

Differentiation formulae

Created by Mr. Francis Hung on 31-10-2018

Last updated: 2022-02-12

Let c be a constant, $f(x)$, $g(x)$ and u be differentiable functions of x and $g(x) \neq 0$.

$$1. \quad \frac{dc}{dx} = 0$$

$$2. \quad \frac{d}{dx}[f(x) + g(x)] = \frac{df(x)}{dx} + \frac{dg(x)}{dx}$$

$$3. \quad \frac{d}{dx}[cf(x)] = c \frac{df(x)}{dx}.$$

$$4. \quad \frac{dx}{dx} = 1$$

$$5. \quad \text{If } n \text{ is a positive integer, then } \frac{dx^n}{dx} = nx^{n-1} \text{ . e.g. } \frac{dx^5}{dx} = 5x^4 \text{ .}$$

This can be proved by binomial theorem from first principles.

$$\text{If } n \text{ is a negative integer, then } \frac{dx^n}{dx} = nx^{n-1} \text{ . e.g. } \frac{d}{dx}\left(\frac{1}{x^3}\right) = \frac{dx^{-3}}{dx} = -3x^{-4} = -\frac{3}{x^4} \text{ .}$$

If n is a rational number, i.e. $n = \frac{p}{q}$, where p and q are relatively prime integer,

$$\text{then } \frac{dx^n}{dx} = nx^{n-1} \text{ . e.g. } \frac{d\sqrt{x}}{dx} = \frac{dx^{\frac{1}{2}}}{dx} = \frac{1}{2}x^{-\frac{1}{2}} = \frac{1}{2\sqrt{x}} \text{ .}$$

$$\text{If } n \text{ is a real number, then } \frac{dx^n}{dx} = nx^{n-1} \text{ . e.g. } \frac{dx^\pi}{dx} = \pi x^{\pi-1} \text{ .}$$

$$\frac{du^n}{dx} = nu^{n-1} \cdot \frac{du}{dx} \text{ . e.g. } \frac{d(2x+3)^4}{dx} = 4(2x+3)^3 \cdot \frac{d(2x+3)}{dx} = 8(2x+3)^3$$

$$6. \quad \frac{d}{dx}[f(x) \times g(x)] = f(x) \frac{dg(x)}{dx} + g(x) \frac{df(x)}{dx}$$

$$7. \quad \frac{d}{dx}\left[\frac{f(x)}{g(x)}\right] = \frac{g(x) \frac{df(x)}{dx} - f(x) \frac{dg(x)}{dx}}{[g(x)]^2}$$

$$8. \quad \textbf{Chain rule: } \frac{df(u)}{dx} = \frac{df(u)}{du} \cdot \frac{du}{dx} \text{ . e.g. } \frac{d\sqrt{2x-3}}{dx} = \frac{1}{2}(2x-3)^{-\frac{1}{2}} \cdot \frac{d(2x-3)}{dx} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2x-3}} \text{ .}$$

$$9. \quad \text{Differentiation of inverse function: } \frac{dx}{dy} = \frac{1}{\frac{dy}{dx}} \text{ . e.g. } x = y + y^3, \quad \frac{dx}{dy} = 1 + 3y^2, \quad \frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{1}{1+3y^2} \text{ .}$$

$$10. \quad \text{Differentiation of implicit function: } \frac{d(x^m y^n)}{dx} = mx^{m-1}y^n + nx^m y^{n-1} \frac{dy}{dx} \text{ .}$$

e.g. $x^2 y^3 + y = x$, differentiate both sides w.r.t. x .

$$\frac{d(x^2 y^3)}{dx} + \frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{dx}{dx}$$

$$2xy^3 + 3x^2 y^2 \cdot \frac{dy}{dx} + \frac{dy}{dx} = 1$$

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{1 - 2xy^3}{3x^2 y^2 + 1}$$

11. $\frac{d \sin x}{dx} = \cos x$, $\frac{d \sin u}{dx} = \cos u \cdot \frac{du}{dx}$.
 $\frac{d \cos x}{dx} = -\sin x$, $\frac{d \cos u}{dx} = -\sin u \cdot \frac{du}{dx}$.
 $\frac{d \tan x}{dx} = \sec^2 x$, $\frac{d \tan u}{dx} = \sec^2 u \cdot \frac{du}{dx}$.
 $\frac{d \sec x}{dx} = \sec x \tan x$, $\frac{d \sec u}{dx} = \sec u \tan u \cdot \frac{du}{dx}$.
 $\frac{d \csc x}{dx} = -\csc x \cot x$, $\frac{d \csc u}{dx} = -\csc u \cot u \cdot \frac{du}{dx}$.
 $\frac{d \cot x}{dx} = -\csc^2 x$, $\frac{d \cot u}{dx} = -\csc^2 u \cdot \frac{du}{dx}$.
12. $\frac{d(\arcsin x)}{dx} = \frac{d(\sin^{-1} x)}{dx} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-x^2}}$ for $-1 < x < 1$. It can be proved by **9. Inverse function**.
 $\frac{d(\arccos x)}{dx} = \frac{d(\cos^{-1} x)}{dx} = -\frac{1}{\sqrt{1-x^2}}$ for $-1 < x < 1$.
 $\frac{d(\arctan x)}{dx} = \frac{d(\tan^{-1} x)}{dx} = \frac{1}{1+x^2}$.
- Proof: $y = \arctan x$
 $\tan y = x$, differentiate both sides w.r.t. x .
 $\sec^2 y \cdot \frac{dy}{dx} = 1$
 $\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{1}{\sec^2 y} = \frac{1}{1+\tan^2 y} = \frac{1}{1+x^2}$
 $\frac{d(\operatorname{arcsec} x)}{dx} = \frac{d(\sec^{-1} x)}{dx} = \frac{1}{x\sqrt{x^2-1}}$ for $x < -1$ or $x > 1$.
 $\frac{d(\operatorname{arccsc} x)}{dx} = \frac{d(\csc^{-1} x)}{dx} = -\frac{1}{x\sqrt{x^2-1}}$ for $x < -1$ or $x > 1$.
 $\frac{d(\operatorname{arccot} x)}{dx} = \frac{d(\cot^{-1} x)}{dx} = -\frac{1}{1+x^2}$
13. $\frac{de^x}{dx} = e^x$. $\frac{de^u}{dx} = e^u \cdot \frac{du}{dx}$. e.g. $\frac{de^{2x}}{dx} = 2e^{2x}$
 $\frac{d \ln x}{dx} = \frac{1}{x}$. $\frac{d \ln u}{dx} = \frac{1}{u} \cdot \frac{du}{dx}$. e.g. $\frac{d \ln \sqrt{3x-1}}{dx} = \frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{d \ln(3x-1)}{dx} = \frac{1}{2(3x-1)}$
14. If a is a positive constant and $a \neq 1$, then $\frac{da^x}{dx} = (\ln a) \cdot a^x$. $\frac{da^u}{dx} = (\ln a) \cdot a^u \cdot \frac{du}{dx}$.
15. If a is a positive constant and $a \neq 1$, then $\frac{d \log_a x}{dx} = \frac{1}{x \ln a}$. $\frac{d \log_a u}{dx} = \frac{1}{u \ln a} \cdot \frac{du}{dx}$.
16. Differentiate $y = x^{\frac{1}{x}} \Rightarrow \ln y = \frac{\ln x}{x}$

$$\frac{1}{y} \cdot \frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{x \cdot \frac{1}{x} - \ln x}{x^2} = \frac{1 - \ln x}{x^2} \Rightarrow \frac{dx^{\frac{1}{x}}}{dx} = \frac{1 - \ln x}{x^2} \cdot x^{\frac{1}{x}}$$