QMI Lesson 7: Some Differentiation Rules

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■ The Derivative of a Constant

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- The Quotient Rule

First, we'll go over each rule and its proof. Then we'll move on to examples.



Theorem (The Derivative of a Constant)

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For any constant $c \in \mathbb{R}$, we have

$$\frac{d}{dx}[c] = 0.$$

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Proof (Assuming
$$n \in \mathbb{N}$$
):

$$\lim_{h \to 0} \frac{f(x+h) - f(x)}{h} \stackrel{f(x) = x^n}{=} \lim_{h \to 0} \frac{(x+h)^n + x^n}{h} \stackrel{binomial}{=} theorem$$

$$\lim_{h \to 0} \frac{(x^n + nx^{n-1}h + \frac{n(n-1)x^{n-2}h^2}{2!} + \dots + nxh^{n-1} + h^n) - x^n}{h} =$$

$$\lim_{h \to 0} \frac{nx^{n-1}h + \frac{n(n-1)x^{n-2}h^2}{2!} + \dots + nxh^{n-1} + h^n}{h} =$$

$$\lim_{h \to 0} [nx^{n-1} + \frac{n(n-1)x^{n-2}h^2}{2!} + \dots + nxh^{n-2} + h^{n-1}] =$$

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$$\frac{d}{dx}[f(x)\pm g(x)] = \frac{d}{dx}f(x)\pm \frac{d}{dx}g(x).$$

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$$\frac{g(x)\frac{d}{dx}f(x) - f(x)\frac{d}{dx}g(x)}{[g(x)]^2} =$$

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If f and g are functions, then we have $\frac{d}{dx}[(f/g)(x)] =$

$$\frac{g(x)\frac{d}{dx}f(x) - f(x)\frac{d}{dx}g(x)}{[g(x)]^2} = \frac{g(x)f'(x) - f(x)g'(x)}{g^2(x)}.$$

Proof:

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Proof:
$$\frac{(f/g)(x-h)-(f/g)(x)}{h} = \frac{1}{g(x+h)(g(x))} \cdot \frac{f(x+h)g(x)-f(x)g(x+h)}{h} = \frac{1}{g(x+h)(g(x))} \cdot \frac{f(x+h)g(x)+f(x)g(x)-f(x)g(x)-f(x)g(x+h)}{h} = \frac{1}{g(x+h)(g(x))} \cdot \frac{f(x+h)g(x)+f(x)g(x)-f(x)g(x)-f(x)g(x+h)}{h} = \frac{1}{g(x+h)(g(x))} \cdot \frac{f(x+h)g(x)-f(x)g(x)-f(x)g(x+h)}{h} = \frac{1}{g(x+h)(g(x))} \cdot \frac{f(x+h)g(x)-f(x)g(x)-f(x)g(x+h)}{h} = \frac{1}{g(x+h)(g(x))} \cdot \frac{f(x+h)g(x)-f(x)g(x+h)}{h} = \frac{1}{g(x+h)(g(x))$$

Theorem (The Quotient Rule)

$$\frac{g(x)\frac{d}{dx}f(x)-f(x)\frac{d}{dx}g(x)}{[g(x)]^2}=\frac{g(x)f'(x)-f(x)g'(x)}{g^2(x)}.$$

Proof:
$$\frac{(f/g)(x-h)-(f/g)(x)}{h} = \frac{1}{g(x+h)(g(x))} \cdot \frac{f(x+h)g(x)-f(x)g(x+h)}{h} = \frac{1}{g(x+h)(g(x))} \cdot \frac{f(x+h)g(x)+f(x)g(x)-f(x)g(x)-f(x)g(x+h)}{h} = \frac{1}{g(x+h)(g(x))} \cdot [g(x)\frac{f(x+h)-f(x)}{h} - f(x)\frac{g(x+h)-g(x)}{h}].$$

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$$\frac{g(x)\frac{d}{dx}f(x)-f(x)\frac{d}{dx}g(x)}{[g(x)]^2}=\frac{g(x)f'(x)-f(x)g'(x)}{g^2(x)}.$$

$$\begin{array}{l} \textit{Proof} \colon \frac{(f/g)(x-h)-(f/g)(x)}{h} = \frac{1}{g(x+h)(g(x)} \cdot \frac{f(x+h)g(x)-f(x)g(x+h)}{h} = \\ \frac{1}{g(x+h)(g(x))} \cdot \frac{f(x+h)g(x)+f(x)g(x)-f(x)g(x)-f(x)g(x+h)}{h} = \\ \frac{1}{g(x+h)(g(x))} \cdot \big[g(x)\frac{f(x+h)-f(x)}{h} - f(x)\frac{g(x+h)-g(x)}{h}\big]. \text{ And passing through the limit on both sides of the equality proves the theorem.} \end{array}$$

Examples: Constant Function

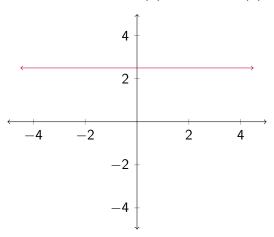
Looking at the graph of a constant function, it's clear that the slope is *always* flat, i.e. 0.

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$$f(x) = x \implies$$

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•
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What is the rate of change in the population after 2 months? 6 months? What is the final population after implementation of the breeding program?

To find the rate of change, we calculate

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$$h'(x) = (2x)(\frac{1}{2}x^{-\frac{1}{2}} - 3) = x^{\frac{1}{2}} - 6x.$$

But, we know this is wrong since we already calculated

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Be careful!

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For instance, if we used this incorrect rule, we would calculate for $h(x) = \frac{x}{x^2+1}$ that

$$h'(x)=\frac{1}{2x},$$

but we know this is wrong since we already calculated

$$h(x) = \frac{1 - x^2}{(x^2 + 1)^2}.$$

Assignment

Read 3.3-3.4. Do problems 28, 31, 36, 38, 42, 50, 70, 78 in 3.1 and 12, 26, 42, 62, 68 in 3.2.