

1. Define the *chain rule*. Using the chain rule, differentiate the following expressions with respect to x .

(a) $f(g(h(x)))$

(b) $(\ln(x^2) + 2)^2$

2. Define the *product rule*. Using the product rule, differentiate the following expressions with respect to x .

(a) $(x^4 - 3x^2)(5x + 1)$

(b) $\frac{1 + 2x}{1 - 2x}$

(c) $\ln(x) \cdot e^{2x}$

3. Graph the following function for $a > 0$ and $a < 0$.

$$f(x) = \frac{a}{x}$$

(a) What does a represent on the graph?

(b) Find the point(s) where the function has a maxima or a minima.

(c) Obtain $x \frac{f'(x)}{f(x)}$ try to interpret the result.

4. Graph the following function:

$$f(x) = ax^2 + bx + c$$

(a) Does the shape of the function depend on the value of a ?

(b) Find the point(s) where the function has a maxima or a minima.

(c) Find the conditions under which $f(x)$ expression has

- i. one real root
- ii. two real roots
- iii. no real roots

5.

$$f(x) = 2x^3 - 3x^2 - 12x + 12 \quad \text{where } -3 \leq x \leq 3.$$

- (a) Find the *extrema*¹ of the function.
 (b) Would the answer to 5a change if the range was $-\infty \leq x \leq \infty$.
 (c) Does the function have a *point of inflection*.

(Question 1, Tripos 2003)

6. (a) Find the derivative
- $\frac{dy}{dx}$
- of the following function:

$$y = x^{24} \ln \left(\frac{e^{2x}}{x^2 + e^x} \right)$$

- (b) Find the partial derivatives,
- $\frac{\partial z}{\partial x}$
- and
- $\frac{\partial z}{\partial y}$
- , of the following function:

$$z = f(x, y) = (x^{\frac{1}{3}} + y^{\frac{1}{3}})^{\frac{1}{2}}$$

(Question 6, Tripos 2007)

7. Show that the function

$$f(h) = \frac{1 - \lambda^h}{h}$$

is downward sloping for $h > 0$ where λ is a positive constant with $0 < \lambda < 1$.

Hint: You can use the fact that $\lambda^h = e^{h \ln(\lambda)}$ and $\ln(x) \leq x - 1$.

(Question 1, Tripos 2008)

Readings

Bradley, T., and P. Patton (2002). *Essential Mathematics for Economics and Business*. Chichester, West Sussex, England: Wiley.

Pemberton, M., and N. Rau (2007). *Mathematics For Economists: An Introductory Textbook*. Manchester University Press.

Chiang, A. C. (1984) *Fundamental Methods of Mathematical Economics*. 3rd edition. McGraw-Hill Publishing Co.

¹the points of maxima and minima are collectively known as the extrema