

3.10 examples

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Calculus AB, section 3.10 – Derivatives of Exponential and Logarithmic Functions

$$\frac{d}{dx} b^u = b^u \cdot \ln b \cdot \frac{du}{dx}$$

Example 1

Find the derivative of:

a) $y = 4^{3x}$ $\frac{dy}{dx} = 4^{3x} \cdot \ln 4 \cdot 3$

b) $f(x) = 5^{x^2}$ $f'(x) = \ln 5 \cdot 5^{x^2} \cdot 2x$

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

Example 2

Find the derivative of:

a) $y = x \ln x$ $\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{1}{x} \cdot x + \ln x = 1 + \ln x$

b) $y = (\ln x)^2$ $\frac{dy}{dx} = 2 \ln x \cdot \frac{1}{x} = \frac{2 \ln x}{x}$

Example 3

Find the derivative of:

a) $y = \ln(x^3 + 1)$ $y' = \frac{1}{x^3 + 1} \cdot 3x^2$

b) $y = \ln \sqrt{\sin x} = \ln \left[(\sin x)^{1/2} \right]$
 $\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\sin x}} \cdot \frac{1}{2} (\sin x)^{-1/2} \cdot \cos x$
 $\frac{1}{\sqrt{\sin x}} \cdot \frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{1}{\sqrt{\sin x}} \cdot \cos x = \frac{1}{2} \cot x$

Example 4 – Derivative of the Logarithm to another base

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{d}{dx} \log_{10} x &= \frac{d}{dx} \left(\frac{\ln x}{\ln 10} \right) & \log_a b &= \frac{\log_c b}{\log_c a} \\ &= \frac{1}{\ln 10} \cdot \frac{d}{dx} (\ln x) & & \\ &= \frac{1}{\ln 10 \cdot x} & \frac{d}{dx} (\ln 10) &= 0 \\ \frac{d}{dx} \left(\frac{\ln x}{\ln 10} \right) &= \frac{\ln 10 \cdot \frac{1}{x} - \ln x \cdot 0}{(\ln 10)^2} = \frac{\frac{1}{x}}{\ln 10} \\ &= \frac{1}{x \ln 10}\end{aligned}$$

Example 5 – Logarithmic Differentiation

Find the derivative of $f(x) = \frac{(x+1)^2(2x^2-3)}{\sqrt{x^2+1}}$

Example 6

Find the derivative of:

a) $f(x) = x^x$

logarithmic differentiation

$$y = x^x$$

$$\ln y = \ln x^x$$

$$\frac{d}{dx} (\ln y = x \ln x)$$

b) $g(x) = x^{\sin x}$

$$\frac{1}{y} \left(\frac{dy}{dx} \right) = 1 \cdot \ln x + x \cdot \frac{1}{x} = \ln x + 1$$

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = y (\ln x + 1)$$

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = x^x (\ln x + 1)$$

$$f(x) = x^{\sin x}$$

x^2

$$y = x^{\sin x}$$
$$\frac{d}{dx} (\ln y = \ln x^{\sin x} = \sin x \ln x)$$

$$\frac{1}{y} \frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{\sin x}{x} + \cos x \ln x$$

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = x^{\sin x} \left(\frac{\sin x}{x} + \cos x \ln x \right)$$