

2.4: The Quotient Rule

Date: _____

Ex1. Use the product rule to derive the **QUOTIENT RULE**. That is, find $Q'(x)$ if $Q(x) = \frac{f(x)}{g(x)}$.

THE QUOTIENT RULE

IF $Q(x) = \frac{f(x)}{g(x)}$,

In Leibniz notation,

THEN $Q'(x) = \frac{f'g - fg'}{g^2}$

$$\frac{d}{dx}\left(\frac{u}{v}\right) = \frac{\frac{du}{dx} \cdot v - u \cdot \frac{dv}{dx}}{v^2}$$

$$\text{IF } Q(x) = \frac{f(x)}{g(x)} = \underline{f(x)} \cdot \underline{(g(x))^{-1}}$$

$$\therefore Q'(x) = f'(x) \cdot (g(x))^{-1} + f(x) \cdot \left[-(g(x))^{-2} \cdot g'(x) \right]$$

$$\begin{aligned} &= \frac{f'(x) \cdot g(x)}{(g(x))^2} + \frac{-f(x) \cdot g'(x)}{(g(x))^2} \\ &\rightarrow = \frac{f'(x)g(x) - f(x)g'(x)}{(g(x))^2} \end{aligned}$$

Ex2. Apply the quotient rule to differentiate $f(x) = \frac{5x-1}{x^3+2}$.

$$f'(x) = \frac{5(x^3+2) - (5x-1)(3x^2)}{(x^3+2)^2}$$

$$= \frac{5x^3 + 10 - 15x^3 + 3x^2}{(x^3+2)^2}$$

$$= \frac{10 + 3x^2 - 10x^3}{(x^3+2)^2}$$



Ex3. Find the derivative of $g(x) = \frac{50}{x} + \frac{(x^2 - 5x)^2}{4x + 1}$ at $x = 5$.

$$g(x) = 50x^{-1} + \frac{x^4 - 10x^3 + 25x^2}{4x + 1}$$

$$\text{So } g'(x) = -50x^{-2} + \frac{2(x^2 - 5x)' \cdot (2x - 5)(4x + 1) - (x^2 - 5x)^2 (4)}{(4x + 1)^2}$$

$$\therefore g'(5) = \frac{-50}{25} + \frac{2(0)(\text{who cares}) - (0)^2(4)}{\text{NOT ZERO}}$$

$$= -2$$

Ex4. Find the equation of the tangent to $y = \frac{x(2x + 1)}{(x + 1)(x + 3)}$ at $x = 1$.

$$y = \frac{2x^2 + x}{x^2 + 4x + 3}$$

$$\text{So } y' = \frac{(4x + 1)(x + 1)(x + 3) - x(2x + 1)(2x + 4)}{(x + 1)^2(x + 3)^2}$$

So when $x = 1$,

$$y' = \frac{(5)(2)(4) - (1)(3)(6)}{(4)(16)}$$

$$= \frac{5(4) - (3)(3)}{2(16)}$$

$$= \frac{11}{32}$$

$$y = \frac{2 + 1}{1 + 4 + 3}$$

$$= \frac{3}{8}$$

$$\text{So } m = \frac{11}{32}, P_0 = \left(1, \frac{3}{8}\right)$$

$$\therefore \frac{x - 1}{32} = \frac{y - \frac{3}{8}}{11} \rightarrow 11x - 11 = 32y - 12$$

$$\underline{11x - 32y + 1 = 0 \quad \text{1TRÉ}}$$

Ex5. Determine the coordinates on $h(x) = \frac{9x+4}{3\sqrt{x}}$ where the tangent is horizontal.

$$h(x) = \frac{9x}{3x^{\frac{1}{2}}} + \frac{4}{3x^{\frac{1}{2}}} = 3x^{\frac{1}{2}} + \frac{4}{3}x^{-\frac{1}{2}}$$

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

$$\text{let } h'(x) = 0$$

$$\frac{3}{2}x^{-\frac{1}{2}} - \frac{2}{3}x^{-\frac{3}{2}} = 0$$

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

$$\frac{x^{\frac{3}{2}}}{x^{\frac{1}{2}}} = \frac{4}{9}$$

$$x = \frac{4}{9}$$

$$\left(\frac{3}{2}x^{-\frac{1}{2}} - \frac{2}{3}x^{-\frac{3}{2}} = 0 \right) \times 6$$

$$9x^{-\frac{1}{2}} - 4x^{-\frac{3}{2}} = 0$$

$$x^{-\frac{3}{2}}(9x^{\frac{2}{2}} - 4) = 0$$

$$\frac{9x - 4}{\sqrt{x^3}} = 0$$

$$\therefore x = \frac{4}{9}$$

$$h\left(\frac{4}{9}\right) = \frac{9\left(\frac{4}{9}\right) + 4}{3\sqrt{\frac{4}{9}}} = \frac{4+4}{2} = 4$$

Thus the required is $\left(\frac{4}{9}, 4\right)$.

MEMORY AID FOR THE PRODUCT AND QUOTIENT RULES

1. The product rule and quotient rule are similar in that both have $\frac{f'(x)g(x)}{f(x)g'(x)}$ terms.
2. For the product rule, we put a + between the terms.
3. For the quotient rule, we put a - between the terms and divide by the square of the original denominator.
4. For the quotient rule, the $\frac{f'(x)g(x)}{f(x)g'(x)}$ term must come first. This isn't the case for the product rule.

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[We haven't directly covered the slope covered in 1.1 and 1.4, but you do have the tools to solve these anyway.]

