

Function Operations

Objectives

- 1 Perform arithmetic operations to functions
- 2 Find the domain of the sum, difference, product, or quotient of two functions
- 3 Find the difference quotient of a function

Notation

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- $(f - g)(x) = f(x) - g(x)$

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- $(f + g)(x) = f(x) + g(x)$
 - add corresponding y -coordinates
- $(f - g)(x) = f(x) - g(x)$
 - subtract corresponding y -coordinates

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 - multiply corresponding y -coordinates
- $\left(\frac{f}{g}\right)(x) = \frac{f(x)}{g(x)}, \quad g(x) \neq 0$
 - divide corresponding y -coordinates

Example 1

For $f(x) = 6x^2 - 2x$ and $g(x) = 3 - \frac{1}{x}$

(a) Simplify $(f + g)(x)$

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(a) Simplify $(f + g)(x)$

$$(f + g)(x) = f(x) + g(x)$$

$$= 6x^2 - 2x + 3 - \frac{1}{x}$$

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(b) Evaluate $(f + g)(-1)$

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$$(f - g)(x) = f(x) - g(x)$$

$$= (6x^2 - 2x) - \left(3 - \frac{1}{x}\right)$$

$$= 6x^2 - 2x - 3 + \frac{1}{x}$$

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$$= 3 - \frac{1}{x} - (6x^2 - 2x)$$

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$$(g - f)(x) = g(x) - f(x)$$

$$= 3 - \frac{1}{x} - (6x^2 - 2x)$$

$$= 3 - \frac{1}{x} - 6x^2 + 2x$$

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$$= \frac{6x^2 - 2x}{3 - \frac{1}{x}} \left(\frac{x}{x}\right)$$

$$= \frac{6x^3 - 2x^2}{3x - 1}$$

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Finding Domain

When finding the domain of the sum, difference, product, or quotient of two functions, one method is to analyze the sum/difference/product/quotient before simplifying.

Example 2

(a) Find the domain of $(f + g)(x)$ if $f(x) = 6x^2 - 2x$ and $g(x) = 3 - \frac{1}{x}$

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$$x \neq 0$$

$$(-\infty, 0) \cup (0, \infty)$$

Example 2

(b) Find the domain of $\left(\frac{f}{g}\right)(x)$ if $f(x) = 6x^2 - 2x$ and $g(x) = 3 - \frac{1}{x}$

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For $g(x)$, $x \neq 0$

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$$3 \neq \frac{1}{x}$$

$$3x \neq 1$$

$$x \neq \frac{1}{3}$$

Example 2

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We will break it down into 3 steps:

- 1 Evaluate $f(x + h)$
- 2 Subtract original function from that
- 3 Divide that result by h

Example 3

Find and simplify the difference quotient for each of the following.

(a) $f(x) = x^2 - x - 2$

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$$= x^2 + 2hx + h^2 - x - h - 2 - x^2 + x + 2$$

$$= 2hx + h^2 - h$$

Example 3

$$\frac{f(x+h) - f(x)}{h} = \frac{2hx + h^2 - h}{h}$$

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$$\begin{aligned}\frac{f(x+h) - f(x)}{h} &= \frac{2hx + h^2 - h}{h} \\ &= 2x + h - 1\end{aligned}$$

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$$\frac{g(x+h) - g(x)}{h} = \frac{\frac{3}{2x+2h+1}}{h} - \frac{\frac{3}{2x+1}}{h} \left(\frac{(2x+2h+1)(2x+1)}{(2x+2h+1)(2x+1)} \right)$$

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

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Example 3

$$\frac{g(x+h) - g(x)}{h} = \frac{-6h}{h(2x+2h+1)(2x+1)}$$

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$$\begin{aligned}\frac{g(x+h) - g(x)}{h} &= \frac{-6h}{h(2x+2h+1)(2x+1)} \\ &= \frac{-6}{(2x+2h+1)(2x+1)}\end{aligned}$$

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$$(c) \quad r(x) = \sqrt{x}$$

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$$= \frac{(\sqrt{x+h})^2 - (\sqrt{x})^2}{h(\sqrt{x+h} + \sqrt{x})}$$

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$$= \frac{(\sqrt{x+h})^2 - (\sqrt{x})^2}{h(\sqrt{x+h} + \sqrt{x})}$$

$$= \frac{x+h-x}{h(\sqrt{x+h} + \sqrt{x})}$$

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$$\frac{r(x+h) - r(x)}{h} = \frac{x+h-x}{h(\sqrt{x+h} + \sqrt{x})}$$

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$$\begin{aligned}\frac{r(x+h) - r(x)}{h} &= \frac{x+h-x}{h(\sqrt{x+h} + \sqrt{x})} \\ &= \frac{h}{h(\sqrt{x+h} + \sqrt{x})}\end{aligned}$$

Example 3

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{r(x+h) - r(x)}{h} &= \frac{x+h-x}{h(\sqrt{x+h} + \sqrt{x})} \\ &= \frac{h}{h(\sqrt{x+h} + \sqrt{x})} \\ &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{x+h} + \sqrt{x}}\end{aligned}$$