

Derivatives Project

The constant rule

$$\frac{d}{dx}[c] = 0$$

Example

$$f(x) = 10$$

$$\frac{d}{dx}[10] = 0$$

$$f'(x) = 0$$

The power rule

$$\frac{d}{dx}[x^n] = nx^{n-1}$$

Example

$$f(x) = 3x^6$$

$$\frac{d}{dx}f(x) = (6)(3)x^{6-1}$$

$$\frac{d}{dx}f(x) = 18x^5$$

$$f'(x) = 18x^5$$

The product rule

$$\frac{d}{dx}[uv] = uv' + vu'$$

Example

$$f(x) = x^4(x^3 + 2x^2 + 5)$$

$$\frac{d}{dx}f(x) = \left[x^4 \frac{d}{dx}(x^3 + 2x^2 + 5) \right] + \left[x^3 + 2x^2 + 5 \frac{d}{dx}(x^4) \right]$$

$$\frac{d}{dx}f(x) = (x^4)(3x^2 + 4x) + (x^3 + 2x^2 + 5)(4x^3)$$

$$\frac{d}{dx}f(x) = 3x^6 + 4x^5 + 4x^6 + 8x^5 + 20x^3$$

$$\frac{d}{dx}f(x) = 7x^6 + 12x^5 + 20x^3$$

$$f'(x) = 7x^6 + 12x^5 + 20x^3$$

The quotient rule

$$\frac{d}{dx}\left[\frac{u}{v}\right] = \frac{vu' - uv'}{v^2}$$

Example

$$f(x) = \left[\frac{4x + 2}{x^2 - 1}\right]$$

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

$$\frac{d}{dx} f(x) = \frac{(x^2 - 1)(4) - (4x + 2)(2x)}{(x^2 - 1)^2}$$

$$\frac{d}{dx} f(x) = \frac{4x^2 - 4 - 8x^2 - 4x}{(x^2 - 1)^2}$$

$$\frac{d}{dx} f(x) = \frac{-4x^2 - 4x - 4}{(x^2 - 1)^2}$$

$$f'(x) = \frac{-4x^2 - 4x - 4}{(x^2 - 1)^2}$$

The Chain rule

$$\frac{d}{dx} [f(g(x))] = f'(g(x)) \cdot g'(x)$$

Example

$$h(x) = (2x^2 + 3x^4)^2$$

$$f(x) = x^2 \quad \frac{d}{dx} f(x) = 2x$$

$$g(x) = 2x^2 + 3x^4 \quad \frac{d}{dx} g(x) = 4x + 12x^3$$

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

$$\frac{d}{dx} h(x) = [4x^2 + 6x^4] \cdot [4x + 12x^3]$$

$$\frac{d}{dx} h(x) = 16x^3 + 48x^5 + 24x^5 + 72x^7$$

$$\frac{d}{dx} h(x) = 16x^3 + 72x^5 + 72x^7$$

$$f'(x) = 16x^3 + 72x^5 + 72x^7$$

The derivative of sine

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

Example

$$f(x) = \sin 7x^2$$

$$\frac{d}{dx} f(x) = \cos(7x^2) \frac{d}{dx} 7x^2$$

$$\frac{d}{dx} f(x) = [\cos(7x^2)][14x]$$

$$\frac{d}{dx} f(x) = 14x \cos(7x^2)$$

$$f'(x) = 14x \cos(7x^2)$$

The derivative of cosine

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

Example

$$f(x) = \cos(2x^3 + 1)$$

$$\frac{d}{dx}f(x) = -\sin(2x^3 + 1) \frac{d}{dx}(2x^3 + 1)$$

$$\frac{d}{dx}f(x) = [-\sin(2x^3 + 1)][6x^2]$$

$$\frac{d}{dx}f(x) = [6x^2][-\sin(2x^3 + 1)]$$

$$f'(x) = [6x^2][-\sin(2x^3 + 1)]$$

The derivative of tangent

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

Example

$$f(x) = \tan(4x + 1)$$

$$\frac{d}{dx}f(x) = \sec^2(4x + 1) \frac{d}{dx}(4x + 1)$$

$$\frac{d}{dx}f(x) = [\sec^2(4x + 1)][4]$$

$$\frac{d}{dx}f(x) = 4\sec^2(4x + 1)$$

$$f'(x) = 4\sec^2(4x + 1)$$

The derivative of cotangent

$$\frac{d}{dx}[\cot u] = -\csc u \frac{du}{dx}$$

Example

$$f(x) = \cot(9x - 2x^4)$$

$$\frac{d}{dx}f(x) = -\csc(9x - 2x^4) \frac{d}{dx}(9x - 2x^4)$$

$$\frac{d}{dx}f(x) = [-\csc(9x - 2x^4)][9 - 8x^3]$$

$$\frac{d}{dx}f(x) = [9 - 8x^3][-\csc(9x - 2x^4)]$$

$$f'(x) = [9 - 8x^3][-\csc(9x - 2x^4)]$$

The derivative of secant

$$\frac{d}{dx}[\sec u] = \sec u \tan u \frac{du}{dx}$$

Example

$$f(x) = \sec(2x^2 - 3x)$$

$$\frac{d}{dx} f(x) = \sec(2x^2 - 3x) \tan(2x^2 - 3x) \frac{d}{dx} (2x^2 - 3x)$$

$$\frac{d}{dx} f(x) = [\sec(2x^2 - 3x) \tan(2x^2 - 3x)][4x - 3]$$

$$\frac{d}{dx} f(x) = [4x - 3][\sec(2x^2 - 3x) \tan(2x^2 - 3x)]$$

$$f'(x) = [4x - 3][\sec(2x^2 - 3x) \tan(2x^2 - 3x)]$$

The derivative of cosecant

$$\frac{d}{dx} \csc u = -\csc u \cot u \frac{du}{dx}$$

Example

$$f(x) = \csc 4\sqrt{x}$$

$$\frac{d}{dx} f(x) = -\csc 4\sqrt{x} \cot 4\sqrt{x} \frac{d}{dx} 4\sqrt{x}$$

$$\frac{d}{dx} f(x) = [-\csc 4\sqrt{x} \cot 4\sqrt{x}] \left[2x^{-\frac{1}{2}} \right]$$

$$\frac{d}{dx} f(x) = [-\csc 4\sqrt{x} \cot 4\sqrt{x}] \left[\frac{2}{\sqrt{x}} \right]$$

$$\frac{d}{dx} f(x) = \left[\frac{2}{\sqrt{x}} \right] [-\csc 4\sqrt{x} \cot 4\sqrt{x}]$$

$$f'(x) = \left[\frac{2}{\sqrt{x}} \right] [-\csc 4\sqrt{x} \cot 4\sqrt{x}]$$

The derivative of natural log

$$\frac{d}{dx} [\ln u] = \frac{1}{u} \frac{du}{dx}$$

Example

$$f(x) = \ln(25x + x^2)$$

$$\frac{d}{dx} f(x) = \frac{1}{25x + x^2} \frac{d}{dx} (25x + x^2)$$

$$\frac{d}{dx} f(x) = \frac{1}{25x + x^2} (25 + 2x)$$

$$\frac{d}{dx} f(x) = \frac{25 + 2x}{25x + x^2}$$

$$f'(x) = \frac{25 + 2x}{25x + x^2}$$

The derivative of logarithm

$$\frac{d}{dx} [\log_a u] = \frac{1}{u \ln a} \frac{du}{dx}$$

Example

$$f(x) = \log_3(2x^2 + 3x + 1)$$

$$\frac{d}{dx}f(x) = \frac{1}{(2x^2 + 3x + 1)\ln 3} \frac{d}{dx}(2x^2 + 3x + 1)$$

$$\frac{d}{dx}f(x) = \frac{1}{(2x^2 + 3x + 1)\ln 3} (4x + 3)$$

$$\frac{d}{dx}f(x) = \frac{4x + 3}{(2x^2 + 3x + 1)\ln 3}$$

$$f'(x) = \frac{4x + 3}{(2x^2 + 3x + 1)\ln 3}$$

The derivative of 'e' raised to a variable

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

Example

$$f(x) = e^{-4x^2 - 3x}$$

$$\frac{d}{dx}f(x) = [e^{-4x^2 - 3x}] \frac{d}{dx}(-4x^2 - 3x)$$

$$\frac{d}{dx}f(x) = [e^{-4x^2 - 3x}] [-8x - 3]$$

$$\frac{d}{dx}f(x) = [-8x - 3][e^{-4x^2 - 3x}]$$

$$f'(x) = [-8x - 3][e^{-4x^2 - 3x}]$$

The derivative of a constant raised to a variable

$$\frac{d}{dx}[a^u] = a^u \ln a \frac{du}{dx}$$

Example

$$f(x) = 3^{-4x^2}$$

$$\frac{d}{dx}f(x) = 3^{-4x^2} \ln 3 \frac{d}{dx}(-4x^2)$$

$$\frac{d}{dx}f(x) = [3^{-4x^2} \ln 3] [-8x]$$

$$\frac{d}{dx}f(x) = -8x [3^{-4x^2} \ln 3]$$

$$f'(x) = -8x [3^{-4x^2} \ln 3]$$

The derivative of inverse sine

$$\frac{d}{dx}[\sin^{-1} u] = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 - u^2}} \frac{du}{dx}$$

Example

$$f(x) = \sin^{-1} 2x$$

$$\frac{d}{dx}f(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 - (2x)^2}} \frac{d}{dx}(2x)$$

$$\frac{d}{dx}f(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{(1-2x)(1+2x)}} \quad (2)$$

$$\frac{d}{dx}f(x) = \left[\frac{2}{\sqrt{(1-2x)(1+2x)}} \right]^2$$

$$\frac{d}{dx}f(x) = \frac{4}{(1-2x)(1+2x)}$$

$$f'(x) = \frac{4}{(1-2x)(1+2x)}$$

The derivative of inverse cosine

$$\frac{d}{dx}[\cos^{-1} u] = -\frac{1}{\sqrt{1-u^2}} \frac{du}{dx}$$

Example

$$f(x) = \cos^{-1} 3x^{-2}$$

$$\frac{d}{dx}f(x) = -\frac{1}{\sqrt{1-(3x^{-2})^2}} \frac{d}{dx}(3x^{-2})$$

$$\frac{d}{dx}f(x) = -\frac{1}{\sqrt{(1-3x^{-2})(1+3x^{-2})}} (-6x^{-3})$$

$$\frac{d}{dx}f(x) = \left[-\frac{-6x^{-3}}{\sqrt{(1-3x^{-2})(1+3x^{-2})}} \right]^2$$

$$\frac{d}{dx}f(x) = \frac{36x^{-6}}{(1-3x^{-2})(1+3x^{-2})}$$

$$f'(x) = \frac{36x^{-6}}{(1-3x^{-2})(1+3x^{-2})}$$

The derivative of inverse tangent

$$\frac{d}{dx}[\tan^{-1} u] = \frac{1}{1+u^2} \frac{du}{dx}$$

Example

$$f(x) = \tan^{-1}(5x^3)$$

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

$$\frac{d}{dx}f(x) = \frac{1}{1+25x^6} (15x^2)$$

$$\frac{d}{dx}f(x) = \frac{15x^2}{1+25x^6}$$

$$f'(x) = \frac{15x^2}{1+25x^6}$$

The derivative of inverse cotangent

$$\frac{d}{dx} [\cot^{-1} u] = -\frac{1}{1+u^2} \frac{du}{dx}$$

Example

$$f(x) = \cot^{-1}(x^5)$$

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

$$\frac{d}{dx} f(x) = -\frac{1}{1+x^{10}} (5x^4)$$

$$\frac{d}{dx} f(x) = -\frac{5x^4}{1+x^{10}}$$

$$f'(x) = -\frac{5x^4}{1+x^{10}}$$

The derivative of inverse secant

$$\frac{d}{dx} [\sec^{-1} u] = \frac{1}{|u|\sqrt{u^2-1}} \frac{du}{dx}$$

Example

$$f(x) = (4x^5)$$

$$\frac{d}{dx} f(x) = \frac{1}{|4x^5|\sqrt{(4x^5)^2-1}} \frac{d}{dx} (4x^5)$$

$$\frac{d}{dx} f(x) = \frac{1}{|4x^5|\sqrt{(4x^5-1)(4x^5+1)}} (20x^4)$$

$$\frac{d}{dx} f(x) = \frac{20x^4}{|4x^5|\sqrt{(4x^5-1)(4x^5+1)}}$$

The derivative of inverse cosecant

$$\frac{d}{dx} [\csc^{-1} u] = -\frac{1}{|u|\sqrt{u^2-1}} \frac{du}{dx}$$

Example

$$f(x) = \csc^{-1} 2x$$

$$\frac{d}{dx} f(x) = -\frac{1}{|2x|\sqrt{(2x)^2-1}} \frac{d}{dx} (2x)$$

$$\frac{d}{dx} f(x) = -\frac{2}{|2x|\sqrt{(2x)^2-1}}$$

$$\frac{d}{dx} f(x) = -\frac{2}{|2x|\sqrt{(2x-1)(2x+1)}}$$

$$f'(x) = -\frac{2}{|2x|\sqrt{(2x-1)(2x+1)}}$$

The derivative of inverse function

$$(f^{-1})'(a) = \frac{1}{f'(f^{-1}(a))}$$

Example

$$f(x) = x^2$$

$$f^{-1}(x) = \sqrt{x}$$

$$f'(x) = 2x$$

$$\frac{d}{dx} f^{-1}(x) = \frac{1}{f'(f^{-1}(x))}$$

$$\frac{d}{dx} f^{-1}(x) = \frac{1}{2 \cdot \sqrt{x}}$$