## The product rule for differentation

E. Kim

## Product Rule for Differentiation

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#### Question

Is the Product Rule

$$[f(x) g(x)]' = f'(x) g'(x)$$

or not?

$$f(x) = x^3$$

$$f(x) = x^3 \qquad \qquad g(x) = x^{10}$$

$$f(x) = x^3$$
  $g(x) = x^{10}$   $k(x) = f(x) \cdot g(x) = x^{13}$ 

Let's test it out! Choose:

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#### Compute derivatives:

f'(x) =

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$$f'(x) = 3x^2 \qquad g'(x) =$$

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$$f'(x) = 3x^2$$
  $g'(x) = 10x^9$ 

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$$f'(x) = 3x^2$$
  $g'(x) = 10x^9$   $k'(x) = [f(x)g(x)]' =$ 

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Compare:

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$$[f(x) g(x)]' = 13x^{12}$$

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Compare:

• 
$$[f(x) g(x)]' = 13x^{12}$$
  
•  $f'(x) g'(x) = (3x^2)(10x^9) = 30x^{11}$ 

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Compare:

#### No! This is NOT the Product Rule!

 $[f(x) g(x)]' \neq f'(x) g'(x)$ 

Intuitively... it's like working at Culver's



Culver's in Onalaska, WI *Source: Wikipedia* 

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Say you worked at Culver's at a rate of r = 7.75 per hour for h = 20 hours each week. Your take-home pay is p = rh. How can your take-home pay go up?

► Pay rate goes up:  $r \rightsquigarrow r_{new}$  $r_{new} = r + \Delta r$ 

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- ► Pay rate goes up:  $r \rightsquigarrow r_{new}$  $r_{new} = r + \Delta r$
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▶ 
$$p_{\text{old}} = rh$$

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► 
$$p_{\text{new}} = r_{\text{new}} h_{\text{new}} = (r + \Delta r)(h + \Delta h)$$

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- ►  $p_{\text{new}} = r_{\text{new}} h_{\text{new}} = (r + \Delta r)(h + \Delta h)$
- ▶ Change in pay  $\Delta p = p_{new} p_{old} = (r + \Delta r)(h + \Delta h) rh$

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- ►  $p_{\text{new}} = r_{\text{new}} h_{\text{new}} = (r + \Delta r)(h + \Delta h)$
- ► Change in pay  $\Delta p = p_{\text{new}} p_{\text{old}} = (r + \Delta r)(h + \Delta h) rh = (rh + r\Delta h + h\Delta r + \Delta r\Delta h) rh$

$\Delta r$	$h\Delta r$	$\Delta r \Delta h$
r	rh	$r\Delta h$
	h	$\Delta h$

$$\Delta p = (rh + r\,\Delta h + h\,\Delta r + \Delta r\,\Delta h) - rh$$



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$$\Delta p \approx r \,\Delta h + h \,\Delta r$$

The change in the product p = rh is the old rate r times the change in hours  $(\Delta h)$ , plus the old hours h times the change in rate  $(\Delta r)$ .

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Subtract and add f(x+h) g(x) in the numerator:

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f(x) g'(x) + g(x) f'(x)

### The Product Law for Derivatives

If  $f=f(\boldsymbol{x})$  and  $g=g(\boldsymbol{x})$  are differentiable, the derivative of the product is given by:

#### The Product Law: in Newton notation

$$[f(x)g(x)]' = f(x)g'(x) + g(x)f'(x)$$

#### The Product Law: in Leibniz notation

$$\frac{d}{dx}[fg] = f\frac{dg}{dx} + g\frac{df}{dx}$$

Earlier, had  $f(x) = x^3$ ,  $g(x) = x^{10}$ , and  $k(x) = f(x) g(x) = x^{13}$ .

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Using the Product Rule ...

## ...in Newton notation [f(x)g(x)]' f(x)g'(x) + g(x)f'(x) $(x^3)(10x^9) + (x^{10})(3x^2)$

in Leibniz notation
$rac{d}{dx}[fg]$
$frac{dg}{dx} + grac{df}{dx}$
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Using the Product Rule ...

in Newton notation
[f(x)g(x)]'
$\frac{f(x)}{g'(x)} + g(x) f'(x)$
$(x^3)(10x^9) + (x^{10})(3x^2)$

in Leibniz notation
$rac{d}{dx}[fg]$
$f {dg \over dx} + g {df \over dx}$
$(x^3)(10x^9) + (x^{10})(3x^2)$

Earlier, had  $f(x) = x^3$ ,  $g(x) = x^{10}$ , and  $k(x) = f(x) g(x) = x^{13}$ . The derivative of the product was  $k'(x) = 13x^{12}$ .

Using the Product Rule ...

in Newton notation
[f(x)g(x)]'
f(x)  g'(x) + g(x)  f'(x)
$(x^3)(10x^9) + (x^{10})(3x^2)$

in Leibniz notation
$rac{d}{dx}[fg]$
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Using the Product Rule ...



...in Leibniz notation  $\frac{d}{dx}[fg]$   $f\frac{dg}{dx} + g\frac{df}{dx}$   $(x^{3})(10x^{9}) + (x^{10})(3x^{2})$ 

in either notation,

$$10x^{12} + 3x^{12} = 13x^{12}$$

• 
$$k(x) = f(x) g(x)$$
, where

▶ 
$$k(x) = f(x) g(x)$$
, where  $f(x) = x^2 + 1$ 

► 
$$k(x) = f(x) g(x)$$
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$$k'(x) = f(x) g'(x) + g(x) f'(x)$$
  
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**Exercise:** Let  $k(x) = (x^2 + 1)(x^3 + 5x)$ . Differentiate k(x). Solution:

$$k'(x) = f(x) g'(x) + g(x) f'(x)$$
  
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=  $5x^4 + 18x^2 + 5$ 

**Exercise:** Let  $k(x) = (x^2 + 1)(x^3 + 5x)$ . Differentiate k(x). Solution:

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#### Solution 2:

**Exercise:** Let  $k(x) = (x^2 + 1)(x^3 + 5x)$ . Differentiate k(x). Solution:

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$$k(x) = f(x) g(x)$$
, where  $f(x) = x^2 + 1$  and  $g(x) = x^3 + 5x$ .  
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Solution 2:

FOIL out 
$$k(x)$$
 to get  $k(x) = x^5 + 6x^3 + 5x$ 

**Exercise:** Let  $k(x) = (x^2 + 1)(x^3 + 5x)$ . Differentiate k(x). Solution:

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=  $5x^4 + 18x^2 + 5$ 

Solution 2:

- FOIL out k(x) to get  $k(x) = x^5 + 6x^3 + 5x$
- Sum Rule and Power Rule:  $k'(x) = 5x^4 + 18x^2 + 5$

## Example [B]

**Exercise:** Find 
$$\frac{d}{dx}\left[\frac{1}{x}(x^2+e^x)\right]$$
.
**Exercise:** Find 
$$\frac{d}{dx}\left[\frac{1}{x}(x^2+e^x)\right]$$
.

• 
$$f(x) = \frac{1}{x}$$
 and  $g(x) = x^2 + e^x$ 

$$\begin{split} \frac{d}{dx} \left[ f(x) \, g(x) \right) &= f \frac{dg}{dx} + g \frac{df}{dx} \\ &= \frac{1}{x} \frac{d}{dx} \left[ x^2 + e^x \right] + (x^2 + e^x) \frac{d}{dx} \left[ \frac{1}{x} \right] \\ &= \frac{1}{x} \frac{d}{dx} \left[ x^2 + e^x \right] + (x^2 + e^x) \frac{d}{dx} \left[ x^{-1} \right] \\ &= \frac{1}{x} (2x + e^x) + (x^2 + e^x)(-1x^{-2}) \end{split}$$

**Exercise:** If 
$$y = x^3 e^x$$
, find  $\frac{dy}{dx}$  and  $\frac{d^2y}{dx^2}$ .  
In other words, find  $y'$  and  $y''$ .

**Exercise:** If  $y = x^3 e^x$ , find  $\frac{dy}{dx}$  and  $\frac{d^2y}{dx^2}$ .

In other words, find y' and y''.

## **Exercise:** What is the derivative of $f(x) = \sqrt{x}(3x+2)$ ?

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# Solution: $f'(x) = (\sqrt{x})(3x+2)' + (\sqrt{x})'(3x+2) = \sqrt{x}(3) + \frac{1}{2\sqrt{x}}(3x+2)$ $= 3\sqrt{x} + \frac{3x+2}{2\sqrt{x}}$

**Exercise:** What is the derivative of  $f(x) = (x+1)(x^2 - 7x)(e^x)$ ?

**Exercise:** What is the derivative of  $f(x) = (x + 1)(x^2 - 7x)(e^x)$ ? Solution:

• Think of f as being:  $[(x+1)(x^2-7x)][e^x]$ 

$$\begin{aligned} f' &= [(x+1)(x^2-7x)]'[e^x] + [(x+1)(x^2-7x)][e^x]' \\ &= \left[ (x+1)(x^2-7x)' + (x+1)'(x^2-7x) \right] [e^x] + [(x+1)(x^2-7x)][e^x]' \\ &= \left[ (x+1)(2x-7) + (1)(x^2-7x) \right] [e^x] + [(x+1)(x^2-7x)][e^x] \end{aligned}$$

- First break the function of three factors into two factors: a "super factor" and a regular factor, then use the Product Rule twice
- Or, use the "Triple Product Rule", proved by doing Product Rule twice on a generic "super factor"

**Exercise:** If  $k(x) = f(x) \cdot g(x)$  and • f(2) = 3• f'(2) = -4• g(2) = 1• g'(2) = 5then find k'(2).

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• Use 
$$k'(x) = f(x) g'(x) + g(x) f'(x)$$
, plug in  $x = 2$ 

**Exercise:** If  $k(x) = f(x) \cdot g(x)$  and • f(2) = 3• f'(2) = -4• g(2) = 1• g'(2) = 5

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**Exercise:** If  $k(x) = f(x) \cdot g(x)$  and • f(2) = 3• f'(2) = -4• g(2) = 1• g'(2) = 5then find k'(2).

• Use 
$$k'(x) = f(x) g'(x) + g(x) f'(x)$$
, plug in  $x = 2$   
 $k'(2) = f(2) g'(2) + g(2) f'(2)$   
 $= (3)(5) + (1)(-4)$   
 $= 11$ 

**Exercise:** Differentiate  $f(x) = (10)(x^6)$ 

**Exercise:** Differentiate  $f(x) = (10)(x^6)$ 

**Solution:** 
$$\frac{df}{dx} = \frac{d}{dx}[10] \cdot (x^6) + (10)\frac{d}{dx} \cdot [x^6]$$
  
which simplifies  $0 \cdot (x^6) + (10)6x^5 = 60x^5$ 

**Exercise:** Differentiate  $f(x) = (10)(x^6)$ 

 $\begin{array}{l} \mbox{Solution:} \ \frac{df}{dx} = \frac{d}{dx} [10] \cdot (x^6) + (10) \frac{d}{dx} \cdot [x^6] \\ \mbox{which simplifies} \ 0 \cdot (x^6) + (10) 6x^5 = 60x^5 \end{array}$ 

**FASTER SOLUTION:** 
$$\frac{d}{dx} \left[ 10x^6 \right] = 10 \frac{d}{dx} \left[ x^6 \right] = 10 \cdot 6x^5 = 60x^5$$

**Exercise:** Differentiate  $f(x) = (10)(x^6)$ 

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**FASTER SOLUTION:** 
$$\frac{d}{dx} \left[ 10x^6 \right] = 10 \frac{d}{dx} \left[ x^6 \right] = 10 \cdot 6x^5 = 60x^5$$

#### Time-saving tip!

Just because you **can** use the Product Rule doesn't mean that you always **should**.

If one of your factors is just a constant, then SAVE SOME TIME by using the Constant Multiple Rule instead!!!