

# Dr Oliver Mathematics

## General Product Rule

### 1 General Product Rule

If  $f_1(x)$ ,  $f_2(x)$ ,  $f_{n-1}(x)$ , and  $f_n(x)$  are differentiable functions, then the product  $(f_1 f_2 \dots f_{n-1} f_n)'(x)$  is a differentiable and the first derivative is given by

$$(f_1 f_2 \dots f_{n-1} f_n)'(x) = [f_1'(x) f_2(x) \dots f_{n-1}(x) f_n(x)] + [f_1(x) f_2'(x) \dots f_{n-1}(x) f_n(x)] \\ \dots + [f_1(x) f_2(x) \dots f_{n-1}'(x) f_n(x)] + [f_1(x) f_2(x) \dots f_{n-1}(x) f_n'(x)].$$

### 2 Examples

1.  $\frac{d}{dx}(x^3 \cdot e^{2x} \cdot \sin 3x)$ .

#### Solution

It helps to draw a table.

Each term	Derivative	Remaining terms
$x^3$	$3x^2$	$e^{2x} \cdot \sin 3x$
$e^{2x}$	$2e^{2x}$	$x^3 \cdot \sin 3x$
$\sin 3x$	$3 \cos 3x$	$x^3 \cdot e^{2x}$

Finally,

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dx}(x^3 \cdot e^{2x} \cdot \sin 3x) &= (3x^2)(e^{2x} \cdot \sin 3x) + (2e^{2x})(x^3 \cdot \sin 3x) + (3 \cos 3x)(x^3 \cdot e^{2x}) \\ &= 3x^2 \cdot e^{2x} \cdot \sin 3x + 2x^3 \cdot e^{2x} \cdot \sin 3x + 3x^3 \cdot e^{2x} \cdot \cos 3x \\ &= \underline{\underline{x^2 \cdot e^{2x}(3 \sin 3x + 2x \sin 3x + 3x \cos 3x)}}. \end{aligned}$$

2.  $\frac{d}{dx}(x \cdot \ln x \cdot e^{-x} \cdot \tan 2x)$ .

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**Solution**

Each term	Derivative	Remaining terms
$x$	$1$	$\ln x \cdot e^{-x} \cdot \tan 2x$
$\ln x$	$\frac{1}{x}$	$x \cdot e^{-x} \cdot \tan 2x$
$e^{-x}$	$-e^{-x}$	$x \cdot \ln x \cdot \tan 2x$
$\tan 2x$	$2 \sec^2 2x$	$x \cdot \ln x \cdot e^{-x}$

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Finally,

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dx}(x \cdot \ln x \cdot e^{-x} \cdot \tan 2x) &= (1)(\ln x \cdot e^{-x} \cdot \tan 2x) + \left(\frac{1}{x}\right)(x \cdot e^{-x} \cdot \tan 2x) \\ &\quad + (-e^{-x})(x \cdot \ln x \cdot \tan 2x) + (2 \sec^2 2x)(x \cdot \ln x \cdot e^{-x}) \\ &= \underline{\underline{\ln x \cdot e^{-x} \cdot \tan 2x + e^{-x} \cdot \tan 2x}} \\ &\quad \underline{\underline{-x \cdot \ln x \cdot e^{-x} \cdot \tan 2x + 2x \cdot \ln x \cdot e^{-x} \cdot \sec^2 2x.}} \end{aligned}$$

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