

Examples

(1) A *piecewise linear* function $f(x)$ is characterized by the property that its rates of change are locally constant, namely, its derivative $f'(x)$ is a step function.

(2) If $f(x) = x^n$, then $f'(x) = nx^{n-1}$.

(3) If $f(x) = \sin x$, then $f'(x) = \cos x$. We shall compute the derivative, $f'(x)$, from a given function, and call such an operation *differentiation*.

It is not difficult to verify the following simple but useful rules of differentiation:

$$(i) [f_1(x) + f_2(x)]' = f_1'(x) + f_2'(x).$$

$$(ii) [c \cdot f(x)]' = c \cdot f'(x).$$

$$(iii) [f(x) \cdot g(x)]' = f'(x) \cdot g(x) + f(x) \cdot g'(x).$$

$$(iv) \left[\frac{1}{f(x)} \right]' = \frac{-f'(x)}{[f(x)]^2}.$$

$$(v) f[g(x)]' = f'[g(x)] \cdot g'(x)$$

(chain rule for differentiation of composite functions)

In general, differentiation is technically a rather straightforward operation.

§ 2. Fundamental Theory of Calculus

2.1. The relationship between differentiation and integration