

Name: **ANSWER GUIDE**

"It is an inherent property of intelligence that it can jump out of the task which it is performing, and survey what it has done; it is always looking for, and often finding, patterns."  
-Douglas R. Hofstadter

Collaborators:

Section Day/Time:

**Derivatives: Product and Quotient Rules**

1. Determine the values of  $x$  for which  $h(x) = x^3 + 9x^2 - 48x + 2$  is not changing.  
(Hint: The quadratic formula might be helpful here.)

$$\begin{aligned} h'(x) &= 3x^2 + 18x - 48 = 0 \\ &= 3(x + 8)(x - 2) = 0 \\ \Rightarrow x &= -8, 2 \end{aligned}$$

**The Product Rule**

$$(fg)'(x) = fg' + gf'$$

2. Calculate the following derivatives using only the product rule (and power/exponent rules):

a)  $h(x) = \underbrace{(e^x + 1)}_f \underbrace{x^{-3}}_g$   $h'(x) = (e^x + 1)(-3x^{-4}) + (x^{-3})(e^x)$

b)  $f(t) = e^t + \underbrace{(2e^t + t)}_f \underbrace{(t^{2e} - e)}_g$

$$f'(t) = (2e^t + t)(2et^{2e-1}) + (t^{2e} - e)(2e^t + 1)$$

c)  $p(x) = \underbrace{(1 + 2x + 3x^2)}_f \underbrace{(5x + 8x^2 - x^3)}_g$

$$p'(x) = (1 + 2x + 3x^2)(5 + 16x - 3x^2) + (5x + 8x^2 - x^3)(2 + 6x)$$

**Discuss:** How would this process have been different if you had used FOIL first?

The Quotient Rule

$$\left[ \frac{f(x)}{g(x)} \right]' = \frac{g f' - f g'}{(g)^2}$$

3. Calculate the following derivatives using the quotient rule:

a)  $h(x) = \frac{\overbrace{e^x+1}^f}{\underbrace{x^3}_g}$   $h'(x) = \frac{(x^3)(e^x) - (e^x+1)(3x^2)}{x^6}$

*Discuss:* Does this problem look familiar? How does your answer here compare to 2.a)? They're the same!

b)  $p(x) = \frac{\overbrace{3x^4-5x^2+2}^f}{\underbrace{x^2-1}_g}$   $p'(x) = \frac{(x^2-1)(12x^3-10x) - (3x^4-5x^2+2)(2x)}{(x^2-1)^2}$

*Discuss:* What would have happened if you had simplified the problem first?

(Hint:  $3x^4 - 5x^2 + 2 = (x^2 - 1)(3x^2 - 2)$ .)

except for at  $x=1$ ,  $p(x) = 3x^2 - 2$ , so  $p'(x) = 6x$

4. Calculate the derivative of  $h(x) = \underbrace{(x^{-4} + 6\sqrt[5]{x^2})}_a \underbrace{\left( \frac{(x^9+2)(x^2e^x)}{x+1} \right)}_{\frac{b}{c}}$ . Use the back of the next page to do your work if needed.

$$\begin{aligned} h(x) &= a \cdot \frac{b \cdot c}{d} \Rightarrow h'(x) = a \cdot \left( \frac{b \cdot c}{d} \right)' + a' \cdot \frac{b \cdot c}{d} \\ &= a \cdot \left[ \frac{d(b'c) - (b \cdot c)d'}{d^2} \right] + a' \cdot \frac{b \cdot c}{d} \\ &= a \cdot \left[ \frac{d(b'c + c'b) - (bc)d'}{d^2} \right] + a' \cdot \frac{b \cdot c}{d} \end{aligned}$$

2  $\boxed{a' = -4x^{-5} + \frac{12}{5}x^{-3/5}}$   $\boxed{b' = 9x^8}$   $\boxed{c' = 2xe^x + x^2e^x}$   
 $\boxed{d' = 1}$  Then plug in. (see last page)

### Challenge Problems

The following problems will introduce you to the idea of the *chain rule*, which you will learn later this quarter. They are meant to challenge and strengthen your understanding of the product rule.

5. Use the **product rule** along with the following outline to make a guess for the derivative of  $f(x) = e^{kx}$ , when  $k$  is any integer.

- a) Find the derivative of  $a(x) = e^{2x} = (e^x)^2$ .

$$a'(x) = 2e^{2x}$$

- b) Use part a) to find the derivative of  $b(x) = e^{3x}$ . Use this to find the derivative of  $c(x) = e^{4x}$ .

$$b(x) = e^{2x} \cdot e^x$$

$$b'(x) = 3e^{3x}$$

- c) Continue this process of adding 1 to the exponent and calculating that new function's derivative using the previous answer, until you notice a pattern. Discuss: What would you guess is the derivative of  $f(x) = e^{kx}$ , when  $k$  is any integer?

↳ Come see me  
≠ discuss ☺

6. Use the **product rule**, and **nothing else** to determine the derivative of  $[f(x)]^{2048}$  with the following outline. (Note:  $f(x)$  represents **any** differentiable function, not a specific one.)

- a) Calculate the derivative of  $[f(x)]^2$ .

$$\Rightarrow 2f(x) \cdot f'(x)$$

$$= [f(x)]^2 \cdot [f(x)]^2$$

- b) Using part a), calculate the derivative of  $[f(x)]^4$ . Next, calculate the derivative of  $[f(x)]^8$ .

$$\Rightarrow 4[f(x)]^3 \cdot f'(x)$$

$$\Rightarrow 8[f(x)]^7 \cdot f'(x)$$

- c) Continue this process, doubling the exponent, until you see a pattern. Discuss the following questions: (1) What do you think the derivative of  $[f(x)]^{2048}$  would be? (2) What about of  $[f(x)]^{2049}$ ? (3) Of  $[f(x)]^k$ , where  $k$  is any integer? (4) How does this relate to the product rule, and how is it different?

Come see me & discuss ☺



$$h'(x) = (x^{-4} + 6x^{2/5}) \cdot \left[ \frac{(x+1) \left[ (9x^8)(x^2 e^x) + (2xe^x + x^2 e^x)(x^9 + 2) - (x^9 + 2)(x^2 e^x) \cdot 1 \right]}{(x+1)^2} \right]$$

$$+ \left( -4x^{-5} + \frac{12}{5} x^{-3/5} \right) \cdot \frac{(x^9 + 2)(x^2 e^x)}{x+1}$$