

**DUE: Friday, July 22<sup>nd</sup>** Please turn in a paper copy and **SHOW YOUR WORK!**

1. Use the limit definition of the derivative to find  $f'(x)$  if...

[You use should the rules we learned to double check your answer.]

(a)  $f(x) = -4x^2 + 2x - 1$  then  $f'(x) = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x+h) - f(x)}{h} =$

$$\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{[-4(x+h)^2 + 2(x+h) - 1] - [-4x^2 + 2x - 1]}{h} = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{[-4(x^2 + 2xh + h^2) + 2(x+h) - 1] - [-4x^2 + 2x - 1]}{h} =$$

$$\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{[-4x^2 - 8xh - 4h^2 + 2x + 2h - 1] - [-4x^2 + 2x - 1]}{h} = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{-4x^2 - 8xh - 4h^2 + 2x + 2h - 1 + 4x^2 - 2x + 1}{h} =$$

$$\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{-8xh - 4h^2 + 2h}{h} = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{h(-8x - 4h + 2)}{h} = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} -8x - 4h + 2 = -8x - 4(0) + 2 = \boxed{-8x + 2}$$

[Of course, we can easily check this using linearity and the power rule:  $f'(x) = -4(2x) + 2 = -8x + 2$ .]

(b)  $f(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{x}}$  then  $f'(x) = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x+h) - f(x)}{h} =$

$$\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{\frac{1}{\sqrt{x+h}} - \frac{1}{\sqrt{x}}}{h} = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{\frac{1}{\sqrt{x+h}} \cdot \frac{\sqrt{x}}{\sqrt{x}} - \frac{1}{\sqrt{x}} \cdot \frac{\sqrt{x+h}}{\sqrt{x+h}}}{h} = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{\frac{\sqrt{x}}{\sqrt{x+h}\sqrt{x}} - \frac{\sqrt{x+h}}{\sqrt{x}\sqrt{x+h}}}{h} = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{\frac{\sqrt{x} - \sqrt{x+h}}{\sqrt{x+h}\sqrt{x}}}{h} =$$

Let's pause to comment on the line above. We start with the limit definition applied to our function. Then in order to bring the fractions in the numerator together we force a common denominator (i.e.  $\sqrt{x} \cdot \sqrt{x+h}$ ). Then with common denominator in hand we can combine these fractions.

$$\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{\frac{\sqrt{x} - \sqrt{x+h}}{\sqrt{x+h}\sqrt{x}}}{h} = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sqrt{x} - \sqrt{x+h}}{\sqrt{x+h}\sqrt{x}} \cdot \frac{1}{h} = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sqrt{x} - \sqrt{x+h}}{\sqrt{x+h}\sqrt{x} \cdot h} = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sqrt{x} - \sqrt{x+h}}{\sqrt{x+h}\sqrt{x} \cdot h} \cdot \frac{\sqrt{x} + \sqrt{x+h}}{\sqrt{x} + \sqrt{x+h}} =$$

In the above line we have performed a division of fractions. The last step is the beginning of what we call "the conjugate trick". This will allow (eventually) to cancel off the  $h$  in the denominator.

$$\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{(\sqrt{x} - \sqrt{x+h})(\sqrt{x} + \sqrt{x+h})}{\sqrt{x+h}\sqrt{x} \cdot h \cdot (\sqrt{x} + \sqrt{x+h})} = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{(\sqrt{x})^2 - \sqrt{x}\sqrt{x+h} + \sqrt{x+h}\sqrt{x} - (\sqrt{x+h})^2}{\sqrt{x+h}\sqrt{x} \cdot h \cdot (\sqrt{x} + \sqrt{x+h})} =$$

$$\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{(\sqrt{x})^2 - (\sqrt{x+h})^2}{\sqrt{x+h}\sqrt{x} \cdot h \cdot (\sqrt{x} + \sqrt{x+h})} = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{x - (x+h)}{\sqrt{x+h}\sqrt{x} \cdot h \cdot (\sqrt{x} + \sqrt{x+h})} = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{x - x - h}{\sqrt{x+h}\sqrt{x} \cdot h \cdot (\sqrt{x} + \sqrt{x+h})} =$$

$$\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{-1 \cdot h}{\sqrt{x+h}\sqrt{x} \cdot h \cdot (\sqrt{x} + \sqrt{x+h})} = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{-1}{\sqrt{x+h}\sqrt{x}(\sqrt{x} + \sqrt{x+h})} = \frac{-1}{\sqrt{x+0}\sqrt{x}(\sqrt{x} + \sqrt{x+0})} =$$

In our next to last step we finally canceled off the  $h$  in the denominator. This means we can plug in  $h = 0$  without having a division by zero issue. Now all that is left is to do some simplification.

$$\frac{-1}{\sqrt{x}\sqrt{x}(\sqrt{x} + \sqrt{x})} = \frac{-1}{x(2\sqrt{x})} = \frac{-1}{2x \cdot x^{1/2}} = \boxed{\frac{-1}{2x^{3/2}}}$$

[Double check the answer.  $f(x) = 1/\sqrt{x} = 1/x^{1/2} = x^{-1/2}$ . The power rule says that  $f'(x) = -\frac{1}{2}x^{-3/2} = \frac{-1}{2x^{3/2}}$ .]

2. Find the equation of the line tangent to the graph of  $y = f(x)$  at  $x = x_0$  if...

(a)  $f(x) = x^3 - x^2 + x - 1$  and  $x_0 = -2$

We need a point and a slope.

When  $x = -2$ ,  $f(x) = f(-2) = (-2)^3 - (-2)^2 + (-2) - 1 = -8 - 4 - 2 - 1 = -15$ . So our tangent line passes through the point  $(x, y) = (-2, -15)$ .

The derivative of  $f(x)$  is a formula for the slope of  $f$ 's tangent lines. In particular,  $f'(-2)$  is the slope of the tangent at  $x = -2$ . Using linearity and the power rule, we get  $f'(x) = 3x^2 - 2x + 1$  so that  $f'(-2) = 3(-2)^2 - 2(-2) + 1 = 17$ .

Finally using point-slope we can find the equation of our tangent line:  $y - (-15) = 17(x - (-2))$ . Simplifying, we get:  $y + 15 = 17x + 34$  and so  $y = 17x + 19$ .

Wolfram Alpha will confirm our answer: **tangent line  $x^3 - x^2 + x - 1$  at  $x = -2$**  ✓

(b)  $f(x) = \ln(x)$  and  $x_0 = 1$

Same as in part (a).  $f(1) = \ln(1) = 0$  so our line passes through  $(x, y) = (1, 0)$ .

$$f'(x) = \frac{1}{x} \text{ and so our slope is } f'(1) = \frac{1}{1} = 1.$$

Using point-slope we get that  $y - 0 = 1(x - 1)$  and so  $y = x - 1$ .

Wolfram Alpha will confirm our answer: **tangent line  $\ln(x)$  at  $x = 1$**  ✓

3. Compute the derivative of each of the following functions.

(a)  $y = 8\sqrt[4]{x} - 7\ln(x) + 2e^x - \frac{9}{x^5} + 3x + \sqrt{57} = 8x^{1/4} - 7\ln(x) + 2e^x - 9x^{-5} + 3x + \sqrt{57}$

$$y' = 8 \cdot \frac{1}{4}x^{-3/4} - 7 \cdot \frac{1}{x} + 2e^x - 9(-5)x^{-6} + 3 + 0 = 2x^{-3/4} - \frac{7}{x} + 2e^x + 45x^{-6} + 3$$

Wolfram Alpha will give a simplified answer: **derivative  $8x^{(1/4)} - 7\ln(x) + 2e^x - 9x^{(-5)} + 3x + \sqrt{57}$**  ✓

(b)  $y = x^7 \ln(x + 1)$  Use the product rule: first part  $= x^7$  and second part  $= \ln(x + 1)$

Technically, we also need to use the chain rule when differentiating  $\ln(x + 1) = \ln(\text{BLAH})$ . It's derivative is

$$\frac{1}{\text{BLAH}} \cdot \text{BLAH}' = \frac{1}{x + 1} \cdot 1.$$

$$y' = (x^7)' \ln(x + 1) + x^7 (\ln(x + 1))' = 7x^6 \ln(x + 1) + x^7 \cdot \frac{1}{x + 1}$$

Wolfram Alpha will give a simplified answer: **derivative  $x^7 \ln(x + 1)$**  ✓

(c)  $y = \frac{x^2 e^x + 5x - 1}{x^3 + 4}$  We need to use the quotient rule.

While using the quotient rule we'll also have to use the product rule to differentiate  $x^2 e^x$  (part of the numerator).

$$y' = \frac{(x^2 e^x + 5x - 1)'(x^3 + 4) - (x^2 e^x + 5x - 1)(x^3 + 4)'}{(x^3 + 4)^2} = \frac{(2x e^x + x^2 e^x + 5)(x^3 + 4) - (x^2 e^x + 5x - 1)(3x^2)}{(x^3 + 4)^2}$$

Wolfram Alpha will give a simplified answer: **derivative  $(x^2 e^x + 5x - 1)/(x^3 + 4)$**  ✓

(d)  $y = (e^{x^3} + 11x - 6)^{45}$  We need to use the chain rule (i.e. generalized power rule).

We'll actually need to apply a second chain rule to the term  $e^{x^3}$  on the inside of the  $(\text{BLAH})^{45}$ . Recall that the derivative of  $e^{\text{STUFF}}$  is  $e^{\text{STUFF}} \cdot \text{STUFF}'$ , so the derivative of  $e^{x^3}$  is  $e^{x^3} (3x^2)$ .

$$y' = 45 (e^{x^3} + 11x - 6)^{44} (e^{x^3} + 11x - 6)' = 45 (e^{x^3} + 11x - 6)^{44} (e^{x^3} (3x^2) + 11)$$

Wolfram Alpha will give a simplified answer: **derivative  $(e^{x^3} + 11x - 6)^{45}$**  ✓

(e)  $y = \ln \left( \frac{11 \sqrt[3]{x} e^{-8x}}{(x^2 + 1)^6 (x - 2)^{100}} \right)$  We must first use laws of logs to expand.

$$\begin{aligned} y &= \ln(11x^{1/3} e^{-8x}) - \ln((x^2 + 1)^6 (x - 2)^{100}) = \ln(11) + \ln(x^{1/3}) + \ln(e^{-8x}) - \ln((x^2 + 1)^6) - \ln((x - 2)^{100}) \\ &= \ln(11) + \frac{1}{3} \ln(x) - 8x - 6 \ln(x^2 + 1) - 100 \ln(x - 2) \end{aligned}$$

Now we can differentiate. Note that to differentiate  $\ln(x^2 + 1)$  and  $\ln(x - 2)$  we'll have to use the chain rule. Which (for a natural log) looks like  $(\ln(\text{BLAH}))' = \frac{1}{\text{BLAH}} \cdot \text{BLAH}'$ .

$$y' = 0 + \frac{1}{3} \cdot \frac{1}{x} - 8 - 6 \frac{1}{x^2 + 1} (2x) - 100 \frac{1}{x - 2} \cdot 1 = \boxed{\frac{1}{3x} - 8 - \frac{12x}{x^2 + 1} - \frac{100}{x - 2}}$$

Wolfram Alpha will give a simplified answer: `derivative ln((11x^(1/3)e^(-8x))/((x^2+1)^6(x-2)^100))` ✓