

01-02-2025 STEP Practice: Product and Quotient Rules

Product Rule

$u(x)$ and $v(x)$ are functions of x .

Let $y(x) = u(x)v(x)$

$y = uv$ for brevity

Suppose x changes by a small amount δx .

u changes by δu

v changes by δv

y changes by δy

$$\Rightarrow y + \delta y = [u + \delta u][v + \delta v]$$

$$y + \delta y = uv + u\delta v + v\delta u + \delta u\delta v \quad \delta u \text{ and } \delta v \text{ are small, so } \delta u\delta v \text{ can be ignored}$$

$$\delta y = u\delta v + v\delta u$$

$$\frac{\delta y}{\delta x} = u\frac{\delta v}{\delta x} + v\frac{\delta u}{\delta x}$$

Let $\delta x \rightarrow 0$.

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = u\frac{dv}{dx} + v\frac{du}{dx}$$

$$\text{E.g. } y = x^5 \Rightarrow \frac{dy}{dx} = 5x^4$$

$$= x^2 x^3 \Rightarrow \frac{dy}{dx} = x^2 \cdot 3x^2 + 2x \cdot x^1 = 3x^4 + 2x^4 = 5x^4$$

$$\frac{d}{dx} [\sin x] = \cos x$$

$$\frac{d}{dx} [\cos x] = -\sin x$$

$$\frac{d}{dx} [\tan x] = \sec^2 x$$

$$\frac{d}{dx} [e^x] = e^x$$

$$\text{E.g. } y = x^2 \sin x \Rightarrow \frac{dy}{dx} = 2x \sin x + x^2 \cos x$$

$$y = [x^2 + 4]e^x \Rightarrow \frac{dy}{dx} = 2xe^x + [x^2 + 4]e^x = [x^2 + 2x + 4]e^x$$

$$y = [x^2 + 5x + 6] \tan x \Rightarrow \frac{dy}{dx} = [2x + 5] \tan x + [x^2 + 5x + 6] \sec^2 x$$

$$y = [3x^2 + 2x - 1]^4 e^x \Rightarrow \frac{dy}{dx} = 4[6x + 2][3x^2 + 2x - 1]^3 e^x + [3x^2 + 2x - 1]^4 e^x$$

$$= e^x [3x^2 + 2x - 1]^3 [54x + 18 + 3x^2 + 2x - 1] = e^x [3x^2 + 2x - 1]^3 [3x^2 + 56x + 17]$$

$$13) \frac{d}{dx} [x(2x+5)^7] = (2x+5)^7 + 7 \cdot 2[2x+5]^6 x = [2x+5]^7 + 14x[2x+5]^6 = [2x+5]^6 [2x+5+14x] \\ = [2x+5]^6 [16x+5]$$

$$14) \frac{d}{dx} [x^2(2x+5)^7] = 2x[2x+5]^7 + 14x^2[2x+5]^6 = [2x+5]^6 [2x(2x+5) + 14x^2] = [2x+5]^6 [8x^2+10x]$$

$$15) \frac{d}{dx} [x^4(x+3)^5] = 4x^3(x+3)^5 + 5x^4(x+3)^4 = x^3(x+3)^4 [4x+12+5x] = x^3(x+3)^4 [9x+12]$$

$$16) \frac{d}{dx} [x^4(x^2+3)^5] = 4x^3(x^2+3)^5 + x^4 \cdot 10x(x^2+3)^4 = x^3(x^2+3)^4 [4x^2+12+10x^2] = x^3(x^2+3)^4 [14x^2+12]$$

$$17) \frac{d}{dx} [x^3(3-x^4)^5] = 3x^2(3-x^4)^5 + x^3 \cdot 5 \cdot -4x^3(3-x^4)^4 = 3x^2(3-x^4)^5 - 20x^6(3-x^4)^4 = x^2(3-x^4)^4 [9-3x^4-20x^2]$$

$$18) \frac{d}{dx} [(x^2-7)(x^4+1)^2] = 2x(x^4+1)^2 + 8x^3(x^4+1)(x^2-7) = 2x(x^4+1)[x^4+1+4x^2(x^2-7)] = 2x(x^4+1)[5x^4-28x^2+1]$$

$$19) \frac{d}{dx} [(2x^2+1)^3(3x-1)^7] = 3 \cdot 4x[2x^2+1]^2(3x-1)^7 + 7 \cdot 3(3x-1)^6[2x^2+1]^3 = [2x^2+1]^2(3x-1)^6 [12x(3x-1) + 21(2x^2+1)] \\ = [2x^2+1]^2(3x-1)^6 [78x^2-12x+21]$$

$$20) \frac{d}{dx} [(3x+5)^9(2x-1)^6] = 27(3x+5)^8(2x-1)^6 + 12(2x-1)^5(3x+5)^9 = [3x+5]^8(2x-1)^5 [27(2x-1) + 12(3x+5)] \\ = [3x+5]^8(2x-1)^5 [90x+33]$$

$$21) \frac{d}{dx} [(4-x)^5(2x+1)^3] = -5(4-x)^4(2x+1)^3 + 6(2x+1)^2(4-x)^5 = (4-x)^4(2x+1)^2 [-5(2x+1) + 6(4-x)] \\ = (4-x)^4(2x+1)^2 [19-16x]$$

$$22) \frac{d}{dx} [x\sqrt{x+3}] = \frac{d}{dx} [x(x+3)^{\frac{1}{2}}] = (x+3)^{\frac{1}{2}} - \frac{1}{2}x(x+3)^{-\frac{1}{2}}$$

$$23) \frac{d}{dx} [x^2\sqrt{x+3}] = \frac{d}{dx} [x^2(x+3)^{\frac{1}{2}}] = 2x(x+3)^{\frac{1}{2}} - \frac{1}{2}x^2(x+3)^{-\frac{1}{2}}$$

$$24) \frac{d}{dx} [(x+3)^4\sqrt{x}] = 4(x+3)^3x^{\frac{1}{2}} - \frac{1}{2}(x+3)^4x^{-\frac{1}{2}}$$

Quotient Rule

$$y = \frac{u}{v} = uv^{-1}$$

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = v^{-1} \frac{du}{dx} + u \cdot -v^{-2} \frac{dv}{dx} = \frac{1}{v} \frac{du}{dx} - \frac{u}{v^2} \frac{dv}{dx} = \frac{v \frac{du}{dx} - u \frac{dv}{dx}}{v^2}$$

$$\text{E.g. } \frac{d}{dx} \left[\frac{x}{\sin^2 x} \right] = \frac{3x^2 \sin x - x^3 \cos x}{\sin^3 x} = x^2 \csc x [3 - x \tan x]$$

$$\frac{d}{dx} \left[\frac{\tan x}{e^x} \right] = \frac{e^x \sec^2 x - e^x \tan x}{e^{2x}} = e^{-x} [\sec^2 x - \tan x]$$