

Quiz 3 / Solutions

1. Compute the derivative of each of the following functions:

(a) $x^4 + \sqrt{x}$

Recall that $(x^n)' = nx^{n-1}$ So

$$(x^4 + \sqrt{x})' = (x^4)' + (x^{\frac{1}{2}})' = \boxed{4x^3 + \frac{1}{2}x^{-\frac{1}{2}}} = \boxed{4x^3 + \frac{1}{2\sqrt{x}}}$$

□

(b) $x^2 \cos(x)$

$$(x^2 \cos(x))' = (x^2)' \cos(x) + x^2 \cos'(x) = \boxed{2x \cos(x) + x^2(-\sin(x))} = \boxed{2x \cos(x) - x^2 \sin(x)}$$

□

(c) $\frac{x^2}{\sin x}$

First solution:

$$\left(\frac{x^2}{\sin x}\right)' = \frac{(x^2)' \sin(x) - x^2 \sin'(x)}{(\sin x)^2} = \boxed{\frac{2x \sin(x) - x^2 \cos(x)}{\sin^2(x)}}$$

Second solution:

$$\begin{aligned} \left(\frac{x^2}{\sin x}\right)' &= (x^2 \csc(x))' = (x^2)' \csc(x) + x^2 \csc'(x) \\ &= \boxed{2x \csc(x) + x^2(-\csc(x) \cot(x))} = \boxed{2x \csc(x) - x^2 \csc(x) \cot(x)} \end{aligned}$$

□

2. Let d be a real number and let

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} \sin(x) & \text{if } x \leq 0 \\ dx & \text{if } x > 0 \end{cases}$$

For which d is $f(x)$ differentiable at 0?

$f(x)$ is differentiable at 0 if and only if $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x) - f(0)}{x - 0}$ exists and so if and only if

$$(*) \quad \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{f(x) - f(0)}{x - 0} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^-} \frac{f(x) - f(0)}{x - 0}$$

If $x \geq 0$, the $f(x) = dx$. So the left-hand side of (*) is the derivative of dx at $x = 0$ and so equal to d .

If $x \leq 0$, the $f(x) = \sin(x)$. So the right-hand side of (*) is the derivative of $\sin(x)$ at 0 and so equal to $\cos(0) = 1$.

Hence $f(x)$ is differentiable at 0 if and only if $\boxed{d = 1}$.

□

3. Compute $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sin(3x)}{7}$.

Since $\sin(x)$ is continuous everywhere, also $\frac{\sin(3x)}{7}$ is continuous everywhere. So

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sin(7x)}{3} = \frac{\sin(3 \cdot 0)}{7} = \frac{\sin(0)}{7} = \frac{0}{7} = \boxed{0}.$$

□

If you had to compute $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sin(3x)}{7x}$, the solution would be quite different:

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sin(3x)}{7x} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{7 \sin(7x)}{3 \cdot 7x} = \frac{7}{3} \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sin(7x)}{7x} = \frac{7}{3} \lim_{z \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sin(z)}{z} = \frac{7}{3} \cdot 1 = \frac{7}{3}.$$