Differentiation Technique - Product Rule

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Questions in past papers often come up combined with other topics.
Topic tags have been given for each question to enable you to know if you can do the question or whether you need to wait to cover the additional topic(s).

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Question 1

Qualification: AP Calculus AB

Areas: Applications of Differentiation, Differentiation, Applications of Integration, Integration

Subtopics: Mean Value Theorem, Interpreting Meaning in Applied Contexts, Rates of Change (Average), Riemann Sums – Trapezoidal Rule, Average Value of a Function, Differentiation Technique – Exponentials, Differentiation Technique – Product Rule

Paper: Part A-Calc / Series: 2001 / Difficulty: Hard / Question Number: 2

t (days)	$W(t)$ (°C)
0	20
3	31
6	28
9	24
12	22
15	21

2. The temperature, in degrees Celsius (°C), of the water in a pond is a differentiable function W of time t. The table above shows the water temperature as recorded every 3 days over a 15-day period.

(a) Use data from the table to find an approximation for $W'(12)$. Show the computations that lead to your answer. Indicate units of measure.

(b) Approximate the average temperature, in degrees Celsius, of the water over the time interval $0 \le t \le 15$ days by using a trapezoidal approximation with subintervals of length $\Delta t = 3$ days.

(c) A student proposes the function P, given by $P(t) = 20 + 10te^{(-t/3)}$, as a model for the temperature of the water in the pond at time t, where t is measured in days and $P(t)$ is measured in degrees Celsius. Find $P'(12)$. Using appropriate units, explain the meaning of your answer in terms of water temperature.

(d) Use the function P defined in part (c) to find the average value, in degrees Celsius, of $P(t)$ over the time interval $0 \le t \le 15$ days.

Question 2

Qualification: AP Calculus AB

Areas: Differentiation, Differential Equations

Subtopics: Differentiation Technique – Chain Rule, Differentiation Technique – Product Rule, Initial Conditions in Differential Equation, Separation of Variables in Differential Equation

Paper: Part B-Non-Calc / Series: 2003-Form-B / Difficulty: Easy / Question Number: 6

6. Let f be the function satisfying $f'(x) = x\sqrt{f(x)}$ for all real numbers x, where $f(3) = 25$.

(a) Find $f''(3)$.

(b) Write an expression for $y = f(x)$ by solving the differential equation $\frac{dy}{dx} = x\sqrt{y}$ with the initial condition $f(3) = 25$.

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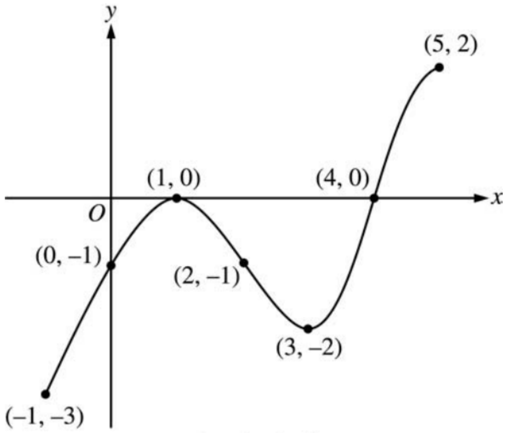
Question 3

Qualification: AP Calculus AB

Areas: Applications of Differentiation, Differentiation

Subtopics: Derivative Graphs, Points Of Inflection, Global or Absolute Minima and Maxima, Tangents To Curves, Differentiation Technique – Product Rule

Paper: Part B-Non-Calc / Series: 2004-Form-B / Difficulty: Somewhat Challenging / Question Number: 4



Graph of f'

4. The figure above shows the graph of f', the derivative of the function f, on the closed interval $-1 \le x \le 5$. The graph of f' has horizontal tangent lines at $x = 1$ and $x = 3$. The function f is twice differentiable with $f(2) = 6$.

(a) Find the x-coordinate of each of the points of inflection of the graph of f. Give a reason for your answer.

(b) At what value of x does f attain its absolute minimum value on the closed interval $-1 \le x \le 5$? At what value of x does f attain its absolute maximum value on the closed interval $-1 \le x \le 5$? Show the analysis that leads to your answers.

(c) Let g be the function defined by $g(x) = xf(x)$. Find an equation for the line tangent to the graph of g at $x = 2$.

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Question 4

Qualification: AP Calculus AB

Areas: Differentiation, Applications of Differentiation

Subtopics: Differentiation Technique – Exponentials, Differentiation Technique – Product Rule, Tangents To Curves

Paper: Part B-Non-Calc / Series: 2006 / Difficulty: Medium / Question Number: 6

6. The twice-differentiable function f is defined for all real numbers and satisfies the following conditions:

$$f(0) = 2, \quad f'(0) = -4, \text{ and } f''(0) = 3.$$

(a) The function g is given by $g(x) = e^{ax} + f(x)$ for all real numbers, where a is a constant. Find $g'(0)$ and $g''(0)$ in terms of a. Show the work that leads to your answers.

(b) The function h is given by $h(x) = \cos(kx)f(x)$ for all real numbers, where k is a constant. Find $h'(x)$ and write an equation for the line tangent to the graph of h at $x = 0$.

Question 5

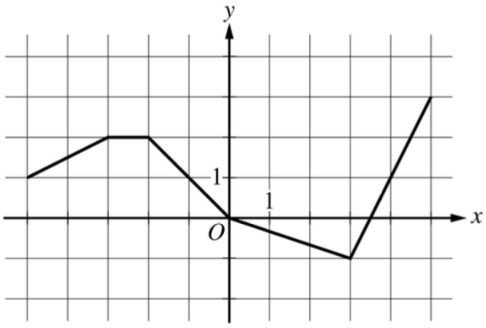
Qualification: AP Calculus AB

Areas: Differentiation, Applications of Differentiation

Subtopics: Derivative Tables, Tangents To Curves, Differentiation Technique – Chain Rule, Derivative Graphs, Differentiation Technique – Product Rule, Mean Value Theorem, Differentiation Technique – Trigonometry, Differentiation Technique – Exponentials

Paper: Part B-Non-Calc / Series: 2017 / Difficulty: Medium / Question Number: 6

x	$g(x)$	$g'(x)$
–5	10	–3
–4	5	–1
–3	2	4
–2	3	1
–1	1	–2
0	0	–3



Graph of h

6. Let f be the function defined by $f(x) = \cos(2x) + e^{\sin x}$.

Let g be a differentiable function. The table above gives values of g and its derivative g' at selected values of x.

Let h be the function whose graph, consisting of five line segments, is shown in the figure above.

(a) Find the slope of the line tangent to the graph of f at $x = \pi$.

(b) Let k be the function defined by $k(x) = h(f(x))$. Find $k'(\pi)$.

(c) Let m be the function defined by $m(x) = g(-2x) \cdot h(x)$. Find $m'(2)$.

(d) Is there a number c in the closed interval $[-5, -3]$ such that $g'(c) = -4$? Justify your answer.

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Question 6

Qualification: AP Calculus AB

Areas: Applications of Differentiation, Differentiation, Limits and Continuity

Subtopics: Rates of Change (Average), Tangents To Curves, Global or Absolute Minima and Maxima, L'Hôpital's Rule, Calculating Limits Algebraically, Differentiation Technique – Product Rule, Differentiation Technique – Exponentials, Differentiation Technique – Trigonometry

Paper: Part B-Non-Calc / Series: 2018 / Difficulty: Somewhat Challenging / Question Number: 5

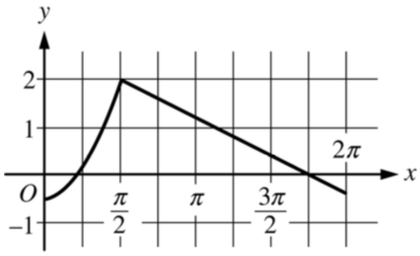
5. Let f be the function defined by $f(x) = e^x \cos x$.

(a) Find the average rate of change of f on the interval $0 \le x \le \pi$.

(b) What is the slope of the line tangent to the graph of f at $x = \frac{3\pi}{2}$?

(c) Find the absolute minimum value of f on the interval $0 \le x \le 2\pi$. Justify your answer.

(d) Let g be a differentiable function such that $g\left(\frac{\pi}{2}\right) = 0$. The graph of g', the derivative of g, is shown below. Find the value of $\lim\limits_{x \to \pi/2} \frac{f(x)}{g(x)}$ or state that it does not exist. Justify your answer.



Graph of g'

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Question 7

Qualification: AP Calculus AB

Areas: Limits and Continuity, Differentiation

Subtopics: Differentiation Technique – Product Rule, L'Hôpital's Rule, Calculating Limits Algebraically, Differentiation Technique – Chain Rule, Continuities and Discontinuities

Paper: Part B-Non-Calc / Series: 2019 / Difficulty: Very Hard / Question Number: 6

6. Functions f, g, and h are twice-differentiable functions with $g(2) = h(2) = 4$. The line $y = 4 + \frac{2}{3}(x - 2)$ is tangent to both the graph of g at $x = 2$ and the graph of h at $x = 2$.

(a) Find $h'(2)$.

(b) Let a be the function given by $a(x) = 3x^3h(x)$. Write an expression for $a'(x)$. Find $a'(2)$.

(c) The function h satisfies $h(x) = \dfrac{x^2 - 4}{1 - (f(x))^3}$ for $x \neq 2$. It is known that $\lim\limits_{x \to 2} h(x)$ can be evaluated using L'Hospital's Rule. Use $\lim\limits_{x \to 2} h(x)$ to find $f(2)$ and $f'(2)$. Show the work that leads to your answers.

(d) It is known that $g(x) \leq h(x)$ for $1 < x < 3$. Let k be a function satisfying $g(x) \leq k(x) \leq h(x)$ for $1 < x < 3$. Is k continuous at $x = 2$? Justify your answer.

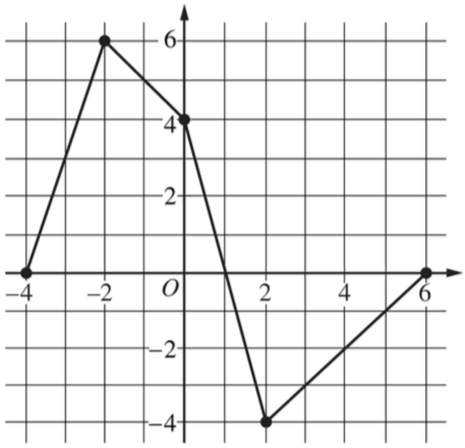
Question 8

Qualification: AP Calculus AB

Areas: Applications of Differentiation, Integration

Subtopics: Concavity, Fundamental Theorem of Calculus (Second), Differentiation Technique – Product Rule, L'Hôpital's Rule, Mean Value Theorem, Rates of Change (Average), Integration Technique – Geometric Areas, Integration Graphs

Paper: Part B-Non-Calc / Series: 2021 / Difficulty: Somewhat Challenging / Question Number: 4



Graph of f

4. Let f be a continuous function defined on the closed interval $-4 \leq x \leq 6$. The graph of f, consisting of four line segments, is shown above. Let G be the function defined by $G(x) = \int_0^x f(t)\, dt$.

(a) On what open intervals is the graph of G concave up? Give a reason for your answer.

(b) Let P be the function defined by $P(x) = G(x) \cdot f(x)$. Find $P'(3)$.

(c) Find $\lim_{x \to 2} \dfrac{G(x)}{x^2 - 2x}$.

(d) Find the average rate of change of G on the interval $[-4, 2]$. Does the Mean Value Theorem guarantee a value c, $-4 < c < 2$, for which $G'(c)$ is equal to this average rate of change? Justify your answer.

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Question 9

Qualification: AP Calculus AB

Areas: Applications of Differentiation, Differentiation

Subtopics: Implicit Differentiation, Differentiation Technique – Trigonometry, Differentiation Technique – Product Rule, Tangents To Curves, Local or Relative Minima and Maxima, Differentiation Technique - Quotient Rule

Paper: Part B-Non-Calc / Series: 2021 / Difficulty: Hard / Question Number: 5

5. Consider the function $y = f(x)$ whose curve is given by the equation $2y^2 - 6 = y \sin x$ for $y > 0$.

(a) Show that $\dfrac{dy}{dx} = \dfrac{y \cos x}{4y - \sin x}$.

(b) Write an equation for the line tangent to the curve at the point $(0, \sqrt{3})$.

(c) For $0 \le x \le \pi$ and $y > 0$, find the coordinates of the point where the line tangent to the curve is horizontal.

(d) Determine whether f has a relative minimum, a relative maximum, or neither at the point found in part (c). Justify your answer.

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Question 10

Qualification: AP Calculus AB

Areas: Applications of Differentiation, Differentiation

Subtopics: Derivative Tables, Differentiation Technique – Chain Rule, Concavity, Differentiation Technique – Product Rule, Fundamental Theorem of Calculus (First), Increasing/Decreasing

Paper: Part B-Non-Calc / Series: 2023 / Difficulty: Somewhat Challenging / Question Number: 5

x	0	2	4	7
$f(x)$	10	7	4	5
$f'(x)$	$\frac{3}{2}$	-8	3	6
$g(x)$	1	2	-3	0
$g'(x)$	5	4	2	8

5. The functions f and g are twice differentiable. The table shown gives values of the functions and their first derivatives at selected values of x.

(a) Let h be the function defined by $h(x) = f(g(x))$. Find $h'(7)$. Show the work that leads to your answer.

(b) Let k be a differentiable function such that $k'(x) = (f(x))^2 \cdot g(x)$. Is the graph of k concave up or concave down at the point where $x = 4$? Give a reason for your answer.

(c) Let m be the function defined by $m(x) = 5x^3 + \int_0^x f'(t)\,dt$. Find $m(2)$. Show the work that leads to your answer.

(d) Is the function m defined in part (c) increasing, decreasing, or neither at $x = 2$? Justify your answer.

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