilon \in (0, g(x))$  say  $g(x) > 0$ , then  $\epsilon = \frac{g(x)}{2}$  we can find  $\delta > 0$  so that if  $0 < |Δx| < \delta$ , then  $|g(x+Δx) - g(x)| < \epsilon$

$$0 < \frac{g(x)}{2} = g(x) - \epsilon < g(x+\Delta x) < \epsilon + g(x) = \frac{3g(x)}{2}$$

In particular:  $p(x+\Delta x)$  is defined if  $0 < |Δx| < \delta$ , so we can check if  $p$  is differentiable at  $x$ .

$$\frac{P(x+\Delta x) - P(x)}{\Delta x} = \frac{\frac{1}{f(x+\Delta x)} - \frac{1}{f(x)}}{\Delta x} = \frac{f(x) - f(x+\Delta x)}{f(x)f(x+\Delta x)\Delta x}$$
 [Limit Laws]  $\xrightarrow{\Delta x \rightarrow 0} \frac{f'(x)}{f^2(x)}$

Consequence: Power rule with negative exponents!

Eg  $f(x) = x^{-3} = \frac{1}{x^3} \Rightarrow f'(x) = \frac{-g'(x)}{g^2(x)} = \frac{-3x^2}{(x^3)^2} = -3x^{-4}$

In general:  $f(x) = x^{-n} = \frac{1}{x^n} \Rightarrow f'(x) = \frac{-n x^{n-1}}{(x^n)^2} = \frac{-n x^{n-1}}{x^{2n}} = -n x^{n-1-2n} = -n x^{-n-1}$

Quotient Rule:  $(\frac{f}{g})' = f' \frac{1}{g} + f (\frac{1}{g})' = \frac{f'}{g} + f (\frac{-g'}{g^2}) = \frac{f'g - fg'}{g^2}$

Example 3: Decide where  $f = \frac{x+1}{x-1}$  is defined, continuous, diff'ble.

Soln: Only Need  $x-1 \neq 0 \Rightarrow$  Domain  $f = (x \neq 1)$ .

-  $f$  is continuous for all  $x \neq 1$  (quotient of cont func is continuous when the denominator doesn't vanish).

Note  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 1^+} \frac{x+1}{x-1} = +\infty$  &  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 1^-} \frac{x+1}{x-1} = -\infty$  so we can't extend continuously to  $x=1$

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

In general Quotients of polynomials  $\frac{P(x)}{Q(x)}$  are called rational functions. They are defined everywhere except where  $Q(x) = 0$ . They are continuous & differentiable because of the quotient rule!