

## 6 - Rules for Differentiation

### Powers, Multiples, Sums and Differences:

#### Derivative of a Constant

If  $f$  is a function with the constant value  $c$  (a constant), then

$$\frac{df}{dx} = \frac{d}{dx}(c) = 0$$

**PROOF:**

#### Power Rule for Positive Integer Powers of $x$

If  $n$  is a positive integer, then

$$\frac{d}{dx}(x^n) = nx^{n-1}$$

**PROOF:**

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### The Constant Multiple Rule

If  $f$  is a differentiable function of  $x$  and  $c$  is a constant, then

$$\frac{d}{dx}(cf) = c \frac{df}{dx}$$

**PROOF:**

### The Sum and Difference Rule

If  $f$  and  $g$  are differentiable functions of  $x$ , then their sum and difference are differentiable at every point where  $f$  and  $g$  are differentiable. At such points,

$$\frac{d}{dx}(f \pm g) = \frac{df}{dx} \pm \frac{dg}{dx}$$

**PROOF:**

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**Example 1:** Find  $f'(x)$  for the following functions:

a)  $f(x) = x^4 - 3x^2 + 1$

b)  $f(x) = \sqrt{x}$

c)  $f(x) = 1 - \pi x^9$

**EXAMPLE 2:**

Does the curve  $y = x^4 - 6x^2 + 5$  have any horizontal tangents? If so, where?

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### PRODUCTS AND QUOTIENTS

The derivative of the product of two functions is *not* the product of their derivatives. For example,

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

$$\frac{d}{dx}(x) \cdot \frac{d}{dx}(x) = 1 \cdot 1 = 1$$

The derivative of a product is actually the sum of *two* products.

#### The Product Rule

The product of two differentiable functions  $f(x)$  and  $g(x)$  is differentiable, and

$$\frac{d}{dx}(fg) = f \cdot \frac{dg}{dx} + g \cdot \frac{df}{dx}$$

**PROOF:**

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### EXAMPLE 3:

Find  $g'(x)$  if  $g(x) = (x^2 - 2)(x^3 - 3x)$

### EXAMPLE 4:

Let  $y = uv$  be the product of the functions  $u$  and  $v$ . Find  $y'(2)$  if

$$u(2) = 3 \quad u'(2) = -4 \quad v(2) = 1 \quad v'(2) = 2$$

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### The Quotient Rule

At a point where  $g \neq 0$ , the quotient  $y = f/g$  of two differentiable functions is differentiable, and

$$\frac{d}{dx} \left( \frac{f}{g} \right) = \frac{\frac{df}{dx} \cdot g - f \cdot \frac{dg}{dx}}{g^2}$$

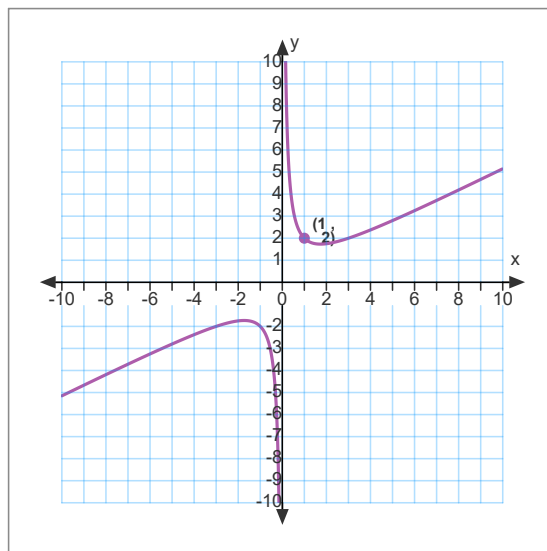
**PROOF:**

**EXAMPLE 5:**  
Differentiate:  $f(x) = \frac{x^2 - 1}{x^2 + 1}$

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### EXAMPLE 6:

Find the equation of the line that is tangent to the curve  $y = \frac{x^2 + 3}{2x}$  at the point  $(1, 2)$ . Support graphically.



### Second and Higher Order Derivatives:

The notations we have seen are all notations for the first derivative. We can take the derivative of the first derivative, and so on...

$$y'' = \frac{dy'}{dx} = \frac{d}{dx} \left( \frac{dy}{dx} \right) = \frac{d^2 y}{dx^2}$$

$$y''' = \frac{dy''}{dx} = \frac{d^3 y}{dx^3}$$

⋮

$$y^{(n)} = \frac{dy^{(n-1)}}{dx} = \frac{d^n y}{dx^n}$$

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### EXAMPLE 7:

Find the first four derivatives of  $y = x^3 - 5x^2 + 2$